

# A Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval sequence at Huntingdon Bus Station



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



January 2010

**Client: Huntingdonshire District  
Council**

OA East Report No: 1157

OASIS No: oxfrordar3-70576

NGR: 523833 271651

**A ?Roman, medieval and post-medieval sequence at Huntingdon Bus Station,  
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*By Rachel Clarke BA AIFA*

*With contributions by Rob Atkins B.SocSc, Chris Faine MA Msc, Carole Fletcher BA  
AIFA, Rachel Fosberry AIFA*

*Editor: Aileen Connor BA AIFA*

*Illustrator: Andrew Corrigan BA*

*Report Date: January 2010*

**Report Number:** 1157  
**Site Name:** Huntingdon Bus Station  
**HER Event No:** ECB3296  
**Date of Works:** January 2010  
**Client Name:** Huntingdonshire District Council  
**Client Ref:**  
**Planning Ref:** 0901178FUL  
**Grid Ref:** 523833 271651  
**Site Code:** HUN BUS 09  
**Finance Code:** HUN BUS 09  
**Receiving Body:** CCC Stores, Landbeach

**Accession No:**

Prepared by: Rachel Clarke  
Position: Project Officer  
Date: 19/01/10

Checked by: Aileen Connor  
Position: Senior Project Manager  
Date: 28.01.10

Signed: .....

**Disclaimer**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.*

**Oxford Archaeology East,**

15 Trafalgar Way,  
Bar Hill,  
Cambridge,  
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500  
f: 01223 850599  
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

© Oxford Archaeology East 2010  
Oxford Archaeological Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

## Table of Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Summary.....</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>1 Introduction.....</b>                                 | <b>7</b>  |
| 1.1 Location and scope of work.....                        | 7         |
| 1.2 Geology and topography.....                            | 7         |
| 1.3 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 1)..... | 7         |
| 1.1 Acknowledgements.....                                  | 8         |
| <b>2 Aims and Methodology.....</b>                         | <b>9</b>  |
| 2.1 Aims.....  | 9         |
| 2.2 Methodology.....                                       | 9         |
| <b>3 Results.....</b>                                      | <b>10</b> |
| 3.1 Introduction .....                                     | 10        |
| 3.2 Phase 1 ?Roman (Figs 3 and 4, Plate 1).....            | 10        |
| 3.3 Phase 2: Medieval (Figs 3 and 4, Plate 1).....         | 10        |
| 3.4 Phase 3: Post-medieval (Figs 3 and 4, Plate 1).....    | 11        |
| 3.5 Phase 4: Modern (Figs 3 and 4, Plate 1).....           | 11        |
| 3.6 Finds Summary.....                                     | 11        |
| 3.7 Environmental Summary.....                             | 11        |
| <b>4 Discussion and Conclusions.....</b>                   | <b>12</b> |
| 4.1 Prehistoric and Roman.....                             | 12        |
| 4.2 Medieval.....  | 13        |
| 4.3 Post-medieval.....                                     | 13        |
| 4.4 Significance.....                                      | 14        |
| 4.5 Recommendations.....                                   | 14        |
| <b>Appendix A. Context Summary.....</b>                    | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Appendix B. Finds Reports.....</b>                      | <b>17</b> |
| B.1 Metalwork.....   | 17        |
| B.2 Metalworking waste.....                                | 17        |
| B.3 Non-Building Stone.....                                | 17        |
| B.4 Glass.....   | 18        |

---

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| B.5 Pottery.....                              | 18        |
| B.6 Clay Tobacco Pipe.....                    | 20        |
| B.7 Plaster.....                              | 21        |
| B.8 Brick and Tile.....                       | 22        |
| <b>Appendix C. Environmental Reports.....</b> | <b>24</b> |
| C.1 Environmental samples.....                | 24        |
| C.2 Faunal remains.....                       | 25        |
| <b>Appendix D. Bibliography.....</b>          | <b>27</b> |
| <b>Appendix E. OASIS Report Form .....</b>    | <b>29</b> |

## List of Figures

- Fig. 1            Location of development area (red) and local HER entries (purple)
- Fig. 2            Trench and section location within the development area
- Fig. 3            Trench plans
- Fig. 4            Sections
- 
- Plate 1           View of trench from west, showing sequence of deposits
- Plate 2           Detail from Speed's 1610 map of Huntingdon, showing approximate trench location (red)

---

## Summary

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology East between 4th and 6th January 2010 in the north-east corner of the bus station, within the historic core of Huntingdon. The trench was located to the immediate south of an evaluation undertaken in 2004 in advance of the Huntingdon Town Centre Redevelopment Project. The nearest of the trenches (trench 6; MCB16324), situated c. 10m to the north, revealed remains that are broadly comparable to the results of this evaluation.*

*A single trench measuring 3m x 3m was excavated to a depth of c.2.5m; investigation of the lower deposits was limited to a small test pit supplemented by hand augering. Four broad phases of activity were revealed, spanning the ?Roman to modern periods.*

*The earliest silty, more cassy deposits may be fills of a large feature of unknown dimensions. The uppermost of these contained a flint flake and abraded Roman artefacts (tile fragments and a single coin of late 3rd or 4th century date), in addition to butchered cattle and sheep bones. These were sealed by two phases of cobbled surface, the uppermost of which had possible wheel ruts surviving as linear depressions aligned with 'The Walks' to the north. Moderate quantities of general domestic debris including pottery, animal bone, lava quern, peg tile and a probable coprolite had either been trodden in or deliberately dumped on or within this surface. The datable finds are generally quite abraded, but indicate that the surface is probably medieval in date.*

*The cobbles, which were revealed at a depth of c.1.7m below ground level, could be the remains of a lane or surfacing of a hollow way that once linked the town with the fields on Mill Common to the west. Overlying the cobbles were a series of dumped deposits, possible agricultural soils and levelling layers dating from the 17th century until the construction of the bus station in the late 20th century.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted in the north-east corner of Huntingdon bus station, adjacent to The Walks (TL 23833 71651, Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development includes the demolition of the existing bus station and replacement with a new single-storey bus station building to be constructed close to the current station.
- 1.1.3 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 0901178FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by Oxford Archaeology East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).
- 1.1.4 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.5 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The redevelopment area lies on relatively flat ground at a height of c.15m OD, although there is a gentle slope towards the south/Mill Common. The site is located on the Pleistocene First and Second Terrace Gravels of the River Great Ouse (BGS 1975, Sheet 187), below which the solid geology comprises Upper Jurassic Oxford Clays.
- 1.2.2 To the north the site is bounded by the Grade II listed garden wall (DCB2312) of Lawrence Court, which is probably the retained façade of a former maltings demolished in the late 19th century. The area to the north of this wall has recently been redeveloped and was the site of a number of archaeological excavations (see below). Princes Street forms the eastern boundary, leading up to Market Hill, the site of the medieval market. Walden Road lies to the west, beyond which is Mill Common where extensive remains of the town's fields survive as ridge and furrow earthworks. The castle, constructed in 1068 adjacent to the river Ouse, partly on the site of the Late Saxon settlement, is located c.250m to the south-east of the site.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 1)

- 1.3.1 The proposed redevelopment is located within an area of high archaeological potential in a significant position between the castle, urban area and outlying fields (Figs 1 and Plate 2).
- 1.3.1 There have been a number of major excavations within Huntingdon in recent years, several of which have been within the vicinity of the site. Particularly pertinent to this evaluation is the Huntingdon Town Centre Redevelopment Project, which has entailed the compilation of a desk-based assessment (Kenney 2003), followed by evaluation (Clarke 2004). Subsequent area excavations have been undertaken to the rear of Walden House (HUNWHS 05; Clarke 2006; MCB16320) and Lawrence Court (HUNTCR07; Clarke forthcoming; ECB 2608).



- 1.3.2 These have revealed remains spanning the prehistoric to modern periods and include:
- Prehistoric land division/activity, possibly dating from as early as the Neolithic period.
  - Evidence of earthwork defences possibly relating to the siege of Huntingdon in the late 12th century.
  - Evidence of Late Saxon/early medieval buildings.
  - Growing corpus of evidence for pottery manufacture in medieval Huntingdon
  - Expansion/colonisation from the post-Conquest (late 11th century) period, with a peak in the 13th and 14th centuries. Remains include dense zones of pitting, cobbled surfaces, wells, tenement divisions, ovens and possible industrial features.
  - Later medieval decline in settlement related activity and reversion to agriculture over large parts of the eastern reaches of the town
  - Later post-medieval and Victorian industrial features including evidence of tanning and malting. Evidence of 'low class' houses and workshops (Dilley's Yard)
  - Large quantities of finds, including pottery, animal bone and CBM were recovered, and a variety of deposits produced rich environmental remains.
- 1.3.1 In addition, recent excavations to the south-east of the bus station at Pathfinder House (MCB17824 and 18577-8) have revealed evidence of prehistoric, Roman and later activity whilst the remains of major earthworks probably associated with Huntingdon Castle (SM24417) have been found at the Red Cross Centre (MCB18076; Brown 2008).
- 1.3.2 Speed's map of 1610 shows a building located on the corner of the Walks and Princes Street to the immediate north of the site (Plate 2); this is probably a precursor to the current (listed) row of buildings associated with Lawrence Court. Later maps, in particular the 1885 Ordnance Survey, indicate that the site of the bus station was once part of Mill Common and was crossed by a number of paths. Local sources suggest that cattle sheds once occupied the site until the construction of the bus station in the late 1970s/early 1980s.

