

PATHFINDER HOUSE, HUNTINGDON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

HN615
Report No.372

Site name and address:	Pathfinder House, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire		
County:	Cambridgeshire	District:	Huntingdonshire
Village/town:	Huntingdon	Parish:	Huntingdon
Planning reference:	N/a	NGR:	TL 2402 7156
Client name and address:	Huntingdonshire District Council, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN		
Nature of work:	Offices / Residential	Former land use:	Offices & Car Parks
Site Status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (PPG 16)
Position in planning process:	Pre-application	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c.1.12m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.1.12m ²
Site Code:	HN615	Other reference:	N/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	Test pit	Archive Recipient:	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Start of work	26/09/06	Finish of work	26/09/06
Related SMR Nos:	N/a	Periods represented:	Late Roman, Early Medieval
Oasis UID:	heritage1- 18753	Significant finds:	Three pottery sherds
Monument types:	Layers		
Physical archive:	Pottery, animal bone		
Previous summaries/reports:	N/a		

Narrative:

In response to the requirements of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA) section of Cambridge County Council, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Huntingdonshire District Council, to monitor and record the excavation of a soakage test pit situated in the car park of Pathfinder House, Huntingdon.

The site of Pathfinder House is centred at NGR TL 2402 7156 (Figure 1). It is situated on river terrace gravels in the historic core of Huntingdon and is located within a conservation area designated in the District Local Plan. The remains of a medieval motte and bailey castle, which is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 24417), survive c.50m to the south. The site formed the gardens associated with Castle Hill House until the middle of the 20th Century, and was largely undeveloped until that time

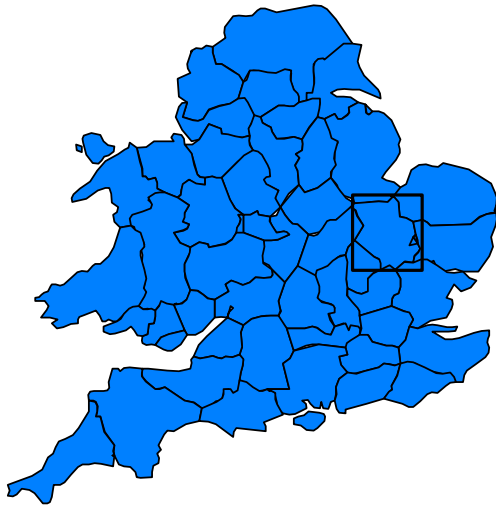
A previous evaluation of the site by the Heritage Network revealed artefacts and deposits from five periods, Romano-British, Saxo-Norman, Medieval, Post-medieval and Modern.

One site visit was made to monitor the excavation of a soakage test pit measuring 1.6m x 0.7m x 1.2m deep. It was located close to the centre of the existing car park, midway between two of the previous evaluation trenches (Figure 2).

Below the present tarmac and associated hardcore construction layer was 0.12m of concrete overlying a further 0.16m of hardcore. This probably represents the base of a building constructed during World War II which was still standing until the 1970s. Below this layer were two very dark grey (2.5Y 3/1) layers distinguishable only by the difference in their matrix composition. Context (06) was silty clay 0.1m in depth. One early Medieval pottery rim sherd weighing 5g and one cattle tooth weighing 20g were recovered from this layer. Context (07) was not breached and consisted of a friable, clayey silt layer at least 0.5m in depth. Two late Roman pottery sherds weighing 10g and three pieces of mammal bone was recovered from this layer. An unstratified cattle metatarsal weighing 150g was also recovered.

