

KEY:

Cottage plot mentioned in text
 Chamber

0 100 200 m
scale 1:2500

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Figure 2 Location of areas monitored during watching brief

The river Derwent was made navigable by an Act of 1702 and the Derwent Navigation was established. In 1720 a channel and lock known as The Cut, which is Grade II listed, were built to go around the obstruction of the weir and The Shallows. This made the Derwent, possibly for the first time, navigable beyond Stamford Bridge. Shortly afterwards in 1727, the new road bridge, Grade II* listed and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, was built over the river. The railway arrived in 1847 with a viaduct built over the Derwent.

The village began to expand beyond its historic core after the arrival of the railway in the 1847. Through the 20th century Stamford Bridge has been dominated by residential development mainly to the south-east of the river and the construction of the plastics factory to the north of the river.

In 1999 trial excavations were carried out along the line of the flood defences and were up to 2m in depth. One of these trenches was located at the site of a possible medieval bridge abutment. A borehole in the open space adjacent to The Square identified 'much wood' at a depth of 2.7m which, it is thought, may have related to the foundations of the medieval bridge although this depth puts it below the level of the adjacent river.

5. THE WATCHING BRIEF

5.1 Area 1

The topsoil (1001) was a friable, mid-greyish brown silt sand and was stripped to a depth of 0.15 - 0.2m BGL prior to the laying of a stone hardcore surface. The majority of the area stripped did not penetrate the topsoil although in a few areas possible subsoil was exposed and consisted of silt sand that was orange-brown in colour. No archaeology was seen within the stripped area. From the subsoil (1002) was collected a flint scraper with retouched edges and six fine oxidised fragments of pottery with traces of glaze

5.2 Area 2

Area 2 was located in a field which existed as a plateau of flat ground that dropped steeply to a flat river terrace to the south. A hand-excavated section was placed against the eastern edge of the stripped area to investigate a linear concentration of cobbles running east-west across it. The earliest deposit encountered was a natural sub-soil consisting of soft, light brownish yellow sand (2005) encountered 0.65m BGL.

Directly above the natural was a deposit of cobbles (2004) set within a matrix of a friable, mid-brown, silt sand. A 2.95m length of this deposit was exposed in the section and increased to a thickness of 0.15m at its southern limit. It is most likely the remnant of a bank, possibly from a field boundary, or represents field clearance- the removal of large stones exposed in ploughing- deposited at the edge of a field. The bank was below a 0.28m thick deposit of friable, light orange brown silty sand (2003). This deposit may represent either wind-blown material building up against the side of the bank (2004) or a deliberate levelling of the ground surface. Within the stripped area a less well-defined area of cobbles extended south down the slope towards the river but was not investigated. In the north-west corner of the stripped area a concentration of daub was exposed.

