

Two post-medieval market tenements and their environs, at the Market Place, Kettering

by

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with contributions by

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SUMMARY

Between April and July 2010 Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook a programme of watching briefs and open area excavation at the southern fringe of the Market Place, Kettering, Northamptonshire. The truncated remains of 18th to 20th-century tenements were revealed, comprising stone wall foundations, stone and brick-lined cellars and pits. In association there was a substantial assemblage of post-medieval pottery, together with clay tobacco-pipe, animal bone and other finds, including a set of vulcanite dentures. Documentary research has identified the excavated structures as the remnants of commercial premises and has provided details of their occupancy through the later post-medieval period.

INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by John Sisk and Son Ltd to undertake open area excavation at Market Place, Kettering, Northampton (centred on SP 8668 7841, Fig 1). The work was undertaken at the request of East Northamptonshire Council to mitigate against the impact of mixed use development of the site.

The site had previously been the subject of a desk-based assessment and watching brief undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Mason 2008, Brown 2008), which had identified the potential for the survival of medieval and post-medieval structures and associated remains.

The programme of fieldwork complied with the archaeological brief written by Northamptonshire's County Archaeological Advisor (NCC 2010) and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2010).

Watching briefs began in April 2010 with open area excavation commencing on 19 May and completed on 4 June. A second series of watching briefs were conducted throughout late June and July.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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was managed by Iain Soden and directed by Paul Mason. Thanks are extended to the following staff for their hard work on site: James Ladocha, Dave Lee, Rob Smith and Angela Warner. The author is also grateful to the following specialists for their contribution to the report: Pat Chapman, Karen Deighton, Iain Soden and Tim Upson-Smith. Particular thanks are offered to Sophie Riches of the British Dental Association Museum for her helpful comments on the dental fragments. The illustrations for the report were prepared by Amir Bassir and James Ladocha. The client report (Mason 2010) will be deposited online with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). This synthesis was prepared by Paul Mason with proof reading by Pat Chapman and editing by Andy Chapman.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site lies on the southern periphery of Market Place, to the immediate north-west of the church of St Peter and St Paul, in the centre of Kettering (Fig 2). It is bounded by the open expanse of Market Place to the north, the churchyard to the south and east, and Sheep Street to the west. The land hereabouts slopes from east (*c* 87.50mOD) to west (*c* 85.5mOD).

Prior to excavation the development area (*c* 735 sq m) was mostly given over to car parking, with small buildings – a market trader's hut and public toilets – located in its south-east and south-west corners. At the time of excavation most of the modern hard standing had been removed and the buildings demolished – with the exception of a chimney serving a boiler for the church which still stood in the south-eastern corner of the site (Fig 3).

The geology is recorded as Inferior Oolite overlain by Northampton Sand and Ironstone (www.bgs.ac.uk/GeoIndex).

DOCUMENTARY AND CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

HISTORIC MAPS

A series of historic maps record the development of the site within its Market Place setting from the early post-medieval period through to the modern day. Ralph

