



Northamptonshire  
County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Evaluation at  
Cathedral Square, Peterborough

November 2008



Jim Burke

December 2008

Report 08/216

## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

| <b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>    |   |                                       |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Project title             | Cathedral Square, Peterborough.   |                                       |
| Short description         | Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out trial trench excavation at Cathedral Square, Peterborough, on behalf of CgMs Consulting acting on behalf of Opportunity Peterborough. Three trenches totalling 18.60 metres in length by 1.80 metres wide were excavated. Archaeological horizons including pitched stone surfaces dating to the 18th and 19th century, pits and a posthole were identified. |                                       |
| Project type              | Trial Trench excavation   |                                       |
| Previous work             | DBA (Gajos 2008)  |                                       |
| Future work               | Unknown   |                                       |
| Monument type and period  | Medieval and post-medieval market square  |                                       |
| Significant finds         | Medieval and post-medieval pottery, leather, metalwork  |                                       |
| <b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>   |   |                                       |
| County                    | Peterborough  |                                       |
| Site address              | Cathedral Square, Peterborough  |                                       |
| Easting                   | 519185  |                                       |
| Northing                  | 298645  |                                       |
| Height OD                 | 15m OD  |                                       |
| <b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>   |   |                                       |
| Organisation              | Northamptonshire County Council   |                                       |
| Project brief originator  | Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service  |                                       |
| Project Design originator | CgMs Consulting   |                                       |
| Director/Supervisor       | Jim Burke   |                                       |
| Project Manager           | Adam Yates NA, Paul Gajos CgMs  |                                       |
| Sponsor or funding body   | Opportunity Peterborough  |                                       |
| <b>PROJECT DATE</b>       |   |                                       |
| Start date                | 17-11-08  |                                       |
| End date                  | 21-11-08  |                                       |
| <b>ARCHIVES</b>           | Location<br>(Accession no.)   | Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc) |
| Physical                  |   |                                       |
| Paper                     |   |                                       |
| Digital                   |   |                                       |
| <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>       | Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)   |                                       |
| Title                     | Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Cathedral Square, Peterborough  |                                       |
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## Contents

|          |  |           |
|----------|--|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>                            | <b>1</b>  |
|          | <b>1.1 Background</b>                                |           |
|          | <b>1.2 Topography and geology</b>                    |           |
| <b>2</b> | <b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....</b> | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>3</b> | <b>METHODOLOGY .....</b>                             | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>4</b> | <b>THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE .....</b>                  | <b>6</b>  |
|          | <b>4.1 Trench 1</b>                                  |           |
|          | <b>4.2 Trench 2</b>                                  |           |
|          | <b>4.3 Trench 3</b>                                  |           |
|          | <b>4.4 Trench 4</b>                                  |           |
|          | <b>4.5 Trench 5</b>                                  |           |
| <b>5</b> | <b>ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE.....</b>                     | <b>9</b>  |
|          | <b>5.1 Pottery</b> by Iain Soden                     |           |
|          | <b>5.2 Building material</b> by Pat Chapman          |           |
|          | <b>5.3 Other finds</b> by Tora Hylton                |           |
|          | <b>5.4 Leather and wood</b> by Ian Meadows           |           |
| <b>6</b> | <b>ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....</b>                   | <b>17</b> |
|          | <b>6.1 Animal bone</b> by Karen Deighton             |           |
|          | <b>6.2 Marine shells</b> by Karen Deighton           |           |
|          | <b>6.3 Ecofacts</b> by Karen Deighton                |           |
| <b>7</b> | <b>DISCUSSION.....</b>                               | <b>17</b> |
|          | <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>                            | <b>18</b> |
|          | <b>APPENDIX 1: DETAILED LEVEL DATA.....</b>          | <b>20</b> |
|          | <b>APPENDIX 2: OTHER FINDS CATALOGUE .....</b>       | <b>21</b> |

**Tables**

Table 1: Pottery by type and context ..... 9  
Table 2: Table: Number and relative percentage of taxa present ..... 14  
Table 3: Marine shells by context..... 15  
Table 4: Ecofacts present..... 16

**Figures**

- Fig 1: Site location
- Fig 2: Trench location
- Fig 3: Trench sections

**Plates**

- Plate 1: Coloured postcard 1900
- Plate 2: Market Place 1897 (Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee)
- Plate 3: Market Place circa 1950
- Plate 4: Market Place 1960

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EXCAVATION

## AT CATHEDRAL SQUARE

### PETERBOROUGH

NOVEMBER 2008

#### *Abstract*

*Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out trial trench excavation at Cathedral Square, Peterborough, on behalf of CgMs Consulting acting on behalf of Opportunity Peterborough. Three trenches totalling 18.60 metres in length by 1.80 metres wide were excavated under archaeological supervision. Archaeological horizons including pitched stone surfaces dated to the 18th and 19th centuries, pits and a posthole were identified.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Archaeological investigation comprising trial trench excavation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of CgMs Consulting acting on behalf of Opportunity Peterborough, at Cathedral Square, Peterborough. The trial trench evaluation met the requirements of the Specification prepared by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2008).

The purpose of the trial excavation was to establish the survival, date, nature and extent of any archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development in order to inform the planning process, and to ascertain the presence of activity relating to Cathedral Square.

The site had previously been set into a local context through a process of desk-based assessment (Gajos 2008). The excavation took place between 17th and 21st November 2008.

### **1.2 Topography and geology**

The site lies in the centre of Peterborough, next to the Guildhall, and covers approximately 0.8 hectares and is centred at NGR TL 1919 9865 (Fig 1). The development area is within a commercial part of the city

The underlying drift geology is believed to be River terrace deposits (sands and gravels)

and Limestone Cornbrash based upon Oxford Clay and Kellaways Beds (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/index.htm>).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

A full account of the archaeological background is contained within the Desk Based Assessment (Gajos 2008) from which the following is extracted.

The Peterborough Historic Environment Record (HER) lists eleven records of prehistoric activity from 500m of the study site. However, seven of these records have been given an arbitrary point location within the study area as the exact location of their discovery is unknown but do indicate prehistoric activity in the general vicinity. These seven records comprise two finds of Palaeolithic flint (HER 203 & 8227), Neolithic worked flint (HER 8259), three sets of bronze axes (HER 1660a, 8179 & 9830) and two Iron Age bronze brooches (HER 8231).

A Neolithic stone axe was discovered approximately 200m to the north of the study site during trenching in Park Road undertaken in 1915 (HER 9840). No archaeological features are recorded in association with the find.

In addition to the bronze axes discovered in unknown locations in the vicinity of the site, an archaeological evaluation undertaken at Chapel Street, c500m north-east of the study site, uncovered a shallow pit containing worked flint dating to the middle Bronze Age period (HER 51406).

Excavations on City Road, c400m to the north-east of the study site, identified a series of ditches, pits and stake holes dating to the middle Iron Age and Roman periods (HER 3899).

Peterborough itself does not appear to have been a town during the Roman period although there is plentiful evidence of smaller Roman settlement and activity in and around the town.

Excavations at the cathedral in the 19th and 20th centuries found Romano-British settlement remains including a possible kiln site (HER 1518a).

There are several other records of chance finds of Roman material within the vicinity of the study site recorded in the Peterborough HER. The exact location of many of these finds remains unclear although together they all point towards Roman activity in the vicinity.

Excavation has confirmed that an early monastery stood on the site occupied by the

current cathedral, to the east of the study site (HER 1518b, 51590). The reason for the choice of location is unknown but may have been due to the presence of a Roman site along with favourable underlying geology.

The Saxon settlement and market place are believed to have been located to the east/north-east of the monastery in the area between Tout Hill and St John's Street. Evidence for this location, however, remains conjectural and to date has not been confirmed by excavation.

It is believed that the original church and settlement were sacked in a Danish raid of 870, although the extent of destruction is debateable (Mackreth 1994). The rebuilding of the monastic church did not begin until after 966 under the monastic reforms of Aethelwold, Bishop of Winchester. Excavations at Tout Hill Close, north of the cathedral found a very large pit, possibly used to quarry building stone for the monastery (HER 3898).

