

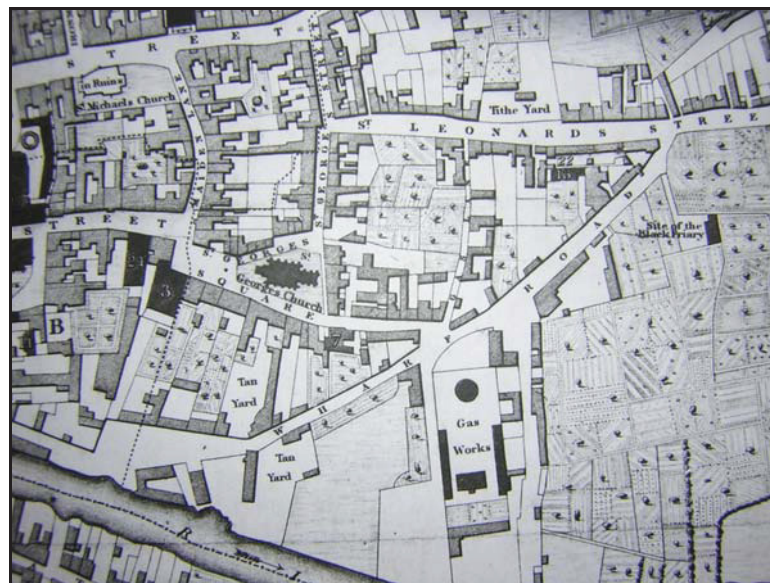


**Northamptonshire
County Council**

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Evaluation
at Wharf Road
Stamford, Lincolnshire

October 2005



Tim Upson-Smith & Tony Walsh

December 2005

Report 05/150

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Stamford, Wharf Road	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p><i>The evaluation revealed evidence for the excavation of pits, probably for the natural limestone, which were later used for the disposal of domestic waste, including animal bones, pottery. Pottery recovered dated from the tenth to the thirteenth century. The fill of the pits also contained large amounts of iron slag.</i></p> <p><i>From documentary sources it is known that later buildings on the site included an early 19th century Girls National school, an early 19th century malt house and four possible dwellings, together with their boundaries and outbuildings. The remains of three walls were found in the evaluation. Two appeared to correspond to the front and lobby of the school building. The third wall, on a different alignment appeared to be a boundary wall, between the orchard and the properties fronting onto Wharf Road.</i></p> <p><i>Substantial re-levelling of the site occurred during the construction of the car showroom and car parking in the 1970's. Outside the showroom building this included the reduction of walls and movement of topsoil/subsoil down-slope. Below the showroom building the ground was built up to provide a level display floor.</i></p>	
Project type	Evaluation by trial trenching.	
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment	
Future work	unknown	
Monument type and period		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Lincolnshire	
Site address (including postcode)	T. C. Harrison Group, Wharf Road, Stamford, Lincs	
Easting (use 2-letter 100km grid square no.)	TF 0335	
Northing	TF 0717	
Height OD	c.26-30m OD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Tim Upson-Smith	
Project Manager	Tony Walsh	
Sponsor or funding body	T. C. Harrison Group	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	03/10/05	
End date	13/10/05	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		
Digital		
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title		
Serial title & volume		
Author(s)		
Page numbers		
Date		

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT WHARF ROAD, STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE

October 2005

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by TC Harrison to undertake trial trench evaluation on land at their former showroom on Wharf Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire.

The development site, measuring approximately 0.2 hectares, is located within the medieval town, adjacent to the former town wall. No known archaeological remains are recorded within the survey area, but its position suggests that previously unknown archaeological remains may be present.

The evaluation revealed evidence for the excavation of pits, probably for the natural limestone, which were later used for the disposal of domestic waste, including animal bones, pottery. Pottery recovered dated from the tenth to the thirteenth century. The fill of the pits also contained large amounts of iron slag.

From documentary sources it is known that later buildings on the site included an early 19th century Girls National school, an early 19th century malt house and four possible dwellings, together with their boundaries and outbuildings. The remains of three walls were found in the evaluation. Two appeared to correspond to the front and lobby of the school building. The third wall, on a different alignment appeared to be a boundary wall, between the orchard and the properties fronting onto Wharf Road.

Substantial re-levelling of the site occurred during the construction of the car showroom and car parking in the 1970's. Outside the showroom building this included the reduction of walls and movement of topsoil/subsoil down-slope. Below the showroom building the ground was built up to provide a level display floor.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

T. C. Harrison Group Ltd plan to develop land off Wharf Road, Stamford (NGR TF 0335 0717) in an area of archaeological and historical interest (Figs 1 & 2). The site is bounded on the north and west by the back gardens of the buildings on the south side of St. Leonard's street and, on the south eastern boundary, by Wharf Road.

A Desktop study carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (2004) found no known archaeological remains recorded with the development area. However, its position within the medieval town, adjacent to the former town wall, suggested that unknown archaeological remains might be present.

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by T.C. Harrison to carry out an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching, in order to assess the implications of the proposed development on any historical or archaeological remains that may exist.

1.2 Methodology

All works were conducted in accordance with the *IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (1994, revised 2001) and the *Code of Conduct* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1985, revised 2002). In addition, all works complied with the guidelines detailed in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). Excavation and recording methodologies were as set out in NA's *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2003).

The specific methodology of the evaluation was as agreed in the Specification (NA 2005).

The mechanical excavator was fitted with a wide toothless ditching bucket. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced archaeologist. Representative samples of all archaeological features were excavated. Where possible the level of undisturbed natural geology will be established through hand excavation.

Where archaeological features were present, archaeological recording followed the standard Northamptonshire Archaeology context recording system with context sheets, cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs, both in 35mm black /white and on colour slide. The record was supplemented by direct annotations of the site general plan as required.

The locations of archaeological features were plotted at least 1:20. The site plan was annotated as appropriate and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Measured plans and sections were drawn as appropriate and spot heights were linked to Ordnance Datum.

