



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation at Torrington Avenue, Coventry



Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House

Wootton Hall Park

Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

Danny McAree

Report 10/18

February 2010



STAFF

Project manager	Iain Soden BA MIfA
Text	Danny McAree MA MBA PG Dip PIfA
Documentary sources	Iain Soden
Fieldwork	Danny McAree Adrian Adams Jonathon Elston Mark Patenall
Pottery	Iain Soden
Ceramic building materials	Pat Chapman
The other finds	Tora Hylton
Illustrations	Amir Bassir BSc

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Grateful thanks are given to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust for permission to use an extract from the Mathias Barker Map of the Stoneleigh estate, 1766-67 (DR671/31/a/b, Fig 2). Grateful thanks are also given to Warwickshire County Record Office for use of an extract of the Stoneleigh Tithe map 1846 (CR569/213, Fig 4).

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		25.1.10
Verified by	Iain Soden		10.12.09
Approved by	Steve Parry		26.1.10

TORRINGTON AVENUE, COVENTRY

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Torrington Avenue, Coventry	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out trial trench excavation on land off Torrington Avenue Coventry. Thirteen trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision. The west of the site had been extensively terraced for playing fields, removing all earlier land surfaces and archaeology. To the east, although the land had been levelled and terraced for the construction of offices and car parking, occasional fragments of foundations of the mapped 19th-century farmhouse, barns and yards survived amidst the modern disturbance. No archaeological remains of earlier periods were present.	
Project type	Trial Trench Evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Site of sports field, offices and car parking	
Future work	None	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds	Foundations of 18th-century farm buildings	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	West Midlands	
Site address	Torrington Avenue, Coventry	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	3ha	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 2902 7794	
Height OD	100m OD rising to 106m OD to the north	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Coventry City Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Danny McAree	
Project Manager	Iain Soden	
Sponsor or funding body	Mar City Developments Limited	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	7th March 2008	
End date	3rd August 2009	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		Trench reports, 13 plans, photographs, slides, digital photographs. 1 box of finds.
Paper		Site records. Drawings. Report
Digital		Digital report with illustrations.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Torrington Avenue, Coventry	
Serial title & volume	NA Report 10/18	
Author(s)	Danny McAree	
Page numbers	27	
Date	April 2010	

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Planning and archaeological background

2.2 Topography and geology

3 OBJECTIVES

4 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT

4.1 Documentary sources

4.2 Historic environment records

4.3 Historic maps

5 TRIAL TRENCH EXCAVATION

5.1 Methodology

5.2 Excavated evidence, Trenches 1-5

5.3 Excavated evidence, Trenches 6-13

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Pottery by Iain Soden

6.2 Ceramic building materials by Pat Chapman

6.3 The other finds by Tora Hylton

7 CONCLUSIONS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Context descriptions

TABLES

Table 1 Pottery sherd count by context and fabric

Table 2 Brick dimensions

FIGURES

- Fig 1: Site location
- Fig 2: Extract from Mathias Barker's map of Fletchamstead, 1766
- Fig 3: Mathias Barker's plan of Fletchamstead Hall, 1766
- Fig 4: Extract from Stoneleigh Tithe Map, 1846
- Fig 5: Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1887
- Fig 6: House at Fletchamstead Hall c 1930s, looking north
- Fig 7: Overlay of 1766 map onto First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1887
- Fig 8: Extract from Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1903
- Fig 9: Aerial photograph of site prior to demolition and clearance 2005
- Fig 10: Sports field looking north to artificial terrace
- Fig 11: The upper sports field, looking south-east over the lower terrace
- Fig 12: Trench locations
- Fig 13: Trench plan, trenches 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 13
- Fig 14: Plan of archaeological features in trenches 6, 7 and 10
- Fig 15: Trench 6, clinker surface, concrete and steel stanchion, looking north
- Fig 16: Trench 7, partially exposed walls and cobbled surface (724) looking east
- Fig 17: Plan of archaeological features, trench 10
- Fig 18: Trench 10, walls, and cobbled surface (724) looking east
- Fig 19: Trench 10, well [1056] below cobbled surface, looking south
- Fig 20: Trench 10, walls and brick surfaces, looking east
- Fig 21: Trench 10, foundation, walls and brick floor, looking south
- Fig 22: Trench 10, external brick access, threshold and internal floor, looking east
- Fig 23: Trench 10, sandstone wall foundation on sandstone bedrock, looking east
- Fig 24: Trench plan, Trenches 11, 11A and 12
- Fig 25: Trench 12, sandstone wall foundation, looking north
- Fig 26: Trench 12, post base and post pipe, looking north

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT
TORRINGTON AVENUE, COVENTRY
MARCH 2008 – AUGUST 2009**

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out trial trench excavation on land off Torrington Avenue Coventry. Thirteen trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision. The west of the site had been extensively terraced for playing fields, removing all earlier land surfaces and archaeology. To the east, although the land had been levelled and terraced for the construction of offices and car parking, occasional fragments of foundations of the mapped 19th-century farmhouse, barns and yards survived amidst the modern disturbance. No archaeological remains of earlier periods were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

Between March 2008 and August 2009, Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook an historic environment assessment and trial trench evaluation on behalf of Mar City Developments Limited, on 3ha of land off Torrington Avenue, Coventry (NGR SP 2902 7794, Fig 1). The work was conducted in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (McAree 2008) and approved by Coventry City Council.

The project was undertaken at the request Coventry City Council's Planning Archaeologist in response to an application for future development of the site.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Planning and archaeological background

Mar City Developments Limited has been granted outline planning permission to develop the land for housing, access roads and landscaping (Application No 53422). No previous archaeological work had been undertaken on the site.

2.2 Topography and geology

The site lies to the north of Torrington Avenue; it is bounded to the north by the grounds of Tile Hill College, to the east by Torrington Depot and to the west by recent housing development at Hedgefield Way. The irregularly-shaped site had been extensively terraced to provide level areas used as sports fields to the west, while to the east the area is covered with single storey office and residential accommodation. It is located at c100m OD along Torrington Avenue, rising to 106m OD to the north.

The geology of the area is mapped as Permian and Triassic Mudstones and Bromsgrove sandstone overlain by glacial till including Bunter and Keuper clays intermixed with sands and gravel along the river valleys (www.bgs.ac.uk).

3 OBJECTIVES

The general objectives of the work were defined in a brief prepared by Coventry City Council's Planning Archaeologist. They were:

- To prepare a detailed assessment of the development site's historical and archaeological potential
- To identify evidence for the survival of buried archaeological remains on the site that may be threatened by the development
- To determine the depth of burial, character, date, extent and state of preservation of any such remains.

The site specific objectives were:

- To recover evidence of pre-medieval land use
- To recover evidence of the medieval hermitage
- To recover evidence of the manor of the Knights Templar
- To recover evidence of post-medieval buildings associated with Fletchamstead Hall.

4 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT

4.1 Documentary sources by Iain Soden

Fletchamstead

At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, Stoneleigh was an estate of 6 hides but had probably been a *vill* of 10 hides during the reign of Edward the Confessor. By 1086, three hides at *Optone* (most probably to be identified with Leek Wootton) and three virgates at Kenilworth had been separated from the main estate. William the Conqueror retained the estate for himself.

The site proper comprised the core of a farm-holding, properly called a *camera*, of the military order of the Knights Templar. The Fletchamstead camera was founded by Roger Mowbray, Earl of Warwick between 1134 and 1154 with royal support (Knowles and Hadcock 1971, 290-7). In the later medieval period an entry in the Stoneleigh Leger Book recorded the foundation of the estate at Fletchamstead:

The Prior of the Hospital of St John at Fletchamstead a certain chantry or hermitage which Henry I gave (1100-35) to a certain priest and hermit called Gerard, with one carucate of land with appurtenances around the said chantry....This Gerard held the said chantry for life; he died there and was buried in the chapel he dedicated there. Following his death the King gave the said chantry to a certain priest called Brian, brother to a certain Templar, Peter Lomsey. This Templar sent Brian away on Templar business in Ireland. The same Templar had set up the said chantry in the Chapel of Fletchamsted on the King's behalf. While in Ireland Brian died. Thus with the said chantry in their possession following Brian's death, the Templars occupied the hermitage.

The Lord King Henry (II: 1154-89) gave the said hermitage to a certain priest, Robert for life, and to the Templar Brethren after his death according to the terms of their charter:

'Henry, by the grace of God King etc. Know all that I have given in pure and perpetual alms for the love of God and the salvation of my soul to Brother Robert Pyroun to the work of the house of the said Temple, my land in Fletchamstead with rents, service and appurtenances.

I wish and firmly resolve that the same Brother Robert Pyroun should have and hold that land for the term of his life and that the master of the Temple after that [should have it] with all appurtenances to hold in peace and quiet etc. Witnessed etc'. (I Soden, translated from the Latin in Hilton 1950).

To all intents and purposes the Fletchamstead Templar holding was complete. Fletchamstead as a whole (Some documents separate the Over- and Nether- portions) was recorded as having 28 tenants and 2 subtenants as early as 1280. Some of these would have been Templar tenants. In 1305 13 of them owned sufficient goods to pay tax (43%). Numbers in 1280 were greater than either Stivichall (17 and 7) or Canley (15 and 10) while in 1305 their relative wealth lay between the two (in Stivichall 10 were eligible to be taxed (41%) and in Canley 16 (64%)).

The Templars held the said hermitage by virtue of this charter right up to the destruction of their order (1308). The lands passed back to the Mowbray family for a short while before being redistributed to the Knights Hospitaller. In 1322, Brother Guy Forest, master of the Knights Hospitaller in England and his brothers petitioned from William, Abbott of Stoneleigh and his convent for 100 marks (£66) and the relaxation of all debts that they held in common amongst the woods, pastures and lands of the Abbott of Stoneleigh, 180 acres plus 12 acres of waste in Westwood (south of Charter Avenue or north of Tile Hill Lane), with one whole rental and service which the Abbott held out of the holdings of the Master of the Templars in Fletchamstead, except the rent of John son of Nicholas without any service held of the Abbott rent and service-free from the said brethren of the Templars in Fletchamstead which they had held previously from them, as set out and contained in full in the indenture. This is the tone of the indenture:

'Let all agree, whether they read or hear this, that the Abbott and Convent of Stoneleigh have granted on theirs and their successors' behalf to the master and brethren of the Knights Templar in England and their successors 180 acres and 12 acres in Westwood in the manor of Stoneleigh, at a measurement of 24 feet per perch, to be measured and enclosed and to be held in severalty for ever for the common good, which the master himself and the brethren and their men shall have within the manor of Stoneleigh. And 110 acres of his waste for 100 marks of silver from the said master and brethren.' (I Soden, translated from the Latin in Hilton, 1950)

From this time Fletchamstead was increasingly run by the Hospitallers out of the Temple Balsall preceptory and from the 1420s it came under the possessions of the Prior of the Order (Larking 1857, 179-81). It probably had a staff of only two or three and most land would have been let out. Documents suggest that some of it at least was waste.

In 1535, when the Crown began to list the lands at Stoneleigh prior to Dissolution, it noted that the Abbey had recently sold (to Lord Leigh?) a huge 548 acres of land in the immediate Fletchamstead/Horewell area (Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, of the 30 year of Henry VIII, record 1191). This may explain why so little record of the former Templar and Hospitaller holdings appears in the early post-Dissolution landscape, they had already been disposed of by Stoneleigh on their behalf.

The development site lies at the centre of a land-holding which can be traced back with some certainty to 1597 (Coventry HER Field Names from 1597 Goodwin Map). Unfortunately few of the names given on the 1597 Goodwin map can be traced back into the medieval period. In 1597 the land belonged to the Lords Leigh, bought from Stoneleigh Abbey.

Most names at that time seem to relate to recent enclosures and to the uses to which the plots were put, Meadow, Copse etc, or to Lord Leigh's tenants by name, Derham, Sadler etc.

One plot at the east end of the site is anomalous, however, and relates to an adjacent holding which allows greater documentary transparency back into the medieval period (see land to the east, below).

Land to the north

The Knights' Templar holding eventually comprised some 360 acres but it seems to have had some near neighbours. In c1250 a series of Stoneleigh Abbey ledger observations note a row of tenants of small holdings along Tile Hill Lane (referred to as Kingslane, and King's Highway) as follows (all in Hilton 1950):

- 3a waste, of Henry Hunt, from King's Highway towards Coventry right up to Temple Waste which is called Tile Hill
- 2a, of John Herning, next to Palmers land (Palmer is unknown), extending from the King's Highway to Templewaste
- 1a, of John Herning, from King's Highway to North Waste (north side of Tile Hill Lane)

North of Tile Hill Lane (and Lamb Fielde of 1597) lay Norwast, its name traceable to 1324, and still noted in 20th-century Ordnance Survey maps as a single property.

Land to the east

The only plot on the site which can in itself be traced directly back from 1597 is that of Mr Smith's Freehoule (MCT 2781) which is the western extremity of a deer park created in 1492-3 by John Smyth (MP for Coventry in 1491), or part of an enlargement by his son Henry Smyth, which he completed in 1504-5. In order to create the park, John and Henry Smyth bought all the land that had previously belonged to the Stoneleigh Cistercians in Over Fletchamstead. They had been experiencing growing penury in respect of their Fletchamstead property, which included bankruptcies in the generation after the Black Death. The park amounted to 230 acres and, in the process the hamlets of Horewell/Over Fletchamstead were depopulated of their 26 inhabitants and four houses were destroyed (Leadam 1897; II: 440-1, cited in Soden 1991). The deer park remained in existence until at least 1656 (Dugdale 1656 (1730), 200-201).

Contemporary documents state of Henry's enlargement in 1504-5:

'elargavit parcum predictum et illas imparcavit et inclusit palis et fossis et sic tenet messuagia et cottagia illa in decasum et ruinam voluntarie permisit et adhuc permittit et terras illas in pastura ferarum et aliorum animalium convertit et illis sic adhuc usus est ob quod duo aratra detrahuntur et viginti persone suis laboribus mansionibus carent et messuagia' (Leadam 1897, 440-1).

Translation | Soden: (he enlarged the said park and imparked (the tenements) and encircled them with a fence/bank and ditch and there reduced the messuages and cottages to a state of ruin, converting the lands to pasture for wild beasts and other animals; there he caused two ploughs to be made redundant and twenty people were dispossessed of their livelihoods and their homes).

The hamlets of Horewell (the more prominent) and Fletchamstead (with which it is associated) can be traced back to a core holding acquired and collated by Abbott Osbert between 1231 and 1258 (Hilton 1950, 252 (fol 180)). By 1291 it had become the site of a monastic grange, worth 14s a year to Stoneleigh Abbey (Records Comm. 1803, 255). From the late 14th to the 16th centuries the land was variously described as containing a grange, a cell, closes, tenements and lands (Soden 1991). The Horewell holding was rented out from 1331-2 as a later lease of 1363-4 makes specific mention of the earlier arrangement. This was ratified by the crown the following year (Calendar Patent Rolls 39 Edward III, 2.m15).

This lease gives the northern abuttal of the park as Bassetts Waste, which appears on documents of 1331, 1365, 1392 (Hilton 1950), and the Goodwin Map of 1597.

Its northern portion seems to have been previously included in 6 acres of land and tenements called Legetes Wastes, described as lying between Bassetts waste and land of William Lichfield called Haytele or Hethesale (later Hearsall Common). Legetes Wastes lay within the purview of the Manor of Whoberley (1372; Hilton 1950).

Land to the south

South of both the Templar holding and the deer park of the Smyths lay a group of plots which can be traced in the medieval period as Ten Shilling Grove, Longewast (1304), Slobed (1303) ['slob' = marshy/boggy ground]; Slowe Beards in 1597 and Sownes. These bordered the south side of what is today Charter Avenue (Soden 1991).

To the west lay the woods and plantations of Tile Hill.

The land passed through the family until 1699 when it too was sold to Lord Leigh and became part of the Stoneleigh estate. It is probable that this holding is marked by Fletchamstead Farm located to the south-east of the development site.

4.2 Historic environment records

A search of Coventry's Sites and Monuments Records database was made within a 500m radius of the site producing 146 records, all identified and overlain on the modern digital mapping of the area.

4.3 Historic maps

The earliest pictorial record of the site is on John Goodwin's 1597 "*Plot of the Severall Grounds Lying in Hurste, Flechamstead and Candley*". The medieval hall cannot be identified on this map although a number of buildings are shown to the south of the present development site. It must be assumed that these may include the early manor and farm buildings associated with the Templar and Hospitaller occupation of the site.

The 'fair house' built by Sir Thomas Leigh in the late 16th century is probably the building shown on the 1766 estate map collated by Mathias Barker (Fig 2). The house is located about 50m to the south of what is now the line of Torrington Avenue and can be identified from comparison with a general ground floor plan of the house that still survives (Fig 3).

To the north of the house and located about 10m-15m to the south of the development lies an L-shaped structure enclosing a large yard open to the west. The north range measures about 40m long and 8m wide, with the east range being about 30m long and 8m wide. Further west, two small rectangular structures lie just to the west of the modern line of Wolfe Road.

Immediately to the west lies a sub-rectangular pond, aligned roughly north to south, about 85m long and up to 16m wide. To the south of the house lie two more oval ponds, each up to 30m long and 20m wide.

