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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
RICHMOND SCHOOL, DARLINGTON ROAD, RICHMOND,
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Richmond School, Darlington Road, Richmond,
North Yorkshire**

Central National Grid Reference: NZ 1816 0145

Site Codes: RMS 07 & RMS 10

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CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	1
2. INTRODUCTION	2
3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY	10
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS	12
5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	17
6. REFERENCES	18
7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS	19

List of Figures

Figure 1	Site Location	3
Figure 2	Location of Monitored Areas	4
Figure 3	Location and Details of Walls [7], [8] and [10]	15
Figure 4	Wall [8], looking south (<i>photograph</i>)	16
Figure 5	Wall [10], looking north (<i>photograph</i>)	16

Appendices

Appendix A	Context Index
Appendix B	Ceramics Report

1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 A two-part programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken in association with construction groundworks during the re-development of Richmond School, North Yorkshire. The central National Grid Reference for the site is NZ 1816 0145. The work was commissioned by Faithful+Gould and undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.
- 1.2 The first part of the archaeological investigation was undertaken in September and December 2007 before the re-development scheme - including the archaeological element – was suspended, with an interim report on the initial archaeological work prepared in 2008. The second part of the archaeological investigation was conducted in September 2009 and July 2010 when the scheme re-commenced.
- 1.3 The site of Richmond School has potential for archaeological remains from various eras, particularly the early medieval and medieval periods, as identified by an archaeological desk-based assessment in 2007. However, because much of the site was landscaped during previous development of the school, it was considered that only specific areas of high archaeological potential remained. Archaeological monitoring and recording was therefore required in association with construction groundworks only in those ‘zones’ of high archaeological potential. The aim was to examine and record any archaeological remains affected by the groundworks.
- 1.4 In the first part of the archaeological investigation, three periods of site attendance were undertaken, only one of these in association with groundworks in a zone of high archaeological potential. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded.
- 1.5 In the second part of the archaeological investigation, two periods of site attendance were undertaken, the main element being monitoring of topsoil and sub-soil stripping across a large grassed area to be developed for sports pitches and an athletics track – this being by far the largest zone of high archaeological potential at the site. In this zone, three fragmentary stone walls of probable post-medieval date were recorded, two likely representing a former field boundary, the other of less certain purpose. A small assemblage of pottery was recovered during this work, the majority of which came from topsoil, with the assemblage ranging in date from medieval (13th/14th century) to 19th century.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 General Background

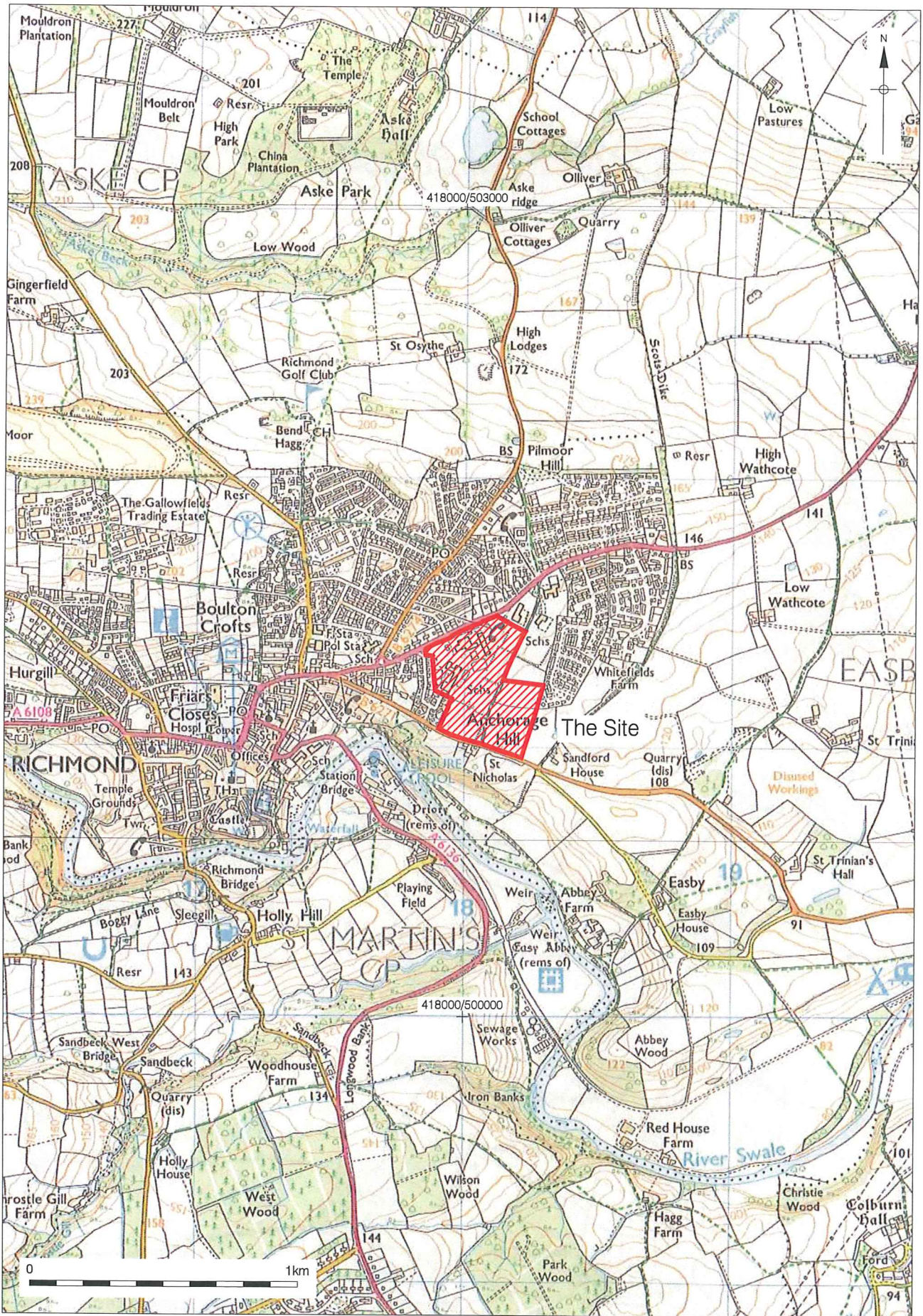
- 2.1.1 This report describes a two-part programme of archaeological monitoring and recording (hereafter 'watching brief') conducted in association with the re-development of Richmond School, North Yorkshire. The first part of the work was reported on in a previous, interim report,¹ compiled after the re-development scheme was suspended in December 2007, with this current report summarising the methods and results of the overall project.
- 2.1.2 The archaeological project was commissioned by Faithful+Gould and the two parts of the watching brief were undertaken in September and December 2007 and then in September 2009 and July 2010, by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA).
- 2.1.3 The North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Heritage and Environment Section imposed the requirement for the watching brief and advised the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Richmondshire District Council, accordingly. The scope of work was set out in a Brief² prepared by Atkins in 2007. In accordance with the Brief, a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)³ was prepared by PCA, as the appointed archaeological contractor, and submitted to the LPA for approval.
- 2.1.4 The archaeological potential of the site was identified in a desk-based assessment (DBA)⁴ compiled by Atkins in 2007. The site has particular potential for early medieval activity as it lies to the west of Scots Dyke, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the earthwork remains of which probably represent land boundary consolidation during the 6th-7th centuries. There is also potential for medieval activity within the site, with a probable medieval routeway running through the site, towards an area beyond the southern site boundary that was formerly occupied by a medieval hospital.
- 2.1.5 At the time of writing, the Site Archive is housed at the Northern Office of PCA, at Unit N19a Tursdale Business Park, Durham. Ultimately the completed Site Archive, comprising written, drawn, and photographic records, along with the artefactual material retained, will be deposited at the Richmondshire Museum, Ryders Wynd, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 4JA, under the site codes RMS 07 (for the work in 2007) and RMS 10 (for the work in 2009 and 2010).
- 2.1.6 The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) reference number for the archaeological project is: preconst1-52276.

