6 DRIFFIELD TERRACE
YORK

AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

by

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Cover Illustration:
Excavation of burials 1107 and 1112 in progress

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Contents

Figures

Plates

Tables

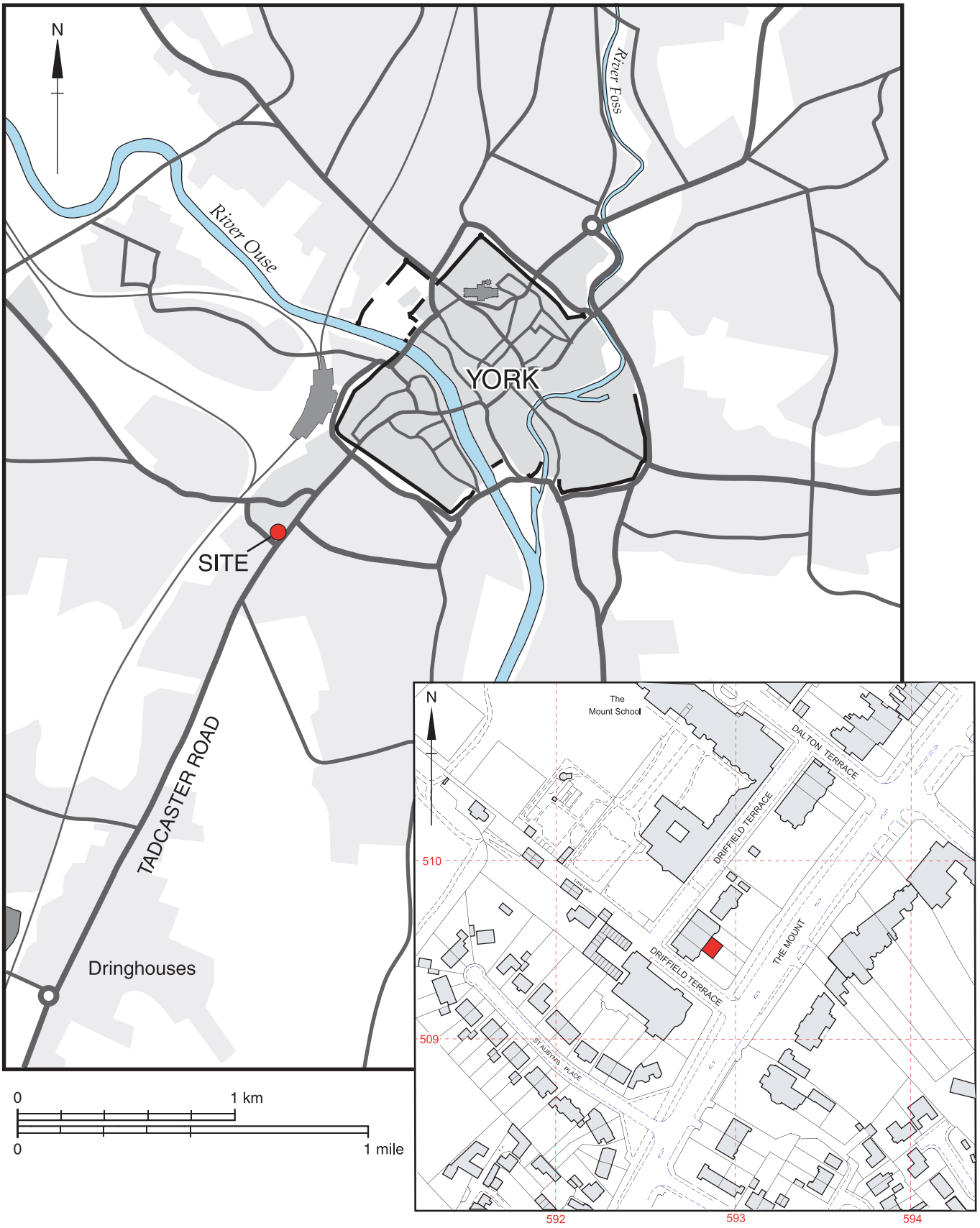

Fig. 1 *Site Location plan*

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Summary

Excavations at 6 Driffield Terrace, York during June-August 2005 revealed part of the Roman cemetery known from previous discoveries in and around The Mount. Twenty-four inhumation burials and one cremation were found; most if not all were adult males. The inhumations are notable for the presence of at least ten decapitations. These characteristics of the burials are comparable to those found at 1-3 Driffield Terrace in 2004-5. However, the cemetery at 6 Driffield Terrace is thought to commence in the 3rd century and the decapitation rite is believed to have taken place during the later 3rd and 4th centuries, somewhat later than at No.3.

1. Introduction

Between 20th June and 30th August 2005 York Archaeological Trust carried out an excavation at 6 Driffield Terrace, York (SE59285095; Fig. 1). The site had been evaluated in 2004 by Field Archaeology Services who found evidence for Roman burials beneath post-medieval garden soils (Spall 1995). The excavation was undertaken to a brief prepared by the City of York Council in advance of alterations to the garden layout by the owners, Mr and Mrs Coupe.

This document is an Assessment Report along the lines recommended by English Heritage in Management of Archaeological Projects (1991), also known in brief as MAP2. It forms the basis for proposals for further analysis and dissemination of the results in a widely accessible form.

All artefacts and site records are stored at YAT under the Yorkshire Museum accession code YORYM: 2005.513.

Plate 1 *Working shot looking west*

2. Method Statement

The site was in the garden to the rear (south-east side) of the house (Fig. 2). The single trench against the south-east face of the house was roughly square and measured a maximum of 6.2m north-west/south-east by 5.4m north-west/south-east. The excavation involved the complete removal of all archaeological deposits within the trench down to the level of natural subsoil which occurred at c.17.4m OD, 1.25m BGL. All features cut into the subsoil were fully excavated. Overburden to a depth of about 0.8m below ground level was removed mechanically, after which excavation was carried out entirely by hand (Plate 1).

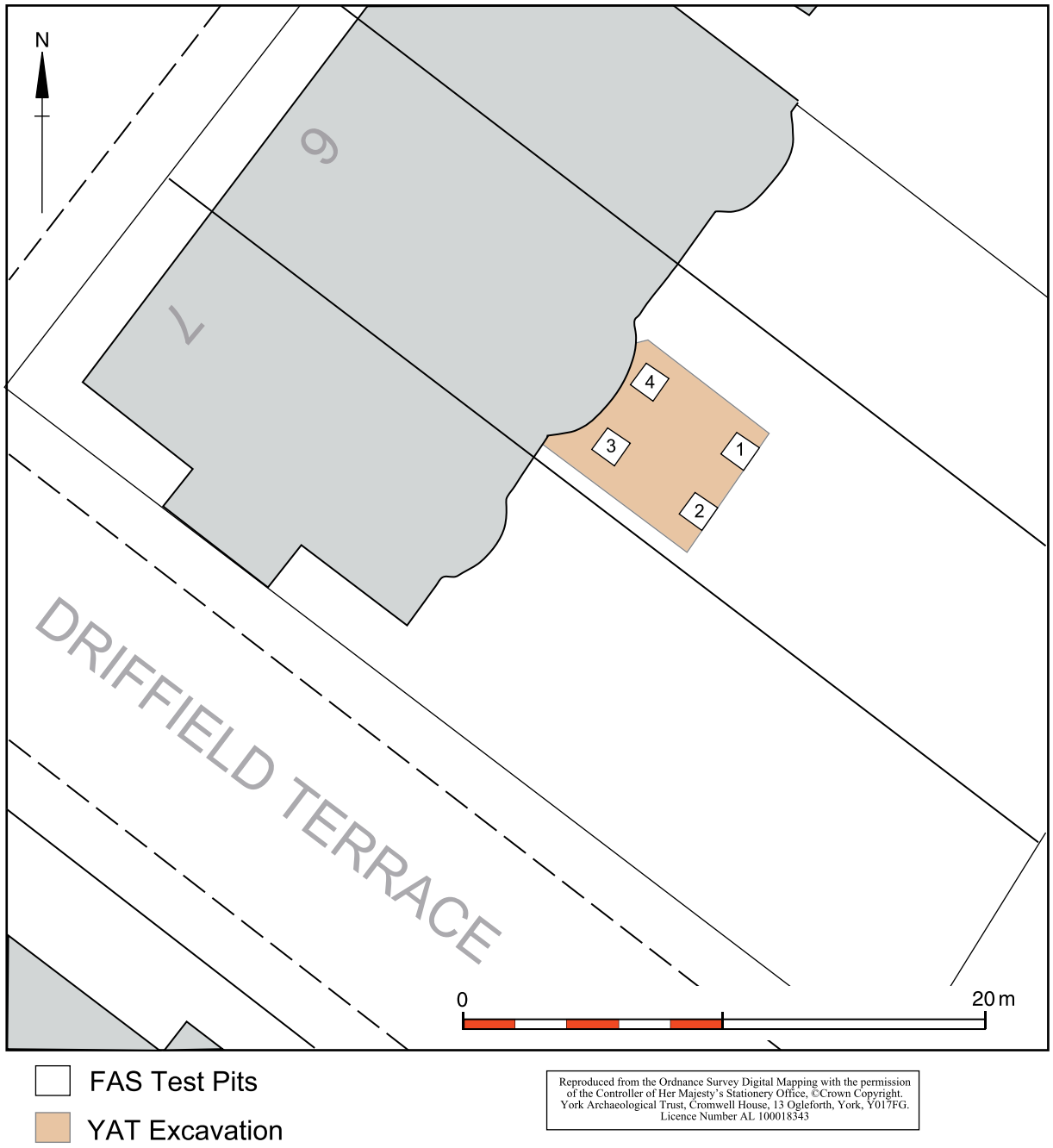

Fig 2 *Trench location plan*

The deposits and features, including graves, were recorded as individual contexts according to the methodology in the YAT Site Recording Manual (2004). Single context and other plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and sections were drawn at 1:10. A programme of full photographic recording of all major features and graves was complemented by a general site views and working shots.

Artefacts and biological materials were collected, stored and monitored for conservation requirements according to standard YAT procedures. Deposit samples were taken as appropriate for the collection of organic materials.

Following excavation the records were ordered and checked, and a stratigraphic diagram (matrix) showing the context sequence was created prior to the writing of the report below.

3. Location, Geology and Topography

The site lies in Driffield Terrace which runs parallel to and north-west of The Mount, the main approach road to the city from the south-west following the line of a major Roman road. The site is also c. 0.6km south-west of Micklegate Bar, the south-west entrance to the medieval walled city.

The solid geology of the site is Bunter and Keuper sandstones that are overlain by a drift geology that is generally Boulder Clay over Lacustrine clays with deposits of sand and gravel, lying within and over the clay in places (Geological Survey 1967). The ground level in the immediate vicinity of the site sloped down steadily to the south, from about 20m OD on Driffield Terrace to about 15m OD on The Mount. The elevated location of the immediate area is due to its position on a moraine ridge created during the last glaciation which runs across much of the low lying Vale of York (RCHMY 3, xxxvii – xxxviii). The moraine is cut at York by the river Ouse and other water courses including Holgate Beck which lies a little to the north-west of the site at Driffield Terrace.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

The excavation at 6 Driffield Terrace was undertaken because the site was known to lie within one of Roman York's more important cemeteries. In addition, it was thought possible that other aspects of settlement in the Roman period might be revealed, along with material relating to later periods of York's history.

Note: other sites in York are referred to by street address and /or code in the form 1900.1000. Details are available for those excavated by YAT on the Archive Gazetteer available on www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/gaz/index.htm

As noted above, the site lies 0.6km south-west of the medieval city walls which are thought to correspond to the line of a Roman defensive circuit around the town (colonia) south-west of the river Ouse (RCHMY1, 49). The site is also adjacent to the line of the main Roman approach road from the south-west (RCHMY 1, 3; Road 10) which is broadly followed by Blossom Street, The Mount and Mount Vale. It was probably represented by a cobbled surface seen at 7 Driffield Terrace in 1981 (1981.1031). Another minor Roman road, approaching from the west, was thought by RCHME to have joined the main road from the south-west at the junction of Dalton Terrace and the Mount (RCHMY1, 3; Road 11). Some further evidence for Road 11 was found in

a watching brief at the Mount School in 2004 (Milner and Johnson 2004).

The principal evidence for Roman activity in the immediate area of the site has hitherto taken the form of burials in a large cemetery which extended along the line of the approach road from the south-west, from at least as far away from the Roman town as Trentholme Drive, c. 0.9km from the city walls. However, apart from excavations at Trentholme Drive in 1951-2 and 1957-9 (Wenham 1968), and an excavation at 35-41 Blossom Street in 1989-90 (1989.21 and 1990.21), most information about the cemetery derives from chance discoveries made during 19th and early 20th century building work.

From the catalogue published in Eburacum (RCHMY 1, 92-106) it is apparent that the cemetery was in use for the whole of the Roman period and included examples of a great diversity of burial types including cremations and inhumations in a variety of containers, and with or without grave goods or grave markers. Where Road 10 corresponded to the present line of The Mount a particular concentration of funerary monuments has been discovered, possibly because of its location on or close to a natural high point visible at some distance as one approached from the south-west. Amongst these monuments may be noted a vault with a lead coffin found at the junction of Driffield Terrace and Dalton Terrace in 1769. The tombstone of Lucius Bebius Crescens was found in 1911 when the Mount School gymnasium was constructed (RCHMY1, 121), and the sarcophagus of Aelia Severa found with the tombstone of Flavia Augustina re-used as a lid in Dalton Terrace in 1859 (RCHMY1, 128). The tombstones of Julia Velva and Candida Barita were found in 1922 on the south-east side of The Mount when Albemarle Road was laid out. Finally, it may be noted that eight urns, a lamp and a fibula were found in 1807 while gardening at Mount House (see below), and two stone coffins were found under a house in Driffield Terrace near the junction with Love Lane (RCHMY1, 97-8).

A small number of Anglian cremations was found in 1859 on a site immediately to the north-east of the junction of Dalton Terrace with the Mount (Stead 1958), but there is little other evidence for post-Roman activity in the immediate area of Driffield Terrace. In the Anglo-Scandinavian and medieval periods the area appears to have been open land used for agriculture. In the mid-17th century during the English Civil War, a sconce, or fort, apparently sitting astride The Mount was built a little to the east of the site.

A large mound, designated as a tumulus on the 1852 Ordnance Survey map, lies some 60m north-west of the site; it is currently in the grounds of The Mount School. It is undated, but was described in 1425 as an ancient mound on which formerly stood a windmill (Raine 1955, 309).

In the 18th century two large houses, one known as Mount House on the 1st edition OS map of 1852, were constructed alongside The Mount. The site lies close to the south-west end of the formal gardens of the house. Mount House was demolished in 1865, to make way for Driffield Terrace.

5. The Excavation

Introduction

It was possible to separate past activity on the site into several distinct stages; these stages are the basis for the division of activity into the Periods that structure the report. The Roman cemetery was overlain by ploughsoil, which indicates that the cemetery had probably been truncated by medieval ploughing. Post-dating the ploughsoil was a post-medieval garden soil, perhaps associated with Mount House. It was cut by several features, which are thought to be associated with occupation along Driffield Terrace.

Deposits relating to the Roman cemetery, overlying undisturbed natural deposits, survived to an average depth of 0.3m. In addition features were cut into the natural to an average depth of 0.4m (Fig. 3). It was possible to identify a long stratigraphic sequence of Roman features and deposits, which was characterised by alternating episodes of the digging of features and the deposition of material. These episodes are the basis for the system of Groups which structure the report. Where features and deposits could not be assigned to a precise stratigraphic position, they have been assigned to the earliest possible group. A summary description of all the graves excavated can be found in Table 2 in Section 12 below.

It proved useful for the purposes of site interpretation to amalgamate the Groups of activity in the Roman cemetery into a small number of Phases. These subdivisions represent to an extent less distinct stages of activity during the use of the area as a cemetery.

All alignments referred to relate to true north, although site north during excavation lay to the north-west. The first compass point mentioned in the alignment of the inhumations is the head/torso end of the skeleton.

Period 1 Natural

Group 1

The drift geology (1110) comprised interleaved layers of orange sand with cobbles, silt loam and pea gravel some 0.15m thick overall. Beneath this material was very compact clay at least 0.25m thick. The highest point of the undisturbed natural deposits was around 17.5m OD, but these deposits had been mostly truncated by later features.

Where the undisturbed natural (1110) survived to its full height it was overlain by dark grey sandy loam some 0.1m thick (1115 and 1122), which is interpreted as natural subsoil. Pottery recovered from Deposit 1122 suggests that the subsoil was still forming during the 2nd/3rd centuries.

Period 2 Roman

Phase 2A Early cemetery and pits

This phase includes at least one and up to four graves, involving up to seven burials (see Fig. 4). It dated to the late 2nd/early 3rd centuries according to the pottery evidence.

