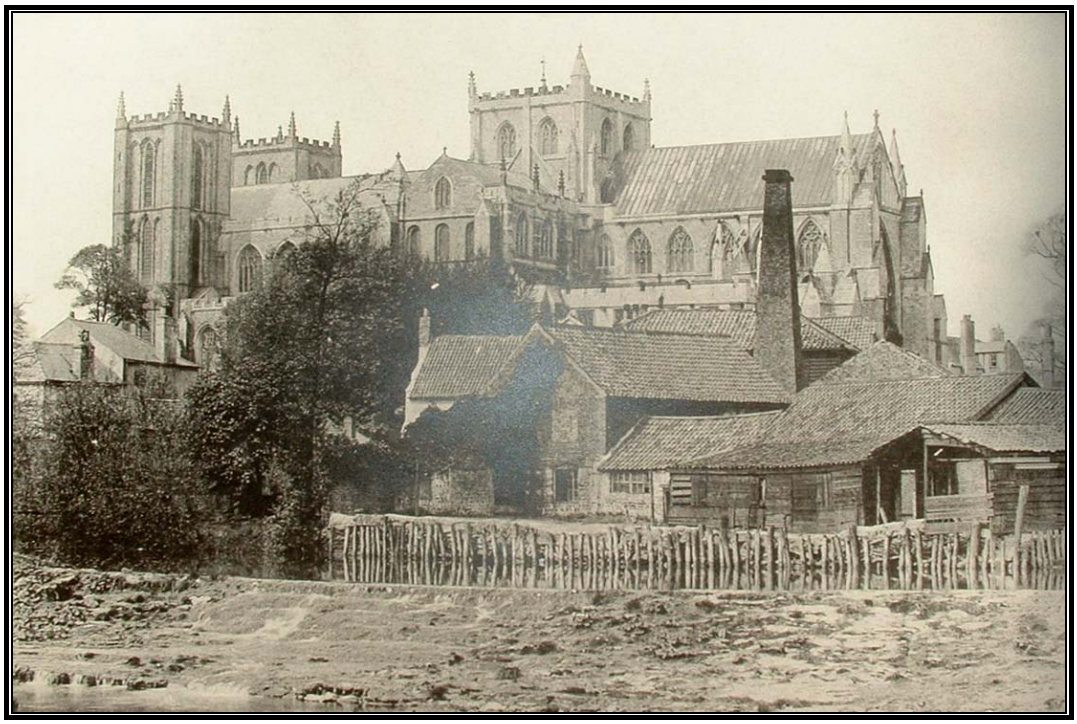
20 – 28 HIGH ST.AGNESGATE, RIPON.

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION.
OSA REPORT No: OSA06EV13.

SEPTEMBER 2006.



OSA

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Front Cover: View of site from 1880's. (provided by Roger Trees).

Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA06EV13

SITE NAME: Between 20-28 High St Agnesgate, Ripon

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 31572 71017

PLANNING REFERENCE: Pre-application

COMMISSIONED BY: Steve Behrens
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TIMING: Fieldwork
12th to 26th July 2006

Post excavation & report preparation
July and August 2006

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1.0 Abstract.

On-Site Archaeology *carried an archaeological evaluation on land between 20-28 High St Agnesgate (Ostcliffe's Court), Ripon. This took place to assess the archaeological impact of development proposals prior to the submission of a planning application.* On-Site Archaeology *were appointed to conduct the necessary works as outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit.*

The evaluation involved the excavation of seven trenches, ranging in size from 1m x 2m to 3m x 2m, to assess the nature and extent of any archaeological features and deposits that may be present. Several of the trenches encountered archaeological features dating to the medieval period, cut into the surface of the natural at depths of between 0.80m and 1.20m below the modern ground surface. Remains of the later 19th century tannery, known to have been present on the site, were also encountered. The archaeological remains identified during the evaluation are not considered by the author to be of sufficient importance to prevent redevelopment of the site. The foundations for the proposed development are likely to take the form of a shallow raft and will therefore have a minimal impact upon the archaeological remains. Service trenches associated with the new development may be deeper and therefore disturb the remains. Whilst any decision regarding the necessary level of archaeological mitigation must lie with the North Yorkshire County Council Heritage section and the local planning authority, an appropriate response is likely to require an archaeological watching brief being undertaken during groundworks.

2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography & Land Use.

The area of proposed development is located within the town of Ripon, North Yorkshire, within the Borough of Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Ripon is situated on the River Skell about one mile west of its confluence with the River Ure which runs to the north of the town. It lies on the edge of the lowlands of the Vale of York with the Magnesian limestone uplands to the west.

The application site lies on the south side of High St Agnesgate, which lies to the south of the Minster precinct. The site is currently in use as a builders yard, containing several single and two storey buildings, and areas of open yard, some of which are substantially overgrown. The site is bounded to the east, west and south by residential properties, whilst High St Agnesgate lies to the north. The street frontage is predominantly covered by garages, with only the current access road being open. The site is centred at National Grid Reference SE 31572 71017, with the ground surface at approximately 24m AOD.

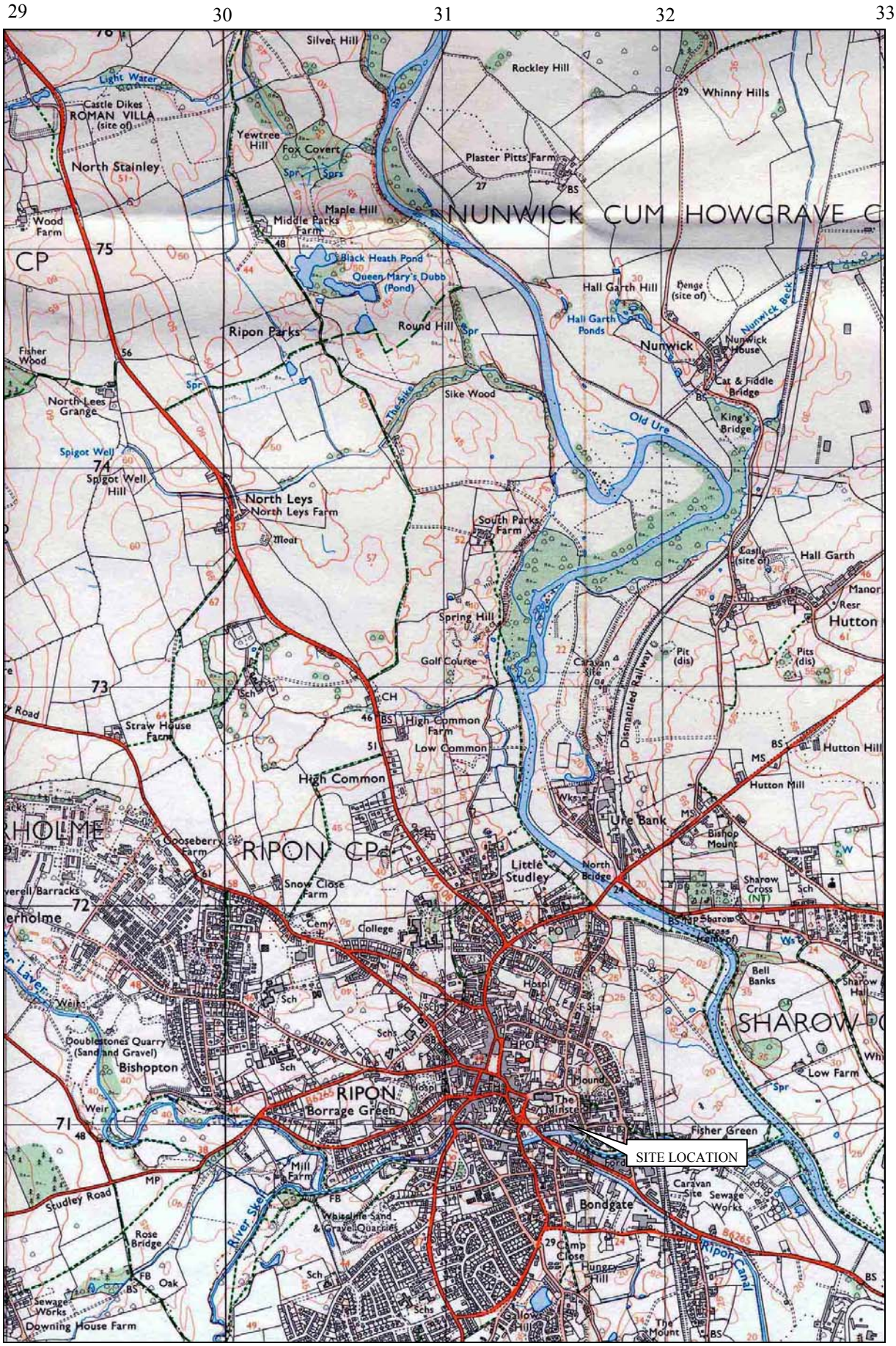

Figure 1. Site Location (SE 31572 71017).

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.

There have been a number of previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of Ripon Market Place that have demonstrated the survival of well-preserved remains associated with the medieval town. In addition, documentary research and assessment of previous archaeological discoveries provides an historic framework and context within which to place the current evaluation. This area to the east of Old Market place lies to the north west of the ecclesiastical precinct of Ripon Minster.

The earliest conclusive evidence for settlement and activity in Ripon is for the early medieval period. The early crypt beneath the present Cathedral is believed to be that of St Wilfrid's 7th century church and a contemporary monastery existed in Ripon. The focus of early medieval settlement in the town is believed to centre around the Allhallowgate and Stonebridgegate junction on the eastern side of the Cathedral. During the late 12th to early 13th century, the ecclesiastical precinct in Ripon underwent considerable reorganisation, with integration of ecclesiastical landholdings into an urban streetscape along which properties appear to have been swiftly built up. This reorganisation was accompanied by the layout of a new market place to the southwest of the old market at the end of Allhallowgate, and the setting out of burgage plots along Allhallowgate and to either side of the new market over the open fields of the Archbishop's manor.

In a graphic interpretation of the suggested 12th/early 13th century re-planning of Ripon, it is suggested that High St Agnesgate is a street of more recent, or uncertain date. It is possible, therefore, that the site of proposed development to the south of High St Agnesgate was formerly part of the early monastic precinct. The precise extent of the associated Minster graveyard is unknown, but it should be noted that skeletons have been recorded from St Agnesgate, close to the present site of proposed development.

Unpublished excavations at Bedern Bank (now Bedern Court), in 1985 to the west of the Minster, recorded well-preserved, waterlogged deposits covering a sequence of occupation from the 12th to 15th centuries. There is evidence that the River Skell flowed across the Bedern Bank site and that a mill race ran alongside.

Recent evaluation work further west, on adjacent land at Skellgarths, identified a well preserved sequence of medieval remains at 1.30m below ground surface from an area close to the street frontage, and at 0.60m below ground surface at the rear of the site. These remains are interpreted as being related to the course of the River Skell and associated water courses, which were subsequently infilled for land reclamation. Due to the waterlogged nature of deposits, organic preservation was very high.

Recent archaeological evaluation of the nearby former Cathedral School site on Low St Agnesgate, revealed material of Roman to post-medieval date. A sherd of Samian ware and unabraded finds of Roman brick suggest Roman activity of an uncertain nature on, or close to, the present site. Significant evidence for the Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian period included a group of relatively well-preserved metal objects of the 8th to 10th centuries AD, and

a large amount of animal bone of similar date. From the medieval period, evidence was uncovered for timber buildings fronting onto Low St Agnesgate, with ditches, gullies and other features to the rear, including rubbish pits which indicated abandonment no later than the 14th century. A limited assemblage of 16th/17th century pottery and a stone surface/foundation was also recovered.

Early Ordnance Survey mapping of the area of proposed development indicates that the present layout of the site is similar to that shown on the 1909 and 1929 editions. The 1891 edition shows the site occupied to the west by a tannery, and to the east by a row of cottages and gardens along Ostcliffe's Court. The present rectangular 'barn' building in the western part of the site does not appear to equate with the tannery buildings shown on the 1891 map edition, and appears to be a later construction. The central range of three garages on the present site does, however, appear to coincide with the three cottages at the northern end of a group of seven shown in 1891 on the west side of Ostcliffe's Court. The tannery, however, is not labelled on the first edition 6" map of 1856. It is possible, however, that the use of the site as a tannery in the 19th century is a continuation of an earlier use.

The above information is derived from the Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching prepared by North Yorkshire County Council, within which the original site reports are referenced.

4.0 Methodology.

The overburden was removed by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket down to the level of the first visible archaeological horizon, or to a maximum depth of 1.20m. The exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand in order to detect any archaeological features revealed through textural or colour changes in the deposits. Once this had been completed, sections were hand excavated through the archaeological features that had been identified.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the excavation. This involved the completion of a context sheet for each deposit or cut encountered, along with plans and/or sections drawn to scale. Heights above Ordnance Datum (AOD) were calculated by taking levels from a Temporary Benchmark (TBM), which was then tied in with an existing Ordnance Survey benchmark (23.97m AOD on a low boundary wall at the junction of the south end of Low St Agnesgate with Skellfield Terrace). A photographic record of the deposits and features was also maintained.

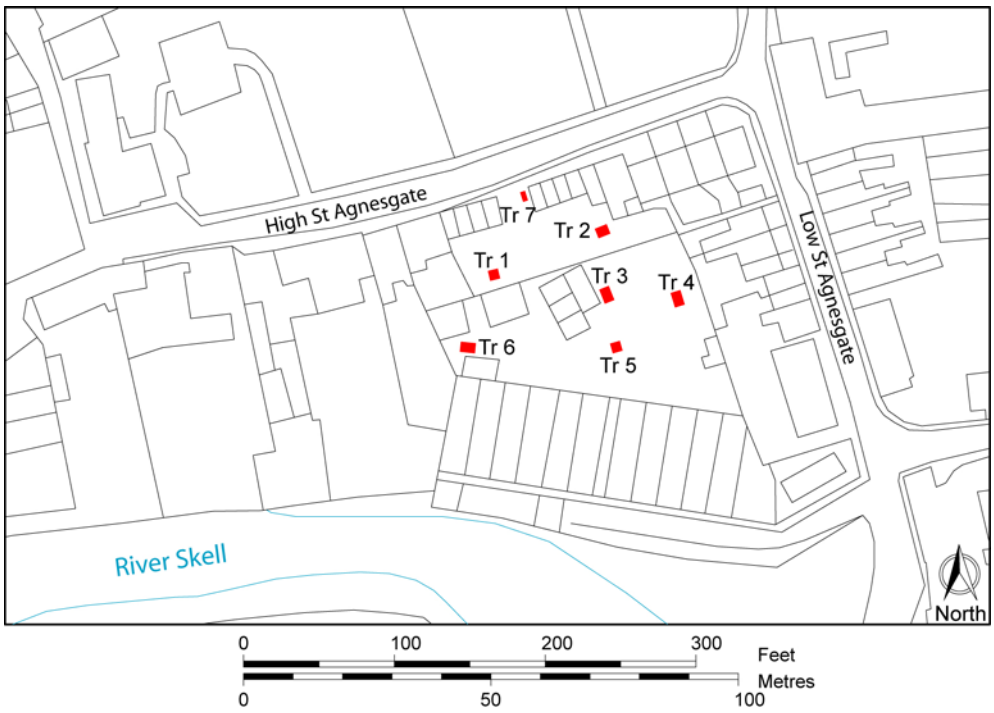

Figure 2. Trench location plan.

