47-53 HIGH STREET, POTTERSPURY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Prepared by

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

On behalf of

SEIMA CONSTRUCTION

For

DENHAM LAND DEVELOPMENTS

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Network Archaeology Ltd from March to November 2003 on land at 47-53 High Street Potterspury (Figure 1, NGR 475860 243130). Significant amounts of medieval pottery and animal bone were recovered. The pottery is largely made up of waste material, probably from a near-by kiln, identified in an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Northampton Archaeology in 1998. The watching brief also recorded a possible hedge boundary and tree bole, the latter yielding finds of medieval, post-medieval and modern date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Network Archaeology Ltd on land at 47-53 High Street, Potterspury, Northamptonshire (NGR 475860 243130) on behalf of Seima Construction for Denham Land Developments Ltd. The site was monitored by an archaeologist during relevant groundworks, beginning in March 2003 but with the majority of work in October and November 2003.

1.2 Project background

The archaeological watching brief was required as a condition of development contained in a letter by Myk Flitcroft, the Archaeological Planning Officer for Northamptonshire, dated 31.05.02 (ref MF P066/1/2). This condition was focused on an area of 'defined archaeological interest' centring on a previously recorded (but not excavated) kiln (see below).

1.3 Previous archaeological work

According to a desk based assessment of the site (NA 1998), a number of medieval and post-medieval sites, mostly of an industrial character have been discovered in the immediate area; these include boundary ditches, quarries and kilns, with associated debris.

In 1998 an archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site by Northamptonshire Archaeology (1998). A pottery kiln was identified in one of the test-pits and in others pits containing medieval and post-medieval ceramics were encountered. The pottery kiln was not excavated, though it was dated to probably the middle of the 14th century on the evidence of pottery recovered.

The village of Potterspury is recognised as being a centre of a substantial ceramic industry. Several kilns have been excavated in Potterspury and neighbouring villages.

2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the watching brief were to:

- monitor construction of the access road, service trenches and fencing for archaeological remains
- ensure that the previously identified kiln remain preserved in situ
- locate, interpret, record and conserve any archaeological deposits or artefacts exposed during construction
- gather sufficient data to establish the; extent, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains
- archaeologically excavate any archaeological remains, which it was not feasible or desirable to avoid
- produce a report presenting the findings of the above

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3 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

3.1 Location and Topography

The site is located on land at 47-53 High Street, Potterspury, Northamptonshire, adjacent to the A5 trunk road about 1km southwest of the Grand Union Canal and to the east of Whittlewood Forest (Figure 1, NGR 475860 243130).

3.2 Soils and Geology

The soils in the area belong to the Aberford association (Soil Survey 1983, 511a). These are described as 'Shallow, locally brashy, well drained calcareous fine loamy soils over limestone. Some deeper calcareous soils in colluvium'. The site lies on undulating ground at an elevation of $c.95 \, \mathrm{m}$ O.D.

3.3 Landuse

The evaluation report describes the development area as 'partly rough grassland and garaging' at the time of the trial trenching (NA 1998).

4 PROCEDURES

4.1 Field records

Written Records

All written records were on standard pro-forma sheets, following accepted practice and guidance. Multi context recording was used for all archaeological and natural deposits that were observed throughout construction.

Drawn Records

All archaeological deposits encountered during top-soil stripping and trenching were hand drawn, and located using plans supplied by the client or the client's agents. The drawn records include:

- OS base plans at appropriate scale, showing the location of any excavation areas, marked on developer's site plan.
- Section drawings at 1:20 scale, of all excavated features and overlying site stratigraphy.

4.2 Photographic Record

35mm Colour slide, Black and White and digital photographs were taken of archaeological deposits and the site during monitoring.

4.3 Independent monitoring

The watching brief was monitored by Myk Flitcroft the Archaeological Planning Officer for Northamptonshire.

4.4 Post excavation

Finds

All finds were cleaned, marked, conserved and packaged as appropriate to IFA guidelines (1999)

Archive

The project archive has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in *Management of Archaeological Projects*, Appendix 3 (E H 1991). The archive is currently held at the Buckinghamshire office of Network Archaeology Ltd.

4.5 Standards

Network Archaeology Ltd. is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). All work has been undertaken in accordance with current health and safety legislation and in line with IFA guidelines (IFA 1999–2001).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Prehistoric Periods

No archaeological remains from any prehistoric period are known in the immediate area of the development.

5.2 Romano-British

No archaeological remains from this period are known in the immediate area of the development. However, the Roman road known as Watling Street (A5), runs immediately west of Potterspury on a southeast to northwest alignment. This road was one of the main Roman routes from Dover to Holyhead, passing through London, Verulamium (St. Albans) and the Midlands.

5.3 Medieval

The village was originally called *Pyrie* or *Estpirie* (east Perey), derived from 'pyrige' meaning 'the place where pear tree grow'. Following the introduction of potteries in the 12th century the village became known as Potters Perry, now Potterspury (Potterspury Village 2003).

Medieval archaeological remains, mostly of an industrial character have been identified in Potterspury; these include boundary ditches, quarries and kilns with associated debris (NA 1998).

A pottery kiln was identified on the site during an evaluation by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 1998; pits nearby also revealed medieval and post-medieval ceramics. The kiln was dated to the middle of the 14th century on the evidence of pottery recovered (*ibid*).

5.4 Post Medieval

A number of post-medieval sites are known in Potterspury. These include post-medieval kilns, a possible boundary ditch, a 17th century workshop and a listed, early to mid 19th century house.

5.5 Modern

In recent times, the site was rough grasslands and garaging (NA 1998).

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6 RESULTS

6.1 Access Road

The excavation of a narrow service trench (sewage) revealed a possible hedgerow or tree-bole (101) beneath the topsoil and construction rubble mix (114), root action was evident and charcoal fragments were the only noted inclusions (fig. 3a). This was amorphous and diffused, measuring at the greatest points 1.56m in width and 0.52m deep. Mid brownish-grey sandy clay (100) distinguished this from the surrounding yellow brown natural clay (112), and the limestone bedrock beneath this (113). This was observed in both sides of the service trench, and was on an east-west alignment.

