

Summary

- *Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by David Dent Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation on a plot of land to the rear of buildings that front onto the High Street, Barton-upon-Humber, North Lincolnshire.*
- *This work has revealed a sequence of archaeological features and deposits that demonstrated occupation on this site from the 9th century until the later post-medieval period.*
- *A range of features were encountered including early medieval ditches, structural evidence and a cess pit/midden dated to the 13th to 15th century.*
- *This was followed by phases of post medieval clearance, site levelling and redevelopment culminating in a building constructed in a 15th/16th century box frame tradition that was also replaced by a later stone structure.*



Figure 1: General site location at scale 1:25000.

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1.0 Introduction and planning background

- 1.1 Allen Archaeological Associates were commissioned by David Dent Limited, to carry out a programme of evaluation by trial trenching within a plot of land situated at the rear of the high Street in Barton. This work was carried out to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site in advance of the submission of a planning application to North Lincolnshire Unitary Council for a proposed residential development.
- 1.2 The site works and reporting conform to current national guidelines; as set out in the Institute for Field Archaeologists 'Standards and guidance for archaeological evaluations' (IFA 2001), procedures that are detailed in the Lincolnshire County Council publication, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC 1998) and a specification prepared by Allen Archaeological Associates (Allen 2007).

2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 Barton Upon Humber lies 9.14km to the south west of Hull on the southern bank of the Humber Estuary, 18.5 km west of Scunthorpe. The site is located within the historic core of the town and is situated to the rear of properties fronting onto the High Street and Fleetgate (NGR 502862 422272). The development site itself consists of yard space with extant brick sheds and outbuildings that are presently utilised as storage for building materials and equipment.
- 2.2 The site elevation is approximately 8m OD with a geological profile consisting of Burnham Chalk overlain by drift deposits of glacial till (British Geological Survey 1983).

3.0 Archaeological and historical setting

- 3.1 The Wolds landscape of North Lincolnshire is well recorded as a focus for human activity from the Mesolithic period with scatters of worked flints and the isolated discovery of artefacts such as stone axes attesting to later prehistoric activity within in the parish. In Barton itself worked flints have been recovered in the vicinity of the church of St Peter and Middle Bronze Age axe and a Late Bronze Age sword (Loughlin & Millar 1979) demonstrate a continuum of occupation throughout these periods.
- 3.2 There is evidence of Roman settlement and activity within the town, for example at East Acridge, and surrounding the church of St Peter, less than 500m to the southeast of the site (Bryant 1994). Here pottery and other artefactual evidence indicate activity at least from the 2nd to 4th centuries and Roman building materials have been re-used within the fabric of the Anglo-Saxon church.
- 3.3 Anglo-Saxon settlement is also thought to lie in the vicinity of the church of St Peter, following the discovery and excavation of over two hundred inhumations at Castledyke South, approximately 500m to the south-southeast of the proposed development site. The cemetery dates from the late 5th to the late 7th centuries AD, and is believed to have contained upwards of 500 – 600 inhumations (Bryant 1994).
- 3.4 Barton Haven was created at the north end of Fleetgate by cutting a channel southwards from the riverbank. It is not clear when this was done; however it has been suggested that it was established during the Viking period (Bryant per comm).
- 3.5 During the later Saxo-Norman period a grid system of roads is believed to have developed, based around the church of St Peter. By the medieval period this area of the town formed part of the merchant quarter, while at the time a prosperous port existed at the head of the Barton

Haven. Fleetgate to the west of the site formed the main street in this part of the town, and merchants' dwellings would have lined the street frontage. It is likely that, in common with other towns within the region, storehouses and outbuildings use for various trades and crafts would have been located in the rear yards of the properties.

