



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Land at Westgate House, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk August 2011



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**

Jim Burke and Adam Yates

Report 11/183

September 2011

Event No ENF BSE 372



STAFF

Project Manager Adam Yates BA MIfA
Text Jim Burke
Fieldwork Jim Burke
Simon Carlyle BSc MSc MIfA
David Haynes
Peter Haynes
Illustration Amir Bassir BSc and Jim Burke
Medieval and post-medieval pottery Paul Blinkhorn BTech
Ceramic Building Material Pat Chapman BA CMS AIfA
Other finds Tora Hylton
Clay tobacco pipe Tora Hylton
Animal bone Karen Deighton MSc

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signature	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Adam Yates		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Land at Westgate House, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.	
Short description	A trial trench evaluation was carried out on land at Westgate House, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. The works were carried out on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd acting on behalf of Greene King Ltd. Trial trenching identified features associated with post-medieval structures and land use.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Site status		
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (Smith 2011)	
Current land use	Gardens, open space and car park	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/period	Ditch, pits, cellar all post-medieval	
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Suffolk	
Site address	Westgate House, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk	
Study area	1.2 ha	
OS Easting & Northing	475470 263740	
Height OD	36m – 40m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Jim Burke	
Project Manager	Adam Yates	
Sponsor or funding body	Greene King Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	25 July 2011	
End date	3 August 2011	
ARCHIVES		
	Location	Content
Physical	Project event number: BSE 372	Artefacts, photographs
Paper		Site records, correspondence
Digital		Reports, photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Westgate House, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk	
Serial title & volume	11/183	
Author(s)	Jim Burke	
Page numbers		
Date	August 2011	

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	BACKGROUND	1
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
4	TRIAL TRENCHING	3
	4.1 Methodology	3
	4.2 General comments	3
	4.3 Trench 1	4
	4.4 Trench 2	4
	4.5 Trench 3	5
	4.6 Trench 4	5
	4.7 Trench 5	6
5	FINDS	7
	5.1 The pottery by Paul Blinkhorn	7
	5.2 The building material by Pat Chapman	9
	5.3 The clay tobacco pipe by Tora Hylton	10
	5.4 The glass by Tora Hylton	10
	5.5 Other finds by Tora Hylton	11
	5.6 The animal bone and shell by Karen Deighton	11
6	DISCUSSION	13
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	14
	APPENDIX 1: TRENCH AND CONTEXT SUMMARY	15

Tables

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Table 2: Quantification of ceramic tile

Table 3: Summary of clay tobacco pipes

Table 4: Identifiable bones by context

Table 5: Number of ageable and measurable bones by taxa

Figures

Cover: View towards Westgate House from rear across the tennis court

Fig 1: Site location 1:5000

Fig 2: Trench location plan 1:500

Fig 3: Trench 1 plan and sections

Fig 4: Trench 2 plan and sections

Fig 5: Trench 3 plan and sections

Fig 6: Trench 4 plan and sections

Fig 7: Trench 4 sections and photographs

Fig 8: Trench 5 plan and sections

Fig 9 and back cover: Face-mask from a Grimston Ware jug (13th–14th century)

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION
ON LAND AT WESTGATE HOUSE, WESTGATE STREET
BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK**

ABSTRACT

A trial trench evaluation was carried out on land at Westgate House, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. The works were carried out on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd acting on behalf of Greene King Ltd. Trial trenching identified features associated with post-medieval structures and land use, which produced a range of pottery, building materials, clay tobacco-pipe and other post-medieval objects.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of Greene King, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation for Greene King Ltd on Land at Westgate House, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (centred on NGR 475470 263740, Fig 1). The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to ascertain the presence or absence, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains present.

Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team (SCCASCT) as the archaeological advisors to St Edmundsbury Borough Council has indicated that the site lies in an area of high archaeological importance. The scope of this work is set out in a Brief prepared by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team (Antrobus 2011). The works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2011).

Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute of Archaeologists (IfA) registered organisation (No.48). The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the programme of fieldwork was prepared in accordance with current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 1994b, revised 2008) and the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

The works have been assigned Event Number BSE 372 by the Suffolk Historic Environment Record.

2 BACKGROUND

The site lies in an area of high archaeological importance recorded in the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (HER). An archaeological desk-based assessment was made of the site by CgMs Consulting (Smith 2011) which identified that the site has an archaeological potential for remains of the mid to late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods.

Palaeolithic artefacts have been found at the King's Brewery, Maynewater Lane c200m east of the development area (HER BSE347).

There is limited evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity of the development area. The only known site within 250m is a ditch recorded during a watching brief at Callum Street c200m to the south-west (HER BSE187).

Bury St Edmunds has its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period. Sometime around 903AD the relics of the martyred king, St. Edmund, were moved from the chapel of Hoxne to

Beodricsworth (later to become Bury St. Edmunds). In 1020AD Ælfwine, bishop of Elmham, granted the custodianship of the remains of St. Edmund to twenty monks, headed by Uvius who was consecrated the first abbot of Bury St. Edmunds by the Bishop of London, and a new stone church began to be built. The first stone church was consecrated by Æthelnoth, archbishop of Canterbury in 1032AD, and dedicated to the honour of Christ, St. Mary and St. Edmund.

It is thought that early and mid Saxon activity was centred around the east end of Westgate Street, but by the late Saxon period it had extended westwards along Westgate Street towards the line of the later town wall. However, the southern part of the site, towards the River Linnet, was quite possibly at this time meadows, especially as it is thought the river course has changed over the centuries. The line of possible Saxon defences runs c250m to the south and south west of the development area from Southgate along to Friars Lane and also c200m west of the site along Southgate (HER BSE 140 and HER BSE 139). Known Saxon remains within 250m of the development area include two pits of late Saxon/early medieval date were observed during monitoring at St Marys Square c250m to the east (HER 201); late Saxon industrial remains at Honey Hill c200m to the north east (HER BSE 262); Saxon pottery from Thetford Street c.100m to the north-east (HER BSE 003); and possible late Saxon at in St Mary's Church (HER BSE 058).

The Scheduled Ancient Monument of the medieval Abbey complex, located on the site of an earlier Saxon establishment, is located 250m north-east of the development area. Archaeological remains uncovered at the Abbey complex include a ruined building of the Abbey, a chapel, a dovecote, a gatehouse, a minster, the Abbott's bridge, St Mary's Church, St James Church (BSE010, 058, 062, 063, 090, 092, 104, 110, 111, 112, 113, 118, 123, 143, 146, 172 174, 196). The medieval town defences soon followed, formed of walls, ditches and gates, possibly following the line of earlier Saxon defences (HER BSE 066, BSE 136, and BSE 140).

Archaeological evaluation undertaken immediately to the east of the development area (BSE 155) revealed medieval (and post-medieval features) which consisted mainly of pits, wells, ditches and a possible enclosure, activity peaking in the 12th and 13th centuries. The evaluation also recorded a truncation of the subsoil in the southern area but described the archaeology as surviving in good condition protected by a good depth of overburden in some areas. Subsequent archaeological monitoring on the south of the site revealed no medieval features. No evidence of further ground truncation was evident suggesting the features faded to the south rather than being removed.

The site is contained within the known medieval settlement extent of the town and archaeological works immediately adjacent to the site have revealed settlement deposits dating from the period. It is therefore considered that the north of the site has a high archaeological potential to contain further medieval remains of a settlement nature. Based on the evidence of adjacent archaeological monitoring this potential has been shown to reduce as the site extends southward away from Westgate Street.

