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## 6.0 Discussion.

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Whilst stratigraphically the excavated features appear to form two concurrent phases of activity, the pottery collected does not allow these to be securely separated. The dating suggests that, if two distinct phases are present then they represent occupation of a similar date, although it must be remembered that the first of the two phases is represented by only a single sherd, in post trench fill (003). This single sherd may have been deposited during the dismantling of the earlier structural phase of activity, the construction of which possibly dates from slightly earlier. Given the potential lifespan of medieval timber buildings it would seem unlikely that the initial construction of the earliest phase of occupation could pre-date the Norman Conquest.

The second phase of activity marks a significant change in the use of the site, from the earlier structures, to pits, indicative of an open yard. This yard is likely to have been to the rear of buildings fronting onto the High Street and/or Finkle Street. As such, they are best interpreted as domestic rubbish pits, with the fragmentary animal bone and oyster shell hinting at what may have been preserved under more favourable conditions. The larger assemblage of pottery retrieved from these pits provides a fairly tight date for this phase, placing it in the late 12<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> century. This date would imply that the main occupation of the site occurred relatively early in the life of the borough. It is notable that although the site lay in an area of the town, which continued to thrive throughout the medieval period, the investigation produced no later pottery, or stratigraphically later features, to represent the later 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The absence of later medieval archaeology may suggest that the investigated area was no longer an open yard into which rubbish pits could be dug, and that any shallower features or layers of this date have been removed during the construction of the most recent surfaces and services relating to the extant pub. The alternative, that the site laid unoccupied from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, would appear to be very unlikely.

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## 7.0 Conclusions

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Although the site had clearly been horizontally truncated, by the construction of the recent concrete surfaces, the bases of medieval features survived, cutting into the natural. Modern services had also inflicted a degree of damage on these features. However, sufficient remained to provide significant information regarding the development of this part of the early medieval town. Due to the limited nature of the groundworks required for this development it has been possible to leave elements of the medieval archaeological remains *in situ*. Similar, fragmentary, but informative, remains are likely to survive to the rear of many of the properties fronting medieval streets in the modern town.

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## 8.0 Bibliography.

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Cooper, A.H. (1993). Geology of the country around Harrogate. (British Geological Survey).

Jennings, B. (1970). A History of Harrogate & Knaresborough

## 9.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.

Context	Description	Extent	Depth
001	mid red brown sandy silt, mod pebbles, flecks limestone	0.65m+ x 0.60m+	0.30m
002	Single edge of rectangular ? pit	0.65m+ x 0.60m+	0.30m
003	mid red brown sandy silt, mod flecks limestone	0.65m+ x 0.60m+	0.50m
004	Linear? Trench, one edge straight, the other curved, with circular post hole in base, 0.20m in diameter	0.65m+ x 0.60m+	0.50m
005	mid red brown clay silt, mod cobbles, pebbles	1.70m x 0.70m	0.80m +
006	Oval, vertical sided pit, base not reached	1.70m x 0.70m	0.80m +
007	mid red brown sandy clay silt, mod small frags limestone	0.20m x 0.20m +	0.10m
008	Truncated linear slot, steep sides flat base	0.20m x 0.20m +	0.10m
009	mid red brown clay silt	0.50m x 0.10m	0.15m +
010	mid red brown clay silt, mod small frags limestone	0.60m x 0.25m	0.20m
011	Linear slot, steep sides flat base	0.60m x 0.25m	0.20m
012	mid red brown clay silt, mod pebbles and small frags limestone	0.38m x 0.26m	0.25m
013	Shallow rectangle, with moderate sloping sides to a flat base 0.10m deep, with a circular post hole, 0.15m in diameter in W corner of base	0.38m x 0.26m	0.25m
014	mid red brown clay silt,	0.20m x 0.20m	0.20m
015	Oval post hole with moderately sloped sides to a concave base	0.20m x 0.20m	0.20m
016	mid red brown clay silt, mod pebbles, charcoal flecks and small frags limestone	1.40m x 0.50m +	1.00m +
017	Vertically sided rectangular or oval pit, base not reached	1.40m x 0.50m +	1.00m +
018	mid red brown clay silt, mod pebbles and frags limestone	0.60m x ?	0.60m

## 10.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.

### 10.1 Drawing Register.

Dwg No	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
1	Plan of Drain Trenches 1 & 2, and Foundation Trench 1	1:20	09-01-02	GB
2	Plan of Foundation Trenches 2 & 3	1:20	10-01-02	GB
3	NE facing section, Drain Trench 1	1:10	09-01-02	GB

