



LAND ADJACENT TO  
ST.SAVIOUR'S CHURCH  
HUNGATE  
YORK

A Report on an  
Archaeological  
Evaluation

By D.T. Evans

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*Cover Illustration:*

Detail of skeleton 1024, Trench 1

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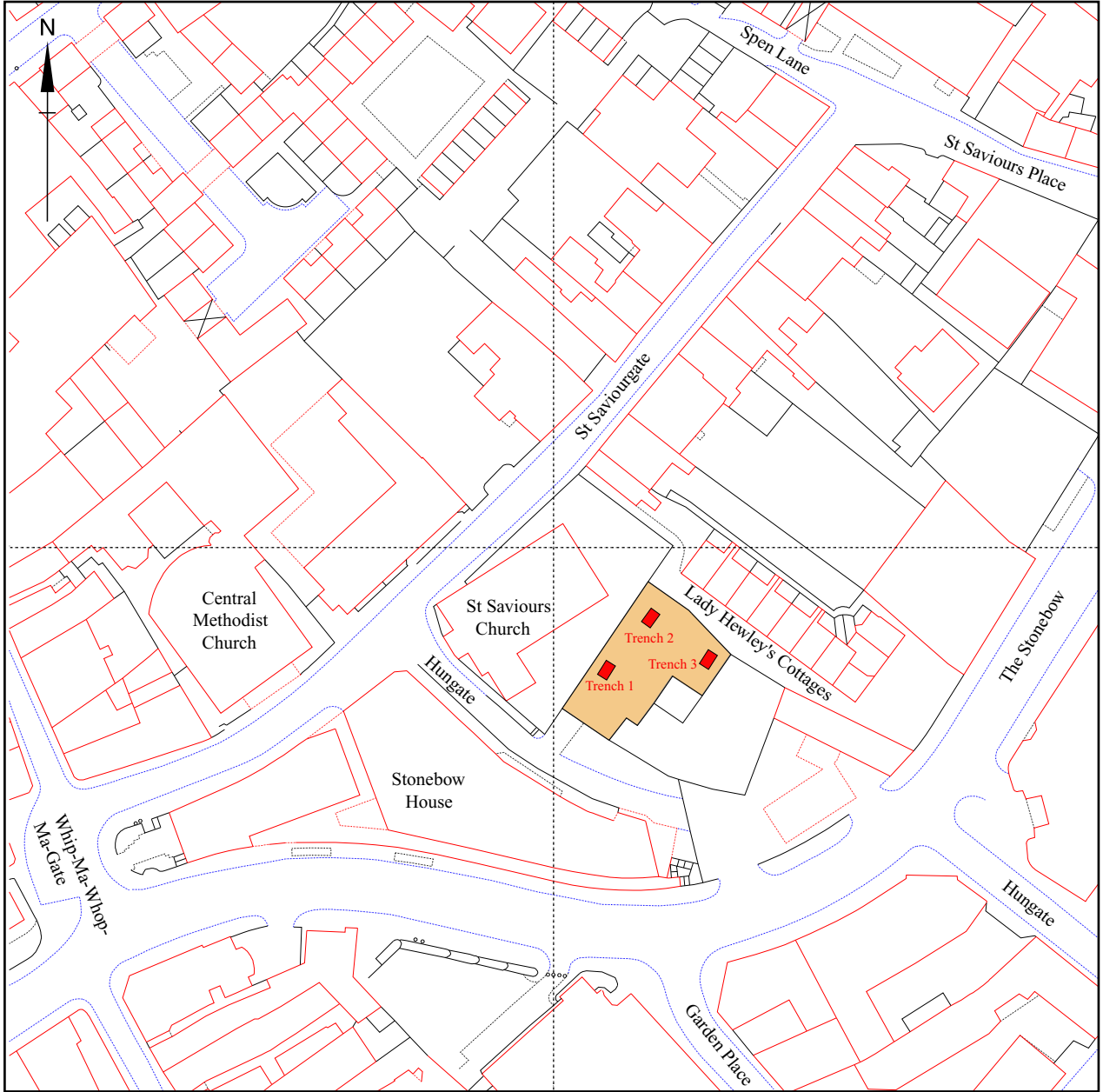
BGL	Below Ground Level
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
NGR	National Grid Reference
OD	Above Ordnance Datum
YAT	York Archaeological Trust
YORYM	York Archaeological Trust and Yorkshire Museum

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0 100 metres

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Figure 1 Site and trench location

## **ABSTRACT**

*Between 13<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2004 York Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological evaluation excavation at land adjacent to St Saviour's Church, Hungate, York in order to assess the date, nature, preservation and quality of any archaeological remains on the site. The evaluation revealed a complex sequence of burials, structures and occupation deposits, and road surfaces dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. There was also evidence of possible earlier Roman, Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian activity on the site. Significant archaeology, including the burials, lay relatively close to the modern ground surface but is at present generally well preserved and has great potential as an archaeological resource for revealing and understanding the development of this area of York over the last 2000 years.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Between 13<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2004 York Archaeological Trust (YAT) undertook an evaluation excavation on land adjacent to St Saviour's Church, Hungate, York (NGR SE60625188; Fig. 1). It was commissioned by Kilmartin Plowman and Partners of Leeds on behalf of their clients Evans of Leeds Ltd. The evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trenches, each measuring 3m x 2m to a maximum depth of 1.5m. All records pertaining to this site are currently held by York Archaeological Trust under the Yorkshire Museum and YAT accession code YORYM:2004.355.

In the archaeological and historical background, sites in York are normally referred to in the form YAT 1997, site 1990.111. Further details of these sites are available from the YAT online archive gazetteer. The web address of this resource is given in Section 11, Bibliography.

## **2. METHOD STATEMENT**

Prior to the commencement of the evaluation the site was visited. During this visit a limited photographic survey of the land to be evaluated was undertaken together with a risk assessment exercise. It was at this stage that the location of the three trenches was decided upon.

The evaluation was undertaken to a specification based on, and approved by, City of York Council Principal Archaeologist, John Oxley. After clearance of the upper and obviously modern deposits all excavation was by hand.

