

Report on an Archaeological Excavation

at

45-57 Gillygate
York

York Archaeological Trust

1992

45 - 57 Gillygate, York
A Concise Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

York Archaeological Trust

1 Pavement, York, YO1 2NA Tel (0904) 643211 Fax (0904) 640029

1992

Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Documentary Survey	3
3. The Excavation	6
4. Finds Assessment	16
5. Environmental Evidence	20
6. Conclusions	26
7. Archaeological Implications	28

Appendices

List of Figures and Plates

Fig 1 Location of excavation	2
Fig 2 Roman ditch 1093	7
Fig 3 Roman surface 1053 and clay band 1052	10
Fig 4 Medieval features	11
Fig 5 North-South section across trench	15
Plate 1 Roman ditches 1078 and 1093	9
Plate 2 Medieval features cut into surface 1053	9

1. INTRODUCTION

For three weeks during April 1992, York Archaeological Trust undertook an evaluation excavation at 45-57 Gillygate to a specification prepared by John Oxley, Principal Archaeologist for York City Council. Work was in advance of planning permission for town houses situated along the Gillygate street front. The site, (Fig 1) situated at NGR SE 59945245, is currently a garage forecourt. The specification called for a single trench, 6m by 4m, to be excavated to a depth of 1.5m. This was laid out adjacent to the street/pavement with the long axis at right angles to Gillygate after the concrete of the forecourt had been removed by machine.

The finds and site records are currently stored with York Archaeological Trust under the Trust and Yorkshire Museum accession code 1992.8.

Very little archaeological work has been undertaken in the area. In 1972 excavation to the rear of 31-37 Gillygate revealed features and deposits of the Roman, ?Anglian and medieval periods overlying natural deposits at a height of c.13.60m Above Ordnance Datum (Archaeology of York 6/1 & 11/1). Also in 1972 but further north at the southern end of Union Terrace a complex sequence of structures dating from the 12th to 17th centuries was revealed (AY 11/1). Some evidence for Roman structures and activity at greater depth was also revealed. To the south two trenches dug in 1991 in Bootham Row Car Park (YAT site code 1991.6) encountered deposits of the 13th/14th centuries at a depth of 1.35m below modern ground level. These excavations together suggested that archaeological deposits of Roman and later date would be encountered relatively close to the surface.

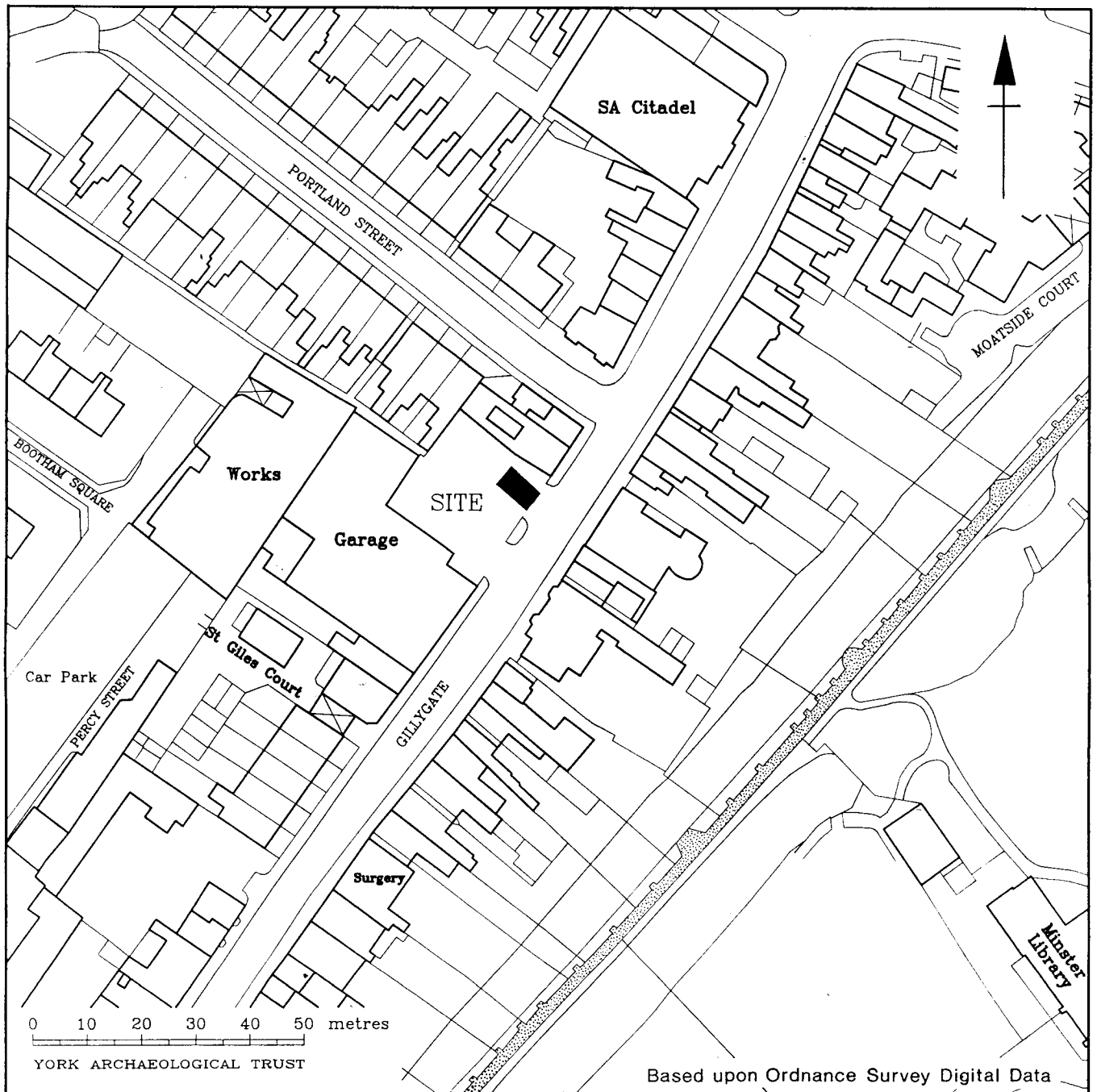


Figure 1 Location of the Site

2. Documentary Research

2.1 As is normal there is no documentary evidence for Roman, Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Scandinavian occupation of the site. The street is named after the church of St Giles which stood at the north-eastern end of the street. The earliest recorded evidence for the church occurs in a charter dated to between 1145 and 1161.

2.2 Fragmentary evidence exists for medieval buildings along Gillygate. A charter, dated 1161x1184, states that the garden used by the poor folks of St Leonard's Hospital was formerly in Gillygate and that it was to be built on. The dimensions of the plot of land are given: 21 perches (16 1/2 feet per perch) along the street frontage, although this is probably next to the city wall. Other buildings are known, but without any details as to where they were located: St Elen's Manse (1145-61), St Giles's Hospital (1274) and the land where Hugh King dwells (1190-1210).

2.3 Gillygate also occurs in various documents detailing the relations between the Abbot and convent of St Mary's, and the mayor and commonalty of York. In 1161x1184 the Abbot had rights over the parishioners living in Gillygate and in a 17th century document (undated by Drake) his responsibilities were set out regarding Gillygate. He was the "lord and owner of the houses and grounds adjoining both sides of the street ... and did maintain and pave the king's highway ...". In 1354 an agreement was reached whereby Gillygate came under the jurisdiction of the city, although the Abbot of St Mary's had access along the street to get to Paynlathes Crofts along Gillygate.

