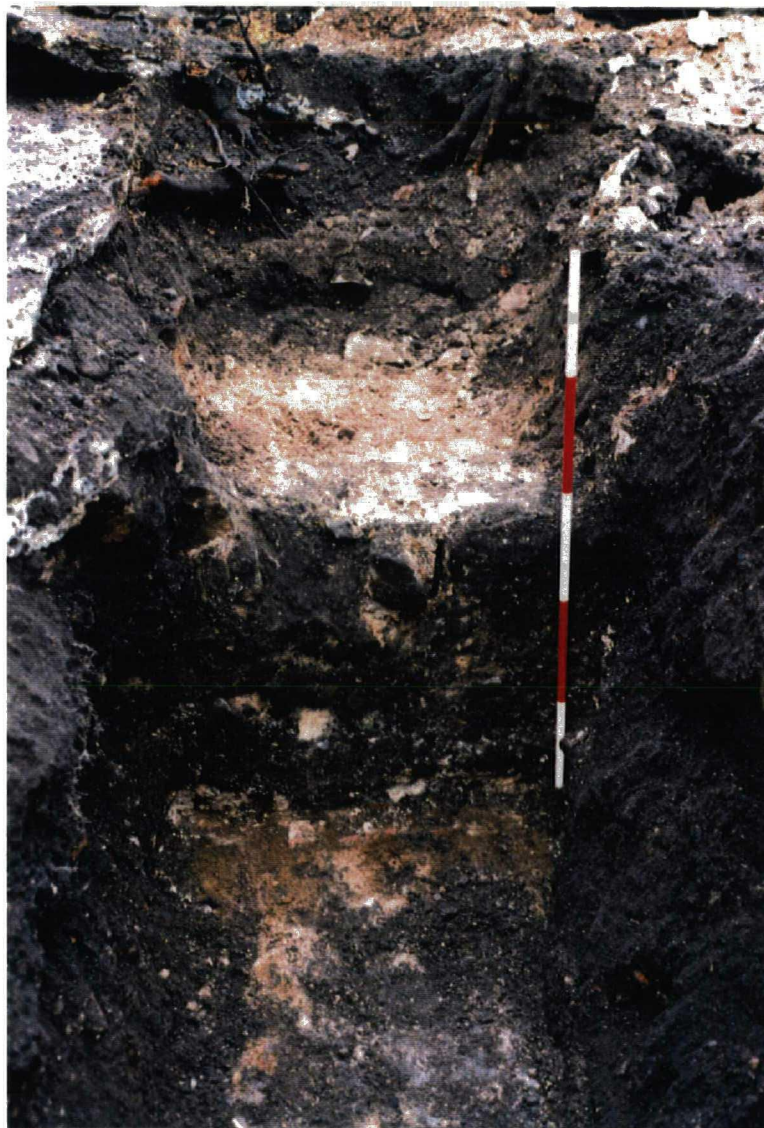


PLATE 3



Detail of magnesian limestone wall, feature A,  
as revealed within area / trench B, facing west.

PLATE 4



Detail of magnesian limestone wall, feature A,  
as revealed within the section of area / trench B,  
facing north.



Structural features identified within the trench excavations

**FEATURE A**

|                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Type:          | Domestic: structure: ancillary |
| Class:         | wall:                          |
| NGR:           | SE 31572 71197                 |
| Area / Trench: | B                              |
| Planform:      | linear                         |
| Aligned:       | north / south                  |
| Material:      | magnesian limestone            |
| Length:        | 100 cm                         |
| Width:         | 24 cm                          |
| Depth:         | 45 cm                          |
| Fig Nos:       | 2                              |
| Plate No:      | 1, 2                           |
| Film/Frame No: | 1/ 12 - 15                     |

**Description:**

the lower two courses of a magnesian limestone wall, this structure has two skins with a rubble core, the outer west facing aspect of the wall has been roughly dressed, the inner east facing aspect has been rendered with a lime based plaster. The structure has been constructed on clamp brick foundations which were set directly upon the natural sands and gravels.

No evidence of the construction trench for this wall was identified during these excavations, it is suspected that the rubble and sand layer found butting to the western elevation of the structure, were contemporary with it's construction, if these deposits had been the fill of a large construction trench, the remains of this cut have been totally destroyed by more recent excavations to the immediate west. The ash and cinder deposits that were butting to the eastern elevation of the structure are not structural in origin, but rather would appear to be the residual fill of the structures functional capacity.

