



HOUSE AND SON
4 OGLEFORTH
YORK

A Report on an
Archaeological
Evaluation

by David Evans

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Cover illustration:

Trench 1, detail of stone wall 1008, looking north-west

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List of Abbreviations

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
BGL	Below Ground Level
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
NGR	National Grid Reference
YAT	York Archaeological Trust

SUMMARY

Between 22nd September and 3rd October 2005 York Archaeological Trust carried out an evaluation excavation at the premises of House and Son, 4 Ogleforth, York. This work was undertaken in advance of the submission of a proposal for re-development of the property. This involved the excavation and recording of two 2m x 2m trenches to a maximum depth of 1.5m below the modern ground level.

The evidence from Trench 1 suggested a brief but intense period of complex structural and occupational activity in the immediate vicinity during the 14th century. Prior to this activity the site appears to have been open ground, an unusual occurrence considering the proximity of this trench to both the medieval city centre north-east of the Ouse and to the medieval street of Ogleforth. Structural activity seems to have restarted by the 18th century since when it has been continuous. The evidence from Trench 2 was also unusual in that prior to modern activity in the immediate vicinity of the trench there appears to have been no structural activity or occupation during the medieval and post-medieval periods. Only accumulation deposits and pits were recorded from this trench.

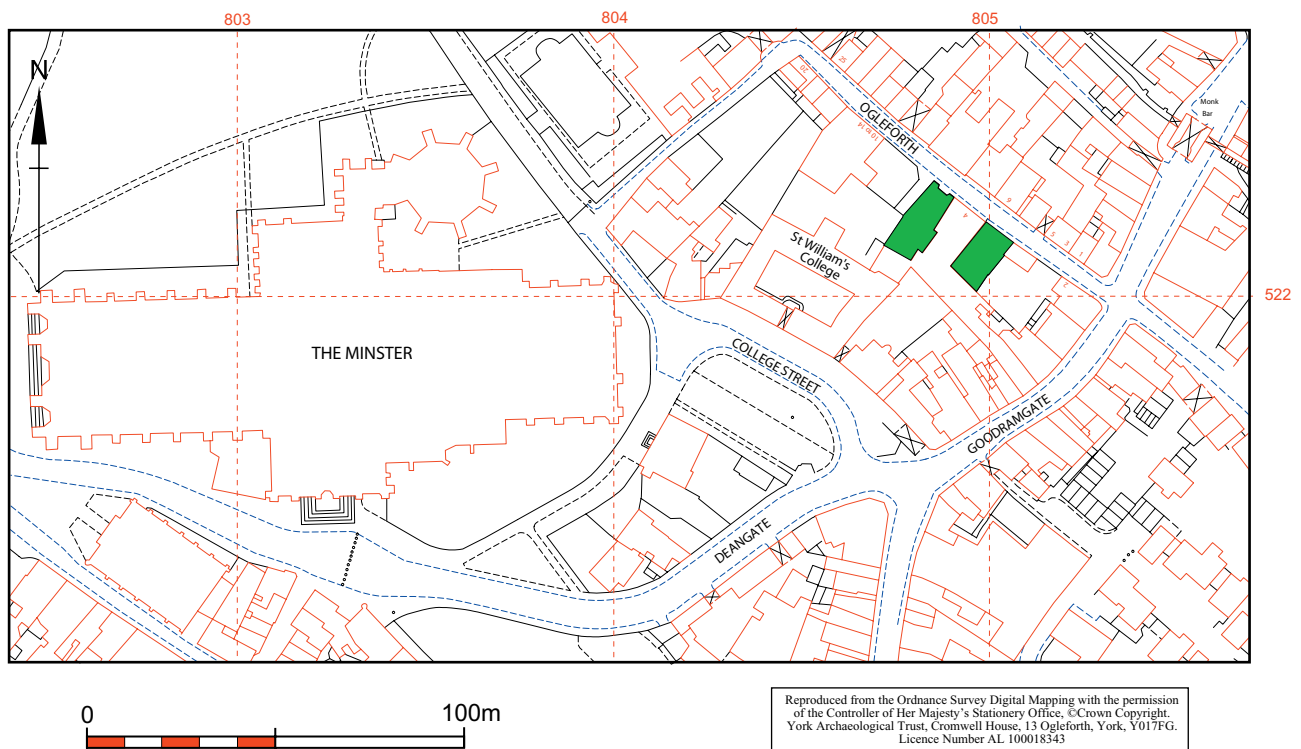


Fig 1 Site location

1. INTRODUCTION

Between 22nd September and 3rd October 2005 York Archaeological Trust (YAT) undertook an evaluation excavation at 4 Ogleforth, York (NGR SE60495222, Figure 1). It was commissioned by David Chapman Associates of Bishopthorpe, York on behalf of their clients, House and Son Ltd.

The evaluation consisted of the excavation of two trenches, each measuring nominally 2m x 2m, to a maximum depth of 1.5m. All records pertaining to this site are currently held by York Archaeological Trust under the Yorkshire Museum accession code YORYM: 2005.2601

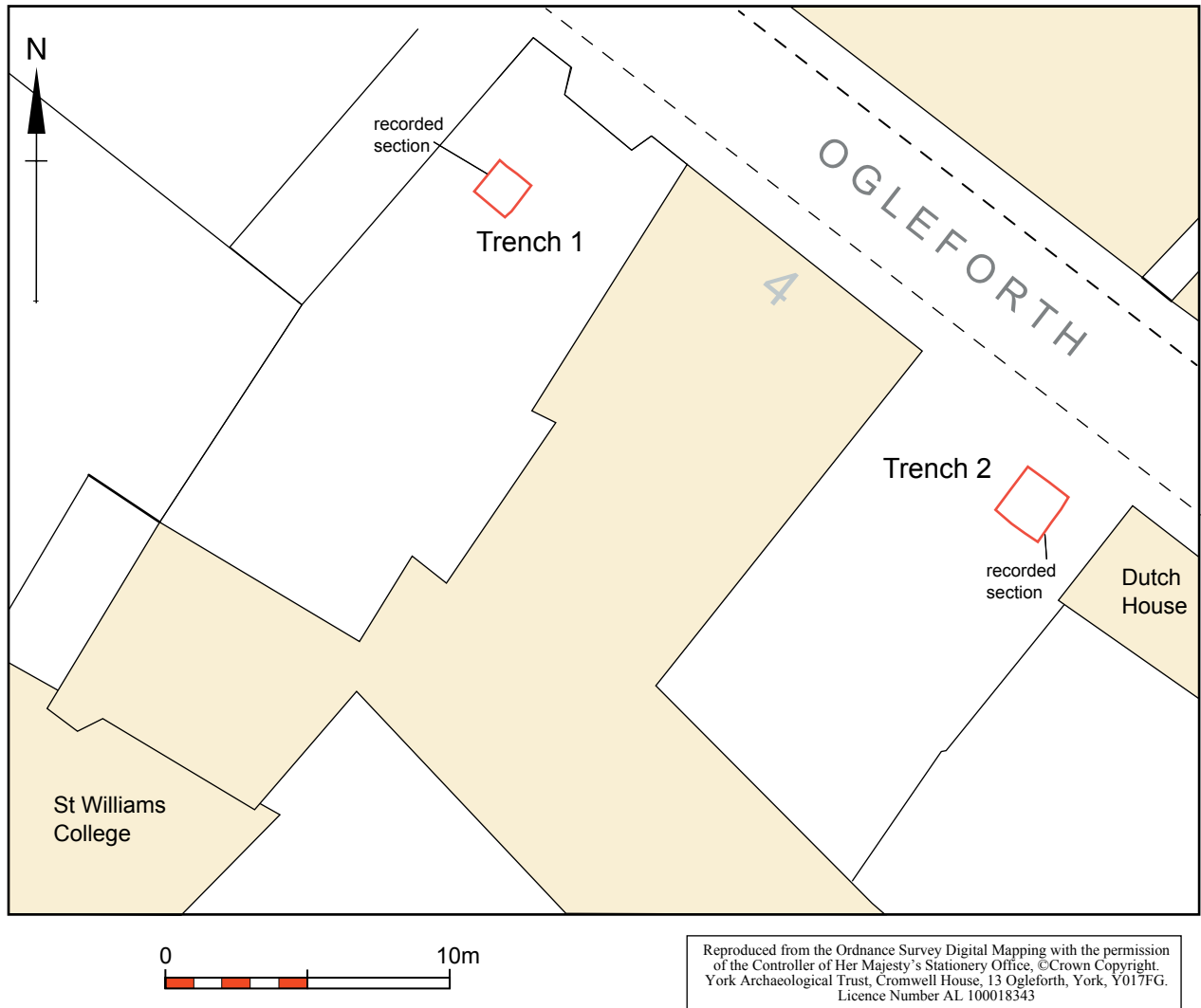


Fig 2 Trench location

2. METHOD STATEMENT

Prior to the commencement of the evaluation the exterior of the site was visited and a limited photographic survey undertaken. A risk assessment was also compiled prior to work commencing and provisional trench locations decided.

