

**UNDERGROUND PLANT CHAMBER AND HOLDING TANK, VICTORIA  
STREET, GRIMSBY, NE LINCS.**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT**

PCA Job No.	384
PCA Site Code:	VIGY 07
NELM Accn Code:	GRIM.2009.6
NGR:	TA 2671 0926
Planning ref.	n/a

Report prepared for North East Lincolnshire Council

by

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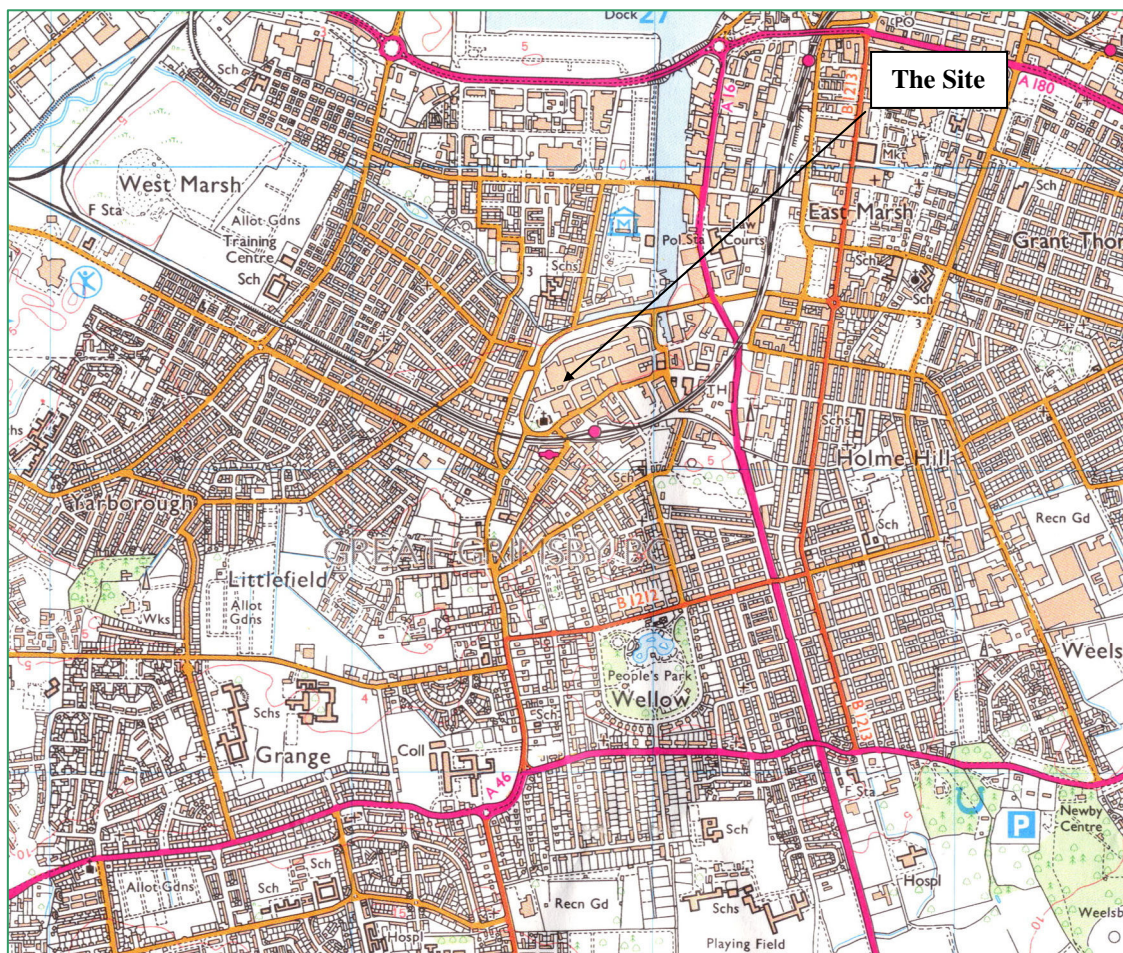
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## Summary

- Prior to development by North East Lincolnshire Council, a single archaeological trench was investigated on land at the west end of Victoria Street, Grimsby, North-East Lincolnshire.
- The excavation identified medieval pits, deposits and a ditch, believed to reflect 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century activity. Some of the features identified contained waterlogged deposits, yielding amongst other things wood fragments, leather artefacts and off-cuts and a range of important environmental and economic indicators: the site appears to have been located very close to a cobbler's workshop, and also close to/within an area of fish processing, possibly on an industrial scale.
- The investigation was constrained by the proximity of live services, and the area available was too restricted to allow close examination of the deeper archaeological features.
- The archaeology identified confirms that this part of Grimsby was an economically significant and densely occupied zone in the medieval period, and that further investigations may be highly productive and wholly desirable.



**Fig.1:** General site location at scale 1:25,000  
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## 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) (now Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd) was commissioned by North East Lincolnshire Council to undertake a small excavation at Victoria Street, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire.

The investigation took place over a five-day period between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007 under the direction of Will Munford. It was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation for a programme of excavation prepared by PCA, where the specification of works was based upon a detailed brief issued by the North East Lincolnshire Planning Archaeologist (dated June 2007). It also followed the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, (DoE 1990), and *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH 1991).

Copies of this report will be deposited with the commissioning client and the North East Lincolnshire Planning Archaeologist. A short text will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, and this will feature as a short note in due course. Reports will also be deposited with the Libraries and Museums Service of North East Lincolnshire Council, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation (NEL Museum Accn code: GRIM.2009.6).

## 2.0 Site Location and Description (Figs. 1 & 2; Pl. 1)

The town of Great Grimsby is a seaport on the south bank of the Humber Estuary, and has been the administrative centre of North East Lincolnshire since 1996.

The small excavation was located in front of The Parity, at the junction of Bull Ring Lane and New Market Place, at the western end of Victoria Street, Grimsby.

The scheme involved the investigation of a single trench for a 2.4m x 7.2m x 3m deep underground water tank and a 1.44m x 1.8m x 2m deep filter tank; intended to serve a series of water fountains within the Bull Ring. The Bull Ring is an area to the south of the Freshney Place Shopping Centre.

## 3.0 Geology and Soils

The local geology consists of drift deposits of glacial till, overlying Flamborough Chalk (British Geological Survey, 1990). A layer exposed at a depth of 4.3m OD on the east side of the trench, context (003), was interpreted as an exposure of the boulder clay, though subsequent assessment of this material indicates that context (003) is in fact a cultural deposit, or certainly a deposit containing cultural material (Appendix 9).

## 4.0 Planning Background

A programme of engineering works is being undertaken within Victoria Street, Grimsby, to enable the construction of a series of water fountains within the Bull Ring pedestrian area. The North East Lincolnshire Council Archaeologist advised that an archaeological investigation should be carried out within the footprint of the underground holding and filter tanks for the new water feature. The aim of this would be to preserve 'by record' any archaeological remains that would be affected by the principal scheme.

The Project Brief also proposed that a continuous watching brief should be maintained on any additional groundworks associated with the development, though this element of the scheme did not take place.

## **5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

There is limited evidence relating to any prehistoric settlement of the Grimsby area, although two Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age barrows have been identified, one of which, in Grimsby itself, was levelled during building works in 1948; the other surviving at Beacon Hill in Cleethorpes (May, 1976). A potentially extensive area of Iron Age settlement has also been identified around Weelsby Avenue, situated to the south-south-east of the proposed development area (Sills & Kinsey, 1979). Romano-British pottery found in this area suggests that there was a continuation of occupation (Mouraille, 2000).

The earliest documentary reference to Grimsby appears in 866 AD. The settlement also features in numerous Scandinavian sagas as it was involved in extensive trade with these countries (particularly Norway) in the early medieval period (Dickinson, 2003; Sawyer, 1998). At the time of the *Domesday Survey*, Grimsby was a thriving port, with the principal landowners being the Bishop of Bayeux, Drogo of La Beuvrière, and Ralph Mortimer. The Bishop also collected the dues from a ferry crossing the Humber, while the property of Ralph Mortimer included a church (Morgan & Thorne, 1986).

The town continued to prosper throughout the medieval period, receiving the right to hold a fair in 1201. In 1354 the docks at West Haven were developed, allowing further expansion of the towns sea-borne trade.

The Project Brief states that informal monitoring of utility services in the proximity of the Victoria Street site has revealed approximately 1m of potential archaeological deposits below modern horizons. At this location within the historic core of the town, surviving archaeological remains from the Roman to the early post-medieval period were anticipated.

## **6.0 Aims and Objectives**

The principal aim of the archaeological scheme was to gather information to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological remains present; to preserve by record deposits that would be at risk from the proposed groundworks. The scheme was also intended to investigate the extent to which existing services had already impacted upon archaeological deposits.

