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Ripon House

Ripon, North Yorkshire

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

May 2008



Report No. 1831

CLIENT

Home Group Limited

**Ripon House, Ripon
North Yorkshire**

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Archaeological Desk-based Assessment



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Project Management: Ian Roberts BSc FSA MIFA
Report: Mitchell Pollington BA MA
Illustrations: Mitchell Pollington
Photography: Mitchell Pollington
Research: Mitchell Pollington

Produced by: Archaeological Services WYAS, PO Box 30,
Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 0UG
Telephone: 0113 383 7500
Email: admin@aswyas.com

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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Home Group Limited to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Ripon House, Ripon, North Yorkshire. This assessment was undertaken prior to a proposed residential development on the site.

Site location and topography

Ripon is situated on the north-western edge of the Vale of York, approximately 35km to the north-west of York, and 16km to the south-west of Thirsk. The town lies on a spur of land on the western side of the River Ure, which marks the divide between the low lying ground of the Vale of York to the east and the edge of the Pennine uplands to the west. The town is centred around the Market Place, with Ripon Cathedral situated on a ridge of higher ground to the south-east which slopes down to the River Skell to the south.

The proposed development site is situated within an approximately triangular area of land, about 150m to the north-east of Ripon Cathedral, centred at SE 3162 7131. It covers an area of 0.57 hectares, and lies at a height of about 27m above OD.

The site is situated within a largely residential area, and is bounded to the north and east by Priest Lane, to the south by Residence Lane and to the west by buildings fronting onto St Marygate. The site is currently occupied by Ripon House, a council owned nursing home which was constructed in the 1970s, with surrounding areas of lawn and gardens, and a tarmac surfaced carpark on its south-western side (see Plates 1 to 6). The site is surrounded by a stone wall, about 1.5m high.

The study area for the desk-based assessment comprises all land within 500m of the boundary of the proposed development site. Details of Listed Buildings were consulted for a 200m radius around the proposed development site.

Geology

Ripon lies on the eastern side of the band of Magnesian Limestone and Permian Mudstones which runs between the Sandstones of the Vale of York and the Millstone Grit of the eastern Pennines (BGS 2001). Within the study area this is overlain by slightly acid loams and clay soils with impeded drainage (National Soil Resources Institute).

2 Methodology and Sources

Where sites listed in the catalogue (Section 4) are mentioned in the text, the relevant catalogue number or letter is given in bold-type.

The following sources of information have been consulted in order to meet the requirements of the desk-based assessment, and are in line with the guidelines laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists for such work (IFA 2001).

Archaeological records and archives

Information on previous archaeological finds and investigations within the study area was consulted in the North Yorkshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER), Northallerton, and the Archaeology Data Service website (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>). The North Yorkshire County Record Office (NYCRO), Northallerton, and York Central Library were consulted for historic maps and plans, antiquarian histories and other relevant documentary sources.

Published and unpublished documentary sources

A range of published and unpublished material has been researched and consulted. This includes academic articles together with general sources on the area and its wider archaeological and historical background. These are listed in the bibliography.

Listed Buildings

Information regarding Listed Buildings was obtained from the North Yorkshire County Council HER and the English Heritage 'Images of England' website (www.imagesofengland.org.uk).

Scheduled Monuments

Scheduled monument information was obtained from the North Yorkshire County Council HER and the government's environmental GIS website 'MAGIC' (www.magic.gov.uk).

Other designated sites or areas

Information on other designated sites of archaeological or historic significance was obtained from the North Yorkshire County Council HER and the 'MAGIC' website.

Geological and soil surveys

Information on the underlying geology within the study area was taken from data collected by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2001). Data on soils in the area was obtained from the National Soil Resources Institute website (www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes).

Walkover survey

A walkover survey was undertaken on the 20th of May 2008, in order to assess the survival of previously recorded and documented features, to identify any further archaeological sites

visible on the ground and to determine the potential for any future archaeological investigations.

3 The Study Area

Identified archaeological sites, buildings and features

A total of 67 archaeological sites, features and historic buildings have been identified within the study area. These sites are discussed below and have been catalogued in Section 4.

Designated sites and areas

The study area contains three designated Scheduled Monuments; Minster Close, incorporating Ripon Cathedral and its environs (NY 1282), Ailcy Hill (265) and the site of St Anne's Chapel, on High St Agnesgate (NY149). The study area contains 119 Listed Buildings, of which 12 are situated within a 200m radius of the proposed development site.

Much of the western side of the study area lies within the Ripon Conservation Area, although the proposed development site is situated just outside of this area.

Previous archaeological investigations

No previous archaeological excavations, topographical surveys or geophysical surveys have been carried out in the proposed development site. The site has been studied as part of wider archaeological and historical research into the early monastic sites in Ripon (Hall and Whyman 1996) and the development of the medieval town (MacKay 1982).