- 3.6 The place name Barton Upon Humber is found within the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Baertun*, from the Old English meaning 'the barley farm or outlying grange' (Cameron, K. 1998).
- 3.7 The Domesday Record indicates there were two main landowners at the time of the survey in 1086. Earl Hugh held two bovates of land at Barton Upon Humber, whilst land previously held by Ulf was given to Gilbert of Ghent, comprising thirteen carucates of land to the geld. Gilbert had 7 ploughs, and 63 villans and 16 bordars with 9 ploughs, and 42 sokemen and 67 bordars with 10 ploughs. There was a church and a priest and 2 mills, rendering 40 shillings, and a market and a ferry rendering £4 (Williams and Martin 2002).
- 3.8 During the civil unrest of the 1140's, a castle and a town ditch were constructed at the behest of Gilbert de Gant. Although the location of the castle has always been disputed, a substantial ditch, dated to the 12th century was discovered between St Peters Church and Tyrwhitt Hall (Bryant 1994).
- 3.9 Barton began to decline in the 14th century; a direct result of the prosperity of the medieval 'new town' of Kingston Upon Hull established by King Edward I in 1293. Enclosure of the parish at the end of the 18th century allowed some growth and development in the town (*ibid*).
- 3.10 A previous evaluation on an adjacent site exposed a complex of medieval and undated archaeological deposits, including a possible demolished stone structure and postholes associated with an earlier timber structure (Allen 2006).

4.0 Trial trenching methodology

- 4.1 A total of three trenches measuring 10m x 2m, 7m x 2m and 6.7m x 2m, were excavated by JCB fitted with a 1.6m wide smooth bucket. A toothed bucket was used to break through the concrete and tarmac yard surface.
- 4.2 In accordance with Allen Archaeological Associates approved specification (Allen 2007), each trench was stripped in layers not exceeding 0.20m in thickness until the first archaeological horizon was encountered. Subsequent excavation of archaeological features was carried out by hand. This consisted of sample sections of archaeological deposits and features to determine their character and extent and to recover dating evidence from within their fills. Finds when encountered, were bagged and labelled with unique context numbers from each deposit.
- 4.3 Selective soil samples were taken, each 30 litres in volume, for the palaeo-environmental analysis of securely dated contexts.
- 4.4 A full written record of the work was maintained with plans and sections drawn at appropriate scales (1:10, 1:20 and 1:50) with pro-forma sheets used to record each individual context.
- 4.5 A photographic record of the trenches and individual features was maintained throughout the programme of works. This record consisted of monochrome and colour slide photography.
- 4.6 Due to consideration of access arrangements and the presence of extant buildings over some of the site, it was not possible to extend trenches 2 and 3 to their full 10m extent. These constraints were brought to the attention of the county archaeologist during a scheduled site visit.

