

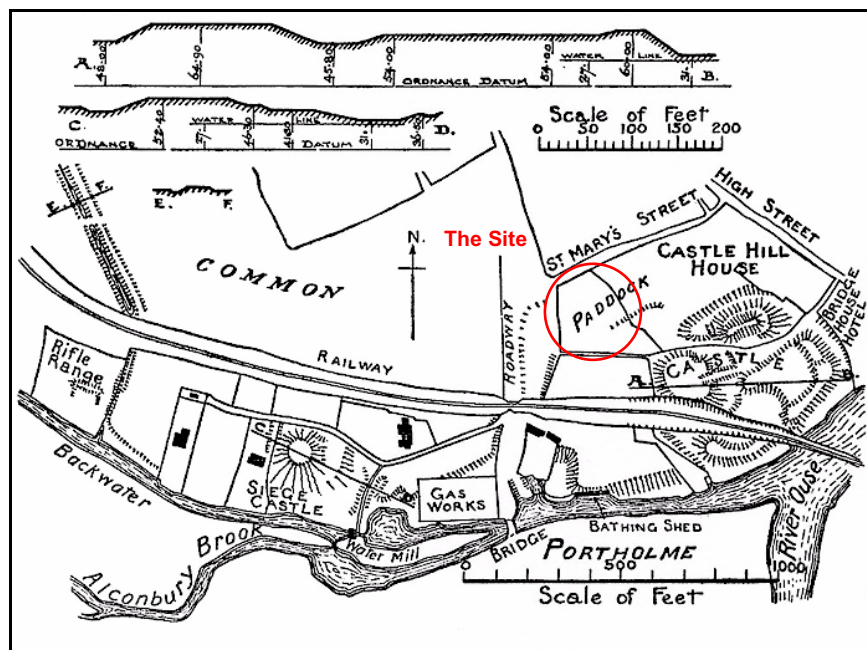


Northamptonshire  
County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation at the British Red Cross  
Centre, Castle Moat Road, Huntingdon  
Cambridgeshire

July 2008



Jim Brown

September 2008

Report 08/133

CHER Event No. ECB3004

## Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park

Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. [sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

w. [www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk)





# **STAFF**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Project Manager       | Iain Soden BA MIFA   |
| Text                  | Jim Brown BSc PGDip AIFA   |
| Fieldwork             | Jim Brown, Nathan Flavell BA PGDip and Karen Deighton MSc                          |
| Illustration          | Richard Watts and Pat Walsh BA   |
| Metal detecting       | Steve Critchley BSc MSc  |
| Worked flint          | William Boismier BA MPhil MA PhD MIFA  |
| Roman pottery         | Jane Timby BA PhD FSA MIFA   |
| Building materials    | Pat Chapman BA CMS AIFA and Jim Brown  |
| Metalworking debris   | Andy Chapman BSc MIFA  |
| The other finds       | Tora Hylton and Ian Meadows BA   |
| Animal bone and seeds | Karen Deighton MSc   |
| Pollen                | Dr Nick Branch, Daniel Young BSc MSc and Peter Morgan BSc MSc (Reading University) |

# **QUALITY CONTROL**

|             | Print name  | Signed | Date |
|-------------|-------------|--------|------|
| Checked by  | Pat Chapman |        |      |
| Verified by | Iain Soden  |        |      |
| Approved by | Steve Parry |        |      |



**OASIS REPORT FORM**

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>                   |  |  |
| Project name                             | Archaeological evaluation at the British Red Cross Centre, Castle Moat Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, July 2008   |  |
| Short description<br>(250 words maximum) | Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted trial excavation of the British Red Cross Society site on Castle Moat Road in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire during July 2008. The site lies immediately to the north-west of the motte and bailey castle of Huntingdon. The excavations towards the road frontage and in the west of the site identified deeply stratified layers including a substantial ditch, which may have been part of a putative western bailey defensive perimeter or a portion of ditch relating to the foregoing Saxon burh. In the east of the site the ground was disturbed by modern activity and surviving features were heavily truncated. Roman remains were also encountered including a probable hardstanding or yard surface and intercutting pits. It is likely that further remains exist beneath the present building that could not be evaluated. |  |
| Project type                             | Evaluation   |  |
| Site status                              | None   |  |
| Previous work                            | None   |  |
| Current Land use                         | Red Cross HQ   |  |
| Future work                              | Probable   |  |
| Monument type/ period                    | Roman, Saxon and medieval  |  |
| Significant finds                        | Pottery, tile, animal bone, shell, slag, metal finds, flint and pollen samples   |  |
| <b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>                  |  |  |
| County                                   | Cambridgeshire   |  |
| Site address                             | Castle Moat Road, Huntingdon, PE29 3PG   |  |
| Study area (sq.m or ha)                  | 80 sq m  |  |
| OS Easting and Northing                  | Centred on 523964 271484   |  |
| Height OD                                |  |  |
| <b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>                  |  |  |
| Organisation                             | Northamptonshire Archaeology   |  |
| Project brief originators                | Andy Thomas, Cambridgeshire County Council (CAPCA)   |  |
| Project Design originator                | Iain Soden, Northamptonshire Archaeology   |  |
| Director/Supervisor                      | Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology  |  |
| Project Manager                          | Iain Soden, Northamptonshire Archaeology   |  |
| Sponsor or funding body                  | Sursham Tompkins & Partners  |  |
| <b>PROJECT DATE</b>                      |  |  |
| Start date                               | July 2008  |  |
| End date                                 | July 2008  |  |
| <b>ARCHIVES</b>                          | <b>Accession no.</b>   | <b>Contents</b>  |
| Physical                                 | ECB3004  | Pottery, tile, animal bone, shell, metal finds, flint, sample residues |
| Paper                                    | ECB3004  | Site context record, plans, section drawings and photographic record   |
| Digital                                  | ECB3004  | Mapinfo digital plans and client report PDF                            |
| <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>                      | Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)  |  |
| Title                                    | Archaeological evaluation at the British Red Cross Centre, Castle Moat Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, July 2008   |  |
| Serial title and volume                  | Client report 08/133   |  |
| Author(s)                                | Jim Brown  |  |
| Page numbers                             | 24   |  |
| Date                                     | September 2008   |  |



# Contents

## 1 INTRODUCTION

## 2 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Topography and geology

### 2.2 Historical and archaeological background

## 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Objectives

### 3.2 Methodology

## 4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

### 4.1 Trench 1

### 4.2 Trench 2

### 4.3 Trench 3

## 5 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Worked flint

by William Boismier

### 5.2 Roman pottery

by Jane Timby

### 5.3 Medieval pottery

by Paul Blinkhorn

### 5.4 Building materials

by Pat Chapman and Jim Brown

### 5.5 Metalworking debris

by Andy Chapman

### 5.6 Other finds

by Tora Hylton and Ian Meadows

## 6 FAUNAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Animal bone

by Karen Deighton

### 6.2 Oyster shells

by Karen Deighton

### 6.3 Pollen

by Dr Nick Branch, Daniel Young and  
Peter Morgan

### 6.4 Bulk soil samples

by Karen Deighton

## 7 CONCLUSIONS AND POTENTIAL

## BIBLIOGRAPHY



## Tables

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Table 1: | Quantification of Roman pottery by fabric type      |
| Table 2: | Quantification of medieval pottery fabrics          |
| Table 3: | Quantification of the taxa by context               |
| Table 4: | Quantification of the taxa from sieved bulk samples |
| Table 5: | Pollen-stratigraphic assessment, Trench 1           |
| Table 6: | Pollen-stratigraphic assessment, Trench 2           |
| Table 7: | Bulk soil sample contents                           |
| Table 8: | Summary of archaeological measurements              |

## Figures

|        |                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Fig 1: | Site location and HER data        |
| Fig 2: | Archaeological features           |
| Fig 3: | Sections of Trenches 1, 2 & 3     |
| Fig 4: | Plans of Trenches 1, 2 & 3        |
| Fig 5: | Zones of archaeological potential |

## Plates

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Cover:   | Huntingdon Castle (from <a href="http://www.huntingdonshire.info/history/images/">www.huntingdonshire.info/history/images/</a> ) |
| Plate 1: | Trench 1 showing deeply stratified deposits  |
| Plate 2: | Roman compact stone surface (266)  |
| Plate 3: | Roman pits at the east end of Trench 2   |
| Plate 4: | The outer shoulder of ditch [215] exposed at the base of excavation  |
| Plate 5: | A stone architectural boss from the site of Huntingdon Castle  |



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT THE BRITISH RED CROSS CENTRE  
CASTLE MOAT ROAD, HUNTINGDON  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**JULY 2008**

*Abstract*

*Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted trial excavation of the British Red Cross Centre site on Castle Moat Road in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire during July 2008. The site lies immediately to the north-west of the motte and bailey castle of Huntingdon. The excavations towards the road frontage and in the west of the site identified deeply stratified layers including a substantial ditch, which may have been part of a putative western bailey defensive perimeter or a portion of ditch relating to the foregoing Saxon burh. In the east of the site the ground was disturbed by modern activity and surviving features were heavily truncated. Roman remains were also encountered including a probable hardstanding or yard surface and intercutting pits. It is likely that further remains exist beneath the present building that could not be evaluated.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned in June 2008, by Sursham Tompkins & Partners, to conduct trial trench evaluation at Castle Moat Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire (Centred on NGR 523964 271484; Fig 1). This was a condition of the planning permission for redevelopment. Work proceeded following a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by NA in response to the brief issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice (NA 2008, CAPCA 2008). The works were approved and monitored by CAPCA who requested additional sampling during their site visit to identify any potential for environmental evidence in the form of pollen, preserved in the base of the putative western bailey ditch. Pollen samples were retrieved with the agreement of the client and have been assessed for the present report.

The archaeological works comprised a total 40m length of trenches split between three locations and excavated in such a way as to avoid live services or drains. Where deeply stratified deposits were examined, the trenches were widened and stepped to enable safer work at depth.

The material archive will be prepared according to the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (Walker 1990), *Standards in the care of archaeological collections* (MGC 1994) and the standards of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), English Heritage, the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (IFA 1994; EH 1991; Gurney 2003). The archive will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Store at the end of the project. A copy of the report will be submitted to CAPCA for comment. A copy will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) following approval.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Topography and geology**

The site fronts onto Castle Moat Road which forms part of the inner ring road of modern Huntingdon, centred on NGR 523964 271484. It is situated on level ground at c14.7m above



Ordnance Datum and is occupied by the premises of the British Red Cross Society, comprising a day centre, garage and tarmac car park.

Huntingdon's central business district is located directly to the north of the site and occupies the historic core of the town. A motte and bailey castle lies to the east of the site, of which the motte is located immediately adjacent to the south-east. The site is bounded on the north side by Castle Moat Road and has residential housing to the west and south. There is a modern church on its east side between the site and the surviving eastern bailey of the castle.

The British Geological Survey records the drift geology of Huntingdon as River Terrace Gravel overlying Oxford Clay and Kellaway Beds (<http://www.bgas.ac.uk/geoindex/>).

## **2.2 Historical and archaeological background**

The town of Huntingdon lies within an area where evidence has been identified for late Iron Age and Roman occupation. The area remained an attractive location during the post-Roman era which eventually led to the foundation of a Saxon *burh*. The medieval town developed from its Saxon forebear under Norman control and has retained its historic focal centre to the present day. The distribution of sites referenced can be seen in Figure 1.

### ***Late Iron Age and Roman archaeology***

Further settlement has been identified within c150m south of the Red Cross site at Watersmeet during excavations conducted in 2003 (CHER MCB16330). Late Iron Age ditch systems were identified in close proximity to the river suggesting that the river crossing was used frequently before Ermine Street was built. These were remodelled and continued in use well into the later Roman period. The site also produced 73 human inhumation burials forming a 4th-century Roman cemetery.

A Roman villa was discovered at Mill Common in 1968. This has since been investigated at Whitehalls, c350m south-west of the Red Cross site, and has produced evidence for multiple periods of Roman and later occupation (CHER 02545). Early settlement of Whitehalls was established in the late 1st century and developed in subsequent centuries. The villa was founded together with kilns, hearths and structures in the 3rd to 4th centuries (CHER 02545a). Cremated human remains were also recovered and a water channel connected to the river to the south of the villa (CHER MCB17364).

