

5. Excavation Results

5.1 Area 1

Part of Area 1 was excavated by hand to the formation depth, but once the character of the deposits was established the stratigraphy in the rest of the area was checked by excavating small areas to the depth of natural deposits. A natural deposit of red sand with pebbles, was observed at a depth of c.39m AOD above which was c.0.40m depth of mixed material which largely comprised red/brown sandy silt which contained brick and stone rubble together with inclusions of 20th century glass, nails etc. Above this 0.10m of concrete surface was removed by machine. It appeared that within this area modern deposits including service trenches lay above natural sand and excavation yielded no information of archaeological importance.

5.2 Area 2

Initially within Area 2 approximately half the excavation area was machine stripped using a Kubota machine. This was carefully controlled and monitored with small areas excavated by hand to allow the levels of the modern overburden to be accurately established and to establish a likely date of deposition. The remainder of the area was stripped by machine to remove the modern overburden. Within Area 2, below the modern overburden, deposits were excavated by hand. They are discussed here in stratigraphic order (Figure 3) in groupings which have been made on the basis of the character of the deposits and features, and these groupings have been dated on the basis of initial pottery dating.

Group 1 - Natural deposits

Contexts 2177, 2171, 2064, 2081

2177 Friable/loose red/brown sand with bands of pebbles and cobbles.

2171 Friable/loose red/brown sand with bands of pebbles and occasional small lenses of brown silty sand with occasional mortar and charcoal flecks and pockets of pea grit.

2064 Friable red sand with frequent/moderate cobbles and pebbles and pockets of pea grit.

2081 Cobbles c.0.10m in diameter in a matrix of brown/red sand with occasional charcoal and clay flecks.

2177 was regarded as a natural deposit of glacial sand and pebbles which had not been contaminated or the subject of change by environmental factors such as root or worm action.

The material immediately above 2177 was similar to the undisturbed natural, but this context (2171) contained inclusions which suggested that it may either had been re-deposited as levelling, or more likely was an in situ natural deposit which exhibited the effects of biological action. Part of this deposit was excavated but it was largely left in situ. In section (revealed in the cellar of the demolished part of 8/9 Market Street) it was seen to be c.0.30m deep. An area within the natural deposits was excavated by hand to check that it did not constitute a deliberate arrangement of cobbles. This spread was c.0.30m deep and was recorded as context 2064. It appeared to be one of many substantial lenses and spreads of cobbles within the natural sand and appeared in sections through the natural. A small area of cobbles (context 2081) within the natural was also excavated to check that it was not a deliberate arrangement of cobbles and this appeared to have been a random collection within the natural.

11th century

Group 2 - rubbish pit, (to the rear of 8/9 Market Place)

Contexts 2122, 2099

2122 A heavily truncated, sub circular cut with sides which broke gently from the surface and sloped at 45 degrees. The base of the cut was not excavated.

2099 Friable red/dark brown silt clay with frequent lumps and flecks of charcoal and occasional pebbles and cobbles.

A pit (2122) which continued beyond the southern limit of excavation and was heavily truncated by a later post hole (2102). It measured c.1.90m in diameter but within the area of excavation little of the feature survived. The pit was backfilled with material which included a quantity of charcoal (2099) and may indicate that it was a rubbish pit. It contained 21 sherds of pottery which were dated to the 11th century and was the only excavated feature which can be clearly dated to this century, but it does indicate that there was habitation in the vicinity at this time.

10th- 13th century

Group 3 - Post Pits, (to the rear of 8/9 Market Place)

Context 2102, 2092, 2115, 2107

2102 A large sub circular cut, c.2m in diameter and c.0.90m deep with sides which broke gently from the surface and sloped at 45 degrees to a rounded concave base.

2092 Friable/compact red/brown sandy silt with frequent cobbles, pebbles and charcoal flecks and moderate limestone fragments.

2115 A sub rectangular cut, 3.50m by 4m, continuing south beyond the area of excavation. The cut was c.1m deep with sides breaking sharply from the surface and sloping steeply and then more gradually to an uneven base.

2107 Compact/friable red/brown sandy silt with moderate charcoal flecks, occasional pebbles and cobbles.

One quarter of each of these large pit features was excavated. Post pit 2102 which was stratigraphically above 2099 contained a backfill (2092) including cobbles which were interpreted as packing within a large post pit. 2m to the east of this post pit was another larger pit (2115) filled with backfill and packing 2107 similar to 2092 with more cobbles towards the base of the fill and acting as packing within this post pit. This feature was truncated by 2101 and continued beyond the southern limit of excavation. These similar features both contained pottery within their backfill/packing deposits which was dated to the 10th-13th century. They may have been associated structural features, possibly main structural posts for a building which fronted onto the Market Square.

13th Century

Group 4 – Post holes, (to the rear of 8/9 Market Place)

Contexts 2116, 2094, 2109, 2088

2116 A sub circular cut, c.1.40m in diameter and 0.57m deep with sides which broke gently from the surface and sloped gradually to a rounded base.

2094 A sub circular cut, c.1m in diameter and c.1.65m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface; the western edge sloped gradually before dropping vertically to a rounded base, the eastern side dropped steeply and then vertically.

2109 Friable yellow/light brown/mid brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and lumps, moderate pebbles with concentrations of charcoal towards the base and edges.