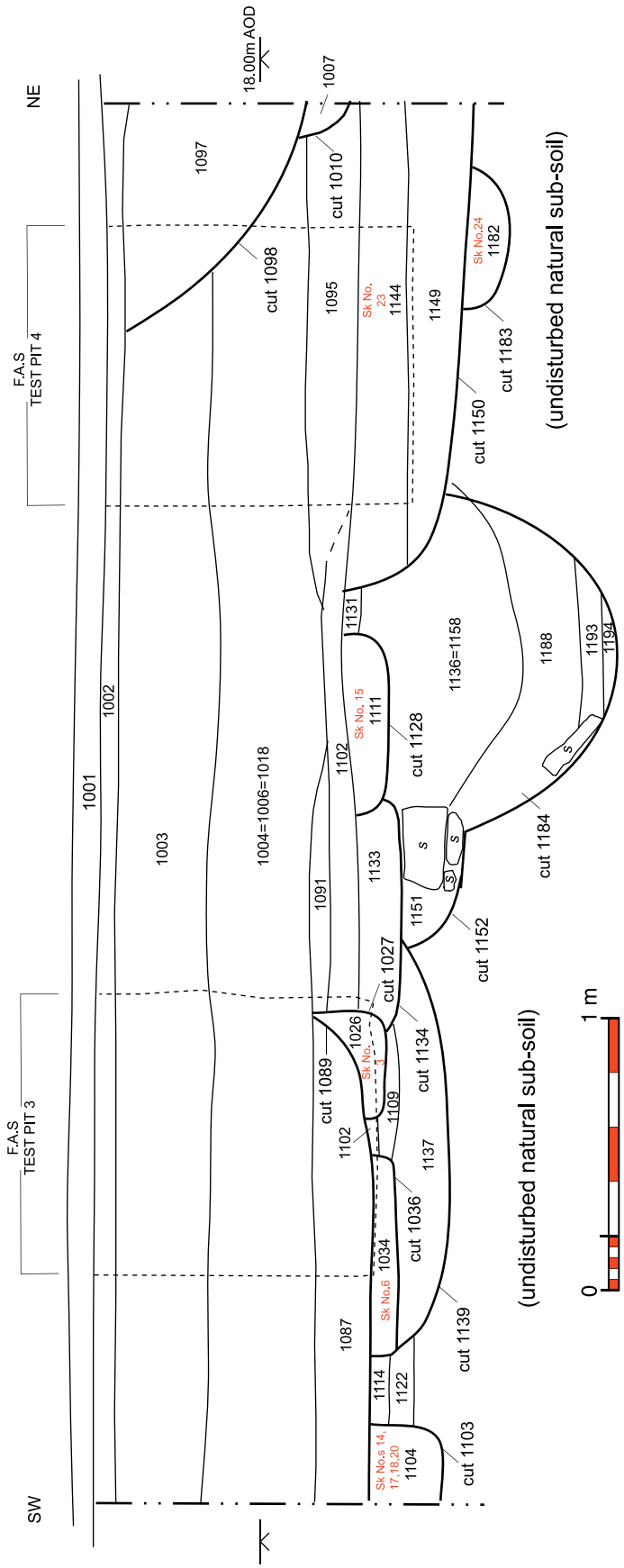

Fig. 3 *Composite south-east facing section. Scale 1:25*

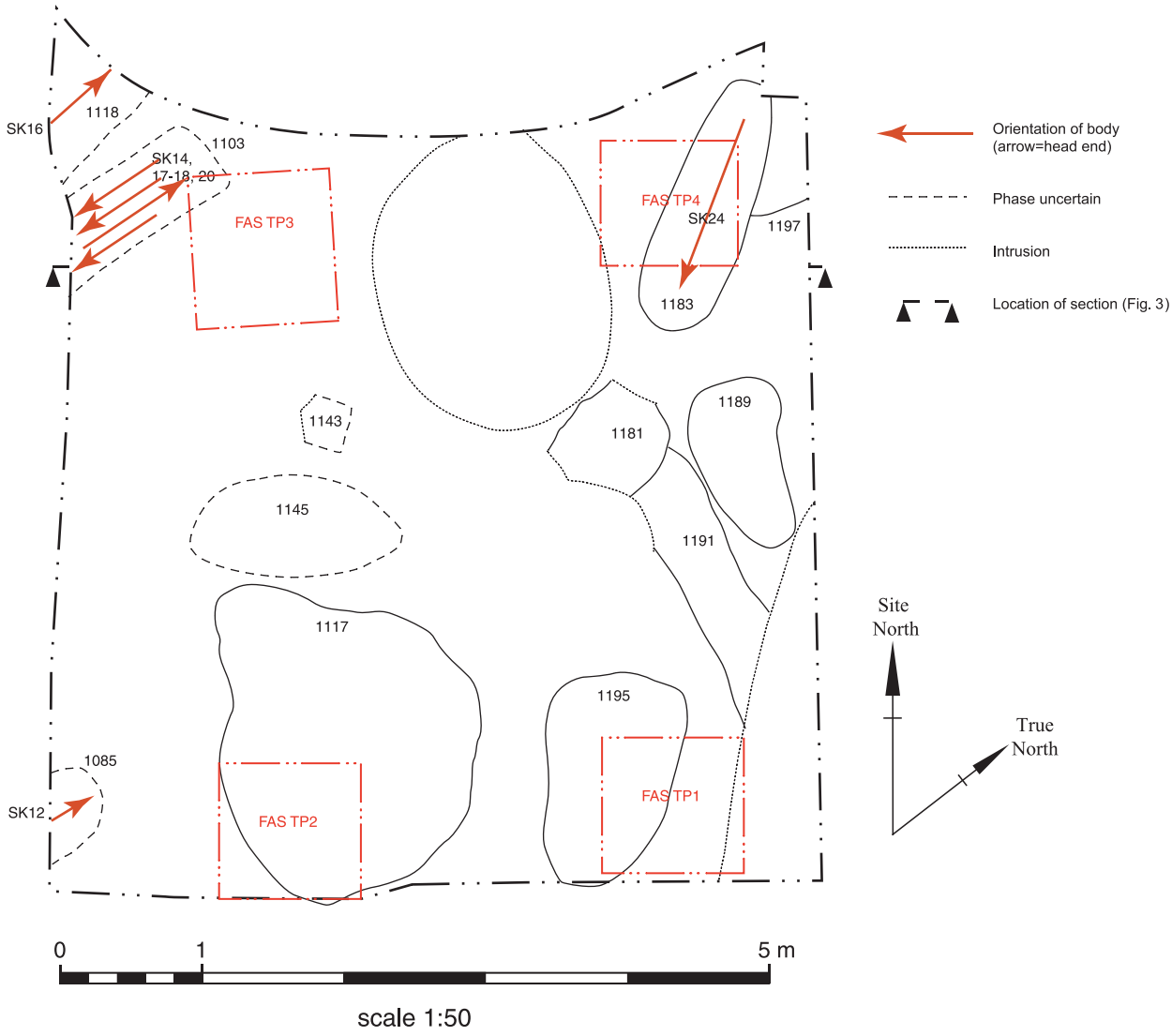

Fig. 4 Roman features, phase 2a

Group 2 Cut features and graves

Cutting into Natural 1110 were several shallow pits and small irregular linear features (1117, 1189, 1191 and 1197). Their fills were generally mid-dark brown sandy silt loams with occasional charcoal flecks and moderate gravel-cobbles (1116, 1163, 1190 and 1196 respectively). The function of these features is uncertain, but it is unlikely that they originally contained burials. Fill 1116 contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Three features cutting the natural subsoil in the west corner of the trench could have occurred as early as this Group, but truncation of their upper parts by a later feature means that their precise stratigraphic position is unknown. Grave 1103 was rectangular, aligned north-south, and had vertical sides and a flat base. It was at least 1.32m long x 0.57m by 0.27m deep. This grave contained four inhumations apparently lying together within a wooden coffin or box as indicated

by the distribution of iron nails. Of the bottom inhumation, Skeleton 20 (1125), only the legs and right hand lay within the trench. The head end of this supine burial was to the south. The head end of the next, supine Skeleton 18 (1123) was to the north; the legs and hands lay beyond the edge of trench, and the head was in the correct anatomical position. Above this skeleton was Skeleton 17 (1121), and above that Skeleton 14 (1105); their heads would have been to the south, but only the lower parts of the supine bodies lay within the trench. The backfill was mid brown sandy loam with occasional compact clay patches, gravel and charcoal flecks (1104). A similar deposit (1127) separated Skeleton 18 from Skeleton 20, so it is possible that Skeleton 20 was placed in the grave some time before the other three. However, there is little doubt that at least the upper three bodies were buried together, in a single coffin or box. The interpretation of the structure depends on whether the coffin, complete with bodies, was brought to the grave, or the bodies were brought to a box in the ground. This grave could have been dug as late as Group 10. Fills 1127 and 1104 contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Cut 1143 was the east end of a small square or rectilinear cut with steep sides and a flat base, measuring at least 0.38m long x 0.34m by 0.11m deep; it may have been a beam slot. It contained dark brown sandy loam with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks (1142). This feature could have occurred as late as Group 10.

Grave 1118 had a steep east edge and a flat base. It measured at least 0.85m long by 0.8m wide, by 0.12m deep. It contained a supine inhumation, aligned north-south (Skeleton 16; 1120). Only the torso and left arm were observed. The grave had a fill of mid orange/brown silt loam, with frequent gravel (1119). Nails indicate that the burial was in a coffin. This grave could be as late as Group 12.

Towards the east corner of the trench was an ovoid cut (1195), of unknown function. It had a concave cross-section profile and measured 1.5 x 1m and 0.24m deep. Fill 1192 was mid brown silt loam with frequent gravel-cobbles. This feature could be assigned to Group 4.

Group 3 Deposits

Overlying some of the Group 2 features and the natural subsoil was mid grey sandy silt loam with occasional orange sand patches (1096), mid-grey silty sand with moderate cobbles (1108) and dark grey/brown silt loam (1179), which were confined to the south-east half of the trench. It is not clear how these deposits formed, although the presence of redeposited natural sand suggests they were upcast from the digging of features nearby.

Group 4 Grave and other features

Grave 1183 was situated in the north corner of the trench and measured 1.85 x 0.6m and 0.52m deep. The skeleton (1187; Skeleton 24) was aligned south-south-east / north-north-west and buried supine, with the arms crossed over the pelvis. Fill 1182 was a soft mid-dark grey/brown silty loam. Finds included a fragment of slag (SF333) close to the face of the skull, horse bones over the pelvis and under the right leg, two groups of hobnails underneath the lower legs, and late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery. Large stones within the undisturbed natural protruded into the grave, indicating that the body was not laid in a coffin.

Immediately south of Grave 1183 was another possible grave, albeit empty (1181). It measured at least 0.75m (north - south) x 0.7m and 0.25m deep; only the north end survived. It contained mid orange/brown sandy silt loam with moderate pea gravel-pebbles (1180).

Two features could have occurred as early as Group 4, but their precise stratigraphic position is uncertain. Only a 0.36m length of Grave 1085 was observed, but it was 0.5m wide and 0.12m deep and it was probably sub-rectangular in plan. It contained a supine body, aligned north-east / south-west (Skeleton 12; 1083). The skull was in the correct anatomical position, the arms were down by the sides of the body, and the legs lay beyond the limit of excavation. The grave fill was mid-dark grey sandy loam with moderate pebbles (1084). Only one possible coffin nail was recovered from the fill, so it is not certain whether there was a coffin. This feature could be as late as Group 12.

Cut 1145 was a small, shallow cut oval in plan, 1.5 x 0.72m by 0.19m deep. It contained dark brown sandy loam with frequent pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks (1146). This feature could have occurred as late as Group 10.

Group 5 Deposits

Overlying the Group 4 features was mid orange-brown silt loam with frequent gravel-cobbles (1178), and mid brown-orange sandy loams with frequent gravel and occasional charcoal flecks (1073, 1076). Deposits 1073 and 1178 contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery. Deposits 1073 and 1076 could have occurred as late as Group 13.

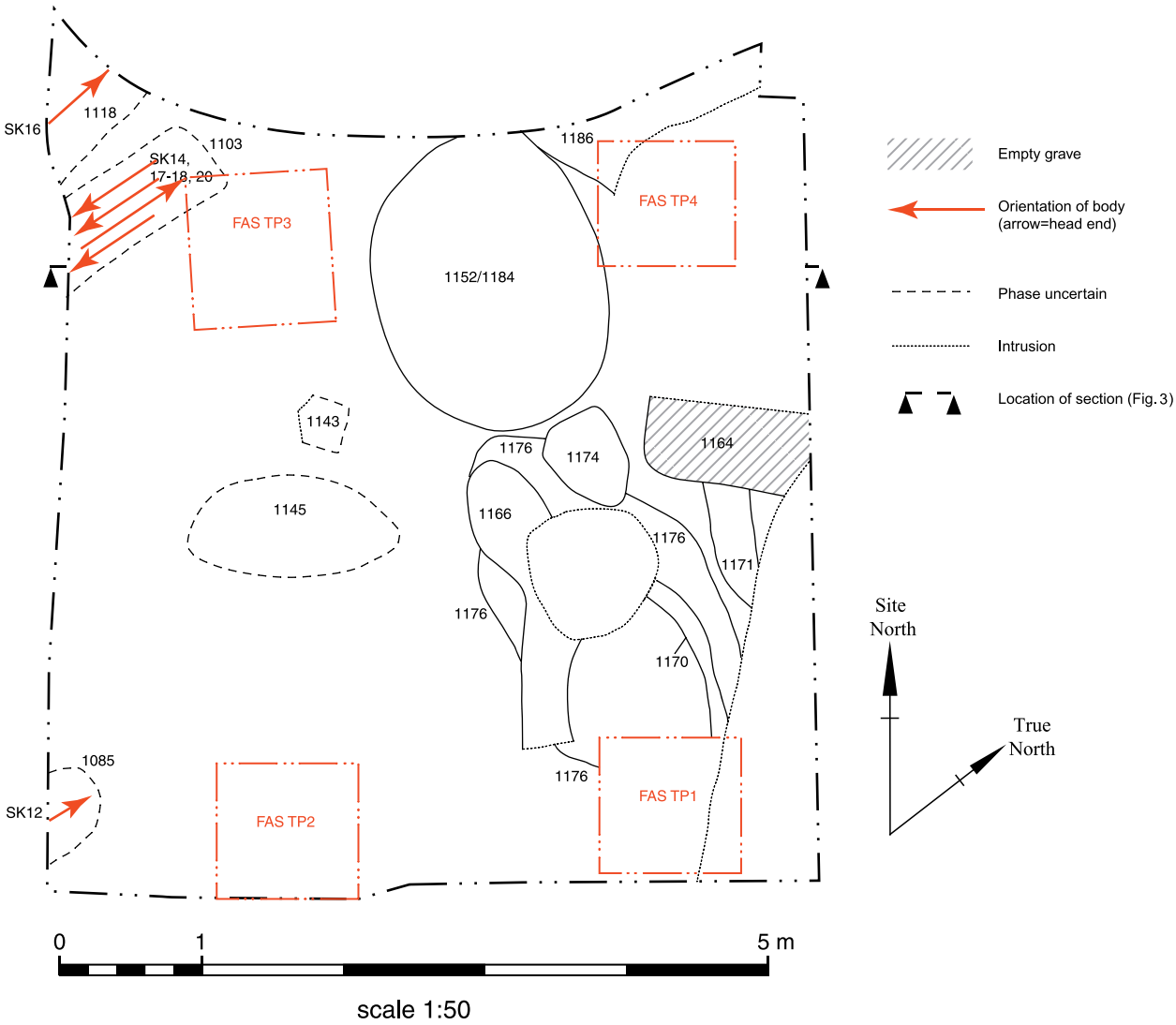

Fig. 5 *Roman features, Phase 2b*

Phase 2B Possible cemetery structures and pits

No burials can be assigned with certainty to this phase. However it does include possible funerary structures and cut features (see Fig. 5). It contained only late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Group 6 Pits

Cutting the Group 4 features and Group 5 deposits in the north-east half of the trench were two large, shallow pits, oval in plan with concave profiles (1176 and 1186). The former measured 2.62 x 1.56m by 0.41m deep, and contained mid orange/brown clay loam with frequent cobbles and occasional charcoal flecks (1177). The latter was at least 1.9 x 0.6m by 0.26m deep, but had been largely removed by later features. It was filled with mottled mid grey/brown and mid grey sandy silt loam with moderate pebbles (1185). The function of these two features is unclear, but they are not thought to have been graves.

Group 7 Deposits

Overlying Pit 1176 were compact orange/brown sandy loam deposits with frequent cobbles and occasional charcoal flecks (1167-8), and light brown clay loam with occasional charcoal flecks and patches of pea gravel and orange sand (1172). It is likely that these deposits were primarily upcast from grave digging, which also formed a stony surface. Late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery was recovered from 1168 and 1172.

Group 8 Features

The Group 6 features and Group 7 deposits were cut by a variety of features. Pit 1184 was circular in plan with a concave profile, and measured 1.3m in diameter by 0.95m deep. It seems to have been associated with a small sub-rectangular cut on its south side (1152) which contained a large fragment of sandstone and other stones fragments (1151; AFs 1-2, 4 and 6) which was apparently set on cobbles and gravel in the base of the cut to form a step in the side of Pit 1184. Pit 1184 is tentatively interpreted as a ritual pit (Latin mundus), which appear to have been used to make offerings - often libations of wine - to the gods. It contained a basal fill of orange/brown silt, apparently water lain (1194); and secondary fills of gravel (1193) and grey/brown sand, gravel and cobbles (1188), which probably resulted from natural in-wash into the pit. Above these deposits was a backfill of mid-brown sandy loam with frequent cobbles and occasional charcoal flecks (1113, 1136, and 1158). The upper fills of this feature contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Immediately east of Pit 1184 was a small pit oval in plan (1174), which measured 0.72 x 0.52m by 0.11m deep. It contained dark grey silt loam with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks (1173).

In the east corner of the trench were three small linear slots (1166, 1170, and 1171). They contained dark grey/brown sandy loam with occasional charcoal flecks, pebbles/cobbles and orange sand patches (1159=1162, 1169 and 1165 respectively). It is possible that these slots were parts of funerary structures. Late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery was found in Fills 1162 and 1147.

Slot 1171 was cut by a shallow feature with a steep south-east edge and a flat base (1164), which could have been a pit or an empty grave. It contained mid/dark grey silt loam with moderate gravel/pebbles (1147), which contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Group 9 Surface?

The Group 8 features were overlain by layers of gravel, pebbles and light orange/brown sandy loam. In the centre of the trench was a deposit about 3m in diameter, an average of 25mm thick, and its fairly level surface was about 17.55m OD (1148). This deposit is regarded as an external surface; it contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery. In the north corner of the trench were two deposits at least 2m in diameter (1131-2).

Phase 2C Cemetery

One feature of this phase was the presence of large numbers of horse bones in two of the graves. Decapitated burials are also present in this phase (see Fig. 6). The pottery and finds suggest a mid-late 3rd century date for this activity.

