

# AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT ALBION STREET, CHIPPING NORTON, OXFORDSHIRE



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Project reference: P4289  
Report reference: 2207



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## **An Archaeological Watching Brief at Albion Street, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire**

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With contributions by Laura Griffin and Liz Pearson

### **Summary**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Albion Street, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 3142 2708) on behalf of Gould Singleton Architects on behalf of their client Mid Counties Cooperative who have obtained permission from West Oxfordshire District Council for alterations and extensions to an existing foodstore. Approval was granted subject to conditions including the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on site.

The site lies within a series of plots fronting the eastern side of High Street, which forms part of the market place. An archaeological evaluation of the site carried out prior to application demonstrated the presence of medieval and post medieval deposits within the site. The watching brief, which was carried out during 2014, revealed further deposits of these periods.

In the medieval period several large quarry pits were excavated, presumably to obtain limestone for building material. These quarries then served as domestic waste pits and pottery from local ware cooking vessels of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date as well as some 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century pottery was retrieved. Two examples of potential late Saxon pottery were also recovered, although both from later deposits. A large amount of charred wheat remains were recovered from one of the pits possibly from a corn dryer or a barn fire.

Medieval structural remains were scarce, though included a low curved wall likely to have been an outbuilding, possibly a pen for livestock or a store for produce. Within the overlying deposit a lead stylus was found, perhaps used in relation to market stock.

Post medieval deposits included the well-preserved remains of a series of outbuildings and barns, yard surfaces, a stone lined pit, a stone lined culvert and several wells. A small pit dug through a medieval layer containing the remains of a piglet, a kitten, the mandible of an unweaned calf, and the skull of an arthritic horse.

Within a small yard to the rear of one plot, a number of complete glass vessels were found including two blue glass bottles relating to the use of the building on the street frontage as a chemist in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The features revealed during the watching brief illustrate the medieval and post medieval development of plots to the rear of some of the town's most central and earliest burgage plots. The earliest pottery dates to before the construction of the market that has defined Chipping Norton since the 13th century, with the subsequent remains formed within the burgage plots that still exist today. Evidence of the commercial practices of some of these buildings has also been revealed.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Albion Street, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 3142 2708) on behalf of Gould Singleton Architects on behalf of their client Mid Counties Cooperative. West Oxfordshire District Council approved an application for alterations and extensions to an existing foodstore to create additional retail floor space. Approval was granted subject to conditions including the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on site (Condition 3) to be followed by the production of an accessible and useable archive and a full report for publication (Condition 4).

Prior to the application an archaeological evaluation of the site (John Moore Heritage Services 2010) was carried out which identified medieval and post medieval activity associated with the three burgrave plots on which the land is sited.

A Written Scheme of Investigation for the watching brief was produced by the service (WA 2014) and approved by Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Council.

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008).

### 2 Aims

The aims of the watching brief were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation.

### 3 Methods

#### 3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Peter Lovett BSc; who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers MSc. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt. Liz Pearson (MSc Bioarchaeology, ACIfA) contributed the Environmental report, and Laura Griffin the Artefacts report (include BA Archaeology, ACIfA).

#### 3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER).

#### 3.3 List of sources consulted

##### *Cartographic sources*

- 1st edition Ordnance Survey six-inch 1885

##### *Documentary sources*

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

#### 3.4 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2012a). Fieldwork was undertaken between 3<sup>rd</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

In total, 13 trenches were excavated; representing c.1153 sq. m (24.02%) of a total of c.4800 sq. m. Observation of all ground works was undertaken. Any such ground reduction was carried out with a toothless grading bucket. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand, with clean surfaces being inspected, in order to determine their nature and significance. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012a).



### 3.5 Structural analysis

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

### 3.6 Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin

#### 3.6.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995, appendix 4).

#### 3.6.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved pottery of medieval date was examined. Sherds were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* (*tpq*) was produced for each stratified context (see Table 2). All information was recorded on *pro forma* Microsoft Access 2007 database.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification, divided by fabric type and where possible, cross-referenced with published assemblages from other local sites. Diagnostic form sherds were dated accordingly, whilst remaining sherds were dated by fabric type to general period or production span. Pottery fabric types have been cross-referenced to a series published by Mellor (1994)

### 3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Liz Pearson

#### 3.7.1 Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (2012a). Two samples (each of 10 litres) of medieval date were taken from the site from the following contexts:

- Context 741 <1> from the fill of a quarry pit [740]
- Context 744 <2> from the fill of a quarry pit [740]

Animal bone was also hand-collected during fieldwork.

#### 3.7.2 Animal bone (Ian Baxter)

Most of the animal bones from Albion Street were recovered by hand. Consequently an under-representation of smaller bones from the main domestic species and bones from small wild mammals, birds and amphibians is to be expected. The bones were recorded on an Access database following a modified version of the method described in Davis (1992) and Albarella and Davis (1994). In this method all teeth (lower and upper) and a restricted suite of parts of the skeleton are recorded and used in counts. These are: horncores with a complete transverse section, skull (zygomaticus), atlas, axis, scapula (glenoid articulation), distal humerus, distal radius, proximal ulna, carpal 2+3, distal metacarpal, pelvis (ischial part of acetabulum), distal femur, distal tibia, calcaneum (sustenaculum), astragalus (lateral side), centrotarsale, distal metatarsal, proximal parts of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> phalanges.

The separation of sheep and goat was attempted on the distal metapodials using the criteria described in Boessneck (1969). The shape of the enamel folds (Davis 1980; Eisenmann 1981) was used for identifying equid teeth to species.

Wear stages were recorded for all P<sub>4</sub>s and dP<sub>4</sub>s as well as for the lower molars of cattle, sheep/goat and pig, both isolated and in mandibles. Tooth wear stages follow Grant (1982). Tooth wear stages and bone measurements are retained on the database in archive. Measurements generally follow von den Driesch (1976).

### 3.7.3 Processing and analysis, Macrofossil remains

As resources were limited, and both samples taken from the same pit, context 744 was selected for analysis as it was rich in charred cereal remains. The flots were scanned to produce estimates of abundance of the taxa.

The samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were fully sorted by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammer scale. The flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2012). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the *New Flora of the British Isles*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Stace 2010).

### 3.7.4 Discard policy

Samples will be discarded after a period of 6 months following submission of this report unless there is a specific request to retain them.

## 3.8 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

## 4 The application site

### 4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The geology of the site is Chipping Norton Limestone formation. The site is situated between the High Street and Albion Street, on a hillside sloping down to the west (Fig 1).

The High Street faces onto the market square, whilst Albion Street formed out of the back lane behind the medieval burghage plots that still form the basis for most of the property divisions.

Chipping Norton lies close to one of the northern routes of the Salt Way, the trade network emanating from Droitwich during the Roman period and continuing throughout Saxon and medieval periods. Evidence for Roman occupation within the bounds of the town is slight, but the area has produced some material culture. Three bronze coins, dating from the second to the fourth centuries AD, were discovered in the market place in the late nineteenth century (SMR 1281 - MOX3271), whilst Roman pottery sherds were uncovered in the garden of a house in West Street, just to the south of Albion Street (SMR 5988 - MOX3306). The land around Chipping Norton has yielded greater remains, in terms of both frequency and importance. A carved stone head, probably of Jupiter, was discovered during ploughing in 1972, and now resides in the local museum (Eddershaw 2006). Along with a number of coin hoards and some painted plaster, there is strong evidence for a villa in the area.

Chipping Norton Castle (SMR 1146 - MOX256) is situated to the northwest of Albion Street, and consists of a motte (probably built immediately after the Norman conquest of 1066, and the only surviving evidence for this early phase) and the later castle built by the Fitzalans in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, though now nothing but earthworks remain. The location of the castle suggests an earlier siting of the town centre than exists now, and was probably built around an existing Saxon settlement, although no evidence has been discovered for that period. The castle was known to have been in ruins by 1566.

The Church of St Mary (SMR 4196 - MOX3292), which sits immediately to the south of the castle earthworks, is 12<sup>th</sup> century in origin, though only a few fragments of this fabric remains in what is now a mix of 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century rebuilds and additions.

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The town hall (SMR 4192 - MOX3287), built in the market place in 1842, replaced a probably post-medieval pillar supported market hall (SMR 4193 - MOX3288).

The High Street, formed along the eastside of the market square, consists of a series of burgage plots that are probably little changed from their inception in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the existing buildings are dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> century but these may often be frontages on a medieval core. No 20 High Street (SMR 4509 - MOX3293) has a late 14<sup>th</sup> century vaulted cellar, which may have been a chapel, beneath its 1730 rebuild. The White Hart Hotel on High Street (SMR 14125 - MOX3352) is a 16<sup>th</sup> century timber framed structure which was re-fronted in 1725. Excavations in the grounds in 2002 and 2005 revealed 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century pits and quarries, with 13<sup>th</sup> century soil layers.

