

**Land West of Market Place,
Ripon, North Yorkshire**

archaeological excavation and monitoring

on behalf of

Maple Grove Developments Ltd.

Report 1716

September 2008

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1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an excavation conducted in advance of a development on land to the west of the Market Place at Ripon. The works comprised full excavation of archaeological features above foundation depth for the new development over part of the development area, and archaeological monitoring over the remainder of the site.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Maple Grove Developments Ltd, and conducted by Archaeological Services in accordance with a specification provided by the Heritage Unit at North Yorkshire County Council and a project design provided by Archaeological Services.

Results

- 1.3 Much of the site lay below foundation depth for the new development and was not excavated to a depth where archaeological deposits would have been exposed.
- 1.4 Towards the eastern end of the site, a number of small, discrete pits were present. Several contained post-medieval pottery and all are likely to have been utilised as rubbish pits in this period.
- 1.5 Towards the south of the site a number of large intercutting pits were present. These contained sherds of medieval to early post-medieval pottery. These features are likely to have been sand extraction pits. A horse burial was also present in this area.
- 1.6 Two in-filled post-medieval wells and an undated pit were identified towards the western edge of the site.
- 1.7 A number of east-west aligned cobble wall foundations crossed the centre of the site. These were the boundaries of former burgage plots.

Recommendations

- 1.8 In light of the importance of the site, full analysis of the data in accordance with standard archaeological practice is recommended. This will lead to a full analysis report and publication which should incorporate the results from the evaluation. An Updated Project Design has been included as Appendix 5, detailing the tasks to be undertaken to achieve this.

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The site is located to the west of the city centre at Ripon, North Yorkshire (centred on NGR: SE 3110 7135). It covers an area of just over 1.7ha and is bounded by Blossomgate to the west; the rear of properties along Westbourne Grove / St Wilfred's Place / St Wilfred's Road to the north; the rear of properties along North Street / Fishergate / Market Place to the east, and the rear of properties along Westgate to the south.

Development proposal

- 2.2 A supermarket is being constructed to the rear of Blossomgate, with residential housing along the Blossomgate street frontage itself. An access road will be constructed along the northern edge of the development, between Blossomgate and the junction of North Street and Coltsgate Hill. The eastern half of this is to be constructed by North Yorkshire County Council under a separate contract, and this phase of works will not be undertaken until the remainder of construction work has been completed. The rest of the site (*i.e.* the land to the east of the supermarket and south of the access road) will form a car park.

Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the scheme of works was to identify, excavate and record any significant archaeological features within the development area in advance of development.

Methods statement

- 2.4 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a specification provided by the Heritage Unit at North Yorkshire County Council (Appendix 4) and a Project Design provided by Archaeological Services (ref. PC 06.303 revised) and approved by the Heritage Unit.

Dates

- 2.5 The main phase of fieldwork was undertaken between 9th July and 13th August 2007, with intermittent monitoring continuing until April 2008. This report was prepared between 9th August 2007 and 24th September 2008.

Personnel

- 2.6 Fieldwork was conducted by Janet Beveridge, Alan Rae, Louise Robinson, and Richie Villis, and supervised by Andy Platell. Sample processing was undertaken by Bryan Atkinson, Janet Beveridge and Richard Villis. This report was prepared by Andy Platell, with illustrations by David Graham. Specialist analysis was conducted by Louisa Gidney (animal bone), Jennifer Jones (other finds), and Dr Helen Ranner (macrofossil analysis). The Project Manager was Peter Carne.

Archive/OASIS

- 2.7 The site code is **RWM 07**, for **Ripon, Land West of Market Place 2007**. The archive is currently held by Archaeological Services and will be transferred to

Harrogate Museum in due course. Archaeological Services is registered with the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations project (OASIS). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-48643**.

Acknowledgements

- 2.8 Archaeological Services is grateful for the assistance of personnel of Eric Wright Construction Ltd. and Eric Wright Civil Engineering Ltd. in facilitating this scheme of works.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

- 3.1 Before construction began, the development area comprised a mixture of open ground, largely used as both informal and formal car parking space, but also some areas of tree and scrub, and a number of buildings and yards (both used and disused). By the time archaeological works began, the whole area had been fenced off as a construction site and demolition of the standing buildings had commenced.
- 3.2 The site lies at an elevation of around 36m OD at its western edge, rising to 39m OD at its eastern edge, on a plateau to the north of the River Skell, about 1km west of its confluence with the River Ure.
- 3.3 The solid geology of the area consists of Permian strata; the Edlington Formation (formerly Middle Marl) across most of the site with the Brotherton Formation (formerly Upper Magnesian Limestone) along the northwest edge (BGS 1992). Geotechnical boreholes have identified rockhead at depths between 7m and 12.5m below the current ground surface. Deposits of glacial till up to 7m in depth overlay this solid geology, with up to 4m of fluvioglacial deposits overlying this. The fluvioglacial deposits are mainly fine orange-brown sand, but they are replaced by clay or gravel in places (GRM 2004). During excavation it was found that gravel tended to be exposed along the Blossomgate edge of the site, with sand being found elsewhere.

4. Historical and archaeological background

The prehistoric and Roman periods (up to 5th century AD)

- 4.1 In spite of a relatively large number of Neolithic and Bronze Age sites in the general vicinity (especially funerary and ritual monuments such as henges), there is a paucity of such remains in the city itself. A small number of prehistoric objects have reportedly been found in the city, although all are now lost or lacking proper provenance. Similarly, few Romano-British objects have been identified, although a Roman urn was found on the west side of North Street in the early 19th century (OAN 2003).

The medieval period (5th century AD to AD 1540)

- 4.2 Ripon is first documented in the 7th century, when St Wilfred established a monastery around AD 660 (Hall and Whyman 1996). This is thought to have

been on the site of the present cathedral (Whyman 1997). The early town developed around this focus, to the east of the current Market Place (*ibid*).

- 4.3 It is not clear exactly when the Market Place was laid out in its current form. MacKay (1982), purely on documentary evidence, suggests that the Market Place and surrounding burgage plots had been laid out by 1320, although more recent archaeological work suggests that it was not fully established until the mid to late 14th century (Archaeological Services 2001, YAT 2000b, Archaeological Services 2005).

The post-medieval period (AD 1541 to AD 1899)

- 4.4 The medieval settlement pattern survived almost intact until the late 19th century, as shown by early maps of the area (OAN 2003). These show long, thin burgage plots running westwards from the Market Place /Fishergate / Horsefair (now North Street). Smaller properties front Westgate and Blossomgate and open fields occupy the centre of the site.

The modern period (AD 1900 to present)

- 4.5 Modern changes are largely restricted to the amalgamation of properties into larger plots and the construction of a number of infill buildings to the rear of the street frontages. The fields to the north of the proposed development area were developed as terraced housing in the late 19th / early 20th century (*ibid*).

Previous archaeological works

- 4.6 Archaeological interventions have been carried out under the Market Place (Archaeological Services 2001; YAT 2000b) and to the rear of properties to its east (WYAS 1999; YAT 2000a). Further from the site, excavations have been carried out around the cathedral (Whyman 1997). The current site has been subject to two desk-based assessments (Briden 1995; OAN 2003) and an archaeological evaluation (Archaeological Services 2005): an evaluation trench and archaeological monitoring also took place in respect of the access road for this development (Archaeological Services 2008).

5. The excavation and monitoring

Introduction

- 5.1 Based on the results of assessment and evaluation, and following consultations between the developer and the County Archaeologist, the site was sub-divided into four areas (Figure 2). Area A, largely to be occupied by the new retail premises and apartments, was identified as having a low archaeological potential. This area was to be available for archaeological access and observation, but no formal archaeological works were specified. Area B, identified by evaluation as being of high archaeological potential, was specified for full excavation of archaeological remains to the formation depth for the new development, or to the top of natural deposits if these were encountered at a shallower depth. Most of this area was to form the new car park, with the southwest part forming a new service road for the retail outlets and the northeast corner forming part of the access road from Coltshill Lane. Area C formed the western half of the new access road and was specified for

an extensive watching brief, whilst Area D formed the eastern half of this road and was specified for an intensive watching brief. This latter area was developed under a separate contract and is reported on separately (Archaeological Services 2008).

Area A (Figure 4)

- 5.2 This area was open for archaeological access and observation but not subject to formal archaeological investigation. Four post holes [F131, F133, F135 and F137] running in a north-south line were observed and investigated in the southeast corner of this area. All had similar grey-brown clay silt fills [130, 132, 134 and 136 respectively] and one of them contained a sherd of 19th / 20th century pottery, indicating that the features were of recent date.

Area B

- 5.3 Most of Area B formed part of the new car park for the development. The exceptions were the extreme southwest of Area B, which formed the service road for the new retail units and the extreme northeast, which connected with the public access road (Area D). The main part of the area was reduced under archaeological supervision to a uniform foundation depth. As the original ground surface had been uneven, the depth of reduction varied across this area. Towards the north and west, the original ground surface was already almost at foundation depth, so very little material was removed and the hardcore from the previous informal car park was not fully removed. Therefore archaeological deposits were not exposed here. Towards the south and east, up to 1m of overburden was removed and consequently a greater range of archaeological deposits was exposed. Following this general ground reduction, two large pits were excavated in the centre of Area B (again under archaeological supervision) to hold storm water storage tanks. These exposed further areas of archaeologically significant deposits. The parts of Area B that were excavated to sufficient depth to expose archaeological deposits are indicated on Figure 2.

Area B1 (Figures 3, 5)

- 5.4 The area directly behind Philip Hall department store and Irelands court (Area B1 on Figure 2) was the first area to be excavated. This was excavated before surveyors had determined the development foundation level, and was excavated to a greater depth than subsequent areas. However, it was not excavated to the full depth of archaeological deposits. Below the hardcore for the car park surface [3; 0.5m deep] was a dark grey-brown silt [36; 0.5m thick] and then a dark orange-brown sandy gravel [4]. A number of pits were cut into the latter horizon. Several contained post-medieval pottery and all are likely to be of this date on stratigraphic grounds.
- 5.5 At the eastern end of this area, a pit [F2; 0.6m in diameter by 0.1m in depth] contained a grey-brown silty clay fill [1]. To its west, a pit [F14; 0.85m in diameter by 0.3m in depth] contained an orange-brown silty gravel fill [13]. This was cut by a later pit [F12; 1.4m by 1.0m by 0.45m in depth] with a grey-brown clay silt fill [11].

