26-28 MARYGATE, YORK

A Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

York Archaeological Trust

Evaluation Report 1992/12

26-28 Marygate, York

CONTENTS

List of Figures and Plates

York Archaeological Trust: A Registered Charity
1 Pavement, York Y01 2NA Tel (0904) 643211 Fax (0904) 640029

SYNOPSIS

Two trenches excavated in advance of development on open ground to the north- east of Marygate encountered extensive important deposits of the Roman period.

In Area 2 an unexcavated but large and possibly linear feature, located on the edge of a low, north facing ridge was infilled, and may have been succeeded by a structure subsequently destroyed by fire. Both belong to the 3rd century or earlier. In the mid 3rd century, a deposit containing a substantial amount of refuse, including large quantities of animal bone, pottery and building material was dumped to level the ground surface, which had subsided into the underlying feature. This material may have derived from a nearby building - apparently of some substance - and activities associated with it, or may represent 'municipal' dumping of detritus from other areas of Eboracum. Subsequently the area was apparently divided by hedgerows and exploited for cultivation and possibly other activities, although continuing subsidence seems to have rendered the ground immediately above the primary feature unusable. In the 4th century inhumations, probably forming part of a small and possibly familial burial ground rather than a major cemetery, were interred on the site, the environment of which seems to have been deliberately modified in order to accommodate each new interment. It is uncertain whether the absence of later deposits represents a real termination of activity, since there was clear evidence of truncation above the latest recognisably stratified deposits.

In Area 1, c.20 metres to the east, late 2nd century activity of uncertain character on the top of the low north-facing ridge was succeeded by the dumping of extensive deposits of soil containing largely 3rd century material with occasional 4th century pottery types. This may have been to facilitate cultivation, to level the ground surface, or both. Similar activity appears to have continued into the medieval period.

1. *Introduction*

1.1 An archaeological excavation was carried out by York Archaeological Trust on land behind 26-28 Marygate (NGR SE 59885232) and in a small, walled enclosure adjacent to St Mary's Lane (SE 59855231) between 5th May and 5th June 1992. Both excavated areas were located on open ground, that behind Marygate being partly overgrown and partly used as a car park, the St Mary's Lane enclosure containing a small orchard . The excavation consisted of two 5m.x 5m. trenches, one at each of these locations, (Fig 1), as required by the Archaeological Specification provided by the City of York Directorate of Development Services' Planning and Building Control Group.

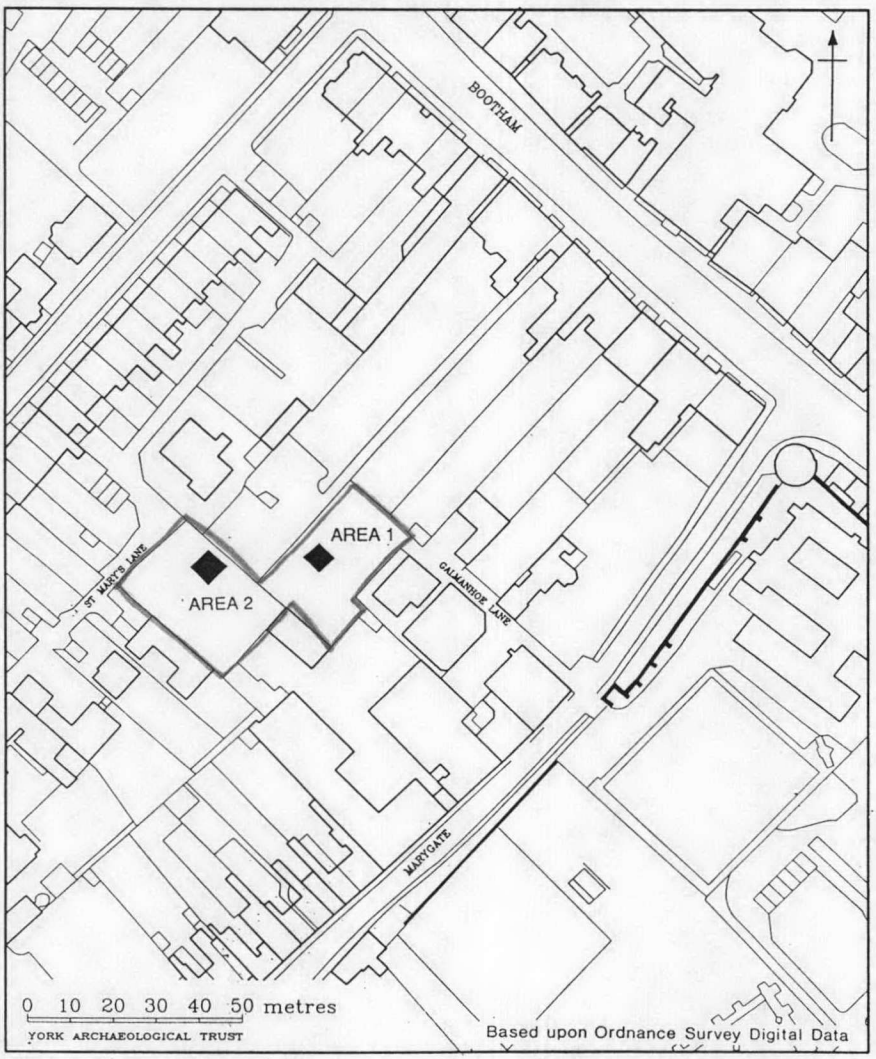

Figure 1
Location of site

Ground disturbance was preceded by a geophysical survey of the two blocks of land which is included as an appendix to this report. The excavation was conducted in response to a proposed small residential development, comprising three houses with freestanding garages.

The finds and site records are currently lodged with the York Archaeological Trust under the Trust and Yorkshire Museum accession code 1992.11.

1.2 Geophysical Survey

A geophysical survey of both development sites was carried out by Geoquest Associates in advance of excavation. Their report is included as a separate appendix. No features of archaeological significance were located during this survey, which is perhaps not surprising when the depth of overburden encountered during machine clearance is considered.

1.3 Previous work

No previous work has been conducted in the immediate vicinity of the site. Excavation and observation along Bootham has, over the last 150 years, helped to plot the line of the main Roman road running north-westwards from the fortress. Inhumations and cremations have been found on many occasions on sites flanking the road. In the Museum Gardens, within a putative 'annexe' to the fortress, structures and deposits of Roman date have been recorded. None of these, however, are closer than 100m away from the site of this excavation, prior to which the archaeology of the area was an almost totally unknown quantity.

1.4 Excavation preliminaries

Initial clearance of both excavated areas was carried out using a mechanical excavator. No great depth of deposit had been anticipated. This assumption was confounded when, from a ground surface at c.15.10m. Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), c.1.50m. of homogeneous soil had to be removed from Area 1

before deposits thought to be of archaeological significance were encountered. This depth of overburden caused the trench to be 'stepped-in', encompassing, at modern ground level, an area c.9.0m.x 10.0m., which was reduced to 5.0m.x 5.0m. at the base of the excavation.

The modern ground surface in the vicinity of Area 2, c.20.0m. to the west, is approximately 1m below that adjacent to Area 1. A north-east/south-west aligned brick wall separates the blocks of land in which the excavations were located, and it is this wall which demarcates the change in ground level. Following the excavation of Area 1, it was assumed that the amount of overburden to be removed from Area 2 before archaeological deposits were encountered would be commensurately less. Once again expectations proved erroneous; almost 2.0m. of homogeneous, virtually finds-free soil was mechanically excavated before potentially stratified deposits were reached at a level of c.12.0m.AOD.

During the machining of the south-eastern half of Area 2 the excavation began to suffer from groundwater seepage. As a result, deposits were mechanically removed to a greater depth in this area, as the saturation of the soil rendered it more susceptible to being churned up by the machine bucket. The resultant quagmire had to be completely removed during manual cleaning. The discrepancy between the level reached by machining in the north-western and south-eastern areas of the site was thus c.0.40m.; this was in part due to a general, shallow slope in that direction evident in the uppermost deposits, but was exacerbated by the problems described above. The area worst affected coincided with that which was later to evidence the greatest degree of slumping into a large feature apparently underlying the earliest deposits reached in the excavation (see below, Area 2). It may therefore be that most of the mud removed had originally comprised overburden rather than deposits which were archaeologically recorded elsewhere in the trench.

2. *Documentary Survey*

As is normal in York there is no documentary evidence for Roman, Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Scandinavian occupation of the site.

The site itself has no distinguishing feature to mark it out for comment in the historical documents, although information does exist about Marygate and Bootham. Houses are documented in Marygate from the 12th century. In 1161x1175 Hugh, son of Lefwin granted a house in Marygate, and between 1170x1184 Pain son of Waldeve left certain 'messuages' to Abbot Clement and St Mary's Abbey.

In 1264x5 several houses in Marygate were burned during a riot between the citizens of York and the Abbey. Following the riot the Abbey built a stone wall around its precinct and in 1275 a settlement between the Abbey and the city resulted in Bootham becoming a free borough of St Mary's in which the mayor and bailiffs had no powers. This settlement lasted until 1354 when Bootham was restored to the city's jurisdiction, although this did not include Marygate and some adjoining areas.

Marygate itself was an important route to the Ouse and in 1378 the city formally protested when the bursar of St Mary's obstructed the free passage of goods from the Ouse to Bootham via Marygate. After the protest the bursar gave way.

The earliest map of the city, c.1540, is annotated 'Howsys of Seynt Mare Gate' on the north side of the street, and Speed's map of 1610 depicts houses stretching from Bootham half way down the street. In the Civil War of the 1640's these houses were possibly burned as part of the destruction of the suburbs by the defenders, but houses in Bootham were left standing. The

standing houses allowed the attacking Parliamentarian army to mine St Mary's Tower, which was blown up. A breech in the wall was also made lower down St Mary's and the attackers captured King's Manor for a while before being forced to surrender.

Maps from the late 17th century until the 19th century, such as Archer's (1680), show houses on the street frontage but no buildings behind. Richard's map of 1685 shows fields, but Chassereau's map of 1756 seems to show a series of gardens or allotments and Todd's map (1810) shows ornamental gardens. Marygate is shown pictorially in the 1850's as part of Whittock's 'Bird's-Eye View of the City of York'. The area behind Marygate seems to consist of gardens with the occasional building.

Even though the land was not built upon, from the 18th century onwards the locations of two archaeological trenches were probably affected by different influences. Trench 1 was probably part of the garden of the present day 54 Bootham. In the 19th century the house was largely used for domestic purposes, and in 1875 John Young, a 'Bird and animal preserver' lived there. In the late 19th century it was in the possession of Bowden Cattley, but in 1909 the property was vacant. Between the wars the it was owned by J H and G W Gostling who were doctors.

A cotton factory stood on Marygate in the 18th century within the bounds of which Trench 2 may have been excavated. It was converted into a workhouse in c.1768 which was run by a number of parishes. In 1837 the workhouse was declared insanitary and the courtyard was described as "a permanent reservoir of foul air" and there was "an open cess pool in the girl's yard". A new workhouse was built in 1847 and the old buildings were used as the Ragged School for both boys and girls. In 1876 the school became the Certified Industrial School for Boys which continued until 1921 when the building was taken over by the Manor School. St Mary's Lane was built in the late 19th century and in 1900 number 5 was occupied by a labourer.

Bibliography

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

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

Murray, H Nathaniel Whittock's Bird's-Eye View of the City of York in the 1850's. A Commentary (1988)

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

Willmot G F "St Mary's Abbey, York" YAYAS Annual Report (1952-3) p8.

Willmot G F "St Mary's Abbey" YAYAS Annual Report (1953-4) p 12.

Trade directories

3. *The Excavation*

All archaeological contexts recorded during excavation have been the subject of stratigraphic analysis in which they have been grouped on the basis of recognisable past activity. The trenches have been described separately with the context groups interpreted from the bottom up.

3.1 Area 1

Solid orange clay, almost certainly an undisturbed natural deposit, was encountered at the basal level of machining in the southern corner of the excavation. Further north, this gave way to disturbed natural. Only in the north-eastern area of the site was what appeared to be undisturbed natural otherwise reached; in this area it took the form of running sands, which at the end of the excavation remained largely masked by thin deposits of re- deposited natural. These re-deposited layers were probably washed downslope from south-east to north-west, as the level of the site dropped by c.0.60m. over c.4.0m. in this direction (Fig.2).

Group 1.1

Series 1.1.1 : 1014, 1013. Fig.2

1014, which largely consisted of lumps of orange sandy clay with a small proportion of grey-brown silty loam included in the matrix, extended over much of the south-eastern area of the site, but was only excavated over a small area in the eastern corner. 1013, a dark grey-brown compact clayey sand mottled with patches of dark red sandy clay, extended down much of the south- east/north-west slope.

These deposits almost certainly represent material washed downslope off the level ground in the eastern part of the site.

Series 1.1.2 : 1015 Fig.2

An irregular but roughly oval cut, measuring c.1.80m. x c.1.80m. within the excavation and with a maximum depth of c.0.70m.; the south-western and north- western edges of 1015 were substantially undercut. This was the result of material collapsing from the edges into the base of the feature, suggesting that it had remained open for some time. Unfortunately inundation by rising groundwater made it impossible to excavate this material, and the ?primary fill which it overlay.

Probably a pit, the exact purpose of this feature is uncertain.

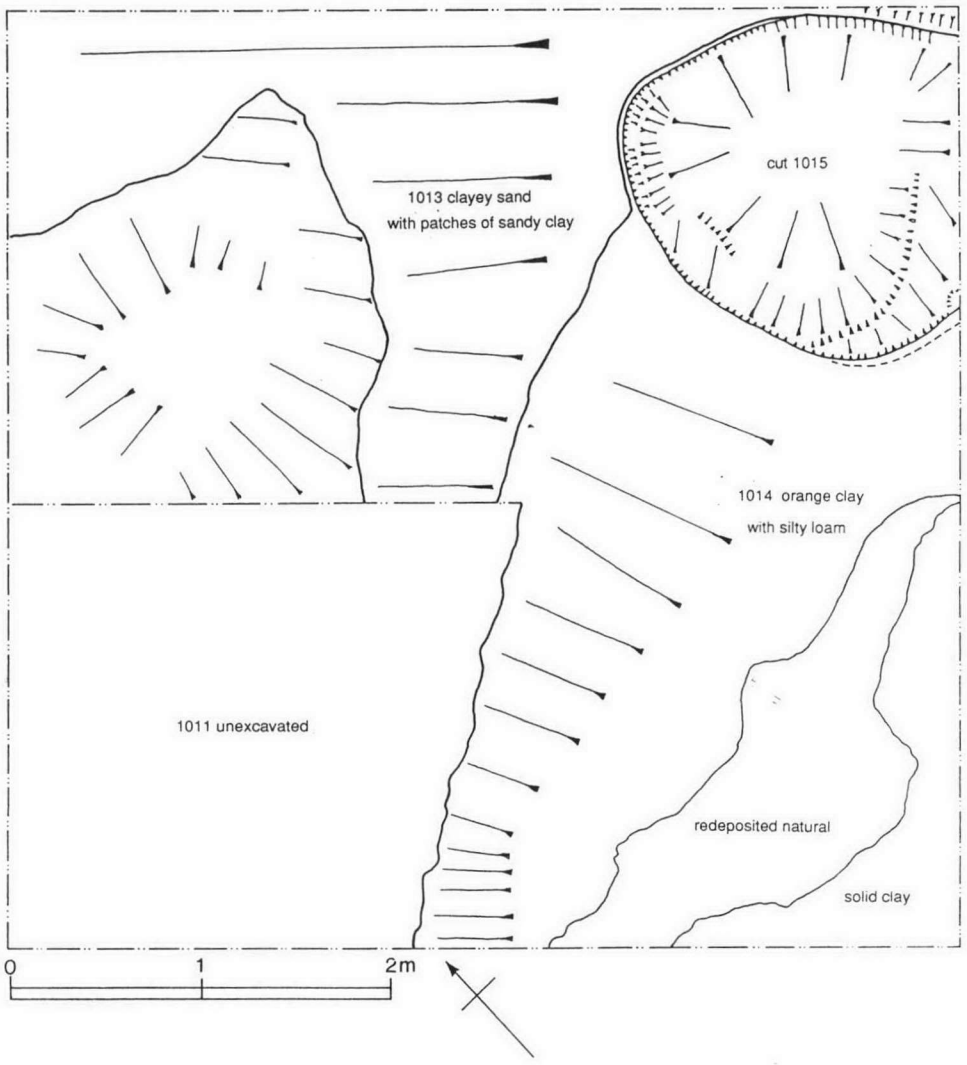

Figure 2 Area 1, Group 1

Discussion

The nature of the activity represented by Group 1 cannot be determined. It is probable that other features contemporary with 1.1.2 exist in the area covered by 1014, but it was impossible to attempt the lengthy task of defining and excavating these within the time available. It appears that, whatever activities Group 1 represents, they took place on or very close to the natural ground surface.

