



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological investigation and recording at the former  
Fishmarket and 5-7 Sheep Street, Northampton  
January to April 2013



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 13/175

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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: 159571
Project title	Archaeological investigation and recording at the former Fishmarket and 5-7 Sheep Street, Northampton, January to April 2013	
Short description	<p>Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological investigation and recording during the demolition of the former Fishmarket and 5 &amp; 7 Sheep Street, Northampton.</p> <p>The work observed the remains of cellars which had been largely removed prior to the construction of the Fishmarket on the Bradshaw Street frontage. Below the Fishmarket three extant cellars were observed and a further cellar under the rear of 5 Sheep Street. A well was observed under the cellar floor of 7 Sheep Street.</p>	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	Historic building and area assessment	
Future work		
Monument type and period	18th to 20th-century domestic and retail accommodation.	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Sheep Street, Northampton	
NGR	SP 7532 6064	
Area	c 3000 sqm	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	NCC Archaeological Advisor	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Tim Upson-Smith	
Project Manager	Mark Holmes	
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End date	April 2013	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING AT THE  
FORMER FISHMARKET AND 5-7 SHEEP STREET  
NORTHAMPTON  
JANUARY TO APRIL 2013**

***Abstract***

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological investigation and recording during the demolition of the former Fishmarket and 5 & 7 Sheep Street, Northampton.

The work observed the remains of cellars which had been largely removed prior to the construction of the Fishmarket on the Bradshaw Street frontage. Below the Fishmarket three extant cellars were observed and a further cellar under the rear of 5 Sheep Street. A well was observed under the cellar floor of 7 Sheep Street.

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by Northampton Borough Council to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation on land at the former Fishmarket and 5 and 7 Sheep Street, Northampton (NGR SP 7532 6064, Fig 1). Planning permission has been granted for the demolition of the former Fishmarket and 5 and 7 Sheep Street (the facades of these two buildings will be retained) and the construction of a new 21-stand bus interchange.

In accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012), Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) required that the impact of development upon heritage assets present within the site be mitigated through a programme of archaeological investigation and recording, leading to analysis and publication of the results. The scope of these works was set out in briefs prepared by NCC (2011) and Northampton Borough Council (NBC 2012).

The corner plot is located within Northampton town centre, bounded by Sheep Street on the east, Silver Street to the west, Greyfriars to the north and Bradshaw Street to the south. The site comprises the former Fishmarket, 5-7 Sheep Street, public toilets and a small open public area. The site slopes slightly downwards from north to south and the modern ground surface lies at a height of 78m aOD. The underlying geology of the site is composed of Northampton Ironstone.

The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2012). This was prepared in response to the brief issued by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2011).

## 2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

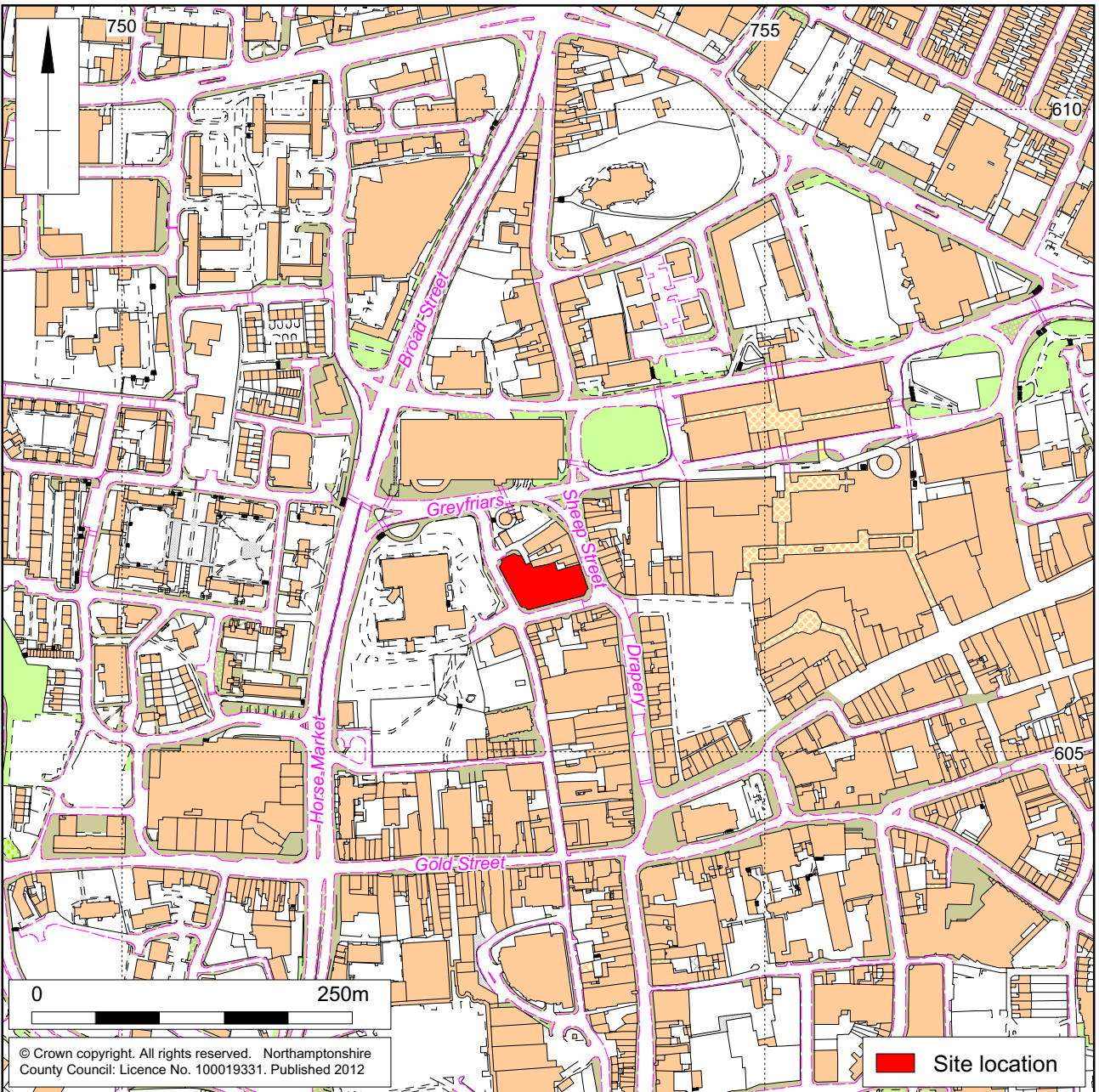
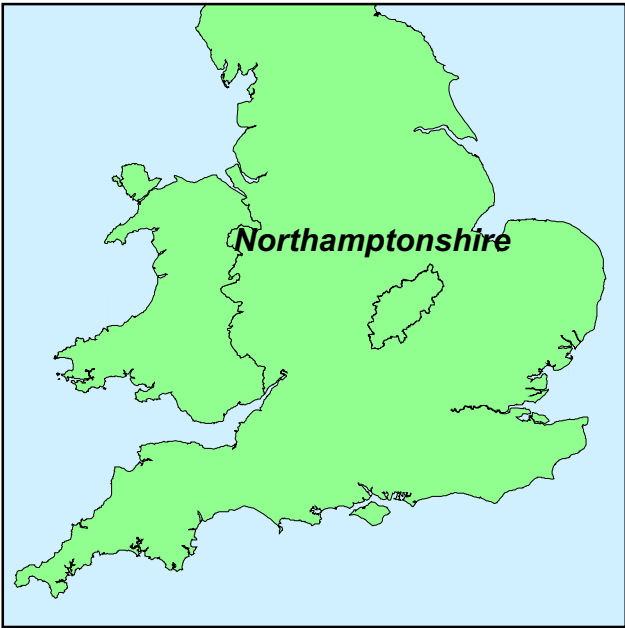
The general aims of the investigation were to:

- Determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting;
- Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine past local environmental conditions.

Specific research objectives were drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (English Heritage 1991 and 1997 and Knight *et al* 2012, replacing Cooper 2006) and will be used to enhance our understanding of the site.