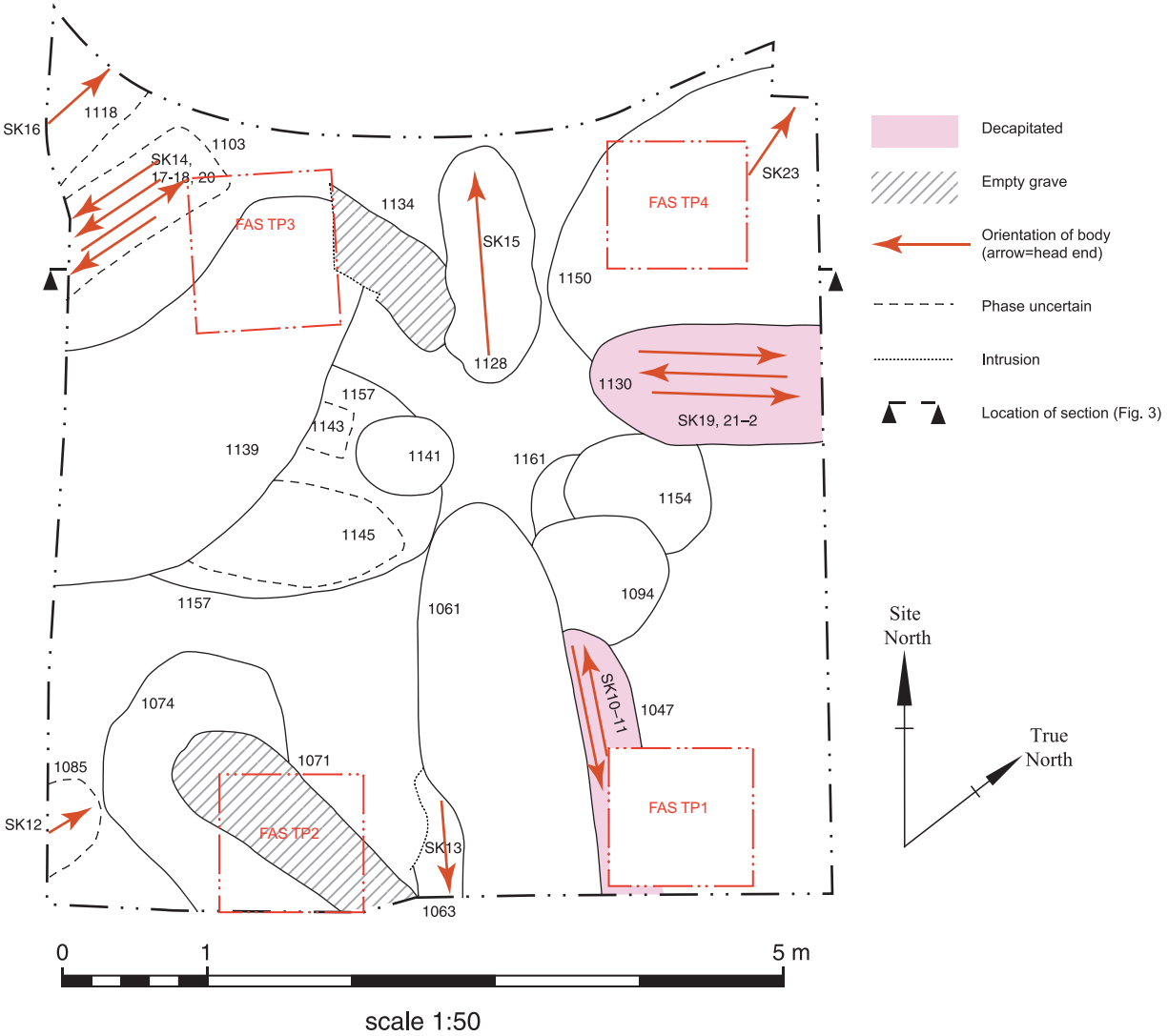

Fig. 6 *Roman features, Phase 2C*

Group 10 Grave and other features

In the north corner of the trench was a large cut, oval in plan and at least 2.3m long by 1.9m wide, and 0.4m deep (1150). It contained Skeleton 23 (1175), a supine inhumation aligned north-north-west / south-south-east. It was not certain whether the body was anatomically intact, as its upper part lay beyond the north-east corner of excavation. The skeleton lay within a mass of disarticulated horse bone that was confined to a 1m wide area, which suggests that the inhumation and horse bones were deposited within a coffin or box, a possibility supported by the presence of iron nails. Several large stones, including architectural fragments, were laid out

across the southern side of the cut. This material lay within a 0.2m-thick upper fill of dark grey silt loam with moderate pebbles and charcoal flecks (1144). Below this deposit was compact mixed mid orange/brown sandy loam and mid grey silt loam with frequent pebbles, moderate charcoal flecks and occasional oyster shell (1149). As the inhumation and associated finds were in the upper fill, it is possible that Cut 1150 was a pit that was subsequently used as a grave. The fills contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

In the centre of the trench was a series of intercutting features. The first was the south-west end of a cut circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base (1141). It was 0.6m in diameter by 0.32m deep and contained dark brown sandy loam with frequent gravel/pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks (1140). It was cut by a large shallow pit oval in plan at least 2m long, by 1.6m wide and 0.23m deep (1157), which was filled with light orange/brown sandy loam with occasional pebbles, large limestone fragments and charcoal flecks (1138). This feature was in turn cut by a shallow feature, curvilinear in plan at least 3m long, by 1.6m wide and 0.19m deep (1139). It was aligned north-south but turned and tapered out to the north-west. Its fill was mid grey/brown clay loam with occasional gravel/pebbles and charcoal flecks (1137). The function of these features is unclear. Fills1138 and 1140 contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Towards the east corner of the trench were three small intercutting pits circular in plan (1094, 1154 and 1161). They were each about 0.9m in diameter and a maximum of 0.25m deep. The fill of 1094 was mixed, dark grey silt loam and light orange/brown sandy loam with moderate orange sand patches tipping down to the south-west and occasional charcoal flecks (1093). Pit 1154 contained dark grey silt loam with moderate charcoal flecks, and occasional pebbles and oyster shell (1153). The fill of 1161 was dark brown sandy loam with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks (1160). All of these fills contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Group 11 Surface?

Overlying the Group 10 features was a layer of compact mid orange/brown sandy loam with frequent gravel/pebbles (1109). It was some 4m in diameter and an average of 50mm thick; the top was around 17.55m OD. This deposit appears to have formed an external surface. It contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Group 12 Box burial and other graves

Cut into the south-east side of Grave 1150 was a grave, sub-rectangular in plan with near-vertical sides and a flat base (1130). It measured at least 1.62m long, by 0.84m wide and 0.31m deep, and was aligned north-east / south-west. Within this grave were three inhumations. The lowest, Skeleton 22 (1129) was buried prone and had the head end to north-east, although the upper part of the torso lay beyond the edge of the trench. The skeleton was decapitated, with the skull lying underneath the left side of the torso (Plate 2). The next, Skeleton 21 (1126), had the head end to south-west and was supine. It was decapitated, with the skull to the right of the torso (Plates 2-3). The uppermost, Skeleton 19 (1124), had the head end to the north-east, was supine, and the head was in the correct anatomical position (Plate 3). The grave fill was dark grey silt loam with moderate gravel-cobbles and charcoal flecks (1107). It also contained a considerable quantity of horse bones; at least four individuals were represented, and several groups of vertebrae were found articulated (Plate 3). There was a thin bottom fill of shiny, mid grey sandy loam with

moderate pebbles (1135), perhaps the result of a chemical reaction from body decomposition. As iron nails were found at the same level but only in the upper part of the grave, the lower part of the coffin may have been jointed and the lid nailed on. Fill 1107 contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Plate 2 *Decapitated Skeleton 1126 overlying Skeleton 1129, looking north-west*

Plate 3 *Horse bones 1107 over Skeletons 1124 and 1126, looking north-west*

South-west of Grave 1150 was the east end of a cut sub-rectangular in plan, aligned east-west, with vertical sides and a flat base (1134). It measured at least 1.1m long, by 0.54m and 0.24m deep. It contained mid orange/brown sandy loam with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles (1133). It is possible that Cut 1134 was a grave, with no trace of the burial surviving. Fill 1133 contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Cut 1134 was cut by a grave sub-rectangular in plan with steep sides and a flat base (1128). It measured 1.62 x 0.64m by 0.22m deep. The burial, Skeleton 15 (1112), was aligned north-west / south-east and was supine with the head in the correct anatomical position. The grave fill was mid grey silt loam with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks (1111). Iron nails indicate the presence of a coffin; there was also late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Group 13 Deposits

The Group 12 features were overlain by a series of deposits which were each around 3m in diameter, and overall extended across the entire trench and were an average of 0.1m thick: gravel in light-mid grey sandy loam (1070); light brown silt loam with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks (1072); dark grey/brown sandy silt loam with frequent gravel/pebbles (1091); mixed mid grey/brown and dark brown sandy silt loam with frequent gravel-cobbles (1092); compact mid-dark brown silty loam with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks (1095); mixed orange, mid brown and mid grey sandy loam with frequent gravel/pebbles (1102); and dark brown/black sandy silt loam with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks (1114).

The high stone and sand contents in many of these layers were probably the result of natural deposits being upcast during grave digging. The darker, loamier deposits, in contrast, appear to have formed by the deposition of other materials. Meanwhile, Deposit 1095, which was very compact and up to 0.2m thick with a convex upper surface, may have acted as a marker mound over Graves 1150 (Group 10) and 1130 (Group 12; see Fig 7). Late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery was recovered from 1072, 1102 and 1114; whereas the latest date of the pottery recovered from 1070 was 3rd century, in 1095 it was mid 3rd century or later, and in 1091 it was late 3rd century. A bone pin (SF 268) found in Deposit 1095 is dated to the 3rd/4th centuries.

Group 14 Burials and pits

The Group 13 deposits were cut by a range of features. Towards the east corner of the trench was the north-east side of a grave sub-rectangular in plan, at least 1.85 x 0.4m by 0.3m deep (1047). It contained two inhumations: only the lower right leg of the lower burial, aligned south-east / north-west survived (Skeleton 11; 1079), much of the left side of the body having been removed by a later pit. It was directly overlain by another burial (Skeleton 10: 1075), which was aligned north-west / south-east. Although only the upper left torso and left arm survived the later pit, it seems this supine body was decapitated. There was a probable coffin infill of friable-loose mid/dark grey/brown sandy silt loam with frequent gravel-cobbles and occasional charcoal flecks (1146), surrounded by a grave backfill of mid grey/brown sandy silt loam with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional gravel/pebbles (1090). The presence of an apparent coffin fill and iron nails strongly indicate the position of a coffin. Fill 1046 contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

South of Grave 1047 was part of the south-west side of a grave at least 0.92 x 0.32m by 0.13m deep (1063). Within this cut lay the left torso and arm of a supine burial aligned south-east/north-west (Skeleton 13; 1086); much of this burial had been removed by a later pit. The fill was mid-dark grey sandy loam with occasional gravel/pebbles (1062). The lack of nails suggests this burial was not in a coffin. Fill 1062 contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Graves 1047 and 1063 were cut by an irregular cut sub-rectangular in plan, aligned north-west/south-east (1061). It measured at least 2.68m long x 1.1m by 0.45m deep, and contained mid-dark brown sandy loam with frequent pebbles/gravel (1048). It is possible that Cut 1061 was a grave with no body surviving, but it is more likely that it was a pit. Fill 1048 contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

In the south corner of the trench was an irregular cut sub-circular in plan with a concave profile (1074). It measured at least 1.74m long x 1.3m by 0.35m deep. Its fill was orange sandy clay with frequent gravel (1068). This feature was probably a pit.

Pit 1074 was cut by a feature sub-rectangular in plan, aligned east-west, with steep sides and an undulating base (1071). It measured at least 1.7m long x 0.68m by 0.4m deep. Its fill was mixed orange sand and brown silt loam, with moderate brown clay patches and occasional cobbles (1069). The shape and size of this cut suggest that it was a grave, although no human remains were found therein.

Group 15 Deposits

The Group 14 features were overlain by deposits, each about 2m in diameter, which occupied the southern part of the trench: mid brown sandy loam with frequent gravel (1045=1051) and dark brown sandy clay with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks (1067). These deposits all produced late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Phase 2D Cemetery – decapitations

This phase of the cemetery was dominated by individual decapitated burials (Fig. 7). The pottery recovered was mostly late 2nd/early 3rd century with a little that was dated to the early-mid 3rd century or later, although it would be appear to be residual as later pottery was found in the preceding phase.

Group 16 Graves and other features

The Group 15 deposits were cut by several features. In the south corner of the trench was an east-west sub-rectangular cut with vertical sides and a flat base (1060), which measured 1.28 x 0.26m by 0.22m deep. It contained light-mid orange/brown sandy loam with frequent cobbles (1059). The small size of the cut and the absence of human bones or coffin nails do not favour the interpretation of this feature as a grave. However the shape of the cut does suggest a grave and it may have accommodated a child burial whose bones have not survived.

Cut 1060 was cut by Grave 1056, which was a rectangular cut with steep sides and a flat base, measuring at least 1.26m long x 0.62m by 0.24m deep. It contained the legs of a supine burial,

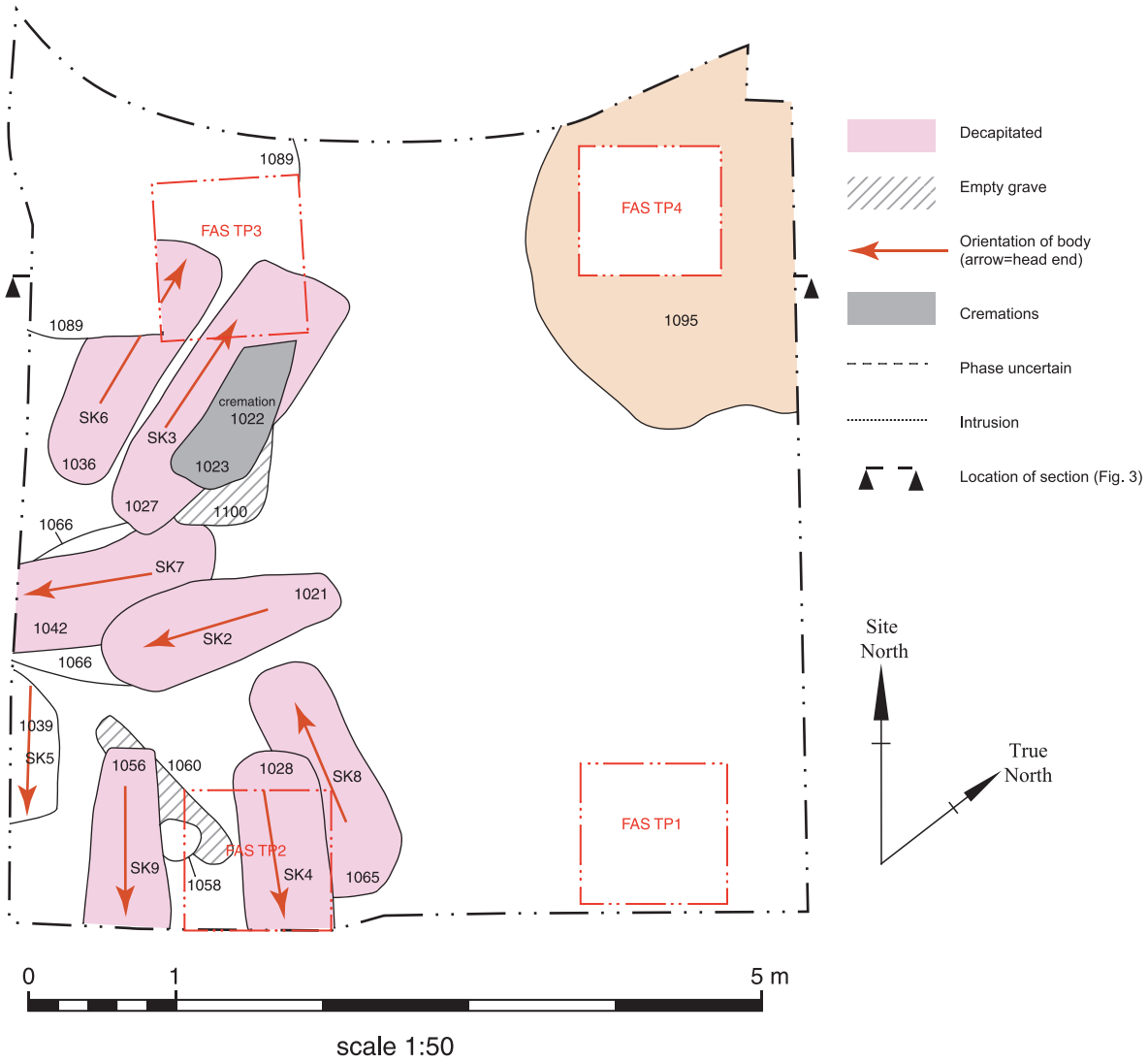

Fig. 7 *Roman features, Phase 2D*

aligned south-east / north-west (Skeleton 9; 1055); this was presumably a decapitated burial, as a skull was found between the knees. The fill was mid orange/brown clay loam with occasional charcoal flecks and gravel (1052=1054). Nails were present, indicating the presence of a coffin. Fill 1052 contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Grave 1056 was cut by a small post-hole sub-circular in plan (1058), which measured 0.28m in diameter by 0.14m deep. It contained loose mid orange/brown sandy loam with occasional charcoal flecks (1057). This post-hole apparently accommodated a post that could have acted as a marker for Grave 1056, although it would have stood mid-way along the north-west side of the grave and not at one of the ends. It contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

A little to the north-west was a probably oval cut with concave profile, aligned north-east /south-west (1066). It measured at least 1.25m long x 1.15m by 0.34m deep, and contained 80% pebbles-cobbles in a mid orange/brown clay loam with occasional charcoal flecks (1053). The high stone content suggests deliberate infill of a previously open feature, perhaps the bole of a

tree that had been blown over or cut down. Late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery was recovered from the fill.

Cut 1066 was itself cut by Grave 1042, a sub-rectangular cut with near-vertical sides and a flat base, measuring at least 1.34m long x 0.7m by 0.26m deep. It contained the lower part of a supine skeleton, aligned south-south-west / north-north-east (Skeleton 7; 1041). This body was presumably decapitated, as a skull was found between the knees. The right arm was crossed over the abdomen, and the left knee was slightly flexed outwards. A coffin was indicated by iron nails surrounding a deposit of dark grey / brown sandy silt loam with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks (1043). Over and around this deposit was a grey/brown sandy loam with frequent gravel-pebbles (1040), which had a convex surface that was up to 80mm above the top edge of the grave cut. This grave backfill therefore seems to have also acted as a grave marker mound. It contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Grave 1042 was in turn cut by the south-east end of a rectangular feature with steep sides and a flat base (1100). It had been truncated to the north-west by later features, but measured at least 0.7 x 0.57m by 0.14m deep. It contained mid grey/brown sandy loam with occasional gravel (1101). It is possible that this feature was a grave, but too little of it survives to be certain.

