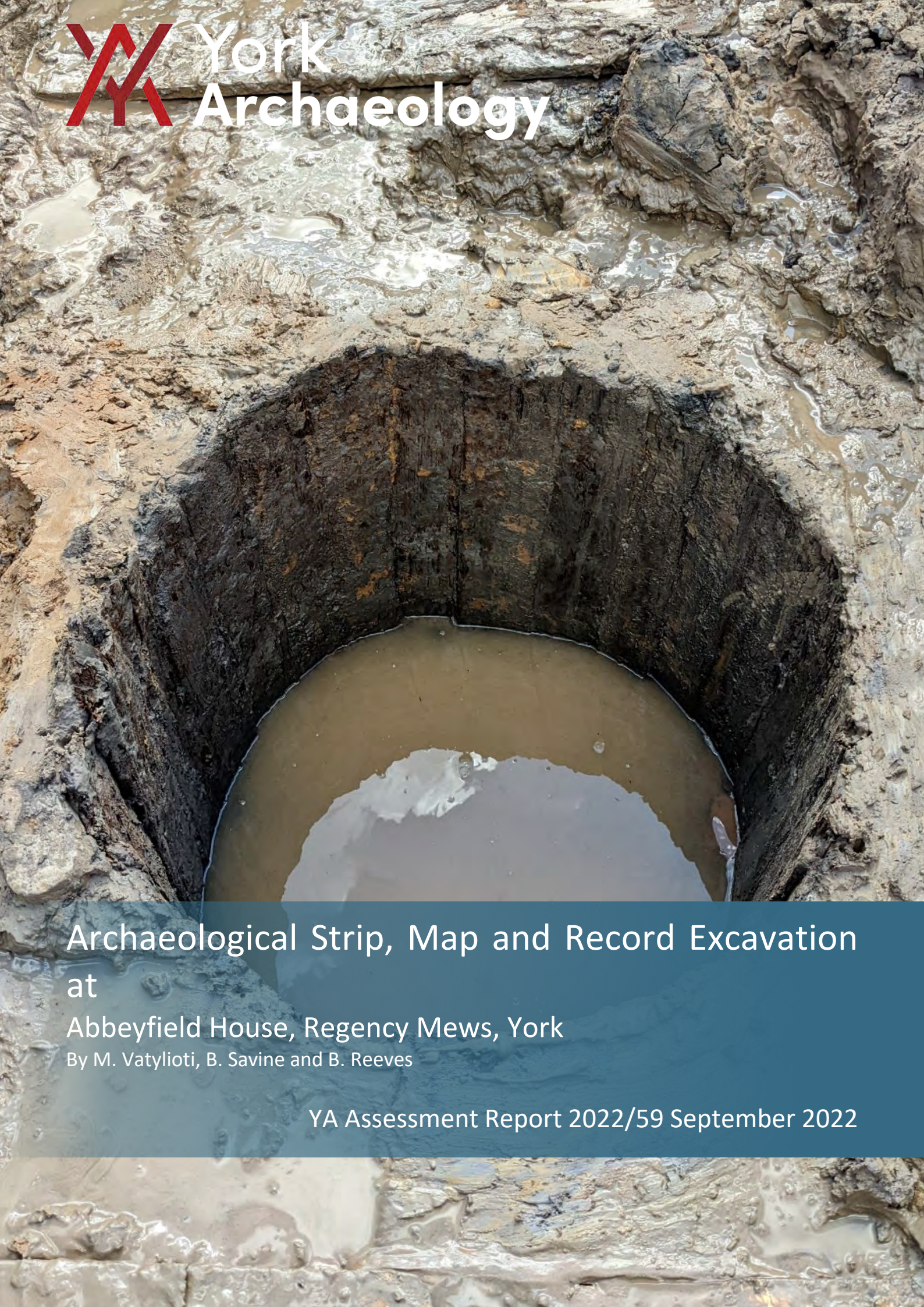

York Archaeology

Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Excavation at

Abbeyfield House, Regency Mews, York

By M. Vatylioti, B. Savine and B. Reeves

YA Assessment Report 2022/59 September 2022

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York Archaeological Trust, Cuthbert Morrell House, 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX

Phone: +44 (0)1904 663000 Fax: +44 (0)1904 663024

Email: archaeology@yorkat.co.uk Website: https://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk

CONTENTS

Plates

Tables

Figures

Abbreviations

AOD Above Ordnance Datum

BF Bulk Find

BGL Below Ground Level

CBM Ceramic Building Material

CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

GPS Global Positioning System

HE Historic England

IADB Integrated Archaeological Data Base

NGR National Grid Reference

RAMS Risk Assessment and Method Statement

SF Small Find

ST Structural Timber

SMS Strip, Map and Sample

WSI Written Scheme of Investigation

YAT York Archaeological Trust

Non-technical Summary

Between the 7th of March and the 1st of April 2022 York Archaeology conducted a strip, map, excavation and sample investigation, at 27 St Helens Rd, Regency Mews, York, YO24 1HR (SE 58618 49695). A watching brief phase was undertaken in November 2021 followed by program of Strip, Map and Sample in May 2022.

The work was undertaken for Abbeyfield Society (York) Ltd in accordance with a City of York planning condition attached to permission for the construction of a two and three storey building comprising 17 care flats and 8 dementia care flats (17/01419/FULM). The work was based on a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by YAT (Appendix 5). The investigations involved stripping the site, mapping the observed features and then excavating representative sections and relationship slots across each feature.

Activity principally related to agricultural land management during the late 1st, 2nd and 3rd centuries. The investigations revealed a number of ditches, pits and a furrow. A Roman cask-lined well was discovered, the preserved timber remains were recovered along with an assemblage of pottery and environmental samples. The results of the strip map and record investigation has the potential to contribute important new evidence for the land use and landscape character and development of Roman Dringhouses and the wider extra-mural area of York.

Later features, including ditches and a furrow, suggest continued agricultural activity into the medieval and post-medieval periods. A few modern features, including land drains and pits, were also present across the excavation area truncating the archaeology.

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	27 St Helens Rd, Regency Mews, York, YO24 1HR
YAT Project No.	6087
Document Number	2022/59
Type of Project	Strip, map, excavation and sample
Client	Abbeyfield Society (York) Ltd
Planning Application No.	17/01419/FULM
NGR	SE 58618 49695
Museum Accession No.	Pending
OASIS Identifier	yorkarch3-509729

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1. INTRODUCTION

Between the 7th of March and the 1st of April 2022 York Archaeology conducted archaeological mitigation in the form of a strip, map, and sample (SMS) investigation at Abbeyfields House, formerly 27 St Helens Rd, Regency Mews, York, YO24 1HR (SE 58618 49695) (Figure 1 Site Location). A watching brief phase took place in November 2021 prior the area stripping and then a later one in May 2022.

The work was undertaken for Abbeyfield Society (York) Ltd to fulfil the requirements of a CYC planning condition attached to the permission (17/01419/FULM) for the construction of a two and three storey building comprising 17 care flats and 8 dementia care flats.

The archaeological conditions applied to the planning permission are as follows:

> ***4.*** *A programme of post-determination archaeological evaluation using strip, map and record method is required on this site. The archaeological scheme comprises 5 stages. Each stage shall be completed and approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) before it can be discharged.*
>
> ***A)*** *The site investigation and post investigation assessment shall be completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition* ***2*** *and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition will be secured. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.*
>
> ***B)*** *A copy of a report on the evaluation and an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on any of the archaeological remains identified in the evaluation shall be deposited with City of York Historic Environment Record to allow public dissemination of results within 6 weeks of completion or such other period as may be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.*
>
> ***C)*** *Where archaeological features and deposits are identified proposals for the preservation in-situ, or for the investigation, recording and recovery of archaeological remains and the publishing of findings shall be submitted as an amendment to the original WSI. It should be understood that there shall be presumption in favour of preservation in-situ wherever feasible.*
>
> ***D)*** *No development shall take place until:*
> *- details in C have been approved and implemented on site*
> *- provision has been made for analysis, dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured*
> *- a copy of a report on the archaeological works detailed in Part C should be deposited with City of York Historic Environment Record within 3 months of completion or such other period as may be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.*
>
> *This condition is imposed in accordance with Section 12 of NPPF.*
>
> *Reason: The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Interest. An investigation is required to identify the presence and significance of archaeological features and deposits and ensure that archaeological features and deposits are either recorded or, if of national importance, preserved insitu. Details required prior to determination are*

necessary to ensure archaeological evidence is not destroyed by the commencement of any development.

***5**. A programme of post-determination archaeological mitigation specifically a watching brief is required on this site.*
The archaeological scheme comprises 3 stages of work. Each stage shall be completed and approved by the Local Planning Authority before it can be discharged.

***A)** For land that is included within the WSI approved under condition 2, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the WSI.*

***B)** The site investigation and post investigation assessment shall be completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition **2** and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition will be secured. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.*

***C)** A copy of a report (or publication if required) shall be deposited with City of York Historic Environment Record to allow public dissemination of results within [3 months] of completion or such other period as may be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.*

This condition is imposed in accordance with Section 12 of NPPF.

Reason: The site lies outside of the Area of Archaeological Importance but is considered to be a site of Archaeological Interest. Therefore, the development may affect important archaeological deposits which must be recorded prior to destruction. Details to be submitted prior to determination are required at that time to ensure works are not commenced which may harm archaeology on site.

The investigations were taken in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by YAT (see Appendix 5) and informed by previous archaeological evaluation through trial trench evaluation (Boast 2019).

The works involved the excavation and recording of ditches and a cask lined well dating to the Roman period and some evidence for medieval agricultural activity was also encountered.

2. METHODOLOGY

The methodology followed the WSI (Appendix 5) (Shaw 2018)

The SMS excavations covered an area of 0.13 hectares (Figure 2).

The site was stripped down to the top of superficial geological deposits or the top of archaeological features under archaeological supervision using a 2.6-ton mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and one dumper.

Key Aims and Objectives for the project were:

- to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological remains present

- to preserve by record the archaeological remains likely to be disturbed by the development of the site

The strategy for sampling of archaeological features and deposits followed the WSI:

- 10% of linear features
- 50% of a discrete feature, half sectioned to show a complete profile
- 50% of structures (houses, kilns, hearths). Full single-context excavation of features may be appropriate depending on the nature of the remains.

The initial watching brief prior the strip, map and sample stage, monitored the excavations for drainage installations. The total depth of the drainage was 1.50m BGL and only observed the same deposits as seen in the later works (topsoil, made-ground, natural). The later monitoring done in May 2022 was a slight extension of the limit in the area seen previously on the north-west part of the site. The extend was only 1.50m towards north-west and south-west from the previous limit of excavation.

In accordance with the WSI, investigative slots were excavated across linear features and at locations where they intersected. Context numbers were assigned to cuts and deposits observed at each archaeological intervention, and are referred to in the following text as for example C1000. At every intervention each cut and all closely associated deposit, for example fills within a single cut, were assigned to individual Sets in order to differentiate between function and subsequent processes i.e. the cutting of a ditch and then is subsequent silting or backfilling. Sets are labelled as follows, S1. Sets were then placed into Groups, for example G1001, often with several Sets assigned to a Group were more than one archaeological intervention was excavated across the line of a single ditch.

Adverse weather conditions and poor drainage resulted in part of the north-western side of the excavation being constantly waterlogged. Attempts to drain the area using a pump were unsuccessful and as a result this area could not be properly investigated. Thus, some relationships between the ditches in G1004–G1007 were not established.

All archaeological deposits were planned using a GPS with a minimum accuracy of +/- 100mm. Cross-sections of features were drawn to a basic scale of 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. All drawings were related to the Ordnance Datum. Photographs of the features were taken using a digital single lens reflex camera.

Finds were retrieved and bagged by individual context number. These have been taken back to YA for further assessment and used to date the features that were present.

A total of 21 bulk samples (normally 40 litres in volume unless insufficient material was available due to size of feature). Structural Timbers (23pieces) that were part of the same cask used as a well, were kept for further analysis and conservation by a wood specialist.

3. LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The proposed site is located at 27 St Helens Road, Abbeyfield, York, YO24 1HR (Figure 1).

The site lies approximately 3.25km south-west of York centre. It is bounded to the north by buildings fronting onto St Helen's Road, to the east by three-storey flats fronting Calcaria

Cresent and to the south by buildings fronting onto Regency Mews. At the western end of the site is Abbeyfield House.

The underlying solid geology is Sherwood Sandstone Group - Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 237 to 272 million years ago in the Triassic and Permian Periods. The superficial geology straddles York Moraine Member - Sand, Clayey, Gravelly deposits to the south east and Alne Glaciolacustrine Formation - Clay, Silty to the north west (www.bgs.ac.uk – accessed 27/05/22). Both of these superficial deposits were formed 2 million year ago in the Quaternary Period, this was when the local environment was dominated by ice age conditions.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following archaeological and historical background has been adapted from the WSI (YAT, 2018) and the evaluation report (Boast 2018).

4.1 Prehistory

The evidence for prehistoric activity in the area is limited, however five Neolithic polished stone axes have been found within the Dringhouses area and a number of pre-Roman features were identified at the Former Starting Gate public house excavation in 2003 (McComish 2003; McComish 2004). It has also been suggested that the path the Roman road that runs along on the ridge of the glacial moraine could also have been an earlier route used from the Bronze Age and through the Iron Age (Margary 1973).

4.2 Roman

There is extensive evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity, a civilian settlement is believed to have been located along the Roman road (Hunter-Mann 1996; McComish 2003). Assessment of the former Starting Gate Public House investigations indicate successive phases of Roman activity on the site, from the earliest agricultural deposits and boundary ditches to the 2nd century buildings, which were all focused around the Roman road numbered by the Royal Commission as Road 10 (McComish 2004; RCHMY 1962, I). Considering the evidence for settlement, the Roman road (RCHME Road 10), ditches/land division and a cemetery around the site there is a high likelihood of Roman deposits occurring on the site.

A number of Roman burials located alongside the Roman road have been discovered in the Dringhouses area. These include a small cemetery near the junction of St Helen's Road with Tadcaster Road, the full extent of which is currently unknown, a stone coffin from the yard of the Cross Keys Inn and four other stone coffins from Dringhouses which were found in the 18th and 19th centuries (RCHMY1, 107). A further Roman burial was excavated at The Fox Public House, which was renamed The Fox and Roman in its honour (Macnab 1997, 29). This burial was aligned north-east / south-west i.e. parallel to the Roman road. In addition, a pottery face vase from the St Helen's Road area may have originally been from a burial (RCHMY1, 107). A single burial of possible pre-Roman or early Roman date was identified at the former site of the Starting Gate Public House in 2003 (McComish 2003, 23). Given the number of burials formerly recovered in the vicinity of the site there is a strong possibility that human remains might be discovered at Regency Mews. As well as the Roman burials, the excavations at former Fox Public house revealed archaeological deposits from 0.5m BGL which were largely Roman occupational features with a small amount of medieval and post-medieval features. The Roman activity included ditches, agricultural plough soil and a cobble path (Macnab 1997).

4.3 Medieval

The evidence from the early medieval period is limited, from the derivation of the name Dringhouses could be old English 'dreng' a free tenant holding or 'drengr' a young man or servant (Macnab 1998). A series of possible medieval stakeholes were encountered in an evaluation trench at 26–30 Regency Mews as well as ditch; these features may also have been post-medieval in date and were cut into the natural (Johnson 1997). There is also early documentary evidence placing Dringhouses in the detached parish of Holy Trinity, Micklegate this suggests that it could have been an early medieval settlement or even an Anglo-Scandinavian parish that was the precursor to Holy Trinity Priory.

4.4 Post-medieval

In the post-medieval period Dringhouses was an agricultural village with strip-holdings that were most likely made during the medieval period. Evidence of post-medieval quarrying was encountered at 26–30 Regency Mews that vastly reduced the AOD at which natural was encountered as well as truncating earlier archaeology. In undisturbed areas of the trench natural (and the archaeological horizon) was encountered at 0.3m BGL while in the quarried areas this was in excess of 1.5m BGL (Johnson 1997). On old OS maps of the area the site is labelled as Manor house meaning it may have been its own manor within the area. The OS maps also show the parish boundaries of the Holy Trinity Micklegate as well as some strips within the parish of Acomb. Before the current buildings were constructed on and around the site was tennis courts until the 1970s.

4.5 Previous Archaeological Investigations

Roman burials and stone coffins were found in the 18th and 19th century to the north-east of the site, but these are not well documented.

A series of trial trenches was excavated to the Rear of 52–60 Tadcaster Road in 1995 (Finlayson 1995), these also found ditches a pit and a possible construction cut dating to the Roman period.

A watching brief was carried out on groundworks for the foundations of Abbeyfields House, located directly to the west of the site in 1998 (Macnab 1998). In this watching brief a concentration of Roman period ditches in the northern end of the strip all running parallel aligned north-west by south-east. This could indicate a land boundary that was re-cut and re-established multiple times. The features extended beyond the stripped area towards the proposed site.

A major excavation was undertaken after the demolition of the former Starting Gate public house to the east of the site in 2003. The Starting Gate site was first trial-trenched by YAT in 1996 (Hunter-Mann 1996), and a larger excavation was undertaken in 2003 (McComish 2003). Four phases of the Roman remains were identified. The first phase was the establishment of the Roman road (RCHME Road 10). This was followed by a phase of intensive building and use of structures, followed by a less intense occupation accompanied by agricultural activity with some possible furnace residue. In the final phase were a number of scattered post-holes and pits indicating continued lower-level land use. However, no pottery dated later than the mid-3rd century was recovered from the site. A major discovery was the location of remains of Road 10 further east than previously thought, nearer the modern-day Tadcaster Road.

5. STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE

Archaeological features encountered during the course of the 2022 SMR excavation indicate that the site was exploited for agricultural use during Roman, medieval and into the modern period. A series of Roman ditches were exposed along with a single medieval furrow and 19th or early 20th century field drains.

5.1 Phase 1: Naturally occurring deposits

5.1.1 *Naturally occurring deposits (G1000)*

The earliest deposits encountered during the excavation were the natural substrata that were encountered at approximately 13.21–11.70m AOD. Overall, the site slopes down from the south-east towards north-west. Thus, the linear features aligned north-west/south-east slope down towards the north-west side of the site. The north-east/south-west aligned linear features slope down towards the north side of the side.

The superficial geological deposits across much of the northern and north-western part of the site was a firm mid-yellow brown orange silty clay (C1120) was encountered on the northern half of the site covering all of the north western part. On the southern andthe south-western part of the site it was a soft, mid-orange brown grey silty sand (C1120).

5.2 Phase 2: Roman Activity

The evidence for activity during the Roman period suggests a focus on the improvement and management of agricultural land, including drainage and land division across the whole site.

Ditches were laid out in a grid pattern, extending north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east, and appear to have been in use for much of the Roman period. Extensive re-cutting along the line of many of the ditches indicates the maintenance of land division and drainage over the course of at least the 2nd to 3rd centuries.

5.2.1 *North-east/south-west aligned ditches (G1003, G1007, G1010)*

Three ditches aligned north-east/south-west were present across the site. All of these features were found to have been truncated by one or more ditches, usually running perpendicular to them, suggesting that these were among the first ditches present on the site. However, dating evidence recovered from fills within these ditches and those cutting across them does not necessarily tally with this interpretation.

Ditch G1007

The ditch making up G1007 (S40–-43) extended from the north-east boundary of the site over a distance of 10.6m. At its north-east end it was a maximum of 3.9m wide, narrowing to 1.57m at the south-west (Fig. 2). In profile the ditch had moderately steep flat sides that gradually broke to a flat base and was up to 0.45m deep (Section 10, Fig. 6 and Section 15, Fig. 7). A slot was excavated where the ditch intersected with ditches in G1005 and G1014. Here G1007 was observed to cut G1014 and to be cut by the ditch in G1005 (Plate 16). At the south-west end of G1007 it was truncated by the ditch assigned G1013 and was not observed to extend further to the south-west (Plate 16). Romano-British pottery and 1st–4th century CBM was recovered from C1051 (S41) and C1070 (S43), both of the two archaeological interventions undertaken across this feature.

Ditch G1003

The ditch assigned to G1003 also extended along a north-east/south-west axis and was positioned 4.88m south-east of G1007. It measured 22.34m long and ranged between 1.2–2.34m wide. In profile the ditch had moderately steep convex sides which gradually broke to a broad U-shaped base (Fig. 7, Section 14). At the north-east end it was up to 0.66m deep (Fig. 5 Section 9) and was a fairly consistent depth of about 0.5m along much of its length (Fig. 6, Section 11) rising to a depth of only 0.21m at the south-east end (Fig. 8, Section 17).

The G1003 ditch did not appear to extend north-west of ditches in G1014, G1005 and G1006. However, this part of the site was difficult to investigate thoroughly due to extensive standing water, consequently it was not possible to investigate the intersection between G1003 and G1014, where G1014 appeared to run across the north-east end of G1003 (Fig. 3). G1003 was cut across by G1013 and then G1015 at a point approximately 2m south-west of G1014. CBM recovered from G1003 dates to the 1st–4th century. Mid-Roman pottery was recovered from C1060 (S11) close to the north-west end of the ditch where it intersected with ditch G1013 (S50–51) in which early to mid-Roman dated pottery was present (Fig. 6, Section 11). Around 12m further to the south-west mid to late Roman pottery was recovered from C1068 (S9), (Fig. 7 Section 14). Close to the west boundary of the site G1003 was truncated by ditch G1008, which contained 2nd century pottery in C1078 (S23).

Ditch G1010

Close to the south-east boundary of the site, 20m from Ditch G1003, was a third north-east/south-west aligned ditch, G1010 (Fig. 3). It measured 14.94m long, 1.1–1.78m wide and 0.15m deep with a shallow, broad V-shaped profile (Fig. 10 Section 23).

Ditch G1010 was truncated by the line of a modern power cable at its north-east end, unfortunately removing any relationship which may have been discernible with Ditch G1009. Pot sherds dating to the 2nd century was recovered from C1102 (S17). Around midway along its exposed length it was truncated by Ditch G1012 (Fig. 10 Section 22) within which late 2nd century pottery was present.

5.2.2 *North-eastern north-west/south-east aligned ditch (G1004, G1005, G1006)*

Close to the north-east boundary of the site was a grouping of closely related intercutting ditches (Fig. 3). The intercutting occurred along the north-eastern sides of two of the three ditches, indicating a succession of re-cutting along the main axis of the ditch each time migrating a little further to the north-east.

Ditch G1004

The earliest ditch was G1004. It extended approximately 21.32m from the north-west boundary of the site. However, it was not possible to establish its south-eastern extent as it appeared to merge into Ditch G1005. Ditch G1004 was between 1.8m and up to 2.32m wide. It had a broad, shallow 0.25m deep U-shaped profile with a moderately steep, concave side to the south-west. The north-east side had been cut away by ditch G1005 (Fig. 4, Section 6). No dateable material was recovered from this feature, but its similarity to that of G1005 indicates it was part of the same Roman field system.

Ditch G1005

The next in the sequence of this grouping of ditches was G1005. It extended the full 41.74m width of this part of the site. To the north-west of its intersection with ditch G1003 it measured 1.31–1.89m wide but was narrower further to the south-east, there measuring around 1.1m wide as a result of truncation by Ditch G1006. Where the G1005 was wider it had a broad, shallow, generally flat based U-shaped profile and contained a single fill (Fig. 4, Sections 6 and Fig. 6, Section 10). Sherds of 1st–4th century CBM and early Roman pot were recovered from C1049 (S68), close to where this ditch cut across the top of Ditch G1003. A single Iron nail Roman dated was recovered from C1025 (S31) at the north-west end of the ditch. The narrower part of the ditch was much deeper at 0.85m, with a step midway down the south-west side of the cut (Fig. 9, Section 19). Two distinct fills were also apparent at this location, C1091–-2 (S35), from which 1st–4th century CBM and early to mid-Roman pot sherds were retrieved.

Ditch G1006

The stratigraphically latest ditch in this grouping was G1006. Similarly, to G1005 it ran the full width of the site and had a broad, shallow U-shaped profile at its north-west end and much deeper stepped profile to the south-east (Fig. 3; Fig. 4, Section 4 and Fig. 9, Section 19). To the north-west it measured 2.19m wide and 0.36m deep and contained a single fill, C1021 (S37), which contained Romano-British pottery. In this area there was a slight gap between this ditch and that in G1005 but towards the south-east it cut along the north-east side of the G1005 ditch. In that area it measured 1.03m wide and 0.68m deep and pottery dating to the mid-Roman period was recovered from the upper to two fills, C1088 (S39).

No relationship between the G1006 and G1007 ditches was established. However, it was clear that G1006 was stratigraphically later than G1005 which cut G1007.

5.2.3 Central north-west/south-east aligned ditches (G1013, G1014, G1015)

A short distance south-west of the G1004–-6 ditches was another grouping of three successive re-cuts of a north-west/south-east aligned ditches. The stratigraphically earliest of these was G1013.

Ditch G1013

Ditch G1013 extended the full 42m width of the site in this area. It measured up to 2.4m wide but narrowed considerably to the south-east. Truncation from later re-cutting of the line of this feature had removed elements of the upper part of the profile of this ditch. Observation at archaeological interventions across the north-west and central part of this ditch record an irregular profile with a base that tapered to a narrow deeper U-shape extending slightly deeper along the base, producing an overall depth ranging from 0.86–0.92m where a full profile across the ditch was exposed (Fig. 5, Section 7 and 8). At the south-east end of G1013 the profile was similar, here surviving with steep flat sides breaking sharply to a flattish base with a narrow, slightly deeper, part running close to the centre of the base. The scale of the ditch at this end was however much smaller, measuring only 1.05m wide and 0.32m deep (Fig. 7, Section 13).

Archaeological interventions at the intersection of G1013 with ditches G1007 indicate that both of the north-east/south-west aligned features were truncated by the G10013 ditch.

