



## 40-48 MONKGATE YORK

### A Report on an Archaeological Evaluation and Borehole Survey

by David Evans  
and Ian Milsted

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
AND  
BOREHOLE SURVEY**

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*Cover illustration:  
View looking north-west across site*

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## List of Abbreviations

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
BGL	Below Ground Level
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
NGR	National Grid Reference
RCHMY	Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (York)
YORAT	York Archaeological Trust museum identification code
YORYM	Yorkshire Museum identification code

## **ABSTRACT**

*Between November 28<sup>th</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup> York Archaeological Trust carried out an evaluation excavation and monitored a borehole survey on land to the rear of 40–48 Monkgate, York. This work was undertaken in advance of the submission of a proposal for redevelopment of the site. In addition to the borehole survey YAT excavated four trenches each 3m x 3m to a maximum nominal depth of 1.25m below the modern ground level.*

*Much of Trench 1 had been heavily disturbed by 19<sup>th</sup> century structural remains but evidence for medieval agricultural soils was recovered. These agricultural soils were also encountered in Trench 2 where there was some evidence for a possible Roman feature. Below the agricultural soils encountered in Trench 3 were a large number of features including post-holes, a ditch, a gully and two pits or wells which were pottery dated to the Roman period. A number of deposits recorded in this trench were also probably of Roman date. In Trench 4, below modern features, the medieval agricultural soils were again encountered but in this trench a number of features were noted cut into them. No certain Roman features or deposits were noted from this trench.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Between November 28<sup>th</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup> 2005 York Archaeological Trust (YAT) undertook an evaluation excavation on land to the rear of 40-48 Monkgate, York (NGR SE 60765234, Figure 1). The client is Mack and Lawler Builders Ltd of Micklegate, York. The work was undertaken in advance of an application to erect seven new town houses on the site. The evaluation was to consist of the excavation of four trenches (Figure 2), each 3m x 3m to a nominal depth of 1.25m. All records relating to this work are currently held by York Archaeological Trust under the Yorkshire Museum accession code YORYM: 2005.3204. In the archaeological and historical background sites in York are normally referred to in the form YORAT: 1990.111 or YORYM: 1990.111. Further details of these sites are available from the YAT online archive gazetteer which can be found at [www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/gaz/index.htm](http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/gaz/index.htm).

## **2. METHOD STATEMENT**

Prior to the commencement of the evaluation the site was visited and a number of photographs taken. A risk assessment was also compiled prior to work commencing and the trench locations being decided.

The evaluation was undertaken to a specification drawn up by John Oxley, Principal Archaeologist to City of York Council. The initial clearance of the trenches was by mechanical excavator. All obviously modern deposits were removed by machine after which the trenches were cleaned and excavation by hand began. In each trench the first number in the context sequence, ie; 1000 was used for any finds from the machine clearance and initial cleaning of the trench. Context numbers for the boreholes were assigned from the next available block of numbers, the 5000s.

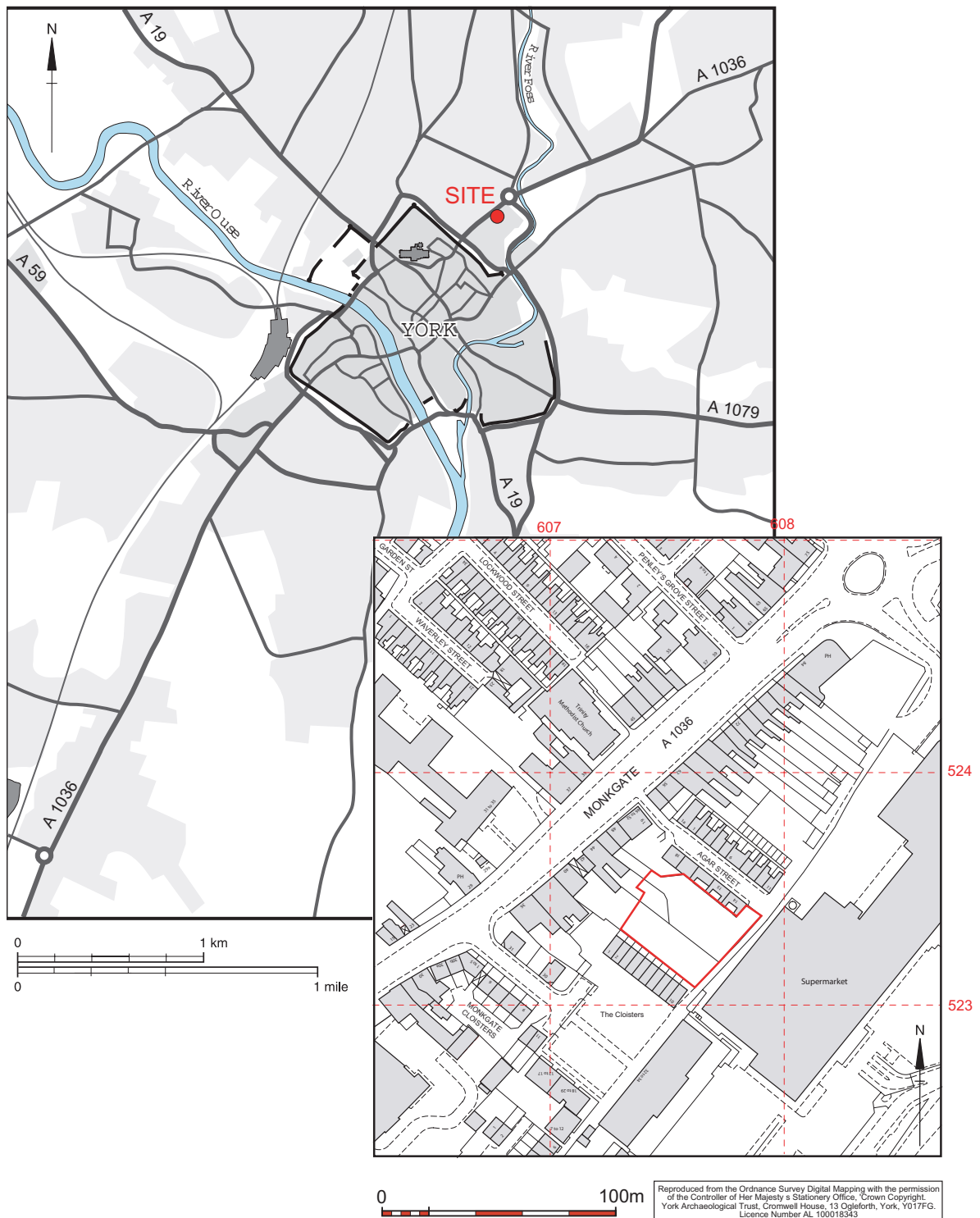


Figure 1 Location of site

Recording followed the procedure laid down in the York Archaeological Trust *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2004). At least one standing section of each trench was drawn at a scale of 1:10. Any significant features, deposits or structures were recorded on single context plans at a scale of 1:20.



Figure 2 Location of trenches and boreholes

Where relevant, colour photographs were taken of standing sections and features and a number of general record photographs were also taken. All trenches were photographed after initial clearance and cleaning and also normally after excavation had been completed.

A provisional programme of environmental sampling was drawn up prior to the commencement of the work but was subject to modification dependent on the nature of the deposits encountered.

The position of each borehole and trench was recorded using a TST/EDM.

### **3. LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The site lay c.230m north-east of Monk Bar, one of the medieval gateways of the walled city north-east of the River Ouse. The area investigated lay to the rear, south-east, of 40-48 Monkgate (all Grade 2 Listed Buildings). To the north-east the site is bounded by terraced domestic dwelling forming part of Agar Street and to the south-west is a new block of town houses, Monkgate Cloisters. To the south-east of the site is Sainsbury's supermarket on Foss Bank.

Geologically, the subsoil in this area of York is generally boulder clay although pockets of sand and gravel are believed to exist in the area (Geological Survey, 1967).

The site, accessed from Agar Street, is roughly rectangular and measures c.50m north-west / south-east and c.30m south-west / north-east. The south-west half of the site is mainly level at c. 13.1m AOD but slopes up towards Monkgate where it is at c.13.5m AOD. Much of this area has a rough surface of compacted gravel with a moderate number of weeds and small shrubs growing around the south-west boundary. The north-east half of the site is level, at c.13.4m AOD, is covered with tarmac and is currently in use as a private car park.

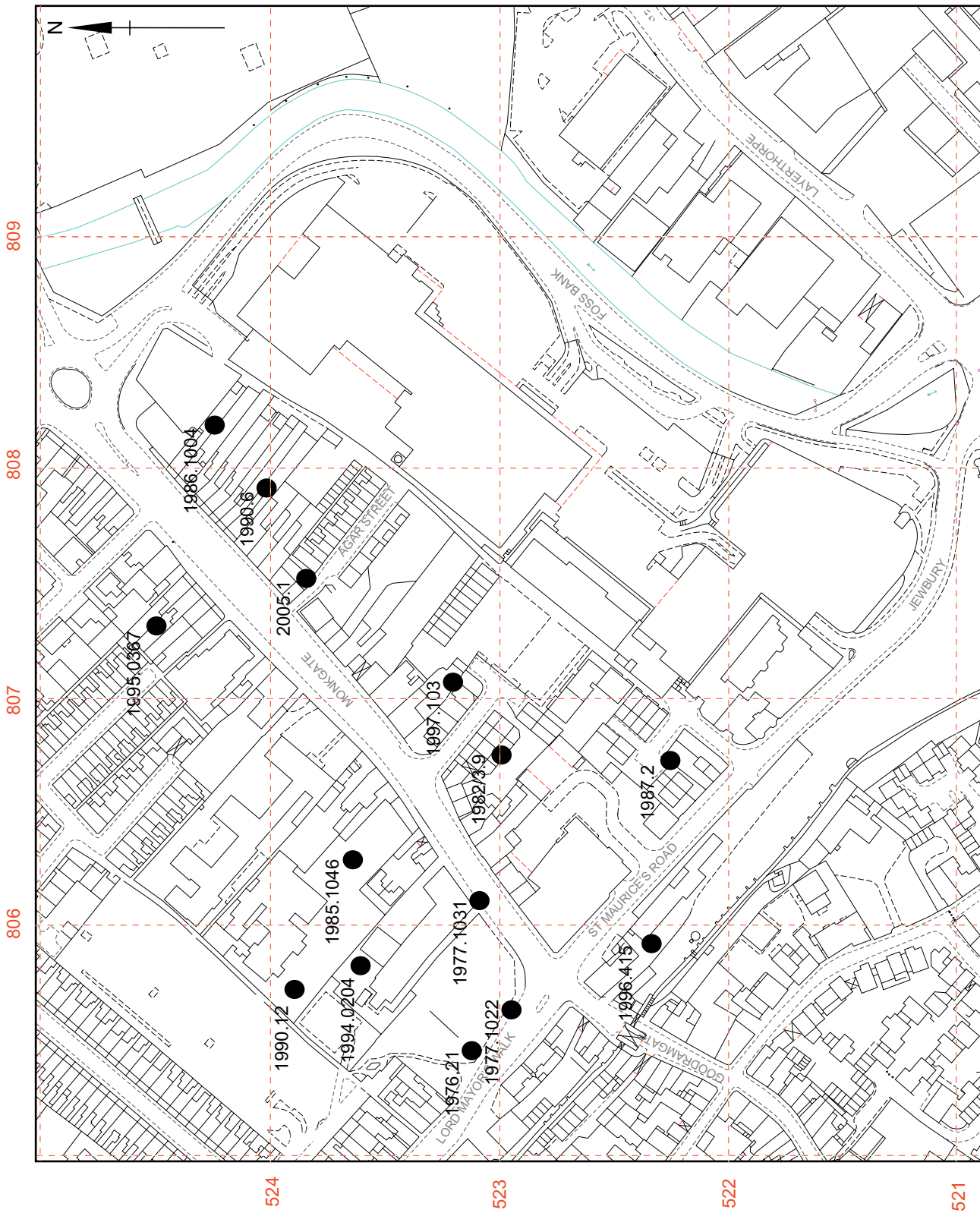
### **4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

This evaluation was deemed necessary since the site lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance. The area has in the past produced archaeological remains from the Roman period to the Modern era. This background to the site has been compiled from the results of previous archaeological investigations and observations, easily accessible historical sources and from cartographic evidence. There have been a number of archaeological investigations in the general area of Monkgate (Figure 3) including excavations, watching briefs and evaluation excavations. Evidence from these investigations and an examination of the documentary and cartographic evidence for the site is discussed below, period by period.

#### **4.1 Prehistoric and Roman periods (pre-1st century – 5th centuries AD)**

No finds or activity dating to the prehistoric period have been discovered in the vicinity of the development site.

Evidence for the Roman period in the area of Monkgate is relatively plentiful. An Inhumation was found prior to 1842 while excavating a cellar north-west of Monk Bar. Grave goods included pottery, a jet finger ring and a circular copper perfume box with an enamelled lid. Two stone coffins were uncovered in 1855 during drainage works in Monkgate near Lord Mayor's Walk and an inhumation was found in 1806 while digging house foundations outside Monk Bar. Roman pottery has been found in the Lord Mayor's Walk, Huntingdon Road, and Monkgate areas (RCHMY 1, 71b).



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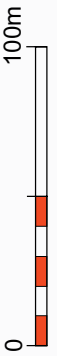


Figure 3 Archaeological sites mentioned in text

There have also been sightings of a cobbled surface, believed to be parts of a Roman road, at a depth of between 6 and 9 feet below the present Monkgate (RCHMY 1, 2a). Excavations at the former County Hospital (1982-83.19) revealed a cobble surface of Roman date and a ditch, possibly Roman, was found at 4 Monkgate (YORYM: 1996.415).

#### **4.2 Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian periods (5th – 11th centuries)**

There is no archaeological evidence for the Anglian period in the immediate vicinity of Monkgate. Evidence for the Anglo-Scandinavian period is very limited although a pit and agricultural deposits have been recorded at County House, Monkgate (YORYM: 1997.103).

