



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological strip, map and record exercise at
17-67 New Road, Woodston, Peterborough
September 2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
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Verified by	Jim Brown		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	An archaeological strip, map and record exercise at 17-67 New Road, Woodston, Peterborough, September 2011	
Short description	An archaeological strip, map and record exercise, carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, investigated four areas of a site at 17-67 New Road, Woodston, Peterborough. The work confirmed modern truncation of the site in the north and an absence of archaeological features elsewhere on the site.	
Project type	Strip, map and record exercise	
Site Status	None	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Butler 2011)	
Current land use	Vacant waste ground	
Future work	Residential housing	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Peterborough	
Site address	17-67 New Road, Woodston, Peterborough	
Post code	Not yet assigned	
OS co-ordinates	TL 18483 97580	
Area (sq m/ha)	c0.4 ha	
Height	c12m above Ordnance Datum	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Rebecca Cass-Hatton, Peterborough City Council	
Project Design originator	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Manager	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Sponsor or funding body	Parrot Building Contractors	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	22/9/11	
End date	28/9/11	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents
Physical		No finds
Paper		Context records, plans, photographic register, 35mm Colour slides and monochrome contact prints and background notes
Digital		Client PDF
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	An archaeological strip, map and record exercise at 17-67 New Road, Woodston, Peterborough, September 2011	
Serial title & volume	11/206	
Author(s)	Jim Brown	
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND RECORD EXERCISE AT
17-67 NEW ROAD, WOODSTON
PETERBOROUGH**

SEPTEMBER 2011

Abstract

An archaeological strip, map and record exercise carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, investigated four areas of a site at 17-67 New Road, Woodston, Peterborough. The work confirmed modern truncation of the site in the north and an absence of archaeological features elsewhere on the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological strip, map and record exercise was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on four areas of a site at 17-67 New Road, Woodston, Peterborough for Parrott Building Contractors (NGR: TL 18483 97580; Fig 1). The whole site encompasses a c0.4ha area of waste ground and former garages on the east side of New Road. A brief for archaeological site investigation was issued by Peterborough City Council as the site is considered to lie in an area of high archaeological potential (Cassa-Hatton 2011). A quarter of the site was subsequently the subject of geophysical survey, which found no evidence for archaeological remains (Butler 2011).

As the remainder of the site was not accessible to geophysical survey a scheme of trial excavation was also required. The work was conducted as a strip, map and record exercise in place of an archaeological trial trench evaluation, with the full agreement of the Peterborough City Council Planning Archaeologist, to enable preparations for development to proceed under archaeological monitoring. No Written Scheme of Investigation was required and each area of work was agreed with the planning authority in advance to ensure compliance with the brief. The work was monitored by the authority officer who visited before the conclusion of the works.

Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Registered Organisation (RAO48). All work was undertaken in accordance with current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010), *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008), and the procedural documents of English Heritage (EH 1991a; 2002; 2009).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological background

The development site lies within an area of archaeological potential. An undated, and therefore possibly prehistoric ditch, was identified c100m north-east to the development at the St Augustine Church of England School (Bamforth 2003). Other work at the former British Sugar factory site, to the north-west, also uncovered two undated phases of pits and ditches (Fisher 2006).

Neolithic material was produced by excavations c200m to the east (Thomas and Jones 2008). The same investigations also produced Roman pottery and building materials suggestive of settlement in close proximity, but the main extent of the archaeology was for considerable complex stratigraphic medieval and post-medieval occupation from

the 12th-16th centuries fronting onto Oundle Road, with pits and boundaries in the plots to the rear.

Woodston was originally a village, separate from Peterborough, in the county of Huntingdonshire and is referenced in sources as early as the 10th century. New Road is, however, some distance away from the historic core but there is abundant evidence for Anglo-Saxon burial and settlement in the parish. The manor was held by Thorney Abbey until the dissolution of the monasteries. A fishery and windmill were recorded amongst its possessions, and rights to a weekly market or fayre. The church of St Augustine of Canterbury, which lies 150m to the north-east of the development, is also mentioned in Domesday Book.