Cremation groups have been identified to the south of the Red Cross site within c50m and c100m (CHER 02635; 00868). One produced an olla, flagon and beaker in Castor ware. The other is of late 2nd century date and was a group of four vessels containing the cremated human bone.

A stone coffin was recovered during the 19th century from the side of Castle Hill, which is thought to be of Roman date (CHER 02638). It was discovered within c120m to the north-east of the Red Cross site.

Roman finds comprising largely pottery indicate the presence of occupation predating the medieval town directly to the north of the site, on the opposite side of Castle Moat Road (CHER 02597a). These form part of a sequence of Roman deposits extending from the excavations at Pathfinder House (CHER MCB17284).

### ***Saxon, Saxo-Norman and medieval archaeology***

Huntingdon is one of the five lesser burhs of the Danelaw, established c879 (CHER 02581). Substantial remains of the Saxon, Saxo-Norman and medieval town have been identified



within the town during previous planning applications, particularly along High Street and in the vicinity of the Castle (CHER MCB17112; MCB17378; MCB17886). This general spread of settlement formed the precursor of the modern settlement and lies at the heart of the town, within 400m of the Red Cross site. The larger part of the core of the medieval town lies to the north and north-east, with the castle directly to the east. Further settlement has also been identified to the south, next to the river, and to the west, beyond the former Common.

The Red Cross site is located immediately to the west of Huntingdon Castle which is a Scheduled Monument (SM24417; CHER 02638). The castle is a motte and bailey, raised as a Royal castle by William the Conqueror in the immediate post-Conquest period c1068 for the subjugation of the town. It survives as a series of grassed earthworks. The main entrance is on the east side, commanding the High Street crossing of the river. Of the inner bailey, the most substantial ramparts are raised upon the north-east and south-east sides of the motte which is 200ft in diameter and rises 38ft above the river. The outer bailey is on the east side with ditch and rampart, although its limits are indicated by a low scarp. The moat joins the river and has previously produced well preserved deposits, its base has been raised by an accumulation of medieval and later rubbish. Reworking of the riverside escarpment in the post-Conquest period may indicate that there was originally a western bailey, the earthworks of which no longer survive. The current application area would lie within this area of potential. In 1975 excavations on the south rampart demonstrated Civil War refortification and also uncovered a series of earlier graves.

Land directly to the north of the site on the opposite side of Castle Moat Road has produced a range of medieval and post-medieval finds relating to the occupation of the town (CHER 02597b). These form part of a sequence of medieval remains extending from the excavations at Pathfinder House (CHER MCB17284).

Land on Mill Common, c200m to the west of the Red Cross site, has demonstrated the presence of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation (CHER MCB17352). However, this does not represent the edge of medieval settlement, as further signs of occupation have been identified on the west side of the common (CHER MCB17357).

An archaeological assessment was conducted in 1992 on a nearby property c80m to the west of the Red Cross site (CHER 10486). Four 1m by 1m test pits were excavated to a depth of 1.5m which produced occupation deposits for the 10th to 13th centuries.

Settlement remains of Saxon, Saxo-Norman and medieval date were identified in 2003 at Watersmeet, c150m to the south of the Red Cross site, comprising ditches, pits and postholes that related to timber framed structures on the riverside (CHER MCB16331).

The excavations at Whitehalls, c350m south-west of the Red Cross site, uncovered remains of a late Saxon church, cAD851-1065 (CHER 02545b). A cemetery associated with it produced over 400 human skeletons and demonstrated that interment took place at the church until the 14th century.

A siege castle earthwork was excavated at Whitehalls, post-dating the Conquest period (CHER 02545c). During the unsettled years known as "The Anarchy" the castle was held by David, King of Scotland, through his marriage to Maud, 2nd Countess of Huntingdon. He supported Empress Matilda, the dispossessed heir of Henry I of England and wife of the Holy Roman Emperor, Henry V, in her dispute with King Stephen over the succession to the English throne. However, the *Victoria County History* for Huntingdonshire marks its construction for the Siege of Huntingdon in 1172 during the reign of Matilda's son, Henry II (VCH 1926).



A post-mill windmill of later medieval, possibly 15th century, date was discovered at Whitehalls (CHER 02545d). It is an indication that the outskirts of Huntingdon were still active during this period of economic decline amongst the towns of England.

### **3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Objectives**

The objectives were agreed in the WSI and comprised:

- To examine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of surviving archaeological remains by considering the nature of deposits and identifying those with the potential to provide useful and informative research data.
- To examine artefactual and ecofactual content of the site by sampling features and deposits using both hand collection and sieved samples to detect fine residues, small faunal remains (fish, amphibian bones etc) and charred micro plant remains.
- To use illustrated records and level heights related to Ordnance Datum to compose a deposit model for the site and identify zones of importance.
- To seek to provide sufficient information to inform future planning decisions regarding the proposals for further development.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

Three trenches were opened in the existing car park area of the site, one 20m long in front of the standing building across the frontage of Castle Moat Road and two 10m trenches aligned north to south to either side (Fig 2). The locations and length of the trenches were subject to the positions of services which feed the current building. Each trench was set out with hand tapes, measured in using the standing building in relation to the Ordnance Survey.

All work was undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the welfare policies of Northamptonshire County Council. A full search of buried services was conducted for the areas of intervention prior to commencement of the works and a CAT scan used during machine excavation. These areas were made secure during the works through the erection of appropriate fencing, hazard signs and daily inspections.

Ground clearance was conducted using a 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil, subsoil, modern levelling layers and underlying non-structural post-medieval layers were removed by machine, under archaeological supervision. The area was monitored to identify archaeological deposits and undisturbed natural horizons as they were exposed. Mechanical excavation stopped at the surface of the medieval archaeological horizon where it was encountered and a process of hand excavation was employed for the remainder of the works.

Potential archaeological features were hand-cleaned, partially excavated and a site record was maintained. Recording followed standard NA guidelines. The area was cleaned, planned and features or layered deposits sampled sufficiently to determine their character and date, and to reveal the underlying stratum. All archaeological features and deposits were given separate context numbers. Deposits were described on *pro-forma* trench and context sheets to include details of the deposit or feature, its relationships, an interpretation and a check-list of



associated finds. This field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

A photographic record was maintained, comprising 35mm black and white negatives, related contact prints and colour slides. In addition to basic section shots and features, overall site photographs, feature groups and working shots were also taken. A digital record was maintained as a supplement to the main archive for reporting purposes.

Significant archaeological features and layers were planned at 1:20 scale. Sections and profiles of features were drawn at scales of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. The excavated area was surveyed and related to the Ordnance Survey Grid with spot heights for plans and sections recorded in relation to the height above Ordnance Datum.

Finds were collected from the individual deposits and stored by context. All identifiable artefacts recovered from secure contexts were retained. Finds with particular importance for dating or of an intrinsic interest were given a small find reference number, recorded by grid reference and height, and related to Ordnance Datum within the context. All artefacts were recovered and processed in accordance with the standards and guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (IFA 2001; Walker 1990).

The Project Manager reviewed the palaeo-environmental potential on site in liaison with CAPCA. Samples were retrieved in 40 litre quantities, or 100% of the deposit where this was less than 40 litres. Samples were chosen from significant excavated deposits at depth and processed for environmental and industrial residues. In addition, CAPCA requested pollen monolith samples to be taken and with the consent of the client two such samples were recovered from the lowest accessible deposits of the putative western bailey ditch.

At all stages of the programme the monitoring authority from CAPCA was kept apprised of developments in the field allowing for strategic discussion as work proceeded. NA maintained full compliance with the government regulations under the 1997 Treasure Act and the 1981 Disused Burial Ground (Amendment) Act. An orderly and fully indexed archive of the work has been prepared in accordance with the recommendations currently used by CAPCA (Walker 1990; MGC 1994; IFA 2001; EH 1991; Gurney 2003).

## **4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE**

### **4.1 Trench 1**

The trench measured c10m long and was aligned from north to south on the west side of the current standing building (Fig 2). The trench revealed deeply stratified layers of deposits (Plate 1). A hand dug section was excavated into the top of these to a depth of 1.34m below ground level and a machine dug section was excavated at the northern end of the trench to 3m below ground level (Figs 3-4).

#### ***A putative western bailey or Saxon burh ditch***

The top of the River Terrace gravel substrate was reached at 13.1m above Ordnance Datum, which was 1.4m below ground level in the north of the trench. Here the outer shoulder of a large ditch [115] was visible curving across the trench from north-east to south-west and sloping down into the excavation, the base of which was not accessible below 3m. The full dimensions were examined in Trench 2. The angle of slope was sharp at the top with an eroded edge, sloping more gently in its lower course at around 50° to the horizontal. A pollen monolith was retrieved from the lowest point of the excavation. The lowest fill excavated comprised mid- to dark grey-brown clay silt (117) with occasional charcoal flecks and smears,



frequent fine grit and a few small angular gravels, 320mm thick. It was overlain by firm dark brown clay silt (116) containing mottled iron salts, charcoal flecks, fine grit and occasional small angular gravels, 440mm thick. The top fill of the ditch at its shoulder comprised mid-orange to grey-brown clay silt (114) with occasional iron salts and grit throughout and was 360mm thick. A 14th to 15th-century medieval buckle plate was recovered from this fill, providing the latest datable evidence for the backfill of the ditch. It was also sampled for ecofacts, Sample 1, which produced a large quantity of charcoal, charred cereal grains, fish bones and molluscs.

#### ***Late medieval and post-medieval levelling layers***

Overlying the fills of ditch [115] and spread across the top of the substrate at its edge was a brownish-grey clay silt layer (113) containing small mixed gravels, occasional charcoal and chalky flecks with very diffuse boundaries. It formed a spread that was 190mm thick. Above this was lighter yellowish-brown clay silt (112) with moderate iron salts, a few smaller pebbles and chalky flecks up to 500mm thick. It was buried beneath a layer of fairly compact mid-greenish-grey clay silt (111) containing a few larger flint pebbles up to 40mm in size and moderate gravel inclusions that was 260mm thick. On top of this was firm light orange-brown silty clay (110) with some ironstone and flint pebbles up to 60mm in size mixed amongst smaller gravels in an uneven spread between 110-240mm thick. The layer above this was also uneven, 90-180mm thick, comprising greenish-orange and brown silty clay (109) with occasional pebble flint gravels up to 20mm in size and charcoal flecks. Its surface was levelled up to an even horizon in a deposit that was 100-180mm thick, using darker greenish-grey silty clay (108) containing charcoal smears and small gravel inclusions with larger pebbles up to 80mm in size. The surface soil horizon was covered by dark blackish-grey clay silt (107) containing frequent charcoal smears, iron salts and small pebble gravels, 50mm thick.

The top of the soil horizon lay at 14.27m above Ordnance Datum, 0.52m below ground level. The upper 0.65m of these layers are likely to be post-medieval in date. The lower layers are likely to be late medieval to early post-medieval in date. There were high levels of residual material throughout, as indicated by 10th to 12th-century pottery in layer (109) alongside 17th-century musket shot.

#### ***Modern layers***

Above these soil layers was a series of modern levelling deposits firming up the base of the car park. Firm greenish-grey clay silt (106) formed an uneven dump up to 200mm thick and was heavily churned up from above. It was overlain by creamy white sand (105) with frequent large concrete fragments and occasional brick pieces up to 120mm in diameter and was c230mm thick. Light yellowish-brown sandy clay (104) overlay this in an uneven layer that was between 90-200mm thick. It contained mixed pebble flint gravel up to 60mm in size, chunks of tarmac, glass and brick. A thin spread of degraded tarmac dust (103) overlay this in the north of the trench, up to 70mm thick. It was overlain by a bed of compact yellowish-cream sand (102) containing frequent coarse gravel up to 60mm thick and capped with a rough 60mm thickness of tarmac surfacing (101).

