

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
THE OLD SHOE FACTORY
GORDON STREET, ROTHWELL
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

on behalf of T Grocock & Co (Rothwell) Ltd



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May 2004

ASC: 561/RGS/03

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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	RGS	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	561
<i>County:</i>	Northamptonshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Rothwell		
<i>Parish:</i>	Rothwell CP		
<i>NGR:</i>	SP 8156 8086		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	1400 square metres (area for trenching)		
<i>Present use:</i>	Factory and yards		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Residential development, including refurbishment of		
<i>Planning application</i>	Pre-planning		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Northamptonshire County Council		
<i>Date of assessment:</i>	April 2004		
<i>Client:</i>	T Grocock & Co (Rothwell) Ltd Brookside Jubilee Street Rothwell, Kettering Northants NN14 6BJ		
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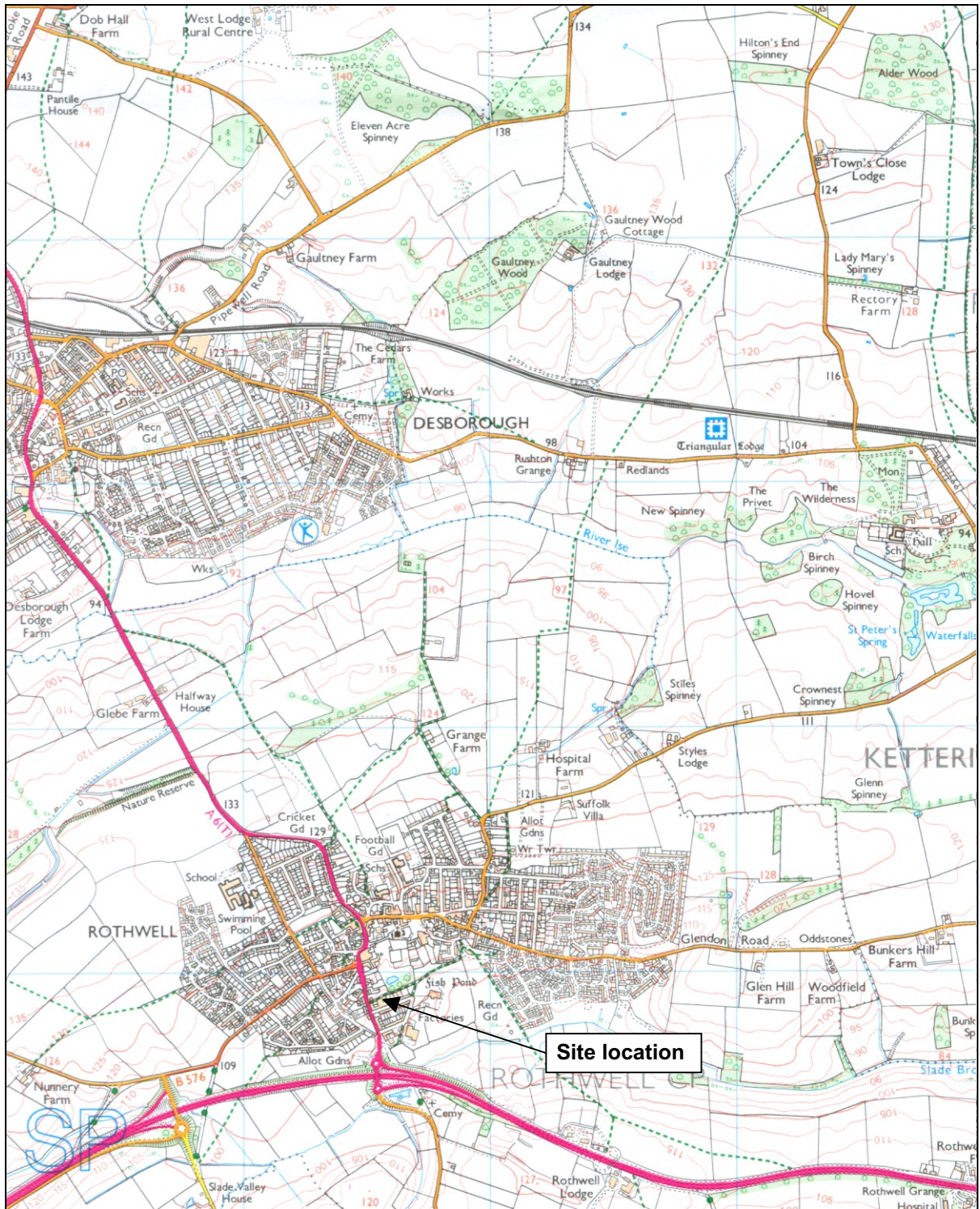


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During April 2004 a pre-determination archaeological evaluation, comprising desk-based study, trial trenching and historic building assessment, was carried out on the former Gordon shoe factory site at Gordon Street, Rothwell, Northamptonshire. The site was located adjacent to a medieval/post medieval manorial complex.

The desk-based assessment revealed that there were no known archaeological deposits at the study site. A moderate archaeological potential was identified for the medieval and post-medieval periods, in the form of medieval tenements and manorial complex remains. Within the footprint of the existing buildings any archaeology may have been destroyed, but there is likelihood of archaeological remains in the open ground to the rear of the site.

Trenching revealed archaeological deposits and features of an Iron Age/Romano British date, in the form of four truncated postholes and a probable southeast-northwest orientated ditch. The finds assemblage, including pottery, animal bone and struck flint, reflects settlement activity at the site. A tile stack and Victorian floor showed likely industrial activity at the site during this period, possibly related to the factory. No deposits were revealed to suggest that the adjacent medieval/post medieval manorial complexes extend onto the site, although the large homogenous clay deposit (214) could represent dumped clay from the manorial fishpond construction/maintenance works.

The building assessment showed that the core of the factory, built in the late 1880s, survived relatively unaltered, though most of the machinery and fittings related to its operation had been removed or displaced. Later additions to the complex, made in the 1930s and 1960s, were felt to be of little architectural or historical significance.

1 Introduction

1.1 In April 2004 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an archaeological evaluation on a site at Gordon Street, Rothwell, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 8156 8086: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by T Grocock & Co (Rothwell) Ltd, and was carried out according to a brief prepared by Northamptonshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) (Walker 2004) and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ASC (Pack 2004).

1.2 *Reason for Work*

The evaluation was commissioned in response to a pre-determination planning requirement imposed by Northamptonshire County Council, acting on advice from their archaeological advisor. This is in line with the guidelines of Planning Guidance Note 15/16 (PPG 15/16).

1.3 *Setting*

1.3.1 The parish of Rothwell comprises 1050 hectares, situated northwest of Kettering. The site lies within the town of Rothwell. It is located in the southern area of town, with Kettering Road forming the western boundary, Gordon Street the southern boundary and residential areas to the north and east (NGR SP 8156 8086: Fig. 2). The site is c.4000 square metres in area overall.

- 1.3.2 The proposed development site is located between two tributaries of the River Ise, on the south facing slope of a Boulder Clay capped ridge, near the spring line formed by the junction of the Northampton Sand and Ironstone, and the impervious Upper Lias Clay. The geology is recorded as chalky till, being slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils (Soil Survey 1983). The site is situated at *c.*105m above ordnance datum.
- 1.3.3 The site comprises the former Gordon shoe factory, established in the 19th century, with later additions. This covers the south side and centre of the site area, and is accessed from Gordon Street. The buildings are dealt with in detail in the building assessment (Section 5, below). The north-west part of the site comprises a detached house and gardens and an access track from the Kettering Road. The north-east part consists of an overgrown gravel-surfaced vehicle park, formerly used by the factory.

