

5. THE EXCAVATION

5.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

5.1.1 *Natural*

The earliest deposit recorded in this trench, at c.21.6m OD, c.1.4m BGL, was a very loose, light yellow, sandy gravel (1009). Probably roughly contemporary with 1009, and along the south base of the trench, was a deposit of coarse gravel and cobbles in light yellowish-brown sand (1008). At a similar stratigraphic and absolute level, c.22m OD, 1m BGL, there was a compact, light to mid yellow-orange, sandy silt (1010). All three deposits were believed to be part of the natural subsoil.

5.1.2 *Anglian*

Into 1008 and 1009 there was cut a very large irregular feature (1004) of uncertain function, but possibly a quarry pit. It was, however, at least c.6.8m long, 3.5m wide, and 0.8m deep. It had steeply sloping north and south edges and a fairly flat base. Two backfills were identified and excavated. The lower was a dark greyish-brown sandy silt containing frequent cobbles, limestone, and animal bone (1003). The upper backfill was a friable, mixed mid greyish-brown, sandy silt (1002).

5.1.3 *Medieval or post-medieval*

Overlying part of 1002 was a dump or levelling deposit of friable, mid greyish-brown, sandy silt (1001). Part of this deposit, and all later deposits, were removed by machine.

5.1.4 *Modern*

Above 1001 there was an accumulation deposit of friable, dark greyish-brown, sandy silt (1007). Overlying 1007, and only seen in a small part of the north-facing section of the trench, was a possible dump of loose, mid yellow, sand (1006).

The uppermost deposit seen in this trench, and forming the modern ground surface, was a friable, dark greyish-brown, sandy silt capped by rough grass, weeds, and shrubs (1005). This lay at c.23m OD. Unstratified finds from machine clearance and cleaning of this trench were numbered 1000.

5.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

5.2.1 *Natural*

In this trench the earliest deposit recorded was a clean, light yellow, sandy gravel (2010). This was believed to be undisturbed natural and along the northern edge of the trench lay at c.22.3m OD, c.0.95m BGL.

5.2.2 *Post-Medieval*

Overlying 2010 was a deposit of friable, mid to dark brown, fine sand (2006). Where excavated, in a 1m strip along the west edge of the trench, this was up to 0.5m thick and appeared to be filling a possible natural hollow in 2010, taking up much of the southern part of the area investigated. Directly overlying 2006 was a possible dump of dirty, mid brown, fine, sandy gravel (2009). Stratigraphically later than 2009, and located at the east end of Trench 2, was a

very dark greyish-brown, slightly sandy, silt (2003) which may have been an accumulation deposit. This had been cut by a linear feature (2005) which was aligned approximately west-north-west to east-south-east. The size of this cut was not established, since an unknown amount of it lay beyond the south-facing section, but it was at least 1m wide and 0.5m deep with a moderately to steeply sloping south edge. The base was uneven, but roughly flat. This feature, possibly a ditch, had a single recorded backfill of friable, dark greyish-brown, sandy silt (2004). It was sealed, along its entire visible length, by a probable accumulation deposit of friable, dark greyish-brown, sandy silt (2008). This context, and those stratigraphically later, was all partly or totally removed by machine.

5.2.3 *Modern*

Cut into 2008 was a linear feature (2002), probably a robbed-out modern service trench. It was aligned north-south, was c.0.6m wide, and 0.8m deep. It had very steeply sloping sides, a concave base, and a single backfill of friable, mid greyish-brown, sandy silt (2001). Sealing this feature, and forming the modern ground surface, was a friable, dark greyish-brown, fine, sandy silt capped by weeds and small shrubs (2007). This lay at c.23.3m OD in the vicinity of Trench 2. Unstratified finds from this trench were numbered 2000.

5.3 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

5.3.1 *Natural*

The lowest observed deposit in this trench, at c.22.8m OD, 0.75m BGL, was a dark greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent cobbles and yellow sand (3012). Only a small area, 1m², of this layer was seen but it appeared to be very similar to deposits of dirty, disturbed natural identified in a number of the other trenches.

5.3.2 *Medieval*

Overlying 3012 was a layer of friable, dark greyish-brown, sandy silt with frequent cobbles (3011). Above this was a friable dark, slightly greyish, brown sandy silt (3009). Both of these were thought to be accumulation deposits. Cut into 3009 were two features. The first (3008) was roughly circular in plan, c.0.1m across, and 0.17m deep. It had very steeply sloping sides leading to a tapered base. The backfill was a mixed dark greyish-brown and mid brown sandy silt (3007). The second feature (3006) was also roughly circular. It was c.0.22m across, 0.33m deep, and had steeply sloping sides leading to a tapered base. It had been backfilled with a mixed dark greyish-brown and mid brown sandy silt (3005). Both of these features were probably post-holes.

Features 3006 and 3008 were both sealed by a probable accumulation deposit of friable, mid brown, sandy silt containing a moderate number of patches of mid greyish-brown sandy silt (3004). At a similar stratigraphic level was another probable accumulation deposit. It was composed of friable, dark greyish-brown, sandy silt (3010).

5.3.3 *?Post-Medieval*

Overlying 3004 and 3010 was a roughly semi-circular setting of cobbles (3003), c.5m across. A possible limestone post pad lay abutting part of the south-east edge of the setting and a gap in the cobbles c.1.2m to the north may indicate the former position of another pad stone. This setting appears to be the foundation and floor of some structure such as an oast house. The nature of the

dating evidence means that this structure could be late – medieval in date.

5.3.3 *Modern*

Sealing the cobble setting was a possible dump or levelling deposit of friable, mid orange-brown, sandy silt (3002). Above this was the modern ground surface which consisted of friable, dark greyish-brown, sandy silt capped by rough grass (3001). This lay at c.23.6m OD. Unstratified finds from this trench were numbered 3000. Context 3001 was the only deposit removed by machine in this trench.

5.4 Trench 4 (Figure 6)

5.4.1 *Natural*

In this trench the earliest deposit recorded was a loose, mid orange-brown, sandy gravel (4011). This was believed to be the natural sub-soil and it was encountered at c. 22.6m OD, 0.7m BGL. All contexts above this level were removed by machine.

5.4.2 *Medieval*

Cut into 4011 was a feature (4010) of uncertain size, shape, and function. It was at least 0.3m across, 0.2m deep, and had a very steeply sloping east edge. The base of 4010 was not reached. The feature had a backfill of mid greyish-brown sandy silt (4009). It was sealed by a dark brown sandy silt with moderate quantities of cobbles and white mortar (4008). Above this was a mid to dark brown sandy silt (4007). Probably contemporary with 4008 was a deposit of dark brown sandy silt (4006) and above, at a similar stratigraphic horizon to 4007, there was a mid brown sandy silt (4005). Contexts 4005-8 were all thought to be accumulation deposits.

Cutting 4005 and 4007 was an unidentified feature (4004), possibly a pit or post-hole. It was c.0.8m wide and at least 0.6m deep with very steeply sloping sides. The base was not reached. The backfill of this cut was a mid brown sandy silt (4003). It was sealed by an accumulation deposit of dark greyish-brown sandy silt (4002).