Archaeological background, sites and features

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic period (c. 10,000 - 4400 BC)

The earliest human activity within northern Britain probably followed the retreat of the ice sheets around 10,000 BC, as small Nomadic groups moved north with the improving climate. Evidence of Palaeolithic activity remains scarce, and is largely restricted to upland cave sites, and no archaeological remains of this date have previously been found in the study area. The post-glacial landscape largely comprised treeless tundra, but by the early Mesolithic period, about 7600 BC, this gave way to woodland as the climate improved. Such environmental change increased the potential for human activity as the spread of woodland led to an expansion in animal and plant resources. The nomadic nature of Mesolithic groups mean that they have left little occupation remains and archaeological evidence for them is largely limited to finds of flint implements, such as microlithic blades. No sites or finds of a Mesolithic date have previously been recorded within the study area.

Neolithic and Bronze Age period (c. 4400 – 2500 BC)

The Neolithic period is marked by the introduction of farming, as nomadic hunter-gatherer subsistence gave way to agriculture and the domestication of animals. This appears to have

had a dramatic effect on the landscape with a marked change in the character of forest vegetation and a major decline in woodland coverage from about 3000 BC (Smith 1970). This period is also characterised by the introduction of large ritual and funerary monuments, such as the three Thornborough Henges, which were laid out on the same axis about 7km to the north of Ripon, and overlying an earlier cursus monument. Three further henges lie about 3km to the west of the town at Hutton Moor, Cana Barn and Nunwick. The massive standing stones known as the Devil's Arrows are also situated 7km to the south-east, outside Boroughbridge. The Bronze Age saw the introduction of limited copper and bronze working, as well as the clearance of large areas of woodland by about 2500 BC (Parker Pearson 1993, 98-99). A dense concentration of early Bronze Age monuments have been identified between the River Ure and the River Swale, such as the barrows at Hutton Grange, 4km to the north-east of Ripon. It seems clear that throughout the Neolithic and Bronze Age the western edge of the Vale of York around Ripon had an important sacred and ritual significance.

Iron Age and Roman periods (c. 800 BC – c. AD 410)

Extensive areas of Iron Age settlement, including enclosures, farmsteads, trackways and fields systems have been identified across the western edge of the Vale of York (Vyner 2003, 45), although no evidence for Iron Age occupation has been identified within Ripon. The Ripon area, which was part of the territory of the Brigantes, was annexed by the Romans in about AD 71. There is little evidence for any form of Roman activity within the town, apart from a few residual pieces of Roman pottery found in Anglo-Saxon and medieval contexts during archaeological excavations in Deanery Gardens and at Ripon Cathedral Primary School (36 and 52; Whyman 1997; McComish 2001b).

Anglo-Saxon period (c. AD 410 to 1066)

In the century following the end of Roman rule in AD 410, the former province fragmented into a number of smaller kingdoms, some of which were controlled by the Romanised British population, and others established by incoming Anglo-Saxon groups from northern Europe. The name 'Ripon' derives from the Old English *Hrypum*, meaning 'amongst the *Hrype*', the *Hrype* being a local Anglo-Saxon tribal group (Smith 1961, 165), although by the early 7th century the area was part of the kingdom of Northumbria. The earliest settlement at Ripon probably originated about AD 657, when land was granted by King Alhfrith of Deira to a group of monks of the Celtic Church to create a daughter house of their monastery at Melrose (Ryder 1990, 1). Following the Synod of Whitby in 664, and the adoption of the Roman liturgy in Northumbria, it appears that the Celtic monks abandoned the site, and it was instead granted to Wilfrid, the Bishop of York, who constructed new monastic buildings here about AD 671-678 (Sherley-Price 1990, 187; Hall and Whyman 1996, 65). The new monastery included 40 hides of land, with a church built of dressed stone, including columns and side aisles (Hall and Whyman 1996, 63). The surviving crypt, beneath the present Ripon Cathedral, is thought to have been part of Wilfrid's original church, which was destroyed in AD 948 (Taylor and Taylor 1965, 301).

It has been suggested that the area of the proposed development site formed part of the earliest monastic foundation in Ripon (50; Mackay 1982, 76). During the mid-19th century the local historian J.R. Walbran recorded the discovery of Northumbrian *styca* coins from the site, a coin type which dates to the first half of the 9th century (Booth 2000, 89), together with the foundations of a stone building and a grit-stone column (Walbran 1875, 23-24). Cartographic evidence also implies that the site may have had some early monastic function. A map in a mid-18th century antiquarian history of Ripon provides the earliest source, marking the site as being 'Where the Scots monastery was, now a hill...where foundation stones have been found' (Gent 1733). On Jefferys' 1772 'Plan of Ripon' the site is marked with 'Here the Scotch Monastery Stood', and in the early 19th century Langdale named it as the 'Site of the Scots Monastery' (Jefferys 1775; Langdale 1818). In continental Europe a 'Scotch Monastery', or *Schottenklöster*, is a term applied to monastic foundations by early medieval Irish or Scottish missionaries (Ott 1912, 589-590), and this name is perhaps suggestive of a link between the site and the original mid-7th century Celtic monastery at Ripon. It has also been suggested, through analysis of the street pattern in the area around the proposed development site, that this area formed part of the pre-conquest monastic holdings in Ripon, with the curving alignment of Priest Lane to the north and east of the site preserving the line of part of the boundary of this area (Mackay 1982, 76; Hall and Whyman 1996, 143).

