THE FOX PUBLIC HOUSE, TADCASTER ROAD, DRINGHOUSES, YORK.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

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ABSTRACT

Between the 22nd July and the 12th August 1997, York Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological investigation at The Fox Public House, Tadcaster Road, Dringhouses on behalf of Bass Taverns Ltd. The site lies some two miles (c.3.25km) south-west of York, on a glacial ridge that runs south from the city centre to Dringhouses, and on to Copmanthorpe and Tadcaster. The area investigated was situated to the rear of 60 Tadcaster Road, a property adjacent to the public house which was incorporated within the renovation scheme. The investigation revealed important evidence for the survival of archaeological deposits from the Roman to the post-medieval periods.

The earliest features identified were a Roman ditch, a gully and a pit, dateable to the late first or early 2nd century AD. The gully and the ditch appeared to run parallel to the line of the Roman road between York (Eboracum) and Tadcaster (Calcaria), and may indicate initial division and settlement of the land to the west of it. The gully and the pit were rapidly backfilled and were then covered by a shallow ploughsoil of mid 2nd century date. The agricultural use of the area probably continued until the early 3rd century when a cobbled path was constructed across the site. Flanking its northern edge, a second large Roman ditch was excavated, and to the south two shallow gullies also ran parallel to the path. This routeway may have been laid for access to animal enclosures, out-buildings or a refuse disposal area close by. The track soon went out of use; the evidence for this is a large pit truncating the gullies to the south of the track, and a thick sandy occupation deposit overlying the track itself and deposits at the north-east end of the site. The occupation deposit was cut by a mid/late 3rd century inhumation burial containing an almost complete black burnished ware jar and a copper alloy ring. The burial, although not of high status, is thought to have been of a young adult male, of moderate standing within the community. Stratigraphically later than the burial was a dump of metal working slag, possibly indicating the manufacture of metal objects close by. A ploughsoil of late 3rd or early fourth century date then overlay all deposits within the trenches and the large ditch to the north of the track finally silted up. The ploughsoil was probably reworked in the Anglo-Scandinavian and medieval periods. This was truncated by a large post-medieval pit containing the semi-articulated remains of a cow. Finally a number of modern service trenches, and other modern features relating to the modern use of the site as a public house and a farm and stables truncated earlier deposits.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

In July and August 1997 York Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological investigation and a watching brief at The Fox Public House, Tadcaster Road, Dringhouses, York, (NGR SE 5865 4958 - Fig. 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Bass Taverns Ltd., prior to the renovation of the pub and the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension and an access road to the rear of the property.

The proposed development involved an area of approximately 1800 square metres and the investigation was carried out as a planning condition imposed by the City of York Council.

1.2 Aims

The objectives of the investigation were :-

i) to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

ii) to determine, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeology and to excavate that which was threatened by the development.

iii) to make available the results of the investigation.

1.3 Methodology

The initial phase of work involved the excavation of a single trench 3m x 3m directly to the rear of 60 Tadcaster Road (the house immediately adjacent to the original public house but forming part of it following renovation). The results were such that, following discussion between Bass and the City Archaeologist, John Oxley, further archaeological excavation was required in areas where ground disturbance was proposed. A further three trenches were therefore excavated. The first (Trench 2), measured 3m x 2m, and was excavated on the line of the foundation trenches for the new extension. The other two (Trenches 3 and 4), measuring 4m x 3.8m and 5m x 2.2m respectively, were aligned with the access road. In total an area of 41.2 square metres was excavated to varying depths, depending on the position of the deposit in relation to the development, and the depth of groundworks proposed to be carried out in that area. The overall investigation formed a 2 % sample of the development area.

The overburden was removed, under close archaeological supervision, by a 2.5 tonne mini mechanical excavator in Trench 1, and by a JCB Site Master in Trenches 2 to 4, using a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were cleaned by hand and the features revealed were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds. All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:20 using the single context planning system. All excavated features, deposits and structures were recorded in section at a scale of 1:10. All significant archaeological deposits were photographed using colour print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the York Archaeological Trust Context Recording Manual (1996).

Following the investigation a watching brief was carried out on the machine excavation of the foundation trenches for the new kitchen extension. Due to the depth of these excavations, over 2m in some trenches, only a limited record of the deposits located was possible, as trench collapse was a real danger. The deposits revealed were photographed, sketched, measured and recorded as far as health and safety procedures allowed.

All finds and the site records are currently stored with York Archaeological Trust under the Trust and Yorkshire Museum accession code YORYM:1997.70.

2. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The Fox Public House is situated at c. 16.80m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), approximately two miles (c.3.25 km) south-west of York. The solid geology of the area is Bunter Sandstone (British Geological Survey (England and Wales) Sheet No. 71 1973), laid down in the Triassic era, 225 million years ago (Warrington, 1974). This is overlain by silts and clays of the Vale of York, left by the last glacial inundation when the Vale of York was a glacial lake. The retreat of the ice sheet left a moraine or ridge of material running south-west from the centre of York to Dringhouses, where the site is located, and continuing on to Copmanthorpe. The area under investigation lay just to the west of the standing building at 60 Tadcaster Road within the bounds of the village of Dringhouses, now a suburb of York. The land slopes down rapidly to the west towards the Chaloner's Whin Drain, a small stream to the west of the site. These archaeological investigations took place within the former garden of 60 Tadcaster Road.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Dringhouses has produced archaeological evidence dating from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period, and archaeological evaluations are gradually providing a more detailed picture of past exploitation and settlement within the area.

The earliest evidence for human activity at Dringhouses is five Neolithic polished stone axes found hereabouts on different occasions. It has been suggested (Radley 1974) that during the Bronze Age the morainic ridge running from York through Dringhouses, Copmanthorpe and on across the vale to Tadcaster was probably used as part of a well defined east-west trade route from Irish metal sources to East Yorkshire and the Continent. This trade route may have had earlier precursors dating back to the Neolithic or earlier, and probably continued in use through the Iron Age to be re-used with the construction of a Roman Road, during the 1st century AD, between York (Eboracum) and Tadcaster (Calcaria) along the spine of the ridge.

It appears that a civilian community developed on this important Roman routeway during the 1st century AD. Away from the legionary fortress at York, it would have retained its independence from the military authorities (Hunter-Mann, 1996). Archaeological evidence from an evaluation carried out at the Starting Gate Motel, Tadcaster Road, Dringhouses in 1996 revealed evidence for the main south-west Roman road from York, with associated ditches and timber-framed buildings to either side of it (1st-2nd century AD in date). Evaluation at 27 St. Helen's Road and at land to the rear of 52-60 Tadcaster Road, Dringhouses, also produced Roman features and material extending some 100m west of the main Roman road, confirming the intensity of settlement and the extent of exploitation of this area. A small Roman cemetery containing some stone coffins was also discovered at the junction of St. Helen's Road and Tadcaster Road to the north-east of the site. This is thought to have been attached to the civilian settlement, rather than being associated with York. Roman artefacts were also found during construction works associated with the railway to the north-west of the site.

