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DAVYGATE/LITTLE STONEGATE, YORK

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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REPORT ON AN

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ABSTRACT

In October 1997 a series of four archaeological evaluation trenches was excavated on a site between Davygate and Little Stonegate, York.

Trench 1, near the Davygate street frontage revealed nothing but modern foundations and recent backfill. The absence of archaeological deposits at this location is believed to be due to the presence of a 19th century cellar beneath a public house.

Trench 2, situated in open ground to the rear of Little Stonegate produced a series of stratified deposits of 10th/11th to 15th/16th century date. The earliest deposits were exposed in plan only and were cut by a large feature together with two postholes and a stakehole which also appear to be 11th century in date. The majority of the deposits recorded in Trench 2 are believed to have built up within the backyard of a medieval property that once fronted onto Little Stonegate. Activity of this period was essentially characterised by sequences of pit cutting alternating with episodes of dumping. The 16th century date for the latest activity in Trench 2 suggests recent truncation of the uppermost parts of the archaeological sequence.

Located close to the Little Stonegate frontage, Trench 3 revealed a complex series of stratified medieval deposits. The majority of these were of a structural nature; parts of two phases of building development, including walls and floors, were recognised. As in Trench 2, it is clear that the latest archaeological deposits have been truncated.

Trench 4 was located adjacent to Trench 3 and was excavated to the top of archaeological deposits only. These, as was the case in Trenches 2 and 3, were found to be some 0.3m below the present ground surface.

1. INTRODUCTION

Between 6th and 21st October 1997, York Archaeological Trust conducted an archaeological evaluation in advance of the development of land between 3 Davygate and Little Stonegate, York (NGR SE60245197). The underlying drift geology of the site is Boulder clay on lacustrine clays with sand and gravel. Beneath this the solid geology is of Bunter and Keuper sandstones. The aims of the evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the area of proposed development and to determine the location, extent, date, character and quality of any such deposits that may be threatened. The evaluation was carried out on behalf of Hawkstone Properties Ltd, in accordance with a specification of work approved by John Oxley, City of York Council Principal Archaeologist.

The existing building on the Davygate street front is a mid 1960's three storey structure with front and rear facades of glass and concrete, supported on piled foundations. The open land to the rear of the building, which is accessed from Little Stonegate, is presently used for car parking. All of the adjacent buildings are of 19th century or earlier date. A pronounced north-east - south-west slope is apparent across the site, the ground dropping some 0.8m between the Little Stonegate and the Davygate street frontages..

2. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The development site lies within the south-western part of the Roman legionary fortress, and in the heart of the medieval and modern city of York. This background to the locality has been put together from readily accessible historical sources, from the results of earlier archaeological works and from cartographic evidence.

Both Davygate and Little Stonegate are streets of medieval origin. Davygate is first recorded in the 12th or 13th century and was named after Davy Hall which served as a prison and dwelling house of the hereditary lardiners (clerks of the kitchen) of the royal forest of Galtres. Davy Hall itself was named after David le Lardiner who held the office in 1173-75, (Palliser 1978). This building was located on the opposite side of Davygate to the proposed development, in the area of the post 1745 burial ground of St Helens Church, (RCHM 1981).

Adjacent to 3 Davygate on the north-west side, is St Helen's Church which is first mentioned in 1235. Much of the fabric of this building is of later medieval and post medieval date. The burial ground of the church was originally in the area of the present St Helen's Square prior to its re-location further along Davygate in the mid 18th century, (RCHM 1981). There is no evidence, either historical or archaeological, that the burial ground. ever extended into the site being evaluated.

Confusingly, the street presently known as Little Stonegate was formerly known as Swinegate and the street presently known as Swinegate was formerly called Patrick Pool. The Swinegate street name is derived from the local pig market that was held in Swinegate (present Little Stonegate) until it was relocated in 1605. It has been suggested that this street was formerly very narrow as it used to bear the suffix "gail" = lane, prior to replacement with the suffix"gate" = street, (Raine 1955). The present street topography of Little Stonegate certainly permits this notion of a narrower street as the junction of Little Stonegate with Stonegate, which is presently occupied by medieval buildings, is little over a half of the width of the street further to the south-east.

A number of archaeological investigations have been carried out in the general vicinity of the proposed development site. These have all provided details concerning the layout and occupation of the Roman fortress and medieval city but have shown little evidence for activity, other than the robbing of Roman walls, in the intervening periods.

Excavations at both 9 Blake Street, (Hall 1997), and Davygate, (Wenham 1962), have provided evidence for the layout of legionary barrack blocks and metalled roadways.

Medieval deposits at the Blake Street site were confined to those relating to backyards of properties that fronted onto adjacent streets.

A series of excavations in 1990 embracing trenches in Grape Lane, Swinegate and Little Stonegate/Back Swinegate all produced evidence of extremely well preserved late medieval street frontages with buildings and yards to the rear, (Interim, vol 14 No 4, vol 15 No 1). Buildings interpreted as workshops, possibly for metal working, were present at the rear of the Little Stonegate site. In all cases the medieval frontages were located only a shallow depth beneath the modern ground surface. A series of burials was also recovered in trenches at Swinegate. These are believed to have belonged to the burial ground of St Benet's church, a possible pre conquest foundation that became redundant in the 14th century. It is thought that this church may have been located at the corner of Swinegate and Back Swinegate.

Cartographic evidence is of limited value in demonstrating the development of the site as maps detailing this part of the city do not pre-date the 17th century and detail on pre-19th century maps is very limited. All 17th century maps show the area between Little Stonegate and Davygate to be densely occupied, though it is not possible to determine open from built upon ground in the central area. The same situation largely holds true for the 18th century maps although Drake's of 1736 and Ward's of 1785 do suggest the presence of a narrow strip of open ground or a lane around the south-east side of St Helen's Church. A similar strip of open ground is indicated on all 19th century maps and in a slightly altered form is still present today. Detailed maps of the 19th century in which individual buildings can be recognised show a variety of building arrangements on both the Davygate and Little Stonegate frontages. The degree of "openness" of the land between the two frontages can also be seen to vary throughout the 19th, and indeed 20th, centuries, as building extensions and buildings were erected and demolished. The only building within the area of the proposed development that is almost certain to have had a basement or cellar is the Clarence Hotel which occupied the plot immediately adjacent to the church. It is known that a number of buildings in Little Stonegate, at least the former non-conformist chapel (now a print works) and the adjacent 5/7 Little Stonegate (Rubicon Restaurant) have cellars or basements that have served to remove street front deposits in areas next to the site.

3. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation consisted of the excavation of four trenches (Figure 1). Trench 1, measuring 3m x 2m x 1.5m deep was located immediately to the west of 3 Davygate, some 10m behind the Davygate street frontage. Trench 2, measuring 3m x 3m x 1.5m deep was located in the car park immediately to the rear of 3 Little Stonegate. Trenches 3 and 4 measured 2m x 1.8m x up to 0.8m deep and 4.3m x 0.45m x up to 0.4m deep respectively, and were situated in the narrow entranceway to the car park some 3.5m behind the Little Stonegate street frontage.

In trenches 2 and 3 the modern surface and underlying makeup was removed by machine; in trenches 1 and 4 these were removed by hand. All archaeological deposits were hand excavated. A system of single context planning was used to plan all archaeological deposits at a scale of 1:20 and each context was described on a separate pro-forma sheet. At

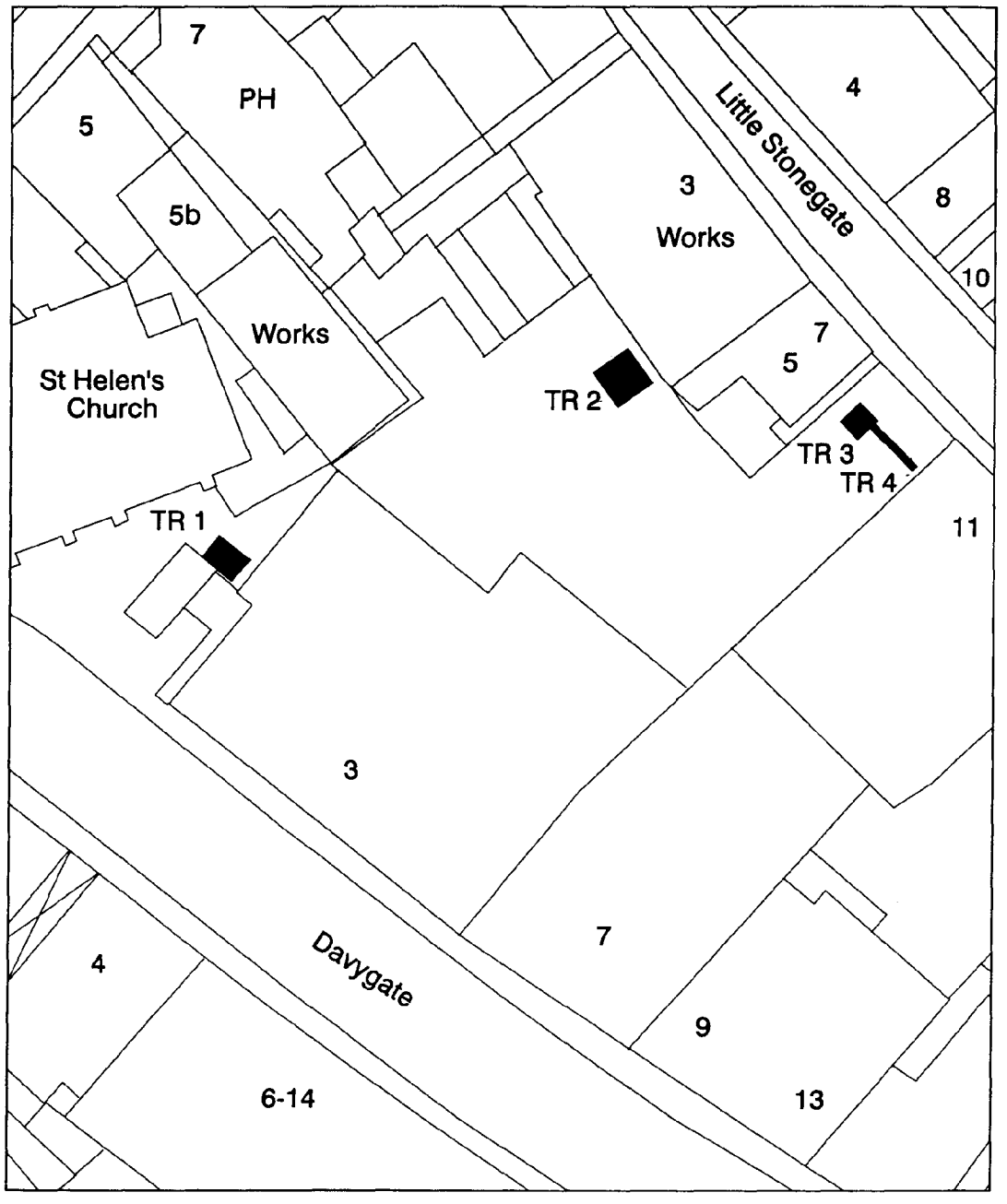

Figure 1 Location plan of trenches

the completion of the excavation of each trench all sections that displayed any archaeological features were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Colour print photographs were taken at a number of horizons in each trench during the course of excavation.