To the east of the house, another L-shaped building with a smaller rectangular structure to the east lies within a small enclosure.

These buildings probably represent the stables, coach houses, storage and ancillary buildings related to the post-medieval occupation of the site.

Towards the north of the development site, there were two L-shaped buildings forming a roughly east west alignment and separated by a gap of about 6-8m. The buildings formed three sides to a large enclosure or yard open to the south. The north range of the building to the west was 16m long and 8m wide with a 12m long and 8m wide west range. Immediately to the south and offset to the west of this range was another rectangular building 16m long and 8m wide. A small rectangular building was located to the south and east. The north range of the building to the east was 14m long and 8m wide with an east range 16m long and 8m. Immediately to the south of this range lies another large pond or lake, roughly tear shaped and aligned north to south it was roughly 50m long and up to 10m wide. These buildings seem to form a cohesive arrangement around a large yard or enclosure, most probably agricultural buildings, barns, animal hovels and ancillary buildings.

Between 1450 and 1463, the estate papers record a William Lysterly and his son, also William, holding property in Fletchamstead. Their occupation is recorded as 'fisher' or 'fisherman' (Shakespeare Birthplace Trust DR/18/1/862-865). The presence of 'fishermen' at Fletchamstead may indicate that the lakes or ponds shown on the historic mapping were medieval fishponds, although it remains possible these are garden features associated with the new house built in the 16th century.

The 1846 Stoneleigh Estate Tithe map shows little change from the detail shown on the 18th century mapping (Fig 4).

By the time of the 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping, the entire site had undergone massive clearance and redevelopment (Fig 5). The London and North West Railway had been built through Tile Hill in 1850 and is located just to the south of the site of the 16th century Fletchamstead Hall. The house, outbuildings and large lake had all been cleared, only the two smaller sub-circular lakes survived as landscape features.

To the north, the lake and the range of buildings around the large yard appear to have been cleared, the site now occupied by the upper part of a range of buildings around two open courtyards, forming a stylised figure '8' (Fig 5).

An overlay superimposing the 1766 mapped buildings onto the First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping of 1888 show that the new buildings occupy the same general area but do not match the exact outline of the new buildings. It seems highly likely that the older buildings were demolished to make way for the new build (Fig 6). In either event, this new structure survived from the late 19th and through much of the 20th century until its demolition and clearance in the 1960s.

A substantial rectangular building with a small projection in the centre of the south façade had been built to the east (Fig 5). This matches the location and profile of a substantial detached house with a front porch that survived until the 1960s clearance of the site (Fig 7).

A detached range of buildings around a rectangular yard is shown to the west. This may mark either a stable block or additional farm and ancillary buildings.

A long rectangular building had been erected to the north of this range between the First edition mapping of 1887 and the map of 1903 (Fig 8). On the 1937 map, this structure doubled in size and continued to be marked on subsequent mapping until demolition and clearance in the 1960s.

The mapping indicates that an early track or road crossed the site of the putative early manor and later Fletchamstead Hall. It lies along the line of Wolfe Road from where it passes beneath the railway to the south, extends through the present site and terminates on Tile Hill Lane to the north.

The map regression indicates that the early focus of activity on the site was to the south, between what is now Torrington Avenue and the present railway embankment. The main house and buildings lay to the east of the line of modern Wolfe Road with two detached ancillary buildings and a pond to the west. These were all lost in the years between 1846 when the Tithe Map was drawn up and the survey for the First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping in 1888.

Within the development area, the early focus of activity had been generally to the north and east of the site with four buildings around a large yard or enclosure with a pond to the east. These appear to have been cleared and the site redeveloped with the construction of a new house to the east of the old lake location. Two ranges of probable agricultural buildings forming a stylised figure 8 occupy the earlier yard and buildings area and a new range has been built to the west. The old field boundary that lay further to the west was removed and a new field boundary flanked the west side of new buildings on the west of the site. This arrangement of buildings and boundaries remained roughly unchanged until the extension of Torrington Avenue from the A45 Coventry By-Pass in the east to Tile Hill village and the development of factories and houses along this road during the Second World War.

Aerial photography from 1947 shows the general site layout (although in very poor detail). It is just possible to distinguish the house to the east and the main range of buildings. The west range is sadly obscured by cloud (Fig 9). The site of the earlier hall and buildings to the south of Torrington Avenue are occupied by factories erected after the 1938 map revision and clearly in place by 1947. Most of these buildings were known locally as 'shadow factories' and were built during the war years to manufacture munitions and components for the war effort. The modern aerial photography shows the post 1960s development. The whole site was cleared and the land to the west levelled and terraced for a sports field. The site of the house and late 19th century farm buildings was cleared and the site stripped and terraced for single storey office and accommodation buildings, roads, car parking and landscaped recreation areas (Fig 10).

5 TRIAL TRENCH EXCAVATION

5.1 Methodology

All trenches were located following on site discussion and agreement between Chris Patrick, Planning Archaeologist, Coventry City Council and Danny McAree, Senior Project Supervisor, Northamptonshire Archaeology.

The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 1.7m-wide ditching bucket. Subsoil and topsoil, where present, were removed to expose the upper strata of geology and stored separately. Final trench positions were re-surveyed in relation to the Ordnance Survey using a Leica GPS survey instrument.

Once opened, hand excavation and recording of trenches progressed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation (McAree 2008). Following the completion of the archaeological work the trenches were backfilled.

The site was evaluated in three main phases. From 7th–9th March 2008, five trenches, totalling 4267 square metres were opened on the terraced playing fields to the west of the site.

From 23rd–25th June 2008, four trenches, totalling 1765 square metres, were excavated across the north of the eastern half of the site.

The final phase was the excavation of four trenches totalling 954 square metres across the remainder of the eastern area of the site. These were excavated commencing in September 2008 as the remaining buildings on site were vacated, demolished and the site became available for trenching. The final buildings were cleared and the last trench excavated in August 2009.

5.2 Excavated evidence, the Sports Field, Trenches 1-5

The natural subsoil exposed across the site was red sandy clay banded with ribbons of stiff red/pink silt clays, stiff grey stagnolic gley clays, coarse red and yellow sands and gravel. There were occasional patches of yellow, but occasionally pink, fine soft sand.

The underlying red sandstone was exposed at depths of no more than 0.1m to 0.5m across the site where soil stripping and terracing of the site for 20th-century development had removed the original soil surface and modified the natural site contours.

The site to the west, the sports field, had clearly been terraced with Trenches 1, 2 and 3 on the lower terrace and Trenches 4 and 5 on the upper, artificial terrace (Figs 7 and 8).

Trench 1

Trench 1 (61m x 1.7m, Fig 9) was aligned roughly north-north-west to south-south-east along the eastern boundary of the sports field adjacent to Torrington Avenue. The natural orange-brown sandy clay banded with coarse sands and gravels (105) was exposed 0.72m deep at the north of the trench dropping to 1.3m at the south.

At about 19m from the north end of the trench and only partially exposed along the east of the excavation was an irregular pit [111] 2.2m long, 0.67m wide and 0.15m deep. It had irregular shallow sloping sides to a dished base. It was filled with red-orange sandy clay (110). There were no finds or inclusions in this pit fill.

A further 29m south, a ditch [121] was aligned roughly north to south across the trench. It was 1.7m wide and 0.4m deep with 60° sloping sides to a slightly dished base. It was filled with orange-grey sandy clay (120) containing occasional small sub rounded gravel up to 15mm diameter and occasional flecks of charcoal.

Immediately to the south was a modern machine cut drainage channel [125] 0.2m wide and 0.3m deep filled with redeposited upcast (124) and containing a terracotta land drain.

There were also a series of irregular machine cut trenches and pits spread along the length of the trench. All were dated to the mid-late 20th century by the fills containing quantities of modern builders' detritus, plastic wrapping and drink cans.

The natural was overlain and blended with orange-grey sandy clay subsoil (104) that survived in occasional patches up to 0.1m deep. The subsoil and remaining natural was sealed below a layer of orange-brown coarse gritty sand (103) up to 0.2m deep. This was

covered with a dump of mixed re-deposited orange-grey sandy clay and dark brown sandy clay loam (102) containing builders' or demolition debris and modern plastic wrappers.

This layer was up to 0.4m deep. Covering the whole of the trench was a layer of dark brown sandy clay loam topsoil (101) which varied in thickness from 0.2m at the north of the trench to barely 0.1m at the south.

Trench 2

Trench 2 (62m x 1.7m, Fig 9) was aligned roughly east-north-east to west-south-west across the southern part of the sports field. The natural orange-brown sandy clay banded with coarse sands and gravels (207) was exposed at about 1.25m deep at the eastern end of the trench, dipping to about 1.58m deep to the south-west.

About 26m from the eastern end of the trench, a layer of grey/brown sandy silt (206) up to 0.05m deep sealed the natural across the full width of the excavation and extended to the west end of the trench. It was overlain by a layer of red silt clay (205) visible only in patches, and only 0.01-0.02m thick. This was covered with a layer of grey silt clay (204) up to 0.15m deep which extended across the southern part of the trench. This blended with a layer of dark grey-black coarse gritty sand and gravel (203) up to 0.03m deep.

This trench also contained a land drain [210], a modern soakaway [212] and a builders' rubbish pit [209]. All were dated by the fills containing late 20th century builders' detritus, plastic sheet, food wrappings and drink cans.

The whole trench was then sealed below a dump of re-deposited orange-grey sandy clay and dark brown sandy clay loam (202) containing fragments of modern builders' or demolition debris and modern plastic and foil food wrappings and drinks cans. This layer varied between 0.8m and 1.1m deep. Covering the whole of the trench was a layer of dark brown sandy clay loam topsoil (201) which varied in thickness from 0.02m at the east of the trench to 0.1m at the west.

Trench 3

Trench 3 (37m x 1.7m, Fig 9) was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west at the western edge of the lower part of the sports field. The natural orange-brown sandy clay banded with coarse sands and gravels (304) was revealed at 1.5m below the ground surface at the south, dipping to 1.95m at the centre and rising to 1.05m deep at the northern end of the trench.

This trench contained a land drain [306] and a modern 9" concrete pipe trench [308].

Sealing the natural was a layer of grey silt clay subsoil (303) varying in depth from 0.2m in the east, to 0.3m in the west. It had been truncated during stripping and levelling of the site for the construction of sports facilities.

The whole trench was then covered in a dump of re-deposited orange-grey sandy clay and dark brown sandy clay loam (302) containing occasional fragments of modern builders' or demolition debris, abundant coarse gravel and rounded stones and occasional modern plastic food wrappings and drinks cans.

This layer varied between 0.8m deep in the south-west to 1.4m deep in the north-east. Covering this dump of material was a layer of dark brown sandy clay loam topsoil (301) varied in thickness from 0.15m at the north-east of the trench to 0.1m at the south-west.

Trench 4

Trench 4 (40m x 1.7m, Fig 9) was aligned north-east to south-west in the north-west of the upper terrace of the sports field. The natural orange-brown sandy clay banded with

coarse sands and gravels (404) was exposed at 1.6m deep at the east of the trench and 2.3m at the west.

The only features exposed in this trench were a machine cut service trench [406] containing pre-cast concrete sewer pipes (407) and a pre-cast concrete ring manhole and access shaft encased in concrete. Associated with this as a dump of waste concrete (405) 4m long, 2m wide and 0.6m deep only 0.2m below the modern ground surface.

At the south of the trench and extending about 10m along the length of the trench was a layer of grey silt clay (403) varying in depth from 0.1m to 0.35 at the south.

This part of the site had been modified by the dumping of huge quantities of mixed orange-brown sandy clay and gravel (402) containing mixed builders' and demolition debris containing 20th-century crockery, aluminium drink cans and plastic food wrappers.

This mixed deposit varied between 0.9m deep at the north to 2.3m deep at the south. Covering this dump of material was a layer of dark brown sandy clay loam topsoil (401) that varied in thickness from 0.2m at the north of the trench to 0.6m at the south. The modern ground surface lies at about 2.3m above the lower terrace along the north side of Torrington Avenue. The made ground was unstable and continually collapsed when excavated.

Trench 5

Trench 5 (51m x 1.7m, Fig 9) was in the north-east of the upper terrace of the sports field, and aligned slightly north-north-east to south-south-west. The natural orange-brown sandy clay banded with coarse sands and gravels (504) was exposed 0.95m below the modern ground surface in the north, exhibiting a natural slope to 1.45m deep at the south.

This trench contained a 'horseshoe' land drain [513] and a series of machine cut trenches [509], [510], [511] and [512] at about 10m intervals filled with redeposited upcast (515) containing 0.1m diameter plastic land drains in 2m long sections.

The natural was visible only in patches being sealed across the majority of the trench by a layer of grey silt clay (505) varying in depth from 0.06m in the north, to 0.2m in the south. The top of the grey silt layer blended with a band of black coarse sandy grit and gravel (504) averaging about 0.1m deep along the length of the trench. This was in turn covered with a layer of grey coarse sand and gravel (503) varying from 0.1m-0.15m deep along the trench. The gravel was buried below a dump of mixed orange-brown sandy clay and gravel (502) containing large amounts of mixed builders' and demolition debris including broken brick, tile, glass and concrete. This layer contained fragments of utilitarian blue and white wares of the 20th century, fragments of glass bottles, aluminium drink cans and plastic food wrappers.

The whole area was then covered in a layer of dark brown-black sandy clay loam topsoil (501) varying from 0.4m to 0.8m deep along the excavation, being deeper to the south.

5.3 Excavated evidence, the demolition area, Trenches 6-13

Trench 6 – The Dutch barn

Trench 6 (30m x 1.7m, Figs 10 and 11) was located to the east of the field boundary between the sports ground to the west and the built and developed area to the east. The trench lay in the north-west of this area and was aligned roughly north-north-east to south-south-west. The natural orange-brown sandy clay banded with coarse sands and gravels (605) was exposed at about 1.15m deep along the length of the excavation.

At the north end of the trench, the natural was sealed by a layer of yellow-brown sandy

clay (604) up to 0.2m deep. This appears to have been the original subsoil of this part of the site.

It had clearly been truncated in site stripping and levelling but had remained open long enough to develop a layer of new growth leaving a barely discernible layer of oxidised soil and decomposed vegetation (603) only 0.01m thick across the first 7m of the trench.

At about 7m from the north end of the trench, a foundation trench [606] aligned west-east cut across the full width of the trench and extended 20m to the south. It had sloping sides to a flat base roughly 0.25m deep. Cutting the natural within this pit were two smaller pits, [608] and [610]. Both were sub-rectangular, roughly 1m long and 0.8m wide and exposed up to 0.5m deep. Both pits contained concrete bases retaining steel 'H' beam stanchions (609) and (610). In both cases the steel beam had been cut off just above the concrete base. Filling the trench and packed around the two concrete stanchion supports was a layer of dark grey-black ash and clinker (607) forming a compact surface across the whole area (Fig 12).

Overlaying the pit and buried soil was a dump of red-orange-brown sandy clay and gravel (602) 0.75m deep, containing builders' and demolition debris including broken brick, tile, plastic, glass and concrete. This was covered in a layer of dark brown-black sandy clay loam topsoil (601) averaging a depth of about 0.2m along the length of the trench.

Trench 7- the cobbled surface

Trench 7 (27m x 1.7m, Figs 10 and 11) was located in the north of the eastern half of the site and was aligned roughly west to east. The natural orange-brown sandy clay banded with coarse sands and gravels (705) was exposed at about 1m deep at the west of the trench, rising too about 0.75m at the east.

This trench contained land drains and part of a 50mm (2") diameter lead composition water pipe.

At the east of the trench, brick walls and part of a cobbled surface were partially exposed at the end of the trench (Fig 13, for details see Trench 10 below).

Due to the presence of occupied buildings, footpaths and live services associated with the continued occupation of the site, further work on this part of the trench was deferred until the building to the east was demolished. Trench 10 re-exposed these features and revealed associated features to the east.

Sealing the natural at the west and central areas of the trench was a layer of yellow-brown sandy clay (704) up to 0.2m deep. This appears to have been the original subsoil of this part of the site. It had clearly been truncated in site stripping and levelling but had remained open long enough to develop a layer of new growth leaving a barely discernible layer of oxidised soil and decomposed vegetation (703) only 0.01m thick visible only in the first 1.5m at the west of the trench. The whole of the trench was then sealed by a layer of dark brown-black sandy clay loam topsoil (701) averaging a depth of about 0.2m along the length of the trench.

Trench 8- pits

Trench 8 (28m x 1.7m, Fig 10) was located in the north of the site and aligned roughly west to east parallel to the tree screen planting along the north boundary of the site and the major residential building immediately to the south. The trench was cut into steeply sloping ground rising from the levelled area around the modern building into the tree line along the north boundary. The natural yellow-orange-red sandy clay (803) was exposed between 0.4m deep at the west to 0.5m at the east of the trench.

This trench contained two rubbish pits [805] and [810] both containing modern builders' debris, plastic, broken glass and food tins (Fig 5). Two trenches [807] and [808] contained a land drain and an electric cable respectively.

Sealing the natural across the whole of the trench was a layer of brown-orange sandy clay subsoil (802) up to 0.3m deep. This was covered by dark brown-black sandy clay loam topsoil (801) averaging a depth of about 0.15m to 0.2m along the length of the trench. Both topsoil and subsoil were disturbed by root action from the adjoining tree planting.