6.2 Manhole

Soil extraction for a manhole located on the eastern side of a southerly bend in the access road exposed a sub-circular tree bole (102) (fig. 3b). A mid to dark blackish brown sandy clay (103), although diffused in some areas, distinguished this from the surrounding clays (112). The tree bole was amorphous in profile, and measured roughly 0.87m in diameter at the top to 0.28m at the lowest excavated point of 1.10m. Beneath the root disturbance a selection of finds were recovered from the loosened spoil (classed as unstratified). The finds included 15 examples of modern CBM, and one sherd from a Potterspury Ware jug (appendix B. The full extent of the tree-bole was not exposed by groundworks.

6.3 Service Trench

A major concentration of medieval pottery was discovered when two service trenches were linked, approximately 11m due east from the rear of 45 High Street (fig.2). The artefacts were concentrated in an area of roughly 1.20m diameter and 0.80m depth. The result of machining caused the artefacts to scatter, the presence of artefacts were the only indication of a waste pit; no cut was evident and the fill of the pit (104) did not visibly differ from the surrounding natural clays (112) (fig. 3b & 3c). Although no cut was identified in the field, it is still assumed to exist, and has therefore been given a number (105); this number represents the concentration of finds (fig. 3), but as it was not encountered in the field no description is possible. The waste pit is located near to evaluation trenches 5 (area of the kiln) and 9, excavated and recorded by Northamptonshire Archaeology (1998).

6.4 Fencepost

A second concentration of medieval pottery was encountered after the extraction of soils for a wooden fencepost (108), part of the replacement 2m high close-boarded fence along the side of house number 47's garden. This waste pit is close to the identified location of the medieval kiln. The excavated fencepost hole was 0.78m in depth, and approximately 0.30m wide. The pottery filled the hole up to 0.28m from the bottom, contained within orange brown sandy clay (109) and covered by a black organic layer (115), under the topsoil and construction rubble (114).

6.5 Finds

From the 2 waste pits a total of 829 sherds of pottery were recovered, along with Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and animal bone. The artefacts were submitted for assessment, whereupon over 90% of the medieval ceramic was classed as Potterspury Ware. The remainder consisted of 7 sherds of post-medieval or modern pottery and 49 examples of CBM; 23 of modern date with the remainder being medieval (see Appendix B)

7 CONCLUSION

The watching brief confirmed that the kiln discovered on the site by Northampton Archaeology in 1998.was not disturbed. As a result of the watching brief, further archaeological remains pertaining to the medieval history of the site and the village of Potterspury were identified and recorded. It is highly likely that the pottery assemblages date to the later 14th or earlier 15th century, making it contemporary with the kiln

The hedgerow or possibly tree-bole (101) identified during monitoring of the service trench might possibly represent a former boundary, though no date may be attributed to it. Another probable tree-bole (102) produced artefacts, though this may have been through tree roots disturbing a pit or growing through general surrounding debris.

Although no cut was visible one deposit contained such a significant amount of pottery that it is assumed that was contained within a pit (the edges perhaps not visible by groundwork). The nature of this deposit (being almost indistinguishable from the surrounding clay subsoil) possibly indicates a rapid backfill after the deposition of waste pottery. The finds support this idea; as of 453 recovered finds, 90% were of medieval Potterspury ware. Other finds recovered include ceramic building materials (CBM) and animal bone (3.5%) again supporting the idea of a waste disposal. Fired clay recovered may show a relationship to the kiln.

Due to the proximity of the kiln, it is likely that the waste pit (108) forms part of a larger pit for wasted materials. Due to the circumstances of the excavation of the posthole for the fence no plan or profile could be ascertained. From this small area, 132 sherds of Potterspury ware were recovered, again displaying characteristics of waste. Some modern pottery and CBM were recovered but as the majority of the finds are medieval, it is highly likely that that modern finds are from the ground works causing modern debris to contaminate the archaeological assemblage. The finds recovered from the spoil (110) included 215 sherds of medieval pottery, 3 lumps of heat affected clay, one of flint, and one of stone.

The Pottery

The majority of the pottery dates from the late 14th to 15th century, making it contemporary with the kiln. Much of this pottery shows definite signs of being waste through over-firing, running glaze, cracking, oxidation or under-firing. It appears the most common problem during the firing process was that the temperature would be too hot and result in over-firing, and raise too quickly, which resulted in cracking. This confirms the interpretation of the deposits and suspected relationship to the kiln on site. Little difference in the character of the assemblages recovered further indicates the contemporary nature of the contexts encountered.

It appears that the potters were producing a selected form of pottery from this site. Of the four types of vessel represented in the assemblage, jugs were by far the most common. These were rounded with a sagging, wide base and a roughly cylindrical neck with little decoration. Of decorated pieces found, 9 sherds had either wavy bands or grooved decoration. As some of these sherds were from the lower body of vessels, the decoration may have included a maker's mark, but the jugs do not appear to have been glazed all over. Other pottery forms represented include bowls, jars, and a single storage jar. The limited range of pottery form and decoration found in the waste pits suggests that only a limited number of people were employed on this site, and may represent a limited phase of production (see appendix B).

The Animal Bone

The animal bone recovered from the waste pits belong to a variety of animals including rat, deer, sheep, pig, cow and horse. Most of these animals were apparently relatively old when they died, although the cow appears to have been younger, about 3 years, at the favoured age

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for beef cattle to be slaughtered. As teeth and bones were recovered from within the waste pits, it might be inferred that the bones represent the food eaten by the potters, although a lack of butcher marks may indicate that some of the animals died on site incidentally and were disposed of in a convenient hole.

8 ARCHIVE

The site archive is currently held at the Buckingham office of Network Archaeology Ltd. It will be prepared in accordance with current guidelines and remain at this office until a suitable repository become available.

