

**PLATE 3**



The lower courses of a 17th century building and related cobble surface, features H and I

**PLATE 4**



A cobble yard surface with drainage culvert, feature D

## Feature E

Type: structure  
Class drain: box culvert  
NGR: SE 398995 451883

Planform: linear  
Profile: sloping  
Aspect: SW  
Aligned: SW

Length: 0.80 m  
Width: 0.40 m  
Depth: 0.36 m

Context No: 6003  
Fig Nos: 3  
Plate: 2

A sandstone box culvert situated within the central section of Trench C, from the initial inspection it was suspected that due to the presence of white grey mortar the structure formed the lower courses of a wall, further investigation revealed it to be a substantial drain.

The culvert was sealed by large sandstone slabs that capped the structure, these slabs bridged the two narrow upright walls that contained the structure to the north west and south east. The side/support walls were constructed out of sandstone slate and water worn cobbles with a rubble fill, the stonework was bedded within a white grey mortar.

The side walls were constructed directly upon an alignment of sandstone slabs that were set end to end and formed the smooth lower surface of the drainage structure.

The base of the structure sloped relatively steeply, downwards, towards south west, from an inspection of the internal void of the drain it would appear that at 1.3m beyond the excavation edge to the south west the structure falls away steeply into a subterranean chamber, the size and form of which could not be determined.

The internal area of the drain was free from silt or any other form of residue, the base and sides of the structure were smooth and clean.

The structure was bedded upon a buried top soil that contained predominantly 18th century pottery. It is suspected that the drain was constructed during the 19th century to direct surface water away from cellared property into what would appear to be a soakaway situated within the central yard area. The drainage feature is therefore one of the more recent archaeological features identified during these works.



## Feature F

Type: structure  
Class wall: lower course  
NGR: SE 398989 451879

Planform: linear  
Profile: level  
Aspect: W  
Aligned: ESE

Length: 0.82 m  
Width: 0.55 m  
Depth: 0.40 m

Context No: 7004  
Fig Nos: 3, 4  
Plate: 5

The lower courses of a sandstone blockwork and cobble wall identified as emerging from the east facing section of the trial hole, the full extent of this structure was not exposed.

The wall was double skinned with a rubble core. The roughly hewn masonry fragments, upto two courses in height, were bedded within a pink lime based mortar.

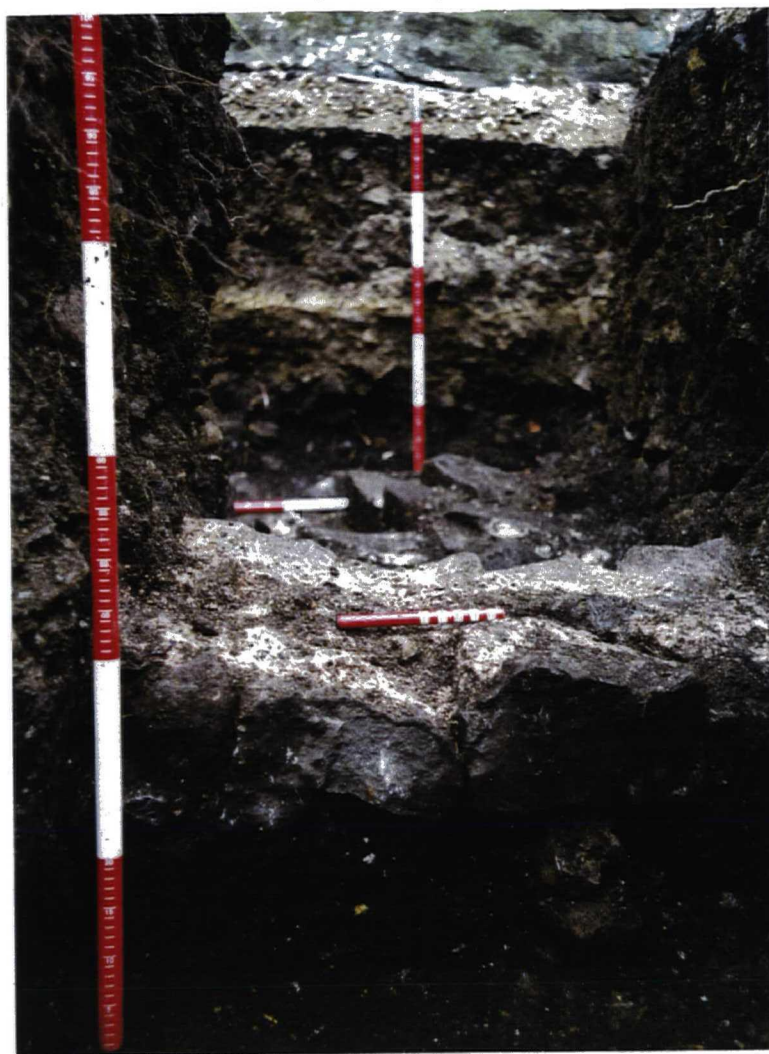
The structure is bedded on a buried topsoil that contains post medieval pottery, there was no indication that this wall had been constructed on foundations. Whilst it is acknowledged the wall has the capabilities of being load bearing it is suspected that this was a boundary wall.