Trench 9 - pits

Trench 9 (17m x 1.7m, Fig 10) was located along the eastern edge of the site and was aligned from Trench 8 in the north-west to the south-east. It was located on high ground along the east side of the modern car park at the north of the site.

It was limited in scale due to the presence of mature trees subject of planning conditions and the steep slope down to the car park. The natural orange-red sandy clay (903) was exposed about 0.4m deep at the north of the trench. Red sandstone bedrock was revealed at 0.35m deep in the central of the trench, dipping to 0.45m at the south.

At the north of the trench, sub-circular pit [905] and at the southern end of the trench, pit [907] was roughly rectangular and both were filled with broken window glass (904 and 906). The glass all dates from the late 19th or early 20th century.

Ditch [910] was aligned roughly east-west, 0.6m wide, 0.8m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base. The primary fill was grey-red-brown sandy silt clay (909) concentrated along the southern edge of the ditch. This was sealed below orange-red-brown sandy clay (908) with no obvious inclusions or finds.

Sealing the natural across the whole of the trench was a layer of brown-orange sandy clay subsoil (902) up to 0.3m deep and badly disturbed by root action from the mature trees to the east. This was covered by a layer of dark brown-black sandy clay loam topsoil (901) averaging a depth of about 0.2m along the length of the trench.

Trench 10- walls, well and cobbled surface, barn walls, surfaces and access

Trench 10 (40m x 7m, Figs 11 and 14) was located to reopen earlier evaluation Trench 7 in the west and to extend east across the newly demolished building to the east. The natural orange-brown sandy clay banded with coarse sands and gravels (705) was exposed at about 0.75m deep at the west of the trench, rising to about 0.25m at the east. The trench was extended to 7m wide at the west of the trench, extending to the north of the earlier line of Trench 7. It was expanded to 6.5m wide, mainly to the south, within the footprint of the demolished building at the west of the evaluation trench, tapering to 4.5m wide at the east side of the building (Fig 14).

Walls, well and cobbled surface

At about 1m from the west end of the trench and aligned roughly north to south was a foundation trench [719] about 0.4m wide and 0.6m deep. It contained a single course of irregularly sized and shaped sandstone slabs (720) up to 0.3m long and 0.15m thick, bonded with stiff red clay laid directly onto the underlying sandstone bedrock. This formed a solid foundation for wall (721) surviving four courses high and built of red bricks laid as one stretcher and one header wide (1½ bricks) with the headers and stretchers alternating sides on each course. The bricks were of red clay with no frog or makers stamp, and bonded with yellow lime mortar. This wall extended south beyond the limit of excavation and was exposed within the excavation for about 1.1m across the width of the trench where it made a return to the east (Fig 15).

Exposed to the east of wall (721) at the south-west corner of the trench was circular cut [1056] for a well roughly 1.1m in diameter with vertical sides 0.7m deep ending in a wide flat shelf 0.3m wide around the base of the shaft. The upper part of the walls retained the impression of brickwork and mortar (1058) from a brick lining now removed.

It was filled with mixed brown sandy clay (1057) containing broken brick, roofing tile, ash and clinker. Cutting the base of the well and slightly offset to the south and west was a smaller sub-rectangular pit [1059] 0.35m long, 0.3m wide and excavated 0.4m deep. It was filled with brown sandy clay (1060) containing the rusted remains of a 50mm (2") iron pipe set vertically in the lower part of the pit (Fig 16).

Immediately to the north of the return of wall (721) and forming a straight line extension to north-south alignment of the wall was foundation trench [716] about 0.4m wide and 0.5m deep (Figs 12 and 13).

It was filled with an irregularly-coursed sandstone foundation (717) filling the construction trench up to 0.35m deep and built of random sandstone blocks of irregular size bonded with coarse yellow lime mortar and forming a solid foundation for brick wall (718). Wall (718) survived only two courses high. It was built of red clay bricks indistinguishable from those used in wall (721). Both foundation (717) and wall (718) formed butt joints with the north face of wall (721).

Wall (718) extended 1.5m to the north where it too made a right-angled return to the east. This return of wall was of very different construction being located within construction trench [1061] 0.35m wide and 0.65m deep. There was no sandstone foundation, although the base of the wall (1062) was mortared directly onto the underlying red sandstone bedrock (Fig 15).

The foundation comprised two courses of bricks laid head to head forming a substantial foundation 0.45m (18") wide. This supported a centrally placed wall 230mm (9") wide comprising a single course of headers supporting three surviving courses of stretchers.

This wall (1062) extended 4.5m to the east before it was truncated by the cut [1001] for the foundations for the modern building (Figs 14 and 15).

To the north of the return of wall (718) foundation trench [1041] was 0.4m wide and 0.3m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a 230mm (9") brick wall (1042) comprising a single brick course laid as headers and mortared onto the underlying soil surface. This supported a single surviving course of stretchers. The wall was offset 0.1m to the east of the line of wall (1062) and extended 1.2m to the north before making a right-angled return to the east. It was truncated 3m to the east by the cut of foundation trench [1001] for the modern building located immediately to the east (Figs 14 and 15)

Two internal walls (1046) and (1048) of similar size, depth and construction divided the space between wall (1042) to the south and wall (1062) into what had originally been at least three, probably equal sized areas. The two surviving areas, (1050)-(1051), were each roughly 0.8m square internally. The third area (1052) to the east of wall (1048) was badly disturbed by modern demolition and the cutting of foundation trench [1001]. All three areas were filled with mixed grey-brown sandy clay containing demolition debris, broken brick, lime mortar, roof tile and glass. There was no surviving evidence for a floor surface within these areas (Figs 14 and 15).

To the east of walls (718)-(721)] and filling the space between wall (1062) and the eastward return of wall (721) and the area to the south of return wall (721) where it sealed well [1056], there was a layer of black sandy clay (724) containing coarse sands, gravel ash and clinker, up to 0.3m deep. This was covered by a layer of coarse gritty ash and clinker (723) up to 0.1m deep and forming a firm bedding-layer for a cobbled surface of granite sets (724).

Each set was a roughly shaped 0.1m-0.13m (4"-5") square, originally forming a compact and level surface. This bedding layer and cobble surface extended over the eastward return of wall (721) which was only visible where the cobble surface had been disturbed by machining (Figs 14, 15 and 16).

Located roughly in the centre of the surviving cobble surface was a 0.3m (12") square brick lined surface water gully (1054) that connected to red earthenware 0.1m (4") drainage pipes extending north-east below the cobble surface (724) and connecting to drainage gully (1064) to the north of wall (1042) at the edge of foundation cut [1001] (Fig 16).

The cobble surface (724) survived largely intact about 2.5m wide and extending 4.3m to the east. In places, the surface had become irregular being either raised and uneven or slumped to form depressions and hollows. Several of these irregular 'patches' contained lime mortar bonding. The remainder of the surface contained only clay and ash packing between the individual granite sets. It was truncated to the east by foundation cut [1001] and to the south by ground clearance for a footpath and a service trench.

To the east of the cobbled area, all archaeology had been truncated by construction trench [1001] up to 2.5m wide, 0.8m deep and extending roughly north south across the site. It was filled with re-deposited subsoil (1002) containing mixed builders' debris.

To the east it was cut by foundation trench [1003] 0.5m wide and 0.8m deep containing a foundation of concrete (1004) supporting the modern brickwork (1005) for the 1960s building formerly on this site. The foundation cut [1006] for a concrete foundation (1007) and a brick internal partition wall (1008) extended east from the west outer wall of the building and was aligned parallel to the south wall (1012) of the building 5.6m to the south. A layer of modern concrete (1009) up to 0.4m deep extended to the north of internal wall (1006) and prevented further excavation in that area. The axis of the trench was shifted to the south, extending to expose the southern part of the footprint of the modern building.

Barn walls, surfaces and access

Located within the footprint of the demolished modern building, foundation trench [1013] was aligned roughly west to east. It survived 13.4m long, 0.6m wide and 0.4m deep. It was truncated to the west by foundation trench [1006] and to the east by foundation trench [1010] marking the west and south limits of the 1960's demolished building (Fig 14).

Foundation trench [1013] was filled with dirty brown sandy clay soil (1015) containing small fragments of broken brick and clumps of hard yellow lime mortar. It contained a red brick wall (1014) comprising a foundation course of brickwork 0.45m (18") wide, built of alternating headers and stretchers and bedded on lime mortar laid directly onto compact red sandy clay or natural red sandstone. Immediately above the foundation course there were two courses of brickwork laid at one stretcher and one header wide (1½ bricks) with the headers and stretchers alternating sides on each course. Laid onto this was a solid 0.23m (9") brick wall laid as an initial course of headers followed by a course of stretchers. Although this course did not survive, the mortar scars indicate stretchers rather than headers. The bricks were of red clay, no frog or makers stamp and bonded with yellow lime mortar (Figs 17 and 18).

Aligned at right angles along the southern side of wall (1015) were four 230mm (9") red brick walls (1023), (1025), (1027) and (1028). Wall (1023) was only 0.2m from the west end of wall (1015), the others at intervals of about 2.4m – 2.6m apart. They were all cross-bonded into the brickwork of wall (1015). To the east of wall (1028) demolition trench [1067] had removed part of wall (1014) allowing examination of the foundations showing the wall had identical foundation along its length. All four walls were truncated to the south by walls (1005) or (1012) of the modern building (Figs 14, 17 and 18).

Between these walls was a layer of brown sandy clay (1063) containing fragments of charcoal, broken brick and yellow lime mortar. This layer was only 0.1m thick and sealed below a layer of coarse orange yellow sand lime mortar (1064) forming a bed for brick floors (1030), (1032) (1033) and (1034) laid 'on face' within the internal divisions of the structure. To the east of internal wall (1023) brick floor (1030) was cut by a shallow groove [1031] 0.04m wide and 0.04m deep containing a 0.03m (1") lead composition water pipe. It was aligned from the corner of walls (1023) and wall (1015) in the north-west across the floor (1030) and south east through wall (1025) where it terminated (Figs 17 and 18).

At about 6m from the west end of the wall and on the north facing side, a foundation trench [1016] was 0.7m long, 0.6m wide and 0.5m deep. It had vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a hollow rectangular brick built base (1017) containing the truncated remains of a 0.03m (1") diameter lead composition water pipe and the rusted remnant of a 0.05m (2") iron pipe set vertically in the central fill of the feature. Immediately to the north, a shallow gully [1018] only 0.3m wide and less than 0.05m deep may mark the line of an earlier associated drain (Fig 14).

About 1m to the east, wall (1015) had been 'chased out' to form a vertical groove directly above trench [1020] aligned north from the wall. It was 0.3m wide and 0.2m deep, filled with re-deposited brown sandy clay (1021) from its excavation and contained the remnants of 12" long, red terracotta land drain pipe sections.

At 1m further east, wall (1014) was cut through by modern machine cut trench [1067] extending 2.5m from the south edge of the excavation and 0.6m-0.7m wide and 0.6m deep. It had vertical sides with a furrowed base where the outline of the machine bucket teeth could be seen cut into the underlying red sandstone natural bedrock. It was filled with brown sandy clay (1068) containing bricks and lime mortar from the demolished section of wall and modern demolition debris (Fig 14).

Immediately to the east of this trench and partly disturbed by it was a foundation trench [1036] 2.5m wide and exposed 2m north across the width of the trench. To the south it abutted the north face of wall (1015). It had vertical sides and a broad flat base 0.2m deep. It was filled with orange/yellow sand and lime mortar (1037) up to 0.15m deep and forming a bedding layer for brick surface (1038) formed of blue bricks laid 'on face' in a 'herring bone' pattern with a single row of bricks laid as stretchers forming the east and west sides. The outer brick course was 'shouldered' in place with stiff yellow lime mortar (Figs 14 and 19).

To the east of the modern disturbance [1067], wall (1014) was deliberately built only to its visible height, level with brick surface (1038) to the north and an internal brick floor (1034) to the south. At about 2.5m to the east, wall (1014) had been built to form a 0.45m (18") square brick pier (1035). Wall (1014) to the east appears to have reverted to a full height wall with mortar scars for additional course of stretcher bricks clearly visible. It seem likely that a second pier for a door opening to match the width of the external brick access road (1038) to the north was lost in the modern machine disturbance (Fig 19).

About 6m east of the final truncation of wall (1014) by modern wall (1012), drainage channel [1039] was aligned roughly north south across the excavated area. It was 0.25m wide and 0.2m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with re-deposited brown sandy clay (1040) containing 0.3m (12") pipe sections of red terracotta land drain (Fig 5). Cutting this drain at the southern end, modern machine cut trench [1069] was 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep with vertical sides and deeply grooved base. It was filled with re-deposited brown sandy clay (1070) containing a salt glaze foul sewer pipe encased in modern brickwork and cement mortar.

At about 1.6m further east, there was an outcrop of natural red sandstone forming a distinct 'step' up to 0.2m high across the width of the excavation. Aligned along the edge of this step was a foundation trench [1041] 0.4m wide and 0.3m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with a course of randomly shaped and roughly faced sandstone blocks (1042) up to 0.4m long forming a substantial foundation layer up to 0.35m wide. The blocks were bonded in place with orange-brown sandy clay and small pieces of sandstone packing. Nothing survived of any upper layers of the structure (Fig 20).

The east wall of the demolished modern building was located 8m further east. Excavation over a further 2m east of the wall was terminated due to the presence of service trenches, heating ducts and the roots from a large mature tree subject of planning conditions.

Sealing the archaeology at the west of the trench was a layer of dark brown-black sandy clay loam topsoil (701) averaging a depth of about 0.2m over the cobbled surface area and extending to the edge of the modern footpath above foundation cut [1001].

Within the footprint of the building, the natural was sealed below a layer of yellow-brown sandy clay (704) up to 0.2m deep. This appears to have been the original subsoil of this part of the site. It had clearly been truncated in site stripping and levelling.

Trench 11- Modern foundations and service trenches

Trench 11 (39m x 4m, Fig 21) was located at south of the site and aligned roughly east to west parallel to the north side of Torrington Avenue. The trench was located within the footprint of a long residential building demolished and cleared in October 2008. The natural red sandstone bedrock was exposed at 0.1m or less along the entire length of the excavation.

The demolition of the building had removed all of the external walls and foundations leaving only redeposited upcast and demolition debris in their place.

At the west of the excavation, service trenches [1114] and [1116] contained the remnants of salt glaze drain pipes. All other cut features related to the modern occupation or demolition of the site.

Trench 11A- path and service trench

In the absence of any surviving archaeology within the footprint of the demolished building, an ancillary trench, Trench 11A (11m x 6m, Fig 21) was opened to sample the open grassed area between the demolished building and the property boundary to the north.

The orange-brown sandy clay natural was exposed at about 0.3m deep at the north of the trench and at about 0.45m deep at the south of this trench.

At the north a 1m wide trench [1121] was filled with a layer of Type 1 stone (1122) forming a base for a tarmac path surface (1123). Immediately to the south, modern trench [1118] contained a 0.15m (6") diameter concrete sewer pipe and a concrete section inspection chamber (1120). There were no other cut features but the subsoil was extensively disturbed by root action from trees planted as part of the landscaping of the development since the 1960s.

The natural was sealed below a layer of grey-orange-brown sandy clay subsoil (1102) up to 0.1m deep. This was overlaid by dark brown sandy clay loam topsoil (1101) varying between 0.1m deep in the north to 0.35m deep at the south of the excavation.

Trench 12-sandstone foundation

Trench 12 (8.6m x 6.4m, Fig 21) was located at the west of the site and aligned roughly north to south. It was positioned to avoid the root disturbance from the mature trees immediately to the west and modern paths and services visible to the north and south. The orange-brown sandy clay natural (1203) was exposed at about 0.45m deep along the length of the trench.

At the north of the trench and 2.5m from the west edge of excavation, trench [1204] was 0.2m wide, 0.5m deep and aligned roughly north-west to south-east across the excavation. It was filled with brown sandy clay (1205) containing red terracotta pipe land drains.

To the east of the excavation, foundation trench [1209] was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west, 0.6m wide and 0.65m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It extended 5m to the south where it made a right-angled return to the west, extending beyond the limit of excavation.

The trench was filled with roughly shaped and faced but randomly sized sandstone blocks (1210) up to 0.6m long and bonded with yellow lime mortar. These formed two rough courses filling the foundation trench, with mortar extruding from between the blocks filling the gaps between stonework and the sides of the construction trench (Fig 22).

This foundation was up to 0.6m high and supported a 0.45m (18") red brick wall (1211) constructed of two bricks laid as headers. Mortar scarring on the upper surface of the surviving course of brickwork indicates the bricks were laid in stretcher fashion for the next course.

Cutting the natural at the centre of the excavation was an oval pit [1206] 0.5m long and 0.3m wide. It had near vertical sides and a flat base. The primary fill was three orange brown bricks (1207) laid 'on face' forming a firm base at the base of the pit. The remainder of the pit was filled with re-deposited brown sandy clay (1208) containing the outline of a 9" diameter brown-black, sandy clay post pipe at the north end of the pit (Fig 23).

