

REC 24/2/01

YORK



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUST

**THE ARCADE,
RIPON,
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATION**



**2000 FIELD REPORT
NUMBER 48**

NYS.
NYE!

NYCC HER	
SNY	489
ENY	42
CNY	1584
Parish	6031
Rec'd	24/02/01

**THE ARCADE,
RIPON**

**ASSESSMENT REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION**

CONTENTS

- ABSTRACT
1. INTRODUCTION
 2. METHODOLOGY
 3. LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY
 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
 5. EXCAVATION RESULTS
 6. CONCLUSIONS
 7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS
 8. ASSESSMENT OF POTTERY
 9. ASSESSMENT OF SMALL FINDS
 10. CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT
 11. REPORT ON THE EVALUATION OF BIOLOGICAL REMAINS
 12. BIBLIOGRAPHY
 13. LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

List of Illustrations

- Figure 1 Site location plan
- Figure 2 Areas of excavation
- Figure 3 Area 2 stratigraphic matrix
- Figure 4 Location of sections
- Figure 5 South facing section through north edge of Area 2
- Figure 6 North facing section through south edge of Area 2
- Figure 7 North facing section through machine stripping
- Figure 8 East facing section through machine stripping, western edge of Area 3
- Figure 9 Area 4 stratigraphic matrix
- Figure 10 North facing section Area 4
- Figure 11 Modern map with OS 2nd edition, 1891 superimposed and medieval boundary ditch (4006)

ABSTRACT

In June and early July 2000 York Archaeological Trust carried out a programme of archaeological excavation and recording on a site to the rear of 8/9 and 10 The Market Place, Ripon in advance of development of the site. The work revealed a number of archaeological features and deposits dating from the 11th century, through the high medieval period, to the 18th century. The remains of structures on two burgage plots were recorded and divisions between the plots, together with pits dug in the backyards were also found.

Evidence for industrial activity in the area together with a large ditch which appears to mark a major land division require further research to determine their significance. The pottery assemblage may allow a more closely dated sequence for activity in medieval Ripon to be established.

1. INTRODUCTION

Between 5th June and 7th July 2000 York Archaeological Trust (YAT) conducted an archaeological excavation on the site to the rear of 8/9 and 10 The Market Place, Ripon, North Yorkshire, (NGR: SE 3131 7128). The site (Figure 1) lies on the east side of the Market Place, extending eastwards from the rear of properties fronting the Market Place towards the site of the bus station. It is bound to the south by Morrison's supermarket and by a car park on the east, totalling approximately 0.70ha. The work was carried out for the William Gower Partnership and WPL Design and Management on behalf of Redring Investments and Westcourt Group Ltd. It was ^{was} a planning condition imposed by Harrogate Borough Council prior to the development of the site as new retail facilities and a library; the new development is known as The Arcade, Ripon. The excavation was carried out to a specification provided by The Heritage Unit, North Yorkshire County Council. The excavation followed on from a staged programme of works which had included a desk-based assessment, buildings recording, a geotechnical investigation and the archaeological excavation of four evaluatory trenches which had been carried out by the West Yorkshire Archaeological Service (see WYAS Report no. 729).

