

encountered c. 0.45m BGL and contained modern pottery, brick and tile fragments (3072). Sealing 3072 was a 0.45m thick deposit of loose, dark greyish-brown silty sand topsoil that contained two fragments of modern pottery (3071). The foundation of wall 3070 was cut into 3071 at 0.3m BGL and extended 0.2m out from the wall section.

**5.9 Trial Pit 308: Hand dug, 11a Borrage Lane, Ripon (01/09/04)**

The pit measured 1m x 0.7m and was hand excavated to a depth of 1.5m BGL against a north-east by south-west aligned limestone garden wall (3083). At the base of the pit was a compact, light yellowish-brown sandy gravel the top of which was at 0.8m BGL (3082). Above 3082 were both the wall (3083) and a soft dark-brown gravelly silt that was 0.45m in thickness and encountered c. 0.35m BGL (3081). Sealing 3081 was a 0.35m layer of soft dark brown silty clay topsoil which contained modern pottery, glass, brick and tile fragments (3080).

**5.10 Trial Pit 309: Hand dug, 9 Borrage Lane, Ripon (06/09/04)**

The pit measured 1m x 0.8m and was hand excavated to a depth of 1.3m BGL against a north-east by south-west aligned limestone garden wall (3090). At the base of the pit was a cobbled layer the top of which was at c. 1.25m BGL (3093). Both 3090 and 3093, which butts it, were possibly related to an earlier flood defence structure. Between 0.7m and 0.85m BGL was a horizontal red ceramic tile frontage in the wall set at the boundary between the faced upper wall and the coarse, unfinished blocks of the lower wall foundation. Above 3093, encountered at 0.53m BGL, was a loose, light to mid brown silty sand that contained fragments of tile, brick and modern pottery as well as angular pebbles of mortar / cement concentrated c. 0.85m BGL (3092). Above 3092 was a soft, dark grey-brown silty sand topsoil that contained modern brick and tile fragments, which was 0.53m in thickness (3091).

**5.11 Trial Pit 310: Mechanical excavation, west of Borage Farm (31/08/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit, which ran north south and measured 3m x 1.8m to a depth of 2.5m BGL. A deposit (3101) of loose yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent fine medium and coarse pebbles (which were sub rounded to sub angular and frequent cobbles that were sub rounded to sub angular) was exposed at 0.2m BGL and was dug to 2.5m BGL where the sides of the pit collapsed. A linear feature aligned east west, c. 0.55m wide was exposed c. 0.2m BGL, 0.6m from southern edge of trench (3102). This was filled with 3103, which contained a smashed and silted modern ceramic drain pipe (3104). This was sealed by 0.35m of loose, dark brown silty sand topsoil (3100).

**5.12 Trial Pit 311: Mechanical excavation, west of Borage Farm (31/08/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit, which ran east-west and measured 3.5m x 1.8m to a depth of 3.5m. A deposit of compact, yellowish-brown sandy gravel was exposed at 0.5m BGL and was dug to 3.5m BGL (3112). Sandy gravel 3112 contained frequent fine, medium and coarse pebbles which were sub rounded to sub angular, and was sealed by a c. 0.3m thick loose, mid yellowish-brown sand (3111). Above 3111 was a 0.2m thick layer of soft, mid to dark brown sandy silt topsoil (3110).

**5.13 Trial Pit 312: Hand dug, Fisher Green, Ripon (08/09/04)**

The pit measured 1m x 0.8m and was hand excavated to a depth of 1.2m BGL against the conjunction of two, roughly east-west, aligned limestone garden property boundary walls. These were 3120 to the west, and 3121 to the east. At the base of the pit was a compact, reddish-brown gravelly sand that contained fragments of tile, brick and modern pottery, and was encountered at 0.4m BGL (3123). Above 3123 were both walls 3120, 3121 and topsoil 3122. 3120 visibly butting 3121 and is a later edition pertaining to a newer house built behind it. Above 3123 was a 0.4m thick layer of loose, dark-brown silty sand topsoil that contained three pieces of modern pottery and a shred of yellow-painted metal (3122).

