The Old Cattle Market, Royston, Hertfordshire

An Archaeological Evaluation



Richard Newman



THE OLD CATTLE MARKET, ROYSTON, HERTFORDSHIRE

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University of Cambridge September 2007 Report No. 786 Site Code: **RCM 07**

Summary

An archaeological evaluation consisting of four trenches, each measuring 3m by 2m in extent, was undertaken on a 457.6m² area of land in the southern part of the town of Royston, Hertfordshire. Several features relating to the site's past use as a cattle market in the 19th and early 20th centuries were revealed, but very little earlier material was encountered.

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Introduction

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook a trench-based evaluation on a 457.6m² area of land in the southern part of the town of Royston, Hertfordshire, between the 18th and the 20th of June 2007. The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is centred on TL 357 405 and is bounded to the north by the former Corn Exchange, to the east by Fish Hill and the south and west by Market Hill (see Figure 1). It lies approximately 0.5km to the southeast of the historic core of the town. A five percent sample of the site, consisting of four 3m by 2m trenches, was excavated. This work followed the specification issued by the CAU (Dickens 2007) and approved by Andy Instone, Development Control Archaeologist at Hertfordshire County Council. The project was commissioned by NPK Holdings Ltd. in advance of redevelopment.

Methodology

Modern deposits, including layers of concrete and tarmac, were broken out and removed by a 360° mechanical excavator with a 1.5m toothless bucket. All archaeological features were then excavated by hand and recorded using the CAU modified version of the MoLAS system (Spence 1994); base plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20, whilst sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Context numbers are indicated within the text by square brackets (e.g. [001]), and feature numbers are denoted by the prefix F. (e.g. F.03). The photographic archive consists of a series of digital images.

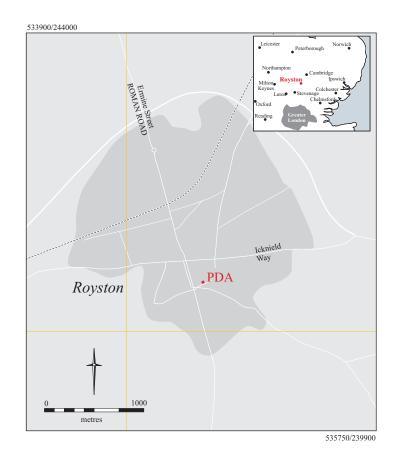
Landscape and geology

Royston lies between two spurs of the northernmost point of the Chiltern Hills, and is situated upon an outcrop of Middle Cretaceous chalk (BGS Sheet 204 1976; Branigan 1994). The PDA is positioned almost on the apex of a natural ridge approximately 0.5km to the southeast of the historic core of the town. As a result of the natural topography, its present surface height drops from around 68.8m to 67.9m OD southeast to northwest.

Historical and archaeological background

The historical and archaeological background of the PDA is covered in depth in the recent desktop assessment (Appleby 2006), and the wider background of Royston is reviewed in several published sources (Kingston 1906; Page 1912; Slater 2004). Neither is therefore reproduced here in full. Nevertheless, it is necessary to briefly outline the background of the town in order to place the PDA securely within its wider context.

The precise origins of Royston are obscure, but it is most likely to have emerged at the beginning of the Medieval period following the establishment of a religious house at the cross-roads of the much earlier routes of Ermine Street and the Icknield Way. The name of the town is purportedly due to the erection of a cross, known as the *Cross of Rohesia*, at their point of intersection although this attribution – along with the name of the person who erected the cross – remains the subject of ongoing debate (c.f. Slater 2004; Page 1912; Kingston 1906; Cussans 1881). The first historical reference to the *Crux Roaisie* dates from 1184, whilst the settlement that arose beside