The archive contains the following:

- A copy of this report and all reports held by Network Archaeology relating to the project
- All 35mm colour slide and black and white print photographs
- All digital photographs on CD
- All original site drawings and plans of the site
- All finds from the site
- All original written site records
- Original notes relating to the finds or post excavation
- Original relevant and non confidential correspondence relating to the site

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9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Soil Survey 1983 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden).
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11 STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

Every effort has been taken in the preparation and submission of this report in order to provide as complete an assessment as possible within the terms of the brief, and all statements and opinions are offered in good faith. Network Archaeology Ltd. cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for any loss or other consequences arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this report and any supplementary papers, howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived, or as a result of unknown and undiscovered sites of artefacts.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE

$\begin{array}{c} \text{APPENDIX A} \\ \text{CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE} \end{array}$

Context	Туре	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
100	Fill	Mid Brown-grey sandy clay, with frequent charcoal inclusions. Fill of cut 101.	1.56m W 0.52m D	Organic decomposition
101	Cut	Moderate concave with amorphous northern side	1.56m W 0.52m D	Hedge row or tree bole
102	Cut	Sub-circular plan, amorphous in profile	0.87m W 1.10m D	Tree bole
103	Fill	Mid to dark brownish black sandy clay, firm consistency. Fill of cut 102	0.87m W 1.10m D	Organic and natural mixed fill
104	Fill	Light brownish orange clay with firm consistency. Fill of cut 105	1.20m W 0.80m D	Re-deposited natural 112
105	Cut	No cut visible -given to show distribution of finds in 104	1.20m W 0.80m D	Waste pit for ceramics; quickly backfilled
106	Finds	Unstratified finds from 102 spoil heap	NA	NA
107	Finds	Unstratified finds from 105 machine excavation	NA	NA
108	Cut	Circular fence post excavation	0.30m W 0.78m D	Hole for fence post cutting into waste pit for ceramics – dimensions of pit not available
109	Fill	Orangey brown sandy clay. Fill of cut 108	0.24m W 0.28m D	Ceramic rich fill of waste pit refilled with natural 112
110	Finds	Unstratified finds from excavation of 108	NA	NA
111	Find	Single unstratified find from 108	NA	NA
112	Layer .	Light to mid brownish yellow clay, occasional sand, grit and limestone inclusions	NA	Natural subsoil of site
113	Layer	Limestone deposits	NA	Bedrock
114	Layer	Dark brown clayey loam with numerous brick and rubbish inclusions	NA	Topsoil mixed with construction rubble

All dimensions are in metres. T: Thickness

L: Length

W: Width

D: Depth

Assessment of the pottery and ceramic building material Alan Vince

829 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material from 47-53 High Street, Potterspury, Northamptonshire, were submitted for identification and assessment. The collection consists mainly of production waste of later medieval Potterspury ware, including ridge tiles, with a small quantity of 19th century pottery and ceramic building material.

Description

The finds were identified and recorded in an Access database using the classification of the Northamptonshire Pottery Type Series as a guide to ware classification (REF). Pottery forms were classified using the terminology proposed by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (1998). The material was quantified by sherd count, maximum number of vessels and weight in grams (Table B1). At the request of the excavators, Modern ceramic building material was counted and weighed but not further recorded.

Table B 1

Class	Data	103	104	106	107	109	110	111	Grand Total
ASBESTOS	Sum of Nosh			1					1
	Sum of NoV			1					1
	Sum of Weight			3					3
СВМ	Sum of Nosh	15	26	2	5	1			49
	Sum of NoV	15	26	2	5	1			49
	Sum of Weight	666	342	10	119	77			1214
PPOT .	Sum of Nosh		2		4		1		7
	Sum of NoV		2		2		1		5
	Sum of Weight		5		15		0.5		20.5
MPOT	Sum of Nosh	1	409	1	13	132	215	1	772
	Sum of NoV	1	409	1	13	128	214	1	767
	Sum of Weight	4	4578	15	161	546	945	11	6260
Total Sum of Nosh		16	437	4	22	133	216	1	829
Total Sum of NoV		16	437	4	20	129	215	1	822
Total Sum of Weight		670	4925	28	295	623	945.5	11	7497.5

 $Key: Nosh = number \ of \ sherds, \ NoV = number \ of \ vessels, \ CBM = Ceramic \ Building \ Material, \ PPOT = post-medieval/modern \ pottery, \ MPOT = medieval \ pottery$

From Table B1 it can be seen that there is a small quantity of post-medieval/modern pottery from three contexts (104, 107 and 110). Furthermore, modern ceramic building material was recovered from four further contexts (103, 106, 107 and 109). Nevertheless, the small proportion of modern material in three contexts (104, 109 and 110) suggest that these assemblages are actually of medieval date and are contaminated with small quantities of more recent material.

Ceramic and Other Building Material

Medieval

Two small groups of fired clay were recovered, from two contexts (104 and 110). Both have the same fabric, which has a calcareous groundmass and abundant large fragments of oolitic limestone and nacreous bivalve shells, several mm across, together with straw impressions. The fabric is soft and the surfaces where present are coated with a white layer assumed to be a lime wash. One of these surfaces is convex and the remainder are roughly flat. There are no wattle impressions and one possible angular stone impression.

The low firing and the lack of temperature gradient from the surface to the interior of the fragment argue against these fragments being kiln lining or part of a kiln superstructure. They might, however, be part of a daub and lime wash coating on the outside of a kiln superstructure. Alternatively, they may be from the walls of a domestic structure.

The limestone inclusions are mixed which indicate that they have been transported from the outcrop rather than representing a brash developed on the outcrop *in situ*. The soil survey description of the site suggests that the origin of this clay may have been a limestone-rich colluvium which may have been quarried on site.

Fragments of five lead-glazed ridge tiles in Potterspury ware were found. Some of these had evidence of being wasters. Ridge tiles may therefore have been produced alongside pottery on the site, or they may have been reused to form a cover for the kiln if its superstructure consisted of a cylindrical or ovoid tube with an open top.

A small fragment of a brick or tile over 25mm thick in a fabric similar to Potterspury ware was found. The fabric contained abundant angular fragments of clay and sparse bivalve shell. It is likely that the fragment is from a hearth tile rather than a brick. Such tiles were used as the bases for hearths during the later medieval and early post-medieval periods.

Modern

Twenty-three fragments of modern building material were recovered from the site (from contexts 103, 107 and 109). They have not been recorded in detail but include cement from the bonding of a frogged brick structure, and as such are of late 19th or 20th century date. A fragment of pantile and a whiteware wall tile (of the type used to tile the walls of washhouses) were found in the pottery collection.