Group 1.2

Series 1.2.1 : 1012, 1011, 1010.

1012, a friable grey-brown silty clay loam containing cobbles and fragments of limestone, sandstone, brick and tile, was the backfill removed from cut 1015. It was probably deposited as part of 1011, an almost identical layer which extended over the whole of the north-western two-thirds of the site. 1010, a friable dark brown/grey sandy clay loam, was restricted to the eastern corner of the site, and was probably deposited to counteract subsidence into 1.1.2, which it overlay.

It is uncertain whether these deposits were the result of a single episode of dumping, or result partly from the accumulation of soil over a period of time. The suggested explanation for 1010 does imply that more than one episode of deposition was involved, and the possibility that cultivation was ongoing in between these events definitely exists.

Discussion

1.2.1 almost certainly involved the importation of a substantial amount of soil - it seems unlikely that these layers were the result of the attrition and re-working of the underlying natural. It also seems likely that their deposition largely levelled up a previously sloping ground surface, although whether this was its primary purpose, or a side-effect of cultivation, is uncertain.

Group 1.3

Series 1.3.1 : 1009, 1007. Fig.3

1009 was a small, roughly circular cut with a diameter of c.0.40m., c.0.30m. deep. A post-hole.

1007 was a cluster of cobbles and fragments of limestone, sandstone and tile. Revealed in the process of the removal of 1006 (see 1.4.1, below), it has been interpreted as packing material for a post, the cut for which was indistinguishable in that homogeneous deposit.

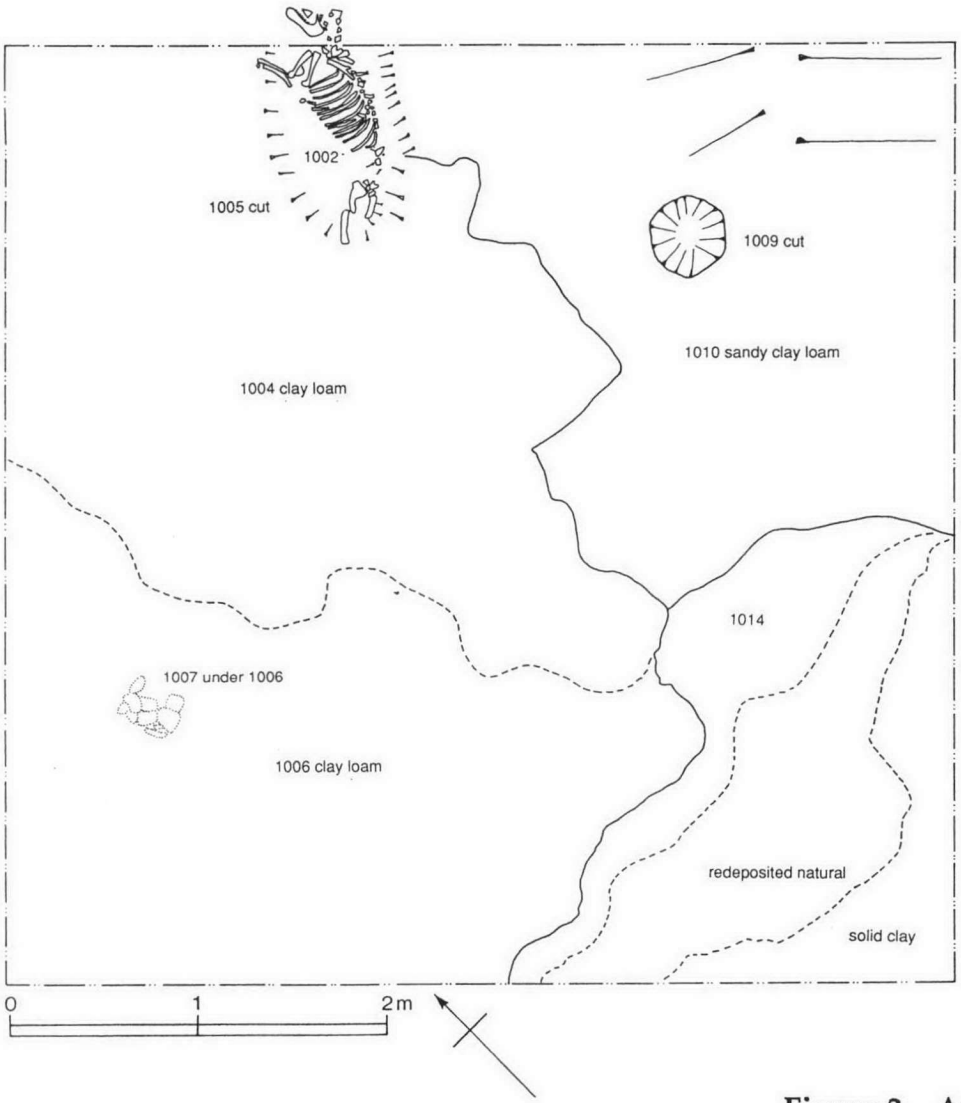

Figure 3 Area 1, Groups 3-5

Discussion

Together, these features are taken to represent components of an east-west aligned fence, stretching across the excavated area (Fig.3). It is possible that both were cut from a higher level but were not recognised there, and thus relate to later episodes. However, the alignment of this putative structure echoes that of the top of the slope in the natural ground surface (compare Figs 2 and 3), suggesting that this still exercised an influence on land organisation. By contrast, the one feature which is clearly significantly later is aligned on a totally different axis (see 1.5.1, below.

Group 1.4

Series 1.4.1 : 1004, 1006, 1008.

1004 and 1006 probably represent a single depositional event, both soils being slight variations on a theme of homogeneous dark brown/grey clay loam. Together they covered most of the north-western two-thirds of the site. 1008 was very similar, being the material excavated from the post-hole 1009.

Discussion

The comments made in the discussion of Group 2 concerning the origin of the deposits therein also apply to this group.

Group 1.5

Series 1.5.1 : 1005, 1003, 1002. Fig.3

1002 was the burial of a pig, located at the northern extremity of the site and aligned on a north-east/south-west axis, 1005 being the basal element (the only part recognised) of the cut in which it was buried, and 1002, a grey-brown silty loam, the backfill of that cut.

Discussion

The level from which this burial was cut was probably above that reached in the machine clearance of the site. Its alignment corresponds with that of a robbed wall trench, recognised during machining c.1.00m. north-west of the limit of controlled excavation at a level c.1.00m. above that of the burial itself. Group 5 may thus have been broadly contemporary with that feature. The alignment is close to that of existing land divisions in the vicinity.

Group 1.6

Series 1.6.1 : 1001.

A friable, dark grey slightly clayey silt containing flecks of charcoal and small fragments of bone, restricted to the northern extremity of the site.

Part of the basal horizon of the homogenous soil overburden removed by machine from the over the rest of the excavated area.

Area 1 : General Discussion

The Area 1 sequence can be summarised as follows:

Group 1	*Activity of undetermined character, including a shallow pit.*
Group 2	*Dumping/accumulation of material, probably resulting in the levelling of the sloping ground surface.*
Group 3	*Construction of east-west aligned fence.*
Group 4	*Further dumping/accumulation of soil.*
Group 5	*Burial of pig.*
Group 6	*Further dumping/accumulation of soil.*

Chronologically, the sequence can be divided into three. The ceramic assemblage from Group 1 has characteristics of the late 2nd century, that of Group 2 the later 3rd. Groups 4 to 6 contained significant, although still relatively small, numbers of medieval sherds. The character of the sequence suggests very long term stability of land use - possibly although not certainly including cultivation - from Group 2 onwards. Care should be taken with these dates, however, as the character of the sequence from Group 2 onwards indicates the possibility of extensive soil importation. They may not, therefore, be reliable indicators of the date of activity on the site. However, the broad comparability of the assemblage from Group 2 with that from Area 2 - an assemblage clearly in or close to its primary context - may point to a local origin and a close correlation between the date of the artefacts and the date of deposition.

It is impossible to be specific about the types of activity represented by the Area 1 deposits, but they appear to have been less intensive than those in evidence in Area 2, c.20.0m. to the east. Examination of Areas 1 and 2 together does provide useful information about the topography of the site; this is outlined in the general discussion towards the end of the report.

3.2 Area 2

3.2.1 Unexcavated but observed contexts

The earlest deposits encountered were the extensive charred layer and various overlying clays referred to as 2.B.1. These will be described and commented on below. However, the surface contours of these layers, allied to other evidence, betray the existence of an apparently substantial earlier feature, 2.A.1.

Group 2.A.1 Fig.4

In the north-western area of the excavation, the surface of 2.B.1 displays a shallow, saucered north-south profile. This is clearly visible in the north-west section. Moving south-east, the profile gradually increases in depth until, about 1m from the south-eastern edge of the excavation, it swings abruptly towards the north-east and decreases rapidly in depth (Fig 4).

There is no suggestion that the interface between 2.B.1 and the overlying contexts is itself a cut. Rather, the surface contours of 2.B.1 have been created by the subsidence of its constituent deposits into what must be a substantial underlying feature.

Whilst the true form of a feature masked in such a way cannot be determined with any confidence, its existence is confirmed by the recognition of its south-eastern edge . The removal of context 2044) revealed a series of variegated bands of soil, running parallel along a north-east/south-western axis, and laid against the solid orange clay natural to the south-east. These bands represent the truncated upper edges (see 2.2.1, below) of successive fills of the feature, 2.A.1, which is cut into the natural clay and is responsible for the surface contours of 2.B.1. A more detailed assessment of the likely form, possible function and potential significance of 2.A.1 will be presented in the discussion.

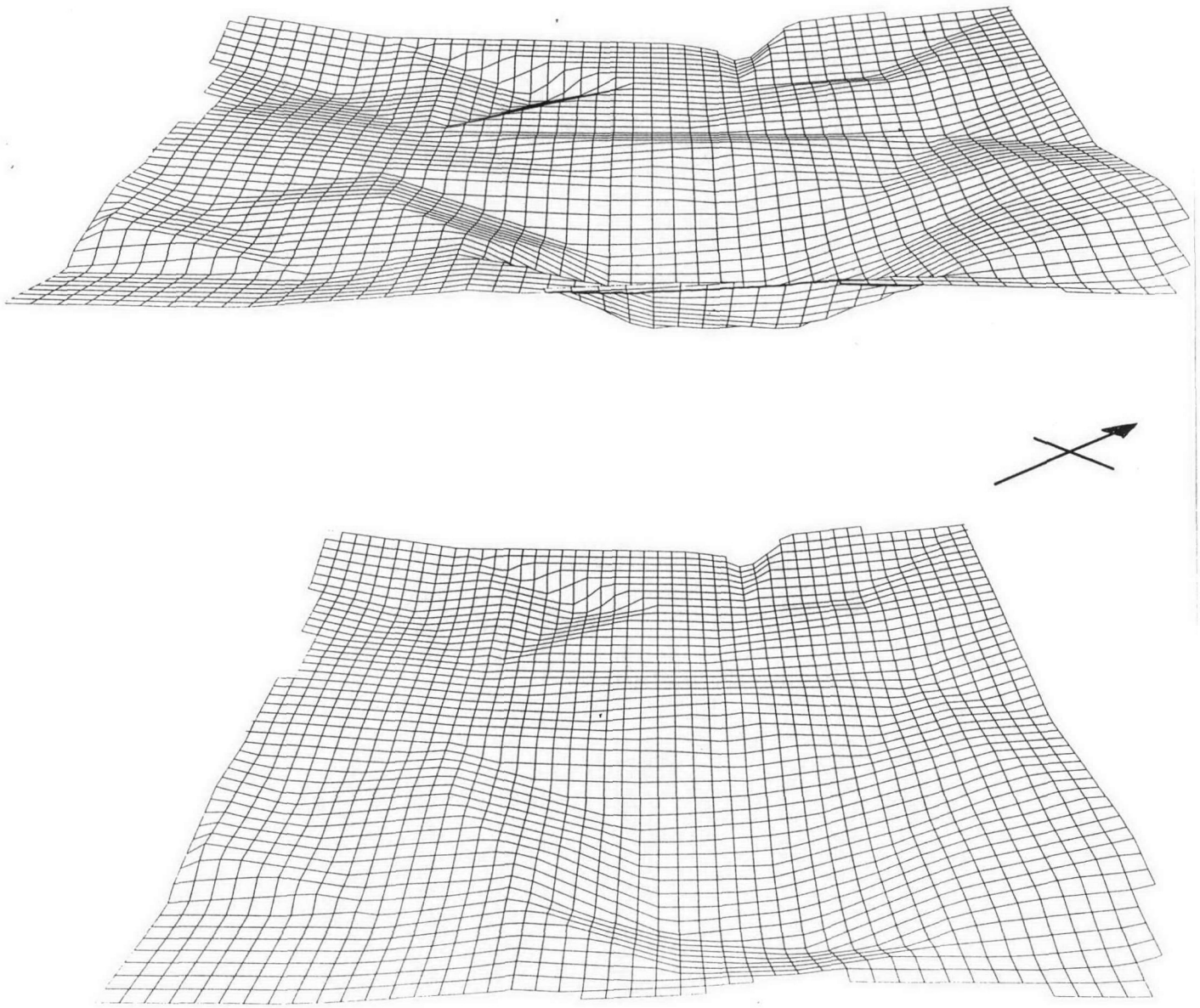

Figure 4 Perspective view of Area 2, surface 2Bi, viewed from the south-east showing shallow saucered depression (1 grid cell=10cm^2)

Group 2.B.1 Fig.5

As was mentioned in the introduction, 2.B.1 comprises an extensive layer of charred material, sealed over much of its extent by a series of clay and clay-derived deposits. The charred material was initially encountered in the base of the grave cut 2039 (2.4.1, below), when it was thought to represent a decayed coffin base confined within the cut. On excavation, however, it proved to extend under the edges of that feature, and was thus clearly significantly earlier. Where erroneously excavated from the base of 2039, the context was recorded, and sampled as, 2034 (environmental sample 7).

