

Building. The pipe trench (F103) was backfilled with layer 104 which possessed the same texture and colour as the soil through which it was cut making the fill difficult to distinguish. For the same reason there was no sign of the foundation trench for the south wall of the school building at the end of Trench Nine except for a 0.3m wide cut (F901) adjacent to the south-east corner of the building.

Interpretation and dating

Although not in itself a particularly significant event, the construction of the boundary wall F117 across the boulder revetment and the line of the Damyt clearly implies that the stream had ceased to flow. The only clues to when this occurred are that architectural fragments conceivably from St Sepulchre Church were used in its construction and that the boulder revetment must still have been visible on the surface because the wall used some of the stones as a foundation. Both these clues suggest a date in the late 16th or early 17th century, though the pottery which was found in the two layers of possible debris from the construction of the boundary wall (layers 102 and 106) was medieval in date and therefore presumably residual. No evidence was found to support the idea that the wall is part of the precinct of the Franciscan Friary. The featureless soil which then accumulated over the middle part of the site and eradicated all surface traces of where the Damyt once flowed must have taken several centuries to accumulate indicating the prolonged use of the area as gardens.

THE NORTH OF THE SITE

Trenches Two, Four, Seven and Ten (Figs. 27-37)

Trench Two was opened on the east side of the Victorian school building, revealing stone foundations of a possible medieval house. To investigate this structure further, Trenches Four and Ten were excavated in the two derelict greenhouses occupying the north-east corner of the site. These trenches exposed further medieval foundations which in Trench Four were found to be resting on deep waterlogged deposits. A sample of these deposits was excavated to a depth of 1.8m in a small test hole in the bottom of Trench Four whilst a further small trench was dug to clarify the extent of medieval remains (Trenches Seven). A total of seven phases of activity were identified in the north part of the site.

PHASE ONE: TIMBER STRUCTURE

The earliest feature discovered in the north part of the site came to light at the bottom of the test hole in Trench Four at a depth of 3.8m from the surface (15.4m OD). It consisted of a horizontal timber plank 0.9m long pointing roughly east-west and laid on edge with three vertical timber stakes up to 0.2m high on its south side (F425). Small stones next to the horizontal timber probably belonged to the feature as could have a second horizontal timber partially embedded in the south side of the test hole (Figs. 27 and 28). This feature was preserved underneath a 1.8m thickness of waterlogged organic remains dumped onto the site in Phase Two. This deposit continued deeper but the confines of the trench precluded excavating below the timbers.

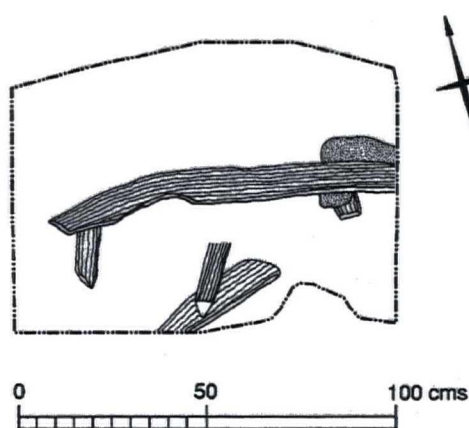


Fig. 27 Trench Four: plan of timber feature F425

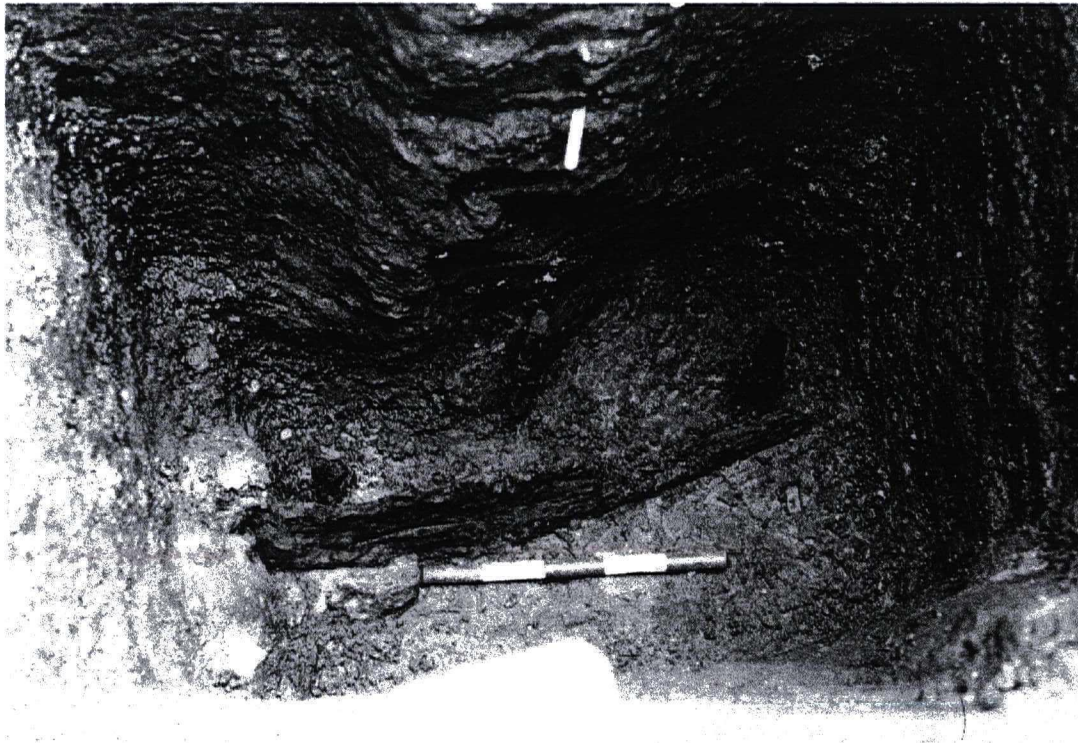


Fig. 28 *Trench Four: view of timber feature F425 looking south*

Interpretation and date

The most likely explanation of F425 is that it was part of a low fence constructed of long, thin planks laid on edge and secured by vertical timber stakes and stones. With such a short section exposed to view it is difficult to be certain of the alignment but the available evidence suggests it might have run east-west, perhaps parallel with the Damyot which probably flowed very close to the south of the feature. There was nothing associated with the F425 to indicate its date but as the immediately overlying layer (424) contained a mixture of medieval Scarborough Ware and Staxton Ware, the feature is likely to date to the late 12th or 13th century.

PHASE TWO: REFUSE DUMPING

As was mentioned above, the possible timber fence (F425) was buried below a 1.8m thick layer of waterlogged organic deposits (Fig. 29). The layer contained large quantities of fibrous vegetable matter as well as small fragments of twig and root. Lenses of grey and brown clay and occasional small stones were also present in the layer but generally it showed little evidence of stratification. The top 1.0m of the deposit was excavated in a series of spits (layers 411-418, 421-423) but the only distinction

that was noticed was that the top 0.2m of the deposit contained more wood fragments than the rest (Fig. 30; layer 412) and was partly overlain by a small area of dark silty soil (layer 411). A sample of layer 412 was sent to the Environmental Archaeology Unit at York University for analysis (see Appendix 1). As problems with groundwater flooding into the bottom of the test trench made it more pressing to complete the excavation, the lowest 0.8m of the organic deposit was excavated as one layer (424). Further organic deposits were revealed in the very south-east corner of Trench Ten (layer 1014) some 7.0m to the north of where they occurred in Trench Four. This deposit was left unexcavated.