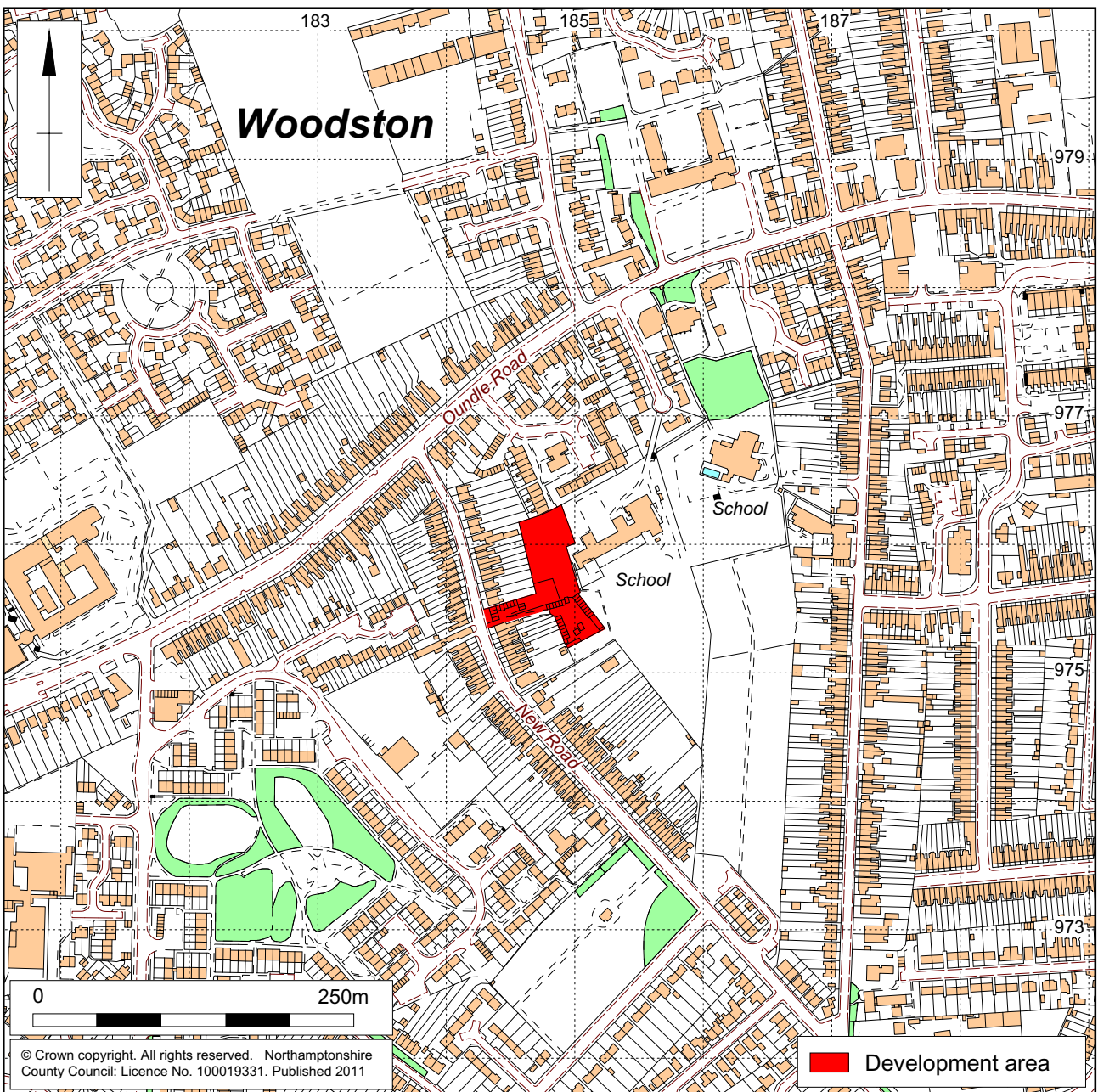
Immediately east of the site the map of 1967 depicts an Anglo-Saxon burial ground (cAD550 onwards). This extensive inhumation and cremation cemetery was uncovered during gravel extraction between the mid- 19th century and the early 20th century, but no detailed records of its excavations survive. Finds were deposited with the British Museum, it is possible the records reside there also. A more recent burial was uncovered in the New Road/Palmerston Road allotments, c100m to the east in 2007. Finds included a bronze Coptic bowl of 6th-7th century date, but the whole had been disturbed during earlier gravel quarrying and this may be indicative of the lost cemetery site.