There was certainly a period of redevelopment around 1730, with No 6 (SMR 23489 - MOX22804), No 7 (SMR 23490 - MOX20502), No 8 (SMR 23491 - MOX20857), No 9 & 11 High Street (SMR 23493 - MOX20485) all built during this period. No 5 High Street (SMR 5971 - MOX3302) is also an early 18<sup>th</sup> century building that was formerly a glove factory.

## 4.2 Current land-use

The site was, until recently, occupied by a number of buildings and a car park, but these have been demolished and most hardstanding has been broken up.

## 5 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figs 2, 3 and 4.

### 5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

Natural deposits observed during the watching brief were varied, comprising either of angular limestone brash in a soft mid reddish brown or orangey yellow sandy clay, with occasional outcrops of a firm light yellowish green silty clay.

### 5.1.2 Phase 2: Medieval deposits

The earliest observed deposits were a number of medieval quarry pits, spread across the western side of the site, presumably associated with the buildings fronting the High Street. The most easterly pits were 406 and 408; 406 was only glimpsed in section, with just one fill, 405, observed. This was cut by 408, which was excavated by machine to a depth of about 2m. This revealed four fills, with the lowest being 440, an orange yellow sand that was likely the immediate backfilling episode once the quarrying was finished. Lying above this was 439 and then 438, both brownish yellow sandy clays with occasional charcoal flecks, likely to be intentional dumping of material into the large hole left by the quarrying. Context 407, a reddish-brown sandy clay was the highest observed fill of the pit. This deposit may well have been of a later, post-Medieval date than those below, or derived from a slower formation process.

Further down the slope to the west, and closer to the High Street was quarry pit 437, within which were observed three fills, all of which were intentionally dumped deposits making use of a large hole rather than being explicitly associated with quarry activity. The lowest was 426/429 (being the same context) and is a mixed fill brown silts and orange clays. Overlying this was 428, a soft black sandy silt. With 427, a brownish red sandy silt showing clear signs of heating, above it, these two deposits show dumping of domestic waste into the hole left by the quarrying activity. This is almost certainly the same pit, 1310, as seen in Trench 13 further to the south, filled by 1307 and 1306.

In the furthest excavated area to the east was quarry pit 738. This was situated below a post-medieval culvert 734, and was not immediately recognised as a quarry pit. Later machining revealed the true nature of the feature. Again, the quarry pit was filled in its upper levels with intentionally dumped deposits of stony material mixed with domestic waste, this time in the form of fills 737, 736 and 735. Close to this pit was 740, another such feature. This was likewise initially misunderstood, this time thought to be a possible linear feature. Again, later machining showed

that it was a quarry pit, with two quite humic fills in 741 and 744. Just to the north of this were pits 725 and 727, which may be part of 740. Similarly, cess pit 730, filled by 729 and 728, may well be a quarry pit.

Cutting into the top of quarry pit fills 742 and 744 was 746, the construction cut for apsidal wall 739. This was a two course high limestone wall, which may only have been the foundation level and not visible during its functioning. There was no associated internal surface, and its function is unclear. It sits stratigraphically between the early medieval quarry pits and the later 18<sup>th</sup> century structures, but its own date has not yet been resolved.

Directly north of wall 739 was another wall, 743. This appeared to be on a north-south alignment, though it was only partially revealed. Its relationship with 739 remains unclear, though it is likely of a similar date.

In the north of the site was observed a wide but quite shallow pit, 1009. Within this were a series of varying fills, 1005, 1004 and 1003, all of which were likely dumped material. This did not seem likely to be a candidate for an additional quarry pit, due to its depth and fills, but was probably of a similar age.

### **5.1.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits**

In some parts of the site, a clear change between medieval and post-medieval contexts could be observed, whilst in others that progression was obscured, and the nature of the excavation prohibited clearer understanding. Layer 750, therefore, is a somewhat arbitrary context, given to the material that was machined off with the removal of the overlying post-medieval structures in the south west side of the site, specifically E-W wall 712. This limestone wall appears to have been the earliest wall in the phase, with various later structural components abutting it. It was possibly originally part of a 1780s shoe factory, but certainly became the south wall of a barn that stood until late 2013.

Abutting wall 712 on the south side was limestone wall 713. This was a three-sided build, with two shorter N-S components butting up to 712 in both the east and west ends, with the longer stretch of wall running E-W parallel to 712. Together this formed a rectangular building, the function of which is unknown. A dividing wall 714, again constructed of limestone, was built N-S between main walls 712 and 713. It was situated slightly east of centre, creating two rooms of unequal size. It was difficult to discern whether 713 and 714 were contemporary, though the bonding material was of a slightly different hue. On the west side of 714 was 715, a brick and limestone construction of uncertain function. Irregular in its build, it was only one course high, and was likely to be the base of a more formal structure, possibly a fireplace.

Abutting wall 712 to the north was limestone wall 716. This was of similar construction to 712, and may well have been part of the early shoe factory that was purported to have been on the site. It was poorly preserved in the northern end. Also butting wall 712, slightly further to the west than 716, was a slightly odd stone lined pit 717, in cut 723. The lining was asymmetrical, with the north end and half of the western side lined, whilst the east side is only lined in the half that the west is not. The southern side makes use of wall 712 for its border. The fill of the pit, 722, was a rubble and stone backfill, with stone roof tiles in it. Originally assumed to be a cess pit, upon excavation this was clearly seen not to be the case, as the rubble backfill was the only fill, and no trace of cess-rich material could be seen. The varied siting of the lining remains an unanswered puzzle, as it never appeared to have suffered from robbing or collapse, and so it must be presumed that it was constructed in this manner.

Emerging from the western baulk was a number of structural components, together forming outbuildings and yard surface. East-West aligned limestone wall 702 was abutted by north-south aligned limestone wall 703 at its eastern end. Wall 703 ran parallel to the western end of wall 713 further to the east, and together they formed a roughly 1.5m wide gap between the two structures. Whilst there was no remaining surface here, it is likely that this was a formalised path from the

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wider courtyard to the north through to the cobbled path that still exists and runs west between No's 8 and 9 High Street.

To the west of wall 703 and south of wall 702 was Wall 705, again of limestone construction. This formed the southern boundary of a small courtyard, along with the above mentioned walls. It also created an internal recess, which was probably a coal store. This courtyard was paved with 704, a limestone flag surface. It was covered in a thick charcoal and silty sand deposit, with a large quantity of glass bottles and general domestic waste, indicative of post-use dumping.

Beneath wall 705, though almost certainly contemporary with it, was culvert 734 (Plate 5). This was a dry limestone construction, of small walls running parallel with a capping stone course on top. Sealing it was clay layer 731. The culvert ran east then south east, and disappeared beyond the extent of the excavation area. It lay within cut 732, which in turn truncated upper quarry pit fill 735.

To the north of wall 702 was limestone cobble sett floor surface 707. This was extant only along the western edge of site, having been truncated at some earlier time. Beneath the floor were two round postholes, 709 and 711, the latter of which had a timber extant. A direct relationship between this posthole and floor 707 was not available but it is assumed that the posts were contemporary with the creation of the floor, and room would have been made for the timbers as they emerged from the ground, to perhaps form a supporting post for a roof structure.

Floor 707 butted up against wall 706 further north. This limestone wall ran E-W for about 2.5m before being truncated completely away in the east by a modern cellar. Together with wall 702 in the south, it forms the extent of a courtyard associated with No 9 High Street, and may once have continued further east to join up with wall 716.

In the north east corner of Trench 7 a limestone-built well 718 was recorded. It was unclear from which level the well was constructed, but as walls within the site have been largely recorded standing directly on top of the natural ground, it is not inconceivable to think that the well cut at a similar level. It is certainly likely to be of the same phase as the surrounding buildings, serving them as a water source.

In the south west corner of the site was observed a series of limestone walls. Wall 420 (Plate 6), running east to west, was a partially extant wall, having been demolished for the enabling of the current construction. To the east it had most recently formed the northern boundary of the Co-op car park, whilst to the west it became the northern wall of No 7 High Street. Originally it was likely to have served as a boundary wall, following which it probably underwent a series of reworks to become a house wall, then the Co-op wall. Evidence for these changes can be seen in limestone walls 415 and 413 (effectively the same structure), which are likely the original parts of the burgage wall. At the eastern end of 413 is a southern return, 414.

Built at a slightly different angle to 415, but joined on its southern side, was another limestone wall 417. This was of a later construction, and was butted by limestone flag floor 416 (Plate 4). This continued to the west, on the other side of a demolition truncation, as floor 419 (Plate 3) where it butted wall 420. This floor was seen to continue further south, during excavations of Trench 13, as 1304. Covering these floors were a group of rubble demolition deposits, 1302 and 432. Taken together, these elements indicate that sometime during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century a building that connected to the eastern gable end of No 7 High Street was demolished. Indeed, that gable end of No 7 shows evidence for a previous building, in the form of a reconstructed chimney (Plate 11).