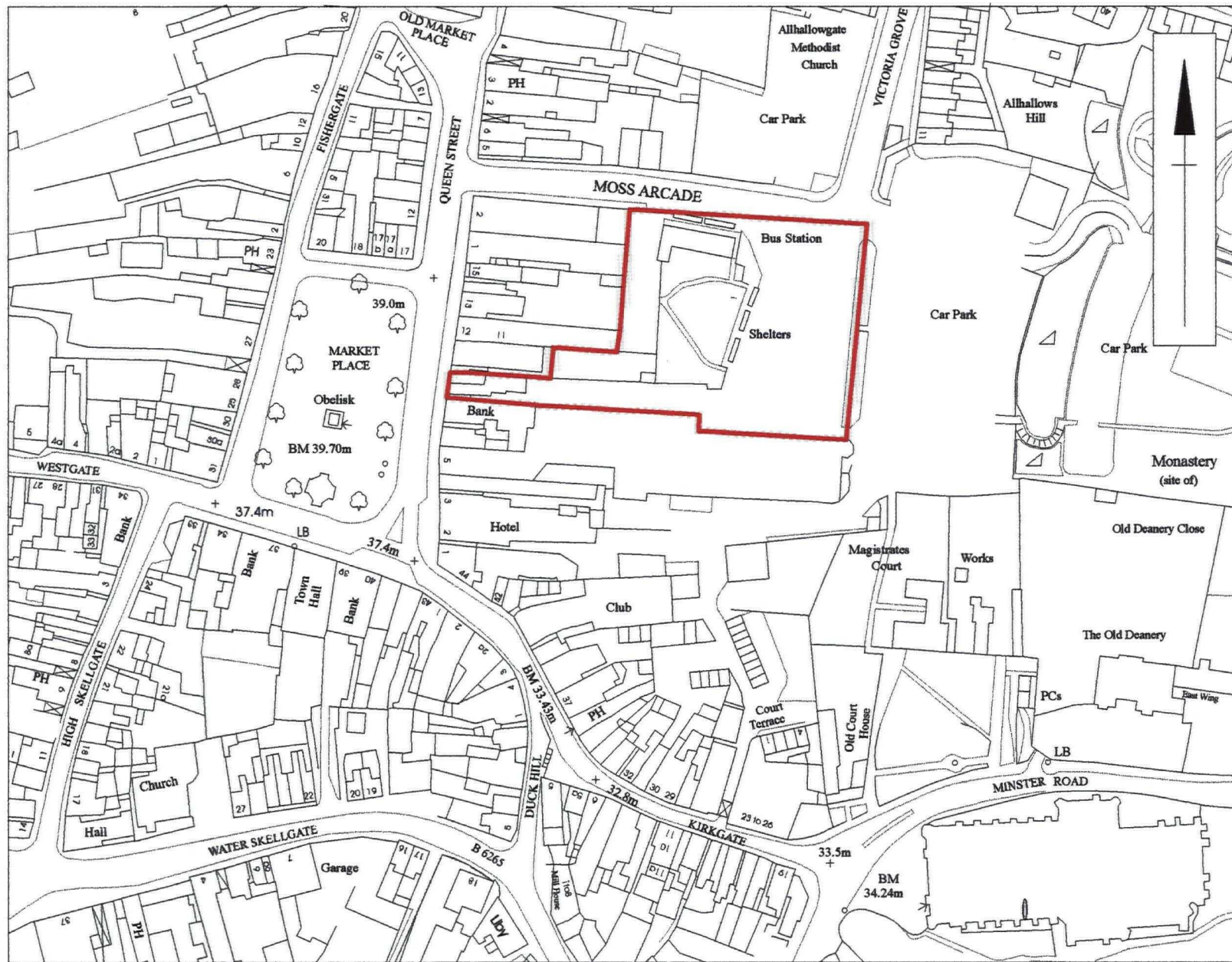


Figure 1, Ripon Arcade, Site location plan

Based on the Ordnance Survey Digital Map Data with
 Permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery
 Office, Crown Copyright. York Archaeological Trust
 Cromwell House, 13 Ogleforth, York, YO17FG.
 Licence Number A1854123

2. METHODOLOGY

The strategy for the archaeological work was firstly to monitor, by close archaeological supervision, the machine stripping of the whole site. This was carried out by means of a JCB with a smooth edged bucket to specific predetermined depths of construction formation. Large areas were then cleaned by hand and the archaeological features revealed were recorded. Sections through the stripped material were also recorded. Four areas (Figure 2) were designated by the specification for closer targeted archaeological examination. Of these Area 1 was found to contain no deposits of archaeological interest. Area 3 lay within part of the site where the formation level for construction was found to be within 18th/19th century deposits. These deposits were therefore recorded and no further excavation in this area was carried out. Within Areas 2 and 4, after the modern overburden had been removed, careful hand excavation took place. Here all archaeological deposits were recorded at a scale of 1:20 using a single context planning system, and recorded following the procedures in the York Archaeological Trust Context Recording Manual (1996). All significant archaeological features, deposits and structures were recorded in section at a scale of 1:10, and were photographed using colour print film. A programme of systematic soil sampling was implemented to recover environmental evidence. All finds and site records are currently stored with York Archaeological Trust under the Harrogate Museum accession code HARGM:10214.

3. LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The Market Place in Ripon is located on a plateau of higher ground which overlooks the Minster which lies c.155m to the south. The site lies in the centre of Ripon on the eastern side of the Market Place at c.40m Above Ordnance Datum. The natural topography of the site appeared to slope down from west to east, although landscaping of a large part of the site had substantially levelled out this slope. The underlying solid geology of Ripon is an outcrop of Magnesian Limestone and Permian mudstone which extends in a north-south direction between the Pennines and the Vale of York (Ordnance Survey, 1979). Overlying this solid geology are periglacial deposits of sand and gravels. At the eastern edge of the site and beyond there was a mound of sand and gravels of glacial origin known as Allhallows Hill. The site of the mound is marked on Thomas Jeffery's plan of 1771 and Thomas Langdale's plan of Ripon (1818) shows the Allhallows Hill occupying most of the eastern half of the site. By the time that Langdale's map was drawn quarrying for sand and gravel had already

severely reduced the original profile of this natural feature (Hall and Whyman 1996, 137) and the first edition OS survey in 1856 shows the residue of the mound survived outside the limits of this site and the feature is marked as a gravel pit. Further levelling of the site appears to have occurred in the 18th century when the building currently occupying 8/9 Market Place was constructed and also when the eastern part of the site was landscaped in modern times.

4. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

While there is significant archaeological evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity in the vicinity of Ripon, to date, no archaeological evidence from these periods has been discovered within the city apart from some sherds of residual Roman pottery from excavations in the Deanery Gardens. The earliest archaeological evidence for settlement at Ripon dates to the mid 7th century and relates to a monastic site. The first documentary evidence of the Anglo-Saxon monastic site dates from the 8th century when Stephen of Ripon recorded the Life of Wilfrid c.AD 709/10 and Bede also wrote of the monastery c. AD 730. This evidence records the foundation of a monastery by Eata and its reallocation to Wilfrid. Although there is no evidence of its layout, or an accurate location for the site, post-medieval tradition suggests that Eata's monastery lay on land to the north of Residence Lane (Hall and Whyman 1996, 140). The site of Wilfrid's church is that of the present Minster where the crypt is generally believed to have been built by Wilfrid (Taylor and Taylor, 1965). After the Norman Conquest the monastery became a part of the diocese of York and remained a significant ecclesiastical centre throughout the medieval period.

An early medieval secular settlement in Ripon is likely to have existed in association with the important ecclesiastical centre and its earlier presence was demonstrated by excavations at Ailcy Hill which show that a non-monastic cemetery on the site dated from the 6th- 7th century. There are documentary references to early medieval remains closer to the development site but no evidence has been found to substantiate either the existence of burials from the early medieval period which are mentioned by Walbran as located on Allhallows Hill or a parish church there, mentioned by Leland writing in the 1530's or 1540's.

Little is known for certain of the form or layout of early medieval secular settlement in Ripon. It is however thought to have undergone a period of expansion in the 12th century. At this time there is clear evidence of ecclesiastical development. Some time before the Conquest the

monastery had become a minster church with a college of canons and in the later 12th century the rebuilding of the minster church was begun. The hospital chapels of St Mary Magdalen and St John date from this same period and the Maison de Dieu, St Anne's chapel may also have been founded in the 12th century. At the end of the 12th century, in 1194, Ripon is first referred to as a borough and there is evidence of burgesses living in the town. MacKay argues that the royal charters for a fair and market are granted in this period indicating flourishing secular activity (MacKay 1982, 73). Mackay argues that because Leland located the church of All Hallows "about the north part of the old town" and described the market place as being of a "newer building" that the market place and settlement around it may have been a development resulting from the expansion of the town in the 12th century (Mackay 1982, 78). He also argues that the expansion continued into the 13th and early 14th century when the present market place was established, relocation the town centre away from the ecclesiastical focus (MacKay, 1982). While the conclusions of this argument continue to be reiterated for example by the Desk Top Survey WYAS section 3.5.3, it should be borne in mind that, to date, little archaeological work has been carried out in the centre of Ripon which can offer evidence of the early medieval layout of the secular settlement or to what degree there was a significant rearrangement of form in the medieval period. An assessment of excavations on Low St Agnesgate by P. Mayes in 1974 and in the Deanery Gardens by D. Greenhaugh in 1977-8 revealed significant evidence of settlement in this part of Ripon dating from the 11th century onwards (Whyman 1997, 121). Whyman's interpretation of the excavation evidence from these sites is to suggest that they do hint at a major reorganization of settlement and street plan in the 12th or early 13th century and also imply modifications to the layout of ecclesiastical property holdings to the north of the Minster. A large ditch feature found to the east of St Agnesgate is suggested as a pre-13th century boundary to the ecclesiastical precinct, and the suggested date of buildings constructed over the ditch is given as the 13th/14th century; "Suggesting that the ecclesiastical precinct was reduced and encompassed within a new street layout in the later 12th or early 13th century, the frontages of which rapidly began to build up" (Whyman 1997, 160). The coincidence of the earliest surviving documentation from the later 12th and the 13th centuries and the reorganization of the town is noted (Whyman 1997, 162). However the need for further excavation evidence to "confirm, amplify or correct" this interpretation is also highlighted by Whyman (1997, 162).