2.4 Speed's map of 1610 shows a continuous line of buildings against the city wall. On the other side of the street the only buildings marked are at the corner of Bootham and what is presumably the church. The area between the corner and the church was presumably filled by gardens or plots of land. Nothing is known about the church in the 16th century, but Speed seems to show it, and the churchyard continued in use until the 17th century. As late as 1698 it was used as a burial place for executed criminals from York Castle.

2.5 An undated 17th century document also mentions that there was a contemporary "pinfold" - or pen - for animals which strayed. The document implies that it originally belonged to the Abbot of St Mary's.

2.6 The houses in Gillygate were almost certainly burnt during the siege of York in 1644, although those in Bootham were not. The defending royalist forces withdrew into the city and set fire to the suburbs in order that they should not provide shelter for operations to undermine the walls. This may be the reason that Archer's map of 1680 does not show any buildings along Gillygate. Five years later Richard's map shows buildings beside the walls and three on the north-west side of Gillygate, which may be as a result of rebuilding. Maps in the following centuries, such as Chassereau (1756), Todd (1810), Bellerby (1847), Ordnance Survey (1852) show a pattern of buildings next to the city walls, and the gradual replacement of gardens by buildings on the north-western side.

2.7 Gillygate appears for the first time in the Trade Directories in 1876, although without further research it is difficult to locate this site precisely. It is possible that the people living there included a reporter, physician and surgeon, a tailor and a plasterer.

2.8 From 1893 the trades associated with the site can be given with more certainty. These included an upholsterer (1893, 1899, 1902), veterinary surgeon (1893), cab proprietor (1893, 1899), and shoeing smith (1899, 1902). In

1899 the Home and Colonial Produce Department was located at 45 Gillygate; by 1902 it had been replaced by Ind Coope and Co Ltd. Ind Coope were described as "brewers and wine and spirit merchants" which might imply the presence of cellars. The site appears to be residential until the 1921 when there is the first mention of York Motor Mart at 45 Gillygate. This continued until 1929 when its proprietor was first given as JRM Ankers. In 1939, apart from the garage, there was a servant's registry (at 47 Gillygate) and a cycle dealer and repairer (51 Gillygate). After the war the garage complex slowly increased in size, including 51 Gillygate in 1957, and 51 and 55 Gillygate in 1959. By 1961 Anker's garage included all the properties between 45 and 57 Gillygate.

Bibliography

Drake, Francis The History and Antiquities of the City of York (London 1736)

Early Yorkshire Charters ... (ed) W Farrer (1914-16)

Palliser, D M The medieval street-names of York York Historian Vol 2 pp 2-16 (1978)

Raine, A Mediaeval York A Topographical Survey (London 1955)

A Victoria History of Yorkshire, The City of York Tillot, P M (ed) (Oxford 1961)

Trade Directories

3. THE EXCAVATION

After machine clearance of modern concrete, archaeological deposits were encountered immediately, c.0.30m below modern ground level (c.15.40m AOD), and excavation by hand began. Owing to weather conditions and other circumstances, the entire trench could not be taken down to the specified depth of 1.50m but this was achieved in the south-west quadrant and provided a complete sequence through the deposits. The deposits and features are described chronologically from the bottom upwards.

3.1 The earliest deposit in the trench was the natural orange-brown hard but friable clay, common to much of York. Unusually, however, here the clay was covered by a layer, c.0.20m thick, of coarse white sand. The tops of these two deposits varied slightly in height but were typically at c.14.00m AOD and c.14.20m AOD, that is c.1.70m and c.1.50m below modern ground level. These were only observed in the bases of the deeper cuts such as 1020/3 and 1093.

3.2 Some 0.20m of deposits overlying the sand were not excavated. They were however seen in the sides of features such as 1093 and appeared to be similar to those recorded higher up being grey silty loams. The first deposit recorded (but not excavated) was a build-up deposit of compact mid-brown clayey sandy silt (1094).

3.3 Cut into 1094 was a ditch (1093) (Fig 2,5, Plate 1) running roughly east-west apparently across the entire trench. This was a substantial feature c.1.40m wide and c.0.80m deep. It contained three fills; a dark grey silt sandy clay loam (1091), an orange- brown very silty/sandy clay (1084), and a greyish-brown sandy silt (1083). Pottery from these fills suggested that the ditch became disused and was backfilled in the late 2nd or during the 3rd century AD.

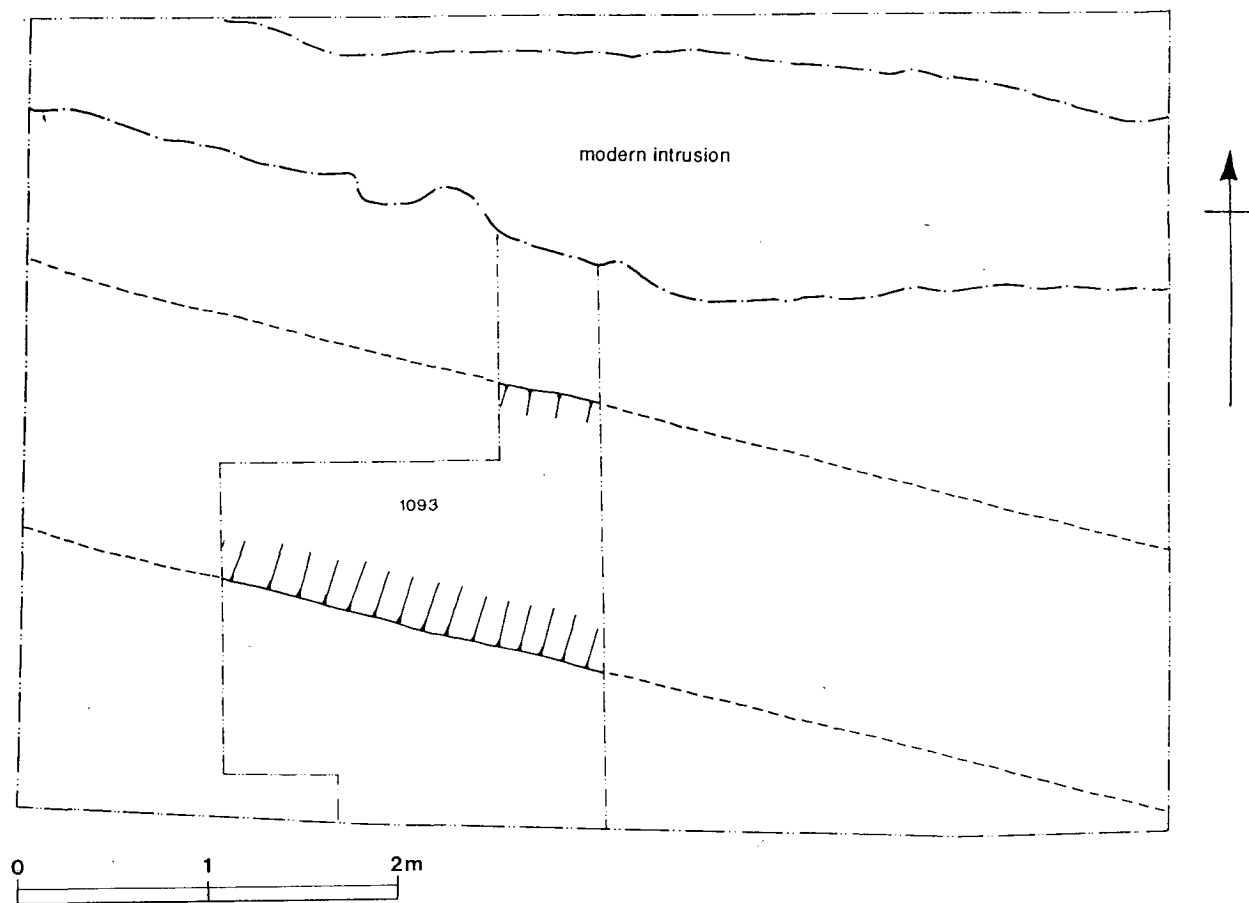


Figure 2 Course of Ditch 1093

3.4 Probably as the ditch was silting up a brown slightly clayey sandy silt (1089) was building up to the north of it. Pottery from this context was ambiguous but may belong in the 2nd century AD.

