

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Evaluation

147 Watling Street, Towcester

Northamptonshire

July - August 2006



Anne Foard-Colby

October 2006

Report 06/129

Northamptonshire Archaeology

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**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 2006**

NGR SP 693 487

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT
147 WATLING STREET, TOWCESTER
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JULY - AUGUST 2006
REPORT 06/129**

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	147 Watling Street, Towcester	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land proposed for an extension at 147 Watling Street, Towcester, Northamptonshire. The remains of a Roman masonry building, replaced by a posthole structure were uncovered. A considerable quantity of Roman pottery ranging in date from the 1st – 3rd centuries was recovered from above the floor surface and some features. Three Roman coins and a quantity of metal objects including a lead weight, scraps of lead and iron nails were recovered. Post-medieval and modern rubbish pits cut the later garden layers.	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Desk-based assessment (JSAC 1332/06/2001)	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type And period	Roman building	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	Roman pottery, coins, lead weight	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County		
Site address (including postcode)	147 Watling Street, Towcester	
Easting (use numerical 100km grid square no.)	469300	
Northing	248700	
Height OD	86.39m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Paul Mantle Partnership	
Project brief originator		
Project Design originator	JSAC	
Director/Supervisor	Anne Foard-Colby	
Project Manager	Adam Yates NA, Claire Herring JSAC	
Sponsor or funding body		
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	July 2006	
End date	August 2006	
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

147 WATLING STREET, TOWCESTER

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

AUGUST 2006

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land proposed for an extension at 147 Watling Street, Towcester, Northamptonshire. The remains of a Roman masonry building, replaced by a posthole structure were uncovered. A considerable quantity of Roman pottery ranging in date from the 1st – 3rd centuries was recovered from above the floor surface and some features. Three Roman coins and a quantity of metal objects including a lead weight, scraps of lead and iron nails were recovered. Post-medieval and modern rubbish pits cut the later garden layers.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation in August 2006 on land proposed for an extension at the rear of 147 Watling Street, Towcester, Northamptonshire (Fig 1; NGR SP 693 487).

The works were commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants acting on behalf of their clients Paul Mantle Partnership following direct consultation with Myk Flitcroft, Senior Environment Planner (Heritage) for Northamptonshire County Council. They were undertaken according to a specification prepared by JSAC (1332/06/02)

The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the date, condition and nature of any archaeological remains and to inform on any further stages of archaeological mitigation, which may be required.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site is situated south of the centre of Towcester and fronts the west side of Watling Street at its junction with Richmond Road. Covering an area of c232m², the site comprises the back garden to the property fronting Watling Street and lies on flat ground at 86.39mOD.

The drift geology of the site mapped by the Geological Survey of Great Britain is 2nd terrace river deposits and alluvium (BGS 1969).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site of the proposed extension lies at the south, outside of the walled area of the Roman town of *Lactodurum* (Towcester). It is likely that the town may have begun as a Vicus (civilian settlement) associated with a fort after the Roman invasion in the mid 1st

century AD (Woodfield 1992, 1995, Moss 1975).

The central core of the Roman town was protected by earthen rampart with external ditch and a stone wall by the late 2nd century AD. During the late Roman period the defences were probably improved by re-cutting the ditch and the addition of stone corner bastions.

These defences were also refurbished during the 10th century, possibly during the 11th century and during the period of the English Civil War (Woodfield, 1992).

Excavation to the south of the site revealed a series of boundary ditches aligned south-east to north-west and a stone wall, approximately 2m wide, close to and on the same alignment, to the south-west of the proposed extension site (Woodfield, 1992).

4 METHODOLOGY

Two trial trenches one measuring approximately 10m the other approximately 5m in length, and at their widest 2m, were excavated using a mechanical digger fitted with a 1m wide toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision (Fig 2).

Mechanical excavation proceeded as far as archaeological remains, which consisted of walls, floor surface and demolition layer. To preserve the archaeological remains, limited archaeological features were examined by hand excavation, by cutting a section through them. Standard Northamptonshire Archaeology single context recording procedures were employed.

The trenches were related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Contexts were recorded on pro-forma sheets with a unique context number being allocated to each distinct deposit and feature.

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm monochrome negatives, with associated prints, and colour transparencies was maintained, with additional digital photographs.

All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive. The site code is TWS06.

Monitoring of the programme of fieldwork was carried out by the Senior Environment Planner for Northamptonshire County Council.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

The two trenches excavated will be described below as one for clarity (Trenches 1 & 2, Figs 3 and 4, Plates 1 - 4).

The natural substrate was not reached; the earliest deposit was dark grey alluvium (121) at a depth of 1.27m, which was observed in a section cut through the roman floor surfaces (110), (119) and (120).

5.2 Structures

Wall (112) was aligned NE-SW and measured approximately 1.4m wide and consisted of limestone bonded together with a light brown grey clay. There was evidence for facing stones on the outer wall surface, however many of the larger facing stones appear to have been robbed. The core consisted of smaller rubble stones. The foundation of the wall [113] was cut into the alluvium layer (121), while a series of floor surface layers abutting its northern face.