- 5.6 Three metres to the south, a pit [F10; 0.4m in diameter by 0.25m in depth] contained a grey silty clay fill [9]. South of this, a pit [F8; 0.3m in diameter by 0.05m in depth] contained a grey-brown silty clay fill [7]. Three metres to the west of these, a pit [F16; 0.4m in diameter by 0.3m in depth] contained a grey-brown silty clay fill [15]; pit [F18, 0.3m in diameter by 0.1m in depth] contained a grey-brown silty clay fill [17]; pit [F20; 0.4m in diameter by 0.1m in depth] also contained a grey-brown silty clay fill [19].
- 5.7 Four metres to the northwest of these, a large pit [F31; 1.2m in diameter by 0.25m in depth] also contained a grey-brown silt fill [30], while 3.5m to the southwest pit [F33; 0.4m in diameter by 0.05m in depth] contained a dark grey silt fill [32] and pit [F35; 0.2m in diameter by 0.3m in depth] also contained a grey-brown silty clay fill [34].
- 5.8 A large rectangular pit [F39; 1.8m by 1.1m by 0.55m deep], with a narrower extension on its eastern side, was located to the west of pit [F35]. This contained a timber lining [38] and a silt fill [37]. The fill contained a large quantity of late 19th / early 20th century artefacts, such as a paint tin, metal bowl, wood off-cuts and ceramic roof tiles. Because of the recent nature of these finds, they were discarded.
- 5.9 A single pit [F6; 0.4m in diameter by 0.1m in depth] was present to the south of former Trial Trench 7 at the southern end of Area B1. It contained a dark grey silty clay fill [5].
- 5.10 A wall foundation composed of rounded cobbles, mortared together [21], crossed Area B2 from east to west and was a continuation of the line of the north wall of Philip Hall department store: the course of this was traced across Area B1. To the north of this, two gullies were present. Gully [F23/25; 0.3m wide by 0.1m deep] contained a grey-brown silty clay fill [22/24] and was orientated north-south. A gully [F29; 0.3m wide by 0.05m deep] containing a mid-brown clay fill [28] ran east-west, following the line of the south wall of the garage to the north of Philip Hall department store. This latter feature was visible during machining but poorly defined on cleaning and excavation.
- 5.11 The skeleton of a dog [27] in a shallow cut [F26] truncated gully [F25]. It was sufficiently recent to still contain organic residue and was therefore not excavated.

Area B2 (Figures 3, 5)

- 5.12 Much of the western side of Area B (referred to as Area B2 on Figure 2) was not excavated to sufficient depth to affect archaeological deposits and only hardcore [3] from the previous informal car parking was exposed. However, the tops of a number of east-west aligned walls, spaced between 9m and 11m apart, were visible within this hardcore; these are likely to have been boundary walls to former burgage plots. They were made from rounded cobbles up to 0.3m in diameter, mortared together. Similar walls (sometimes patched with brick in places) form existing property boundaries in this area, such as the boundary wall between Area B1 and the stonemason's house to the north.

- 5.13 Wall [F21] had been excavated in Area B1 and was also visible to the west. It sat within the general sand layer [4] without having any recognisable cut. Wall [F139] lay 11m to the south with wall [F140] lying 9.5m to the south of this. The latter turned to the north at its western end. This was in line with the western limit of the burgage plots known from cartographic sources. A modern brick addition [F141] was present in the southwest corner of this wall. The next stone wall to the south [F45] wall lay 10m to the south and was exposed in Area B3. Between walls [F140] and [F45] was an additional wall [F138] made from modern brick on a concrete foundation; this represents a modern subdivision of a burgage plot.
- 5.14 Following the general reduction in the ground surface, two underground floodwater storage tanks were excavated in this area; these did reach sufficient depth to affect archaeological remains. However, only one feature was identified; a shallow gully [F162] with a fill containing modern brick and flower pot fragments [161] at the western end of the southern tank. This lack of features in this area, by comparison with the number present in Area B1 immediately to the east, suggests that some form of north-south boundary may have separated the areas, with pits only being excavated to the east; this boundary was not detected archaeologically however.

Area B3 (Figures 4, 5)

- 5.15 Because the pre-construction ground surface rose along the southern edge of Area B, a number of archaeological features were exposed by ground works here (Area B3 on Figure 2). Natural sand [51/61/65/66/81/92] was exposed in the centre of this area. Towards the east, this was overlain by a dark brown silt [44], probably the same as [36] in Area B1, that was deeper than foundation depth for the development and therefore was not fully excavated. Since archaeological deposits were only exposed beneath this layer, its western limit provided an edge for the archaeologically investigated area. Towards the west, the ground surface was not levelled below the depth of the hardcore for the existing car park and again archaeological deposits were not exposed.
- 5.16 In the centre of this area, a slightly sinuous ditch [F55/F77; 0.7m wide] was present on a north-south alignment and could be traced for a distance of more than 11m. The eastern edge of the northern part of this feature was partially removed by other gullies and pits. It contained a single fill, an orange-brown sandy silt [54/76]. The ditch was in the correct position to be a southern continuation of the rear boundary of the burgage plots along Fishergate. In one section, excavated through this ditch, an earlier pit [F97; 0.85m by 0.45m by 0.2m deep] was exposed in its base. This contained a reddish brown sand fill [96]. A second ditch [F101; 0.3m wide by 0.25m deep], perhaps a re-cut, and containing a similar fill [100], was present immediately to the east at the northern end of the former ditch.
- 5.17 A number of large pits were present, mainly to the west of this ditch. Pit F59 measured 6.7m by 3.0m and was more than 1.4m deep with steeply sloping sides. It contained at least five fills; the lowest exposed was a grey-brown silt [58]. This was overlain by a light brown sand [57], a second grey-brown silt

[56] and then a thin layer of yellow-brown sand [67] and finally another grey-brown silt [68] that was only present towards the centre of the pit. Few finds were recovered from any of the fills, although all the pottery recovered was medieval in date. The size of the pit, together with the lack of finds from the fill, suggests that the pit had been dug to quarry out the surrounding sand.

- 5.18 A second large pit [F47; 5.0m by 2.5m by 0.85m deep] cut both the former pit and the ditch. It also had near-vertical sides and contained a single fill of dark reddish brown silt [46], with a rough wall of rounded cobbles along its west side. These may have been placed there to strengthen the pit sides where it was cut into the softer fills of pit [F59]. However, the size of the pit and the general paucity of finds from its fill suggest that the feature had been a quarry pit.
- 5.19 Slightly to the northeast, the ditch and pit [F47] were cut by another pit [F70; 2.2m by 0.8m by 0.55m deep] that contained the articulated remains of a horse [69]. No dateable artefacts were present in the fill, although the burial is stratigraphically the latest in this sequence.
- 5.20 A couple of metres to the north, ditch [F55] was cut by another pit [F49: 3.6m by 2m by 0.55m deep]. This pit directly overlay the ditch and truncated it. It contained a lower fill of redeposited sand [50] and an upper fill of dark orange-brown silt [48]. Towards the west, this pit appeared to be truncated by another one [89: 2.2m diameter by 0.7m deep], although a modern service pipe trench [F95; containing an electric cable 94] obscured the relationship between the two features. This latter pit contained two fills, a lower one of dark orange-grey silt [88] and an upper one of orange-brown silt [87]. Towards the west, pit [F89] truncated a third pit [F91; 1.6m by 1.3m by 0.6m deep], containing a thin deposit of black silt [93; 0.05m thick] below a main fill of orange-brown silty sand [90; 0.6m thick].
- 5.21 A number of other pits were present in this area although none of these displayed relationships to other features. Two smaller pits [F99; 0.6m by 0.4m by 0.25m deep] and [F129; 1.4m by 1.1m by 0.7m deep], were located to the northeast of pit [F49]. The former was filled with a yellow silty sand [98]; the latter was filled with a silty sand [128] overlain by a grey-brown silty clay [127].
- 5.22 A couple of metres to the west of pit [F59], pit [F53; 2.5m by 2.4m by 0.7m deep] had a steeply dipping south side and a shallower northern side. It contained three fills, a reddish-brown clay [60] in its base, a small patch of redeposited sand [64] on its northern side, and a main fill of mixed silt and clay [52] in the remainder of the pit. On its eastern edge, this pit was cut by a smaller later one [F63; 0.5m diameter by 0.1m deep] containing a grey-brown silty sand fill [62].
- 5.23 Four metres to the west, pit [F73] measured 2.7m by 2.4m by 0.35m deep and contained four fills, a reddish-brown silt [78], overlain by a grey-brown silty clay [79]. An orange-brown clay [72] and a dark grey silt [71]. It had been cut by two later pits [F83; 0.6m in diameter by 0.5m deep] and [F85; 0.5m

diameter by 0.4m deep]; the former filled with a dark orange sand [82] over a thin deposit of grey clay [80], and the latter filled with a dark orange-grey sandy clay [84]. A thin band of sandy silt [86] part-overlying deposit [84] may have been trampled from when the pit was filled in.

- 5.24 Pit [F75; 2.3m diameter by 0.8m deep] lay one metre to the south and contained four fills. At the base was a dark grey-brown clay [120] and this was overlain by an orange-brown silt [119], a very dark brown sandy silt [118] and a dark brown silty clay [74].
- 5.25 Three metres to the southeast, and immediately north of a former trial trench (Trench 8), a pit [F43; 1.5m in diameter by 0.45m deep] contained a fill of mid brown silt [40] with a discrete patch of yellow-brown sand [41] in its centre and also redeposited sand [42] overlying the silt in its eastern half.
- 5.26 A culvert [F126] lined with stone [125] and containing a fill of silt containing 20th century artefacts [124], cut silt horizon [44] and ran north-south across this area, immediately to the east of the point where the natural sand became sealed beneath this layer.