2088 Friable grey/brown slightly sandy clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks, occasional mortar flecks and very occasional lumps of mortar, occasional small pebbles, cobbles and limestone fragments

Post holes 2109 and 2094 was stratigraphically above packing/backfills 2107 and 2092 respectively. Post holes 2109 and 2094 may represent the positions of posts within post pits 2115 and 2102 (Group 3), or may have been post holes which indicate a reconstruction of the building associated with the post pits in Group 3. The post holes may have been structural posts in a building which fronted onto the Market Square. The material which filled these post holes (contexts 2109, 2088) contained quantities of charcoal and appeared to be backfill rather than packing deposit. Pottery from these contexts dates from the 10th – 13th century.

12th-14th century

Group 5 - Rubbish pits, (to the rear of 8/9 and 10 Market Place)

Contexts 2103, 2093, 2179, 2178

2103 A sub circular cut, c.1.40m in diameter and c.0.60m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped steeply to a rounded base.

2093 Friable red/brown silty clayey sand with frequent charcoal flecks, occasional limestone fragments, cobbles and pebbles.

2179 A heavily truncated sub circular cut, 2m in diameter and 0.44m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped steeply to a rounded base.

2178 Compact mid grey/brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and lumps, moderate cobbles and stones and occasional fragments of mussel shell.

Approximately 1.50m to the east of post hole 2094 was pit cut 2103 which was heavily truncated to the east by a post medieval water tank making interpretation uncertain. It may have been a post hole associated with but slightly off set from the east west alignment formed by post holes 2116 and 2094. However it (2103) could also have been a rubbish pit and was backfilled with context 2093 which contained pottery which suggests that the feature dated from the 12th - 14th century. If this is the case it indicates that in this period the area in which there was a building signified by the features described in Groups 3 and 4 now lay external to any building.

In a stratigraphically similar position, below the levelling deposits in Group 9, 3.60m due north of cut 2103, but to the rear of 10 Market Place was a possible rubbish pit cut (2179) which contained a backfill 2178.

12th – 14th Century

Group 6 - Post holes, possible property boundary

Contexts 2155, 2181, 2183, 2173, 2163, 2168, 2153, 2180, 2182, 2172, 2162, 2167

2155 A circular cut c.0.20m in diameter and 0.76m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped almost vertically, with a break of slope and further descent to a rounded base.

2181 A circular cut 0.25m in diameter and 0.22m in depth with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to a flat base.

2183 A sub circular cut c.0.25m in diameter and 0.37m in depth with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to a rounded base.

2163 A sub circular cut 0.70m in diameter and 0.39m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to an almost flat base.

2168 An oval cut c.0.40m in diameter and c. 0.20m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to a rounded base.

2173 A sub rectangular cut measuring 0.10m x 0.25m and 0.24m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to a rounded base.

2153 Loose/friable, grey/brown silty clay with frequent small and medium pebbles, small limestone fragments and occasional cobbles and charcoal flecks.

2180 Friable/compact green/brown silty clay with occasional medium and large pebbles, occasional limestone fragments and occasional charcoal flecks

2182 Friable mid brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional pebbles.

2162 Friable brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and pebbles.

2167 Friable dark orange/brown clayey sandy silt with frequent pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks.

2172 Compact brown/green silty clay with occasional limestone fragments and charcoal flecks.

These six post hole cuts were in similar stratigraphic positions; their backfills were sealed by levelling deposit 2142. Of these post holes 2183, 2181, 2155 and 2168 form a clear north north east / south south west alignment, and 2173 and 2163 lay close to this alignment. They were all post holes of similar dimensions which are likely to represent the posts of a fence line forming a property boundary between two properties (8/9 and 10) fronting the Market Place. 2155 was filled with 2153; 2183 was filled with 2182; 2181 was filled with 2180; 2173 was filled with 2172; 2163 was filled with 2162 and 2168 was filled with 2167. These contexts did not contain any dating evidence, but they were sealed by a levelling deposit which dated to the 12th - 14th century.

Group 7 - Post hole, (to the rear of 10 Market Place)

Contexts 2156, 2154

2156 A sub circular cut, 1.50m is diameter, which continued northwards beyond the area of excavation. The sides broke gradually from the surface and sloped gently. The base of the cut had been truncated by the adjacent development.

2154 Compact brown silty clay with frequent small and medium pebbles, occasional small cobbles and charcoal flecks.

Only a small area of this post hole or pit (2156) lay within the area of excavation. It was stratigraphically below 2117 and was backfilled with packing 2154. It lay to the north of the alignment of smaller post holes described in Group 8, and may have been a post in a boundary fence or a structural feature associated with the property to the rear of 10 Market Place.

13th-14th Century

Group 8 - Pit and two post holes (to the rear of 10 Market Palace)

Contexts 2072, 2071, 2056, 2058, 2057, 2054, 2053

2072 A rectangular cut c.2m wide, c.2m long and 1.17m deep which extended beyond the northern edge of excavation. Its sides broke sharply from the surface and initially sloped steeply but became more gradually sloped towards the concave base.

2071 Compacted light grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and with patches of mottled yellow sand.

2056 Compact dark red/brown silt with frequent charcoal flecks and moderate small cobbles and pebbles.

2058 A subcircular cut c.0.40m in diameter and 0.30m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to a flat base.

2057 A subcircular cut c.0.40m in diameter and 0.30m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to a flat base.

2054 Friable mid brown sand clay with occasional charcoal and mortar flecks, pebbles and small limestone fragments.

2053 Friable ash and charcoal with slightly clayey sand and moderate pebbles. The backfill at the top of the post hole was predominantly ash and charcoal with sand and pebbles at the base.

A large pit (2072) lay in an area presumably to the rear of a property fronting the market place. It may initially have been cut with the intention of extracting the natural sand and gravel. It was backfilled with charcoal rich deposits (2071 and 2056) which contained pottery dating from the 10th - 14th century and was later physically cut by a soakaway. Two post holes (2058 and 2057) were in a similar stratigraphic position below 2049, and lay c.0.50m apart. 2058 was backfilled with 2054 and 2057 with 2053.