#### **4.3 Medieval period (11th – 16th centuries)**

Archaeological remains of the medieval period are relatively frequent and include a pit, well and occupation at the County Hospital site, pits possibly of this era at the Hire-It site, Monkgate / St Maurice's Road (1987.2) and a yard, levelling deposits and agricultural soils at the County House site. Medieval pottery has also been found during road works in the south-east part of Lord Mayor's Walk close to Monkgate (1977.1022). During a watching brief at 54-56 Monkgate (YORAT: 2005.1) agricultural soils, possibly of this period, have been recorded.

#### **4.4 Post-medieval period (16th – 19th centuries)**

The post-medieval period is well represented with a wooden water pipe having been seen in road works in the vicinity of 11-15 and 8-14 Monkgate (1977.1031), a drain, lime kiln, ditch, inhumation and structural remains at the County Hospital site and pottery from the Cavalier Guest House, 39 Monkgate (1983.1022). Other finds include garden soils at 19-23 Monkgate (1985.1046), a pit at the Hire-It site, garden soils at St Wilfrid's R.C. Primary School (1990.12) and metal working, levelling deposits and garden soils at County House.

#### **4.5 Modern Period (19th – 21st centuries)**

Buried remains of modern date are also common in the area. Road works in Lord Mayor's Walk close to Monkgate (1976.21) revealed modern redeposited material, a yard surface was found at 19-23 Monkgate and other modern deposits at 68 Monkgate (1990.6), 4 Monkgate (YORYM:1996.415), 86 Monkgate (1986.1004) and County House. Buried structural remains have been recorded at 11-17 Monkgate (1994.0204) and also at 49 Monkgate (1995.0367).

#### **4.6 Historical and Cartographic Background**

Monkgate is first mentioned in 1080 when it was known as 'Munccagate'. Such an early mention may suggest that the area was settled prior to the Norman Conquest although there is practically no archaeological evidence as yet to support this. The local parish church, St Maurice's was mentioned by c.1194 and the earliest architectural evidence indicates a mid

12<sup>th</sup> century date for the church. The husgable roll records of c.1282 record no less than 50 tofts under the heading of Monkgate suggesting that by the 13<sup>th</sup> century Monkgate was a large and thriving suburb. Towards the north-east end of Monkgate, close to Monk Bridge, the Hospital of St Loy was established in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, at first in an already standing structure. The area continued to flourish but, like most of the suburban areas of York, it suffered greatly during the English Civil War (RCHMY 4, xxxviii) It appears to have recovered by the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. The County Hospital was founded in an already standing building in 1740 but moved into a purpose-built structure in 1745. This was replaced by another building, now turned into apartments, dating from c.1840 (VCHY, 467).

John Speed's map of 1610 shows St Maurice's Church and clearly depicts Monkgate as built-up almost all the way, on both sides, to Monk Bridge but with open space or gardens to the rear of the street frontage. A map of 1750 by Chassereau appears to show a contraction of the built-up area along Monkgate, perhaps a reflection of the Civil War damage. It shows the County Hospital of 1745. Todd's map of 1811 still apparently shows the general area as being split up into individual plots or gardens. An 1822 map in Baines' Directory does not reach as far as Monk Bridge but the south-west half of Monkgate is depicted as fully built-up along the street front with gardens to the rear. The 1852 6" to a mile Ordnance Survey map shows the street built up almost to Monk Bridge again and Skaife's map of 1864 indicates that housing had by this time had spread part of the way up Huntingdon Road. Skaife's map also shows the 19<sup>th</sup> warehouse which still partly survives on the site although now mostly demolished. This warehouse is still visible on an OS map of 1968. A small number of other structures are depicted within the site boundaries on the 1968 map. These other structures have gone from an OS map of 1981 but the warehouse remains. Its exact date of demolition is uncertain. From then on the site has only changed slightly but much new building, domestic dwellings to the north and south-west and a supermarket to the south-east, has changed aspects of the surrounding area.

## **5. THE EVALUATION**

### **5.1 Trench 1**

#### *5.1.1 Natural*

The earliest deposit recorded in this trench was a firm, mid orange slightly sandy silty clay with occasional patches of mid brown silt and occasional small pebbles (1026). The top of this deposit, believed to be the natural subsoil, lay at c.1.3m BGL, c.12m AOD.

#### *5.1.2 Medieval*

Immediately overlying Context 1026 was a layer of soft, mid-dark brownish-grey very slightly sandy silty clay with occasional charcoal and flecks of brick / tile (1025). This was sealed by a firm, mid reddish-orange silty clay with occasional patches of mid brown silt (1001). Both

of these deposits may be redeposited natural. All of the above deposits were only seen in an exploratory trench measuring 1m x 1m dug in the centre of the main trench.

Two deposits, believed to be the same, overlay Context 1001. The first was a firm, mid-dark grey slightly sandy clayey silt with occasional mortar, tile, charcoal and pebbles (1002). The second deposit was also described as a firm, mid-dark grey slightly sandy clayey silt with occasional mortar, tile, charcoal and pebbles (1004). These were overlain by a firm, mid-dark brownish-grey very slightly sandy clayey silt with occasional pebbles, tile and brick flecks, charcoal flecks and very occasional mortar flecks (1015) which was up to c.0.6m thick. Context 1015 produced tile of Roman date and brick and tile of the 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Pottery from this context suggested a 15<sup>th</sup> century date. Contexts 1002, 1004 and 1015 were all probably medieval agricultural soils.

### 5.1.3 Modern

Cut into 1015 was a wall construction cut (1023) of uncertain shape and size but at least 0.85m deep. It was aligned approximately north-west / south-east and contained a brick wall (1005) bonded with a friable creamy mortar. The bricks measured 220mm x 120mm x 80mm. This wall appeared to stand flush with its construction cut and thus no construction trench backfill was noted. Parallel to, and c.1.1m south-west of 1005 was a similar brick wall (1019). This was 0.11m wide and bonded with a friable cream mortar. It was within a construction cut (1024) which was flush with the standing wall but was at least 0.9m deep. Possibly contemporary with walls 1005 and 1019, seen in the eastern corner of the trench, was another small stretch of brick wall (1003) aligned roughly north-west / south-east. It was bonded with a light cream mortar and the brick size was approximately 210mm x 110mm x 80mm.

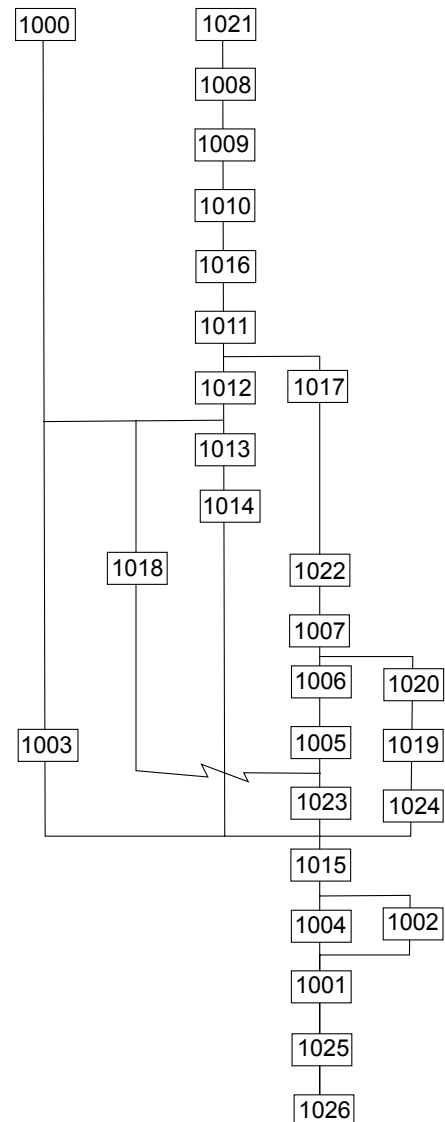


Figure 4 Trench 1 matrix

Filling the space between walls 1005 and 1019 was a number of deposits. The earliest recorded of these was a mass of heavily corroded iron fittings (1020), probably demolition debris. Possibly contemporary with this was a friable, light cream mortar containing brick fragments (1006). Above this was a friable mixture of orange ash and black charcoal with

occasional mortar pieces (1007). Sealing this was a very loose mixture of brick rubble and glass fragments with occasional pieces of wire (1022). Contexts 1006, 1007 and 1022 were all probably demolition deposits used as backfilling or levelling in a partly demolished structure. Sealing wall 1005 was a possible demolition or levelling deposit of loose, mid grey mortar containing brick fragments (1018).

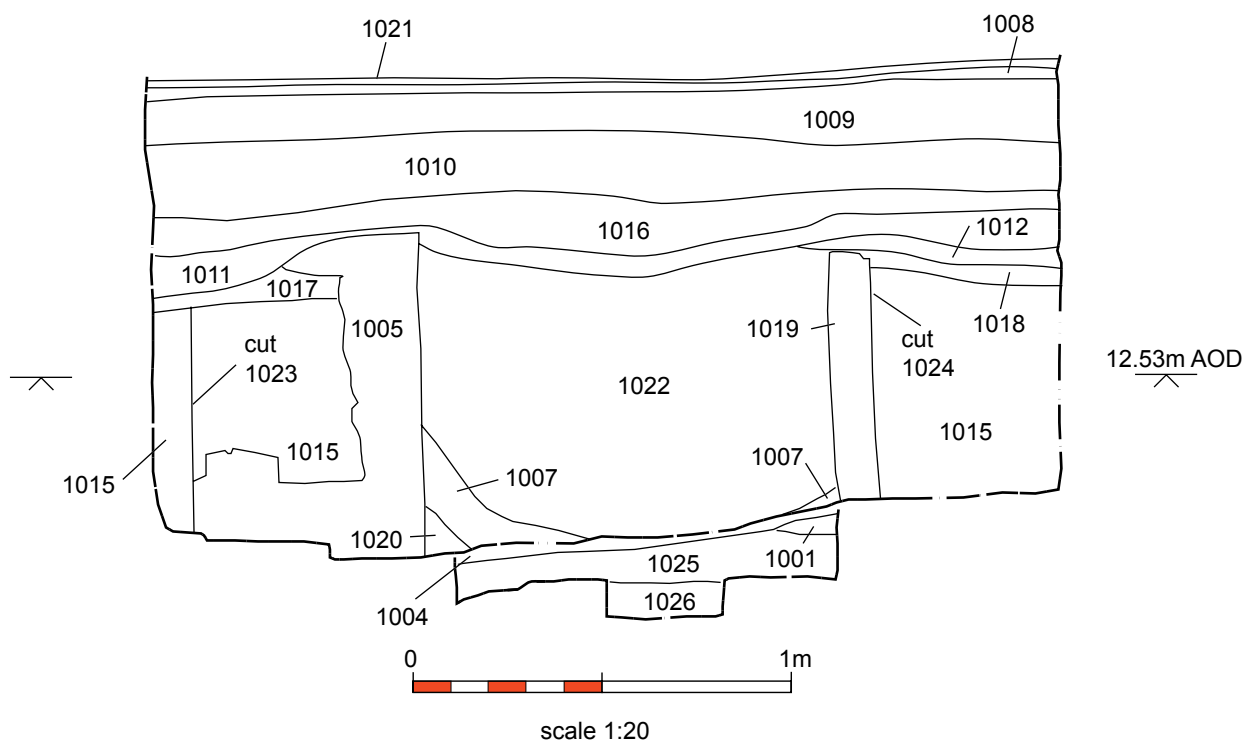


Figure 5 Trench 1, west facing section

Probably later than 1018 and 1022 was a cut of uncertain function (1014). It was at least 1m wide and 0.28m deep with a moderately sloping south-west edge leading to a roughly flat base. It had been backfilled with a friable mass of light-mid brownish-yellow sandstone fragments in a loose, coarse light-mid brownish-yellow sand (1013).

Sealing 1013 there was a compact, mid grey slightly sandy clayey silt with frequent mortar flecks, moderate flecks of brick / tile and occasional charcoal flecks (1012). This may have been an accumulation deposit. Possibly contemporary with 1012 was a compact, mid brown sand containing small, c.5mm, brick fragments (1017), possibly a levelling deposit.

Above 1012 there was a layer, possibly a demolition or levelling deposit, composed purely of broken slates (1011). Over this was a possible levelling deposit of compact, pinkish mortar with frequent fragments of finely crushed brick (1016). This was sealed by a loose, mixture of brick, tile, stone, mortar and wood (1010) over which there was a compact, mixed deposit of brick, tile, mortar, slate and mid grey sand (1009). Both 1010 and 1009 may have been levelling deposits. Above 1009 there was a layer of mid grey concrete and gravel (1008), possibly a

buried floor surface, and above this was the modern ground surface of compact but friable, dark greyish-brown silt with frequent gravel (1021). This lay at approximately 13.4m AOD close to the trench.