## 1.1 Acknowledgements

- 1.1.1 The evaluation was funded by Huntingdonshire District Council. The project was managed by Aileen Connor, who also edited this report. Fieldwork was undertaken by the author with the assistance of Pete Boardman, who also processed the finds. Metal-detecting was undertaken by Steve Critchley and survey by the author with the assistance of Pete Boardman. Fencing and the mini-digger were provided by Lattenbury Plant; thanks are due to the operator Phil. The site was monitored by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CAPCA).
- 1.1.2 Thanks are due to Carole Fletcher for reporting on the pottery and miscellaneous finds, Rob Atkins for the CBM, Rachel Fosberry for processing and appraisal of the environmental remains and Chris Faine for assessing the animal bone. Carole Fletcher would also like to thank Stephen Wadson for assistance in dating the coin and Richard Mortimer for his comments on the flint. The drawings were digitised by Andy Corrigan, who also produced the report figures.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required a programme of linear trial trenching and/or test-pitting to adequately sample the threatened available area. In particular this was to assess the amount of truncation to buried deposits, the presence or absence of a palaeosol or 'B' horizon, the preservation of deposits within negative features, and site formation processes generally.
- 2.2.2 The location and size of the trench was restricted by the fact that the bus station was to remain in operation during the works and safe access to the associated paths and walk ways was to be maintained.
- 2.2.3 Following a site meeting between representatives from OA East, Huntingdonshire District Council and CAPCA, a decision was made to excavate a 3m x 3m test pit within an area that was planted with shrubs and a small tree at the north-eastern corner of the bus station (Figs 1 and 2).
- 2.2.4 The tree and shrubs were carefully removed prior to the start of the archaeological works, with the intention of re-planting at a later stage. An area measuring c.9m x 6.5m was fenced off to allow safe working and spoil storage.
- 2.2.5 Modern overburden was removed by mechanical excavator, initially to a depth of c.0.9m. The presence of buried services (a ceramic and iron pipe adjacent to The Walks and a probable telecommunications cable along the south-eastern edge) and the depth of deposits necessitated the narrowing and stepping of the trench at this point.
- 2.2.6 A combination of machine- and hand-excavation of later post-medieval deposits was then undertaken to a further depth of c.0.9m, after which a small (c.1m x 0.6m) test pit was hand-excavated to a depth of c.0.6m (Plate 1). A hand auger was then employed to further assess the depth of deposits in this area.
- 2.2.7 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled mini-excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.8 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.9 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits, supplemented by digital photographs.
- 2.2.10 Bulk environmental samples were taken from a number of sealed deposits for the retrieval of charred plant remains, molluscs and small mammal or fish bones.
- 2.2.11 The site survey was carried out using a Leica TCR 705 Total Station.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results are presented below in phase order, supplemented by a context list that is included as Appendix A. Four broad phases have been identified, based on a combination of stratigraphic relationships and ceramic/artefact dating. Full artefact and environmental reports are included in Appendices B and C.

#### 3.2 Phase 1 ?Roman (Figs 3 and 4, Plate 1)

3.2.1 The earliest deposits were revealed by hand auger and as such are limited in terms of description, date and interpretation.

3.2.2 Deposit 26 was recorded at a depth of c.2.8m below ground level (c.12.25m OD) and comprised a very stiff dark yellowish grey clay at least 0.1m thick. This could be a natural layer or possibly some form of lining. Overlying this was a 0.1m-thick deposit of greyish brown silty clay with peagrit (25), sealed by a thin (4cm) layer of gravel (24).

3.2.3 A 0.7m-thick layer of greenish grey slightly cassy clayey silt (14) with occasional small stones, forms the main deposit in this phase. A linear, possibly L-shaped, very shallow (c.3cm) depression was recorded within the top of the layer. This was aligned roughly east to west, parallel to The Walks and could be the remains of a rut; it approximately underlies a similar depression in cobble surface 10 (see below). A structural function for this depression may also be possible, although its very shallow and ephemeral nature perhaps argues against this. It was filled by overlying cobbled surface 13, further suggesting that the depression was caused by later activity compressing into deposit 14.

3.2.4 The thickness and nature of 14 suggests that it, and perhaps the layers below, are likely to be fills of a potentially large feature, the dimensions and orientation of which are not discernible. Finds from 14 include moderate quantities of animal bone and tile; a Roman coin (SF2) of late 3rd to 4th century was also recovered. The presence of a single worked flint further underscores the residual nature of this assemblage.

#### 3.3 Phase 2: Medieval (Figs 3 and 4, Plate 1)

3.3.1 Phase 2 deposits were recorded within a 1m x 0.6m test pit excavated towards the centre of the trench base.

3.3.2 A 0.1m-thick, uncompacted layer of cobbles (13) was laid across the surface of 14, filling the depression within the deposit. Overlying 13 was a probable disuse or silting layer (12) of similar thickness, comprising a greyish brown slightly sandy silt clay. Both layers contained animal bone, whilst 12 also produced a single sherd of abraded St Neots ware pottery.

3.3.3 Slightly intermixed with 12 was a c.0.1m-thick orange sandy gravel layer (11), which contained no finds. This formed a bedding for a 0.1m-thick compacted cobbled surface (10) composed of small and medium rounded flint pebbles, with frequent finds including animal bone, medieval pottery, tile and lava quern fragments; occasional iron nails were also present. Two shallow, linear depressions (unnumbered) orientated approximately east to west were recorded across the top of this surface and could be the remains of wheel ruts.

### **3.4 Phase 3: Post-medieval (Figs 3 and 4, Plate 1)**

- 3.4.1 A series of soil layers and dumped deposits, largely comprising yellowish or greyish brown silty clays, sealed the Phase 2 cobbled surface, and ranged in thickness from 0.1 to 0.18m.
- 3.4.2 The earliest of these (9) was a fairly silty deposit and could represent disuse of the underlying cobble surface. Overlying this was a slightly more gravelly layer (8) containing fragments of brick, tile, clay-pipe and slag, sealed beneath a similar deposit (7) that contained sherds of tin-glazed earthenware.
- 3.4.3 Sealing 7 was a dirty yellow and grey clay layer (5) that produced residual medieval pottery, overlain by a dump containing nibbed roof tile, clay pipe, window glass and animal bone (6) that was confined to the south-east corner of the trench.
- 3.4.4 A further soil or make-up layer (4) sealed 6, above which was a dump of coal/ash and glass bottle fragments located at the western edge of the trench. This was probably contemporary with overlying make-up/soil layer (3), which also contained glass bottle sherds in addition to moderate quantities of brick, tile, clay pipe, animal bone and pottery.
- 3.4.5 The datable finds indicate that these layers were probably deposited during the late 17th century and 18th centuries.

### **3.5 Phase 4: Modern (Figs 3 and 4, Plate 1)**

- 3.5.1 A shallow (9cm) linear feature (2), aligned roughly east-to-west and filled with gravel (1) cut the top of layer 3; its function remains unclear although it could be related to drainage.
- 3.5.2 A sequence of five layers, assigned group number 17, comprising alternating compacted gravel and soil/rubble layers with a cumulative thickness of 0.6m overlay 2. Although undated these deposits are likely to be recent construction or levelling layers.
- 3.5.3 Truncating 17 were modern services including a ceramic pipe, iron pipe and a probable telecommunications cable, overlying which were a modern levelling layer (16), topsoil and tarmac.

### **3.6 Finds Summary**

- 3.6.1 The small group of finds is fairly typical for the town and includes Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery, CBM, tobacco-pipe and glass. A small number of metal finds, comprising a (Roman) coin, nails and slag, were also recovered, mostly from Phase 1 and 2 deposits. The single flint flake from Phase 1 deposit 14 is also not an uncommon find in Huntingdon. Reports on all artefacts are included in Appendix B.

### **3.7 Environmental Summary**

- 3.7.1 Environmental remains consist predominantly of charcoal with occasional charred cereal grains and a single charred seed of a wetland plant from Phase 1 deposit 14. Fragments of a possible coprolite were also recovered from Phase 2 cobble surface 10.
- 3.7.2 Faunal material from all phases, although in small quantities, is indicative of general settlement debris. The larger number of meat bearing elements from the ?Roman phase (Phase 1) is more suggestive of primary butchery waste whilst that from Phase 2 (medieval ) most likely represents secondary processing debris.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Prehistoric and Roman

- 4.1.1 The single probably Bronze Age flint flake from Phase 1 represents the earliest indication of activity in the vicinity of the site. This adds to the small but growing assemblage of lithics recovered from recent work in Huntingdon, including the town centre excavations (MCB16320; HUNTCR07/ECB2608), Model Laundry site (MCB17084, not illustrated, Clarke 2007) and Pathfinder House (MCB18573). Its presence provides further evidence that there was probably extensive and persistent occupation in this area throughout the prehistoric period (Bishop forthcoming).
- 4.1.2 Dating of the earliest (Phase 1) deposits is somewhat problematic as the datable finds are abraded and likely to have been reworked. Despite this, they are all (with the exception of the flint flake) Roman and comprise a box flue tile fragment, a piece of shelly tile and a late 3rd or 4th century coin (SF2). The animal bone fragments, all of which had cess-like concretions adhering to them, from deposit 14 indicate the disposal of primary butchery waste, presumably from nearby.
- 4.1.3 Most of the Roman remains uncovered within the town, apart from scattered finds, appear to be focused along the river front to the south (e.g. Whitehills Roman villa; Watersmeet Roman cemetery, Fig. 1) and Ermine Street to the east (e.g. Pathfinder House). It is probable that the small quantity of Roman finds from this evaluation and adjacent sites originate from these nearby settlement foci.
- 4.1.4 The nature of the early deposits, the uppermost of which was encountered at c.2m below ground level, suggests that they may be fills of a large feature of unknown dimensions. The silty, slightly cassy, composition of layer 14 suggests that it might in part be waterlain, although no waterlogged remains were identified within the sample. A single charred seed of spikerush from this context does, however, indicate the exploitation of wetland resources in this phase.
- 4.1.5 Interestingly, the water table (and concomitant petrochemical contamination) was not evident in the trench despite its depth, which is in contrast with the results from previous nearby excavations, but reiterates those of the Site Investigation (Richard Herman Associates, Report C.11476, 16). This further suggests that an underground aquifer runs to the north, in the area to the rear of Walden House, Gazeley House and the library.
- 4.1.6 A 0.4m-thick deposit containing small quantities of Roman pottery has also been identified a few metres to the north, during an evaluation within the grounds of Lawrence Court (MCB16324; Clarke 2004). Further investigation of this layer was prevented by the depth at which it was revealed (1.5m below ground level), but it was found to be sealed by Late Saxon and medieval deposits. This suggests that these deposits could conceivably be Roman or perhaps Saxon (?Danish) in date, but without further excavation within a larger area it is not possible to be more certain.
- 4.1.7 One possible interpretation might be that there was a large depression or intermittently water-filled feature here, such as a pond or channel. If the latter it might be related to the possible natural inlet identified by recent fieldwork in the area of Mill Common to the south (Fradley forthcoming). Large channels of Roman and/or Saxon date have been identified adjacent to the river to the south of Mill Common (MCB17364; Cooper 2003) and to the east at the Former Model Laundry (Clarke 2007).