5.0 Results

5.1 Trench 1 (figure 3)

- 5.1.1 Encountered at a depth of approximately 7.93m OD the underlying drift geology (115/108) was revealed to be reddish brown plastic clay interspersed with small angular stones.
- 5.1.2 The primary feature cutting this layer at the northern end of the trench was a large steep sided pit [106] that was over 1m in diameter and 1.20m deep. This pit contained a sequence of fills that were indicative of its likely use as a midden/cess pit. The primary deposit (114) consisted of dark brownish grey clay with a mottled green cess type hue. Over this deposit was re-deposited mid brown clay fill (113) that was laminated with lenses of greenish mottling. A re-cut [122] suggests the continued maintenance of the midden and its subsequent backfilling with deposit (107) that consisted of mid brown green clay with frequent chalk fragments.
- 5.1.3 Environmental analysis of samples recovered from deposits (114), (113) and the fill of re-cut [122] deposit (107), revealed the presence of seeds derived from cereals and herbs within a matrix that contained burnt bone fragments, fish bone, marine shell fragments, charcoal and fuel ash residues.
- 5.1.4 The artefactual assemblage recovered from within this pit consisted of a small assemblage of pottery and animal bone. The animal bone represents the fragmented remains of sheep and cattle recovered from the primary fill (114) and later fill (107). The pottery assemblage from deposits (113) and (107) consisted of predominantly Beverly 2 Ware and Humberware (see Appendix 2), suggesting this midden was backfilled during the late 13th to early 15th century.
- 5.1.5 The fill of the midden would be consistent with the re-deposition of debris accumulated on the site as a consequence of domestic occupation during this period and provides some insight into the range of economic resources that were exploited.
- 5.1.6 Cutting fill (107) was a narrow gully [116] that extended south west from the western baulk ending after 2m with a rounded terminal. Two fragments of unidentified animal bone were recovered from the light grey silty clay fill (117).
- 5.1.7 Adjacent to gully [116] were two post holes [111] and [118] each measuring 0.35m diameter. The excavation of (119), (the fill of feature [118]) recovered pottery and ceramic material indicating that this feature was backfilled at some time during the mid 15th/mid 16th century.
- 5.1.8 Sealing these features and the full extent of the trench, was a compact layer of reddish brown clay (103) that was intermixed with frequent small angular stones and CBM fragments. This layer extended to a depth of over 0.35m and may indicate localised levelling of the site, possibly dated by pottery to the later medieval period (c.15th century).
- 5.1.9 The western baulk section of the trench revealed a large 1.2m diameter pit [109] cutting layer (103) that was filled by orangey brown silty clay (110) with frequent inclusions of chalk fragments and small stones.
- 5.1.10 Cutting through the centre of pit [109] was a small ditch [104] with steep sides that conformed to a regular bowl shaped profile and followed a roughly north east/south west alignment. This ditch was filled by dark black/brown clay (105) interspersed with small angular stones and lumps of light brown clay indicative of the deliberate backfilling of this feature.
- 5.1.11 Adjacent and parallel to ditch [104] were two small post holes [120] and [121], measuring approximately 0.12m diameter. These features may represent a fence line associated with the ditch that may have functioned as a composite boundary feature defining a plot of land.

5.1.12 The trench was subsequently sealed by a layer of demolition material (102) that was composed of compact silty clay mixed with large chalk fragments bricks and building debris. The depth of this deposit increased from an average of 0.20m thick in the south to over 0.65m in the northern quarter of the trench, probably as a consequence of the compaction of organic materials within pit [107]. A single residual sherd of medieval pottery was also recovered from within this demolition layer. The trench was subsequently sealed by a 0.10m thick layer of hardcore (101) below the tarmac yard surface (100).

5.2 Trench 2 (figure 4)

5.2.1 The natural geology (210) was encountered at a depth of approximately 7.52m OD, and consisted of orange/brown silts interspersed with pea gravel. The first phase of archaeological features cutting this deposit consisted of a ditch and a single pit.

5.2.2 Ditch [201] conformed to a regular bowl shaped profile and was aligned east - west. This was filled by dark orangey brown clay silt (200) interspersed with a few small stones and a lense of carbonised material. Immediately to the north of and adjacent to the ditch was a steep sided oval pit [207], which was filled by a similar matrix (209). Fragments of animal bone were recovered from each of these features indicating the remains of both cattle and sheep from fill (200) and sheep/goat from (206) (Appendix 4).

5.2.3 A second phase of features in this trench consisted of two ditches, each displaying a similar profile to that of ditch [201]. Ditch [203] was aligned north - south along the eastern edge of the trench (its full width extending below the eastern baulk of the trench) and truncated both (200) and (206), continuing beyond the southern limit of the excavation. The second ditch, [205], aligned east - west and possibly representing a re-cutting of ditch [201] ends in a rounded terminal 1m west of ditch [203], possibly forming a deliberate causeway for access between the two features. Both of these ditches were filled by dark brown clay silts with pea gravel moderately interspersed throughout the matrix (fills (202) and (204) respectively).

5.2.4 Animal bone and pottery was recovered from fill (202) which indicates the remains of sheep, pig and cattle within a context dated to around the early medieval period (late 9th to late 10th century based upon the pottery evidence - see Appendix 2).

5.2.5 Soil samples recovered from fills (200) and (202) contained seeds that suggest the cultivation of oats (*Avena sp.*), barley (*Hordeum sp.*), rye (*Secale cereale*), wheat (*Triticum sp.*) and peas (*Pisum sativum L*) combined with charcoal and fuel ash residues indicative of contemporary occupation within close proximity. The identification of mineralised faecal concretions within (202) suggests that the ditches maintained a secondary function as middens for occupation debris and were gradually in-filled as a consequence of habitual waste disposal.