At the eastern end of the site, close to Albion Street a limestone wall was observed in Trench 8, 805. This was probably still extant until 2013, and was likely an old burgage plot boundary wall, running east to west across the site. Similarly, in Trench 12 to the north, wall 1206 is a partially extant wall, serving as the boundary for No 18 Albion Street, having originally been the burgage wall. It had a small collapsed north-south aligned wall bonded to its southern side, 1207. This was a later addition to mark the western extent of the garden.

At the western end of the plot for No 16 Albion Street a stone well, 1213, was recorded. This had been in use certainly up until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, but had been capped off and sealed with concrete. Its existence was not known to the current owners of No 16.

Along the northern edge of the site was a possible terracing event, 1217, through natural deposits. This was defined by a straight lined change from the stony yellow natural to a definite fill deposit, 1216, and the natural was not observed west of this within Trench 12. Due to the depth of construction, 1216 was not excavated, and so the exact nature of the feature remains unclear. It could have been a large pit, possibly a medieval quarry pit as seen in the south west. However, it was much further east than any other quarry pit had been observed.

At the western end of Trench 12 a circular pit was discovered, 1204, which contained an assemblage of horse skull and vertebrae. At least two individuals could be identified from the assemblage. There was also most of a small mammal skeleton. This pit was dug through a layer, 1205, that contained late medieval/early post-medieval pottery, and was likely a general build up layer over time.

In Trench 11, at the north end of the site, a partially demolished floor structure 1108 was observed in the eastern section. This was, as was clearly common in the area, constructed of limestone. It was framed on the north and south by walls 1109 and 1110 respectively. Within the cellar was demolition material 1104, which in turn was sealed by a Victorian build up layer 1103, suggesting the floor surface had been abandoned for some time. To the south of this was a further E-W wall, 1111. Seen in both sections of Trench 11, unlike 1109 and 1110, this wall may well have been another burgage boundary.

In Trench 10, just to the west of Trench 11, and cutting a previously described medieval pit, was limestone floor 1008. This was also observed directly south in Trench 2 as 208. This floor was isolated from any other structures, and gave the appearance of being an external feature. In both cases there were what appeared to be Victorian accumulation deposits formed over the top of the structures, indicating that they had gone out of use some time ago.

A structure that may be associated with floor 208/1008 was located in Trench 6 immediately west of Trench 2. 609 was a limestone built wall, with a definite north face, and an indeterminable southern extent, merging as it did with the natural limestone brash. It is unclear what role this wall played in the development of the area, but it is likely to have been contemporary with the rest of the burgage structures.

#### **5.1.4 Phase 3: Modern deposits**

A layer of limestone rubble and crush was present across the top of the site, likely from the demolition of the buildings that until recently stood on the site. There are also a number of service pipes and inspection chambers present.

## **5.2 Artefact analysis, by Laura Griffin**

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

The site assemblage totalled 208 finds (weighing 6836g) from 34 contexts (Tables 1 and 2). Level of preservation was good with sherds displaying low levels of surface abrasion and having a higher than average weight of 14g. Despite this, the number of diagnostic sherds within the group was low with just one rim sherd present.

period	material class	object specific type	total	weight (g)
Roman	ceramic	pot	1	14
medieval	ceramic	pot	88	1587
late medieval/early post-medieval	ceramic	pot	40	593
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	18	813
modern	ceramic	pot	25	637
medieval	ceramic	roof tile	3	104
medieval	ceramic	floor tile	2	85
Late medieval/early post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile	2	90
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile	1	14
modern	ceramic	roof tile	1	62
medieval	lead	stylus	1	7
undated	iron	nail	5	56
undated	iron	key	1	98
undated	copper alloy	object	1	12
post-medieval	glass	window	1	4
modern	glass	object	1	4
modern	glass	vessel	20	2772
<b>total</b>			208	6836

**Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage**

### Summary artefactual evidence by period

All material has been spot-dated and quantified. Diagnostic pottery was dated by form type, whilst remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

#### *Roman*

A residual sherd of Savernake ware was retrieved from a pit of post-medieval date (context 1216).

#### *Medieval*

Material of medieval date formed the bulk of the assemblage from this site. A total of 88 sherds of pottery, weighing 1587g were identified and ranged from early 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century in date. Eleven contexts (407, 428, 434, 724, 735, 741, 742, 747, 1004, 1205 and 1307) had a medieval *terminus post quem* (tpq) date based on the dating of this pottery (Table 3). The majority of sherds were of

fabrics consistent with local or regional production, typically containing quartz in varying quantity and in many cases, limestone and/or plate shell. The range of form types was typical of domestic activity.

The earliest sherds within the group consisted of three fragments from two small jars of a plate shell-tempered fabric. Diagnostic sherds indicated that one of these vessels had a short, everted rim (context 1003) and the other had a distinctive, sagging base (context 733). It is possible that these vessels could be Late Saxon rather than early medieval in date but due to both being in contexts which have been disturbed by later activity, it is not possible to confirm this with a high degree of certainty.

A large proportion of medieval sherds were from unglazed cooking pots, with many displaying evidence of use (ie blackening and/or soot deposits on the external surface). The earliest of these sherds were of Cotswolds unglazed ware (fabric OXAC) which could be dated as early 11<sup>th</sup>–early 13<sup>th</sup> century. The majority of these sherds were undiagnostic with just one rim sherd retrieved (context 434). However, this cooking pot rim was found alongside the rim of a pitcher in the same fabric. Vessels of this form can be dated to the late 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> century.

A further four cooking pot fabrics were identified in the assemblage, all distinct in appearance but all containing inclusions of plate shell in varying amounts. Although the majority of these sherds were undiagnostic, all were from vessels with a fairly wide diameter, indicating them to be of a later date than the unglazed Cotswolds sherds, most probably 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century. This was particularly apparent from a single 320mm diameter rim sherd (context 747).

Glazed wares were fewer in number with just five sherds of Brill-Boarstall (fabric OXAM) and one of Oxford Y (fabric OXY) fabrics identified. All are thought to come from jug forms of 13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> century date. One of the Brill-Boarstall examples was of particular note, having what appear to be small 'feet' pinched out from the base (context 1205).

Three fragments of roof tile (contexts 724 and 729) and a floor tile (context 722) were also dated to medieval period. The floor tile was highly abraded and blackened. It had originally been decorated and still had fragmentary slip surviving but it was not possible to identify a specific pattern.

The only non-ceramic find of medieval date was a lead stylus from context 747 (a rod measuring just 50mm long, with one pointed end and the other flattened ; cf Egan (1998, 271, fig.209, nos. 892-3)).

#### *Late medieval/early post medieval*

Material of this period consisted primarily of pottery dating from the late 15<sup>th</sup>- early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Seven contexts (210, 606, 722, 726, 728, 729 and 1203) could be dated to this period on the basis of this pottery.

The largest group of material was of Combe-type ware (fabric CO) and consisted of sherds from a variety of forms, including jars (contexts 729 and 1203), bowls (context 729) and a chafing dish (context 722). All were of a fine, oxidised fabric with a yellow glaze, characteristic of this fabric type.

Fragments from Cistercian-type ware cups were also identified (contexts 722 and 1203), including one decorated with an applied, yellow rosette, characteristic of vessels of this type. A single fragment of Southern white ware (unstratified), is also thought to have come from a similar cup form.

A number of sherds of German stoneware were also identified. These included the sherds from two Frechen jugs, possibly bellarmine forms (contexts 210 and 1203), the bases of two drinking mugs also thought to be of Frechen production (context 726) and a further jug sherd of unidentified fabric type (context 606).



In addition, two sherds of oxidised glazed Malvernian ware (fabric 69) and two fragments of roof tile could also be dated to this period. This is a good way from its home territory in the Severn valley.

### *Post-medieval*

Four contexts (611, 731, 1008 and 1216) could be dated to the post-medieval period on the basis of the finds. Pottery formed a standard domestic assemblage, consisting primarily of red earthenwares with orangey-brown or dark brown/black glazes. Diagnostic sherds mainly came from flared bowls and jars but two cup/tyg forms were identified (contexts 729 and 1216). In addition, the base of a large bowl in North Devon gravel tempered ware (context 1216) and the rim of a Nottingham stoneware bowl (context 716), could also be dated to this period.

Other finds consisted of a fragment of roof tile and a small shard of window glass from context 728 and a large iron key (context 701), the latter 150mm in length with a kidney-shaped bow and a circular-sectioned shank which extends slightly beyond the bit. The bit is rectangular and appears to be complete but is heavily corroded.