**5.14 Trial Pit 313: Mechanical excavation, Fisher Green, Ripon (02/09/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit, which ran east-west and measured 3m x 0.8m to a depth of 4m. A deposit of firm, blue sandy clay was exposed at 3m BGL and was natural (3132). Above 3132 was a soft, light brown sandy clay that was 2.7m thick (3131). Above 3131 was a loose, dark brown silty sand topsoil that was 0.3m thick (3130).

**5.15 Trial Pit 314: Mechanical excavation. Sewage works, Ripon (31/08/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit, which ran east-west and measured 3m x 0.8m to a depth of 3m. A deposit of weakly cemented, yellowish-brown sandy gravel that was natural was exposed at 2.7m BGL and extended to the bottom the pit (3143). 3143 was sealed by a loose yellowish-brown sandy gravel that was 0.9m thick (3142). Above 3142 was a 1.4 m thick deposit of soft, light to mid yellowish-brown sand that had lenses of gravel at the boundary of 3142 (3141). Above 3141 was a soft, mid greyish-brown topsoil of sandy silt that was 0.4m thick (3140).

**5.16 Trial Pit 315: Mechanical excavation. Sewage works, Ripon (26/08/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit, which ran east-west and measured 4m x 0.8m to a depth of 4m. A deposit of loose, grey sandy gravel that was natural was exposed at 3.8m BGL and extended to the bottom the pit (3153). 3153 was sealed by compact yellowish-brown sand that was 2.5m thick (3152). Above 3152 was a 0.3m thick deposit of compact greyish-brown gravel (3151). Above 3151 was a compact, yellowish-brown deposit of sand that was 2.5m thick (3150). The pit comprised of sequential glacial / river deposits. A sherd of pottery was found on the surface (see Section 6).



**Plate 2:** West facing shot of TP316

**5.17 Trial Pit 316: Mechanical excavation, Magdalene Road (03/09/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit, which ran north-east by south-west and measured 4m x 2m to a depth of 3m. A deposit of strongly cemented, light-brown sandy gravel (which was natural) was exposed at 0.9m BGL and extended to the bottom the pit (3164). Above 3164 was a firm, dark greyish-brown gravelly clay 0.2m thick which was a made ground and contained lots of broken pottery, clay pipe stems and bulbs as well as other 19<sup>th</sup> century rubbish (3163). Above 3163 was a 0.2m thick deposit of soft to firm, mid greyish-brown gravel which was a made ground and contained broken pottery, clay pipe stems as well as other 19<sup>th</sup> Century rubbish (3162). Above 3162 was a compact, light brown deposit of clayey sand that was 0.15m thick and was a made ground containing brick fragments and lime mortar as well as other 19<sup>th</sup> Century rubbish (3161). Above 3162 was a 0.35m thick friable, dark grey-brown sandy silt topsoil that contained fragments of brick and one piece of modern pottery (3160).

**5.18 Trial Pit 317: Mechanical excavation, Magdalene Road (03/09/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit which ran east-west and measured 6m x 2m to a depth of 3m BGL. A natural deposit of compact, pinkish red-brown clayey sand with occasional fine medium and coarse pebbles (which were sub rounded to sub angular and frequent cobbles that were sub rounded to sub angular) was exposed at 1.8m BGL (3176). Above 3176 was a compact light brown deposit of sandy gravel which was 1.5m thick and contained fine to medium pebbles (3171). 3171 was cut by two service trenches (3172 and 3174) both aligned north-south. Service trench 3172 was c. 0.45m wide and was exposed 0.3m BGL, 0.2m from western edge of trench and was filled with 3173. Service trench 3174 was c. 2.2m wide and was exposed 0.3m BGL, c. 1.3m from western edge of trench and was filled with 3175. Both fills were redeposited clayey sand 3176. Deposit 3171, and the services (3173-5) were sealed by a 0.3m layer of soft, dark grey-brown sandy silt topsoil (3170).

