
Northamptonshire Archaeology

**Archaeological Watching Brief to the
Rear of The Kings Arms & Castle Hotel
Kenilworth
Warwickshire**

December 2006 and January 2007



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Report 07/32

Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

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Approved by	Steve Parry		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Archaeological Watching Brief to the Rear of The Kings Arms & Castle Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwickshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) in the car park to the rear of the Kings Arms & Castle Hotel, (Formerly Drummonds) Kenilworth, Warwickshire (site centred on NGR SP 2876 7172). Previous Trial Trenching had found remains dating from the 12th/13th century to the late 17th century. (Report 06/84 Northamptonshire Archaeology). The Watching Brief found no further archaeological remains.	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Desk-Based Assessment, John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC) Trial Trenching, Northamptonshire Archaeology (Report 06/84)	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type and period	N/A	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Warwickshire	
Site address (including postcode)	The Kings Arms and Castle Hotel, 29-31 The Square, Kenilworth	
Easting (use numerical 100km grid square no.)	42876	
Northing	27172	
Height aOD	83m OD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Warwickshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Karen Francis, JSAC	
Director/Supervisor	Jim Burke, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Manager	Iain Soden, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Sponsor or funding body	JSAC	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	12/06	
End date	1/07	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Digital		
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological Evaluation to the Rear of The Kings Arms & Castle Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwickshire	
Serial title and volume	07/32	
Author(s)	Jim Burke	
Page numbers	3 text, 3 figures.	
Date	March 2007	

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
TO THE REAR OF THE KINGS ARMS AND CASTLE HOTEL
KENILWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE

Abstract

An archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology in the car park to the rear of the Kings Arms & Castle Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Immediately to the rear of the former public house archaeological remains dating from the 12th/13th century to the late 17th century had previously been identified. (Report 06/84 Northamptonshire Archaeology). The watching brief found no further archaeological remains.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology in December 2006 and January 2007 in the car park to the rear of the Kings Arms and Castle Hotel (formally Drummonds), Kenilworth, Warwickshire (Fig 1 and 2; NGR SP 2876 7172).

The work was undertaken in order to fulfil a planning condition for development comprising retail and residential property (planning application no. W/05/1758). The watching brief met the requirements of a Brief issued by Anna Stocks of Warwickshire County Council and a Specification by Karen Francis of CgMs Consulting (formerly JSAC).

The watching brief was designed to address the potential for further remains following trial trench evaluation undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in May 2006 (Carlyle 2006).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

The development site, which covers an area of approximately 0.2ha, is situated at the junction of 29-31 The Square and Station Road, Kenilworth. (NGR: SP 2876 7172; Fig 1). It lies within part of the medieval Royal Borough known as "Castle End". The site comprises a Grade II Listed Building (307839, DWA 4995) fronting on to The Square/Warwick Road, with a car park and paved area to the rear. Until recently the Kings Arms and Castle Hotel was known as 'Drummonds', a public house which recently ceased trading. The building is currently undergoing major redevelopment that will result in three retail units. The main part of the former public house will become two units, with the Station Road, (sandstone) building becoming the third. The development will extend all the units back into the current car park.

Soils in the area belong to the Whimple 2 (572e) soil association, consisting of reddish fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal water logging (SSEW 1983). However, on the site these have been extensively modified by intense urban activity and redeposition, the whole buried under the surface of the car park. The underlying solid geology comprises Permian strata of the Enville Group (BGS 1984). These consist of undivided, largely argillaceous sandstones of the Ashow Formation. The site lies at approximately 83.5m above Ordnance Datum.

2.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

Details of the historical and archaeological background of the site and of Kenilworth in general are presented in the archaeological desk-based assessment prepared by JSAC (2005).

In brief, the town was established in the early medieval period and was probably centred on the area of St Mary's Abbey and the High Street, 0.5km to the north of the site. Kenilworth is recorded in the Domesday Book as '*Chinewrde*', which probably means '*farm of Cynehild*', *Cynehild* being the name of a Saxon woman.