## **4.2 Trench 2**

The trench measured c20m long and was aligned from north-west to south-east on the north side of the current standing building (Fig 2). The trench revealed deeply stratified layers of deposits. A hand dug section was excavated into the top of these to a depth of 1.6m below ground level. A machine dug section was excavated at the centre of the trench to 2.6m below ground level and then further investigated to a total of 3.2m below ground level using an auger at which point the natural substrate was encountered (Figs 3-4).



The top of the River Terrace gravel substrate was reached at 12.9m and 13.25m above Ordnance Datum, which was 1.52m and 1.34m below ground level on the west and east sides of the trench respectively. Between the two lay a large ditch [215], equivalent to ditch [115] in Trench 1, aligned north-east to south-west. At the south-east end of the trench were a series of intercutting pits and a compacted stone surface (266) (Fig 4).

#### ***Roman subsoil, stone surface and rubbish pits***

Overlying the substrate at the south-east end of the trench was a patch of weathered subsoil (275) up to 200mm thick, comprising mottled yellowish-orange and brown sandy silt with poorly sorted gravels and extensive root intrusions. The relationship between this and the compact stone surface (266) was not visible, but both directly overlay the substrate. Surface (266) comprised orange brown sandy clay, 220mm thick, into which a dense and heavily compacted make-up of rounded quartz and sandstone pebbles up to 60mm in size were mixed with occasional pebble flints (Plate 2). It was level at 13.47m above Ordnance Datum, 1.24m below ground level.

Pit [268] cut through stone surface (266). It was rounded and sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.66m wide by 0.4m deep, with generally concave curving sides sloping into a broad flat base. It was filled with light yellowish-brown silty clay with dark brown mottling caused by root intrusions and worm sorting. Sample 3 from this fill demonstrated the survival of mollusc and charred seed remains, although the presence of Bindweed may be part of more modern intrusive root disturbance.

A total of six intercutting pits were discovered within the 2m section of trench at the south-east end, cutting the weathered subsoil, 0.8m below ground level at 13.54m above Ordnance Datum (Plate 3). Five of the pits [251], [259], [261], [263] and [265] were all generally rounded, although varying in size between 0.4-1.4m wide and 0.3-0.58m deep and produced exclusively Roman pottery fabrics. In general the fills of these were a mixture of grey-brown silty clays and clayey silts with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional burnt clay patches. In addition to this pit [251] contained a dump of burnt stone. Sample 2 was retrieved from the uppermost of these pits, and contained a small quantity of charred cereal and pulse seeds, molluscs, fish bones and moderate amounts of charcoal. However, due to the varied nature of the pit fills it is unlikely to be a primary dump of material and may have been cleared from a midden elsewhere.

#### ***A medieval pit***

Pit [254] was only partially visible within the trench, it was 230mm deep with a squared corner and straight, vertical sides, and was stratigraphically the latest of the six pits. It contained two sherds of mid- 12th-century Ely ware pottery amongst residual Roman fabrics. There were two fills, 60mm of dark grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks at the base, overlain by 170mm of grey sandy clay, in both cases they contained green stains and thin black bands no more than 5mm thick, like the cess pits in Trench 3.

#### ***A putative western bailey or Saxon burh ditch***

Both the inner and outer shoulders of a large ditch [215] were identified crossing the trench from north-east to south-west and sloping down into the excavation (Figs 2-4; Plate 4). The ditch itself measures c6m wide by c1.8m deep, the base of which was identified using a combination of a machine section and augering at 3.2m below ground level, or 11.67m above Ordnance Datum. The angle of slope was sharp at the top with an eroded edge, sloping more gently in its lower course, although the full section was not revealed. A pollen monolith was retrieved from the lowest point of the excavation.



The lowest fills were identified using the auger. At the base of the ditch was firm mottled greyish-blue clay (272) which was 80mm thick. Above it was orange clay (273) containing silty sand inclusions and small rounded stones which was 140mm thick. Above this was mid- to dark orange-brown silty gravel (270) containing charcoal patches and small grit inclusions throughout. It formed a substantial fill deposit that was 680mm thick and was sampled at the base of the machine sondage. Sample 5 produced a large quantity of charcoal, charred cereal grains and mollusc remains. A single sherd of Stamford ware pottery attested to its date, cAD900-1200. Above this was mid- to dark greyish brown clay silt (271), 310mm thick, with frequent iron salts and charcoal flecks, small grit and mixed gravel inclusions up to 10mm in size. It was overlain by a thick layer of light orange-brown sandy clay (274) with frequent iron salts, charcoal flecks and moderate poorly sorted pebbles up to 30mm in size that merged between (214) above and (271) below. The uppermost fill of the ditch was light orange-brown coarse gritty sandy clay (214) with silty patches, frequent mixed pebble flint inclusions, charcoal flecks and iron salts in a deposit that was 380mm thick. Sample 4 from this fill produced a large quantity of charcoal, charred cereal grains and mollusc remains, however, it was accompanied by residual Roman pottery. The uppermost fills are therefore likely to be deliberate backfill material using soils brought in from elsewhere in the vicinity and carrying residual material of earlier date. Samples in the upper fills are therefore not advised for secure context sampling and are of limited practical use outside of this assessment.

### ***Late medieval and post-medieval levelling layers***

A total of five levelling layers were identified above the ditch fill compared to the seven observed in Trench 1, this is probably the result of very diffuse boundaries between the grey silty clay soils and the problems of differential drying, although the total depth of the layers is slightly less owing to the rising level of the substrate. The uppermost soil horizon was identical to that in Trench 1 and therefore the layers are fairly comparable.

Overlying the fills of ditch [215] and spread across the top of the substrate at its south-east edge was mottled bluish-grey clay (269) mixed with light brown silty loam containing fired clay lumps and root disturbance. It formed a spread that was up to c160mm thick. Above this was soft mid- greyish-brown silty clay (213) with occasional mixed flint pebbles, iron salts and chalky flecks up to c400mm thick. It was buried beneath a layer of mid- orange-brown soft silty clay with fewer mixed angular gravels and iron salts (212) containing a flint pebbles that was up to c340mm thick. On top of this was firm mid- grey-brown silty clay (211) with some smaller gravel in an uneven spread between c180-300mm thick. The layer above this was c400mm thick, comprising bluish-black silty clay (210) with bits of coal dust and 19th-20th century rubbish throughout.

The top of the soil horizon lay at 13.9m above Ordnance Datum, 0.4m below ground level. The upper 0.7m of these layers are likely to be post-medieval in date. The lower layers are likely to be late medieval to early post-medieval in date. There were high levels of residual material throughout, as indicated by Roman pottery alongside medieval and late medieval wares in layers (211) through to (214).

### ***Modern layers***

Cutting the top of the buried soil layers was a shallow modern scoop [209], probably from a former machine bucket, which was 3m long by 180mm deep. It was filled with four varying bands of modern make-up material, largely comprising tarmac dust and mixed silty clay and gravel.

A series of modern levelling deposits firmed up the base of the car park. Black coarse grit degraded tarmac dust (205) lay across the north-west end of the trench, 30-50mm thick. It was overlain by creamy white clayey sand (203) with frequent large concrete fragments between 120-250mm in size and was c250mm thick. The bed of the car park was laid with compact



orange sandy-gravel (202) up to 80mm thick and capped with a rough 40mm thickness of tarmac surfacing (201).

#### **4.3 Trench 3**

The trench measured c10m long and was aligned from north to south on the east side of the current standing building (Fig 2). The trench revealed modern levelling layers overlying a small group of heavily truncated features and a modern foul water pipe [309] down the centre of the trench (Figs 3-4).

##### ***A possible prehistoric pit***

The top of the River Terrace gravel substrate was reached at 14.31m above Ordnance Datum, which was 0.58m below ground level in the south of the trench. Pit [319] was elliptical in plan and cut into the top of the substrate, partly extending from the side of the trench and with one side truncated by modern features. It measured approximately 1.8m wide by 0.48m deep. The pit contained clean soft light yellowish-brown to red-brown sandy silt (318) with occasional rounded pebbles, root intrusions and worm castes. The only finds from this were two pieces of prehistoric worked flint. It was overlain by dark grey silty clay (317) with charcoal patches and burnt clay, forming an upper fill 90mm thick. It had the appearance of a slumping deposit compressed into the top of the softer fill of the pit from above, rather than an original constituent of the pit.

##### ***Roman subsoil***

Overlying the substrate were patches of weathered subsoil (314) between 100-180mm thick, comprising mottled yellowish-orange and brown sandy silt, poorly sorted gravels and extensive root intrusions. Stratigraphically it is likely to be the Roman subsoil (275) seen in Trench 2, its relationship with pit [319] was not visible due to its incomplete distribution.

##### ***Medieval cess pits and spread deposits***

Where this subsoil was present it was cut by pits [311], [313] and posthole [316]. All of these features were very badly truncated so that only the very base of the original cut survived. Pit [311] was rectangular in plan, 650mm long by 440mm wide by 240mm deep. Obvious root intrusions within the fill rendered soil sampling a pointless exercise. There were 12-14 very clear thin bands of material forming horizontal layers within the pit, each between 5-10mm thick. The bands varied between black ash, greyish-brown clay silt, lighter grey clay silt, orange sand, mottled greenish-grey silt, grey silty clay with charcoal flecks and dark brown or russet sandy clay. Their character was reminiscent of layers within a cess pit. Pit [313] formed an irregular quadrilateral shape in plan, measuring 660mm wide by 110mm deep and truncated at both ends. It was filled with greenish-grey silty clay for the most part with many root intrusions and contained the same narrow bands of variation as pit [311]. Posthole [316] was triangular in plan, measuring 310mm wide by 350mm deep. It was filled with mottled greenish-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and iron salt flecks, similar to the fills in the pits, but with less variation. Pit [313] produced a sherd of mid- 12th-century Ely Ware pottery, as well as residual Roman pottery compacted into the base of the pit.

At the southern end of the trench only was a spread of material that formed a soil horizon, predating the modern levelling deposits above. It comprised greenish-brown silty clay (307) with orange sand inclusions and dark brown silty patches up to 270mm thick and was very similar to the fill material in the pits.

##### ***Modern layers***

The layers above this were all modern levelling deposits forming uneven and overlapping spreads. Dark reddish orange-brown clay silt (306) with frequent small gravel inclusions,



manganese and iron salts formed a compact base, up to 320mm thick. It was overlain by mid- to dark russet and orange sandy gravel (305) containing occasional patches of clay, between 70-120mm thick. Dark mottled grey and black clay silt (304) overlay this in a band 80mm thick. The hard base of the car park was then formed up over the top using creamy white to grey crushed concrete (303) fragments up to 160mm in size, in a layer 210mm thick. On top of this was laid dark orange sandy gravel (302), 80mm thick, as a bed for the 40mm thick tarmac car park surface (301).

## **5 THE FINDS**

### **5.1 Worked flint**

by William Boismier

A total of six pieces of worked flint were recovered from two pits ([268] and [319]), the bailey ditch [115] and late medieval or early post-medieval levelling layers (111) and (267). The six artefacts comprise four unretouched flakes and two unretouched flake fragments. Two are cortical flakes, one flake fragment is partially cortical and four are tertiary pieces with no cortex remaining on their dorsal surfaces.

All six artefacts recovered were made from flint probably obtained from local River Terrace Gravel sources. The condition of individual artefacts is variable with three exhibiting only minor post-depositional edge damage in the form of isolated scars. The remaining three pieces display substantial post-depositional edge damage with two possessing pressure snaps which have removed their proximal ends. Five of the artefacts are unpatinated and one lightly patinated.

Technologically the artefacts conform to the general characteristics of late Neolithic to Bronze Age industries of eastern England and indicate activity in the vicinity of the site during these periods. The condition of the two flakes recovered from pit [319] and the absence of later material suggests that this feature may be of prehistoric date with the remaining artefacts indicating the reworking of earlier material into later features. The small number of artefacts recovered does not allow for any meaningful inferences to be made as to the nature of the prehistoric activity at the site.