**5.19 Trial Pit 318: Mechanical excavation, Little Studley (02/09/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit which ran north-south and measured 4m x 1.8m to a depth of 3m BGL. A deposit of soft, reddish brown sandy clay with occasional fine pebbles that were sub rounded to round was exposed at 2m BGL (3186). Above 3186 was a spongy, very dark brown-black deposit of peat, which was 1m thick and contained a segment of tree bole (3185). Above 3185 was a 0.7m thick deposit of soft, light brown clayey sand (3181). Deposit 3181 was cut by a linear feature aligned east west, which was c. 0.55m wide, and was exposed c. 0.3m BGL, 0.6m from southern edge of the pit (3182). 3182 was filled with loose, light greyish-brown silty sand, which contained a Mediterranean style drainage tile (3183) and an in-use modern period ceramic drainpipe (3184). Deposits 3181 and 3183 were sealed by a 0.3m layer of loose, dark brown silty sand topsoil that contained modern pottery, and fragments of a modern ceramic water pipe (3180).

**5.20 Trial Pit 319: Mechanical excavation, , Little Studley (02/09/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit which ran east-west and measured 4m x 0.8m to a depth of 4m BGL. A deposit of spongy, dark brown – black, plastic spongy peat which contained pockets of spongy, dark reddish-brown pseudo fibrous peat was encountered 1.5m BGL and extended to the bottom of the pit (3193). Above this was a 0.65m thick deposit of compact, pinkish, red-brown sandy gravelly clay (3192). Above 3192 was a 0.45m thick deposit of light greyish brown silty sand that was slightly clayey (3191). This was sealed by a 0.4m thick deposit of friable, dark greyish-brown sandy silt topsoil, which contained modern pottery, brick fragments, iron alloy metal piping and was affected by burrowing animal disturbance (3190).

**5.21 Trial Pit 320: Hand dug, Bridge View Road, Ripon (07/09/04)**

The pit measured 1m x 0.7m and was hand excavated to a depth of 1.2m BGL and was aligned east-west. At the base of the pit was a 0.9m thick compact, light to mid greyish-brown gravelly clay, which was encountered at 0.3m BGL (3201). A 0.3m thick layer of loose, dark-brown silty sand topsoil sealed deposit 3201 and contained pieces of modern pottery, brick and tile fragments (3200).

**5.22 Trial Pit 321: Hand dug, Bridge View Road, Ripon (07/09/04)**

The pit measured 1m x 0.8m and was hand excavated to a depth of 1.2m BGL against redbrick garden property wall that was aligned east-west (3210). At the base of the pit was a 1.05m thick deposit of soft, light to mid brown gravelly clay that contained modern pottery, cement, brick and tile fragments (3212). 3212 was encountered at 0.15m BGL and was cut by the wall (3210), which extended down below the limit of excavation. A 0.15m thick layer of loose, mid greyish-brown silty sand topsoil sealed deposit 3212 and contained modern pottery, cement, brick and tile fragments (3211).

**5.23 Trial Pit 322: Cancelled**

**5.24 Trial Pit 323: Hand dug, The Boat House, Riverside Lodges, Ripon (07/09/04)**

The pit measured 1m x 0.8m and was hand excavated to a depth of 1.3m BGL and was aligned north-south. At the base of the pit was a deposit of loose, dark brown-black silty sand which contained modern pottery, cement, brick and tile fragments (3231). 3231 was

encountered at 1m BGL and was a made ground which been landscaped for development of Riverside Lodges. 3231 was sealed by a 1m thick made ground of loose, dark brown-black silty sand, which contained lots of modern pottery, brick and tile fragments, as well as modern iron-alloy artefacts (3230).



