

YORK



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUST



| | |
|----------|-----------|
| NYCC HER | |
| SNY | 920 |
| ENY | 703 |
| CNY | 2087/8289 |
| Parish | 6100 |
| Rec'd | |

**BERRY'S AVENUE,
KNARESBOROUGH,
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

**1998 FIELD REPORT
NUMBER 66**

| | |
|----------|------------|
| NYCC HER | |
| SNY | 920 |
| ENY | 703 |
| CNY | 2087, 8289 |
| Parish | 6100 |
| Rec'd | |

**BERRY'S AVENUE,
KNARESBOROUGH, NORTH YORKSHIRE.**

**REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

CONTENTS

- ABSTRACT**
1. INTRODUCTION
 2. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY
 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
 4. THE EXCAVATIONS
 5. FINDS ASSESSMENT
 6. CONCLUSIONS
 7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS
 8. LIST OF SOURCES
 9. LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site Location Plan
 Fig. 2 Trench Location Plan
 Fig. 3 South-east Facing Section, Trench 1
 Fig. 4 Plan of Trench 1
 Fig. 5 North-west facing Section of Trench 2
 Fig. 6 Plan of Trench 2

ABSTRACT

Between the 23rd and the 27th November 1998, York Archaeological Trust carried out a field evaluation at Berry's Avenue, Whincup Close, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, on behalf of C. K. Batchelor Ltd., House Builders and Contractors. The area evaluated lies just to the north-east of the High Street, on a site that contains derelict houses, garages and gardens, close to the centre of Knaresborough. Desk-top study had suggested that the medieval defences of Knaresborough, believed to have been an earth bank and ditch, crossed the site. The evaluation revealed evidence for the truncation of archaeological deposits by post-medieval and modern terracing activity and found no trace of the medieval defences.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

In November 1998 York Archaeological Trust (YAT) carried out a field evaluation on land at Berry's Avenue, Whincup Close, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 3509 5715 - Figure 1). The work was carried out on behalf of C. K. Batchelor Ltd., House Builders and Contractors, prior to a planning application for residential development on the site. The proposed development area covers approximately 1640 square metres and the evaluation was carried out to a specification prepared by YAT and approved by North Yorkshire County Council.

1.2 Aims

The objectives of the evaluation were: -

- i) to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area
- ii) to determine, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeology.
- iii) to make available the results of the investigation.

1.3 Methodology

The evaluation was based on a 2.4 % sample of the development area, and consisted of two parallel trenches (Figure 2), both 10m long and 2m wide and aligned north-east to south-west. Trench 1 was situated close to the dog-leg in Berry's Avenue, which was the supposed location of Knaresborough's medieval town defences. Trench 2 was sited slightly further to the north-east to assess the nature of any possible extra-mural settlement. In both trenches the overburden was removed to the first significant archaeological level under close archaeological supervision by a JCB Sitemaster using a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were then cleaned by hand and the remaining archaeological deposits were hand excavated to determine their extent and

nature and to retrieve finds. All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:20 using the single context planning system. All significant archaeological features, deposits and structures were recorded in section at a scale of 1:10 and photographed using colour print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the York Archaeological Trust Context Recording Manual (1996).

All finds and the site records are currently stored with York Archaeological Trust under the Harrogate Museum accession code HARGM : 9324

2. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The development area lies on a moderately steep slope situated between c.78m and c.74m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), approximately 70m north-east of the High Street, close to the centre of Knaresborough. The solid geology of the area is Lower Magnesian Limestone (British Geological Survey (England and Wales) Sheet No. 62 1967) laid down in the Permian period (Smith, 1974, 124). This is overlain by boulder clay, formed by glacial activity within the area, which forms a thick band of deposits that slope down moderately steeply to the north-east. The area under investigation was situated on this north-east facing slope, and the south-western end of the site appeared to have been terraced into the hillside. The level of disturbance of the underlying geological and archaeological deposits was not known.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological and historical background for this particular site was summarised in a desk-top study (Macnab, 1998, 2-7) carried out by YAT in advance of this evaluation. A brief resume of this material is therefore presented here.

A number of historical accounts of Knaresborough have been written, but little appears to be known about the origins and early history of the castle and town, which were thought to have been closely associated (Kellet, 1991, 70).