5.2.6 Sealing the archaeological features was reddish brown clay subsoil (211) containing frequent fragments of CBM and lumps of charcoal within its matrix. This in turn was sealed by a topsoil layer of dark brown silty clay (208).

5.2.7 Contained within the western half of the trench, was a brick built structure (209) that intruded over 1m below ground level. This building was constructed in 20th century brick with a flight of reinforced concrete steps leading down to its lowest level. Section drawing 5 (fig 4) demonstrates the impact of this building overlying the east - west alignment of ditches [201] and [205].

5.3 Trench 3 (figures 5 and 6)

- 5.3.1 The basal deposits within this trench were bio-turbated geological silts consisting of orange silty clays (303) interspersed with occasional lenses of natural gravel (338). The primary phase of archaeological features cutting this layer consisted of a gully and a post hole.
- 5.3.2 Gully [332] remained only as a shallow scoop cut into layer (303) that was filled by fine mid brown clay silt (333). Aligned with the northern course of the gully were the truncated remains of post hole [318] that was filled by (317) that consisted of a similar matrix to (333).
- 5.3.3 Cutting the southern extent of gully [332] was construction trench [329] that was found to contain a number of adjacent depressions indicative of post settings for timber walling. This feature had a single post setting as a projection on its western side that possibly functioned as a supporting buttress. The fill of this trench (328) consisted of a homogenous orange brown clay silt that contained a single sherd of mid 12th/mid13th century pottery.
- 5.3.4 Cutting feature [329] was the shallow south-western terminus of gully [330] that increased in depth as it projected north-east into the eastern section of the trench. Figure 5 illustrates that the spatial arrangement of gully [327] appears to have formed a right angle with [330] and may define a deliberate entrance between these gullies. A single straight sided square profiled pit [336] was located adjacent to feature [330]; its morphology suggesting that it may have held a squared timber post. The fills of these features (326), (331) and (337) conform to the dark brown clay silt matrix common to this trench with a moderate amount of re-deposited pea gravel included within (331) and (337).
- 5.3.5 In the northern half of the trench was a sequence of inter-cutting post holes (see fig 5) that demonstrated at least two phases of re-setting posts close to their original setting. Adjacent to these post hole groups is an east west alignment of stake holes [325] and a group of four stake holes [344]. These features appear to be demonstrating a functional structural arrangement that was maintained over a prolonged period.
- 5.3.6 These features and the rest of the trench were sealed by a 0.10m to 0.30m thick layer reddish brown silty clay (302) that was interspersed with a moderate amount of chalk fragments and charcoal flecks.
- 5.3.7 Cutting layer (302) was foundation cut [304] for chalk rubble walls (306) and (305). Wall (305) extended approximately 0.9m from the southern baulk of the trench and consisted of a single course of un-bonded chalk rubble with a large flattish stone which was probably a post pad, integral to the structure. Wall (306) was more substantial with two courses of un-bonded chalk rubble and three post pads spaced fairly regularly along its length. The space between the opposing ends of walls (305) and (306) suggests a deliberate break or opening between the walls.
- 5.3.8 Abutting and partially overlying two these walls were the remains of a later wall (307) that followed a slightly more north easterly alignment than its predecessors. It was also constructed in un-bonded chalk rubble but no post pads were evident from the visible section of walling.
- 5.3.9 In the north-east quadrant of trench 3 a layer of brick and chalk demolition rubble (310) covered the northern extent of wall (306) and probably consisted in some part of the destroyed remains of structure (307).
- 5.3.10 This deposit and the rest of the trench was sealed by compact grey brown clay levelling layer (301) containing a moderate quantity of demolition rubble and carbonised fragments of timber.