Map regression exercise has revealed settlement in the area of the site dating back to before 1740 and is likely to be a continuation of settlement extending back into the medieval period.

Archaeological investigations at the rear of 7-11 Westgate Street have revealed the presence of post-medieval remains and it is highly likely such remains will continue in to the site area. Accordingly the site is considered to have a high archaeological potential for the presence of post-medieval remains.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of the overall archaeological evaluation, comprising a desk-based assessment (Smith 2011) and trial trench evaluation is to quantify the quality and extent of the archaeological resource and inform further decisions regarding the suitability of the site for development.

The aim of the trial trench evaluation was to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial for important archaeological remains within the application area. Specifically this was to:

- Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area with particular regard to any which merit preservation *in situ*
- Identify the date, form and function of any archaeological deposit, together with its extent, depth and quality of preservation
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and possible presence of masking colluvial or alluvial deposits
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practises, timetables and overheads.

4 TRIAL TRENCHING

4.1 Methodology

Five trenches were plotted on the ground and measured from existing property boundaries, with slight alterations made to allow for machine movement and services. Trenches 1 and 3 were 5m long, trench 2 was 10m long, Trench 4 was T-shaped with an overall length of 40m, and Trench 5 was 20m long (Fig 2).

Topsoil, subsoil and modern overburden were removed under archaeological supervision by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil was stacked separately from the subsoil and other deposits. Trench 2 was subject to access restrictions, so excavation here was carried out by a 1.5 tonne mini-dogger.

Cleaning of exposed surfaces, hand excavation and recording progressed in accordance with the methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (NA 2011) and brief (Antrobus 2011) and in fulfilment of the standards set by the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008).

Following the completion of the work the trenches were backfilled with the excavated material. Trenches 1 and 2 were resurfaced with tarmac.

4.2 General comments

The geology comprised chalk which was encountered in all the evaluation trenches. In the northern part of the site in Trenches 1 and 2 this was overlain by a series of levelling layers and make-up for the modern surfaces.

The ground profile in Trench 4 had been subject to considerable modification, being cut into the natural slope at the northern end and raised to the south, to create a flat level terrace previously used as a tennis court. Whilst the chalk was encountered at a shallow depth at the northern end of Trench 4, only 0.3m below the current ground surface, this deepened to the south to 1.3m, sealed beneath a series of levelling layers.

In Trenches 3 and 5 the chalk was encountered at a depth of 1-1.2m below current ground surface. This was overlain by considerable depth of post-medieval garden soils.

4.3 Trench 1 (Fig 3)

Trench 1 was 5m long and aligned east-west. The natural chalk (105) was encountered at 0.85m below current ground surface.

Ditch [109] was aligned north-south and was 0.69m wide, U-shaped in profile and 0.23m deep. It was filled by firm light brown silty clay with occasional greenish tinges (108). A single piece of cattle bone was recovered from the fill.

This ditch was cut by substantial pit or cellar [107] / [115]. This was only partly contained within the trench and its full dimensions and depth could not be ascertained. It was at least 3.4m long and 0.4m wide and had vertical sides over 0.6m deep. The fills comprised soft dark brown silty clay loams (106), (114) and (118) overlain by redeposited chalk at its eastern end (113). Pottery from (106) was dated to the mid 17th century; from (114) to the mid 18th-century; and from (118) to the mid 19th century. Roof tile fragments from (106) and (108) could date from between the 14th and 19th centuries. Animal bone recovered from (118) comprised two cattle bones and one large ungulate. A fragment of oyster shell was recovered from fill (106).

Part of a pit [117] intruded into the western end of the trench. This was not excavated, although three sherds of pottery recovered from the fill of soft dark brown silty clay (116) were of mid 16th century date.

A possible pit or cellar [112] was seen against the southern edge of the trench, partly obscured by a modern service. This had vertical sides and was filled with loose dark grey brown silty clay (111), which produced two sherds of mid 16th-century pottery. The full depth or extent of this feature could not be ascertained.

These features were overlain by garden soil (104), comprising soft mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional small pebbles, up to 0.42m deep which produced pottery dating from the mid 16th century to the 19th/20th-centuries; a fragment of clay pipe stem 19th-century in date and paving fragments of 18th-20th century date.

Overlying soil (104) was the sub-base (102) and (103) for the modern tarmac (101).

4.4 Trench 2 (Fig 4)

Trench 2 was 10m long aligned north-east to south-west. The natural chalk (318) was encountered at 0.6m below current ground surface at the north end of the trench, and up to 0.8m at the south end.

At the north-eastern end of the trench, cut directly into the chalk was the southern edge of a cellar [211]. Its base lay beyond the reach of the mini-digger employed in this trench, but it was at least 1.5m deep. The vertical side of the cellar had been rendered with a mid-light orange-yellow mortar. The cellar backfill comprised loose dark brown-grey silty clay containing chalk fragments and building rubble (209), which produced three body sherds from Langerwehe Stoneware from large mugs or bottles dating to the mid 16th century; a wine bottle of late 17th/early 18th century date; and two clay pipe stems dated to the 17th/18th centuries. A fragment of roof tile from (209) could date from between the 14th and 19th centuries. The cellar backfill was overlain by compacted chalk (216).

Cut into the chalk to the south of the cellar was a rectangular flat-bottomed feature [217], probably representing the remains of a small sunken-floored structure. This had vertical sides up to 0.5m deep with a flat base, measuring up to 3m wide along the trench, although this cut across the feature at an angle. Along its northern edge was the foundation of wall (208), comprising chalk and brick fragments set in a medium-hard lime mortar. A brick fragment retrieved from this is probably of 18th-20th century date.

Infilling [217] and overlying (208) was firm brown chalky/silty clay containing chalk fragments and building rubble. This was overlain compacted chalk (205) and mid orange-brown sand (206) along its northern side.

Cutting backfill (208) was a pit [220] and gully terminal [213]. Pit [220] was only partly seen within the trench, the exposed portion being triangular in shape, 1.4m wide, with steeply sloping sides to flat base 0.9m deep, filled with mid-dark brown sandy silty clay containing chalk fragments (219), which produced two sherds of mid 16th-century pottery.

Gully [213] was aligned roughly north-south, with a rounded terminal to the north. It was 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep, filled with mid brown silty sandy clay (212).

Levelling layer (203) was present along the full length of the trench, overlying the features described above. It comprised dark grey-brown sandy silty clay containing building rubble, chalk and charcoal, between 0.15-0.5m deep. At the southern end of the trench it was cut by modern service [215]. Overlying this was the sandy hardcore base (202) for concrete surface (201).

4.5 Trench 3 (Fig 5)

Trench 3 was 5m long, aligned east to west. The natural chalk (307) was encountered at 0.8m below current ground surface.

Overlying the chalk was layer (303), comprising friable mid-dark grey brown sandy loam containing chalk, small stone and building rubble, up to 0.6m thick. This was overlain by a layer of re-deposited chalk (302) 0.12m thick, possibly representing a floor surface. Cutting this was robber trench [306], 1.7m wide and 0.6m deep filled with mid brown silty loam containing small stones, chalk and building rubble (305) which produced a fragment of late post-medieval or modern aggregate. Investigation of this fill behind the exposed section revealed remnants of the wall still *in situ*, it was brick-faced with a rubble/flint core [308].