Little is known archaeologically or historically about the area from the Roman times to the Anglo-Norman period. The name Dringhouses seems to derive from the Old English '*dreng*', a free tenant holding by tenure older than the Norman Conquest; or from Old Norse '*drengr*', a young man, lad or servant. The earliest documentary evidence for Dringhouses places it in the detached parish of Holy Trinity, Micklegate, and therefore probably part of the earlier Anglo-Saxon parish of Christ Church (the predecessor of Holy Trinity Priory). All of the above evidence indicates that it is likely to have been an early medieval settlement which lay outside the city boundary and which formed a separate manor.

There were other claims on the lands of Dringhouses as well as its own manor. The city of York claimed certain agricultural rights in some fields until 1822, and Dringhouses formed the edge of the normal medieval ridden boundary of York. As well as the manor of Dringhouses, some of the village was in the manor of Bustardthorpe; this had an impact on Dringhouses in 1536 when many of the fields of Bustardthorpe manor were

merged. St. Mary Bishophill Senior also had a claim to tithes in Dringhouses, at least in the 18th century. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1852 shows the parish boundaries and locates the site within part of the detached parish of Acomb. How this situation arose is unclear.

Even though Dringhouses was on the main London road, it was predominantly an agricultural village. The strip-holdings, which are probably medieval or earlier in origin, appear to have continued in use to modern times. The agricultural influence is also shown in the medieval wills of people living in Dringhouses, one of whom describes himself as a 'husbandman' and another as a 'yeoman'. There are six wills between 1389 and 1478 of people from Dringhouses and requests for burial included the churches of St. Nicholas, Micklegate, Holy Trinity Micklegate and the Dominican Friary in Micklegate. Evidence for medieval farming activity can also be seen on some of the early plans and is reflected in 19th century and modern building plots. Directly opposite the site is a pinfold which was used to pen animals, further proof of the agricultural character of the area. The site is shown as a farmhouse, stables and a public house (called The Fox) on the 1852 first edition O.S. Map and is believed to have continued as such until recently.

4. THE EXCAVATIONS

The trenches (Fig. 2) are discussed in numerical order. Within each trench the contexts are considered in chronological order, from the bottom up.

4.1 Trench 1

This trench was positioned directly to the rear of 60 Tadcaster Road, and was machine excavated to a depth of c. 0.40m to remove topsoil. Below this all deposits were excavated by hand.

4.1.1 The earliest deposit, located at 15.18m AOD, was a very compact brownish orange clay (1026), which contained moderate iron staining and occasional cobbles. It was located whilst investigating ditch (1025) and also at the bottom of a sondage in the south-west corner of the trench. This deposit was believed to have been of natural origin and this was confirmed during the watching brief. Sealing this was a layer of moist, soft mid silvery, orangy brown silty sand, with occasional charcoal flecks (1021). This was also thought to have been of natural origin, the possibly anthropogenically derived inclusions being incorporated into it by post-depositional mixing processes, through worm and root action.

4.1.2 A Roman ditch (1024) and a gully (1023), (the latter dateable to the 1st to 2nd century), differing in alignment from each other, cut through these natural deposits. The ditch was only partially excavated as it was located at the extreme eastern edge of the trench and thus its cut could not be adequately described. It was aligned north-east to south-west and was filled with a moist grey silty sandy clay (1025) with orange and brown mottling, moderate charcoal flecking and increasing numbers of rounded cobbles in the lower portions of the backfill. The cobbles are thought to have been derived from

the main Roman road (Margery, No. 10) to the east of the trench, but the ditch is not thought to be the western roadside ditch. The gully was aligned west-south-west to east-north-east and was 0.20m wide and 0.14m deep, with steep, near vertical, sides and a flat base. It contained a compact dark grey silty clay (1022) with frequent charcoal flecks, occasional small rounded gravel inclusions and a sherd of Samian pottery dateable to the 1st or 2nd century AD. The contemporaneity of these two linear features is difficult to judge, but it is thought, from the similarity of the colours of the fills and their texture, that they were probably in use at the same time. It is possible that the gully was constructed slightly later, after the ditch to the east had already begun to silt up.

4.1.3 A cobbled surface (1017) was located in the north-west corner of the trench, resting directly on top of the natural sand (1021). It was composed of small to medium sized rounded cobbles, with maximum dimensions of 0.10m x 0.12m x 0.06m, compacted into the natural surface, one cobble thick. A small quantity of animal bone was found between some of the cobbles and resting on top of others, perhaps indicating that the surface had been used as a path for the transport of domestic refuse or butchering debris. The presence of two sherds of pottery of 2nd/3rd century date suggests that the surface was not contemporary with the gully. It was difficult to judge in the confines of the trench whether it was aligned with either of the other two linear features due to severe truncation by a modern pipe trench (1013), but the surface does not appear to have been used much as there was little sign of wear or erosion.

4.1.4 Directly overlying the cobbled surface and the other features within the trench was a soft mottled mid orangy brown silty sand (1018) 0.22m thick, which contained occasional rounded gravel inclusions. This was interpreted as an occupation layer. It contained four sherds of Roman pottery dateable to the 2nd century AD and may represent sand dumped in an attempt to dry out the area, followed by trampling, prior to further occupational activities on the site. The cobbled surface must have quickly gone out of use during the second century.

4.1.5 Truncating the backfill of the gully (1023) and the occupation layer (1018) was a shallow rectangular grave cut (1020) with a rounded base and gradually sloping sides. The grave, although difficult to define, measured approximately 1.38m long, 0.58m wide and 0.10m deep and was aligned north-east to south-west. Within it was a skeleton (1014) which, although fragile, was in relatively good condition apart from where a modern pipe trench had truncated the north-eastern end removing the upper torso, including the skull, upper rib cage, spine and left arm. Nonetheless it was possible from the rest of the remains to describe the body's position upon burial. The body, it would appear, was laid on its side, with its legs flexed and its right arm extended to the north. On the index finger of the right hand was a copper alloy ring. The grave cut and the skeleton were then backfilled with dark grey silty clay (1019), with moderate amounts of charcoal flecking. This deposit also contained an almost complete, broken, black burnished ware jar, of mid/late 3rd century date (AD225-300). Although the shallow nature of the burial might suggest that the body was buried rapidly, it does

appear to have been treated with considerable respect. The laying out of the body in a stylised position and the breaking of the black burnished ware jar both suggest a degree of ceremony to the burial of the body, rather than casual dumping into a shallow grave. The perceived shallowness of the burial may also be the result of distortions in the original ground surface after inhumation took place. This could have been caused by the truncation of overlying deposits by ploughing or the turning of the soil for gardening in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

4.1.6 Overlying the whole trench to a maximum depth of 0.38m and levelling it to a height of 16.10m AOD was a compact mid to dark grey brown sandy silt (1015), containing occasional charcoal flecking and small round gravel inclusions. This was interpreted as a ploughsoil, which contained twenty-three sherds of Roman pottery including some of late 3rd/early 4th century date, a sherd of 9th century York ware, two sherds of gritty ware and one sherd of 13th/ 14th century date. Two possible interpretations are suggested: the layer may have been a Roman ploughsoil into which medieval material was introduced by post-depositional mixing or it may be a ploughsoil of medieval date into which Roman deposits have been incorporated during the ploughing process. The former interpretation is favoured. At the bottom of this layer, but incorporated within it, was a thin lens of industrial material (1016) up to 0.05m thick, containing a large quantity of metal working slag. This was concentrated within the north-eastern corner of the trench in an area 0.70m long and 0.30m wide. It suggests that there was a late Roman metal working area close by.