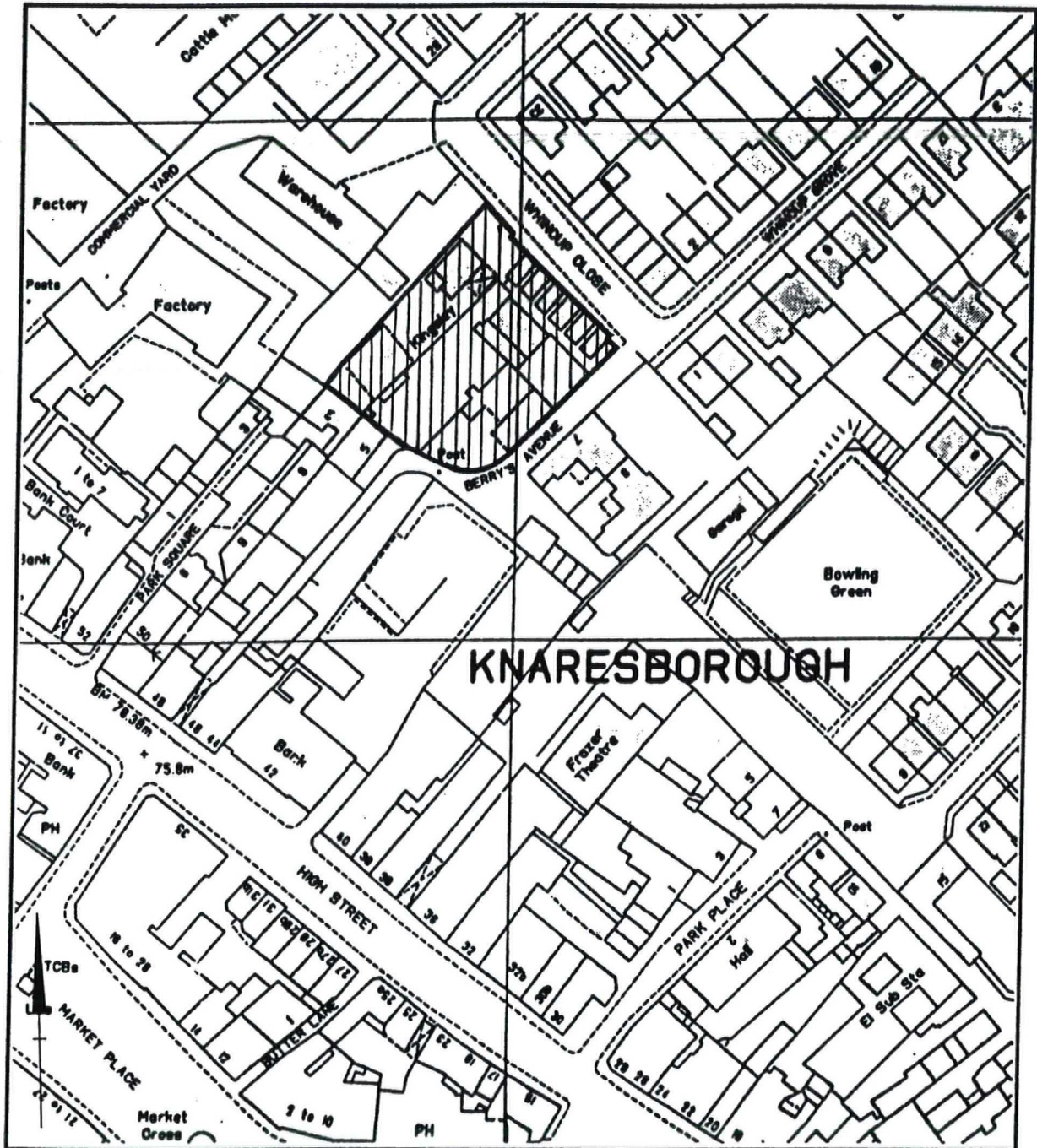
Although prehistoric and Roman stray finds have been recovered no certain evidence has yet been found for pre-Norman settlement at Knaresborough, despite its pre-Norman name. *Chenaresburgh* is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and derives from the Old English personal name *Ceneheard*, with the suffix *burh*, meaning a fortified place (Smith, 1961). On this basis it has been suggested that Knaresborough was a fortified settlement prior to the Norman conquest (Kellett, 1991, 70). Domesday Book records that it was also a royal estate in pre-Norman times and appears to have remained so after the conquest. Between 1086 and 1115 the Royal estates of Knaresborough and Aldborough were completely re-organised and the Honour (or Lordship) of Knaresborough was formed (Jennings, 1970). The parish church is first mentioned in 1114, and castle building in 1130. After a succession of Lords who rented the Honour, the Lordship reverted to the crown in 1205, after which the castle was substantially repaired, strengthened (Tyler, unpub) and became one of King Johns favoured abodes (Kellet, 1991, 74-6).

Although the date of the town's foundation is uncertain, it probably developed with the construction of the castle and reorganisation of the royal estates at the beginning of the 12th century. The medieval borough of Knaresborough was first mentioned in 1169 in a reference to burgesses (Jennings, 1970) and by the 13th century the town and castle were the focus of a flourishing iron industry (Tyler, unpub). A charter granted a weekly market and a yearly fair in 1310, though a fair was first recorded at Knaresborough in 1304, and a market as far back as 1206 (Tyler, unpub). In 1328 the town was attacked by Scottish raiders, and 140 out of 160 houses were burned down. The town soon recovered and although the iron industry was in decline by the end of the 14th century, the town was described as being a prosperous market town with butchers, drapers, carpenters, cobblers, brewers, tanners, blacksmiths, lorimers (bit and spur makers), weavers and blomers (iron smelters). From the 14th to the 16th centuries it became the focus of the woolen industry eventually containing two Fulling Mills (Tyler, unpub). The latter industry eventually gave way to the linen industry in the 17th century.

It has been suggested that medieval burgage plots occupied most of the north-east side of the High Street (adjacent to the development area) within the town defences, which consisted of an earth rampart and a ditch. It has been postulated that the defences were situated at the back of properties fronting the High Street and ran in a roughly straight line from Raw Gap to Pinfold Hill. It has also been suggested that the dog-leg in Berry's Avenue indicates a place where the defences were crossed by a medieval alley or street (Tyler, unpub). Historical sources suggest that the defences were being encroached upon by buildings by the middle of the 14th century and that by the early 17th century they had already been partially built over.