Pottery

Medieval

Almost all the medieval pottery from the site consists of sherds of Potterspury ware (772 sherds). Much of this pottery shows definite signs of being waste. These include overfiring of the fabric to a hard, light grey semi-stoneware, glaze running over the edges of sherds, oxidation of broken sherd edges where the remainder of the core is reduced, immature glaze, pieces of pot and clay stuck in the glaze and underfiring. Of these, the most common defects are overfiring and oxidation of broken edges. Both of these defects suggest that the most common problem encountered in firing was for the temperature to rise too high (overfiring) and too fast (cracking). There are, however, very few examples of warped wasters and none of completely melted pieces, both of which are not uncommon in medieval pottery waste assemblages. The pottery mainly came from three distinct areas, (contexts 104, 109 and 110). There is however, little difference in the character of the pottery between the three groups which are consequently assessed here as a single assemblage.

There are several distinct fabrics within the collection. Without further work it is not known if these represent the use of different clays, or can all be explained in terms of differences in firing. For this assessment the sub-fabrics were not recorded on a sherd-by-sherd basis.

Sub-fabric 1: soft, brown with fine sand up to 0.2mm across and rare larger rounded quartz grains, some of which are coated in haematite, and angular fragments of ironstone up to 1.0mm across. Muscovite is common in the groundmass.

Sub-fabric 2: hard, light brown but otherwise similar to sub-fabric 1 except that muscovite is not visible in the fabric

Sub-fabric 3: hard, off-white with burnt-out calcareous inclusions up to 0.5mm across, some containing a white powdery deposit. The remaining inclusions are similar to those in sub-fabric 2.

Sub-fabric 4: Very hard, light grey, or light grey surfaces with a light brown core. Inclusions as is sub-fabric 2

It is possible that sub-fabric 3 is simply a higher-fired version of sub-fabric 2 but no calcareous inclusions were noted at x20 magnification. They may, however, be visible in thin section. Similarly, the presence of muscovite and the redder colour of sub-fabric 1 may be due to a lower firing temperature and the lack of reaction between calcareous inclusions and clay minerals in the body. These interpretations can be tested by the use of petrological analysis and chemical analysis (using Inductively-Coupled Plasma Spectroscopy.

Most of the pottery consisted of featureless body sherds. With some effort many of these might have been assigned to a form but for this assessment they have only been counted and weighed. Attention was, instead, concentrated on the 109 featured sherds (Table B2). These could be assigned to four forms: bowls, jars, jugs and a possible storage jar.

Table B2

Form	Data	104	107	109	110	Grand Total
-1	Sum of Nosh	361	7	95	197	660
5 000 10	Sum of NoV	361	7	95	196	659
1.201	Sum of Weight	3335	67	0	763	4165
BOWL	Sum of Nosh	5	1		1	7
	Sum of NoV	5	1		1	7
	Sum of Weight	158	13		41	212
JAR	Sum of Nosh	1	1	1		3
	Sum of NoV	1	1	1		3
	Sum of Weight	18	21	11		50
JUG	Sum of Nosh	41	4	36	17	98
*	Sum of NoV	41	4	32	17	94
	Sum of Weight	991	60	535	141	1727
SJ	Sum of Nosh	1				1
	Sum of NoV	1				1
	Sum of Weight	76				76
Total Sum of Nosh		409	13	132	215	769
Total Sum of NoV		409	13	128	214	764
Total Sum of Weight		4578	161	546	945	6230

Bowls

Only seven featured sherds could be identified as bowls. All were flanged rims from large conical vessels, of the type often known as pancheons. Such vessels often have a wide pulled spout and it has been suggest that they were used in separating cream from milk. However, it is likely that this form, without the spout, would have had numerous uses in food preparation. All seven examples belong to Mynard's Bowl Type b class (Mynard 1970). Some of these rims have glaze on the interior while others are completely unglazed. It is likely, however, that glaze was present in the bases of all the vessels.

Jars

Only three featured sherds could be identified as jars, again all were rims. In Mynard's typology two of these belong to his Cooking Pot Type b class and one to his Cooking Pot Type d.

Jugs

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Jugs were by far the most common form within the assemblage, accounting for 101 of the 112 featured sherds. Only one shape appears to have been produced a rounded jug with a sagging base, wide base angle (23 sherds) with no decoration and a roughly cylindrical neck without a sharp neck/body angle. The vessels had a low cordon on the shoulder (17 sherds) but otherwise have little decoration. Nine sherds with grooved decoration were found, and these include one sherd from the lower body suggesting that the marks may have included maker's marks as well as decoration. The remainder are mainly from horizontal wavy bands, probably from the upper half of the body. The jugs therefore are similar to the complete jug from Gold Street, Northampton published by Mynard (1970, Fig 1 No. 1). Nineteen rim sherds were found, all of them with a squared rim similar to Mynard's Fig 1 No. 6. These have a concave profile below the overhanging rim with a sharp line separating the rim from the neck. Experiment shows that it would be possible to achieve this shape using a finger or thumb to support the rim while another finger is used to force the rim down and out. The sharp groove, therefore, is likely to be made by the potter's fingernail.

Twenty fragments of handle were found. All are wide strap handles, luted to the rim and girth. The rim joins were secured by a row of deep knife-cut slashes which pierce the handle and body clay while the body/handle join was secured and decorated by either one (as in Mynard, 1970, Fig 1 No. 2) or two thumb impressions. The body of the handle was also decorated with slashed lines. In most cases these form a single column of diagonal slashes (Mynard's Handle Type c) but three examples with vertical slashed lines on either side of the central column (as in Mynard, 1970, Fig 1 No.17) also occur.

It is clear from these fragments that glaze was only used sparingly on these jugs. The glaze was often limited to a 'bib' or circular patch of glaze below the spout and most of the handles and base sherds are unglazed or have what could have been accidental splashes of glaze. The glaze is of two kinds; a plain lead glaze, appearing brown through the colour of the body, and a mottled green glaze, coloured by copper.

Storage Jar

A single unglazed body sherd from a thick-walled globular bodied vessel was found. The curvature of the sherd and the wall thickness suggest that it comes from a much larger vessel than either the jugs or jars from the site and it is suggested that this might have been a storage jar.

Date

Although each of the characteristics found in this collection can be matched in other collections of Potterspury ware, the collection is unusual. The main point of difference is that jars, one of the most common forms on settlement sites, are so rare. Furthermore, the detailed typology of the jugs and bowls is limited, and Mynard describes and illustrates a number of forms which are absent from the

collection. While this may, to some extent, be due to the relatively small size of the collection, it is also likely that the production was limited to jugs with a few examples of other forms.