Pot sherds from the early and mid-Roman periods was present along the ditch, as was 1st–4th century CBM.

Ditch G1015

The G1015 ditch measured 41.6m, again covering the full width of the site. It was truncated along much of its south-western edge by Ditch G1015, the two only separating 8.5m from the south-east edge of the site. G1015 ranged in width from 0.63–1.64m and from 0.3–0.74m deep. Towards the north-west it had a V-shaped profile with a flat base (Fig. 5, Section 7) and became both broader and deeper to the south-east (Fig. 6, Section 12). The intervention dug at the junction of G1015 and the G1003 ditch indicated that the north-west/south-east aligned ditch, G1015, cut across the other.

Dateable material was only present in the intervention excavated furthest to the north-west. Here 1st–4th century CBM and Romano-British pottery were recovered along with some intrusive 13th–16th century plain tile.

Ditch G1014

Ditch G1014 was one of a small number of features on the site which was, contrary to the majority of the features, on a north-east/south-west alignment. It ran for approximately 36.5m from the north-east edge of the site to the south-western side.

The profile of Ditch G1014 was somewhat irregular at different points along its course. To the north-west it was 0.6m wide and 0.17m deep with moderately steep flat sides, a sharp break of slope to a flat base (Fig. 5, Section 7). It started to become much wider and a little deeper towards its midpoint, here retaining much the same profile but now up to 0.28m deep (Fig. 3, Section 3). An intervention excavated further south-east produced a similar broad U-shaped profile with generally moderately steep flat sides and a flat base. At this point the ditch was larger still, measuring 0.64m deep and up to 2.58m wide.

Towards the east part of the site G1014 appeared to intersect with the G1005 ditch, to the north, and intersect the G1003 ditch to the south. Unfortunately, it was not possible to investigate the relationships at this location due to extensive standing water in that area during the site works.

Roman artefacts were collected from slots dug across the central part of this ditch. 1st–4th century CBM was retrieved from C1014 (S65), C1017 and C1020 (S67). Late 2nd century and Romano-British pottery was recovered from C1014 and C1015 (S65) and C1053 (S33) and mid-late Roman pottery was retrieved from C1017 and C1020 (S67).

Despite repeated episodes of re-cutting and a slight migration in their positions the northern and central north-west/south-east aligned ditches appear to have been actively in use at the same time. A gap of approximately 3.5–4m was evident between the earliest phase of ditches (G1004 and G1013) and it may be that an access route between fields is represented here.

5.2.4 *Southern north-west/south-east aligned ditches (G1008, G1009)*

A third grouping of north-west/south-east aligned ditches was present approximately 16m south-west of the central grouping.

Ditches G1008–9

Here two ditches ran parallel to each other, but it was not possible to determine a stratigraphic relationship between them. Both were approximately 22m long, running across the full width

of the site in this area, although they appeared to merge towards their south-eastern end. Both G1008 and G1009 had a shallow U-shaped profile, were approximately 1.4m wide and 0.25–0.3m deep (Fig. 9, Sections 20 and 21). Ditch G1008 appeared to cut across and truncate the line of ditch 1003 (Fig.8, Section 17). However, a modern pit was adjacent to this intersection and may have disrupted this relationship (Fig. 8, Section 16). Unfortunately, any relationship between the south-eastern end of G1009 and ditch G1010, running perpendicular to it, was not possible to investigate due to the presence of a modern power cable (Fig. 3).

No artefacts were present in the northern ditch, G1008, but 1st–4th century CBM and mid- to late-Roman pottery was retrieved from C1094 (S27) in Ditch G1009.

5.2.5 *Southern north-east/south-west aligned ditch (G1012, G1011)*

Ditch G1012

In the south-east corner of the site was Ditch G1012. This linear feature did not follow the same grid pattern as the other ditches, with a more acute alignment close to north-east/south-west (Fig. 3). It measured 14.5m long and extended from the site boundary in the east to that in the south. This feature was quite narrow and shallow along its length, but was a little deeper and more clearly defined where it intersected with and cut across Ditch G1010. Here it measured 0.9m wide and 0.21m deep and some 2nd-century pottery was recovered from its fill, C1104 (S19). Also present at the intersection of these two ditches was a small pit, G1011. This feature was stratigraphically below G1012 and extended a further 0.14m deep. Given how common re-cutting and clearing out of ditches was elsewhere on this site it is likely that this feature relates to similar activity taking place at the intersection of Ditches G1010 and G1012.

5.2.6 *Cask-lined well (G1001, G1002)*

Roman cask lined well G1001

A timber cask-lined well was located south-east of the site. This group G1001 appears to be below a pit that's in G1002. The bottom of the well was at around 11.70m AOD. The cask was 0.75m in diameter, the individual structural timbers (ST) length was 0.50m and their width varied from 0.10m to 0.13m.

The upper fill C1111 (S3) comprised of soft, mid grey clayey sandy silt and contained 1st–4th century CBM, 2nd-century Roman pot, some residual medieval pot sherds and wood offcuts. The lower fill C1114 was soft, mid grey with darker grey patches sandy silt. The copper alloy coin dating AD 85 (SF1) depicting the Roman emperor Domitian was recovered from fill C1114.

Pit G1002

This pit (G1002) was stratigraphically above the well (G1001). The feature C1105 had a sub-oval shape in plan, aligned east west aligned and measured 2.10m x 1.50m and 0.90m deep. Two of the pit fills (C1106 and 1109) contained 1st–4th century CBM and mid-Roman pot sherds. It is possible that the last deposit of this pit (C1109) was intended to seal the top of the disused well

5.3 **Phase 3: Medieval**

Furrow G1016

The only distinct feature dated to the medieval period was a furrow (G1016) running north-west – south-east. Furrow G1016 extended a distance approximately 35m from the north-west

towards west edge of the site. Furrow G1016 was 2.2m wide and was very shallow, being only 0.07m to 0.10m deep. Two slots were excavated through the feature in order to understand its stratigraphic relationship with pit C1011 and determine its profile shape.

The assemblage recovered from this feature comprised pot sherds and CBM ranging in date from residual Roman to the medieval period.

5.4 Phase 4: Post-Medieval

Pit G1017

Pit C1011 was east–west aligned and measured in plan 0.65m in diameter and 0.18m BGL and cut the medieval furrow discussed above (G1016). Both features were truncated on their south side by a later field drain (C1123) aligned east-west. Finds recovered from this group included some residual Roman CBM and pot sherds along with post-medieval pottery.

5.5 Phase 5: Modern

Group 1018

There were three modern features that truncated earlier archaeological deposits, two land drains (C1085 and C1123) and a pit (C1075). Both land drains run north-west/south-east across the excavation area. Land drain C1085 truncated the ditch in G1006 and Land drain C1123 truncated the furrow in G1016.

The modern pit (C1075) was not distinct in plan but was seen when a slot was dug to investigate the intersection between the features in G1003 and G1008.

These were overlaid by either made ground (C1119) or subsoil (C1118) followed by topsoil (C1117).

6. ARTEFACTS AND ECOFACTS

This section details the artefacts, paleo-environmental data and dating or potential dating evidence recovered during the excavations and assesses their potential to address new research topics resulting from the data collection.

6.1 The Roman Pottery

By David Griffiths

6.1.1 *Introduction*

In total, 647 sherds of pottery weighing approximately 12,375 grams (Table 4) was recovered during excavations at Regency Mews, York (York Archaeological Trust (YAT) reference: P6087). The assemblage contained predominantly Romano-British wares (635 sherds), handmade pottery produced using prehistoric tradition techniques (2 sherds), and post-Roman/medieval (10 sherds). The bulk of the assemblage (dated to the Romano-British period (Table 4), much of which likely dating from the late 1st to 2nd century AD.

6.1.2 *Methodology*

All pottery was examined visually (by eye) and sorted into broad ware groups including handmade prehistoric tradition, amphorae, samian, other fine wares, coarse wares, and mortaria, based on colour, hardness, fracture, and inclusion composition, as outlined in Tomber and Dore (1998, 6–8), and recorded, assessed, and analysed in accordance with national

guidelines (CIfA 2014; Barclay *et al.* 2016). These ware groups were further refined by class and, where possible, preliminary fabric codes were assigned. This assessment was undertaken with reference to the Yorkshire Archaeological Research Framework's resource assessment (Roskams and Whyman 2005) and research agenda (Roskams and Whyman 2007).

Each class of pottery was quantified by count, weight, and estimated vessel equivalents (based on percentage of rim preserved). International imports, nationally distributed wares, and regional/local products were identified. Pottery sherds with diagnostic features which aid identification to vessel form were noted and recommended for illustration, as necessary; featured vessels are identified using a reference 'ID' code in the text based on the relevant entry row in Appendix 4.

Assessment of pottery fabrics was undertaken using a low power microscope at X30 magnification with basic classification (e.g., reduced and oxidised wares, fine wares); imports and nationally distributed fabrics were assigned fabric codes where possibly, based on The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998); reference is made to regional type series' (e.g., Monaghan 1997; Leary 2021) for local products. Reference is also made to Swan's extensive study of The Roman Pottery of Yorkshire in its Wider Context (2002).

6.1.3 *Results*

Prehistoric

Two sherds of handmade pottery were recovered, possibly prehistoric (Table 3); however, these wares continued to be produced in northern England during and following the Roman occupation of Britain (Cumberpatch 2018; 2020; Gerrard 2012).

Roman

Amphorae

In total, thirty-eight sherds of amphorae were recovered (Table 4). Most of the sherds were of Baetican (Southern Spanish) Dressel 20 amphorae, a type of vessel originally used for transporting olive oil to Britain the 1st to mid-3rd century AD. The remains of possibly four vessels had datable features (rim or handle), with one (ID242, context 1111) dating from the late 1st to early 2nd century, two dating broadly to the first half of the second century (ID114, context 1019 and ID196, context 1111), and one dating to *c.* AD140 to 250 (ID105, context 1109). The amphora handle (ID105) is clearly stamped Q AE O P(?) – further research is required which may indicate its source. Rim fragment (ID114) has been inscribed on the top with V II. A large fragment (ID242, rim and neck) of a Dressel 20 amphora was recovered from context 1111; the fragment was in good condition and may have been reworked, by removing parts of the body to form a regular shape, for reuse (possibly a pipe?). The body sherds of Gaulish amphorae were also recovered. One sherd of possible amphorae or coarse ware, and three sherds of amphorae or mortaria (North Gaulish) were also recovered (Appendix 4).

Fine wares

In total, thirty-six sherds of fine wares were recovered, which included three sherds of colour-coated wares, and eight sherds of unslipped oxidised ware (Table 3). The samian ware originated from a number of sources including south, central, and eastern Gaul, and dating from the 1st to 3rd centuries; vessel forms included a cup, bowls (some with decoration), and dishes. Other fine

wares included two sherds from the Lower Nene Valley (LNV CC, Tomber and Dore 1998, 118), one sherd of unsourced colour-coated ware, and eight sherds in unslipped oxidised wares (possibly local), which were possibly local in origin. Six sherds of a fine oxidised ware beaker (ID192), with lines/patches of white painted decoration, were recovered from context 1111. The date range for fine wares was from the late 1st to early 2nd century (south Gaulish samian ware), with many dating from second quarter of the 2nd century and possibly into the 3rd; the small quantity of colour-coated wares (e.g. LNV CC) may date as late as the 4th century, but further research is required to confirm.

Mortaria

In total, three sherds of mortaria, and one sherd of possible mortaria, were recovered (Table 4). These included two sherds produced in Lincolnshire (LTC WH, Tomber and Dore 1998, 160) during the 2nd century, and one sherd of Cantley White-slipped ware (CAN WS, Tomber and Dore 1998, 194), produced in South Yorkshire during the 3rd to 4th century. Three sherds of possible mortaria were also recovered; the sherds were produced in northern Gaul, however, vessels in this fabric also included amphorae and flagons.

Coarse wares

In total, 554 sherds of Roman period coarse wares were recovered (Table 4). The bulk of the coarse wares consisted of reduced (greywares) and oxidised wares, many of which may be Ebor products (Monaghan 1997, 869–880), and/or other regional wares. The forms identifiable were predominantly flagons and jars (based on sherd count and weight), with lower quantities of bowls and dishes. The relative proportion of flagons was notable, especially as they predominantly date to the 2nd century, with some possibly dating from the end of the 1st century; most vessels were produced in oxidised wares, many of which were Ebor wares, some white-slipped. Thirty-one sherds of rusticated wares were also recovered, which dates from the late 1st to early 2nd century. Other forms in relatively low quantities were small jars/beakers, lids, a possible tazze, and a possible head pot; 283 sherds were of uncertain form, however, full analysis and checking for joining sherds would aid form identification. On initial assessment, many of the coarse wares have a relatively narrow date range, possibly restricted to the 2nd century and into the early third, with very few sherds of 3rd/4th century material. Clearly later Roman material included a bowl sherd of a Holme-on-Spalding Moor product (e.g. Creighton 1999) and a small sherd (7.2 grams) of a jar rim in East Yorkshire Calcite-gritted ware (Swan 2002); it was notable how few of the more common later Roman wares were present in the assemblage, for example Crambeck wares, and calcite- and shell-tempered wares of the 3rd to 4th (and later) centuries Further analysis of the coarse wares would refine the chronology of the pottery assemblage. Four sherds from multiple vessels (IDs 201, 214, 215, and 216) all recovered from context 1020 may have been worked for reuse, possible as counters.

Post-Roman/Medieval

In total, ten sherds of Post-Roman/medieval pottery were recovered (Table 4). The wares present were in cream or white gritty fabrics, along with four small sherds (2.4 grams in total) with green glaze (likely intrusive in the deposit (context 1019). These sherds should be assessed by an appropriate period specific specialist.

Stone

Two fragments of stone (weighing 10.4 grams in total) were recovered from context 1111 (Table 4). It is uncertain if the fragments had been worked, however, one fragment may be marble. These items should be assessment by a small find's specialist/lithologist.

CBM and Fired Clay

Two fragments (weighing 88 grams) of Roman brick or tile were recovered, along with nine fragments of fired clay (Table 4).

6.1.4 *Discussion*

The bulk of the pottery assessed in this report dates to the Romano-British period, with possibly most dating to the late 1st and 2 centuries AD, and small quantities of 3rd and/or possibly 4th century material. Table 3 presents each context with total sherd counts and weights, and their likely date of deposition. While there were two of handmade (prehistoric tradition) vessel sherds, these date to the Romano-British period or later. The majority of the immediately datable vessels were of late 1st to 2nd century date, including ring-necked flagons, south Gaulish samian, and rusticated wares; often found in large deposits, for example, in contexts 1068 and 1111. The absence of later Roman period wares common in the region (e.g. Crambeck and East Yorkshire Calcite-gritted wares), may indicate a much-reduced occupation at the site.

6.1.5 *Conclusion*

The Romano-British pottery from Regency Mews, York, indicates intensive human activity at the site during the Roman period, especially during the late 1st and 2nd centuries, with possibly lower levels of activity and/or occupation in the 3rd and 4th centuries. On initial assessment, the composition and relative proportions of vessel forms in the assemblage is unusual. Flagons formed the greatest part of the assemblage, followed by jars (for storage); however, further analysis of body sherds of uncertain form may change this totals). The relatively narrow date range (late 1st to 2nd century) is also unusual and warrants further analysis. The very low proportion of mortaria sherds (only three), is also of note. Other vessel forms included table wares for dining (beakers, dishes, and bowls). Imported amphorae were predominantly used for transporting olive oil from southern Spain, with a few sherds of Gaulish origin, whose original contents were possibly wine. One Spanish amphorae handle is stamped, and the rim of a second was inscribed in antiquity; further specialist analysis is required.

The proximity of the site to the major military and civilian settlement in York would have meant the inhabitants were firmly part of wider Romano-British life, with access to imported food and drink, cooking, preparing, and consuming foodstuffs using a range of pottery vessels common in Britain during the period. The presence of fine, table wares, and imported products, may suggest relatively high status of the inhabitants of the site. However, it is difficult to hypothesize about the nature and function of the settlement (perhaps a roadside inn?) due to the high proportion of flagons, but a very low proportion of mortaria and vessels used for cooking (there was very little evidence of burning on utilitarian vessels).

6.1.6 *Recommendations*

Full fabric and form analysis will significantly refine the chronology for these wares and subsequently those features/deposits which have been dated to a broad 'Roman' period date. In addition, full analysis of fabrics and forms for coarse wares will significantly enhance our understanding site chronology (especially for the early Roman component of the pottery, which

should be compared to the assemblage from 9 Blake Street, York (Monaghan 1993) and that from the site of the former Starting Gate public house, 42–50 Tadcaster Road (McComish 2004)), the supply and consumption of pottery at the site, which, in turn, may indicate the range of activities undertaken at the site and status of its inhabitants. Many sherds have clean breaks, and examination of the assemblage for cross-joins (joining sherds from deposits across the site) offers further opportunity to refine chronologies for occupation. At minimum of 101 vessels had diagnostic features and require illustration. The pottery sherds are mostly in very good condition, with little evidence of post-depositional damage. While most of the coarse wares have been identified to broad fabric groups (e.g., reduced and oxidised wares), there is great variation in those wares; this requires further analysis to identify and quantity local/regional wares, nationally distributed and imported products at the site. Further analysis of the distribution of pottery across the site is recommended, with the pottery considered within site-wide stratigraphic relationships and phasing. Comparison with nearby sites, especially those in the centre of York and any roadside settlements in the wider region.

A small quantity of coarse ware sherds and one large fragment of amphorae were possibly reworked and reused (during the Roman period); these should be sent to a small find's specialist.

This report and associated data should be integrated into any site-wide grey literature or publication reporting and retained within the site archive. The material assessed was in generally in fair to good condition.

A basic archive catalogue of material is provided in Appendix 4.

6.2 **The Post-Roman Pottery**

By Anne Jenner

6.2.1 *Introduction*

One hundred and twenty-two sherds of mainly domestic pottery were retrieved from thirty-two contexts (see Table 5). This small assemblage includes Roman, medieval and post-medieval wares.

6.2.2 *Methodology*

The pottery was split into Roman and post-Roman before this report was written. Consequently, some Roman wares remained with the later pottery types and were viewed by the author. Equally, a small number of medieval wares were sent to the Roman specialist. As the author had not seen the majority of the pottery sent to the Roman Specialist, this made the dating of each context and phase debatable within this report, though the majority of the entire assemblage seems to have been Roman (see separate report on the majority of the Roman wares). For the post-Roman pottery assessment, the 2018 evaluation assemblage has been combined with that of the 2022 SMR excavation.

Further to this, only the wares seen by the author were added onto IADB (the York Archaeological Trust database). The dates from the Roman Specialist's research were later added to the data-base. Contexts within the Table that do not have descriptions of the wares will be found in the report by the Roman Specialist.

The pottery was quantified and recorded in the standard manner (see Orton, Tyers and Vince 1993; Orton and Hughes 2013). It was sorted into fabric and form groups, based on colour, firing, clay matrix, inclusions and glaze type and the number of each type recorded in tabular form (see Table 5).

The size of the sherds is recorded as either 'small' <5cms at the widest, 'medium' >5cms and < 10cms, large >10cms. Abrasion is also noted where relevant. These measures are included as they help to determine types of deposition as well as levels of residuality and intrusion some cases.

6.2.3 *Discussion*

All sherds are typically found in Roman to post-medieval contexts in York. There are no unusual fabrics or forms amongst them. None are decorated other than with plain glaze or slip.

The majority of this material can be dated towards the end of the medieval period, from the 14th and 15th centuries (1000; 1003; 1004).

One context has late post-medieval sherds within it (2003). It also contains some medieval, late 13th/early 14th century pottery.

Only one context contains only Roman sherds (1001), but these are small and abraded. This may suggest that they are residual, though there does not appear to be any later material within this context. One other context (1004) may also have produced Roman material but the sherds are too small to be certain.

Most sherds are small and abraded, unless stated otherwise. This may either suggest that they have been weathered or moved from their first point of deposition either spatially or temporally. Despite these two contexts contain larger sherds (1000; 2003). The pipkin handle (1000) is abraded, but the china (2003) is not. This may be a product of its resilience, or suggest that it has remained in situ.

6.2.4 Recommendations for further work

There are no recommendations for further work on the medieval and post-medieval pottery.

6.3 **The Ceramic Building Material**

By J. M. McComish

6.3.1 *Introduction*

This assessment relates to 181.94kg (84 sherds) of CBM recovered from an archaeological evaluation at Regency Mews, York.

The CBM was recovered by hand during the excavation process. The assemblage was in poor condition with many sherds being badly broken and abraded. The CBM ranged in date from Roman to modern, though the majority of the collection was of Roman date.

With regards to the aims of the evaluation, the CBM contributed information regarding the dating of specific contexts and evidence of abrasion, possibly caused by medieval and later ploughing of earlier Roman deposits.

6.3.2 *Methodology*

The collection was recorded to a standard YAT methodology (McComish 2020) whereby each sherd is individually recorded on a pro-forma sheet which details the project code, the context number, the weight in grams, the fabric type, the surviving complete dimensions (length, width, thickness, flange height), evidence of re-use, evidence of over-firing and any other relevant information (surface marks, glazes, unusual features etc.). A question mark is placed after the form name if the identification is uncertain, for example 'Imbrex?', while the form of non-standardised sherds is listed as 'Other'. In terms of measurements, peg holes are recorded as **x**mm if complete but ?x?mm or **x?mm if partial survivals. Nibs are recorded in the form width x height x thickness, with the latter measurement including the thickness of the tile. Flanges are recorded in the form of the total height in mm. The fabric is determined by comparing the sherd to a York fabric reference collection held by York Archaeological Trust (YAT). The data is stored on YATs internal computer system (which is backed up daily to prevent data loss) under the project code YAT project code 6087.

6.3.3 *Results*

The various forms present are summarised by historical period on Table 5, while a summary by context is given on Table 6.

Roman

The Roman CBM accounted for 82.2% of the total volume of CBM from the site. Four tegulae roof tiles were present together with two unusual sherds termed 'Other' in the recording methodology, but the majority of the fragments were of indeterminate form (termed Roman brick).

Roman tiles and bricks were made using sanded moulds on a sanded workbench and consequently the sides and basal surfaces are coated with fine sand. If a tile stuck to the workbench a wire (similar to a cheese-wire) would be used to separate the tile from the bench resulting in parallel lines on the base of the tile. Such lines were seen on one of the bricks. Following moulding tiles were air-dried to a leather hard stage before being fired.

Tegulae are flat tiles rectangular tiles with a flange along the upper surface of each longer side and they were laid in columns on a roof. Tegulae have an upper cut-away on the upper surface of the flange at the top end of the tile, and a lower cut-away on the basal surface of the lower end of the flange. The cut-aways of adjacent tegulae were designed to interlock enabling the tiles to lie flat when placed on the roof.

Only one tegula thickness survived which was 31mm, and two flange heights at 43mm and 52mm. No other complete original dimensions survived. The tegulae dimensions seen at the present site lie within the ranges previously recorded. Tegulae were smoothed after moulding to increase surface tension thereby making the tiles more water resistant. Smoothing lines were present on one tegula from the site. Part of a knife cut B6 lower cut away was present, together with the partial remains of a second cut away.

The remaining sherds were too damaged to determine the original form. One of these had finger drawn keying lines in the upper surface in a grid pattern. Twelve of the sherds were reduced (mainly those in fabric R9) and two had oxidised cores. One sherd was overfired and almost vitrified. Two sherds had sooted edges resultant from use. One of the sherds had sooted breaks showing reuse and one had mortar on broken surfaces, again showing reuse. Forty-two of these

sherds were abraded, possibly due to post-Roman ploughing of the site. It was notable that the sherds in fabric R2 were abraded, while those in the more highly fired R9 were not abraded.

There were two sherds of non-standard forms. One was a large badly made and underfired brick 80mm thick, with a poorly sorted fabric containing abundant silty streaks and a pebble 34x30x25mm in size. This was abraded. The second was possibly a badly made tegula, which was almost T shaped in section, with a thumb print on the arris and finger smoothing lines parallel to upper flange. It was difficult to know if the lower flange was intentional or simply due to damage by the thumb print.

The Roman CBM was in three fabrics (R2, R2 and R11) all of which have been previously recorded in York. The bulk of the CBM was in fabric R2 which is slightly unusual for York as a whole where fabrics R9–R11 dominate.

Medieval

Medieval CBM accounted for 6.8% of the total volume of CBM from the site. There were three sherds of medieval plain roofing tile of 13–16th century date. There was also a sherd of brick 37mm thick, dating to the 14–16th century. A second sherd of brick lacked a complete thickness or edges which would have enabled dating, and this could be of medieval or post-medieval date;' it was classed as probably medieval as there was no other post-medieval material at the site.

The medieval CBM was typical for York as a whole in terms of the forms, fabrics and dimensions present.

Modern

The modern CBM accounted for 11% of the total volume of CBM from the site, but comprised a single sherd of field drain and a sherd of brick. Both were machine made and post-date the mid-19th century.

6.3.4 Summary and Recommendations for Further Research

The collection of CBM was of very poor quality overall being highly fragmented and abraded, with many fragments lacking any surviving original dimensions or surfaces, making identification of the original forms difficult. The poor state of the CBM is probably resultant from ploughing over a considerable period of time. The collection of CBM has no potential for further research, mainly being of use to provide dating evidence for the various contexts seen, and no further work is recommended. None of the material was worthy of museum display.

6.3.5 Recommendations for Retention and Discard

For excavations within York, YAT routinely adopts a record and discard policy, whereby only a representative selection of CBM from each site is retained. In the case of this site the bulk of the CBM was typical for York as a whole and too abraded to merit retention; in the light of this a single sherd was retained.

6.4 Stone Building Materials

By J. M. McComish

6.4.1 Introduction

This assessment relates to a variety of stone building materials recovered from the archaeological investigations at Regency Mews, York. These were recorded to a standard YAT methodology (McComish 2020). The data is on an excel table stored at YAT under the project code 6087.