5.0 Results.

5.1 Trench 1, (See Figures 3 and 4 and Plate 1).

The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was the compact grey brown sandy pebble and cobble natural (111). This was found at a depth of 1.20m below the modern ground surface (approximately 23.15m AOD). No features were cut directly into the surface of the natural (although a substantial later intrusion occupied over half of the area of the trench, see below). The natural was overlain by a 0.25m thick layer of grey brown silty sand (110) containing occasional sherds of pottery dated to the 12th to 14th century. This was then sealed by a thicker layer (0.40m – 0.50m thick) of dark grey silty loam (109).

In the central and southern part of the trench layer (109) had been removed by a large intrusion [103]. This was a steep sided, rectilinear cut, with only the north edge lying within the trench. This cut was a minimum of 2m from east to west and 1.25m from north to south and continued into the natural at the base of the trench. The earliest recorded fill within this large cut was a firm brownish yellow clay (104) forming a lining inside the edge of the cut and apparently also covering the base, although this was revealed across the entire area of the feature. This lining was on average 0.15m thick and survived to a maximum height of 23.90m AOD (0.40m below the modern ground surface). The remainder of the cut had been backfilled with loose dark grey ashy sand with frequent tile and cobble rubble (105). Occasional fragments of mid 19th century or later pottery were recovered from this fill.

Within the northern edge of the trench the dark grey deposit (109) was directly overlain by a cobble surface (102), the top of which was found at almost exactly the same level as the top of the clay lining described above. The cobble surface was overlain by a layer of mixed brownish red sand containing frequent brick and mortar rubble (101).

The stratigraphic relationship between the deposits recorded in the northern edge of the trench and the large clay lined pit to the south had been removed by a vertically sided cut [106], which continued down to the surface of the natural. This cut contained a ceramic drain (108), sealed by mixed backfill (107). As this service pipe proved to be live it was replaced by a modern plastic pipe within the limits of the trench.

The entire trench, including the service backfill, had been sealed by 0.25m to 0.40m of loose dark grey silty loam, up to the modern ground surface, which was recorded at a average height of 24.33m AOD.

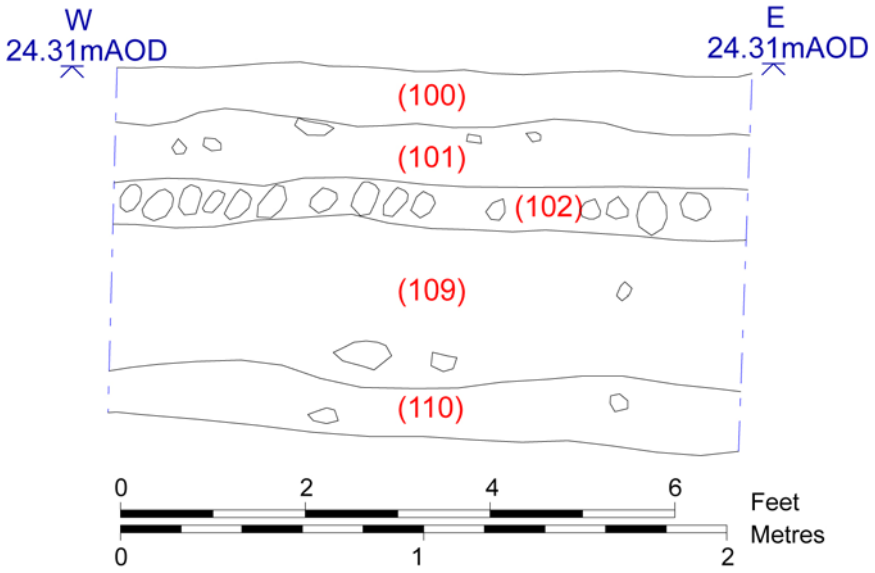

Figure 3. South facing section of Trench 1.

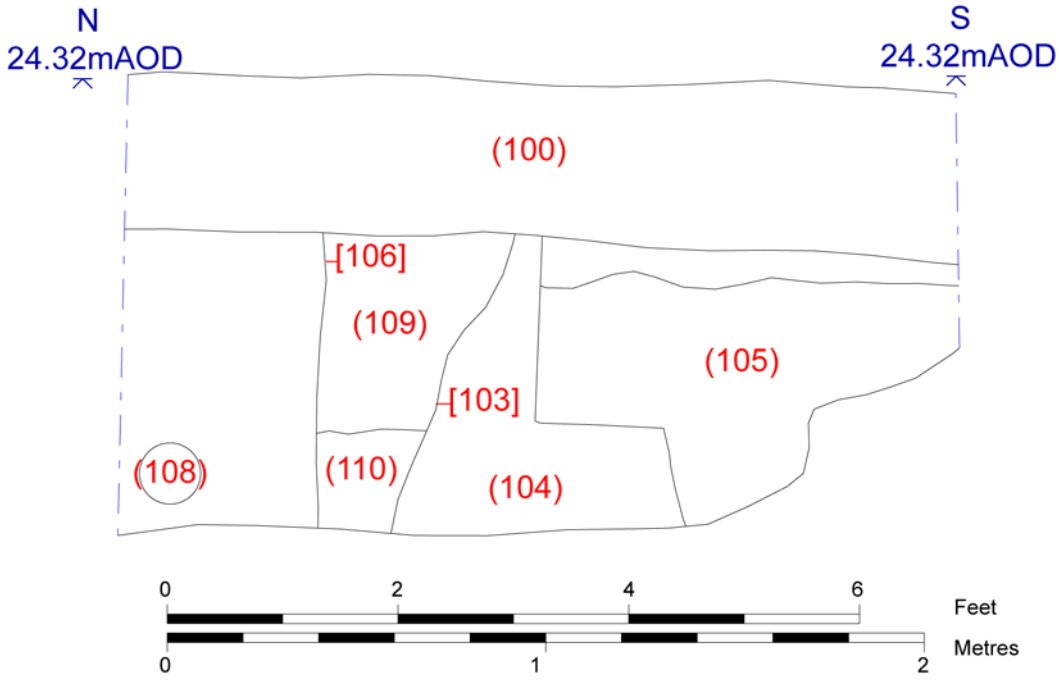

Figure 4. West facing section of Trench 1.

5.2 Trench 2.

The earliest deposit encountered was the natural, which comprised predominantly of compact mid brown silty sand with very frequent pebbles and small cobbles, overlain in places by patches of brownish yellow clay sand (210). This was found at a depth of 1.05m to 1.10m below the modern ground surface (on average at 23.12m AOD).

The natural was cut by several archaeological features (see Figure 5). In the southeast corner of the trench was an isolated oval posthole [205], with a maximum diameter of 0.30m. This had steep sides and a concave base at a depth of 0.15m. The single fill (204) consisted of mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles, flecks of charcoal and pottery dated to the late 12th to early 13th century.

In the northern part of the trench the natural had been cut by three further features (see Figure 6 and Plate 2). The earliest of these [213], comprised a single east west aligned edge, just 0.10m inside the edge of excavation. This feature was only 0.10m deep where it was measured inside the trench, but may have become deeper further to the north. The single fill (211) of mid grey brown sandy silt contained occasional fragments of animal bone, but unfortunately no pottery or other artefacts. This earliest feature had been substantially truncated to both the east and west by the other two features recorded in the northern part of the trench.

In the northwest corner of the trench the natural, and east side of [213] had been cut by a probably oval, concave sided pit [207]. This extended beyond the eastern and northern edges of excavation, but was a minimum of 0.40m across and 0.30m deep. The fill (206) of mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles, cobbles and charcoal flecks also contained occasional fragments of animal bone and sherds of 12th to early 13th century pottery.

The final feature [209] recorded cut into the natural truncated the west side of the early feature [213] and lay just 0.15m to the west of pit [207]. This feature also extended beyond the northern limit of the trench, although substantially more of this lay within the trench than the other two features. Cut [209] was an irregular oval, with a maximum diameter of 0.90m, steep sides and a concave base at a depth of 0.40m. The primary fill (212) comprised a 0.10m thick layer of cobbles within a mid brownish grey sandy silt matrix. No finds were present. This fill was sealed by a 0.30m thick fill of brownish grey sandy silt (208) with occasional flecks of charcoal, small pebbles, animal bone and an assemblage of late 13th to 14th century pottery. Some of the animal bone may indicate bone working rather than food waste.

The surface of the natural, and four features described which cut it, were sealed by a 0.50m thick layer of mid yellow brown sandy silt (203), which contained fragments of medieval pottery ranging in date from the late 13th to the 15th century. This layer was, in turn sealed by 0.30m of dark brownish grey clay silt (202), from which a range of pottery sherds, the latest dating to the late 18th century, were recovered.

The final two deposits recorded were a mixed layer of brick rubble, sand, cobbles and hardcore (201), overlain by recent loose grey sandy clay silt (200). The surface of this final deposit was recorded at an average height of 24.24m AOD.

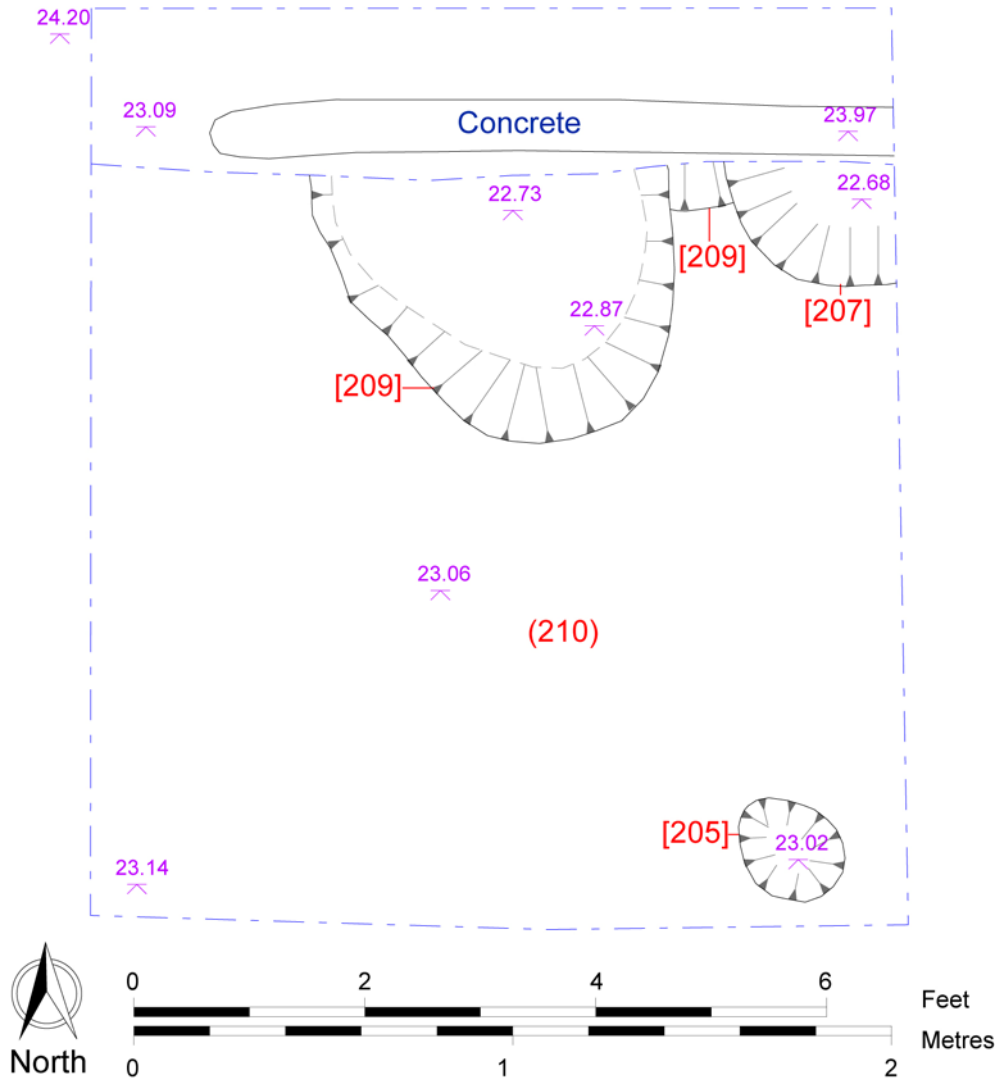

Figure 5. Post-excavation plan of Trench 2.

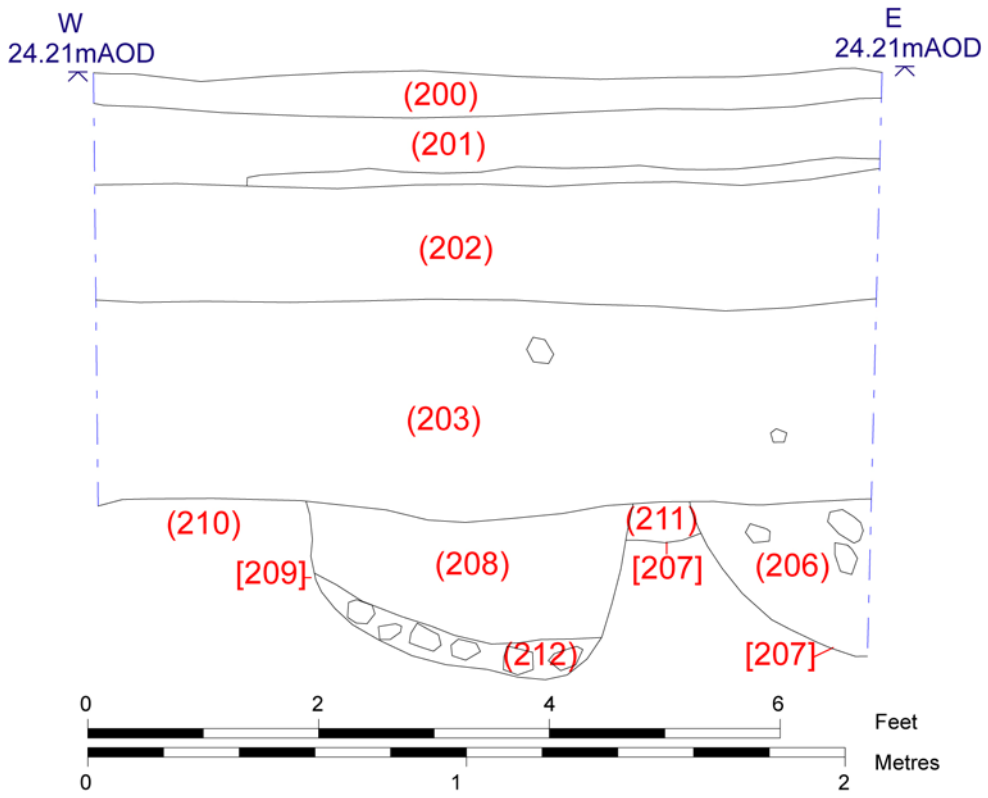

Figure 6. South facing section of Trench 2.