Wall (210) was aligned parallel to wall (112) and approximately 6m to the north. Only its rubble core remained with a reduced width of 0.6m. It contained a similar clay bond to wall (112). A cut for the foundation trench (209) was present on the south side of the wall. Its fill [209] was mid-dark silty clay with some limestone fragments and small pebbles and measured approximately 1.5m wide.

A possible third wall (213) was situated 1m to the south and parallel to wall (210). It was 1m wide again with only the core surviving.

A section was cut north of and close to wall (112), and revealed a series of three floor layers. The lowest layer (120) was yellow clay with a dull red burnt upper surface, approximately 0.15m thick. Overlying this was a narrow layer of grey brown silty clay (119) with small limestone fragments and Roman amphora sherds placed flat over the floor surface. It was a maximum of 0.05m thick. Overlying this was the upper, yellow clay floor surface (110), with dull red burnt surface and was approximately 0.1m thick.

Overlying the clay floor surface was a demolition layer (105, 205) which consisted of dark blue grey/brown sandy/clayey loam with limestone fragments and charcoal lumps and measured approximately 0.15m thick. It contained ironstone fragments, considerable amounts of Roman pottery, iron slag and fragments of lead.

Cut into the demolition layer were four postholes [107], [109], [207] and [212], all of which contained packing stones. Two of these [107] and [207] were sectioned. Posthole [107] was steep sided with a flat base. Its fill (106), was dark grey brown silty clay with large packing stones and contained Roman pottery. It measured 0.49m diameter and was 0.28m deep. Posthole [207] was steep sided with a flat base. Its fill (206) was a dark brown silty loam with charcoal and two large packing stones lying flat in the fill. It was 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep.

At the east end of Trench 1 a small patch of limestone rubble (115) was revealed on the edge of a dark alluvial layer (114). This was sectioned and clearly showed the rubble to be sloping down to the south. Finds from this layer include a piece of lead and pottery dating from 15th – 16th century. Further investigation of this layer by removal of rubble uncovered dark blue/grey alluvium (122) which sloped to the south and may represent an edge to another unexcavated feature.

Overlying the walls, postholes and rubble was layer (104, 204). This material was a mid to dark silty, clayey loam which contained sherds of post medieval pottery, bone and charcoal and was probably the remains of an old garden soil. It was approximately 0.4m thick. This was overlain by an irregular layer of orange sand (103, 203), which contained rubble and small fragments of limestone, post-medieval pottery and glass and was a maximum of 0.32m thick. It may represent a levelling layer, or building waste which had been spread over the garden plot. A layer of subsoil (102, 202) overlay the sand and contained residual sherds of Roman pottery and was a maximum of 0.4m thick. Topsoil (101, 201) consisted of dark, humous rich soil and covered most of the garden plot and was 0.2m thick. The whole garden had within recent years been landscaped, the topsoil may have been imported.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The flint

by Adrian Burrow

A single retouched flake was recovered from fill (208) of foundation trench [209]. Comprising of a mottled grey brown vitreous flint, it was short and broad with a pronounced bulb; with white cortex present near the proximal end. Minor soft hammer

retouch on the broad distal end suggests use as an expedient scraper. Given that this single flint was recovered from a secure Roman context it may be seen as residual.

6.2 The Roman pottery

by Pat Chapman

The assemblage of 343 sherds weighs 7.979kg. Approximately 50% of this assemblage, some 166 sherds, derived from context (205), a demolition layer. There are 15 residual sherds from context (115) a rubble layer, which also contains post-medieval pottery. There are a few imported wares, but the bulk of the assemblage comprises kitchen and tablewares in coarsewares and finewares.

The imported wares include 18 non-joining sherds of amphora weighing 3,848g, probably a Dressel 20, coming from context (119) a floor levelling layer, with a further two sherds from other contexts (Tomber and Dore 1998).

There are 25 samian sherds in all. There are sherds from at least one, if not two form 18/31 plates from (105) and (205) the demolition layers. Two leaf rims, one a form 35 and the other a form 42 and a footing base form 38 also come from (205). This context also had a decorated sherd from a form 30 which had been mended with a strip of lead. These give a date range between the second half of the 1st century up to beginning of the 3rd century (Webster 1996).

The remaining sherds comprise a range of coarsewares and finewares. The majority of the coarseware jars, some of which are blackened, are shell-tempered or greywares, and are in a range of sizes with wide and narrow mouths. The decoration includes combing on several jars, as well as a few with zigzags or acute lattice work below the rims. There is one channel-rimmed jar from (208) the fill of foundation trench [209]. The finewares comprise two very worn flagon rims and a range of beakers, including barbotine and boss decorated greywares, and rouletted and plain Lower Nene Valley colour-coat sherds with both everted and upright rims. One rimsherd in a hard white fabric has two parallel horizontal red brown painted lines. There is also one sherd from a strainer in a pink fabric. Some plain black burnished jars, a LNVCC dog bowl and one deep bowl with an everted rim are present. One very worn and blackened mortaria sherd from (105) is probably Oxford whiteware.

The overall date range for this assemblage would be the late 1st century into the 3rd century AD. The amphora is dated to that period, while the samian pottery, although dated earlier by manufacture, could have been kept for a considerable time before being deposited as rubbish.