*Plate 3: East facing shot of TP325*

**5.25 Trial Pit 324: Mechanical excavation, Ure Bank, Ripon (01/09/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit, which ran east-west and measured 3m x 0.8m to a depth of 4m. There was a sequence of naturally deposited material as follows. A deposit of compact, grey sandy gravel which was natural river gravels, was exposed at 2m BGL and extended to the bottom of the pit (3244). Above 3244 was a deposit of loose, mid brown sandy silt which was a 0.5m thick sequential laminate deposit probably laid by river action (3243). Above 3243 was a 0.5m thick deposit of soft, dark brown alluvial silt (3242). Above 3242 was a 0.6m thick deposit of loose, reddish-brown sandy gravel (3241). Above 3241 was a 0.3m thick topsoil of loose, dark brown silty sand.

**5.26 Trial Pit 325: Mechanical excavation, Ure Bank, Ripon (02/09/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit, which ran north-east / south-west and measured 4m x 1m to a depth of 3m BGL. There was a sequence of naturally deposited material as follows. A deposit of loose, reddish-brown sand, which was natural, was exposed at 2.7m BGL and extended to the bottom of the pit (3253). Above 3253 was a loose, reddish-brown sandy clay, which was 1.7m thick (3252). Above 3252 was a 0.75m thick deposit of loose, reddish-brown clayey sand (3251). Above 3251 was a 0.25m thick topsoil of loose, dark brown silty sand (3250).

**5.27 Trial Pit 326: Mechanical excavation, Birkby Nab, Ripon (27/08/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit, which ran roughly north-south and measured 4m x 1m to a depth of 4m BGL. At the base of the pit was a strongly cemented, yellowish-grey layered deposit of weathered magnesian limestone encountered 1.3m BGL (3262). Above this was a 1.1m thick deposit of compact, light brown clayey sand

that contained fine, medium and coarse pebbles and cobbles, which were sub-angular to sub-rounded (3261). Above 3261 was a 0.2m thick deposit of soft, slightly plastic, dark brown clayey silt plough soil, which contained occasional fine pebbles (3260).

**5.28 Trial Pit 327: Mechanical excavation, Birkby Nab, Ripon (24/08/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit which ran roughly north-south and measured 4m x 0.8m to a depth of 4m BGL. At the base of the pit was a deposit of natural, weakly cemented, yellowish-grey sandy gravel encountered 1.5m BGL (3272). Above this was a 1.05m thick deposit of stiff, light reddish-brown clayey sand, which contained occasional fine and medium pebbles, which were sub-angular to sub-rounded, and pockets of clay (3271). Above 3271 was a 0.45m thick deposit of soft dark brown clayey silt plough soil, which contained occasional fine pebbles (3270). A sherd of pottery was found on the surface (see Section 6).

**5.29 Trial Pit 328: Mechanical excavation, Birkby Nab, Ripon (27/08/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit which ran roughly north-south and measured 4m x 2m to a depth of 4m BGL. At the base of the pit was a deposit of natural, compact, grey sandy gravel encountered 0.9m BGL (3282). Above this was a 0.6m thick deposit of compact, light to mid reddish-brown, clayey sandy gravels, which contained fine, medium, and coarse pebbles and cobbles that were sub-angular to sub-rounded (3281). Above 3281 was a 0.3m thick deposit of soft, mid brown clayey silt, which was a plough soil and contained occasional fine pebbles (3280).

**5.30 Trial Pit 329: Mechanical excavation Birkby Nab, Ripon (27/08/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit which ran roughly north-south and measured 4m x 2m to a depth of 4m BGL. At the base of the pit was a layered deposit of strongly cemented, grey weathered magnesian limestone encountered 3.5m BGL (3293). Above this was a 2m thick deposit of hard, light yellowish-brown sandy clay, which contained fine, medium and coarse pebbles and cobbles, which were sub-angular to sub-rounded (3292). Above this was a 1.3m thick deposit of hard, light reddish-brown clayey sand, which contained occasional fine, medium and coarse pebbles and cobbles, which were sub-angular to round (3291). Above 3291 was a 0.2m thick deposit of soft, mid brown silty clay plough soil, which contained occasional fine pebbles (3290). A small amount of ceramic building material, all of recent date was found on the surface (see Section 6).

