

**BUCKINGHAM STREET, AYLESBURY  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT  
(PHASE 1)**

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**Contents**

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>1.1 Project Background .....</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>1.2 Topography and Geology .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>AIM AND OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>RESULTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>FINDS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>6.2 Pottery .....</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>6.3 Ceramic Building Material .....</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>6.4 Animal Bone .....</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>6.5 Other Finds .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>DISCUSSION .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>12</b>

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1: Trench tables**

**FIGURES**

- Figure 1: Site and trench location**
- Figure 1: Trench 1 plan view and photograph**
- Figure 2: Trench 2 plan view and photograph**
- Figure 3: Trench 3 plan view and photograph**
- Figure 4: Trench 4 plan view and photograph**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation in the car park at Sainsbury's Supermarket, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury, Bucks (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site is centred on Ordnance Survey NGR 481980 213975. The work is required as part of a planning application on behalf of J Sainsbury for the demolition of Cambridge Place House, Sloane House and the Odeon Cinema and for redevelopment as a new Sainsbury's Supermarket with undercroft car parking and retail units with flats above. In a preliminary response to pre-application discussions the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Officer had indicated a requirement for an archaeological evaluation on the Site prior to the determination of any planning application.

This report presents the results of the first phase of investigation which was undertaken between 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007. The evaluation demonstrated a localised potential of survival for archaeological features across the Site, despite widespread truncation by Victorian building activity. The nature of the palaeotopography, particularly in relation to areas of made ground identified within the Site, could be partially established.

The investigation suggested a good potential for the survival of at least deeper medieval and post-medieval features, such as cess pits and wells, in the eastern part of the Site, however produced only very limited evidence of an earlier date in the form of residual Roman artefacts.

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

**Acknowledgements**

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The fieldwork was undertaken by Catriona Gibson and Matthew Kendall.

This report was prepared by Catriona Gibson and Brigitte Buss, with illustrations by Elizabeth James. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Brigitte Buss.

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting ('the Consultant') to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation in the car park at Sainsbury's Supermarket, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury, Bucks (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site is centred on Ordnance Survey NGR 481980 213975 (**Figure 1**). The work is required as part of a planning application on behalf of J Sainsbury ('the Client').
- 1.1.2 A planning application is to be submitted shortly for the demolition of Cambridge Place House, Sloane House and the Odeon Cinema and for redevelopment as a new Sainsbury's Supermarket with undercroft car parking and retail units with flats above. In a preliminary response to pre-application discussions the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Officer (Mr David Radford, hereafter 'the Curator') indicated a requirement for an archaeological evaluation exercise on the Site prior to the determination of any planning application.
- 1.1.3 A desk-based assessment of the Site was completed in January 2007 by the Consultant (CgMs 2007a).
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, WA doc ref **65600.01**) was prepared by Wessex Archaeology on the basis of specifications for the evaluation prepared by the Consultant (CgMs 2007b), subsequently approved by the Curator. The WSI set out in detail the methodology for the archaeological evaluation and incorporated background information and methodological requirements from the desk-based assessment and specifications.
- 1.1.5 This report presents the results of the first phase of investigation which was undertaken between 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

**1.2 Topography and Geology**

- 1.2.1 The Site is bounded to the southeast by Cambridge Street and the rear of properties fronting Cambridge Street, to the southwest by Buckingham Street and the rear of properties off Buckingham Street, to the northwest by properties fronting Buckingham Street and New Street and to the northeast by New Street. The Site is occupied by a J. Sainsbury supermarket with

associated car parking, 2-storey shop buildings, an Odeon Cinema with associated car parking and two 3-storey office buildings (Sloane House and Cambridge Place House) with associated car parking.