## **7.0 Methodology**

One trench was investigated within the proposed development area (Fig. 2). This was 2m wide and 9m long, designed to encompass fully the anticipated combined extent of groundworks for the underground water tank and deep filter tank.

The excavation area was opened by machine down to the first significant archaeological horizon under constant archaeological supervision. All archaeological features were then hand excavated and recorded. A long trench section was also recorded, as were sections of archaeological features. A photographic record, both colour and monochrome, was maintained throughout the project, and a selection of

photographs are presented with this report (Appendix 1). Context numbers were assigned for recording purposes (Appendix 2).

## **8.0 Results (Fig. 3)**

### **8.1 Overview**

Thick modern disturbances had truncated two pits and an earlier ditch. The latter features were probably of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date.

### **8.2 The Excavation Trench (Fig. 3; Pls. 1-6)**

More than 35% of the trench area was obscured by three areas of concrete, covering live services and therefore not removed (Pl. 1). This left two physically separated areas for investigation but restricted access to the deeper deposits.

Within the larger, eastern, area, thin layers of brick and sand bedding overlay asphalt, which had been laid on a 0.3m thick layer of stone chips. This material covered a concrete layer, which was removed. Beneath it were layers of brick rubble and redeposited clayey soil (016), and black silt (015); the latter being truncated by the installation of a trench for a north-south aligned culvert or drain [010] constructed of 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century bricks (011). The drain may have been the replacement of an open gully that was associated with the deposition of context (015).

Potentially significant archaeological deposits survived to about 5m OD at the eastern side of the eastern area. The uppermost deposit, layer (014), was a 0.2m thick brown/grey silty clay with frequent mortar fragments. The base of this sloped downwards slightly towards the west, sealing 0.4m of dark brown silty loam (007); interpreted as a possible buried soil. A 0.02m thick lens of yellow/grey silty clay below this (006) may have been the remnant of a flood deposit, though may equally have derived from erosion of an underlying 0.15m thick similar layer (005). Pottery of 13<sup>th</sup> century date was retrieved from layer (005). Partial excavation of this exposed a 0.1m thick layer of grey/brown silty clay (004), which yielded a single sherd of medieval pottery (Appendix 3). A processed soil sample from this context identified wood, charcoal, hazelnut shell fragments, some well preserved charred cereal grains, fruits and seeds, and also shellfish fragments and fish bones, including herring (Appendix 9). Contexts (004) and (005) were interpreted as made ground deposits, with the yellow/brown stony clay below, (003), being weathered natural boulder-clay, though a bulk soil sample from the latter identified plant remains, including weed seeds, charred barley grains, hazelnut shell and small numbers of fish bones. The identification of these predominantly cultural ecofacts confirms beyond reasonable doubt that context (003) was not boulder clay, and whilst its deposition may have been influenced by natural processes (resulting in its deposition within the trench area), there is more than a slight possibility that archaeology will survive beneath this layer.

The central trench area was occupied entirely by a c.2m deep steep-sided feature [002] (Pls. 2 and 3). This was interpreted as a well of at least 0.9m diameter, though no associated lining was identified. The purported well was demonstrably cut through context (007) but its fills physically survived to the higher level of (014). Hand-augering indicated that the base of the feature was at 3.2m OD, about 2.8m below the modern ground surface. Six fills were distinguished within this feature. The upper surviving fill (020) comprised white/grey mortar. Underlying deposits were silty clays. The thickest deposits were (001), 0.8m, and the lowest identified fill (022), 0.7m. Fill

context (001) yielded pottery dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Appendix 3), and processing of a bulk soil sample identified abundant straw, cornfield weeds and fish bones. A soil sample was also recovered from context (022), and the processing of this identified cereal grains, identifiable fruits/seeds, shellfish fragments and fish bones.

In the area available for investigation at the western end of the trench, the upper metre of deposits comprised 20<sup>th</sup> century disturbance associated with drains and services. The 0.4m thick layer of dark brown/grey silty clay (031) beneath this disturbed ground probably equates to layer (007) recorded to the east. It rose slightly towards the west and had probably been used to level the ground surface over a large backfilled pit [028]. A thin layer of black silty clay (030) separated the lighter material from the earlier pit fills.

Pit [028] was 0.2m deep, with its base at about 4.6m OD (Pls. 4 – 6). It survived to 1.5m east-west at the southern trench edge but the other dimension was removed by machining. The upper fill (029) was a brown/grey silty clay with stone inclusions, with the two lower fills (027) and (026) successively darker but with similar constituents. The colour variations may indicate greater quantities of organic matter. Both contexts (027) and (029) produced medieval pottery, with the latest date being 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The above pit was cut through the backfill of a curving, 1.9m deep, ditch-like feature [021], the waterlogged fills of which contained a rich assemblage of organic remains: contexts (023, 024 and 025) produced a number of worn shoe parts and secondary waste, likely to be cobbling waste that was produced during the repair/refurbishment of old shoes (Appendix 7). The uppermost surviving fill of the ditch (025) comprised 0.5m of dark brown silty clay, and this produced 44 sherds of early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Beneath this, context (024) was artefactually rich, yielding bone, pottery, leather, charcoal, mortar, and two registered finds; a medieval barrel padlock and an unusual pair of well preserved tongs. These tongs were curious in that they were designed to hold an object from the inside rather than from the outside, and although the specialist consultant (Appendix 8) was unsure of what function should be attached, when seen in the light of the other finds made, one cannot help but speculate that they may have been used to hold/clamp shoes during repair. The richness of context (024) was further illuminated following processing of a bulk soil sample, which yielded significant quantities of wood and bark fragments (including small worked wood fragments and chippings), leather fragments, cultivation seeds and plant processing waste. Also, some 152 bone fragments were recovered, mostly deriving from fish, including: cod, ling, haddock, whiting, herring, flatfish and ray (Appendix 9). It is of some interest that many of the bones deriving from members of the cod family (*Gadidae*) were from big fish, exceeding 1.0m in length – perhaps reflecting processing on an industrial scale?

The fill context beneath, (023), also preserved leather, though safety considerations prevented detailed examination of the dark grey/brown clay/silt primary fill (008), where augering demonstrated that this deposit was about 0.9m thick. Both contexts (024) and (025) produced good homogenous groups of pottery dating to the early to early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> century AD.

The ditch [021] appeared to have been cut into a grey silty clay layer (009). This material was tentatively interpreted as either upcast from the original excavation of the ditch, or possibly a discoloured form of layer (005). Clay (003), possibly redeposited or contaminated from other deposits, was found immediately below that layer.

## 9.0 Discussion

The original function of the deep features identified could not be established with any degree of certainty within the small area investigated, although they had certainly been used for the disposal of waste, and it is this that has provided a valuable insight into some of the local economic and other activities that were taking place on or close to the excavation trench during the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

It is very likely that the site was on or at least close to a leather working workshop, or perhaps that this area of the town was perhaps suited to the needs of an itinerant craftsman – difficult to clarify given the smallness and disturbed nature of the area investigated. Regardless of the actual interpretation, the investigation has confirmed the excellent potential for the survival of important waterlogged remains such as leather, wood and a plethora of small biological groups (both cultural and non-cultural).

Fish bones were recovered from a variety of contexts, and although this in itself is not necessarily surprising given the context of the site and the port of Grimsby, it is noteworthy perhaps that bones recovered from context (024) show both a diversity of exploitation and perhaps demonstrate that industrial-scale processing was taking place in this area of the town during the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century. The potential of this area to yield a great deal more useful information cannot be overstated where, in the past, the archaeology of Grimsby has to a degree been understated (Lewis 2006, 189). Ports of the East Midlands were of vital importance to the regional, and even the national economy: taken to include inland ports, only in Lincoln has there been any large-scale investigation, and relatively little of this has focused on the wharf areas (*ibid*).

Fish was an important part of the medieval diet, where sea fishing was carried out from ports such as Grimsby and Boston, but again there have been relatively few focused investigations of these industries and the ancillary industries that fishing created.

## 10.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The excavation and recording was adversely affected by areas of modern concrete and the presence of live services which restricted the extent available for close investigation. That said, the results of the investigation have more than justified the means by not only providing a very useful dated and contextualised archaeological sequence, but also by providing a benchmark evaluation of the area that will be of significant value to the Planning Archaeologist of North East Lincolnshire Council.

## 11.0 Conclusion

Although the area has been disturbed by recent service trenches and other activities, important medieval archaeological deposits survive in this area of the town, including waterlogged deposits containing useful quantities and varieties of biological remains.

## 12.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are expressed to North-East Lincolnshire Council for commissioning this project.



