

# Humber Field Archaeology

*Archaeological Consultants and Contractors*



Archaeological Observation  
Investigation and Recording  
at  
Church Street  
Riccall

Planning Reference: 8/15/92BPA  
National Grid Reference: SE 6197 3776  
SMR Reference: 8015 GF  
Site Code: WB2004.039

for

Hogg The Builder

Watching Brief Report Number: 721  
October 2004

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D.J. Jobling (*BA Hons*), September 2004

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## Summary

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A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with construction of three dwellings with garages and access on land to the rear of Yew Tree Cottage, 3 Church Street, Riccall in North Yorkshire.

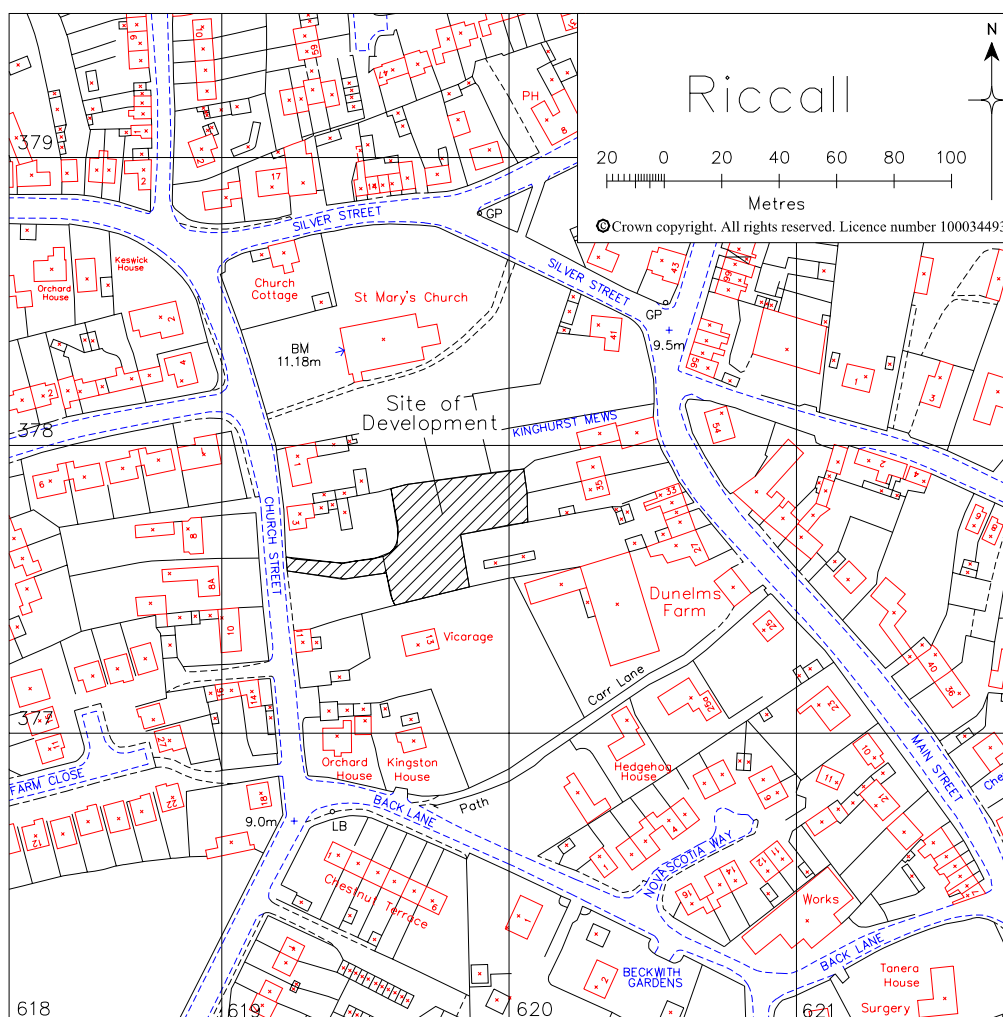
Monitoring of the ground work revealed mainly evidence of 19<sup>th</sup> century occupation in the form of refuse pits, although some undated pits may have been of an earlier date. Artefacts recovered throughout the duration of the on-site works included pottery, ceramic building material fragments and butchered animal bone.

