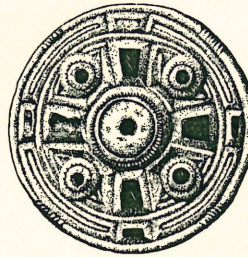


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The Still, Peterborough Medieval Deposits behind Cumbergate and Westgate

K Welsh

1994

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No 101

Commissioned By Lambert, Scott and Innes, and Scurr and Powell

**The Still, Peterborough
Medieval Deposits Behind Cumbergate and Westgate**

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Report No 101

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

During April 1994, the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council undertook an archaeological assessment on land adjacent to The Still public house, Cumbergate, Peterborough (TL 1910 9880). The work was commissioned by Lambert, Scott and Innes, and Scurr and Powell, on behalf of their clients, as part of the planning process.

The site is close to the medieval core of Peterborough, and lies behind the street frontages of Westgate and Cumbergate. Initial historical research indicated that the area consisted of orchards and gardens in the post-medieval period, but specific references to Cumbergate were rare.

The assessment revealed, in the courtyard of The Still, a series of intercutting rubbish pits, containing pottery dating to the twelfth-fourteenth centuries. In the northern part of the site, behind the Westgate frontage, a large quarry pit was found. It contained pottery indicating that it was filled in the mid-late thirteenth century. Further medieval features had been dug into the top of this pit and date to the mid thirteenth-early fourteenth centuries. A stone-lined cesspit, probably in use during the fifteenth century, was also recorded.

Further deposits recorded across the site, seem to confirm that the area was then given over to gardens and orchards. This situation persisted (although apparently as formal gardens in the nineteenth century) until the early years of this century when the adjacent arcade was built. The area now forms the garden of The Still and a service area for the Queensgate Centre.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

From thirteenth to twentieth April 1994, a team, led by the author, from the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council carried out an archaeological assessment in Peterborough (*Figure 1*). This was undertaken following a brief prepared by the County Archaeology Office (CAO) in response to a proposal to refurbish the Still public house and for a commercial development in the area immediately adjacent to it (TL 1910 9880).

The site lies on the edge of the medieval core of Peterborough in an area where activity associated with buildings on Cumbergate and Westgate might be expected. For this reason, and in spite of a paucity of archaeological evidence nearby, it was felt that the site held significant archaeological potential.

2.0 GEOLOGY

In the area of the site, the limestones of the Cornbrash, part of the Great Oolite Group laid down during the Jurassic period, come close to the surface. The Cornbrash, when weathered, takes the form of a pale brown, limestone rubble. The top of the Cornbrash is marked by a persistent argillaceous horizon where it passes up into the overlying Kellaways Clay (Horton 1989). Both limestone rubble and the upper clay horizon were observed during the present excavations at The Still.

3.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND-I D Meadows

The site is situated in an area of Peterborough city centre that was occupied prior to the nineteenth century expansion brought about by the arrival of the railways. This early period of occupation is still reflected in the southern part of Cumbergate by the survival of jetty fronted structures. No buildings of this type survive on or adjacent to the site. The present building is described as of early nineteenth century date in the building listings where it gained Grade 2 status (Town & Country Planning Act 1971, Section 54. City of Peterborough).

Archaeological remains in Peterborough city centre have been examined at a number of locations during the last 30 years and it is possible to summarise the distribution of surviving levels. The present city centre does not overlie any substantial Prehistoric or Romano-British occupation although extensive remains from both these periods are known at sites within a mile of the proposed excavation. Romano-British material has been recovered from a number of excavations in or around the Cathedral precincts (Mackreth 1984, Meadows 1993). Little early Saxon material is known from within the town but in the middle Saxon period (Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for 654AD) a monastery was established. These early monastic remains presumably lie under the present Cathedral building. The early church and some of its associated buildings were enclosed in the late Saxon period by the construction of a set of defences (Mackreth 1982, Mackreth 1988, and Meadows 1993). The contemporary