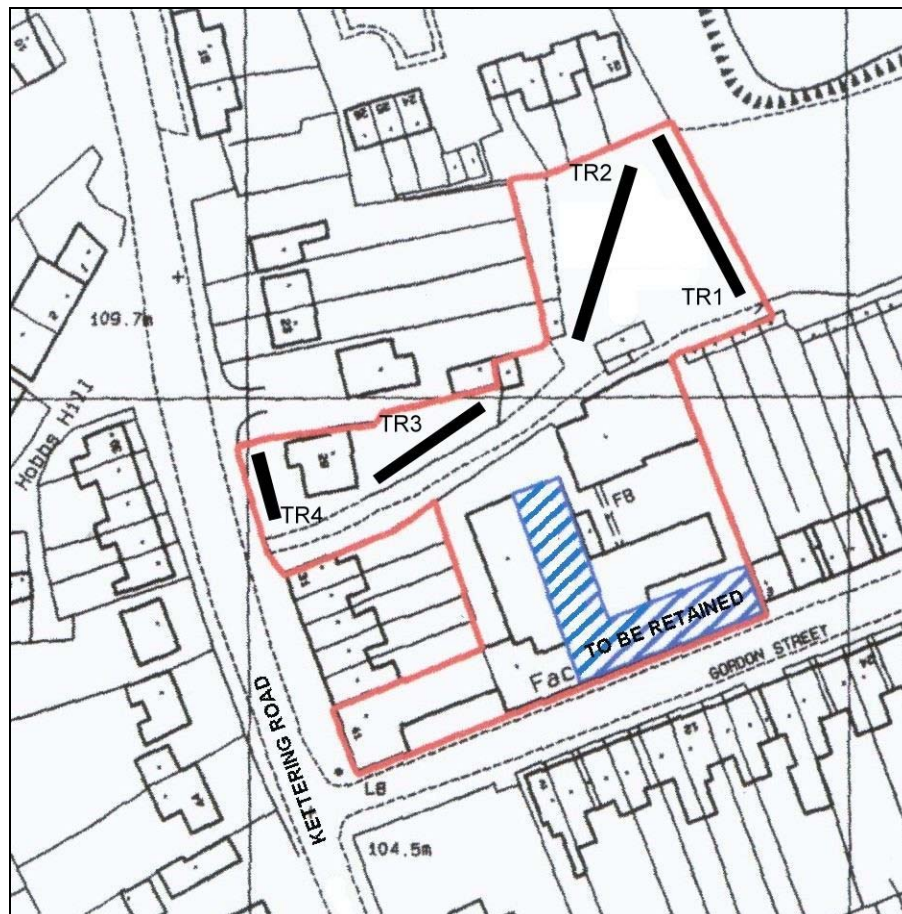


Figure 2: Site plan, showing proposed trench locations (scale 1:1,1250)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the brief (Section 2), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To provide detailed information on the presence/absence, extent, degree of survival, and depth of burial of archaeological deposits and features within the proposal site.
- To identify any evidence for the survival of Saxon or medieval remains on the site which may be threatened by development of this site.
- To understand, as far as possible, the uses, history and phasing of the various buildings and yard spaces, from analysis of evidence contained in the building fabric as well as written, map and oral evidence.

2.2 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 3), which required:

- *Desk-based assessment:* To consider the development site within the historic context of Rothwell and establish in greater detail the site's potential for archaeological remains.
- *Trial trenching:* To examine areas considered to have potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains. (max. requirement of 180m² of trenching).
- *Building assessment:* A basic survey to identify the use, hierarchy of importance and phasing of the buildings.

Four trial trenches were proposed to meet the requirements of the evaluation (Fig. 2):

- Trenches 1 and 2, both 25m x 1.6m, across the rear of the site to test for archaeology associated with the manor.
- Trenches 3 and 4, 20m x 1.6m and 10m x 1.6m respectively, in the front and rear gardens of the house, to test for potential medieval occupation.

The work was undertaken largely as described in the brief and project design. However, it did not prove possible to excavate Trenches 3 & 4, as the house was still tenanted, and the process of gaining access and cutting the trenches would have destroyed the gardens. This work can be undertaken at a later date, if required.

2.3 Standards

The work conformed to the requirements of the *Brief*, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001) and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000a), *Policy and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork Projects in Northamptonshire* (NCC 1995), to current RCHME guidelines for historic building recording (RCHME 1996), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

3 Desk Based Assessment

3.1 Introduction

The local and regional settings of archaeological sites are factors that are taken into consideration when assessing the planning implications of development proposals. The following sections provide a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs.

The study area lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and the site has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods. The locations of known archaeological and historical sites recorded in the Northamptonshire Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) are listed in Section 9.

3.2 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.2.1 Prehistoric (before 600BC)

The well-drained geology in the upper Ise valley attracted activity during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, and is represented in the area of Rothwell by stray finds and Bronze Age cemeteries identified during 19th and early 20th-century ironstone quarrying.

Within the town of Rothwell, at SP 8117 8108, a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead was discovered (RCHME 1979, 130). The limited archaeological evidence from the immediate area of the study site reflects that the heavy clay geology and exposed nature of the ridge was not suitable for farming.

There is no known evidence of prehistoric archaeology at the study site. From the above, the archaeological potential for the prehistoric period at the study site is low.

3.2.2 Iron Age (600BC-AD43)

During the Iron Age settlement expanded onto the clay land but the more intense settlement undoubtedly remained on the permeable geologies. Nineteenth-century finds include the Desborough mirror, that reflect a focus of high status activity to the north of Rothwell, on a more prominent ridge. The 'burh' place-name has been associated with the presence of Iron Age hillforts within the county

There are no archaeological finds from this period in the area of the study site. With activity being focused more northerly, the archaeological potential of this period at the study site is considered to be low.

3.2.3 Roman (AD43-c.450)

The archaeological record reflects that the Roman settlement of the general area was focused at Kettering, appearing to have been an unwalled small town, identified and largely destroyed in the late 19th and early 20th century (Foard & Ballinger, 2000).

A low level of Roman evidence is recorded in the area of Rothwell, with Roman settlement to the southwest of the town at SP 7954 7969 and Roman finds from the northwest at SP802 817 (RCHME 1979, 130).

A Roman coin (SP 81308145) and Roman pottery was found in the town of Rothwell. With this low level of evidence, and nothing either on or in the immediate area of the study site, the archaeological potential of the Roman period at the site is considered to be low.

3.2.4 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

Similarly to the Iron Age period, known Saxon activity is focused at Desborough. In the late 19th century an earthwork enclosure situated 200 metres east of the church was destroyed by ironstone quarrying. Sixty early Saxon graves were recorded from the interior of the enclosure, with high status grave goods.

To the northwest of the town of Rothwell at SP802 816 at least eight Saxon urns were discovered during ironstone quarrying, with associated grave goods (RCHME 1979, 130).

There is no known Saxon archaeology in the immediate vicinity of the study site, and therefore the archaeological potential from the Saxon period is low. However, historical documents mention the manor and estate of Rothwell in 1086, indicating the late Saxon origins of the Medieval manorial complex.

3.2.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

In 1086 the manor of Rothwell was held by the crown as the centre of a major estate with numerous dependencies, including half a virgate in Desborough. Rothwell was also a hundredal manor while its church is interpreted as an 'old minster' whose parochia may originally have extended over the whole royal estate (Foard & Ballinger 2000).

Historical documents record the manor of Rothwell as early as 1086, being held by the king and valued at £50 per annum. During the 12th century the manor had been passed to the Earls of Clare, to then be surrendered back to the King during the 13th century. The manor was sold to the Hill family by 1625, from whom it descended to the Maunsell family who held it until the 19th century.

The earthworks of Rothwell Manor (SMR 3980/5) are situated immediately to the northwest of the study site at SP 8158 8103. Traces of a building platform are recorded at SP81608105, in the area of the bowling green. This is thought to be the southern area of the manor site, the northern part having being disturbed by the 19th/20th century churchyard extension.

The site has a moderate potential to reveal evidence of medieval archaeology, being situated immediately adjacent to the manor site within the medieval centre of Rothwell. The town was well established during the medieval period, with its church, market cross, leather fair, vicarage and subsidiary manors (section 9). Although the site is not situated within the medieval centre

of the town, its roadside location suggests potential for medieval tenements or archaeology associated with the medieval manor.

3.2.6 *Post-Medieval (1500-1900)*

The remains of the manor fishponds are located to the south of the building platform, at SP 8162 8097. They comprise two rectangular ponds up to 1.5m deep, separated by and flanked by earthen dams, with three shallow depressions of different character to the north. Nineteenth-century cartographic sources record all these earthworks as being filled with water. It is uncertain as to whether any of these earthworks represent the medieval fishponds mentioned in manorial surveys as early as the 13th century.

To the south of the fishpond complex is 'The Mount' as recorded on the 1813 map (Figure 3). Presumably a prospect mound, this is seen as a circular feature. This fishpond complex is adjacent to the study site, to the east.

The study site is recorded as open fields on the 1813 map, with a field boundary running east-west through it. It is situated to the east of the main road leading into Rothwell from the south, with the Obshell road opposite (SMR 7202/102, SP 814 809). The main area of the town is situated to the north of the site.

The Rothwell Enclosure map of 1819 and the 1824 map (Figs 3 & 4) record the same pattern of fields at the site. The adjacent ponds are shown and water filled. The prospect mound is not included on the 1824 map. The Rothwell Tithe Map does not cover the area of the site.

The 1st Edition OS 25" map of 1866 (Fig. 5) shows the site as fields, with further emphasis on the east-west boundary running across it. There is an adjacent trackway recorded alongside this boundary. The field boundary that ran similarly to the south-eastern boundary of the study site is seen to have been removed, with two fields amalgamated to make field 214.

The site has a moderate potential to reveal evidence of post-medieval archaeology, being situated immediately adjacent to the manor site with a long-standing field boundary crossing it.