4.1.7 The Roman ploughsoil was truncated by several phases of modern service trenches. The earliest (1013) was aligned north-west to south-east, was 0.39m wide, 0.48m deep and had near vertical sides. A ceramic drain pipe of 0.16m diameter obscured the base of the trench. The service trench was backfilled with a mottled mid orangey brown silty clay (1012) which contained occasional cobbles from the truncation of the Roman cobbled surface (1017). A second linear feature (1011), aligned north-east to south-west, truncated fill (1012). This linear cut, 0.35m wide and 0.16m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base, was completely filled with a compact mid orangey brown silty gravelly sand (1010). Interpreting the function of this feature is difficult but it is possible that it may have been a modern beam slot, or a construction trench for services which were not installed. Two further service trenches (1009) and (1006) truncated the northern and southern ends of the latter feature. The southern of these (1009), which was aligned north-west to south-east, included a second section aligned north to south which joined it from the eastern trench edge. This Y-shaped trench measured 0.45m wide and 0.18m deep, had near vertical sides and a flat base covered by a bed of concrete and contained a ceramic pipe (1007) of 0.15m diameter. The northern service trench (1006), aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, was of similar construction and contained a similar pipe (1004). Functionally these pipes are thought to be for storm water from the roof of the house at 60 Tadcaster Road. Both trenches were backfilled with compact mid greyish brown gravelly silty loam (1008) and (1005) respectively.

4.1.8 Sealing the modern service trenches to a maximum depth of 0.35m was a compact dark greyish brown silty loam (1001) which contained frequent brick, tile, gravel and mortar inclusions. This was interpreted as a modern garden soil including quantities of demolition debris. Truncating this deposit was a cut of uncertain shape (1003) with shallow sloping sides and a rounded base. It was found to be 1.00m wide, 0.18m deep and completely filled with loose mortar, brick, tile and rubble (1002). This probably represents a shallow pit or scoop excavated for the disposal of material from the demolition of modern buildings nearby. The whole trench was then covered with friable mid orangy brown sand (1000) to a maximum depth of 0.20 m. This was spread by machine during the landscaping of the recent Linfoot housing development to the rear of the property.

4.2 Trench 2

The trench was aligned north-east to south-west and was situated on the line of the proposed foundation trenches for the new kitchen extension. The top c. 0.50m of deposit was removed by a JCB site master under close archaeological supervision, this was followed by hand excavation and controlled excavation using a 2.5 tonne mini mechanical excavator through the uppermost layers. A limit of 1.5 m was placed on the depth of archaeological excavation by the foundation depth for the new extension.

4.2.1 Natural deposits were not reached within this trench. The earliest deposit, at 15.07m AOD, was a layer of friable mid grey clay silt (2009) containing frequent flecks of charcoal. This was sealed by a grey brown friable silty sandy clay layer (2008) again containing frequent charcoal. This deposit contained nine sherds of Roman pottery, four sherds of which were of Calcite Gritted Ware, dateable to the 3rd/ early 4th century AD. Originally (2008) was thought to have been the fill of a feature that cut through (2009). Excavation during the watching brief revealed that both deposits were the lower fills of a single feature, a large Roman ditch aligned east - west which ran adjacent and parallel to the cobbled track located in Trenches 1, 3 and 4. Neither fill was fully excavated due to the depth limit imposed on archaeological excavation by the development.

4.2.2 Above this a shallow sub-rectangular pit (2007) aligned north-east to south-west, and measuring 1.20m long, 0.51m wide and 0.10m deep, was found cutting into (2008) at a depth of 15.35m AOD. This feature had gently sloping sides and a flat base throughout, apart from the north-east corner where the gradient of the slope was steep. A dark grey silty clay (2006) with occasional pebbles completely filled the feature, which has been interpreted as a refuse pit cut into the lower fills of the ditch while it was silting up.

4.2.3 The backfill of the pit was sealed by friable dark grey brown clay silt (2005) 0.26m thick with occasional cobbles. This was interpreted during the excavation as a Roman plough-soil, but probably represents the upper fill of the ditch located during the watching brief. It is dated to the mid/late 4th century by a sherd of Crambeck grey ware.

4.2.4 At the south-west corner of the trench, the earlier deposits were then truncated by the construction cut for an 18th or 19th century well or cistern (2004). This cut was circular in plan, contained a sharp top break of slope, vertical sides, a flat base, and measured 1.02m deep. The brick lining (2002) built within this cut was constructed of hand-made, moulded, curved bricks, laid without mortar, six courses high and bedded on a flat brick platform, one brick thick. The space between the circular structure and the edges of the cut was backfilled with mid greenish grey clay silt (2003) to form an impervious outer lining. When the structure eventually went out of use it was filled with a loose mix of brick, tile, and white mortar (2001), indicating rapid backfilling with demolition material. The well or cistern was probably not used for collecting water for human consumption but is more likely to have been used for animals.

4.2.5 The whole trench was then sealed to a height of 16.37m AOD with friable dark grey silty clay (2000) which probably represented a medieval and post- medieval garden or ploughsoil.

4.3 Trench 3.

This trench was positioned to coincide with the access road onto the site from the adjacent housing development. The uppermost c. 0.50m of deposit were removed by a JCB Site Master under close archaeological supervision. The depth to which archaeological excavation could take place was limited by the depth of the construction levels for the road.

4.3.1 The earliest deposit encountered, at 15.73m AOD, was a compact mid orangey brown sandy silty clay (3017) which was a natural deposit over the whole trench and was very similar to (1021). It is thought that this was a peri-glacial or post-glacial alluvial deposit above the glacially derived boulder clay.

4.3.2 Cutting into the natural clay on the south-east side of the trench was a heavily truncated feature (3016) thought to have been originally oval or circular in shape. Only the north-east side remained, revealing a stepped character. The first section had a sharp top break of slope with steep sides angled at 80 degrees which rounded off into a flat shelf. The slope then broke sharply into another steep slope which levelled out into a base that sloped gently to the south-west. The cut was completely filled to a depth of 0.43m (the limit of excavation), with friable mid brown silty clay (3015) with orangey brown mottling, and frequent charcoal flecking. This backfill contained two sherds of Roman and one sherd of Iron Age or native Romano-British pottery.