Little archaeological research, in the form of detailed excavation, to locate the position of the town ditch and rampart or the development of the medieval burgage plots, has been carried out to date. Indeed little evidence has been recovered in recent years to suggest occupation prior to the 17th century. It has been suggested that the town may have been levelled and cleared during the English Civil War (Kershaw, pers comm), or that on regular occasions, the plots were systematically cleared and waste and refuse was deposited over the cliff edge (Campling, pers comm). Such clearance would certainly explain the absence of medieval archaeological deposits within the town to date. Further archaeological work would be necessary to clarify whether or not truncation has actually taken place and if so, what form it took.

The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map, printed in 1891, shows the majority of the development area as open land. Directly to the north-east of 5 Berry's Avenue, the area was laid out as a garden associated with this house with paths and trees; further to the north-east the area was part of the grounds of the Stockwell House estate on Stockwell Road. To the north of the planned garden the area comprised part of a large field probably used for agricultural purposes. The land use appears not to have changed significantly by the 1909 OS Map, although the planned garden immediately north-east of 5 Berry's Avenue is not shown, simply bearing the name Park View. By 1932, however, the Stockwell House estate had been sold off, Whincup Avenue had been constructed and garages had been erected along the north-east edge of the development area. The area to the north still appears to have been open agricultural land. In recent years the northern part of the development area was developed for housing and the former garden associated with 5 Berry's Avenue was partitioned being utilised for further garages, an aviary and a builder's yard. No cartographic evidence has been found to date to suggest the land use prior to 1891, or the line of the defences

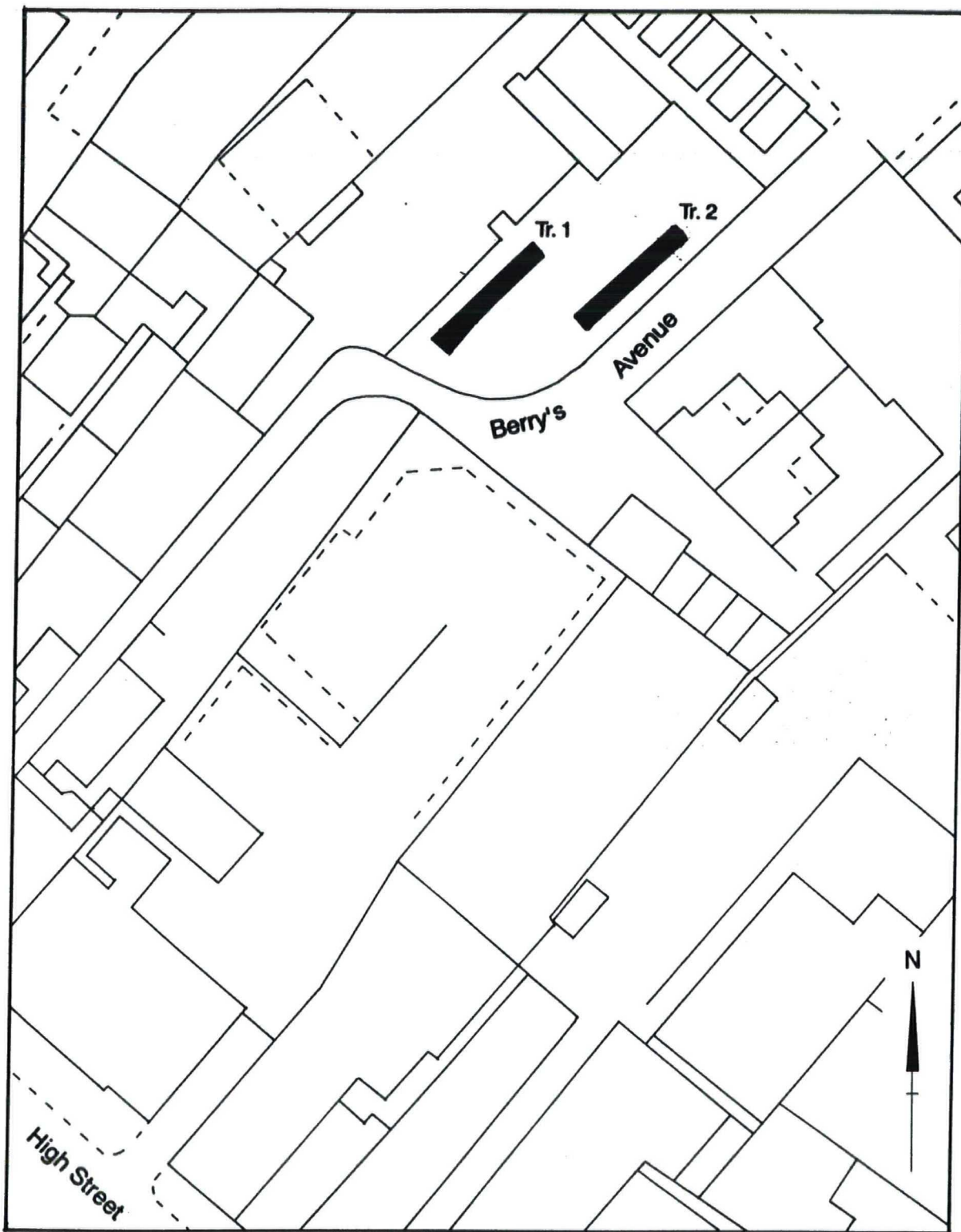


© Crown copyright

Figure 1

Site Location Plan

Scale 1:2,500



BASED UPON THE 1988 ORDNANCE SURVEY DIGITAL DATA WITH PERMISSION OF THE CONTROLLER OF HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE, CROWN COPYRIGHT, YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST CROMWELL HOUSE, 13 OGLEFORTH, YORK. YO1 7FG. LICENCE NUMBER AL854123



Figure 2, Trench Location Plan

4. THE EXCAVATIONS

The trenches (Figure 2) are discussed in numerical order, and all compass directions, apart from those used to describe the positions of the trenches, were based on 'site north' being equivalent to true north-east as shown on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 scale map. Within each trench the contexts are considered in chronological order, from the bottom up.