Table 1: Quantification of Roman pottery by context

Context	Type	Sherd count	Weight (g)	Comments
105	Layer	69	812	Includes 9 samian sherds
106	Fill of P/H	5	20	
115	Layer	15	119	Also 4 post-med sherds
119	Floor surface	19	3848	Includes 18 amphora sherds
120	Floor surface	1	2	
121	Alluvium	1	7	
205	Layer	166	2423	14 samian sherds, incl SF3
206	Fill of P/H	15	70	
208	Fill of foundation trench	52	678	3 samian sherds
Total		343	7979	

6.3 The Post-medieval pottery

by Anne Foard

The assemblage comprises thirty seven sherds weighing 1.103kgs. There are thirteen fabric types spanning from the 15th to the 20th centuries.

A small assemblage such as this is very fragmentary. It is largely unabridged and therefore deposition is likely to have occurred soon after breakage in most cases, with little disturbance thereafter.

The vessel forms represented are likely to be unremarkable.

Table 2: Post-medieval pottery by context

Context No.	Fill	Fabric Type (Northamptonshire type series)
103	Layer	414 (1), 415 (1), 416 (1), 426 (1), 429 (1)
104	Layer	330 (2), 411 (1), 413 (1), 414 (3), 415 (8), 416 (1), 417 (2), 418 (2), 426 (2)
105	Layer	411 (1)
115	Layer	405 (1), 407 (2)
117	Pit	417 (1), 427 (2), 430 (1)
204	Layer	411 (1), 427 (1)

The types represented are:

- 330 2 body sherds of shell tempered medieval
- 405 1 body sherd of Tudor Green c 1450 - 1600
- 407 2 body sherds of Red Earthenware c 1450 - 1550
- 411 1 rim, 1 body & 1 base sherd of Midland Blackware c 1550 – 1700
- 413 1 body sherd of Manganese Glazed Ware c 1680 - 1760
- 414 2 rim, 2 body sherds of unglazed earthenware
- 415 1 rim, 8 body sherds of Creamware c 1740 - 1820

- 416 1 body sherd of underglaze transfer printed c late 18th century
- 417 2 rims, 1 body sherd of Nottingham salt-glazed stoneware c 1700 - 1800
- 418 1 rim, 1 body sherd of Pearlware c 1750 - 1820
- 426 2 body, 1 base sherd of Iron-glazed coarsewares
- 427 2 rim sherds of Local coarsewares c 1790 - 1900
- 430 1 rim sherd of China c 1860 -1950

6.4 The Roman coins

by Ian Meadows

There are three coins, one from context (105) the demolition layer; the other two were from the topsoil. They are described below:

SF 1 (105) AE dupondius or As of Faustina Junior (145-75). The condition of the coin prevents closer identification. None of the obverse legend is legible and the bust is poorly seen although the hairstyle with bun is apparent.

SF12 U/S AE As of either Domitian (81-96) or Trajan (98-117). The flan was so worn that all that was visible was the slight obverse bust with no legend. The reverse was severely corroded.

SF17 U/S An AE3 flan on which no distinguishing features can be identified on either face. As a flan it is unlikely to date before the late third century but beyond that close dating is not possible.

These three coins are typical. The early flans show wear indicative of a long circulation, so their date of issue is not indicative of their date of loss. The third flan is sadly too illegible to closely date.

6.5 The ceramic tile

by Pat Chapman

There are 14 fragments of tile, weighing 1554g, of which three are definitely Roman, a tegula sherd from context (119), a probable imbrex sherd found in (105), and a fragment of box flue tile from (208).

From context (115) are the two medieval to post-medieval tile fragments, one a peg tile with a peg hole.

The remaining tile fragments are indeterminate body sherds.

Table 3: Quantification of ceramic tile

Context	Type	Sherd count	Weight (g)	Comments
103	Layer	1	77	
105	Layer	2	127	Imbrex probably
106	Fill	1	8	
115	Layer	3	279	2 post-medieval
117	Fill	1	242	
119	Layer	1	575	Tegula
205	Layer	3	123	
208	Fill	2	123	Box flue
Totals		14	1554	

6.6 Metal working debris

by Andy Chapman

A total of 1164g of metalworking debris was recovered from three contexts: (104, 85g), (115, 19g) and (205, 1060g). The single small fragment from context (115) has a fluid surface, as would be expected on tap slag from a smelting furnace, but the presence of only a single small fragment leaves this interpretation uncertain. The rest of the material comprises lumps of vesicular but quite dense ferrous slag. There is typically one smoother surface, suggesting that it comes from furnace or hearth lining, and indicating that at least iron smithing was being carried out nearby.

6.7 Other finds

by Pat Chapman

Roman

There are a few finds of Roman date. This includes a domed lead weight with a vertical 3mm hole, three iron objects including a hinge pintle and a fragment of a copper pin. A small sherd of thin colourless glass from context (116) dates from between the late 1st century into the 4th century.

The other iron objects include nails of varying sizes from 64mm to 18mm in length from (205) and (115), and a bolt of 98mm from (106), the fill of postholes [107]. There is a lead fitting or offcut from (115) comprising a curved flat strip 48mm long, up to 20mm wide into a slightly curved 'tang' 5mm square and 50m long.