6.4.2 **Results**

There were two fragments of coarse-grained sandstone in contexts 1017 and 1019 and one of fine-grained sandstone in context 1040. These must have originated from a building, but they were too small and too badly preserved to determine the original form.

A single fragment of micaceous sandstone was present which probably originated from a stone roof flag. This was in context 1114. Stone of this type was widely used in the Roman period for roofing.

Two fragments of daub were present in contexts 1000 and 1020.

A fragment of *opus signinum* was present in context 1019 and three were present in context 1114. This was a mixture of mortar and crushed ceramics, giving a speckled pink colour. It was widely used in Roman flooring, particularly in association with hypocausts and baths buildings.

6.4.3 **Summary and Recommendations for Further Work**

The collection was of very poor quality overall being highly fragmented. This material has no potential for further research and no further work is recommended. None of the material was worthy of museum display. None of the material was retained.

6.5 **The Animal Bone**

By Kris Poole

6.5.1 **Introduction**

A small assemblage of animal remains was recovered from this site, by both hand collection and retrieval from environmental residues. The remains were primarily recovered from features (ditches and a well) which pottery and CBM indicated were Romano-British date. Bone was also recovered from contexts which contained a mixture of Romano-British material with later artefacts, including medieval. A single build-up deposit (2003) was of post-medieval to modern date.

6.5.2 **Results**

Given the small size of the assemblage and its limited potential to provide insight into activity on the site, the material was briefly catalogued and is set out by context below. This table only lists contexts and bones where material was identifiable; no identifiable remains were recovered from environmental residues.

6.5.3 **Conclusions**

Cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse and dogs are all species we might expect to find on a Romano-British site, whether urban or rural. The sample size is far too small to consider issues of species proportions or animal age or sex, which might inform on questions of economy and site status. If required, some of the animal remains might be suitable for radiocarbon dating, but otherwise

there is limited merit in retaining the material, given its lack of future research potential. It is therefore suggested that these bones are deselected for archive.

6.6 The Waterlogged Wood, Timbers and Wooden Small Finds

By Steven J. Allen

6.6.1 Introduction

On the 31st March 2022 the author was notified of a potential timber lined well of possible Roman date that had been exposed in the course of archaeological work by the York Archaeology Field team at Regency Mews, Dringhouses, York. The author was asked to visit the site to advise on site recording and recovery of the exposed timbers. This visit took place from 8.00am on Friday 1st April. This established that the well had been provided with a lining consisting of a reused cask. Having been emptied the previous day, the loose deposit into which the well had been cut had collapsed and several of the staves had been displaced overnight. All the components of the cask were recovered and numbered in sequence by the field team and transported to 47 Aldwark that same day to be placed in the immediate care of the York Archaeology curatorial department for initial documentation, and then transferred to the conservation laboratory for assessment.

Several sample buckets had been produced in the course of the excavation work and these were processed in May of 2022. In the course of this work, two contexts (1111 and 1114) were found to contain fragments of waterlogged wood. These were passed to the present author for processing and recording.

6.6.2 Aims and Objectives

The work carried out has been done in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (CIfA 2014). The work requested was the cleaning, examination and assessment of the objects submitted.

6.6.3 Procedures

All of the cask staves had been individually wrapped in grip top plastic bags with a label inside the packaging. The wood fragments recovered during the emptying of the cask were divided between two similar grip top bags. A final grip top bag contained the hoop fragments recovered from the collapsed fill of the construction cut.

Each piece of wood was removed from its packaging, washed under cold running water to remove any remaining burial matrix adhering to the wood surface, then recorded, sampled for wood species identification and repackaged to await a decision on the recommendations made in this report.

6.6.4 Condition

The wood had been preserved in waterlogged anaerobic conditions and it appears that these conditions were maintained up until exposure during excavation. Most of the material was in fair condition, with some surface abrasion and occasional areas inadvertently damaged during initial exposure. The upper end of the cask staves had been lost to erosion with a sharp cut off at the top of the local water table, indicating a historically stable depth to this water table with little indication of significant fluctuation.

6.6.5 Assessment

All of the wood appears to be associated with a well or pit, lined using a recycled cask. The technology, wood species and the associated finds all point to a Roman date. The board fragments and pieces of roundwood listed as ST 01–ST 05 are from the fill of the feature, and represent pieces of wood caught up in the backfilling once the feature had been decommissioned. It was initially thought that the radially faced boards might have been parts of cask staves displaced from higher in the feature but these fragments are *Quercus spp.* which was not used in the construction of the cask as found.

The wood taken from samples of the higher fills (Samples 18 and 21 would seem to represent material deliberately dumped into the well when it was decommissioned. There are fragments and offcuts indicating timber working nearby and the possible recycling of framed structures represented by ST 33, and parts of furniture represented by ST 36. The roundwood comes from several species and much has the appearance of twigs rather than roundwood poles which might have been expected in a structural context. The range of felling season also argues for an informal collection of material rather than deliberate selection for disposal- it may be that this wood was considered not worth the trouble of drying out for recycling as fuel.

All but one of the wood species present, are native to the British Isles and there is no necessity for any of these three species to have been imported over any great distance. However, the cask is made from staves cut from *Abies alba Mill*. - Silver Fir, a species not introduced as a growing tree to the British Isles until the post-medieval period. Silver Fir is a relatively well-known species from Roman era deposits in Britain, where it is usually found as parts of finished coopered vessels. Indeed, many of the small wooden objects of Roman date made from this species are likely to have been made from recycled components of such a cask. This cask is therefore an imported item from continental Europe, specifically one of the North-West provinces of the Roman Empire.

The cask was constructed using standard methods of Roman cask technology. The staves are all cut from radially faced heartwood, though two (ST 8 and ST 13) are close to tangential conversions. While generally straight grains, there are some irregularities present that result from the incorporation of knots, whose ends are present on the edge of staves ST10, 12, 17 and 22. There are no saw marks that would indicate sawn conversion- all appear to have been cleft from the parent log(s). Relict areas from this process where the cleft surface was not later trimmed away are present on stave ST23. Axe marks are present running diagonally across the axis of the staves where the surfaces have been dressed- marks indicating an axe with a blade width of more than 150mm was used. These marks are not contiguous across neighbouring staves and must therefore relate to dressing and finishing before the staves were put together to form the cask and clearly predate the cutting of the howel, which truncates many of the axe marks. Faint traces of similar dressing are present of the outer face of some staves. Again, these are truncated by localised axe dressing used to 'back' the staves. 'Backing' is the trimming of the outer surface of a coopered vessel to give a continuous rounded surface to the exterior and tis was clearly undertaken on this cask. There is however no indication of 'hollowing', the related process in which the inside surface of the staves was trimmed with an adze to create a curved inner profile.

The 'Howel' is a band inside the end of a cask hewn with a small adze to produce a continuous smooth curved surface into which the croze is cut. This is present on this cask and was cut after

the staves had been assembled or 'raised'. The Croze is the groove around the inside of the end of a cask into which the ends or 'headpieces' of the vessel are inserted to close the vessel. This croze is of sub rectangular cross section and would have been cut using a croze plane, a plane with a blade mounted so as to cut a continuous groove around the inside of the cask. While there are slight variations in width and depth it appears that the croze was intended to be a consistent 5mm in width and around 5–7mm depth. Irregularities in the width can be attributed to later damage when the headpiece was first inserted and later removed for reuse of the cask cylinder.

A weak point in cask construction is that there is a short length of cask on the inner surface between the end of the stave and the croze, which can be prone to splitting off, and making the cask vulnerable to leaks. To alleviate this, coopers cut a 'chime' or 'chime bevel' around the end of the cask, creating a continuous bevel around the inside of the end of the cask. A chime bevel is indeed present on this cask and an overcut facet on ST23 shows that this was hewn with a small adze. Interestingly, there is a very shallow 'counter bevel' on the ends of the staves, again technique used to mitigate any potential splitting of wood from the outer surface.

The hazel used in the hoops could have been produced locally but is likely to belong to the original construction of the cask;metal hoops are generally associated with buckets and tankards in this period and metal hoops on casks tend to be a later and post medieval trend. No joint survives to show how the hoops were fastened together where they overlapped but there is no evidence to show they were pegged to the cask staves. Feint knife scoring across the outer faces of several of the cask staves is suggestive of marking out the intended locations for the hoop closest to the end of the cask. None of the score marks indicate lettering or numbering.

Less than half of the original height of the cask survives and at present, it is not possible to calculate the original capacity of the vessel. Given that we have the complete diameter at the original base end, we have dimensions for several near complete contemporary casks from London and Silchester, and that we have a diameter for the cask that is complete at the surviving upper end of the cask it should be possible to produce an estimate of the original capacity of the cask.

Casks were used for the transport and storage of a variety of goods, both solid and liquid over distance and can be equated in many ways to modern shipping containers. In later periods, casks with rectangular cross section crozes are associated with dry goods while those with 'V' sections are associated with liquids- the latter allows for a tighter fit with less potential for leakage. This may not however hold true for the Roman era and at present, we cannot say what the specific intended original purpose of this cask was. A well, built cylinder would, once the headpieces have been removed, make a useful, ready assembled, lining for a small pit or well, especially where that feature was to be cut into unstable ground conditions such as may have been present at Regency Mews. Once such an artefact was not needed for its original purpose, it became available for recycling. Self-evidently, the diggers of the well had access to a reusable cask and their end use of this object shows that were a small part of a wider network of international and local trading connections.

6.6.6 **Statement of Potential**

The wood has been fully recorded and no further useful information can be extracted. ST 01–05 are representative of the type of stray debris often incorporated into waterlogged deposits

of this date. None has any intrinsic interest or features that would justify retention and accordingly should be discarded once any sampling for ^{14}C dating has been undertaken.

The cask is an important artefact, which provides direct physical evidence of trade connections with continental Europe and the rest of the empire. It is an example of the type of container that would have been used for the transhipment of goods. It is also a good example of the recycling of wooden artefacts once their primary function had been achieved and demonstrates an awareness of the potential value of such objects. A very few Roman cask lined wells have been recorded in York and most of these were found in the earlier twentieth century when such finds were frequently noted in passing but not necessarily recorded in detail. This cask is an important find both locally and regionally and helps to inform the picture of Roman trade links with the rest of the empire at a national level. This example is possibly the first to be recovered from York in the last thirty years; certainly, there are few examples if any in the York collection. As a significant educational and display artefact, it should be retained and conserved. None of the staves has a sufficiently long annual ring sequence that would allow them to be dated by dendrochronology but a close date could be obtained by a ^{14}C radiocarbon sample taken from one of the hoops.

Some of the fragmentary wood recovered from the fill (ST 33, 35, 36 and 37) would be worth retaining for archive and research purposes as worked wood of this date is not common from excavations in the York hinterland and would be worth adding to the corpus of potential display material.

6.6.7 **Recommendations**

Conservation: The cask parts ST06–32 and worked fragments ST 33, 35–37) are an important resource and help to amplify the study of such artefacts in York and in the broader region. Accordingly, they should be retained for archive and display. Stabilisation using p.e.g. polymers and freeze-drying is required, after which detached fragments can be refixed.

Illustration: The existing records are sufficient for a 'rolled out' scale drawing of the cask to be produced at the analysis phase. Record photographs have been taken but for publication, a good image will need to be produced once the artefact has been brought to dry storage.

Dating: Unfortunately, none of the timbers are suitable for dendrochronology. ^{14}C dating is unlikely to provide a date more precise than that obtained by typological study of the artefact assemblage, though if this proves to be inadequate, then a sample from a portion of sapwood from one of the roundwood pieces from the fill or from one of the cask hoops might be taken. Such sampling would need to be undertaken fairly rapidly (within 4 weeks of the date of this report) or else the timbers may decay and or suffer contamination.

Analysis and publication: Apart from line drawing and any sampling for dating, no further recording is necessary for writing up a full woodworking technology report and conducting further research into possible parallels for these objects.

Future of the assemblage: ST 01–05, 34, 38, 39 and 40 may be discarded once any ^{14}C sampling has been concluded. The remainder are an important resource and should be retained and conserved for future archive and display.

6.7 **The Small Finds**

By Ian Riddler

6.7.1 Introduction

Eleven objects were examined for this assessment. Six of these are iron nails or tacks, but the assemblage also includes a copper alloy coin, a copper alloy waste strip, an iron knife, an iron stud and a fragment of iron slag.

6.7.2 Factual Record

A copper alloy coin (Sf 1) survives in good condition and has been identified as a Rome issue of Domitian (AD 85) (Plate 17). A copper alloy strip (Sf 2) is lightly curved in section and is of an appropriate size to have formed part of a late Roman bracelet but cutting marks at one end suggest that it is, in fact, manufacturing waste. A heavy section of iron, roughly of cylindrical form (Sf 6) is a piece of smithing slag. These two objects are not closely dated. A fragmentary iron knife (Sf 9) is a Roman form and can be identified as Manning type 15, one of the most common types of the period (Manning 1985, 115). It lacks part of the tang and the front of the blade, but its original dimensions can be reconstructed. It is similar to a larger example from a late Roman or early post-Roman context at Catterick (Ross and Ross 2021, fig 11.45.1371). The head of an iron stud (Sf 11) has a plano-convex section; its tang is now missing. The remaining objects are iron nails (Sf 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8), with one small tack (Sf 10) also present. Where the heads survive they are discoidal, the most common head type of the Roman and post-Roman periods. Most of them are fragmentary and in two cases (Sfs 4 and7) only the shafts survive.

6.7.3 Statement of Potential

The coin is a useful addition to the corpus of Roman coins from York, particularly as it survives in good condition with both sides legible. The copper alloy strip and fragment of iron smithing slag provide evidence for metalworking in the vicinity; they are not closely dated objects in their own right. The knife belongs to a type that is relatively common in the mid to late Roman period, whilst the nails are conventional types.

6.7.4 Recommendations

The small range of objects provides a few indications of Roman settlement, crafts and daily life. Whilst it is worth noting the presence of these objects, they are not significant finds in their own right. In the future they could conceivably form part of a wider consideration of the Roman material culture of York, but no further work on them is recommended at the present time.

6.8 The Glass

Two fragments of glass weighing a total of 9g were recovered from contexts [1091] and [1114]. Both are fragments of pale blue glass, in good condition with fresh breaks. They are of post-medieval/modern date, probably from a glass bottle or decorative item.

Discard is recommended.

6.9 Conservation Assessment

By Ian Panter

6.9.1 Introduction

Nine small finds (2 copper alloy and 7 iron) were X-rayed using standard York Archaeology procedures (X9748). Each artefact was examined using X20m magnification, noting condition,

stability, and checking material identifications. A ceramic rim/neck filled with black organic sediment was micro-excavated to assess fill content.

6.9.2 Discussion

Iron: all iron objects are in a fair/good condition, with no signs of active corrosion. The X-ray image shows varying states of preservation, ranging from good preservation of a metallic core, to complete voiding. Most objects are nails, apart from SF6 (context 1053) which may be a tool or billet of iron, and SF9 (context 1068) which is a knife.

Copper alloy: both objects are well preserved and stable. SF 1 (context 1114) has a gold/coppery surface often observed in copper alloy objects recovered from waterlogged deposits.

Ceramic/organic fill: the organic fill contained tiny fragments of twigs and undiagnostic scraps of leather.

6.9.3 Recommendations

All the metalwork is stable and adequately packed under dry conditions. No investigative conservation is proposed.

The organic debris recovered from the ceramic from context 1114 is undiagnostic and can be discarded.

6.10 The Environmental Samples

By Stacey Adams

6.10.1 Introduction

Thirteen bulk environmental samples were taken during archaeological investigations of Roman deposits and features at Regency Mews for the recovery of environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood, charcoal, faunal remains and Mollusca, as well as to assist finds recovery. The following report discusses the preservation of the charred and waterlogged plant macrofossils, the waterlogged wood and charcoal and assesses their potential to inform on the diet, arable economy and local environment of the site as well as fuel selection and use.

6.10.2 Methodology

The bulk samples, ranging from 10 to 50 litres in volume, were processed by flotation using a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue and a 250µm mesh for the retention of the flot before being air dried. The flots of samples recognized as waterlogged during flotation were retained wet. The residues were passed through 8, 4 and 2mm sieves and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains and, are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. Two litre sub-samples from samples deemed to be waterlogged were washed through a stack of geological sieves with apertures of 4mm, 2mm, 500µm and 250µm and each fraction retained wet. 8 litre sub-samples were retained for possible external insect assessment and the remainder processed by flotation for the recovery of artefacts and ecofacts.

The flots and wet-sieved fractions were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7–45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Tables 12 and 13). Where necessary, a sub-sample of the dry flots and wet-sieved samples were scanned. Provisional identification of the charred

and waterlogged plant remains was based on observations of gross morphology and surface cell structure and quantification was based on approximate number of individuals. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild plants and Zohary and Hopf (1994) for cereals.

The charcoal and waterlogged wood fragments were sectioned by hand along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000; Hather 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping. An incident light microscope at magnifications up to 500x was used to further identify the charcoal whilst a transmitted light microscope at 50x to 400x was employed for the waterlogged wood. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Schoch *et al* 2004; Hather 2000; Schweingruber 1990). Ten charcoal fragments were submitted for identification from samples with >50 fragments of wood charcoal from the >4mm fraction of the heavy residues. Five wood pieces were identified from samples containing waterlogged wood, those containing less than five fragments were identified in their entirety. Quantification and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 11 and waterlogged wood in Table 13. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

6.10.3 **Results**

The dry flots from Regency Mews contained abundant modern roots accompanied by infrequent coal and insect remains and occasional charcoal fragments. The flots from well [1110] contained frequent insect remains and worm capsules and were rich in organic detritus and wood fragments.

The wet flots from well [1110] contained occasional insect remains, including worm capsules, and bone from fishbone/ microfauna in fill (1114) and large fragmented mammal bone in fill (1111) and burnt bone was recorded in all the wet flots in low numbers. Ceramic building material (CBM) was recorded in fills (1111) and (1114) accompanied by pot sherds in the former and leather in the latter. Charcoal fragments were occasional within the deposits whilst wood fragments were frequent.

Charred Plant Macrofossils

Charred plant macrofossils were infrequent within the sampled deposits at Regency Mews although preservation was mostly good. Charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) caryopses were the most common charred plant remain. A small number of the grains in ditches [1018] and [1067] still retained their more diagnostic glumes and/ or spikelet forks, the means of attaching the caryopsis to the stem, indicating that they were of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*). Several of the wheat caryopses in the fills of ditch [1067] had germinated, meaning that the cereal had begun to sprout. Cultivated oat (*Avena sativa*) was identified within the assemblage in ditch [1067] and was able to be identified to species-level due to the retention of the more diagnostic floret base. Lower fill (1114) of well [1110] contained two hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) caryopses. The wet flot from A single wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) seed capsule in ditch [1067] was the only wild/ weed plant identified within the sampled features.

Waterlogged Plant Macrofossils

Waterlogged plant macrofossils were frequent in the flots associated with well [1110]. Shrubby taxa of elder (*Sambucus nigra*), blackberry-type (*Rubus* sp.), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) and

nettle (*Urtica* sp.) were identified within both the upper (1111) and lower (1114) fills of the well. Blackberry-type seeds were also recorded in the 'spot find' within the well accompanied by hazelnut (Corylus avellana) shell fragments. Hazelnut was recorded in the lower fill (1114) of the well along with buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.), raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*), strawberry (*Fragaria* sp.) and red campion (*Silene dioica*). A sour cherry-type (*Prunus cerasus*-type) stone was also identified in the fill along with indeterminate buds.

Charcoal

The charcoal submitted for identification from the two fills of ditch C1067 predominantly consisted of oak (*Quercus* sp.). The slightly better-preserved charcoal associated with the 'spot find' in the ditch was somewhat affected by radial cracks and post-depositional sediment. Radial cracks are missing or exploded tissue caused by the presence of moisture in the wood and can be attributed to the burning of fresh or damp wood (Fiorentino & D'Oronzo 2011) whilst post-depositional sediment is associated with fluctuations in the water table after burial. Plum-type (*Prunus* sp.) charcoal was also identified along with the oak charcoal near the 'spot find' whilst ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) was recorded in the other sample associated with ditch [1067]. A number of the fragments from this sample were indeterminate due to general distortion caused during the charring process and to vitrification. Vitrification, a process that fuses the anatomical features giving it a glassy appearance, is generally linked to prolonged burning times and high temperatures (Prior & Alvin 1983). However, experimental evidence indicates that this is not a sufficient factor for charcoal to become vitrified and that a secure cause is not yet known (McParland *et al* 2010).

6.10.4 **Significance**

Charred Plant Macrofossils

The charred plant macrofossils identified within the flots from Regency Mews are too infrequent to be associated with large-scale cereal processing and likely represent the waste from domestic processing carried out on a day-to-day basis. Spelt wheat appears to have been the staple wheat variety throughout the majority of Roman Britain (Letts 1998: 27) and its presence at Regency Mews is unsurprising. A large deposit of spelt wheat was identified to the north at Coney Street (Williams 1979) that similarly contained sporadic remains of hulled barley and oat likely as contaminants to the main spelt crop. The germination of the wheat grains may have occurred in the field prior to harvesting or during storage and the retention of the chaff on some of the caryopses indicates that this happened whilst still in the ear. This and the lack of uniformity to the germination indicates that the process was not likely carried out deliberately for the production of malt. The wild radish suggests that the cereal cultivation was occurring on light, slightly acidic, sandy soils.

Waterlogged Plant Macrofossils

The waterlogged plant macrofossils from Regency Mews are likely naturally-occurring and growing in the vicinity of the site. The elder, blackberry-type, raspberry, hazelnut, nettle and fat hen all indicate shrubby ruderal ground whilst red campion is indicative of shaded hedgerows or wooded environs. Hazelnut, raspberry, strawberry, blackberry -type, elder and sour cherry-type are all edible fruits and nuts and may have been deliberately collected from the surrounding area to enhance the cereal diet. Waterlogged fruits and nuts have been identified

at several other sites in Roman York (Carrot *et al* 1995; Hall & Kenward 1982; Hall & Kenward 1990; Tomlinson 1989) where they were seemingly more exotic and included grape, fig, walnut, olive and coriander. The plant remains at Regency Mews may be indicative of a lower status diet than other contemporary sites in York or they may simply be naturally occurring from the local environment. Further analysis of the plant macrofossils from the well may be able to determine such factors.

Charcoal

The identified charcoal indicates that oak was the preferred fuelwood at Regency Mews likely harvested from large branch or trunk wood from potentially managed woodland. The ash would have been similarly collected. The plum-type wood would have been collected from shrubby woodland or coppices as it does not respond the woodland management techniques (Taylor 1981: 48) as oak and ash do. Oak, ash and plum-type wood all make excellent fuelwood, with ash even burning well when green (Taylor 1981: 46) and would have likely been selected for these properties. Oak was the dominant taxon at Guildhall (Adams 2022) and was seemingly accompanied by a wider variety of wood taxa than at Regency Mews.

6.10.5 **Potential**

Charred Plant Macrofossils

The charred plant macrofossils from Regency Mews have little potential due to their paucity. The cereal caryopses can be submitted for radiocarbon dating if absolute dates are required from the features. The results from the assessment can be incorporated into any future analysis report.

Waterlogged Plant Macrofossils

The waterlogged plant macrofossils from the various fills of Well [1110] have the potential to inform on the local environment as well as the potential diet of the inhabitants of the site. The assemblage can be compared to contemporary Roman deposits in York in order to contextualise the site within *Eboracum*.

Charcoal

The charcoal from both fills of Ditch [1067] have the potential to inform on fuel selection and use at Regency Mews as well as the local environment. The charcoal can be compared to contemporary assemblages in order to contribute to understanding fuel provision in Roman York.

6.10.6 **Further Work and Recommendations**

It is recommended that the waterlogged plant macrofossils from the three samples from well [1110] be submitted for full analysis. The wet and dry flots will be sorted for plant macrofossils and subsequently identified and quantified. The charcoal from both fills of ditch [1067] should be submitted for analysis with one hundred fragments identified per sample as per Asouti and Austin's (2005) minimum number of fragments principle for temperate regions. A contextualised analysis report will be produced incorporating the charred plant macrofossils from the assessment.

6.11 Pollen Assessment

6.11.1 Introduction

This report summarises the findings arising out of the pollen assessment undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (QUEST), University of Reading, in connection with archaeological excavations at 27 St Helens Road, Regency Mews, York (NGR: SE 58618 49695). During the course of the excavations, a series of features dating to the Roman period were recorded including ditches, pits and a furrow. The pollen assessment focusses on two samples extracted from the lower (context 1114) and upper (context 1111) fill of timber-lined well [1110]. Context 1114 was a soft mid grey with darker grey patches sandy silt and included a copper alloy coin dated to AD 85. Overlying context 1111 comprised a soft, mid grey clayey sandy silt. The aim of the assessment is to establish the concentration, preservation and main pollen taxa, and establish the potential for further analysis.

6.11.2 METHODS

Two samples were extracted for an assessment of pollen content. The pollen was extracted as follows: (1) sampling a standard volume of sediment (6 grams); (2) adding one tablet of the exotic clubmoss Lycopodium clavatum to provide a measure of pollen concentration in each sample; (3) deflocculation of the sample in 1% Sodium pyrophosphate; (4) sieving of the sample to remove coarse mineral and organic fractions (>125µm); (5) acetolysis; (6) removal of finer minerogenic fraction using Sodium polytungstate (specific gravity of 2.0g/cm3); (7) mounting of the sample in glycerol jelly. Each stage of the procedure was preceded and followed by thorough sample cleaning in filtered distilled water. Quality control is maintained by periodic checking of residues, and assembling sample batches from various depths to test for systematic laboratory effects. Pollen grains and spores were identified using the University of Reading pollen type collection and the following sources of keys and photographs: Moore et al (1991); Reille (1992). The assessment procedure consisted of scanning the prepared slides, and recording the concentration and preservation of pollen grains and spores, and the principal taxa on four transects (10% of the slide) (Table 14).