### **5.2 Roman pottery**

by Jane Timby

The archaeological evaluation resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of 170 sherds of pottery, weighing 1.45 kg, dating to the Roman period. Roman pottery was recovered from all three trenches, a total of 20 separate contexts. Much of the pottery is residual in post-Roman deposits. The greatest number of sherds came from Trench 2 forming 75% of the assemblage. This coincides with the only *in situ* Roman archaeology in the form of a compacted surface and intercutting pits.

The material is of generally poor condition with well-fragmented, abraded sherds. The overall average sherd weight is 8.5 g, which is quite low for well-fired Roman sherds, but reflects the redeposited nature of much of the group.

For the purposes of the assessment the assemblage was sorted into main fabric types and scanned to assess its likely chronology and quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. The resulting data is summarised in Table 1. No comparative or library research has been carried out in conjunction with this work.



*Table 1: Quantification of Roman pottery by fabric type*

| Context/Feature | sam       | amp      | ww        | cc        | shell     | gw        | other     | Tot no     | Tot wt (g)    | Date       | Strat    |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------------|------------|----------|
| 109             | 0         | 0        | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1          | 4             | C2/C3      | modern   |
| 110             | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 1          | 10            | Roman      | post-med |
| 111             | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 3         | 2         | 5          | 28            | Roman      | post-med |
| 112             | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 1          | 17            | C3?        | post-med |
| 114/115         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 1         | 0         | 2         | 1         | 4          | 1.5           | C2/C3      | Norman   |
| 212             | 5         | 0        | 0         | 3         | 0         | 10        | 3         | 21         | 301           | C2         | post-med |
| 213             | 0         | 0        | 1         | 2         | 2         | 3         | 1         | 9          | 141           | C4         | post-med |
| 214/215         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 1         | 3         | 5         | 9          | 32            | C2         | Norman   |
| 250/251         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 2          | 14            | late C2-C3 | Roman    |
| 255/259         | 0         | 2        | 0         | 1         | 0         | 5         | 0         | 8          | 140           | late C2-C3 | Roman    |
| 258/259         | 22        | 0        | 1         | 4         | 2         | 10        | 0         | 39         | 254           | late C2-C3 | Roman    |
| 264/265         | 0         | 0        | 2         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 3          | 33            | C2+        | Roman    |
| 266             | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 1          | 6             | Roman      | Roman    |
| 267/268         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 4         | 1         | 5          | 14            | C2+        | Roman    |
| 269             | 1         | 0        | 1         | 4         | 1         | 5         | 3         | 15         | 93            | late C2-C3 | med      |
| 270/215         | 0         | 0        | 1         | 5         | 7         | 3         | 0         | 16         | 86            | C2/C3      | Norman   |
| 308/309         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 2         | 4          | 81            | C2         | post-med |
| 310/311         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 7         | 2         | 9          | 79            | C2         | med      |
| 312/313         | 0         | 0        | 11        | 0         | 0         | 3         | 1         | 15         | 114           | C2         | med      |
| 315/316         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 2          | 8             | Roman      | med      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>    | <b>28</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>62</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>170</b> | <b>1456.5</b> |            |          |

**Description**

The assemblage comprises a mixture of imported and local wares. Amongst the former are 28 sherds of samian and three sherds of Cologne roughcast decorated, colour-coated beaker. The three latter sherds may come from the same vessel, a 2nd-century-type, and were recovered from pit [259] and layer (269).

The samian is mainly Central Gaulish in origin but includes at least one South Gaulish dish (Dragendorf 15/17). Other forms include dishes Dragendorf 31, bowls Dragendorf 37, cups Dragendorf 33 and 27, a Curle 23 dish and a probable Ritterling 13 inkwell. Most of the samian, 22 sherds, was recovered from pit [259]. Five sherds came from layer (212), a late medieval or post-medieval layer and one sherd from layer (269). One basesherd from pit [259] has part of a potter's stamp.

The only other continental ware is a rim and bodysherd from a Dressel 20 olive-oil amphora imported from Baetica, southern Spain. The typology of the rim form suggests that this is quite a late vessel dating to the later 2nd or early 3rd century. The sherds were recovered from pit [259].

The coarse wares are dominated by various grey and black sandy wares, some possibly products of the Lower Nene Valley industry, others from various local industries. The rim of a poppyhead beaker came from pit [268], probably of early 2nd century date.

Also present are various colour-coated wares mainly from the Lower Nene Valley industries. These include part of a box lid, pit [251], with an angular shape suggesting a later 2nd-3rd century date, and a jar and plain-rimmed dish from layer (213) more typical of the 4th century. A further jar rim came from layer (269). Two sherds from a thin-walled, short-rimmed, colour-



coated, beaker of early to mid- 2nd century type from layer (269) may be from more local kilns.

Other wares include fifteen sherds of local shelly ware, a few oxidised, white-slipped oxidised, grog-tempered wares, and some white or pale wares. The latter includes a flagon rim of 2nd-century type from pit [313], a jar with a grooved rim of later 2nd-3rd century date from layer (269), and a reeded rim dish from pit [259].

### ***Summary***

The Roman assemblage includes material spanning the later 1st century through to the 4th century with the greatest emphasis on wares and forms dating to the later 2nd-3rd centuries.

The only secure Roman contexts were identified in Trench 2 comprising a compacted surface (266) and a series of pits. Surface (266) yielded a single small grey ware bodysherd, not closely datable. The pits appear to largely date to the late 2nd-3rd centuries.

Although the group is really too small to identify trends or discuss status, the samian in effect accounts for 16.5% of the Roman assemblage by count which is very high. As a guide most rural sites average around 2-3%, urban sites more. This could be a quirk of the small sample or could indicate an unusual deposit perhaps associated with a moderately high status occupation site or religious focus in the locality. The hint of other imports in the form of the Cologne beaker and amphora also suggest a fairly well-appointed Roman site with access to traded goods.

## **5.3 Medieval pottery**

by Paul Blinkhorn

The post-Roman pottery assemblage comprised 28 sherds with a total weight of 318g. It comprised a range of wares which suggest that the main period of activity at the site was from the 10th-13th centuries, although a single sherd of late medieval material was also noted.

The following fabrics were present:

F100: St Neots Ware type ware, cAD900-1100 (Denham 1985). Fabric moderate to dense finely crushed fossil shell, with varying quantities of quartz and/or ironstone. Usually purplish-black, black or grey, with fairly fine, dense inclusions. Main forms small jars with sagging bases, although a few lamps are known. 1 sherd, 2g.

F102: Thetford-type ware, 10th-12th century (Rogerson and Dallas 1984). Range of reduced, wheel-thrown and hand-finished fabrics mainly comprising quartz sand up to 1mm. Produced at many centres in eastern England, although most of these appear to be the products of the eponymous Norfolk centre. 3 sherds, 15g.

F205: Stamford Ware (Kilmurry 1980). cAD900-1200. Wheel-thrown. White, pink, buff or grey fabric, usually with sparse to dense quartz up to 0.5mm, occasional black or red ironstone up to 1mm. Often glazed with yellow, pale or sage green glaze. 1 sherd, 10g.

F301: Ely Ware, mid- 12th-15th century (Spoerry 2008). Generic name for a quartz sand and calcareous tempered group of pottery fabrics mainly manufactured in Ely, but also with a second possible source in the Hunts. Fenland. Jars, bowls and jugs dominate the assemblage. Earlier vessels hand-built and turntable finished, later vessels finer and usually wheel-thrown. Wide distribution, including King's Lynn, where it was originally identified as 'Grimston Software'. 10 sherds, 130g.



F320: Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware (Steane and Bryant 1975). cAD1225-?1400. Coil-built, wheel finished. Well-sorted moderate to dense limestone ooliths c0.5mm, although rare examples up to 2mm. Sparse to moderate red ironstone up to 10mm, although usually smaller. Rare shelly limestone, quartz, flint up to 20mm. Production as the 'A' ware, although mainly jugs, often with yellow slip stripes and/or stamped pads, external dull olive-green glaze. A few jars bowls and aquamaniles are known. Vessels usually quite crude, with coil-joins visible on interior of body. Neck and rims are wheel finished, sometimes to a quality which suggests throwing. Large colour variation, usually grey fabric with dark grey or brown, buff or orange surfaces. 2 sherds, 16g,

F324: Brill/Boarstall Ware, cAD1200-?1600 (Mellor 1994). Wheel-thrown. Hard buff, orange, pale pink, or yellow-grey fabric, sometimes with fine 'pimply' surface. Rare to common sub-angular to sub-rounded orange, clear and grey quartzite up to 0.5mm, rare sub-rounded to sub-angular red ironstone up to 1mm. Mottled pale to dark glossy green exterior glaze, often with copper filings. Applied roulette strips common, sometimes in red-firing clay, rosettes, spirals also occur. Usually 'three-decker' or baluster jugs, although puzzle jugs also known. Jars, bowls, etc occur at end of medieval period. Later vessels plainer, and include the full range of medieval and early post-medieval vessel types. 1 sherd, 41g.

F330: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400 (McCarthy 1979). Products of numerous known and very probably many unknown kilns on the Jurassic limestone of west Northamptonshire/east Bedfordshire. Pale buff through virtually all colours to black, moderate to dense shelly limestone fragments up to 3mm, and any amount of ironstone, quartz and flint. Full range of medieval vessel types, especially jars and bowls, and 'Top Hat' jars. 7 sherds, 84g.

F402: Late Medieval Oxidized ware, mid- 15th-16th century. Very hard orange sandy ware in a range of developed late medieval utilitarian forms, some with a dark green glaze. Numerous kiln sites throughout the south-east midlands, at places such as Glapthorn in Northamptonshire (Johnston 1997). Similar to material from many sites in the region, such as the 'Orange Sandy Ware' from Denny Abbey (Coppack 1980). 1 sherd, 4g.

F1000: Miscellaneous 19th and 20th century wares. Mass-produced white earthenwares, stonewares etc. 2 sherds, 16g.

Table 2: Quantification of medieval pottery fabrics

|                     | F100     |           | F102     |           | F205     |           | F301      |            | F320     |           | F324     |           | F330     |           | F402     |           | F1000    |           | Date   |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|--------|
| Context/<br>Feature | No       | Wt<br>(g) | No       | Wt<br>(g) | No       | Wt<br>(g) | No        | Wt<br>(g)  | No       | Wt<br>(g) | No       | Wt<br>(g) | No       | Wt<br>(g) | No       | Wt<br>(g) | No       | Wt<br>(g) |        |
| 107                 |          |           |          |           |          |           |           |            |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           | 2        | 16        | 19thC  |
| 109                 | 1        | 2         | 1        | 4         |          |           |           |            |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           | 10thC  |
| 110                 |          |           | 1        | 8         |          |           |           |            |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           | 10thC  |
| 111                 |          |           |          |           |          |           | 2         | 9          | 2        | 16        | 1        | 41        | 3        | 20        |          |           |          |           | 13thC  |
| 211                 |          |           |          |           |          |           |           |            |          |           |          |           |          |           | 1        | 4         |          |           | M15thC |
| 212                 |          |           |          |           |          |           | 3         | 11         |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           | M12thC |
| 213                 |          |           |          |           |          |           | 2         | 13         |          |           |          |           | 3        | 32        |          |           |          |           | M12thC |
| 214/215             |          |           |          |           |          |           |           |            |          |           |          |           | 1        | 32        |          |           |          |           | 12thC  |
| 252/254             |          |           |          |           |          |           | 2         | 57         |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           | M12thC |
| 270/215             |          |           |          |           | 1        | 10        |           |            |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           | 10thC  |
| 308/309             |          |           | 1        | 3         |          |           |           |            |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           | 20thC  |
| 312/313             |          |           |          |           |          |           | 1         | 40         |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           | M12thC |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>130</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>41</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>84</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>4</b>  | <b>2</b> | <b>16</b> |        |



The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. All the fabric types are well-known in the region. In chronological terms, the most import sherd is the rim from a small Stamford ware jar in fill (270), at the base of the putative western bailey ditch. It is of a form which is typical of the earlier, late Saxon products of the industry, and is highly likely to date to the 10th century. The presence of Thetford and St. Neots wares, although not definitely of pre-Conquest date, offer further possible evidence of activity at the site during that period.

The range of post-conquest wares indicate that there was activity on the site until the 13th century, after which it appears to have accumulated very little occupation material.