Mynard notes that the potting industry must have begun at Potterspury by the late 13th century since the prefix "Potters-" was already in use by 1287 (Mynard 1970, 49). This collection, however, seems to be somewhat later and the low number of jars is consistent with a 14th-century or later date. The uniformity of the products and the use of a bib of glaze is in fact typical of late medieval pottery (i.e. late 14th to 15th centuries). The pottery, therefore, is likely to be contemporary with the kiln discovered on the site by *Northamptonshire Archaeology* in 1998.

Modern

Eight sherds of modern pottery were recovered (Table B3). There were no large concentrations and it is likely that all the sherds represent contamination from overlying modern deposits. In total, the sherds only amount to 30gm in weight. The types present are in the main typical of the later 19th and early 20th centuries. A single sherd from context 110 is a sliver from the interior of a bowl made from a calcareous, fine-textured red body with a white internal slip and colourless lead glaze. While this is most likely to be a coarseware bowl from the country potteries of northeast England it might possibly be a late medieval Italian import, although this is unlikely.

Table B3

Context	Data	ITALS/SUND	NCBW	PMLOC	TPW	WHITE	Grand Total
104	Sum of Nosh		1	1			2
	Sum of NoV		1	1			2
	Sum of Weight		1	4			5
106	Sum of Nosh					1	1
	Sum of NoV					1	1
	Sum of Weight					3	10
107	Sum of Nosh				3	1	4
	Sum of NoV				1	1	2
	Sum of Weight				12	3	15
110	Sum of Nosh	1					1
	Sum of NoV	1			<u> </u>		1
	Sum of Weight	0.5					0.5
Total Sum of Nosh		1	1	1	3	2	8
Total Sum of NoV		1	1	1	1	2	6
Total Sum of Weight		0.5	1	4	12	6	30.5

Assessment

The limited range of pottery forms and decoration found in the Potterspury production waste suggests that it may represent the waste from a short period of potting by a limited number of potters, rather than being derived from a waster dump used over a long period of time by the whole community. Study of this material therefore, may provide us with a guide as to what vessel types were produced together. If the same range of features is found on Potterspury ware from a settlement site where the pottery was used it may allow us to identify a particular phase in the development of this long-lived and important pottery industry.

In the notes accompanying the Northamptonshire Pottery Type Series, the discovery and study of groups of Potterspury ware waste was given a high priority, since in the author's view previous

discoveries had been cursorily treated. If further disturbance of the ground is planned at the site then the opportunity should certainly be taken to increase the size of this sample. However, even if no further work takes place this collection is large enough to characterise the products.

At present, the collection cannot be closely dated, and could be of any date from the later 13th to early 16th centuries, although it is most likely to date to the middle of this period, the later 14th or 15th centuries.

Following the deposition of the potting waste, there is no evidence from these finds for any activity until the mid/late 19th century, although the quantity of modern finds is too low to give an accurate start date for this phase. These late finds are quite small but not abraded and give the impression of being buried close to their place of use rather than been spread onto the fields with manure. A single fragment of land drain, however, may indicate a period of land drainage preceding Victorian or later occupation.

Retention

The majority of the sherds are featureless body sherds and probably contain little potential for further analysis, although they could be assigned to a vessel form. However, even if they were assigned to a form it is uncertain what extra information about the production this would produce. Similarly, they could be assigned to a sub-fabric, but this process would be more useful if applied to featured sherds. It is therefore recommended that the featureless body sherds, which have been rebagged separately, be discarded, ideally by being reburied on the site.

Further Work

The pottery production waste should be studied and the results published. Certain dimensions present on these vessels could be measured. These include the rim diameters of all rims large enough for reconstruction, the width of strap handles and the width of the squared rims.

Samples of the fabric should be analysed, using thin section and chemical analysis. This should aid the identification of this specific group of Potterspury ware if or when it is subsequently found on settlement sites. This analysis would also determine whether or not the observed differences in colour are due solely to conditions in the kiln or were affected by the composition of the potting clay. Ten samples would be required for chemical analysis, selected so as to cover the visual variations in fabric and colour. For thin section analysis four samples would be sufficient, one from each of the visually distinct fabric groups.

The source of the potting clay does not appear to have been local since the soil survey states that the site lies on colluvium sitting on limestone. It is very unlikely that the colluvium would be suitable potting clay, although this could be investigated by sampling the subsoil on site and, if it appears suitable for potting, making and firing test briquettes for comparison.

Table B4: Catalogue of finds

Context	class	cname	Form	subfabric	Weight	Part	Nosh	NoV	Use	Description
110	СВМ	FCLAY		BIVALVE SHELL; RO UNDED OOLITIC LST; SPARS E	49	BS	3	3		ONE CONVEX SURFACE;WHI TEWASHED?
	la de la companya de			GSQ;CALC MATRIX						
103	СВМ	MOD			666	BS	15	15		
103	MPOT	POTTER	JUG		4	BS	1	1		CUGL
104	СВМ	FCLAY		BIVALVE SHELL; RO UNDED OOLITIC LST; SPARS E GSQ; CALC MATRIX	132	BS	17	17	**	
104	СВМ	MTIL	BRIC K	BIVALVE SHELL;AN GULAR CLAY PELLETS;LI GHT- BODIED CF POTTERSP URY WARE	16	BS	1	1		
104	СВМ	POTTER SPURY	RIDG E		88	BS	2	2		
104	СВМ	POTTER SPURY	RIDG E		57	BS	3	3	WA	
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		18	BS	2	2	WA STE	CORDON ON
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	-		837	BS	157	157	WA STE	SHOULDER
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	-		2361	BS	200	200	WA STE	
104	МРОТ	POTTER SPURY	JUG		49	BS	4	4	WA STE	CORDON ON SHOULDER;C UGL
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JAR		18	R	1	1		UUL
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		17	BS	3	3	WA STE	CORDON ON SHOULDER;PL AIN GL
104	МРОТ	POTTER SPURY	BOWL		158	R	5	5		FLANGED RIM
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	-		137	В	4	4		FLAT PEDESTAL BASE
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		190	R	8	8		FLAT-TOPPED
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		34	R .	1	1		SQUARED RIM FLAT-TOPPED SQUARED RIM; PULLED SPOUT
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		10	BS	1	1	WA STE	LUTED B/H JOIN
104	МРОТ	POTTER SPURY	JUG		92	Н	2	2	WA STE	LUTED B/H JOIN;CENTRA L THUMB
104	МРОТ	POTTER SPURY	JUG		24	Н	1	1	WA STE	LUTED B/H JOIN; ERTICAL SLASH DOWN ONE EDGE OF