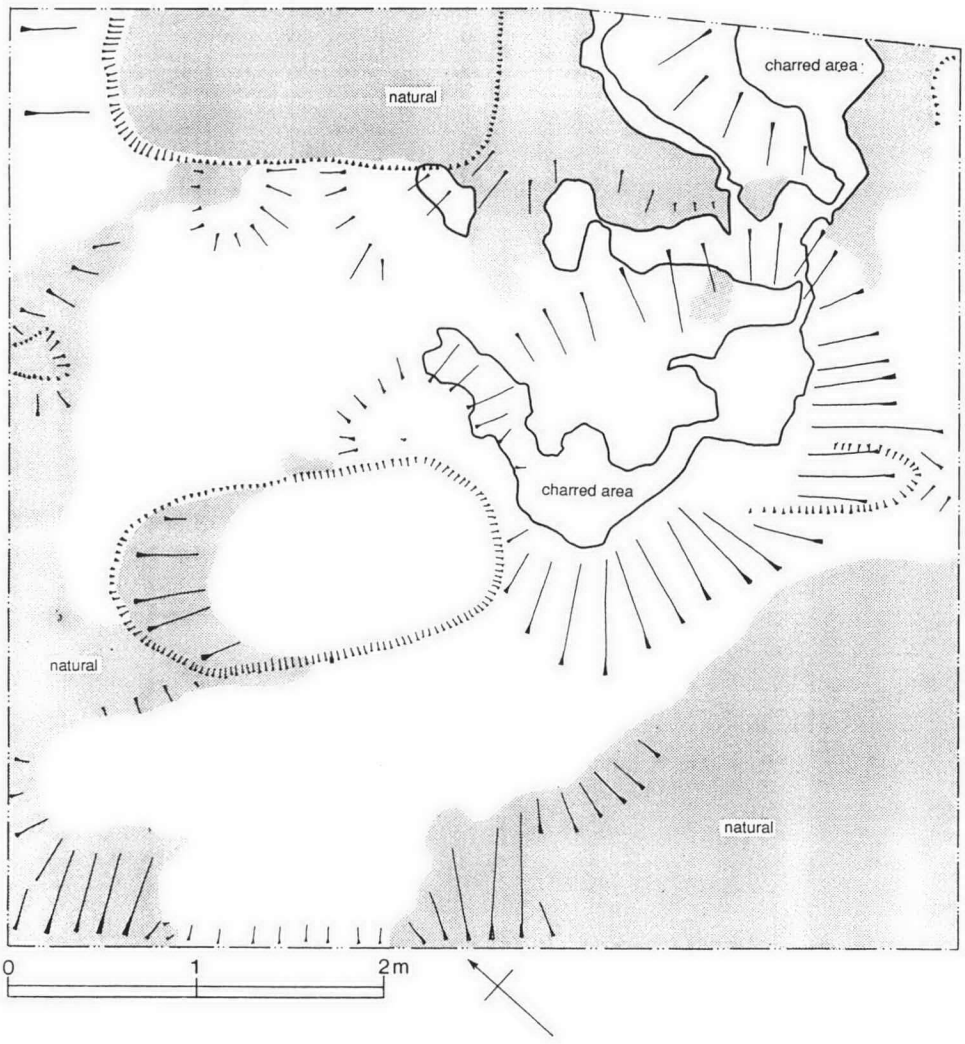

Figure 5 Area 2, Group B

At the completion of the evaluation, the charred deposit was exposed over much of the north-east quarter of the excavation (Fig.5), albeit patchily covered by orange re-deposited natural clay. It is clearly more extensive than this, however, extending under all but the north-westernmost edge of 2039, and remaining masked by sequences of clayey infill layers in the north-west and south-eastern areas of the excavation.

Interpretation of the charred layer, given its incomplete exposure and the fact that it has not been excavated, must be tentative. However, a number of its attributes - notably its extent and apparent evenness in depth both on the slopes and in the base of its surface profile - suggest more than simply infill. Where exposed, the surface of the layer revealed numbers of iron nails and some fragments of what appeared to be burnt daub. Additionally, where visible in the edges of 2039, the charred deposit was associated with substantial quantities of building material, notably tiles and flat fragments of sandstone, laid flat with their edges overlapping - in short, what looked like debris from a collapsed roof.

Together, these characteristics suggest that the charred element of 2.B.1 represents in situ detritus from a burnt building, deposited on a level surface but subsequently subsiding into the underlying 2.A.1. Confirmation of this is, however, only likely to follow further excavation.

3.2.2 Excavated contexts

Group 2.1

Series 2.1.1 : 2047, Fig.6

An extensive deposit of orange-brown silty clay loam 2047, varying somewhat across its extent in terms of ratio of silt to clay, and containing large fragments of pottery and tile and flat slabs of sandstone, as well as the near-ubiquitous cobbles and charcoal flecks. Varying between c.0.10m. and

near-ubiquitous cobbles and charcoal flecks. Varying between c.0.10m. and c.0.25m. in thickness, 2047 brought the ground surface near level across the whole of the excavated area, although subsidence was still very evident in the south-east central part of the site. The quantity of large sherds of pottery and intact animal bones indicate that it probably contained primary refuse, but its character, and the lack of reduction of its coarse components, suggest rapid rather than gradual accumulation.

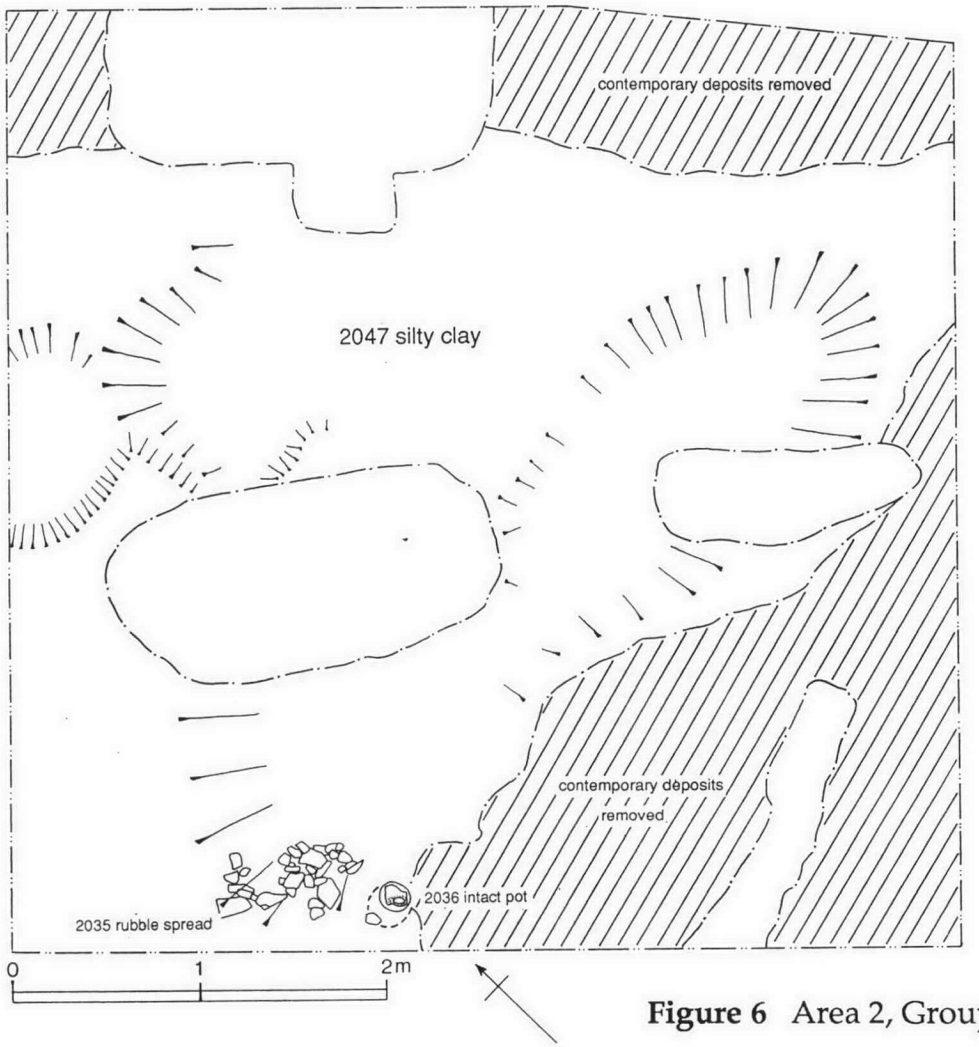

Figure 6 Area 2, Group 1

Series 2.1.2 : 2035, 2038, 2036, 2037. Fig.6

2035, a roughly linear north-west/south-east aligned concentration of cobbles and fragments of limestone, sandstone, pottery and tile, was located

c.0.30m. wide, its south-eastern end almost abutted 2036, a near complete Dales-type-ware vessel set upright in a small pit (2038) packed with soil (2037).

The purpose of this feature is unclear. It seems too flimsy to have formed part of a freestanding structure, and yet was not, as excavated, found to be in a trench or cut of any kind. It has been placed in Group 1 because there is an indication that it was disturbed during the truncation episode in Group 2 (2.2.1, below). The south-eastern end of 2.1.2 stops abruptly against the natural clay in the southern corner of the excavation, a deposit which clearly has a truncated surface (2.2.1 again). It therefore seems likely that 2.1.2 originally continued further to the south-east. It may also have continued to the north-west, as the surface of the underlying deposit 2047 rises up in this direction, exposing any overlying layer or structure to truncation. The survival of 2.1.2 at all is probably the result of localised slumping into 2.A.1.

The favoured interpretation of 2.1.2 is that it represents either the packing of, or material accumulating against, a fence or similar feature, surviving only where protected from subsequent truncation through having subsided. No other clear traces of such a structure were recognised, but this may be accounted for by such truncation. The function of the intact vessel 2036 in such a context is unclear.

Discussion

Group 2.1 sees the infilling (2.1.1) of a depression caused by the slumping of 2.B.1 deposits into the underlying feature 2.A.1. Probably deposited rapidly, and apparently containing large quantities of primary refuse, the material appears to have been dumped simply in order to level the ground surface. The large quantity of material contained within the layer - building debris such as window glass, fragments of painted plaster, stone and tile, as well as abundant pottery and animal bone - suggests the former and perhaps

continuing existence nearby of a substantial building (but see general discussion, below). The presence of such material in a levelling deposit may, in turn, indicate a major change in land use in the vicinity. The putative fence-line 2.1.2 possibly indicates the laying out of new land divisions associated with such changes. Its alignment, unlike that of the later boundary 2.3.1 (below), does not correspond with that apparently established by 2.A.1, and in fact cuts across that feature. This may indicate that, for a while at least, the level ground surface created by the deposition of 2.1.1 was maintained, and that initially the area was not unusable, fenced off waste ground, as subsequently appears to have been the case.

Group 2.2

Series 2.2.1 : 2053. Fig.6

This number, attributed in post-excavation, denotes the truncation of deposits in the southern corner of the excavation. This was evidenced by the horizontal slice clearly cut through the earlier fills of 2.A.1, exposing their upper edges as a series of east/west aligned parallel bands (see discussion of 2.A.1).

Although revealed following the removal of what was clearly trampled material (2044 : see 2.2.4, below), the degree to which the earlier fills had been exposed suggested that the truncation was not simply the result of gradual erosion, but initially involved a deliberate and possibly quite extensive levelling operation.

Series 2.2.2 : 2043, 2045. Fig.7

Two deposits with similar characteristics, probably representing material derived from the truncation episode 2.2.1. 2043 comprised mainly pinkish-orange slightly sandy clay with patches of dark grey-brown sandy silt, and contained occasional cobbles and fragments of limestone, sandstone and tile. Similarly, 2045 contained a component of orange clay, and was mixed with dark grey-brown silty clay, containing flecks of brick, charcoal and mortar as well as a few cobbles and fragments of stone.

Both layers seem to have been derived from the truncation of the surface of the orange clay natural itself, the matrix of the redeposited material incorporating other elements in the process of reworking. 2.2.2 appears to be the direct result of 2.2.1.

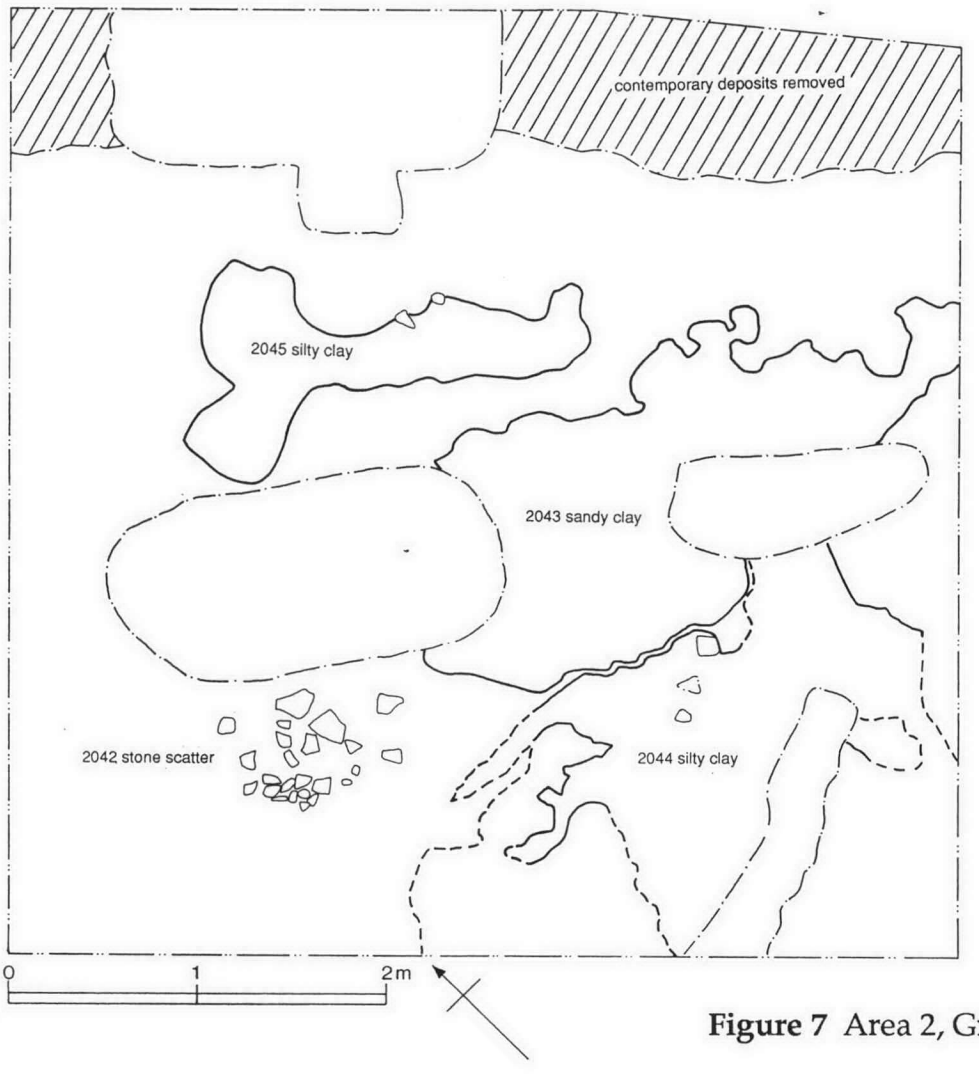

Figure 7 Area 2, Group 2

Series 2.2.3 : 2042. Fig.7

A concentration of (sometimes large) fragments of limestone, sandstone, brick, tile and mortar with occasional cobbles, 2042 was located immediately to the north of 2.1.2. The arguments for that feature originally having been of greater extent, and having been reduced by the truncation episode 2.3.1, have been rehearsed in the discussion of 2.1.2 2.2.3 represents debris from 2.1.2 caused by truncation 2.2.1.