3.5 0.40m north of ditch 1093 was a shallow cut (1087) of unknown function. It may have run parallel to 1093 and thus may be associated with it. The fill was a yellowish-brown clay (1086).

3.6 Sealing 1087 was a spread of friable greyish-brown clayey silt (1085) over which lay a dump of compact stoney sandy silty clay (1077). Contemporary but to the south of, and sealing, ditch 1093 was a build-up deposit of mid grey loamy silt (1097). Ceramic evidence dated these layers to either the late 2nd or the 3rd century AD.

3.7 Cutting through 1077 and 1079 was a probable drainage cut (1078). (Plate 1 Fig 5) It was aligned approximately east-west and had steep straight sides and a flat base. Nails recovered from along the top of both sides may indicate that it was originally lined and floored with timber although no other positive evidence survived. This feature was c.0.82m wide and c.0.55m deep. It followed the same line as 1093 and was undoubtedly intended to replace it. The following fills were noted: a mid brown slightly clayey sandy loam (1076); brown and white hardpan (1092); a light greyish-brown sandy loam (1090); a dark greyish-brown silty clay loam (1088); a mixture of orange ash and charcoal (1074), a greyish-brown stoney sandy silty clay (1081); and a dark greyish-brown loam (1069). Pottery from these fills was of the 2nd or 3rd century AD.

3.8 Sealing and slumped into drain 1078 was a mixture of dark brown slightly clayey loam and pale white/yellow mortar (1068) containing pottery of the 2nd century. Immediately above 1068 was a build-up layer of clean dark grey silty loam (1061) which may represent a period of disuse of the site. Thus 1068 may be demolition material. Pottery from 1061 was judged to be later than AD 150.

3.9 Above 1061 was an extensive spread of dark orange-brown sandy loam (1053) (Fig 3, Plate 2) containing many small to medium sized (up to 0.15m)



Plate 1 Roman Ditches 1078 and 1093 looking south

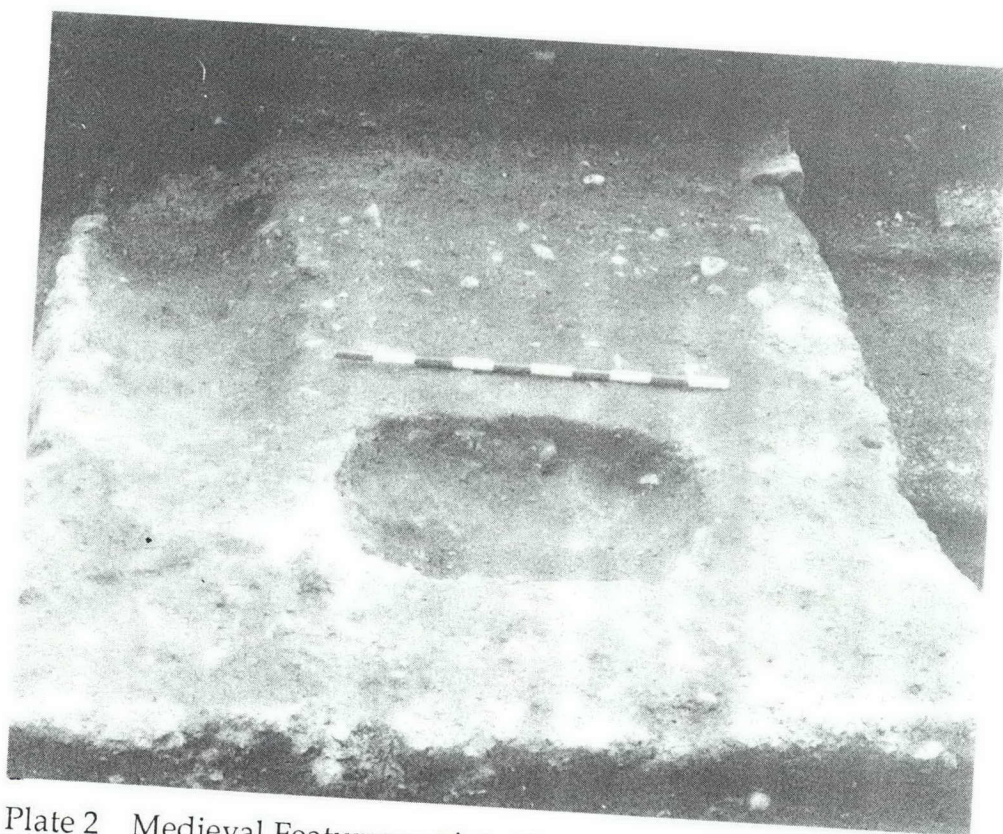


Plate 2 Medieval Features cut into Roman surface 1053, looking east

cobbles. It had clearly been laid to level off the site and fill the slumping caused by 1093 and 1078 and varied in thickness from c.0.40m over the slumping to less than 0.05m where slumping had not occurred. The top of this context appeared to have been rammed to form a solid and level surface. Butting 1053 and clearly associated with it was an east- west aligned narrow deposit of orange-brown clay (1052) (Fig 3) containing some large (up to 0.25m) blocks of limestone. Its alignment and association with surface 1053 strongly suggests that it is a wall foundation for part of a timber building. It is not clear whether surface 1053 should be regarded as internal or external. Ceramic evidence suggested that this phase of activity can be dated to at least the late 2nd century and taking into account the dating evidence from