**5.31 Trial Pit 330: Mechanical excavation, Birkby Nab, Ripon (27/08/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit, which ran north-south and measured 4m x 1m to a depth of 1.7m BGL. At the base of the pit was a natural deposit of strongly cemented, yellowish-grey sandy gravel, encountered 1.6m BGL (3302). Above this was a 1.45m thick deposit of firm to stiff, light reddish-brown sandy clay which contained frequent fine, medium and coarse pebbles and occasional cobbles, which were all sub-rounded to rounded (3301). Above 3301 was a 0.15m thick deposit of soft, dark brown clayey silt plough soil, which contained occasional fine pebbles (3300).

**5.32 Trial Pit 331: Mechanical excavation, Birkby Nab, Ripon (24/08/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit, which ran roughly north-south and measured 4m x 0.8m to a depth of 2m BGL. At the base of the pit was a natural, strongly cemented, yellowish-grey layered deposit of weathered magnesian limestone encountered 1.2m

BGL (3313). This was cut c1.5m BGL by a water pipe probably drilled by mole as no cut or fill was visible in the sections (3314). Above 3313 was a 0.6m thick deposit of compact, light yellowish-brown sandy clay which contained fine, medium and coarse pebbles and cobbles that were sub-angular to sub-rounded (3312). Above this was a 0.3m thick deposit of stiff, light reddish-brown clayey sand, which contained fine, medium and coarse pebbles and cobbles, which were sub-angular to sub-rounded (3311). Above 3311 was a 0.3m thick deposit of soft, mid brown clayey silt plough soil, which contained occasional fine pebbles (3310). Seven sherds of modern pottery were found on the surface (see Section 6).

### 5.33 Trial Pit 332: Mechanical excavation, Birkby Nab, Ripon (24/08/04)

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit which ran north-south and measured 4m x 1m to a depth of 2.6m BGL. At the base of the pit was a light grey-brown deposit of sandy gravel encountered 0.8m BGL (3322). Above this was a 0.5m thick deposit of loose to firm, light reddish-brown clayey sand which contained frequent fine, medium and coarse pebbles and occasional cobbles, which were all sub-rounded to rounded (3321). Above 3321 was a 0.3m thick deposit of soft, dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt plough soil, which contained occasional fine pebbles (3320). The northern parts of deposits 3320-22 were all cut by 3325, which was cut deeper than the 1.1m BLG that was exposed and contained a firm greyish-brown silty sand that sealed water main (3323). The top of the water main was encountered 1m BGL (3324).



*Plate 4:* South-west facing shot of TP333

### 5.34 Trial Pit 333: Mechanical excavation, Birkby Nab, Ripon (26/08/04)

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit which ran north-east by south-west and measured 4m x 1.5m to a depth of 4m BGL. At the base of the pit was a loose, dark

brown deposit of silty sand that contained occasional rounded pebbles and cobbles encountered 2m BGL (3331). Above 3331 was a 2m thick deposit of loose, dark brown silty sand plough soil, which contained occasional fine pebbles (3330). A small amount of ceramic building material, 1 piece of tobacco pipe stem and 25 sherds of pottery, all of recent date was found on the surface (see Section 6).