### *Modern*

All remaining finds were of late 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date and consisted primarily of domestic pottery and bottle glass. The pottery included a variety of sherds of modern glazed wares including modern china, creamware and stoneware. Where diagnostic, sherds came from domestic tablewares, primarily plates, dishes and cups, many of which were transfer-decorated.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the modern assemblage was the large number of complete or near-complete glass bottles. The majority of these were of plain pale green or colourless moulded glass and included both pharmaceutical and condiment containers. Two of the most interesting examples were of the distinctive blue glass type more commonly known as 'poison bottles' (context 701). One of these was of particular note due to its small size, standing at only 40mm high. The majority of these bottles could be dated from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards. However, there was a brown glass bottle with a high kick and rolled lip rim with a collar, which could be dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> century (context 607).

context	material class	object specific type	Count	Weight (g)	start date	end date	Finds <i>tpq</i>
0	ceramic	pot	1	1	15C	16C	
0	glass	vessel	1	51	19C		
200	ceramic	pot	2	6	M18C		
200	ceramic	pot	2	12	L19C	20C	L19/20C
210	ceramic	pot	1	5	16C	17C	17C
401	ceramic	pot	2	21	L19C	20C	
401	glass	vessel	5	205	L19C	20C	L19/20C
401	iron	key	1	98			
407	ceramic	pot	2	33	L11C	12C	medieval
407	ceramic	pot	2	29	?13C	?14C	
428	ceramic	pot	9	284	13C	14C	13-14C
432	glass		1	4		20C	20C
434	ceramic	pot	3	120	E11C	12C	12C
606	ceramic	pot	1	54		16C	16C

607	ceramic	pot	13	120		L18C	L18-E19C
607	glass	vessel	2	354	L18C	E19C	
611	ceramic	pot	1	28	L17C	18C	18C
700	ceramic	pot	2	46			
701	glass	vessel	2	123	M19C	20C	
701	glass	vessel	8	1886	L19C	20C	
701	ceramic	pot	6	478	L19C	20C	L19/20C
716	ceramic	pot	3	323	17C	18C	
716	ceramic	pot	1	127	17C		
716	ceramic	pot	1	44	M18C		L19/20C
716	glass	vessel	1	107	19C	20C	
722	ceramic	pot	2	27	M16C	E17C	
722	ceramic	pot	4	23		17C	
722	ceramic	pot	2	33	16C	E17C	
722	ceramic	pot	6	43	E11C	12C	E17C
722	ceramic	pot	3	35			
722	ceramic	floor tile	2	85	13C	15C	
722	ceramic	roof tile	1	62			
724	ceramic	roof tile	1	60			
724	ceramic	pot	1	54	E11C	12C	
724	ceramic	pot	11	219			?E11-12C
726	ceramic	pot	3	66	L15C	16C	
726	ceramic	pot	1	11	16C	E17C	
726	ceramic	pot	1	20	L15C	E17C	16C/E17C
726	ceramic	pot	1	6			
726	ceramic	pot	3	7	17C		
726	ceramic	roof tile	2	90			
728	ceramic	tile	1	14			
728	ceramic	pot	1	4	16C	E17C	
728	ceramic	pot	1	1			16C/E17C
728	glass	window	1	4			
729	ceramic	pot	8	212	M16C	E17C	
729	ceramic	pot	2	32	13C	14C	
729	ceramic	pot	1	1	17C		
729	ceramic	pot	3	23	E11C	12C	E17C
729	ceramic	pot	1	43	L15C	E17C	
729	ceramic	?ridge tile	2	44			
729	iron	nail	1	23			
731	ceramic	pot	1	87	L17C	18C	L17-18C
733	ceramic	pot	1	100	M10C	M11C	M10/M11C
735	ceramic	pot	3	37			
735	ceramic	pot	2	12	E11C	12C	E11/12C
737	ceramic	pot	1	36	13C	14C	13-14C
741	ceramic	pot	7	112	M11C+	14C	13-14C
742	ceramic	pot	2	20	?13C	?14C	
742	ceramic	pot	1	7	13C	14C	13-14C
747	ceramic	pot	2	57	13C	14C	
747	ceramic	pot	1	9	L11C	13C	
747	ceramic	pot	2	22	E11C	12C	

747	ceramic	pot	6	64	?13C	?14C	13-14C
747	lead	stylus	1	7			
1003	ceramic	pot	2	16	M10C	M11C	M10C/M11C
1004	ceramic	pot	1	5	13C	14C	13-14C
1008	ceramic	pot	1	128	17C	18C	17-18C
1203	ceramic	pot	4	17			
1203	ceramic	pot	12	101	M16C	E17C	
1203	ceramic	pot	4	12	16C	E17C	16/17C
1203	ceramic	pot	2	4	L16C	17C	
1203	iron	nail	2	15			
1205	ceramic	pot	1	7			
1205	ceramic	pot	1	22	13C	14C	13-14C
1205	?copper alloy	object	1	12			
1211	glass	vessel	1	46			20C
1216	ceramic	pot	1	1	17C		
1216	ceramic	pot	1	44	16C	17C	
1216	ceramic	pot	1	14	12C	13C	16/17C
1216	ceramic	pot	1	2	13C	14C	
1216	iron	nail	2	18			
1307	ceramic	pot	1	1	13C	14C	13-14C

**Table 2: Summary of context dating based on the artefactual assemblage**

### 5.3 Environmental analysis, by Liz Pearson with contributions by Ian Baxter

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Tables 3 and 4.

#### 5.3.1 Project parameters

The environmental project conforms to relevant sections of the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014) and *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage 2010).

#### 5.3.2 Report

##### 5.3.2.1 Animal bone (Ian Baxter)

###### Introduction

A total of 21 identifiable and “countable” (see below) bone fragments were collected by hand from stratified contexts. In addition a single specimen was identified from the sifted sample residues. These are presented in Table 3. The animal bones were recovered from contexts dating from the following periods:

Medieval

Post-medieval

Post-medieval/Modern

Modern

###### Provenance and preservation

The animal bones were primarily recovered from layers and pits. Bone preservation is generally good.

## Frequency of species

With one exception domestic mammals are the only taxa present in all periods. The assemblage is too small to estimate the relative frequency of any species in any period.

### Medieval

The only medieval remains consist of a partial toad (*Bufo bufo*) skeleton recovered from a sample residue taken from Pit [740] (744).

### Post-medieval

The remains of cattle, sheep, pig, horse and domestic cat were recovered from post-medieval pits and layers. The mandible of an un-weaned calf with unworn dP<sub>4</sub> was found in Pit [1204] (1203). All the ovicaprid remains that could be identified to species, seven out of twelve or 58%, belong to sheep and the probability is high that only sheep are present. Most of the sheep bones consist of metapodials and these provide withers height estimates of between 54-61cm (n = 6, mean = 57cm) based on the multiplication factors of Teichert (1975). The partial skeleton of a perinatal piglet was found in Pit [1204] (1203).

The horse remains include a skull including both jaws and seven articulating cervical vertebrae, most probably belonging to the same individual, found in Pit [1204] (1203). The neck has been severed by cutting through the seventh cervical vertebra (Plate 10). This animal was apparently male based on the presence of well developed canines in both upper and lower jaws and around thirteen years of age based on incisor wear (Barone 1980). There is a line of calculus on the outer grinding teeth just below the gum line and exostoses on the upper surface, particularly to the right of the spine, on the seventh cervical vertebra (Plate 9). This animal had an arthritic neck and probably other postcranial infirmities ultimately leading to its slaughter.

The partial skeleton of a juvenile cat was also recovered from Pit [1204] (1203). Of the long bones found only the distal humerus was fused. According to Smith (1969) this animal would have been no older than five months.

### Post-medieval to Modern

A sheep metacarpal was found in Layer (401) and a sheep scapula in Layer (701).

Taxon	Medieval	Post-medieval	Post-medieval/Modern	Modern	Total
Cattle ( <i>Bos f. domestic</i> )	-	3	-	-	3
Sheep/Goat ( <i>Ovis/Capra f. domestic</i> )	-	12	1	1	14
Sheep ( <i>Ovis f. domestic</i> )	(-)	(7)	(-)	(1)	(8)
Pig ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> )	-	1 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	1
Horse ( <i>Equus caballus</i> )	-	2 <sup>2</sup>	-	-	2
Cat ( <i>Felis catus</i> )	-	1 <sup>3</sup>	-	-	1
Anuran ( <i>Rana/Bufo</i> )	1 <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	1
Toad ( <i>Bufo bufo</i> )	(1)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>

Table 3 Number of mammal, bird and amphibian bones (NISP)

“Sheep/Goat” and “Anuran Amphibian” also includes specimens identified to species. Numbers in parentheses are not included in the total of the period.

<sup>1</sup> Includes a partial skeleton of thirteen bones

2 Includes a skull and seven vertebrae belonging to a single individual

3 Includes a partial skeleton of thirty-three bones

4 Includes a partial skeleton from a sample

### 5.3.2.2 Macrofossil remains

Results of the analysis of plant remains are presented in Table 4.