Context	class	cname	Form	subfabric	Weight	Part	Nosh	NoV	Use	Description
										HANDLE;CENT RAL THUMB(S)
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		44	Н	1	1		LUTED B/H JOIN;ERTICAL SLASH DOWN ONE EDGE OF HANDLE;TWO THUMBS
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		27	BS	1	1		LUTED R/H JOIN
104	МРОТ	POTTER SPURY	JUG		30	R	1	1	WA STE	ROW OF VERTICAL SLASHES ROUND NECK;FLAT- TOPPED SQUARED RIM;LUTED R/H JOIN
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		57	Н	1	1		STRAP; DIAG SLASHES BETWEEN TWO PARALLEL SLASHES; UNG LAZED
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		114	Н	1	1		STRAP;SLASH ES AT R/H AND DIAG SLASHES DOWN HANDLE;SPLA SH OF CUGL
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		25	BS	2	2		WAVY GROOVED
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		6	BS	1	1	WA STE	WAVY GROOVED;CU GL
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		201	В	7	7	WA STE	WIDE ANGLE SAGGING BASE
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		53	В	4	4		WIDE ANGLE SAGGING BASE
104	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	SJ		76	BS	1	1		
104	PPOT	NCBW	BOWL		1	BS	1	1		
104	PPOT	PMLOC	FLP		4	BS	1	1		
106	ASBE STOS	ASBES TOS	FLAT		3	BS	1	1		COATED WITH TAR
106	СВМ	PMTIL	PANT		7	BS	1	1		
106	СВМ	WHITE	WALT		3	BS	1	1		WHITE GLAZE;PRESS MOULDED
106	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		15	Н	1	1		STRAP;DIAG SLASHES
107	СВМ	MOD			119	BS	5	5		
107	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	-		67	BS	7	7	WA STE	
107	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		20	BS	2	2	WA STE	CORDON ON SHOULDER;C UGL
107	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JAR		21	R	1	1	WA STE	
107	МРОТ	POTTER SPURY	BOWL		13	R	1	1	WA STE	FLANGED RIM

Context				subfabric	Weight	Part	Nosh	NoV	Use	Description
107	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		22	В	1	1	WA STE	WIDE ANGLED SAGGING BASE
107	МРОТ	SPURY	JUG		18	В	1	1		WIDE ANGLED SAGGING BASE
107	PPOT	TPW	PLAT E		12	R	3	1		WILLOW PATTERN
107	PPOT	WHITE	JAR		3	BS	1	1		HORIZ LT BLUE SLIP LINES
109	СВМ	MOD	LAND DRAI N		77	BS	1	1		
109	MPOT	POTTER SPURY			27	Н	1	1	WA STE	B/H LUTED STRAP
109	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	-		800	BS	95	95	WA STE	01101
109	МРОТ	POTTER SPURY	5755-055 6 V		33	BS	3	2		CORDON ON SHOULDER
109	МРОТ	POTTER SPURY	JUG		24	BS	2	1		CUGL; WAVY GROOVING
109	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		22	В	1	1	WA STE	DIAG GROOVE ON BODY;WIDE ANGLE SAGGING BASE
109	МРОТ	POTTER SPURY	JUG		43	R	3	1	WA STE	FLANGED RIM;CUGL;LA RGE DIAM
109	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		8	R	1	1	WA STE	FLAT-TOPPED SQUARED RIM
109	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		42	R	1	1	WA STE	FLAT-TOPPED SQUARED RIM
109	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		61	R	1	1	WA STE	FLAT-TOPPED SQUARED RIM;STRAP R/H SLASHED WITH DIAGONAL SLASHES LOWER DOWN
109	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JAR		11	R	1	1		GLAZE ON EXT RIM
109	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		18	BS	3	3		GROOVED
109	МРОТ	POTTER SPURY	JUG		23	BS	3	3	WA STE	PLAIN EXT GL;WAVY GROOVING
109	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		53	Н	2	2	WA STE	R/H SLASHED
109	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		119	Н	12	12	WA STE	STRAP; MAINL Y WITH DIAGONAL SLASHES; TWO WITH PARALLEL SLASHES, ONE ONLY AT R/H
109	МРОТ	POTTER SPURY	JUG		62	В	3	3		WIDE ANGLE;SAGGI NG BASE
110	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		38	BS	3	3		CORDON ON SHOULDER
110	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	-		744	BS	195	195	WA STE	
110	MPOT .	POTTER SPURY	BOWL		41	R	1	1		FLANGED RIM

Context	class	cname	Form	subfabric	Weight	Part	Nosh	NoV	Use	Description
110	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	-		19	В	2	1		FLAT BASE WITH SHORT PEDESTAL
110	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		17	R	3	3		FLAT TOPPED SQUARED RIM
110	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		7	BS	1	1		GROOVED DEC
110	МРОТ	POTTER SPURY	JUG		11	Н	3	3		STRAP;DIAG SLASHED
110	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		2	BS	1	1	WA STE	WAVY GROOVED;CU GL
110	MPOT	POTTER SPURY	JUG		66	В	6	6	WA STE	WIDE ANGLED SAGGING BASE
110	PPOT	ITALS/ SUND	BOWL		0.5	BS	1	1		INT WHITE SLIP AND VERY CLEAR GLAZE;COULD BE ITALS OR SUND!
111	MPOT	MEDLO C	JUG	SILTY, BRICKEAR TH FABRIC;ST REAKS OF WHITE CLAY	11	BS	1	1		REDUCED CUGL (OXBLOOD)

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Animal Bone

Richard Moore

A total of just over 1kg of animal bone was recovered from three contexts. For a small assemblage, there was a relatively wide range of species, with cattle, horse, sheep and deer positively identified, together with a possible pig bone and an incisor tooth of a small mammal, probably a rat.