4.1.8 The bus station site is perhaps too far from the river to be related, although the possibility that there might be a large topographic, or man-made, feature underlying this part of the town cannot be discounted.

## 4.2 Medieval

4.2.1 The cobbled surfaces that sealed the ?Roman or later deposits were revealed at a depth of c.1.7m below ground level. These clearly indicate a change of use, possibly to a yard area or, more likely given the location, the surfacing of a lane or hollow way.

4.2.2 It has been suggested (Fradley forthcoming) that a hollow way or track once ran along what is now The Walks and linked the town with the fields on Mill Common to the west. This survives as a linear depression adjacent to The Walks West (Fig. 1) and may originally have extended all the way to the High Street, along the approximate line of Malthouse Court to the east and the Bar Dyke to the west, beyond Mill Common (not illustrated).

4.2.3 Very shallow/ephemeral linear depressions were visible within the surface of the cobbles and appear to have also compressed the top of Phase 1 layer 14 below. These could be the remains of wheel ruts that align with the current footpath along The Walks East to the immediate north of the trench, although they are perhaps rather wide (c. 0.2m) and close together (0.6m); the southernmost 'rut' is also somewhat bulbous in shape at its western extent. Too little was exposed to fully interpret these depressions, and it is possible that they are the result of more modern activity (e.g. Phase 4 linear feature 2) that has affected lower deposits.

4.2.4 As with the underlying deposits, the finds from the cobbles and associated deposits are generally abraded and small, although all the datable items are medieval. They include fragments of pottery, lava quern, peg tiles, secondary butchery waste and even a possible coprolite, indicating that an array of domestic rubbish was incorporated or trodden into the surface. This is reiterated by the environmental samples from interleaving layer 12 that included small quantities of cereal grains, nutshell, fuel-ash slag and charcoal.

4.2.5 The pottery recovered from the cobbles is largely 13th to mid-14th century with residual Late Saxon and early medieval material; the presence of peg tile fragments may indicate a building nearby in this phase. If this is a lane, it is not surprising that a variety of finds of various date are present; they may reflect the longevity of this thoroughfare, which may have been in-use throughout most of the medieval period.

## 4.3 Post-medieval

4.3.1 A further change in use is suggested by the accumulation and/or dumping of a series of deposits over the top of the cobbled surface, indicating that it was no longer maintained.

4.3.2 This may correspond with the documented late medieval decline of the town, evidence of which has also been found through recent excavations (e.g. Clarke 2006), as well as the abandonment of the open field system. The latter may, at least in part, have occurred from the later 14th century, with the area of Mill Common probably being given over to pasturage and localised quarrying (Fradley forthcoming).

4.3.3 Most of the datable finds, however, indicate that these deposits span the late 17th to 18th centuries, although earlier material is also present. The absence of late medieval and early post-medieval artefacts might indicate that the lane was still in-use in this period, at least until the 17th century.

- 4.3.4 It is possible that the make-up/levelling deposits may relate to ground preparation associated with redevelopment of this part of the town in the post-medieval period, perhaps the adjacent maltings on the north side of The Walks. Several of the layers contained building materials including pan tiles, brick fragments, window glass mortar and plaster, and may represent demolition material from nearby structures.
- 4.3.5 The suggestion of an early (Phase 1) topographic feature in this area is perhaps further indicated by the depth of post-medieval deposits in this trench which is generally greater than has been encountered to the north of the current site (e.g. HUNTCR07). Indeed, the c.0.6m of modern make-up suggests that the ground surface may still have been significantly lower in this area until quite recently.
- 4.3.6 This is further reiterated by the results of the Ground Engineering Investigation. This recorded made ground comprising dark brown gravelly sandy clay or slightly silty gravelly sand containing brick, coal, ash, clinker, bone *etc* between 2.2 to 2.3m thick in both the test pit and borehole. Below this the Boulder Clay was present to a further depth of c.3.2m below ground level, overlying the River Terrace Gravels (Richard Herman Associates, Report C.11476, 16).
- 4.3.7 The presence of possible agricultural soils supports the map evidence for this area of the town being common land or, perhaps, cultivated. The boundary with Lawrence Court along the line of The Walks may have marked the southern edge of the urban area on this side of the town during the post-medieval period, as shown on Speed's map of 1610 (Plate 2). This situation appears to have continued throughout the post-medieval period, as the area is shown as open or common ground on Jeffreys map (1768), and 19th century and modern Ordnance Survey maps, until the construction of the bus station in the late 20th century.

#### **4.4 Significance**

- 4.4.1 Despite the limited nature of this investigation, the evaluation has recorded a well-stratified sequence of deposits and features that span the Roman to post-medieval periods. This evidence, combined with the results of recent excavations and survey work, makes a valuable contribution to the understanding of the early topography of the settlement and the subsequent development of the medieval townscape.

#### **4.5 Recommendations**

- 4.5.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

## APPENDIX A. CONTEXT SUMMARY

| Context | Cut | Category | Feature Type       | Depth | Other Comments   | Phase |
|---------|-----|----------|--------------------|-------|--|-------|
| 1       | 2   | fill     | drain              |       | Gravelly sandy fill of shallow linear depression, no finds   | 4     |
| 2       | 0   | cut      | drain              | 0.09  | Shallow linear feature, 0.8m wide with flat base orientated east-west. Post-medieval drain or rut?   | 4     |
| 3       | 0   | layer    | levelling          | 0.12  | Mid yellowish brown sandy silty clay layer with occasional small stones, charcoal, clay pipe, bone, pottey etc. Post-medieval soil/make-up layer   | 3     |
| 4       | 0   | layer    | dump               | 0.1   | Dump of ash/coal and bottle glass at W end of sondage, part of 3? Or edge of a feature?  | 3     |
| 5       | 0   | layer    | levelling          | 0.2   | Mixed yellow and grey clay with patches of silt -probable imported levelling layer. Residual pottery   | 3     |
| 6       | 0   | layer    | dump               | 0.1   | Dump of tile in SE corner of sondage. CBM, clay pipe, glass, bone  | 3     |
| 7       | 0   | layer    | buried soil        | 0.18  | Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional stones, coal, pottery, glass   | 3     |
| 8       | 0   | layer    | buried soil        | 0.16  | Dark yellowish brown silt clay with occasional gravel. CBM, slag, clay pipe, glass   | 3     |
| 9       | 0   | layer    | buried soil        | 0.1   | Dark brownish grey slightly clayey silt with rare small stones, some pottery, bone. Silting over cobbles?  | 3     |
| 10      | 0   | layer    | surface (external) | 0.1   | Metalled surface comprising tightly packed small and medium cobbles in a mid greyish brown sandy silt. Possible linear ruts/depressions running E-W. Pottery, bone, CBM, lava quern, Fe nail | 2     |
| 11      | 0   | layer    | surface (external) | 0.1   | Orange sandy gravel bedding for surface 10. Intermixed with underlying layer 12, fills linear depressions. No finds  | 2     |
| 12      | 0   | layer    | layer              | 0.1   | Slightly greenish grey brown sandy clay silt layer. Silting/disuse over cobbles? Animal bone and pottery   | 2     |
| 13      | 0   | layer    | surface (external) | 0.1   | Loose/less compacted cobbles in a dark greyish brown sandy clay silt. No finds   | 2     |
| 14      | 0   | layer    | unknown            | 0.7   | Greenish grey clayey silt with occasional small stones, animal bone, tile, rare pottery. Possibly fill of a large feature, augered to base due to depth                                      | 1     |



| Context | Cut | Category | Feature Type | Depth | Other Comments  | Phase |
|---------|-----|----------|--------------|-------|---|-------|
| 15      | 0   | layer    | buried soil  | 0.11  | Mixed dark yellowish brown and grey silt clay layer with frequent gravel and brick fragments.                           | 3     |
| 16      | 0   | layer    | make-up      | 0.1   | Mid greyish brown sandy silt clay with stones and brick fragments - modern, below concrete/tarmac                       | 4     |
| 17      | 0   | layer    | levelling    | 0.6   | Group number for a series of compacted gravel and soil layers (5) probably associated with construction of bus station? | 4     |
| 18      | 0   | cut      | pipe trench  |       | Cut for ceramic pipe 21   | 4     |
| 19      | 18  | fill     | pipe trench  |       | Brick rubble levelling layer below ceramic pipe   | 4     |
| 20      | 18  | fill     | pipe trench  |       | Back fill in pipe trench  | 4     |
| 21      | 18  | fill     | pipe         |       | ceramic drainage pipe revealed along N edge of trench   | 4     |
| 22      | 0   | fill     | pipe         |       | Probable iron pipe above ceramic pipe   | 4     |
| 23      | 0   | fill     | pipe trench  |       | Backfill around iron pipe, no cut discernible   | 4     |
| 24      | 0   | layer    | unknown      | 0.04  | Thin gravel layer below 14 revealed in auger  | 1     |
| 25      | 0   | layer    | unknown      | 0.1   | Layer similar to 14 with peagrit, revealed in auger   | 1     |
| 26      | 0   | layer    | layer        |       | Very stiff dark yellow clay at least 0.1m thick recorded at base of auger. Possibly natural? No finds                   | 1     |

## APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

*By Carole Fletcher*

### B.1 Metalwork

#### **Coin**

- B.1.1 A single copper-alloy (Cua) coin (SF2) was recovered from Phase 1 context 14, both surfaces are corroded and much of the surface detail has been lost or is obscured by concretion. The size (17mm diameter) and shape of the coin indicate that it is a Roman Radiate, dating to the late 3rd or 4th century AD (Reece and James 2000, 28-41; 46).