A recent watching brief by Northamptonshire Archaeology at 87 New Road demonstrated an absence of features or artefacts (Taylor 2011).

2.2 Topography and geology

The site comprises c0.4 ha of waste land and former copse (Fig 1). The site was formerly overgrown including demolished garage buildings and trees. The perimeter is bounded by a steel fence from the school to the east. There is housing to the north and west, and the south of the site is occupied by demolished garages, also previously used for animals.

The solid geology of the site is mapped as Great Oolite Group sandstones, limestones and argillaceous rocks. Drift geology is river terrace sands and gravels (Geological Survey of Great Britain Online www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html accessed 19/09/11). The site is situated at an elevation of c12m above Ordnance Datum.



Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1



Scale 1:500

Strip, map and record areas Fig 2

3 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

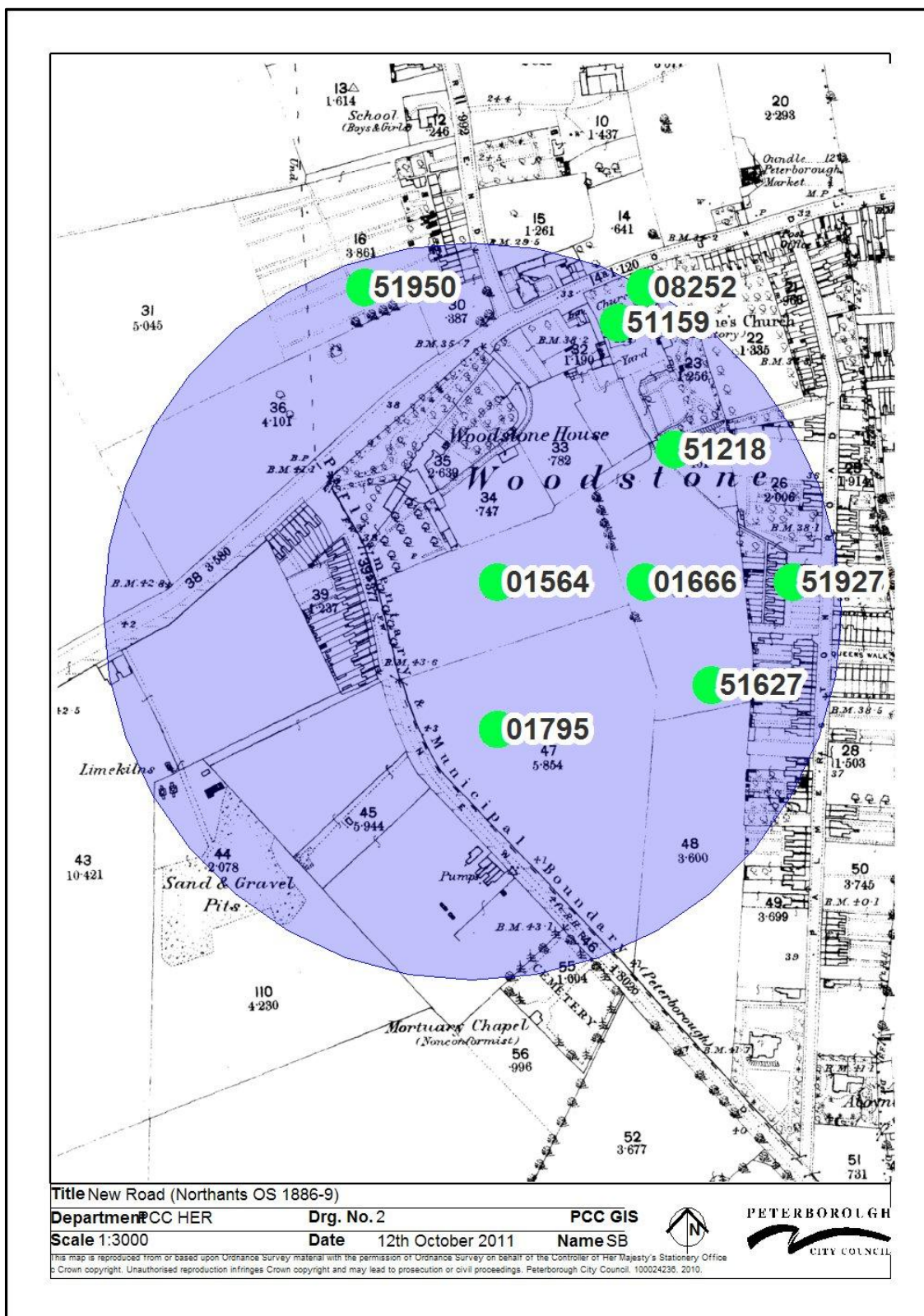
3.1 Historic Environment Record (HER)