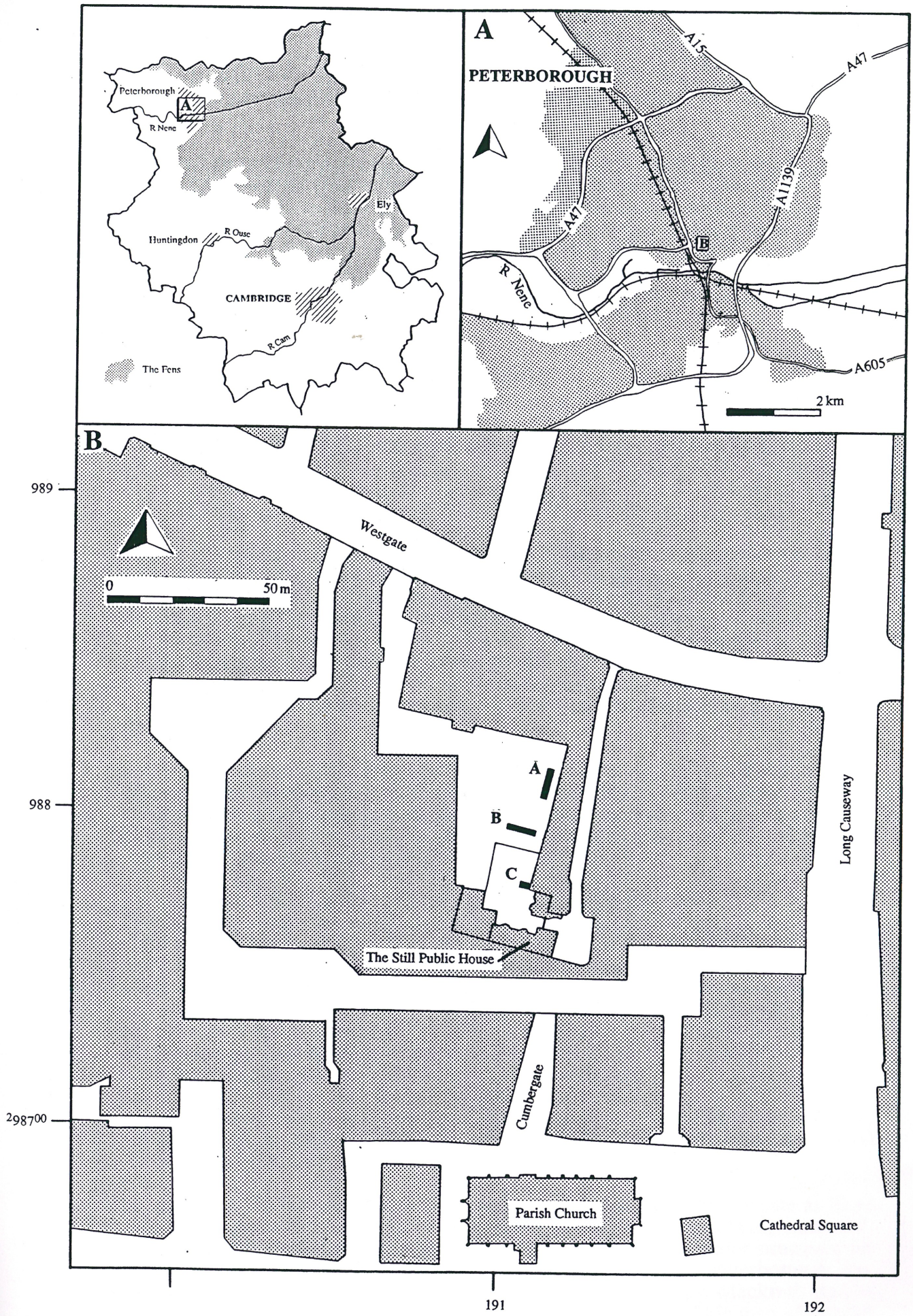


Figure 1 Location Map

undefended settlement (Vill) probably lay to the north of the defended burh (Mackreth 1984).

The burh and vill were abandoned in the twelfth century, a new monastic church, the present Cathedral, was built and its precincts redefined. The focus of the contemporary town appears to have shifted from the area of the former vill to an open area to the west of the main gate into the precincts. At this time a number of streets were probably defined. Cumbergate was probably established at this time or soon after. Prior to the redefinition of the precincts, this area was most likely under arable cultivation, a watching brief at 37-38 Long Causeway in 1988 produced evidence for the existence of late Saxon cultivation soil, sealed under upcast related to the creation of the precincts (Meadows unpub.).

The surviving Medieval archaeological levels in the centre of Peterborough are concentrated in limited areas. The large scale stripping necessary to build the Queensgate shopping precinct was recorded (archive housed at Peterborough Museum) and although formal excavation was restricted, a series of machine dug trenches was examined. No deep archaeological stratification was encountered and even the number of pits, normally such a feature of Medieval and later towns, was few. The reason for this paucity of occupation material is uncertain.

One trench was excavated approximately 12m to the south of 15 Cumbergate, which revealed features largely of post-Medieval or even nineteenth century date, although a single pit may have had a late Medieval date. A further trench about 6m to the south of 15 Cumbergate produced no recognised archaeological features. A service trench was excavated in the yard to the north of 15 Cumbergate at the same time and although medieval and post-Medieval pottery was recovered, no archaeological features were identified. Further work to the south and west of the site, at 3-5 Cumbergate and 12 Queens Street, has produced no archaeological levels of Medieval date.

A number of documentary sources exist for the Medieval and Post-Medieval town but unfortunately Cumbergate is difficult to isolate in many of them. Cumbergate as a street name has been identified as 'the street of the (wool) combers' but examination of the documentary sources has not produced evidence of a concentration of this craft in the street (Mackreth pers comm).

Various Court Rolls for the early post-reformation period can be used to suggest that Cumbergate lay to the edge of the built area and that beyond it lay areas of cultivation. One record for 22nd March, 1548 relates to a dunghill that had to be removed from Cumbergate End (NRS 1947, XII 77). Its presence may perhaps reflect a peripheral position for part of Cumbergate at this date. In the sixteenth century a number of references to Cumbergate exist in the Court Rolls, most refer to cottages, gardens and barns (NRS 1956, XVIII 171-178). Where it is possible to suggest the location of some of the properties referred to they are most often in the section of Cumbergate that lay on an east to west axis, extending west from its junction with what is today Long Causeway. The land, even close to this junction, was not densely built upon as the Court Roll for October 1599 refers to an orchard of a quarter of an acre close to the junction (NRS 1956, XVIII 178). No commercial activities can be identified in Cumbergate in the documents examined.

Speed's map of Peterborough, which dates from 1623, shows Cumbergate as lined with houses on both sides, including one on the frontage of the area being examined, unfortunately the efficacy of this plan is problematic since some major structures are shown which are known not to have existed. The next map of Peterborough was produced by Eyre in 1721. This map has been redrawn by Mackreth and is reproduced in a recent history of Peterborough (Tebbs 1979). This map shows the west side of Cumbergate divided into strips with narrow frontages, and to the north

and west areas of possible fields and gardens. This situation appears to continue for the next hundred years with only minor alterations. By the time of the 1884 survey the fields to the west had been built over and general density of occupation had increased. The area to the north of 15 Cumbergate continued to be gardens, which were finally built over in the early twentieth century.

It is not clear from the research to date when the site began functioning as a public house, but by 1901 the Crisp family, the former owners of the site, are listed in Clarkes Directory of Peterborough as operating from Cumbergate as 'wholesale and family wine and spirit merchants'. Thirty years earlier they were not mentioned in the directory and neither was the site indicated as a public house on the 1884 survey.

4.0 METHODS AND CONSTRAINTS

The development proposal was divided into two projects:

Site 1 The excavation of a new beer cellar beneath the archway which leads into the courtyard of The Still.

Site 2 The construction of a new store projecting northward from the Queensgate Centre into an area of hardstanding.

The County Archaeology Office recommended that Site 1 be investigated through the excavation of two or more test-pits. However, initial consultation of a plan of the utilities (gas, electricity, etc), provided by the architects Lambert, Scott and Innes, showed a concentration of service trenches running through the archway. After a site visit by a British Gas patrolman, and in consultation with the CAO, it was decided that the presence of a live gas pipe, as well as electricity cables, made excavation impractical at this stage.

It was also decided that no attempt should be made to open trenches in the western half of Site 2, again because of service trenches. At the western limit of the site there is an electricity sub-station and underground cables associated with it include a high voltage (33 000 Volt) supply. Clearly, it was necessary to give this as wide a berth as possible. Fortunately, the historical research indicated that any Medieval deposits would be most likely to exist in the eastern half of the site, closer to the historic core of the town.

Three trenches, with a total area of 36 square metres, were opened using a mechanical excavator. Trench B was located in an area of concrete slab which it was necessary to remove with a concrete breaker. Once the hardstanding was removed, the trenches were opened with a toothless ditching bucket under the close observation of an archaeologist.

The trenches were cleaned by hand and photographed. They were then planned at a scale of 1:20 after which any features revealed were partially excavated and then recorded using the standard techniques and *pro formas* of the AFU. At least one full section was recorded in each trench.

The pottery recovered during excavation was examined by Dr P Spoerry and an assessment is given in Appendix B.

