

Northern Archaeological Associates

17-19 SKELDERGATE, YORK

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AND BUILDING RECORDING**

**for
MANDALE PROPERTIES LTD**

NAA 99/65

September 1999

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Two trial trenches were excavated within the courtyard of 17-19, Skeldergate, York (Figure 1), in advance of redevelopment of the site. The site was centred at National Grid reference SE 6018 5160 and lies on the east side of Skeldergate, to the south of 14 Skeldergate. For the purposes of this report, the site does not include the warehouse (Wood's Mill) which fronts onto Queen's Staith to the east.
- 1.2 Excavation of the trial trenches was carried out by Northern Archaeological Associates on behalf of Mandale Properties Ltd. The work was carried out during August 1999.
- 1.3 The aims of the evaluation were to record as fully as necessary any features of archaeological, architectural or historic interest associated with two buildings on the Skeldergate frontage of the site. In conjunction with this the evaluation sought to determine the nature and depth of deposits of archaeological interest in the area to be affected by the redevelopment.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Skeldergate runs parallel to the south-west bank of the River Ouse behind Queen's Staith and was one of the principal dockside streets in York. The earliest documentary references to Skeldergate occur in the 12th century, although it is thought to be pre-Conquest in origin. It has been suggested that the street name derives from the old Norse "skelde" meaning shelf (RCHMY 3, 1972, 100), which refers to its topographical position on a flat bank of the river below higher ground in the area of present day Bishophill.
- 2.2 The Roman colonia occupied the elevated area to the west of the Ouse and previous excavations at the foot of this slope at 58/9 Skeldergate have produced evidence of a riverside road and a possible revetment attributable to the Roman period. Evidence of Roman levels has been forthcoming, albeit in only a very limited way, from recent excavations at Albion Wharf, 22-26 Skeldergate (YAT 1989. 1) and North Street Pumping Station (YAT 1993. 1), where elements of possible timber structures have been identified lying parallel to the river. The implication being that the Roman riverfront lay somewhere between the river and these parallel streets. Both sites have also produced evidence of stake and wattle alignments from which it has been inferred that the waterfront was used throughout the Anglo-Scandinavian period.
- 2.3 In the 11th and 12th centuries timber and stone waterfronts were constructed in North Street and Skeldergate respectively, and there is evidence that these properties were subsequently extended into the river by the 14th century. It was apparently common custom that freemen with properties flanking the river were permitted to encroach into the river by building retaining walls enclosing dumped soil, thereby increasing the area of land available for development and allowing easier access to the deep navigable river channel. No major reclamation has taken place on the Ouse waterfront since the end of the 16th century.

- 2.4 The enclosure of the street within the medieval city defences, coupled with a long river frontage, encouraged the development of Skeldergate as one of the principle dock areas in York. In the 16th and 17th centuries Skeldergate was still the main docking place for foreign wares being brought up the river to York. Merchant's houses are recorded in Skeldergate from the 17th century, but there is documentary evidence of merchant's owning property in Skeldergate from the 15th century. An 18th century engraving by Edmond Barker (c.1718) shows an unbroken line of houses fronting the river from the postern to midway along Skeldergate and the inference has been drawn that they probably continued to Ouse Bridge. In the 19th century Skeldergate was the site of a wine and spirits wholesalers, corn mills and timber and stone yards. Riverborne trade ceased after World War 1 and subsequently service industries came to dominate the area.
- 2.5 The York City business directories offer an intermittent record of the occupation of the properties at 17-19 Skeldergate. A variety of professions are noted during the early 19th century and these include a shoemaker, milliner, whitesmith and poulterer. Thomas Valey and Sons, a provision and seed merchants, occupied 16 and 17 Skeldergate from before 1872 till the turn of the century. During the first half of the 20th century a similar series of small businesses again occupied the properties. These included a marine stores dealer, a corn merchant and a shipping agent as well as a bicycle and motorcycle repair shop.
- 2.6 The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1852 depicts a continuous series of buildings along the street frontage and structural elements, within the rear of the plots, up to the river foreshore. By the time of the second edition Ordnance Survey of 1892 the property had assumed its present outline.
- 2.7 An evaluation of the adjacent site at 14 Skeldergate (YAT, 1991) comprised three trial trenches and six boreholes. This work has provided the closest recorded archaeological information to the proposed site. Deposits later than the 14th century were thought to have been truncated by 19th and 20th century buildings which penetrated to a depth of 1.0m to 2.0m. Below this level the boreholes suggested the existence of between 5 - 6m of undisturbed archaeological deposits and that all but the top 0.5m showed good anaerobic preservation. From a combination of the trenches and the boreholes it is possible to suggest the following general deposit model

8.9m OD	existing ground level
7.6m OD	19 th - 20 th deposits and structures
7.0m OD	13 th - 14 th century construction and occupation
5.0m OD	12 th -13 th century deposits and timber revetments
3.6m OD	sand and clay silts containing ?domestic refuse
2.0m OD	?Roman or Anglian riverside surface over alluvium
-1.5m OD	natural sand and gravel

3.0 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The trenches were located on the southern side of the courtyard in order to avoid existing services (Figure 2). Their size was altered from 3m by 3m to 3.5m by 2.5m in order for them to fit between the existing services while maintaining the total excavated area at 18m².
- 3.2 Both trenches were to excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5m or until substantial structural remains were uncovered. Removal of the tarmac yards surface was achieved using a pneumatic breaker. Removal of the hard-core and modern ground make-up material was carried out using a mini excavator. Once deposits pre-dating the 19th century were identified, machine excavation was discontinued and all further excavation was by hand.
- 3.3 Archaeological deposits were excavated by hand, and sufficiently sampled to fulfil on the aims of the excavation. All features encountered during excavation were recorded using the NAA context recording system, planned and sectioned (where appropriate) at relevant scales, and photographed using black and white print and colour slide. Finds were also recovered from deposits, and processed using the NAA system.

4.0 RESULTS OF EXCAVATION

Trial trench 1

- 4.1 Trial trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 1.5m over some 70 percent of its area. The presence of a service trench in the north-east corner and solid 19th century structural remains along the southern limit of the trench prevented full excavation in these areas (Figures 3-6).
- 4.2 At the base of the northern half of the trench, at a depth of 1.4 - 1.5m below the ground surface (7.56m OD) a mortar surface (118) was encountered laid onto a yellow sand (119) which contained occasional mortar flecks. A lead object possibly a fishing weight was recovered from this deposit. The mortar surface 118 contained an admixture of brown silt and a substantial element of roof tile fragments, lying flush with its surface.
- 4.3 Two stone walls (120 and 121) on a similar east-west alignment were exposed at the base of the trial trench. Wall (120) consisted of squared limestone blocks, faced on the south side only. The wall measured 0.36m wide and was exposed within the trench for 0.9m. The remains of a second wall (121) extended for 1.35m before being cut by a modern drain. The wall measured 0.3m wide was constructed from very roughly squared limestone blocks bonded with a soft white lime mortar.
- 4.4 A deposit of clay and rubble (122) overlay both walls and was almost certainly contained within the robber trench (135) for both walls. This layer was overlain by

the remains of a stone drain (126) drain which measured c0.6m wide and was exposed for 1m against the western section. The drain was one course high and traces of capstones survived above this.