Recording followed the procedures laid down in the York Archaeological Trust *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2004). At least one standing section of each trench was drawn, at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Any significant features or deposits were to be recorded as single context plans at a scale of 1:20. Where relevant, colour photographs were taken of standing sections and features, and a number of general record photographs were also taken.

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

### **3. LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The site lay immediately to the south-east of St Saviour's Church, and on the north-western side of Hungate. To the south-east of the site was an area of land which has in the past been used as a cemetery for the now demolished church of St Crux in Whip-Ma-Whop-Ma-Gate and to the north-east were Lady Hewley's Cottages. The area of evaluation was situated c.190m south-east of the south-east side of the Roman legionary fortress and was within the area of the medieval walled city north-east of the Ouse.

The land under investigation was an irregular L-shape measuring c.25m from north-east to south-west and c.20m from north-west to south-east. The site lay roughly halfway between St Saviourgate and The Stonebow. Ground level was at c.13.7m OD in St Saviourgate sloping down to The Stonebow where the modern ground level was at c.10.8m. The site under investigation was a flat and level area and lay at c.12.5m OD. Prior to the evaluation it was semi-overgrown with weeds, small shrubs and brambles. The majority of the ground was covered with stone setts or concrete except for a narrow strip along the north-east of the site.

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

This evaluation aimed to clarify and establish, the history and development of this area of York. Although there have been no major archaeological investigations in the immediate vicinity, there have been a number of watching briefs, small evaluations and excavations in the general area. The relevant data from these and major printed works are summarised below. Some further historical and archaeological background information can be found in a desk top study (Macnab 1999) and two YAT evaluation reports (Macnab and McComish 2000 and Johnson 2002) for the proposed Hungate Development.

#### **4.1.1 The Roman Period (1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD)**

During deep excavations for a new telephone exchange at Garden Place in 1951-2, c.60m south of the site under discussion, structural elements including walls, piles and cobbling were recorded along the west bank of what was probably an inlet off the river Foss (RCHMY 1, 64a). These remains are generally considered to have been part of a Roman wharf. In 1999 an extensive borehole survey of the Hungate, Carmelite Street, Garden Place and Dundas Street area, as part of Phases 1 and 2 of the evaluation in advance of the Hungate Development, identified probable Roman occupation (1999.253).

Subsequently a programme of evaluation trenching across the development area as part of Phase 3 of evaluation in advance of the Hungate Development located an inhumation, a possible wall and culvert, a post-hole, a ditch and a possible road (2000.1-14) all of which were thought to be Roman in date. Work by Field Archaeology Specialists at Palmer Lane, c.130m south-east of the current area of investigation, revealed traces of

timber buildings of possible Roman date overlying Roman burials (FAS 2002). A watching brief at Lady Hewley's Almshouses located a possible Roman drain (1985.1001)

#### **4.1.2 The Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian Periods (5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> centuries)**

Hungate is mentioned in a document dated 1161 X 1184 but the form of its name, derived either from the Old Norse *hundr* or Old English *hund*, both meaning hound or dog, suggests a pre-Conquest origin for this street (Palliser 1978). No certain evidence for the Anglian period has been found close to the site. However, the borehole survey undertaken as part of Phase 1 and 2 of the Hungate Development produced evidence for Anglo-Scandinavian occupation and the evaluation in Phase 3 located a building and a rubbish pit of the period. An excavation at 5 St Saviourgate (1983.43) located Anglo-Scandinavian deposits and a watching brief on sewer repairs in St Saviourgate (1985.21) located a timber building, a pit and a cobble surface which may be of 11<sup>th</sup> century or earlier date but could be medieval. Work by MAP at 9 St Saviourgate (1995.434) produced evidence for the Anglo-Scandinavian period including a hoard of ironwork.

#### **4.1.3 The Medieval Period (11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries)**

A summary history of St Saviours appears in Wilson and Mee (1998) and in the relevant Royal Commission volume (RCHMY 5, 46-7). Although the origins of St Saviour's Church are obscure, the church is mentioned in a document of 1088-93 in which William II confirmed his father's gift of the church to St Mary's Abbey. This very probably indicates a pre-Conquest foundation. During the later medieval period the parish seems to have been fairly wealthy and was completely rebuilt in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The medieval lead roof seems to have been replaced by a tile roof before 1551. The 19<sup>th</sup> century saw a certain amount of rebuilding with the north and south aisles almost entirely rebuilt. The church was united with All Saints Pavement and closed in 1954. After renovation between 1986 and 1990 the church reopened as the Archaeological Resource Centre run by the York Archaeological Trust

A watching brief on work on the pavement in Hungate, close to the south-west end of St Saviour's Church has recorded a medieval inhumation (1989.1018) and the Hungate Phase 1 and 2 evaluation work produced evidence for land reclamation and occupation. The Phase 3 evaluation of the Hungate Development located St John in the Marsh church, its cemetery, other structural remains and evidence for metal working. The excavation at 5, St Saviourgate produced deposits of this period and an excavation at 25, St Saviourgate (1983.44) recorded medieval buildings and deposits. Deposits of the medieval period were noted in boreholes and evaluation trenches at Woolpack House (1995.467). An archaeological excavation at the site of the former Henley's Garage, immediately to the south of the site under discussion during the autumn of 2004 has also revealed extensive deposits, features and structures of the period (2004.148).

#### **4.1.4 The Post-Medieval Period (16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries)**

Evidence for the period in the general area around the site is quite extensive and includes buildings, gardens and a road found during Hungate evaluation Phase 3, a well located at

18, St Saviourgate (YAT 1997, site 1977.1010), a cobble surface at 26, St Saviourgate (YAT 1997, site 1982.1023) and a building recorded at 25, St Saviourgate.

#### **4.1.5 The Modern Period** (19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> centuries)

Archaeological investigations have recovered some evidence for this period. This includes building remains and levelling deposits noted during Hungate evaluation Phase 3 and a modern cellar and more levelling deposits recorded at Woolpack House.