The evaluation was undertaken to a specification drawn up by City of York Council's Principal Archaeologist, John Oxley. The initial clearance of the trenches was by a mini mechanical excavator. All obviously modern deposits were removed by machine after which the trenches were cleaned and excavation by hand began. In each trench the first number in the context

sequence, i.e. 1000, was used for finds from the machine clearance and initial cleaning of the trench.

Recording followed the procedure laid down in the York Archaeological Trust *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2004). At least one standing section of each trench was drawn at a scale of 1:10. Any significant features, deposits or structures were recorded on single context plans at a scale of 1:20. Where relevant, colour photographs were taken of standing sections and features, and a number of general record photographs were also taken. All trenches were photographed after initial clearance and cleaning, and after excavation had been completed.

A provisional programme of environmental sampling was drawn up prior to the commencement of the work but was subject to modification dependent on the nature of the deposits encountered.

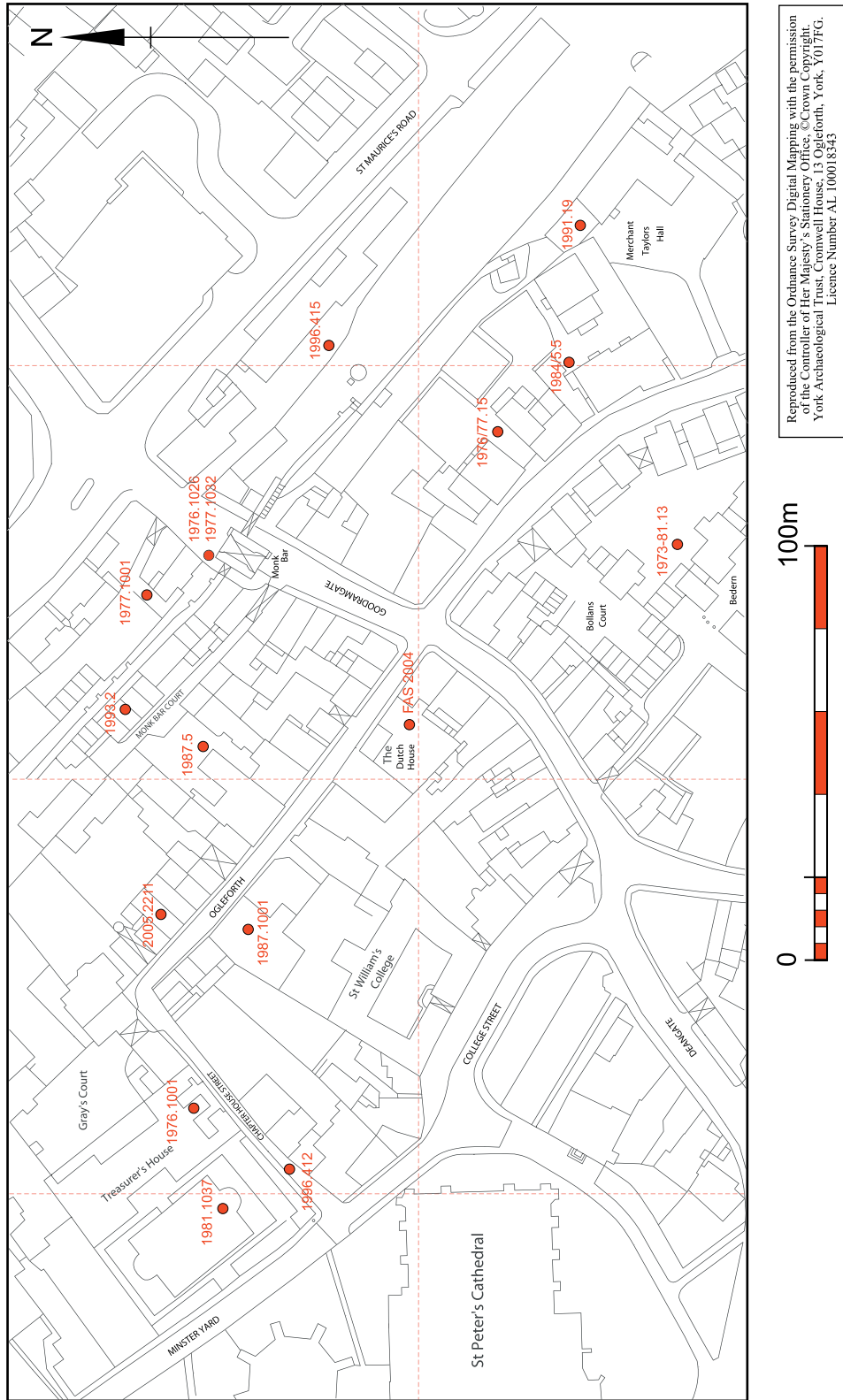
3. LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site lay immediately south-west of Ogleforth, some 60m south-west of Monk Bar and the city walls. The site is within the medieval walled city north-east of the Ouse and also within the area of the Roman Legionary Fortress. West of the site is St William's College and to the south-east a number of structures fronting onto Goodramgate. The areas investigated were both roughly rectangular and separated by a brick structure, possibly of the early 20th century, which fronted onto Ogleforth. The north-western area was c.20m x 13m and sloped upward gently from c.15.3m OD adjacent to Ogleforth to c.15.7m OD at its south-west end. The south-eastern area was c.15m x 13m, was fairly level and lay at c.15.15m OD.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Note: in the text below sites in York are normally referred to in the form YAT 1997, site 1990.111. Further details of these sites are available from the YAT online archive gazetteer which can be found at www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/gaz/index.htm.

The evaluation was undertaken because the site lies in the middle of an area of high archaeological potential, the evidence for which is summarised below. This background to the site has been compiled from the results of previous archaeological investigations and observations, easily accessible historical sources, and from cartographic evidence. There have been quite a number of archaeological investigations (Figure 3) in the general area of the site including watching briefs, excavations and evaluation excavations. In addition to the YAT sites mentioned below Field Archaeology Specialists (FAS 2004) carried an evaluation at 2 Ogleforth in 2004. Evidence from these investigations, except 2 Ogleforth, and an examination of the documentary and cartographic evidence for the site is discussed below, period by period.



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Fig 3 Archaeology in the vicinity of the current works

4.1 Prehistoric and Roman Periods (pre 1st century–5th centuries AD)

Evidence for prehistoric material in central York is rare but an excavation at 7-9 Aldwark (1985.5) uncovered a pre-Roman buried soil horizon.

Evidence for the Roman period is relatively plentiful. Excavations behind Gray's Court by S.N. Miller in 1927 revealed part of the wall and rampart of the Roman Legionary Fortress and immediately south-east of this a stretch of the fortress wall was uncovered by William Gray in 1860 (RCHMY 1, 33a). A gritstone relief of Roman date was found before 1884 in the City Wall near the garden of Gray's Court (RCHMY 1, 132a). Chapter House Street, at the north-west end of Ogleforth, is known to follow roughly the line of one of the principal Roman roads in the area, the *via decumana*. A cobbled pavement seen in 1898, and preserved in a cellar of the Treasurer's House, is probably part of this road which originally had a colonnade immediately to its south-east (RCHMY 1, 37b, 43a). A stretch of the fortress wall, including Interval Tower NE6 and the East Angle Tower, partly excavated by S.N. Miller in 1926 and more fully exposed by the City Corporation in 1953, can be seen south-east of Monk Bar (RCHMY 1, 31b, 33a).

Other evidence of the period from the area includes, a bronze coin of Valens from the garden of the Treasurer's House (1981.1037), Roman structures, possibly parts of barracks, at 1-5 Aldwark (1976-77.15), part of the foundations of the fortress wall at 5-9 Aldwark (1984.5), part of the fortress wall and rampart at 7-9 Aldwark and extensive remains including occupation, structures, a road and a well at the Bedern (1973-81.13). Part of the *via decumana* has been observed during sewer repairs at 1 Chapter House Street (YORYM:1996.412). A recent watching brief at 23 Ogleforth (YORYM:2005.2211) observed a stone believed to be part of a barrack block and observations at 4-7 Monk Bar Court (1993.2) included a possible part of the Roman rampart.