- 4.5 A make-up deposit (117) which consisted of a mid-brown sandy silt layer, up to 0.13m thick, was found to contain pottery of 13th to 14th century date. The upper part of this deposit lay 1.17m below the ground surface, 7.83mOD. The deposit sealed drain 126 and deposit 122. The northern end of a brick wall (110), founded on deposit 117, extended into the trial trench from the western limit of excavation for 1.1m and projected into the trench up to 0.67m from the southern limit of excavation. The wall was constructed from hand-made bricks of probable 18th century date.
- 4.6 A sequence of make-up deposits (113, 115, 116 and 134) lay against the face of wall 110 and consisted of two layers of yellow sand, deposits 113 and 116 interspaced with a layer of dark grey-brown silty sand (115 & 134) which contained a quantity of tile fragments. A brick drain (129) of probable 18th century date was cut into deposit 134 and was in turn truncated by the construction trench cuts for a stone wall (112) and a second drain (102).
- 4.7 A brick structure, consisting of two east-west walls (107 and 109) and a brick floor surface (106) was constructed immediately above layer 113 and abutting wall 112. These structures appeared to butt wall 108 and may have been a later addition. Another brick structure comprising a sequence of walls and a brick floor (105 and 123) had also been added onto the eastern side of structure 108. These brick structures lay at a depth of c0.6m below ground surface, 8.2mOD, and were sealed by 20th century hard-core which lay beneath the concrete and tarmac which formed the present yard surface.

Trial trench 2

- 4.8 The trial trench was excavated to a depth of 1.5m below ground surface, 7.64mOD, on the northern side and to a minimum depth of 1.2m on the southern side (Figures 3, 4, 7 & 8). At this depth a sequence of surfaces of medieval date were encountered and two sondages were excavated through these deposits in order to sample these deposits.
- 4.9 The earliest deposit encountered within the trial trench was a yellow sand (219) at a depth of 1.5m (7.64m OD) below the present ground surface. A cobbled surface (218) had been laid onto this layer. This surface was in turn overlaid by a dark grey-brown sandy silt (213), up to 0.15m thick, which contained frequent mortar flecks. This deposit had a laminated appearance and may have accumulated over some time. Deposit 213 was sealed by a thin white lime mortar surface (221) between 10 to 30mm in thickness. A further sandy silt deposit (211) very similar to 213 overlay the mortar surface. This deposit which was at its thickest (0.11m) at its northern extent thinned towards the south. It was cut by a shallow U-shaped construction trench (223) which measured up to 0.14m deep. The trench was filled with a mix of stone rubble and mortar (210) onto which a substantial east-west

aligned stone wall (206) had been constructed. Wall 206 was constructed from squared masonry blocks bonded with a hard white lime mortar. It stood three courses high, with a single masonry block representing the remains of a fourth course. The wall had been rendered with a white lime mortar, traces of which survived over much of the wall and particularly towards its base. The wall extended beyond the limit of excavation and its full length and width could not be recovered. It did, however, display a substantial batter, being wider towards the base. The upper course lay 0.67m below ground level at 8.5mOD.

- 4.10 In the central part of the trench, the southern side of an irregular cut (220), orientated east-west, was seen to cut deposit 211. The feature could not be fully excavated as it extended beyond the maximum depth of the trench (1.5m bgl). At this depth the top of a series of roughly squared stones (222) were revealed, but it was not possible to determine whether they formed part of a wall. The cut feature (220) contained three fills, the basal fill (212) a dark grey-brown silt contained a substantial quantity of stone fragments, tile fragments, mortar and charcoal. The upper two fills consisted of a medium brown sandy silt (209) and a layer of clean yellow sand (217).
- 4.11 A series of deposits (208, 215 and 216) abutted wall 206. These silt based deposits contained charcoal and mortar and it is very likely that they represent a combination of dumped and accumulated waste material.
- 4.12 These layers and the top of wall 206 were sealed by layer (214) which was composed of sand, silt, stone, tile and brick rubble with substantial traces of mortar and charcoal. This layer was overlain by a fragmentary series of brick walls and floor surfaces (202, 203, 204 and 224). The structures represented the remains of 19th century structures, on the basis of the associated pottery and bricks. They had however been substantially removed by later ground disturbance and they were sealed by a layer of hard-core (201) beneath the present tarmac and concrete yard surface (200).

5.0 BUILDING SURVEY

- 5.1 A series of dyeline elevations and plans of the buildings (1:100 scale) at present occupying the site were obtained and their veracity checked using measurements taken on the ground. They were found to be sufficiently accurate at the drawn scale.
- 5.2 A Level 2 record of the buildings has been compiled as detailed in RCHM(E) *Recording Historic Buildings – A Descriptive Specification*, (3rd edition, 1996). The record is primarily photographic and illustrates the general appearance, principle features and other items of interest. The photography was undertaken using 35mm photographic equipment on black and white negative film.
- 5.3 The buildings that make up the properties that form 17-19 Skeldergate are distinctly different structures. Of these, only 18 Skeldergate appears to pre-date the

Ordnance Survey 1852 plan of central York. While 17 Skeldergate appears to have been in existence by the time of the Ordnance Survey plan of 1892, 19 Skeldergate would appear to post date this plan. It has not been possible, however, to identify any deeds or other documents that would throw any further light on the date of their construction. The frontages of all three buildings have been altered as part of a relatively recent street widening scheme to incorporate the pavement on the east side of Skeldergate within an arcade.