# 1. Introduction

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology, on behalf of Hogg The Builder, during groundwork associated with the construction of three dwellings with garages and access on land to the rear of Yew Tree Cottage, 3 Church Street, Riccall in North Yorkshire (*Figure 1, Plate 1*).

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The development site is located in the core of the village of Riccall. It is bounded to the west by Church Street and to the north, east and south by residential development.



*Figure 1 Site location plan.*

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## 2. Archaeological Background

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“The parish of Riccall lies about 8 miles south of York, on the east bank of the river Ouse. Its name suggests that the village was an Anglian settlement, established on a ridge near a nook of land around which the river flowed. The site of the village, more than 25 ft. above sea-level, is certainly surrounded on three sides by low-lying ground, and the Ouse at Riccall has one of the most prominent bends in its sinuous course. It was at Riccall that Earl Tostig and Harold Hardrada landed in 1066 before marching to battle at Fulford, and about 50 skeletons found near the river, close to Riccall landing, in 1956–7 may be connected with the events of that year. The parish, which is roughly triangular in shape, has an area of 2,667a.

The large village of Riccall lies around the junction of the main York-Selby road with the road to Kelfield. Stretches of those roads are closely built up, and other houses stand in offshoots from them, namely North Field and Chapel Lanes, Church Street, Station Road, and Coppergate. At the road junction in the village centre is a triangular area, now partly built upon, two sides of which are known as Silver Street. It is possible that this was formerly a green and market-place, though there is no subsequent reference to the Wednesday market and fair on 19–21 July at Riccall granted in 1350. Cross Hill House 'near the old cross', mentioned in 1732 and 1829, may have stood thereabouts.

Apart from the former Vicarage, which incorporates the remains of the medieval prebendal manor-house, the most noteworthy house in the village is Bangram Hill Farm, on the York road. It is timber-framed and probably 17th century in date but was encased in brick in the 18th and early 19th centuries. A brick house in Church Street may have a similar origin. There are several other 18th-century brown-brick houses in the streets around the church and two substantial early-19th-century villas in Main Street, besides many smaller 19th century houses. Part of the former pinfold stands on the York road, and there are several groups of farm buildings in the village, including a dovecot at Dam End Farm. Modern development, on all sides of the village, includes over 100 council houses and several estates of private houses.

There was a single licensed house in Riccall in the later 18th century, but by 1823 there were four, the Greyhound, the Drovers' Inn, the Hare and Hounds, and the Shoulder of Mutton. In 1842 there were five public houses and in 1851 four, the Gardeners' Arms replacing the Shoulder of Mutton among the names of 1823. Thereafter only the Greyhound, the Hare and Hounds, and the Drovers' Inn are recorded; the last-named apparently closed between 1913 and 1921, (but the others remained in 1972. Shops in the village include that of the Riccall Co-operative Society, founded in 1878 and occupying a prominent building of that time. An agricultural show was held at Riccall in 1879. At inclosure in 1883 6 a. were allotted for a recreation ground, which was opened two years later. A village institute was built in 1927” (Extract from Allison 1976).

The site of the proposed development lies within an area of archaeological interest at the heart of the former medieval settlement at Riccall, close to the church.

Excavations for foundation, service trenches and for access formation, particularly along the street frontage, may encounter remains of medieval and later settlement and activity.

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### **3. Methodology**

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The on-site work associated with this project was carried out by staff from Humber Field Archaeology, in accordance with the written scheme of investigation produced by the Heritage Unit, County Hall, Northallerton.

The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of the digging of foundations, service trenches and access road to the new development. A series of six visits were made to the site between the 2<sup>nd</sup> June and the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2004 during which time it was possible to monitor the excavation of the groundworks specified. Any exposed areas of subsoil and lower stratigraphic units were examined for archaeological deposits.

