



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at
Warwick Road, Walton, Peterborough
June 2013



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No: 154663	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Warwick Road, Walton, Peterborough, June 2013		
Short description	In June 2013, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on land at Warwick Road, Walton, Peterborough. Evidence of limestone quarrying and subsequent levelling, was identified along with a number of post-medieval and modern pits. These features probably relate to properties that fronted onto Lincoln Road, at the western edge of the site, present on maps from 1805 to 1958-59.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation		
Previous work	Cultural Heritage Assessment (Aspden 2007)		
Current land use	Scrub/grass land		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Post-medieval pits		
Significant finds	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Peterborough		
Site address	Warwick Road, Walton		
Easting Northing	TF 170 022		
Area (sq m/ha)	0.4ha		
Height aOD	c10m above Ordnance Datum		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)		
Project brief originator	Peterborough City Council Archaeological Advisor		
Project Design originator	Michael Dawson, CgMs Consulting		
Director/Supervisor	James Ladocha (NA)		
Project Manager	Liz Muldowney (NA)		
Sponsor or funding body	AFM Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	20/06/2013		
End date	21/06/2013		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical		1 box	
Paper		Site records (1 archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Warwick Road, Walton, Peterborough, June 2013		
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION ON
LAND AT WARWICK ROAD, WALTON
PETERBOROUGH
JUNE 2013**

Abstract

In June 2013, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on land at Warwick Road, Walton, Peterborough. Evidence of limestone quarrying and subsequent levelling, was identified along with a number of post-medieval and modern pits. These features probably relate to properties that fronted onto Lincoln Road, at the western edge of the site, present on maps from 1805 to 1958-59.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at the site of a former British Legion Club, Warwick Road, Walton, Peterborough (NGR: TF 170 022, Fig 1). The work was undertaken as a planning condition to the development of a proposed new care home on the site.

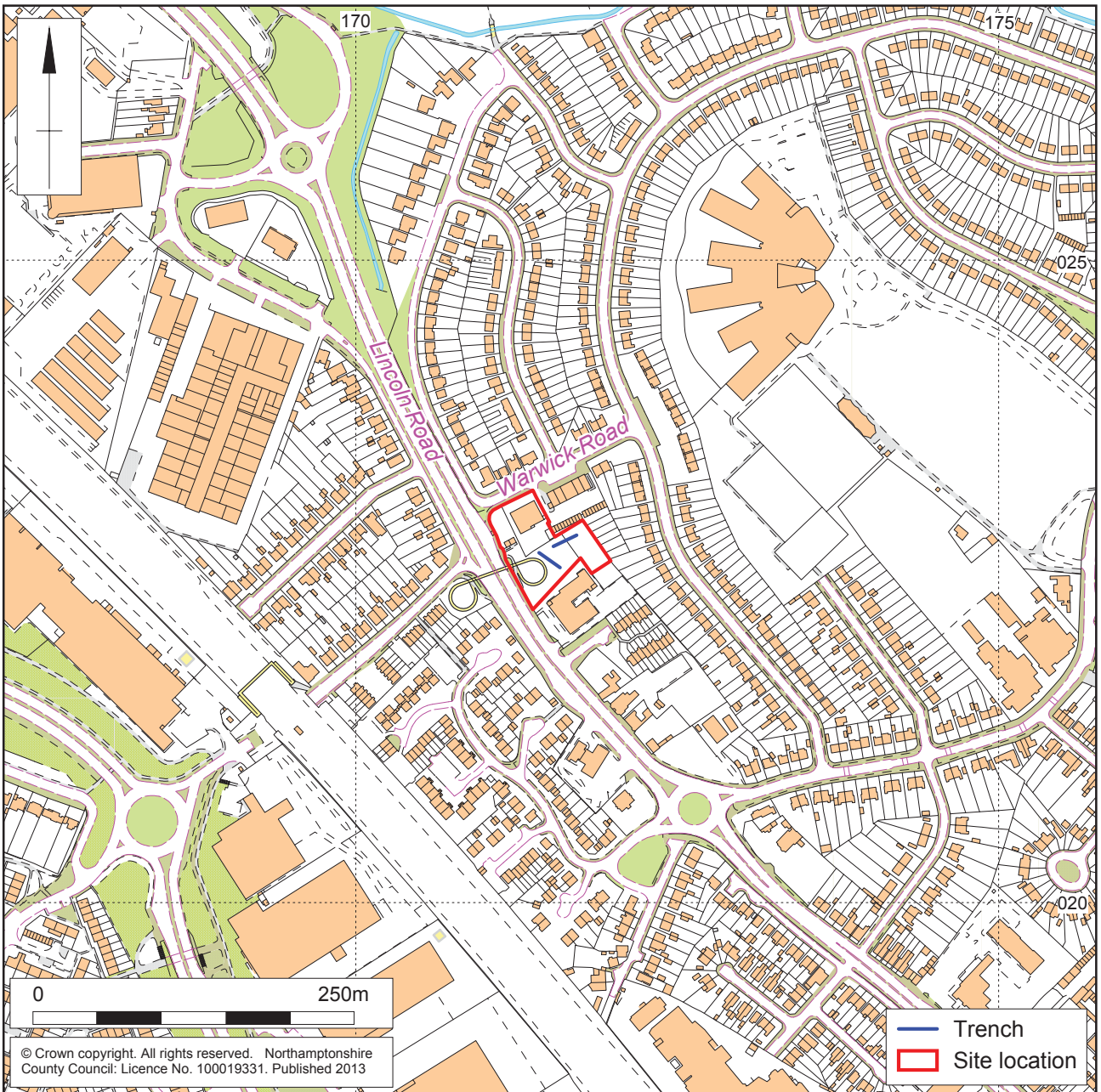
The scope of works was outlined and detailed in the project design prepared by CgMs Consulting (Dawson 2013). Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Registered Organisation and all works were conducted in accordance with the procedural documents of English Heritage (EH 2006; 2008) and the appropriate standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (IfA 2008a-b). The Archaeological Officer for Peterborough City Council attended the site during the works.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