**5.35 Trial Pit 334: Mechanical excavation, Birkby Nab, Ripon (25/08/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit, which ran northeast by south-west and measured 3.8m x 1m to a depth of c. 2m BGL. At the base of the pit, 2m BGL was a loose, gravelly sand deposit that was a natural gravel bed and contained frequent rounded pebbles and large cobbles (3344). Above this was a 0.9m thick deposit of very loose, mid brown clayey sand which contained frequent fine, medium and coarse pebbles and occasional cobbles, which were all sub-rounded to rounded (3343). Above this was 3342; a loose, pebbly lens, which ran the full length of trench and consisted mainly of sub rounded pebbles that were tightly packed though loose and contained elements of 3341. Above this was 0.6m thick deposit of loose, slightly reddish, mid brown clayey sand which contained frequent fine, medium and coarse pebbles and occasional cobbles, which were all sub-rounded to rounded (3341). Above 3341 was a 0.2m thick deposit of soft, mid greyish brown clayey silt topsoil, which contained occasional fine pebbles and one piece of modern pottery (3340). A sherd of pottery was found on the surface (see Section 6).

**5.36 Trial Pit 335: Mechanical excavation, Birkby Nab, Ripon (26/08/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit which ran northeast by south-west and measured 4m x 3.8m to a depth of c. 4m BGL. At the base of the pit was a very loose, light reddish brown sandy gravel deposit that contained occasional rounded pebbles and large cobbles of mixed geology, encountered c.1m BGL (3353). Above 3353 were two deposits that seemed to butt each other. The larger northern deposit (3351) was a loose, mid reddish brown slightly silty gravelly sand with frequent rounded and sub angular pebbles and cobbles of sandstone, quartzite, dolerite and various other lithologies. The southern deposit was a loose reddish brown silty sand with occasional pebbles, rounded to sub rounded (3352). 3352 and 3351 were sealed by a 0.3m thick deposit of loose, dark brown silty sand plough soil, which contained occasional fine pebbles (3350). A small amount of ceramic building material, 1 pieces of tobacco pipe stem and 8 sherds of pottery, all of recent date was found on the surface (see Section 6).

**5.37 Trial Pit 336: Mechanical excavation, Birkby Nab, Ripon (26/08/04)**

A wheeled mechanical excavator dug a pit which ran east-west and measured 3m x 0.8m to a depth of c. 2m BGL. At the base of the pit was a loose, grey sandy gravel deposit, which was, encountered 1.4m BGL that contained occasional rounded pebbles and very large cobbles at 2m BGL (3364). Above this was a 0.4m thick deposit of loose grey sandy gravel, which contained frequent fine and medium pebbles and occasional cobbles, which were all sub-rounded to rounded (3363). Above this was 3362 which was a 0.7m thick loose, reddish brown slightly clayey sand which contained frequent fine, medium and coarse pebbles and occasional cobbles, which were all sub-rounded to rounded. Above this was a c. 0.12m thick deposit of loose, reddish brown sand which contained frequent fine and medium pebbles which were sub-rounded to rounded (3361). Above



3361 was a 0.18m thick deposit of soft, mid brown sandy silt topsoil, which contained occasional fine rounded pebbles (3360).

**5.38 Trial Pit 337: Cancelled**

**5.39 Rotary Drill 301: Riverside near Alma House, Ripon (15/09/04)**

The pit measured 0.3m x 0.3m and was hand excavated to a depth of 0.95m BGL prior to the insertion of the drilling rig tool. From 0.5m BGL to the base of the pit was dark grey-brown, slightly gravelly sand containing modern brick and modern rubbish including three fragments of a beer can (6314). The lower part of this deposit contained a large cobble that stopped further excavation. Above 6314 was compact, light greyish brown silty sand that was both gravelly and disturbed. It contained occasional sub-rounded cobbles and flecks of cement and brick. Above 6314 was a 40mm band of cement visible in all sections and encountered 0.2m BGL (6312). Above 6312 was a compact, mid grey brown silty sand 0.1m thick (6311). This was sealed by a 0.1m thick loose mid brown clayey sand topsoil (6310). Possible natural gravelly clay was encountered 5.5m BGL (18.4m OD) and natural sand and gravel with cobbles at 8.9m BGL (15.00m OD).

