

### 5.3.2 Medieval or Post-Medieval

Probably later than 3025, at the northern end of the trench, was a linear feature (3050, Plate 3), aligned roughly north-east to south-west, probably a ditch. A section excavated across this feature showed it to be at least 1.2m wide, although the eastern edge lay beyond the limit of excavation, and 0.47m deep with a quite steeply sloping west edge and a flat base. It had two backfills, the lower of which was a moderately compact, mid blue-grey sandy silt (3049) with occasional charcoal flecks. The upper fill was a compact, light to mid grey sandy silt (3048) with moderate small lenses of light yellowish-brown sandy silt.

### 5.3.3 Modern

Cutting the top of 3048 was a linear feature (3047), possibly aligned approximately north-east to south-west. It was of uncertain size, but probably c.0.5m wide and 0.5m deep, with near vertical sides and a rounded uneven base. Along the base was a ceramic drain pipe (3046). The feature, certainly a field drain, had been backfilled with a moderately compact, mid bluish-grey sandy silt (3045).

5.3.4 Truncating much of 3047 within the trench was a large linear feature (3016), probably a ditch, aligned north-south. It was c.2m wide and 1.25m deep with nearly vertical to very steeply sloping sides and a flattish, but uneven base. Running along the base of the eastern edge of this feature was a series of small, roughly circular depressions (3030, 3032, 3034, 3036, 3038) which may have been post impressions or shallow post-holes. They were c.0.12m across and between 0.06m and 0.12m deep. They were spaced at even intervals of c.0.25m centre to centre. All were filled with a compact, light bluish-grey clayey silt (3029, 3031, 3033, 3035, 3037). They were sealed by a moderately compact, light blue-grey fine clay (3015) which may have formed naturally in the base of 3016.

Probably later than 3015, and running along the lower west edge of 3016, was another series of small, circular post-holes (3014, 3040, 3042, 3044). These were generally smaller than those on the eastern side, c.0.6m to 0.1m across and 0.09m deep. They were spaced at intervals of c.0.35m but probably had a very similar function to 3014, 3040, 3042, and 3044. All had a similar fill, a very dark grey sandy silty clay (3013, 3039, 3041, 3043), which contrasted noticeably to the fill of the eastern series of post-holes.

Overlying these post-holes, and probably representing an early silting up within the ditch, was a moderately compact, mid greyish-brown sandy silt with many patches of mid greyish-blue clay (3012). This was sealed by a moderately compact, mid greyish-brown sandy silt with many flecks of mid grey clay and moderate lenses of mortar and charcoal (3011). Above 3011 there was a moderately compact, mid greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent flecks of grey clay and moderate mortar and charcoal (3010). This backfill contained six sherds of 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery and a quantity of brick and tile. The tile was dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century, or later, and all the brick was 19<sup>th</sup> century, or later. Overlying 3010 was a moderately compact, backfill deposit of dark grey clayey sandy silt containing much brick and tile and gravel, and moderate charcoal (3009). The uppermost backfill identified within ditch 3016 was a moderately compact, mid greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent flecks of grey clay and moderate charcoal (3008).

5.3.5 Sealing 3008 was a possible dump deposit of moderately compact, mid greyish-brown sandy clayey silt containing frequent brick fragments, many small lenses of mortar, and moderate charcoal (3007). Into this was cut a probable linear feature (3022) thought to be aligned east-west. It was c.0.8m wide and 0.55m deep with quite steeply sloping sides leading into a concave base. About half way down the south side of this cut was an iron gas pipe. The cut had been backfilled with a moderately compact, dark greyish-brown sandy silt containing frequent gravel and moderate mortar (3021).

5.3.6 Sealing 3021 was a possible build-up deposit of compact, light brown silty sand with moderate charcoal and tile, and many lenses of mid yellow coarse sand (3024). Cutting 3024 was a probable linear feature (3028) aligned east-west. It was c.0.3m across and 0.25m deep with steeply sloping sides leading into a concave base which contained an inactive cable. It had been backfilled with a compact, mid greyish-brown silty sand with moderate tile, gravel, lenses of mid yellowish-brown sand, concrete, and charcoal (3027).

5.3.7 Context 3027 was sealed by a possible leveling deposit or dump of compact, dark grey coarse sand with frequent gravel and clinker (3006). Above this was a probable leveling deposit composed of crushed and compacted brick rubble (3005) below a buried surface of light grey concrete (3004). Overlying concrete 3004 was a probable leveling deposit of very compact, dark greyish-brown sandy silt containing moderate amounts of gravel and patches of yellowish-brown sand (3003). This was sealed by another probable leveling deposit composed of very compact, light grey gravel (3002). Possibly contemporary with 3002 was a dump or leveling deposit of very compact, light grey sandy silt containing moderate quantities of tile, concrete, and gravel (3023). A leveling deposit of compact, light yellow crushed limestone (3001) sealed contexts 3002 and 3023.

5.3.8 Cut into 3001, and apparently following exactly the line of feature 3022, was a probable linear feature (3020) aligned east-west. It was at least 0.7m wide and 0.5m deep with very steeply sloping sides leading into a fairly flat base. Along the base were a number of inactive service cables. This feature had been backfilled with a compact, dark brown sandy silt containing moderate gravel and lenses of mid brown coarse sand (3019).

The uppermost deposit in this area, forming the modern ground surface at c.5.7m AOD, was a loose, friable, dark grey sandy silt containing much gravel, and moderate charcoal and clinker (3018), which was capped with weeds and rough grass. Unstratified finds from this trench, consisting of six sherds of pottery ranging in date from the 15<sup>th</sup> century to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, were assigned the number 3000.

#### **5.4 Trench 4 (Figure 9)**

5.4.1 The earliest deposit noted in this trench, c.1.1m BGL, 4.4m AOD, was a trench-wide deposit of clean light yellowish-brown sandy silt with moderate orange iron pan patches (4008). This context was believed to be the natural sub-soil in this part of the site.