5.3 Trench 3.

The earliest deposit encountered was the brownish yellow silty sand natural (307), which was seen to overlie, in places, compact pebbles and small cobbles in a sandy matrix. The natural was found at a depth of 0.85m to 1.00m below the modern ground surface (an average of 23.10m AOD).

The natural was cut by a single archaeological feature, located just inside the western edge of the trench (See Figures 7 and 8 and Plate 3). This feature [306] consisted of an irregular, north south orientated cut, extending for a total length of 1.50m from the northern edge of excavation, to a rounded south end. A maximum of 0.25m width of the feature lay within the trench. The single fill (305) of this feature, consisted of mid yellow brown sandy silt, containing occasional small pebbles, flecks of charcoal and fragments of animal bone, but unfortunately no pottery or other datable artefacts.

The natural and single cut feature were sealed by a thick layer (average 0.50m) of mid yellow brown sandy silt (304), from which fragments of late 12th to 14th century pottery were retrieved. This deposit was then covered by a 0.20m thick layer of grey brown clay sand silt (303), containing sherds of pottery dated to the late 18th century or later. The trench was then sealed by 0.25m of loose dark grey sandy clay silt with frequent mortar, brick and limestone rubble (302), again dated to the late 18th century or later, and the loose dark grey sandy clay silt topsoil (301), forming the modern surface at a height of 23.99 to 24.12m AOD. Along the southern edge of the trench, (but beyond the excavated limits) the modern ground surface was made up of a concrete slab (300), at a height of 24.16m AOD.

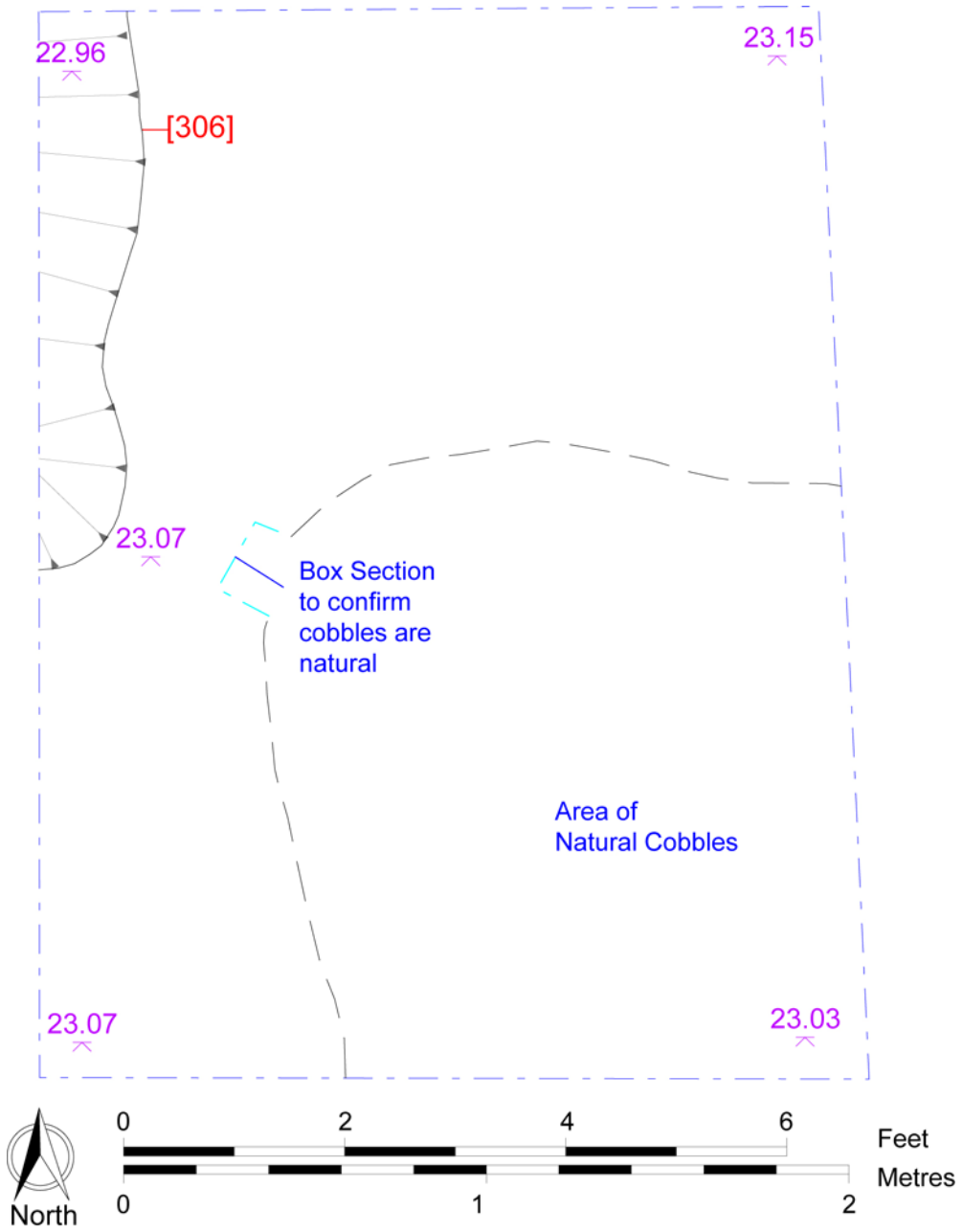

Figure 7. Post excavation plan of Trench 3.

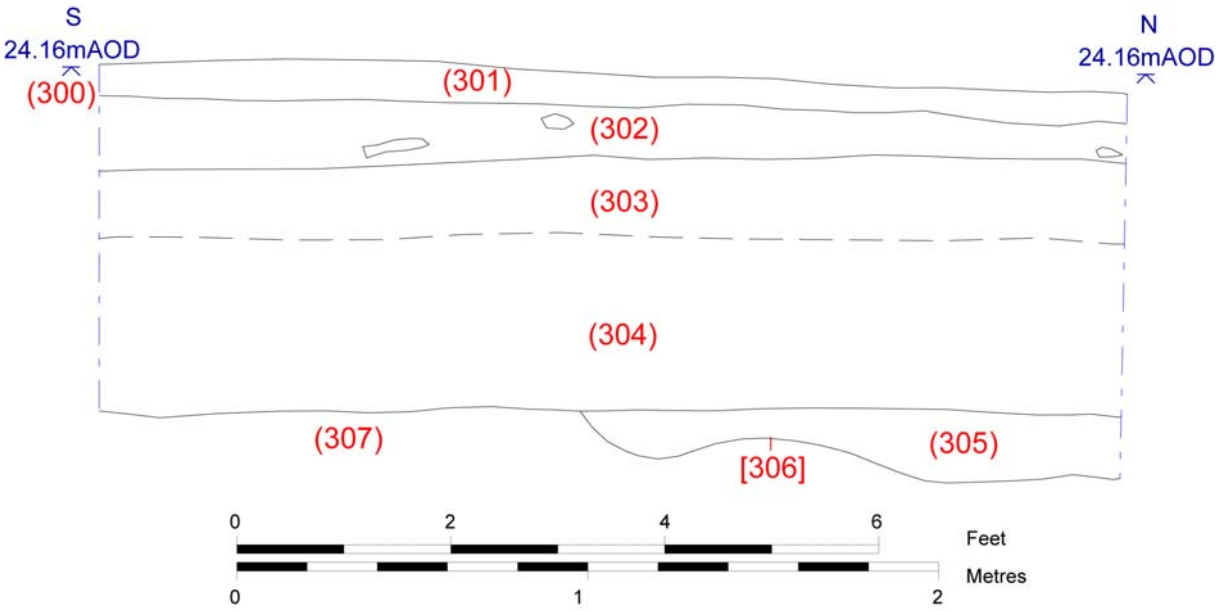

Figure 8. East facing section of Trench 3.

5.4 Trench 4.

The earliest deposit encountered was the compact yellowish brown sandy pebbly gravel natural, with occasional patches of brownish yellow silty sand (407). This was found at an average height of 22.85m AOD, (1.00m to 1.10m below the modern ground surface). The natural had been sealed by a 0.45m thick layer of yellow brown sandy silt (406), from which a single sherd of late 12th to 14th century pottery was recovered (Figure 9).

This thick deposit was cut by a substantial archaeological feature [405] (see Figure 10 and Plate 4). This was a large oval, with a maximum diameter of 1.80m, which continued beyond the northern edge of the trench. It may therefore have formed the southern end of a north south orientated linear feature. The cut had steep sides and a concave base and was at least 0.85m deep, with the lowest 0.40m being cut into the underlying natural. The primary fill (404) was a 0.15m thick layer of soft mid grey sandy silt containing occasional small pebbles, flecks of charcoal, fragments of animal bone and pottery dated to the late 12th to 14th century. Some of the animal bone may be indicative of bone working rather than food refuse. The primary fill was sealed by a thicker fill (403) of yellow brown silty sand containing very frequent pebbles and small cobbles, which again contained occasional fragments of animal bone and sherds of probably 12th century pottery. The final fill (402) was a mid brown sandy silt, which was predominantly recorded in section having been mechanically excavated.

The large feature and layer into which it was cut were sealed by a 0.20m thick deposit of dark grey brown sandy clay silt (401), which was in turn covered by 0.40m of compact mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent modern brick and concrete rubble (400), forming the modern ground surface at an average height of 23.91m AOD.

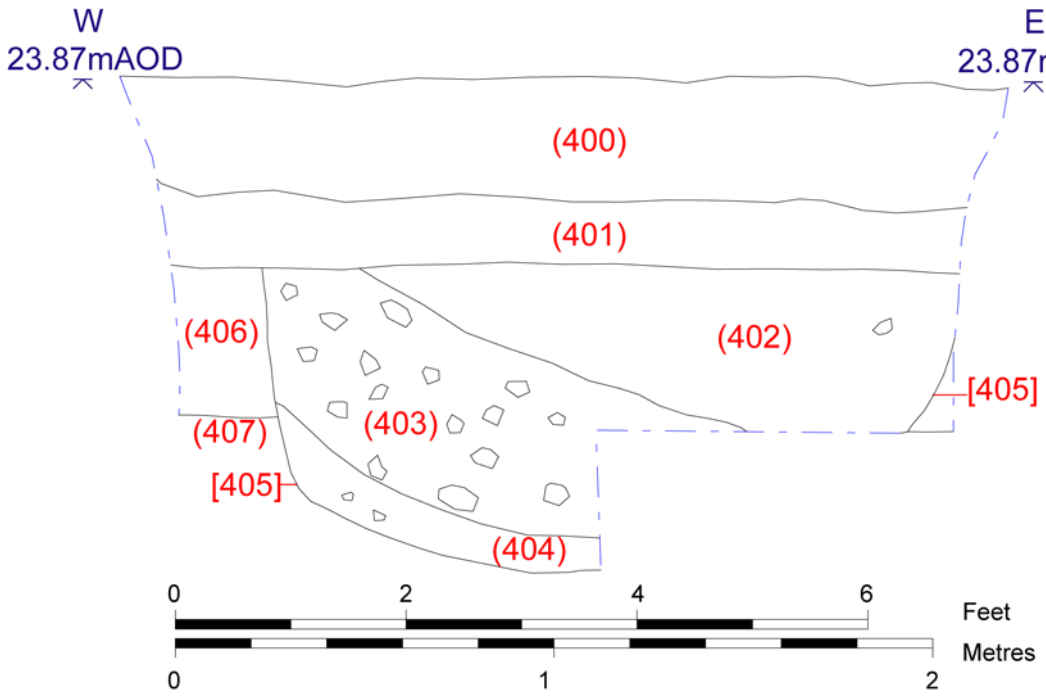

Figure 9. South facing section of Trench 4.

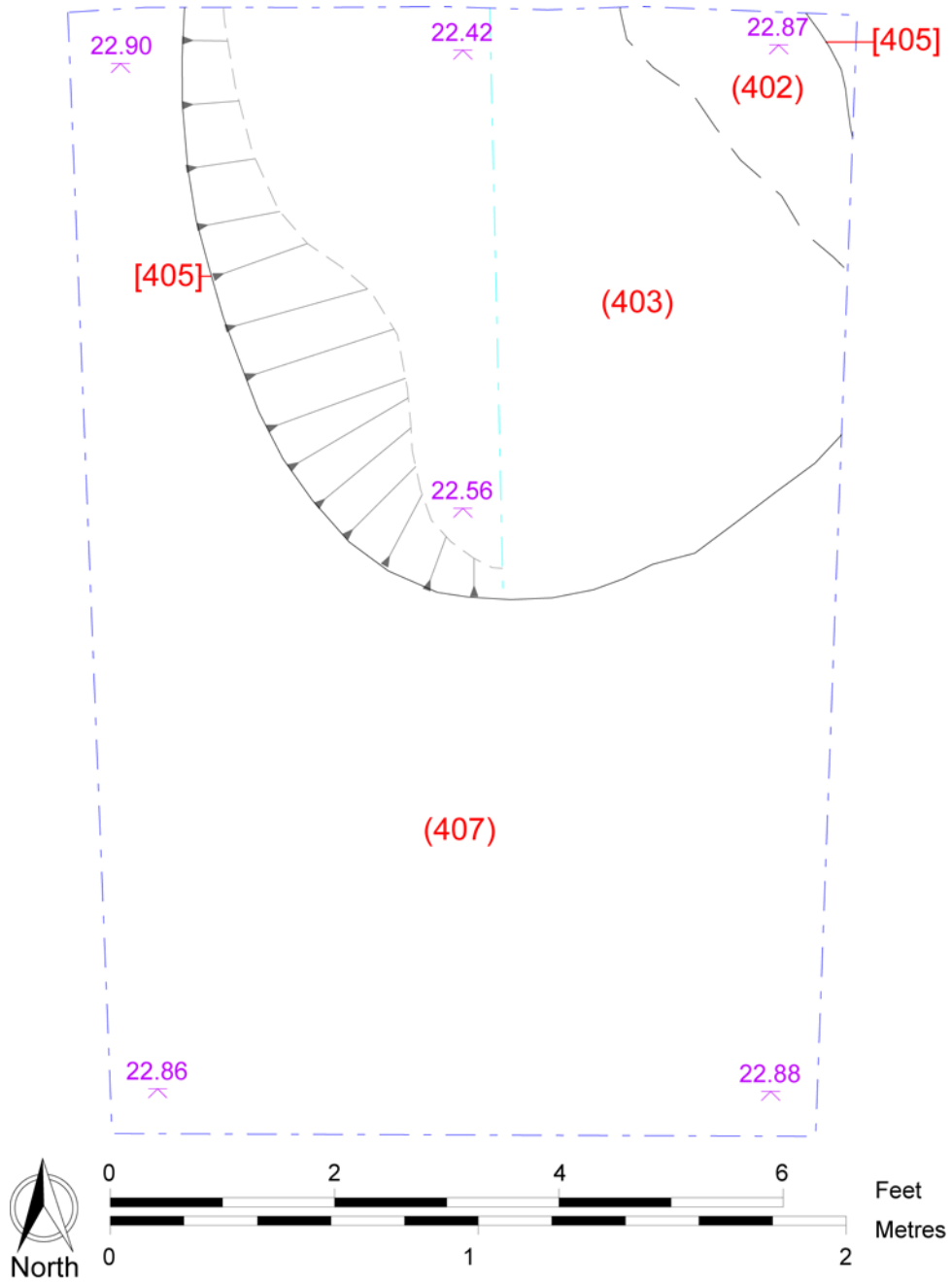

Figure 10. Post-excavation plan of Trench 4.