3.2.7 *Modern (1900-present)*

In the late Victorian period, Kettering and other neighbouring Northamptonshire towns were subject to significant industrial expansion. As part of this Gordon Street, along with the shoe factory and adjoining housing, was constructed by 1890. The original factory building comprised a substantial three-storey L-shaped brick building on the north side of Gordon Street, with yards to the west and north. It was first called the Gordon Shoe Works, recorded in Kelly's Directory as belonging to Walter Isaac Butlin, boot and shoe manufacturer. By 1906 Butlin had ceased to be listed in Kellys and by c.1915 H & J Chapman Ltd had acquired the site and Gordon Shoe Works. By 1922 the factory, now called the Gordon Boot & Shoe works, had been purchased by T Grocock & Co. who, as Grocock & Bosworth, had previously been located in Fox Street (Kelly's 1906). The site has remained in

the hands of the Grocock family to the present day. It is recorded that by 1967 T Grocock & Co (Rothwell) Ltd had 400 employees, and extensions had been added to the west and north of the factory by 1976. Grocock's continued to manufacture shoes at the Rothwell site and two other modern sites, up until at least 1999.

The earliest map to show the shoe factory is the OS 2nd edition of 1900 (Fig. 6). The original L-shaped factory building, and the house fronting Kettering Road, are the principal structures on the site. The only other structures shown are two small buildings, linked to form an L shape, in the yard to the north of the factory. This plan remains unchanged on the OS 3rd Edition map of 1926 (Fig. 7).

From the above map evidence, and information provided by the manager of Grocock's present factory, Rod Burrows, it is apparent that the present factory layout (Fig. 10) had been established before 1980. The Gordon Street factory continued making shoes until the late 1990s, when production was transferred to a new factory at the east end of Gordon Street and Jubilee Street. The buildings are now used largely for storage, and much of the ground floor is occupied by the factory shop.

3.3 *Statutory Constraints on Development*

3.3.1 A range of planning constraints are in place in the area of the site. These constraints relate both to the area as a whole, and to individual buildings and sites. These constraints are taken into consideration when assessing the implications of planning and other proposals made to the local authority and to other local and national bodies.

3.3.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on or within the immediate vicinity of the site.

3.3.3 Conservation Areas

The site is within the conservation area covering the historic area of Rothwell.

3.3.4 Listed Buildings

There are no listed buildings on site.

