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No. 4, STONEBRIDGEGATE, RIPON

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

HARGM: 9925

OSA REPORT No. 99EX05

National Grid Reference: SE 3154 7140

November 2000



OSA

ON SITE ARCHÆOLOGY

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Table of Contents

1.0 Abstract.....	1
2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use	3
3.0 Archaeological Background	4
3.1 Recent excavations.....	5
3.2 Map sources.....	6
4.0 Methodology	7
5.0 Results.....	9
5.1 Phase 1.....	9
5.1.1 Test pits	9
5.1.2 Surface Plan (Area A).....	9
5.1.3 Trench 1 (Inspection Pit).....	10
5.1.4 Trench 3	15
5.2 Phase 2 (Trench 2)	15
6.0 Discussion	21
7.0 Conclusions	23
8.0 Bibliography.....	24
9.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts	25
9.1 Trench 1 (including Area A & Trench 3)	25
9.2 Trench 2.....	28
10.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.....	29
10.1 Drawing Register	29
10.2 Photographic Register	29
11.0 Appendix 3 ~ Pottery from Ripon, North Yorkshire.....	32
11.1 Summary.....	32
11.2 Description.....	32
11.3 Medieval Pottery	32
11.4 Recommendations	33
11.5 Acknowledgements	33
Appendix One.....	34
12.0 Appendix 4 ~ Plates	35

List of Figures and Plates

Figure 1. Site Location (NGR:SE 3154 7140)	2
Figure 2. Existing site layout showing trench locations (Scale 1:200).....	3
Figure 3. Surface plan of Area A. (Scale 1:100).....	13

Figures 4 & 5.	East, south & west facing section of Trench 1 (Inspection pit). (Scale 1:50)	14
Figures 6 & 7.	Post-excavation plans of Trench 2. (Scale 1:50).....	19
Figures 8 & 9.	East, south & west facing section of Trench 2. (Scale 1:50).....	20
Plate 1:	Trench 1 (Inspection pit) in process of recording	35
Plate 2:	Trench 2 after excavation.....	35

Project Summary

SITE NAME: 4 Stonebridgagate, Ripon
SITE CODE: HARGM:9925
NGR: SE 3154 7140
PLANNING APP No: 6.31.314.F.FUL, 6.31.314.G.CON

ON BEHALF OF: Mr W. Branch
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York
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PREPARED BY: Tom Rutledge

EXCAVATION BY: Tom Rutledge
Fay Palmer

ILLUSTRATIONS BY: Marie-Claire Ferguson

TIMING: Evaluation and excavation

9th November 1999 – 11th June 2000

Post excavation & report preparation
November 2000

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PERIODS REPRESENTED: Modern, medieval

1.0 Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken for Merlin Homes as part of the planning consent prior to the construction of four residential properties along the Allhallowgate frontage to the rear of 4 Stonebridgeway, Ripon.

An undisturbed area of 120m² at the west end of the site was hand cleaned and planned. Archaeological features consisting mainly of medieval pits were found over most of the cleaned area. The removal of a garage inspection pit within this area allowed a 1.4 m deep section to be recorded. This section revealed that these pits were cutting through make up deposits used to level the ground surface.

Two other trenches were excavated. Trench 2 contained a stratified sequence of medieval features while Trench 3 contained no features.

One particularly interesting aspect of the site was that despite the depth of archaeological deposits and the apparent intensive use of the site during the medieval period only 9 pot sherds were recovered. Despite this, the pottery assemblage as a whole suggested a close date range for the construction and main use of the site between the late 12th and 14th centuries.

The dating of this site supported the hypothesis that Stonebridgeway and Allhallowgate were part of a 12th or 13th century settlement reorganisation.



Figure 1. Site Location (NGR: SE 3154 7140)

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2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use

The site was excavated in advance of development on land at the rear of 4 Stonebridgeway, Ripon, North Yorkshire. The site was situated at the junction of Allhallowgate and Stonebridgeway, on the northeastern edge of Ripon, at National Grid reference SE 3154 7140.