4.1 Trench 1

The trench was positioned at the south-western end of the site, close to the dog-leg in Berry's Avenue, and was aligned north-east to south-west. It was machine excavated to a depth of c.0.90m at the southern end and c.0.45m at the northern end to remove the modern overburden. Below this all deposits were excavated by hand.

4.1.1 The earliest deposit, located at 75.77m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), was stiff reddish brown sandy clay (1003) with occasional greenish grey banding and small to medium sized pebbles. This covered the whole of the base of the trench and was interpreted as natural boulder clay deposit of glacial origin.

4.1.2 At the northern end of the trench a post-hole (1002) was located cut into (1003). This was ovoid in shape, with vertical sides and an uneven base and measured 0.28m long, 0.25m wide and 0.07m deep. It was back-filled with plastic mid orange brown silty clay (1001) which contained occasional small to medium sized pebbles, mortar flecks and small angular stone fragments. The back-fill contained a single sherd of undated pottery which may have been medieval. Its relationship with (1015) (see 4.1.3) is not known, and its singularity makes further interpretation of the function of this very truncated small feature impossible.

4.1.3 A deposit of soft light to mid brown clay silt (1015) overlay the natural boulder clay to a depth of 0.23m in the middle of the trench. This appeared to be fairly clean and homogenous, and was interpreted as either natural subsoil or a remnant of a former heavily leached plough-soil. The latter interpretation is favoured here. A second deposit of compact light brownish yellow sandy silt (1013) also directly sealed the natural boulder clay at the south end of the trench, and possibly partially overlay (1015) though the relationship was unclear. This contained a moderate number of small pebbles and occasional small cobbles and also proved difficult to interpret. Its appearance suggested that it was closely linked to the natural deposit and it was therefore interpreted as either a natural sub-soil or re-deposited natural. The interpretation of (1015) as a plough-soil remnant would suggest that 1013 was laid by man, rather than indicating a localised natural variation in the drift geology. It is thought possible that the deposit may have been laid down to aid drainage after terracing had taken place, prior to the deposition of a later top-soil (1012). Exactly when terracing activity took place is difficult to ascertain but it is possible that it occurred in the early post-medieval period.

4.1.4 A linear spread of clinker fragments (1017) aligned east to west across the trench overlay (1015), c. 3m from the southern end of the trench. This was 1.5m wide and up to 0.07m deep and was interpreted as a path laid down after terracing had occurred, perhaps to aid the transport of top-soil on to the site.

4.1.5 A thick layer of compact mid greyish brown sandy silt (1012) covered the whole trench to a depth of 0.29m, levelling off the site at c.76.20m AOD. This was interpreted as a former top-soil, possibly associated with agricultural or horticultural activity. The protrusion of a piece of clay pipe from the section, would certainly suggest a post-medieval date for the deposition of the top-soil and confirm the suggestion that the terracing activity occurred in the post-medieval period, possibly in the 17th or 18th century.

4.1.6 Truncating the former top-soil (1012), at the northern end of the trench, was a large feature (1006). This was not fully revealed, as it extended beyond the east, west and north limits of the trench. It was more than 4.82m long. The only edge of the feature which was revealed was on the south side, where it appeared to fall moderately steeply to a shallow step, prior to falling near vertically to a flat base at 1.10m below the initial top edge. At the northern end of the sectioned part of the feature, two parallel steep sided, U-shaped, gullies were located. These were thought to have been deliberately cut as part of the feature. The southern of the two measured between 0.30 to 0.38m wide and up to 0.24m deep, whereas the northern one was between 0.25m and 0.37m wide and up to 0.14m deep. The function of the feature was difficult to define. The form appears to be too complex to be just a quarry pit or a pit excavated for the disposal of demolition material (see 4.1.7). Perhaps it was a further terrace excavated locally into the hillside, to provide a lower platform for a house/stables/barn or warehouse, the gullies possibly being excavated to provide the support for timber framed foundations.

4.1.7 Whatever the purpose of feature (1006), it appears that it was initially backfilled with a loose decayed crushed mortar and limestone rubble (1005) in a matrix of mid grey silty sand. This completely filled the base of the feature to a depth of 0.35m (0.52m in the gullies). No primary silting deposits were recovered and it would appear that it was rapidly backfilled almost immediately after it had been dug out with demolition type material, ceramic dated to the 18th or 19th century. It appears that it either served its purpose immediately, or that it was decided not to proceed further with it. Sealing (1005) was a series of four deposits which eventually backfilled the feature completely. The first was a mixed deposit of stiff orange red sandy clay, plastic pale grey silty clay and orange red coarse grained sand (1004), which completely covered (1005) to a maximum depth of 0.49m, and appears to have been used to backfill the majority of the upper portion of (1006). This was sealed by a compact mid brown silty clay (1021) and (1023) which in turn was sealed by a friable dark brownish grey clay silt (1022). All of these deposits, may be associated with dumps of horticultural or agricultural soils, to finally backfill, level off and landscape the feature (1006).