Overlying trench [306] was topsoil and turf (301), 0.14m deep, which produced medieval/post medieval roof tile fragments and modern brick.

4.6 Trench 4 (Fig 6)

Trench 4 was aligned in a T-shaped in plan, aligned east to west and north to south. Natural chalk (402) was encountered at 0.3m below current ground surface at the northern end of the trench and 1.3m at the southern end. This reflects the landscaping of this part of the site to create a flat terrace for a tennis court. This was cut into the natural slope at the north end of the trench and built up to the south, where it was retained by a brick wall.

Cutting the chalk were a series of features probably related to former garden layout or planting. Gully [404] at the eastern end of the east-west arm of the trench was aligned north-south. It was 0.3m wide, U-shaped in profile and 0.18m deep, filled by mid brown silty sand (403).

Cut into the base of the north-south arm of the trench were three pits [406], [409] and [411]. Although regular in plan, excavation showed them to have undulating sides and bases, and they probably represent former planting features. The fills (405), (408) and (410) were all similar mid-dark grey brown silty sandy loams. Fill (408) produced pottery of the 16th-19th centuries including a *Chinoise*-style decorated plate or foot-ring tin-glazed earthenware dated to the 17th/18th century; clay pipe fragments of mid/late 17th century date; medieval/post-medieval roof tile and a number of animal bone fragments deriving from cattle and sheep/goat. Fill (410) contained one sherd of mid 14th century pottery; fragments of clay pipe bowl dated to the mid/late 17th and early/mid 18th centuries; medieval/post-medieval roof tile and animal bone.

At the south end of the trench was ditch [413] aligned east-west. This was 1.3m wide, V-shaped in profile and 0.8m deep, filled with mid-dark brown silty sand (412).

Overlying these features in the north-south arm of the trench was levelling layer (407), comprising mid-dark brown silty sandy loam containing small-medium sized stones and building rubble, up to 1m deep. This was overlain by topsoil and turf (401).

4.7 Trench 5 (Fig 7)

Trench 5 was 20m long, aligned east to west. It was excavated slightly to the north of its planned position in order to avoid a sewer. Natural chalk (504) was encountered at a depth of 1.1m.

At the eastern end of this trench a V-shaped gully [506] was aligned in a north-south. This was 1.0m wide and 0.5m deep filled with mid-dark grey/brown silty clay containing chalk and flint fragments (505). Finds from this feature comprised a key and a nail fragment of post-medieval date.

This was overlain by garden soil (503), comprising mid-light grey brown silty sandy clay containing small stones and charcoal, up to 0.9m deep, from which a piece of 13th century Grimstone Ware face-mask jug was recovered. This was overlain by subsoil (502) and topsoil (501).

At the western end of the trench was a machine-cut feature of uncertain purpose [508], the fill (507) produced medieval/post-medieval roof tile and animal bone. The central portion had been heavily disturbed by the recent removal of a substantial tree.

5 FINDS

5.1 The pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 27 sherds with a total weight of 749g. It was mainly late and post-medieval. Where possible, the pottery was recorded using the codes of the Suffolk County Council Pottery Type-Series (unpublished). The following wares were noted:

GRIM: Grimston-type Ware, late 12th – 14th centuries. 1 sherd, 30g.

GSW2: Langerwehe Stoneware, mid 14th – mid 16th centuries. 4 sherds, 360g.

LMT: Late Medieval Transitional Ware, 15th – mid 16th centuries. 2 sherds, 41g.

GRE: Glazed Red Earthenware, mid 16th – 18th centuries. 10 sherds, 165g.

TGE: Anglo-Dutch Tin-Glazed Earthenwares, 17th – 18th centuries. 1 sherd, 44g.

SS: Staffordshire Slipware, cAD1650 – 1750. 1 sherd, 10g.

ES: English Stoneware, cAD1680-1750. 2 sherds, 35g.

CRM: Creamware, mid 18th – 19th centuries. 1 sherd, 26g.

IRST: Ironstone China, 19th – 20th centuries. 5 sherds, 48g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric is typical of larger settlements in the East Anglia (eg Jennings 1981). All the sherds are in reasonably good condition, and appear reliably stratified.

The only high medieval sherd was a face-mask from a Grimston Ware jug, of 13th–14th century date (Fig 9). These are not untypical features on jugs of this type from the period. The fact that it is the only pre-15th century medieval sherd from the site suggests that it may have been found and curated before its final deposition.

The rest of the assemblage largely comprises bodysherds. The three large sherds of Langerwehe Stoneware from context (209) are all from large mugs or bottles. The only other sherd of note is the TGE from context (408), which is from the centre of a dish or plate with a foot-ring, and decorated with high-quality Chinoise-style decoration.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Context/ feature	GRIM		GSW2		LMT		GRE		TGE		SS		ES		CRM		IRST		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
104, layer	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	22	-	-	-	-	1	17	-	-	2	30	19th century
106/ 107	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mid 17th century
111/112	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mid 16th century
114/115	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	34	-	-	-	-	1	18	1	26	-	-	Mid 18th century
116/117	-	-	-	-	2	41	1	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mid 16th century
118/107	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	19th century
209/211	-	-	3	318	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mid 14th century
219/220	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mid 16th century
408/409	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	1	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	19th century
410/411	-	-	1	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mid 14th century
503, layer	1	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13th century
Total	1	30	4	360	2	41	10	165	1	44	1	10	2	35	1	26	5	48	

5.2 The building material by Pat Chapman

Ceramic tiles

This assemblage of 22 tile sherds, weighing 2125g, comprises 21 roof tile sherds and one floor tile sherd (Table 2). The roof tile sherds, weighing 1.8kg, come from flat, plain tiles, 12-14mm thick, no other dimensions are available. They are made from hard slightly coarse sandy red-brown or orange-brown clay with occasional flint or gravel inclusions up to 10mm long. Four tiles each have a peghole surviving, 9-13mm in diameter, there are no nibs. Tiles of this type and manufacture have a long history, from the 14th to 19th centuries and the advent of widespread factory-made tiles. A few sherds still retain a very thin remnant of white lime mortar overlain by grey Portland cement, the latter a material introduced in the mid 19th century. This suggests that the tiles have been reused or a roof has been repaired with the same tiles.

The floor tile sherd, weighing 339g, from (310) is 32mm thick and machine-made from coarse sandy clay fired to reddish black with a black surface. The grid on the back is plain with no makers' name.

Table 2: Quantification of ceramic tile

Context/feature	No	Wt (g)	Comment
106 /cellar 107	3	335	Roof, 1 peghole 12mm diameter
118 /cellar 107	2	419	Roof
209 /cellar 211	1	211	Roof, 1 peghole 9mm diameter
301 /topsoil	4	341	Roof, 2 pegholes 12-13mm diameter
	1	339	Floor, 32mm thick
408 /pit 409	3	164	Roof
410 /pit 411	4	221	Roof
507 /feature 508	5	197	Roof
Totals	22	2227	

Paving

Two fragments of paving stone come from garden soil (104), one is 35mm thick and the other is 40mm thick. They are made from artificial stone, one is pale pink with a polished surface, the other is yellowish-white with one slightly worn surface. These could be made from Victoria stone, composed of crushed Leicestershire Mountsorrel granite and Portland cement, or a more recent Portland cement-based precast concrete (Wikipedia).