#### **5.4 Building materials** by Pat Chapman and Jim Brown

There are four small tile sherds, weighing 90g, from layers (111) and (212). They are fragments of medieval roof tile measuring 14-18mm thick. One sherd is made from hard slightly coarse red brown clay with fine shell inclusions and a sandy base from the mould or drying area. The other three are made from fine silty clay fired to orange or red with a grey or red core.

A sherd from layer (110) is hard but light with various indentations on the surfaces and is 13mm thick. One surface has been well smoothed, the other is rougher, and it is pale yellow and pink in colour, it may be a fragment of lime plaster from which the reinforcing material of animal hair, chopped straw or other material has disappeared leaving their impressions behind. This may have come from a timber building.

Thirty-two fragments of fired clay were found. These are typically flat and thin with rough irregular surfaces made from silty clay hard fired to orange red. One fragment from pit [259] has two immediately adjacent wattle impressions each 10mm in diameter. The only fragment from ditch [215] has dense stem impressions on one side.

In addition to the excavated finds, a large block of stone architectural masonry was recorded, which was retrieved by its present owner from the castle site (Plate 5). The artefact presently forms a garden ornament in the neighbouring residential property belonging to Mr Taylor, who kindly allowed us to photograph it.

The object measures c500mm in diameter by c250mm high. It is carved from coarse grey, weather stained, sandstone. From the centre of the piece there are four spurs that would have connected to stone arches within a vaulted ceiling and indicate that the piece is probably a keystone boss. Each of the spurs is decorated with a double ridge, marked by a central groove that presumable continued along the arch. In its current position it is upside down, as indicated by the fleur de lys which decorate the niches between the spurs. It is presently covered by moss and planted with succulents, which Mr Taylor asked us not to remove, so further decoration could not be identified. He informed us that when it was recovered there was a lead interior to the aperture in which the succulents are now planted. This tends to suggest that the boss carried a plug for attaching exterior ornamentation that is now missing. In itself the object is not easily dated, it could be a late medieval piece or more recent in origin.

#### **5.5 Metalworking debris** by Andy Chapman

Two small fragments of light, vesicular and glassy, fuel ash slag, weighing 15g and 29g, were recovered from pits [254] and [259]. In addition, small fragments of fuel ash slag were present in soil samples from ditch fill (214) of ditch [215], 16g; pit [268], 21g and fill (270) of ditch [215], 26g. This total of 107g is all debris from high temperature burning, but there is no material that is certainly associated with iron smithing or smelting. However, a soil sample



from fill (214) of ditch [215] also contained a small quantity of hammerscale, in the form of flat platelets 1-3mm across. This indicates that iron smithing had been taking place somewhere nearby.

## 5.6 Other finds

by Tora Hylton and Ian Meadows

The excavations produced a small group of individually recorded small finds dating from the Roman to the post-medieval period. They include objects manufactured from copper alloy (4), iron (6), lead (1) and glass (2). A catalogue of the finds is retained in the archive.

### *The Roman finds*

Finds of Roman date were recovered from a series of pits located in Trench 2, they include a copper alloy coin and rod fragment and an iron nail. The coin was recovered from pit [254] and has been identified as a Crispus Follius cAD321.

Rev: D N FL IVL CRISPVS NOB CAES, laureate draped & cuirassed bust right  
Obv: IOVI CONSERVATORI, Jupiter standing left, holding Victory on globe & scepter, eagle at foot left with wreath in its beak, bound captive to right, XIIΓ right, SMKΓ in ex.  
Mint Mark : Cyzicus

In addition two short unidentifiable lengths of twisted square-sectioned rod were recovered from pit [259] and part of a iron nail, Type 1b was recovered from pit [268] (Manning 1985, fig 32).

### *Medieval finds*

Two copper alloy clasp/buckles were recovered from Trench 1 deposits. A complete strap-clasp and plate was recovered from the fill of ditch [115]. It comprises a single loop with an internal projection terminating in a spherical knob (cf. Whitehead 1996, 247-7). The plate is manufactured from a single sheet of metal, which has folded in half around the frame and secured by two rivets (extant). One side of the plate is decorated with ring-and-dot motifs. Clasps of this type date to the 14th and 15th centuries.

Part of a gilded buckle was residual in post-medieval layer (109). Originally the buckle frame would have been D-shaped with an off-set narrowed bar (now missing). The outer edge of the frame is decorated with a punched motif and patches of gilding are evident. Stylistically buckles of this type date to c1250-1450, like the undecorated examples from London (Egan and Pritchard 1991, fig 42, 271, 277).

Finally a complete iron nail with a flat sub-circular head was recovered from the base of the medieval ditch [215] in Trench 2, fill (270).

### *Post-medieval finds*

Finds of post-medieval date were recovered from Trenches 1 and 3, all were recovered from post-medieval layers (109, 110, 111, 211, 310 and 312). They include two small fragments of window glass and four iron objects, including two possible nails, a rod fragment and an amorphous lump.



## 6 FAUNAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Animal bone

by Karen Deighton

The animal bone was assessed to determine the level of preservation, the taxa present and the potential for further analysis to contribute to the understanding of the site and to inform on future collection strategies.

A total of 402g of animal bone was collected by hand from five contexts during the course of trial trenching. This material was examined and preservation, taxon and any metrical and ageing data were noted. Elements with ageing data are neonatal bone, bone epiphyses where fusion is visible and mandibular cheek row teeth. Bone from sieved samples was also examined.

#### *Results*

The fragmentation of the remains was heavy and was the result of old breaks. The surface condition was reasonable. Evidence of canid gnawing was noted on bones from layer (213). Possible butchery evidence was restricted to knife marks on an ovicaprid (sheep/goat) proximal humerus and a small ungulate rib. No evidence for burning was noted.

*Table 3: Quantification of the taxa by context*

| Context/<br>Feature | Cattle   | Sheep/<br>goat | Pig      | Horse | Small<br>ungulate | Total     |
|---------------------|----------|----------------|----------|-------|-------------------|-----------|
| layer 111           | 1        |                |          |       |                   | 1         |
| layer 212           | 1        | 1              |          | 1     |                   | 3         |
| layer 213           |          | 2              |          |       |                   | 2         |
| layer 269           | 1        |                | 2        |       |                   | 3         |
| 270/215             | 1        |                |          |       | 1                 | 2         |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>3</b> | <b>2</b>       | <b>2</b> |       | <b>1</b>          | <b>11</b> |

Layer (110) produced indeterminate fragments only. Animal bone from sieved samples was too fragmentary for identification. No metrical data was available due to the extent of fragmentation. Ageing data was available from mandibular teeth present in two contexts.

*Table 4: Quantification of the taxa from sieved bulk samples*

| Context/<br>Feature | Sample    | Cattle   | Sheep/<br>goat | Pig      | Small<br>mammal | Bird     | Amphibian | Fish     |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| 114/115             | 1         |          | 2              |          | 17              |          | 5         | 2        |
| 214/215             | 4         |          |                | 1        |                 | 1        |           |          |
| 256/259             | 2         |          |                |          |                 |          | 3         |          |
| 267/268             | 3         |          | 1              |          |                 |          |           |          |
| 270/215             | 9         | 1        | 1              | 1        |                 |          |           |          |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>19</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>4</b>       | <b>2</b> | <b>17</b>       | <b>1</b> | <b>8</b>  | <b>2</b> |

#### *Potential*

An idea of the species exploited at the site could be gained if more bone were collected during the course of subsequent excavations. This would add to the corpus of existing work in the region and provide comparisons for any future work.

#### *Conclusions*

Assessment revealed a small moderately preserved assemblage of the three major domesticates. Further work on the extant assemblage would be of little value due to the paucity of material but the collection of more material from future excavation could help to



characterise the animal economy of the site if it was retrieved from secure, primary deposits of bone refuse. Unfortunately the high level of residual Roman pottery amongst medieval and later contexts suggests that an equivalent proportion of the animal bone is also likely to be residual amongst the majority of fill and levelling layers.

## 6.2 Oyster shells

by Karen Deighton

A total of 115g of oyster shells were collected by hand. This material was assessed to determine its potential contribution to an understanding of the site and to inform on future collection strategies.

Shells from pit [259] exhibited a low level of fragmentation and abrasion. Material from pit [313] was fairly fragmented and abraded with dark brown staining. All were examples of marine oyster (*Ostrea edulis*). The upper valves showed a moderate amount of ribbing which could suggest a shallow water environment. A large regular hole was noted in the upper valve of a shell from pit [259] that could be manmade.

### *Potential*

If further shells were collected from secure datable contexts during the course of any future excavations, some conclusions could be drawn concerning this aspect of the site economy.

### *Conclusions*

The presence of a marine species could suggest contact and possibly trade with the coast or exploitation of fenland resources to the east. Not enough evidence was available to ascertain if the oysters were cultivated or wild. As with all of the faunal and environmental evidence, the high proportion of residual Roman material in medieval contexts means that only securely datable primary refuse dumps can be treated with any level of confidence.

## 6.3 Pollen

by Dr Nick Branch, Daniel Young and Peter Morgan

This report summarises the findings arising from the pollen stratigraphical assessment of four column samples: column samples 4 and 5 from Trench 1; samples 6 and 7 from Trench 2. These were recovered for pollen-stratigraphical assessment, and possible future analysis.

The overarching aim of the pollen-stratigraphical assessment was to evaluate the potential of the sedimentary sequence for reconstructing the vegetation history of the site and its local environment. The assessment consisted of an evaluation of the preservation and concentration of pollen grains and spores in the column samples to provide a preliminary reconstruction of the vegetation history, and to detect evidence for human activities.

### *Methodology*

Eight sub-samples were extracted for pollen assessment: three from sample 4 and one from sample 5 (Trench 1, Table 5), and three from sample 6 and one from sample 7 (Trench 2, Table 6). The pollen was extracted through a five-stage process:

1. A standard volume of sediment was taken (1ml),
2. Deflocculation of the sample in 1% Sodium pyrophosphate was applied,
3. The sample was fine sieved to remove coarse mineral and organic fractions (>125µ),
4. Removal of finer minerogenic fraction was undertaken using Sodium polytungstate (specific gravity of 2.0g/cm<sup>3</sup>),
5. The sample was mounted on a slide in glycerol jelly.



Each stage of the procedure was preceded and followed by thorough sample cleaning in filtered distilled water. Quality control was maintained by periodic checking of residues, and assembling sample batches from various depths to test for systematic laboratory effects. Pollen grains and spores were identified using the University of Reading pollen type collection and published sources (Moore *et al* 1991; Reille 1992). Plant nomenclature followed the Flora Europaea (Stace 1997). The assessment scanned the prepared slides at 2mm intervals along the whole length of the coverslip and recorded the concentration and state of preservation of pollen grains and spores, and the principal pollen taxa (Tables 5-6).

### ***Results***

The results indicate very low pollen concentrations and poor preservation throughout both sequences. This can be attributed to the physical and/or chemical properties of the sediments at the time of deposition. These properties may include coarse particle size amongst the sand and gravel, which may cause physical destruction, and high pH due to calcium carbonate-rich groundwater, which may cause chemical deterioration of the pollen grains.

#### ***Column samples 4 and 5, Trench 1***

No pollen was present in the sub-samples from column sample 4, except at 0.80-0.81m, fill (117) where Cyperaceae (sedge family) grains were present in very low concentration. The poor preservation and low concentration of pollen grains, and the presence of only one taxon, severely limits the potential to reconstruct the past vegetation cover. No pollen was present in the sub-sample from column sample 5, fill (114).

#### ***Column samples 6 and 7, Trench 2***

The main taxa identified in column sample 6, fills (270) and (271), were *Chenopodium* type (fat hen), *Calluna vulgaris* (heather), *Erica* sp. (crossed leaved heath) and Cyperaceae (sedge family); although these were present in very low concentrations. The poor preservation and low concentration of pollen grains limits the potential to reconstruct the past vegetation cover. Due to the absence of arboreal pollen in the assessment data, a relatively open environment comprising shrubland and disturbed ground taxa is suggested. No significant changes in the pollen stratigraphy and therefore the former vegetation cover were recorded. A very low concentration of *Calluna vulgaris* (heather) was present in the sub-sample from column sample 7, fill (271).