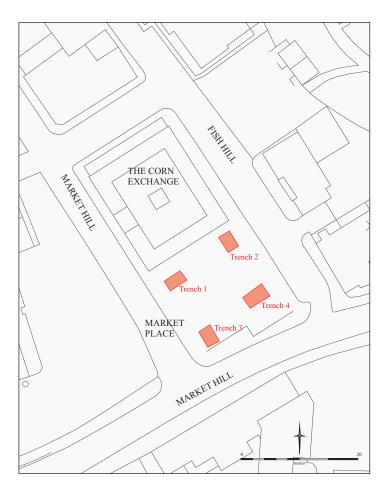


Figure 1. Site location

the priory was known at this time as *Royes* or *Roeyes*; the first reference to *Roiston* is recorded in 1286 (Glover *et. al* 1938). The Medieval town was concentrated along the High Street, King's Street and Kneesworth Street, and formed a distinct 'ribbon' or linear settlement. It is possible that the original market place was located towards the northern end of the present day Market Hill and Fish Hill (Slater 2004: 10-11), which would place it less than 200m to the north of the PDA. Although not large, the commercial importance of Royston during the Medieval period is underlined by its rapid restoration following an extensive fire in 1324 (Smith & Ranson 2001: 3). It remained an important market town into the early Post Medieval period, for 'by the time of Charles I, the more distant Royston was buying "a very great parte of the Corne in Cambridgeshire" and sending 180 great malt wagons to the city every week' (Fisher 1935: 60). Divided between five parishes and across two counties, these diverse elements were not united as a single entity until 1540 after the dissolution and suppression of the priory, and not brought under a single county authority until 1897.

Archaeologically, Royston has been the subject of relatively little investigation. Although Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon features have all been recorded in the general vicinity of the town (c.f. Appleby 2006), these sites are too distant to be considered relevant to the present study. Of direct relevance, however, is the site excavated on Fish Hill in 2002, which is situated less than 50m northeast of the PDA. Work here revealed occupation evidence from the 19th to 20th centuries, including the remnants of a partially walled basement or cellar. It is suggested that this is the vestige of a lightweight, impermanent structure as the building does not appear on any maps and its existence was presumably short-lived (Anon 2002). A pit was also found containing animal bone and Post Medieval ceramic building materials and pottery. It is believed that these features could relate to livestock auctioneering conducted on the site (*ibid*).

Excavation results

Three phases of activity have been identified from the excavation. These comprise:

- 1. Material that accrued prior to the construction of the cattle market.
- 2. The period in which the cattle market was in operation.
- 3. The post-cattle market usage of the site.

Because each of these phases represents events that occurred on a site-wide as opposed to trench-specific scale, the relevant information from each trench has been amalgamated into a general phase by phase discussion.

Phase 1: pre-cattle market

A series of four layers represent the earliest surviving deposits on the site. Although most probably present at one time across the entire area, their survival was fragmentary and they now remain visible primarily in trenches 1 and 2. The earliest of these layers, [043] = [059] = [76], appears to have accrued during the late 18^{th} /early 19^{th} century. It was overlain by naturally eroded chalk deposit [042] = [058] = [75], which was in turn overlain by a second, very thin band of soil ([074]). Finally, this was again sealed beneath eroded chalk deposit [073].

Layer [043] = **[059]** = **[76]** extends beyond the limits of trenches 1, 2 and 3 in every direction. It is comprised of firm mid pale brown clay silt with occasional to rare CBM, chalk and charcoal fleck inclusions, and varied between 0.05m and 0.03m deep. **[043]** = **[059]** = **[76]** represents a buried soil deposit that contained, in **[043]**, two sherds of late 18^{th} /early 19^{th} century Glazed Red Earthenware. It overlies natural and is beneath **[042]** = **[058]** = **[75]**.

Layer [042] = [058] = [75] extends beyond the limits of trenches 1, 2 and 3 in every direction. It is comprised of firm mid greyish white fine particulate chalk, and varied between 0.12m and 0.05m deep. [042] = [058] = [75] represents an eroded 'wash' of natural chalk that did not contain any dateable material. It overlies [043] = [059] = [76] and is beneath [074].

Layer [074] extends beyond the limits of trench 2 in every direction, though it is heavily truncated by service trenches **F.06** and **F.08**. It was comprised of relatively firm mid to dark brown silt with occasional to frequent angular gravel inclusions and was 0.02m+ deep. [074] represents a buried soil deposit that did not contain any dateable material. It overlies [042] and is beneath [073].