All finds and site records are presently stored by York Archaeological Trust under the Yorkshire Museum accession code YORYM 1996.102.

4. THE EXCAVATIONS

4.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

4.1.1 All deposits revealed in Trench 1 proved to be modern. A loose, fine, cinder fill (1004) beneath two large concrete pile caps (1006), (two 0.45m diameter piles were observed beneath the westernmost of these) proved to be the earliest deposit seen. Subsequent deposits were limited to a service pipe and its associated bedding of sand (1005) and a limestone chipping layer (1003) together with a fine rubble and mortar layer (1002) which collectively formed the compact makeup for the existing surface of York-stone flags. The total absence of archaeological deposits within Trench 1 seems likely to have resulted from the presence here of an earlier cellar or basement. It is known that the "Clarence Hotel" occupied this part of Davygate from at least the 1850's and such establishments frequently had cellars. Probing with a steel rod at the base of the trench, in all four corners and at the centre, demonstrated the presence of a very hard surface, possibly a cellar floor, at a depth of some 0.35m (i.e.: approximately 12.70m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD)), below the trench base.

4.2 Trench 2 (Fig.3)

The majority of the deposits encountered in Trench 2 date to the medieval period when the area of the trench formed part of a backyard to a property; presumably fronting onto Little Stonegate. Although phases of activity, typically episodes of dumping alternating with the cutting and filling of pits is discernible, such "phases" cannot be stratigraphically linked to the structural development of the tenement to which the backyard once belonged. Neither are such "phases", despite the extensive pottery assemblage, so readily placed within a temporal framework relative to each other as may be the case with structures where the number of floors and changes in plan also give clues to relative timescales. Such phases therefore serve to distinguish marked changes of activity, some of which need not be separated in time by more than a few days or months.

4.2.1 At the level at which excavation ceased a number of different deposits were apparent. The earliest of these were contexts (2053, 2054, 2049, 2050, 2047 and 2048). Contexts (2053 and 2054) were visible at the bases of different cuts, though both were greenish brown, compact, sandy silts. Neither of these contexts was examined nor were finds observed, though given their near identical characteristics and similarity of height it is likely that they form parts of the same deposit. Excavation in a small sondage in the northern corner of the trench showed the earliest context here to be (2049) a dark clayey

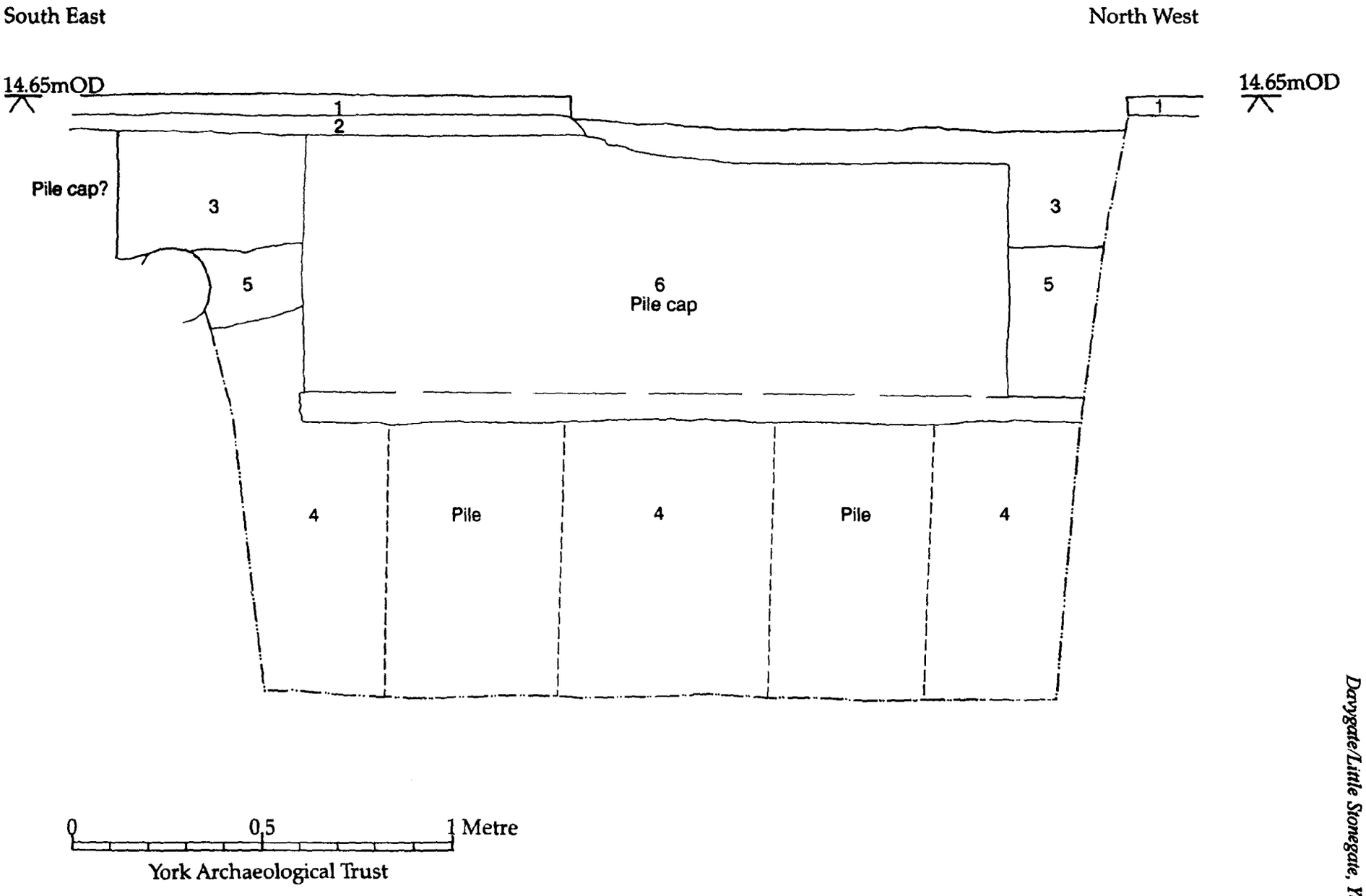

Figure 2 North-East facing Section, Trench 1

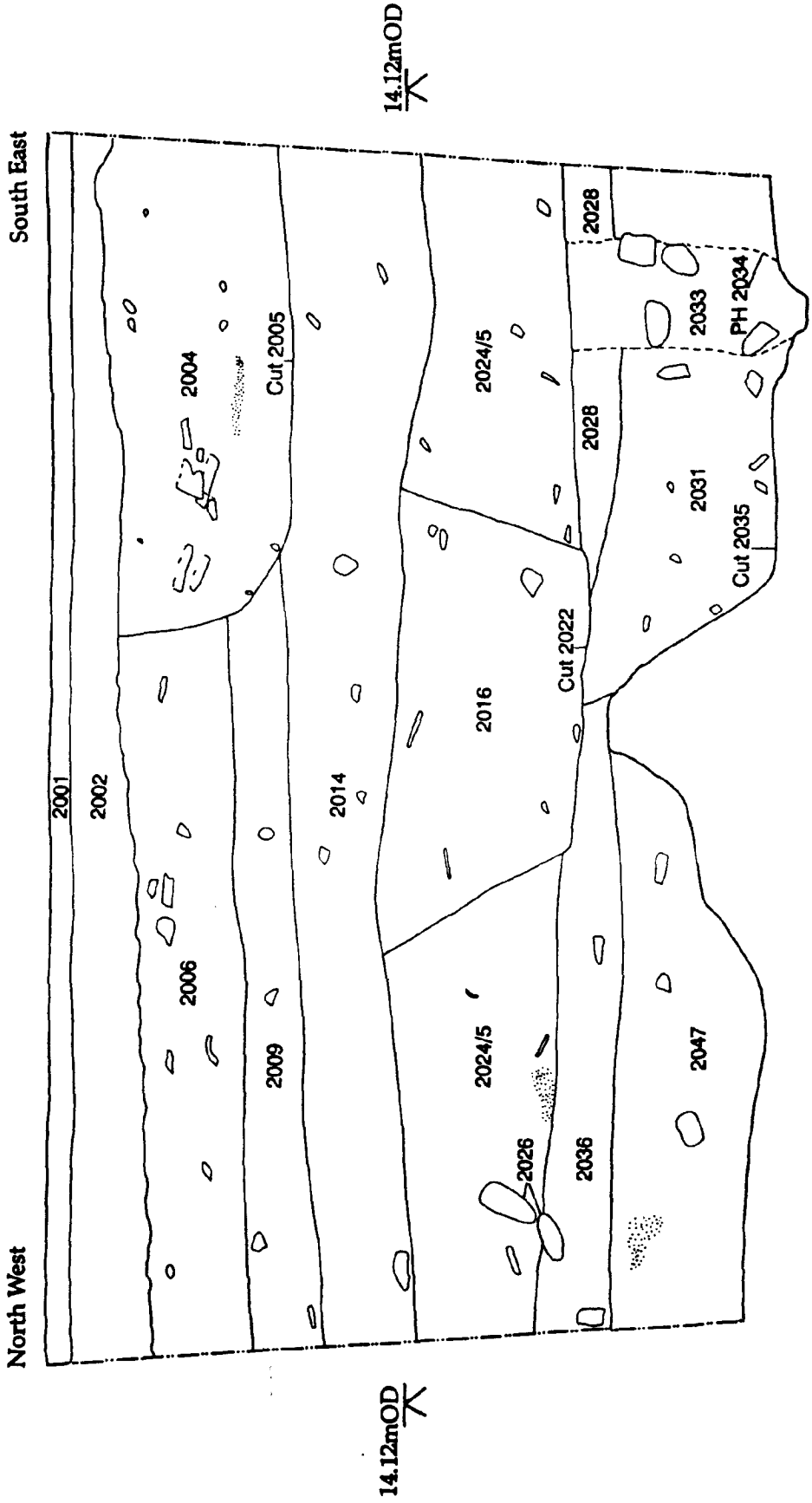

Figure 3 South-West facing section, Trench 2

silt that produced some brick of Roman date and a possible copper alloy vessel fragment (sf22). This context may have lain in a shallow cut, (2050), though the scale of excavation prevented this from being ascertained with certainty. A dark brown, slightly clayey sandy silt (2047) sealed (2049) and was again examined in the limits of the small sondage (this context was numbered (2048) elsewhere in Trench 2). The latest pottery from (2047/8) was 10th/11th century in date.