There are seventeen instances of archaeological discoveries within a 250m radius of the development area, recorded by the Historic Environment Record. Four sites cannot be located and are highlighted in Table 1. The database is held by Peterborough City Council and provides the locations of the other sites as depicted on the historic maps (Figs 3-7).

Table 1: Historic Environment Record data

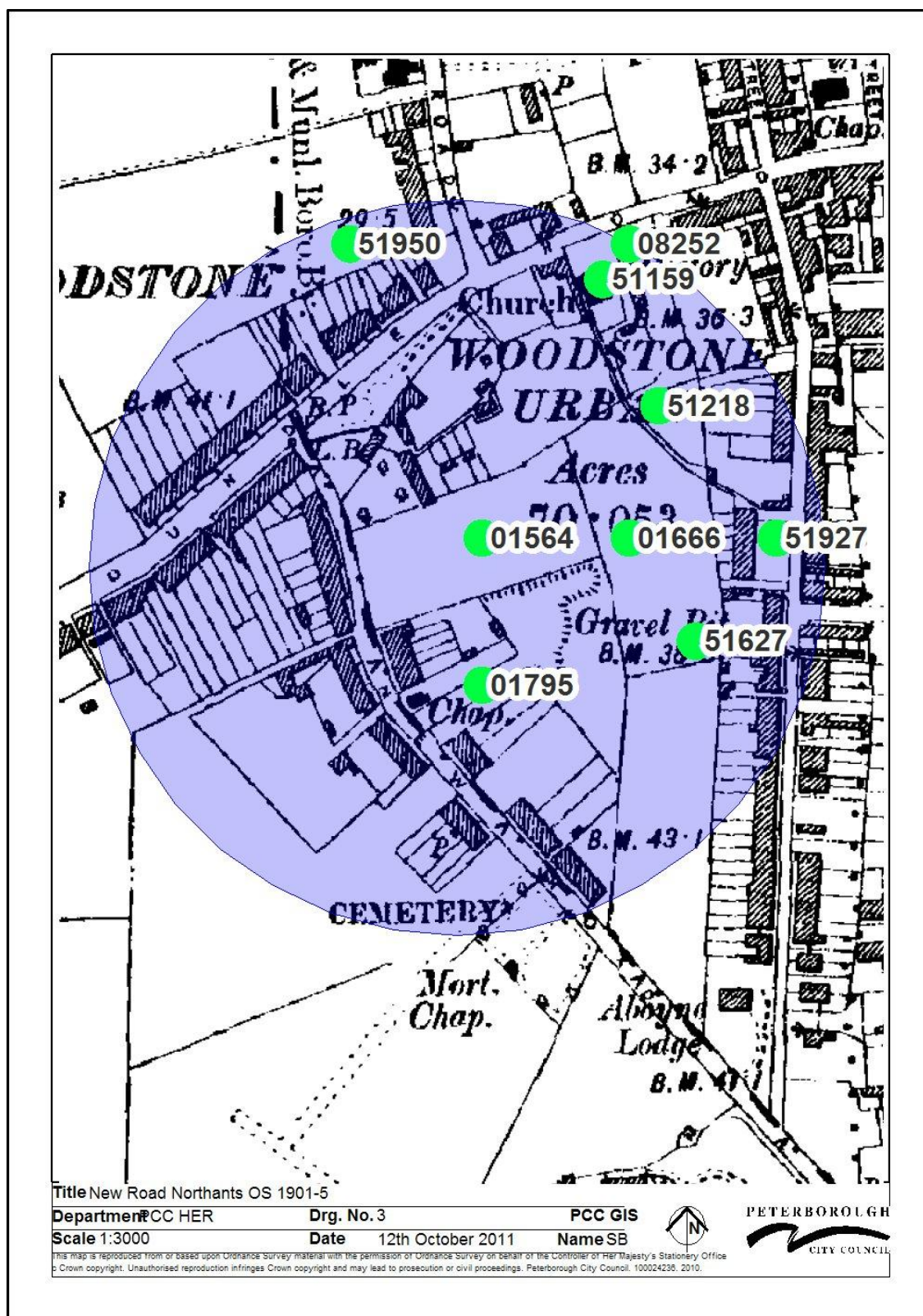
Period	Type	Ref.	Description
Palaeolithic	Finds	1795	2x worked flint hand axes and 2x worked flakes
Neolithic	Pit, finds	51927	Trial excavations at The Walnuts, Oundle Road. A pit produced Peterborough Ware pottery and worked flint
Roman	Urn	1564	Face from a face-urn, female head in buff ware
Roman	Pottery, tile	51927	Trial excavations at The Walnuts, Oundle Road. Residual material recovered from later features
Roman, Medieval	Coins	1643	Sixteen coins (2x Roman & 12x 14th century)
Early medieval	Cemetery, finds	1666	Anglo-Saxon burial ground including cremations and inhumations dating from 550AD found during gravel extraction 1864-1920. Finds in the British Museum include brooches, urns, spearheads. Knives, shield bosses.
Early medieval	Urn, finds	8181	Anglo-Saxon urn with iron knife, 3x square-headed brooches and bronze mounts from a bucket
Early medieval	Finds	8252	Handle, needle, pin, strap fitting and worked bone
Early medieval	Inhumation, finds	51627	Anglo-Saxon burial discovered in allotment accompanied by 6th-7th-century bronze Coptic bowl
Early medieval, medieval, post-medieval	Church	51159	Church of St Augustine of Canterbury, mentioned in Domesday Book, 1086. 12th-15th century developments, rebuilt and remodelled in 1844
Medieval	Key	212	14th-century iron key
Medieval	Sarcophagus	51159	2x coffin lids found in St Augustine churchyard
Medieval	Ditches, pits, finds	51927	Trial excavations at The Walnuts, Oundle Road. Evidence of changing land use to the rear of tenements fronting onto Oundle Road between 12th and 16th centuries. Wide range of pottery, animal bone and other domestic food waste.
Post-medieval	Candlestick	1924	17th-century candlestick
Post-medieval	Ditches, pits, postholes, well, pond, finds	51927	Trial excavations at The Walnuts, Oundle Road. 16th-17th-century timber post-built structure, floor surfaces, well, pond and boundaries.
Undated	Ditch, wall	51218	Watching brief during development at St Augustine's School
Undated	Pit, ditch	51950	Trial excavations at Robins Close. No finds.