Brick

There are two complete bricks and a fragment from trench 3, and the fragments of two other bricks from wall (208) and topsoil (301). The complete bricks from trench 3 together weigh 5.3kg, including the mortar still adhering to one of them. One brick measures 215 x 102 x 63mm (8½ x 4 x 2½ inches), made from hard fine sandy red clay with both stretchers showing signs of vitrification from exposure to high temperatures, however, much of this brick is covered in grey mortar. The other brick is 225 x 102 x 60mm (8¾ x 4 x 2¾ inches) and made in a similar fabric and has a crude frog, handmade rather than stamped, with no name or makers' mark and with a few small remains of grey mortar around the frog.

From wall (208) comes a slightly friable dark red-brown overfired fragment of brick 58mm (2¼ inches) thick, with large inclusions including a piece of flint 30mm long. This brick has c 18mm thickness of uneven white lime mortar on one surface. A small fragment of modern ventilation brick comes from context (301).

Aggregate

An irregular lump of aggregate, c130x90x50mm and weighing 536g, comes from fill (305) of robber trench [306]. It is made of gravel, flint, glassy slag and other material up to 20mm long, in a hard grey mortar.

Discussion

Although the roof tiles could be medieval, from the 14th century onwards in date, the floor tile, bricks, aggregate and paving stones were manufactured in the 18th to 20th centuries.

5.3 The tobacco clay pipe by Tora Hylton

The excavations produced a small group of ten clay tobacco-pipe fragments, comprising three pipe-bowls and seven stem fragments, they provide a late 17th to early 18th century date for the assemblage (see Table 3). The bowls were recovered from garden features (408, 410) and they are sufficiently complete to enable dating, following the simplified typology of bowl and foot/spur forms as devised by Adrian Oswald (1975, 37-41). Three bowl forms are represented, Oswald's G6 and G7 which date to c1668-1680 and G10, which dates to c1700-40. The earlier examples are decorated either with faint rouletting on the back of the bowl or a line set just below the lip. These motifs were standard in the 17th century and they were in use until the early 18th century (c1710).

The stem fragments were recovered from the infill of a cellar (209) and soil (104), they display signs of moderate abrasion and no single fragment measures more than 61mm in length. Changes in manufacturing technique and the use of finer wire to make the bores ensured that there was a regular reduction in hole diameter between c1620 and 1800. The bores were measured using graded drill bits, measuring in increments of sixty-fourths of an inch. The stems from the garden features and the cellar have fairly large bores (6/64's to 8/64's) suggesting a 17th-18th century date, while the stem from the buried soil measure 4/64's suggesting a 19th century date.

Table 3: Summary of clay tobacco pipes

Date /Oswald Type	Context/feature			
	104 layer	209/211	408/409	410/411
PIPE BOWLS				
1668-1680 (G6)	--	--	1	--
1668-1680 (G7)	--	--	--	1
1700-40 (G10)	--	--	--	1
STEMS				
	1	2	3	1

5.4 The glass by Tora Hylton

Part of a thick walled green glass bottle was recovered from cellar infill (209). Although incomplete, much of the neck and part of the body is missing, enough survives to indicate that it is an 'onion' bottle, a type of wine bottle which was in use from c1680-1730 (Biddle and Webster 2005, 267).

An undiagnostic body sherd in green glass, presumably also from a wine bottle was recovered from layer (116).

5.5 Other finds by Tora Hylton

An iron key and a possible nail were recovered from the fill [507] of ditch 506. The key measures 115mm in length and it would have been for use with a mounted lock. It has a circular bow and a circular-sectioned stem which terminates on the same alignment as the bit; the ward-cuts are obscured by corrosion deposits and soil. It is post-medieval in date.

An iron rod fragment which terminates in a point and has a curved profile, although no head is discernable it may be a shank from a nail.

5.6 The animal bone and shell by Karen Deighton

Introduction

A total of 0.61kg of animal bone was hand recovered from the excavation. This material was scanned to establish the species present and state of preservation and to assess the potential for future work and to advise on further collection strategies if necessary.

Method

Identifiable bones were noted. Ageable and measurable bones (after Von Den Driesch 1976) were also noted. Ageable elements included cheek tooth rows where eruption and wear could be examined (Bull and Payne 1982 for pigs), bones where the state of epiphyseal fusion could be determined (Silver 1969) and neonatal bones (Amorosi 1982).

Results

A total of 23 bones were recovered. A single lower valve of a marine oyster (*M.edulis*) was recovered from context (106), the fill of pit [107].

Fragmentation was moderate and largely the result of old breaks although fresh breaks were noted on material from contexts (410) and (507). Evidence for butchery, in all instances chopping, was noted on four elements. Canid gnawing was present on four elements suggesting the presence of dogs or foxes at site.

Table 4: Identifiable bones by context

Cut/fill	Type	Date	Bos	Ovicaprid	Sus	Anser	L.ungulate	Total
109/108	Ditch	PM	1	-	-	-	-	1
118	Pit	PM	2	-	-	-	1	3
409/408	Pit	PM	3	2	-	-	1	6
411/410	Pit	PM	3	1	-	-	-	4
508/507	Pit	Modern	3	1	4*	1	-	9
Total			12	4	4	1	2	23

*partial neonatal pig skeleton consisting of radii, ulnas, tibia, humerus, first phalangees metapodial, ribs and skull fragments (recorded here as one animal)

Ageing and metrical data*Table 5: Number of ageable and measurable bones by taxa*

Taxon	Bos	Ovicaprid	Sus	Avis
Epiphyseal fusion	5	2	2	1
Tooth eruption and wear	-	-	1	-
Juvenile	2	-	-	-
Neonatal	-	-	1	-
Measurable(number of bones)	6(2)	-	-	-

Discussion

All bones are from common domesticates. Butchery and the prevalence of limb bones suggest the origin of the assemblage to be kitchen waste (in the case of trench 4 dumped into the possible planting features when they fell out of use) although this conclusion is tentative due to the small amount of data available. The presence of marine oyster could indicate coastal trade however with so little evidence this is inconclusive.

The level of preservation and range of taxa present suggests if further work were undertaken at the site animal bone should be retained from dateable/phaseable contexts. The analysis of further material would provide some idea of human dietary preferences at the site.

6 DISCUSSION

All the trenches, with the exception of Trench 2, contained significant depths of soil accumulation dating from the post-medieval period. If any features of medieval or earlier date had been present, it would be expected that these soils would have protected them well from later activity. However, none of the trenches contained any evidence for Saxon activity. This may indicate that although the site lay within the Saxon defences, this part of town lay away from the centre of Saxon activity, as indicated by the desk-based assessment (Smith 2011, fig 4). Evidence for medieval activity was limited to small amounts of residual pottery from later features, and again it is possible that the site was not intensively utilised in the medieval period.

Trenches 1 and 2 were closer to the frontages of the site and contained the earliest evidence for the activity on site. The earliest feature is likely to be ditch [109] seen in Trench 1, which may represent a property boundary, potentially medieval in origin, although the feature itself produced no finds. Also present in Trench 1, were a series of post-medieval pits which were only partly exposed in the trench, these may represent the edges of cellars.

The evidence for buildings was much more evident in Trench 2, with a large backfilled cellar and part of a sunken-floored structure. These features are themselves of uncertain date, although a wall foundation in the sunken-floored building is probably of 18-20th century date. A pit cutting the backfill of this produced two sherds of 16th-century pottery, although these may be residual. The substantial cellar at the north end in Trench 2 seems to have been backfilled in the 17th/18th-centuries. These features may be associated with a building shown on Warrens map of 1747 on the Friar's Lane frontage (Smith 2011, fig 6), which are gone by 1883 (Smith 2011, fig 7).