Interpretation and date

The absence of any significant stratification suggests the organic deposit in Trench Four accumulated rapidly, perhaps through the dumping of refuse. This possibility is supported by the mixed origins of the insects and plants contained in the deposit as noted in the Environmental Archaeology Unit report (see Appendix 1). The fact that the deposit contained well-preserved insect and plant remains indicates it was not dumped into the flowing waters of the Damyot which would have rolled and smashed such

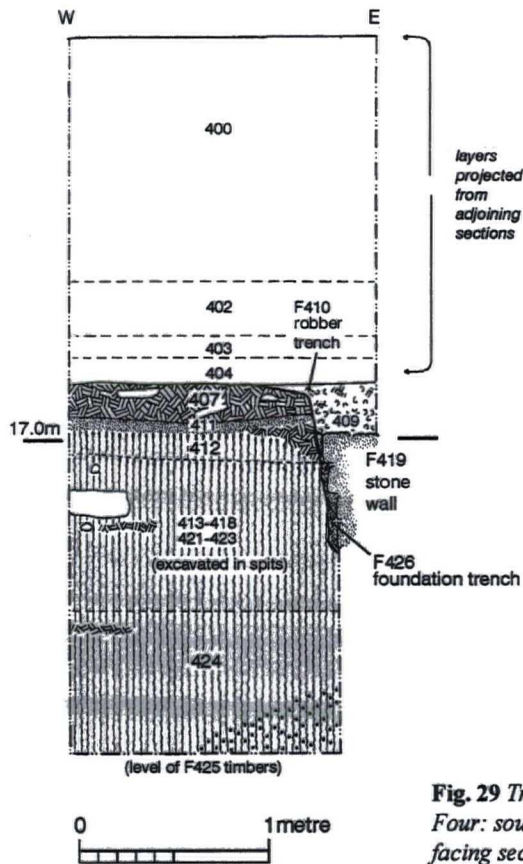


Fig. 29 Trench Four: south facing section

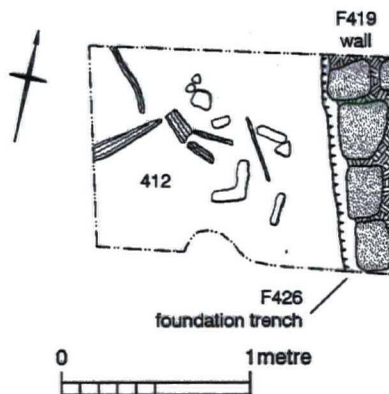


Fig. 30 Trench Four: plan of wall F419

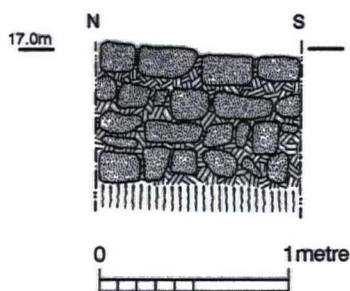


Fig. 31 Trench Four: west facing elevation of wall F419

fragile pieces. More likely is that this area was to the north of the stream, as the existence of the plank fence in Phase One also indicated. Perhaps the refuse was dumped onto marshy ground adjacent to the stream with the deliberate intention of raising and consolidating the ground. If the organic layer noticed in the corner of Trench Ten is part of the same deposit excavated in Trench Four then much of the north part of the site could have been consolidated in this fashion. The pottery recovered from throughout the organic deposits in Trench Four did not vary between medieval Scarborough and Staxton Wares, suggesting a date in the 13th century for the evident efforts to consolidate the ground to the north of the Damyot.

PHASE THREE: CONSTRUCTION WORK

The top of the organic deposit in Trench Four was cut by a stone wall running down the east side of the trench. The wall (F419) stood 0.7m high and consisted of two courses of roughly squared masonry resting on two further courses of more rounded stones (Fig. 31). All the stonework was bonded with clay and the foundation trench (F426) had also been backfilled with clay. A 0.3m deep robber trench (F410) cutting down to the top of the wall indicated that the upper part of the wall had been removed and the fact that the robber trench was filled with loose mortar and fragments of stone (layer 409) suggests the missing stonework may have been mortar bonded.

The robber trench (F410) also cut through a layer of clay (407) which had been laid over the organic deposits in Trench Four as a secure bed for a surface of cobbles (408). The cobble surface only survived in a very fragmentary condition but it may have been contemporary with the adjacent, partially robbed, stone wall (F409).

Interpretation and date

The construction of the stone wall and adjacent cobble surface indicates that the north side of the Damyot attracted occupation following the consolidation of the ground in the previous phase. The use of impermeable clay as packing around the foundations of the wall and as the base for the cobble surface suggests the builders were trying to protect against the fact that this was wet and marshy ground, though what form the building took is impossible to say. Two fragments of Humber

PHASE FOUR: CONSTRUCTION OF A STONE BUILDING

The evidence from all four trenches in the north part of the site indicates that a major programme of building took place involving the construction of substantial stone walls, and the laying of stone paving and cobbles (Figs. 32, 33 and 35). In Trench Four the earlier wall F419 and cobbles 408 were buried beneath a second cobble surface (405) set on a bed of sandy clay (layer 404). The surface was well preserved at the north end of the trench, but had disappeared in the middle and at the south there was an area of flat slabs and smaller stones (F420). To the west the cobbles (405) and slabs (F420) butted up to the straight edge of a neatly-laid stone pavement made from large, interlocking stones. This feature (F406) continued west beyond the confines of the trench and judging from the way the cobbles and stone slabs butted up to the edge of the pavement, all three surfaces are likely to be contemporary.

Two metres to the west, the stone pavement (F406) re-appeared in Trench Two. Here the method of construction was slightly different to that observed in Trench Four with the pavement utilising more small stones (F215). However, a second area of slab paving (F208) overlay part of F215 and it may be that this was the continuation of the paving ob-

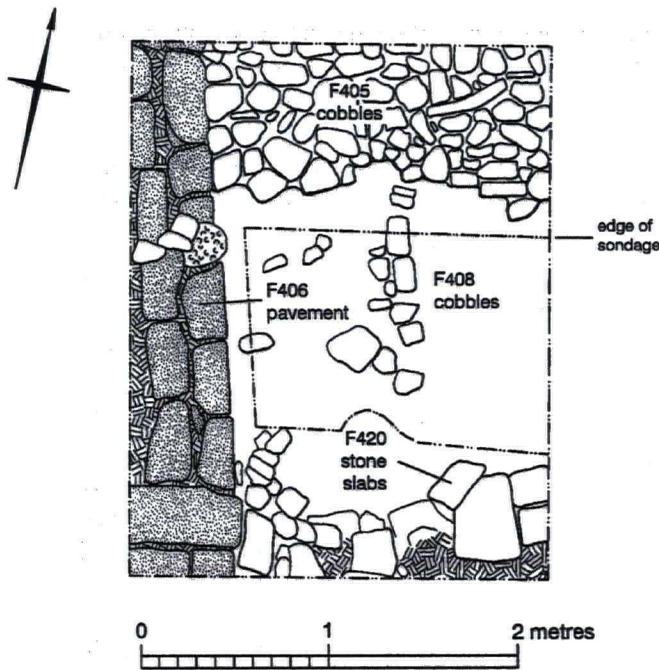


Fig. 32 Trench Four: plan

Ware as well as Scarborough Ware were found in layer 407 suggesting the cobble surface was laid sometime in the late 13th or early 14th century.