5.4.3 *Modern*

The uppermost deposit in this trench was a mixture of fine grey gravel and dark grey sandy silt (4001). This formed the modern ground surface in this area and lay at c.23.3m OD.

Trench 5 (Figures 7 and 8)

5.5.1 *Natural*

In this trench the earliest deposit recorded was a loose, light to mid orange-brown, sandy gravel (5033) seen across most of the area. This was believed to be the natural subsoil and lay at c.22.5m OD, 0.9m BGL.

5.5.2 *Medieval*

A number of features were cut directly into the natural. Towards the centre of the trench was a cut (5022) of uncertain size, shape, and function. It may have originally been roughly circular in plan but had been truncated by later features 5007 and 5016. The surviving portion of 5022 was c.1.3m across, and 0.14m deep with steeply sloping sides, and a flat base. The backfill was a mixture of dark greyish-brown sandy silt and fine gravel (5021). At a similar stratigraphic

horizon, and c.0.6m north of the north edge of 5022, was another feature (5020) which had been cut by 5016. Cut 5020, probably a post-hole, was at least 0.28m x 0.16m and 0.2m deep. It had steeply sloping sides, a flat base, and a backfill composed of a mixture of dark greyish-brown sandy silt and fine gravel (5019). Approximately 0.7m north-east of 5020 was another truncated feature (5018) which was thought to be a post-hole. It was at least 0.4m x 0.3m x 0.24m deep. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base with a backfill that was a mixture of dark greyish-brown sandy silt and fine gravel (5017).

Cutting 5020 and 5022 was a linear feature (5016) aligned mainly north-south, but evidence was recovered to indicate that this feature may have turned to run eastwards from the north-west corner of the trench. In this area 5016 had been largely cut away by later features. The function of 5016 was uncertain, but it may have been a beam slot. It was at least 0.6m wide and 0.32m deep with moderately sloping sides, and a flattish base. Two backfills were identified. The lower was a compact mixture of medium gravel and dark greyish-brown sandy silt (5015), and the upper was a dark brown sandy silt. (5014). Possibly contemporary with 5016 was a linear feature (5013) aligned east-west running adjacent to the south edge of the trench. This cut, possibly another beam slot, was at least 1.2m long x 0.4m wide x 0.16m deep. It had a moderately sloping north edge and a flat base. The backfill was a mid brownish-grey sandy silt with moderate amounts of mid orange-brown fine gravel (5012). A probable accumulation deposit of mid brown sandy silt (5030) had sealed feature 5013.

Cut into 5016, and lying against and beyond the south-facing section, was a feature (5002), possibly originally sub-square or rectangular in plan. It was at least 0.8m wide, 0.58m long, and 0.3m deep with very steeply sloping sides, and a gently concave base. It contained two backfills, the lower being a mixture of dark grey sandy silt and fine to medium gravel (5003), and the upper was a dark brown sandy silt (5001). The function of 5002 was uncertain, but it may have been a small pit.

Part of the eastern edge of 5002 had been truncated by another feature (5006) lying against the south-facing section of the trench. Context 5006 measured at least 0.5m x 0.3m x 0.17m deep and may have been a post-hole. It had moderately to steeply sloping sides leading to a concave base and contained two backfills. The lower was a mixture of medium gravel and some dark brown sandy silt (5005), whilst the upper was a dark brown sandy silt (5004). This feature had been sealed by an accumulation deposit of mid to dark greyish-brown sandy silt (5029).

Two features were seen to cut into 5029. The first (5011) lay in, and beyond, the south-west corner of the trench but was at least 0.6m x 0.3m. It was certainly c.0.9m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It could have been a post-hole or a pit. Two backfills were recorded. The lower was a mid brown sandy silt with moderate fine gravel (5010) and the upper was a dark greyish-brown sandy silt with moderate white mortar (5031). The second feature (5009) was a pit, possibly originally sub-rectangular in shape, against the east-facing section. It was at least 1.4m across and c.1.05m deep with nearly vertical sides, and a flat base. Three backfills were recorded. The lowest was a mid brown sandy silt (5008). Above this was a dark greyish-brown sandy silt containing very large quantities of pottery (5007). The uppermost backfill was a dark brown sandy silt containing moderate numbers of medium sized cobbles (5032). Both 5009 and 5011 were seen, in the standing section, to be sealed by an accumulation deposit of dark greyish-brown sandy silt (5028). Context 5028, and all later contexts, was fully

removed by machine.

5.5.3 *Modern*

Overlying 5028 was a deposit of uncertain function, but possibly a construction or demolition deposit, which was a mixture of light brown sandy silt and white plaster (5027). It was sealed by another deposit of uncertain function, a compact, dark brown, sandy silt with moderate flecks of white plaster (5026). Above this was a dump of black clinker and charcoal with moderate dark brown sandy silt (5025), and a dump of pure black clinker (5036).

Sealing 5025, there was a possible accumulation or levelling deposit that was a compact, dark brown, sandy silt (5024). Above 5036, and probably contemporary with 5024, was a dark greyish-brown sandy silt (5035) of uncertain function, but possibly an accumulation deposit. Possibly contemporary with 5035 and 5024, but certainly later than 5028, there was a layer of compact, cream, mortar of uncertain function. Overlying 5034, 5035, and 5024, forming the modern ground surface, was a mixture of dark brown sandy silt and fine grey gravel (5023). The top of this lay at c.22.45-22.6m OD around Trench 5.

5.6 Trench 6 (Figures 9 and 10)

5.6.1 *Natural*

The earliest deposit recorded in this trench, at its highest point in the south-west corner, c.22.3m OD, 0.9m BGL, was a loose, mid orange-brown, sandy gravel (6020). This deposit, thought to be undisturbed natural, appeared to slope down slightly to the east where it was encountered at c.22.1m OD, 0.95m BGL.

5.6.2 *Medieval*

Two features were recorded cut directly into the natural. The first (6022) lay towards the south-west corner of the trench, and was an irregular linear feature, aligned east-west. The eastern half of 6022 was roughly circular in plan, c.0.45m across, and 0.14m deep with a concave base. The western part was c.0.4m x 0.3m x 0.07m deep. This part had a flat base. The sides at all points sloped gently to moderately and the overall length of 6022, of uncertain function, but possibly a post-hole, was c.0.8m. It had been backfilled with a mixture of dark brown sandy silt and medium gravel (6021). The second feature (6011), lying close to the south-east corner of Trench 6, had been truncated by later feature 6009, but was at least c.0.55m x 0.3m x 0.2m deep, and may have been a post-hole. It had steeply sloping sides, and flattish base, and a single backfill of compact, mixed, fine to medium gravel, and dark grey sandy silt (6010). Sealing these two features was an unknown deposit, possibly disturbed natural, of compact, mixed, mid brown, sandy silt and fine to medium gravel (6019).

Two features were noted cutting directly into 6019. The first (6023) had been partly cut away by feature 6009, but was aligned roughly north-west to south-east. It varied in width from c.0.7m to 1m and the depth, where determined, was between 0.09m and 0.18m. The sides sloped very gently to moderately and the base was flat but sloped down to the south-east. The function of this cut is uncertain but it may have been a drain. The backfill was a mixture of dark brown sandy silt and fine to medium gravel (6024). The second feature (6006) lay along the north side of the trench, partly within the limits of excavation, and partly without. It was aligned east-west, was at least 5m x 1.5m x 0.3m deep with a gently sloping south edge and a flat base. The

backfill was a mixture of light to mid brown sandy silt and light yellow sand (6005). The relationship of this feature to 6023 is uncertain although there is some evidence to suggest that 6023 may cut 6006.