3.2 Map evidence



Ordnance Survey 1886-9 Fig 3

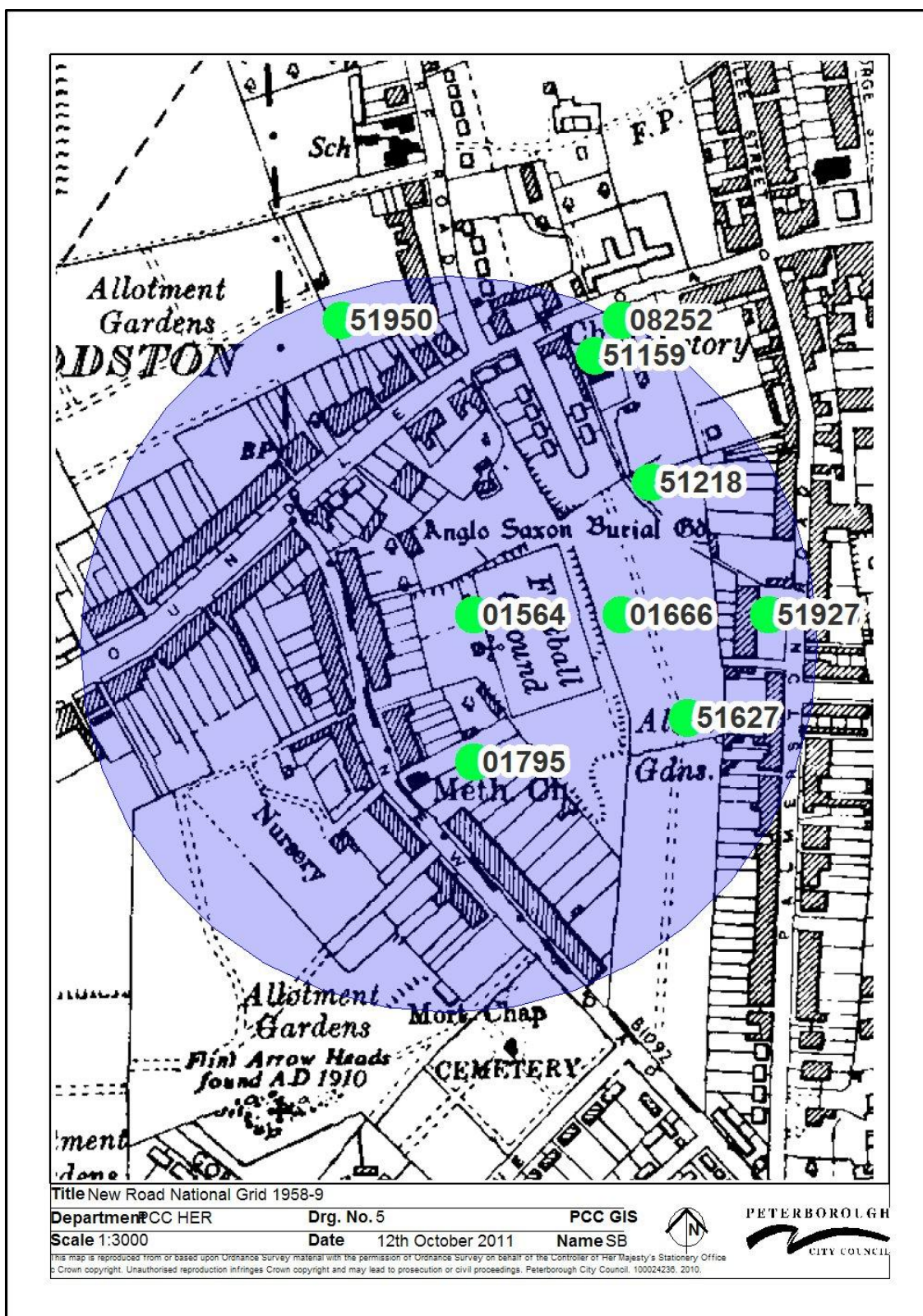
The earliest Ordnance Survey map available depicts the site as part of two agricultural fields before any quarry extraction had taken place.