- 1.2.2 The solid geology of the Site is shown by the Institute of Geological Sciences as comprising Kimmeridge Clay (IGS 1979 1:625,000 scale). Further detail is provided by the British Geological Survey (Sheet 237: Thame). This indicates that the Site is underlain by Portland Beds (limestones, clays and sands), which is in turn underlain by Kimmeridge Clay. Archaeological investigations in 1979 (Allen 1982) on the site of the current Sainsbury's confirmed the presence of Portland Beds limestone.
- 1.2.3 Within its wider topographic setting, the Site lies on a low limestone ridge that rises above the surrounding clay vale.
- 1.2.4 The natural topography of this area is uncertain. Within the central parts of the Site, levels generally grade downwards in long moderate slopes from the south-western boundary on Buckingham Street at 89.1m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) to the eastern boundary on New Street at c.85m AOD. Within the south-eastern part of the Site, which is occupied by part of Sainsbury's car park and Odeon Cinema, levels grade down from the centre of the site at c.88m AOD, to the junction of New Street and Cambridge Street at c. 85m AOD. To the south of the Cinema, where Sainsbury's car park fronts Cambridge Street, the level of the car park is approximately 2.0m above street level, suggesting that levels here have been raised. In the northern part of the site, which is occupied by the Cambridge Place House car park, the ground level appears to have been reduced.
- 1.2.5 The topography of the Site suggests that it drains to the southeast. However, no natural watercourses occur in the immediate vicinity of the Site.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1.1 A desk-based assessment of the Site was completed in January 2007 by the Consultant. The following summary of its findings is taken from the Consultant's specifications for the evaluation (CgMs 2007):

### ***Palaeolithic***

- 2.1.2 The Buckinghamshire SMR records no Palaeolithic sites or finds within a 250m radius of the Site. Indeed, very little evidence for the Palaeolithic period has been identified in the Aylesbury area or from the limestone ridge on which the town is located. Accordingly, a nil potential was identified for this period.

### ***Mesolithic***

- 2.1.3 Similarly, there are no Mesolithic sites or finds recorded on the Buckinghamshire SMR in the vicinity of the site. Here, as elsewhere in

lowland Britain, sites tend to occur close to rivers or other water sources and, as a result, a nil/low potential for evidence of this period was identified also.

### ***Neolithic***

- 2.1.4 The Buckinghamshire SMR records a scatter of Neolithic flint artefacts found in Aylesbury in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and five Neolithic axes and flint scrapers found ‘somewhere near Aylesbury’ in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Although these finds have been allocated a grid reference that positions them within 250m of the Site, their exact provenance is unknown.

### ***Bronze Age***

- 2.1.5 In 1911, a Late Bronze Age single looped socketed axe was recovered during groundworks for the erection of the John Hampden Statue in the Market Square. In addition, a Bronze Age side-looped spearhead was found in a pile of rubbish at a house in Aylesbury; its exact provenance is uncertain.
- 2.1.6 Therefore, whilst there is clearly some activity in the area now occupied by Aylesbury, archaeological investigations within the south-western part of the Site failed to identify any evidence of Neolithic or Bronze Age activity or settlement there. Accordingly, a nil-low potential was identified for sub-surface features evidencing Neolithic or Bronze Age settlement/activity and a moderate potential for the presence of lithic (worked or waste flint) within later deposits on the Site.

### ***Iron Age***

- 2.1.7 Salvage excavations at 31-33 Kingsbury, c.30m west of the Site, identified the remains of a substantial ditch approximately c.3.5m-6m wide, c.3m deep with a base c. 1.2m wide. These remains were discovered ‘c.3m below current street level’. Pottery of middle Iron Age date was recovered from the fills of the ditch. In view of the size of this ditch, it is suggested that it formed part of a large enclosure ditch, possibly forming part of an Iron Age Hillfort, or large enclosed settlement that now lies beneath Aylesbury town centre.
- 2.1.8 Although salvage excavations carried out on the Buckingham Street frontage of the Site failed to identify any pre-Roman features, pottery sherds of Late Iron date were recorded within later deposits. In view of the suggested level of truncation on the Site it is possible that any structural evidence in the form of postholes, if present, would have been removed by 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> buildings. In view of this, a moderate potential was accorded for Iron Age settlement evidence in those parts of the Site that have survived medieval and more recent disturbance and truncation.