Two samples from Trench A were processed and the residues examined by D Schlee; a brief assessment of macrofossil preservation is given in Appendix C.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Trench A (*Figures 2 and 3*)

Layer 97, 1.25m long, and 0.40m thick, was an olive brown silty clay with occasional limestone flecks. Cut by 48.

Cut 48, 5.60m wide, and at least 1.6m deep, contained 11 fills, 90, 87, 88, 51, 52, 38, 39, 53, 54, 55, and 89. The lowest fill recorded, Fill 89, consisted of small limestone fragments mixed with clay and contained occasional pottery fragments. Above this, were alternating bands of mixed yellow brown and yellow clay (55, 53, 38, and 51) containing very occasional pottery and charcoal fragments, and dark grey silty clay (54, 39, and 52) containing a greater proportion of pottery and charcoal fragments, as well as occasional animal bone, oyster and mussel shell, and iron slag. Fills 87 and 88 were olive brown, silty clays containing charcoal fragments and oyster shell. Fill 88 also contained animal bone and pottery fragments. The upper fill, Fill 90, was a brown, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Cut by 57.

Cut 57, 0.30m long, 0.28m wide, and 0.24m deep, contained a dark yellowish brown, silty clay with frequent limestone fragments, Fill 56. Truncated by Cut 24.

Cut 24, more than 1.85m long, 0.52m wide, and 0.27m deep, was a linear feature, orientated north-east to south-west and butt-ended to the north-east. It contained Fill 23, a brown silty clay containing occasional animal bone and pottery fragments. Truncated by Cut 86.

Cut 61, unexcavated but more than 2.65m by 1.6m. The upper fill, Fill 60, was a mottled, yellowish brown clay. Cut by 33 and 35.

Cut 33, more than 1.75m by 1.60m, and greater than 0.25m deep, was lined with limestone fragments set in clay, forming a low wall, 0.6m wide and 0.25m deep. It contained two fills, 30 and 62. Fill 30 was an olive brown, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, animal bone, and pottery fragments. Cut by 31.

Cut 35, more than 1.0m long, 0.65m wide, and 0.41m deep, was a linear feature, orientated north-west to south east and butt-ended to the south-east. It contained Fill 34, a mixed brownish yellow and yellow clay with a single fragment of burnt animal bone.

Cut 31, 1.0m wide, and 0.55m deep, contained Fill 63, an olive brown, silty clay containing occasional charcoal fragments, brick and tile fragments, and mortar fragments. It also contained a sherd of post-medieval red ware (post-1550) as well as a sherd of late medieval-early post-medieval, storage vessel. Cut by 27.

Cut 86, more than 4.15m wide, and up to 0.60m deep, contained two fills, 84 and 85. Fill 85 was a composed of loose cinders and ash and contained frequent oyster shell. Fill 84 was a dark grey, clay silt containing occasional clay tobacco pipe stems.

Cut 27, more than 1.6m by 1.5m, and 0.60m deep, contained a dark greyish brown, silty clay, Fill 26, with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent clay tobacco pipe stems. Below Layer 83.

Layer 83, more than 8.3m wide, and up to 0.50m thick, was a dark greyish brown, sandy silty clay containing lenses of silty clay and gravel. Cut by 99.