4.1.8 At the south end of the trench, two thin layers (1011) and (1016) were observed in the east facing section, overlying the former topsoil (1012). These consisted of plastic light brown and yellow brown silty clays. They were initially interpreted as make-up layers for a modern concrete surface (see 4.1.11). It is possible, on the basis of interpreting (1014) and (1009) as further agricultural or horticultural soils (see 4.1.9), that these two deposits represent material used for make-up, levelling, or landscaping within the 19th or early 20th century garden and grounds of Stockwell House.

4.1.9 Sealing (1011) at the south end of the trench was a layer of compact mid to dark brownish grey sandy silt (1009) up to 0.11m deep. A similar deposit (1014), up to 0.09m thick, was located further to the north overlying (1016). Both deposits were initially interpreted as make-up

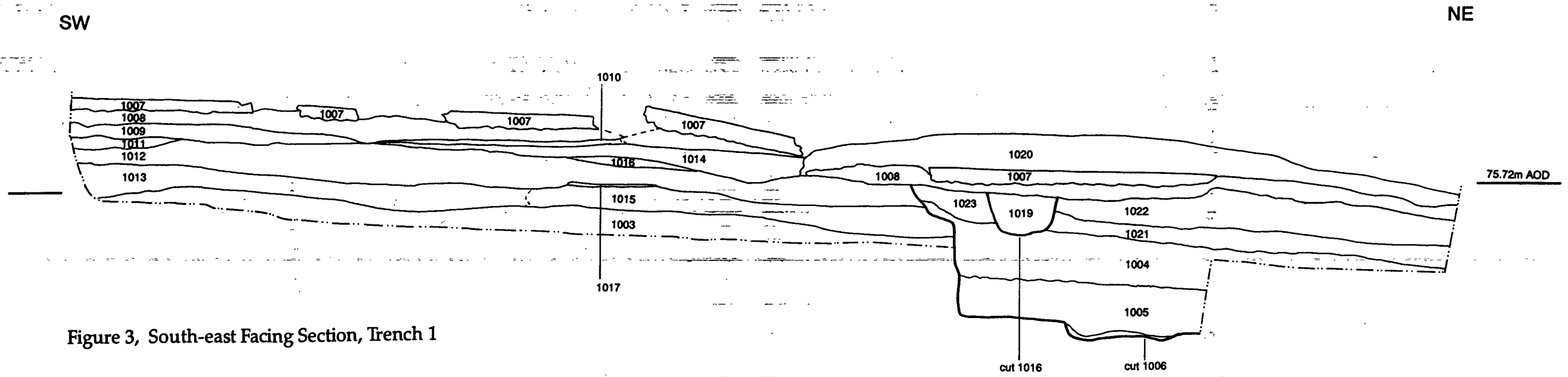


Figure 3, South-east Facing Section, Trench 1

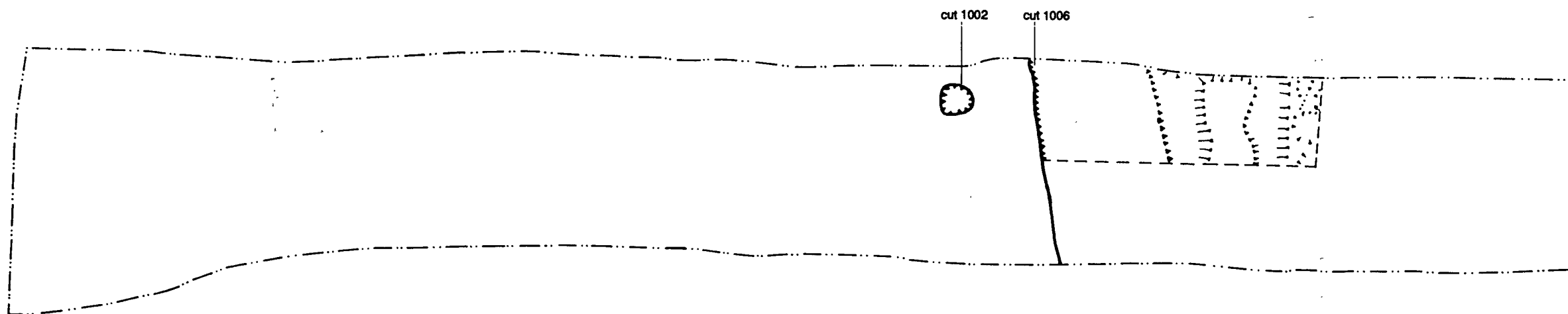


Figure 4, Plan of Trench 1

Figures 3 & 4, Section and Plan of Trench 1

layers for a modern concrete surface (see 4.1.11) but it is thought possible that they may represent the final accumulation of garden soils, or landscaping activity within the grounds of Stockwell House in the early 20th century.

4.1.10 Truncating the latest backfill deposits (1022) and (1023) of feature (1006) on a north-east to south-west alignment was a linear service trench (1018), which had steep sides and a flat base. The trench measured 0.61m wide and 0.40m deep, and was completely backfilled with friable dark grey brown sandy silt (1019), which contained broken fragments of brown glazed ceramic pipe. It would appear that the pipe, probably originally constructed for carrying foul water from 5, Berry's Avenue, had been broken up by more modern site disturbance (see 4.1.11).