The specific research objectives the excavation may be able to answer include:

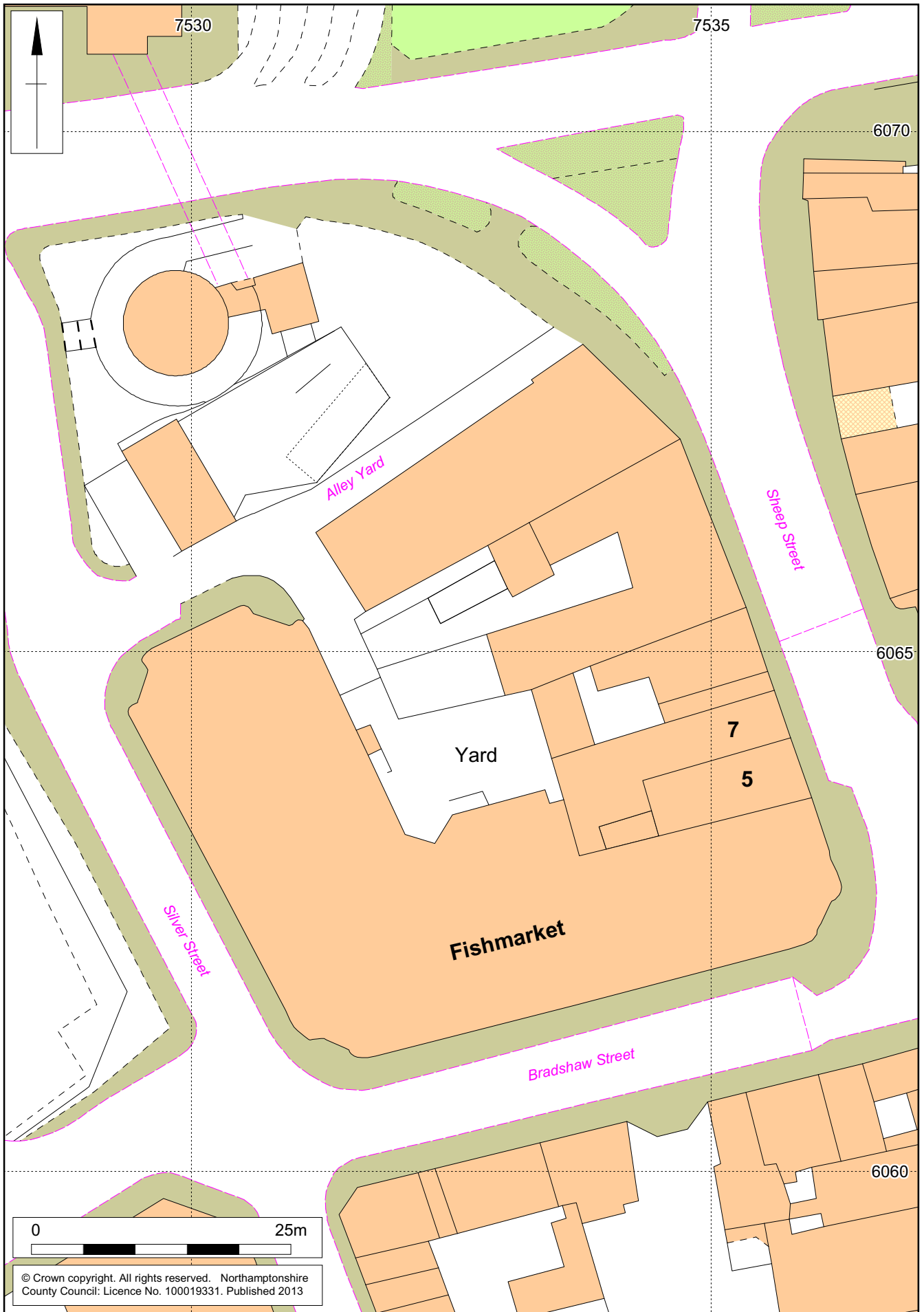
- Determining whether there was any surviving evidence for the Danish/Saxon defences;
- Determining how this part of the town developed during the medieval period;
- Investigating the provisioning of the medieval town;
- Investigating the potential for remains of medieval Jewish activity, especially the synagogue.



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1





Scale 1:500

Location of the former Fishmarket and 5 & 7 Sheep Street Fig 2

### 3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND by Charlotte Walker

The historical background of the site prepared for the building recording action has been reproduced here in full as the archaeology observed during the investigation and recording action carried out during the demolition and ground works for the new bus interchange directly relates to the building which formerly stood on the site (Walker 2012).

The broad history of the site has been addressed in previous documents (JBHC 2012; WSP 2012) and will not be reiterated here.

#### 3.1 Buildings 5 & 7 Sheep Street

The building at 5 Sheep Street formed the western two bays of a larger, more imposing, building that was mostly demolished to make way for the Fishmarket (Fig 3).

In a report on 5 Sheep Street, Brian Giggins suggests that the building may have been built shortly after the Great Fire of Northampton in 1675 (Giggins 2011). The style of the remaining windows bear some resemblance, although less ornate, to those of the Sessions House which was completed in 1678. Furthermore, the central pediment of the original building was decorated with swags above the uppermost windows. Such devices are also replicated on the Sessions House as well as a shop on the south side of the Market Square. However, this has not yet been proved and the building may have been of a later 18th century date.



Building making up 1, 3 and 5 Sheep Street  
(no 5 is at the far right of the photograph) Fig 3

However, there is no doubt that 5 Sheep Street once formed part of the Red Lion. In 1752, the messuage at 7 Sheep Street was leased to Joseph Foulkes, a barber and peruke maker, by Robert Dickinson (Northampton Record Office (NRO): 1386/1). It states that *the south part adjoining an inn called the Red Lyon on the south*. The same document states that this messuage was to be henceforth known as The Windmill.

In 1766 (NRO: 1386/3) it is described as:

*A messuage situate in ...Sheep Street or Sheep Market divided from the north part of the messuage or tenement next adjoining and made a distinct dwelling house together with the little yard and necessary house therein lately taken in and laid to the messuage and*

*divided from the yard or backside of the north part by a stone built wall of the height of the Chamber floor being a partition wall; the messuage to be conveyed being used as a public house called by different names and adjoining on the south to the Red Lion....*

The plan of Northampton from the Great Election of 1768 shows that the western side of Sheep Street was occupied, from south to north, by Martin Lucas, Richard Foulkes and Thomas Dickinson. This indicates that the Red Lion occupied a large frontage from the corner of Bradshaw Street up to and including 5 Sheep Street. The Red Lion appears to have ceased trading by the end of the 18th century.

By 1788 deeds to the property specify that 7 Sheep Street was formerly a public house *known at different times by different signs* (NRO: ZB2050/19).

In 1835, 7, Sheep Street was leased to Robert Page. In 1841, a conveyance states that *the said Robert Page hath lately pulled down the said messuage or tenement and on the site or ground plot thereof erected and built another messuage or tenement and buildings* (NRO: ZB 135/9).

There is a plan of 3 and 5 Sheep Street, which, though undated, appears to be late 19th century (Fig 4). The plan appears to show the buildings as a single property with a pink line drawn around both. However, there is no apparent access between the two. A later pencil line, labelled boundary line, appears to mark a boundary between the two. Part of the boundary wall between the two properties appears to have been the northern side of a corridor with a distinctive kink to bypass a stairway to the cellar. To the rear of the living room was a yard area with a scullery beyond. At the back of the scullery was a coach house with a cellar under, although this appears to have been accessed from No 3 only. There was an entrance to a walled garden from the north of the scullery. The eastern wall of the garden would have formed the boundary for 7 Sheep Street.

In 1885, 7 Sheep Street was sold to Arthur Shemeld, a draper and in 1886 he bought 5 Sheep Street (documents provided by Northampton Borough Council).

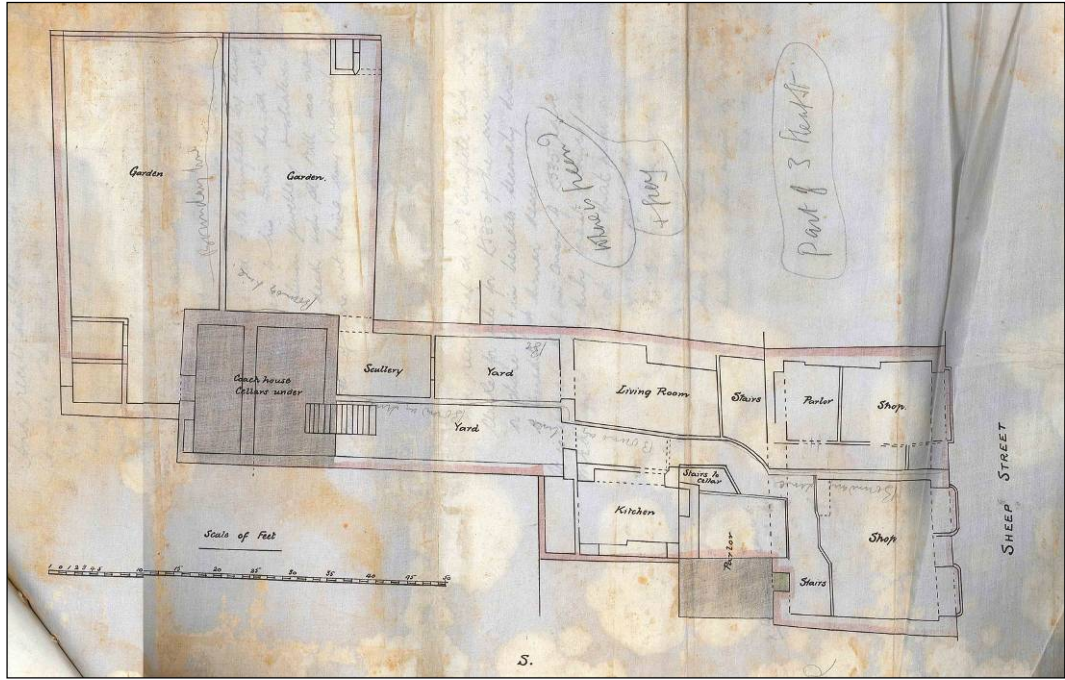
In 1889, 5 and 7 Sheep Street were sold to John Brice and Sons. By that date, 5 Sheep Street was still called *formerly part and parcel of a messuage or Inn called the Red Lion*. However, by this date No 7 was described as a building which *had been erected and built many years ago on the site or some part of the site of the said Red Lion*, illustrating some confusion to its past. This error has persisted in later documents.