**5.40 Rotary Drill 302: The allotments, Riverside Lodges, Ripon (16/09/04)**

The pit measured 0.3m x 0.3m and was hand excavated to a depth of 1.2m BGL prior to the insertion of the drilling rig tool. The deposits were all made ground consisting of layers of ashy silt containing clinker and modern rubbish (6321). 6321 was sealed by 0.1m of soft, dark grey-brown sandy silt topsoil (6320).

**5.41 Rotary Drill 303: Ure Bank, Ripon (09/09/04)**

The pit measured 0.3m x 0.3m and was hand excavated to a depth of 1.2m BGL prior to the insertion of the drilling rig tool. The pit exposed just one deposit, which was a soft, reddish brown sandy clay which ran from ground level to the base of the pit 1.2m BGL (6330).

**5.42 Rotary Drill 304: Cancelled**

**5.43 Rotary Drill 305: Cancelled**

**5.44 Rotary Drill 306: Centreline of dam, Birkby Nab (23/08/04)**

This drill was not observed by an archaeologist, the following description is taken from the contractor's log.

Extracted by cable percussion to a depth of 5.2m BGL where GL was 59.50m OD. Natural was encountered 0.8m BGL (58.70m OD). Above this was a 0.7m thick deposit of light brown sandy gravelly clay (6361) which was sealed by 0.1m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil (6360).

**5.45 Rotary Drill 307: Centreline of dam, Birkby Nab (27/08/04)**

Extracted by cable percussion to a depth of 3.4m BGL where GL was 61.55m OD. At the base of the bore hole was 0.9m thick (exposed) sandy clayey gravel encountered 59.05m OD and was c. 7m in full extent. Above this was a possible natural red brown slightly gravelly sandy clay which was encountered 0.1m BGL (61.45 OD) and was 2.4m thick (6371). This was sealed by 0.1m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil (6370)

**5.46 Rotary Drill 308: Upstream edge of dam, Birkby Nab (10/09/04)**

The pit measured 0.3m x 0.3m and was hand excavated to a depth of 1.2m BGL prior to the insertion of the drilling rig tool. At the base of the pit was loose, reddish brown slightly clayey, silty sand that was encountered 1m BGL (6382). 6382 yielded one small fragment of charcoal at c. 1.1m BGL. Above 6382 was loose, reddish brown silty sand 0.9m in thick, which contained 1 piece of modern pottery c. 0.3m BGL (6381). This was sealed by a 0.2m thick deposit of soft, mid greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (6380).

**5.47 River sieving: centreline of dam, Birkby Nab (08-09/09/04)**

All material collected was assigned context number 9000. This included ceramic building material, one piece of modern pottery, a horse shoe (of recent date) and a discarded piece of modern farming machinery.



*Plate 5: Finds from the River Laver*

## 6.0 FINDS AND POTTERY REPORT

By Ailsa Mainman

### 6.1 Introduction

The artefactual evidence from the site was of recent date, belonging to the 19th and 20th centuries.

### 6.2 Ceramic Building Materials

A small amount of ceramic building material (brick and tile), all of recent date, was recovered from the following contexts: 3150, 3183, 3230, 3260, 3280, 3290, 3330, 3350, 9000-2

### 6.3 Pottery

The pottery is all of recent date and appears to represent ordinary domestic debris. No further work is required and the material could be discarded.

