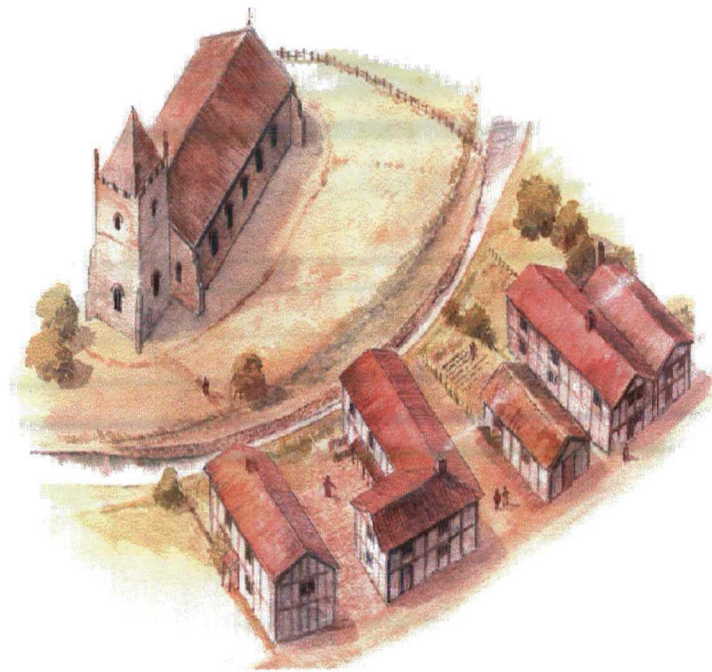


NYCC HER	
SNY	8420
ENY	665
CNY	
Parish	4899
Rec'd	

*An
Archaeological Excavation
at
Springfield,
Scarborough*



*Artistic reconstruction of the
site in the middle ages (D. Pearson)*

by

Trevor Pearson

Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society

Interim Report 30: 1998

CONTENTS

Summary	1
The Site and its Setting	1
Historical and Archaeological Background	3
Viking Period Settlement	3
The Medieval Period	4
Post Medieval and Modern	8
The Excavation	9
The south of the site	10
The middle of the site	14
The north of the site	21
Summary and Conclusions	28
The Natural Topography	28
The Earliest Occupation	28
St Sepulchre Church	29
Activity on the north of the Damyot	30
The Clearance of the Site	32
Post Medieval Period	33
Acknowledgements	34
Bibliography	35
Appendix 1	
Assessment of biological remains from excavations at St Sepulchre Street, Scarborough	37

LIST OF FIGURES

Frontispiece Artistic reconstruction of the site in the middle ages looking south-west
with Cook's Row in the foreground and St Sepulchre Church at the rear

1	Modern Scarborough showing the location of the site	1
2	The environs of the site	2
3	Plan of medieval Scarborough published in 1976 with the streets possibly dating to the Viking period highlighted with shading (Farmer 1976b, 2)	4
4	Plan of medieval Scarborough showing the location of the site	4
5	Part of the 1530s view of Scarborough showing what may be St Sepulchre Church	5
6	Plan showing the location of excavations in the vicinity of the site	6
7	Maps of Scarborough published in the 18th and 19th centuries showing the site and its environs	7
8	The excavation showing the location of the trenches	9
9	Key to conventions used on plan and section drawings	10
10	Trench Three: plan	10
11	Trench Three: south facing section	11
12	Trenches Five and Eleven: plan	11
13	Trench Five looking south showing wall of St Sepulchre church (F502)	12
14	Trench Eleven looking north showing wall of St Sepulchre church (F1105)	12
15	Trench Eleven: east facing section	13
16	Trench Five: north facing section	13
17	Trench One: east facing section	14
18	Trench Nine: plan	16
19	Trench Nine looking north showing the culvert	17
20	Trench Nine: east facing section	17
21	Trench Nine: south facing elevation of culvert	18
22	Trench Nine looking north showing walls F905 and F924	18
23	Trench One: plan	19
24	Trench One looking south	19
25	Trench One: west facing elevation of wall F117	20
26	Trench Six: south facing section	20

27	Trench Four: plan of timber feature F425	21
28	Trench Four: view of timber feature F425 looking south	22
29	Trench Four: south facing section	23
30	Trench Four: plan of wall F419	23
31	Trench Four: west facing elevation of wall F419	23
32	Trench Four: plan	24
33	Trench Two: plan	24
34	Trench Two: south facing section	25
35	Trench Two looking south showing stone pavement F215 and wall F210	25
36	Trench Ten: plan	26
37	Trench Ten: north facing section	26
38	Fragment of burnt daub from F307	28
39	Plan showing the possible early layout of the the site and environs	29
40	Fragment of lead window kame from Trench Three	29
41	Fragment of window tracery from Trench One	30
42	Plan showing St Sepulchre church and environs in the medieval period	30
43	Medieval artefacts from refuse deposits in Trench Four	31
44	Plan showing the site and environs after the clearance of medieval buildings	33

SUMMARY

Between December 1996 and January 1998 the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society excavated a series of trenches at a property on the east side of Springfield at TA 0463 8886 (Site code SP96). The purpose of the excavation was to assess the archaeology of the site in advance of plans to develop the area for housing and the work resulted in the discovery of arguably the best preserved medieval remains ever found in Scarborough. These included part of St Sepulchre Church which was demolished in the 16th century and the infilled channel of a stream known in the middle ages as the Damyot. Extensive waterlogged deposits and a well-built masonry culvert were also found in association with the stream. The results of the excavation indicate that this is one of the most important archaeological sites in Scarborough and that the remains merit long-term preservation.

THE SITE AND ITS SETTING

The site lies 400m west of the castle and 120m north of the harbour (Fig. 1). It occupies the west part of a triangle of land defined by St Sepulchre Street on the south, Springfield on the west and Cook's Row on the north. Although this area is fairly level, it is dominated by rising ground to the north (Fig. 2). The streets all date back to the middle ages apart from Springfield itself which was created in the middle of the 19th century (C. Hall pers. comm.) and are today

mainly residential. They contain a mixture of inter-war and modern housing interspersed with several older 18th and 19th century properties along St Sepulchre Street.

The site is on two levels. Most of the site is at the lower level and is enclosed by tall boundary walls and buildings which hide it from the surrounding streets (Fig. 2). The Quaker Meeting House, built in

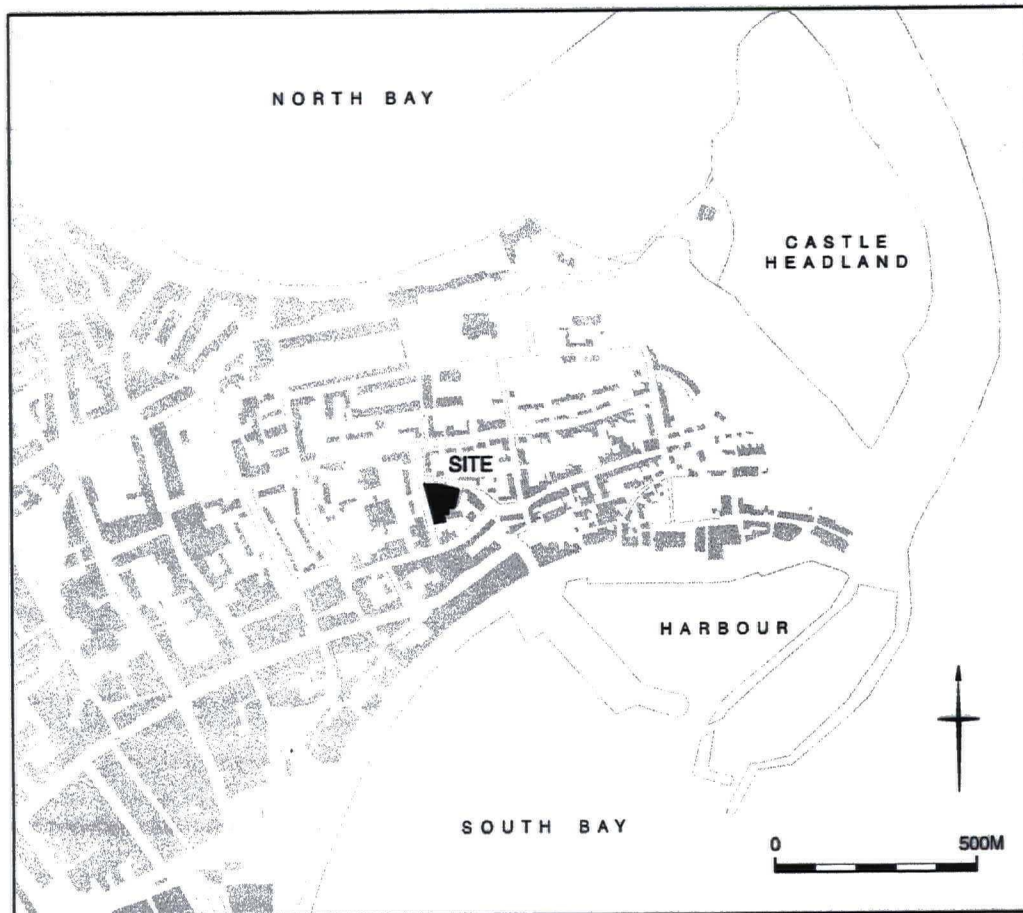


Fig. 1 Modern Scarborough showing the location of the site (D. Pearson)