It seems, therefore, that the merging of the properties probably began during the late 19th century when the Shemelds were in occupation. It is understood that the buildings were remodelled as one shop in 1889, when still occupied by Arthur Shemeld (Welsh 2011).

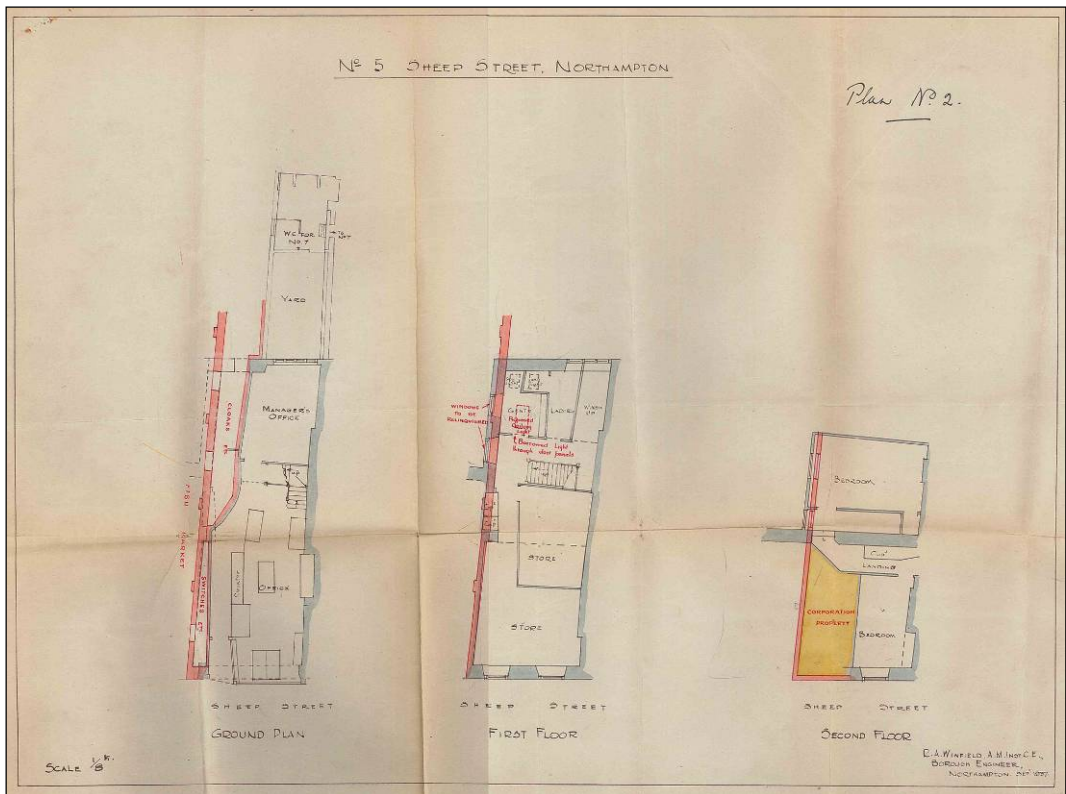
A 1937 plan of 5 Sheep Street shows alterations to be carried out as a result of the construction of the Fishmarket (Figs 5 and 6). The new external south wall of the building was to be partly reinforced on the ground floor (shown in red). The same wall on the upper floors was to be entirely rebuilt, with the result that two windows on the first floor would be lost. New roof lights were to be inserted to compensate for the loss of natural light.

The layout of the ground floor had been altered somewhat from the 19th-century plan, with an office extending further back, using the former parlour and stairwell. The former living room had been made into a manager's office. The yard to the rear of the building was still present, although the garden had been built on by 1925 to form part of a garage (WSP 2012, map 7). On the first floor there were a series of toilets in the same location as currently and two stores. On the second floor there were three bedrooms.

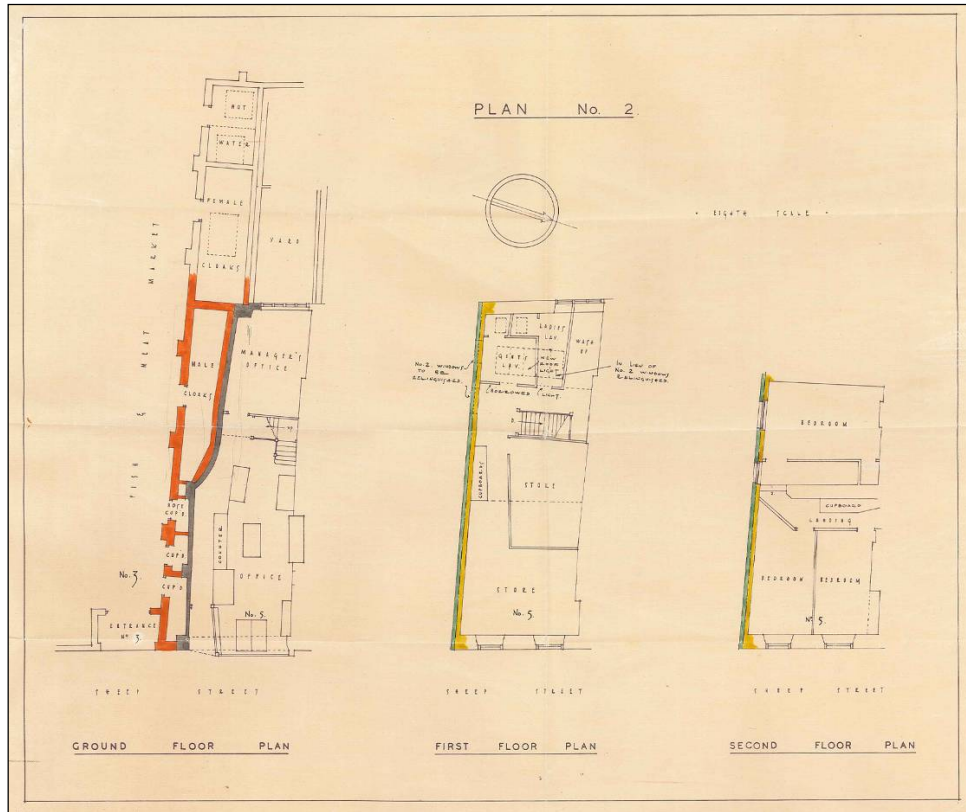
There are no plans for 7 Sheep Street, so its early internal layout cannot be defined. Map evidence suggests that in the late 19th century the main building extended as far west as the rear of No 5. There was a small yard and to the rear a further small building. To the west of this lay the garden for No 5 (Fig 7). This arrangement persisted until at least 1938 (WSP 2012, map 8).