Archaeological excavations undertaken to the immediate south of the proposed development site during the construction of the new Ripon Cathedral Primary School in 2000 uncovered a number of Anglo-Scandinavian finds (52; McComish 2001b), and an Anglo-Saxon coin is also recorded as having been found in the area during the 19th century (51; Walbran 1875).

To the south of the school site is Ailcy Hill (53) (named as 'Ailey Hill' on modern ordnance survey mapping), a large tree covered mound about 11m high. Anglo-Saxon coins were found on the site in the late 17th century, and subsequent antiquarians recorded the discovery of human bones in the mound, and identified it individually as a Saxon or 'Danish' burial mound, 'a great fortress of the Britons time', or as the motte of a Norman Castle (Hall and Whyman 1996, 67). Archaeological excavation has shown it to be a natural morainic mound of sand and gravel, into which numerous burials have been inserted dating from the 7th century to the 9th century, some of which may pre-date the establishment of the monastery at Ripon (Hall and Whyman 1996). Anglo-Saxon period burials were also discovered during excavation at the site of the medieval Ladykirk chapel (35), on the western side of St Marygate, to the south-west of the proposed development site. These were found to contain bone combs of an Anglo-Scandinavian style dating to between the 9th and mid-11th centuries (Macgregor 1996, 127). There was a chapel on this site by at least the early 11th century, and fragments of 8th and 9th century stone work may indicate that there was also an earlier chapel on the site (Hall and Whyman 1996, 130). In 1977, excavations carried out about 60m to the south of the Ladykirk site only identified a small area of possible pre-conquest deposits

(36), but did discover a gold, garnet and amber roundel, known as 'The Ripon Jewel' which probably dates to the early or mid-7th century (Hall *et al.* 1996, 134-6).

Medieval period (1066 to c.1500)

There was substantial expansion and development in Ripon from the first half of the 12th century onwards. This included the re-building of Ripon Cathedral (24) in the mid-12th century, as well as the construction of new hospitals and chapels, such as St Mary Magdalene (54), St Anne's Chapel and hospital (29), The Bedern chapel which was founded in the early 14th century (17), and a possible church on All Hallows Hill (20). There was also a phase of urban re-planning during the 12th century, which saw the laying out of St Marygate, and the present Market Place, which both follow the same north-south alignment (MacKay 1982, 78; Hall and Whyman 1996, 140).

Archaeological excavations in the area around Market Place have revealed evidence of medieval burgrave plots and associated features, and activities such as butchery, pottery production and brewing (2, 7, 10, 15 and 16; Anon. 2005; Finlayson 2004) in well preserved stratified deposits dating from the 11th to the 15th century (5; Finlayson 2001). To the south of Market Place, excavations on Water Skellgate have also revealed deeply stratified medieval deposits and features, including cobble-built walls and floor surfaces, post-holes and evidence of smithing and food preparation (9; Rose 2004). Modern disturbance on other sites in the area had clearly truncated, or destroyed, any medieval deposits (4 and 12; Turnbull 2005).

A number of early medieval burials have been identified during archaeological watching briefs undertaken along Minster Road, to the immediate north of Ripon Cathedral (25; Antoni 1999; McNab 2002). This may be the southward continuation of a cemetery discovered in the area of the Ladykirk, Deanery Gardens, and on St Marygate, to the south-west of the proposed development site (28, 35, 41 and 43; Johnson 2001b; Hall and Whyman 1996). The remains of a 12th century building has also been recorded on the eastern side of St Marygate (44).

Evidence of medieval activity on the site of the Ripon Cathedral Primary School to the south of the proposed development site included features dating from the 11th to the 14th century. However, these were largely in the form of field boundaries (52; Johnson 2000b; McComish 2001b), and it is likely that this area remained open ground on the edge of the town centre throughout the medieval period. To the immediate north-west of the proposed development site archaeological excavation has revealed a number of medieval pits, with the pottery assemblage suggesting activity dating from the 12th to the 14th centuries (40; Rutledge 2000).

Post-medieval and modern period

During the post-medieval period it is likely that the proposed development site remained open ground. Jefferys' map of 1775 depicts a large mound covering much of the western part

of the site, which may have been a small glacial hill of sand and gravel, similar to Ailcy Hill to the south (Fig. 3; Jefferys 1775). This mound is not depicted on subsequent maps such as Thomas Langdale's map of 1818, which does show other prominent topographical features (see Fig. 5; Langdale 1818). The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1856 shows a gravel pit on the northern side of the study area, and a slight slope to the south-west of where the mound was shown on Jefferys' map, and it seems likely that this mound was quarried away during the first half of the 19th century (see Figs 3 and 7; Jefferys 1775; Ordnance Survey 1856).