The site is located north of Peterborough city centre in the suburb of Walton and is bound to the west by Lincoln Road, to the north by Warwick Road, and to the east and south by properties. The site was formerly a British Legion Club which had been demolished with only the concrete slab foundation remaining at the time of evaluation. The development area is relatively flat and lies at an elevation of approximately 10m above Ordnance Datum.

The underlying geology of the Peterborough area comprises Jurassic limestones (principally Blisworth and Cornbrash Limestone) and clays (Oxford Clay and Kellaways Clay) interspersed with intertidal or delta clay deposits rich in fossilised plants and shells (Dawson 2013). The site lies on solid geology of Cornbrash Formation Limestone (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).



Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The development site has undergone a Cultural Heritage Assessment, which investigates the historical and archaeological background of the site and assesses the potential for remains to be present (Aspden 2007). In summary, there is little evidence for prehistoric to Anglo-Saxon remains within the site, and surrounding areas, suggesting low potential for these periods. Two large moated sites are known to the north of the assessment site, with evidence for medieval ridge and furrow in the study area.

An excavation 80m to the south of the of the development site, by Peterborough Archaeology Group, found peripheral remains associated with the 16th and 17th-century Heading's Farm, which is the earliest surviving property in Walton.

The 1805 Inclosure Map for Werrington and Walton shows a small building fronting onto Lincoln Road, in the west of the site. It has a yard to the east and is surrounded by a small enclosed area to the north and east. In the north of the site there is a road junction with the square common pound on the corner of the junction.

The 1886-89 Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the same building as the 1805 map with a small square structure abutting it in the yard to the east. The small enclosure has been developed with a number of buildings located to the north, fronting onto Lincoln Road. There is little change to these buildings on the 1926 and 1958-59 Edition Ordnance Survey maps. The area underwent extensive change in the 1960s and 1970s with the development of Peterborough New Town and the construction of the Werrington Parkway dual carriageway immediately west of the development site.

The now demolished British Legion Club was built in the north of the site in the later 20th century.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The main objective of the archaeological investigation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any significant archaeology on the site in its cultural and environmental setting

The aims of the evaluation as stated in the project design were (Dawson 2013):

- To determine the presence, date, character, integrity, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- To examine the potential of the site in its relation to its environment, economy, land use and development from the prehistoric to post medieval periods;
- To examine possible evidence from the site for palaeo-environmental and/or economic development.

3.2 Methodology

Two trial trenches were excavated in reference to a trench plan prepared by CgMs Consulting and approved by Peterborough City Council. The trenches were 20m long by 2m wide, and were located in the southern half of the site to avoid the concrete slab of the old British Legion Club and services coming from an electricity substation. The trial trench locations were recorded using Leica System 1200 Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment (Fig 2).

A wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m-wide ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of possible archaeological features. Deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2011). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. A photographic record was compiled using 35mm black and white film, and colour digital images.