### ***Roman***

- 2.1.9 It is suggested that during the Roman period the Site lay c.100m south of Akeman Street, a major Roman Road that connected *Verulamium* (St Albans) in the east to *Corinium* (Cirencester) in the west.

- 2.1.10 Archaeological investigations at 13-19 Buckingham Street, within the south-western part of the Site, identified the remains of two inter-cutting gullies, a pit containing an articulated skeleton of a horse and associated pottery of Roman date. Roman pottery sherds were also recovered from twelve medieval pits on the site. The quantity of Roman pottery found within later features suggests that they had truncated earlier Roman features or occupation layers.
- 2.1.11 In view of the discovery of Roman settlement evidence on the south-western part of the Site and the projected line of Akeman Street a short distance to the northeast, it appears certain that evidence of Roman occupation will occur on those parts of the site that have escaped 19<sup>th</sup> century basements and modern development.

### ***Saxon-Medieval***

- 2.1.12 Archaeological investigations in the Walton area of Aylesbury c.1km southeast of the study site, identified a large 5<sup>th</sup> century settlement. By the mid 7<sup>th</sup> century Aylesbury formed part of the kingdom of Mercia, and between AD657 and AD674 the Mercian 'Wulfhere' is thought to have founded a church in Aylesbury on or near the present Site of St. Mary's Church. Early Saxon inhumations have been discovered on Castle Street, George Street and Church Row, c. 200m west of the Site.
- 2.1.13 Place name evidence suggests that Aylesbury was the site of a late Saxon Burh, a defended settlement. However, there is little archaeological evidence to confirm this. Archaeological investigations within the centre of Aylesbury have only recorded Saxon material within later deposits.
- 2.1.14 Archaeological investigations in 1979 in the south-western part of the Site failed to identify any Saxon features or artefacts. Therefore, it is likely that it lay beyond the Saxon settlement centred around the present site of St. Marys Church.

### ***Medieval***

- 2.1.15 The Buckinghamshire SMR records the site of a medieval building of brick and timber to the rear of No. 21 Buckingham Street, immediately west and north of the Site.
- 2.1.16 Archaeological investigations within the south-western part of the Site identified about fifteen pits and two wells of medieval date. The pits contained quantities of pottery, animal bone, oyster shells and iron nails, suggesting they were used for dumping domestic refuse. Indeed, later cartographic evidence shows shops or dwellings along Back Street (Buckingham Street), Bakers Street (Cambridge Street) and New Street.
- 2.1.17 Accordingly, where modern truncation is minimal, a moderate potential is identified for medieval building remains on the Cambridge Street and New Street frontages of the site. In addition, evidence of outbuildings, rubbish pits and wells can be expected behind the street frontages, whilst the central part



of the site was probably used for horticultural activities. As a result, the remains of fence lines, ditches, boundary walls and isolated areas of buried soil may present in this area.

### ***Post-Medieval-Modern***

- 2.1.18 The map regression exercise demonstrates that the Site has been developed at least since the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. The remains of 19<sup>th</sup> century basements are likely to be present on the Site. However, these remains are not considered to be of particular historic interest. Although, the precise location of an 18th century Baptist Chapel identified from cartographic evidence in relation to the Site boundary is unclear, a moderate potential should be identified for post-medieval building remains and burials within the eastern part of the site. Overall, a moderate-high potential for the survival of post-medieval/modern remains of historical interest was accorded to localised parts of the Site. Elsewhere, mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century redevelopment will have removed earlier deposits.

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1.1 The fieldwork methodology for the evaluation was laid out in detail in the WSI and is not reiterated in full here.
- 3.1.2 The fieldwork was undertaken in two phases, with four of a total of six trenches (**Trenches 1-4, Figure 1**) being undertaken in Phase 1. This report presents the results of this first phase of work only. Phase 2 is due to commence in the summer 2007 and will be reported on separately.
- 3.1.3 **Trenches 1, 2 and 4** were located within the existing Sainsbury's car park; **Trench 3** was located in the private car park of a veterinary practice along Cambridge Street adjacent to the Odeon Cinema.
- 3.1.4 Mostly the car parking areas remained in use during the investigation, and therefore logistical considerations, as well as the presence of underground services, largely determined the exact location of each trench. One trench (**Trench 4**), however, was targeted upon an area of archaeological potential relating to the remains of the Baker's Lane Chapel and any potential associated burials
- 3.1.5 All trenches were opened by mechanical wheeled excavator (JCB) with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Modern overburden and deposits were excavated by machine to the top of the natural subsoil (limestone geology) or the top of the first archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. Full reinstatement of all car parking surfaces was undertaken subsequent to the archaeological investigations.

