YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT THE GENERAL ACCIDENT SITE, 24-30 TANNER ROW, YORK

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MUSEUM RESILIENCE FUND REPORT

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YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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1 INTRODUCTION

This report relates York Archaeological Trust's excavations at the General Accident site, 24-30 Tanner Row, York (Figure 1), which took place between May 1983 and July 1984. The Tanner Row site is located approximately 120m south-west of the River Ouse, within the Roman civilian settlement, or *colonia*, and within the medieval city walls. Five interconnecting trenches were excavated (Figure 2), revealing a complex sequence of deposits dating from Roman times to the present including exceptionally well-preserved Roman timber structures. These timbers are the subject of a separate Museum Resilience Fund research project by S. Allen of York Archaeological Trust.

The principal structures seen at the site were constructed between *c.* AD 160 and *c.* AD 225. During this relatively short time-span there were two successive periods of timber buildings (with some of the minor buildings being replaced several times), then a period of stone/timber buildings, and finally a period when major stone buildings were constructed at the site. The stone buildings remained standing, and indeed were re-used into the 12th century, being finally demolished in the 12th or early 13th century.

This report was prepared with a grant from the Museum's Resilience Fund; it aims to give an overview of the site highlighting the importance of the excavations and providing the archaeological context for research into the Roman timbers.

2 THE HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The Roman period

2.1.1 C. AD 71-120

The first phase of Roman activity in York relates to the founding of the fortress of *Ebvracvm* in *c.* AD 71 and to its occupation by the ninth legion until *c.* AD 120.

Relatively little evidence of activity dating to this period is known from the area to the south-west of the River Ouse. The only remains of this date from any of York Archaeological Trust's excavations in this area were recovered at Wellington Row, where a road and associated drainage ditch dating to *c.* AD 71-120 were present. This road was aligned south-west to north-east and connected the fortress of *Ebvracvm* to *Calcaria*, modern Tadcaster. Once established, this road remained the major thoroughfare in the area throughout the Roman period (Ottaway 1993, 39-40).

RCHM (1962, 54) states that timber buildings of late first century date were present in the area of the Old Station, to the north of Station Rise, but the precise form of these structures is unclear and the dating evidence is not specified.

Two bronze plaques interpreted as being of late 1st century date were found at the site of the Old Railway Station in 1840 (RCHM 1962, 133). While these objects could have originally been displayed at a shrine (Ottaway 1993, 72), this is by no means certain. If they did indeed originate from a shrine, it would represent early activity in the area.

Roman law stipulated that the dead had to be buried outside areas inhabited by the living, and as a result Roman burials were typically placed in cemeteries that lined the main roads approaching settlements (RCHM 1962, 91). The tombstone of the ninth legion standard bearer

Lucius Duccius Rufinius was found at Holy Trinity Priory church on Micklegate, close to the Roman road to Tadcaster (RCHM 1962, 122); this suggests that the area surrounding the south-western end of Micklegate lay outside the settled area at this time.

A bath-house on Fetter Lane, found in 1852, had a floor of Legio IX stamped tiles (RCHM 1962, 52). While this could be evidence of an early bath-house, it is equally likely to represent the re-use of earlier tiles in a late Roman building. Such re-use is known from other sites across Britain (McComish 2012, 65, 87, 364; RCHM 1962, 43). Given that the area south-west of the river Ouse did not develop, structurally at least, until the later second or early third century, it is perhaps more likely that the Fetter Lane bath house is of later Roman date.

2.1.2 c. AD 120 to the third quarter of the 2nd century

The Legio IX was replaced by the Legio VI *c.* AD 120, and this legion was based in York for the remainder of the Roman occupation (Ottaway 1993, 11).

A settlement began to develop to the south-west of the River Ouse during the second century. Remains of this date have been found on several York Archaeological Trust excavations, all of which lie within 175m of the modern river channel, i.e. the area closest to the fortress.

There is evidence of the upgrading of the road system in the area at this time. At Wellington Row the main Tadcaster Road was resurfaced *c*. AD 120 or later. An associated lead water pipe capped by large limestone blocks was present within the road surface, suggesting the provision of a public water supply (Ottaway 1993, 72). Streets running parallel to the River Ouse were built at both Wellington Row and Bishophill (ibid., 72; Carver et al. 1978, 11-13). Once established these roads remained in use throughout the Roman period. There was also evidence of drainage works in the area with 2nd century ditches being present at the Queen's Hotel excavations on Micklegate, at 5 Rougier Street and at Bishophill (McComish 2015, 13; Carver et al. 1978, 37).

Several substantial stone buildings were constructed south-west of the Ouse in the 2nd century, including a possible riverside wall and associated structure at the site of the Pumping Station excavations on North Street (McComish 2015, 10), a large rectangular stone building at Wellington Row (Monaghan 1997, 1110) and a structure incorporating a gritstone wall at 5 Rougier Street (ibid., 1107).

A number of burials of this date were found at several sites south-west of the Ouse in the 19th century. These were located in the area of the Old Station, beneath the city walls in the area of the two railway arches, and in the area of Baile Hill, Kyme Street and Newton Terrace (RCHM 1962, 80, 107). The presence of burials clearly indicates that the area of the Old Station and the Baile Hill area were beyond the limits of the settled area at this time.

2.1.3 The late 2nd to mid-3rd centuries

From AD 209-11 the emperor Septimius Severus undertook military campaigns in northern Britain and, on his death at York in AD 211, power passed to his son Caracalla (Ottaway 1993, 11). Caracalla split the province of Britain into two, making York the capital of the new province of Lower Britain, *Britannia Inferior* (ibid., 66). By AD 237 York had been raised to the rank of *colonia*, which was the highest rank of settlement in the Roman system (ibid., 64).

There is archaeological evidence for a major building campaign on the south-western bank of the river Ouse in the late 2nd to mid-3rd centuries (Figure 5), which Whyman (2001, 199-202)

links to the granting of *colonia* status. It is thought probable that the *colonia* was walled, with the medieval city walls following the line of earlier Roman walling beneath, though conclusive evidence of this has only been seen on the north-western side of the *colonia* (Ottaway 1999, 145).

The existing roads at Bishophill and Wellington Row were well-maintained during this period, and new roads of late 2nd century date were seen in excavations at 5 Rougier Street and Bishophill Junior (Carver et al. 1978, 11-13; Monaghan 1997, 1126).

Evidence of a major episode of terracing was seen in excavations at Bishophill, the site of the Former Presto's Supermarket on George Hudson Street, 19-29 Bishophill Senior, 64-74 Skeldergate, 20 Fetter Lane, the Friends' Burial Ground and St Mary Bishophill Senior (McComish 2015, 14). Such a large civil engineering project suggests deliberate town planning, rather than private enterprise, and it may relate to the creation of the *colonia* (Carver et al. 1978, 38).

New stone buildings were constructed within the *colonia*, many of which were high status buildings associated with hypocausts, while others were of sufficient size to be suggestive of public buildings. Structural remains of this period have been uncovered in a number of archaeological excavations including the 27 Tanner Row, the Queen's Hotel site on Micklegate, the site of the Former Presto's Supermarket on George Hudson Street, in sewer repairs at Tanner Row, at Bishophill, St Mary Bishophill Senior, the Friends' Burial Ground site and at the junction of St Martin's Lane and Trinity Lane (McComish 2015, 14-16).

In addition to the construction of new buildings, the major stone building at Wellington Row underwent considerable alterations during this period (Monaghan 1997, 1109). An elaborate timber lined well of late 2nd century date was also built at Bishophill (Carver et al. 1978, 15, 28).

The increasing population levels within the settlement were also reflected in the growth of cemeteries surrounding the *colonia*, and these contain tombstones indicative of a cosmopolitan population (Monaghan 1997, 842).

2.1.4 The mid-3rd century to the mid-4th century

In AD 260 Britain was part of the breakaway empire of the Gallic provinces, which were recaptured in AD 274 by the emperor Aurelian; Britain rebelled again *c.* AD 286-296, with the British legions again supporting the losing side (Ottaway 1993, 96, 101). The emperor Constantius Chlorus visited York in AD 306, and on his death in the city, his son Constantine I was proclaimed emperor in York (RCHM 1962, xxxiv). The last known reference to York is that a bishop from the city attended the Council of Arles in AD 314 (Rollason 1999, 118).

Despite this being a period of political upheaval, there is evidence of continued occupation within the *colonia*. The road system seems to have been maintained into the 4th century, with the roads at both 5 Rougier Street and Bishophill being resurfaced (Carver et al. 1978, 11-13). A robber trench seen at Bishophill may represent the remains of a riverside structure built sometime in the 3rd century; this would have blocked access to the river at this point, which may indicate that the character of the area was changing, either to provide defence, or to limit the number of access points on the waterfront (ibid., 11).

Occupation deposits show that the buildings at the Old Station, Bishophill, St Mary Bishophill Junior and Wellington Row continued in use throughout the third century, and in some cases into the fourth century (Monaghan 1997, 1102, 1106, 1126; Carver et al. 1978, 39).

At the Queen's Hotel site earlier buildings were demolished and replaced *c*. AD 225-80 by a major new building interpreted as the basement of a baths complex (Monaghan 1997, 1100; Ottaway 1997, 102). At least one new high status house with mosaics was also constructed at Toft Green (RCHM 1962, 57-8; Ling 1991, 153).

2.1.5 The late 4th to early 5th centuries

The mid-fourth to early fifth centuries marks the decline of Roman Britain. The political situation with constant rebellions, incursions by barbarians and civil wars, weakened the western empire beyond repair, and left Britain increasingly isolated. The number of troops stationed in Britain in this period is unclear (Millett 1990, 215-16).

There was a change in the character of the *colonia* from the mid-late 4th century onwards, reflecting declining political stability. While some buildings remained in use and underwent structural alterations, as at Queen's Hotel (Monaghan 1997, 1102), others fell into dereliction and decay, such as the late 2nd century timber lined well at Bishophill that was infilled with rubbish (Carver et al. 1978, 15). The road system also decayed, with the riverside road at Bishophill going out of use (Carver et al. 1978, 12), while a timber building was constructed above part of the main Tadcaster Road at Wellington Row (Ottaway 1993, 115). Dark-earth accumulated in parts of the *colonia*, being seen in excavations on Trinity Lane, at 5 Rougier Street and the site of the Old Station (Monaghan 1997, 1124-5).

2.2 The Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian periods

The traditional date for the end of Roman Britain is AD 410 (Ottaway 1993, 111), but a sub-Roman culture continued in many parts of Britain, though its precise nature is unclear. There are no documentary references to York prior to the early 7th century so the nature of events in York in the immediate post-Roman period is difficult to determine.

The importance of York increased when the bishopric was elevated to an archdiocese in AD 735 (Rollason 1999, 124). York became a Viking city in 867, and in 927 it became part of a united England (Rees Jones 2013, 10). It is thought that following the creation of the kingdom of England there was only a limited royal presence in the city, with the Minster representing the dominant authority in the settlement (Rees Jones 2013, 25).

Evidence for the Anglian period within the former *colonia* is sparse and largely relates to stray finds of artefacts, burials and fragments of sculpture (McComish 2015, 8). An Anglian cemetery of 5th to 6th century date is known at the Mount, just outside the former *colonia* (Tweddle et al. 1999, 167-72). Timber buildings of Anglian date are known from the excavations at Bishophill and Queen's Hotel (Carver et al. 1978, 50: Tweddle et al 1999, 193, 267). The alignment of the Anglian building at Queens Hotel followed the alignment of the earlier Roman buildings on the site, suggesting that the original Roman road to Tadcaster, and possibly also the Roman bridge over the Ouse, survived until the end of the Anglian period (Tweddle et al. 1999, 157). The *street* element in the name North Street is an English suffix and may indicate that this street is of pre-Norse date, as the Norse streets generally end with the suffix gate, for example Micklegate (Rees Jones 2013, 95).