Post-medieval

The assemblage includes a broken metal button with copper traces suggesting that it may have been bronze coated tin, with a design on the face in part comprising one sprig rising from the centre to the edge with three alternate leaves and adjacent to it a 'ring-and-dot' flower also on a stem. The back appears to have a cone shank with a loop that has been bent over. There was also a small lead shot, its size suggests for use in a pistol. The finds were unstratified.

6.8 The animal bone

by Stephanie Vann

Method

The animal bone 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 poor to good. Fragmentation was moderate and surface abrasion was moderate with bone exhibiting signs of erosion, weathering and other taphonomic damage in some instances. Fragmentation was the result of both old and fresh breaks. Evidence for butchery was low with 2 definite examples and 1 possible example. These included both cut and chop marks. There was evidence of canid gnawing on 6 bones and 1 example of pathology was noted. This was an area of periostosis on the inner surface of a rib from context (115). There was no evidence of burning.

Table 4: Total number of fragments per species

Phase	<i>Bos</i> Cattle	<i>Ovicaprid</i> Sheep/Goat	<i>Sus</i> Pig	<i>Aves</i> Bird	Large Mammal	Small Mammal	Unid.
Pre-roman?	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
Roman	4	9	1	1	7	1	30
Post-Medieval	4	5	1	1	3	1	18
TOTAL	8	16	2	2	10	2	49

The total number of fragments was 89, of which 40 (45 %) were identifiable. The species present were cattle, *ovicaprid* (sheep/goat), pig and bird. No wild species were present, nor was there any evidence of fish remains.

Table 5: Ageing of Species by Tooth Wear (Grant, 1982)

Context	Species	DP4	M1	M2	M3
105	Sheep/goat	G	-	-	-
208	Pig	-	G	-	-

Tooth wear was recorded for the few mandibles that were complete enough to permit it following Grant (1982) and the results are shown in Table 6. This is a widely used, published procedure that records the stage of tooth eruption and wear based on a series of defined stages, enabling an age to be assigned to individual animals and thus analysis of age at death patterns to be undertaken.

Discussion

Whilst the small size of the assemblage and its poor condition makes it difficult to draw any significant conclusions, there is nothing about the assemblage that is in any way extraordinary. Sheep/goat and cattle are regularly exploited throughout the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, as is the pig, albeit not generally in the same numbers as sheep/goats or cattle (Maltby, 1981).

Similar patterns can also be seen in the post-medieval period on other sites such as those from Coventry (Locock, 1999), where cattle and sheep/goat predominated. The dominance of such remains within the assemblage from Watling Street, Towcester is therefore not unusual. The good survivability of large, strong bones such as those of cattle and other large ungulates 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.

Following the York System (O'Connor 2003), the mandibles for which it was possible to calculate ages would appear to have belonged to immature - subadult animals. The mandibles from context (105) still has the deciduous (dp4) premolar present, and the mandible from context (208) shows the first molar in wear (stage g). This suggests that these animals might have been slaughtered before reaching full maturity, perhaps for their meat.

Whilst there was no direct evidence of canids within the faunal assemblage, the presence of gnawing upon several elements confirms the presence of these at the site on at least some occasions. This evidence came from both Roman and Post-Medieval contexts. The same is also true of the butchery evidence. However, the number of fragments exhibiting these is too low to draw any definitive conclusions.

6.9 The Environmental Evidence

by Karen Deighton

Method

Four 10 litre samples were collected during the course of excavation. These were processed using a siraf tank fitting with a 500micron mesh and flot sieve. The resulting flots were dried and examination with the aid of a microscope (10x magnification). Any plant remains were identified, where possible, with the aid of a seed atlas (Schoch et al 1988) and the author's reference collection.

Results

Preservation

Preservation was poor with high levels of abrasion and fragmentation. Cereal grains were particularly affected.

Table 6: ecofacts by sample and context

Sample	1	2	3	4
Context	106	206	110	104
Feature type	Fill of posthole	Fill of posthole	Floor layer	Buried soil
Charcoal*	10	40-50	100	500
Naked barley	1			
Barley indet	3	4	1	5
Wheat/Barley				4
Cereal indet		8	1	5
Cleavers				1
Fat hen				20
Indet.	2	1	1	1
Total seeds	6	13	3	38

*quantities of charcoal are approximate

The presence of cereal and typical cereal crop weeds suggests cereal was utilised and possibly processed at the site. The low numbers of identifiable specimens and poor preservation render further interpretation of the assemblage difficult.

Potential

The value of further work on the assemblage would be limited due to its small size and poor preservation. However the presence of charcoal plant material suggests that should further excavation take place in this area further samples should be collected from suitable contexts.

7 DISCUSSION

Three parallel stone walls with associated floor surfaces, represent a Roman building set back from the frontage of Watling Street. A possible stone wall, exposed during earlier excavations to the south-west of the site appears to be on the same alignment as wall (112) and may represent a continuation of the building (Woodfield 1992). The building was occupied from the late 1st to 3rd centuries AD. It was demolished and superseded by a post built structure. The functions of the structure are uncertain, however, finds indicate that metal working may have been taking place within the vicinity.

Subsequent to the Roman activity, the evaluation area remained as a garden or back plot area until the present day.