5.5 Trench 5, (See Figures 11 and 12 and Plate 5).

This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m (23.00m AOD), but did not reach natural. The earliest deposit encountered was a friable mid yellow brown sandy silt (510). This deposit was a minimum of 0.60m thick and became progressively more yellow and sandier towards the base, suggesting that the natural may have been only slightly deeper. Several sherds of pottery, ranging in date from the late 12th to 14th century were recovered from this deposit. This thick layer was overlain by a 0.20m thick deposit of mid grey brown clay sand silt (509), containing sherds of pottery ranging in date from the 16th to late 18th century or later.

In the southeast corner of the trench deposit (509) was cut by a shallow feature [512], the majority of which lay to the west of the trench. This feature contained a single fill of dark grey sandy silt, with frequent flecks of mortar (511). It was overlain by a single course of bricks (507), which may have formed the foundation for an insubstantial wall, but were more likely to represent the edge of a brick surface, extending to the west of the trench.

Further to the east deposit (509) was overlain by a mixed dump of grey brown clay sand and silt with brick, mortar, tile and cobble rubble (508). In the northwest corner of the trench the edge of this dump was overlain by a small area of cobbles (506), which may have originally formed a surface related to the brick one (507).

The brick and cobble surfaces along the west side of the trench were overlain by a substantial dump comprising lenses of pale brown, cream and grey, sand, clay and mortar, containing frequent fragments of brick, tile mortar and cobbles (504). This dump was covered to the east by another (505), made up of lenses of mortar, sand and silty clay.

The latest of the sequence of mixed dumps was cut, in the northeast corner of the trench, by a square, vertical sided, flat bottomed cut [503]. This was a minimum of 1m x 1m , extending beyond both the east and north edges of the trench, and was 0.55m deep. The sides of the cut were lined with timber planking (502) and it had been backfilled with loose, pale grey mortar and sand (501) containing frequent machine made, frogged bricks, tiles and fragments of concrete. Te timber lined pit and layers into which it was cut were sealed by a thin (0.10m) layer of modern mid grey sandy clay silt topsoil (500). The modern ground surface was recorded at an average height of 24.20m AOD.

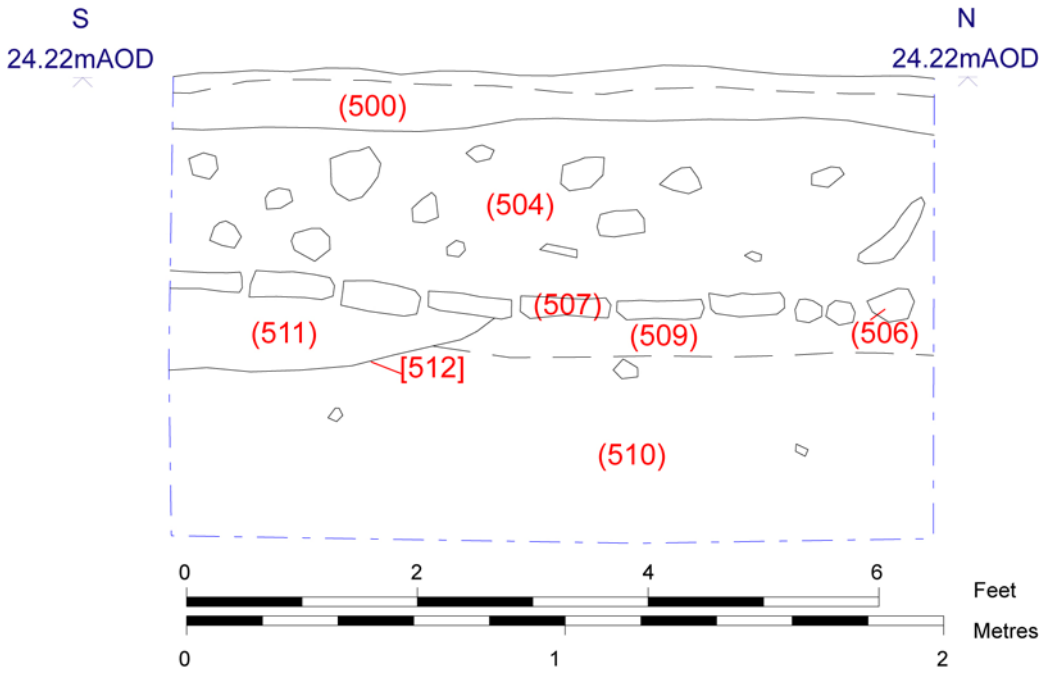

Figure 11. East facing section of Trench 5.

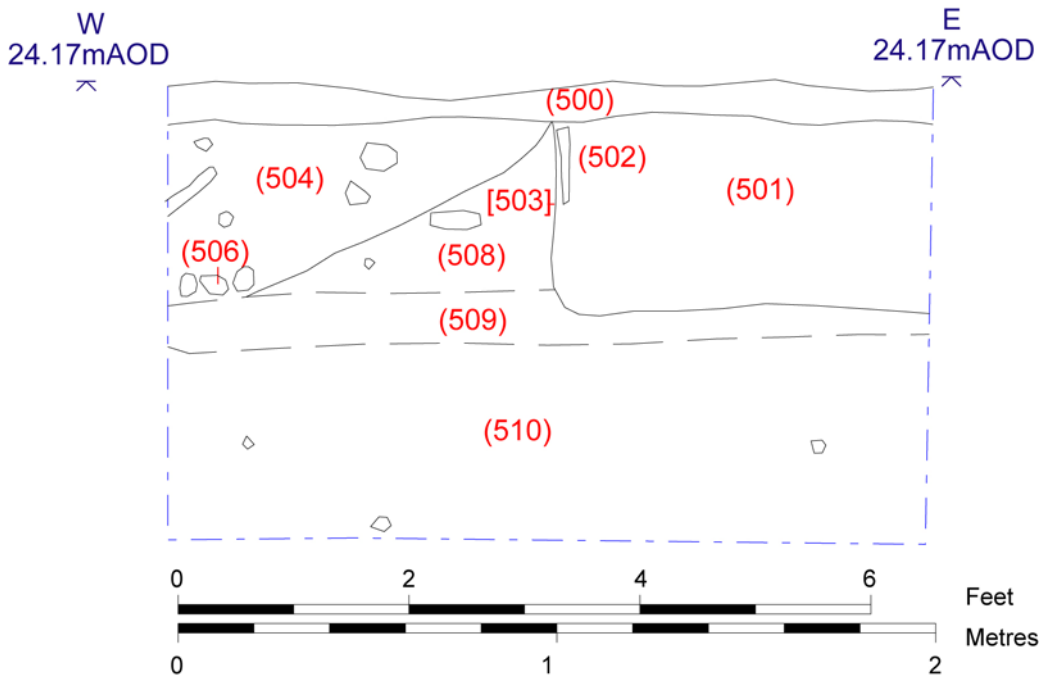

Figure 12. South facing section of Trench 5.

5.6 Trench 6, (See Figures 13, 14 and 15 and Plate 6).

The earliest deposit encountered was the firm, mid yellow brown sandy gravel, with pebbles and cobbles natural (627). This was encountered at a depth of 1.00m below the modern ground surface (on average at 23.50m AOD), and was only revealed in the eastern part of the trench, due to subsequent activity elsewhere. The natural was directly overlain by a thin (maximum 0.10m) layer of soft, mid grey silty sand (626) containing occasional flecks of charcoal and small pebbles. Occasional fragments of animal bone and sherds of late 12th to 14th century pottery and a fragment of floor tile, dated to the mid 13th century or later, were recovered from this deposit. It was sealed by a layer of redeposited natural (624), consisting mid yellow silty sand with frequent pebbles and cobbles. A single sherd of late 12th to 14th century pottery was found in this layer.

At the east end of the trench layer (624) had been cut by a shallow feature [623]. Only the west edge of this lay within the trench, it extended beyond the north, east and south edges of excavation, which had a steep to moderate sloping side, down to a flat base at a depth of 0.20m. It was a minimum of 1.20m long and 0.75m wide and contained a single fill (622) of mid brown sandy silt, containing fragments of animal bone and late 12th to 14th century pottery. A sample taken from this fill was assessed for its environmental potential and revealed the presence of occasional charred cereal grains indicative of food waste, but little else of interpretive value. With so much of this feature lying beyond the excavated area it is difficult to interpret, it may have been a shallow pit, or the west side of a ditch.

The cut feature and earlier deposits in the east end of the trench were sealed by layer of mid brown sandy silt (611) up to 0.20m thick. Fragments of bone and pottery, varying in date from the late 12th to the 16th or 17th century, were recovered from this layer. This deposit was in turn sealed by a compact layer of pebbly, mid brown sandy silt (607), from which a single

sherd of pottery, of early 19th century or later, was retrieved. This layers of mid brownish grey clay sand silt (629), and mid grey brown pebbly sandy silt (628) followed.

The final deposit in this sequence of horizontal layers (628) had been cut on its western side by a vertical straight cut [621]. Only the single eastern edge of the feature represented by this cut lay within the trench. It extended to the north and south (being a minimum of 1.20m in this direction) and its fills (see below) extended beyond the western limit of excavation, so it was at least 1.50m across. The base was not reached, but it was a minimum of 0.80m deep. The vertical eastern edge of the cut was lined by a 0.20m thick band of firm, light brownish grey clay (610), which contained occasional pebbles and flecks of ceramic building material (CBM). This clay lined feature was backfilled with compact mid grey sandy clay silt (609), containing frequent cobbles, pebbles and gravel, suggestive of redeposited natural. Occasional fragments of pottery and bone were recovered from this fill, together with a fragment of glazed oven tile dated to the 18th century or later. This fill was excavated down to a maximum depth of 1.20m below the modern ground surface, but it clearly continued below this level. The vertical side and clay lining of this feature suggest that it was a tanning pit, forming part of the tannery complex known to have occupied the western half of the site in the second half of the 19th century.

On its northern side the backfilled tanning pit had been cut by the vertical construction cut [603] for a substantial wall foundation (625). Like the backfilled pit this foundation continued below the maximum excavated depth of the trench. The foundation comprised at least five courses of masonry, 0.75m deep. The blocks were roughly squared limestone and average of 300mm long and 120mm thick. Whilst occasional patches of hard off-white lime mortar were present this was not a consistent bonding between all of the courses, but more of a random filling between blocks that were most widely spaced. The foundation had been built extremely close to the edge of the cut, especially on its eastern end, where it coincided with the inner edge of the tanning pit clay lining (see (610) above). The narrow space between the blocks of the foundation and the construction trench on the south side had been backfilled with mid brown sandy clay silt (602), containing small pebbles, occasional sherds of residual medieval pottery and fragments of CBM.

Above the foundation a substantial brick and limestone wall had been constructed (601). This was stepped in by approximately 0.20m from the width of the foundation and extended to the east, beyond the limits of the foundation and the tanning pit above which this had been built. The wall survived for a total of three courses, with the top one being only represented by a triple brick width wall (presumably the base of the original above ground wall), visible in the western edge of excavation. The main stone element of the wall was a total of 0.40m wide and 1.70m long. Where the wall extended to the east, beyond the substantial foundation constructed within the backfilled tanning pit, it was built directly on the surface of the earlier pebbly deposit (628).

To the south of the wall the construction cut and foundation had been sealed by a thin make-up deposit (612) of mixed grey and brownish yellow clay and coarse sand, for a cobble surface. This contained mortar, charcoal, and a single small fragment of pantile. The cobble

surface (606) was constructed with water worn cobbles between 120mm and 150mm in diameter, set in coarse yellow sand. The top of this cobble surface was found a depth of 0.20m below the modern ground surface.

To the north of wall (601) was a brick surface (604), which extended almost to the northern edge of the trench, where it butted against another cobble surface (605). These two surfaces were not excavated, but they were again recorded at a depth of 0.20m below the modern ground surface.

In the eastern edge of excavation a possible area of brick surface was recorded (608). This was constructed on a bed of lime mortar, which directly overlay the compacted pebbly deposit (628) described above.

In the northeast corner of the trench were two recent glazed ceramic drains (617 and 614), the cuts for which [619 and 616] had truncated the east ends of wall (601) and brick floor (604) and the north edge of possible brick floor (608). These drains had also removed the relationships between these structures.

The entire trench was sealed by a layer of brick, cobble and rubble demolition material (600), the top of which had been compacted and covered with a thin layer of tarmac to form the current yard surface. The modern surface was recorded at an average height of 24.56m AOD.

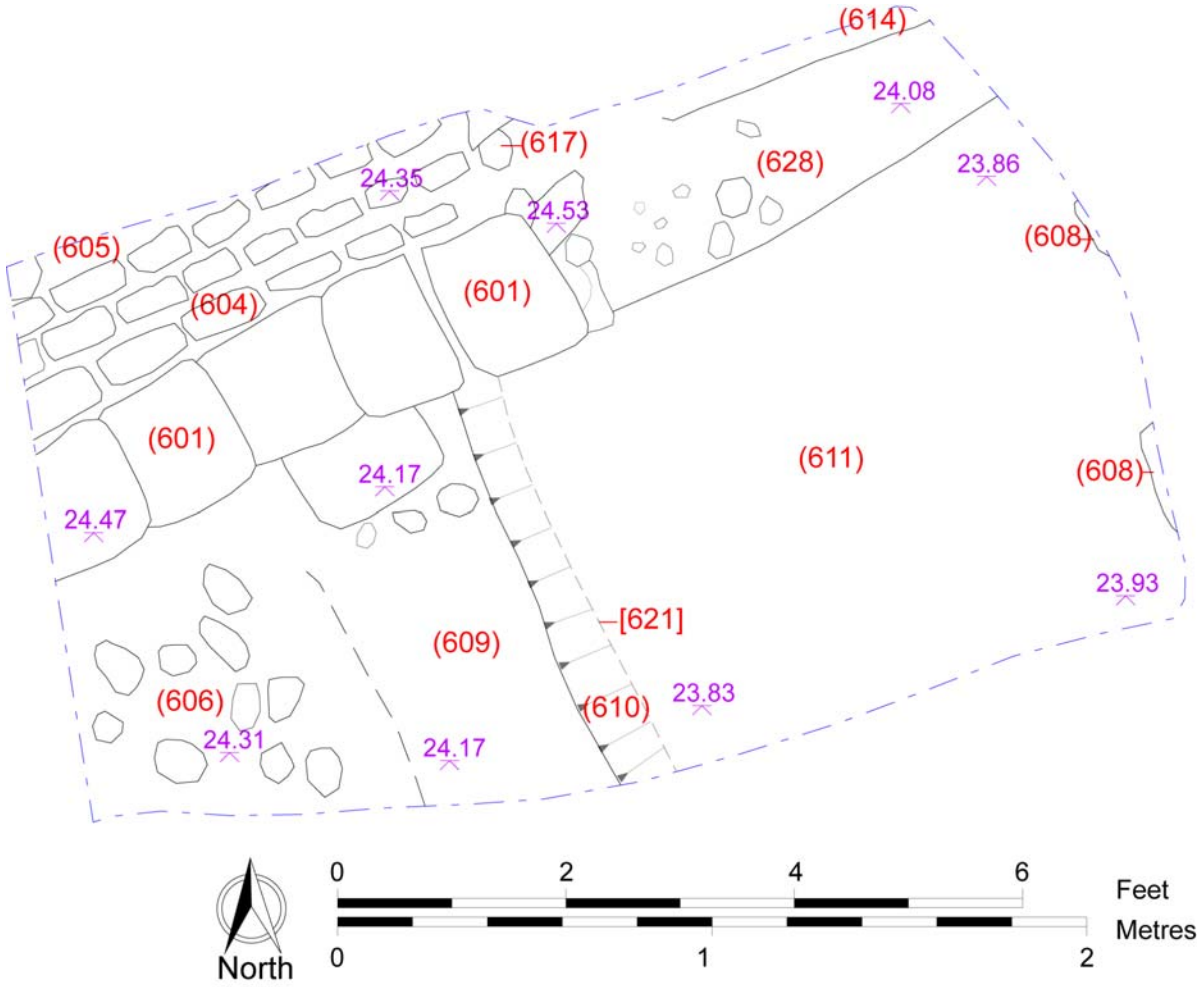

Figure 13. Post excavation plan of Trench 6.