A little to the north-east of the features in the south corner was Grave 1065, a sub-rectangular cut with near-vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a decapitated inhumation, aligned west/east (Skeleton 8; 1044). The body was supine but slightly turned to the left, with the right hand across the abdomen and the right lower leg over the left lower leg; the skull lay to the left of the lower legs (Plate 4). The position of a coffin, measuring 1.42 x 0.34m, was indicated by coffin nails and a rectangular-shaped coffin infill of mid brown sandy loam with moderate gravel and occasional charcoal flecks (1033). There was a backfill of mixed orange and mid brown sandy loam with occasional patches of brown clay, orange sand and cobbles (1064). Late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery was recovered from both of these deposits, although a sherd of possible Anglo-Saxon pottery was also found in Fill 1033.

Plate 4 Skeleton 1044, looking west-north-west

Towards the west corner of the trench was Grave 1036, a cut sub-rectangular in plan with steep sides and a flat base, which measured 1.8 x 0.64m by 0.21m deep. Lying within this cut was a decapitated inhumation, aligned north-

north-west / south-south-east (Skeleton 6; 1035). It was supine, with the arms slightly crossed over the pelvis and the skull lying on the left shoulder. The presence of a coffin was suggested by iron nails. The fill was mid brown sandy silt loam with occasional brown clay patches, gravel/ pebbles and charcoal flecks (1034). It contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Group 17 Deposits

The Group 16 features were overlain by several deposits extending across the southern part of the trench, each about 2m in diameter and an average of 50mm thick. The top of these deposits was about 17.75m OD. In the east corner was mid-dark grey silty clay loam with occasional-moderate gravel-pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks (1031=1005). In the south corner was mid grey/brown sandy loam with frequent gravel (1050), which was overlaid by mid brown sandy loam with frequent pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks (1049). To their north-west was compact mid brown clay loam with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks (1032). These are regarded as cemetery deposits. Late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery was found in Deposits 1031-2 and 1049, whereas the latest pottery recovered from Deposit 1005 was early-mid 3rd century or later in date.

Group 18 Graves and a pit

The Group 17 deposits were cut by several features. In the south corner of the trench was Grave 1039, the north-east side of a cut with steep sides and a base that sloped up to the south-east. It measured at least 0.98 x 0.27m by 0.18m deep. Lying within this feature was a supine inhumation, aligned south-east / north-west (Skeleton 5; 1038). Only the right side of the torso and part of the right arm lay within the trench; the right arm lay across the pelvis. The skull was not present, although it is not clear whether this means the body was decapitated or that it was subsequently disturbed by ploughing. The presence of a coffin could not be determined. The fill was dark grey/brown sandy silt loam with frequent gravel-pebbles (1037); it contained late 2nd/ early 3rd century pottery.

Immediately north of Grave 1039 was another grave (1021). This cut sub-rectangular in plan had steep sides and a flat base, and measured 1.68 x 0.64m by 0.34m deep. It contained a decapitated supine inhumation, aligned south-south-west / north-north-east (Skeleton 2; 1030). The body was flexed slightly to the left right, with the lower left leg over the right leg. The right arm was straight, and the skull lay between the right arm and the pelvis. The left arm was missing, probably due to plough disturbance (Plate 5). Two ribs and a vertebra, probably articulated and found immediately to the south-west (1019), appear to be a slightly disturbed part of this body. Iron nails point to the presence of a coffin; patches of iron concretion at the north-east end of the grave could have been the remains of groups of hobnails, marking the position of shoes. The fill of the grave was mixed dark grey and dark brown sandy silt loam with frequent pebbles (1020), from which late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery was recovered.

Immediately east of Grave 1021 was Grave 1028. It was sub-rectangular, with steep sides and a concave base, and measured at least 1.2 x 0.6m by 0.24m deep. It contained a supine inhumation, aligned south-east / north-west (Skeleton 4; 1009). Only the lower part of the body

Plate 5 *Skeleton 1030, looking south-west*

and the lower arms were visible in the trench. However, a skull lay on the knees, indicating that this body had been decapitated. The arms were straight. Iron nails indicate a coffin. The grave fill was dark grey/brown gritty sandy silt loam with moderate gravel-pebbles and occasional small limestone fragments and charcoal flecks (1008); it contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

Immediately west of Grave 1021 was another grave (1027). This cut sub-rectangular in plan had steep sides and a flat base, and measured 2.08 x 0.75m by 0.3m deep. Lying in this grave was a decapitated supine inhumation, aligned north-north-west / south-south-east (Skeleton 3; 1025). The left humerus, clavicle and some ribs had been disturbed by FAS Test Pit 3. The position of the head, between the thighs, was indicated by the mandible, but the skull was missing, apparently removed by a later burial (see Skeleton 1 below). The left arm was straight, but the right arm crossed the body and the right hand appeared to have been clasping the left arm. The legs were fairly straight, although the right foot rested on the left foot. The restricted layout of the body suggests that it was originally wrapped in a shroud, but iron nails indicate that it also lay in a coffin. The fill was mid brown/grey sandy clay loam with occasional gravel-pebbles and charcoal flecks (1026). A sherd of 19th century pottery recovered from this context is regarded as intrusive; the rest of the pottery points to a late 2nd/early 3rd century date.

Grave 1027 was cut by Cremation 1023, a sub-rectangular cut with vertical sides and a flat base. Its north-north-west end had apparently been removed by FAS Test Pit 3, but it nevertheless measured at least 1.1 x 0.48m by 0.2m deep. It contained black ashy silty sand with frequent, small burnt bone fragments, charcoal flecks and gravel-pebbles (1022). This deposit filled the full width of the cut at the base, but the uncontaminated material was only 0.35m wide towards the top; it included frequent patches of light brown sandy loam in its upper part, particularly to the north-east. Within this deposit was an unburnt human skull (Skeleton 1; 1029). Iron nails suggest the presence of a wooden box. This feature is thought to have contained cremation material, placed in a box, the north-east side of which seems to have collapsed inwards. Skull 1029 was probably originally part of Skeleton 3 in Grave 1027 (see above), disturbed by Cut 1023 and

consequently reburied with the cremation material. Fill 1022 contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery.

In the west corner of the trench was the east corner of a probably square cut with moderately sloping sides and a flat base, measuring at least 2.2 x 1.9m by 0.22m deep (1089). It contained dark brown/black silty sand with occasional cobbles and charcoal flecks (1087). The function of this feature is not clear. Early-mid 3rd century pottery was recovered from the fill.

Period 3 Medieval

Group 19 Ploughsoil

Overlying the top of the cemetery deposits and features was a layer of mid-dark grey/brown silt loam with moderate gravel-cobbles and occasional small brick/tile fragments (1004, 1006 and 1018). It was an average of 0.4m thick, and its uppermost surface was about 18.2m OD. This layer is interpreted as a ploughsoil. The top of the underlying cemetery deposits undulated, with the highest point forming a south-east / north-west ridge some 2m from the south-west edge of the trench, and it is suspected that the ploughing had truncated the cemetery deposits, producing a ridge and furrow effect. Only residual Roman pottery was recovered from this group of contexts.

Period 4 Post-medieval

Group 20 Garden soil

Above the ploughsoil was a layer of dark brown silt loam with occasional small stones and brick/tile fragments (1003), some 0.35m thick. This is thought to have been a garden soil.

Period 5 Modern

Group 21 Existing house and possible related features

Cut into Deposit 1003 were several features. Along the entire north-west edge of the trench was a vertical-sided cut in excess of 1.25m deep (1106); its top was at about 18.5m OD. This feature was dug to form a basement level in the existing house, and against its north-west edge it accommodated the foundations for the south-east face of the house. The top of the concrete foundations (1099) was 17.25m OD. Resting on the concrete foundations and against the full length of the outer face of the house was a 0.6m wide vaulted brick structure with the bricks laid as stretchers, supported by several courses of bricks laid as headers against the edge of the cut (1081). The space between Structure 1081 and Cut 1106 was filled with mixed dark brown silt loam and light brown clay, with moderate small-medium brick/tile and stones and occasional mortar flecks (1082). However the space between Structure 1081 and the house was left unfilled. The brick structure is thought to have acted as a damp-proofing feature, which prevented damp from the external ground reaching the wall of the house.

In the east corner of the trench was the south-west edge of a large cut with vertical sides (1024). It was at least 3.0 x 0.9m by 1.35m deep (the bottom was not reached), and the edge appeared to be turning northwards at its north-west end. Cut 1024 contained mid-dark grey sandy silt loam,

with frequent mid grey silt clay patches, small stones and brick, tile and land drain fragments, and occasional charcoal flecks (1017). This feature was probably a pit associated with the demolition of structures on the site that preceded the existing house.

Immediately south of Cut 1024 was a narrow north-east / south-west linear cut with vertical sides and a rounded base (1010). It measured at least 3.7 x 0.32m by 0.8m deep. It contained dark grey/brown sandy silt loam with occasional pebbles, small brick/tile fragments and charcoal flecks (1007). The purpose of this feature is uncertain.

Cuts 1010 and 1024 were cut by another large feature in the north corner of the trench (1098). Only the concave south edge was visible, but the feature measured at least 3 x 1.4m by 0.7m deep. It was filled with layers of mid grey gritty sandy loam and dark grey/black silt loam that sloped down to the north (1097). The function of this feature is not clear.

Towards the north-west side of the trench was an irregular L-shaped pit with vertical sides and a concave base (1012). It measured about 1.1m square by 0.7m deep, and contained dark grey/brown sandy silt loam with frequent gravel and occasional brick/tile fragments (1011). It is possible that this feature was a garden feature to accommodate a tree or shrub.

Group 22 Patio and archaeological test pits

Overlying the 5.20 garden soil and the 5.21 features was a layer of light brown sand with dark grey silt loam patches, and small stones and brick/tile fragments (1002); it was an average of 50mm thick. This deposit was the bedding layer for the existing patio paving.

Cut into Deposit 1002 were four pits, measuring 1m square and c. 1m deep (1014, 1016, 1077 and 1088). The pits were placed in the four corners of the patio. They contained mixed dark brown silty clay loam and mid brown silt loam, with frequent light brown sand patches and moderate small stones (1013, 1015, 1078 and 1080 respectively). These features were the test pits, dug by Field Archaeological Services in 2004 to assess the archaeological significance of the site.

Above Deposit 1002 and the infilled test pits were the 100mm-thick concrete slabs (1001) that formed the existing patio surface. This surface was about 18.65m OD. The current excavation is represented by Context 1000, to which unstratified finds from the excavation were assigned.

6. ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENTS by Jane McComish

Six Architectural Fragments (AFs) were examined, and these are described below. The fragments consisted of two blocks of unknown function, two possible wall facing stones, and two moulded blocks. It is possible that the moulded blocks may be from a tomb stone base. The fragments were of Roman date, but none was sufficiently diagnostic to enable closer dating. Four of the fragments (AF1-4) were not worthy of long term retention and were reburied on the site. The two moulded blocks have been retained, and if a publication on the site is required it is recommended that these are seen by an architectural historian to try to determine their original function.

Table 1 *List of Architectural Fragments*

AF1	Context 1151	Coarse grained sandstone. Roughly rectangular in plan and cross section. Part of four worked faces surviving (F1-4). F1 and F4 are opposing flat surfaces. Of these F1 has parallel tooled grooves 33-38mm apart, 8mm wide and 5mm deep across the surface. F2 and 3 are the narrow edges of the block. Roman in date. The function of the block is unknown.
AF2	Context 1151	Limestone. Roughly trapezoidal in plan and roughly rectangular in cross section. One worked face surviving (F1) all other faces very roughly worked. Roman in date. Possibly a wall facing stone.
AF3	Context 1142	Limestone. Roughly rectangular in plan and cross section. Two worked faces surviving (F1-2) at right angles to one another, all other faces very roughly worked. Roman in date. Possibly a wall facing stone
AF4	Context 1151	Limestone. Roughly rectangular in plan and cross section. Four worked faces surviving (F1-4) forming a top, base and two narrow edges. The other two edges were broken off. No tooling. Roman in date. The function of the block is unknown.
AF5	Context 1144	Coarse grained sandstone. Moulded block badly preserved. Part of two faces surviving (F1-2) at roughly 45 degrees to one another. F1 is flat, F2 has two hollow rolls. All other sides broken off. Roman. Possibly part of a moulded tomb base.
AF6	Context 1151	Coarse grained sandstone. Moulded block badly preserved. Part of three faces surviving (F1-3). F2-3 are at right angles to one another, and both have a hollow roll. F1 is the opposing side of the block to F3 and has punched tool marks. All other sides broken off. Roman. Possibly part of a moulded tomb base.

7. THE POTTERY by Ailsa Mainman

An assemblage of just under 1000 sherds was recovered from 6 Driffield Terrace (Table 1). This was almost entirely Roman in date with a strong emphasis on the late 2nd/early 3rd century, but it includes earlier residual material. There is a small amount of medieval, post-medieval and modern material from the upper contexts.

The most frequent wares include Ebor wares, Nene Valley colour-coat wares (abbreviated as NVCC in the table below), amphora, grey wares and East Gaulish Samian wares. Although this is mainly a cemetery there is little pottery which is explicitly funerary in its form or type. There are two incomplete lamps (Contexts 1000 and 1080) and a few sherds of tazza which might be ritual in function, but otherwise the character of the assemblage is that of typical domestic refuse. Some of the domestic pottery forms may, of course, have performed a ritual or burial function; this may be particularly the case with some of the Samian wares. There are, however, a significant number of amphora and mortaria fragments which are likely to represent domestic rather than funerary usage.

Although there are quite a high number of sherds given the size of the excavation, the sherd sizes are generally very small, with a small number of cross-context sherd links. Many of the sherds are also very abraded suggesting they have been re-deposited on a number of occasions. This is especially noticeable in the amphora sherds and the Nene Valley colour-coat wares where edges are rounded and much of the surfaces have been lost. There are also some clearly earlier types amongst the assemblage, including Nene Valley barbotine and rough-cast wares which are likely to be earlier rather than late 2nd century. A large number of the wares are Ebor wares, which are difficult to date precisely within the 2nd century, but which could be earlier.

The data described above suggest that much of the pottery in the soil deposits, and even in the grave fills, derives from a pre-cemetery use of the site, perhaps including dumping of refuse along the roadside.

Recommendations for further work

There are one or two sherds of particular interest which require further research and drawing. These include an unusual round-based narrow-bodied (much abraded) amphora found in a number of contexts (notably 1102). A neck and handle fragment of black-sand amphora from the Pompeii region (1108) is also of interest, as are the rim and sherds from a rare Rhenish Speicher mortarium (1080). The provenance of the other mortaria and amphorae would be of general interest.

Apart from drawing those vessels which are indicated below, and following up particular sherds, there is little more which needs to be done with this assemblage which is not already covered by any work which will be done on the material from 3 Driffield Terrace.

Table 2 *Pottery details and spot dates*

Context	No of sherds	Spot date	Details
1000	125	MODERN	1 grey ware 6 amphora 1 modern plate 12 Samian including piece with winged figure 10 Gritty wares 16 Ebor including tazza 6 soft abraded amphora 12 NVCC 32 grey wares 1 large thick unidentified rim 2 mortaria 1 drainpipe (modern) 1 post medieval red ware 14 sherds of flower pot 2 scraps 1 Cistercian 4 13/14th century medieval sherds including part of a bridge spout 12 modern 1 Ebor ware lamp (to draw)
1006	67	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 Dales ware rim 3 sherds from a Moselle beaker 24 NVCC 8 east Gaulish Samian 2 mortaria 10 Ebor wares 18 grey wares 1 pale
1007	4	18TH CENTURY	2 Ebor ware 1 grey ware 1 18th century yellow glazed wares
1008	39	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	4 grey ware with lid 5 Ebor ware 30 soft pale amphora fragments - very abraded
1011	5	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 NVCC sherds 1 grey ware 1 pale ware 1scrap
1013	4	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 sherds pale ware 1 NVCC 1 grey ware
1017	6	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 east Gaulish Samian with part of stamp 2 NVCC folded beaker 3 Ebor wares 3 grey wares

1018	27	2ND THIRD OF 3RD CENTURY	1 NVCC barbotine 8 NVCC 1 Ebor mortaria 5 grey wares 5 Ebor wares 1 Late Roman or Anglo-Saxon shell-tempered wares 1 black sand (Pompeian) amphora (to draw) 3 amphora fragment 1 ?flagon 1 Black ware
1020	15	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	5 Samian scraps 3 NVCC 2 amphora 2 Ebor 2 grey wares 1 pale soft ware
1022	5	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 burned Samian sherd 2 grey wares 1 Samian 1 Ebor
1026	24	18/19TH CENTURY	1 tin-glazed earthenware 1 white-slipped Ebor ware 5 grey ware 2 NVCC 7 Ebor ware 1 pale ware 5 east Gaulish Samian 1 small fine Ebor candlestick base (to draw) 1 amphora
1031	25	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 sherd of Speicher mortarium 8 grey wares 6 NVC 2 east Gaulish Samian 5 pale wares 2 Ebor wares 1 mortarium
1032	27	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 East Gaulish Samian 3 Ebor wares 1 amphora 1 Black ware 14 grey wares 1 pale ware 2 NVCC 1 Moselle 2 BB1
1033	21	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 unusual (not Ebor ware) oxidised mortaria 1 white mortaria fragment 1 ? Anglo-Saxon comb decoration 8 Ebor wares 4 east Gaulish Samian 6 pale amphora fragments

1034	5	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 NVCC 1 white-slipped Ebor ware 2 fine grey wares
1035	2	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 grey wares
1035	2	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 Black wares
1037	5	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 NVCC 2 east Gaulish Samian 1 Ebor ware 1 small Ebor candlestick (to draw) - check duplication
1043	1	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 scrap
1045	5	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	3 Ebor ware 2 grey wares
1046	12	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	6 grey wares 6 Ebor wares
1048	42	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	12 Ebor wares including examples with white slip 3 pale soft amphora fragments 7 NVCC 16 grey wares 4 Samian
1049	7	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	5 pale soft amphora fragments 1 Ebor ware 1 grey ware
1051	1	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 Ebor handle
1053	1	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 east Gaulish Samian
1054	22	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	5 grey wares 3 Ebor wares 1 Dresser 20 amphora 13 abraded soft pale wares
1055	1	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 white-slipped Ebor ware
1057	1	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 grey ware
1059	6	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 grey ware 5 pale soft abraded amphora sherds
1062	1	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 grey ware