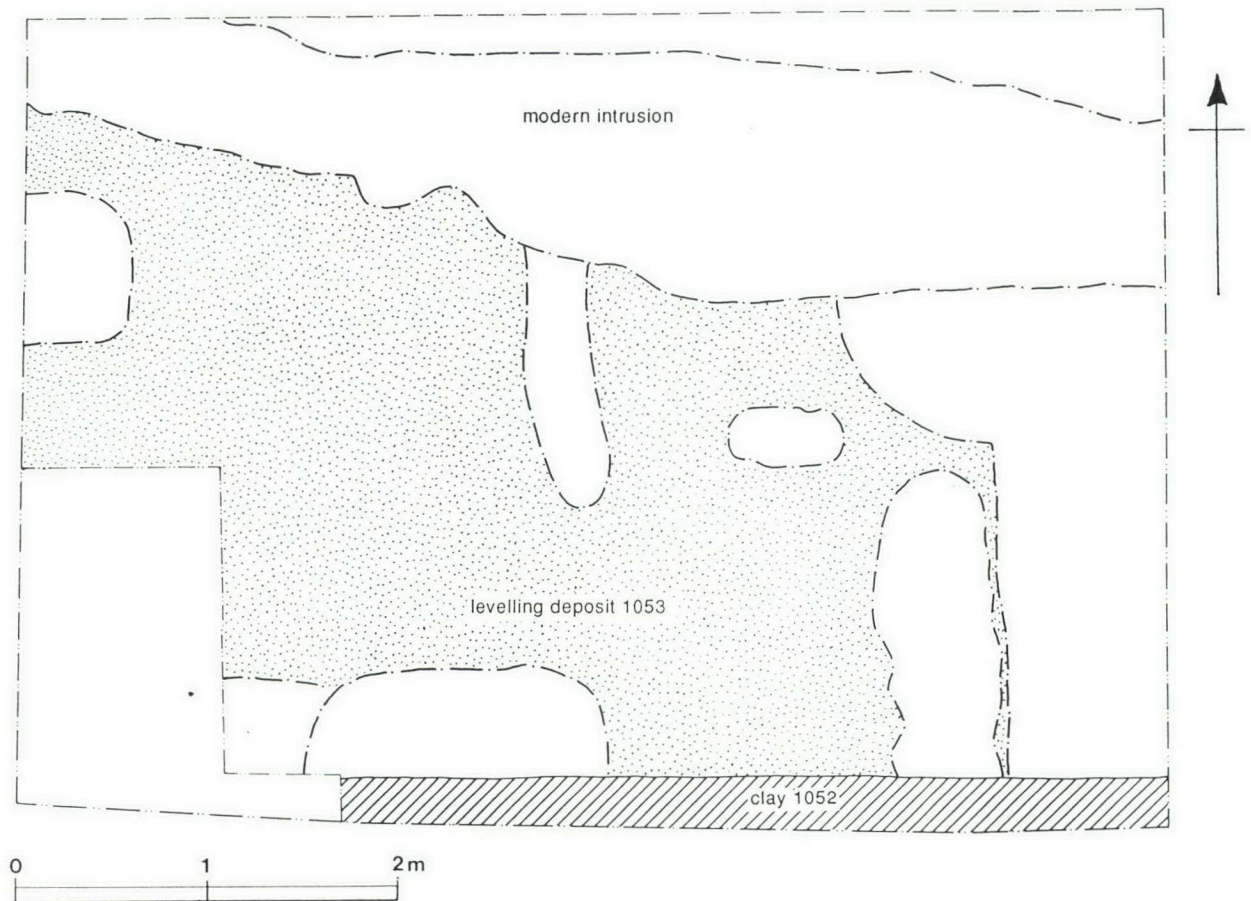


Figure 3 Clay Strip 1052 and Levelling Deposit 1053

underlying deposits probably later.

3.10 A series of cuts (Fig 4, Plate 2) penetrated 1053. A slot of unknown function (1063), 0.40m wide and 0.20m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base, had a fill of friable greyish-brown silty clay (1062) and was aligned north-south. Its northern extent had been destroyed by 1020/23 but the southern terminal was roughly rounded. In the western trench section was a pit of possible oval shape and at least 0.80m across and 0.55m deep. It had steep sides and a flat base. The fill, a friable mid grey sandy clayey silt (1066), contained a large amount of animal bone indicating that 1067 was a rubbish pit. Pottery from 1066 suggested a date from the 2nd century AD onwards. Approximately 1.20m east of 1063 was 1054, a roughly rectangular cut with sub-rounded corners. It was quite small, being c.0.86m by c.0.60m and a

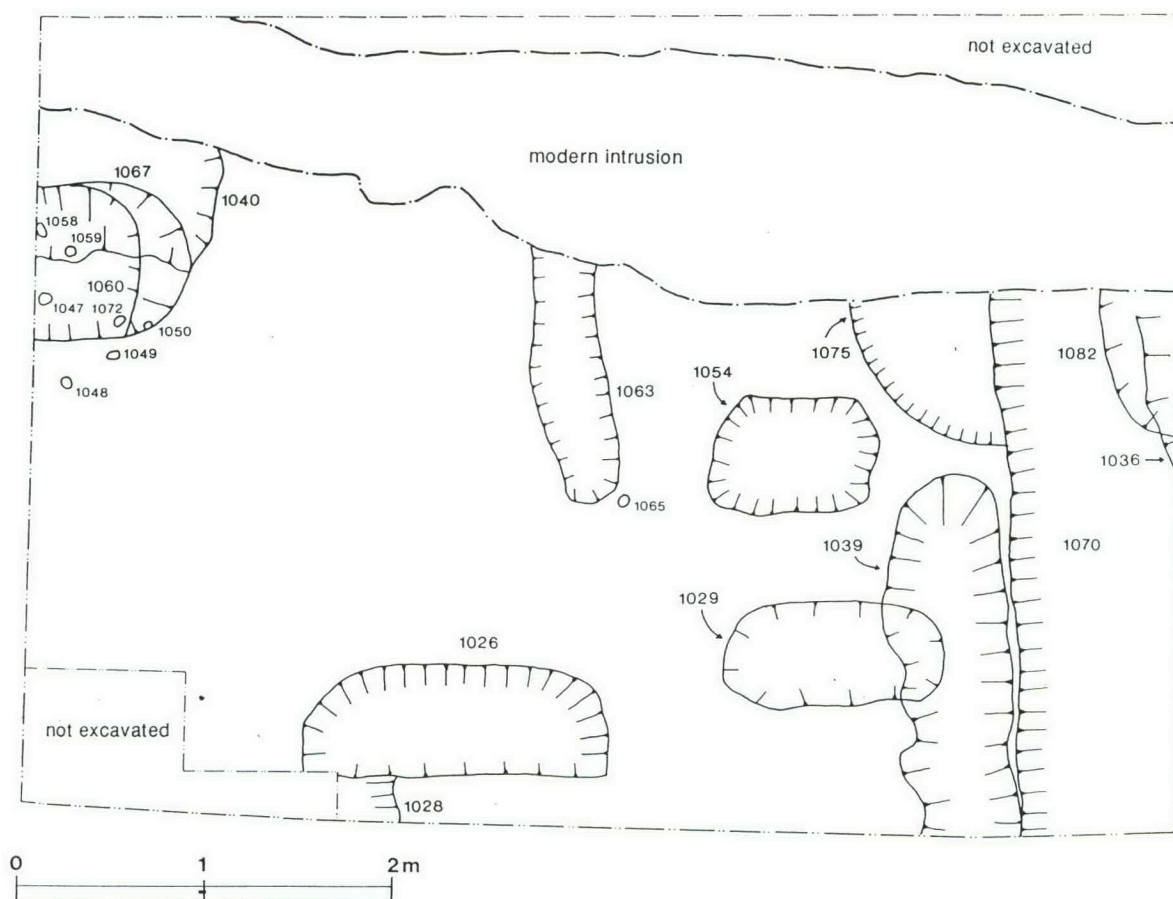


Figure 4 Medieval Features

maximum of 0.17m deep with steep sides and a flat base. Its function was unknown. The fill was a friable grey clayey silt (1041). Pottery from this cut dates it to the 12th century. Towards the south-east corner of the trench was a linear slot (1039) aligned north-south. A length of c.1.70m was roughly semi-circular, the sides sloped moderately, and the base was undulating towards the north and flat to the south. It was up to 0.30m deep and may have been a drain. The fill was a friable clayey silt and contained pottery suggesting a date around the mid 14th century or later. Adjacent to and north of 1039 was the south-west quadrant of a probably original circular cut (1075). Most of it has been cut away by 1020 and 1070. It was quite shallow, c.0.10m deep, and was filled with a friable grey sandy clayey silt (1073) which was dated to the 3rd century AD on the pottery evidence from it. Further east was the south-west portion of a probable pit (1082). The original size and shape of this cut is uncertain as much had been truncated by 1020/23 and 1070 which also rendered its true stratigraphic position uncertain. The fill was a dark grey slightly silty friable clay (1082) and the feature was dated to the 3rd century AD or later. Cutting into clay 1052 was part of the east edge of a feature (1028) of unknown function. Most of this cut lay beyond the area of investigation or had been destroyed by the later cut 1026. The fill was a dark greyish-brown slightly clayey loam (1027).