Aligned north-south along the length of the excavation, construction trench [1212] 0.4m wide and 0.3m deep extended beyond the limit of excavation in both directions. The trench was expanded to 0.8m wide to accommodate brick supporting piers at about 4m centres. The trench was filled with a layer of concrete (1213) up to 0.2m thick supporting a 0.23m (9") wide brick wall (1214) built of buff bricks laid as headers supporting a course of bricks laid as stretchers. The bricks were bonded with hard grey cement mortar.

The natural was sealed by orange-brown sandy clay subsoil (1202) up to 0.4m deep. It was covered by dark brown sandy clay loam topsoil (1201) up to 0.3m deep across the whole of the excavation.

Trench 13

Trench 13 (29m x 1.7m, Fig 21) was located in the west of the site and aligned roughly west to east. It was located to expose the northern section of the structure revealed in Trench 12. The orange-brown sandy clay natural (1305) was exposed at about 0.65m deep along the length of the trench.

The only cut features exposed in this trench were a modern service trench containing a salt glaze sewer pipe [1306] and service trench [1308] containing a pre-cast concrete section heating duct containing insulated heating pipes from the boiler house located to the east to the now demolished building in the west.

The natural was sealed below a layer of grey-brown sandy clay subsoil (1304) up to 0.15m deep, containing abundant demolition debris,

This was sealed by orange-yellow clay (1303) only 0.02m thick and covered in turn by orange-brown sandy clay (1302) up to 0.1m deep and containing only occasional fragments of red sandstone and flecks of decayed wood or charcoal.

The whole trench was covered with a 0.4m deep layer of mixed brown sandy clay (1301) mixed with cement, plaster, broken brick, tile, glass, plastic and other modern demolition debris.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Pottery by Iain Soden

A total of 41 sherds of later post-medieval to modern pottery were recovered from ten contexts. The types present have all been related to the Warwickshire Type Series and are tabulated below.

The sherds present equate to the common types as follows:

MB02	Pancheon (19th century)
MGW (1)	Transfer printed earthenware (19th- 20th century)
MANG	Manganese mottled ware (c1680-1740)
MUGW	Unglazed flower pot (19th-20th century)
MGW (2)	White glazed earthenware (19th century)
MGW (3)	English Bone China (post 1903 – stamped MADE IN ENGLAND)
STE02	Nottingham Stoneware (1700-1900)
SLPW03	Slipware (c1700-1750)
STE	Stoneware Blacking Bottle (c1880-1920) (from one vessel)*

Table 1: Pottery sherd count by context and fabric

Type/Context	208	302	402	607	611	724	804	904	906	1202	Total
MB02	5		1								6
MGW (1)		4		1	1	2			1	1	10
MANG		1									1
MUGW				1				1			2
MGW(2)						1	2		1	3	7
MGW(3)							2				2
STE02										1	1
SLPW03										1	1
STE									11(1)*		11
Total	5	5	1	2	1	3	4	1	13	6	41

This small, unremarkable group of pottery derives from diverse parts of the site, providing no indication of patterns of rubbish disposal. They represent wares from the kitchen and the table and probably reflect casual loss and disposal over a few generations. Too few sherds date to before 1800 to give any indication of the nature of earlier activity. This is an unremarkable assemblage which might derive from any 19th-20th century domestic property within Coventry. None is of intrinsic interest.

6.2 Ceramic building materials by Pat Chapman***Ceramic tile***

There are six roof tile sherds and two sherds from land drains.

One sherd, from well wall (1058), came from a standard 165mm (6½ inches) wide tile with a pulled-up nib, made from a sandy orange fabric, a type that has been around since the 15th century.

A second sherd from the well wall is 20mm thick, made from hard sandy orange-pink clay. A small sherd from the same context and the two from subsoil (1202) are orange to dark red with brown-black glazed surfaces for decorative effect (achieved by adding salt to the kiln).

They apparently have two nibs for each tile as one nib on each survives 30mm from the edge, unless they were very small tiles. These nibs have been added rather than pulled.

The other roof tile comes from modern dumping (402) and must be residual. It is a very small sherd 13mm thick, pale pink with a yellowish surface.

The two land drain sherds, from context (809), come from horseshoe type drains of the late 18th to early 19th centuries.

Brick

This is a sample of eleven bricks from a range of walls and floors. Eight are complete and three are broken and their dimensions are given in Table 2.

The brick taken from the well (1058) is the oldest. It is made from coarse sandy clay fired dark red and is slightly uneven in two dimensions, as if cut into shape rather than moulded. It is longer, wider and thinner than the more standard sizes and is likely to be of 16th to 17th century date.

A glazed header, from wall (1042), is a type used from the 17th century onwards to make patterns, such as diaper work, as well as the earlier vitrified bricks (Brunskill 1990, 140).

From cobble layer (724), context (1021) and wall (1046) come three almost identical broken bricks. They are characterised by being poorly mixed, the distinction between the clay pressed against the sides of the mould and more pushed in on top is visible, and they were poorly mixed and carelessly finished. The brick from wall (1021) has a possible faint diagonal skintling. All three are made from sandy clay fired to orange, with sub-rounded gravel up to 20mm diameter. Although about the same width as the other bricks they are thinner by up to 20mm (¾ inch).

A brick from wall (721) is orange, slightly friable and made from fine silty sand. It is shorter, narrower and thinner than the other bricks. It has a 'handmade' frog, the sides are not perfectly straight but splay out slightly to one side. One surface is very smooth and blackish with a series of faint concentric scratches running longways across it, with the same repeated on the other side. Along one stretcher is a clearcut horizontal skintling. Frogged bricks become popular from the 17th century; this example probably dates from the early 18th century.

Two bricks of similar size come from floor (1038) and wall (1035). The sample brick from floor (1038) is black glazed from salt being added to the kiln in a secondary firing. These were much used in the 19th and early 20th centuries (Brunskill 1990, 101).

A king closer from wall (1035) is the longest of the bricks, but fractionally narrower. It is made from dense fine sandy clay fired to pale orange. King closers had one corner cut off

to fit with other shaped bricks at corners and angles.

There are two identical bricks, from wall (1014) and floor (1030). They are both made from hard sandy clay fired bright orange to reddish and both have identical frogs set quite deeply, but no maker's mark or stamp, suggesting an 18th to early 19th century date.

The brick taken from a postpad (1207), is made from fine sandy clay with occasional gravel up to 10mm, fired to orange brown. This brick has fine concentric scoring lines on the top and bottom of the brick in the same direction. One surface has five sub-circular holes, 4-7mm in diameter, arranged in a trapezium 40mm wide and 80 and 45mm long, the three holes on the bottom row are 30mm apart edge to edge and the top two 45mm apart. Two small sandy orange fragments from subsoil (302) are probably from bricks.

The sizes of the bricks indicate the variations through time, though they cannot be considered indicative of date. The variations in style would suggest that these bricks were manufactured anytime between the 16th to early 20th centuries.

Table 2: Brick dimensions

Context / type	Dimensions mm (inches)	Comments
721 / wall	230 x 110 x 80 (9 x 4 ³ / ₈ x 3 ¹ / ₈)	frog 110 x c 40 x 18, angled slightly one end horizontal skintling one stretcher
724 / layer	-- 110 x 60 (-- 4 ³ / ₈ x 2 ³ / ₈)	broken
1014 / wall	230 x 110 x 76 (9 x 4 ³ / ₈ x 3)	frog 165 x 50 x 25mm
1021 / ditch fill	-- 110 x 50 (-- 4 ³ / ₈ x 2)	Broken, possible diagonal skintling
1030 / floor	230 x 110 x 76 (9 x 4 ³ / ₈ x 3)	frog 165 x 50 x 25mm, horizontal skintling
1035 / wall	235 x 105 x 76 (9 ¹ / ₄ x 4 ¹ / ₈ x 3)	king closer (i.e. one corner cut off)
1038 / floor	233 x 105 x 70 (9 ¹ / ₈ x 4 ¹ / ₈ x 2 ³ / ₄)	black glazed, surviving well on sides possible horizontal skintling
1042 / wall	215 x 100-108 x 63 (8 ¹ / ₂ x 4-4 ¹ / ₄ x 2 ¹ / ₂)	flared brick (glazed header) horizontal skintling, one smooth surface, fine concentric scratches longways across top and bottom surfaces
1046 / wall	-- 110 x 50 (-- 4 ³ / ₈ x 2)	Broken
1058 / well wall	224 x 103 x 60 (8 ³ / ₄ x 3 x 2 ¹ / ₄)	dark red coarse sandy, slightly uneven-not straight longways or header to header, mortar
1207 / postpad	230 x 110 x 70 (9 x 4 ³ / ₈ x 2 ³ / ₄)	Concentric scoring scratches same direction both surfaces header to header on, one surface 5 holes

6.3 The other finds

by Tora Hylton

The excavations produced a small collection of finds dating from the 19th century through to the present day. The finds were all recovered from contexts within only six of the evaluation trenches. The earliest datable finds are three clay tobacco-pipe stems with very small bores and a base sherd from a 'bowler', a bottle with a rounded base which dates from c1840 until the end of the 19th century. The rounded base ensured that the bottle had to be stored horizontally, thus keeping the cork moist, to prevent shrinkage.

Other finds recovered include, a collar and burner from an oil lamp, a swivel and ring for attaching chains, two lengths of milled window came and a nail. There are 13 fragments of modern glass, represented by seven sherds of vessel glass (wine/beer bottles), five sherds of window glass (two with putty stains) and part of a circular mirror. None of the finds is of intrinsic interest and the collection will not be retained.

Finds catalogue

Glass

302 3 sherds – 1 base sherd from a wine bottle, 2 undiagnostic body sherds in brown and green glass.

804 Three fragments – 1 fragment of clear vessel glass, 1 fragment of clear window glass and 1 fragment from a circular mirror glass. Modern

809 2 fragments of clear glass bottle glass. Modern

904 Small undiagnostic body sherd of fine clear vessel glass (24 x 12mm). Modern

906 4 fragments of window glass, 3 with patches of putty. Modern

1202 1 fragment of clear vessel glass, and 1 base sherd from a "bowler" a bottle with rounded bottom to prevent it from standing up and thus keep the cork wet (used from c1840 until the end of the 19th century).

Iron

1051 Ring and swivel. Swivel with threaded shank and large ring with circular cross-section. Date: Modern. Ring – Diameter: 83mm Swivel – Length: 103mm

1202 Nail, incomplete terminal of shank missing. Rectangular-sectioned shank with sub-rectangular head. Date: Modern. Length: 73mm

Copper alloy

906 Collar and burner from oil lamp.

Lead

906 Window comes. Two lengths of milled came, no markers mark.

Clay tobacco-pipe

208 – stem fragment

402 – stem fragment

809 – stem fragment

7 CONCLUSIONS

The excavated evidence indicates that topsoil and subsoil had been machine stripped across most of the site prior to the 1960s development and modification. Only where natural hollows left the existing land surface below the general site-strip level did the original subsoil survive. Elsewhere, all upper soil was removed together with elements of the underlying subsoil and sandstone bedrock.

7.1 The sports field, Trenches 1-5

The hill slope in the north had been levelled and terraced. The area for the sports field had been stripped to the underlying clays or bedrock to form a level area.

On the northern part of the hill slope, the area had been built up with re-deposited material excavated from elsewhere on the site, creating an artificial terrace with a man made slope up to 2.2m higher than the lower ground to the south along the side of Torrington Avenue. The entire terrace later received about 0.2m of topsoil that formed the basis for the grass surfaces of the football pitch.

To the south, the lower terrace of the sports field area had been stripped of top soil and subsoil and the area levelled for the construction of artificial sports surfaces including a running track, five-a-side football pitches, tennis and netball pitches. The levelled site was sealed with geo-technical fabric over which coarse sand and gravel were laid to provide stability and drainage. A layer of bedding sand supported the artificial playing surfaces.

As the needs for the college sports facilities changed, the artificial surfaces were removed and the site was made available for the dumping of landfill materials, raising the ground level by up to 1m across much of the area.

Modern features include service trenches for foul and surface water, electric for the floodlighting of the artificial sports pitches, and postholes associated with the 4m high wire netting that surrounded the site when the sports facilities were in full use.

The majority of exposed features observed in the trial trenching all relate to the development of the social services centre to the west of the site with access roads to the builders storage and compound area originally on the playing field site and pits cut for the dumping of builders rubbish and waste.

It is clear from the map regression and aerial photographs that this area had been retained as agricultural land from the at least the late medieval period through until the building of the new range of building to the east in the late 19th century. The demolition and clearance of the site in advance of the development in the 1960s resulted in the removal of the existing eastern field boundary and the insertion of a new boundary on a different alignment further to the east. This boundary extended through the centre of the mapped location of the late 19th century west range of buildings.

In Trench 1, ditch [121] was aligned roughly north to south across the site. It is on a similar alignment and probably marks the earlier field boundary removed in the 1960s. There were no other cut features that could be attributed to either the 19th century range of buildings or to earlier medieval occupation of the site. Post-medieval features include a series of land drains aligned roughly north to south down the hill slope and dating from the late 18th or 19th centuries.

7.2 The demolition area, Trenches 6-13

To the east of the site, more substantial archaeological remains were observed in four of the seven trenches excavated.

In Trench 6, the large area of ash and clinker flanked by steel 'H' beams set in concrete would seem strong evidence for a structure, almost certainly a 'Dutch barn' at this location. The mapped evidence of this part of the site indicates no structure at this location on the 1888 OS First Edition.

By the time of the 1903 Second Edition mapping, a large narrow rectangular structure is marked at this location. It remains clearly marked until the Fifth Edition mapping in 1937 when it is shown almost twice as wide, but still in the same position on the map.

This infers the erection of a second bay with a possible re-roofing of the structure. The structure remained *in situ* until demolition and clearance in the 1960s. The author, who still lives within 1000m of the site, remembers a Dutch barn in this location used for storing bales of hay in the 1950s.

Further to the east, the archaeology had been largely truncated by the foundations for modern buildings, service trenches and paths. Within the footprint of the residential building at the north-east of the site there were the remains of a substantial brick built structure. Almost certainly these represent the north range of the substantial stylised 'figure 8' building first recorded at this location on the 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping of the area and which survived *in situ* until demolition and clearance in the 1960s.

The excavated northern wall marks the northern limit of the mapped structure. The excavated evidence is of a single, substantial, brick-built structure laid on stepped brick foundations. The wall was built in stretcher bond and bonded with fine yellow lime mortar. To the east, a centrally placed doorway on the north face was flanked by 0.45m (18") brick piers, no doubt supporting full height wooden doors. A driveway or access surface to the north was built of blue, semi-engineering bricks, laid on-face and bedded on yellow lime mortar. This implies heavy use of wagons and it would be reasonable to assume this was a large threshing barn with a matching doorway on the south wall giving access to the yard.

The bay to the east of the doorway was truncated by the cut for the modern wall. There was no evidence in the surviving brickwork of the main wall or the brick flooring for internal sub divisions in this part of the structure. With the open crossing between the doors as a threshing floor, this side of the barn was probably used for storage of grain and feed.

To the west of the doorway, there is clear evidence of at least four internal partition walls, all tied in and contemporary with the original build of the main north wall. It is highly likely that this side of the barn was built for use as cattle stalls. The use of barns for both threshing, grain storage and animal stalls is historically well attested in the Midlands (English Heritage Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) Project 'Historic Farmsteads. Preliminary Character Statement. West Midlands Region Volumes 1-3).

The internal floor surfaces were all red brick, with no frogs or makers marks. No positive provenance or attribution can be made for either the internal or external bricks used in the construction of this building.

The north wall extended to the west, beyond the 1960s disturbance, where the wall returned to the south, matching the north-west corner of the range as mapped on the Ordnance survey First edition map 1888.

Immediately to the north of this range, a rectangular enclosure had been added prior to 1888 when it was mapped *in situ*. This area contained the excavated well shaft and hand pump.

In the absence of fine mapped detail, the excavated evidence indicates that the original north wall of this enclosure had been reduced to ground height sometime after construction and the enclosure further extended to the north to create a larger area which was then laid with a granite cobble surface, concealing the original north wall. The water pump remained in use throughout this second phase of activity as a central drainage gully and drain were incorporated into this phase of activity. Damage to the floor surface over the well had removed any positive evidence of the continued presence of the pump.

The range of three small stalls or stores along the north wall of the cobbled yard are not shown on the 1888 map but can clearly be seen on the Second Edition 1903 mapping. The foundations for this structure were less than 0.3m deep with the foundation course laid within the disturbed occupation levels of the soil. As each element was only 0.8m square, it seems unlikely that they were animal pens or stalls. They are small even for kennels or coops for chickens or pigeons. If they were not on a north facing wall, they might represent cloches or raised bed for forcing vegetables, however the location and lack of organic residues in the internal floor soils militates against this possibility.

Given the limited size and location, it seems they were most probably used for storage, although this remains unproven.

The build for all the walls in the extension area are very similar and used bricks indistinguishable from each other. It is clear that all these phases were completed between the building of the new range in the years between the Tithe map of 1846 and the Ordnance Survey mapping of 1888 when the range and extension were in place. Only the store area can be firmly attributed to the period between 1888 and 1903.

To the east of the truncated remains of the building, the remains of a sandstone foundation or wall may relate to a boundary to the orchard marked at this location.