Elsewhere in the former *colonia* the Roman levels were sealed by a build-up of soil, usually referred to as 'dark-earth', suggestive of abandonment, before being reoccupied in the Anglo-Scandinavian period. Deposits of this dark-earth have been uncovered in excavations on Tanner Row, Wellington Row, Skeldergate and North Street (McComish 2015, 20).

By the later 10th century narrow plots measuring one *perch* in width were present along the Skeldergate river frontage (Rees Jones 2013, 74). Anglo-Scandinavian buildings were also present at the Queen's Hotel site fronting onto the present street. This clearly shows that a distinct change in the road layout occurred at the start of the Anglo-Scandinavian period, with the eastern end of the main Tadcaster Road deflecting to the south, towards the present Ouse Bridge (Tweddle et al. 1999, 156).

It is possible that there were at least five churches within the walled area south-west of the Ouse by the time of the Norman Conquest, namely St Mary Bishophill Senior, St Mary Bishophill Junior, St Gregory, Holy Trinity and St Martin (McComish 2015, 8).

The Roman buildings in the area were either sealed by dark-earth (as described above) or were robbed out in the post-Roman period. The date at which the robbing occurred varied, but there was still Roman stonework available in the mid-11th century for the construction of the tower at Mary Bishophill Junior church (Tweddle et al. 1999, 157).

2.3 The Norman Conquest to the present

(Many of the street names used in the medieval period in this area differ from those of the present day; where the names differ the medieval name is given in ***bold italicised*** text below).

A motte and associated defensive moat called the Old Baile was built in 1068-9 within the southern portion of the former *colonia* (Rees Jones 2013, 87). A wooden bridge was present on the site of Ouse Bridge by the early 12th century, possibly in the late Anglo-Scandinavian period. This wooden bridge collapsed in 1155 and was replaced by a stone bridge (Rees Jones 2013, 95).

The parish churches of All Saints North Street and St John the Evangelist are first mentioned in documents dating to 1166-79 and 1194 respectively (Wilson and Mee 1998, 26 and 91). While a Dominican friary was established in 1227 in the area of the Old Station between ***North Street*** and the city walls (Rees Jones 2013, 92).

The street layout in the post-conquest period is illustrated in Rees Jones (2013, Map 11). The layout comprised Micklegate, ***North Street*** (which comprised the present-day North Street, Tanner Row and Toft Green), St Gregory's Lane, Skeldergate, ***Besingate*** (the present Lower Priory Street), ***Lounlithgate*** (the present Victor Street and Kirk Lane) and five streets which converged just north of St Mary Bishophill Junior church namely Fetter Lane, Trinity Lane, St Martin's Lane, ***Bishophill*** (the present Bishophill Junior), and ***Littlegate*** (the present day Bishophill Senior). Although some streets were fronted by buildings, others may have been less developed. For example, by the mid-12th century some of burgage plots which fronted the River Ouse on North Street were described as land with orchards (Rees Jones 2013, 75).

Timber-framed domestic buildings south of the River Ouse date from the second half of the 14th century to the late 15th/early 16th centuries (RCHM 1972, lxii-lxiii). By the 17th century both timber framed and brick houses were being constructed in the area (RCHM 1972, Plates 52-52 and 54). Micklegate was the main street giving access between the only entrance through the

walls at Micklegate Bar and Ouse Bridge, as such it was an important access route between London and Scotland; its importance was reflected in the quality of the buildings along the street, dating from the 14th century through to the 18th century (RCHM 1972, 68).

The 19th century saw the construction of terraced housing and various Nonconformist chapels within the medieval city walls. The Old Railway Station was begun within the city walls in 1839, and this was replaced by a new station outside the walls in 1877 (RCHM 1972, 53-55). Twentieth century redevelopment within the former *colonia* largely comprises the development of offices, shops and hotels, with relatively little housing being constructed.

3 BACKGROUND TO THE 24-30 TANNER ROW EXCAVATIONS

The excavations took place when the owners of the land in question, the General Accident Insurance Company Ltd, decided to extend their adjacent office block.

The archaeological potential of the Tanner Row area was well known prior to the 1983-4 excavations. Earlier excavations at 5 Rougier Street, less than 50m away from the Tanner Row site on the opposite side of the street, had revealed a complex sequence of deposits 7m in depth, of which the lowest 3m of deposits related to the Roman period. The Roman remains included a 2nd century ditch infilled with water-lain silts, dumps of burnt grain possibly indicating a fire in a warehouse nearby, a gritstone building, and a late 2nd century street that was remetalled several times up to the 4th century. The depth of the archaeological remains at Rougier Street coupled with the exceptional levels of organic preservation suggested that the Tanner Row site would yield significant archaeological discoveries.

4 EXCAVATION AND POST-EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

4.1 The Excavations

The excavations at 24-30 Tanner Row aimed to recover evidence relating to the *Colonia*, together with evidence for the immediate post-Roman period and evidence for the medieval tanning industry after which the street of Tanner Row is named.

Due to the archaeological potential of the site the excavations were initially funded by the Department of the Environment Ancient Monuments Inspectorate (which subsequently became English Heritage). The site was excavated from the present ground surface down to the underlying natural clay, and the deposits encountered were 7.5m thick.

The first stage comprised the excavation of a single trench 3m x 10m in size (Trench 1) located as close as possible to the street frontages of Rougier Street and Tanner Row. The depth of excavation in Trench 1 necessitated the use of steel-shoring sheets and three tiers of hydraulic shoring-braces (Plate 1).

Additional funding from both the Department of the Environment and the developers of the site, the General Accident Insurance Company, enabled the excavation of two further 3 x 10m trenches (Trenches 2-3). These were located to the north-west of Trench 1. The decision was taken to remove the uppermost 2.5m of deposits within Trenches 2-3 by machine, both because these areas had clearly been damaged by modern buildings such as Victorian cellars, and because Trench 1 showed that there was a 2m thick deposit of homogenous garden-type soil dating to 17-19th century across the site that was of limited archaeological potential. This

machining enabled the maximum amount of time available to be spent excavating the remains of Roman and early post-Roman date. To reduce to prohibitive costs of shoring the area around the uppermost sides of the trenches was sloped backwards, removing the need for an uppermost tier of shoring, with only the lower portions of the trenches being shored with steel sheeting and hydraulic braces.

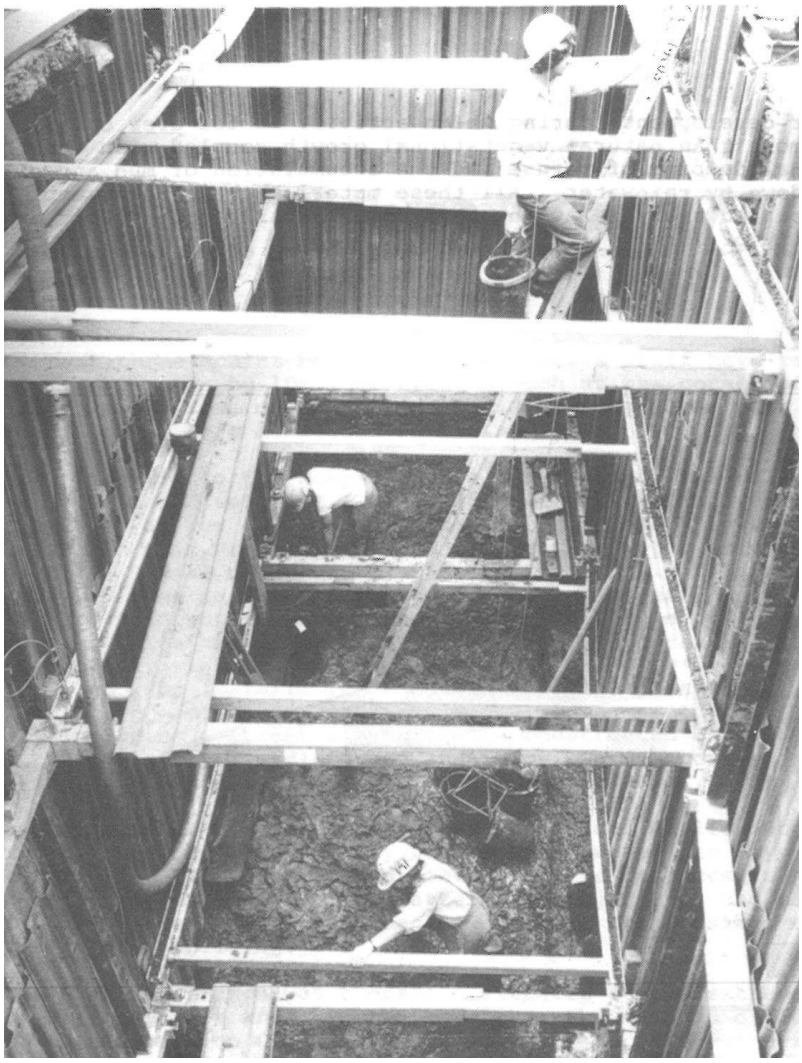

Plate 1 The shoring in Trench 1

A delay in the redevelopment schedule enabled the excavation of two further trenches. Trench 4 effectively joined Trenches 2 and 3 together, while Trench 5 was a narrow 1m wide trench located between Trenches 1 and 2. Trenches 4-5 aimed to establish stratigraphic links between the various features seen in Trenches 1-3. This final stage of excavation was funded by the Department of the Environment, and a public appeal to which the largest donation was from Mr. I. Skipper.

The excavations were directed by N. F. Pearson and A. Davison was the site supervisor. The site was excavated using a single context recording system whereby each successive deposit/cut/structure (termed a context) was identified, then planned and recorded before excavation; this process then being repeated until the end of excavation.

While the excavations were taking place N. F. Pearson wrote three reports for York Archaeological Trust's in-house magazine *Interim* detailing the progress at the site (Pearson 1983a, 1983b and 1994).

It should be noted that these excavations, though exceptionally deep, were limited in area, making interpretation of the Roman remains difficult. All the Roman buildings encountered continued beyond the limit of excavation and so their full extent was not established.

4.2 Post-excavation analysis

In 1983-4 sites were excavated in accordance with a document prepared by the Ancient Monuments Board for England entitled 'Principles of Publication in Rescue Archaeology' (Frere 1975) which defined four separate levels of research:

Level I = the site itself and the excavated finds

Level II = the records produced on the site during excavation

Level III = a detailed description of the structural, stratigraphic, artefactual data and environmental data with relevant illustrations. This usually took the form of a series of separate specialist reports, but these were not synthesised into a single coherent text.

Level IV = a synthetic publication with supporting illustrations based on the Level III reports

In the case of the 24-30 Tanner Row site the post-excavation analysis was taken to Level III. A detailed analysis of the stratigraphic sequence was prepared (Pearson and Lilley 1986). During post-excavation, related contexts were placed into *Context Series*, which were in turn placed into larger *Groups*. The numbering in the Level III report was in the form Trench.Group.Context Series. For example, Trench 4, Group 3, Context Series 3 would be referred to as 4.3.2. The *Groups* were then placed into chronological *Phases* which were in turn placed into *Periods*. The structural elements on the site were numbered sequentially as either *structures* or *buildings*, dependent upon their size (buildings being the larger of the two). Level III reports were also prepared on the pottery, animal bone, soils samples and artefacts from the excavations. Conservation work was also undertaken on various artefacts from the site, including the timbers.

Subsequently several aspects of the site have been fully published, the animal bone is published in O'Connor (1988), and the environmental evidence in Hall and Kenward (1990), while the pottery is published in both Perrin (1990) and Monaghan (1997). O'Connor's publication contains a summary of the stratigraphic sequence by N. F. Pearson (O'Connor 1988, 65-9) which is largely repeated in both the 1990 and 1997 publications. A draft publication text was prepared for the stratigraphic sequence at the site (Pearson 1990), which also includes reports on the stamped tiles, structural timbers, wall plaster and pigments in the wall plaster. This report has never been published, due to insufficient funds being available. The ceramic building material from the site has also been examined by McComish (2012).