It is believed that at some time between 970 and 975 earth and timber defences were constructed around the monastery creating a burgh or walled settlement. Several archaeological investigations have been undertaken in order to accurately date and locate the defences of the burgh (HER 10711, 51132, 51583, 51585 & 51595), resulting in a plan of the location of the defences to be drawn with reasonable confidence. The enclosed burgh lay to the east of the study site with its western wall lying approximately 100m to the east of the study site.

It is generally assumed that the area of the study site remained undeveloped in this period, although it has been suggested that Cowgate formed the main route out of the town to the west (Spoerry & Hinman 1998). This would mean that the study site lay on the route of this thoroughfare and would therefore increase the possibility of early medieval settlement to the west of the monastery being present in the area.

Excavations undertaken at The Still, c100m north of the study site, recorded quarry pits dating to between 1000-1150 AD. Furthermore, a high degree of residual pottery of a similar date was also recovered indicating a greater level of activity of this date in the area than the quarry pits suggest on their own (HER 11504) (Spoerry & Hinman 1998). However, the date range provided by the pottery recovered from the excavation covers both the immediate post-conquest period, and the early to mid twelfth century when it is traditionally assumed that the main settlement of Peterborough was moved to the western side of the cathedral.

During the years of 1133 to 1155 Peterborough was run by Abbott Martin de Bec who engaged on an ambitious building programme bringing the cathedral to its current size.



This increase in size necessitated the moving of the precincts further to the west across the stream just outside of the old defences. As part of these developments de Bec flattened the old town and created a new planned settlement in front of the new Great Gate in the new west wall. The town now had a very large L-shaped marketstead to replace the one on the other side of the monastery. The present Cathedral Square (the study site) up to Queen Street was one arm, while the other was Long Causeway (Mackreth 1994).

From this point onwards the study site would appear to have remained relatively undeveloped due to its use as a market place. There are, however, some notable exceptions to this. In 1402 work began on the construction of St John the Baptist's church in the market place (HER 9817). The church was to replace the former parish church which had been located to the east of the monastery. The cemetery at the former parish church was to be done away with and the monk's cemetery on the north side of the monastic church was to be used by the town rather than creating a new cemetery at St John's (Mackreth 1994).

Excavations on the north side of Exchange Street have been taken to support the assumption that the church sits in a purpose-made hole as there was no demonstrable build-up of material that could be dated to the medieval period (HER 8763). However, other excavations within the vicinity of the site such as those at The Still (HER 11504) and the Queensgate Centre and Westgate Arcade (Hatton 2007) (HER 51149, 51436) all within 120m of the study site) have revealed up to 1.6m of stratigraphy dating from the late medieval period to the present day. Furthermore, observations of a service trench excavated through the eastern end of Cathedral Square in 2007 revealed made ground to a depth exceeding 1m (B. Robinson pers comm). The upper c0.5m of these deposits was demonstrably modern but no dating evidence was recovered for the lower layers which may represent former surfaces to the Marketstead. A short length of stone wall foundation was also seen in this service trench 1m below current ground level. Due to the method of excavation it was not possible to ascertain if this structure was sealed by the overlying levelling deposits or if it had been cut through them.

The layout of the market place at this time is assumed to have remained relatively unchanged. It is known that a Butter Cross (a covered area to be rented out by traders) existed to the east of St John's, probably in the location of the present Guildhall. The Butter Cross is believed to be one of the three buildings depicted in the market place to the east of the church on John Speed's thumb-nail sketch published in 1610). One building would appear to be a market cross located between the Butter Cross and St John's Church. A market cross is mentioned in town books of 1614 and 1649 but had

apparently disappeared by 1699 when a subscription was raised for a public cross or town house which resulted in the building of the Guildhall (HER 1648). The function of the remaining building in the south-east corner of the market place is not known. Speed's plan also shows a row of buildings to the immediate west of the church in an area later known as Butchers Row.

The present Guildhall (plates 1,3,4) (HER 1659) which stands in the market place was built by John Lovin in 1670-1 and was originally known as the Chamber over the Cross. In 1874 it became the first town hall with the council changing its name to the Guildhall in 1876.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

The works were undertaken in accordance with the Specification prepared by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2008) and IFA *Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Evaluation* (2001) All works were monitored by Paul Gajos of CgMs on behalf of the client and Ben Robinson, Peterborough City Archaeologist on behalf of Peterborough City Council.

The excavation areas were fenced using Heras fencing and high visibility strips to ensure public safety during excavation. The area was checked using a CAT scanner for buried services.

Trench locations were established using Leica System 1200 GPS operating to a tolerance of +/- c 0.05m in relation to Ordnance Survey Nation Grid and Ordnance Datum.

Of the five trenches identified in the Specification (CgMS 2008), three were excavated (Fig 2). Trench 3 was moved 0.6m to the east in agreement with Ben Robinson (PCCAS) to avoid live services picked up by CAT scanning. Trenches 2 and 5 were not excavated due to operational constraints.

The excavation of the trial trenches was continuously supervised by an archaeologist. All trenches were excavated using a JCB mini excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2006).

## **4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE**

The following section briefly summarises the results. Detailed levels and depths of the deposits encountered can be found in Appendix 1.

### **4.1 Trench 1**

Trench 1 (3m x 1.80m) was aligned north to south in the south-west corner of the development area 5.6m away from the Guildhall, with an average depth of 0.90m (Fig 2) This trench was the closest to the Guildhall and showed modern build-up layers towards the Guild Hall and Church Street.

The natural comprised limestone cornbrash (109) and patches of mid orange coarse sand. It occurred 0.9m below present ground level at the north end of the trench sloping to 0.88m below ground level at the south (Fig 3, section 1).

Lying on top of the natural a loose limestone and silty clay (108) varied in thickness, from 150mm at the north to 330mm at the south and included limestone pieces 100mm–230mm in size. Above this was a similar layer (107) sloping up towards the south end of the trench, more compact and with similar limestone pieces 50mm–200mm with gravel in a dark orangey brown sandy clay matrix.

Layer (106) varied in depth over the trench from 180mm at the north to 80mm at the south and again had a similar fill to the lower two, but was more compact and level to the present ground surface. Cutting the three layers previously described a roughly circular steep-sided pit [105] filled with coarse sand (104) represented the location of one of a row of bollards formerly aligned along the edge of Church Street and the Guildhall. Above this are the most recent build up layers for the present paving; (103) represents a levelling layer that contained modern tin can ring pull and plastics. Over this lay (102 and 101), coarse sands and gravels and coarse sand, on which the concrete paving slabs were laid.

This trench produced no finds for dating.

### **4.2 Trench 2**

Trench 2 was not excavated due to operational constraints.

### 4.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 (3m x 1.8m) was aligned north to south, 14.6m east of the Guild Hall in the south central position of the development area and averaged 1.4m deep (Fig 2). It was moved 0.6m east of its specified position to avoid services indicated with a CAT scan and metal detector.

The cornbrash natural (319) at the base of the trench was encountered at depth of 6.89m OD. This was cut by a small ovoid pit or posthole [317], measuring 0.53m by 0.28m and 0.15m deep, filled by orange sandy gravel (318), which produced no finds. This was overlain by a shallow layer of redeposited natural (316) 100mm deep, which comprised ironstone cornbrash and dark orange coarse sand and gravels (Fig 3 sections 2 and 3), This layer produced late 12th - early 16th-century pottery shards including; Sandy shelly ware (*c*1200 – 1500), Cistercian ware (16th century), Raeren Stoneware, Bourne B ware (*c*1200 – 1500), Bourne D ware (*c*1450 – 1637). Overlying this was charcoal-rich silt layer (305) 50mm deep and containing sherds of Bourne D ware (*c*1450-1637) and Bourne B ware (*c*1200 – 1500). This was overlain by a concentration of small pebbles (315), possibly a rough surface or stabilisation layer. The pebbles varied in size from 20mm–40mm at the west of the trench but filtered out towards the east of the trench. Finds from this layer included two off-cut copper alloy waste straps, four iron nails and Bourne D ware (*c*1450 – 1637) pottery and tile.