The recovered bone is quite brittle with a tendency to split but the surfaces are fairly well preserved and some of the relatively robust bones, such as phalanges and metapodials, have survived intact. The relatively large number of teeth recovered suggests that other skeletal elements are under represented, and it may be that the collected bone came from very localised areas where preservation conditions were good and that elsewhere bone had not survived.

Where teeth are present, it is possible to make a broad estimate the age of the animal at death from the degree of tooth-wear. The cattle upper jaw in Context 104 would have come from an animal in its third year (Hillson 1990, p206), a typical age of slaughter for beef cattle. The lower molar in Context 107 was from a rather older individual.

Of the other species, the horse incisor in Context 104 and the probable deer tooth from the same context both showed very heavy wear, and would have come from old animals. The sheep teeth, in contexts 104 and 107 showed relatively heavy wear, and probably came from animals over 3 years old (Hillson 1990, p202).

The epiphyses of vertebral centrums are among the last bones to fuse, so the unfused cervical vertebra in Context 104, probably from a sheep, offers little information beyond the fact that the animal was probably under six or seven years old (Schmid 1975, p 75).

There was a possible cut mark near the broken end of one of the cattle leg-bones in Context 107, but otherwise there was no clear evidence of butchery practice. A number of the long-bones had breakage patterns typical of deliberate cracking for marrow extraction, but similar fracture patterns can arise in other ways. Only one bone fragment, probably from a sheep leg-bone, showed any signs of burning.

Judging from its size, the deer metacarpal in Context 107 is probably from a fallow deer, but there is an overlap in size between red deer and fallow deer. Other diagnostic traits which can help to distinguish between these species (Lister, 1996) were not present.

A rodent tooth in Context 104 is probably from a rat. The two species of rat wild in Britain are both introduced. The black rat (Rattus rattus) appears spasmodically in the archaeological record from Roman times but probably did not become firmly established until the early medieval period. The brown rat (Rattus norvegicus) was a later arrival, but quickly became ubiquitous.

References

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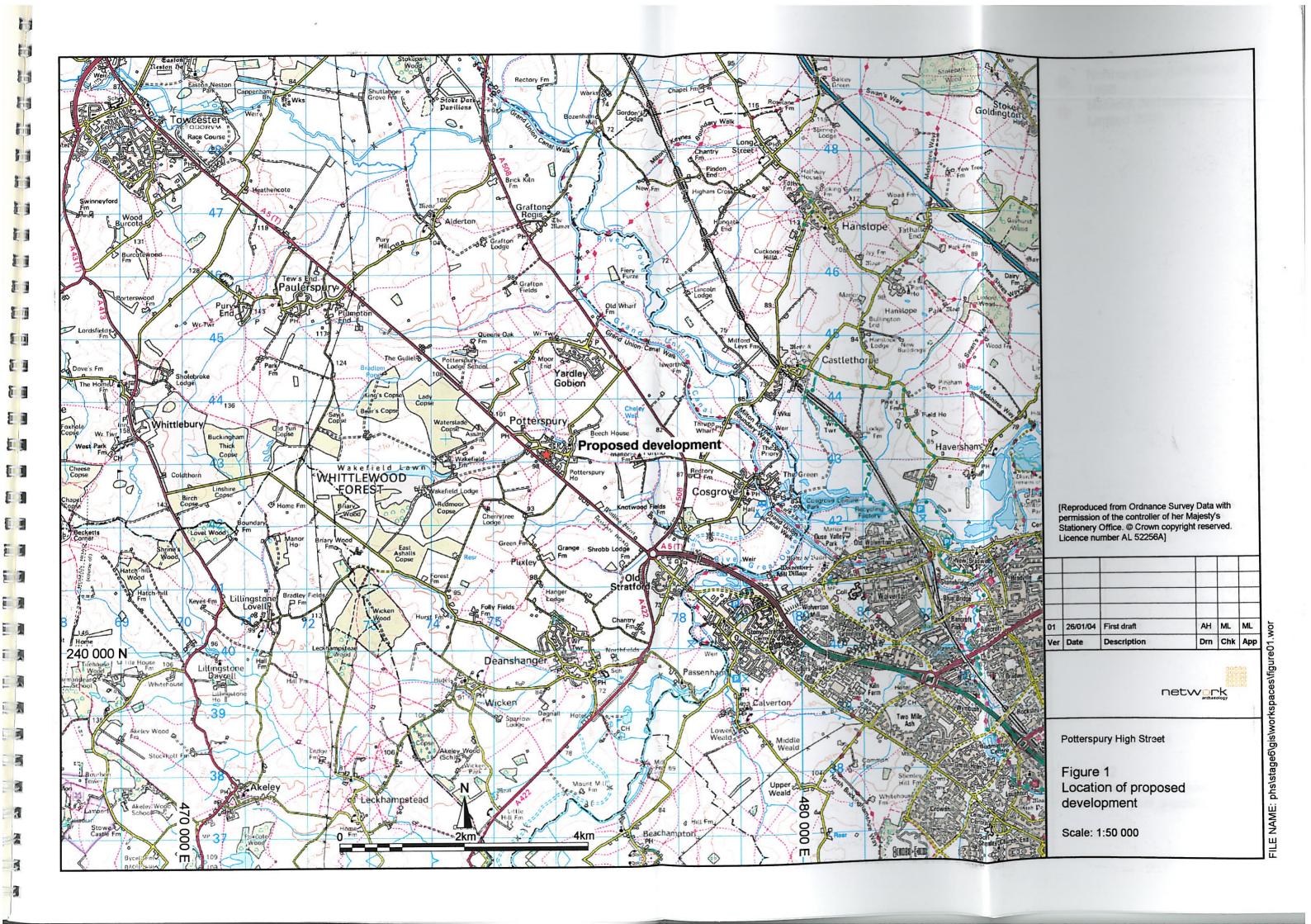
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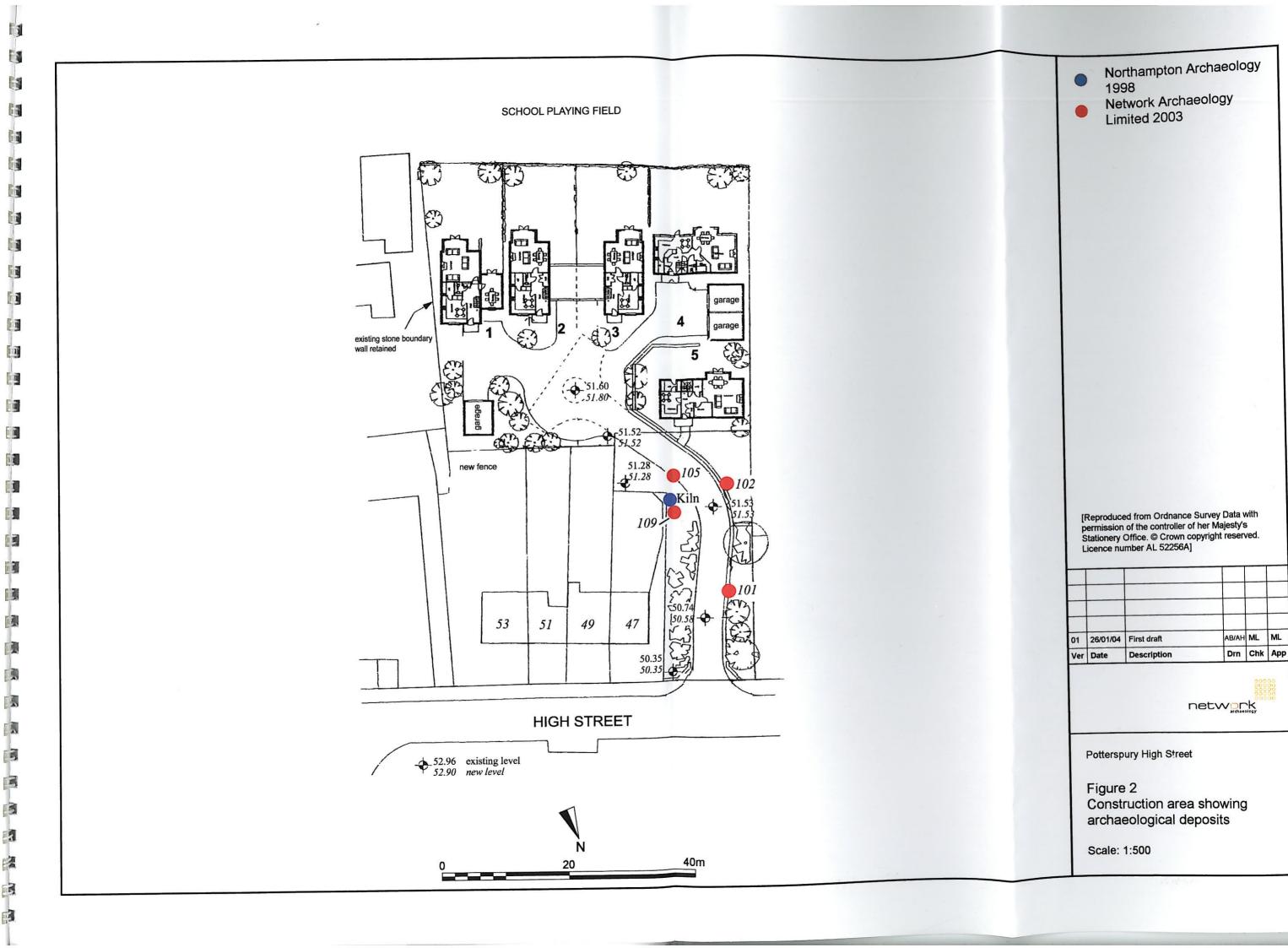
Table B 5: Summary of bones by context