- 5.4 Number 18 Skeldergate is a three storey building constructed in 18th or early 19th century handmade brick (Figure 11). On the street frontage elevation the brickwork is in Flemish Bond, while to the rear it is in English Garden Wall Bond. No original apertures or fenestration have survived, but a vertical joint on the front elevation shows that this was once two buildings. This joint coincides with a change in the height of the eaves and a change in roofing style; the southern part of the building has a higher hipped slate roof, while the northern part has a lower gabled slate roof. Two different types of metal tie plates are also visible on the front and rear elevations; straight bars with chamfered ends on the northern section and round plates on the southern part. The rear of the building is offset in plan with the southern part extending further east than the northern part. The remains of a stone cambered window head is partly visible on the southern rear elevation, but all further detail has been removed by later openings. Internally, the building had been heavily remodelled and no original internal features could be observed. There was no access to the attic.
- 5.5 Number 17 Skeldergate is a two storey brick building with a slate roof (Figure 10). Two single storey structures are attached to the rear, in the space between the main building and Wood's Mill. On the street frontage elevation the ground floor contains no original detail due to the rebuilding associated with the arcade, while the first floor is constructed from machine-made bricks in Flemish Bond. It is pierced by four round headed windows; the window arch comprises a segmental arch of tapered white bricks, while the sills are of sandstone. The windows are balanced sashes. Above the windows is a decorative row of dog-tooth brickwork and a dentilated cornice, both in white brick. No access was obtained to the interior of the building or to the structures to the rear.
- 5.6 Number 19 Skeldergate is a three storey brick building with a gabled slate roof (Figures 12-13). There are brick chimneys on each gable and the gables are finished with coping stones and stone kneelers. The ridge tiles are decorated earthenware tiles. There are two dormer windows above the eaves on the frontage and a single dormer partly below the eaves to the rear. The front elevation has been completely altered at ground floor level due to the rebuilding associated with the arcade, but a brick arch at first floor level appears to preserve the form of the original opening: a carriage entrance from the street into the rear courtyard. The archway is partially glazed and is surmounted by a stone drip-moulding and broken by a brick 'keystone'. The windows are balanced sashes with moulded/decorated brick sills and lintels. Two brick bands coincide with the sills and false quoins are picked out in darker bricks. On the rear elevation the windows are more irregularly placed and the window heads are picked out in darker bricks. There is a scar across the lower

part of the elevation and on the walls of the two adjacent properties which shows that the courtyard was previously enclosed by a tall single storey structure. The pitch of the roof to this structure ran at right-angles to the street. No access was obtained to the interior of the building.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 In both trial trenches a stratified sequence of deposits was identified which included structural components. Later medieval stratigraphy was identified surviving immediately below late 18th and 19th century structures and deposits. These medieval deposits lay closer to the surface in trench 2 (0.67m bgl) than in trench 1 (1.17m bgl) which suggests that such remains are better preserved towards the street frontage than towards the rear of the properties. Although it is not possible to interpret fully the structures identified in the trenches, the deposits abutting wall 206 in trench 2 would appear to lie within a building, as the face of this wall was rendered and the associated deposits appeared to be levelling-up type layers associated with a succession of floors. The walls identified are in different positions to present day structures and boundaries, but the Ordnance Survey plan of 1852 shows that the sites have changed substantially since the second half of the 19th century. There were formerly a number of passages between the street and the river, but these had largely disappeared by 1892 .
- 6.2 None of the deposits encountered were waterlogged although there is good reason to believe that such deposits will be encountered on this site around 6.5 – 7.0m O.D, based on the results of work at 14 Skeldergate. The evaluation produced small assemblages of ceramics, faunal material and environmental evidence. The earlier deposits were well stratified and although faunal preservation was good (including fish bone and bird bone) the bulk soil samples produced relatively limited amounts of carbonised material.
- 6.3 The existing standing buildings comprising 17-19 Skeldergate were examined and recorded, but do not appear to be of any great merit or age. No 18 Skeldergate dates to the late 18th or early 19th century and appears to be the earliest of the group based upon constructional and cartographic evidence. It has however been heavily altered both internally and externally and few original details now survive. No. 19 Skeldergate would appear from cartographic evidence to be c. 1900 in date.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 On the basis of the results of the trial trenching it would appear that stratified later medieval deposits survive relatively close to the existing ground surface and that early post-medieval deposits have been truncated by redevelopment in the late 18th and 19th centuries. It is clear that any substantial ground disturbance associated with the construction of foundations and services would have an impact on the upper part of the medieval sequence on the site. This impact would need to be

mitigated through a programme of selective excavation following demolition and clearance of the existing buildings on the site.

- 7.2 It is recommended that the roof of 18 Skeldergate is inspected prior to demolition and that sample roof trusses are recorded if appropriate.

8.0 REFERENCES

- RCHME, 1972. An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of York. Volume 3: The Western Area. HMSO
- RCHM(E) (1996), *Recording Historic Buildings – A Descriptive Specification 3rd Edition*, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England
- YAT (1989.1), *Albion Wharf*, Level III Report, Amanda Clarke et al, York Archaeological Trust
- YAT (1991), *14 Skeldergate, York*, Evaluation Report No. 16, York Archaeological Trust

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Text: Graeme Young
Illustrations: Graeme Young/Jonathan Godfrey
Specialists: Peter Didsbury (pottery)
 Louisa Gidney (animal bone)
 John Daniell (palaeoenvironmental)
Edited by: Richard Fraser

APPENDIX 1

Pottery assessment

Peter Didsbury M. Phil.

Introduction and methodology

A total 11 sherds, weighing 392 grams, was submitted for examination. The material derived from three contexts, viz.: 117, 208 and 209. All the sherds were quantified by the two measures of number and weight, by fabric category within context. This data was then used to estimate a *terminus post quem* ("spot-date") for deposition of each assemblage. Detailed data is presented in the *Catalogue*. Fabric terminology follows that in use by the York Archaeological Trust (cf. Brooks 1987).

Catalogue

Context 117:

Scarborough Phase 1 Ware (Farmer 1979). 2 sherds, 6 grams. Both are fragments of an applied strip of triangular cross-section, and come from the same vessel. Deep copper green-glaze. Perhaps from one of the ornately decorated jugs associated with this industry.

Unattributed medieval fineware. 1 body sherd, 8 grams. Buff sandy to lightly-gritted ware with light green glaze with darker green spots of copper colouration. Quartz and iron ore (?) inclusions. The fabric can not be closely matched with published descriptions of pottery fabrics from York, or with reference material held in the Humber Archaeology Partnership or Wharram Percy collections. The general characteristics of the sherd suggest a 13th- or 14th-century date, and it could thus be contemporary with the Scarborough Ware from the same context.

Context 208:

Humberware. 3 sherds, 72 grams. Basal angle and body sherd from the same jug, and body sherd with olive-green glaze from a second vessel. The fabrics of both vessels can be matched among reference material from the Holme-upon-Spalding Moor production centre, though a number of sources are possible.

Unattributed medieval ware. 1 sherd, 28 grams. Simple rod handle, from a small vessel. The fabric is dense, fine, and very hard-fired. It is grey, though this colouration seems as if it may be the result of secondary reduction, perhaps by burning post-fracture. It seems most likely to be the handle of a Humberware "drinking jug" (see further below).

Context 209:

Humberware. 4 body sherds, 278 grams. All sherds exhibit fresh fractures, and join to make the greater part of a so-called Skipton-upon-Swale type "drinking jug". The lower

body, rim and most of the handle are missing. These vessels (Jennings 1992, 29 and 52-53 for discussion and figured examples) are generally held to date from the later 14th century and to have continued in use throughout the 15th, though there is clear evidence from Hull that they were in production by the middle of the 14th century. Complete or near-complete examples are not uncommonly associated with foundation layers, though the reason for this is unclear.

