LAND WITHIN THE NORTHERN EXTENT (1a) OF THE ST PETER'S DEVELOPMENT AREA NORTHAMPTON

RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

Albion archaeology





LAND WITHIN THE NORTHERN EXTENT (1a) OF THE ST PETER'S DEVELOPMENT AREA NORTHAMPTON

RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

Project: SPD1888

Document: 2011/163 Version 1.0

22nd December 2011

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
C. Meckseper	R. Wardill	D. Shotliff

Produced for:
West Northamptonshire Development Corporation
(WNDC)

© Copyright Albion Archaeology 2011, all rights reserved



Contents

1. IN	TRODUCTION	5
1.1	Planning Background	5
1.2	Site Location, Topography and Geology	5
1.3	Archaeological Background	6
1.4	Project Objectives	7
1.5	Archiving	7
2. MI	ETHODOLOGY	8
2.1	Introduction	8
2.2	Implementation	8
3. RE	ESULTS	9
3.1	Introduction	9
3.2	Overburden and car park deposits	9
3.3	Trench 1	9
3.4	Trench 2	10
4. DI	SCUSSION	12
4.1	The town defences	12
4.2	19th and 20th century buildings	12
5. C	ONCLUSIONS	14
5.1	Survival and significance of archaeological assets	14
6. RE	EFERENCES	15
7. AF	PPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY	16



List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Trench location in relation to demolished pub and current land boundaries

Figure 3: Trench 1 – plan, section and photographs

Figure 4: Trench 2 – plan, section and photographs

Figure 5: Trenches overlaid onto 1847 Wood and Law's map

Figure 6: Trenches overlaid onto 1887 first edition OS map

Figure 7: Sondages

The figures are bound at the rear of the report.



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC). It was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Lesley-Ann Mather, Northamptonshire County Council's County Archaeological Advisor.

This report has been prepared by Christiane Meckseper (Project Officer). The fieldwork was undertaken by Christiane Meckseper and Ben Carroll (Archaeological Technician). Illustrations were prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

Albion Archaeology St Mary's Church St Mary's Street Bedford. MK42 0AS

a: 0300 300 8141 Fax: 0300 300 8209

e-mail: c.f.meckseper@albion-arch.com

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	22/12/11	n/a

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

AA	Archaeological Advisor
CBM	Ceramic building material (brick, tile etc)
DA	Development Area
HER	Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NCC	Northamptonshire County Council
PPS 5	Planning Policy Statement 5
WNDC	West Northamptonshire Development Corporation



Non-Technical Summary

The West Northamptonshire Development Corporation is involved in pre-application discussions with Northamptonshire County Council regarding the archaeological implications of development within the St Peter's Development Area, Northampton.

Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor (CAA) advised that the development area lies in a potentially archaeologically sensitive area of the medieval core of Northampton and adjacent to a previous excavation site where remains of the Saxon and medieval town defences of Northampton had been found.

In accordance with the guidance contained in PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment the CAA requested further information on the archaeology of the site to enable an assessment of the potential impact of the development to be made.

Two evaluation trenches were opened at the development area in December 2011. The trench layout was designed to locate the potential continuation of the Saxon and medieval town defences which were located to the south of the site in an archaeological investigation in 1995.

No significant features or deposits relating to the Saxon or medieval defences at Northampton were revealed. It is likely that all upstanding remains of the Saxon and medieval defences were destroyed by 19th and 20th century building activity.

However, it is suggested that the alignment of the defensive ditches continues across the development area from their known remains in the south. This may be inferred from depth of existing made-up ground, which in Trench 1 was more than 2.8m deep, suggesting the trench may be located within the Saxon ditch. Similarly, the E-W fall in natural clay in Trench 2 at a depth of 2.5m-2.8m may represent the edge of the medieval defensive ditch.

Both trenches contained remains of 19th and 20th century wall foundations and a 19th century well. All wall foundations can be associated with buildings shown on historical maps. The 19th and early 20th century wall foundations are of low significance as this part of the history of Northampton has been extensively mapped and the change and development of buildings recorded. The area has also been extensively disturbed and truncated by modern services, lowering the significance of the surviving remains.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

The West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC) are involved in pre-application discussions with Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) regarding the archaeological implications of development within the St Peter's Development Area, Northampton.

Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor (CAA) advised that the development area lies in a potentially archaeologically sensitive area. In accordance with the guidance contained in PPS5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* the CAA requested further information on the archaeology of the site to enable an assessment of the potential impact of the development to be made.

A desk-based heritage assessment of the development area was prepared summarising the known heritage assets and previous archaeological investigations for the St Peter's Development Area (NA 2011).