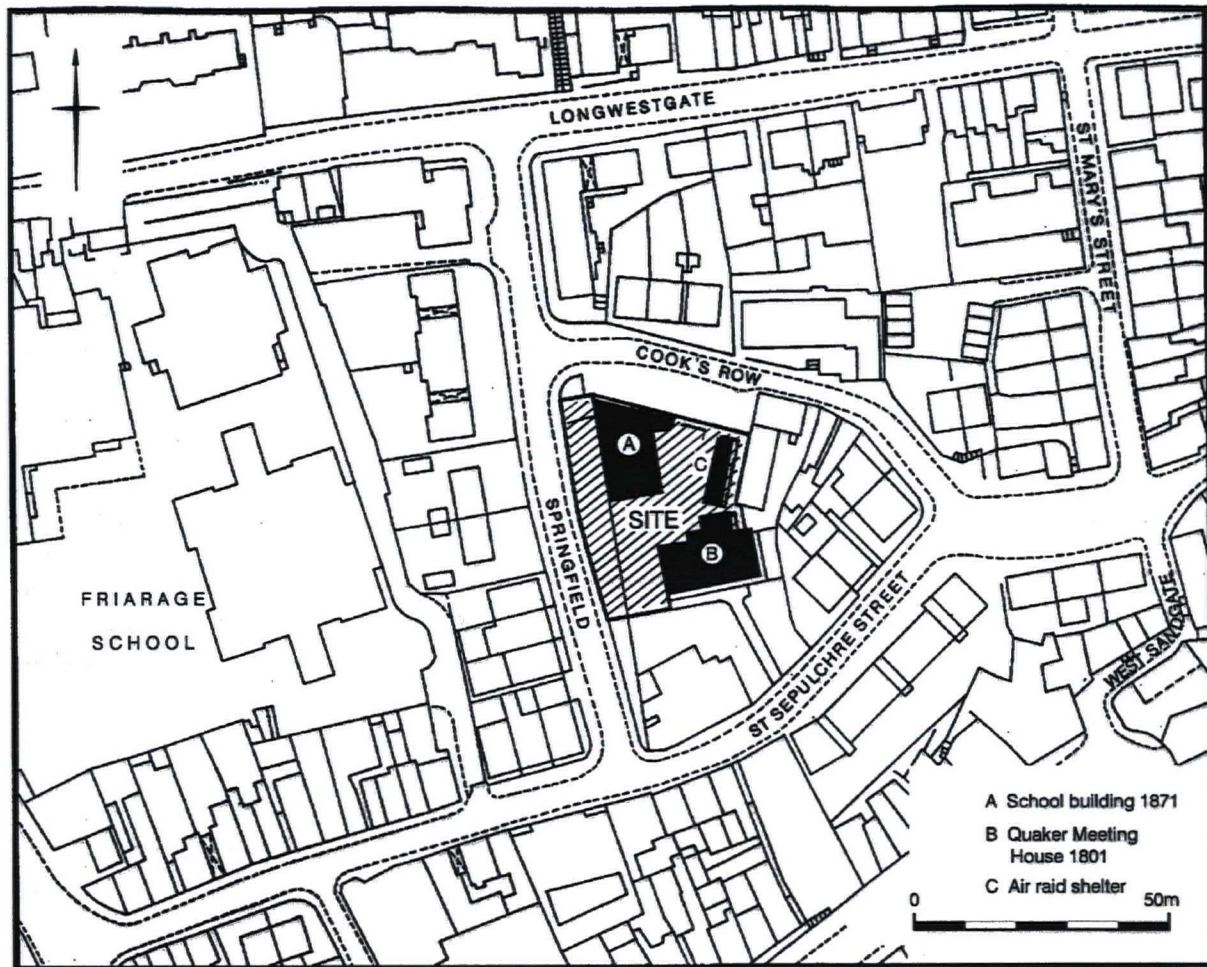


Fig. 2 The environs of the site (A.Charles)

1801, forms part of the south boundary of the site whilst opposite it, in the angle formed by the north and west boundaries, is a semi-derelict two-storey building erected in 1871 as a school for adults. The other structures are a brick-built air raid shelter next to the east boundary and two broken-down greenhouses set among over-grown plant beds in the north-east corner. The remaining ground is surfaced in concrete. The higher area is along Springfield and comprises a strip of waste ground previously occupied by a terrace of houses which is 1.5m to 3.0m

above the main part of the site. The change in level is retained by a stone terracing wall up to 2.8m high topped with a 1.0m high brick wall which effectively isolates the land bordering Springfield from the main area. The proposed development involves the refurbishment of the Quaker Meeting House as a dwelling and the demolition of the 1871 school building replacing it with a terrace of houses fronting on to Springfield. An access road to the rear of the terrace will be made from Cook's Row and the remainder of the site will be gardens and surfaced parking spaces.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

There are no records of any previous archaeological excavations on the site although plans to investigate it were put forward in 1975 (Farmer 1975) and in 1987 its potential significance was highlighted in an archaeological survey of Scarborough (Pearson 1987). There is also no documentary evidence for the site until the publication of the first town map in 1725 (Cossins 1725) which, although not accurate by modern standards, gives the impression that the site was largely open ground with buildings along Cook's Row and St Sepulchre Street (Fig. 7). The subsequent development of the site can be traced through later maps of the town (eg. Vincent 1747; Wood 1828; Ordnance Survey 1852) whilst some details about the site before the 18th century can be interpreted from the general historical and archaeological record for this part of the town.

THE DAMYOT STREAM

The earliest feature of the landscape for which there is any evidence in this part of Scarborough is the Damyot stream. It rose in a hilly area 550m west of the site at TA040885 (where Albermarle Crescent stands today), and from there flowed eastwards entering the sea at modern day West Sandgate, 100m to the south of the excavation. The course of the stream is not known in detail because it was not mapped until 1852 by which date it had been piped underground (Ordnance Survey 1852). On this map it is shown crossing the middle of the excavation site in an east-west direction, passing to the rear of the Quaker Meeting House and then curving southwards towards the South Bay (Fig. 7). There is still a distinct dip in the road visible where the Damyot crossed St Sepulchre Street.

During the 12th century the medieval town expanded across much of the ground traversed by the Damyot and as a consequence the stream was not left to flow freely. The Dam element of the name suggests it was embanked or dammed in some manner (Binns, forthcoming) and in 1274-5 Robert de Seyswelle is mentioned as having anciently made the ditch through the middle of the walls of the Borough (Yorkshire Hundred Rolls 1274-5, 107). This could be a reference to cutting an artificial channel for the Damyot at the point where it passed through the town

defences. Furthermore, the stream has twice been excavated in close proximity to the site and on both occasions evidence of a constructed channel came to light. In 1968 an excavation at 46 St Sepulchre Street found a stone-walled culvert on the line of the stream. It was associated with extensive waterlogged deposits interpreted as a possible mill pond (Farmer 1976a) and eight years later, an excavation 40m further to the south at the junction of Eastborough and West Sandgate on the line of the stream encountered a further section of culvert (Farmer 1988, 132). The present excavation therefore provided a clear opportunity to investigate a short stretch of the Damyot and to discover more about how the watercourse was managed in the middle ages.

VIKING PERIOD SETTLEMENT (10th and 11th centuries)

The excavation provided an opportunity to test the theory that settlement took place in this part of Scarborough in the Viking period, several centuries before the medieval town came into existence (Farmer 1975, 1-3). This idea stems from the fact that both Cook's Row and the east end of St Sepulchre Street are aligned obliquely to the rectilinear layout of north-south and east-west streets evident across most of the medieval town and which is the remnant of the grid system established when the town was laid out in the middle of the 12th century (Fig. 3). The suggestion is that the eccentric alignment of these two streets is because they were part of an earlier agricultural settlement, whose layout was based on a series of routes radiating out from the junction of Cook's Row and St Sepulchre Street and that these two streets were later incorporated into the medieval layout (Farmer 1976b, 1-3). A cambered road found at 113 Longwestgate in 1975 which was aligned at 45 degrees to the medieval grid has been put forward as another component of this earlier, radial, street system (Farmer 1976a). Archaeology has yet to provide convincing proof of the existence of a Viking settlement at Scarborough but if the theory concerning the origin of Cook's Row and St Sepulchre Street is correct, then the present site is located close to its possible centre.

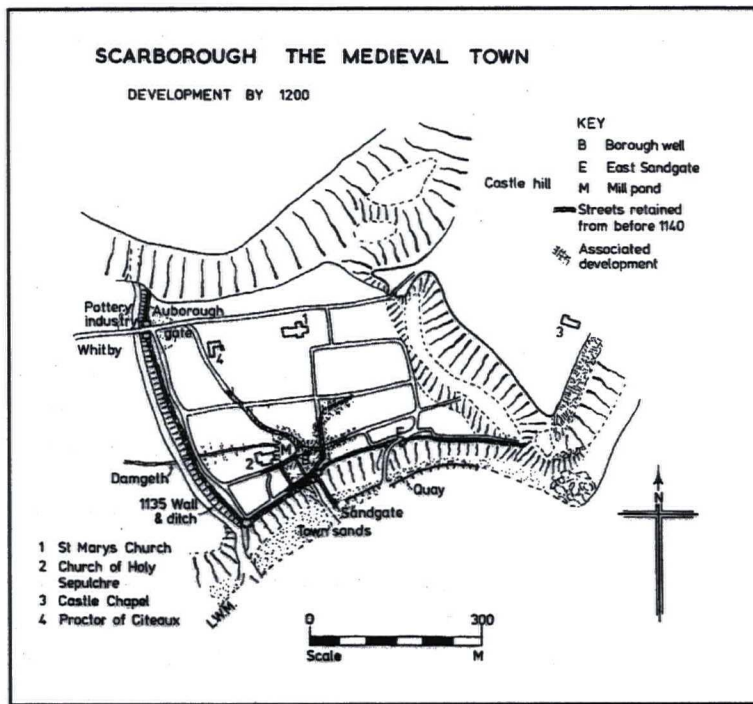


Fig.3 Plan of medieval Scarborough published in 1976 with the streets possibly dating to the Viking period highlighted with shading (Farmer 1976b, 2)

THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD
(12th-16th centuries)

As has already been mentioned, the medieval town dates back to the middle of the 12th century when King Henry II planted a settlement to the west of the castle, under the shadow of his newly constructed keep (C.R.R, xvi, 491, no. 2482). Initially the new town stretched from the castle as far inland as modern day Leading Post Street and Friargate, 120m west of the excavation site but later in King Henry's reign

the town was extended further inland to modern day North Street and Bar Street, the two parts of the town becoming known respectively as the Old Borough and New Borough (Fig. 4). The new town prospered in the two centuries following its establishment and by the middle of the 14th century Scarborough's tax assessment placed it amongst the 30 most wealthy towns in England (Hoskins 1972, 238).