### 13.0 Archive

The object and documentary archive for this scheme is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This will be deposited at the North-East Lincolnshire museum store, with Accn. Code GRIM.2009.6.

### 14.0 Bibliography

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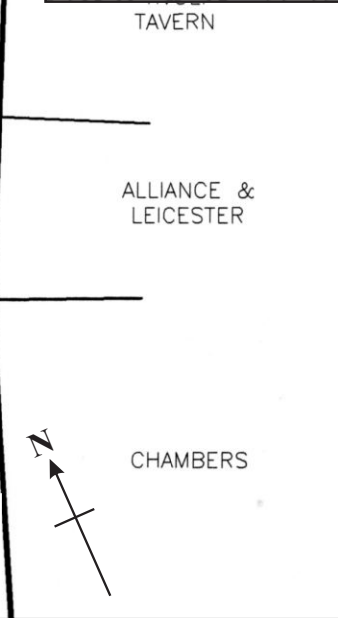
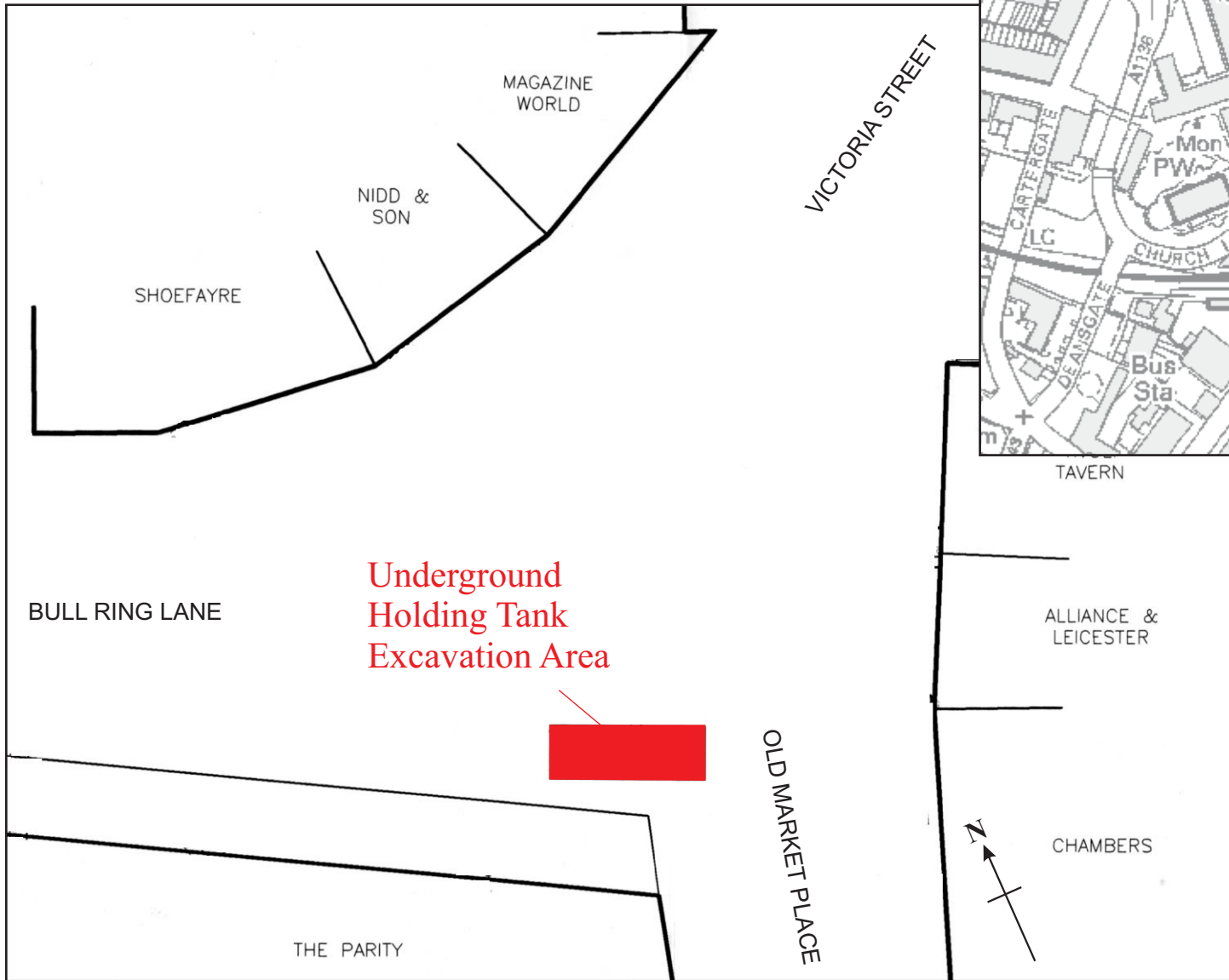
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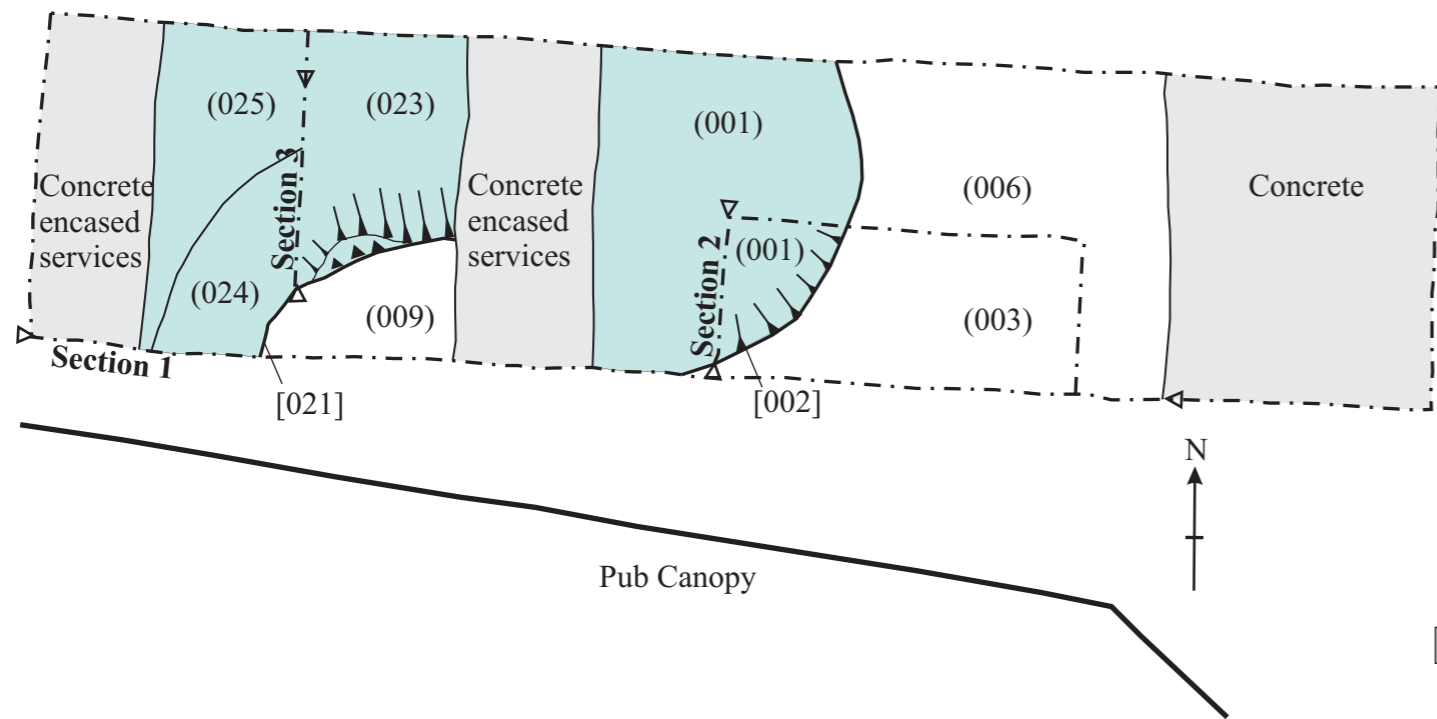
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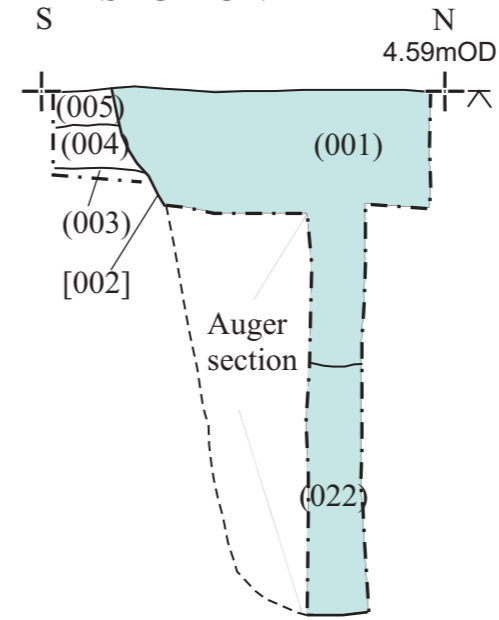