Series 2.2.4 : 2044. Fig.7

A deposit of dark greyish-brown extremely compact silty clay loam, varying in depth between c.1 and 5 cms, and containing frequent flecks of charcoal and tile, as well as some cobbles, fragments of limestone and sandstone and lumps of pinkish clay. A number of artefacts were recovered from the deposit. Additionally, the surface of the natural orange clay underlying 2044 was embedded with pebbles, cobbles and fragments of limestone, sandstone and tile.

The formation of this layer was almost certainly the result of material being trodden onto and into the recently truncated surface, presumably indicating intensive traffic or activity, even if only for a short time. The coarse components embedded in the top of the natural clay indicate that it was an exposed and used surface.

Discussion

The truncation episode 2.2.1 clearly removed the previously existing boundary feature 2.1.2 (witness 2.2.3, and see discussion in 2.1.2, above), and must have reduced the ground level in the southern corner of the site. This reduction is unlikely to have been drastic, given the relatively small amount of material represented by 2.2.2. Although activity is evidenced in the southern part of the excavated area (2.2.4), its character is undetermined. The full extent of both truncation (2.2.1) and trample (2.2.4) is uncertain; both episodes may have impinged on 2047 (2.1.1) but not been recognisable there as they were where they affected the solid clay natural. The suggested truncation of 2035 (2.1.2) at its north-western extremity (Fig.6) hints that 2.2.1 covered a greater area than that over which it was clearly recognised, and the presence of cross-joining fragments from contexts 2044 and 2047 may indicate that the surface of 2047 was subjected to the same trampling clearly indicated by 2.2.4.

Group 2.3

Series 2.3.1 : 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052. Fig.8

These context numbers were attributed in post-excavation, and equate with (respectively) 2033, 2027, 2011 and 2006 (see below, 2.4.2 and 2.6.1). Their creation is due to the fact that 2033 etc. have been interpreted as the holes left when shrubs, bushes or small trees were removed from the ground - separate stratigraphic entities are required to denote their actual existence, and their point of origin within the stratigraphic sequence . The reason for this interpretation is the irregularity of the features, the similarity and homogeneity of their fills, and the fact that the features overlap and, together, form a north-west/south-east aligned row. These characteristics suggest the existence of a hedge.

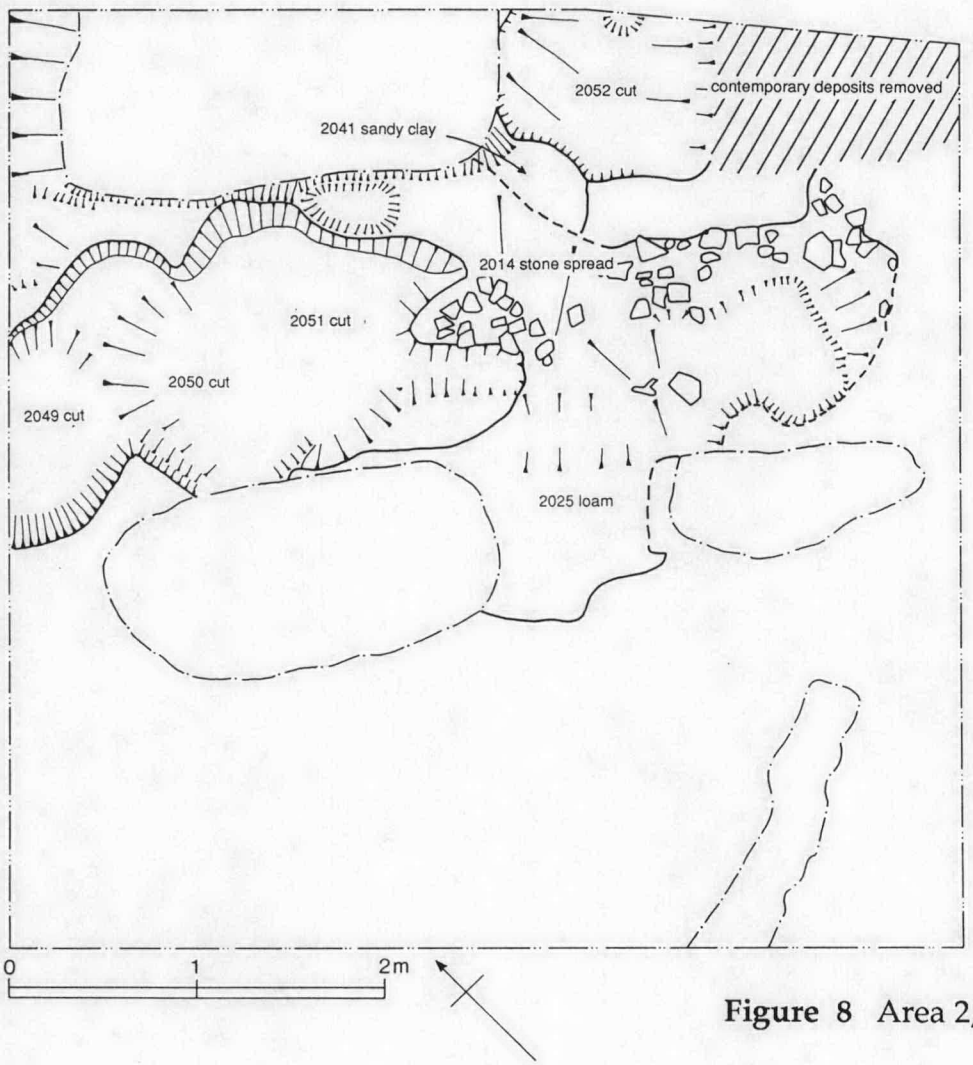

Figure 8 Area 2, Group 3

Series 2.3.2 : 2046, 2041. Fig 8

Overlying part of the northern extremity of 2047 was 2046, a deposit of friable grey-brown sandy silt of restricted extent, containing a few pebbles and fragments of limestone, sandstone and tile. It is unclear how the deposit was formed. It has been grouped with 2041 due to the fact that its eastern limit is almost coterminous with that of 2041. Since 2046 is located in a space between 2051 and 2052 - a gap in the hedge? (2.3.1, above) - it may be that 2046 is material which accumulated in such an environment before being covered by 2041.

2041 itself, a dark grey-brown friable sandy clay silt containing occasional fragments of pottery, bone and tile and flecks of charcoal, seems to be a cultivation horizon. The well-sorted matrix and small size of its coarse components (the latter contrasting with the earlier, 2.1, and later, 2.6 deposits) suggest this. Additionally, a slight variation within the deposit from north-east to south-west could be related to differences in the underlying soil matrices, 2047 and 2046 respectively. This suggests that one at least of the processes responsible for the creation of 2041 was the re- working of underlying deposits, arguing for ploughing or some similar repeated and probably cultivation related disturbance.

Series 2.3.3 : 2025, 2014. Fig.8

2025, a predominantly orange-brown clayey loam incorporating patches of orange-brown clay and brownish silt, as well as cobbles and pebbles and occasional flecks and fragments of charcoal, was located in the base and on the northern side of the depression caused by the underlying 2.A.1, in the east/central area of the site. Its description, similar to 2047 (see 2.1.1, above), but containing what seem to be components of 2.2.2, suggests material accumulating in the depression by having been washed off the adjacent slopes.

2014 was a linear concentration of fragments of brick, tile, limestone and sandstone, also incorporating lumps of mortar and fragments of bone, including the near-intact skull of a large mammal. Aligned approximately north- east/south-west, it was c.2.2 metres in length. Although superficially suggesting the existence of a flimsy structure, the more likely, and favoured, explanation is that it is simply detritus accumulating against the southern edge of the hedgeline 2.3.1, material put (or thrown) there after being removed from the areas of more intensive activity to north and south. This interpretation is supported by the fact that the curious linear extension to cut 2051 (interpreted as the void left by the removal of a substantial root; see below, 2.6.1), together with the southern edge of the main cut, enclosed the south-western end of 2014 (Fig.8), as if the latter had accumulated in the splay of two roots.

2.3.3 represents the accumulation of material in the base of the depression above 2.A.1 and against the southern edge of the hedgeline 2.2.1. As such it probably indicates the passage of a considerable period of time during which the central area of the site remained marginal land.

Discussion

Group 3 seems to indicate an area of ploughed, or at least cultivated land, bounded on its southern side by a hedge. The line of the hedge is of interest, as it is almost parallel to the southern edge of 2.A.1. (Figs 5, 8). This is unlikely to be coincidental, and it seems probable that 2.3.1 reflects the line of the underlying northern edge of 2.A.1. Two possible reasons for the cultivation soil 2.3.2 being delimited by a hedge in such a position suggest themselves; that the ground south-east of that line (and thus within the limits of 2.A.1) was uncultivable due to waterlogging, or its uneven topography, or both, or that, in spite of the feature having been backfilled, it retained its putative former significance as a boundary. Both could, of course, be the case. The accumulation of material, through both weathering and discard, represented by 2.3.3, accords well with this suggestion of marginal ground.

The overall picture, then, is one of ground subsidence into a large earlier feature, resulting in the unusability of the area thus affected (2.3.3). North of this zone the ground was probably cultivated (2.3.2), the southern limit of cultivation being marked by a hedgerow (2.3.1), which probably echoed the line of the underlying feature 2.A.1. To the south no definitely contemporary strata were recognised, although it is entirely possible that the activities responsible for the formation of 2.2.4 (above) continued into this phase.

Group 2.4

Series 2.4.1 :2039, 2030, 2024. Fig.9

Skeleton 2030, a south-east/north-west aligned supine adult inhumation with its head to the north-west, was found in cut 2039, a rectilinear, steep-sided and flattish-based cut with somewhat rounded ends. The feature was filled with 2024, a grey-brown friable clayey silt containing fragments of sandstone, limestone, brick, tile, charcoal and shell. The burial was located in the central area of the excavation.

The positioning of the skeleton somewhat obliquely to the line of the cut (Fig.9), and the nails and iron objects found along the length of the body, indicate that it was coffined. The rib cage and vertebrae had been grossly disturbed, almost certainly due to an ingress of groundwater whilst the coffin, and the airspace it would have enclosed, remained intact. The central part of the body - lower vertebrae and ribs, pelvis and femurs - formed the lowest part of the burial, which had assumed a slightly concave position. Probably a result of differential subsidence of the underlying deposits, this fact is of significance in the discussion of burial 2003 (2.6.3, below)

Whether 2.4.1 was buried before 2.4.3, as its position in the phasing implies, is debatable. The argument in favour rests on the evidence of later activity which suggests that the focus, or at least core area of the cemetery lies to the south rather than to the north (see 2.6.3, below). Further support is lent if the interpretation of 2021 and the close association of 2.4.2 and 2.4.3 are accepted (2.4.2, below).

Series 2.4.2 : 2033, 2028, 2027, 2022, 2021. Fig.9

Two overlapping features. 2033, an oval-shaped cut with steep sides sloping to a flat base, was filled with 2028, a grey-brown slightly sandy silt with lenses of orange sand, containing fragments of bone and tile and flecks of charcoal. The eastern edge of this feature was truncated by 2027, a shallow, sub-circular flat-based cut filled with 2022, a grey-brown friable clay silt with occasional lenses of charcoal and patches of orange clay.

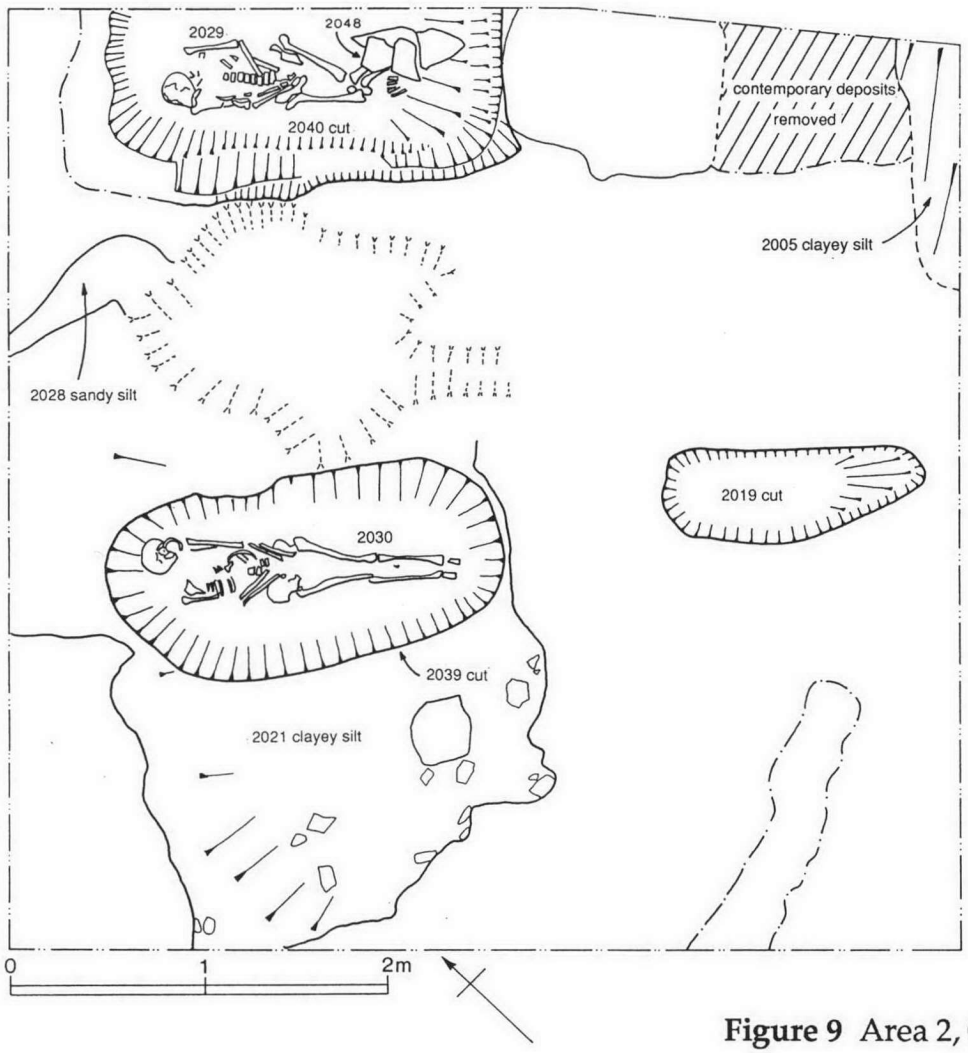

Figure 9 Area 2, Group 4

The features 2033 and 2027 have already been introduced, as 2049 and 2050 respectively, in 2.3.1 (above). There they are interpreted as bush or small tree holes, interpolated into the sequence at the point at which they appear to

have an effect on other strata (i.e. by delimiting the cultivation horizon 2041 [2.3.2]), but interpreted in this way on the basis of the characteristics of their removal. The very slight differences in the backfills of the features, the fact that one impinged on the other, and the difficulty in both cases of distinguishing edge from fill suggest the kind of irregular, amorphous hole which would result from the uprooting of a bush or small tree.

2006, a very shallow, squarish cut with a flat base which featured a pointed depression (a root hole?) in its centre. Filled with 2005, a grey friable clayey silt containing fragments of limestone, sandstone, brick, tile, charcoal and shell. This separate feature has been attributed to 2.4.2 due to its similarity to 2033 and 2027, and the fact that, together with 2011 (see 2.6.1, below), the features form an east-west aligned row (see 2.3.1, above : Fig.8).

Covering 2022, and extending over a considerable area in the north-western half of the excavation, 2021 was a dark grey-brown clayey silt containing substantial quantities of pottery and bone, as well as fragments of limestone, sandstone, brick and tile.