At the south-west of the site, a substantial sandstone foundation aligned roughly north to south with a right angled corner return to the west was revealed in Trench 12.

This matches the location of the south-east corner of the range of buildings first recorded on the First Edition OS map of the area. The quality and size of the foundations would indicate the potential for a substantial building, probably at least two storeys high. It is located at the south of the site, flanked to the east by the track from Wolfe Road to Tile Hill Lane, and facing the roadway now known as Torrington Avenue. Given the location of the new house to the east with barns and animal stalls to the north, it seems highly likely that this marked the location of the stables, coach house and ancillary accommodation, stores and yards contemporary with the late 19th-century occupation of the site.

The accumulated evidence is that the focus of activity from the earliest period is likely to have been along the line of the stream to the south of the development site. This was the centre of continued occupation from at least the 16th century until the late 19th century.

Fletchamstead Hall was at least 200 years old by the late 19th century and the estate records from the 1770s onwards record regular outlay to masons and carpenters for repairs to the house, barns and hovels at the hall (Shakespeare Birthplace Trust DR 18/17/15/84-109, 1773-1784). In the late 1840s, legislation was passed for the construction of the London and North Western Railway from Rugby, via Coventry to Birmingham. The new line was sited to pass just 50m to the south of Fletchamstead Hall, on a railway embankment over 10m high.

It seems highly likely that the sale of the land to the railway company provided both the impetus and the capital to move away from the inevitable disruption, noise, dirt and inconvenience of the adjacent railway construction site and to build a modern house, farm and stables at least 200m away from the new railway.

No details of the sale of the land or of the building of the new house and buildings were located in the research for this project. It does seem highly likely that the new build would have been completed within a few years of the opening of the railway to Tile Hill in 1850.

The demolition of the old hall and buildings would have provided stone and brickwork that could have been reused in the new-build to the north. The new house as photographed in the 1930s seems to have a rather 'chequered' appearance and it is tempting to think that it may have been built from sandstone salvaged from the old hall buildings. Certainly the porch as photographed appears to match the porch recorded on an early 19th century painting of the hall and held in the Aylesford Collection (pers comm. George Demidowicz).

At the north of the site, no evidence was found for the re-use of the range of buildings recorded here on the 18th and early 19th century mapping. It seems clear that the site was cleared and the new buildings in this location built as a single build.

This was not the case to the south-west where there was clear use of salvaged materials used in the foundations of the west range of the new build. Good quality sandstone ashlar blocks were used as footings for late 19th century brick walls. No trace was found of any of the earlier buildings within the development site.

Even where archaeology survived, there was an almost complete absence of finds. The removal of soil had taken away all of the usual spread of occupation detritus expected on such a long-lived site. Given the massive amount of modification to the topography of the site in both the 19th and 20th century clearances and redevelopment, even the small areas of survival must be regarded as a bonus.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Black, A, and Black, C 1881 *Black's Guide to Warwickshire*, Edinburgh
- Brunskill, R W, 1990 *Brick building in Britain*, Victor Gollancz Ltd
- Cave, L F, 1976 *Warwickshire Villages*, Robert Hale, London
- Demidowicz, G, 2003 *A guide to the buildings of Coventry*, Tempus Publishing Limited
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 1999 Revised List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest: Coventry, HMSO
- Dugdale W, 1656 *The Antiquities of Warwickshire* (2nd edition 1730)
- English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition
- Gelling, M, 1970 *Names of Towns and Cities in Britain*, Routledge
- Gomme, G L, and Milne, F A, (eds) English Topography Part XIII, *The Gentleman's Magazine: Library Classified Collection of Entries from 1731-1868*, London
- Hilton, R H, 1950 *The Stoneleigh Leger Book*, Dugdale Society
- Knowles, D, and Hadcock, R N, 1971 *Medieval religious houses of England and Wales*
- Jaguar Cars 2001 *Coventry Memories*, True North Books Limited
- Larking, L B, 1857 *The Knights Hospitallers in England*, Camden Society
- Leadam, I, 1897 *A Domesday of Inclosures, II*
- McAree, D F, 2008 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Torrington Avenue, Coventry*, Northamptonshire Archaeology
- McGrory, D, 1993 *Coventry, History and Guide*, Alan Sutton Publishing
- McGrory, D, 1994 *Coventry in Old Photographs*, Alan Sutton Publishing
- McGrory, D, 2003a *A history of Coventry*, Phillimore and Company Limited
- McGrory, D, 2003b *The illustrated history of Coventry's suburbs*, The Breedon Books Publishing Company
- Mills, A D, 1998 *Dictionary of English Place Names*, OUP
- Pevsner, N, and Wedgwood, A, 1966 *The Buildings of England: Warwickshire*, Penguin
- Plaister, J, 1976 *Domesday Book: Warwickshire* **23**
- Post-Medieval Archaeology 1967-2005
- Poulton-Smith, A, 1996 *Warwickshire Place Names*
- Records Commission 1802 *Taxatio Ecclesiastica of Pope Nicholas IV*, 1291, 255
- Rylatt, M, and Montes, M, 1998 *A harvest of history, the life and works of J. B. Shelton MBE*, J B Shelton Memorial lecture publication
- Slater, T R, and Jarvis, P J, 1982 *Field and Forest: A Historical Geography of Warwickshire and Worcestershire*, Geo Abstracts Ltd
- Smith, W, 1829 *A new and complete History of the County of Warwick*, W Emans, London
- Soden, I, 1991 *The archaeological implications of major redevelopment of the old Standard Car Factory, Canley, Coventry*, Coventry Museums Archaeology Unit

- Soden, I, 2005 *Coventry: The Hidden History*, Tempus
Timmins, S, 1889 *History of Warwickshire*, Elliott Stock, London
Williams, A, and Martin, G H, 2002 *Domesday Book*, Penguin
VCH 1969 *The Victoria County History of the County of Warwick*, 8

Websites

imagesofengland.org
ads.ahds.ac.uk
bgs.ac.uk
british-history.ac.uk
Coventry.gov.uk

DOCUMENTARY AND MAP RESEARCH

Warwickshire County Records Office

Printed maps of Warwickshire (G. Cowling)	1954	Gazetteer, index and description
Maps of Warwickshire (J.A.Cooke)	1959	Gazetteer, index and description
John Speed map	1611	Coventry

Historic Environments Records (HER) Coventry

16th century site detail overlaid on modern digital mapping

18th century site detail overlaid on modern digital mapping

19th century site detail overlaid on modern digital mapping

Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map	1888	Coventry
Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map	1903	Coventry
Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map	1925	Coventry
Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map	1948-53	Coventry
Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map	1952-60	Coventry
Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping	2007	Coventry

HER Data

146 site specific references and records

Northamptonshire Archaeology

a service of Northamptonshire County Council

1st February 2010

APPENDIX 1

Appendix 1: Context descriptions

Trench	Context	Context type	Description
1	101	Topsoil	Brown sandy clay loam
	102	Levelling layer	Sandy clay, demolition debris
	103	Levelling layer	Orange sand
	104	Sub-soil	Orange/grey sandy clay
	105	Natural	Orange-brown sandy clay, gravel
	106	Fill of [107]	Sandy clay, builders rubbish
	107	Cut of pit	Modern rubbish pit
	108	Fill of [109]	Orange/grey sandy clay
	109	Cut of posthole	Borehole
	110	Fill of [111]	Red/orange sandy clay
	111	Cut of pit	Irregular machine cut pit
	112	Fill of [113]	Sandy clay, clinker
	113	Cut of pit	Builders rubbish pit
	114	Fill of [114]	Brick, roof tile, coarse gravel
	115	Linear trench cut	Modern soakaway
	116	Fill of [116]	Brick, roof tile, timber, plastic
	117	Cut of pit	Builders rubbish pit
	118	Fill of [119]	Brick, roof tile, timber, plastic
	119	Cut of pit	Builders rubbish pit
	120	Fill of [121]	Sandy clay, occasional charcoal
	121	Cut of ditch	Possible 19th-20th ditch
	122	Fill of [123]	Sandy clay, gravel, builders debris
	123	Cut for track	1960s site access road
	124	Fill of [123]	Sandy clay, ceramic land drains
	125	Trench cut	19th-20th century land drain trench
	126	Fill of [127]	Sandy clay, concrete sewer pipe
	127	Cut of trench	Modern service trench
2	201	Topsoil	Brown sandy clay loam
	202	Levelling layer	Sandy clay, demolition debris
	203	Layer	Stiff grey clay – gley natural
	204	Levelling layer	Black clinker
	205	Levelling layer	Red/orange sandy clay
	206	Layer	Grey/brown sandy silt – sub-soil?
	207	Natural	Orange-brown sandy clay, gravel
	208	Fill of [209]	Grey/red sandy clay, clay pipe
	209	Cut of pit	19th century rubbish pit
3	301	Topsoil	Brown sandy clay loam
	301	Levelling layer	Sandy clay, demolition debris
	303	Layer	Stiff grey clay – gley natural
	304	Natural	Orange-brown sandy clay, gravel
	305	Sub-soil	Brown/grey sandy clay
	306	Trench cut	19th-20th century land drain trench
	307	Fill of [306]	Sandy clay, 'horseshoe' land drain
	308	Fill of [309]	Sandy clay, 'salt glaze' sewer pipe
	309	Cut of trench	Modern service trench
4	401	Topsoil	Brown sandy clay loam
	402	Levelling layer	Sandy clay, demolition debris
	403	Layer	Stiff grey clay – gley natural
	404	Natural	Red/brown sandy clay, gravel
	405	Layer	Dump of 1960s concrete
	406	Fill of [407]	Sandy clay, 'salt glaze' sewer pipe
	407	Cut of trench	Modern service trench

TORRINGTON AVENUE, COVENTRY

Trench	Context	Context type	Description
5	501	Topsoil	Brown sandy clay loam
	502	Levelling layer	Sandy clay, demolition debris
	503	Levelling layer	Coarse grey shale/gravel
	504	Levelling layer	Mixed black clinker/grey shale
	505	Layer	Stiff grey clay – gley natural
	506	Build up layer	Yellow coarse sand
	507	Build up layer	Builders/demolition debris
	508	Build up layer	Broken tarmac, shale, gravel
	509	Land drain	19th-20th century land drain trench
	510	Land drain	19th-20th century land drain trench
	511	Land drain	19th-20th century land drain trench
6	512	Land drain	19th-20th century land drain trench
	601	Topsoil	Brown sandy clay loam
	602	Levelling layer	Sandy clay, demolition debris
	603	Buried soil	Brown sandy clay loam
	604	Sub-soil	Brown/grey sandy clay
	605	Natural	Yellow/brown sandy clay, gravel
	606	Construction cut	Base of dutch barn
	607	Fill of [606]	Black clinker, occ brick tile
	608	Construction pit	Base for H beam
	609	Fill of [608]	Concrete and steel H beam
	610	Construction pit	Base for H beam
7	611	Fill of [608]	Concrete and steel H beam
	701	Topsoil	Brown sandy clay loam
	702	Levelling layer	Sandy clay, demolition debris
	703	Buried soil	Brown sandy clay loam
	704	Sub-soil	Orange-brown sandy clay
	705	Natural	Red/brown sandy clay, gravel
	706	Levelling layer	Black clinker, demolition debris
	707	Levelling layer	Red sand, builders rubbish
	708	Fill of [708]	Sandy clay, 'salt glaze' sewer pipe
	709	Cut of trench	Modern service trench
	710	Trench cut	19th-20th century land drain trench
7	711	Fill of [710]	Sandy clay, ceramic land drain
	712	Trench cut	19th-20th century pipe trench
	713	Fill of [710]	Sandy clay, metal 2" water pipe
	714	Trench cut	19th-20th century pipe trench
	715	Fill of [714]	Sandy clay, lead 2" water pipe
	716	Foundation trench	Foundation cut for wall (717-718)
	717	Foundation	Sandstone foundation of wall (718)
	718	Brick wall	Aligned north-south
	719	Foundation trench	Foundation cut for wall (720-721)
	720	Foundation	Sandstone foundation of wall (721)
	721	Brick wall	Aligned north-south
8	722	Surface	Granite set cobbled yard
	723	Bedding layer	Clinker bed for granite yard
	724	Levelling layer	Sandy loam, gravel under (723)
	801	Topsoil	Brown sandy clay loam
	802	Sub-soil	Orange-brown sandy clay
	803	Natural	Red/brown sandy clay, sandstone
	804	Fill of pit	Sandy clay, food jars, tin cans
8	805	Cut of pit	19th-20th century rubbish pit
	806	Trench cut	19th-20th century land drain trench
	807	Fill of [710]	Sandy clay, ceramic land drain
	808	Service trench	19th-20th century electricity cable

TORRINGTON AVENUE, COVENTRY

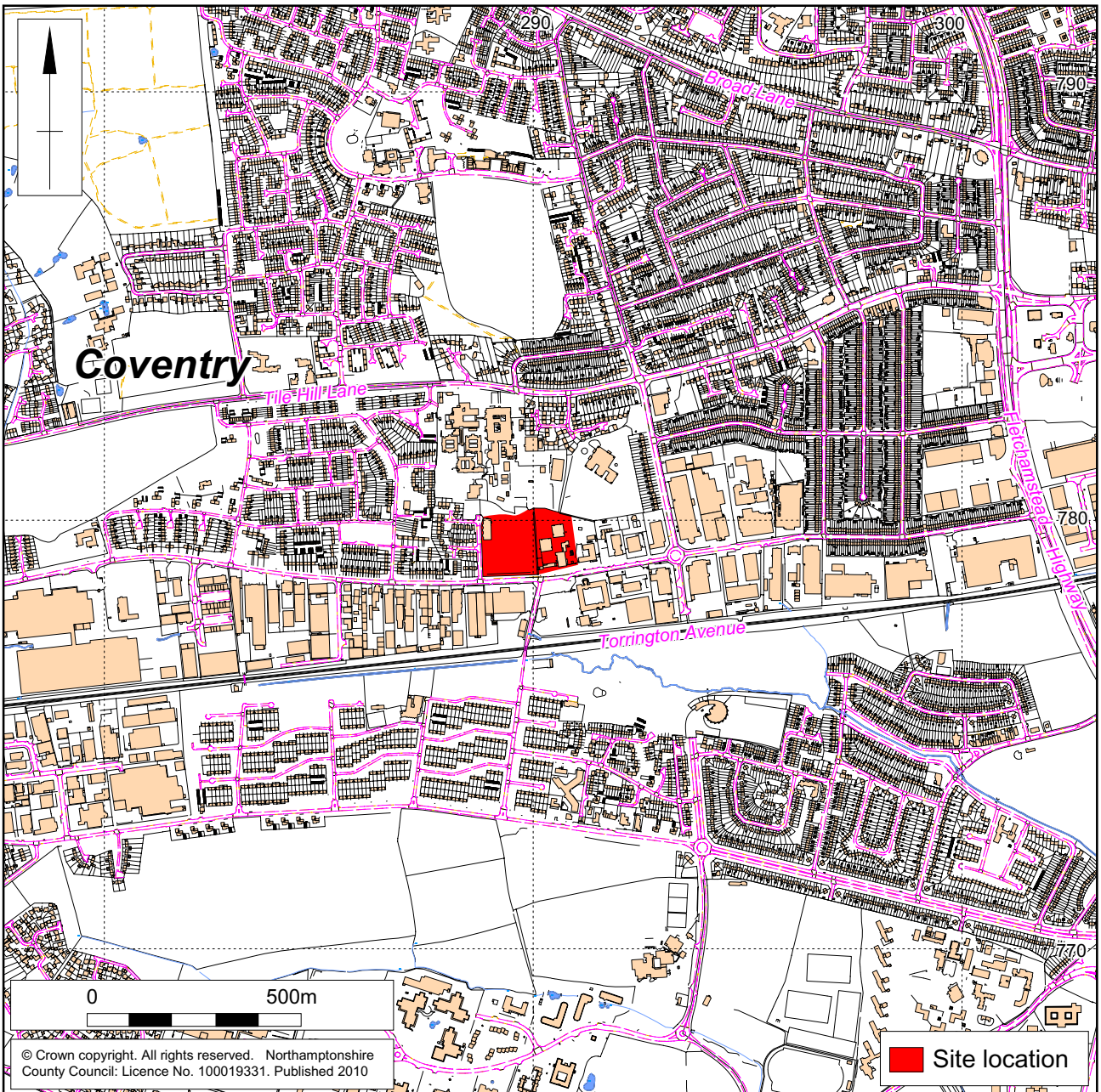
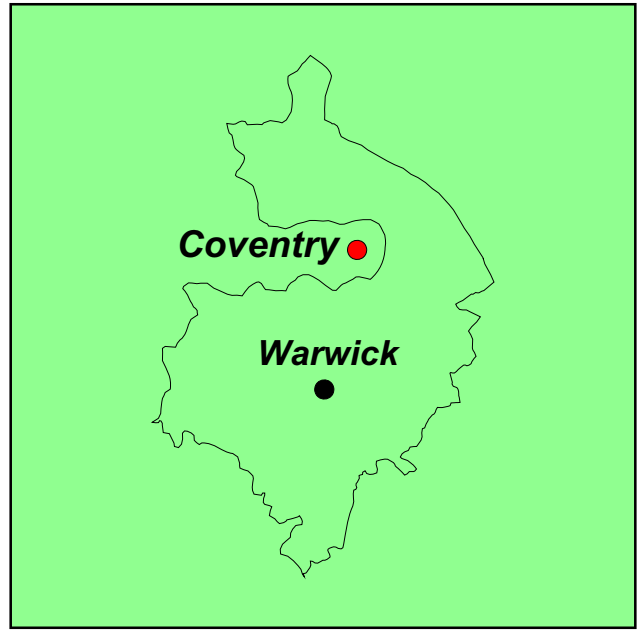
Trench	Context	Context type	Description
	809	Fill of pit	Builders rubbish pit, plastic, glass
	810	Cut of pit	19th-20th century rubbish pit
9	901	Topsoil	Brown sandy clay loam
	902	Sub-soil	Orange-brown sandy clay
	903	Natural	Red/brown sandy clay, sandstone
	904	Fill of pit	Broken window glass
	905	Cut of pit	19th-20th century rubbish pit
	906	Fill of pit	Broken window glass
	907	Cut of pit	19th-20th century rubbish pit
	908	Fill of [910]	Orange/red sandy clay
	909	Fill of [910]	Primary silt, red sandstone, clay
	910	Ditch cut	Undated ditch, garden feature?
10	1001	Construction trench	1960s trench for new building
	1002	Fill of [1001]	Redeposited upcast, builders debris
	1003	Construction trench	1960s building
	1004	Fill of [1003]	Concrete foundation
	1005	Brick wall on (1004)	W wall of 1960s building
	1006	Construction trench	1960s building
	1007	Fill of [1006]	Concrete foundation
	1008	Brick wall on (1007)	E-W internal wall of 1960s building
	1009	Surface	Internal concrete floor N of (1008)
	1010	Construction trench	1960s building
	1011	Fill of [1010]	Concrete foundation
	1012	Brick wall on (1011)	S wall of 1960s building
	1013	Construction trench	N wall of barn
	1014	Fill of [1013]	Stepped brick foundation and wall
	1015	Fill of [1013]	Brown sandy clay, trench packing
	1016	Construction trench	Cut for water drainage gully
	1017	Brick gully	Brick drain and 2" iron pipe
	1018	Gully cut	Rain water gully connected to (1017)
	1019	Lead pipe	2" lead water pipe in (1017)
	1020	Fill of [910]	Sandy clay, charcoal, sandstone
	1021	Ditch cut	Undated ditch,
	1022	Construction trench	Internal dividing wall in barn
	1023	Fill of [1022]	Brick foundation and wall, cattle stall
	1024	Construction trench	Internal dividing wall in barn
	1025	Fill of [1024]	Brick foundation and wall, cattle stall
	1026	Construction trench	Internal dividing wall in barn
	1027	Fill of [1026]	Brick foundation and wall, cattle stall
	1028	Construction trench	Internal dividing wall in barn
	1029	Fill of [1028]	Brick foundation and wall, cattle stall
	1030	Surface	Brick floor at W of barn
	1031	Slot	Groove cut through floor (1030)
	1032	Surface	Brick floor E of (1025)
	1033	Surface	Brick floor E of (1027)
	1034	Surface	Brick floor E of (1029)
	1035	Brick pier	Support for door, N wall of barn
	1036	Foundation trench	N of barn
	1037	Bedding layer	Red/pink coarse sand
	1038	Surface	Blue brick access into barn
	1039	Trench cut	19th-20th century land drain trench
	1040	Fill of [1039]	Sandy clay, ceramic land drain
	1041	Construction trench	Sandstone foundation, NE of barn
	1042	Fill of [1041]	Rough sandstone foundation
	1043	Cut for drain	Rain water gully