Trench 3 produced evidence for a structure of more recent date, which appears to correspond with structures shown on the 1883 and 1908 Ordnance Survey maps (Smith 2011, figs 7 and 8).

Trench 4 produced evidence for post-medieval planting, probably related to the garden of Westgate House and levelling activities associated with the construction of a tennis court. Trench 5 contained a single post-medieval ditch.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Amorosi, T, 1982 *A guide to the identification of neonatal and juvenile postcranial bone elements*, BAR International Series, **533**, Oxford
- Antrobus, A, 2011 *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 1), Land at Westgate House, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk*, The Archaeology Service Suffolk County Council
- Biddle, M, 2005 *Nonsuch Palace: The Material culture of a Noble Restoration Household*, Oxbow Books
- Biddle, M, and Webster, J, 2005 Green Glass Bottles, in M Biddle 2005, 266-301
- Brothwell, D, and Higgs, E, (eds) 1969 *Science in Archaeology*, London: Thames and Hudson
- Bull, G, and Payne, S, 1982 *Tooth eruption and epiphyseal fusion in pigs and wild boar* in B Wilson, C Grigson and S Payne (eds) 1982, 91-108
- EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, English Heritage
- Gurney, D, 2003 *Standards for the Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology, Occ Pap, **14**
- IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Institute for Archaeologists
- IfA 2010 *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists
- Jennings, S, 1981 *Eighteen Centuries of Pottery from Norwich*, East Anglian Archaeology, **13**
- NA 2011 *A Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation on land at Westgate House, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology
- Oswald, A, 1975 *Clay pipes for the Archaeologist*, BAR British Series, **14**
- Silver, I, 1969 The ageing of domestic mammals in D Brothwell and E Higgs (eds) 1969, 283-302
- Smith, M, 2011 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Land at Westgate House, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk*. CgMs Consulting client report, **CB/MS/12812**
- Von den Driesch, A, 1976 *A guide to the measurement of animal bone from Archaeological sites*, Harvard University Press, Harvard
- Wilson, B, Grigson C, and Payne, S, (eds) 1982 *Ageing and sexing animal bones from archaeological sites*, BAR British Series, **109**, Oxford

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH AND CONTEXT SUMMARY

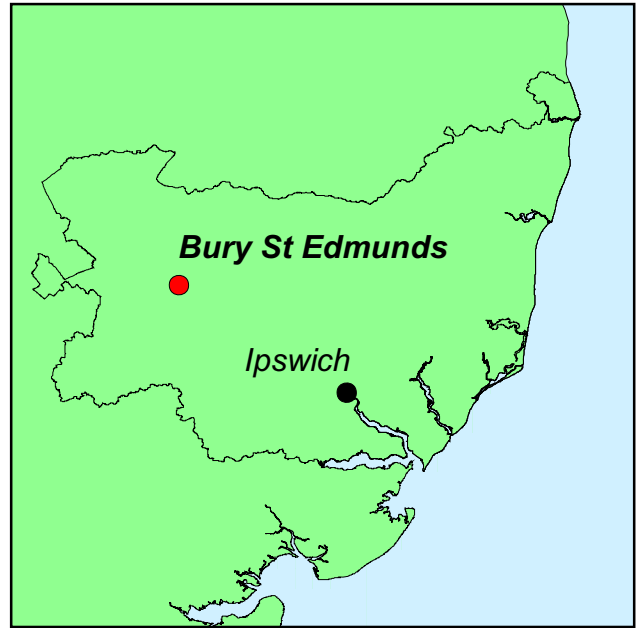
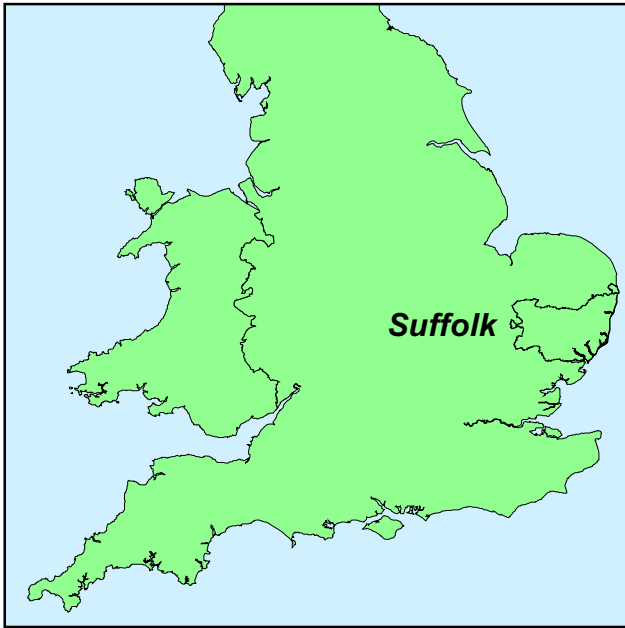
Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	5m x 1.8m NW-SE	585448 263763	41.20 – 41.29 m aOD	0.8m, 40.38 - 40.40m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
101	Tarmac	Tarmac surface	0.10m deep	
102	Layer	Sand levelling layer with demolition rubble	0.15m deep	
103	Layer	Sandy levelling layer	0.25m deep	
104	Buried soil	Mid grey-brown silty sand, some demolition rubble,	0.42m deep	Pottery, clay tobacco pipe, paving
105	Natural	White chalky flint		
106	Fill of [107]	Dark grey-brown silt, with some demolition rubble	0.31m deep	Pottery, tile, animal bone
107	Cut	Curved rectangular pit steep sides, flat base	0.46m wide 0.60m deep 1.22m +long	
108	Fill of [109]	Firm light-mid brown silt gravel chalk and flint	0.23m deep	Animal bone
109	Cut	Linear ditch concave base	0.69m wide 0.23m deep 1.14m + long	
110	Fill of [112]	Mid grey-brown silty clay,	0.40m deep	Pottery
111	Fill of [112]	Dark brown-grey silty clay	0.10m deep	
112	Cut	Vertical edge not fully excavated		
113	Fill of [115]	Light grey-white chalk	0.10m deep	
114	Fill Of [115]	Dark brown silty clay moderate demolition rubble	0.40m deep	Pottery
115	Cut	Vertical side not fully excavated		
116	Fill of [117]	Dark brown silty clay with chalk with glass and pot	Not Excavated	Pottery
117	Cut	Not excavated		
118	Fill of [107]	Mid grey-brown silty clay, with demolition rubble	0.29m deep	Pottery, tile, animal bone