1.3 Site Description

The development site at Wharf Road (NGR TF 0335 0717) occupies approximately 0.2ha, and is located on the eastern side of the modern town of Stamford, on high ground to the north of the River Welland, (Fig 1). The sub-triangular shaped area is bounded on the north and west by premises and their gardens, which lie on the south side of St. Leonard's Street, and to the south east by Wharf Road. It lies within the Stamford conservation area.

At the time of the evaluation the site was occupied by a disused car showroom, offices and car parking area constructed in c1976. At least one wall at the rear of the showroom was retained from

the earlier malting building, and the offices occupied part of the old school buildings facing onto Wharf Road.

1.4 Geology and Topography

The town of Stamford is situated on the River Welland, and is mainly bounded by Leicestershire, Rutland and Peterborough.

The solid geology of the Wharf Road site is predominately from the Inferior Oolite series, consisting of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone, whilst St. Leonard's Street lies on Upper Lincolnshire Limestone (British Geological Survey, England and Wales Sheet 157, 1978).

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site for the proposed development is situated on the northern side of Wharf Road, within the medieval parish of St George.

From the map of 1810 there appears to be no evidence of buildings on this site until the map of 1833 (Frontispiece), which shows the girl's school built in 1815 in the north-west of the development site. A later map of 1886 (Fig 3) shows the malt house in the centre of the site and to the east the dwellings with their boundaries and outhouses.

A recent watching brief undertaken at the T.C.Harrison site to the south has recorded Bronze Age artefacts within/above the alluvium.

The line of Wharf Road is thought to designate the line of the 13th century walled defences, which are extant in the northern part of the Medieval town. The date of the establishment of the town walls is unknown, but murage grants (a toll paid towards the maintenance of walls) dating between 1261 and 1352, refer to parts of the walls, which are now traceable (Turner, 1971, 238). Evaluation at St. Mary's Hill recorded a substantial section (3m+ wide x 2m+ deep) of the Medieval town wall which was found to be very well preserved at about 0.5m below the present ground surface.

To the north-west of the site undeveloped and developed Stamford wares and iron slag (SMR Ref. 30699, 30723) were recovered. Further finds, including two Saxon furnaces, were located to the west of the development site (SMR Ref. 30731).

To the south of Wharf Road, industrial activities may have taken place which required a nearby water source (such as tanning or pottery production). Recent excavations at Star Lane have found that iron smelting was being undertaken on a large scale within the town walls.

Finds from the post-medieval period, mainly to the north and east of the development site, include house foundations and building rubble and further assemblages of pottery of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries (SMR Ref. 30702, 36464, 36465). There is also evidence of late pipe kilns from the 19th century (SMR Ref. 30704, 30742).

3 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

3.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located within the display area inside the showroom buildings. It was designed to investigate the possible survival of the medieval town wall. Orientated north-east to south-west it was 10m long. The undisturbed natural geology [116] consisted of firm orange brown silty clay with frequent limestone brash fragments, visible at between 27.31m-27.64m AOD; 1.2m below current floor level at the south-west rising to 0.85m below floor level at the north-west. Cutting the limestone were three pits. At the northern end of the trench were two inter-cutting pits of medieval date. At the southern end of the trench was a single pit containing modern debris. The trench also contained at least two modern services and a single brick wall of modern construction.

The Medieval Pits.

The earliest feature revealed was a possible quarry pit [124] cutting the natural geology at a depth of 27.64m AOD (Fig 4, Section 1). It measured at least 2m across in plan and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the north and east. The pit had well-defined vertical sides to the natural geology. The lower fill of the pit (125) was grey black silt, with frequent stone rubble which had increasingly frequent voids between individual stones. One void was probed to a depth of c.1m, at which point excavation was stopped. Finds recovered from (125) included a pair of small copper alloy tweezers (SF 1) and a strip of copper (SF2). The tweezers, although in perfect condition, were of limited use for dating, being based upon a style in use from the Roman to medieval period. Indeed they were very similar to those included upon the excavators Victorinix penknife. Thirty six sherds of pottery were recovered, of late twelfth century date; including 24 sherds of Stamford Ware. Animal bone present included a possible canid jaw bone. The upper fill of the pit (126) was loose limestone rubble, at least 0.3m deep. It contained a single sherd of South Lincolnshire Shelly ware, of mid 12th century date.

Modern Pit.

Cutting the southern part of fill (125) was a second pit [122] (Fig 4, Section 8) at 27.42m AOD. Pit [122] measured 2.4m by 0.9m, extending into the eastern edge of the trench. It was shallow, measuring 0.3m deep, with concave sides to a flat base. It contained a single fill (123) firm mid grey brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments. Single residual sherds of Stamford Ware and South Lincolnshire Shelly ware was recovered from (123). A small amount of animal bone was also present.

The Showroom c.1976.

Above [122] was a layer (121) of black clay silt 0.6m deep. Layer (121) may correspond with (303) the deep deposit of silt visible in trench 3, interpreted as garden soil. It extended 2.8m from the north-eastern end of the trench. At that point it was wholly truncated by [119] a near vertical sided cut, probably corresponding with [112] to the south-west. To the south-west of cut [112], there appeared to be the remnants of subsoil (115) and topsoil (114); each 0.15m deep. The fill of [112/119], (120) dark grey silty clay with frequent fragments of limestone was itself truncated by a large foundation trench for a concrete service pipe (118).