¹ Pre-Construct Archaeology 2008.

² Atkins 2007b.

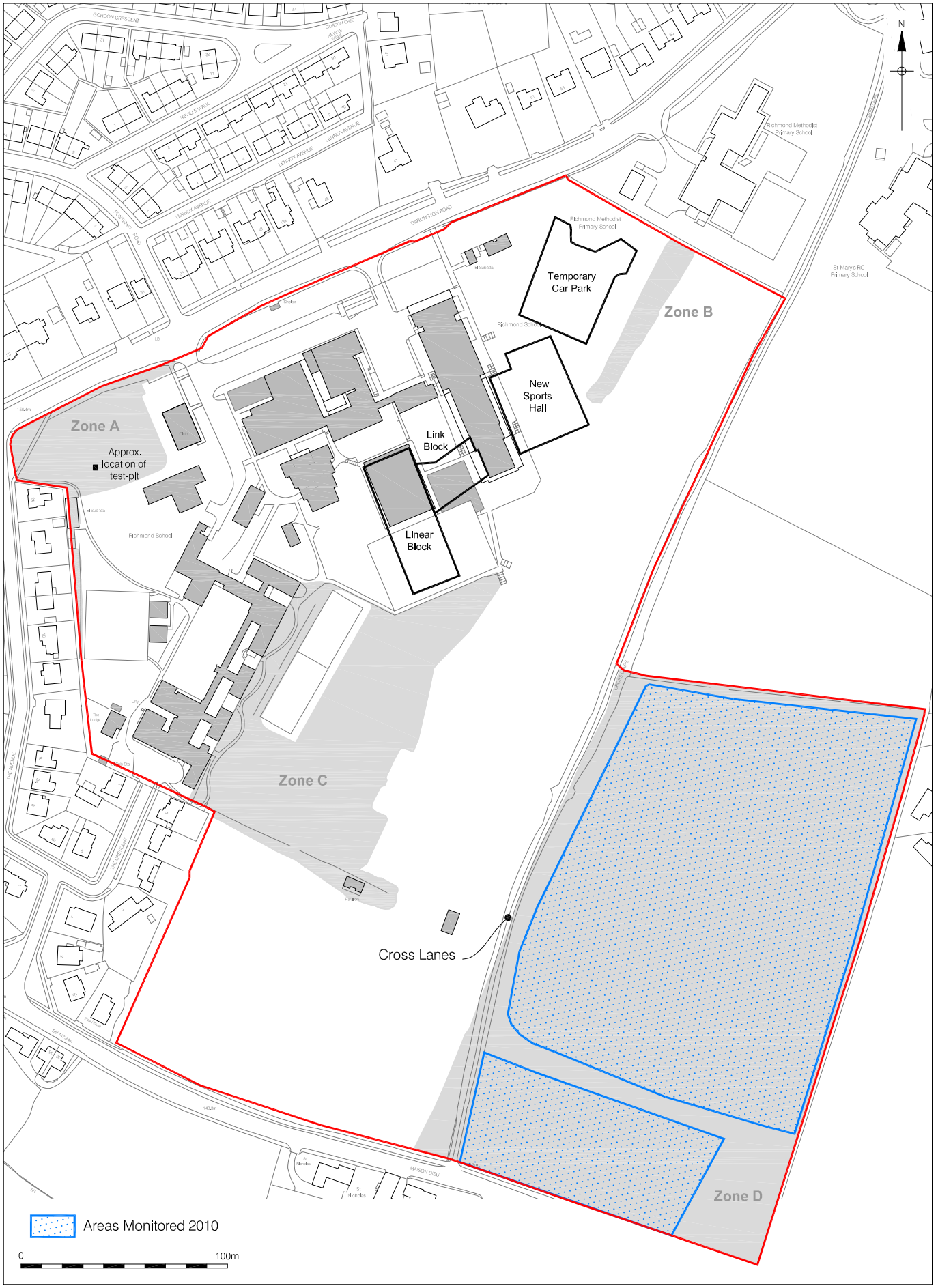
³ Pre-Construct Archaeology 2007.