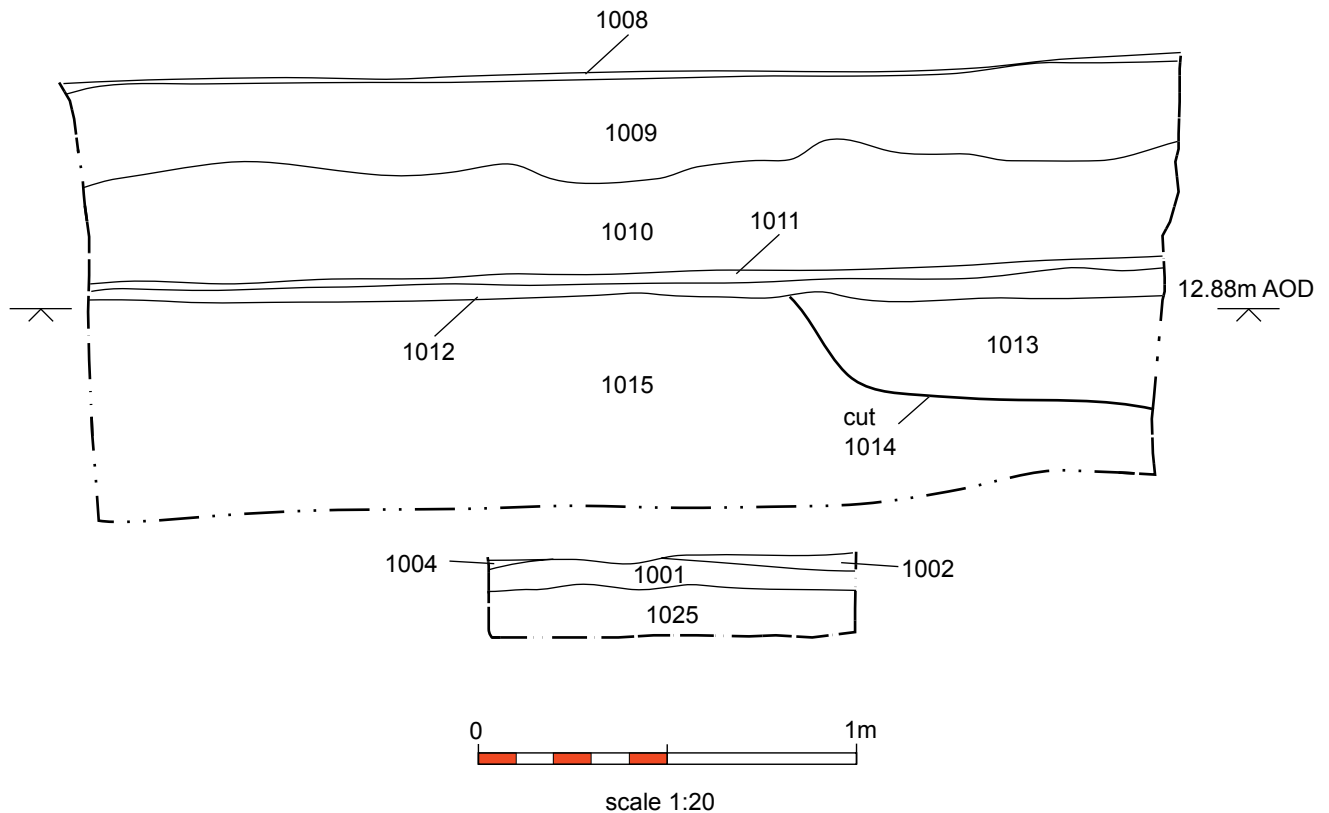


Figure 6 Trench 1, north facing section

## 5.2 Trench 2

### 5.2.1 Natural

The earliest deposit recorded in this trench was a mottled, light yellow-orange sandy clay with occasional cobbles (2008). This was thought to be the natural subsoil and the top of it lay at c.1.1m BGL, c.11.9m AOD.

### 5.2.2 Roman

A possible feature (2014) of uncertain shape, size and function may have cut 2008. It was not investigated but to excessive ground water but it may have been a ditch, at least c.0.7m wide, emerging from the north-west facing and turning 90° approximately 0.8m into the trench to enter the north-east facing section. The backfill, if it was a feature, was a firm, mid orange-red clay with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks (2013). Examination of the relevant sections indicated it was, if a real feature cut directly into natural.

### 5.2.3 Medieval

Context 2013 was sealed by a mid greyish-brown slightly clayey silt with patches of yellow-brown sandy clay and occasional pebbles (2007). Overlying it there was a soft, mid greyish-brown silt with moderate pebbles and occasional brick fragments, charcoal and animal bone (2006). Both of these were thought to be medieval agricultural soils and between them they were up to c.0.75m thick.

### 5.2.4 Modern

Into 2006 there was cut a feature (2010) of uncertain shape, size and function. It was at least 2.64m across and 0.4m deep with a very steeply sloping north-west edge leading into a flat base. The backfill was an off-white mortar containing brick and tile fragments (2009).

Context 2009 had been sealed by layer of compact but friable, yellowish-brown sandy mortar (2005) of uncertain function. Above this was a soft, dark greyish-brown silt with occasional to moderate brick fragments, occasional fragments of modern glass and occasional fragments of mortar (2004). Overlying 2004 was a layer of compact off-white mortar (2012) and above this a soft, dark greyish-brown silt with moderate to frequent brick fragments and mortar / concrete fragments (2011). All of these may have been levelling deposits. Overlying 2011 was a compact, creamy-white mortar containing frequent crushed brick and gravel (2003). The nature and compactness of 2003 suggests that it may have been a floor or surface. Above it was a layer of off-white concrete (2002), possibly another floor or surface and overlying this was the current modern ground surface of black tarmac (2001). In the immediate vicinity of the trench this lay at c.13m AOD.

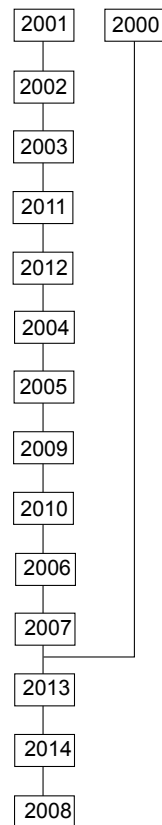


Figure 7  
Trench 2 matrix

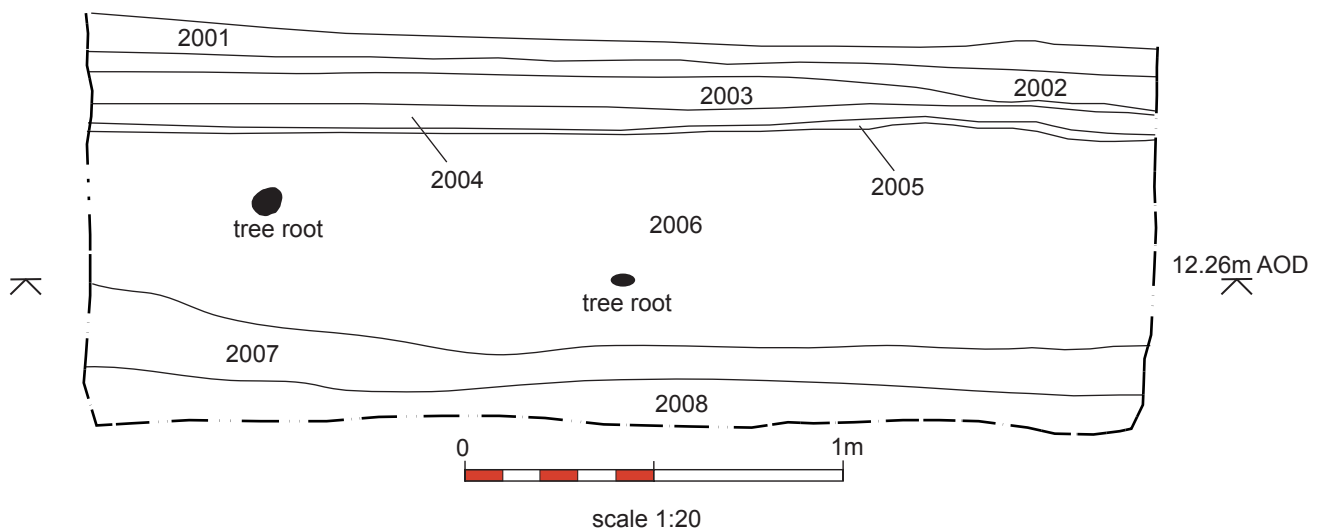


Figure 8 Trench 2, east facing section

### 5.3 Trench 3

#### 5.3.1 *Natural*

The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was a mixture of friable, yellowish-brown, creamy-brown and light grey clayey sands (3031). This was located at c.1.1m BGL, c.11.9m AOD. This deposit was believed to be the natural subsoil.

#### 5.3.2 *Roman*

Immediately overlying 3031 was a group of three deposits, all of uncertain function but possibly build-up or occupation deposits. They were; a friable, grey and very light grey sandy clayey silt with occasional charcoal and cobbles (3030), a friable grey sandy silt (3037) and a friable light grey sandy clayey silt (3029).

Immediately later than these was a group of four deposits, again of uncertain function but possibly build-up or occupation deposits. These were; a friable brownish-grey slightly organic, slightly, clayey, sandy silt with occasional pebbles, charcoal and shell (3004), a friable brownish-grey clayey silt (3036), a mixture of greyish sandy clayey silt and light brown sandy clayey silt with occasional pebbles (3028) and a friable grey slightly sandy clayey silt (3020).

Cut into 3036 was a feature (3007) tentatively identified as a pit. Some 50% of this feature lay beyond the south-east side of the trench but 3007 appeared to be roughly circular with a diameter of c.1.3m. Excavation within 3007 ceased at c.1.4m BGL, 11.7m AOD, for safety reasons but it was established that the sides were nearly vertical. Only a single backfill was excavated and this was a dark greyish-brown very slightly clayey sandy silt with moderate animal bone and occasional cobbles (3005). Brick from this context was Roman in date and pottery was recovered which was of late 2<sup>nd</sup> / early 3<sup>rd</sup> date. At a similar stratigraphic horizon, but cut into 3028, was a very similar feature (3015). Some 75% of 3015 lay beyond the west corner of the trench but it have been roughly circular with a diameter of c.2m. As with 3007 the sides where excavated were nearly vertical. Excavation in this feature ceased at c.1.5m BGL, c.11.6m AOD for safety reasons. Five backfills were excavated within this feature the lowest being a mixture of light brown silty and sandy clay, mid brown clayey sand and dark grey sand with moderate brick / tile and occasional bone, pebbles, cobbles, limestone fragments, mortar fragments, shell and charcoal (3014). This context also produced Roman brick and tile and pottery of the late 2<sup>nd</sup> / early 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Overlying this was a friable, grey sand with moderate patches of charcoal and occasional bone and pebbles (3013). This context produced pottery of the late 2<sup>nd</sup> / early 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Above 3013 there was a friable, mid brown sandy silt with occasional bone, pebbles and mortar (3012). Pottery of the late 2<sup>nd</sup> / early 3<sup>rd</sup> century came from Context 3012. Sealing this was a friable, mid brown slightly organic sandy silt with occasional bone, charcoal, brick / tile fragments, pebbles and limestone fragments (3011). The brick from 3011 was dated to the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD and pottery of the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century



was between 0.4 and 0.6m wide. It was up to 0.25m deep and had quite gently sloping sides leading to a flattish base. A single backfill, of dark greyish-brown clayey silt with moderate cobbles and occasional charcoal, brick / tile, bone, shell and mortar (3003), was recorded. The brick from Context 3003 was dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Pottery recovered from 3003 was dated to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> / early 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Truncating the south-east end of 3019 was a posthole (3010). At its top it was circular with a diameter of c.0.45m but the base was square measuring 0.2m x 0.2m. It was c.0.3m deep with quite steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It had a backfill of mid grey slightly clayey sandy silt with large, up to 0.25m, cobbles (3009). A single sherd of 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery came from this context.

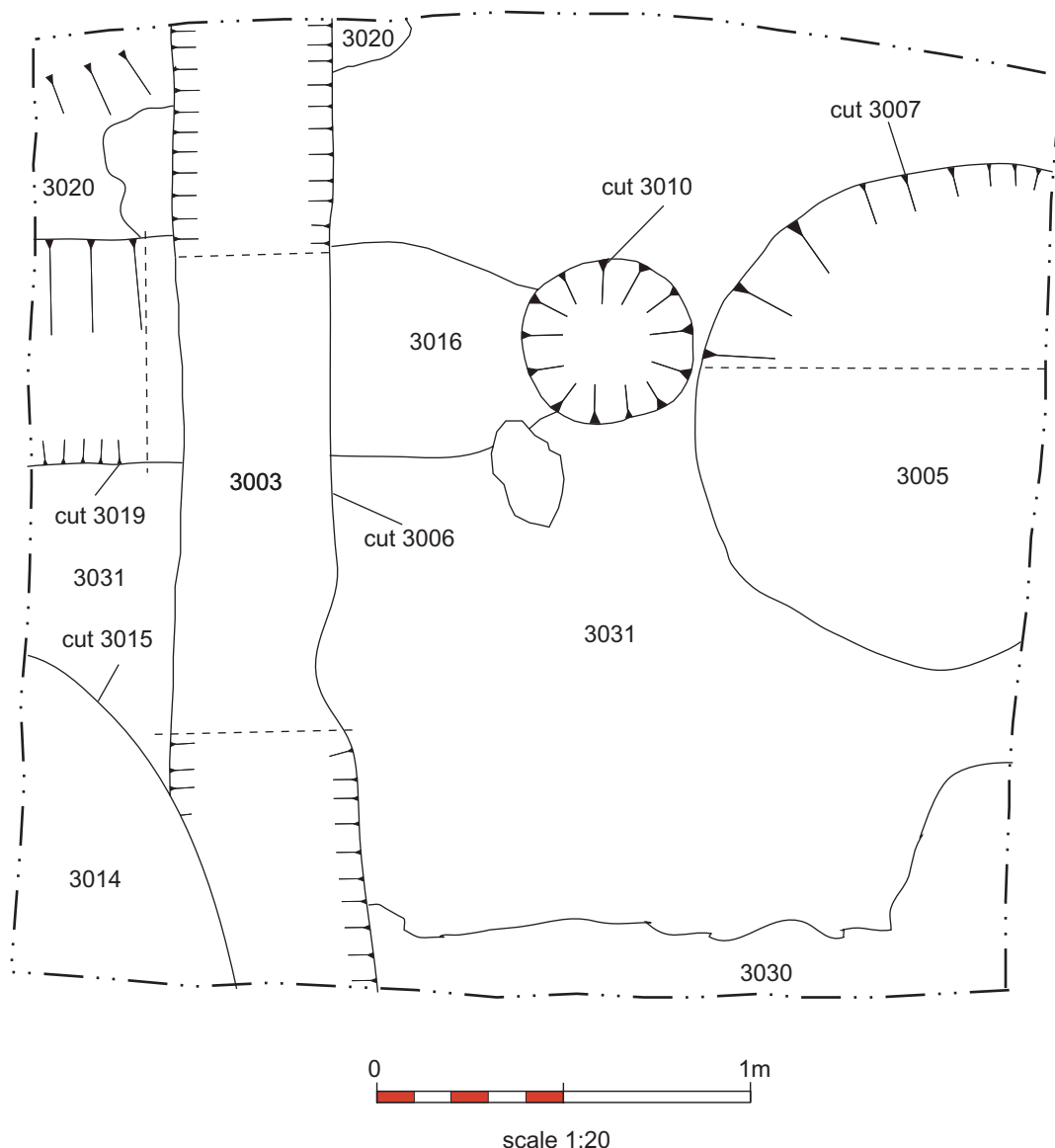


Figure 10 Trench 3 plan at completion of excavation

### 5.3.3 Medieval

Later than features 3006, 3008 and 3010 was a friable greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles (3035). This was overlain by a friable, greyish-brown slightly sandy clayey silt with patches of brown clayey sand (3034). This was sealed by a friable greyish-brown slightly sandy clayey silt with occasional mortar (3033). Probably contemporary with 3033, and sealing backfills 3001 and 3003, was a friable greyish-brown slightly sandy clayey silt with occasional pebbles and cobbles (3025). These contexts were all thought to be agricultural accumulation deposits.