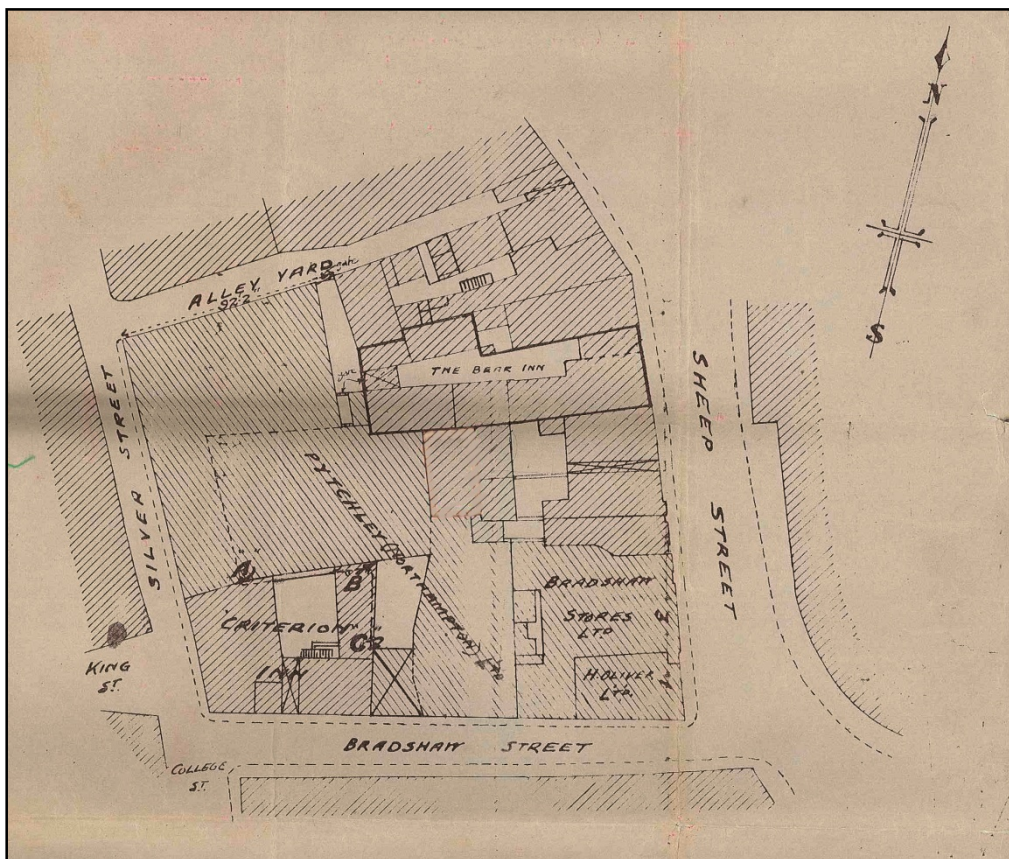
19th-century plan of 5 Sheep Street Fig 4



Plan of proposed changes to 5 Sheep Street, dated 1937 Fig 5



Plan of 5 Sheep Street, late 1930s Fig 6

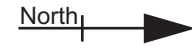


Pre-1930s layout of the development area Fig 7

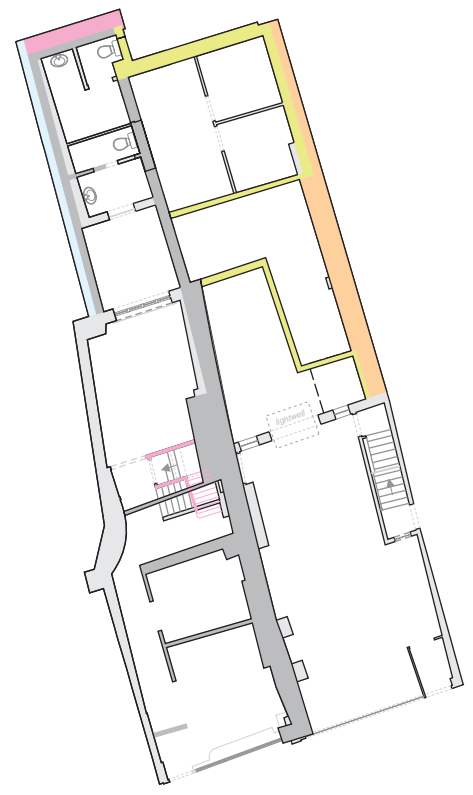
Scale 1:250

Phase plan of 5 & 7 Sheep Street showing alterations

Fig 8



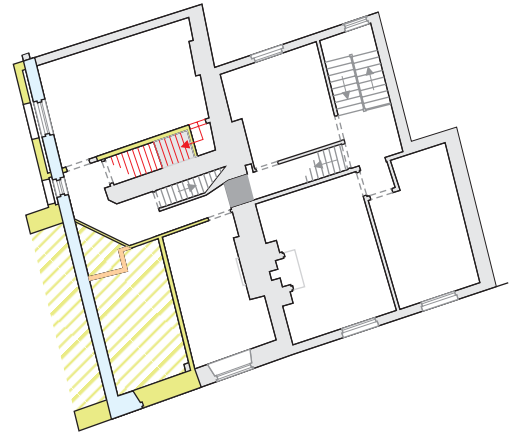
### Ground Floor Plan









### First Floor



### Second Floor



-  Former stair positions
-  19th-century layout (altered/ demolished pre 1937)
-  19th-century layout (present in 1937)
-  Post 19th-century - Pre 1937 alterations
-  1937-1939 alterations
-  Post 1939 alterations



### 3.2 The Fishmarket

The Fish and Meat Market was built in 1938 as a response to increasing concerns regarding the safety of selling fish and meat in the main, open market. Original plans for the market dated December 1938 show the L-shaped building with 28 butchers stalls arranged along most of the internal walls (Fig 9). Along the centre of the building were 22 fish stalls, mostly in groups of two. At the north-western end of the building was a buffet counter. Ladies and gents toilet and cloakroom facilities were also provided. The toilets were accessible from the open yard.

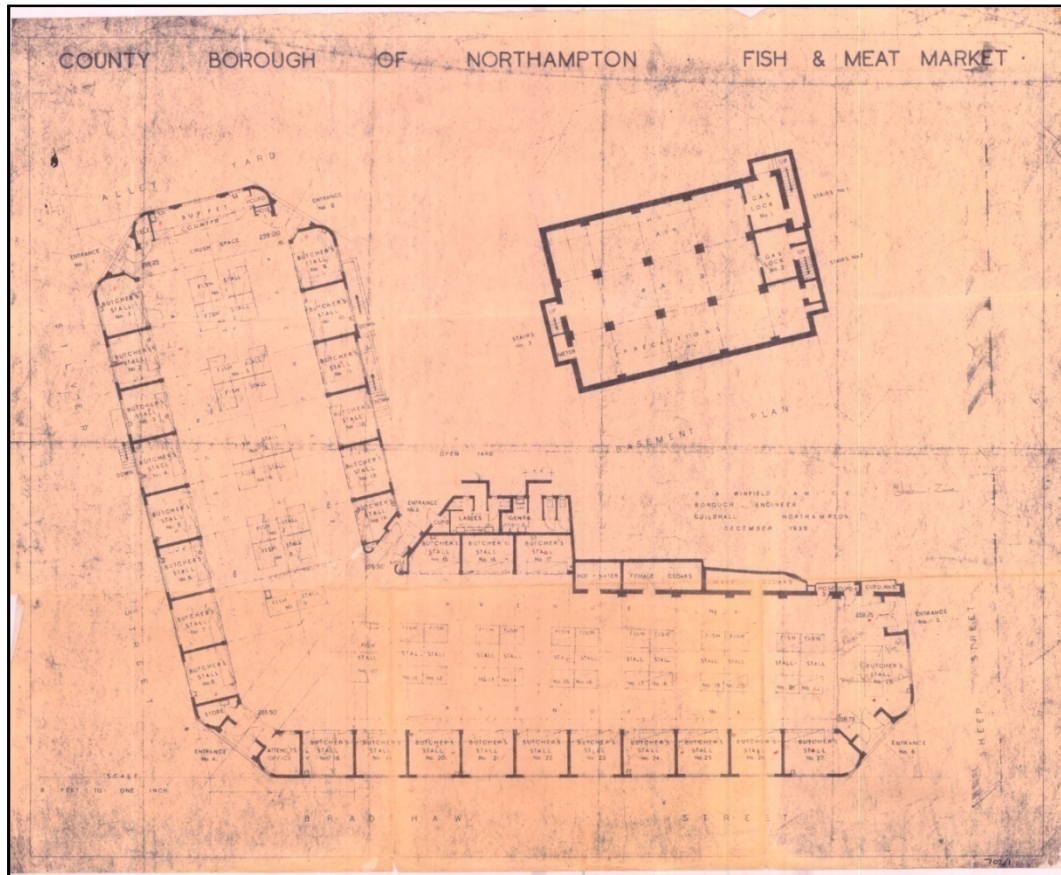
Below the market is an air raid shelter (labelled *Air Raid Precautions* on the plan). By the late 1930s the Government was preparing for the outbreak of war. The Air Raid Precautions sub-committee had originally been set up in 1924 as a response to fears about the growing sophistication of bomber aircraft and the damage they could wreak in a future war. However, in 1935 an ARP Department was created and it invited local authorities and private employers to co-operate in measures against air attacks. The cost implications concerned local authorities and by 1936 the worsening international situation meant that action had to be taken. The *Air Raid Precautions Act* of 1937 finally clarified the financial obligations that local and central government would have to bear. However, while central government would provide some funding towards ARP projects, county councils and subordinate bodies were responsible for setting up such schemes. As well as the damage caused by regular bombs, there was mounting concern that gas may be used and gas masks were being issued by 1938. It is against this background that the provision of an air raid shelter beneath the Fishmarket may be seen.