### 10.2 Photographic Register.

Frame	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
Film # Digital Photo download 11-01-02				
1-2	Pits 002 & 004	Trowel	09-01-02	GB
3	Pit 002	Trowel	09-01-02	GB
4	Drain Trench 1	Trowel	09-01-02	GB
5	Drain Trench 1	None	09-01-02	GB
6	010 pre-exc	0.5m	10-01-02	GB
7	Gully 010	0.5m	10-01-02	GB
8	Post holes 012 & 014 pre-exc	0.5m	10-01-02	GB
9	Post hole 012	0.5m	10-01-02	GB
10	Pit 016/017	1m & 0.5m	10-01-02	GB
11	Foundation Trench 2	Shovel	10-01-02	GB
12	Foundation Trench 3	0.5m	10-01-02	GB
13	Fill 018 ?	0.5m	10-01-02	GB

## 11.0 Appendix 3 ~ Pottery Assessment.

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### 11.1 Introduction

Twenty-nine sherds of pottery were submitted for identification and assessment. All are of medieval date. A few sherds might be of later 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>-century date but the majority are probably of later 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date, with a single sherd which might be later medieval.

The sherds are mainly fairly small but without any obvious weathering or abrasion and probably originate from occupation on or close to the site. They come from five contexts but the assemblages are too small for the differences between assemblages to be interpreted.

### 11.2 Medieval

The earliest ware present is Yorkshire Gritty ware (YG). Unglazed, wheelthrown jars of this type occur in all but one of the contexts. A single sherd of Hillam ware was found, in context 001. Hillam ware is similar to Yorkshire Gritty ware but produced from a clay with a higher iron content.

The remaining sherds are all classified as 'Northern Gritty' wares. They all contain moderate to abundant coarse sand, composed in the main of lower Carboniferous sandstone fragments or quartz grains derived from such a sandstone. A distinction was made between those produced from a clay with a low iron content and those produced from a clay with a higher iron content. It is likely that the source of both these clays is the Coal Measures and iron content is known to vary considerably with these clays, even within the same clay pit. It is known that potters operated in Knaresborough forest in the medieval period and it is likely that some of the wares found are locally produced.

A single sherd, from context 005, might be of later date than the remainder. It is a 'northern gritty' ware which has been produced from a red-firing clay but fired at such a temperature to start the process of vitrification, causing the lead glaze to appear very dark, almost black. However, such vessels also occur in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

### 11.3 Assessment

The pottery all appears to be similar in character and probably represents occupation on or close to the site. There is no indication from size or condition that the YG sherds are any different in date from the remainder and this might suggest that the pottery dates in the main from the period of transition between YG and Northern Gritty wares, in the later 12<sup>th</sup> or earlier part of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

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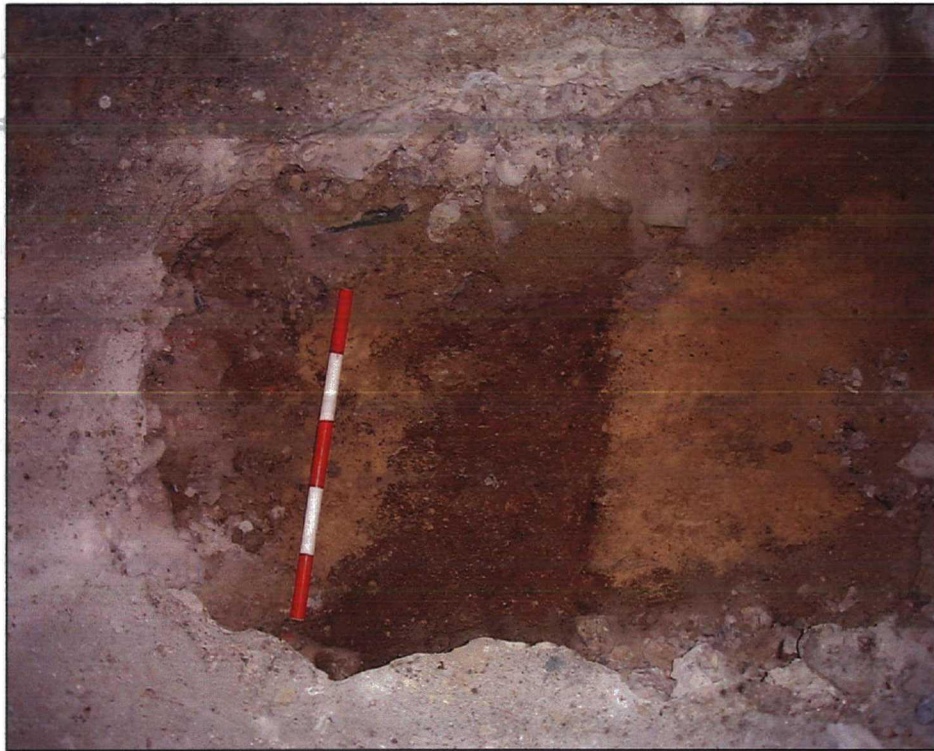
Table A.