⁴ Atkins 2007a.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
 Location of Monitored Areas
 1:2,500 at A4

2.2 Site Location and Description

- 2.2.1 Richmond School is a post-Second World War secondary school split across two sites, with its main campus (the subject of the investigation herein described) situated in a residential area on the south side of Darlington Road, c. 1.5km to the east of the historic core of Richmond, North Yorkshire. The central National Grid Reference for the main school campus is NZ 1816 0145m (Figure 1).
- 2.2.2 Mature residential development lies to the north, east and west of the main school campus. To the south it is bounded by Maison Dieu, the B6271, beyond which lies open countryside above the River Swale.
- 2.2.3 The site is accessed along its northern boundary from Darlington Road. The main campus comprises Middle School, based in a former secondary modern school building, and Upper School, based in the former girls high school, this a Grade II Listed Building. The site covers an area of c. 15.75 hectares, with the existing buildings and associated hardstanding covering c. 3 hectares and the remainder sports fields and other open areas (Figure 2).

2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 Richmond lies on the northern valley side of the River Swale, one of three rivers which drain the western part of the Vale of York and Mowbray, the low lying area between the uplands of the Pennines to the west and the North Yorkshire Moors to the east.
- 2.3.2 The solid geology of the higher ground to the north of Richmond is Carboniferous Limestone and Mudstone, with Millstone Grit forming the bedrock along the river corridor in the immediate vicinity of the town.⁵ The drift geology of the general area comprises, variously, clay, till, silt and sand and gravel, often of substantial thickness, these deposits associated with the last glaciation and de-glaciation of the region.
- 2.3.3 In general, the main school campus occupies a gently sloping hillside, known as Anchorage Hill, with a south-easterly aspect above the River Swale (Figure 1). Ground level on Darlington Road in the vicinity of the site is c. 157m AOD, but the ground falls away to the south, across a series of terraces that accommodate the various school buildings and sports fields, to open fields occupying the lowest point of the site at c. 131m AOD.

2.4 Planning Background

- 2.4.1 Until March 2010, UK Government policy regarding the protection of archaeological remains on land was set out in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: 'Archaeology and Planning'* (PPG 16).⁶ Also until March 2010, *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: 'Planning and the Historic Environment'* (PPG 15)⁷ provided a statement of UK Government policies for the identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas and other elements of the historic environment.

⁵ *British Geological Survey* website.

⁶ Department of the Environment 1990.

⁷ Department of the Environment and Department of National Heritage 1994.

- 2.4.2 The Brief for the watching brief, and the subsequent WSI prepared by PCA, were prepared when both PPG 15 and PPG 16 were in place. However, *Planning Policy Statement 5: 'Planning for the Historic Environment'* (PPS5)⁸ replaced both guidance notes in March 2010, and this now comprises UK Government guidance on archaeology and heritage conservation.
- 2.4.3 Statutory protection for archaeological remains enshrined in *The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*, amended by *The National Heritage Act 1983* and 2002. Nationally important sites are accorded statutory protection as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs). Details of scheduling are held on the list maintained by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). *The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990* still provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest.
- 2.4.4 The various Regional Spatial Strategies were revoked by UK Government in July 2010. Until a Local Development Framework is formulated, approved and adopted by Richmondshire District Council, *The Richmondshire Local Plan 1999-2006* (adopted 2001) remains the current planning policy document for Richmondshire (outside of the National Park).⁹ The Local Plan contains a 'saved' (beyond September 2007) policy relating to archaeological remains, namely 'Policy 41: Archaeologically Sensitive Areas'. The Local Plan is accompanied by various guidance notes, including 'Guidance Note 10 – Procedures for Assessing the Value of Archaeological Sites'.
- 2.4.5 Richmond School was re-developed as part of the UK Government's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Single Pathfinder Scheme. Although the site lies beyond two 'Archaeologically Sensitive Areas', as defined in the Local Plan, namely the historic core of Richmond and the site of St Nicholas' Hospital (which is also a Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest), it has particular potential for archaeological remains of the early medieval and medieval eras, as identified in the aforementioned DBA. However, because much of the site has been landscaped during previous development of the school, it was considered that the potential was restricted to specific areas of the site, these designated as Zones A, B, C and D in the DBA (Figure 2).
- 2.4.6 'Condition 15' of 'Planning Decision C1/9ZE/1864-/CM' of the LPA required that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken in association with construction groundworks in the aforementioned zones. This condition was imposed on the recommendation of the NYCC Heritage and Environment Section. The re-development scheme - including the archaeological element – was suspended in 2007 due to budgetary problems and then recommenced in 2009, following the submission of a new planning application.
- 2.4.7 The aforementioned Brief for the required archaeological mitigation was prepared by Atkins, in response to which the aforementioned WSI was compiled by PCA, the appointed archaeological contractor. The WSI set out the background to and the aims of the archaeological project and described the methodologies to be employed both during the fieldwork and 'post-excavation' phases of the project.