The excavated dimensions of the foundation trenches were noted, as were the depth sequences of the exposed stratigraphy, features identified were recorded by appropriate means: plans/sections and a photographic record, where conditions permitted.

Archaeological artefacts found during the fieldwork were bagged according to their context, and returned to Humber Field Archaeology for further specialist analysis.

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## 4. Results

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The initial works to be undertaken on the site involved laying a hardcore and rubble surface along the access track followed by the site strip. The strip covered an area measuring 70m by 50m, the back acting mechanical excavator removing up to 0.30m of topsoil [1001] with a toothless ditching bucket (*Figure 2, Plate 2*).

In the southern area of the site, 19th century pits were identified and recorded. A 1.50m long and 0.70m wide pit [1003] was filled with 19th century artefacts (more artefacts than the dark soft silt matrix which accompanied it). This fill, [1004], was not fully excavated and only surface finds were collected from this feature (*Figure 2, Plate 3*).

3m to the west of this, pit [1006] was located. Measuring 0.35m in diameter, this pit was excavated to reveal a straight-sided cut leading to a flat base. The fill, [1005], consisted of light brown sandy silts and occasional rootlets which held large sherds of a 19<sup>th</sup> century vessel. It appears that the pit was cut specifically for this broken vessel (*Figure 2, Figure 3 – S.1, Plate 4*).

The foundations for plot 3 were the first to be excavated. Covering an area measuring 10m by 8m, the trenches were between 0.70m and 1m wide and had a depth of 1m (*Figure 2, Plate 5*). The majority of the trench demonstrated the existence of natural sands [1010] in the base overlain by subsoil [1002]. In the southern and central areas of the foundations, a post-medieval waste pit [1009] was located. Sealed by subsoil [1002], the pit measured 1.66m wide in section and 0.30m deep with a rounded and concave profile. The primary fill [1007] consisted of dark silty sands, 0.15m thick, and contained 19th century pottery, animal bone and brick fragments. A secondary fill, [1008], consisting of soft brown yellow sands, 0.15m thick was also present (*Figure 2, Figure 3 – S.2, Plate 6*).

Plot 2 covered an area measuring 10.50m north to south and 9.50m west to east, the trenches being, on average, 1m wide and between 0.70m and 1m deep (*Figure 2, Plate 7*). Four features were identified as cutting into the natural sands [1010] and being sealed by subsoil [1002]. The first of these was pit [1015]. This feature had a visible and truncated width of 0.70m, a depth of 0.73m, and was filled by [1014] primary fill brown silt sands under secondary fill [1013], mid yellow sands. This feature had been re-cut by [1012]. Measuring 1.55m wide and 0.80m deep with a rounded profile leading to a pointed base, this feature was filled by [1011] mid to dark grey sands with charcoal flecks and occasional chalk pieces (*Figure 2, Figure 3 – S.3, Plate 8*).

In the central and western area of the trench, pit [1019] was identified. Measuring 0.44m wide and 0.58m deep, the pit had straight-sided edges leading to a flat base. The fill [1018] a dark sand matrix, held an extremely degraded and corroded ferrous vessel, as well as stoneware marmalade jars and transfer printed pottery (not retained) (*Figure 2, Figure 3 – S.5, Plate 9*).