3.11 A very rough spread of cobbles (1032), the precise stratigraphic position of which cannot be determined overlies 1053 but may belong with context 1042 mentioned under section 3.16.

3.12 A group of features cut from the same stratigraphic position as those in 3.10 but which cut contexts in that group will therefore be considered separately. The first was a sub-circular pit (1060) against the west section. Post excavation analysis strongly suggests that this was not a separate feature but the upper part of pit 1067. At the opposite (east) end of the trench a large linear cut (1070) against the east section was excavated. This was

aligned north-south and was deep enough (c.0.65m) to reveal the natural sub-soil in the base of its north end. To the north it had been cut away by modern drains 1020/23. It was filled with a friable greenish-grey slightly clayey silt (1055) which was dated by pottery to the mid or late 14th century. Close to the south-west corner of the trench was a shallow, c.0.20m, linear feature (1026) with curved western and eastern terminals. It had no obvious function. It was c.1.70m long and c.0.60m wide with a fill of dark greyish-brown loam (1025).

3.13 A group of three stakehole voids (1058, 1059, 1072) were found cut into the top of feature 1060. Although varying in detail they were typically c.0.05m across and c.0.20m deep. These probably relate to 3.15.

3.14 Probably sealing the stakeholes was a layer of friable dark greyish-brown clayey silt (1051).

3.15 In 1051 was another group of stakeholes (1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1065) which were also on average c.0.05m wide and c.0.20m. They are probably associated with 3.13 although no clearly discernible overall pattern was apparent.

3.16 The stakeholes were sealed by a spread of friable dark greyish-brown clayey silt (1042) which was dated to the 12th century by pottery recovered from it.

3.17 Cut into 1042 was a shallow (c.0.10m deep) feature (1040) of irregular shape and unknown function. The western extent lay beyond the excavation and to the north it had been truncated by modern trench 1020/23.

3.18 Above 1040 and over the entire trench, except where removed by modern intrusions, was a stoney spread of dark grey silty loam with patches of orange-brown silty loam (1019). The ceramic evidence from this layer pointed to a date in the mid 13th century or later.

3.19 Into the north-east corner of 1019 was cut a feature (1036) so little of which was excavated that it is not possible to give its true size, shape or function. It was filled with a friable pale yellow slightly sandy clay (1035).

3.20 Sealing 1036 was another overall spread, this time of very dark greyish-brown silty clay loam (1015). The pottery from 1015 suggested a date in the 17th century.

3.21 Into 1015 was cut a shallow, c.0.15m deep, sub-rectangular feature (1029) measuring c.1.10m in length and c.0.54m in width. Its function is not known. The fill was a friable grey sandy clayey silt (1021) containing pottery of the 14th/15th century.

3.22 Stratigraphically above 1029 was a group of three small spreads; an area of red/black burnt sandy silt (1031), a compact light brown silty clay (1033), and a ? dump of mixed sandy mortar and silty clay (1034). Pottery from these contexts was dated to the 15th/16th centuries.

3.23 Above 3.22 all contexts encountered were believed to be of modern (ie 19th/20th century) date. Only one (?build-up) deposit not in a cut was encountered, this being a dark greyish-brown silty clay (1011).

Modern features excavated were: two drain cuts (1020, 1023); an Anderson air-raid shelter (1001, 1006); a brick hearth (1008, 1010); and two short lengths of brick wall (1013, 1024 and 1003, 1009). All the above were sealed by brick rubble and reinforced concrete (1000).