Overlying (315) was demolition layer (310), 100mm deep, with fragments of mortar, and bone. This in turn was sealed by a series of levelling layers, (309, 308, 314 and 307). Layer (309) was 300mm in depth and appeared to be the same layer as (108) found in trench 1, it contained a wide range of pottery, dating between the 13th and 17th centuries, animal bone, medieval green-glazed roof tile, and brick (Fig 3 section 3).

Layer (308) was 250mm in depth and contained large pieces of limestone. In the west facing section this layer was overlain by (314) which contained charcoal, ash, and shells 200mm deep (Fig 3 section 3). Above this was layer (307), which appeared to be the same layer that appeared in Trench 1 (106) and contained late medieval pottery, tile, brick and bone 150mm deep.

In the west-facing section this was overlain by a shallow dump of burnt material (313). Overlying this was levelling layer (306) 330mm deep which included two small dumps of 17th - 19th-century pottery and pieces of tile, brick and a granite set. This was cut by pit [312] 400mm deep which contained two fills, (311) overlain by (304).

Overlying this were a series of shallow levelling and bedding layers (303/302/301) totalling 200mm deep associated with the current slab surface.

#### 4.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was not excavated due to operational constraints.

#### 4.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was aligned north to south 36.8m, east of the Guildhall on the eastern side of the development area where CAT scanning and metal detector survey indicated a presence of an unknown service (Fig 2). As a consequence of this the concrete slabs and the levelling layers were removed by hand.

The trench measured 3m x 1.80m, with an average depth of 2.10m (Fig 3, section 4). The trench was reduced in size after a depth of 0.65m due to the presence of a pitched stone surface (504).

The natural comprised Ironstone (516) and dark orange/brown coarse sands and gravels, overlain by water-deposited silty sands and gravels (512, 513, 514 and 515).

Layer (515) was 200mm in depth, and contained a cast cauldron fragment of probable medieval date, together with an iron strap fragment, a leather shoe sticking element and pottery including Thetford-type ware (12th - 13th century), Grimston-type ware (13th Century) and Bourne D ware (c1450 – 1637).

Dark brown silty clay (513) 280mm in depth, containing shell, wood and bone within the fill was, contiguous with (514), mottled mid grey/brown sandy silt layer mixture of (511 & 513) 340mm deep which lay north and at the edge of the trench. Above these levelling layers (509), (510) and (511) comprised sand and gravel totalling 360mm in depth and were used to level the area for the first pitched stone surface (508). This pitched stone surface comprised limestone closely packed within sandy clay, the individual stones aligned north to south at 6.95m OD 160mm in depth. Above this was a shallow levelling layer (507) filling in a small hollow in surface (508), then a further surface comprising small cobbles (506), measures 100mm in depth.

Above this levelling layer (505), 230mm in depth, underlay another pitched limestone surface (504) measuring 120mm deep. This too contained stones partly aligned north-south but changing direction at the south side of the trench to lie east-west, perhaps indicating a corner. Overlying this was a build up of sand and gravel (503), 200mm deep, which formed the sub-base to a tarmac road layer (502) 300mm deep on to which the sand levelling layer (501) 60mm deep for the current paved surface.

## 5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

### 5.1 Pottery by Iain Soden

A total of 101 sherds of pottery was recovered, comprising vessels in twelve production types, ranging in date from the late 12th or early 13th to the early 18th centuries. It is dominated by Bourne D ware, dated c1450-1637, of which portions of characteristic bowls, pancheons and a bung-hole cistern with their distinctive hard, fine orange/buff fabric and off-white surface slipping are distinguishable (See McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 409, 411). Other types are less certain in their origin, similar shelly, oolitic and sandy fabrics deriving from a variety of industries around Peterborough which were prolific in the same period and exploited very similar petrological sources, such as Glapthorn, near Oundle, where the kiln products remain unpublished.

In the absence of a widely accepted medieval and post-medieval type series for Peterborough, the nomenclature adopted is that proffered for the published site of ‘The Still’ (Spoerry and Hinman 1998), still the foremost publication for the town which includes a large ceramics assemblage. Most types are represented in the neighbouring Northamptonshire Type series and it is to this that secondary recourse has been made.

The sherd size at this site is generally large, suggesting that much of the pottery has not been overly redeposited. However, the occurrence of later 17th-century diagnostic pieces of Blackware tyg/posset and Manganese-mottled tankard in context 309 suggest that much of what lies stratified above is residual. There may thus have been a wholesale attempt to build up the site layer by layer, incorporating old domestic refuse.

The assemblage is summarised in Table 1 which quantifies the material by sherd count/weight in grams.

*Table 1: Pottery by type and context (No/Weight(g) )*

| Type /context | A    | B   | C       | D    | E   | F    | G   | H    | J     | K     | L    | M    |
|---------------|------|-----|---------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-------|-------|------|------|
| <b>305</b>    |      |     | 4/85    | 3/57 |     |      |     |      |       |       |      |      |
| <b>307</b>    |      |     | 24/462  |      |     |      |     |      |       | 2/51  | 1/25 |      |
| <b>308</b>    |      |     | 8/364   |      |     |      |     |      | 1/12  |       |      | 1/17 |
| <b>309</b>    |      |     | 7/329   |      |     | 2/82 | 1/2 | 1/46 | 2/152 |       |      |      |
| <b>310</b>    |      |     | 11/98   |      |     |      |     |      |       |       | 1/8  |      |
| <b>313</b>    |      |     | 12/248  |      |     |      |     |      |       |       |      |      |
| <b>315</b>    |      |     | 8/168   |      |     |      |     |      |       |       |      |      |
| <b>316</b>    |      |     | 4/74    | 1/14 | 1/4 |      | 1/1 |      |       | 1/54  |      |      |
| <b>515</b>    | 1/19 | 1/7 | 1/8     |      |     |      |     |      |       |       |      |      |
| U/s           |      |     | 1/7     |      |     |      |     |      |       |       |      |      |
| Totals        | 1/19 | 1/7 | 80/1843 | 4/71 | 1/4 | 2/82 | 2/3 | 1/46 | 3/164 | 3/105 | 2/33 | 1/17 |

- A Thetford-type ware, 12th-13th century
- B Grimston-type ware, 13th century
- C Bourne D Ware, c1450-1637
- D Bourne B ware c1200-1500
- E Raeren stoneware
- F Bourne-D type
- G Cistercian ware, 16th century
- H Midland Black, (Tyg/posset) 17<sup>th</sup> century
- J Manganese-mottled ware (tankard), c1690-1740
- K Sandy Shelly ware c1200-1500
- L Oolitic shelly ware
- M Lyveden/Stanion A ware

Thus, while Trench 5 contains stratified ceramic (515) suggestive of a high medieval occupation, perhaps of the 13th century, the material of Trench 3 is of the late 15th-17th centuries, the key dating provided for contexts (316) (tentatively to the 16th century since the defining tiny Cisterian sherd may be intrusive) and (309), which is confidently dated to the second half of the 17th century.

## 5.2 Building material by Pat Chapman

### ***Brick***

There are 13 brick fragments from five contexts, all handmade. The earliest bricks come from layers (309) and (508). The brick from (309) is 110mm wide x 48mm thick (4 $\frac{3}{8}$  x 1 $\frac{7}{8}$  inches), made in a slightly soft fine mauve fabric, with uneven surfaces and grass impressions on the surviving surfaces, indicating they might have been moulded on a straw surface and left to dry. Traces of cream paint or mortar still adhere to the top and bottom. Other bricks from this context comprise a fragment at least 55mm thick (2 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches), made from a slightly coarse reddish pink fabric with an orange surface and a trace of white paint or mortar. Also three well worn fragments from a similar brick and four fragments made from a slightly soft, slightly coarse orange fabric could be of the same period. From layer (508) is a fragment of slightly overfired handmade brick, in a fine fabric with inclusions, mauve in colour with stem impressions on a surface. These early bricks are probably 13th to 14th-century in date.