1064	5	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 Ebor white slipped wares 3 soft abraded amphora sherds
1067	5	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 Ebor wares 2 pale wares 1 Samian
1070	13	3RD CENTURY	1 Castor box (check) (to draw) 2 pale wares 4 NVCC 5 grey ware including folded beaker 1 Samian
1072	1	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 Ebor ware
1073	1	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	4 Ebor/oxidised amphora 3 East Gaulish Samian 1 grey ware 1 Ebor
1078	15	19TH CENTURY	1 Dales ware 1 Cistercian ware 1 Victorian flower pot 1 NVCC 9 grey wares 2 Ebor wares
1080	15	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	4 joining sheds of Speicher mortaria (to draw) 1 lamp (to draw) 6 oxidised ?Ebor sherds 1 east Gaulish Samian 2 grey wares 1 NVCC
1087	17	EARLY/MID 3RD CENTURY	1 Moselle folded beaker 4 NVCC 9 grey wares 3 joining rim sherds of early/mid 3rd century grey ware
1091	13	LATE 3RD CENTURY	1 late 3rd century BB2 8 Ebor ware 1 east Gaulish Samian 2 NVCC 1 grey ware
1093	8	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 east Gaulish Samian 2 grey ware including grey wares flagon/jug 1 Ebor ware 1 Dales ware 2 scraps

1095	34	MID 3RD CENTURY (OR LATER)	1 oxidised amphora 10 Ebor ware sherds including a flanged bowl (to draw) 5 East Gaulish Samian including an internally flanged bowl rim (to draw) 7 grey wares 1 shelly ware with raised cordon/boss with scratched comb-like decoration - ? late Roman 1 Late Roman gritty rim 6 NVCC 1 Ebor flagon 1 Mancetter mortaria 1 amphora
1102	32	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	5 sherds from abraded round based amphora - unusual form which needs to be followed up (to draw) 13 grey wares 10 Ebor wares 1 white abraded flagon form 1 abraded Roman gritty sherd 2 Samian
1104	9	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	5 grey wares 1 pale ware 1 BB2 2 NVCC
1107	8	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 Mancetter mortaria 3 grey wares 1 Moselle beaker 3 scraps
1109	12	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	6 Ebor wares 2 east Gaulish Samian 2 white slipped Ebor 2 grey wares
1111	23	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	5 NVCC 11 Ebor wares 5 grey ware 2 NVCC scraps
1113	2	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 abraded rusticated grey ware sherds
1114	8	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	5 grey wares 1 Ebor ware 2 scraps
1116	33	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 pale wares 2 grey wares 29 soft abraded amphora sherds
1122	1	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 east Gaulish Samian

1127	3	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 grey wares 1 Dressel 20 amphora sherd
1133	4	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 grey wares 1 tazza rim 2 Ebor wares
1138	5	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 Samian 2 grey wares 2 Ebor wares
1140	2	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 Ebor white-slipped 1 Ebor ware
1144	30	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 large fine pale amphora - very abraded 2 Ebor ware 10 grey 3 East Gaulish Samian 1 Ebor ware 2 pale ware 1 white ware 7 oxidised amphora or large Ebor ware 2 NVCC 1 rusticated ware
1147	8	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	7 Ebor wares 1 clay plug or bung
1148	3	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 grey ware 2 Ebor wares
1149	18	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	7 oxidised amphora 2 Ebor ware 4 grey wares plus lid fragment 5 grey including 2 ?BB1
1153	5	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 grey wares 1 Ebor wares with white slip 2 Ebor wares
1158	6	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 Ebor ware 1 pale ware 1 scrap 1 oxidised amphora 1 white slipped Ebor 1 grey ware
1159	4	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 Ebor wares 2 grey wares
1160	1	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 scrap
1162	5	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	3 Ebor white-slipped sherds 1 Ebor 1 grey ware
1163	1	?ANGLO-SAXON	1 handmade shell-tempered ware ?Anglo-Saxon

1165	2	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 Samian 1 scrap
1168	1	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 scraps
1172	2	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	2 scraps
1178	1	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 Ebor scrap
1182	4	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	3 Ebor wares 1 grey ware
1188	3	LATE 2ND/EARLY 3RD CENTURY	1 white slipped Ebor 1 Ebor ware 1 grey

8. SMALL FINDS by Ailsa Mainman with Julie Jones

8.1 Introduction

364 small finds were recorded from the excavation but, upon examination, eighty-six of these (listed as concretions below) proved not to be objects (see Section 9, Conservation report for full discussion). The bulk of the remaining artefacts was of iron and predominately nails, probably from coffins. One or two objects were explicitly ritual or funerary in character (see Table 2).

8.2 Bone

The most notable bone small find was a nail-headed hair pin (SF 268). Such pins are thought to have originated in the 3rd or 4th centuries (MacGregor 1985, 117-8). A parallel was noted from the Friends Burial Ground, Bishophill, York (Macgregor 1978, 35, Cat. No.161).

A finely decorated object (SF 338) is of uncertain function and requires further research.

The other bone which had been recorded as small finds was unworked.

8.3 Copper alloy

Two rings (SFs 17 and 344) are unlikely to be finger rings but their precise function is unclear; they are from upper levels and may not be very old. The rim of a copper alloy vessel (SF 120) requires some further cleaning (see conservation report) but it will be difficult to be certain whether this is a ritual/funerary object or simple broken domestic debris. It was recovered from Deposit 1045 within the cemetery.

8.4 Fired Clay

The very worn and abraded base of a pipe clay figurine (SF 357) was recovered. What remains of the drapery suggests that this is female figure, Venus being a goddess frequently depicted. This object may have been a votive offering, but as it was recovered from ploughsoil (Context 1018) this function is uncertain. Its provenance on site accounts for its abraded state.

8.5 Glass

Sherds of a few Roman glass vessels were recovered (SFs 134, 235, 329, 337, 360, 362) but none of the forms could be easily reconstructed. A single glass bead was recovered (SF 363).

8.6 Stone

A fossil (SF 364) had been made into a second bead. Other stone fragments were recovered, but are of unknown function.

8.7 Iron

Nails, including both coffin nails and hobnails from leather shoes and boots, made up the highest proportion of the iron objects. A number of objects that had been thought to be iron but, following radiography of a sample, proved otherwise, have been labelled as concretions.

A notable find was a pen (SF 318), an iron spiral ring with projecting point, which is similar in form to SF 49 from 3 Driffield Terrace (see Cool et al. 1995, 1614). Such finds have sometimes been described as ox goads, but are now thought to be writing pens.

There were about 25 slag finds. Some were thought to be fuel ash, which perhaps might form in a funeral pyre. No hammer scale was noted, so it is unlikely that smithing was carried out in this area. SF124, however, did have a grassy orange layer which might perhaps be furnace lining, as perhaps could the flat part of SF 352.

8.8 Jet

Two pieces of unworked jet or jet-like material (SFs 339 and 359) were recovered from Contexts 1000 and 1022.

8.9 Silver

The most significant object from the site is an exquisite set of miniature silver tongs (SF 236) found in Context 1095, a cemetery deposit. It is similar in form to the large iron blacksmith's tongs datable to the late 1st-early 2nd century (Boyle and Early n.d., 16f.; Webster 1989, 14f.). It may, however, originally have had a symbolic function associated with a funerary ritual. Recommendations for further treatment are given in the Conservation report (Section 9).

8.10 Summary

The finds from this site, other than the silver tongs, are not very informative or exceptional. The majority of finds are nails, and the majority of those come from grave fills suggesting that they are coffin nails. Ritual or funerary objects are few; in addition to those referred to above there is the upper part of a small pottery lamp and sherds of a tazza (incense burner) among the pottery (see Pottery report). Both may have a votive function.

Table 3 *Small Finds List*

Find	Material	Keywords	Context
SF00001	Iron	Object	1006
SF00002	Slag	Slag	1006
SF00003	Iron	Nail	1008
SF00004	Iron, Slag	Slag	1008
SF00005	Stone	Fragment	1022
SF00006	Iron	Nail	1022
SF00007	Iron	Object	1008
SF00008	Iron	Nail	1008
SF00009	Iron	Nail	1022
SF00010	Iron	Nail	1008
SF00011	Iron	Nail	1022
SF00012	Iron	Nail	1008
SF00013	Iron	Object, Nail	1022
SF00014	Stone	Fragment	1022
SF00015	Stone	Fragment	1022
SF00017	Copper Alloy	Object, Ring	1022
SF00018	Iron	Concretions	1022
SF00019	Iron	Object, Nail	1022
SF00020	Iron	Concretions	1022
SF00021	Iron	Fragments	1022
SF00022	Iron	Concretion	1022
SF00023	Slag	Fragment	1022
SF00024	Iron	Concretions	1022
SF00025	Iron	Concretion	1022
SF00026	Iron	Nail	1020
SF00027	Iron	Concretion	1020
SF00028	Iron	Concretion	1020
SF00029	Iron	Concretion	1008
SF00030	Iron, Stone	Concretion	1020
SF00031	Iron	Concretion	1020
SF00032	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00033	Iron, Stone	Concretion	1026
SF00034	Stone	Concretion	1026
SF00035	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00036	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00037	Iron	Concretions	1026
SF00038	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00039	Iron	Nail	1020
SF00040	Iron	Nail	1020
SF00041	Iron, Stone	Concretions	1026
SF00042	Iron	Object, Fragments, Concretions	1026
SF00043	Iron	Concretions	1022
SF00044	Iron	Concretion	1022
SF00045	Iron, Bone	Object, Nail, Fragment	1026
SF00046	Stone	Fragments	1026
SF00047	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00048	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00049	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00050	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00051	Iron	Nail	1020
SF00052	Iron	Concretion	1020

SF00053	Iron	Concretion	1020
SF00054	Iron	Concretion	1020
SF00055	Iron	Concretion	1020
SF00056	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00057	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00058	Iron	Nail	1026
SF00059	Iron	Concretions	1026
SF00060	Iron	Nail	1026
SF00061	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00062	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00063	Iron	Concretion	1020
SF00064	Iron	Concretion	1020
SF00065	Iron	Nail	1020
SF00066	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00067	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00068	Iron	Object	1026
SF00069	Iron	Nail	1026
SF00070	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00071	Iron	Fragments, Concretions	1026
SF00072	Iron	Fragment, Concretions	1026
SF00073	Iron	Concretions	1026
SF00074	Slag	Slag	1026
SF00075	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00076	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00077	Iron	Concretions	1026
SF00078	Iron	Concretions	1026
SF00079	Bone	Fragment	1008
SF00080	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00081	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00082	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00083	Stone	Fragment	1026
SF00084	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00085	Iron	Nail	1020
SF00086	Iron, Stone	Concretions	1026
SF00087	Iron	Nail	1032
SF00088	Slag	Slag	1035
SF00089	Iron	Concretion	1035
SF00090	Iron	Fragments	1035
SF00091	Iron	Concretion	1035
SF00092	Iron	Concretions	1035
SF00093	Iron	Concretions	1035
SF00094	Iron	Concretions	1035
SF00095	Slag	Slag	1035
SF00096	Iron	Nail	1035
SF00097	Iron	Concretion	1035
SF00098	Iron	Nail	1035
SF00099	Iron, Slag	Concretions, Slag	1035
SF00100	Slag	Slag	1035
SF00101	Iron	Concretions	1035
SF00102	Iron	Nail	1035
SF00103	Iron	Concretion	1035
SF00104	Iron	Concretion	1040
SF00105	Iron	Concretions	1040
SF00106	Iron	Concretion	1040

SF00107	Iron	Concretions	1040
SF00108	Iron	Nail	1033
SF00109	Iron	Nail	1037
SF00110	Iron	Nail	1040
SF00111	Iron	Concretion	1040
SF00112	Iron	Concretion	1040
SF00113	Iron	Nail, Fragment	1037
SF00114	Iron	Concretion	1033
SF00115	Iron	Concretion	1033
SF00116	Iron	Nail, Fragment	1046
SF00117	Iron	Nail, Fragment	1046
SF00118	Iron	Nail	1046
SF00119	Iron	Nail	1046
SF00120	Copper Alloy	Vessel, Fragment	1045
SF00121	Iron	Object, Fragment	1045
SF00122	Slag	Slag	1048
SF00123	Iron	Concretion	1048
SF00124	Slag	Slag	1033
SF00125	Bone	Fragments	1033
SF00126	Iron	Nail	1048
SF00127	Iron	Concretion	1048
SF00128	Iron	Nail	1049
SF00129	Iron	Nail	1048
SF00130	Iron	Nail	1048
SF00131	Iron	Nail	1048
SF00134	Glass	Fragment	1048
SF00137	Iron	Nail	1048
SF00139	Iron	Nail	1048
SF00141	Iron	Concretion	1054
SF00142	Iron	Nail, Fragment	1054
SF00144	Slag	Slag	1054
SF00145	Iron	Nail	1048
SF00146	Iron	Nail	1048
SF00147	Iron	Object, Nail	1048
SF00148	Iron	Object	1048
SF00149	Iron	Nail	1054
SF00152	Iron	Object	1033
SF00158	Slag	Slag	1054
SF00159	Iron	Nail	1048
SF00160	Slag	Slag	1048
SF00161	Iron	Nail	1054
SF00163	Iron	Nail	1054
SF00165	Iron	Concretion	1054
SF00167	Iron	Nails	1048
SF00170	Slag	Slag	1054
SF00171	Slag	Slag	1054
SF00174	Iron	Object	1048
SF00176	Iron	Nail	1062
SF00177	Iron	Object, Fragment	1062
SF00178	Iron	Nail	1062
SF00181	Iron	Object	1069
SF00182	Iron	Nail	1069
SF00183	Iron	Nail	1070
SF00184	Iron	Nail	1070

SF00185	Iron	Nail	1070
SF00186	Iron	Concretion	1046
SF00187	Iron	Concretion	1046
SF00188	Iron	Nail	1076
SF00189	Iron	Concretion	1046
SF00192	Iron	Concretions	1046
SF00193	Iron	Concretion	1046
SF00194	Iron	Nail	1084
SF00195	Iron	Nail	1026
SF00196	Iron	Nail	1026
SF00197	Slag	Slag	1026
SF00198	Iron	Nail	1087
SF00199	Iron	Nail	1087
SF00200	Iron	Object	1087
SF00201	Slag	Slag	1087
SF00202	Iron	Object, Nails	1087
SF00203	Iron	Concretion	1046
SF00204	Iron	Fragment Concretion	1046
SF00205	Iron	Concretion	1046
SF00206	Iron	Nail	1026
SF00208	Iron	Object	1026
SF00210	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00212	Iron	Nail	1026
SF00214	Iron	Fragment	1026
SF00215	Slag	Slag	1026
SF00216	Iron	Nail	1026
SF00217	Iron	Nail	1026
SF00224	Iron	Nail	1093
SF00225	Iron	Nail	1093
SF00226	Iron	Nail	1093
SF00227	Iron	Concretion	1093
SF00228	Iron	Concretion	1093
SF00229	Iron	Concretion	1026
SF00230	Iron	Nail	1093
SF00231	Iron	Nail	1102
SF00232	Iron	Nails, Hob Nails	1095
SF00233	Iron	Nails	1091
SF00234	Iron	Nail	1102
SF00235	Glass	Vessel Fragment	1095
SF00236	Silver	Object, Miniature Tongs	1095
SF00237	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00238	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00239	Iron	Nail	1108
SF00240	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00242	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00243	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00244	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00248	Iron	Concretion	1095
SF00252	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00253	Iron, Slag	Nail, Slag	1104
SF00255	Iron	Nail	1095
SF00257	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00258	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00261	Iron	Nail	1104

SF00268	Bone	Pin	1095
SF00269	Iron	Concretion	1104
SF00273	Iron	Nail	1104
SF00274	Iron	Nail	1116
SF00276	Slag	Slag	1104
SF00277	Iron	Nail	1104
SF00278	Iron	Hob Nail	1104
SF00279	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00280	Iron	Nail	1104
SF00281	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00282	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00287	Iron	Nail	1104
SF00288	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00289	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00290	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00291	Iron	Object	1111
SF00292	Iron	Object	1107
SF00293	Iron	Object	1111
SF00294	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00295	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00296	Iron	Hobnails	1107
SF00297	Iron	Nail	1107
SF00298	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00299	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00300	Iron	Object, Nail	1111
SF00301	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00302	Iron	Object	1111
SF00303	Iron	Nail	1104
SF00304	Iron	Object	1124
SF00305	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00306	Iron	Object	1111
SF00307	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00308	Iron	Nail	1111
SF00309	Iron	Nail	1132
SF00310	Iron	Nail	1132
SF00311	Iron	Nails	1138
SF00312	Iron	Object, Nail	1138
SF00318	Iron	Pen	1144
SF00319	Iron	Nail	1144
SF00321	Iron	Nail	1109
SF00322	Iron	Nails	1144
SF00323	Iron	Nail	1165
SF00324	Iron	Nail	1153
SF00326	Iron	Object	1153
SF00327	Iron	Concretion	1153
SF00328	Iron	Nail	1153
SF00329	Glass	Vessel Fragment	1095
SF00331	Iron	Nails	1158
SF00332	Iron	Hobnails	1182
SF00333	Slag	Slag	1182
SF00334	Iron	Nail, Hob Nails	1182
SF00335	Iron	Hobnails	1182
SF00336	Iron	Nails	1009
SF00337	Glass	Vessel, Fragment	1087

SF00338	Bone	Object	1114
SF00339	Jet	Fragment	1000
SF00340	Iron	Hob Nail	1109
SF00341	Iron	Concretion	1040
SF00342	Iron	Nails, Object	1000
SF00343	Iron	Nails, Object, Drain Pipe	1000
SF00344	Copper Alloy	Ring	1000
SF00345	Slag	Slag	1111
SF00346	Iron	Nails, Handle	1007
SF00347	Iron	Nails	1006
SF00348	Iron	Nail	1102
SF00349	Iron	Nail	1031
SF00350	Iron	Concretions	1044
SF00351	Iron	Ring	1000
SF00352	Slag	Slag	1031
SF00353	Slag, Iron	Slag	1008
SF00354	Slag	Slag	1013
SF00355	Slag	Slag	1000
SF00356	Stone, Iron	Fragment, Concretion	1026
SF00357	Fired Clay	Statue Base	1018
SF00358	Iron	Nail	1029
SF00359	Jet	Jet	1022
SF00360	Glass	Fragment	1022
SF00361	Iron	Nails	1022
SF00362	Glass, Flint	Fragment	1022
SF00363	Glass	Bead	1022
SF00364		Bead	1022

9. CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT by Julie Jones

9.1. Introduction

Standard YAT assessment procedures were followed. 356 small finds were assessed and 17 X-ray plates produced (2 of them half plates). The number of objects in each material category is recorded on the YAT database IADB4 (note, some objects are composite, and listed under more than one material heading). The following classes of finds were not seen: Architectural fragments (AF), Bulk Finds (BF), Skeletons (SK) and Structural Timbers (ST).