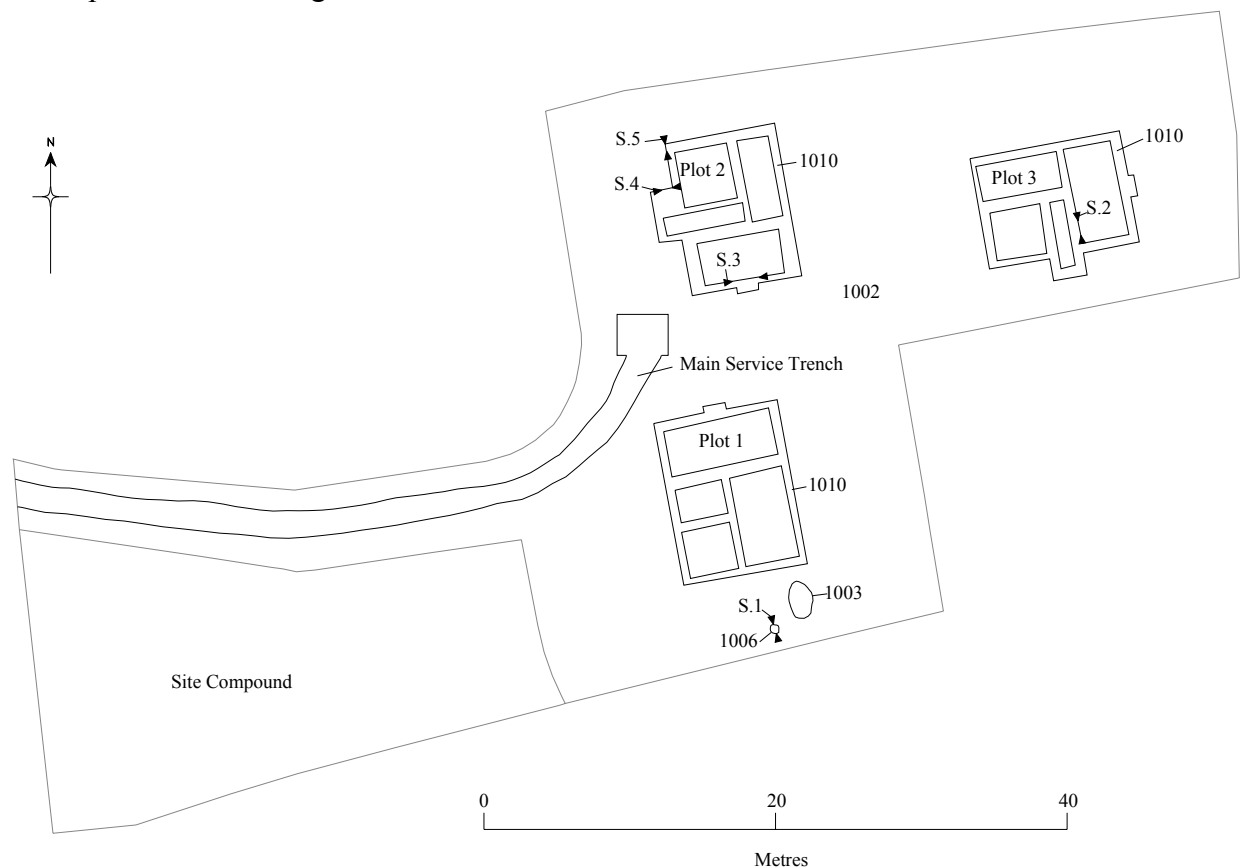
The final feature to be located in plot 2 was post-hole [1017]. This feature had tapering straight sides, 0.57m wide at the top leading to 0.18m towards the base and was filled by [1016] dark silty sand (*Figure 2, Figure 3 – S.2, Plate 10*).

The foundation trenches for plot 3 covered an area measuring 11.50m north to south and 9m west to east. The trenches again, averaged 1m width and a depth between 0.70m and 1m. The deposits identified in this set of foundations consisted solely of natural sands [1010] under subsoil [1002] (*Figure 2, Plate 11*).

The main service trench extended from a point 1.50m west of the beginning of the access road which connects with existing services underneath the current public road. Measuring between 0.80m and 1.20m wide, this trench had an average depth of 2.50m and ran for 45m west to east. The basal fill in this trench consisted of sands [1010], viewed up to 1.90m thick, over which lay a thick layer of post-medieval dumping and trackway deposits [1020]. Consisting of dark sandy silts and ashy cinder layers, [1020], was viewed up to 0.60m thick and ran the length of the service trench. Unstratified artefacts recovered from the spoil heap generated by the excavation of the main service trench were of post-medieval date (*Figure 2, Plates 12, 13*).

The garages associated with the 3 new dwellings on the site were not monitored due to the lack of medieval archaeological deposits identified elsewhere on the site.