A linear feature (6009) was clearly cut into 6023. Feature 6009, of uncertain function but possibly a drain, was aligned east-west and ran beyond the east limit of excavation. It was at least 1.8m long, 0.8m wide, and 0.2m deep with moderately sloping sides. It had a flattish base and two backfills. The lower was a compact mixture of dark grey sandy silt and fine to medium gravel (6008). The upper backfill was a compact, dark grey, sandy silt (6007). This feature was sealed by an accumulation deposit of dark brown sandy silt (6018). Overlying 6018 was a clean, dark brown, sandy silt (6017). The exact stratigraphic position of 6017 is uncertain, it may belong further up the sequence immediately below 6016.

Within the north-east corner of the trench was a feature (6004) of which only the south-west quadrant lay within the limits of excavation. It may have been roughly circular in plan with a diameter of c.2m. It was at least 0.9m deep with a steeply sloping south edge leading to a step c.0.3m wide and 0.2m deep before again dropping steeply to the base which appeared to be flat. The lowest backfill, occupying the basal step, was a mid greenish-grey slightly clayey sandy silt (6003). Above this was a light to mid brown slightly sandy silt (6002). The uppermost backfill identified may have filled a recut of the feature but this could not be confirmed. This backfill was a dark greyish-brown sandy silt (6001). Feature 6004, very probably a pit, was sealed by an accumulation deposit of compact, dark greyish-brown, sandy silt with moderate white mortar (6016). Context 6016, and all later contexts, was removed by machine.

5.6.3 Modern

Overlying 6016 there was a probable dump or levelling deposit that was a mixture of brick rubble, dark brown sandy silt, tile, and cobbles (6015). Above this was a compact, mid yellowish-brown, fine, sandy gravel (6014) of uncertain function. Sealing it was a probable levelling deposit of mixed black clinker and small tarmac fragments (6013). Above 6013, and forming the modern ground surface, was a thin, c.0.05m, layer of tarmac. The top of this lay at between c.23m OD to c.23.15m OD around the trench.

5.7 Trench 7 (Figure 11)

5.7.1 Natural

The earliest deposits recorded in this trench, at c22m OD to 22.1m OD, c.1.3m BGL to 1.4m BGL, were a loose, light yellowish-brown, sandy gravel (7015) and a loose, mid orange-brown, medium sandy gravel (7016). Both of these deposits were believed to be natural.

5.7.2 Medieval

Cut into 7015 and 7016 was a linear feature (7012) aligned north-south. It had been truncated to the west by a later feature but it was at least 1.6m wide and c.0.2m deep. It had a moderately sloping east edge and an uneven but flattish base. It had a backfill of friable, mid greyish-brown, sandy silt (7010). At a similar stratigraphic level, and also cutting 7015 and 7016, there was an irregular roughly oval-shaped feature (7014). It was c.2.4m x 1.3m and at least 0.25m deep. The sides sloped moderately to steeply. The base was not reached. The single backfill was a friable, mid to dark greyish-brown, sandy silt with moderate gravel (7013). Also at this level there was a

layer of friable, light brownish-grey, sandy silt (7008). This was not investigated in detail but it is thought that it may be the silting up of a natural feature.

Two features were recorded cutting into the backfill of 7012. The first (7011) was a linear cut, aligned north-south. Some of this cut lay beyond the western limit of excavation but it was at least 0.75m wide and 0.25m deep. It had a steeply sloping east edge. The base was not reached but may have been flat. The single backfill was a friable, dark yellowish-brown, sandy silt (7009). The second feature (7006) at this level ran eastwards from the northern end of 7011. Context 7006 was c.1.3m wide and 0.2m deep where excavated. It had quite steeply sloping sides and a gently concave base. Two backfills were identified which were possibly contemporary. They were a loose, dark orange-brown, sandy gravel (7005) and a friable, dark greyish-brown, sandy silt (7007). All contexts later than 7007 were removed by machine.

5.7.3 Modern

Sealing features 7011 and 7006 was an accumulation deposit of compact dark brown sandy silt (7004). Above this was a possible dump or levelling deposit. It was composed of loose dark greyish-brown sandy silt containing many large, up to c.0.2m across, cobbles (7003). A metal pipe, probably for gas, ran through the western part of this deposit. Overlying 7003 there was a probable levelling deposit. It was a mixture of tarmac fragments, small pieces of brick, and dark brown sandy silt (7002). Above this, and forming the modern ground surface, was a thin, c.0.05m, layer of black tarmac. This lay at c.23.6m OD in the immediate vicinity of the trench.

6. FINDS ASSESSMENT

6.1 The Pottery By A.J. Mainman

6.1.1 Trench 1

The only pottery from this trench was from the upper layers (context 1000) which produced only 19th and 20th century wares. An overfired fragment of fired clay was recovered from 1003.

Context	Quantity	Spotdate	Details
1000	22	19th/20 th century	19th/early 20th century sherds include late willow pattern, flower pot, earthenwares and other tin-glazed wares
1003	1	uncertain	may not be pottery

6.1.2 Trench 2

The upper contexts (2000-1) from this trench produced Victorian pottery. Contexts below this (2004, 2005, 2006) contain a few sherds of late medieval and early post-medieval pottery, including Cistercian ware. A single sherd of samian pottery represents the only Roman find from the site.

Context	Quantity	Spotdate	Details
2000	6	19th/20 th century	1 sherd tin-glazed 19th century transfer printed 1 late Black ware bowl 1 glazed fine reduced ware 1 gritty ware 1 oxidised fine ware
2001	4	19/20 th century	1 tin glazed earthenware bowl rim 2 small fine pink/oxidised sherds 1 reduced gritty sherd
2004	3	16/17 th century	1 sherd samian bowl rim 1 fine hard-fired bowl rim 1 fine reduced green-glazed sherd
2005	1	15th century	1 fine reduced ware, unglazed
2006	4	16th century	1 Cistercian sherd 3 small gritty sherds

6.1.3 Trench 3

A number of small sherds were recovered from this trench the earliest of which are 14th century in date. These are too small to determine form but are typical of glazed jug sherds. The gritty ware tradition continues in Ripon into the 14th century so all the material from 3005 and 3009 could be 14th century in date but equally some of the material could be residual. The typical fine reduced wares of the 15th and 16th century were recovered from contexts 3004 and 3010 above the medieval levels.

Context	Quantity	Spotdate	Details
3000	6	19th century	1 Black ware 1 internally cream glazed earthenware 1 late English stoneware 1 gritty sherd 1 internally glazed? open form with handle attachment 1 reduced fine ware with green glaze
3004	5	15/16th century	4 fine reduced glazed wares 1 gritty ware
3005	4	14th century	2 reduced gritty wares with spots of glaze 2 fine reduced glazed wares
3009	9	14th century	9 small glazed and unglazed gritty ware sherds
3010	1	15th/16th century	1 handle attached to open form rim, internal glaze, related to Ryedale- type ware

6.1.4 Trench 4

Only one context (4000) produced pottery which included Cistercian ware and Brownware together with a small number of residual sherds.