4.2 Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian Periods (5th – 11th centuries)

No Anglian evidence has been located in the immediate vicinity of the present site, although Anglian occupation within the legionary fortress is known (Tweddle et al, 1999). There is a moderate amount of evidence for the Anglo-Scandinavian period in the immediate area which includes possible accumulation deposits in the 1 Chapter House Street sewer repair, probable robbing of the fortress wall at 7-9 Aldwark and a structure and a pit at the Bedern excavations (Hall et al, 2004).

4.3 Medieval Period (11th-16th centuries)

Remains of this period are plentiful in and around Ogleforth. The foundations of a late medieval stone structure have recorded at 14 Ogleforth (1988.1) and possible accumulation deposits in the 1 Chapter House Street sewer repairs. At 1-5 Aldwark a well, structures, hearths, ovens, part of the City Wall rampart and a large ditch have been recorded, a pit and levelling deposits

were seen at 7-9 Aldwark and a well and a pit at 5-9 Aldwark. Medieval buildings have been recorded during work at the Merchant Taylor's Hall in Aldwark (1991.19) and many buildings excavated and recorded at The Bedern. Medieval occupation deposits have been noted at 23 Ogleforth, and 4-7 Monk Bar Court. In 2004 evaluation excavations by FAS at 2 Ogleforth revealed a ditch, probably serving as a property boundary in the 14th – 15th centuries, and evidence for a demolished medieval structure.

4.4 Post-Medieval Period (16th-19th centuries)

There is much evidence for this period around the present site. This includes demolition deposits at 14 Ogleforth (1987.1001), a floor, building, drain and deposits of uncertain function at the Treasurer's House, Chapter House Street (1976.1001), garden soils and demolition deposits at 8 Chapter House Street (YORYM:2000.502), a building at 1-5 Aldwark, a building at 7-9 Aldwark, buildings at the Merchant Taylor's Hall and at Bedern. Other evidence comes from 3 Monkgate (1977.1001) where the footings of a stone wall were observed, from road works adjacent to Monk Bar (1976.1026 and 1977.1032) where a possible road surface and parts of the demolished barbican were recorded and at 4-7 Monk Bar Court where accumulation deposits, some organic, were noted.

4.5 Modern (19th-21st centuries)

Buried modern remains are not uncommon in and around Ogleforth. Modern deposits and 19th century building foundations have been recorded at Ogleforth Mews (1987.5), a modern drain seen at 5-9 Aldwark, a yard surface at 7-9 Aldwark, buildings at Bedern and levelling deposits at 4 Monkgate.

4.6 Historical and Cartographic Background

The name Ogleforth goes back to at least 1109-14 (Palliser, 1978). The derivation of the name is uncertain but it could mean 'Ugelsford' or 'owlsford'. The ford part is believed to refer to a crossing over a large open drain said to run between the street and the city rampart (RCHMY 5, 171b-173b). Poor maintenance of this ditch in the early 15th century led to localised flooding in the area around it. Action was taken but in 1576 three persons living in Ogleforth was threatened with fines unless the ditch was cleaned. It is not clear when this ditch ceased to be used. On the north-east side of the north-west end of Ogleforth lay the church of St John del Pyke, first mentioned in 1160-3. It was visited by Thomas Haxey, Canon of York, on behalf of the Dean and Chapter in 1409 and found to be in good order (Raine..A., 1955. 48-9). It was, however, a relatively poor parish and by 1553 the church, churchyard, and parsonage had been sold to Archbishop Holgate, probably for use by his newly founded school. The parish effectively was united with Holy Trinity, Goodramgate by 1560-1 and this became permanent in 1586 although the parish retained its identity until 1900 (Wilson and Mee, 1998, 89). One of the gates into the Minster Close crossed the north-west end of Ogleforth until c1700 when it was demolished, partly to improve access to and along Chapter House Street. The boundary

between the Minster Close and the parish of St John was marked by a stone, very probably the one that can still be seen at the junction of Ogleforth and Chapter House Street. Little else is known about the street in medieval times although there is a record that in the 15th century a lane lead from Ogleforth to a rear entrance of St William's College.

The 'Dutch House', 2 Ogleforth, one York's earliest brick buildings is believed to have been first erected in the mid-17th century but has been much rebuilt since then (RCHMY 5, 172b-173a). The area may have suffered from some neglect in the mid-18th century since Ogleforth was one of a number of streets that the city paver was ordered, in 1746, to repair. A Roman Catholic school was established in Ogleforth in 1796.

Trade directories of the 19th century give an insight into the occupation of many of the inhabitants of Ogleforth. Baines Directory of 1823 includes solicitors, a barrister, a coachbuilder, shoemakers, writers, a surveyor of taxes and a wheelwright as resident at this time in the street possibly suggesting a degree of affluence. White's Directory of 1840 also mentions a clerk, a Mayor's Officer, a bookbinder, a fishmonger, a joiner and builder, a house or sign painter and a tailor as living or working in Ogleforth. Kelly's Directory of 1901 mentions a coach builder, a bookbinder, a vet, an antiques dealer and a chiropodist. It also mentions Wm Thackwray and Co, 3 Ogleforth, Brewers and C. I. Probert, Cork Engineer. It is not known when Thackwray's arrived in Ogleforth but more information may be forthcoming from an article in a publication of The Brewery History Society (BHS, 1983).

The earliest map of York, drawn c.1545, shows Ogleforth but lacks any detail. John Speed's map of 1610 does indicate that the north-east side of Ogleforth is built up but the south-west side appears to be free of structures. A map by James Archer, dating to c.1682, indicates that by this time both sides of the street were occupied by buildings and this continued to be the case on maps drawn in the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century including the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1852. On Skaife's map of 1864 the area is built up but there is some evidence of yards associated with some of the structures. The principal change during the 20th century appears to have been the demolition of two buildings flanking the 'Dutch House'. This is believed to have taken place c.1958. In the City of York photographic archive, Imagine York, (www.imagineyork.co.uk) there are a number of images of the 'Dutch House' and its immediate surroundings that confirm this.

5. THE EVALUATION

5.1 Trench 1

The earliest deposit seen in this trench, at c.1.5m BGL, 14.13m OD, was a dark greenish-brown-grey silty sand with occasional charcoal (1031). It was sealed by a layer of dark bluish-black clay with charcoal flecks (1026) which produced pottery of the late 13th century and tile of the 13th – 16th centuries. Both 1031 and 1026 were probably accumulation deposits.

Two features were identified directly cut into 1026 but neither was excavated since the depth limit had been reached. The first (1033), although of uncertain shape, size and function, may have been roughly circular in plan and at least 1.7m across. The feature could have been a large rubbish pit. The uppermost backfill was a mid-greyish-brown plastic clay (1032). The second feature (1030) was also of uncertain shape, size and function. It was at least 0.5m across and had a backfill of compact, mid-greyish-brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal and limestone fragments (1029). This feature and its backfill had been truncated by a third feature (1028) which was also not excavated. Feature 1028 may have been roughly circular in plan and was a minimum of 0.6m across. It could have been another rubbish pit. It had an upper backfill of compact, mid-brownish-grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks (1027).

Partly overlying backfill 1032 was a linear band of cobbles and limestone fragments (1025) aligned approximately north-west / south-east. Although somewhat irregular it is possible that this was a partly disturbed wall footing with none of the wall proper remaining. From it came pottery of the late 13th / 14th century and tile of the 13th – 16th centuries. It had been sealed by a compact mixture of ash, charcoal and pale grey silty sand with frequent charcoal (1022), possibly a levelling deposit. Context 1022 produced pottery of the late 14th / 15th century and tile of the 13th – 16th centuries and had been overlain by a mass of broken and complete tile set in a mid-brown silty sand (1021). This may have been a demolition deposit or possibly a floor since the tiles, broadly dated to the 13th – 16th centuries, seemed to have been laid horizontally rather than just being tipped. Above 1021 there was a soft, mid-orange sandy silt (1020) which may have been an accumulation deposit. It contained pottery of the 14th / 15th centuries, tile of the 13th – 16th centuries and two fragments of Roman brick.