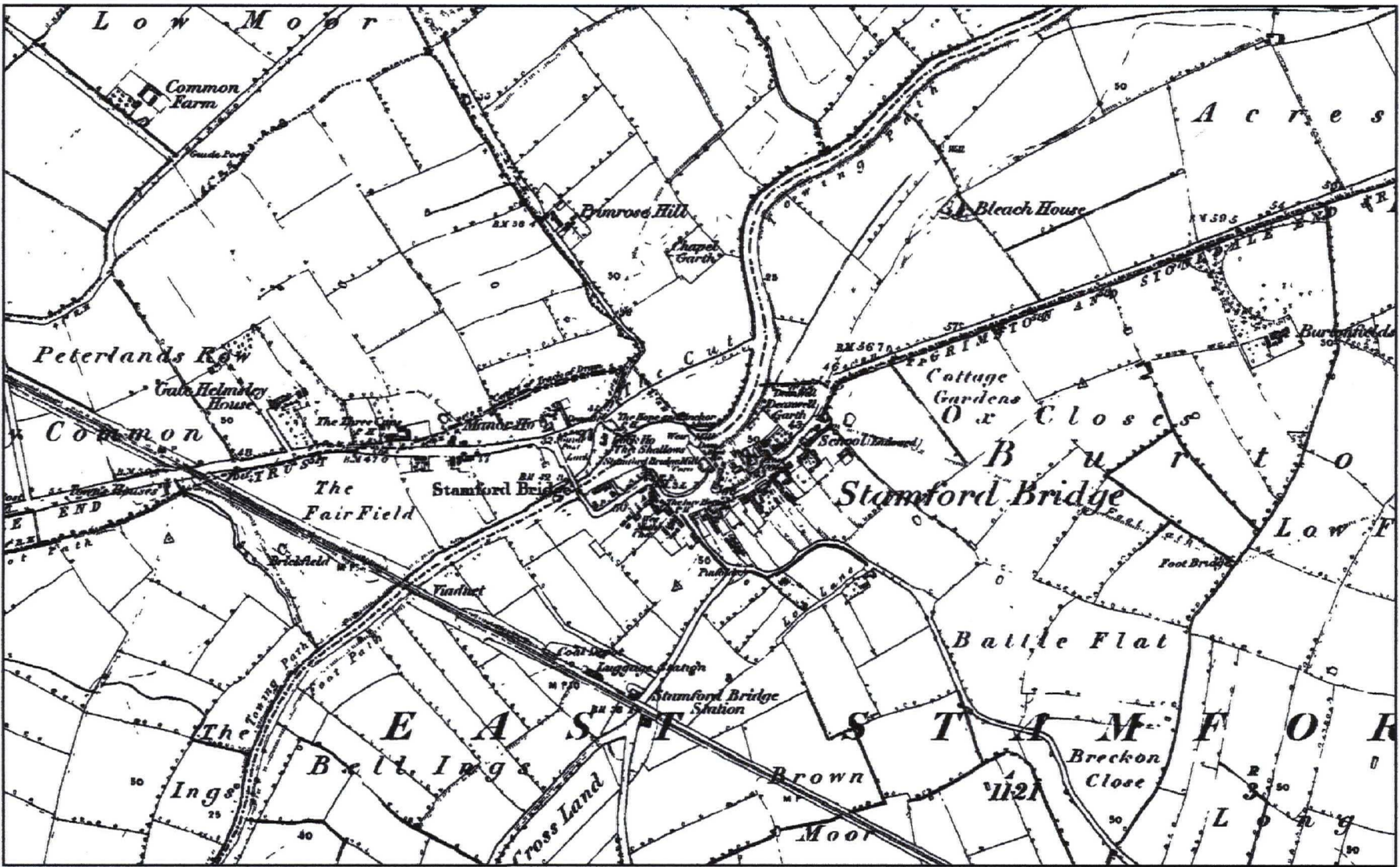


Figure 3 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map of Stamford Bridge

Overlying deposit 2003 was 0.35m thick light-mid-brown friable, silty sand, with occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoal (2002) that forms the present subsoil. Directly above this was the present topsoil comprised of 0.2m thick friable, mid-dark grey brown, sandy silt (2001). Pottery, probably dating to the 13th century, in the form of gritty ware cooking pots was collected from contexts 2001, 2006 and 2007.

5.3 Area 3

The topography of this area consists of a ridge running almost east-west that falls steeply to the south away from the Stamford Bridge West (A166) road to a flat river terrace and slopes more gradually down to the east and north towards the bridge.

At the top of the slope friable, loose, light reddish brown, silty sand subsoil (3001) was exposed. This subsoil is replaced at the edge of the flat river terrace by a friable, light-mid grey sand silt with occasional sub-rounded stones and pieces of flint (3002). Above these deposits was a 0.20m thick friable, dark grey, silt sand (3000), 0.20-0.30m thick, that forms the present topsoil. From the surface of Context 3001 sherds of medieval pottery were collected.

In the soak away on the west side of the area a friable, mid-orange brown sand, mottled with light yellow (3003) was exposed directly below the subsoil (3001).

5.4 Area 4

The earliest deposit in the trench was a natural, plastic, yellow-grey clay (4000) at 1.5m BGL. This was overlain by 1.2-1.3m thick deposit of friable, light-mid grey sand silt with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (4001). This context was most likely alluvial silt associated with flood events of the river Derwent. Directly above this was a friable dark grey, silt sand (4002), 0.20-0.30m thick, that forms the present topsoil (covered in grass). No archaeology was observed in this trench.