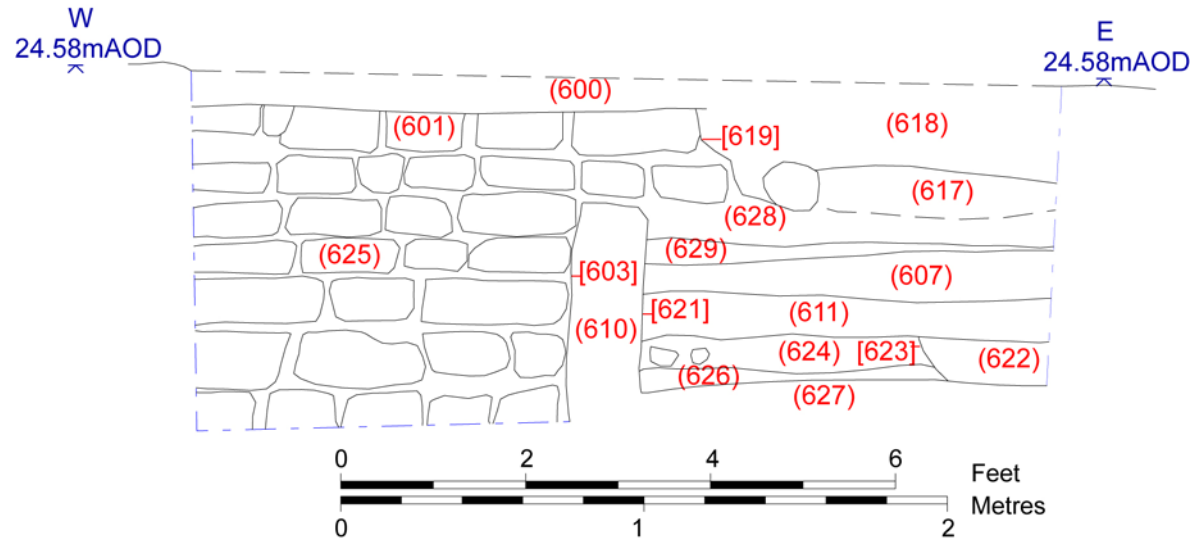

Figure 14. South facing section of Trench 6.

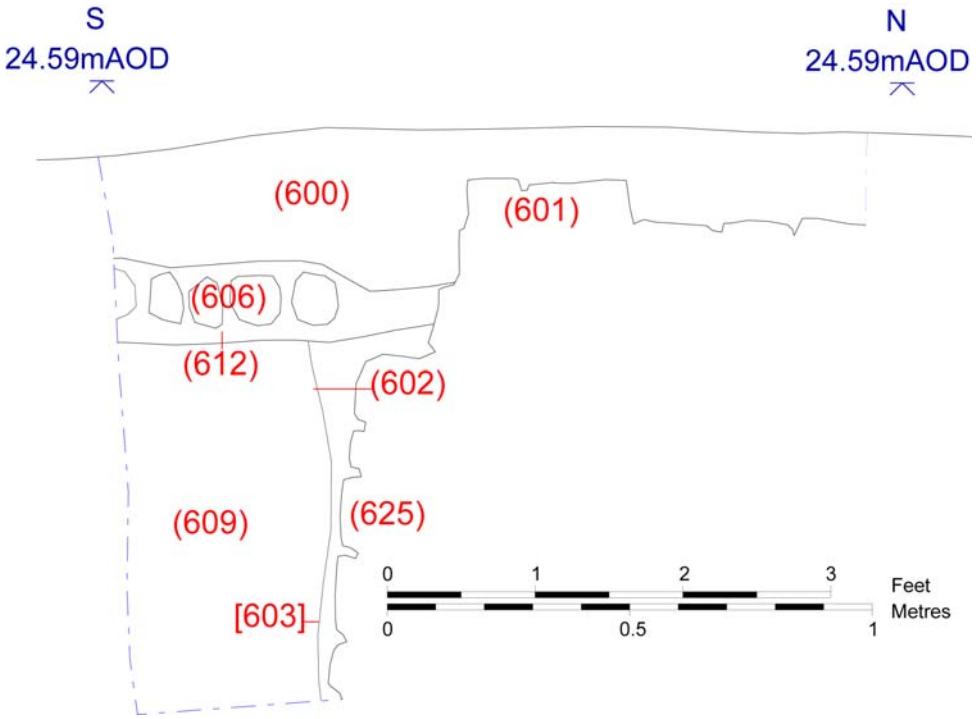

Figure 15. East facing section of Trench 6.

5.7 Trench 7, (see Plate 7).

The earliest deposit encountered was the natural (707), which comprised mid brown clay sand over cobbles and gravel. This was found at a depth of 0.80m below the modern ground surface, (approximately 23.40m AOD). Within the centre of the trench the natural was cut by a single, circular posthole [706], 0.30m in diameter (see Figure 16). The fill of the posthole (705) consisted of soft, light brownish grey sandy silt, from which occasional small fragments of animal bone, but no pottery were recovered. The natural and posthole were sealed by a 0.25m thick layer of grey brown sandy silt (703), containing flecks of charcoal, fragments of bone and sherds of late 12th to 14th century pottery (Figure 17). Within the southern half of the trench this deposit was overlain by a layer of pale greenish grey sandy clay (704)

containing moderate cobbles and fragments of limestone rubble, together with a single fragment of flat roof tile dated to between the 12th and 17th centuries.

Above the two medieval layers was a deposit of loose, dark grey ashy sand (702), which contained occasional post medieval or early modern pottery, followed by 0.30m thickness of recent brick, tile and mortar rubble (701), which formed the foundation for the modern tarmac yard surface (700). The modern ground surface was recorded at a height of 24.18m AOD.

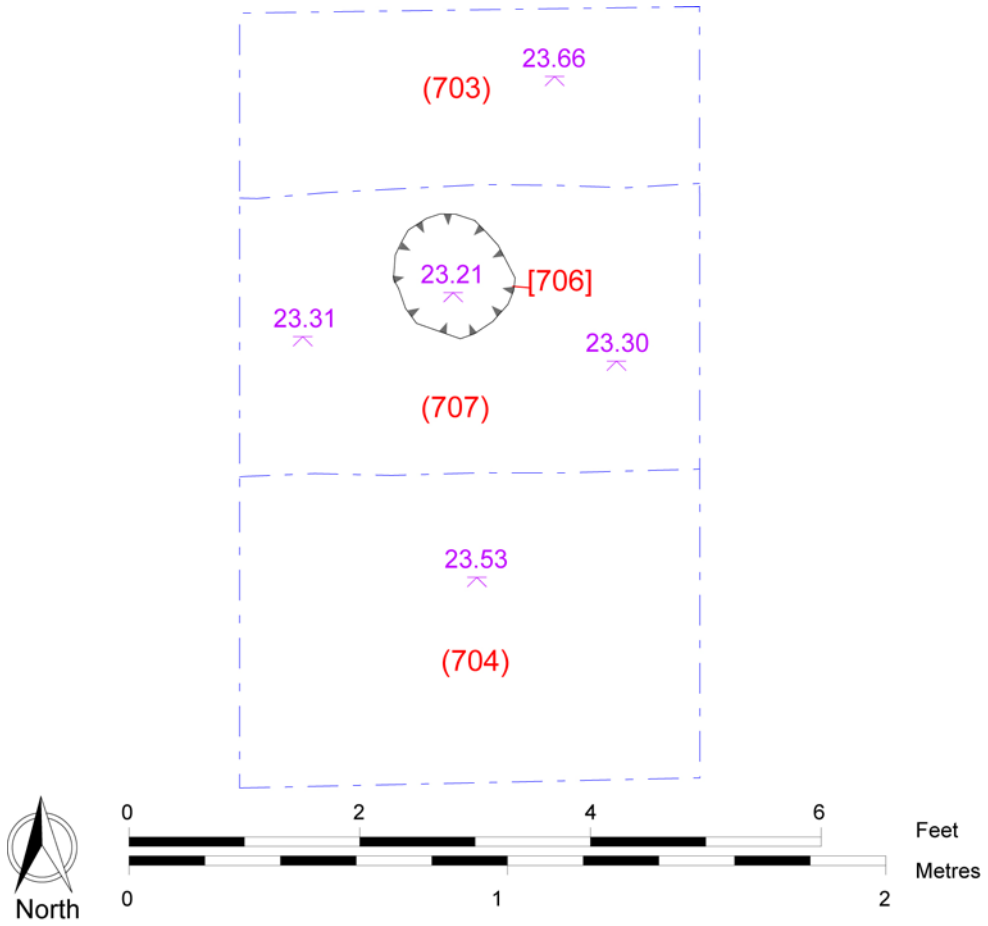

Figure 16. Post excavation plan of Trench 7.

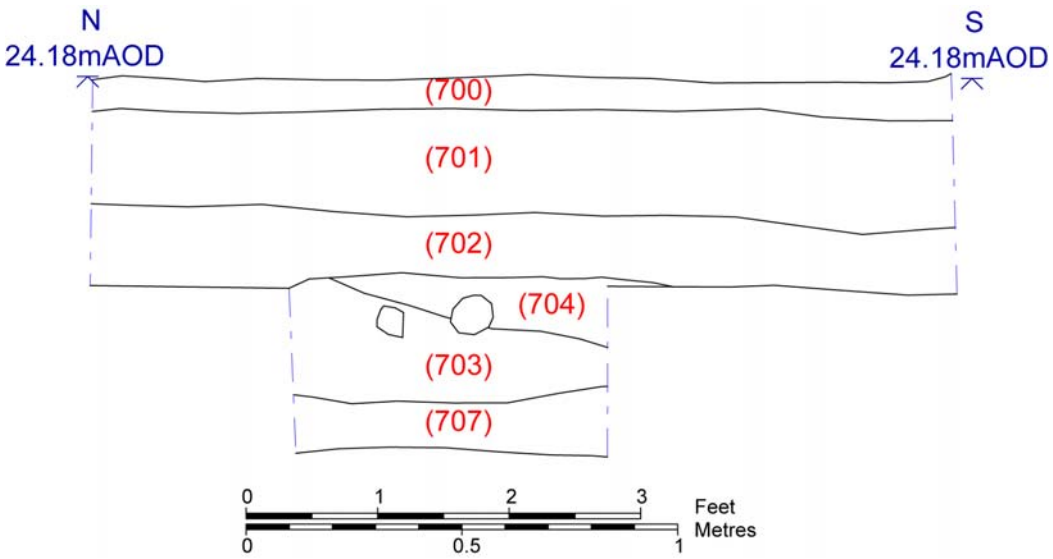

Figure 17. West facing section of Trench 7.

6.0 Discussion & Conclusions.

The earliest activity on the site is likely to date to the later 12th or 13th century, as features of this date have been found in several of the evaluation trenches in various parts of the site. With many of the features extending beyond the limits of the trenches it is difficult to establish, with any certainty, their precise form. Several of the features may be either pits or ditches. Occasional post-holes were also found (in two of the trenches) in the northern and eastern parts of the site. Although these may indicate buildings associated with the street frontage it should be noted that no evidence for surfaces, or other structures indicative of buildings were encountered. The post-holes may therefore have formed fences or other lightweight structures. In addition to the cut features the majority of the trenches revealed a consistent medieval soil horizon, immediately over the natural, which varied in thickness from 0.25m to 0.60m. This layer contained pottery of a similar date range to that found in the features, and did not extend beyond the 14th century. The dating of the medieval activity recorded on the site would appear to correspond to the late 12th and 13th century reorganisation of the urban landscape indicated elsewhere in Ripon. This may suggest that High St Agnesgate was laid out at the same time as many of the other streets in the city, rather than at a later date.

The later medieval period is almost entirely absent from the archaeological record for this site. Indeed, although occasional sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered, the site appears to have remained predominantly unoccupied until the later 18th or early 19th century, when a tannery was established on the site. Trenches 1 and 6, in the western half of the site encountered the remains of clay lined tanning pits, which had been backfilled during the 18th or 19th centuries. In the case of Trench 6, a substantial wall had then been constructed over the tanning pit. This wall is likely to represent part of the large rectangular building shown on the 1892 Ordnance Survey Map and labelled as the tannery, and clearly indicates that the tannery underwent phases of rebuilding and reorganisation (see Figure 18). Brick and cobble surfaces, associated with the late 19th century tannery were found in Trenches 1 and 6, within 0.40m and 0.20m of the modern ground surface. No evidence for a tannery was found in any of the trenches located to the east, confirming the map evidence that this area was occupied by open gardens during the later 19th century. Presumably this had also been the case prior to the detailed mapping of this area of the city.

Although medieval archaeology has been shown to be present within several of the evaluation trenches this is generally recognisable as cut features into the natural, at depths of between 0.70m and 1m. Remains of the 19th century tannery survive much closer to the surface, in Trench 6, these were as close as 0.10m in places. The archaeological remains are not considered, by the author, to be of sufficient importance to prevent the proposed redevelopment of the site. It is currently proposed that the development, of two terraces totalling nine houses, is going to employ a reinforced raft due to non-archaeological structural considerations. It is likely that a raft foundation would be shallower than 0.70m. Service trenches may, however, need to be deeper. An appropriate level of archaeological mitigation would be to undertake a watching brief during groundworks required for the development,

although any decision regarding mitigation lies with North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Section and the local planning authority.

Figure 18. Trenches overlaid on 1892 OS map.

7.0 Bibliography.

NYCC (June 2006). Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching. Land at Ostcliffes Court, 20-28 High St Agnesgate, Ripon, North Yorkshire.

8.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.