4.3.3 Sealing this feature was a layer of compact mid brown silty clay (3014), with orangey brown mottling. This was interpreted as an early Roman ploughsoil that formed to the west of the Roman road. This deposit also contained a mixture of pottery fragments, five sherds of Roman and eleven sherds of Iron Age or native Romano-British wares. The large quantity of Iron Age or native Romano-British pottery is significant not only for the Dringhouses area but for York as a whole, as very few fragments have been found within the city boundary. This substantial collection of unusual pottery hints that Iron Age settlement may survive close by. The Roman pottery suggests that post-depositional mixing has taken place.

4.3.4 The Roman ploughsoil was overlain by a cobbled surface (3010), similar to (1017), which extended into Trench 4 (4004). The surface, at c. 15.80m AOD, was constructed of small to medium sized rounded cobbles, of 0.11m x 0.08m x 0.06m maximum dimension, and embedded directly into (3017) and (3014). Animal bones were recovered from between and on top of the cobbles which appeared to form a linear path or track c.1.8m wide aligned east to west extending across Trenches 1, 3 and 4 to meet the main Roman Road.

4.3.5 South-east of the path, but parallel to it, two linear features (3011) and (3012) were located. The former (3011) was a shallow east-north-east to west-south-west aligned feature, truncated at both ends, measuring 2.30m long, 0.43m to 0.60m wide (increasing in width towards the west-south-west) and 0.13m deep. A sharp break of slope and steep sides, breaking gently into a flat base, defined the cut, which was completely filled with a friable mid greyish brown silty clay (3009) with orangey brown mottling, a moderate amount of charcoal flecking and occasional cobbles. The other linear feature (3012) parallel to (3011) was also truncated at both ends. It measured 3.94m long, 0.52m to 0.98m wide (again increasing in width towards the west-south-west) and 0.17m deep. A sharp top break of slope again defined the cut, but its gradient varied. At the east-north-east end and along the whole of the eastern side, the cut was shallow, sloping at an angle of c. 45 degrees. On the western side the gradient was nearly vertical, changing to a shallow slope at the southern end. At the bottom of the slope the sides broke gently to a flat base throughout the feature, which was completely filled with friable dark grey silty clay (3008), containing moderate amounts of charcoal flecking and occasional small pebbles. These features probably functioned as shallow drainage gullies for the path (3010). The cobbles recorded to the east of these two features are thought to be unrelated to the path, and were more loosely distributed, deposited either as the result of dumping or being kicked from the path and trampled into the ploughsoil (3014).

4.3.6 The digging of a large pit (3013) at the south-west end of the trench is believed to be the next episode of activity. It was difficult to ascertain its relationship with the Roman gullies as it was truncated by a second pit (3007), but it is suspected that it was later than both the cobbled path (3010) and the two gullies. The pit was large, measuring over 2.82m in length, and 1.30m in width, and was probably rectangular in plan. The feature was not fully revealed or excavated completely as it continued below the depth limit imposed by construction. However the cut was at least partially visible, breaking sharply with steep sloping sides angled at c. 80 degrees, and containing friable dark grey clay silt (3006) with yellowish mottling, frequent charcoal flecks and occasional cobbles. The date of the pit is not known but is suspected to have been Roman .

4.3.7 A layer of mid grey sandy clayey silt (3005) containing frequent charcoal flecks and occasional cobbles, sealed the above deposits, and covered the majority of the trench to a maximum depth of 0.11m. This was overlain by a compact dark grey silty clay (3002), which contained moderate amounts of charcoal, occasional small limestone fragments and mortar and was 0.10m thick. Both of these layers were removed as arbitrary spits of material, and are thought to be the remnants of a late 2nd/3rd century Roman ploughsoil, which formed when the cobble path went out of use.

4.3.8 These layers were truncated by a rectangular pit (3007) aligned north-north-west to south-south-east and measuring 1.84m long and 0.80m wide. The sides of the feature broke sharply into near vertical sides but due to the depth limit of the excavation, the base of the feature was not reached. Two fills were found within the part which was excavated. The lower of the two was a friable mid yellow brown silty sand (3004) with yellow mottling, lenses of mid grey clay silt, and it contained the remains of disarticulated and semi-articulated cattle bones, probably all from the same animal. Sealing this deposit was a friable mid to pale grey clay silt (3003), with occasional charcoal flecks. The pit appears to have been excavated specifically for the disposal of the remains of the cow. Pottery from the feature is mostly Roman in date, but a sherd of post-medieval pottery and a fragment of clay pipe found within the lower portion of fill (3003) point to a post-medieval date and suggests that the Roman pottery within the backfill was residual.

4.3.9 A number of modern features cut through these deposits. These included a brick manhole and ceramic drain pipe (not numbered), relating to the downwater pipes from Trench 1, a post-hole (3001) which contained a large circular wooden post (3000) possibly relating to the former stump of a telegraph pole, several other small features on the south-east side of the trench which were interpreted as modern post-holes (not numbered), and the remains of a brick footing for a gate post, also located at the south-east edge of the trench.

4.3.10 All of the above deposits were covered by c. 0.50m of topsoil similar to (1001) which was removed by machine prior to excavation commencing

4.4 Trench 4

The trench was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west, and was positioned to coincide with the middle section of the access road. The overburden was removed to a depth of c. 0.50m using a JCB Sitemaster, under close archaeological supervision. A limit based on the requirements for road construction was placed on the depth to which archaeological deposits could be excavated.

4.4.1 The earliest deposit within the trench was a friable mid brownish orange silty sand (4005) which formed the natural deposit on the south-western side of the trench and was similar to (1021) and (3017).

4.4.2 Overlying this was a well preserved cobbled surface (4004) aligned east to west, very similar in construction to (1017) and (3010), and containing similar artefactual remains. This formed the northern edge of the surface, and supported the interpretation of this structure as a path or track leading west of the main Roman road. The pottery recovered from the excavation of this deposit suggests that the path was laid in the early 3rd century AD.

4.4.3 Sealing the cobbled surface to a depth of 0.20m was a deposit of friable mid brown sandy silt (4001) with moderate amounts of coal and charcoal inclusions. This deposit was similar to (1018), and was interpreted as an occupation layer. It may have built up after the path went out of use and the area was used for a different function in the mid/late 3rd century.

4.4.4 Overlying (4001) was a friable dark grey brown silty loam (4000) interpreted as the upper most fill of a large east to west aligned ditch (unnumbered), also found in Trench 2. This ran along the north side of the cobbled track and is believed to have been contemporary with this structure. The ditch appears to have been still functioning when the path went out of use, only finally silting up after (4001) had formed over the cobbled surface. The pottery recovered from the backfill of this ditch dates this event to the late 3rd or early 4th century AD although a denarius of Vitellius (AD 69) was also found in this fill.