Fill (741) of quarry pit [740] was rich in charred cereal remains, dominated by grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp free threshing), club wheat (*Triticum aestivo-compactum*) and vetch (*Vicia sativa* ssp *nigra*). Oat (*Avena* sp) and other large grass grains (*Poaceae* sp) were moderately abundant, presumably remaining with the cereal grain after processing. Occasional grains of hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) were also present, and small weed seeds such as possible cornflower (*Centaurea* cf *cyanus*) and narrow-fruited cornsalad (*Valerianella dentate*).

Free-threshing wheat and club wheat evidently constituted the main crop, with barley and oats being either crop contaminants, or may have been deliberately cultivated with the wheat. Common vetch, likewise, may have been a crop contaminant arising from the practice of rotating cereals with beans, peas and other Fabaceae (such as vetch) in a three field system of crop rotation, with the vetch having been used mainly as animal feed.

These remains may have been dumped into the quarry pit either from a corndrying oven, or following a barn fire when in storage. The presence of a rich assemblage of processed grain may imply a focus on arable agriculture, but as this is only a single assemblage it is difficult to determine.

Latin name	Family	Common name	Habitat	741
<b>Charred plant remains</b>				
<i>Triticum aestivo-compactum</i> grain	Poaceae	club wheat	F	+++
<i>Triticum</i> sp (free-threshing) grain	Poaceae	free-threshing wheat	F	+++
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain (hulled)	Poaceae	barley	F	+ / +++
<i>Vicia sativa</i> ssp <i>nigra</i>	Fabaceae	common vetch	AB	+++
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp	Fabaceae	vetch/pea	ABCD	++
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Polygonaceae	sheep's sorrel	ABD	+
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Plantaginaceae	ribwort plantain	ABD	+
<i>Centaurea</i> cf <i>cyanus</i>	Asteraceae	cornflower	D	+
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Asteraceae	stinking chamomile	AB	+
<i>Valerianella dentata</i>	Valerianaceae	narrow-fruited cornsalad	AB	+
<b>Uncharred plant remains</b>				
unidentified root fragments	unidentified			++++

Table 4: Plant remains from quarry pit fill (741)

#### Key:

Habitat	Quantity
A= cultivated ground	+ = 1 - 10

B= disturbed ground	++ = 11- 50
C= woodlands, hedgerows, scrub etc	+++ = 51 - 100
D = grasslands, meadows and heathland	++++ = 101+
E = aquatic/wet habitats	
F = cultivar	

## 6 Synthesis

### 6.1 Medieval

Chipping Norton under Saxon rule is a largely unknown period, with little evidence for occupation other than its name, Norton. Following the Norman invasion of 1066, a motte and bailey castle was constructed to the northwest of Albion Street, with a later stone castle being built by the Fitzalans in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It wasn't until the early 13<sup>th</sup> century that the town centre shifted from around the castle and church to the new market place further east up the hill, and to where it stands today. Following a successful application to King John in 1204 for a charter to hold a fair, William Fitzalan likely constructed the new market place and laid out the burgage plots that still define most of the High Street and Albion Street (Eddershaw 2006). The site investigated lies within these long narrow plots.

Most of the medieval activity recorded appears to have comprised the digging of large quarry pits. The natural limestone is not deep below the soils, and provides a ready supply of building material. These quarries then served as domestic waste pits, with most of the pottery retrieved being from local ware cooking vessels. Whilst the majority of pottery dates to the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries, there were a few earlier pieces, notably some 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century pottery and roof tile from a partially excavated pit in Trench 7, behind No's 8 and 9 High Street and a possible buried topsoil briefly observed in Trench 4 that also dates to 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century. There were also two examples of potential late Saxon pottery, though both were residual, with one in a 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century pit, and the other in the backfill of a 17<sup>th</sup> century culvert. If this pottery is indeed late Saxon, it could suggest occupation of the High Street area earlier than the advent of the Fitzalan market development. However, it is possible that the material was transported via manuring of cultivated land.

Environmental evidence from one of the pits shows a large amount of charred wheat remains. As was noted in the environmental report above, the cereal could have come from a corn dryer or from a barn fire. Perhaps this is the remains of damaged stock intended for sale at the market.

Few structural remains were surviving, with just a low curved wall seen in the area behind No 8 High Street (Plates 7 and 8). This wall's function remains unknown but it was sealed by material dating to the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries, whilst cutting a quarry pit that fell into the same date range. Considering the function of the burgage plots in relation to the market place, this was likely an outbuilding, possibly a pen for livestock or a store for produce. Within the sealing deposit a lead stylus was found, perhaps used in relation to market stock.

The medieval pitting was restricted to the western half of the burgage plots, with no evidence for such activity towards Albion Street itself. Further afield to the west of the site, excavations at the White Hart Hotel revealed 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century pitting and a 13<sup>th</sup> century buried soil (Simons 2005).

### 6.2 Post-medieval

The early post-medieval period is represented by a few disparate features, with the piecemeal nature of the excavation limiting a spatial understanding. A small pit dug through a medieval layer contained the remains of a perinatal piglet, a young kitten, the mandible of an unweaned calf, and the skull of an arthritic horse. Elsewhere, buried soil horizons were observed dating to this period.

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These were occasionally overlaid or truncated by low lying walls or rudimentary stone surfaces of a similar date.

The best preserved area was immediately to the rear of No's 8 and 9 High Street (Plate 1), where the footprint of some extensive outbuildings and barns was discovered. Whilst some of these walls were still standing just prior to the recent development, they were often not forming the original design as seen in the ground. Following the long thin layout of the burgage plots, wall 712 marked the division between 8 and 9 High Street. It formed the southern wall of a barn in the back yard of 9 High Street and the northern wall of a similar structure in 8. The small yard that lay against the back of 8 High Street had finds that suggest early 20<sup>th</sup> century destruction (Plate 2). There appeared to be a passageway through from the south side of No 8 into the courtyard of No 9, formed by the east side of the small yard and the west side of the barn-like building.

No 9 High Street was for a time the Temperance Hotel, before becoming a sweet shop, whilst No 8 was from 1805 to 1958 a chemist (Cliffe forthcoming). Within the backfilling of the small yard were found several complete glass vessels, often of pharmaceutical function, including two blue glass 'poison' bottles. Beneath this yard structure was a culvert running east-west and was likely part of the same building phase (Plate 5).

In the yard of No 9 High Street there was a slightly puzzling stone-lined pit. As described above, the lining was asymmetrical. It was butted against the divisional wall 712, and contained a demolition backfill dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Its function remains unclear. Further to the west was a well, which remained undated but was probably of 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century construction. It was not the only well discovered, with one on the far west of site behind No 16 Albion Street. This was unknown to the current occupiers of that house, but it had a pump pipe built into it, and appears marked 'P' on the Ordnance Survey first edition map from the 1880s. Again, it is quite likely to be of 17<sup>th</sup> century date, judging from the level of construction at this time.

The boundary wall between the old Co-op car park and what was the back yards of No's 8 and 9 High Street extended from the rear of No 7 High Street (Plate 6), and was again on the line of the historic burgage plot. The extant wall was post-medieval, but had been more than just a boundary. Within trenches 4 and 13 were observed floor surfaces butting up against the wall, and these would have been part of a building that joined against the eastern end of No 7 (Plates 3 and 4). Indeed, the evidence for such can be seen in the brickwork on the gable end of the building (Plate 11). Some of this floor had a thin concrete screed that had been painted green, and the demolition material covering dated from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This was one in a series of buildings that ran the length of the plot up to Albion Street in the east, as seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map, and was probably similar to White Hart Mews to the north of the development.

The changing function of No 7 High Street is well documented, with a complete list of owners and occupiers from 1663 to the modern day (Cliffe forthcoming). Unsurprisingly, it has been occupied by various different merchants, starting with saddlers, then coopers, weavers, grocers and from 1873 to 1931, ironmongers.

In the northern part of the site a series of small walls were observed, possibly forming a cellar, though it was heavily truncated and does not appear to match up with anything seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map. One of the walls formed the boundary of the plot formerly associated with No's 12 to 14 High Street.

### **6.3 Research frameworks**

The archaeological works at Albion Street have yielded solid dates for the development of the market, and therefore the focal point of the town itself. Along with the cartographic evidence, the continuity of the medieval townscape has been proven, with the changing use of the plots evidenced by the post-medieval additions. The investigations have allowed the research agendas outlined by Munby (2010) and Rhodes (2006) to be addressed.