These features and layers have been interpreted as indicating the removal of bushes or small trees from the hedge 2.2.1, with 2021 being the surplus soil from such an operation spread around the vicinity. Although the holes seem rather small to have produced the volume of soil represented by 2021, later truncation of the site (see below) has probably reduced the depth of 2006 ; in addition, soil which would have accumulated against 2.3.1 would have had to have been removed in order to uproot the vegetation, and this may also help to account for the bulk of 2021.

2.4.2 has been placed between the burials 2030 and 2029 in the sequence because the position of 2029, to the north of 2.3.1 but aligned exactly with 2030, suggests that 2.3.1 had ceased to function as a boundary, a state of affairs which provides a context for its removal (although note that one component, 2051, seems to have remained in situ at this stage : see 2.6.1, below).

It is therefore argued that 2.3.1 was removed as an intentional preliminary to the burial of 2029 (2.4.3). If the interpretation of 2021 as upcast from the uprooting of 2.3.1 holds, 2.4.2 must certainly post-date 2.4.1, as that layer seals the grave fill 2024.

Series 2.4.3 : 2040, 2029, 2032, 2031, 2048, 2023, 2020. Fig.9

Skeleton 2029, a north-west/south-east aligned supine adult inhumation, its head to the north-west and slightly flexed at the knees, was found in cut 2040, a steep-sided, flat-based and square-ended cut with slightly rounded corners. The ribcage and upper vertebrae had been severely disturbed by groundwater action, almost certainly within a coffin (see below), and the feet had been similarly displaced.

The backfill sequence of the grave was complex. Three overlapping flat stone slabs (2048), one of limestone and two of sandstone, rested on the lower legs of 2029. These also lay on the interface (2032, originally thought to be the grave cut itself) between the fills 2032 and 2020. The slight differences in the colour and texture of these deposits which caused them to be separated (slightly greyish-brown friable/compact clayey silt against mid/dark grey slightly sandy silt loam respectively) can be accounted for by the collapse of a coffin and the subsidence of part of the backfill into the void thus created. The coarse components contained in both deposits were very similar, fragments of limestone, sandstone and animal bone and sherds of pottery predominating. There seems little doubt that they were originally the same deposit, modified by post-depositional slumping and possibly soil chemistry. The intermediate layer 2023, separating the skeleton from the bulk fill 2020, and characterised by its siltiness and the occurrence of lenses of distinctive orange silt and re-deposited orange clay natural, may likewise have formed during the process of coffin decay. Apart from the backfill sequence of 2.4.3, the existence of a coffin is independently testified by the distribution of nails around the skeleton.

The location of 2.4.3, north of the former line of 2.3.1, appears to indicate the expansion of a burial ground beyond what had been its boundary (see 2.4.2, above). Within 2.4.3 itself, the significance of 2048, the overlapping stone slabs covering the lower legs of skeleton 2029, is uncertain. There is no indication that they originally covered more of the body, and cannot therefore be convincingly paralleled with the slab- and tile-graves known from Roman contexts. The slightly flexed position of 2029 itself may offer a clue; it is possible that the coffin (or perhaps simply wooden box) in which the body was interred was too small for the corpse, and/or had a broken lid, and that the covering of the lower legs in this way was an attempt to rectify this shortcoming. Whether or not, it is difficult to assign any great symbolic or functional purpose to this rather enigmatic feature.

Series 2.4.4 : 2019, 2016. Fig.9

2019, a linear, south-east/north-west aligned cut, measured c.1.40m.x c.0.50m., and was located in the south-east/central area of the site. The base and top edges of the feature sloped steeply downwards from south-east to north-west. Its fill, 2016, consisted of slightly sandy friable grey silt containing cobbles, fragments of limestone and sandstone and lumps of orange brown clay.

The most striking aspect of this feature is the steep angle of incline of its base and top edges. This, it is argued, is again the result of the subsidence of deposits into 2.A.1. Originally, the base of the feature would have been near horizontal. Viewed in this way, the feature is actually very shallow - a maximum of c.0.28m. in depth.

The position of 2019 relative to the grave cut 2039 (2.4.1, above), and its common alignment with both that feature and 2.4.3, suggest that it was a grave. Such an interpretation must, however, account for the absence of a body. If the argument concerning the subsidence of 2019 is accepted, its

original level must have been comparable to that of its south-eastern extremity, i.e. c.11.73m.AOD. This is c.0.20m. below the level of the burial 2002, which was almost certainly truncated by some subsequent episode (2.6.3, below). 2019 is thus seen as the basal element of a grave cut, the upper horizons of which - including the burial itelf - were truncated, prior to the remainder of the cut slumping to the level at which it was excavated. In spite of the absence of a body, 2019 should therefore be seen as a component of the Group 4 cemetery, along with 2.4.1 and 2.4.3.

Series 2.4.5 : 2005. Fig.9

A friable grey clayey silt containing fragments of limestone, sandstone, brick and tile, covering a very restricted area in the eastern corner of the excavation.

Interpreted as upcast from the excavation of 2.4.4, the inferred subsequent truncation episode (see below) leaves open the possibility that it is in fact the remnant of a far more extensive cemetery soil.

Discussion

Group 4 sees the advent of burial within the area excavated (2.4.1), and the continuation of such activity (2.4.3 - 2.4.5) following the removal of most of the hedgerow 2.3.1 (2.4.2). It is impossible to determine, from an excavation of this size, whether these inhumations represent a small part of a large cemetery, or whether they belong to a relatively small - family? - burial plot. However, the fact that the burials are of low density, are well spaced, and appear to be deposited following specific adaptations to the immediate environment - such as the removal of the hedge - perhaps suggests burial in a garden or similar environment, rather than in a large, purpose-designated cemetery.

The time-lag between Groups 3 and 4 is of uncertain duration - i.e. the date of the inhumations is not known. Although all of the grave fills produced pottery of uniformly third century date, it is all but certain that the great bulk

of this ultimately derived from 2047 (2.1.1). It remains a possibility, therefore, that Group 4 is significantly later than the third century. However, the apparent retention of a Group 3 feature (2051, 2.3.1) into Group 4, and the deliberate removal (2.4.2) of the rest of 2.3.1 as a prelude to 2.4.3 implies that the episodes recognised ran more or less continuously one into the other.

Group 2.5

Series 2.5.1 : 2013. Fig.10

A shallow (c.0.20m. deep), squarish cut with rounded corners, measuring c.0.80m. x 0.70m., with steep/vertical sides breaking sharply to a flat base.

Interpreted as some kind of post setting, the regularity of this feature suggests the removal of substantial (and regularly-shaped) stones forming packing for a post. The shallowness of the feature may in part be the result of subsequent truncation (see below).

Series 2.5.2 : 2018. Fig.10

A shallow (c.0.15m. deep), squareish cut with rounded corners, measuring c.0.80m.x 0.80m., with vertical sides breaking sharply to a sloping, irregular base. The north-western edge of this feature was non-existent, and may reflect truncation prior to subsidence (see below, and 2.4.4 above).

The similarities in the dimensions and shape of this feature to 2.5.1 suggest that it performed the same function, probably as part of a single structure.

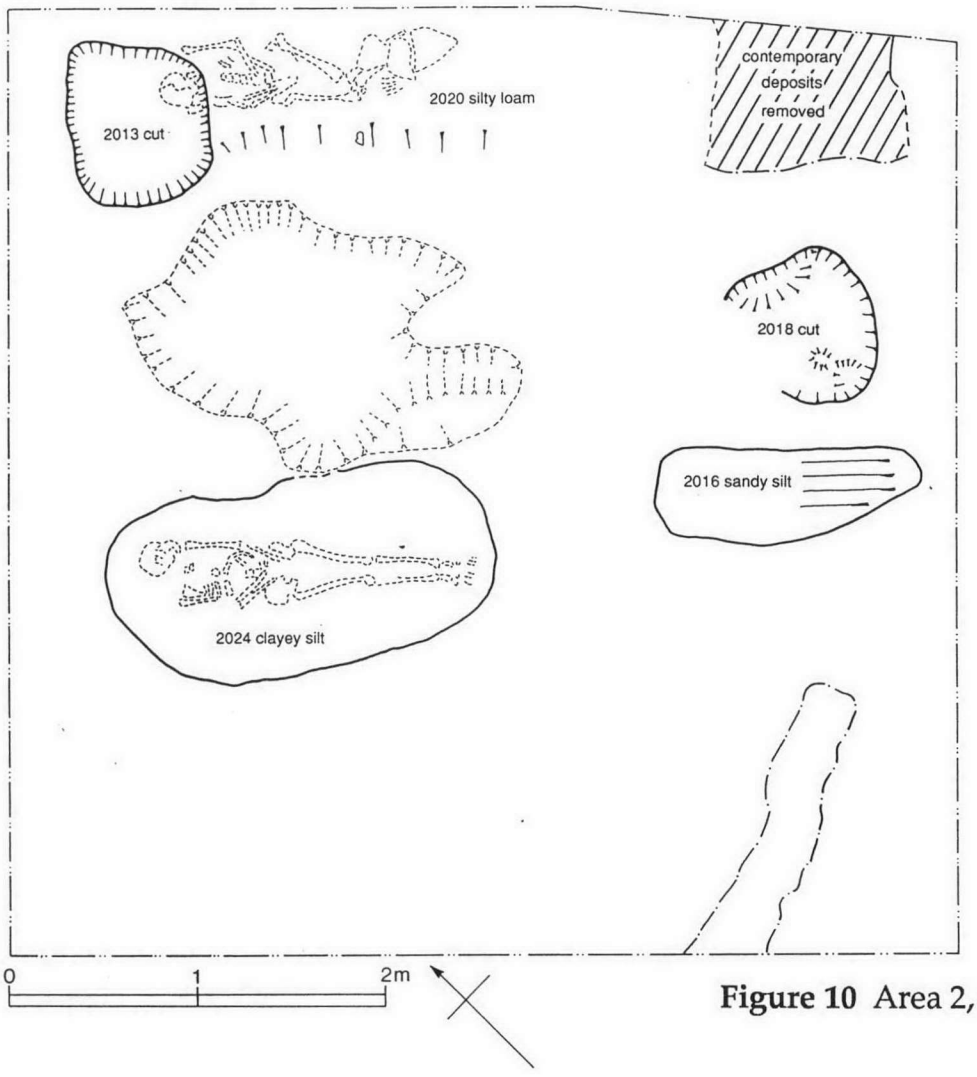

Figure 10 Area 2, Group 5

A straight line joining 2.5.1 and 2.5.2 aligns approximately north-north-west/south-south-east, and runs immediately adjacent to the north-eastern edge of 2051 (2.3.1, above). It is suggested that the Group 5 features formed part of a boundary structure which incorporated 2051, interpreted (ibid) as the site of a bush or small tree. This structure cuts across the north-western end of the burial 2.4.3 (Fig.10). Although determining what is "inside" and "outside" a boundary is impossible per se in a context such as this, assuming such a division to be appropriate (as it arguably is in the case of a cemetery), the evidence of Group 6 (below) suggests that at this point 2.4.3 was excluded from the burial area.

The alignment of 2.5.1 is radically different from that of the hedgerow 2.3.1 (see Fig.8). This would seem to indicate the reorganisation of land division, although whether this was extensive or simply represents a very localised adaptation cannot be determined.

Group 2.6

Series 2.6.1 : 2012, 2011, 2026, 2015, 2003. Fig.11

2012, a friable mid-grey silt containing cobbles and fragments of pot and bone, filled 2013 (2.5.1, above), indicating the removal of that feature. This was almost certainly carried out as an immediate preliminary to the excavation of 2011.

2011, an extremely irregular cut (see Fig.11), is interpreted as representing the removal of a bush or small tree (represented by 2051), a survival of the hedgerow 2.3.1. The lower fills of this feature were 2026, a friable dark grey silty clay incorporating bands of orange sand, and 2015, a friable grey clayey silt with coarse components including fragments of limestone, sandstone, brick, tile and mortar. These layers may consist of material trodden into the base of the cut in the course of the removal of 2051, or soil washed into the open feature following that removal.

2003, an extensive layer of friable/compact, mid-light grey brown clayey silt loam incorporating fragments of tile and limestone and large sherds of pottery, probably derives from the uprooting of 2051, and is likely to consist largely of material redeposited from 2047 (2.1.1, above), spread over the adjacent ground surface.

Series 2.6.2 : 2009. Fig.11

A square, vertical-sided and flat-based cut, measuring c.0.60m.x c.0.40m. x c.0.35m. deep, cut into 2003.

Almost certainly a post-hole, this feature seems to replace both 2013 (2.5.1) and 2051 (2.3.1) in forming part of the boundary structure established in

Group 5. It is assumed, therefore, that 2018 (2.5.2) was retained as part of that boundary, which thus continues into Group 6 (compare Figs 10 and 11).

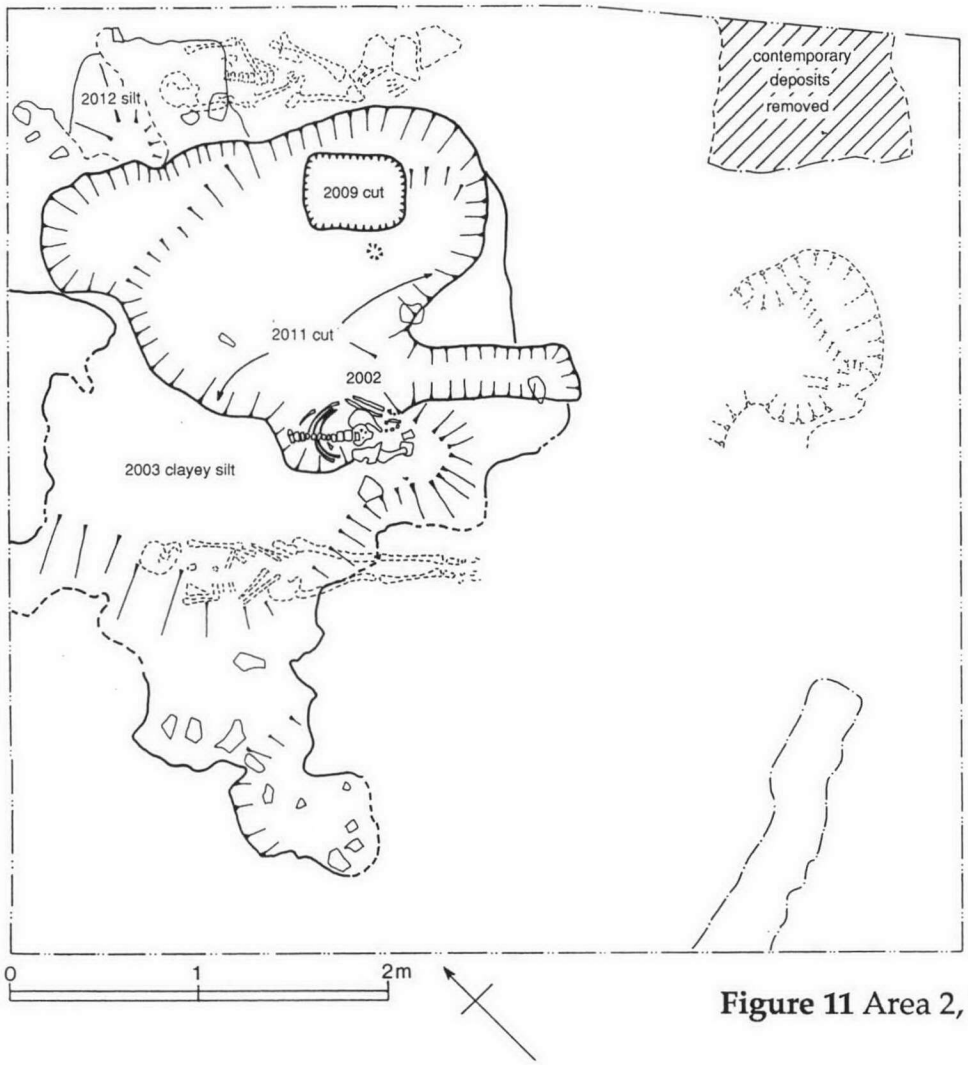

Figure 11 Area 2, Group 6

Series 2.6.3 : 2002. Fig.11

A north-west/south-east aligned inhumation, of which only the torso, pelvis and upper parts of the femurs survived, due to subsequent truncation. Stratigraphically above 2003, and located directly above the south-western extremity of 2011, the burial was clearly deposited after the removal of the bush/tree 2051. This once again (see 2.4.2) points to the deliberate (and necessary) modification of the existing environment to accommodate a burial, in this case within the area defined by the re-established (2.6.2) Group

5 boundary. The removal of its skull and lower legs points to a subsequent episode of horizontal truncation (see below), the torso surviving due to its having subsided to a greater degree than the extremities of the body (see 2.4.1, above).