Cutting the natural geology at the north end of the trench was a third pit [107], at 27.31m AOD. It was partially visible as a quadrant suggesting the whole feature was sub-circular in plan, c. 2m in diameter. It continued beyond the edge of the trench to the south and west. The pit was sampled to a depth of 0.6m; the fill was still present at a depth of 26.70mm AOD. It contained a single fill (108) of compacted grey brown clay, containing frequent limestone fragments, brick and concrete, which suggests the feature was relatively recent. Above fill (108) were two horizontal modern layers (106, 105), comprising varying combinations of brick rubble and concrete with limestone fragments, each 0.25m deep. Above this was a relatively shallow layer of 'pea' shingle (104), 0.08m thick. This was overlain by (103) grey silt with frequent fragments of brick and asbestos, 0.3m deep. Above this was (102), a combination of crushed brick rubble and concrete within a sandy matrix, 0.3m deep. The series of horizontal layers 102-106 were interpreted as levelling for the reinforced concrete floor (101), 0.2m thick employed in the construction of the car showrooms. It was noticeable that the internal floor of the building was level, whilst the pavement along Wharf road exhibited a clear slope, falling to the south-west. The paving on Wharf road, parallel to the end of the trench, was at 27.90m AOD compared to 28.49m AOD on the showroom floor and 27.31m AOD on the limestone at the upper edge of pit [107].

Clearly cutting the levelling layers (102-106) was a foundation trench [109], which contained a modern brick wall (111) upon a concrete footing. This may relate to the internal arrangement of the showroom.

3.2 Trench 2.

Trench 2 was located in the north part of the site, outside and to the rear of the showroom (Fig 5, Section 2). Orientated east-west it measured 10m long. It was designed to investigate the position of the St George's School buildings shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 1886 (Fig 3). The undisturbed natural geology [203] consisted of hard orange brown sandy clay with frequent

limestone brash fragments. This was visible as a slight ridge, 0.4m below current ground level at 27.94m AOD.

Three phases of archaeological remains were revealed. The earliest activity was a series of at least four inter-cutting medieval pits, interpreted as possible quarries, reused for refuse disposal. Overlying these were the remnants of the foundations for two stone walls, most probably part of St George's School. The latest activity was the truncation of earlier features and the general levelling of the site for the Showroom car park.

Medieval Pits

A series of four large pits were present, occupying almost the whole of the southern edge of the trench. They appeared to have been dug consecutively from east to west in the order [225], [217], [220] and [227]. All had vertical to near vertical sides cutting into the limestone, with splayed edges where the features inter-cut. The largest of the pits [227] continued beyond the edge of the trench to the north, south and west. It was asymmetrical in profile, with narrow vertical sides, widening at its upper edge to c3m wide. Initially hand dug to a depth of 1.6m below the level of the tarmac it was found to be 2.15m deep by machine excavation. The lower fill at its base and west side (229) was grey brown silt with frequent limestone fragments, 0.4m deep. The upper fill (228) was very similar to the fills of all the inter-cutting pits, consisting of black clay silt, with varying proportions of medium and large angular limestone fragments. All the pits were hand sampled to 1.4m below the current ground level.

The majority of the pottery from trench 2 was found in fill ((210/226), pit [225]). A range of fabrics was present (Table 2, Blinkhorn below). The absence of later fabrics within the fills of stratigraphically later features suggests that the late material in pit [225] may be anomalous. All the pits may date to the thirteenth century, but may have been truncated by later re-levelling.

Pit

At the east end of the trench the fill (210/226) was overlain by layer (208) orange brown sandy clay, c.0.1-0.2m deep. This was interpreted as a remnant of subsoil. (NB the relationship was clear in plan but did not appear at the edge of the trench). Cutting (208) was a discrete pit [224]. Sub oval in plan [224] was orientated slightly north-east to south-west and measured 1.1m long and at least 0.7m wide, continuing into the edge of the trench. Visible in section, 0.4m deep, it had a single vertical edge on the west and a shallow concave base. On its west side the pit appeared to cut a shallow rubble filled feature [232], which was only visible in section and not within the body of the trench. On its east side pit [224] was cut by [233]. This may have been the foundation trench for the stone wall [215] or more likely the edge of the robbing/demolition of the wall.

St Georges School

Two stone walls, [216] and [215] were revealed in the trench. These correspond to the school building shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey (1886).

At the southern edge of the evaluation trench wall [216] was set in a foundation trench [222], which cut into the upper fills, of the earlier pits. At the base of the foundation trench was a thin layer (223), of green/blue clay, upon which the lower course of the wall was laid. The wall was orientated east–west along the evaluation trench edge. It was visible for 5.3m, with a terminus at the east. The end of the wall corresponded with the edge of the clay and the vertical cut of the foundation trench was clear in section. The wall was constructed of roughly finished limestone, roughly faced, and bonded with brown silty clay. Two courses of stone survived. The revealed face, orientated north, would have been an internal surface, however the surviving courses would probably not have been visible. The structure was interpreted as the southern wall of the east-west range of the school shown on the 1886 Ordnance Survey. The top of the upper course of the wall was c0.4m below level of the current car park.

Wall (215) was located 3m to the east and at right angles to wall (216), where it crossed the eastern end of the trench. The wall was between 0.9-1.1m wide. Although of similar rough limestone construction to (216) the wall was less well preserved. It consisted of a single course of rough faced limestone blocks, with a core of smaller limestone fragments bonded with clay. No clear foundation cut was visible. The cut [233] visible in section to the west may indicate the extent of robbing activity. Within [223] and above the remains of the wall was deposit (205), compact grey brown clay containing bands of light yellow brown clay, flecks of chalk, sand and brick; this was interpreted as demolition levelling following the robbing and reduction of the wall..

Showroom car park c.1976.

Above the truncated remains of the school wall [216] and deposit (205) was a single modern levelling layer (202) of yellowish white limestone fragments in clayey sand, 0.3m deep. This was clearly modern, probably laid down c.1976 to support the current tarmac surface (201).

3.3 Trench 3.

Trench 3 was located in the south part of the site, outside and to the rear of the showroom, south of trench 2. (Fig 6, Section 5). Orientated north-south it measured 10m long. It was designed to investigate the orchard area shown on the 1886 Ordnance Survey.

The trench contained a single large boundary wall (306), of unknown date. With no clear foundation trench the wall was set within a deep deposit of topsoil.