### ***Conclusions***

Pollen grains and spores were preserved in fills (117), (270) and (271). The concentration and preservation in these samples is very poor, therefore no further analysis is recommended.



Table 5: Pollen-stratigraphic assessment, Trench 1

| Depth<br>(m above OD) |       | Depth<br>(m from top of<br>column 5) |      | Context/<br>Feature | Column<br>Sample | Main pollen taxa | Common name | Concentration<br>0 (none) to 4<br>(high) | Preservation<br>0 (none) to 4<br>(excellent) |
|-----------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|--|--|
| From                  | To    | From                                 | To   |                     |                  |                  |             |  |  |
| 11.54                 | 11.53 | 0.96                                 | 0.97 | 117/115             | 4                | -                | -           | 0  | 0  |
| 11.70                 | 11.69 | 0.80                                 | 0.81 | 117/115             | 4                | Cyperaceae       | Sedge       | 1  | 1  |
| 11.86                 | 11.85 | 0.64                                 | 0.65 | 116/115             | 4                | -                | -           | 0  | 0  |
| 12.42                 | 12.41 | 0.08                                 | 0.09 | 114/115             | 5                | -                | -           | 0  | 0  |

Table 6: Pollen-stratigraphic assessment, Trench 2

| Depth<br>(m OD) |       | Depth<br>(m from top of<br>column 7) |      | Context/<br>Feature | Column<br>Sample | Main pollen taxa                                   | Common name                 | Concentration<br>0 (none) to 4<br>(high) | Preservation<br>0 (none) to 4<br>(excellent) |
|-----------------|-------|--------------------------------------|------|---------------------|------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| From            | To    | From                                 | To   |                     |                  |  |                             |  |  |
| 11.61           | 11.60 | 0.96                                 | 0.97 | 270/215             | 6                | Erica spp.<br>Calluna vulgaris                     | Heath<br>Heather            | 1  | 1  |
| 11.77           | 11.76 | 0.80                                 | 0.81 | 270/215             | 6                | Calluna vulgaris                                   | Heather                     | 1  | 1  |
| 12.09           | 12.08 | 0.48                                 | 0.49 | 271/215             | 6                | Calluna vulgaris<br>Chenopodium type<br>Cyperaceae | Heather<br>Fat hen<br>Sedge | 1  | 2  |
| 12.33           | 12.32 | 0.24                                 | 0.25 | 271/215             | 7                | Calluna vulgaris                                   | Heather                     | 1  | 1  |



#### 6.4 Bulk soil samples

by Karen Deighton

Samples were assessed to establish the presence, preservation and nature of ecofacts, as well as to inform of any future sampling strategies.

Five bulk samples were processed using a siraf tank fitted with a 250 micron flot sieve and a 500 micron mesh. The flots were dried and examined using a microscope with 10x and 20x magnification. Residues were stack sieved through mesh sizes 3.5mm and 1mm and any artefacts or ecofacts were recovered. Charred seeds and grains were identified with the aid of the author's small reference collection and seed atlases (Schoch *et al* 1988). Snails were identified with the aid of Kerney and Cameron (1994), Glöer and Meier-Brook (2003).

#### Results

Preservation of plant remains was exclusively by charring. Fragmentation and surface abrasion were high, which affected identification. Preservation of molluscs was reasonable.

Table 7: Bulk soil sample contents

| Context      | 114         | 214         | 256       | 267       | 270         |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Feature      | Ditch [115] | Ditch [215] | Pit [259] | Pit [268] | Ditch [215] |
| Sample       | 1           | 8           | 2         | 3         | 9           |
| Volume       | 40          | 20          | 10        | 40        | 40          |
| Charcoal     | 1000+       | 1000+       | 500+      |           | 1000+       |
| Cereal       | 61          | 5           | 2         | 7         | 10          |
| Pulse        |             |             | 1         |           |             |
| Wild taxa    | 6           | 2           |           | 2         |             |
| Mollusca     | 12          | 9           | 9         | 60        | 78          |
| Fish         | 16          |             | 2         |           |             |
| Hammer scale | 9           |             |           |           |             |

Cereal was restricted to wheat/barley types, hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) was identified in Sample 1 as was bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) and possible spelt chaff (*Triticum spelta*) was present in Sample 8. Wild /weed taxa included bindweed, fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), possible stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), and nettle species (*Urtica* sp).

Molluscan land taxa included *Cochlicopa lubrica/lubricella*, *Vallonia costata*, *Pupilla muscorum*, and the freshwater taxa *Bithynia* and *Lymnaea*.

#### Potential

All the samples examined produced ecofacts which could be identified to taxa. This suggests that if more samples were collected from datable features during the course of any subsequent excavation some idea of the plant material utilised at the site could be gained. Further collection of mollusca by more appropriate sampling methods, such as small incremental samples, would hopefully provide a large enough data set both in terms of the number of individuals and range of species for meaningful statements to be made about the local environment. This data would provide an addition to the existing corpus of work for the region along with useful comparisons for future work.



### ***Conclusions***

The small quantities of charred plant material would suggest its presence is the result of it being blown or washed into features rather than the result of deliberate deposition. The wild taxa largely colonise disturbed ground, although the numbers here were small. The molluscan taxa are indicative of moist or wet conditions and would require more specialised sampling for any further comments to be made.

The assessment has shows a small range of moderately to reasonably well preserved ecofacts to be present. It also suggests, should more excavation take place, that further bulk and specialist sampling would be productive. However, as with all of the faunal and environmental evidence, the high proportion of residual Roman material in medieval contexts means that only securely dated primary refuse dumps can be treated with any level of confidence.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS AND POTENTIAL**

Archaeological remains of Roman and possibly earlier date are present upon the site, cut into the surface of the natural substrate. In the east of the site these have been very badly truncated both horizontally by modern scraping of the site and vertically by deep service lines and drains. Only the very base of the original features survives at 0.58m below ground level. Many of the shallower features have been subjected to intrusive root action and worm sorting that makes them unsuitable for environmental sampling.

On the Castle Moat Road frontage and to the west of the site there is a substantial overburden of late medieval, post-medieval and modern levelling layers. These layers create an artificial terrace upon which the current building stands. The natural substrate slopes downwards from east to west by up to 1.2m and the maximum depth of these deposits in the west of the site is 1.4m. The levelling layers contain residual material and are not secure single context deposits suitable for environmental sampling or the retention of intrinsically undated finds, such as animal bone or oyster shell. There is no indication that individual levels have been occupied between episodes of dumping and it appears to have been a fairly rapid accumulation. Roman and earlier remains have been buried beneath the levelling layers, preserving some of the deeper features, but were truncated vertically in antiquity by Norman and late medieval activity.

The deposits have also buried the remains of a large ditch that crosses the frontage of the site from north-east to south-west. The ditch measures c6m wide by c1.8m deep and the base lies 3.2m below ground level. Its size, location, orientation and date suggest that it may be a defensive ditch belonging either to a putative western bailey for the motte and bailey castle that lies east of the site, or part of the ditch belonging to the Saxon burh draining towards the river. It is also highly likely that a motte ditch may cross the south-east corner of the site beneath the existing building that could be of comparable size and with a similar potential for preserved ecofacts. The upper ditch fills contain residual material and are not secure single context deposits suitable for environmental sampling. The base fills at 2.5m below ground level which lie at the centre of the ditch may produce the only non-contaminated deposits suitable for environmental bulk sampling on the site. The levels of preservation for animal bone, shell, fish bone, molluscs and charred seeds all indicate that an appropriate sampling strategy could produce good results and should be administered with care. Pollen on the other hand was very poorly preserved and the concentrations present would be unlikely to produce reliable quality data.



With the exception of the pollen, other finds and environmental material from the site was in relatively good condition, although the high level of residual material in later contexts means that only secure single context features will produce good data for cross-comparison with other sites. Roman material tended to be more heavily abraded and fragmented and a lot of this material may derive from sites in the vicinity rather than from occupation on the immediate site. Saxo-Norman material equating to the period of use and occupation within the castle may only be encountered at the base level of the ditch. Pottery and finds of late medieval date originate from the upper backfill deposits and immediate levelling of the site after the disuse of the putative western bailey ditch. They are sealed by post-medieval levelling layers which may include the flattening of earthworks during the Civil War period and later 18th or 19th century dumping. The whole site carries a layer of 19th-20th-century dark soil and a modern overburden of crushed concrete forming the base of the car park.

The following table summarises the perceived archaeological potential of the site and can be related to the zones highlighted in Figure 4:

*Table 8: Summary of archaeological measurements*

| <b>Trench</b> | <b>Post-medieval ground surface (m above OD)</b> | <b>Thickness of overburden (m)</b> | <b>Top of significant archaeology (m above OD)</b> | <b>Depth of archaeology (m)</b> | <b>Surface of natural (m above OD)</b> |
|---------------|--|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 1             | 14.27  | 0.54                               | 13.71  | 3.00                            | 13.10                                  |
| 2             | 13.90  | 0.40                               | 13.50  | 3.20                            | 12.98                                  |
| 3             | absent   | 0.80                               | 14.31  | 1.24                            | 14.31                                  |



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Brown, N, & Glazebrook, J, (eds), 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2, Research Agenda and Strategy*, East Anglian Archaeol Occ Pap, **8**
- CAPCA 2008 *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*, Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice
- Christie, P M, and Coad, J G, 1980 Excavations at Denny Abbey, *Archaeol J*, **137**, 223-52
- Coppack, G, 1980 Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery, in Christie Coad 1980
- Denham, V, 1985 The Pottery, in Williams *et al* 1985
- Egan, G, and Pritchard, F, 1991 *Dress Accessories: Medieval Finds from Excavations in London*, HMSO
- EH 1991 *Management of archaeological projects*, second edition (MAP2), English Heritage
- Glazebrook, J, (ed), 1997 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. Resource Assessment*, East Anglian Archaeol Occ Pap, **3**
- Glöer, P, and Meier-Brook, C, 2003 *Süßwassermollusken*, Hamburg
- Gurney, D, (ed), 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, East of England Region, East Anglian Archaeol Occ Pap, **14**
- IFA 1994 (revised 2001) *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*, Institute of Field Archaeologists
- IFA 2001 *Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Institute of Field Archaeologists
- Johnston, G, 1997 The Excavation of two Late Medieval Kilns with Associated Buildings at Glapthorn, near Oundle, Northamptonshire, *Medieval Ceramics*, **21**, 13-42
- Kerney, M P, and Cameron, R A D, 1994 *Land snails of Britain and North West Europe*, London
- Kilmurry, K, 1980 *The Pottery Industry of Stamford, Lincolnshire, cAD850-1250*, BAR British Ser, **84**
- Manning, W H, 1985 *Catalogue of the Romano-British Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum*, British Museum
- McCarthy, M, 1979 The Pottery, in Williams 1979
- Mellor, M, 1994 Oxford Pottery: A Synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region, *Oxoniensia*, **59**, 17-217
- MGC 1994 *Standards in the care of archaeological collections*, Museums and Galleries Commission
- Moore, P D, Webb, J A, and Collinson, M E, 1991 *Pollen Analysis (2nd ed)*, Oxford, Blackwell



NA 2008 *British Red Cross Society, Castle Moat Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Works, Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trench Evaluation*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

Reille, M, 1992 *Pollen et Spores d'Europe et d'Afrique du Nord*, Marseille, Laboratoire de Botanique Historique et Palynologie

Rogerson, A, and Dallas, C, 1984 *Excavations in Thetford 1948-59 and 1973-80*, East Anglian Archaeol, **22**

Schoch, W, Pawlik, B, and Schweingruber, F H, 1988 *Botanical Macro-remains*, Berne

Spoerry, P, 2008 *Ely Wares*, East Anglian Archaeology, **122**

Stace, C, 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles* (2nd ed), Cambridge, Cambridge University Press

Steane, J M, and Bryant, G F, 1975 *Excavations at the Deserted Medieval Settlement at Lyveden, Northamptonshire*, Journal of Northampton Museum, **12**