Context	Quantity	Spotdate	Details
4000	13	16/17th century	1 Cistercian 1 English Brownware 7 fine glazed reduced wares 1 gritty ware 3 scraps

6.1.5 Trench 5

This trench produced by far the most interesting pottery from the site. Below the top level (context 5000) there was no pottery until pit 5009 was encountered. This produced 78 sherds from its two of its fills 5007-8. Without exception these are 12th century gritty wares including some quite complete forms, mostly cooking pots but the lower part of at least one pitcher. The vessels are sooted with small traces of internal residues. The number of vessels represented (at least nine) and their relative completeness indicates that this is contemporary rubbish deposited in a single episode in the 12th century.

Context	Quantity	Spotdate	Details
5000	14	19/20 th century	3 tin-glazed earthenwares 2 gritty wares 7 fine reduced wares, possible cisterns, large jugs or open forms 1 glazed gritty jug sherd

5007	52	12th century	All fifty-two sherds are of gritty ware. There are at least seven vessels represented and sufficient survives to reconstruct whole profiles. With the exception of one pitcher form all are cooking pots which show considerable sooting on the exterior and trace of internal residue. Most rim forms are the typical 12th century squared rims but there is one, possibly earlier everted rim. The forms are generally straight-sided cooking pot with rim diameters between 250 and 350 mm. One sherd has an applied thumbed strip running approximately vertical, down the vessel body. There are several cross-joins with material from 5008.
5008	26	12th century	All 26 sherds are of gritty ware and there are several cross-joins between this context and context 5007. There are further examples of cooking pots with sooted exteriors. Two further vessels are represented in addition to the cross-joins with material from 5007.

6.1.6 Trench 6

A small number of sherds of 12th-14th century date were recovered from this trench.

Context	Quantity	Spotdate	Details
6000	4	14th century	1 gritty ware base 3 lightly tempered glazed sherds
6001	1	12th century	1 gritty ware cooking pot rim

6.1.7 Trench 7

Two sherds of late post medieval and 20th century were recovered from this trench.

Context	Quantity	Spotdate	Details
7002	2	20th century	1 fine oxidised ware 1 lustre ware rim

6.1.8 Summary

While the majority of this assemblage is of little interest, being either Victorian or represented by very few sherds, the pit in Trench 5 is of considerable significance. The vessels from the pit are the most complete 12th century forms to have been recovered from Ripon and are a useful contribution to the growing sequence of medieval forms from the town. They should be drawn and published as part of a ceramic sequence for Ripon.

The only other sherd of note is the samian sherd, being the sole ceramic indicator of Roman activity on the site but complemented by the Roman element of the CBM assemblage.

6.2 Ceramic Building Materials By J. McComish

6.2.1 Introduction

A total of 3.241kg of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) was examined from the site. A number of forms were identified including Roman brick, medieval plain and peg tile, 17th century or later pan tile and modern sewage pipe.

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 and the weights in grams. 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 a Ripon fabric series devised for earlier work in the town by S. Garside-Neville. The fabric series does not include post-medieval/modern material, which is simply entered as P0. Most of the fragments were not retained as they were not of sufficient worth, but in some cases samples were taken to add to the fabric series collection.

6.2.3 Fabrics

Fabric	Weight	Weight as a % of total	Forms present
P0	340	10.49%	Sewer pipe, pan tile
F1	162	5.00%	Plain
F9	55	1.70%	Plain
F11	25	0.77%	Peg
F12	854	26.35%	Rbrick
F13	1690	52.14%	Rbrick
F14	115	3.55%	Brick
Total weight	3241		

Table 1 Summary of fabrics present

Roman material on site was in fabrics not previously recognised within Ripon; they were therefore allocated new fabric numbers F12 and F13 (described in table 2 below). There was also an additional medieval fabric allocated the number F14. The remaining medieval fragments

were in fabrics already recorded on other sites in Ripon by S. Garside-Neville, (Fabrics F1 and F11).

Fabric number	Description
F12	Dark red fabric, well sorted and fine grained. Moderate to frequent minute quartz grains up to 0.1mm in size, occasional oolites up to 0.2mm in size, occasional larger quartz grains up to 0.3mm in size. Well fired
F13	Orange fabric, fine grained well, mixed fabric. Occasional silty nodules up to 18x16mm in size, occasional irregular voids up to 4x1mm in size, occasional grog, very occasional limestone up to 1x1mm in size.
F14	Dark red, fine grained, fabric with frequent linear voids. Occasional grog, occasional silty bands, occasional limestone, occasional sub angular quartz grains up to 0.5mm in size

Table 2 Roman fabric descriptions

6.2.4 Forms

A number of forms were identified ranging from the Roman to modern period in date; the overwhelming bulk was of Roman date.

Form	Total weight	Weight as a % of total
Rbrick	2544	78.49%
Plain	217	6.70%
Peg	25	0.77%
Brick	115	3.55%
Pan	210	6.48%
Sewer pipe	130	4.01%
Total weight	3241	

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

All of the Roman material was identified as brick. Bricks were in use throughout the entire Roman period, and they are therefore of relatively little help in dating. The bricks on site ranged from 22mm to 55mm in thickness. No features of special note were present.

The medieval material consisted of both plain and peg tile. One of the plain tiles was unusually thick at 22mm. Post-medieval material consisted of fragments of pan tile while the only modern fragment was from a sewer pipe.

6.2.5 Conclusion

The quantity of material recovered was relatively small but clearly showed the presence of Roman activity within the vicinity. More research is needed into CBM material from this site and other excavations within Ripon to fully understand the significance of the various fabrics used in CBM manufacture. The site is therefore of use in the contribution it can make to building

up a wider picture of the development of Roman CBM in Ripon. There was insufficient medieval material to enable anything meaningful to be said of the fabrics or forms.

6.2.6 CBM Context Listing

Key

Cxt = Context L = Complete length B = Complete breadth
 T = Complete Thickness FH = Complete Flange Height
 Date range = date range of form Date = estimated date of context
 * = only minimum measurement available

NB: This list indicates only forms present and any variations (such as slag attached, or pawprints). It does not list every fragment of CBM

CXT	Form	L	B	T	Comments	Date Range	Date
1000	Pan			15		17 th +	Post-medieval
1000	Pan			12		17 th +	Post-medieval
1001	Brick?					14-16th	Medieval
1002	Plain					13-16th	Medieval
1003	Rbrick			42		Roman	Roman
1003	Rbrick			22		Roman	Roman
2004	Rbrick			38	In two fragments	Roman	Roman
2005	Plain?			22	In two fragments	13-16 th	Medieval
3000	Pan			12		17 th +	Post-medieval
3004	Brick					14-16th	Medieval
3004	Plain			17		13-16th	Medieval
3004	Brick					14-16th	Medieval
3004	Peg			19	Square peg hole 12x?mm	13-16th	Medieval
3009	Plain?					13-16th	Medieval
3009	Plain?					13-16th	Medieval
3009	Rbrick			22		Roman	Roman
3009	Rbrick			0		Roman	Roman
3009	Plain			12		13-16th	Medieval
3009	Plain?					13-16th	Medieval
4000	Sewer pipe			25		20th	Modern
5000	Rbrick			55		Roman	Roman
5000	Rbrick			45		Roman	Roman

Table 4. Detailed context listing for brick and tile.