Discussion

Contexts 208 and 209, both regarded as securely sealed, contain a group of what is undoubtedly closely contemporary material, apparently consisting entirely of Humberware, and including sherds from two small "drinking-jugs" of the kind often, though erroneously, referred to as Skipton-upon-Swale types. The overall date range of Humberware in the region is the early 14th to early 16th century, small drinking jugs as described above being particularly in evidence in the second half of the 14th and throughout the 15th. A TPQ for deposition in the period *c.* 1350-1500 would therefore be acceptable for these layers.

Context 117, possibly a disturbed make-up layer, contains a very small amount of material of somewhat earlier date. The Scarborough Ware should belong to the 13th or first half of the 14th century, and this dating is not contradicted by the unidentified medieval fineware.

References

Brooks, C.M. 1987 *Medieval and Later Pottery from Aldwark and Other Sites*. Council for British Archaeology (York).

Farmer, P.G. 1979 *An Introduction to Scarborough Ware and a Re-assessment of Knight Jugs* (Scarborough).

Jennings, S. 1992 *Medieval Pottery in the Yorkshire Museum* (York).

APPENDIX 2

Assessment of Environmental Samples

J.R.G. Daniell

Introduction

Samples were obtained from two deposits relating to the high Medieval period. Pottery spot dating of sealing deposits suggested a date range *c.* 1350-1500 AD. The deposits were not waterlogged.

Methodology

Bulk samples were taken from stratified contexts and processed in the laboratory by manual floatation. Both flots and residues were retained upon 500 μ mesh. The flots were scanned at magnifications of up to x50 and notes made of the matrix components and the types and numbers of plant remains present. The residues were scanned for artefactual material.

Results and discussion

Two samples were assessed and both were taken from layers in Trench 2 which had a more intact sequence of deposits. Both layers were sealed by the 1350-1500 pottery dated deposit.

Layer 211

This was the upper of the two and itself layer under a thin mortar layer. It was interpreted as representing a levelling deposit prior to the laying of a floor. 5 litres (14 kg) of a black brown (1 OYR 313) sandy silt were processed. A moderate sized flot of charcoal, combining rather clinkery material with well preserved wood chunks, was produced. The charcoal included some oak but was mainly diffuse porous species. Fish scales and bone fragments plus tiny fragments of mammal bone were present with a very few fragments of insect. Charred oat and indet. cereal grains and a few small legume (vetch/tare) seeds were the only identifiable plant remains present. Some fragments of shell and industrial waste were recorded as present in the residue although clinker and charcoal with mineral were the dominant remains. Only 1.2kg of residue remained thus the bulk of it was, indeed, fine silts and sands. It thus seems that this layer was a well broken deposit as appropriate for use in levelling a surface. It may have derived from burning wood/coal with some indications that domestic rubbish - the bones - formed a fraction of it originally. A single waterlogged seed of *Sambucus nigra*, elderberry, may just suggest that non charred organic material was present at some stage.

Layer 213

This was the lowermost of the two and, again, was sealed by a mortar level. 6 litres (15kg) of black brown (IOYR 212) sandy silt were processed with 1.5kg residue being produced. Thus again the deposit was predominately fine material. The moderate flot consisted of coal, clinker and tarry charcoal with a few pieces of well preserved wood charcoal. Occasional fragments of mortar and even fewer of honeycomb industrial waste were present. Several fish vertebrae, all 2-3mm diameter, were present - none showed any deformation such as that characteristic of the fish having been eaten, although this

flattening is not necessarily present. The tiny fragments of mammal bone were highly degraded with no surfaces remaining. Charred oat grains were present (2) as were a few fragments of hazel nutshell and a single occurrence of vetch/tare. Occasional non waterlogged seeds of *Eleocharis palustris* and sedges were present. Again this deposit seems to have been derived from fuel debris principally. Too few seeds are present to require any further analysis. The most likely explanation is that the material represents fuel debris and ash with some admixture of domestic rubbish. This has all been either composted prior to or during deposition or was highly comminuted when deposited in order to act as a levelling deposit. The fish may be of interest if further material was processed although even so only a small assemblage is likely to be obtained and this is likely to be rather biased in view of the probable origin of the deposit.

APPENDIX 3

Animal Bone Assessment

L. J. Gidney

Excavation of high medieval deposits in Skeldergate, York produced hand recovered animal bones from three contexts, with one further sampled context also containing faunal remains. All the bones found are in excellent condition. The assemblage is very small with only fourteen fragments present. Of these, ten are cattle or cattle sized with all but one appearing adult. One bone appears to derive from a young veal calf. These bones are heavily fragmented, in a manner suggestive of domestic culinary use. Three bones are sheep or sheep sized, all appear adult, and one bone is from a large bird, probably goose. The sample has produced a complementary suite of faunal remains indicating utilisation of small fish, mussels and cockles and a small bird, preservation is again excellent. Such small fragments could not be recovered by hand. The shellfish are unequivocal evidence for contact with the coast. The cattle may have been sourced from equally far away but this cannot be proven. Both the hand recovered finds and the sample suggest domestic consumption, with no evidence for the rarer species associated with high status households in this period.

Hand recovered

<i>Context</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Element</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Preservation</i>
117	Cow	fem	4		Good
117	cow size	long bone		shaft frag	Good
208	cow	rad	12	prox fused chopped	Good
208	s/g	uln	123	prox fused	Good
208	cow	hum	5	calf	Good
208	cow size	vc		frag spine	Good
208	cow size	rib		3 frags	Good
208	cow size	long bone		shaft frag	Good
208	sheep size	rib		2 frags	Good
208	bird	rib		goose size	Good
209	cow size	long bone		shaft frag	Good