In the late 1970s there were plans to modernise the Fishmarket by using it more often and to have a wider range of stalls other than meat and fish. An antiques market was held in the hall in 1977. By 1988, the Fishmarket had become more generalised indoor market, with stalls selling a varied range of products including West Indian and Caribbean food, stamps and school uniforms (*Mercury and Herald* 1988). The market was still a thriving shopping area with a strongly traditional feel, with some of the traders running stalls originally used by their fathers.

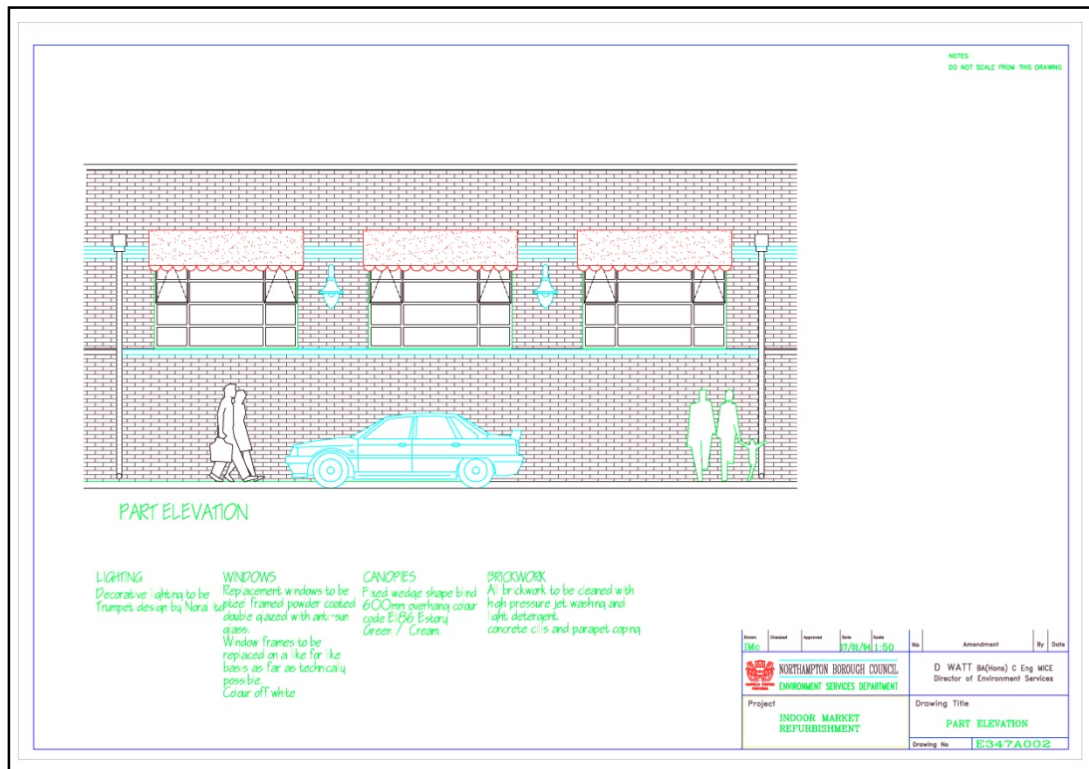
In 1991, there were plans to re-invent the Fishmarket, creating a more upmarket shopping experience, similar to Hull's indoor Fishmarket. These plans never seem to have come to fruition, although environmental health improvements were later made at a cost of £45,000.

In 1997, the *Chronicle and Echo* reported that the Fishmarket was in need of serious renovation work. The article stated that £50,000 had recently been spent in replacing windows, external lights and blinds as well as on repairing window sills. Elevations showing the renovation work illustrate the canopies and anti-sun glass used to replace windows that had previously been whitewashed in an attempt to reduce sunlight into the building (Fig 10). The main entrance had also been updated at a cost of £5,000. Nevertheless, traders felt that business was declining due to the poor state of the building. Thereafter, the Fishmarket continued its gradual decline with the number of occupied stalls decreasing steadily.

The Fishmarket was closed in 2006 and thereafter it was used by the Northampton's Art Collective.



Original plan of the proposed Fishmarket and Air Raid Shelter, dated 1938 Fig 9



Proposals for cleaning of brickwork and replacement of windows, lights and awnings, dated 1994 Fig 10



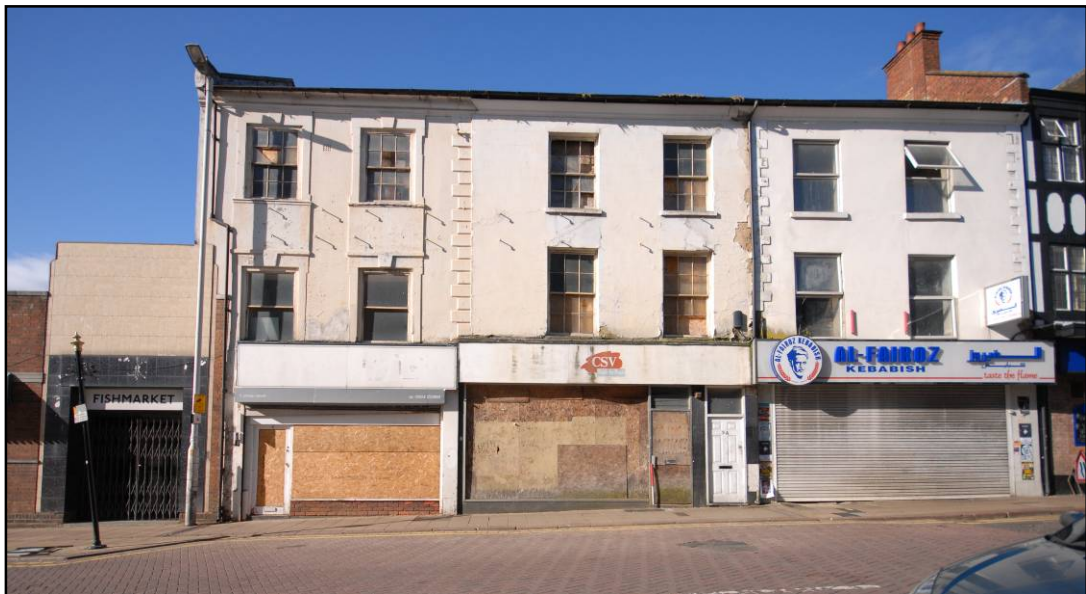
## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

During the archaeological investigation and recording the opportunity was taken to further understand and expand upon knowledge of the existing buildings on the site which were either being wholly or partially demolished. To aid the general understanding of the archaeology observed during the investigation and recording, elements of the building recording report (Bassir *et al* 2012) are reproduced here, with amended Figure references pertaining to this report, with extra information which came to light during the watching brief element of the project.

### 4.1 5-7 Sheep Street exterior

#### *The exterior*

The two bay, three storey facade of 5 Sheep Street is in stone which has been rendered, with modern retail glazed infill to the ground floor (Fig 11). At first floor level there are two sash windows, which have later one over one sashes inserted, the second floor retains its six over six sash windows with thin glazing bars. These windows have projecting plaster surrounds which extend down from the second floor to create panels above the windows on the first floor. The windows all have projecting keystones. There is a moulded architrave below the eaves.



The east elevations of 5 and 7 Sheep Street, with 9 to the right

Fig 11

The removal of the existing retail frontages gave the opportunity to see earlier layers of shop frontages Number 5 Sheep Street had formerly been the premises of 'Styles of London' (Fig 12).



'Styles of London' shop sign on 5 Sheep Street

Fig 12

Once this sign was removed a decorative iron column was exposed between 5 and 7 Sheep Street, which is likely to represent an element of the late 19th-century shop facade (Fig 13).



Iron column between the shop fronts of 5 and 7 Sheep Street

Fig 13

During the demolition of the rear of 5 Sheep Street, it became clear that the southern half of the facade had been completely rebuilt when the adjoining Fishmarket building was constructed in 1938-9. This part of the facade had been rebuilt in red brick with the windows having concrete lintels (Fig 14).

The facade of 7 Sheep Street is separated from No 5 by chamfered quoins. It is of two bays with six over six sash windows on the first and second floors. The ground floor, as in No 5, has been modernised with a glass retail unit front. Within the facade of 7 Sheep Street is an entrance to 9 Sheep Street, which opens into a covered passage.