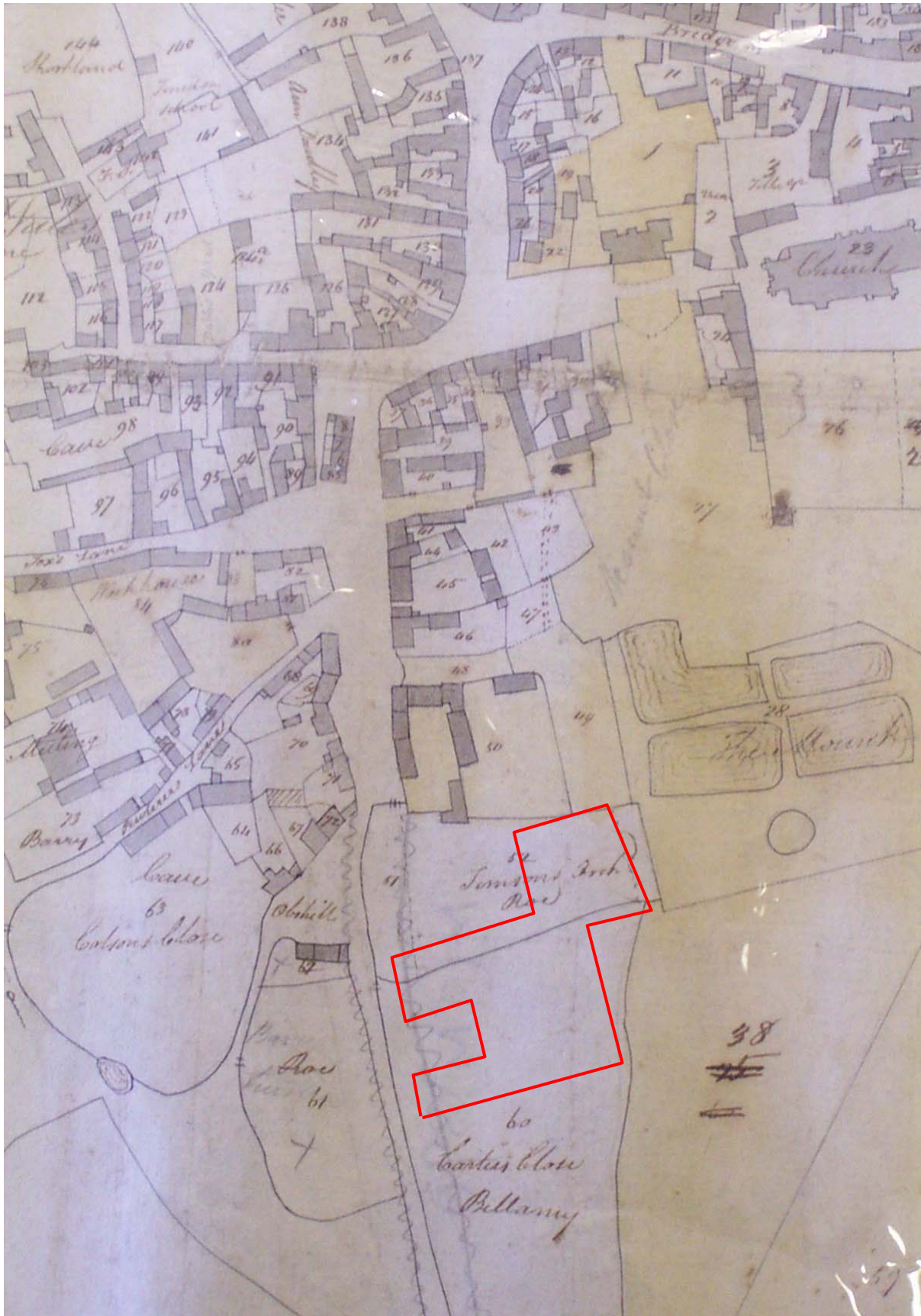


Figure 3: Plan of the Town of Rothwell, 1813



Figure 4: Rothwell Inclosure Map, 1819



Figure 5: Rothwell 1824

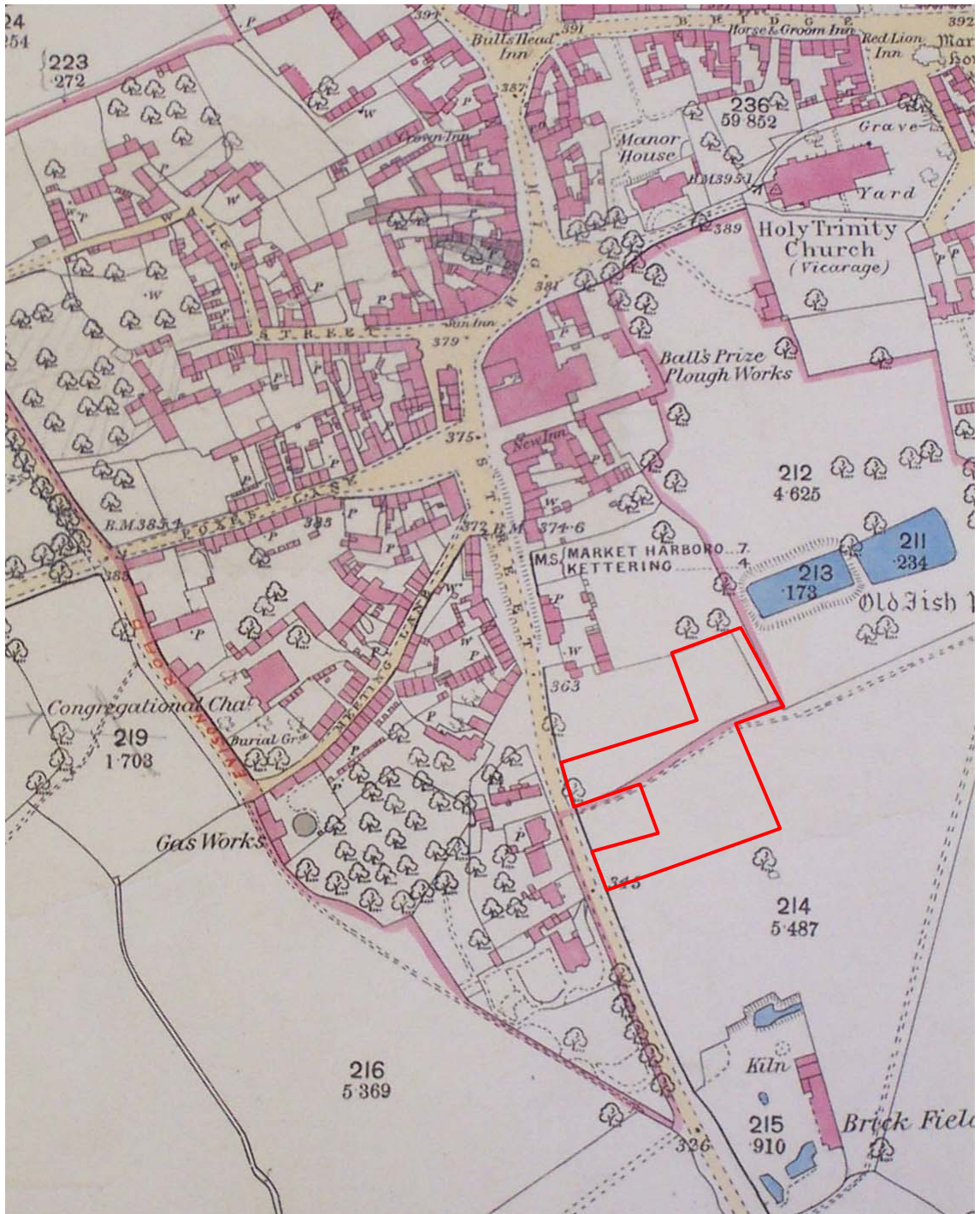


Figure 6: 25" OS 1st Edition 1886

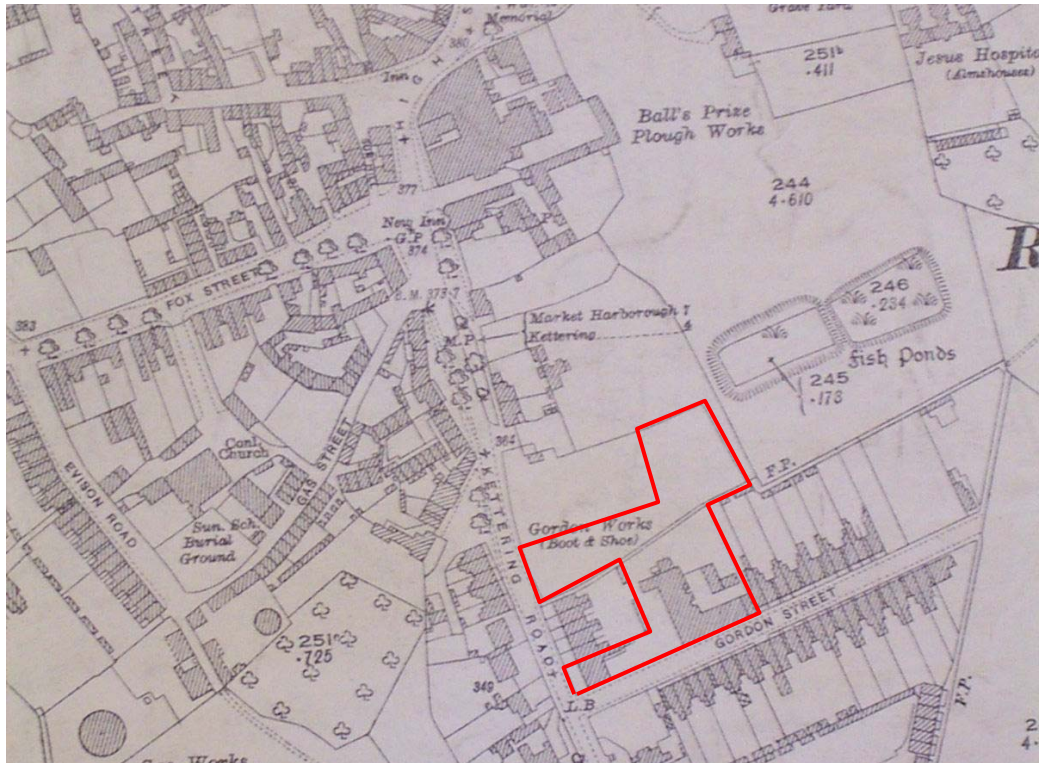


Figure 7: 25" OS 2nd Edition 1900

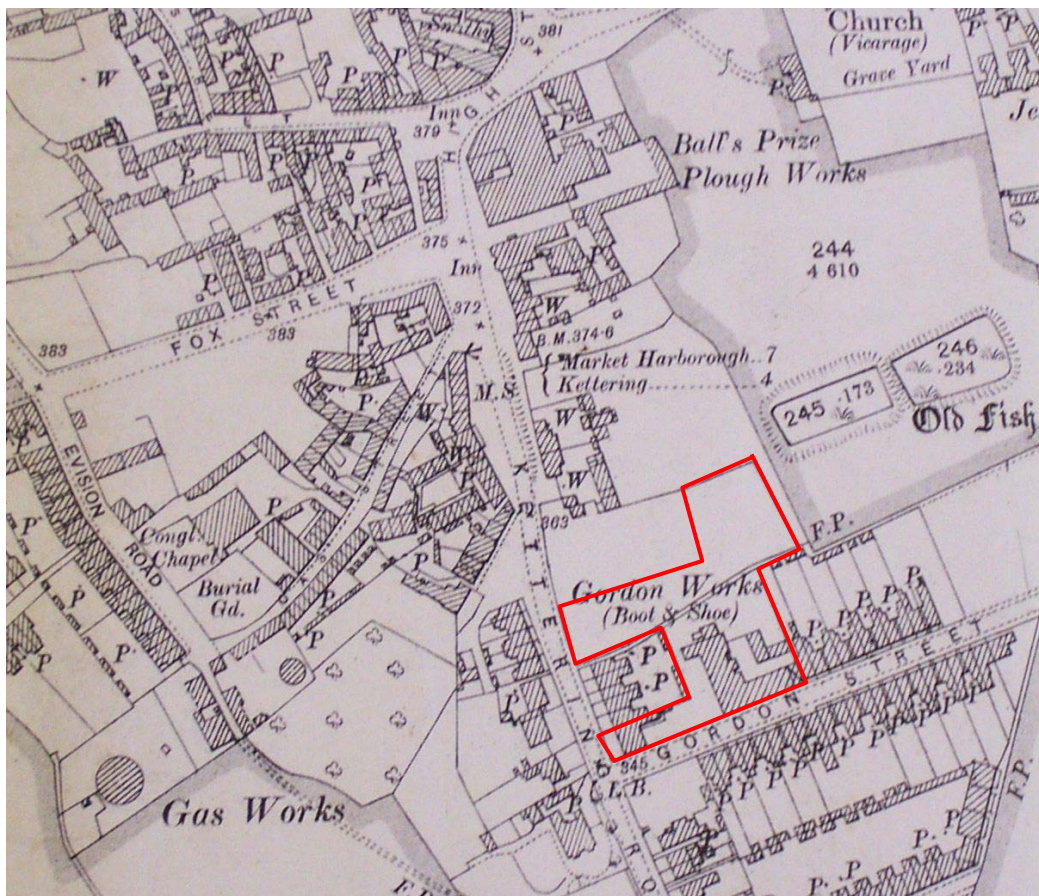


Figure 8: 25" OS 3rd Edition 1926

4 Trial Trenching

As previously noted (Section 2.2), two trenches were opened (Fig. 9). Both were excavated down to undisturbed natural orange clay (reached at 108.3m - 107.42m OD). Archaeological features and deposits were investigated and recorded according to the project design.

4.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was 23m in length, 1.8m in width and orientated north-south.

Layer (105) overlay the natural orange clay (107). It comprised mid brown silty clay with occasional small rounded pebbles and rare late Saxon/early medieval pot sherds, 0.35m in thickness, being redeposited natural clay. Layer (104) overlaid (105) (Plate 1), comprised of mid brown silty clay with occasional small rounded pebbles and frequent animal bone, 0.4m in thickness, being redeposited natural clay.

(103) overlay (104), being a tile stack seen in east section of the trench, exceeding 4.4m in length and being 0.22m in height (Plate 2). Eleven stacks of up to six tiles were seen, with a break after four stacks from the north end of the trench. The tiles were 0.32m long. Their function is unclear.

(102) was a dark yellowish brown silty clay was seen throughout the trench, overlying (103)/(104). This was a levelling deposit up to 0.4m in depth, onto which Victorian floor (101) was constructed of red bricks at the north end of the trench.

The trench was sealed with modern limestone chips (106) and dark greyish brown loam (100) with frequent brick rubble, deposited after site went out of use.

4.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was 26 m in length, 1.8m in width and orientated NE-SW.

The bases of four truncated small pits/postholes were revealed cut into the natural geology (213) (Plates 4,5):

[201] oval cut, max. 0.6m in diameter and 0.08m in depth with a flat base, containing (202) a mid grey brown silty clay.

[203] circular cut, 0.45m in width and 0.14m in depth, containing (204) a mid grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and a late Saxon pottery sherd.

[205] oval cut (max.0.75m in diameter) 0.15m in depth, containing (206) a mid grey brown silty clay with charcoal, burnt sandstone, animal bone and a late Saxon pottery sherd.