**Fig. 2:**  
 Victoria Street, Grimsby - Trench location  
 (based on a NELC Technical  
 Services plan No. ASW0805/306).  
 1:250

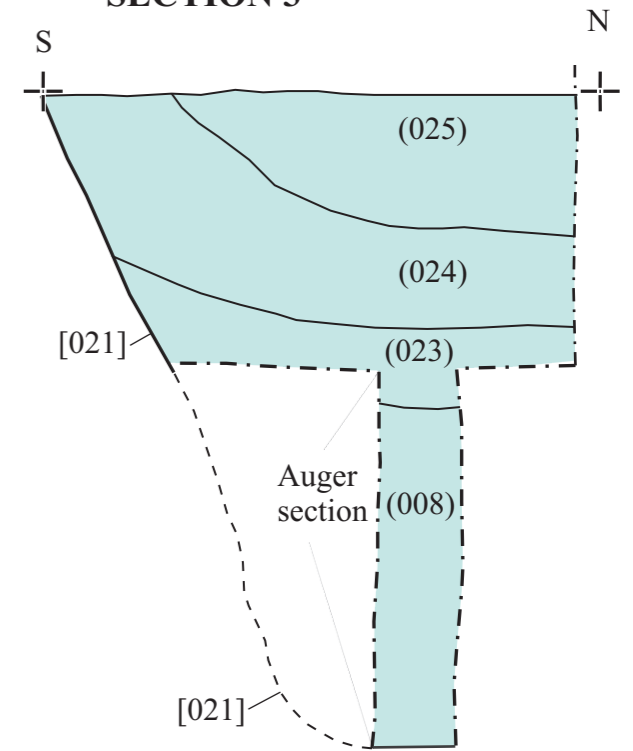
**PLAN**



**SECTION 2**

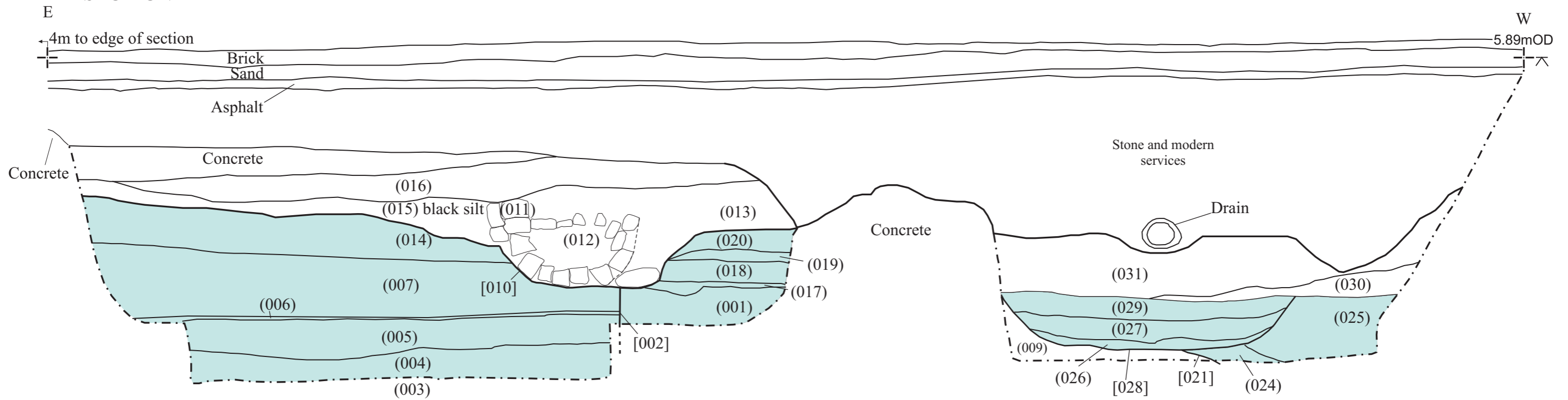


**SECTION 3**



- Modern Concrete
- Medieval Features

**SECTION 1**



**Fig. 3:** Victoria Street, Grimsby  
Plan- Scale 1:50, Sections- Scale 1:20

**Appendix 1:  
Selected Photographs**



Pl. 1: The monitored trench (looking south-west, scales 2m and 0.5m).



Pl. 2: Western side of the evaluation trench, showing the south-east edge of well [002] during excavation (looking south, scales 2m and 0.5m).



Pl. 3: The south-east edge of well [002] during excavation of the western side of the evaluation trench (looking west, scales 2m and 0.5m).



Pl. 4: Dark organic fills within ditch [021], curving from south-west to north-east within the western part of the evaluation trench (looking west, scales 2m and 0.5m).



Pl. 5: Section excavated through the fills of ditch [021] within the western part of the evaluation trench (looking west, scales 2m and 0.5m).



Pl. 6: Ditch [021], partly excavated within the western part of the evaluation trench (looking north-west, scales 2m and 0.5m).

## Appendix 2: Levels and Context descriptions

### Trench 1: Ground level 5.99m OD

Context No.	Type	Description
001	Fill	Upper fill of 002. Dark grey/brown clay loam.
002	Cut	Well, filled by 022, 001. Cuts 005. 2m diameter, 2m deep steep-sided circular cut.
003	Layer, Natural	Yellow/brown clay. Below 004.
004	Layer	Grey/brown silty clay. Above 003, below 005. Cut by 002.
005	Layer	Yellow/grey silty clay. Above 004, below 006. Made ground.
006	Layer	Grey/yellow silty clay. Above 005, below 007.
007	Layer	Dark grey/brown silty loam. Above 006, below 002. ?Buried soil.
008	Fill	Dark grey/brown clay/silt. Primary fill of 021. Below 023.
009	Layer	Grey silty clay. Above natural, cut by 021. ?Upcast soil from excavation of 021, or ?made ground, as 005, or buried ground surface.
010	Cut	U-shaped drain trench. Cuts 015, filled by 011, 012, 013.
011	Fill/Structure	Modern brick culvert or drain within 010. Below 012.
012	Fill	Dark brown/grey silty loam. Fill of 010. Above 011, below 013.
013	Fill	Orange/brown sandy clay. Fill of 010. Above 020, below 016.
014	Layer	Brown/grey silty clay, with mortar fragments. Below 015.
015	Layer	Very dark brown/black clay silt, possible fill/trample associated with 010. Below 016.
016	Layer	Brown/grey silty clay with mortar and modern building rubble. Above 015.
017	Fill	Light brown/grey silty clay. Fill of 002, above 001, below 018.
018	Fill	Dark brown/grey silty clay. Fill of 002. Above 017, below 019.
019	Fill	Brown/grey silty clay with slight green tinge. ?Cess deposit. Fill of 002. Above 018, below 020.
020	Fill	Light grey/white mortar deposit. Fill of 002. Above 019, below 010.
021	Cut	Large steep sided curvilinear ?ditch. 1.6m deep. Filled by 008, 024, 025. Cuts 009.
022	Fill	Grey clay silt. Primary fill of 002. Below 001.
023	Fill	Dark grey/brown clay silt. Contained leather items. Fill of 021. Above 008, below 024.
024	Fill	Very dark grey/black fill of 021. Contained charcoal and mortar. Above 023, below 025.
025	Fill	Dark brown silty clay. Fill of 021. Above 024, below 032.
026	Fill	Very dark grey/black primary fill of 028. Below 027.
027	Fill	Dark grey/brown silty clay. Fill of 028. Above 026, below 029.
028	Cut	Steep-sided pit. Cuts 025. Filled by 026.
029	Fill	Brown/grey silty clay. Fill of 028. Above 027, below 030.
030	Layer	Very dark grey/black silty clay. Above 029, below 031.
031	Layer	Dark brown/grey silty clay with charcoal and mortar inclusions. ?Made ground. Above 030, cut by modern service trenches.
032	Layer	Dark grey/brown clay/silt with stone rubble. ?Made ground. Above 025, cut by modern service trenches..