Area B4 (Figures 4, 5)

- 5.27 Deep drains were excavated along the southern end of the Blossomgate frontage to the site and these were archaeologically monitored. A large construction trench was excavated in the side of the access road to the south of the King William pub, to allow the installation of an access chamber at the junction of two of these drains (Area B4 on Figure 2). The natural subsoil here was gravel rather than the sand seen elsewhere on the site. Two layers of gravel [117 and 115] were present, separated by a lens of grey silt [116], with sand [114] overlying the gravel towards the west. A vertical-sided cut [F113; 0.6m wide by at least 1.25m deep] filled with a grey clay-silt [112] was present in the northern baulk. This is likely to have been an in-filled well; some large stones on the edges of the cut may have been remains of a lining to this well.
- 5.28 Above the fill of this cut was a deposit of grey clay-silt containing mortar flecks [111; 0.2m thick] and this was cut by a pit [F110; 0.4m wide by 0.35m deep] containing a fill of dark grey-brown silty clay [109]. A surface of rounded cobbles [F108; 0.1m thick] overlay the pit. This cobble surface was cut by a modern service trench [F107] containing a brick junction box and metal pipes [105] filled with grey clay [106]; and also by another well [F123, 1m wide by at least 2m deep] in the southwest corner of the construction trench (and therefore not present in section 30). The well had a lining of 19th to 20th century brick [122] and was filled with dark grey clay [121].
- 5.29 Brick rubble [104] overlay the cobble surface in the northeast corner of the trench and this was overlapped by crushed dolomite hardcore [103] towards the south. Tarmac [102] completed the sequence in this area.

Area B5 (Figures 3, 5)

- 5.30 Archaeological deposits were exposed to the east of the stonemason's house (Area B5 on Figure 2). Westwards, this area was truncated by the foundations for the house, which were cut deeply into the natural subsoil, and beyond this the ground wasn't excavated to sufficient depth to affect archaeological deposits.
- 5.31 Towards the southeast of this area, pit [F144; 2.5m diameter by 0.8m deep] contained a lower fill of orange-brown silty clay [143] and an upper one of grey-brown silty clay [142], separated by a lens of green-grey clay [145]. To the north of this, a pit [F156; 1.75m wide by 0.75m deep] was part-exposed against the northern baulk and contained a fill of grey-brown silty clay [155]. A number of large stones were present in the northern baulk. These were possibly a form of revetting, although this could not be properly investigated. The pit was cut by a smaller one [F154; 0.9m diameter by 0.25m deep] filled by a silty clay containing a number of sherds of 19th to 20th century pottery [153].
- 5.32 West of this, a pit [F152] measuring at least 2m in diameter by 0.5m deep was again only partly exposed against the northern baulk. It contained a lower fill of dark grey-brown clay silt [150] overlain by a deposit of lighter, more sandy silt [148] containing lenses of redeposited natural sand [149]. The pit was next to a small pit [F158; 0.7m wide] with a fill containing modern pottery [157], and was also cut by a modern gully or service trench [F160] with a gravel fill [159]; neither of these were fully excavated.
- 5.33 To the west, pit [F147; 1.2m by 0.7m and 0.8m deep] had been truncated by the foundations for the stonemason's house. It had an orange-brown silty clay fill [146].

Area C

- 5.34 This area was subject to archaeological monitoring. Brick-lined inspection pits from the former garage were noted close to Blossomgate, but no features of archaeological significance were identified.

6. The finds

Pottery assessment

- 6.1 A total of 155 sherds were recovered from 33 stratified contexts (Table 2.1). The majority (90) are medieval or late medieval in date, and include pale and orange sandy and gritty wares, some sooted, including at least one sherd of decorated Brandsby ware dating to the 14th century. Splash glazed, green glazed and reduced greenware are also represented. The remaining 65 sherds are post-medieval to early modern in date, and include examples of plain, willow-patterned and other transfer-printed white ware, yellow-glazed coarseware, plain and painted bone china and slip-banded ware.

Recommendation

- 6.2 It is recommended that the pottery assemblage is subject to a scheme of full analysis by suitable specialists to refine identifications and confirm the date range of the wares represented, and date the archaeological features. This analysis scheme should incorporate the pottery recovered from the evaluation trenching.

Animal bone assessment

- 6.3 The majority of the 174 fragments of faunal remains derive from one post-medieval horse burial found in context [69]. The skeleton is largely complete, though the skull and pelvis are damaged. The animal was a mature adult, with all epiphyses fused and all permanent teeth present and in wear. There is no indication of the cause of death. Measurements taken on one metacarpus, from the forelimb, suggests an estimated height of about 1.5m or 15 hands.
- 6.4 The remaining animal bones were mostly recovered from pit fills (Table 2.2). Preservation is generally good, particularly in the possibly medieval contexts. The bones appear to derive from domestic consumption, with both butchery and gnawing marks noted. Species present are both those kept for meat and also companion animals, with a diverse list of species represented for a small assemblage from a variety of features.

Recommendation

- 6.5 Little, if any, work has been done in the region on the post-medieval improvement of horses, so the skeleton from context [69] should be recorded in full. Alongside further work on the pottery assemblage to confirm context dating, this interesting and diverse small collection requires full analysis by specialists to add to our knowledge of food consumption and animal improvement in medieval and post-medieval Ripon. This analysis should incorporate the assemblage recovered from the evaluation trenching.

Clay pipe

- 6.6 Two undecorated pipe stems were recovered from contexts [30] and [34], and a further two from context [37]. Part of an undecorated pipe bowl came from context [11]. The shape of its large, flat heel suggests that it is of 18th century date.

Recommendations

- 6.7 No further work is recommended on these items.

Glass

- 6.8 Seventeen pieces of clear, unweathered window glass were recovered from contexts [30] and [37], four coming from an environmental sample. These are post-medieval in date. A single fragment of white, frosted vessel glass came from context [15]. Five weathered pieces from the wall of a green glass bottle came from context [71]. Some of these pieces are thick and strongly curved, and are likely to be fragments from an 18th century wine bottle. A further small, highly weathered bottle fragment came from context [118].

- 6.9 Part of the base of a rectangular blue/green translucent glass bottle, probably medicinal, was found in context [37]. This is likely to be 19th century or later in date. This context also produced a complete, rectangular, short-necked clear glass bottle, 205mm high, which was empty of its contents but still held its cork when discovered. The bottle is mould-made and has the letters JL & Co and the numbers 4371 stamped on its base. This bottle probably once held spirits and dates to the 19th century or later.

Recommendations

- 6.10 No further work is recommended on these items.

Building materials

- 6.11 Small fragments of abraded brick were recovered from contexts [30] and [71], the latter showing traces of mortar. Plain earthenware roof tile fragments came from contexts [15] and [69], and a further three pieces from context [40], all with mortar traces along their edges and one also showing part of a small rectangular perforation. These plain roof tiles may be medieval in date. Examples of later pantiles came from contexts [30] and [37]. Pantiles are in use in Britain from the late 17th century onwards.
- 6.12 Pieces of roughcast, undecorated wallplaster came from contexts [30] and [37]. Small fragments of mortar, brick and tile were recovered in environmental samples from contexts [22], [37], [52], [54], [74], [79] and [84]. These pieces had no dateable characteristics.

Recommendations

- 6.13 No further work is recommended on these items.

Metal objects

- 6.14 Recognisable fragments of five iron nails came from contexts [30] and [127], the latter producing four fragments, two of which have traces of adhering mineralised wood. Further nail fragments were recovered in environmental samples from contexts [1], [15], [37], [40], [62] and [142]. A piece of an iron agricultural implement – probably the tip of a ploughshare – came from context [19].
- 6.15 Parts of six thin copper alloy pins, mostly shanks, but some with traces of white metal plating, came from contexts [15] and [37]. Context [37] also produced a length of thin, folded copper alloy wire.

Recommendations

- 6.16 No further work is recommended on these items.

Industrial residues

- 6.17 Pieces of clinker were recovered in environmental samples from contexts [19] and [155]. These are domestic rather than industrial in origin.

Recommendations

- 6.18 No further work is recommended on these items.

7. The environmental evidence

Plant microfossils

Methods statement

- 7.1 Plant macrofossil assessment was carried out on 32 bulk samples taken from pit and gully fills. Samples <1> to <8> are likely to be post-medieval, and samples in the range <12> to <47> are likely to be medieval. The samples were manually floated and sieved through a 500µm mesh. The residues were described and scanned using a magnet for ferrous fragments. The flots were dried slowly and examined at ×40 magnification. The soils from these samples are of a free-draining nature, therefore only carbonised plant material is likely to have been preserved; any uncharred plant remains would be later intrusive material and have not been included in this assessment. Identification of the charred plant remains was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University. Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

Results

- 7.2 Charcoal was present in all contexts except [46], and was usually recorded with some coal, coal shale and clinker, and occasionally semi-vitrified fuel waste. All the contexts except [72] contained a background level of metal dust commonly associated with soils from occupation sites. There were occasional records of CBM, copper alloy, iron, mortar, pot sherds and fire waste. Most of the contexts contained small mammal / amphibian / bird bones, and indeterminate fragments of larger mammal bone. Occasionally the mammal bone fragments were burnt or calcined, and many of the unburnt pieces appeared smoothed and etched, which is characteristic of fragments of bone from dog faeces. Mineralised bone fragments were recorded in context [127], and fish bone was present in more than half of the contexts, with occasional records of fish scales. Single teeth were recorded in contexts [56] and [71].
- 7.3 The charred plant macrofossils consist principally of small numbers of cereal grains and chaff, peas, beans and hazel nutshell fragments, with a few weed seeds from arable, ruderal, heath and wide niche taxa. Oats, wheat, barley and rye were recorded, and cereal chaff was specifically identified in two contexts, confirming the presence of both wild and cultivated oats in context [54], and bread wheat in context [46]. Occasional grains were recorded as having begun to germinate. Semi-mineralised grape pips, and seeds from ribwort plantain and goosefoot were present in context [143].
- 7.4 Modern plant material (principally roots) was recorded regularly with occasional insects, millipedes, terrestrial snail shell fragments and woodlice. The results are presented in Appendix 2 Table 2.3 together with an indication of where material is available that is suitable for radiocarbon dating.