## **4 AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

- 4.1.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

### *General*

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered

### *Site specific*

- To clarify the impact of medieval horticulture and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits
- To clarify the impact of medieval, post-medieval and more recent developments and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits
- To determine the presence or absence of Middle or Late Iron Age activity outside the hillfort ditch
- To determine the presence or absence of ritual deposits
- To determine character and extent of Roman activity
- To determine the presence or absence of early to middle Saxon activity
- To determine the layout of medieval tenements
- To determine the presence or absence of evidence for town plots prior to the layout of tenements
- To establish the potential for significant environmental deposits
- To determine the presence or absence of burials associated with the Baptist Chapel

## **5 RESULTS**

5.1.1 In the following discussion, the term ‘medieval’ refers to the period AD1066-1499, and ‘post-medieval’ relates to archaeological evidence approximately dated to between AD1500-1799, while the term ‘modern’ refers to those originating in the period from AD1800 to today. Features which have been attributed to the Victorian period in the field (on stylistic grounds only) are dated to between AD1840-1900.

### *Trench 1*

5.1.2 **Trench 1 (Figure 2)** was the western most trench within the Sainsbury’s car park. It was aligned approximately east-west. Some 0.74m of modern overburden and made ground was removed before natural geology (clay with argillaceous limestone and shaley calcareous inclusions) was revealed. Map evidence suggests that this trench was located within the back plot of the Victorian terraced street frontage along Maldon Terrace.

5.1.3 Three areas of modern disturbance were identified, **107 & 115**, containing abundant modern brick rubble. **107** was a roughly circular feature cut from immediately below the modern overburden. It contained large quantities of modern broken brick, presumably derived from the demolition of a building.

Although only partially revealed in the trench, it probably relates to earlier footings of a Victorian terrace along Maldon Terrace, a street which crossed the area of the car park until 1979. A linear foundation cut (rectangular cut – **115**) situated in the western part of the trench contained abundant modern rubble and was therefore deemed recent. It was of at least 2m x 1.7m in plan and truncated an earlier foundation cut, also of a probable early modern date, **113**.

- 5.1.4 With the exception of the three main areas of truncation mentioned above, the deposits within this trench were relatively undisturbed, with natural geology surviving at a comparatively high level (between 89.2-89.4m aOD).
- 5.1.5 Six possible features of a historic date were identified within this trench. These included linear feature, **113**, discussed briefly above, which was aligned roughly northwest – southeast and extended for 4.2m before being truncated by disturbance **115**. Maximum dimensions recorded were 0.42m width and 0.36m depth. The feature was thought to be a gully or construction cut of a late post-medieval building, however, the feature fills also yielded a small quantity of residual Roman and medieval pottery, as well as animal bone, which suggests that features of that date may exist or have existed in the past, in that locale.
- 5.1.6 In the central part of the trench, one modern pit (**111**) and two postholes (**117** and **119**) were revealed, the latter two in spatial association with a small stake hole, **109**. The stake hole was 0.13m in diameter and 0.16m and remains undated. Pit **111** contained modern brick and was attributed to an early modern date. The two postholes, **117** and **119**, were of similar dimensions in plan, and were roughly sub-circular and measuring 0.4m x 0.32m. Posthole **117** was only 0.05m in depth, and, although fully excavated, lacked finds and remained undated. It may have a relationship with posthole (or vegetational disturbance) which was located only 0.2m to the north, and again was shallow (only 0.02m deep) and also lacked any finds and which was not recorded. This group of postholes remains undated but most likely dates to the early modern activity recorded in this trench.