Sample, 5 litres processed

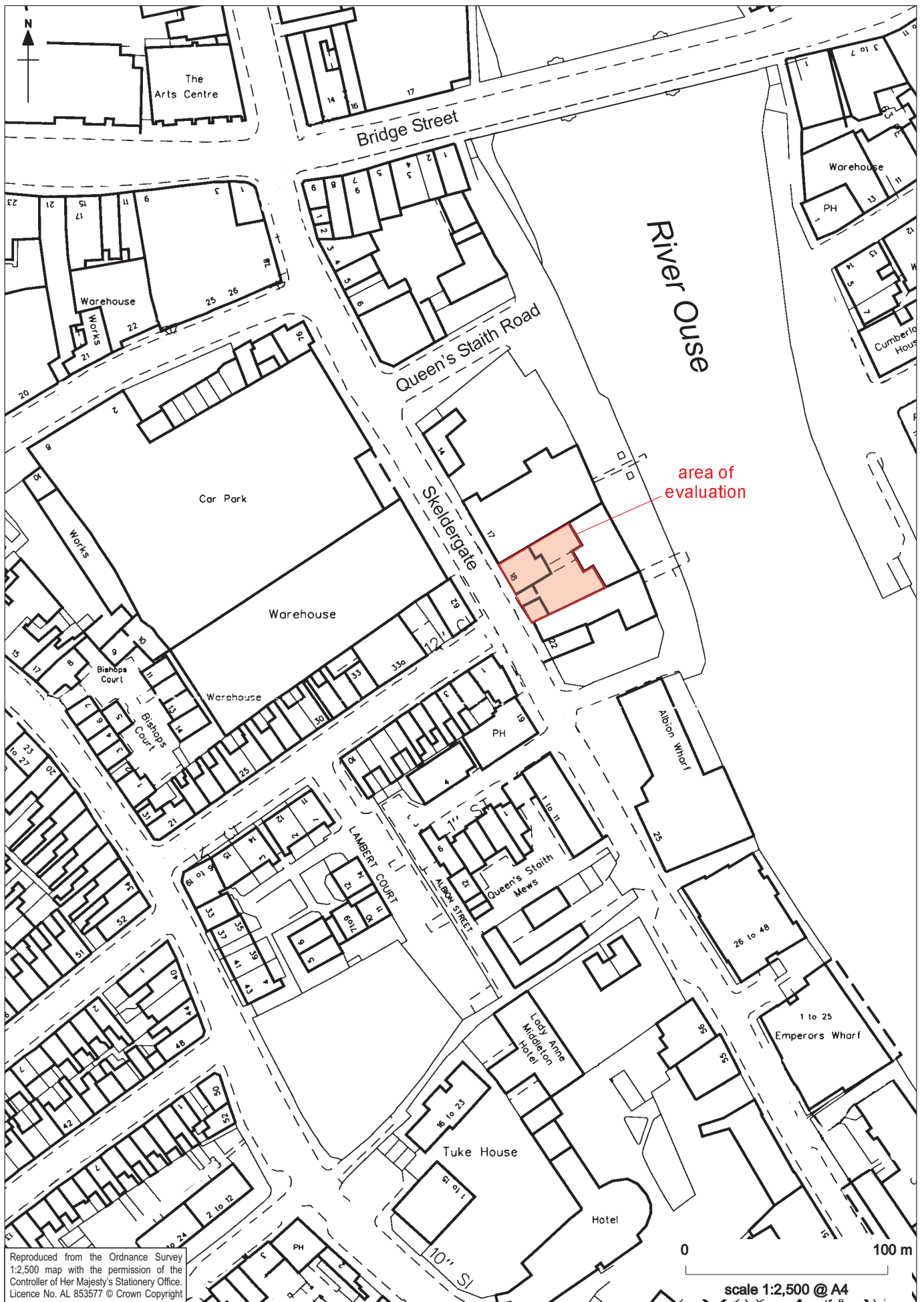
211AA,

<10mm sieved residue
 mussel shell
 cockle shell
 small fish bones
 small bird bone

>10mm sieved residue
 oyster shell
 mussel shell
 cow size rib
 indet. bone frags, 1 burnt

213AA,

<10mm sieved residue
 small fish bones



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Figure 1 Location of 17-19 Skeldergate

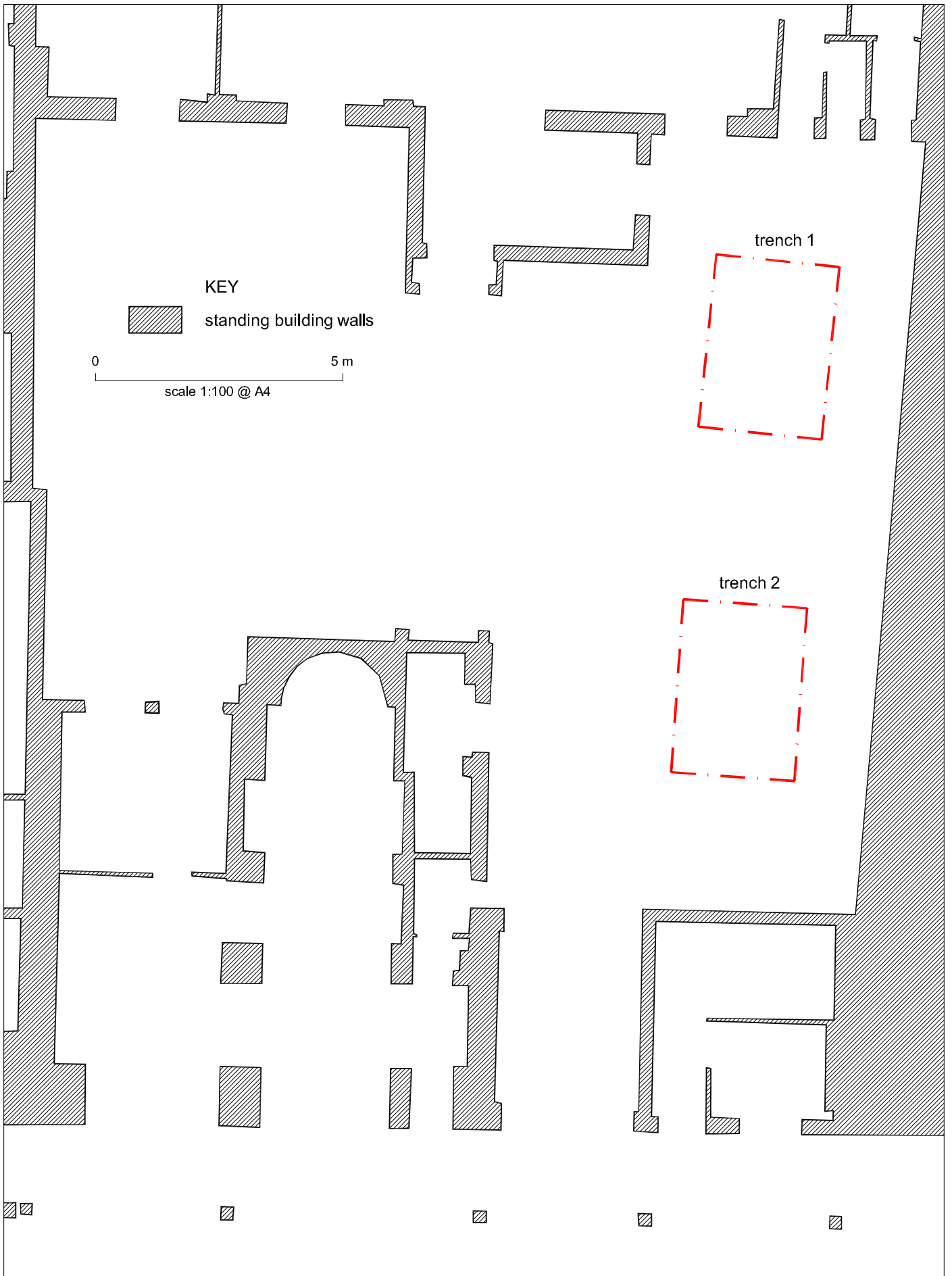
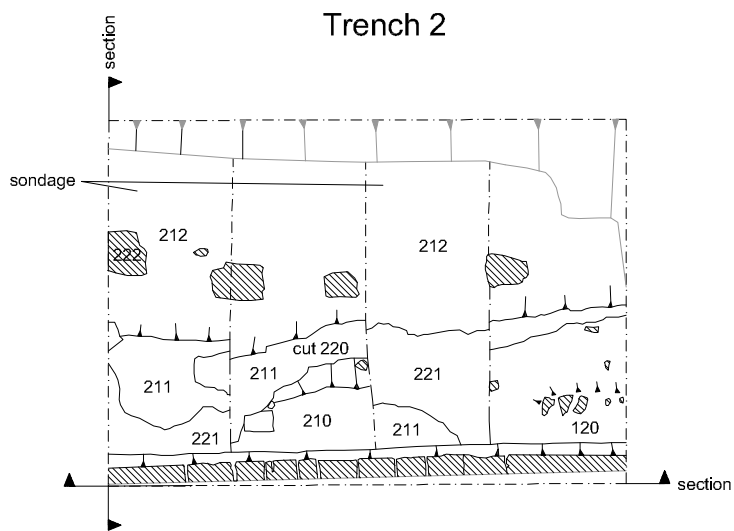
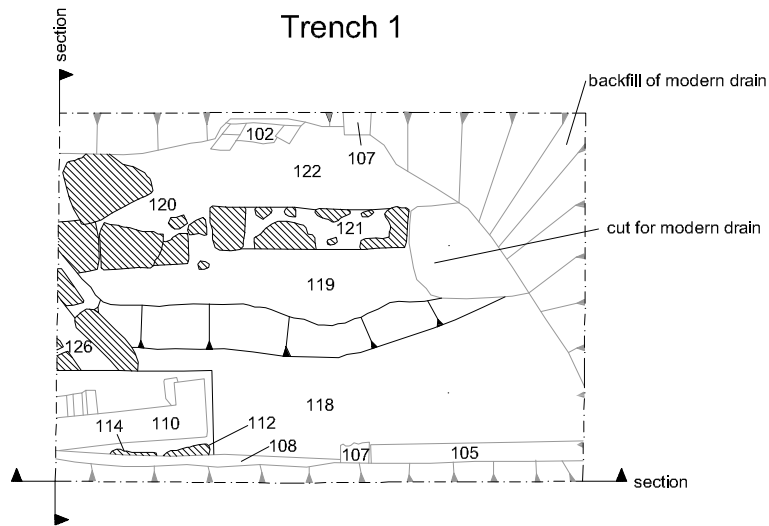