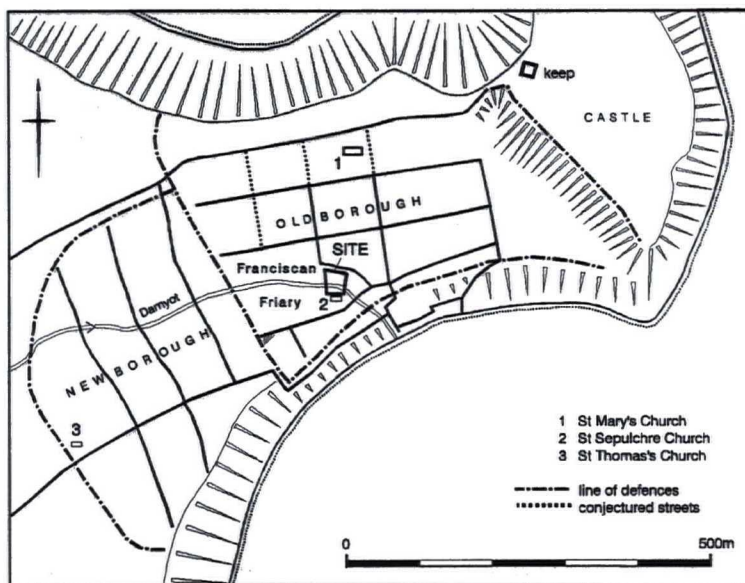


Fig. 4 Plan of medieval Scarborough showing the location of the site

The excavation site is close to what were probably among the busiest and most populous streets in the medieval town. To the east was the main route up the hill from the harbour to the castle along what is now West Sandgate, St Mary's Street and Church Stairs Steps, whilst St Sepulchre Street to the south was an important route inland from the foreshore. However we know very little about the character of the buildings which lined these streets or the occupations of the people who lived in them. One clue is provided by the name Cook's Row which is first mentioned in 1429 and is one of the few occupational street names surviving from medieval times (Binns, forthcoming). It originally only applied to the upper or western part of the street and implies the existence of a row of bakers shops here at some period in the middle ages. The lower part of the street towards St Sepulchre Street was known as Burghwellgate in the middle ages; perhaps a reference to a well or pool formed by the Damytot stream (Binns, forthcoming).

Another clue to the identity of people living on or near to the excavation site is provided by an undated medieval deed which refers to three properties on the south side of Burghwellgate which stretched southwards as far as the Damytot stream (Jeayes 1914, 23a). The most easterly of the three properties was held by John de Melton; the central one by Stephen le Taverner and the one on the west is recorded as formerly being held by Reginald le Milner. The document is probably from the late 13th or early 14th century because, as will be described below, Reginald le Milner is mentioned in another document of 1267; his surname suggesting he plied the trade of a miller. In addition to these three properties, it has also been claimed that Wykeham Priory held land on the south side of Cook's Row in 1190 approximately at the north-west corner of the excavation site (Farmer 1975) though the evidence on which this suggestion was based has not been traced.

ST SEPULCHRE CHURCH.

A major medieval building which stood in close proximity to the excavation site was the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, more commonly known as St Sepulchre Church. The church was one of two chapels dependent on the parish church of St Mary's (the other being St Thomas's Church in Newborough),

and although it stood on the north side of St Sepulchre street, its exact location is not clear from the references to it in medieval documents. However, St Sepulchre's churchyard is shown on town plans of 1725 (Fig. 7) and 1747 (Cossins 1725; Vincent 1747) both of which suggest that the church must have stood very close to the south side of the site with the possibility that part of it might lie within the site boundaries.

The church would have been an important focus in the lives of everyone who lived in this part of the town, and its history, if it were better known, would give us an important insight into the changing fortunes of the local community. However, it is not even known for sure when the church was founded. It was in existence by 1267 when the churchyard is referred to in a grant of land establishing the Franciscan Friary (Jeayes 1914, 34b) and the likelihood is that it dates from the 12th century. The dedication to the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem is an important clue, suggesting the church may date to the 1180s when attention was focussed on the Holy Land following the visit of the patriarch of Jerusalem to the royal court in 1185 (Poole 1955, 344) and the departure of King Richard I on the third crusade in 1189. If this is correct then it indicates that by 1180 this part of the town must have been sufficiently densely settled to require a local chapel.

Very little is known about its plan or appearance from historical sources. It is possible that it had a



Fig. 5 Part of the 1530s view of Scarborough showing what may be St Sepulchre Church

circular nave as in the early-twelfth-century St Sepulchre Churches in Northampton (R.C.H.M.E. 1985, 59-61) and Cambridge (R.C.H.M.E. 1959, 255-57) which were intended to imitate the rotunda constructed over the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem in the 4th century AD. The earliest view of Scarborough, dating from the 1530s, (Binns 1983) shows a church with a rectangular nave and five-storied tower at its west end (Fig. 5) in this part of the town which may be proof that St Sepulchre Church was not circular in plan. However this evidence is not conclusive as the building depicted could be the church of the Franciscan Friary.

The church stood until the lead from the roof was sold in 1562 on the order of the town bailiffs to pay for repairs to the pier. Subsequently, as the roofless church fell into disrepair it became "a quarry for local builders and its burial ground a pasture for cattle" (Binns 1996, 21), though, as was mentioned above, its churchyard continued to appear on maps well into the 18th century. The decline of the church could well reflect a decline in the numbers of people living in this part of the town.

Archaeology has yet to add any significant information about the church. The earliest recorded archaeological observation appeared in the first edition of Hinderwell's *History of Scarborough* (Hinderwell 1798, 95) which states that the vestiges of Gothic arches, believed to have been part of St Sepulchre Church, were visible in old buildings in St Sepulchre Street. Baker expands on Hinderwell's description in

his history of the town (Baker 1882, 122), supplying the information that the arches were visible at the "upper end of St Sepulchre Street, on the east side....walled in with dwelling houses, stables &c." As St Sepulchre Street runs east-west it is difficult to visualise what Baker meant by the east side of the street and the remains he described have since been swept away. Other archaeological evidence pinpoints the location of the church more precisely, as is described below.

The construction of the Quaker Meeting House in 1801 seems to have brought to light the remains of a substantial medieval building which were taken to be the foundations of St Sepulchre Church. The only eyewitness record of the discovery that is known to exist is a marginal pencil note in a copy of the first edition of Hinderwell's *History of Scarborough* now in the present writer's possession. The note was written by the first owner of the book, a prominent local Quaker called Joseph Taylor, who seems to have witnessed at first hand the construction of the Meeting House. At the point where Hinderwell writes about St Sepulchre Church, Taylor added "In this place our New Meeting House stands, the foundations of which cross a Wall of 3 feet thick, about 3 feet under ground." According to Baker further remains of the church came to light in the west side of the Quaker graveyard adjacent to the meeting house. In 1839 John Barry, a local builder, is recorded as donating a finial from the church to the museum, presumably found during building work in the area (S.P.A.S. 1840, 21) and in 1864 a portable font "dug from the Sepulchre church, Scarborough" was

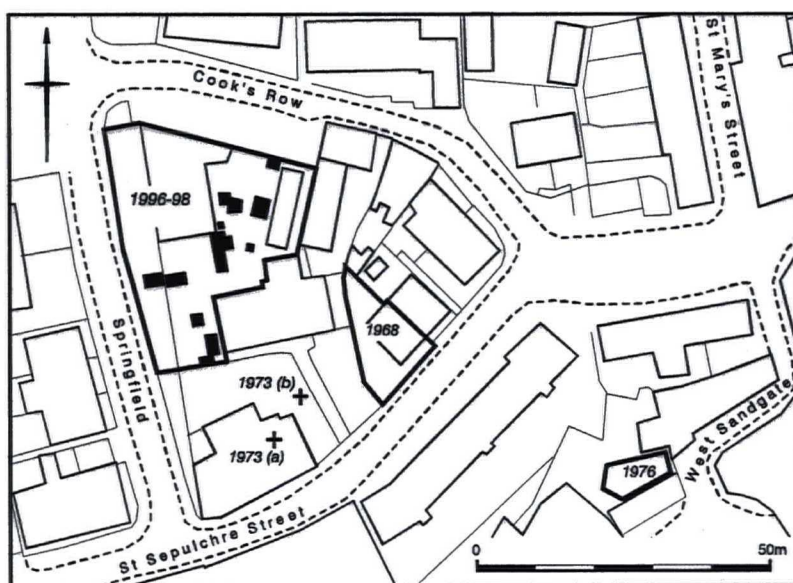


Fig. 6 Plan showing the location of excavations in the vicinity of the site

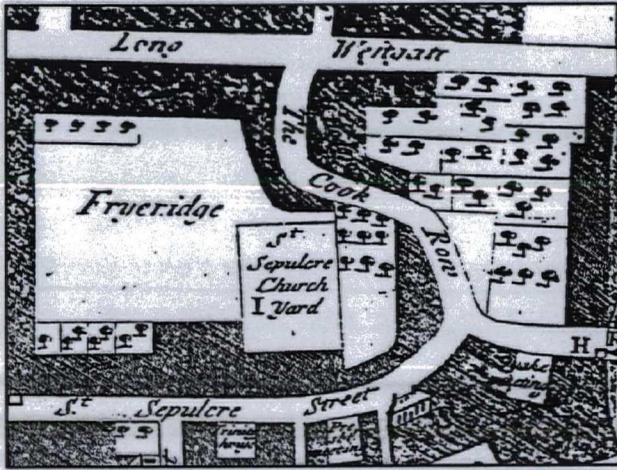
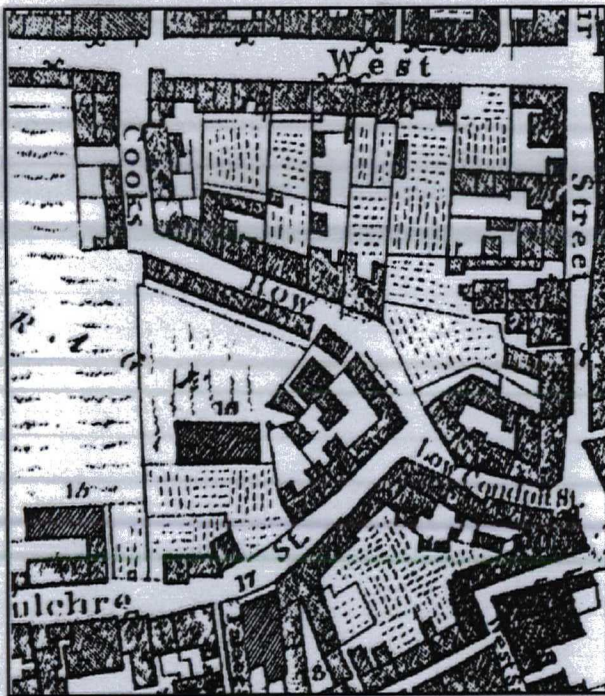
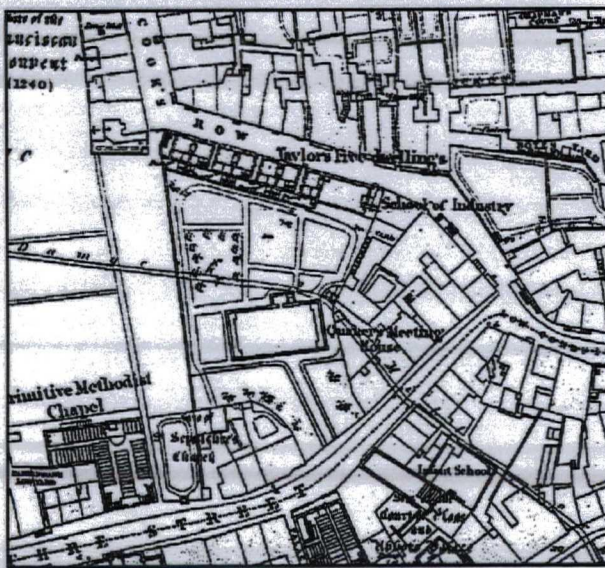


Fig. 7 Maps of Scarborough published in the 18th and 19th centuries showing the site and its environs

Cossins 1725



Wood 1828



Ordnance Survey 1:1056 scale survey 1852

donated by Captain Richardson (S.P.A.S. 1864, 15). It is not clear if these two objects still exist in the museum collections.