6.11.3 RESULTS & INTERPRETATION OF THE POLLEN ASSESSMENT

The results of the assessment indicate a high concentration of pollen in a moderate state of preservation in both samples (Table 14). Herbaceous and shrub taxa tend to dominate, including heather (Calluna vulgaris), hazel (Corylus type), dandelion (Lactuceae), grasses (Poaceae) and pinks (Caryophyllaceae). Black knapweed (Centaurea nigra), cereals (Cereale type), and brassica (Sinapis type) were also recorded in context (1111), whilst mugwort (Artemisia) and daisies (Asteraceae) were recorded in (1114), Tree pollen included oak (Quercus) and lime (Tilia); the lime grains being more poorly preserved perhaps suggesting their reworking. Pine (Pinus) was recorded in context (1114) and alder was recorded in context (1111). Spores of polypody (Polypodium vulgare), ferns (Filicales) and moss (Sphagnum) were also recorded. Whipworm eggs were noted in the sample from context (1111) and microcharcoal present in moderate or abundant concentrations in both samples.

The Roman well investigated represents a small depositional basin, and thus will have correspondingly small pollen source area, reflecting predominantly the vegetation of the immediate locality of the site. The dominance and range of herbs together with heather is

indicative of open and disturbed conditions in the immediate vicinity of the well. Woodland appears to be limited, perhaps growing at distance or in isolated stands near to the site, including oak and pine. The lime grains are often more poorly preserved than other grains in the assemblage, perhaps suggesting that they originate from older, reworked sediment that has become integrated into the fill of the well. Alder is recorded in upper context (1111), which together with sedges are suggestive of damp conditions. Shrubby vegetation, or perhaps hedgerows are indicated by the presence of hazel.

The single cereal grain recorded could potentially be wheat (Triticum sp.) or barley (Hordeum sp). on the basis of caryopses recorded during the charred plant macrofossil assessment (Adams, 2022). Whether this is the result of nearby crop growth, processing or the discard of waste material is unknown. However, the apparent limited amount of cereals (both pollen and charred plant remains), would appear to suggest discard. Trichuris eggs, were present in the sample from context (1111) but at this stage it is not possible to distinguish if they were from the species that infects people or pigs. The presence of microcharcoal in both samples would appear to be primarily from the burning of wood.

6.11.4 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The results of the assessment indicate a sufficiently high concentration and preservation of pollen for further analysis. Such analysis will provide further quantitative insights into the vegetation communities surrounding the site during the infill of the well, and for human activities, economy and diet. Further analysis is therefore recommended.

7. DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

During the SMR excavation thirteen Romano-British period features were investigated. The findings at the site concord with those from previous excavations over the last 30 years around the Dringhouses area.

The features investigated were most similar to those found during the Abbeyfields excavations undertaken by YAT in 1998, comprising a series of ditches on a north-west/south-east alignment. It was suggested by Macnab and Marwood after the 1998 excavation that the use of multiple close ditches in the same alignment indicates a landscape boundary that was repeatedly re-cut over a period of long-term use (Macnab and Marwood 1998, 8). A much larger investigation, undertaken in 2003 at the Starting Gate Public House in 2003 (McComish 2003; 2004) to the south-east of the site discovered evidence of occupation adjacent to remains of the Roman road from Tadcaster, designated Road 10 by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England (RCHMY1 1962, I).

As with the 1998 Abbeyfields excavation, the ditches investigated at Abbeyfields House in 2022 appear to represent activity relating to agricultural land management during the late 1st and 2nd century. Similar features are known from other sites around York and have been interpreted as land divisions and drainage by Ottaway (Ottaway 2011, 361). Similar ditch systems have been discovered during excavations in the vicinity of Regency Mews in recent decades, from the early 1990s onwards. On the whole, these have respected the alignment of Road 10. A distribution map of these features in AY6/2 shows the Abbeyfield House site (formerly 27 St Helen's Road) surrounded by similar features recorded during multiple archaeological interventions, contextualising the findings within a wider landscape of agricultural land division and management (Ottaway 2011, 362, Fig. 278). The sites include: The Fox Public House, excavated in 1997 (op cit., 353); 52–62 Tadcaster Rd in 1995 (op cit., 341); 26–30 Regency Mews, in 1997 (op cit, 342); The Starting Gate Evaluation, 1996, and excavation in 2003 (op cit., 345–353); 27 Helens Rd, excavated in 1994 (op cit., 358–360).

Similar features have been found further afield around York. For example, late 2nd to early-3rd century ditches at County Hospital site, Fossbank, were typically 0.5m–2m wide and 0.25–1m deep and had been dug in alignment with the principal axes of the fortress. Their purposes may have been to drain waterlogged land, delineate boundaries and keep cattle or other animals away from crops. Ottaway suggests this trend should be seen as evidence of another aspect of the growth of population evident from the late second century onwards and increased demand for food resulting from the burgeoning Roman civilian settlement, and a shift from pasture to arable farming. He suggests the use of ditches to divide up the landscape doesn't seem to have continued beyond the middle of the third-century (Ottaway 1993, 89; 2011, 371).

Ottaway notes that in general in the extramural areas of Roman York a 'great deal of ditch digging appears to have taken place in the late 2nd–early 3rd century.' (op cit. 370). The dating evidence for the features investigated during the 2022 Abbeyfields site, suggests activity here may be slightly early than at some sites. However, dating the features is somewhat complicated by the multiple cuts and re-cuts evident in many of the features. Ottaway acknowledges how difficult such features are to date and understand because of erosion, disturbance, re-cutting

and other factors (op cit. 370). Refinement of the dating of this activity should be a principal aim of the analysis for this investigation.

The Roman cask-lined well (G1001) is a particularly rare feature. Very few examples are known from York. It would have provided water for the farm land, but was possibly also used by those living in the settlement between the site and Road 10 excavated by McComish in 2003 (McComish 2003; 2004; Ottaway 2011, 345–353). Analysis of the finds assemblage alongside the environmental and pollen samples will provide insights into the nature of the settlement and landscape at the time the feature fell into disuse and was infilled. The copper alloy coin (SF1) found in the very bottom fill of the feature is in good condition and will make a good display item. It may be an accidental loss. It perhaps hints at Roman apotropaic beliefs and practices; the urge to deposit coins into wells is perhaps a universal innate human urge.

Further dating and stratigraphic analysis, along with targeted artefact and ecofact analysis will contribute specifically to our understanding of the development of the Roman landscape in the Dringhouses area. Furthermore, publication of targeted analysis and comparison with other sites around York will contribute more generally to our understanding of settlement activity in the extramural environs of Roman York. The following summary of specialist recommendations forms the basis of an updated research design, the completion of which will satisfy parts of the the planning condition for the site (17/01419/FULM).

Recommendations and updated project design

The following presents a summary project design for analysis and publication of the results of the excavation in accordance with NPPF and the planning condition for this development. Additional detail many be found in the individual specialist reports in the main text.

I. Stratigraphic analysis and reporting

- Further work should be done to phase the ditch groups in light of refined pottery dating
- Drawings should be updated accordingly
- Analysis and publication text to be written up using results of focussed artefact/ecofact analyses detailed below
- Analysis to contextualise the findings in relation to other sites in the vicinity and elsewhere in the Roman Extramural area, as detailed in Ottaway 2011.
- Report to be published in a suitable format such as Internet Archaeology or as part of the YAT AYW online reports.

II. Pottery

- Full fabric and form analysis.
- full analysis of fabrics and forms for coarse wares will significantly enhance our understanding site chronology
- examination of the assemblage for cross-joins (joining sherds from deposits across the site) offers further opportunity to refine chronologies for occupation.
- At minimum of 101 vessels had diagnostic features and require illustration.

- further analysis of coarse wares variation to identify and quantity local/regional wares, nationally distributed and imported products at the site.
- Further analysis of the distribution of pottery across the site is recommended, with the pottery considered within site-wide stratigraphic relationships and phasing.
- Compare the assemblage with that from 9 Blake Street, York (Monaghan 1993), the former Starting Gate Public House, 42–50 Tadcaster Road (McComish 2004) and other sites detailed in Zone 7, Dringhouses in Ottaway 2011 pp. 341–363. And, comparison with sites in the centre of York.
- A small quantity of coarse ware sherds and one large fragment of amphorae were possibly reworked and reused (during the Roman period); these should be sent to a small find's specialist.
- Pot report and data to be integrated into any site-wide grey literature or publication reporting and retained within the site archive.
- No further work recommended on the medieval and post-medieval assemblage
- Assemblage to be retained pending assessment for any potential selective discard.

III. Ceramic Building Material

- No further recommendations for the CBM assemblage due to poor condition

IV. Stone Building Materials

- No further work required due to poor condition

V. Animal Bone

- Retain for potential radiocarbon dating, discard otherwise
- No further recommendations due to small size and nature of assemblage

VI. Preserved wood

- Discard stray debris ST 01–05
- Cask should be retained and conserved due to local and regional importance
- Potential for radiocarbon dating sample to be taken from one of the hoops
- Retain fragmentary wood from fill ST 33, 35–37 for archive, research and display purposes

VII. Small finds

- Publication quality photography to be undertaken
- No further work is recommended.

VIII. Conservation

- No further work is recommended
- Discard organic debris from ceramic from Context 1114

IX. Envrionmental samples

- Waterlogged plant fossil remains from the three well samples should be submitted to full analysis.

- Wet and dry flots should be sorted for plant macrofossils and identified and quantified.
- Charcoal from both fills should be submitted for analysis

X. Pollen samples

- Further analysis is recommended, to provide quantitive insights into the vegetative communities surrounding the infill of the well.
- Results of the analysis should be considered in conjunction with the environmental analysis of the same deposits.

8. LIST OF SOURCES

N/A

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APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE

Table 1 Index to Archive	
Item	**Number of items**
Context sheets	115
Sample register	1
Drawing register	1
Original drawings	25
Digital photographs	500
Written Scheme of Investigation	1
Report	1

APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT LIST

Table 2 Context list

Context Number	Set	Group	Context Type	Description
1008	77	1018	Deposit	Fill. Soft, dark grey brown silty clay. Occasional rooting and charcoal flecks.
1009	72	1016	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned E-W, >5m total length, c.1m x 0.14m x 0.18m. Gradual break of slope at top, sloping concave degree of sides, gradual break of slope at base, base flat.
1010	73	1016	Deposit	Fill. Firm, dark brown with some dark orange grey patches silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks and moderate rooting.
1011	74	1017	Cut	Pit. Circular aligned E-W, 0.65m x 0.65m x 0.18m. Gradual break of slope at top, near vertical degree of sides, gradual break at base, irregular base.
1012	75	1017	Deposit	Fill. Soft to firm, dark grey brown silty clay. Occasional rooting
1013	64	1014	Cut	Ditch. Linear, aligned E-W, total length >5m, c.2.3m (exposed/seen) x 0.31m x 0.34m. Sharp to moderate break of slope at top, near vertical degree of sides, moderate to sharp break at base, flat base.
1014	65	1014	Deposit	Upper fill. Soft, dark grey brown silty clay. Occasional medium sized rounded stones, charcoal flecks and CBM flecks.
1015	65	1014	Deposit	Lower fill. Soft to firm, mid to dark grey orange brown silty clay. Occasional CBM flecks and rooting.
1016	66	1014	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NW-SE, total length >5m, 1m (exposed) x 2.57m x 0.67m. Gradual break at top, gradual and stepped on SW side degree of sides, gradual break at base, tapered base.
1017	67	1014	Deposit	Upper fill. Soft, mid grey brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks, CBM small fragments and small pebbles.
1018	44	1013	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NW-SE, total length >5m, 1m (exposed) x 2.10m x 0.86m. Sharp break of slope at top, stepped degree of slope on NE side, SW side truncated, moderate break at base, concave base on SW side and flat on NW side.
1019	45	1013	Deposit	Fill. Firm and partly soft, mid grey brown with yellow patches silty clay. Occasional large round stones.
1020	67	1014	Deposit	Fill. Soft, dark grey brown silty clay with orange brown silty clay patches. Occasional CBM small and fragments, charcoal flecks and rooting.
1021	37	1006	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid grey brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal and CBM flecks.
1022	36	1006	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned E-W, total length >5m, 1m (exposed) x 2.19m x 0.36m. Sharp break of slope at top,

Table 2 Context list

Context Number	Set	Group	Context Type	Description
				moderate concave degree of sides, sharp break at base, flat base.
1023	21	1004	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid green brown grey with small patches of orange silty clay. Occasional medium rounded stones, small CBM fragments and rooting.
1024	20	1004	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NE-SW, total length >5m, 1m (exposed), 1.59m, 0.24m. Gradual break of slope at top,
1025	31	1005	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid brownish grey with orange brown patches, silty clay. Moderate flecks of charcoal and occasional small CBM fragments and medium rounded stones.
1026	30	1005	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NE-SW, total length >5m, 1m (exposed) x 2.41m x 0.15m. Gradual break of slope at top, concave gently sloping degree of side, gradual break at base, flat base.
1030	62	1014	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NE-SW. Total length >5m, 1m (exposed) x 1.12m x 0.32m. Sharp break of slope at top, steep convex degree of sides, sharp break at base, flat base.
1031	58	1015	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NE-SW. Total length >5m, 1m (exposed) x 1.22m x 0.70m. Sharp break of slope at top, steep vertical sides, sharp break at base, flat base.
1032	46	1013	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NE-SW. Total length >5m, 1m (exposed) x 1.80m x 0.94m. Top of slope truncated on both sides by 1031 on SE side and 1030 on NW side, moderate sides to steep on NW side, steep break at base, flat base.
1033	60	1015	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NW-SE. Total length >5m, 1m (exposed) x 0.44m x 0.38m. Sharp break of slope at top, concave-near vertical degree of sides, moderately gradual break at base, concave base.
1034	61	1015	Deposit	Fill. Soft to firm, mid grey-yellow brown, silty clay. Occasional medium rounded stones and CBM small and medium fragments.
1035	45	1013	Deposit	Fill. Soft to friable, mid grey-brown orange silty clay. Occasional large rounded stones.
1036	45	1013	Deposit	Fill. Friable, mid brown grey silty clay. Occasional medium rounded stones.
1037	63	1014	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid yellow brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks.
1038	59	1015	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid brown grey silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks.
1039	59	1015	Deposit	Fill. Firm, dark brown grey with orange mottled silty clay.
1040	47	1013	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid grey brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks and CBM flecks.
1041	47	1013	Deposit	Fill. Firm, dark brown grey silty clay.

Table 2 Context list

Context Number	Set	Group	Context Type	Description
1042	12	1003	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned E-W, total length c.45m, 1m (exposed) x c.1.9m x 0.63m. Shap break of slope at top of SW side, NE not seen, near vertical sides, moderate break at base, irregular base
1043	13	1003	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid grey brown with small patches of orange brown. Occasional small fragments of CBM and small and medium rounded stones.
1044	13	1003	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid brown grey with patches of orange brown silty clay. Occasional medium rounded stones and small CBM fragments.
1045	54	1015	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned N-S. Total length c.45m, 1m (exposed) x c.1.9m x 0.5m. Sharp break of slope at top, moderate near vertical sides, gradual break at base, irregular base.
1046	55	1015	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid grey brown with small patches of orange brown, silty clay. Occasional small CBM fragments and medium and small rounded stones.
1047	55	1015	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid brown grey with occasional patches of orange brown, silty clay. Occasional medium rounded stones and small CBM fragments.
1048	69	1005	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned E-W. Total length c.36m, 1m (exposed) x 1.15m x 0.25m. Gradual break of slope at top, concave near vertical sides, gradual break at base, flat base.
1049	68	1005	Deposit	Fill. Soft, dark grey brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks and small CBM fragments.
1050	40	1007	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned N-S. Total length c.15m, 1m (exposed) x 0.71m x 0.42m. Gradual break of slope at top, stepped convex sides, gradual break at base, flat to irregular base, truncated on E side.
1051	41	1007	Deposit	Fill. Soft, mid-dark brown silty clay. Occasional yellow patches of clay (natural redeposited) and small CBM fragments.
1052	32	1014	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned E-W. Total length c.13m, 1m (exposed) x 1m x 0.47m.
1053	33	1014	Deposit	Fill. Soft, dark brown silty clay. Moderate patches of yellow clay, occasional CBM and charcoal fragments.
1054	10	1003	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NE-SW. Total length c.25m, 1m (exposed) x 1.2m x 0.51m. Gradual break of slope at top, moderately sloping sides, gradual break at base, uneven base.
1055	11	1003	Deposit	Fill. Soft, mid/light blue yellow brown silty clay. Occasional CBM and charcoal flecks.
1056	50	1013	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NW-SE. Total length c.42m, 1m (exposed) x c.0.50m x 0.35m. Sharp break of slope at top, steep near vertical sides, gradual break at base, concave base.

Table 2 Context list

Context Number	Set	Group	Context Type	Description
1057	51	1013	Deposit	Fill. Firm to soft, mottled mid brownish yellow and mid blue grey silty clay.
1058	51	1013	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid grey brown with small patches of yellow silty clay. Occasional CBM small fragments and flecks and charcoal flecks.
1059	11	1003	Deposit	Fill. Soft mid blue brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks and CBM small fragments and flecks.
1060	11	1003	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid slightly blue brown with red brown mottling silty clay. Occasional small CBM fragments and flecks and charcoal flecks.
1061	52	1013	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned N-S. Total length c.42m, 1m (exposed) x 1.05m x 0.32m. Sharp break of slope at top on SW side and moderate on NE side, convex degree of slope on NE side and concave on SW side, moderate break at base uneven concave base.
1062	53	1013	Deposit	Fill. Firm, dark brown, occasional orange brown patches, silty clay. Occasional small CBM fragments and medium rounded stones.
1063	53	1013	Deposit	Fill. Friable to firm, mid brown grey with light yellow patches, sandy silty clay.
1064	56	1015	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned N-S. Total length c. 42m, 1m exposed x 1.70m x 0.74m. Sharp break of slope at top, moderate near vertical sides, gradual break at base, concave tapering base.
1065	57	1015	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid grey brown with orange brown patches, silty clay. Occasional small CBM fragments.
1066	57	1015	Deposit	Fill. Firm to friable, mid brown grey with brown orange patches, silty clay. Occasional medium rounded stones and small CBM fragments.
1067	8	1003	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NE-SW. Total length c.27m, 1m (exposed) x 1.74m x 0.48m. Sharp break of slope at top, gradual stepping convex sides, gradual break at base, concave base.
1068	9	1003	Deposit	Fill. Soft, dark grey brown silty sand with clay patches. Occasional charcoal fleck and small CBM fragments.
1069	42	1007	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NE-SW. Total length c.15m, 1m (exposed) x c.1.90m x 0.47m. Truncated by ditch 1071.
1070	43	1007	Deposit	Fill. Soft to firm, light-mid brown grey, silty clay. Occasional small charcoal fragments and flecks.
1071	48	1013	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NW-SE. Total length c.42m, 1m (exposed) x 0.80m (exposed) x 0.67m. Moderately sharp break of slope at top, steep near vertical sides, gradual break at base, flat base.
1072	49	1013	Deposit	Fill. Soft, mid grey brown clayey silt.
1073	49	1013	Deposit	Fill. Firm to soft, mid orange red brown, silty clay.
1074	49	1013	Deposit	Fill. Soft, dark grey brown, clayey sandy silt. Moderate small and medium rounded stones. Occasional charcoal and CBM flecks.

Table 2 Context list

Context Number	Set	Group	Context Type	Description
1075	80	1018	Cut	Mod Pit. Shape not seen in plan (possibly circular e-w aligned. Total length not known x 0.37m x 0.75m (excavated). Gradual break of slope at top, Concave sides, gradual break at base, flat base (on excavated area).
1076	81	1018	Deposit	Fill. Soft to firm, dark brown and grey silty clay. Frequent medium and large CBM fragments and moderate charcoal fragments and flecks.
1077	22	1008	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned E-W. Total length c.21m, 1m (exposed) x1.49m on NE side x 0.32m. Gradual break of slope at top, concave slightly stepped sides, gradual break at base, flat base.
1078	23	1008	Deposit	Fill. Soft, dark brown grey sandy clay, sandier toward base. Occasional CBM fragments and charcoal flecks.
1079	6	1003	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NE-SW. Total length c.25m, 1m (exposed) x 0.11m (excavated) x 0.19m. Sharp break of slope at top, gradual stepping convex sides, gradual break at base, concave base.
1080	7	1003	Deposit	Fill. Soft, dark brown silty clay with sandy patches. Occasional charcoal flecks.
1081	n/a		Deposit	Dumb/ Natural variation? Soft to friable, mid brown grey silty sandy clay. Occasional small rounded stones.
1083	28	1009	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NW-SE. Total length c.21m, 1m (exposed) x 0.46m x 0.12m. Moderete break of slope at top, near vertical sides, moderate break at base, flat base.
1084	29	1009	Deposit	Fill. Soft to friable, mid brownish grey silty sand. Occasional round small stones.
1085	78	1018	Cut	Field drain. Linear aligned NE-SW. Total length c.40m, 1m (exposed) x 0.51m x 0.33m. Moderate break of slope at top, near vertical sides, sharp break at base, tapering base.
1086	79	1018	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid orange brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks.
1087	38	1006	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NE-SW. Total length c40m, 1m (exposed) x 1.03m x 0.68m. Sharp break of slope at top SW side not seen, near vertical sides, moderate break at base, concave base.
1088	39	1006	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid brown grey with patches of lighter yellow brown, silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks, small CBM fragments, medium rounded stones.
1089	39	1006	Deposit	Fill. Soft, dark brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small charcoal fragments.
1090	34	1005	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NE-SW. Total length c-40m, 1m (exposed) x 1.09m x0.90m. Sharp break of slope at top, near vertical stepped sides, sharp break at base, base flat to concave.

Table 2 Context list

Context Number	Set	Group	Context Type	Description
1091	35	1005	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid grey brown silty clay. Occasional small CBM fragments.
1092	35	1005	Deposit	Fill. Firm, light brown grey silty sandy clay. Occasional medium rounded stones.
1093	26	1009	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NW-SE. Total length c.22m, 1m (exposed) x 1.33m x 0.30m. Gradual break of slope at top, concave stepped sides, gradual break at base, concave base.
1094	27	1009	Deposit	Fill. Soft, mid grey brown silty sand with light yellow blue clay patches. Occasional charcoal and CBM flecks and small CBM fragments.
1095	24	1008	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned NW-SE. Total length c.22m, 1m (exposed) x 1.46m x 0.25m. Gradual break of slope at top, concave sides, gradual break at base, concave base.
1096	25	1008	Deposit	Fill. Soft, mid light grey brown silty sand with gritty brown patches and clayey yellow patches. Occasional charcoal flecks and large rounded stones towards the base.
1099	14	1011	Cut	Pit. Shape not seen in plan but possibly sub-oval aligned E-W. length unknown x 0.39m x 0.14m. Sharp break of slope at top, vertical sides, moderate break at base, flat base.
1100	15	1011	Deposit	Fill. Soft, mid-light brown grey silty sand. Occasional small rounded stones.
1101	16	1010	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned E-W. Total length c.15m, 1m (exposed) x 0.42m x 0.13m. Moderate break of slope at top, gradual sloping sides, gradual break at base, flat base.
1102	17	1010	Deposit	Fill. Firm, mid brownish grey silty sandy clay. Frequent small fragments of charcoal. Occasional large rounded stones.
1103	18	1012	Cut	Ditch. Linear aligned E-W. Total length c.15, 1m (exposed) x 0.9m x 0.21m. Moderate break of slope at top, near vertical sides, gradual break at base, flat base.
1104	19	1012	Deposit	Fill. Soft, mid brownish grey. Moderate medium rounded stones.
1105	4	1002	Cut	Pit. Sub-oval aligned E-W. 2.10m x 1.50m x 0.90m. Moderate break of slope at top, concave near vertical sides, gradual break at base, flat base.
1106	5	1002	Deposit	Fill. Soft, mid grey brown silty sand. Occasional rooting.
1107	5	1002	Deposit	Fill. Soft, light grey sand.
1108	5	1002	Deposit	Fill. Soft, mid orange grey brown silty sand. Occasional small CBM fragments.
1109	5	1002	Deposit	Fill. Soft with firm patches, mid grey brown, silty sand with clay patches. Frequent large and medium sub-angular stones.

Table 2 Context list

Context Number	Set	Group	Context Type	Description
1110	2	1001	Cut	Well. Circular with a 0.75m diameter. Cut not seen due to the ground and weather circumstances.
1111	3	1001	Deposit	Fill. Soft, mid grey clayey sandy silt.
1112	2	1001	Deposit	Timber lining. Upright timbers approximately 0.70m long.
1113	3	1001	Deposit	Flat timbers found within the well.
1114	3	1001	Deposit	Fill. Soft, mid grey with darker grey patches sandy silt. Moderate wood fragments and twigs. Occasional small and medium rounded stones.
1115	1	1000	Deposit	Natural geology under the well. Soft, light grey sandy silt.
1116	n/a	n/a	Deposit	Unstratified
1117	84	1018	Deposit	Topsoil. Soft, mid to dark grey brow, clayey silt. Occasional small and medium fragments of CBM.
1118	82	1018	Deposit	Subsoil. Soft, mid brown grey, silty clay. Occasional small and medium fragments of CBM.
1119	83	1018	Deposit	Made ground. Mix matrix of compacted, light yellow sand and mid brown with medium and small angular stones and crushed rubble.
1120	1	1000	Deposit	Natural. Mixed matrix of firm and partly soft, mid yellow brown orange, silty clay with soft, mid orange, brown grey sand.
1121	70	1016	Cut	Furrow. Linear, aligned E-W, c.35m, 2m (exposed) x 2.2m x 0.07 – 0.10m. Moderate break of slope at top N side, concave degree of slope on N side, S side truncated, gradual break of slope at base, base flat.
1122	71	1016	Deposit	Fill. Firm, dark brown with orange patches, silty clay
1123	76	1018	Cut	Modern drain. Linear, aligned E-W, 0.65m (exposed) x 0.30m x 0.25m. Sharp break of slope at top, vertical sides, base not seen.