9.2. Condition Assessment Summary

9.2.1 Metals

The iron finds were surrounded by bulky mixed corrosion, with many displaying signs of active corrosion. Dry storage is required to keep these safe for the long term. Only two nails (SFs 237 and 308) showed signs of mineralised wood, and those were too scant to identify. But mineralised organic remains are often obscured by corrosion.

Many of the finds which were initially thought to be iron nails on site were found to be iron concretions when examined more closely in the finds department and laboratory. The first 86 of these finds were X-rayed to confirm that they were concretions, and the records for a further 70 were deleted. A selection of 5 of these deleted numbers (SFs 135, 162, 190-1, 284, and 325) plus SF 252 were chosen for confirmation through radiography (see below); only SF252 proved to be iron (a nail).

Table 4 *List of selected concretions*

SF135 Context 1033
Condition: A fragment which does not respond to a magnet. Covered in sand and silt with charcoal and pebble inclusions; tubular broken edges look buff to dark brown. Under the microscope this looks like iron concretion.
X-ray: not iron object.
Recommend: Not metal find; if required for research, refer to geologist

SF162 Context 1054
Condition: A fragment which does not respond to a magnet. Covered in sand and silt with charcoal and pebble inclusions; tubular broken edges are shades of brown. Under the microscope this looks like iron concretion.
X-ray: not iron object.
Recommend: Not metal find; if required for research, refer to geologist

SF190 Context 1046
Condition: A fragment which does not respond to a magnet. Covered in sand and silt with charcoal and pebble inclusions; tubular broken edges are shades of brown. Under the microscope this looks like iron concretion.
X-ray: not iron object.
Recommend: Not metal find; if required for research, refer to geologist

SF191 Context 1046
Condition: 3 fragments of tubular concretion which do not respond to a magnet. Covered in sand and silt with charcoal and pebble inclusions; broken edges are shades of brown. Under the microscope this looks like iron concretion. There is also a pebble.
X-ray: not iron object.
Recommend: Not metal find; if required for research, refer to geologist

SF252 Context 1111
Condition: One piece, a nail with straight shank, covered in sand and silt over bulky pale buff corrosion with inclusions, some orange active corrosion at tip.
X-ray: little or no metal core. No further treatment required.

SF284 Context 1107
Condition: 5 fragments of tubular concretion which do not respond to a magnet. Covered in sand and silt with inclusions; broken edges are shades of brown. Under the microscope this looks like iron concretion.
X-ray: not iron object.
Recommend: Not metal find; if required for research, refer to geologist

SF325 Context 1153
Condition: Four fragments which do not respond to a magnet. Covered in sand and silt with inclusions. Under the microscope the tubular broken edges look like concretion.
X-ray: not iron object.
Recommend: Not metal find; if required for research, refer to geologist

Concretions were of two types: a few had a sandy yellow-ochre and mortar-like consistency; more common were curved or tubular formations with a brown fracture. One possible explanation of these objects was that they were completely corroded nails. However, on Radiograph X6486 the images of the concretions were compared with that of SF139 which is actually a completely corroded nail; the difference is clear, demonstrating that the concretions are not nails. The large number of concretions from this site is unusual; concretions form in a soil with high iron content, the iron being deposited in voids and around roots etc., in the same way that an ‘iron pan’ can form.

The selection of the tubular concretions (Table 3) was examined by Raimonda Usai and Don Brothwell (University of York). They identified fibrous, woody material within one concretion, and concluded that it was an iron pan that had formed around a tree root. Iron ions precipitate out of solution wherever there is a change in ‘redox potential’ factors, such as oxygen levels, pH, or porosity of soil. These iron pans can form in flat areas, in voids or around roots or decomposing organic material (leather straps, etc) so it is possible that some of the concretions formed around organic grave goods. Further analysis might determine whether this was a recent or older process (indeed whether it occurred during the use of the site as a Roman cemetery), and could provide information on the past environment.

The non-ferrous finds were in fair condition; there were only two copper alloy finds, both with active corrosion, and one silver small find. Dry storage should keep corrosion at bay.

9.2.2 Organic Materials

Bone: three bone finds were sent. SF 125 is an unworked animal bone fragment. SF 268 is a bone pin fragment in very good condition. SF 338 is an unusual pierced and decorated fragment with several longitudinal cracks. All three should now be safe for long term storage and study.

9.2.3 Other

Glass: four fragments of transparent blue-green glass (SFs 134, 329 and 337) were wet-packed and have been air dried safely; all now robust and stable for the long term. SF 235 and 329 are vessel glass, one base fragment with ring, the second also with turned edge, either rim or basal ring.

Jet: one fragment of black shiny material, which resembles jet, was slowly air dried and should be stable for the long term.

9.3. Statement of Potential

9.3.1 Indicators of preservation

The corrosion products do not indicate anoxic environments which would favour preservation of vulnerable organic materials like wood and leather. The well aerated pebbly soil was probably high in iron content, conducive to the formation of iron pan and concretions.

9.4. Recommendations

9.4.1 Further Investigative Conservation

a. essential stabilisation: The wet-packed finds have been stabilised and the remaining finds are safe for long-term if desiccated storage is maintained.

b. investigation for research purposes: SF1 an iron strip, SF7 a folded iron strip, SF17 a copper alloy ring, SF120 copper alloy vessel rim fragment, SF174 an iron bar or strip, SF236 miniature silver tongs, SF291 an iron bar or strip, SF293 a long iron bar or spike, SF318 an iron pen, SF326 a possible iron punch, and SF349 iron possibly a curved fitting.

9.4.2 Analysis and Specialist Support

In line with the research requirements, suggestions for further analysis and specialist support have been made. If required, this should be arranged after the investigative conservation has been completed and is not included in the resource requirements.

a. MPO: very little survival of wood on nails, only scant on SF237 and SF308.

b. Archaeometallurgy: if contexts merit further research, refer slag to archaeometallurgist.

c. Material and species ID: SF338 decorated bone fitting and SF268 bone pin could be referred for species ID.

9.4.3. Long Term Storage

Desiccated environments will need to be maintained.

10. THE HUMAN REMAINS by Katie Tucker

10.1 Inhumations

10.1.1 Methodology

All of the skeletal material from the inhumation burials at 6 Driffield Terrace, York was assessed for the potential for further analysis by the present author in October 2005. The skeletons were examined while they were drying in open trays after being washed. The preservation and completeness of each skeleton was recorded on a pro forma recording form, and a diagram of a skeleton was coloured in according to the elements of the skeleton present. As this was only an assessment, this was not a complete inventory of every skeletal element, but was rather intended to give a quick visual indication of approximately which bones were present. The general preservation of the bone, which influences how much information can be retrieved from the skeleton, was recorded on a four point scale from excellent (bone cortex intact), good (much bone cortex intact), moderate (some cortex present), and poor (little or no bone cortex preserved).

A second recording form was used to provide written data about each skeleton. This listed the skeletal elements used for estimating age and sex, and stated if these were present, absent, or poorly preserved. The form also provided space to note the potential of recording biometric data from the skull and long bones, whether there was surviving dentition, the presence of pathology (this was only noted if immediately obvious from a quick examination of the skeleton and does not constitute a full palaeopathological report), and any other information considered worthy of noting.

A brief assessment of age was made for each skeleton. This was based on a quick visual examination using the experience of the osteologist alone, without reference to any ageing methods in detail, and should be regarded as a guideline for age, rather than a proper estimate. The skeletons were placed into broad age categories: young adult (19-25); middle adult (26-45); old adult (45+). In addition, a brief assessment of sex was made based on pelvic and skull morphology. Again, this assessment was made using only the experience of the osteologist and should be regarded as a guideline, subject to change when a full analysis is carried out.

Based on this assessment, each skeleton was placed into one of three categories. Category A denotes a skeleton that is a high priority for further analysis. This category was used for complete, well-preserved skeletons, and individuals with interesting pathological and other changes to the skeleton. The second category, Category B, denotes skeletons that should be analysed in detail and will provide useful osteological data. The final category, Category C, contains skeletons that will yield little osteological data. The majority of these are heavily truncated burials that cannot be aged and sexed with any accuracy and which do not show any evidence of pathology. However, in any further analysis, these skeletons should still be recorded fully for the sake of completeness.

10.1.2 Results

A total of 24 skeletons were examined for the purposes of this assessment. Of these 24, 7 are more than 75% complete, 7 are 50-75% complete, 7 are 25-50% complete and 3 are less than 25% complete. The majority of the skeletons show excellent bone preservation (23 individuals), with only 1 having good bone preservation.

Of the 24 individuals, all 24 are adults, and of these, 20 have the relevant skeletal elements present to make a more accurate estimate of age at death. A quick visual examination of these elements showed that 7 of these individuals fall into the young adult, and 13 into the middle adult category. There do not appear to be any adults over 45 years of age among the assemblage, although this will only be confirmed by a full analysis of the material.

Of the 24 adult individuals, 20 of them have preservation of the elements needed to provide an estimate of sex. A quick visual examination showed that 19 of these are male, and 1 is probably male. There appear to be no females among the assemblage. This finding will only be confirmed at full analysis.

Of the 24 individuals, 15 have surviving dentition that can be recorded. Eleven have skulls that are sufficiently preserved to obtain biometric data, and a further four could provide biometric data if cranial reconstruction was undertaken. The long bones are sufficiently preserved in 22 of the individuals to provide biometric data.

A number of skeletal pathologies and other anomalies were observed on the skeletal material. These include cribra orbitalia, soft tissue and muscle trauma, active non-specific infections, caries cavities, dental crowding, dental abscesses, dental supernumeraries, Schmorl's Nodes, os acromiale, spina bifida, pelvic cysts and new bone growth, and a probable case of cranial and pulmonary tuberculosis. These pathological conditions were noted during a quick scan of the material, and need to be examined in more detail and fully recorded. A full analysis of the assemblage is also likely to produce more evidence of pathology that is not so immediately noticeable during a quick examination.

Finally, 6 of the 24 individuals show evidence for decapitation, with sharp cuts through the cervical vertebrae. Associated cuts through the mandible were also seen in 1 individual. A further 3 individuals showed possible evidence for decapitation, and 5 individuals were recorded as being decapitated during excavation (skull not in anatomical position in the grave), although no obvious cut marks could be seen during the assessment. The cut marks that can be seen on these individuals need to be examined in detail and fully recorded. The relevant elements in those individuals with possible evidence for decapitation and those recorded during excavation as being decapitated also need to be examined in detail, in order to confirm or deny the presence of cut marks associated with the decapitation. In addition, all of the individuals should be examined for further cut marks on other elements that may suggest further examples of decapitation or other weapon trauma.

All of these criteria were taken into account in judging into which category for further study each of the skeletons should be placed. Sixteen of the skeletons were grouped into category A, indicating that it is important that these individuals are recorded fully. Seven were placed in category B, indicating that they should be recorded fully as further information could be gained from detailed analysis, and only 1 was placed into category C, indicating that little further osteological information can be gained from them. However, for the sake of completeness, this skeleton should also be subjected to further analysis.

10.1.3 Assessment of Potential

The majority of the 24 inhumations are largely complete and well preserved with the necessary

elements to estimate sex and age at death. An assessment of age will be determined from, where possible, the changes to the pubic symphysis (Brooks and Suchey 1990), the auricular surface of the ilium (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994), and the presence or absence of late fusing epiphyses (Scheuer and Black 2000). The sex of the individuals will be determined from, where possible, the assessment of several sexually dimorphic features of the pelvis and skull (as given in Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). The statures of the individuals will be calculated, where possible, from long bone lengths, which will be placed into the regression formulae developed by Trotter (1970). The cranial index, which records the shape of the head, will also be calculated, where possible, as given in Brothwell (1981). Pathological changes and other anomalies will also be examined and possible diagnoses suggested.

The skeletal elements used to age and sex the individuals need to be examined in some detail, as the ages and sexes noted during the assessment indicate that there are no females in the assemblage and all the adults are in either the young or middle adult category. This does not conform to the expected demography for a normal cemetery population, which should have a greater number of older adults, and a roughly equal ratio of males to females. If the ageing and sexing of the individuals is found to be accurate, then this suggests that the excavated area of this cemetery is very unusual in nature.

The large number of decapitated individuals is also very unusual, and the age and sex of the affected individuals, the character and location of the cut marks on the cervical vertebrae and other skeletal elements, and the position of the skulls in the graves will be fully recorded. The decapitated individuals will also be compared to those not decapitated, to see if there is any difference in age, stature, robusticity and health between the individuals in the two classes of burial. The nature of the decapitations will also be considered, to attempt to determine whether they are ante-mortem (execution?), or post-mortem (burial practice?).

The data collected from the assemblage should be compared to records from previous excavations of the Mount cemetery (including those recently undertaken at 3 Driffield Terrace) to determine whether the unusual demographic profile and large number of decapitations from this site and that at No.3 is to be found throughout the cemetery or restricted to the one area. The material should also be compared to records from other cemeteries of the same period in order to determine whether similarly unusual demographics and possible burial practices are to be found in other areas of the country.

The excellent preservation and apparently unusual nature of the skeletal material from 6 Driffield Terrace make it highly suitable for further analysis. It could provide much information (along with that from 3 Driffield Terrace) about the population buried in the Mount Cemetery during a tightly defined period in Roman history, and add much to, as well as possibly redefine, our understanding of ritual and burial practice in York, and the larger Roman world.

10.2 Cremated material

10.2.1 Methodology

The cremated bone was assessed for the potential for further analysis by the present author in October 2005. The material was examined after it had been wet sieved, dried and bagged. The data was recorded on a pro forma recording form. The material was visually examined

to determine whether the cremated bone present was human, animal or both. The bone was weighed, and the degree of fragmentation was recorded. The colour of the bone was also noted, in order to aid in an estimate of firing temperatures, and the presence of any identifiable elements in the material was recorded, although this was only done as part of the quick visual examination of the material, and further elements may be identified during any future analysis.

10.2.2 Results

Only one context containing cremated bone was examined for the purposes of this assessment. This was from Context 1022, which was a cremation burial probably contained within a wooden box. The information recorded from this deposit is given below.

Human bone
Weight of bone: 1118 grams
Fragmentation: largest fragments 40-50mm
Bone colour: from black to white, with most fragments being grey to white
Identifiable elements: cranial fragments, humeral shaft, radial shaft, femoral shaft, rib fragments, vertebral fragments, scaphoid, hand phalanx.

10.2.3 Assessment of Potential

There is a reasonable amount of bone present in the cremation burial, although there is a great degree of fragmentation, with much of the bone consisting of very small fragments. However, there were a number of recognisable elements, and this will certainly increase during any further analysis. The very nature of a cremation burial restricts the amount of information that can be obtained, but this cremation burial will benefit from a more detailed examination of the fragments present, in order to attempt to recognise more identifiable elements, identify a minimum number of individuals, attempt to age and sex the remains, and identify and record any pathological changes to the bone. The colour of the bone will also be recorded more fully, in order to provide a better estimation of firing temperatures. The burning patterns on the fragments will also be recorded, as different patterns of burning occur in bone that is dry when burnt, compared to bone that is fresh or covered in flesh. This will attempt to confirm whether the cremation burial is the remains of a fresh corpse, or whether it represents the cremation of dry bones. Age and sex will be recorded, where possible, as given in Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). Bone colour and firing temperatures, and burning patterns, will be recorded as given in McKinley (2004).

During any further analysis, the cremation burial from this site should be compared to those recovered from 3 Driffield Terrace, and also from other Roman period sites in York and further afield, in order to assess similarities or differences in cremation practices, such as in the weight of bone present, the degree of fragmentation, or the pyre temperatures. However, one of the principal site specific questions posed by this cremation burial has already been answered by this assessment. This was whether the unburnt cranium (1029), which appeared to have been deliberately buried with the cremation, was part of the same body represented by the cremated remains. The assessment identified the presence of cranial fragments within the cremated material and, therefore, another explanation for the presence of the unburnt cranium within the cremation burial has to be sought.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL by John Carrott, Deborah Jaques, Juliet Mant and Stewart Gardner (Palaeoecology Research Services Limited)

11.1 Introduction

Two bulk sediment samples ('GBA'/'BS' sensu Dobney et al. 1992) and eight boxes of hand-collected bone were submitted to Palaeoecology Research Services Limited (PRS), County Durham, for an assessment of their bioarchaeological potential.

11.2 Sediment samples

11.2.1 Methods

The bulk sediment samples were inspected and their lithologies recorded, using a standard pro forma. A subsample was taken from each and processed, broadly following the techniques of Kenward et al. (1980), for the recovery of plant and invertebrate macrofossils. The subsamples were disaggregated in water for 24 hours or more before processing and their volumes recorded in a waterlogged state.

Plant and invertebrate remains (and the general nature of the washovers) were recorded briefly by 'scanning', identifiable taxa and other components being listed on paper. Notes on the quantity and quality of preservation of remains were made for each fraction.

The residues were primarily mineral in nature and were dried, weighed and their components recorded in brief.

11.2.2 Results

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

No insect remains were recovered from the samples.

Context 1163 [fill of Pit 1189; prehistoric – late 2ndC]

Sample 10/T (3 kg/2 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 4 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)
Just moist, mid grey-brown, crumbly (working soft), sandy clay silt (more sandy and more clay in places), with stones (6 to 60 mm) and modern rootlets present.
There was a tiny washover (~3 ml) of modern rootlets, small fragments of coal/cinder (to 4 mm) and a little sand.
The large residue (dry weight 1.49 kg) was of stones (to 63 mm) and sand, with traces of ?brick/tile (to 5 mm, <1 g) and coal/cinder (to 9 mm, 1 g). Three small fragments of unidentified bone (total weight <1 g) were also recovered, two of which were burnt.