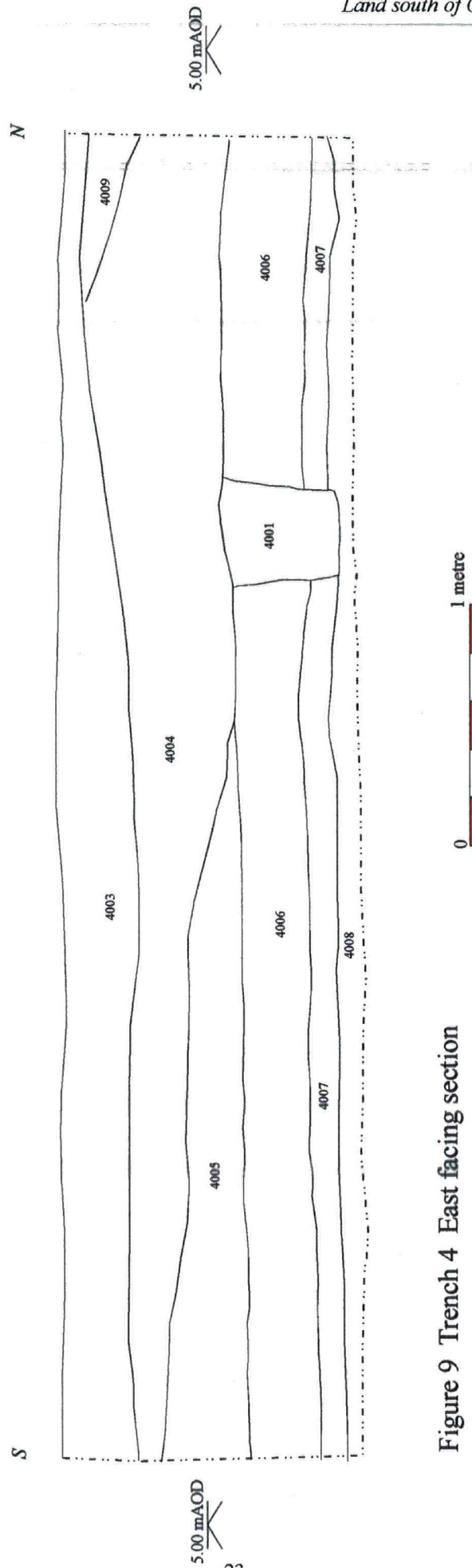


Figure 9 Trench 4 East facing section

5.00 m AOD

#### 5.4.2 Post-Medieval

Overlying 4008 there was a deposit of mid greyish-brown sandy silt (4007) which was initially also believed to be natural but it produced one sherd of unidentified and abraded pottery and two pieces of 13<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> century tile. It is possible that this deposit is natural which had been slightly disturbed by later activity. It was overlain by a possible build-up deposit of very dark grey sandy loam (4006).

#### 5.4.3 Modern

Running across the trench from east to west, and cutting 4006, was a linear feature (4002). It was c.0.4m wide and 0.16m deep as excavated, although probably deeper originally, and had vertical sides and a flat base. Although no evidence for its function was noted the size and shape suggested that it may have been the cut for a modern field drain. It had a backfill of friable, very dark grey, slightly clayey sandy loam (4001) which contained pottery suggesting a modern date.

5.4.4 Overlying 4001 there was layer of compact, dirty yellow brown silty clay containing compacted brick rubble (4005). The function of this deposit is uncertain but it may have been a dump, or leveling deposit. Above it was a demolition deposit composed mainly of brick rubble and tarmac pieces (4004). This was sealed by a dump or leveling deposit of pale yellow crushed limestone (4009). The uppermost context in this area, forming the modern ground surface at c.5.5m AOD, was a compacted mixture of tarmac and concrete fragments (4003). Any unstratified finds from this trench were given the number 4000.

### 5.5 Trench 5 (Figure 10)

5.5.1 The earliest deposit recorded in this trench was a mid yellowish-brown, slightly sandy clay (5016). This deposit lay at c.1.1m BGL, 4.3m AOD, and was believed to be the natural sub-soil in this, the south-east, part of the site.

#### 5.5.2 Post-Medieval

Probably, on the basis of the finds, the earliest cut in this trench was a linear feature (5003) aligned north-south and crossing the full width of the trench. It was c.1.4m wide and at least 0.55m deep with quite steeply sloping sides and an uneven but flattish base. This feature, apparently a ditch, contained two backfills. The lower was a mid greyish-brown sandy clay (5002), containing a small amount of 16<sup>th</sup> century pot, a fragment of 13<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> century tile, and two pieces of Roman brick. The upper fill was a mid brown sandy clay (5001).

5.5.3 Cut into the centre of 5003, and on the same alignment, was another linear feature (5005, Plate 4). This was c.0.7m wide and only 0.12m deep, but seemed to be closely associated with 5003. Context 5003 had quite steeply sloping sides and a flat base and had a backfill of mid brown sandy clay (5004) which produced a single sherd of post-medieval pottery. Possibly roughly contemporary with 5003, in the north-east corner of the trench was a feature (5007) of uncertain shape, size, and function. It was at least 1.2m x 0.4m x 0.3m deep with a very steeply sloping west edge and a flat base. It had two recorded backfills. The lower was a loose, dark yellow silty sand (5011) and the upper was a dark yellowish-brown sandy clay (5006) which

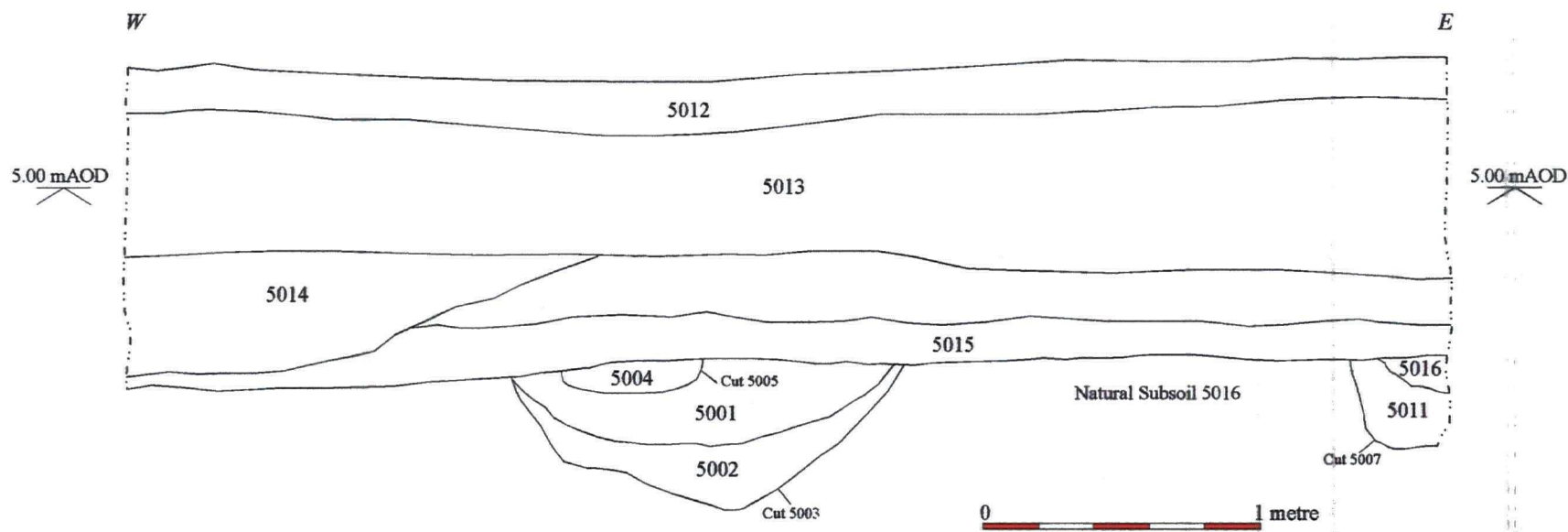


Figure 10 Trench 5 South facing section

contained a small amount of post-medieval pot.