APPENDIX 3: PLATES AND FIGURES

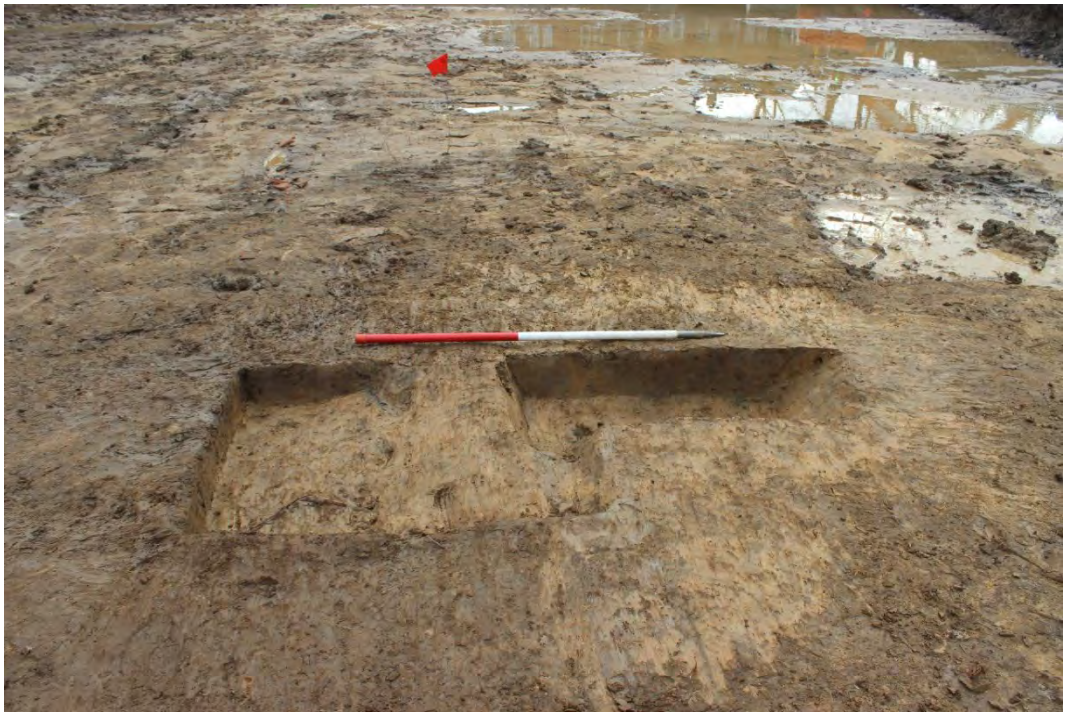


Plate 1 Furrow, pit and modern land drain, Groups 1016–1018 facing west, 0.5m scale units

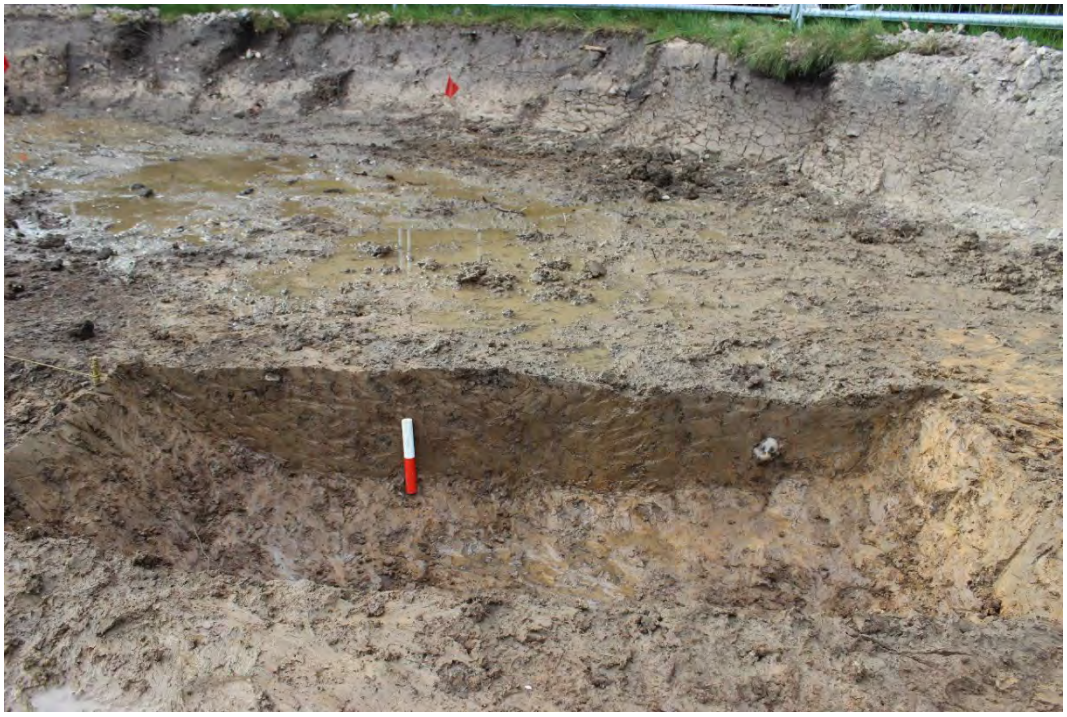


Plate 2 Ditch G1006, C1022, facing south-east, 0,1m scale units

Plate 3 Ditch Group 1014, C1016, facing north-west, 0.5m and 0.1m scale units

Plate 4 Groups 1005 and 1004, facing south-east, 0.5m scale units

Plate 5 Ditches in Groups 1014, 1013 and 1015, facing north-west, 0.1m scale units

Plate 6 Ditch C1061 Group 1010, facing west, 0.1m scale units

Plate 7 Ditch C1064, Group 1015, facing west, 0.5m and 0.1m scale units

Plate 8 Ditch C1067, Group 1003, facing south, 0.1m scale units

Plate 9 Ditch 1077 Group 1008 and modern pit 1075 Group 1018, facing south-east, 0.1m scale units

Plate 10 C1090, C1087 and C1085, Groups 1005, 1006 and 1018, facing east, 0.5m and 0.1m scale units

Plate 11 Ditch C1101 Group 1010, facing north-east, 0.1m scale units

Plate 12 Pit 1105 Group 1002, section 25, facing north-east, 0.5m scale units

Plate 13 Pit 1105 Group 1002 and the top of the well C1110 Group 1001, section 25, facing north-east, 0.5m scale units

Plate 14 Roman cask lined well C1110 Group 1001, facing south, 0.5m scale units

Plate 15 Site overview, facing south-east

Plate 16 Relationship slot Groups 1007 and 1005, facing west, 0.5m scale units

Plate 17 Copper alloy coin SF1 from C1114, Group 1001, Domitian As
Obverse: [...] DOMIT AVG GERM CO[...] Bust laureate right
Reverse: S C, Mars hastening left, holding Victory and trophy
Rome mint, 85 AD

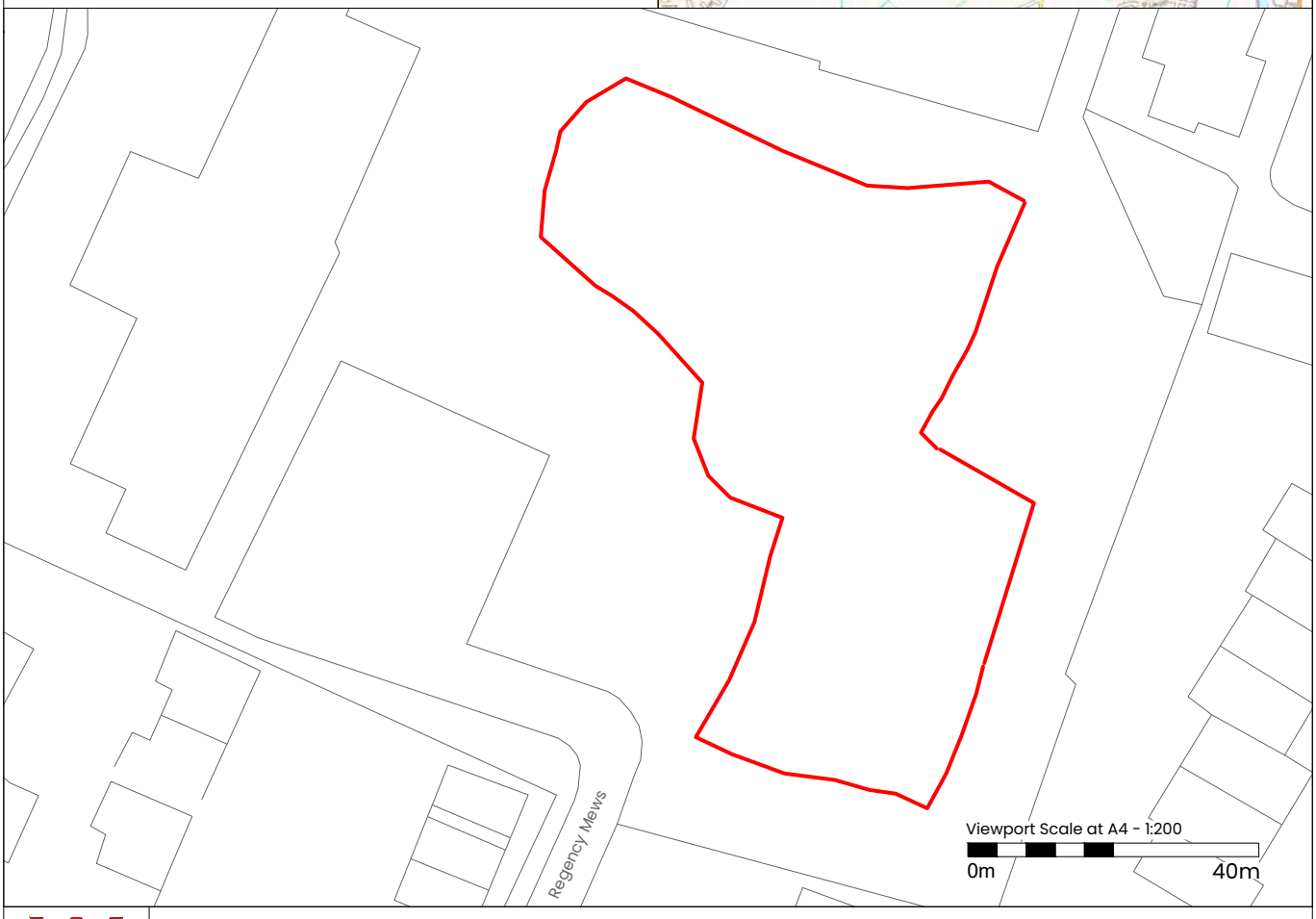


Figure 01 - Location Map
6087 - Abbeyfields House, Regency Mews, York

Scale at A4 - Varies
Drawn by BP

N

S.4
G1005
G1004
S.6
G1007
G1006
S.3
S.7
G1014
S.5
S.10
G1013
G1007
Modern Land Drain
G1018
S.19
Modern Land Drain
G1018
S.1
G1016
S.8
S.15
G1015
S.11
S.13
S.2
G1017
S.9
S.12
G1003
S.14
S.16
S.17
Modern Pit
G1018
S.25
G1002
G1001
G1008
S.21
S.20
G1000
G1009
Modern Service
S.18
G1010
S.23
G1011
S.22
S.24
G1012

Key

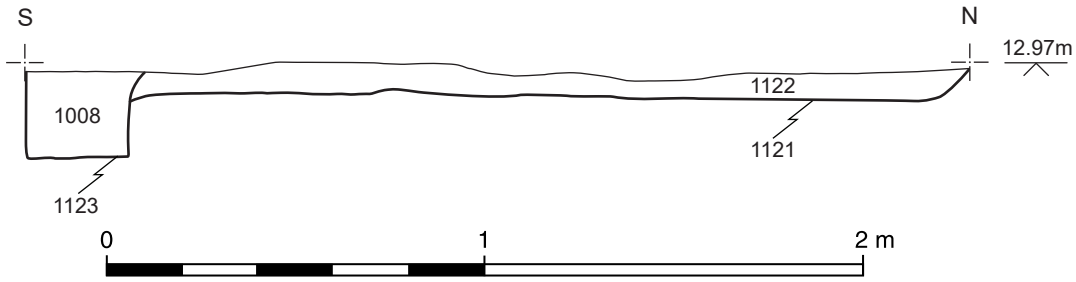
- Evaluation Trench
- Variation In Naturally Occuring Deposits
- Section
- Limit Of Excavation

0 10 20 m

Scale 1:200

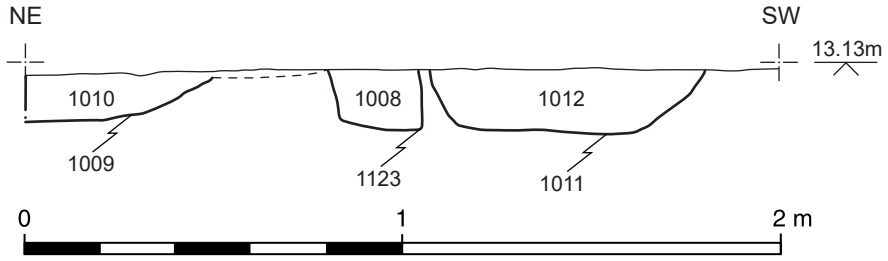
Figure 02 Composite Plan Of All Groups and Locations - Abbeyfields House, Regency Mews, York

Section 1
East Facing Section Of 1121 and 1123



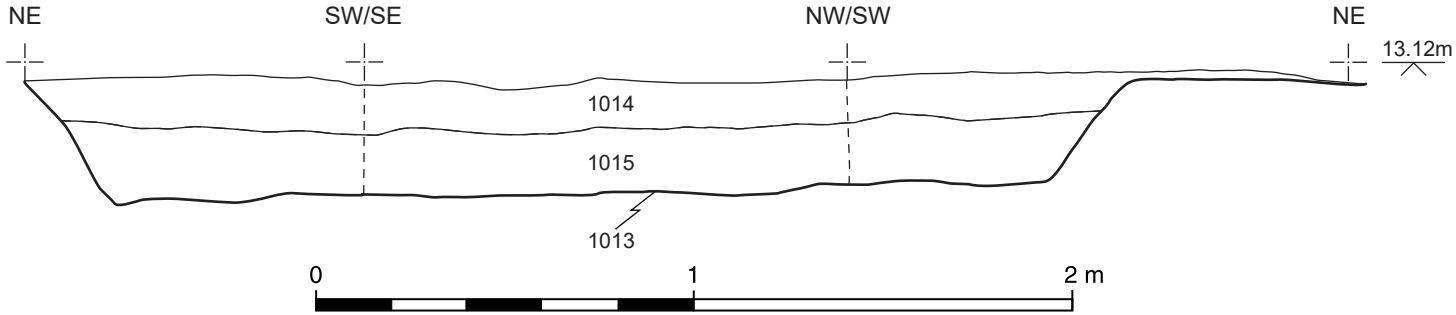
Scale 1:20

Section 2
North-West Facing Section Of 1011, 1009 and 1123



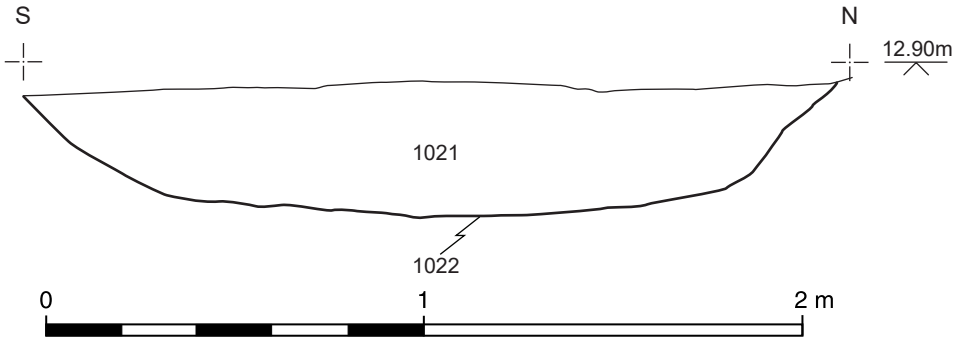
Scale 1:20

Section 3
North-West, North-East and South-East Facing Section Of 1013



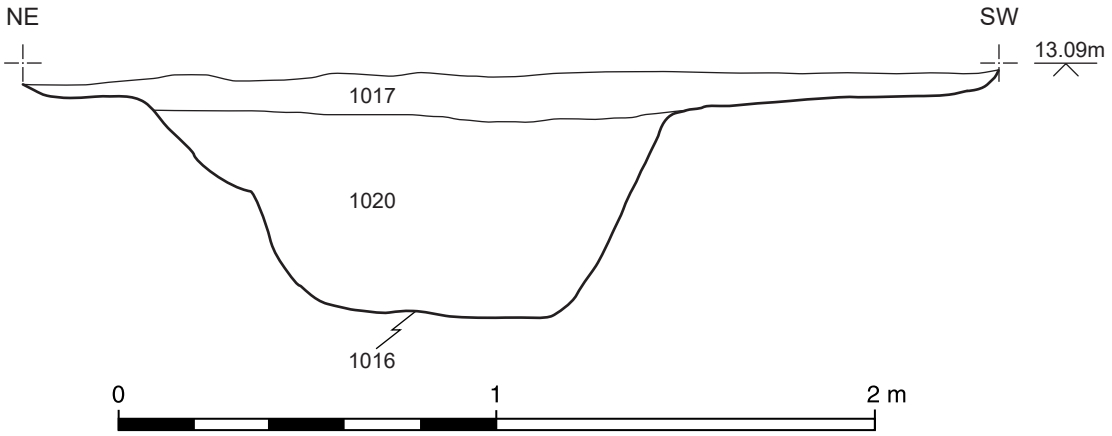
Scale 1:20

Section 4
East Facing Section Of 1022



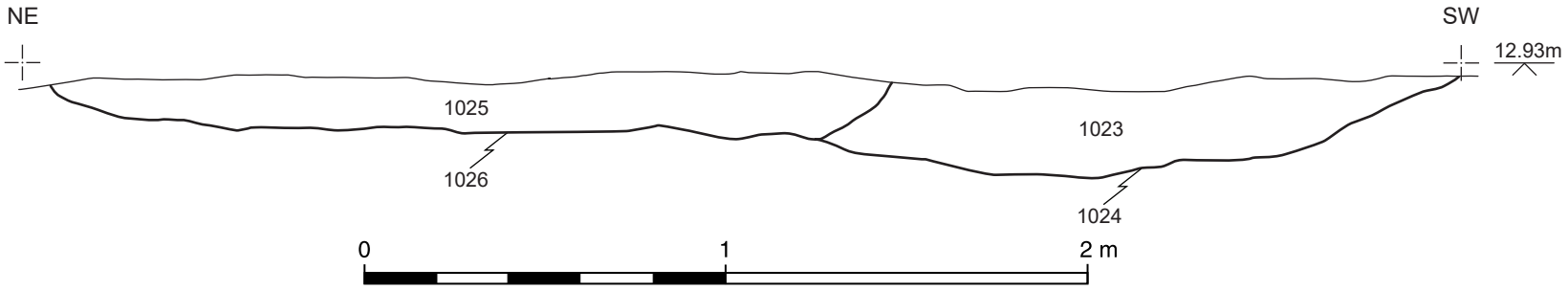
Scale 1:20

Section 5
North-West Facing Of Section 1016



Scale 1:20

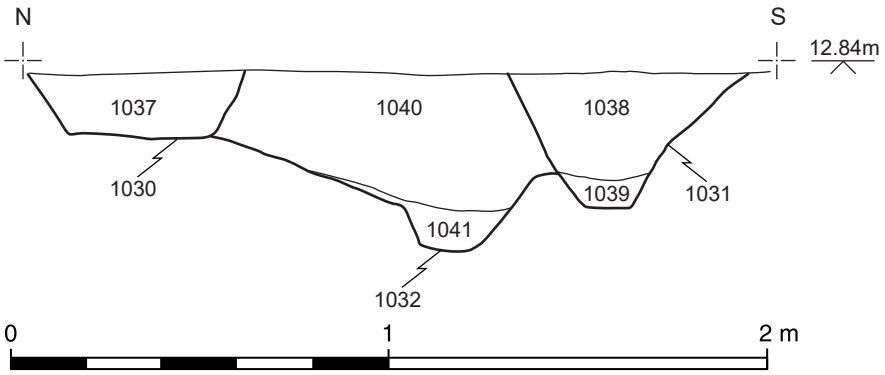
Section 6
North-West Facing Section Of 1024 and 1026