The internal facade of 5 Sheep Street, showing the rebuilt southern part with concrete window lintels Fig 14

### **Basement**

#### *7 Sheep Street only*

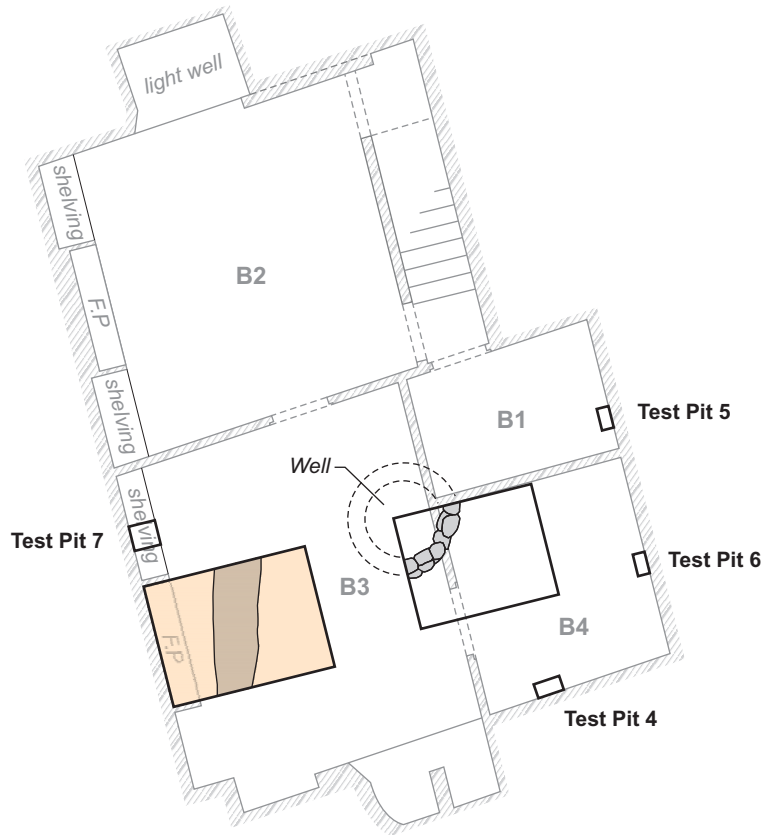
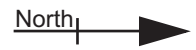
The basement of 7 Sheep Street is accessed via a stair in the north-west corner of room G3 (Fig 19). It is divided into four rooms and seems to have to been used as kitchens and food storage. The rooms are of brick and stone, painted and plastered in places. Some more modern brickwork can be seen in the dividing wall of rooms B1 and B4. A modern breeze block wall is present to the right of the light well in room B2 (Fig 15). Two simple brick fireplaces are built centrally to the south walls of rooms B2 and B3 with brick chimney flues ascending above. These were later altered to contain cast iron “close ranges” with enclosed ovens. These are descendants of those invented by Count Rumford who wrote an *Essay on Heating* in 1799. These became popular in the late 19th early 20th centuries with many factories producing variations on Count Rumford’s basic theme (Hardyment 1997). Shelving was inserted into the space between the walls and chimneys.

A lightwell was built into the west wall of room B2 which rose into the junction of room G3 and room G4 on the ground floor of 7 Sheep Street (Figs 15 and 19). Prior to the construction of room G4 and associated rooms, this lightwell would have been external to the structure.

A brick and stone recess was built into the east wall of room B3. A low brick plinth was present in front of this recess. The previous architectural survey of the building shows a sink atop this plinth which was removed by the time of this survey (Fig 15). This recess may have served as a coal chute from outside.

Rooms B1 and B4 were plain, unfurnished rooms which showed evidence of a mid level shelf running around the full length of three walls. These rooms were presumably used for storage.

# 7 Sheep Street, Basement Plan



- Natural
- 19th - century fill

0 5m

Scale 1:100 (A4)

Basement plan, 7 Sheep Street Fig 15

A series of test pits and two footings holes for the temporary supporting works were excavated by hand in the basements of 7 Sheep Street. No archaeology was observed in the test pits. The two temporary footings holes measured 1.6 by 1.8m by c0.6m deep. No archaeology was observed in the hole in Room B3, however, a well was exposed under the floor of Rooms B3/4 (Figs 15 and 16).

The dividing wall between these two rooms (B3/B4) had been demolished prior to the excavation of the hole, the well lay immediately below the brick floor, with only the north-west quarter of the well within the excavation. The well was sub-circular, c0.7m in diameter, and cut through the natural sand ironstone bedrock. The top of the well was stone-lined, the base of the well was c1.18m below the floor of the basement at 75.88m aOD. It is likely, as the well lay under two of the basement walls, that it predates the construction of 7 Sheep Street.



The well under the basement floor of 7 Sheep Street, looking south-west Fig 16

### **Ground floor**

The main access to 5 & 7 Sheep Street is via Sheep Street, leading to the main shop floors with store rooms to the rear of the buildings. Map and documentary evidence shows the presence of retail space in the buildings from at least the 19th century.

The ground floors of 5 & 7 Sheep Street have undergone multiple phases of modification which have removed most original or early features and fabric. A 19th-century plan of No 5 (Fig 4) shows a small shop opening onto Sheep Street with a parlour, store and living room beyond. By 1937, this area had been opened up into a single office space with counters and desks. This area lies within the current room G1 which at the time of this survey measured c4m by 10m and had modern fittings covering the earlier walls and a lowered, suspended ceiling.

As part of the temporary works a footings hole and test pit were excavated through the floor of room G1. No archaeology was observed in the test pit. The temporary works excavation, however, revealed a sequence of surfaces and the base of an ironstone wall on an east-west alignment, the top of the wall was exposed c0.85m below the present

floor level. The wall was constructed in roughly coursed ironstone rubble (Figs 15 and 17). The wall was not related to the current building so may represent an element of an earlier structure. No dating evidence was recovered. The wall appeared to have been constructed in a trench which cut through the various adjacent layers.



Wall exposed in the temporary works excavation in room G1, 5 Sheep Street Fig 17

A stairway in the north-west corner of room G1 leads up to the first floor (Fig 19). Map evidence suggests two previous layouts of stairways in this area before the existing stairs was constructed (Fig 8). An L-shaped stairway with an approach from the east is depicted on the plan of 1937. This was replaced with the current U-shaped stairway after this date. A different stair arrangement is hinted at on the 19th-century plan of the building.

An arched doorway in the west wall of room G1 leads through to room G2, which was used recently as storage and is marked as a manager's office on the plan of 1937 and a living room in the 19th century (Figs 4-6). A roll up security shutter on the west wall provided access to room G5 within No.7. This room was flooded and was suffering severe damp at the time of this survey.

The ground floor of No 7 was also suffering from extensive damp problems and was in a state of dilapidation and disrepair. The main shop floor, G3, measured c5m by 9.5m and provided access to the basement via a stair in the north-west corner of the room. A beam bearing largely indecipherable early 20th-century lettering was partially exposed where the suspended tile ceiling had been removed. Earlier phases of wallpaper and tiling were visible where the modern wallpaper had been removed.

During the watching brief phase of works, the beam was fully exposed so that the painted lettering could be read, PAINTS, BRUSHES, DISTEMPER (Fig 18), suggesting that at some stage 7 Sheep Street had served as a painting and decorators shop.



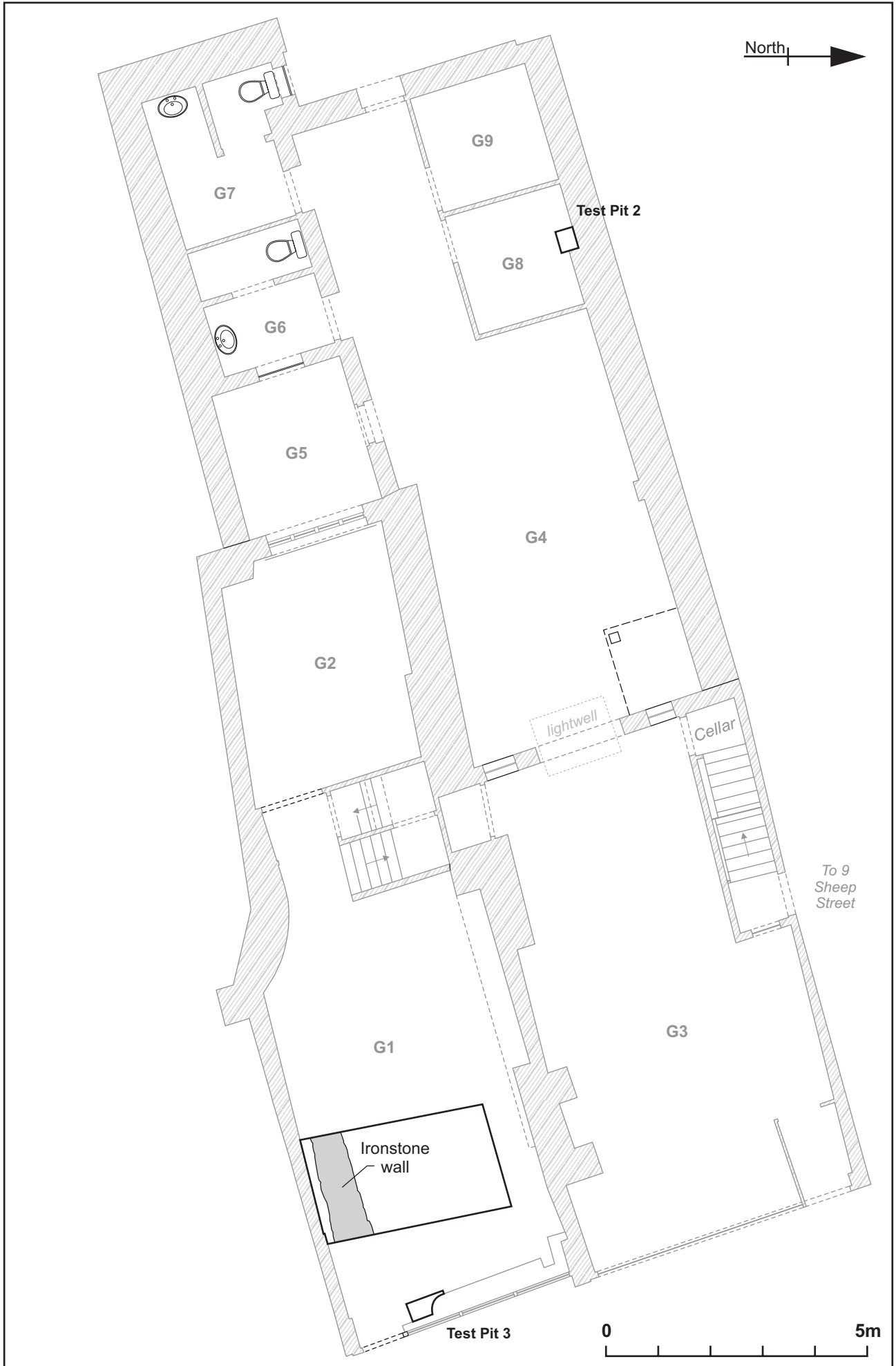
Writing on the beam in G3, 7 Sheep Street