## 7 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Albion Street, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 3142 2708) on behalf of Gould Singleton Architects on behalf of their client Mid Counties Cooperative who have obtained permission from West Oxfordshire District Council for alterations and extensions to an existing foodstore. Approval was granted subject to conditions including the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on site.*

*The site lies within a series of plots fronting the eastern side of High Street, which forms part of the market place. An archaeological evaluation of the site carried out prior to application demonstrated the presence of medieval and post medieval deposits within the site. The watching brief, which was carried out during 2014, revealed further deposits of these periods.*

*In the medieval period several large quarry pits were excavated, presumably to obtain limestone for building material. These quarries then served as domestic waste pits and pottery from local ware cooking vessels of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date as well as some 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century pottery was retrieved. Two examples of potential late Saxon pottery were also recovered, although both from later deposits. A large amount of charred wheat remains were recovered from one of the pits possibly from a corn dryer or a barn fire.*

*Medieval structural remains were scarce, though included a low curved wall likely to have been an outbuilding, possibly a pen for livestock or a store for produce. Within the overlying deposit a lead stylus was found, perhaps used in relation to market stock.*

*Post medieval deposits included the well-preserved remains of a series of outbuildings and barns, yard surfaces, a stone lined pit, a stone lined culvert and several wells. A small pit dug through a medieval layer containing the remains of a piglet, a kitten, the mandible of an unweaned calf, and the skull of an arthritic horse.*

*Within a small yard to the rear of one plot, a number of complete glass vessels were found including two blue glass bottles relating to the use of the building on the street frontage as a chemist in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

*The features revealed during the watching brief illustrate the medieval and post medieval development of plots to the rear of some of the town's most central and earliest burgage plots. The earliest pottery dates to before the construction of the market that has defined Chipping Norton since the 13th century, with the subsequent remains formed within the burgage plots that still exist today. Evidence of the commercial practices of some of these buildings has also been revealed.*

## 8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Mr J Edwards of Gould Singleton Architects, Mark Jackson, engineer, Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Council and Janice Cliffe, for her help with the history of Chipping Norton.

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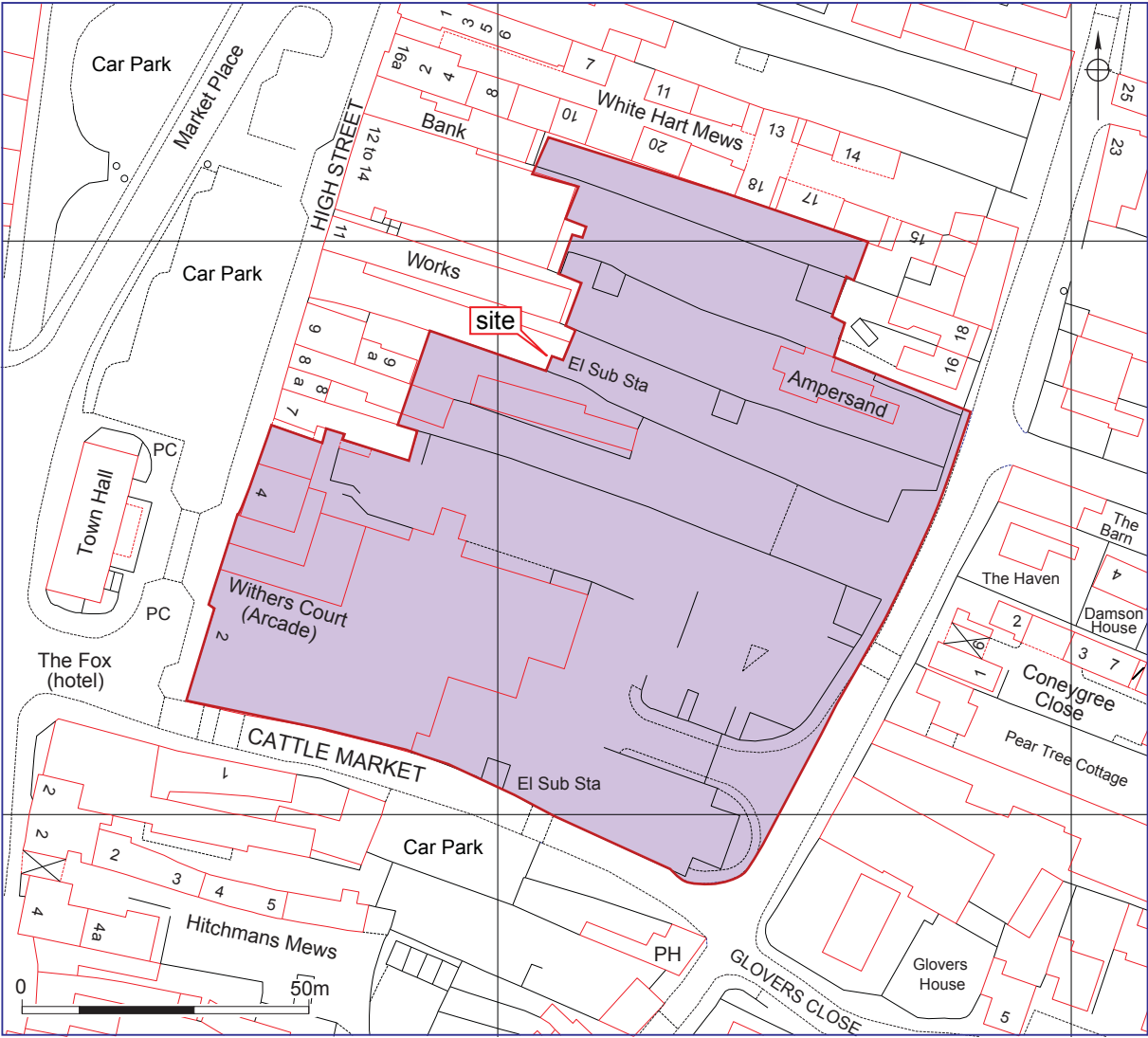
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## Figures

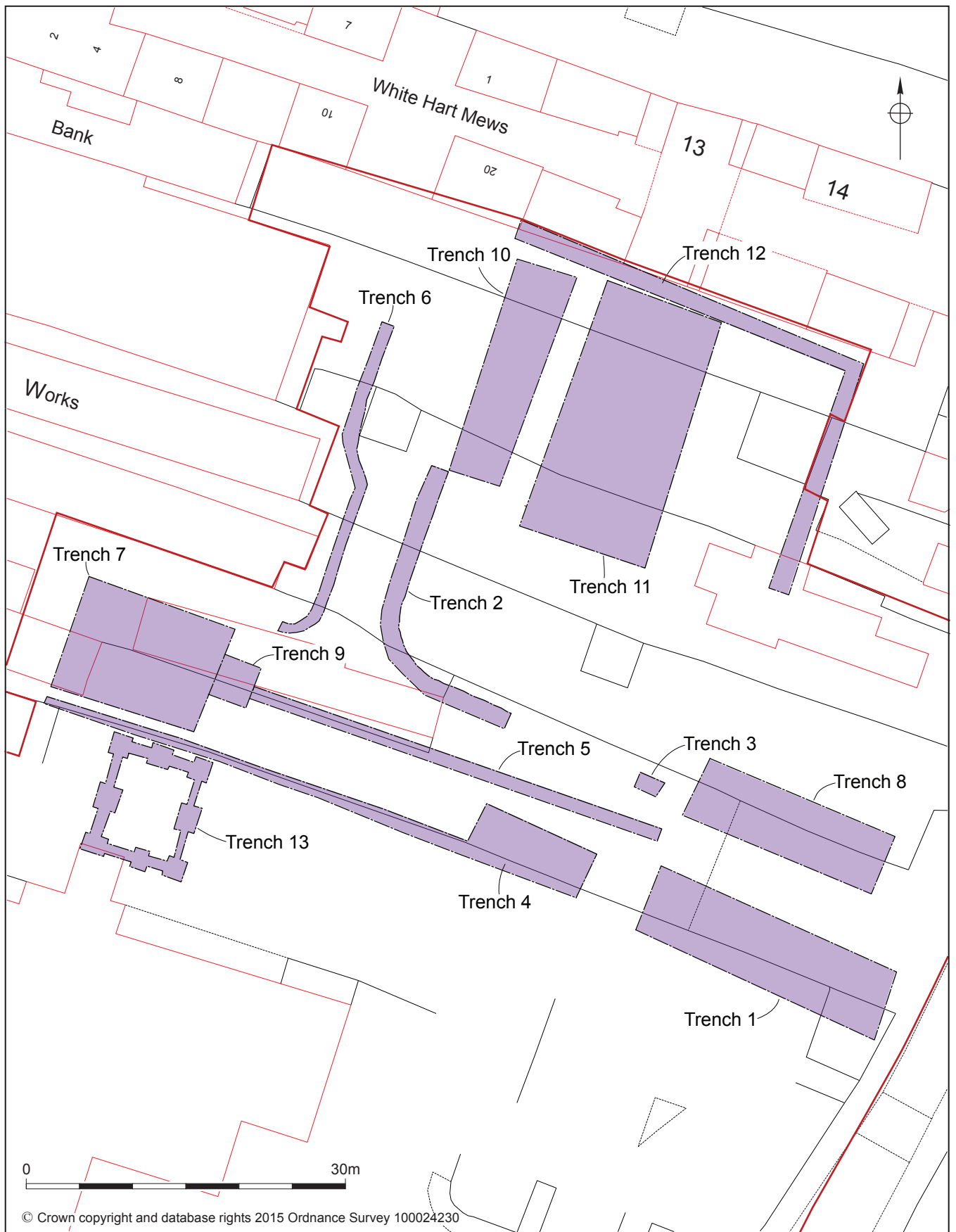
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Location of the site