One brick half from layer (303) is mould-made in a hard fine clay, though not very well mixed and overfired to purple, with a darker surface covered with white mortar on the top and bottom and one stretcher, with white paint or plaster on the surviving header

and other stretcher. The surviving measurements are 120mm long x 60mm thick ( $4\frac{5}{8}$  x  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches). A very similar brick fragment from fill (03-07), pit 3 is thinner, 120mm wide by 45mm thick ( $4\frac{5}{8}$  x  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches), handmade with uneven surfaces fired to a hard purple brown. These bricks could date from the 14th to early 18th centuries.

One almost complete long thin brick mortared to the end of another comes from context (103). It is 230mm x 117mm x 30mm (9 inches x  $4\frac{1}{4}$  x  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches) made from a coarse red fabric. It was whitewashed on one surface and both stretchers, then covered in grey mortar leaving one stretcher exposed. Bricks of these dimensions could be thought of as dating up to the 17th century.

### ***Ceramic tile***

The tile assemblage comprises 27 roof and five floor tile sherds.

#### *Floor tile*

Two black fragments from fill (308) are both cut into small isosceles triangles, 15 and 20mm thick, possibly for mosaic floors or stair risers (van Lemmen 2000, 14, 16). Similarly, from context (515) there is a deliberately-shaped tile with one edge curving away from a straight edge, maybe designed as a divider between circles. This is 15mm thick with an orange surface and large grey core. This could also have been used as a mosaic tile. Tile mosaics were laid in Ely Cathedral, *c* 20 miles away, during the 14th century.

An almost complete tile 152mm square and 20mm thick (6 inches square,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thick), made in coarse red brown fabric, but with very smooth surfaces, with mortar on the top, bottom and three sides came from layer (303). The mortar almost obscures the top completely, so all that can be seen is a *c* 20mm margin around the edge and enough of the area within to see that it has been divided into shallow squares or rectangles. This is late post-medieval, maybe 18th century.

#### *Roof tile*

The roof tile is typically 15mm thick, with a few as thin as 8mm. The fabric is generally hard, slightly coarse, sometimes with tiny calcareous inclusions, orange brown to red with or without a grey core. There are a few sherds with traces, or more, of green glaze. The broken sherd from layer (309) has fresh-looking thick dark green glaze, another sherd from the same context has very worn glaze. Only one sherd, from layer (308) has a peghole and that is 10mm in diameter. There is a possible dog paw print on a sherd from layer (309).

These roof tiles could date from the 13th to 16th centuries, particularly those with green



glaze, and into the 18th century before machine-made tiles started to be manufactured.

#### ***Worked stone***

There is a block of granite, from layer (308), measuring 150mm x 125 and 75mm thick, with one smooth worked surface surviving. It has been considerably damaged. A granite sett, probably from a courtyard, is 100 x 80mm and 100mm deep, context (103). It is slightly dome-shaped with a chamfered side to fit into a laid courtyard. The top is worn smooth.

From the layer (303) is a fragment of stone 70mm wide, possibly limestone, painted white, with one end and three surviving sides. It has very smooth surfaces where unbroken. Part of a slab of limestone, 23mm thick, comes from context (305).

The bottom halves of two stone roof tiles, possibly of Collyweston slate, 180mm wide, come from layer (308). Another piece of possible stone roof tile comes from layer (5/15), and two tiny fragments from layer (309).

### **5.3 Other Finds by Tora Hyton**

In total ten individual or group recorded metal small finds were recovered from Trenches 3 and 5 making a total of 13 objects. The assemblage is represented by finds of medieval and post-medieval date.

The majority of finds were recovered from Trench 3 and include a fragment from a copper alloy cauldron (315), five iron nails, two undiagnostic strips of copper alloy, a lead offcut and a small lump of possible slag. The cast cauldron fragment stylistically resembles a type of tripod cauldron which dates to the medieval period. It comprises part of the everted rim with a vestige of the vertical angled loop to which handle would have been attached and now missing, unlike a similar object from London (Egan 1998, fig 131, 446).

Finds from Trench 5 include a looped fitting, an undiagnostic iron strap fragment, a lump of slag. The fitting was recovered from layer (506), it comprises a hollow-centred disc with integral 'rectangular' plate, attached to which is a tapered D-sectioned shank folded to form a loop. Disc-plate pierced by a copper alloy rivet. Such items date to the medieval period and may have been used for the suspension of horse fittings, or to attach handles to pieces of furniture.

A full catalogue is included as Appendix 2.

#### 5.4 **Leather and wood** by Ian Meadows

##### *Leather*

A 48mm long piece of leather from context (514), probably part of the rand from a shoe as stitch holes were visible along at least part of the length.

A collection of eight pieces of leather derived from shoes was retrieved from context (515). Four fragments were part of the rand of the shoe, the three short examples ranged from 53-70mm long and other than the stitch perforations they were undifferentiated. The largest piece, however, at 150mm long not only preserved stitch holes but also the tip of the toe of the shoe along with the shape of most of one side of the sole, indicating it is from a right turnshoe. Three of the remaining fragments were various scraps of plain leather upper, all preserving stitch holes, the largest piece measured 70 x 38mm, the other pieces were strips which had presumably been in close association with more robust leather such as the sole or rand. The final piece of leather was a 111mm long piece probably of leather lace or thongging. The piece had as far as could be told a square cross section.

##### *Wood*

Two pieces of wood, each in two fragments were retrieved from context (515). The longer piece was 112mm long and 33mm wide, it was broken at one end, derived from a piece of roundwood originally c40mm in diameter. This piece was taken from one surface and was about 8mm thick with one surface retaining the original curvature of the wood. The curved surface retained no bark and a single knife trimming cut occupied about half of the face, which tapered the piece towards the broken end. The underside showed no trimming or wear except for the portion opposite the knife trim of the outer face.

The shorter piece of wood was 60mm long and 28mm wide, and was again in two fragments. It too comprised a slice taken from the outside of a piece of roundwood 40mm in diameter. One end of the piece was broken and the other had part of a curved edge which was scorched and may have been burnt out of the piece.

##### *Further work*

No further work is envisaged and these pieces are not worthy of long-term retention. They are characteristic of the types of organic material that will survive in any waterlogged late medieval or early post-medieval urban context,

## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE by Karen Deighton

### 6.1 Introduction

A total of 1.35kg of animal bone was collected from a range of features during excavation. Following cleaning and drying this material was analysed to gain an idea of preservation, species present and their proportions.

#### *Method*

The assemblage was analysed using standard zooarchaeological methods. Recording follows Halstead (1985) after Watson (1979). Identification of butchery and gnawing is after Binford (1981). Ageing of Ovicaprid teeth is after Payne (1973). Recognition of epiphyseal fusion is after Silver (1969). Identification of juveniles is after Amorosi (1989).

#### *Results*

##### *Preservation*

Fragmentation was high with no complete long bones recorded. Although fresh breaks were observed most fragmentation was the result of old breaks (93.5%). The low frequency of evidence for butchery (9.1% of bones had evidence of chopping) suggests fragmentation was largely the result of post-taphonomic processes (i.e. compaction in the soil). The level of canid gnawing was moderate (16.3%) which suggests bone could have lain around unburied for a time and is the only evidence of canids (dogs/foxes) from the site. A single indeterminate burned bone fragment was noted.