#### **Iron**

- B.1.1 Three nails and one probable nail were recovered from contexts 3, 10 and 13. All are corroded and encrusted. The nail-like object from Phase 2 context 13 was attached to several fragments of flint gravel. Also recovered from context 3 was a heavily corroded and encrusted fragment from a knife blade or similar object.

| <b>SF Number</b> | <b>Context</b> | <b>Phase</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| 1                | 10             | 2            | Fe Nail, oval head; complete, 54mm long                                      |
| 3                | 3              | 3            | Fe Nail, concreted, appears complete 55mm long                               |
| 4                | 3              | 3            | Fe Probable blade fragment, slightly curved, concreted, 60mm long, 27mm wide |
| 5                | 13             | 2            | ? Fe Nail, very concreted, part of shank appears to be missing, 45mm long    |

*Table 1. Iron finds*

### B.2 Metalworking waste

#### **Slag**

- B.2.1 A single fragment of undiagnostic metalworking slag (0.062g) was recovered from Phase 3 context 3.

### B.3 Non-Building Stone

#### **Flint**

- B.3.1 A single Bronze Age flake (R. Mortimer pers comm) was recovered from Phase 1 context 14, no other prehistoric material was recovered.

#### **Lava**

- B.3.2 Two fragments (0.126kg) of Niedermendig lava were recovered from Phase 2 cobble surface 10, neither fragment retains any diagnostic features however both probably derive from a quern. The fragments are not closely datable.

## B.4 Glass

### *Assemblage*

- B.4.1 The assemblage consists of a total of seven finds from five contexts. Typologically two glass types were identified; vessel (in this case bottles), which form the bulk of the assemblage, and window glass. No complete bottles were recovered, although sufficient features survive to allow for the broad dating of the bottle fragments from context 4 (Phase 3).
- B.4.2 The window glass assemblage is fragmentary and heavily abraded with much of the surface having been lost through lamination of patinated layers, resulting in thin fragile shards.

### *Vessel Glass*

- B.4.3 The earliest glass vessels present were recovered from Phase 3 context 4, comprising three fragments of natural green glass (0.447kg) from one or more wine bottles including two shards of base with a shallow push up and pontil scar. The type of pontil scar cannot be established due to the level of patination on the glass surface. The shallow push up and angle of the body curve suggest the bottle at its earliest may be late 17th century, although an early to mid-18th century date is also possible.
- B.4.4 The vessel fragments from Phase 3 layer 3 (0.070kg) are from a natural green glass wine bottle, and although no diagnostic features survive the thickness of the glass and similar levels of patination suggest they are of a similar age to the shards in context 4.

### *Window Glass*

- B.4.5 Six fragments of ?window glass were recovered from contexts 3, 6, 7 and 8 (all Phase 3). These consist of thin fragments with iridescent surface layers of golden-brown.
- B.4.6 Four fragments are of clear glass with a yellow cast which flakes easily; the fifth thicker and more robust piece, which is covered with opaque pearlescent white patination, is clear and almost colourless. All are patinated to various degrees and are between 1 and 2mm thick; they are not closely datable.
- B.4.7 The remaining fragment of window glass from Phase 3 context 6 is a shard from a diamond quarry that formed part of a leaded window. The glass, originally clear, is now obscured by patination, although it appears to be undecorated. One original surviving edge appears to show signs of grozing, the other edges were broken in antiquity. The glass is unlikely to be earlier than the 15th or 16th century and may be later.

### *Further Work and Methods Statement*

- B.4.8 The glass assemblage is not extensive and offers little potential for further work. No additional work should be undertaken unless further excavation is undertaken.

## B.5 Pottery

### *Introduction*

- B.5.1 A small pottery assemblage of 23 sherds, weighing 0.191kg, was recovered from six contexts. The condition of the assemblage is moderately abraded and the average sherd weight from individual contexts is small at approximately 9g.
- B.5.2 Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the text are:

|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Brill-Boarstall ware                | BRILL      |
| Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware | HUNEMW     |
| Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware      | HUNFSW     |
| Lyveden-Stanion ware                | LYST       |
| Post-medieval red earthenware       | PMR        |
| St Neots                            | NEOT/NEOTT |
| Shelly Ware                         | SHW        |
| Tin Glazed Earthenware              | TGW        |

### ***Methodology***

- B.5.3 The basic guidance in the Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2) has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991). In addition the Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents Guidance for the processing and publication of medieval pottery from excavations (Blake and Davey, 1983), A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms (MPRG, 1998) and Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.
- B.5.4 Dating was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been spot dated on a context-by-context basis.
- B.5.5 The pottery and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition.

### ***Assemblage***

#### *Phase 2*

- B.5.6 Context 10 produced the largest number of sherds in the assemblage, however all are small and very abraded as might be expected from material that has been trodden into a cobbled surface. The pottery present included fragments of Late Saxon or post conquest NEOT and early medieval HUNEMW alongside sherds of medieval LYST and HUNFSW.
- B.5.7 Context 12 produced only two sherds, an abraded sherd from a NEOTT in-turned bowl and a small sherd of HUNFSW.

#### *Phase 3*

- B.5.8 Context 4 contains four fragments from two or more PMR bowls alongside a single undecorated TGW sherd. Context 5 contains the only medieval glazed ware in the assemblage, a sherd from a ?BRILL jug alongside a SHW jar. Context 7 contained two large sherds of decorated TGW from a concave sided jar, possibly an albarello, alongside a small residual sherd of HUNFSW. Context 9 produced the same range of fabrics; two additional sherds recovered from sample 1 are both small and abraded

### ***Discussion***

- B.5.9 The assemblage indicates activity in the area of the site from Late Saxon or early post conquest into the 18th century. The site is within historic core of Huntingdon and close to the areas of excavation that formed part of the Huntingdon Town Centre Redevelopment Project which produced large pottery assemblages (Clarke 2006 and Clarke forthcoming). Unfortunately the pottery recovered here, although domestic in origin, represents 'background noise', suggestive of low levels of occupation or rubbish disposal on the site.

### Statement of Research Potential and Further Work

B.5.10 An assemblage of this size provides only basic dating information for a site. The early medieval and medieval material has been disturbed by activity on the site in the post medieval period (17th 18th centuries). None of the pottery is located in its place of primary deposition and unless further excavation takes place no further work is required on this assemblage

| Context | Phase | Fabric | Basic Form | Sherd Count | Sherd Weight (kg) | Date Range  |
|---------|-------|--------|------------|-------------|-------------------|---|
| 3       | 3     | PMR    | Bowl       | 4           | 0.042             | 17th to 18th century  |
|         |       | TGW    | Jar        | 1           | 0.003             |   |
| 5       | 3     | BRILL  | Jug        | 1           | 0.008             | 13th century to mid 14th century  |
|         |       | SHW    | Jar        | 1           | 0.012             |   |
| 7       | 3     | HUNFSW |            | 1           | 0.005             | 17th to 18th century  |
|         |       | TGW    |            | 2           | 0.067             |   |
| 9       | 3     | HUNFSW |            | 1           | 0.003             | 17th to 18th century  |
|         |       | TGW    | Jar        | 1           | 0.001             |   |
| 10      | 2     | HUNEMW | Jar        | 1           | 0.004             | 13th to mid 14th century with residual Late Saxon and early medieval material |
|         |       | HUNFSW | Jar        | 1           | 0.004             |   |
|         |       | HUNFSW |            | 1           | 0.004             |   |
|         |       | LYST   |            | 1           | 0.005             |   |
|         |       | NEOT   | Jar        | 2           | 0.012             |   |
|         |       | NEOT   |            | 2           | 0.005             |   |
| 12      | 2     | HUNFSW |            | 1           | 0.003             | Mid 12th to mid 14th century  |
|         |       | NEOTT  | Bowl       | 1           | 0.012             |   |
|         |       | SHW    |            | 1           | 0.004             |   |

Table 2. Pottery catalogue

## B.6 Clay Tobacco Pipe

### Introduction and methodology

B.6.1 A total of 19 fragments (0.076kg) of clay smoking pipe was recovered, all from Phase 3 deposits. Only a single diagnostic fragment is present, which dates to the early 18th century.

B.6.2 Terminology used in this assessment was taken from Oswald's work 'Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist' (1975). The pipe bowls, considered the most diagnostic part of the assemblage, were identified and dated using Oswald's typology for English pipe bowls.