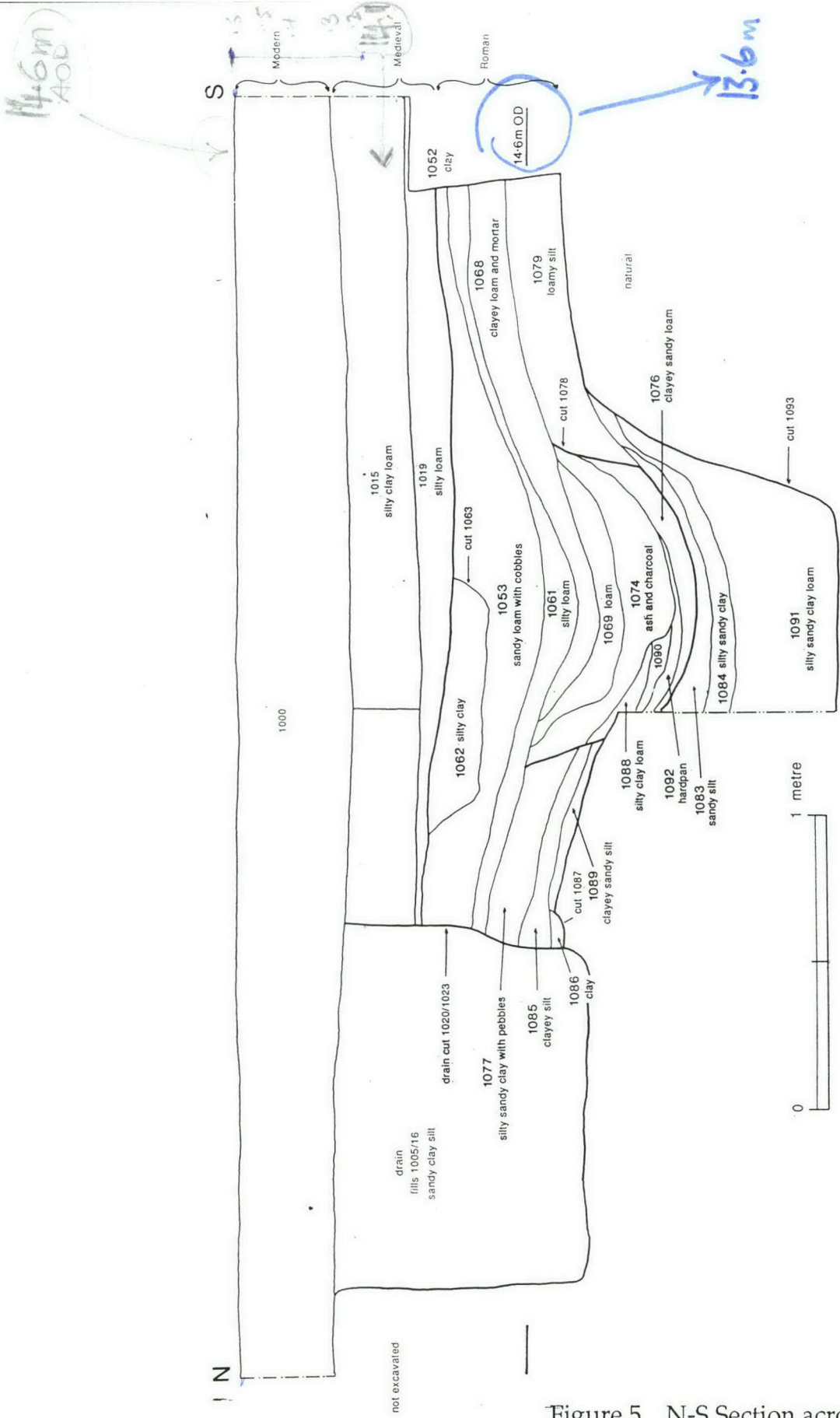


Figure 5 N-S Section across 1093 and recut 1078

4. FINDS ASSESSMENT

4.1 The site produced a range of material types (see appendix), all of which have been viewed and assessed. All of the iron objects have been x-rayed. Identifications of all material are based only on initial viewings, not on the result of research.

4.2 Small finds

4.2.1 Coins

Two coins were recovered which require further cleaning before identification is possible.

4.2.2 Iron

The iron from the site consisted of several nails, bars, strips and fragmentary unidentifiable objects. The only other recognisable artefact was a key (small find number 22) from the 17th century context 1015.

4.2.3 Copper-alloy

A range of copper alloy objects was recovered which included pins, strips and fragmentary objects. Amongst the most interesting of these was a Roman knee brooch (small find number 40) of late 2nd/early 3rd century which merits further cleaning, and a small Roman hand bell (small find number 63) which is too badly decayed to allow further conservation work. A post-medieval or modern spoon was recovered from context 1000.

4.2.4 Bone and Antler

A small fragmentary antler pin and a piece of sawn antler tine were recovered from context 1053 and 1015 respectively. The former is probably Roman in date, the latter is in a context with a wide chronological date range.

4.2.5 Fired clay

Two fragments of tobacco pipe and a shaped fired clay counter were recovered from medieval and post-medieval contexts. Two pieces of daub (small find numbers 64 and 66) were recovered from context 1080 and are likely to be Roman in date.

4.2.6 Stone

Two slate pencils were recovered from post-medieval contexts. A possible hone (small find number 39) with a decorated terminal was recovered from context 1015. Its dating is uncertain but further cleaning is being carried out to try to gain more information. A fossil (small find number 70) was recovered.

4.2.7 Plaster

Two fragments of painted plaster were found.

4.2.8 Glass

The majority of the vessel glass from the site was of Roman date (33 fragments from a minimum of 6 vessels). Where it is possible to date the glass closely it is of Flavian (AD. 71 - 94) to very early second century date. Amongst this material is the majority of the lower body and all of the base of a large light green tubular rimmed bowl (small find number 82). It is very unusual to find such large fragments of vessel glass on Roman domestic sites and this makes this find noteworthy

Post-medieval and modern bottle fragments were also found. The stem from a post-medieval mould blown wine glass (small find number 13) was recovered.

4.3 Bulk finds

4.3.1 Pottery

Many of the post-Roman contexts are obviously disturbed and represent post-medieval deposition of material, probably in the 19th century. Much of the material dating to the 17th and 18th centuries was also probably deposited at the same time and was brought on to the site as make-up.

A group of contexts (1019 to 1037 plus 1055) contain medieval sherds with no later pottery, and although there is a residual element in nearly all of the contexts, the latest material is probably contemporary. This comprises mainly Humber and late Brandsby wares suggesting a date in the 15th century. One sherd each of Cistercian and Hambleton ware might indicate an early 16th century date for 1033 and 1034.

Two contexts only yielded medieval pottery of an earlier date - splashed and gritty wares. These contexts, 1041 and 1042, yielded very small amounts, two and six sherds respectively, but none of the fragments were residual Roman, something that was present in every other pottery bearing context.

The Roman pottery is an unusual assemblage of wares, mostly from the first half of the second century. There is little later material and little which must belong to the late 1st century.

4.3.2 Tile (see appendix)

Roman : Roman material consisted of brick (used for various purposes), and tegula (roof tile).

Medieval : There were many fragments of peg tile (medieval roof tile). Context 1004 yielded a very long brick, at least 280mm, which may be medieval in date.

Post-medieval : Most of the brick samples from this site could be dated to the 17th century or later. Pantile (17th century onwards) was present in the uppermost layers of the trench.

4.4 Summary

The material from this site includes a good assemblage of Roman artefacts mainly of 2nd century date. The glass is of particular interest as such large pieces rarely survive from domestic sites.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Summary

Eight samples of deposits of medieval and Roman date and a small corpus of hand-collected bone were examined in the Environmental Archaeology Unit of the University of York. The sediments were almost barren of biological remains other than charcoal and provide little useful interpretative information about the nature of the deposits. Further work on deposits of this kind at this site is not thought worthwhile.

5.2 Methods

A series of eight samples for biological analysis and a small collection of animal bone from excavations of Roman and medieval deposits at 45-57 Gillygate, York, were submitted. The samples of sediment were all inspected and described in the laboratory and further analysis carried out on all of them. From each, 1 kg subsamples were taken and submitted to disaggregation and (where appropriate) 'washover', following methods described by Kenward et al. (1980). The washovers were examined for plant and invertebrate remains and the dried residues were also examined for their content of other components. All the hand-collected bone was inspected and recorded, apart from cases where only unidentifiable fragments were recovered from a context.

5.3 Results

The samples are considered in context number order, with relevant archaeological information or excavator's queries in brackets.

5.3.1 Context 1015, sample 1 [medieval build-up]: mid slightly brownish grey, moist, brittle to crumbly (working to plastic), sandy clay with traces of root channels/burrows, and traces of charcoal, shellfish and mortar and modest amounts of brick/tile.

There was a small washover of charcoal and cinder to 10 mm with a single half of a charred ?barley (cf. *Hordeum* sp.) grain, one charred sedge (*Carex* sp.) nutlet, one whole elder (*Sambucus nigra*) seed (and a few fragments), some ?fungal sclerotia (resting bodies), a few small charred twig fragments and a little unidentifiable bone mm. The residue was of sand and gravel (including magnesian limestone and sandstone) to 30 mm with a little mammal bone to 35 mm, brick/tile to 10 mm and a trace of coal and charcoal.

5.3.2 Context 1019, sample 2 [medieval build-up, immediately below 1015]: mid grey-brown, moist, plastic to crumbly to somewhat brittle sandy clay with traces of stones 20-60 mm and limestone 10 mm, charcoal, mortar and brick/tile.

The small washover consisted mainly of charcoal to 5 mm, with a little coal, one charred fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell (to 10 mm), a few fragments of elder seed, one charred barley grain and a fish vertebra. There was also a small group of associated mineralised millipede segments (i.e representing one individual) and a fragment of ground beetle elytron, oxidised yellow. The residue comprised sand and gravel to 35 mm, with a little charcoal to 15 mm, and brick/tile to 10 mm.

5.3.3 Context 1055, sample 3 [medieval backfill]: mid brown (with a slight orange cast), moist, brittle to crumbly (to slightly plastic when worked), slightly clayey sand with traces of stones 60-200 mm and limestone 10 mm and distinct burrows or root traces.