⁸ Department for Communities and Local Government 2010.

⁹ *Richmondshire District Council* website.

2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.5.1 The aforementioned DBA examined archaeological and historical evidence within a 1km 'wider study area' centred on the school site. The results are summarised below and the research and writing of those responsible are gratefully acknowledged.
- 2.5.2 In terms of designated heritage assets, the school site contains the former girls' high school, a Grade II Listed Building, built c. 1939 to the designs of architect Denis Clarke Hall. The wider study area contains eight Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), although none lie within the boundary of the school site. The nearest SAM is part of the Scots Dyke monument, which runs c. 150m to the east and south of the south-eastern site boundary, as described in the relevant period summary, below. A Grade II Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest, 'St. Nicholas, Richmond', lies immediately to the south of the school site but outwith its boundary, again as described within the relevant period summary, below.
- 2.5.3 In terms of undesignated heritage assets and the potential for buried archaeological remains at the site, a summary for successive archaeological eras is set out below.
- 2.5.4 There are no recorded prehistoric sites or findspots within the study area, although the site lies within a broader landscape that saw activity during the Bronze Age and Iron Age. In summary, the potential for remains of the various prehistoric eras was considered low.
- 2.5.5 There are no recorded Roman sites or findspots within the study area, although some activity in the town has been postulated due to discoveries of Roman coins. Within the broader vicinity is the important Dere Street fort *Cataractonium*, lying to the south-east at Catterick and a lesser settlement at East Applegarth, to the west of Richmond. In summary, the potential for remains of the Roman period was considered low.
- 2.5.6 Early medieval activity at the site was considered far more likely based on recorded evidence in the wider study area. Directly adjacent to (and east of) the site are the aforementioned surviving earthworks of Scots Dyke SAM, constructed in the post-Roman period and in total stretching 12km between the River Tees to south of the River Swale. It is thought that this linear earthwork was built to consolidate territorial and economic land units as a response to changing political circumstances during the 6th-7th centuries. A Saxon, probably 6th century, spearhead was found in the 1970s to the east of Scots Dyke.
- 2.5.7 Crossing the school site from north-east to south-west is Cross Lanes (Figure 2), believed to be an ancient bridleway running to the former medieval hospital of St. Nicholas, the site of which lies to the south of the site, beyond Maison Dieu, the B6271. The route of Cross Lanes appears on the earliest available and sufficiently detailed historic mapping of the area, this being a 'Plan of the Township of Richmond', dated 1801.

- 2.5.8 The grounds of St. Nicholas' Hospital were reportedly more than 1.5 hectares in size therefore it is probable that at least some of the school site lay within its boundary. Today, the former hospital site, an 'Archaeologically Sensitive Area', as defined in the Richmondshire Local Plan, lies immediately to the south of the site. It encompasses the aforementioned Grade II Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest and includes 'St. Nicholas', a 17th century H-plan house, a Grade II Listed Building thought to be the oldest domestic house in the town.
- 2.5.9 Earthworks representing ridge and furrow ploughing of likely medieval date have been identified and recorded in the north-western portion of the school site.¹⁰ During the medieval period, the site lay beyond the town walls in a landscape utilised by numerous small-scale agricultural settlements, some with proto-industrial concerns, such as milling and smithing.
- 2.5.10 In summary, the potential for buried archaeological remains of the early medieval and medieval periods at the site was considered moderate to high.
- 2.5.11 No post-medieval archaeological remains are known within the study area, although at least part of the site almost certainly remained in agricultural use during this time, since several farmsteads lie in the vicinity. In summary, the potential for remains of the post-medieval period was considered low.
- 2.5.12 The first school at the site was the aforementioned girls' high school, the surviving fabric of which is a Grade II Listed Building. Further development occurred in 1956, with the construction of a two-block secondary modern school. Richmond Comprehensive School was created in 1969, this involved remodelling and extending the original high school building, internal re-planning of the main block of the secondary modern school, extending the other secondary modern block and construction of three new blocks, a sports hall and external hard courts. Other buildings have been added to the school site in recent decades, including a new library, a science and technology building and, in 2006, a dance and drama studio.
- 2.5.13 The DBA concluded that the school site has been subjected to heavy disturbance in the 20th century through construction of the girls' high school and the subsequent expansion of the secondary modern and later school buildings. Associated with this there has been extensive terracing within the southern part of the site during the creation of sports fields.
- 2.5.14 The DBA concluded that only four areas of the site, designated as Zones A, B, C and D, had not been heavily disturbed and therefore retained high archaeological potential (Figure 2). Of these, Zone A contained the aforementioned remnants of ridge and furrow considered to be of local importance. These remains were recorded in 2003, at which time it was concluded that they were of no primary archaeological importance. For the remaining zones (B, C and D), it was concluded that any construction groundworks could affect surviving archaeological remains.