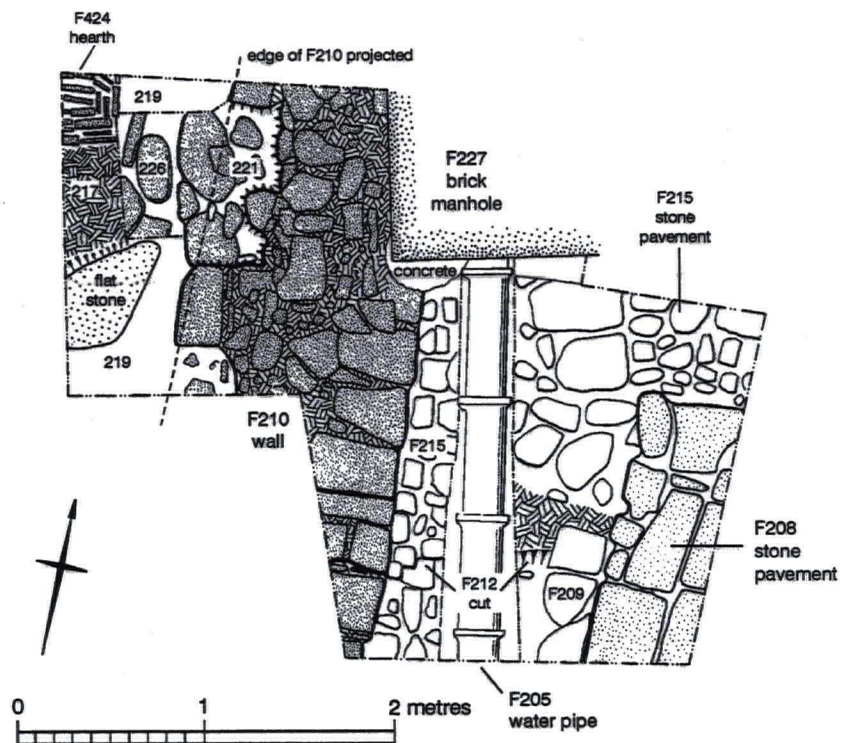


Fig. 33 Trench Two: plan

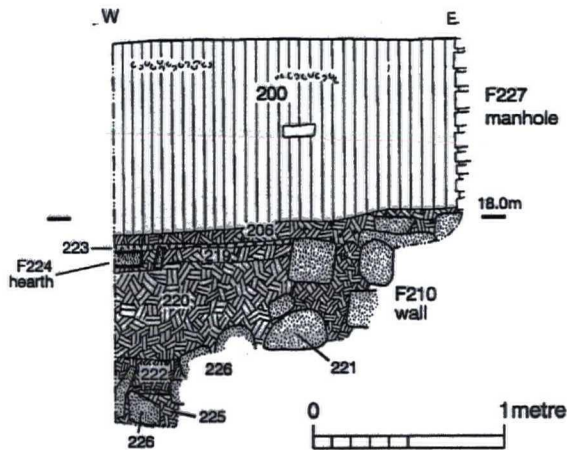


Fig. 34 Trench Two: south facing section

served in Trench Four because it was constructed the same with neatly-interlocking large stone slabs. Presumably F208 was a replacement for the underlying stone surface F215.

The lower of these two stone features (F215) butted up to a north-south wall (F210), which was 1.2m wide and bonded with clay. It stood three courses high to a maximum height of 0.5m. A 'test hole' to examine the wall footings was dug on its west side (Fig. 34) where the wall had already been damaged. This discovered that it rested on broad foundations of boulders and cobbles (layers 221 and 226) packed around with clay (layers 220, 222 and

225). Stonework marking the probable continuation of this wall came to light in the small 'test hole' (Trench Seven) 2.0m to the south.

The wall was presumably the side of a building because to its west was the remains of a hearth suggesting this was the interior with the pavement to the east discussed above, on the outside. The hearth consisted of an area of stone tiles set on edge (F224) in the north-west corner of the trench next to which was an area of burnt clay (layer 217) and a large stone slab. The hearth was set into a deposit of compacted yellow clay (layer 219) which was probably the make-up for a floor of thin limestone flags (layer 218) which was found to rest on the yellow clay. The hearth was overlain by a mixed deposit of clay and charcoal (layer 223).

A stone wall and further slab paving came to light in Trench Ten, five metres to the north of Trenches Two and Four suggesting the building or buildings extended northwards up to Cook's Row (Fig. 36). A clay bonded stone wall (F1002) occupied the west half of the trench. It stood two courses high to a maximum height of 0.4m and was aligned north-south, though as it continued beyond the west side of the trench, it was impossible to measure its full width. Stone paving, several courses thick, adjoined the east side of the wall but it was difficult to be



Fig. 35 Trench Two looking south showing stone pavement F215 (left) and wall F210 (right)

certain of the exact relationship of these slabs to the north-south wall because only a small area in the south-east corner of the trench was excavated to avoid unnecessary damage to the remains. The lowest slabs (F1013) had been placed on top of the waterlogged organic deposit (1014) discussed in Phase Two above (Fig. 37). These stones were overlain by further slabs (F1009) and by smaller stones (1010) placed immediately against the bottom of wall F1002. The use of several courses of stone slabs may have been needed to counteract subsidence of the pavement into the waterlogged deposits underneath.

Layers of clay had also been employed as packing around and below the slabs. The lowest of these was layer 1012 which rested on top of the organic deposit 1014 and butted up to the lowest setting of slabs (F1013) whilst a deposit of sandy clay was placed on top as a bedding for the upper slabs F1009. There was a gap of 0.3m between these upper slabs and the north-south wall. This feature (F1008), which might have had some structural purpose such as to hold timbers fast against the east face of the wall, was filled with a layer of sandy clay (layer 1007).

Interpretation and date

Beyond establishing their existence, it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions about the significance of the stone walls and other features underlying the north part of the site. Without far more extensive excavations it cannot even be known for sure that the remains described above all belong to the same phase of building. But if this were the case, then the plan which emerges is of a paved and cobbled yard next to an 'L' shaped building occupying the ground between Cook's Row on the north and the Damyot on the south. The width of the wall uncovered in Trench Two together with the depth of its foundations indicates the building was substantially constructed, perhaps with walls of stone.

An important question concerning the plan of the building is how it relates to the culvert found in Trench Nine. The north-south walls found in Trenches Two and Nine, along with the stonework from Trench Seven, make a line right up to the edge of the culvert suggesting that the east side of the building met the watercourse and then turned west to run along the north side of the culvert.

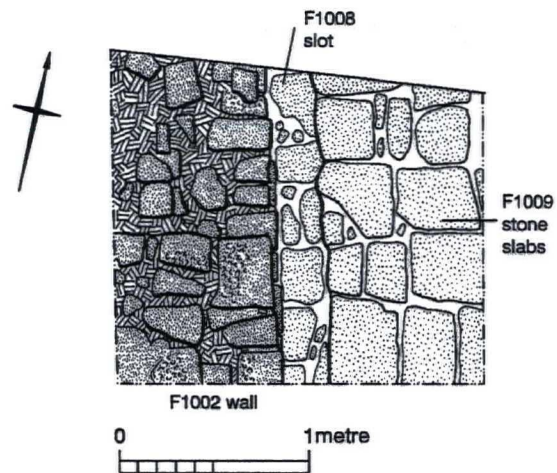


Fig. 36 Trench Ten: plan

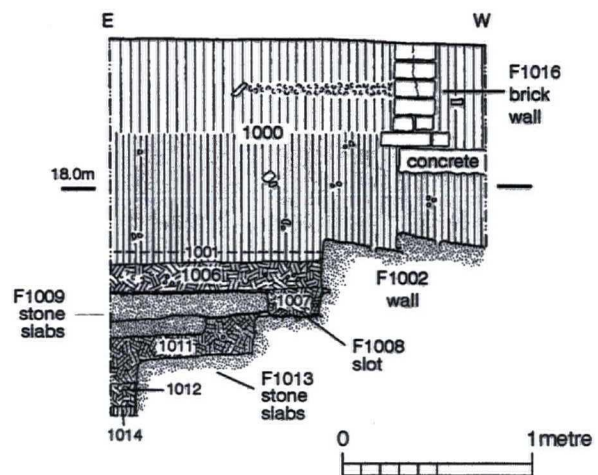


Fig. 37 Trench Ten: north facing section

However there were no signs that the culvert had been used in this way as the foundation for a building, nor were there any floor surfaces or other signs of occupation at the rear of the culvert, so it is more likely that the building did not extend this far south. If the north-south wall in Trench Nine is not part of the building, it could have been a short boundary wall running between the corner of the building and the culvert.