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	10m x 1.8m NW-SE	585451 263746	39.76 – 40.20 maOD	0.8m, 39.01 –.38.96 maOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
201	Concrete surface	Carpark surface concrete	0.15m thick	
202	Levelling layer	Hardcore levelling layer, brick, tile, stone, plastics and flint	0.20m thick	
203	Levelling layer	Hardcore levelling layer, brick, tile, stone, chalk, flint and concrete	0.15 – 0.50m thick	
204	Layer	Backfill of robbed out area,	0.40m wide 0.50m deep	
205	Layer	Chalk layer near cellar wall.	0.40m wide 0.15m deep	
206	Layer	Backfill of robbed out wall	1m wide 0.25m deep	
207	Layer	Backfill of robbed out wall	0.85m wide 0.40m deep	
208	Wall	Remains of wall, broken brick and mortar	0.75m wide 0.30m deep	Brick
209	Fill	Silty clay mix, with demolition backfill of cellar	0.65m deep not fully excavated	Pottery, clay tobacco pipe, glass bottle, tile
210	Plaster/mortar	Sandy plaster/mortar remains of cellar wall	0.60m deep	
211	Cut	Vertical cut into the natural chalk of the cellar wall	Not fully excavated	
212	Fill	Mid brown silty sand frequent chalk fill of [213]	0.40m wide 0.10m deep	
213	Cut	Linear U-shaped gully	0.40m wide 0.10m deep	
214	Fill	Mid brown-orange sandy clay backfill of modern drainage	1.30m wide 0.55m deep	
215	Cut	Linear cut of modern drainage	1.30m wide 0.55m deep	
216	Layer	Chalk layer	0.30m deep	
217	Cut	Square cut, near vertical sides flat base	0.40m wide 0.50m deep	
218	Natural	White chalky flint		
219	Fill	Mid grey-brown silty sandy clay fill of [220]	1.40m wide 0.90m deep	Pottery
220	Cut	Square steep sides flat base	1.40m wide 0.90m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	5m x 1.8m NW-SE	585462 263691	36.25 – 36.32 maOD	0.8m, 35.53- 35.93 maOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
301	Topsoil-turf	Dark brown-black sandy loam	0.14m deep	Tile, brick
302	Layer	Chalk layer cut by [306]	0.12m deep	
303	Layer	Mid-dark grey-brown sandy loam, demolition rubble crushed brick and tile	0.60m deep	
304	Wall	Remains of wall within a construction cut	1.70m wide 0.70m deep	
305	Fill	Fill of construction cut of remaining wall	0.44m deep 0.30m wide	Aggregate
306	Cut	Construction cut of (304) and (305)	1.70m wide 1m deep	
307	Natural	White chalky flint		

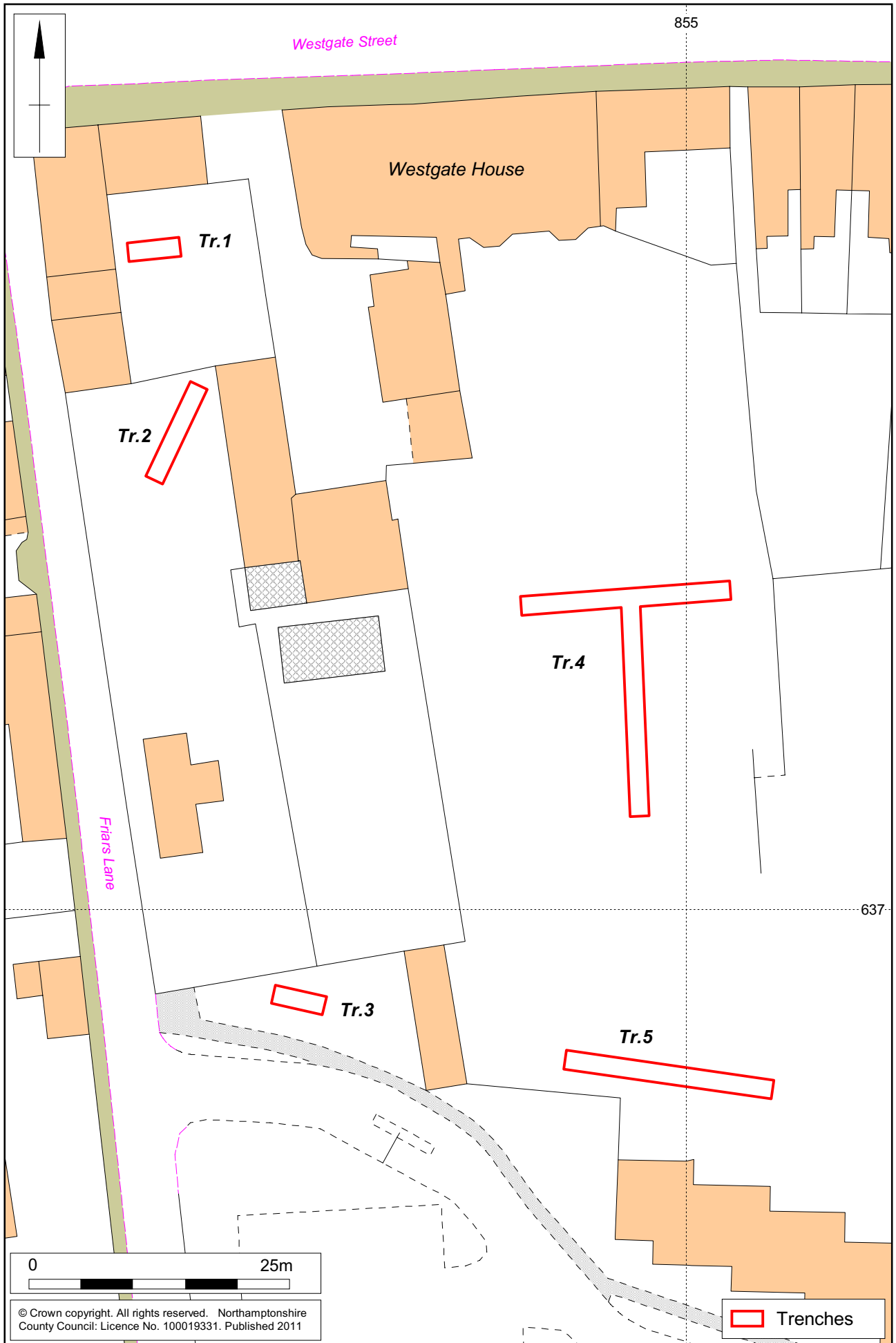
Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	40m x 1.8m	585495 263760	38.2 - 38.3 maOD	0.3-1.3m, 38.04-37.16 maOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
401	Topsoil-turf	Dark brown-black sandy loam	0.30m deep	
402	Natural	White chalky flint		
403	Fill	Mid brown silty sandy gravel	0.30m wide 0.18m deep	
404	Cut	Shallow linear gully filled by (403)	0.30m wide 0.18m deep	
405	Fill	Dark brown silty sand	0.50m wide 0.14m deep	
406	Cut	Uneven sides and base	0.50m wide 0.14m deep	
407	Layer	Mid-dark brown, silty sandy loam	10m wide 1m deep	
408	Fill	Mid-dark brown silty sandy loam	0.95m wide 0.24m deep	Pottery, clay tobacco pipe, tile, animal bone
409	Cut	Steep uneven sides and base	0.95m wide 0.24m deep	
410	Fill	Mid-dark grey-brown	0.70m wide 0.22m deep	Pottery, clay tobacco pipe, tile, animal bone
411	Cut	Steep uneven sides and base	0.70m wide 0.22m deep	
412	Fill	Mid-dark brown silty sandy loam	1.30m wide 0.80m deep	
413	Cut	Linear U-shaped ditch	1.30m wide 0.80m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	20m x 1.8m NW-SE	585498 263684	36.15 – 36.62 maOD	0.8m, 35.15 - 35.36m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
501	Topsoil-turf	Dark brown-black sandy loam	0.15 – 0.30m deep	
502	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand	0.05 – 0.30m deep	
503	Layer	Mid-light grey-brown silty sand	0.90m deep	Pottery
504	Natural	White chalky flint		
505	Fill of [506]	Mid-dark silty grey-brown clay	1.02m wide 0.50m deep	
506	Cut	Linear V-shaped ditch	1.02m wide 0.50m deep	Fe objects
507	Fill of [508]	Mid grey silty sand modern demolition rubble	2.20m deep 1.60m wide	Tile, animal bone
508	Cut	Steep vertical cut	2.20m deep 1.60m wide	
509	Layer	White chalky layer	0.10m deep	
510	Layer	Dark grey-brown silty sandy loam	0.40m deep	
511	Layer	White chalky layer	0.10m deep	



