

**CYGNET PARK
PETERBOROUGH
PHASE 1**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Figure 1: Site location map and all features

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

This report has been prepared by David Ingham (Project Officer) and Jo Archer (Archaeological Supervisor). The fieldwork was undertaken by Jo Archer and David Ingham. Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) produced the figure. Day to day management was undertaken by Joe Abrams (Project Management). All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Version History

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Structure of the Report

After the introductory Section 1, there is a summary of the results of the fieldwork in Section 2, followed by a brief conclusion (Section 3). Section 4 is a bibliography, and Appendix 1 contains an archaeological context summary.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

<i>Albion</i>	Albion Archaeology
<i>PCCAO</i>	Peterborough City Council Archaeological Officer
<i>Client</i>	Wilson Bowden Developments Ltd
<i>IFA</i>	Institute of Field Archaeologists
<i>JSAC</i>	John Samuels Archaeological Consultants
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd Edition 2001.</i> Bedfordshire County Council



Non-Technical Summary

Peterborough City Council granted planning permission (06/00338/FUL) for the erection of four industrial buildings, comprising nine units with associated delivery areas, parking and landscaping, on an area of 4.2ha to the south-east of Peterborough town centre, centred on NGR TL 1850 9570.

A condition attached to planning consent required a programme of archaeological observation and investigation (archaeological watching brief) in order to monitor groundworks undertaken during the development.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned on 1st June 2006 by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants, on behalf of Wilson Bowden Developments Ltd, to carry out the archaeological observation and prepare a report on the results. As the groundworks occupy two distinct phases, this document constitutes a report on Phase 1. Phase 2 will be covered by a separate report once it has been completed.

The development site is centred at TL 1850 9570, 3.5km south of Peterborough town centre, on level ground at 17m OD. The site is bordered by Phorpres Way to the south, Clubway to the north and the A15 London Road to the east. Phase 1 of the development is located in the western half of this area.

At the start of this development, the site was occupied by a disused sports field and the remains of bowling greens. It had previously been part of a brickworks.

The underlying geological deposits consist of River Terrace Gravels, with Woodston beds at the eastern boundary.

Evidence of prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity has been recorded in the vicinity of the development area (JSAC 1304/05/01). In particular, a possible prehistoric site was recorded during the Cygnet Park development; it comprised a ditch, a lithic implement and a pond (JSAC 1304/06/02).

The archaeological watching brief for Phase 1 was undertaken between 23rd June and 29th July. During this period, all Phase 1 groundworks which required archaeological monitoring were completed. A mechanical excavator was used.

Topsoil was stripped from an area of c.0.5ha. The groundworks also included the excavation of footings for the two buildings.

No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the works, though only the foundations were excavated to an archaeologically sensitive depth. Disturbance from the brickworks was found to have been widespread, yet mostly shallow. The removal of only topsoil from most of the area has ensured that if archaeological remains exist within the site, they remain preserved in situ beneath the development.

The accession number for the site will be assigned upon deposition with the Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery. The archive will be kept in secure storage at the offices of Albion Archaeology at St Mary's Church, Bedford until deposition with the Museum is completed.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Peterborough City Council granted planning permission (06/00338/FUL) for the erection of four industrial buildings, comprising nine units with associated delivery areas, parking and landscaping, on an area of 4.2ha to the south-east of Peterborough town centre, centred on NGR TL 1850 9570.

A condition attached to planning consent required a programme of archaeological observation and investigation (archaeological watching brief) to be implemented in order to monitor groundworks undertaken during the development.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned on 1st June 2006 by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants, on behalf of Wilson Bowden Developments Ltd, to carry out the archaeological observation and prepare a report on the results. As the groundworks occupy two distinct phases, this document constitutes a report on Phase 1; Phase 2 will be covered by a separate report once it has been completed.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The development site is centred on TL 1850 9570, 3.5km south of Peterborough town centre, on level ground at 17m OD. The A1139 is located 200m to the north.

The development is bordered by Phorpres Way to the south, Clubway to the north and the A15 London Road to the east. Phase 1 of the development is located in the western half of this area.