### Appendix 3:

## Pottery Archive for Victoria Street, Grimsby, Lincolnshire (VIGY07)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form	sherds	vessels	weight	decoratio	part	ref no	description
01	NOTGL	Light Bodied Nottingham Green		jug	2	1	23		BS		waterlogging discolouration;cu glaze
01	BEVO2	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 2	Fabric B	jug	1	1	86		handle		grooved oval handle;cu glaze over thin white slip
04	MISC	Unidentified types	light oxid;coarse sandy	jar ?	1	1	5		BS		? Date;no glaze;micaceous fabric with common subangular to subrounded quartz 0.4-1.0mm moderate fe & sparse ca
05	BEVO2	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 2	Fabric B	large jug	1	1	23		rim		reduced glaze
05	BEVO2	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 2	Fabric B	jar ?	2	1	16		base		
05	BEVO2	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 2	Fabric B	jug	1	1	8		BS		white ext slip
05	STAX	Staxton-type ware		jar	1	1	20		rim		? ID;soot/waterlogging
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	jug	1	1	13		BS		cu mottled glaze
24	NLGQC	North Lincolnshire Glazed Quarz and Chalk		jug/jar	1	1	5		BS		? ID
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	jug ?	1	1	12		base		
24	ELQC	East Lincolnshire Quartz and Chalk fabrics		jar	1	1	5		rim		bifid rim



context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form	sherds	vessels	weight	decoratio	part	ref no	description
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	tubular spouted jug	1	1	44		spout		thick reduced glaze;narrow spout
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	jug	1	1	16		rim	vessel 1	thick ext white slip;thick cu glaze;triangular rim with cordon below & lower more pronounced cordon;visually looks like a Tees Valley/NLFSW product
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	jug	1	1	20		rim		triangular rim with pronouced cordon below;worn cordon edge;thick amber glaze with cu runs ? Decorative;light firing int & ext
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	small jug	1	1	41		base		untrimmed;slightly restricted base;traces of white slip under cu mottled glaze
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	jug	2	1	9		BS		waterlogging discolouration;cu glaze over light slip;neck cordon
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	small pipkin	1	1	3		BS		soot;reduced glaze;int black deposit ? waterlogging discolouration
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric B	small jug	2	1	6		BS		waterlogging discolouration;reduced glaze
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	small pipkin ?	1	1	28		base		
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric B	jug	1	1	4	applied vert strips	BS		thick brown glaze;seam of white clay
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	jug	1	1	18		BS		waterlogging discolouration
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	jug	1	1	52		BS		waterlogging discolouration;fabric incl ca cemented sandstone
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	jug	1	1	14		BS		
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	small pipkin	1	1	13		BS		soot;reduced glaze

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form	sherds	vessels	weight	decoratio	part	ref no	description
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric B	jug	1	1	3		BS		multi cordons;reduced glaze
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric B	jug	1	1	6		BS		waterlogging discolouration;cu mottled glaze
24	EYEMQC	East Yorkshire Early Medieval Quartz and Chalk		jar	1	1	5		BS		waterlogging discolouration
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	jar	1	1	4		BS		waterlogging discolouration
24	NLCS	North Lincolnshire Coarse Sandy ware		jar	2	1	22		BS		waterlogging discolouration;thick ext soot
24	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	jug/jar	1	1	13		BS		waterlogging discolouration;burnished ext surface
25	MEDX	Non Local Medieval Fabrics	light firing;fine	jug	1	1	11		BS		buff fabric;abundant fine quartz;soot
25	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric B	jug	1	1	19		BS		
25	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric B	jug	1	1	8		BS		thick reduced glaze
25	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric B	jug	1	1	16		BS		red ext slip
25	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric B	jug	2	1	9		BS		thick cu speckled glaze over white
25	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	jug	1	1	3		neck		neck cordon;cu glaze
25	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric B	jug	1	1	3		BS		white slip;cu glaze
25	STAX	Staxton-type ware		jar	25	1	68		BS		waterlogging discolouration;soot incl breaks

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form	sherds	vessels	weight	decoratio	part	ref no	description
25	NLQC	North Lincolnshire Quartz and Chalk-tempered ware		jar	1	1	9		BS		waterlogging discolouration;soot int
25	MEDX	Non Local Medieval Fabrics	reduced;fine	jug	1	1	5		BS		reduced glaze;abundant fine-med quartz
25	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric B	jug	1	1	77		base		stacking scar
25	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric B	large jug	1	1	15		BS		neck cordon;int black waterlogging deposit;thick cu glaze
25	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric B	small jug	1	1	26		handle		rod handle;reduced glaze;UHJ
25	NLFMSW	North Lincolnshire Fine to Medium Sandy ware		small jug	1	1	5		rim		triangular rim;thick brown glaze;?
25	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	jug	1	1	28		rim with lip		triangular rim;waterlogging discolouration;brown suspension
25	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	jug	1	1	35		rim		triangular rim with cordon below;thick cu glaze;stacking scar on rim
25	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	jug	1	1	4		BS	vessel 1	
25	NLQC	North Lincolnshire Quartz and Chalk-tempered ware		jar	1	1	22		rim		waterlogging discolouration
25	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric B	jug	1	1	29		base		thin ext light slip;int black waterlogging discolouration;pressed basal edge
27	BEVO2	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 2	Fabric B	jug	1	1	4		BS		
29	BEVO2	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 2	Fabric B	jug	1	1	9		BS		waterlogging discolouration;cu glaze

<b>context</b>	<b>cname</b>	<b>full name</b>	<b>sub fabric</b>	<b>form</b>	<b>sherds</b>	<b>vessels</b>	<b>weight</b>	<b>decoratio</b>	<b>part</b>	<b>ref no</b>	<b>description</b>
30	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	Fabric A	jug	1	1	3		BS		waterlogging discolouration;pocked reduced

# Ceramic Dating Archive for Victoria Street, Grimsby, Lincolnshire (VIGY07)

Jane Young

<b>context</b>	<b>date</b>	<b>comments</b>
01	13th	
04	12th to 14th ?	date on single unknown type
05	13th	
11	18th to early 20th	date on single brick
24	early to early/mid 13th	good group
25	early to early/mid 13th	good group
27	13th to early/mid 14th	single sherd
29	13th to early/mid 14th	single sherd
30	mid/late 12th to early/mid 13th	single sherd
31	mid 12th to 14th	single tile
32	mid 12th to 14th	date on tile

# Ceramic Building Archive for Victoria Street, Grimsby, Lincolnshire (VIGY07)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
11	BRK	Brick	fine oxid calc	1	1817	handmade;180+x110x68mm;slop moulded;salt surface;mortar incl on breaks;simple stick frog/stacking mark	18th to early 20th
24	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	fine dull oxid;Beverley	1	91	flat roofer;mortar	mid 12th to 14th
25	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	very shaley OX/R/OX	1	70	flat roofer;salt surfacing;fabric includes flint	13th to 15th
31	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	fine OX/R/OX;Beverley ?	1	61	flat roofer;mortar;waterlogging discolouration	mid 12th to 14th
32	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	fine OX/R/OX;Beverley	1	169	flat roofer;finger struck;mortar;salt surface	mid 12th to 14th
32	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	fine OX/R/OX;Beverley	1	149	flat roofer;finger struck;mortar	mid 12th to 14th

## Appendix 6

### Victoria Street, Grimsby, North-East Lincolnshire (VIGY 07)

#### *The Animal Bone*

By Jennifer Wood

### Introduction

A total of 8 (215g) fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during archaeological works undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Lincoln at Victoria Street, Grimsby, North-East Lincolnshire. The remains were recovered from 13<sup>th</sup> century made ground layer (005) and early to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century possible curvilinear ditch [021].

### Results

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

Two fragments of rib recovered from made ground deposit (005) and curvilinear ditch [021] displayed evidence of butchery. Butchery marks consistent with jointing of the carcase.

A cattle mandible recovered from ditch [021] displayed evidence of partial burning on the mid section of the mandibular tooth row.

No evidence of gnawing or pathology was noted on the remains.

*Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone*

Cut	Context	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
005	005	Large Size Mammal	Rib	X	1	13	
		Medium Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	4	Chopped through the neck
021	024	Large Size Mammal	Rib	X	1	26	Chopped through mid-blade
		Large Size Mammal	Rib	X	1	5	Blade fragment
		Large Fish	Vertebra	B	1	5	<i>Gadidae Sp.</i> (Cod Family)
		Medium Size Mammal	Ulna	L	1	3	Shaft fragment
		Cattle	Mandible	R	1	41	Goneal angle
	025	Cattle	Mandible	R	1	118	Fragment containing tooth row. Slightly charred black mid tooth row. M2=f, M3=E

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site, save the presence/use of the animals on site. The inclusion of a large marine fish species (*Gadidae*) is not unexpected due to the costal location of the medieval town.

### References

Lyman, R L, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

## **Appendix 7**

### **Assessment of the leather from Victoria Street, Grimsby, North-East Lincs. (VIGY07)**

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#### **Submitted to Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)**

### **1 Methodology**

The assessment has been made following an examination of the leather. The leather was identified and diagnostic pieces dated. A basic record (as defined in the RFG & FRG Guidelines 1993) of the entire assemblage was made, including measurement of relevant dimensions and species identification where possible. The basic record in the form of an object catalogue is provided in an appendix. The information gathered has been correlated with the available contextual information and summarised below.