Fig 18

Room G4 to the west of room G3 is accessed via a square doorway flanked by rectangular windows. The brick lintel of a former doorway or window can be seen on the western face of this wall above the modern doorway. The lightwell to the basement rises to the first floor at this point, indicating that this wall may have originally been an external wall with a yard beyond.

Room F11, a small bathroom midway between the ground and first floors and accessed by the main stair of No 7, is raised and supported from the floor in the north-east corner of room G4 by an iron column. The bathroom is brick-built and is a remnant of a late 19th-century layout of the building, predating the creation of room G4. A window in the west wall of the bathroom and made blind by the pitch of the roof of room G4 formerly overlooked the yard of No 7.

To the rear of room G4 were several smaller rooms which were used for toilets and stock storage. These rooms occupy the space of former outbuildings shown on early plans. A door at the west of room G4 led into the Fishmarket yard. Room G7 is shown as a scullery on the 19th-century plan (Fig 4).



Scale 1:100 (A4)

Ground Floor plan, 5 & 7 Sheep Street Fig 19



## 4.2 The cellars beneath the Fishmarket

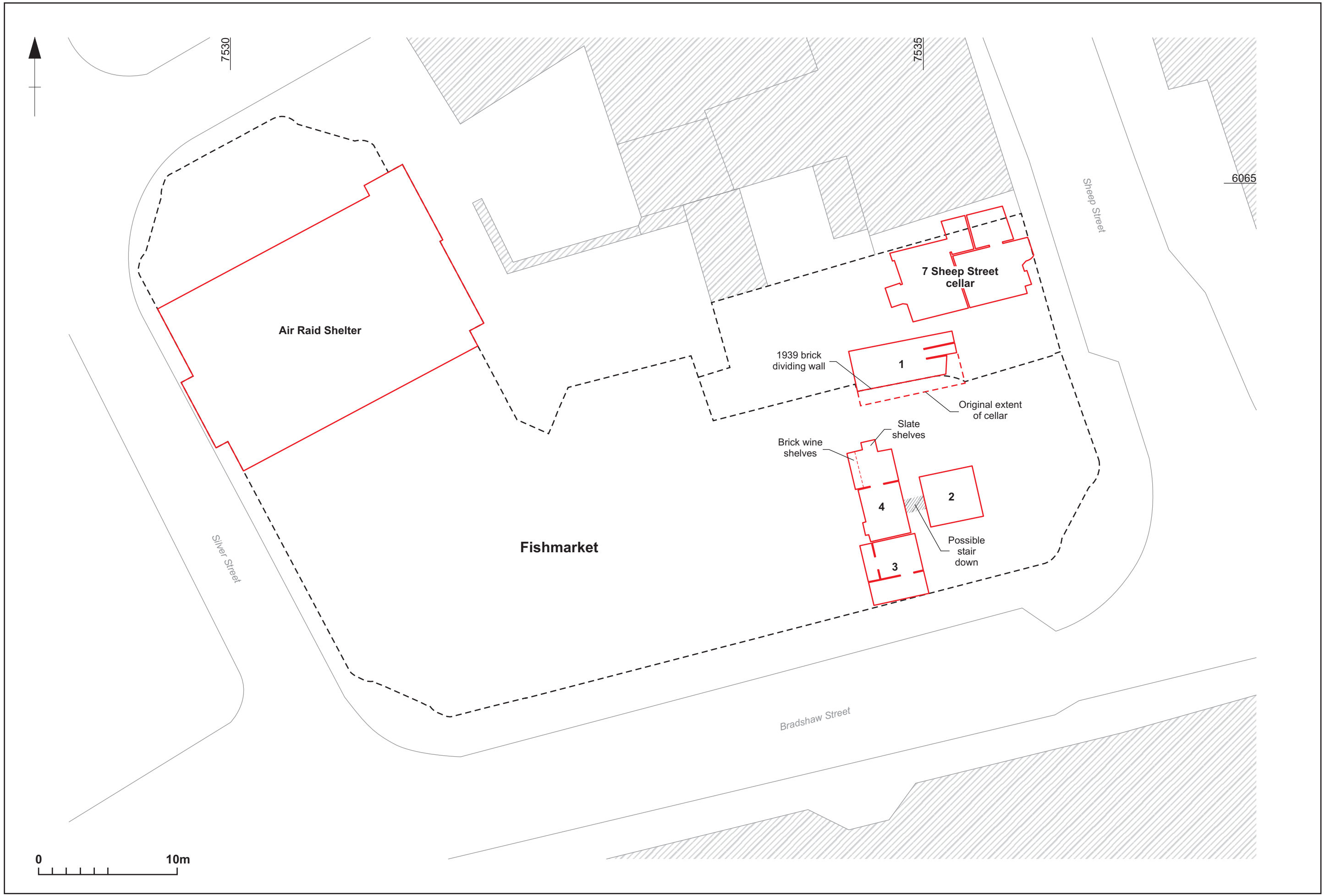
During the removal of the deep footings of the former Fishmarket building four cellars were exposed which retained their barrel vaulted ceilings. These cellars related to the former public house/hotel which formerly stood on the corner of Sheep Street and Bradshaw Street. The cellars had partially been filled with demolition rubble which is likely to have been sourced from the demolition of the building to make way for the new Fishmarket. However, the demolition rubble had only filled the cellars around the former entrances, it could perhaps be imagined that somebody on the site during the construction of the Fishmarket had been given the task of filling in the old cellars, and this was achieved by emptying wheel barrow loads down the hole until it was full, which of course would leave a pile of rubble spreading out from the hole rising to a mound in turn giving the impression that the cellar had been filled whilst in reality only a small portion had been.

Cellars 1 and 2 were both at the depth that would be expected immediately below the floor of the ground floor rooms, however, cellars 3 and 4 were located below these. Due to health and safety constraints it was not possible to gain full access to the cellars, but simple plans and a composite cross section were made with the aid of a laser distance measurer (Figs 21 and 22).