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 Trench 1

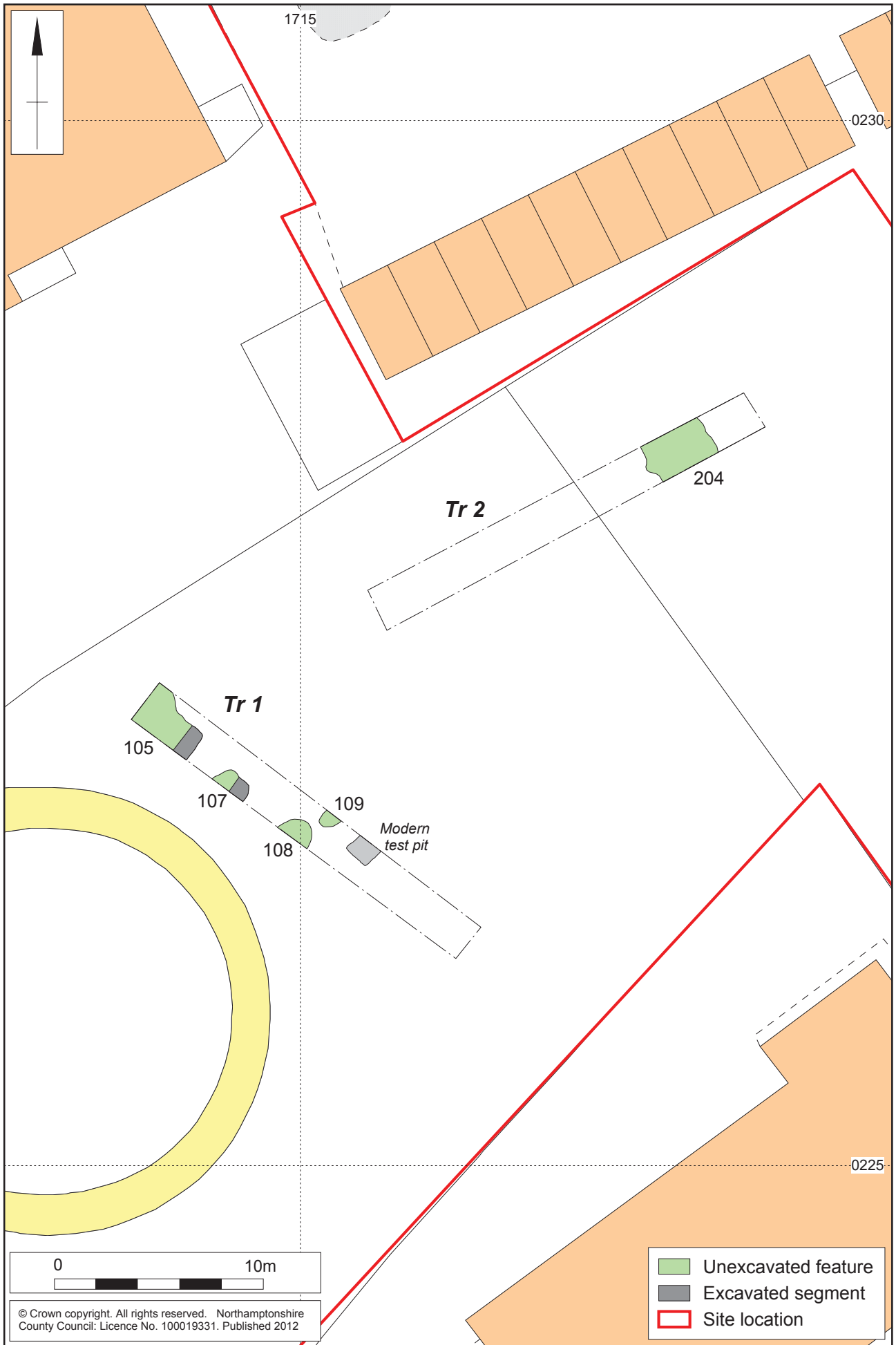
The natural substrate was light orange clayey sand with frequent limestone fragments and patches of sandy gravel. In the south-east end of the trench the natural turned to brownish-yellow sandy clay. The depth at which the natural substrate was encountered increased from 0.51m in the south-east to 1.30m in the north-west (Fig 3).

In the north-west end of the trench a large pit, [105], was cut into the natural substrate. The pit was possibly sub-rectangular in plan and measured at least 2m wide by 3.4m long and extended beyond the confines of the trench. The pit had almost vertical edges and an undulating flattish base, with a fill (104) of dark grey brown, with orange mottling, sandy silt 0.54m thick, mixed with limestone fragments (Fig 4). The fill contained post-medieval pottery, residual medieval pottery, animal bone fragments, a clay pipe stem and some fragments of iron work.

Pit [105], and the natural substrate, was overlain by a possible levelling layer, (102), of mid orange-brown sandy silt mixed with redeposited natural and frequent small limestone fragments. Layer (102) was up to 0.43m thick and thinned to 0.05m in the south-east of the trench where the natural substrate was sandy clay.

Layer (102) was cut by three pits: [107], [108] and [109]. All three pits also cut into the natural substrate. Pit [107] was sub-rectangular in plan with near vertical edges and a flattish base. It was filled by dark blackish-brown loamy clay, (106) 0.82m thick, with occasional small limestone fragments and charcoal flecks. (Fig 5). Fill (106) contained post-medieval pottery, a clay pipe fragment and some iron work fragments. Pits [108] and [109] were not excavated but 19th-century transfer printed pottery was recovered from their surfaces.