##### *Taxonomic distribution*

Table 2: Table: Number and relative percentage of taxa present

| Taxa           | Common name   | Number | Percentage |
|----------------|---------------|--------|------------|
| Bos            | Cattle        | 19     | 34.5       |
| Ovicaprid      | Sheep/goat    | 25     | 45.4       |
| Sus            | Pig           | 3      | 5.5        |
| Equus          | Horse         | 1      | 1.8        |
| Gallus         | Domestic fowl | 1      | 1.8        |
| Large ungulate | Large hoofed  | 5      | 9.1        |
| Small ungulate | Small hoofed  | 1      | 1.8        |

##### *Ageing*

Two juvenile bones were noted; one cattle and one sheep/goat. The cheek tooth row of an Ovicaprid mandible was recorded as wear stage E+ (2-3years +). Unfortunately the third molar was damaged so the wear stage is approximate.

*Spatial distribution*

A small concentration of bone (nineteen bone elements i.e.34.4% of the assemblage) was noted in context 313, a dump of burned material.

***Discussion***

Overall the species present and their relative proportions appear to be typical for the medieval period.

Bone was largely recovered from levelling layers, demolition layers or dumps of material, although this material is well stratified its thin distribution across these layers makes temporal comparisons unreliable and any information on site economy at any time throughout its history difficult to interpret.

Further more the small amount of material and its sparse distribution over time make comparisons with other assemblages invalid.

**6.2 Marine shells** by Karen Deighton

***Introduction***

A total of 319 grams of marine shells were recovered from seven contexts during the course of trial trenching. This material was analysed to provide information on preservation and taxa present.

***Results***

*Preservation*

Fragmentation and abrasion were moderate. No evidence of modification was noted.

No evidence of parasites or ornamentation was observed on the Oyster shells

*Taxonomic distribution*

*Table 3: Marine shells by context*

| Context      | Oyster( <i>Ostrea edulis</i> ) |           | Cockle ( <i>Cerastodenma edule</i> ) | Mussel ( <i>Mytilus edulis</i> ) |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|              | upper                          | lower     |                                      |                                  |
| 303          |                                | 2         |                                      |                                  |
| 305          |                                | 1         |                                      |                                  |
| 308          | 1                              | 6         | 2                                    | 2                                |
| 309          | 1                              |           |                                      |                                  |
| 310          |                                | 1         |                                      |                                  |
| 505          | 1                              |           |                                      |                                  |
| 515          | 2                              | 3         | 3                                    | 3                                |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>5</b>                       | <b>13</b> | <b>3</b>                             | <b>5</b>                         |

**Conclusion**

The presence of marine species indicates trade with the coast. Unfortunately little more can be reconstructed of the site's economy from the shells due to their paucity and thin contextual and stratigraphic distribution.

**6.3 Ecofacts by Karen Deighton****Introduction**

A single five litre sample was collected during the course of trial trenching from context (515). Following processing analysis of flots and residues was undertaken to establish the presence, nature and preservation of ecofacts.

**Method**

The sample was processed in a siraf tank fitted with a 500 micron mesh and 250micron flot sieve. Residues were dried and sorted and any ecofacts were noted. The flot was examined under a microscope (10x magnification) while still damp. Residues were dried and sorted for ecofacts and artefacts.

**Results***Preservation*

Preservation was by charring and waterlogging. Ecofacts were in a reasonable condition.

*Ecofacts present**Table 4: Ecofacts present*

| <b>Sample 1 (515)</b> | <b>Coarse residue</b> | <b>Fine residue</b> | <b>Flot</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Volume                | 5                     |                     |             |
| Nutshell              | 4                     |                     | No finds    |
| Charcoal              | 2                     | 100+                |             |
| Mussel                | 4                     |                     |             |
| Cockle                | 2                     |                     |             |
| Mollusc               | 2                     | 1                   |             |
| Small mammal          | 1                     |                     |             |
| Fish bone             | 2                     |                     |             |
| Indeterminate bone    | 9                     |                     |             |
| Leather               | 1                     |                     |             |

**Conclusion**

Little can be said of the environmental or economy of the site due to the small number of samples and ecofacts.

## 7 DISCUSSION

Most of the deposits layers encountered represent a series of levelling layers and dumps, some of which were related to a series of pitched stone and cobble or rough pebble surfaces, probably related to old roads or the market square, but this was unconfirmed in the small areas available for investigation.

Cut features included pits and a posthole. The posthole produced no diagnostic material, but was overlain by layers containing late medieval pottery.

The bulk of the pottery was retrieved from Trench 3. Pottery from the layers indicates that they were derived from medieval and post-medieval contexts, although late medieval/early post-medieval pottery from the base of Trench 3 poses a stratigraphic problem. Either this is from an intrusive context such as pit fill, not fully recognised in the limited excavation areas, or the overlying layers which produced medieval pottery have been redeposited from elsewhere.

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**8 APPENDIX 1: DETAILED LEVEL DATA**

| <b>Trench</b> | <b>Context</b> | <b>Description</b>    | <b>Average depth (m)</b> | <b>Top (AOD)</b> | <b>Base (aOD)</b> |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>1</b>      | 101            | Levelling layer       | 0.1                      | 8.27             | 8.11              |
|               | 102            | Levelling layer       | 0.08                     | 8.20             | 8.06              |
|               | 103            | Levelling layer       | 0.09                     | 8.12             | 8.01              |
|               | 104            | Fill of 105           | 0.67                     | 8.02             | 7.35              |
|               | 105            | Pit - modern          | 0.67                     | 8.02             | 7.35              |
|               | 106            | Levelling layer       | 0.15                     | 8.06             | 7.87              |
|               | 107            | Levelling layer       | 0.2                      | 7.87             | 7.64              |
|               | 108            | Levelling layer       | 0.16                     | 7.64             | 7.36              |
|               | 109            | Natural               |                          | 7.49             |                   |
| <b>3</b>      | 301            | Levelling layer       | 0.06                     | 8.21             | 8.13              |
|               | 302            | Levelling layer       | 0.08                     | 8.16             | 8.05              |
|               | 303            | Levelling layer       | 0.1                      | 8.08             | 7.96              |
|               | 304            | Fill of 312           | 0.26                     | 8.06             | 7.79              |
|               | 305            | Levelling layer       | 0.05                     | 6.91             | 6.84              |
|               | 306            | Levelling layer       | 0.33                     | 8.04             | 7.68              |
|               | 307            | Levelling layer       | 0.15                     | 7.74             | 7.52              |
|               | 308            | Levelling layer       | 0.25                     | 7.60             | 7.30              |
|               | 309            | Levelling layer       | 0.3                      | 7.44             | 7.12              |
|               | 310            | Demolition layer      | 0.08                     | 7.13             | 7.04              |
|               | 311            | Fill of 312           | 0.12                     | 7.82             | 7.65              |
|               | 312            | Pit                   | 0.41                     | 8.06             | 7.65              |
|               | 313            | Levelling layer       | 0.09                     | 7.75             | 7.64              |
|               | 314            | Levelling layer       | 0.17                     | 7.53             | 7.35              |
|               | 315            | Surface?              | 0.14                     | 7.06             | 6.89              |
|               | 316            | Redeposited natural   | 0.08                     | 6.86             | 6.75              |
|               | 317            | Pit                   | 0.15                     | 6.76             | 6.61              |
|               | 318            | Fill of 317           | 0.15                     | 6.76             | 6.61              |
|               | 319            | Natural               |                          | 6.86             |                   |
| <b>5</b>      | 501            | Levelling layer       | 0.06                     | 8.11             | 8.05              |
|               | 502            | Tarmac                | 0.29                     | 8.05             | 7.74              |
|               | 503            | Levelling layer       | 0.21                     | 7.74             | 7.55              |
|               | 504            | Pitched stone surface | 0.16                     | 7.56             | 7.40              |
|               | 505            | Levelling layer       | 0.23                     | 7.41             | 7.19              |
|               | 506            | Cobbled surface       | 0.1                      | 7.21             | 7.06              |
|               | 507            | Levelling layer       | 0.05                     | 7.10             | 7.01              |
|               | 508            | Pitched stone surface | 0.12                     | 7.09             | 6.90              |
|               | 509            | Levelling layer       | 0.05                     | 6.99             | 6.87              |
|               | 510            | Levelling layer       | 0.1                      | 6.92             | 6.72              |
|               | 511            | Levelling layer       | 0.12                     | 6.82             | 6.65              |
|               | 512            | Levelling layer       | 0.18                     | 6.79             | 6.59              |
|               | 513            | Levelling layer       | 0.20                     | 6.59             | 6.36              |
|               | 514            | Levelling layer       | 0.35                     | 6.76             | 6.41              |
|               | 515            | Levelling layer       | 0.18                     | 6.49             | 6.23              |
|               | 516            | Natural               |                          | 6.35             |                   |