Discussion

It appears that the removal of the bush/tree represented by 2.6.1 was carried out specifically to accommodate the burial 2.6.3 within the area defined by the boundary 2.5.1/2, re-established by the insertion of the post represented by 2.6.2. This indication of burials having to be fitted into a specific space within an existing landscape which thus requires modification echoes 2.4.3, and seems to lend support to the idea of a burial plot as opposed to a more extensive cemetery.

Group 2.7

Series 2.7.1 : 2017.

A deposit of friable light grey silt, incorporating cobbles and occasional lumps of bright orange clay, backfilling 2018 (2.5.2)

The retention of 2.5.2 into Group 6 has been argued for above (2.6.2), and the removal of this structure is the last identifiable activity in the Area 2 sequence.

Series 2.7.2 : 2010, 2008, 2007

2010, a grey slightly sandy silt, 2008, a light brown/grey silt incorporating a few tile fragments, and 2007, a friable light brown silt also containing tile fragments were successive fills of the post-hole 2009 (2.6.2).

Having seemingly formed part of a single structure with 2.5.2, the dismantling of 2.6.2 is assumed to have been contemporary with that of 2.5.2.

Discussion

The presence of a fragment of medieval tile in the uppermost fill (2007) of the 2.7.2 sequence may hint at the effects of truncation discussed below.

Final truncation episode?

Several of the later features in the sequence suggest an episode of truncation post-dating all of the stratigraphically excavated deposits. The clearest indication of this is provided by the state of the burial 2002 (2.6.3). The survival of only the middle section (torso, pelvis and upper femurs) of this inhumation has been explained in terms of it having had an original body position similar to that of 2030; i.e. slightly concave in profile (2.4.1, 2.6.3, above). Truncation thus appears to have removed the skull and legs - and, indeed, to have shaved off the upper surface of the spinal column - but to have stopped just short of the slightly lower central section of the body.

2.6.3 thus provides the clearest indication of the truncation of deposits at the end of the excavated sequence. The form of other late features (2.4.2 [2019] : 2.4.4 : 2.5.2) has also been explained in terms of such an episode. It is uncertain whether truncation was the result of cumulative attrition, caused by ploughing or some other cultivation-related activity, or of a single levelling operation.

Area 2 : General Discussion.

The Area 2 sequence can be summarised as follows;

Group A	*(Unexcavated) Large feature, form uncertain but could be linear on the evidence of its southern edge.*
Group B	*(Unexcavated) Charred deposit, possible in situ burnt remains of a building.*
Group 1	*Infill of depression caused by subsidence into A ; construction of NW/SE aligned ?fence.*
Group 2	*Truncation of deposits in southern area of excavation.*
Group 3	*Establishment of hedgeline ; ?cultivation to the north of this feature ; accumulation of material in depression above A.*
Group 4	*Use of area as cemetery, including removal of bulk of Group 3 hedgeline.*
Group 5	*Construction of NNW/SSE aligned fence, incorporating surviving component of Group 3 hedgeline, in northern area of site.*
Group 6	*Removal of surviving component of Group 3 hedgeline ; re-establishment of Group 5 fence ; continuation of burial.*
Group 7	*Dismantling of Group 5/6 fence.*

TRUNCATION(?)

Groups A and B, whilst unexcavated, are potentially of exceptional interest. The very straight, east-west aligned southern edge of A hints at the feature being linear, and does not correspond to any known Roman orientations in the vicinity. Given the apparent size of the feature, and the fact that the overlying, excavated deposits seem to have originated in the mid-third century, the possibility exists that A pre-dates Eboracum. If so, its significance cannot be overstated. Additionally, the existence of a possible buried soil horizon, observed in the north-western edge of the grave cut 2040 (2.4.3) and possibly contemporary with A, offers the chance to examine pre- or early-Roman land use.

If Group B does represent the in situ remains of a burnt building, it forms a rare and potentially information-rich survival, particularly in conjunction with the possibility of the waterlogging of material through subsidence into the Group A feature.

The excavated sequence of deposits seems to indicate that the effects of feature A created an area of marginal ground in an interstice of a more intensively exploited landscape. The cultivation of Group 3, and the unknown activities which created the trampled deposit 2.2.4, seem to have avoided the central zone of the site above Feature A, allowing material to accumulate in that area. Only with the establishment of the Group 4 cemetery was it pressed into service. The successive modifications to the surroundings (2.4.2 ; 2.6.1), which preceded the second and third inhumations on the site, hint at burials being accommodated within the structure of a landscape not devoted specifically to that purpose. This may suggest that the burials formed part of a small, possibly family plot, rather than having belonged to a more extensive and formally designated cemetery.

On the evidence of the large and well-preserved artefact assemblage, the earliest excavated deposits date from the middle of the third century A.D. Most of the pottery recovered from the later deposits probably derives from

the bulk infill 2.1.1, having been brought to the surface by subsequent disturbances. The appearance of small quantities of possible fourth century types from Group 3 onwards may indicate the incorporation of contemporary material, and suggest such a date for the second half of the sequence.

General Discussion

Examination of Areas 1 and 2 in conjunction allows a reconstruction of the natural topography of the immediate vicinity. The natural ground surface in Area 1 slopes downwards from south-east to north-west, from c.13.34m.AOD to c.12.70m.AOD. In Area 2 the maximum level of natural, in the southern corner of the site, is c.11.60m.AOD. In the northern corner of the site the natural orange clay was encountered in the base of the grave cut 2040 (2.4.3), at a height of c.11.25m.AOD. The grave did not appear to have cut into the surface of the natural - rather the base of the cut simply exposed the surface of the clay. The natural east-west slope on which the sites were located is quite marked, the ground dropping away c.1.75m. over 20.0m., but in addition the natural appears to slope downwards from the south/south-east to the north/north-west. The general level of the ground surface thus appears to decrease from east to west, but also forms a slight ridge running from which the ground drops away to the north-west. This topographical anomaly may be of significance to discussion of the large un-excavated feature 2.A.1.

4. FINDS ASSESSMENT

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

4.2 Small finds

4.2.1 Coins

There are two Roman coins, probably dating to the late third century. These will require further identification by a specialist.

4.2.2 Iron

The iron objects from the site included a large quantity of nails, many of which could be coffin nails. Some of the larger ones, for example sf 114 and 75, are more likely to be from structures. Small find 168 is also likely to be a structural fitting. There is a large handled object with a cup-like receptacle (possibly a ladle(?)) (sf 167) and a possible knife blade (sf 161). The other finds included strips, bars and fittings of various types.

4.2.3 Copper-alloy

Copper alloy finds include a possible late Roman military belt fitting (sf 135), and a late Roman earring. Other finds include strips, bars, fragments and fittings.

4.2.4 Bone and Antler

There is a number of bone pins, pin shanks and a needle. While some of these cannot be closely dated, others are types which are consistent with a Roman date. Bone gaming pieces or counters were also found.

4.2.5 Jet

Part of a Roman jet bracelet (sf 17) of 3rd/4th century date, a jet bead (sf 241) and a jet pin or spindle shank (sf89) were recovered.

4.2.6 Stone and Plaster

Several fragments of painted wall plaster in a range of colours including reds, greens and yellows were recovered; no patterns were discernible on these. A stone tessara (sf 185) from a tessallated floor was also found.

4.2.7 Glass

Vessel glass:

Fifty fragments of vessel glass were recovered. Trench 2 was the most prolific with 42 fragments from a minimum of nine vessels. Trench 1 produced only eight fragments from a minimum of five vessels. Even with such small assemblages, a striking difference was apparent between them as the glass from Trench 2 consisted overwhelmingly of good quality colourless glass (35 fragments from a minimum of seven vessels). Blue/green glass, which normally forms the bulk of 1st to 3rd century assemblages, was relatively scarce. Trench 1 had a much more standard mix of blue/green and colourless glass.

In Trench 1 the vessels that could be identified were a conical beaker of either mid 2nd or 4th century date (1004 sf 195), a body fragment from the commonest drinking vessel of the mid 3rd century (2021 sf 196), two jugs or flasks of the later 2nd or 3rd century (1013 sf 115, 2024 sf 216) and one blue/green prismatic bottle of 1st to 3rd century date (1004, sf 93).

The vessels from Trench 2 included a facet and linear-cut cup of the mid 2nd to mid 3rd centuries (2021 sf 198, 2024 sf 199); a hemispherical cup (2021 sf 196), a tubular unguent bottle (2021 sf 5) and a cylindrical bottle (2047 sf 203, 2003, sf204, 2042 sf 205) all of the later 2nd or 3rd centuries and a funnel-mouthed jug with chain handle of the mid to late 3rd century. There was also a small number of fragments (2001 sf220, 2025 sf 217, 2028 sf 219)

from blue/green prismatic bottles of the 1st to early 3rd centuries and shows a surprising diversity given the small size of the assemblage. Generalisations based on the absence of forms have to be treated with care. The absence, however, of the very common form of cylindrical cup which occurs in large numbers in late 2nd and early 3rd century assemblages, and the scarcity of fragments from bottles which frequently make up a quarter to a third of a 2nd century assemblage, point strongly to this being an assemblage of the central half of the 3rd century.

Several of the vessels from Trench 2 are represented by large and/or multiple fragments. This is unusual in vessel glass assemblages as most broken fragments of glass would have been recycled during the Roman period. The combination of large fragments, a rich assemblage and a mid 3rd century date are very rare in Romano-British glass assemblages. Should there be any further excavation at the site, it has the potential to make a major contribution to our knowledge of the glass vessel assemblage in use during this poorly understood but crucial period.

Window glass:

All the fragments of window glass are made by casting, the commonest technique of the 1st to 3rd centuries. Many of the fragments are larger than is normally the case with site finds. Assemblages where this is the case are often associated with bath-houses. A notable feature of the material is that visually it is all very similar. It is thin and light green and is not the standard thick blue/green variety that is normally found. Given this could all be from the same episode of glazing. (see appendix for list of contexts which produced window glass)

4.2.7 Gold

A small partially folded fragment of gold foil was recovered from context 2024.

4.3 Bulk finds

4.3.1 Pottery

The site produced just over 2,000 sherds of pottery, the majority of which was Roman.

post-Roman

Only thirty sherds are attributable to the post-Roman period and all of these come from Trench 1. This small group, however, is fairly consistent, with nothing dating later than the mid 13th century and nearly all the sherds falling within the date range of 12th to early 13th century. Apart from this there are two or three sherds from the Anglo-Scandinavian period and a rim fragment from context 1004 which is Anglian in date.

Roman

Trench 1 yielded a single context (1013) typical of the Antonine period. The remainder consisted of a mixture of late 2nd and mainly 3rd century pottery, dated by a few sherds of Crambeck ware. The profile of the assemblage is broadly similar to that in Trench 2 (see below), indicating that the early history of both parts of the site was similar.

Context 2047 at lowest limits of Trench 2 had the hallmarks of being a primary rubbish deposit of the mid-third century. The pottery is in large, unabraded pieces with a good sherd/vessel ratio and low residual content: it is therefore a useful stratified group. This deposit seems to have been the source of most of the pottery found in the rest of the trench, as there are numerous match breaks indicating vertical disturbance. The majority of sherds from above context 2047 will therefore be residual, although few show signs of heavy abrasion, illustrating that disturbance was brief.

There is no evidence of activity on the site before the second quarter of the 3rd century, although some vessels start earlier than this. Occasional Nene Valley vessels from above context 2047 appear to be later 3rd or 4th century, but only two Crambeck sherds from context 2003 have to be later than c. AD 280.

The Trench 2 assemblage is remarkable for the quantity and variety of amphorae present: this includes a Dressel 20 stamped FO.. . It contains a high proportion of colour-coated wares of the 3rd century, primarily Nene Valley but also Trier and central gaulish "Rhenish" ware; the latter included several sherds of a motto beaker with a white dedication beginning "B.." (Possibly BIBE : 'drink up!'). The Nene Valley ware included a few beakers decorated with whorls or rouletting, but the majority were folded and scale-decorated beakers. Many beakers had beaded rather than funnel-rims, suggesting the later 3rd or 4th centuries. Large bases of Nene Valley Colour Coated (NVCC) flagons were also found, but there was none of the 4th century imitation grey ware. The samian was late 2nd and 3rd century. Almost all the Ebor ware comprised the "African" derived range of platters and bowls with a few jars. The principal component of the assemblage is made up by burnished wares, particularly Black Burnished 1 (BB1) flanged bowls and cooking pots with obtuse lattice typical of the period after AD 220. Dales and Dales-type jars were also prominent, but there were no calcite gritted or Knapton sherds. A few sherds might be very early Crambeck products.

4.3.2 Tile

Roman:

Roman material made up the bulk of the sample. Forms retrieved included imbrex and tegula (roof tile), brick (used for a variety of building purposes and box flue (used in the hypocaust heating system). There were examples of plain white plaster and daub from context 2001 (see also above for painted plaster). Although there were a few examples of mortar along broken edges (mainly on bricks), which often indicates reuse, there was not enough to suggest that this sample had been robbed and reused in another building. The box flue fragments consisted mostly of plain faces, many of which indicated that the form had a square, knife cut vent. There were only 2 examples of keying for the box flue (from context 2001 and 2043) and they were both combing, which is thought to be introduced in the early 2nd century.

Two tile stamps were found - one from 2020 is a sixth legion stamp, the other from 2024 is currently unidentifiable. There was a possible voussoir (used in forming arches) from 2047, though this may just be a badly formed brick. A single fragment of vaulting tube (used for forming roof vaults) was present in 2024.

There was a scatter of sandstone flags throughout the sample. None of the samples had a nail-hole so cannot be identified as roof tile.

Medieval:

One fragment of roof tile could be identified as peg tile, from context 2007.

4.4 Summary

The assemblage from this site is of considerable importance, not just for the archaeology of York but for Romano-British studies more generally. The material dates from a period which is poorly represented, and therefore poorly understood. There is clearly considerable structural evidence in terms of building materials, window glass, painted plaster and structural fittings. The vessel glass is an exceptional collection and the pottery assemblage fills a useful gap in the ceramic sequence for the city. There is also a varied collection of personal items including pins, beads, bracelets and fragments in a variety of material including gold. The collection certainly merits further study and an opportunity to return to the site to do further work would be warmly welcomed.

5. *Environmental Evidence*

Summary

A series of samples of sediment and an assemblage of bones, including some human remains, all from Roman contexts, were examined by the Environmental Archaeology Unit of the University of York. There was virtually no preservation of animal or plant remains other than bone, the latter being well preserved and quite abundant. The quality of the bone, coming as it does from well-dated contexts of late Roman date in a very poorly known area of York, means that future excavation must take account of the need for adequate sampling and post-excavation work.