4.2.2 Cutting into these deposits, and at the same stratigraphic horizon, were two postholes, (2041) and (2043), a stakehole, (2039), and a large cut feature, (2045). Both postholes were vertically sided and at around 0.3m were of similar depth. The southernmost of these, (2043), was somewhat wider (0.33m) than (2041) (0.19m). Both had a similar, stoney, greyish brown, sandy silt fills. The stakehole (2039) had a diameter of 0.11m, a depth of 0.1m and a fill similar to that of the two postholes, though lacking the stone element. Neither the postholes or stakehole produced any finds or dating evidence.

The large cut (2045) was apparent in the west corner of the trench only, the remainder of the feature lay beyond the limits of excavation. The feature had steep sides, an uneven base and an average depth of 0.25m. Two fills were excavated from (2045), contexts (2044) and (2046). Both fills were dark grey, clayey silts, the difference between the two being distinguished principally by variations of inclusions. Pottery from the fills of (2045) was of 10th/11th century date and included of one sherd of Stamford Ware. A 10th century or later date must thus be assumed for (2045). The shallowness of this feature is quite marked particularly as there is no reason to suspect truncation at this horizonand its interpretation as a pit seems unlikely. A function as some sort of structure cannot be ruled out, and the possibility of the adjacent postholes and stakehole being related cannot be dismissed.

4.2.3 Sealing the large cut, stakehole and postholes was context (2037), a dark greyish brown, slightly clayey, sandy silt with a high ash content. Context (2036) was a similarly coloured clayey silt (though with slight textural and colour variation) that overlay (2037). Both contexts contained small amounts of pottery in relation to later deposits dated to the 10th/11th and 12th centuries. The well defined and sloping interface between (2037) and (2036) suggests that this material has been dumped here in the 12th century on the basis of ceramic evidence.

4.2.4 These dumped deposits were cut by a linear feature (2032), and a pit, (2035), which was in turn cut by a posthole (2034).

The linear cut, (2032), was only partially visible in the extreme south-east side of the trench and displayed a slight eastwards curve at its northern extremity. Only part of the western edge of (2032) could be examined and this proved to be moderately steep. Two fills were apparent in the cut, a dark silty clay, context (2030), overlain by a lighter coloured clayey silt, context (2029). Recovered finds suggest a 12th century date for this linear cut. Interpretation of this feature is hampered by the fact that only a part of one side of (2032) was visible. The cut may be too large to form one side of a pit and it may represent part of a ditch or gully, possibly one that marked a property boundary.

Pit (2035) was located in the west corner of the trench, parts of it extending beyond the limits of excavation. This feature was fairly steep sided, had a flat base, was 0.54m deep and contained two fills, contexts (2031) and (2028). The primary fill, (2031), was essentially a mixed clayey silt containing a few brownish coloured organic lenses. The upper fill, (2028), was a thin deposit of friable clayey silt. Quantities of bone, rubble and shell suggest that pit (2035) was a domestic rubbish pit. Finds evidence suggests a 12th century date for this feature. A posthole (2034), with a diameter of 0.27m, a depth of 0.54m and containing an amount of packing stone within a friable slightly clayey silt (2033), was seen to cut through the fills of pit (2035). Although clearly later than pit (2035) no dating evidence was recovered from this posthole.

4.2.5 A series of varied deposits, contexts (2027), (2026), (2025) and (2024), sealed the linear cut (2032), pit (2035) and posthole (2034). The smallest and earliest of these was (2027), a thin, mixed deposit of yellowish brown clayey silt located in the south-west part of the trench. This layer was overlain by a thin scatter of large sub-angular fragments of limestone intermixed with a few cobbles and fragments of gritstone. Much of the surface area of the trench was patchily covered by this context. The dark clayey silts of contexts (2024) and (2025) sealed (2026) and were only arbitrarily distinguished from each other in order to separate finds from what collectively formed a deposit often in excess of 0.4m thick. Recovered finds material suggests a late 12th-early 13th century date for all of these contexts which are interpreted as an episode of dumping.

4.2.6 Cutting into the series of mixed dumped deposits was a pit (2022), two further shallow pits or scoops (2023) and (2021), the latter of these in turn being cut by a posthole (2019).

Pit (2022) was only partially within the trench, the remainder lying beyond the north-east limits of excavation. The shape of this feature is unknown though it had steep sides, a flat base and was up to 0.47m deep. The single fill of this cut, context (2016), was a mottled, gritty, sandy silt that contained an amount of rubble and bone. This pit appears to be of 14th century date and is interpreted as a domestic rubbish pit.

Cut (2023), measuring 1.12m x 0.52m and up to 0.16m deep, was located in the central part of the trench. The fill of this feature (2017), was a mixture of lime mortar, compact yellow sandy clay and greyish sandy clay. The origin of the fill is uncertain but it contained pottery of 12th century date.

A shallow scoop measuring only 0.14m deep and having gently sloping sides with a concave base, context (2021), was located in the western corner of the trench; most of the feature extending beyond the limits of excavation. A single, dark, slightly silty clay, context (2020), formed the only fill of this feature and produced a small amount of pottery dating to the 13th century. The function of this feature is uncertain. A single posthole, context (2019), with a diameter of 0.2m and a depth of 0.21m cut through fill (2020). This posthole produced no dating evidence.

4.2.7 An episode of dumping in the form of contexts (2015) and (2014) sealed the cut features of earlier activity. Context (2015), a brownish clayey silt located in the north-west part of the trench was overlain by the more extensive and thicker deposit (2014), a dark

clayey silt. Both contexts produced large amounts of material typical of dumping: building rubble, animal bone, shell and pottery and are believed to date to the 14th century.

4.2.8 Two intercutting pits in the central area of the trench, contexts (2013) and (2011), cut through the dumped deposit of (2014). Both pits were ovate - sub-rectangular in shape, measured up to 1.2m across, were fairly steep sided and had concave bases. The northern most of these pits, (2011), was deeper than (2013), 0.66m and 0.35m respectively. The primary fill of pit (2011), (2012), was a dark, slightly clayey silt, from which a small limestone architectural fragment was recovered. 2012 was overlain by (2010) which formed the latest fill in pit (2011) and was indistinguishable from the fill of pit (2013). Indeed (2010) was not even arbitrarily sub-divided into separate fills as it was only after the removal of this fill that it became apparent that two pits rather than one were present. The sequential relationship between the two pits is unknown. Pottery suggests a late 15th-early 16th century date for this activity.

4.2.9 Pits (2011) and (2013) were sealed by an extensive deposit, context (2009). This layer was essentially a brownish grey, slightly clayey silt. Some colour and slight textural variation was apparent within this context and this may be indicative of smaller "individual loads" that collectively formed a single dumped deposit. Finds recovered from (2009) suggest a late 15th-early 16th century date.

4.2.10 A single, fairly shallow cut, context (2008), cut into the dumped deposit (2009) in the western part of the trench. Ovate in shape and measuring up to 0.85m across, with moderately steep sides and up to 0.20m deep this feature had a single fill, context (2007),which was a mixture of brick, tile and stone rubble within a brownish clayey silt matrix. It may have been a small pit intended for the disposal of building debris. Recovered finds suggest a late 15th-early 16th century date for this activity.

4.2.11 An extensive context, (2006), overlay cut (2008). Composed largely of a dark greyish brown, slightly clayey, sandy silt, this material did display some variation. This may again be due to the presence of a series of small "loads" collectively forming a larger deposit. Context (2006) is interpreted as dumping and is also dated to the late 15th -early 16th century.

4.2.12 Two pits, contexts (2005) and (2052) cut into deposit (2006). Both features were in the south-east part of the trench and were not fully revealed, their remaining parts continuing beyond the limits of excavation. So little of pit (2052) was within the trench that it only became apparent in section. Morphologically the pits were quite similar having moderately steep edges and concave bases. The fill of pit (2005), context (2004), was a pale greyish brown, sandy clay silt containing amounts of bone, shell and rubble. The fill of pit (2052), context (2051), was by contrast at least 70% brick, tile and stone rubble, within a sandy silt matrix. A late 15th-early 16th century date for these features is suggested by pottery. Given their size both pits were fairly shallow. The modern surface of tarmac (2001) bedded on a layer of limestone chippings (2002) sealed these pits and formed the latest deposits within the trench. The shallowness of the two pits combined with their 16th century date suggests that up to 400 years of archaeology is missing. That such truncation may have taken place in recent years is suggested by the presence of a concrete plinth around most of the internal circuit of the car park and immediately adjacent to Trench 2

stands to 0.59m above the ground. This plinth may have been placed against the lower parts of the walls after ground reduction so as to ensure the integrity of their foundations.

4.3 Trench 3 (Figs. 4 and 5)

All of the contexts recorded within Trench 3 relate to medieval structures that once fronted onto Little Stonegate and their associated deposits. The size of this trench was reduced because of the presence of a number of modern services in the south-eastern part of the trench. In spite of the small scale of the excavation a number of structural elements including floor layers were recognised. The majority of the "phasing" in this trench is based on clear structural succession.

4.3.1 Two deposits were visible at the level at which excavation ceased in Trench 3, contexts (2039) and (2038). Context (2039) was a compact, slightly humic silty clay containing small amounts of brick, tile, mortar fragments and charcoal. Context (2038), a small deposit of light brown clayey silt containing small amounts of tile and mortar flecks was seen to overlay (2039). Neither of these contexts was examined and an interpretation cannot readily be attributed.