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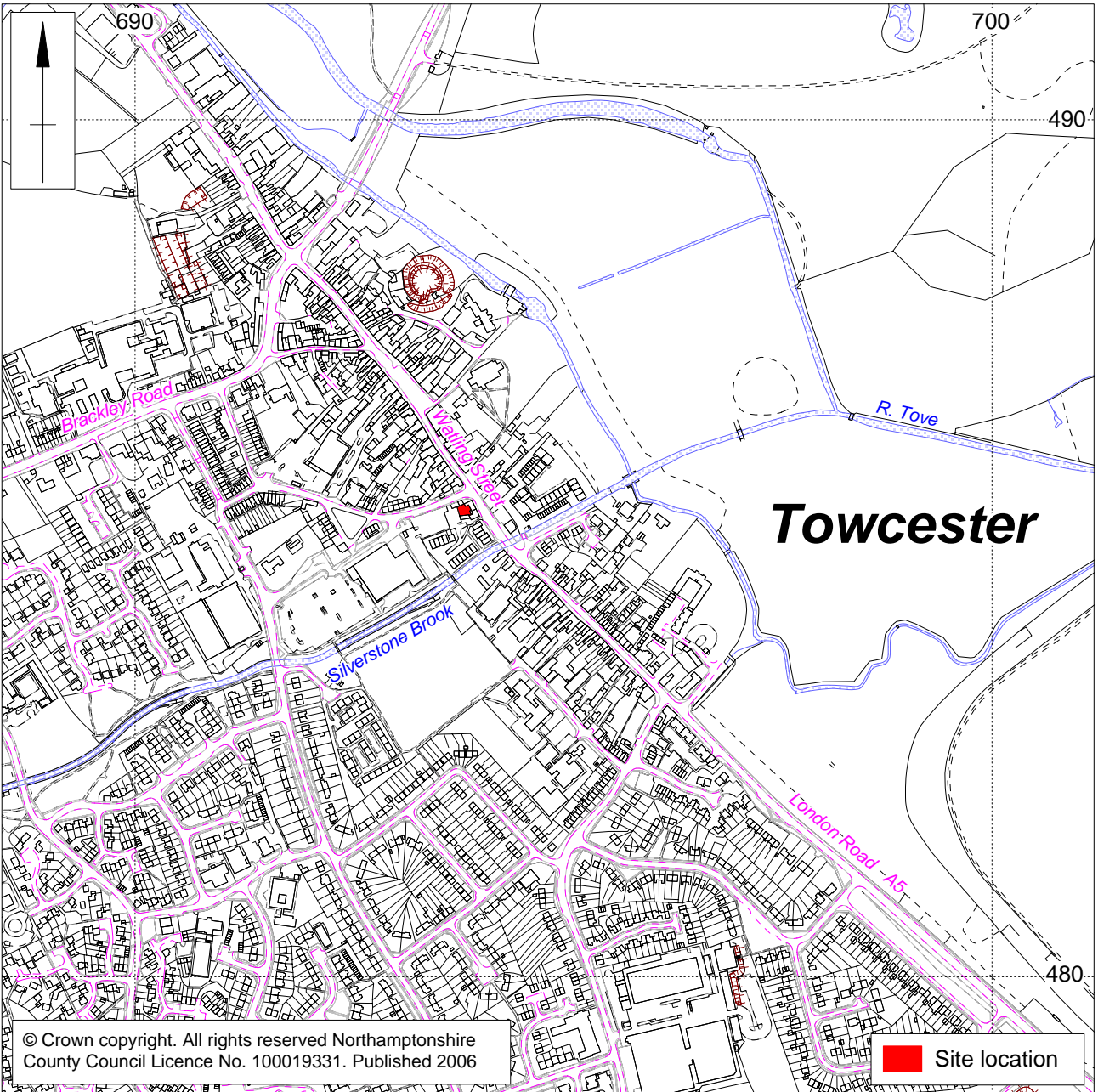
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APPENDIX A1: SITE DATA