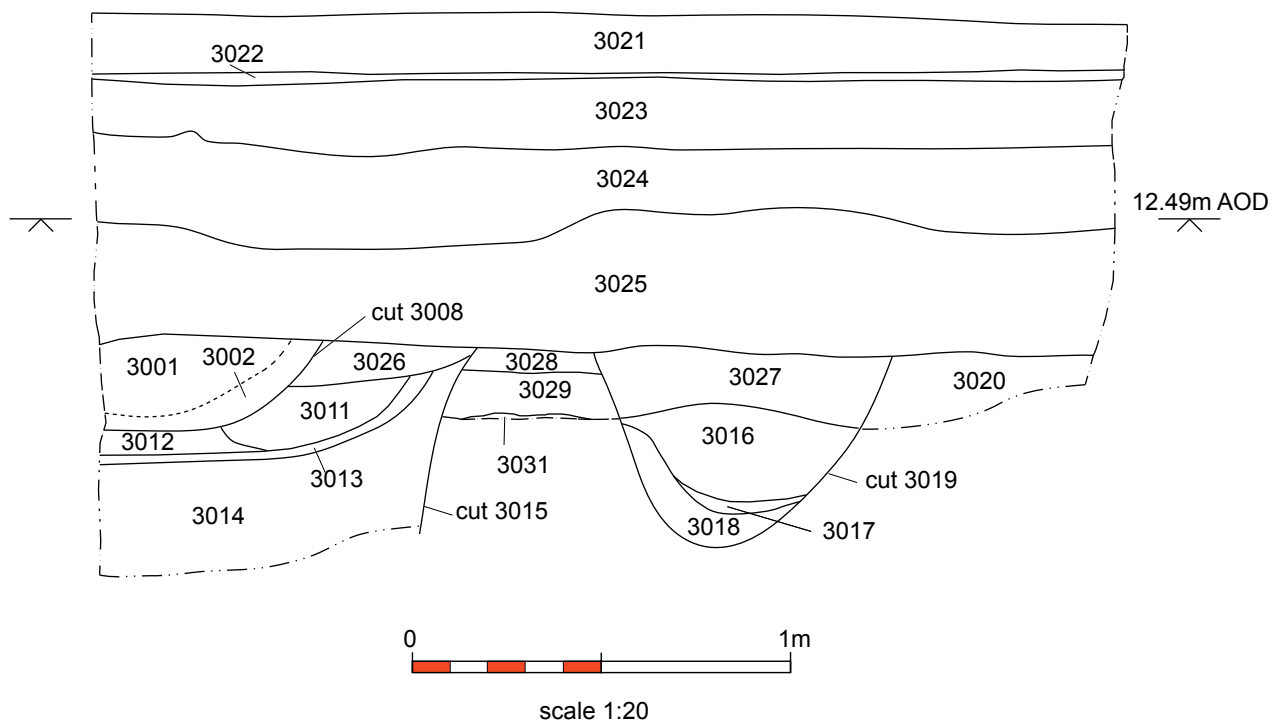


Figure 11 Trench 3, east facing section

### 5.3.4 Modern

Overlying Contexts 3033 and 3025 was a friable but firm, greyish-brown slightly sandy clayey silt with occasional pebbles, brick / tile fragments, bone and charcoal (3024), probably a modern garden soil. Above this was a layer of loose tarmac (3032) which was overlain by a mixture of brick, tile and mortar (3023). This was sealed by a deposit of off-white mortar which was c.30mm thick. The uppermost context, forming the modern ground surface, was a layer of loose tarmac (3021). In the vicinity of the trench this lay at c.13m AOD. Unstratified finds from this trench, given the context number 3000, included brick of the 14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> centuries, Roman pottery, pot of the 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> century and one piece of 15<sup>th</sup> century pot.

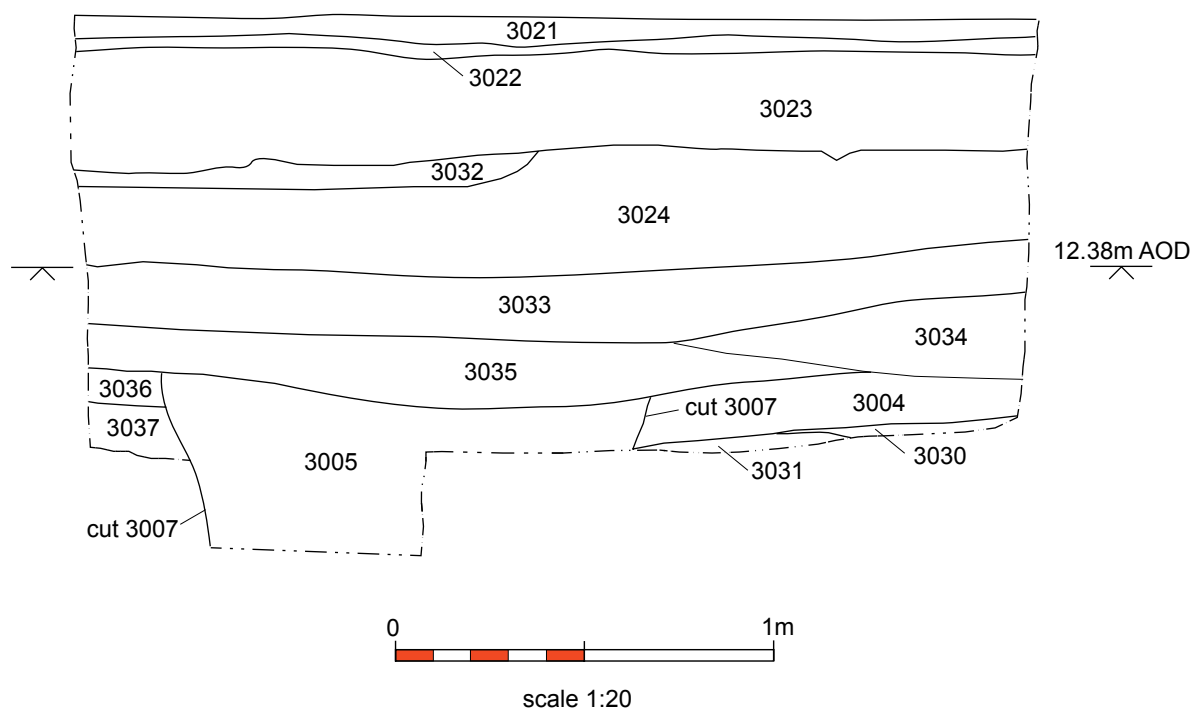


Figure 12 Trench 3, west facing section

## 5.4 Trench 4

### 5.4.1 Natural

In this trench, at a depth of c.1.5m BGL, 11.95m AOD, there was a compact, light-mid yellowish-orange slightly silty clay with occasional pebbles (4033). This believed to be the undisturbed natural subsoil in this area.

### 5.4.2 Medieval

Into 4033 there was cut a feature (4034) almost certainly a pit. Approximately half of this feature lay beyond the existing limit of excavation but Context 4034 appeared to be sub-circular in plan with a diameter of between c.1.2m and 1.9m. The northern quadrant of 4034 was excavated and found to c.0.35m deep with a moderately sloping northern edge. The only backfill identified was a compact, very dark grey slightly sandy clayey silt with occasional charcoal, flecks of brick / tile and mortar (4032). The brick from 4032 was Roman and of the 16th–18th centuries in date. Tile of the 16-18<sup>th</sup> centuries also came from 4032. This pit and its backfill were seen only in an exploratory trench (4031) measuring 1.5m x 1.5m placed in the centre of the main trench. Finds from this exploratory trench included Roman brick and brick and tile of the 14-16<sup>th</sup> centuries, Roman pottery and pottery of the 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> century to the 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup>.

Overlying 4032 there was a mid brownish-grey slightly sandy clayey silt with occasional charcoal, brick / tile flecks and patches of light yellowish-brown clay (4012). This context

produced a small quantity of pottery, principally of the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century. Possibly contemporary with 4012 was a firm, very dark grey very slightly sandy silty clay with occasional pebbles, mortar, bone and charcoal (4025). Overlying this was a firm, dark grey slightly sandy clayey silt with very occasional mortar and charcoal (4024). All of these were probably accumulation deposits.

Later than 4024, 4032 and probably 4012 was a very firm, mid-dark brownish-grey slightly sandy clayey silt with occasional mortar, charcoal and pebbles (4011), another probable accumulation or agricultural deposit. This had been cut by a probable pit (4029). Context 4029 had been truncated by at least two later features but it was a minimum of 0.55m wide and 0.5m deep. It had quite steeply sloping sides leading to a concave base and contained a lower fill of soft, mid-dark brownish-grey slightly sandy very silty clay with occasional patches of light yellowish-brown clay and occasional flecks of charcoal, mortar and brick / tile (4022). The upper backfill was a firm mid-dark grey slightly sandy very silty clay with occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoal, mortar and brick / tile (4021).

Probably cutting pit 4029 was another feature (4030) which was probably a pit although it had been quite severely truncated by later intrusions. It was, however, at least 0.9m wide and 0.45m deep with a moderately sloping north-east edge and a nearly vertical south-west edge. The base was not seen. Two backfills were noted, the lower being a firm, mid-dark grey very slightly sandy silty clay with occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoal and mortar (4026). The upper backfill was a firm, mid brownish-grey slightly sandy clayey silt with very occasional flecks of charcoal and brick / tile (4023).

Sealing pit backfill 4023 was a possible accumulation deposit of mid bluish-grey slightly sandy very silty clay with very occasional pebbles and flecks of mortar, charcoal and brick / tile (4019). Overlying this was a firm, mid brownish-grey slightly sandy clayey silt with frequent patches of light yellowish-brown clay (4018).

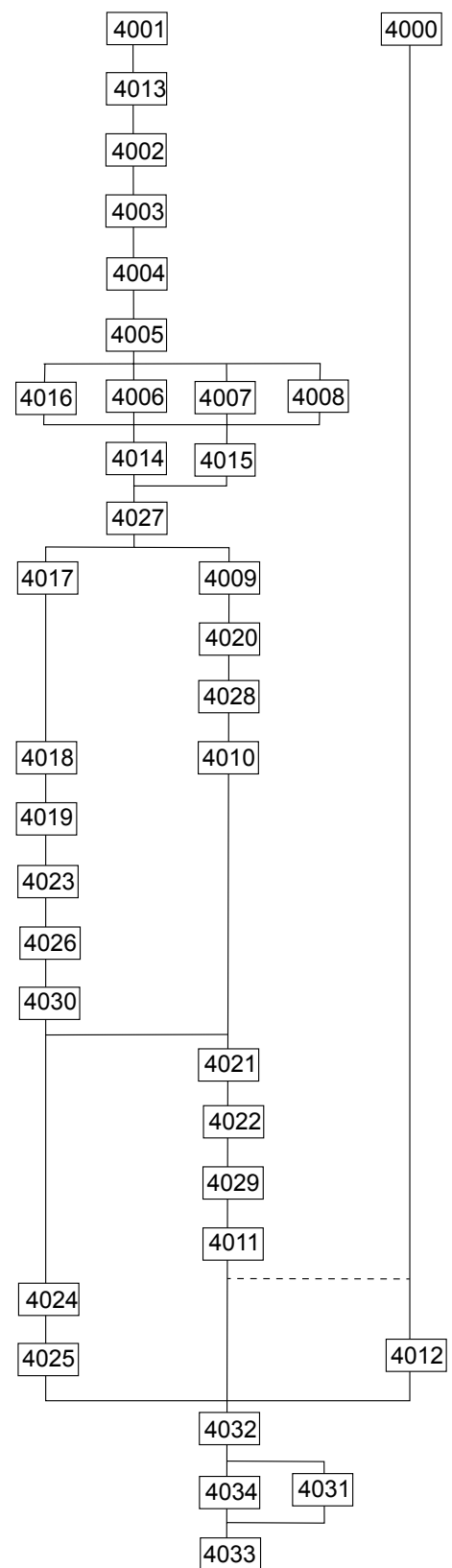


Figure 13 Trench 4 matrix

Probably contemporary with 4018 was a mid brownish-grey slightly sandy clayey silt with frequent patches of light yellowish-brown clay and occasional flecks of mortar and brick / tile (4010). Both 4010 and 4018 are likely to be accumulation deposits.

Cut into 4010 was a small pit (4028). Although partly truncated by a later wall it was at least 0.5m wide and 0.35m deep with quite steeply sloping sides leading to an uneven concave base. It had a single backfill of friable, dark brownish-grey ashy clayey silt with occasional small fragments of brick / tile, charcoal and pebbles (4020).