4.1.11 Overlying (1014) at the southern end of the trench was a thin layer of horizontally laid tile fragments and stone flags (1010) bonded with soft mortar. These may have formed a modern yard surface or a primary levelling layer prior to the dumping of further make-up layers for the concrete surface (1007). The whole trench was then sealed by a layer of stone, brick and mortar fragments (1008) in a matrix of mid brown sandy silt to a maximum thickness of 0.17m. This was interpreted as a layer of hard-core deposited prior to the casting of a concrete slab (1007) 0.15m thick over the whole trench. This modern surface formed the yard of a builder's yard. In recent times, when the area had become derelict, a deposit of compact mid orange brown sandy silty clay (1020) sealed 1008, being thicker towards the northern end of the trench. This was dumped over the whole site to seal and cap various dumps of waste and demolition materials which had accumulated.

4.2 Trench 2

The trench was positioned to the east of and slightly down slope from Trench 1, parallel with it and with Berry's Avenue. It was machine excavated to a depth of c 1.30m at the southern end and c 0.50m at the northern end to remove the modern overburden. Below this all deposits were excavated by hand.

4.2.1 The earliest deposit, a light yellowish brown silty clay (2008) with pale greenish grey and pinkish red banding and occasional to moderate rounded cobbles, was located at 75.03m AOD at the base of the southern end of the trench. This was very similar to (1003) located in Trench 1 and was also interpreted as natural boulder clay of glacial origin.

4.2.2 Truncating the boulder clay were three features; a post-hole (2002) and two features with unknown functions (2004) and (2007). The post-hole (2002) was located 4.0m from the north end of the trench, was sub-square in plan with moderately steep sloping sides and a flatish base. It measured 0.20m long by 0.17m wide and 0.04m deep and was completely backfilled with friable mid brownish grey sandy silt (2001). It appears that it had been truncated by later activity on the site and it proved impossible either to date it or to interpret its function further.

4.2.3 The first of the two features of uncertain function was a shallow amorously shaped depression (2004) located approximately in the middle of the trench adjacent to the western trench edge. It measured 1.4m long, 0.36m wide and 0.06m deep and had shallowly sloping sides and a slightly undulating base. The whole of the feature was backfilled with soft buff to

light brown coloured sandy silt (2003) with occasional inclusions of small rounded stones and thin lenses of dark brown silt. The feature was interpreted as a slight hollow in the boulder clay filled with a remnant of sub-soil

4.2.4 Feature (2007) was located in the south-western corner of the trench and it was very difficult to define because it was only partially within the trench. However, it was sectioned and this verified that it had a steep eastern side, which appeared to continue below 1.5m from the present ground surface where excavation ceased for health and safety reasons (the feature was more than 0.40m deep). It was completely backfilled with a moderately compact light brownish yellow silty sand (2006) with frequent small to medium sized cobbles and moderate quantities of gravel. The fill was very clean, without any traces of charcoal or finds which could indicate its use, function, or even suggest that it had been man-made. It is difficult, therefore, to interpret the feature further, but it may have been a natural feature created by peri-glacial or post-glacial erosion, or a prehistoric feature of unknown function or date.

4.2.5 Sealing the whole trench was a layer of sticky light to mid brown sandy silt (2005) and purplish red brown slightly sandy silty clay (2009) which combined to form a fairly homogenous layer, up to 0.21m thick. This was interpreted as a disturbed sub-soil or a former plough-soil very similar in character to (1015).

4.2.6 Truncating (2009) and (2005) were two modern linear cuts (2014) and (2010). Diagonally bisecting the site on a north-east to south-west alignment was a service trench (2014) of similar size, profile and character to (1018). This contained a brown glazed, ceramic pipe (2016) of 0.155m (6 inch) diameter, which was sealed and the trench backfilled with sticky dark brownish grey silty clay (2015). This service trench and its backfills equate well with the service trench in Trench 1 (1018), and it was thought to be the continuation of a drain for foul water from 5, Berry's Avenue towards the north-east. The second linear feature (2010) was a construction cut, aligned east to west across the extreme south end of the trench. This had near vertical sides, a flat base, and was 0.14m deep. It appears that the hillside had been terraced and all evidence for agricultural and horticultural soils had been removed from the immediate vicinity of Trench 2 by the time that this particular construction cut was excavated. It is suspected that this occurred in the early to mid 20th century. The construction trench contained a primary deposit of grey concrete and creamy yellow cement (2012), up to 0.07m thick, which was interpreted as a bedding deposit for a wall (2011). The latter was constructed with large, rectangular, greyish white concrete blocks, which measured 0.91m long and 0.25m deep, which were machine cut and finished. Only the southern face of this particular wall was visible. It stood two courses high (0.52m), the blocks were bonded with creamy yellow cement, and it formed the southern end of the trench. The feature was interpreted as the base of a boundary wall for the builders yard or as a revetment wall constructed to retain leveling and make-up material for the concrete surface of the builders yard further up the slope. Once the wall had been constructed the rest of the construction cut was backfilled with friable dark grey brown silty sand (2013).

4.2.7 At the northern end of the trench a thick dump of compact mottled mid brown silty sand (2017) was located sealing (2009) to a maximum depth of 0.31m. This contained inclusions suggesting that the dump had been derived from demolition materials including mortar, cement, brick and tile, limestone fragments and patches of yellow and grey silty sand. Overlying (2017) was a second layer of friable banded light to dark grey ashy silty grit and sand (2020) up to 0.19m thick which was probably derived from industrial waste. Both of these deposits were

utilised to raise and level the ground surface at the northern end of the site, to create a fairly flat terrace for the casting of a concrete surface.