Ordnance Survey 1901-5 Fig 4

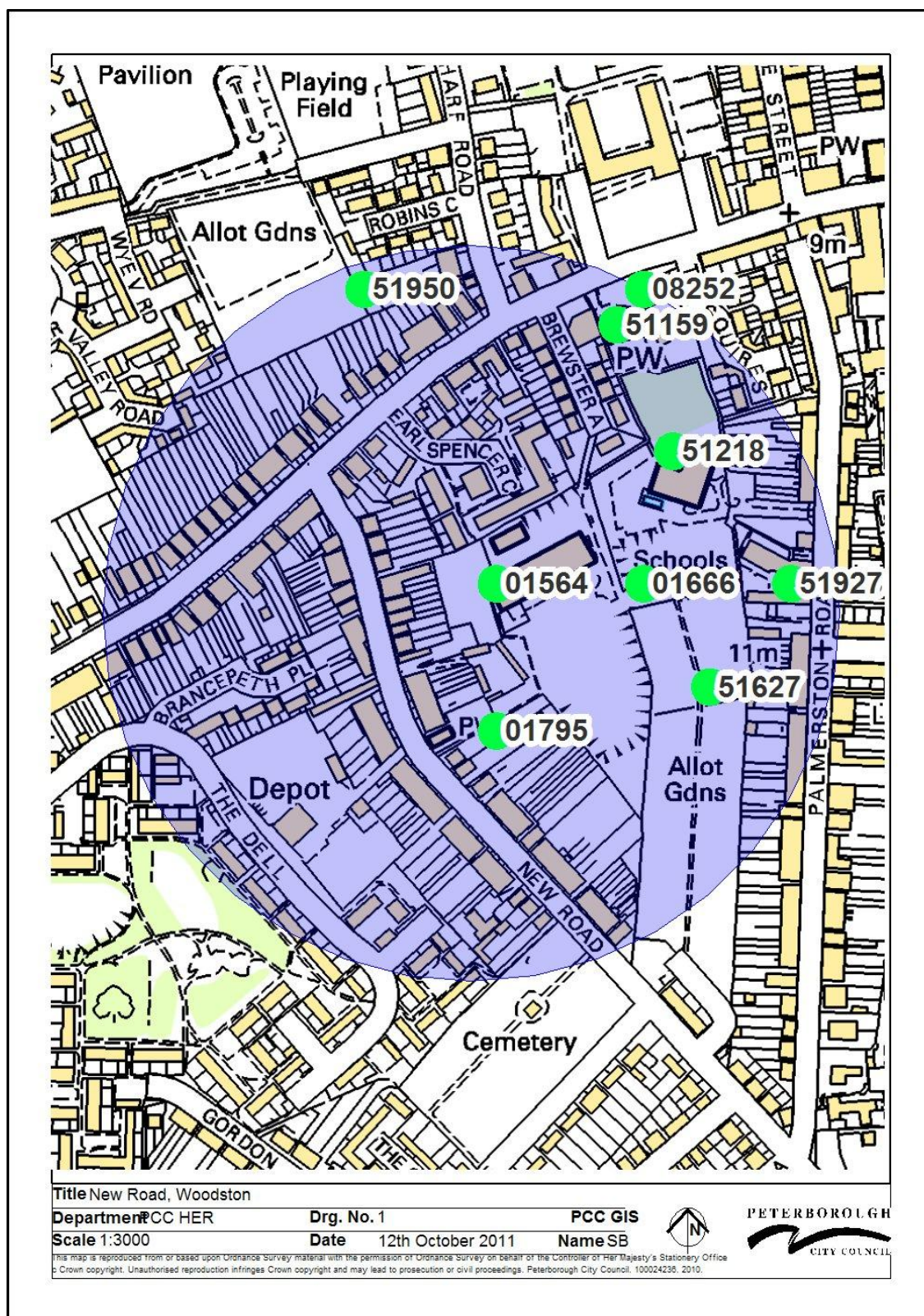
The 2nd edition of the Ordnance Survey indicates that gravel extraction had taken place to the east of the site before the turn of the 20th century and that the area at the south end of the development (Area 2, Fig 2) had been enclosed to the rear of properties fronting onto New Road. This enclosure contained two groups of small ancillary buildings, probably sheds and is likely to have been an allotment.