The first reference of the site relates to a 12th century Charter of Henry I, which included the area of the site within the Royal Borough of Kenilworth, created between AD 1139-1147. The site was occupied by landholdings during the medieval period and the first reference of a building on the site relates to Fish's map of 1692. Between 1790 and 1987 the site was occupied by the Kings Arms & Castle Hotel. With the possible exception of the façade, the 18th century building was largely demolished and then rebuilt in the 1980s, following a fire in the building. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Sites and Monuments records listed for the actual area of the site.

A previous evaluation that was carried out in the car park revealed a post-medieval pit, and the remnants of a medieval drain; both of these features had been truncated by modern services (Carlyle 2006).

3 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

The watching brief commenced on 5th December 2006. The first phase of work comprised the demolition of the rear of the former public house whilst keeping the facade to incorporate into the new build.

The first ground works were to excavate and remove the old support beams. Several trenches were excavated in designated areas where the new build was to be placed. Using a JCB with a 1m toothed bucket, Trench 1 (Fig 2; Sec 1) was excavated to a depth of 1.10m and 7m in length with a width of 3.10 at its widest point, the support beam was removed by a concrete breaker. This revealed layers of previous excavations and services, (Fig 3; sec 1). The ground was made up with 0.15m of tarmac, 0.15m of levelling rubble, and 0.20m of mixed hardcore, a 0.05m polythene liner was just above the services, 0.50m of mixed rubble that included demolition rubble and mixed clay with inclusions of charcoal lay at the bottom of the trench. The second trench (Trench 2; Fig 2) was only excavated down to 0.40m as this lay within the previous building and included demolition rubble from the recent demolition of the rear of the building. All sections were backfilled shortly after the beams were broken up to maximise the working area on site.

The next phase of the ground works included the excavations where the new support foundations were to be placed and to support the new build. Pillars four and five (Fig 3 P4 & P5) were excavated next to the existing cellar to a depth of 2.10m and the base foundations of the original cellar. This revealed mixed levelling layers.

Pillars one and two (Fig 2, P1 & P2) were in an area excavated previously, and were re-excavated to a depth of 1.80m and 1.50m square and filled with concrete. Pillar three (Fig 2, P3 & Fig 3, section 5) revealed the previous makeup of the car park, with tarmac 0.10m thick, a sand and ballast mix 0.015m thick and two layers of brick, the top layer a blue Staffordshire cast paving brick with a diamond style pattern 0.15 x 0.15 x 0.05 (6" x 6" x 2") and the other an engineering brick 0.224 x 0.112 x 0.071 (9" x 4.5" x 3"). Beneath these lay services and mixed disturbed natural. A service trench was excavated in the entrance to the car park from Station Road, to find the water main and to install a new temporary supply for the yard and the Station Road building. This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.80m and within it laid services and

builders rubble. Pillars six and seven (Fig 2, P6 and P7) were excavated to a depth of 1.80m and 1.50m revealing only previous building and demolition rubble.

The last phase of the watching brief was Trench 3 (Fig 2, Tr3). The back of the new retail units was excavated to a length of 15m and a width of 1m with three dividing trenches branching off. (The centre of the trench now houses a service pipe encased in concrete). The layers were mixed throughout the trench.