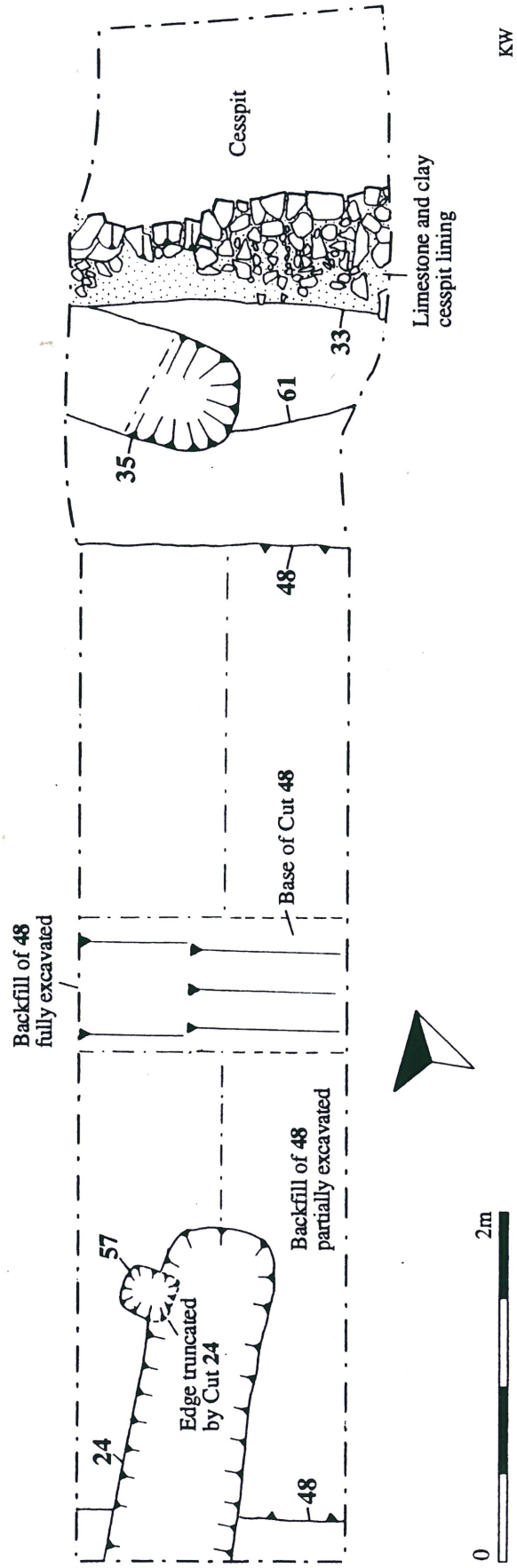


Figure 2 Plan of Trench A

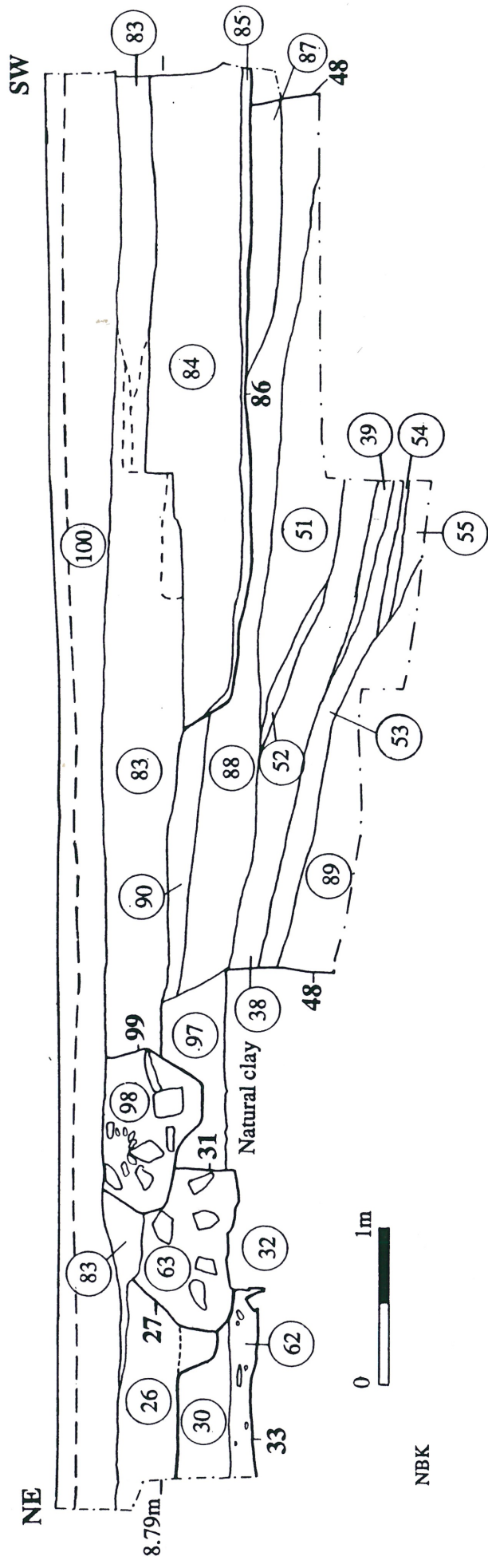


Figure 3 North-west-facing section, Trench A

Cut 99, 1.04m wide, and 0.60m deep, contained wall footing 98 composed of limestone fragments and soft, orange-brown, sandy mortar. Below Layer 100.

Layer 100, up to 0.45m thick, was the modern tarmac and rubble make-up.

5.2 Trench B (*Figure 4*) The natural weathered limestone sloped down from the west, at 8.48m OD, 1.10m below the modern ground surface, to the east, at 8.18m OD, 1.40m below the ground surface. Four features defined themselves in the limestone.

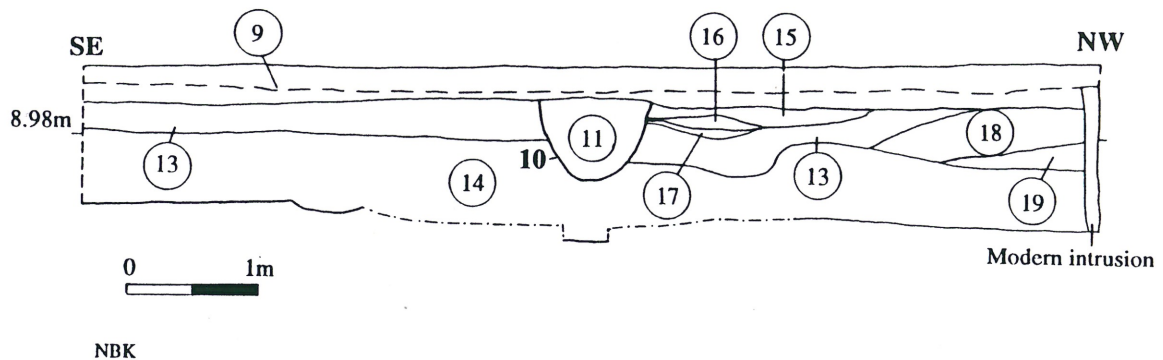


Figure 4 South-west-facing section, Trench B

Cut 1, 0.24m in diameter, and 0.05m deep, contained a dark greyish brown, clay silt, Fill 2, with one sherd of green glazed pottery. Below Layer 14.

Cut 3, more than 3.10m wide, and 0.10m deep, contained a dark greyish brown, clay silt, Fill 4, with occasional sherds of undated, medieval cooking pot and a single sherd of Stamford ware. Below Layer 14.

Cut 5, 0.30m in diameter, and 0.08m deep, contained a dark greyish brown, clay silt, Fill 6, but no artefacts. Below Layer 14.

Cut 7, 0.65m wide, and 0.12m deep, contained a dark greyish brown, clay silt, Fill 8, but no artefacts. Below Layer 14.

Layer 14, up to 0.65m thick, was a dark greyish brown, clay silt containing two abraded fragments of medieval cooking pot and a large sherd of Westerwald stoneware mug of the 18th century.

Layers 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 were interleaving layers of greyish brown clay silts and gravely clay silts with occasional brick fragments.

Cut 10 contained a modern ceramic drain pipe and was associated with the present concrete slab, Layer 9. It drained surface water into a sump which was observed during machining.

5.3 Trench C (*Figures 5 and 6*) This trench contained a series of intercutting pits overlain by possible cultivation beds. The natural clay, cut by pits, was encountered at a depth of 0.90m below the modern ground surface.

Layer 96, 0.30m thick, overlying natural clay. This sandy silty clay, stratigraphically the earliest archaeological deposit in Trench C, produced a very worn, Roman coin. Cut by Pit 41.

Cut 41, 1.33m wide, and 0.75m deep, contained three fills, 40, 82, and 95. They were all dark yellowish brown, sandy silty clays with occasional charcoal fragments. Fill 40 contained pottery sherds, including Stamford and Developed Stamford wares. Cut by Pit 81.