#### **5.5.4 Modern**

Thought to be later than features 5005 and 5007, according to the pottery, was a linear feature (5010) which entered the trench towards the south-east corner and was traced for c.1.1m to the west before turning into the southern limit of excavation. The full width of 5010 was established as c.0.5m and it was at least 0.5m deep with steeply sloping sides leading into a concave base. This feature had two backfills the lower of which was a dark brown silty clay (5009). The upper backfill was a dark greyish-brown silty clay with moderate coal and tile / brick fragments (5008). This context produced a single piece of 19<sup>th</sup> century pot and three tiny fragments of 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century brick.

5.5.5 Sealing feature 5010 was an overall deposit of dark yellowish-brown sandy clay (5015), possibly a dump. This was overlain by a friable, dark grey silty clay loam (5014), a possible build-up deposit. Above 5014 there was a demolition deposit of loose modern brick, concrete, and metal scrap (5013). The uppermost deposit in this trench, forming the modern ground surface at c.5.3m AOD, was a very dark grey loam capped by grass and weeds (5012). Any unstratified finds from this trench were numbered 5000.

## **6. FINDS ASSESSMENT**

### **6.1 The Pottery By A.J. Mainman**

#### **6.1.1 Trench 1**

The pottery from Trench 1 is mostly of modern date. One of the earliest contexts in this trench, backfill 1039, produced a featureless handmade sherd, which might be Iron Age. Stratigraphically slightly later, in context 1037, were three sherds from a reduced vessel with leached calcareous inclusions. This is likely to be post Norman Conquest in date and may be 12th century, but its condition precludes certainty. Later than 1037, context 1020 contained very small, abraded sherds, which might be of 14th century date as well as piece of Roman samian ware which has lost its surface through abrasion. Material from contexts 1001, 1003, 1005, 1011, 1013, and 1018 is of 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> century date or later and is typical household rubbish.

#### **6.1.2 Trench 2**

Pottery from Trench 2 (contexts 2004 and 2006) is very abraded having either been river rolled or in plough soil. Beyond identifying it as medieval and post medieval, little further can be said.

#### **6.1.3 Trench 3**

Pottery from contexts 3000 and 3010 produced a few sherds with a range from the 15th to the 19th century.

#### 6.1.4 Trench 4

Pottery from contexts 4001 and 4007 produced sherds with a date range from the post-medieval to modern.

#### 6.1.5 Trench 5

While context 5002 produced sherds from a small handled vessel of 16th century type, the rest of the material from the trench (contexts 5004, 5006, 5008) was of post-medieval and modern date, much of it very abraded.

#### 6.1.6 Summary

The pottery from the excavation is limited in its potential to illuminate the use of the site. The sherds are small, often abraded and featureless. While the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods are all represented by small amounts of material, the bulk of this small assemblage is of post-medieval and modern date.

#### 6.1.7 Spot Dates

Table 1 Pottery Spot Dates

| Context | Quantity | Spot date | Details  |
|---------|----------|-----------|--|
| 1000    | 2        | 13TH      | 1 Rawmarsh strap handle 1 scrap                              |
| 1001    | 2        | MODERN    | 1 modern, 1 scrap  |
| 1003    | 8        | 19/20TH   | 4 19th/20th century, 4 small scraps                          |
| 1005    | 5        | MODERN    | 1 post medieval, 1 modern, 3 scraps all small                |
| 1011    | 5        | 18TH      | 2 scraps, 1 Brown Glaze, 1 Purple Glaze, 1 Medieval          |
| 1013    | 27       | 19TH/20TH | 7 19/20th century sherds and 20 scraps                       |
| 1018    | 1        | 19TH      | 1 19th c.  |
| 1020    | 5        | 14TH      | 1 very abraded samian, 4 abraded 14th century medieval types |
| 1037    | 3        | 12TH      | 3 leached sherds, wheel-turned, post conquest                |
| 1039    | 2        | IRON AGE  | 1 scrap 1 featureless handmade body sherd, probably Iron Age |
| 1044    | 1        | POST MED  | 1 scrap  |
| 2004    | 8        | ?14TH     | 6 very abraded sherds ( unidentified), 1 abraded grey ware   |
| 2006    | 1        | POST MED  | 1 very abraded post med sherd                                |
| 3000    | 6        | 15TH-19TH | 6 small sherds with date range 15th-19th                     |
| 3010    | 6        | MODERN    | 6 20th century sherds  |
| 4001    | 6        | MODERN    | 6 post medieval to modern                                    |
| 4007    | 1        | ?         | 1 abraded, thin-walled unidentified                          |
| 5002    | 4        | 16TH      | 4 sherds from small handled vessel with copper green glaze   |

|      |   |          |                                    |
|------|---|----------|------------------------------------|
| 5004 | 1 | POST MED | 1 post medieval earthenware        |
| 5006 | 4 | POST MED | 4 very abraded post medieval wares |
| 5008 | 1 | 19TH     | 19th century type                  |

## 6.2 Ceramic Building Materials

By J. McComish

### 6.2.1 Introduction

A total of 8.124kg of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) was examined from the site. A number of forms were identified including Roman brick, 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> century roofing tiles (peg, plain and ridge tile), brick, 17<sup>th</sup> century or later pan tile, a 19<sup>th</sup> century field drain and modern floor tile.

### 6.2.2 Methodology

The material was recorded on a proforma which noted the fabric type number, form name, corners present, weight, length, breadth, thickness, presence of mortar, comments and whether the fragments were retained or not. This information was transferred to the IADB (York Archaeological Trust's Integrated Archaeological Database) to assist in the analysis of the sample. The IADB contains all the fields listed above and the additional information fields of flange height and overfired. In the IADB fields for mortar, reused, over fired and retained the digit 1=Yes and 0=No. In all the measurement fields (length, breadth, thickness and flange height) measurement was only taken if the full dimension was preserved; a 0 in these fields is a null value (i.e. a measurement was not possible because the CBM was too fragmentary). The measurements are in millimetres. On IADB all the forms were written in full except Roman brick, which is abbreviated, to Rbrick.

The CBM was examined by a x10 hand lens and matched with the York fabric series. A fabric series was devised for the site, which was divided into Roman (SR), Medieval (SM), post-medieval/modern (SPO) and stone (SO). In each case the S stood for Selby so that the fabrics would not be confused on the IADB with those from the York fabric series. A number to indicate the fabric concerned follows the letters. Where it was impossible to determine the fabric the letters are followed by a 0. The post-medieval/modern fabrics are not described in detail in the York fabric sequence.

Fragments were retained where the piece had either some sort of feature (such as surface marks) or was a particularly good example of its form. Several fragments were kept as a fabric series reference collection for any future work in the area. All other fragments were fully recorded then discarded. Tracings at 1:1 were taken of all tegula flanges.