4.4.5 Finally, two modern features truncated earlier deposits. A modern service trench (4002) and (4003) aligned north-west to south-east cut across the centre of the trench through (4000), and was thought to relate to the deep sewerage service trench (1013) located in Trench 1. Another service trench for a down water pipe, running east to west at the southern end of the trench from a brick manhole, truncated the cobbled trackway (4004).

4.4.6 The whole trench was overlain by c. 0.50m of overburden that consisted of post-medieval garden or ploughsoil, which was removed by machine and not recorded in detail.

4.5 The Watching Brief

This was carried out on the foundation trenches for the new extension to the kitchen and helped to define further the alignments of the trackway and the two ditches crossing the site. Unfortunately, due to the depth and instability of the foundation trenches and health and safety precautions, only a limited amount of information could be recorded about these features.

4.5.1 Foundation trench A

The earliest deposit within the trench was a compact, plastic, mid orangy brown clay. This was cut by two Roman ditches. The ditch (5), closest to the present standing building, measured 2.8m wide and 0.85m deep, with steep sides, angled at 60 to 70 degrees, and a rounded bottom. It was backfilled with a dark orangy grey sandy clay, containing frequent cobbles in the lower portion of the fill. The second ditch (7) was only partially visible in section at the end of the trench cut. It measured 0.70m deep and contained a steep southern side angled at 60 to 70 degrees which then gradually sloped into a flat base. This was backfilled with mid greenish grey silty clay with frequent charcoal inclusions. To the south of and parallel with this ditch was a cobbled trackway, measuring 1.80m wide, and similar to that already described in Trenches 1, 3 and 4. Overlying this was a series of Roman to post-medieval garden and ploughsoils

to a depth of between 0.60m and 1.05m. No evidence for the main Roman road was found between ditch (5) and the present standing building.

4.5.2 Foundation Trench B

The earliest deposit was a natural clay, similar to that found in trench A. This was also truncated by the two Roman ditches (5) and (7). Ditch (5) measured 2.85m wide and 0.30m deep, with moderately steep sides, sloping at 50 to 60 degrees, and a rounded base, which contained a greyish dark brown clay silt backfill. The other ditch (7) measured 2.15m wide and 1.20m deep and appeared to contain two fills. The primary fill was a light grey silty clay and contained frequent cobbles. This was overlain by a secondary fill, a tenacious dark greyish brown clay silt. No evidence was recovered for the cobbled trackway continuing into this trench. This may have been due in part to the difficulty of access into this trench which meant that hand cleaning of the section was impossible. A possible cobbled surface was revealed overlying ditch (7) but this was of uncertain date or extent and may relate to a former yard of the medieval or post-medieval period. The ditches were sealed by medieval and post-medieval garden soils to a depth of 0.82m. and the upper portion of the fill of ditch (5) was disturbed by a modern concrete footing.

4.5.3 Foundation Trench C

A similar sequence of activity to Foundation Trench B was revealed within this trench. Ditch (5), only partially visible in the trench edge , measured 0.5m deep and contained a dark grey brown clay silt with frequent charcoal inclusions. The second ditch (7) measured 1.8m wide and 0.70m deep and was backfilled with a mid grey silty clay. Overlying these ditches was a thick layer of post-medieval and medieval garden soil to 0.70 m deep.

4.5.4 Foundation Trench D

This trench only revealed part of ditch (7) right at its southern end, measuring 0.70 m deep. No other features or structures were revealed within the trench which was covered by a thick series of garden soils up to 0.75 m in depth.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Summary

The sediment samples were almost barren of ancient biological remains, though further examination of the charcoal recovered from the deposits may yield a little information if there are relevant archaeological questions to be addressed.

The small size and general date of the recovered bone assemblage and the limited number of bones which can be used to obtain age-at-death and biometrical information render this material of extremely limited zooarchaeological potential. However, as the material was reasonably well-preserved, further, more extensive excavation may provide a useful assemblage particularly if a tighter chronological framework were achieved.

5.1 Introduction

Excavations at The Fox, Tadcaster Road, Dringhouses, York undertaken in 1997 by York Archaeological Trust revealed deposits of Roman to modern date in four trenches. Two samples of sediment (both from Trench 1) and two boxes of hand-collected bone from these deposits have been examined to evaluate their bioarchaeological potential. The remains of a single inhumation burial were also examined.

5.2 Methods

5.2.1 Sediment samples

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

Plant macrofossils were examined from both the residues and the washovers resulting from processing, and the washovers were examined for invertebrate remains. Neither of the samples were deemed suitable for examination for the eggs of parasitic nematodes.

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

5.2.2 Bone

Two boxes (of 20 litres and 34 litres) of animal bones were recovered. Material from twenty of the twenty-five bone-bearing contexts was recorded in detail. The remaining five contexts were of modern or uncertain date and the bones recovered from these deposits were only rapidly scanned. The recorded assemblage was mainly dated to the Roman period, with the exception of Contexts 3003 and 3004 which were fills of a probable post-medieval pit.

Semi-subjective, non-quantitative data were recorded for each context regarding the state of preservation, colour, and the appearance of broken surfaces ('angularity'), whilst quantities and identifications were noted where appropriate. Additionally, semi-quantitative information was recorded for 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 (these included skull, vertebra, rib and shaft fragments and other elements where species identification was unclear). The fragment counts of the species groups are included in the 'unidentifiable' totals.

5.2.3 Human remains

The remains were rapidly scanned and a report produced. Evidence for age, sex and pathology was collected.

5.3 Results

5.3.1 The sediment samples

The results of the investigations are presented in context number order with information provided by the excavator in brackets

Context 1022 [Sample taken from the only fill (1022) of a shallow Roman gully (1023) at the bottom of Trench 1]
Sample 1

Moist, mid grey brown, crumbly and slightly sticky (working soft and slightly sticky), slightly clay silty sand with some lighter brown more sandy patches. Very small stones (2 to 6 mm), charcoal and fragments of large mammal bone were present in the sample.

The large washover was mostly cinder (to 15 mm) and charcoal (to 5 mm) with some sand and a few fragments of very rotted bone.

The small residue was mostly sand and gravel with some stones (to 35 mm), a tiny pot sherd, brick/tile, traces of charcoal (to 7 mm), a single charred grain and a few fragments of bone. The latter comprised two amphibian bones (a vertebra and a long bone shaft fragment), a medium-sized mammal rib fragment and a few unidentified fragments.

Context 1025 [Sample taken from the uppermost fill (1025) of a large Roman ditch (1024)]
Sample 2

Moist, mid to dark grey brown, crumbly soft and slightly sticky (working soft and slightly sticky), slightly clay silty sand with some lighter brown more sandy patches. Very small and small stones (2 to 20 mm) and charcoal were present in the sample.

The large washover was mostly charcoal (to 10 mm) with some cinder and sand, a few earthworm egg capsules and two bone fragments.