5.1 Method

A series of ten 'general biological analysis' samples of sediment of 3rd century date from 26-28 Marygate were examined in various ways for their content of biological remains; in addition, a corpus of hand-collected bone, including some animal and human burials, was available.

The samples of sediment were treated as follows (samples presented in context number order with archaeological information in brackets):

5.2 Context 2020 [grave fill]

Sample 5: mid grey-brown, moist, crumbly to brittle (with many fine voids), silty clay with modern roots/rootlets frequent, traces of stones 2-20 mm, bone fragments 20 mm, oyster shell fragments, mortar, brick/tile and pot.

A 7 kg sample was 'bulk-sieved' (Kenward et al. 1980) to 1 mm. The dried residue consisted largely of gravel and stones to 80 mm (including micaceous flaggy sandstone), mortar (to 25 mm), some ?daub, charcoal (to 10 mm), oyster and mussel shell fragments (10 mm), some mammal bone and modern roots and a woodlouse as contaminants.

Sample 6: lithology as for sample 5 but texture soft rather than brittle.

The whole sample of 9 kg was bulk-sieved to 1 mm. The residue consisted of gravel and stones to 60 mm, with a little oyster to 20 mm, glass and brick/tile to 30 mm and pot to 25 mm. A single shell of the snail Discus rotundatus was recorded; this species favours shady habitats.

5.3 Context 2021 [horizontal spread of soil]

Sample 8: mid grey-brown, dry to moist, crumbly to brittle, sandy silty clay with modern roots/rootlets, traces of stones (including flaggy sandstone) 60-200 mm, bone fragments 20 mm, mortar and a tessera (in fine-grained micaceous sandstone).

An 8 kg subsample was bulk-sieved to 1 mm. The residue, largely of gravel and stones, included micaceous flaggy sandstone to 100 mm, oolitic limestone to 60 mm, pot to 40 mm, brick/tile and mammal bone to 50 mm and oyster shell to 20 mm. Two snails were recorded as single shells, both of them terrestrial and typical of a wide range of habitats: Cochlicopa lubrica and Trichia striolata.

5.4 Context 2024 [grave fill]

Sample 1: mid/dark greyish-brown, moist, plastic (but somewhat crumbly until worked) sandy silty clay with traces of stones 60-200 mm, charcoal, bone fragments larger and small than 20 mm, oyster shell fragments, mortar and brick/tile.

A 1 kg subsample was washed to 300 microns (a 'test' subsample, cf. Kenward et al. 1986) and the disaggregated sediment subjected to paraffin flotation (Kenward et al. 1980). The flot included a few scraps of ?modern root/rootlet, a little charcoal mm and a piece of charred organic matter to 5 mm. The dry residue consisted of sand and gravel, with a fragment of stone to 120 mm, decorated glass to 15 mm, pot to 30 mm, charcoal to 5 mm, bone and mortar to 20 mm, worn oyster shell to 15 mm, and brick/tile to 10 mm.

In addition, an 8 kg subsample was bulk-sieved to 1 mm. The residue of gravel with stones (including flaggy micaceous sandstone) to 110 mm, also contained mammal bone to 100 mm, pot to 40 mm, and iron object and some daub to 30 mm, a little brick/tile to 20 mm and charcoal to 10 mm. There was also a fragment of gold foil to 10 mm.

Sample 2: lithology similar to sample 1, but more crumbly in texture, more yellowish in colour (?more sandy), with a large fragment of flaggy sandstone, pottery, snails and modern roots.

A 1 kg subsample was washed to extract snails but in the event none were observed. The dry residue of sand and gravel included stones to 40 mm, quite a lot of brick/tile to 40 mm, mammal bone to 50 mm, plaster to 40 mm, pot, mortar, glassy slag, mussel and oyster shell to 10 mm, a trace of charcoal to 5 mm and a small fragment of barnacle shell.

Sample 3: lithology as for sample 1, but with large fragment of oolitic limestone, and oyster shell fragments; texture more like that of sample 2.

A subsample of 10 kg was bulk-sieved to 1 mm. The dry residue comprised gravel and stones, with blocks of flaggy micaceous sandstone to 220 mm. There was some decorated pot, a little glass and an iron nail, together with modest amounts of mammal and bird bone, a little brick/tile (to 10 mm), oyster (to 60 mm) and mussel (to 20 mm), mortar to 20 mm and a little charcoal to 10 mm.

5.5 Context 2028 [pit fill]

Sample 4: mid grey-brown, moist, brittle to crumbly (working plastic), slightly sandy silty clay with traces of stones 60-200 mm, oyster shell fragments and mortar.

A 9 kg subsample was bulk-sieved to 1 mm. The resultant residue consisted of gravel and stones (including oolitic limestone to 110 mm and a cobble to 80 mm), a large fragment of cow mandible (to 160 mm), pot to 60 mm, oyster to 80 mm, glass to 10 mm and brick/tile to 30 mm. There were also three snails, both Trichia hispida, of no particular interpretative value.

5.6 Context 2034 [layer representing remains of building burnt in situ]

Sample 7: mid/dark grey-brown, waterlogged, plastic to sticky sandy clay with traces of charcoal and very small brick/tile fragments.

A 2 kg 'test' subsample was examined. The flot contained modern roots/rootlets and a small amount of charcoal mm. The residue of sand and gravel included stones to 55 mm, brick/tile to 20 mm, bone and charcoal to 15 mm (there was quite a lot of charcoal and it included at least one fragment of oak, Quercus), pot to 25 mm, ?daub to 25 mm and mussel and oyster shell to 5 mm.

5.7 Context 2041 [possible buried soil]

Sample 9: mid/dark grey-brown, moist, soft, crumbly, sandy silty clay with modern roots/rootlets and a live millipede, traces of stones 2-20 mm, charcoal, snail shell (Cepea sp.), shellfish and mortar.

A 1 kg subsample was taken as a 'test'; there were root/rootlet fragments and scraps of charcoal mm. The tiny residue of sand and gravel included stones to 60 mm, a flake of ?pot to 20 mm, glassy slag to 10 mm and coal to 5 mm, with a few indeterminable bone fragments to 10 mm.

In addition, a 7 kg subsample was bulk-sieved to 1 mm. The rather small residue included gravel and a few stones to 30 mm, brick/tile to 40 mm, pot to 15 mm, glass to 10 mm, ?daub to 20 mm, charcoal to 5 mm, and oyster shell and mammal bone to 60 mm. There was also an apical fragment of a shell of the Roman snail, Helix pomatia.

Sample 10: mid/dark grey-brown, moist, soft, crumbly (to just brittle), sandy silty clay with traces of stones 2-20 mm, charcoal, bone fragments 20 mm and brick/tile.

A 7 kg subsample was bulk-sieved to 1 mm; there were stones to 100 mm in the residue, along with modest amounts of charcoal to 10 mm, , brick/tile to 10 mm, pot to 30 mm and a few lumps of hardened peat to 40 mm.

5.8 Implications of the 'biological' samples

The rather free-draining deposits at this site have preserved little in the nature of invertebrate and plant remains, and charred material other than charcoal was limited to a few unidentifiable fragments. There is little scope for further analysis of these kinds of remains.

5.9 The animal bone assemblage

A relatively large assemblage of animal bones was recovered from the site, amounting to six standard (30 cm cube) boxfuls, representing bone from 18 major context groups. All material studied comprised hand-collected fragments from deposits thought to date from the 3rd century, with very limited numbers deriving from GBA samples.

Preservation was on the whole fair to good with only a single context (2021) classified as excellent. What was unusual, however, was the lack of serious fragmentation affecting the majority of the assemblage. There was little evidence of fresh breakage and even the remains of larger species, such as cattle and horse, remained relatively undamaged. It would appear that trampling of all deposits did not occur to any degree and that burial of material happened relatively quickly after deposition. Only a limited number of fragments showed any evidence of gnawing, which tends to support this view. Much of the assemblage showed quite extensive evidence of butchery on many of the identifiable fragments as well as on the numerous ribs, vertebrae, and shaft fragments.

Cattle remains were the most commonly represented domestic animal, in terms of total fragment number, followed closely by pig and sheep. Goat remains were definitely identified from contexts 2047, 2020 2001, and 1011 and comprised three metacarpals and a juvenile metatarsal fragment. Horse was represented by only three fragments (from separate contexts), two metacarpals (from 2047 and 1012) and a molar (from 1010). However, with such small numbers of bones any estimation of relative frequencies of species is fraught with problems.

The remains of two incomplete terrier-sized dogs were recovered from context 2047 in addition to a single larger humerus from a third individual. Further canid remains were scattered throughout the site; these included a

small skull from 2021 which showed what had every appearance of skinning marks along the crests of the frontal bone.

Fowl and goose remains were relatively common from the site appearing in all major context groups. A number of bones from both species showed evidence of butchery in the form of knife marks towards the distal ends of elements. Also present from separate contexts were three skeletal elements from duck. On the basis of morphology and size they probably derive from mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) and are perhaps too small to be from improved domestic species.

Wild mammals were uncommon in the assemblage, being represented only by two red deer (Cervus elaphus) distal tibia fragments, three roe deer (Capreolus capreolus) fragments (mandible, scapula and distal humerus fragments) and three fragments of hare (Lepus cf. europaeus). One of the red deer distal tibiae fragments had been heavily chopped at one end. A fragment of a large pig radius from context 2020, although heavily butchered, was as large as the modern improved comparative specimen. This large size may indicate the presence of wild boar in the assemblage since the majority of pig remains derived from smaller animals.

A single salmonid vertebra was recovered from the hand collected assemblage; this represented a large fish (perhaps 60-80 cm, standard length).

A large proportion of whole bones or fragments from all major species in the assemblage would provide useful measurments, reflecting the good preservation. Most (72) were identified as cattle, with pig (13d, because of the high proportion of immature bones from these groups. A number of mandibles with teeth were recovered from the site, with pig being most commonly represented (13), followed by sheep (10) and cattle (7).

A complete pig skeleton was recovered from context 1002. This represented the remains of a large but immature individual since almost all epiphyses were unfused. The date of this context was uncertain, but the pig was probably an improved specimen, likely to be of modern date.

General biological analysis samples contained some additional species, particularly small mammals, amphibians and fish. Herring (Clupea harengus) and salmonid vertebrae were recovered from contexts 2021, 2024 and 2028. In addition several scales from grayling (Thymallus thymallus) or perch (Perca fluviatilis) survived in 2021. The remains of frog (Rana temporaria) appeared in 2028. A mandible and maxilla of the field vole (Microtus agrestis) was also present in several samples from 2024.

5.10 The human remains

Three human inhumations were recovered from the site. Preservation was fair to good with numerous complete long bones available for biometrical study:

Context 2029 contained the almost complete articulated remains of a female. Missing were the long bones of the upper limbs, two vertebrae, and some hand and foot bones.

A fragmented skull with male characteristics (sloping forehead, pronounced supra-orbital ridges, moderate-sized mastoid processes and a pronounced mental eminence) contrasted with strongly female pelvic fragments (with a wide sciatic notch, pre-auricular sulcus and possible birth scars). Tooth attrition and pubic symphysial state indicate an age of perhaps 35-45 years.

Dental pathology included the loss of the left maxillary 3rd premolar, the right maxillary 4th, and the left mandibular first molar. In addition third molars were absent, possibly indicating a congenital cause, and the upper incisors were possibly developmentally abnormal.

Postcranial pathology included the presence of eburnation and osteophytes on first metacarpal, mild periostitis on the distal portion of the right tibia (with no evidence of further infection of the foot) and pronounced degenerative arthropathy of the cervical and lumbar vertebrae. All vertebrae showed signs of pronounced osteophytes and Schmorl's nodes and the 5th lumbar vertebra showed evidence of collapse or crushing.

Context 2030 contained the again almost complete skeleton of a male, missing some bones of the hands and feet (particularly 2nd and 3rd phalanges) and two vertebrae.

In contrast to the individual from 2029, the fragmented skull showed several female characteristics (less pronounced supra-orbital ridges and vertical forehead). However large mastoid processes and a robust mandible, in addition to a complete pelvic girdle showing narrow sciatic notch, narrow pubic angle and the lack of a pre-auricular sulcus, all point to the sex as male. The unfused nature of the cranial sutures suggests this individual to be young; the eruption of the third molar and the lack of dental attrition indicate an age perhaps between 18 and 20 years. This is substantiated by the state of the pubic symphysis.

Dental pathology included the presence of a maxillary peg incisor on the left and a possible missing right incisor. There was also a difference in attrition with a preference towards the right. This is explained by examination of the mandibular dentition where severe caries had affected the 1st and 2nd molars. with the result that the entire crowns had been lost, leaving only the roots. This infection had also led to the development of an apical abscess. In addition mild interproximal caries had affected the right 1st molar. Evidence of developmental stress could be found on the canines and incisors in the form of hypoplastic lesions of the enamel; at least four isolated episodes were present.

There was no evidence of post-cranial pathology from this individual apart from a single 2nd phalanx with mild osteophyte formation.

Context 2002 contained the truncated remains of a single individual consisting of pelvis, right proximal femur fragment, five lumbar and eight thoracic vertebrae, left ulna and radius and incomplete left and right hands.

The narrow sciatic notch, small pubic angle and lack of pre-auricular sulcus suggested a male. The state of long bone fusion and pubic symphysis morphology indicated a mature individual.

Evidence of pathology was restricted to pronounced osteophytosis of the 3rd and 4th lumbar vertebrae.

5.11 Implications

The animal bone assemblage from 26-28 Marygate appears well preserved, little fragmented, and potentially large. Although not from primary contexts it is clear that material derives from perhaps a single reworking event with relatively good dating evidence. Much of the butchery evidence and the representation of all elements may indicate the presence of both primary and secondary butchery waste on the site. The numerous large and intact measurable fragments and the range of both domestic and wild species indicate an important zooarchaeological assemblage. This importance is increased in terms of York since few large Roman zooarchaeological assemblages have as yet been excavated from the city.

The human remains, although few, are relatively complete and well preserved. The presence of a small Roman cemetery in the area is a distinct possibility and as such is important in terms of physical anthropological studies. The possibility of recovering numerous skeletons is again important since material from Roman York is geographically limited.

Future work in this hitherto peripheral region of York is therefore essential if the zooarchaeological and physical anthropological potential of this material is to be realised.

References

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

Kenward H. K., Engleman C., Robertson A. and Large F. (1986). Rapid scanning of urban archaeological deposits for insect remains, Circaea **3**, 163-72.

6. *Conclusions*

6.1 Deposit Survival

Natural deposits in the form of solid orange clay were encountered in both trenches. The difference in height noted (13.34m AOD in Trench 1 and 11.60m AOD in Trench 2) is a reflection of a slope in the surface of natural from south-east to north-west which is mirrored in the marked difference in height between the two trenches still visible today.

Roman deposits of late 2nd and 3rd century date were well preserved in both trenches. In Area 2 three 4th century burials were found beneath clear evidence of truncation.

Medieval, post-medieval and modern deposits consisted almost entirely of cultivated soil which extended to a depth of between 1.50m and 1.75m.