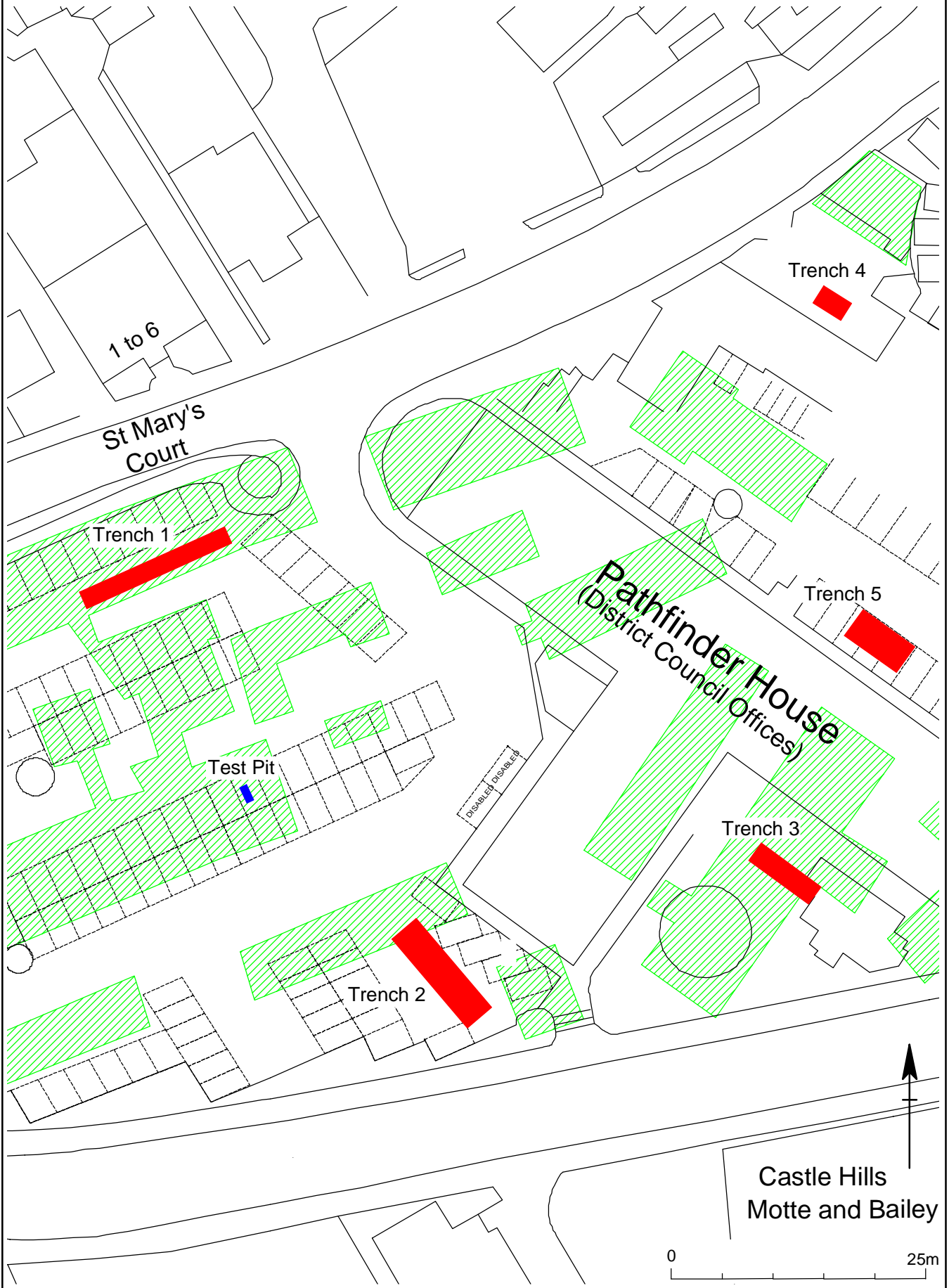
Contexts (06) and (07) are probably continuations of layers present in Trenches 1 and 2 of the previous evaluation. These were interpreted as being the remnants of a garden soil overlying a layer of Medieval plough soil.

David Kaye BA PIFA, September 2006



Site location

Scale 1:10,000



Site Layout

Scale 1:500

Figure 2