[207] circular cut 0.55m in width, 0.15m in depth containing (208) a mid grey brown silty clay with charcoal.

Towards the south west end of the trench the level of the natural geology was seen to drop away (Fig. 10). Cut [217] truncated the natural clay, being that of a moderately

sloped, large, presumed linear southeast-northwest orientated feature surviving 0.4m in depth that exceeded the trench extents in both depth and width. Only the north-eastern side was exposed during the evaluation. [217] contained in sequence: (212), a primary deposit of weathered redeposited natural clay 0.08m in depth and (216) a mid grey brown silty clay 0.2m in depth with frequent early medieval pot sherds and animal bone. (216) is of the same character as layer (211) and is possibly comprised of (211) having slumped into the depression of [217] (Plate 5).

Layer (211) sealed the natural orange clay, being mid grey brown silty clay with moderate late Saxon/early medieval pot sherds, burnt sandstone fragments, animal bone, a lump of slag, charcoal flecks and a residual flint flake. This soil horizon overlaid the features that cut into the natural clay, and being of the same character represents activity from the same period. Layer (210) sealed (211), being mid brown silty clay with occasional small rounded pebbles. This deposit represents a later and more sterile phase at the site (Plate 6).

[215] cut (210) (Fig. 10), being a large gradually moderately sloping cut, that exceeded the southwestern limits of the trench, in both depth and width. This appeared to be a large linear feature that was cut to dump a large quantity of heavy clay (214) with an early medieval and 19th century pot sherd (intrusive?). This deposit is possibly from cleaning out the adjacent medieval/post medieval fishponds. It is likely the area of depression that resulted from the earlier activity [217] was made good by the clay deposition (214) in the post medieval period.

4.3 *The Pottery*

The pottery assemblage from Trenches 1 & 2 reflect late Saxon/early medieval activity at the site. Where possible this has been linked into the Northamptonshire Anglo-Saxon and Medieval County Ceramic type series, as follows:

- (105) 2 sherds St Neots Ware
- (211) 1 rim sherd St Neots Ware fabric 200 tradition (1000-1200).
1 rim sherd St Neots Ware fabric 100 tradition from a late Saxon carinated bowl (AD 800-1000) (Williams, 1979, p.206, 493).
2 sherds St Neots Ware.
2 sherds fabric 320: Lyveden/Stanian B ware (AD1225-1400)
- (206) 1 sherd St Neots Ware fabric 100.
- (214) 1 sherd of 19th century pancheon ware.
1 sherd Shelly Coarseware fabric 330 (AD1100-1400)
- (204) 1 sherd fabric 100 St Neots Ware from a late Saxon carinated bowl (AD 800-1000)
- (216) 3 sherds St Neots Ware 200 tradition (12th century).
2 sherds of Lyveden/Stanian Ware.

4.4 *The Animal Bone*

The disarticulated animal bone and teeth from the late Saxon/early medieval contexts (105), (216), (211) and (104) (undated) includes remains of sheep, horse, pig and possibly deer. Some of the long bones show evidence of being gnawed and butchery marks, representing food refuse.

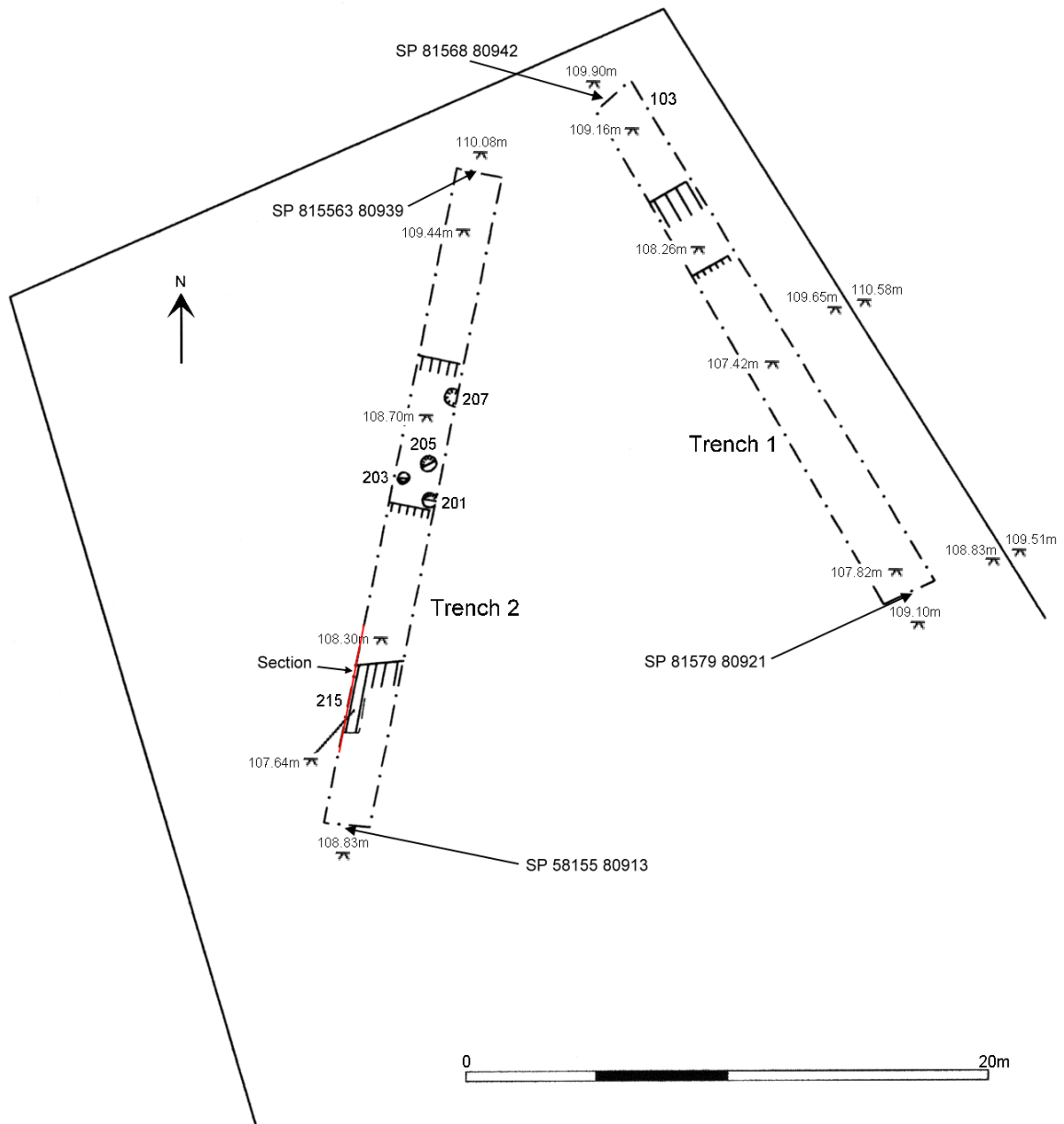


Figure 9: Trench plan (scale as shown)

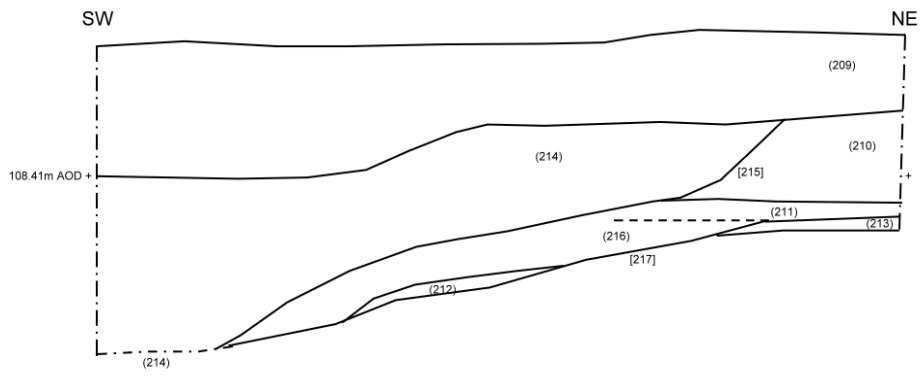


Figure 10: Trench 2 southeast-facing section [215] [217] (scale 1:40)



Plate 1: Trench 1. east-facing section (104), (105)



Plate 2: Trench 1. east-facing section. Tile Stack (103).



Plate 3: Trench 2. Section 1. SE facing [217].



Plate 4: Trench 2. NW facing section. Posthole [207]



Plate 5: Trench 2. View SE. Postholes [205] [203] [201]



Plate 6: Trench 2. SE facing section. (210) (211).

5 Building Assessment

5.1 Introduction

The assessment was carried out in line with the brief. Although some measurements were taken in the main factory building, detailed recording was not undertaken. However, a comprehensive set of colour digital photographs was taken, internally and externally, to support the assessment report. These are listed in Appendix 5.