All measurements are in millimetres (mm). No allowance has been made for shrinkage. Any shoe sizing has been calculated according to the modern English Shoe-Size scale.

Leather species were identified by hair follicle pattern using low powered magnification. Where the grain surface of the leather was heavily worn identification was not always possible. The term bovine has been used when the distinction between calfskin and cattle hide could not be made, soles, sole repairs and rands are assumed to be of cattle hide unless stated otherwise.

### **2 Condition and potential conservation requirements**

The leather was wet and washed when examined. The leather is currently stored in single, self-sealed polythene bags within an airtight plastic storer. In its present condition it should be kept cool and light excluded. The retention policy of the museum responsible for curating the site archive should be established before any decisions about the long term storage of the leather is made. Conservation is recommended for the group only if no other dating evidence is present. The group can be allowed to air-dry under controlled conditions which will allow long term storage, but its condition should be regularly checked for any microbial action.

### **3 Summary**

A small group of medieval leather, seven pieces in all, was recovered from three fills [023, 024 and 025] of a deep curving ditch [021]. Comprising principally of worn shoe parts, with secondary waste and a piece cut down from a larger item, now impossible to identify, the group is likely to be cobbling waste produced during the repair and refurbishment of old shoes.

A worn shoe repair, known as a clump, used to repair the tread area of a shoe sole was found in fill 023. The pointed toe from a turnshoe sole of adult size, and a fragment broken from the upper of a toggle-fastening ankle shoe of cattle hide were found, along with a piece cut from a larger item and a piece of secondary waste, in fill 024 directly above. The cut down piece and the piece of secondary waste found with the heavily worn shoe parts suggests that this little group is waste from a cobbler's workshop. The cut down piece has been cut from a larger item but as only a small length of butted edge/flesh seam remains it cannot be identified. It suggests that leather was being recycled for use in the repairs and



refurbishments as is usually the case. The turnshoe sole, rand and clump can be dated to the medieval period the fragment broken from a toggle-fastening shoe can be more closely dated. Toggle fastening shoes of this type (type 2 Grew and de Neergaard 1988, 20) are commonly found in this country and most popular in the later 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. The recovery of a shoe of this style along with a good group of early to early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery would suggest it was a new and highly fashionable shoe at this time. Shoes of this style have been found in small numbers in contexts of early 13<sup>th</sup> century date in the city of London (Grew and de Neergaard 1988, 21) but are much more common later in the century. The piece of secondary waste leather from fill 024 and a second piece from the fill [023] above cannot be independently dated.

#### **4 Further work required**

As a basic record of all the leather has been made and is appended to this document little further work is considered necessary.

#### **Two things are recommended:**

- I suggest that the shoe parts from context 24 be either illustrated or photographed as they provide independent dating evidence.
- It would be useful for photographs to be made of all the leather in case air-drying proves unsuccessful or the material is discarded.

#### **5 References:**

Grew, F and de Neergaard, M, 1988, *Shoes and Pattens*, Medieval finds from excavations in London: 2 (London HMSO)

Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD700-1700 (1993) *The Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives for all finds other than fired clay vessels*

#### **6 Appendix the leather from Victoria Street, Grimsby (VIGY07)**

##### **Context 023 fill of ditch [021]**

##### **Leather shoe repair, adult size**

Forepart clump repair with oval toe and straight bottom edge. A hole is worn at the centre of the toe area and at the left lower edge. Worn tunnel stitching is present around the perimeter on the flesh side. Not distinctly left or right but wear suggests it was from a right sole.

Complete. Length 85mm, width 97mm

##### **Context 024 fill of ditch [021]**

##### **Leather turnshoe sole tread area, left foot, adult size**

Turnshoe sole with pointed toe, worn completely through at the tread, rest of the sole now missing. Wear at the great toe area on the right hand side indicates it was for a left foot.

Edge/flesh seam, stitch length 6mm. Incomplete. Surviving length 110+mm, tread width 98mm

**Leather rand.** Fragment of relatively narrow rand 5mm wide.

### **Leather fragment of toggle-fastening upper**

Fragment torn from the right front opening of a toggle-fastening ankle shoe with a wide latchet with a pair of toggle holes and a whip stitched top and front edge, torn away from the rest of the upper. Incomplete. Leather worn cattle hide 2.73mm thick. Surviving length 128+ mm, surviving width 100+ mm.

### **Leather cut down item**

Piece cut from a larger item. Strap-like piece with a small length of butted edge/flesh seam, stitch length 4mm, at the narrower end, wider end is torn away, all other edges cut. Leather cattle hide 2.38mm thick. Length 205mm, width min 22mm, max 37mm

**Leather secondary waste piece** with three cut and two torn edges. Leather cattle hide 2.22mm thick. Length 78mm, width max 83mm.

### **Context 025 fill of ditch [021]**

**Leather secondary waste piece.** Triangular piece with all edges cut. Leather unworn cattle hide 3.40mm thick. Length 41mm, width 33mm



## Appendix 8

### Registered finds from Victoria Street, Grimsby (VIGY 07)

Both finds (Table 1) were examined following X-ray and remedial conservation by the Lincolnshire County Council Collections Care Team (Conservation). The padlock springs are heavily corroded, whereas the tool appears to be relatively well preserved with much less corrosion evident.

The barrel padlock mechanism <2> has two sets of springs set at 90° to one another; both have a central spine, originally with a thin strip riveted to either side of it at one end. One spring is intact, but only one of the strips remains on the other. The opposite ends of the spines pass through a circular plate and are lapped over to form a loop, perhaps for the attachment of a chain. The arm projecting from the plate (at 90° to the plane of the springs) has a terminal loop (collar), which would pass over the arm of the padlock when fastened. The X-ray suggests that there may be traces of plating or, more likely, brazing on both the plate and the loop. The lock would be suitable for securing a chest, cupboard, or perhaps a shutter; similar padlocks were found in contexts of the 12th to the 16th centuries at Winchester (Goodall 1990, 1001: type C).

The tongs <1> are unlike the conventional type where the arms cross at the pivot-point and pushing the handles together closes the ‘jaws’ of the mouth; these are constructed in such a way that compressing the handles opens the mouth, and are for holding an object from the inside rather than the outside. Both handles originally would have terminated in a loop so that they could be secured together whilst in use; however, the precise function of these tongs is unknown.

<i>Context</i>	<i>Find No.</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Xray</i>
24	1	Iron	Tongs	Incomplete: out-turned ‘jaws’ and one handle broken; other handle broken across terminal loop. L: 465mm.	1, 2
24	2	Iron	Barrel padlock	Medieval. Spring mechanism: 2 sets of leaf-springs (1 broken) L: 63mm. Circular end plate D: 20mm; projecting arm with collar for bolt. H (from base of plate to top of collar): 46mm.	3

**Table 1 Registered finds**

### References

Goodall, I H 1990. Locks and Keys, in Biddle, M, *Object and Economy in Medieval Winchester*, Winchester Studies, **7.ii**, 1001-36.

### Acknowledgement

With thanks to Hector Cole for identification of the tongs.



VIGY 07  
(024)  
SF1

# Palaeoecology Research Services

**Evaluation of biological remains from  
excavations at Victoria Street, Grimsby,  
North East Lincolnshire (site code:  
VIGY07)**

# **Evaluation of biological remains from excavations at Victoria Street, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire (site code: VIGY07)**

by

Allan Hall, Deborah Jaques, John Carrott and Alex Beacock

## **Summary**

*Five bulk sediment samples, recovered from deposits encountered during excavations at Victoria Street, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, were submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential. The single investigated trench revealed an area severely disturbed by modern services. Medieval features, including a pit, a ditch and a well, were encountered but the subsequent truncation prevented detailed interpretation of the deposits.*

*Overall, the concentrations of plant material varied widely, although all subsamples yielded at least a modest assemblage of fruits, seeds and other identifiable remains amongst the matrix of plant debris. In two cases there were much larger assemblages and the material from Context 24 was especially abundant and well preserved. For the most part, preservation was by anoxic waterlogging, though wood charcoal was present in all subsamples and some also yielded small amounts of charred grass/cereal culm (stem) and occasional cereal grains. Peat fragments, both charred and uncharred, were noteworthy in the material from Context 24. Small amounts of remains of some other 'useful' plants were also noted (e.g. flax). Such mixed assemblages are increasingly being seen as containing, if not wholly representing, 'stable manure' or some other very mixed organic waste. However, none of the deposits appear to have been primary 'stable manure' as even the richest samples clearly had a large component of fine mineral material. During recording of the plant remains, only very occasional insect remains were noted which perhaps implies that the material was not exposed on the surface for very long before being incorporated into the deposits.*