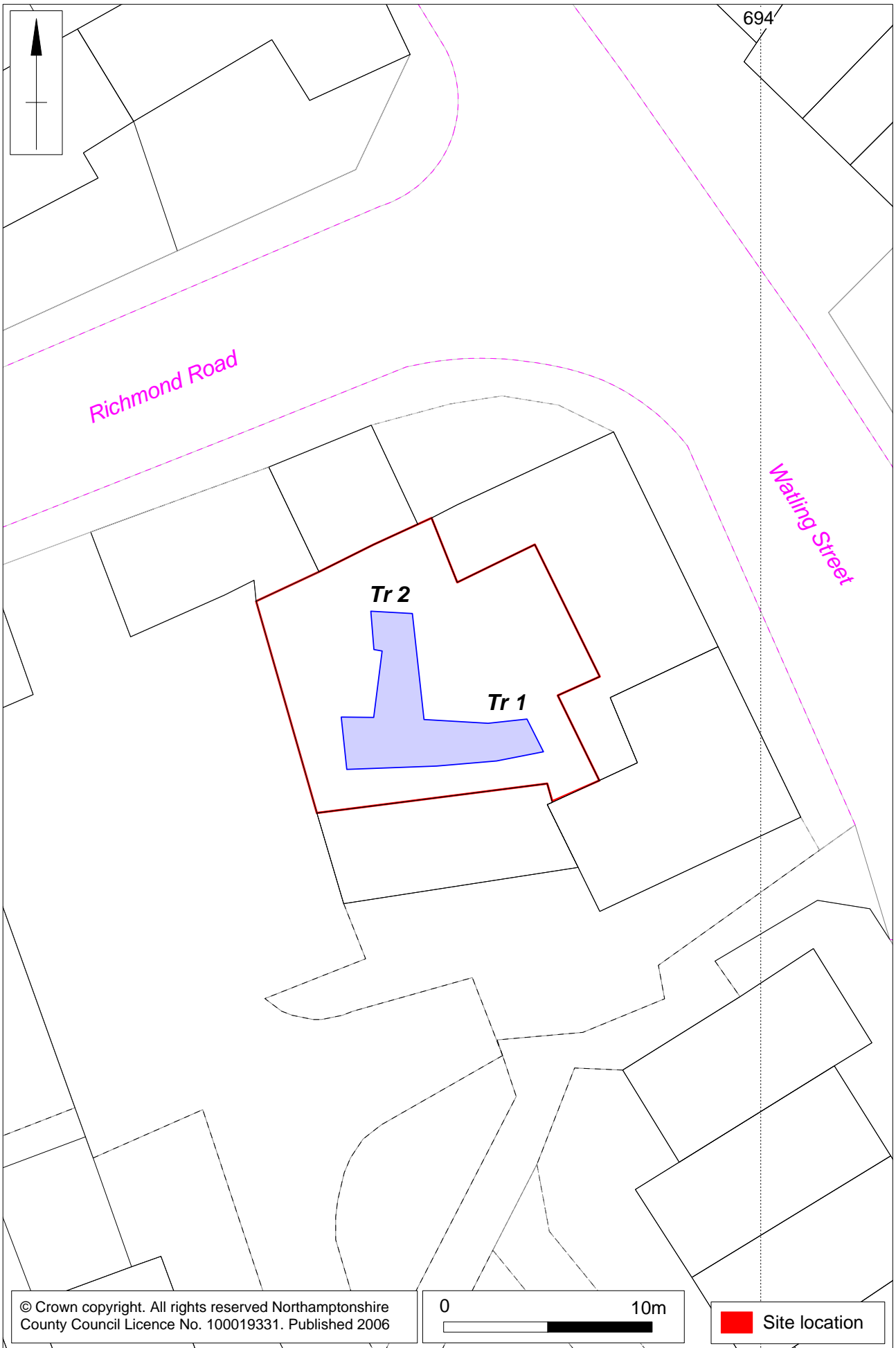
Trench	Context	Type	Description	Artefact types
1	101	Layer	Topsoil, loamy garden soil 0.55m thick	Pottery, metal
	102	Layer	Subsoil mid grey brown sandy loam, with infrequent limestone, gravel & charcoal 0.2m thick	
	103	Layer	Mid light yellow to orange sand/lime with small limestone frags 0.35m thick	Post med pottery
	104	Layer	Mid to dark silty clayey loam with small pebbles & infrequent limestone frags 0.15m thick	Early post-med pottery
	105	Layer	Dark blue grey/brown sandy/clayey loam with limestone frags and charcoal lumps 0.15m thick	Roman pottery, bone, lead, iron slag,
	106	Fill	Fill of [107] dark grey brown silty clay with large limestone packing stones and occasional small stones approx 0.49m diameter 0.28m deep	Pottery
	107	Cut	Cut of posthole aligned E-W, U shaped profile and flat base	
	108	Fill	Fill of [109] dark grey brown silty clay, large limestone packing stones and occasional small stones 0.6m diameter, not excavated	
	109	Cut	Cut of posthole aligned SW-NE	
	110	Layer	Dark red (where burnt) and dull yellow/buff clay/plaster, with some pea gravel where surface has broken up 0.1m thick	
	111		Not assigned	
	112	Fill	Fill of [113], limestone wall, consisting of some faced stone on outer edges of wall and limestone rubble core, approx 1.6m wide	
	113	Cut	Cut of wall foundation trench aligned SW-NE	
	114	Layer	Dark grey layer/fill, silty clay alluvium, ground water present, not excavated	Pottery, metal
	115	Layer	Limestone rubble	
	116	Layer	Light orange brown clay with charcoal flecks	
	117	Fill	Fill of [118] post-med pit, loose, mortar and soil mix with line of mortar in upper level	Bricks, stone, pottery
	118	Cut	Cut of post-med pit, cuts through part of wall (112) linear, aligned N-S	
	119	Layer	Mid-dark grey silty clay with small frags limestone and large sherds of amphora lying flat 0.05m thick	Amphora sherds
	120	Layer	Dark red (where burnt) and dull yellow/buff clay/plaster, with some pea gravel where surface has broken up 0.1m thick	
121	Layer	Dark grey silty clay alluvium – possibly same as (114), ground water present, not excavated		
122	Layer	Dark blue/grey silt with many limestone frags, ground water present, not excavated		
2	201	Layer	Topsoil, loamy garden soil 0.55m thick	
	202	Layer	Subsoil mid grey brown sandy loam, with infrequent limestone, gravel & charcoal 0.2m thick	
	203	Layer	Mid light yellow to orange sand/lime with small limestone frags 0.35m thick	Post med pottery
	204	Layer	Mid to dark silty clayey loam with small pebbles & infrequent limestone frags 0.15m thick	Early post-med pottery
	205	Layer	Dark blue grey/brown sandy/clayey loam with limestone frags and charcoal lumps 0.15m thick	Roman pottery, bone, lead, iron slag,