### 6.2.3 Fabrics

*A number of fabrics was identified which are described in Table 2 below. The majority of the fragments recovered from the site was so small as to render an assessment of fabric impossible, or were of post-medieval/modern date (in such cases the fabrics are not normally assessed in detail). The presence of a number of fabrics suggests a variety of clay sources were being used in both the Roman and medieval periods.*



**Table 2 Ceramic building material fabric descriptions**

| <b>Fabric number</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|----------------------|--|
| SR1                  | Light orange fabric. Occasional limestone up to 1mm in size and occasional silty bands.  |
| SR2                  | Dark red fabric uncompacted. Very occasional silty bands.  |
| SR11                 | Light orange fabric. Fairly sandy with frequent angular well-sorted quartz up to 0.5mm and mica  |
| SM1                  | Hard light brown fabric. Overfired. Moderate large quartz up to 1.5mm in size. Occasional grog up to 2x2mm in size and occasional limestone up to 1mm in size. |
| SM2                  | Dark red very well sorted fine fabric. Virtually no inclusions. Occasional silty bands   |
| SM3                  | Dark red fabric with frequent tiny quartz grains up to 0.3mm in size and moderate tiny oolites.  |
| SM4                  | Light orange fabric, well sorted, moderate fine-medium angular quartz ranging from 0.3x0.3mm to 0.5x0.5mm in size.   |
| SM5                  | Light orange fabric, well sorted, moderate fine-medium angular quartz ranging from 0.3x0.3mm to 0.5x0.5mm in size.   |

#### 6.2.4 Forms

A number of forms were identified ranging from the Roman period to 20<sup>th</sup> century in date, which are summarised on Table 3 below.

**Table 3 Forms present as a percentage of the total CBM on site**

| <b>Form</b>                     | <b>Total weight</b> | <b>Weight as a % of total</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rbrick                          | 534                 | 6.57%                         |
| Peg                             | 171                 | 2.10%                         |
| Plain                           | 245                 | 3.02%                         |
| Ridge                           | 160                 | 1.97%                         |
| Medieval or post-medieval brick | 130                 | 1.60%                         |
| Post-medieval brick             | 2800                | 34.47%                        |
| Pan tile                        | 330                 | 4.06%                         |
| Modern field drain              | 2210                | 27.20%                        |
| Modern floor tile               | 30                  | 0.37%                         |
| Modern brick                    | 1331                | 16.38%                        |
| Stone ?tile                     | 183                 | 2.25%                         |
| <b>Total weight</b>             | <b>8124</b>         |                               |

The only Roman form identified was brick. Many of the fragments were very abraded. All of the Roman material was residual in contexts of later date.

The medieval roofing material present dated from the 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries, and consisted of plain tiles (where the fragment was too small to determine the method of fixing the tile to the roof), peg tiles and ridge tile. There were two peg tiles one with a large irregular peg hole, the other with a square peg hole. The number of roofing fragments was too small to say anything meaningful about the dimensions present. Apart from three fragments of plain tile from context 1013 all of the medieval material was residual in contexts of later date.

In addition to the ceramic roofing tiles there was a fragment of micaceous sandstone, which may originally have been part of a stone roof tile, but this was impossible to determine.

A number of minute fragments of brick were recovered which could have been either medieval or post-medieval; this was impossible to determine (these were all allocated fabric number SMO). It must be noted that two of the small fragments were from context 1027 which was interpreted as naturally occurring; these fragments must therefore represent contamination.

A single complete brick was found which was probably of post-medieval date. Two fragments of 17<sup>th</sup> century or later pantile were also present.

A number of modern bricks were present. Four of these were from a large brick or paver, which had clearly been subjected to intense heat as one fragment was overfired and blown, and two further fragments were covered with what appeared to be melted glass. In addition there were some tiny fragments of machine-manufactured bricks, which were from context 2007. This context was interpreted as naturally occurring and the fragments must therefore represent contamination. A modern white glazed wall tile was also present. A complete length of field drain, with a horseshoe shaped internal cross-section, of 19<sup>th</sup> century date was also present.

### *6.2.5 Conclusion*

The quantity of material recovered is relatively small and the pieces are very fragmentary. The presence of abraded Roman is of interest in that it adds to a growing picture of Roman finds from the town (YAT, 1998 and pers. comm.). There was too little Roman or medieval material present to say anything meaningful about fabric types or forms either spatially or chronologically, however the material is of use in building up a picture of CBM in the Selby area.

## 6.2.6 CBM records

Table 4 Fabric, forms, weights, dimensions, quantities, and dates of brick and tile

W= width, L=length, B=breadth, T=thickness

| Context | Fabric | Form      | W    | L   | B   | T  | Comments   | Date                               |
|---------|--------|-----------|------|-----|-----|----|--|------------------------------------|
| U/S     | SPO    | Wall tile | 30   | 0   | 0   | 7  | White wall tile with part of a markers stamp on reverse. Letters DE visible from the stamp | 20 <sup>th</sup>                   |
| 1000    | SM1    | Plain     | 25   | 0   | 0   | 12 |  | 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 1001    | SM0    | Brick     | 10   | 0   | 0   | 0  | Three tiny fragments   | 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 1003    | SM0    | Brick     | 35   | 0   | 0   | 0  | Three tiny fragments   | 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 1005    | SM0    | Brick     | 5    | 0   | 0   | 0  | Two tiny fragments   | 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 1011    | SM2    | Peg       | 25   | 0   | 0   | 15 | Square peg hole 9x?mm  | 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 1011    | SR11   | Rbrick    | 40   | 0   | 0   | 12 | Very abraded fragment  | 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>   |
| 1013    | SM0    | Plain     | 5    | 0   | 0   | 15 |  | 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 1013    | SM0    | Brick     | 40   | 0   | 0   | 0  | Ten tiny fragments   | 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 1013    | SM0    | Brick     | 30   | 0   | 0   | 0  |  | 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 1020    | SM4    | Plain     | 25   | 0   | 0   | 13 |  | 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 1020    | SM4    | Plain     | 25   | 0   | 0   | 14 |  | 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 1020    | SM4    | Plain     | 75   | 0   | 0   | 14 |  | 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 1022    | SR2    | Rbrick    | 100  | 0   | 0   | 0  | No edges survive   | 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>   |
| 1027    | SM0    | Brick     | 5    | 0   | 0   | 0  | Two tiny fragments   | 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 1029    | SPO    | Drain     | 2210 | 332 | 97  | 16 | Horseshoe shaped field drain. Complete example of display quality                          | 19 <sup>th</sup>                   |
| 2004    | SM3    | Ridge     | 160  | 0   | 0   | 15 |  | 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 2004    | SO     | Stone     | 183  | 0   | 0   | 17 | Micaceous sandstone fragment. Possible part of a stone roof tile.                          | Unknown                            |
| 2004    | SR0    | Rbrick    | 3    | 0   | 0   | 0  | Three minute fragments   | 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>   |
| 2004    | SR2    | Rbrick    | 100  | 0   | 0   | 22 | Surface lines  | 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>   |
| 2004    | SR1    | Rbrick    | 100  | 0   | 0   | 20 | Abraded fragment   | 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>   |
| 2007    | SPO    | Brick     | 30   | 0   | 0   | 0  | Two small fragments of machine pressed brick   | 19 <sup>th</sup> +                 |
| 2030    | SM5    | Brick     | 2800 | 245 | 115 | 54 | Slop moulded   | 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> |
| 2032    | SR11   | Rbrick    | 20   | 0   | 0   | 0  | Abraded fragment   | 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>   |
| 3010    | SPO    | Brick     | 268  | 0   | 0   | 0  | From a large brick of paver. Covered with melted ?glass                                    | 19 <sup>th</sup> +                 |
| 3010    | SPO    | Brick     | 600  | 0   | 0   | 0  | Part of a large brick or paver. Blown  | 19 <sup>th</sup> +                 |
| 3010    | SPO    | Brick     | 274  | 0   | 0   | 75 | Part of a large brick or paver. Covered with melted ?glass                                 | 19 <sup>th</sup> +                 |
| 3010    | SPO    | Brick     | 159  | 0   | 0   | 75 | Part of a large brick or paver   | 19 <sup>th</sup> +                 |
| 3010    | SM4    | Plain     | 25   | 0   | 0   | 16 |  | 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 3010    | SPO    | Pan       | 110  | 0   | 0   | 22 |  | 17 <sup>th</sup> +                 |
| 3010    | SPO    | Pan       | 220  | 0   | 0   | 19 |  | 17 <sup>th</sup> +                 |
| 4007    | SM1    | Plain     | 40   | 0   | 0   | 14 |  | 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 4007    | SM1    | Plain     | 25   | 0   | 0   | 14 |  | 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |
| 5002    | SM1    | Peg       | 146  | 0   | 0   | 21 | Blown. Large irregular peg hole  | 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |

|      |      |        |     |   |   |    |                      |                                    |
|------|------|--------|-----|---|---|----|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 5002 | SR11 | Rbrick | 46  | 0 | 0 | 17 |                      | 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>   |
| 5002 | SR1  | Rbrick | 125 | 0 | 0 | 16 |                      | 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>   |
| 5008 | SMO  | Brick  | 5   | 0 | 0 | 0  | Three tiny fragments | 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> |

### 6.3 The Small Finds By N. Rogers

#### 6.3.1 Small Finds Listing

Table 5 List of small finds

| Small Find No | Context No   | Description  |
|---------------|--------------|--|
| SF1           | 5008         | Incomplete iron nail   |
| SF2           | 1001         | Piece of flint with abraded edges, probably unworked                     |
| SF3           | 1013         | Four fragments of fired clay tobacco pipe stems                          |
| SF4           | 1013         | Two fragments of thin iron sheet   |
| SF5           | 1044         | Iron rod fragment with external spiral grooves                           |
| SF6           | 4001         | Fragment of fired clay tobacco pipe stem                                 |
| SF7           | 3010         | Fragment of fired clay tobacco pipe stem                                 |
| SF8           | 3010         | Iron fragment with circular cross-section and one end tapered to a point |
| SF9           | 4007         | Three fragments of fired clay tobacco pipe stem                          |
| SF10          | unstratified | Fragment of fired clay tobacco pipe stem                                 |
| SF11          | 2004         | Fragment of slag   |
| SF12          | 1003         | Two fragments of fired clay tobacco pipe stem                            |
| SF13          | 1003         | Glass bottle base  |
| SF14          | 2004         | Piece of unidentified stone, not an artefact                             |
| SF15          | 2004         | Piece of flint with chipped and worn edge                                |
| SF16          | 3000         | Three fragments of glass   |
| SF17          | 3000         | Two fragments of fired clay tobacco pipe stem                            |
| SF18          | 3010         | Nine fragments of glass  |
| SF19          | 3010         | Iron nail  |
| SF20          | 3010         | Two fragments of non-magnetic slag                                       |
| SF21          | 1005         | Two joining fragments of iron nail                                       |
| SF22          | 1005         | A fragment of bone and a fragment of slag                                |
| SF23          | 1003         | Lump of iron, possibly slag  |
| SF24          | 1013         | Fragment of non-magnetic slag  |
| SF25          | 5008         | Fragment of non-magnetic slag  |

#### 6.3.2 Summary

Twenty-five small finds were assessed. This small assemblage comprised tobacco pipes and vessel glass, all of post-medieval date, iron nails, and lumps of slag, some possibly associated with metalworking, others perhaps from glass-working. As with the pipes and vessel glass, all are post-medieval/modern.

The only objects to be found in a medieval deposit proved to be an unworked stone (to be removed as a small find), and a probably unworked flint.

Unfortunately, none of the finds appears contribute to an understanding of the function(s) of the site or its dating; the working debris may have been used to build up levels, and is not necessarily associated with activity in the immediate vicinity.

Appropriate conservation and storage of all small finds has been undertaken as detailed in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal, 1998) and all iron objects have been X-radiographed in accordance with the procedures of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991). Further details of any the small finds and conservation strategy are available from YAT.

**7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT** By John Carrott, Deborah Jaques, Stephen Cousins, Palaeoecology Research Services

**7.1 Introduction**

Six sediment samples ('GBA'/'BS' *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992) and a very small quantity of hand-collected bone were submitted to PRS for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

**7.2 Methods**

**7.2.1 Sediment samples**

The submitted sediment samples were inspected in the laboratory and their lithologies were recorded, using a standard *pro forma*, prior to processing, following the procedures of Kenward *et al.* (1980; 1986), for the recovery of plant and invertebrate macrofossils.

The washovers resulting from processing were examined for plant and invertebrate macrofossils. The residues were examined for larger plant macrofossils and other biological and artefactual remains.

**7.2.2 Hand-collected vertebrate remains**

For the hand-collected vertebrate remains, subjective records were made of the state of preservation, colour of the fragments, and the appearance of broken surfaces ('angularity'). Brief notes were made concerning fragment size, dog gnawing, burning, butchery and fresh breaks where applicable.

Where possible, fragments were identified to species or species group using the PRS modern comparative reference collection. Fragments not identifiable to species were described as the 'unidentified' fraction.

## 7.3 Results

### 7.3.1 Sediment samples

The results are presented in context number order. Archaeological information, provided by the excavator, is given in square brackets. A brief summary of the processing method and an estimate of the remaining volume of unprocessed sediment follows (in round brackets) after the sample numbers.

No ancient invertebrate remains were recovered from the samples.

#### **Context 1005** [fill in post-hole 1006; post-medieval/modern]

Sample 1/T (3 kg sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 3 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, mid grey-brown, unconsolidated, slightly clay silty sand. There were no obvious inclusions.

There was a small washover (of approximately 20 ml) mostly of fine charcoal (to 8 mm) and sand grains, with a little coal (to 12 mm), occasional fragments of ?modern plant detritus and a few earthworm (*Oligochaeta* sp.) egg capsules. The residue was also small (dry weight 149 g) and of sand and small stones, with a few fragments of brick/tile (to 15 mm).

#### **Context 1043** [fill in ditch 1038; medieval (?12<sup>th</sup> century)]

Sample 5/T (2 kg sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 3 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist to wet, light to mid brown to light to mid grey-brown, sticky and stiff (working more or less plastic), slightly sandy silty clay, with some ?charcoal present.