Figure 2 Trench locations within the courtyard of 17–19 Skeldergate



KEY

- 210 context number
- cut
- - - limit of excavation
- ▨ stone

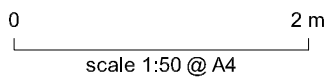
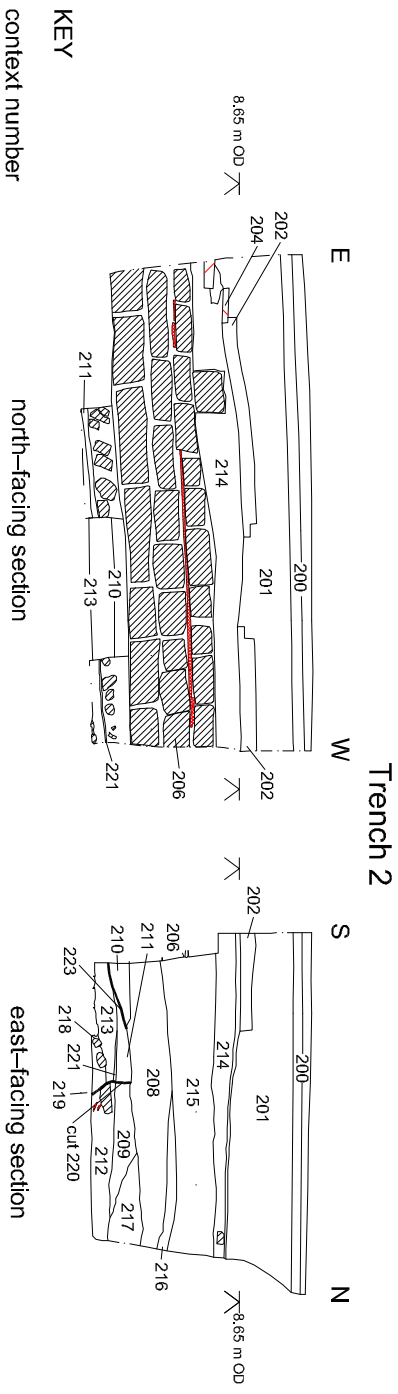
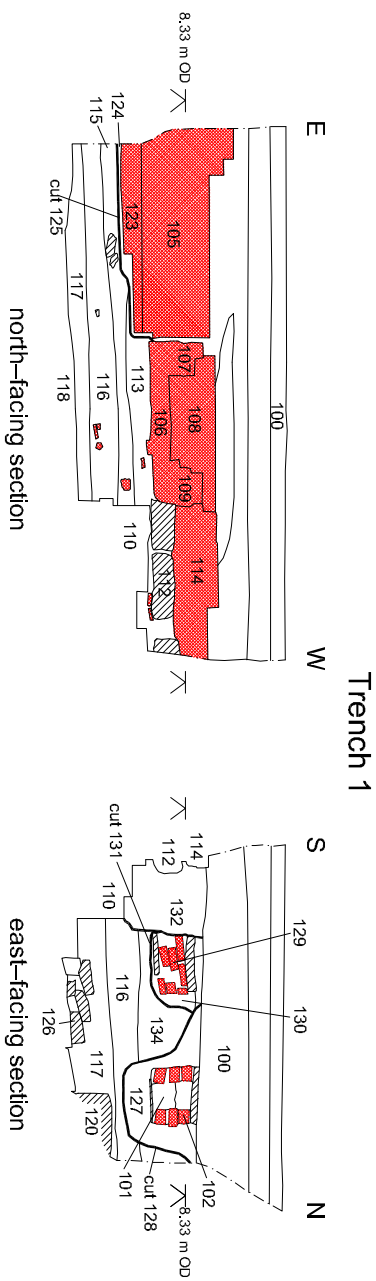


Figure 3 Plans of trenches 1 and 2



KEY

- 114 context number
- cut
- - - limit of excavation
- ceramic
- ▨ stone

0 2 m

scale 1:50 @ A4

Figure 4 Sections recorded in trenches 1 and 2



Figure 5 General view of bottom of Trench 1 (1 m scale)