In the 1960s and 70s, archaeological excavations and observations by Peter Farmer on the north side of St Sepulchre Street reportedly brought to light more remains of the church (Fig. 6). An excavation in 1968 at 46 St Sepulchre Street encountered walls and burials which were thought to belong to St Sepulchre Church and in 1973 he recorded a wall and a further burial during building work at 36 St Sepulchre Street (Farmer 1975; Farmer and Farmer 1982, 71). On the basis of these discoveries Peter Farmer suggested that St Sepulchre Church originally possessed a circular nave, like the St Sepulchre Churches at Cambridge and Northampton. The present excavation was therefore a rare opportunity to potentially add more detail to the archaeological record of St Sepulchre Church.

THE FRANCISCAN FRIARY

The Franciscan Friary lay to the west of the site occupying a large tract of land between St Sepulchre Street on the south and Longwestgate on the north. The Franciscans first settled in Scarborough in 1240 but were forced to leave in 1245 and settle in the nearby village of Hatterboard (Rimington 1961, 11-12). They returned in 1267 following a grant of land by Reginald Molindarius (Jeayes 1914, 34b) and further grants of property over the next 30 years testify to the expansion of the friary grounds (Pearson 1987, 17-18). The Reginald Molindarius who gave the initial grant of land to the Franciscans may be the same person as Reginald le Milner (both Molindarius and Milner can be translated as Miller) who was mentioned above as owning property on the south side of Cook's Row.

How far the friary extended eastwards towards the site is not known for sure though one possibility is that the stone boundary wall which divides the main part of the site from Springfield is a surviving part of the friary precinct wall. However, if the area labelled as "Fryeridge" on the 1725 town plan is an accurate guide to the extent of the Franciscan property then the friary may have extended further east than this stone wall, stretching along the south side of Cook's Row and encompassing the north part of the present site (Fig. 7). The excavation therefore provided an opportunity to investigate this possibil-

ity. The friary was dissolved in 1539 (Hinderwell 1832, 353) and very little has been found of the friary church or its ancillary buildings apart from some burials which came to light when Friarage School was being built in 1894 (Drake 1935, 27-8).

POST MEDIEVAL AND MODERN

(17th century - present)

Although a large tract of land was made available for building following the disappearance of the Franciscan friary and St Sepulchre church in the 16th century, much still remained undeveloped into the 18th century, judging by the open ground shown on the first town map (Cossins 1725). It is difficult to be certain because of the inaccuracy of this map, but it appears as though much of the south side of Cook's Row, including the present site, was also open ground suggesting this was not a particularly thriving part of the town (Fig. 7). Perhaps the proximity of the Damyot stream, which was probably an open sewer, was at the root of the area's unpopularity. It certainly seems to have been the cause of local friction as, for example, in October 1622 when William Thompson fell foul of the town council for not scouring "the channel next St Sepulcher...to the annoyance of the people" (Ashcroft 1991, 91).

The present layout of the site began to emerge at the beginning of the 19th century with the construction of the Quaker Meeting House in 1801. By the time of Wood's map of Scarborough published in 1828 (Fig. 7), the boundaries defining the excavation site were in existence, perhaps constructed as part of the Quaker development. In 1810 a row of almshouses called Taylor's Free Dwellings were constructed on the strip of land between the north boundary of the site and Cook's Row (Theakston 1858, 81), whilst a terrace of 13 cottages was constructed outside the west boundary, along the newly created street called Springfield, sometime in the second half of the 19th century (C. Hall pers. comm.). Both sets of dwellings were demolished after the Second World War. The last major building to be constructed on the site was the School for Adults occupying the north-west corner, work on which commenced in October 1871, as is evident from the foundation stone at the south-east corner of the building. From an archaeological perspective, the limited development of the site over the last few hundred years suggests any medieval or earlier remains have probably not suffered the same level of disturbance as is commonly encountered elsewhere in the town.

THE EXCAVATION

Eleven trenches were excavated during the fourteen month period of the excavation (Fig. 8). They ranged in size from small 'test holes' primarily dug to examine the depth of modern soil build-up (Trenches 7 and 8) to trenches measuring up to 11 square metres in extent (Trench 9) and 3.8 metres in depth (Trench 4). The trenches were sited across the open parts of the site and inside the two derelict greenhouses. No attempt was made to open trenches in the Victorian school building occupying the north-west corner of the site or in the air raid shelter adjacent to the east boundary. The

excavation examined 6.4% of the total area of the site and found that it was mainly open ground during the last three to four hundred years but that earlier the layout had been very different. In the medieval period the site was divided into three with the Damyot stream flowing east-west across the middle separating St Sepulchre Church on the south from at least one substantial building on the north. For the sake of clarity this division of the medieval remains into three zones, north to south, is adhered to in the following description of the individual trenches.

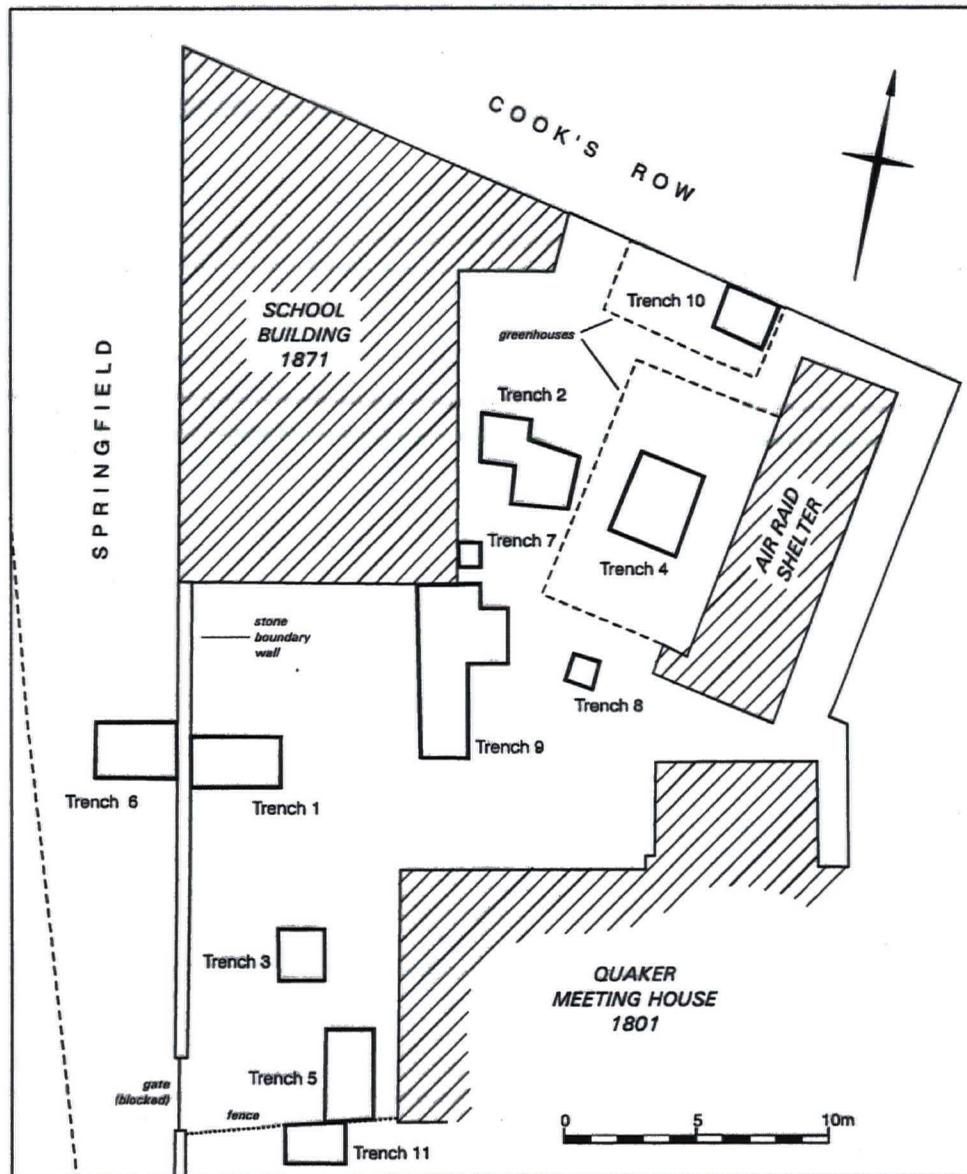


Fig. 8 The excavation showing the location of the trenches

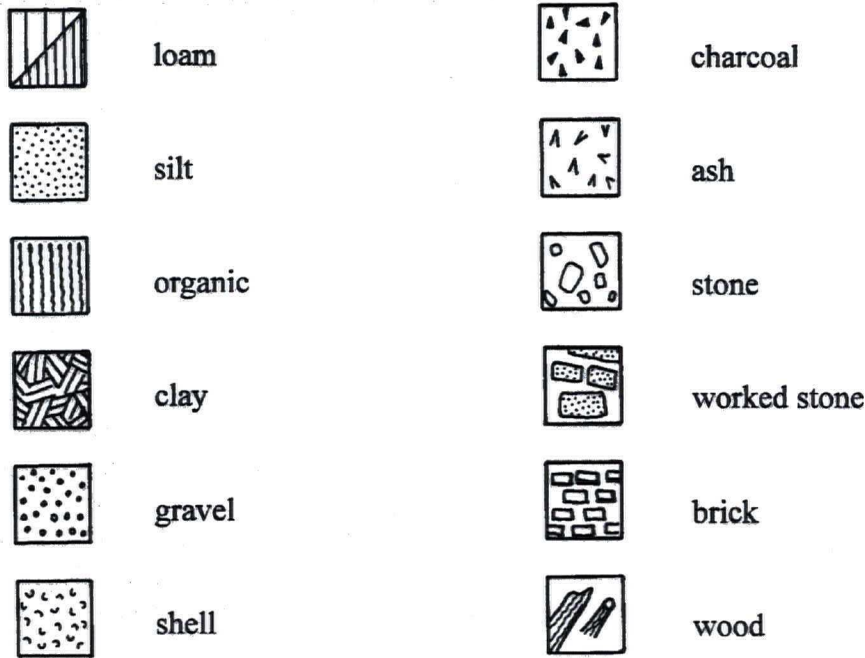


Fig. 9 Key to conventions used on plan and section drawings

----- limit of excavation

THE SOUTH OF THE SITE

(Trenches Three, Five and Eleven: Figs. 10-16)

Trench Three was excavated to the west of the Quaker Meeting House and produced evidence to suggest that the medieval St Sepulchre Church probably stood nearby. Trenches Five and Eleven were subsequently excavated adjacent to each other to the south of Trench Three and both succeeded in unearthing a massive stone wall interpreted as part of the fabric of the church. Six phases of activity were identified in the south part of the site.