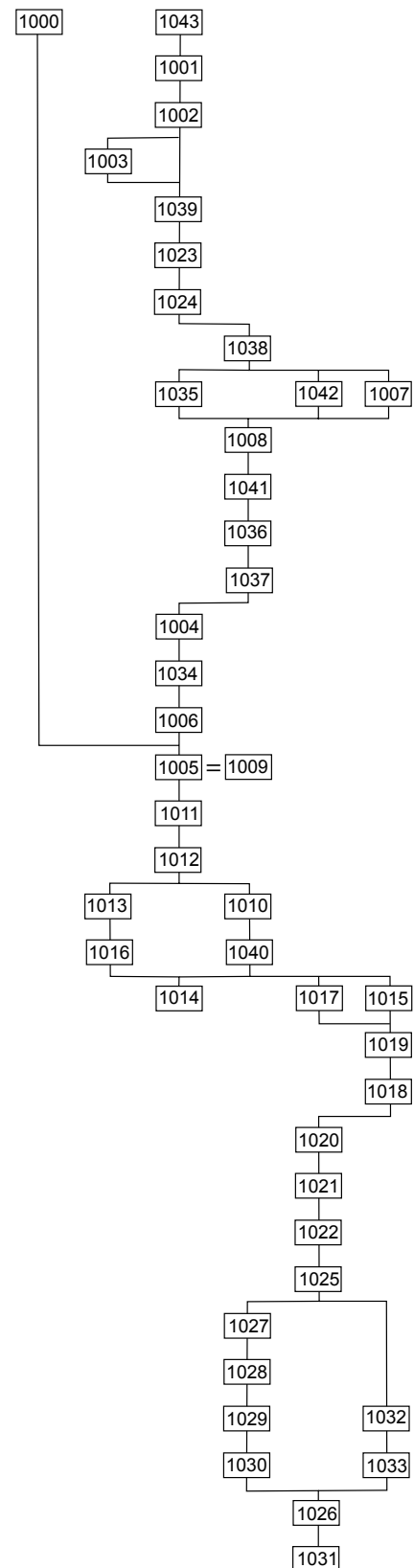


Fig 4 Trench 1 matrix

Above 1020 there was a possible wall foundation (1014) aligned approximately east-west. It was composed of edge-set flat slabs of limestone, and a few cobbles bonded with a mid-brown clay and capped by horizontally laid slabs of limestone. It did not match the alignment of any previous or later wall. Probably associated with 1014 was a spread of compact, mid-greyish-brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks (1018) which was thought to be a floor surface. Pottery of the early 14th century and tile of the 13th – 16th centuries came from this context. Overlying 1018 was a small area of compact, orange-brown mortar (1019) which may have been another floor. Sealing 1019 there was a compact, mid-brownish-grey clay with occasional charcoal (1017) again a possible floor surface. Possibly contemporary with 1017 was an area of dark bluish-black silty sand with charcoal flecks (1015) which may have been an occupation deposit.

Probably later than 1015 and 1017, and certainly later than 1014, was a probable wall foundation (1016) aligned approximately north-west / south-east. It was composed of cobbles and limestone blocks set in a mid-brown clayey silt. Probably associated with 1016 was a black sandy silt with charcoal and mortar flecks (1040), quite possibly an occupation deposit. Sealing this was a probable floor surface composed of compact, orange-pink mortar (1010). Thought to be roughly contemporary with 1010 was a compact, mid-reddish-brown clay with occasional charcoal (1013). The function of this deposit, which contained pottery of the 14th century and tile of the 13th – 16th centuries, is uncertain but it may have been either a levelling deposit or a backfill after partial robbing of walls 1014 and 1016.

Cutting part of 1013 was a feature sub-circular in plan (1012). It measured c.0.8m x 0.7m. and was up to 0.26m deep with moderate to steeply sloping sides leading to a flattish base. The function of this cut was not obvious. The backfill was a loose, friable, mid-brown sandy silt (1011) which produced pottery of the 12th – 14th centuries and brick / tile of the 14th – 16th centuries.

Sealing 1012 and 1013 was an overall spread, possibly an accumulation deposit, of compact, very mixed mid-greenish-brown clayey silt with mortar, limestone fragments, coal fragments and charcoal flecks (1005 = 1009). Context 1005 = 1009 contained pottery of the late 14th century and tile of the 13th – 16th centuries. Overlying this was a moderately compact, light greyish-brown mortar spread (1006), possibly a floor. Sealing 1006 was a mixture of light greyish-brown crushed limestone and mid-brown silty sand with mortar and limestone blocks (1034), possibly a levelling deposit. Above this was a compact, mixed deposit of clinker, mid-grey silt, charcoal and moderate amounts of white mortar (1004), also a possible levelling deposit.

Cut into 1004 there was a feature (1037) of uncertain shape and size but it was probably U-shaped in profile. The width was at least 0.4m and the depth at least 0.5m. It had an almost vertical south-west edge which lead quite sharply into a semi-concave base. The only backfill identified was a mid-brown silty sand with mortar, brick fragments, tile and limestone fragments

(1036). The feature had been sealed by a possible demolition deposit of compact, mid-orange silty sand with mortar and brick / tile (1041).

Straigraphically later than 1041 was a stone wall (1008) aligned approximately north-east / south-west. It appeared to turn 90 degrees within the trench and continue beyond the south-east edge. The wall was c.0.25m wide and survived to a height of c.0.6m. It was constructed mainly of roughly squared limestone blocks bonded with a soft white lime mortar.

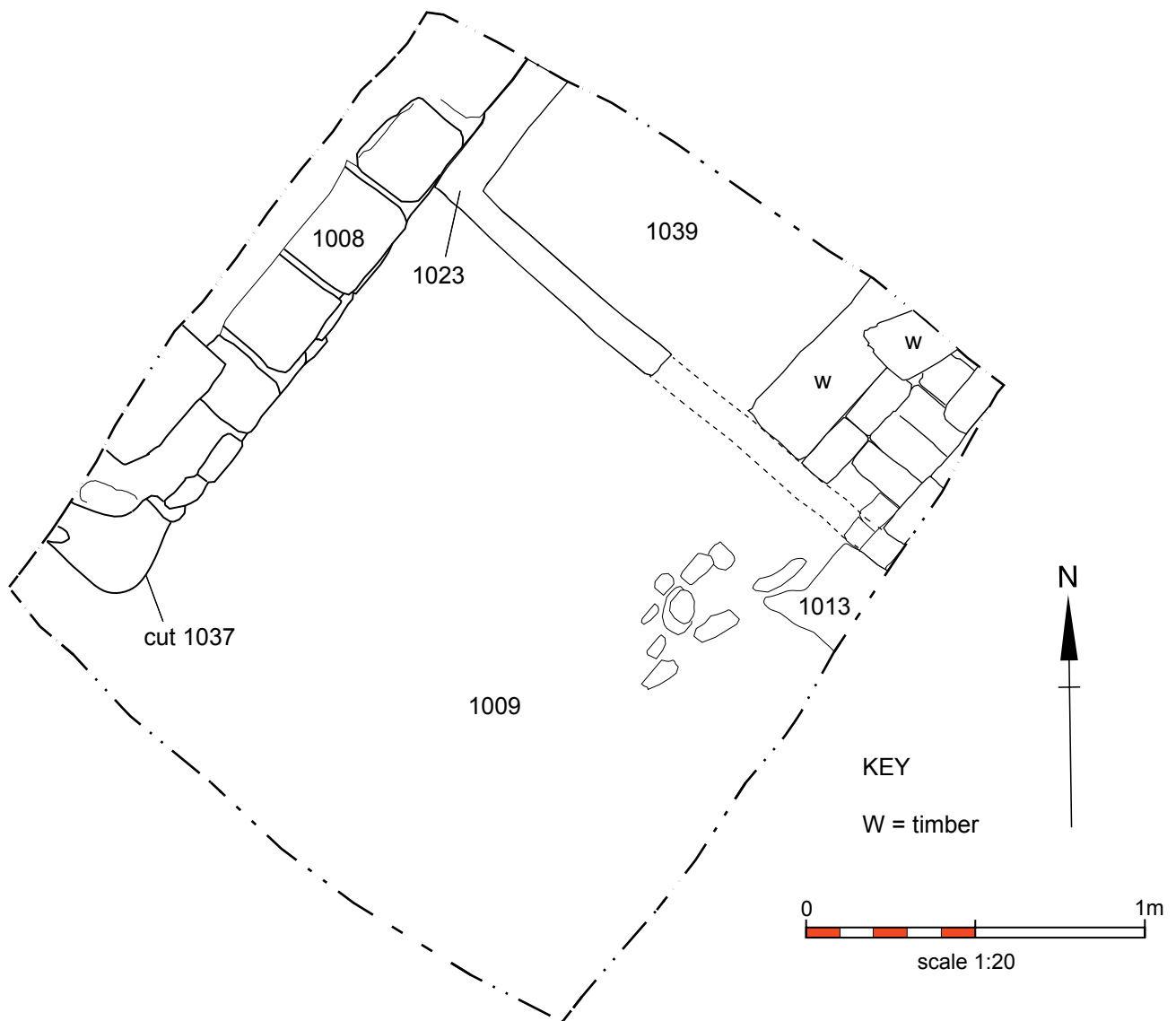


Fig 5 Trench 1 at start of hand excavation

Occasional tile and brick was noted in the construction of this wall. Later than 1008 was a brick wall (1035) aligned roughly north-east / south-west (seen only in the south-east facing section). The size of the bricks was c.0.2m x 60mm and they were bonded with a soft, light yellow-brown lime mortar. Possibly contemporary with 1035 was another brick wall (1042) aligned approximately north-west / south-east (also seen only in section). The bricks were

bonded with a soft, light greyish-brown lime mortar. Also possibly at this stratigraphic horizon was a brick wall (1007) aligned north-east / south-west. The bricks were bonded with a hard white mortar. The dimensions are uncertain since this wall was all within the south-east facing trench section.