Context 4020 had been sealed by a dark grey sandy clay with occasional mortar flecks, brick / tile flecks and pebbles (4009). This deposit was of uncertain function. Probably roughly contemporary with 4009 was a firm, mid-dark brownish-grey slightly sandy, slightly clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, mortar flecks, brick / tile flecks and pebbles (4017). This may have been an accumulation deposit.

### 5.4.3 *Modern*

Cutting Contexts 4017 and 4009 was a wall construction cut (4027) aligned approximately north-west / south-east. It was c.0.35m wide and at least 0.33m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. Within the cut was a brick wall (4014) bonded with a friable light brown-cream mortar (4015). The bricks measured approximately 200mm x 100mm x 70mm. Butting the north-east side of this wall was a floor of edge-set bricks (4007) in alternate overlapping rows. These bricks measured c.230mm x 120mm x 80mm and were set in a bedding deposit of firm, mid grey ashy sand (4008). Butting the south-west side of 4014 was a firm, dark grey slightly sandy clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, brick / tile flecks, mortar flecks pebbles and brick fragments (4016). This may have been a levelling deposit directly associated with wall 4014. Possibly contemporary with 4016 was a hard, dark grey-black ashy silt (4006), possibly another levelling deposit.

Overlying floor 4007 and part of wall 4014 was a compact, mid-dark reddish-brown silt containing frequent slag (4005). It was sealed by a compact, very dark grey layer of crushed tarmac (4004) above which was a compact, light cream-grey layer of concrete (4003). Over this there was a layer of hard, mid yellowish-brown concrete (4002). Above this was a layer of hard, mid grey concrete. The uppermost deposit, forming the current modern ground surface was black tarmac (4001). In the immediate vicinity of the trench this lay at c.13.45m AOD. Unstratified finds recovered during the machine clearance and initial cleaning were given the number 4000. Five pieces of pot, ranging in date from the 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century were numbered 4000.

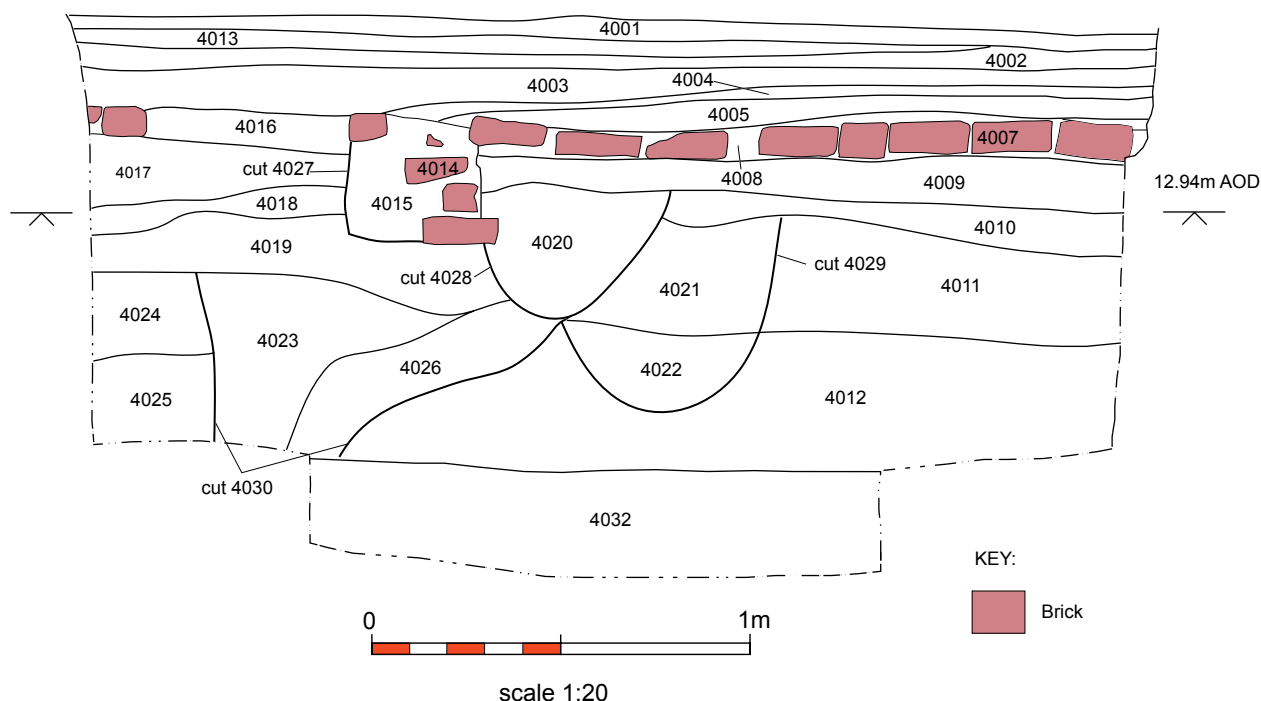


Figure 14 Trench 4, east facing section

## 6. THE BOREHOLE SURVEY by Ian Milsted

### 6.1 Introduction

An investigative survey consisting of the coring of 8 small diameter boreholes (window samples) on land to the rear of 40-48 Monkgate, York was undertaken by GeolInvestigate of Stokesby, North Yorkshire, on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2005. This work was monitored and the results from the boreholes recorded by Ian Milsted of York Archaeological Trust.

The location of the boreholes was established and marked prior to the arrival of the coring crew and a sampling strategy defined before work commenced. Coring commenced at 9:30am and was completed by 12:30pm.

### 6.2 Method Statement

The boreholes were placed from north-west to south-east along a transect 2m north-east of the 19<sup>th</sup> century warehouse wall forming the south-western limit of the site. Borehole 1 was located at the north-western limit of the transect, and each subsequent borehole was positioned at intervals of 6m along the line of the transect, except for Borehole 8 which, for reasons of space, was placed 5m south-east of Borehole 7 close to the wall forming the south-eastern limit of the site. The position of this transect, as far away as practicable from the main trenches, was chosen to obtain the widest possible spread of stratigraphic data across the whole site. It also minimised disturbance from and to works traffic accessing a neighbouring construction site. Also, along the line of the transect the tarmac of the car park was not present, making the borehole location pegs easier to position.

The survey was conducted with an MRZB boring rig using three dimensions of core sampler. At 0m to 1m BGL, the external corer width was 80mm. From 1m to 3m BGL the external corer width was 60mm. From 3m to 4m BGL the external corer width was 50mm.

Each borehole was cored to a depth of at least 3m BGL and ceased when the undisturbed natural subsoil was positively identified. All deposits were recorded and the majority were sampled from the corer. The stratigraphic sequence commenced with Context 5000 following from the sequence established for the main trenches, and the sample numbering was begun at the next available number in the main site register. The sequence of deposits is presented below by borehole, beginning with the earliest deposit identified in Borehole 1.

### **6.3 The Borehole Results**

#### *6.3.1 Borehole 1*

This was bored from 13.46m AOD to a depth of 3m BGL. The earliest deposit was a layer of stiff, pinkish-brown clay (5003), which was seen between 2.1m and 3m BGL. This was identified as the natural boulder clay and was not sampled. Above this was a 0.4m thick mixed deposit of firm, dark grey and pinkish-brown, slightly silty clay with occasional sandy inclusions (5002, Sample 5), which may represent re-deposited or disturbed natural material. This deposit was sealed by a soft, mid grey, clayey silt with moderate inclusions of brick / tile fragments (5001), which lay between 1.5m and 1.7m BGL. This may be a backfill or an accumulation deposit. Between 0.3m and 1.5m BGL there was a compact, mixed deposit of dark grey to light grey, very sandy silt (5000). This contained frequent inclusions of brick / tile, mortar fragments and moderate inclusions of gravel. This was probably partly disturbed medieval agricultural soil and partly the make-up deposit relating to the car park with much of the brick, tile and mortar almost certainly derived from the demolition of the Victorian warehouse which stood in this area. This was not sampled. There was no recovery of deposits between 0m and 0.3m BGL.

#### *6.3.2 Borehole 2*

This was bored from 13.27m AOD to a depth of 4m BGL. Between 3m and 4m BGL there was a stiff, pink-brown, clay (5008), identified as the natural boulder clay and not sampled. Above this was a 0.56m thick deposit of soft, dark grey, silt with very occasional sandy inclusions (5007, Sample 8 ). This may represent a backfill since it was recorded well below the level of natural seen in the main trenches. It was sealed by a 0.34m thick layer of soft, dark brown, slightly clayey silt with occasional inclusions of brick / tile and charcoal fragments (5006, Sample 7), which may also represent a backfill deposit. Between 0.55m and 2m BGL there was a firm, dark grey brown, very clayey silt with moderate inclusions of brick / tile and mortar fragments and occasional inclusions of animal bone and charcoal flecks (5005, Sample 6). This may be an accumulation deposit. Above this deposit, between 0.2m and 0.55m BGL, was a compact, mixed deposit of dark grey to light grey, very sandy silt with frequent inclusions of brick / tile and mortar fragments, and moderate inclusions of gravel (5004), which formed the

car park make-up deposit. It was not sampled. There was no recovery of deposits between 0m and 0.2m BGL.

### 6.3.3 Borehole 3

This was bored from 13.02m AOD to a depth of 3m BGL. The earliest deposit, seen between 2.3m and 3m BGL, was a stiff, pinkish-brown, clay (5012), identified as the natural boulder clay and not sampled. Above this was a 0.55m thick band of very soft, light greyish-brown, slightly sandy silt with occasional lumps of pink clay (5011, Sample 10). This context yielded a sherd of probably Roman pottery, and could represent a backfill. Above this, between 0.5m and 1.75m BGL, was a firm-friable, dark greyish-brown, very clayey silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of brick / tile fragments and occasional charcoal flecks (5010, Sample 9). This could be an accumulation / agricultural deposit. Sealing this deposit was a compact, mixed deposit of light grey to dark grey, very sandy silt with frequent inclusions of brick / tile and mortar fragments, and moderate inclusions of gravel. (5009). This lay between 0.2m and 0.5m BGL, and represents the car park make-up deposit. It was not sampled. Between 0m and 0.2m BGL there was no recovery of deposits.

### 6.3.4 Borehole 4

This was bored from 12.95m AOD to a depth of 3m BGL. Between 1.52m and 3m BGL was a stiff, pinkish-brown clay (5016), identified as the natural boulder clay and not sampled. Above this, between 1.14m and 1.52m BGL, was a very soft, light beige-grey, slightly sandy clayey silt (5015, Sample 12). This was more clayey towards the base of the deposit, and may be a Roman occupation or accumulation deposit. This was sealed by a 0.32m thick deposit of firm-friable, dark greyish-brown very clayey silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of charcoal, CBM and mortar fragments (5014, Sample 11). This may be an accumulation / agricultural deposit. Between 0.20m and 0.82m BGL was a compact mixed deposit of light grey to dark grey, very sandy silt with frequent inclusions of mortar fragments, moderate inclusions of compacted gravel and moderate brick / tile fragments (5013). Within this context there was very poor recovery between 0.50m and 0.75m BGL, and the deposit was not sampled. Between 0m and 0.20m BGL there was no recovery of deposits.

### 6.3.5 Borehole 5

This was bored from 12.95m AOD to a depth of 3m BGL. The earliest identified deposit, between 1.43m and 3m BGL, was a stiff, pinkish-brown clay (5021), interpreted as the natural boulder-clay and not sampled. Above this was a 0.25m thick deposit of mixed, dark grey and light orange, slightly sandy silty-clay (5020, Sample 15). This could be an accumulation deposit with some re-deposited natural material. This was sealed by a 0.16m thick deposit of very soft, light-mid grey-brown slightly clayey silt with occasional gravel fragments and small pebbles (5019, Sample 14). This may also be an accumulation deposit. Above this, between 0.5m and 1.02m BGL, was a slightly soft, dark greyish-brown, very clayey silt with occasional

inclusions of charcoal and mortar fragments, and small pebbles (5018, Sample 13). This too may be an accumulation deposit. Above it was a 0.2m thick, compact, mixed deposit of light-dark grey very sandy silt with frequent inclusions of mortar fragments and moderate inclusions of gravel and occasional brick / tile fragments (5017). This was the car park make-up deposit seen in the other boreholes. This was not sampled. Between 0m and 0.3m BGL there was no recovery of deposits.

#### 6.3.6 Borehole 6

This was bored from 13.09m AOD to a depth of 3m BGL. Between 1.66m and 3m was a stiff, pinkish-brown clay (5026) which was interpreted as the natural boulder-clay and not sampled. Above this, between 1.5m and 1.66m BGL was a firm-stiff, mixed light orange and dark grey, slightly sandy silty-clay with no inclusions (5025, Sample 18). This may be an accumulation deposit containing re-deposited natural. This was sealed by a 0.25m thick deposit of very soft, light beige-grey, very slightly clayey silt with occasional inclusions of grit and brick / tile fragments (5024, Sample 17). This may be an occupation deposit and was very similar to Context 5015, identified in Borehole 4 in a similar stratigraphic position. Above Context 5024 was a 0.77m thick deposit of slightly soft, dark grey-brown, very clayey silt with occasional inclusions of brick / tile and charcoal flecks, very occasional mortar flecks and very occasional animal bone fragments (5023, Sample 16). This is probably the medieval accumulation / agricultural soil seen in the previously described boreholes, and contained a large lump of ferrous (?) slag, which was kept. Above this, between 0.2m and 0.48m BGL, was a compact mixed deposit of light to dark grey very sandy silt with frequent inclusions of brick / tile and mortar fragments, and moderate inclusions of gravel (5022). This represented the levelling deposit associated with the car park and was not sampled. Between 0m and 0.2m BGL there was no recovery of deposits.