5.3.11 Cutting this layer was the foundation cut [345] for structure (309). The remains of structure (309) were represented by a single bay building comprising two walls and a floor surface that projected from the eastern section of the trench. These components were all constructed of the same hand made bricks seen in the late 18th early 19th century barn still standing at the centre of the site. The southern wall was a double thickness wall standing on a single foundation course with a half brick projection from the inner and outer face. The northern wall stub was constructed in two courses of brick on edge and was capped by a dressed sandstone block. A recent intrusion along the northern edge of the trench [343] would correspond with the removal of the western extent of this wall. Between these walls were the fragmented remains of a surface constructed by brick on edge which extended eastwards across the trench and contained a residual sherd of 12th to 14th century pottery. All of these structural remains were bonded with a yellow/white lime based mortar.

5.3.12 In the western trench section layer (301) was cut by post hole [334] that was filled by dark brown silty clay interspersed by small brick and chalk fragments. Layer (301) was sealed by a fresh looking carbonised layer (342) that was cut by a single stake [340] and was finally sealed by modern overburden.

6.0 Discussion

60.1 The evidence collated from this scheme of evaluation has demonstrated that archaeological features are to be found across the proposed development area.

60.2 The range of dateable features suggest that occupation and land use within the site commenced as early as the 9th century, evidenced by a sequence of ditches and a pit in trench 2. These features appear to reflect two phases of boundary arrangements with associated evidence that proposes settlement with possibly a mixed farming based economy that pre-dates the structured early medieval urban development centred upon St Peters church.

60.3 Evidence relating to 13th/14th century development was recorded in trenches 1 and 3, with structural features and inter-cutting post holes in trench 3 possibly demonstrating that this area was developed and the structures repaired, replaced or maintained for an extended period.

60.4 A midden pit in trench 1 was used by the occupants of the site and maintained by re-cutting. This feature provided the most significant volume of late 13th/15th century pottery that reflects the dominance of pottery supply within the region from kilns at Beverley, Holme-Upon – Spalding Moor and other sites located north of the Humber (Diddsbury, *pers. comm*).

60.5 A group of post holes and an associated gully possibly provide evidence for structures in this area which are stratigraphically later than the midden, which went out of use and were backfilled at some time during the 15th/16th century. This appears to have coincided with the levelling of the site as a whole, as indicated by layers (103) and (302).

60.6 The trench 1 area was subsequently re-worked with post holes, a gully and a section of ditch aligned parallel to the High Street, which possibly indicates a division of the plot by ditch and associated fence line in the post-medieval period. Stratigraphically contemporary with this division were structural remains from trench 3 evident of significant post medieval structural development.

60.7 Sections of low chalk walling (305/306) with integral post pads were interpreted as the foundation level of a timber framed building constructed in a series of bays. Evidence for the vernacular building traditions common to the town of Barton may be demonstrated by a fine example of a 15th century timber framed merchants house, still surviving at no.51 Fleetgate, close by the site.

- 60.8 This building was superseded by chalk walling of structure (309) that may suggest a shift to full stone construction seen in vernacular housing during the 16th century (Courtney 2001). Demolition deposit (307) may demonstrate that bricks were incorporated into the fabric of this building.
- 60.9 A further episode of site clearance in advance of redevelopment may be seen in layer (301) with subsequent building works evidenced by the remains of brick built structure (339). It was evident from scarring on the western wall of the extant Late 18th/19th century barn at the centre of the site, that the southern wall section of (339) had been a projection from this main building and was constructed in the same brick fabric. This would suggest that an additional range of buildings may have extended westwards across the site that were presumably demolished in more recent times.

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1 The scope of these works has demonstrated that there is a significant spread of archaeological contexts represented within the site limits, both in character and chronological range. Although fragmentary in nature this evidence does demonstrate what appear to be relatively closely concurrent phases of settlement site clearance and re-development from the 9th century to the present day.

8.0 Assessment of impact

- 8.1 The depth of impact for the construction of houses, roads and services is at present unknown, therefore a detailed assessment of this development's impact upon the archaeological resource cannot be completed at this stage.
- 8.2 The scheme of evaluation has demonstrated early medieval deposits surviving approximately 0.85m below current ground level in trench 2 and post medieval sequences at a depth of c.0.35m in trenches 1 and 3.
- 8.3 It is likely that the development of plots 3 and 5 will have significant impact upon archaeological deposits, although the extent of this impact is dependent on the foundation methodology employed in the construction of the proposed dwellings. The additional depth of overburden in the area of plot 4 may limit the impact of development to some extent should the site not be subject to any more than minimal levelling as part of the development scheme.