4 SUMMARY OF THE EXCAVATION RESULTS BY PERIOD

The excavation summary given below is taken from Pearson (1990) unless otherwise stated, while the illustrations of the various periods (Figures 4-9) are taken from Hall and Kenward (1990, Figures 65-71), and the dating evidence is based on Monaghan (1997, 1106-7).

4.1 Pre- or early occupation levels, Period 1

Heavy clay and a deposit of cobbles in sand were seen in a series of small test holes in the base of Trenches 1 and 2 (Figure 3). The heavy clay was clearly of natural origin, but the cobbles in sand could have been either naturally occurring or could represent the earliest human activity at the site. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit to clarify its origins. Environmental samples from this period suggest that the site was a waterside area subjected to human disturbance, possibly being used for the grazing of animals (Hall and Kenward 1990, 375).

4.2 The Roman remains, Periods 2-8

4.2.1 Period 2 – The Initial use of the site (AD 120+)

Period 2 Phase 1

The earliest deposits relating to Period 2 were only observed in restricted parts of Trenches 1-3 (Figure 4). The first phase of activity comprised a band of water-worn cobbles sealed by deposits of clay and sand in Trench 1, while in Trench 2 there was a narrow drainage ditch running towards the River Ouse. It was unclear if this ditch was a naturally occurring water channel or whether it was man-made. Analysis of environmental samples from these features suggested that the site was close to a settlement, and may have been used for the grazing of animals as herbivore dung was present (Hall and Kenward 1990, 328-9).

Period 2 Phase 2

The second phase of activity within Period 2 comprised a build-up of sands and silts, seen in both Trenches 1 and 3 (Figure 4). In Trench 1 these deposits included a buried turf line. The earlier drainage ditch silted up and was re-cut twice. Environmental evidence recovered from the ditch fills suggested a mixture of water-lain deposition and dumping of rubbish from in and around buildings (Hall and Kenward 1990, 331).

Period 2 Phase 3

A build-up of highly organic deposits was seen in Trench 1 (Figure 5); these could represent either accumulation through vegetational growth or the deliberate dumping of material to raise the ground level. Artefacts from these deposits included pottery, wooden off-cuts, an iron stylus, and an enamelled copper-alloy seal box lid. In Trenches 2-4 dumped deposits were present, effectively raised the ground level. In the case of Trench 3 these deposits contained cinders, smithing waste and a large quantity of hearth-lining fragments suggesting that iron-working was taking place in the vicinity.

Analysis of soil samples suggested that human activity in the area was increasing, with insects indicative of 'house' fauna being present, together with a small number of insects termed as 'grain pests' (Hall and Kenward 1990, 336).

Pottery from this period was mainly of local manufacture, with some imported pottery from Cologne and Colchester also present (Perrin 1990, 250).

4.2.2 Period 3 – The first structural period (c. AD 160+)

Period 3 Phase 1

The earliest phase of activity in Period 3 (Figure 5) comprised the preparation of the area for the construction of buildings.

A timber and stone revetment (Structure 1) was constructed which supported an embankment. Structure 1 comprised a number of small posts and stone blocks which supported horizontal timbers laid on edge. To the rear of these were two stone column bases set in a deeper linear cut that supported an alignment of small planks and wattles laid flat. The wood used in Structure 1 was of several different species including oak, silver fir, pine, elm, and hazel rods. The column bases were worn on their upper surfaces and seem to have been re-used from elsewhere.

The area to the south east of structure 1 was levelled up to create a large embankment (Structure 2, Plate 2) made up by layers of sands, peat, turf and wattle. This bank revetted the terraces to the north-west and effectively divided the site into two areas at slightly different levels. Raising the ground in this way would have reduced the likelihood of flooding on the terrace. To the immediate south-west of the embankment was a drainage ditch. The co-existence of the ditch and terrace implies careful planning, aimed at creating additional dry land for building.

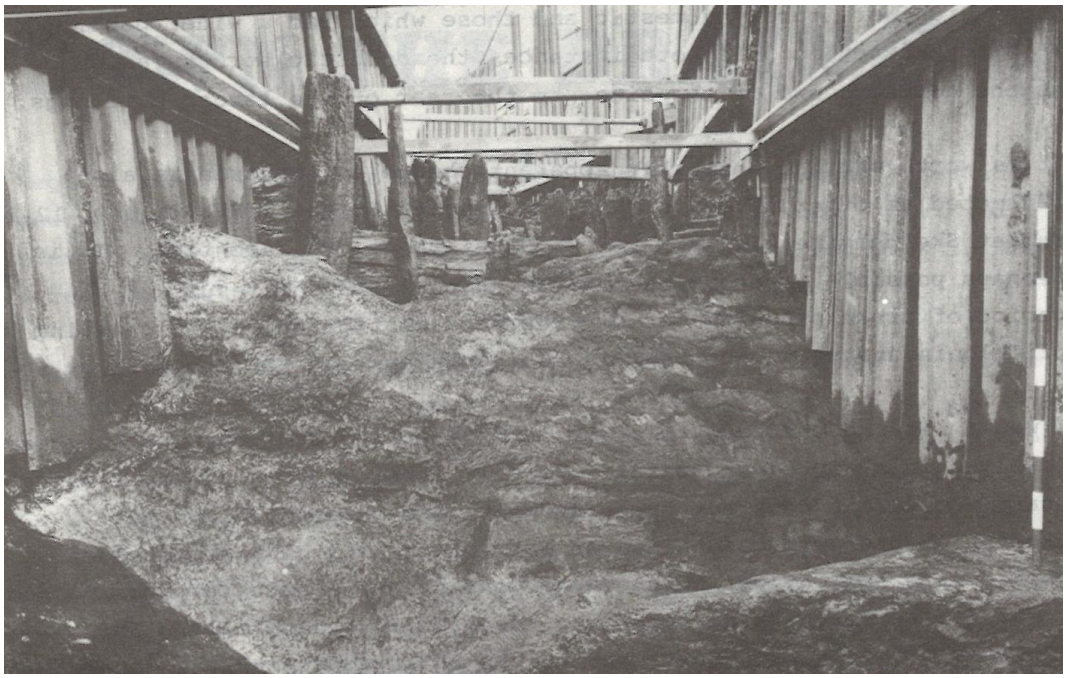

Plate 2 The embankment and front wall of Building 1, scale unit 0.1m

There were a number of minor structural features present across this site at this stage. In Trench 1 there was a solitary post-hole or small pit and a stake-hole. As no other structural elements were present in the trench at this stage these features are difficult to interpret. In Trench 4 there was a small timber-lined pit (Structure 3) with a wattle fence to its north-west (Structure 4). The function of this pit is unclear, but the presence of a small quantity of hearth linings in its fill suggests dumping from a nearby smithy.

Period 3 Phase 2

The second phase of activity comprised the construction of two timber buildings and a number of smaller associated structures on the terrace (Figure 6). The timbers in these buildings were exceptionally well-preserved, standing over 1m high in places. It is clear that the buildings to the rear of the site (i.e. away from the Tanner Row frontage) were less substantial, with four

successive buildings located in this part of the site between the mid-2nd century and the early 3rd century, while the building closest to Tanner Row was replaced only once during this time. The survival of timbers of this date is exceptionally rare nationally, and these buildings therefore offer an outstanding opportunity to study the carpentry techniques of the 2nd century.

Trench 1 contained a metalled surface at this stage (Plate 3). This was almost level across its south-eastern half, but the north-western portion sloped sharply downwards towards the ditch in Trench 2. This seems to have been a yard surface, and it would appear that horses or cattle were corralled in this area as the overlying deposits consisted largely of hay-rich dung (Ottaway 1993, 80).

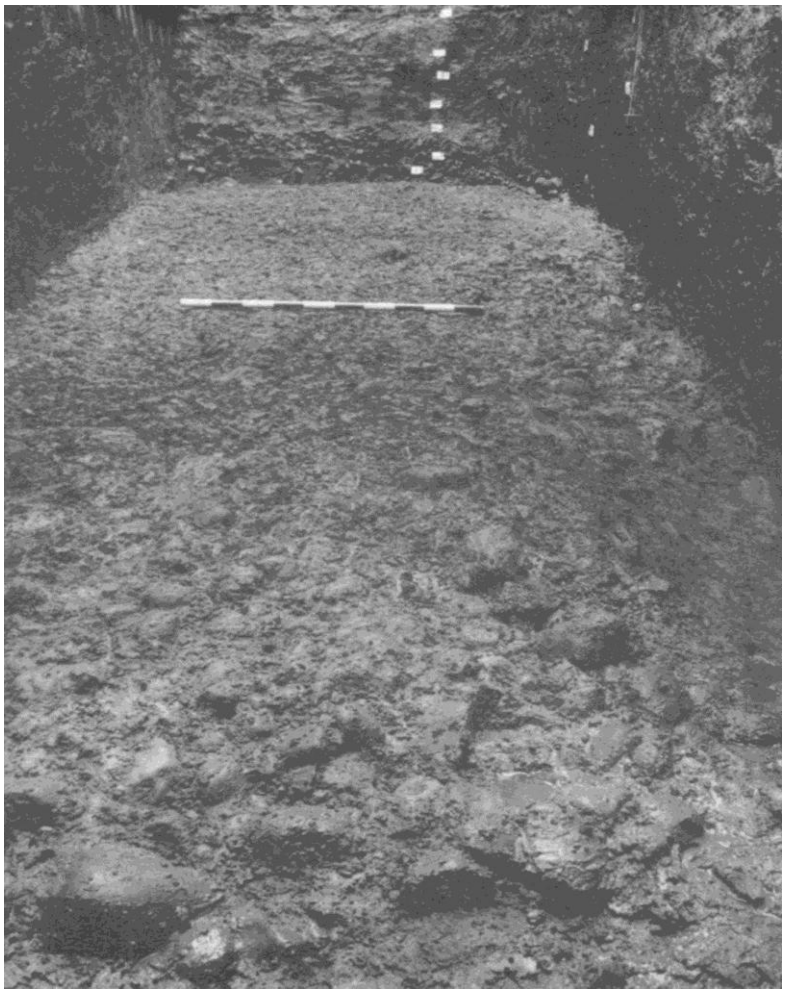

Plate 3 The metalled surface in Trench 1, scale unit 0.1m

A number of buildings were constructed on the terrace in Trenches 2-4. It should be noted that the revetment (Structure 1) remained in use throughout this phase. Building 1 was constructed to the immediate south-east of Structure 1, while to the north of the revetment an open area interpreted as a yard, with Building 2 to its north-west.

Building 1 was one room in depth with a maximum span of 3.2m. The front wall was of posts set into pits, with horizontal planks nailed onto the inner face of the posts; this wall survived to a height of 0.3m. An internal sill-beam (Context 2509) 3.2m in length and 0.2m square was present at a right angle to the front wall of the building (visible directly above the

photographic scale in Plate 4). This sill-beam was not jointed into the front or rear walls of the building, but rather was pinned into position by three driven uprights which also supported several horizontal wall planks set on edge and nailed into position. Small mortices in the sill-beam which had no structural significance suggested that the timbers were re-used. A second large sill-beam (Context 2512) formed the rear wall of the building; this beam also had non-functional mortices suggestive of re-use. There was a timber raft, or corduroy, made of unworked timbers which even had the bark surviving (visible beneath the shoring braces to the left of the photographic scale on Plate 4) within the building. This feature was presumably designed to give additional strength to the building (Pearson 1984, 9). No trace of any internal floors was found, but these were presumably wooden floors suspended above the sill beams and corduroy. The lack of floor surfaces within the building makes interpretation of its function difficult.