The wall is butted on it's southern elevation by an arrangement of water worn cobbles and sandstone fragments (Feature G) the latter were reddened this suggests that this surface has been subjected to intense heat and may indicate the site of a hearth.

The greater majority of the wall had been dismantled and removed from the site prior to the remaining elements structure being buried, no evidence of this demolition rubble was identified.

From the comparative level of the adjacent structure (Feature H) and the stratigraphic sequence it is evident that this section of wall was extant with this building, but clearly post dates same, and is most probably 18th century in origin.

PLATE 5



An 18th century wall, feature F

PLATE 6



An 18th century hearth, feature G



## Feature G

Type: structure  
Class: hearth  
NGR: SE 398989 451879

Planform: semi-circular  
Profile: level  
Aspect: -  
Aligned: N

Length: 0.58 m  
Width: 0.26 m  
Depth: 0.13 m

Context No: 7005  
Fig Nos: 3, 4  
Plate: 6

The roughly dressed sandstone and cobble plinth like feature was identified as emerging from the base of the west facing section of the foundation trench, the full extent of this structure was not exposed.

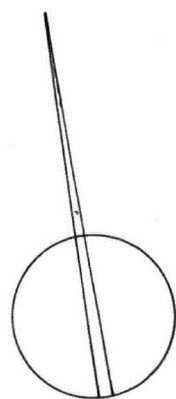
The exact form and dimensions of the structure could not be accurately determined, however it is suspected that the structure consisted of a single layer of tightly grouped stones, arranged so as to butt to the lower course of the wall (Feature F), forming a plinth like feature with a relatively level upper surface. The structure was dry jointed.

A number of stones within this feature were reddened this suggests that this surface has been subjected to intense heat and the structure may have functioned as a hearth.




The structure is bedded on a buried topsoil that contains post medieval pottery. No associated floor levels were identified adjacent to the structure and it could not be determined as to whether the hearth was an internal/external feature.