By 1800 a building had been constructed on the north-eastern side of the proposed development site, fronting onto Priest Lane, but this was demolished by the early 20th century (see Figs 4 and 9; Humphries 1800; Ordnance Survey 1929). By the 1890s a school had been built in the north-western corner of site, which was itself demolished by the middle of the 1960s (Fig. 8; Ordnance Survey 1892). After the Second World War the western end of Priest Lane, on the northern side of the proposed development site was widened through the demolition of a hall and a row of houses.

During the construction of Ripon House in the 1970s carved stone was discovered, which was subsequently built into an internal wall of the nursing home. This has been dated to the 16th or 17th century, but could not be examined at the time of writing (48; Ryder 1990, 2).

The majority of the extant buildings adjacent to the proposed development site, and in the immediate vicinity, are no earlier than the 18th or early 19th century (B, C, D, E, F, G, J and K). The House of Correction, which abuts the south-western corner of the proposed development site, originally dates to about 1685, but underwent substantial alteration and addition in the early 19th century (L; Briden 2004).

4 Catalogue of Archaeological Sites and Buildings

Archaeological features

Catalogue entries have been ordered geographically from west to east, and given a numerical identifier, with their locations shown on Figure 2. The catalogue entry includes a National Grid Reference (NGR) number. Where an archaeological feature has an associated 'ENY' number or 'MNY' number the information has been obtained from the North Yorkshire County Council HER. All further information is referenced in the bibliography.

1. Land to the west of Market Place

ENY 1846 SE 3111 7137

In 2003 an archaeological assessment of land to the west of Market Place was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (Elsworth 2003).

2. Archaeological evaluation, west of Market Place ENY 2783 SE 3115 7143

In May 2005, Archaeological Services University of Durham carried out an archaeological evaluation on land west of Market Place, Ripon in advance of proposed redevelopment. Eighteen trial trenches were excavated across the site. The trenches on the eastern and southern sides of the site were all located at the rear of former burgrave plots and revealed a number of features of medieval and post-medieval date. Medieval remains were also identified in the south-western corner of the site, close to the Blossomgate frontage. The deposits in the north-eastern part of the site showed evidence for heavy truncation. No archaeological features earlier in date than the 19th century were identified in the remainder of the site (Anon. 2005).

3. Watching brief, 20-22 High Skellgate ENY1533/MNY23884 SE 31168 71185

Between July and August 2003 Archaeological Services University of Durham carried out a watching brief during levelling and service trench ground works relating to the conversion of a site on High Skellgate to residential accommodation. Levelling works and two service trenches revealed a cobbled surface and the remains of a post-medieval cellar (Douglas 2003).

4. Watching brief, 23-24 Market Place ENY2808 SE 31173 71319

In March 2005, the Brigantia Archaeological Practice carried out a watching brief during resurfacing operations on land to the rear of 23-24 Market Place, Ripon. The existing surfacing was removed and the ground reduced by an average of 270mm. The underlying sandy soil was exposed but not disturbed, and no archaeological features or finds were recorded. It is possible that any earlier surfacing had been removed prior to the laying of the modern surface (Turnbull 2005).

5. Wakeman's House, High Skellgate ENY273/MNY19785 SE 3117 7123

In December 2000, York Archaeological Trust undertook archaeological excavations in advance of the construction of new public toilets to the rear of Wakeman's House, High Skellgate, Ripon (Finlayson 2001). A well-preserved, well-stratified sequence of deposits and features dating from the 11th to 15th centuries were encountered, together with post-medieval cellars. The plot to the rear of the building had been intensively used for pit digging. Most of the deposits were derived from domestic sources, with some indication of smithing, butchery and pelt processing. The recovery of sparrow hawk bones could indicate hawking. The pottery assemblage is particularly significant, with several vessels which can be reconstructed.

6. Watching brief, Market Place ENY453 SE 3121 7128

A watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Services University of Durham, in Market Place, Ripon. No archaeological features appear to have been recorded.

7. Archaeological evaluation, Market Place ENY262 SE 3121 7127

During October and November 2000, York Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological evaluation of Ripon Market Place in advance of refurbishment works to assess the survival of archaeological deposits. Four trial trenches were investigated which identified the presence of medieval remains close to the modern ground surface. These included a cobble surface which may represent part of the medieval market place. Primary dumped material above this was dated to AD 1350-1450 and included butchery waste and pottery which may be kiln waste. Later deposits comprised post-medieval cobble surfaces, levelling and modern re-deposited natural.

8. Archaeological evaluation, Water Skellgate ENY1932/3835 SE 31217 71114

York Archaeological Trust carried out a desk-based assessment centred on the Renault Site, Water Skellgate in October 2003. The study suggested that the northern part of the site was likely to contain remains dating back to the 11th century. The southern part of the site was likely to be close to or on the medieval course of the river Skell (Evans 2003).