Plate 4 Building 1 facing south-east, scale unit 0.1m

A timber-lined drain (Structure 5, Plate 5) was present between Building 1 and Structure 1. The drain was in a plank lined cut 0.22m wide and 0.47m deep. A small piece of timber was present spanning the two edges of the drain supporting the side planks, and three small timbers supported the north-western side of the drain. The planks had been carefully cut and nailed into position. The wood used in the construction of the drain was silver fir (Hall and Kenward 1990, 338), which is a non-native species and so must have been imported. Samples from the fill of the drain included a variety of foodstuffs suggesting that the eaves-drip drain was also used for the disposal of kitchen waste. The drain also contained fragments of a melted tar-like substance that could indicate the burning of pine-wood for fuel, or that tar was

being used as water-proofing on the nearby buildings, or that is was being used to caulk and seal boats on the nearby river.

Plate 5 The timber lined drain, scale unit 0.1m

Building 2 comprised two sill beams 5.6m apart and a number of floor or occupation surfaces. Both sill beams had mortices on their upper surfaces to support a superstructure, and in the case of the south-western beam wall two of the uprights survived (Plate 6). The south-western beam was larger, perhaps suggesting that it was an external wall with the smaller beam being for an internal wall. Other horizontal timbers were present within the building suggestive of internal partitions or joists to support flooring.

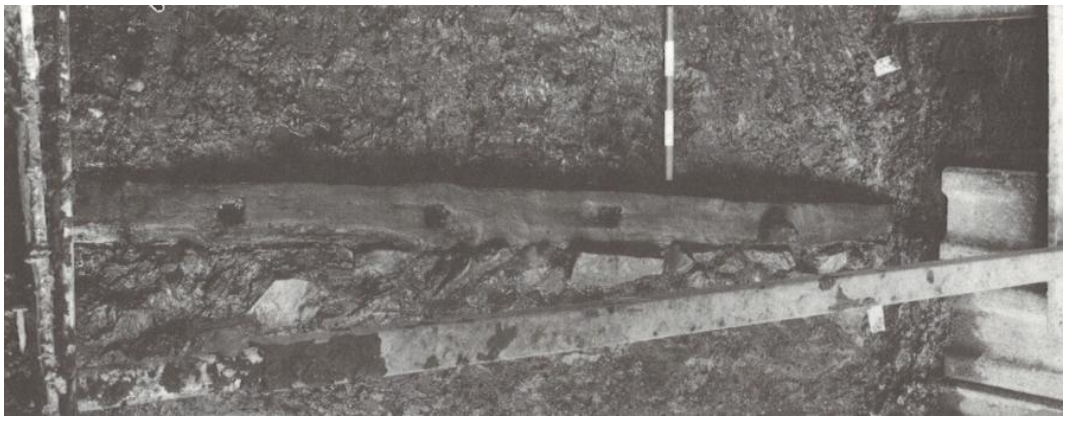

Plate 6 The south-western sill beam of Building 2 showing the uprights in situ, scale unit 0.1m

The yard between Building 1 and 2 contained a series of compacted clay deposits and some mortar patches. The yard also contained a small timber lined pit (Structure 6) and a linear cut (Context 3355) which was, presumably a drain.

The deposits in the yard and fill of the drain yielded numerous artefacts. These included a large quantity of smithing waste. Hearth linings and hearth-bottom slags were present in the yard deposits together with fragments of tools associated with iron-working. This evidence suggests that smithing was taking place nearby, possibly to the west of the excavated area. A fragment of a crucible re-used for melting gold was also found, indicating the working of precious metals in the area. There was also a significant quantity of leather including parts of two adjoining tent flap door panels. It is possible that tents were being repaired at the site. One find of particular interest was a leather tent flap with a graffito referring to the Century of Sollius Julianus, identified as Marcus Sollius Julianus who is named on a building stone at

Hadrian's Wall (Ottaway 1993, 81). Other finds from this yard included a small handsaw, a spoon bit, a wooden stave bucket and three iron styli.

Period 3 Phase 3

The only structural activity of this phase took place at the north-western end of the site where Building 2 was replaced by Building 3, which presumably rested on sill-beams although none survived. The internal surfaces of the building included a tile hearth and an associated mortar and tile floor. The remains of a second stave built bucket were present within this building.

In the yard to the south of Building 3 deposits continued to accumulate, sealing the earlier plank lined pit (Structure 6). These deposits included a compact mortar spread. The earlier drain (Context 3355) was replaced by a new timber lined drain (Structure 7) that had planks along the sides but not the base. The side planks were on edge and held in position with upright stakes and in two instances the planks were nailed to the uprights. A wattle fence (Structure 8) was present along the north-eastern side of the drain. A small pit was also present within the yard, and this pit contained a crucible base and a vessel containing copper-alloy residues, suggesting that copper-working was taking place nearby.

Structures 1 and 5, together with Building 1, continued in use throughout this phase. The ditch at the southern end of Trench 2 gradually silted up during this phase. It was then re-cut. A second ditch was cut slightly to its north, close to the foot of the embankment.

Period 3 Phase 4

The fourth phase of activity was again only seen in the north-western end of the site where Building 3 was replaced by Building 4 (Figure 7). The south-eastern side of Building 4 was represented by a foundation-cut containing a wall with a rubble core and planks set on edge to either side. Any other structural elements of this building seem to have been robbed out with the exception of a single horizontal beam, a tiled surface which may have represented a post-pad, and the remains of a limestone flagged floor.

The yard to the south of Building 4 remained an open area. Structures 1 and 5, together with Building 1, continued in use throughout this phase. The ditches at the southern end of Trench 2 remained, but continued to silt-up.

The environmental and artefactual evidence from Period 3

Environmental samples from Period 3 showed that the site had taken on an urban character. The Period 3 deposits yielded traces of numerous foodstuffs including bread/club wheat, spelt wheat, oats, barley, lentils, olive stones, sloe, dewberry, mulberry, dill, summer savory, hempseed, coriander, hazelnut, fig, walnut, flax (linseed), apple, opium poppy, rue, blackberry, strawberry, elderberry, grape, celery seed, mussel shells, abundant bird eggshell fragments, fish bones, fish scales, crab shells, oyster shells and possibly fennel and field beans (Hall and Kenward 1990, 338-9, 342-3). The remains of garden dormice were also present. This species is currently distributed from the Mediterranean to Northern France, and if the Roman distribution was similar, the individual animals may represent deliberate imports (O'Connor 1988, 108). Given that there are accounts of dormice being served at Roman banquets it is possible that these may have been imported to York as a luxury exotic food (ibid., 108).

On a less savoury note the bones of house mice and black rats were also present, as were insects classed as grain pests, dung beetles and traces of human fleas (Hall and Kenward 1990, 342, 345). Some of the samples from the top of the embankment were also suggestive of the dumping of spoiled hay (ibid., 347).

The presence of large amounts of smithing slag, together with the evidence of both copper and gold working suggests that the area was used for metalworking. Two buckets and a shovel handle among the finds may also be related to smithing. Fragments of military equipment such as a pattern-welded sword blade, three copper alloy mail rings, a small peltoid mount and a hanging lamp found at the site all suggest military connections, giving rise to the idea that there may have been a smithy at the site producing or repairing goods for the military. The tent flaps from the site probably represent the dumping of waste, but may imply that repairs to such equipment were taking place at the site or nearby. The presence of a single parasitic sheep ked possibly suggests that wool or sheepskin was being processed or that sheep were being butchered nearby (Hall and Kenward 1990, 349).

4.2.3 Period 4 – A site wide accumulation of organic deposits (late 2nd century)

Period 4 saw the accumulation of organic-rich deposits over the entire site (Figure 7). Being thinner over the earlier timber buildings and thicker above the metalled surface in Trench 1, this deposit had the effect of levelling up the entire site to create an even ground surface. The only earlier structure to remain in use was the timber-lined drain (Structure 5).

Environmental samples from these deposits suggested that some of the material was derived from stable sweepings, containing hay, dung beetles, horse-hair and parasites specific to equines, the samples also showed a similar range of species to those seen in Period 3 (Hall and Kenward 1990, 355). The pottery from this period contained a range of types seen in the alleyways between two buildings adjacent to the headquarters building of the fortress, implying that some of the dumped material originated from the fortress (Monaghan 1997, 1106). Although smithing waste was present in the Period 4 deposits, it was in smaller quantity than Periods 2-3, and may be evidence of dumping from elsewhere rather than of manufacture at or near the 24-3- Tanner Row site.

4.2.4 Period 5 – The second phase of timber buildings (c. AD 200+)

Period 5 Phase 1

This phase (Figure 8) saw the construction of new buildings in Trenches 2-4. Building 5 was constructed above the site of the earlier Building 1, and the eaves-drip drain was cleaned out and re-used as a drain for Building 5. The line of the original revetment of Structure 1 was also re-instated, comprising a cut with two round post-holes and some fragments of timber. As most of the structure was missing it is assumed to have been robbed out at a later date.

The front wall of Building 5 comprised a group of oak uprights, several of which had formed part of Building 1 and protruded through the Period 4 accumulations. These uprights had planking nailed to either side of the upright posts giving a kind of cavity-wall (Plate 7). A sill beam at right angles to the front wall seemed to represent an internal wall. This was held in place by two stone blocks. This sill beam was in exactly the same position as the wall of the earlier Building 1, but 0.5m higher up. The stone blocks may have acted as supports for a wooden floor. The sill beam had mortices cut into the upper surface to house uprights, but

none of these uprights survived, and they were presumably removed in antiquity. The rear wall of the building was a complicated feature of sill beams and uprights in construction trenches. Smaller horizontal timbers were present within the building, which had non-functional mortices cut into them, indicating that they were re-used from elsewhere. No internal floors survived for this building, again making interpretation of its function difficult.

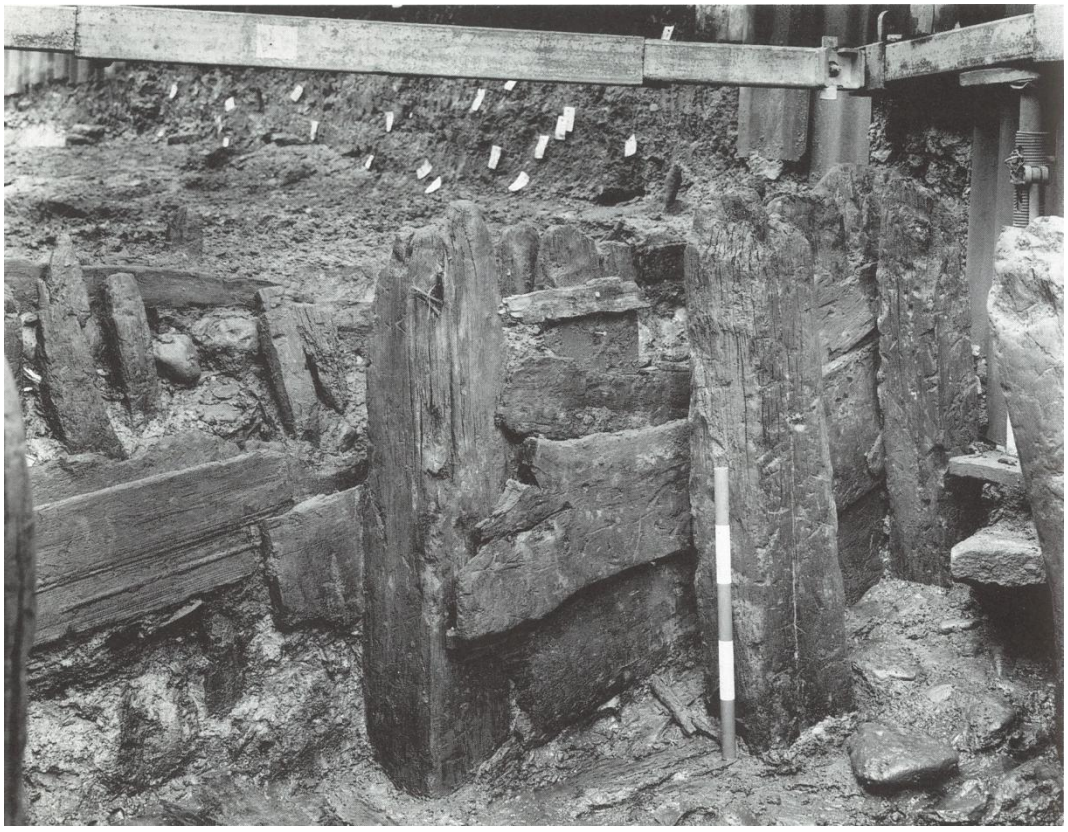

Plate 7 The walling of Building 5, scale unit 0.1m

Building 6 was constructed at the north-western end of the site. This was represented by three bands of deposits interpreted as rudimentary footings. The southernmost of these comprised flat timbers covered by crushed tile and pebbles. A second band of compact clay lay just to the north of this, while a narrow linear cut interpreted as a beam-slot represented the northernmost wall. Fragments of an internal mortar surface were present.