4 CONCLUSION

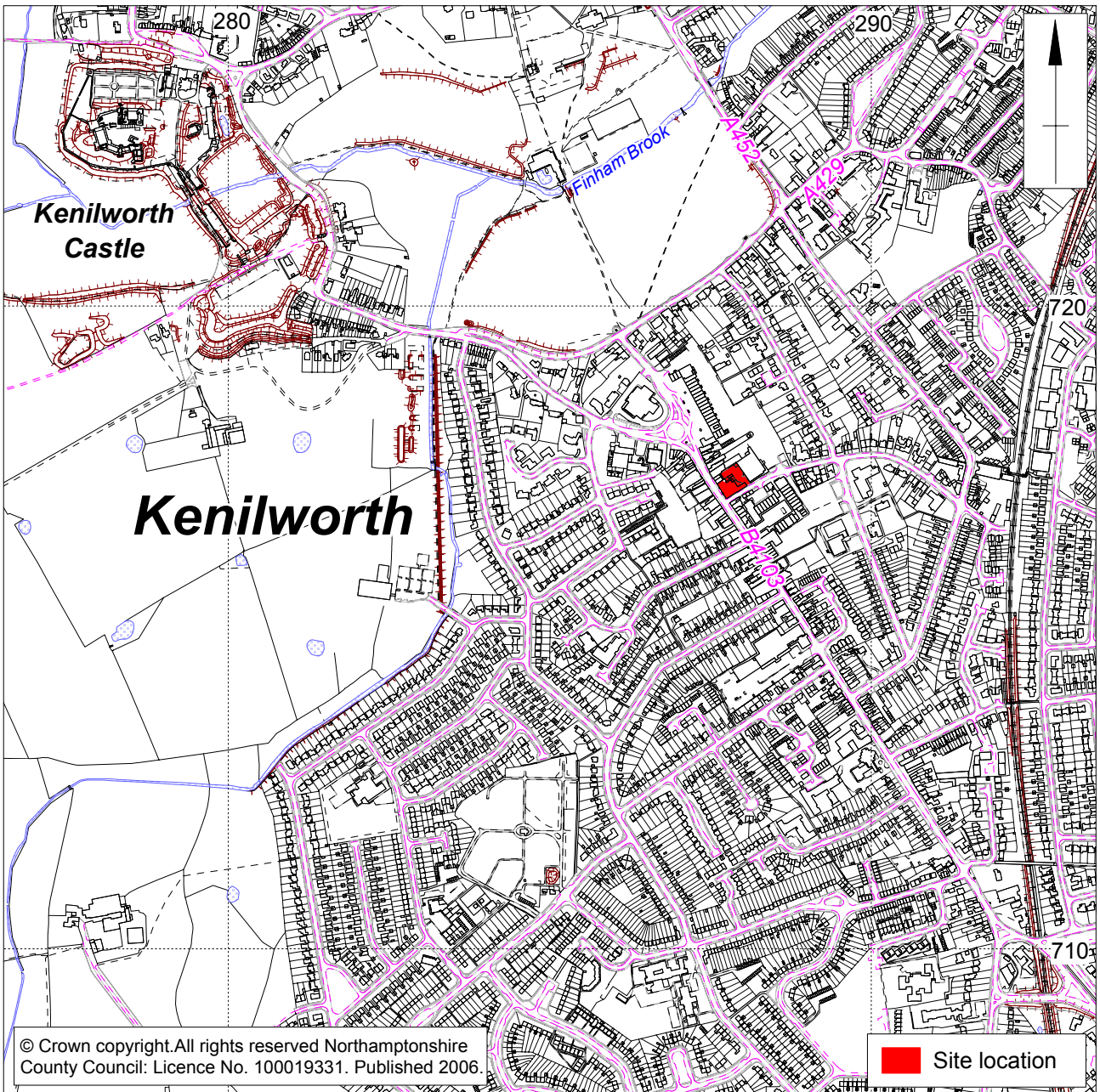
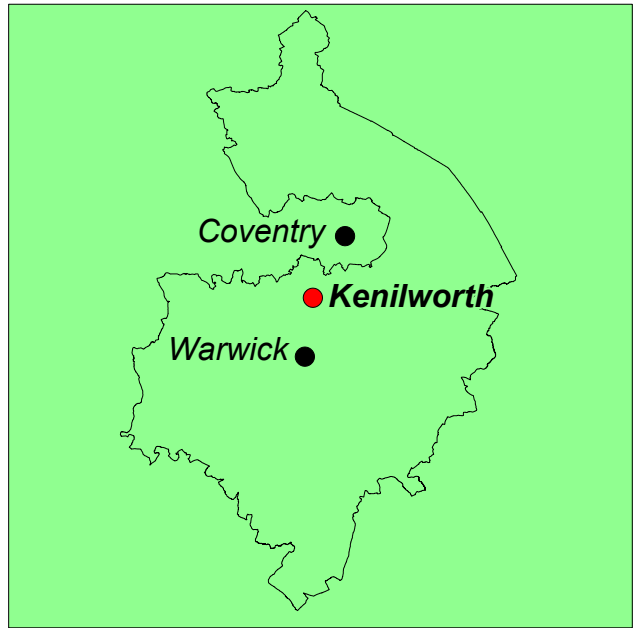
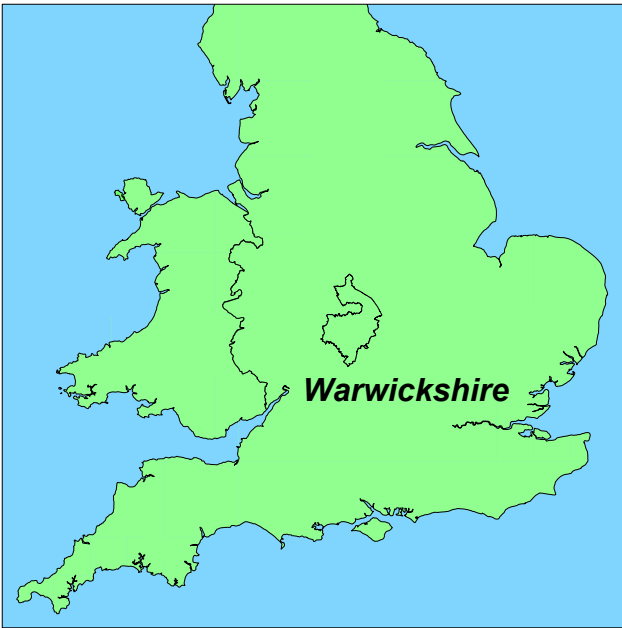
The excavations for the proposed retail units revealed no new archaeology but did reveal the build-up and construction layers of the last building dating to the 1980s. Much of the car park has been previously disturbed. Various building deposits and layers make up the car park; all dated from the 1970s and 1980s, and the changing recent demands on the use of the car park (Fig 3).