The CAA issued a brief detailing a programme of archaeological investigation in order to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the Northern Extent (1a) of the St Peter's Development Area (NCC 2011a).

The programme is to comprise three stages:

- Stage I: archaeological field evaluation of the site to locate, define and characterise any archaeological remains that exist.
- Stage II: appraisal of the results of the field evaluation and their significance with regard to the proposed development. This is likely to lead to a programme of pre-construction investigation and recording of archaeological remains which will be unavoidably destroyed by the development. Any such work will be secured by a further NCC brief.
- Stage III: implementation of the pre-construction archaeological investigation and recording.

The CAA also issued a brief for the Stage I archaeological field evaluation (NCC 2011b), which comprised trial trenching.

This report describes the findings of the Stage I trial trenching.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The proposed development area (DA) lies to the south-west of the historical centre of Northampton within the postulated boundaries of the Saxon and medieval settlement. It lies c.100m north of the River Nene and its associated mill race and to the east of the main railway line through the town. It is bounded to the north by St Peter's Way, to the west by the overflow car park of Northampton station and to the south by modern residential development. The access via Green Street lies to the east (Figure 1).



The remains of the Victorian terrace that stood on the north-eastern corner of the site has recently been demolished and the area is now tarmaced over.

The DA is c. 950m² in extent and is centred on NGR SP 7480 6037. The land generally falls from the built-up ring road corridor as it ascends towards the railway bridge in the north, down to the river in the south. The DA itself lies on level ground at c. 61m OD.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological and historical background of the St Peter's Development Area has been investigated and presented in detail in a desk-based assessment of the area (NA 2011). A summary is presented here, with particular emphasis on the land within the Northern Extent (1a) of the Development Area.

The DA lies within the Saxon and medieval boundary of Northampton. Excavations around St Peter's Church to the north-east revealed a late Saxon sequence of occupation comprising a timber and stone hall, circular mortar mixers, rubbish pits, and post-built and sunken featured buildings, which were part of an important secular or ecclesiastical complex and extended Saxon settlement.

The DA lies to the south of the site of Northampton Castle which was built in the 12th century. Occupation around St Peter's Church continued and medieval settlement evidence was also excavated at Marefair and St Peter's Street. Speed's map of 1610 shows houses in the Green Street area and it is likely that this area was also settled in the medieval period (NA 2011, 9). The town defences are thought to have been in existence by the early 12th century and encompassed an area of *c*. 100ha.

Excavations at Green Street to the south-east of the DA, found evidence of the late Saxon town defences consisting of an earlier 10th-century ditch, bank and timber revetment and a later stone revetment wall with a gateway and metalled road surface (Chapman 1999).

The south-western part of the town is the only area where the medieval defences closely followed the line of the Saxon defensive line and the excavations uncovered evidence for a wide ditch, replacing the earlier Saxon ditch, and a substantial stone wall, both dating to the 12th century. The excavations also found evidence of the later civil war refurbishment of the defences in the mid 16th century. The Saxon and medieval defences are thought to extend into the southern part of the DA.

The DA is located close to the west gate of the medieval town and site of a potential hermitage marked on Speed's map of 1610.

There is evidence for medieval tanning in Green Street but most of the medieval and post-medieval industrial activity is concentrated in the southern part of the St. Peter's Development Area, towards the mills, marked on historical maps to the south-east of the DA and the river and mill leat.



Buildings are first shown on the DA on Wood and Law's map of 1847 and the area was increasingly developed and built upon with the construction of the nearby railway in 1879. The mid-19th century row of terraces remained on the DA throughout the 20th century but was demolished in recent years during gradual re-development of the area.

Geotechnical Test pits excavated on the DA in September 2011 revealed that some of the cellars of the 19th-century terrace survive below current ground level and are filled with brick rubble to a depth of 2m (URS Scott Wilson 2011).

1.4 Project Objectives

The project objectives were described in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion 2011) and are summarised here.

The research context for Northampton and Northamptonshire is provided by *The Archaeology of the East Midlands. An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Agenda* (Cooper 2006). This is in the process of being updated (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2010).

Based on the original and updated research agenda the following site-specific research aims for the trial trenching were formulated:

- Does evidence survive for the Saxon defensive circuit of the town and what form does it take?
- What is the evidence for the development, refurbishment and replacement of this defensive line in the middle and later Saxon and particularly in the medieval periods?

Within this research framework the general aims of the trial trenching included:

- establishing the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features and deposits present within the site;
- establishing the integrity and state of preservation of any such archaeological features.