6.3 The Small Finds By N. Rogers

6.3.1 *Metal detected finds*

This comprises ironwork which includes a coat hook, 4 nails, 2 large rectangular brackets, a horseshoe fragment and a bar or strip fragment. All appear to be modern.

6.3.2 *Small finds recovered from excavations*

Almost two-thirds of the 58 small finds from the excavations were recovered from Trench 1, with twenty seven objects coming from Context 1002, and two from Context 1003. The objects from 1002 included a stone spindle whorl, two copper alloy dress pins, a comb fragment, and a probable styca; all could be 8th - 9th century in date, apart from the styca which is of 9th century date. The same context also produced iron tools including two possible wedges from wood-working, and a whittle tang knife fragment, and several finds of metalworking debris including lead alloy spillages and slag from metalworking or perhaps glassworking, as well as a second possible coin. Context 1003 produced iron objects including an iron shank with a looped end, possibly a 9th - 10th century ringed pin, and a spectacular copper alloy strap-end. The strap-end is complete although covered in corrosion which currently hides its detail; nevertheless it is possible to see that it is a finely decorated mid-9th century strap-end which bears comparison to some of the silver strap-ends recently recovered at Upper Poppleton, c.5km north-west of York.

Little of note was found in any of the other trenches apart from a large copper alloy padlock key from Trench 2, Context 2004, which may date to the late 11th - 13th century. More metalworking debris also came from this trench. An awl used in leatherworking was identified from Trench 3, Context 3004. Recent finds were limited to a few tobacco pipe stems and some post-medieval/modern glass; a few fragments of possible Roman glass were also found.

6.3.3 *Conclusion*

As noted above, the majority of finds of interest come from Trench 1 which has provided evidence of probable 9th century activity, with indications of possible metalworking and/or glassworking in the vicinity. The strap-end is a fine example, which when fully conserved, will probably prove to be the most impressive copper alloy example found in North Yorkshire in recent years. Overall the finds suggest activity concentrated on the Anglian to early medieval period, with a possible gap until the 18th - 19th centuries and up to the present day.

6.4 The Architectural Fragments By Jane McComish

6.4.1 Summary

Three architectural fragments were recovered from the site, unfortunately none were sufficiently diagnostic to yield much information.

6.4.2 Architectural Fragment 1

92x60x50mm. Small limestone block with two worked faces (F1-F2) at right angles to one another. The fragment was heavily eroded, so no tooling survived. It is possible this represents a small fragment from an ashlar block of medieval date, but the eroded surface and small size makes it impossible to be sure.

6.4.3 Architectural Fragment 2

550x370x340mm. Large block of coarse grained sandstone (gritstone). One worked external face surviving (F1). Two other faces roughly squared (F2 and F3) probably originally located within the thickness of a wall. All other faces broken off. Eroded striated tooling on F1, tooling marks c. 10x50mm in size and c. 50mm apart.

The original function of the block is unclear, but it may have been from the lower courses or even foundations of a building. The gritstone is not local to Ripon and had clearly been imported. The choice of gritstone as opposed to finer grained sandstone or limestone may imply a Roman date for the fragment.

6.4.4 Architectural Fragment 3

185x285x220mm. Irregularly shaped block of coarse grained sandstone (gritstone). Possibly a concave curved face (F1) on one side, all other faces broken off. No tooling visible. It is possible this may be part of a millstone, but the fragment was too damaged to be sure.

6.4.5 Miscellaneous Stone

As well as numerous fragments of limestone two other types of stone were noted from this site. The first was a red sandstone which appears in large quantities at the Roman town of Aldborough, *Isurium Brigantum*. A number of fragments of Millstone Grit were also noted. This stone has also been found within Ripon Cathedral and has been associated with the pre-Conquest ecclesiastical settlement. It is quite possible that the Millstone Grit is derived from the Brimham Rocks outcropping, some 16km to the south-east.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT By Deborah Jaques, Allan Hall, and John Carrott, Palaeoecology Research Services

7.1 Introduction

Two 'GBA' samples and a 'SPOT' sample (*sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992), together with an assemblage of hand-collected bone amounting to 8 boxes (each box approximately 20 l), were submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

7.2 Methods

7.2.1 Sediment samples

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

A small sample of wood fragments was examined as a 'SPOT' sample to identify the wood present.

7.2.2 Hand-collected vertebrate remains

For the hand-collected vertebrate remains that were recorded, data were entered directly into a series of tables using a purpose-built input system and *Paradox* software. Records were made concerning the state of preservation, colour of the fragments, and the appearance of broken surfaces ('angularity'). Other information, such as fragment size, dog gnawing, burning, butchery and fresh breaks, was noted, where applicable.

Fragments were identified to species or species group using the PRS modern comparative reference collection. The bones which could not be identified to species were described as the 'unidentified' fraction. Within this fraction fragments were grouped into a number of categories: large mammal (assumed to be cattle, horse or large cervid), medium-sized mammal (assumed to be caprovid, pig or small cervid), unidentified bird and totally unidentifiable. All are shown as 'Unidentified' in Table 5.

7.3 Results

7.3.1 Sediment samples

The results for the samples 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.

Context 2004 [backfill in feature 2005; 16/17th century]

Sample 1/SPT

This 'spot' sample consisted of a few cubic centimetres of damp wood charcoal which was rinsed and dried for re-examination. It consisted of 'flaky' and very fragile oak (*Quercus*), up to 30 mm in maximum dimension, and a single fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana* L.) roundwood (to 15 mm in diameter by 25 mm).

Context 5008 [basal fill of pit 5009; 12th century]

Sample 3 (2 kg sieved to 300 micron with washover; approximately 7 litres of unprocessed sediment remains)

Just moist, mid-dark grey-brown (mottled with light-mid brown on a mm-scale in places), unconsolidated to crumbly, slightly clay, sandy silt, with small to medium-sized (6 to 60 mm) stones. Traces of rotted charcoal and fragments of bone were present.

There was a very small washover of about 40 cm³ of modern woody roots and wood charcoal, with some dicotyledonous (tree) leaf skeletons which also seem likely to be of recent origin. Traces of charred grains (a few oat, *Avena*, with single specimens of bread/club wheat, *Triticum aestivo-compactum* and barley, *Hordeum*) were present and the finest fraction contained a small concentration of oat chaff, including awn fragments. The only (probably ancient) uncharred plant material was a single eroded fragment of a fruit of hemlock, *Conium maculatum* L.

The large residue (dry weight 824 g) was mostly of sand, with some stones (to 35 mm), a little charcoal (to 10 mm; approximately 1 g) and a single charred oat grain. Several concreted fragments were identified as possibly being faecal in origin. One such fragment was examined for the eggs of parasitic nematodes using the >squash= method of Dainton (1992). No parasitic nematode eggs or other microfossils were identified, however, fragments of mineralised plant material were observed.