### Quantification and Fabrics

B.6.3 Table 3 includes a full quantification of the clay pipes, including separate counts for complete bowls, bowl fragments and stems, and noting the presence or absence of marked fragments. The clay pipes are all made from white ball clay.

| Context | Phase | Weight kg | No. of complete or near complete pipe bowls | No. of pipe stem fragments | Form          | Earliest Date | Latest Date |
|---------|-------|-----------|---|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 3       | 3     | 0.035     | 1   | 7                          | Oswald type 9 | c.1680        | 1710        |
| 6       | 3     | 0.007     |   | 2                          |               |               |             |
| 8       | 3     | 0.030     | 1   | 8                          |               |               |             |
| 9       | 3     | 0.003     |   | 1                          |               |               |             |

Table 3. Clay-pipe quantification

### **Marks, Decoration and Provenance**

B.6.4 There were no highly decorated bowls or marked pipes in the assemblage. The single bowl recovered, an Oswald type 9 (c.1680-1710), shows no rouletting around the mouth and the heel is unmarked. The absence of makers' marks on the clay pipes makes a discussion of provenance somewhat difficult. The Oswald type 9 pipe bowl is slightly different to the example illustrated by Oswald (1975, fig 3G), Flood notes that some 17th century local pipes, post 1640 are slightly more bulbous than the type specimens illustrated (Flood 1976, 28). The pipe more closely resembles those illustrated in Hind and Crummy (1988, 51, fig 56, 2773-5) described as a long bowl with curved sides and plain rim with the mouth cut at an angle to the stem (*ibid* 49). The illustrated examples are dated to the 18th century and the pipe in this assemblage is similar in date. The clay pipes recovered almost certainly represent local production.

### **Further Work and Methods Statement**

B.6.5 The clay pipe assemblage offers little opportunity to understand the material culture of the area and only more closely dates certain contexts. No further work should be carried out unless further excavation is undertaken. Any future clay pipe analysis should be integrated with the analysis of the post-medieval ceramics.

## **B.7 Plaster**

B.7.1 Three fragments of lime plaster were recovered: two small fragments from Phase 3 context 3, which retain a single relatively smooth surface, and a single large fragment from Phase 3 context 8, which retains impressions of laths. Laths are the strips of wood nailed to the underside of timber ceiling joists, onto which was applied a layer of lime putty known as render. The lime putty was forced between the laths to form a bonded layer. Two further applications of lime putty mixed with sand and sometimes horse hair would have been applied to form the smooth surface of the ceiling, the same lime putty and horse hair mix was also used to plaster walls.

B.7.2 Ceilings were commonly constructed with the lath and plaster technique from the early 18th until the mid 20th century.

## B.8 Brick and Tile

*By Rob Atkins*

### **Introduction**

- B.8.1 A very small assemblage of ceramic brick and tile (37 fragments weighing c.3.13kg) was recovered from several layers and a cobbled surface. The assemblage comprises fragments of Roman, medieval and post-medieval tile and post-medieval brick. There was also a single possible limestone roof tile fragment.

### **Methodology**

- B.8.2 The brick and ceramic tile (CBM) was all weighed by context and type and rapidly assessed by fabric and count.
- B.8.3 All complete widths and thickness of brick were recorded. The presence of mortar on fragments was recorded to assess if they had been used before being discarded.
- B.8.4 Analysis of roof tiles on nearby sites (HUNTCR 07) has shown that generally the fabric and tile shapes do not change significantly from the 12th to the 18th centuries and therefore dividing medieval and post-medieval ceramic tile was not generally feasible (Atkins with Fletcher forthcoming). It has also only been possible to date some of the brick within fairly broad, c.75 to c.150 year, periods.

### **Quantification and Provenance**

- B.8.5 The brick and tile is currently stored within a single long bone box.
- B.8.6 Table 4 shows that by count roof tile dominates the CBM assemblage but not by weight, where the few brick fragments dominated. All the roof tile fragments comprised small, heavily abraded peg tile pieces with the exception of a single partially complete nibbed 18th/19th century pantile. The small size of the peg tile fragments imply they have taken a long time to be deposited and it is entirely possible that they had all been made in the medieval period. Only one possible medieval context (cobbled surface 10, Phase 2) contained peg roof tile, however, while the remainder were all in contexts dating to the post-medieval period.
- B.8.7 The brick fragments within this assemblage are all post-medieval, with the earliest dating to the c.17th century and the latest probably to the mid-18th century.

| Phase | Type             | No. of contexts | No. Fragments | Weight (g)  |
|-------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1     | Roman tile       | 1               | 2             | 112         |
| 2     | Peg roof tile    | 1               | 6             | 66          |
| 3     | Peg tile         | 3               | 18            | 775         |
| 3     | Pantile          | 1               | 4             | 783         |
| 3     | Hand-made bricks | 2               | 7             | 1598        |
|       | <b>Total</b>     |                 | <b>37</b>     | <b>3134</b> |

*Table 4. CBM by phase and type by count and weight*

*Phase 1 (Roman)*

- B.8.1 Two Roman tile fragments (weighing 112g) were recovered from Phase 1 deposit 14. This comprised part of a box flue tile (30g) in a hard orange sandy fabric. The second tile fragment was in a shelly fabric (82g). Residual Roman brick and tile have been found nearby (HUNTCR 07) and could originate from White Hills villa located close to the river on the south-side of Mill Common (Fig. 1).

*Phase 2 (?Medieval)*

- B.8.2 The only possible medieval context with non-Roman CBM was a cobbled surface (10). From this feature there were six heavily abraded peg tile fragments (66g) with five separate fabrics represented. The different fabrics included: one Mel type (14g), one partly oxidised fragment (6g) with internal grey reduced core in an orange sandy fabric with very small shell inclusions, two hard orange sandy fabric sherds (21g), one yellow with poorly sorted red clay matrix (some lime mortar attached) and one red clay fabric (11g) with poorly sorted yellow clay lumps.

*Phase 3 (Post-medieval)*

- B.8.3 Brick fragments were recovered from two post-medieval layers (3 and 8). All the bricks were hand-made and were either 17th or 18th century in date, probably none later than the mid-18th century. Context 3 included a part brick (1.008kg) measuring 1100mm wide and between 48mm and 50mm thick. It is hand made from a mould; there are reasonable arises with a few grass/straw impressions on one side. It was made in a yellow fabric with poorly sorted red clay lumps. Three small brick fragments (274g), one 43mm thick with poor arises; all were in a red sandy fabric with rare small flint inclusions. Context 8 contained three small brick fragments (316g) which were all in a red sandy fabric, also with inclusions of rare small flint pieces.
- B.8.4 Eighteen Peg tile fragments were found in three post-medieval contexts (3, 6 and 8). In context 3 there were 10 fragments. Four (weighing 132g), were in an orange sandy fabric with a few yellow clay lumps, one had some lime mortar attached. Six peg tile fragments (320g) were in a poorly-sorted yellow/red clay fabric, one had some mortar attached. Four fragments were present in context 6: two were in a poorly-sorted yellow and clay mix (105g) with some lime mortar on both sides, and two in a red clay with poorly-sorted yellow clay lumps (115g). There was a rounded hole with a 15mm diameter, 0.10m and 0.12m from the corner of one peg tile. A further four tile fragments were found in context 8, two of which were in an orange sandy fabric (68g) and two in a yellow fabric (35g), poorly-sorted with red clay lumps.
- B.8.5 One 18th/19th century nibbed pantile was recovered from context 6 in a well-made red sandy fabric. There were four joining pieces from one tile (783g). More than half the tile was recovered but no complete length or width measurements were possible. The nib, measured 500mm long, by 22mm wide and c.20mm thick.
- B.8.6 A single possible limestone roof tile fragment (176g) was recovered from context 6. It is 15mm thick with lime mortar adhering to both sides. Part of a sub-rounded peg hole may survive but this is uncertain.

***Research Potential and Further Work Statement***

- B.8.7 This is a very small assemblage, spanning Roman to later post-medieval in date. It is possible, but by no means certain that most of the roof tile is of medieval origin and survived as very abraded residual fragments in post-medieval contexts. It does not warrant in-depth analysis and it is recommended that no further work take place on this assemblage.



## APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

#### **Introduction and methodology**

- C.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains, bones and artefacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of any further archaeological investigations.
- C.1.2 The samples were soaked in a solution of sodium carbonate for two days prior to processing in order to break down the clay component of the soil.
- C.1.3 Ten litres of each sample were processed by bucket flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, ecofacts and artefacts. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 5.

#### **Results**

| Phase | Sample No. | Context No. | Flot Contents                                    | Residue Contents                      |
|-------|------------|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 3     | 1          | 9           | Coal and charcoal fragments                      | Post-medieval pottery, clay pipe, CBM |
| 2     | 2          | 12          | Cereal grains, nutshell. Fuel-ash slag, charcoal | Pottery                               |
| 1     | 3          | 14          | Cereal grains, weed seed, charcoal               | No finds                              |

Table 5. Results

#### **Preservation**

- C.1.4 All of the samples contain plant remains preserved by carbonisation. Preservation is generally poor and the cereal grains recovered were extremely abraded and were only identifiable as cereals by their characteristic dense honeycomb structure.

#### **Cereals**

- C.1.5 Charred cereal grains are present in two of the samples; Sample 2, layer 12 contains a single wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain and a possible rye (*Secale cereale*) grain. Sample 3, layer 14 (Phase 1) contains three indeterminate cereal grain fragments. No chaff elements occur

#### **Plant Remains**

##### *Weed seeds*

- C.1.6 Sample 3, layer 14, Phase 1 contains a single seed of spikerush (*Eleocharis* sp.)

### **Ecofacts and Artefacts**

- C.1.7 Pottery fragments were recovered from Samples 1 and 2. Sample 1 also contained clay pipe stem and small brick or tile fragments.

### **Other**

- C.1.8 Two joining pieces of probable coprolite were recovered from Phase 2 cobble surface 10.

### **Contamination**

- C.1.9 Modern roots were present in all of the samples.

### **Discussion**

- C.1.10 The small assemblage consists predominantly of charcoal with occasional charred cereal grains and a single charred seed. Spikerush is a wetland plant suggesting exploitation of wetland resources in Phase 1.
- C.1.11 The presence of cereal grains indicates domestic culinary waste was incorporated into Phase 1 and 2 deposits.
- C.1.12 The predominance of coal in Phase 3 suggests disposal of ash and other debris from nearby household fires or, possibly, industrial furnaces .