¹⁰ York Archaeological Trust 2003.

2.6 Aims and Objectives

- 2.6.1 In broad terms, the aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that locally and regionally important archaeological remains were not destroyed during groundworks for the new school without having first being adequately recorded. Such remains could encompass buried structures, deposits and features and any associated artefactual and ecofactual evidence.
- 2.6.2 Archaeological monitoring was not required during all groundworks associated with the re-development scheme. A watching brief was to be maintained only in areas of high archaeological potential, Zones A, B, C and D, as identified in the aforementioned DBA.
- 2.6.3 By conducting the site investigations and subsequently reporting on the findings, the watching brief aimed to fulfil the aforementioned 'Condition 15' of 'Planning Decision C1/9ZE/1864-/CM'.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

3.1.1 The watching brief fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the relevant standard and guidance document of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).¹¹ PCA is an IfA-Registered Organisation (RO 23). The aforementioned WSI and Brief were also followed.

3.1.2 Up to suspension of the re-development scheme in December 2007, the following attendance was provided:

- Tuesday 4 September 2007. A preliminary visit to discuss the programme of works with personnel from Shepherd Construction. An area stripped for a new sports hall was briefly examined, although this was an area considered to be of 'high disturbance' which did not require archaeological monitoring.
- Thursday 6 September 2007. An area stripped for a temporary car park was briefly examined. Again this area was considered to be one of 'high disturbance', so again there was no requirement for archaeological monitoring.
- Thursday 6 December 2007. A series of test-pits being excavated in Zone A were examined.

3.1.3 Following recommencement of the re-development scheme in 2009, the following attendance was provided:

- Wednesday 16 September 2009. Exposures around the footprint of a new linear block extending into the north-eastern end of Zone C were examined following bulk ground reduction.
- Monday-Wednesday 12-14, Monday-Tuesday 19-20 and Thursday-Friday 22-23 July 2010. Phased topsoil and sub-soil stripping was monitored across Zone D. The work was undertaken ahead of landscaping prior to this area being developed as sports pitches and an athletics track.

3.2 Post-excavation

3.2.1 The stratigraphic data generated by the project is represented by the written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 12 archaeological contexts were assigned during the watching brief, four in the first phase of work, eight in the second phase (see Appendix A). Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, grouping contexts and phasing the stratigraphic data. A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described below in Section 4.

3.2.2 In terms of artefactual material, a small assemblage of ceramic material was recovered during the watching brief, all from the second phase of work, in Zone D. Specialist examination of the ceramic material was undertaken and an assessment report compiled (see Appendix B). No other categories of inorganic artefactual material were represented.

¹¹ IfA 2008a.

- 3.2.3 No organic material was recovered during the watching brief. The palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy of the project was to recover bulk samples where appropriate, from well-dated (where possible), stratified deposits covering the main periods or phases of occupation and the range of feature types represented. To this end, no appropriate deposits were encountered and therefore no bulk samples were recovered.
- 3.2.4 The complete Site Archive, in this case comprising written, drawn and photographic records (including all material generated electronically during post-excavation) and the artefactual material, will be packaged for long-term curation. In preparing the Site Archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document¹² will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document¹³ and a more recent IfA publication.¹⁴
- 3.2.5 The depositional requirements of the receiving body for the Site Archive, in this case the Richmondshire Museum, will be met in full.

¹² Brown 2007.

¹³ Walker, UKIC 1990.

¹⁴ IfA 2008b.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Zone A

4.1.1 A series of test-pits were mechanically excavated in Zone A ahead of construction of temporary classrooms and an access road in the extreme north-western corner of the site. One test-pit, measuring up to 1.0m x 1.0m and up to 0.60m deep, was examined closely after site attendance was requested (Figure 2).

4.1.2 The earliest deposit exposed in the test-pit was a layer, [4], comprising mid orange brown clayey sandy silt, revealed at a minimum depth of 0.43m below the existing ground surface. It was at least 0.15m thick but its full thickness was not established. This material may have been a developed soil of post-medieval or earlier origin, but this is not certain given the limited degree to which it was exposed and it may in fact have been 'made ground' of more recent origin.

4.1.3 Layer [4] was overlain by a layer, [3], comprising a silty deposit with frequent fragmented sandstone throughout. With a maximum thickness of 0.17m, this material was interpreted more firmly as 'made ground', that is a deliberate dump for ground consolidation and levelling purposes and of modern origin. The uppermost deposit, layer [1], comprised mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt, up to 0.41m thick, this the existing topsoil.

4.2 Zone B

4.2.1 No groundworks were conducted in Zone B, in the north-easternmost portion of the site. Beyond the south-western end of Zone B, the new build footprint for a new sports hall was stripped of topsoil, as described below in Section 4.5.

4.3 Zone C

4.3.1 Construction of a new linear school block (with a link block to an existing main building) to the north of Zone C required bulk ground removal across the entire new build footprint, a rectangular area measuring c. 70m north-south x c. 30m east-west (Figure 2). With all of the new build footprint lying beyond Zone C and construction groundworks well advanced at the time of monitoring (the entire footprint was covered in geotextile and 'stoned-up'), limited archaeological examination was undertaken. Exposures around the periphery of the new build footprint were briefly examined, but no strata of potential significance were observed.