4.3.2 Two sub-circular stakeholes, contexts (3035) and (3037), each with a diameter of approximately 0.08m and in the region of 0.20m deep, cut directly into the unexcavated deposit 3039. These stakeholes were in turn sealed by two thin deposits, contexts (3033) and (3026). Context (3033), occurring at the extreme south-west of the trench only, was a greyish brown silty clay that sealed stakehole (3035) alone. Context (3026), a more extensive spread of yellow brown clay sealed stakehole (3037).

A series of further small features, contexts (3025), (3030), (3028) and (3032), cut into the thin deposits (3033) and (3026). A substantial steep sided posthole, context (3025), containing a silty clay fill (3024), that measured up to 0.28m in diameter and had a depth of 0.32m, cut both deposits (3033) and (3026). To the north of this posthole a stakehole, context (3028), with a diameter of 0.12m, a depth of 0.15m and having a sandy clay fill, context (3027), cut deposit (3026) alone. A further posthole, context (3032), that lay between features (3025) and (3028) also cut deposit (3026). This posthole was vertically sided, flat based, had a diameter of 0.25m, a depth of 0.20m and was filled with a loose clay and sand fill, context (3031). One further feature, context (3030), a vertically sided, flat based slot aligned north-west to south-east cut deposit (3026). This measured 1.05m in length, up to 0.14m wide and up to 0.12m deep. The fill of this slot, context (3027), was a gritty sandy clay.

All of these contexts pre-date the earliest structure exposed in Trench 3, with the possible exception of posthole (3025) (see 4.3.3 below), and are dated on the basis of ceramic evidence to the 13th/14th century. Despite the fact that two of the cut features were separated from the remaining four by thin deposits it may be that all are closely related, for example in a scaffolding arrangement erected for the construction of the building described in 4.3.3.

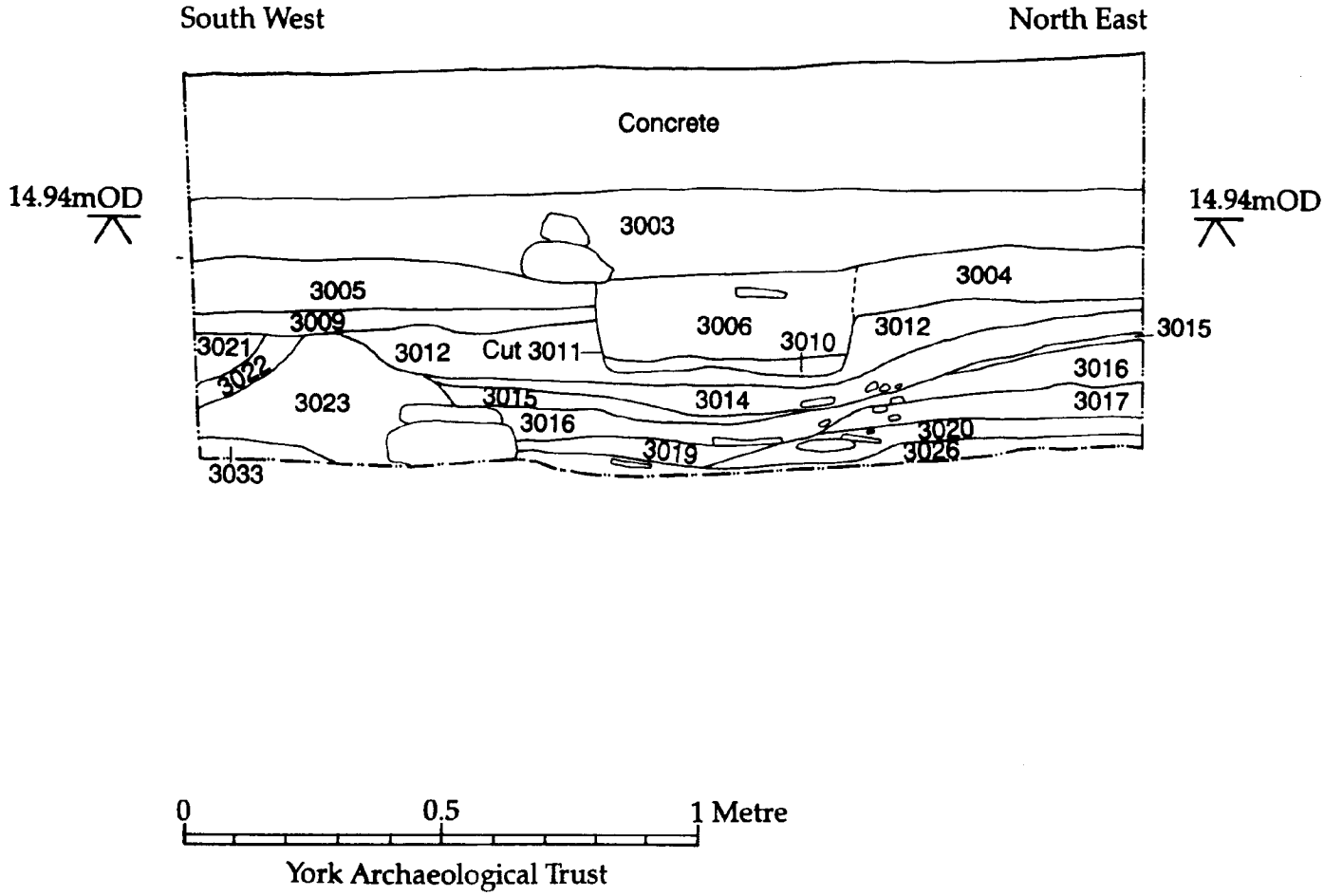

Figure 4 South-East facing section, Trench 3

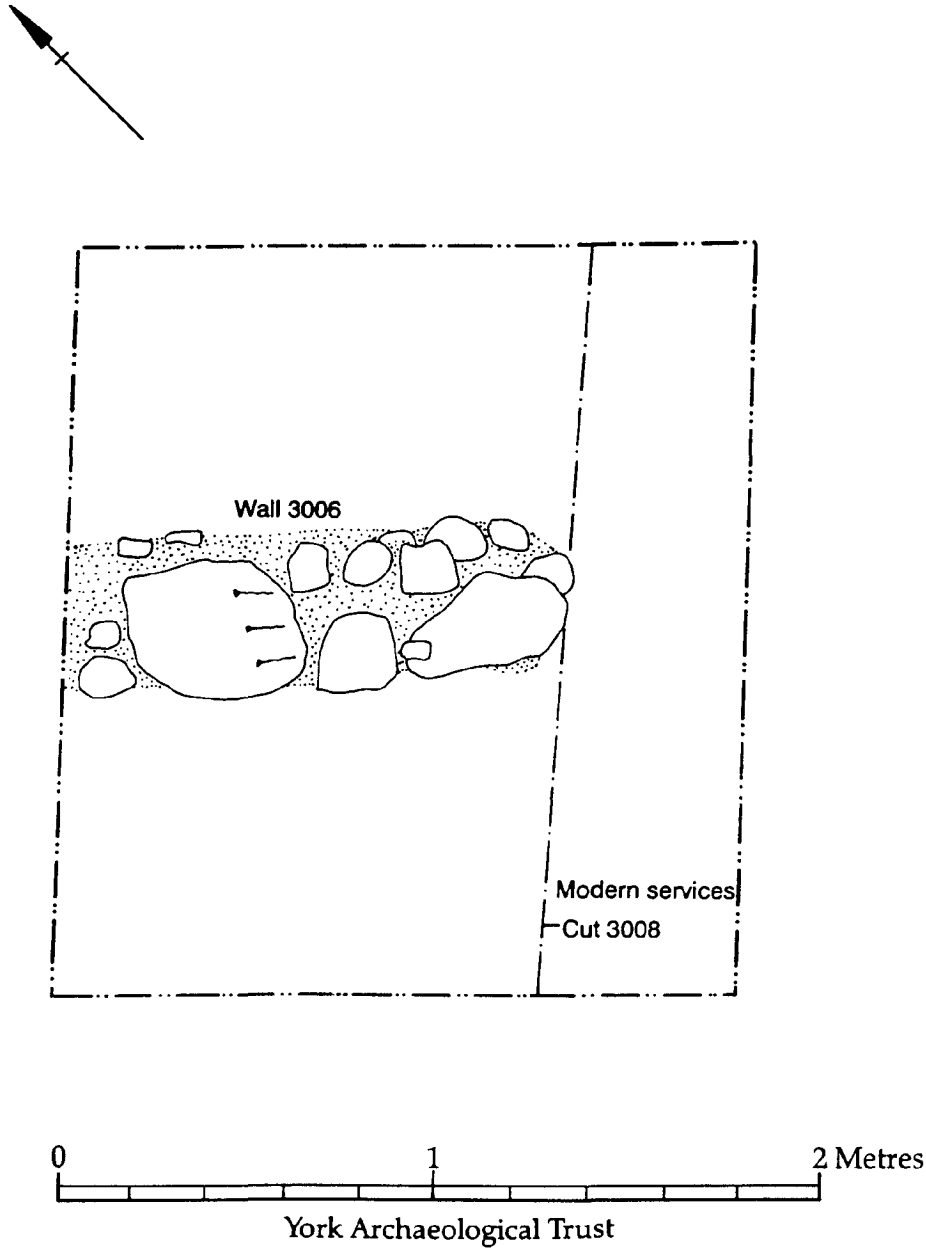

Figure 5 Plan of wall 3006, Trench 3

4.3.3 At the south-west end of the trench a series of contexts, (3023, 3022, and 3021), overlay the thin deposits (3026) and (3033) of phase 4.3.2. The earliest of these, (3023), was a thick deposit of clean pale grey clay. This was overlain by (3022), a reddish brown clayey silt, whch in turn was sealed by (3021), a dirty deposit of yellow and brown clays. Collectively these three contexts formed a slightly uneven bank or step, elevated by some 0.25m from the rest of the trench to the north-east, which was aligned north-west to south-east, parallel with the Little Stonegate frontage. Although posthole (3025), which was central to the bank, was thinly overlain by context (3023) this may have been due to slumpage or demolition subsequent to phase 4.3.3. If so, it is possible that (3025) may have formed a part of the phase 4.3.2 structure and have supported a vertical timber. The earliest deposits in the north-east part of the trench, and that are likely to be contemporary with the south-western bank, were contexts (3020) and (3019). Context (3020) was a dark, gritty, clayey silt that was overlain by (3019), a dark, dirty clay. Both of these contexts were seen to be filling hollows in the upper surface of the phase 4.3.2 contexts and are interpreted as makeup layers serving to level up the ground prior to the laying of a series of thin floor layers.