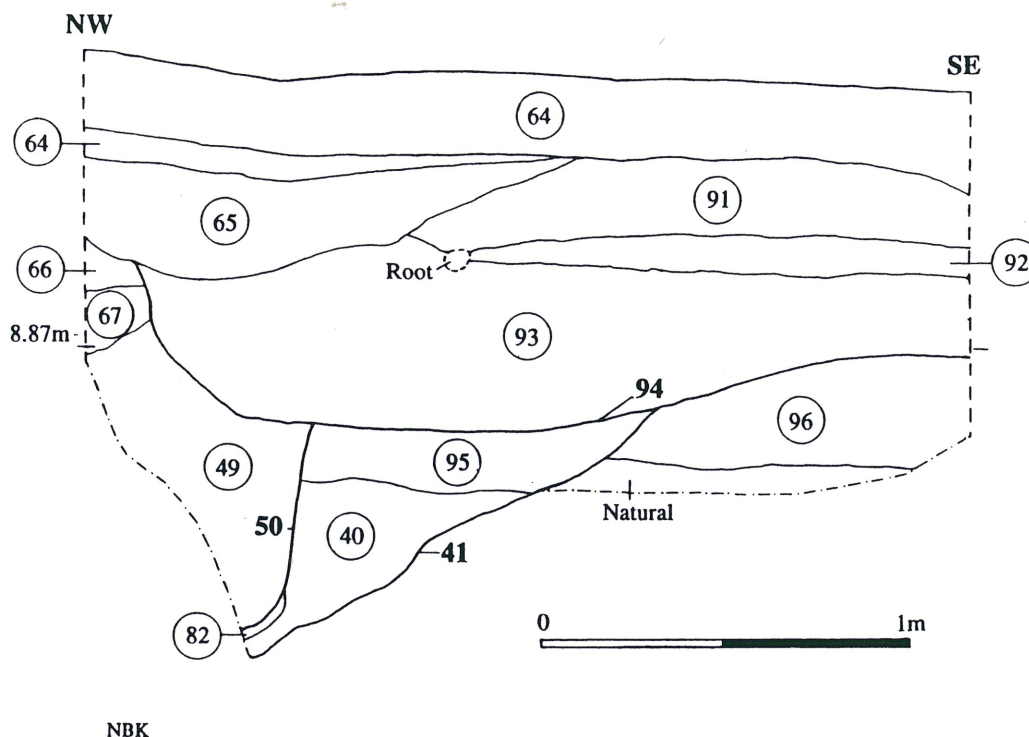


Figure 5 South-west-facing section, Trench C

Cut 81, more than 1.02m wide, and 0.55m deep, contained six fills, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, and 80. These were yellowish brown, sandy silty clays with charcoal fragments. Fill 76 contained frequent pottery sherds, many of which were from a single, shell-tempered cooking vessel. Below Layer 74.

Layer 74, 0.15m deep, a dark brown sandy silty clay, contained sherds of oolite-tempered pottery with exterior white slip lines. Cut by Pits 43 and 50.

Cut 50, at least 0.80m wide, and 0.84m deep, contained four fills, 69, 49, 70, and 71, forming alternating layers of dark brown, silty clays (49 and 71) and yellowish brown clay (69 and 70). Pottery sherds were recovered from Fills 49 and 71. Sealed by Layer 67.

Cut 43, more than 0.76m wide, and 0.72m deep, contained three fills, 72, 73, and 42. These were dark brown, silty and sandy clays with some charcoal fragments. Fill 72

produced sherds from two jugs; one with external applied strips and a green glaze; the other with external applied strips and a mottled green glaze. Sealed by Layer 67.

Layer 67, 0.18m deep, was a yellowish brown silty sand which produced no artefacts. Below Layer 66.

Layer 66, up to 0.35m thick, was a dark brown, sandy silty clay containing charcoal and coal fragments but no artefacts. Cut by 94.

Cut 94, more than 2.20m wide, and 0.52m thick, contained Fill 93, a very dark brown, sandy silty clay containing occasional brick fragments. Below layer 92.

Layer 92, more than 1.30m wide, and 0.12m thick, was a black ash and cinder layer containing occasional brick fragments. Below Layer 91.

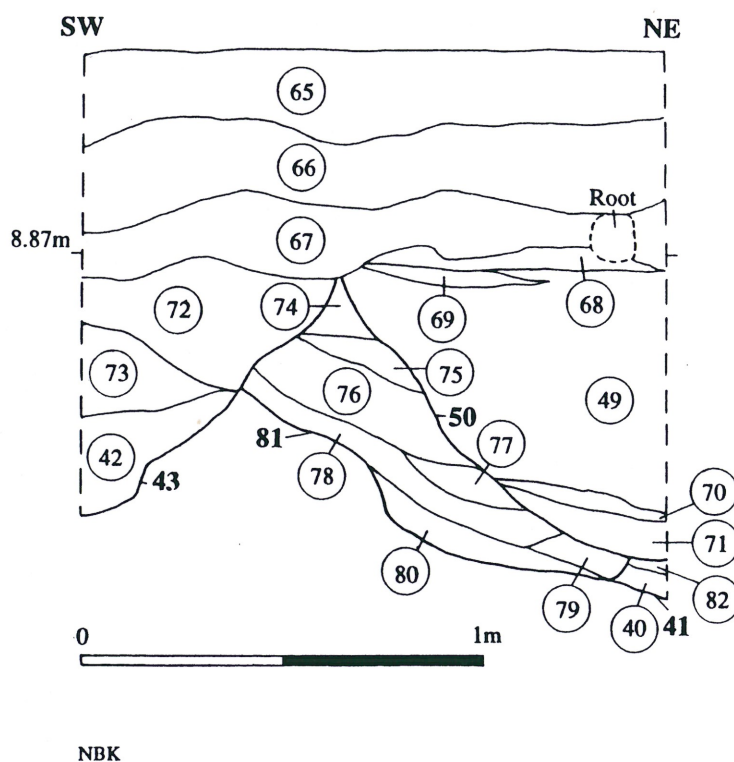


Figure 6 South-east-facing section, Trench C

Layer 91, more than 1.50m wide, and 0.25m thick, was a yellowish brown, sandy gravel. Below Layer 65.

Layer 65, up to 0.16m thick, was a dark grey, sandy silty clay with occasional fragments of coal. Below Layer 64.

Layer 64, up to 0.30m thick, was the modern tarmac surface.

6.0 DISCUSSION

Significant archaeological deposits were revealed in two of the trenches excavated, Trenches A and C. Trench B, by comparison, was largely barren of archaeological features.

The earliest excavated feature in Trench A was the large, straight-sided pit, Cut 48, surviving to within 0.65m of the modern ground surface. The most likely interpretation of such a large hole is that it was a quarry pit, dug in order to extract the upper limestone of the Cornbrash beds. The date of its original excavation is not clear but the pottery within its fills suggest that it was back-filled in stages during the mid-late thirteenth century - the lowest fill, Fill 89, composed of small limestone fragments mixed with clay, is likely to be debris from the initial sorting of the quarried stone. Above Fill 89, the layers of clay, 55, 53, 38, and 51, similar to the natural clay observed elsewhere in the Trench, probably represent rapid back-filling of the pit. These layers were separated by thin silty bands, 54, 39, and 52, which were probably deposited over a longer period. It is possible, then, that the pit was back-filled with material from other quarry pits in the area, with the silty bands washing in during pauses in the process. Analysis of a soil sample from one of these bands (39) showed the presence of mammal and fish bones, charred wheat grains and weed seeds, and hazel nut shells and fruit stones. This suggests that domestic activities, presumably associated with buildings on Westgate, were taking place in the area while the pit was still open.