TORRINGTON AVENUE, COVENTRY

Trench	Context	Context type	Description
	1044	Fill of [1043]	Sandy clay, 4" salt glaze pipe
	1045	Construction trench	Internal dividing wall in extension
	1046	Fill of [1045]	Brick foundation and wall, stall/store
	1047	Construction trench	Internal dividing wall in extension
	1048	Fill of [1047]	Brick foundation and wall, stall/store
	1049	Construction trench	Internal dividing wall in extension
	1050	Fill of [1049]	Brick foundation and wall, stall/store
	1051	Surface	Floor E of (1046)
	1052	Surface	Floor E of (1048)
	1053	Surface	Floor E of (1050)
	1054	Construction trench	Rain water gully
	1055	Fill of [1047]	Brick built gully, 4" salt glaze pipe
	1056	Cut of well	Circular with step for ocular
	1057	Fill of [1056]	Grey/brown sandy clay
	1058	Layer	Lime mortar base for brick ocular
	1059	Cut of pipe shaft	Shaft for hand pump
	1060	Fill of [1059]	Grey sandy clay, 2" iron water pipe
	1061	Construction trench	Foundation cut for brick wall
10	1062	Fill of [1061]	Brick foundation and wall
	1063	Cut for drain	Rain water gully
	1064	Fill of [1063]	Sandy clay, 4" salt glaze pipe
	1065	Levelling layer	Brown sandy clay, some lime mortar
	1066	Bedding layer	Yellow sand and lime
	1067	Construction trench	Foundation cut for brick wall
	1068	Fill of [1067]	1960s foundation and brick wall
	1069	Cut for drain	Rain water gully
	1070	Fill of [1069]	Sandy clay, 4" salt glaze pipe
	1071	Cut for drain	Rain water gully
	1072	Fill of [1071]	Sandy clay, 4" salt glaze pipe
11	1101	Topsoil	Brown sandy clay loam
	1102	Natural	Red/brown sandstone bedrock
	1103	Construction trench	Foundations and services
	1104	Fill of [1103]	Redeposited demolition debris
	1105	Construction trench	Foundations and services
	1106	Fill of [1105]	1960s concrete foundation
	1107	Construction trench	Foundations and services
	1108	Fill of [1107]	Concrete foundation, brick wall
	1109	Surface	Concrete floor surface
	1110	Cut of pit	19th-20th century rubbish pit
	1111	Fill of pit [1110]	Builders rubbish pit, plastic, glass
	1112	Cut for drain	Rain water drainage
	1113	Fill of [1112]	Sandy clay, 4" salt glaze pipe
	1114	Cut for drain	Rain water drainage
	1115	Fill of [1114]	Sandy clay, 4" salt glaze pipe
	1116	Trench cut	19th-20th century land drain trench
	1117	Fill of [1116]	Sandy clay, ceramic land drain
	1118	Service trench	1960s sewer pipe
	1119	Fill of [1118]	Pre-cast concrete sewer pipe
	1120	Manhole	Pre-cast concrete manhole
	1121	Construction trench	Foundations for tarmac path
	1122	Fill of [1107]	Type 1 bedding with tarmac surface
12	1201	Topsoil	Brown sandy clay loam
	1202	Sub-soil	Orange-brown sandy clay
	1203	Natural	Red/brown sandy clay
	1204	Trench cut	19th-20th century land drain trench

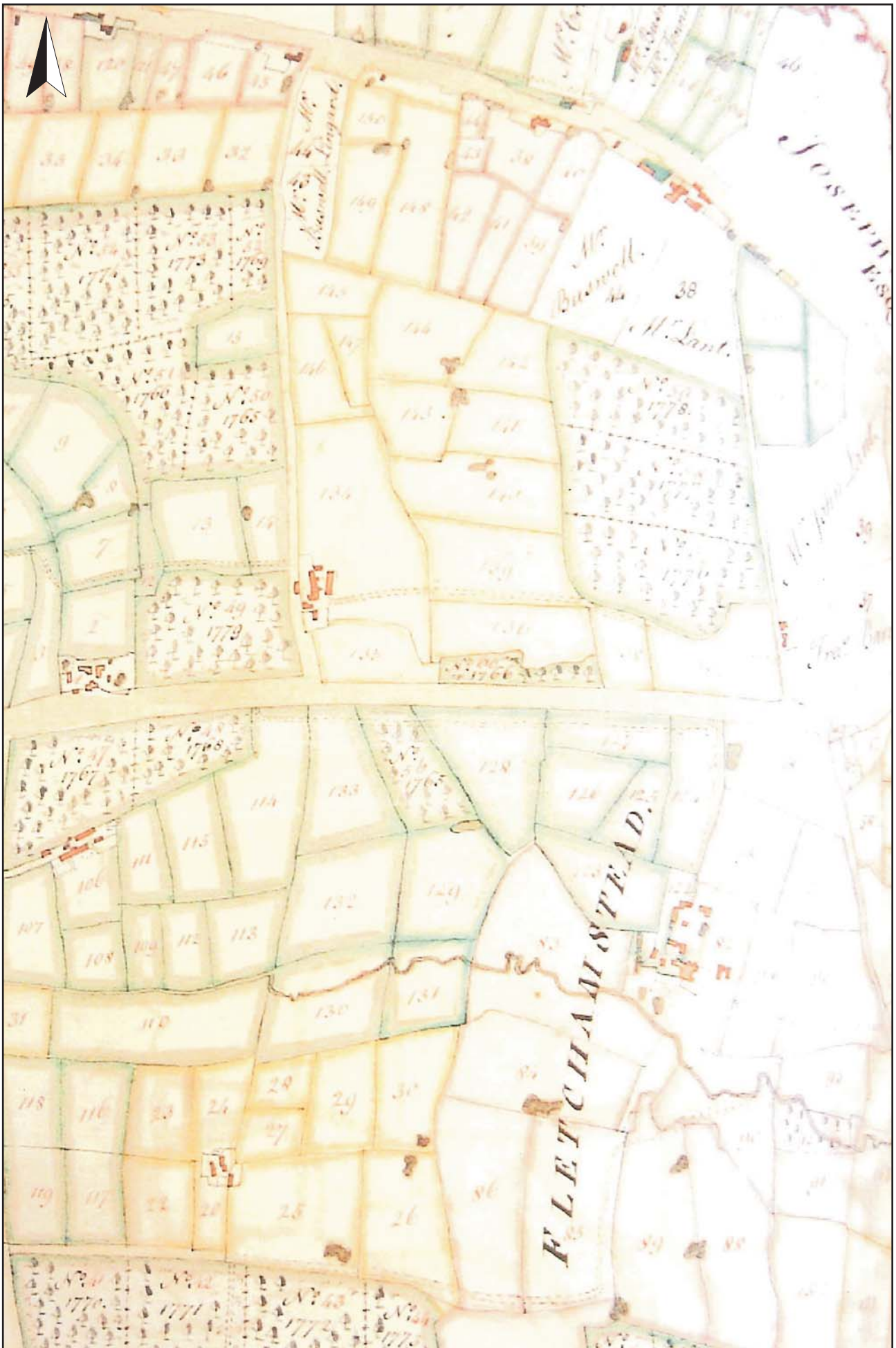
TORRINGTON AVENUE, COVENTRY

	1205	Fill of [1205]	Sandy clay, ceramic land drain
	1206	Cut of pit	19th-20th century post pad
	1207	Fill of pit [1110]	Bricks supporting 9" post
Trench	Context	Context type	Description
	1208	Fill of pit [1110]	Redeposited brown clay, post pipe
	1209	Construction trench	Foundation for sandstone wall
	1210	Foundation in [1209]	Sandstone blocks, lime mortar
	1211	Wall on (1210)	18" brick wall
	1212	Construction trench	Foundation for 1960s wall
	1213	Foundation in [1212]	Concrete foundation
	1214	Wall on (1213)	9" brick wall
13	1301	Levelling layer	Sandy clay, demolition debris
	1302	Levelling layer	Redeposited blue clay
	1303	Levelling layer	Black clinker, building debris