PHASE ONE: TIMBER BUILDINGS?

Natural glacial clay was exposed in Trenches Three and Five at depths of between 1.3 and 1.4m from the surface (16.5-16.6m OD). In Trench Three the natural surface was cut by a vertical-sided, flat-bottomed gully up to 0.15m deep (F307) aligned north-south and similarly in Trench Five a second gully up to 0.2m deep (F504) running south-west to north-east cut the glacial clay (Figs. 10 and 12). No finds were recorded from F504, but the compact brown clay filling gully F307 (layer 308) produced numerous flecks of charcoal and pieces of burnt stone and a large fragment of burnt daub preserving wattle impressions. Embedded into the natural surface in

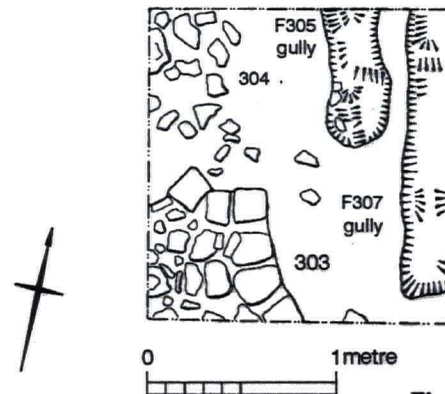


Fig. 10 Trench Three: plan

Trench Three was an area of stone fragments (layer 304) and stone slabs (layer 303) which might have been contemporary with the gully F307.

Interpretation and date

Not enough evidence came to light to be certain of the function of these two features, though the presence of burnt daub in the fill of F307 indicates there must have been a timber building close by with walls infilled with interwoven twigs and branches, called wattle, and plastered with a mixture of clay, dung and straw, called daub. It is possible the two gullies were

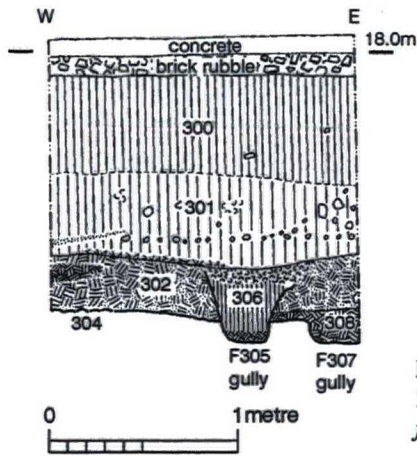


Fig. 11 Trench Three: south facing section

associated with this structure whilst the stone slabs 303 and rock fragments 304 could be damaged areas of flooring or paving. The fact that the daub was burnt suggests the building caught fire though at what date is impossible to say.

PHASE TWO: CHURCH CONSTRUCTION

A substantial east-west stone wall was unearthed in Trenches Five and Eleven (Fig. 12) at a depth of 0.8-0.9m from the surface (17.0m OD). In Trench Five, the north face of the wall survived to a height of 0.6m and comprised three courses of neatly trimmed limestone blocks with a rubble inner core (F502).

It was built on top of a raft of stone rubble in a vertical-sided foundation trench cut down into the natural clay (F509). The stone raft was exposed at the east end of the trench because the overlying wall had been destroyed in the 19th century (Fig. 13). The mortar in these foundations (layer 511) and in the wall itself had decayed to a powdery consistency. A layer of red-brown clay containing flecks of stone and charcoal in the north-west corner of Trench Five (layer 508) could be upcast from the digging of the foundation trench spread on top of the natural ground surface.

In Trench Eleven the south face of the wall came to light along with more of the core (F1105), though much of the wall had been robbed away to reveal the foundations (layer 1110). The wall face survived three courses high to a height of 0.7m and was constructed of neatly trimmed and dressed stones as in Trench Five (Fig. 14). Diagonal tool marks and traces of plaster were found to adhere to one of the stones in the top course.

The stone rubble (layer 1110) continued to the south of the wall where it was overlain by a layer of compacted stone fragments (1109) with a thin layer of sand on top (layer 1104). Both these layers presumably originally butted up to the south face of the wall, though later disturbances had destroyed this relationship.

Interpretation and date.

The wall revealed in Trenches Five and Eleven was almost 2.0m across and very strongly constructed. That it was part of the fabric of St Sepulchre Church was not proved beyond question but this is the most likely interpretation of the wall, supporting the theory that the Quaker Meeting House is built over the site of the church. The south side of the wall probably faced into the interior because it had plaster adhering to it and layers 1104 and 1109 could be the

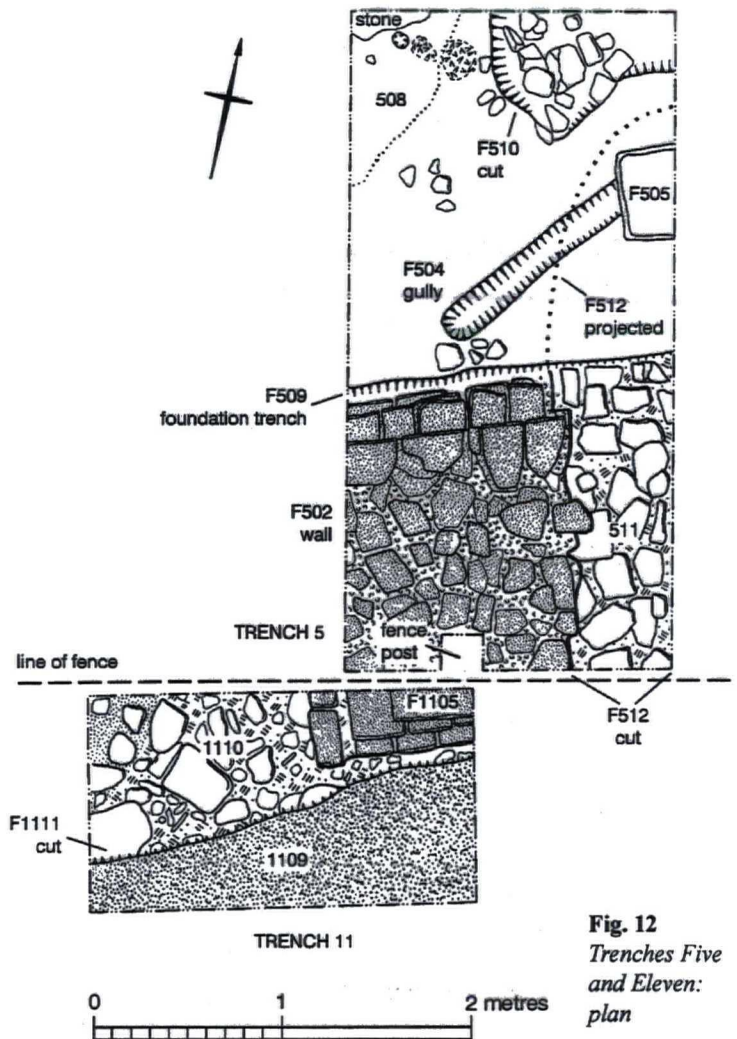


Fig. 12 Trenches Five and Eleven: plan



Fig. 13 *Trench Five looking south showing wall of St Sepulchre church (F502)*

make-up for a floor. Very little was excavated of the deposits from this phase and the only sherd of pottery which came to light was a possible fragment of medieval Scarborough Ware in the upcast from the foundation cut in Trench Five (layer 508). It is therefore impossible to say at what point in the life of the church this wall dates from.

PHASE THREE: CHURCH REPAIR

All three trenches produced evidence suggesting the church had undergone repairs and refurbishment. On the outside of the church wall in Trench Five was a layer of crushed stone and mortar (507) up to 0.1m thick overlain by a deposit of sandy soil up to 0.4m thick (layer 503). Both deposits are later than the construction of the church wall because they butted up against its outside face. These layers were cut into at the north-east corner of the trench by a shallow



Fig. 14 *Trench Eleven looking north showing wall of St Sepulchre church (F1105)*

depression (F510) containing yellow sandy clay and stones (layer 506) (Fig. 16).

In Trench Three the layers and features belonging to phase one were overlain by a layer of sandy clay (302) which was itself cut by a vertical sided feature (F305) filled with a mixture of clay, soil and mortar (layer 306) containing one unworked fragment of wood measuring 0.15m x 0.05m (Fig. 11). Layers 302 and 503 could be the same deposit extending northwards from the church for a distance of at least 6.0m, although 302 was more clayey than 503. In Trench Eleven (Fig. 15), a shallow cut had been dug along the inside face of the wall removing part of the make-up below the floor. This feature (F1111) was filled with an orange-brown clay.

Interpretation and date

The layers of sandy soil (503) and crushed stone and mortar (507) from Trench Five along with the layer of sandy clay (302) from Trench Three all contained fragments of broken clay roof and floor tiles, many with patches of mortar adhering to them. They point to an episode of re-building and reconstruction with stones being trimmed on site causing the build up of crushed stone and mortar against the outer face of the church wall. Similarly on the inside of the church, repairs to the foundations may have necessitated the excavation of a trench along the base of the wall (F1111) which was subsequently backfilled with clay (layer 1108) to aid consolidation. The two features on the outside of the church (F305 and F510) defy interpretation but could be associated with the suggested episode of rebuilding. Exclusively Scar-

borough Ware pottery came from layers 302 and 503 which helps to date this phase to sometime in the 13th century or first half of the 14th century.