### *Trench 2*

- 5.1.7 **Trench 2 (Figure 3)** was located in the northern part of the Sainsbury's car park and was aligned approximately north-east –south-west, parallel to the western wall of the cinema. On the 1877/1879 OS First Edition Map, this area is shown as open ground/parkland with trees. In more recent editions it is shown as an area of open ground (but not with vegetation) beyond the back plots of the eastern street frontage of the Victorian houses along Maldon Terrace (or along the eastern side of Maldon Terrace).
- 5.1.8 Upon excavation, a levelling horizon containing abundant modern glass, clinker and CBM was encountered beneath the car park surface. This overlay a probable made ground deposit, **204**, at a depth of 0.62m below the present ground surface (BGL hereafter, approx. 87.7m aOD). This was of up to 2m thickness and covered the entire extent of the trench. The deposit comprised a heterogeneous, light brown clay with rare small limestone fragments and

pockets of redeposited natural. Artefactual inclusions ranged from small sherds of abraded CBM and pottery to large quantities of animal bone, including sawn and butchered fragments.

- 5.1.9 Two machine-excavated sondages were opened at each end of the trench to determine the full depth of the made ground deposits. At the northern end of the trench natural yellow sandy clay (with degraded limestone inclusions) was identified at a depth of 2.3m BGL (approx. 86.7m aOD), while at the southern end of the trench natural was encountered at a depth of 2.62m (85.9m aOD). The increased thickness of the material upslope demonstrated that the deposit was not derived from hillwash; furthermore, tip lines were noted in the northern machine section which proved this material to have been imported, probably for the purpose of raising and levelling this part of the Site. Although no supporting evidence was recorded, it is possible that deposit **204** alternatively represents the backfill of a large post-medieval or modern truncation, such as of a quarry pit.
- 5.1.10 Two areas of modern disturbance were identified cut through **204**. A circular feature, **205**, a pit, was noted in the southern part of the trench, partially revealed in the western section. It was filled with redeposited natural and modern brick, and cut from a depth of 0.4m beneath the modern ground surface. This feature in turn was cut by a modern culvert/ footing of building, **207**, which contained CBM, corrugated iron and modern brick, and cut into natural deposits to a depth of over 2.7m.

### *Trench 3*

- 5.1.11 **Trench 3 (Figure 4)** was located within a small private car park situated in the north-eastern part of the Site. On the First Edition OS map this is shown to be occupied by a small row of terraced Victorian cottages with an alleyway. This trench had to be realigned in order to avoid modern sewer drains.
- 5.1.12 Below the modern asphalt a relatively thin modern levelling layer was present at a depth of between 0.3 and 0.5m BGL. Natural geology was encountered at a depth of 0.5m (approx. 87m aOD), although it had been heavily truncated by the foundations/lower wall footings of the Victorian terrace, of which the outlines of two houses and an associated alleyway could be discerned. An earlier rectangular construction cut, **306**, was identified in the western side of the trench. It was truncated by (and therefore predated) the Victorian brick wall footings, but also contained modern brick fragments and was thought to be of an early modern date also.
- 5.1.13 In the northern part of the trench two cess pits of a possible medieval date were noted. Pit **304** was of a substantial size and only partly revealed; it may have been roughly circular in plan with dimensions of at least 2.4m by 1.8m and with a depth exceeding 1.7m. The feature had concave steeply sloping sides and three fills were identified (**305**, **308** & **309**). Deposit **309** related to rubbish discard and comprised animal bone and medieval pottery dated in a matrix silty clay containing greenish cess material. This was sealed by **308**, a large thick deliberate backfill of redeposited natural that may have acted as a

capping layer over the waste below. The feature finally silted up slowly as indicated by uppermost deposit **305** which contained no finds.

- 5.1.14 Pit **310** was only very partially revealed in the eastern baulk of the trench. Although this was unclear in plan, it may have been cut by pit **304**. Their similarity in appearance generally suggested them to be of a broadly similar date. Pit **310** was also steep sided with a concave-flat base, and with a similar fill sequence. The features confirm the survival of medieval domestic evidence in this area of the Site, and an origin of that date for the house plots along Cambridge Street.