Layer [073] extends beyond the limits of trench 2 in every direction, though it is heavily truncated by service trenches **F.06** and **F.08**. It was comprised of firm mid greyish white fine particulate chalk and was 0.05m deep. **[073]** represents an eroded 'wash' of natural chalk that did not contain any dateable material. It overlies **[074]** and is beneath **F.08**.

Discussion

These layers clearly derived from, and were affected by, processes of natural erosion. They were thus best preserved on the lower part of the natural slope at the northeast end of the site (see Figure 7), though the fact that they survived at all is most probably due to their being almost immediately sealed beneath the earliest stage of the cattle market structure in the early 19th century. This is confirmed by the recovery of late 18th/early 19th century pottery from [043]. The occurrence of such material clearly indicates a human presence, albeit probably only an occasional one, prior to the erection of the first structure on the site. This may relate to less formalised auctioneering activity such as that thought to have occurred at around the same time at the nearby site on Fish Hill, though the limited survival of the deposits obviously precludes definitive interpretation. If any earlier material had ever been present on the site, it has clearly been entirely denuded prior to the area becoming sealed.

Phase 2: the cattle market

During the early 19th century the first permanent cattle market structure was erected. Although heavily truncated by later modifications, several elements of this initial building can be identified in trenches 1, 2 and 3 (see Figures 2, 4 and 5). The most significant of these is the northwest to southeast posthole alignment, comprised of **F.05** and **F.10**, which is located towards the western side of the site. Traces of decayed wooden posts survived in the bases of several of these postholes, demonstrating that during this phase the market was constructed primarily from timber. Also assigned to this initial stage on stratigraphic grounds are stakehole **F.04** and brick foundation **F.07**, the latter of which does not appear to have been structural in origin and is perhaps more likely to have formed the footing for a water-trough or other internal feature of similar function.