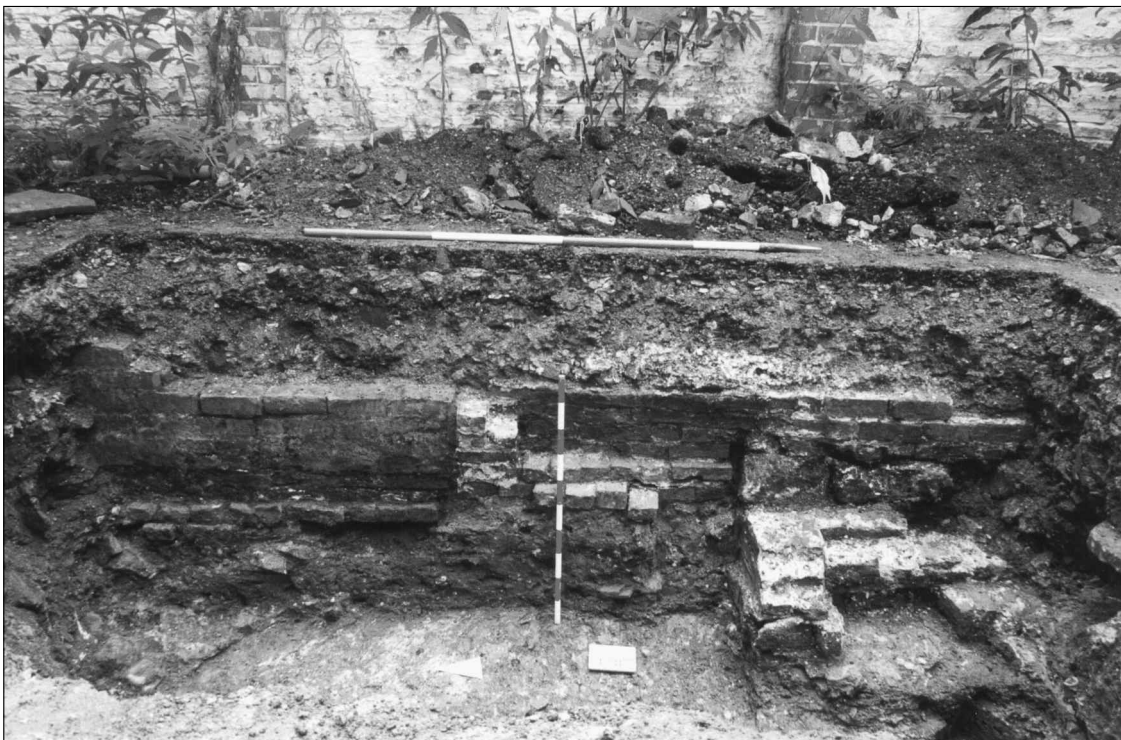


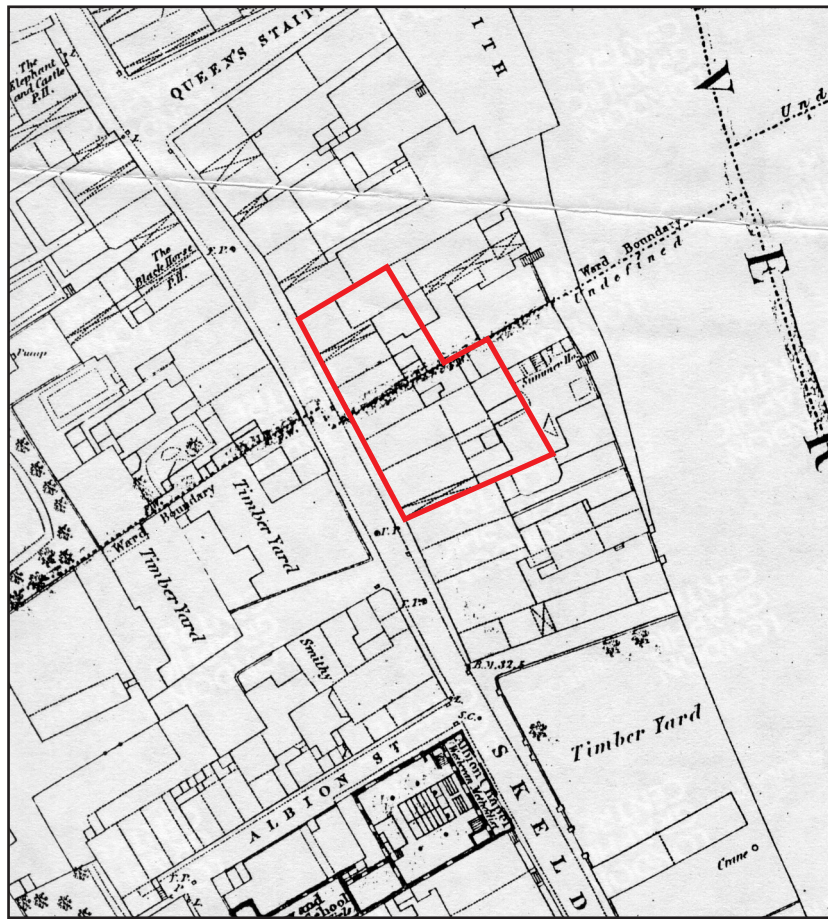
Figure 6 North-facing section in Trench 1 (1 and 2 m scales)



Figure 7 North-facing section in Trench 2 (1 and 2 m scales)



Figure 8 General view of sondages in bottom of Trench 2 (1 m scale)



OS 1852 Plan

Figure 9 Location of 17 -19 Skeldergate on Ordnance Survey 1852 and 1892 plans



OS 1892 Plan



Figure 10 Elevation of 17 Skeldergate (looking east, June 1999)



Figure 11 Elevation of 18 Skeldergate (looking east, June 1999)



*Figure 12 Street front elevation of 19 Skeldergate
(2 x 2 m scales, looking north-east, August 1999)*



*Figure 13 Yard-facing elevation of 19 Skeldergate
(2 x 2 m scales, looking south-west, August 1999)*