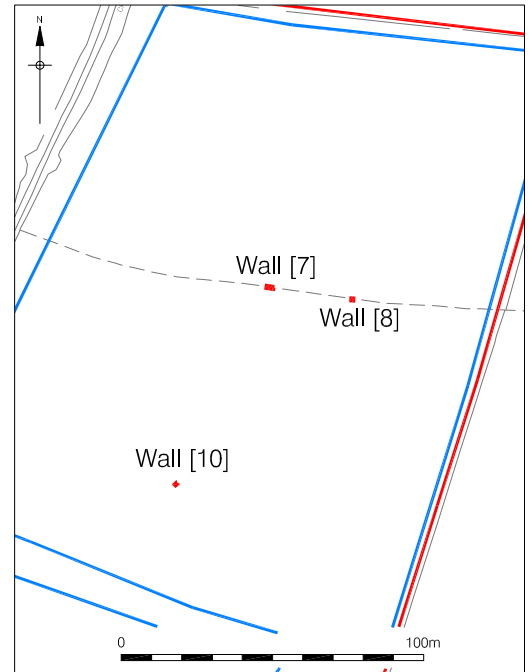
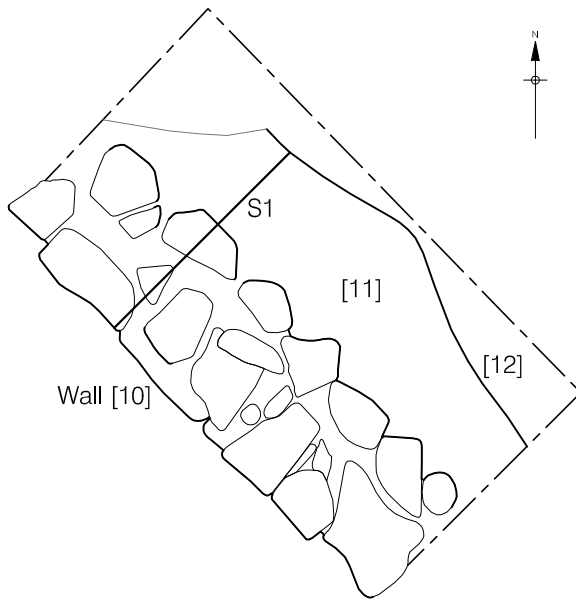
4.4 Zone D

4.4.1 Landscaping of Zone D, which measured up to c. 260m north-south by c. 160m east-west, ahead of construction of sports pitches and an athletics track, required an initial topsoil strip across the majority of that area. In addition, the north-western portion of Zone D was then partially stripped of an underlying sub-soil horizon to achieve the required project formation level. All topsoil and sub-soil stripping in Zone D was subject to archaeological monitoring (Figure 2).

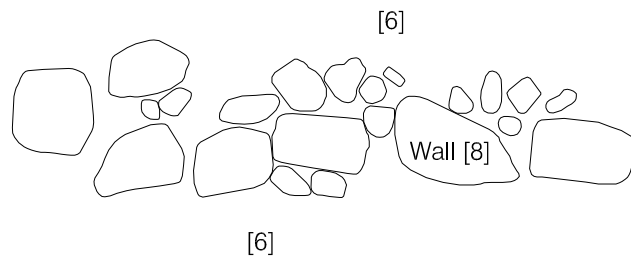
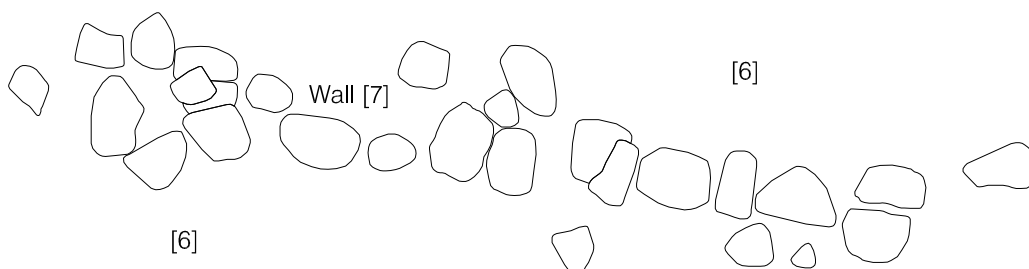
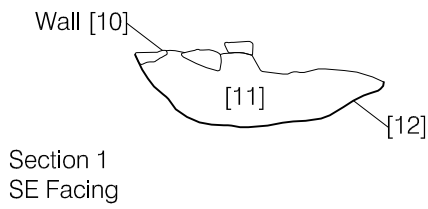
- 4.4.2 The sub-soil, [6], in Zone D was encountered between c. 0.20m and 0.30m below existing ground level and comprised firm, mid yellowish brown sandy silt, with occasional small sub-angular pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks throughout. Occasional large rounded boulders were noted within the deposit, which was generally at least c. 0.30m thick and in places at least c. 0.50m thick. Five sherds of pottery were recovered from the sub-soil during the watching brief, a mixture of medieval and post-medieval material (see Appendix B). The deposit is considered of likely medieval or earlier origin and was probably reworked by subsequent agricultural activity in the post-medieval period and possibly the modern era.
- 4.4.3 Structural remains, comprising three short sections of sandstone wall, were recorded in Zone D. Each was exposed below topsoil, seemingly post-dating the underlying sub-soil horizon. Walls [7] and [8] both likely represent a slightly curving former field boundary running east-west through the central part of Zone D (Figure 3). A length of c. 3.50m of wall [7] was exposed, while to the east, and on the same alignment, a length of c. 2.30m of wall [8] was exposed (Figures 3 and 4). Both sections of this structure were c. 0.40m wide and comprised unmortared sandstone rubble (blocks up to c. 200mm x 200mm x 150mm). A single course appeared to survive at each location, probably representing the lowermost element of the former field boundary wall, which is depicted on historic mapping of the site. A total of nine sherds of pottery were recovered from the sub-soil in the vicinity of wall [7] (but assigned the context number of the wall), this again a mixture of medieval and post-medieval material (see Appendix B).
- 4.4.4 The third structure, wall [10], was also exposed during topsoil stripping in Zone D, south of walls [7] and [8]. Aligned, NW-SE, a c. 1.70m length of the wall was exposed (Figures 3 and 5). Up to c. 0.50m wide, again it comprised unmortared sandstone rubble (blocks up to c. 300mm x 190mm x 90mm). In places two courses of masonry were observed but these were the lowermost surviving elements of the structure. The masonry appeared to have been laid along the western side of an infilled foundation trench, [12], which was exposed in plan on the north-east side of the structure. This trench had been backfilled with firm, dark greyish brown clay, [11], with occasional flecks of charcoal and small fragments of wood. A section excavated through the wall and its foundation trench revealed the foundation trench to be c. 0.80m wide and c. 0.20m deep, with a steeply sloping western side, a more gentle eastern side and a concave base. Two sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered in association with wall [10] (see Appendix B). Wall [10] may also represent a former field boundary wall although, given its alignment and relatively more elaborate construction, it was possibly more likely the remains of a simple agricultural building.
- 4.4.5 A stony deposit, [9], was recorded in the southern central part of Zone D. Exposed directly below topsoil, it extended at least c. 20.0m in length, running roughly northwards from the southern site boundary, and was up to c. 2.80m wide but only c. 70mm thick. It was interpreted as the remains of probable late post-medieval or modern track.
- 4.4.6 The uppermost deposit in Zone D was the existing topsoil, [5], which comprised soft, mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent fine and medium sub-angular and angular pebbles throughout. It was c. 0.20m-0.30m thick. A total of 58 sherds of pottery, 18 of which were medieval, were recovered from topsoil during the watching brief in Zone D (see Appendix B).