Context:	Description:	Cname:	Form:	Nosh:	NoV:	Weight:	SUBFABRIC:	PART:
005		YG	JAR	2	2	0		BS
005		NORTHERN GRITTY	JUG	2	1	0	LOW IRON	BS
	JY COMMENTS THAT THIS COULD BE 12TH/13TH OR LATE MED							
	HUMBER WARE RELATED							
005		NORTHERN GRITTY	JUG	1	1	0	IRON RICH	BS
005		NORTHERN GRITTY	BOWL	1	1	0	LOW IRON	BS
005		YG	JAR	1	1	0		BS
005		NORTHERN GRITTY	JUG	1	1	0	LOW IRON	BS
001		YG	JAR	2	2	0		BS
							MAINLY QUARTZ SAND BUT SOME LARGER SST GRAINS	
001		HILLAM	JAR	1	1	0		BS
009		NORTHERN GRITTY	JUG	2	1	0	LOW IRON	BS
	SOOTED EXT;IRON-RICH GLAZE (CF CSTN) INSIDE							
009		NORTHERN GRITTY	JAR	1	1	0		BS
003		YG	JAR	1	1	0	BLACK CORE	BS
016		YG	JAR	4	1	4		BS
016		NORTHERN GRITTY	BOWL	1	1	0	LOW IRON	BS
016		NORTHERN GRITTY	JUG	6	6	0	LOW IRON	BS
016		NORTHERN GRITTY	JAR	2	2	0	IRON RICH	BS
016		NORTHERN GRITTY	JAR	1	1	0	LOW IRON	R

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12.0 Appendix 4 ~ The Plates.

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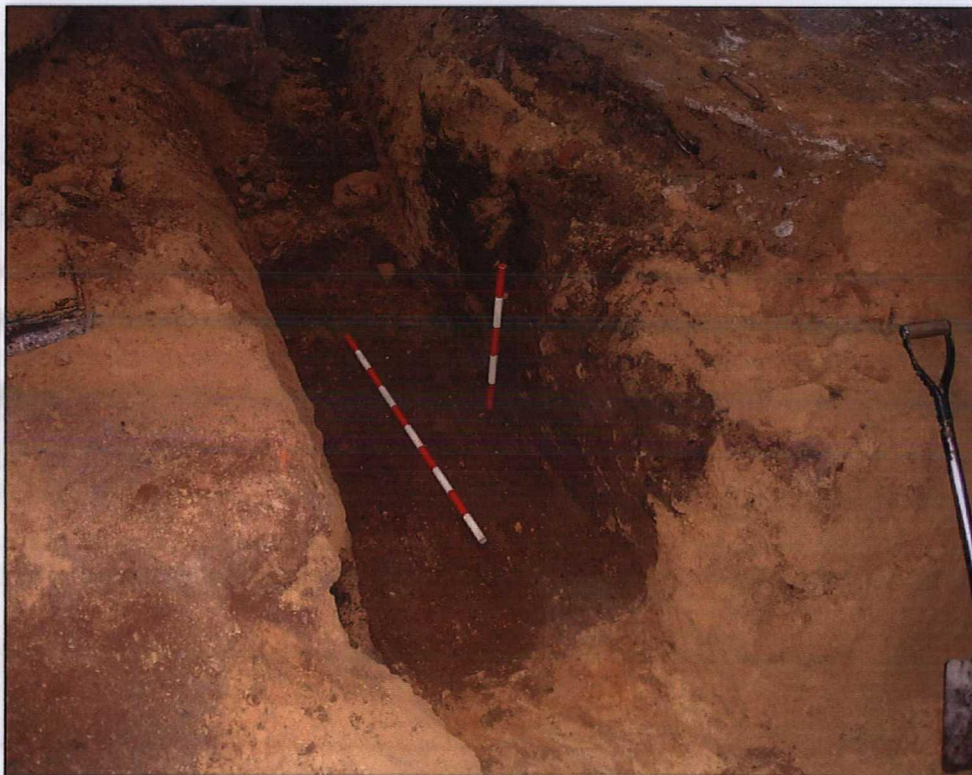
*Plate 1. Beam slot [011], (pre-ex). Scale of 0.5m.*



*Plate 2. Postholes [013] & [015], (pre-exc). Scale of 0.5m.*



*Plate 3. Drain trench 1.*



*Plate 4. Contexts [016] & [017]. Scale of 1m & 0.5m.*