The very small washover (of approximately 10 ml) was mostly sand grains, with a little charcoal (to 5 mm, but mostly to 2 mm) and a few fragments of ?modern plant detritus. The residue was small (dry weight 113 g) and composed of sand and small stones (to 12 mm).

#### **Context 1057** [?natural alluvial deposit at base of trench; unknown date]

Sample 4/T (3 kg sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 5 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Just moist, mid grey-brown (with some mid grey patches), brittle to crumbly, slightly clay silty sand. There were no obvious inclusions.

There was a very small washover (of approximately 10 ml) mostly of small pieces of undisaggregated sediment and sand grains. A little charcoal (to 6 mm), coal (to 3 mm), and

occasional fragments of modern rootlet were also present. The small residue (dry weight 190 g) was of sand and small stones (to 15 mm), with some fragments of brick/tile (to 12 mm).

**Context 3015** [basal fill in ditch 3016; post-medieval/modern]

Sample 2/T (1 kg sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 6 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, light to mid grey-brown, stiff and slightly sticky (working more or less plastic), silty clay, with some pieces of cinder.

The small washover (of approximately 20 ml) was mostly of sand and fragments of cinder (2 larger fragments to 15 mm and many smaller pieces to 3 mm). A little fine charcoal (to 4 mm), coal (to 8 mm), ?modern plant detritus, and two charred seeds, were also present. The very small residue (dry weight 61 g) was mostly sand, with some fragments of brick/tile (to 15 mm), a little cinder/part burnt coal, and a single pot fragment.

**Context 3049** [basal fill in ditch 3050; ?medieval/?post-medieval]

Sample 3/T (3 kg sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 6 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, mid grey-brown to mid grey, crumbly to unconsolidated (working soft), slightly clay silty sand, with some stones (6 to 20 mm) present. The sample smelled quite strongly of diesel oil.

The small washover (of approximately 20 ml) was mostly sand grains and fine charcoal (a few fragments to 9 mm but most to 2 mm), with a very little ?modern uncharred plant detritus and a single seed fragment (?elder, cf. *Sambucus nigra* L., also probably modern). There was a small residue (dry weight 231 g) mostly of sand, with occasional fragments of charcoal (to 7 mm) and small pieces of concreted sediment (to 4 mm).

**Context 4007** [?buried ploughsoil; 16<sup>th</sup> century/post-medieval]

Sample 6/T (3 kg sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 7 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Just moist, light to mid grey-brown to mid to dark grey and somewhat orange-brown in places, stiff to crumbly (working more or less plastic), slightly sandy silty clay. Fragments of ?brick/tile, coal and cinder were present in the sample.

There was a small washover (of approximately 20 ml) mostly of cinder (to 2 mm with a few larger fragments to 12 mm) and sand. There was also a little coal (to 10 mm) and charcoal (to 3 mm), and some ?modern/intrusive remains in the form of plant detritus, a few uncharred seeds, earthworm egg capsules and a few fragments of the burrowing land snail *Cecilioides acicula* (Müller). The small residue (dry weight 244 g) was of sand and small stones (to 6 mm), with a single fragment of ?brick/tile (to 10 mm).

### 7.3.2 Hand-collected vertebrate remains

Only seven fragments of bone were recovered representing five deposits from three of the trenches (Trenches 1, 3 and 5) excavated. Bones from Trench 1 were mostly rather poorly preserved, with very eroded surfaces, whilst material from the other two trenches was in much better condition.

The vertebrate assemblage included the remains of horse, pig and cat, together with large and medium-sized mammal rib and shaft fragments. Details of the remains by context can be found in Table 6.

Table 6 Hand-collected vertebrate remains from the General Freight site, south of Ousegate, Selby, North Yorkshire.

Key: No. frags = total number of fragments; ?med/?post-med = ?medieval/?post-medieval

| Context | Spot date          | Preservation                   | No. frags | Notes   | Weight |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|---|--------|
| 1011    | 18thC              | Poor; rounded fragment         | 1         | One large mammal shaft fragment – very eroded surface, although bone itself appears quite robust.     | 30 g   |
| 1020    | 14thC              | Very poor; battered appearance | 1         | One very poorly preserved medium-sized mammal radius shaft – original surface absent.                 | 6 g    |
| 1022    | ?med/<br>?post-med | Fair                           | 1         | Horse tooth fragment (probably mandibular tooth)  | 8 g    |
| 3010    | Modern             | Good                           | 2         | One unfused cat tibia, immature individual; one medium-sized mammal rib fragment.                     | 9 g    |
| 5008    | 19thC              | Good                           | 2         | One pig distal radius fragment, unfused – juvenile individual represented; one unidentified fragment. | 2 g    |

### 7.4 Discussion and statement of potential

Ancient biological remains recovered from the samples were restricted to very small amounts of charcoal and an occasional charred seed of no interpretative value.

The bone assemblage was also of no interpretative value.

Of particular interest to the excavator was whether the ditch fills could have been water deposited. Unfortunately, this question could not be addressed via the biological remains.



## **7.5 Recommendations**

No further work is recommended for the current material.

On the present evidence, further excavation at this site is unlikely to yield interpretatively valuable assemblages of biological remains. However, in the event of deposits with, for example, greater concentrations of charred plant remains being revealed these should be sampled and assessed. Also, preservation of the bones was rather variable, suggesting varying potential for the survival of bone in different areas of the site and this too should be borne in mind in the event of further excavation.

## **7.6 Retention and disposal**

The current material may be discarded.

## **7.7 Archive**

All material is currently stored by Palaeoecology Research Services (Unit 8, Dabble Duck Industrial Estate, Shildon, County Durham), along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

## **8. PERIOD ANALYSIS WITH CONCLUSIONS**

### **8.1 Prehistoric and Roman (pre 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> centuries AD)**

The prehistoric period was represented by two sherds of possible Iron Age date from a feature of uncertain function in Trench 1. Although the identification of this pottery cannot at present be confirmed, it did come from a feature (1040) which was clearly at the base of the stratified sequence in this trench and therefore may, indeed, be prehistoric. This sherd was unabraded strongly suggesting that it was deposited in the feature very shortly after the vessel to which it belonged had been broken. It is therefore possible to suggest that some form of Iron Age activity, previously unknown from central Selby, exists on, or close to, the present site. This would be of high local significance, and of considerable regional interest.

No more than two pieces of Roman pottery, both abraded, were recovered during this evaluation, from Trenches 1 and 2. A small amount of abraded Roman brick was found in three of the five trenches and although the overall quantities of pottery and brick are modest they are likely to indicate Roman settlement nearby. None of the features or deposits investigated on the site could be shown to be of Roman date but it has become increasingly clear over the last decade that there is Roman occupation and activity in and around central Selby.

### **9.2 Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian (5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> centuries AD)**

There was a complete absence of finds, features, and deposits of this period from the evaluation although archaeological and documentary evidence both indicate activity of these periods in Selby.