Discussion

- 7.5 The charred food/fodder plant remains are recorded in all contexts but principally in those thought to be associated with the medieval period. The record of both grains and pulses, and this particular suite of grain types *i.e.*

oats, wheat, barley and rye, are typical of deposits from small medieval towns in northern England (Hall & Huntley 2007; Huntley & Stallibrass 1995). By comparison, the contexts thought to be associated with the post-medieval are characteristically poor in quantity and variety of food plant remains (Hall & Huntley 2007), with only wheat and barley present. The limited amount of chaff present does not provide a compelling indication for crop processing at the site, nor does it provide any evidence for the continued use of the glume wheats (emmer or spelt) into the medieval period, as has been recorded at a few sites in the region (Huntley & Stallibrass 1995). Fragments of hazel nutshell, which is commonly found in medieval deposits, indicate that nuts were being used to supplement the diet.

- 7.6 A few of the cereal grains recorded were beginning to germinate at the time of charring. This may indicate that they were harvested in a wet summer where germination had begun on the ear, or that they were stored in unsuitable conditions.
- 7.7 The semi-mineralised seeds, including two grape seeds, recorded in context [143] may have derived from faecal deposits, but there is insufficient evidence to suggest that the context was a latrine fill. This record of grape seed hints at trade links abroad, although the cultivation of grapes at this time in Britain, particularly during the medieval warm period and particularly in the south of the country, cannot be ruled out.
- 7.8 The low levels of fire waste, bone fragments (mammal and fish), etched and semi-mineralised material, and metal dust, are probably representative of a background level associated with human habitation, and there are no indications for any specific use of the features sampled. In very general terms, the fire waste in the post-medieval contexts appears to be more homogenous with similar quantities of charcoal, coal and clinker, whereas the medieval material is generally dominated by charcoal, perhaps suggesting more reliance on, or greater availability of wood for fuel during the medieval occupation.
- 7.9 The assemblage of charred weed seeds suggests an open and disturbed environment, with local heath and areas of damp ground, and with scrub hazel providing a source of wild-gathered nuts. The arable weed seeds may have arrived on site, as low-level contamination of cleaned grain, or may have been produced by relic plants from periods of former agricultural cultivation.

Recommendations

- 7.10 Full analysis is recommended for 20 contexts, as indicated in Table 2.3. This would provide additional information as to the use of these starch staples at this urban site; identification of cereal chaff may provide further, specific information about the cereal types that were being used. Investigation of post-medieval sites in the region is recognised as an important target for further work (Hall & Huntley 2007), and there is potential to compare the plant macrofossil assemblages of this under-recorded period with the preceding medieval period. The report on this should incorporate the data recovered from the evaluation.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 In light of the importance of the site, full analysis of the data in accordance with standard archaeological practice is recommended. This will lead to a full analysis report and publication which should incorporate the results from the evaluation. An Updated Project Design has been included as Appendix 5, detailing the tasks to be undertaken to achieve this.

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Appendix 1: Context data

Summary list of contexts. The • symbols in the columns at the right indicate the presence of finds of the following types: P pottery, B bone, M metals, S slag, O other materials.

No	Description	P	B	M	S	O
1	Fill of F2	•		•		
F2	Pit cut					
3	Hardcore (car park surface)					
4	Dark orange-brown sandy gravel					
5	Fill of F6					
F6	Pit cut					
7	Fill of F8					
F8	Pit cut					
9	Fill of F10					
F10	Pit cut					
11	Fill of F12	•	•			•
F12	Pit cut					
13	Fill of F14					
F14	Pit cut					
15	Fill of F16	•	•	•		•
F16	Pit cut					
17	Fill of F18					
F18	Pit cut					
19	Fill of F20			•	•	
F20	Pit cut					
F21	East – west cobble wall	•				
22	Fill of F23	•				•
F23	North – south gully cut					
24	Fill of F25 – same as 22	•				
F25	Gully cut – same as 23					
26	Dog burial (recent)					
F27	Cut for dog burial					
28	Fill of F29					
F29	Shallow east-west gully					
30	Fill of F31	•	•	•		•
F31	Pit cut					
32	Fill of F33	•	•			
F33	Pit cut					
34	Fill of F35	•				•
F35	Post hole cut					
36	Former topsoil below 3	•				
37	Fill of F38	•	•	•		•
F38	Pit cut					
39	Timber lining to F38					
40	Fill of pit F43	•	•	•		•
41	Fill of pit F43					
42	Fill of pit F43					
F43	Pit cut					
44	Brown silt below topsoil					
45	East – west cobble wall	•	•			
46	Fill of pit F47	•				
F47	Pit cut					
48	Fill of pit F49	•	•			
F49	Pit cut					
50	Fill of pit F49					
51	Natural					

No	Description	P	B	M	S	O
52	Fill of pit F53		•			•
F53	Pit cut					
54	Fill of ditch F55		•			•
F55	Ditch cut					
56	Fill of pit F59	•	•			
57	Fill of pit F59	•	•			
58	Fill of pit F59		•			
F59	Pit cut					
60	Fill of pit F53					
61	Natural					
62	Fill of pit F63			•		
F63	Pit cut					
64	Fill of pit F53 – redeposited natural					
65	Natural					
66	Natural					
67	Fill of pit F59					
68	Fill of pit F59					
69	Horse burial		•			•
F70	Cut for horse burial					
71	Fill of pit F73	•	•			•
72	Fill of pit F59					
F73	Pit cut					
74	Fill of pit F74					•
F75	Pit cut		•			
76	Fill of ditch F77	•	•			
F77	Ditch cut – same as F55					
78	Fill of pit F73	•				
79	Fill of pit F73					•
80	Fill of pit F73					
81	Natural					
82	Fill of pit F83					
F83	Pit cut					
84	Fill of pit F85	•				•
F85	Pit cut					
86	Clay deposit overlying F73 and F85					
87	Fill of pit F89	•				
88	Fill of pit F89	•				
F89	Pit cut					
90	Fill of pit F91	•				
F91	Pit cut					
92	Natural					
93	Fill of pit F91					
94	Fill of service trench 95					
F95	Cut for service pipe trench					
96	Fill of pit F97	•	•			
F97	Cut for pit					
98	Fill of pit F99		•			
F99	Cut for pit					
100	Fill of gully F101					
F101	Gully cut					
102	Tarmac in Blossomgate service trench					
103	Hardcore in Blossomgate service trench					
104	Brick rubble in Blossomgate service trench					
105	Brick drainage duct in Blossomgate service trench					
106	Dark grey clay silt in Blossomgate service trench					
F107	Cut for drainage pipe in Blossomgate service trench					
108	Cobbled surface in Blossomgate service trench					

No	Description	P	B	M	S	O
109	Fill of F110					
F110	Shallow pit in Blossomgate service trench					
111	Grey clay silt in Blossomgate service trench					
112	Fill of F113					
F113	Cut for possible well in Blossomgate service trench					
114	Layer within natural in Blossomgate service trench					
115	Layer within natural in Blossomgate service trench					
116	Layer within natural in Blossomgate service trench					
117	Layer within natural in Blossomgate service trench					
118	Fill of pit F75					•
119	Fill of pit F75					
120	Fill of pit F75					
121	Fill of well 122					
122	Brick well					
F123	Cut for well 122					
124	Fill of culvert 125	•	•			
125	Stone-lined culvert					
F126	Cut for culvert 125					
127	Fill of pit F129	•	•	•		
128	Fill of pit F129		•			
F129	Cut for pit					
130	Fill of post hole F131					
F131	Cut for post hole					
132	Fill of post hole F133	•				
F133	Cut for post hole					
134	Fill of post hole F59					
F135	Cut for post hole					
136	Fill of post hole F137					
F137	Cut for post hole					
138	East-west brick wall					
139	East-west brick wall					
140	East-west stone wall					
141	North-south brick wall					
142	Fill of pit F144			•		
143	Fill of pit F144	•	•			
F144	Cut for pit					
145	Fill of pit F144					
146	Fill of pit F147					
F147	Cut for pit					
148	Fill of pit F152	•	•			
149	Fill of pit F152					
150	Fill of pit F152	•				
151	Void					
F152	Cut for pit					
153	Fill of pit F154	•				
F154	Cut for pit					
155	Fill of pit F156	•	•		•	
F156	Cut for pit					
157	Fill of pit F158					
F158	Cut for modern pit (unexcavated)					
159	Fill of gully F59					
F160	Cut for modern gully (unexcavated)					
161	Fill of gully F59					
F162	Cut for modern gully (unexcavated)					

Appendix 2: Data tables

Table 2.1: Pottery

Context	Med/late med	Post med
u/s	2	
1	2	
11	8	
15	4	
21		1
22	1	1
24	1	
30	2	8
32		1
34		4
36	7	
37	4	28
40	3	
45	1	
46	1	
48	2	
56	1	
58	1	
71	5	
76	8	
78	5	1
84		1
87	6	
88	1	
90	1	
96	1	
124	4	4
127	1	
132	1	1
143	4	
148	9	
150	1	
153		15
155	3	
Total	90	65