Context	Description	Extent	Depth
Trench 1			
100	Loose very dark grey silty loam	tr	0.20m
101	Mixed brownish red sand and mortar	tr	0.20m
102	Cobble surface	2m x 0.05m	0.15m
103	Vertical sided, rectangular cut	2m x 1.25m	1m
104	Firm, brownish yellow clay	2m x 1.25m	1m
105	Loose dark grey ashy sand and silt with freq tile, cobble brick and concrete rubble	2m x 1.25m	1m
106	Vertical sided linear cut	2m x 0.68m	1m
107	Firm pale grey brown silty sand with freq brick and tile	2m x 0.68m	1m
108	Glazed drain pipe	2m x 0.15m	0.15m
109	Compact very dark grey silty loam	2m x 0.90m	0.40m
110	Compact dark grey brown silty sand	2m x 0.90m	0.25m
111	Compact dark grey sand with freq pebbles and small cobbles (natural)	2m x 0.90m	_
Trench 2			
200	Loose mid grey sandy clay silt	tr	0.10m
201	Firm, mixed brick, sand cobbles and hardcore	tr	0.20m
202	Dark brownish grey clay silt	tr	0.30m
203	mid yellow brown sandy silt	tr	0.50m
204	mid grey brown sandy silt	0.30m x 0.30m	0.15m
205	Oval, steep sided, concave based cut	0.30m x 0.30m	0.15m
206	mid brownish grey sandy silt	0.40m x 0.30m	0.30m
207	Sub-oval, concave sided, concave based cut	0.40m x 0.30m	0.30m
208	mid brownish grey sandy silt	0.90m x 0.70m	0.30m
209	Oval steep sided, concave based cut	0.90m x 0.70m	0.40m
210	Brownish yellow clay sand over compact mid brown silty sand with frequent pebbles and gravel (natural).	tr	-
211	mid brownish grey sandy silt	0.15m x 0.10m	0.11m
212	mid brownish grey sandy silt with freq cobbles	0.90m x 0.70m	0.10m
213	Single edge of heavily truncated cut	0.15m x 0.10m	0.11m
Trench 3			
300	concrete	2m x -	0.05m
301	Loose dark grey sandy clay silt	tr	0.10m
302	Loose dark grey sandy clay silt with frequent brick and mortar rubble	tr	0.25m
303	mid grey brown clay sand silt	tr	0.25m
304	mid yellow brown sandy silt	tr	0.50m
305	mid yellow brown sandy silt	1.50m x 0.25m	0.15m
306	Irregular cut	1.50m x 0.25m	0.15m
307	mid yellow brown silty sand (natural)	tr	-
Trench 4			
400	Compact grey brown sandy silt with very freq brick, concrete, drain pipe rubble	tr	0.40m
401	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt	tr	0.20m
402	mid brown sandy silt	1.70m x ?	0.50m
403	Yellow brown silty sand with freq pebbles and small cobbles	1.80m x 1.60m	0.75m
404	Soft mid grey sandy silt	1.60m x 0.90m	0.15m
405	Sub-oval, steep sided, irregular, concave based cut	1.80m x 1.60m	0.85m
406	Yellow brown sandy silt	tr	0.45m

407	Compact brownish yellow sandy pebbly gravel with patches of brownish yellow silty sand (natural)	tr	-
Trench 5			
500	Loose mid grey sandy clay silt	tr	0.10m
501	Loose pale grey mortar and sand with freq modern brick, tile, concrete	1m x 1m	0.50m
502	Timber lining of square cut	1m x 1m	0.40m
503	Square, vertical sided, flat based cut	1m x 1m	0.50m
504	Weakly cemented lenses of pale brown cream and grey sand clay and mortar with brick, tile and cobbles	2m x 1m	0.25m
505	Lenses of weakly cemented sand mortar and clay	1m x 1m	0.40m
506	Small area of cobbles	0.30m x 0.20m	0.10m
507	Single course of bricks in section	2m x ?	0.05m
508	Mixed grey brown clay sand silt with mortar, brick, tile and cobbles	1m x 1m	0.25m
509	mid grey brown clay sand silt	tr	0.20m
510	Mid yellow brown sandy silt	tr	0.60m
511	Dark grey sandy silt with freq flecks mortar	0.80m x 0.10m	0.20m
512	Shallow cut in section	0.80m x 0.10m	0.20m
Trench 6			
600	Compact reddish brown to mid grey silty sand with brick, mortar, concrete, tarmac	tr	0.30m
601	Limestone and brick wall	1.70m x 0.40m	0.25m
602	mid brown sandy clay silt	0.90m x 0.30m	0.75m
603	Vertical sided linear cut	0.90m x 0.05m	0.75m
604	Brick floor	1.40 x 0.35m	-
605	Cobble surface	0.45m x 0.10m	-
606	Cobble surface	0.90m x 0.90m	0.15m
607	Compact mid brown sandy silt with frequent cobbles and pebbles	1.50m x 1.40m	0.10m
608	Brick floor	1.0m x 0.20m	0.10m
609	Compact mid grey sandy clay silt with freq pebbles and cobbles	1.20m x 0.90m	0.80m
610	Firm light brownish grey clay	1.00m x 0.20m	0.70m
611	mid brown sandy silt	1.30m x 1.20m	0.20m
612	Loose mixed grey to brownish yellow clay and coarse sand	0.50m x 0.50m	0.05m
613	void		
614	Drain backfill		
615	Ceramic drain		
616	Drain cut		
617	Drain backfill		
618	Ceramic drain		
619	Drain cut		
620	void		
621	Vertical sided rectangular cut	1.50m x 1.20m	0.80m
622	mid brown sandy silt	1.40m x 0.75m	0.20m
623	Oval cut, with moderate to steep side and flat base	1.40m x 0.75m	0.20m
624	Weakly cemented mid yellow silty sand with frequent cobbles and pebbles	1.20m x 1.10m	0.10m
625	Limestone rough hewn block foundation of five courses +	1.20m x 0.20m +	0.80m
626	Soft mid grey silty sand	1.20m x 1.00	0.10m
627	Firm mid yellow brown sandy gravel with freq pebbles and cobbles	1.30m x 1.20m	-
628	mid grey brown sandy silt with freq pebbles	1.50m x 1.30m	0.15m
629	mid brownish grey clay sand silt	1.50m x 1.30m	0.10m
Trench 7			

700	tarmac	tr	0.05m
701	Loose, brick, tile and mortar rubble	tr	0.28m
702	Loose, dark grey ashy sand	tr	0.20m
703	mid grey brown sandy silt	tr	0.25m
704	Pale greenish grey sandy clay with cobbles and limestone rubble	1.50m x 1.20m	0.15m
705	Soft light brownish grey sandy silt	0.30m dia	0.10m
706	Circular, steep sided, irregular based cut	0.30m dia	0.10m
707	Friable mid brown clay sand over cobbles and gravel (natural)	1.20m x 0.75m	-

9.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.

9.1 Drawing Register.

Dwg No	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
1	Tr 5, S facing sect	1:20	120706	GJB
2	Tr 5, E facing sect	1:20	120706	GJB
3	Tr 5, W facing sect	1:20	120706	GJB
4	Tr 3, N facing sect	1:20	130706	GJB
5	Tr 3, E facing sect	1:20	130706	GJB
6	Tr 3, plan	1:20	130706	GJB
7	Tr 4, plan	1:20	130706	GJB
8	Tr 4, S facing sect	1:20	130706	GJB
9	Tr 2, plan	1:20	190706	GJB
10	Tr 2, S facing sect	1:20	190706	GJB
11	Tr 2, W facing sect	1:20	190706	GJB
12	Tr 1, plan	1:20	190706	TPR
13	Tr 1, W facing sect	1:20	190706	TPR
14	Tr 1, S facing sect	1:20	190706	TPR
15	Tr 7, pre ex plan	1:20	240706	TPR
16	Tr 7, plan after removal of (704)	1:20	240706	TPR
17	Tr 7, final plan	1:20	240706	TPR
18	Tr 6, pre-ex plan	1:20	250706	TPR
19	Tr 6, plan of (609) and [603]	1:20	250706	TPR
20	Tr 6, plan of (624) and [623]	1:20	260706	GJB
21	Tr 6, N facing sect	1:20	260706	GJB
22	Tr 6, E facing sect	1:20	260706	GJB
23	Tr 6, S facing sect (including elevation of (601/625)	1:20	260706	GJB
24	Tr 6, final plan	1:20	260706	GJB

9.2 Photographic Register.

Frame	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
Film: 47/120706/1155 (B&W)				
2-4	Tr 5, E facing sect	1 x 1m	120706	GJB
5-7	Tr 5, E facing sect	1 x 1m	120706	GJB
8-10	Tr 5, W facing sect	1 x 1m	120706	GJB
11-13	Tr 3, N facing sect	1 x 1m	130706	GJB
14-16	Tr 3, cut [306]	1 x 0.5m	130706	GJB
17-19	Tr 4 pre-ex	1 x 1m	130706	GJB
20-22	Tr 4, S facing sect. Including pit [405]	1 x 1m	130706	GJB
23-25	Tr 2, W facing sect	1 x 1m	200706	GJB
26-28	Tr 2, S facing sect	1 x 1m	200706	GJB
29-31	Tr 1, S facing sect	1 x 1m	200706	GJB
32-34	Tr 1, W facing sect	1 x 1m	200706	GJB
Film: 30/120706/1152 (Col Trans)				
2-4	Tr 5, E facing sect	1 x 1m	120706	GJB
5-7	Tr 5, E facing sect	1 x 1m	120706	GJB
8-10	Tr 5, W facing sect	1 x 1m	120706	GJB
11-13	Tr 3, N facing sect	1 x 1m	130706	GJB
14-16	Tr 3, cut [306]	1 x 0.5m	130706	GJB

17-19	Tr 4 pre-ex	1 x 1m	130706	GJB
20-22	Tr 4, S facing sect. Including pit [405]	1 x 1m	130706	GJB
23-25	Tr 2, W facing sect	1 x 1m	200706	GJB
26-28	Tr 2, S facing sect	1 x 1m	200706	GJB
29-31	Tr 1, S facing sect	1 x 1m	200706	GJB
32-34	Tr 1, W facing sect	1 x 1m	200706	GJB
Film: 47/240706/0905 (B&W)				
2-4	Tr 7 pre-ex	1 x 0.5m	240706	GJB
5-7	Tr 6, wall (601)	1 x 0.5m	240706	GJB
8-10	Tr 7, clay (704)	1 x 0.5m	240706	TPR
11-13	Tr 6, pre-ex	1 x 0.5m	250706	GJB
14-16	Tr 6, S facing elevation of wall (601/625)	1 x 0.5m	260706	GJB
17-19	Tr 6, final shot	2 x 1m	260706	GJB
20-22	Tr 6, S facing sect	2 x 1m	260706	GJB
Film: 30/240706/0901 (Col Trans)				
2-4	Tr 7 pre-ex	1 x 0.5m	240706	GJB
5-7	Tr 6, wall (601)	1 x 0.5m	240706	GJB
8-10	Tr 7, clay (704)	1 x 0.5m	240706	TPR
11-13	Tr 6, pre-ex	1 x 0.5m	250706	GJB
14-16	Tr 6, S facing elevation of wall (601/625)	1 x 0.5m	260706	GJB
17-19	Tr 6, final shot	2 x 1m	260706	GJB
20-22	Tr 6, S facing sect	2 x 1m	260706	GJB

10.0 Appendix 3 ~ Finds Assessment Report.

Alan Vince and Kate Steane.

10.1 Summary.

A small collection of pottery and ceramic building material from an archaeological evaluation carried out by On-Site Archaeology Ltd at 22-28 High St Agnesgate, Ripon, West Yorkshire, was submitted for identification and assessment.

The finds range in date from the medieval period to the 19th century and include no finds which need date earlier than the later 12th or 13th centuries.

10.2 Description.

10.2.1 Ceramic Building Material.

A small quantity of ceramic building material was submitted for identification and assessment. Nine of the fragments have the fine sandy red-firing fabric typical of Ripon ceramic building material but the tenth piece was made in a light-firing clay and has a brown slip. This fragment comes from an oven tile which has a series of pyramidal holes in the base through which circular holes have been pierced cutting through to the top surface of the tile. The tile was made by hand rather than moulded and has the appearance of an underfired, brown-washed stoneware.

Oven tiles of this type were used to form the floor of maltings (a good example of one such was recorded at St Mary's Guildhall, Lincoln, 1991). Barley was spread onto the upper floor of the malt kiln and encouraged to germinate. When most of the grain had sprouted the process was stopped by drying the grain in hot air from a fire located on the floor below. Special oven tiles were used to form the floors of these kilns and most examples appear to be of later 17th to mid 18th century date. As is typical with such tiles, there is no sign of mortar on the tile, which was presumably not secured in position.

10.2.2 Pottery.

Medieval.

One hundred and twelve sherds of medieval pottery were recorded. Potentially, the earliest of these are York Gritty ware (YG) a whiteware tempered with grit derived from the Millstone Grit. Pottery of this type was being produced in the mid 11th century, presumably including at Potterton, West Yorkshire, 30 miles south of Ripon. There is little typological variation in the York Gritty ware sherds from various sites across Yorkshire (and even further north, in the North East) but a combination of thin section and chemical analysis can be used to identify the Potterton products from other, as yet unknown, sources.

The most common ware, however, is Northern Gritty ware (NGR). This ware was produced from Coal Measure clays and tempered with a coarse sand which includes Millstone Grit and,

probably, other Carboniferous sandstone grains. It has a wider range of colours than YG and a wider range of textures. Two production sites making this ware close to Ripon are known. These are Lumley Farm, Grantley, (Kershaw 1996) which was operating in the late 12th to 13th centuries and Winksley (Bellamy and Le Patourel 1970) which was operating in the 13th to 14th centuries. The sites are in neighbouring parishes and probably indicate a widespread industry exploiting an outcrop of Coal Measure clays in the area. Analysis of samples of pottery from both these sites shows that a wide range of fabrics was produced at each site but that chemical analysis can distinguish the products of the two industries. The Winksley production site also made a white sandy ware which visually is difficult to distinguish from York Glazed ware, which was made in the Hambleton Hills area on the eastern side of the Vale of York (less than 25 miles from Ripon). A few sherds from the High St Agnesgate site are of this type and whilst they are probably Winksley products, York Glazed ware cannot be completely ruled out (WINK/YORK). However, all the sherds are from jars with no sign of glaze and in York Glazed ware, jars are a minor product. A small number of sherds have fabrics which do not contain definite inclusions of Millstone Grit. These have been coded as MEDLOC but since they are mainly similar in colour and texture to the Northern Gritty ware they are probably simply finer examples of that ware. Three sherds have been identified as Brandsby-type ware (BRAN). Although all are of a very specific type, which has a reduced core and outer surface, plain lead glaze and few visible inclusions. This is a type found in Brandsby-type ware but is not the most common type in that industry. Finally, a single sherd comes from a redware vessel with a sand temper, a white slip and copper- mottled lead glaze. Superficially, it looks like Tees Valley Ware, but the sand consists entirely of angular, overgrown grains, whereas Tees Valley Ware normally has a proportion of rounded grains, derived from Permian or Triassic sandstones. Furthermore, white slipped redware vessels were present at Inganthorpe Manor, Wetherby, and were shown by thin section and chemical analysis to be of local origin. The sherd has therefore been coded as NGR/TVW.

Five sherds of Humberware were identified (HUM). This ware was made from silty clays deposited in the Humber wetlands and Humber Estuary in the Quaternary period and at Inganthorpe Manor Humberware (probably made at York) seems to have replaced local wares in the 14th century. Again, however, the High St Agnesgate sherds do not appear typical and it may be that they are a locally-produced equivalent. Thin section and chemical analysis would be able to test this hypothesis.