The small quantity of pottery associated with this phase of activity reflects the decision to restrict excavation so as not to cause unnecessary damage to these important remains. Scarborough Ware was predominant among the sherds recovered from the make-up below the stone paving in Trench Ten and in the foundations of the north-south wall in Trench Two, indicating a medieval date for the construction of the conjectured stone-walled building and adjacent paved yard.

PHASE FIVE: OCCUPATION AND ABANDONMENT

The excavation produced nothing to indicate how long the building and its adjacent yard functioned but there is evidence from Trench Two that the north-south wall F210 underwent a second phase of construction. Just before the point where the wall disappeared into the south section of the trench, a crack was visible crossing the top of the wall and running down the east face. The feature continued as the edge of a shallow depression (F212) in the stone surface F215 at the foot of the wall. The portion of wall to the south of this crack used mortar bonding unlike the rest of the wall which was bonded with clay. Further mortar (layer 213) with stony clay below (layer 216) filled the depression at the foot of the wall. The only portion of the interior of the building investigated lay on the west side of Trench Two where the existence of a stone-tile hearth (F224) has already been mentioned. In the same trench, a further hearth was found outside the building using the paved surface (F208) as a base. The remains consisted of three thin layers of charcoal interleaved with lenses of clay amounting to a total thickness of 0.1m.

A layer of clay (206) containing fragments of stone and charcoal accumulated over the wall foundations and paving in Trench Two following the abandonment and demolition of the building. A similar deposit of sandy clay covered the cobbles and stone slabs in Trench Four (layer 403) and it also occurred in Trench Ten (layer 1006) where it contained fragments of stone and patches of mortar. The north-south wall in this trench (F1002) was partly overlain by a deposit of rubble and clay (layer 1003) suggesting some attempt had been made to rob these foundations.

Interpretation and date

Given the extent of the remains found across the north part of the site, it is remarkable that apart from two hearths, so little evidence of occupation associated with the building and yard came to light. However, the interior of the building was barely touched by the excavation and it is here that most of this sort of evidence will be preserved. The fact that when part of the north-south wall in Trench Two was rebuilt, it was given more strength by the use of mortar rather than clay bonding, suggests that the building experienced structural problems, perhaps because of subsidence caused by the underlying waterlogged deposits.

The building ended its life by being demolished almost to its foundations. It is surprising given the quantities of large stones used in the walls and paving that the remains were not more extensively robbed but the site seems to have been abandoned allowing the extensive deposit of clay and stone fragments to accumulate over the remains (layers 206, 403 and 1006). Pottery from this layer included Scarborough Ware, Staxton Ware and Humber Ware of the 13th and 14th centuries but along with them were fragments of Dutch Orangeware and Stoneware indicating a possible 15th or 16th century date for the abandonment of the north part of the site.

PHASE SIX: GARDENS

Featureless garden soil accumulated to a depth of between 1.0 and 1.5m across the north of the site. In Trench Two, two layers of soil, each approximately 0.6m thick were recognised. The upper (layer 200) was looser in texture than the soil lower down (layer 202) and contained a 0.1m thick dump of Victorian bottles at its base in the south-east corner of the trench. In Trench Four the soil divided between an upper loose soil (layer 400) and a lower ashy soil (layer 402) and there was a dump of stones, stone roof slates and clay tiles (layer 401) down the centre of the trench resting on the top of layer 402. Finally in Trench Ten there was again a layer of loose soil (layer 1000) which became more compacted with depth. On the north this layer butted up to the stone footings of the north boundary wall of the site. The footings consisted of five courses of rough stonework standing to a height of 0.8m above which the wall was constructed of brick. Modern features encountered in the north of the site comprised a concrete floor and brick wall along the west edge of Trench Ten and a brick manhole box on the north side of Trench Two from the south side of which ran a ceramic water pipe across the middle of the excavation.

Interpretation and date

Following the demolition of the medieval building in the previous phase, the next structure to be erected on the north part of the site appears to be the school building constructed in 1871. Judging by the depth of soil build up, the area must have been occupied by gardens for most of the intervening centuries. The stonework revealed below the north boundary of the site was not dated but could indicate that this wall is far older than the brickwork visible above ground suggests.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The site contains arguably the best-preserved medieval remains ever to be found in Scarborough and there can be no doubt that it possesses enormous value as a source of archaeological information. Due to circumstances which are not yet fully understood, the site has largely been open ground since the end of the middle ages and as a result earlier remains have been protected by a blanket of featureless garden soil ranging in depth from 0.8m on the south of the site to 1.3m on the north. This is an almost unique occurrence because, elsewhere in the town where there is long-established open ground, previous excavations have found widespread evidence of clay quarrying in the 18th and 19th centuries which has totally destroyed earlier archaeological deposits.

Added value is given to the site because of the waterlogged deposits it contains. These probably extend over the middle and north of the site, reaching a depth of at least 3.8m below ground level as indicated by the results from Trench Four and they constitute the most extensive area of waterlogged deposits ever found on a single site in Scarborough. They doubtless preserve a wide range of environmental evidence and organic remains that have not survived elsewhere in the town because of the dry ground conditions which tend to predominate. It is possible the waterlogged deposits continue for some distance east and west beyond the confines of the site following the course of the Damyot stream as is suggested by the discovery of similar deposits at 46 St Sepulchre Street in 1968 (Farmer 1976a). Apart from these general conclusions about the archaeological importance of the site, the excavation also gave an insight into how this part of the town developed, influenced particularly by the presence of the Damyot stream.

THE NATURAL TOPOGRAPHY

Dry, natural, glacial clay came to light on the south of the site in Trenches Three, Five and Eleven above the level of the stream deposits and waterlogged remains found over the middle and north of the site. This indicates that there was a slight natural ridge of higher and drier ground on the south of the site which falls away northwards and eastwards to the low-lying, marshy land traversed by the Damyot stream. The low-lying marshy ground probably stretched as far as

the sharp rise in ground level beyond where Cook's Row now runs and the channel of the Damyot stream can be defined within this area by the occurrence of deposits of grey and grey-brown silt, such as were found in Trenches One and Nine.

THE EARLIEST OCCUPATION

The earliest traces of settlement to be uncovered were the two gullies cutting the natural surface in Trenches Three and Five (F307 and F504), and the possible wooden fence (F425) found at the deepest part of Trench Four. It is difficult to build up a picture of what they might represent in terms of settlement especially since there is no evidence that these features are contemporary. The finding of a piece of burnt daub in the fill of the gully F307 is slight evidence that a timber building with walls of wattle and daub stood on the south side of the Damyot and the possible timber fence hints at some sort of occupation over the low-lying ground along the north margin of the stream.