A series of five thin laminated floors were represented by contexts (3018, 3017, 3016, 3015, and 3014) and collectively extended across the full area of the trench up to the limits of the clay bank (contexts 3023, 3022, 3021) against which they butted. The floor layers were composed, for the most part, of clays and silty clays of a variety of colours. Charcoal and ash formed a component part of certain of these contexts. The thickness of the floors showed some variation, ranging from 0.08m to just a few millimetres. Many of the individual floors were fairly patchy and discontinuous. One floor layer, (3017), displayed a number of discontinuous internal laminations. This may be indicative of either repair patching, or, perhaps more likely given the similarity of texture and colour, represent the laying down of a single floor in several thinner layers. A thin, compact, crescent shaped scattering of broken tiles within a clay matrix, context (3013), that lay on top of the latest floor layer, context (3014), may be remnants indicative of a demolished hearth. Whether this latest deposit rightly relates to this structural episode or to phase 4.3.4 in the form of makeup/levelling is uncertain.

Taken together the contexts of this phase of activity can be interpreted as representing parts of a structure in which a levelling makeup, clay bank or step (which may have supported a sill beam) and occupation floors are all present. The pottery assemblage from these contexts suggests a 14th century date for this structure.

4.3.4 A thick, compact, mixed deposit of clay, clayey silt and sand, context (3012), sealed all the deposits of phase 4.3.2 with the exception of the very uppermost parts of the clay bank at the south-west of the trench. This deposit created a level surface across the base of the trench and is interpreted as makeup for the next structural phase.

A linear wall foundation cut aligned north-west to south-east (parallel to the Little Stonegate frontage) some 0.6m wide and up to 0.14m deep cut into the makeup of (3012). Occupying the very base of this cut was a thin bedding of clean sand 0.01m - 0.02m thick, context (3010). On top of this was placed a low stone wall, context (3006). This wall was constructed of undressed blocks of limestone bonded with copious amounts of lime mortar

and stood just one course tall. As this wall overlay the floor layers of the phase 4.3.3 structure it is clear that this later building , whilst maintaining the same alignment, had a layout at variance with that of its predecessor.

Butting up to wall (3006) in the south-west part of the trench was a patchy, thin spread of charcoal rich clay, context (3009). This material is believed to represent the only surviving floor surface associated with the phase 4.3.4 structure. The presence of a floor remnant on this side of the wall indicates that wall (3006) formed an internal division within a building and not a rear wall.

The date of this structural activity is placed in the 14th/15th century on the basis of pottery from earleir deposits.

Contexts (3004) and (3005) lay above all phase 4.3.4 deposits to either side of wall (3006). These deposits were essentially a somewhat churned up mixture of clayey silts in which some lamination was evident. Fragments of modern concrete were seen to be pressed into both contexts and it proved necessary to remove these deposits as a single entity. It appears that (3004) and (3005) represent the uppermost levels of surviving archaeology in Trench 3, albeit disturbed by modern activity.

The uppermost disturbed archaeological deposits, and the entire sequence described above, were cut on the south-eastern side of the trench by a modern gas service trench, cut (3008). A further service trench for electricity lay immediately south-east of this. Neither service trench was seen to extend beyond a depth of 0.8m below the present surface. These services were in turn sealed by context (3003), a mixed deposit composed primarily of dirty clayey silts that contained pottery of 19th and 20th century date. The modern surface of tarmac, context (3001), laid upon a thin bedding of limestone chippings, context (3002), lay directly over the mixed recent deposit (3003). The concrete plinth that runs the internal circuit of the car park stands to a height of in excess of 0.3m adjacent to Trench 3. As was argued for Trench 2 this may be indicative of the depth of recent truncation of deposits in this area and explains the medieval date for the uppermost surviving deposits here.

Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

Trench 4 was situated in the narrow entranceway to the car park, parallel to the Little Stonegate frontage and adjacent to Trench 3, and was opened with two objectives. Firstly to determine the depth at which intact stratified archaeological deposits survived and secondly to locate any modern services which may have cut through such deposits. No archaeological deposits were excavated.

Removal of the modern tarmac, context (4001), and its makeup of limestone chippings, context (4002), revealed a thin deposit at the north-west part of the trench that is considered to represent disturbed archaeology, context (4008). Below this a series of stratified archaeological deposits were observed, contexts (4003, 4004, 4005, 4009, 4010, 4011, and 4012). The nature of these intact deposits was very varied ranging from clayey silts to a mortared setting of tiles upon bricks. Specific interpretation of any of these unexcavated deposits would not be justified given the narrowness of the trench. The presence of gas and electricity services between Trenches 3 and 4 precludes any correlation of contexts.

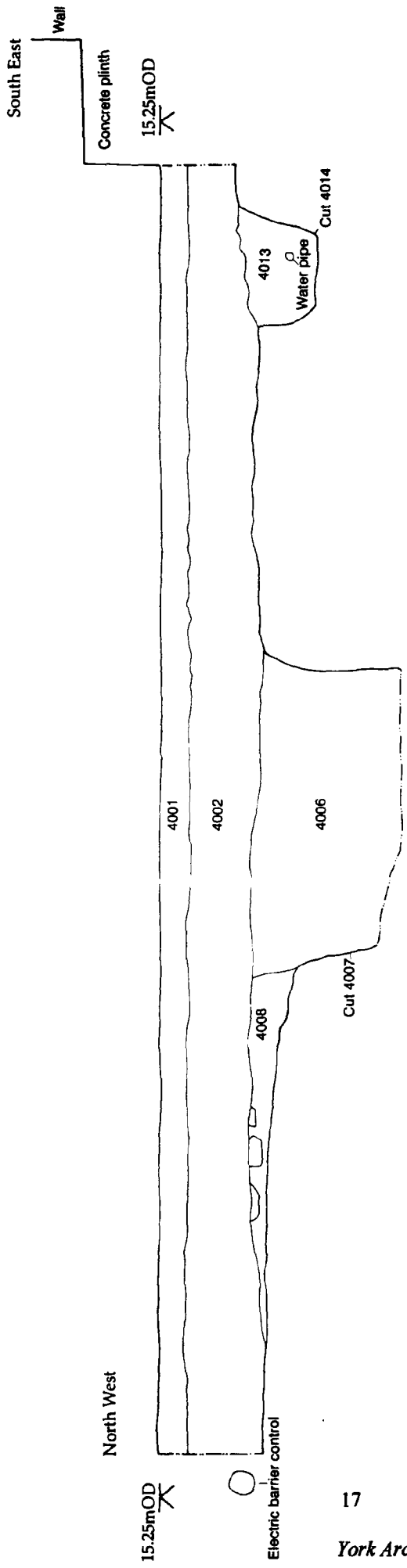

Figure 6 South-West facing section, Trench 4

Two service trenches were observed cutting through the intact deposits of Trench 4. The largest of these in the central part of the trench was a broad 1.0m wide cut in excess of 0.8m deep (from top of modern surface); on the basis of its size this cut is likely to contain a sewerage pipe. The remaining service trench was located close to the south-east end of the trench and measured 0.34m wide and 0.53m deep (from top of present surface) and was seen to contain a small diameter water pipe.

Within Trench 4 stratified archaeological deposits occurred at a depth from the top of the present tarmac surface that ranged from 0.26m to 0.34m.

5. Finds Assessment

5.1 The Pottery

5.1.1 Trench 2

CONTEXT	No of Sherds	spot date
2003	15	17th century
2004	17	late 15th/early 16th
2006	132	late 15th/early 16th
2007	38	late 15th/early 16th
2009	122	late 15th/early 16th
2010	82	late 15th/early 16th
2014	348	14th
2015	5	12th
2016	7	14th
2017	10	12th
2020	4	13th
2024	90	late 12th/early 13th
2025	35	12th
2026	8	12th
2028	15	12th
2030	14	12th
2031	14	12th
2036	16	12th
2037	22	10th/11th
2044	10	11th
2046	2	10th/11th
2047	13	10th/11th
2048	1	11th

The pottery from this trench covered the period from the late 10th or early 11th century through to the late 15th or early 16th century. The larger groups (contexts 2004, 2006,

2007, 2009, 2010) were mainly of the later date and included a great quantity of Humber wares whose main currency was in the 15th century but which continue in to the 16th century. The absence of obviously 16th century wares, such as Cistercian ware, suggests that a date in the late 15th or very early 16th century is most likely.

The other large group of pottery came from context 2014 where the scarcity of Humber ware and the quantity of Brandsby-type wares indicates a 14th century date for the context. A number of seals from York glazed ware seal jugs were recovered from this and one or two other contexts. There are fewer sherds from the other contexts but the sequence continues down through the 12th century into late Anglo-Scandinavian or Norman deposits. These later deposits were represented by Torksey-type wares and Stamford ware.

The assemblage contained comparatively little residual material and the sherds were mainly freshly broken and unabraded. This represents a very typical medieval assemblage of domestic and table wares including cooking vessels, jugs, lobed bowls and cisterns. There are a few imported wares including German stoneware and Low Countries red ware cooking vessels.

5.1.2 Trench 3

Context	no. of sherds	spotdate
3003	7	20th
3004	1	13th
3005	2	12th
3007	1	13th
3011	2	13th
3012	1	12th
3014	1	12th
3016	2	13th
3017	2	12th
3019	3	14th
3020	3-	14th
3022	2	14th
3023	2	13th
3024	7	13/14th
3026	8	13th
3031	3	13th
3038	2	13th

There are far fewer sherds from Trench 3 but these show a very consistent date in the 12th and 13th centuries, with the exception of context 3003 which contained modern material. The wares are principally splashed, York glazed and Brandsby-type wares which together span the 12th and 14th century. Context 3026 had a single sherd of a handmade Anglian vessel.

5.1.3 Trench 4

Context	no. of sherds	spotdate
4006	11	19/20th
4008	18	11-18th
4013	2	13th

Very little pottery was recovered from Trench 4 and that was mainly of modern date with residual medieval wares.