The dimensions, form and materials of this wall are comparable to those of feature c, it can be concluded that the two structures were conjoined to form a single, rectangular, ancillary building located in the south western corner of the former prison/police station yard. The presence of a substantial deposit of ash and cinder contained within this structure would suggest that this building may have functioned as an earth closet.

**FEATURE B**

Type: industrial: structure  
Class: chamber  
NGR: SE 31569 71197  
Area / Trench: B

Planform: Rectilinear  
Aligned: north / south  
Material: concrete

Length: 300 cm  
Width: 230 cm  
Depth: 180 cm

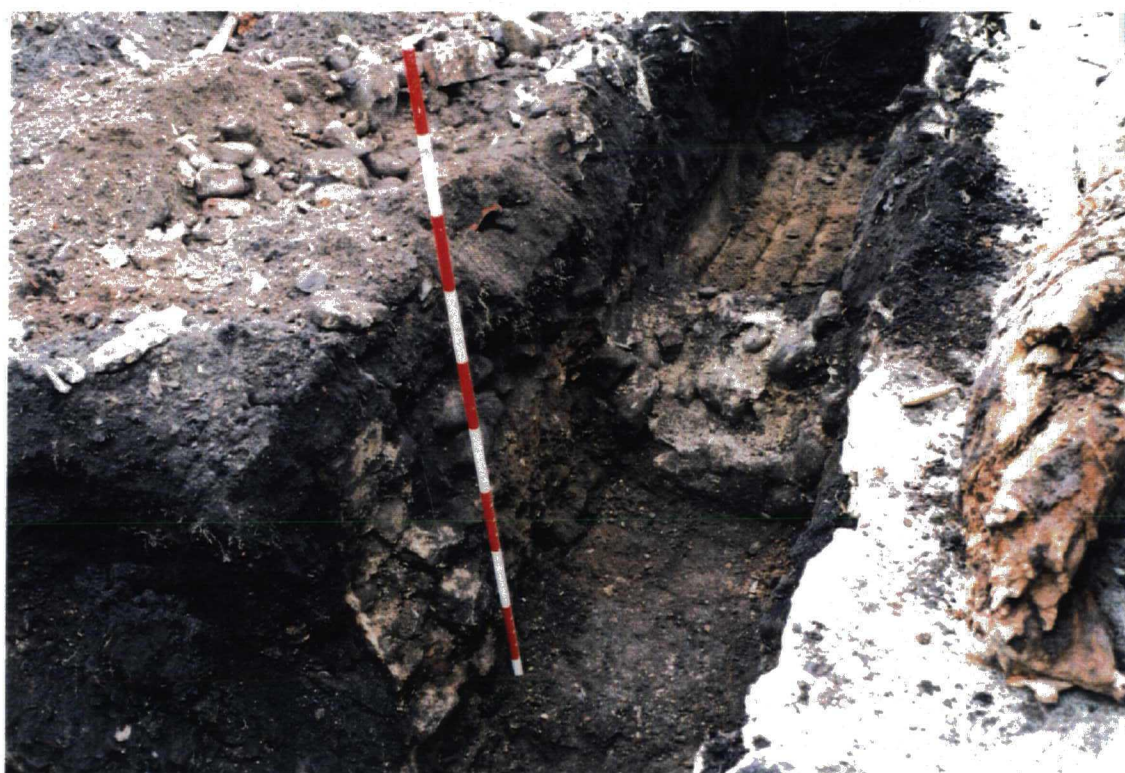
Fig Nos: 2  
Plate No: -  
Film/Frame No: 1/ 16

**Description:**

a concrete subterranean chamber, built to contain a fuel tank. The chamber was found to have been backfilled with a yellow brown coloured builders sand which had been highly compacted.

It is understood from the present occupier of 27 St.Marygate that this structure was installed during the early 1950's to provide the Police Station with it's own fuel reserves, furthermore it is understood that a fuel line was piped through the then yard wall to the immediate south to enable re-fuelling to take place without entering the yard.

PLATE 5



Detail of the magnesian limestone wall, feature C,  
and the earlier cobble wall, feature D, as revealed  
within area / trench C, facing north west.