### **Further Work and Methods Statement**

- C.1.13 No further work is required on this assemblage

## **C.2 Faunal remains**

*By Chris Faine*

### **Introduction**

- C.2.1 Thirty nine fragments of faunal material were recovered from the evaluation, with 24 fragments being identifiable to species (61.5% of the total sample). All bones were collected by hand; none were recovered from environmental samples; hence a bias towards larger fragments is to be expected. Material was recovered from contexts dating from the Romano-British (Phase 1) to post-medieval (Phase 3) periods.

### **Methodology**

- C.2.2 All data was initially recorded on a MS Access database. Bones were recorded using a version of the criteria described in Davis (1992) and Albarella & Davis (1994). All elements were assessed in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness, tooth wear stages (also where applicable) and epiphyseal fusion. Completeness was assessed in terms of percentage and zones present (after Dobney & Reilly 1988). The whole identifiable assemblage was quantified in terms of number of individual fragments (NISP) and minimum numbers of individuals MNI (see table 6). The ageing of the population was largely achieved by examining the wear stages of cheek teeth of cattle, sheep/goat and pig (after Grant, 1982). Wear stages were recorded for lower molars of cattle, sheep/goat and pig, both isolated and in mandibles. The states of epiphyseal fusion for all relevant bones were recorded to give a broad age range for the major domesticates (after Getty 1975). .

### **The Assemblage**

- C.2.1 Table 6 shows the species distribution for the entire assemblage both in terms of fragment count (NISP) and number of individuals (MNI). Material from from Phase 1 contexts (13 and 14) consisted entirely of adult cattle and sheep long bones, the majority of which showed signs of butchery, mostly chops mid-shaft. Evidence of pathology was also seen in the form of two fused cattle cervical vertebrae. The reason for this is unclear, as stress caused by activities such as traction normally results in pathological changes to the lumbar rather than cervical vertebrae.
- C.2.2 The largest number of fragments were recovered from Phase 2 contexts (10 and 12). These consisted largely of butchered cattle cranial and lower limb elements, again from adult animals. Smaller numbers of similar sheep/goat elements were also recovered, including a mandible from an animal around 2-3 years of age at death. Faunal material from Phase 3/post-medieval contexts (3, 6 and 8) was limited, consisting of portions of cattle and pig tibia, along with a cat humerus and femur.

|                                  | <b>NISP</b> | <b>NISP%</b> | <b>MNI</b> | <b>MNI%</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| Cattle ( <i>Bos</i> )            | 11          | 45.9         | 5          | 38.5        |
| Sheep/Goat ( <i>Ovis/Capra</i> ) | 10          | 41.7         | 5          | 38.5        |
| Cat ( <i>Felis sylvestris</i> )  | 2           | 8.3          | 2          | 15.3        |
| Pig ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> )        | 1           | 4.1          | 1          | 7.7         |
| <b>Total:</b>                    | <b>24</b>   | <b>100</b>   | <b>13</b>  | <b>100</b>  |

*Table 6: Species distribution for the entire assemblage*

### **Conclusion**

- C.2.3 Due to the small sample size few conclusions can be drawn from the assemblage. Material from all phases is indicative of general settlement debris, with the larger number of meat bearing elements from the Romano-British phase (1) being more suggestive of primary butchery waste than the medieval (Phase 2) sample (this most likely being secondary processing debris).

## APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Albarella, U & Davis, S. J. M. 1994, *The Saxon & Medieval animal bones excavated 1985-1989 from West Cotton, Northamptonshire*. AML Rep. Ser. 17/1994.
- Bishop, B., forthcoming, 'Lithics' in Clarke, R., *Late Saxon to Post-Medieval Occupation to the Rear of Gazeley House and Lawrence Court (Huntingdon Town Centre), Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire Post Excavation Assessment and UPD OA East Report 1056 (Draft)*
- Blake, H and Davey, P., 1983, *Guidelines for the Processing and Publications of Medieval Pottery from Excavations*. Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings Occasional Paper 5. Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings. London
- Brown, J. 2008, *Archaeological evaluation at the British Red Cross Centre, Castle Moat Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire* Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 08/133 (ECB3004)
- Clarke, R., 2004, *Bronze Age, Roman, Late Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval Remains in Huntingdon Town Centre, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation*, CCC AFU Report No. 724
- Clarke, R., 2006, *Prehistoric Activity, Medieval Occupation and Post-Medieval Industry to the Rear of Walden House, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. Post Excavation Assessment and UPD*. CAM ARC Report 858
- Clarke, R., 2007. *A Roman Ditch, Late Saxon Water Management and Medieval Occupation at the Former Model Laundry, Ouse Walk, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. An Extended Archaeological Evaluation*. CAM ARC Report 828
- Clarke, R , forthcoming, *Late Saxon to Post-Medieval Occupation to the Rear of Gazeley House and Lawrence Court (Huntingdon Town Centre), Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire Post Excavation Assessment and UPD OA East Report 1056 (Draft)*
- Cooper, S., 2003 *Roman Remains at Glendower, Mill Common, Huntingdon* CCC AFU Report
- Dobney, K & Reilly, K. 1988, 'A method for recording archaeological animal bones: the use of diagnostic zones'. *Circaea* 5(2): 79-96
- English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects* , English Heritage. London.
- Davis, S. 1992, *A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites*. AML rep. 81/91 London.
- Driesch, A von den. 1976, *A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites*, Harvard: Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology Bulletin 1.
- Flood, R.J., 1976 *Clay Tobacco Pipes in Cambridgeshire*, The Oleander Press, Cambridge.
- Fradley, M, forthcoming, *Earthwork Survey at Huntingdon Mill Common* PCAS
- Grant, A. 1982, 'The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates'. In B. Wilson, C. Grigson & S. Payne (eds.) *Ageing and sexing animal bones from archaeological sites*. Oxford: BAR British Series 199
- Kenney, S., 2003, *Town Centre Modernisation, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, CCC AFU Report No. 212
- Medieval Pottery Research Group, 1998, *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper I
- Medieval Pottery Research Group, 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Oswald, A., 1975, *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist* British Archaeological Reports No. 14, Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Reece, R., and James, S., 2000, *Identifying Roman Coins. A practical guide to the identification of site finds in Britain*. Second edition. London

Richard Herman Associates Ltd, 2008, *Site Investigation Report, Huntingdon Bus Station, Princes Street, Huntingdon*. Report Reference No. C11476

Stace, C., 1997, *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Hind, J and Crummy, N., 1988, 'Clay Tobacco Pipes' in *The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1975-85* Archaeological Report 5 (p47-66), British Archaeological Reports, Oxford.

## APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

### Project Details

|                                 |  |             |            |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------|------------|
| OASIS Number                    | oxfrordar3-70576   |             |            |
| Project Name                    | Evaluation at Huntingdon Bus Station, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire |             |            |
| Project Dates (fieldwork) Start | 04-01-2010   | Finish      | 06-01-2010 |
| Previous Work (by OA East)      | No   | Future Work | Unknown    |

### Project Reference Codes

|           |           |                       |            |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|------------|
| Site Code | HUNBUS 09 | Planning App. No.     | 0901178FUL |
| HER No.   | ECB3296   | Related HER/OASIS No. |            |

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Prompt           | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16 |
| Development Type | Other   |

### Please select all techniques used:

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling          | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new            | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning         | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Augering                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey        | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey          | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors        | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey       | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling   | <input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey    | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography  |   |

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

| Monument        | Period                     | Object      | Period                     |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| layer           | Roman 43 to 410            | coin        | Roman 43 to 410            |
| cobbled surface | Medieval 1066 to 1540      | animal bone | Roman 43 to 410            |
| layer           | Post Medieval 1540 to 1901 | pottery     | Post Medieval 1540 to 1901 |

### Project Location

|            |                 |   |               |
|------------|-----------------|---|---------------|
| County     | cambridgeshire  | Site Address (including postcode if possible) |               |
| District   | huntingdonshire | Walden Road<br>Huntingdon<br>PE29             |               |
| Parish     | huntingdon      |   |               |
| HER        | Cambridgeshire  |   |               |
| Study Area | 3000m2          | National Grid Reference                       | 523833 271651 |

### Project Originators

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Organisation              | OA EAST             |
| Project Brief Originator  | A. Thomas CCC CAPCA |
| Project Design Originator | A. Connor OA EAST   |
| Project Manager           | A. Connor           |
| Supervisor                | R. Clarke           |

### Project Archives

| Physical Archive     | Digital Archive | Paper Archive        |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| CCC stores landbeach | OA East         | CCC stores landbeach |
| HUNBUS09             | HUNBUS 09       | HUNBUS 09            |

### Archive Contents/Media

|                     | Physical Contents                   | Digital Contents                    | Paper Contents                      |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Animal Bones        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Ceramics            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Environmental       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Glass               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Human Bones         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Industrial          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Leather             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Metal               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Stratigraphic       |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Survey              |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Textiles            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Wood                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Worked Bone         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Worked Stone/Lithic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| None                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

| Digital Media                                     | Paper Media                                       |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database      | <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GIS                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics               | <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images        | <input type="checkbox"/> Diary                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image             | <input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matrices      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text          | <input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality          | <input type="checkbox"/> Misc.                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes           |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos        |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans         |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report        |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections      |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey        |

**Notes:**

## Drawing Conventions

### Plans

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Limit of Excavation    |   |
| Deposit - Conjectured  |   |
| Natural Features       |   |
| Sondages/Machine Strip |   |
| Intrusion/Truncation   |   |
| Illustrated Section    | S.14  |
| Archaeological Deposit | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4b084; border: 1px solid black;"></span> |
| Excavated Slot         | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d3d3d3; border: 1px solid black;"></span> |
| Modern Deposit         | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #a0c0ff; border: 1px solid black;"></span> |
| Cobbled Surface        | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #c0e0c0; border: 1px solid black;"></span> |
| Cut Number             | <b>118</b>  |