5.2 Ceramic Building Materials

5.2.1 Roman Material

Roman material is represented by tegula and imbrex (roofing material), brick (which can be used in hypocausts and walls) and flue tile (used in hypocausts). Some of the material has mortar along broken edges which probably indicates reuse at some period. Fine grained sandstone appears throughout the sample, but seems to be associated with Roman contexts. It may have been used for roofing (though there are no nailholes) or it could have been used as walling. There are pieces of opus signinum which would have been used for flooring and in walls.

5.2.2 Early Medieval Material

This material is relatively strongly represented on this site. It consists of fragments tentatively identified as curved tile (indicated by ?Curved in the context listing below). The form is not the normal a half-round form, but has a definite angle. The fabric is distinctive from the later medieval material, and occurs on this site in 12th century contexts. Interestingly, on this site, there are no flanged tiles associated with this material, which may indicate that it is not part of the curved and flanged suite of roofing. This ?curved form appears elsewhere in York in contexts dating as early as the 11th century. An example of a more conventional curved form appears in context 2026.

5.2.3 Later medieval material

Peg, plain (which could be either peg or nib), and ridge tile occurs frequently in this sample. There is also crested ridge tile. 14th century fabrics are well represented. Narrow brick, possibly used as wall tile in buildings, is also present. Of particular interest are two examples of graffiti on plain roofing tile. One example shows scratched lines (context 2016). The other, with lines cut on both sides appears to represent a scale of some sort (context 2009). Broadly, the scale appears to be one inch.

5.2.4 Victorian or later material

There are several examples of dust-pressed wall or floor tiles from context 4013.

5.2.5 Other material

There are some large fragments of daub showing impression of wattle rods from contexts 2010, 2024, 2025, 2047, and 2049. It is present in Roman and medieval contexts, and can be part of buildings, fences or ovens.

5.2.6 Discussion

This sample is a useful contribution to ceramic building materials study in York. With its varied range of forms associated with well dated contexts, it will help with the dating of some of the forms. In particular, the dating and usage of the ?curved form may be made clearer. However, once the sample has been fully recorded by a specialist much of the material could be discarded.

5.2.7 Context listing

Context	Form/s	Spotdate	Daterange
2004	Plain, Peg, Brick+slip, Brick (40mm), Brick (Roman, reused)	14-15th	Med
2006	Brick (37mm), Brick+slip (41mm), Plain, Brick (44mm)	14-15th	Med
2007	Brick (59mm; 43mm; 36mm; 113x51mm; 44mm; 35mm; 55mm; 35mm), Ridge, Ridge+slip, Plain	15th-16th	Med
2009	Peg, Ridge, Brick (47mm), Tegula (reused), Plain, Plain (graffiti)	14-15th	Roman - Med
2010	Imbrex, Plain, ?Curved, Plain, ?Roof furniture (?crested), Daub, Brick (Roman), Brick, Plain (14th), Peg, Fine grained sandstone, Ridge/curved, Ridge, Brick (Roman), ?Curved	14-16th	?11th-Med
2012	Flue, Imbrex, Imbrex (burnt, reused)	Roman	Roman
2014	Plain, Micaceous sandstone, ?Curved, Brick (37mm), Brick (Roman), Ridge, Tegula, ?Curved, ?Imbrex, ?Flue, Chalk	13-16th	?11th -Med
2015	Mortar, Plain	13-16th	Med
2016	Plain (graffiti), Plain, Brick (Roman), ?Slate (burnt)	13-14th	Med
2017	Brick (Roman), ?Curved Fine grained sandstone	?11th	Roman-?11th
2018	Plain	13-16th	Med

2020	Plain	13-16th	Med
2024	Brick (Roman, reused, overfired), Op. Sig., Imbrex ?Curved, Daub (with wattle impressions, ?Curved, Tegula, ?Plain, Tegula (abraded), ?Curved, Flat frags (reused, same fabric as ?Curved), Brick (Roman), ?Ridge	?11th	Roman - ?11th
2025	Daub, Brick (Roman), ?Curved Flue, ?Curved, Brick (Roman), Flat fragment	?11th	Roman - ?11th
2026	Curved, Flat fragment, Tegula	12th	Roman - 12th
2028	Fine grained sandstone, ?Curved (large fragment), ?Curved (?M9), Imbrex	?11th	Roman - ?11th
2030	Fine grained sandstone Brick (?Roman)	?Roman	?Roman
2031	Brick (Roman), Fine grained sandstone, Tegula	Roman	Roman
2036	Op. Sig, Brick (Roman) Fine grained sandstone	Roman	Roman
2037	Fine grained sandstone, Brick (Roman), Imbrex	Roman	Roman
2044	Brick (Roman, finger-smoothed), Tegula, Imbrex, Tegula (small size), Brick (Roman)	Roman	?later Roman
2046	Brick (Roman)	Roman	Roman
2047	Fine grained sandstone, Tegula, Imbrex, Daub, Plain (very small frag)	Roman	Roman
2049	Daub, Brick (Roman)	Roman	Roman
3005	Peg	13-16th	Med
3004	Peg	13-16th	Med
3012	Brick (134x39mm), Plain	14-15th	Med
3013	Plain	14-16th	Med
3014	Plain, Brick (Roman)	13-16th	Roman-Med
3016	Plain, Plain+slip	14-16th	Med
3017	Plain	13-16th	Med
3019	Plain (some burnt), Brick (42mm)	14-15th	Med
3020	Plain (14th), Ridge, Brick (41mm), Peg, Fine grained sandstone	14-15th+	Med
3021	Plain, Peg	13-16th	Med
3022	Peg, Plain, Ridge	13-16th	Med
3023	Crested ridge, Plain	14-16th	Med

3024	Plain, Plain (reused), Crested ridge, Peg, Brick (108x42mm)	14-15th	Med
3026	Plain, Peg	13-16th	Med
3039	Plain (?slip)	13-16th	Med
4013	Dust pressed tiles	19th+	Modern

5.3 The Small Finds

5.3.1 Ironwork

Nails and iron slag made up the majority of the ironwork; two nails sfs27, 29 (both from context 3020) appeared to be plated. Apart from these, of particular interest are knife blades sf35 (2014), sfs96, 98 (2010) and sf103 (2031); X-rays of sfs96 and 103 showed both had maker's marks. Sf 39 (3019) is a horseshoe fragment, and sf81 (2044) is a possible woolcomb tooth.

5.3.2 Copper alloy

There are two possible vessel fragments - sfs22 (context 2049), 77 (3007). Sf 3 (2009) is a pin, sf7 a mount (3014), and sf85 (4013) is a button. The remaining copper alloy includes fragments of sheet - sf1 (3009), sf15 (3020), and other unidentifiable fragments.

5.3.3 Lead alloy

There were two finds of lead alloy - sf6 (context 3013), and sf99 a large fragment of sheet (3026).

5.3.4 Stone

Sf 4 (context 2009) is a mould for casting small metal objects of uncertain form. Also of stone are hone fragments - sfs 8, 109 (2010), sfs36, 107 (2014), sf108 (2016) and millstone grit quern fragments - sfs106 (2047), 110 (2017). Sf18 (2031) is a collection of fossils.

5.3.5 Bone/Antler

Sf 10 (context 2017) is a single-sided composite comb fragment. Sfs 11 (2025), 16 (2026), 24 (4008) are worked antler tines. Sf 20 (2036) is a bone spindle whorl and sf100 (2014) is a buzz-bone/toggle.

5.3.6 Glass

This includes window glass fragments - sf2 (context 2007) and some vessel glass - sfs12 (2025), 19 (2031), and 21 (2047); sf21 is decorated. Sf13 (2025) a decorated rod may be from manufacturing; sf17 (2028) appears to be glass working waste.

5.3.7 The nature of the assemblage

The assemblage appears to have a craft/industrial emphasis, and includes possible Anglian/Anglo-Scandinavian pieces such as the comb fragment (sf10), and the decorated glass fragment (sf21). Almost all of the remainder is likely to be medieval, and it is quite striking that there is little or no post-medieval material amongst the small finds from the site.

6. Environmental Assessment

6.1 Summary

Five samples of sediment and five boxes of hand-collected bone from deposits of ?late Roman to modern date excavated at Davygate, York, were submitted for an evaluation of their potential for bioarchaeological analysis.

Plant and insect remains were present in small numbers in all of the subsamples, but, further work on the plant and invertebrate assemblages is probably unjustified given the low concentration of remains and their poor preservation. Localised concentrations of useful remains would almost certainly be recovered if further excavation were carried out.

The small assemblage of bone was, on the whole, reasonably well preserved and set within a tight dating framework. Variability of preservation, angularity and colour was observed within material from some deposits, possibly implying the inclusion of redeposited or residual bone. It is extremely likely that should further excavation be undertaken a moderately large, well preserved bone assemblage would be recovered. Few large bone assemblages of early to late medieval date have been recovered in this region and most of those remain unpublished.

6.2 Introduction

Excavations at Davygate, York, undertaken in October 1997 by York Archaeological Trust, revealed deposits of ?late Roman to modern date in four trenches. Five samples of sediment and five boxes of hand-collected bone from these deposits have been examined to evaluate their bioarchaeological potential.

6.3 Methods

6.3.1 Sediment samples

Five samples of sediment ('GBAs' *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992) were submitted (all from Trench 2). The samples were inspected in the laboratory and a description of their lithologies recorded using a standard *pro forma*. Subsamples of 1 kg were taken from four of the samples, and of 3 kg from the fifth, for extraction of macrofossil remains, following procedures of Kenward *et al.* (1980; 1986).

Plant macrofossils were examined from the residues, flots and washovers resulting from processing, and the flots and washovers were examined for invertebrate remains.

Concretions from two of the samples (Samples 2 and 3) were examined for the eggs of parasitic nematodes using the 'squash' technique of Dainton (1992).

Artefacts were removed from the residues to be returned to the excavator.

6.3.2 Vertebrate remains

A total of five boxes (each of approximately 20 litres) of hand-collected animal bone were recovered from Trenches 2 and 3. The material from thirty-two of the thirty-seven bone-bearing contexts were recorded in detail; subjective records were made of preservation, angularity (i.e. the nature of the broken surfaces) and colour, whilst quantities and identifications were noted where appropriate. Additionally, semi-quantitative information was recorded for the assemblage from each context concerning fragment size, dog gnawing, burning, butchery and fresh breaks. Fragments not identified to species were, where possible, grouped into the categories of large mammal (assumed to be horse, cow or large cervid), medium mammal (assumed to be sheep, pig or small cervid) and unidentifiable. Material from the remaining five contexts was not included in the evaluation as the deposits were of uncertain date or had been disturbed by clearance.