12th-14th Century

Group 9 – levelling (on both plots)

Contexts 2049, 2142, 2097

2049 Friable red sand with frequent small cobbles and pebbles and occasional charcoal and mortar flecks and pockets of pea grit.

2142 Friable brown/grey silty clayey sand with moderate small cobbles, mortar flecks and occasional patches of charcoal.

2097 Friable mid brown/grey slightly silty sand with moderate mortar flecks, occasional charcoal flecks, pebbles and medium sized cobbles.

2049 appeared to be redeposited natural material used as a levelling deposit. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.20m in a 3m strip of one area to the rear of 10 Market Place and while it was of similar composition to the natural material it contained artefactual items. An overall levelling deposit appeared to extend to the south, in the area to the rear of 8/9 Market Place. Here it was excavated as contexts 2142 and 2097 and was partly excavated by hand but was

mainly removed by machine due to the constraints of time. While the precise limits of this deposit were not defined it was absent from the area immediately behind the street frontage of 8/9 Market Street, but was present c.20m from the western edge of excavation, and was present in the strip between the two properties fronting Market Street. This suggests that it and possibly other archaeological deposits were truncated when these properties were constructed, but that outside the footprints of these buildings deposits survived albeit partially truncated by other modern features.

13th – 14th Century

Group 10 – levelling and surfaces

Contexts 2117, 2111, 2108, 2138, 2136

2117 Compacted green/brown silty clay with moderate small and medium cobbles and mortar flecks and occasional charcoal flecks, pebbles and small limestone fragments.

2111 Compact brown/green slightly sandy clay with occasional cobbles, limestone fragments, charcoal and mortar flecks.

2108 Compact light cream/brown/white mortar with occasional fragments of limestone.

2136 Compact cream mortar with occasional pebbles and small fragments of brick.

2138 Compact grey/green clay silt with moderate pebbles, occasional flecks of charcoal and mortar, lumps of mortar, occasional small and medium fragments of limestone and sandstone and occasional tile fragments. One lense of ash.

These deposits were located in the area to the north of 8/9 Market Street, which appeared to be an area where deposits had not been truncated by the recently demolished building 8/9 Market Place. 2117 was a small deposit which appeared to be part of a larger scale levelling process as 2142 which was immediately below it. Above it was 2111 which was mainly clay and was interpreted as a floor or more likely an external surface through which several post holes were cut. Above it were the scant remains of a mortar surface. Both of these deposits would probably have extended further south but were removed from this area by machine. Physically separate from 2117, 2111 and 2108 but also stratigraphically above 2142 were two similar contexts 2138 and 2136. The ash within 2138 may have included small residues from metal working. Environmental analysis of a sample from 2138 indicated that it included modest numbers of beetles and mites which are typical of urban occupation deposits but with very poor preservation.

13th- 14th Century

Group 11 - Post holes, boundary fence

Contexts 2124, 2128, 2130, 2133, 2135, 2139, 2141, 2126, 2123, 2127, 2129, 2132, 2134, 2137, 2140, 2125

2124 An oval cut 0.45m in diameter and 0.48m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped almost vertically to a rounded base.

2128 A sub circular cut, 0.30m in diameter and 0.32m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to a pointed base.

2130 A circular cut 0.35m in diameter and 0.40m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped almost vertically to a rounded base.

2133 A sub circular cut 0.60m in diameter and c. 0.40m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped almost vertically to a rounded base.

2135 An oval cut c.0.80m in diameter and c.0.37m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped almost vertically to a concave base.

2139 A sub circular cut which continued northwards beyond the extent of excavation, measuring c.0.40m in diameter and 0.10m deep, the shallow cut had moderately steeply sloping sides and a rounded base.

2141 Oval cut 0.50m in diameter and 0.68m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped steeply to a rounded base.

2126 A sub circular cut 0.40m in diameter and 0.68m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to a rounded base.

2123 Friable brown silty clay with pockets of brown sand, frequent mortar flecks, moderate large cobbles, charcoal flecks and occasional small limestone fragments and pebbles.

2127 Limestone fragments, mortar and pebbles in a matrix of friable brown silty clay.

2129 Friable brown silty clay with moderate limestone fragments and small cobbles.

2132 Friable/compact brown silty clay with frequent mortar flecks and lumps, moderate small and medium limestone fragments, occasional charcoal, pebbles and a large piece of sandstone.

2134 Compact yellow/grey slightly silty clay with frequent mortar flecks, frequent small and medium sized limestone fragments, cobbles, a large sandstone block and occasional charcoal flecks.

2137 Compact/friable mortary silty clay with occasional small pebbles, charcoal flecks and one piece of limestone.

2140 Friable brown silty clay with occasional very large cobbles, charcoal and mortar flecks, limestone fragments and pebbles.

2125 Friable brown/grey silty sandy clay with moderate mortar and charcoal flecks, occasional pebbles and large limestone fragments.

These were six post holes (2124, 2133, 2139, 2130, 2135, 2128) which were in a similar stratigraphic position, above 2111, and formed a rough east west alignment. They may represent the replacement of the boundary fence line represented by the post holes in Group 6. 2123, 2127, 2129, 2132, 2134 and 2137 were the packing and backfill deposits in these post holes. 2132 was the backfill/packing in 2133 and contained pottery dating from 12-14th century. 2134 was packing in post hole 2135 and contained pottery dating from the 13th century. 2141 was a stakehole, containing a packing deposit (2140) which contained pottery dating from the 12/13th century, it was stratigraphically below the similarly sized post hole 2126 which contained a packing/backfill deposit 2125 which may represent a repositioning of this post.