5.2 General Description

The old shoe factory occupies a roughly rectangular site, almost 50m square, fronting onto Gordon Street. The site also extends along the street frontage for a further 22m to the junction of Gordon Street and Kettering Road, taking in the corner house, 41 Kettering Road, latterly used as offices.

Much of the factory site is covered by buildings (Fig. 11). At the core of the site is the late 19th-century factory, an imposing three-storey L-shaped brick structure, under a slate roof. At the west corner of this is a modern flat-roofed structure, also of three storeys constructed in brick, which contained offices. This structure is linked to 41 Kettering Road by a modern warehouse and loading bay, beneath a corrugated sheet roof, and a steel-framed enclosed bridge at first-floor level, spanning the loading area. To the north of the office building is a rectangular enclosed yard area, with single-storey extensions (GF1 & 2) to the main factory building on its east and north sides.

At the east end of the main factory building, an archway leads through the building to a large yard. Much of the south side of the yard is occupied by a large two-storey extension to the factory, built in brick, under a pitched roof with its north face glazed. The west side of the yard is formed by the main factory building, with a number of projecting structures and extensions. Filling the gap between these structures and the two-storey extension is a three-storey structure ('Utility Block') containing toilets, and providing first-floor access to the extension. From the Utility Block, a second steel-framed covered bridge at first-floor level provides access to the leather store, a complex of single-storey buildings in brick and corrugated sheeting on the north side of the yard.

5.3 Chronology

Information on the development of the factory site has been compiled from the structural examination, from cartographic sources (eg. Figs 7 & 8), from the English Heritage survey of the Northamptonshire boot and shoe industry (EH 2000), and from information provided by the factory manager, Rod Burrows.

5.3.1 Phase 1 (1880s)

As noted in the desk-based study (3.2.7, above), the L-shaped factory building was constructed in the late 1880s, and was in production by 1890. 41 Kettering Road was built about the same time, occupying the corner plot at the end of a terrace of six houses. From the map evidence, no. 41 was connected to the factory from the start, as no boundary is shown between the properties. The 1900 OS map (Fig 7) shows that the only other buildings on site at this

time were two linked rectangular structures in the yard to the north of the main factory. These have long since been demolished.

5.3.2 *Phase 2 (1920s)*

From the map evidence (Fig. 8), the site appears to have remained unchanged until the mid 1920s. Some time after this (the EH survey suggests a date in the 1930s) the three-storey office extension and the two-storey factory extension were constructed. Both are built of Fletton brick, with similar structural details (eg. concrete lintels and sills). The EH survey also suggests that the single-storey extension to the rear of the offices (GF2) was built at the same time.

5.3.3 *Phase 3 (1960s)*

According to the EH survey, the factory complex appears to have reached its present form in the 1960s, with the construction of the warehouse and loading bay linking the factory and 41 Kettering Road. It seems likely that the two covered bridges, the leather store and the utility block can also be assigned to this period. No significant structural additions have been made to the site since at least c.1980 (pers. comm. R Burrows).

5.4 *Function*

Following the removal of manufacturing processes to the new factory at the end of Gordon Street in the late 1990s, the main factory building and factory extension have been used for storage of stock and surplus equipment, and to house the factory shop. The offices in the three-storey block and 41 Kettering Road have remained out of use. The leather store still contains some leather, but is no longer in use.

On the whole, it has not been possible to identify specific manufacturing processes with particular parts of the factory. According to Rod Burrows, each floor / area was used for a range of manufacturing processes. Apart from the leather store, the only identification of functions that can be made relate to office and warehousing space, access (stairs and lifts), and toilets.

5.5 *Phase 1 Buildings*

The main factory building is L-shaped in plan, with a 9-bay wing c.30 × 8m fronting Gordon Street, and a 7-bay wing, 22 × 8m, projecting to the rear from its west end. The building comprises three storeys, constructed in red-orange brick above a blue brick plinth. The external elevations (Plates 6-10) are of pier-and-panel construction, with stone detailing: the west elevation has gables above alternate bays. The roof is Welsh slate. The ground and first-floor windows have segmental brick arches and cast-iron frames with margin glazing, while the second-floor windows have stone lintels, and are divided into three equal lights by cast-iron mullions. The original entrance is at the west end, and has a stone surround. A large loading doorway has been inserted in the fourth bay from the west.

There are several extensions to the factory building that appear to be of contemporary date. On the west side of the rear wing, projecting from the second bay from the north, is a two-storey brick extension under a slate roof (Plate 11). On the east side is a three-storey block containing toilets, a lift and stairs. Adjacent to this is a tall brick chimney.

Internally, the three floors of the main building are similar, comprising concrete floors with an open-plan layout (Plates 12, 13). The workbenches and most of the machinery have been removed. Access between floors is provided by two sets of stairs, one in the angle between the two wings (Plate 14) and the other in the south-west corner of the building. Adjacent to each stairwell is a lift: both appear to be original installations.

Worthy of note among the surviving internal fittings is a crane (Plate 15), located in the main range, at the east end of the second floor. This survives in working order, complete with period warning notices, and was evidently used to lift materials from the yard entrance to the working areas, through trapdoors in the intervening floors. Also of note are the original decorated cast-iron radiators (Plate 16).

Apart from alterations related to later additions to the factory complex, and removal of workbenches and machinery, the main factory building appears largely unaltered from its original form.

41 Kettering Road (Plate 17) is a two-storey brick house, pebble-dashed externally, with a concrete tile roof. It is clear that this structure has undergone significant alterations since it was built, because of its association with the shoe factory. As well as housing some of the company's offices, the ground floor has also been used for the factory shop (pers. comm.. R Burrows). Consequently most internal partitions have been altered, fireplaces and all original internal fittings have been removed, Ground-floor windows have been bricked up and first-floor windows have been replaced with modern aluminium-framed units.

5.6 Phase 2 Buildings

The three-storey office extension (Plate 18) measures *c.*13 × 11m overall. It is constructed of Fletton brick, with concrete lintels, metal 'Crittall'-type windows and a flat roof. Ornament is limited to a first-floor sill band and a parapet coping. On the west return is a sunken panel, intended to incorporate a sign but apparently never used for that purpose. Internally, this block contains warehousing on the ground floor, with offices above. The office interiors are basic, with plain walls, skirting boards and architraves throughout. Some partitioning has been removed.

The two-storey four-bay factory extension (Plate 19) is constructed with similar materials, but has a metal-framed pitched roof, glazed on the north elevation (Plate 20). The south-facing first-floor windows (Plate 21) are identical to those in the lower floors of the main factory building, and were probably removed from the ground floor of the latter when this extension was constructed. Its ground floor is occupied by the factory shop: its upper floor is presently used for storage.

5.7 Phase 3 Buildings

The covered bridges linking the factory complex with the offices in Kettering Road, and the factory with the leather store, are both steel-framed. The former (Plate 18) has a concrete floor, solid walls and roof: the latter (Plate 8) is clad in corrugated sheeting.

The three-storey utility block is constructed in Fletton brick, with metal-framed windows and concrete lintels. The ground floor is presently used for storage related to the factory shop, the first floor (Plate 22) provides access between the main factory and extension, and the bridge to the leather store, and the second floor houses a large washroom and toilets.

The leather store (Plate 23) consists of several linked structures, built of Fletton brick or corrugated sheet, all with flat roofs. At the core of the brick building is a concrete-roofed structure, described by Rod Burrows as the 'air-raid shelter', though it may never have been used as such. The floor level of the buildings is about one metre above the factory yard, presumably to facilitate unloading from lorries.

The three single storey extensions to the main factory (GF1, GF2, GF3) are all flat roofed, constructed of Fletton brick with metal-framed windows. All are currently used for storage.