Scale 1:15,000

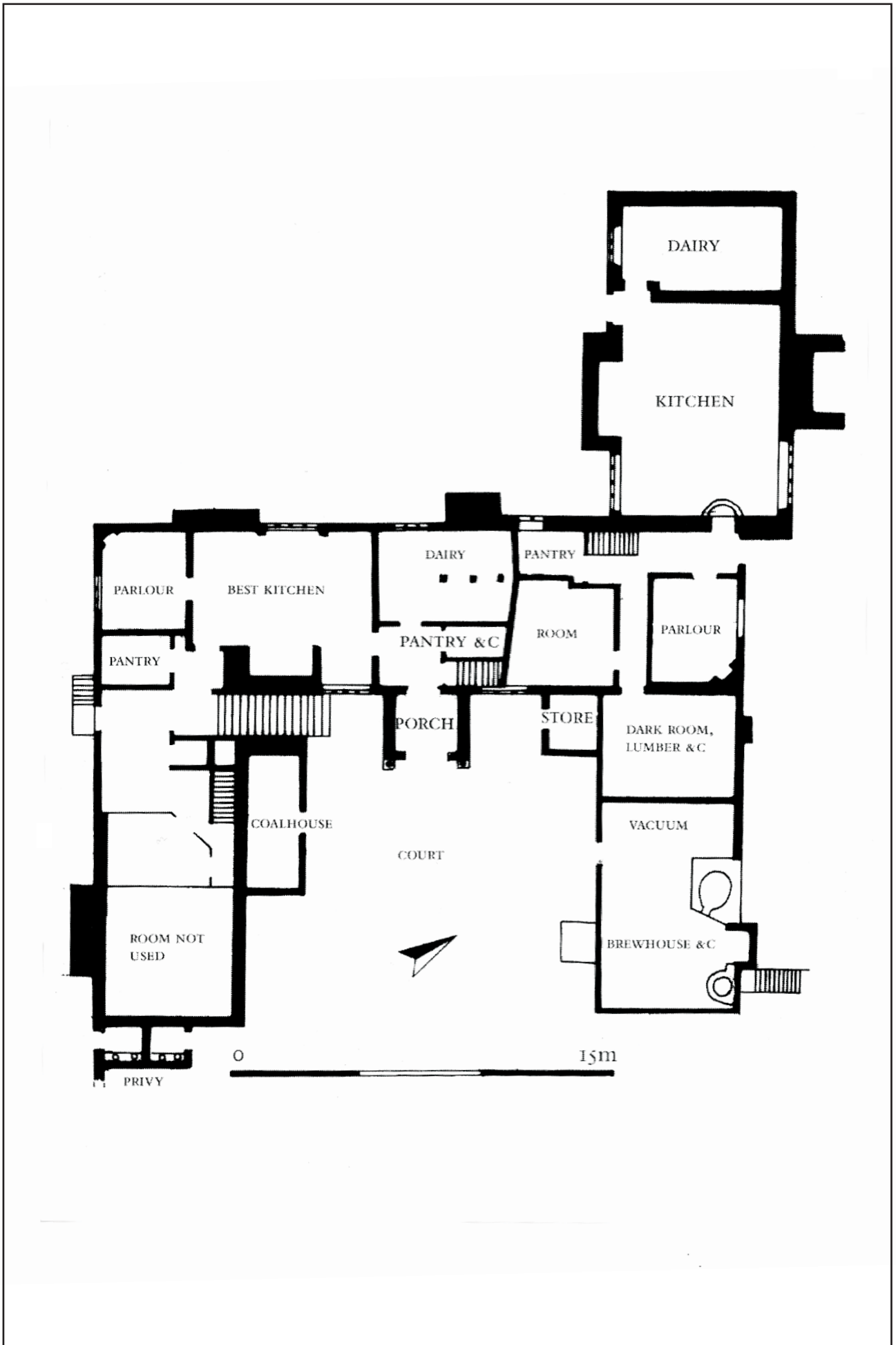
Site location Fig 1



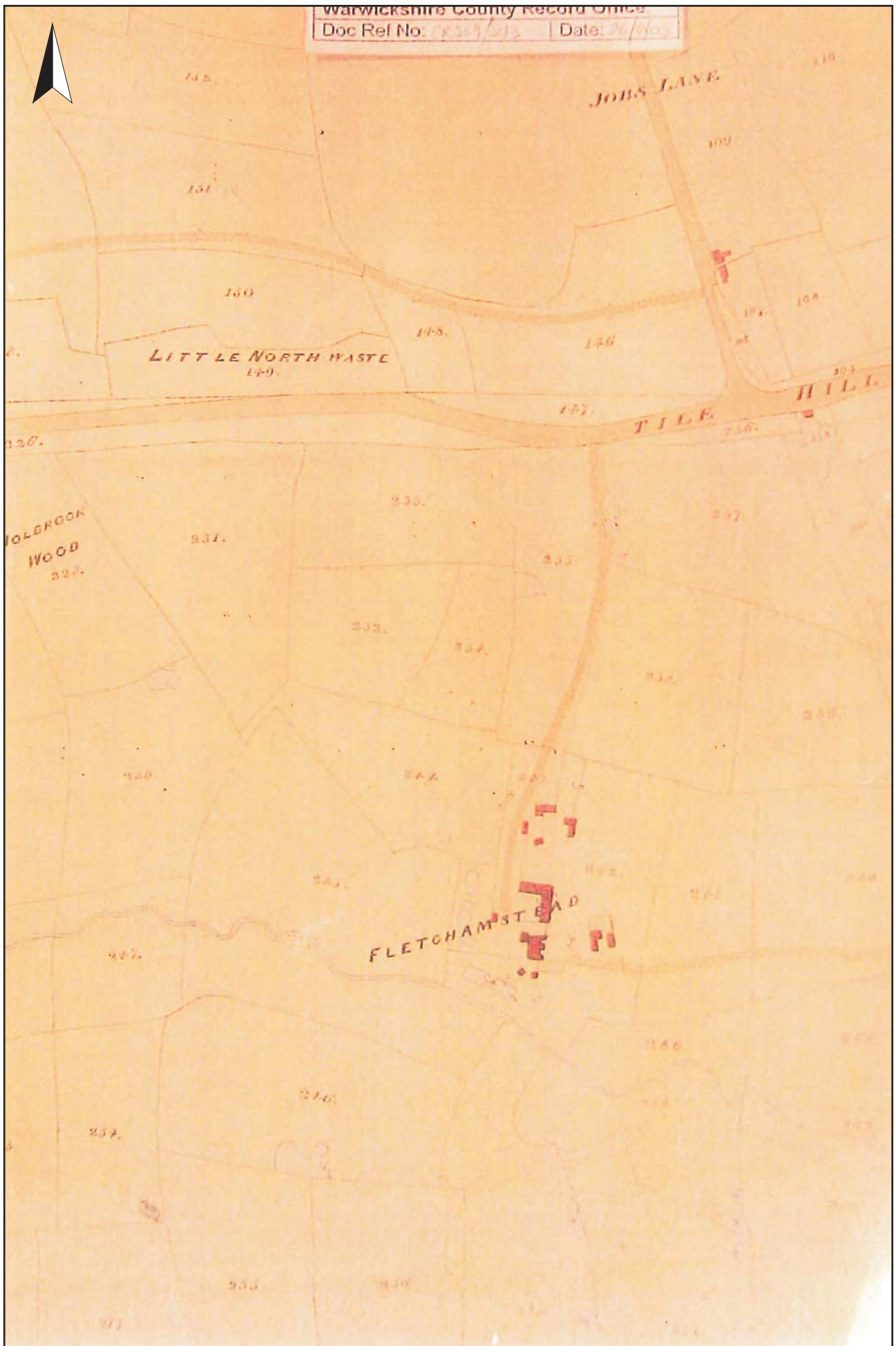
Not to scale

Extract from Mathias Barker's map of Fletchamstead Hall, 1766

Fig 2

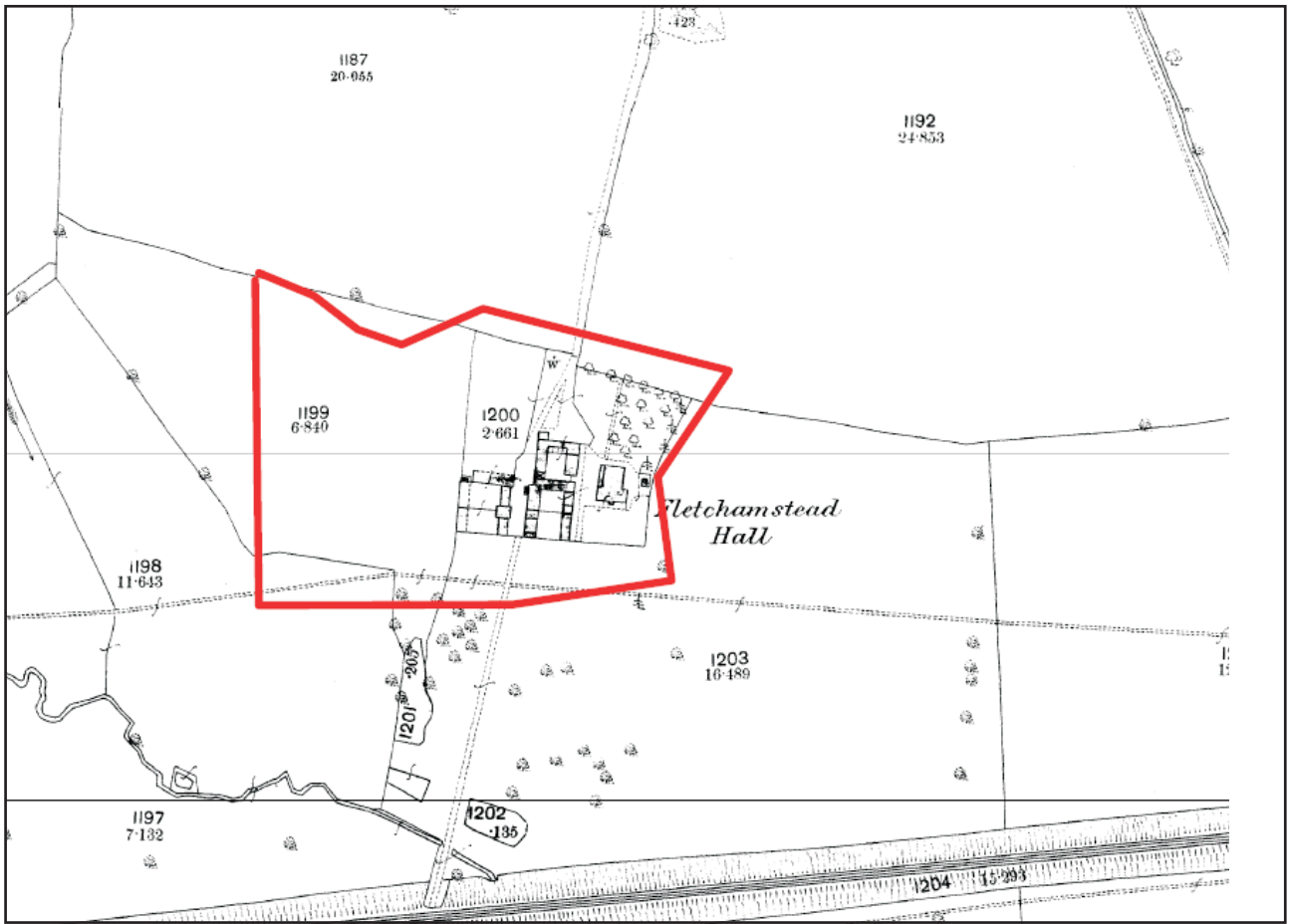


Extract from Mathias Barker's plan of Fletchamstead Hall, 1766 Fig 3

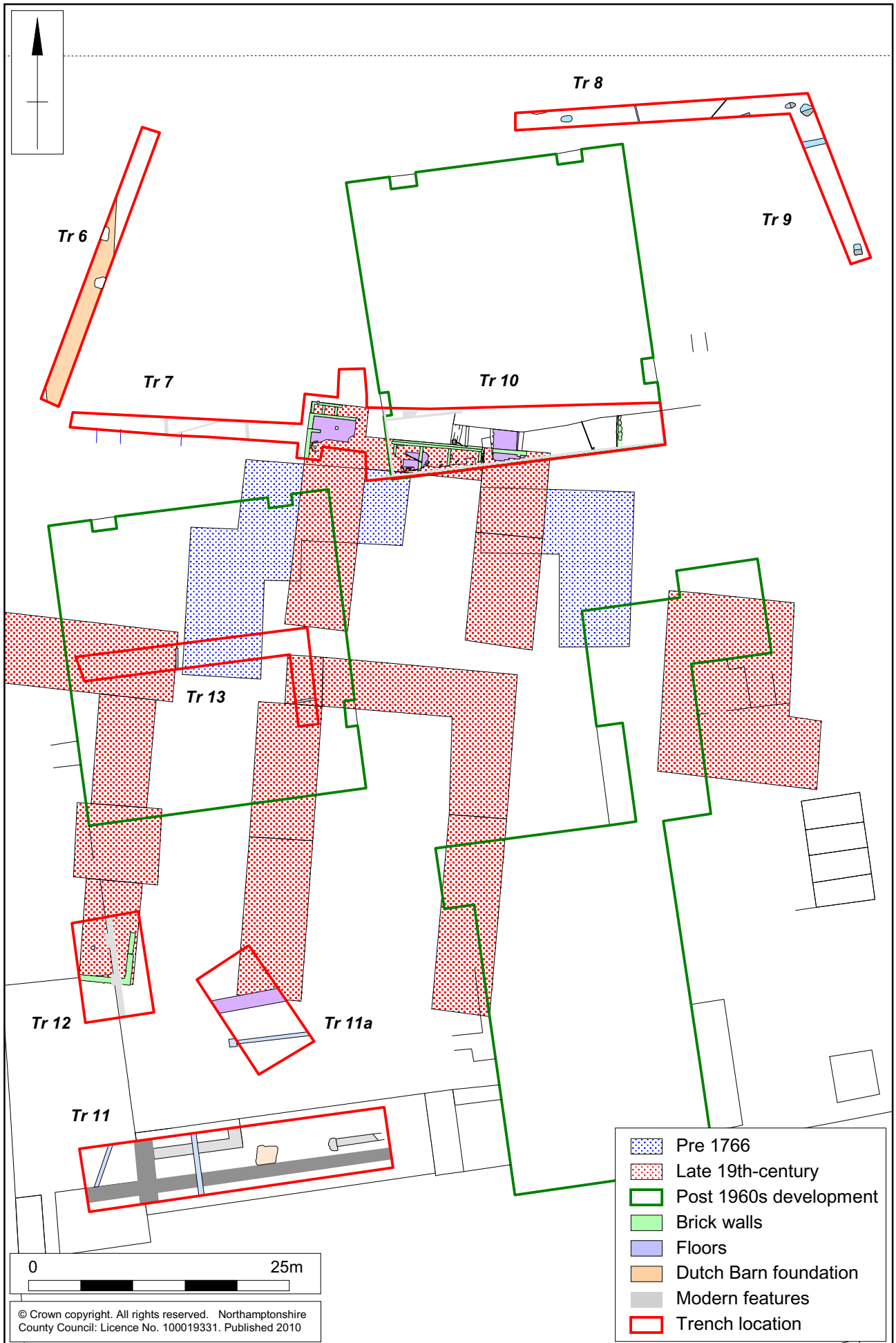


Not to scale

Stoneleigh Tithe Map, 1846 Fig 4



Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1887 Fig 5

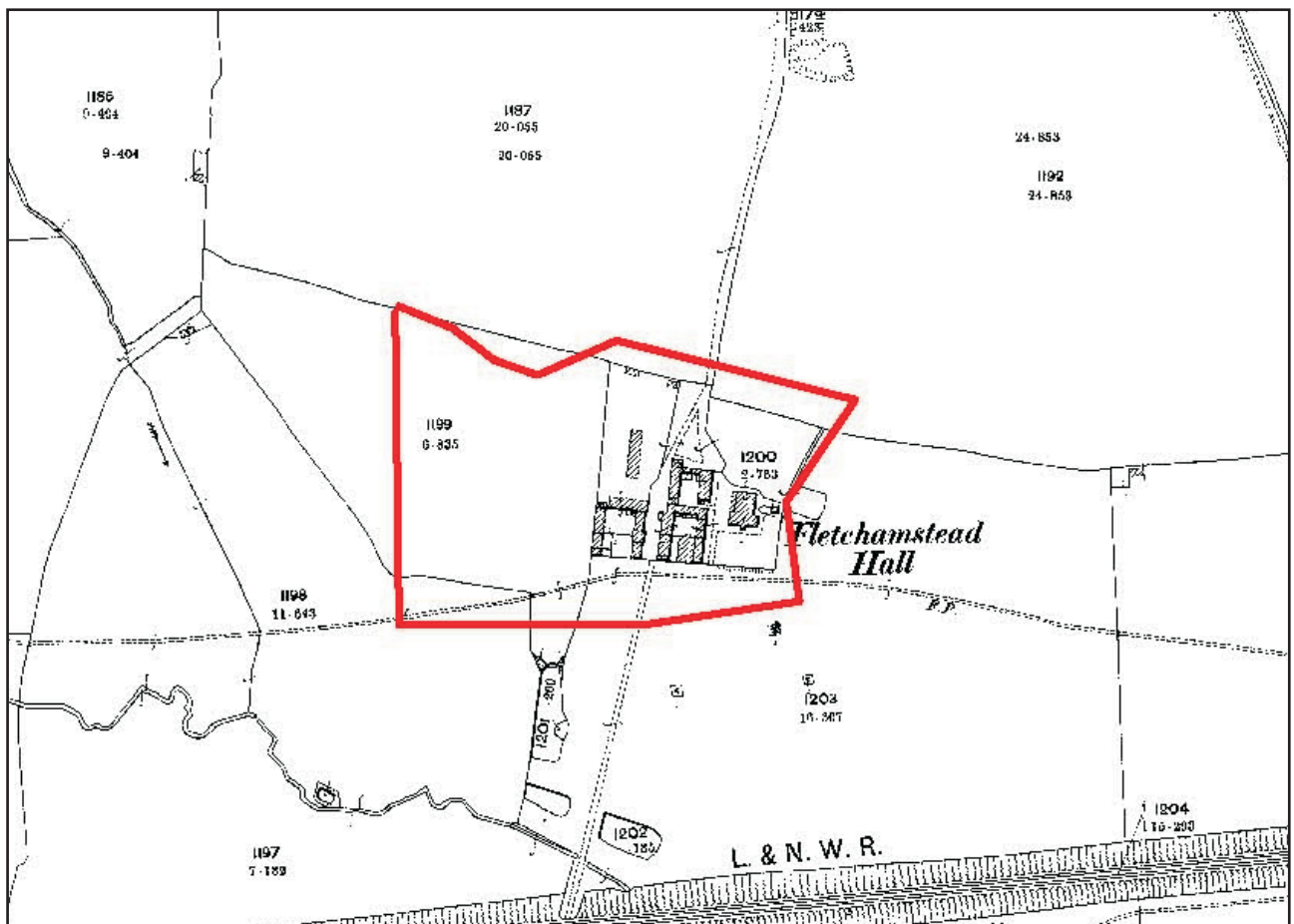


Scale 1:500

Overlay of locations in 1766, 1887 and modern mapping Fig 6



House at Fletchamstead Hall c 1930s, looking north Fig 7



Extract from Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1903 Fig 8



Aerial photograph of site, 1947 Fig 9



Aerial photograph of site prior to demolition and clearance 2005 Fig 10



Sports field looking north to artificial terrace Fig 11

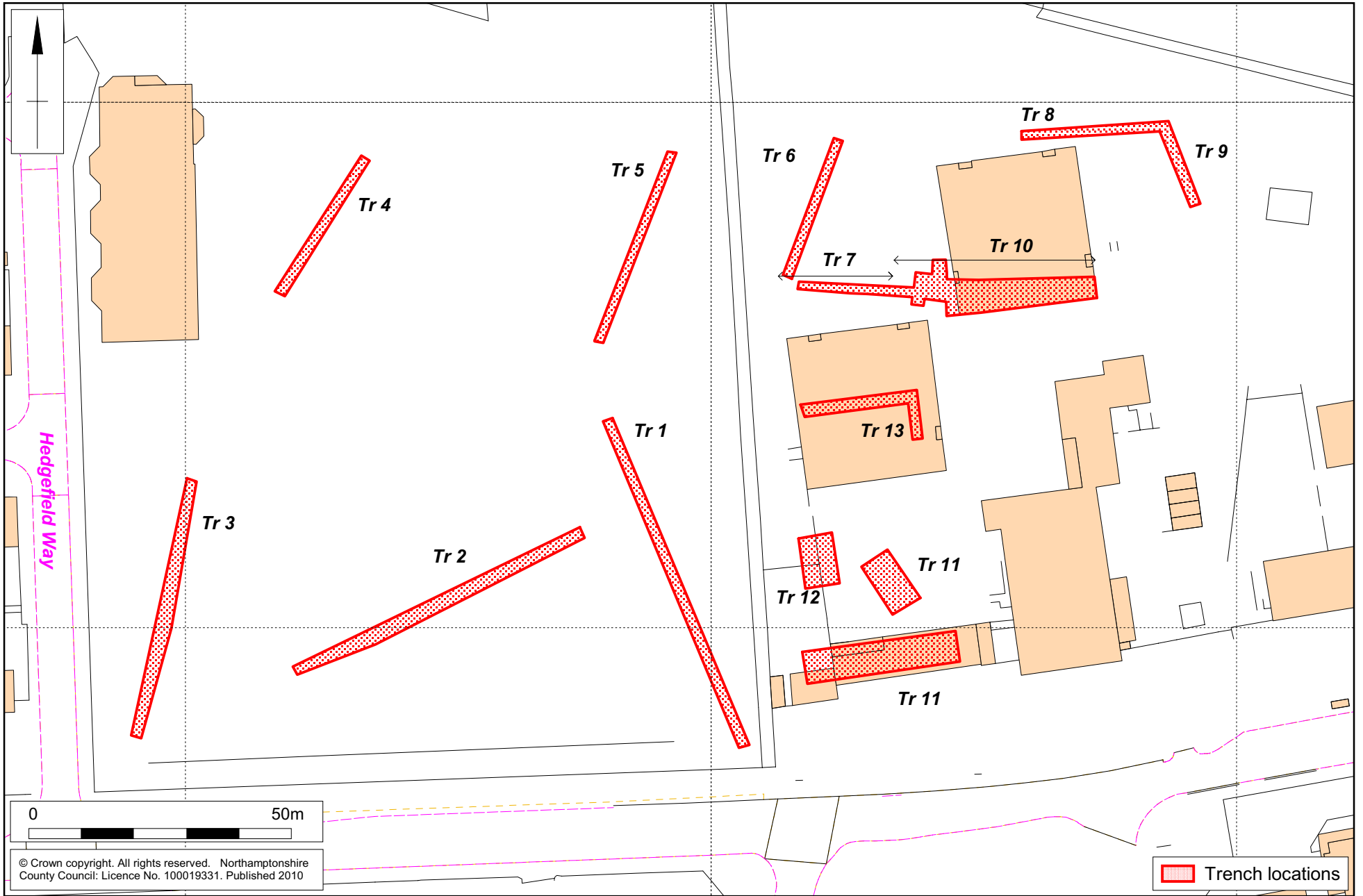


The upper sports field, looking south-east over the lower terrace Fig 12

Scale 1:1000

Trench location plan

Fig 13

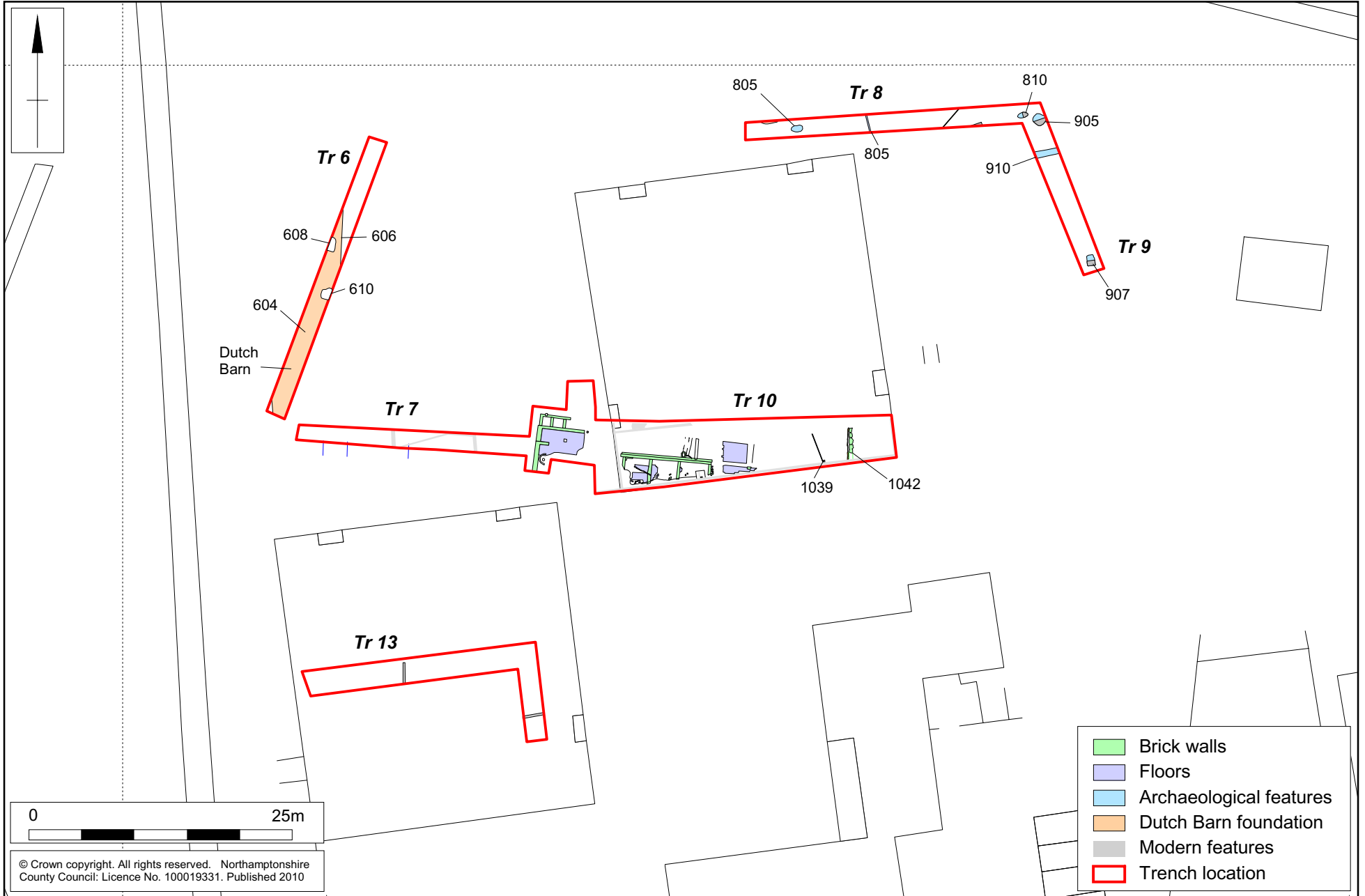


© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Northamptonshire County Council: Licence No. 100019331. Published 2010

Trench locations

Scale 1:500

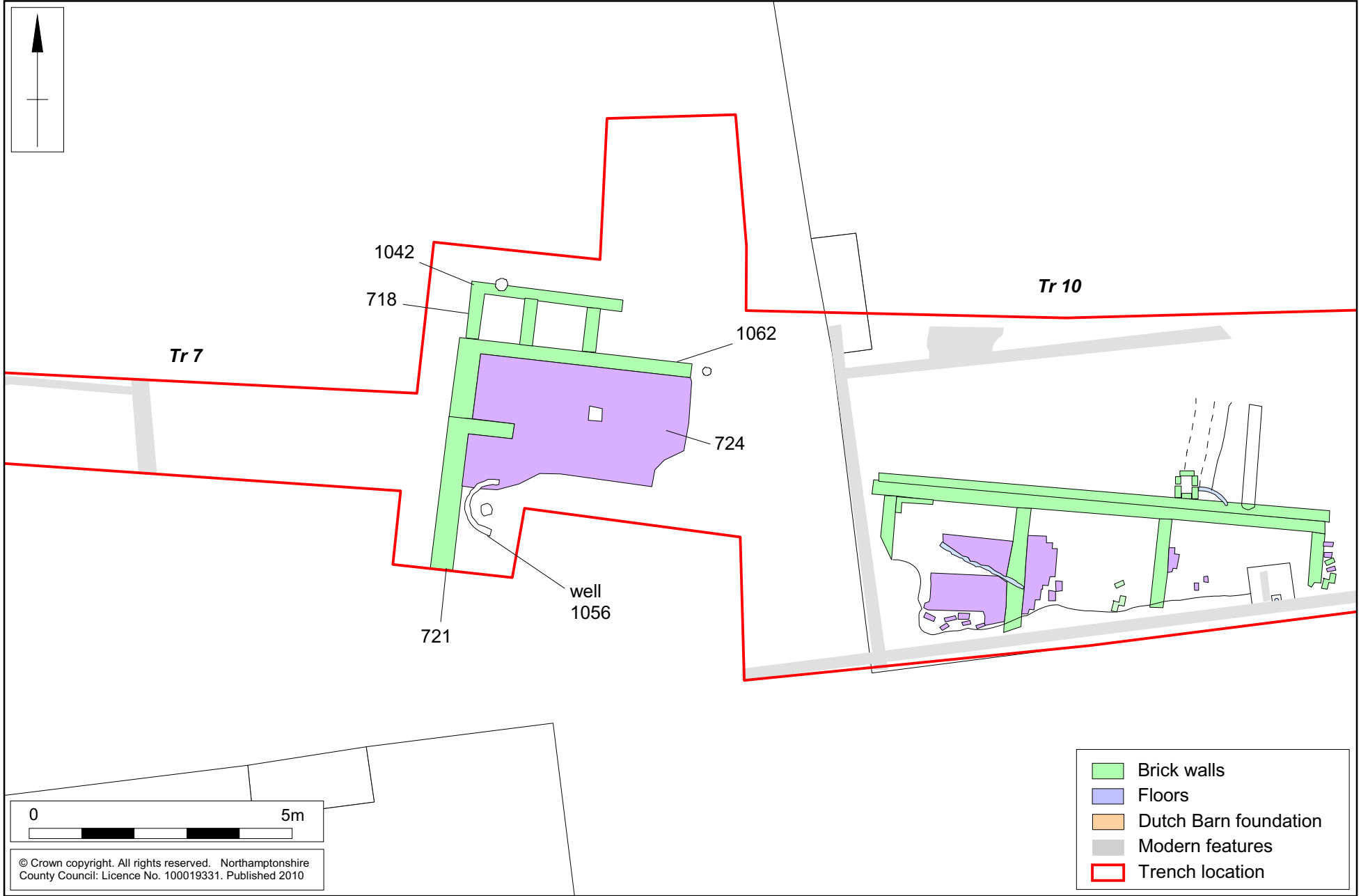
Plan of trenches 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13 Fig 14