4.5 Other Monitored Areas

- 4.5.1 In the first phase of the watching brief, the footprint of a new sports hall was examined during machine stripping of existing topsoil (Figure 2). This area, however, did not lie within an area of high archaeological potential, located to the west of Zone B. The topsoil, [1], in this area was essentially the same as deposit [5], as described above. The maximum depth of excavation was c. 0.20m, so that the full thickness of the deposit was probably never established. Furthermore, at no point was any underlying deposit clearly exposed, although in places there were suggestions of a sand and gravel sub-stratum, [2].
- 4.5.2 Also in the first phase of the watching brief, the area of a temporary car park for construction traffic in the northernmost part of the site was examined after it had been machine stripped of topsoil (Figure 2). The area had been 'stoned-up' prior to inspection, although, as previously described, it did not lie within an area of high archaeological potential, lying immediately to the west of Zone B.



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Figure 3
Location and Details of Walls 7, 8 and 10
Inset Location - 1:2,500, Plans and Section - 1:25 at A4



Figure 4. Wall [8], looking south, (scale 0.50m)



Figure 5. Wall [10], looking north, (scale 0.50m)

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

5.1.1 The watching brief recorded structural remains of probable post-medieval date in Zone D. Two sections of stone wall likely relate to a former field boundary depicted on historic mapping of the site, while to the south another section of stone wall – this with a shallow foundation trench - may have had a similar function or could perhaps represent a simple agricultural structure; both are considered to be of limited archaeological significance. No other archaeological remains of note were recorded.

5.1.2 A small assemblage of ceramic material was recovered during the watching brief. The majority of the sherds were recovered from topsoil and the assemblage ranged in date from medieval (13th/14th century) to 19th century. Material recovered in association with the stone walls was of both medieval and post-medieval date.

5.2 Recommendations

5.2.1 No further work is required on the information recovered during the watching brief, with the Site Archive, including this report, forming the permanent record of the strata encountered.

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7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

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PCA Credits

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Project Management: Robin Taylor-Wilson

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Other Credits

Ceramics Report: Jenny Vaughan

APPENDIX A
CONTEXT INDEX

RMS 07 and RMS 10: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No.	Zone	Monitoring Phase	Type 1	Type 2	Interpretation	Date
1	A	1	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil	Modern
2	A	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural	N/A
3	A	1	Deposit	Layer	Made ground	Modern
4	A	1	Deposit	Layer	Made ground	Modern
5	D	2	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil	Modern
6	D	2	Deposit	Layer	Sub-soil	Uncertain
7	D	2	Structure	Wall	Sandstone wall, E-W aligned	Post-medieval
8	D	2	Structure	Wall	Sandstone wall, E-W aligned	Post-medieval
9	D	2	Deposit	Layer	Remains of ?footpath	Modern
10	D	2	Structure	Wall	Sandstone wall, E-W aligned	Post-medieval
11	D	2	Deposit	Fill	Backfill of foundation trench [12]	Post-medieval
12	D	2	Cut	Linear	Foundation trench for wall [10]	Post-medieval

APPENDIX B
CERAMICS REPORT

Ceramics Report

By Jenny Vaughan (Northern Counties Archaeological Services)

Introduction

A small assemblage of 74 sherds of pottery weighing 520 grams was recovered from four contexts during the watching brief. The majority of the sherds (58) were recovered from topsoil, context [5]. The assemblage ranged in date from medieval (13th/14th century) to 19th century. All contexts contained some post-medieval material.