The small residue was mostly sand and gravel with some stones (to 30 mm), traces of charcoal (to 5 mm) and slag and nine unidentified bone fragments (some of which were burnt).

5.3.2 Bone

The range of identified species recovered from the excavations is shown in Tables 1 and 2, together with total number of fragments, numbers of measurable bones and numbers of mandibles with teeth *in situ*. Measurements (following those outlined by von den Dreisch 1976) taken as part of a biometrical archive are presented in Table 3.

5.4 Post-medieval assemblage

The probable post-medieval pit fills produced a small assemblage of well-preserved bone, amounting to 8 identified and 69 unidentified fragments. Remains of cattle comprised the bulk of the fragments and on the basis of the condition of the material and the skeletal elements present in both deposits, these remains probably represent part of the skeleton of a single individual.

5.5 Roman assemblage

A total of 68 identified and 539 unidentified fragments was recovered from eighteen contexts. Cattle were the most frequently represented species, with the unidentifiable fraction containing many vertebra, shaft and rib fragments recorded as large mammal (assumed to be cattle). Other species present included caprovids, horses and pigs but in very small numbers.

In general, the material was moderately well-preserved, although many of the deposits contained a small number of fragments that were battered in appearance with rounded, broken surfaces. Colour ranged from brown to gingery-fawn and fawn, with some variation apparent within contexts.

Few of the bones showed evidence of fresh breakage, with the exception of those from two deposits (Contexts 4000 and 4004) which contained many small fragments with new breaks. The proportions of fragments showing evidence of butchery in those groups selected for detailed recording was low (0-10% in most cases). Dog gnawing was also noted but on very few of the remains.

There were only 24 measurable fragments, 7 mandibles and 10 isolated teeth from this assemblage.

5.6 Human Remains

The partial remains of a single human burial were examined. The right and left leg bones were present together with the distal end of the right humerus with complete radius and

ulna. Only the lumbar vertebrae and the sacrum were present from the spinal column. The bone was in a fair state of preservation.

The remains were judged to be those of an adult since all epiphyses were fused The body had robust long bones with large femur heads and exaggerated linea aspersa and was thus believed to be male.

There was some evidence of infection along the shaft of the left fibula and osteophytosis on a single lumbar vertebral centra.

5.7 Discussion and statement of potential

Ancient plant remains were confined to charcoal fragments (almost certainly from wood used for fuel), further examination of which may yield a little information if there are relevant archaeological questions to be addressed. No ancient invertebrate remains were observed.

The small size and general date of the recovered bone assemblage and the limited number of bones which can be used to obtain age-at-death and biometrical information render this material of extremely limited zooarchaeological potential. However, as the material was reasonably well-preserved, further, more extensive excavation may provide a useful assemblage particularly if a tighter chronological framework were achieved.

The single burial was of limited potential but a larger sample of the Roman civilian population would be extremely significant.

Recommendations

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

Retention and disposal

Any remaining sediment samples may be discarded unless they are to be sieved for artefact recovery.

The hand-collected bone assemblage should be retained for the present.

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. Total number of fragments by date and weights (for both periods) from The Fox, Tadcaster Road, Dringhouses, York.

Species		**Roman**	**Post-medieval**	**Total**	**Weight (g)**
Equus f. domestic	horse	9	-	9	638
Sus f. domestic	pig	5	-	5	114
Bos f. domestic	cattle	48	5	53	3,209
Caprovid	sheep/goat	3	2	5	97
Ovis f. domestic	sheep	3	1	4	
Subtotal		***68***	***8***	***76***	4058
Unidentified		539	69	608	7,037
Total		**607**	**77**	**684**	**11,095**

Table 2. Numbers of measurable fragments, mandibles and isolated teeth for both periods from The Fox, Tadcaster Road, Dringhouses, York.

Species		**No. measurable**	**No. mandibles**	**No. isolated teeth**
Equus f. domestic	horse	2	-	-
Sus f. domestic	pig	-	1	1
Bos f. domestic	cattle	19	4	8
Caprovid	sheep/goat	3	2	1
Subtotal		***24***	***7***	***10***
Unidentified		-	-	-

Total		**24**	**7**	**10**

Table 3. Biometrical archive for The Fox, Tadcaster Road, Dringhouses, York (measurements follow those outlined by von den Driesch 1976).

Context	**Species**	**Element**	**Measurements**				
3004	Sheep	Humerus	BT= 30.99	HT= 21.25	HTC= 16.25	SD= 17.10	
4000	Sheep	Calcaneum	DS=19.30	C=13.24	C+D=23.32	GL=56.80	
1015	Sheep	Tibia	BD=24.09	Dd=20.60	SD=10.32		
4004	Horse	Metacarpal	GL=234.9	SD=33.74	BD=52.82	Dd=38.01	
4000	Horse	Metatarsal	Bd=53.85	Dd=39.61			
2008	Cow	Horncore	45=46.80	46=38.05	BC=137		
3010	Cow	Humerus	BT=76.72	HT=44.15	HTC=35.15		
2008	Cow	Humerus	BT=68.45	HT=40.95	HTC=34.03	SD=30.72	
1015	Cow	Radius	Bp=74.79	BFp=68.30			
4000	Cow	Metacarpal	BFp=59.00	DFp=33.23			
4000	Cow	Metacarpal	BFp=50.85	DFp=30.43			
4000	Cow	Metacarpal	BFp=51.24	DFp=31.40			
3005	Cow	Metacarpal	Bd=52.63	Dd=29.11	Dem=22.05	Dvm=29.16	Dim=26.27
2008	Cow	Metacarpal	BFp=51.73	DFp=32.52			
1018	Cow	Metacarpal	Bd=61.80	Dd=30.70	Dem=22.50	Dvm=30.70	Dim=28.80
4000	Cow	Calcaneum	DS=35.98				
4000	Cow	Calcaneum	DS=36.00	C=26.87	C+D=45.86		
1017	Cow	Calcaneum	DS=35.40	C=22.70	C+D=42.00		
4000	Cow	Astragalus	GLl=58.27	Dl=31.22	Bd=37.66		
4000	Cow	Astragalus	GLl=55.41	Dl=30.55	Bd=37.85		
3002	Cow	Astragalus	GLl=59.87	Dl=33.59	Bd=38.11		
4000	Cow	Metatarsal	BFp=41.84	DFp=42.37	SD=23.25		
2008	Cow	Metatarsal	GL=221.2	SD=28.22	BFp=51.87	DFp=45.57	Bd=59.89
			Dem=24.47	Dim=28.38			
1018	Cow	Metatarsal	GL=200.0	SD=22.90	DFp=39.60	Dd=27.40	Dem=19.40
			Dvm=26.60	Dim=26.40			

6. FINDS ASSESSMENT

6.1 The Small Finds

The most significant of the small finds include two items of jewellery (sf 102, sf100) and two coins (sf101 and sf104). There is also a fragment of copper alloy sheet (sf103) with rivet holes whose original form and purpose cannot be determined. The rest of the material from the site comprises iron nails and metal-working slag, flint and stone fragments which do not appear to have been worked, coal and clinker. The iron nails may well include coffin nails but neither these nor the other finds can be dated except by context. There is a single post-medieval tobacco pipe stem fragment.