1.5 Archiving

The archive of finds and records generated during the Project are kept secure at all stages of the operation. All records and materials produced will be archived to the standards outlined in Appendix 3 of English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (2006).

Details of the project and its findings have been submitted to the OASIS database in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service.

An integrated project archive (including both artefacts/ecofacts and project documentation) will be prepared upon completion of the project. As the NCC brief (NCC 2011a) notes, there is currently no archaeological archive depository able to accept material from this part of the county, although the issue is being actively addressed and it is hoped that suitable facilities will be available within 3-5 years.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

The methodological approach to the project was detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion 2011) and was approved by the CAA. It was designed to conform to the requirements of *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (DCLG 2010) and the accompanying Practice Guide (DCLG/EH 2010). The archaeological investigation was conducted in accordance with appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines including:

•	Albion Archaeology	Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork (2nd edn, 2001)
		,
•	Archaeological	Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in
	Archive Forum	creation, compilation, transfer and curation (2007)
•	English Heritage	Management of Research Projects in the Historic
	8 8	Environment (2009)
•	IfA	Code of Conduct
		Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field
		Evaluation

2.2 Implementation

The archaeological investigation and recording was undertaken on the 1st and 2nd December 2011. Two trenches were opened (Figure 2). The trench layout was designed to locate the potential continuation of the Saxon and medieval town defences, which were located to the south of the DA in an archaeological investigation in 1995 (Chapman 1999).

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged, 1.8m-wide ditching bucket operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. The car park surfaces and underlying 19th and 20th century deposits were removed to an overall depth of *c*.1.2m when excavation stopped due to safety considerations.

Exploratory sondages were excavated by machine to a depth of 2.8m in the NE corner of Trench 1 and at both ends of Trench 2 (Figure 7). These were photographed, measured and then backfilled.

The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts. All deposits were recorded in a unique number sequence, using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. The CAA monitored the work on Friday 2nd December.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All archaeological features located in the trenches are shown on Figure 2. No features or deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period were found. The results are therefore discussed by trench rather than by chronological period or theme.

3.2 Overburden and car park deposits

Both trenches had a 0.10m thick layer of tarmac above a series of gravel and concrete levelling and make-up layers with a combined thickness of 0.27m. In Trench 1 this included an additional layer of concrete which was broken up with the machine bucket. These layers overlay the remains of 19th century wall foundations and earlier dump and make-up layers which are discussed below.

3.3 Trench 1

Removal of the tarmac and underlying levelling and concrete layers exposed two wall foundations on an east-west alignment and a number of 19th and 20th century dump layers (Figure 3).

Wall foundation (110) consisted of machine-made bricks bonded with a light whitish brown compact mortar. It was on an east-west alignment and formed the northern limit of excavation of Trench 2. It was exposed to a width of 0.50m and survived to a maximum height of 0.4. The base of the foundation was at 0.55m below present ground level.

The ground to the south along and below the wall foundation was significantly disturbed by 19th and 20th century service pipes consisting of lead pipes and wide ceramic pipes with 20th century screw cappings (cut [111] and fill (112) on Figure 3).

A short brick wall foundation (114) was located to the north of wall foundation (110). This framed a rectangular cut [113] with a mixed mid grey brown sandy clay fill (115) with fragments of CBM, charcoal flecks and sandstone fragments. The function of this feature is unclear but it is possible that it relates to the foundation of a small outbuilding at the rear of the building represented by wall (110), or a filled-in cellar cavity within the 19th century building range.

Wall foundation (107) consisted of large rectangular sandstone blocks and formed the southern limit of excavation. It extended beyond the limit of excavation on both sides but was not recorded in geotechnical Test Pit 5 c.1.0m west of the trench, suggesting that it either stopped or turned a corner before it reached the test pit. The wall foundation was 0.80m wide and survived to a height of c. 0.60m. Its eastern half was removed by machine during the evaluation.

A number of dump layers (105) and (104) were built up against the wall foundation on its northern side. Deposit (105) contained a complete bowl and stem fragment from a clay tobacco pipe (23g) and a two sherds of post-medieval pottery (total weight 76g). The long elongated pipe bowl has moderately straight



sides, a crudely milled edge and a flat heel, and is datable to c. 1680-1710 (Oswald 1975, 37). The pottery comprises a black-glazed earthenware bowl rim (Northants CTS code 426) and a Nottingham stoneware mug or cup sherd (CTS code 417), both datable to the 17^{th} century. It is likely that these finds are residual.

A cobblestone pavement (102) was situated to the north of the wall (107) immediately below the modern car park make-up deposits. The cobbles respected the alignment of the wall, suggesting the two structures were contemporary.