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Artefact types
	206	Fill	Fill of [207] dark brown silty clay with two large flat limestone stones (post pads?) and occasional pebbles 0.6m diameter 0.15m deep	
	207	Cut	Cut of posthole, steep sided, flat base, cut into (205)	
	208	Fill	Fill of [209] mid-dark silty clay with some limestone frags and small pebbles at least 1.5m wide	Pottery, flint
	209	Cut	Cut of foundation trench, aligned SW-NE, not excavated	
	210	Fill	Wall & bonding, consists of some large limestone stones, together with limestone rubble and mid brown clay bonding. Part of [209]	
	211	Fill	Fill of [212] dark brown silty clay with large limestone packing stones and occasional pebbles 0.53m diameter, not excavated	
	212	Cut	Cut of posthole, cuts demolition layer (205)	
	213	Fill	Wall & bonding, consists of medium to small limestone fragments and rubble, approx 1.1m wide	
	214	Cut	Cut of linear, aligned SW-NE, layer (205) abuts the cut	
	215	Layer	Mid yellow brown clay	



Scale 1:7500

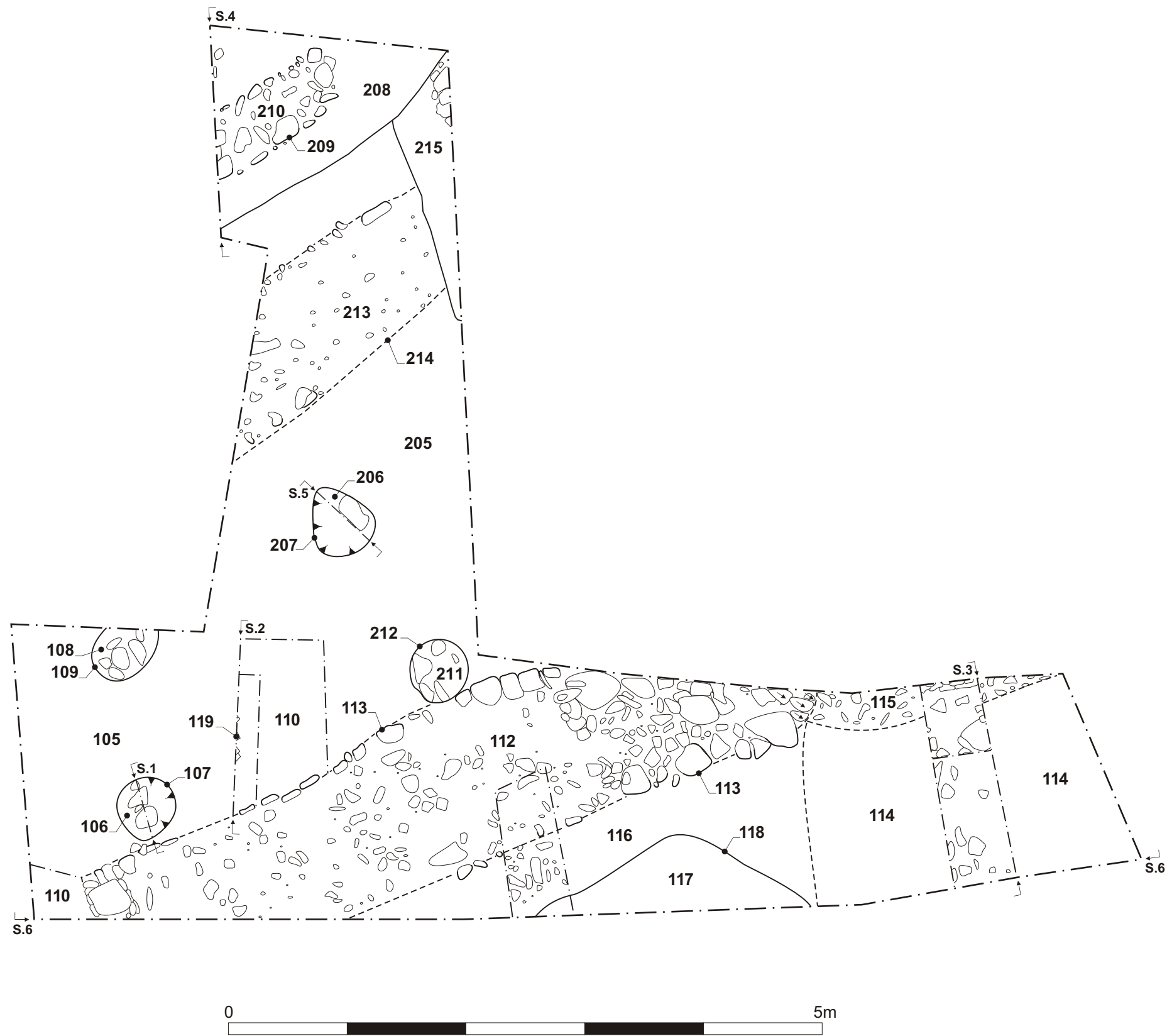
Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:250

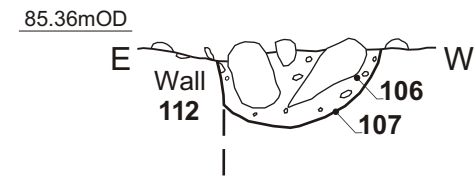
Trench location Fig 2

Plan of excavations at 147 Watling Street, Towcester.