Most of the medieval sherds (79) come from jars, most of which are definitely wheelthrown. Fourteen sherds come from jugs and 17 sherds could come from either form. A single example of a bowl and a sherd which comes from either a bowl or a dripping dish complete the assemblage. This high proportion of jars and low number of bowls both suggest an early date (12th to 13th century).

Table 1.

cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight
BRAN	JUG/JAR	3	2	37
HUM	JUG	1	1	23
	JUG/JAR	4	4	13
MEDLOC	JAR	6	6	16
	JUG	4	4	16
NGR	BOWL	1	1	2
	BOWL/DRIP	1	1	19
	JAR	30	30	260
	JUG	2	2	27
	JUG/JAR	6	5	47
NGR/TVW	JUG	1	1	3
NYG	JAR	16	16	108
	JUG	2	2	12
	JUG/JAR	4	4	6
WINK/YORK	JAR	3	3	27
	JUG	2	2	10
YG	JAR	24	24	140
	JUG	2	2	5
Grand Total		112	110	771

Post-medieval.

Five sherds dating between the 16th and the mid 18th centuries were recorded (Table 2). Four of the sherds come from unknown sources (two sherds of Brownware – BERTH, a sherd of Blackware (BL) and a sherd of Cistercian ware (CSTN). The fifth sherd is of Ryedale ware and comes from the fringes of the North Yorkshire Moors. These sherds probably date to the later 16th to early 17th centuries.

Table 2.

cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight
BERTH	JUG/JAR	2	2	13
BL	BOWL/JAR	1	1	107
CSTN	CUP	1	1	2
RYEDALE	BOWL	1	1	29
Grand Total		5	5	151

Early Modern.

Eighteen sherds of late 18th-century or later date were recorded (Table 3). Most of these are factory products made from refined clays which cannot easily be attributed to a source (Creamware – CREA; English Porcelains – ENPO; Buff wares – NCBW; Pearlwares – PEAR; and Transfer-Printed wares – TPW). The closest source for these wares is probably Leeds. However, a single sherd of Derbyshire stoneware – DERBS – and three sherds of Sunderland Coarseware – SUND – were identified and these suggest that more distant potteries should not be discounted. No sherds of types typical of the mid 19th century and later were present whilst both the Derbyshire stoneware and the buff ware are likely to be of 19th rather than 18th century date. The majority of the early modern pottery therefore probably dates to the early 19th century.

Table 3.

cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight
CREA	PLATE	1	1	8
DERBS	BOT	1	1	13
ENPO	PLATE	3	1	25
NCBW	BOWL	2	1	13
PEAR	PLATE	1	1	24
	TANK	2	1	8
SUND	BOWL	2	2	44
	JUG/JAR	1	1	17
TPW	PLATE	4	2	34
	TANK/JUG	1	1	34
Grand Total		18	12	220

10.3 Assessment.

10.3.1 Trench 1.

Three sherds of medieval pottery, all NGR jars, were recovered from context 110, a layer of silty sand overlying natural gravel. These cannot be closely dated but are probably later 12th to mid 14th century. The fill of cut 103 (context 105) produced sherds of early 19th century pottery.

10.3.2 Trench 2.

Three features cutting natural deposits produced pottery: posthole 205 (context 204); pit 207 (context 206) and pit 209 (context 208). All the features produced northern gritty ware. The two pit fills both produced whitewares of Winksley/York type whilst the whiteslipped green-glazed jug (NGR/TVW) came from pit 209. The pottery therefore gives TPQs for the filling of these features of late 12th century; early 13th century and later 13th century respectively.

A layer of sandy silt, 203, sealed these features and produced a similar assemblage of pottery with the addition of two of the putative Brandsby-type ware sherds. These give a later 13th century or later date for the deposit.

Finally, a layer of clay silt, 202, which overlay context 203, produced four sherds, one of which is post-medieval in date and the other two late 18th century or later.

10.3.3 Trench 3.

Layer 304, a sandy silt, produced a small assemblage of medieval pottery, dating deposition to the later 12th century or later.

A subsequent layer of sandy silt, 303, is dated to the late 18th century or late through the presence of a Sunderland coarseware bowl sherd whilst rubble layer, 302, also produced late 18th-century or later pottery.

10.3.4 Trench 4.

Pit 405 produced sherds of medieval pottery which date its filling to the late 12th century or later. The overlying sandy silt, 406, produced similar pottery.

10.3.5 Trench 5.

A layer of sandy silt, 510, produced 14 sherds of medieval pottery dating its deposition to the later 12th century or later.

An overlying layer of sandy silt, 509, produced a mixed assemblage, the latest sherd in which dates deposition to the late 18th century or later.

10.3.6 Trench 6.

Medieval pottery dating to the late 12th century or later was recovered from silty sand layer 626, a layer of redeposited natural, 624, and the fill of F 623 (context 622).

An overlying layer of sandy silt, 611, produced a mixed assemblage of pottery which contains sherds of medieval date, later medieval date and post-medieval date.

Two stratigraphically later deposits, clay silt 602 and the fill of F 610, produced medieval sherds which are presumably residual. Sandy silt layer 607, however, produced the sherd of Derbyshire stoneware and can therefore be dated to the early 19th century or later.

10.3.7 Trench 7.

Sandy silt layer 703 produced 19 sherds of medieval pottery dating deposition to the later 12th century or later.

Layer 702, a make up deposit for a tarmac surface, produced a sherd of post-medieval blackware, presumably residual.

10.4 Dating and Interpretation.

It is very likely that pottery was only rarely used in the Ripon area before the mid 11th century. Archaeological features which contain no datable finds and which can be demonstrated to pre-date those containing medieval pottery might therefore be of any date from the 7th to the early 11h century. The lack of mid Saxon and Anglo-Scandinavian pottery should not therefore be interpreted as meaning that the site itself was unoccupied at this time.

The pottery from High St Agnesgate indicates activity on the site at some date between the 13th and the mid 14th centuries although this activity might well have started in the late 12th century. There is no strong evidence for earlier use of pottery on the site and the sherds of York Gritty ware might easily be contemporary with the Northern Gritty ware. Certainly, most of the York Gritty sherds were found in association with late 12th to 14th-century types.

Only one deposit produced sherds of late medieval date, sandy silt 611 and this deposit itself produced a mixed assemblage. It therefore seems that occupation ceased or declined in intensity in the mid 14th century and the low quantity of post-medieval pottery probably indicates that this situation continued into the 18th century. A change took place in the late 18th or early 19th century with the construction of a tannery on the site. Several deposits in Trench 6 have been interpreted as being related to this tannery. Most of these produced residual medieval finds or ceramic building material of possible post-medieval or later date but all are stratigraphically later than layer 607, which cannot have been deposited until the early 19th century. The finding of an oven tile, evidence for a malting oven of probable 18th-century date, unfortunately comes from the backfill of one of these tannery features and may have been brought from elsewhere in Ripon. Several maltings are recorded in Ripon but all lie at some distance from High St Agnesgate (North Street; Bondgate; Blossomgate; Westgate and Millgate are all listed in Pigot's 1834 directory).

10.5 Retention.

All of the finds come from stratified deposits and would repay re-examination in more detail. They should all therefore be retained for further study.

10.6 Further Work.

The most important finds from this site are the 12th to 14th-century pottery assemblages and it would be useful, in refining the dating of the occupation on this site, to test the identifications of the pottery sources put forward here on the basis of a visual study. This would involve thin section and chemical analysis of sherds of York Gritty ware, Northern Gritty ware, Winksley/York whiteware, Brandsby-type ware and Humberware.

Task	Costing	Total
TS and ICPS analysis of York Gritty ware	2 samples at £24.00 plus VAT	£48.00 plus VAT
TS and ICPS analysis of Northern Gritty ware	12 samples at £24.00 plus VAT	£288.00 plus VAT
TS and ICPS analysis of Brandsby-type ware	2 samples at £24.00 plus VAT	£48.00 plus VAT
TS and ICPS analysis of Winksley/York ware	2 samples at £24.00 plus VAT	£48.00 plus VAT
TS and ICPS analysis of Humberware	2 samples at £24.00 plus VAT	£48.00 plus VAT
Total	20 samples at £24.00 plus VAT	£480.00 plus VAT

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10.8 Appendix A.

context	class	DATE	cname	Form	Nosh	No V	Description	Part	Weight	Use	TH	Condition
105	POTTERY	EMOD	ENPO	PLATE	3	1		R-B	25			
105	POTTERY	EMOD	NCBW	BOWL	2	1	INDUST BLUE SLIP INT	BS	13			
105	POTTERY	EMOD	TPW	TANK/JUG	1	1	30 DEC BAND AT BASE; THEN PINK INDUST SLIP	B/H	34			
105	POTTERY	EMOD	TPW	PLATE	1	1		BS	16			
110	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1		BS	6	SOOTED EXR; BLACK DEP INT		
110	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	2	2		BS	26	SOOTED EXT		
202	POTTERY	EMOD	PEAR	TANK	2	1		R	8			
202	POTTERY	PMED	RYED ALE	BOWL	1	1		BS	29			
202	POTTERY	EMOD	SUND	BOWL	1	1		BS	3			
203	POTTERY	MED	BRAN	JUG/JAR	2	1		BS	23			
203	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	3	3		BS	9			
203	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1		B	36	SOOTED EXT		
203	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JUG/JAR	1	1		BS	5			
203	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1	GLAZE EXT	BS	5	SOOTED EXT		
203	POTTERY	MED	NGR	BOWL	1	1		BS	2			
203	POTTERY	MED	WINK/YORK	JAR	1	1		BS	16	SOOTED EXT		
204	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1		BS	13	SOOTED EXT		
204	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1	SPOT OF GLAZE EXT	BS	5	SOOTED EXT		
204	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1		BS	2			
206	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1		BS	18			ABRA
206	POTTERY	MED	WINK/YORK	JAR	1	1		BS	6			
208	POTTERY	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1		BS	1	SOOTE		

context	class	DATE	cname	Form	Nosh	No V	Description	Part	Weight	Use	TH	Condition
										D EXT		
208	POTTERY	MED	NGR/ TVW	JUG	1	1	WHITE SLIP; CU GLAZE	BS	3			
208	POTTERY	MED	NYG	JAR	1	1		BS	5	SOOTED EXT; WHITE DEP INT		
208	POTTERY	MED	NYG	JUG	1	1		BS	1			
208	POTTERY	MED	NYG	JAR	9	9		BS	64	SOOTED EXT		
208	POTTERY	MED	NYG	JAR	1	1	GLAZE INT	BS	1	SOOTED EXT		
208	POTTERY	MED	NYG	JUG	1	1		BS	11			
208	POTTERY	MED	NYG	JAR	3	3		BS	8			
208	POTTERY	MED	NYG	JUG/JAR	1	1	TWO HORIZ GROOVES; DROP OF GLAZE	BS	1			
208	POTTERY	MED	NYG	JUG/JAR	1	1	DROPS OF GLAZE	BS	1			
208	POTTERY	MED	WINK/ YORK	JUG	1	1		BS	3			
208	POTTERY	MED	YG	JAR	3	3		BS	8			
208	POTTERY	MED	YG	JAR	2	2		BS	9	SOOTED EXT		
302	POTTERY	EMOD	CREA	PLATE	1	1		R	8			
302	POTTERY	EMOD	PEAR	PLATE	1	1		B	24			
302	POTTERY	EMOD	SUND	BOWL	1	1		B	41			
303	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1		BS	5			
303	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JUG/JAR	1	1		BS	4			
303	POTTERY	EMOD	SUND	JUG/JAR	1	1	GLAZE INT/EXT; BASE 36 DIA	B	17			
304	POTTERY	MED	MEDLOC	JUG	1	1	VERT STRIP; CUGL MOTTLED	BS	7			
304	POTTERY	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1		BS	1	SOOTED EXT		
304	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	2	2		BS	11			
304	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1		B	33	SOOTED EXT		

context	class	DATE	cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Part	Weight	Use	TH	Condition
304	POTTERY	MED	YG	JAR	1	1		BS	7	SOOTED EXT		
304	POTTERY	MED	YG	JAR	1	1		R	22			
403	POTTERY	MED	YG	JUG	2	2		BS	5			
404	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	2	2		BS	7	SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT		
406	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1		BS	2			
509	POTTERY	PMED	BERTH	JUG/JAR	1	1		BS	6			
509	POTTERY	MED	BRAN	JUG/JAR	1	1		BS	14			
509	POTTERY	PMED	CSTN	CUP	1	1		BS	2			
509	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1		R	12	SOOTED EXT RIM		
509	POTTERY	EMOD	TPW	PLATE	3	1		B	18			
510	POTTERY	MED	MEDLOC	JUG	1	1	WAVY COMBING	BS	5			
510	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1		BS	2			
510	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JUG/JAR	2	1		BS	28			
510	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1		R	8			
510	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JUG	1	1	THUMBED BASE	B	14			
510	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JUG	1	1		BS	13			
510	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	2	2		BS	10			
510	POTTERY	MED	WINK/YORK	JAR	1	1		BS	5			
510	POTTERY	MED	YG	JAR	2	2		BS	15	SOOTED EXT		
510	POTTERY	MED	YG	JAR	2	2		BS	8			
602	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1		BS	12	SOOTED EXT		
607	POTTERY	EMOD	DERBS	BOT	1	1		BS	13			
609	CBM	PMED	M/PMTIL	BRICK	1	1		BS	284		47	
609	POTTERY	MED	MEDLOC	JUG	2	2		BS	4			
609	CBM	PMED	PMTIL	PANT	1	1		BS	6			
609	CBM	PMED	PMTIL	BRICK	2	2		BS	29			
609	CBM	PMED	PMTIL	MALTING OVEN TILE	1	1	SALT GLAZED STONE WARE; PUNCHED 4	BS	119			

context	class	DATE	cname	Form	Nosh	No V	Description	Part	Weight	Use	TH	Condition
							HOLES, SCOOPED OUT OF BACK					
611	POTTERY	PMED	BERTH	JUG/JAR	1	1		BS	7			
611	POTTERY	MED	HUM	JUG	1	1		BS	23			
611	POTTERY	MED	HUM	JUG/JAR	4	4		BS	13			
611	POTTERY	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1	HM	BS	8	SOOTED EXT		
611	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1		BS	6	SOOTED EXT		
611	POTTERY	MED	WINK/YORK	JUG	1	1		BS	7			
611	POTTERY	MED	YG	JAR	1	1		BS	1			
611	POTTERY	MED	YG	JAR	1	1		BS	1	SOOTED EXT		
612	CBM	PMED	PMTIL	PANT	1	1		BS	143			
622	POTTERY	MED	NYG	JUG/JAR	1	1		BS	3			
622	POTTERY	MED	NYG	JAR	1	1		B	29	SOOTED EXT		
622	POTTERY	MED	NYG	JAR	1	1		BS	1	SOOTED EXT		
622	POTTERY	MED	YG	JAR	1	1		BS	2			
624	POTTERY	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1		BS	2	SOOTED EXT		
626	CBM	MED	MTIL	FLOOR	1	1		BS	181			
626	POTTERY	MED	NYG	JUG/JAR	1	1		BS	1			
702	POTTERY	PMED	BL	BOWL/JAR	1	1	GLAZE INT/EXT	B	107			
703	POTTERY	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1		BS	2			
703	POTTERY	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1		BS	2			
703	CBM	MED	MTIL	BRICK	2	1		BS	8			
703	POTTERY	MED	NGR	BOWL/DRIP	1	1		BS	19			
703	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	1	1		BS	8	SOOTED EXT		
703	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JAR	3	3		BS	24			
703	POTTERY	MED	NGR	JUG/JAR	2	2		BS	10			
703	POTTERY	MED	YG	JAR	6	6		BS	45	SOOTED		

context	class	DATE	cname	Form	Nosh	No V	Description	Part	Weight	Use	TH	Condition
										EXT		
703	POTTERY	MED	YG	JAR	1	1		BS	1			
703	POTTERY	MED	YG	JAR	2	2		R	17			
703	POTTERY	MED	YG	JAR	1	1		BS	4	SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEPINT		
704	CBM	MED	MTIL	FLAT	1	1		BS	244			

11.0 Appendix 4 ~ Assessment of Biological Remains.

Alexandra Schmidl, Deborah Jaques, John Carrott & Stewart Gardner

11.1 Summary.

This evaluation exercise encountered medieval cut features and remains of a later 19th century tannery. Hand collected animal bone and environmental soil samples from these deposits were therefore submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

Ancient biological remains recovered from the sampled deposit were restricted to small quantities of unidentified charcoal and a few charred cereal grains. The grains almost certainly represent food waste but were too few for archaeobotanical interpretation; they would, however, provide sufficient suitable material for radiocarbon dating (via accelerator mass spectrometry) if required.