The undisturbed natural geology (305) hard orange brown sandy clay with frequent limestone brash fragments was visible at the southern end of the trench, 1.35m below the current ground level, 26.63m AOD. Above this was (304) a subsoil of firm reddish brown silty clay with moderate small stones, 0.2m deep. Above (304) was a deep buried topsoil layer (303). This was visible along the whole length of the trench, c0.6m deep. Within and overlain by (303) was a substantial stone wall, (306). Logically therefore (303) was composed of two components, a lower undisturbed topsoil onto which the wall had been constructed and re-deposited topsoil, from higher up slope, over the reduced wall (this probably occurred during the re-levelling of the car park c 1976). A small amount of pottery was recovered from (303), two sherds of 13th century Stamford Ware and a single sherd of slightly later Lyvden/Stanion 'B' Ware.

Orientated slightly north-west to south-east obliquely across the trench, no clear foundation cut for the wall was visible. The wall survived as two courses of rough faced and unfaced limestone rubble, around a rubble core and bonded with green brown clay. Where excavated it stood to a height of 0.4m and was 0.8m wide. Above the wall was part of layer (303) c0.2-0.3m deep. Cutting through the topsoil, crossing the trench, were at least two large modern services. The larger of these in the centre of the trench clearly disturbed the upper course of the wall. Above the buried topsoil was (302) hardcore levelling material, 0.3 deep, identical to that found in trench 1. This lay directly supporting the current tarmac (301).

Table 1: Reduced Levels m AOD

Level No	Reduced level m AOD	Level No	Reduced level m AOD
1	27.89	20	27.39
2	28.11	21	27.9
3	28.39	22	28.71
4	27.57	23	27.91
5	27.54	24	27.24
6	27.52	25	26.88
7	27.11	26	27.95
8	27.12	27	27.3
9	26.63	28	27.94
10	28.02	29	27.25
11	27.8	30	27.85
12	27.51	31	27.84
13	27.43	32	27.83
14	27.43	33	27.06
15	28.49	34	27.68
16	27.31	35	27.82
17	27.45	36	28.1
18	27.42	37	28.05
19	27.42	38	28.45

4 THE FINDS

4.1 The Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 341 sherds with a total weight of 3,482g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 3.32. It comprised a range of local wares and regional imports which indicate that there was activity at the site from the beginning of the 10th century to the 13th century

Fabric

Where appropriate, the coding system of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit ceramic type-series was used, as follows:

SNEOT: *St. Neots Ware type*. AD 900 – 1100. 2 sherds, 13g, EVE = 0.06.

THET: *Thetford-type ware*. AD925 – 1150. 3 sherds, 47g, EVE = 0.04.

ST: *Stamford ware*. c. AD900-1200. 310 sherds, 3,084g, EVE = 3.12.

DST: *Developed Stamford Ware*, mid12th – early 13th century. 7 sherds, 78g, EVE = 0.

MEDLOC: *Early Medieval Sandy Wares*. 11th-14th century. 1 sherd, 12g, EVE = 0.10.

SLST: *South Lincolnshire Shelly ware*, mid 12th – mid 13th century. 11 sherds, 108g, EVE = 0

STANLY: *Lyveden/Stanion 'B' ware*, 13th – 14th century. 3 sherds, 46g, EVE = 0.

BOU: *Bourne 'A' Ware*. 13th - 14th century. 4 sherds, 94g, EVE = 0.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 2. Each date should be regarded as a terminus post quem.

The range of pottery types present indicate that there was continuous activity at the site from around the beginning of the late Saxon period onwards, although there is no pottery later than the 13th century. Virtually the full range of Stamford ware fabrics and glazes is present, including a sherd with splashes of red paint, dating it to around AD900 (Kilmurry 1980). This was however re-deposited in a later context, 210.

The range of fabric types is fairly typical of those found at contemporary sites in Stamford (e.g. Mahany et al 1982), with local Stamford wares dominating, and smaller quantities of region imports from East Anglia and the East Midlands. The sherd of 'MEDLOC' is very similar to the sort of medieval coarsewares commonly found on excavations in Norwich (cf Jennings 1981), and this appears to be the most likely source.

Much of the pottery appears to be the result of secondary deposition. The sherds are generally in good condition, but all the assemblages comprise single sherds from individual vessels, with no cross fits noted, both within a context and between two or more. It should be noted that despite the past evidence of Stamford Ware pottery production in Wharf Road (Mahany et al 1982), none of the material from this excavation showed any evidence of being manufacturing waste; it appears to be wholly the result of domestic activity.

Table 2: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Context	SNEOT		THET		ST		DST		MEDLOC		SLST		STANLY		BOUA		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
0					2	20							1	8			U/S
123					1	6											10thC?
125	1	5			24	119	3	23			8	63					L12thC
126											1	6					M12thC
210	1	8	1	25	74	887	4	55			1	33	1	31	4	94	13thC
218					45	493											11thC
219					23	229											10thC
221					17	158											10thC
226			2	22	91	730			1	12	1	6					M12thC
228					28	393											10thC
303					2	16							1	7			13thC
307					3	33											10thC?
Total	2	13	3	47	310	3084	7	78	1	12	11	108	3	46	4	94	

4.2 Small finds by Tora Hilton

There are two small finds, a pair of tweezers and an undiagnostic tapered strip; both objects are made from copper alloy sheet and were recovered from pit fill (125). The tweezers are very small, measuring only 28mm in length, they are manufactured from a parallel strip which has been folded in half. There is no distinct bow, but the arms flare out and tune in towards the blade; they still hold the tension. Tweezers of this type are difficult to date with accuracy; this style of tweezer was in use from the Roman to medieval period.