#### 6.3.7 Borehole 7

This was bored from 13.22m AOD to a depth of 3m BGL. The earliest identified deposit, between 2.5m and 3m BGL, was a stiff, pink-brown, clay (5030), interpreted as before as the natural boulder clay and not sampled. Above this was a 0.12m thick deposit of soft, mid grey slightly sandy clayey silt (5029, Sample 21). This could be a backfill. Between 0.75m and 2.38m BGL was a firm, slightly friable, dark greyish-brown very clayey silt with occasional brick / tile, charcoal and mortar flecks (5028, Samples 19 and 20), also a possible backfill. There was very poor recovery of this deposit between 1m and 1.4m BGL, so it was sampled twice: between 0.75m and 1m BGL as Sample 19 and between 1.4m and 2.38m BGL as Sample 20. Above it, between 0.22m and 0.75m BGL was a compact, mixed deposit of light to dark grey very sandy silt with frequent inclusions of brick / tile and mortar fragments, and moderate inclusions of gravel (5027). This was particularly mortary towards the base of the deposit, and was identified as the levelling deposit associated with the car park. It was not sampled. Between 0m and 0.22m BGL there was no recovery of deposits.

### 6.3.8 Borehole 8

This was bored from 13.35m AOD to a depth of 3m BGL. From 2.62m to 3m BGL there was a layer of stiff, pinkish-brown clay (5035), interpreted as the natural boulder clay and not sampled. This was sealed by a 0.32m thick deposit of soft, light - mid grey very slightly clayey silt with very occasional inclusions of brick / tile fragments (5034, Sample 23). This became a more mixed with pink clay towards the base, and may be a backfill. Above this, between 1.55m and 2.3m BGL, was a slightly soft, mid greyish-brown very clayey silt with occasional inclusions of brick / tile and charcoal fragments, and very occasional animal bone fragments (5033, Sample 22). Once again, this may be a backfill deposit. Above this, between 1.15m and 1.55m BGL, was a soft, mid grey sandy silt with very frequent inclusions of brick / tile fragments (5032), probably the medieval agricultural soil. There was very little recovery of deposit between 1m and 1.15m BGL. Above it, between 0.5m and 1m BGL, was a compact, mixed deposit of light to dark grey very sandy silt with very frequent inclusions of brick fragments, frequent inclusions of tile and mortar fragments, and moderate inclusions of gravel (5031), also a possible medieval agricultural soil. Between 0m and 0.5m BGL there was no recovery of deposits.

## 6.4 Brief Discussion

Any discussion must necessarily be limited, due to the relatively small number of deposits recorded from the boreholes.

The natural boulder-clay (5003, 5008, 5012, 5016, 5021, 5026, 5030, 5035) is noticeably deeper towards the south-eastern and north-western extremes of the transect, with a rise of approximately 1-1.5m in the centre. This may be entirely natural; it is impossible to deduce any anthropogenic terra-forming without substantially more data. There are a number of potential features cut into or overlying the natural boulder clay (5007, 5011, 5015, 5020, 5029), and several deposits which may represent more general activity and subsequent disturbance of natural material (5002, 5025, 5034). In Boreholes 2, 7 and 8, there are several possible feature backfill deposits surviving: (5006, 5007; 5029, 5033, 5034) The identification of these deposits as 'possible fills' relies partly on a rough correlation with the nature and height of deposits identified in the main trenches on this site. It is not possible further analyse the nature, purpose or date of these potential features without further data.

There is a consistent trend (5000, 5001, 5005, 5010, 5014, 5018, 5023, 5028, 5031) throughout the transect for a deposit that is, on average, a firm, soft in places, greyish-brown very clayey silt with moderate-occasional inclusions of brick / tile fragments, mortar and occasional animal bone. This horizon invariably lies immediately below the levelling / make-up deposit for the modern car park, and is regarded as medieval agricultural soil.

The uppermost deposit where recorded, which includes demolition material from the 19<sup>th</sup> century warehouse, consistently provides the latest deposit identified in each borehole (5004, 5009, 5013, 5017, 5022, 5027).

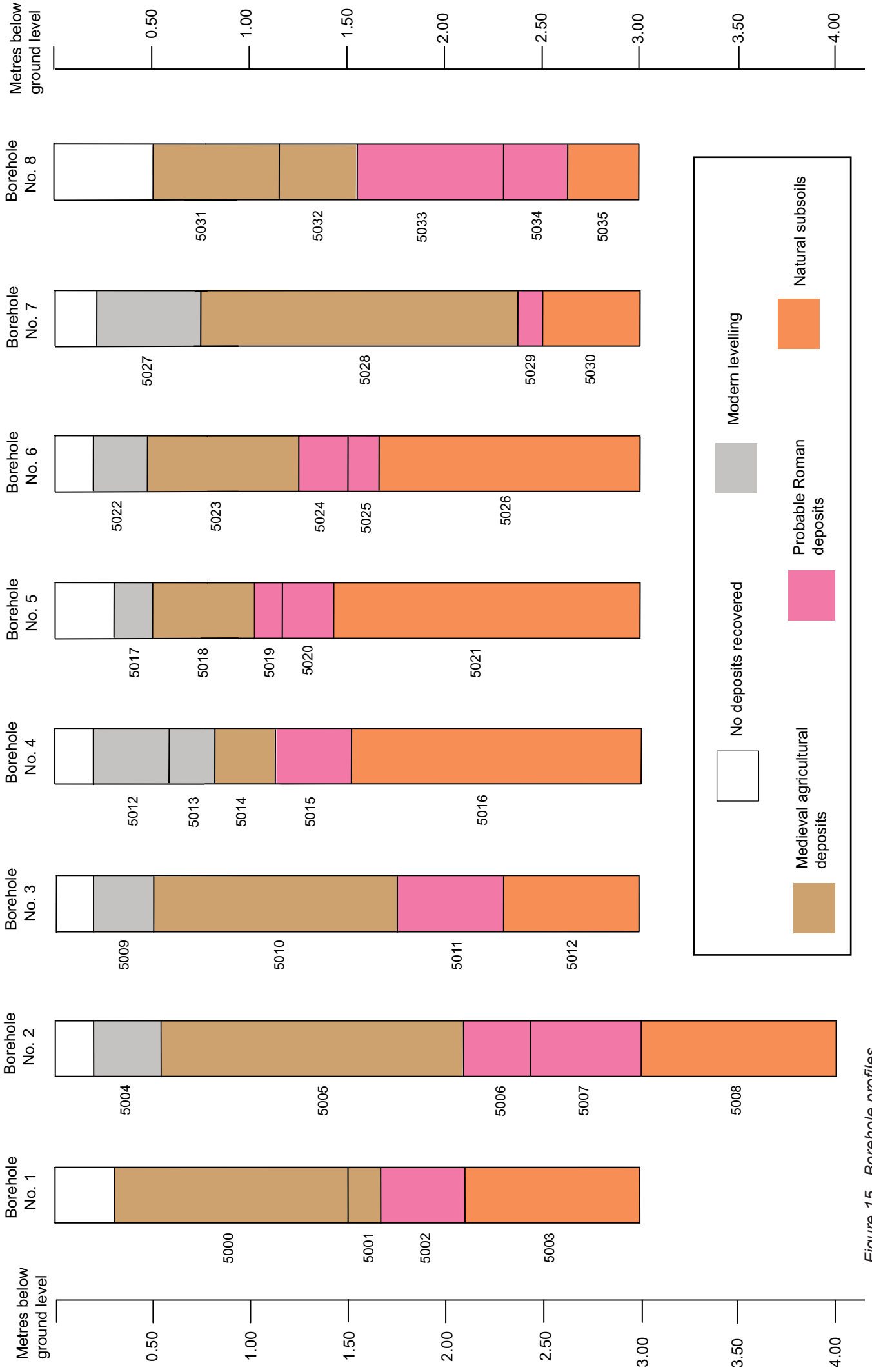


Figure 15 Borehole profiles

## 7. FINDS ASSESSMENT

### 7.1 The Ceramic Building Material by Jane McComish

#### 7.1.1 Introduction

A total of 7.41kg of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) was examined from the site. The material was of Roman to post-medieval date. The CBM was recorded following standard YAT procedures.

#### 7.1.2 Description of the brick and tile

There were numerous fragments of Roman brick, many of which were too small for any dimensions to survive. In addition to the Roman brick there were several fragments of Roman roofing material; both tegula and imbrex. One of the tegula had a type D lower cut away. The Roman material was typical for York in terms of both the surviving thicknesses and the fabrics used.

There were a few fragments of medieval plain roofing tile of 13-16<sup>th</sup> century date. This material was typical for York in terms of thicknesses and fabrics used. There were four fragments of medieval brick of 14-16<sup>th</sup> century date. All of the medieval bricks were made in sanded moulds. One of the bricks from context 1015 had rain marks on the upper surface showing that it had been dried outdoors (as opposed to in a drying shed or hackstead). There was also one fragment of brick of 16-18<sup>th</sup> century date which was again made in a sanded mould.

Context	Date	Forms
1015	14th - 16th century	Brick, Imbrex, Plain
3000	14th - 16th century	Brick
3001	13th - 16th century	Ridge
3002	1st - 4th century	rBrick
3003	1st - 4th century	rBrick
3005	1st - 4th century	rBrick
3011	1st - 4th century	rBrick
3014	1st - 4th century	rBrick, Tegula, Imbrex
4031	14th - 16th century	rBrick, Plain, Brick
4032	16th - 18th century	Plain, rBrick, Brick

Table 1 CBM summary

#### 7.1.3 Conclusions

The CBM is of use in providing dating evidence for the various contexts on site, and these are listed in Table 1 above. The material formed a very typical collection for a site in York. No features of interest were observed and the material does not merit any further research.

## **7.2 The Pottery** by Ailsa Mainman

### *7.2.1 Introduction*

The pottery assemblage from this site was small (77 sherds) and the majority of it is of Roman date. Most of the pottery was recovered from Trench 3 with a few sherds only from Trenches 1 and 4 and a single sherd from the boreholes.

### *7.2.2 Trench 1*

Context 1015 produced 5 sherds the latest of which was Ryedale type ware of the mid/late 15th century. The remaining sherds are re-deposited Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval examples.

### *7.2.3 Trench 2*

No pottery was recovered from Trench 2

### *7.2.4 Trench 3*

With the exception of the upper deposits (Context 3000), all the pottery from this trench was of Roman date and belongs broadly to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> and early 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. Wares include Samian, Ebor, Nene Valley, and a range of grey wares including Black Burnished Type 1. It is a typical domestic refuse assemblage with fragments of jars, flagons, mortaria and other common forms.

### *7.2.5 Trench 4*

Residual Roman pottery occurs within the assemblage, together with a small number of Norman period and medieval wares. There is nothing in context 4031 which needs to be later than 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century, however 18<sup>th</sup> century Black wares occur in upper levels.

### *7.2.6 The Boreholes*

A single undiagnostic sherd was recovered from context 5011 and is probably Roman.

### *7.2.7 Recommendations*

While the pottery provides dating evidence, especially in Trench 3, no further work is recommended.

Context	Quantity	Spot date	Details
1015	5	15th century	1 Roman grey ware sherd 1 Torksey-type ware sherd 1 Roman grey ware base 1 Ryedale-type sherd 1 Brandsby-type rim
3000	6	15th century	3 oxidised Roman sherds 2 Norman gritty ware sherds 1 Purple Glazed ware sherd
3001	1	late 2nd - early 3rd century	1 Nene Valley colour-coated ware sherd
3002	4	late 2nd early 3rd century	1 samian ware sherds 2 Roman grey wares sherds 1 Roman gritty ware
3003	17	late 2nd - early 3rd century	9 Roman grey ware sherds 3 Nene Valley colour-coated sherds from a single vessel 3 white-slipped Ebor wares 1 Roman unidentified
3005	5	late 2nd - early 3rd century (11th)	1 Ebor ware bowl 1 Roman grey wares 1 samian ware 1 gritty ware (possibly Roman, possibly 11th century) 1 Roman gritty ware sherd
3009	1	2nd - 3rd century	1 grey ware rim
3011	8	early 3rd century	3 huntcliff-type wares 1 samian ware 2 grey wares 1 white-slipped Ebor wares 1 mortarium sherd
3012	3	late 2nd - early 3rd century	1 white-slipped Ebor ware 1 samian ware 1 Nene Valley colour-coated ware
3013	2	late 2nd - early 3rd century	1 samian ware 1 fine Roman sherd
3014	6	late 2nd - early 3rd century	1 BB1 3 Roman grey wares 1 large Ebor flagin sherd 1 coarse ware
3026	1	late 2nd - early 3rd century	1 Ebor ware sherd
4000	3	18th century	3 18th century Black wares 1 gritty ware 1 Humber ware

4031	9	13th - 14th century	1 BB1 1 mortarium sherd 1 Ebor ware sherd 1 Roman gritty ware 2 gritty ware 2 York glazed ware 1 splashed ware
4032	5	13th - 14th century	4 Brandsby-type wares 1 ? Roman sherd
5011	1	?Roman	1 unidentified, probably Roman, sherd

Table 2 Pottery summary

### 7.3 The Small Finds by Nicky Rogers

Nine small finds were assessed, all of these being metal apart from a possible Roman vessel glass fragment SF9, Context 3002. Most of the metal finds appeared to be nails, SF 1, Context 3003, SF2, Context 3013, SF3, Context 3002, but SF5, context 3011 comprised a nail, a large ring and a hook, all perhaps structural, and an object of uncertain function. SF6, Context 3014 comprised a nail and fragmentary object which might be part of a padlock. The other metal finds were slag or other metalworking waste, SF4, Context 3000, SF7, Context 3013, SF8, Context 5023.

This small assemblage appears to be composed mainly of iron structural fittings, all of which could be Roman, as the vessel glass fragment also appears to be.

Context	Small Find Number	Description
3000	4	Slag
3002	3	Two possible iron nail fragments
3002	9	Glass fragment
3003	1	Iron nail
3011	5	Iron ring, Nail, Hook, uncertain object
3013	2	Iron nail
3013	7	Slag
3014	6	Iron nail, uncertain object
5023	8	Slag

Table 3 Small finds by context

## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### 8.1 The Animal Bones by Juliet Mant, Palaeoecology Reserch Services.