PHASE FOUR: ABANDONMENT

The clearest evidence for the robbing of masonry from the wall of the church came from Trench Eleven where a shallow flat-bottomed cut (F1113) may have been dug to get at the lower courses of stonework. This cut was overlain by layers 1103 and 1107 which made up a single deposit of soil containing compacted stone fragments, sand and decayed mortar with a further layer of stone fragments and mortar above (layer 1101). The total thickness of these deposits was 0.4m and a similar depth of deposits containing stone fragments and rubble also occurred in Trench Three (layer 301) and in Trench Five (layer 501). A second episode of robbing took place in Trench Eleven with a cut dug to remove some of the lowest stones of the wall (F1112). It was backfilled with loose rubble (layer 1106) with large pieces of smashed stones and brick on top (layer 1102).

Interpretation and date

The occurrence of deposits up to 0.4m thick containing a mixture of stone rubble, rock fragments and decayed mortar in all three trenches suggests the spread of demolition rubble following the abandonment of the church. The pottery recovered from layers 301, 501, and 1103 included Scarborough Ware, Humber Ware, Stoneware and Cistercian Ware but nothing later than the 16th century which accords with the documentary evidence that the church fell into decay after the lead was sold from the roof in 1562 (Binns 1996, 21). The

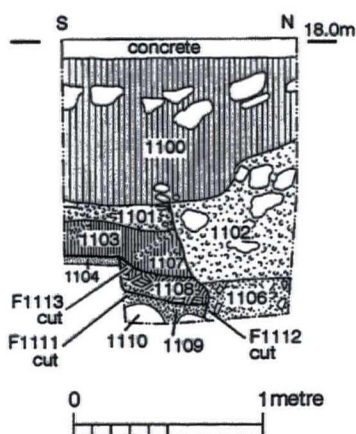


Fig. 15 Trench Eleven: east facing section

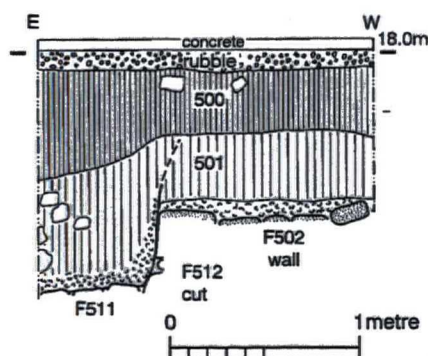


Fig. 16 Trench Five: north facing section

second episode of robbing indicated in Trench Eleven by feature F1112 may have been later in date because the backfill contained fragments of brick that were probably later than the 16th century in date.

PHASE FIVE: GARDENS

Following the demolition and robbing of the church, the south part of the site seems to have been given over to gardens judging by the 0.4-0.9m depth of featureless soil encountered on top of the robbed-out remains of the church in Trenches Five and Eleven. That this depth of soil had mostly accumulated by the time the Quaker Meeting House was constructed in 1801 is borne out by the fact that the remains of St Sepulchre Church revealed at that time were at a depth of 3 foot (0.9m) from the surface which is the same depth encountered in the present excavation.

PHASE SIX: CONSTRUCTION OF THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

A north-south cut running parallel with the outside wall of the Quaker Meeting House ran along the east edge of Trench Five, cutting into the church wall and exposing its rubble foundations. It was backfilled with stone rubble in a loose matrix of soil and two massive blocks of squared limestone measuring 0.5m across had been placed on top of one another (F505) at the bottom of the cut.

Interpretation and date

The cut is part of the foundation trench of the Quaker Meeting House which is only a metre to the east of Trench Five. The fact that it cuts across the church wall bears out the contemporary account which mentions the discovery of part of St Sepulchre Church during the construction of the meeting house in 1801. More puzzling is why two massive stones (F505) were placed in the bottom of the cut. At first it was thought they were part of the church which had been left *in-situ* during the cutting of the foundation trench for the meeting house. But the fact that they were not bonded together and were 0.7m away from the church wall weakens this possibility and more likely is that they were placed there to give solidity to the fill of the foundation trench for the meeting house.

THE MIDDLE OF THE SITE

Trenches One, Six, Eight and Nine (Figs. 17-26)

Trench One was positioned against the stone boundary wall along the west edge of the site to provide dating evidence for the wall and to try and establish the position of the Damytot stream. After part of the stream channel came to light in Trench One, two further trenches were excavated to investigate the watercourse in more detail. Trench Six was positioned on the opposite side of the stone boundary wall to Trench One in the strip of land bordering Springfield but it failed to encounter any trace of the stream because of the depth of overlying deposits. Trench Nine was excavated adjacent to the south wall of the Victorian school building and exposed part of the Damytot including a medieval stone-built culvert. A small 'test hole' (Trench Eight) was excavated 3.0m to the east of Trench Nine to look for further stream deposits but work was suspended when stone rubble (layer 802) was found at a depth of 1.2m (17.2m OD). A total of seven phases of activity were identified in the middle part of the site.

PHASE ONE: NATURAL STREAM

A 0.4m wide sondage excavated north-south across Trench One provided a 2.0m deep cross-section of the deposits infilling the bed of the Damytot (Fig. 17).

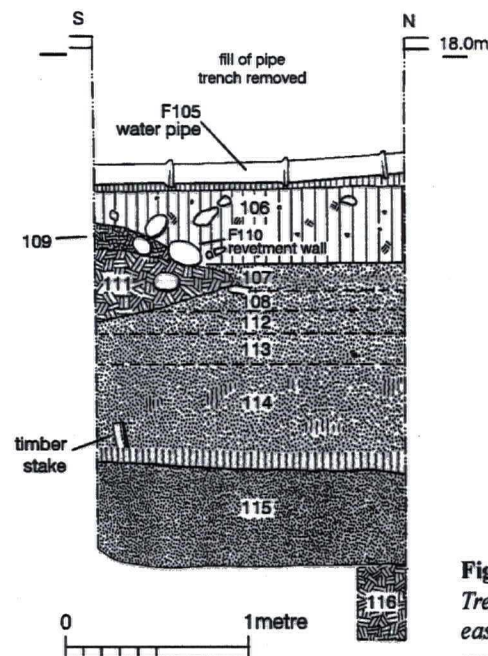


Fig. 17
Trench One:
east facing
section

The lowest of these at a depth of 2.8m from the surface (15.0m OD) consisted of an orange-brown clay containing occasional stone fragments (layer 116) overlain by brown, clayey silt (layer 115) and grey silt (layer 114). The grey silt contained small pebbles and lenses of peaty soil and had a 0.1m thick layer of peat at its base into which was embedded a pointed wooden stake. A sample of this deposit was investigated by the Environmental Archaeology Unit at York University (see Appendix 1). In the south part of Trench Nine an organic, peaty deposit came to light in the bottom of the trench (layer 921) at an equivalent depth to the top of layer 114 in Trench One (16.4m OD) and it is possible that these two layers are the same deposit extending along the course of the stream.

Interpretation and date.

Without excavating a more extensive section across the Damyot, it is impossible to be certain how close the lowest deposits in Trench One are to the bed of the channel. The change from silt (layer 115) to clay (layer 116) recorded in the deepest part of Trench One could be because the excavation had reached glacial deposits at the bottom of the stream. However layer 116 cannot be entirely natural clay because medieval pottery was recovered from it.

The assessment of the Environmental Archaeology Unit that layer 114 had accumulated gradually suggests this deposit, and the underlying layer 115, represents the gradual silting up of the Damyot stream as might also the organic silt layer 921 in the south part of Trench Nine (see Appendix 1). Exclusively Scarborough Ware pottery came from layers 114-116 establishing that these deposits accumulated during the medieval period.

PHASE TWO: CONSTRUCTION OF A CULVERT

A well-preserved stone culvert was found in Trench Nine, built into the Damyot and running east-west in the same direction as the stream (Figs. 18 and 19). The sides of the culvert were built of stone, that on the north of well-coursed masonry (F905 and F919) whilst the south side was more crudely constructed of roughly squared stones built on a slight batter (F912). The two sides were not parallel but converged by up to 0.4m towards the east. The bottom of the culvert was not reached because of problems

with flooding which meant work had to be suspended after 1.2m depth of fill had been excavated from the interior.

The south wall of the culvert partially rested on a deposit of stony clay and soil which had been dumped into the stream on top of layer 921 to give the wall a solid base (Fig. 20). In contrast, the north wall was constructed in a foundation trench dug into the bed of the stream indicated by a cut (F917) at the rear of the wall. This foundation trench was backfilled with clay (layer 918). No evidence for the culvert was found in Trench One.

Two phases of construction were apparent in the north wall of the culvert because of a straight joint running down the wall face (Fig. 21). The stonework to the west of this discontinuity was neatly coursed and appeared earlier than the wall face to the east which was more crudely constructed using a wider variety of stone. The rebuilt section curved away slightly from the straight line of the original wall. The later wall also incorporated the mouth of a drain which must have carried water into the culvert from the north.

The episode of rebuilding also involved work to the north of the culvert. Firstly, a stone wall (F910) was constructed at right angles to the rebuilt section of culvert wall with which it was probably contemporary and secondly, soil, clay and several large boulders (layers 906 and 911) were dumped on the north side of the original section of culvert wall raising the ground level by a metre.

Interpretation and dating

As far as can be interpreted from the limited excavation of the culvert, it was probably constructed by first digging a channel into the bed of the stream and then building walls down either side. Although no evidence was forthcoming from Trench Nine, it would also have made sense to line the bottom with stones to prevent the sides from being undermined by water erosion. The north wall was consolidated by packing clay into the gap between the rear of the wall and the cut for the channel as evidenced by the clay filled feature F917 whilst the south wall was partially built onto a "raft" of soil and clay dumped into the stream (layer 922).