No interpretatively valuable concentrations of microfossils were detected in the 'squash' subsample.

The vertebrate assemblage is of little interpretative value, being rather small, with few identifiable or measurable fragments. The remains of the main domestic mammals, together with a few bird and fish bones were identified. Possible bone working waste was noted in two of the deposits.

No further study of the biological remains from this site is warranted.

KEYWORDS: 20-28 HIGH ST AGNESGATE; RIPON; NORTH YORKSHIRE; EVALUATION; MEDIEVAL: 19TH CENTURY TANNERY; PLANT REMAINS; CHARRED PLANT REMAINS; CHARRED CEREAL GRAINS; VERTEBRATE REMAINS; ?BONE WORKING

11.2 Introduction.

An archaeological evaluation excavation was carried out by *On-Site Archaeology* (OSA) at 20-28 High St Agnesgate, Ripon, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 31572 71017), between the 12th and the 26th of July 2006. The works were undertaken in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the site.

A sediment sample ('GBA'/'BS' *sensu* Dobney *et al*. 1992) and an assemblage of hand-collected bone was recovered and submitted to Palaeoecology Research Services Limited (PRS), County Durham, for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

Seven evaluation trenches were excavated, several encountering medieval cut features at depths of between 0.8 and 1.2 metres below the modern ground surface. Remains of a later 19th century tannery, known to have been present at the site, were also encountered.

11.3 Methods.

11.3.1 Sediment sample.

The sediment sample was inspected and its lithology recorded, using a standard pro forma. A subsample was taken and processed, broadly following the techniques of Kenward et al. (1980), for the recovery of plant and invertebrate macrofossils. The subsample was disaggregated in water for 24 hours or more before processing and its volume recorded in a waterlogged state.

Plant and invertebrate remains (and the general nature of the washovers) were recorded briefly by 'scanning', identifiable taxa and other components being listed on paper. Notes on the quantity and quality of preservation were made for each fraction. The residue was primarily mineral in nature and was dried, weighed and its components recorded in brief.

Nomenclature for plant taxa follows Stace (1997).

The sample was also examined for the eggs of intestinal parasitic nematodes using the 'squash' technique of Dainton (1992). The assessment slide was scanned at 150x magnification with 600x used where necessary. Although primarily for the detection of intestinal parasitic nematode eggs, the 'squash' technique routinely reveals other microfossil remains, and where present these have been noted.

11.3.2 Hand-collected vertebrate remains.

For the hand-collected vertebrate remains, data were entered directly into a series of tables using a purpose built input system and *Paradox* software. Subjective records were made concerning the state of preservation, colour of the fragments and appearance of broken surfaces ('angularity'). Additionally, notes were made concerning fragment size, dog gnawing, burning, butchery and fresh breakage.

Where possible, fragments were identified to species or species group using the PRS modern comparative reference collection. Fragments that could not be identified to species were described as the 'unidentified' fraction. Within this fraction, fragments were grouped into a number of categories: large mammal (assumed to be cattle, horse or large cervid), medium-sized mammal (assumed to be caprovid, pig or small cervid) and totally unidentified. These categories are labelled as 'Unidentified' in Tables 1 and 2.

11.4 Results.

11.4.1 Sediment sample.

Archaeological information, provided by the excavator, is given in square brackets. A brief summary of the processing method and an estimate of the remaining volume of unprocessed sediment follows (in round brackets) after the sample number.

No invertebrate macrofossils were recovered.

Context 622 [single fill of shallow feature 623 containing pottery of late 12th to 14th century date].

Sample 1/T (4 kg/3.2 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover and microfossil 'squash'; approximately 6 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, mid grey-brown, crumbly (working soft), slightly sandy clay silt, with stones (6 to 60 mm) present.

The fairly small washover (2 to 3 ml) contained small charcoal fragments (to 10 mm), with a little slag and coal and occasional lumps of undisaggregated sediment (to 5 mm). There were also some poorly preserved (eroded and distorted) charred cereal grains, most of which were unidentifiable. Those grains that could be identified, at least to some degree, were mostly barley (*Hordeum distichon* L./*H. vulgare* L.), but there were also a few of naked wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L./*T. durum* Desf./*T. turgidum* L.), oat (*Avena*) and one grain that was probably rye (*Secale cereale* L.).

There was a fairly large residue (dry weight 1.8 kg) mostly of stones (to 62 mm), with sand and traces of brick/tile (to 6 mm; 1 g), pottery (to 16 mm; 2 g), slag (three pieces to 55 mm; 59 g), coal (to 7 mm; 2 g), cinder (to 6 mm; <1 g), charcoal (to 8 mm; 1 g) and bone (to 32 mm; 16 g). The small collection of vertebrate remains amounted to 62 fragments. Preservation of the bone was good, although some fresh breakage damage was apparent. Identifiable fragments were few but included a ?chicken tibiotarsus fragment, a very worn pig tooth and root fragment and two eel (*Anguilla anguilla* (L.)) vertebrae. The remaining fragments, most of which were <15 mm in overall dimension, were mostly medium-sized mammal shaft and rib fragments.

The microfossil 'squash' was almost entirely inorganic, with just a trace of organic detritus and a few ?pollen grains/spores. No eggs of intestinal parasitic nematodes were seen.

11.4.2 Hand-collected vertebrate remains.

A small assemblage of vertebrate remains was recovered by hand-collection from twelve deposits representing five of the seven evaluation trenches (Table 1). The fragments were mainly recovered from features of late 12th to 14th century date, with one deposit (Context 609) in Trench 6 associated with the 19th century tanning complex, and three deposits (Contexts 211, 305 and 705) for which no dating evidence was available (Table 2). Pottery from Context 611 suggested a rather broad 12th to 16th century date for this deposit. In total, there were 131 fragments, of which 24 were identifiable and four were measurable.

Preservation of the bone was mainly quite good, with little evidence of fresh breakage, butchery or dog gnawing. Several deposits (Contexts 622 and 626, material from the former was labelled as 623 but this was the cut number rather than the fill) produced bones that were a little battered in appearance, whilst material from Context 208 was somewhat fragmented. Remains from the latter included a worked bone point and some of the small 'chunks' of bone

from this deposit may be bone working waste. Similar fragments were seen in pit fill Context 404.

Remains of cattle and caprovid were most numerous, with a range of skeletal elements recovered; these were too few for interpretation, however. Two pieces of caprovid pelvis, representing the freshly broken parts of what had originally been a single fragment, were recovered from the pit fill Context 622 and the overlying layer Context 611. Two isolated incisors were identified as horse and pig, the former being heavily worn and representing an aged individual, whilst a small metacarpal was tentatively recorded as cat. The very few bird remains present included single fragments of goose and chicken.

11.5 Discussion and statement of potential.

Ancient biological remains recovered from the sampled deposit were restricted to small quantities of unidentified charcoal and a few charred cereal grains. The grains almost certainly represent food waste but were too few for archaeobotanical interpretation; they would, however, provide sufficient suitable material for radiocarbon dating (via accelerator mass spectrometry) if required.

No interpretatively valuable concentrations of microfossils were detected in the 'squash' subsample.

There were no large accumulations of bone waste in any of the medieval and post-medieval features from the excavations at High St Agnesgate, despite conditions for the survival of bone being good. This suggests that these features were not used extensively for the disposal of rubbish. The vertebrate material that was recovered was quite fragmented and many of the bones were small and unidentified. There were some hints of the presence of bone working waste in two of the deposits, one from Trench 2 (Context 208) and one from Trench 4 (Context 404). The assemblage was too small to be of any real interpretative value.

11.6 Recommendations.

No further study of the biological remains recovered from the sediment sample is warranted.

The current vertebrate assemblage does not warrant further study but does show the potential for the survival of bone in this area. It should be borne in mind that future interventions in the vicinity may produce a larger, and more interpretatively valuable, assemblage of vertebrate remains, which should also be assessed and subsequently analysed as appropriate.

11.7 Retention and disposal.

Unless required for purposes other than the study of biological remains, the remaining unprocessed sediment from Context 622 may be discarded. The remains recovered from the evaluation subsample should be retained for the present.

There is no strong zooarchaeological reason to retain the hand-collected vertebrate assemblage.

11.8 Archive.

All material is currently stored by Palaeoecology Research Services (Unit 8, Dabble Duck Industrial Estate, Shildon, County Durham), along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

11.9 Acknowledgements.

The authors are grateful to Graham Bruce and Nick Pearson, of On-Site Archaeology, for providing the material and the archaeological information.

11.10 References.

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		Trench					
Species		**2**	**3**	**4**	**6**	**7**	**Total**
cf. *Felis* f. domestic		1	-	-	-	-	1
Equus f. domestic	horse	-	-	-	1	-	1
Sus f. domestic	pig	-	-	1	-	-	1
Bos f. domestic	cow	1	2		2	5	10
Caprovid	sheep/goat	2	-	1	5	2	10
Anser sp	goose	1	-	-	-	-	1
Gallus f. domestic	fowl	-	1	-	-	-	1
Unidentified		53	3	10	15	25	106
Total		**58**	**6**	**12**	**23**	**32**	**131**

Table 1. Hand-collected vertebrate remains recovered from excavations at 20-28 High St Agnesgate, Ripon, North Yorkshire, by trench.

Species		med	med/pm	pm	nd	Total
cf. *Felis* f. domestic		1	-	-	-	1
Equus f. domestic	horse	1	-	-	-	1
Sus f. domestic	pig	1	-	-	-	1
Bos f. domestic	cow	7	1	-	2	10
Caprovid	sheep/goat	6	1	3	-	10
Anser sp.	goose	1	-	-	-	1
Gallus f. domestic	fowl	-	-	-	1	1
Unidentified		98	-	1	7	106
Total		**115**	**2**	**4**	**10**	**131**

Table 2. Hand-collected vertebrate remains recovered from excavations at 20-28 High St Agnesgate, Ripon, North Yorkshire, by date. Key: med = medieval; med/pm = medieval/post-medieval; pm = post-medieval; nd = not dated.

12.0 Appendix 5 ~ The Plates.

Plate 1. Trench 1 looking east-northeast. (Scale of 1m).

Plate 2. Trench 2 looking north. (Scale of 1m).

Plate 3. Trench 3 looking northwest. (Scale of 0.5m).

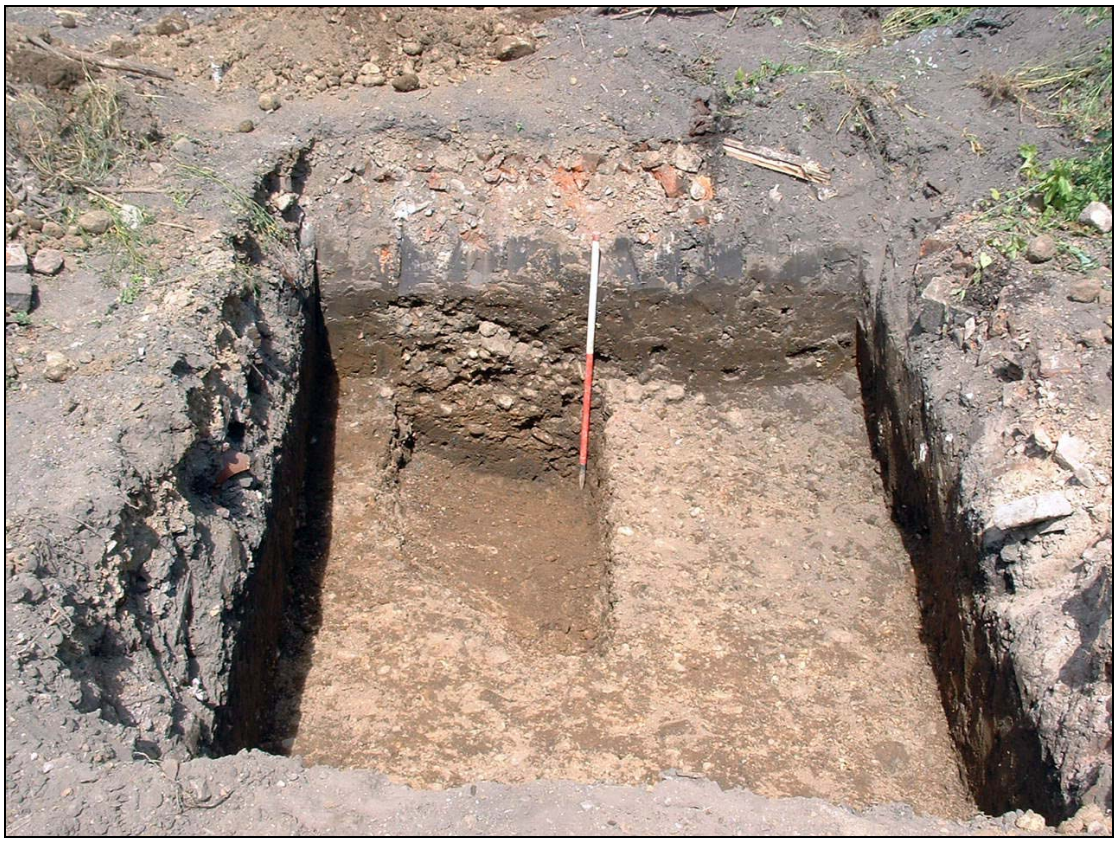

Plate 4. Trench 4 looking north. (Scale of 1m).

Plate 5. Trench 5 looking north. (Scale of 1m).

Plate 6. Trench 6 looking west. (Scale of 1m).

Plate 7. Trench 7 looking northeast. (Scale of 0.5m).