VCH 1926 *The Victoria County History of Huntingdonshire, Vol 1*, HMSO, London

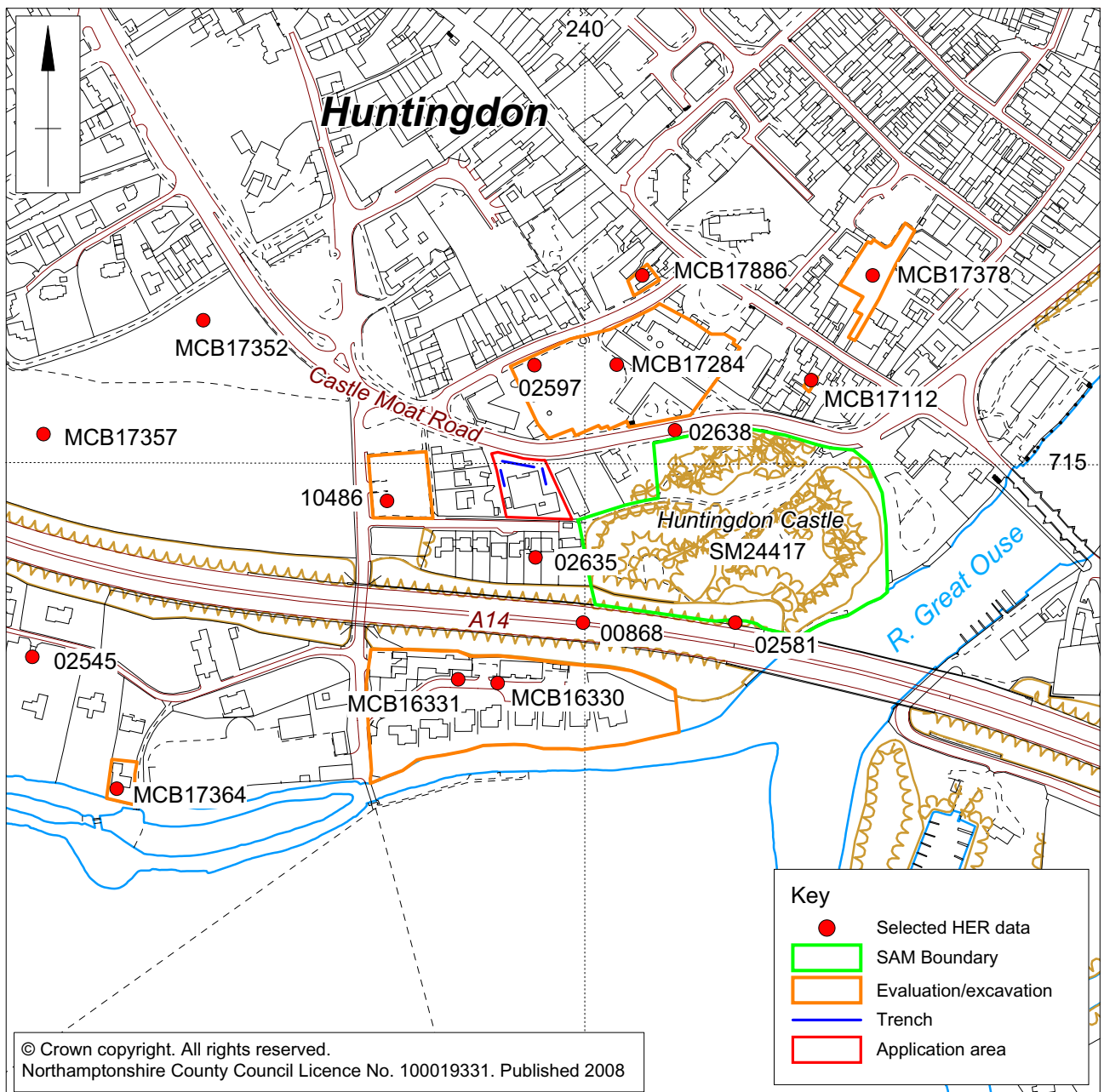
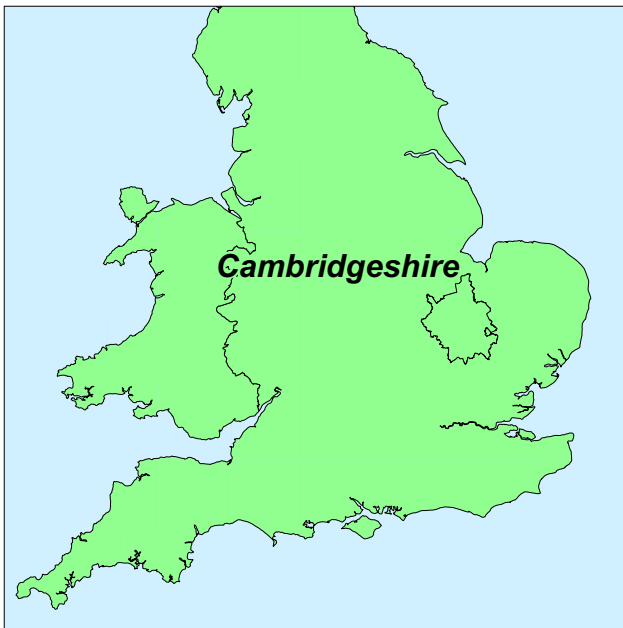
Walker, K, 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage*, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

Whitehead, R, 1996 *Buckles 1250-1800*, Greenlight Publishing

Williams, J H, 1979 *St Peter's St, Northampton. Excavations 1973-76*, Northampton Development Corporation, Monog Ser, **2**, 151-242

Williams, J H, Shaw, M, and Denham, V, 1985 *Middle Saxon Palaces at Northampton*, Northampton Development Corporation, Monog Ser, **4**, 46-64