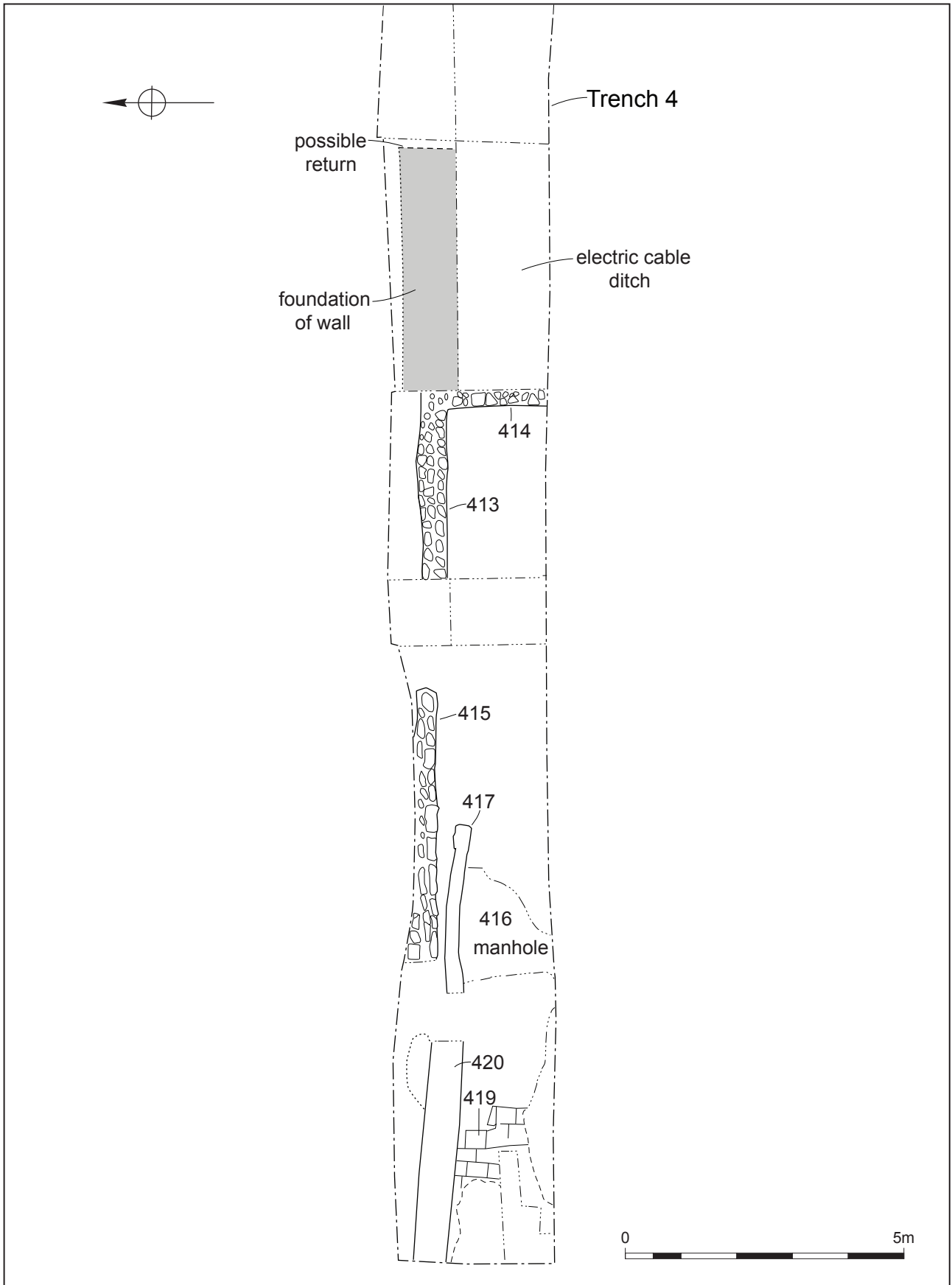
Figure 1



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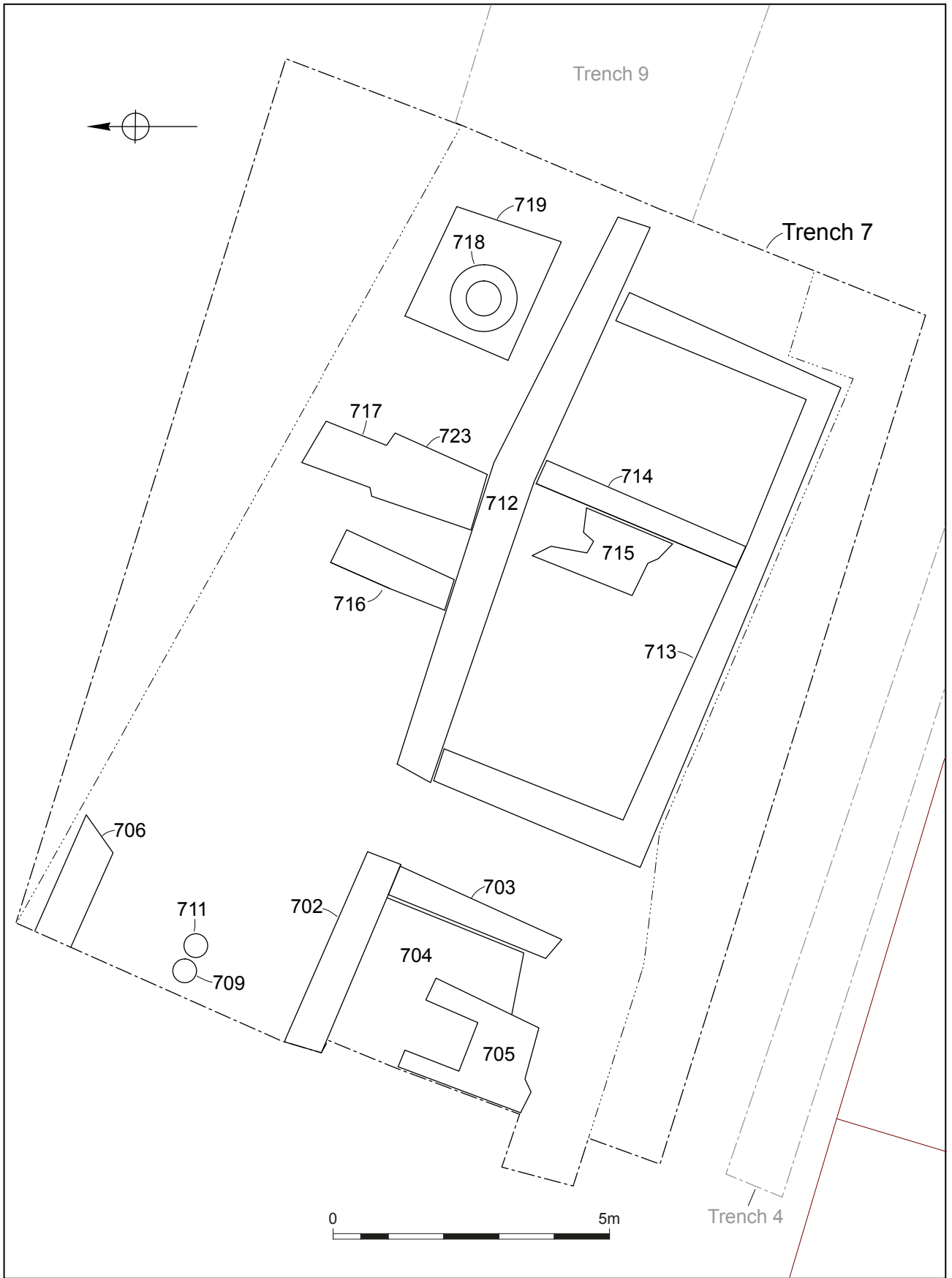
Trench location plan

Figure 2



Plan of Trench 4

Figure 3



Plan of Trench 7

Figure 4



**Plates**



*Plate 1 Land behind No's 8 and 9 High Street, looking west*



*Plate 2 Outbuilding in Trench 7, looking east*

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*Plate 3 Floor 419, behind No 7 High Street*