A sondage was excavated in the north-eastern corner of the trench in an area of made-up ground (109) that looked undisturbed by modern intrusions. It was excavated to a depth of 2.8m below present ground level (Figure 7). Unfortunately a further vertical ceramic drainage pipe was revealed within the sondage which had destroyed any potential archaeological layers. No natural geological deposits were revealed in the sondage or anywhere else within the trench.

3.4 Trench 2

Similar to Trench 1, the archaeological features revealed in Trench 2 consisted of a number of 19th century wall foundations and a series of 19th and 20th century dump layers (Figure 4).

Wall foundations (212) and (215) were on a converging NNE-SSW and NNW-SSE alignment respectively and situated c. 4m apart. They were built out of a combination of brick and sandstone blocks. The bases of the foundations were 0.90-1.0m below present ground level. A further foundation (221) was located in the northern section of the trench and on a perpendicular alignment to foundation (215). It is possible that they are part of the same building.

A circular brick-built well (218) was revealed in the centre of the trench. The well had a double-skinned brick structure and was lined with a grey-washed concrete-like coating. It was backfilled with grey clay mixed with sandstone blocks (219), most likely a deliberate backfill of re-deposited natural to seal the well.

Layer (209) represents made-up ground that was left in-situ in the base of the trench. It consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and moderate sandstone and brick fragments. It contained several fragments of modern glass and white glazed pottery (not kept). This shows that all the layers revealed in Trench 2 were of fairly modern 19th and 20th century date to a depth of 1.2m.

Two sondages were excavated to a depth of 2.8m at the eastern and western end of the trench respectively. The eastern sondage revealed a layer of friable mid brownish red sandy clay at a dept of 1.4m (223). This was a homogenous and sterile looking layer, reminiscent of alluvium, but it included moderate charcoal flecks and occasional small mortar fragments. It also contained an 18th century



Frechen stoneware jug sherd weighing 12g (CTS code 421), an incomplete iron ?door stud of uncertain date, and a fragmentary cow metacarpal (10g).

Layer (223) was c. 1.1m deep. At a depth of 2.5m a cleaner mid brownish red clay layer (224) was encountered which was interpreted as natural.

The western sondage revealed a modern service trench [222] and disturbed layers. Natural geological deposits (224) were reached at a depth of 2.8m.



4. DISCUSSION

4.1 The town defences

No features dating to the medieval period or earlier were revealed during the evaluation. This includes any features that may be interpreted as potential town defences.

In the 1995 excavations the top of the Saxon bank and medieval stone wall was generally encountered at a depth of 60.00mOD, c. 0.80-1.0m below present ground level (Chapman 1999). In the current evaluation ground was reduced to a level of c. 58.80m OD in both trenches, which should have revealed evidence of the town defences if they had survived in this area.

Potential natural clay was exposed in the sondages excavated in the eastern and western end of Trench 2. This was located at c. 2.5m below present ground level in the east and 2.8m below present ground level in the west, showing a slight fall in ground level. It is possible that this could indicate the presence of the medieval ditch.

It is tempting to interpret the re-deposited clay layer (223) in the eastern sondage of Trench 2 as the remains of a defensive bank. However, the 18th century pottery and (undated) door fitting make it more likely that the layer originates from post-medieval earthmoving and re-organisation of the landscape near the western gate and bridge than any defensive structure.

In Trench 1, no natural geological layers were exposed within the sondage excavated in the north-eastern corner. The trench could therefore conceivably be located within the Saxon ditch.

4.2 19th and 20th century buildings

Several wall foundations were revealed during the evaluation which are remains of the 19th and 20th century buildings that stood on the site until recently. The public house at the corner of Green Street and Black Lion Hill in recent years housed the United Social Club and was not demolished until 2010.

A row of terraces fronting onto the Western Terrace and Black Lion Hill was first built on the DA in the early 19th century. These are shown on Wood and Law's map of Northampton dating from 1847 (Figure 5).

The brick and sandstone walls, (211) and (214), within Trench 2 represent the foundations of extensions that were added to the early 19th buildings in the later 19th century or rebuilding activity in the early 20th century. The well (217) is also part of this development (Figure 6).

While buildings existed along the entire street frontage from the early 19th century onwards, the block on the corner is first marked as a public house ("PH") on the OS map of 1938. The building's architectural style placed it in the inter-war period of the 20th century and it must therefore have represented a re-



build of a 19th century building on the same footprint. The building is now demolished.

The brick wall foundation (110) in the northern end of Trench 1 coincides with the southern boundary wall of the property associated with the public house. It is possible that the wall dates from the re-building of this part of the terraces in the early 20th century.