It is also important to assess the evidence on which Mackay's arguments are based. This

evidence consists primarily of references to the Archbishop's market, referring to the "Old Market Place" together with the earliest surviving deeds of burgage plots which date from the 12th century. These are for two plots located in Allhallows Gate. A court case in 1228 between the chapter and the archbishop over rights to jurisdiction also provides some evidence of the area of ecclesiastical land holding in Ripon. While it is certainly possible to argue that the town developed and underwent a degree of rearrangement, the form and location of the secular settlement in the early medieval period is not known and therefore it should be regarded as a proposition which needs to be tested against future evidence from excavation.

The cartographic evidence for Ripon provides a good indication of the development of the form of the town in the post-medieval period, and analysis of this may suggest that the argument that the actual site of the market place was altered could be erroneous. The area called the old market place and the present market place together would form a larger rectangular market place, which has subsequently experienced infilling with small building plots on Old Market Place, Fishergate, Queen's Street and Finkle Street. These building plots form slightly higgledy piggledy arrangements, and none have long plots of land associated with the buildings. This type of development is common in other market towns and it reflects that fact that within the market place the financial value of space was at a premium and also that building plots may have in part developed directly from stall holdings in the market place.

Mackay suggests that the present Market Place was not established until the second half of the 13th century (Mackay 1982, 79) while Whyman's interpretation of excavation evidence suggests that the town was deliberately reorganized in the later 12th or early 13th century (1997, 160). WYAS suggest that the burgage plots which front onto the present Market Place were laid out during the later medieval redevelopment of the town (section 3.53). The earliest surviving documentary evidence of burgage plots in the area of the Market Place is on the west side, where a deed dating to 1307 relates to the second burgage in Westgate (Mackay 1982, 79).

Previous archeological investigations in the Market Place have been very limited and restricted to watching briefs. No archaeological features were observed during the course of

watching briefs here in 1998 (Clarke and Cale). In 1995 a watching brief at 28-29 Market Place observed a high level of 19th century ground disturbance but stratified medieval deposits were also encountered at an unrecorded depth and finds included an Aquamanile dating from the 13th century (Cale 1995). Some observations were made of deposits on the site adjacent to the Arcade in 1977 when Morrison's Supermarket was constructed. Existing garage buildings, petrol tank storage and vehicle inspection pits were seen to have removed much of the archaeological deposits from the Market Place frontage. Features interpreted as beam slots, pits and a large ditch together with a boundary wall were observed in section in a sewer trench constructed to the rear of the building. They indicated that medieval deposits were likely to survive to the rear of buildings fronting the Market Place although the exact location or depth of this material was not recorded.

A more detailed assessment of deposits likely to be found on the site was made when an evaluation excavation was carried out in 1999 of the Arcade site. This work recorded the survival of deposits and features which dated from the 11th to the 15th century and suggested a continuum of activity over this period. The features were characteristic of rubbish pits likely to be found to the rear of burgage plots and typical of medieval urban activity. A small section of a wall foundation was recorded on the boundary between two plots but no other evidence of boundaries was identified (WYAS 1999, section 12).

The earliest documentary evidence for properties at Nos. 8 and 9 Market Place dates from 1635 and the two modern properties which occupy the site form a single burgage plot which was not sub-divided until 1871 (Denton 1995, 272). The OS map of 1929 shows that No. 8 extended much further east than it does at present. The shop front numbers 8 and 9 Market Place probably date from the early to mid 18th century. There were probably three more distinct builds within the rear range with other small additions and later alterations (WYAS 1999, section 5.4.1). The earliest documentary evidence for 10 Market Place dates from 1645 and this property was probably largely rebuilt sometime before 1783 by Christopher Thompson who had taken out a mortgage in 1779, possibly to cover the cost of rebuilding. The property is first mentioned as an inn in a deed dated 1813, and a deed of 1822 notes newly erected brewhouses, granaries, stables and conveniences behind and adjoining the burgage house. The property remained an inn, under various changes of name, until 1968 (Place, Ripon Local Studies Research Centre).