Tooth-wear stages (Hillson, 1990, p 329) are given as small letters (e.g. m2g is second molar, wear-stage g). Codes for bone measurements follow von den Driesh (1976).

Context	Bone	Animal	Side	Comments			
104	Metacarpal	Cattle	Right	Broken, mostly complete; Bp=53.1, Bd=54.3, SD=28.9, GL=185.6			
104	Maxilla	Cattle	Right	Fragment with pm3 (just in wear), pm4 (erupting) and diastema.			
104	Phalanx	Horse		Proximal; complete; GL=82.3, SD=31.5, Bd=42.2, Bfd=40.7, Bp=53.0, Bfp=49.7, Dp=37.7			
104	Tooth	Horse	?Right	Upper i1, heavy wear.			
104	Tooth	Sheep	Left	Probably m1 (wear stage j).			
104	Tooth	?Deer		Pre-molar			
104	Tooth	?Deer	Left	Incisor, possibly lower di1, heavy wear.			
104	Tooth	?Rat	?Left	Upper incisor.			
104	Tooth	Cattle		Fragment of upper ?dpm; may belong with maxilla above.			
104	Innominate	Sheep	Right	Neck of ilium and part of acetabulum.			
104	Vertebra	Sheep- sized		Cervical; centrum, unfused, and part of neural arch.			
104	?Tibia	Sheep- sized		Shaft fragment; areas of burning.			
104	Radius	Cow-sized		Distal part of shaft.			
104	unid	Cow-sized		2 small shaft fragments, probably from above.			
104	Rib	Sheep- sized		Four small fragments			
104	?Skull	?Cow-sized		Fragment, may belong to cattle maxilla above.			
Total wei	ight 104: 290	g					
106	Tooth	Sheep	Left	Lower m?2 (d).			
Total weig	ht 106: 5g						
107	Femur	Cattle	Left	Proximal end of shaft			
107	Humerus	Cattle	Right	Distal end of shaft, with most of trochlea; ?cut mark near break.			
107	Humerus	Cattle	Right	Distal part of shaft.			
107	Metatarsal	Horse	Right	Distal end missing; Bp=47.3, SD=31.1.			
107	Metacarpal	Deer	Left	Distal end missing; damage to proximal end; ?fallow.			
107	Tooth	Cattle	Left	Upper m?1, fairly heavy wear; with fragment of maxilla.			
107	Tooth	Cattle	Left	Lower m3 (wear stage e).			
107	Mandible	?Pig	?Right	Posterior part of angle region.			
107	?Skull	Cow-sized		Fragment.			
Total wei	ght 107: 750	9					

FIGURES 1-3





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