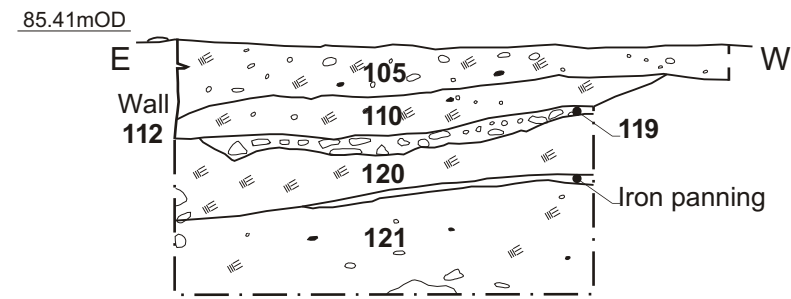


Plan of excavations Fig 3

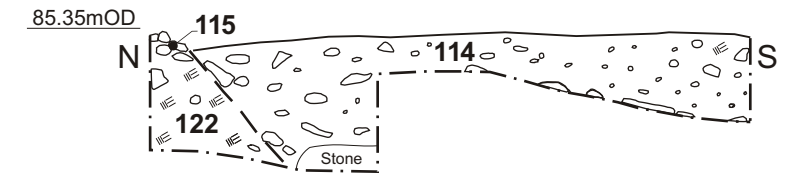
Section 1



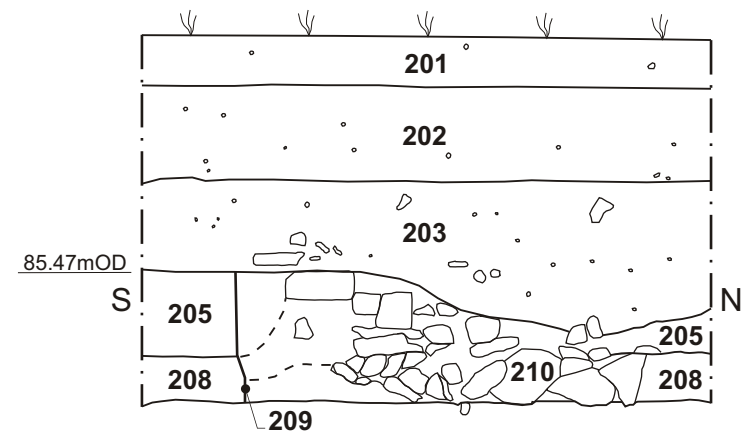
Section 2



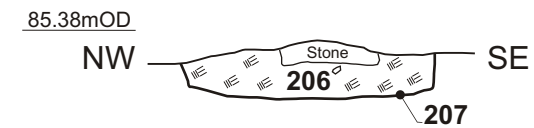
Section 3



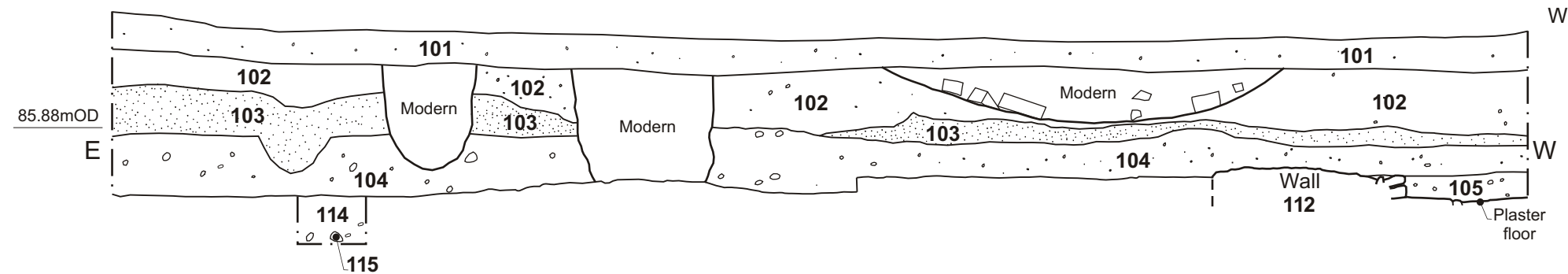
Section 4



Section 5



Section 6



- Clay
- Charcoal





Plate 1: Wall (112), Floor surface (110) and Postholes [107, 109, 212], looking east



Plate 2: Wall (112), looking south west



Plate 3: Floor surface layers (110, 119, 120), looking west



Plate 4: Wall (210) with foundation trench, looking south west