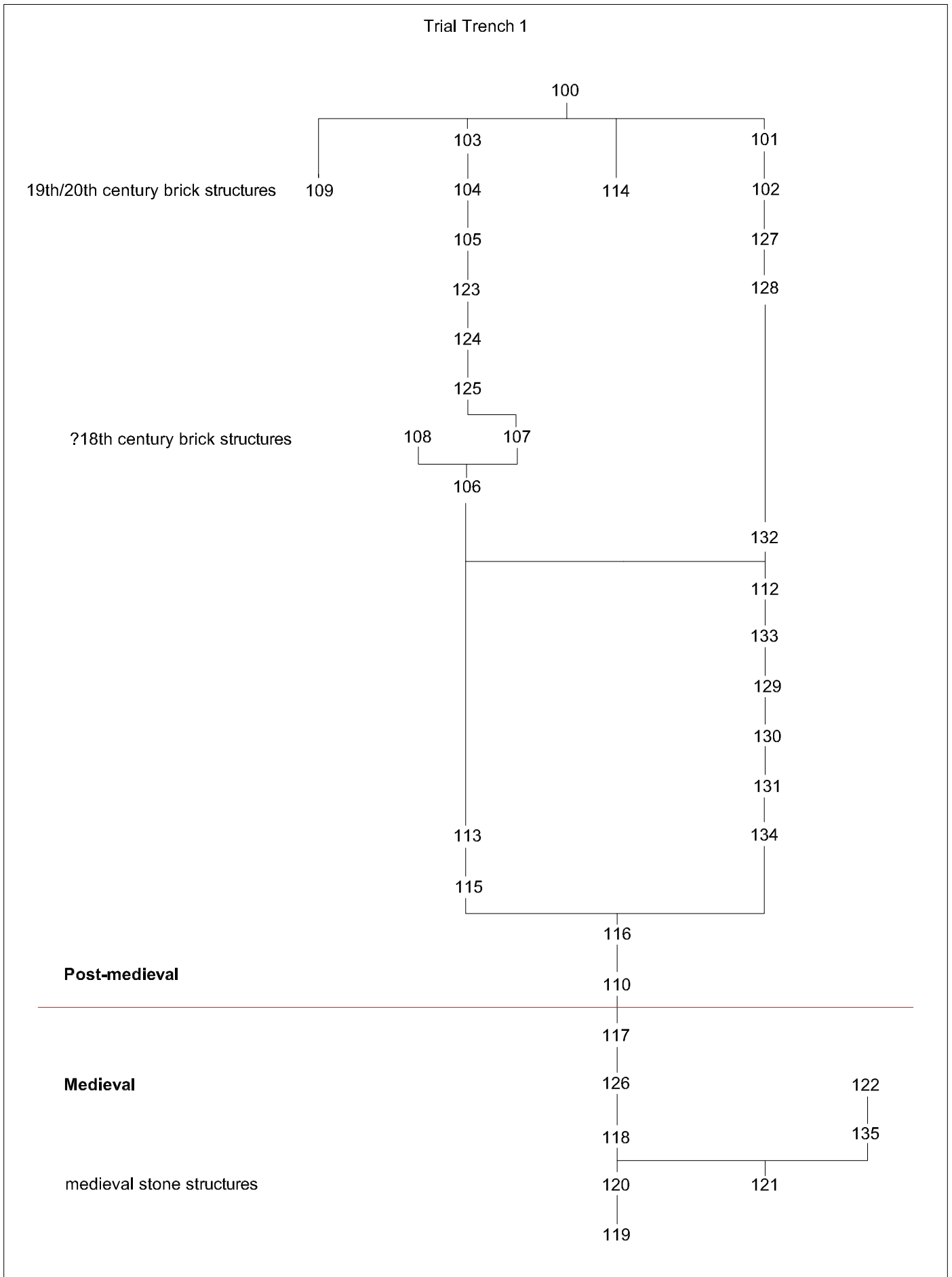


Figure 14: Trench 1 matrix, 17-19 Skeldergate, York

Trial Trench 2

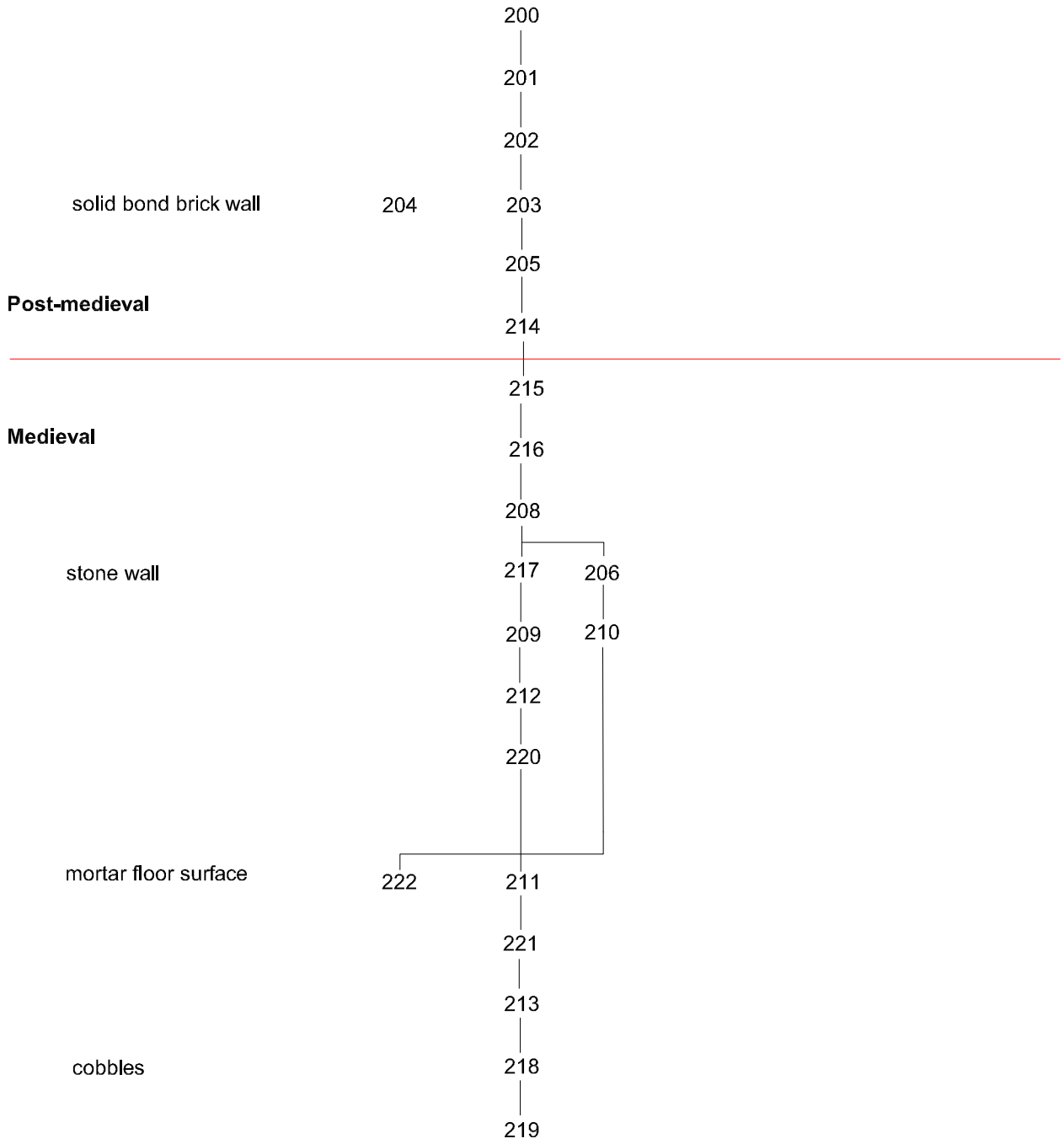


Figure 15: Trial trench 2 matrix, 17-19 Skeldergate, York