Catalogue

SF 1 Tweezers, copper alloy. Complete. One piece type, manufactured from a parallel-sided strip of metal, folded in half. The blades are inturned and the inside edge is straight. Length: 28mm
Width: 4.5mm

SF 2 Strip, copper alloy. Miscellaneous offcut in the form of a tapered strip, cut from sheet metal. Length: 37mm Width: 4mm

4.3 The Metalworking Debris by Andy Chapman

A total of 10.7kg of metalworking debris was recovered from a total of nine separate contexts, although nearly 9kg of the total came as quantities of 1-5kg from only four contexts. These all contained large fragments of debris that appeared to be primary deposits. The assemblage is dominated by tap slag, although large fragments of probable furnace slag, often containing impressions of the charcoal fuel on the underside, are also present, particularly in context 228, which contained 5kg of slag in total.

Table 3: Weight of metalworking debris recovered by context

Context	Weight (g)	Notes
123	14	
125	827	Includes Tap Slag
210	167	Includes Tap Slag
218	395	Includes Tap Slag
219	866	Includes Tap Slag
221	980	Includes Tap Slag
226	2222	Includes Tap Slag and fragments of furnace lining
228	4985	Includes Tap Slag
307	249	
Total	10705	

The assemblage is evidently primary waste from a charcoal fuelled, iron smelting furnace, with slag tapping. Given the large fragments and the fresh appearance of the slag, the furnace was probably located quite close to where the debris has been deposited. Pottery also recovered from these contexts suggests that the material was deposited between the 10th-13th centuries.

4.4 The Animal Bone by Stephanie Vann

Method

The animal bone from Wharf Road, Stamford was subjected to macroscopic examination and identifiable bone was noted and quantified by context. A summary of the results is presented in Table 4. Age was calculated where possible from bones where fusion was discernible, neonatal/juvenile bone and teeth.

Results

Preservation of the animal bone at this site was good. Fragmentation was moderate and surface abrasion was low with bone exhibiting smooth hard surfaces. Fragmentation was largely the result

of old breaks. Evidence for butchery was low with only 4 examples (chopping and knife marks). There was evidence of canid gnawing on 10 bones and 2 burned bone fragments were noted. Few examples of pathology were noted, although a cattle humerus from context (218) showed signs of possible periostosis, as did another cattle humerus from context (226).

Table 4: Total number of bone fragments per species

Phase	Bos Cattle	Ovicaprid Sheep/Goat	Equus Horse	Sus Pig	Large Mammal	Small Mammal	Aves Birds	Unid.
10th C	23	21	2	0	5	4	1	58
11th C	6	8	0	0	0	0	1	34
12th C	10	14	0	1	5	3	3	40
13th C ?	15	9	0	0	7	0	4	54
TOTAL	54	52	2	1	17	7	9	186

The species present were cattle, sheep/goat, horse, and pig. No wild species were present. Cattle and sheep/goat dominated the assemblage in all phases. Bird bones were recovered from several contexts. These were all limb bones from birds comparable in size to a duck (*Anas* sp) or domestic fowl (*Gallus* sp).

Discussion

Sheep/goat and cattle are regularly exploited throughout the medieval period, and are frequently the most common species within an assemblage, as can be seen in a review of sites in Coventry (Locock, 1999). The dominance of such remains within the assemblage from Wharf Road, Stamford is therefore not unusual. The good survivability of large, strong bones such as those of cattle and horse does also need to be taken into consideration, however, as this dominance may be a reflection of preservation rather than husbandry practices at this site.

The recordable mandibles would all be classified as adult following the York System (O'Connor, 2003: Table 31). This suggests that animals were being kept for reasons other than just for their meat as the age of slaughter tends to be younger under those circumstances. Species such as cattle and sheep might have been reared also for their secondary products such as milk and wool or, in the case of cattle, used for traction.

Whilst there was no evidence of canids within the faunal assemblage itself, the presence of gnawing upon several elements indicates the presence of these at the site.

5 DISCUSSION

The earliest cartographic sources show that the development site was close to the line of the medieval town wall (Speed 1610). By the early 19th century a girls national school, a malt house and four dwellings had been erected on the site (James Knipe's Map of Stamford 1833 (front cover, this report); Ordnance Survey First Edition 1886 (Fig 3)).

The trenches revealed no evidence for the presence of the town wall within the site, or of the four dwellings shown on the Ordnance Survey. It is most likely that the line of the wall lies within the roadway of Wharf Road. The later buildings, which were present on the site, have been removed by relatively recent levelling of the property during the construction of the showroom.

The earliest activity revealed was in trench 2, comprising the excavation of a number of large and deep pits during the medieval period. Although these may have originally been for quarrying of the natural limestone they were later used for the disposal of domestic waste, including animal bones and pottery. The pottery recovered dated from the tenth to the thirteenth century. The fill of the pits also contained large amounts of iron slag. The fill of the pits were practically indistinguishable from each other, although machine excavation of the largest pit revealed a lower less organic fill, which was less rich in pottery, bone and iron slag.

In trench 1 were two medieval pits, one shallow, one deep, at substantial depth below the current showroom. They contained a small number of pottery sherds of late 12th date, together with two metal small finds; a fragment of copper strip and a near perfect pair of tweezers. The pits were sealed by buried topsoil (possibly the remains of gardens and orchards adjacent to the nineteenth century properties shown on the historic maps). Similar deep topsoil was also visible in trench 3.

The remains of three stone walls were revealed in trenches 2 and 3. The better constructed of the two walls in trench 2 probably corresponds with the southern wall of St Georges School, as shown on the Ordnance Survey. The second wall at right angles appears to relate to the arrangement of a lobby into the building. This appears to have been modified between 1833 and 1886. (Comparison of Fig 5 and Fig 6, DBA Report, NA 2004).

The presence of a deep deposit of buried topsoil in trench 3, compared with the complete absence of topsoil in trench 2, supports anecdotal evidence from Mr Martin, a recently retired employee of TC Harrison, who visited the site. As a child he attended St Georges School, and he believed that levelling up had occurred at the southern end of the plot adjacent to Wharf Road during the construction of the car park area c1976. At the same time the floor of the showroom was levelled by a series of rubble layers, designed to provide a level display area.