At this point the watching brief was concluded.



*Figure 2 Plan showing the location of the archaeological features in relation to the foundation trenches within the development.*



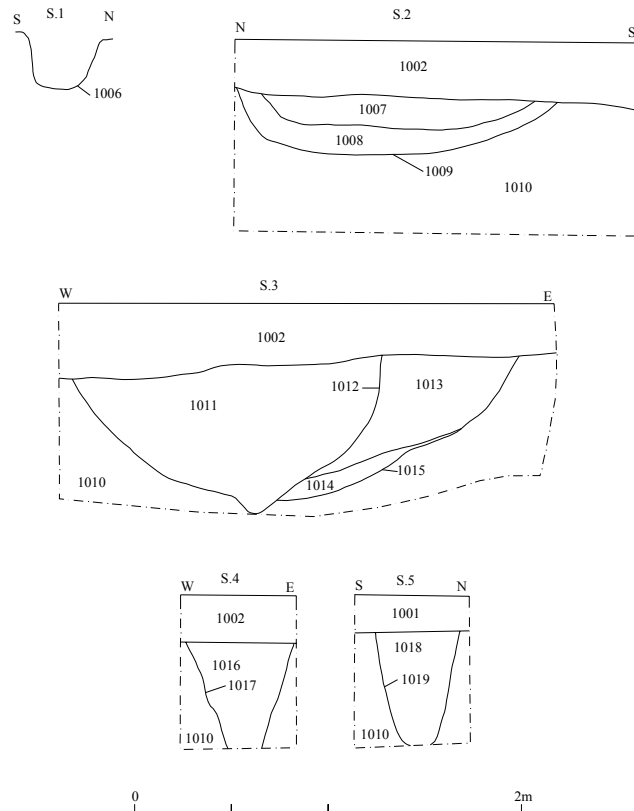


Figure 3 Recorded features in section.

## 5. The Finds

*Peter Didsbury M. Phil.*

### Introduction and methodology

A total of 64 sherds of pottery, weighing 10384 grams, and having an average sherd weight (hereafter ASW) of 162.3 grams, was recovered from the watching brief. There were also 5 fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem, weighing 14 grams.

The material was quantified by the two measures of number and weight of sherds, according to fabric and material category within archaeological context. The resulting data was entered on an Access database, which is supplied as part of this report, and which should be consulted on matters of detail where necessary. The fabric codes employed in the database are given below.

### Discussion

#### Pit [1009]

Fill [1007] of pit [1009] contained a single fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem, weighing two grams. The general characteristics of this fragment point to a nineteenth-century date.

## Pit [1006]

With the exception of a small unstratified assemblage (context [1000], see below) the remainder of the pottery came from pit [1006].

The principal vessel from the pit comprises 31 sherds (4868 grams) from a single Modern Stoneware vessel. This is a large, almost straight-sided ‘tub’ with lateral ‘lifting’ handles. It has a rim diameter of *c.* 280mm, and a height of *c.* 310mm. The rim is lid-seated, and the exterior unglazed except for the topmost *c.* 100mm below the rim, which has been dipped in an iron-rich lead-glaze. The interior bears a clear lead glaze over the natural grey stoneware. Similar vessels are often referred to as ‘stock-pots’ in late nineteenth-century trade catalogues, though one can also imagine such vessels used for storage of dry or powdered goods (bread, flour etc.). The interior of the vessel has traces of light-coloured residues which may result from liquids associated with its last use.

The remainder of the material consists of usually large sherds from a limited number of vessels in typical later Victorian kitchen and table wares. Fabrics present are: CTP, FPWW, GRE, LBLAK, PORC, SPONG, TPWW and WHDIP. The Appendix may be consulted for the fabric codes, and the database for detailed descriptions. Attention may be drawn to the following items:

- Sherds from a shallow oval or oblong serving dish, decorated with ‘cut-sponge’ foliage.
- Two tankards with blue-slipped bodies and moulded basal angles.