A small assemblage of vertebrate remains, amounting to 45 fragments, was recovered from this sample. The better preserved bones were identified as fish, including eel (*Anguilla anguilla* (L.)) and herring (*Clupea harengus* L.), and small mammal (field vole (*Microtus minutus* (Pallas)) or bank vole (*Clethrionomys glareolus* (Schreber))). The fish remains included a number of crushed vertebrae; the damage consistent with their having been consumed and most probably indicating a faecal component to this deposit. Other mammal remains were primarily unidentified and of rather battered appearance; a single fragment was identified as part of a cat pelvis.

Context 6003 [basal fill of pit 6004; 12th century]

Sample 2/T (2 kg sieved to 300 micron with washover; approximately 7 litres of unprocessed sediment remains)

The washover was minute and comprised a trace of charcoal (to 5 mm), one very eroded charred cereal grain and traces of (? modern) dicotyledonous leaf fragments and modern moss.

The large residue was of stones (to 20 mm) and sand, with a little charcoal (to 6 mm;

approximately 1 g). Six fragments of bone were present in this sample. All represented mammals but none could be identified. A single fragment was burnt.

7.3.2 Hand-collected vertebrate remains

Sixteen deposits representing 6 of the excavated trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7) produced bone. The assemblage amounted to eight boxes of which four represented a single pit fill, Context 1002 (1670 fragments) and two others were from the lower fill of the same pit, Context 1003 (693 fragments). Most of the rest of the assemblage was recovered from Contexts 1001 (131 fragments), 2004 (187 fragments) and 3009 (53 fragments). Table 5 shows the total number of fragments by date and the range of species identified. The pit fills, from which the bulk of the assemblage was derived, have been tentatively dated by artefactual evidence as 8/9th century. Other deposits ranged in date from medieval to post-medieval to modern. Material from contexts described as unstratified were not recorded.

In general, preservation of the bones was good, although the large assemblages from Contexts 1002 and 1003 contained a few very eroded fragments. Vertebrate remains from three of the contexts (2001, 5007 and 6001) were described as of 'fair' preservation and these assemblages also included some fragments that were rounded and battered in appearance. Colour of the bones was brown and was consistent both within and between contexts. Most fragments were between 5 and 20 cm in any dimension, the exception being that between 20-50% of the fragments from Contexts 1002 and 1003 were larger than 20cm. Material from these same two deposits also showed some fresh breakage damage, but this was more extensive in the assemblage from Context 3009. There was little evidence of dog gnawing and only a few fragments were burnt. Butchery marks, as such, were not frequently encountered but it was apparent that many of the large mammal shaft fragments, particularly from Contexts 1002, 1003 and 2004, had been chopped into chunks or split longitudinally.

As can be seen from Table 5, the assemblage was dominated by the major domestic mammals; cattle, caprovids and pigs. Contexts 1002 and 1003, the 8/9th century pit fills produced large quantities of pig bones, out-numbering those identified as cattle. However, caprovid remains were the most numerous of the bones identified to species. Also worthy of note were the fragments of roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus* (L.)), most of which were either radius or metatarsal fragments. Moreover, a red deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.) mandible was recovered from Context 1002. Other species, including birds were rather poorly represented (Table 5).

The two pit fills, Contexts 1002 and 1003, were characterised by numerous large mammal rib and, to a lesser extent, shaft fragments. Medium-sized mammal rib and shaft fragments were also relatively common. Whilst some vertebrae were present, their numbers were limited and large mammals were only represented by thoracic vertebra fragments. Although maxilla, mandibles and isolated teeth (both maxillary and mandibular) were present, cranium fragments were, in general, largely absent. This was also the case for small caprovid and pig bones, such as phalanges. The lack of cranium and phalanges suggests that primary butchery waste was limited, but this may be the result of the loss of easily damaged and fragmented bones (e.g. skull fragments) and the bias of hand-collection against small bones, such as medium-sized mammal phalanges, carpals and tarsals.

For the main domestic mammals, isolated teeth were numerous, as were cattle and caprovid tibiae. Cattle remains also included many scapulae and calcanea, whilst mandibles, radii, humeri and pelvis were the most commonly occurring elements for caprovids. The remains of pigs were dominated by ulna and maxilla fragments, with only isolated teeth being more numerous.

Material from Contexts 1001 and 2004 (despite its much later date) showed many similarities to the assemblage from the 8/9th century deposits; the most obvious being the numerous large mammal rib and split shaft fragments. Both of these deposits also produced single bones identified as roe deer, with, additionally, a red deer pelvis fragment from Context 1001.

Overall, 169 bones were measurable and 35 mandibles with teeth *in situ* were noted.

7.4 Discussion and statement of potential

These samples yielded only very small amounts of ancient plant material and do not in themselves warrant any further analysis.

Vertebrate remains recovered from excavations at Low St Agnesgate were mainly 8/9th century in date and of good preservation. As might be expected, the assemblage was dominated by the major domestic species (cattle, pig and caprovid), however, the relative frequencies produced by this initial assessment suggest that, unusually, pig bones formed a large proportion of the identified remains. This prevalence of pigs appears to be a trait of high status sites of this period. Another intimation of high status activities is the presence of red and roe deer fragments; usually indicative of hunting and/or the giving and receiving of gifts of patronage (Neave 1991).

Overall, the recovered material is likely to represent waste, mainly from secondary carcass preparation and domestic refuse. Only a few horncores (both goat and cow) hinted at waste associated with craft activities.

Despite Ripon's well-documented early monastic origins, archaeological knowledge of the pre-Conquest period is very limited (Hall and Whyman 1996). Few vertebrate assemblages of pre-Conquest date have been recovered and, those which have, e.g. from the nearby site at Ailcy Hill (Carrott *et al.* 1998), are, unfortunately, very small and of little interpretative value. Although not large, this assemblage from Low St Agnesgate is, therefore, of some significance, not only because of its date, but also because of the indications of high status activity. Data from this assemblage could perhaps be used to establish the nature of the settlement in this area of Ripon (so close to the Cathedral), and could be compared with data from vertebrate assemblages recovered from contemporaneous sites in the region, such as Fishergate and Coppergate (O'Connor 1989; 1991) in York, and Flixborough (Dobney *et al.* forthcoming; believed to be a high status estate centre or possible monastery) in North Lincolnshire.

7.5 Recommendations

No further work on the recovered plant remains is considered necessary. It would be worth processing any remaining sediment for the recovery of small bones, however.

In this instance, the current vertebrate assemblage offers a rare opportunity for further more

detailed analysis. The quantities of fragments from the 8/9th century deposits, in particular, would provide useful biometrical and age-at-death data and comparanda for archaeological and zooarchaeological interpretation.

Further excavation in this area, close to Ripon Cathedral and known to have been occupied from an early date, certainly demands that attention be paid to the sampling of suitable deposits for plant and animal remains. The good conditions present for the preservation of bone also suggested that additional interventions in the vicinity are likely to produce well preserved, moderate-sized assemblages of bone.

7.6 Retention and disposal

The material should be retained.

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.

7.8 Summary

Ancient plant remains were scarce and mostly limited to small quantities of charred material, including charred grain and a small concentration of oat chaff. Charcoal from Context 2004 consisted of fragments of oak and hazel. No invertebrate remains were present.