The site was on a steep hill sloping down to the northeast towards the River Ure. The subsoil appeared to consist of periglacial sediments and gravels that are characteristic of the drift geology in the Ripon area.

The site was bounded on its western and northern sides by boundary walls and by number 4 Stonebridgeway to the east. The south side of the site was open to the Allhallowgate street.

Number 4 Stonebridgeway was comprised of 2 buildings, which were possibly part of a late 18th century or more likely 19th century terrace.

The site until recently had been used as a bus garage consisting of large sheds with shallow concrete footings. The above ground structures of the garage buildings had been totally demolished prior to the archaeological evaluation. The site was covered in demolition rubble that had partially filled in an inspection pit, running parallel with the western boundary wall, associated with its use as a garage.

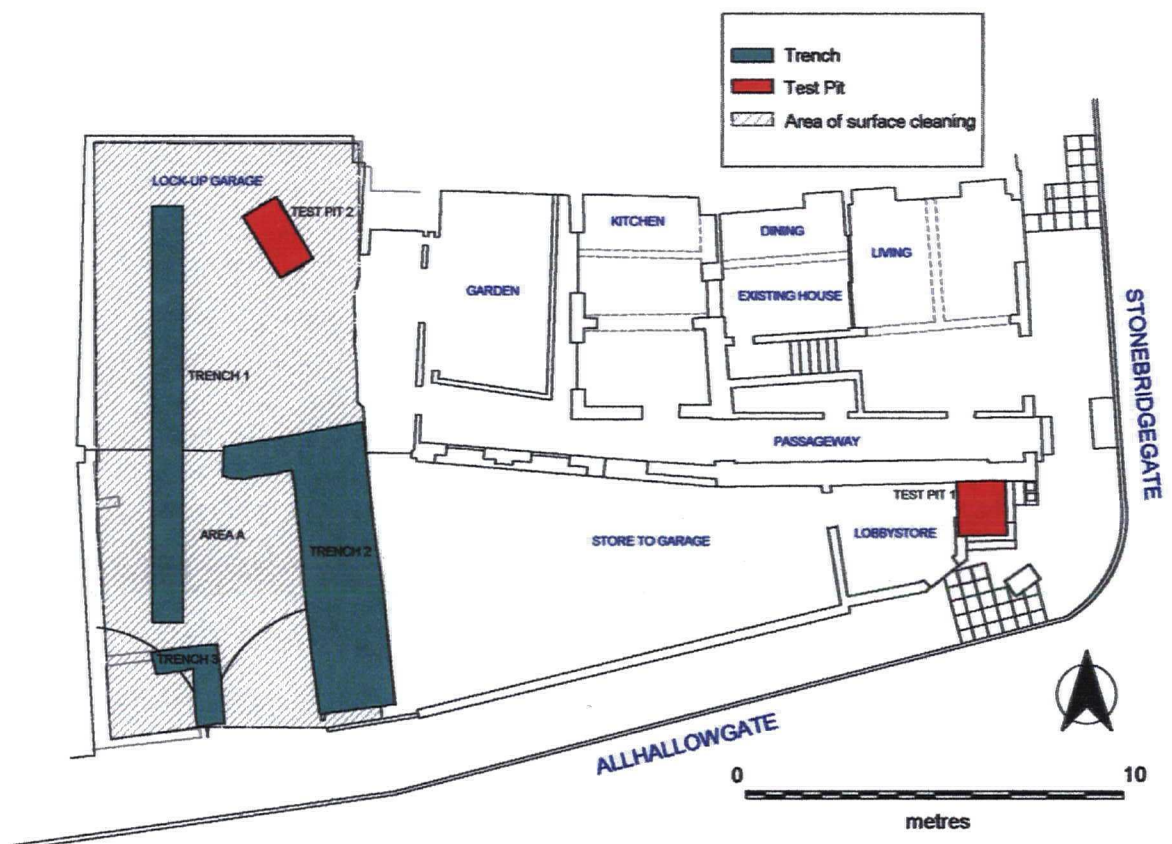


Figure 2. Existing site layout showing trench locations (Scale 1:200)