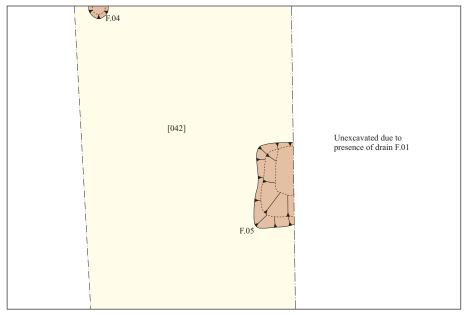


Figure 2: Trench 1, pre and early cattle market features



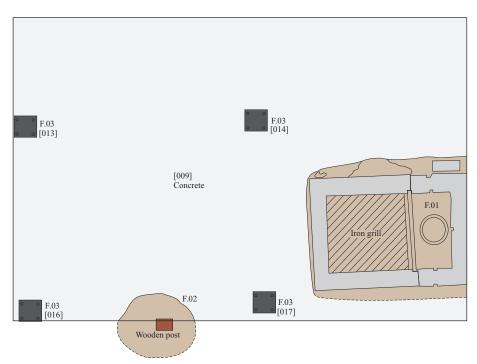


Figure 3: Trench 1, main and late cattle market features

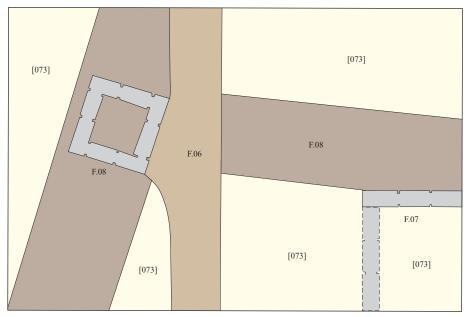


Figure 4: Trench 2, all features



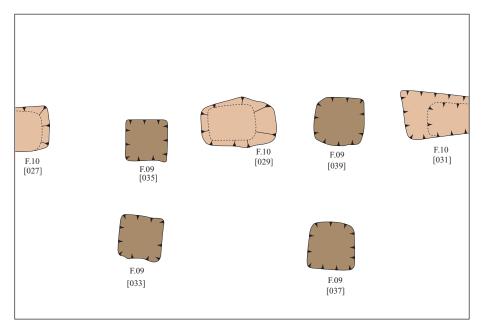


Figure 5: Trench 3, all features

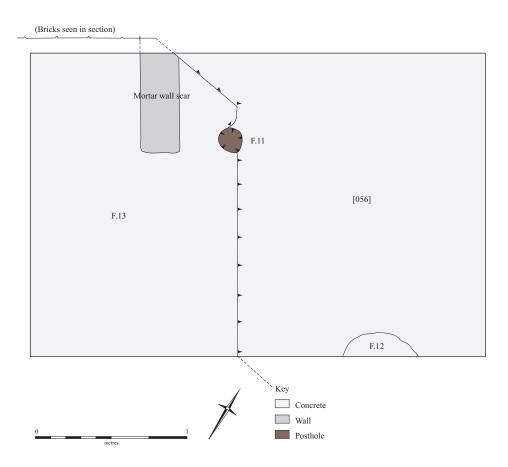


Figure 6: Trench 4, all features

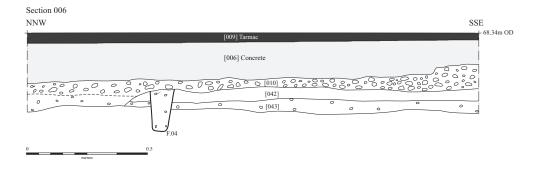
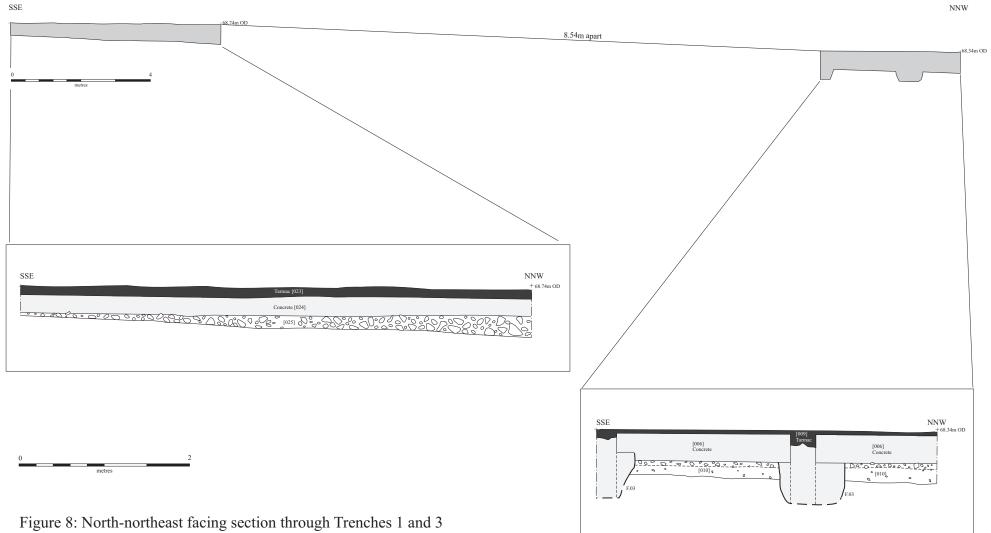




Figure 7: South-southwest facing section of Trench 1



Stakehole F.04 is circular in form, though it extends partially beyond the limit of trench 1. Cut **[041]** is 0.11m+ by 0.08m+ in extent and 0.18m deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a relatively flat base. The only surviving fill is **[040]**, a deposit of loosely compacted pale brown clay silt with occasional chalk fleck inclusions. The fill sequence of **F.04** indicates that the stake was removed and the feature most probably deliberately backfilled; it contained no datable material. It cuts **F.808** and is cut by **F.802**.

Posthole F.05 is rectangular in form, and oriented north-northwest to south-southeast. It is located in trench 1. The initial cut, **[047]**, is 0.48m by 0.28m+ in extent and 0.60m deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides (including a small step towards the base to the southeast) and a relatively flat base. It is filled by **[046]**, a deposit of mid brown clay silt with frequent chalk fleck and occasional to rare charcoal fleck inclusions, which was later truncated by post-pipe **[045]**. This is 0.14m square and 0.60m deep, with vertical sides and a relatively flat base. It contains **[044]**, a loosely compacted deposit of brownish grey concrete fragments with traces of decayed wood at the base. The fill sequence of **F.05** indicates that a central post - initially packed around with deposit **[046]** - was robbed by cut **[045]** and the subsequent fill (**[044]**) then deliberately introduced. It contained no datable material. It cuts natural and is overlain by layer **[010]**.