Vertebrate remains recovered from the excavations were mainly of 8/9th century date and of good preservation. The main domestic mammals were dominant, with pig remains being particularly numerous. The presence of wild mammals (predominantly roe and red deer) within the recovered material hints at high status occupation. Preliminary observations concerning the presence or absence of particular skeletal elements for the major domestic mammals suggested that the remains were domestic refuse and waste from secondary carcass preparation. Further analysis of the current assemblage may provide some useful biometrical and age-at-death data and comparanda for archaeological and zooarchaeological interpretation.

Further excavation in this area, close to Ripon Cathedral and known to have been occupied from an early date certainly demands that attention be paid to sampling of suitable deposits for plant and animal remains. The good conditions present for the preservation of bone also suggests that additional interventions in the vicinity are likely to produce well preserved, moderate-sized assemblages of bone.

Species		8/9thc	?Med	Emed	Med	Post-Med	Modern	Total
<i>Lepus</i> sp.	hare	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Canid	dog family	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Felis</i> f. domestic	cat	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Equus</i> f. domestic	horse	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Sus</i> f. domestic	pig	145	5	-	4	8	-	162
<i>Cervus elaphus</i> L.	red deer	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
<i>Capreolus capreolus</i> (L.)	roe deer	12	1	-	-	1	-	14
<i>Bos</i> f. domestic	cattle	143	14	4	13	17	2	193
Caprovid	Sheep /goat	182	8	-	6	10	4	210
<i>Anser</i> sp.	goose	7	1	-	4	1	-	13
<i>Gallus</i> f. domestic	chicken	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Unidentified		1861	101	13	31	184	10	2200
Total		2363	131	17	58	221	16	2806

Table 5. Hand-collected vertebrate remains from an excavation at the Former Cathedral School, Low St Agnesgate, Ripon, North Yorkshire. Key: ?med = ?medieval; emed = early medieval (12th C); med = medieval (14th C); post-med = post-medieval (16/17th C).

8. PERIOD ANALYSIS WITH CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Prehistoric (pre 1st century AD)

No evidence was recovered from this evaluation for any activity of this period although the area around Ripon is relatively rich in prehistoric remains.

8.2 Roman (1st – 5th centuries AD)

No features or deposits were recorded as being of this period but one piece of samian ware and a small quantity of Roman brick were found as residual material in later contexts. Although the quantity of Roman finds was fairly small the material was relatively unabraded and therefore likely to come from the immediate vicinity suggesting a Roman structure of some importance close by. The quantity of Roman material from sites in Ripon is slowly growing but it remains to establish the nature and extent of the activity represented by the finds (Appendix 2, 2.3).

8.3 Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian (5th – 11th centuries AD)

Material of these periods is relatively common in Ripon and this evaluation produced definite or probable evidence for both. The upper backfill (1002) of the possible quarry pit (1004) in Trench 1 produced a stone spindle whorl, a copper alloy strap end, two copper alloy dress pins, a comb fragment, and at least one probable styca (coin). As a group these can be dated to the 8th or 9th century. From the lower backfill (1003) came a ringed pin of the 9th – 10th century, possibly of the Anglo-Scandinavian period. Pit 1004 also produced evidence for both woodworking and

metal and / or glass working suggesting high status industrial activity in the vicinity. High status activity is also suggested by the animal bone assemblage with its unusually high percentage of pig and small component of deer bones. Consideration of the stratigraphic and dating evidence indicates that pit 1004 was backfilled, if not also dug, in the 9th century. It may therefore have been more or less contemporary with the later phase of burials at Ailcy Hill which is immediately to the north-east of the site. None of the other trenches produced convincing evidence for the Anglian or Anglo-Scandinavian periods, although it is quite possible that some of the other early, undated features are of pre-Conquest date.

One of the aims as set out in the Research Design (Appendix 2, 2.4) was to expand and clarify knowledge of this period in Ripon and this site would appear to have clear potential in this regard.

8.4 Medieval (11th – 16th centuries AD)

Deposits and features of this date were widespread within the evaluation trenches. None were confirmed within Trenches 1 and 2 but deposits (3004, 3009-10) and post-holes (3006, 3008) firmly dated to this period were excavated in Trench 3. The dating evidence from Trench 4 was limited but some of the earlier features (4004, 4010) and deposits (4005-8) are likely to be medieval. Trench 5 produced deposits and no less than three distinct phases of features including pits, post-holes, and possible beam slots. The dating evidence for these is provided by one of the latest recognised features, pit 5009. This contained a very substantial amount of gritty ware which is often dated to the 11th – 12th century, although in the Ripon area may continue in use up to the 14th century. Pit 5009 was, however, dug through an apparent accumulation / build-up deposit (5029) which sealed the earlier features, the post-holes and beam slots. This may place the slots and post-holes in the 11th – 12th century date range although this cannot as yet be confirmed and it is quite possible that they may be pre-Conquest in date.

Many of the features within Trench 6 failed to produce any dating evidence. The latest feature (6004) produced a single piece of gritty ware and the arguments concerning dating of the earlier features in Trench 5 may also apply to Trench 6. It may be of significance that although Trench 6 produced pit 6004 and possible post-holes 6022 and 6011, no beam slots were positively identified. A number of wider, shallow, gullies (6006, 6009, 6023) were identified and partially excavated within Trench 6.

Dating evidence from Trench 7 was minimal but a number of wide, shallow features (7006, 7011, 7012) were identified, all very similar to 6006, and believed to be medieval in date, as was possible pit 7014. Another possible medieval gully fill (7008) was tentatively identified but not excavated.

Some of the evidence for the medieval period, most clearly seen in Trench 5, is relevant, and indeed potentially crucial, for our understanding of the development of the site and of Ripon itself. As was noted in the in the Research Design, (Appendix 2, 2.5), historical and archaeological evidence (MacKay 1982, Finlayson 2001a) has shown that in the 12th – 13th centuries Ripon entered a phase of ecclesiastical and secular expansion, becoming an urban centre with regularly planned burgage plots in certain central areas. Investigations at the site of a new school in Priest Lane appeared to indicate that the eastern part of the city was encompassed

by the expansion of medieval settlement and the present site appears to confirm this, although it is still not possible to establish with any certainty the character of the occupation in the Low St Agnesgate area.

8.5 Post-medieval (16th – 19th centuries AD)

In Trench 1 deposits 1001, 1006, and 1007 may be of this period. In Trench 2 feature 2005 may be 16th or 17th century in date and so may deposits 2003, 2006 and 2009. The very well-constructed stone surface (3003) in Trench 3 probably belongs to this period and may be associated with the structures shown on Jeffrey's 1772 Map of Ripon. Initial cleaning of Trench 4 produced pottery of the 16th / 17th century, but could not be associated with any specific features or deposits. No features or deposits of post-medieval date were recognised in Trenches 5-7 and no pottery of the period was recovered from them. Trenches 5-7 were the closest to the principal school buildings and thus it is possible that any post-medieval remains in the southern part of the site have been removed by 19th and 20th century activity.

As noted in the project design (Appendix 2, 2.6) cartographic evidence suggests that there were street-front structures, in the area of the present site, in 1772 when the Jeffrey's map was made, but that they had been demolished by 1818, probably to make way for the school which is indicated on Langdale's map. However, the restricted nature of the evaluation has not allowed this matter to be effectively addressed.