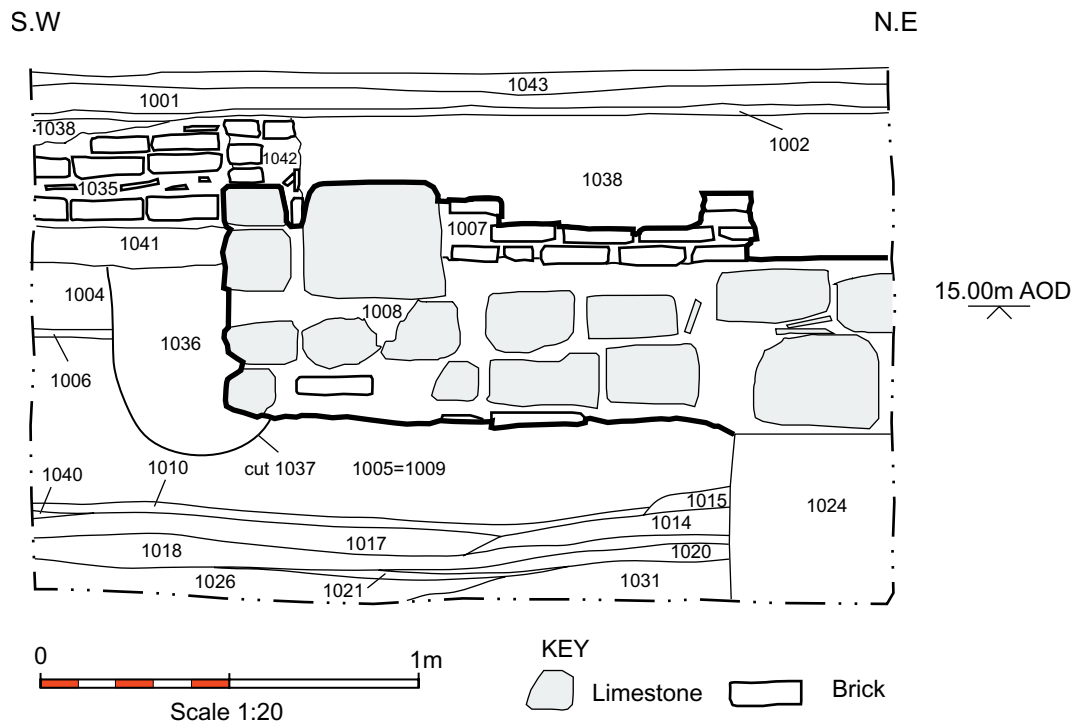


Fig 6 Trench 1, south-east facing section



Plate 1 Trench 1, medieval floor surfaces, looking south-west

Believed to be later than 1007, 1035 and 1043 was a cellar construction cut (1024) of uncertain dimensions since only a small part lay within the trench. Lining it was a brick wall (1023) of machine made frogged bricks bonded with a hard white mortar. The cellar had been backfilled with loose, mid-brown silty sand with frequent brick / tile, slate, timber and limestone fragments (1039) probably derived from the demolition of a close-by structure.

The cellar backfill had been sealed by a mixed deposit of white mortar, mid-brown silty sand and brick rubble with gravel and limestone blocks (1003) probably a demolition deposit. Above this was a thin, c.20mm, layer of black tarmac (1002), probably a former car park or yard surface. Overlying this was a mixture of mortar, clinker, brick rubble and mid-brown silty sand with limestone chips and some gravel (1001) which was very probably a levelling deposit. The uppermost deposit in this trench was a layer of black tarmac (1043) approximately 100mm thick and forming a modern car park surface. In the immediate area of the trench this lay at c.15.6m OD. Unstratified finds from this trench were assigned the context number 1000.

5.2 Trench 2

In this trench the earliest deposits recorded lay at c.1.55m BGL, 13.6m OD. The first was a firm, mid-greenish-grey slightly clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks (2015). Probably roughly contemporary with 2015 was a layer of mid-grey slightly clayey sandy silt (2011) and a mid-greenish-grey clayey silt with moderate lenses of light orange ash and black charcoal (2014). All of these were probably accumulation deposits.

Contexts 2011, 2014 and 2015 had all been cut by a feature (2013) which was very probably a rubbish pit. It appeared to be roughly circular in plan with a diameter of c.1.2m. The depth was not ascertained since the pit continued below the depth limit for excavation but at the top of this cut the sides sloped moderately. Only the uppermost backfill was seen. This was a soft, mid-grey slightly clayey sandy silt with occasional angular blocks of limestone (2012).

Probably later than 2012 was a mixed layer of very pale yellow finely crushed limestone and mid-grey slightly clayey silt (2019). The function of this deposit was uncertain. Overlying it was a probable accumulation deposit of mid-greyish-brown clayey silt (2018).

Above this was a mixture of finely crushed, very pale yellow limestone and mid-brown clayey silt with moderate amounts of limestone and tile (2017). The function of this deposit was not

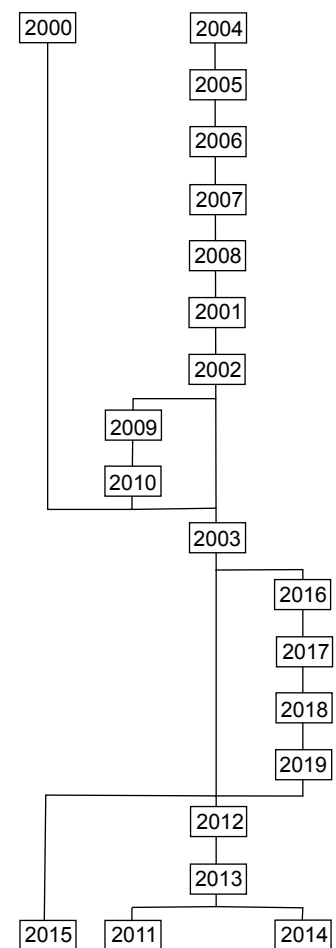


Fig 7 Trench 2 matrix

clear. It was sealed by an accumulation deposit of clean, mid-brown clayey silt (2016)

Later than, and partially overlying, 2016 was a widespread accumulation deposit of fairly soft, mid-greenish-grey clayey silt with moderate charcoal flecks and limestone flecks (2003). Context 2003 contained pottery of the late 13th / 14th century and tile of the 13th – 16th centuries. This was partly sealed by a mid-brown clayey silt with occasional flecks of white mortar (2010). Above 2010 was a mid-brownish-grey clayey silt with occasional flecks of white mortar (2009). Both 2010 and 2009 were thought to be accumulation deposits.