5.5 Area 5

In the pipe trench designated Area 5, the natural exposed was a yellow clay (5004) overlain by a loose mid-grey, mottled light-mid brown sand silt (5003), 0.4m thick and heavily disturbed by root action. At the southern end of the trench 5003 was sealed by a compact deposit of crushed limestone make-up (5002), 0.15m thick, sealed by a 0.2m thick layer of tarmac (5001) that forms the present car park. The uppermost deposit at the northern end of the trench was a friable, dark-grey, silt sand, deposit that formed the topsoil (5000).

5.6 Area 6

In the pipe trench designated Area 6 a stiff, yellow, mottled mid grey-clay (6003) and outcrops of an sandstone, with occasional areas of iron panning (6002), natural were encountered 1.20m BGL. The natural here was uneven and may relate to glacial outwash events or to erosion events associated with the river. Natural was overlain by a friable, mid grey, silt sand (6001), most likely the result of flood events associated with the river

Derwent. Directly above this was the topsoil (6000), a friable, dark grey, silt sand deposit 0.30-0.40m thick.

5.7 Area 7

The topsoil was stripped to a depth of 0.15m. At the western end of the embankment, where it was situated on the higher ground, the earliest deposit encountered was the red brown silt sand subsoil (7003). In the eastern half of the embankment, which was located at the base of the slope down to the river, the earliest deposit exposed was a dark grey-brown alluvial silt (7002). Where the embankment crossed the back of cottages facing onto the road, Stamford Bridge West, clearly defined buried subsoil (7001) was identified behind the middle cottage (see Fig. 2) that matched the alignment of the existing property boundary. The 1854 Ordnance Survey map appears to show a property boundary extending from this cottage to the river (Fig. 3) and it is believed that this is what the subsoil is associated with. No other archaeological features were observed. Deposit 7001 had a large quantity of pottery within it that covered a wide range of dates. The pottery included a sherd of possible Roman grey ware, one sherd of 13th century ware, two sherds of 15th century Humber ware, a sherd of 16th century Cistercian ware and five pieces of 19th century tin-glazed earthen wares. There was also a roof tile. This assemblage is probably the result of a long period of reworking of the soil in this area, probably through ploughing and later by reworking within the garden of the cottage. Deposit 7001 was sealed by the modern topsoil (7000).

5.8 Area 8

The earliest deposit exposed within the area of the embankment was a blue-grey alluvial deposit and the main drain for the embankment was excavated along its southern side. The trench for the drain was 0.8m wide and 1.4m deep. The earliest deposit encountered in within this was a light, yellow brown, clay natural 1.2m BGL. Overlying this was dark, grey-brown clay silt, probably an alluvial deposit from the river. This was cut by a shallow ditch, 0.5m deep, filled with a firm, orange-brown clay silt disturbed by the roots of a grubbed-out hedge row. This ditch appeared to follow the course of the grubbed out hedge line, still visible in places, that extended at 90° from the car park boundary to the river. Overlying the ditch was the dark grey clay silt topsoil of the present ground surface. In the stretch of drain that extended to the river the earliest deposit observed was the light, yellow-brown clay natural overlain by the dark grey river silt, sealed by the top soil of the present ground level.

An area for a concrete raft to protect the existing services was excavated where the easternmost of a number of ramps was constructed to allow transit across the flood defences. The earliest deposit observed was a dark grey-brown clay silt that was probably an alluvial deposit associated with flooding from the river Derwent, below 0.4m of topsoil. Deposits close to the bridge on the edge of the picnic area were heavily disturbed by tree roots.

5.9 Area 9

The earliest deposit encountered was mid-grey clay silt mottled with areas of brown clay (9001). This is most likely to have been an alluvial deposit from the river. This was overlain by 0.3-0.4m of topsoil (9000) that formed the present ground surface.