Scale 1:20

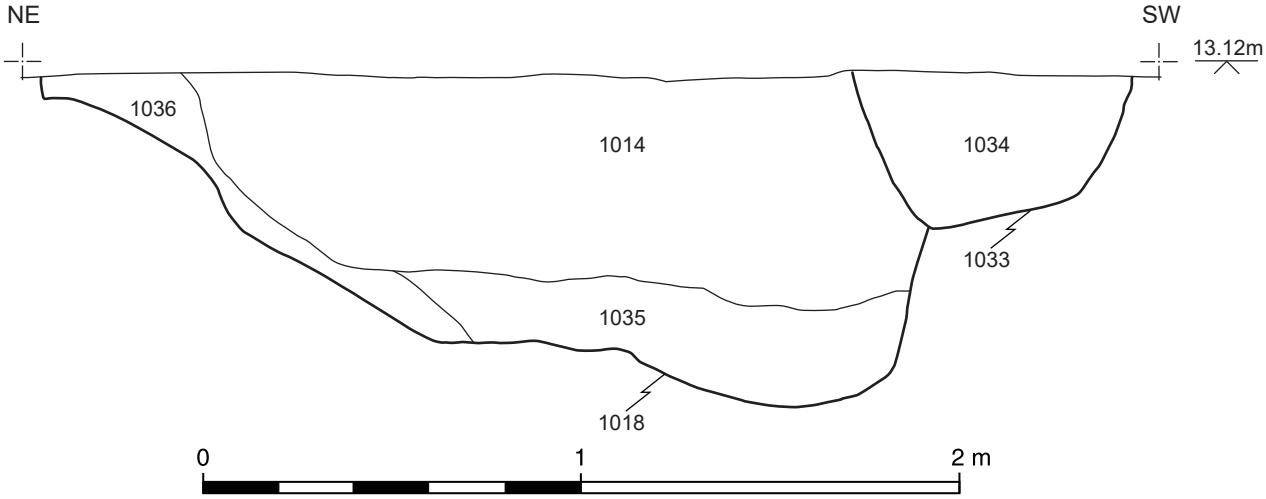
Figure 04 Sections 4, 5 and 6

Section 7
West Facing Section Of 1030, 1031 and 1032



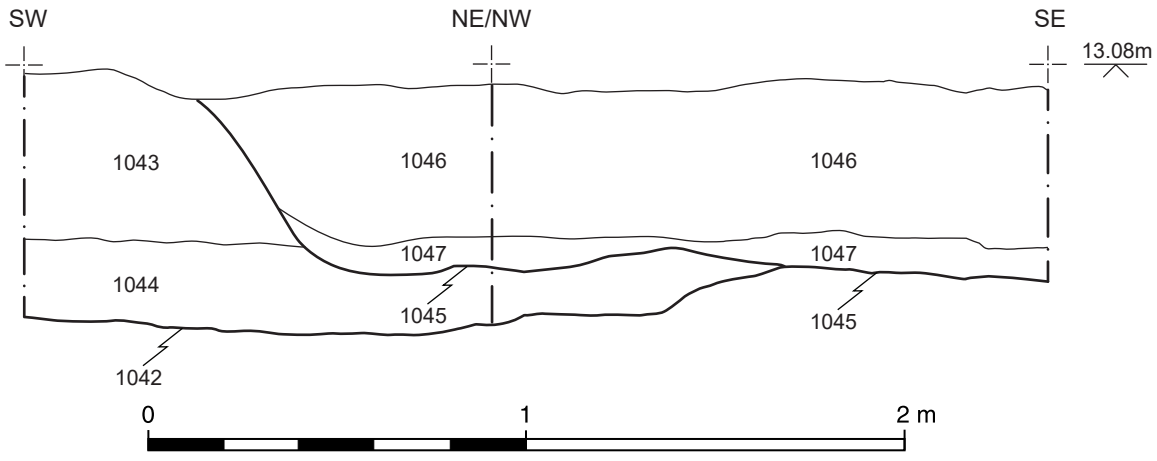
Scale 1:20

Section 8
North-West Facing Section Of 1018 and 1033



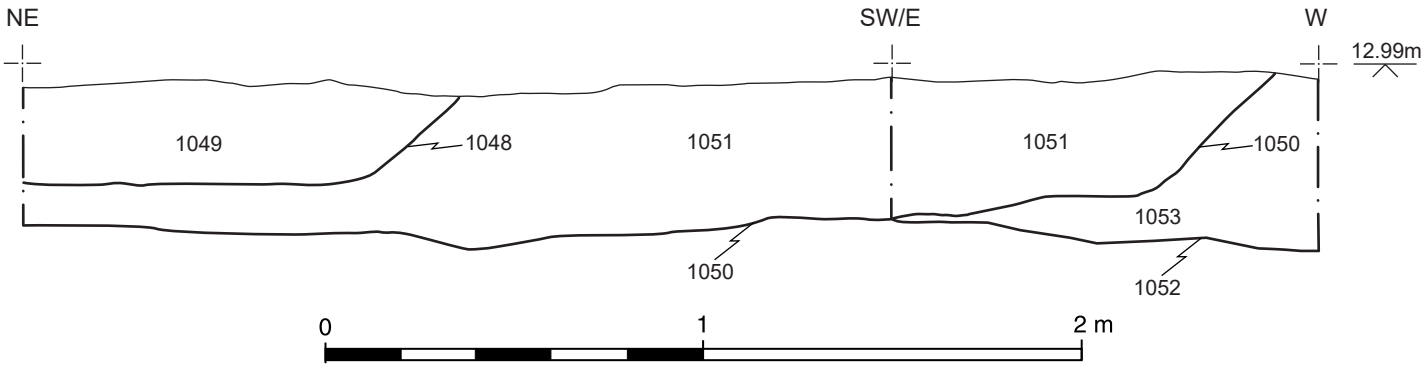
Scale 1:20

Section 9
South-East and South-West Facing Section Of 1042 and 1045



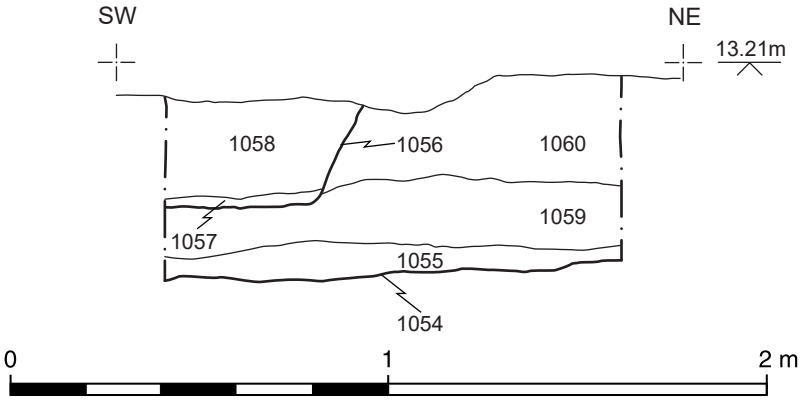
Scale 1:20

Section 10
North-West and North Facing Section Of 1048, 1050 and 1052



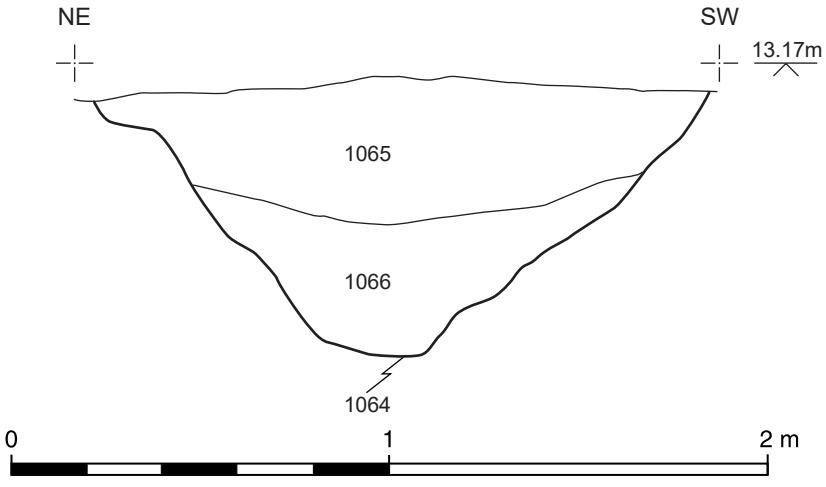
Scale 1:20

Section 11
South-East Facing Section Of 1054 and 1056



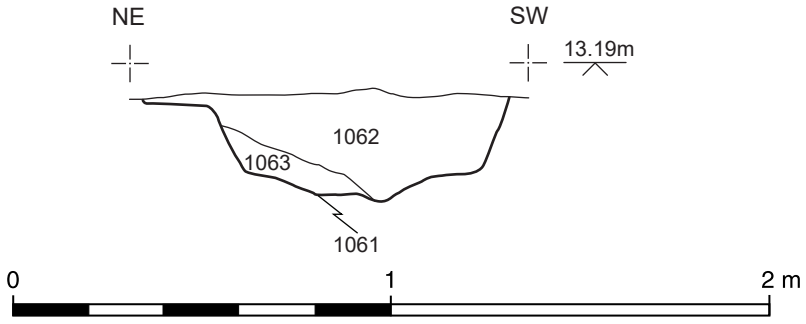
Scale 1:20

Section 12
North-West Facing Section Of 1064



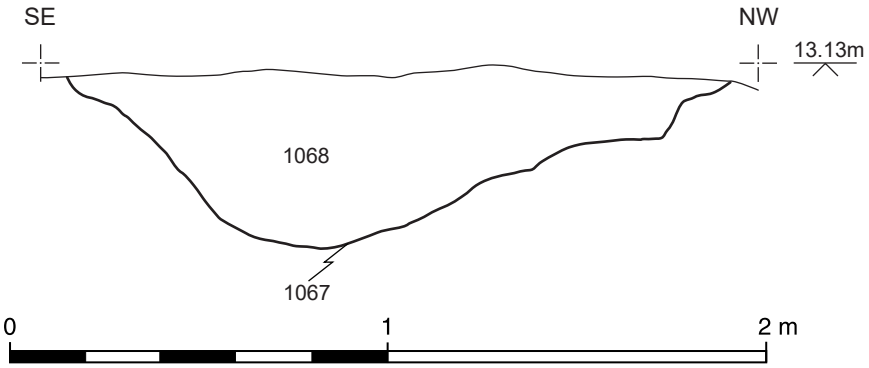
Scale 1:20

Section 13
North-West Facing Section Of 1061



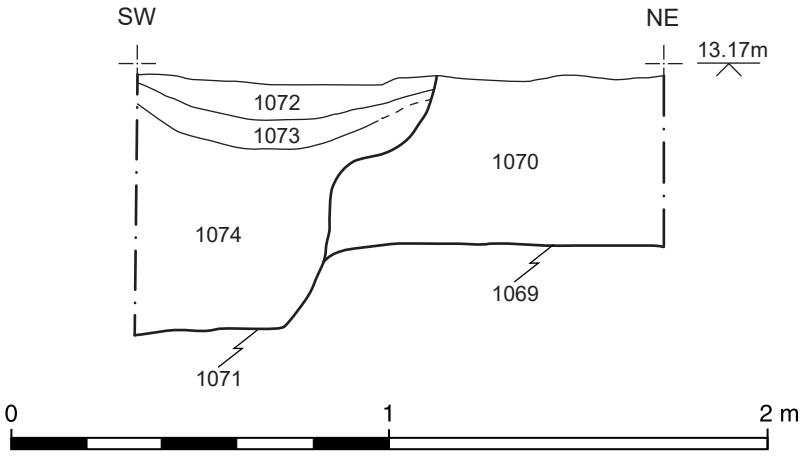
Scale 1:20

Section 14
North-East Facing Section Of 1067



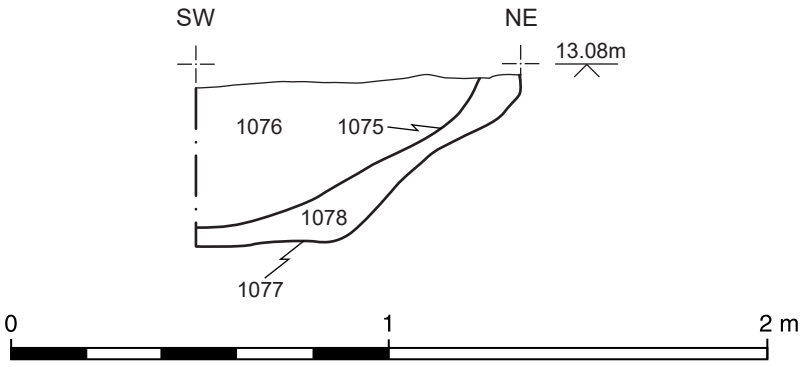
Scale 1:20

Section 15
South-East Facing Section Of 1069 and 1071



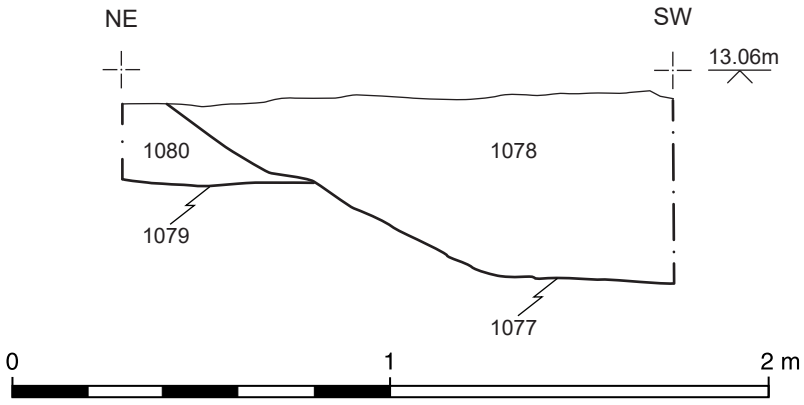
Scale 1:20

Section 16
South-East Facing Section Of 1075 and 1077



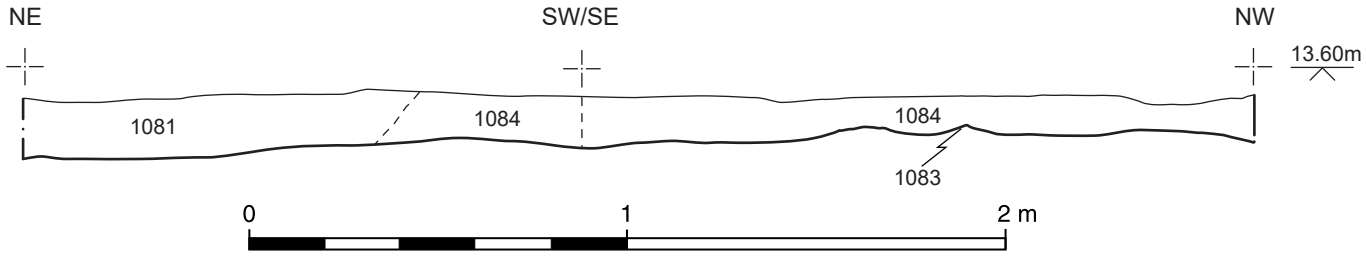
Scale 1:20

Section 17
North-West Facing Section Of 1077 and 1079



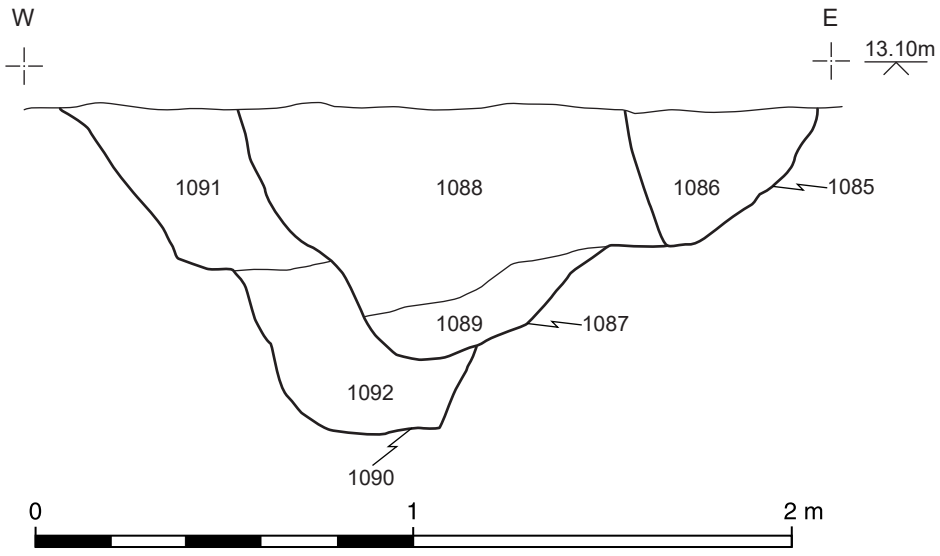
Scale 1:20

Section 18
North-West and North-East Facing Section Of 1083



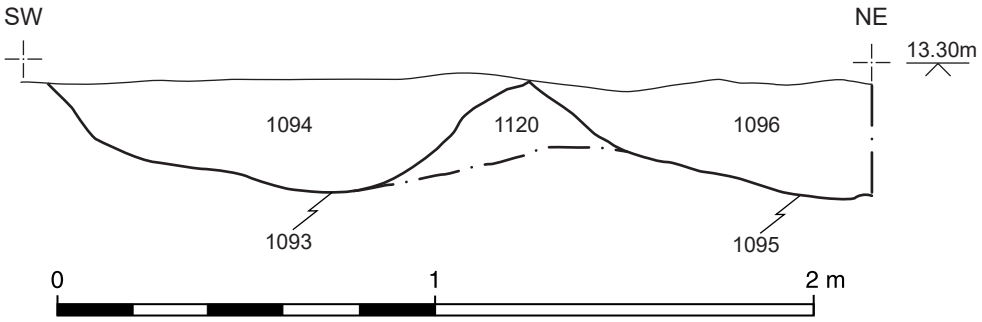
Scale 1:20

Section 19
South Facing Section Of 1085, 1087 and 1090



Scale 1:20

Section 20
South-East Facing Section Of 1093 and 1095



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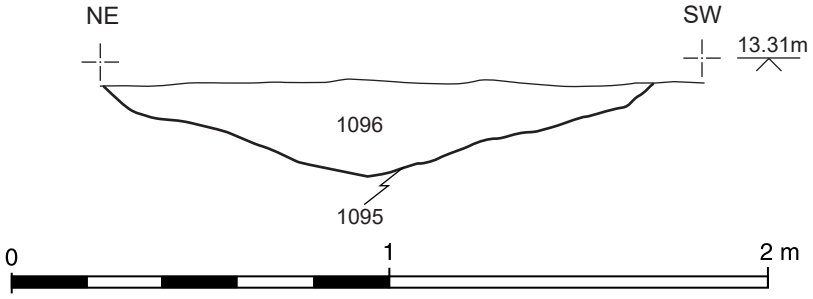
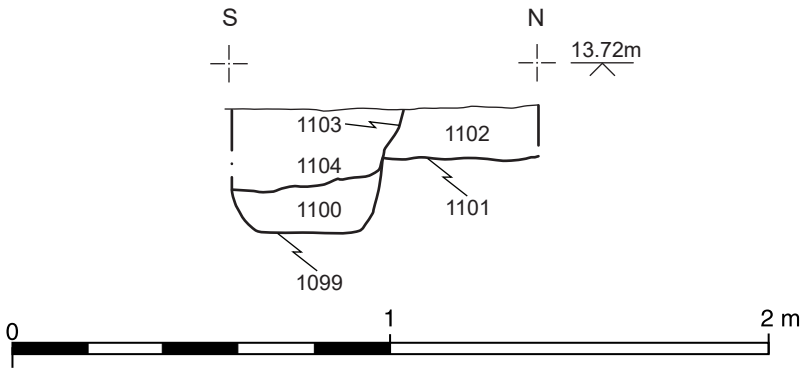
Section 21
North-West Facing Section Of 1095



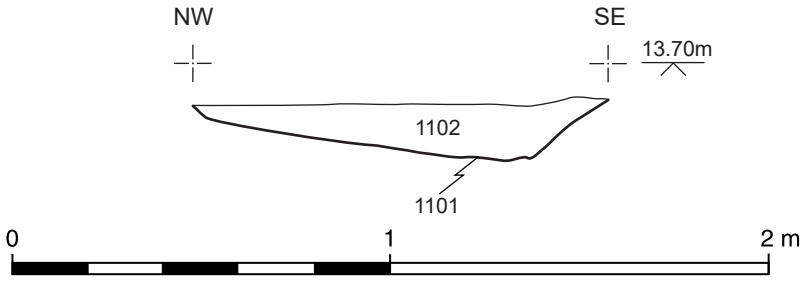
Scale 1:20

Section 22
East Facing Section Of 1099, 1101 and 1103



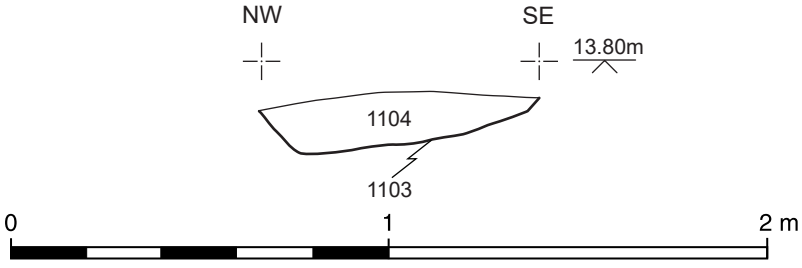
Scale 1:20

Section 23
South-West Facing Section Of 1101



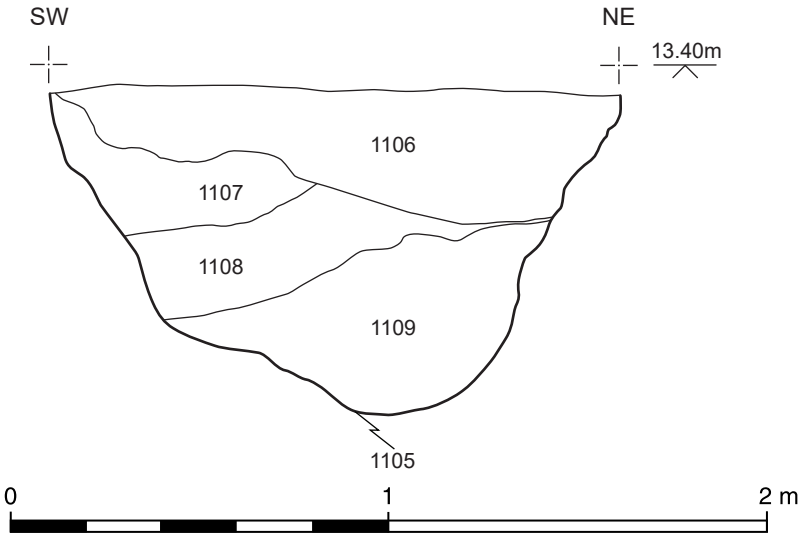
Scale 1:20

Section 24
South-West Facing Section Of 1103



Scale 1:20

Section 25
South-East Facing Section Of 1105



Scale 1:20

APPENDIX 4: SPECIALIST TABLES

Table 3 Pottery in relation to context

Context No.	Likely date of deposition	Count	Weight
1010	Post-Roman?	7	249.7
1012	Post-Roman/medieval?	4	188.6
1014	Late 2nd century	14	126.5
1015	Romano-British	2	58
1017	3rd to 4th century	40	283.1
1019	Mid-Roman (with possibly intrusive medieval sherds)	88	1498.3
1020	Mid to late Roman	83	974.3
1021	Romano-British	7	190.3
1038	Romano-British	5	20.3
1039	Early to mid-Roman	2	19.2
1040	Early to mid-Roman	13	38.4
1041	Romano-British	1	4.3
1049	Early Roman	10	112.1
1051	Romano-British	21	161.5
1053	Romano-British	13	177.7
1058	Early to mid-Roman	3	21.5
1060	Mid-Roman	14	386.1
1068	Mid to late Roman (mostly Early Roman?)	111	2129
1070	Romano-British	14	36
1072	Romano-British	6	24.8
1078	2nd century	14	194.3
1088	Mid-Roman	3	270.4
1091	Mid-Roman	6	50.9
1092	Early to mid-Roman	2	42.5
1094	Mid to late Roman	5	37.4
1102	2nd century	5	53.6
1104	Late 2nd century	1	39.7
1106	Mid-Roman	18	191
1109	Mid-Roman	9	364.1
1111	2nd century	109	2855.8
1114	2nd century	24	1689
1122	Post-Roman	6	12.4
			12500.
	Grand Total	**660**	**8**

Table 4 Romano-British by ware, class, count and weight (in grams)		
Ware and Class	**Count**	**Weight**
Amphorae	*38*	*4742.9*
Baetican amphorae	36	4684
Gaulish amphorae	2	58.9
Amphorae/Coarseware?	***1***	***33.7***
Amphorae/Coarseware	1	33.7
Amphporae/Mortaria?	***3***	***10.5***
Amphporae/Mortaria	3	10.5
Fine wares	***36***	***239***
Samian ware	25	204.6
Colour-coated ware	1	0.9
Lower Nene Valley Colour-coated	2	22.7
Oxidises ware	8	10.8
Mortaria	***3***	***319.1***
Mortaria	3	319.1
Coarse wares	***554***	***6989***
Black-burnished ware	3	81.5
Black-burnished-type	3	17.3
Cream ware	3	4.3
Derbyshire ware	1	4
East Yorkshire Calcite-gritted ware	1	7.2
Ebor ware	7	556
Grog-tempered ware	2	5.9
North Gaulish	1	8.9
Oxidised ware	289	3656
Reduced ware	212	2205.1
Rusticated ware	31	439.5
White ware	1	3.3
Handmade/Coarseware?	***1***	***1.7***
Handmade?	1	1.7
Handmade (prehistoric tradition)	***1***	***10.5***
Handmade	1	10.5
Post-Roman/Medieval	***10***	***28.6***
Post-Roman/Medieval	10	28.6
Ceramic Building Materials	***2***	***88***
Brick/tile	2	88
Fired clay	***9***	***27.4***
Fired clay	9	27.4
Stone	***2***	***10.4***
Stone (marble?)	2	10.4

Table 4 Romano-British by ware, class, count and weight (in grams)		
Ware and Class	**Count**	**Weight**
Grand Total	660	12500.8

Table 5 Pottery Quantification					
Context Number	**Find**	**Quantity**	**Dating**	**Details**	**Group**
1000	BF1	1	Post-medieval	1 post medieval oxidised red earthenware pipkin handle with Low Countries type patchy chestnut glaze large	n/a
1001	BF2	14	2nd century	1 Samian 1 Colour coated 1 Ebor white slipped 6 Ebor bowl abraded 1 Ebor mortaria 4 Ebor type All small and abraded	n/a
1003	BF3	4	Late 13th/early 14th century	2 Brandsby jug small and medium 1 oxidised scrap 1 Gritty ware very smal	n/a
1004	BF4	6	14th/15th century with Roman residual	1 Walmgate type Humber jug base with white slip and green glaze large 1 reduced coarsely gritted small 3 Ebor type scraps 1 white ware scrap	n/a
1010	BF73	7	Post medieval with medieval and Roman	2 Amphora 5 medieval and post medieval including reduced and oxidised wares?	1016
1012	BF74	4	Post medieval with Roman	4 including Amphora medieval and post medieval including reduced and oxidised wares? See report on Roman pottery for details	1017
1014	BF75	14	Late 2nd century with intrusive post medieval	12 Roman 2 Cream ware	1014
1017	BF77	40	3rd to 4th century	20 Reduced ware 1 East Yorkshire Calcite-gritted ware 14 Oxidised ware 1 Black Burnished 1 Colour-coated ware 1 Fired Clay	1014

Table 5 Pottery Quantification					
Context Number	**Find**	**Quantity**	**Dating**	**Details**	**Group**
				1 Derbyshire ware 1 North Gaulish	
1019	BF78	6	mid Roman with intrusive medieval sherds	Mid Roman with possible intrusive medieval sherds – numbers/weight included in Roman Specialists report 6 Splash Glazed, very small. 12th/13th century	1013
1111	BF103	16	Late 13th/early 14th century and Roman	1 Ebor complete flagon rim with white slip, medium 3 Gritty ware including rim with splashed glaze, small 1 fine sandy ware, small, abraded 1 Brandsby with applied pad with pellets, small 2 Beverley 2 type base, large 8 Ebor, abraded, small	1001
1122	BF105	5	12th/13th century	3 oxidised abraded scraps, 1 White Gritty jar base, 1 York ware type, all very small. See report on Roman material for numbers and weights.	1016
2003	BF5	4	18th/19th century and residual medieval	2 North Yorkshire red ware jug small 2 White China medium	n/a
TOTAL		**122**			

Table 6 CBM by form in relation to period				
Period	**Form**	**No. of sherds**	**Weight in grams**	**% of total weight**
Roman	Brick	71	12166	66.8
	Other	2	1470	8.1
	Tegula	4	1320	7.3
Medieval	Brick	2	700	3.8
	Plain	3	238	1.3
Modern	Brick	1	300	1.6
	Field drain	1	2000	11.0

Table 7 CBM in relation to context

Context	Dating	Forms present
1000	13-16th	Plain
1000	13-16th	Plain, Roman brick
1001	13-16th	Plain
1001	13-16th	Plain
1003	13-16th	Plain
1006	14-16th	Medieval brick
1012	1-4th	Roman brick, Tegula
1014	1-4th	Roman brick
1017	1-4th	Roman brick
1019	1-4th	Roman brick
1020	1-4th	Roman brick, Tegula
1038	13-16th	Plain
1039	1-4th	Roman brick
1041	1-4th?	Roman brick?
1049	1-4th	Roman brick
1051	1-4th	Roman brick
1053	1850+	Brick
1059	1-4th	Tegula
1060	1-4th	Roman brick
1068	1-4th	Roman brick
1070	1-4th	Roman brick
1072	1-4th	Roman brick
1076	1-4th	Other, Roman brick
1080	1-4th	Roman brick
1086	1850+	Field drain, Roman brick
1091	1-4th	Roman brick
1092	1-4th	Roman brick
1094	1-4th	Roman brick
1106	1-4th	Roman brick

Table 7 CBM in relation to context		
Context	**Dating**	**Forms present**
1109	1-4th	Roman brick
1111	1-4th	Roman brick
1114	1-4th	Roman brick
2003	14-16th	Medieval brick