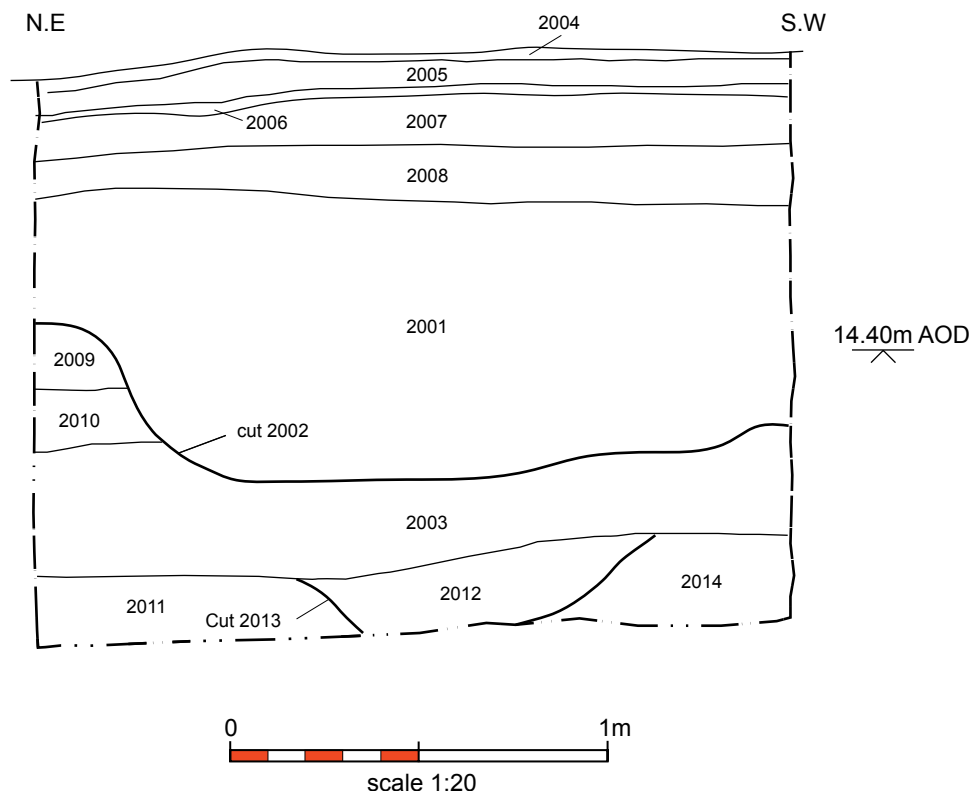


Fig 8 Trench 2, north-west facing section

Cut into 2009 was a large pit (2002). The size and shape of this pit is uncertain since it extended beyond the edges of the trench in all directions. It was probably roughly circular in plan with a diameter of at least 2m and a depth of 0.75m. The sides, where seen, sloped moderately to steeply and the base was fairly flat. A single, very mixed, fill was recorded in this pit. The backfill was a soft mixture of orange ash, charcoal, clinker, mid-grey silt, mid-brown silt and white mortar (2001). This produced pottery of the late 14th / 15th century and brick / tile of the 16th – 18th centuries.

Sealing 2001 was a firm, mid-brown silt with much pale yellow mortar and occasional charcoal (2008). Although of uncertain function, it may have been an accumulation deposit. Above 2008 there was a mixture of brick rubble and crushed brick (2007) which was overlain by a



Plate 2 Trench 2, medieval and post-medieval accumulation deposits looking south-east

thin, c.20mm, layer of firm, finely crushed pale yellow limestone (2006). Above this was a mixture of small, c.30mm, limestone chips and gravel (2005). Contexts 2005, 2006 and 2007 were all thought to be levelling deposits. Over 2005 was the uppermost deposit in this trench, a thin, c. 30mm, layer of black tarmac (2004) forming the modern ground surface. In the vicinity of the trench this lay at c.15.15m OD. Unstratified finds from the machine clearance and initial

cleaning were assigned the context number 2000. These finds comprised pottery with a date range of the late 15th century – early 18th century, and tile of the 13th – 16th centuries.

6. FINDS ASSESSMENT

6.1 The Ceramic Building Material by Jane McComish

6.1.1 Introduction

A total of 33.945kg of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) was examined from the site. The material ranged in date from Roman to post-medieval, though the overwhelming bulk consisted of medieval roofing material. The CBM was recorded following standard YAT procedures.

6.1.2 Description of the Brick and Tile

There were two fragments of residual Roman brick. The medieval material consisted of roofing material (plain tiles and peg tiles) of 13-16th century date and a single fragment of 14-16th century brick. There were 28 examples of peg tiles, three of which had circular peg holes; the remainder had square peg holes. The peg holes were 9-15mm in size, which is typical. There were numerous examples of plain tiles 12-17mm in thickness, which is typical for York. There was a single example which had blown though overfiring and was 24mm thick. One of the plain tiles had a possible tally mark, and a second had a thumb print on the surface. Four of the plain tiles had finger smoothed lines on the upper surface, which is not unusual. The fabrics used in the medieval roofing tiles were typical for York. The fragment of medieval brick was typical in terms of its dimensions and fabric, and was made in a sanded mould. There was a single fragment of 16-18th century brick which was again made in a sanded mould.

Context	Date	Forms
1009	13th - 16th century	Plain, Peg
1011	14th - 16th century	Brick, Plain
1013	13th - 16th century	Plain
1018	13th - 16th century	Plain
1020	13th - 16th century	Plain, Peg, rBrick
1021	13th - 16th century	Plain, Peg
1022	13th - 16th century	Peg
1025	13th - 16th century	Plain, Peg
1026	13th - 16th century	Plain
2000	13th - 16th century	Plain
2001	16th - 18th century	Brick, Plain, Peg
2003	13th - 16th century	Plain, Peg

Table 1 CBM summary

6.1.3 Conclusions

The CBM is of use in providing dating evidence for the various contexts on site, and these are listed in Table 1 above. Few features of note were present; the collection was typical in terms of both the forms and fabrics used. No further work on the collection is merited.

6.2 The Pottery by Anne Jenner

6.2.1 Introduction

The two trenches produced a total of 136 sherds mainly medieval but some of post-medieval date (see Table 2 below). The sherd size varied but medieval Brandsby-type wares range in size from 60mm to 100mm. All other sherds are generally smaller.

The range of types includes Gritty wares and Splash wares of 12th century date at the earliest, plus Ryedale types and one Brown glazed, red earthenware sherd (Context 1020) which may be of the 18th or even 19th century.

6.2.2 Trench 1

Most of the pottery was recovered from a series of medieval, predominantly 14th century, floor surfaces or occupation deposits (1020 - 1022). Above and below these occupation levels there was evidence of midden accumulation and debris indicating open ground and demolition. The pottery confirms that the floor levels and associated occupation was of 14th century date. A probable accumulation deposit (1026) below 1020 – 2 contained pottery of late 13th century date and a levelling deposit (1013), overlying the floor levels, containing

14th century Brandsby-type ware, is thought to have been associated with demolition and/or robbing of the 14th century buildings. This indicates a relatively short-lived occupation within the 14th century (see below).

The majority of the medieval sherds are of Brandsby-type ware jugs, although one flanged jar in the same fabric group was also present (1011). Brandsby-type wares are found in York from the mid/late 13th to late 14th century (Brooks 1987, 154; Le Patourel 1979, 88-9). The latest Brandsby-type ware sherd (1009) was a substantial part of the base of a tall, perhaps late, baluster jug (see Jennings 1992, 48 for similar).

One Brandsby-type ware jug sherd (1009), decorated with a star-shaped stamp boss, is of particular interest since nothing quite like it in this fabric has been found in a number of contemporary assemblages in the area. These include assemblages of jugs from the Bedern (Richards 2001, 402) and an unpublished assemblage from a well in the north aisle of the Minster as well as pottery from the Yorkshire museum (Jennings 1992, 24-26 and 45-49).

Two Brandsby-type jug sherds, probably from the same vessel, have incised wavy line decoration (1018) similar to one in the Yorkshire Museum (Jennings 1992, 49 No. 103) and one from a well in the Minster (see above), thought to be early 14th century in date.

It is interesting to note that there are no other late 13th century Brandsby-types such as the pellet and line decorated jugs from the Yorkshire Museum (Jennings 1992, 45 no. 78) and in the assemblage of jugs from the Bedern (Richards 2001, 402).

A progression from the 12th century Splash glazed, medium quartz grained, reduced ware (MRED) (1011), overlapping with Gritty Brandsby-type ware (1011) to the finer green glazed Brandsby-type wares and the tall baluster jug (1009) might be hinted at here but the sample is too small to be conclusive.

A few Humber wares (1020), one Sandy red ware (1018) and one Yorkshire red ware (2003) are also present but as relatively small sized sherds. The Humber wares are most likely to be of 14/15th century date.

Of particular interest are a number of wasters which are remarkably similar to drinking jug wasters from Walmgate, but appear with Brandsby-type wares here (1013) and are too distorted to allow the pottery type to be distinguished. These are stratigraphically and typologically 14th century. As the site was thought to be open land, at least at times, in the medieval period these sherds could be interpreted as having been spread to break up the soil. This is often the case where clay is being worked. However, the Brandsby-type sherds are all unabraded and only the Gritty wares have worn surfaces. This is a better indication that the Brandsby-types are in a primary deposit and contemporary whereas the Gritty wares are residual. The evidence is then for a late 13th and substantially 14th century discard date for the Brandsby pottery

associated with the floor levels and perhaps a secondary use for the earlier and later pottery types which are generally much smaller in size (see above).

6.2.3 Trench 2

Only three contexts containing pottery, one of which represented machine clearance and initial cleaning (2000), make it difficult to make any definitive statements. However, the complete assemblage of pottery from this trench ranges from 12th century Gritty wares, mid/late 13th century York Glazed wares (2003) and 14th century Brandsby wares (2003) to wares of the early 18th century (2000).

One Brandsby-type ware sherd has a series of horizontal rows of square-shaped roller stamped impressions down its neck (2001). This is seen at the Minster well where it is thought to be early 14th century in date, but also from the Bedern assemblage (see above), which is thought to be late 13th/early 14th century.