### Sections

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Limit of Excavation                           |   |
| Cut   |   |
| Cut-Conjectured                               |   |
| Deposit Horizon                               |   |
| Deposit Horizon - Conjectured                 |   |
| Intrusion/Truncation                          |   |
| Top Surface/Top of Natural                    |   |
| Break in Section/<br>Limit of Section Drawing |   |
| Cut Number                                    | <b>118</b>  |
| Deposit Number                                | 117   |
| Ordnance Datum                                | 18.45m OD<br>X  |
| Brick   | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d2b48c; border: 1px solid black;"></span> |
| Pipe  | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #c0e0c0; border: 1px solid black;"></span> |
| Stone   | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #a0a0a0; border: 1px solid black;"></span> |
| Glass   | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #a0c0ff; border: 1px solid black;"></span> |

Convention Key



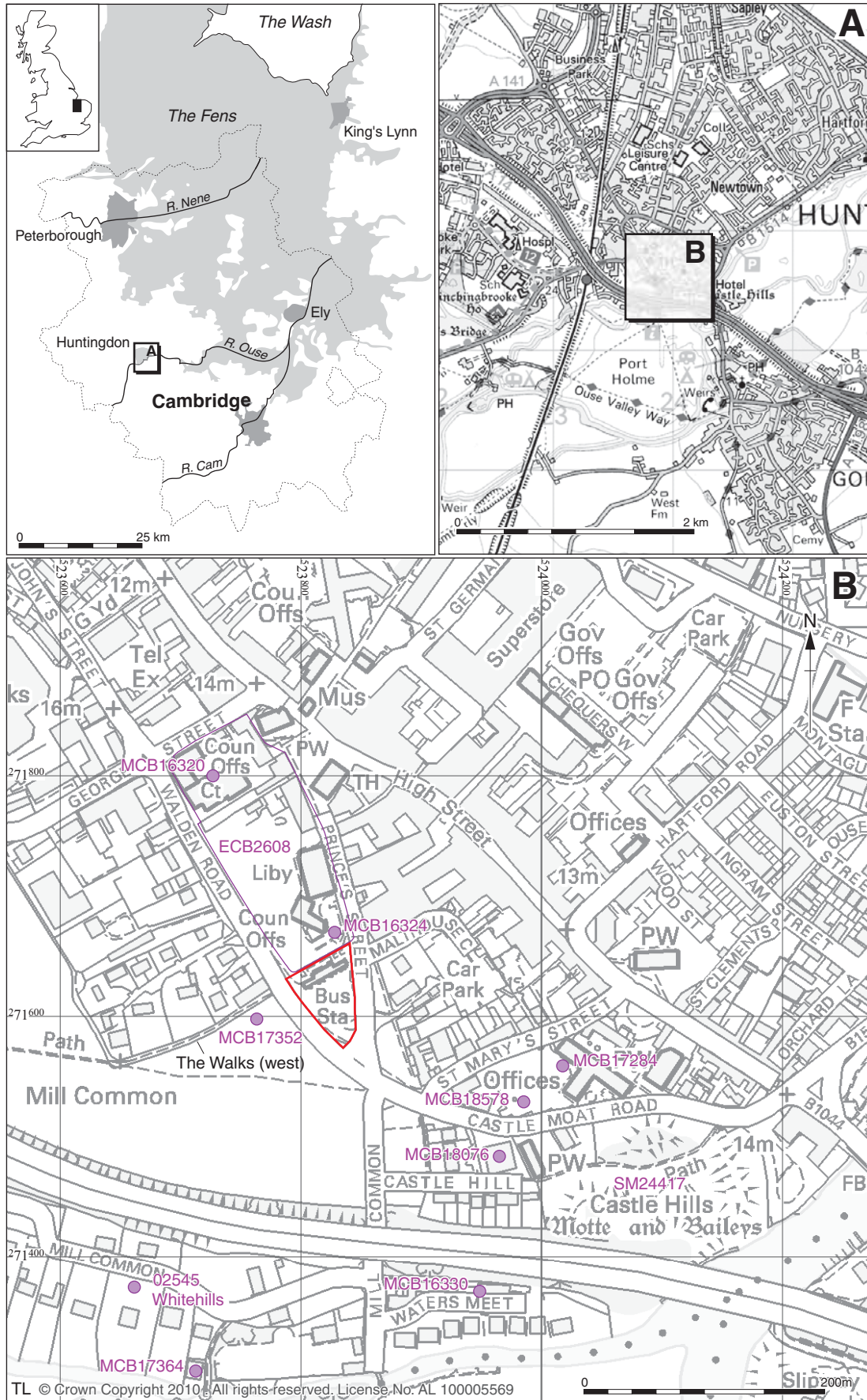


Figure 1: Location of development area (outlined red) and local HER entries (purple)