Brick Foundation F.07 is 'L' shaped in form, though it extends beyond the limits of trench 2 in two directions. Cut [062] extends 0.80m+ west-southwest to east-northeast and 0.62m+ northnorthwest to south-southeast; it is 0.14m wide and 0.26m deep with vertical sides and a relatively flat base. Within it was constructed [060], a single-skin brick foundation comprising reddish yellow bricks 230mm by 110mm by 60mm bonded with mid to dark grey lime mortar. Only one course survives. Deposit [061], a layer of firm brown silt with very frequent chalk fleck inclusions 0.26m thick, was packed around it. No datable material was recovered. **F.07** cuts **F.08** and is overlain by [072].

Postholes F.10 are sub-rectangular in form, with the long axis of each aligned north-northwest to south-southeast. They are located in trench 3. Cuts [027], [029] and [031] vary between 0.50m and 0.22m+ in length, 0.32m and 0.29m in width and 0.50m and 0.49m in depth. Each has steeply sloping to near vertical sides, often with a partial step towards the bottom, and a relatively flat base. The initial fills, [026], [028] and [030], consist of deposits of firmly compacted mid to pale grey silty clay that contained occasional chalk and rare charcoal fleck inclusions. Central postpipes [077] to [079], which vary between 0.13m by 0.11m in extent and between 0.50m to 0.49m in depth, consist of deposits of loosely compacted dark to very dark brown silty clay with frequent brownish grey concrete fragment inclusions. Towards the base of each pipe was a small amount of dark brown degraded wood, indicating that the posts had not been entirely removed. [028] contained a sherd of late 19th century Refined White Earthenware, and a fragment of a mid 19th century or later green glass bottle with push-up. The postholes that comprise **F.10** cut natural and are overlain by layer [026].

During or shortly after the middle of the 19^{th} century, the original timber building was levelled and a new and more elaborate cattle market structure erected; elements of this new phase were present in all four trenches (see Figures 3-6). It was constructed upon foundation layer [010] = [026] = [057] = [072], which was laid with a greater depth of material to the northeast in order to partially counteract the gradient of the underlying topography (see Figure 8). A series of upright preformed concrete posts (**F.03**, **F.12** and those robbed by **F.09**) and a service trench (**F.08**) were then inserted before concrete floor [006] = [024] = [056] = [071] was set down. The spatial divisions that were created at this time – including an arrangement of narrow stalls to the west, with larger pens and viewing stockades to the east – remained in use, with only minor changes, until the building was abandoned around a century later.

Concrete Posts F.03 are sub-square in form, and are situated in trench 1. Cuts [013] to [017] vary between 0.54m by 0.48m and 0.40m by 0.36m in extent and 0.41m to 0.38m deep. Each has steeply but irregularly sloping sides and a relatively flat base. Within these holes posts [001] to [005] were inserted. They comprise 0.16m square preformed mid grey concrete posts with internal

rebar reinforcement, and vary between 0.41m+ and 0.38m+ in surviving height. No datable material was recovered. The posts that comprise **F.03** cut [010] and are overlain by [006].

Service Trench F.08 is 'T' shaped in form, and is situated in trench 2. Cut [068] is 2.58m+ long from north to south and 2.11m+ long from east to west. It is 0.66m wide and 0.45m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides – the base was not reached. The salt-glazed ceramic pipes that were initially inserted into this cut were connected at their point of intersection by brick-built drain/manhole [066], which was 0.54m square and constructed from unfrogged red bricks measuring 230mm by 110mm by 50mm bonded with an extremely firm mid grey waterproof mortar. It was 0.62m+ deep. The area above the pipes was then backfilled with [065], a deposit of moderately well compacted off white natural chalk with occasional pale brown silt lenses 0.45m+ thick. Finally, when the services went out of use in the late 19th or early 20th century, manhole [066] was backfilled with deposit [067]. This consisted of CBM and concrete fragments intermixed with occasional gravel inclusions. [065] contained a sherd of late 19th century Refined White Earthenware. F.08 cuts [073] and is cut by F.07.