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*Plate 4 Floor 416 to the rear of No 7 High Street*

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*Plate 5 Culvert behind No 8 High Street*



*Plate 6 Boundary wall between 7 and 8 High Street*



*Plate 7 Curved medieval wall in Trench 4*

---



*Plate 8 Curved medieval wall in Trench 4*

---





*Plate 9 Horse seventh cervical vertebra with exostoses*

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*Plate 10 Horse seventh cervical vertebra transversally cut through*

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*Plate 11 Gable end of No 7 High Street, looking northwest*



## **Appendix 1 Technical information**

### **The archive**

The archive consists of:

- 52 Context records AS1
- 21 Field progress reports AS2
- 6 Photographic records AS3
- 439 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 16 Scale drawings
- 1 Context number catalogues AS5
- 1 Sample number catalogues AS18
- 1 Flot records AS21
- 19 Trench record sheets AS41
- 3 Box of finds
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Museums Resource Centre  
Cotswold Dene  
Standlake  
Witney  
OX29 7QG

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### Summary of data for HER

period	material class	object specific type	total	weight (g)
Roman	ceramic	pot	1	14
medieval	ceramic	pot	88	1587
late medieval/early post-medieval	ceramic	pot	40	593
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	18	813
modern	ceramic	pot	25	637
medieval	ceramic	roof tile	3	104
medieval	ceramic	floor tile	2	85
Late medieval/early post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile	2	90
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile	1	14
modern	ceramic	roof tile	1	62
medieval	lead	stylus	1	7
undated	iron	nail	5	56
undated	iron	key	1	98
undated	copper alloy	object	1	12
post-medieval	glass	window	1	4
modern	glass	object	1	4
modern	glass	vessel	20	2772
<b>total</b>			<b>208</b>	<b>6836</b>

**Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage**

context	material class	object specific type	Count	Weight (g)	start date	end date	Finds <i>tpq</i>
0	ceramic	pot	1	1	15C	16C	
0	glass	vessel	1	51	19C		
200	ceramic	pot	2	6	M18C		
200	ceramic	pot	2	12	L19C	20C	L19/20C
210	ceramic	pot	1	5	16C	17C	17C
401	ceramic	pot	2	21	L19C	20C	L19/20C
401	glass	vessel	5	205	L19C	20C	
401	iron	key	1	98			
407	ceramic	pot	2	33	L11C	12C	medieval
407	ceramic	pot	2	29	?13C	?14C	

428	ceramic	pot	9	284	13C	14C	13-14C
432	glass		1	4		20C	20C
434	ceramic	pot	3	120	E11C	12C	12C
606	ceramic	pot	1	54		16C	16C
607	ceramic	pot	13	120		L18C	L18-E19C
607	glass	vessel	2	354	L18C	E19C	
611	ceramic	pot	1	28	L17C	18C	18C
700	ceramic	pot	2	46			
701	glass	vessel	2	123	M19C	20C	
701	glass	vessel	8	1886	L19C	20C	
701	ceramic	pot	6	478	L19C	20C	L19/20C
716	ceramic	pot	3	323	17C	18C	
716	ceramic	pot	1	127	17C		
716	ceramic	pot	1	44	M18C		L19/20C
716	glass	vessel	1	107	19C	20C	
722	ceramic	pot	2	27	M16C	E17C	
722	ceramic	pot	4	23		17C	
722	ceramic	pot	2	33	16C	E17C	E17C
722	ceramic	pot	6	43	E11C	12C	
722	ceramic	pot	3	35			
722	ceramic	floor tile	2	85	13C	15C	
722	ceramic	roof tile	1	62			
724	ceramic	roof tile	1	60			
724	ceramic	pot	1	54	E11C	12C	
724	ceramic	pot	11	219			?E11-12C
726	ceramic	pot	3	66	L15C	16C	
726	ceramic	pot	1	11	16C	E17C	
726	ceramic	pot	1	20	L15C	E17C	16C/E17C
726	ceramic	pot	1	6			
726	ceramic	pot	3	7	17C		
726	ceramic	roof tile	2	90			
728	ceramic	tile	1	14			
728	ceramic	pot	1	4	16C	E17C	
728	ceramic	pot	1	1			16C/E17C
728	glass	window	1	4			
729	ceramic	pot	8	212	M16C	E17C	
729	ceramic	pot	2	32	13C	14C	
729	ceramic	pot	1	1	17C		
729	ceramic	pot	3	23	E11C	12C	E17C
729	ceramic	pot	1	43	L15C	E17C	
729	ceramic	?ridge tile	2	44			
729	iron	nail	1	23			
731	ceramic	pot	1	87	L17C	18C	L17-18C
733	ceramic	pot	1	100	M10C	M11C	M10/M11C
735	ceramic	pot	3	37			
735	ceramic	pot	2	12	E11C	12C	E11/12C
737	ceramic	pot	1	36	13C	14C	13-14C
741	ceramic	pot	7	112	M11C+	14C	13-14C
742	ceramic	pot	2	20	?13C	?14C	

742	ceramic	pot	1	7	13C	14C	13-14C
747	ceramic	pot	2	57	13C	14C	13-14C
747	ceramic	pot	1	9	L11C	13C	
747	ceramic	pot	2	22	E11C	12C	
747	ceramic	pot	6	64	?13C	?14C	
747	lead	stylus	1	7			
1003	ceramic	pot	2	16	M10C	M11C	M10C/M11C
1004	ceramic	pot	1	5	13C	14C	13-14C
1008	ceramic	pot	1	128	17C	18C	17-18C
1203	ceramic	pot	4	17			16/17C
1203	ceramic	pot	12	101	M16C	E17C	
1203	ceramic	pot	4	12	16C	E17C	
1203	ceramic	pot	2	4	L16C	17C	
1203	iron	nail	2	15			
1205	ceramic	pot	1	7			13-14C
1205	ceramic	pot	1	22	13C	14C	
1205	?copper alloy	object	1	12			
1211	glass	vessel	1	46			20C
1216	ceramic	pot	1	1	17C		16/17C
1216	ceramic	pot	1	44	16C	17C	
1216	ceramic	pot	1	14	12C	13C	
1216	ceramic	pot	1	2	13C	14C	
1216	iron	nail	2	18			
1307	ceramic	pot	1	1	13C	14C	13-14C

**Table 2: Summary of context dating based on the artefactual assemblage**

Taxon	Medieval	Post-medieval	Post-medieval/Modern	Modern	Total
Cattle ( <i>Bos f. domestic</i> )	-	3	-	-	3
Sheep/Goat ( <i>Ovis/Capra f. domestic</i> )	-	12	1	1	14
Sheep ( <i>Ovis f. domestic</i> )	(-)	(7)	(-)	(1)	(8)
Pig ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> )	-	1 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	1
Horse ( <i>Equus caballus</i> )	-	2 <sup>2</sup>	-	-	2
Cat ( <i>Felis catus</i> )	-	1 <sup>3</sup>	-	-	1
Anuran ( <i>Rana/Bufo</i> )	1 <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	1
Toad ( <i>Bufo bufo</i> )	(1)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>

*Table 3 Number of mammal, bird and amphibian bones (NISP)*

“Sheep/Goat” and “Anuran Amphibian” also includes specimens identified to species. Numbers in parentheses are not included in the total of the period.

1 Includes a partial skeleton of thirteen bones

2 Includes a skull and seven vertebrae belonging to a single individual

3 Includes a partial skeleton of thirty-three bones

4 Includes a partial skeleton from a sample

Latin name	Family	Common name	Habitat	741
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<b>Charred plant remains</b>				
<i>Triticum aestivo-compactum</i> grain	Poaceae	club wheat	F	+++
<i>Triticum</i> sp (free-threshing) grain	Poaceae	free-threshing wheat	F	+++
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain (hulled)	Poaceae	barley	F	+ / +++
<i>Vicia sativa</i> ssp <i>nigra</i>	Fabaceae	common vetch	AB	+++
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp	Fabaceae	vetch/pea	ABCD	++
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Polygonaceae	sheep's sorrel	ABD	+
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Plantaginaceae	ribwort plantain	ABD	+
<i>Centaurea</i> cf <i>cyanus</i>	Asteraceae	cornflower	D	+
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Asteraceae	stinking chamomile	AB	+
<i>Valerianella dentata</i>	Valerianaceae	narrow-fruited cornsalad	AB	+
<b>Uncharred plant remains</b>				
unidentified root fragments	unidentified			++++

Table 4: Plant remains from quarry pit fill (741)

**Key:**

Habitat	Quantity
A= cultivated ground	+ = 1 - 10
B= disturbed ground	++ = 11- 50
C= woodlands, hedgerows, scrub etc	+++ = 51 - 100
D = grasslands, meadows and heathland	++++ = 101+
E = aquatic/wet habitats	
F = cultivar	