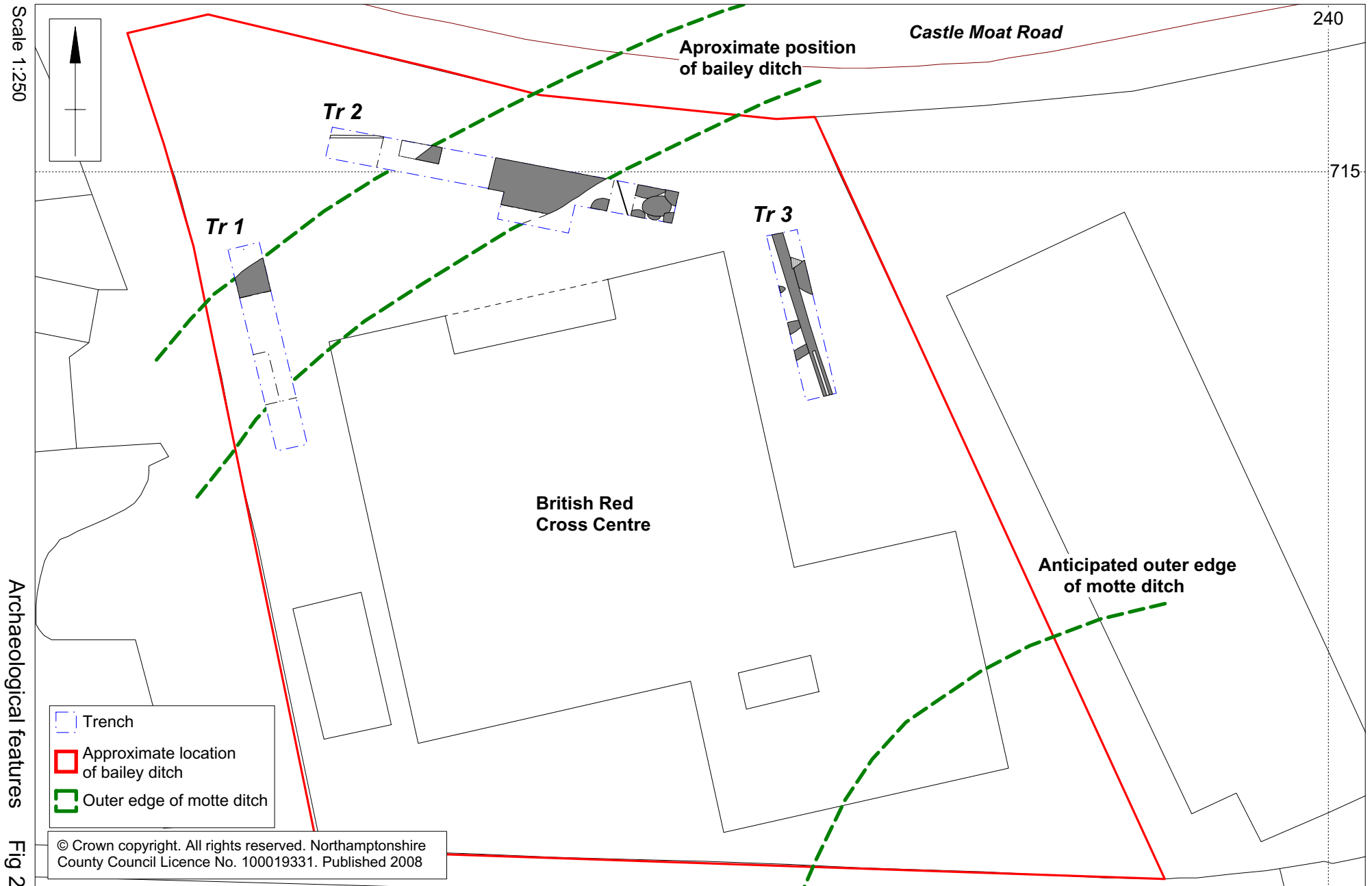




Scale 1:4000

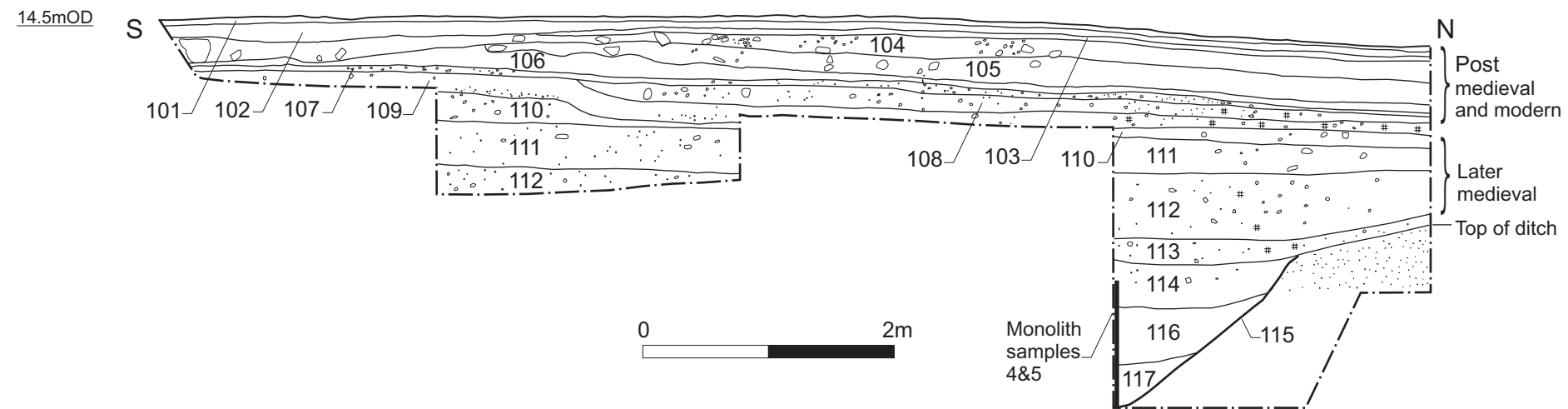
Site location and HER data Fig 1



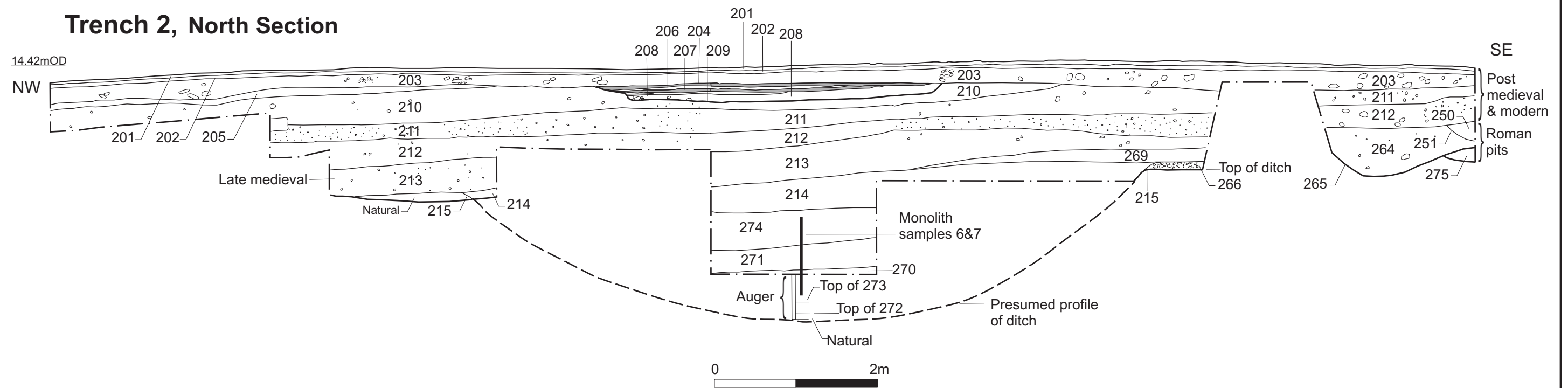




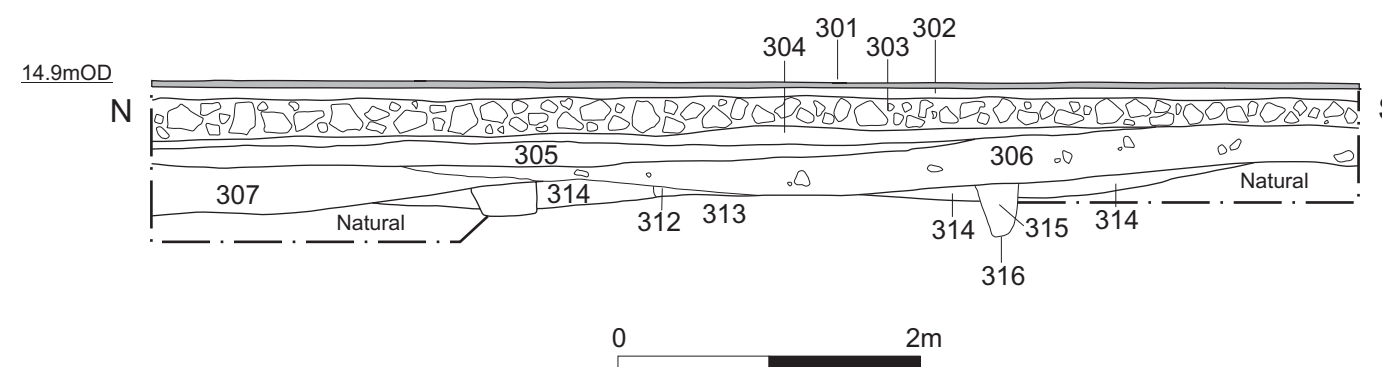
## Trench 1, West Section



## Trench 2, North Section

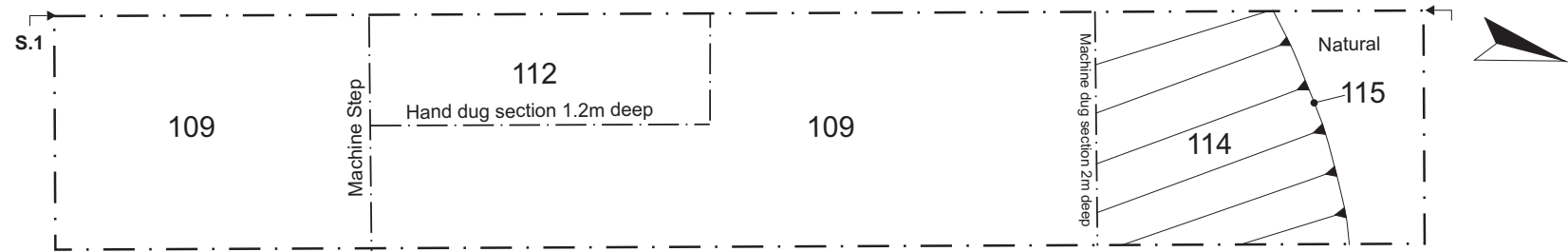


## Trench 3, West Section

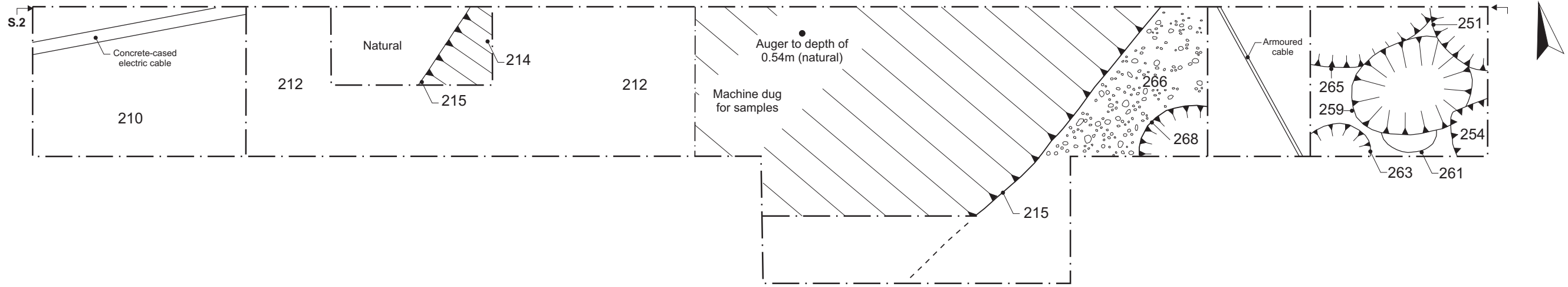




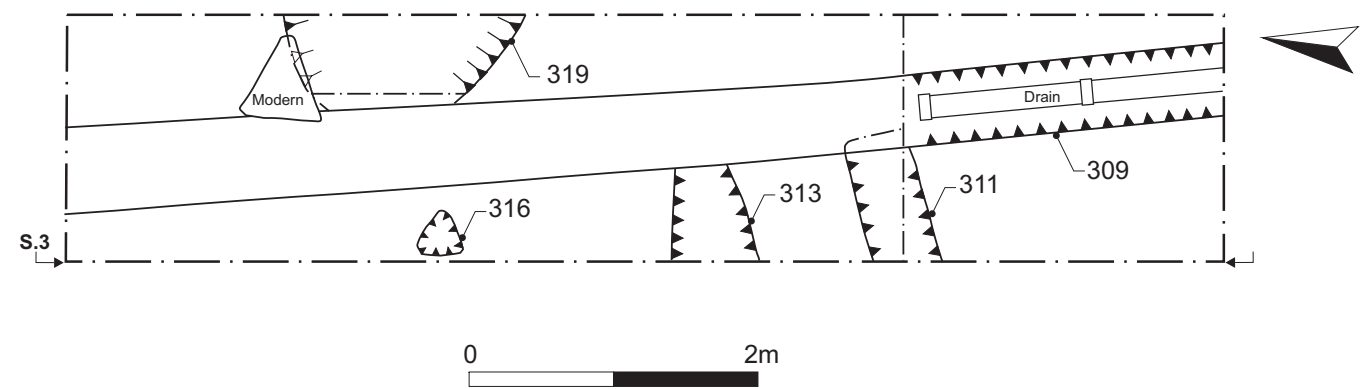
### Plan of Trench 1



### Plan of Trench 2

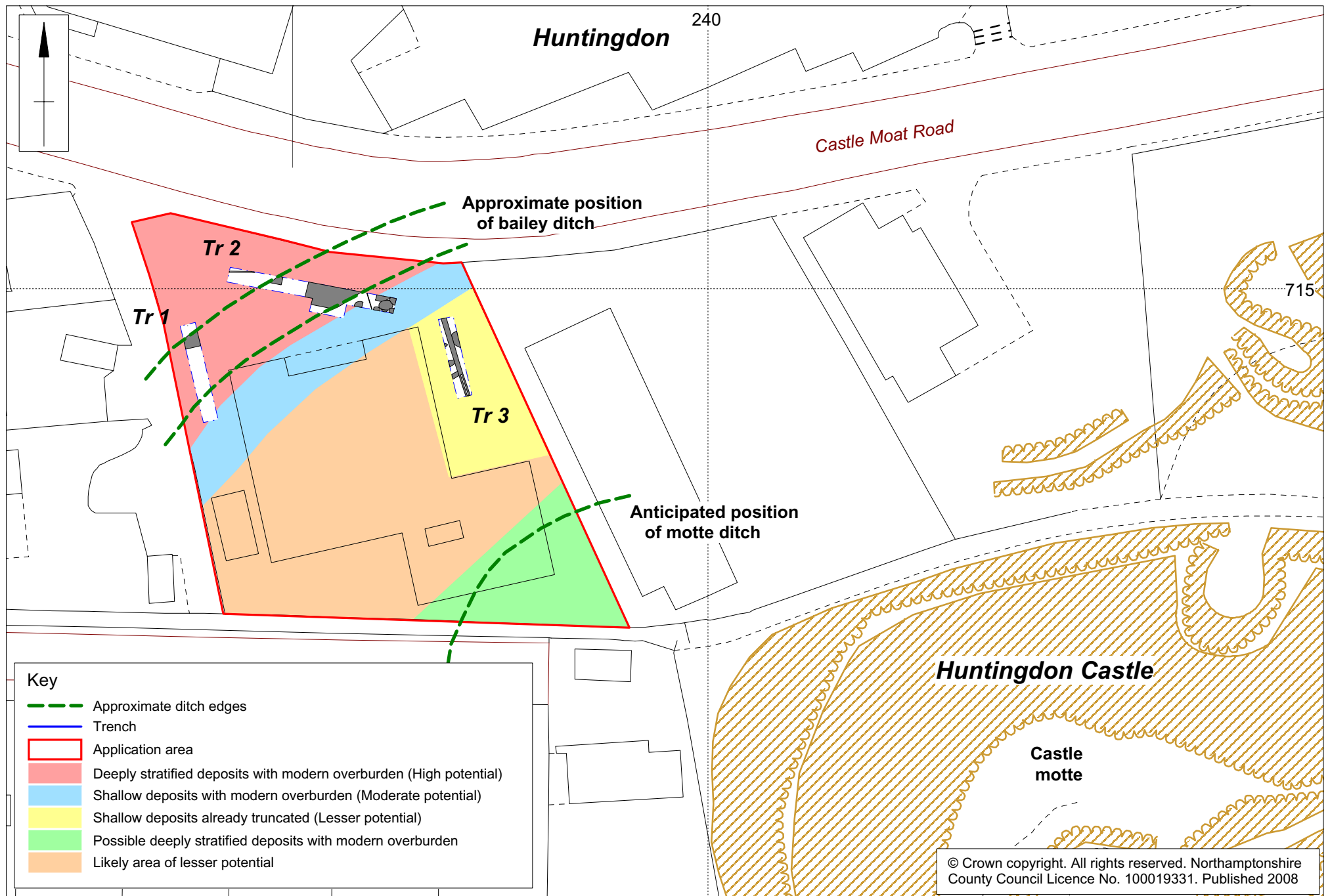


### Plan of Trench 3



Plans of Trenches 1,2 & 3 Fig 4





Scale 1:500

Zones of archaeological potential Fig 5





Plate 1: Trench 1 showing deeply stratified deposits



Plate 2: Roman compact stone surface 266





Plate 3: Roman pits at east end of Trench 2



Plate 4: The outer shoulder of Ditch 215 exposed at the base of excavation





Plate 5: A stone architectural boss from the site of Huntingdon Castle