Group 12 - post holes to the south of the boundary fence

Context 2120, 2152, 2159, 2161, 2175, 2119, 2145, 2158, 2174, 2160

2120 A circular cut 0.42m in diameter and 0.30m deep, with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to a flat base.

2152 Sub circular cut 0.60m in diameter and 0.13m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped moderately steeply to a rounded base.

2159 A sub circular cut c.0.12m in diameter and c.0.20m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to a rounded base.

2161 A sub circular cut c.0.20m in diameter and c.0.10m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to a rounded base.

2175 Sub circular cut 0.27m in diameter and 0.22m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to a rounded base

2145 Friable mid brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and pebbles and moderate limestone fragments.

2158 Cobbles in a matrix of compact mid brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks.

2160 Compact mottled yellow/beige/grey clay with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles. Friable mottled green/yellow/brown sandy silty clay with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks.

2119 Friable dark grey silty sand with a lighter grey silty sand occasional limestone fragments, pebbles, flecks of charcoal.

2120 was a post hole, stratigraphically above 2136, and thus probably contemporary with the post holes described in Group 11, but was located to the south of the probable boundary which they formed. 2119 was the backfill of 2120. A further series of four postholes (2152, 2159, 2161, 2175) which cannot be stratigraphically associated with the groups of post holes already described, being below 2000 and above 2171, was also located to the south of the boundary fence formed by Group 11 (and earlier by Group 6). They all may have been cut from a higher level but were slightly truncated by the machine removal of 2000. 2145, 2158, 2160 and 2174 were the backfills in these postholes. These features do not form clear alignments and cannot be interpreted as representing any particular structure and may simply represent activity in this area to the rear of 8/9 Market Place.

13th- 14th Century

Group 13 - a post hole and beam slot, associated with a building on the 8/9 Market Place plot.

Contexts 2086, 2089, 2090, 2087

2086 A linear cut, 1.80m long, 0.40m wide and 0.90m deep aligned approximately north south. The sides broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to a rounded base.

2089 Compact mottled green slightly sandy silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and moderate pebbles.

2090 Friable red sand with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles.

2087 Compact/friable mid brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and small pebbles, moderate limestone chips, cobbles and patches of clay.

2086 was a possible beam slot aligned north/south which continued northwards beyond the area of excavation. It was backfilled with 2089, which contained burnt material including the burnt remains of two small pieces of oak. This backfill was sealed by a deposit of "clean" sand (2090) which appeared to be a deliberate backfill rather than just the result of the natural sand slumping into the cut. Above it was a further fill 2087. This feature was stratigraphically above the levelling deposits in Group 9 but could not be directly associated with other structural features.

13th-14th Century

Group 14 – Pits, (to the rear of 8/9 Market Place)

Contexts 2144, 2110, 2184, 2176, 2164

2144 A circular cut c.1.85m in diameter and at least 1.10m deep with sides which broke fairly sharply from the surface and sloping moderately for c.0.30m before dropping vertically. The base of the cut was not defined.

2110 Friable sandy clay, sand and clay with occasional small and medium pebbles, medium cobbles and charcoal flecks.

2184 A rectangular shaped cut aligned east-west, measuring c.2.10m x 1.50m and was c.1.50m deep. The southern edge sloped vertically and the east and western edges sloped very steeply to a rounded base. The eastern edge was not excavated.

2176 Friable slightly sandy silty clay with occasional large, medium and small cobbles, small limestone and sandstone fragments, charcoal and mortar flecks and a fragment of micaceous sandstone slate.

2164 Friable white mortar with moderate pebbles, occasional cobbles, medium sized limestone and sandstone fragments and charcoal flecks.

2184 and 2144 were large features stratigraphically above 2142 located to the rear of 8/9 Market Place. The full depth of pit 2144 was not excavated. It was probably a rubbish pit and its backfill (2110) comprised several slumping layers including layers of sand which had been used to cap off previous fills. These individual layers were recorded in section but were not excavated separately. 2110 contained pottery which dated from the 12th -14th century. 2184 was a deep pit cut, the specific purpose of which was unclear, however, it may have been cut for the purpose of sand and gravel extraction. It was backfilled with 2176 and above it was a dump of mortar (2164).

13th- 14th Century

Group 15 – pit (on the boundary between the two plots)

Contexts 2165, 2151

2165 A sub circular cut 2.30m in diameter and c.0.80m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped steeply and in places vertically to a rounded base.

2151 Compact friable grey/brown silty clay with moderate small and medium cobbles, mortar flecks, occasional large cobbles, charcoal flecks and small tile fragments.

2151 was located immediately to the east of the line of post holes which formed a boundary between the two properties (Group 11). There was no clear indication of the specific function of this pit (2165) which was not fully excavated to its base and was backfilled with 2151 which contained pottery dating from the 13th-14th century.

13th- 14th Century

Group 16 – rubbish pit (on the boundary between the two plots)

Context 2150, 2149, 2148

2150 A sub circular cut c.0.90m in diameter and c.0.74m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped almost vertically, slightly under cutting before reaching a flat base.

2149 Friable brown slightly sandy, clayey silt with occasional lenses of charcoal and moderate flecks of charcoal, occasional small fragments of micaceous sandstone, cobbles and one piece of burnt limestone.