5.10 Area 10

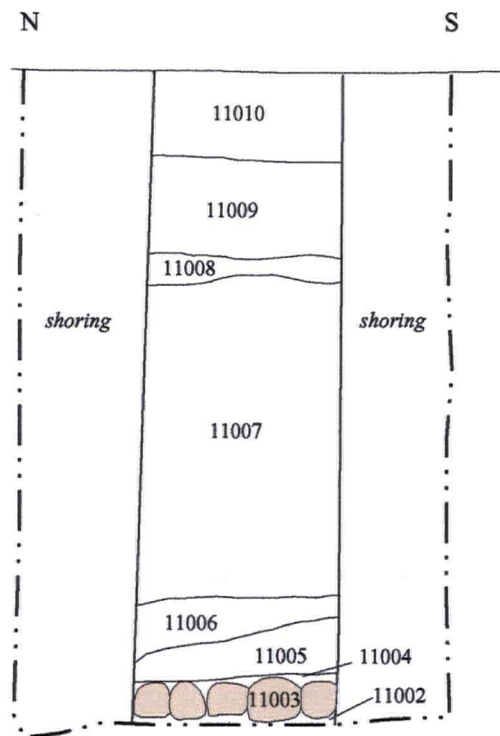
In the trench for the wall footing designated Area 10 the earliest deposit exposed was dark grey silt sand (10008) 0.1m thick. Overlying this was a 0.8m thick deposit of dark grey brown silt sand with inclusions of brick rubble, tile and clinker (10004). Directly above this was a 0.4m thick deposit of friable, light orangey brown sand with occasional stone inclusions. In the north-west facing section these deposits were sealed by a thin band, 0.1m thick, of pebbles (10003). Directly above this was the mid-grey brown silty sand topsoil (10001). During the machine excavation of these deposits (10000) three 20th century glass bottle fragments, four sherds of 19th century tin-glazed earthen wares and two sherds of yellow glazed post-medieval earthen wares were collected. It is likely that these deposits are associated with phases of either silting or dumping into the old mill pond, presumably as some form of land reclamation.

5.11 Area 11

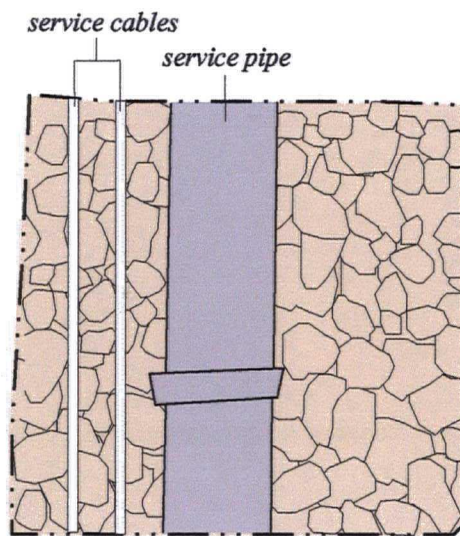
The earliest deposit within the line of the wall was a mixed dark grey silty clay (11001) immediately below the 0.2m thick topsoil (11000) of the caravan park. Within the chamber on the south side of Buttercrambe Road, the earliest deposit exposed was a friable, light grey silt sand (11002) 1.8m BGL. This was covered by a layer of rough sandstone blocks (11003) 0.2-0.3m thick. It is unclear what these blocks represent but they may be an old road surface. No dating evidence was recovered from them. Overlying 11003 was a thin layer, 0.1m thick, of firm, dark grey silty sand clay (11004). Directly above this was a 0.1-0.2m thick deposit of light grey silt sand (11006). This deposit was sealed by a 0.8m thick deposit of mid-grey silt sand with lenses of sand and clay, and flecks of charcoal and tile (11007) that had modern services cut through it. This deposit is probably material deposited during flood events of the River Derwent. Directly above this was a light grey brown mixed deposit (11008). Overlying this was a friable, mid-grey brown silty sand (11009) with a number of tree roots 0.4m thick within it. The uppermost deposit within the chamber was a 0.4m thick deposit of dark grey brown silty sand (11010).