It can be concluded that the earlier remains found in evaluation comprise a small island of survival. This has not been repeated across the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

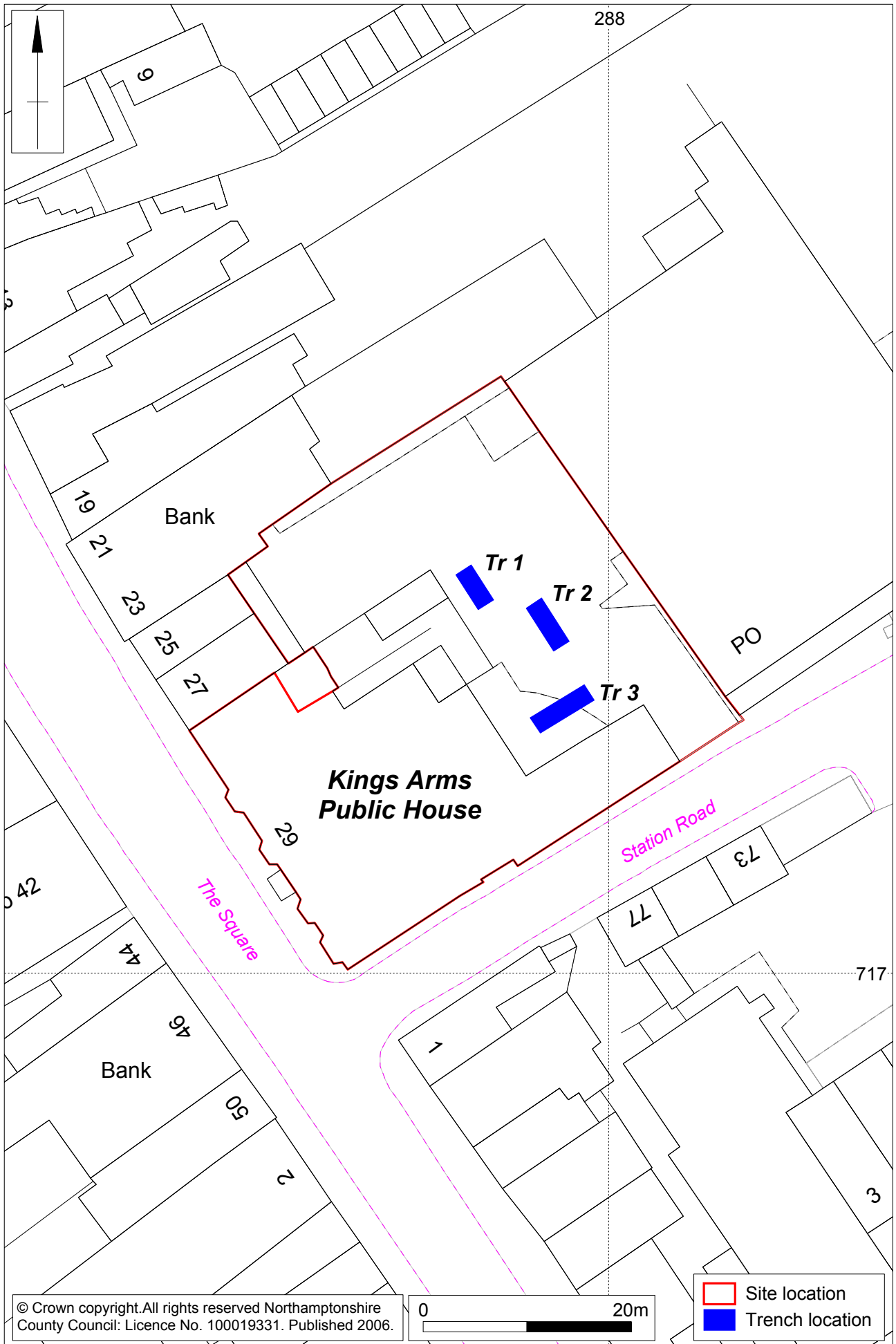
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Francis K. 2006 *A Specification for an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation and Watching Brief at The Kings Arms and Castle Hotel, The Square, Kenilworth*. JSAC



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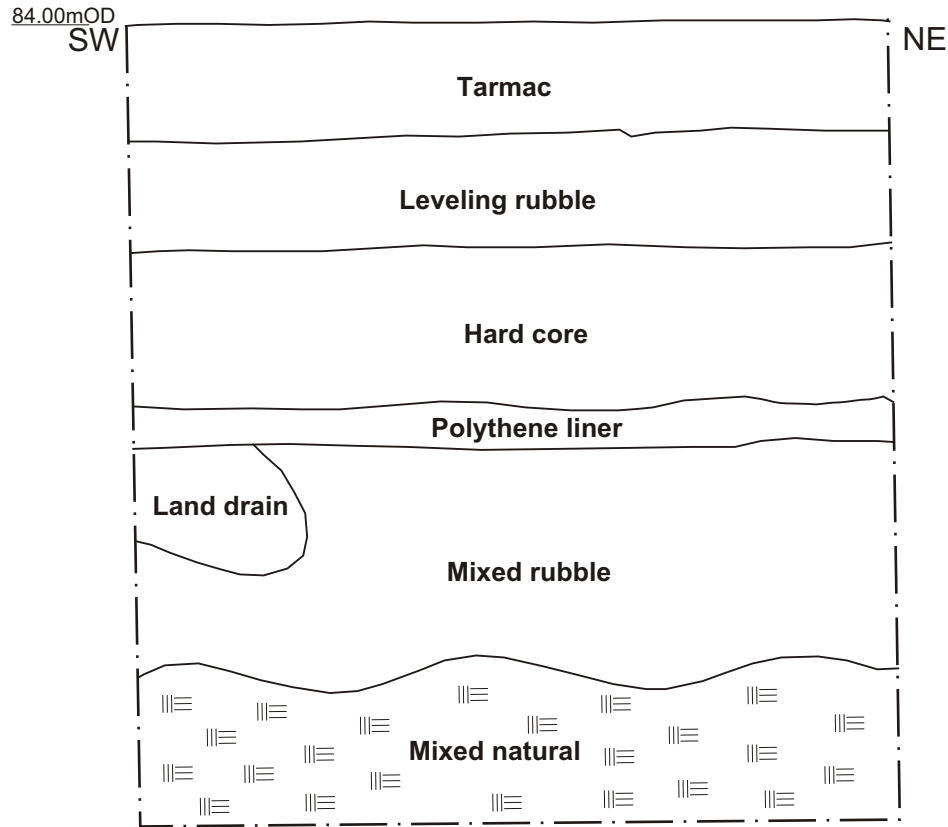
Site location Fig 1