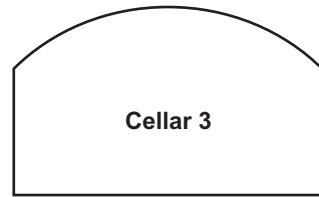


Cellar 1, looking east

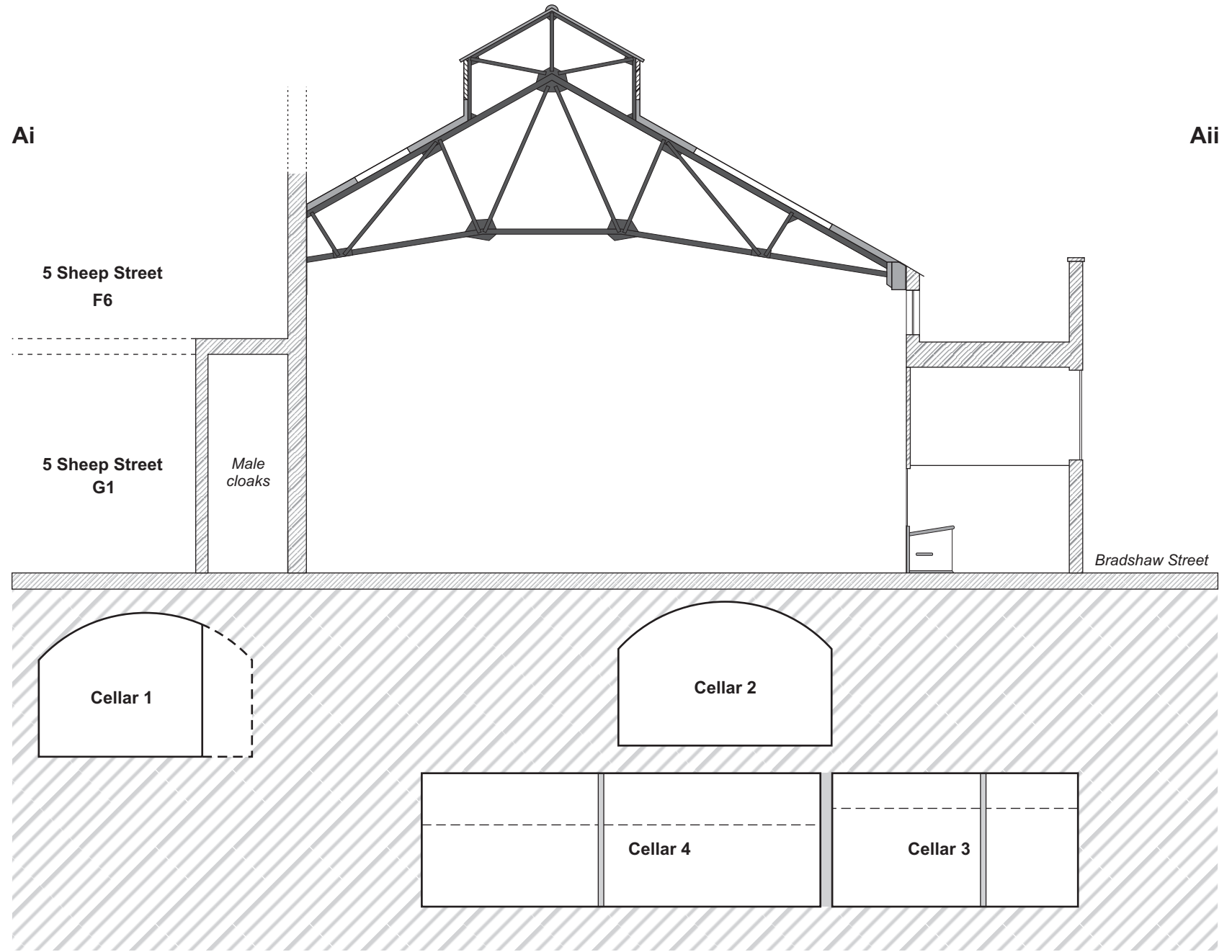
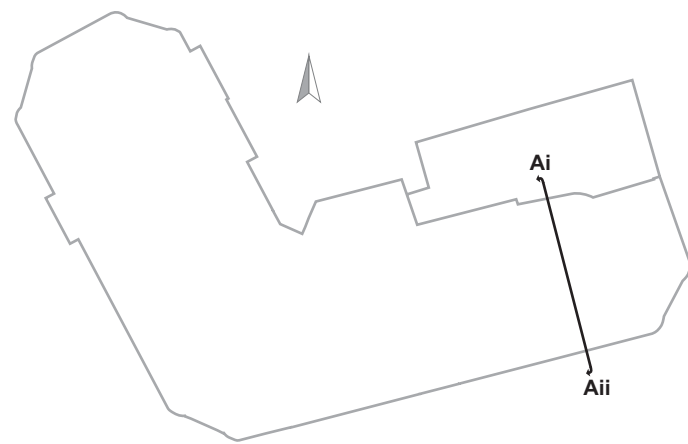
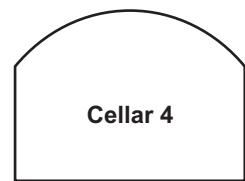
Fig 20



Cross section, Cellar 3



Cross section, Cellar 4



Composite section through the south wing of the Fishmarket and underlying cellars

0 5m

Cellar 1 was rectangular in plan and measured c7.5m by 3.05m (Figs 20, 21 and 22). The full width of the cellar was not revealed as there had been a brick wall built down the length of the cellar which had a bricked up doorway in it. The walls of the cellar were whitewashed sand/ironstone as was the barrel-vaulted ceiling. This cellar could be accessed via a ladder from 5 Sheep Street, Room G1 and had seen use during the building's last incarnation as a shop. The brick wall built down the length of the cellar was immediately below the outer wall of the new Fishmarket, so it is clear that the wall acted as a foundation for the new building whilst allowing the bulk of the cellar, which was under 5 Sheep Street, to continue in use. It became clear during the building recording and subsequent watching brief that the Fishmarket building encroached on the southern side of the footprint of 5 Sheep Street, resulting in the rebuilding of the southern gable and the southern part of the frontage.

Cellar 2 was almost square in plan, measuring 3.90m by 3.92m (Figs 20 and 21). Again, the walls were stone as was part of the barrel-vaulted ceiling; however, the central part of the vault had been rebuilt in brick, perhaps suggesting a later repair. There was an opening in the southern wall, which may have had a stair leading down into cellar 4 where there was a corresponding blocked opening.

Cellar 3 was again almost square, measuring 4.56m north-south by 4.08m (Figs 20, 21, 23 and 24). The cellar as the others was constructed in sand/ironstone with a vaulted ceiling. The cellar was split into three rooms by brick dividing walls.



Cellar 3, as exposed

Fig 23



Cellar 3 interior, looking east

Fig 24

Cellar 4 was rectangular in plan, measuring c7.3m north-south by c3.00m wide (Figs 20, 21 and 25). The cellar was constructed from sand/ironstone with a barrel vault. Like cellar 3 it was subdivided into two rooms with a brick partition. Built into the southern side were brick shelves for wine bottles (Fig 25), on the north wall there was a recess with slate shelves (Fig 26).



Cellar 4, as exposed showing the brick shelves

Fig 25



Cellar 4, showing the slate shelves

Fig 26

Some fragmentary walls were observed along the Bradshaw Street frontage which may have been elements of former cellars, although the footings of the Fishmarket had made the identification of these walls very difficult.

## 5 DISCUSSION

The investigation and recording during the demolition of the former Fishmarket and 5 and 7 Sheep Street and the excavation of the footings for the new bus interchange, demonstrated that the site had been quite heavily disturbed by cellars and the air raid shelter under the Fishmarket.

Although no medieval archaeology or evidence for the Jewish Synagogue which research has indicated may have stood in this part of Northampton, was observed the information gained demonstrated that if any medieval or earlier archaeology survived on the site it would be in very isolated pockets.

The cellars observed relate to the former hotel which stood on the corner of Sheep street and Bradshaw Street and are likely to have continued in use during the later phases of the building's life prior to its demolition and the construction of the Fishmarket when they were partially filled.

The cellars observed on the site may have given rise to the many tales of tunnels on the site, as there did appear to be ways between them and entrances into them through holes in their ceilings, which may have been accessed down narrow stairs from the floors above, especially in the case of the deep cellars.

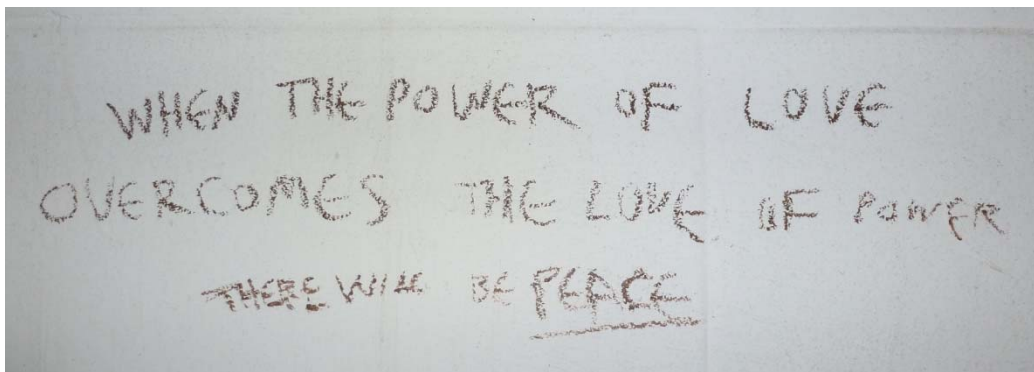
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Northamptonshire County Council

## Northamptonshire Archaeology



***"The words of the prophets are written on the subway walls  
And tenement halls"  
And whispered in the sounds of silence  
Simon & Garfunkel***

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