5.12 Area 12

The only deposit recorded in this area was the modern topsoil that consisted of a friable mid-grey brown silt sand (12000). There was no evidence for the continuation of the medieval deposits exposed in the adjacent Area 2.



west facing section



plan after completion of excavation

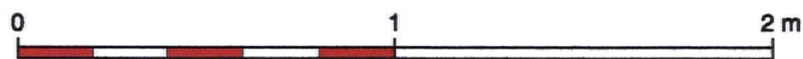
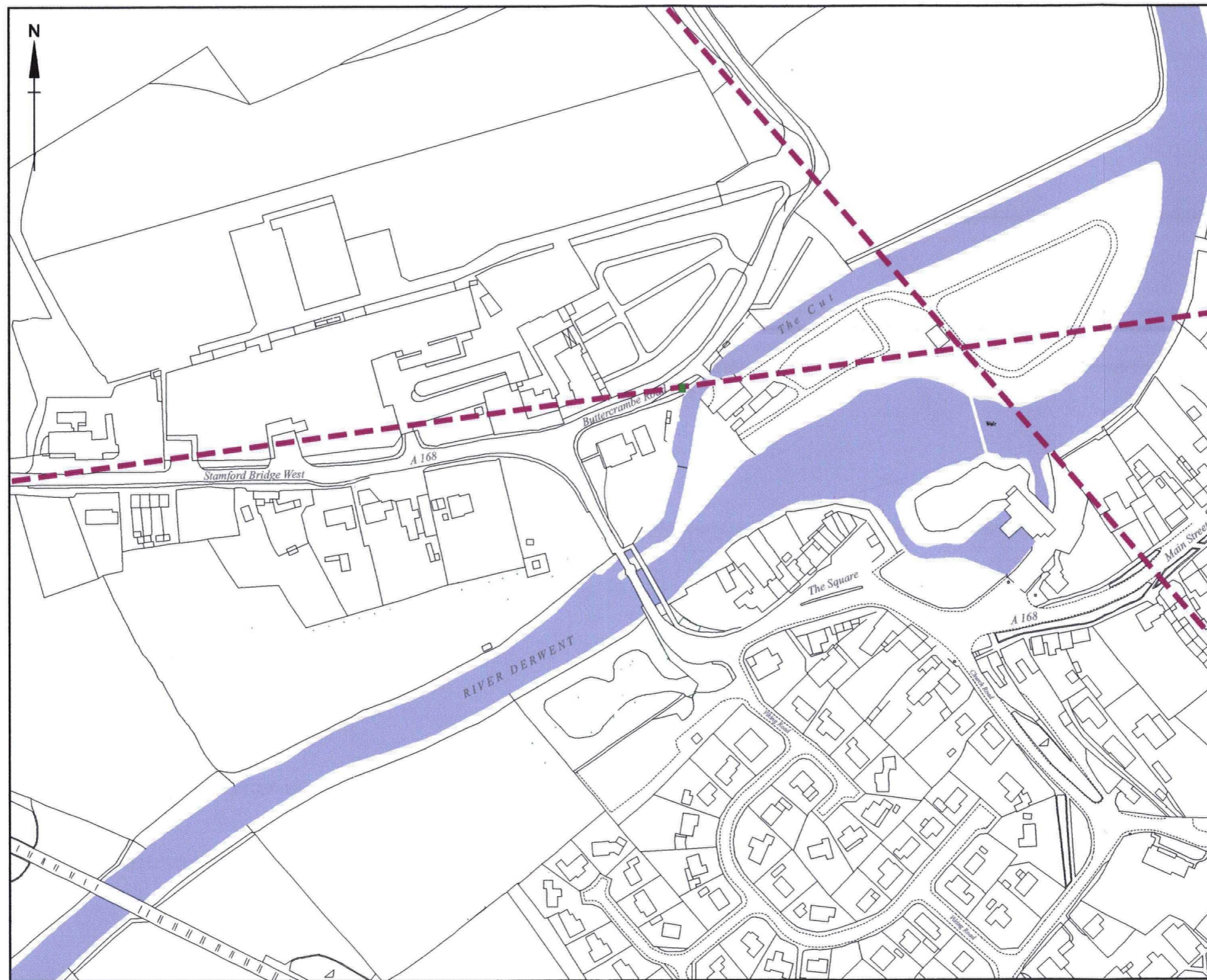
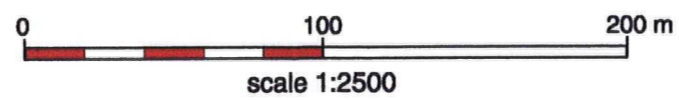


Figure 4 Section and plan of chamber, Area 11



KEY:

Chamber



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Figure 5 Projected line of Roman roads

6. CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL by J. McComish

6.1 Introduction

A total of 0.373kg of CBM was examined from the site. The only forms present were a possible Roman brick fragment and a number of medieval or later brick fragments. The material was recorded to a standard YAT methodology. As the collection consisted largely of small fragments there was nothing which merited retention. A few fragments were however retained to form the basis of a fabric series for Stamford Bridge.