Table 2.2: *Approx animal bone fragment counts for species present*

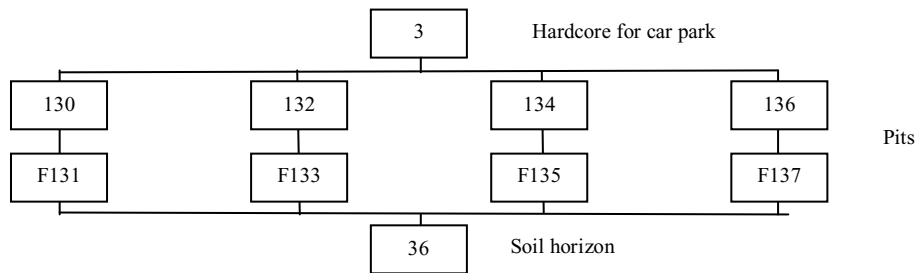
Context	11	15	30	32	37	40	45	48	52	54	56	57	58	69	71	75	76	96	98	124	127	128	143	148	155	Totals
Cattle				1	2		1	2	1	3	2	1			5		5	2			3	1	2		1	32
Sheep/goat	2	1			1	1			1	1	1		1		4	1			2		5				2	22
Goat																		1								1
Pig										1			1		2		5		1							10
Horse														87	3		1									91
Dog			2		1											1	1			1						6
Cat					1																					1
Rabbit					1																					1
Cat/Rabbit			2																		2					4
Hare					1																					1
Dom fowl				1				1																1		3
Bird sp.																					1					1
Fish sp.																					1					1
Totals	2	1	4	2	7	1	1	3	2	5	3	1	2	87	14	2	12	3	3	1	12	1	2	1	3	174

Table 2.3: Data from plant macrofossil assessment

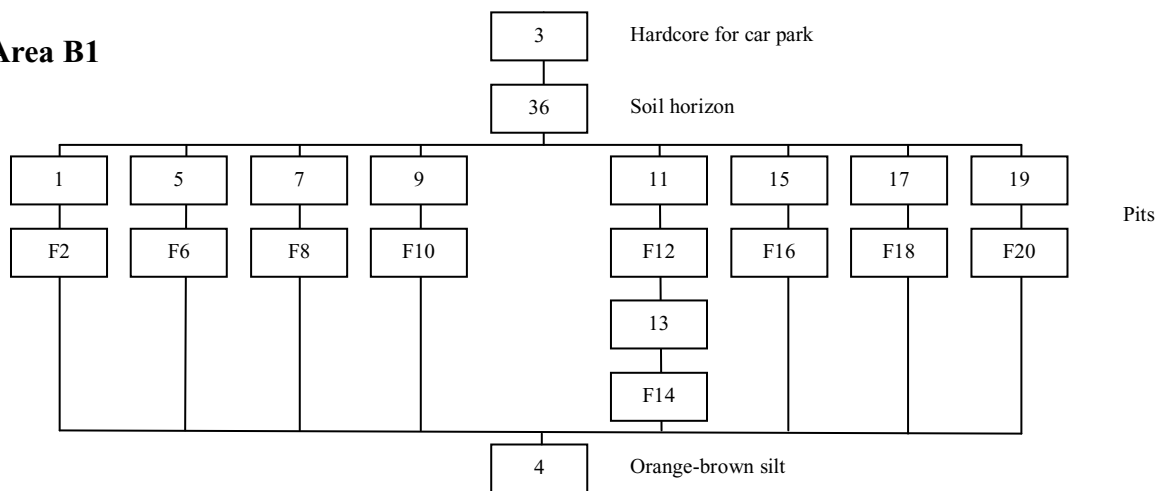
Context	1	7	9	11	15	17	19	22	40	48	52	46	54	62	56	58	71	72	74	93	79	98	88	127	118	119	142	143	146	155	148	150	
Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	12	13	15	16	17	18	19	20	22	23	24	25	26	32	34	36	38	39	41	42	43	44	46	47	
<i>Full analysis recommended</i>	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	
<i>Material available for radiocarbon dating</i>	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Volume processed (ml)</i>	5000	2000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000		
<i>Material remaining</i>	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Volume of flot (ml)</i>	<5	25	100	75	50	30	100	25	50	20	40	25	30	25	25	30	25	20	100	50	25	25	10	75	50	75	45	50	75	50	25	25	
<i>Volume of flot assessed (ml)</i>	<5	25	100	75	50	30	100	25	50	20	40	25	30	25	25	30	25	20	100	50	25	25	10	75	50	75	45	50	75	50	25	25	
<i>Residue contents (relative abundance)</i>																																	
Bone (burnt)	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bone (calcined)	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bone (unburnt)	2	2	1	2	2	2	-	2	1	2	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	2	1	-	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	
CBM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Coal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	
Coal shale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	
Copper alloy	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Fire waste (domestic / industrial)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	
Fish Bone	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Iron	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Metal dust	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	
Mollusca shell (terrestrial)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Mortar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pot sherds (total no.)	4	-	-	1	3	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	
Teeth (total no.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Flot matrix (relative abundance)</i>																																	
Bone (calcined) indeterminate	fragments	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-
Bone (burnt) indeterminate	fragments	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Bone (etched) indeterminate	fragments	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bone (mineralised) indeterminate	fragments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bone (unburnt) indeterminate	fragments	-	-	3	1	3	1	3	1	2	2	1	-	2	1	-	2	1	2	-	-	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
Bone - small mammal / amphibian / bird		1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	3	-	3	2	2	1	1	2	1	1-2	-	2
CBM		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Charcoal		3	2	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	3	4	5	4	5	4	4	
Clinker		2	2	3	3	4	3	3	2	2	3	1	-	1	2	-	3	2	2	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	3	-	2	
Coal		-	2	3	3	4	3	3	2	3	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	3	2	-	2	3	2	-	-	1	1	2	2
Conifer needle tip (charred)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diplopoda (millipedes)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Fish bone		-	-	2	1	2	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	-	
Fish scales		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	
Insecta		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Isopoda (Woodlice)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Metallic beads (hammerscale?)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	
Mollusca shell (terrestrial)		-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Roots (modern)		-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	2	2	3	2	-	2	2	-	2	3	-	-	3	2	3	
Semi-vitrified fuel waste		-	1	1	2	2	-	2	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Vegetative material	miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Appendix 3: Stratigraphic matrices