**9 APPENDIX 2: SMALL FINDS CATALOGUE**

- SF 1 Sheet fragment, copper alloy. Broken strip of sheet metal, nature of object impossible to determine. Date: Modern Measurements: 90 x 17mm. Context 315.
- SF 2 Nails x 4, iron. Objects heavily encrusted in corrosion products, so difficult to determine shape of head. Two complete nails measuring 87mm and 63mm in length. Two shank fragments. Context 310
- SF 3 Nail, iron. Heavily encrusted in corrosion products so difficult to determine shape of head. No measurements. Context 316
- SF 4 Strip, copper alloy. Tapered strip, possibly an offcut. Measurements: 93 x 15mm. Context 315
- SF 5 Cauldron, copper alloy. Cast everted rim fragment from ?tripod cauldron with vestige of vertical angled loop to which handle would have been attached. Date: Medieval 1150-1400. Context 315
- SF 6 Amorphous lump. Possibly slag. Context 514
- SF7 Letaher pieces. Context 515
- SF 8 Strip, iron. Rectangular shaped fragment attached to a mass of corrosion deposits. Nature of object difficult to determine. Measurements: c.47 x 24mm. Context 515
- SF 9 Amorphous lump. Possibly slag. Context 308
- SF 11 Offcut, lead. Short length of U-shaped lead. Context 306
- SF 12 U-eyed fitting, copper alloy. Hollow-centred disc plate with integral 'rectangular' plate and tapered D-sectioned shank folded to form a loop. Disc-plate pierced by a copper alloy rivet. May have been attached to a leather strap or furniture. Length: 53mm Date: Medieval. Context 506



Plate 1:

Coloured Postcard 1900



Plate 2

Market Place 1897 (Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee)

CATHEDRAL SQUARE, PETERBOROUGH

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Plate 3

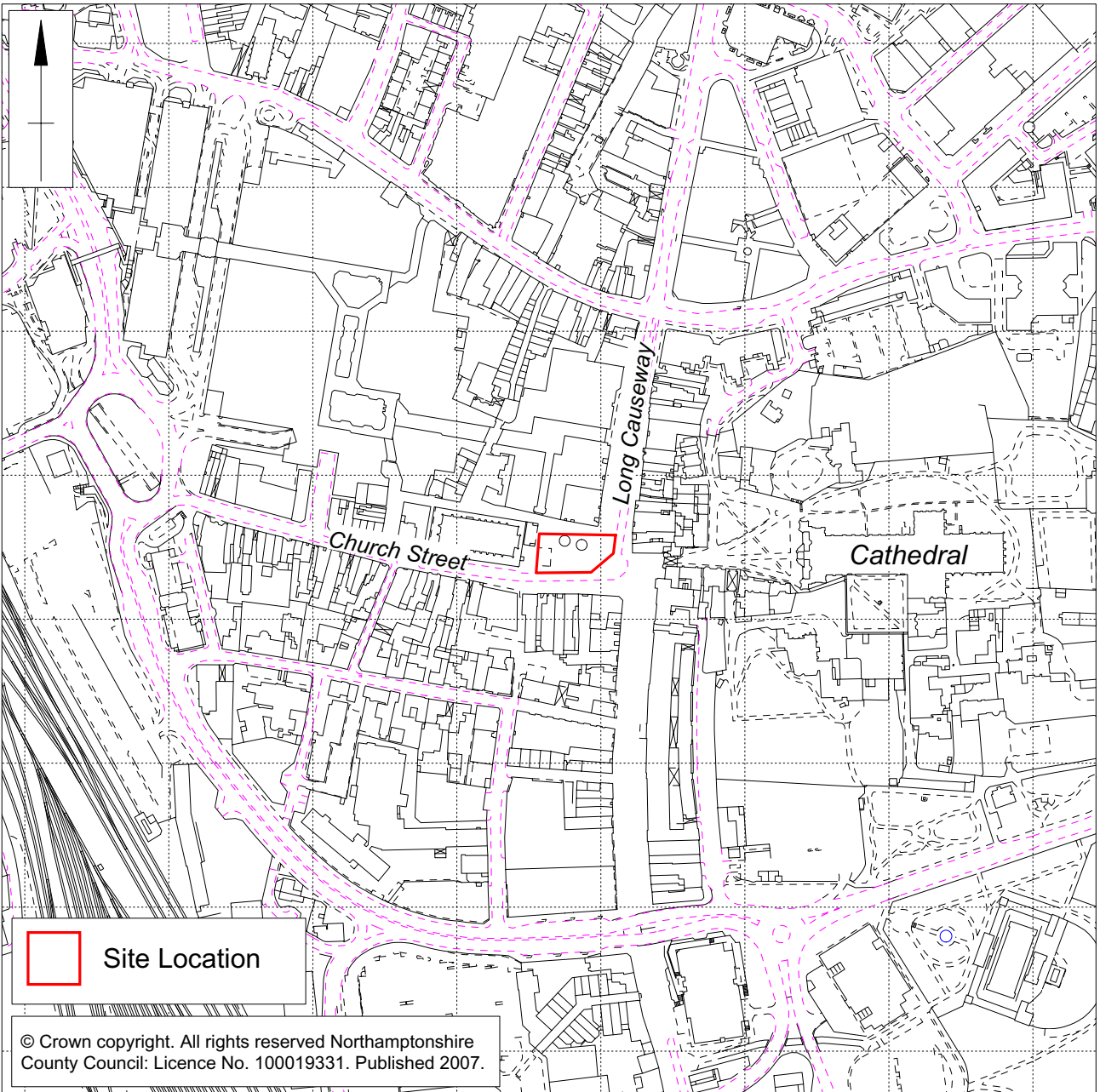
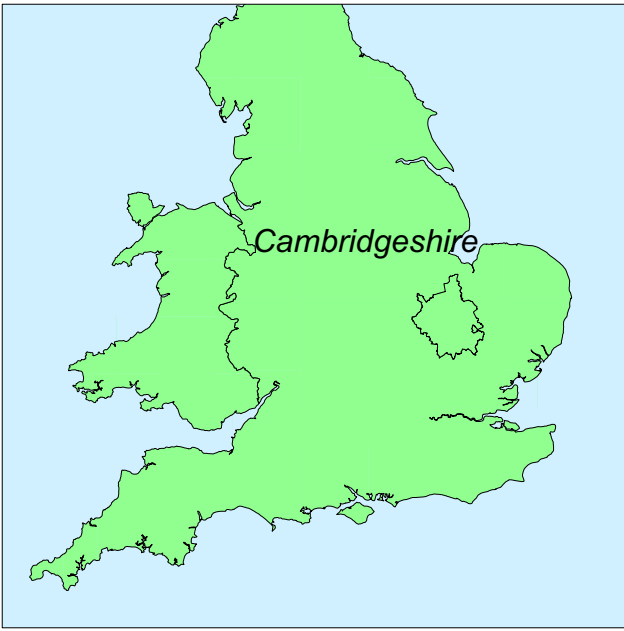
Market Place 1950