CONTEXT	QUANTITY	SPOT DATE	DETAILS
<u>3163</u>	13	20th century	including tin-glazed earthenwares, Black ware, post medieval earthenwares, late English stoneware
<u>3230</u>	17	20th century	17 sherds including late tin-glazed earthenwares
<u>3260</u>	2	late 19th/early 20th century	1 Brown ware, 1 post medieval earthenware
<u>3280</u>	1	18/19th century	1 post-medieval earthenware
<u>3310</u>	7	late 19th century	7 sherds including tin-glazed earthenware, Black ware
<u>3330</u>	25	20th century	including tin-glazed earthenwares, stone ware, Brown ware and modern
<u>3330</u>	1	19th century	1 very abraded sherd
<u>3340</u>	1	early 20th century	1 tin-glazed earthenware
<u>3350</u>	8	late 19th/early 20th century	7 tin-glazed earthenwares, 1 Brown ware
<u>3351</u>	1	19th century	1 Brown ware
<u>9000</u>	1	19 th century	1 English stoneware

*Table 1: Pottery*

## 6.4 Small Finds

The artefacts are listed in Table 2 below.

CONTEXT	SMALL FIND	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
3350	1	tobacco pipe stem	
3330	2	tobacco pipe stem	
3230	3	tobacco pipe stem	
discarded	4	44 tobacco pipe stems	
	5	small glass bottle	late 19th/early 20th century
3163	-	modern iron handle	discarded
3230	-	bucket handle - modern	

**Table 2:** Small finds

## 7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The trial pits exposed deposits of limited archaeological interest. However given their size this is, perhaps, not altogether surprising.

### Birkby Nab

The excavations at Birkby Nab indicated continued and sustained agricultural usage in the area over a long time span, although without dating evidence it is not possible to say for precisely how long. Little evidence was found for the two small medieval villages or hamlets: Studley Parva adjacent to Birkby Nab and Clotherholme. There are no earthworks or visible crop marks to suggest that a hamlet was located in the field in which the trial pits (TP326-31) were dug, although a watching brief by York Archaeological Trust in 2002 showed that deposits and cut features survive beneath the plough soil in the field immediately to the south. This field yielded two unstratified quernstones of Iron Age – Roman date (Antoni 2003). Whilst there was no pottery from the trial pits (TP326-31), pottery, and fragments of brick and tile were recovered as surface finds, although they were all of modern date.

In the fields to the north of the area described above, Trial Pits 332-6, which were located on the river terraces, had potential for producing finds from the prehistoric period, especially perhaps the Mesolithic (10,000 – 4000 BC). Terraces were often used for the sites of temporary camps due to their proximity to fresh water making them ideal for fishing, and attracting game and wild fowl. There was also the potential for locating archaeology relating to the two medieval settlements referred to above located about a kilometre away. Although the five pits exposed a continuing sequence of deposition (alluvial material and river gravels), no artefacts or archaeological features were exposed. The hand-dug trial pit associated with RD308 revealed one piece of modern pottery c. 0.3m BGL.

### Borrage Lane, Ripon

The ten hand-dug excavations (TP301-09) at properties overlooking the River Skell, along the south side of Borrage Lane, and the machine-excavated TP300 and TP310 indicated a sequence of predominantly modern levelling and / or garden deposits. The Trial Pits 302-4, 306 and 309 indicated a buried cobbled surface which butted the wall and may have been part of an earlier flood defence scheme. No datable evidence came from these surfaces and the fills above yielded modern pottery, brick and tile.

#### **Fisher Green, Ripon**

Hand dug pit TP312 did not reveal any archaeological features and indicated perhaps that a levelling deposit has been laid down perhaps with the landscaping for the properties along the northern bank of the river. Machine-dug pits on the north side of the river showed a sequence of natural river / glacial deposits. The pits on the southern side of the river also revealed a sequence of natural river / glacial deposits.

#### **Riverside near Alma House, Ripon**

The hand-dug pit, RD302 was not dug deep enough to reveal any archaeological layers beneath the modern made ground deposits and produced modern artefacts.

#### **Ure Bank, Ripon**

The mechanical excavations (TP324-5) and hand dug drill-pit (RD303) revealed a sequence of natural river / glacial deposits with the only man-made features present being modern service trenches or land drains in the fields.

#### **River sieving**

Nothing of great archaeological interest was found.

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