This assemblage hints at a similar period of occupation in the 14th century to that proposed for Trench 1.

6.2.4 Overall Summary for Trenches 1 and 2

This is a typical domestic assemblage from York, ranging from the 12th to the 18th centuries. There are no recommendations for further work.

Context	Quantity	Spot date	Details
1009	7	late 14th century	1 Base of Brandsby baluster jug 1 Brandsby jug handle. Strap shaped with 4 incised vertical lines 5 Brandsby including 1 Late sooted and 1 with a stamp boss in the shape of a star with 5 arms
1011	22	12th-14th century	15 Brandsby inc 1 flanged sooted jar rim 1 ?Splash glazed ware (MRED/Gritty Brandsby-type) 1 Splash glazed ware (fragment) 1 Splash glazed ware with yellow glaze 1 unknown coarse Grey ware 2 Walmgate/Humber with white slip (intrusive) 1 Splash glazed ware (Humber/Beverly area)
1013	7	14th century	3 Wasters 4 Brandsby
1018	6	early 14th century	1 Sandy red ware 5 Brandsby inc incised wavy line decoration

1020	28	14th-15th century	22 Brandsby 1 ?York Glazed Ware 1 Brown glazed red earthen ware (intrusive) 2 ?Humber 1 ?Hambleton jar
1022	26	late 14th-15th century	1 Gritty ware (abraded) 17 Brandsby jug 5 Humber 1 Late Brandsby/Hambleton 1 Late Humber
1025	3	late 13th-14th century	3 Brandsby inc jug base
1026	7	late 13th century	7 Gritty Brandsby
2000	8	late 15th - early 18th century	1 Late Humber ware with greenish purple glaze 1 Walmgate jug 3 Brandsby 2 ?Ryedale jar (late 16 th to early 18 th century) 1 Hambleton jar rim
2001	3	late 14th-15th century	2 Brandsby inc 1 with horizontal rows of square roller stamping 1 Humber jug with greenish-purple glaze
2003	19	late 13th-14th century	4 York Glazed Ware inc part of seal and applied curved strip 1 Yorkshire red ware 1 Gritty Brandsby 2 Gritty ware 3 Humber 8 Brandsby

Table 2 Pottery summary

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1 THE ANIMAL BONES by Juliet Mant, Deborah Jaques, Palaeoecology Research Services

7.1.1 Summary

One box of hand-collected animal bone was submitted for an evaluation of its bioarchaeological potential. The vertebrate assemblage from this site was small but for the most part, well preserved and recovered from closely dated deposits. The main domestic mammals were represented in the assemblage, which included a small number of bones (mostly metapodials) from immature cattle (of approximately 2 and 6 months in age). These may represent waste from a specialist activity such as tanning or may be primary butchery refuse, possibly from the production of veal. A basic archive should be made of this assemblage for the purposes of synthesis and comparanda.

7.1.2 Introduction

A single box of hand-collected animal bone was submitted to Palaeoecology Research Services Limited (PRS), County Durham, for an evaluation of its bioarchaeological potential.

7.1.3 Methods

For the hand-collected vertebrate remains, data were entered directly into a series of tables using a purpose built input system and *Paradox* software. Subjective records were made of the state of preservation, colour of the fragments and appearance of broken surfaces ('angularity'). Additional information, such as fragment size, dog gnawing, burning, butchery and fresh breakage, was noted where applicable.

Where possible, fragments were identified to species or species group using the PRS modern comparative reference collection. Remains that could not be identified 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) and completely unidentifiable. These groups are represented by 'unidentified' in Table 3.

Species		12th/ 15th C	late 13th/ 14th C	14th C	14th/ 15th C	u/s	Total
<i>Sus f. domestic</i>	pig	-	-	4	-	-	4
<i>Bos f. domestic</i>	cattle	1	4	4	12	3	24
caprovid	sheep/goat	-	1	2	7	2	12
cf. <i>Larus argentatus</i> (Pontoppidan)	cf. herring gull	-	1	-	-	-	1
Bird		-	-	-	1	-	1
Fish		-	-	1	-	-	1
Unidentified		7	27	11	19	4	68
TOTAL		8	33	22	39	9	111

Table 3 Vertebrate remains by species

7.1.4 Results

Vertebrate remains recovered from these excavations totalled 111 fragments. Eleven deposits produced bone, one of which was unstratified, whilst the rest were dated to the medieval and early post-medieval periods (from the 12th through to 15th century). Deposits included accumulation and levelling layers, as well as the fills of a pit and an unknown cut feature. Two mandibles with teeth *in situ* could provide age-at-death information whilst nine fragments were measurable.

Preservation of the material was fair to good, although a high proportion of the fragments had been damaged by fresh breakage. Some variability of preservation was noted within the assemblages from Context 1009 and 2001. Evidence of dog gnawing was limited in extent (Contexts 1009, 1025, 2001 and 2003).

A number of bones had also been fragmented through butchery in the past. Several cattle bones had been split, for example a tibia (Context 1025) and a number of juvenile metapodials (Context 2001 and unstratified material), whilst other fragments (of both cattle and caprovid) from Contexts 1011, 1013, 1020 and 2003 were heavily chopped.

Cattle were the most commonly identified species, with sheep/goat and pig also present. A possible herring gull (cf. *Larus argentatus* (Pontoppidan)) humerus was recorded (Context 2003), as well as a juvenile bird tibiotarsus that could not be identified to species (Context 2001). A fragment of butchered gadid bone was also present (Context 1009). The unidentified material included both large and medium-sized mammal fragments, many of which were pieces of ribs and vertebrae.

Although only a small number of cattle bones were recovered (24 fragments), half were from very young animals. These were primarily recovered from deposits of late 14th/15th century date (Contexts 1009 and 2001) and included several split metacarpals and metatarsals, none of which could be paired (i.e. representing at least two individuals), a mandible, humerus and radius. Juvenile cattle remains, including a radius and several metapodial fragments were recovered from Context 2000 (unstratified); these must have had some association with the material from Context 2001. The mandible represented an animal of between (approximately) two and six months old (Bond and O'Connor 1999) and the limb bones were from individuals of a similar age.

This assemblage clearly included rubbish from a number of sources. Butchery waste formed one fraction of the assemblage, with the cattle metapodials, perhaps being waste from a specialised industry, for example tanning. However, the presence of fish and bird bones, together with the caprovid and pig meat-bearing elements, indicates that there was also a component of domestic waste.

7.1.5 Discussion and statement of potential

A small assemblage of fairly well preserved vertebrate remains was recovered from this site. The bulk of the identified bone represented the three main domestic mammals, and a possible herring gull bone was also recovered. The material appeared to represent a mix of both domestic and butchery waste. The presence of the juvenile cattle metapodials recovered from late 14th/15th century deposits was of some interest. They may represent a small concentration of waste from some specialist activity involving the tawing or tanning of hides from very young animals, perhaps for the production of calfskin or vellum. The metapodials may have been left

attached to the hide during skinning and only disposed of once the skin was being prepared.

Archaeological evidence for vellum production is somewhat scarce. At the early medieval site at Green Shiel, Lindisfarne (Scott 2000), bones of calves, including numerous metapodials and phalanges, were found concentrated in one area of the site. These were interpreted as possible waste from vellum production.

An alternative, and perhaps more likely interpretation, is that the calf remains (which included skeletal elements other than metapodials) were waste from carcass preparation, and indicate the consumption of veal. In York, remains of young cattle are more typically encountered in deposits dating to the post-medieval period. One of the only other medieval examples [in York] of the occurrence of concentrations of bones of young cattle is from 13th/14th century deposits at a nearby site at The Bedern (Bond and O'Connor 1999). Here, cattle bones included remains representing two distinct age groups, a younger group, similar in age to the Ogleforth animals, and an elderly group. Bond and O'Connor (*ibid.*) suggested that the assemblage showed a characteristic age profile thought to be associated with dairying and that the surplus male calves were killed for the production of veal. The consumption of beef from young animals is possible evidence for high status occupation as it suggests access to animals that were killed solely for their meat and not fully exploited for their secondary uses first (Ashby 2002).

At Ogleforth, the vertebrate assemblage is very small, and interpretation can only be tentative, however, these bones may provide evidence for the consumption of veal and hint at the presence of privileged inhabitants in the vicinity.

7.1.6 Recommendations

Overall, the vertebrate assemblage is too small for detailed analysis, however, for the purposes of synthesis and comparanda, bones from all well-dated and secure deposits should be recorded to archive level. In view of the preservation, it is highly likely that any further excavations at this site would produce additional vertebrate remains. This possibility, and that of encountering more archaeologically secure deposits with concentrations of plant macrofossils, should be considered in the event of further work in the vicinity.