6.4 Results

6.4.1 The sediment samples

The results of the investigations are presented in context number order with information provided by the excavator in brackets. All of the sediment samples were from Trench 2.

Context 2010 [15th century pit fill]
Sample 1 (3 kg washover)

Moist, mid to dark brown, crumbly (working soft and sticky), slightly sandy clay silt with some light ginger brown silty clay. Very small stones (2 to 6 mm), mortar, brick/tile, coal and charcoal were present in the sample.

The washover for this sample was small and composed principally of coal fragments (to 2 mm), char, and very degraded unburnt wood. A limited assemblage of weed species indicative of open or rough ground was recovered. Many of the seeds encountered were poorly preserved and frequently broken. This may be a consequence of the coarse sediment matrix. All of the identifiable seeds were small with a long axis of no more than 1-1.5 mm, therefore it is probable that the macrofossil assemblage has suffered from significant differential preservation. There were only traces of invertebrate remains, some of them badly preserved.

Cinder fragments and ash dominated the moderately small residue. The sample also contained part burnt and unburnt coal fragments (to 8 mm), infrequent pieces of brick/tile and bone.

The recovered bone assemblage contained some fish bones: 23 vertebrae (ten herring (*Clupea harengus* L.), one eel (*Anguilla anguilla* (L.)), two haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus* (L.))

and ten unidentified fragments), along with three skull fragments tentatively identified as haddock and 34 unidentifiable spine and skull fragments. Two of the vertebrae were also crushed, almost certainly through being eaten. Domestic mammals were represented by a single pig upper incisor, whilst the unidentifiable material was mainly composed of large- and medium-sized mammal shaft and rib fragments (a total of 46), some of which were burnt. A goose tarsometatarsus fragment was also noted.

Evidence from this fill deposit suggests that the pit was used as a dump for waste from hearths and food waste. All of the seed taxa represented in the sample could have been blown into the forming deposit from surrounding open ground, or have been introduced in dumped soil.

Context 2028 [12th century pit fill]
Sample 3 (1 kg paraffin flotation)

Moist, mid grey brown, crumbly (working soft), humic clay silt. Small stones (6 to 20 mm), flecks of mortar, pot, rotted charcoal and fragments of rotted marine mollusc were present in the sample

Charcoal (to 7 mm) dominated the small washover from this sample. The range and number of macrofossils was very limited. Broken seeds of *Sambucus* spp., *Carex* spp. and *Hyoscyamus niger* L. were the only taxa recovered. There were few insect remains (and some of those were very badly preserved); all were species most likely to occur together in decaying matter. Some cysts of soil dwelling nematodes (perhaps *Heterodera* sp.) suggested that there may have been post-depositional burrowing, although the cysts may have entered in dumped soil. Sand and brick/tile was frequent in the washover.

Pieces of faecal concretion (a 'squash' revealed eggs of *Trichuris* and *Ascaris*) were common in the moderately large residue, which also contained a single iron object, a shard of pottery, frequent brick/tile and occasional stones (to 40 mm).

The components of this sample suggest that the deposit was a cesspit fill.

Context 2031 [12th century dump deposit]
Sample 2 (1 kg washover)

Moist, dark brown, brittle and sticky (working soft), very humic clay silt. Rotted mortar, concretions (to 12 mm), wood, twigs, bone and very rotted marine mollusc shell were present in the sample.

This sample contained a range of disturbed or waste ground weed species including small nettle (*Urtica urens* L.), long prickly headed poppy (*Papaver argemone* L.), danewort (*Sambucus ebulus* L.) and henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*). A number of these species prefer relatively light or sandy soils. The remaining constituents of the washover include, charcoal fragments (to 4 mm), degraded herbaceous rootlets, *Juncus* spp. seeds and rare leaves of the bog moss taxon, *Sphagnum* sect. *Acutifolia*. *Sphagnum* is unlikely to have grown in the locality of the pit, so this record suggests that moss was imported to the site from either heaths or mires. Insects were rare, fragmentary and very poorly preserved (showing yellow or brown colouration). Those

which could be identified were typical of occupation site assemblages. Cysts of soil nematodes (cf. *Heterodera* sp.) were abundant, indicating dumped surface soil or penetration from above.

The small residue contained a significant amount of faecal concretion containing straw fragments and impressions of fly pupae. A microfossil 'squash' revealed two *Trichuris* eggs and many phytoliths. Other components included gritstone fragments (to 30 mm), nacre shell, brick/tile, mineralised wood and a small amount of bone. This latter comprised eight identifiable and eleven (one fish, one bird and nine mammal) unidentifiable fragments. The identifiable fraction included two pig sesamoids and a metapodial fragment, all of which were acid-etched. Additionally, there were four herring and a single ?salmonid vertebrae, the latter showing characteristic damage consistent with having been eaten.

The constituents of the sample are consistent with the contents of a cesspit, which was surrounded by open disturbed ground.

Context 2044 [11th century pit fill]
Sample 4 (1 kg paraffin flotation)

Moist, dark brown, soft to crumbly (working soft), humic clay silt with clasts of pale olive brown ?ash. Very small stones (2 to 6 mm), lumps and flecks of mortar, rotted charcoal, bone and very rotted marine mollusc shell were present in the sample.

The small washover yielded a range of six open, disturbed ground weed taxa. Many of the seeds were poorly preserved. *Sambucus ebulus* L., *Hysocyamus niger* L. and *Urtica urens* L. were the most common species, although *Atriplex* spp. and the sclerotia of soil fungi (*Cenococcum* spp.) were also well represented. Charcoal (to 5 mm) and fragments of brick/tile were very frequent. Other constituents included poorly preserved herbaceous rootlets and occasional quartz sand grains. A small group of invertebrates was recorded, but they gave no clear ecological indications. A single respiratory process of an aquatic hoverfly larva can probably be regarded as evidence of the presence of rather foul liquid.

Coal and brick/tile fragments were frequent in the small residue, which also contained sandstone (to 25 mm) and quartz sand. One identifiable and 27 unidentifiable (one fish, 26 mammal) bone fragments were recovered from this sample. The identified fragment, a cattle metatarsal shaft, had been split longitudinally through the proximal articulation.

This deposit appears to represent general dumping of waste including some food debris.

Context 2048 [context partially examined in the field - ?late Roman]
Sample 5 (1 kg paraffin flotation)

Moist, mid to dark brown, soft and slightly sticky (working soft), humic clay silt. Very small stones (2 to 6 mm), rotted mortar, charcoal and very rotted marine mollusc shell were present in the sample.

This sample produced a very small washover, containing charcoal fragments (to 7 mm) and a limited range of seeds, including *Sambucus ebulus* L., elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.) and *Hysocyamus niger* L. The majority of the seeds examined were poorly preserved and probably

represent a residual assemblage of resilient seed types. There were only traces of invertebrate remains.

The main components of the moderate residue were sand, brick/tile, washed pebbles (to 20 mm) highly degraded wood and unidentifiable herbaceous material.

The components of the sample suggest that it originated from a general dump for waste material.

6.4.2 Vertebrate remains

Bone from the sediment samples has been discussed previously, together with the other biological remains recovered.

The hand-collected vertebrate remains

Trench 2

Most of the bone (four of the five boxes) was recovered from this trench, mainly from dump and pit fill deposits, with a range of dates from the 10-11th centuries through to the 15th century.

Most of the assemblage was moderately well preserved, although some contexts (mainly those dated to 10-12th century) contained small numbers of fragments with rounded edges or with a battered appearance, possibly indicative of reworked material. Overall, colour was mostly recorded as brown or fawn, but it was apparent that material from some of the earlier deposits showed a range of colour within contexts. Dog gnawing was noted throughout the assemblage. Faecal concretions were identified on fragments from Context 2028, whilst a pig astragalus from Context 2007 showed extensive acid-etching consistent with passage through the gut.

Evidence of butchery, particularly on cattle remains, was fairly extensive and included the longitudinal splitting of cattle tibiae, radii and metapodials. Deposits of 14th and 15th century date also contained cattle vertebrae which had been chopped sagitally, indicating the splitting of carcases into sides.

The range of identified species recovered from the excavations is shown in Tables 1 to 4, together with total number of fragments, numbers of measurable bones and numbers of mandibles with teeth *in situ.*

The remains of cattle were the most common throughout all the periods represented, with caprovid (including a goat horncore) and pig remains also being present but in much lower frequencies. Interestingly, the proportions of juvenile cattle remains were significantly higher from 15th century deposits than from the earlier periods. Although the assemblages are rather limited by their small size, this increase in juvenile individuals has been noted at sites of post-medieval date (Albarella and Davis 1996; Dobney *et al.* 1996) and has been interpreted as evidence of dairying and the consequent surplus of calves for veal.

A range of skeletal elements was present for both cattle and caprovids, but cattle were represented mainly by isolated teeth, mandible fragments, metapodials and phalanges, with vertebrae and rib fragments included in the large mammal fraction. These elements tend to suggest the presence of primary butchery waste but the inclusion of meat bearing elements indicates that some domestic or food waste was also present. However, the variability of colour and 'angularity' (nature of the broken surfaces) noted between and within contexts suggests that it is quite possible for the bones to have originated from different sources and activities and material could have been redeposited after originally being disposed of elsewhere. Evidence of dog gnawing also suggests that some of the fragments must have been exposed for some time prior to their being incorporated into the deposit.

A single human femur was identified from Context 2047, another indicator of potentially mixed or redeposited material.

Horse, dog and cat remains were also present as were bones of chicken and goose. Most of the goose remains were identified as larger species of grey geese (*Anser* spp.), and as such it was not possible to conclude whether they represented domestic or wild individuals. A single humerus was more consistent in size with a smaller goose and is almost certainly represents a wild species, either barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis* Bechstein) or one of the smaller grey geese (*Anser albifrons* (Scopoli) or *A. brachyrhynchus* Baillon).

Remains of wild mammals included two fallow deer (*Dama dama* (L.)) post-cranial fragments (Contexts 2006 and 2014) and one hare (*Lepus* sp.) metapodial.

Fish remains were not numerous and were mostly unidentifiable but included two large flatfish vertebrae and a gadid dentary.

In total ninety-two measurable bones, sixteen mandibles with teeth and 26 isolated teeth were present in the hand collected assemblage from Trench 2.