Scale 1:5000

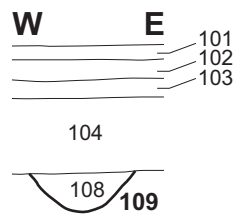
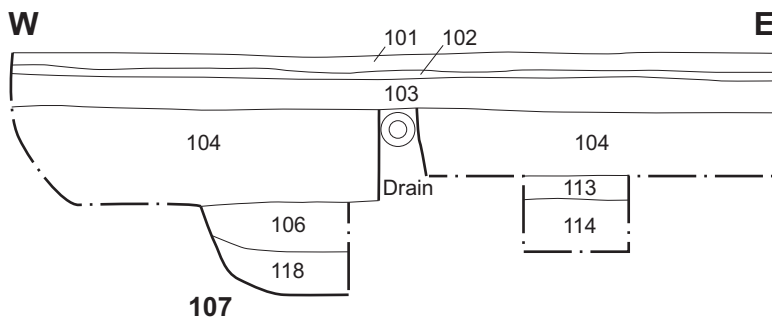
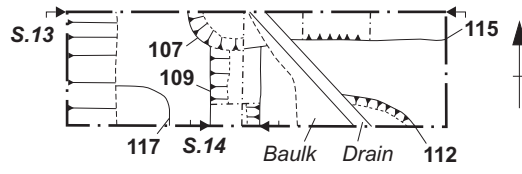
Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:500

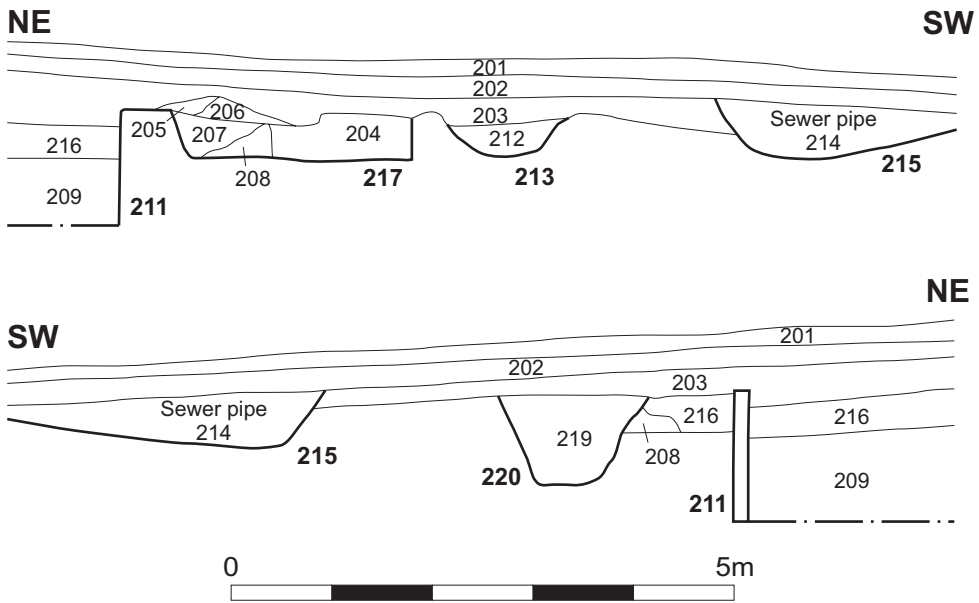
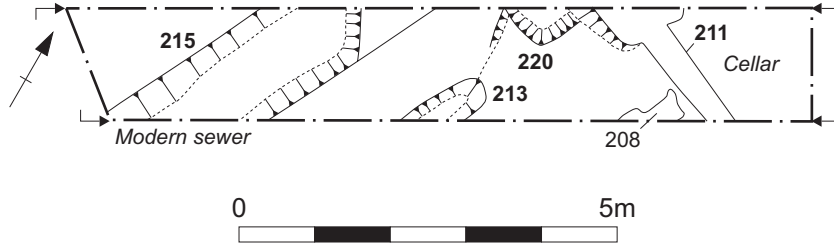
Trench location plan Fig 2

Trench 1



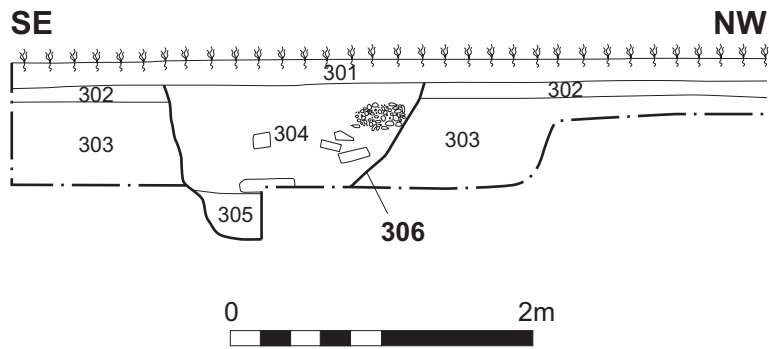
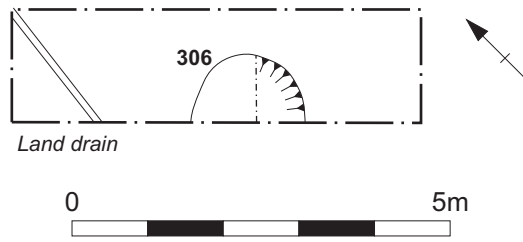
Trench 1, looking E

Trench 2



Trench 2, looking south-west

Trench 3



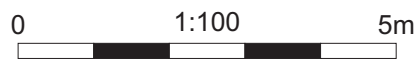
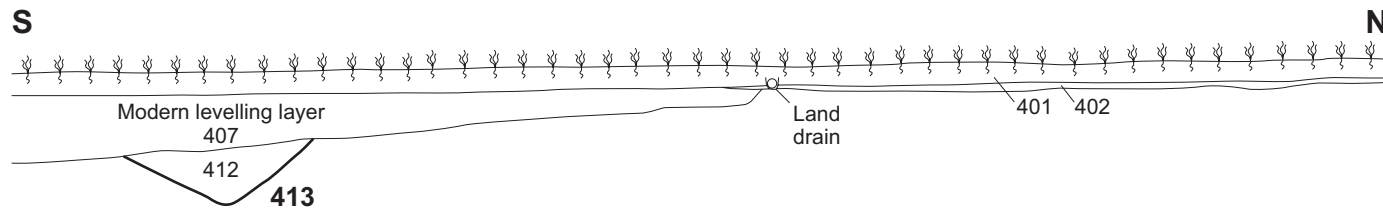
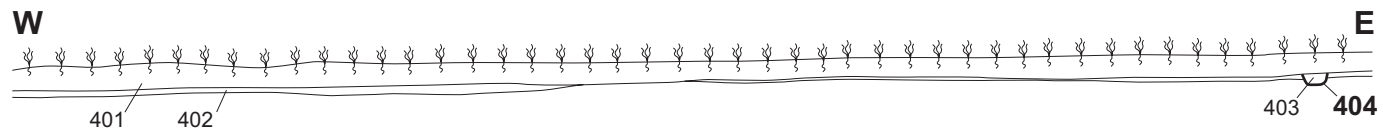
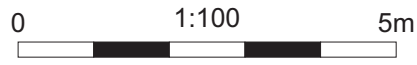
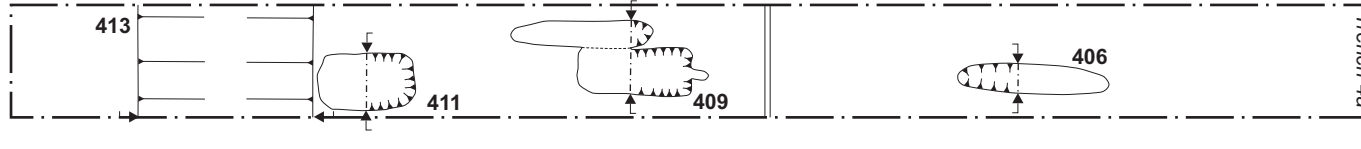
Trench 3, looking north-west