At the start of these groundworks, the development area was occupied by a disused sports field and the remains of bowling greens. It had previously been part of a brickworks.

The underlying geological deposits consist of River Terrace Gravels, with Woodston beds at the eastern boundary.

1.3 Archaeological Background

Evidence of prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity has been recorded in the vicinity of the development area (JSAC 1304/05/01). In particular, a possible prehistoric site was recorded during the Cygnet Park development; it comprised a ditch, a lithic implement and a pond (JSAC 1304/06/02).



2. RESULTS OF WATCHING BRIEF

2.1 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief for Phase 1 was undertaken between 23rd June and 29th July. During this period, all Phase 1 groundworks which required archaeological monitoring were completed. A mechanical excavator was used.

Detailed technical information on all the deposits and archaeological features referred to below can be found in Appendix 1.

2.2 Methodology

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined in Section 2 of *A Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Cygnet Park, Peterborough* (JSAC 2006). This entailed:

- 1 Archaeological inspection of overburden and any slab and foundation removal;
- 2 Inspection of subsoil and natural in order to identify archaeological features, artefacts and ecofacts;
- 3 Rapid excavation of features if necessary to determine their date, significance and character;
- 4 Full recording of any excavated deposits in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual* and the detailed requirements in Section 2 of the specification;
- 5 Recording of all archaeological observations at a suitable scale on base plans that could be tied in to the OS national grid;
- 6 A photographic record for all stages of archaeological observation and investigation.

It was agreed between JSAC and the PCCAO on 19th July 2006 that archaeological monitoring would initially take place for only the first 50% of each building's footings. Unless this revealed any archaeological deposits, no further monitoring of the remaining foundations and any drainage runs would be necessary.

Throughout the project, the standards set out in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance* documents (specifically *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, September 1999), in English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991) and in Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual* were adhered to.

2.3 Extent and Nature of Groundworks

Topsoil was stripped from an area of c.0.5ha, comprising two building plots and an associated parking area (Figure 1). The topsoil was generally removed to a depth of c.0.2m, though this increased to a maximum depth of 0.45m in places.

The groundworks also included the excavation of footings for the two buildings. The footings comprised a 0.6m wide foundation trench, plus foundation pits for



concrete pads that were either 2m x 1.5m or 4m x 2m. The trench was c.1.2m deep, whilst the pads varied from 1.2m to 1.9m in depth.

2.4 Results

The groundworks were mostly confined to the removal of topsoil. Deeper excavation took place along the lines of the buildings' foundations, but without revealing any significant archaeological deposits or artefacts.

2.4.1 Topsoil, Subsoil and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

The underlying, undisturbed geological deposit (3) revealed during the groundworks was light yellow to mid orange sandy gravel, forming part of the river terrace gravels of the Nene. This deposit was only revealed during the excavation of the footings.

A layer of subsoil (2) up to 0.3m thick was revealed across the majority of the area. It was dark orangey brown in colour and varied between silty gravel and silty clay. Above this was the modern topsoil (1), which was up to 0.35m thick and had been widely disturbed by activity associated with the brickworks.

2.4.2 Foundations of brickworks (Figure 1)

Evidence of ground disturbance relating to the former brickworks was evident across the whole site. This mainly took the form of levelling, make-up and demolition layers (4).

The foundations of the brickworks were revealed in several places: two parallel, N-S aligned walls [7], composed of a single line of bricks, were revealed near the north-western corner of the site; and several rubble-filled foundation trenches [5] were also recorded (Figure 1).



3. SYNTHESIS

3.1 Interpretation

No significant archaeological features were revealed during the groundworks, although only the footings were excavated to a depth where such features were likely to be encountered. However, the foundation trench did provide a section across most of the site, without revealing any significant archaeological deposits. Disturbance from the former brickworks was widespread, but appears to have had a limited impact at an archaeologically sensitive depth.

3.2 Summary

Evidence of prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity has been recorded in the vicinity of the development area. This land was formerly occupied by a brickworks, which was shown to have caused widespread but mostly shallow disturbance.