8.6 Modern (19th – 21st centuries)

Deposits of this date were recorded in all seven trenches. A probable robbed service trench (2002) in Trench 2 was also of this period. The standing buildings on the site are believed to be 19th century.

9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Modern disturbance has led to a certain amount of removal of earlier material, but this evaluation has shown that archaeological remains dating from, perhaps, as early as the Roman period are present on, or close to, this site. Below deposits of recent date which vary in depth from c.0.2m to c.0.7m, well preserved archaeological features, structures, and deposits of the Anglian, medieval and post-medieval periods exist. This archaeology is particularly vulnerable close to the street frontage; in Trenches 3 – 5 it lies no more than 0.3m below the modern ground surface.

Although it was apparent that the Roman pottery sherd and tile fragments were residual, their very presence may be regarded as significant given that few sites in Ripon have yielded any Roman material. Too little has as yet, however, come to light to give any clear indication of the nature and location of Roman activity in Ripon (Appendix 2, 2.3).

Evidence for Anglian settlement is not uncommon in Ripon, but the quantity, and perhaps the quality, of finds from the present site is unusual and may point to relatively high status activity, possibly of a secular nature, in the area.

The medieval evidence from the evaluation is very suggestive of a period of occupation in the 12th – 14th century, followed by probable desertion and finally use of the site for rubbish disposal. Although this is only a provisional interpretation it may be suggested that the site could be highly significant for contributing to the study of Ripon's development in the medieval period. The evaluation has showed that well preserved medieval deposits exist on the site which have good potential for answering research questions.

Finally, the evaluation has revealed some evidence from the post-medieval period, although at present it is difficult to relate to the cartographic evidence.

10. LIST OF SOURCES

10.1 Archives

NMR. National Monuments Record

SMR. North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record

YAT 1997. York Archaeological Trust Archive Gazetteer,
www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/gaz/index.htm

10.2 Printed Works

Came, P., 2001. *Ripon City Square Improvement, Market Square Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment*, ASUD835, University of Durham

Carrott, J., Hughes, P., Johnstone, C., and Worthy, D., 1998. *Evaluation of Biological Remains from Ailcy Hill, Ripon (site code HARGM:8947)*, Reports from the Environmental Archaeology Unit, York 98/15

Dainton, M., 1992. 'A quick, semi-quantitative method for recording nematode gut parasite eggs from archaeological deposits'. *Circaea* 9, 58-63

Dobney, K., Hall, A. R., Kenward, H. K. and Milles, A., 1992. 'A working classification of sample types for environmental archaeology', *Circaea* 9, 24-6

Dobney, K., Jaques, D., Barrett, J. and Johnstone, C., forthcoming. 'Farmers, monks and aristocrats: The role of animals at the high status middle-late Saxon settlement of Flixborough, North Lincolnshire'

Finlayson, R., 2000a, *The Old Deanery, Ripon*, A Report on an Archaeological Desk Top Study, YAT Field Report 2000/64

Finlayson, R., 2000b. *The Arcade, Ripon*, Report on an Archaeological Excavation, YAT Field Report 2000/48

Finlayson, R., 2000c. *The Market Place, Ripon*, Report on an Archaeological Evaluation, YAT Field Report 2000/63

Finlayson, R., 2001a, *Ripon Cathedral Primary School, Low St Agnesgate, Ripon, North Yorkshire*, Report on an Archaeological Desk-Top Study, YAT Field Report 2001/53

Finlayson, R., 2001b. *Wakeman's House, High Skellgate, Ripon*, Report on an Archaeological Evaluation, YAT Field Report 2001/6

Geological Survey, 1979. *Geological Survey of Great Britain 1:625000*

Hall, R, A, et al, 1999. 'The Ripon Jewel', in J. Hawkes and S. Mills, *Northumbria's Golden Age* (Stroud), 268 – 280

Hall, R.A and Whyman, M., 1996. 'Settlement and Monasticism at Ripon from the 7th - 11th centuries', *Medieval Archaeology* 40, 62-150

Johnson, M., 1998. *Playing Field, Ailcy Hill, Ripon, North Yorkshire*, Report on an Archaeological Evaluation, YAT Field Report 1998/11

Johnson, M., 2001a. *Minster Close, Ripon*, Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief, YAT Field Report 2001/27

Johnson, M., 2001b. *Pavement Repairs, St Marygate, Ripon*, Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief, YAT Field Report 2001/30

Kenward, H. K., Hall, A. R. and Jones, A. K. G., 1980. 'A tested set of techniques for the extraction of plant and animal macrofossils from waterlogged archaeological deposits', *Science and Archaeology* 22, 3-15

Kenward, H. K., Engleman, C., Robertson, A. and Large, F., 1986. 'Rapid scanning of urban archaeological deposits for insect remains', *Circaea* 3, 163-72

MAP, 2001. *The Old Deanery Minster Close, Ripon*, Archaeological Evaluation, MAP 01-07-01

Mackay. W., 1982. 'The development of medieval Ripon', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 54, 73-80

McComish, J., 2001. *New Primary School, Priest Lane, Ripon, North Yorkshire*, Report on an Archaeological Excavation, YAT Field Report 2001/9

Neave, S., 1991. *Medieval parks of East Yorkshire* (Beverley)

On Site Archaeology, 2000. *Report on archaeological investigation HARGM:9925*, OSA Report no. 99 EX05

O'Connor, T. P., 1989. *Bones from Anglo-Scandinavian levels at 16-22 Coppergate*, The

Archaeology of York 15/3

O'Connor, T. P., 1991. *Bones from 46-54 Fishergate*. The Archaeology of York 15/4

Ryder, P., 1990. *Report on the Cathedral Close*, Monuments Protection Programme report for English Heritage

Younge, J.M., 1995. *About Historic Ripon*, Ripon Civic Society

Whyman, M., 1997. 'Excavations in Deanery Gardens and Low St Agnesgate, Ripon', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 69, 119-63

10.3 Cartographic Sources

T. Jeffreys, 1772. *Map of Ripon*

Humphries, J., 1800. *Plan of Plan of Ripon and Bondgate in the County of York* (NYRO DC/RIC/xvi 1/2/2 MIC 1540/520)

Drawn by C. Greeves for J. Humphries, published by T. Langdale, 1818. *Plan of Ripon and Bondgate in the County of York* (NYRO DC/RIC/xvi 1/1/1 MIC 2236/115)

Ordnance Survey maps of Ripon : 1856, 1st Edition Map 6" to mile; 1899, 1:2500 (NYRO DC/RIC xvi 1/93 MIC 2236/382); 1910, 6" to the mile (NYRO DC/RIC/xvi 1/10/1 MIC 2236/455-470; 1929, 3rd edition

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Excavation Team	Daniel Aquira, David Evans, Elena Lobo, Brian Milner, Javier Nerengo-Santana
Site Survey	Rhona Finlayson
Report Production	David Evans
Illustrations	Russell Marwood
Finds Assistants	Katherine Bearcock, Ruth Green
The Small Finds	Nicky Rogers
The Pottery	Ailsa Mainman
The Environmental Assessment	John Carrott, Deborah Jaques and Stephen Cousins Palaeoecology Research Services
The Ceramic Building Materials	Jane McComish
Photography	David Evans
Editor	Patrick Ottaway