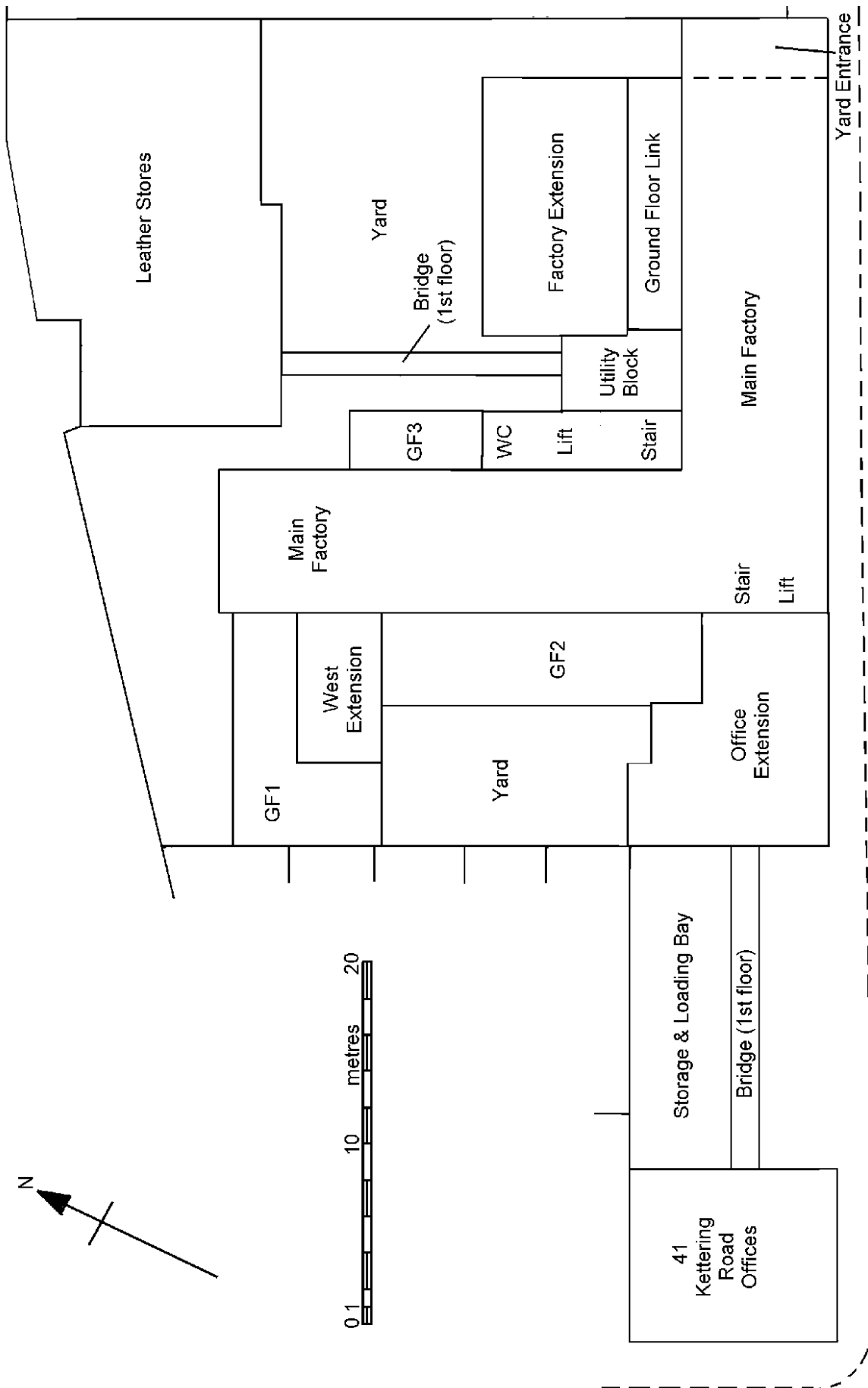


Figure 11: The factory buildings, block plan (scale as shown)



Plate 7: Main factory, south frontage



Plate 8: Main factory, rear wing, east side



Plate 9: Main factory, rear wing, west side



Plate 10: Main factory, rear wing, north end



Plate 11: Main factory, west extension



Plate 12: Main factory interior: first floor, rear wing



Plate 13: Main factory interior: second floor, main range



Plate 14: Main factory, central stairs



Plate 15: Main factory, second floor: crane



Plate 16: Main factory, radiator



Plate 17: 41 Kettering Road, from west



Plate 18: Office extension and bridge, from west



Plate 19: Factory extension, from north-east



Plate 20: Factory extension, interior



Plate 21: Factory extension: reused window from main factory building



Plate 22: Utility block, first floor, looking north



Plate 23: Leather store, from south-east

6 Conclusions

Desk-Based Assessment

This assessment has revealed that there are no known archaeological deposits within the study site. There is a low potential of archaeology from the prehistoric, Iron Age, Roman, and Saxon periods. With the site's proximity to the medieval town and manor there is a moderate archaeological potential at the site from the medieval and post-medieval periods, in the form of tenements and manorial complex remains. The shoe factory dates from the 1890s, with later additions.

Trenching

Trial trenching revealed archaeological deposits and features of a late Saxon/early medieval date, in the form of four truncated postholes and a probable southeast-northwest orientated ditch in Trench 2. These features were overlain by a soil horizon, deposited in the same period or later. The finds assemblage including pottery, animal bone and slag reflects settlement activity at the site. This archaeological evidence relates to the late Saxon/early medieval settlement of Rothwell that is referenced in early historical documents.

The exact nature of the late Saxon/early medieval archaeology could not be confirmed by trial trenching. It could be associated with the early medieval manor: (104) and (105) in Trench 1 appear to be dumped deposits of clay, possibly from the manorial works, and domestic waste. It has been suggested that the large homogenous clay deposit (214) could represent dumped clay from the manorial fishpond construction/maintenance works.

The tile stack and Victorian floor in Trench 1 indicates activity at the site during that period, possibly related to the shoe factory.

Building Assessment

The establishment of the shoe factory can be dated with confidence to the late 19th century, between 1886 and 1890. The original factory building survives, relatively complete, at the heart of the complex. The fabric of the building has undergone some alteration where later extensions have been added, but significant details (eg. windows, stairways) survive, along with some interesting fittings, such as the crane. As the factory has been in the ownership of one family for the last four decades, it is likely that a significant amount of information regarding the detailed history and operation of the business survives in the company archives, and in the memories of the owners and their more long-serving staff.

The other late 19th-century building on the site is 41 Kettering Road. This started life as a terraced house, but as a result of its long-standing use as offices it has undergone significant alterations internally and externally, and little of historic significance remains.

Subsequent extensions were made to the factory complex in the 1930s and 1960s. These later additions can be readily identified by the materials used in their construction (Fletton brick, corrugated sheeting, 'Crittall' type windows). Although their construction can be seen as being indicative of the continuing prosperity of T Grocock & Co, architecturally they are all very basic buildings, with no features of significance for the history of the site, or the development of the Northamptonshire boot and shoe industry.

7 Acknowledgements

The writers are grateful to John Hilton Associates, planning consultants, for commissioning ASC to undertake this evaluation, and to the site owners, T Grocock & Co (Rothwell) Ltd for funding the work. Thanks are also due to Charlotte Walker of the Northamptonshire Sites & Monuments Record for providing access to the SMR data. The assistance of the staff of the Northamptonshire CRO/Local Studies Library is also gratefully acknowledged. Pottery from the site was identified by Tora Hylton and Paul Blinkhorn of Northamptonshire Archaeology.

The research for the desk-based assessment was undertaken for ASC Ltd by Katie Pack. The trial trenching was carried out by Nigel Wilson and Katie Pack, and the historic building assessment was undertaken by Bob Zeepvat. The report was prepared by Katie Pack and Bob Zeepvat.

8. Archive

8.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Assessment Report
4. Site records
5. Finds records
6. Finds
7. Site record drawings
8. List of photographs/slides
9. Colour slides
10. B/W prints & negatives
11. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

8.2 The archive will be deposited with the Kettering Manor House Museum.

Appendix 1: Sources of Information

A1.1 Northamptonshire Sites & Monuments Record

Sites listed below are those within the study area, *i.e.* the site and a surrounding area of c.250m (excluding Post-Medieval/Modern buildings, other than those within c.100m).

SMR No	NGR	Period	Type	Description
3980/5	SP 8158 8103	med – post-med	Manor	Manor references dating from 1086
3980/5/1	SP 8160 8105	post-med	Manor House	Building platform evidence
3980/5/2	SP 8162 8097	medieval	Manor Fishponds	Fishpond earthworks
3980/5/3	SP 8160 8103	P-Med	Manor Gardens	Garden terraces/earthworks
3980/5/4	SP 8159 8098	P-Med	Manor Pond	Ornamental pond earthworks
3980/5/5	SP 8162 8094	P-Med	Prospect Mound	Circular mound earthwork
7202/102	SP 814 809	P-Med	Road	Obshill Road on 1813 map
3980/44	SP 8155 8086	Modern	Shoe Factory	Gordon Shoe Factory, surviving building
3980/44/1	SP 8155 8086	Modern	Building	Associated with shoe factory
3980/1/1	SP 8162 8115	Medieval	Church	Holy Trinity Church
3980/5/6	SP 8154 8114	P-Med	Manor House	Listed building
3980/0/49	SP 8150 8111	Medieval	Market Cross	Limestone
7202	SP 816 809	Medieval	Settlement	Rothwell town
3980/50	SP 816 811	Medieval	Leather fair	Historical sources
7202/77	SP 815 811	Medieval	Vicarage	House and references
7202/67	SP 815 811	Medieval	Rectory Manor	17 th century references
7202/66	SP 813 809	Medieval	Munn's Manor	Subsidiary manor references
7202/59	SP 816 811	Medieval	Manor	Saxon origin references

A1.2 Cartographic Evidence

The following maps and plans, all held by the Northamptonshire County Record Office, were consulted in the course of this assessment:

Date	Description
1813	Plan of the Town of Rothwell in Northamptonshire. Geo Cumming
1819	Inclosure Award Map of the Parish of Rothwell
1824	Rothwell
1886	OS 25" 1 st Edition XXIV.8
1900	OS 25" 2 nd Edition XXIV.8
1926	OS 25" 3 rd Edition XXIV.8

A1.3 References

The following references were consulted in the course of this assessment:

Foard G & Ballinger J 2000. *Northamptonshire Extensive Urban Survey*. Rothwell.
Northamptonshire County Council

IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.