### **9.3 Medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries AD)**

A ditch (1038) and a pit (1021) excavated in Trench 1 were probably medieval in date and Trench 2 yielded deposits (2006, 2033) and a ditch (2005), probably of this period. A ditch, (3050) within Trench 3 may have been medieval, although it produced no dating evidence. Although limited, the evidence does indicate use of the land during the medieval period, although the full nature and extent of the activity could not be ascertained due to the restricted nature of the investigation. It was, however, clear that the ditches lay at, or close to, right angles to Ousegate and may well represent some form of land division for properties fronting onto the street. Alternatively it may be associated with drainage of agricultural land. No structural features of the period were noted.

### **9.4 Post-medieval (16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries AD)**

Evidence for activity of this period was recovered from all the trenches. Trench 1 yielded a pit, (1026) and a post-hole (1045). Deposits 2006 and 2033 and a ditch (2005) in Trench 2 might belong to this period. Ditch 3050 in Trench 3 may be post-medieval in date as may deposits, 4006-7, in Trench 4. A ditch (5003), gully (5005), and pit (5007) excavated in Trench 5 all produced pottery indicating a post-medieval date. The ditch (2005) in Trench 2 contained structural evidence in the form of stake-holes along the base which suggests that it had more than a purely drainage function. It is not possible to give a clear picture of the activity belonging to this period but all the ditches noted above were at roughly 90° to Ousegate perhaps indicating a combined function of land division and drainage. Certainly there is documentary and cartographic evidence for activity in this area during the later post-medieval period.

### **9.5 Modern (19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> centuries)**

In all the trenches, contexts of this period constituted at least half of the stratigraphic sequence. Structural remains, including post-holes (1002, 1017, 1019, 1034, 1056, 2024) were recorded in Trenches 1 and 2. Pits (1004, 1010, 1014, 1054, 2026), drains (3047, 4002), construction cuts, (2029, 2031), a brick wall (2030), a brick floor (2028), service trenches (3022, 3020, 3028) and a ditch (3016) were also noted. The ditch, 3016, in Trench 3, produced evidence, in the form of shallow post-holes or post impressions, for at least two phases of timber structure within it and may not have been solely for drainage. As with the earlier ditches it was aligned at approximately 90° to Ousegate and it is possible that it represents the relatively modern line of a land division established in the medieval period. Within this period it was noticeable that the principal structural elements identified lay towards the Ousegate frontage with the drains and ditches lying mainly to the south. To work properly these features should continue up to, and possibly below, Ousegate before discharging into the River Ouse unless they drained into a now culverted minor beck along the southern edge of the area. Although not of great antiquity, many of these features are unusual and provide some interesting insights into the more recent land use in this area of Selby.

## **10. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS**

This evaluation has shown that archaeological remains dating from, perhaps, as early as the Iron Age are present on this site. There has been a certain amount of disturbance due to modern

activity but this is slight and features from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and earlier, remain relatively intact. The possibility of prehistoric remains in the vicinity would add a new dimension to the early history of Selby. Prehistoric features are sufficiently rare in and around Selby to warrant further investigation in their own right. The medieval, post-medieval, and early modern deposits, structures, and features are, in places, only 0.6m below the modern ground level and undoubtedly would be seriously disturbed or destroyed by any major development of the area. Only a small part of the proposed area of development was available for evaluation and given the nature of the remains found during this phase of work it would be most desirable to effectively evaluate the entire site before any development takes place. The archaeology of Selby in general, and this area in particular, is still very poorly understood and further work is most desirable in order to build up a database and model of the development of the town.

## 11. LIST OF SOURCES

### 11.1 Archives

NMR. National Monuments Record

NYSMR. North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record

Selby Lib. Selby Library, Local Studies Reference Section

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## **12. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Excavation Team</b>                | David Evans, Mike Keech, Brian Milner, Mark Randerson, Steve Toase.                 |
| <b>Site Survey</b>                    | Michael Andrews, Rhona Finlayson  |
| <b>Report Production</b>              | David Evans   |
| <b>Illustrations</b>                  | Russell Marwood   |
| <b>Finds Assistant</b>                | Ruth Green  |
| <b>The Small Finds</b>                | Nicky Rogers  |
| <b>The Pottery</b>                    | Ailsa Mainman   |
| <b>The Environmental Assessment</b>   | John Carrott, Deborah Jaques and Stephen Cousins<br>Palaeoecology Research Services |
| <b>The Ceramic Building Materials</b> | Jane McComish   |
| <b>Photography</b>                    | David Evans   |
| <b>Editor</b>                         | Patrick Ottaway   |



Plate 1 Trench 1 vertical view of ditch 1038



Plate 2 Trench 2 vertical view of stakeholes 2034 in base of ditch 2005



Plate 3 Trench 3 northern end of ditch 3016 (right) with underlying ditch 3050 (left)



Plate 4 Trench 4 features 5003, 5005, 5007, and 5010 Looking east



**North**

**Yorkshire County Council**

Environmental Services

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**LAND SOUTH OF OUSEGATE, SELBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**NGR SE 6200 3219**

**Prepared for Barratt York**

**by**

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**\* - 6 JAN 2003 \***

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**02 January 2003**



# LAND SOUTH OF OUSEGATE, SELBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE

## WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 Residential development is proposed on land at Ousegate, Selby, North Yorkshire. The site lies within an area of potential archaeological significance, along the waterfront of the River Ouse. The Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) has advised the potential developer of the site, Barratt York, that a scheme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching is undertaken of the development site, as set out below. This follows the recommendation of a prior desk-based assessment of the area, undertaken by the York Archaeological Trust. The aim of this work is to establish the nature and extent of any surviving archaeological remains across the site. This will enable the archaeological impact of the development to be fully appreciated and any appropriate design mitigation and/or further archaeological work agreed.

### 2. Purpose

- 2.1 This written scheme of investigation represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements to enable an assessment of the impact of development proposals upon the archaeological resource. It does not comprise a full specification, and the County Council makes no warranty that the archaeological works are fully or exactly described. The details of implementation must be specified in a contract between the Client and the selected archaeological contractor.

### 3. Location and Description (centred at SE 6200 3219)

- 3.1 Selby is situated on the River Ouse between York and Hull. It is an important historic town, with early origins in the eleventh century AD when the abbey was founded. Waterfront activity in the medieval period is known adjacent to the River Ouse. Archaeological work in response to development at the junction of Ousegate and New Street in 1998 demonstrated that a depth of up to 2m of deposits survived, relating to the occupation of the site in the Roman period, and from the middle ages up to the present day. Whilst the extent of this Romano-British and medieval activity is unknown, the proposed development site may have the potential to preserve buried remains related to early waterfront activity.
- 3.2 The proposed residential development site lies to the south-east of the town centre, at the eastern end of Ousegate, and the northern end of Shipyard Road, and comprises four separate areas. The largest of these comprise Areas 1 & Area 4 (as defined in YAT, 2002), lying to the west of Shipyard Road and south of Ousegate. Details of the existing topographical survey are provided on drawing no. 1361-1 Rev A, scale 1:500, dated July 2002 by Premier Design & Surveys. The proposed development layout is shown on drawing no. B145/03/01 Rev B, scale 1:500, dated August 2002 by Brierley Groom & Associates.