Robber Cuts F.09 are sub-square in form, and are situated in trench 3. Cuts [033], [035], [037] and [039] vary between 0.28m by 0.27m in length and breadth and between 0.24m and 0.26m in depth. Each has steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a relatively flat base. Their fills, [032], [034], [036] and [038], comprise deposits of loosely compacted mid to pale grey silty clay with occasional chalk and rare charcoal fleck inclusions. None of them contained any datable material. F.09 cut [024] and are overlain by [023].

Concrete Post F.12 is sub-circular in form, though it extends beyond the limit of trench 4. Cut **[051]** is 0.56m by 0.18m+ in extent and 0.47m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides – the base was not reached. Within this hole was placed concrete post **[050]**, which is composed of mid to pale grey concrete that appears to have been poured into an in-situ former. It was 0.47m+ high, and was packed around with backfill **[049]**, a deposit of pale creamy yellow sandy mortar with rare gravel inclusions. **F.12** contained no datable material. It cuts **[057]** and is overlain by **[056]**.

Layer [006] = [024] = [056] = [071] is present in, and extended beyond the limits of, all four trenches. It is comprised of very firm mid grey fine concrete and varied between 0.14m and 0.09m deep. It did not contain any dateable material. It overlies **F.03**, **F.12**, [072] and [026] and is beneath **F.01**, **F.02**, **F.06** and [052].

Layer [010] = **[025]** = **[057]** = **[072]** is present in, and extended beyond the limits of, all four trenches. It is comprised of moderately compacted mid golden brown mixed sands and gravels with occasional chalk fragment inclusions, and varied between 0.14m and 0.03m deep (with the deepest material located on the lower part of the slope). It did not contain any dateable material. It overlies **F.04**, **F.05**, **F.07**, **F.10** and **[058]** and is beneath **F.03**, **F.12**, **[024]** and **[071]**.

A number of repairs and alterations were made to the building during its active lifetime (see Figures 3, 4 and 6). The most significant of these comprised the insertion of a new floor area (**F.13**) towards the eastern side of the market, which was around 0.4m lower than the height of the original floor surface. Posthole **F.11**, which was associated with the new addition, may have acted as an element in a timber division separating the upper and lower areas. A second timber post was also added further to the west (**F.02**), along with a new drain (**F.01**) and service trench (**F.06**). The floor surface above the latter was reinstated with concrete layer [**070**].

Brick Drain F.01 is rectangular in form and its long axis is oriented northeast to southwest – very little of this feature was excavated due to the presence within it of standing water and effluent. It is situated in trench 1. Cut **[011]** is 1.04m+ by 0.86m+ in extent with steeply sloping to near vertical sides; the base was not reached. The initial construction is comprised of **[007]**, a brick-built drain structure composed of reddish yellow frogged bricks measuring 230mm by 120mm by 80mm bonded with dense grey waterproof mortar. The entrance to the central ceramic drainpipe was protected by a pierced metal grille, with a second overflow pipe located outside the grille to the

northeast. The construction cut was backfilled with [018], a deposit of firmly compacted dark grey clay silt with occasional to frequent concrete and CBM inclusions 0.10m+ thick. Finally, [019] a layer of chamfered concrete was introduced around the circumference in order to channel the water into the main drain entrance. No datable material was recovered. **F.01** cuts [006] and is overlain by [009].

Posthole F.02 is sub-circular in form, though it partially extends beyond the limit of trench 1. Cut **[012]** is 0.48m by 0.40m+ in extent and 0.20m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides – the base was not reached. It was filled by **[008]**, a deposit of mid brownish grey concrete with frequent pea grit inclusions that had been set around a central 0.10m square wooden post. **F.02** contained no datable material. It cuts **[006]** and is overlain by **[009]**.