#### *Trench 4*

- 5.1.15 **Trench 4 (Figure 5)** was aligned roughly east-west and located in the highest part of the Site, in an area assigned a high archaeological potential prior to the evaluation. Although the exact location of the Bakers Lane Chapel is uncertain, the trench was situated within a 20m radius of its purported site.
- 5.1.16 Below the modern tarmac and concrete, a modern brick rubble destruction and levelling layer, **403**, and a thick made ground deposit, **404** were present. Natural geology survived only in small patches in the trench base at approximately 1m BGL.
- 5.1.17 The trench area was severely truncated by the cellar of a brick-built basemented Victorian building. A main wall running the entire extent of the trench was aligned roughly northwest/southeast and parallel to the trench edge. This was interpreted as an internal brick wall, and three perpendicular walls appeared to represent further internal divisions. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the remains may relate to the 'Woodcutter's Yard' demolished in the 1970s in advance of the construction of the Sainsbury's car park.
- 5.1.18 A large pit, **406**, was identified in the western part of this trench and truncated by the modern structure. This may originally have been circular with a diameter in excess of 3.8m and of at least 1.6m in depth. It had steep concave sides and contained a large dump of green organic silty clay that may relate to cess deposits and other rubbish dumping activities. Fragments of CBM, glazed pottery and oyster shell were also retrieved. Despite its similarities with the cess pits in **Trench 3**, pottery inclusions, and butchery methods identified on animal bone fragments prove this feature to be of a post-medieval date.

## **6 FINDS**

- 6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation, deriving from nine contexts within three of the trenches excavated (**Trenches 1, 3 and 4**). The assemblage dates largely to the post-medieval/modern period, with small amounts of earlier material (prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval). All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

## **6.2 Pottery**

- 6.2.1 The small pottery assemblage includes material of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval/modern date.

### ***Romano-British***

- 6.2.2 Two sherds were identified as Romano-British – a coarse greyware from foundation cut **115**, and a Verulamium whiteware mortarium from pit **304**. In both instances these sherds were associated with later artefacts, and were clearly residual.

### ***Medieval***

- 6.2.3 Medieval sherds came from three contexts – foundation cuts **113** and **115** (fills **114** and **116** respectively) and pit **304** (lower fill **309**). Wares represented include early medieval shelly and coarse sandy wares (11<sup>th</sup> /12<sup>th</sup> century), but these are mixed with later sandy wares, greyware and Brill-type glazed finewares of later 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date. There are no diagnostic sherds.

### ***Post-Medieval/Modern***

- 6.2.4 The remainder of the assemblage is either post-medieval (coarse redware) or modern in date (stoneware, creamware, pearlware, refined whiteware, porcelain).

## **6.3 Ceramic Building Material**

- 6.3.1 Most of this category comprises flat (peg) roof tile fragments. Some of this is clearly medieval, including two fragments in coarse fabrics with macroscopic calcareous inclusions, one of which is glazed (cess pit **406**, foundation cut **115**); other fragments are likely to be medieval but are less chronologically distinctive. There are also two small fragments of post-medieval brick (pit **304**, upper fill **308**).

## **6.4 Animal Bone**

- 6.4.1 The sample from cess pit **406** contained the remains of subadult cattle and pig. Sheep/goat, cattle, equid and dog bones were found in other contexts. The cattle bones are very large and point to a post-medieval origin. The proximal part of a subadult cattle humerus showed several horizontal chop marks on the shaft. These are indicative of marrow utilisation. Furthermore, a subadult pig mandibula was split at the symphysis and the articulation was sawn-off. The latter is also indicative of post-medieval butchery methods.

## 6.5 Other Finds

- 6.5.1 Other finds include one piece of worked flint, a few fragments of vessel and window glass, six iron objects (3 nails; 2 rods, 1 ?vessel fragment), a small amount of slag-like material (dense, greenish and glassy), a clay pipe stem and an oyster shell. Apart from the worked flint, which is assumed to be prehistoric, and two iron nails from foundation cut **115** which were associated only with medieval finds, all these are either demonstrably or probably of post-medieval date.

*Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)*

*CBM = ceramic building material*

Context	Description	Animal Bone	CBM	RB Pottery	Medieval Pottery	Post-med Pottery	Other Finds
101	topsoil					1/15	2 glass; 2 iron
112	pit 111					6/46	
114	cut 113	5/4			3/37	1/1	1 glass
116	cut 115	7/445	6/170	1/2	9/45		2 iron
307	cut 306		2/137				
308	pit 304	6/49	2/33				1 iron
309	pit 304	6/37		1/15	1/1		
404	layer	2/26				10/308	2 glass; 1 iron; 320g slag
407	cess pit 406	3/53	3/34			1/18	1 clay pipe; 1 flint; 1 shell
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29/614</b>	<b>13/374</b>	<b>2/17</b>	<b>13/83</b>	<b>19/388</b>	

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

- 7.1.1 In view of the demonstrable late date of all features encountered, their high degree of modern disturbance, and Health and Safety considerations with regard to cess deposits, it was decided that environmental sampling could not enhance the results of the evaluation, and therefore none was undertaken.

## 8 DISCUSSION

### *Truncation and Palaeotopography*

- 8.1.1 The evaluation successfully addressed a number of the project aims. Although much of the Site has been disturbed by development from the early modern period onwards, the truncation appears localised and varies in severity across the Site. **Trenches 1** and **3** in particular demonstrated the survival of natural geology at a comparatively high level, only punctuated by Victorian building and service construction. In **Trench 1** small discrete features, such as postholes, had even survived the construction of the supermarket car park.

- 8.1.2 Where natural geology was identified in trench bases both on the higher ground to the southwest and the low-lying northeastern part of the Site, no direct correlation between the level of truncation and the modern topography could be made. No evidence of large-scale terracing has been identified, although the made ground in **Trench 2** is likely represent modern contouring or quarrying. It is possible that archaeological deposits survive here below imported material.

### *Archaeology*

- 8.1.3 No archaeological features predating the medieval period were identified. A very small number of residual Roman finds recovered from **Trenches 1** and **3** is likely to constitute artefactual background ‘noise’ derived from the known activity in the area during this period.
- 8.1.4 **Trenches 3** and **4** confirmed the survival of medieval and post-medieval cess pits in the back plots and behind street frontages within the boundaries of the Site. This concurs with the results of the earlier investigations along Buckingham Street and Cambridge Street. Plot and alleyway outlines identified in **Trench 4**, albeit marked by Victorian features, may originate in the medieval period. The Victorian terraces, now mostly destroyed, may have ‘fossilised’ plot layouts dating from the medieval period.
- 8.1.5 No evidence for the remains of Bakers Lane Chapel, or any associated burials was identified.

## **9 CONCLUSIONS**

- 9.1.1 The evaluation demonstrated a localised potential of survival for archaeological features across the Site, despite widespread truncation by Victorian building activity. The nature of the palaeotopography, particularly in relation to areas of made ground identified within the Site, could be partially established.
- 9.1.2 The investigation suggested a good potential for the survival of at least deeper medieval and post-medieval features, such as cess pits and wells, in the eastern part of the Site, however produced only very limited evidence of an earlier date in the form of residual Roman artefacts.