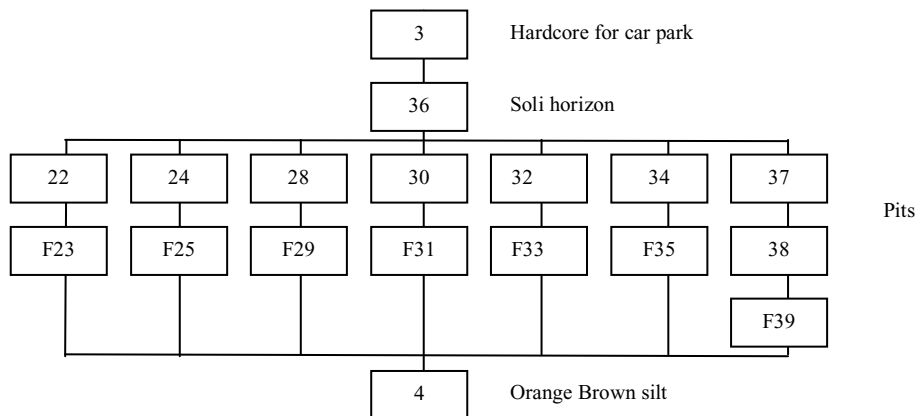
Area A



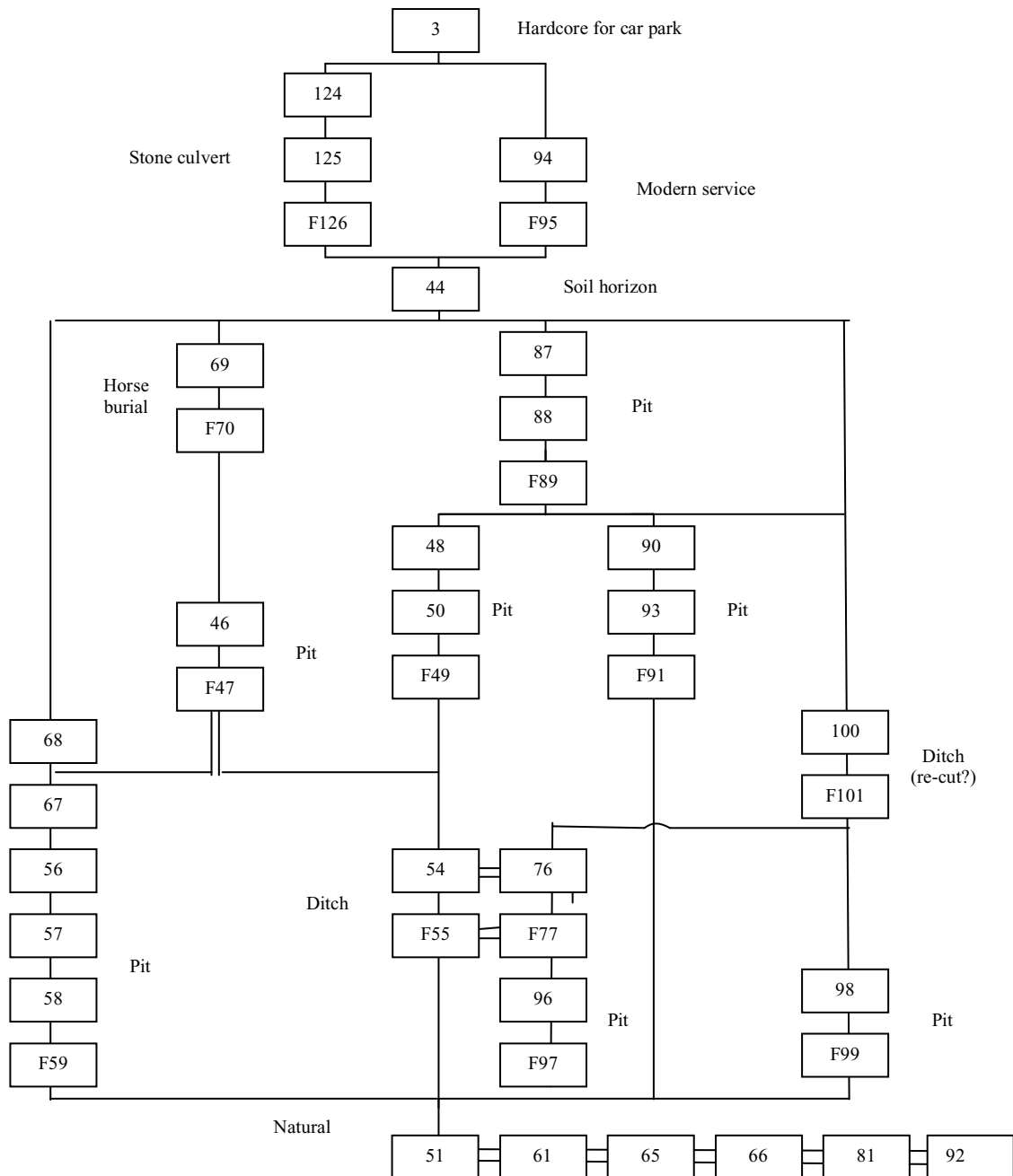
Area B1



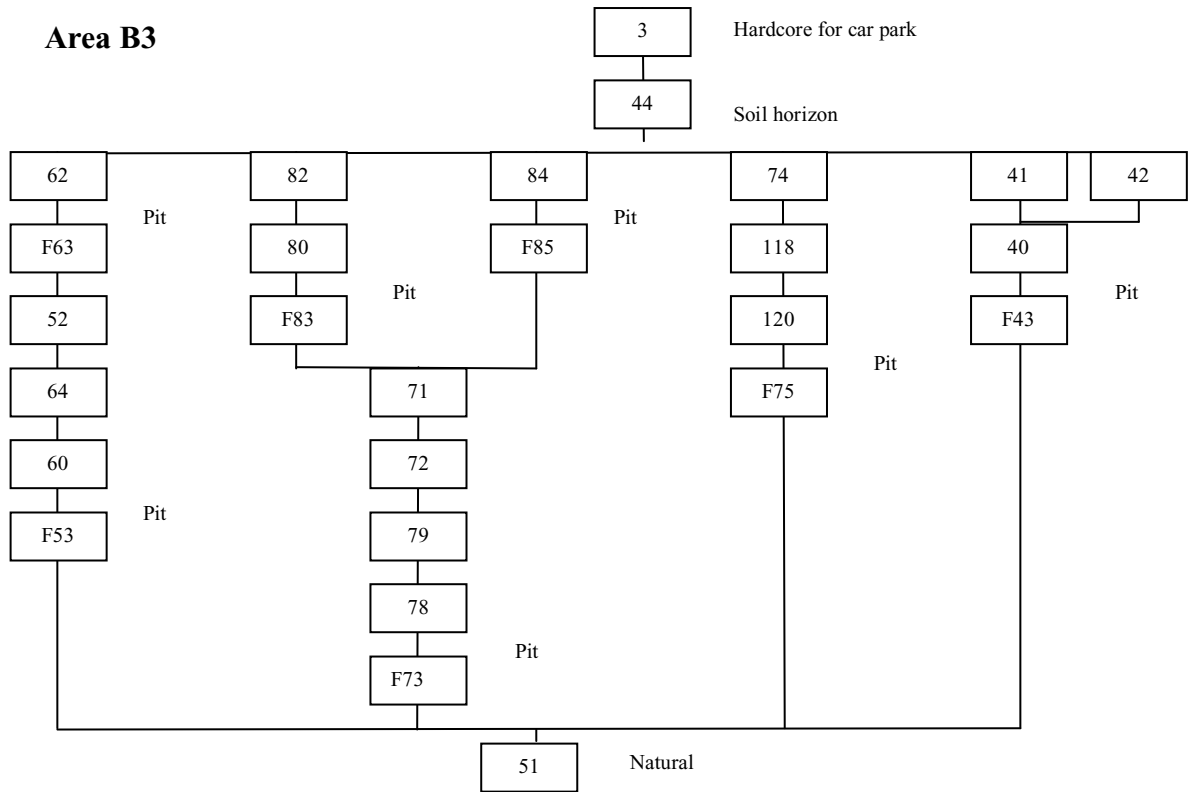
Area B1



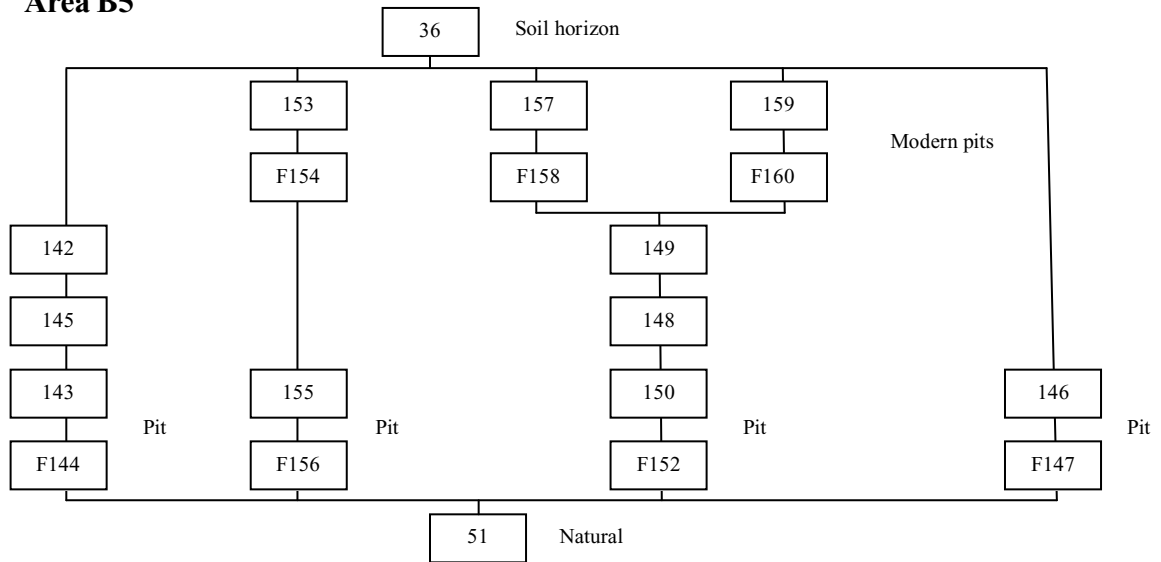
Area B3



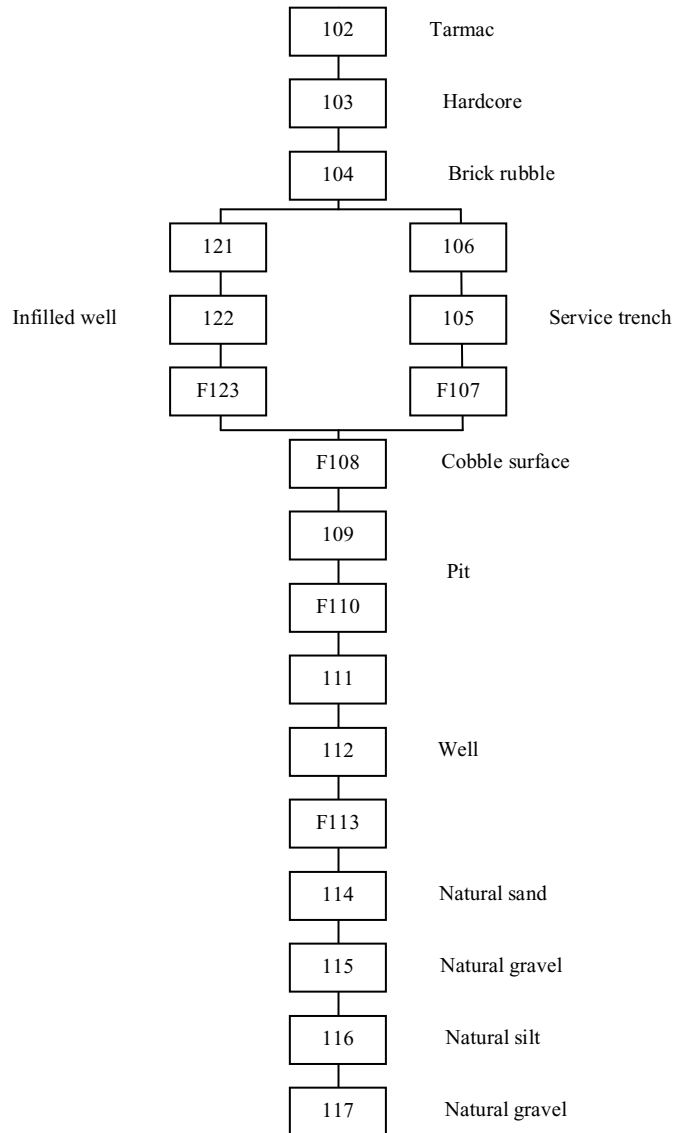
Area B3



Area B5



Area B4



Appendix 4: Project specification



LAND WEST OF MARKET PLACE **RIPON**

**Written Scheme of Investigation:
Mitigation of Development by
Maple Grove Developments Ltd and
North Yorkshire County Council
At NGR SE 3110 7137**

August 2006

For:

Maple Grove Developments Ltd &
North Yorkshire County Council

By:

Heritage Section
Development & Countryside Unit
North Yorkshire County Council
Northallerton
Tel (01609) 780780

keep north yorkshire moving

Mike Moore OBE, Corporate Director - Environmental Services Tel: 01609 532124 Fax: 01609 760794 E-mail: mike.moore@northyorks.gov.uk

West of Market Place

Location and Description

- 1 The development site is located on land to the west of Market Place, Ripon. It is bounded to the north by Welbourne Grove, St Wilfred's Place and Coltsgate, to the west by Blossomgate, and to the east by the backs of properties fronting Market Place, Fishergate and North Street. The site is approximately 2 hectares in area, and is accessed through Blossomgate. Currently, the area contains surfaced and unsurfaced car parking areas, a stone mason's yard, brick storage buildings, the site of a car sales garage, other garages and commercial buildings, and areas of trees and scrub vegetation. A number of shops on Fishergate use the area for rear access to their premises. The site is proposed for a new supermarket and housing development, and includes parts of several burgage plots that have survived down to the present day.