4.2.8 At the southern end of the trench a layer of friable light yellowish brown coarse sand and pea grit (2018) was laid down prior to the casting of a concrete slab (2019). This was up to 0.11m thick and formed a solid surface to the north of wall (2011). To the north of this a further concrete slab (2021) was then cast abutting the earlier surface (2019). Measuring up to 0.09m thick, this appeared not to have a hard-core bedding laid and merely rested on the earlier leveling deposits (2017) and (2020) and the former plough-soil (2009)

4.2.9 A dump of modern demolition rubble (2022) consisting of concrete, limestone blocks, wood, metal, tile, machine moulded bricks (stamped ALLIED), plastic, glass, corrugated asbestos and iron sheet fragments all in a matrix of friable ashy dark grey silty grit sealed all of the previous deposits, to a maximum depth of 0.65m against wall (2011). This accumulation or dumping activity also involved a certain amount of ground disturbance, with the removal and breaking up, in places, of the former concrete surfaces. It would also appear that incorporated within this demolition material were the possible remnants of a Second World War air-raid shelter, including many pieces of corrugated iron and concrete impressed with the shape of corrugated iron. It is possible that a Second World War air-raid shelter was demolished close by and dumped here when the garages, aviary and builders yard had gone out of use. Sealing the whole trench was a thick layer of loosely compacted mid reddish orange sandy clay (2023) very similar to (1020) in Trench 1, which sealed and capped the dumped deposits that had accumulated across the site.

NE

SW

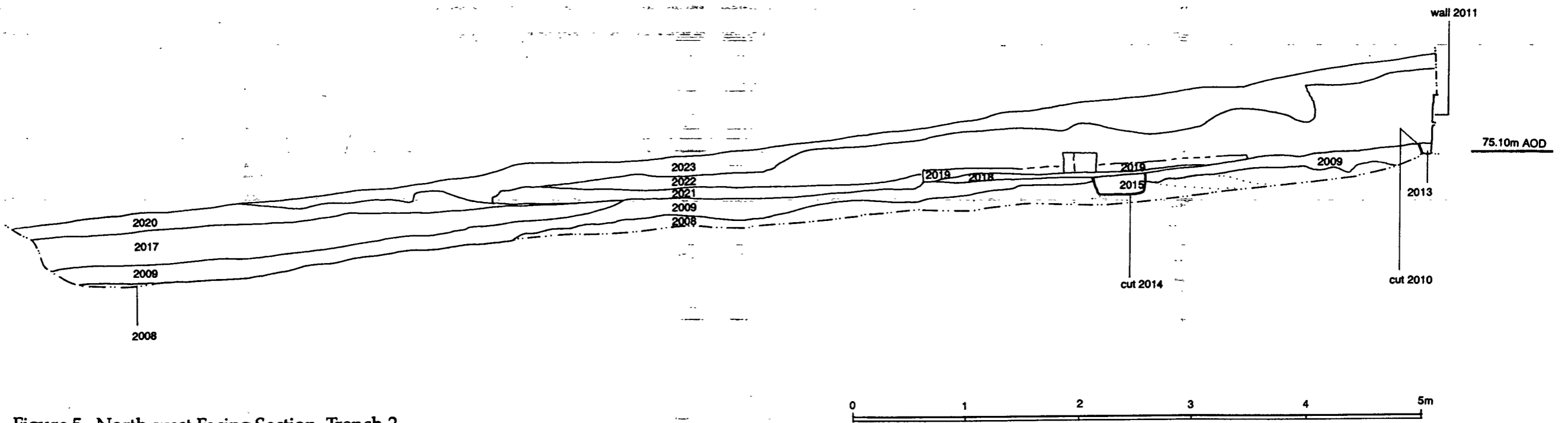


Figure 5, North-west Facing Section, Trench 2

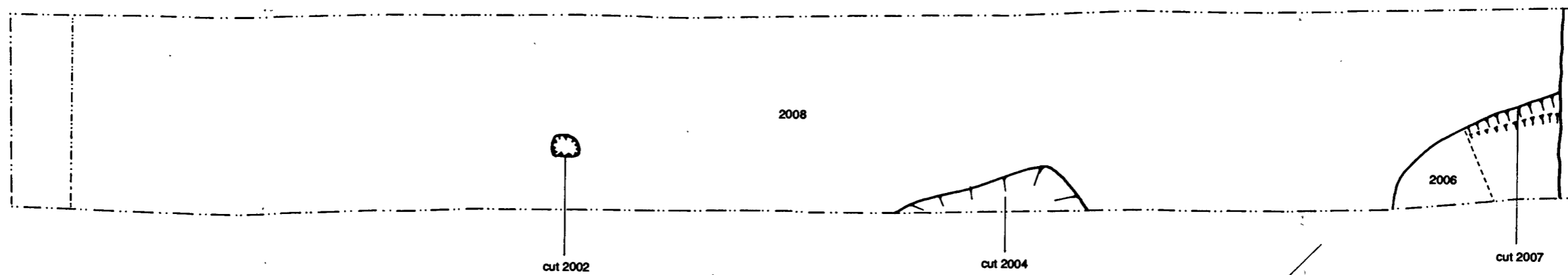


Figure 6, Plan of Trench 2

Figures 5 & 6, Section and Plan of Trench 2

5. FINDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 Pottery

| Context | no. of sherds | date |
|-------------|---------------|---|
| 1001 | 1 | small, un-datable, medieval ? |
| 1005 | 12 | 18 th and 19 th century |
| 2005 | 1 | abraded, un-datable, medieval ? |
| Tr. 2 - U/S | 1 | abraded, small, un-datable |

Context 1005 contained a range of post-medieval earthenwares, a black ware and two sherds of tin-glazed earthenware. These span the 18th and 19th centuries. The sherd from 2005 is featureless and abraded with traces of a glaze which, together with the gritty fabric, suggests a medieval date but closer dating than that is not possible.