Service Trench F.06 is of irregular, sub-linear form and is oriented east-northeast to west-southwest. It is situated in trench 2. Cut [**064**] is 2.00m+ by 0.36m in extent and 0.55m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides – the base was not reached. It was backfilled with deposit [**063**], a deposit of moderately compacted off white chalk with occasional pale brown silt lenses that is very likely to contain a ceramic service pipe towards its base. [**063**] contained six Codd bottle fragments dating to the late 19th/early 20th century; at least two vessels are represented, and fragmentary embossed lettering indicates that they once held soda/mineral water. **F.06** cut [**071**] and is overlain by [**070**].

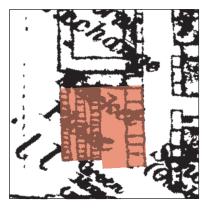
Lowered Floor F.13 is sub-rectangular in form, though it extends beyond the limits of trench 4. Cut **[054]** is 2.00m+ by 1.36m+ in extent and 0.52m deep with vertical sides and a relatively flat base. The initial deposit is **[053]**, a layer of moderately compacted mid golden brown mixed sands and gravels with occasional chalk fragment inclusions 0.06m deep, above which is **[022]**, a layer of very firm mid grey fine concrete 0.12m thick that formed the lower part of the cattle market floor. No datable material was recovered. **F.13** cuts **[058]** and is overlain by **[052]**.

Posthole F.11 is sub-circular in form, and is situated in trench 4. Cut **[021]** is 0.17m by 0.17m in extent and 0.15m+ deep with steeply sloping to near vertical sides and a partially concave base. The only surviving fill is **[020]**, a deposit of loosely compacted mid to dark brown decayed organic material. The fill sequence of **F.11** indicates that the post was left to rot in-situ; it contained no datable material. It cuts **[058]** and is cut by **[052]**.

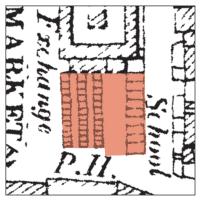
Layer [070] extends beyond the limits of trench 2 in every direction. It is comprised of firm mid grey concrete with very few inclusions 0.10m thick. **[070]** represents the reinstitution of the concrete floor surface of the cattle market after the insertion of service trench **F.06**; it did not contain any datable material. It overlies **F.06** and is beneath **[069]**.

Discussion

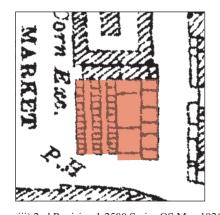
The earliest phase of the cattle market is most likely to have been constructed when the adjacent Corn Exchange was erected in 1829, though as noted above auctioneering may well have been conducted on the site in a less standardised form before this date. The evidence uncovered during this evaluation clearly indicates that in its original form the cattle market comprised an earth-fast timber structure, though its exact layout remains unclear. By the time the first edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map was published in 1887-88, the first map of sufficient resolution to show the internal layout of the building, these timbers had been levelled and the long-lived concrete structure established; this is consistent with the date of material recovered from the backfilling of postholes **F.10**. The next significant development, which comprised the insertion of lowered floor area **F.13**, occurred between the first revision of the OS map in 1902-03 and its second revision in 1926-27. As Figure 9 clearly demonstrates, the third revised edition provides a very accurate plan of the layout of the cattle market in its final, most developed form. The livestock pens, represented archaeologically by **F.09** and **F.03**, are clearly visible, as also is the lowered area of



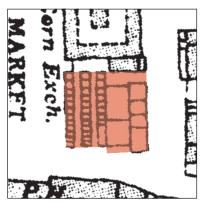
i) 1st Edition 1:2500 Series OS Map 1887-88