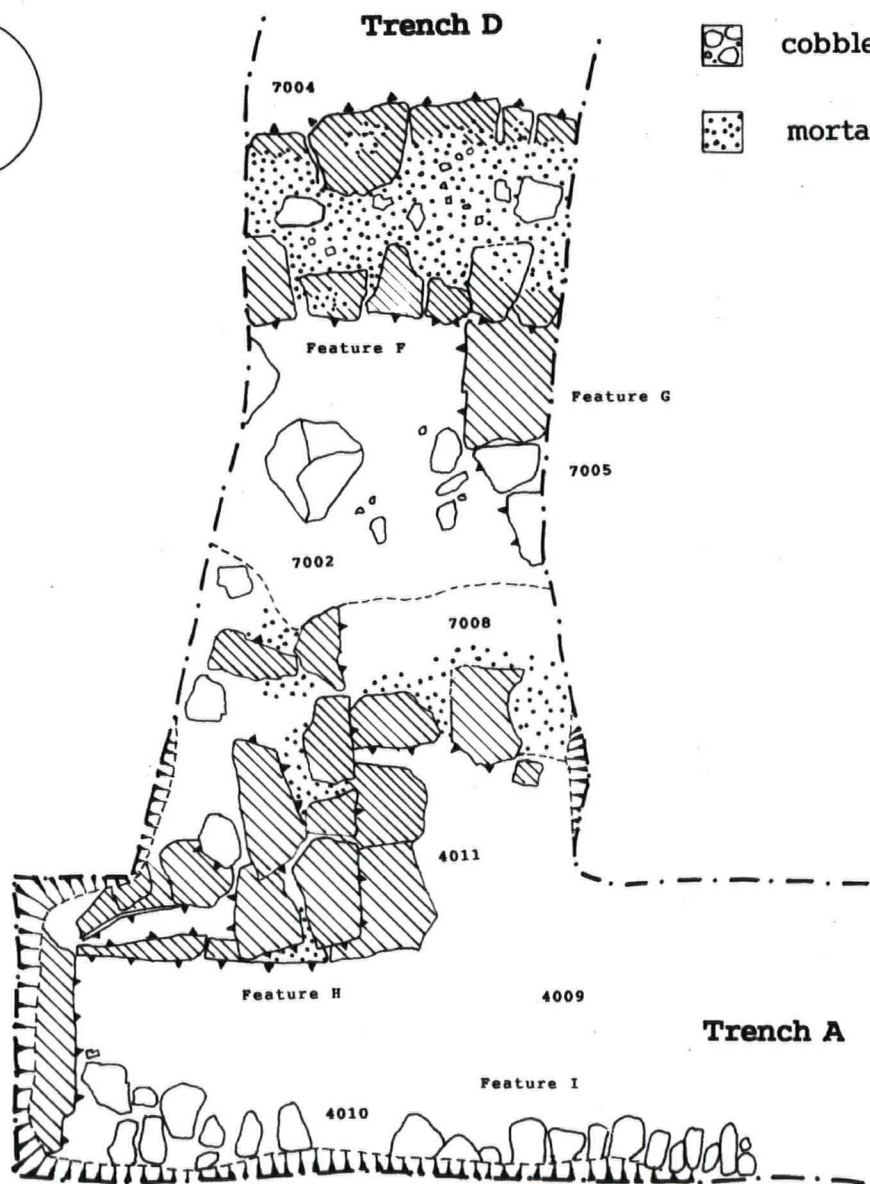
From the comparative level of the adjacent structure (Feature F) and the stratigraphic sequence it is evident that the hearth is near-contemporary with the 18th building that formerly occupied this corner of the study area.

**FIGURE 4 PLAN OF 17TH AND 18TH CENTURY BUILDINGS AND FLOOR SURFACES**

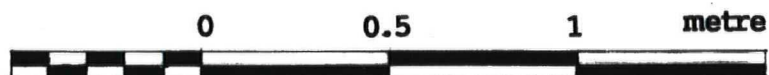


**Key:**

-  sandstone
-  cobble
-  mortar



**Scale 1:20**



## Feature H

Type: structure:building  
Class wall: lower course  
NGR: SE 398988 451877

Planform: rectilinear  
Profile: stepped  
Aspect: S  
Aligned: E

Length: 0.80 m  
Width: 0.80 m  
Depth: 0.24 m

Context No: 4011  
Fig Nos: 3, 4  
Plate: 3

The lower courses of a sandstone blockwork and cobble wall identified in the south western corner of the study area within Trench A and D, the full extent of this structure was not exposed.

The wall appeared to be double skinned with a rubble core, with load bearing capabilities. The roughly hewn masonry fragments were bedded within a white-grey coloured lime based mortar. The south and east facing aspects of the wall were stepped, each of the three wall courses differed in form and nature.