Fig. 38 Fragment of burnt daub from F307 (A. Charles)

The fact that the gully and the fence are the two earliest features discovered and yet appear to be medieval in date leaves unresolved the question of whether or not this area was occupied during the Viking period in the tenth and eleventh centuries (Farmer 1976b, 1-3). No evidence was found to support the idea that Cook's Row and St Sepulchre Street originated as routeways in a Viking period settlement, consequently the fact that they deviate from the grid pattern of the other medieval streets is probably because of the obstacle presented by the

Damyot and associated areas of marsh. On present evidence therefore, there is no reason why Cook's Row and St Sepulchre Street are not an integral part of the medieval street system established in the 12th century, perhaps with a bridge or ford across the Damyot at the east end of St Sepulchre Street. This does not totally discount the possibility of pre-medieval settlement in this area since the availability of fresh water and ready access to the seashore could have attracted occupation at various periods from prehistoric times onwards.

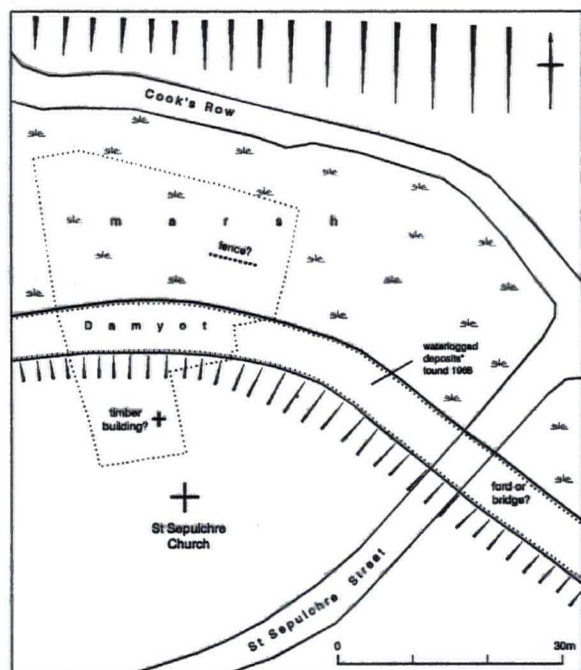


Fig. 39 Plan showing the possible early layout of the site and environs (site shown with dotted outline).

ST SEPULCHRE CHURCH

St Sepulchre church is the only substantial building which seems to have existed on the south part of the site in the middle ages. The date when it was founded is still no clearer following the excavation but the location can now be pinpointed with greater accuracy than before. The stone wall brought to light in Trenches Five and Eleven is, as far as can be ascertained, part of the north side of the church which therefore must have stood mainly to the south of the site, continuing to the east underneath the Quaker Meeting House, as has long been suspected. This places it on the ridge of higher ground from where it would have overlooked the Damyot stream and it seems likely that the stream would have formed the north and east sides of the churchyard. The fact that

no human burials were found during the excavation suggests the graveyard is more likely to have been on the south and east sides where skeletons were reportedly found in 1968 and 1973 (Farmer 1975).

More extensive excavations are needed to resolve questions concerning the plan of the church, particularly regarding the suggestion that it had the rare form of circular nave like those churches dedicated to St Sepulchre in Cambridge and Northampton (R.C.H.M.E. 1985, 59-61 and 1959, 255-57).

Despite the fact that the church mostly lies outside the confines of the site, the excavation shed some light on the appearance of the building. The short length of wall uncovered in Trenches Five and Eleven was nearly two metres wide which is sufficient to have supported a substantial superstructure. For example, the south wall of the church at the excavated deserted medieval village of Wharram Percy in the East Riding is 1.2m wide and supports a wall 7.0m tall (Beresford and Hurst 1990, Figs 43 and 46). Part of St Sepulchre Church must have been roofed with plain clay tiles as indicated by the fragments found in the trenches across the south part of the site and that its windows were glazed is suggested by the discovery of a fragment of twisted lead came in Trench Three. This would have been used to secure the edges of the small pieces of glass which went to make up a window. A clue to the shape of at least one of the windows is given by the piece of stone tracery found reused in the revetment wall F110 in Trench One. The tracery consists of a mullion from which spring two bars describing arches with different degrees of curvature suggesting the piece was from a three light window with the tighter arch being part of the central light and the flatter arch one of the two outer lights (D. Futty, pers. comm). The style suggests a date in the late 14th century. Traces of plaster adhering to the wall face exposed in Trench Eleven (F1105) suggests the interior of the church would have been rendered and possibly painted.

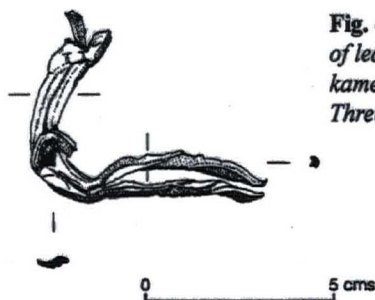


Fig. 40 Fragment of lead window came from Trench Three (A. Charles)

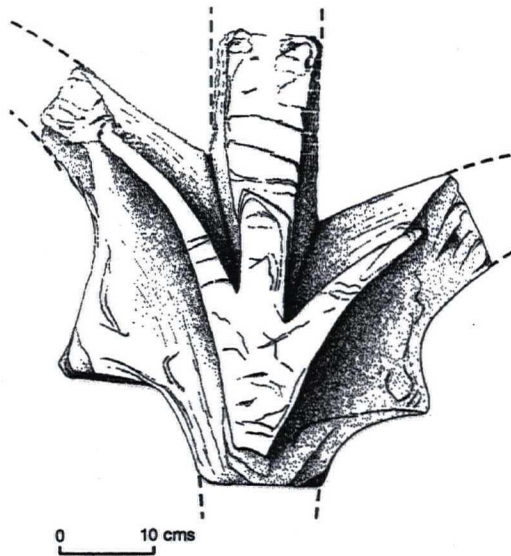


Fig 41. Fragment of window tracery from Trench One (A. Charles)

ACTIVITY ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE DAMYOT

Compared to the south side of the site, where St Sepulchre Church occupied the ground throughout most of the medieval period, a much more complex sequence of activity was revealed on the north as a result of occupation spreading southwards from Cook's Row. To begin with, this low-lying area was apparently used as a rubbish dump as indicated by the thick deposit of organic refuse which came to light in Trench Four burying the remains of the wooden fence F425. The material may have accumulated through the casual disposal of household waste on a convenient piece of open ground or it may have been put there as part of a drive to make this area more habitable by raising the ground above the level of the Damyot. An unexplained structure represented by stone wall F419 in Trench Four was built on the dumped material but this was swept away with the construction of a possible 'L'-shaped building with an adjacent yard of cobbles and paving slabs. Possibly at around the same time the Damyot stream was transformed by the construction of a stone-walled culvert along the line of its north bank. The building was eventually demolished and the culvert filled in during a major episode of site clearance, probably in the 16th century after which the area was left as open ground. Without any direct documentary evidence it is difficult to suggest where the impetus

for these various changes came from but the possibilities discussed below include the inclusion of the south side of Cook's Row within the Franciscan Friary, the culverting of the Damyot by the town council and the construction of a watermill.