Trench 3

Only a very small assemblage was produced from 12th-14th century deposits from this trench (Tables 5 and 6). Of the eleven contexts examined, only three yielded more than ten fragments. Material from Trench 3 was, on the whole, well preserved, with most of the fragments being fawn in colour, and only contexts 3017 and 3023 contained some fragments which appeared battered.

Only twenty fragments were identified to species and these included the remains of cattle, caprovid, pig, dog and chicken. Additionally, two fish fragments (a large vertebra and a maxilla) were recorded as haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus* (L.)).

6.5 Discussion and statement of potential

Plant and insect remains were present in small numbers in all of the subsamples, and doubtless at least some of the deposits at this site would give assemblages of additional interpretative value providing sufficient sediment was processed. The information recovered would probably be of some value in building up a picture of zonation in central York, given fairly tight dating.

The small assemblage of bone was, on the whole, reasonably well preserved and set within a tight dating framework. Variability of preservation, angularity and colour was observed within material from some deposits, possibly implying the inclusion of redeposited or residual bone. However, this assemblage shows some potential for producing useful zooarchaeological and archaeological information. The samples yielded small quantities of fish bone (Context 2010 in particular), demonstrating that vertebrate remains are well preserved in deposits from certain context types at this site and show some potential for further useful investigations of human activity.

It is extremely likely that should further excavations be undertaken a moderately large, well preserved bone assemblage would be recovered and that the implementation of an extensive and systematic programme of on-site sieving would produce a useful fish assemblage.

Few large bone assemblages of early to late medieval date have been recovered in this region and those that have remain largely unpublished. This period is poorly represented in the archaeological record of the city despite numerous evaluations producing small but sometimes useful assemblages, most of which have received no further funding.

6.6 Recommendations

Further work on the plant and invertebrate assemblages is probably unjustified given the low concentration of remains and their poor preservation. Any remaining sediment samples should be sieved to recover bone and artefacts.
As the dating framework produced for this site appears to be quite tight, it is recommended that a biometrical archive of the vertebrate remains be produced for the current assemblage (including any material recovered by sieving of additional sediment).

If deposits with organic preservation by anoxic waterlogging or higher concentrations of charred plant material are exposed by further excavation every effort should be made to sample and investigate them.

6.7 Retention and disposal

The sediment samples should be retained until such time as they may be processed for bone and artefact recovery.

The bone assemblage should be retained for the present.

6.8 Archive

All extracted fossils from the test subsamples, and the residues and flots are currently stored in the Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York, along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

Table 1. Hand-collected vertebrate remains from 10th to 11th century deposits from Trench 2, Davygate, York. Key: meas = number of measurable fragments; mand = number of mandibles with teeth in situ*; teeth = number of teeth of use for age-at-death data; total = total number of fragments.*

species		meas	mand	teeth	total
Canis f. domestic	dog	1	-	-	1
Equus f. domestic	horse	-	-	-	1
Sus f. domestic	pig	1	-	-	6
Bos f. domestic	cow	5	-	2	34
Caprovid	sheep/goat	6	1	-	10
Gallus f. domestic	chicken	2	-	-	3
Fish		-	-	-	1
Homo sapiens	human	-	-	-	1
Sub-total					57
Large mammal		-	-	-	89
Medium mammal		-	-	-	8
Unidentified bird		-	-	-	1
Sub-total					98
Total		15	1	2	155

Table 2. Hand-collected vertebrate remains from 12th to 13th century deposits from Trench 2, Davygate, York. Key: meas = number of measurable fragments; mand = number of mandibles with teeth in situ; *teeth = number of teeth of use for age-at-death data; total = total number of fragments.*

species		meas	mand	teeth	total
Lepus sp.	hare	1	-	-	1
Canis f. domestic	dog	-	1	-	1
Felis f. domestic	cat	-	-	-	1
Equus f. domestic	horse	-	-	-	1
Sus f. domestic	pig	6	1	3	29
Bos f. domestic	cow	14	4	9	83
Caprovid	sheep/goat	10	1	-	27
Anser sp.	goose	3	-	-	4
Gallus f. domestic	chicken	5	-	-	5
Fish		-	-	-	1
Sub-total		39	7	12	153
Large mammal		-	-	-	163
Medium mammal		-	-	-	42
Unidentified		-	-	-	16
Sub-total					221
Total		39	7	12	374

Table 3. Hand-collected vertebrate remains from 14th century deposits from Trench 2, Davygate, York. Key: meas = number of measurable fragments; mand = number of mandibles with teeth in situ; teeth = number of teeth of use for age-at-death data; total = total number of fragments.

species		meas	mand	teeth	total
Felis f. domestic	cat	-	-	-	1
Equus f. domestic	horse	-	-	-	1
Sus f. domestic	pig	-	1	2	17
cf. Dama dama (L.)	?fallow deer	-	-	-	1
Bos f. domestic	cow	4	-	2	41
Caprovid	sheep/goat	1	-	1	5
Anser sp.	goose	-	-	-	2
Gallus f. domestic	chicken	2	-	-	5
Fish		-	-	-	6
Sub-total		7	1	5	79
Large mammal		-	-	-	77
Medium mammal		-	-	-	38
Unidentified bird		-	-	-	1
Unidentified		-	-	-	24
Sub-total					140
Total		7	1	5	219

Table 4. Hand-collected vertebrate remains from 15th century deposits from Trench 2, Davygate, York. Key: meas = number of measurable fragments; mand = number of mandibles with teeth in situ; teeth = number of teeth of use for age-at-death data; total = total number of fragments.

species		meas	mand	teeth	total
Felis f. domestic	cat	-	-	-	1
Sus f. domestic	pig	-	2	-	12
Dama dama (L.)	fallow deer	1	-	-	1
Bos f. domestic	cow	12	2	5	66
Caprovid	sheep/goat	9	3	2	29
Anser sp.	goose	3	-	-	3
cf. Anser sp.	?goose	-	-	-	1
Gallus f. domestic	chicken	7	-	-	13
Fish		-	-	-	4
Sub-total		32	7	7	130
Large mammal		-	-	-	122
Medium mammal		-	-	-	81
Unidentified bird		-	-	-	3
Unidentified		-	-	-	19
Sub-total					225
Total		32	7	7	355

Table 5. Hand-collected vertebrate remains from 12th century deposits from Trench 3, Davygate, York. Key: total = total number of fragments.

species		total
Canis f. domestic	dog	1
Sus f. domestic	pig	1
Bos f. domestic	cow	1
Gallus f. domestic	chicken	1
Fish		2
Sub-total		6
Large mammal		6
Medium mammal		2
Unidentified bird		1
Unidentified		2
Sub-total		11
Total		17

Table 6. Hand-collected vertebrate remains from 13th to 14th century deposits from Trench 3, Davygate, York. Key: meas = number of measurable fragments; teeth = number of teeth of use for age-at-death data; total = total number of fragments.

species		meas	teeth	total
Sus f. domestic	pig	1	-	2
Bos f. domestic	cow	1	2	8
Caprovid	sh/g	1	-	3
Gallus f. domestic	fowl	-	-	1
Sub-total		3	2	14
Large mammal		-	-	20
Medium mammal		-	-	6
Unidentified bird		-	-	1
Unidentified		-	-	4
Sub-total				31
Total		3	2	45

5. CONCLUSIONS (including period by period analysis)

The excavations have demonstrated that deep, intact, well stratified deposits from the 10th century to the later medieval periods survive beneath the site and that Roman deposits are probably well preserved below this later activity.. The evidence on the Little Stonegate frontage was of a structural nature. On the Davygate frontage parts of the sequence have been lost in the 19th century cellar in Trench 1 which has removed in the region of 2.0m of archaeological deposits. Elsewhere on the Davygate frontage some loss of deposits is likely to have occurred although the extent cannot at present be quantified. Where an extensive archaeological sequence was revealed (on land to the rear of the property) it is apparent that truncation of post-medieval deposits has occurred. The bulk of the excavated deposits were dry, waterlogging was not encountered though deposits could be waterlogged at a lower level.

Prehistoric and Roman (pre 1st - 5th centuries AD)

Excavation did not penetrate to a depth at which deposits of these periods would normally be found. Previous excavations nearby at Blake Street and Swinegate suggest that Roman deposits will be present and will include masonry structures.

Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian (5th - 11th centuries AD).

No deposits or finds of Anglian date were found but this is not uncommon for this part of the city. A series of well stratified deposits which were exposed in the base of Trench 2 and a large cut feature together with two postholes and a stakehole plus their associated fills are dated by pottery to the 10th/11th century. It is possible that the features may be of a structural nature. They contained brick and tile of Roman date.

Medieval (11th - 16th centuries AD).

Medieval deposits were encountered in Trenches 2, 3 and 4. Only in Trench 2 were the earliest of these seen where they occurred directly above the Anglo-Scandinavian horizon at 13.60m AOD. They survived to immediately beneath the modern ground surfaces to a maximum height of 15.02m AOD. The nature of the medieval archaeology was twofold. Firstly, structural remains, including a wall and floors, in Trenches 3 and 4 which represent buildings on the Little Stonegate frontage. Secondly, backyard deposits in Trench 2 typified by a succession of dumping and pit cutting. These activities are believed to have taken place within a plot that fronted onto Little Stonegate and are fairly typical of backyard type deposits excavated elsewhere in the city centre.

Post-medieval (16th - 18th centuries AD).

No post-medieval deposits were seen to survive in any of the evaluation trenches. In the area to the rear of 3 Davygate the presence of a concrete ground beam around the car park appears to indicate the extent and depth to which modern truncation has removed these deposits.

Modern (19th and 20th centuries AD).

Modern features recorded on site include the cellar in Trench 1 and the subsequent foundation works, service trenches in Trenches 3 and 4, and the modern surfaces through which all four trenches excavated.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Evidence from three of the evaluation trenches indicates that significant archaeological deposits survive directly beneath the modern surface in the open area within the development plot. Parts at least of the Davygate frontage have been lost to cellar cutting in addition to the disturbance caused by the piled foundations of the present building. Notwithstanding this, important medieval street frontage deposits as well as Roman, and possibly Anglo-Scandinavian, levels are likely to survive along parts of this frontage as well as elsewhere on site where modern disturbance has been less significant.

Any development involving the insertion of new foundations will affect the integrity of these archaeological deposits. Particularly susceptible to disturbance are the structural remains on the Little Stonegate street front. Suitable investigation and recording of any threatened deposits would serve to reduce the impact of development.

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