The brooch (sf 102 from context 3010) is an incomplete bow brooch which is believed to be of 2nd century date. It appears to have fragments of what may be blue enamel incorporated in the design but at the time of writing investigative conservation work is ongoing. This is a common form of brooch and conforms with known types. The ring (sf100 from context 1014), which was found on the skeleton, has an oval bezel from which the glass or gem has been lost. There are curved wings on either side of the bezel and some form of indenting around the bezel. Again ongoing conservation work may reveal some further details. This is a well known Romano-British type of 3rd century date.

The coins are reported as a denarius of Vitellius AD 69 (sf101 from context 1012) and a coin of Victorinus/Tetricus 1 AD 268-73 (sf104 from context 4000). Further cleaning is ongoing.

6.2 The Pottery

6.2.1 Spot Dates and Sherd Count

Context	Sherd Count	Spot Date	Comments
1008	12	post-medieval	1 post-medieval sherd, remainder Roman 2nd - 4th century
1010	2	10th cent.	
1012	9	10th cent.	7 Roman sherds, mainly 2nd cent.
1014	16	mid/late 3rd century	near complete pot. Sherd joins with 1018
1015	27	13th-14th century	23 Roman, 3 Anglo-Scandinavian/Norman, 1 13th/14th century
1017	2	2nd/3rd century	
1018	10	mid/late 3rd century	Sherd joins with 1014, includes residual 2nd century material
1022	1	2nd century	
2005	6	late 4th c.	
2008	9	late 4th c.	
3002	9	2nd century	
3003	5	post-medieval	1 post-medieval, 4 3rd/early 4th century
3004	1	late 2nd c.	
3005	2	2nd century	
3008	4	2nd century	
3009	1	late 1st c.	
3010	4	late 1st c.	
3016	16	2nd century	11 sherds of native Romano-British or Iron Age pottery.
3015	3	2nd century	1 native R.B. or Iron Age.
4000	30	late 3rd c.	
4001	11	late 3rd c.	
4004	10	mid/late 3rd century	

6.2.2 Discussion

Trench 1 includes a range of pottery types although Roman wares dominate the assemblage either as contemporary or as redeposited wares. The near complete black burnished ware pot found in contexts 1014 and 1018 help date the burial to the mid

or late 3rd century. There is nothing which dates between the 5th and the late 9th century and only a handful of sherds represent the Anglo-Scandinavian, medieval and post-medieval periods.

Trench 2 produced only Roman pottery which included wares which date the contexts to the late 4th century.

With the exception of a single sherd of post-medieval pottery, Trench 3 produced only Roman and handmade wares. The Roman wares include late 1st century types but there is a bias towards the late 2nd century. The handmade wares may be Iron Age in date and represent pre-Roman activity in the area, or they may be native Romano-British wares contemporary with the early Roman activity in the area. Further comparative research work would be needed to elucidate this.

Trench 4 produced an intriguing mixture of pottery deposited in the mid-late 3rd century, with earlier residual material. This assemblage is typical of the period 225-280 in a civilian context and in the region of graveyards. Dales ware (contexts 4000, 4001) plus distinctive Nene Valley sherds provide the external dating. There is a remarkable number of 'Romano-Saxon' style head-pots of the later 3rd century (2 or 3 fragments in context 4000, 1 in 4001). Context 4001 also contains the base of a closed parchment ware form which might be a face-necked urn. The date of this fabric and vessel type is in doubt and could be 4th century.

6.3 Ceramic Building Materials

6.3.1 Roman Material

Roman roofing material (imbrex and tegula) was present in the sample. The size of the material was small compared to typical large-scale material found in the centre of York. Also present were fragments of brick which may have been used in the construction of a hypocaust or walls.

6.3.2 Medieval Material

There were a few fragments of plain roofing material which date from the 13th century onwards but appeared as residual sherds in post-medieval contexts

6.3.3 Post-medieval Material

The post-medieval material consisted of small fragments of brick. The fabric indicates an 18th century or later date. The complete brick from 2002 was probably 18th century or later, was slop-moulded and had a slight curve to it. It was retrieved from the lining of a well or cistern.

6.3.4 Recommendations

It is recommended that this sample is retained to be included in any further research undertaken into the archaeology of this area of York. In particular, the Roman tile sample may help to characterise the later Roman ceramic building material industry in York.

6.3.5 Context Listing

Context	Form	Date
1008	Post-medieval brick	Post-medieval
1010	Roman brick, post-medieval brick	Post-medieval
1012	Plain, Roman brick, post medieval brick	Post-medieval
1015	Roman brick, Plain, Roman pottery	Post-medieval
1016	Brick	?Post-medieval
2002	Brick (220x110x61)	18th century +
2005	Brick	?Post-medieval
3002	Imbrex (small size), Mortar	Roman
3003	Plain	13th century +
3006	Brick	?Roman
3008	Tegula (small flange)	Roman
3010	Roman brick, Limestone	Roman
4000	Roman brick, Roman pottery, Tegula, Pila	Roman

7. CONCLUSIONS

The excavations have shown that, beneath modern topsoil, archaeological deposits were preserved at about 0.50m below the present ground surface. They were largely intact, stratified and on average 0.60m thick, apart from within the large ditches, where the deposits were up to 1.6m thick. They were not waterlogged and organic material was thus poorly preserved, but the deposits contained a range of artefactual material which has provided evidence for the history of the site.

Prehistoric or Romano-British

Twelve sherds of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery were recovered from the remains of a very truncated early Roman pit and a layer above this which was interpreted as an early Roman ploughsoil. This suggests that prehistoric or local Romano-British settlement has been truncated by subsequent Roman occupation. This is extremely rare for York as little evidence for prehistoric occupation has been isolated to date within the city boundary. The nature and extent of this settlement could not be defined.

Roman (1st-5th centuries AD).

The majority of the archaeology within the excavation area dated from this period. This proved to be moderately complex and produced a long sequence of stratified activity ranging from the 1st to the early 4th centuries AD.

Phase 1 (late 1st-early 2nd century)

The initial activity on the site, dating to the 1st or early 2nd century, involved the excavation of a large ditch aligned north-east to south-west in Trench 1, parallel to the main Roman road, (projected in Hunter-Mann, 1996). It is suggested that this is not the Roman roadside ditch, as no evidence for the Roman road was discovered between it and the present standing building during the watching brief. A narrow gully which was aligned parallel to this ditch was either contemporary or slightly later. The purpose of this feature was unclear; it may indicate further subdivision of the land to the west of the Roman road. A pit within Trench 3 may have been for cess or refuse, indicating occupation close by. This was backfilled rapidly, and included pottery sherds of 2nd century date, as well as a residual sherd of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery.