#### **4.2.1 The Historical Background**

Hungate is mentioned in a document of 1161-84 where it is referred to as 'Hungat in Mersch' meaning 'the street of the dogs in the marsh' (RCHMY 5, 148b) This perhaps reflects the keeping of dogs for hunting wildfowl along the edges of the Kings Fishpool, which was the principal cause of the marshy conditions around this area of the Foss. These conditions apparently were still present in the 15<sup>th</sup> century since a document of 1427 mentions an area of open land (RCHMY 5, 149a) near to Hungate, although the move to the area between Fossgate and Hungate by the Carmelite Friars in 1295 probably lead to some land reclamation and drainage in the general area (RCHMY 5, 148b-149a). During the 13<sup>th</sup> century Jews are mentioned as living in and owning property in Hungate (VCHY, 48) and St Leonard's Hospital is also mentioned as a property owner in Hungate and The Marsh (VCHY, 49). It appears, however, that the area was not a particularly wealthy one since derelict properties in Hungate are mentioned as early as 1409 (VCHY, 85). The Cordwainer's Hall was sited in Hungate (VCHY, 481)

The association of Hungate with dogs was a very long one since it is recorded that as late as 1754 hounds for hunting were still kennelled in the street but by 1765 they were being considered a nuisance (VCHY, 246). By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century much of the area was occupied by poor quality tenements and where Hungate met the Foss there were a number of mills and warehouses and the works of the York Union Gas Light Company (VCHY, 461). By 1900 the Hungate area was very squalid and considered a slum but plans to clear the area had to be postponed by the advent of World War I and the clearance did not eventually take place until 1936 when the housing was replaced by mainly light industrial and workshop units, some of which still stand today. During the 1950s the insertion of The Stonebow and other modern developments dramatically altered the topography of the Hungate area with Hungate now existing as two separate sections of road with the section by St Saviour's Church being a cul-de-sac.

#### **4.2.2 Cartographic Evidence**

John Speed's map of 1610 shows the evaluation site with the Hungate frontage built-up and a lane running along the north-west side of the site adjacent to St Saviour's Churchyard. Current access to the site perpetuates its line. Behind the street frontage this map seems to show open ground. Directly opposite the lane mentioned above, on the south-west side of Hungate is another lane leading to Pavement. Although not named on Speed's map, this lane can be seen on later maps marked as Stonebow Lane. Archer's map of 1682 and Richards' map of 1685 both show the churchyard as being of a similar size and shape as that of the present day. Richards' map also strongly suggests that the

whole of the current site has been built on but no detail is visible. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1852 and Skaife's map of 1864 indicate the site mainly built up but with an open area or courtyard to the north-east. At some point between 1822 and 1852 it appears that access to Pavement from Stonebow Lane has been blocked off and the land built on.

The 1891 O.S map shows the site all built on with the buildings on the north-east side marked 'Church Buildings'. On the O.S map of 1909 the lane against St Saviour's Churchyard is still visible and the properties depicted appear to be domestic dwellings. By 1966 these have apparently gone to be replaced by a smaller number of larger commercial structures, possibly including the forage warehouse believed to have been the latest structure on this site. It is not certain when this was demolished but since it seems to be on an O.S map of 1985 it appears to have been within the last 20 years.

## **5. THE EVALUATION**

### **5.1. Trench 1** (figures 2-3, plates 1-2)

#### **5.1.1 Medieval**

The earliest deposit observed in this trench, at c.1.1 – 1.2m BGL, 11.6m OD, was a deposit of dark, slightly greenish, grey slightly clayey silt (1020).

Into this were cut three probable features, none of which was fully excavated. Towards the south-western end of the trench was a feature defined a soil change roughly rectangular in plan, c.1m x 0.55m. It was partly excavated to reveal the articulated skeleton of a child (1024). It was supine with the arms laid, but not crossed, over the upper chest and the skull lay at the south-west end of the grave. Only the right leg was uncovered and this was drawn up against the lower torso. The skull, both arms, ribs, vertebrae, the right leg and the pelvis were definitely present, but there was no reason to doubt the presence of a complete articulated



**Plate 1**  
*Trench 1, detail of Skeleton 1024*

burial aligned c.south-west / north-east. The grave had been backfilled with a dark grey clayey silt (1021).

Approximately 1.4m, centre to centre, to the north-east of 1021/4 another roughly rectangular feature, aligned south-east / north-west, was tentatively identified. It measured c.1.05m x 0.53m and was not further investigated. It had a backfill of dark grey clayey silt (1023).

Roughly 1.2m, centre to estimated centre, north-east of 1023 was another probable grave some of which lay beyond the limit of excavation. The recorded part measured c.1.1m x 0.6m and a child's skull (1025) was identified towards the south-west end of the cut which seemed to aligned south-west / north-east. No further investigation took place. The grave had a backfill of dark, slightly greenish, grey clayey silt (1022).

Sealing these graves was an extensive deposit of very dark grey, slightly greenish in places, clayey silt (1005=1018) which produced pottery of the Roman period to the 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> century and Roman brick. Partly overlying this was another accumulation deposit of mid grey-green, slightly clayey silt (1019). Both deposits just referred to were c.0.3m in depth and contained considerable quantities of apparent domestic waste mainly represented by animal bone and pottery.



***Plate 2***

*Trench 1. South-west facing section through road surfaces, 1006, 1015, 1016 and 1017*

Cut into 1005=1018 was a post-hole (1003) sub-oval in plan, some of which lay beyond the north-west edge of the trench. It measured, however, at least 0.33m x 0.3m, and was 0.22m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. In the base and visible in the standing trench section was a post (1002), possibly circular in cross-section, at least c.0.1m in diameter. This post-hole had a backfill of dark grey slightly clayey silt (1001). Near the west corner of the trench, and probably broadly contemporary with 1002, was a stake circular in cross-section and, c.50mm in diameter.

Above 1004 and 1003 was a mass of quite densely-packed cobbles in a firm, very dark, slightly greenish, grey silt (1017) which was interpreted as a lane or alley surface make-up. Overlying it was another band of quite densely-packed cobbles (1016) distinguished from 1017 by being in a firm, mid greenish-grey silt. This was also thought to be a lane or alley surface make-up.