The brick wall also represents the boundary that delineates the 19th century terraces and their backyards from the much larger buildings to the south. The current DA incorporates the open space or walkway between the two plots. This may be represented by the layer of cobbles (103) visible in the section of Trench 1 (Figure 2).

Initially the buildings to the south of the DA were a number of blocks arranged around a courtyard first shown on Wood and Law's map in 1847 (Figure 6) and later a tannery, which is first shown on the OS map of 1925 (NA 2011, Fig 16).

The substantial sandstone wall (107) probably represents the foundation of the northern wall of the tannery as this is likely to have obliterated all traces of the earlier 19th century buildings.



5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Survival and significance of archaeological assets

No features or deposits relating to the Saxon or medieval defences at Northampton were revealed. It is likely that all upstanding remains of the Saxon and medieval defences were destroyed by 19th and 20th century building activity.

It is suggested that the alignment of the defensive ditches continues across the DA from their known remains in the south, but this can only be inferred from depth of existing made-up ground as well as the E-W fall in natural clay in Trench 2 which may represent the edge of the ditch. The defensive features are an important heritage asset of the historic environment of Northampton.

The 19th and early 20th century wall foundations are of low significance as this part of the history of Northampton has been extensively mapped and the change and development of buildings recorded. The area has also been extensively disturbed and truncated by modern services, lowering the significance of the surviving remains.



6. REFERENCES

- Albion Archaeology 2001 Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd ed.
- Albion Archaeology 2011. Land within the Northern Extent (1a) of the St Peter's Development Area, Northampton: Written Statement of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching. Report 2011-145.
- Chapman, A. 1999. 'Excavation of the town Defences at Green Street, Northampton, 1995-6' in: *Northamptonshire Archaeology*. Volume 28 1998-9, 25-60.
- English Heritage 2002. Environmental archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation.
- NCC 2011a. Brief for a programme of archaeological investigation of land within the Northern Extent (1a) of the St Peter's Development Area, Northamptonshire. V1 17th October 2011.
- NCC 2011b. Brief for the archaeological field evaluation of land within the Northern Extent (1a) of the St Peter's Development Area, Northamptonshire. V1 17th October 2011.
- Northamptonshire Archaeology 2011. Archaeological desk-based assessment of land at St Peter's Way, Northampton. Report 11/150.
- Oswald, A., 1975, 'Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist', British Archaeological Report 14.
- URS Scott Wilson 2011. *Northampton Innovation Centre, Northampton.* Results of exploratory holes (contract no. 46378002).



7. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 74817: Northing: 60357)

 OS Grid Ref.: SP
 (Easting: 74821: Northing: 60358)

 OS Grid Ref.: SP
 (Easting: 74819: Northing: 60362)

 OS Grid Ref.: SP
 (Easting: 74815: Northing: 60360)

Reason: To locate potential remains of Saxon defensive wall and ditch.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	External surface	Cemented dark grey black tarmac 0.10m thick.	✓	
101	Make up layer	Compact red gravel Several horizontal bands of different coloured gravel and concrete. In total 0.27m thick.	✓	
102	External surface	Grey natural cobbles laid in a horizontal band. Cobbles c. 180 x 100mm and 120 x 150mm in size. 0.10-0.12m thick.	~	
103	Make up layer	Friable light orange brown sand Make-up layer for cobbles. 0.06-0.15m thick.	✓	
104	Dump material	Friable mid orange brown sandy clay moderate flecks charcoal, occasional flecks mortar, occasional small stones Contains modern glass fragments. 0.33m thick.	✓	
105	Dump material	Friable mid grey brown sandy clay frequent flecks charcoal, occasional smamortar, moderate small stones 0.23m thick.	all 🗸	✓
106	Make up layer	Compact mid grey white sandy concrete frequent small stones Contains a thin, rusty metal sheet. Deposit is 0.23m thick.	✓	
107	Wall	Two to three courses of roughly hewn rectangular sandstone blocks, ranging in size from 450 x 670 x 200mm to 250 x 250 x 200mm and 270 x 100mm. Regular courses. Structure is on an E-W alignment with face towards N. Southern face beyond limit of excavation. Dimensions of masonry as found: >4m long, 0.80m wide and 0.50m high.	;	
108	Dump material	Friable mid grey brown sandy clay frequent medium stones 0.22m thick.	✓	
109	Dump material	Friable mid orange brown sandy clay moderate small CBM, moderate fleck charcoal, moderate flecks mortar, moderate small stones Layer left in situ in base of trench.		
110	Wall	Modern machine-made brick, c. 4-5 courses. Bricks step outwards near base in steps of c. 5-6cm width. Masonry is on E-W alignment and measures >4m in length, 0.50m in width and is 0.40m high. Wall foundation for 19th centur building. Base of foundation is 0.60m below present ground level.		
111	Service Trench	Linear E-W sides: irregular base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 0.65m, max depth 2.5m, min length 4.m Only partially excavated. Extends along an under wall (110). Can be seen as construction cut for wall (110) also?	✓ ad	
112	Backfill	Friable dark grey brown sandy clay moderate medium CBM Backfill of cut [111]. Contains wide ceramic pipes with screw top cappings and lead pipes.	✓	
113	Foundation	Rectangular sides: vertical dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, min depth 0.6m min length 2.3m	,	
115	Backfill	Friable mid grey brown sandy clay moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	✓	
114	Wall	Modern machine-made brick. Structure is on N-S alignment immediately S of wall (110). One length of a brick thick. Measurements of structure as found: 0.22m wide, c. 0.8m long, height/depth unclear.	✓	