Morris J (Ed) 1979. *Domesday Book Northamptonshire*. Phillimore, Chichester.

Pevsner N 1973. *The Buildings of England Northamptonshire*. Yale University Press, London.


RCHME 1979 *An Inventory of Archaeological Sites in Central Northamptonshire*. Her Majesty's Stationary Office, London.


RCHME 1996 *Recording Historic Buildings: a Descriptive Specification* (3rd Edition).

Soil Survey 1983 *The Soils of England and Wales. Eastern England*. Sheet 4. Soil Survey of England and Wales

Walker C 2004. *Site at Gordon Street, Rothwell. Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*. Northamptonshire County Council HET

Appendix 2: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1						
	Max Dimensions					
	Length	23m	Width	1.8m	Depth	2m
	Coordinates			SP 58179 80921 (SE end) SP 81568 80942 (NW end)		
	Levels					
	Trench top north			109.9m OD		
	Trench base north			109.16m OD		
	Trench base south			107.82m OD		
	Trench top south			109.10m OD		
	Orientation			North-South		
	Reason for Trench			Evaluate manor potential		
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (m)	Max Thckn (m)	Depth BGL (m)	
100	Layer	Topsoil	Tr	0.2	0	
101	Masonry	Victorian brick floor	Tr	0.07	0.2	
102	Layer	Silty clay levelling	Tr	0.15	0.27	
103	Masonry	Tile stack	4.4	0.22	0.42	
104	Layer	Redeposited clay	Tr	0.4	0.64	
105	Layer	Redeposited clay	Tr	0.35	0.99	
106	Layer	Modern hardcore	Tr	0.1	0.1	
107	Layer	Natural clay	Tr	-	1.34	

Trench 2						
	Max Dimensions					
	Length	26m	Width	1.8m	Depth	1.6m
	Cordinates			SP 58155 80913 (SW end) SP 81568 80942 (NE end)		
	Levels					
	Trench base north		109.44m OD			
	Trench top north		110.08m OD			
	Trench base south		107.64m OD			
	Trench top south		108.83m OD			
	Orientation			Northeast-southwest		
	Reason for Trench			Evaluate manor potential		
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (m)	Max Thckn (m)	Depth BGL (m)	
201	Cut	Posthole	0.7	0.08	1.0	
202	Fill	Silty clay fill of 201	0.7	0.08	1.0	
203	Cut	Posthole	0.45	0.12	1.0	
204	Fill	Silty clay fill of 203	0.45	0.12	1.0	
205	Cut	Posthole	0.6	0.2	1.0	
206	Fill	Silty clay fill of 205	0.6	0.2	1.0	
207	Cut	Posthole	0.7	0.14	1.0	
208	Fill	Silty clay fill of 207	0.7	0.14	1.0	
209	Layer	Topsoil	Tr	0.7	0	
210	Layer	Silty clay subsoil	Tr	0.5	0.45	
211	Layer	Silty clay soil horizon	Tr	0.1	0.9	
212	Fill	Primary fill of 217	Tr	0.08	1.2	
213	Layer	Natural clay	Tr	-	1.0	
214	Fill	Fill of 215. Dumped clay	Tr	0.9	0.5	
215	Cut	Linear feature	Tr	0.9	0.5	
216	Fill	Silty clay fill of 217	Tr	0.4	1.0	
217	Cut	Linear feature	Tr	0.4	1.0	

Appendix 3: Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Bone		Flint (no)	Shell (g)	Stone (no)	Other Finds	
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)				Type	(no)
104			22	550					
105	2	10	2	70					
204	1	30							
206	1	5	1	2					
211	6	165	23	705	1 (10g)			Slag	1 (170g)
212			1	2					
214	2	35	1	25					
216	5	40	1	2					

Appendix 4: Building Assessment Photograph List

SITE NAME: The Old Shoe Factory, Rothwell, Northants		SITE CODE: 561/RGS	
Shot No.	View	Subject	Plate
1		41 Kettering Road, from west	17
2		View eastwards along Gordon Street	
3		South elevation, from Kettering Road	Cover
4		Main factory: detail of south elevation	
5		Main factory: south elevation, from south-east	7
6		Yard entrance, from south	
7		View southwards from yard through entrance	
8		Factory extension, from north-east	19
9		View south-westwards across yard	
10		Main factory, rear wing, east side	8
11		Leather store	
12		Leather store	
13		Main factory, rear wing, north gable end	10
14		Main factory, north end of west elevation	
15		Ancillary structures, east side of rear wing.	
16		Utility block and bridge	
17		Main factory, central stairwell (ground floor)	
18		Main factory, central stairwell (first floor)	14
19	S	Main factory, rear wing, second floor	
20	N	Main factory, rear wing, second floor	
21	E	Main factory, main block, second floor	13
22	W	Main factory, main block, second floor	
23		Main factory, main block, second floor: crane at east end	15
24		Main factory, west stairwell	
25		Main factory, rear wing, west side	9
26		Main factory, west extension and GF2	11
27		Office extension, second floor interior	
28	N	Main factory, rear wing, first floor	
29	S	Main factory, rear wing, first floor	12
30	W	Main factory, west extension, first floor	
31	E	Main factory, main block, first floor	
32	W	Main factory, main block, first floor	
33		Main factory, main block, first floor: entrance to Utility Block	
34		Main factory, main block, first floor: west stairwell enclosure	
35		Detail of ornamented cast-iron radiator	16
36		Main factory, main block, first floor: former office area	
37		Main factory, rear wing, first floor: trapdoor on east side	
38	N	Utility block, first floor	22
39	NE	Factory extension, first floor	20
40		Factory extension: reused window from original factory building	21
41	W	Factory extension, first floor	
42	W	Bridge to no.41	
43		41 Kettering Road: interior view	
44		41 Kettering Road: interior view	
45		General view: rear wing of main factory, and office extension	
46		Storage & Loading bay: interior	
47		Storage & Loading bay: interior	
48		41 Kettering Road: stairs	
49	E	Office extension and bridge to 41	18
50		Main factory: foyer inside main entrance	
51		Main factory: west stairs (from foyer)	

52		Main factory, ground floor: general view	
53		Main factory, ground floor & GF2: general view	
54		GF3: store for shoe formers	
55		Leather store from south (composite of 11 & 12)	23

SMR Record Number	Parish Rothwell CP	Site Name The Old Shoe Factory. RGS 04
Date of Fieldwork 21-22 April 04	Grid ref. SP 8156 8086	Fieldworker
Sponsor	Activity Archaeological Evaluation	
Landowner name/address: T Grocock & Co (Rothwell) Ltd Brookside Jubilee Street Rothwell, Kettering Northants NN14 6BJ		
Finds location ASC Ltd	Finds Destination Kettering Manor House Museum	
Records location ASC Ltd	Records Destination Kettering Manor House Museum	
Finds Quantity N/a	Records Quantity	
<p>Summary of Results</p> <p>During April 2004 a pre-determination archaeological evaluation, comprising desk-based study, trial trenching and historic building assessment, was carried out on the former Gordon shoe factory site at Gordon Street, Rothwell, Northamptonshire. The site was located adjacent to a medieval/post medieval manorial complex.</p> <p>The desk-based assessment revealed that there were no known archaeological deposits at the study site. A moderate archaeological potential was identified for the medieval and post-medieval periods, in the form of medieval tenements and manorial complex remains. Within the footprint of the existing buildings any archaeology may have been destroyed, but there is likelihood of archaeological remains in the open ground to the rear of the site.</p> <p>Trenching revealed archaeological deposits and features of an Iron Age/Romano British date, in the form of four truncated postholes and a probable southeast-northwest orientated ditch. The finds assemblage, including pottery, animal bone and struck flint, reflects settlement activity at the site. A tile stack and Victorian floor showed likely industrial activity at the site during this period, possibly related to the factory. No deposits were revealed to suggest that the adjacent medieval/post medieval manorial complexes extend onto the site, although the large homogenous clay deposit (214) could represent dumped clay from the manorial fishpond construction/maintenance works.</p> <p>The building assessment showed that the core of the factory, built in the late 1880s, survived relatively unaltered, though most of the machinery and fittings related to its operation had been removed or displaced. Later additions to the complex, made in the 1930s and 1960s, were felt to be of little architectural or historical significance.</p>		