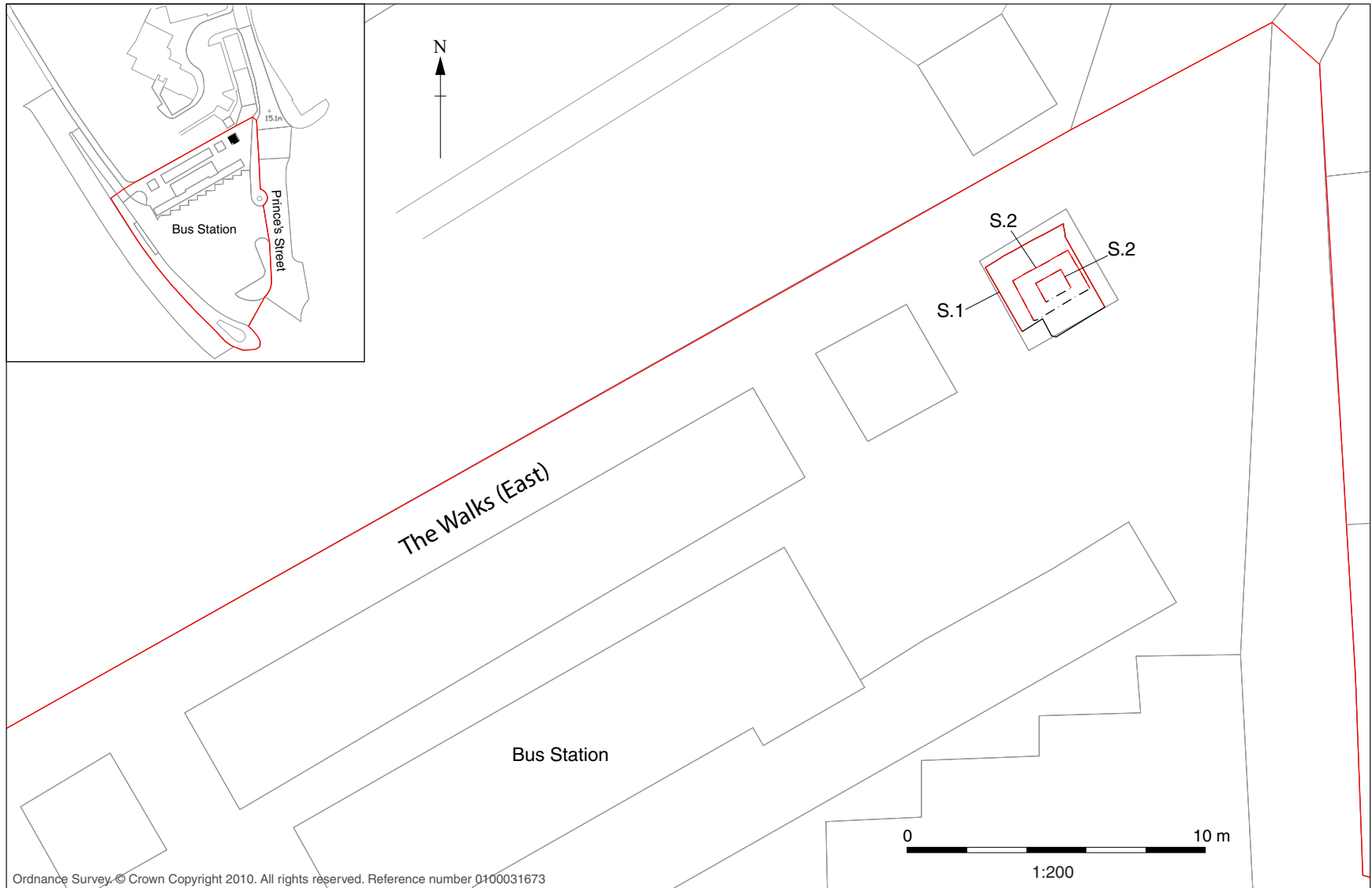


Figure 2: Trench and section location within development area

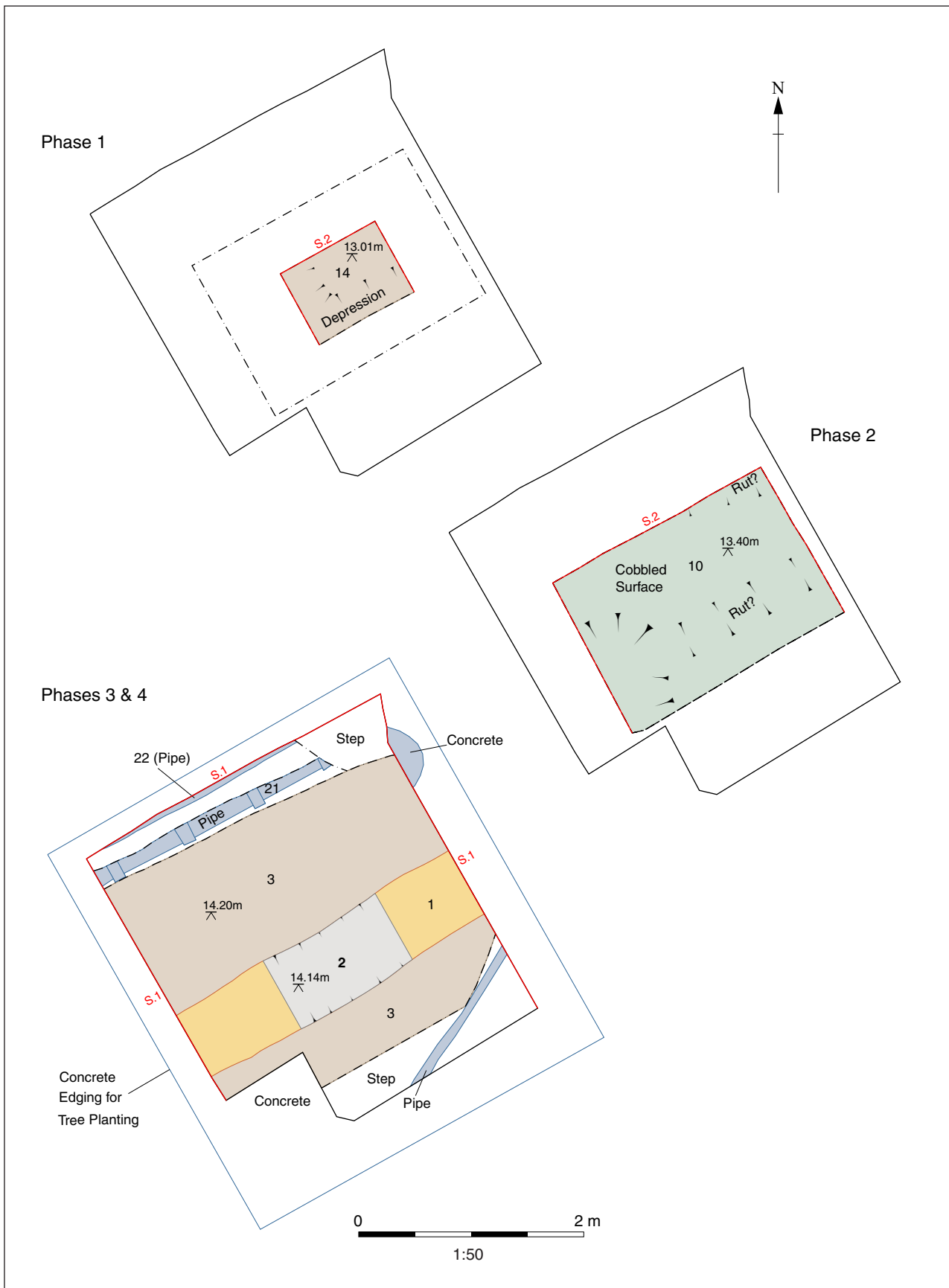


Figure 3: Trench plans

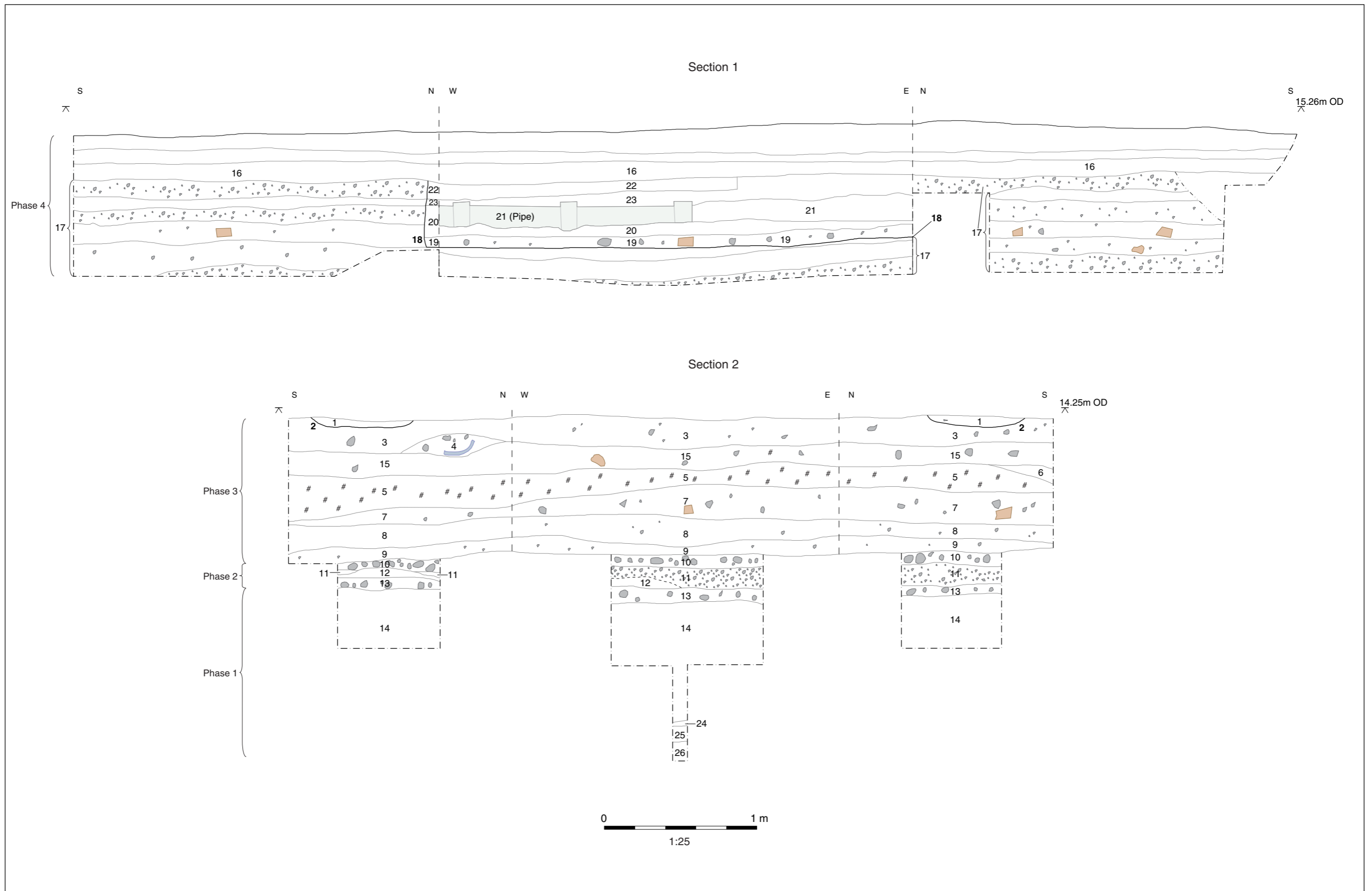


Figure 4: Sections



Plate 1: View of trench from west, showing sequence of deposits

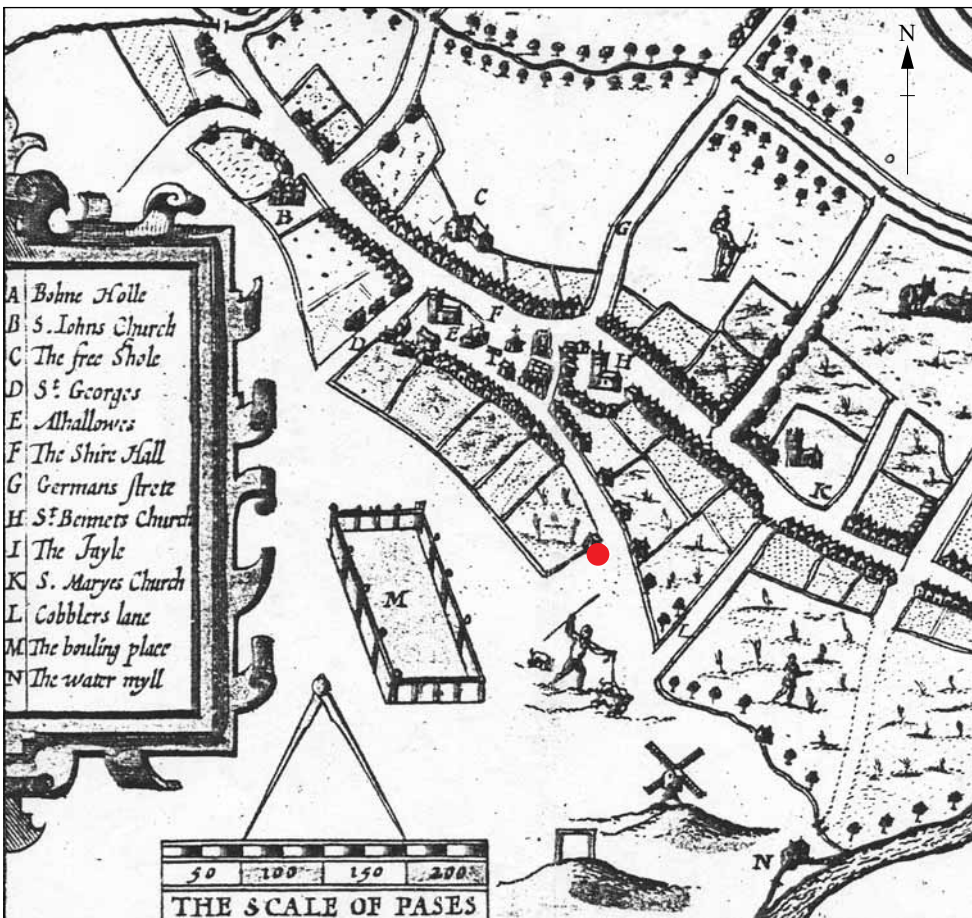


Plate 2: Detail from Speed's 1610 map of Huntingdon, showing approximate trench location (red)



### **Head Office/Registered Office**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: [info@thehumanjourney.net](mailto:info@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

### **OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

### **OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500  
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599  
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

### **OA Méditerranée**

115 Rue Merlot  
ZAC La Louvade  
34 130 Mauguio  
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92  
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93  
e: [oamed@oamed.fr](mailto: oamed@oamed.fr)  
w: <http://oamed.fr/>



**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeological Unit is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627*