Both these components are typical of the mid to late nineteenth century, and almost identical examples occur in a waster assemblage from the Barker Don pottery recently analysed by the current writer (Didsbury 2004). In that case, the deposit is shown by internal evidence to have been emplaced after 1877, though some components of the assemblage could be some decades earlier.

## Unstratified material

Context [1000] contained a thirteenth- to early fourteenth-century Beverley 2 Ware jug handle (103 grams), and four sherds (1168 grams) from two nineteenth-century stoneware vessels. These comprised a narrow-mouthed jar with pronounced shoulder and a bottle with type-impressed legend around the base. This reads J. OLDRIDGE & SON / SELBY. No tradesman of this name can be located in Selby Trades Directories of the period 1822-1837, transcripts of which are available for consultation on the Internet (see Internet Sources, below). Further literature search, if it were thought worthwhile, would probably be able to locate this individual chronologically.

## Conclusions and recommendations

The unstratified Beverley 2 jug handle is presumably an indicator of some level of nearby activity in the thirteenth or early fourteenth century.

The remainder of the material, although not closely datable without further research, probably dates from the later Victorian period. The large sherd size, chronological homogeneity and limited number of vessels represented (estimated as 14 in the case of [1005]) may suggest that the material results from a single depositional event, perhaps a clearance episode.

No further work is thought necessary on this assemblage. Retention of the site assemblage might be considered on the grounds that it includes a typical waste-pit group of this period.

### **Fabric terminology and codes employed in the database**

Fabric common names are those in use at the Humber Archaeology Partnership, are self-explanatory, in common use, or are explained below.

Code	Common name/remarks
BEV2	Beverley 2 ware
CTP	Clay tobacco pipe
FPWW	Factory-produced white earthenwares
GRE	Glazed red earthenwares, post-medieval to modern
LBLAK	Late Blackware
MODSW	Modern stoneware
PORC	Porcelain
SPONG	Sponged Ware
TPWW	Transfer-printed white earthenwares
WHDIP	White-dipped ware

### **Pottery data**

ID	CTXT	FABRIC	NO	WT	REMARKS
12 1000	BEV2	1	103		Grooved oval handle with copper-rich glaze.
11 1000	MODSW	4	1168		Rim, body and base sherds of two vessels, almost complete profile in each case. Narrow-mouthed jar in grey stoneware, glazed both sides, with sharp shoulder and bead rim. Also bottle with type-impressed inscription around the base - [J.OLDRIDGE & SON/SELBY].
4 1005	CTP	4	12		Stems, probably 19th century.
10 1005	FPWW	3	326		Complete profile of a straight-sided tankard, with two rims (one with partial handle) from a second vessel. Ridged/moulded footring, and blue underglaze slip occupying most of the body area.
7 1005	FPWW	7	616		Large sherds from two vessels in the same table service. A plate, and a cover from an oval dish with elaborately moulded and gilt scroll handle. Rims of both vessels are pink-lined with overglaze enamel. A partial impressed stamp on the flatware reads [ ] & SONS [ ] in a crescent.
5 1005	GRE	3	39		Bodies and a base fragment. Internally glazed. Both green and brown glazes.
2 1005	LBLAK	3	530		Rim, base and body sherds (two joining) of one vessel, an internally glazed kitchen bowl with outbent rim.
8 1005	PORC	1	66		A deep saucer/dish with a Chinoiserie design in brown. Chinaman with bird on wrist and a small boy on a terrace in front of a river scene.
6 1005	SPONG	2	235		Two rim sherds from the same vessel, a shallow oval or oblong serving dish with outbent rim. Cut sponge leaf motifs in blue extend from the rim flange onto the interior of the vessel, and are reserved as isolated panels on the exterior.

## Pottery data

ID	CTXT	FABRIC	NO	WT	REMARKS
9	1005	TPWW	2	173	A bowl (wash basin) with a border of wild roses on exterior and interior. A flatware with polychrome (blue and red) border design incorporating intersecting arcs above leaves and berries.
3	1005	WHDIP	7	2260	Rim, base and body sherds of a single large bread pancheon (mixing bowl). Outbent rim with brown underglaze band. Remainder clear lead glaze over white slip, giving yellow colouration. Several joins.
13	1005	MODSW	31	4868	Large portions, complete profile, of large tub with lateral handles. See report text.
1	1007	CTP	1	2	Stem, probably 19th century.