Scale 1:100

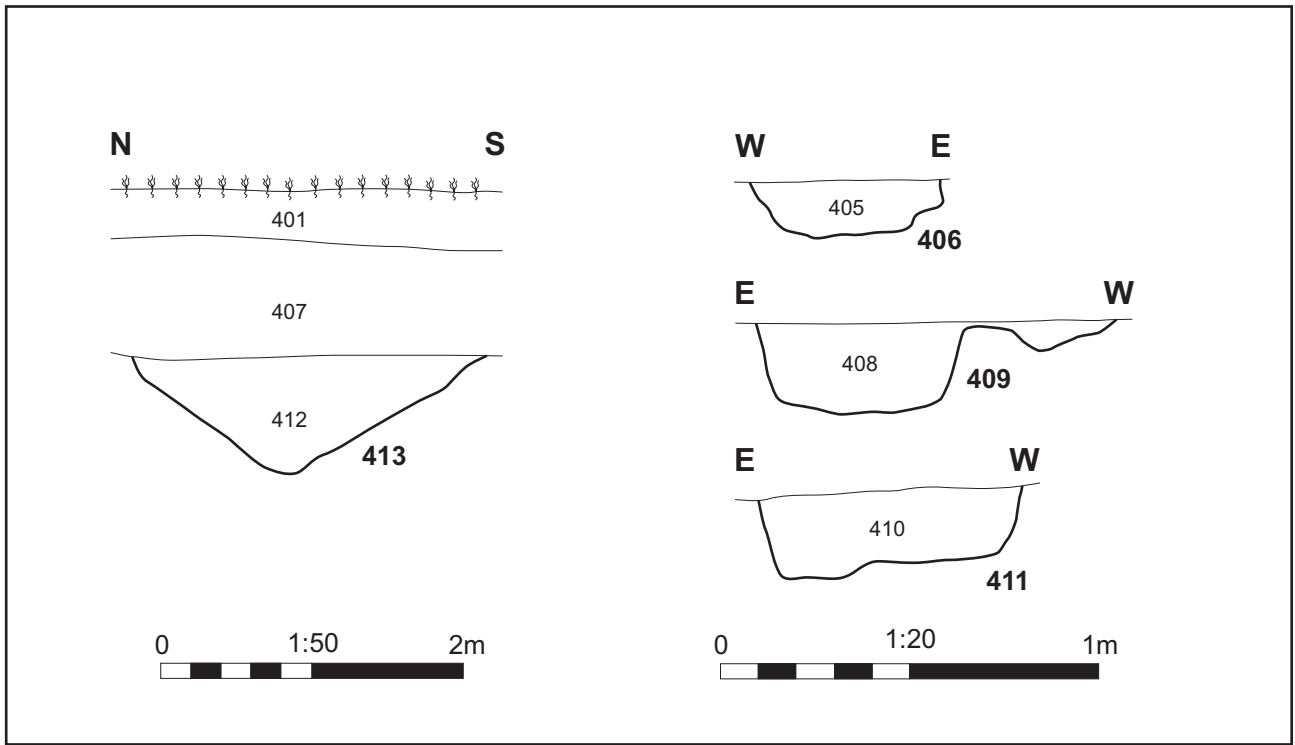
Trench 4a



Trench 4b



Trench 4, plan and sections Fig 6

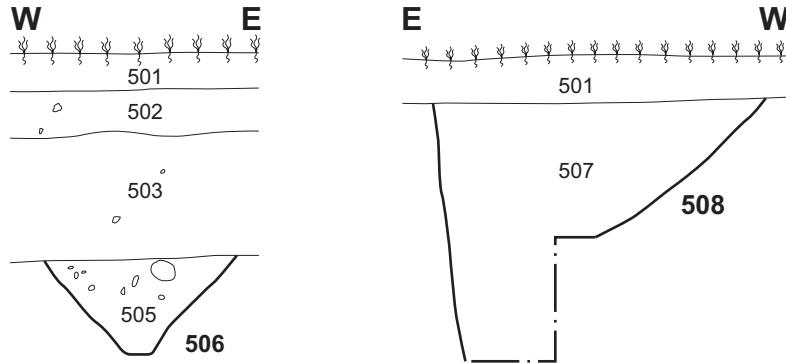
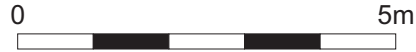
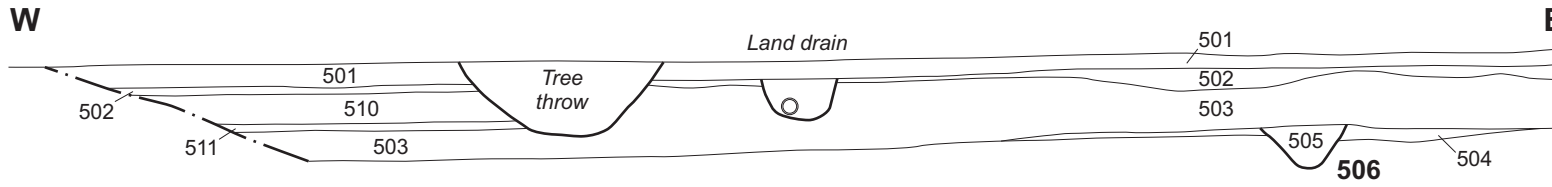
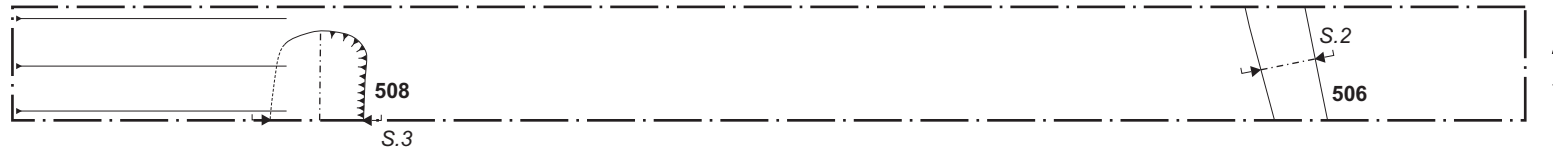


Trench 4, south end, looking south



Trench 4, north end, looking west

Trench 5



Trench 5, looking south-west



Face-mask from a Grimston Ware jug (13th – 14th century) Fig 9



Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology



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