6.2 Fabrics

Fabric	Weight	Weight as a % of total	Forms present
F0	153	41.02%	Brick
F1	95	25.47%	Brick
F2	125	33.51%	Rbrick
<i>Total weight</i>	373		

Table 1: Summary of fabrics present

For a majority of the fragments it was impossible to accurately determine the fabric type as the fragments were far too small. These fragments were clearly not of Roman date, but could be medieval or later. Many were underfired. Only two fabrics could be clearly determined among the collection. The Roman material on site consisted of a single fragment in fabric F2, while all the medieval or later material was in fabric F1. More research into fabrics from other excavations in the area to fully assess these fabrics in terms of their distribution both spatially and chronologically.

Fabric number	Description
F0	Used for all medieval or later fragments which were far too small to accurately describe the fabric. There was a notable tendency for these to be underfired.
F1	Light orange fabric with moderate quartz grains up to 0.5mm in size and occasional grog. Tends to be underfired.
F2	Dark red fabric uncompacted. Patches of moderate minute quartz grains, far too small to measure, giving a speckled white appearance on the surface of the fabric in places. Moderate angular quartz grains up to 0.5x0.5mm. Very occasional grog. Very occasional mica?

Table 2: Fabric descriptions

6.3 Forms

The only forms seen were a single fragment of Roman brick together with medieval or later bricks. Distinguishing between medieval and post-medieval bricks can be difficult, and is normally done on the basis of the size of the bricks. Unfortunately all of the brick fragments from this site were too small to obtain any measurements so could not be dated

on the basis of size. In cases where dimensions cannot be obtained fragments which were made in sanded moulds are usually dated as more likely to be medieval, while slop-moulded bricks (where the mould is wetted rather than sanded) are usually dated as more likely to be post-medieval. Unfortunately not a single fragment recovered had edges preserved, so it was impossible to determine the method of manufacture. It was therefore impossible to accurately date any of these fragments, and all that can be said is they are 14th century or later.

6.4 Conclusion

The quantity and quality of material recovered was very poor and did not enable anything of note to be said about the CBM from the site.

6.5 CBM records

Context	Fabric	Form	W	L	B	T	Comments	Date
1001	F0	Brick	3	0	0	0	Tiny fragment. Underfired.	14 th or later
2001	F0	Brick	75	0	0	0	17 tiny fragments, tendency to be underfired	14 th or later
2001	F1	Brick	25	0	0	0	retained in the fabric sample collection	
2001	F1	Brick	10	0	0	0		
2001	F1	Brick	10	0	0	0		
2001	F1	Brick	25	0	0	0	retained in the fabric sample collection	
2001	F1	Brick	15	0	0	0		
2001	F1	Brick	10	0	0	0		
2006	F0	Brick	75	0	0	0	Fifteen tiny fragments. Tendency to be underfired	14 th or later
2006	F2	Rbrick	125	0	0	25	Very abraded. Retained as part of the fabric sample collection	

Table 3: CBM Data

7. POTTERY by A. Mainman

CONTEXT	TYPE	DATE
1001	6 fine oxidised fragments with traces of glaze. Surfaces much abraded.	Medieval
2001	133 sherds of pottery including gritty ware cooking pot rims and sherds; highly decorated jug fragments of Brandsby and York Glazed ware types, including a seal from a seal jug; glazed cooking pot fragments; fine sandy oxidised wares. All quite abraded sherds from a typical domestic assemblage	c.AD 1150-1300
2004	17 sherds from medieval jugs and cooking pots, generally pale grey/white fabric	AD 1250-1350
2006	17 sherds of pottery including gritty ware cooking pots, highly decorated sherds from jugs; bung hole from cistern and parts of a fine oxidised sandy red ware jug	c.AD 1150-1450
2007	19 sherds of pottery of same types and date range as seen in context 2001	c. AD 1150-1300
3001	4 abraded sherds of hard fired oxidized pottery	AD 1350-1450
7001	5 tin glazed earthen wares	19 th Century
7001	2 Humber wares	15 th century
7001	1 possible grey ware	Roman
7001	1 13 th century ware	13 th century
7001	1 Cistercian ware	16 th century
10000	tin glazed earthen wares	19 th century
10000	2 yellow glazed earthenware's	post-medieval