2148 Compact cream clay with occasional large fragments of limestone and sandstone, cobbles and mortar flecks.

2150 was stratigraphically above 2151 and may have been a post hole, although its fill is more indicative of use as a refuse pit. It was backfilled with 2149 a context which was unusual on this site in that a slight degree of organic preservation was evident, it included very decayed amorphous organic matter and very frequent bone, including fish and bird bones and notably a part skeleton of a juvenile pig. Environmental analysis of a sample from this context indicated that faecal material comprised a minor component of this deposit. It contained pottery which

dated from the period 12th -14th century. This backfill which was sealed by c.0.30m- 0.40m depth of clay (2148).

Group 17 - stylobate (on the boundary between the two plots)

Context 2157

2157 Four large limestone blocks measuring c.0.25m x 0.15m x 0.10m.

2157 was stratigraphically above 2151 and formed a post pad or stylobate. It was likely to have been a part of the structure make up, possibly of a building or boundary marker but it cannot be directly linked to other structural features.

Group 18 – post hole (to the rear of 10 Market Place)

Context 2041, 2039, 2038

2041 Circular cut 0.10m in diameter and 0.10m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to a pointed base.

2040 Compact green/brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles.

2039 Oval cut, 0.60m in diameter and 0.25m deep with sides which broke steeply from the surfaces and sloped moderately steeply to an uneven base.

2038 Compact brown sandy clay with frequent large cobbles and moderate large limestone lumps.

2039 was a post hole with stake hole 2041 at its base and 2038 was a packing/backfill deposit. This post hole was stratigraphically below 2031 and above 2049. It was positioned at the western edge of excavation and may have been part of a structure which lay beyond this edge of excavation.

12th – 14th Century

Group 19 – Features, large pit, soakaway (exterior to property in the plot 10 Market Place)

Contexts 2055, 2050, 2047, 2046, 2046, 2044, 2043

2055 A sub circular cut, c.1.30m in diameter and c.0.50m deep which extended beyond the northern edge of excavation with sides which broke gently from the surface and sloped at an angle of 45 degree to a concave base.

2050 Large cobbles in mid grey clayey silt with frequent small pebbles and occasional large sandstone fragments.

2047 Compact/friable grey/brown clay with frequent pebbles and patches of sand.

2046 A sub circular cut, c.2m in diameter and c.0.50m deep with sides which broke gently from the surface and sloped gently before descending vertically to a flat base.

2044 Loose cobbles and pebbles with occasional small lumps of clay and patches of sand towards the base of the context.

2043 Friable red sand with frequent cobbles and pebbles and occasional micaceous sandstone roof tile fragments.

Stratigraphically above 2049, 2055 was a pit cut for a soakaway packed with cobbles (2050) in a matrix of clayey silt some of which was tinged with green suggesting staining with cess. It was backfilled with 2047 which represented different lenses of material tipped into the feature; these were removed as one context. This soakaway was located at the western edge of excavation and is likely to have been associated with a property to the west, fronting the market place. Its backfills (2050 and 2047) contained pottery which dated the feature to the 12th - 14th century. This soakaway was recut (2046). A loose cobble fill (2044) was found at the base of the soakway, above which was a sand and cobble fill (2043). These fills contained (presumably residual) pottery dating to the 13th and 12th century respectively.

13th – 14th Century

Group 20 – cess pits, (to the rear of 10 Market Place)

Context 2075, 2070, 2185, 2068, 2069, 2045, 2042

2075 A sub-rectangular cut 1m x 2m and c.0.55m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped steeply, with some undercutting to a flat base.

2070 Friable grey/green clayey ashy silt with occasional large charcoal flecks and fragments of micaceous sandstone roof slab.

2185 A sub-circular cut c.2m in diameter and c.0.50m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped gently to a rounded base.

2068 Friable brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and mortar flecks, cobbles, pebbles and small limestone fragments.

2069 Friable brown/red sand with occasional lumps of compact clay and charcoal flecks.

2045 A very severely truncated sub circular cut the remaining part of which measured

c.0.70m x 0.70m. Part of the eastern edge only survived and it broke sharply from the surface and sloped steeply to a rounded base.

2075 was used as a cess pit and it was recut as a larger pit 2185. These features lay immediately south of 2046 and indicate intensive use of the area. Micaceous sandstone roof slabs appeared to edge the pit, but did not line it. The greenish tinge to the material which backfilled it (2070) may result from cess and environmental analysis of a sample of this material indicated the possible evidence of very decayed faecal material. At first this feature was excavated in half section, but 2070 was completely excavated because it appeared to contain a good assemblage of pottery which dated to the 13th/14th century. 2185 was a recut of pit 2075, which was backfilled with 2068. 2069 was a relatively clean deposit of re-used natural sand sealing the fill of the pit below.

2045 was a pit cut badly truncated by 2036 and by modern service trenches and was stratigraphically above 2069. Its backfill, 2042 indicated that it may have been used as a cess pit. The sequence of recut and intercutting pits in this area indicates intensive occupation.

13th - 14th Century

Group 21 - cobble latrine pit, (to the rear of 10 Market Place)

Context 2143, 2096, 2084, 2083, 2078, 2066

2143 A rectangular cut 1.90m x 2.50m and 1.25m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped vertically to a flat base.