Archaeological Importance

- 2 A desk-based assessment for the development area was prepared by Oxford Archaeology North (OAN) in 2003 (Issue 2003-4/162), and the results of an archaeological evaluation were reported on by Archaeological Services University of Durham (ASUD Report 1287: June 2005). The ASUD report identified three zones of archaeological potential in the development area (see Figure 14). An area centred on the location of the new supermarket is considered to have low potential for archaeological remains. An area between the supermarket and the properties fronting Fishergate is considered to have high potential, and the area of the access road from the north is considered to have medium archaeological potential.
- 3 In general, archaeological deposits within this area of Ripon have the potential to contain boundary features relating to the layout and development of a medieval market town, as well as important assemblages of pottery, bones, leather and other 'industrial' debris. In particular, remains relating to industries such as parchment making, horn working, brewing, shoe-making, metal-working, net-making and pelt working have been recovered from excavations in or around the Market Place. Residual pottery dating from the 11th century has also been found in Ripon, so even re-worked deposits may contain important information. Deposits in Ripon are considered to be locally to regionally important.

Aims and Objectives

- 4 Archaeological evidence from this site could illuminate the industrial, political and ecclesiastical history of Ripon. Remains from the pre-Conquest, Anglo-Norman, high medieval, and early post-medieval periods may be present. Excavation may bring to light evidence of specialised activities such as malting or hide processing, as well as generalised or repeated activities such as land layout, rebuilding and levelling. Reports by ASUD (2001, 2005), OAN (2003), and York Archaeological Trust (Finlayson 2004) set out indicative research agenda which the mitigation work should address.

West of Market Place

- 5 The general aim of the work is to recover archaeological finds and information that address the indicative research agenda, and to provide a standard "rescue" level of record for the archaeology on site as part of the overall development. The relevant research questions for mitigation work at this site should be set out by the archaeological contractor in a statement of aims to be submitted to the County Archaeologist before fieldwork begins.
- 6 This aim will be pursued through open area excavation in advance of development, concurrent environmental sampling and assessment, "watching brief" type works during road construction and services trenching, post-excavation assessment, preparation of a summary report, and transfer of the archive to the Harrogate Museums Service.

Statement of Research Aims

- 7 The archaeological contractor should submit prior to the commencement of operations a precise document setting out the research questions or agenda to be addressed by 'rescue' level excavations at this location in Ripon. The statement should summarise the pertinent theoretical or substantive issues to be addressed, identify the evidence that may inform on these issues, and formulate the research basis for the work in the form of questions or hypotheses (cf Thomas 1999) which can be tested against the finds or deposits likely to be found on the site. The document should not provide a potted history of Ripon, nor should it refer in general to previous investigations in Ripon except where these works have raised particular issues or questions relevant to the site. The questions should involve several classes of evidence, so that even if archaeological remains are limited, then at least one of the aims should be capable of effective investigation.
- 8 The document should also outline the proposed strategy for the sampling and recovery of finds, and environmental evidence in accordance with research aims. The names of specialists to be used should be listed. An indicative strategy for this site would include concurrent sampling and assessment of samples to inform on-going excavation, consultation with the English Heritage Regional Archaeological Science Advisor, sampling of deposits with particularly high or low Munsell colour Values, assessment of the contribution of industrial debris or building materials to deposits, and a finds strategy.

Investigation Areas and Sequence of Work

- 9 Four areas, A, B, C, and D, as indicated in the attached plan, have been identified with respect to archaeological work. Area A will not be subject to formal archaeological investigation and recording. However, Area A will be subject to archaeological access and observation if any archaeological remains are unexpectedly encountered during development. Work in Area A will be the responsibility of Maple Grove Developments Ltd.

West of Market Place

- 10 Area B will be subject to open area excavations in advance of development. Not all of the area need be subject to open area excavation, depending on the impact of development, character of archaeology encountered, and the sequence of demolition of structures, stripping of overburden, and provision of access across the area. Work in Area B will be largely the responsibility of Maple Grove Developments Ltd, although North Yorkshire County Council will be responsible for work on its length of the access road to Coltsgate that runs through Area B.
- 11 Area C, which includes a strip of footpath along the street front of Area A, will be subject to an extensive watching brief during overburden stripping and excavation of service trenches. Work in this area is the responsibility of Maple Grove Developments Ltd.
- 12 Area D will be subject to an intensive watching brief during ground preparation, clearance to formation level, and services emplacement. This area follows the route of the access road to Coltsgate, and work in this area is the responsibility of North Yorkshire County Council.
- 13 Investigations in Area B can start at any time in advance of development. Arrangements will need to be made to timetable and stagger the work so as to allow for demolition of structures, provision of access to shops and offices, and the movement or storage of spoil on site. Where feasible, excavations should be opened up so as to be contiguous with each other, to provide a continuous plan and cross-section across the site.
- 14 Investigations in Areas C and D are dependent upon the timing of the construction of the access road, and will be undertaken as part of that development. Whilst construction work can start in Area A without an archaeological presence on site in the first instance, construction in Areas C and D should not start until the archaeological contractor is on site to begin observation and recording.

Overburden Removal

- 15 In Areas B, C and D, the removal of topsoil, tree roots, walls, ground-fast structures such as foundations, tarmac, and modern fill materials should be subject to archaeological supervision. Removal should be undertaken by a back-acting excavator, using a wide, toothless or ditching bucket. Concrete slabs should be broken up by breaker before removal. A mini-excavator such as a Kubota may be used in confined areas, but a large tracked excavator should be used elsewhere.

Observation in Area A

- 16 It is not anticipated that Area A will produce archaeological remains of interest. However, in the event that such remains are encountered, the construction contractor should notify the archaeological contractor of the discovery in a timely fashion and the

West of Market Place

archaeological contractor should be allowed to observe and take photographs. Where feasible and time allows, and with the agreement of the construction contractor and the County Archaeologist, recording of such remains should be undertaken in accordance with the 'watching brief' set out in Annex 1. The results of any such recording in Area A should be incorporated into the site archive and final summary report for the whole site (Areas A, B, C and D).

Extensive 'Watching Brief' for Area C

- 17 Investigations in Area C should be undertaken as per the 'watching brief' set out in Annex 1. The results of investigations in Area C should be incorporated into the site archive and final summary report for the whole site.

Intensive 'Watching Brief' for Area D

- 18 Area D should be subject to an intensive watching brief. The demolition of structures and removal of foundations and overburden should be closely supervised by the archaeological contractor. Machine clearance will proceed only to the top of archaeological deposits or the formation level whichever is the higher. At this point, there will be a stand-down of heavy plant and machinery, and the archaeological contractor should be provided with the opportunity to clean, assess, sample, excavate by hand where appropriate, and record any archaeological remains as per the watching brief in Annex 1. The stand-down of plant should not last any longer than 7 working days. Other construction work not directly impacting on the archaeological investigations can continue in Area D during this stand-down period, i.e. construction of boundary walls adjacent to the access road. The results of investigations in Area D should be incorporated into the results for the whole site.

Open Area Excavation of Area B

- 19 Area B is an extensive area of different land cover and uses, including access tracks, walls, hard standing, vegetation, and other structures. Investigations within this area will proceed through sequential contiguous area or trench excavations, subject to iterative review and targeting in accordance with research aims, and arranged around the need to accommodate other users of the site. It is considered that not all of Area B needs to be investigated from an archaeological perspective, but the northern end, southern end and eastern edge behind the shops are considered key areas for archaeological remains. It is anticipated that in total about 3400 square metres may need to be opened up, at least to formation level, though not all of this cleared area would reveal archaeological remains or require detailed archaeological recording.
- 20 All excavated trenches and areas should be rapidly cleaned, assessed, planned and given elevations to show the distribution of all archaeological features and deposits. Where features and deposits are revealed, these should be hand cleaned, given context numbers, and planned at conventional scales to show the horizontal distribution of contexts. The elevation of the underlying natural subsoil where exposed

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should be recorded. All excavation areas should be plotted with respect to nearby roads and buildings, and national grid references.

- 21 Archaeological features and deposits should be targeted for detailed excavation and recording in accordance with the Statement of Research Aims. All major discrete features should be cross-sectioned by hand excavation, and subject to sampling for environmental remains where the criteria for sampling are met as per the Statement of Research Aims. Significant accumulations of finds within secure archaeological contexts should be targeted for total recovery. Where large features such as pits or wells are likely to extend deeper than 1.2 m below surface, augering should be tried to find their approximate depth. Wells should have only their upper levels investigated and recorded, their well cut planned, and then the exposed remains should be prepared for capping-off by the construction contractor. Other unknown or enigmatic features should be investigated similarly on a sampling basis. In respect of post and stake holes, a representative sample of these should be investigated to obtain a general understanding of their character, depth and size distribution across the site. Running sections should be recorded for open layered deposits, and where possible, a single contiguous section should be prepared at an appropriate scale to show the stratigraphy across Area B.
- 22 Using the information and artefacts collected to this stage, all features and deposits should be assessed as to their origin or function, probable date, and importance for further recording. At this stage and in conjunction with a site visit, the County Archaeologist should be consulted to discuss the potential of the remains, and agree any additional targeted excavation in relation to the Statement of Research Aims. For example, pit features may need to be excavated entirely to recover significant assemblages of finds.

Metal Detection and Unstratified Finds Recovery

- 23 All cleaned surfaces of features and archaeological layers should be scanned for metal object signals, and excavation priorities assessed taking these signals into account. Metal objects should be recovered from the surface of in situ deposits before the end of each day, subject to archaeological supervision such that finds are properly recorded and conserved. All metal detection should be undertaken according to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice.
- 24 Other non-metallic unstratified finds arising from overburden removal should be recovered and incorporated into the investigations in accordance with the Statement of Research Aims.