#### 8.1.1 Summary

One box of hand-collected bone, recovered from deposits encountered during excavations at 40-48 Monkgate, York, was submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential. The archaeological features revealed were of Roman (late 2<sup>nd</sup>-early 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries), medieval and modern date.

The hand-collected vertebrate remains formed a small but well preserved assemblage, most of which was recovered from deposits of Roman date. Cattle remains were the most numerous and showed evidence of quite extensive butchery. Insufficient material was recovered from the medieval and modern deposits to be of interpretative value.

No further study of the current material is recommended. The preservation of the bone suggests that further material of a more interpretative nature may be recovered should further excavations be undertaken, but the likelihood of recovering significant assemblages of other biological remains is slim.

#### 8.1.2 Introduction

An archaeological evaluation excavation and borehole survey was carried out by York Archaeological Trust at 40-48 Monkgate, York (NGR SE 6076 5234), between the 28<sup>th</sup> of November and the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2005. The works were undertaken in advance of an application for the redevelopment of the site for residential housing.

Eight boreholes were taken by GeoInvestigate (Stokesby, North Yorkshire) using an MRZB boring rig on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2005. The boreholes were positioned at approximately equal intervals along a west to east transect located two metres north of the southern edge of the site.

Four trenches were also excavated. Deposits in Trench 1 showed much disturbance by 19<sup>th</sup> century structures, although there was some evidence for medieval agricultural soils. The latter were encountered again in Trench 2, and here overlay a possible Roman ditch. Further Roman cut features, of probable late 2<sup>nd</sup>-early 3<sup>rd</sup> century date, were uncovered in Trench 3, including post-holes, a ditch, a gully and two deep circular cuts which were either rubbish pits or wells. Occupation deposits of the same date were also encountered. These were overlain by the medieval agriculture deposits seen in Trenches 1 and 2. Evidence for similar medieval deposits was recorded in Trench 4, but no certain Roman features were found in this area.

One box of hand-collected bone, was submitted to Palaeoecology Research Services Limited (PRS), County Durham, for an evaluation of its bioarchaeological potential.

### 8.1.3 Methods

For the hand-collected vertebrate remains, data were entered directly into a series of tables using a purpose built input system and *Paradox* software. Subjective records were made of the state of preservation, colour of the fragments and appearance of broken surfaces ('angularity'). Additional information, such as fragment size, dog gnawing, burning, butchery and fresh breakage, was noted where applicable.

Where possible, fragments were identified to species or species group using the PRS modern comparative reference collection. Remains that could not be identified to species were described as the 'unidentified' fraction. Within this fraction, fragments were grouped into a number of categories: large mammal (assumed to be cattle, horse or large cervid), medium-sized mammal (assumed to be caprovid, pig or small cervid), bird and completely unidentifiable. These categories are represented by 'unidentified' in Table 4.

Species		late 2nd/ early 3rd	13th/ 14th C	? medieval	modern	unstratified	Total
<i>Equus</i> f. domestic	horse	1	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Sus</i> f. domestic	pig	2	1	-	-	1	4
<i>Bos</i> f. domestic	cattle	16	3	4	-	-	23
caprovid	sheep/goat	3	-	-	-	2	5
<i>Anser</i> sp.	goose	1	-	-	-	-	1
Unidentified		60	6	7	3	1	77
TOTAL		83	10	11	3	4	111

Table 4 Vertebrate remains by species

### 8.1.4 Results

Of the four trenches that were excavated, three (Trenches 2, 3 and 4) produced vertebrate remains. There was a small amount of bone recovered from a single accumulation deposit from Trench 2, whilst larger assemblages were recovered from Trenches 3 and 4. Nineteen boreholes samples were also taken and a few fragments of bone were noted from several of these samples, including those from a possible levelling layer (Context 5033) in Borehole 8 (see above) which were submitted with the hand-collected material. In total, there were 111 fragments of bone (half a box, approximately 10 litres), of which 11 were measurable and able to provide biometrical data. Most of the bone was recovered from deposits of Romano-British date (late 2<sup>nd</sup>-early 3<sup>rd</sup> century), in particular from Contexts 3003, 3005 and the fills of Pit/Well 3015 (Contexts 3011, 3012, 3013 and 3014). A few vertebrate remains were also recovered from later deposits, dating from the medieval through to the modern period.

Preservation of the material was, in general, 'fair' to 'good', with bone from two deposits (Contexts 2006 and 3005) being noted as well preserved. Limited evidence of dog gnawing was present on material recovered from several deposits, but remains from Context 3011 had been heavily gnawed, perhaps suggesting that they had been left in an open and accessible location before being buried. Bones from almost all deposits had become fragmented, both through butchery techniques employed during the past, and as a result of fresh breakage during the excavation and post-excavation processes. Several cattle limb bones had been either chopped through or split (Contexts 2006, 3003 and 3005), and a number of large mammal bones had been treated in a similar fashion (Contexts 2006, 4000 and 4032).

The numbers of bones from deposits of medieval to modern date were very limited but included fragments from two of the main domesticates: cattle and pig (Table 4). The vertebrate remains from the larger assemblage recovered from features of Romano-British date were dominated by cattle bones, although other domestic mammals, such as caprovid, pig and horse were also represented (Table 4). The cattle bones included both meat-bearing bones (such as the humerus and femur) and bones that were usually discarded early in the butchery process (for example, elements from the head and the feet). A goose bone was recovered from Context 3013, this was stained green in colour (probably the result of proximity to a copper or copper alloy object) and showed evidence of cat gnawing. Approximately 70% of the assemblage was unidentifiable material, which included fragments of both large and medium-sized mammals, as well as a small number of unidentified bird fragments.

The only pathology noted from the assemblage was on a cow second phalanx from Context 3003 (Romano-British) which showed evidence of osteoarthritis. There was extra bone growth around the proximal articulation, which also showed eburnation and grooving of the articular surface.

#### *8.1.5 Discussion and statement of potential*

Excavations at this site produced a small assemblage of moderately well preserved vertebrate remains. Bones from the deposits of Romano-British date were dominated by domestic animals, with cattle remains being the most common. The latter included both meat-bearing and 'waste' bones, suggesting that the material represented general refuse rather than material associated with any specific activity. Insufficient bone fragments were recovered from deposits of later date to be of any interpretative value.

#### *8.1.6 Recommendations*

The vertebrate assemblage is too small to warrant any further analysis. However, it should be borne in mind that any future excavations on this site are likely to produce bone, possibly in larger and more interpretatively valuable quantities.

### 8.1.7 *Retention and disposal*

The vertebrate remains extracted from the processed evaluation sub-samples and the hand-collected bone should be retained for the present.

### 8.1.8 *Archive*

All material is currently stored by Palaeoecology Research Services (Unit 8, Dabble Duck Industrial Estate, Shildon, County Durham), along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

## **8.2 The Deposit Samples** by John Carrott and Stewart Garner, Palaeoecology Research Services

### 8.2.1 *Summary*

Four sediment samples and 19 'borehole' samples taken from deposits encountered during excavations at 40-48 Monkgate, York, were submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential. The archaeological features revealed were of Roman (late 2<sup>nd</sup>-early 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries), medieval and modern date.

Ancient plant macrofossil remains were sparse in the four deposits evaluated and restricted to small fragments of unidentifiable charcoal, although all of them also contained modern plant debris, including rootlets. Only one of the 19 borehole sub-samples examined showed any evidence for the possible survival of uncharred plant and invertebrate remains, however, more resilient organic remains, such as bone and (?egg) shell were encountered in several.

### 8.2.2 *Introduction*

Four bulk sediment samples ('GBA'/'BS' *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992, 24-6), nineteen small sediment samples extracted from the boreholes and one box of hand-collected bone, were submitted to Palaeoecology Research Services Limited (PRS), County Durham, for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

### 8.2.3 *Methods*

The bulk sediment samples were inspected and their lithologies recorded, using a standard *pro forma*, prior to processing of a subsample, broadly following the techniques of Kenward (Kenward *et al* 1980, 3-15) for the recovery of plant and invertebrate remains. Before processing the sub-samples were disaggregated in water for 24 hours or more and their volumes recorded in a waterlogged state.

Plant and invertebrate remains in the processed sub-sample fractions (residues and washovers) were recorded briefly by 'scanning' (using a low-power microscope where

necessary), identifiable taxa and other components being listed on paper. Both the residues and the washovers were mostly mineral or of charred plant remains and were dried prior to examination. The dry weights of the residues and identified sorted components were recorded.

The submitted borehole samples were visually examined and described (following a standard format) and investigated via a series of sub-samples using the 'squash' technique of (Dainton 1992, 58-63). This was originally developed to quickly assess deposits for their content of eggs of intestinal parasitic nematodes but routinely reveals other microfossils such as pollen and diatoms. In this instance, the primary purpose of the sub-samples was to determine the presence/absence of these other microfossil remains and to assess the fine organic content of the sediments. Assessment slides were scanned at 150x magnification with 600x used where necessary.

#### 8.2.4 Results

The results are presented in context number order. Archaeological information, provided by the excavator, is given in square brackets. A brief summary of the processing method and an estimate of the remaining volume of unprocessed sediment follows (in round brackets) after the sample number.

##### 8.2.4.1 Excavation samples

**Context 3003** [backfill in linear slot 3006; late 2<sup>nd</sup> - early 3<sup>rd</sup> century]

Sample 2/T (3 kg/2 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 4 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, mid to dark grey (with occasional patches of mid grey-brown), stiff to crumbly (working soft), clay silt, with stones (2 to 60 mm), mortar/plaster, rotted charcoal, large mammal bone and modern seedlings present.

The very small washover (~10 ml) was mostly of unidentified charcoal (to 20 mm, but most to 6 mm), with a little coal and cinder (both to 4 mm). There were also some fragments of modern rootlet and other modern plant detritus.

The rather small residue (dry weight 0.54 kg) was mostly stones (to 35 mm), fine charcoal and sand, with a little brick/tile (to 16 mm; 7 g), pot (four sherds to 23 mm; 4 g), coal (to 16 mm; 4 g), mortar/plaster (to 15 mm; 2 g), larger pieces of charcoal (to 12 mm; 4 g), a little shell (two unidentified marine shellfish fragments to 4 mm, <1 g) and three iron nails (to 48 mm; 33 g).

This sample also produced 84 fragments of bone (weight 26 g), of which most were very small fragments (less than 10 mm in maximum dimension) and unidentifiable. Four calcined medium-sized mammal shaft fragments were recorded.

**Context 3005** [backfill in ?pit / well 3007; late 2<sup>nd</sup> - early 3<sup>rd</sup> century]

Sample 1/T (3 kg/2 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 4 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Waterlogged, mid to dark grey-brown, unconsolidated to soft (working sticky), slightly sandy clay silt, with stones (2 to 20 mm and over 60 mm) present.

There was a very small washover (~5 ml) of fine unidentified charcoal (to 4 mm), with one larger piece (to 15 mm), and a little sand, small sediment concretions (to 1 mm) and a few modern rootlet fragments.

The residue was rather small (dry weight 0.56 kg) and mostly of sand, stones (to 33 mm) and some fine charcoal. Other components were a little brick/tile (to 26 mm; 4 g), pot (four sherds to 32 mm; 8 g), coal (to 5 mm; <1 g), larger charcoal fragments (to 10 mm; 2 g), three unidentified shell fragments (to 7 mm; <1 g) and bone. The last amounted to 37 fragments of fairly well preserved bone (weight 14 g). These included a fragment of cattle tooth, however, most fragments represented large and medium-sized mammals but could not be identified more closely. One fragment of medium-sized mammal shaft had been burnt black.

**Context 3011** [backfill in ?pit / well 3015; early 3<sup>rd</sup> century]

Sample 4/T (3 kg/2.2 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 3 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, mid to dark grey, sticky to crumbly in places (working soft and sticky), slightly sandy clay silt, with stones (2 to 20 mm) present.

The very small washover (~5 ml) was mostly of unidentified charcoal (to 18 mm, but most to 5 mm), with traces of coal and cinder (both to 3 mm), a little sand and some modern plant debris (including rootlet fragments).

The rather small residue (dry weight 0.68 kg) was mostly stones (to 35 mm), sand and fine charcoal. There were also small amounts of brick/tile (to 22 mm; 5 g), pot (four sherds to 41 mm; 10 g), slag (to 21 mm; 5 g), coal (to 11 mm; 2 g), mortar/plaster (one fragment to 12 mm; <1 g), two iron nail fragments (to 42 mm; 10 g), larger pieces of charcoal (to 13 mm; 4 g), three unidentified marine shell fragments (to 9 mm; <1 g) and bone. This last component comprised 61 fragments of bone (weight 8 g), although again many of these had a maximum dimension of less than 10 mm. Several juvenile bones, including a number of ribs, limb bones and cranial fragments, representing a very young animal, were identified. On the basis of the scapula fragment recovered, these were likely to be the remains of a dog. A passerine-sized carpometacarpus was also identified from this deposit.

**Context 4032** [backfill in pit 4034; 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century]

Sample 3/T (3 kg/2.8 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 6 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, mid to dark grey, crumbly to stiff (working soft), clay silt (more clay in places), with stones (6 to 60 mm), pot and ?cinder present.

The very small washover (~5 ml) was of unidentified charcoal (to 12 mm), with traces of coal and cinder (both to 3 mm) and some modern remains (including rootlet and ?leaf fragments and some earthworm egg capsules).

The rather small residue (dry weight 0.49 kg) was mostly of stones (to 53 mm), sand and fine charcoal. Other components comprised a little brick/tile (to 12 mm; 5 g), four sherds of pot (to 25 mm; 6g), slag (to 12 mm, 4 g), coal (to 17 mm; 7 g), cinder (to 16 mm; 3 g), and larger charcoal fragments (to 22 mm; 9 g).