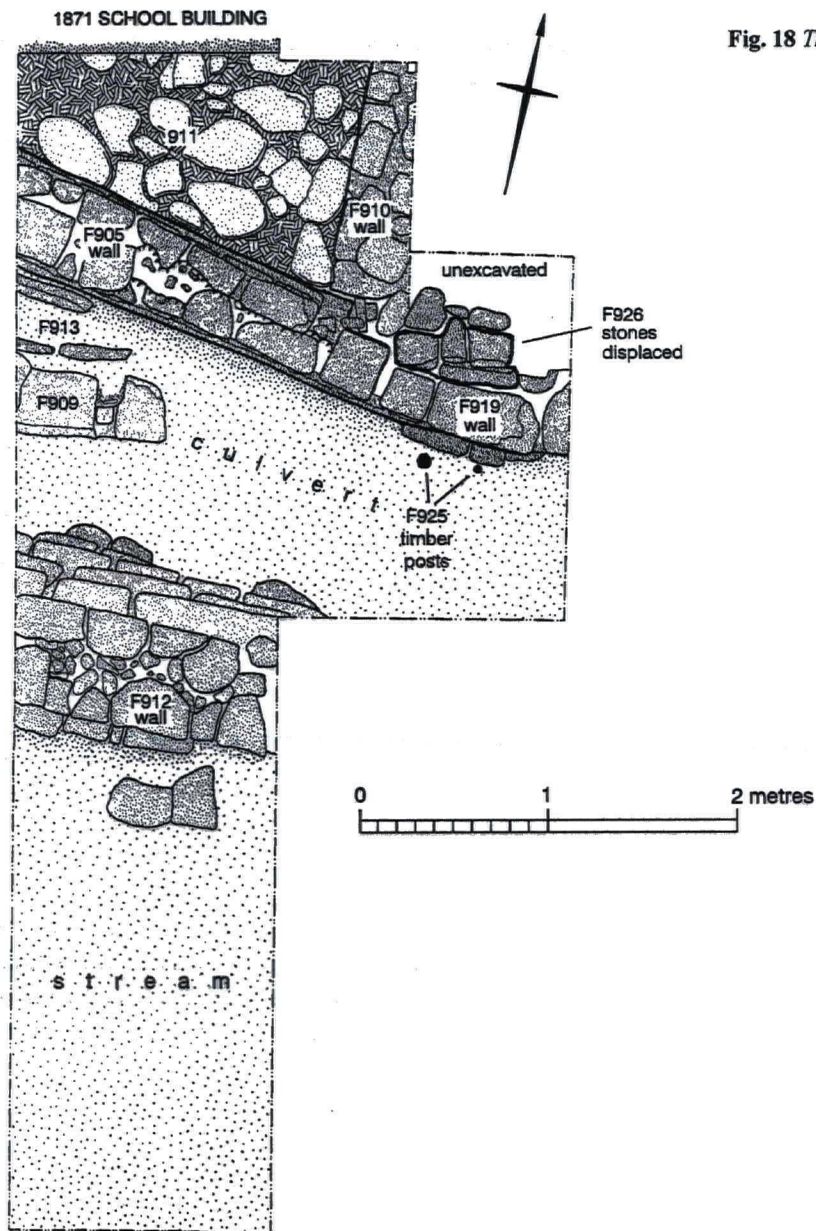


Fig. 18 Trench Nine: plan

The ground immediately to the north of the culvert was later consolidated by dumping a thick deposit of clay and stones to the rear of the north wall (Fig. 20; layers 906 and 911). Presumably this was to permit building to take place against the side of the culvert as is indicated by the north-south wall F910 and possibly by the re-building of the adjacent section of culvert wall (F919). Staxton Ware and Scarborough Ware pottery came from the clay raft (layer 922) underpinning the south wall of the culvert and from the dump of clay and soil at the rear of the north wall (layers 906 and 911) establishing the medieval date for the construction of the feature.

PHASE THREE: CULVERT IN USE

The building of the culvert clearly indicates that, at least at this point in its passage, the Damyot was a managed watercourse though to what purpose is not clear. The features revealed in the culvert did little to clarify the question. Two wooden posts (F925) were found either side of the drain opening in the north face of the culvert where they could have supported some form of wooden shuttering to impede the interchange of water between the drain and the culvert. Several small stones placed on edge against the north face of the culvert (F913) could have been to direct the flow and adjacent to them were two massive



Fig. 19 Trench Nine looking north showing the culvert

stones placed one on top of another which may have supported an upright timber post (F909). A square socket 0.1m across had been chiselled out of the top stone and packed with clay and similarly several shallow notches in the north wall of the culvert may

have been cut to secure this timber construction to the stonework (Fig. 21).

The excavation evidence suggests that not all the flow of the Damyot was directed along the culvert. There was no indication in Trench One of a cessation in the build up of silt in the bed of the stream as would have occurred if all the water in the stream had been diverted along the culvert. Instead, silt continued to build up without interruption (layers 108, 112 and 113) in the section of stream exposed in Trench One and a layer of silt also accumulated on the outside of the culvert in Trench Nine (layer 923) partially burying the raft of clay and soil beneath the south wall. Layer 923 was overlain by deposits of grey clayey soil (915 and 920) containing small fragments of stone which had probably been deliberately dumped into the stream bed on the outside of the culvert.

Interpretation and date

The excavation evidence from Trenches One and Nine suggests the stream and the culvert functioned together though why the effort was made to construct the culvert in the first place is still not clear. It could have been designed to speed up the flow of water to alleviate problems of flooding or to produce energy to power a mill wheel. It could have channelled water into tanks for industrial purposes such as fulling or tanning or provided running water to a nearby house. There is no direct evidence of how long the culvert functioned though its robust construction could point to a long life, perhaps spanning several centuries. The silt which accumulated in the stream beyond the culvert was exclusively medieval in date.

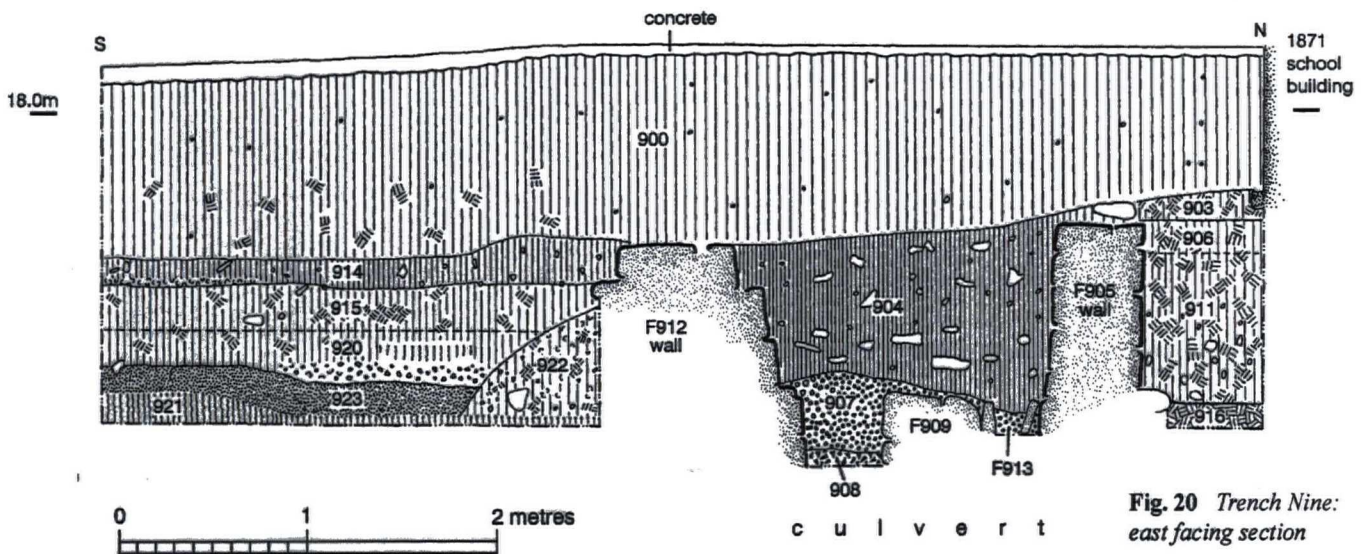


Fig. 20 Trench Nine: east facing section

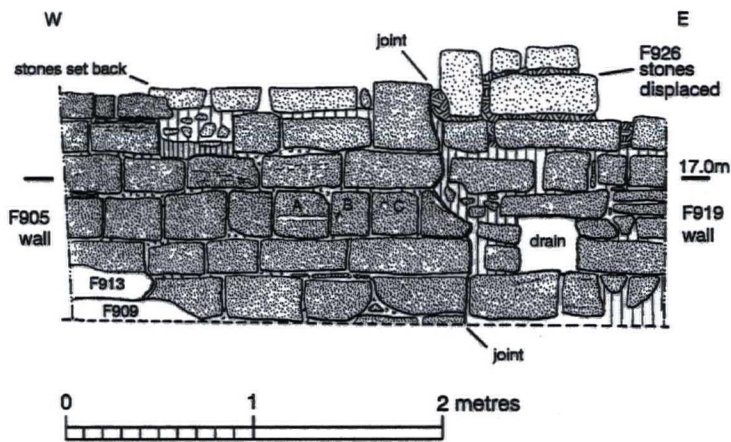


Fig. 21 Trench Nine: south facing elevation of culvert
(A-C = possible chiselled notches)

PHASE FOUR: ABANDONMENT OF THE CULVERT

As was mentioned above, the excavation did not expose the base of the culvert so it is difficult to be certain of how extensively it had silted up before being abandoned. Deposits found in the channel comprised a layer of charcoal mixed with organic matter (layer 908), overlain by gravel and angular stone fragments in a clayey matrix (layer 907) topped by clayey soil (layer 904) containing numerous fragments of stone, including broken roof slates, pieces of brick and clay tiles. Water percolating through these layers had caused a "rust" deposit to accumulate around the stones in layer 907. The spread of clayey soil and stone fragments (layer 904) which completed the infilling of the culvert also

extended further south into the stream proper; although as a much thinner layer (layer 914). This layer could well be the same as the deposit of stone rubble (layer 802) found in Trench Eight, 3.0m to the west of Trench Nine.