Post-Excavation Assessment

- 25 All plans and sections should be checked prior backfilling or leaving the site. The content of field records at this stage should be sufficient to meet NYCC guidelines on reporting. Harris matrix diagrams should be prepared to show visible relationships

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amongst contexts and any concordances between excavation areas. Information from all four areas of the site should be amalgamated and compared.

- 26 All finds should be identified, subject to investigative conservation as appropriate, and properly packaged and stored. A site archive should be compiled, consisting of all photographs and primary written records such as plans, sections, site narrative, concordance of contexts, and the assessment report. Catalogues of finds, plans, sections, and photographs should be produced and cross-referenced. The site archive should be inspected by the Curator of the Harrogate Museums Service, and should be prepared and packaged in accordance with the curatorial requirements of the Harrogate Borough Museums Service.
- 27 Following *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991) guidelines, an assessment enumerating the different kinds of evidence from the site, their potential, and costs for further analysis should be prepared and submitted as an interim Post-Excavation Assessment report. Three copies of this report should be prepared, one each for the two clients and the County Archaeologist.

Post-Excavation Analysis

- 28 A meeting should be convened with the two clients, the archaeological contractor, and the County Archaeologist to discuss the findings of the post-excavation Assessment Report. Further work to record properly the archaeological interest of the site should be undertaken as agreed at this meeting. Upon completion of the agreed analytical work, a research archive should be prepared in accordance with the curatorial requirements of the Harrogate Borough Museums Service to add to the site archive.

Summary Report

- 29 A summary report should be prepared following NYCC guidelines on reporting. The report should incorporate a brief introduction, a summary of works carried out including photographs of operations, description of the remains including relevant plans and sections, summaries of specialist investigations, comparison with finds from nearby sites, interpretation and assessment of the significance of the remains in relation to the research aims, catalogues of finds, plans and sections, and photographs, and copies of this WSI and the Statement of Research Aims.
- 30 Eight (8) copies of the summary report should be produced, two (2) each for each of the two clients (Maple Grove Developments and North Yorkshire County Council), and one (1) each under separate cover for the Harrogate Museums Service, Harrogate Borough Council Planning department, the Ripon Local Studies Room, and the Historic Environment Record. The archaeological contractor should be prepared to provide additional copies to clients for planning purposes.
- 31 The archaeological contractor should liaise with the County Historic Environment Record to make arrangements for the transfer of digital data and mapping.

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Project Management

- 32 Although the Health & Safety Executive does not consider archaeological investigations to fall within the definition of "construction work" in the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 1994, archaeological work on site should not start until an archaeological project risk assessment has been provided for the Health and Safety File of the client (North Yorkshire County Council & Mouchel Parkman Ltd).
- 33 Archaeological work should not start until the Curator of Harrogate Museums Service and environmental specialists have confirmed formally that they are aware of the proposed work and are available to give advice or specialist services. Work should not start until contingency arrangements for bad weather have been agreed as part of any contract.
- 34 The archaeological contractor should notify the County Archaeologist by letter or e-mail (archaeology@northyorks.gov.uk) at least 10 working days before the start of archaeological works of the site staff undertaking the work, the start date of works, and a site contact telephone number.
- 35 The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work is requested by the clients (Maple Grove Developments Ltd & NYCC) to grant a licence to the County Council and Harrogate Museums Service to use such documentation for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions. Under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), such documentation is required to be made available to enquirers if it meets the test of public interest. Any information disclosure issues should be resolved between the client and the archaeological contractor before completion of the work. EIR requirements do not affect IPR.
- 36 Upon completion of the work, the archaeological contractor should make their work accessible to the wider research community by submitting digital data and copies of reports online to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>). Submission of data to OASIS does not discharge the planning requirements for the archaeological contractor to notify the County Archaeology Service of the details of the work and to provide the Historic Environment Record (HER) with a summary report on the work.
- 37 All archaeological work on site should be carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Field Archaeologists (2000) and in accordance with the IFA Standard and Guidance for Excavations (1995).
- 38 This scheme summarises the elements of archaeological work needed to mitigate the impact of the current road proposals on archaeological interests. It is **not** a contract, Bill of Quantities, or a complete specification, and the County Heritage Section makes no warranty that the works are fully or exactly described. No work on site should commence until implementation of this scheme is the subject of a standard ICE

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Conditions of Contract for Archaeological Investigation (see http://www.ice.org.uk/services/bookshop_main.asp?ISBN=0727732897) or similar agreement between the client and the archaeological contractor.

- 39 Archaeological work will be subject to a programme of monitoring, the details of which should be agreed between the archaeological contractor and the County Archaeologist. This programme of monitoring should include at least one site visit during fieldwork, and an inspection of the archive by the Curator of the Harrogate Museums Service, who should also be invited to any on-site monitoring meetings.
- 40 Access to the site should be arranged through Maple Grove Developments Ltd, c/o Mr A Hills, tel (01524) 842712, or Mr G Tyerman, Mouchel Parkman Ltd, 1 Racecourse Lane, Northallerton, DL7 8FN (tel 01609-785853, e-mail graham.tyerman@mouchelparkman.com). Enquiries on archaeological matters should be directed to the County Archaeologist, Heritage Section, Planning & Countryside Unit, County Hall, Northallerton, tel (01609) 780780 ext 2330.
- 41 Any changes to the character or extent of works as outlined in this brief due to site circumstances or other factors should be agreed in writing with the County Archaeologist before being implemented.

References

- Archaeological Services University of Durham (2001) Ripon City Centre Improvement: Market Square Stage 2. ASUD Report 835.
- Archaeological Services University of Durham (2005) Land West of Market Place, Ripon: archaeological evaluation. ASUD Report 1287.
- English Heritage (1991) Management of Archaeological Projects.
- Finlayson, R (2004) The Arcade, Ripon: Report on the Excavation & Archaeological Analysis. York Archaeological Trust Report No 2004/45.
- Oxford Archaeological North (2003) Land to West of Market Place, Ripon: Desk-Based Assessment (Issue 2003-4/162).
- Thomas, R. (1999) "Writing Excavation Reports: a question of questions ?" In: The Archaeologist 34:19.

West of Market Place

Annex 1

STANDARD WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING ("WATCHING BRIEF")

- 1 The purpose of the work is to record and recover archaeological remains which are:
 - a) not available or susceptible to standard area excavation techniques, or
 - b) of limited importance or potential.The work should not require the construction programme or development to be held up while archaeological investigation takes place, although some developers may give such a facility.
- 2 The removal of overburden should be supervised by the archaeological contractor as per Clause 14 in the main brief. Machine excavation should proceed to the top of archaeological deposits or formation level whichever is the higher. The archaeological contractor should be informed of the correct timing and schedule of overburden removal. Bulldozers or wheeled scraper buckets should not be used to remove overburden above archaeological deposits.
- 3 Metal detecting in the area of investigation, including the scanning of topsoil and spoil heaps, should only be permitted subject to archaeological supervision and recording such that metal finds are properly located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection should be carried out following the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice.
- 4 Where structures, finds, soil features and layers of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed by construction works, the archaeological contractor should be provided with the opportunity to observe, clean, assess, excavate by hand where appropriate and in accordance with the Statement of Research Aims (Clause 7 of the main brief), sample and record these features and finds. If the contractors or plant operators notice archaeological remains, they should immediately tell the archaeological contractor. The sampling of deposits should be undertaken in accordance with the strategy set out in the statement of research aims. If human remains are encountered, they should be exhumed subject to the conditions of an exhumation licence.
- 5 Heavy plant should not be operated in the near vicinity of archaeological remains until they have been recorded, and the archaeological contractor on site has allowed operations to recommence at that location. Sterile subsoils (C horizons) and parent materials below archaeological deposits may be removed without archaeological supervision.
- 6 Upon completion of fieldwork, samples should be processed and evaluated, and all finds identified, assessed, spot-dated, properly stored, and subject to investigative conservation as needed, in conjunction with finds from other areas of investigation. All primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs should be included in the site archive for the whole site. All findings should be included within the post-excavation and summary reports for whole of the site, following NYCC guidelines on reporting.
- 7 The County Archaeologist should be informed as soon as possible of the discovery of any unexpected archaeological remains, or changes in the programme of ground works on site. Any significant changes in the archaeological work should be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by the planning authority.

Appendix 5: Updated Project Design

Tasks

Project management

- 1 All aspects of report writing and specialist activity, including the transportation of finds, will be co-ordinated.

Ceramic assemblage

- 2 Full analysis of ceramic assemblage.

Animal bone

- 3 The horse skeleton from context [69] will be recorded in full and compared to other similar skeletons known from the region. The other animal bones will be fully catalogued and examined to add to our knowledge of food consumption and animal improvement in medieval and post medieval Ripon.

Environmental samples

- 4 Full analysis will be carried out on the 20 contexts identified in Table 2.3. This will provide additional information about the use of cereals at this urban site; identification of chaff may provide further specific information about the cereal types that were being used. The report will include the data from the evaluation.

Illustrations

- 5 Illustration of selected artefacts.
- 6 Plans and sections from the site archive will be selected and digitised.
- 7 Final phase drawings for the full analysis reports will be prepared.
- 8 Selected drawings will be reformatted for publication.

Report preparation

- 9 Preparation of data structure incorporating both excavation and evaluation phases.
- 10 Analysis of data against tenement plans for Ripon; research and integration with known information on development of burgage plots in Ripon and similar towns in the region throughout the medieval and post medieval periods.
- 11 Collation of specialist artefact and environmental reports and preparation of a full synthesis of the work, incorporating the results of the analysis within the wider regional research frameworks.
- 12 Production of full analysis report.
- 13 Report production and submission.
- 14 Editing of full analysis report for publication and production of publication.

- 15 Submission of publication to the editor of the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal.
 - 16 Preparation of the project archive.
 - 17 Transfer of the site archive.
- Programme**
- 18 The specialist work will be commissioned on agreement of the scheme of work. The works will be completed over a period of 9 months.