Apart from a small amount of charcoal to 10 mm, the small washover contained only a single very eroded charred bread/club wheat (*Triticum aestivo-compactum*) grain, a trace of elder seed fragments and a few small fragments of unidentifiable fish bone. The modest residue included tiny pellets of undisaggregated clay with sand and a little gravel (including oolitic limestone) to 25 mm, with traces of brick/tile mm, and coal mm.

5.3.4 Context 1053, sample 4 [levelling or floor layer; Roman]: mid brown, moist, slightly brittle (working to plastic) sandy clay with greyer and browner mottles and traces of charcoal, stone 2-6 mm and root traces/burrows.

Charcoal (up to 10 mm in maximum dimension) predominated in the small washover, with a trace of elder seed fragments and a few small charred twig fragments. With the sand and gravel (to 20 mm) in the residue there was a trace of brick/tile and charcoal, both mm.

5.3.5 Context 1066, sample 5 [medieval backfill]: mid grey-brown (with blackish cast), moist, brittle to crumbly sandy clay with traces of charcoal (including a fragment of hazel roundwood to 50 mm maximum dimension) and fine charcoal throughout) and white and orange flecks.

The modest washover of charcoal to 10 mm also included a single charred bread/club wheat grain, three charred elder seeds, one fragment of charred hazel nutshell and a little coal. There was an almost entire mineralised millipede and a head of the burrowing ground beetle *Trechus micros*, oxidised yellow. The small residue contained undisaggregated clay with sand and a little gravel (including magnesian limestone to 20 mm), a trace of mammal bone to 20 mm and brick/tile and charcoal both mm.

5.3.6 Context 1076, sample 6 [Roman ditchfill/backfill within cut 1078, immediately beneath 1074]: mid grey, moist, crumbly (working plastic) sandy clay with traces of stones 30-60 mm and moderate amounts of mortar.

The very small washover comprised charcoal mm. The modest residue was of sand with abundant mortar to 35 mm, with a trace of brick/tile mm and charcoal mm.

5.3.7 Context 1083, sample 7 [backfill in Roman ditch 1093]:light-mid buffish grey-brown, moist to wet, plastic, sticky, sandy clay with traces of stone 6-60 mm and orange mottles on cm-scale.

There was a very small washover of charcoal mm, whilst the residue was of sand and gravel to 45 mm, with a little charcoal (including oak, *Quercus*) to 15 mm and a trace of burnt bone mm.

5.3.8 Context 1091, sample 8 [backfill in Roman ditch 1093, basal layer]: varicoloured"black to pale pink-orange on cm- and mm-scale of variation"moist to wet, plastic, sticky sandy clay with traces of stones 6-20 mm, bone 20 mm and ?brick/tile and ?mollusc shell fragments.

There was a modest washover of charcoal mm with a little rotted oyster shell to 5 mm. Sand and gravel (including sandstone to 60 mm) made up most of the modest residue, with mortar and a trace of brick/tile to 15 mm and charcoal to 5 mm, with two fragments of (?ancient) glass.

In addition to the 1 kg subsample, a 5.8 kg subsample was disaggregated and sieved to 1 mm to concentrate any larger macrofossil remains. Apart from a little unidentifiable mammal bone (some of it burnt), there was only a single distal tibiotarsus of a duck (?mallard), *Anas* sp. and a little mussel (*Mytilus* sp.) shell and some charcoal (including oak, to 20 mm). The rest comprised sand and gravel to 90 mm (including sandstone and magnesian limestone) with a trace of brick/tile to 20 mm.

5.4 Bone

One and a half standard boxes of animal bone were recovered. Of this material, eight contexts derived from what were classified broadly as medieval and seven from Roman levels. In terms of the quantity of bone, however, the largest proportion of the assemblage was from medieval deposits.

Preservation of all material was fair, some of the bone from medieval deposits being well preserved.

Domestic mammals, represented in both Roman and medieval deposits included cattle, sheep and pig. In addition, two horse fragments were recovered from medieval deposits (contexts 1015), whilst elements of chicken appeared in both groups (a tarsometatarsus showing evidence of fracture and subsequent callus formation). Two duck humeri and a goose radius were also recovered from medieval deposits, along with a toad pelvis fragment.

Twenty-four measurable elements were recovered from medieval levels, nine from Roman contexts. Most elements of domestic animal were represented and butchery was evident on a number of fragments. The presence of skull, rib and vertebral fragments (most evident in the medieval deposits) suggests general domestic refuse. The Roman assemblage is too small for any conclusions to be drawn.

5.5 Implications

There seems to be little value in making further analyses on sediments of this kind from this area; preservation is poor and fossils too thinly distributed to be interpretatively useful. Without more refined dating, the bone is of little zooarchaeological value. Medieval deposits indicate good preservation of reasonable quantities of material which might repay further investigation if closely-dated deposits are available. The Roman material is too sparse to draw any useful conclusions though a larger and better-preserved Roman assemblage from this area would be of interest.

Reference

Kenward, H. K., Hall, A. R. and Jones, A. K. G. (1980). A tested set of techniques for the extraction of plant and animal macrofossils from waterlogged archaeological deposits. *Science and Archaeology* 22, 3-15.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1The excavation investigated deposits down to the natural sub-soil. All archaeological deposits from the Roman period onwards were, where present, generally in a good state of preservation. The site was very dry with no ground water encountered at any point. No definite organic material was identified in any part of the excavation, even in the deeper features.

6.2 PERIOD ANALYSIS.

6.2.1 Roman and Anglian (1st - 9th century).

Extensive deposits of the Roman period were investigated seemingly mainly of the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. No deposits were dated to the 4th century and there was no evidence, artefactual or otherwise, of any Anglian material. Although a number of medieval and modern features had penetrated Roman levels they were generally intact. There is no obvious explanation for the lack of late Roman and Anglian deposits, since there was no evidence for the truncation of deposits by later activity.

6.2.2 Anglo-Scandinavian (9th - 11th century).

No deposits, pottery, or artefacts could be assigned to the Anglo-Scandinavian period. In addition the total lack of any residual material of the period in demonstrably medieval deposits strongly indicates that there was no activity in the Anglo-Scandinavian period. This may be explained by the fact that the site lies some distance from the known Anglo-Scandinavian centres of activity.

6.2.3 Medieval (11th - 16th century)

Deposits and features of the medieval period were numerous and generally well preserved. Features recorded included stake-holes, pits, gulleys/drains but no structural remains. Modern disturbance would not have been sufficient to destroy all trace of structures of this period so it must be concluded that this area had not been built on but remained open land or gardens.

6.2.4 Post-Medieval (16th - 19th century)

Although a few contexts produced pottery of this period it appears that post-medieval activity in the area is limited. It is possible that modern features have truncated the relevant deposits although it is known that the area was only developed for housing in the mid 19th century. Architectural fragments of probable medieval date re-used in foundations for a relatively recent structure close to the Gillygate street front were left in situ beneath the concrete forecourt surface.

6.2.5 Modern

In addition to a number of modern features the top c.0.40m of the site was modern concrete and brick rubble.

7. *ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS*

The features and deposits recorded show varied and at times intense activity beginning in the Roman period. As well as the ditches and deposits recorded there was evidence for at least one Roman timber building on the site.