### 4. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The proposed development site has been the subject of a desk-based assessment report prepared for Barratt York by York Archaeological Trust (YAT, 2002), which contains background information for the area.
- 4.2 Further information for this area is held by the North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The SMR can be consulted by prior appointment by contacting the SMR Officer,

## **5. Objectives**

- 5.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation work within the proposed development area are:
- .1 to determine by means of trial trenching the nature, depth, extent and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site;
  - .2 to prepare a report summarising the results of the work, to assess the significance of the archaeological remains and assess the archaeological implications of the proposed development,
  - .3 to prepare and submit the archive to the appropriate museum.

## **6. Tenders**

- 6.1 Archaeological contractors should submit their estimates or quotations to Building Design and Management, NYCC with reference to the County Council's *Guidance for Developers – Archaeological Work and Research Questions for Assessments, Evaluations and Small Scale Interventions in North Yorkshire*.

## **7. Access, Safety and Monitoring**

- 7.1 Access to the site should be arranged through the commissioning body.
- 7.2 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that Health and Safety requirements are fulfilled. Necessary precautions should be taken near underground services and overhead lines. A risk assessment should be provided to the commissioning body before the commencement of works.
- 7.3 The project will be monitored by the Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council, to whom written documentation should be sent before the start of the trial trenching confirming:
- .1 the date of commencement,
  - .2 the names of all finds and archaeological science specialists likely to be used in the evaluation, and
  - .3 notification to the proposed archive repository of the nature of the works and opportunity to monitor the works.
- 7.4 Where appropriate, the advice of the Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (Yorkshire), Mr Ian Panter, at English Heritage may be called upon to monitor the archaeological science components of the project. Archaeological contractors may wish to contact him to discuss the science components of the project before submission of tenders.
- 7.5 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that monitoring takes place by arranging monitoring points as follows:
- .1 a preliminary meeting or discussion at the commencement of the contract to agree the locations of the proposed trial trenches.
  - .2 progress meeting(s) during the fieldwork phase at appropriate points in the work schedule, to be agreed.
  - .3 a meeting during the post-fieldwork phase to discuss the draft report and archive before completion.
- 7.6 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to ensure that any significant results are brought to the attention of the Archaeologist, NYCC and the commissioning body as soon

as is practically possible. This is particularly important where there is any likelihood of the contingency arrangements being required.

## 8. Brief

- 8.1 Archaeological contractors should quote for a nominal area of 50m<sup>2</sup>, to be investigated to determine the nature, depth, extent and state of preservation of archaeological deposits across the site. It is suggested that five trial trenches, each of 5m x 2m, should be placed within Area 1 (as defined in YAT, 2002) of the proposed development area, that is the area south of Ousegate and west of Shipyard Road. Particular attention should be paid to the Ousegate road frontage area and the land immediately behind.
- 8.2 The precise location of trenches, and any extension to these areas, should be agreed with the Archaeologist, NYCC and the commissioning body prior to excavation.
- 8.3 The project should be undertaken in a manner consistent with the guidance of English Heritage and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (English Heritage, 1991 & IFA, 1999).
- 8.4 Overburden such as turf, topsoil, made ground, rubble or other superficial fill materials should be removed by machine using a back-acting excavator fitted with a toothless or ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation equipment shall be used judiciously, under archaeological supervision down to the top of archaeological deposits, or the natural subsoil (C Horizon or soil parent material), whichever appears first. Topsoil should be kept separate from subsoil or fill materials. Thereafter, hand-excavation of archaeological deposits should be carried out.
- 8.5 A sufficient sample of features and deposits should be investigated to understand the full stratigraphic sequence in each trench, down to natural deposits. All deposits should be fully recorded on standard context sheets, photographs and conventionally-scaled plans and sections.
- 8.6 The need for, and any methods of reinstatement should be agreed with the commissioning body in advance of submission of tenders.
- 8.7 Due attention should be paid to artefact retrieval and conservation, ancient technology, dating of deposits and the assessment of potential for the scientific analysis of soil, sediments, biological remains, ceramics and stone. All specialists (both those employed in-house and those sub-contracted) should be named in project documentation, their prior agreement obtained before the fieldwork commences and opportunity afforded for them to visit the fieldwork in progress.
- 8.8 All artefacts and ecofacts visible during excavation should be collected and processed, unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Archaeologist, NYCC. In some cases, sampling may be most appropriate. Spoil from machine clearance and archaeological excavation should be subject to the detection and collection of metal objects. The requirements of the *Treasure Act*, 1996 should be followed.
- 8.9 Finds should be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal, 1998). In accordance with the procedures of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991), all iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins) and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy should be X-radiographed before assessment. Where there is evidence for industrial activity, large technological residues should be collected by hand, with separate samples collected for micro-slugs. In

these instances, the guidance of English Heritage/Historical Metallurgy Society (1995) should be followed.

- 8.10 Samples should be taken for scientific dating, principally radiocarbon or archaeomagnetic dating, where dating by artefacts is insecure and where dating is a significant issue for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies.
- 8.11 Buried soils and sediment sequences should be inspected and recorded on site and samples for laboratory assessment collected where appropriate, in collaboration with a recognised geoarchaeologist. The guidance of Canti, 1996 should be followed.
- 8.12 A strategy for the sampling of deposits for the retrieval and assessment of the preservation conditions and potential for analysis of all biological remains should be devised. This should include a reasoned justification for the selection of deposits for sampling and should be developed in collaboration with a recognised bioarchaeologist. Sampling methods should follow the guidance of the Association for Environmental Archaeology (1995). Bulk samples and samples taken for coarse-sieving from dry deposits should be processed at the time of fieldwork wherever possible.
- 8.13 Should any human burials be discovered, the remains should be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage. The provisions of Section 25 of the *Burial Act*, 1857 should be complied with.
- 8.14 Upon completion of archaeological field recording work, an appropriate programme of analysis and publication of the results of the evaluation should be completed, in the event that no further excavation takes place. Post-excavation assessment of material should be undertaken in accordance with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991).

## 9. Archive

- 9.1 Archive deposition should be undertaken with reference to the County Council's *Guidelines on the Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*. A field archive should be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs. Catalogues of contexts, finds, soil samples, plans, sections and photographs should be produced and cross-referenced.
- 9.2 The archaeological contractor should liaise with an appropriate museum to establish the detailed requirements of the museum and discuss archive transfer in advance of fieldwork commencing. The relevant museum curator should be afforded access to visit the site and discuss the project results.

## 10. Report

- 10.1 A summary report shall be produced following the County Council's guidance on reporting: *Reporting Check-List*.
- 10.2 All excavated areas should be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings and roads.
- 10.3 At least six copies of the report should be produced and submitted to the commissioning body, North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit, the County Planning Authority, the museum accepting the archive, and the National Monuments Record, Swindon.

## 11. Further Information

- 11.1 Further information or clarification of any aspects of this brief may be obtained from:

Gail Falkingham, MIFA  
Archaeologist  
North Yorkshire County Council  
Heritage Unit  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire DL7 8AH

Tel. 01609 532839  
Fax. 01609 779838

## 11.2 References

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