Plate 4

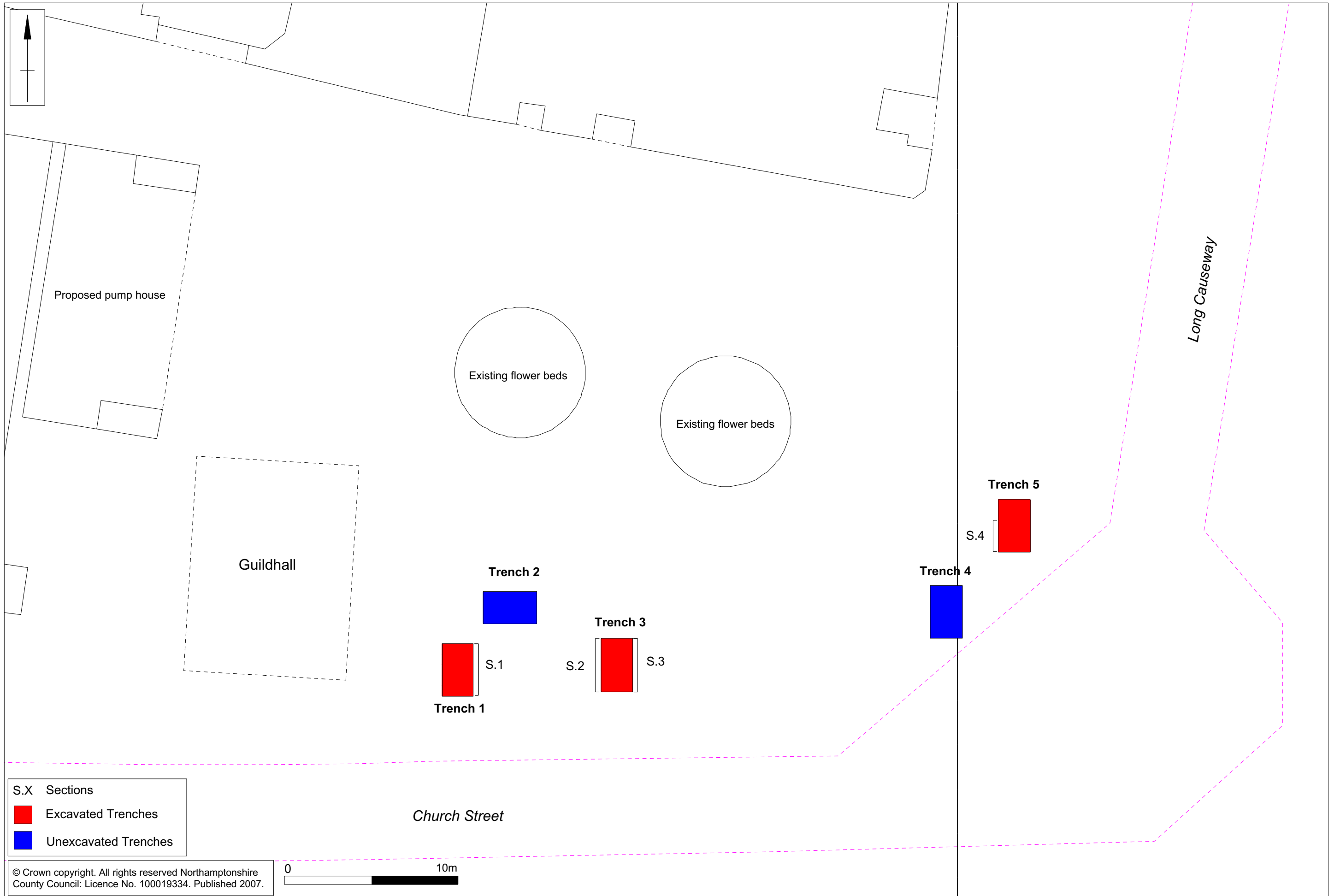
Market Place 1960





Scale 1:2000

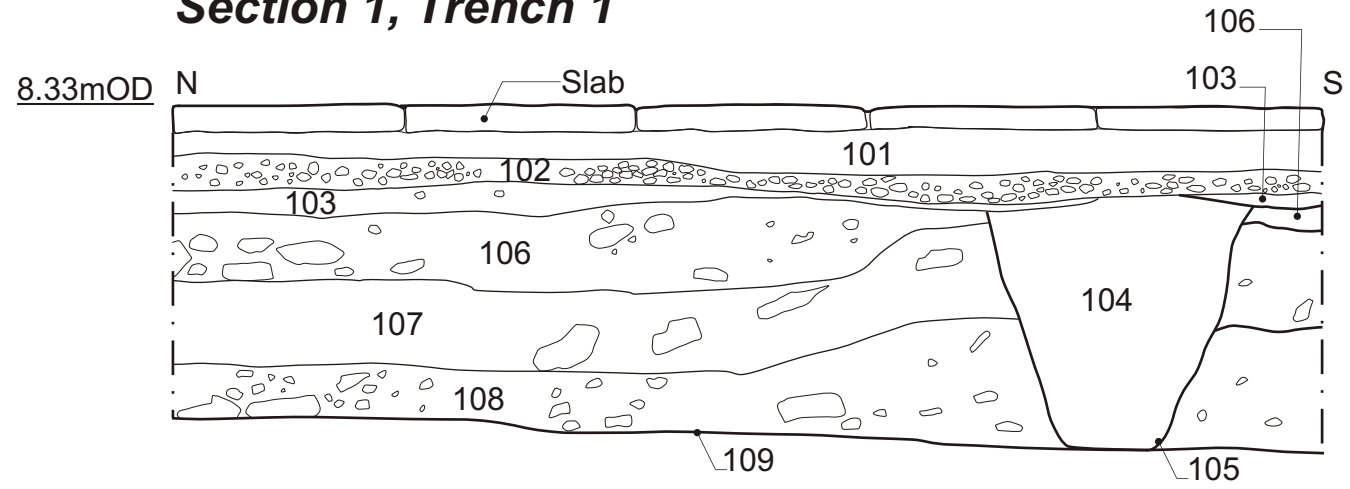
Site location Fig 1



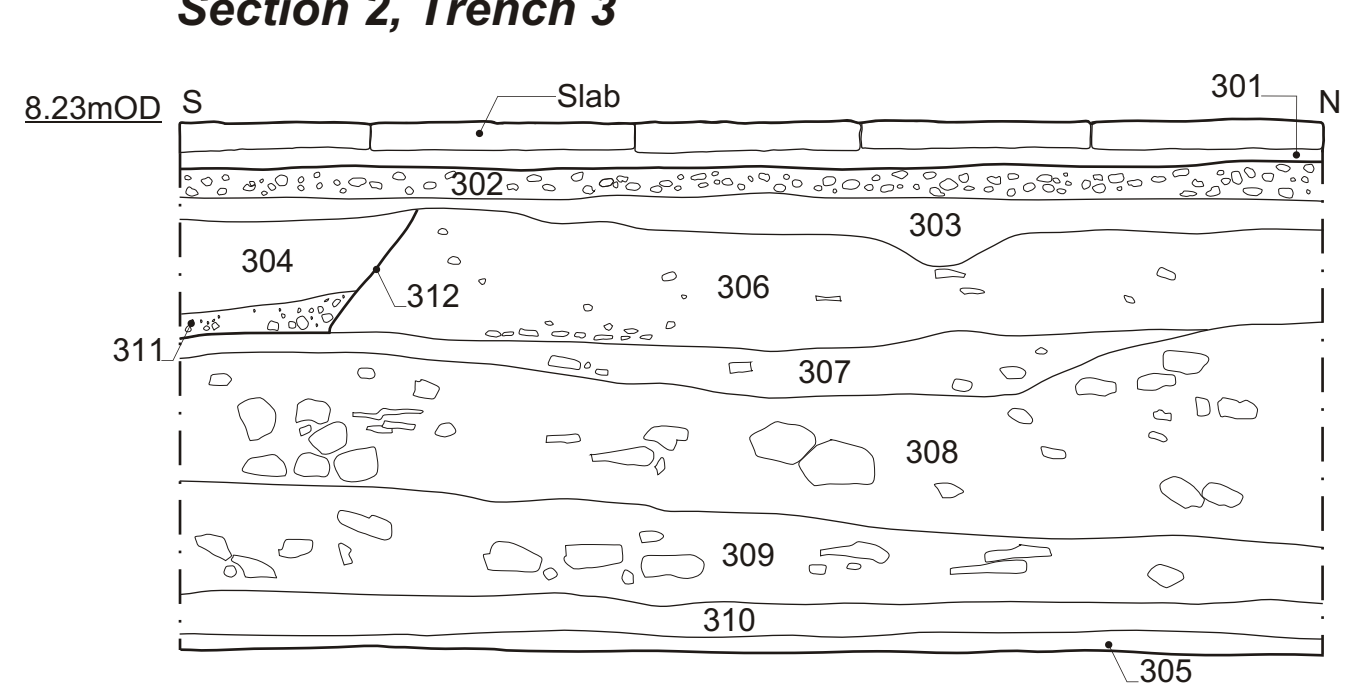
Scale 1:200

Trench Locations Fig 2