5.2 Ceramic Building Materials

5.2.1 Introduction

This small sample consisted of two items: a fragment of roof tile and a piece of brick.

5.2.2 Post-medieval material

The sample consisted entirely of post-medieval material. There was one fragment of roofing pan tile, which had been re-used. Pan tile was introduced into England in the 17th century. However, due to the refined nature of the fabric of the pan tile in this sample, it is probably no earlier than the 18th century in date

The one fragment of brick was over fired and was probably slop moulded (where the brick mould was rinsed out in water before throwing in the clay). Judging by the measurements of this brick it is probably 18th century or later in date.

5.2.3 Recommendations

It is recommended that this sample is retained for further study.

5.2.4 Context listing

| Context | Form | Measurements (metric) | Measurements (imperial) | Comments | Date |
|---------|-------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| 1004 | Brick | B104 T60 | B41/8 T23/8 | ?Slop moulded, over-fired | 18th |
| 1005 | Pan | | | Re-used | 18th+ |

5.3 Other Recorded Finds

Sf 1 context 1005 worked flint, possibly from a flintlock musket.

Sf 2 context 1005 tobacco pipe stem.

Sf 3 context 1004 iron, unidentified but possibly a ferrule.

Sf 4 context 1004 white painted plaster.

These finds are of little help in establishing the date or the function of the features from which they were recovered.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The excavations have shown that beneath modern concrete, demolition, levelling and top soil, little of archaeological interest survives on the development site. No waterlogged deposits were encountered and deposits appeared to show that terracing activity in the post-medieval and modern periods had truncated the archaeological deposits.

The earliest activity on the site appears to have been a possible prehistoric feature located in the south-west corner of Trench 2. This was of uncertain function, possibly representing a large pit, or it may simply be of natural glacial origin. Two undated post-holes and a second possible shallow natural hollow or depression were also found. Sealing these features was a former plough-soil or disturbed sub-soil, which contained one sherd of abraded medieval pottery.

The former plough-soil or sub-soil was then truncated by a post-medieval terracing cut, excavated into the side of the hillside possibly to create a level garden for 5 Berry's Avenue after or during its construction in the late 17th or 18th century. Within Trench 2 a number of different deposits built up probably related to landscaping, drainage and the dumping of top-soil within this garden. A large feature was then dug at the north end of Trench 1. The interpretation of this was complicated by the presence of two parallel gullies in its base. It was conjectured that it was excavated to provide a level platform for a 18th or 19th century timber-framed structure within the garden of 5 Berry's Avenue. This was abandoned, probably prior to construction, and soon after it was excavated it was rapidly backfilled with demolition materials, and sealed with redeposited natural. Further dumps of garden soil finally levelled off and landscaped this feature. Several more garden type soils and deposits built up at the south end of Trench 2 prior to the widespread, cross-site truncation, terracing and leveling activity in the 20th century. A series of tiered concrete surfaces associated with modern garages and a builders yard were then constructed on the site. In recent times these became derelict, a large dump of demolition waste built up, including the possible remnants of a Second World War air-raid shelter, and finally this large dump was capped with a dump of redeposited natural clay.

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

The evaluation revealed evidence for post-medieval and modern truncation of the development area in the form of large scale terracing and landscaping, initially within a post-medieval garden and, in more modern times, for a tiered series of concrete surfaces. Although archaeological features were revealed, the evaluation could not fully clarify their function and character. However, it seems difficult to justify further evaluation work on this site. The large feature was dated to the 18th or 19th century and the possible prehistoric feature contained no finds at all.

A watching brief might add further information but it is doubtful that it would be productive enough to address the questions posed in the introduction. Much depends on the scale of the developer's foundation scheme and their plans for other ground-works.

8. LIST OF SOURCES

Jennings, B. (ed.) (1970) *A History of Harrogate and Knaresborough*, Huddersfield

Kellett, A. (1991) *King John in Knaresborough: The first Royal Maundy*; in *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, vol. 62, pp 69-90

Macnab, N. (1998) *Berry's Avenue, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire; Report on an Archaeological Desk-top Study*. York Archaeological Trust, 1998 Field Report Number 36

Smith, A. H. (ed.) (1961) *The Place Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire*, the English Place-Name Society, Volume V, Cambridge University Press

Smith, D. B. (1974) *Permian*, in Rayner, D. H. and Hemingway, J. E. (eds.) *The Geology and Mineral Resources of Yorkshire*, p 115-44, Yorkshire Geological Society, Leeds

Tyler, A. (unpub) North Yorkshire Historic Town Studies, Priorities and Needs. (unpublished draft report held at the Sites and Monuments Record Office, Northallerton)

York Archaeological Trust (1996) *Context Recording Manual*

The 1891 Ordnance Survey Map (County Record Office - Mic 2546/473)

The 1909 Ordnance Survey map (County Record Office - Mic 1917/272)

The 1932 Ordnance Survey Map (County Record Office - Mic 1917/277)

9. LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Excavation direction and report | Neil Macnab |
| Excavation assistants | Bryan Antoni Mark Johnson |
| Finds Assistant | Abigail Daly |
| Pottery | Ailsa Mainman |
| Ceramic Building Materials | Sandra Garside-Neville Brick and Tile Services |
| Illustrator | Mark Johnson |
| Editor | David Brinklow |