Interestingly the Roman activity of the 2nd and 3rd centuries represents 50%, c.0.75m, of the total depth of stratigraphy and is generally very well preserved despite its relatively close proximity to the modern ground surface. Finds from the Roman deposits were frequent and often of good quality and there can be little doubt that extensive well preserved Roman material is present in the area. Few sites outside the Roman Legionary fortress have been examined in any detail, a point which further enhances the significance and importance of the site. Although no medieval structures were found on this site the surviving deposits and features were generally well preserved. It is quite possible that buildings of the medieval period lie within the area of development but outside the trench. The few Post-Medieval deposits noted were of little or no significance.

Bearing in mind that the Roman deposits are only c.0.70m below modern ground level, virtually any form of development will result in extensive damage or destruction of the archaeology in this area. Therefore, a mitigation strategy for the proposed development must ensure minimal penetration of the ground and should this not be possible further excavation will be necessary to recover the evidence from the area within a properly designed research framework.

APPENDIX ONE.

York Archaeological Trust
Artefact Record Summary Sheet

Site name: 45-57 Gillygate	Site code: 1992.8
-------------------------------	----------------------

BULK FINDS	BOXES	SMALL FINDS	NUMBERS
Pottery	2	Coins	2
Tile	4	Iron	45
Stone		Copper-alloy	14
Slag		Lead	-
Crucibles		Silver	
Plaster/Daub		Gold	
Leather		Glass	18
Wood		Bone/Antler	2
Bone, Human		Ivory	
Bone, Animal	2	Fired clay	3
Soil samples	8	Stone	7
Other: misc including daub, mortar, plaster, shell, stone	1	Jet	
		Textiles	
		Wood	
		Other plaster	2
Total	9	Total	93

APPENDIX TWO.

Pottery spot-dating lists

SPOT DATES

Trench 1	
u/s	Roman
1000	Roman to 18th century; 17th century
1004	Roman to 16th century; 15th century
1005	Roman to 20th century; 19th/20th century
1005	Roman to 20th century; late 18th century
1011	Roman to 18th century; 17th century
1014	13th/15th century
1015	Roman to 18th century; 17th century
1016	Roman to 20th century; 19th century
1019	Roman to 14th century; mid 13th century plus
1021	late 13th to 16th century; 14th/15th century
1025	Roman to 16th century; 14th/15th century
1030	Roman to 16th century; 14th century
1032	Roman to 15th century; mid 13th/14th century
1033	late 13th to 16th century; later 14th/15th century
1034	Roman to 17th century; very late 15th/16th century
1037	Roman to 16th century; mid 14th century plus
1041	mid 11th to 13th century; 12th century
1042	mid 11th to 13th century; 12th century
1051	Roman
1053	70-200 AD; 120 AD plus
1055	Roman to 16th century; mid to late 14th century, ?plus
1061	70 - 200 AD; 150 AD plus
1066	70 - 200 AD; 70 AD plus
1068	70-200; 120 AD plus
1069	70 - 200 AD; 70 AD plus
1073	100 - 280 AD; 120 AD plus
1074	70 - 200 AD; 70 AD plus
1076	70 - 200 AD; 70 AD plus
1077	70 - 200 AD; 120 AD plus
1079	70 - 200 AD; 70 AD plus
1080	70 - 200 AD; 70 AD plus
1081	70 - 280 AD; 100 AD plus
1083	70 - 200 AD; 120 AD plus
1084	70 - 300 AD; 100 AD plus, but could be later
1085	100 - 250 AD; 100 AD plus ?
1089	100-200 ?
1091	70 - 120 AD; 70 AD plus

APPENDIX THREE.

Material	SFAO	Context	Simple name
Antler	65	1015	Tine
Antler	49	1053	Pin
Copper alloy	4	1000	Spoon
Copper alloy	3	1003	Pin
Copper alloy	34	1005	Coin
Copper alloy	5	1015	Object
Copper alloy	11	1015	Object
Copper alloy	24	1015	Nail
Copper alloy	20	1016	Object
Copper alloy	33	1016	Pin
Copper alloy	35	1016	Strip
Copper alloy	36	1016	Pin
Copper alloy	1	1021	Coin
Copper alloy	40	1032	Brooch
Copper alloy	41	1061	Object
Copper alloy	51	1077	Object
Copper alloy	57	1077	Object
Copper alloy	63	1083	Bell
Fired clay	21	1005	Tobacco pipe
Fired clay	38	1005	Tobacco pipe
Fired clay	94	1032	Counter
Flint	96	1066	Fragment
Flint	76	1091	Fragment
Glass	12	1005	Fragment
Glass	88	1005	Tool
Glass	87	1012	Body fragment
Glass	18	1015	Fragment
Glass	9	1025	Fragment
Glass	19	1025	Fragment
Glass	13	1034	Vessel
Glass	91	1055	Jug, flask or bottle
Glass	92	1055	Jug or bottle
Glass	93	1055	Bangle
Glass	82	1068	Tubular rimmed bowl
Glass	83	1068	Bottle
Glass	85	1068	Body fragment
Glass	95	1068	Body fragment
Glass	89	1077	Pillar moulded bowl
Glass	86	1079	Cylindrical bottle
Glass	90	1080	Cylindrical bottle
Glass	84	1091	Jug
Iron	29	1005	Nail
Iron	30	1005	Nail
Iron	6	1008	Object
Iron	27	1011	Nail
Iron	2	1015	Object
Iron	8	1015	Object
Iron	10	1015	Object
Iron	14	1015	Object
Iron	15	1015	Nail
Iron	16	1015	Nail

APPENDIX FOUR.

Glass list

Context	Date
1003	post-medieval
1005	Roman to modern
1055	late 1st to 2nd century
1068	mid 1st to mid 2nd century
1077	1st century
1079	late 1st century to first quarter 2nd century
1091	mid 1st to mid 2nd century

APPENDIX FIVE.

Tile list

Context	Form	Date
1003	brick	19th century onwards
1004	brick	?? 15th century
1005	pantile	17th century onwards
1008	brick	" " "
1011	peg tile	13th century onwards
1013	brick	17th century onwards
1014	brick	17th century onwards
1015	peg tile, reused	13th century onwards
1016	brick, peg tile	?17th century onwards
1017	brick	?17th century onwards
1019	pantile, peg tile, tegula, Roman brick	17th century onwards
1021	?Brick	?
1032	peg tile, ?Roman brick	13th century onwards
1035	peg tile	13th century onwards
1037	peg tile, Roman brick	13th century onwards
1041	Roman brick	Roman
1053	Roman brick, tegula	Roman
1055	peg tile	13th century onwards
1061	Roman brick, tegula	Roman
1066	Roman brick	Roman
1077	Roman brick, tegula	Roman
1081	Roman brick	Roman
1084	tegula (burned)	Roman
1085	Roman brick	Roman
1086	tegula	Roman
1091	Roman brick, tegula	Roman

Appendix 6

List of contributors

This report is the result of the combined efforts of a number of Trust staff and others. The major contributors were as follows :

Excavation and report coordination Dave Evans

Documentary research Chris Daniell

Finds identification Hilary Cool

Pottery Jason Monaghan, Sarah Jennings

Tile Sandra Garside-Neville

Environmental Evidence Keith Dobney, Allan Hall, Harry Kenward

Surveying and illustrations Trevor Pearson

Editors David Brinklow, Richard Hall