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Northamptonshire County Council: Licence No. 100019331. Published 2010

Scale 1:100

Plan of archaeological features in trenches 6, 7 and 10 Fig 15





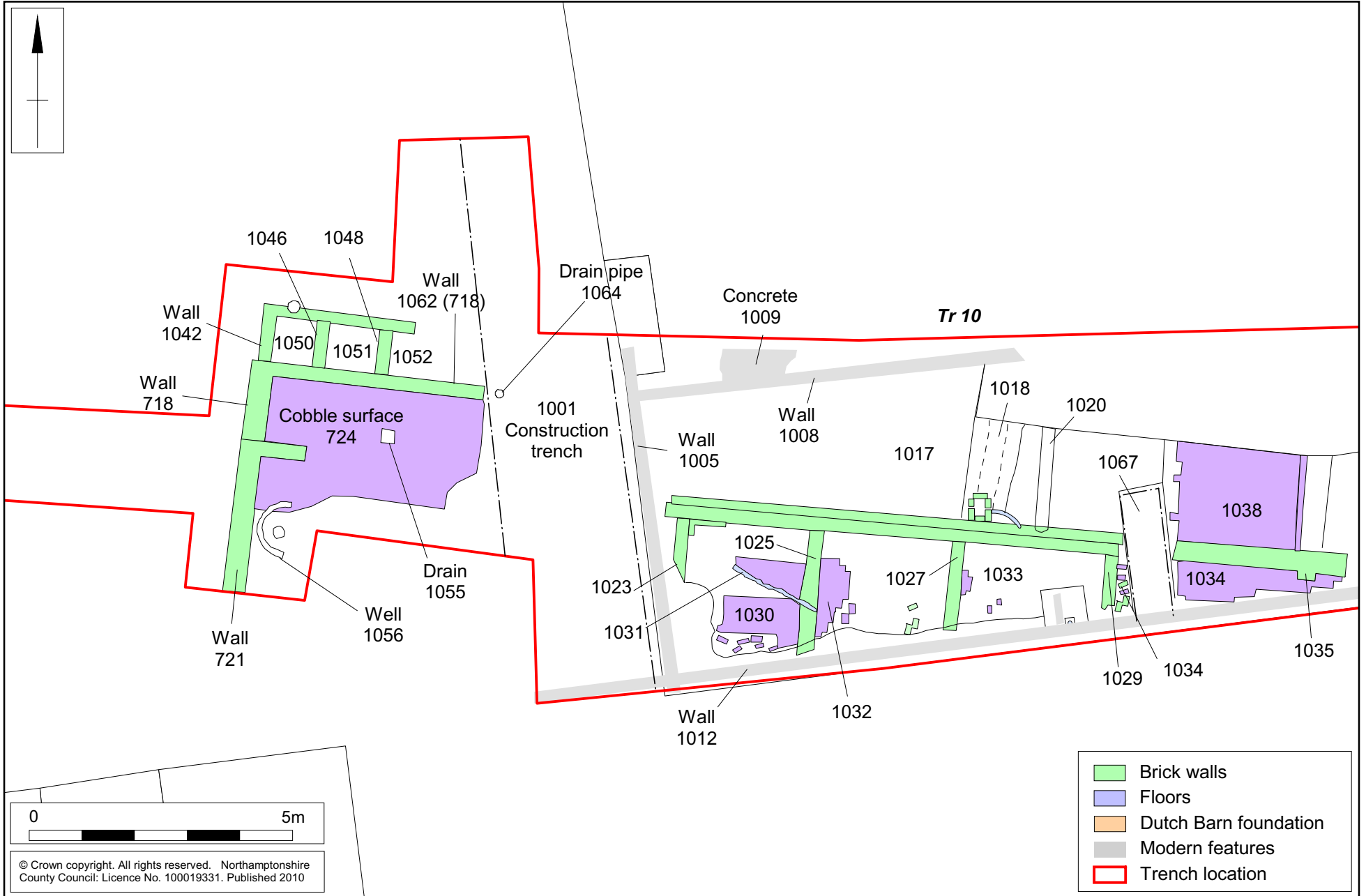
Trench 6, clinker surface, concrete base and steel stanchion, looking north Fig 16



Trench 7, partially exposed walls and cobbled surface (724) looking east Fig 17

Scale 1:100

Plan of archaeological features in trenches 6, 7 and 10 Fig 18





Trench 10, walls and cobbled surface (724) looking east Fig 19



Trench 10, well [1056] below cobbled surface, looking south Fig 20



Trench 10, walls and brick surfaces, looking east Fig 21



Trench 10, foundation, walls and brick floor, looking south Fig 22



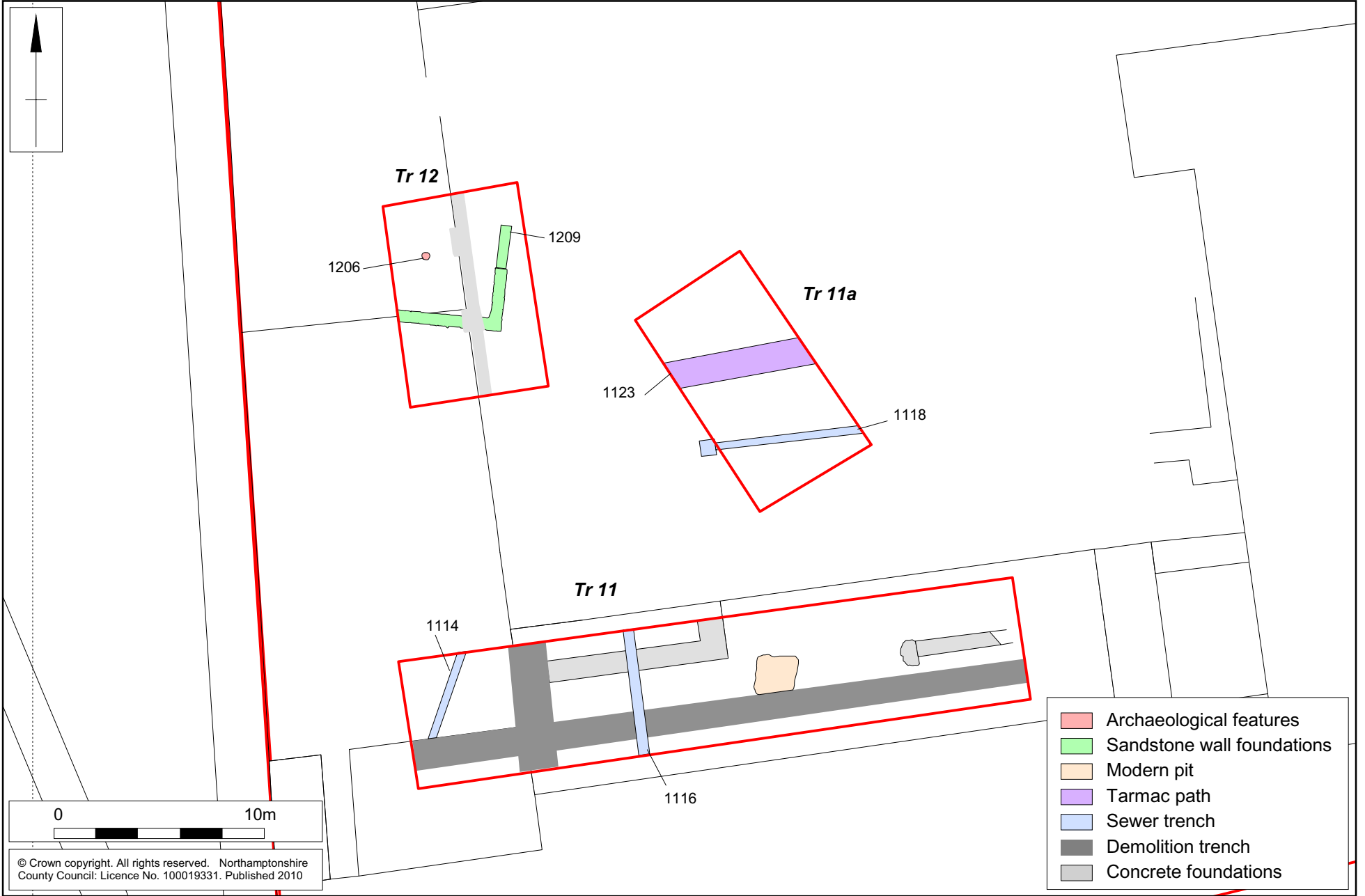
Trench 10, external brick access, threshold and internal floor, looking east Fig 23



Trench 10, sandstone wall foundation on sandstone bedrock, looking east Fig 24

Scale 1:250

Plan of trenches 11a and 12 Fig 25



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Northamptonshire County Council: Licence No. 100019331. Published 2010



Trench 12, sandstone wall foundation, looking north Fig 26



Trench 12, post base and post pipe, looking north Fig 27



Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology



Fletchamstead Hall c1930

Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council