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

- 9.1 This scheme of archaeological investigation has enabled an appropriate sample of the proposed development area to be investigated and assessed. The resultant data has established a coherent profile of the sequence of archaeological deposits on the site that will inform the planning process, and allow for the development of an appropriate mitigation strategy.

10.0 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Allen Archaeological Associates would like Mr David Dent for this commission and his assistance throughout the project.

11.0 References

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12.0 Site archive

- 12.1 The complete site archive (documentary and physical) will be deposited at North Lincolnshire Museum within six months of the completion of the report, and will be stored under the unique archive code BNDB.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: general site shot
trench 1 area looking south

Plate 2: general site shot,
trench 3 area looking
south west.



Plate 3: trench 1 post ex looking
south



Plate 4: eastern half of trench 2 looking north.

Plate 5: Ditches [205] and [201] projecting eastwards below structure (209).



Plate 6: Trench 3 pre-ex looking north east.



Plate 7: trench 3 construction slot [329].



Plate 8: trench 3 post hole cluster [312], [314], [316],[317], [318] and stake hole group [325].



Plate 9: wall [309] in the east section of trench 3 with a post pad within wall [305] in front.

Appendix 4:

**Land to rear of High street, Barton upon Humber, North Lincolnshire
(BNDB 07)
The Animal Bone
By Jennifer Wood**

Introduction

A total of 48 (926g) fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during trial trench excavations undertaken by Allen Archaeological Associates. The remains were recovered from features provisionally dated to the medieval/medieval post-medieval period. These include a possible cess pit [106], gully [118] Ditches [201], [203], pit [207] and postholes [316] and [329].

Results

The remains were generally of a moderate overall condition, averaging grade 3 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

Three fragments of bone displayed evidence of butchery, possibly associated with jointing/disarticulation of the carcass and meat removal.

The remains recovered from contexts (107) and (114) were recovered from possible cess pit [107], no evidence of possible cess concretion was noted on any of the remains.

A single cattle calcaneus recovered from ditch re-cut [203] displayed evidence of carnivore/omnivore gnawing on the proximal end.

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

Context	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
107	Oyster	Shell	R	1	16	Right valve
	Cattle	Humerus	L	1	77	Mid shaft
	Medium Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	12	
	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	L	1	7	Distal shaft
	Cattle	Tooth	L	1	7	Lower M1
114	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	R	1	9	
117	Medium Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	1	Shaft fragment
	Unidentified	Unidentified	X	1	2	
200	Cattle	Femur	L	1	110	Proximal shaft fragment
	Large Mammal Size	Rib	X	5	45	One fragment chopped and snapped through
	Medium Mammal Size	Rib	X	3	9	
	Cattle	Scapula	R	1	70	Glenoid, broken into two peices
	Cattle	Scapula	L	1	73	Glenoid/neck fragment
	Sheep/Goat	Radius	L	1	12	
	Cattle	Tooth	R	1	20	Upper molar
	Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	2	20	
	Sheep/Goat	Metatarsal	L	1	4	Proximal shaft fragment
202	Cattle	Metatarsal	L	1	16	Proximal articulation fragment
	Sheep	Metatarsal	L	1	7	Broken into two, Distal end
	Pig	Tibia	L	1	25	In two fragments Distal shaft
	Cattle	Calcaneus	R	1	53	Possible carnivore gnawing on the proximal end
	Cattle	Femur	R	1	131	Midshaft
	Large Mammal Size	Vertebra	X	1	25	Transverse process, possible cut on the process
	Cattle	Mandible	R	1	54	Goneal angle and condyle
	Cattle	Tooth	L	1	22	Lower M2
	Large Mammal Size	Thoracic Vertebra	B	1	13	Spinous process
	Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	2	16	
	Medium Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	3	8	
	Large Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	12	Cuts on the lateral side of the blade
	Large Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	5	
	Cattle	Skull	X	1	2	Mastoid
	206	Sheep/Goat	Humerus	R	1	7
Medium Mammal Size		Long Bone	X	1	2	Shaft fragment
315	Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	7	
328	Cattle	Phalanx I	R	1	17	Complete

	Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	6	Shaft fragment
	Medium Mammal Size	Vertebra	B	1	2	Unfused centrum
	Medium Mammal Size	Vertebra	B	1	2	Spinous process

As can be seen from table 1, the majority of the remains are identified as cattle and large mammal size (probably cattle). Sheep/goat, one fragment positively identified as sheep and a pig were also identified in small numbers. A single oyster shell was also present. The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site, save the presence of the animals on site. The skeletal elements represented suggest the remains were probably from a mixture of food and butchery waste.

In the possible event of further archaeological works, the site would be liable to produce further remains of a similar condition and nature, with good potential to provide further information on dietary economies and underlying husbandry practices for the site.

References

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Appendix: 5

AN EVALUATION OF THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM LAND TO THE REAR OF THE HIGH STREET, BARTON ON HUMBER (BNDB 07)

Val Fryer, Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6EF
December 2007

Introduction and method statement

An evaluation of the archaeological deposits to the rear of Barton High Street, undertaken by Allen Archaeological Associates, recorded a number of features of probable Saxon and medieval date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from a medieval cess pit and fills within two ditches. Five samples were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and seeds were present throughout.

Results

Cereals, pulses and weed seeds are present at low to moderate densities in all five samples. Preservation is moderately good, although a number of the grains are severely puffed and distorted, possibly as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. The abundance of black porous and tarry residues may also be indicative of high temperature combustion and it would appear most likely that the assemblages are partly or wholly derived from scattered or wind-blown charred refuse, possibly including some hearth waste. Food residues including bone fragments, fish bone and pieces of marine mollusc shell are also present along with minute fragments of mineralised faecal concretions. There does not appear to be sufficient material within any of the assemblages to indicate the primary deposition of refuse within either the cess pit or ditch fills.

Recommendations for further work

Although the current assemblages are all very small (<0.1 litres in volume), they do indicate that plant macrofossils are well preserved within the archaeological deposits at Barton High Street. Therefore, if further excavations are to be undertaken, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume are taken from all dated and well sealed contexts. Samples should be stored in cool, dark conditions prior to processing and should ideally be processed with the minimum of delay. All relevant documentation should accompany the samples at all times.

Reference

Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 10 – 50 specimens xxx = 50 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
cf = compare b = burnt C.pit = cess pit ss = sub-sample

Sample No.	1	2	3	6	7
Context No.	107	113	114	200	202
Feature No.	106			201	203
Feature type	C.pit	C.pit	C.pit	Ditch	Ditch
Cereals and other food plants					
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)		x		x	x
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		x	x	x	x
(rachis node)				x	
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.					xcf
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. (grain)				xcf	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x	x	x	x	x
(rachis node frag.)	x				
Cereal indet. (grains)	xx	x	x	xx	xx
Herbs					
Fabaceae indet.	x	x			
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.)A.Love					x
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L. (silique)			x		
<i>Rumex</i> sp.				x	
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.	xcf	x	x	x	
Wetland plants					
<i>Scirpus</i> sp.				x	
Other plant macrofossils					
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	xx	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	x		x	xxx	xxx
Charcoal >5mm	x				
Charred root/stem				x	x
Indet.culm nodes				x	x
Other materials					
Black porous 'cokey' material	xxx			xx	xx
Black tarry material	xx	x	x	xx	xx
Bone	x xb	x	xb	x xb	
Burnt/fired clay		x			
Fish bone	x				
Marine mollusc shell frags.	x				x
Mineralised faecal concretions					
Small coal frags.	xxx	x	x	x	x
Small mammal/amphibian bone	x				
Vitrified material	x	x	x	x	x
Sample volume (litres)	20ss	20ss	20ss	20ss	20ss
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%