The unexcavated feature, Cut 61, had a similar, mixed clay fill, Fill 60, and may be a second, more or less contemporary, quarry pit.

A single post-hole, 57, cut into the top of the quarry pit, contained limestone fragments probably used as packing stones. It was undated but was truncated by a butt-ended linear feature, Cut 24, containing pottery dating it to the mid thirteenth-early fourteenth centuries. Although the specific purpose of these features is unknown, they clearly indicate a continuing period of activity in the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries, perhaps indicating an extension of the properties fronting onto Westgate after the infilling of the quarry pit. A second linear feature, Cut 35, was undated but may well date to the same period.

Trench C contained features dating to the same period and perhaps a little earlier. These intercutting pits, surviving from about 0.5m below the modern ground surface to more than 1.5m below, contain relatively large quantities of pottery, and are almost certainly rubbish pits associated with properties on the Cumbergate frontage.

One of the most interesting features was the limestone-and-clay 'wall', 32, in Trench A. It is clear that it was not built within a narrow foundation trench but, rather, it formed the lining of a larger cut. The nature of the two fills, 30 and 62, strongly suggest that this was a cesspit. A soil sample from the primary fill, 62, has been processed and contained mammal and fish bones, charred wheat and barley grains, charred legume seeds, and charred and uncharred weed seeds. Pottery retrieved from the upper fill, 30, indicates a date in the late fourteenth-fifteenth centuries. However, a large rim-fragment of a coarse shell tempered dish, with interior stabbed decoration, and a sherd of a quartz-sand and shell tempered dish with similar decoration, are akin to earlier forms. It may be, therefore, that they are residual pieces, redeposited from elsewhere, although this seems somewhat unlikely given their context. Perhaps, then, they represent a local tradition of pottery manufacture which persisted into the later medieval period (P Spoerry pers comm).

The stone lining of the cesspit was deliberately removed at a later time by Cut 31. This 'robber trench' contained pottery which dates to the post-medieval period and

may represent the clearing of the area to allow its use as gardens and orchards (as attested to in sixteenth century documentary references). Cut 86, filled with an homogeneous clay silt and with a lower fill of loose cinders, is probably a cultivation bed and the presence of slender clay tobacco pipe stems suggests that it was in use in the eighteenth-nineteenth centuries. It is, therefore, likely to be contemporary with Layer 14 in Trench B, which is also an homogeneous, clay silt, and with Cut 94 in Trench C. The shallow features cut into the weathered limestone in Trench B, were probably cut from within, or from the top of, Layer 14 since their fills are exactly similar to it. The presence of medieval pottery sherds in two of these features may simply reflect the thoroughly mixed character of the layer.

By the time of 1884 Ordnance Survey map, the area has become a more formal garden within the enlarged town. This phase seems to be represented in all trenches by a layer of clay silt with lenses of gravelly material perhaps derived from paths within the gardens. A wall footing in Trench A, 98, almost certainly forms part of these gardens.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The lack of archaeological evidence from the immediate area, in spite of several recording briefs undertaken in the past, might have suggested that medieval deposits simply do not survive in large parts of Peterborough or that they never existed in the first place. However, the situation in other urban centres indicates that, even when large scale disturbance has occurred in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, 'islands' of archaeology (at the very least) survive between, for example, deep foundations and basements. The second alternative, that medieval activity did not result in any build-up of deposits, would suggest that, in comparison to other medieval towns, a very different way of life existed in Peterborough.

This assessment has, however, demonstrated the survival of significant medieval deposits concentrated in the areas behind the frontages of both Westgate and Cumbergate. They date largely from the twelfth-fourteenth centuries and indicate vigorous urban activity in the period following the town's re-establishment in the twelfth century. Behind the Westgate frontage, this activity continues into the late medieval period, whilst the rest of the area is, according to early documentary references, apparently given over to food production. With the destruction of the cesspit in the post-medieval period, the entire area appears to be devoted to orchards and gardens, a situation which persists (in the form of formal gardens) until the beginning of the twentieth century.

Medieval features were encountered at a depth of 0.65m and 0.5m in Trenches A and C respectively, and so the proposed development is likely to have a severe impact on the archaeology in both areas.

Although it proved impractical to investigate Site 1, the presence of intercutting medieval pits in Trench C, only 15m away, suggests that archaeological deposits do exist there. As the area fronts onto Cumbergate, there is the possibility that structural evidence survives although there may be some disturbance from modern service trenches.

The artefactual and ecofactual evidence retrieved (see Appendices B and C) suggests that the site offers an important opportunity to study part of non-monastic, medieval Peterborough the evidence for which, until now, has been surprisingly scarce. Whilst documentary and other sources suggest that the area was not occupied before the focus of the town was shifted in the twelfth century, the presence of some early forms

of pottery, the Stamford and Developed Stamford wares, hints at the possibility of earlier occupation in the vicinity. Further excavation should shed light on this possibility as well as providing a clearer picture of the slightly later medieval activity. It should allow, for example, a greater understanding of the apparent change in property boundaries seen in Trench A, where an expansion of the Westgate properties in the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries, followed by a later contraction, may reflect the more general economic conditions prevailing in England at the time.

Avenues of research which the evaluation has indicated may prove particularly fruitful include the study of both the agricultural and the fenland-derived, water-based, economies as evinced by the recovery of plant remains and fish bone from stratified samples.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX A