### **5.1.2 Post-medieval**

Surface make-up 1016 was sealed by a quite densely-packed band of cobbles in soft yellow mortar (1015), believed to be another surface make-up. This was overlain by a deposit of fine, pale yellow crushed limestone (1014), possibly again a lane or alley surface make-up. The thickness and extent of 1014 suggests that it was more than a local repair.

### **5.1.3 Modern**

Above 1014 there was a band of mid orange-yellow sand (1013). This was cut by a linear feature (1012), seen only in section, identified as a modern drain. It was probably aligned roughly east-west and was of uncertain width but at least 0.45m deep. It had nearly vertical sides and a flat base. Within it was a ceramic pipe c.0.2m in diameter. It had a backfill of mid greyish-brown silt (1011).

Sealing the drain was a probable levelling deposit of compact, mid brown silt (1010) with frequent mortar. Cut into this was a linear feature (1009), another modern drain seen only in section, aligned roughly north-west / south-east. It was at least 0.3m wide and 0.33m deep with a nearly vertical south-west edge and a flat base. It had in it a ceramic pipe with a diameter of c.0.23m and was backfilled with a mid brown silt (1008) containing moderate amounts of pale brown mortar and brick fragments. This was sealed by a levelling deposit consisting of a mixture of pale brown mortar, small concrete fragments and small brick fragments (1007). Above this lay the modern ground surface of very pale grey concrete (1006) at c.12.6 – 12.7m OD.

Context number 1000 was used for finds from machine clearance and the initial cleaning. These finds included a small quantity of pottery, the latest dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> century and ceramic building materials (CBM) of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## 5.2 Trench 2 (figure 4-5, plate 3)

### 5.2.1 Medieval

In this trench the earliest identified context, at c.1.35m BGL, 11.6m OD, was part of a human skeleton (2036). It was probably a supine and extended adult with the head to the south-west, although only part of the articulated upper left leg and pelvis was uncovered. A linear brown stain immediately to the north-west of the leg may represent the decayed remains of a coffin. This stain and the leg suggest a south-west / north-east orientation for the burial, similar to the burials in Trench 1. No definite cut was noted and the human remains were sealed by a deposit of mixed dark greyish-brown clayey sandy silt (2035).

Cut into 2035 was a feature linear in plan (2034) of uncertain size, shape and function. It measured at least 1.5m x 0.35m x 0.15m with a very steeply sloping south-east side and a



flat base. It had a backfill of dark grey clayey silt (2033) which produced pot of the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Backfill 2033 had been cut by a very narrow, c. 40mm wide, wall construction cut (2032) of uncertain depth. It contained a substantial wall (2031) built of roughly dressed limestone blocks and a few cobbles bonded with a soft pale yellow mortar. The wall was aligned approximately north-west / south-east and survived for c.0.35m above the construction cut which had been backfilled with a mid brown clayey silt (2030).

#### **Plate 3**

*Trench 2, at completion of excavation showing road surface 2002, wall 2031 and partial Skeleton 2036*

Butting part of the south-west side of the wall was a mixed mid

whitish-grey and mid brown clayey silt (2029). Overlying it was a compact deposit of limestone chippings (2028) up to 50mm deep. Sealing this was a mid brown clay with moderate patches of charcoal and pale brownish-grey mortar (2020). From context 2020 came CBM of the 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Above 2020 there was a possible floor of friable, but firm light grey – off-white mortar (2019) which contained one piece of 9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> century pot. Possibly contemporary with this was a light greenish-brown clayey sand (2027) and above this was a mid grey clayey silt (2026) with moderate patches of mid brown silt. At a similar stratigraphic horizon, and above 2019, was a friable deposit of charcoal interleaved with lenses of light brown clayey silt (2016). All of these contexts were probable occupation deposits.

Cut into 2016 was a shallow linear cut (2018) of unknown function aligned approximately north-west / south-east. It was of uncertain width but was no more than c.0.15m deep with a steeply sloping north-west edge and a flattish base. It was backfilled with a friable, mid-brown clayey sandy silt (2015). This backfill produced pottery of the 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> century and CBM of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Later than 2015 was a deposit of slightly greyish cream mortar (2014), possibly a floor or levelling deposit. It contained pottery of the 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> century and CBM of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century. At a similar level there was a friable, light brown silty clay (2025) with moderate patches of grey sandy silt. Overlying 2025 was a friable mixture of cream, light brown and pale grey sand / mortar (2024) containing moderate amounts of charcoal. Probably contemporary with 2024 was a mid greyish-brown slightly sandy clayey silt (2013) which overlay 2014. Context 2013 contained pottery of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and CBM of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Possibly at the same stratigraphic horizon as 2013 was dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt (2022) which produced pottery of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and CBM of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Above 2022 there was a layer of light brown sand (2023). Possibly contemporary with 2023, and over 2013, was a friable, mid greyish-brown clayey sandy silt (2008). A single sherd of 11<sup>th</sup> century pottery came from context 2008. Most of these deposits were probably occupation deposits.

Cut into 2023 was a small pit (2021) possibly roughly oval in plan, but lying partially beyond the north-west and north-east limits of excavation. It was c.0.7m across and 0.46m deep with quite steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. A single backfill was identified, a firm, very dark brown, slightly clayey, slightly sandy silt (2017) which contained a small amount of pottery, the latest of which dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and CBM dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Later than this pit was a firm, mid brown slightly clayey silt with moderate charcoal and patches of greenish hard pan (2012) containing 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery and CBM, presumed intrusive, of the 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> century. Above 2012 was a friable, mid greyish-brown clayey sandy silt (2010). A layer of friable, mid greyish-brown clayey sandy silt (2005) sealed 2010. Context 2005 produced a moderate amount of pottery, the latest belonging to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and CBM of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Overlying 2005 there was a mid brown slightly clayey sandy silt (2042) and above this was a light reddish-brown clayey silt (2041). Sealing 2041 was a layer of firm, very dark brown slightly sandy, slightly clayey silt (2040). All of these deposits may have been derived from occupation activity.