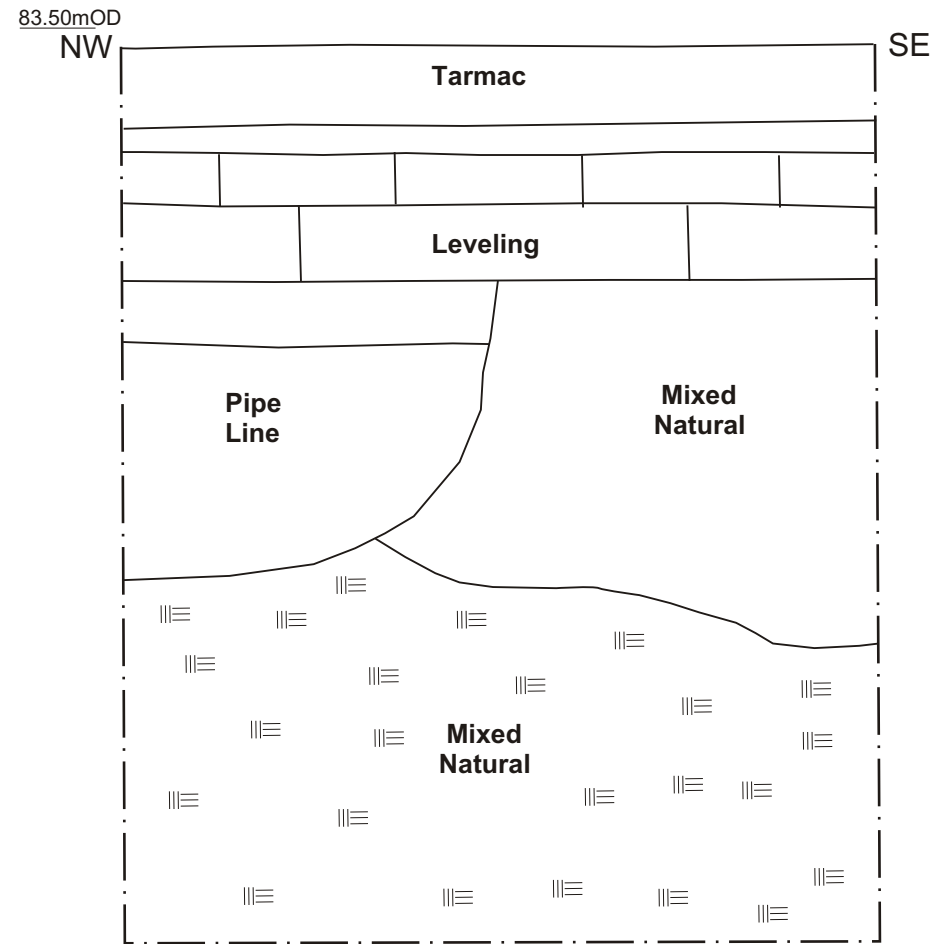
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Trench location Fig 2

Section 1- Trench 1



Section 5- Pillar 3



Section 1 and 5 Fig 3

 Clay