2096 Medium sized cobbles and occasional limestone blocks.

2084 Compact green silty clay

2083 Compact green/brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, medium and small cobbles.

2078 Friable orange/brown silty clay sand with occasional small and medium cobbles and charcoal flecks.

2066 Friable/compact green/brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional medium and small cobbles.

2143 was the cut for a large cobble lined feature which was used as a cess pit. The cobble lining (2096) was left in situ after being recorded so the cut was not fully exposed. Slight

truncation by modern service trenches and other features (2065 and 2106) from above made it difficult to be sure from which level this feature was originally cut, but it was probably stratigraphically above 2049. 2084, 2083 and 2078 were layers of use deposit backfilling the cobble lined latrine pit above which was 2066 - a final backfill. The northern part of the feature was exposed in the first part of the excavation and was fully excavated by hand. The greater part of the feature lay within the area which was not released until the final week of the excavation. This meant that the southern part of the feature had to be excavated with the assistance of carefully controlled machine digging. 2083 and 2066 contained pottery which dated to the 10/11th -14th century and pottery from 2078 dated to 13th /14th century. Environmental analysis of a sample from 2078 indicated poor biological preservation and did not provide evidence which could assist in the interpretation of deposition. This latrine was located c.2.80m south of soakaway 2046 indicating that the back wall of a contemporary property was likely to have been positioned to the west of these features.

13th – 14th Century

Group 22 – Pit, (to the rear of 10 Market Place)

Contexts 2065, 2052

2065 A sub circular cut 2.10m in diameter and c.0.80m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and initially vertically sloping sides which became more gradually sloped towards its rounded base.

2052 Friable brown sandy clay with frequent small and medium cobbles, occasional large cobbles and charcoal flecks.

2065 was a cut stratigraphically above the cobble lined latrine pit (group 21) and had been severely truncated from above by modern service trenches. It was backfilled with 2052 which contained pottery which dated from the 12th -13/14th century. The northern half of the cut was excavated by hand. However its southern half was removed by machine, in order to speed excavation.

14th Century

Group 23 - Deep post hole and possible second post pit, (to the rear of 10 Market Place)

Context 2106, 2105, 2100, 2061, 2060, 2051

2106 A circular cut c.0.55m in diameter and c.0.70m deep with sides breaking gradually from the surface and sloping moderately steeply before narrowing to a cut 0.30m in diameter with vertical sides, which undercut in places and fell to a rounded base.

2105 Friable green/brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, medium limestone blocks, small and medium cobbles.

2100 Compact/friable green/brown sandy silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small and medium cobbles.

2061 An oval cut which extended beyond the northern edge of excavation, measuring 1.50m x 1.80m and c.0.80m deep the west end broke sharply from the surface, the southern edge broke more gently but the sides sloped steeply, with a break of slope to a rounded base.

2060 Large cobbles c 0.20m x 0.20m.

2051 Friable dark grey silt with moderate small to medium cobbles and occasional tile fragments.

2106 was a large deep post hole cut for a structural timber. 2105 and 2100 backfilled this feature. 2100 contained pottery which dated to the 14th century. This feature was stratigraphically above latrine pit 2143 and indicates a restructuring of a building which can be presumed to previously have been located in the to the west of the latrine pit, beyond the area of excavation. Another feature may have been associated with this stage of reconstruction. This large pit (2061) lay c.3.65m to the north of post hole 2106. A collection of large cobbles (2060) with voids between was found within backfill 2051 which was a very homogeneous material. The specific function of the pit was not clear, it may have been a very large post pit, or may have been an extraction pit for the natural sand and gravel.

13th – 14th Century

Group 24 – Levelling (to the rear of 10 Market Place)

Context 2032

2032 Compact grey/brown sandy clay with frequent limestone fragments and moderate charcoal flecks.

2032 was a levelling deposit revealed beneath machine stripping. It was partially hand dug and partially removed by machine. 2032 was stratigraphically above a soakaway (2046), Group 19 and post hole backfill (2038), Group 18. It contained pottery dating to the 13th /14th century and may be contemporary with the rearrangement of the building suggested by the features in Group 23.

13th – 14th Century

Group 25 – stake hole (to the rear of 10 Market Place)

Context 2063, 2037

2063 A circular cut 0.15m in diameter with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped steeply to a pointed base.

2037 Friable mid brown silty sandy clay with occasional pebbles.

2063 was a stake hole which was stratigraphically above 2049 and its backfill 2037 contained pottery which dated from the 13th -14th century. It was located to the east of the latrine pits and the post hole and stratigraphically it could have related to any of the periods of activity which post date the levelling deposit 2049, Group 9.

?14th Century (or 18th century)

Group 26 – Inter cutting pits, (to the rear of 10 Market Place)

Contexts 2036, 2035, 2031

2016, 2008, 2007

2036 Sub circular cut, 1.60m in diameter and 0.60m deep with its southern extent truncated by a modern drain cut. The sides broke sharply from the surface and sloped steeply to a rounded base.

2035 Compact grey green clay with occasional small fragments of brick and tile.

2031 Friable brown/grey slightly clay silty sand with occasional pebbles.

2016 Two oval intercutting pits, the width of each was c.0.80m and length 1.40m but truncated at their southern end by a modern drain cut. The depth was c.0.40m with sides which broke gently from the surface and sloped steeply to a rounded base.

2008 Compact green/brown clay.

2007 Friable brown clay sand with frequent limestone fragments, moderate large cobbles and occasional small cobbles and micaceous sandstone roof slab fragments.

2036 was a pit cut stratigraphically above 2069 and 2042 it was partly lined with clay (2035) and backfilled with 2031. 2031 contained pottery which dated to the 14th and 18th century. This backfill was stratigraphically below a further clay (2008) lined pit cut (2016) which contained pottery dating to the 14th century (2007). 2016 consisted of two intercutting pits which were removed as one, one of the pits was lined with clay (2008) and the combined backfills which comprised demolition debris were removed as one context (2007).