ii) 1st Revision 1:2500 Series OS Map 1902-3



iii) 2nd Revision 1:2500 Series OS Map 1926-7



iv) 3rd Revision 1:2500 Series OS Map 1938-52

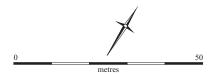
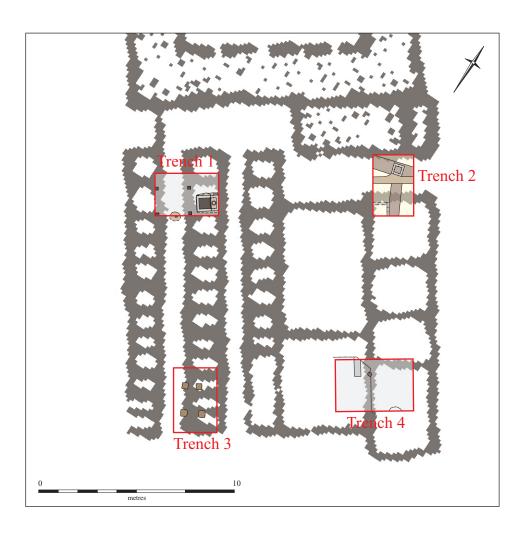


Figure 9: The cattle market over time



flooring. Such cattle markets were common features in market towns at this time, and acted as regional centres for the then thriving livestock industry.

Phase 3: post-cattle market activity

In the mid 20^{th} century, or slightly later, the cattle market went out of use and was demolished. Tarmac layer [009] = [023] = [055] = [069] was introduced above its remains, and the space was transformed into a private car park. It has remained in use in this capacity until the present day.

Layer [009] = [023] = [055] = [069] is present in, and extends beyond the limits of, all four trenches. It is comprised of firm mid to dark black tarmac with frequent gravel inclusions that varies between 0.10m to 0.03m deep. [009] = [023] = [055] = [069] represents a mid to late 20th century car park surface that did not contain any dateable material. It overlies [042].

Discussion

The exact date at which the cattle market went out of use is not clear. The stalls are still visible on the third revised 1:2500 scale OS map of 1938-52 (see Figure 9), but are no longer present on the subsequent 1982 revision; this is consistent with the gradual decline of the livestock industry in Hertfordshire during this period. It is likely that the car park was established quite soon after the cattle market was abandoned, which suggests that it has been in use since at least the early 1980's. It has clearly been resurfaced a number of times, lending support to this interpretation.

Conclusion

Very few of the deposits encountered during this evaluation predated the erection of the cattle market in the early 19th century; indeed, not a single cut feature was found that originated prior to its construction. Such a negative result is not particularly surprising, however, given the site's exposed location some distance to the southeast of the original locus of activity and settlement in the town. The majority of features investigated were associated with the remains of the cattle market itself, and three intercutting phases of this structure were identified. Spanning the early 19th to the mid 20th centuries, the layout of these features agrees very closely with the ground plan of the structure as recorded in the Ordnance Survey map sequence, demonstrating that this is a reliable record of the building's form over time. It is therefore highly unlikely that further excavation would provide any additional information of significance.

Acknowledgements

The project was funded by NPK Holdings Ltd., and monitored by Andy Instone, Development Control Archaeologist at Hertfordshire County Council. It was managed for the CAU by Alison Dickens. The excavations were directed for the CAU by Richard Newman and undertaken with the assistance of Emma Rees. Gwladys Monteil managed the finds processing and Craig Cessford spotdated both the pottery and the glass, whilst the graphics were produced by Vicki Herring.

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HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: The Old Cattle Market, **Royston** County: Hertfordshire District: North Hertfordshire Village/Town: Royston Parish: Royston CP Planning application reference: Not yet assigned Client name, address, and tel. no.: NPK Holdings Ltd. 37 Cambridge Place Cambridge CB2 1NS Nature of application: Proposed commercial development Present land use: Private car park Size of application area: 480m² Size of area investigated: 24m² NGR (to 8 figures): TL 3577 4049 Site code (if applicable): RCM 07 Site director/Organization: Richard Newman Cambridge Archaeological Unit Type of work: Archaeological evaluation Date of work: Start: 21/06/2007 Finish: 13/07/2007 Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Currently held at CAU, pending deposition at North Herts Related HER Nos: Periods represented: 11969, 11282 Post-Medieval Relevant previous summaries/reports None Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation consisting of four trenches, each measuring 3m by 2m in extent, was undertaken on a 457.6m² area of land in the southern part of the town of Royston, Hertfordshire. Several features relating to the site's past use as a cattle market in the 19th and early 20th centuries were revealed, but very little earlier material was encountered. Author of summary: Richard Newman Date of summary: 30/10/2007