## The Glass, Ceramic Building Material and Animal Bone

*Sophie Tibbles*

### Introduction and Methodology

The watching brief investigation produced a small assemblage of artefacts that comprised three material categories; ceramic building material, vessel glass and animal bone. The materials were quantified by count and weight, where applicable. All finds were appropriately packed for long term storage, in accordance with conservation and museum guidelines.

### Vessel Glass

A small assemblage of vessel glass was recovered from (1005), the fill of pit [1006]. Most displayed manufacturers and/or product details. The majority were beverage bottles unless otherwise stated. The assemblage is listed below;

2 complete green bottles. Mould made. 'GOODALL BACHOUSE & Co' on body. 'YORKSHIRE RELISH' on shoulder. 'J.L' on base. Of 19<sup>th</sup> / early 20th century date. Weight: 480g

1 incomplete green bottle. Mould made. Codd type. 'F. TAYLOR. SELBY'. 'TRADE MARK' on either side of shield with the initials 'FT'. 'CODDS BOTTLE. MAKERS RYLANDS & Co. BARNESLEY' on opposing side. 'T' on base. Post 1845 in date. Weight: 345g

1 incomplete green bottle. Mould made. 'CITY OF YORK BOTTLE Co' 'REGISTERED TRADEMARK' with two crossed keys within oval panel. 'TRADE MARK' with a circular panel with 'B&E – LONDON' on opposing side. 'BARRETT & ELLERS LONDON' around base. Post 1845 in date. Weight: 450g

1 complete pale blue bottle, Octagonal section. Probably for pharmaceutical use. Early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

1 near complete pale green bottle. Octagonal section. Sheared lip. Mould made. Ink bottle. Mid 19<sup>th</sup> century in date.

## **Ceramic Building Material**

Two fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from (1008) the secondary fill of pit [1009] with a combined weight of 120g. One fragment of pantile was identified that bore a plain, knife-trimmed suspensions nib. The tile is dated from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The remaining fragment was a non-diagnostic brick of post medieval date.

## **Animal Bone**

Two fragments of animal bone, weight 150g, were retrieved from the secondary fill (1008) of pit [1009]. Their surfaces were weathered and 'bleached' in appearance. One fragment of rib was unidentifiable by species. The remaining two fragments were sections (cut across the bone) of long bone shafts from a cow or horse. Both ends sawn. The fragments may indicate bone working on or within the vicinity although they are most likely to represent domestic food waste.

## **Assessment of Potential**

The assemblage reflects dumping of domestic refuse during the 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## **Recommendations**

No further work is deemed necessary for the bulk finds assemblage. A selective discard policy should be undertaken prior to deposition.

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## **6. Discussion**

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Of the datable features identified during this current programme of work, the majority were of 19th century provenience. This is most noticeable in pits [1003] and [1006] on the southern side of the development, pit [1019] in plot 2 and pit [1009] in plot 3. No archaeological deposits of medieval, or earlier, date were located in the excavations for the new development. It is unusual not to have been able to locate Anglo-Saxon or later medieval occupation in this, the core, of the village of Riccall, especially so close to the church. It is possible that truncation of the site may have occurred during antiquity, certainly, the presence of a fair amount of post-medieval occupation certainly implies activity during the 19th and early 20th centuries which may have removed evidence of earlier occupation.

It is likely that the archaeological deposits/structures identified during this programme of work extend outside the current area and into adjacent ones. It is therefore the recommendation of Humber Field Archaeology that should any further development take place in these areas then a suitable scheme of archaeological work should be implemented.

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## 7. Acknowledgements

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Thanks are accorded to Hogg the Builder for help and co-operation during the course of this project.