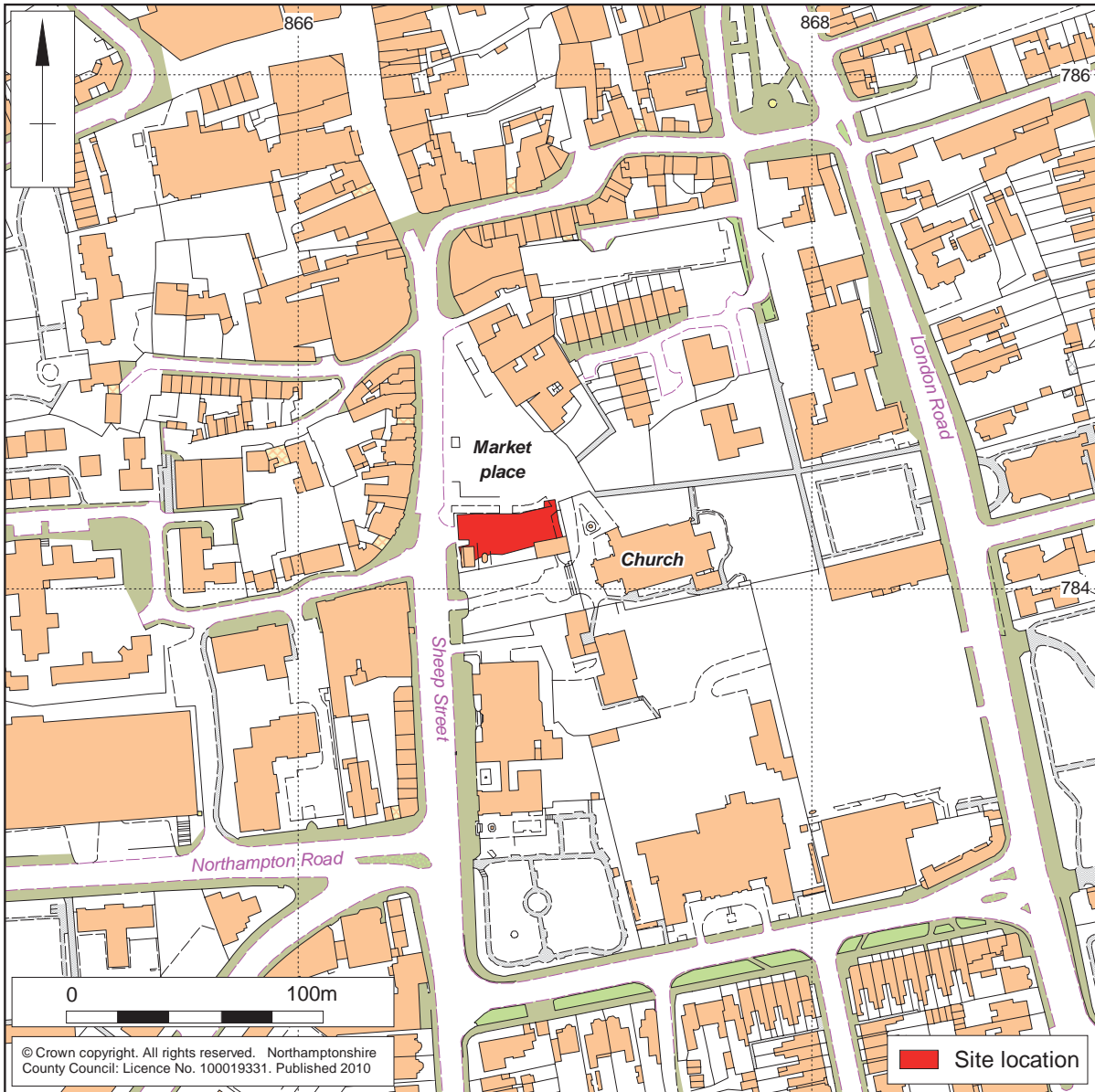


Fig 1 Site location

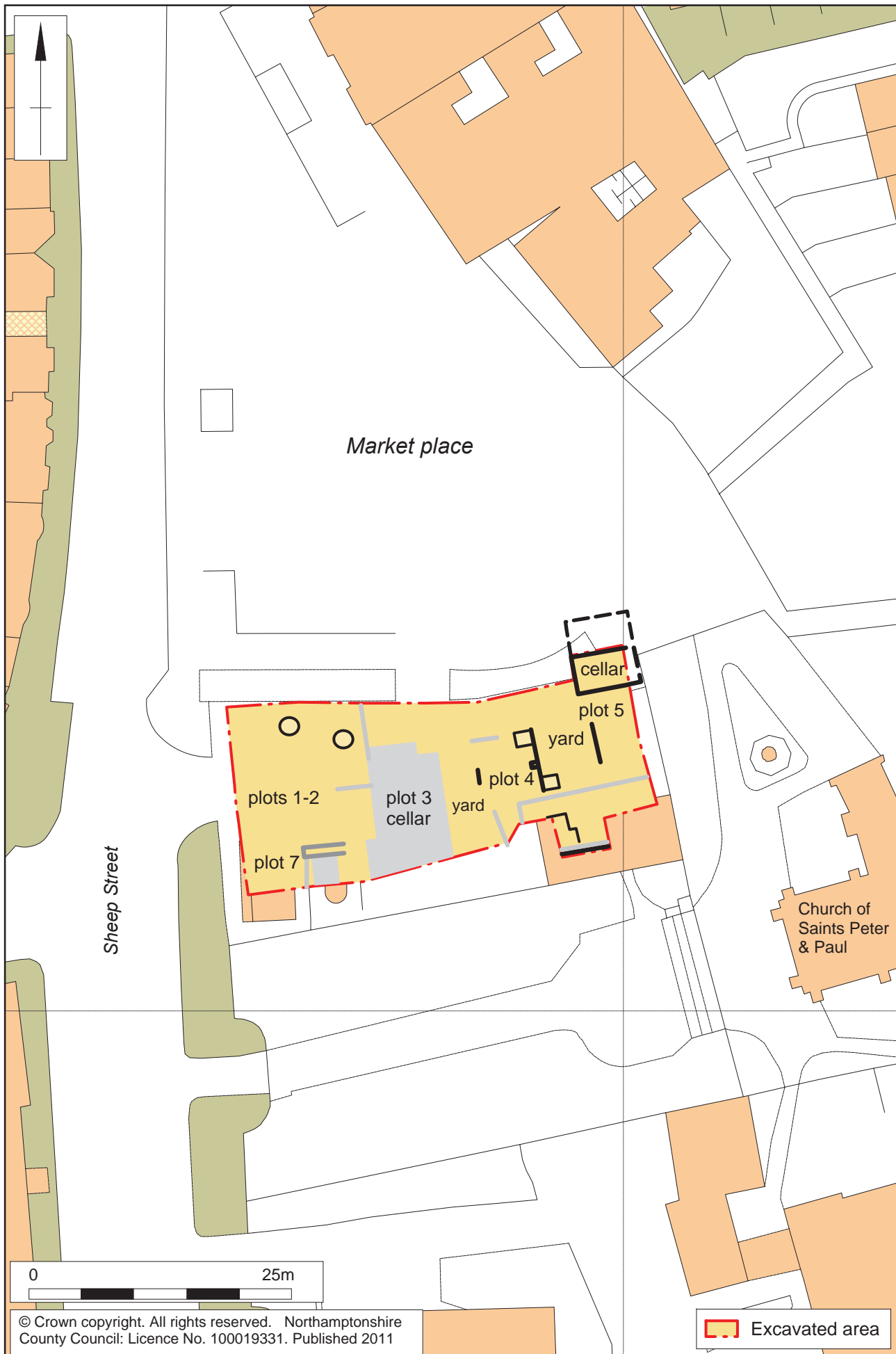


Fig 2 The excavated area and its environs



Fig 3 View of the site before excavation, looking east towards the standing chimney and the church

Treswell's map of Kettering town centre (1587) shows two rows of houses either side of a thoroughfare that appears to connect Market Place to the manor house to the south

(Fig 4). The site location lies toward the northern end of the Market Place approach. A building depicted just beyond its boundary, lying lengthways across the street, could have been a gatehouse. In the centre of the Market lies a row of buildings that were known colloquially as 'Rotten Row'.

T Eayre's map (1721) shows a block of tenements occupying the southern Market Place (Fig 5). Five distinct buildings are present with rear wings, outbuildings and yards. The land parcel is bounded on its east and west sides by long, narrow blocks which could, conceivably, be survivals from the 16th-century plan. A smaller structure adjoining the eastern block in the south-east corner of Market Place is later, as it would seem, are the enclosed tenements. To the north of the excavated area, the Market House and Cross are depicted within Market Place, to the east of Rotten Row.

John Hennells' plan of Market Place (1785) does not show the layout of individual plots but is an important piece of evidence as it identifies the owners/occupiers of the tenements falling within, or close to, the excavated area. From west to east (hitherto referred to as Plots 1-6; see Fig 9) the occupiers of the late 18th-century Market Place frontage are named as: Munn (grocer), Mr



Fig 4 Ralph Treswell's map of Kettering, 1587 (excavated area in orange), north to left

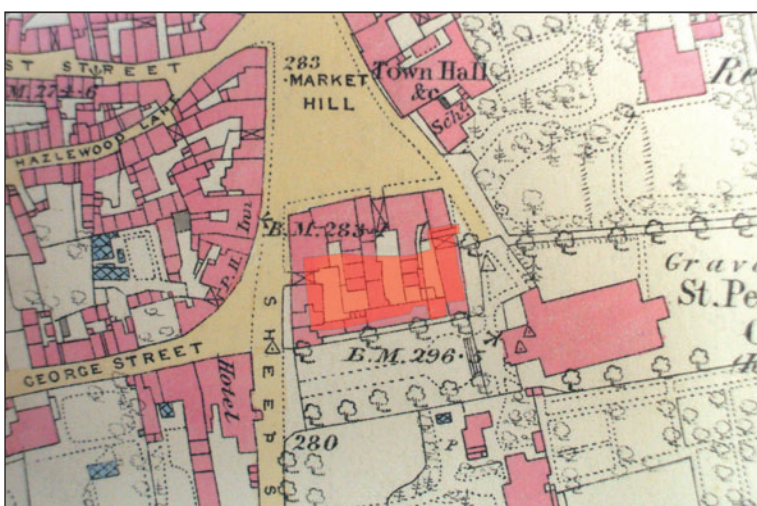


Fig 5 T Eayre's map of Kettering, 1721 (excavated area in orange)

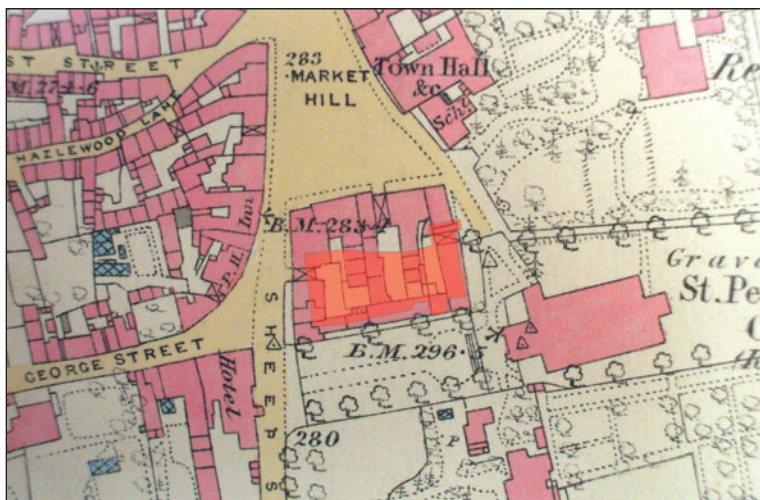


Fig 6 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, 50", 1884 (excavated area in orange)

Baker, Chater (shoemaker), Angel, Jordan (milliner) and Wheatley (grocer). Some of these occupants also appear in documents of the late 18th and early 19th centuries (see below). Hennell's map also indicates that part of the western frontage had been demolished by this date, effectively widening the carriageway that was later to become Sheep Street.

Robert Smith's plan (1826) clearly depicts the six buildings fronting Market Place, with other tenements facing onto Sheep Street. The excavated area corresponds with an area of rear wings, outbuildings and yards. A schedule of ownership accompanies the plan, identifying following people: Thomas Dash (owner, bookseller) and others (Plots 1/2); Abraham Mee (owner, baker) and others (Plot 4); Mr Robinson (owner) and John Maile (tenant, chandler) (Plot 5). In addition, one of the west-facing frontages whose rear yard falls within the excavated area (Plot 7) is identified as the property of Edward Bates, occupied by John Bates, a watchmaker.

The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (1884) gives an unprecedented level of detail (Fig 6). The easternmost of the Market Place frontage buildings (Plot 6), lying just outside the excavated area, had been demolished and its former plot has not been re-developed. A covered passage in the rear wing of the neighbouring tenement (Plot 5) now gives access to its yard from the south-east corner of Market Place. A number of outbuildings have been built in the same yard since Smith's plan was surveyed. To the west, a covered passage gives access to the rear yard of the neighbouring tenement (Plot 4) and extensions have been made to its rear wing. Outbuildings have been enlarged and what appears to be a small garden set out to the rear of one building.

Later editions of the Ordnance Survey provide evidence for further in-filling of the yard of Plot 5 (1900), the demolition of the west-facing frontage (Plots 1 and 7) and widening of the carriageway (1926) (significantly, the original alignment of the medieval frontage would now have corresponded with the central axis of Sheep Street, well outside the excavated area). The rest of the southern Market Place frontage was demolished wholesale in 1935, thus creating the familiar open aspect of the modern-day Market Place.

DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

A small number of images depicting the mid 19th- and early 20th-century Market Place frontage are reproduced in the publications *A Pictorial History of Kettering* (Warren 1985) and the Evening Telegraph supplement, *Time to Remember* (NRO ROP1384). A coloured sketch of c 1840 (Fig 7) depicts the church of St Peter and St Paul and the southern Market Place from a vantage point to the immediate east of the Market House (Warren 1985, frontispiece). The buildings occupying the frontage of

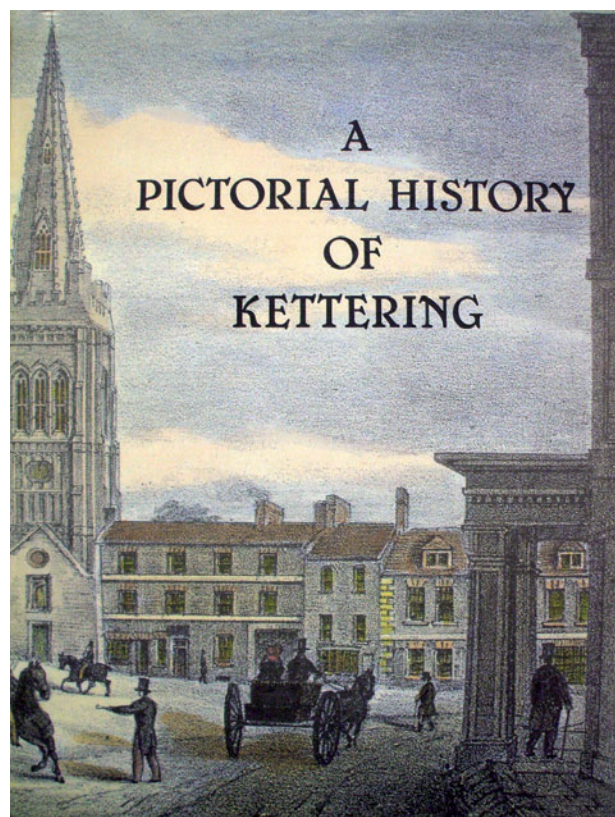


Fig 7 W I Cole's drawing of the southern Market Place, c 1840 (reproduced in Warren 1985, front cover)



Fig 8 View of the southern Market Place, c 1900 (reproduced in Evening Telegraph NRO ROP1384)

Plots 2-5 are rendered in some detail. With the exception of the Plot 5, their architecture appears in-keeping with an 18th-century date. In contrast to the others, Plot 5, at the eastern end of the row, appears to be of an earlier style and presents its gable end to the Market Place. Curiously, its roof appears to be missing, suggesting that it was derelict at the time the drawing was made. The building occupying Plot 6 appears to have already been demolished.

A photograph of the southern Market Place (Fig 8) shows buildings occupying Plots 1-5 at the turn of the 20th century (NRO ROP1384). The Plot 5 building has been re-roofed and renovated. Plots 2-4 appear unchanged from the mid-19th century and display signs identifying them as the YMCA, Payne's Cake Shop and The Albion temperance hotel respectively. The building that occupied the corner plot (Plot 1) and rendered in white, had not yet been demolished. Other photographs of this period show the roofscape of the buildings in the foreground of an image of the Market Place taken from the church tower and a close-up view of the front elevation of the building occupying Plot 2 which the caption identifies as the 'old Council Offices' (Warren 1985).

HISTORIC DOCUMENTS

Historic documents, principally trade directories and census returns, allow the ownership, occupancy and commercial use of the two best-preserved Market Place tenements (Plots 4 and 5) to be reconstructed for much of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Earlier sources are less robust, though later 18th-century occupancies are annotated on Hennell's map of 1785.

The general character of the market during the 1790s is summarised in *The Universal British Directory* (Winton 1993, 478) as follows:

The market is on Fridays, and, although less than it was fifty years ago, is still a pretty good one. There are three animal fairs, viz. Thursday before (sic) Easter, Thursday before the 10th of October, and the Thursday before St. Thomas, all for beast, sheep, horses, and hogs, and the Michaelmas one has a great number of sheep and rams ...

An auction lot of 1810, which describes the appearance of a newly built shop in Market Place, gives some indication of the type of structure that may have stood in the vicinity of the site:

An established grocers shop in the centre of the Market Place. Comprising a newly built Brick and Slated Shop comprising two sashed fronts, a large dining room and two attics over it, an arched cellar, sitting room, two sleeping rooms, brewhouse and warehouse, with chamber over, a yard and out offices. (NRO SK889)

The sequence of documentary, cartographic and pictorial evidence for Plots 4 and 5 are summarised in Table 1.

THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Hard standings that extended across the proposed building footprint were removed by groundworks contractors prior to the beginning of the excavation, except in the south-east corner of the site where the denuded remains of a modern building still stood and along the northern periphery where a live high voltage electricity cable was present (Fig 3). These areas became the focus of a subsequent watching brief, the results of which are subsumed into this report.

Overburden deposits underlying the hard standings were stripped under constant archaeological supervision using a 13ton mechanical digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Machine excavation ceased at the level of the first significant archaeological remains, which were cleaned by hand. The excavation and recording of individual features proceeded in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (NA 2010). The edge of excavation and site grid were surveyed onto an Ordnance Survey base map using a Leica 1200 GPS.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The geology comprised fragmented ironstone in a matrix of orange-brown sandy clay with occasional localised pockets of finer sand. For the most part, the geological horizon lay directly below the make-up material for the modern hard standings, its existing level evidently the product of one or more episodes of truncation across the site.

Whilst the excavated area corresponded with the mapped rear wings, outbuildings and yards of Plots 1-5 and a lesser part of Plot 7, truncation had removed almost all of the well-documented evidence for the structural development of the site. The only cohesive archaeology remained upslope, in the eastern part of the site where the denuded remains of wall foundations, a cellar, pits and postholes relating to Plots 4 and 5 were present (Fig 9).

Levels of truncation became more pronounced to the west where only a few deep-set features, the remnants of Plots 1-3 and 7, survived. A large late 19th-/20th-century cellar located in the centre of site had removed any evidence for earlier occupation in this location.

Table 1: Documentary evidence for Plots 4 and 5

Year/Source	Plot 4	Plot 5
1785, Hennell's map	Angel *	Jordan, milliner
1791, Universal British Directory		Mrs Jordan, milliner and grocer and J Mail, grocer and chandler
1793-8, The Universal British Directory		Mrs Jordan, milliner and grocer
1811, Holden's Directory	Abraham Mee, baker	John Maile, tallow-chandler
1823-4, Pigot's Directory	Abraham Mee, baker and flour dealer	
1826, Smith's map	Abraham Mee, owner and baker and others	Mr Robinson, owner, John Maile, chandler, tenant
1830, Pigot's Directory	Abraham Mee **	
c 1840, W I Cole drawing		Appears derelict
1841, Census	Ann Mee, baker	Assumed derelict
1851, Census	John Cluff, baker	Assumed derelict
1861, Census	Charles Bell, baker	Assumed derelict
1871, Census	Annie W Worters, head superintendent of ladies school	Thomas Jones, Draper
1877, Harrod & Co Directory	Ladies boarding school listed on Market Place	
1881, Census	Ann W Worters, principal of ladies school ***	Clarissa F Jones, draper's wife
1891, Census	Ernest E Ashby, dentists assistant and Percy Ashby, cabinet maker	5a: John Harris, bootmaker 5b: William Jones, Draper
c 1900, photographs	YMCA	Identified as council offices
1935	Demolished	Demolished

* the reference to 'Angel' on Hennel's map is obscure. Pigot's Directory of 1823/4 lists an Angel Public House at Hog Leys and again in 1830 at Horse Market

**An auction lot of 1830 alludes to the multiple ownership of Plot 4: The SCITE or PIECE of GROUND whereon a hovel formerly stood, situate in the yard of Mr. Abraham Mee, in the Market Place of Kettering aforesaid (NRO GK750)

***Ann Worters moved to a private school at The Hillside, London Road by 1890 (Kelly's Directory), perhaps suggesting that the boarding school had closed by this date

PLOT 5

In the eastern part of the excavated area a series of heavily truncated wall foundations and two small cellars were identified as the remnants of the rear wing and yard of Plot 5, as depicted on the historical maps of the 18th to 20th centuries (Figs 5 and 6).

REMAINS OF THE REAR WING

At ground level, all that remained of the rear wing first depicted on historic maps of the 18th century was the lowest course of the foundation for its west wall, 8. This was aligned north to south, 0.60m wide and constructed from irregular-shaped blocks of ironstone rubble bonded with a loose off-white lime mortar. To the east, a shorter section of lighter foundation work was aligned east to west. This was constructed from unbounded rubble and founded from a slightly higher level, perhaps to support an internal partition.

In the extreme north-east corner of the site was a rectangular cellar, 3 (Fig 10), which corresponds with a covered passage depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig 6). The walls were 0.40m wide, constructed from roughly coursed ironstone rubble. They define an internal space measuring 2.5m on its north-south axis and approximately 5.5m east-west. A window embrasure was built into the upper courses of its west wall. The cellar was floored in brick, though this could have been a later addition. Bricks were also present, intermittently, along the top of the walls.

The front and side walls of a second cellar, 1002, replete with coal chute, were observed to the north during the watching brief that followed the main phase of excavation. The covered passage connecting to the Market Place, as depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig 6), evidently lay above this cellar.

The cellars appeared to have been backfilled with building rubble, 5, probably when the tenements were demolished in 1935. Though mostly comprising brick rubble, three stone architectural fragments were recovered from the southern cellar. They were all elements of a window frame, including a length of mullion and two conjoining parts of the surround. Their clean lines and lack of weathering suggests a 19th-century date.

YARD AND ASSOCIATED FEATURES

The wedge-shaped yard was defined by wall foundations, 8, 12 and 13, enclosing a space some 4.8m wide at its centre. The walls were 0.60m wide and constructed from ironstone rubble bonded with a loose off-white lime mortar; in each instance only the very bottom course survived.

A rectangular pit, 27, measuring c 1.75m x 1.55m, and lined on three sides with ironstone rubble, 28, abutted the western wall of the yard, 12 (Fig 11). It was 0.90m deep and had a 0.35m-thick primary fill of dark brown sandy clay with occasional rubble and charcoal inclusions, 30. A large quantity of pottery and clay tobacco-pipe bowls was recovered from this deposit, dating it to the middle of the 18th century. Animal bones were also recovered

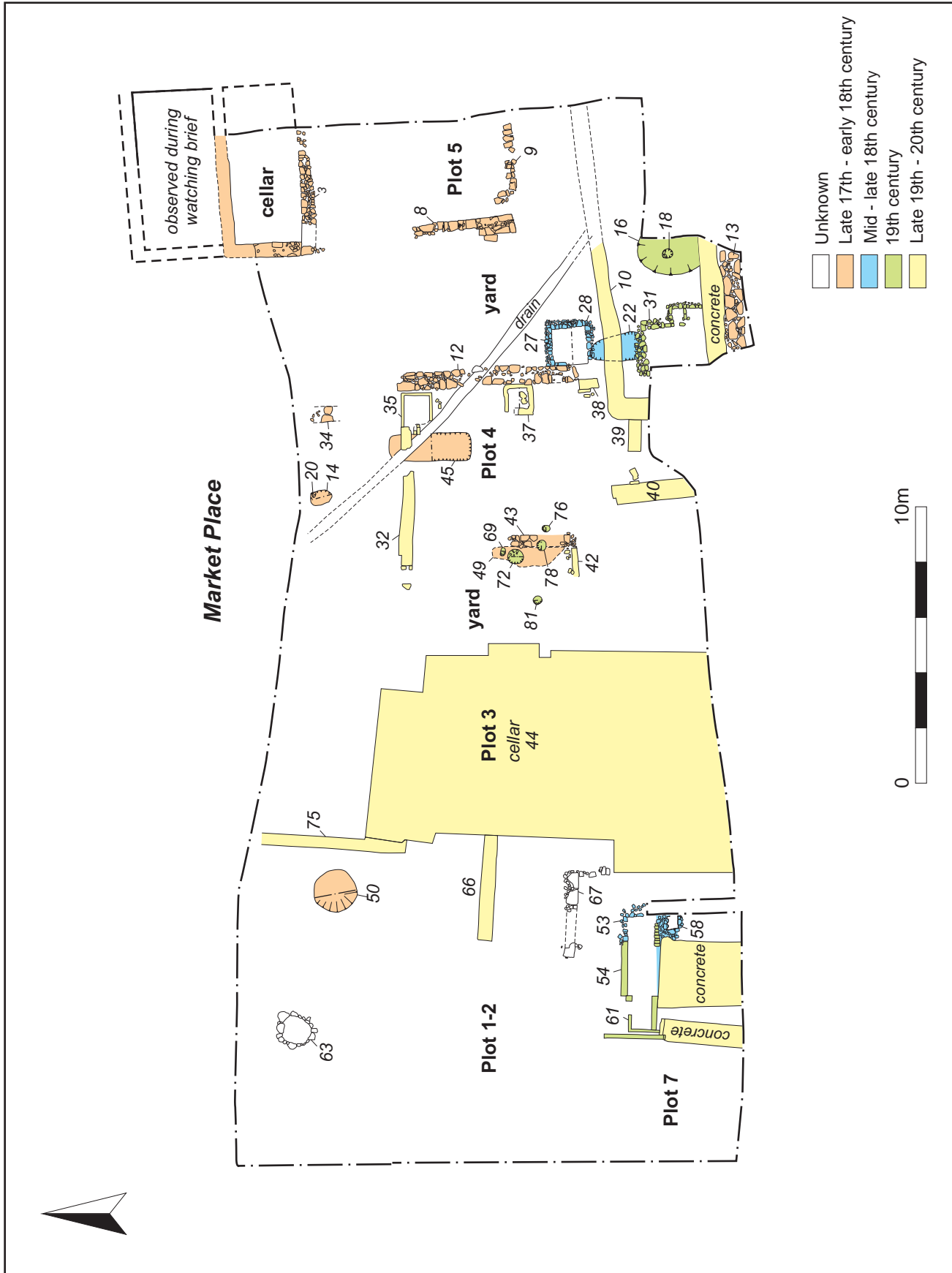


Fig 9 General plan of excavated features



Fig 10 Cellar 3, Plot 5, looking north



Fig 11 Stone-lined pit 27, Plot 5 yard, 18th-century, looking south

and a soil sample produced a quantity of fish bones. The secondary fill, 29, of the pit was similar in character and date.

The southern edge of pit 27 was truncated by an oval pit, 22, which survived to 0.35m deep. A primary fill of dark brown sandy clay, 26, contained fragments of clay tobacco-pipe dating to the late 18th century. This was sealed by a thin layer of sandy clay, 25, containing domestic waste including mid-late 18th-century pottery and clay tobacco-pipe. The uppermost fills of the pit, rubble deposit, 24, and a deposit of clay, 23, appeared to have been deliberately laid to seal the redundant feature in the late 18th century.

The southern edge of pit 22 was overlain by an ironstone rubble wall foundations, 31, comprising the northern wall and a lighter eastern wall of a building; with a distinct dog-leg at the north-east corner. A brick-built internal partition, 32, abutted the eastern wall, and the enclosed space was filled with a sandy clay abandonment deposit, 33, containing pottery dating to the period 1830-50. The foundations were probably for an out-building of the early 19th century.

A few metres to the east there was a large oval pit, 16, more than 2.20m long. Towards its centre was a posthole, 18, 0.22m diameter by 0.18m deep, filled with brown sandy clay, 19. The pit itself was filled with finer sand, 17. This was probably deposited in the 19th century, as it contained a single sherd of iron-glazed pancheon, as well as a residual sherd of Midland purple ware.

Later 19th and 20th-century development

Evidence for later 19th-/earlier 20th-century yard structures was entirely absent; presumably their formation levels were too high to escape the truncation of the site after the demolitions of 1935.

The earlier features that survived at the rear of the plot were cut by elements of the market trader's hut, which had been demolished shortly before the excavation commenced. These included the foundation trench for its north and west walls, 10, and an internal concrete duct, aligned east to west, 13.

PLOT 4

Two short sections of wall foundations, 34 and 43, aligned north to south, lay to the north and west of yard wall foundation, 12 (Fig 9). These appear to correspond with the east and west walls of a narrow rear wing in Plot 4 depicted on historic maps from 1721 onwards. The walls were both *c* 0.50m wide, in unbonded ironstone rubble. To the west, where maps depict a yard accessible from a covered passage in the frontage, a layer of compacted sandy clay, mortar and burned material, 49, abutted the exterior face of foundation 43. This deposit contained pottery and clay tobacco-pipe dating to the 17th-early 18th centuries, and animal bones.

Within the footprint of this building were two pits, 45 and 14, which, on the basis of ceramic dating, were filled at approximately the same time that layer 49 was deposited. Pit 45 was a large rectangular pit, some 3m long by 1.30m wide and 0.90m deep. It had a homogeneous fill of greyish-brown sandy clay, 46, containing pottery and clay tobacco-pipe of the late 17th-early 18th centuries. A large quantity of fish bones were retrieved from a soil sample. Another much smaller oval pit, 14, a short distance to the north-west, had a posthole, 20, cut into its base. Both features had fills of yellowish-brown sand, 15 and 21, the former containing a sherd of manganese glazed ware (dated 1680-1740).

Whereas the above mentioned features all date to the late 17th/early 18th centuries, a group of five postholes, 69, 72, 76, 78 and 81, clustered around wall foundation 43 and cutting layer 49, probably date to the mid-19th century, when historic maps indicate that the rear wing of Plot 4 was enlarged. Posthole 78, which cuts through the fabric of the original footing 43, may be evidence of a slight re-alignment of the west wall of the wing. With diameters ranging from 0.23-0.50m, the postholes may have been dug to house scaffold poles. A section of brick footing 42, aligned east to west at the southern end of foundation 43, probably relates to the 19th-century extensions, as do brick wall footings 38, 39 and 40, also falling within Plot 4.

Two square, brick-lined pits, 35 and 37, lay in a narrow gap between the projected east wall of the rear wing, 34, and the plot boundary wall, 12, which probably functioned as a service area for the buildings. This is depicted on the early Ordnance Survey maps, but was probably created when the rear wing was first built. The location of the pits corresponds with a narrow outbuilding - probably a privy - depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig 6). Both pits were *c* 1.10m² and constructed from machine-made bricks with an internal plaster lining and 0.45m-wide apertures in their corners. Pit 37 was filled with a series of fine deposits, 47, containing a wide range of late 19th and early 20th-century pottery, fragments of clay tobacco-pipes, glass vessels and animal bone. Also present were three sizeable pieces from sets of late 19th/early 20th-century dentures in Vulcanite. The 1891 census return for Plot 4 records an Ernest E Ashby, dentist's assistant, in residence.

THE OTHER PLOTS

As previously mentioned, levels of truncation were such that very little archaeology survived in the area to the west of Plot 4. Adjacent to its western wall was a large modern cellar 44 that occupied almost all of Plot 3 (Fig 9). It was divided into two cells constructed from machine-made bricks with a narrow flight of steps built into the east wall of the northern cell. Adjacent to the steps was a tile-lined chute, perhaps for sliding produce into the cellar.

The footprint is most closely reflected in the morphology depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1900 (not illustrated), suggesting that it was perhaps constructed during the final decade of the 19th century. At this time it would have lain below the premises of Payne's Cake Shop which first appears in documentary records of 1890.

Apart from the cellar, the only structural evidence revealed in Plot 3 was the base of a brick wall, 75, which

corresponds with the west side of a structure lying to the north of the cellar.

To the west of cellar, in a location corresponding with the position of the rear wing of Plot 2, were two of the earliest of the excavated features: a stone-lined well, 63, and a large circular pit, 50. The well, which was lined with ironstone rubble blocks, 64, had an internal diameter of *c* 1.00m (Fig 12). The brick rubble backfill, 65, was excavated to a depth of *c* 1.20m without reaching the base. The pit, 50, which lay a short distance to the east, was *c* 1.60m in diameter with vertical sides. It was also excavated to a depth of 1.20m without reaching the base. Its lower fill, 52, comprised dark brown charcoal-flecked sandy clay, and contained late 17th/early 18th-century pottery and clay tobacco-pipe. The lower fill was overlain with a similar deposit, 51, 0.95m thick, containing a contemporary assemblage of pottery and pipe fragments. Both fills appeared to be the product of backfilling rather than gradual silting. Given its size and proximity to the stone-lined well, the pit may have been dug as a well shaft.

Beyond the south wall of the later rear wing, in an area depicted as a yard serving both Plots 1 and 2, was a heavily truncated east to west ironstone wall foundation, 67, with a southerly return. Its form was similar to the late 17th/18th-century foundations in Plot 5 to the west. No dating evidence was found in association and its position does not correlate with structures depicted on the 18th and 19th-century maps, suggesting that its provenance may be earlier. To the north a brick wall foundation, 66, aligned east to west, corresponds with a dividing wall within the rear wing depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 (Fig 6).

Close to the southern edge of the site was a small rectangular cellar-like feature, which is first depicted on Taylor's 1826 map, lying at the eastern end of the yard in Plot 7 (Fig 13). It was built in ironstone, 53, with later additions/repairs in brick, 54. It appeared to have truncated a smaller, square ironstone-lined pit, 58, to



Fig 12 Stone-lined well 63, Plot 1/2, early 18th-century, looking east



Fig 13 Storage area - walls 53, 54 and 61, Plot 7, 18th-century, looking west

the south, which was filled with a cess-like deposit, 57, dating to the 18th century, which produced animal and fish bones. The pit may have been part of a garderobe serving an early post-medieval building, perhaps relating to the foundations, 67, located to the north.

The cellar-like feature, 2.75m long by 1.00m wide and 0.65m deep, was lined with loosely coursed facing stones bonded in clay and a loose yellow lime-mortar. A row of angled bricks, 60, over its southern wall may have been the remnants of a vaulted roof. The western part of the feature had been rebuilt in brick and incorporated a 0.70m-wide aperture flanked by brick jambs, 61. The internal space appeared to have been backfilled with mixed demolition rubble and soil, 55, containing pottery and clay pipe dating through to the 20th century; probably introduced when the tenements were demolished in 1926/1935.

POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

by Iain Soden

A total of 548 sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered, weighing 14,521g, in 23 different fabrics or types. There were a few residual sherds of medieval pottery, dating from the 13th to 16th centuries, but the bulk of the assemblage covers the period c 1680-1750, with a few sherds of the 18th- to 19th centuries.

The types present are summarised in Table 2. The assemblage is naturally useful for dating purposes within each excavated plot but some of it is valuable for a direct comparison with other excavated assemblages in

Table 2: Pottery present by common name

Type	Date	Sherds	Weight (g)	Vessel types present
Potterspur ware (CTS 329)	1250-1500	1	5	-
Lyveden Stanion B ware	1250-1500	3	30	-
Cistercian ware (CTS 4)	1450-1580	1	5	-
Midland Yellow	1550-1700	13	186	-
Midland Purple	1550-1700	33	2398	Cistern or butter pot
Glazed red earthenware	1550-1700	11	182	Bowls?
Midland Black	1600-1800	36	493	Butter pots; chamber pot
Iron-glazed pancheon	1650-1900	61	1853	Steeping pans or dairy pans
Manganese glazed ware	1680-1740	82	1363	Tankard; chamber pots; porringers
Feathered slipware	1680-1740	27	685	Press-moulded plate
Tin glazed earthenware 'Delft'	1660-1750	51	601	Chamber pot; drug jar
Frechen imitation stoneware	1700-50	32	1810	Bottle
Sgraffito ware	1700-50	2	6	Saucer
Nottingham stoneware	1700-1800	91	1208	Porringer; tankards; bowl;
White salt-glazed stoneware	1720-80	82	979	Plates; saucers; bowls; tankard
Creamware	1760-1820	3	75	
Whieldon-type creamware	1750-70	4	14	Cruet or salt
Porcelain	1740-50	4	70	Coffee can
Pearlware	1760-1820	1	3	
Westerwald stoneware	1700-1800	1	10	?tankard
Mocha ware	1830-50	1	20	?Bowl
Heavy duty coarseware	18th century	8	2520	Cistern/flower pot
Joggled slipware	19th century	1	3	-
Modern industrial wares	20th century	-	-	Not analysed
Total		548	14,521g	



Fig 14 A manganese-glazed earthenware handled bowl, Base: 108mm diameter, from pit 27 (Scale 20mm)

the assemblage notably lacked the exotic (relatively in 1750) but very popular types, such as Whieldon-type (also called Tortoise-shell) Creamwares, or the more decorative end of the hugely successful range of White Salt-glazed Stonewares. The impressed decoration on the deeply scalloped rims of the White Salt-glazed Stoneware plates is not uncommon. It comprises dot and diaper, basket-weave and barleycorn motifs, sometimes alternating, usually broken up by swirls of laurel or acanthus leaves (Fig 16). All the tondos are plain. All of the other forms are plain but for the occasional understated rill and a pronounced, if delicate, foot-ring on the bowls and saucer. Those present at Blatherwycke are plainer, simpler and perhaps represent a lesser fashion-awareness at table than might be expected from the showier town dining rooms of the minor gentry and a growing urban merchant class. Certainly the Whieldon-type creamware is present here at Kettering if only as a single vessel, possibly a table-centre, but it does speak of aspiration or at least an awareness of changing fashions not evident at Blatherwycke.



Fig 15 A Chinoiserie porcelain coffee cup, 60mm high by 50mm diameter (left), a plain white salt-glazed stoneware dish, 100mm diameter (right), and the rim of an iron-glazed pancheon, c 440mm diameter (background), all from pit 27 (Scale 20mm)



Fig 16 A white salt-glazed plate with a deeply scalloped rim and impressed decoration of dot-and-diaper and acanthus leaves, from pit 27 (Scale 20mm)

Northamptonshire. Most notable is a comparison between the group from the fills, 29 and 30, of pit 27 (Tables 3 & 4; Figs 14-16) and an assemblage from Blatherwycke Hall from just before 1770 (Prentice 2011). At Blatherwycke,

In common with Blatherwycke, the assemblage cannot be said to be of the highest quality, but it is all good quality house and tableware, showing a potential reliance on a variety of ceramic types, some tried and tested, but with a nod to the growing fashion centre of Staffordshire, which would come into its own increasingly from 1750. Like Blatherwycke, some sherds derive from earlier, dying 'country-pottery' traditions, such as the Midland Purple (butter pot or cistern) and Slipware (a single press-moulded feather-slip platter), but the assemblage is dominated by plain but reliable new types which hail the growing success of technological advances made in Staffordshire by the likes of Josiah Wedgwood and William Greatbatch. While Blatherwycke produced lots of Creamware from the dining table, there are very little at Kettering Market Place, but instead there are many White salt-glazed stonewares (Fig 15, right). These made Wedgwood's name, in particular, although others imitated him very successfully. Older Staffordshire-inspired types are also present, such as the Manganese-glazed wares (Fig 14), while the so-called Nottingham stonewares (also made in Derbyshire) are a type-fossil for the 18th-century.

Table 3: The pottery from the fills, 29 and 30, pit 27

Type	Fill 29 Sherds/ weight (g)	Fill 30 Sherds/ weight (g)	Ave sherd weight (g)	Joining sherds	Earliest production date	Latest production date
Midland Yellow	--/--	1/31	31	--	c 1500	c 1700
Midland Purple	23/2000		87	--	c 1450	c 1700
Glazed red earthenware	1/10	9/162	17	--	c 1550	c 1700
Midland Black	3/89	13/199	18	Yes	c 1600	c 1800
Iron-glazed pancheons	11/680	38/940	33	Yes	c 1600	c 1900
Manganese glazed ware	18/625	50/670	19	Yes	1680	1740
Feathered slipware	3/40	19/600	29	Yes	1680	1740
Tin glazed earthenware 'Delft'	27/487	16/80	12	Yes	1660	1720
Frechen imitation stoneware	6/278	23/1426	60	Yes	1650	1750
Nottingham stoneware	3/40	49/970	19	Yes	c 1700	c 1800
White salt-glazed stoneware	21/220	51/720	13	Yes	c 1720	c 1780
Porcelain		4/70	18		c 1746	c 1746
Heavy duty coarseware	1/340	7/2180	315	Yes	-	-
Average sherd weight by context	50g	29g				

With such a good range of types present at Blatherwycke and at Kettering, almost as important in terms of study of post-medieval pottery in Northamptonshire (at both sites) is the recognition of what may not have come into use at the table of the county gentry or mercantile classes by 1770. Thus at both sites there is a notable absence of any under-glaze transfer-printed earthenware and any pearlwares, relatively common by c 1780.

Comparison of the types present suggests that both fills, 29 and 30, were deposited around 1750 or a short while after, roughly contemporary with the material from Blatherwycke. There is very little difference between the assemblages, with some joining sherds between them. In fact they may be better seen as a single deposit. A few of the larger vessels thrown in may have been already quite old, survivals due to their very robust nature; even broken up, their average sherd weight is well in excess of the rather more fragile tablewares, which smash badly.

Altogether the material suggests complete vessels were deposited but were smashed by the other material which was deposited into the pit, including stones. It is possible that some deliberate smashing took place, perhaps by children, or more practically, to ensure the material packed down for the pit to be covered over without voids or sinkage. But for a few types already noted, the material is thus very broken but unabraded by subsequent disturbance. It was largely unsuitable for reconstruction but the comparative forms of c 1750 represented here can be found published in the following commonly-available reports:

White salt-glazed stoneware: Jennings (1981), Barker and Halfpenny (1990)

Manganese glazed ware: Gooder (1984)

Nottingham stoneware: Gooder (1984)

Midland Black: Gooder (1984)

Feathered slipware: Celoria and Kelly (1973)

Table 4: Pottery forms present from fills 29 and 30, pit 27

Fabric	Form
Midland Purple	1 Cistern or butter pot
Glazed red earthenware	1 bowl
Midland Black	1 Chamber pot
Iron-glazed pancheon	2 Steeping pans or bowls
Manganese glazed ware	Tankards, porringers, bowls
Feathered slipware	1 press-moulded plate
Tin glazed earthenware 'Delft'	1 chamber pot, 1 drug jar
Frechen imitation stoneware	1 bottle
Nottingham stoneware	1 bowl
White salt-glazed stoneware	10 plates with different decoration *, 4 bowls, 2 saucers, 1 tankard
Porcelain	1 coffee can
Heavy duty coarseware	1 cistern or flower pot

BUILDING MATERIALS

by Pat Chapman

CERAMIC ROOF TILES

There are 35 sherds of varying sizes of flat roof tiles with the occasional ridge tile sherd and a few pantiles. The majority of the sherds are small with just an occasional peghole surviving, but no nibs. The flat tiles are typically 10-14mm thick and plain, with the exception of one small glazed sherd. The pantiles are 15mm thick. The fabric is typically hard coarse red-brown clay with gravel, iron-stone and limestone inclusions, which indicates they were made fairly locally. The occasional fine or coarser orange fabric does include ironstone, so these are probably local as well, produced for the more decorative roof. A few tiles have black bands across their surface, either from the original firing, or from a later reuse.

The three most complete examples of flat tiles are

from the cellar-like feature, 53. These are 145mm wide (5¾ inches), which is narrower than the standard size of 165mm (6½ inches), and each has a nib and two pegholes, one of the pegholes still having an iron nail *in situ*. A tile from pit 27 has an unusually neatly made nib, knife-cut to a pointed ridge rather than folded over, but no pegholes. The tile was probably 165mm wide (6½ inches) - the standard size.

Three small green glazed ridge tile sherds come from pits 16 and 27. One has a remnant square stab used to facilitate firing in the thicker clay under a crest. The pantiles from pits 32 and 37 are made in the same fabric as the flat tiles.

Alongside the handmade tiles in cellar-like feature 53 was part of a machine-made tile, only 9mm thick, with a nib close to one side indicating that there could be a third nib in the middle, a common feature of these thin flat machine-made tiles.

There is a mixture of the traditional handmade flat peg and nib tiles roof tiles that have been used with green-glazed ridges for centuries, with the pantiles introduced from the 17th to 18th centuries and modern machine-made flat tiles.

FLOOR TILES

The two glazed floor tile sherds are in a coarse buff to pink fabric. The tile from pit 14 has a fresh unworn green glaze, while the sherd from pit 45 has been worn very smooth with only a trace of green glaze remaining.

WALL TILE?

A possible wall tile comes from the cellar-like feature 55. It is 21mm thick and machine-made from hard fine cream clay, possibly pipe clay. It has a shallow impressed design, possibly the top of a heart with an arrow coming from the corner, with traces of pink colour around the vertical edge of the impression. If the design is symmetrical the tile would be c 140mm square.

STONE ROOF TILES

There are eleven pieces of stone roof tile, nine of fissile limestone and two of Welsh slate. The limestone tile from cellar-like feature 53 is partially complete. It is rectangular, 15mm thick and 245mm wide tapering slightly to 200mm at the top where there is a central peghole 9mm in diameter. Small fragments of limestone from pits 45 and 50 are only 9mm thick having lost their original surfaces; two have pegholes 8mm in diameter. The two pieces of dark grey Welsh slate are 2mm thick, the largest measuring 165mm by 120mm, but no pegholes survive.

Limestone tiles have been used for centuries, whilst Welsh slate only became widely used in the 19th century.

CLAY TOBACCO-PIPE

by Tim Upson-Smith

A group of 171 clay tobacco-pipe fragments were

recovered. The majority of the datable bowls are of mid to late 18th-century date and most of these came from deposits associated with pits 22 (67 examples) and 28 (28 examples). However, pipes dating to the mid to late 17th century were recovered from pits 45 and 49, but none of the bowls were marked with the makers' initials or marks.

The bowls dating to the 17th century exhibit average quality burnishing and, in most cases, only partial milling around the lip of the bowl. Those dating to the late 18th century also exhibited average burnishing; four of the bowls were fluted (Fig 17), a style which was not catalogued in the study of Northamptonshire pipes by Moore (1980). The style, however, is known from Lincolnshire; unfortunately none of the pipes had makers' marks or names to suggest where they had been made. A length of stem with an embossed banded decoration from pit 28 (Fig 17), is likely to be of mid to late 18th-century date, but again no Northamptonshire parallels have been noted.

The stem fragments measured up to 147mm in length and eleven examples retained their mouthpieces.

CONCLUSION

Pipes dating to the 18th century are a rare occurrence in Northamptonshire (Moore 1980); the period in general saw a decline in pipe smoking and therefore also in the manufacture of the pipes – a possible reason for this being the increase in popularity at the time of taking snuff. That said though, there does appear to be a slight increase in the number of pipe makers in the eastern part



Fig 17 Fluted clay tobacco-pipe bowl (top) and stem with embossed banded decoration (bottom), from stone-lined pit 27, Plot 5, late 18th-century (Scale 50mm)

of Northamptonshire and in neighbouring Lincolnshire. For Northamptonshire this trend is particularly noted in Wellingborough and Oundle. Generally though, at the time of Moore's publication, only *c* 5% of Northamptonshire's datable pipe bowls are of this period.

The late 18th-century bowls recovered during the excavation were very thin and subsequently quite fragile – this fragility, perhaps, contributes to their poor representation in the archaeological record. Also, it was noted that the stems of this period had quite fine bore diameters more typical of the 19th century.

Within the last 30 years there has been an increase in excavations and during the latter part of this period the interest in later post-medieval sites has increased. Whether the seeming decline in pipe manufacture is a reality or whether the archaeological record 30 years ago was biased against finds of the 18th century is a debatable point which could be resolved by looking through the more recent archives for the county in the light of the developer-funded work.

DENTAL ARTEFACTS

by Sophie Riches

The remains of dentures were found in the fill of a brick-lined pit, 37, in Plot 4. They are made from Vulcanite, which was invented in 1850 and was in use up until the mid 20th century. The first fragment could be a partial upper denture with the left side missing (Fig 18, top right). The distal portion looks as if it fitted over the tuberosity of the maxilla. The teeth would have been made of porcelain with a depression into which the vulcanite would flow during manufacture.

The largest artefact could be a full upper denture but is more likely a partial denture (Fig 18, top left). At the



Fig 18 Remains of vulcanite dentures of late 19th-/early 20th-century date, from pit 37, Plot 4 (Scale 50mm)

upper left canine region there appears to be a space as if a natural tooth was present. It could be that the patient also had natural anterior teeth but this is conjecture. It originally had a suction disc to help retention and the porcelain teeth had pins to hold them in the vulcanite.

The final piece is a lower partial denture (Fig 18, bottom). There was a natural tooth in the lower left canine premolar region and also possible natural teeth at the lower left second molar and lower right second molar. Because of the grooving at the front of the denture it is possible that the owner had natural anterior teeth. The porcelain teeth appear similar to those in the first fragment above.

OTHER FINDS

by Pat Chapman

There is a small and undistinguished group of ten metal finds, which cover a range of functions; including personal items, building fittings and the ubiquitous nails and staples.

A probable lead seal, from pit 27, is disc-shaped, 15mm in diameter and 6mm thick. A strip of lead window came, 100mm long and 5mm wide, is from pit 45, and a single thin twisted strip of lead, 4mm wide and *c* 80mm long, is from pit 27.

The copper alloy finds comprises a curved rivet, 7mm long, and a fragment of another. A fragment of a curved buckle or horse harness decorated with a roundel decoration is from pit 27. A very eroded ring, from pit 27, is made of iron with a copper or brass coating, it has an oval section, 7mm by 6mm, with an internal diameter of 14mm.

There are two square-sectioned iron nails from pit 45 and pit 27. A U-shaped iron object, probably a staple, from pit 16, is 25mm wide and 90mm long.

ANIMAL BONE

by Karen Deighton

A total of 7.6kg of animal bone were collected by hand from a range of contexts from the 18th and 19th centuries. Five soil samples were also processed for small mammal bones.

The material was washed and air dried. It was then analysed using standard zooarchaeological methods (Baker and Brothwell 1980, Binford 1981, Bull and Payne 1982, Halstead 1985, von den Driesch 1976). Samples were processed using a modified siraf tank; heavy residues were dried and passed through a series of stack sieves (1mm-3.4mm). Fine residues were examined under a microscope.

RESULTS

Fragmentation and surface abrasion were moderate. Frequent evidence of butchery, including 21 examples of chopping, one of sawing and seven knife marks were observed. Six examples of canid gnawing were noted. Three examples of burning from layer 25 and one from fill 29 of pit 27 were seen. The taxa present are listed in Tables 5-7.

Table 5: Animal taxa from pit deposits (18th century)

Fill/pit	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Chicken	Large ungulate	Small ungulate	Total
15/14	2	6	-	-	1	-	9
17/16	4	2	-	1	-	-	7
25/22	2	15	5	-	1	11	34
26/22	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
29/27	10	14	3	1	2	3	33
Total	19	37	8	2	4	14	84

Table 6: Animal taxa from pit and posthole deposits (19th century)

Fill/Cut	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	pig	dog	horse	chicken	bird	S. Mam.	L. Ung.	S. Ung.	Total
30/27	4	11	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	19
46/45	5	4	2	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	15
47/37	3	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	13
Layer 49	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	9
51/50	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
57/56	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	9
Postholes											
73/72	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
74/72	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
80/78	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
Total	17	26	7	3	1	1	3	1	6	8	73

Table 7: Animal taxa from sieved samples

Fill/Cut Type	30/27 Pit	49 Layer	58/57 Pit	52/50 Pit	46/45 Pit
Woodmouse (<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>)	1	-	-	-	1
House mouse (<i>Mus musculus</i>)	-	-	-	-	-
Small rodent	-	-	-	-	2
Small mammal	3	-	1	1	10
Fish	15	-	5	6	60
Perch (<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>)	-	-	-	-	1
Grayling (<i>Thymallus thymallus</i>)	-	-	-	-	1
Gudgeon (<i>Gobio gobio</i>)	1	-	-	-	-
Amphibian	1	-	-	-	6
Indeterminate large mammal	1	13	1	-	10
Total	22	13	7	7	91

There was insufficient tooth eruption and wear data to provide ageing data. Where the status of epiphyseal fusion could be recorded this suggested young adult animals. Six juvenile bone elements were also recorded.

Metrical data suggests cattle and sheep to be generally larger than in the medieval period, which can be attributed to the stock improvements taking place during the 18th and early 19th centuries (for example the work of Robert Bakewell and the Colling brothers). Unfortunately, not enough metrical data is available for pigs to make any statements with regards to size and not enough data is available to compare stature between the 18th- and 19th-century phases or with other sites. Size differences seen in dog remains from Pit 45 were interesting and illustrate the diversity of the taxa.

DISCUSSION

The assemblage reflects dietary preferences rather than modes of animal husbandry, as would be expected from an urban site. The assemblage is dominated by domestic 'food animal' (ie cattle, sheep and pig). Other food taxa are also present (ie chicken and fish – grayling, perch and gudgeon). Their presence in the pits is possibly due to the disposal of domestic or butchery waste. Due to the small size of the assemblage, body part analysis could not be undertaken to establish which of the two waste types is represented. The presence of dog is possibly the result of the disposal of the carcasses of kept animals or strays. The presence of horse could be due to the disposal of the carcass of a work animal. House mouse as

a comensal rodent would be a common feature of urban life; wood mouse on the other hand could have arrived in timber or crops transported into the town. Amphibian is possibly intrusive due to the tendency of frogs and toads to burrow to hibernate.

The identifiable fish are all fresh water taxa, but whether their presence is the result of commercial or casual angling is difficult to ascertain.

Evidence for chopping on long bones tends to be centred on the epiphyseal ends of the bones - in some cases removing them - suggesting a fairly crude approach to the jointing of carcasses. The knife marks present also seem to relate to dismembering rather than filleting or skinning. The sawn cattle radius from pit 37 could be the result of bone working as the mid-shaft was sawn at both ends to form a cylinder.

Comparisons between the two phases are difficult due to the small size of the assemblages, however, a greater range of taxa are seen in 19th century.

DISCUSSION

ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF TENEMENTS

The excavation uncovered evidence for six of the tenements occupying the southern part of Kettering's Market Place. Whilst their frontages, which faced north towards the Market and west towards Sheep Street, lay outside of the excavated area, associated outbuildings, yards and boundaries were investigated. The beginning of the structural sequence was traced consistently to the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Nothing tangible remained of the medieval buildings that almost certainly once stood within the site, as depicted in 1587 by Treswell (Fig 4). These were presumably cleared *en masse* prior to the post-medieval redevelopment of the southern Market Place; a clearance that appears to have involved the reduction of the original ground level across the entire site.

This would account for the near complete absence of medieval pottery in a setting where it would normally be well represented. The only features that might pre-date this clearance were the stone lined-well in the north-west corner of the excavated area and a section of ironstone wall foundation to the south, which does not relate to any of the buildings mapped in the post-medieval period.

For the remainder of the site, the excavated and cartographic evidence concord; the principal elements of the plots, though heavily truncated, can be seen to conform to the morphology that first appears on Eayre's map of 1721 (Fig 5). Their subsequent development through the 18th and 19th centuries is poorly represented by dispersed individual elements such as the stone-lined pits in the yards of Plots 5 and 7. Brick-built structures of the later 19th and early 20th centuries were slightly better preserved and included the large cellar in Plot 3 which appears to have served Payne's Cake Shop, recorded on the site from *c* 1890 until its demolition in 1935.

The demolition and clearance of the post-medieval buildings appears to have been conducted in a highly effective manner, truncating the site for a second time. The ground reduction was particularly pronounced down

slope in the western part of the site where little remained of the post-medieval frontage. Modern services were also prevalent in this area. Further truncations were effected when the toilets and market trader's buildings were constructed and the former car park was surfaced.

POST-MEDIEVAL MARKET ECONOMY

Documentary sources have provided a fairly cohesive body of information pertaining to the occupancy and commercial usage of the plots throughout the late 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. A wide range of trades and services are represented, some being family businesses operating out of the same premises throughout most of the period in question, whilst others retained their association with a particular trade but saw a number of different proprietors pass through their doors. Plot 4, for example, hosted three successive families of bakers in the period *c* 1762 to *c* 1861, the longest association being with numerous members of the Mee family, who plied their trade there until the 1840s. In contrast, a more varied number of trades operated from the premises in Plot 5; milliners, chandlers, grocers, boot makers and drapers are listed in the documents. This plot also appears to have stood derelict for some years in the middle of the 19th century, at around the same time that the neighbouring building in Plot 6 was demolished. Plot 5, however, was eventually used as council offices prior to being demolished along with the rest of the row.

Despite the changes of fortune which clearly befell Plot 5, the late 18th and 19th centuries appear to have enjoyed a period of commercial stability. This trend continued until the later-19th century when larger institutions began to supplant the smaller concerns. These included the establishment of a temperance hotel (*c* 1891), the YMCA (*c* 1900), a cake shop (*c* 1890; one of a chain owned by the Gold Street resident John F Payne) and council offices (*c* 1900).

Perhaps because of the severe levels of truncation, little in the way of material culture for the documented trades was discovered as a result of the excavation. The most compelling marriage of archaeological and documentary evidence related to Plot 4 where the remains of a set of broken dentures were found in a latrine pit to the rear of a property recorded in the 1891 census as being occupied by one Ernest E Ashby, dentist's assistant.

The pottery assemblage, particularly the 18th-century wares recovered from the stone-lined pit in the yard of Plot 5, was indicative of the solid consumption of the mercantile class in this period. It also provides comparative material for other Northamptonshire town centre sites. The most significant finds assemblage, however, was arguably the clay tobacco-pipes where a number of previously unknown bowl designs were noted.

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