## **5.2.2 Post-medieval or Modern**

Cutting 2040 was a sub-linear construction cut (2003) aligned roughly north-east / south-west and at least 0.6m wide. Much of this lay beyond the north-west edge of the trench but it was c.0.6m deep with a near vertical south-east side and a flattish base. Within this cut was a mass of tightly-packed cobbles in a friable, mid greyish-brown clayey sandy silt (2002). The date of this context is uncertain since the pottery from it was a mixture of medieval and modern. It also produced CBM of 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century date. Context 2002 was thought to be make-up for a lane or alley comparable to 1015-1017 in Trench 1.

Later than 2002, and situated in the eastern angle of the trench was a construction cut (2011), L-shaped, in plan, at least 1.4m x 0.6m and 0.4m deep. It had vertical sides and a flattish base. Within it was an L-shaped brick structure (2009), of uncertain function, one course wide and at least three courses high bonded with a firm but brittle white mortar. The bricks typically measured 0.25m x 0.12m x 50mm and were dated to the 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Within the structure there was a thin layer of firm, mid greyish-brown slightly sandy silty mortar (2007) which was believed to be a floor surface. Overlying this was a possible backfill of compact, pale brown clay or moist sticky plaster (2006). Sealing this was a definite backfill composed of a loose, mid brown sandy silt (2001) which contained pottery of the 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and CBM of the 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Above 2001 was another backfill of mid brown slightly sandy silt (2045). Butting the north-west exterior face of the brickwork was a layer of friable, mid greenish-brown slightly sandy clayey silt (2004)

## **5.2.3 Modern**

Probably later than the brick structure 2009 was an unknown deposit consisting of friable, light brown sandy silt (2039). Above this was a probable demolition deposit of very loose, dark brown sandy silt containing very frequent brick fragments and mortar (2038). Overlying 2038 there was a thin, c.50mm, band of very pale yellow crushed limestone (2044) which may have been a levelling deposit. Sealing 2044 was a layer of pale grey concrete (2043) which formed part of the modern ground surface, at c.12.9m OD, around Trench 2. Also forming part of the modern ground surface was a deposit of loose, very dark grey, slightly sandy silt (2037) with frequent pebbles and charcoal. Context 2000 was assigned to any finds from the machine clearance and initial cleaning. These included pottery of the 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> century and CBM of the 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **5.3 Trench 3 (figures 6-7, plate 4)**

### **5.3.1 Medieval**

The earliest deposit recorded in this trench, at c.1.6m BGL, c.11.3m OD, was a compact, very dark brown silty sand (3048). Above this was a dark brownish-red sandy clay (3042) which was sealed by a plastic, mid reddish-brown clay (3038). This was overlain by a layer of friable, dark brown silty sand (3047). Overlying 3047 was a firm, but friable, deposit of dark brown clayey sand (3041) and over this was a layer of mid brown silty sand (3039). All of the deposits described above were believed to be derived from occupation.

Cut into 3039 was a post-hole (3054), probably originally circular in plan, and c.80mm across. It was at least 0.4m deep with nearly vertical sides. Two fills were noted, the lower being a mid reddish-brown plastic clay (3044) and the upper a dark brown silty sand (3045).

Post-hole 3054 was sealed by a layer of plastic, mid reddish-brown clay (3021) which may have been a floor level. Probably contemporary with it was a dark brown silty sand (3043), believed to be an occupation deposit. Overlying 3021 was a mid red clayey sandy silt (3006).



***Plate 4***

*Trench 3, showing brick structure 3001 (left) and medieval features and occupation deposits (right)*

Cut into 3021 was a sub-oval, in plan, feature (3016), possibly a post-hole, measuring 0.47m x 0.45m and 0.24m deep, although the full extent lay beyond the trench edge. It had very steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base. The backfill was a friable, dark brown sandy silt (3017) which contained pottery, the latest of which belonged to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. This context also produced CBM of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Later than 3017 was a layer of friable, dark brown silty sand (3046). This was sealed by a compact, mid reddish-brown silty sand (3049). Both were believed to be occupation deposits. Above 3049 was a spread of light greyish-brown mortar with patches of mid orange-brown clay (3020). This was probably a floor and produced two pieces of 10<sup>th</sup> century pottery, although these are probably residual.

A number of features were cut into 3020. The first (3035) was a truncated L-shape in plan, very possibly a beam slot. It was c.0.22m – 0.38m wide and c.0.23m deep with very steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It had a backfill of compact, mid brown silty sand (3036) and produced a single piece of pottery of the 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> century. Another feature at this level was a probable post-hole (3018) sub-rectangular in plan, not all of which lay within the trench. The excavated part of 3018 was 0.45m x 0.22m and 0.15m deep, and it had near vertical sides and a flat base. It had been backfilled with a friable, mid brown sandy silt (3019). This produced a small quantity of 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery and CBM of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The third feature (3022), also probably a post-hole, had been truncated by later cut (3002), but was probably originally square or rectangular in plan. It measured c.0.4m by at least 50mm and was c. 0.1m deep. It had a near-vertical south-east side and a flat base. The backfill was a dark brown silty sand (3023).

Post-hole 3022 had been sealed by a layer of mid orange-brown clay (3029) thought to be a repair to Floor 3020. Overlying 3029 was a layer of uncertain function but possibly a levelling deposit of mid brown silty sand (3033).

Cut into 3033 was the south-east quadrant of a pit (3032), possibly circular in plan, much of which lay beyond the limit of excavation. The excavated portion was c.0.8m across and c.0.4m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It had a backfill of compact, mid reddish-brown silty sand (3031) which contained a very small amount of 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery and CBM of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The pit (3032) was sealed by a compact, mid brown silty sand (3030). This context produced a very small quantity of pottery of the 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> century and CBM of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Above this was a compact, dark reddish-brown clayey sand (3028). The latest pottery from 3028 had a 13<sup>th</sup> century date and the CBM from this context dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Over 3028 there was a compact, mid reddish-brown clayey sand (3015). Probably contemporary with this was a mid reddish-brown clayey silty sand (3014) and a compact, very dark brownish-red silty sand (3007). All of the deposits described above were believed to be derived from occupation.