It can be argued that the two 18th century sherds of pottery found in 2031 may result from contamination. This was possible as the later series of 18th century intercutting pits (2009) physically cut 2031. The close proximity of demolition work made the possibility of contamination a danger throughout most of the period of excavation since the area of excavation fell within the circle of the swing of the bucket of the machine which carried out the work on 8/9 Market Place. Alternatively this sequence of pit cuts was dated to the 18th century and the pottery in 2007 was residual. COULD BE.

?14th Century (or post medieval)

Group 27 post hole (to the rear of 8/9 Market Place)

2121, 2118

2121 A sub circular cut, c.1.10m in diameter and c.0.90m deep (to the point of excavation) with sides which broke gently from the surface and sloped gradually before dropping vertically. The base of the cut was not fully excavated.

2118 Friable black sand and charcoal and friable light brown clayey silt, both deposits contained frequent charcoal flecks and pebbles and occasional cobbles. These interleaved layers of backfill within post hole 2121 were removed as one context.

Approximately 0.20m west of post hole 2094 (Group 4) lay post hole (2121) which was of similar size and could have been a closely positioned post associated with 2094 or it could represent the re-positioning of 2094. The pottery from 2118 dated from the 14th century. Environmental analysis of a sample of 2118 indicated the inclusion of burnt bone, but offers little further interpretation of its source of deposition. It should be noted however that post medieval glass was also recovered from context 2118 which may indicate that this deposit was of post medieval date. However, it could have resulted from the activities associated with the demolition of part of 8/9 Market Street while the excavation was in progress. It was evident that within the area where this activity took place the machine operation had resulted in churned deposits and some items had been pushed into deposits below. While every effort was made to remove parts of deposits contaminated in this way it is still possible that contamination may have derived from this source.

CONTAMINATION

15th century

Group 28 – dump (to the rear of 10 Market Place)

Context 2085

2085 Loose/friable black charcoal with small lumps of charred wood.

2085 was revealed after the removal of modern material immediately above by machine stripping (2000). It lay within the diameter of cut 2106, and may have been deposited as part of material which backfilled this feature, however, more probably it may have simply been physically and stratigraphically above it. It contained pottery dating to the 15th century; there were no other deposits which were dated to this period which suggests that there may have been some truncation of deposition in the area. Environmental analysis of a sample from this deposit showed the presence of quite well-preserved charred grains of bread wheat and “silicified” ash amongst which was abundant cereal wheat chaff. On this site plant remains were poorly preserved except by charring. The “silicified” chaff in this deposit was thus an unusual survival.

17th Century

Group 29 – pits (to the rear of 10 Market Place)

Context 2147, 2146

2147 An elongated oval shaped cut measuring 1.80m x 0.60m and c.0.44m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped at 45 degrees to a rounded uneven base.

2146 Friable dark brown/grey sandy silt with moderate charcoal flecks and lenses of ash, occasional large and small cobbles and mortar flecks.

2147 was a small pit which contained burnt materials (2146) which may indicate its use. It contained pottery which dated to the feature to the 17th century.

17th/18th century

Group 30 – pits (to the rear of 10 Market Place)

Contexts 2009, 2006

2009 Four sub circular intercutting pits the sides of which broke gently from the surface and sloped gradually to uneven bases.

2006 Compact dark brown/grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks small pebbles and small limestone fragments, moderate medium sized cobbles and brick fragments.

2009 comprised four intercutting pits and their fills which were removed as one context (2006). It included a quantity of burnt material and pottery from this context dated to the 17th/18th century. This cluster of intercutting rubbish pits indicated intensive post medieval use of the area, which fell within the back yard area of 10 Market Place.

18th century

Group 31 - boundary fence

Context 2014, 2012, 2059, 2017, 2062, 2048

2014 An irregular sub circular cut c.0.90m in diameter and 0.20m deep which continued beyond the northern edge of excavation with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped gently to a flat base.

2012 Compact/friable mid grey sandy clay with occasional small to medium pebbles, large cobbles and mortar flecks.

2059 A sub-circular cut 0.90m in diameter and c.0.12m deep which continued beyond the northern edge of excavation with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped gradually to a slight uneven base.

2017 Friable brown silty sand with moderate small pebbles and larger pebbles, mortar flecks and occasional charcoal flecks, brick fragments and micaceous sandstone roof slab.

2062 A sub-circular cut the eastern extent of which had been previously excavated in the evaluation work, which also continued beyond the northern edge of excavation. Approximately 0.60m x 0.22m was visible and the depth was c.0.32m. The sides broke sharply from the surface and sloped steeply to a rounded base.

2048 Friable brown silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks, occasional small limestone fragments, mortar flecks and small pebbles.

These three post holes or small pits all continued beyond the northern edge of excavation and lay on an east west alignment. They may have formed posts in a boundary fence at the northern edge of 10 Market Place. They were stratigraphically beneath 2004 which was dated to the 18th century and are likely to date from this period although none of their backfills contained dating evidence to confirm this. 2014 contained packing and backfill 2012, 2059 contained backfill 2017 and 2062 was a small pit or post hole the eastern half of which fell within Trench 2 of the WYAS excavation. It contained backfill 2048.