9. Archaeological evaluation, Water Skellgate ENY2145/MNY23936 SE 31219 71127

In March 2004, Archaeological Services WYAS undertook an archaeological evaluation on land to the south of Water Skellgate, Ripon in advance of proposed development. Three trenches, each measuring 3m by 3m, were excavated within the northern part of the site. Deeply stratified remains dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods were found within all of the evaluation trenches, overlain by varying depths of modern demolition debris and levelling deposits. The earliest features exposed in each trench were of probable medieval date and included post-holes and possible pits with some associated waterlogged deposits. Later structural remains were also identified comprising cobble-built walls with associated cobbled surfaces. The artefactual and environmental evidence suggests domestic activity on the site, with the possibility of food processing and smithing within the vicinity (Rose 2004).

10. Archaeological investigations, 8-9 Market Place ENY42 SE 31257 71282

Excavations undertaken by York Archaeological Trust produced evidence of domestic occupation and some possible industrial processes dating from the 11th to the 20th centuries. Deposits had been truncated by later development and cellaring, but outside these areas survived to a significant depth (Finlayson 2004).

11. Former Library, Skellgarths ENY3626 SE 31262 71097

Site of a former library on Skellgarths.

12. Archaeological investigations, 10 Market Place ENY96/330 SE 3127 7129

Between April and May 2000, Border Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological work at 10 Market Place, Ripon (formerly known as the Royal Studley Hotel).

This work comprised a desk-based assessment and evaluation by trial trenching. The present building dates to the early 17th century, but prior archaeological investigations to the rear of numbers 8, 9 and 10 Market Place produced evidence that structures on these sites may date to the early medieval period. Much of the archaeology in the five trial trenches investigated had been severely disturbed, although in one trench substantial cobblestone floor surfaces were uncovered, dated to the late 18th century.

13. Land at Skellgarths**ENY244****SE 3130 7110**

In October 2000, York Archaeological Trust undertook a desk-based archaeological assessment of land at Skellgarths in Ripon. The results suggest potential for the survival of well preserved early medieval, medieval and later remains alongside an early water course, perhaps a meander of the River Skell (Finlayson 2000).

14. Site of Mill, Skellgarths**MNY19806****SE 3131 7106**

Site of a post-medieval mill on Skellgarths.

15. 8-9 Market Place, 'The Arcade'**ENY318****SE 31313 71311**

In March 1999, ASWYAS undertook an archaeological desk-based assessment of the site of 8-9 Market Place, Ripon and the surrounding area, in advance of redevelopment (Howell 1999). A range of sites relating to the historic town were identified dating from the Anglo-Saxon period to the post-medieval period. A building survey was also carried out to establish the age of the present buildings and identify any earlier features. Four main phases of building were identified from the early 18th century to the 20th century. In April 1999 an archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out. Four trial trenches were investigated and revealed a significant amount of archaeological deposits and features. These comprised a number of medieval and post-medieval pits in the western part of the site, on the edge of the Market Place plateau, which had been truncated by later activity. To the east were surviving stratified deposits into which small medieval features had been cut. These remains are typical of those associated with a medieval burgrave plot. The fills of one clay-lined pit suggest a malting kiln for brewing. A large assemblage of medieval animal bone was also recovered, as well as palaeoenvironmental evidence. The finds suggest a continuation of activity between the 11th and 15th century (Howell 1999).

16. 4 Old Market Place**ENY3220/MNY24904****SE 31315 71376**

During July 2006, On Site Archaeology undertook a programme of trial trenching at land to the rear of 4 Old Market Place, Ripon in advance of a proposed development. The evaluation involved the excavation of two 2m by 2m trenches to assess the nature and extent of any archaeological features and deposits that may be present. Both of the trenches encountered archaeological features dating to the medieval period, cut into the surface of the natural at depths of between 1.05m and 1.20m below the modern ground surface.

17. Bedern**MNY19798 SE 3133 7108**

The Bedern was a chapel founded in 1304, on or near Bedern Bank, but was moved to a new site in 1414. The exact site of the original chapel is unknown (Smith 1961, 165).

18. Site of Mill, King Street**MNY19805 SE 3134 7098**

Site of a post-medieval mill on King Street.

19. Watching brief, Liberty Court House wall**ENY3499 SE 31383 71235**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust, near the Liberty Court House wall, but no further details were available.

20. Possible church site, All Hallows Hill**MNY19792 SE 314 713**

It has been suggested that the place-name 'All Hallows' may indicate the position of a church (Hall and Whyman 1996, 142).

21. Burials, All Hallows Hill**MNY24465 SE 314 713**

The possible site of burials, although no further information was available.

22. Watching brief, Ripon Bus Station**ENY316 SE 3141 7110**

In March 1999, ASWYAS undertook an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of nine geotechnical test pits in the area of the present Ripon Bus Station. No definite archaeological deposits were identified, but two layers encountered may have been of archaeological potential.

23. Cross Shaft outside Ripon Cathedral**MNY24494 SE 3141 7110**

The remains of a medieval cross shaft on the south-western side of Ripon Cathedral.