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 74793: Northing: 60366)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting: 74805: Northing: 60368*)

Reason: To locate alignment of medieval defensive ditch.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	External surface	Cemented dark grey black tarmac 0.10m thick.	✓	
201	Make up layer	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy gravel 0.24m thick,	✓	
202	Dump material	Friable mid grey black clay silt occasional small CBM, frequent small stone occasional medium stones 0.25m thick.	es,	
203	External surface	Cemented mid grey black tarmac 0.2m thick. Older car park surface below (200).	v 🗸	
204	Make up layer	Compact light pinkish brown sandy gravel 0.10m thick. Make-up for surface (203).	✓	
205	Dump material	Friable dark grey brown clay silt frequent flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones 0.31m thick.	- 🗸	
206	Dump material	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt occasional small-medium CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, occasional flecks sand, frequent small-large stones 0.94m thick.	✓	
209	Dump material	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-large CBM, frequent fleck charcoal, occasional small-medium stones Deposit left in situ in base of trench. >0.33m thick. Contained occasional modern glass, white glazed china (not kept).		
210	Make up layer	Compact mid brown yellow clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones 0.09m thick.	✓	
211	Wall	Linear NE-SW sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.42m, max depth 0.61m, min length 2.m	✓	
212	Wall	Western face made up of machine made bricks; eastern face of roughly hewn, medium sized sandstone blocks.	✓	
213	Wall	Friable mid red brown clay silt occasional small stones Backfill of foundation or for wall (212).	ut 🗸	
214	Wall	Linear NNW-SSE sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.49m, max depth 0.65m, min length 2.m	, v	
215	Wall	Roughly hewn small and medium sized sandstone blocks capped by machine-made brick. Recorded in section only.	✓	
216	Wall	Friable mid red brown clay silt occasional small stones Backfill of foundation or for wall (215).	ut 🗸	
217	Well	Circular sides: vertical dimensions: min depth 0.91m, max diameter 1.75m		
218	Well	Machine-made brick, double skinned circular well, lined internally with smooth grey concreted plaster.		
219	Well	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones Fill contained fragments of slate, white glazed china and modern glass (not kept).		
220	Wall	Linear E-W sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.6m, max depth 0.66m, min length 1.9m	✓	
221	Wall	Remains of sandstone masonry only recorded in northern section. Most likely remains of a wall on an ENE-WSW alignment, perpendicular and related to wall (214)?	✓	
222	Modern disturbance	Rectangular sides: vertical Possible cut for a service pipe. A vertical wide ceramic pipe was revealed in sondage cut in western end of Trench 2.	✓	



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

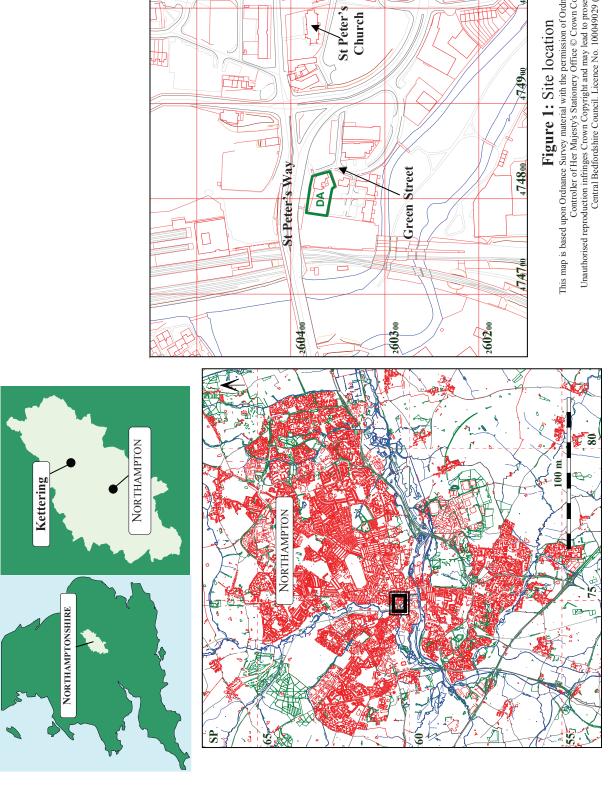
Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 74793: Northing: 60366)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting: 74805: Northing: 60368*)