A group of aligned posts in Trench 1 were interpreted as a property boundary fence in front of and at right angles to Building 5. A series of posts, some of which were in small pits, were seen at the southern end of Trench 2. These were also interpreted as the remains of a property boundary, indicating that the land had been divided into properties at this stage. The thick organic accumulation continued around these fences in Trench 1.

Period 5 Phase 2

During Phase 2 an additional joist was added to Building 5. Deposition took place to either side of Building 5, and in the case of Trench 1 there was a thick accumulation of organic material which again incorporated material from the cleaning out of stables or byres.

The presence of a large dump of cattle bones, and a find of a complete meat cleaver, in the area to the south-east of Building 5 may indicate that it was a butcher's premises. Many of the

limb bones had been smashed, presumably to recover marrow (O'Connor 1988, 117). Some of the bones had small rectangular holes cut into them, and it has been suggested that this was to allow the shoulder joints to be suspended for curing or smoking, while the presence of abundant scapulae imply that the joints had been 'boned-out' (ibid., 82-4). The presence of large-scale butchery and the types of products have been interpreted as what might be termed the 'delicatessen trade' (ibid., 117).

Organic deposits continued to accumulate at the southern end of Trench 2 to either side of the boundary fence and in Trench 1. Environmental evidence suggested that hay had been brought into the site in some quantity, possibly as flooring for the butcher's shop or that animals were being kept on the premises. Over half the leather footwear offcuts from the site were from a single deposit in Trench 1 suggesting that leatherworking was also taking place as a secondary activity to the butchering of animals.

Period 5 Phase 3

The third phase of activity in Period 5 saw the demise of Building 5, with part of the front wall having broken off and collapsed.

4.2.5 Period 6 – A third phase of buildings (c. AD 225+)

This period comprised a number of disparate constructional elements located across the entire site (Figure 8). Three possible buildings are proposed (Buildings 7-9). Building 7 comprised three construction pits filled with cobbles set in clay, and in the case of the north-eastern most of these pits there were also three upright timbers. None of the superstructure or floors of the building survived. Deposits associated with Building 7 included a number of jet pins and a fragment of gold-wire, together with a fragment of a copper-alloy statuette and a mould fragment. This suggests that the building was a general workshop containing diverse crafts including jet-working, copper-alloy production and jewellery manufacture. Some smithing slag and metal waste were also present, but the quantity recovered suggests that smithing in the area was in decline at this stage.

Building 8 was damaged by the construction of the later Building 10. All that remained were two narrow gullies and two stone pads set into pits packed with clay. There was also an *opus signinum* floor bedded on a firm layer of cobbles. An area of limestone flags in the northern half of the trench may have formed a rough floor in the building, or may have been resultant from its demolition.

All that remained of the structure of Building 9 was two stone post-pads with sockets in their upper surfaces to support uprights. There was a series of deposits of clays and silts around the post-pads that may represent the floors of the building.

4.2.6 Period 7 – Stone buildings (c. AD 225+)

Period 7 Phase 1

This period saw a fundamental change in the nature of the buildings at the site, with large-scale buildings of stone being present (Buildings 10 and 11, Figure 9). These new buildings followed the alignment of the earlier timber buildings, but extended further to the east. As with the earlier periods there were distinct differences between the buildings at the front and rear of the site, with Building 10 closest to the Tanner Row frontage being the more substantial of the two; this building also remained in use for a longer period of time.

Building 10 clearly continued both to the south-east and south-west of the excavated area. It was in excess of 19.5m long and 7.5m wide. The building had 1.7m to 2m wide foundation trenches with oak piles driven through their base (Plate 8). In the case of Trench 1 the foundation trench was filled with densely packed clay and cobbles (beneath the photographic scale on Plate 9), while the northernmost foundation trench of the building in Trench 2 was filled with rough limestone blocks set in a herringbone pattern. This was perhaps to give additional strength to the corner of the building. The remaining foundation trench in Trench 2 was infilled with less dense material, suggesting that this supported a smaller internal wall. The foundation trench in Trench 1 had a distinct step in the base, 0.58m deep indicating the need for stronger foundations in that part of the building. This may have been related to the height of the superstructure, such as the presence of an additional storey. The quality and scale of this building suggest that it was of some importance, possibly being a public building. This building remained standing until the 11-12th centuries.

Plate 8 The oak pile foundations in the base of the construction trench, scale unit 0.1m

A small patch of fragmented limestone slabs were present in Trench 2 which may represent the remains of the original floor. Three surfaces of cobbles in sand, together with a number of thin sand deposits in Trench 1 may also represent occupation surfaces. These were bisected by two narrow slots interpreted as beam slots or the impressions left by joists to support a timber floor. Little of the superstructure of Building 10 remained due to medieval robbing, but fragments of patterned painted plaster were found in deposits relating to its robbing. The painted plaster had traces of a green and yellow floral design on a black background.

A number of post-holes in Trench 1 outside Building 10 could represent either the remains of the scaffolding used to erect Building 10 or the remains of a small lean-to structure.

Plate 9 The construction trench for Building 10 prior to excavation, scale unit 0.1m

Building 11 was less substantial for although it was built of stone it did not have the deep construction trenches seen in Building 10. There was a north-west to south-east aligned wall of stone blocks faced with pink plaster and this wall incorporated a plaster-faced step or bench (Plate 10). A linear band of clay at right angles to the wall was interpreted as the bedding for structural timbers. The building therefore seems to have been a combination of timber and stone. This clay band lay directly above the two earlier post-pads of Building 9, suggesting some degree of structural continuity. There were three successive clay pebble and cobble deposits within the building, which were cut by a narrow linear slot at right angles to the wall. This slot may represent a floor joist or internal timber fitting. This was the most securely dated of the buildings on the site having early to mid-3rd century Nene Valley ware and Mancetter-Hartshill pottery in its foundations (Perrin 1990, 257).

Between Buildings 10 and 11 there was a yard within which was a 1.06m square cut (Structure 9, Plate 11). This was lined by planks set on edge and held in place by four square sectioned oak uprights at the corners and six rounded stakes driven between the timber lining and sides

of the cut. There was a deposit of clay and cobbles at the base of the pit. The pit contained evidence of smithing waste, leather offcuts including discarded tent and shoe fragments and a small flake of jet, this may represent general disposal of residual waste rather than representing nearby activity.

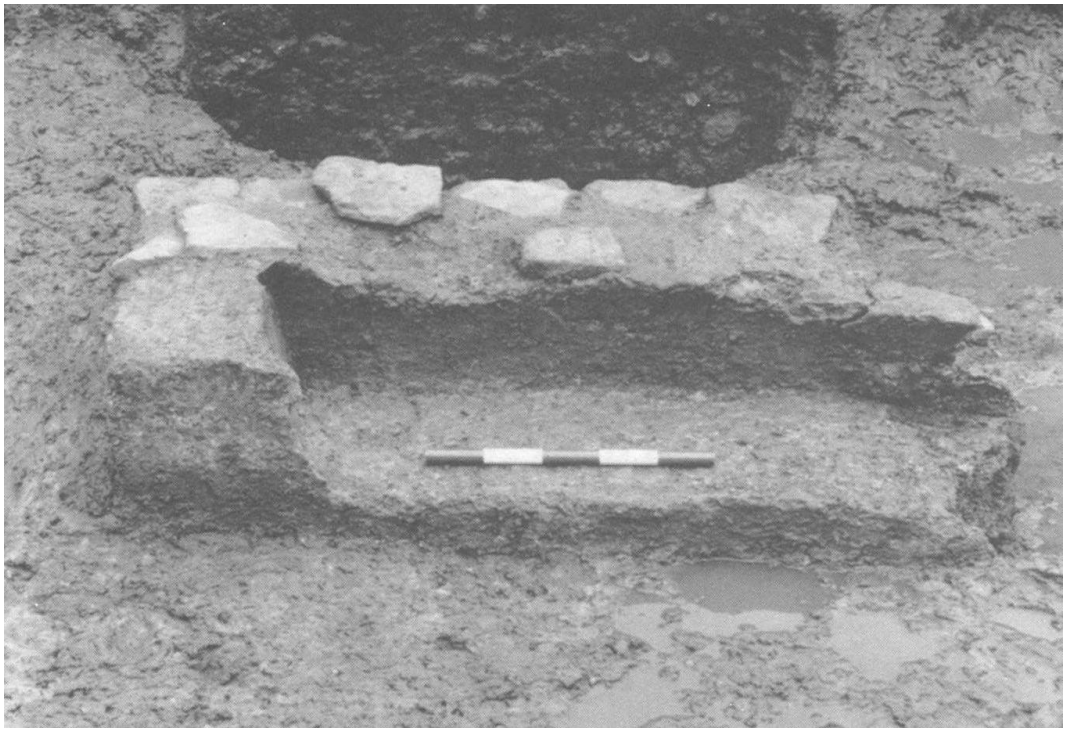

Plate 10 The plaster faced step or bench in Building 11, scale unit 0.1m

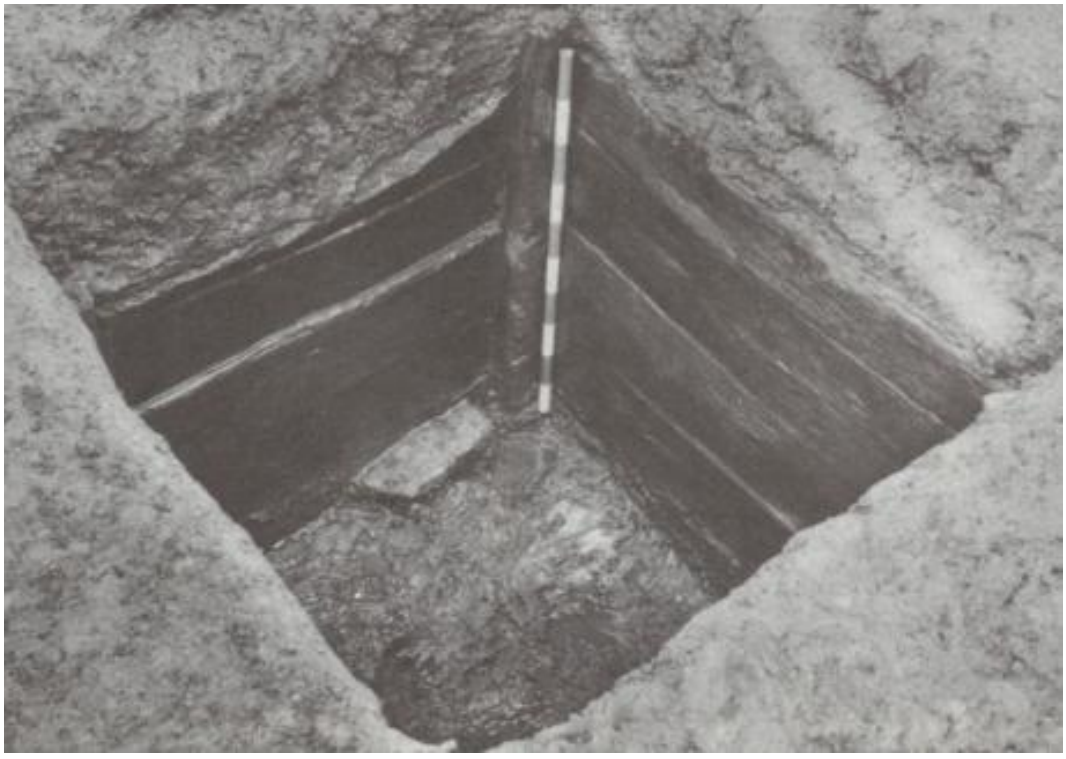

Plate 11 The timber lined pit Structure 9, scale unit 0.1m

Other than the material in the pit, there is no evidence of industrial activity on the site in Period 7, suggesting a fundamental change in the function of the area. The nature of the deposits on site also changed at this time, becoming notably less organic, again suggesting a change in function.