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5.2 Record Office Sources

1810 Ordnance Survey 2" Surveyors Map

1833 James Knipe's map of Stamford

1886 Ordnance Survey Map, part of Stamford

5.3 Websites

www.magic.gov.uk

www.multimap.co.uk

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT TABLES

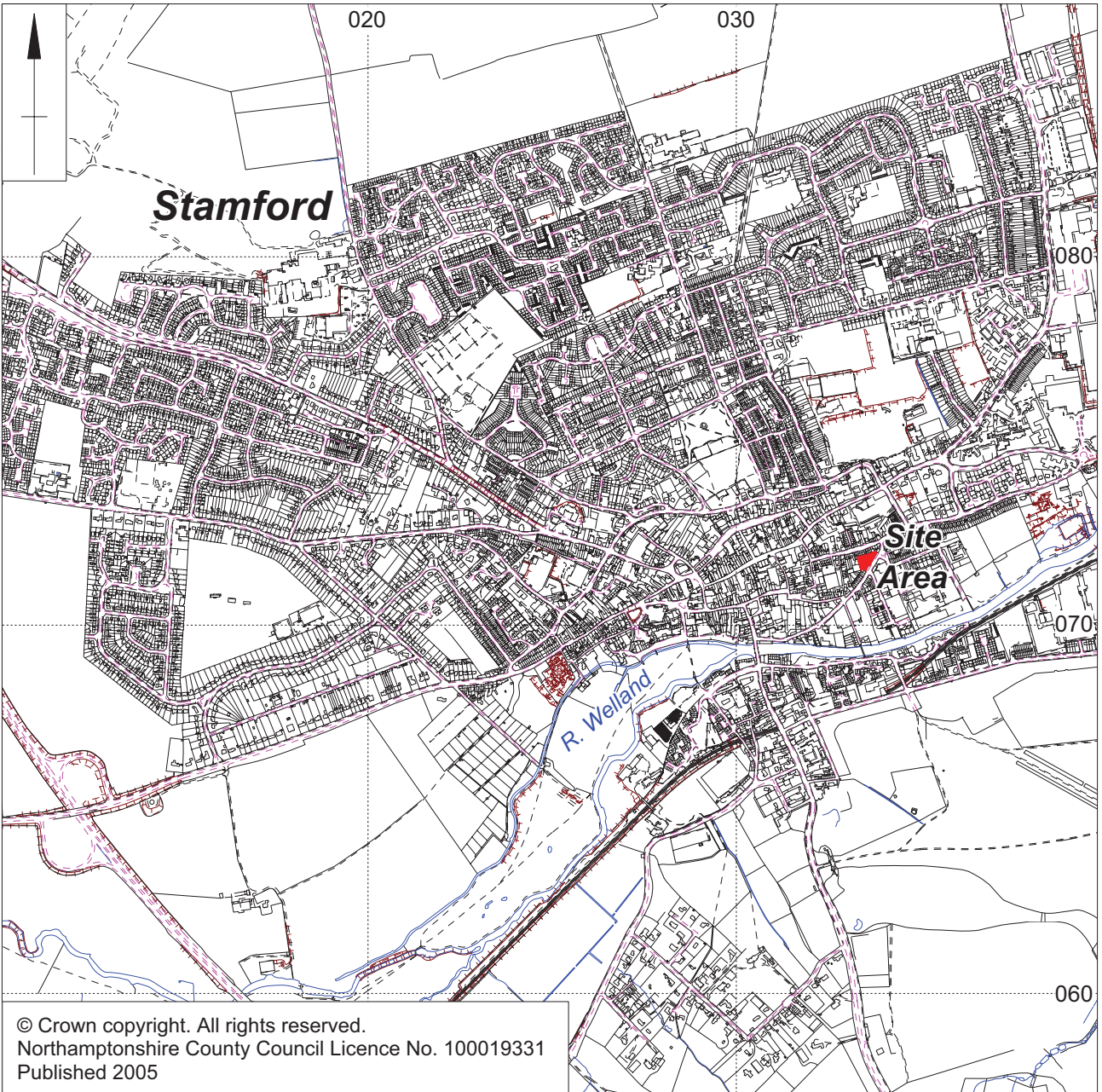
Trench	Context Number	Context Type	Description	Finds
1	101	Layer	Concrete showroom floor, overlying (102)	
1	102	Layer	Levelling layer for showroom floor made of crushed brick/concrete and limestone in sand matrix, overlying (103), (120) and (121)	
1	103	Layer	Modern make up layer: compact grey/black loam with frequent brick and concrete fragments, overlying (104) and (113)	
1	104	Layer	Pea shingle layer levelling, overlying (105)	
1	105	Layer	Modern levelling layer id orange/brown sand with frequent brick and concrete, overlying (106)	
1	106	Layer	Modern levelling layer of grey/brown silty loam with frequent small brick and concrete fragments, overlying (108)	
1	107	Cut	Circular Pit with near-vertical sides, cut into the natural	
1	108	Fill	Fill of [107]: compact grey/brown clay loam containing frequent limestone, brick and concrete fragments = modern	
1	109	Cut	Cut of brick wall foundation trench	
1	110	Fill	Fill of [109]: soft dark grey/brown loamy sand = backfill of brick wall construction trench	
1	111	Wall	Recent wall in foundation trench cut and fill ([109], (110))	
1	112	Cut	Cut of modern pit/trench, poss. associated with adjacent service trench, cutting (114), (115) and (116)	
1	113	Fill	Fill of [112]/Layer: firm brown/grey loam forming part of levelling for construction of showroom	
1	114	Layer	Firm dark grey/black silty loam = buried topsoil?	
1	115	Layer	Subsoil: firm orange/brown silty clay, overlying (116)	
1	116	Layer	Natural: firm orange/brown silty clay with frequent limestone brash fragments	
1	117	Cut	Modern service trench cut	
1	118	Fill	Fill of [117]: loose dark grey silty loam with frequent large concrete and limestone fragments. Also contained a water pipe in fill.	
1	119	Cut	Modern, linear pit with steep sides	
1	120	Fill	Fill of modern pit [119]: firm dark grey/brown silty clay loam with medium/large concrete and limestone fragments.	
1	121	Layer	Firm dark grey/black loam with infrequent limestone fragments = possible pre-garage garden soil, overlying (116)	
1	122	Cut	Medieval pit of sub-angular shape (only partially seen in plan), cutting (116) and (125)	
1	123	Fill	Fill of [122]: firm mid grey/brown silty clay loam	Pottery mid 12 th -mid 13 th , and bone
1	124	Cut	Cut of circular quarry pit (though full extent not seen in plan), with vertical sides, cutting (116)	
1	125	Fill	Lower fill of [124]: firm dark grey/black loam with infrequent limestone fragments, and containing voids of up to 1m in depth	Pottery latest 13 th , bone, small copper