Context 1194 [basal fill of Pit 1152/84; early/mid 3rdC]

Sample 11/T (3 kg/2.8 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 6 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, mid brown to mid grey-brown, soft and sticky (working soft and somewhat plastic), slightly stony (stones of 2 to 6 mm and over 60 mm were present and those of 6 to 60 mm were common), silty sandy clay, with modern rootlets present.

The small washover (~15 ml) was mostly of modern rootlets, with some other scraps of unidentified plant tissue, a little coal/cinder (to 4 mm) and a few grains of sand. A single well-preserved Cochlicopa lubrica (Müller) land snail was also noted.

The fairly large residue (dry weight 0.97 g) was of stones (to 52 mm), with some sand and traces of coal/cinder (to 8 mm; 2 g).

11.2.3 Discussion and statement of potential

No interpretatively valuable biological remains were recovered from the samples.

11.2.4 Recommendations

No further study of the biological remains from the sediment samples is warranted.

11.2.5 Retention and disposal

Unless required for purposes other than the study of biological remains, the remaining sediment samples may be discarded.

11.3 Vertebrate remains

11.3.1 Methods

The data were entered directly into a series of tables using a purpose built input system and Paradox software. Subjective records were made concerning the state of preservation, colour of the fragments and appearance of broken surfaces (‘angularity’). Additionally, notes were made concerning fragment size, dog gnawing, burning, butchery and fresh breakage.

Where possible, fragments were identified to species or species group using the PRS modern comparative reference collection. Fragments that could not be identified to species were described as the ‘unidentified’ fraction. Within this fraction, fragments were grouped into a number of categories: large mammal (assumed to be cattle, horse or large cervid), medium-sized mammal (assumed to be caprovid, pig or small cervid) and totally unidentified. These categories are represented by ‘unidentified’ in Table 5.

11.3.2 Results

Deposits at 6 Driffield Terrace produced an assemblage of bone totalling 1549 fragments (8 boxes of approximately 20 litres each). Of these fragments, 41 were measurable and 12 were mandibles with teeth in situ, of use for providing biometrical and age-at-death data. The fifty-six deposits from which the assemblage was recovered were mainly associated with the Roman cemetery (of possible 2nd-3rd century date) and represented deposition layers or the fills of graves. There was also some bone from several pit fills of a slightly earlier date and a small number of deposits dated to the medieval and modern periods. Vertebrate remains from the backfill of a pit excavated during a previous archaeological intervention and material that was designated unstratified are shown in Table 5 but not discussed in the text.

Table 5 *Hand-collected vertebrate remains*

species		pit	grave	cemetery	med/mod	test pit	u/s	total
Canis f. domestic	dog	-	1	2	-	-	1	4
Equus f. domestic	horse	10	15*	34	4	3	2	68
Sus f. domestic	pig	10	7	6	2	-	-	25
Cervus elaphus L.	red deer	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bos f. domestic	cattle	13	18	7	6	1	-	45
caprovid	sheep/goat	7	10	19	3	1	2	42
Gallus f. domestic	chicken	-	2	4	1	-	-	7
Corvus corone L./ Corvus frugilegus L.	rook/crow	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Homo sapiens	human	10	14	4	1	1	-	30
unidentified		110	459	242	73	6	5	895
Total		**161**	**527***	**318**	**90**	**12**	**10**	**1118**

* These figures do not include the part skeletons from Contexts 1107 and 1144.
Key: med/mod = medieval/modern; test pit = test pits dug in late 2004 by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd; u/s = unstratified.

Material from the pit fills was generally well preserved, with little evidence of dog gnawing or burning. A small number of fragments showed butchery damage, whilst many had been damaged more recently by fresh breakage. Remains recovered from deposits associated with the cemetery (including grave fills) were of reasonable preservation, although some variation was noted in material from Contexts 1026, 1109, 1111, 1114 and 1148 and poorly preserved fragments were noted in Contexts 1109 and 1111. This material also appeared to have suffered more dog gnawing damage, although evidence of burning and butchery was still limited.

Human bones were noted from 13 contexts but seven of these were grave fills (Contexts 1020, 1026, 1033, 1040, 1054, 1107 and 1144) and thus the presence of these fragments was not unexpected. The other deposits with human remains were two cemetery deposits (Contexts 1031 and 1114), pit fills (Contexts 1048, 1087 and 1093) and a medieval plough soil (Context 1018). In these cases, the human remains are likely to be indicators of redeposited or residual material.

Remains of horse dominated the assemblage, although many of the fragments belonged to several possible part skeletons and were concentrated in a limited number of grave deposits (Contexts 1107, 1144, 1149, 1155 and 1182). However, excluding the material from these deposits, horse was the still the most commonly represented species in deposits associated with the cemetery (Table 1). Other species recovered from the cemetery deposits included cattle, caprovid, pig, dog, chicken and a single fragment of rook or crow. A similar range of domestic species was recovered from pit deposits and from contexts of medieval or modern date, although horse was not as well represented. Additionally, a single red deer bone (a calcaneum) was identified from Context 1087 (pit fill). A large proportion of the unidentified material represented large mammal fragments

associated with the horse skeletons, including pieces of vertebrae and ribs, whilst the remainder of this fraction included fragments of both large and medium-sized mammals.

A number of the horse remains recovered from this site showed evidence of butchery, including a split metatarsal (Context 1048), a scapula with knife marks on the blade (Context 1095), several chopped pelves (Contexts 1095, 1107, 1144 and 1149) and a chopped humerus (Context 1182). Skeletal elements from other species had been butchered in a similar way, for example, a split cattle metacarpal (Context 1026), a chopped pig pelvis (Context 1046) and several chopped cattle limb bones (Contexts 1018, 1048 and 1144).

A brief examination of body part representation indicated that all areas of the body were present for the main domesticates. Both meat-bearing and waste bones were recovered for cattle, sheep/goat and pig, although, generally, mandible fragments and isolated teeth were quite numerous, with the relative numbers of radii and phalanges being high for caprovids and cattle, respectively.

Vertebrate material from Graves 1130 (fill 1107), 1150 (fills 1144 and 1149) and 1183 (fills 1155 and 1182) was interpreted by the excavator as possible grave offerings. Most of the bones from these deposits were identified as horse.

Remains from Context 1107 (the fill of Grave 1130, which included a box containing three human skeletons) included 345 fragments of horse, representing parts of at least four individuals. These included two fragmented skulls (one of which showed evidence of numerous knife marks) and vertebrae from four animals. It was noted during excavation that the bones were mostly disarticulated with the exception of several groups of vertebrae. One almost complete spinal column included three thoracic vertebrae that had become fused together and several more vertebrae that showed evidence of extra bone growth around the centrum. Three other sets of vertebrae all included the distal part of the column, in particular the last few lumbar vertebrae and the sacrum. Pelves were also well represented, with six examples representing at least four individuals, three of which had been butchered. They also showed some evidence of dog gnawing. Other fragments included a humerus, rib and first phalanx, whilst other species were represented by two cattle bones and a fragment of human bone.

Context 1144 (upper fill of a large pit, 1150, which included a human inhumation) produced 409 fragments of bone, whilst a second fill, Context 1149, yielded a further 15 fragments. Again, most of the bones were identified as horse, however, in this case, limb bones were better represented, particularly femora, tibiae and humeri. Mandibles, radii and pelves were also present (all three examples of pelves were butchered) as well as six incisors that probably belonged to a single individual. A number of vertebrae formed an almost complete vertebral column, but because of fresh breakage damage, it was not possible to be completely certain that they represented the same individual. From the tibiae and the femora it was possible to suggest that a minimum number of four individuals were represented in this grave. Additionally, several cattle bones, and single fragments of pig and chicken, together with a human humerus and ?ulna fragment were recovered from this deposit.

Contexts 1155 and 1182 were deposits within the same grave cut (1183) and also included a number of horse bones. Three horse vertebrae were recorded from Context 1155, whilst Context

1182 included a scapula, humerus (which had been butchered), two radii, an ulna, pelvis, femur, sacrum and vertebra. Material from these deposits was described as well preserved, although small amounts of dog gnawing evidence was noted.

11.3.3 Discussion and statement of potential

The vertebrate assemblage from this site was reasonably well preserved, although fresh breakage damage was quite extensive. Most of the contexts which produced bone were grave fills or cemetery deposits. Bone from the pits was largely from fills of early 3rd century date, with a few fragments of earlier date (prehistoric to 2nd century).

Remains of domestic taxa dominated the assemblage, with horse being the most common. However, many of the horse bones were concentrated in a few grave fills and probably represented part skeletons. A brief examination of the body part representation for other domestic mammals (cattle, caprovid and pig) showed that bones associated with waste from primary butchery and carcass preparation were prevalent. The horse remains included a range of skeletal elements, although the material from the cemetery deposits was mainly mandibles and isolated teeth.

Indications that some of the animal bones may have been residual or redeposited included the presence of occasional fragments of human bone in pit fills and cemetery deposits, the variable preservation noted in some of the assemblages (particularly from grave fills), and by the occurrence of dog gnawing.

However, several deposits contained bones which were thought to be possible grave offerings. The fills of Graves 1130 and 1150 both included remains representing at least four horses (the minimum number of individuals for each deposit was four). Vertebrae and pelves were particularly well represented in the former, together with some cranium fragments, whilst, in the latter, limb bones were more numerous. These remains showed evidence of butchery, there were possible skinning marks on the skull bones and a number of the pelves had been chopped, for example. Dog gnawing was noted and was most prevalent on the pelves, indicating that these bones had been left exposed, at least for a short time, where dogs had access to them.

Whether these horse remains represent ritual offerings or general refuse is difficult to ascertain. The deposits are certainly unusual as, from a preliminary survey of available literature (e.g. Philpott 1991), horse remains associated with human burials are rare. However, occasional records of single horse bones or teeth in graves have been made, e.g. at Alton, Hampshire (Millett 1987) and Trentholme Drive, York (Wenham 1968). At Alton, a horse skull together with a human cremation was identified from a late 1st century deposit, whilst at Trentholme Drive (a 2nd/3rd century cemetery site), horses were the most commonly represented species (other than humans) at the site and there were four instances where horse bones were thought to have been associated with human skeletons (Fraser and Ryder 1968). Recent excavations at the adjacent 3 Driffield Terrace, York, also produced a horse leg that was interpreted as having been deliberately placed within a grave (Carrott et al. 2005). Burnt horse bone was recovered from deposits at a Romano-British cemetery at Brougham, Cumbria (Cool 2004). Here it was suggested that horses were being burnt on the funeral pyre as offerings.

The horse bones recovered from 6 Driffield Terrace showed evidence of butchery. However, there

is little evidence for the consumption of horse meat in the Roman period, either domestically or ritually. The butchery and dog gnawing evidence suggest that the horses were skinned and may have been partly disarticulated before being dumped.

Given that most of the pottery was of 'domestic' types and that the vertebrate remains appear to be mostly of primary butchery refuse (from this preliminary examination at least), it is highly likely that much of the animal bone assemblage represents material from earlier deposits that has been disturbed during subsequent grave digging. In particular, rather than the horse bones being grave offerings, they may simply be remains of several (at least four) horses that were disturbed during the digging of Graves 1130 and 1150. As Grave 1130 was dug into Grave 1150, horse remains from Contexts 1107, 1144 and 1149 may all represent the same four horses.

A similar explanation was proposed for the horse 'burials' originally thought to be associated with human burials from a Roman cemetery outside an auxiliary fort at Kesteren in the Netherlands. The material was reinterpreted as the remains of animals dumped prior to the area becoming a cemetery, the material being introduced into the graves during grave digging and backfilling (Lauwerier 1992). A large number of horse remains recovered from the Roman Eastern cemetery in London were interpreted as being waste that had been 'casually disposed of', possibly as a result of 'fly tipping' (Barber and Bowsher 2000).

11.3.4 Recommendations

Although there is some doubt over the integrity of the contexts from which the animal bone was recovered, further analysis of the remains may be warranted. A more detailed examination of the archaeological records (e.g. stratigraphic and photographic) may help to clarify the origins of the material. Should this examination conclude that the vertebrate assemblage was largely residual, it would still be of value to record if it could be established that it was originally deposited in the late 2nd/early 3rd century during rubbish dumping as appears to be the case for the pottery.

Should further analysis be undertaken on the vertebrate assemblage, this should be in conjunction with the material recovered from the earlier excavations at the nearby 3 Driffield Terrace, York (Carrott et al. 2005).

11.3.5 Retention and disposal

All of the hand-collected material should be retained for the present.

11.4 Archive

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

12. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Before the Roman cemetery

Evidence for prehistoric activity on the site is confined to pottery from Pit 1189 (Group 2). The presence of late 2nd/early 3rd century pot in the subsoil deposit 1122 indicates that it was created well into the Roman period.

Although the Driffield Terrace site lies within an area of a major Roman cemetery outside the Roman civilian town (colonia) there is some evidence that its primary use was not funerary to begin with, as indicated by the pits and gullies in Groups 2-8, and the domestic character of the pottery assemblage. Only one definite burial took place on the site during Phases 2a-b (Groups 1-8), and the first evidence for intensive burial activity does not occur until Phase 2c (Group 12). The purpose of the early cut features is unclear. One possibility is that they represent the establishment of the main Roman road from the south-west (RCHMY1; Road 10). Some features could have been tree boles, representing the clearance of trees from the vicinity of the road, whereas other features may have been dug to extract gravel for the road structure; it is unlikely that they were rubbish pits, as the character of the fills and the absence of artefacts points to deliberate backfilling. Alternatively these features could represent road-side activity after the road had been established. The earlier deposit groups could have involved rubbish dumping, which might explain the domestic element of the pottery assemblage. Roadside enclosures of mid 2nd century date, pre-dating the use of the area as a cemetery, were found at 35-41 Blossom Street (1989.21 and 1990.21) about 0.5km to the north-east. Groups 1-12 are all dated by pottery to the late 2nd/early 3rd centuries, so the earliest Roman groups (Phase 2a) may well date to the late 2nd century.

It had previously been thought that Roman Road 10 lay some 20m north-west of Tadcaster Road, but the cobbles observed at the rear of 7 Driffield Terrace (1981.1031) suggest that the Roman road lay closer to Tadcaster Road. The absence of the road in the trench at 6 Driffield Terrace supports the latter option.

The Cemetery

Although activities other than burial seem to have dominated the earlier groups of Roman activity, Grave 1183, the possible libation Pit 1152/84, and possible ‘empty’ graves indicate that funerary practices were taking place on the site from Group 4 (Phase 2a) onwards. Only one grave (1103) was definitely dug in Group 10, but it was a multiple burial, and 5-6 other burials occurred during Groups 2-10. As late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery occurred throughout Groups 1-12, an early 3rd century date is suggested for the earlier burials. However, a later 3rd century date might be more appropriate if the pottery recovered from these groups was residual from earlier rubbish dumping.

The majority of the burials took place during Groups 12-18 (Phases 2c-d). The presence of mid and late 3rd century pottery from Group 13 onwards is thought to reflect the earliest date of the later stages of cemetery activity. Indeed, it may be the case that the cemetery remained in use into the 4th century. Changes in burial practices could have restricted the introduction of pottery onto the site during the 4th century, leaving only residual pottery to be re-circulated in the upcast material from new graves. None of the burials contained intact pottery vessels as grave goods.

Table 6 *Frequency of burials by group*

Group	Decapitations	Non-decapitations	Uncertain
18	3.0	-	1.0
16	3.5	-	-
14	1.5	-	2.0
12	2.0	2.0	0.37
10	-	0.2	2.17
8	-	0.2	0.97
6	-	0.2	0.97
4	-	1.2	0.97
2	-	0.2	0.77

Burials that could have occurred in more than one group are spread across those groups

The only cremation was the latest burial on the site, which supports the evidence from Trentholme Drive (Wenham 1968) and 3 Driffield Terrace that the cremation rite remained in use after the introduction of inhumation burial.

In contrast with the excavation at 3 Driffield Terrace, it was possible to identify the point at which the graves were cut in the majority of cases, and to ascertain that there were many deposits that sealed some burials but were cut by others. It was evident that there were several episodes of grave digging, separated by deposition. There are some indications that burials respected recent or contemporary burials, but the degree of intercutting was sufficient to indicate that the position of some burials had been lost by the time later burials were dug. The cemetery therefore seems to have been in use for a long period of time, which supports the indications from the pottery that the cemetery was in use throughout the 3rd century, and probably into the 4th century. Medieval ploughing probably truncated the cemetery, but as there were few human bones in the ploughsoil it is possible that only the uppermost deposits were affected, leaving even the latest burials largely intact.

The presence of fine ware pottery, amphorae and the occasional oil lamp and tazza may suggest that pottery was being introduced onto the site in connection with ritual feasting and as grave goods. The small mortarium assemblage (15 sherds, about 1.5% of the total), found entirely in later groups, does not suggest there was a major rubbish dump component to the Roman activity; rubbish dumping may have been restricted to Group 3, if the site was devoted to burial activity from Group 4. The larger amphora assemblage (130 sherds) could represent waste disposal, but could equally have been part of funerary feasting processes.