18th century

Group 32- Levelling (to the rear of 10 Market Place)

Context 2004, 2011, 2005, 2003

2004 Friable brown sandy silt with occasional mortar and charcoal flecks and pebbles.

2011 Friable mid brown sand with occasional mortar and charcoal flecks and pebbles.

2003 Friable brown sandy silt with occasional mortar and charcoal flecks and pebbles.

2005 Friable brown sandy silt with occasional mortar and charcoal flecks.

In Area 2 half of the excavation area was initially machine stripped by a Kubota machine. This was carefully controlled and small areas were excavated by hand to allow the levels of the modern overburden to be accurately established and to establish a likely date of deposition. 2005 was stratigraphically beneath 2003 and both contexts were truncated by

modern service cuts. Neither context was more than c.0.10m deep and they were small areas which were excavated by hand in a general widespread deposit which was removed by machine as context 2004. 2005 contained pottery which dated to the 16th and 17th century and 2003 contained pottery which dated it to the 15th to 18th century. While it was possible to identify different horizons within the levelling and the dating of 2005 and 2003 suggest that the material may not have been deposited in ^{A SINGLE} ~~an~~ operation, the time constraints of the excavation meant that the majority of this material was removed by machine as 2004. Beyond the targeted area of excavation deposits revealed beneath 2000 included similar levelling material to 2004. After the machining removal of 2004 the area was cleaned by hand and context 2011 represents the finds collected in the course of this operation.

18th/19th century

Group 33 - levelling

Contexts 2018, 2022 - 2030

2018 Mixed layers of levelling, mainly friable mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and mortar flecks and pebbles.

2022 Mixed mortar and rubble overlying dark brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles and mortar and charcoal flecks.

2023 Loose dark brown sand

2024 Loose light brown sand

2025 Friable dark brown silty clay with occasional pebbles, brick mortar and charcoal flecks.

2026 Mixed deposit which included thin layers of sand and dark brown silty sand with frequent pebbles and occasional brick and mortar flecks.

2027 Friable loose brick rubble, mortar rubble in a matrix of friable silty sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles

2028 Friable mid grey silty sandy clay with moderate pebbles, brick mortar and charcoal flecks.

2029 Friable mid brown sand with off white mortar and occasional charcoal flecks.

2030 Friable green/brown sandy silt.

Contexts 2018 and 2022-2030 were layers of levelling and dump revealed beneath the 360 degree machine clearance in Areas 2 and 3. As they lay at the formation level of construction they were recorded but not excavated.

18th/19th century

Group 34 - building elements

Context 2169, 2170, 2101, 2112, 2113, 2001

2169 Compact mortar with occasional brick and grey slate fragments.

2170 A rectangular cut 0.70m x 0.45m with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped at an angle of 45 degrees to a flat base.

2101 Sandstone slabs

2112 Bricks, 0.23 - 0.24m x 0.12 - 0.14m and thin sandstone slabs.

2113 Rough, mortared sandstone blocks.

2001 Cobbles and bricks with occasional sandstone blocks.

2170 was a construction cut for post pad 2169 which was part of the structure make up of the recently demolished part of the post medieval building at 8/9 Market Place. Context 2101 formed the structure make up of the base of a water tank probably used to collect and store rainwater from the guttering at the rear of the same property. It was backfilled with modern rubble. Bricks (2112) formed the foundations of the southern wall of the demolished part of 8/9 Market Place. The bricks were placed directly onto sand. At the eastern end of the wall thin sandstone slabs were used as part of the foundation beneath the bricks. The wall was located c.1.25m to the north of the wall of Morrison's Supermarket. The southern wall of the cellar of the demolished building at 8/9 Market Place was constructed of rough mortared sandstone blocks (2113). 2001 was the structure make up of the base of a wall aligned east west which was removed by machine in the initial machine stripping of the area.

In addition to the buildings which fell within the targeted areas of excavation which are described above, the machine stripping of the site allowed many of the buildings, out buildings and boundary walls which are indicated on the 2nd edition OS map (1891) as falling within the plots of 10 Market Place and 8/9 Market Place to be recorded as a composite plan. When a service trench was excavated a small area of cellaring below 8/9 Market Place was observed. It was constructed with cobble walls and brick vaulted ceiling.

Group 35 – Modern Overburden

Contexts 2000, 2095

2000 A machined layer of modern overburden.

2095 represents cleaning after machine stripping in the second part of Area 2 to the rear of 8/9 Market Place.

In Area 2 initially half the area was machine stripped and then hand excavated to the formation depth of the new constructions. In this area the machine stripping was carefully controlled and was carried out by a Kubota machine. This allowed levels of the modern overburden to be established (see Group 31). Over the greater part of the site the machine stripping to the construction formation level was carried out by contractors and the work was monitored by YAT. The material removed (2000) was almost entirely modern or 19th century overburden. 2000 included a tarmac surface, hardcore and a cobble surface below. The mixed deposits below the surface included drains and the backfill of service trenches. This amounted to c.0.40m depth of material removed from the rear of 10 Market Place East and c.0.30m depth of material from the rear of 8/9 Market Place East. At this western end of the site, c.0.40m depth of material, on average, was removed but on the northern half of the site the levels of construction were more varied, and a much greater depth of material was removed from the north eastern part of the site. Since there was a natural slope downwards from west to east, and the site had previously been landscaped most of the material removed, although of greater depth, was still modern or 19th century overburden. Machine stripping was monitored and sections through this material were drawn (Figures 7 and 8). In the north eastern corner of the site, the depth of machine stripping was greater and this was Area 4. Here the deposits and features revealed by the machine stripping were excavated by hand and recorded (see below).

Undated

Group 36 – post hole

Context 2020, 2019

2020 A circular cut, c. 0.20m in diameter and c. 0.20m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped gradually to a rounded base.

2019 Friable brown/grey slightly silty sand with occasional mortar and charcoal flecks.

2020 was probably the truncated base of a post hole cut into natural, it was revealed beneath the machined layer of landscaping (2000). It was backfilled with 2019 which contained no dating evidence. It offered little evidence for interpretation but may indicate that some truncation of earlier deposits occurred when the site was landscaped.