*The bone recovered from the samples was mostly of good preservation, and where identifiable fragments were present, typically these represented the remains of fish. However, only Context 24 produced any quantity of material, with several species identified most of which were members of the cod family and formed an assemblage characteristic of medieval and post-medieval urban deposits. The presence of bones from the head and associated vertebrae representing large fish of over a metre in length suggested that some of the material was waste from the processing of fish prior to drying and/or curing.*

*No further archaeobotanical investigation of Contexts 1, 2 and 3 is warranted. Given the paucity of data for this period from Grimsby, a full record should be made of the plant material from Contexts 22 and 24 (providing the former can be dated with reasonable accuracy). The current bone assemblage from the samples does not warrant further analysis unless studied in conjunction with hand-collected material. Any further excavations at this site should allow for the systematic collection and assessment of samples from any deposits similar to those discussed here. In addition, the possibility of recovering a larger and more interpretatively valuable vertebrate assemblage should be considered (in particular any deposits with concentrations of fish remains should be investigated).*

**KEYWORDS:** VICTORIA STREET; GRIMSBY; NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE; EVALUATION; MEDIEVAL; PLANT REMAINS; WATERLOGGED PLANT REMAINS; CHARRED PLANT REMAINS; CHARRED CEREAL REMAINS; INSECT REMAINS; VERTEBRATE REMAINS; FISH BONE; 'STABLE MANURE'

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## **Evaluation of biological remains from excavations at Victoria Street, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire (site code: VIGY07)**

### **Introduction**

An archaeological excavation was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) at Victoria Street, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire (NGR TA 2671 0926), in 2007. The work was undertaken prior to the construction of a series of water fountains within the Bull Ring pedestrian area. A single evaluation trench was located within the footprint of the underground holding and filter tanks for the new water feature.

When the evaluation trench was excavated it was clear that the area revealed had been severely disturbed by modern service trenches. Medieval features, including a pit, a ditch and a well, were encountered but the subsequent truncation prevented detailed interpretation of the deposits.

Five bulk sediment samples ('GBA'/'BS' *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992) were submitted to Palaeoecology Research Services Limited (PRS), County Durham, for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological content.

### **Methods**

The sediment samples were inspected in the laboratory and their lithologies were recorded using a standard *pro forma*. Subsamples (or in two cases the entirety of the submitted sample) were processed, broadly following the techniques of Kenward *et al.* (1980), for the recovery of plant and invertebrate macrofossils. Prior to processing the subsamples were disaggregated in water and their volumes recorded in a waterlogged state. All of the washovers included quantities of waterlogged plant remains and were kept wet, whilst the residues were primarily mineral in nature and were dried and weighed prior to recording.

#### *Plant remains*

In each case the volume of disaggregated material was measured crudely using a graduated beaker and the washovers were sieved into fractions of 0.3, 1, 2 and 4 mm to facilitate further examination. Some or all of each fraction was checked briefly at low magnification using a binocular microscope, the plant taxa and other components present being recorded directly to a database on a PC using a four-point semi-quantitative scale for abundance. Fractions were generally scanned until no new remains were observed and a sense of the abundance of each taxon or component (relative to the original volume of the subsample) was achieved. Nomenclature for plant taxa follows Stace (1997)

#### *Vertebrate remains*

For the vertebrate remains, subjective records were made of the state of preservation, colour of the fragments, and the appearance of broken surfaces ('angularity'). Brief notes were made concerning fragment size, dog gnawing, burning, butchery and fresh breaks where applicable.

Where possible, fragments were identified to species or species group using the PRS modern



comparative reference collection. Fragments not identifiable to species were described as the 'unidentified' fraction. Within this fraction fragments were grouped into a number of categories: large mammal (assumed to be cattle, horse or large cervid), medium-sized mammal (assumed to be caprovid, pig or small cervid), small mammal, bird, fish and totally unidentifiable.

## Results

The results are presented in context number order. Archaeological information, provided by the excavator, is given in square brackets. A brief summary of the processing method follows, in round brackets, after the sample number.

### Context 001 [13<sup>th</sup> century fill in well 002]

Sample 1/T (5.5 kg/3 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 3 litres of unprocessed sediment remains)

Wet, mid to dark slightly olive brown to dark grey (with 'veins' of black through the grey parts), stiff to soft and slightly sticky (working somewhat plastic and very sticky), slightly humic, slightly sandy clay silt, with patches of amorphous organic sediment. Occasional stones (20 to 60 mm) were present.

The very large sample produced a large washover of about 400 ml, mainly comprising fine plant detritus with quite a lot of mineral material also present (about 30 ml of sand); the coarser organic material consisted of short rectangular fragments of wood and straw. Preservation was generally good, though there was some orange iron (II) oxide staining and encrustation regularly present. The organic material was clearly largely 'straw' in the broadest sense (including uncharred rachis – ear-stalk – fragments of free-threshing wheat, *Triticum*, and barley, *Hordeum*), plus cornfield weeds (mainly wild radish, *Raphanus raphanistrum* L. and corncockle, *Agrostemma githago* L.), and perhaps some material from grassland (hay?) and peatland, with some food remains (apple, *Malus* sp., endocarp; hazel, *Corylus avellana* L., nutshell; and wheat/rye, *Triticum/Secale*, 'bran' fragments). The last of these might have originated in stable manure or waste from a pig-sty as easily as in human faecal waste; the study of parasite eggs might shed further light on this, though they are likely to be dispersed rather thinly in the sediment.

The small residue (dry weight 0.38 kg) was mostly sand and stones (to 48mm), with some ?slag (to 55 mm; 85 g) and a little pottery (to 23 mm; 2 g) and oyster shell (*Ostrea edulis* L; to 33 mm; 6 g). There were also 13 small (to 19 mm; 1 g) fragments of bone, most of which were pieces of fish bone; none could be identified more closely.

### Context 003 ['natural']

Sample 2/T (7.5 kg/6 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; no unprocessed sediment remains)

Dry, mid to dark orange-brown to dark brown (with some 'veins' of light or light to mid grey), mostly unconsolidated with lumps (to 60 mm), with a brittle to crumbly texture (the sediment would work soft and slightly sticky when wetted), slightly sandy clay silt (to silty clay), with

black flecks of charcoal, stones (2 to 6 mm and 20 to 60 mm) and some modern contaminant moss present (approximately 0.5 kg of the most heavily contaminated sediment was discarded).

There was a very small washover of about 100 ml, about half of which comprised plant detritus, the rest being slightly concreted mineral sediment. Identifiable plant remains were sparse though there was a modest-sized assemblage. Seeds of weeds of various kinds predominated but there were also several taxa indicative of short grassland communities. This deposit was very clearly not natural in the strict sense since it contained some worn hazel nutshell, some rather rounded charcoal fragments to 10 mm, and at least two rather well preserved charred barley grains.

The relatively small residue (dry weight 0.79 kg) was mostly sand, indurated sediment lumps (to 20 mm) and stones (to 46 mm), with a little bone (to 18 mm; 3 g). The 16 fragments of bone that were recovered included several Gadidae (cod family) otoliths and a ray (*Raja* sp.) vertebra.

**Context 004** [12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century 'layer']

Sample 3/T (8 kg/6 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; no unprocessed sediment remains)

Just moist, mid to dark orange-brown to mid to dark brown (with some 'veins' of mid brownish-grey and dark grey), brittle to crumbly (working soft and somewhat plastic), slightly sandy silty clay, with stones (2 to 6 mm and 20 to 60 mm) present.

The small washover of approximately 200 ml consisted of about two-thirds by volume of undense mineral material. The organic fraction comprised mainly fine plant detritus along with some wood charcoal and worn hazel nutshell fragments and rather decayed wood (to 10 mm), some of which gave the appearance of perhaps having dried and been rewetted in the past. There were traces of very well preserved charred bread/club wheat, *Triticum aestivo-compactum*, grains and some charred grass/cereal stem, but most of the remains were preserved by waterlogging, with uncharred grass/cereal culm, and traces of heather, *Calluna vulgaris* (L.) Hull, twig (to 10 mm). Many of the fruits and seeds present were rather worn, though some were in a much better condition. The taxa represented a diverse range of habitats and included both seeds and capsule fragments (as well, perhaps, as stem fragments) of flax, *Linum usitatissimum* L. (such a combination might point to the presence of waste from flax fibre processing). There were also traces of uncharred peat.