THE CULVERT

A considerable amount of time and effort must have been spent constructing the culvert found in Trench Nine. Apart from the good quality workmanship evident in the neatly coursed masonry, it was probably first necessary to dam or divert the flow of water in the Damyot to allow construction work to take place in the stream channel. This poses the question of why the culvert was constructed in the first place and it may be significant that two other sections of medieval stone-walled channel have been found in or next to the stream in this part of the town. The 1968 excavation at 46 St Sepulchre Street reportedly unearthed a section of the Damyot which "proved to be 0.8m wide, constructed of massive sandstone blocks set in plastic clay with a stone-lined base, remarkably well constructed...." and in 1976 a further portion of the Damyot in a stone-walled channel was found during excavations at the junction of Eastborough and West Sandgate (Farmer 1976a and 1988, 132 and fig 10.5). If all three sections of

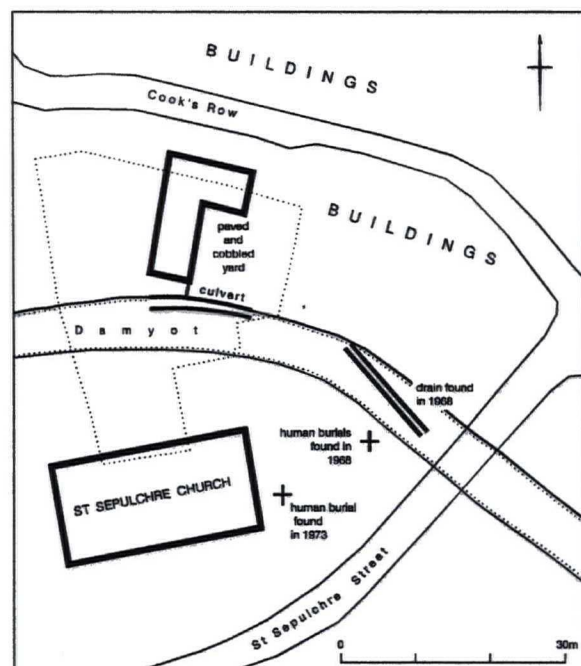


Fig. 42 Plan showing St Sepulchre church and environs in the medieval period (site shown with dotted outline)

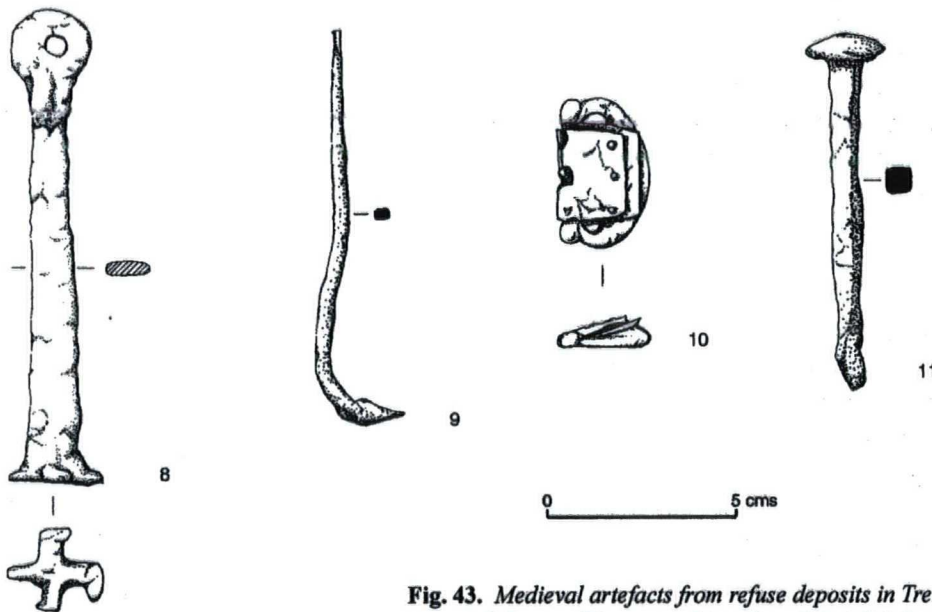
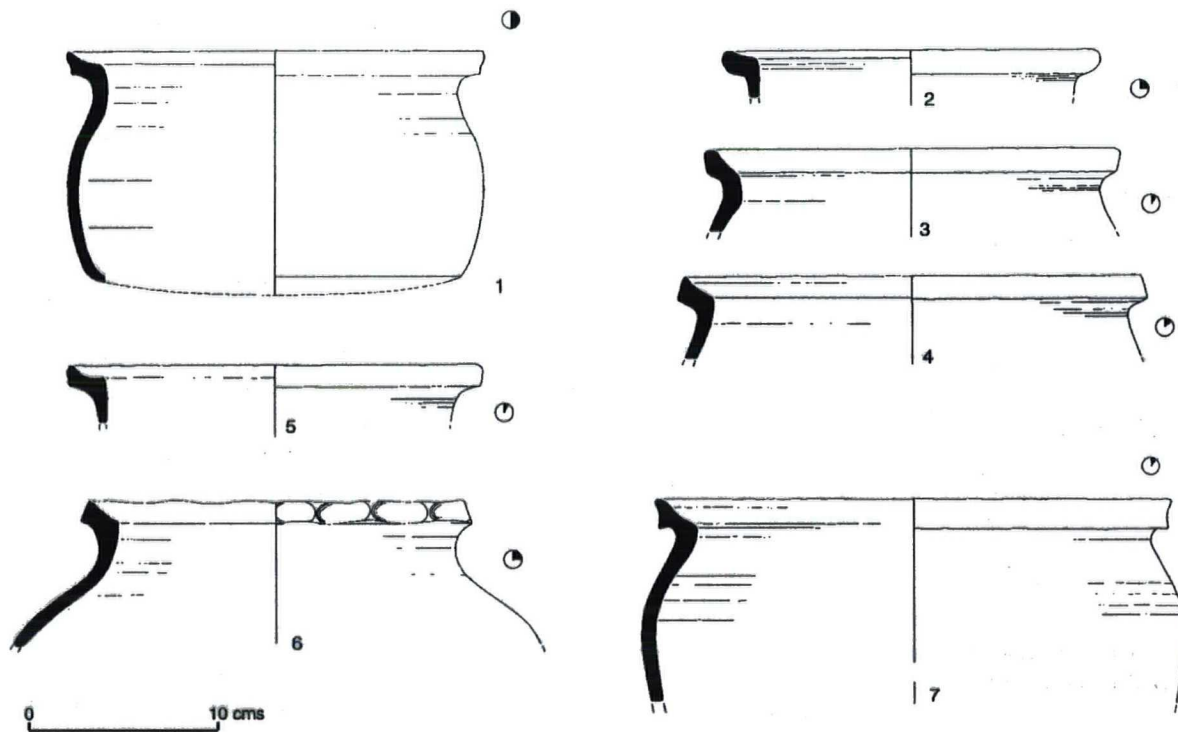


Fig. 43. Medieval artefacts from refuse deposits in Trench Four. 1-7 Staxton Ware pots; 8 iron key; 9 iron fish hook; 10 copper alloy buckle; 11 iron nail (A.Charles)

stone-walled channel are contemporary and part of the same feature, then the culvert stretched for a distance of at least 100m which was probably beyond the resources of one individual to have built. Perhaps we are witnessing the work of the medieval

town council, concerned to control the flow of the Damyt as it approached the economically important harbour area.

The alternative possibility is that the three excavated stretches of culvert are unrelated and that we

are witnessing the efforts of individual landowners to utilise short sections of the stream for different purposes which possibly ranged from providing sanitation to a house to drawing off water for textile production. On the present site it is worth considering if the culvert supplied water to power a watermill since, as was mentioned in the introduction, there is documentary evidence that an individual called Reginald the Miller had land here in the 13th century. In 1267 he gave property on either side of the Damytot to the west of the excavation to the Franciscans to found their friary. He also owned property on the north bank of the stream stretching as far north as Cook's Row, which must have been close to, if not actually on, the present site.