Period 7 Phase 2

Building 10 seems to have been altered at the north-western end, possibly being demolished down to foundation level. It had certainly gone out of use before Period 8. It continued in use in Trench 1, where a limestone block and pit were present, which were presumably integral to the building. These were sealed by a series of internal surfaces of compacted cobbles and sand.

Period 7 Phase 3

The internal floors of Building 10 were sealed by a clay layer into which were cut four linear features parallel to the north-eastern wall of the building. These were regularly spaced and may have been to house floor joists.

Period 7 Phase 4

The Phase 3 slots were sealed by a series of mixed deposits including an area of pebbles set in orange clay which seem to represent a floor. This was in turn truncated by a linear feature 0.7m long and 0.3m deep which was of uncertain function. An ornate pendant of debased silver from a military harness fitting was found in this feature. Similar objects are known from Upper Germany and Raetia, from where reinforcements came in AD 208 for Severus' campaigns in Scotland.

4.2.6 Period 8 – Continued use of Buildings 10 and 11 (4th century)

While the artefacts associated with this period are entirely Roman, many are residual, and this period may represent activity that continues into the post-Roman period. This period saw the demise of Building 11 and Structure 9, both of which were overlain by dumped deposits containing clay and rubble. A number of pits and a post-hole were cut through the former north-western area of Building 10, indicating that this portion of the structure had gone out of use (though this could have happened as early as Period 7 Phase 2). One of these pits had a wicker lining and contained partly digested herring bones suggesting that it was a cess pit.

There were distinct differences between Period 8 environmental samples and those of the earlier periods, most notably the disappearance of grain pests (Hall and Kenward 1990, 375).

4.3 The post-Roman remains, Periods 9-11

4.3.1 Period 9 – Anglo-Scandinavian- Norman (5th–12th century)

There was no evidence for any activity on the site during the Anglian or early Anglo-Scandinavian periods other than vegetational growth and some structural decay or demolition for which there was no dating evidence. Finds of Anglo-Scandinavian date included antler comb fragments and a lined pin.

The deposits of 11-12th century date were only seen in Trench 1 (Figure 9). Building 1 clearly survived in this area, and within it were occupation derived deposits and possible floors truncated by three linear cuts, probably designed to house timbers. These deposits were 0.6m

thick and incorporated evidence of copper-alloy manufacture. Outside Building 10 there was a build-up of deposits suggestive of a garden or open space. There were also some dumps of mortar and rubble, both inside and outside the buildings, which may derive from occupation, repair or even the demolition of Building 10.

A timber lined pit (Structure 10), was present at the north-western end of Trench 1. The timber lining comprised horizontal planks set on edge supported by timber uprights. The fill included faecal material and crushed eel and herring bones, suggesting that in its final stages this pit was used for the disposal of cess. This feature did not contain any datable artefacts, but the environmental samples differed from those of the Roman periods. Cornfield and arable weeds were more common; these had been rare in the Roman levels. In addition, the grain beetles characteristic of Periods 2-6 were absent. Some evidence was present for plants associated with textile dyeing, namely dyer's greenweed and clubmoss (Hall and Kenward 1990, 370, 375).

4.3.2 Periods 10-12 – Demolition (12th–13th century)

The late 12th-early 13th century saw the widespread robbing of the Period 7 buildings which were removed to foundation level across the entire excavated area, with all the stone from the walls being systematically removed. In all trenches except Trench 5 the robber trench was wider than the original construction cut for the buildings, thereby removing any stratigraphic links between the walls and the internal floors of the buildings. The robber trench was infilled with abundant discarded building material including mortar, painted plaster and fragmented stone.

Robbing of the buildings was followed by the accumulation of a 2m thick series of deposits, which represented a combination of build-ups and dumps interspersed with rubbish and cess pits. These accumulated throughout the 13th century. Some of the pits contained deposits of cattle and goat horn cores, which would appear to relate to the production of horn artefacts (O'Connor 1988, 81). There were also traces of dyer's greenweed (Genista tinctoria) and teasel suggesting that dyeing and textile preparation was also taking place. Environmental samples from these deposits yielded remains of bran, leek, sloe, plum, cherry, apple, flax (linseed), blackberry, dewberry, strawberry, charred cereals, herring, eel and human faeces.

A 13th century timber-lined well was also present; this was built from eight courses of oak timbers laid horizontally on edge and fixed with both saddle joints and nails. Several of the timbers had non-functional holes drilled through them, indicating that the timbers were re-used from elsewhere. The uppermost fills of this well indicate that in its final stages it was used as a cess pit.

4.3.3 Period 13 Modern deposits

In Trench 1 there was a homogenous deposit of 17th-19th century date interpreted as the gradual accumulation of soil resultant from cultivation. This evidence can be related to early maps of the area, as both Benedict Horsley's map of 1694 and Peter Chasseraeu's map of 1750 show the site as orchard and gardens fronting onto Tanner Row.

There were considerable amounts of tortoiseshell found in these deposits, waste from the late 18th to early 19th century Rougier family comb workshops (Hall and Kenward 1990, 374).

There were various Victorian buildings on the site, some with cellars. The most recent deposits related to The General Life Insurance Company car park, together with underlying modern drain and service-pipe trenches.

5 CONCLUDING REMARKS

The excavations at 24-30 Tanner Row were of immense interest, providing a rare example of a sequence of excavated deposits spanning the entire history of York from the Romans to the present day. The site was exceptional, both for the depth of the archaeological deposits which had accumulated, and for the levels of organic preservation seen, in particular for the exceptionally rare survival of Roman timber buildings. The timbers in these buildings are of considerable importance to the study of Roman carpentry techniques, and are currently being researched. York Archaeological Trust is grateful to the Museum Resilience Fund for providing the opportunity to further research these timbers, which deserve to be more widely known.

It is clear that the site was little used prior to c. AD 160, but after this time the site was intensively used throughout the Roman period. The creation of a raised embankment to create dry land for buildings, together with associated drainage, represents a deliberate act of planning. It forms part of a pattern of late 2nd to mid-3rd century land reclamation seen on several sites to the immediate south-west of the Ouse (McComish 2015, 14). The timber buildings above the terrace were clearly associated with a range of industrial and craft activities. The timber buildings of Periods 3-5 were short-lived, with four successive buildings constructed at the northern end of Trench 3 and two successive buildings constructed at the northern end of Trench 2 within a period of just 60 years between *c*. AD 160-225.

The animal bones from periods 3-5 suggest that beef was the principal source of meat supplemented by some lamb? and mutton (O'Connor 1988). The scale of production can be interpreted as either commercial trade or large-scale supply geared towards the military. The military nature of the goods produced (leather tents and weaponry), have led Whyman (2001, 195) to conclude that the area south-west of the Ouse was under direct military control at this stage, with production being geared to the needs of the military. The presence of twelve Legio VI stamped tiles in association with the timber buildings may suggest that these timber buildings were roofed with military tiles (McComish 2012, 92-94). It has also been noted that the 24-30 Tanner Row timber buildings incorporated re-used timbers that probably originated from the fortress, which was being heavily rebuilt at the time (Ottaway 1999, 142). Taken together this evidence suggests strong military connections for the site.

The buildings of Period 6, though badly preserved, clearly represent a change in construction techniques away from the earlier all-timber buildings seen at the site.

Period 7 saw a change in the function and status of the area, with the construction of a substantial stone building (Building 10) and smaller associated building to the rear. In addition, the site was no longer used for industrial purposes. The size and scale of Building 10 have led to the suggestion that it was some kind of public building.

The site was little used between the end of the Roman Empire and the 11-12th century. The fact that part of Building 10 survived throughout this period, and was even reused in the 11th-12thcentury is testament to the quality of its construction. Although it had been hoped that

the site would yield evidence of the medieval tanning industry, this was not found. The site did however produce evidence of industrial activity of late 18th- early 19th century date in the form of waste tortoiseshell from comb production.