Some of the animal bone found on the site may have been the result of funerary sacrifice or ritual feasting, although it might not be possible to distinguish such waste from bones dug up from an earlier dumping phase. A few individual bones were found alongside the burials, in such a position that strongly suggests they were deliberately included in the grave. The large quantities of horse bones, found in Graves 1130 and 1150, are particularly noteworthy. It seems that at least four individual horses were skinned and left in a situation that allowed dogs to gnaw at the remains. Subsequently certain bones were placed in Grave 1150, followed by mostly different bones in Grave 1130. The suggestion that the remains were dumped during a pre-cemetery phase is not supported by the degree of selectivity of bone type that was exercised during the two burials. At present the likeliest scenario is that the horses were left skinned but intact in the

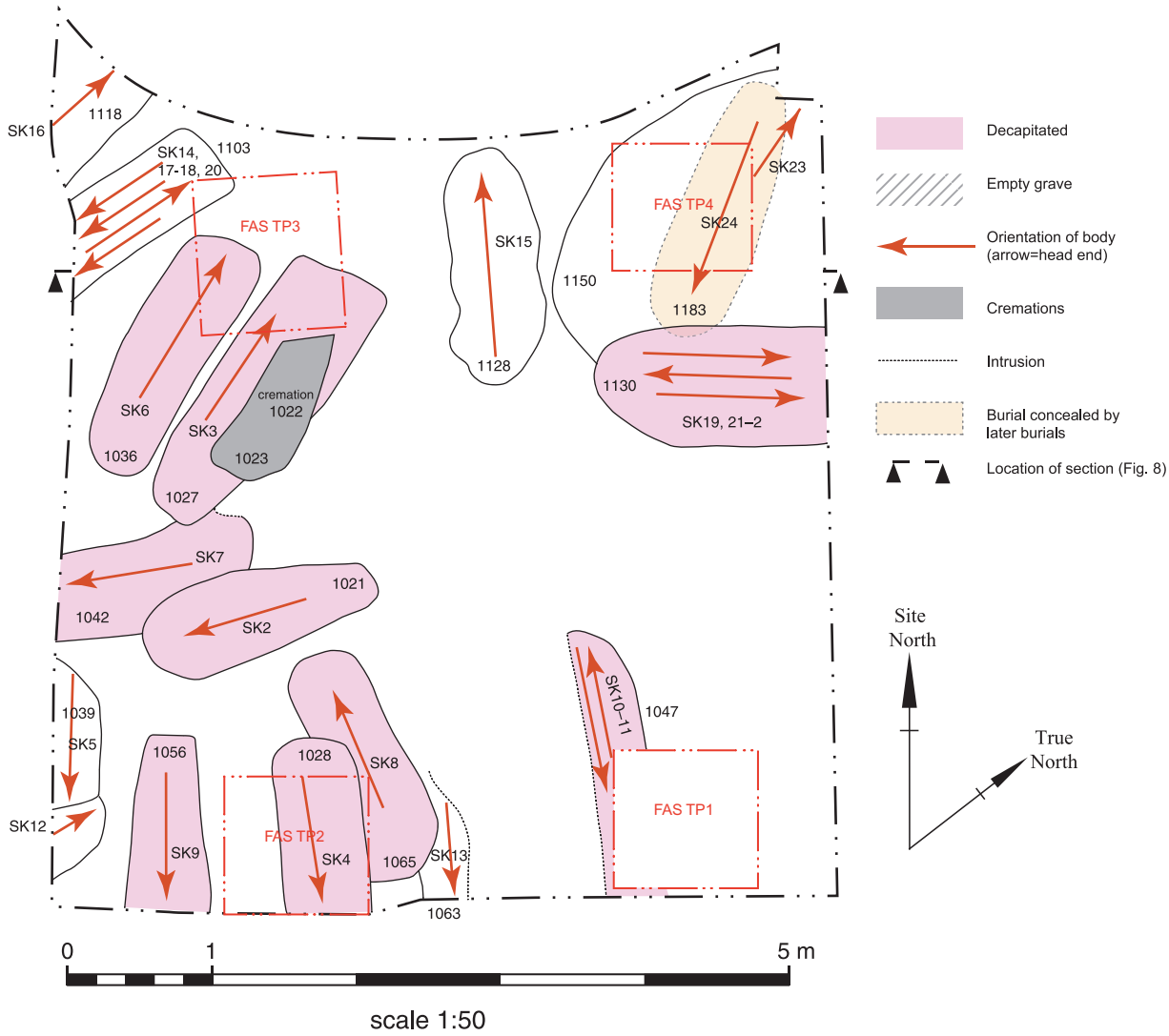

Fig. 8 *Plan of Roman burials, period 2*

cemetery, long enough to allow some dog gnawing. The deposition of first limb bones then torso bones in the graves suggests that bone selection was influenced by accessibility, perhaps due to gradual disarticulation of the remains. A horse skeleton has previously been found within the Roman cemetery close to this site (RCHMY1, 97).

There were several post-holes, which could have held grave markers. The relationship between post-holes and graves is uncertain, except for post-hole 1058, which appears to have been dug to one side of Grave 1056 rather than at one end of the grave (see Fig.7, p.21).

The burials were consistently shallow, mostly around 0.3m deep. One reason for such shallow graves may have been the presence of boulder clay close to the top of the undisturbed natural deposits, which would have been difficult to dig into. However, in Roman law it was only deemed necessary to cover the body with earth, as a basic requirement at least (Hope 2000, 105-6). In one case (1042), the grave was covered by a mound of gravelly material at least 80mm high, which would have provided a greater thickness of deposit over the body, as well as forming a grave marker that would have reduced the risk of inadvertent disturbance by later burials. It is

possible that other graves were covered with similar mounds that settled and spread out over time, to the point that they were scarcely visible.

There was no clear pattern in the alignment of the burials. Although a small majority of burials were parallel or perpendicular to the presumed line of Road 10 (fourteen and one 'empty' grave), a significant minority were not (ten and four 'empty' graves). The most popular orientation was with head to south-east (five) and the least favoured orientation was with head to west or east (see Table 7; Fig. 8).

The Inhumations

All of the inhumations were buried supine except for Skeleton 22 (1129) which was prone. In terms of the position of the arms, where present, there was no distinct pattern. The most common position was straight by the sides, but there were occasional examples of one arm (sometimes both) across the pelvis or abdomen, or behind the back, or akimbo. The legs were usually straight out, but sometimes flexed or bent to left or right.

Decapitations

The high proportion of decapitated male skeletons in the cemetery (10 out of 14 that could be identified either way) is very significant. It broadly reflects the situation found at 3 Driffield Terrace. Although uncommon, decapitation is not unknown in Roman cemeteries. Philpott (1991, 77-89) found evidence for over one hundred examples, but they usually occur in small numbers even in large cemeteries. At Lankhills, Winchester for example, there were seven out of 439 burials. The largest numbers out of reasonably sized cemeteries are fifteen out of 100 or so at Cassington (Oxon.) and twelve out of 122 at Dunstable (Beds.). At Walkington Wold (East Yorks.), 10 of the 12 burials found were decapitated (Bartlett and Mackey 1972, 21). Bearing in mind that decapitation was a most unusual burial rite and is mostly found in rural contexts, its frequency at the two Driffield Terrace sites is all the more remarkable. It should also be noted that normally males and females appear equally likely to be decapitated, whereas at Driffield Terrace all the bodies were male.

Two of the decapitations had been buried with a non-decapitation in Grave 1130; but it is not clear whether the non-decapitation in Grave 1103 was buried with decapitations, or whether the definite decapitation in Grave 1047 was buried with a non-decapitation. The alignment of the decapitated burials was similar to those of burials as a whole, with no consistent pattern and no respect to the nearby Roman road.

It appears that the decapitations at 6 Driffield Terrace took place late in the cemetery sequence. As Table 6 shows, undecapitated burials occur between Groups 4 and 12, whereas decapitations are found in Groups 12-18. This suggests that the decapitation rite was introduced some time after the commencement of inhumation burial. It is possible that the decapitations at York were early examples of a rite that became more widespread across Britain in the 4th -5th centuries. However, it should be borne in mind that if the later cemetery groups are dated to the 4th century on stratigraphic and pottery dating grounds, the decapitations at 6 Driffield Terrace would not be significantly earlier than those found elsewhere in Britain.
A detailed discussion of the significance of decapitation lies beyond the scope of this report and in

any case is best left until full analysis of the skeletons is complete. Philpott (1991, 83f.) rehearses some of the more common interpretations including that which would see decapitation as a mark of disrespect reserved for deviants, criminals and the like. However, decapitation of corpses for such purposes was carried out in order to destroy the identity of the deceased; the head was normally not buried with the rest of the body and was often put on display (Hope 2000, 114). Moreover, it seems that decapitation as a form of execution was restricted to citizens (Hope 2000, 112). It has been suggested that post-mortem decapitation may have been a pagan rite, perhaps a deliberate attempt to confound the Christian notion that the body should be left as intact as possible for the Resurrection (Petts 2003, 149).

In the case of Driffield Terrace the site is so topographically prominent - lying close to the main approach road from the south-west and on a local high point - that one would have thought that people buried here had an elevated status rather than the opposite. Furthermore, the apparent placement of the decapitated burials in coffins at 6 Driffield Terrace points to burials carried out with a degree of care and respect, although the only prone burial was decapitated. Several of the skulls had been removed at the cervical vertebra by a sharp implement, but other known decapitations were not identifiable on preliminary assessment (see above, Section 10). It is not yet clear whether this pathology is due to careful removal of the skull after death, rather than removal at the time of death (probably as a form of execution).
Another possible reason for decapitating the body is that the skull may have been regarded as the seat of the soul. Decapitation might have been intended to prevent the ghost of the deceased rising to haunt the living, or it may have been thought that the skull had powers that could be invested in other objects or monuments (Ross 1971, 7). The placing of a skull (Skeleton 1), within the box containing Cremation 1022 implies a degree of respect for the skull, as it would have been easier to leave the skull out of the box (assuming the box had to be opened to put the skull in). If the skull had been recovered accidentally, it had not simply been discarded. Perhaps the skull elevated the status of the cremation. The decapitated burials at Walkington Wold were situated on a Bronze Age barrow (Bartlett and Mackey 1972). A tumulus, shown on the ridge of high ground to the north-west of Driffield Terrace on the 1852 Ordnance Survey map, could have been a barrow, and it is possible that the decapitations were placed with a degree of respect to the barrow. Alternatively, a nearby Roman burial could have attracted the decapitations. One possible candidate is Grave 1150, an unusual burial with horse bones that was followed by the first decapitated burials in another unusual grave with horse bones (1130). These burials may have been marked out by a low mound (1095), which appears to have been respected by subsequent decapitated burials (Fig. 7).

Containers and grave goods

The presence of iron nails around the periphery of the cut suggests a wooden coffin in at least 12 of the graves. Many nails were found in the upper part of the fill, indicating that the nails may have been used primarily to fix the lid to a coffin otherwise held together by joints or pegs.

Grave furnishings were rare. Hobnails signify the presence of a pair of boots or shoes in Grave 1183. Finds of hobnailed shoes are common in Roman Britain with a particular concentration in the south-west (Philpott 1991, 167), but there are other examples from York, for example in the 4th century cemetery at 16-22 Coppergate. The silver miniature tongs (SF236) were very

probably derived from a burial, but were found in a cemetery deposit and were presumably disturbed by a later burial.

Grave-like features

In addition to the inhumation graves described above, there were five features which had the appearance of graves in size and shape, but contained no human remains. They may have originally contained bodies that completely decayed due to the acidic sandy subsoil. Alternatively, the bones had been deliberately removed or disturbed. Similar features were recorded at 1-3 Driffield Terrace and 35-41 Blossom Street.

The Cremation

The single cremation (1022) comprised a deposit of charcoal and burnt bone. The rectangular shape of the deposit and the presence of iron nails on the edge of the cut indicated that the cremation material had been moved from the original pyre position and buried in a wooden box. An unburnt, intact skull (Skeleton 1; 1029), found within the cremation deposit, appears to have been disturbed from Skeleton 3 (1025). This appears to have been either respectful burial of an inadvertently disturbed body or the deliberate disturbance of the body in order to bury the skull with the cremation.

Structures

There were several shallow gullies and post-holes that may have formed parts of more than one cemetery structure, notably in Group 8. However the form and extent of such structures is difficult to determine from such a small excavation. A gully with associated post-holes, apparently delimiting a gravelled area, was identified at 1-3 Driffield Terrace (Ottaway 2005, 24-5).

Post-Roman activity

The site was used for arable farming during the medieval period if not earlier. The uppermost inhumations were slightly disturbed by ploughing. Evidence for the appearance of housing alongside The Mount during the 19th century is restricted to a garden soil and some probable planting pits.

Conclusion

The excavation at 6 Driffield Terrace provides another body of data for study in conjunction with the 3 Driffield Terrace excavation data. It has revealed further evidence for a Roman cemetery of the greatest interest not only for the study of Roman York, but also because of the unusual gender composition and high percentage of decapitations of national importance. The human remains and other material from the site warrant a thorough programme of further analysis leading to dissemination of the results to a much wider audience than is reached by this document.

Table 7 *Details of graves and burials*

Grave	Sk	Burial	Fill	Group	Align	Type	Finds	Position	Form	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	head	Left Arm	Right Arm	Legs	Remarks
1023	1	1029	1022	18		cranium only		disturbed	In cremation 1022								derived from Sk3?
1021	2	1030	1020	18	ssw/ nne	Decap	nails, sheep	supine	coffin	1.68	0.64	0.34	right of pelvis	disturbed	straight	left over right	
1027	3	1025	1026	18	nnw/ sse	Decap	Nails	supine	coffin, shrouded ?	2.08	0.75	0.3	between femora	straight	across abdomen	straight	cranium is Sk1?
1028	4	1009	1008	18	se/nw	Decap	Nails	supine	coffin	1.2 min	0.6	0.24	on knees	straight	straight	straight	
1039	5	1038	1037	18	se/nw	decap?	nails	supine	coffin?	0.98 min	0.27 min	0.18	absent	absent	straight	absent	
1036	6	1035	1034	14-16	nnw/ sse	decap	nails	supine	coffin	1.8	0.64	0.21	on left shoulder	straight	across abdomen	straight	damaged by TP3
1042	7	1041	1040, 1043	16	ssw/ nne	decap	nails	supine	coffin?	1.34 min	0.7	0.26	between knees	straight	straight	left over right	
1065	8	1044	1033, 1069	16	Wnw/ ese	decap	nails	supine	coffin	1.68	0.68	0.3	next to feet	straight	across abdomen	right over left	
1056	9	1055	1052	16	se/nw	decap	nails	supine	coffin	1.26 min	0.62	0.24	between femora	absent	straight	straight	
1047	10	1075	1046	14	nw/se	decap	nails	supine	coffin	1.85 min	0.4 min	0.3	absent	across abdomen	absent	absent	with Sk10
1047	11	1079	1046	14	se/nw	decap?	nails	supine?	coffin	1.85 min	0.4 min	0.3	absent	absent	absent	absent	with Sk11
1085	12	1083	1084	4-12	ne/sw	decap?	Nail	supine	coffin?	0.36 min	0.5 min	0.12	on shoulders	straight	straight	absent	
1063	13	1086	1062	14	se/nw	decap?		supine		0.92 min	0.32 min	0.13	absent	behind back	across abdomen	absent	
1103	14	1105	1104	2-10	s/n	decap?	nails	supine	coffin	1.32 min	0.57	0.27	absent	absent	absent	straight	with Sks17,18,20
1128	15	1112	1111	12	nw/se		nails	supine	coffin	1.62	0.64	0.22	CAP	straight	straight	flexed to sw	
1118	16	1120	1119	2-12	n/s	decap?		supine		0.85 min	0.8 min	0.12	absent	straight	absent	absent	
1103	17	1121	1104	2-10	s/n	decap?	nails	supine	coffin	1.32 min	0.57	0.27	absent	absent	hand over pelvis	straight	with Sks14,18,20
1103	18	1123	1104	2-10	n/s		nails	supine	coffin	1.32 min	0.57	0.27	CAP	straight	straight	absent	with Sks14,17,20

Grave	Sk Sk	Burial	Fill	Group	Align	Type	Finds	Position	Form	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Head head	Left Arm	Right Arm	Legs	Remarks
1130	19	1124	1107, 1135	12	ne/sw		nails, horse	supine	coffin	1.62 min	0.84	0.31	CAP	behind back	over leg of Sk21	straight	with Sks21-22
1103	20	1125	1104	2-10	s/n	decap?	nails	supine	coffin	1.32 min	0.57	0.27	absent	absent	absent	straight	with Sks14,17,18
1130	21	1126	1107, 1135	12	sw/ne	Decap	nails, horse	supine	coffin	1.62 min	0.84	0.31	right of torso	straight	behind back	right flexed outwards	with Sks19,22
1130	22	1129	1107, 1135	12	ne/sw	Decap	nails, horse	prone	coffin	1.62 min	0.84	0.31	left of torso	flexed akimbo	straight	straight	with Sks19,21
1150	23	1175	1144	10	nnw/ sse	decap?	nails?, horse	supine	coffin?	2.3 min	1.9 min	0.4	absent	across abdomen	across abdomen	flexed to sw	damaged by TP4
1183	24	1187	1182	4	sse/ nnw		Hob-nails			1.86	0.6	0.52	CAP	across abdomen	across abdomen	straight	
1023		1022	1022	18		cremation	Box	frags	box	1.1 min	0.48	0.2					damaged by TP3?
1060			1059	16	(e-w)	Empty				1.28	0.26	0.22					
1071			1069	14	(e-w)	Empty				1.7	0.68	0.4					
1100			1101	16	(nw-se)	Empty				0.7 min	0.57 min	0.14					
1134			1133	12	(e-w)	Empty				1.1 min	0.54	0.24					
1181			1180	4	(n-s)	Empty				0.75 min	0.7	0.25					

CAP = correct anatomical position

13. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

In accordance with the brief the results of this excavation will, following the completion of this Assessment Report, be subject to a programme of further analysis prior to dissemination to the general public. It is proposed that dissemination take place on the YAT web site in a format similar to a number of other web publications currently on-line at www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk. This work would take place as part of the analysis and publication of the data from 3 Driffield Terrace.

Further analysis tasks identified by specialist contributors in this document include the following:

- Pottery:
  Analysis of the assemblage in relation to the site phasing to allow refinement of the chronological sequence. Analysis of unusual forms, vessels associated with ritual activity and any 'token' sherds used in funerary rituals.

- Architectural fragments:
  Identification of the two moulded fragments.

- Small finds:
  Finds from graves and cremations to be analysed in respect of aspects of burial ritual and in relation to relevant comparanda. Study of iron nails in relevant graves with a view to determining form of coffin construction.

- Finds conservation:
  Investigation for research purposes, followed by investigation for illustrations. Slag and bone species identification.

- Human remains:
  Recording of age at death, gender, biometrical data, pathology (including decapitations)

- Biological remains:
  The association of some of the animal remains with the burials is worthy of more detailed investigation. A detailed record of all well-dated vertebrate material should be made, including the collection of age-at-death and biometrical data.

- Discussion and synthesis
  Once further analyses are complete they should be studied firstly in the context of the site stratigraphy, and then in the context of other Roman cemeteries in York and elsewhere with a view to producing an integrated account and synthesis of the discoveries at Driffield Terrace and their significance.

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