That an individual with an occupational surname of miller owned land adjacent to the Damytot is not in itself conclusive evidence that a watermill operated here, as has sometimes been accepted without question in the past (Farmer 1976a). For example, he may have plied his trade as a miller somewhere other than where he held property (three mills are recorded at the nearby village of Falsgrave in the mid 13th century) or his surname could refer to the occupation of one of his ancestors rather than that of himself. On the other hand, the land which Reginald the Miller held on the north side of the Damytot was a good position for a watermill. Here the stream is beginning to curve to the south-east which meant the water on the north bank would have flowed faster and with increasing power as it travelled around the outside of the bend, perhaps gaining sufficient strength to power a mill wheel. Also, after rounding the bend, the stream started to drop down to the sea which meant that a mill sited here would not have been troubled by water flooding back along the tail race. Turning to the excavation evidence, the way the sides of the culvert excavated in Trench Nine converge towards the east is like the funelling arrangement of the inlet channel to an undershot water mill (Rynne 1997, 85). Also, the drain issuing out of the north wall of the culvert in Trench Nine could be the soakaway from the gear pit inside the mill. There is therefore the tantalising possibility that the site preserves a rare example of a medieval urban water mill and that it possibly lies close to the east side of Trench Nine.

THE 'L' SHAPED BUILDING

Trenches Two, Four and Ten each brought to light parts of one or more buildings associated with paved and cobble surfaces on the north side of the Damytot. As reconstructed (see frontispiece) the remains are interpreted as an 'L' shaped building with a yard to the east fronting on to Cook's Row. This is based on the assumption that the various walls found in the three trenches are all parts of the same structure. If correct, then the building could have served several functions maybe with shops along the street frontage and domestic accommodation in the rear range. This type of arrangement, although not common, is found in several surviving examples of medieval buildings (Grenville 1997, 189) and it would point to a building of some grandeur along Cook's Row in the 13th or 14th centuries. However, it is equally possible that the remains are of more than one building, in which case it is impossible from the limited evidence available to reconstruct the medieval plan.

The paved and cobbled surfaces found in Trenches Two, Four and Ten suggest there was an extensive and well-maintained yard immediately to the east of the 'L' shaped building, presumably with access from Cook's Row. This suggests access to the north part of the site was important which focuses attention again on the possibility of a mill being situated here. It is unlikely to be the putative 'L' shaped building as it apparently did not extend as far south as the stream and anyway the evidence from the culvert discussed above suggests, if there was a mill, it could well lie to the east of Trench Nine.

THE CLEARANCE OF THE SITE

It is known from historical sources that St Sepulchre Church disappeared in the second half of the 16th century and the excavation found that the building had been demolished almost down to its foundations. At approximately the same date demolition and clearance work also seems to have taken place on the north side of the site which involved the filling in of the culvert and the demolition of the 'L' shaped building fronting on to Cook's Row.

The fact that the north side of the site was cleared of buildings in the 16th century and then left vacant echoes the fate of the neighbouring Franciscan Friary. The buildings were probably demolished soon

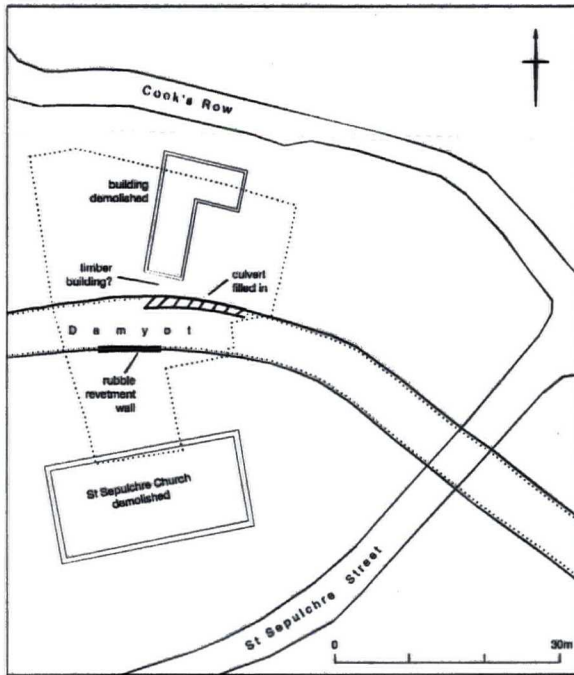


Fig. 44 Plan showing the site and environs after the clearance of medieval buildings (site shown with dotted outline)

after the dissolution of the friary in 1539 and the site was then left as open ground as is evident from the first town map (Cossins 1725). These similar events could indicate that the building remains found on the north side of the site belonged to the Franciscan Friary and that they were swept away at the time of the Dissolution. It was pointed out earlier in this report on p8 that the 1725 town plan implies the friary extended along the south side of Cook's Row in the direction of the present site and it could be that in the middle ages the Damyot stream at this point marked the boundary between St Sepulchre Church on the south and friary held land on the north. Indeed the stone-walled culvert, rather than being a mill race, could have been part of the main drain taking waste water away from the friary complex.

POST-MEDIEVAL PERIOD

The clearance of the site was not followed by any new building work to speak of apart from the possible timber building on the north side of the infilled culvert represented by the stone footings (F924) and the crudely constructed stone revetment on the south side of the Damyot (F110). The revetment dates to sometime after about 1560 because it incorporates a fragment of window tracery presumed to come from St Sepulchre church. This may have formed part of the "channel next St Sepulcher" referred to in the 1622 dispute mentioned earlier in the report on p8. However, at some undefined date, a wall (F117) was built across both the revetment and the Damyot which presumably necessitated diverting the water flow or piping it under ground though no evidence of this was found during the excavation.

The wall F117 built across the line of the Damyot is the first indication that the present shape of the main part of the site was starting to emerge. It established the line of the west boundary as did a similarly-constructed stone wall on the north in Trench Ten underlying the present north boundary of the site. It is possible the two are contemporary and mark the extent of the plot purchased by the Quakers for the construction of their Meeting House in 1801. It was possibly they who were responsible for raising the height of the west boundary wall with more courses of stonework. The excavation did not shed any more light on the 19th and 20th century development of the site than was summarised at the beginning of this report.

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ABBREVIATIONS

C.R.R. *Curia Regis Rolls*

R.C.H.M.E. *Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England.*

S.D.A.S. Res. Rep *Scarborough and District Archaeological Society Research Report.*

S.P.A.S. *Scarborough Philosophical and Archaeological Society.*

Trans. S.A.H.S. *Transactions of the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society.*

Trans S.D.A.S. *Transactions of the Scarborough and District Archaeological Society.*

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APPENDIX 1

Reports from the Environmental Archaeology Unit, York 97/26.

Assessment of biological remains from excavations at St Sepulchre Street, Scarborough (site code: SP96)

by Allan Hall, Michael Issitt, Harry Kenward, and Frances Large

Summary

Two sediment samples from medieval deposits associated with a former watercourse (the Damyot) at St Sepulchre Street, Scarborough were submitted for an assessment of their bioarchaeological remains. The sample from Trench One produced assemblages of very limited interpretative value but the sample from Trench Four yielded remains not inconsistent with the dumping of mixed organic materials. It is recommended that further material from Sample 412 is examined and the results published with the site report.

Keywords: *St Sepulchre Street; Scarborough; Damyot; assessment; medieval; plant remains; invertebrates; insects*

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Assessment of biological remains from excavations at St Sepulchre Street, Scarborough (site code: SP96)

Introduction

Excavations were carried out by Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society at St. Sepulchre Street, Scarborough (GR 048886) during 1996. Two General Biological Analysis samples (GBAs' sensu Dobney et al. 1992) from medieval deposits associated with a former watercourse (the Damyot) were submitted for an assessment of their biological potential.

Methods

The material was initially inspected in the laboratory and described using a pro forma. Subsamples of two kilograms were processed from each sample for extraction of macrofossil remains, following procedures of Kenward et al. (1980; 1986). The flots and residues resulting from processing were examined for their content of plant and invertebrate macrofossils. Notes were made of the quantity of fossils and principal taxa.