The relatively small residue (dry weight 0.68 kg) was mostly stones (to 29 mm) and sand, with a little pottery (to 10 mm; 1 g), marine shell (probably oyster, to 10mm; 1 g) and bone (to 27 mm; 3 g). The 18 fragments of the last were well-preserved, with one being identified as a herring (*Clupea harengus* L.) vertebra, whilst a further ten fragments were also pieces of fish bone but could not be identified more closely.

**Context 022** [primary fill of well 002]

Sample 4/T (2.7 kg/2 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 3 litres of unprocessed sediment remains)

Moist, varicoloured (predominantly mid to dark brown to very dark grey/black – occasional pinkish flecks within the mid to dark brown areas, slightly blue grey within larger sediment lumps and occasional patches of light to mid grey-brown), soft and slightly sticky to plastic (working more plastic), very slightly sandy clay, with stones (6 to 20 mm) present.

There was a small washover of about 175 ml, mainly fine uncharred plant detritus though with some scraps of leather (to 20 mm) and wood (to 5 mm). Amongst the plant material there were modest numbers of small grass/cereal culm fragments, some with nodes ('knees'), and rachis fragments of free-threshing wheat and of barley; preservation was good, though with some silt remaining on some specimens, and the material sometimes being a little eroded. Quite a high proportion of what was present consisted of identifiable fruits/seeds with a rather small amount of matrix, perhaps suggesting differential decay which had removed much of the latter, 'concentrating' the former. Taxa included a modest variety of weeds, and some grassland, wetland and peatland plants (the last of these including the raised-bog-forming moss *Sphagnum imbricatum* Hornsch. ex Russ., presumably arriving with peat). Amongst these were also nutshell fragments of walnut, *Juglans regia* L. and hazel, as well as traces of flax (seed and ?also stem) and hemp, *Cannabis sativa* L. (seed fragments).

There was a very small residue (dry weight 0.20 kg) which was mostly of sand and stones (to 18 mm), with traces of brick/tile (to 20 mm; 2 g), pottery (to 9 mm; 1 g), ?slag (to 18 mm; 3 g), unidentified shell fragments (to 20 mm; 3 g) and 15 fragments of bone (to 20 mm; 1 g), most of which were fish.

**Context 024** [early to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century fill in ditch 021]

Sample 5/T (6 kg/6 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 5 litres of unprocessed sediment remains)

Moist, mid to dark grey-brown to dark olive-brown (with occasional black patches), brittle and fibrous to crumbly (working soft and slightly sticky), very humic, slightly sandy slightly clay silt, with fine woody and herbaceous detritus (abundant in parts). Large stones (over 60 mm), fish bone, ?leather and ?modern rootlet were present.

This very large sample yielded a huge washover of about 2.25 litres. The organic debris included wood and bark fragments amongst which were some worked pieces (to 50 mm) and wood chips (to 20 mm) as well as some leather (to 55 mm). The worked wood included both 'softwood' and 'hardwood'. Also present in more than trace amounts were wheat/rye 'bran', capsule fragments, seeds and perhaps also stem fragments of flax, and leaves and shoots of the moss *Sphagnum imbricatum*, the last presumably brought with peat, as in Sample 4. Indeed, burnt and unburnt peat fragments (to 25 and 20 mm, respectively) were also quite frequent, along with grass/cereal culm (charred *and* uncharred) and some charred fragments which may have been the root or lowermost twigs of heather. Uncharred free-threshing wheat rachis was also noted. A wide range of identifiable plant taxa was represented by fruits and seeds, including small amounts of food remains – hazel and walnut shell, apple endocarp, the bran mentioned above, and perhaps a single fennel, *Foeniculum vulgare* L., seed. Also present were various cornfield weeds and grassland plants and some peatland taxa which may be grouped with the peat and *Sphagnum* remains.

The relatively small residue (dry weight 1.00 kg) was mostly stones (to 80 mm), sand and fragments of wood/bark and twigs (to 34 mm; 28 g) which had not separated into the washover fraction. There was also a moderate amount of bone (to 86 mm; 99 g) and traces of pottery (to 60

mm; 28 g), brick/tile (to 17 mm; 4 g), hazel nutshell (to 15 mm; 2 g), leather (to 38 mm; 2 g) and unidentified shell (to 39 mm, but mostly less than 10 mm; 14 g).

The bone from this sample amounted to 152 fragments, the bulk of which (139) were identified as fish. Remains of cod (*Gadus morhua* L.), ling (*Molva molva* (L.)), haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus* (L.)), whiting (*Merlangius merlangus* (L.)), herring, flatfish and ray (probably *Raja clavata* L.) were identified. Many of the Gadidae (cod family) bones represented large fish of over a metre in length, with some of the vertebrae showing evidence of butchery. A small herring vertebra had been burnt. Mammal remains were restricted to several burnt fragments of ?cattle calcaneum and a few pieces of large mammal rib and scapula.

## Discussion and statement of potential

All of the washovers were characterised by the presence of modern moss and algal growth (and in one case also by the presence of a thallose liverwort) which presumably developed on the surface of the sediment during an overlong period of storage and which had not been removed prior to subsampling. These sometimes made examination of the washovers more difficult than usual.

Overall, the concentrations of plant material varied widely, although all subsamples yielded at least a modest assemblage of fruits, seeds and other identifiable remains amongst the matrix of plant debris. In two cases (the subsamples from Contexts 22 and 24), there were much larger assemblages and the material from Context 24 was especially abundant and well preserved. For the most part, preservation was by anoxic waterlogging, though wood charcoal was present in all subsamples and some also yielded small amounts of charred grass/cereal culm (stem) and occasional cereal grains. Peat fragments, both charred and uncharred, were noteworthy in the material from Context 24. Small amounts of remains of some other ‘useful’ plants were also noted (e.g. flax, see individual sections in ‘Results’, above)

These kinds of mixed assemblages are increasingly being seen by the author (AH) as containing, if not wholly representing, ‘stable manure’ (as characterised by Kenward and Hall 1997 and Hall and Kenward 1998) or some other very mixed organic waste. Even the assemblage from the ‘natural’ layer (Context 3) was clearly *not* natural in the usual sense and seems also to have some material in it having the character of ‘stable manure’. However, none of the deposits appear to have been *primary* ‘stable manure’ as even the richest samples clearly had a large component of fine mineral material which was sieved away and contained other biological (e.g. fish bone – see below) remains. During recording of the plant remains, only very occasional insect remains were noted which perhaps implies that the material was not exposed on the surface for very long – as such rich organic waste would be rapidly colonised by beetles and flies – before being dumped into the features concerned.

The bone recovered from the samples was mostly of good preservation, and where identifiable fragments were present, typically these represented the remains of fish. However, only Context 24 produced any quantity of material, with several species identified. These included mainly marine taxa, of which most were members of the cod family and formed an assemblage characteristic of medieval and post-medieval urban deposits (Serjeantson and Woolgar 2006). The presence of bones from the head and associated vertebrae representing large fish of over a metre in length suggested that some of the material was waste from the processing of fish prior to drying and/or curing.

## Recommendations

Sufficient archaeobotanical investigation has probably now been made for the subsamples from Contexts 1, 2 and 3. Given the paucity of data for this (or any) period from Grimsby (*pace* Hall and Huntley 2007), a proper record should be made of the material from Contexts 22 and 24 (providing the former can be dated with reasonable accuracy).

The current bone assemblage from the samples does not warrant further analysis unless studied in conjunction with hand-collected material from this site.

Any further excavations at this site should allow for the systematic collection and assessment of samples from any deposits similar to those discussed here. In addition, the possibility of recovering a larger and more interpretatively valuable vertebrate assemblage should be considered (in particular any deposits with concentrations of fish remains should be investigated).

## Retention and disposal

All of the remaining material from this excavation and the fossils extracted from the processed subsamples should be retained for the present as part of the physical archive for the site.

## Archive

All material is currently stored by Palaeoecology Research Services (Unit 8, Dabble Duck Industrial Estate, Shildon, County Durham), along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

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## APPENDIX 10:

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## UNDERGROUND PLANT CHAMBER AND HOLDING TANK, VICTORIA STREET, GRIMSBY, NE LINCS. - Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

OASIS ID - preconst3-66398

### Versions

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<a href="#">View 1</a>	1	LAURA	<a href="mailto:laura@pre-construct.co.uk">laura@pre-construct.co.uk</a>	28 October 2009
<a href="#">View 2</a>	2	laura	<a href="mailto:laura@pre-construct.co.uk">laura@pre-construct.co.uk</a>	28 October 2009

### Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

### Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

### File submission and form progress

<a href="#">Grey literature report submitted?</a>	No	<a href="#">Grey literature report filename/s</a>
<a href="#">Boundary file submitted?</a>	No	<a href="#">Boundary filename</a>
<a href="#">HER signed off?</a>		<a href="#">NMR signed off?</a>