The sample also produced 52 fragments of fairly well preserved bone (weight 9 g), including a caproid tooth, an amphibian bone and a herring (*Clupea harengus* L.) vertebra. The other fragments could not be identified, however.

#### 8.2.4.2 Borehole samples

**Borehole 1: Context 5002, Sample 5** [1.70-2.10 m BGL; 11.76-11.32 m AOD – possibly disturbed or re-deposited natural material]

Moist, mix of stiff (working plastic), slightly silty clays (one dark grey-brown and the other light to mid brown, the latter with a little sand content). Stones (2 to 20 mm) were present and there were occasional 'veins' of light grey (?root traces). The microfossil 'squash' was entirely inorganic.

**Borehole 2: Context 5005, Sample 6** [0.55-2.00 m BGL; 12.72-11.27 m AOD – possible make-up deposit]

Just moist, mid to dark brown to dark grey-brown, crumbly (working soft and more or less plastic), clay silt, with modern intrusive roots and rootlets, rotted charcoal (as flecks to 3 mm), coal (to 5 mm), stones (2 to 60 mm) and fragments of animal bone (including a pig first phalanx to 36 mm) some of which were burnt. The microfossil 'squash' was mostly inorganic, with a trace of organic detritus.

**Borehole 2: Context 5006, Sample 7** [2.00-2.34 m BGL; 11.27-10.93 m AOD – possibly a backfill]

Moist, mid to dark brown, brittle to stiff (working more or less plastic), silty clay (some areas less clay), with occasional charcoal (to 12 mm; mostly rotted), mortar/plaster (to 16 mm), stones (2 to 60 mm), traces of rotted ?rootlets and a ?tooth fragment (to 6 mm; looks likely to be modern). The microfossil 'squash' was entirely inorganic.

**Borehole 2: Context 5007, Sample 8** [2.34-2.90 m BGL; 10.93-10.37 m AOD – possibly a backfill]

Moist, mid to dark grey-brown to dark grey, brittle (working soft and somewhat plastic), clay silt, with some rotted ?mortar (to 10 mm) and a little unidentified animal bone (to 21 mm) present. Lumps of sediment gave a slight but distinct sulphide smell, characteristic of the presence of decaying organic material, when broken open. The microfossil 'squash' was approximately equal parts inorganic and organic detritus. A few pollen grains/spores, fragments of plant tissue and fungal spores were seen, but there were no 'useful' concentrations of identifiable microfossils.

**Borehole 3: Context 5010, Sample 9** [0.50-1.75 m BGL; 12.52-11.27 m AOD – possible levelling deposit]

Moist, dark grey-brown, brittle (working soft, sticky and somewhat plastic), clay silt, with occasional flecks of ?mortar (to 1 mm), stones (2 to 20 mm), flecks of rotted charcoal (to 2 mm), a trace of coal (to 6 mm) and fish bone (to 16 mm) present. The microfossil 'squash' was mostly inorganic, with a trace of organic detritus.

**Borehole 3: Context 5011, Sample 10** [1.75-2.30 m BGL; 11.27-10.72 m AOD – possibly a fill, with some re-deposited natural material. Contained a shard of possibly Roman pottery]

Moist, light to mid brown, light to mid grey-brown and mid grey, sticky (working soft), sandy clay silt, with rounded stones (20 to 60 mm), pot (to 14 mm) and a little ?slag (to 17 mm) present. The microfossil 'squash' was entirely inorganic.

**Borehole 4: Context 5014, Sample 11** [0.82-1.14 m BGL; 12.13-11.81 m AOD – possibly a levelling deposit]

Moist, dark grey-brown, brittle to stiff (working soft), clay silt, with brick/tile (to 12 mm), rotted ?mortar (to 15 mm), a pot sherd (to 20 mm), charcoal (to 6 mm; some rotted and some not) and animal bone (to 20 mm; including a medium-sized – e.g. sheep/goat – mammal vertebra fragment) present. The microfossil 'squash' was mostly inorganic, with a trace of organic matter including a few fungal hyphae.

**Borehole 4: Context 5015, Sample 12** [1.14-1.52 m BGL; 11.81-11.43 m AOD – possibly a backfill]

Moist, varicoloured (from light to mid brown to dark grey-brown, colours jumbled), stiff and slightly sticky (working soft and somewhat plastic), slightly sandy clay silt, with some patches of mid orange indurated (?burnt) clay and rounded stones (2 to 20 mm) present. The microfossil 'squash' was entirely inorganic.

**Borehole 5: Context 5018, Sample 13** [0.50-1.02 m BGL; 12.45-11.93 m AOD – possibly a levelling deposit]

Moist, dark grey-brown, stiff (working soft), clay silt, with occasional rotted charcoal (to 4 mm) and animal bone (to 28 mm) present and stones (2 to 6 mm) common. The microfossil 'squash' was entirely inorganic.

**Borehole 5: Context 5019, Sample 14** [1.02-1.18 m BGL; 11.93-11.77 m AOD – possibly a backfill]

Mostly moist (dry in parts), mid grey-brown, stiff (working soft), slightly sandy clay silt, with occasional patches of light to mid orange-brown sandy silt, light grey-brown ?clay silt and light grey clay. Rounded stones (6 to 60 mm) were common and angular lumps of mortar (to 42 mm) and some fine ?plant fibres (possibly rootlet fragments) were present. The microfossil 'squash' was mostly inorganic, but with some organic detritus including a few fungal spores and hyphae.

**Borehole 5: Context 5020, Sample 15** [1.18-1.43 m BGL; 11.77-11.52 m AOD – possibly a backfill, with some re-deposited natural material]

A moist, roughly equal mix of mid to dark grey-brown, stiff (working soft), clay silt and light grey-brown soft silty sand, with a little light yellow/orange-brown sand and some stones (2 to 20 mm) present. The microfossil 'squash' was entirely inorganic.

**Borehole 6: Context 5023, Sample 16** [0.48-1.25 m BGL; 12.61-11.84 m AOD – possibly a levelling deposit]

Moist, mid to dark grey-brown, stiff to crumbly (working soft), clay silt, with some mortar (to 22 mm), small lumps of black ash (to 6 mm), lumps of dark red-brown ?iron-rich concreted (?burnt) sediment (to 10 mm), shale/coal (to 10 mm), burnt bone (to 10 mm) and stones (2 to 6 mm) present. The microfossil 'squash' was entirely inorganic.

**Borehole 6: Context 5024, Sample 17** [1.25-1.50 m BGL; 11.84-11.59 m AOD – possibly a backfill]

A moist mixture of mid grey and light yellow-brown, stiff (working soft and slightly sticky), slightly sandy clay silts (the grey parts more clay and the yellow-brown with more sand), with occasional flecks of rotted charcoal (to 2 mm) and stones (2 to 20 mm) present. The microfossil 'squash' was entirely inorganic.

**Borehole 6: Context 5025, Sample 18** [1.50-1.66 m BGL; 11.59-11.43 m AOD – possibly a backfill, or a disturbance / re-deposition of natural material]

Moist, mostly of mid grey-brown, stiff (working plastic), slightly silty clay, with minor components of mid orange silty sand and light grey-brown clay silt (to silty clay). There were no obvious inclusions. The microfossil 'squash' was entirely inorganic.

**Borehole 7: Context 5028, Samples 19 and 20** [0.75-2.38 m BGL; 12.47-10.84 m AOD – possibly a levelling deposit]

Moist, dark grey-brown, stiff (working soft and somewhat plastic), clay silt, with occasional patches of light to mid brown somewhat indurated clay (to 10 mm), shell (probably egg shell) and fragments of cinder (to 5 mm). The microfossil 'squash' was entirely inorganic.

**Borehole 7: Context 5029, Sample 21** [2.38-2.50 m BGL; 10.84-10.72 m AOD – possibly a backfill]

Moist, mid brown to mid to dark grey-brown to dark grey, sticky and soft (working soft and somewhat plastic), clay silt, with some stones (2 to 6 mm) present. The microfossil 'squash' was entirely inorganic.

**Borehole 8: Context 5033, Sample 22** [1.55-2.30 m BGL; 11.80-11.05 m AOD – possibly a levelling / make-up deposit]

Moist, mid to dark grey-brown to mid to dark grey (with occasional flecks of light to mid brown), stiff (working soft, slightly sticky and somewhat plastic), clay silt, with stones (2 to 20 mm), brick/tile (to 6 mm) and bone (to 57 mm; including a medium-sized mammal rib fragment) present (three other unidentified bone fragments from this deposit were submitted together with the hand-collected remains from the evaluation trenches). The microfossil 'squash' was entirely inorganic.

**Borehole 8: Context 5034, Sample 23** [2.30-2.62 m BGL; 11.05-10.73 m AOD – possibly a backfill, with re-deposited natural material. Alternatively, could be an interface to natural, but seems too thick for this]

Moist, varicoloured (light to mid to dark greys and browns – colours jumbled), stiff (working soft and somewhat plastic) clay silt to silty clay (varies through matrix), with occasional small clasts of buff clay and stones (2 to 20 mm) present. The microfossil 'squash' was entirely inorganic.

#### *8.2.5 Discussion and statement of potential*

Ancient biological remains recovered from the bulk sediment samples were restricted to small quantities of unidentified charcoal and of no interpretative value.

Of the borehole subsamples submitted, only the microfossil 'squash' from Sample 8 (Context 5007, Borehole 2) indicated a level of organic content that might suggest the possibility of survival of uncharred ancient plant and invertebrate remains in the vicinity of this deposit. However, on the evidence of the current sample, it seems that, even here, the likelihood of recovering interpretatively valuable assemblages is very slim. More resilient organic remains, such as bone (Samples 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 22, from deposits in Boreholes 2, 3, 4 and 5) and shell (Samples 19 and 20, both from Context 5028 in Borehole 7), were encountered in several deposits. In the event of further excavation, the remains from these deposits may be worth pursuing if they represent relatively undisturbed episodes of dumping (for example) but, if as suspected by the archaeologist, many prove to be levelling or make-up layers then the material may be rather mixed and hence of limited interpretative value.

#### *8.2.6 Recommendations*

No further study of the current bulk and borehole sediment samples is warranted.

#### *8.2.7 Retention and disposal*

Unless required for purposes other than the study of biological remains, any remaining sediment samples may be discarded. The remains extracted from the processed evaluation subsamples should be retained for the present.

#### *8.2.8 Archive*

All material is currently stored by Palaeoecology Research Services (Unit 8, Dabble Duck Industrial Estate, Shildon, County Durham), along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

## **9. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

In all four trenches the natural subsoil was identified and recorded. In Trench 2 a right-angled soil change may have been the backfill of a ditch. If so then it was probably Roman since an inspection of the standing sections indicated that it was cut directly into the natural. A moderate number of features, some intercutting, were excavated and recorded within Trench 3 and these were securely dated by finds to the Roman period and more specifically to the 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup>

century. These features included post-holes, a ditch, a gully and at least two deep circular cuts which could have been rubbish pits or wells. A number of excavated deposits, possibly representing occupation, were also excavated in this trench. Roman pot and brick / tile was recovered in some quantity from Trenches 1, 3 and 4.

Although no deposits, features or structures of the Anglo-Scandinavian era were recognised a single sherd of 'Torksey-Type' ware from Trench 1 may hint at some slight activity in the general area of the site although the nature of such activity remains unknown.

Deposits and features of the Medieval period were relatively common, especially in Trench 4 where a series of intercutting features, probably pits, were noted. Agricultural soils of the period were noted in all of the trenches which, with the exception of Trench 2, all produced quantities of medieval brick / tile and pottery.

Evidence for the Post-Medieval period was, however, virtually absent and consisted of just three sherds of 18th century pottery and a small quantity of brick / tile, all from Trench 4.

Modern material was plentiful and encountered in all of the trenches taking the form of walls, at least one floor, a possible cellar or stairwell, unidentified features and levelling and demolition deposits.

Of particular interest on this site are the Roman features and deposits encountered in Trench 3 and possibly Trench 2. The intercutting of a number of these indicated up to 3 separate phases of activity, at least one of which was structural, dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Such activity has been noted from the general area in the past but the nature and details of Roman occupation of this area of York is far from clear and very incomplete. The small size of the trenches in this evaluation prevent any detailed speculation or interpretation of the features recorded although it may be possible to suggest that the Roman activity on this site may be concentrated towards the south-east of the site in an area where the borehole survey indicates that natural deposits are closer to the modern ground surface than elsewhere over the site. An examination of the borehole profiles strongly suggests the presence of a very substantial feature centred on Borehole 2. The width of this possible feature is most uncertain but it would appear to be up to 1.5m deep and may be a linear feature aligned north-east / south-west although this is open to considerable doubt. It is notable that Borehole 2 also produced some evidence for waterlogged organic remains, perhaps more evidence of a large buried feature with a wet backfill. There is also evidence for a similar feature or features in Boreholes 7 and 8 where the level of natural is up to 1m below that in Borehole 6. It is possible that below the medieval ploughsoils on this site lie two large parallel features, possibly ditches, c.30m apart and Roman in date. Further investigation of these probable features may be desirable, or even necessary, depending of the proposed type of foundation since it is quite possible that these features may well extend into the footprint of the proposed development. The absence of any later Roman features or deposits is, perhaps not so unusual, since they have almost

certainly been removed by the medieval ploughing. Inclusions in some of the lower deposits strongly suggested that ploughing had penetrated the upper part of the natural subsoil.

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## **APPENDIX: List of site plans and sections**

### **Trench 1**

Composite plan of trench at start of hand excavation

Composite plan of trench at end of hand excavation

### **Trench 2**

Single context plan of:

2013

Plan of trench outline

North-west facing section of trench

### **Trench 3**

Single context plans of:

3001, 3002, 3003, 3006, 3007, 3008, 3010, 3011, 3012, 3013, 3014, 3015,  
3017, 3018

Composite plan of trench at start of hand excavation

Composite plan of Contexts 3016 and 3019

### **Trench 4**

Single context plan of:

4034

Composite plan of trench during hand excavation

South-west facing section of trench



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