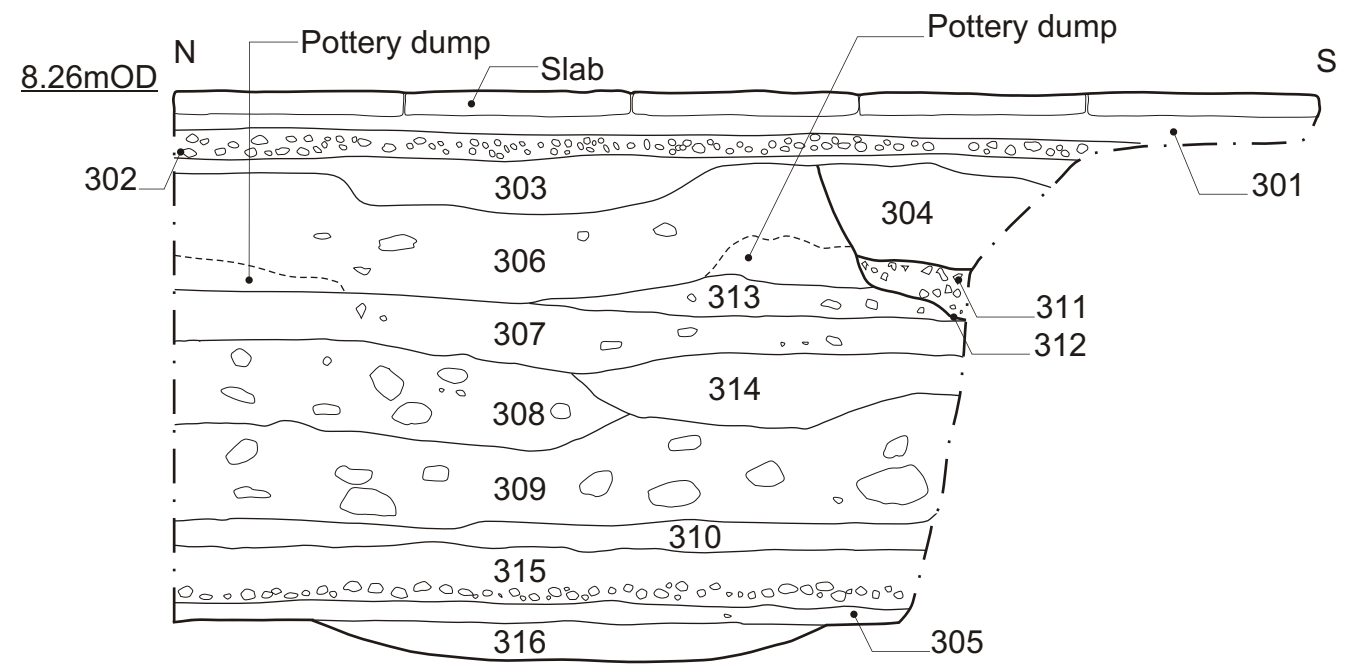
**Section 1, Trench 1**



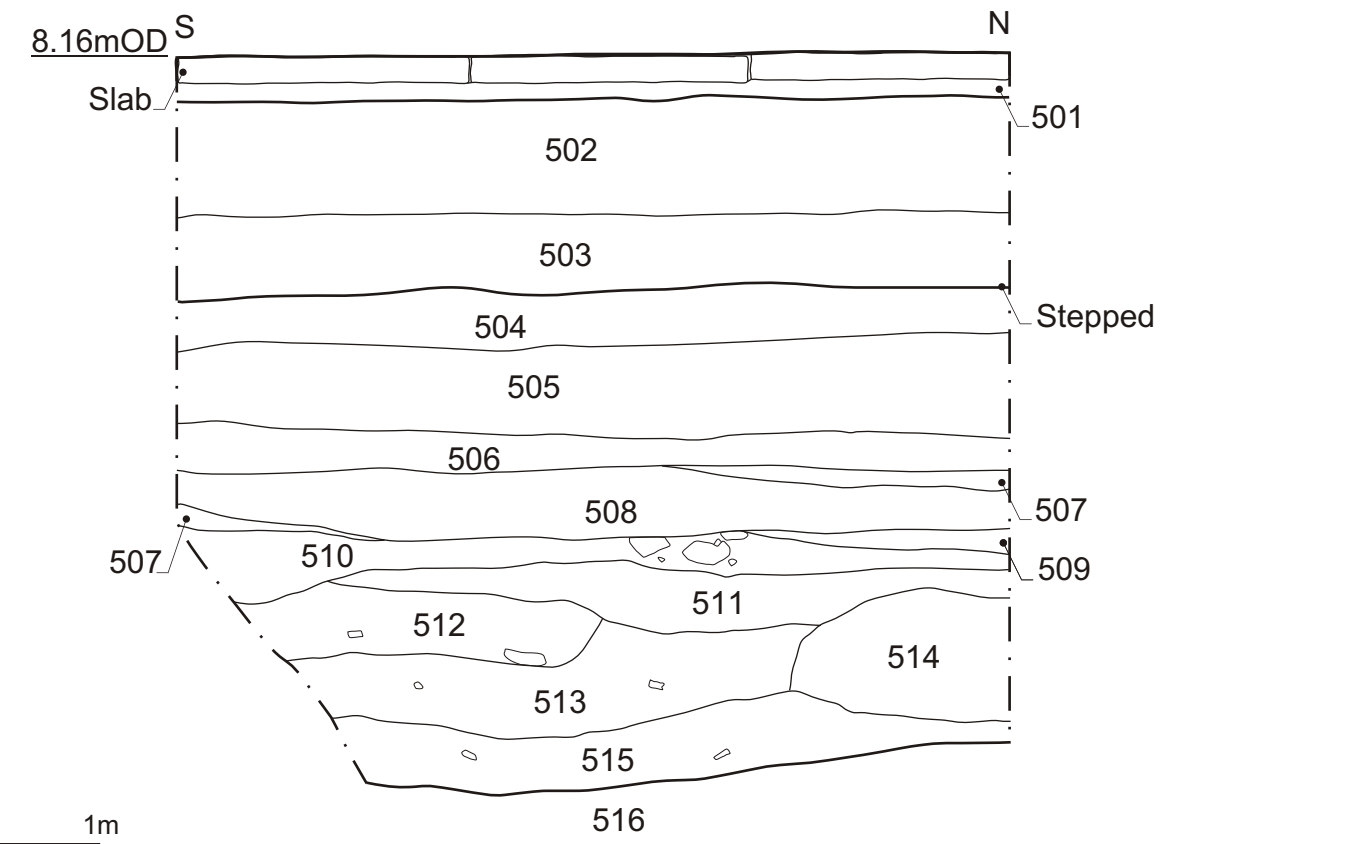
**Section 2, Trench 3**



**Section 3, Trench 3**



**Section 4, Trench 5**



Sections 1, 2, 3 & 4 Fig 3