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York Archaeological Trust

0 100 500m

Figure 1: Location of Tanner Row excavations within York

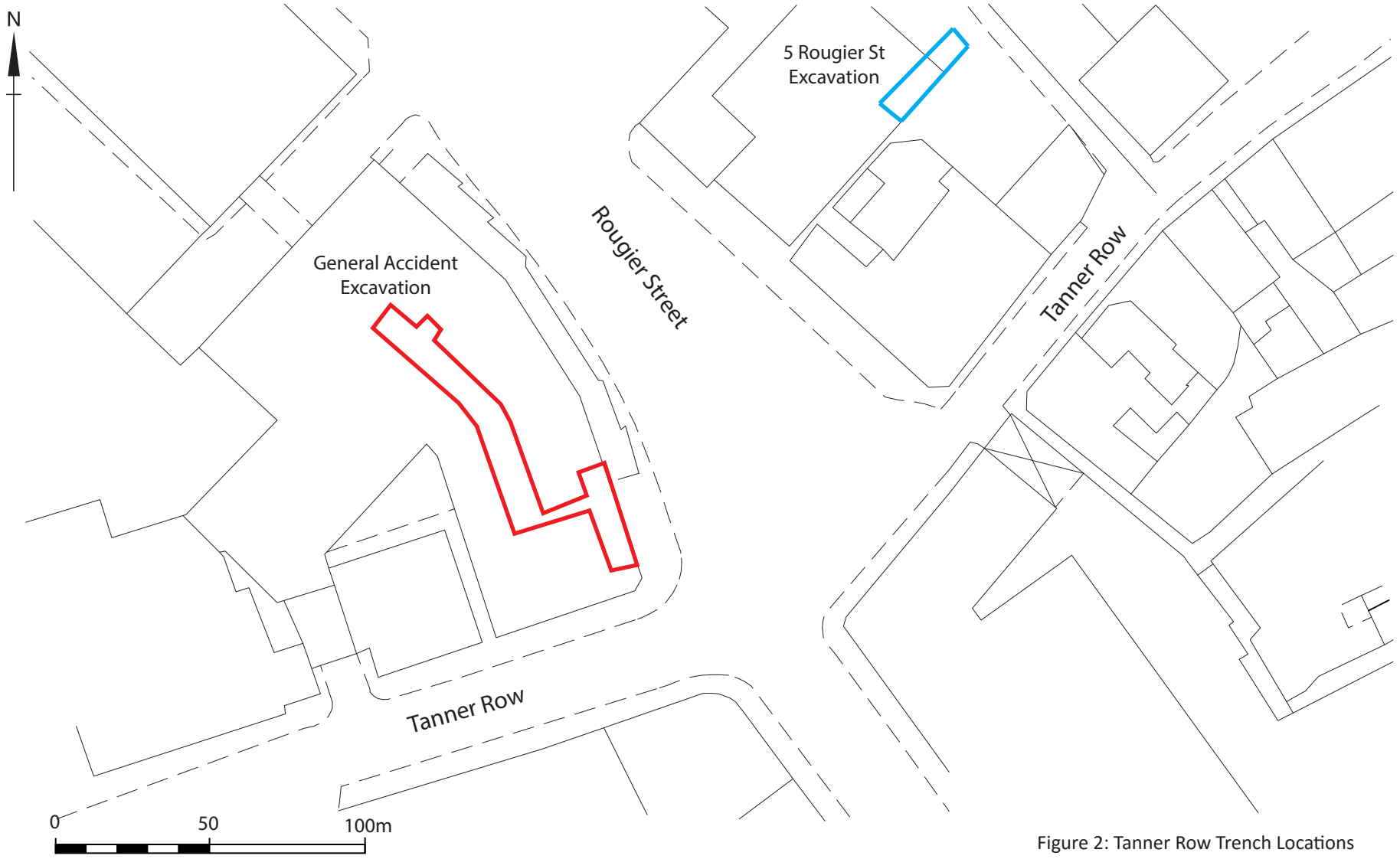

Figure 2: Tanner Row Trench Locations

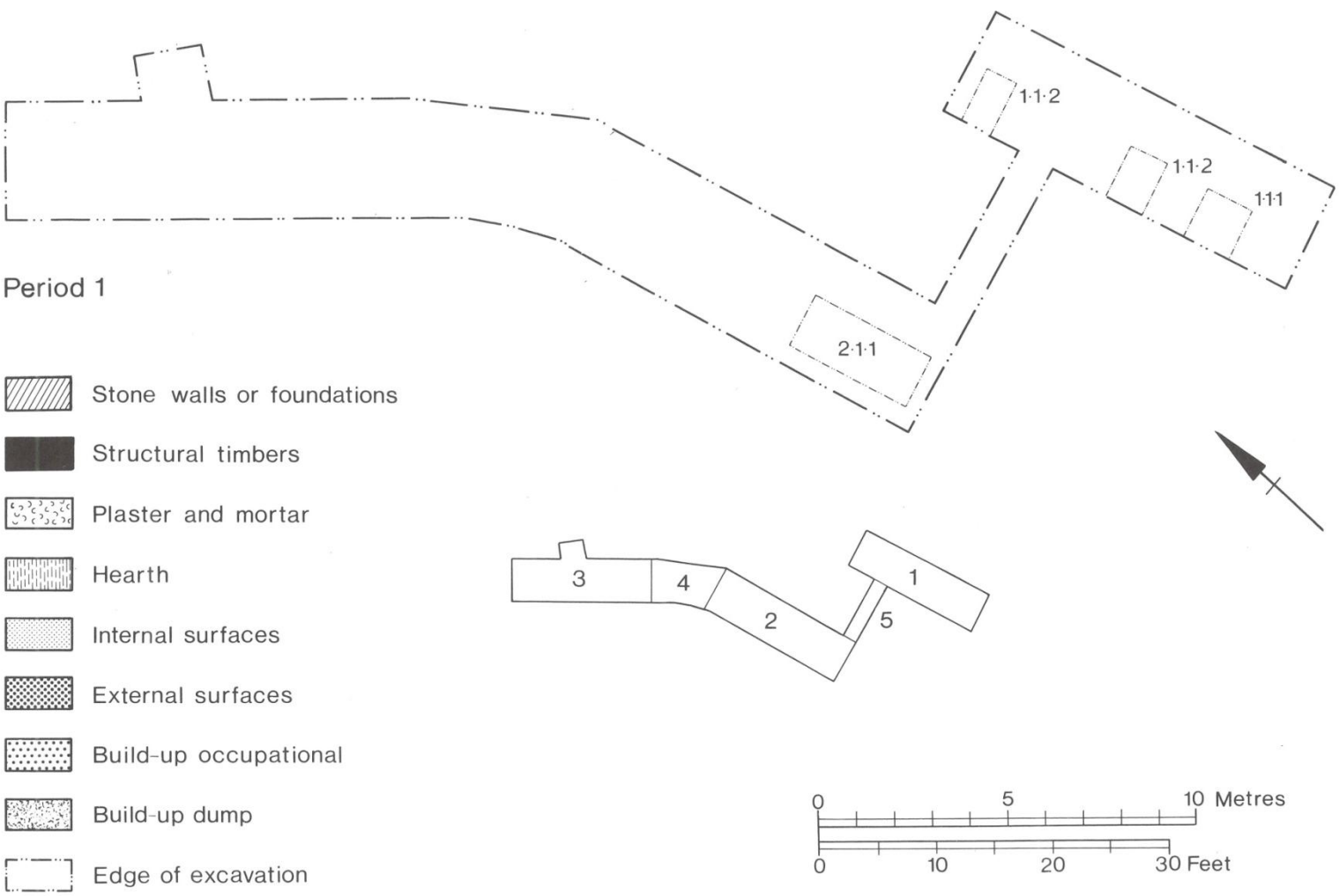

Figure 3 Period 1

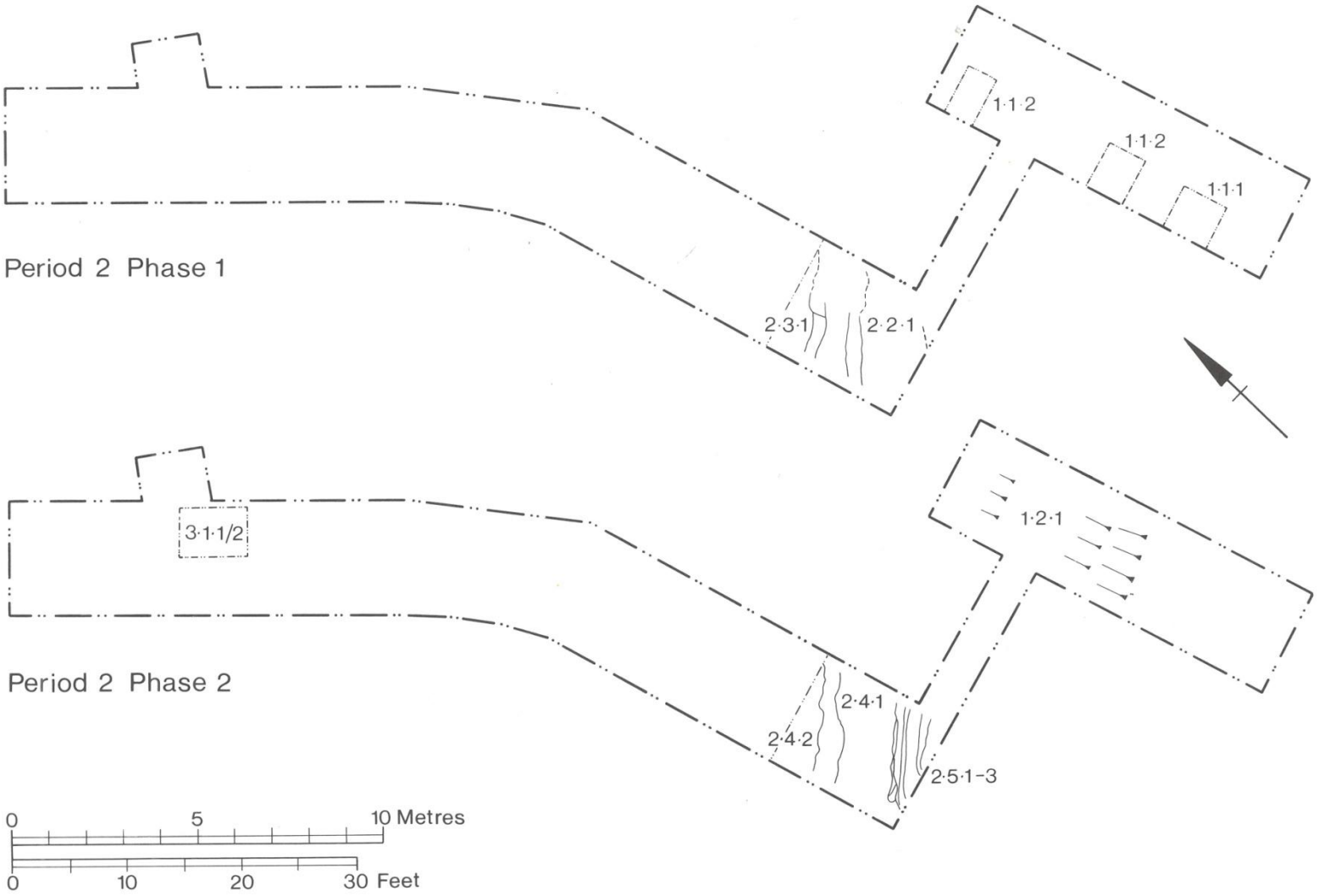