Phase 2 (mid/late 2nd century)

A ploughsoil which formed over the pit in Trench 3 may indicate the cultivation of the soil to the west of the Roman road. Roman pottery within the ploughsoil suggested a 2nd century date although there was also a considerable quantity of residual Iron Age pottery. The gully and ditch in Trench 1 probably silted up during this phase.

Phase 3 (early 3rd century)

During the early 3rd century a cobbled path aligned east to west, c. 1.8m wide, was constructed. Parallel to it a large ditch was excavated flanking the northern side of the path in Trench 4 and two gullies flanked its southern side in Trench 3. This has been interpreted as a small track or path leading off from the main Roman road or as a droveway to nearby animal pens and enclosures. The high banked ditch to the north would certainly have that ensured animals would not stray from the path, and the small quantity of bones incorporated into the construction of the path and recovered from the top of it may indicate a slaughter area close by. The path does not seem to have seen much wear and tear and appears to have quickly fallen out of use. Overlying the cobbled trackway in Trenches 1 and 4 was a mixed sandy layer, possibly deriving from dumps of sand which were later mixed during occupation of the area. This deposit included material of 2nd century date but is more likely to have been deposited in the early 3rd century, incorporating residual material from the top of the trackway. The two parallel gullies appear to have silted up rapidly before being truncated by a large pit; all three features contained no sandy occupationally derived deposits within their backfill which suggests either that they were outside the area of the occupation layer, or that they were excavated and backfilled prior to this phase of activity. The latter interpretation is preferred. The large ditch to the north of the track is believed to have continued in use into this phase of activity.

Phase 4 (mid/late 3rd century)

Truncating the sandy deposit in Trench 1 was an inhumation burial which was laid on its side with its legs slightly flexed and its right arm stretched out to the north. The upper torso had been heavily truncated by modern disturbance removing the skull, upper

rib cage and left arm. A copper alloy ring was found on the index finger of the right hand. Within the grave cut was a black burnished ware jar which had been broken, probably prior to the interment of the body. The pot was dated to between 225-300 AD.

A study of the rites associated with this burial cannot provide a closer date than that already given. The practice of inhumation burial was introduced to Roman Britain from the continent in the mid 2nd century. At Trentholme Drive, c. 1 mile north-east of the site, a cremation and inhumation cemetery was excavated in the 1960's. It has been suggested on stratigraphic grounds (Philpott, 1991, 58) that inhumation was introduced to this cemetery in the mid 2nd century and that by the last quarter of the 3rd century it had replaced the cremation burial rite entirely. Pottery vessels were also found as grave furnishings at this site, the peak of furnishing inhumations with such vessels being in the mid 2nd to early 3rd century. This was followed by a decline towards the end of the 3rd century and a complete absence of vessels of 4th-century date (Philpott, 1991, 107). The act of placing a pottery vessel within the grave has been interpreted by some as indicative of a food offering (Philpott, 1991, 112). In this instance the vessel appears to have been broken, or possibly ritually 'killed', a practice which is attested at numerous sites in Roman Britain. This may imply that the pot itself, rather than the contents, was offered as a gift to the deceased. The presence of a copper alloy ring is not unusual within the context of Roman inhumation practice and it probably performed the same function of personal adornment as in life (Philpott, 1991, 155). At Trentholme Drive the provision of pottery together with other types of grave furniture, such as personal ornaments or jewellery, was found to be very unusual (Philpott, 1991, 107), but this may be due in part to the status of the burials within this particular cemetery. Certainly no rich tombs or stone sarcophagi were recovered, whereas at The Mount and at the Roman cemetery at the junction between Tadcaster Road and St. Helen's Road., Dringhouses, stone sarcophagi indicating high status burials have been located. High status burials often contained personal ornaments as well as other offerings within the grave. Although the burial found during this investigation is not perceived as being of particularly high status, being buried without a coffin or sarcophagus, it is thought to have belonged to a social stratum higher than those buried at Trentholme Drive.

From the present investigation it is impossible to determine whether this burial forms part of the cemetery at the junction between the Tadcaster Road and St. Helen's Road. The remarkable number of fragments of Romano-Saxon head-pots distinctive of late 3rd century Roman cemeteries located in contexts (4000) and (4001) may indicate the disturbance of further burials close by.

Phase 5 (late 3rd to the early 4th centuries)

Overlying the sandy occupation deposit at the north-east corner of Trench 1 was a dump of metal slag. This may indicate a new phase of occupation on the site involving the production and manufacture of metal objects. A thick layer of ploughsoil then formed over all the deposits in Trenches 1 and 3 and the large ditch in Trenches 2 and 4 finally silted up. Thus no features remained to divide the agricultural land to the west of the main Roman Road.

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

A sherd of late 9th century York ware pottery was retrieved from the latest Roman ploughsoil in Trench 1. Three sherds of Torksey ware, dateable to the 10th century, were also recovered from modern features within the same trench. This indicates the possible presence of Anglo-Scandinavian settlement in the vicinity as suggested by the place name evidence and is the first evidence of activity of this date in Dringhouses.

Medieval (11th-16th centuries).

The only evidence for medieval activity was also from the latest Roman ploughsoil located in Trench 1, which contained two sherds of 12th century gritty ware and one sherd of 13th/14th century date. This indicates the continued occupation of the area and use of the fields which may have been laid out in the Anglo-Scandinavian period.

Post-Medieval (16th-18th centuries)

Post-medieval occupation of the site was represented by a large pit in Trench 3, which contained the semi-articulated remains of a cow. This pit was probably excavated for the disposal of slaughter waste and was dated by a single sherd of post-medieval pot and a fragment of clay pipe.

Modern (19th and 20th centuries).

Modern features located on the site related to the use of the site as a public house, farm and stables. These included two Victorian wells, one in Trench 2, the other, located outside the excavation area, was discovered just to the north-east of Trench 2 during the demolition work. A number of service trenches for storm water and foul water pipes were located, truncating deposits in Trenches 1, 3 and 4. These all serviced the present standing building on the street frontage at 60 Tadcaster Road.

8. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

The investigations have revealed important archaeological evidence for settlement in the Dringhouses area from the Iron Age to the present day. Most of the evidence has been from the Roman period and this has been vital in developing the picture of a settlement similar to those identified near many Roman legionary fortresses on the continent (known as *zivilen Dorf* settlements) and in Britain, such as at Heronbridge near Chester (Mason, 1988). The Iron Age or native Romano-British pottery is also significant, suggesting settlement on the morainic ridge between York and Dringhouses.

The investigation examined all of the areas which were threatened by the current development and there are thus no implications for further work on this particular site in the immediate future. However, should further development be planned within the surrounding area then appropriate mitigation strategies should be devised to ensure that

the high quality information retained within these well stratified archaeological deposits is suitably investigated and recorded.

9. LIST OF SOURCES

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