Table 8 Animal Bone Assessment			
Context Number	Feature Type	Finds Dating	Bone Details
1019	Ditch	Mixed RB/Medieval	Sheep/goat mandible.
1020	Ditch	RB	Cattle metatarsal
1038	Ditch	RB	Cattle lower molar fragment
1049	Ditch	RB	Sheep/goat astragalus
1059	Ditch	RB	Cattle skull fragments (probably from one skull)
1060	Ditch	RB	Horse radius
1088	Ditch	RB	Cattle 1st phalanx (fused)
1092	Ditch	RB	Cattle scapula (fused at proximal end), femur (fused at distal end)
1111		Mixed RB/Medieval	Cattle mandible, pelvis (fused), calcaneus, metatarsal; Pig mandible (aged 14–21 months)
1114	Well	RB	Cattle skull fragments, humerus, 3 x metatarsals (all fused at distal end); Dog ulna, 2 x metapodial, 1st phalanx (possible part of one skeleton)
2003	Build-up	PM/Modern	Cow tibia (fused at distal end)

Table 9 Structural Timbers

ST No.	Context No.	Description	Recommendation
ST 01	1113	Three fragments of stave or board, non-refitting but probably once part of the same piece of wood. All radially faced conversion, *Quercus spp*., 6 annual rings per 10mm. Abraded surfaces. Ends broken away and missing. Minor surface damage. In three non-refitting sections. (i) 348 l, 112 w, 08 th. (ii) 200 l, 59 w, 06 th. (iii) 55 l, 27 w, 05 th	Discard
ST 02	1112	Board or stave fragment, radially faced conversion. *Quercus spp.* 4-5 annual rings per 10mm. Abraded surfaces. Ends broken away and missing. Minor surface damage. In two refitting sections. 516 l, 89 w, 14 th.	Discard
ST 03	1112	Offcut of radially faced heartwood. *Quercus spp*. 8 annual rings per 10mm. Abraded surfaces. Ends broken away and missing. Minor surface damage. 180 l, 49 w, 15 th.	Discard
ST 04	1112	Section of roundwood, bark present. *Acer campestre L.* 14 annual rings, winter felled. Both ends broken away and missing. Minor surface damage. 210 l, 27 dia.	Discard
ST 05	1112	Section of roundwood, bark present. *Salix spp.* 8 annual rings, winter felled. Both ends broken away and missing. Minor surface damage. 110 l, 30 dia.	Discard
ST 06	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 06 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks on inner face. Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion. 508 l, 113 w, 24 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 07	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 05-07 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks on inner face. Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion with detached but refitting section. 573 l, 122 w, 30 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 08	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced (but nearly tangential) *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 07 w, 05 dp present. Faint axe dressing marks >97 w on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion, with part detached but refitting. 585 l, 100 w, 29 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 09	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 06 w, 05 dp present. Faint axe dressing marks >142 w on inner face.	Retain and conserve

Table 9 Structural Timbers

ST No.	Context No.	Description	Recommendation
		Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Faint knife cut score marks across outer face possibly defining location of hoop. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion with detached but refitting section. 613 l, 131 w, 26 th.	
ST 10	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 06 w, 06 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Knot in edge. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion with detached but refitting section.619 l, 102 w, 33 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 11	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 06 w, 05–07 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks >152 w on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion with three detached but refitting fragments. 619 l, 112 w, 35 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 12	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 06 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Two small knots in same edge. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion. Two detached and non-refitting fragments also present. 618 l, 130 w, 34 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 13	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced (but nearly tangential) *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 07 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks 160 w on inner face. Hewing marks on chime bevel. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Faint knife cut score mark across outer face possibly defining location of hoop. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion. 642 l, 124 w, 30 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 14	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 06 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion. In three refitting sections. 631 l, 101 w, 24 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 15	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 07 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks >100 w on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not	Retain and conserve

Table 9 Structural Timbers			
ST No.	**Context No.**	**Description**	**Recommendation**
		hollowed. Faint knife cut score marks across outer face possibly defining location of hoop. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion.604 l, 118 w, 30 th.	
ST 16	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 06 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks >49 w on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion with two detached but refitting sections. 624 l, 132 w, 26 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 17	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 06 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Faint knife cut score marks across outer face possibly defining location of hoop. Single knot in one edge. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion. 607 l, 108 w, 31 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 18	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 05 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks >150 w on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Faint knife cut score marks across outer face possibly defining location of hoop. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion. 543 l, 130 w, 28 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 19	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 06 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion. 630 l, 129 w, 35 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 20	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 05 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks >120 w on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Faint knife cut score mark across outer face possibly defining location of hoop. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion. 590 l, 111 w, 26 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 21	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 05 w, 04 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks >126 w on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Faint knife cut score marks across outer face	Retain and conserve

Table 9 Structural Timbers			
ST No.	**Context No.**	**Description**	**Recommendation**
		possibly defining location of hoop. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion. 575 l, 136 w, 24 th.	
ST 22	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 05 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks >120 w on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion. Accidental modern cut across inner face of stave incurred during excavation. 616 l, 127 w, 28 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 23	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 07 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks >75 w on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Hewn facets on chime bevel. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion. 616 l, 145 w, 29 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 24	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 05 w, 04 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks >169 w on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Faint knife cut score marks across outer face possibly defining location of hoop. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion. 580 l, 134 w, 31 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 25	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 05 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks >140 w on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Faint knife cut score marks across outer face possibly defining location of hoop. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage, much of one edge lost. Upper end lost to erosion. 599 l, 105 w, 21 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 26	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 05 w, 06 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion. 643 l, 116 w, 29 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 27	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 05 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks >100 w on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Faint knife cut score marks across outer face possibly defining location of hoop. Fair, abraded surfaces.	Retain and conserve

Table 9 Structural Timbers			
ST No.	**Context No.**	**Description**	**Recommendation**
		Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion. 544 l, 102 w, 23 th.	
ST 28	1112	Cask stave cut from radially faced *Abies alba Mill.* heartwood. Chime bevel and howel, with sub rectangular cross section croze groove 07 w, 05 dp present. Very faint axe dressing marks >110 w on inner face. Planed edges, Outer face backed, inner face not hollowed. Faint knife cut score marks across outer face possibly defining location of hoop. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Upper end lost to erosion. 593 l, 126 w, 23 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 29	1112	Part of cask hoop from outside of cask 1112. Cut from *Corylus avellana L.* roundwood, bark present, 7 annual rings, late spring felled. Single face trimmed to create flat surface to rest against surface of cask staves. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Both ends broken away and missing. In five refitting sections. 378 l, 28 w, 20 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 30	1112	Part of cask hoop from outside of cask 1112. Cut from *Corylus avellana L.* roundwood, bark present, 8 annual rings, late spring felled. Single face trimmed to create flat surface to rest against surface of cask staves. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Both ends broken away and missing. In three refitting sections. 363 l, 20 w, 17 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 31	1112	Part of cask hoop from outside of cask 1112. Cut from *Corylus avellana L.* halved roundwood, bark present, 6 annual rings, late spring felled. Single face trimmed to create flat surface to rest against surface of cask staves. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Both ends broken away and missing. In two refitting sections. 324 l, 30 w, 15 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 32	1112	Part of cask hoop from outside of cask 1112. Cut from *Corylus avellana L.* tangentially faced roundwood, no bark present, 9 annual rings, late spring felled. Single face trimmed to create flat surface to rest against surface of cask staves and outer face trimmed away to create near sub rectangular cross section with waney edges. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Both ends broken away and missing. In four refitting sections. 267 l, 47 w, 18 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 33	1114	Offcut from boxed radial conversion *Quercus spp.* timber. Truncated through mortice in face .55 l, > 35 w. From a timber frame but no evidence of fixings or fittings. 112 l, 58 w, 40 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 34	1114	Offcut from boxed radial *Quercus spp.* timber. Both ends cut to length. 106 l, 40 w, 35 th.	Discard
ST 35	1114	Lath or peg cut from tangentially faced *Fraxinus excelsior L.* heartwood. Sub rectangular cross section with parallel edges, each of which is roughly hewn at one end to create a blunt tip. 195 l, 29 w, 15 th.	Retain and conserve

Table 9 Structural Timbers			
ST No.	**Context No.**	**Description**	**Recommendation**
ST 36	1114	Tangentially faced, near box quartered conversion timber cut from *Quercus spp.* heartwood with partial sapwood present. Sub rectangular cross section at one end, with several hewn facets cut to transform into a sub circular cross section at the other end. Possibly a large, crude peg or a short leg from a table of stool? 200 l, 56 w, 42 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 37	1114	Wedge cut from tangentially faced *Alnus spp.* timber. One face hewn to create continuous taper towards sub rectangular cross section thinner end. Both edges parallel. 103 l, 43 w, 23 th.	Retain and conserve
ST 38	1111	Offcut of boxed radial conversion *Acer campestre L.* timber, from outer edge of parent tree. Sapwood and bark present. No surviving toolmarks. 157 l, 49 w, 44 th.	Discard
ST 39	1114	57 sections of roundwood extracted. 23 *Salix spp*; 15 *Acer campestre L.*; 9 *Fraxinus excelsior L.*; *6 Populus spp.;* 1 each *Corylus avellana L*; *Pinus sylvestris L*; *Prunus spp.; Sambucus nigra L.* Where a felling season can be identified, 27 were winter felled, 21 Spring felled and five early spring felled.	Discard
ST 40		10 assorted fragments of *Quercus spp*. offcuts and chippings, including board trimmings.	Discard
ST 32	1112	Part of cask hoop from outside of cask 1112. Cut from *Corylus avellana L.* tangentially faced roundwood, no bark present, 9 annual rings, late spring felled. Single face trimmed to create flat surface to rest against surface of cask staves and outer face trimmed away to create near sub rectangular cross section with waney edges. Fair, abraded surfaces. Minor surface damage. Both ends broken away and missing. In four refitting sections. 267 l, 47 w, 18 th.	Retain and conserve

Botanical identification:	**Common English name:**
Abies alba Mill.	Silver Fir
Acer campestre L.	Field Maple
Corylus avellana L.	Hazel
Fraxinus excelsior L.	Ash
Populus spp.	Poplars, exact species not determinable
Prunus spp.	Stone Fruits- Cherries, Blackthorn and similar.
Quercus spp.	Oaks, exact species not determinable
Salix spp.	Willow, exact species not determinable
Sambucus nigra L.	Elder

Table 10 Small Finds Assessment

Code	Xray	Context	SF	Material	Object	Extent	Condition
6087	9748	1114	1	Copper Alloy	Coin	Complete	Good
6087	9748	1068	9	Iron	Knife	Fragment	Reasonable
6087	9748	1020	3	Iron	Nail	Fragment	Reasonable
6087	9748	1025	4	Iron	Nail	Fragment	Reasonable
6087	9748	1040	5	Iron	Nail	Incomplete	Reasonable
6087	9748	1072	7	Iron	Nail	Fragment	Reasonable
6087	9748	1106	8	Iron	Nail	Incomplete	Reasonable
6087	9748	1053	6	Iron	Slag	Complete	Reasonable
6087	9748	1017	2	Copper Alloy	Strip	Complete	Reasonable
6087		1014	10	Iron	Tack	Fragment	Reasonable
6087		1020	11	Iron	Stud	Fragment	Reasonable

Table 11 Glass Fragments

Context	Description	Count	Weight
1091	Pale blue fragment	1	5g
1114	Pale blue fragment	1	4g

Table 12 Dry flot assessment from bulk environmental samples from Regency Mews

Quantification: * = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-150, **** = 151-250, ***** = >250. Preservation: + = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good. Key: ARN = average ring number, PDS = post-depositional sediment, RC = radial cracks, RW = roundwood, V = vitrified.

Sample Number	Context	Context/ Deposit Type and Parent Context	Sample Volume (L)	Sub-Sample Volume Processed (L)	Flot Weight (g)	Flot Volume (ml)	Volume Scanned (ml)	Uncharred (%)	Seeds Uncharred	Preservation	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal Identifications	Preservation	Cereal Remains Charred	Preservation	Weed Seeds Charred	Preservation	Worm Capsules	Insect Remains	Fishbone & Microfauna	Coal	Wood Fragments	Organic Detritus	Modern Roots
<1>	1122	Furrow [1121]	20	20	4	18	18	99					*										*	**		***
<2>	1008	Land Drain [1007]	10	10	1	7	7	100																*		***
<3>	1010	Ditch [1009]	20	20	4	22	22	99					**										***	**		*****
<4>	1014	Upper Fill of Ditch [1013]	10	10	<1	<1	<1	99					**													***
<5>	1015	Lower Fill of Ditch [1013]	10	10	<1	3	3	99					**													***
<6>	1020	Ditch [1016]	20	20	<1	4	4	99					**			*Triticum* sp. (4)	++									****

Table 12 Dry flot assessment from bulk environmental samples from Regency Mews

Quantification: * = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-150, **** = 151-250, ***** = >250. Preservation: + = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good. Key: ARN = average ring number, PDS = post-depositional sediment, RC = radial cracks, RW = roundwood, V = vitrified.

Sample Number	Context	Context/ Deposit Type and Parent Context	Sample Volume (L)	Sub-Sample Volume Processed (L)	Flot Weight (g)	Flot Volume (ml)	Volume Scanned (ml)	Uncharred (%)	Seeds Uncharred	Preservation	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal Identifications	Preservation	Cereal Remains Charred	Preservation	Weed Seeds Charred	Preservation	Worm Capsules	Insect Remains	Fishbone & Microfauna	Coal	Wood Fragments	Organic Detritus	Modern Roots
<7>	1019	Ditch [1018]	20	20	2	5	5	99					**			*Triticum* sp. (4) *Triticum spelta* w/glume (2)	+++				*		*			***
<8>	1021	Ditch [1022]	40	40	6	49	49	95	*Chenopodium album* *			*	**										**			**
<9>	1068	Spot Find near Vessel in Ditch [1067]	10	10	1	10	10	80				**	***	*Quercus* sp. (8) [ARN:3, PDS:5, RC:2] *Prunus* sp. (2) [ARN:4, RW:1, PDS:2]	++	*Triticum* sp. germinated (3) *Triticum* sp. (1) *Triticum* sp. glume base (2)	+++	*Raphanus raphanistrum* seed capule (1)	+++						****

Table 12 Dry flot assessment from bulk environmental samples from Regency Mews

Quantification: * = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-150, **** = 151-250, ***** = >250. Preservation: + = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good. Key: ARN = average ring number, PDS = post-depositional sediment, RC = radial cracks, RW = roundwood, V = vitrified.

Sample Number	Context	Context/ Deposit Type and Parent Context	Sample Volume (L)	Sub-Sample Volume Processed (L)	Flot Weight (g)	Flot Volume (ml)	Volume Scanned (ml)	Uncharred (%)	Seeds Uncharred	Preservation	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal Identifications	Preservation	Cereal Remains Charred	Preservation	Weed Seeds Charred	Preservation	Worm Capsules	Insect Remains	Fishbone & Microfauna	Coal	Wood Fragments	Organic Detritus	Modern Roots
																T.spelta w/spikelet (2) *Avena sativa* w/floret base (2)										
<10>	1068	Ditch [1067]	20	20	3	12	12	99					**	*Quercus* sp. (6) [ARN:4, PDS:3, RC:1, V:1] *Fraxinus excelsior* (1) [ARN:2, PDS:1] Indet.	+	*Triticum* sp. germinated (2) *Triticum* sp. (5)	+++									***

Table 12 Dry flot assessment from bulk environmental samples from Regency Mews

Quantification: * = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-150, **** = 151-250, ***** = >250. Preservation: + = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good. Key: ARN = average ring number, PDS = post-depositional sediment, RC = radial cracks, RW = roundwood, V = vitrified.

Sample Number	Context	Context/ Deposit Type and Parent Context	Sample Volume (L)	Sub-Sample Volume Processed (L)	Flot Weight (g)	Flot Volume (ml)	Volume Scanned (ml)	Uncharred (%)	Seeds Uncharred	Preservation	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal Identifications	Preservation	Cereal Remains Charred	Preservation	Weed Seeds Charred	Preservation	Worm Capsules	Insect Remains	Fishbone & Microfauna	Coal	Wood Fragments	Organic Detritus	Modern Roots
														(3) [PDS:3, D:3, V:3]												
<14>	1089	Ditch [1087]	10	10	4	5	5	100																		**
<18>	1111	Well [1110]	40	30	123	632	100	99	*Sambucus nigra* ** *Rubus* sp. *** *Urtica* sp. *** *Chenopodium album* **	+++		*	**							**	**			*** **	*****	
<21>	1114	Well [1110]	50	40	156	750	100	95	*Chenopodium album* ** *Sambucus nigra* ** *Ranunculus* sp. * *Rubus idaeus* ** *Fragaria* sp. * *Silene dioica* * *Corylus avellana* nut shell *	+++	*	*	*				*Triticum* sp. (2) *Cerealia* indet. (1)	+ +			**	** **	*		*** **	*****	

Table 13 Wet flot assessment from bulk environmental samples from Regency Mews

Quantification: * = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-150, **** = 151-250, ***** = >250. Preservation: + = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good. Key: ARN = average ring number, RW = roundwood, KW = knotwood, LD = lignitic degradation.

Sample Number	Context	Context/ Deposit Type and Parent Context	Sample Volume	Sub-Sample Processed	Fraction Size	Sub-Sample Scanned (%)	Waterlogged Macrobotanical Remains	Preservation	Charred Macrobotanical Remains	Preservation	Wood	Notes on Wood	Wood Identifications	Preservation	Charcoal	Insect Remains	Worm Capsules	Fishbone/	Burnt Bone	Leather	Pot	CBM
<18>	(1111)	Upper Fill of Well [1110]	40	2	>4mm	100					**	Roundwood pieces with bark and chip-like fragments too small for ID.			*				*		*	
					2-4mm	100					**				*		*					*
					500µm-2mm	50	*Sambucus nigra* (3) *Rubus idaeus* (2)	+++			***				**	*	**		*			*
					250-500µm	10					****				***	*						
<19>	(1111)	Spot Sample from Amphora Neck & Surrounding Cess in Well [1110]	2.5	2.5	>4mm	100	*Corylus avellana* nut shell (1)	+++			***	Chip-like fragments, bark and roundwood too small for ID.			*						*	
					2-4mm	100	*Corylus avellana* nut shell (1)	+++			***				*				*			
					500µm-2mm	50	*Carex* spp. 2-sided (2) *Rubus* sp. (1)	++			****				**		**		*			
					250-500µm	50					****				****							
<21>	(1114)	Lower Fill of Well [1110]		2	>4mm	100	*Prunus cerasus*-type (1)	+++			**	Knotted wood, chip-like fragments and roundwood.	*Fraxinus excelsior* (1) [ARN:6, RW:1] *Quercus* sp. (1) [ARN:1, KW:1] Indet. (1) [LD:1]	++	*			*		*		*
					2-4mm	100	Bud (2)	+++	*Hordeum vulgare* (2)	+++	***				**			**	*			**
					500µm-2mm	50	*Chenopodium album* (1) *Ranunculus* sp. (1) *Rubus idaeus* (4) *Fragaria* sp. (1) *Silene dioica* (1)	+++			***				***		**	**				***
					250-500µm	20					****				****		*					**

Table 14 Results of the pollen assessment

	Sample number	18	21
	Context number	1111	1114
Latin name	Common name		
Trees			
Alnus	alder	6	
Pinus	pine		3
Quercus	oak	2	1
Tilia	lime	1	3
Shrubs			
Calluna vulgaris	heather	4	2
Corylus type	hazel	6	8
Herbs			
Artemisia	mugwort		2
Asteraceae	daisy family		1
Caryophyllaceae	pink family	2	3
Centaurea nigra	black knapweed	2	
cf Cereale type	cereal	1	
Cyperaceae	sedge family	1	
Lactuceae	dandelion family	10	2
Poaceae	grass family	6	6
Sinapis type	brassica	1	
Aquatics			
Spores			
Filicales	ferns	2	
Polypodium vulgare	polypody fern	1	2
Sphagnum	sphagnum moss	3	
Other			

Table 14 Results of the pollen assessment

	Sample number	18	21
	Context number	1111	1114
Latin name	Common name		
Trichuris eggs	whipworm egg	2	
Total Land Pollen (grains counted)		42	31
Concentration*		5	5
Preservation**		3	3
Microcharcoal Concentration***		4	3
Suitable for further analysis		YES	

Key: *Concentration: 0 = 0 grains; 1 =1-75 grains, 2 = 76-150 grains, 3 =151-225 grains, 4 = 226-300, 5 =300+ grains per slide; **Preservation: 0 = absent; 1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = moderate; 4 = good; 5 = excellent; ***Microcharcoal Concentration: 0 = none, 1= negligible, 2 = occasional, 3 = moderate, 4 = frequent, 5 = abundant

YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AND STRIP, MAP AND RECORD

Site Location: **27 St Helens Road, Abbeyfield, York, YO24 1HR**

NGR: **SE 58618 49695**

Proposal: **Erection of part two/part three storey building comprising 17 extra care flats and 8 dementia care flats following demolition of 27 St Helen's Road.**

Planning ref: **17/01419/FULM**

Prepared for: **Abbeyfield Society (York) Ltd**

Document Number: **2018/126**

Version	Produced by		Edited by		Approved by	
	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date
1	AS	28/08/2018	BR	29/08/2018	BR	29/08/2018
2	AS	28/08/2018	BR	30/08/2018	BR	30/08/2018
3	AS	28/08/2018	BR	27/09/2018	BR	27/09/2018
4	-	-	BS	19/10/18	IDM	19/10/18
5	AS	28/08/18	BR	12/12/18	BR	18/12/18

1 SUMMARY

1.1 Abbeyfield Society (York) Ltd have received planning consent for a part two/part three story building to be used as 17 care flats and 8 dementia care flats at 27 St Helens Road (SE 58618 49695; Figure 1). The scheme will include the demolition of 27 St Helens Road followed by the construction of the new building.

1.2 The following archaeological condition has been imposed:

A programme of post-determination archaeological evaluation using strip, map and record [SMR] *method is required on this site. The archaeological scheme comprises 3-5 stages of work. Each stage shall be completed and approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) before it can be discharged.*

A) No archaeological evaluation or development/demolition shall take place/commence until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the local

planning authority in writing. The WSI should conform to standards set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

B) The site investigation and post investigation assessment shall be completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition will be secured. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.

C) A copy of a report on the evaluation and an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on any of the archaeological remains identified in the evaluation shall be deposited with City of York Historic Environment Record to allow public dissemination of results within ***6 weeks*** *of completion or such other period as may be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.*

D) Where archaeological features and deposits are identified proposals for the preservation in-situ, or for the investigation, recording and recovery of archaeological remains and the publishing of findings shall be submitted as an amendment to the original WSI. It should be understood that there shall be presumption in favour of preservation in-situ wherever feasible.

E) No development shall take place until:
- details in D have been approved and implemented on site
- provision has been made for analysis, dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured
- a copy of a report on the archaeological works detailed in Part D should be deposited with City of York Historic Environment Record within [insert timescale] of completion or such other period as may be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

This condition is imposed in accordance with Section 12 of NPPF.
Reason: The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Interest. An investigation is required to identify the presence and significance of archaeological features and deposits and ensure that archaeological features and deposits are either recorded or, if of national importance, preserved insitu. A programme of post-determination archaeological mitigation specifically a watching brief is required on this site.
The archaeological scheme comprises 3 stages of work. Each stage shall be completed and approved by the Local Planning Authority before it can be discharged.

A) No demolition/development shall take place until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a watching brief has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI. The WSI should conform to standards set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

B) The site investigation and post investigation assessment shall be completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition will be secured. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.

C) A copy of a report (or publication if required) shall be deposited with City of York Historic Environment Record to allow public dissemination of results within [3 months] of completion or

such other period as may be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. This condition is imposed in accordance with Section 12 of NPPF.

Reason: The site lies outside of the Area of Archaeological Importance but is considered to be a site of Archaeological Interest. Therefore, the development may affect important archaeological deposits which must be recorded prior to destruction.

1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared in response to a brief supplied by Claire MacRae, Heritage Project Officer for City of York Council. The work will be carried out in accordance with the Brief and this WSI, and according to the principles of the Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Code of Conduct and all relevant standards and guidance.

2 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

2.1 The proposed site is located at 27 St Helens Road, Abbeyfield, York, YO24 1HR (Figure 1).

2.2 The site lies approximately 3.25km south-west of York centre. It is bounded to the north by buildings fronting onto St Helen's Road, to the east by three-storey flats fronting Calcaria Cresent and to the south by buildings fronting onto Regency Mews. At the western end of the site is Abbeyfield House.

2.3 The underlying solid geology is Sherwood Sandstone Group - Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 237 to 272 million years ago in the Triassic and Permian Periods. The superficial geology straddles York Moraine Member - Sand, Clayey, Gravelly deposits to the south east and Alne Glaciolacustrine Formation - Clay, Silty to the north west (www.bgs.ac.uk – accessed 28/08/18). Both of these superficial deposits were formed 2 million year ago in the Quaternary Period, this was when the local environment was dominated by ice age conditions.

3 DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS

3.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings within the area of the development. It also lies just outside of the Area of Archaeological Importance. The site is approximately 100m west of the Tadcaster Road Conservation Area (DYO1706).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

4.1 Archaeological investigations

Several archaeological investigations have happened in and around the proposed site (Figure 2). A watching brief was carried out on groundworks for the foundations of Abbeyfield House directly west of the proposed site in 1998 (Macnab 1998) when a concentration of Roman period ditches was found in the northern end of the trench, each running parallel aligned north-west / south-east. The re-cut ditches were interpreted by Macnab as a Roman land boundary re-established multiple times. The features extended beyond the 1989 excavation area towards the area of the proposed site (Figure 2).