The on-site work was carried out in accordance with a Standard Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Limited Archaeological Recording produced by North Yorkshire County Council. The report text and illustrations were edited by D. Atkinson. The pottery was assessed by Peter Didsbury and the finds assessment was undertaken by S. Tibbles. Administrative support was provided by Georgina Richardson.

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## 8. Bibliography

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Allison, K. 1976 *The Victoria History Of The Counties Of England. A History of the County of York East Riding: Volume III*, K.J. London: University of London Institute of Historical Research

Didsbury, P. 2004 'An assessment of the kiln waste and other ceramics from archaeological excavation and monitoring at Low Grange Farm, Thurnscoe, South Yorkshire (LGF 04)', report prepared for Northern Archaeological Associates

Guidelines for Finds Work The Institute of Field Archaeologists Finds Group First Draft, 1991.

Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2), English Heritage, 1991.

Standard Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Limited Archaeological Recording ("Watching Brief"). North Yorkshire County Council.

### *Internet sources*

British History Online

Source: Riccall. A History of the County of York East Riding: Volume III, K.J. Allison (1976).

URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report>

Date: 18/10/2004

Links to Selby Trades Directories for the years 1822, 1829, 1834 and 1837 can be found at [www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/YKS/WRY/Selby/](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/YKS/WRY/Selby/)

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## 9. Appendix

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### Context list

- [1000] U/S, Unstratified.
- [1001] Topsoil, 0.30m thick.
- [1002] Subsoil, 0.20m thick.
- [1003] 1.50m long and 0.70m wide pit.
- [1004] Fill of [1003], dark soft silt matrix.
- [1005] Fill of [1006], light brown sandy silts and occasional rootlets which held large sherds of a 19<sup>th</sup> century vessel. It appears that the pit was cut specifically for this broken vessel.
- [1006] Pit cut, 0.35m in diameter, this pit was excavated to reveal a straight-sided cut leading to a flat base
- [1007] Fill of [1009], dark silty sands, 0.15m thick, and contained 19th century pottery, animal bone and brick fragments.
- [1008] Fill of [1009], soft brown yellow sands, 0.15m thick was also present.
- [1009] Pit cut, 1.66m wide in section and 0.30m deep with a rounded and concave profile.
- [1010] Natural sands.
- [1011] Fill of [1012], mid to dark grey sands with charcoal flecks and occasional chalk pieces.
- [1012] Pit cut, 1.55m wide and 0.80m deep with a rounded profile leading to a pointed base.
- [1013] Fill of [1015], mid yellow sands.
- [1014] Fill of [1015], brown silt sands.
- [1015] Pit cut, width of 0.70m, a depth of 0.73m.
- [1016] Fill of [1017], dark silty sand.
- [1017] Posthole cut, tapering straight sides, 0.57m wide at the top leading to 0.18m towards the base.
- [1018] Fill of [1019], dark sand matrix, held an extremely degraded and corroded ferrous vessel.
- [1019] Pit cut, 0.44m wide and 0.58m deep, the pit had straight-sided edges leading to a flat base.
- [1020] Post-medieval dumping and trackway deposits, dark sandy silts and ashy cinder layers, 0.60m thick.





*Plate 1 The entrance to the development, looking east.*



*Plate 2 The site strip, looking west.*





*Plate 3 Pit [1003], looking west.*



*Plate 4 Pit [1006], fully excavated, viewed from the east.*





*Plate 5 Plot 1 foundations.*



*Plate 6 Pit [1009], looking east.*





*Plate 7 Plot 2 foundations, looking north-east.*



*Plate 8 Pit [1015], looking north.*





*Plate 9 Pit [1019] looking north-west.*



*Plate 10 Pit [1017], looking north-east.*



*Plate 11 Plot 3 foundations.*



*Plate 12 The main service trench, looking west.*





*Plate 13 The main service trench, looking east.*

# Humber Field Archaeology

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Project Management • Desk-based Assessment • Field Survey • Excavation Watching Briefs  
• Finds Research • Post-excavation Analysis • Inter-tidal Work

Humber Field Archaeology is an independently-funded part of the Humber Archaeology Partnership, a partnership serving The East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council