7.1.7 Retention and disposal

All of the current material should be retained for the present.

7.1.8 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.

7.2 THE DEPOSIT SAMPLES by Orni Akeret, John Carrott, and Stewart Gardner, Palaeoecology Research Services

7.2.1 Summary

Two sediment samples taken from deposits encountered during excavations at House and Son, 4 Ogleforth, York, were submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential. Plant macrofossils recovered from the examined samples were largely limited to small quantities of charred remains, including some cereal grains, hazel nut shell fragments and small fragments of charcoal. Both deposits also produced waterlogged plant remains, some of which were clearly ancient, whilst other were probable modern contaminants. Interpretation of these deposits is problematic given that not all the recovered plant remains were ancient and that the differential preservation seen suggests that some disturbance of the deposits has occurred. No ancient invertebrate remains were present. The samples do not warrant further study.

Any future excavations in this area should take into consideration the possibility of encountering deposits with organic preservation by waterlogging and/or charring.

7.2.2 Introduction

Two 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 potential.

7.2.3 Methods

The samples were inspected and their lithologies were recorded, using a standard *pro forma*. Subsamples were processed, broadly following the techniques of Kenward *et al.* (1980), for the recovery of plant and invertebrate macrofossils. The subsamples were disaggregated in water for 24 hours or more before processing and their volumes recorded in a waterlogged state.

Plant, invertebrate and other biological remains (and the general nature of the washovers and flots) were recorded briefly by 'scanning', identifiable taxa and other components being listed on paper. Notes on the quantity and quality of preservation were made for each fraction. The residues were dried, weighed and their components recorded in brief. Nomenclature for plant taxa follows Stace (1997).

7.2.4 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 and an

estimate of the remaining volume of unprocessed sediment follows (in round brackets) after the sample numbers.

Context 1026 [accumulation deposit; late 13th/14th century]

Sample 6/T (3 kg/2 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 6 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, mid to dark grey-brown to mid to dark grey, soft and sticky to crumbly (working soft and sticky), slightly sandy clay silt, with stones (6 to 60 mm) present.

The small washover (~14 ml) was mostly fine charcoal (to 7 ml) and a few other charred plant macrofossils, including grains of oat (*Avena*) and hulled barley (*Hordeum distichon* L./*H. vulgare* L.), rachis segments of naked wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L./*T. durum* Desf./*T. turgidum* L.), caryopses of brome (*Bromus*), and seeds of elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.). There was also a moderate assemblage of waterlogged seeds and fruits representing the following taxa: sedge (*Carex*), hemlock (*Conium maculatum* L.), henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger* L.), elder, and common nettle (*Urtica dioica* L.). Additionally, a few tiny (to 2 mm) unidentified bone fragments and fragments of ?fish scale were recorded. No invertebrate remains were seen.

The small residue (0.51 kg) consisted of stones (to 50 mm) and some fine sand, with brick/tile (to 41 mm; 19 g), pot (to 23 mm; 3 g), charcoal (to 14 mm; 1 g), mineral concretion (to 55 mm; 94 g) and magnetic material (to 32 mm; 8 g). There were also 62 fragments of fairly well preserved bone (weight 8 g), including a cat tooth, a rat (*Rattus* sp.) scapula and an amphibian bone, together with a large number of small fragments of medium-sized mammal shaft. Five fragments of fish bone were also present but none were identifiable.

Context 2003 [accumulation deposit; late 13th/14th century]

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

Moist, mid grey-brown, soft and sticky to crumbly (working soft), slightly sandy clay silt, with stones (2 to 60 mm) and bone present.

Other than fine charcoal (larger fragments to 9 mm) and sand, the washover (~30 ml) consisted of only a few charred plant macrofossils, including grains of barley and naked wheat, hazel (*Corylus avellana* L.) nut shells, as well as fruits of sedge, cleavers (*Galium aparine* L.), and selfheal (*Prunella*). Waterlogged elder seeds were numerous, and there were small quantities of other waterlogged seeds and fruits, including those of silver/downy birch (*Betula pendula* Roth/*B. pubescens* Ehrh.), sedge, henbane, and dead-nettle (*Lamium*). Some tiny (to 2 mm) unidentified bone fragments (including a few of ?fish bone) and earthworm egg capsules (probably modern) were also present. No ancient invertebrate remains were recorded.

The residue (0.49 kg) consisted of stones (to 25 mm, although most to 12 mm) and sand (fine and coarse), with brick/tile (to 16 mm; 2 g), pot (2 sherds to 27 mm; 6 g), slag (1 fragment to 21 mm; 3 g); mortar/plaster (to 17 mm; to 2 g) and charcoal (to 15 mm; 2 g). Vertebrate remains recovered from this sample amounted to 63 fragments (weight 24 g). Much of the bone consisted of small pieces of large and medium-sized mammal shaft, including four fragments of burnt bone. Identifiable remains included a goose (*Anser* sp.) phalanx, and eight fish bones, two of which were gadid.

7.2.5 Discussion and statement of potential

The two samples produced assemblages containing both charred and waterlogged plant remains. Charred material, however, was quite rare, whilst the uncharred remains were relatively numerous. It seems unlikely that both types of remains were of ancient origin. Typically, much herbaceous detritus (such as fragments of stems, leaves and roots), is recovered from deposits where preservation by permanent waterlogging occurs. This kind of material was absent from the samples examined and those uncharred plant macrofossils that were recovered tended to be of seeds and fruits with fairly hard shells, suggesting that only the more robust remains had survived. There were exceptions, however, as shown by the silver/downy birch nuts recovered from Context 2003. Even the delicate wings of these fruits were preserved, which normally only occurs under the most favourable conditions. In this case, the latter are almost certainly modern contaminants. However, not all of the waterlogged/uncharred remains were likely to be modern. In both samples, uncharred seeds of henbane were identified. This species is quite rare in York today but its remains have been identified frequently from archaeological deposits encountered in the city. This suggests that the henbane, at least, was of ancient origin.

The recovered plant macrofossils were of little interpretative value, partly because the assemblages of probable 'ancient' remains were so small and partly as a result of the presence of possible modern contaminants which suggest some relatively recent disturbance of the deposits.

7.2.6 Recommendations

No further study of the sediment samples is warranted. Although identifiable plant remains were present, some doubt exists as to their origin rendering any interpretation problematic and perhaps misleading.

7.2.7 Retention and disposal

All of the current material should be retained for the present.

7.2.8 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.

8. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In both trenches the earliest deposits examined belonged to the 13th or 14th centuries. This appears to correspond to the picture in the evaluation excavations by FAS at 2 Ogleforth. In neither case, however, was it possible to excavate to a depth at which earlier archaeological remains might survive. In Trench 1 at No. 4 a complex of floors, walls and features, probably of the 14th century, overlay earlier accumulation deposits. No structural remains of medieval date were, however, located in Trench 2 although there were accumulation deposits and a single large pit of the period.

Much evidence for the post-medieval period was recovered from Trench 1 whereas in Trench 2 a single deposit, of uncertain function, was ascribed to it. Both trenches did, however, produce small amounts of pottery of post-medieval date.

Modern material was relatively abundant in both trenches and mainly took the form of levelling and demolition deposits although part of a 19th cellar was located within Trench 1.

The dating evidence from Trench 1 suggested that there was a sudden, and relatively brief, phase of occupation and structural activity during the 14th century after accumulation deposits had built up in the immediate area of Trench 1. Following the structural activity of the 14th century, there appears to have been a hiatus, perhaps until the 17th - 18th centuries when structural activity began again. However, Trench 2 produced no structural activity, of any period, prior to the modern period despite being within c.2m of the present street frontage. This curious contrast between the stratigraphic sequence in Trenches 1 and 2 is most unusual and may be of considerable significance in clarifying the history and development of this area of York in which only a relatively small amount of archaeological work using modern techniques has been done.

In terms of preservation, it may be noted that medieval and early post-medieval deposits appear to have escaped extensive disturbance by modern activity and survive at a depth of no more than c. 0.5m below modern level. In addition, preservation of organic material in medieval deposits was quite good judging by the two samples analysed.

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APPENDIX: List of site plans and sections

Trench 1

Single context plans of:

1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1025, 1026

Composite plan of trench at start of hand digging

Composite plan at end of excavation

North-east facing section of trench

North-west facing section of trench

South-east facing section of trench

South-west facing section of trench

Trench 2

Single context plans of:

2001, 2002, 2003

Composite plan at end of excavation

North-west facing section of trench

North-east facing section of trench



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