## FEATURE C

|                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Type:          | Domestic: structure: ancillary |
| Class:         | wall:                          |
| NGR:           | SE 31574 71198                 |
| Area / Trench: | C                              |
| Planform:      | linear                         |
| Aligned:       | east / west                    |
| Material:      | magnesian limestone            |
| Length:        | 100 cm                         |
| Width:         | 25 cm                          |
| Depth:         | 124 cm                         |
| Fig Nos:       | 2                              |
| Plate No:      | 3                              |
| Film/Frame No: | 1/ 19 - 21                     |

### Description:

the lower two courses of a magnesian limestone wall, this structure has two skins with a rubble core, the outer north facing aspect of the wall has been roughly dressed, the inner south facing aspect has been rendered with a lime based plaster. The structure has been constructed on clamp brick foundations which were set directly upon the natural sands and gravels.

The construction trench for this wall was identified in the section and located to the immediate north of the structure. This broad, shallow rounded V shaped cut with a width of 130cm contained a single sandy loam fill that had a 80% inclusion of water worn cobbles. This construction trench had been excavated into a layer of made up ground that contained late victorian pottery sherds.

As with feature a, ash and cinder deposits were identified as butting to the plastered elevation of the structure, these deposits are not structural in origin, but rather would appear to be the residual fill of the structure.

The dimensions, form and materials of this wall are comparable to those of feature a, it can be concluded that the two structures were conjoined to form a single, rectangular, ancillary building located in the south western corner of the former prison/police station yard. The presence of a substantial deposit of ash and cinder contained within this structure would suggest that this building may have functioned as an earth closet.

#### FEATURE D

|                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Type:          | Domestic: structure: ancillary |
| Class:         | wall:                          |
| NGR:           | SE 31574 71199                 |
| Area / Trench: | C                              |
| Planform:      | linear                         |
| Aligned:       | east / west                    |
| Material:      | cobble: lime mortar            |
| Length:        | 100 cm                         |
| Width:         | 48 cm                          |
| Depth:         | 56 cm                          |
| Fig Nos:       | 2                              |
| Plate No:      | 3                              |
| Film/Frame No: | 1/ 17 - 18, 22                 |

#### Description:

the water worn cobble foundations of a relatively large wall. The cobbles used within this structure were less than 30cm in size were bonded in a soft lime based mortar.

No evidence of the construction trench for this wall was identified during these excavations. These wall foundations were butted on both sides by a layer of made up ground that contained late victorian pottery sherds.

The dimensions, form and fabric of this wall are comparable to those of the boundary wall, Wall A. Detailed inspection of Wall A reveals that there is a significant change in the fabric and dimensions of this structure directly opposite feature d. It is suggested therefore that these wall foundations are the surviving remains of the western return of the boundary wall, Wall A.

## CONCLUSION

The recent archaeological watching brief conducted by Mr.K.J.Cale on behalf of Mr.C.Ekin Building Services, at 27 St.Marygate, Ripon, has indicated that the sub-rectangular shaped tract of land chosen as the site of the proposed garage and workshop area for the above property is of little archaeological interest.

It would appear that the present ground level of the site has been largely formed as the result of:

- i. the intensive cultivation of the northern extent of the site which has also been subject to a high level accumulation of domestic waste.
- ii. ground disturbance in advance of the construction of a subterranean fuel tank and prefabricated garage which had largely destroyed all levels stratigraphy at the southern extent of the site.

Whilst no major archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified, the watching brief recognised two main phases of building activity on the site that were previously unidentified, the exact dating of this phasing is unfortunately not possible, but it is suspected from the finds found in close proximity to these features that the structures identified were constructed during the late 18th / early 19th Century and as such can be attributed to the buildings and layout of Ripon Liberty Prison and the more recent Police Station.

The earliest known activity on the site involved the construction of a yard wall, the southern and western extent of which survives and today functions as the garden wall, however it is clear from the alignment of this structure (as identified within the excavated trench) that the wall's eastern alignment did not correspond with the present eastern boundary wall, and would appear to have returned westwards, indicating that the enclosed yard was of a smaller area to that occupied by the gardens today.

The second phase of activity relates to the construction of a magnesian limestone ancillary building located within the south eastern corner of the yard compound, which it would appear functioned immediately prior to it's demolition as a earth closet.

In the light of the results obtained from the recent archaeological watching brief on this site, it is considered that whilst this area of the property has been subjected to a relatively high level of disturbance, there still remains the potential for the survival of medieval archaeology elsewhere within the grounds, and as such this site should receive further archaeological consideration.

Kevin John Cale  
April 1994