Cutting 3014 was a linear feature (3008), probably a beam slot, aligned approximately east-west. It was c.0.4m wide and 0.14m deep with quite steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It had a backfill of very dark brown silty sand (3009) which produced a moderate quantity of pottery, the latest of which was of the 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. It also produced CBM of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. At a similar stratigraphic level, and cutting 3015, was a feature (3037) of uncertain shape, size and function. It was at least 0.9m wide and 0.23m deep with a very steep south-east edge and a flat base. It had been backfilled with a friable, mid reddish-brown clayey sandy silt (3027) which contained a single piece of 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery and also CBM of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Also at this level and cutting 3015 was a linear cut (3011) running north from the east end of 3008, with which it was almost certainly associated. Feature 3011, probably a beam slot, was c.0.4m wide and c.0.13m deep with quite steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. This feature had two backfills, the lower of which was a compact, pale grey mortar (3013) and the upper a very dark brown silty sand (3012). This lower backfill contained one sherd of 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery and a piece of possible Roman brick.

Cut into 3012 was a linear feature (3024), possibly a beam slot, aligned roughly north-east / south-west. This feature was truncated to the north-east by Feature 3002 but the excavated portion was c.0.4m wide and 0.12m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It had been backfilled with a mixture of mortar and cobbles (3010). This backfill produced a very small amount of 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery and CBM of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Probably contemporary with 3024 was another linear feature (3025). It was aligned c.north-west / south-east, was c.0.33m wide and just 60mm deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It had been backfilled with a mixture of limestone blocks and fragments and cobbles in a dark brown silt (3026).

### **5.3.2 Post-medieval or Modern**

Later than 3025 was a linear cut (3004), definitely a drain cut, and aligned roughly north-south, across the east corner of the trench. It was at least 0.5m wide and 0.5m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. Within it was a drain (3005) built of brick, bonded with firm white mortar. It had a flat brick base and side walls one course, c.0.11m wide. The roof appeared to have been removed by later activity.

### **5.3.3 Modern**

Drain 3005 had been truncated by a construction cut (3002), rectangular in plan, which was c.1.5m wide and at least 1.6m long. The depth of the cut was not ascertained. The construction cut contained a hollow rectangular brick structure (3001) which extended beyond the north-west limit of excavation but was c.1.35m wide externally and 0.95m internally. The walls of 3001 were two courses wide and bonded with a very firm white mortar and surrounded a brick floor which lay at a level of c.11.83m OD. The highest point of the surrounding wall, on the south-west side of the structure, was at c.12.6m OD, some 0.25m below the modern ground surface. The function of this structure is not known although the clean condition of the brickwork, broadly dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, seems to preclude its use as a coal hole. It had been backfilled, apparently quite deliberately, in stages. The earliest backfill, which may have actually functioned as a levelling deposit, was a loose, dark brown silty sand (3003) containing moderate quantities of cobbles, brick fragments and stone flag fragments, and a very small amount of pottery dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Sealing this, and possibly intended as a floor, was a thin, 20mm, layer of pale grey concrete (3050). Overlying this was the next major backfill or levelling deposit, a fairly clean dark brown silty sand (3051). This had been capped with a thin, c.20mm, band of soft, pale grey mortar (3052), perhaps also intended as some form of floor surface. Above this was a backfill or levelling deposit consisting of a mixture of brick fragments, cobbles and concrete fragments in a mid brown silty sand (3053).

Overlying 3053 was a thin, c.20mm, levelling or bedding deposit of firm, off-white mortar (3056) for a surface of patterned setts (3055). This formed the modern ground surface and lay at c.12.9m OD. The context number 3000 was assigned to finds from the machine clearance and initial trench cleaning. The latest pottery from 3000 was of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

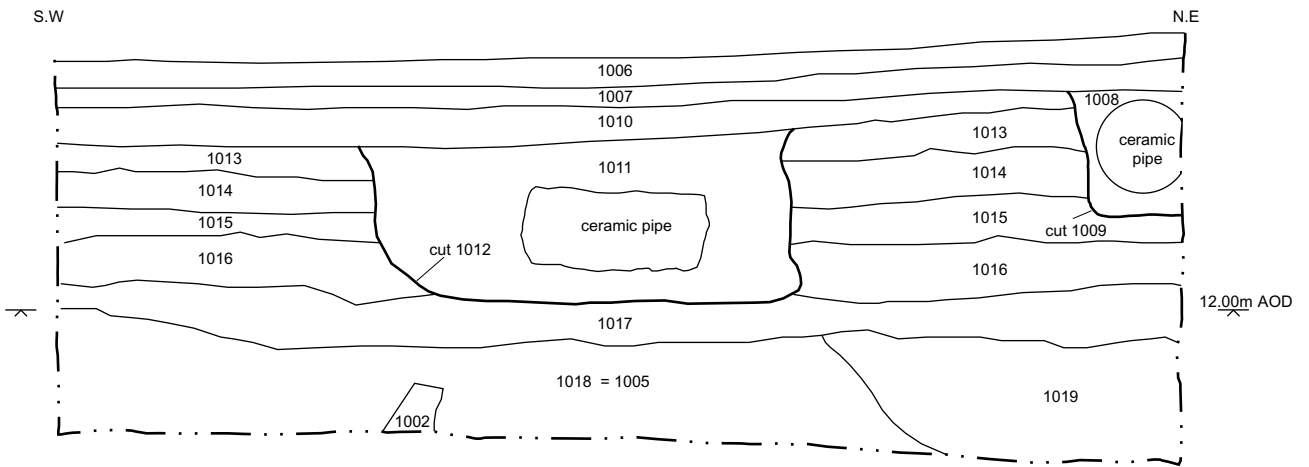


Figure 2 Trench 1, south-east facing section

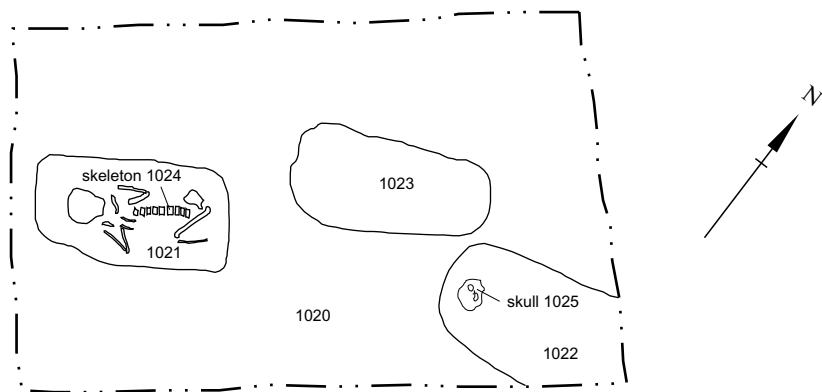
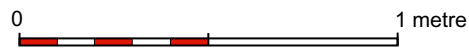