A major excavation was undertaken subsequent to the demolition of the former Starting Gate public house to the east of the proposed site in 2003 (Figure 2). The Starting Gate site

was first trial-trenched by YAT in 1996 (Hunter-Mann 1996), and a larger excavation was undertaken in 2003 (McComish 2003) (Figure 1). Four phases of Roman remains were identified. The first phase was the establishment of the Roman road (RCHME Road 10). This was followed by a phase of intensive building and occupation of structures, followed by a less intense period of occupation accompanied by agricultural activity with some possible furnace residue indicating the possibility of smithing. In the final phase were a number of scattered post-holes and pits indicating continued lower-level land use. Artefactual evidence suggested little activity occurred after the mid-3rd century, towards the end of the Roman period. A major discovery was that of remains of Road 10 located further east than expected, nearer the modern-day Tadcaster Road.

To the north-east of the proposed site a series of Roman burials and stone coffins were found in the 18th and 19th century. A series of trial trenches were excavated in 1995 (Finlayson 1995) in which more Roman ditches, a pit and a possible construction cut were found (Figure 2).

In October 2018, alongside geotechnical ground investigations, YAT dug and recorded three 1.8m x 5m trenches to characterise the deposit sequence within the footprint of the proposed development and guide the subsequent strip, map and record investigations (Boast 2018; YAT report 2018/154). In consideration of the diverse archaeological evidence previously found around the site, the three trenches were to test whether any remains there might be are similar to those found at Abbeyfield House in 1998 or to the former Starting Gate site of 2003 and therefore more complex. The investigation shows that the level of 'natural' glacial deposits at the proposed site are variable (Table 1). This may reflect the natural contours of the post-glacial landscape but could be the result of quarrying for sand, gravel or clay. A considerable deposition of soil and subsoil of variable thickness covers the entire area of proposed building (Table 1).

4.2 Prehistoric

The evidence for prehistoric activity in the area is limited, however five Neolithic polished stone axes have been found within the Dringhouses area and a number of pre-Roman features were identified at the Former Starting Gate public house excavation in 2003 (McComish 2003; McComish 2004). It has also been suggested that the path the Roman road that runs along on the ridge of the glacial moraine could also have been an earlier route used from the Bronze Age and through the Iron Age (Margary 1973).

4.3 Roman

There is extensive evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity, a civilian settlement is believed to have been located along the Roman road (Hunter-Mann 1996; McComish 2003). Assessment of the former Starting Gate Public House investigations indicate successive phases of roman activity on the site, from the earliest agricultural deposits and boundary ditches to the 2nd century buildings, which were all focused around the roman road (McComish 2004). Considering the evidence for settlement, the Roman road (RCHME Road 10), ditches/land division and a cemetery around the site there is a high likelihood of Roman deposits occurring on the site.

A number of Roman burials located alongside the Roman road have been discovered in the Dringhouses area. These include a small cemetery near the junction of St Helen's Road with Tadcaster Road, the full extent of which is currently unknown, a stone coffin from the yard

of the Cross Keys Inn and four other stone coffins from Dringhouses which were found in the 18th and 19th centuries (RCHMY1, 107). A further Roman burial was excavated at The Fox Public House, which was renamed The Fox and Roman in its honour (Macnab 1997, 29). This burial was aligned north-east / south-west i.e. parallel to the Roman road. In addition, a pottery face vase from the St Helen's Road area may have originally been from a burial (RCHMY1, 107). A single burial of possible pre-Roman or early Roman date was identified at the former site of the Starting Gate Public House in 2003 (McComish 2003, 23). Given the number of burials formerly recovered in the vicinity of the site there is a strong possibility that human remains might be discovered at Regency Mews. As well as the Roman burials, the excavations at former Fox Public house revealed archaeological deposits from 0.5m BGL which were largely Roman occupational features with a small amount of medieval and post-medieval features. The Roman activity included ditches, agricultural plough soil and a cobble path (Macnab 1997).

4.4 Medieval

The evidence from the early medieval period is limited, from the derivation of the name Dringhouses could be old English 'dreng' a free tenant holding or 'drengr' a young man or servant (Macnab 1998). A series of possible medieval stakeholes were encountered in an evaluation trench at 26–30 Regency Mews as well as ditch; these features may also have been post-medieval in date and were cut into the natural (Johnson 1997). There is also early documentary evidence placing Dringhouses in the detached parish of Holy Trinity, Micklegate this suggests that it could have been an early medieval settlement or even an Anglo-Scandinavian parish that was the precursor to Holy Trinity Priory.

4.5 Post-medieval

In the post-medieval period Dringhouses was an agricultural village with strip-holdings that were most likely made during the medieval period. Evidence of post-medieval quarrying was encountered at 26–30 Regency Mews that vastly reduced the AOD at which natural was encountered as well as truncating earlier archaeology. In undisturbed areas of the trench natural (and the archaeological horizon) was encountered at 0.3m BGL while in the quarried areas this was in excess of 1.5m BGL (Johnson 1997). On old OS maps of the area the site is labelled as Manor house meaning it may have been its own manor within the area. The OS maps also show the parish boundaries of the Holy Trinity Micklegate as well as some strips within the parish of Acomb. Before the current buildings were constructed on and around the site was tennis courts until the 1970s.

5 GROUNDWORKS TO BE MONITORED

5.1 The committee report for planning application **17/01419/FULM** has conditions a strip, map and record (SMR) and watching brief (WB) on groundworks associated with this development.

5.2 The client has commissioned YAT to undertake preliminary investigations to inform the fulfilment of archaeological conditions for the development. The three evaluation trenches carried out in November 2018 (YAT 2018/154) identified the top of shallow Roman ditches at the following depths: Trench 1, 12.87m OD; Trench 2, 13.13m OD; Trench 3, 13.87m OD. The features found were similar to those identified in YAT excavation for the present Abbeyfield House in 1998 (and most likely the eastern end of the same features). Both the

1998 excavation and the 2018 evaluation trenches found a substantial depth of agricultural soil sits above the archaeological features and that Roman features appeared to have been truncated by medieval and later ploughing.

5.3 Number 27 St Helens Road will be demolished and its footings grubbed out by the Principal Contractor. A watching brief will be maintained by a YAT archaeologist on this element of the works. Archaeological recording will be undertaken as set out in Section 7 below.

5.4 The area of SMR investigation (Figure 2) will subsequently be stripped of turf, topsoil and overburden (made ground), by the Principal Contractor under archaeological supervision.

5.5 The deposit sequence recorded during the October 2018 evaluation trenches indicates that it should be possible to rapidly strip 'made ground' without impacting on any known buried archaeological remains. The SMR area comprises three rectangular areas in plan; one to the west, a central, and a southern area. The Principal contractor should be able to strip to a depth of around 13.20m OD in the western third of the SMR area, rising to 14.23m OD in the middle third and 14.00m OD in the southern third (see Figure 2). Once the 'made ground' has been removed the pace and depth of stripping through any subsoil, down to the top of archaeological remains will be guided by the archaeologist to expose the top of archaeological deposits. It is estimated that this initial process would take 2 weeks with the spoil being hauled away by the principal contractor.

5.6 The strip, map and record area must be stripped using a suitable mechanical 360 digger fitted with a toothless bucket (for exposing the archaeological remains this should be a 6ft ditching bucket, however a range of smaller toothless buckets should also be available) by a competent operator capable of producing a clean, flat surface for archaeological inspection. The stripping of this area will be monitored by a YAT field archaeologist at all times. Areas will be cleaned by the archaeologist(s) as necessary to allow any archaeological features to be identified. Recording will be undertaken as set out in Section 7 below.

5.7 The Principal Contractor will dig initially to the top of subsoil under archaeological supervision, digging will then continue in spits under archaeological supervision until the top of archaeological remains or natural is identified.

- In the western third of the SMR area (see Figure 2), where evaluation Trench 1 and CP1 were dug, the present ground level is at approximately 13.51m OD (Table 1).

  Here we anticipate the Principal Contractor will be able to dig to a depth of approximately 13.20m OD (0.31m below present ground level).

  Below this depth the digging should proceed carefully in spits of around 100mm until the top of archaeological deposits/features is identified by the archaeologist; from the levels seen in Trench 1 and CP1 this is likely to be at around 13.00m OD–12.80m OD.

- In the middle third of the SMR area (see Figure 2), where the bulk of the existing building stands at the time of writing, the present ground level is at around 14.59m OD (Table 1).

  In this area, close to where Trench 3 and CP 3 were dug, we anticipate the Principal Contractor will be able to dig to a depth of approximately 14.23m OD (0.36m below present ground level) the depth of subsoil observed in Trench 3.

From this level digging should proceed carefully in 100mm spits until the top of archaeological features or deposits which we anticipate will be at a level of 13.87m OD (around 0.8m below present ground level). It is anticipated that considerable disturbance caused by the construction of the existing building may have impacted on any below-ground remains there may have been in this area.

- In the southern third of the SMR area (see Figure 2), where Trench 2 and CP 2 were dug, the present ground level is at around 14.59m OD (Table 1).

  In this area we anticipate the Principal Contractor will be able to dig initially to a depth of around 14.00m (0.72m below present ground level) (Table 1).

  From this point digging should continue carefully in spits of 100mm. The deposit sequence recorded in evaluation Trench 2 suggests the potential to continue down to 13.20m OD (0.6m below present ground level) as nothing other than modern ground make-up was was found until natural was exposed at a depth of 13.13m OD –however, it is possible this reflects a localised area of modern disturbance and caution is advised.

5.8 Additional archaeologists will be brought in to rapidly clean and record any archaeological deposits and features to the specifications set out in Section 7.

5.9 An appointment will be made for John Oxley and Claire MacRae, City of York Archaeologists, to visit the site and monitor and approve the archaeological recording.

5.10 Three weeks should be allowed from when the full area is stripped for archaeological excavation and recording to be completed.

5.11 Once the archaeological recording is complete and the CYC Principal Archaeologists are satisfied that the excavation and recording is satisfactory, the Principal Contractor will be able to complete the ground reduction to the required formation level.

5.12 An archaeological watching brief will be maintained on any other areas of the site where ground will be penetrated such as for service trenches, lift pits, attenuation tanks, crane bases, etc.

6 DELAYS TO THE DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

6.1 All earth-moving machinery must be operated at an appropriate speed and with sufficient finesse to allow the archaeologist to recognise, record and retrieve any archaeological deposits and material.

6.2 Archaeological monitoring should not unduly delay site works. However, the archaeologist on site must be given opportunity to observe, clean, assess and, where appropriate hand excavate, sample and record any exposed features and finds. In order to fulfil the requirements of this WSI, it may be necessary to slow or halt the earth-moving activity to enable proper recording of the archaeology.

6.3 Plant or excavators shall not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded and the archaeologist on site has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.

7 RECORDING METHODOLOGY

7.1 **STRIP, MAP AND RECORD**:

The area to be subjected to 'strip, map and record' investigation will be defined by the footprint of the proposed development as shown in Figure 3. The strip, map and record investigation will cover the full footprint of the building plus an estimated additional 1000mm from the outside edge of the outer wall of the building, within which the ground level will be reduced as described in detail in Section 5.

7.2 **WATCHING BRIEF:**

All other areas to be monitored under watching brief conditions will be determined using the final foundation design and in liaison with the client. If a plan is not available, or the watching brief work involves monitoring of long linear works, interventions which are not mapped, or large open areas, the location of the monitoring will be determined using a hand-held GPS.

7.3 **RECORDING:**

Unique context numbers will only be assigned if artefacts are retrieved, or stratigraphic relationships between archaeological deposits are discernible. In archaeologically 'sterile' areas, soil layers will be described, but no context numbers will be assigned. Where assigned, each context will be described in full on a pro forma context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions.

7.4 Archaeological deposits will be planned using a Leica GPS accurate to +/- 100mm, with individual/discrete features requiring greater detail being hand planned at a scale of 1:20 from a GPS baseline. Cross-sections of features will be drawn to a basic scale of 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. All drawings will be related to Ordnance Datum. Where it aids interpretation, structural remains will also be recorded in elevation. All drawings will be drawn on inert materials. All drawings will adhere to accepted drawing conventions

7.5 Photographs of archaeological deposits and features will be taken. This will include general views of entire features and of details such as sections as considered necessary. All site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines.

7.6 Archaeological features will be planned and excavated in a controlled stratigraphic manner. Features will be investigated using the following sampling strategies:

Linear features; a minimum of 10% of the length of the feature will be excavated (minimum 1.0m if less than 10m in length). Intersections will be excavated in such a way to show stratigraphic relationships.

Discrete features; will initially be half sectioned to provide a complete profile and at least 50% of the feature should be excavated. Full excavation of a feature may be appropriate, but will take place following consultation with John Oxley (City Archaeologist CYC).

Structures (houses, kilns, hearths); will be 50% excavated in the first instance. Full single-context excavation of features may be appropriate depending on the nature of the remains.

7.7 Areas which are inaccessible (e.g. for health and safety reasons) will be recorded as thoroughly as possible within the site constraints. In these instances, recording may be entirely photographic, with sketch drawings only.

7.8 All finds will be collected and handled following the guidance set out in the CIfA guidance for archaeological materials. Unstratified material will not be kept unless it is of exceptional intrinsic interest. Material discarded as a consequence of this policy will be described and quantified in the field. Finds of particular interest or fragility will be retrieved as Small Finds, and located on plans. Other finds, finds within the topsoil, and dense/discrete deposits of finds will be collected as Bulk Finds, from discrete contexts, bagged by material type. Any dense/discrete deposits will have their limits defined on the appropriate plan.

7.9 All artefacts and ecofacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication First Aid for Finds, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. All finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act (1996) will be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act, after discussion with the client and the local authority.

7.10 A soil sampling programme will be undertaken for the recovery and identification of charred and waterlogged remains where suitable deposits are identified. The collection and processing of environmental samples will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Campbell, Moffatt and Straker 2011). Environmental and soil specialists will be consulted during the course of the evaluation with regard to the implementation of this sampling programme. Soil samples of approximately 30 litres for flotation (or 100% of the features if less than this volume) will be removed from selected contexts, using a combination of the judgement and systematic methodologies.

7.11 Judgement sampling will involve the removal of samples from secure contexts which appear to present either good conditions for preservation (e.g. burning or waterlogging) or which are significant in terms of archaeological interpretation or stratigraphy.

7.12 Systematic sampling will involve the sampling of all cut features and buried ground surfaces. The spatial distribution of systematic samples cannot be predetermined, given the relatively small nature of the areas available in an evaluation.

7.13 Industrial remains are unlikely within the site but if industrial activity of any scale is detected, industrial samples and process residues will also be collected. Separate samples (approximately 10ml) will be collected for micro-slags (hammer-scale and spherical droplets) (English Heritage 2001).

7.14 Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with YAT specialists and the Historic England Regional Science Advisor, as appropriate (e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc.). Samples will be taken for scientific dating where necessary for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies. Material removed from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments.

7.15 In the event of human remains being discovered during the evaluation these will be left in-situ, covered and protected, in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of, the Ministry of Justice. If human remains are identified, the Ministry of Justice and curator will be informed immediately. An osteoarchaeologist will be

available to give advice on site.

- All **disarticulated** remains will be recovered, carefully packaged and brought to the YAT offices for processing and assessment.

- If **articulated** remains are encountered, these will be excavated in accordance with recognised guidelines (see 7.16) under licence and retained for assessment.

- Any grave goods or coffin furniture will be retained for further assessment.

7.16 Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains will be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence. Where a licence is not issued, the treatment of human remains will be in accordance with the requirements of Civil Law, CIfA Technical Paper 13 (1993) and APABE guidance (2017).

8 REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

8.1 Upon completion of the groundworks, a report will be prepared to include the following:

a) A non-technical summary of the results of the work.

b) An introduction which will include the planning reference number, grid reference and dates when the fieldwork took place.

c) An account of the methodology and results of the operation, describing structural data, associated finds and environmental data.

d) A selection of photographs and drawings, including an overall plan of the site accurately identifying the areas monitored.

e) Specialist artefact and environmental reports as necessary.

f) Details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a catalogue of what is contained in that archive.

g) A copy of the key OASIS form details

h) Copies of the Brief and WSI

i) Additional photographic images may be supplied on a CDROM appended to the report

8.2 Copies of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body and the HER/SMR (also in PDF format).

8.3 The requirements for archive preparation and deposition will be addressed and undertaken in a manner agreed with the recipient museum. In this instance the Yorkshire Museum is recommended and an agreed allowance should be made for the curation and storage of this material.

8.4 Provision for the publication of results, as outlined in the Brief, will be made.

8.5 The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, would grant a licence to the County Council and the museum accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions. Under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), such documentation is required to be made available to

enquirers if it meets the test of public interest. Any information disclosure issues would be resolved between the client and the archaeological contractor before completion of the work. EIR requirements do not affect IPR.

9 HEALTH AND SAFETY

9.1 Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.

9.2 A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the start of site works.

10 TIMETABLE & STAFFING

10.1 The timetable will be confirmed in consultation with the client

10.2 Specialist staff available for this work are as follows:

- Human Remains - Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology Ltd)
- Palaeoenvironemtal remains - PRS ltd
- Head of Curatorial Services - Christine McDonnell
- Finds Researcher - Nicky Rogers
- Medieval Pottery Researcher - Anne Jenner
- Finds Officers - Nienke Van Doorne
- Archaeometallurgy & Industrial Residues - Dr Rod Mackenzie & Dr Roger Doonan
- Conservation - Ian Panter

11 MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

11.1 As a minimum requirement, City of York Archaeologists, John Oxley and Claire MacRae will be given a minimum of one week notice of work commencing on site, and will be afforded the opportunity to visit the site during and prior to completion of the on-site works so that the general stratigraphy of the site can be assessed. York Archaeological Trust will notify City of York Archaeologists, John Oxley and Claire MacRae of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary. Any changes to this agreed WSI will only be made in consultation with City of York Archaeologists, John Oxley and Claire MacRae.

12 COPYRIGHT

13 KEY REFERENCES

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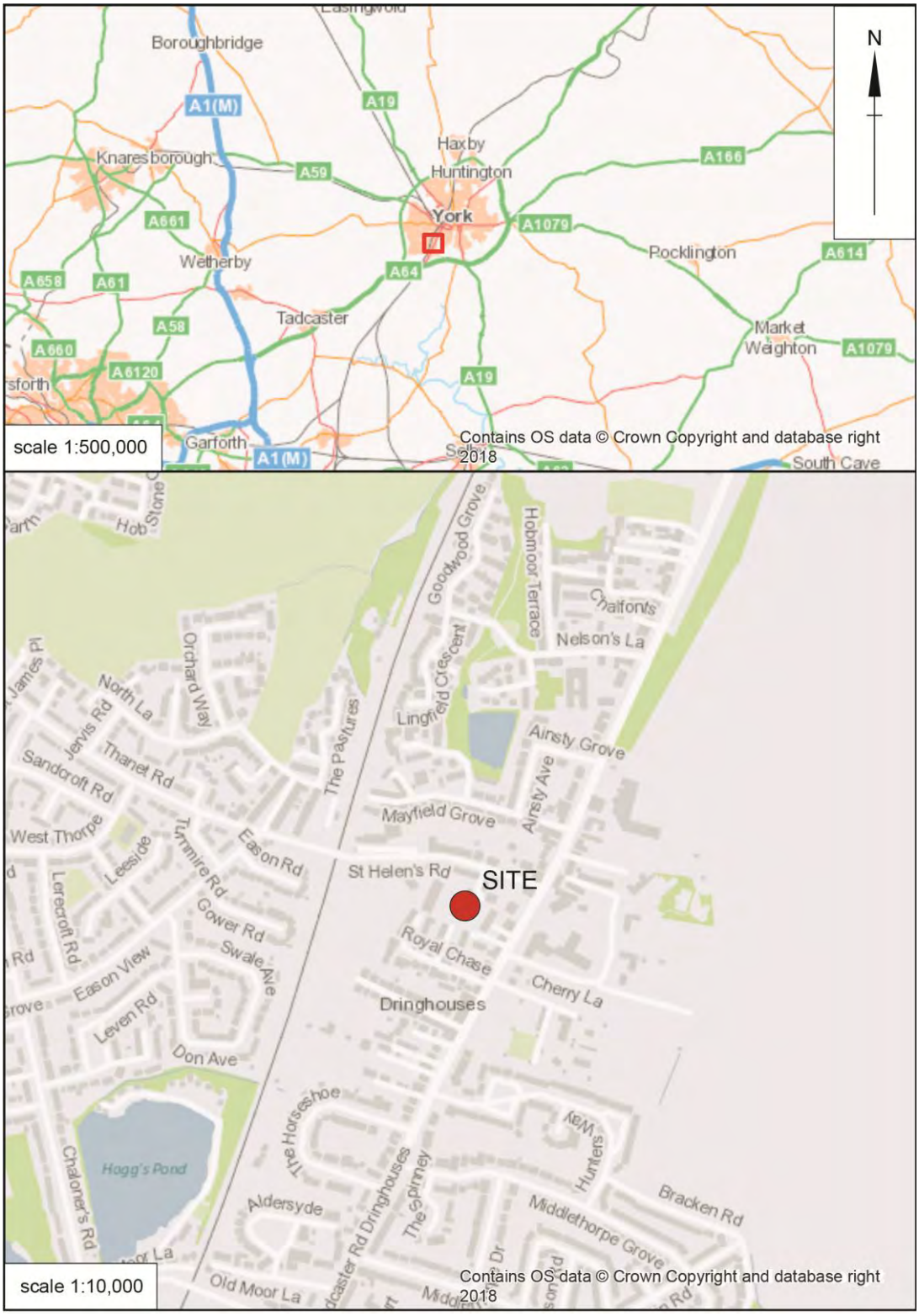

Figure 1 Site Location

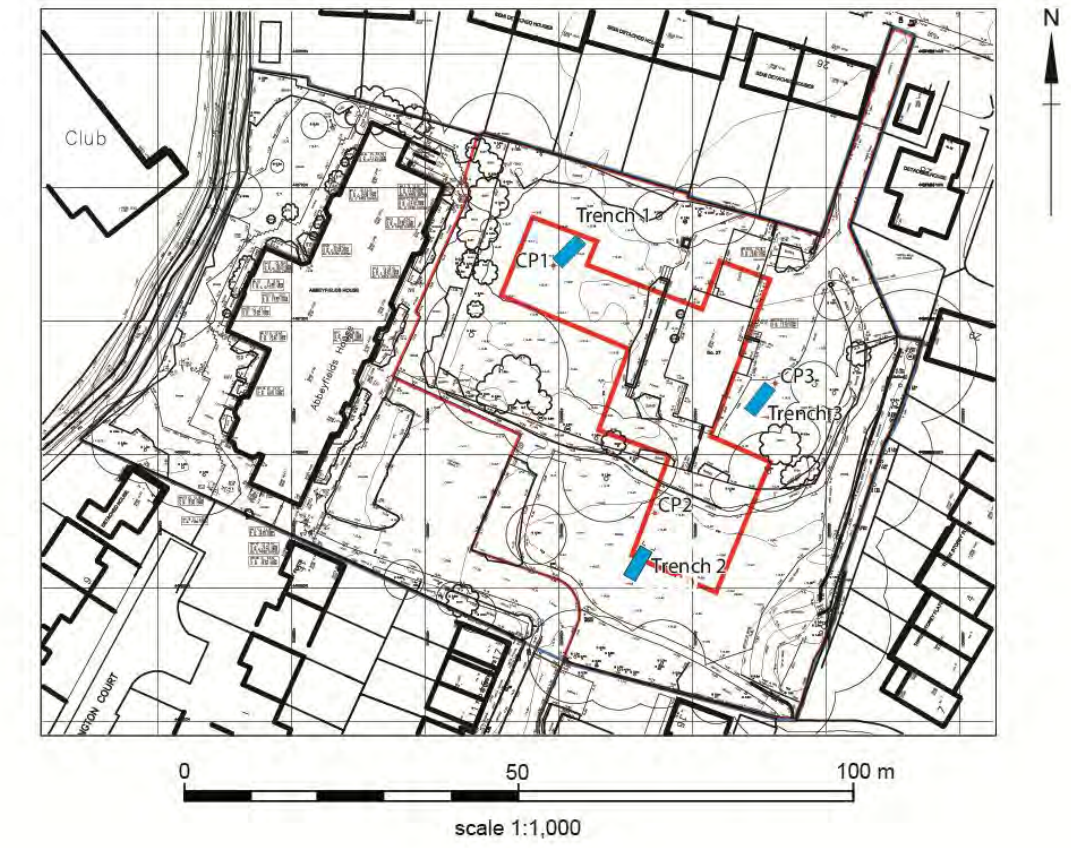

Figure 2 Evaluation trench and CP borehole locations with approximate strip, map and sample area (outlined in red)

Area	Description	Thickness of Deposit	Top of Deposit (BGL)	Top of Deposit (AOD)
Trench 1	Turf/Topsoil	0.36m	Ground Level	13.51m
	Subsoil	0.28m	0.36m	13.15m
	Natural	- (base of trench)	0.60m	12.87m
CP1	Turf/Topsoil	0.40m	Ground Level	-
	Subsoil	0.40m	0.40m	-
	Natural	0.20m	0.80m	-
Trench 2 (south)	Turf/Topsoil	0.36m	Ground Level	14.80m
	Compacted surface	0.30m	0.28m	14.44m
	Buried soil	0.16m	0.58m	14.14m
	Modern makeup	0.86m	0.72m	13.99m
	Natural	0.10m (exposed)	1.54m	13.13m
CP2	Turf/Topsoil	1.00m	Ground Level	-
	Subsoil	-	-	-
	Natural	-	-	-
Trench 3	Turf/Topsoil	0.36m	Ground Level	14.59m
	Subsoil	0.36m	0.36m	14.23m
	Natural	-(base of trench)	0.80m	13.87m
CP3	Turf/Topsoil	0.50m	Ground Level	-
	Subsoil	0.30m	0.50m	-
	Natural	0.20m	0.80m	-

Table 1 Recorded deposit depths observed in evaluation trenches and borehole starter pits

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York Archaeological Trust, Cuthbert Morrell House, 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX

Phone: +44 (0)1904 663000 Fax: +44 (0)1904 663024

Email: archaeology@yorkat.co.uk Website: https://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk