

Report 2589



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**Archaeological Watching Brief at
47 Gayton Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk**

ENF127050



Prepared for
Mr William Cowie



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September 2011



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PROJECT CHECKLIST		
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<i>Issue 1</i>		

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Location:	47 Gayton Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk
District:	King's Lynn
Planning Ref.:	10/00755/F
Grid Ref.:	TF 6373 2047
HER No.:	ENF127050
OASIS Ref.:	110447
Client:	Mr William Cowie
Dates of Fieldwork:	21, 25 and 29 July 2011

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Mr William Cowie to monitor the demolition of part of the existing building and excavations ahead of the construction of an extension to 47 Gayton Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during these works.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

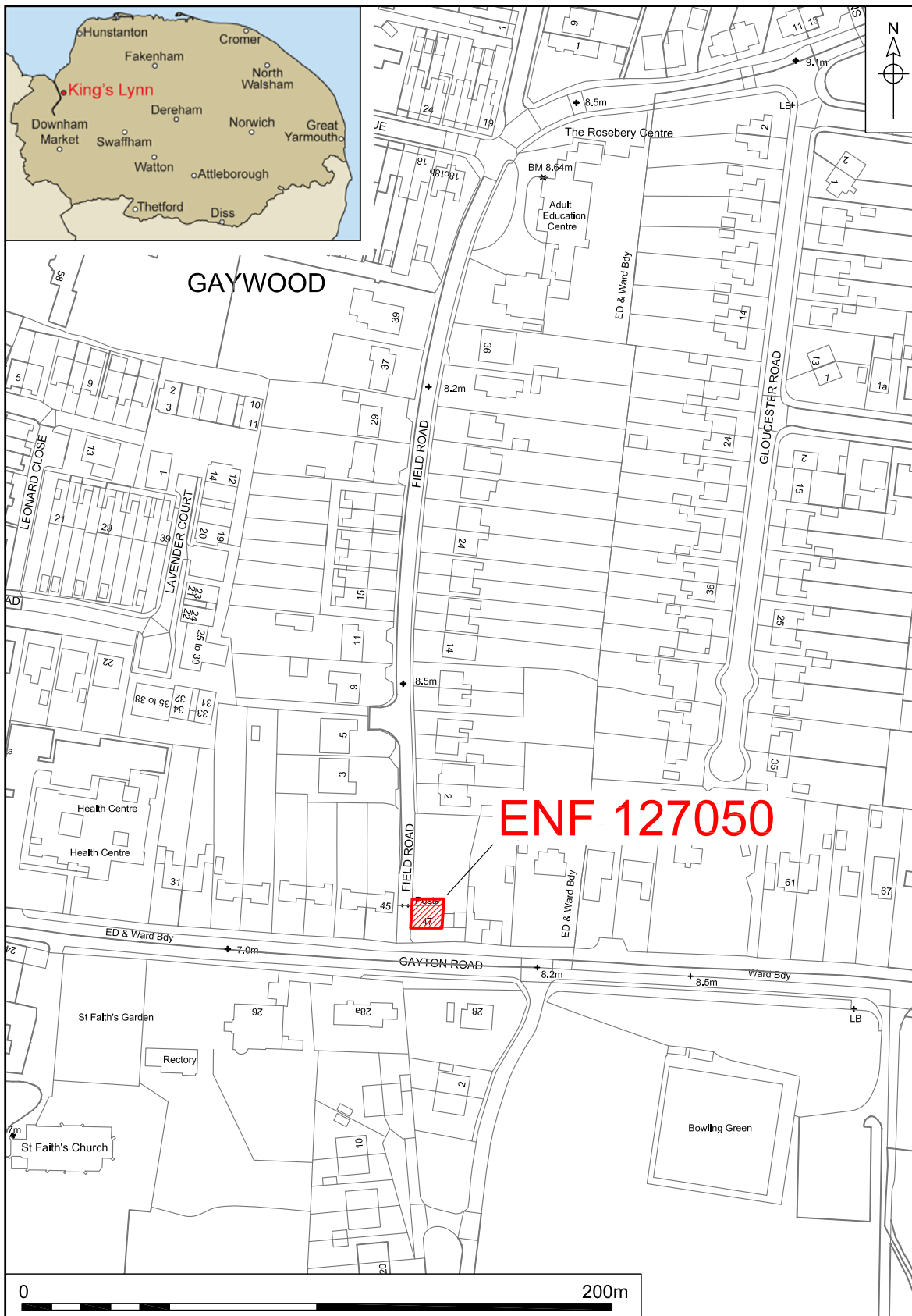
This archaeological watching brief monitored demolition of part of 47 Gayton Road (Fig. 1), which is to be replaced by a new extension, along with part of the roof and the old chimney stack (Fig. 1).

Three foundation trenches were excavated for the extension at the rear of 47 Gayton Road which covers an area measuring approximately 27.5m² at the back of the property located over demolished part of the building. The layout of 47 Gayton Road suggests that it may have been built on the footprint of an earlier cross passage house. This watching brief was designed to examine any masonry and foundations that may be revealed during groundworks for remnants of an earlier structure.

This work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by BCKLWN (Ref. 10/00755/F) and a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (Ref CNF42889). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NPS/BAU2589/NP). This work was commissioned by Richard C F Waite, Architect and funded by Mr William Cowie.

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2000

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of the site is generally flat and very well drained.

Because the watching brief took part on the area of 47 Gayton Road which has been demolished, no topsoil was present however there was a layer of brick and mortar rubble - a make-up layer for the new build.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The property at 47 Gayton Road, also known as 'Field House', is a Grade II listed building, built in the early 19th century. It is a two storey brick house with a three window bay façade and a central doorway under a bracketed pediment. The building has sash windows with flat arches in flush frames and internal gable stacks (www.english-heritage.org.uk). It has been suggested in the project brief that the present house may have been built on the footprint of an earlier cross-passage house.

The Norfolk Historic Environment Records have been checked for the area and have shown that 170m north-east of 47 Gayton Road, one Early Saxon coin was found in the garden of a house in nearby Gloucester Road in 1979. It was a bronze Byzantine coin from the reign of Heradius, or Heradius Constantine, minted in Constantinople between 612 and 616 AD.

No other archaeological finds have been recorded in close vicinity to 47 Gayton Road.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to mitigate the impact of the redevelopment at the site by a programme of recording any remains exposed during works within the development area.

The Brief required that a programme of archaeological monitoring be carried out to monitor the demolition process and record any archaeological remains exposed by during the works.

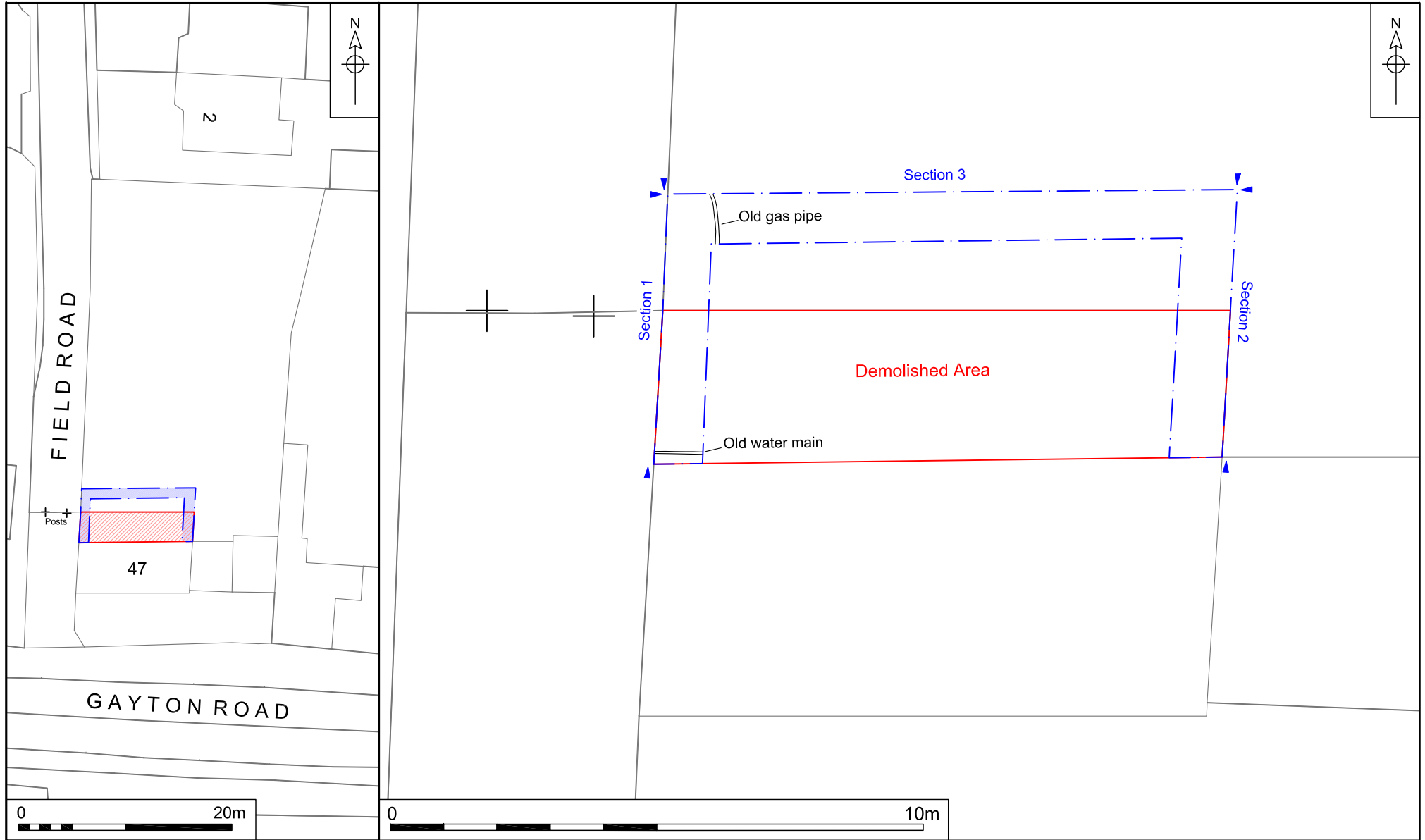
Machine excavations were carried out with a tracked hydraulic 360° mini excavator equipped with a 0.60m toothed bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

No environmental samples were taken because no suitable deposits were encountered.

All deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.



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Figure 2. Location and plan of monitored area during the Watching Brief.
Scale 1:500 and 1:100

5.0 RESULTS

The demolition works revealed nothing of archaeological interest. All walls and surfaces that were removed appeared to be modern (Plate 1).



Plate 1. The demolition area to the rear of the house, looking south-east

The first trench excavated ran northwards from the north-western corner of the house (Fig. 2) and measured 0.80m wide, 4.70m long and 1.40m deep.

The rubble overburden [1] was between 0.30m and 0.48m in depth. Subsoil [2] was identified underneath [1] and comprised a mid to dark brown, silty layer which was approximately 0.80m deep with a high level of root disturbance.

Foundations of part of 47 Gayton Road were seen at the end of the trench and former services including an old red brick soakaway occurred along its length (Fig. 3 Section1, Plates 2 and 3).



Plate 2. First trench, looking south



Plate 3. Section of first trench showing modern soakaway, looking west

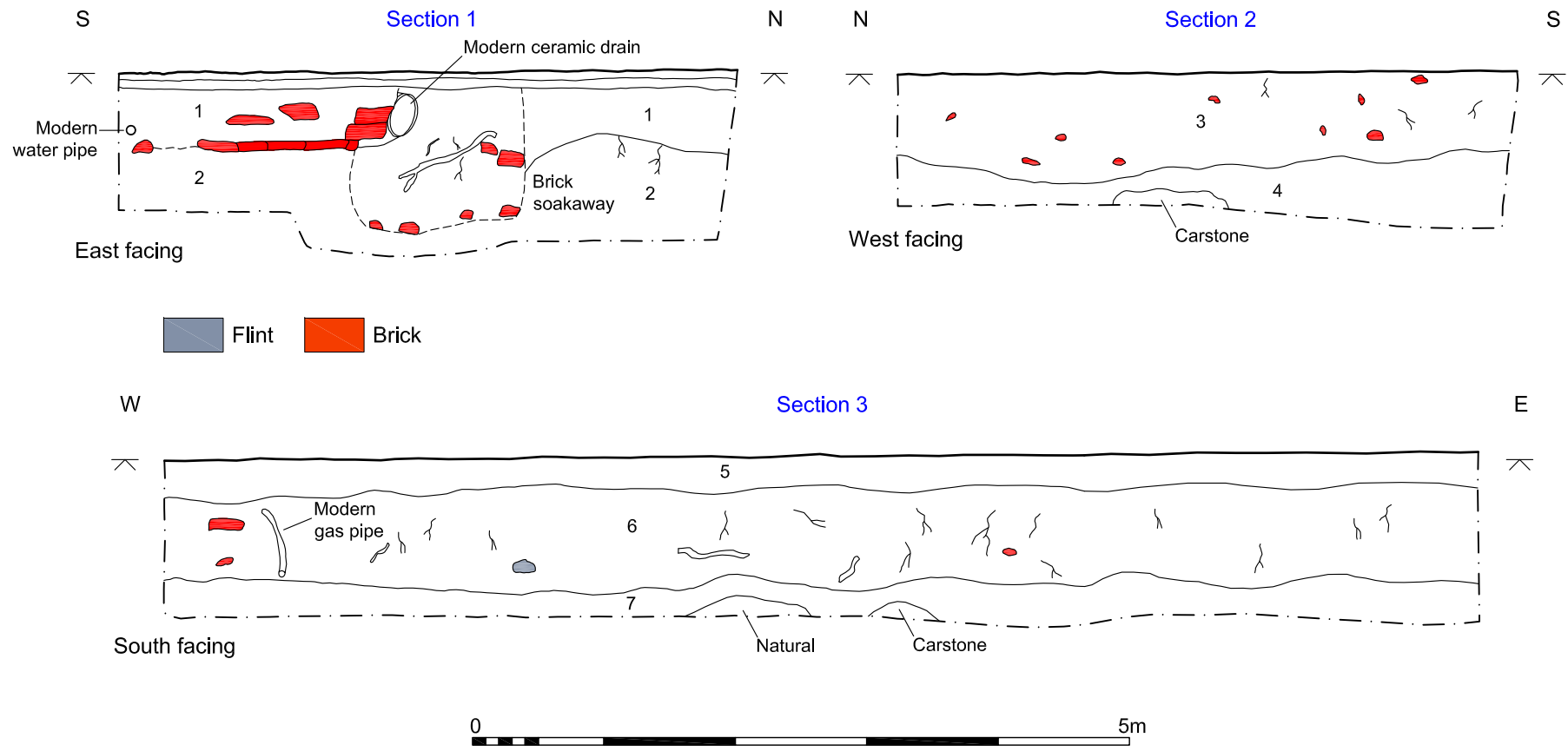


Figure 3. Sections. Scale 1:50

The second trench was excavated from the north-eastern corner of the house, northwards and was 0.80m wide, 1.00m deep, and 4.70m long (Fig. 2).

As observed in the first trench, foundations of the surviving part of the house were revealed at the end of the trench but no features (Fig. 3 Section 2 and Plate 4).

In the second trench there was little of the rubble make-up layer present since it appears that this trench was located slightly outside the footprint of the previous extension. Here a similar layer of subsoil ([3] to that seen in Trench 1 was present and underneath this was a mid-grey silty-clay layer [4], approximately 0.60m deep.



Plate 4. Second trench, looking south

The third trench joined the northern ends of the first and second trenches (Fig. 2) and ran the entire length of what is to be the new extension in an east-west direction. The trench was 0.80m wide, 1.30m deep and approximately 10m long.

In the third trench three layers were present; rubble make-up [5], mid brown silty-sand [6] and mid-grey silty-clay [7] (Fig. 3 Section 3 and Plate 5).

One modern gas pipe but no archaeological features or deposits were present.



Plate 5. Third trench, looking north

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological features, finds or deposits were encountered during these works.

No evidence of an earlier cross-passage building that had been postulated was observed.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr Cowie for funding the project, the employees of Kingsley Building and Groundworks Ltd. who undertook the demolition and excavations associated with the works, Nigel Page for managing the project, David Dobson for his work on the graphics, and Jayne Bown for editing the report.

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Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Category	Description	Period	Notes
1	Deposit	Modern Brick Rubble Make-up Layer	Modern	Trench 1
2	Deposit	Dark-Brown Silt Layer	Modern	Trench 1
3	Deposit	Dark-Brown Sandy Layer	Modern	Trench 2
4	Deposit	Mid-Grey Silty-Clay Layer	Modern	Trench 2
5	Deposit	Pale-Brown Rubbly Make-up Layer	Modern	Trench 3
6	Deposit	Mid-Brown Silty-Sand Layer	Modern	Trench 3
7	Deposit	Mid-Grey Silty-Clay Layer	Modern	Trench 3