Table 4: Pottery

7.1 Discussion

The earliest pottery represented probably dates to the 13th century and is in the form of the gritty ware cooking pots seen in contexts 2001, 2006 and 2007. These were first made in the later 11th century but remain current in contexts as late as the 13th century when they occur together with the other pottery types seen here. The rest of the pottery represents well-known jug and cooking pot types in a range of oxidized and white-firing fabrics typical of the later 12th century and remaining current into the 14th century. The pottery date range might extend into the early 15th century on the basis of the bung-hole cistern fragment as this form is more common towards the end of the medieval period. There is no pottery which needs to be later than the early 15th century. All the material is quite abraded and surface features such as glaze and decoration survive poorly. Enough remains, however, to be certain that this is a typical domestic assemblage mainly of 13th and 14th century date.

8. OTHER ARTEFACTS by A. Mainman

CONTEXT	TYPE	DATE
3001	3 pieces of burned daub	Uncertain
2006	2 small fragments of burned daub	Uncertain

Table 5: Daub

CONTEXT	TYPE	DATE
1001	1 flint scraper with retouched edges	Neolithic/Early Bronze Age
2001	1 patinated flint	Uncertain

Table 6: Flint

CONTEXT	TYPE	DATE
2001	2 small pieces of slag	Modern?
2001	1 tobacco pipe stem fragment	Modern
10000	3 glass bottle fragments	20th century

Table 7: Modern

8.1 Discussion

There is a small amount of evidence for prehistoric activity in the area in the form of the scraper from context 1001. It is possible that what is described above as daub is prehistoric pottery but the pieces are so small and abraded this cannot be confirmed. There is little that can be said about the pieces of slag or tobacco pipe stem in Context 2001. The piece of flint from this context is also of uncertain function. The glass fragments from context 10000 fit the sequence of the pottery of a post-medieval-modern date for these deposits.

9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The majority of the areas observed within the watching brief produced limited results. A number of isolated but interesting archaeological discoveries were, however, made during the construction of the flood defences.

There was evidence of prehistoric activity with the discovery of the flint scraper (1001). As the scraper came from a subsoil that was frequently flooded and this area was ploughed until recently, it may not indicate prehistoric activity in the area as it could have been deposited with flood events from the river Derwent.

There was some residual evidence of Roman activity in the area of the flood defences with a sherd of pottery (7001) and one fragment of Roman brick (2001) recovered during the course of the work. The sandstone blocks that appeared to form part of a metallised surface in Area 11 may be associated with the course of the Roman road from York. The

course of the Roman road is shown on the modern Ordnance survey maps. The sandstone blocks were located at the point where the road descends from the ridge towards the River Derwent, and it is possible that, as noted above, the crossing point of the river is near the area known as 'The Shallows'. A projection of the line of the known alignment of the Roman road suggests that the sandstone blocks form part of this road, although no dating evidence was recovered.

No evidence was found from the Anglo-Scandinavian period, but evidence was recovered of medieval activity. This activity seemed to be focused on the north side of the river. The quantity of medieval pottery collected from Area 2 is probably associated with either a dump of material or, as much of the material is abraded, associated with manuring of the fields. The stones are possibly also associated with ploughing and may represent the result of clearance of large stones from a field dumped which were on the boundary. A number of medieval pottery sherds were also collected from the subsoil related to the plot of one of the cottages, also on the north side of the river (Area 4).

Post-medieval activity was evident in the alterations to the mill pond in Area 10. The map evidence would suggest that the mill pond was once much larger- and perhaps influenced the alignment of the road through Stamford Bridge in this area. The material from the deposits from within the mill pond would suggest a date for the reclamation of land from the pond as the late 19th or early 20th centuries. The reason for the reclamation is uncertain, but is perhaps associated with a decline in the amount of work carried out by the mill.

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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