The lower course consisted of sandstone slates that were tightly grouped and bedded level within a sandy loam, a buried ground level that contained post medieval pottery.

The second course of masonry consisted of roughly dressed blocks of sandstone that were bedded level within mortar and had a well defined south and east facing vertical aspects. It would appear that this course of masonry had originally continued to the east and south of the structure, but these elevations of the structure had been largely demolished and removed. This medial course of stonework would appear to have been butted by a cobble surface (Feature I), this surface was identified as emerging from the base of the north facing section of Trench A and whilst the relationship between this surface and the building can not be exactly determined comparative levels would indicate the two features are contemporaneous.

The third and upper course of surviving masonry consisted of roughly dressed, irregular shaped sandstone fragments and water worn cobbles that were randomly placed the width of the wall.



On it's northern aspect the building is butted by a buried topsoil that contains post medieval pottery, the deposition of this soil layer pre dates the construction of the adjacent structures, Features F and G to the immediate north, indicating that this is the earliest building identified within the study area and may well date to the 16/17th century. The stratigraphic sequence would suggest that this building remained extant into the 18th century when the adjacent structural elements were constructed.

#### **Feature I**

**Type:** layer  
**Class** cobble surface  
**NGR:** SE 398988 451876

**Planform:** linear  
**Profile:** sloping  
**Aspect:** W  
**Aligned:** E

**Length:** 1.80 m  
**Width:** 0.12 m  
**Depth:** 0.12 m

**Context No:** 4010  
**Fig Nos:** 3, 4  
**Plate:** 3

The cobble surface was identified within the base of Trench A emerging from the base of the north facing section, the surface was comparable in form with Features A, C and D identified to the east.

At it's western extent the surface butted against the southern return of the Post Medieval building, Feature H. The western extent of the surface can not be clearly determined, as this area of the trench has been heavily disturbed during the 19th century by the excavation of ash pits, these had been excavated through the surface and had resulted in the displacement of the cobbles, unfortunately this disturbance had destroyed the relationship between this surface and Feature C situated within the western extent of the trench.

The surface sloped gently downwards to the west on a constant and gradual gradient.

The cobble surface was imbedded into a buried top soil that contained 17th century pottery, it would appear that the surface is near contemporary with the Post Medieval building and as such may pre date the similar cobble surface identified to the east.



## **The Finds**

The finds recovered from these excavations were predominantly 19th century in origin, this mixed and varied assemblage was dominated by porcelain and pottery sherds together with bottle glass and butchered animal bone fragments. These finds were largely recovered from the buried top soil and landfill deposits that accounted for the greater majority of soils across the site.

An assemblage of 17th century pottery was recovered from these excavations, this was dominated by Staffordshire Slip wares, and included plate forms and vessels. A small quantity of clay tobacco pipe fragments was also recovered, together with lead musket/grape shot. This earlier material was recovered from most soil layers including those of 19th century origin but was noticeably concentrated in the lower levels of stratigraphy identified in the base of the trench excavations and beneath the cobble surfaces.

Within a 19th century buried topsoil (context 7002) a late medieval lead spindle whorl was recovered, together with what would appear to be a crude lead seal stamp that is suspected to be of a similar date.

## **The Spindle Whorl**

**Type:** lead object:complete  
**Class** spindle whorl  
**NGR:** SE 398990 451880

**Planform:** circular  
**Profile:** sub-elliptical

**Diameter:** 28 mm  
**Depth:** 15 mm

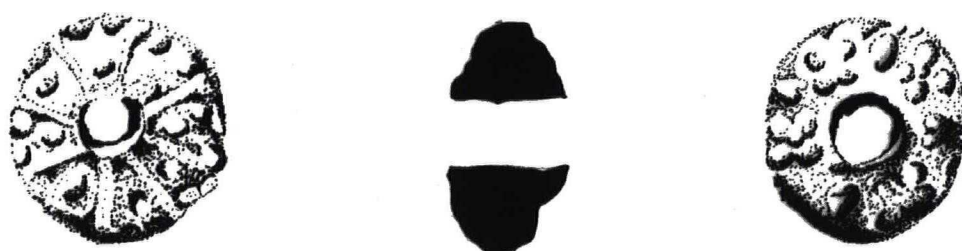
**Context No:** 7002  
**Figure No:** 5

This object is of regional significance, and would have been used in the textile craft industry as a loom weight. The object almost certainly dates to the late medieval period, 14th - 16th century.

This loom weight has been fashioned out of lead with two external surfaces that fall away gently from a central high point to a perimeter lip, the centre of the object has been bored through with a 10mm diameter circular hole. The two external surfaces have been decorated, one of side of which is well abraded but would appear to consist of an applied drip like motif in the form of alternating hearts and flower heads.

**FIGURE 5**

**DECORATED LATE MEDIEVAL SPINDLE WHORL**



**Scale 1:1**



The opposing side is slightly misshapen and worn and has been decorated with eight radiating segments, three of which contain a single pellet and the remaining five contain a trefoil of pellets.

The form and material of this object are comparable with other artifacts of this type that have been recovered from across the region, however, the greater majority of which are not decorated, exceptions to this include a similar whorl of late medieval date that was recovered from excavations at "An Anglian Site on the Yorkshire Wolds - Continued" D.Haldenby, YAJ, Vol.64, 1992.

This object together with the other finds recovered during these excavations are to be presented to Mr.& Mrs.D.Goldie for inspection and at this meeting the future of the collection will be discussed.

## **CONCLUSION**

The recent archaeological watching brief conducted by Mr.K.J.Cale on behalf of Mr.& Mrs.D.Goldie at 4/6 High Street, Skipton, has provided further evidence of the nature, layout and development of those property parcels that front on to the High Street, the similarities between the archaeology exposed during this investigation with that excavated by D.Williams at Canal Yard are striking.

The sub-soil was identified within the north eastern corner of the study area and was revealed to slope steeply downwards to the south west, towards Eller Beck, the existing relatively level terrain within the yard is therefore the result of intentional backfill and landscaping.

The earliest activity identified on the site was 16/17th century, during this period it would appear that the planform and size of the yard area differed to the existing, having extended into what is presently the developed yard space of the property to the immediate south.

The post medieval yard supported at least one sizeable building, this structure was situated within the central southern section of the existing yard, the surrounding, external ground levels would indicate that natural fall in slope in this area of the yard had by this time been corrected with infill in order to form a suitable, relatively level occupation area. It is likely that this structure was a timber framed building constructed on a stone dwarf wall. As with the remains of a comparable building identified within Canal Yard it would appear that these buildings were intentionally situated some distance away from the west elevation of the main town house so as to reduce the risk of fire spreading between buildings. The exact form and size of this building could not be accurately determined as it was only partially exposed within the trench excavation, however it is likely that it functioned as an out-building to the main house and was connected to the same by a cobble yard surface, the building was butted to the north by an external area of topsoil, that may have been a possible garden area.

It is evident that this out-building was extant and may have remained in use well into the 18th century, during which period ancillary walls and a hearth were constructed over the former garden area adjacent to the building. This enlarged building complex had by the early 19th century been largely dismantled and the greater majority of demolition material had been removed from the site.



During the early 19th century the existing town house 4/6 High Street was constructed with cellar space, it would appear that excavations for the latter generated a large quantity of spoil, upcast sub-soil that was redeposited across the yard area and levelled, a programme of landscaping that was responsible for the existing ground levels within the study area.

Subsequent works within the study area have been largely restricted to the construction of a box drain culvert and soakaway, together with more recent drainage works.

No indication of the medieval defences that were suspected to traverse the study area were identified during this investigation, however, given that a medieval occupation level was not encountered it is possible that these deposits together with earlier archaeological features lie buried beneath the study area.

Kevin John Cale  
May 1996

FIGURE 3

SITE PLAN