The Ordnance Survey conducted prior to the Second World War indicates that gravel extraction had extended into the field to the north of its original location, which includes the whole of the northern area of the development (Areas 1 and 3, Fig 2). This gravel pit was subsequently filled and levelled to provide for a football ground. Properties had been added along New Road, west of the site and additional buildings were built in the south.



Ordnance Survey 1958-9 Fig 6

The post-War Ordnance Survey shows little substantial change to the arrangement of the development area. The principal changes to the properties fronting onto New Road which appear to have included some minor extensions and infill.



Ordnance Survey c2000 Fig 7

The modern map depicts the Earl Spencer development to the north, more detailed subdivisions of the rear garden plots along New Road, the loss of the south end of the same terrace with a plot providing access to the garages in the south of the development, additional garages or similar structures, and the replacement of the football ground with a school. The north of the site shows vacant ground.

4 FIELDWORK STRATEGY

4.1 Objectives

The main aim of the investigation was to determine if archaeological remains were present within the application area.

If remains were present, then the specific objectives of the project were to determine their location, extent, date and degree of preservation, and to define the sequence and character of activities present upon the site. The work would then interpret this evidence within its local, regional and national contexts with particular attention to any Anglo-Saxon burial remains.

The project seeks to address the research aims laid out in the regional research frameworks for the eastern counties (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medleycott and Brown 2008) and the English Heritage research agenda (EH 1991b; 1997).

Specific themes derived from the Research Frameworks were to contribute to the understanding of landscape development, characterise the activities identified upon the site and the changes the impacted upon land use over time.

4.2 Methodology

There were four archaeological strip, map and record areas located in the north, south, west and central portions of the site (Fig 2). The topsoil and subsoil was removed under archaeological direction by mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to reveal significant archaeological remains or, where these were absent, the natural substrate. Potential archaeological deposits were cleaned and examined sufficiently to characterise, record and date their nature and extent. A collection of modern artefacts were noted, but not retained.

Area plans were recorded in relation to the Ordnance Survey using hand tapes measured into fixed boundaries. Spot heights were measured in each area and recorded in relation to Ordnance Datum.

Digital photographs were taken, supplemented with 35mm monochrome negatives, and colour transparencies for archive purposes. The photographic record is accompanied by *pro forma* trial trench record sheets that contain detailed information on the areas of investigation. All photographs and paper archive records have been compiled in accordance with recognised museum practise (Walker 1990, IfA 2008).

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The substrate of the site was representative of the drift geology and comprised mixed orange-yellow gravels and sand. The site was divided, topographically, into two main areas. The substrate in the south and west parts of the site lay at 11.43-11.61m above Ordnance Datum, and were higher than in the north of the site, where the gravel horizon lay between 9.22-9.98m above Ordnance Datum.



Area 2, looking east Fig 8



Area 3, looking north-west Fig 8

No features of antiquity were identified in any of the four areas that were investigated. All of the features that were identified contained modern materials which included concrete, asbestos tiles, brick, glass and plastics. Seven modern disturbances were found in Area 1, two lay in Area 3 and one lay in Area 4. At least two of the disturbances in Areas 1 and 3 were attributed to the removal of tree stumps in recent years, prior to the developer's arrival on site.

6 DISCUSSION

The dramatic change in level of the gravel substrate is likely to have been the product of quarrying. Neighbouring gardens to the north and west of the site are at the same level as the south and west portions of the development, whilst the school to the east lies on the lower ground within a localised depression. Local public knowledge insists that the site was occupied by a sand and gravel pit within the last forty years. The Ordnance Survey map evidence of 1958-9 supports this view and depicts an Anglo-Saxon burial ground immediately to the east of the site that was supposedly uncovered during gravel extraction between the mid-19th century and the early 20th century. The Historic Environment Record indicates that this discovery was not well recorded and although finds were deposited with the British Museum it is not known if a written or photographic archive survives. No evidence of any cemetery remains were encountered during the present development works.

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