Pits [107], [108] and [109] were overlain by a make-up layer of dark black-grey silty clay, (101), with frequent charcoal flecks, modern brick fragments and occasional modern waste. Layer (101) was encountered across the whole trench and undulated between 0.26m and 0.60m thick. Layer (101) was overlain by mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil, 0.30-0.43m thick.



Scale 1:250 (A4)

Excavated trenches Fig 2



Trench 1, with pit [105] in foreground, looking south-east Fig 3



Pit [105], looking south-west Fig 4



Pit [107], looking south-west Fig 5

4.2 Trench 2

The natural substrate was limestone with some patches of orange clayey sand and was encountered at a depth of 0.90-1.25m. In the north-east of the trench there was an area of mid blue-grey loamy silt filling a possible pond or water course [204], 3.0m wide and >2.0m long cut into the natural. Feature [204] was encountered at a depth of 1.25m so was not excavated but a single animal long bone was recovered from the surface (Fig 6).

The natural substrate and feature [204] were overlain by a thick layer of mid grey-brown sandy clay mixed with limestone fragments, (203). This layer was encountered at a fairly level depth of 0.40-0.50m but filled a number of hollows within the natural limestone resulting in a thickness of 0.50-1.0m.

Layer (203) was overlain by a layer of mid blackish-grey silty loam, (202), with frequent charcoal flecks and brick fragments, and rare lenses of redeposited limestone natural and modern waste, 0.20-0.30m thick. Layer (202) was very similar to (101), and was overlain by topsoil, 0.20-0.24m thick (Fig 7).



Trench 2, with [204] in centre, looking south-west Fig 6



Trench 2 section, looking south-east Fig 7

5 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 The medieval and post-medieval pottery by Andy Chapman

The fills of two pits produced small assemblages of post-medieval pottery, with one pit also containing three sherds of residual medieval pottery (Table 1).

Table 1: Quantification of the medieval and post-medieval pottery

Fill/cut	104/105		106/107	
	Sherds	Weight (g)	Sherds	Weight (g)
Medieval glazed wares (mid-13th to mid 15th century)	3	94	--	--
Black ware (late 16th – early 18th century)	--	--	1	5
Mottled Ware (late 17th – mid-18th century)	--	--	1	24
Coarse Black Ware (mid-16th – 18th centuries)	1	4	--	--
Creamware (mid 18th-mid 19th century)	1	3	--	--
Stoneware (kitchen ware) (19th century – early 20th-century)	1	5	--	--
Total	6	106	2	29

From the fill (106) of pit [107], there are two body sherds of post-medieval pottery, one of Black Ware, with a characteristic red fabric and black glaze on both inner and outer surfaces, and the other of Mottled Ware, with a cream fabric and brown glaze with vertical streaks. They suggest a date between the late 17th and the early 18th centuries.

From the fill (104) of pit [105] there are three sherds of residual medieval glazed pottery. These include part of the handle from a jug and two body sherds, all from different vessels. They can be broadly dated to the mid-13th and mid-15th centuries. This pit also produced a small group of post-medieval pottery, ranging in date from the late 18th to mid 19th centuries, comprising utilitarian kitchenware in Coarse Black ware, Creamware and Stoneware fabrics.

5.2 The clay tobacco-pipe identified by Tim Upson-Smith

Two clay tobacco-pipe stem fragments were recovered. One stem fragment was from the fill (106) of pit [107] and suggests a date between the late 18th and the early 19th centuries. The other fragment was from the fill (104) of pit [105] and can be dated to the 19th century.

5.3 The animal bone by Andy Chapman

From the fill (104) of pit [105] there are five splinters of unidentified bone and the articular surface of a small scapula, possibly dog.

From the fill of a pond or watercourse (204) there is the shaft of a horse metapodial (probably a right, 3rd metatarsal).

6 DISCUSSION

The trial trench evaluation identified a number of post-medieval and modern pits. These features probably relate to the buildings fronting onto Lincoln Road on maps from 1805 to 1958-59. Trench 2 suggests that quarrying for limestone for these buildings took place here, which was subsequently backfilled with quarry waste, (203), to level the area. Pit [105] may also represent a quarry pit as the fill of this was very similar to (203). The area around Trench 1 may then have been levelled with a less limestone rich layer, (102), for the back plots of these buildings. Pits [107], [108] and [109] were then cut through (102).

Layers (101) and (202) probably represent the same event which may be related to the construction of the Werrington Parkway dual carriageway immediately west of the development site in the 1960s and 1970s, or the building of the British Legion Club.

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