Reason: To locate alignment of medieval defensive ditch.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
207	Backfill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt frequent flecks charcoal, occasional small stor 0.14m thick.	es 🗸	
208	Backfill	Friable light yellow brown clay silt occasional small stones 0.46m thick.	✓	
223	Alluvium	Friable mid brown red sandy clay moderate flecks charcoal, occasional sm mortar, occasional small stones Very clean and homogenous, well-sorted deposit. Contained one fragment of pottery and a metal object (small find r 1). More crumbly than (224) below. C. 1.1m thick. Exposed in sondage cut eastern end of Trench 2.	10.	✓
224	Natural	Mid brown red silty clay		





-100 m

475100

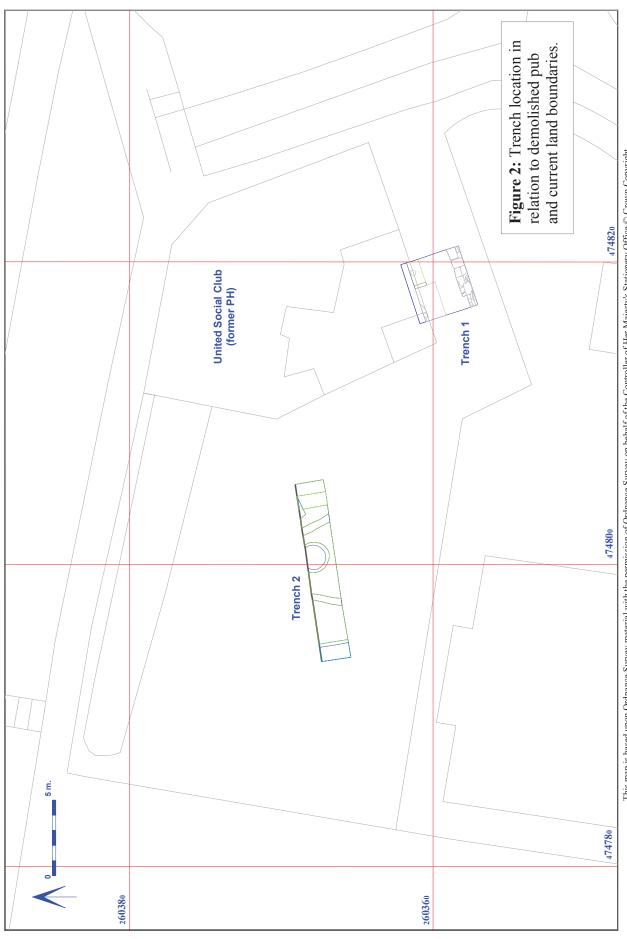
475000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright.

Unauthorised reproduction infinges Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)

Albion Archaeology



This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright.

Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.