Figure 4 Period 2 Phases 1-2

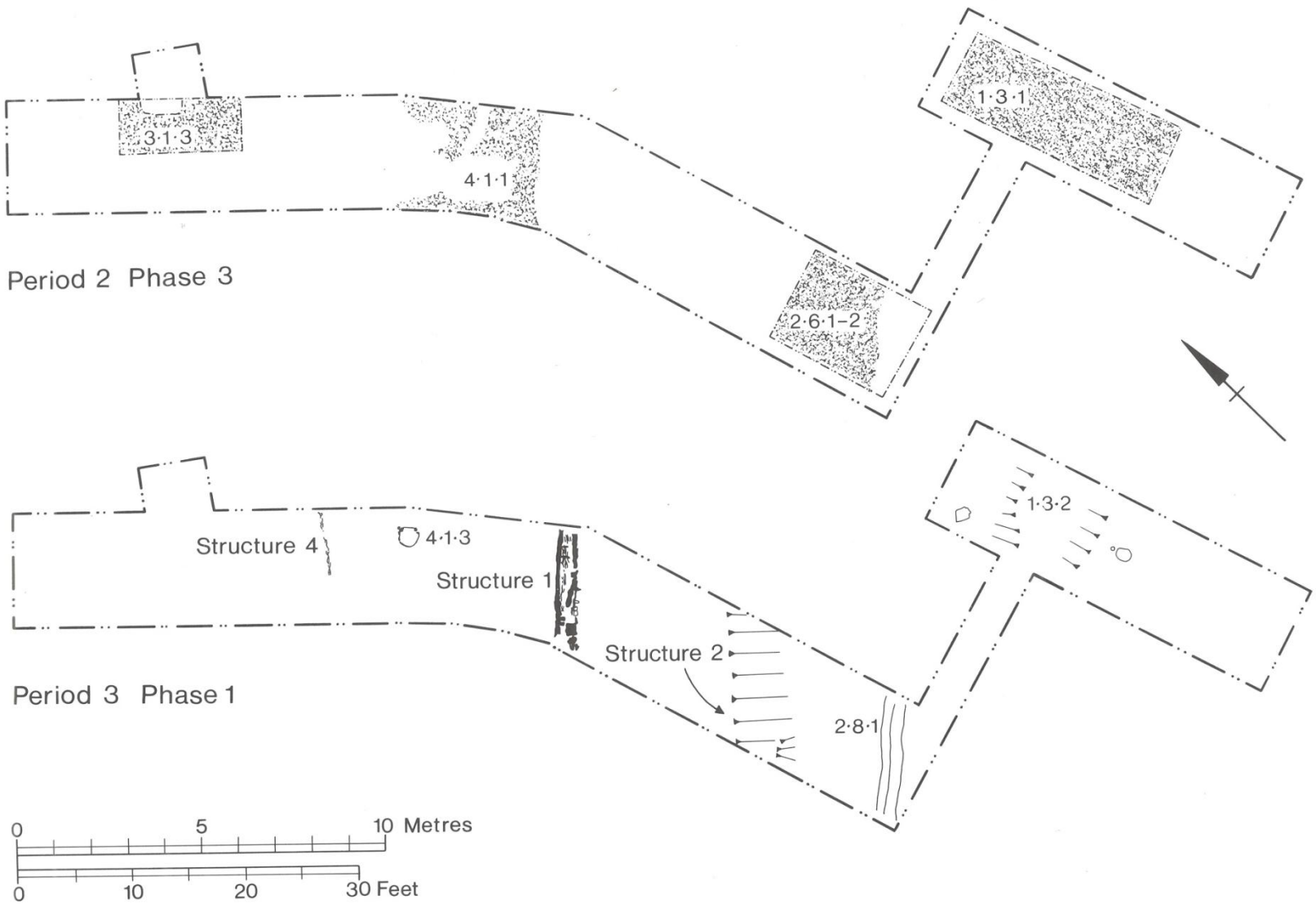

Figure 5 Period 2 Phase 2 and Period 3 Phase 1

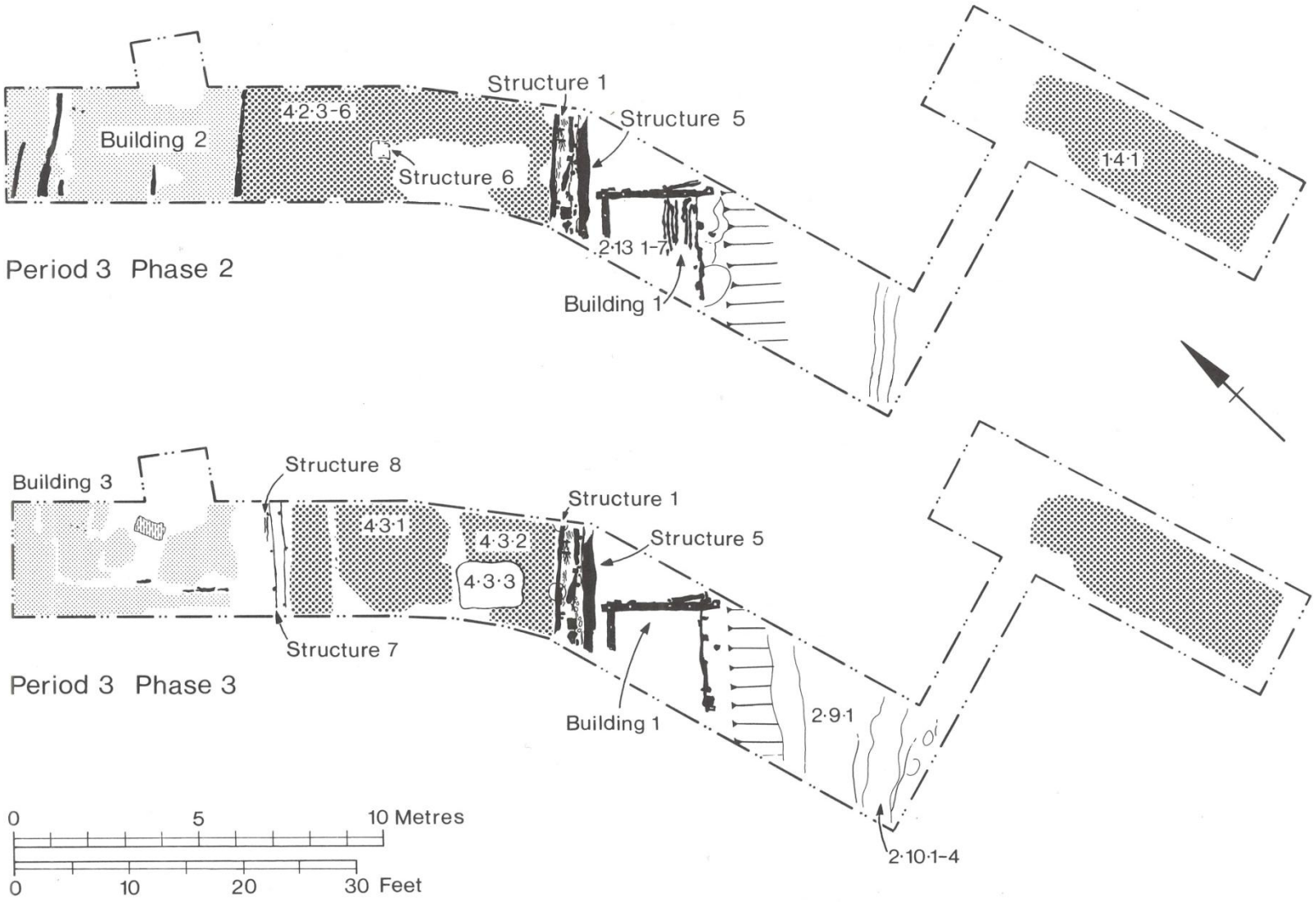

Figure 6 Period 3 Phases 2-3

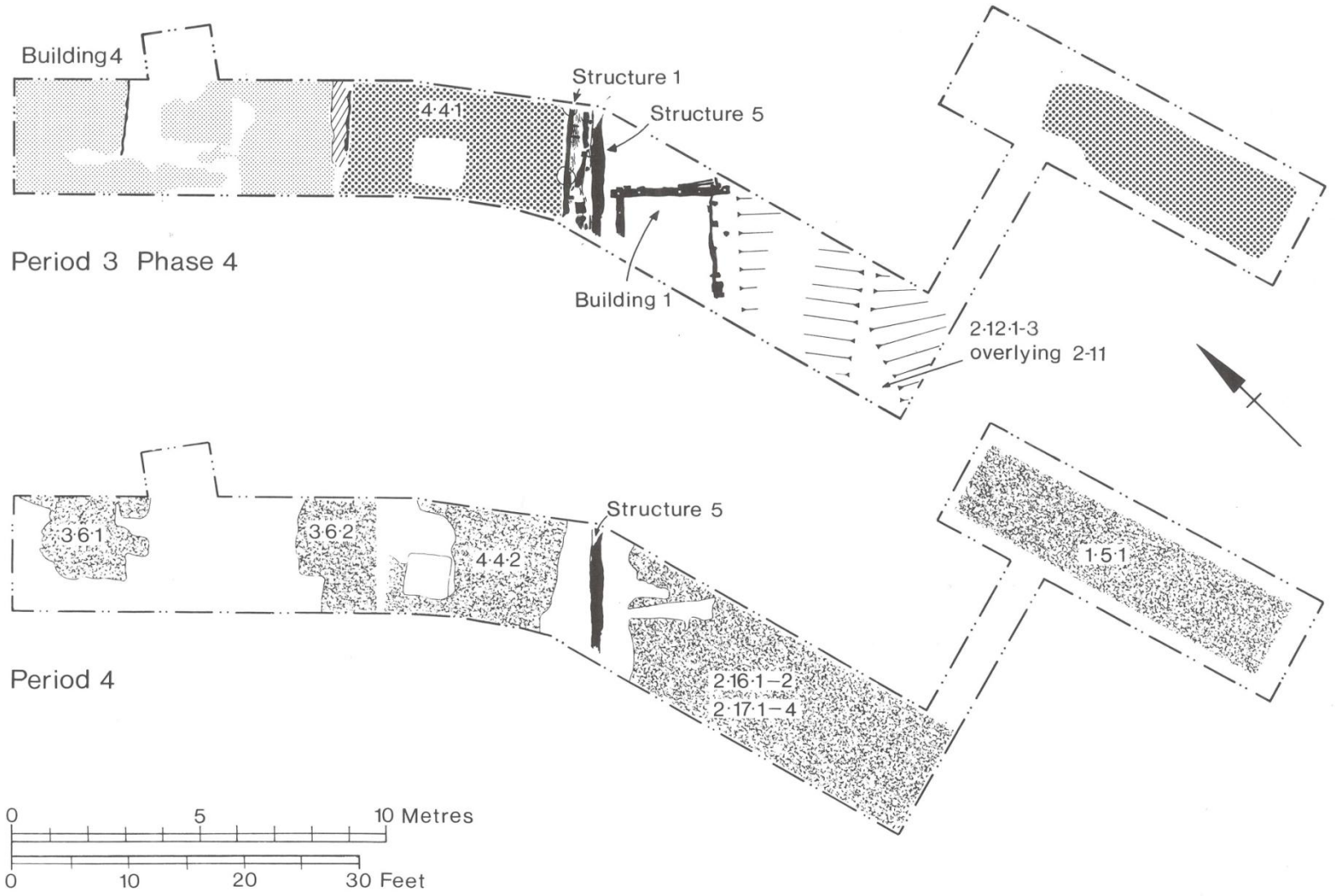

Figure 7 Period 3 Phase 4 and Period 4

Figure 7 Periods 5-6

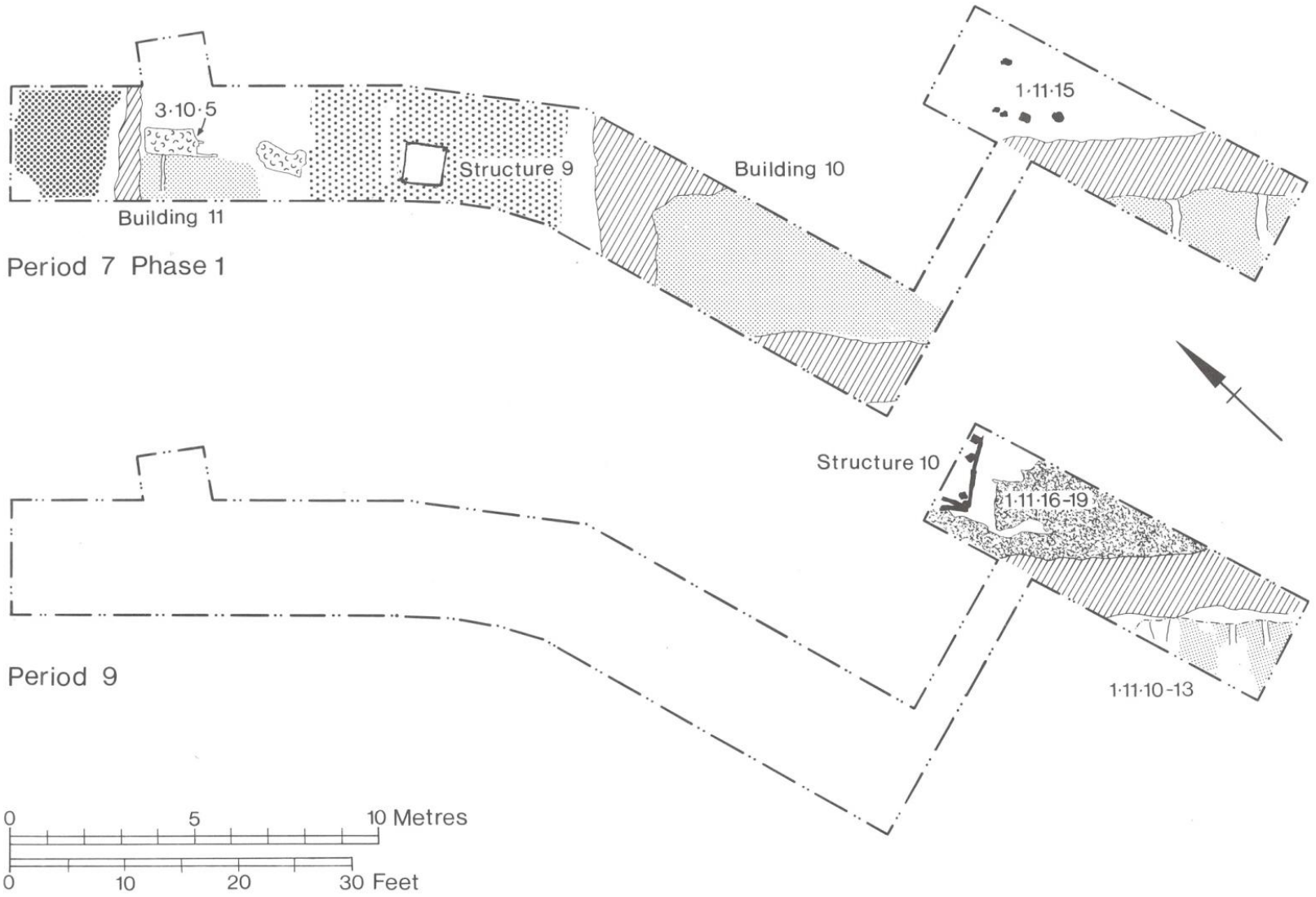

Figure 8 Periods 7 and 9