Figure 2, Areas of Excavation

Based on the Ordnance Survey Digital Map Data with
 Permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery
 Office, Crown Copyright. York Archaeological Trust
 Cromwell House, 13 Ogleforth, York, YO17FG.
 Licence Number A1854123

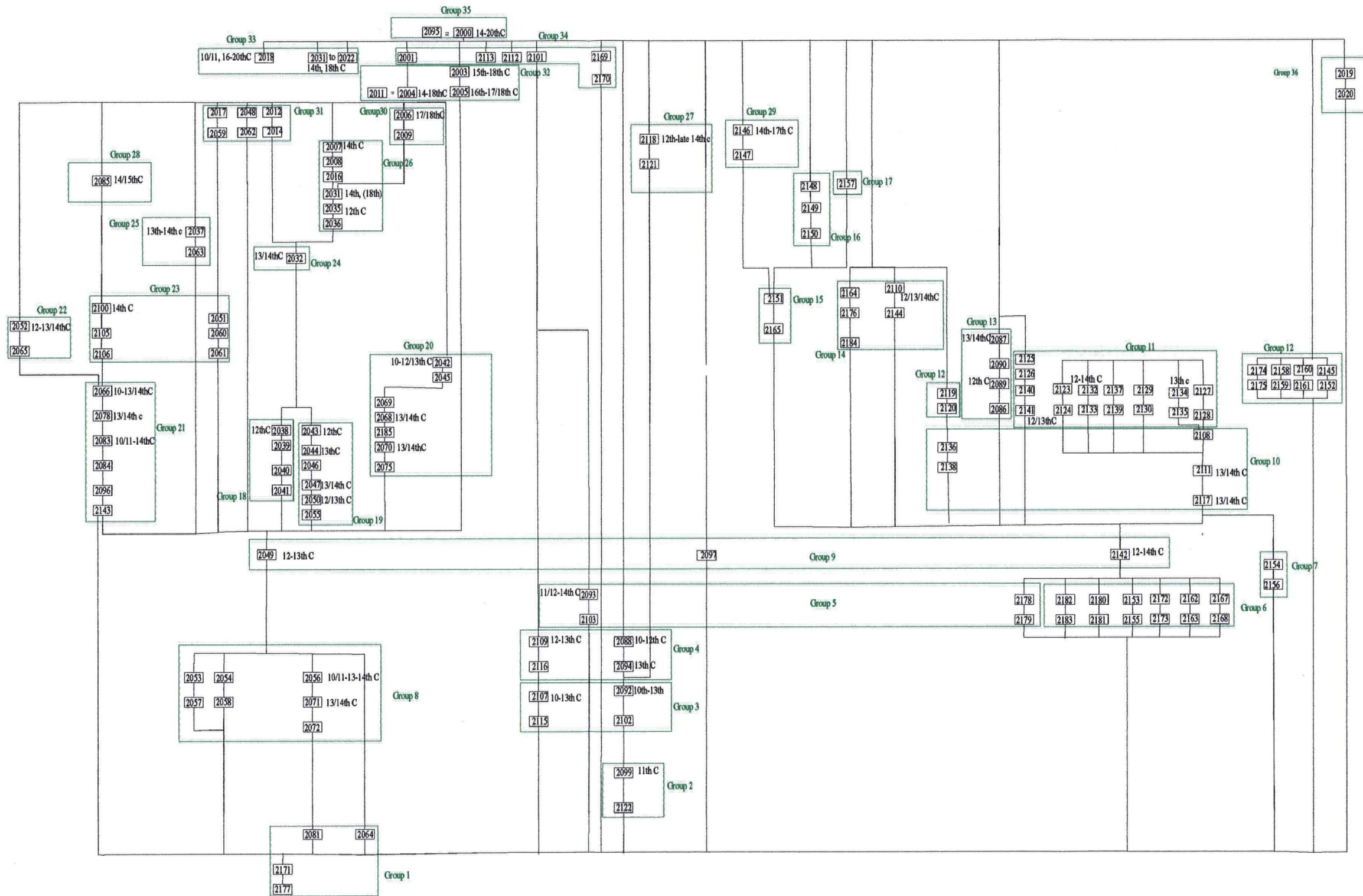


Figure 3, Stratigraphic matrix for Area 2