Figure 3 Trench 1, plan on completion of excavation



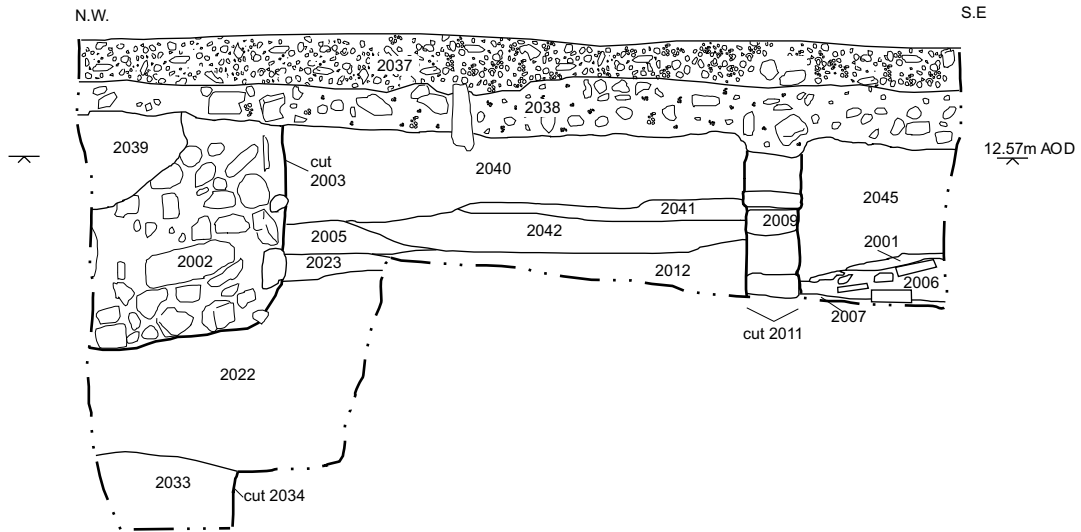


Figure 4 Trench 2, south-west facing section

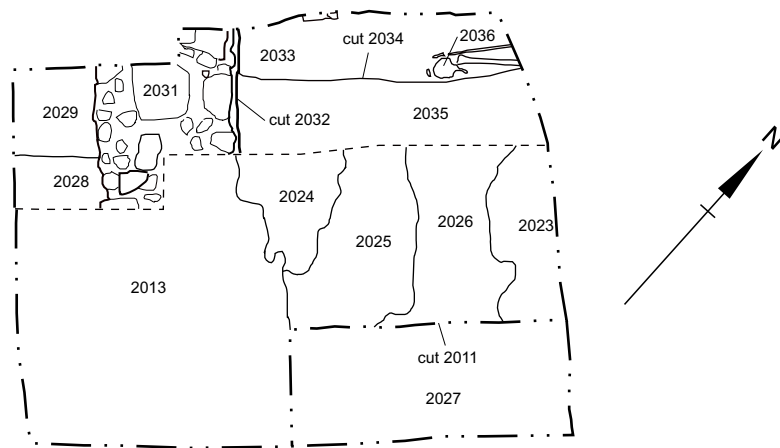
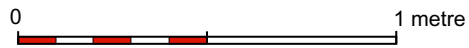


Figure 5 Trench 2, plan at completion of excavation



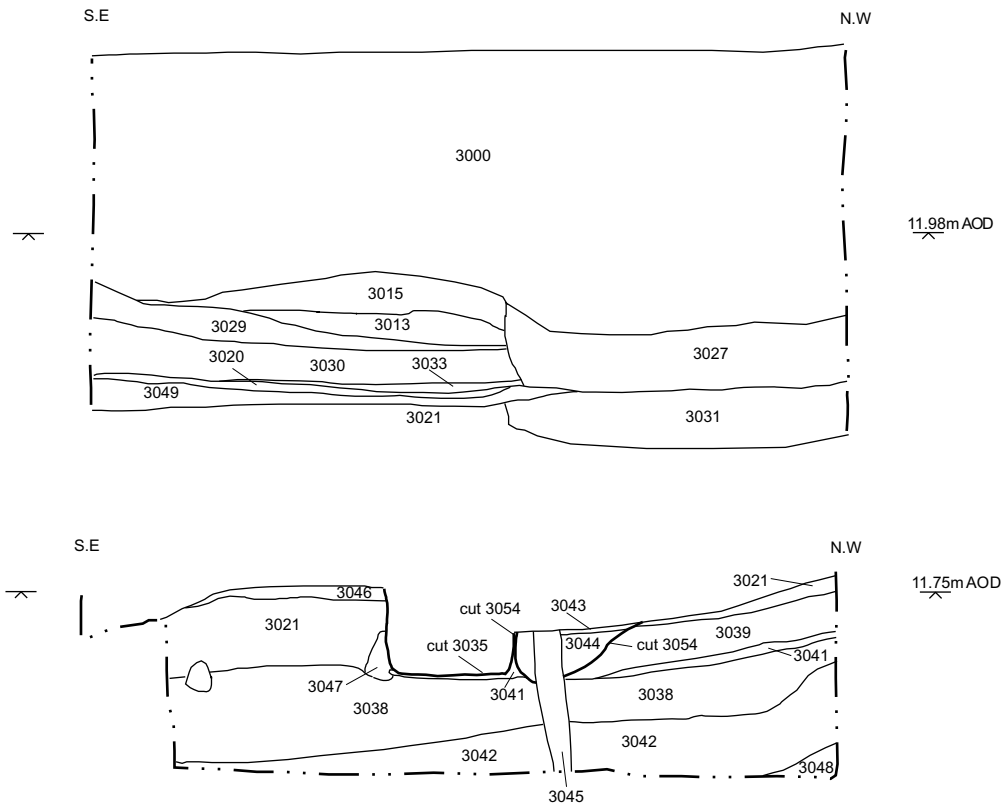


Figure 6 Trench 3, north-east facing section  
(step exists between upper and lower part)