Range and Variety

The assemblage is summarised in the table below (see catalogue for full details).

Fabric No.	Comments	Sherds No.	Wt (g)
3	A pink coarse gritted sherd	1	10
4	Light firing wares: buff or white	2	8
5	Tees Valley (TV) type – iron rich variety	21	111
10	Other medieval	8	78
28	Tin glazed earthenware (tge) – 17th to 18th c.	1	15
30	Local post-medieval (local pm)	6	84
31	18th c. type white salt glazed stoneware (wsgst)	2	14
32	Post-medieval redware – 17th/18th to 19 c. With slip coat (sl) or trailing (sltr)	8	67
33	Refined whitewares (refww), includes pearlware and creamware	17	79
34	Miscellaneous post medieval refined wares	4	28
35	Later stoneware 18th/19th c.	1	6
50	Unidentified	3	25
Totals		74	520

The largest medieval fabric group was FG 5 – wares of Tees Valley type. The fabric was mainly pink/pinkish orange with some buff surfaces or margins. There was a fragment of a thumbled base and a bit of a rod handle. One fragment had part of the flange from a typical Tees Valley type 'bifid' rim. There was another rim of a similar form but in a coarse gritted pinkish fabric.

Two joining sherds in the 'other medieval' category may well be from a Tees Valley vessel but the fabric was less iron rich than the other sherds. Other medieval fragments were fairly small and non-diagnostic.

A small group of sherds has been identified as 'local post-medieval'. These are mainly oxidised orange or pinkish orange wares with green glazes. This is post-medieval coarseware typical of the 16th and 17th centuries. Several production sites are known in North Yorkshire and the type is also known from Durham (Ellison 1993, p. 96) and it is quite likely that it continues into the 18th century. A small tin-glazed earthenware pedestal base has the same date range.

None of the post-medieval redware looks earlier than the 18th century but these wares are not closely dateable and continue to be made into the 20th century. Some of the refined whitewares, which is the largest post-medieval fabric group, might be late 18th century (e.g. a pearlware rim and creamware handle) but the transfer printed pieces are more likely to be 19th century. The miscellaneous category includes a small porcelain base and sherds of black basalt stoneware. These could also be 18th century but black basalt continued to be made into the 20th century.

Methodology

The assemblage was sorted into types and catalogued using MS Access, recording counts and weights per context and noting form sherds where present. The fabric group numbers are those used by the author for recording other assemblages from the region.

Discussion

All contexts produced pottery of very mixed medieval and post-medieval dates, although there was no clear indication of any late medieval (later 14th/15th century) activity. The medieval, and early post-medieval, pottery was generally abraded and fragmentary, but seems fairly typical of groups recovered from the town. The assemblage is too small and fragmented to lend itself to further work or more detailed analysis.

Other Finds

There were three fragments of ceramic roof tile: two from context [7] and one from context [10]. Context [10] also produced a small fragment of clay pipe stem.

Reference

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Ceramics Catalogue

Abbreviations not explained in text:

gl	glaze or glazed
ext	external
int	internal
ves	vessel

Context	Type	Sherds No.	Wt. (g)	Comments
5	pink gritty	1	10	Rim with ext cordon
5	white	2	8	1 has copper green gl ext.
5	TV type	16	87	Thumbled base and abraded handle. Pinkish orange fabric with some buff surfaces/margins.
5	rg	1	3	Grey green gl fragment.
5	med	2	8	
5	orange buff	2	60	Joining sherds from a base with some brownish gl. Possibly also TV but not so iron rich as other sherds.
5	tge	1	15	Small pedestal base with most of light blue gl flaked off.
5	local pm	6	84	Includes an expanded, rounded rim.
5	wsgst	2	14	Moulded rim of plate, rolled rim.
5	black gl	1	6	Base ?18th c.
5	red	1	8	Plain gl redware base ?18th c.
5	red sl	3	34	Various.
5	red sltr	1	4	Trailed slip.
5	creamw	1	16	Strap handle.
5	pearlw	1	4	Rim.
5	refww sponge	1	4	
5	refww tp	9	37	Four flatwares, four hollow ves and a lid knob.
5	black basalt	3	22	
5	porc	1	6	Base of ?cup
5	ungl red	2	8	
5	white?	1	17	Uncertain, possibly Roman?
6	TV type	1	9	Part of bifid rim (with flange). Dark pink-buff surfaces, some orange in core
6	TV?	1	6	Buff ext, pink int.
6	oxidised	1	1	Grey core with oxidised surfaces
6	pink	1	2	Sooted
6	refww tp	1	2	
7	TV?	2	3	
7	med	1	4	
7	red	1	6	Gl int.
7	red sl	1	9	
7	pearlw	1	2	Rim
7	refww	1	5	Plain - slightly cream gl.
7	refww tp	2	9	
10	TV type	1	6	Yellow/orange gl.
10	stonew	1	1	Small fragment of brown gl stoneware.
Totals		74	520	

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