6.2 Period by Period Analysis

6.2.1 **Pre-Roman and Roman** (up to the end of 4th century)

In Area 2 an unexcavated but large and possibly linear feature, located on the edge of a low, north facing ridge was infilled, and may have been succeeded by a structure subsequently destroyed by fire. Both belong to the 3rd century or earlier. In the mid 3rd century, a deposit containing a substantial amount of refuse, including large quantities of animal bone, pottery and building material was dumped to level the ground surface, which had subsided into the underlying feature. This material may have derived from a nearby building - apparently of some substance - and activities associated with it, or may represent 'municipal' dumping of detritus from other areas of Eboracum. Subsequently the area was apparently divided by hedgerows and exploited for cultivation and possibly other activities, although continuing subsidence seems to have rendered the ground immediately above the

primary feature unusable. In the 4th century inhumations, probably forming part of a small and possibly familial burial ground rather than a major cemetery, were interred on the site, the environment of which seems to have been deliberately modified in order to accommodate each new interment. It is uncertain whether the absence of later deposits represents a real termination of activity, since there was clear evidence of truncation above the latest recognisably stratified deposits.

In Area 1, c.20 metres to the east, late 2nd century activity of uncertain character on the top of the low north-facing ridge was succeeded by the dumping of extensive deposits of soil containing largely 3rd century material with occasional 4th century pottery types. This may have been to facilitate cultivation, to level the ground surface, or both.

6.2.2 **Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian** (5th - 11th centuries)

No evidence pertaining to these periods of York's past was recovered from these excavations.

6.2.3 **Medieval, post-medieval and modern** (11th - 20th centuries)

A considerable depth, c.1.50 - 1.75m, of apparently undifferentiated cultivated soil sealed the stratified levels described above and was removed by machine

7. *Archaeological Implications*

The area between Marygate and St Mary's Lane is one from which no archaeological observations have been recorded in the past. The limited work described above has revealed well preserved Roman deposits above a possible pre-Roman landscape feature. The significance of pre-Roman archaeology in York can hardly be over estimated.

The physical state of the Roman finds recovered suggests that they remain close to their original place of deposition. The range of material has been described as being of national importance. Further, currently unexcavated, deposits could add significantly to this appraisal.

The overburden of 1.50-1.75m of cultivated soil affords a measure of protection to these extremely important deposits. However, should they be threatened at all by the foundations or utility trenches required by development, further excavation would be required.

The deposits form a most important resource for an understanding of the economy and life-style of Eburacum and their discovery in this location raises the archaeological profile of this particular corner of York immeasurably.

Appendix 1

York Archaeological Trust
Artefact Record Summary Sheet

Site name: 26 - 28 Marygate	Site code: 1992.11

BULK FINDS	BOXES	SMALL FINDS	NUMBERS
Pottery	8	Coins	2
Tile	7	Iron	141
Stone		Copper-alloy	3
Slag		Lead	
Crucibles		Silver	
Plaster/Daub	in misc	Gold	1
Leather		Glass	50
Wood		Bone/Antler	10
Bone, Human	3	Ivory	
Bone, Animal	6	Fired clay	1
Soil samples	10	Stone	3
Other misc: shell, mortar, daub, plaster, op sig window glass	1	Jet	3
		Textiles	
		Wood	
		Other: op sig plaster slag	1 30 10
Total	35	Total	255

Appendix 2 Small finds list

Material	SFNO	Context	Simple name
Bone	72	1006	Needle
Bone	87	1010	Pin
Bone	146	2020	Counter
Bone	147	2020	Point
Bone	240	2020	Pin
Bone	18	2024	Pin
Bone	96	2024	Pin
Bone	20	2026	Pin
Bone	88	2041	Pin
Bone	245	2041	Pin
Copper alloy	7	1006	Object
Copper alloy	73	1011	Object
Copper alloy	1	2001	Coin
Copper alloy	2	2001	Coin
Copper alloy	135	2047	Object
Fired clay	157	2020	Tile
Flint	113	2047	Flake
Glass	233	0	Window
Glass	93	1004	Fragment
Glass	195	1004	Beaker
Glass	208	1004	Body fragment
Glass	219	1004	Body fragment
Glass	224	1004	Lump
Glass	231	1004	Window
Glass	223	1011	Lump
Glass	232	1011	Window
Glass	215	1012	Base fragment
Glass	115	1013	Vessel
Glass	116	1013	Fragment
Glass	118	2001	Fragment
Glass	119	2001	Fragment
Glass	200	2001	Body fragment
Glass	220	2001	Bottle
Glass	204	2003	Body fragment
Glass	230	2003	Window
Glass	206	2015	Body fragment
Glass	229	2015	Window
Glass	94	2020	Fragment
Glass	212	2020	Body fragment
Glass	5	2021	Vessel
Glass	196	2021	Cup
Glass	197	2021	Base fragment
Glass	198	2021	Body fragment
Glass	201	2021	Body fragment
Glass	207	2021	Body fragment
Glass	228	2021	Window
Glass	211	2022	Body fragment
Glass	199	2024	Body fragment
Glass	213	2024	Body fragment
Glass	216	2024	Jug
Glass	226	2024	Window
Glass	227	2024	Window
Glass	214	2025	Jar
Glass	217	2025	Body fragment

Material	SFNO	Context	Simple name
Glass	222	2026	Body fragment
Glass	202	2028	Body fragment
Glass	210	2028	Body fragment
Glass	218	2028	Body fragment
Glass	225	2028	Window
Glass	209	2041	Body fragment
Glass	205	2042	Body fragment
Glass	90	2044	Funnel-mouthed jug
Glass	91	2044	Fragment
Glass	92	2044	Fragment
Glass	117	2047	Fragment
Glass	203	2047	Body fragment
Glass	221	2047	Body fragment
Gold	194	2024	Fragment
Iron	167	0	Ladle
Iron	4	2	Object
Iron	158	1006	Nail
Iron	160	1006	Nail
Iron	71	1008	Object
Iron	165	1011	Object
Iron	166	1011	Object
Iron	101	1013	Nail
Iron	102	1013	Nail
Iron	103	2000	Nail
Iron	108	2001	Nail
Iron	109	2001	Object
Iron	124	2001	Object
Iron	125	2001	Object
Iron	126	2001	Nail
Iron	127	2001	Nail
Iron	128	2001	Nail
Iron	129	2001	Nail
Iron	130	2001	Nail
Iron	3	2003	Object
Iron	99	2003	Nail
Iron	133	2003	Nail
Iron	134	2003	Nail
Iron	24	2004	Nail
Iron	25	2004	Nail
Iron	6	2014	Object
Iron	16	2016	Nail
Iron	85	2016	Nail
Iron	143	2020	Object
Iron	144	2020	Nail
Iron	145	2020	Nail
Iron	192	2020	Nail
Iron	193	2020	Nail
Iron	9	2021	Nail
Iron	10	2021	Nail
Iron	11	2021	Nail
Iron	12	2021	Nail
Iron	13	2021	Nail
Iron	14	2021	Nail
Iron	57	2021	Nail
Iron	137	2021	Object
Iron	151	2021	Nail
Iron	152	2021	Nail

Material	SFNO	Context	Simple name
Iron	153	2021	Nail
Iron	154	2021	Nail
Iron	155	2021	Nail
Iron	187	2021	Nail
Iron	98	2022	Nail
Iron	26	2023	Nail
Iron	27	2023	Nail
Iron	28	2023	Nail
Iron	29	2023	Nail
Iron	30	2023	Nail
Iron	31	2023	Nail
Iron	32	2023	Nail
Iron	33	2023	Nail
Iron	23	2024	Nail
Iron	34	2024	Nail
Iron	35	2024	Nail
Iron	36	2024	Nail
Iron	37	2024	Nail
Iron	38	2024	Nail
Iron	39	2024	Nail
Iron	40	2024	Nail
Iron	41	2024	Nail
Iron	42	2024	Nail
Iron	55	2024	Nail
Iron	56	2024	Object
Iron	62	2024	Nail
Iron	67	2024	Nail
Iron	68	2024	Nail
Iron	69	2024	Nail
Iron	70	2024	Nail
Iron	105	2024	Nail
Iron	106	2024	Nail
Iron	107	2024	Nail
Iron	181	2024	Object
Iron	182	2024	Nail
Iron	183	2024	Nail
Iron	191	2024	Nail
Iron	235	2024	Nail
Iron	244	2024	Nail
Iron	138	2025	Nail
Iron	139	2025	Nail
Iron	149	2025	Object
Iron	150	2025	Nail
Iron	15	2026	Nail
Iron	43	2026	Nail
Iron	44	2026	Nail
Iron	45	2026	Nail
Iron	58	2028	Nail
Iron	180	2028	Nail
Iron	237	2028	Nail
Iron	104	2030	Nail
Iron	46	2032	Nail
Iron	47	2032	Nail
Iron	48	2032	Nail

Material	SFNO	Context	Simple name
Iron	49	2032	Nail
Iron	50	2032	Nail
Iron	51	2032	Nail
Iron	52	2032	Nail
Iron	53	2032	Nail
Iron	54	2032	Nail
Iron	84	2032	Nail
Iron	86	2032	Nail
Iron	75	2034	Fitting
Iron	236	2041	Nail
Iron	246	2041	Nail
Iron	121	2042	Nail
Iron	122	2042	Nail
Iron	123	2042	Nail
Iron	77	2046	Object
Iron	81	2047	Object
Iron	82	2047	Nail
Iron	83	2047	Nail
Iron	100	2047	Fragment
Iron	111	2047	Nail
Iron	112	2047	Nail
Iron	114	2047	Nail
Iron	161	2047	Object
Iron	162	2047	Nail
Iron	168	2047	Object
Iron	169	2047	Nail
Iron	170	2047	Nail
Iron	171	2047	Nail
Iron	172	2047	Nail
Iron	173	2047	Nail
Iron	174	2047	Nail
Iron	175	2047	Nail
Iron	176	2047	Nail
Iron	177	2047	Nail
Iron	178	2047	Nail
Jet	241	2020	Bead
Jet	17	2021	Fragment
Jet	89	2041	Pin
Opus signinum	142	1012	Fragment
Plaster	140	1011	Fragment
Plaster	131	2001	Fragment
Plaster	8	2003	Fragment
Plaster	95	2012	Fragment
Plaster	132	2015	Fragment
Plaster	64	2017	Fragment
Plaster	60	2020	Fragment
Plaster	74	2020	Fragment
Plaster	164	2020	Fragment
Plaster	239	2020	Fragment
Plaster	242	2020	Fragment
Plaster	65	2021	Fragment
Plaster	148	2021	Fragment
Plaster	163	2021	Fragment
Plaster	234	2021	Fragment
Plaster	63	2022	Fragment
Plaster	97	2022	Fragment
Plaster	59	2023	Fragment

Material	SFNO	Context	Simple name
Plaster	21	2024	Fragment
Plaster	184	2024	Fragment
Plaster	189	2024	Fragment
Plaster	243	2024	Fragment
Plaster	66	2025	Fragment
Plaster	141	2025	Fragment
Plaster	61	2028	Fragment
Plaster	179	2041	Fragment
Plaster	247	2041	Fragment
Plaster	156	2044	Fragment
Plaster	110	2047	Fragment
Plaster	136	2047	Fragment
Slag	79	1001	Slag
Slag	22	1004	Slag
Slag	80	1004	Slag
Slag	159	1006	Slag
Slag	76	1010	Slag
Slag	238	2020	Slag
Slag	190	2024	Slag
Slag	186	2034	Slag
Slag	188	2041	Slag
Slag	78	2047	Slag
Stone	19	1004	Fragment
Stone	185	2021	Tessera

Appendix 3 Pottery spot-dating lists

context	date range	likely date of assemblage
1000	Roman to early 13th century;	11th/12th century
1001	Roman to 13th century;	1st half 13th century
1003	Roman to 1st half 13th century;	12th century +/-
1004	Roman to 13th century;	12th century +/-
1006	Roman to 13th century;	late 12th/early 13th c.
1010	AD 150 to 400;	after AD 280
1011	AD 150 to 400;	after AD 280
1012	AD 100 to 400;	after AD 280
1013	AD 100 to 300;	after AD 170
2003	AD 175 to 400;	after AD 280
2004	AD 200 to 300;	after AD 200
2005	AD 200 to 300;	after AD 220
2007	AD 200 to 400;	after AD 225/250
2008	AD 200 to 400;	after AD 225/250
2010	AD 200 to 400;	after AD 200
2012	AD 100 to 400;	after AD 225/250
2014	AD 200 to 400;	after AD 250
2015	AD 200 to 300;	after AD 225
2016	AD 170 to 300;	after AD 225
2017	AD 100 to 300;	after AD 250
2023	AD 170 to 300;	after AD 220
2020	AD 150 to 300;	after AD 200
2021	AD 200 to 300;	after AD 225
2022	AD 200 to 300;	after AD 225
2024	AD 200 to 400;	after AD 225/250
2025	AD 170 to 400;	after AD 250
2026	AD 170 to 300;	after AD 225
2028	AD 170 to 400;	after AD 250
2032	AD 200 to 300;	after AD 225
2034	AD 150 to 400;	after AD 150
2036	AD 170 to 300;	after AD 170
2041	AD 200 to 400;	after AD 225/250
2042	AD 160 to 400;	after AD 225/250
2043	AD 200 to 400;	after AD 225
2044	AD 200 to 300;	after AD 220
2045	AD 160 to 350;	after AD 190
2046	AD 200 to 400;	after AD 250
2047	AD 150 to 300;	after AD 225

Appendix 4 Window glass list

Context	Small find	Number of fragments
2047	225	1
2044	91	1
2028	226	1
2024	227	2
2021	228	13
2015	229	3
2003	230	5
2001	119	5
1004	231	1
1011	232	1
u/s	233	1
total		34

Appendix 5 Tile list

Context	Form	Date
u/s	box flue, tegula, imbrex	Roman
1001	tegula, brick, box flue	Roman
1004	tegula, imbrex, brick	Roman
1006	imbrex, brick, tegula	Roman
1008	misc	Roman
1010	tegula, brick, imbrex	Roman
1011	tegula, imbrex, brick	Roman
1012	brick, misc	Roman
1013	tegula, brick, imbrex	Roman
1014	brick	Roman
2001	misc., imbrex, brick, daub, plain plaster, sandstone, tegula, box flue (combed)	?2nd+
2003	box flue, misc., tegula, imbrex, sandstone, brick	Roman
2005	misc, tegula, imbrex	Roman
2007	?medieval misc., pegtile	13th+
2010	tegula	Roman
2012	brick	Roman
2014	tegula, imbrex	Roman
2015	tegula, brick	Roman
2020	6th legion tile stamp, tegula, imbrex, brick, box flue, misc	2nd+
2021	tegula, misc, imbrex	Roman
2022	imbrex, ?tegula	Roman
2023	imbrex, unidentified object	Roman
2024	imbrex, ?vaulting tube, tegula, brick, sandstone, tile stamp	?2nd+
2025	imbrex, brick, tegula	Roman
2026	imbrex, tegula	Roman
2028	imbrex, tegula	Roman
2032	imbrex	Roman
2041	imbrex, brick	Roman
2042	sandstone, imbrex, tegula, brick	Roman
2043	tegula, imbrex, box flue (combed)	?2nd+
2044	tegula, misc	Roman
2047	tegula, imbrex, brick, ??voussoir, sandstone	Roman

Appendix Six

List of contributors

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

Excavation and report coordination : Mark Whyman

Excavation staff : Martin Bartlett, Andrew Freeman, Tristan Wilson, Brian Milner, Ken McComish

Finds identification : Hilary Cool

Roman pottery : Jason Monaghan

Post-Roman pottery : Sarah Jennings

Tile : Sandra Garside-Neville

Environmental analysis : John Carrott, Keith Dobney, Allan Hall, Harry Kenward, Annie Milles

Surveying and illustrations : Trevor Pearson

Report edited by: David Brinklow and Richard Hall