A second phase of building was recognised on the north side of the culvert. A line of small rounded boulders (F924) was placed on top of the foundations of the earlier north-south wall F910 suggesting the earlier building was replaced by a much more lightly-built structure (Fig. 22). This episode may also explain the minor damage which occurred to the top of the north wall of the culvert. A stone dislodged from the top of the wall was found in the upper fill of the culvert (layer 904) and several other

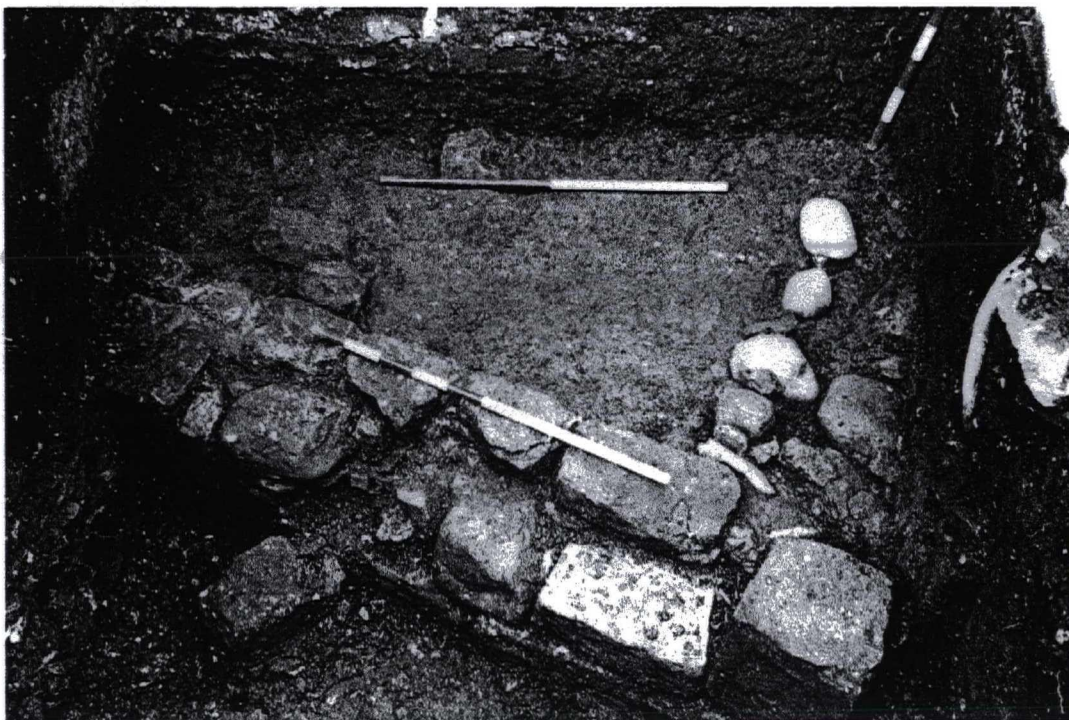


Fig. 22
Trench Nine
looking north
showing
walls F905
and F924

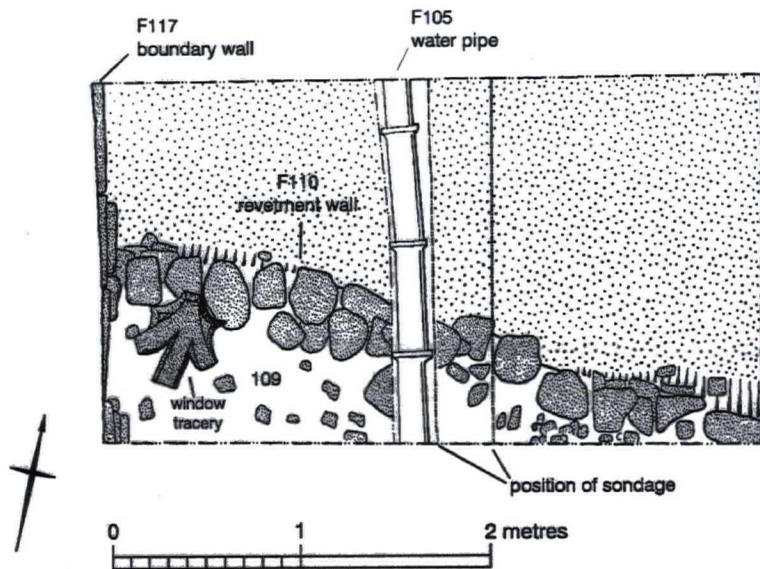


Fig. 23 Trench One: plan

stones (F926) had tipped northwards off the wall. A layer of clayey soil (903) buried the remains of this second phase of building.

Interpretation and date

The deposits excavated from the culvert suggest it was rapidly and deliberately filled in. That layers 904 and 907 contained quantities of stone and clay roof tile as well as brick and stone fragments suggests the backfilling of the culvert was part of a wider programme of demolition and site clearance. Further clearance debris was spread over the ground to the south of the culvert (layer 914). The pottery recov-

ered from these three layers included Scarborough Ware but the presence of later fabrics such as Humber Ware, Cistercian Ware and continental stoneware suggests the Scarborough Ware was residual and points to a date in the 16th century for the filling-in of the culvert.

PHASE FIVE: STREAM REVETMENT

In Trench One the gradual build up of silt in the bed of the Damyot was interrupted by the construction of a crude revetment wall of boulders and clay (F110) which curved along the south edge of the trench (Figs. 23 and 24). The revetment was constructed of

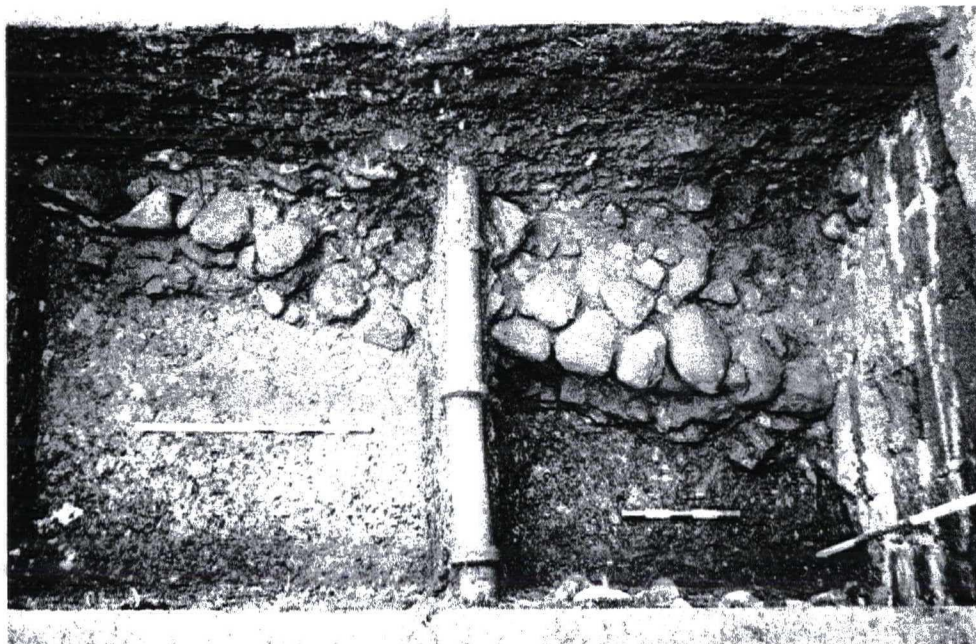


Fig. 24 Trench One looking south

three courses of stone to a maximum height of 0.4m and was founded on a layer of compact clay (layer 111). A further deposit of more sandy clay and stones (layer 109) made up the ground to the rear of the revetment and included in this layer was a large piece of window tracery. A layer of silt (107) covered the bottom stones of the revetment possibly because the boulders had sunk into the bed of the stream.

Interpretation and date

The crudeness of the revetment wall (F110) bears no comparison with the earlier culvert found in Trench Nine. Whereas a considerable amount of time and effort must have gone into constructing the culvert, the revetment wall looks hastily built using whatever materials came readily to hand. That this included a sizeable piece of medieval window tracery which almost certainly came from the nearby St Sepulchre Church suggests the revetment was contemporary with the demolition and robbing of the church in the late 1560s. The purpose of the revetment was presumably to prevent the Damyot from flooding over its southern bank, an occurrence which was probably made more likely by the earlier filling-in of the culvert.

PHASE SIX: GARDENS

The boulder revetment in Trench One (F110) was crossed at right angles by the present stone boundary wall marking the west edge of the main part of the site. The wall was built in two phases as is evident from the slight offset in the wall face close to existing ground level (Fig. 25). The upper part of the wall is regularly coursed using neatly squared blocks of stone whilst the wall face is much rougher in appearance below the offset and re-uses several chamfered stones which could have been door or window surrounds (F117). Where the wall crosses the boulder revetment F110 it used some of the top stones as a foundation and layers of clayey soil (layers 102 and 106) which buried the revetment might be debris from building the boundary wall as both layers contained numerous fragments of stone.

The second phase of construction saw the boundary wall raised in height by around 2.5m with the addition of 15 courses of stonework. This was probably the occasion when the stone rubble (layer 603) and soil layers (601 and 602) encountered in Trench

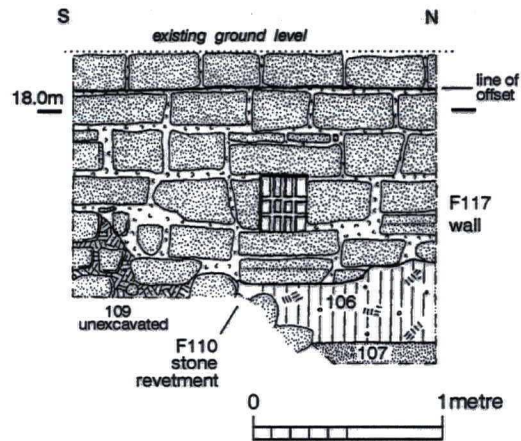


Fig. 25 Trench One: west facing elevation of wall F117

Six were dumped on the west side of the wall raising the ground level along what is now Springfield by at least 1.8m (Fig. 26). Perhaps conscious of the fact that the wall was built across a stream channel, the builders inserted a "weep hole" with an iron grill to permit groundwater to percolate freely below ground, through the wall. A row of brick cottages was built fronting on to Springfield in the middle of the nineteenth century of which the foundations of one came to light in Trench Six (F604) buried by demolition rubble (layer 600).

In the main part of the site, all surface traces of the Damyot, the culvert and the revetment wall disappeared under the gradual build-up of featureless garden soil. This was up to 0.7m deep in Trench One (layers 100 and 101) thickening to a depth of 1.0m in Trench Nine (layer 900). These deposits were disturbed in Trench One by a rain water pipe (F105) which presumably drained from the 1871 School

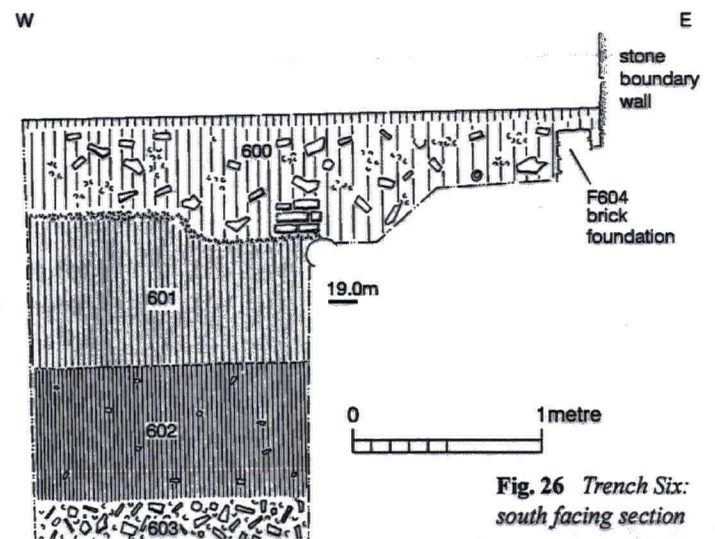


Fig. 26 Trench Six: south facing section