List of Contexts

<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Nature</u>	<u>Below</u>	<u>Above</u>
1	Cut	?Post-hole	2	
2	Fill of [1]	10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown, clay silt	14	1
3	Cut	Tree hole	4	Natural
4	Fill of [3]	10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown, clay silt	14	3
5	Cut	?Post-hole	6	Natural
6	Fill of [5]	10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown, clay silt	14	5
7	Cut	?Root hole	8	Natural
8	Fill of [7]	10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown, clay silt	14	7
9	Layer	Concrete and rubble make-up	-	11
10	Cut	Drain trench	11	15
11	Fill of [10]	Brick rubble, gravel etc	9	10
12	Cut	Manhole	20	
13	Layer	2.5Y 5/4 olive brown gravel and clay silt	17	18
14	Layer	10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown, clay silt	19	2, 4, 6, 8
15	Layer	10YR 2/1 black, silty clay	9	16
16	Layer	10YR 4/2 dark greyish brown clay silt	15	17
17	Layer	10YR 3/1 very dark grey clay silt	16	13
18	Layer	10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown, clay silt	13	19
19	Layer	10YR 4/2 dark greyish brown clay silt and gravel	18	14
20	Fill of [12]	Brick rubble		12
21	Not used			
22	Not used			
23	Fill of [24]	10YR 4/3 brown, silty clay	86	24
24	Cut	Linear feature	23	90
25-29	Not used			
30	Fill of cesspit	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown, silty clay	31	62
31	Cut	Robber trench	63	30, 97
32	Wall	Lining of cesspit	62	33
33	Cut	Cut for cesspit	32	60
34	Fill of [35]	10YR 6/8 brownish yellow and 10YR 7/6 yellow, clay	-	35
35	Cut	Linear feature	34	60
36	Not used			
37	Not used			
38	Fill of [48]	10YR 6/8 brownish yellow and 10YR 7/2 light grey clay	52	39
39	Fill of [48]	10YR 4/1 dark grey silty clay	38	53
40	Fill of [41]	10YR 3/4 dark yellowish brown sandy silty clay	82, 95	41
41	Cut	Pit	40	96
42	Fill of [43]	10YR 4/3 brown silty clay	73	43
43	Cut	Pit	42	74
44	Fill of [45]	Orange clay sand	-	-
45	Cut	Natural feature	44	-
46	Not used			
47	Not used			
48	Cut	Quarry pit	55	97
49	Fill of [50]	10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown, silty clay	69	70
50	Cut	Pit	71	74, 95

51	Fill of [48]	10YR 6/8 brownish yellow and 10YR 7/6 yellow, clay	88	52
52	Fill of [48]	10YR 4/1 dark grey silty clay	51	38
53	Fill of [48]	10YR 6/8 brownish yellow and 10YR 7/6 yellow, clay	39	54
54	Fill of [48]	10YR 4/1 dark grey, silty clay	53	55
55	Fill of [48]	10YR 6/8 brownish yellow and 10YR 7/2 light grey, clay	55	89
56	Fill of [57]	10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown, silty clay	24	57
57	Cut	Post-hole	56	90
58	Not used			
59	Not used			
60	Fill of [61]	Yellowish brown, clay	33, 35	61
61	Cut	?Quarry pit	60	-
62	Fill of cesspit	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown, silty clay	30	32
63	Fill of [31]	2.5Y 4/3.5 olive brown, sandy silty clay	27	31
64	Layer	Concrete and rubble make-up	-	65
65	Layer	10YR 3/1 very dark grey, sandy silty clay	65	91
66	Layer	10YR 3/3 dark brown, sandy clay	94	67
67	Layer	10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown, silty sand	66	68, 72
68	Fill of [50]	10YR 3/3 dark brown, sandy silty clay	67	69
69	Fill of [50]	10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown, clay	68	49
70	Fill of [50]	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown, clay	49	71
71	Fill of [50]	10YR 3/3 dark brown, silty clay	70	50
72	Fill of [43]	10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown, sandy silty clay	67	73
73	Fill of [43]	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown sandy clay	72	42
74	Layer	10YR 3/3 dark brown, sandy silty clay	43, 50	75
75	Fill of [81]	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown, sandy silty clay	74	76
76	Fill of [81]	10YR 3/4 dark yellowish brown sandy silty clay	75	77
77	Fill of [81]	10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown sandy silty clay	76	78
78	Fill of [81]	10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown sandy silty clay	77	79
79	Fill of [81]	10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown silty sandy clay	78	80
80	Fill of [80]	10YR 4/3 brown, sandy silty clay	79	81
81	Cut	Pit	80	82
82	Fill of [41]	10YR 5/8 yellowish brown, sandy silty clay	81	40
83	Layer	10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown, sandy silty clay	99	26, 84
84	Fill of [86]	10YR 3/1 very dark grey, clay silt	83	85
85	Fill of [86]	2.5YR 2.5/1 reddish black ash and cinders	84	86
86	Cut	Cultivation bed	85	23
87	Fill of [48]	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown, silty clay	90	88
88	Fill of [48]	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown, silty clay	87	51
89	Fill of [48]	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown, limestone fragments and clay	55	48
90	Fill of [48]	10 YR 4/3 brown, silty clay	57	87
91	Layer	10YR 3/4 dark yellowish brown sandy gravel	65	92
92	Layer	2.5Y 2.5/1 black, ash and cinders	91	93
93	Fill of [94]	10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown, sandy silty clay	92	94
94	Cut	?Cultivation bed	93	66

95	Fill of [41]	10YR 3/4 dark yellowish brown sandy silty clay	50	40
96	Layer	10YR 4/3 dark yellowish brown sandy silty clay	41	Natural
97	Layer	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown, silty clay	31, 48	Natural
98	Wall	C19 wall footing	100	99
99	Cut	Foundation trench	99	83
100	Layer	Tarmac and rubble make-up	-	98

Appendix B

The Still, Peterborough

Report on the pottery from the evaluation excavations, 1994

Paul Spoerry BTech, PhD

Pottery from the three evaluation trenches was spot-dated by the author, and brief notes were made. The spot-dating information is listed at the end of this piece.

The Assemblage

This assemblage is mostly composed of ceramics dateable to the thirteenth century. This is generally a period of high economic activity and population growth which is echoed in increasing and diversifying ceramic use.

Trench A

The earliest pottery in this group is St Neots ware (950-1100). It is likely to be residual here as most of the dateable ceramics found alongside are rather later. These include developed Stamford ware (1150-1300), probably Lyveden-Stanion wares from Northamptonshire (perhaps 1200-1350) and Bourn pottery from Lincolnshire (here 1200-1350). The local shelly and quartz-tempered coarsewares echo the Lincs/Ouse Valley tradition of calcitic tempering, but are not currently easily provenanced or closely dated.

Two contexts are of later date. (30) is a small late medieval (1350-1500) assemblage, mostly later shell-tempered coarseware, but with two residual sherds of the shelly medieval pottery from which it develops. One baluster jug base is not provenanced, but shows stylistic and technological traits that place it after 1350. (63) produced two sherds, one of which is a med/post-medieval transitional coarseware, and the other is a true post-medieval earthenware dating to 1550 onwards.

Trench B

Context (2) produced one probable Lyveden-Stanion glazed ware sherd, whilst another four medieval sherds, probably of variable date, derived from (4). The earliest of these is Stamford ware (950-1150). An eighteenth century Westerwald stoneware sherd was recovered from (14). The few sherds from this trench do not appear to form coherent groups and thus much disturbance is likely.

Trench C

As with most of the contexts from Trench A, the emphasis in this assemblage is on the thirteenth century. The most common dateable material is Bourn ware, with Northamptonshire finewares and local coarsewares also present. The earliest group seems to be that from (40), however, as this includes both true Stamford ware and its developed derivative, it may well be mixed, or have a residual component.