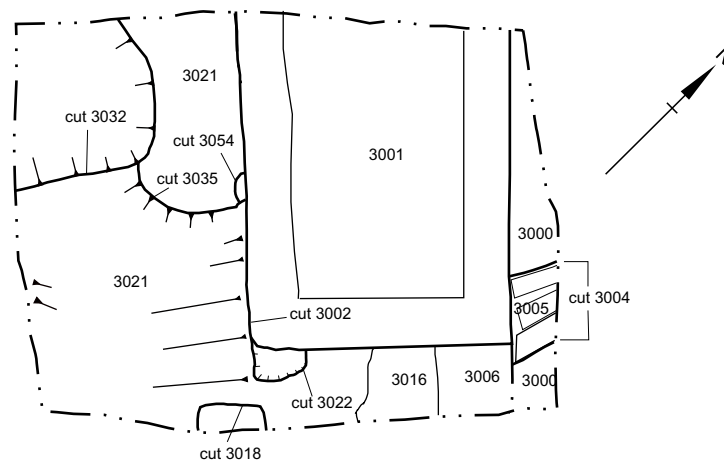


Figure 7 Trench 3, plan towards base of excavation



**[Specialists' Reports (sections 6–9) omitted from this version]**

**10. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

**10.1.1 The Roman Period (1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> centuries)**

Although the excavation did not reach a depth at which Roman remains might be expected a small but potentially significant quantity of brick, tile and pottery of the period was recovered from all three trenches. A copper alloy ring may also be Roman although it could be Anglian or Anglo-Scandinavian. The quantity and variety of these finds strongly suggests some form of activity, on or close to this site, from, perhaps, the late 1<sup>st</sup> or early 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

**10.1.2 Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian Periods (5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> centuries)**

Deposits of these periods were not reached in any of the evaluation trenches but a number of small finds including the antler offcuts, a tooth blank plate, a whittle tang knife, clench bolts and spindle whorls may be of either the Anglian or Anglo-Scandinavian periods possibly indicating craftworking activity. No Anglian pottery was found, but Anglo-Scandinavian pottery from the late 9<sup>th</sup> century and later was identified

**10.1.3 The Medieval Period (11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries)**

Evidence for this period was both copious and of potentially very high significance. Deposits, features and structures of this period were excavated and recorded in all three trenches and much of the pottery and CBM was of this date. The pottery suggests that the burials in the bases of Trenches 1 and 2 were 12<sup>th</sup> century, or possibly slightly earlier. In Trench 2 they were succeeded by a substantial stone wall, and well-preserved and complex occupation deposits. There were equally complex occupation deposits associated with probable timber buildings recorded in Trench 3. Occupation apparently ceased in the immediate vicinity in the 14<sup>th</sup> century when the street surfaces noted in Trenches 1 and 2 are believed to have been first laid down. All later medieval and post-medieval archaeology in Trench 3 was apparently destroyed by modern activity, mainly building work. Small finds of the medieval period included a possible fish hook, two probable horseshoe nails and a late medieval stone lamp fragment.

**10.1.4 The Post-Medieval Period (16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries)**

No convincing deposits of this period were identified although, perhaps, at least one of the street surfaces seen in Trenches 1 and 2 should be of this date since the cartographic evidence indicates the road was in use at this time. No clear evidence for the structures indicated on the maps of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and later was recovered although a brick structure in Trench 2, constructed of bricks dated 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century, may belong to this period. A few finds, glass fragments, nails and a tobacco pipe stem were post-medieval in date.

**10.1.5 The Modern Period (19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> centuries)**

There was plentiful evidence for this period including deposits, features and structures in

all the trenches, together with a number of modern finds including pottery, brick and tile.

## 10.2 Conclusion and Statement of Potential

All three trenches, despite some modern truncation, produced well-preserved archaeological stratigraphy of considerable interest and potential. It is, perhaps, not too surprising to have found burials on a site immediately adjacent to and lying between two known medieval graveyards, in this case St Saviour's to the north-west and a detached cemetery of St Crux to the south-east. In an urban location it is not uncommon to find human remains beyond the present limits of church graveyards and in recent years burials and human bones have been recovered during work close to All Saints, Pavement and St Martin's, Micklegate. At this in Hungate it is of great interest that shrinkage appears, from the ceramic sequence, to have taken place in, or shortly before, the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The extent of the area of burials is uncertain but it is possible that, although none were found in Trench 3 they may exist in much, or all, of the site.

Following the use of the area as a cemetery it became an area of occupation with at least one structure solidly built in stone and others either of all-timber or half-timbered construction. These structures seem not to have lasted beyond the 14th century when the earliest street surface was established. The line of this street can then be traced through to the present day and the modern access to the site lies directly above its medieval predecessor. There was very little evidence for the 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Some of this may be, as in Trench 3, due to later truncation, but some may be due to the site becoming mainly open ground until the later 17th century when there is some cartographic evidence for structures along the Hungate frontage with the site fully built up by the 19th century.

This evaluation has proved valuable and has provided a fascinating glimpse of the evolution of the site from 11th - 12th century to the present. The problem of the full extent of the cemetery still requires resolution. Otherwise it is clear that well-preserved deposits, features and structures lie as close as c.0.45m below the modern ground level. Virtually any form of development would damage or destroy the upper c.1m of archaeology on this site.

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## **11.2 Archive**

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## **12. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Excavation Team	Abigail Beckett, Paul Dawson, David Evans, Brian Milner, Zoe Sutherland
Illustrations and report production	Russell Marwood
Editor	Dr. Patrick Ottaway