24. Ripon Cathedral**ENY494/495/1928/1929/MNY19776****SE 3144 7112**

Ripon Cathedral was first built as part of the monastery established by Bishop Wilfrid in the AD 670s, and his original crypt still survives beneath the present building. The early church was destroyed in 948, and the present church was started in about 1175, in an early Gothic style, with further work in the 13th and 14th centuries (Pevsner 1967, 403-404). The church gained its Cathedral status in 1836.

Only limited archaeological work has been carried out within Ripon Cathedral, with investigations in Wilfrid's crypt in the late 19th century, and in 1974 and 1989 (Micklethwaite 1882; Hall 1977; 1993). Building recording and a small excavation were undertaken in the choir in 1999 and 2000 (McComish 1999; Johnson 2000), and watching briefs were also carried out during minor building works, but no archaeological features were recorded (McComish 2001; 2002). In 2005, the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology undertook tree-ring analysis of timbers from the roof and ceiling of the Cathedral (Arnold *et al.* 2005).

In April 1999, York Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological watching brief for North Yorkshire County Council during the excavation of eight small trenches for new street lamps to the north and west of Ripon Cathedral, within the Scheduled Monument area. Burials of an early medieval date were encountered in one trench, and a limestone wall in another. No dating evidence was recovered, but more than one phase of burial was clearly represented. The other six trenches revealed only modern deposits (Antoni 1999; McNab 2002).

In 2001 MAP Archaeological Consultancy undertook an archaeological evaluation at The Old Deanery, Minster Close, Ripon (Anon. 2001).

Possible site of a ford across the River Skell at Bondgate Green, that was in use from at least the Anglo-Saxon period.

A burial is recorded as having been discovered at The Old Deanery, to the north of Ripon Cathedral.

Site of the medieval St Anne's hospital chapel on High St Agnesgate. The remains of the chapel consist of the limestone chancel arch possibly dating to the 14th century, with a surviving eastern end containing a window in a decorated style. This site is a designated Scheduled Monument (NY 149).

Building recording was undertaken in Deanery Gardens, but no further details are available.

In April 2001, York Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological watching brief for the Dean and Chapter of Ripon Cathedral during the planting of three trees at Minster Close, Ripon. This area lies within the Scheduled Monument area and planting was subject to Scheduled Monument Consent subsequent to the felling of four trees. A single *in situ* archaeological deposit was encountered, possibly a demolition or dump layer of unknown date (Johnson 2001).

The site of a 13th century school to the south of Ripon Cathedral.

33. Geophysical survey, The Old Deanery ENY173 SE 31474 71235

A Ground Penetrating Radar survey was undertaken by GSB Prospection at The Old Deanery, the results of which were not available at the time of writing.

34. Watching brief, Ripon coach park ENY317 SE 31504 71300

In June 1999, ASWYAS undertook an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of three geotechnical test pits in the area of the proposed coach park in Ripon. No definite archaeological deposits were identified, but one layer encountered may have been of archaeological potential.

35. Archaeological excavation, site of Ladykirk MNY19764/5/6/7/8 SE 3152 7124

Excavations were undertaken in 1955 by the Ministry of Works on the site of the medieval Ladykirk chapel, which may have had pre-conquest origins. These excavations revealed the stone foundations of a two celled-structure on an east-west alignment, together with a number of burials. Fragments of sculptured stone, perhaps dating to the 8th or 9th century were also discovered on the site (Hall and Whyman 1996, 125).

36. Archaeological excavation, Deanery Gardens

Excavations were undertaken in Deanery Gardens, on the western side of St Marygate in 1977-8 for the Department of the Environment. This revealed evidence of settlement dating from the 11th century, with a pottery assemblage dating from the 11th to the 14th century, including three residual sherds of a Roman date (Whyman 1997).

37. Land to the rear of 20 Stonebridgagate ENY1290 SE 315 714

In 2003 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken to the rear of 20 Stonebridgagate by Brigantia Archaeological Practice (Turnbull 2003), and no archaeological features appear to have been recorded.

38. Archaeological evaluation, Allhallowgate ENY368 SE 31530 71420

Five trenches were excavated during an archaeological evaluation on Allhallowgate. No significant archaeological remains were encountered (Turnbull 2001).

39. Mill Race ENY269/MNY23528 SE 3153 7100

Site of a post-medieval mill race to the south of St Agnesgate.

40. Archaeological evaluation, Stonebridgagate ENY91/MNY23709 SE 31533 71400

Between November 1999 and June 2000, On Site Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of four dwellings along the Allhallowgate street frontage, to the rear of 4 Stonebridgagate. Medieval pits were found over much of the area investigated, and a 1.4m deep section was recorded through these deposits when a garage

41. Watching brief, St Marygate **ENY620/ MNY23724/ MNY19807** **SE 31548 71232**

42. Rectory, St Marygate **MNY19794/19795** **SE 3155 7121**

43. Archaeological excavation, St Marygate **MNY19790** **SE 3156 7120**

44. Medieval building, St Marygate **MNY19788** **SE 3156 7119**

45. The House of Correction, St Marygate ENY2189/2188/MNY23888 SE 3155 7131

46. Watching brief, 33 St Marygate **ENY3969** **SE 31569 71355**

47. Archaeological evaluation, 20-28 High St Agnesgate ENY3286 SE 31580 71016

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development. Several of the trenches encountered medieval cut features which appeared to correspond to the late 12th and 13th century urban reorganisation. Remains of the 19th-century tannery were also encountered in the western part of the site (Bruce 2006).

48. Carved stones

MNY25358 SE 31586 71314

Carved stones reportedly found between Residence Lane, Priest Lane and St Marysgate. These are now apparently built into an internal wall (of Ripon House?). These are presumably the same stones mentioned by Peter Ryder as having been discovered during the construction of Ripon House in the 1970s, which date to the 16th or 17th centuries (Ryder 1990, 2).

49. Cathedral School, Low St Agnesgate

ENY438/1322 SE 31627 71074

An archaeological desk-top study was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust in 2001, focussed on Ripon Cathedral Primary School (Finlayson 2001b), followed by trial trenching (Evans 2003b).

50. Site of Anglo-Saxon Monastery

MNY19773 SE 3163 7132

The possible site of part of the Anglo-Saxon monastic complex in Ripon, first established in the mid-7th century. Early 9th century coins together with sculptured stone fragments were discovered in the area during the late 19th century (Walbran 1875). From the mid-18th century, maps have marked this area as the site of an 'Scotch Monastery' (Gent 1733; Jefferys 1775; Langdale 1818; Ordnance Survey 1856).

51. Anglo-Saxon coin, Ripon Cathedral School

MNY19771 SE 316 713

An Anglo-Saxon coin hoard is recorded as having been found in the area of Ripon House (Walbran 1875; NMR no. SE 37 SW 8).

52. Archaeological Investigations, Primary School

ENY192/212 SE 3165 7124

In July 2000, the York Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of six geotechnical test pits over the recreation field at Priest Lane, Ripon, adjacent to Ailey Hill, in advance of the construction of a new primary school. A number of features and deposits of potential archaeological origin were recorded (Johnson 2000b). Between August and September 2000, York Archaeological Trust undertook archaeological excavations on the site which revealed a number of archaeological features and deposits dating from the 11th to 14th centuries, and the 17th to 20th centuries. Most of the medieval features were field boundaries, with occasional rubbish pits and build-up deposits typical of open ground. From the 17th century onwards, the area seems to have been used for gravel extraction and dumping. A number of Anglo-Scandinavian finds were recovered, as well as residual material of Romano-British date (McComish 2001b).

53. Ailey Hill**MNY19780 SE 3171 7113**

Ailey Hill was previously thought to have been a barrow or a motte, but excavations undertaken in 1986 and 1987 showed it to be a natural morrainic mound containing Anglo-Saxon and medieval burials (Hall and Whyman 1996). 37 graves were excavated and disarticulated bone from a further 140 individuals were also found. The burials of the earliest generation were uncoffined, and one burial was radiocarbon dated to AD 563-661. These were aligned close to a West-East orientation. Some burials of the second generation appear to have been buried in chests, and two of the burials were radiocarbon dated to AD 660-806 and AD 685-876 (NMR no. SE 37 SW 18). This site is a designated Scheduled Monument (NY 265).

54. Medieval Chapel, Magdalen's Road**MNY19791/19775 SE 3172 7178**

The site of a medieval hospital which originally consisted of buildings on both sides of Magdalens Road. The surviving 12th century chapel has a Norman doorway on its southern side, although there have been a number of phases of alteration to the building. A supposed Romano-British tessellated pavement found in the area is equally likely to be medieval in date (NMR no. SE 37 SW 4).

55. The Beeches, Magdalen's Road**ENY3586/MNY24906****SE 31721 71741**

During 2006, an historic building survey was undertaken at The Beeches, Magdalen's Road in advance of proposed development. An analysis of the building fabric of the structures on the site, combined with an investigation of historic maps, provided proof of continuous occupancy from at least 1800 to the present time. Documentary evidence from the medieval period suggests domestic and farming activity from an early date within the vicinity of the present farmstead, especially given its close proximity to St Mary Magdalen's leper hospital, and its medieval chapel. There have been piecemeal developments of the farm buildings since 1800, culminating in the building of two large open sheds in the mid to late 20th century. No medieval buildings have been retained within the present structures, although possible medieval material is evident, re-used in a later context (Deadman 2006).

Listed Buildings

Listed Buildings catalogue entries have been ordered geographically from west to east, and given an alphabetical identifier, with the locations shown on Figure 2. The catalogue entry includes an eight figure National Grid Reference (NGR), together with the North Yorkshire County Council HER 'DNY' reference code, the Images of England reference number (IoE), and the Listed Building reference number at the end of the text.

A. The Old Deanery**DNY5141****IoE 330152****SE 3147 7118**

A mid-17th century house, altered in 1799 and in the early to mid-19th century. It is constructed of limestone ashlar and has a hipped stone slate roof. It has a small central gabled

dormer with the inscription 'R D W Decanus 1799'. This building is Grade II* listed (ref.1/2).

B. No. 42 All Hallowgate **DNY6792** **IoE 329982** **SE 31484 71392**

An early 19th century house, with a pantile roof with stone slate verges. This building is Grade II listed (ref.1/200).

C. Nos 44 and 45 All Hallowgate **DNY6174** **IoE 329983** **SE 31499 71388**

An early 19th century house, constructed of brown brick with a slate roof. This building is Grade II listed (ref.1/201).

D. The Fleece Public House **DNY5130** **IoE 330207** **SE3154271384**

Former early or mid-18th century public house. Probably built of brick, but rendered with roughcast. It has a modern pantile roof. This building is Grade II listed (ref.1/185).

E. No. 21 St Marygate **DNY5539** **IoE 330208** **SE 31536 71290**

An 18th or early 19th century house. This building is Grade II listed (ref.1/64).

F. Nos 22, 23 and 24 St Marygate **DNY6035** **IoE 330209** **SE 31537 71280**

18th century houses with stucco frontages and slate roofs, with traces of moulded eaves. These buildings are Grade II listed (ref. 1/187).

G. Nos 25 and 26 St Marygate **DNY5540** **IoE 330210** **SE 31532 71273**

Possible 18th century houses, although externally they appear to date to the 19th century. These buildings are Grade II listed (ref. 1/188).

H. Abbot Huby's Wall **DNY6846** **IoE 330211** **SE 31546 71248**

A wall built about 1505, with a rubble plinth and pebble upper part and ashlar between, and mixed hammer-dressed limestone and pebble (sandstone) in south part. The gateway to the Old Deanery Close has a three centred arch. This structure is Grade II listed (ref 1/189).

I. Stretch of wall **DNY5156** **IoE 330112** **SE 31555 71156**

An 18th century, or perhaps earlier, stone wall of hammer-dressed limestone. This structure is Grade II listed (ref 1/237).

J. Nos 30, 31 and 32 St Marygate **DNY6847** **IoE 330214** **SE 31560 71341**

An early 19th century house constructed of brown brick with a pantiled roof. This building is Grade II listed (ref.1/283).

K. Nos 28 and 29 St Marygate **DNY5543** **IoE 330213** **SE 31559 71333**

A late 18th or early 19th century house constructed of brown brick with a pantiled roof. This building is Grade II listed (ref.1/282).

L. The House of Correction (Deans Croft) DNY6036 IoE 330212 SE 31560 71317

The former House of Correction, originally constructed in 1685, with a rear extension built in 1816. The House of Correction was closed in 1878, and the building became a grain store. In 1887 it was taken over by the newly-formed West Riding Constabulary, and became a Police Station. In 1958 it went into private ownership, and the front part of the building was restored in 1972. The building is now The Prison and Police Museum. This building is Grade II* listed (ref.1/8).

5 Conclusions

The proposed development site is situated close to the historic centre of Ripon, and may have formed part of the area of the earliest Anglo-Saxon monastic complex in the town, established in the AD 660s-670s. Although there has been no previous archaeological excavations on the site itself, during the 19th century a hoard of early to mid-9th century Northumbrian coins were discovered here, together with sculptured stone fragments. Early Anglo-Saxon features and finds have also been excavated at the site of the Ladykirk and Deanery Gardens, to the immediate south-west, and on the site of Ailcy Hill to the south. From at least the early 18th century cartographic sources have marked the proposed development site as the location of the 'Scotch Monastery', suggesting a memory of an early monastic site, perhaps even connected with the short lived mid-7th century Celtic monastery. There are no records of monastic occupation on the site during the later medieval period, and excavations at the adjacent Ripon Cathedral Primary School showed that this area was open ground during this period. Therefore, any possible monastic activity on the site is likely to predate the Conquest.

Until the early 19th century, a large mound covered the south-western part of the proposed development site, as shown most clearly on Jefferys' plan of Ripon, which is likely to have been a natural glacially formed sand and gravel hill, such as Ailcy Hill. By the 1850s this mound appears to have been quarried flat, and a gravel pit had been dug on the north-western side of the site. It is likely that any sub-surface archaeological features or deposits within these areas would have been destroyed, disturbed or truncated by this activity. The construction of Ripon House in the 1970s in the centre of the site and any associated landscaping works around it, may also have disturbed sub-surface archaeological remains. There is perhaps greater potential for the survival of subsurface archaeology on the eastern side of the site, which appears to have remained open ground during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

There is, therefore, potential for the survival of sub-surface archaeological features and within the proposed development site, particularly dating to the Anglo-Saxon and early medieval periods. Initial archaeological investigations, such as geophysical survey and evaluation excavation, would be required to determine the nature and extent of any surviving

features or deposits, although the possibilities for geophysical surveying are limited to a small area of lawn to the east of Ripon House. A metal detector survey of the site may also help to identify any significant metal objects that may survive in the top soil. Any further archaeological investigation on the site should form part of an overall archaeological strategy to be agreed with the North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Section.