Discussion

This small group is an excellent first indicator of what the domestic/everyday assemblage is like in Peterborough for the period c. 1200-1350. Due to a lack of published groups, suggestions regarding ceramic supply in the town have only been possible through inference from known industries in the general region and from assemblages in Stamford. There is no doubt that much work remains to be done,

however, the importance of the Stamford, Bourn and Northamptonshire industries is evident. Coarseware provenance and supply are not, however, known at all.

The presence of both 'developed' and 'true' Stamford products hints at earlier phases within the immediate vicinity, and this quickly raises issues regarding the urban topographic development of Peterborough outside of the monastic precinct.

Presuming this assemblage is a good indicator of the surrounding archaeology, then it is certain that it will prove pivotal in providing a material culture progression framework for medieval Peterborough outside of the monastic precinct. Further excavation would undoubtedly extend the temporal dimension beyond the current focus on the period c.1200-1350.

The relative potential of the deposits from the significant parts of the trenches can be indicated from rough figures of grammes of pottery per cubic metre. The results of these calculations are;

Trench A	Quarry pit [48]:	293g/m ³
	Other med. features	469g/m ³
Trench C	Med. pits	3413g/m ³

The indications from these figures are that the medieval pits at the rear of medieval properties shown in Trench C represent an area of very high potential for artefact recovery. The archaeology in Trench A is much less productive of data of this category; which is to be expected in the case of the quarry pits

Spot-dating and I.D. information

nb. medieval coarse wares have, on the whole, not been individually dated. Most SSHW and CSHW will probably be late twelfth to early fourteenth century in date.

Type Fabric Codes used

STAM	Stamford ware
DEST	Developed Stamford ware
NEOT	St Neots-type ware
BOUR	Bourne-type medieval ware
LYST	Lyveden-Stanion type wares
NORT	Oolitic probably Northants-type wares
CSHW	Coarse shelly ware
SSHW	Sandy shelly ware
LMSHW	Late medieval shelly ware
HFR	Highly fired redware
PMR	Post-medieval redware
WEST	Westerwald stoneware

Context	No of sherds	Type Code	Description	Date-Range	
Trench A	23	2	SSHW	one with ext. gg	1150-1300
		1	DEST	?buff fabric variant	
	2		smooth reduced ware		
		1	CSHW	cp, heavily shelly fabric	1200-1300
	1	?NORT	Probably Northants fineware, ext. white slip lines & gg, heavily tempered, oolitic		
	30	1	CSHW	dish rim, stabbed & wavy line dec.	<1350
		1	CSHW	dish rim with stabbed dec.	<1350
		5	?LMSHW	various hard-fired & unglazed, shelly or oolitic temper	1350-1500
		1		quartz with haematite, int. glaze	1350+
		1		baluster base, hard-fired, ext w. slip & splashed gg.	1350-1500
38	2	DEST	bs	1150-1300	
	2	CSHW			
	4	SSHW			
39	1	?BOUR	possible Bourne	1200-1350	
	1		cookpot		
	14	CSHW	mostly cookpots	1100-1350	
	1	LYST	Oolitic	1200-1350	
63	6	?BOUR	mostly gg	1200-1350	
	1	PMR		1550+	
	1	LMSHW	flanged storage vessel rim	1350-1550	
88	1	DEST	Jug	1150-1300	
	10	CSHW	Mostly cookpots, hand made	1000-1400	
	2	?LYST	Hard-fired, oolitic	1200-1350	
	1	NEOT	Brown shelly fabric, wheel-made	950-1100	
	12	?BOUR	Mostly ext gg, applied strip & nail impressions; highly dec. tradition	1230-1350	
89	2	CSHW		1200-1350	
	2	?LYST	Probably thirteenth-fourteenth type		
Trench B					
2	1	?LYST	jug bs, ext applied strip & lattice stamp, gg. Oolitic	1230-1300	
4	1	CSHW	heavily shelly, cookpot	950-1150	
	2	SSHW	cookpot		
	1	STAM	true Stamford ware		
14	2	SSHW	abraded bs, medieval	1700-1800	
	1	WEST	18th cent mug		
Trench C					
40	1	STAM	bs	950-1150	
	3	DEST		1150-1300	
	4	SSHW	assorted vessels		
	12	CSHW	very shelly, mostly cookpots		
49	7	?NORT	4 from one vessel with ext, gg, ?oolitic	1200-1300	
68	1	?NORT	smooth red fabric with limestone, ext white slip & mottled glaze	1200-1300	
71	1	SSHW	medieval		
72	7	?BOUR	one jug, ext applied strips & gg; quartz	1230-1350	
	3	?BOUR	from one jug, ext applied strip & mottled gg; quartz	1230-1300	
74	3	?NORT	Joining; slip lines, etc, oolitic	1200-1300	
76	23	CSHW	1 vessel, cookpot		

APPENDIX C

Assessment of Macrofossil Remains from The Still, Peterborough

D Schlee BA, MSc

Two 15 litre samples were taken from features in Trench A. Each was floated for the recovery of charred seeds and other organic remains. The heavy residues were sorted through for larger and heavier items.

Sample 1 was taken from Fill 39 in Cut 48, which contained pottery dated to the thirteenth century. The fill probably represents gradual silting within an open pit. It contained:

- Small weathered fragments of larger mammal bone;
- Well-preserved fish bones;
- Shell fragments;
- Charred wheat grains (as well as one possible oat grain);
- Charred weed seeds;
- Fragments of hazel nut shells;
- Fragments of 2 ?Prunus sp. fruit stones.

Sample 2 was taken from Fill 62 in Cut 33 which contained pottery dated to the fourteenth-fifteenth centuries. It is the primary fill of a probable cesspit. It contained:

- Larger fragments of mammal bone;
- Well-preserved fish bones;
- Charred wheat grains;
- Charred barley grains;
- Charred legume seeds;
- Charred and uncharred weed seeds.

Though fairly small, both samples indicate that the features contained domestic refuse and, as such, have considerable potential for the recovery of useful evidence for domestic activities and dietary practices. Mammal and bird bone was represented as were fish and shellfish. The charred remains are indicative of food crops, as well as crop weeds, and fuel. The survival of uncharred seeds may give an indication of plants and weeds growing in the immediate vicinity or possibly evidence of other plant usage not represented by the charred material, eg, medicinal uses.

In a large area excavation, it may well be possible to discern, through further sampling, variation in diet or domestic activity, both spatially and temporally, thereby enhancing the interpretation and understanding of the archaeological evidence.