Figure 3: Trench 1 – plan, section and photographs

Albion Archaeology

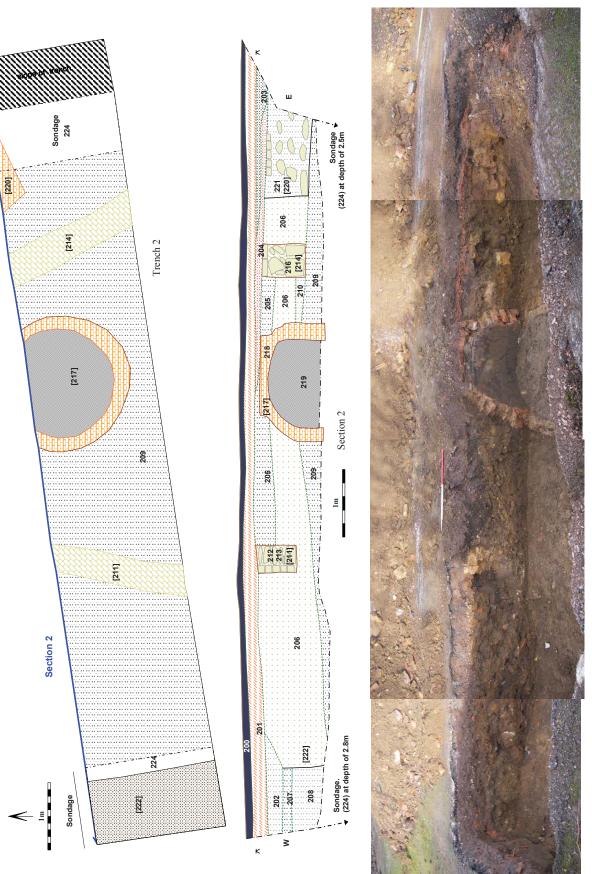


Photo mosaic of Trench 2. Looking north. Scale 1m

Figure 4: Trench 2 – plan, section and photographs



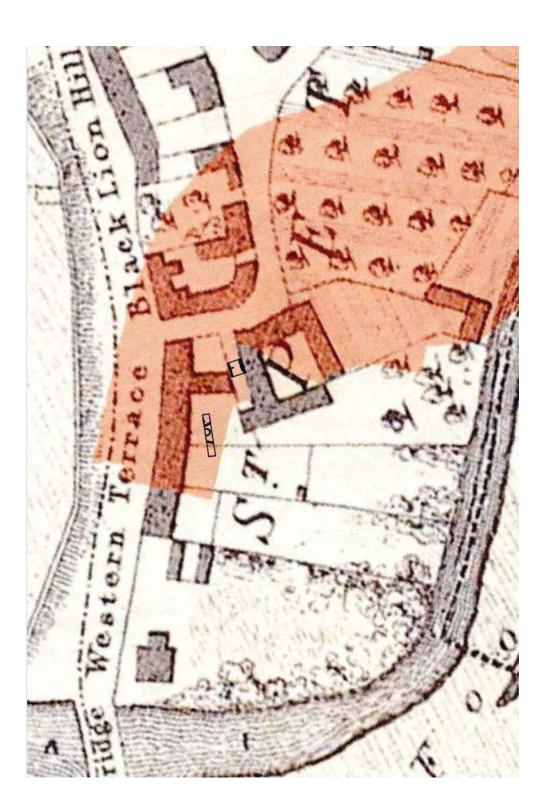


Figure 5: Trenches overlaid onto 1847 Wood and Law's map. Position approximate.

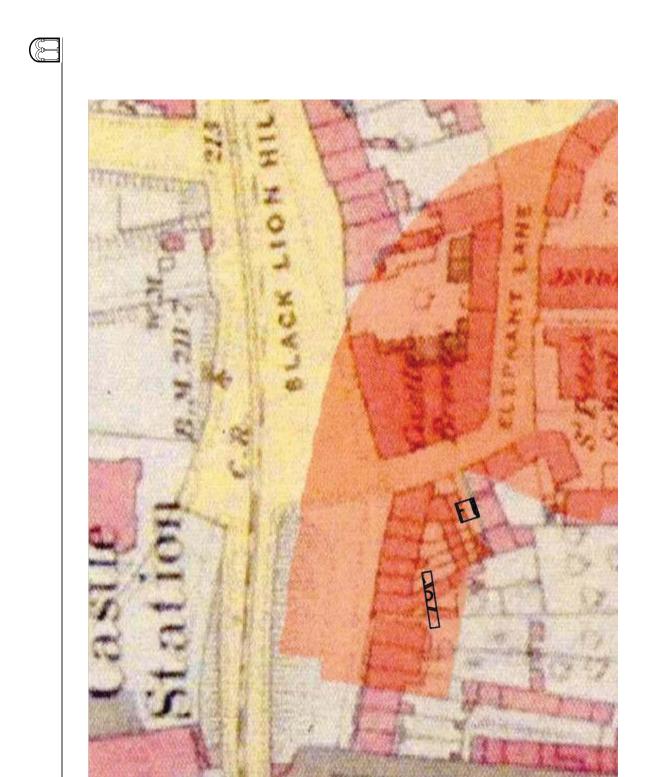


Figure 6: Trenches overlaid onto 1887 first edition OS map. Position approximate





Trench 2 Sondage western end, looking south (staff extended to 3m)



Trench 2 Sondage eastern end, looking north (staff extended to 3m)



Trench 1 Sondage, looking east (staff extended to 3m)

Figure 7: Sondages



Albion archaeology



Albion Archaeology St Mary's Church St Mary's Street Bedford MK42 0AS

Telephone 01234 294000 **Email** office@albion-arch.com www.albion-arch.com