## **10 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## APPENDIX 1 – Trench tables

### TRENCH 01 Dimensions: 16.00mx 2.00m x 0.75m+

Context	Description	Depth
101	Modern layer – concrete car park layer	0-0.15m
102	Modern layer – packing layer. Contains mix of concrete and brick rubble (0.02-0.06m)	0.15-0.52m
103	Modern layer – brick rubble occurring from demolition of previous houses	0.52-.074m
104	Natural – Kimmeridge clay. Yellow gray silty clay containing abundant limestone inclusions	0.74m+
<b>105</b>	<b>Cut – Modern drain pipe and drain cut (0.34x0.59m)</b>	
106	Fill – Fill of [105]. Blue black clay (loose) with fragments of the drain pipe	
<b>107</b>	<b>Cut – Foundation cut of modern (Victorian) houses (3.28x0.85m)</b>	
108	Fill – Fill of [107]. Abundant building rubble (masonry bricks)	
<b>109</b>	<b>Cut – Possible stakehole (unknown date) 0.13x0.16m</b>	
110	Fill of [109]	
<b>111</b>	<b>Cut of modern rubbish pit (0.62x0.5m)</b>	
112	Fill of [111] – grey silty clay (firm) with modern pot shards and brick fragments	
<b>113</b>	<b>Foundation cut of previous buildings (4.13x0.42m)</b>	
114	Fill of [113] – Mid grey silty clay (firm)with modern pot shards and glass fragments	
<b>115</b>	<b>Foundation cut of previous buildings (2.00x1.66m)</b>	
116	Fill of [115] – black-dark grey silty clay (firm) with occasional modern brick	
<b>117</b>	<b>Possible posthole cut (0.4x0.28m)</b>	
118	Fill of [117]	
<b>119</b>	<b>Possible posthole cut (0.38x0.32m)</b>	
120	Fill of [119]	
<b>121</b>	<b>Possible pit cut (1.33x0.3m)</b>	
122	Fill of [121] – Mid grey silty clay (firm) with occasional limestone, brick and modern brick inclusions (<0.04m)	

### TRENCH 02 Dimensions: 15mx 2.0m x 2.62m

Context	Description	Depth
201	Modern tarmac for carpark	0-0.10m
202	Concrete layer underlying tarmac	0.10-0.30m
203	Black silty clay levelling deposit – modern and full of modern glass, clinker and metal etc	0.3-0.62m
204	Light brown silty clay deposit. Mixed deposit that also contains redeposited natural. Rare small pebbles. Deeper in southern part of the trench than in the northern part	0.62-2.62m
<b>205</b>	<b>Cut of modern roughly circular pit c. 2m in diameter</b>	<b>0.4m+</b>
206	Fill of pit 205. Deposit consists of mixed redeposited natural and contains modern brick, and possible cess or green organic material	
<b>207</b>	<b>Cut of very modern culvert or footings of structure – very deep cut. This linear feature cuts pit 205</b>	<b>0.4m-2.62m</b>
208	Fill of cut 207. Full of very modern glass, corrugated iron and brick.	0.4-2.62m
209	Natural geology. Yellow silty clay with degraded chalk limestone fragments	2.3m+

**TRENCH 03 Dimensions: 15mx 2.0m x 0.5m+**

Context	Description	Depth
301	Modern layer – concrete	0-0.3m
302	Made ground – levelling layer only in the northern part of the trench	0.3-0.5m max
303	Natural – orange-yellow sand with limestone chalk flecks – heavily truncated by modern disturbance	0.5m+
304	Modern pit cut – In northern part of trench cut	
305	Upper fill of modern pit cut. May not be modern	
<b>306</b>	<b>Cut of modern (?) footings – cut by modern brick wall</b>	
307	Fill of [306]	
308	Secondary fill of [304]	
309	Lower sandy fill of [304]	
<b>310</b>	<b>Cut eastern rubbish pit</b>	
311	Upper fill of pit [310]	
312	Lower fill of pit [310]	

**TRENCH 04 Dimensions: 14mx 2m x 0.6m+**

Context	Description	Depth
401	Modern layer – tarmac	0-0.09m
402	Modern layer – brick rubble/cement with wood beams approx. 0.5m apart	0.09-0.31m
403	Modern layer – brick rubble/levelling due to demolition of previous houses	0.31-0.6m
404	Deposition layer caused by infilling and silting. Mid brown silty clay containing very few inclusions	0.6-1.23m+
405	Natural - Kimmeridge clay. Yellow gray silty clay containing abundant limestone inclusions	0.6m+
<b>406</b>	<b>Cut – Cess pit. Probably post-med/modern</b>	
407	Fill of [406]. Greyish brown ‘cessy’ (with greenish mottling). Silty clay of pit [406]	
408	Building foundations from previous terraced housing – group number	