Results and discussion

Sample information provided by the excavator is enclosed in square brackets.

Trench 1 Sample 114/T [*grey silt deposit interpreted as part of the natural silting of the Damyot watercourse*]

Wet, mid orange-ish brown, slightly brittle (working soft), sandy silt with millimetre-scale patches of orange and yellow sediment. Small stones (2-6 mm), coal, and fish bone were also present.

The moderate-sized flot consisted mainly of fine herbaceous detritus with a few seeds of weeds typical of urban occupation sites. The small residue (<200

cm³) was mostly sand and gravel, with about 10-15% by volume very decayed organic material (the remainder being sand with a little gravel, marine shell and fish bone). There was a low concentration of seeds' and preservation was somewhat variable. The residue contributed a few more weed taxa and some traces of food in the form of a single charred sprouting barley (*Hordeum*) grain, and single fig (*Ficus carica*) and raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) seeds and a small fragment of hazel (*Corylus*) nutshell. A single lump of peat to 25 mm recalled material seen in greater quantity in Sample 412 (q.v.). Overall, the plant remains (and the food animals) give an impression of a gradual accumulation of material in the vicinity of occupation, but not a dump of refuse as such.

The flot also produced many earthworm egg capsules, several fly puparia, a few mites, and a very small, rather poorly preserved, beetle assemblage. Most species were typical of occupation deposits, but the assemblage was too small to make a more detailed interpretation.

Trench 4 Sample 412/T

[Black organic layer interpreted as part of a sequence of rubbish deposits thrown into the Damyot watercourse]

Moist, mid to dark grey/brown, crumbly and stiff (working soft and slightly plastic), clay silt with large patches of light grey clay and occasional smaller lumps of orange/brown clay. Some areas of the sediment were more varicoloured, ranging from mid brown to buff. Evidence of oxidation was noted. Stones were present in the size range 2-6 mm and 20-60 mm. Wood fragments were also present.

The moderate-sized flot consisted mainly of fine plant detritus. The rather large residue of about 700 cm³ was at least two-thirds by volume organic matter, the rest sand with a little gravel. The coarser organic fraction consisted of about equal proportions of very decayed wood (there were perhaps one or two very eroded wood chips) and undisaggregated material which looked very much like a highly humified peat (in lumps up to about 10 mm). There were also some tiny twig fragments which may have been very decayed heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), and a single leaf of bell heather (*Erica cinerea*) perhaps also points to the presence of a heathland component the peat may have been mor humus from heathland or moorland

curves, for example whilst the *Sphagnum imbricatum* leaves clearly indicate the presence of raised-bog peat. The concentration of seeds was low; most were from plants likely to have been growing as weeds in the area, although the bugle (*Ajuga cf. reptans*), of which there were at least two nutlets, is a plant of moist grassland, especially in woods, and is somewhat difficult to explain. There were at most traces of some possible foodplants: hazel, an uncharred half-caryopsis of oat and cereal grain and chaff (perhaps from straw rather than food).

A moderate-sized assemblage of fairly well-preserved beetles was also produced. Many of the species present were of the house fauna' type (see for example Kenward and Hall 1995): *Mycetaea hirta* (Marsham), *Xylodromus concinnus* (Marsham), *Lathridius minutus* group, *Cryptophagus* sp., *Atomaria* sp., *Tipnus unicolor* (Piller & Mitterpacher), and *Anobium punctatum* (Degeer). Decomposers formed the other main component of the assemblage and these, together with sepsid and sphaerocerid fly puparia, certainly indicate the presence of decaying organic material. A newly emerged *Apion* sp., two *Sitona*, and a single grain weevil may point to the presence of stable manure (Kenward and Hall in press). Other invertebrates included ants, a scale insect, and a bug nymph.

The evidence from the insects and the plants appears to imply different origins so that some mixing of different types of material would seem to have occurred either before or after it was dumped. It is conceivable however, that peat may have been used as litter in a stable.

Potential and Recommendations

The material from Trench One (sample 114) could provide a little more information were a large subsample to be processed, but this would not be a priority. The material from Trench Four (sample 412) is rather more promising, and a larger subsample would certainly give a range of useful information, in terms of identifying the materials contributing to the fills and for comparison and synthesis. More material should be examined if possible, and the results be published with the site report.

Further excavations at, or adjacent to, this site could recover further well-preserved material and

1A: TRENCH 4, Sample 412/T	
Hemiptera	Coccoidea sp.
	Hemiptera sp. (nymph)
Diptera	Sepsidae sp. (puparium)
	<i>Thoracochaeta zosteræ</i> (Haliday) (puparium)
	Sphaeroceridae spp. (puparium)
	Diptera spp. (puparium)
	Diptera spp. (adult)
Hymenoptera	Formicidae spp.
Coleoptera	
Carabidae	<i>Bembidion harpaloides</i> Serville
Hydrophilidae	<i>Cercyon</i> sp.
Ptiliidae	<i>Ptenidium</i> sp.
	Ptiliidae sp.
Staphylinidae	<i>Micropeplus fulvus</i> Erichson
	<i>Omalium caesum</i> or <i>italicum</i>
	<i>Xylodromus concinnus</i> (Marsham)
	<i>Platystethus nitens</i> (Sahlberg)
	<i>Anotylus complanatus</i> (Erichson)
	<i>Stenus</i> sp.
	<i>Xantholinus ?glabratus</i> (Gravenhorst)

	<i>Xantholinus linearis</i> or <i>longiventris</i>
	<i>Neobisnius</i> sp.
	Aleocharinae sp.
	Staphylinidae sp.
Scarabaeidae	<i>Aphodius</i> sp.
Anobiidae	<i>Anobium punctatum</i> (Degeer)
Ptinidae	<i>Tipnus unicolor</i> (Piller & Mitterpacher)
	<i>Ptinus fur</i> (Linnaeus)
Lyctidae	<i>Lyctus linearis</i> (Goeze)
Cryptophagidae	<i>Cryptophagus</i> sp.
	<i>Atomaria</i> sp.
Endomychidae	<i>Mycetaea hirta</i> (Marsham)
Lathridiidae	<i>Lathridius minutus</i> group (Linnaeus)
	<i>Corticaria</i> sp.
Chrysomelidae	Chrysomelidae sp.
Apionidae	<i>Apion</i> sp.
Curculionidae	<i>Sitona</i> sp.
	<i>Sitophilus granarius</i> (Linnaeus)
	Curculionidae sp.
	Coleoptera sp. (larvae)
Arachnida	Acarina spp.

any destruction of these deposits should certainly be accompanied by an adequate sampling strategy, with appropriate provision for a post-excavation programme.

Retention and disposal

The unprocessed material, flots, and residues should be kept for the present.

Archive

All material is currently stored in the Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York, along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

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1B: TRENCH 1, Sample 114/T	
Nematoda	<i>Heterodera</i> sp. (cyst)
Oligochaeta	Oligochaeta sp. (egg capsule)
Crustacea	<i>Daphnia</i> sp.
Diptera	Diptera spp. (puparium)
Coleoptera	Carabidae spp.
	<i>Helophorus</i> sp.
	<i>Megasternum obscurum</i> (Marsham)
	<i>Omalium</i> spp.
	<i>Anotylus ?nitidulus</i> (Gravenhorst)
	<i>Tachinus</i> sp.
	Aleocharinae sp.
	Staphylinidae sp.
	<i>Anobium punctatum</i> (Degeer)
	<i>Ptinus</i> sp.
	Curculionidae sp.
	Coleoptera sp. (larvae)
Arachnida	Acarina spp.