WHARF ROAD STAMFORD

Trench	Context Number	Context Type	Description	Finds
				tweezers and copper strip
1	126	Fill	Upper fill of [124]: loose buff limestone rubble in powdery limestone matrix, overlying (125).	Pottery and bone
2	201	Layer	Tarmac = present ground surface, overlying (202)	
2	202	Layer	Levelling for tarmac made of yellow/white compacted limestone	
2	203	Layer	Natural: hard orange/brown sandy clay with frequent limestone block inclusions	
2	204	Deposit	Light orange/brown clay = ephemeral deposit, same as (208)	
2	205	Deposit	Mixed grey/brown clay with high % inclusion of charcoal, chalk and brick fragments, overlying (203)	
2	206	Deposit	Dark grey/brown loam soil = ephemeral deposit, same as (204)	
2	207	Fill	Fill of [224]: dark red/brown loam with frequent slag	Slag
2	208	Layer	Subsoil: mid yellow/brown sandy clay	
2	209	Fill	Edge fill of pit [225]: dark red/brown loam with frequent slag	Slag
2	210	Fill	Fill of [225]: dark grey/brown loam soil with limestone frags. in bottom 0.60m of ditch and limestone rocks/flecks in the rest. Same as (226)	Pottery latest 13 th C, bone and slag
2	211	Fill	Same as (228)	
2	212	Deposit	Ephemeral layer of trample for foundation trench [222], consisting of a dark grey/brown loam, with frequent limestone flecks, abutting (223)	
2	213	Fill	Same as (228)	
2	214	Fill	Same as (228)	
2	215	Wall	Limestone wall running N-S at eastern end of trench. Constructed of irregularly shaped limestone boulders and packed with limestone rocks and sand with some clay bonding.	
2	216	Wall	Limestone wall running along south facing side of trench, formed from limestone boulders, some of which are regularly shaped. Stands in foundation trench [222] which cuts upper fills of pits [217] and [220]. The wall is likely to have formed the front (south) of a classroom block of a school built on the site in 1815.	
2	217	Cut	Large circular pit with near vertical edges.	
2	218	Fill	Lower fill of [217] loose dark red/brown loam	Pottery 11 th C, animal bone and slag
2	219	Fill	Upper fill of [217] loose dark grey/brown loam with frequent limestone fragments.	Pottery 10 th C, animal bone, shell, and slag
2	220	Cut	Sub-circular pit that cuts (219)	
2	221	Fill	Only fill of [220]: loose dark grey/brown loam, similar to (219)	Pottery 10 th C, animal bone and slag
2	222	Cut	Shallow, vertically sided cut of foundation trench for wall (216), extending to middle of trench from the western end. This cuts fill (221).	
2	223	Fill	Base of [222], consisting of a light orange/blue clay, restricted to the eastern side of the foundation	

WHARF ROAD STAMFORD

Trench	Context Number	Context Type	Description	Finds
			trench.	
2	224	Cut	Small sub-circular pit with frequent slag. filled by (207)	
2	225	Cut	Vertically sided large pit orientated E-W. The bottom was not reached as it went too deep. Cuts (203).	
2	226	Fill	Fill of [225], same as (210)	Pottery mid 12 th C, animal bone and slag
2	227	Cut	Sub-rectangular large pit extending along the whole W end of trench. This is vertically sided and went too deep for the bottom to be reached. Cuts (203).	
2	228	Fill	Upper fill of [227]: loose dark grey/brown silty loam, 1.0m deep. Cut by (222) foundation trench of wall (216).	Pottery 10 th C, animal bone and slag
2	229	Fill	Lower fill of [227]: a mid grey/brown silt with frequent limestone fragments at base and west side of pit, 0.4m deep.	
2	230	Fill	Fill of [232]: loose, light yellow/brown limestone rubble that may be re-deposited natural, and cut by [224].	
2	231	Fill	Upper fill of [224]: soft, dark grey/brown clay loam, overlying (207)	
2	232	Cut	Possible shallow concave 'pit' (only seen in section) cutting (210) and in turn cut by pit [224]	
2	233	Cut	Cut of foundation trench for wall (215), only visible in section. Cuts (226).	
3	301	Layer	Tarmac = present ground surface of showroom put in c. 1976	
3	302	Layer	Levelling layer for (301) made of yellow/white compacted limestone, c.1976	
3	303	Layer	Very dark brown/black silt (garden soil) which has been effected by massive recent soil movement overlying (307)	Pottery 13 th C
3	304	Layer	Subsoil: firm red/brown silty clay	
3	305	layer	Natural: hard orange/brown sandy clay with frequent limestone inclusions	
3	306	Wall	Wall made up of rough-faced limestone blocks, aligned N-S. Not shown on any OS maps, though could be a boundary wall of the orchard, within (303)	
3	307	Layer	Firm, dark orange/brown silty clay (=lower garden soil), which could possibly be a medieval layer build up from deliberate dumping or modified subsoil	Pottery 10 th C?