The groundworks revealed no significant archaeological features or artefacts. The removal of only topsoil from most of the area has ensured that if archaeological remains exist within the site, they remain preserved *in situ* beneath the development. The footing trenches are the only exception to this, yet, as stated already, they contained no significant archaeological remains.



4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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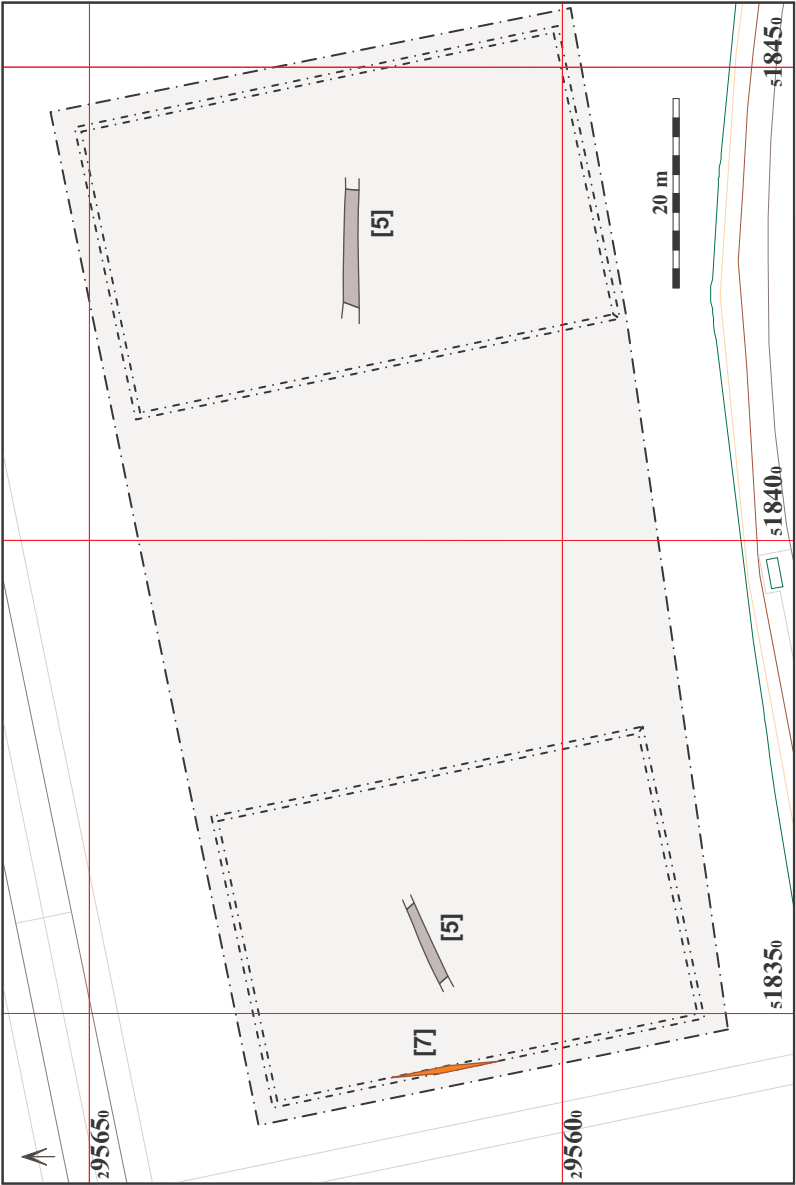
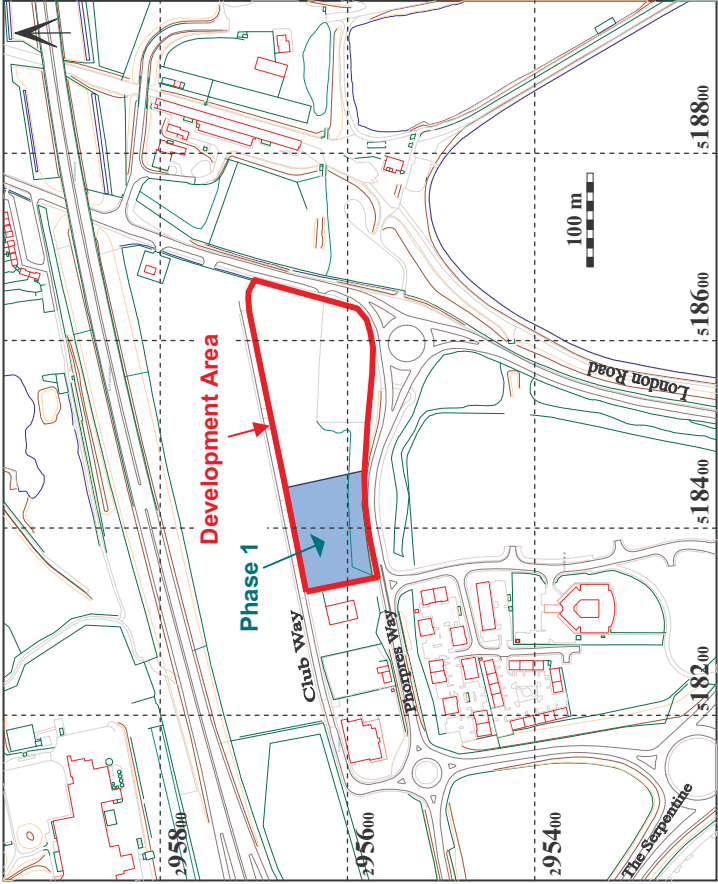
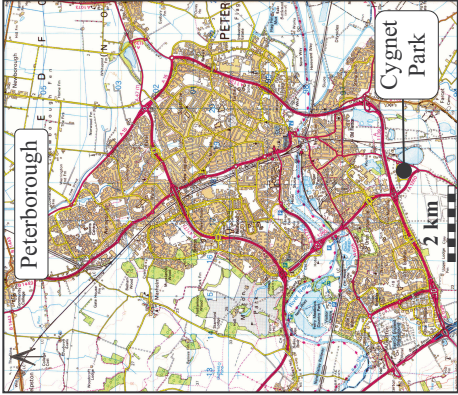
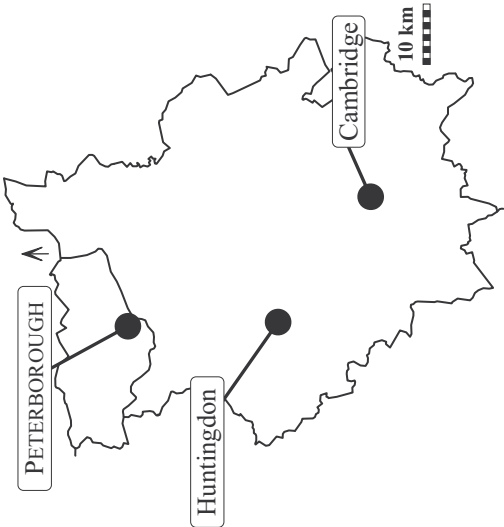


5. APPENDICES

5.1 Appendix 1 - Context Summary

**Area: 1****Extent (ha): 0.5****OS Co-ordinates: TL1850095700****Description: Watching Brief on Phase 1, covering two building plots, parking area and foundation trenches.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silty clay . 0.2-0.35m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones. 0.15-0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Natural	Compact mid yellow orange sandy gravel .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Demolition layer	Firm dark red grey frequent large ceramic building material. 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Foundation	Linear . Group of several foundation trenches across the development area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Backfill	Compact mid pinkish grey frequent large ceramic building material.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Foundation	Linear N-S profile: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.75m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Wall	Machine cut bricks, 240mm x 120mm x 100mm. Single line of bricks, at least 11 courses high.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Wall	Machine cut bricks, 240mm x 120mm x 100mm. Single line of bricks, at least 11 courses high.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Backfill	Loose frequent large ceramic building material.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



- Area stripped of topsoil
- Footing trenches
- Wall
- Foundation trench revealed by topsoil strip

Figure 1: Site location map and all features
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