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Scale 1:17,500

Fig. 1



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Site Area

Scale 1:500

Fig. 2

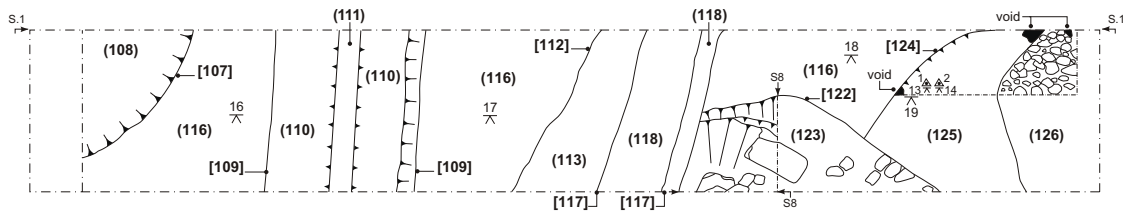


Extract of Ordnance Survey 25" Map 1886

Fig. 3

Wharf Road - Stamford

Trench 1 - Plan1



Trench 1 - Section1

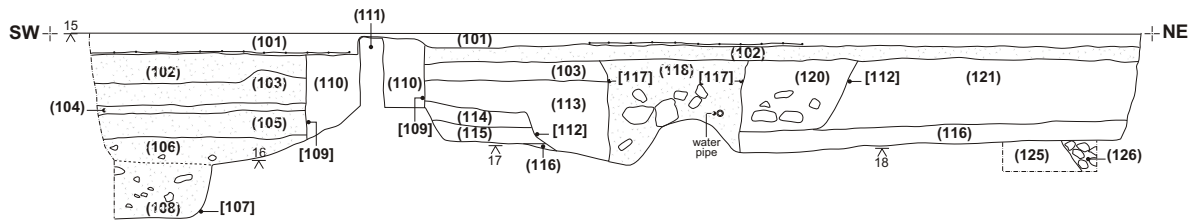
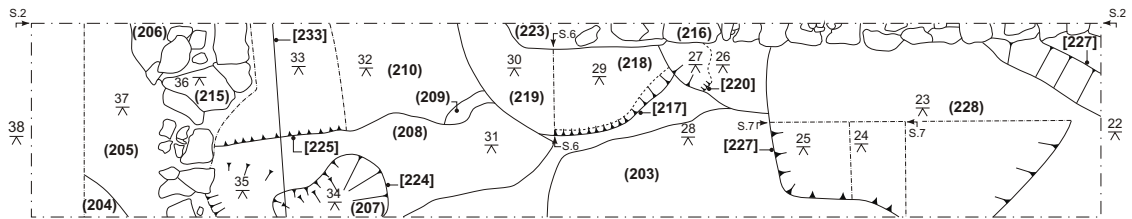


Fig. 4

Wharf Road - Stamford

Trench 2 - Plan 2



Trench 2 - Section 2

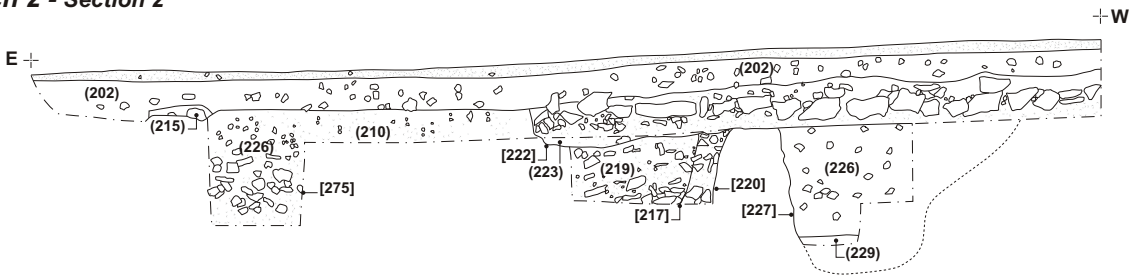
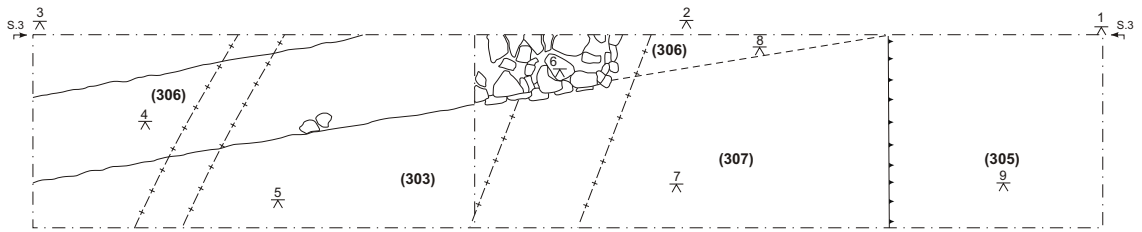
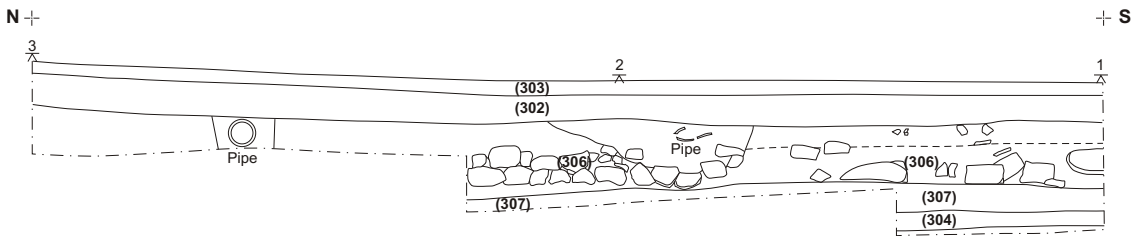


Fig. 5

Trench 3 - Plan 3



Trench 3 - Section 3



Wharf Road - Stamford



Fig 6



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3