

ORCHARD LANE, HUNTINGDON

UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

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ASSESSMENT REPORT

NIRAL DARGI ET AL

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## UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

### 1 BACKGROUND

#### 1.1 Academic objectives of the project

The research objectives of the project at Orchard Lane, Huntingdon were outlined in September 1994 by Dr Paul Spoerry of the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council in a Project Design Specification.

Attention was drawn to the evidence for late Saxon and medieval domestic refuse, Christian burials and possible industrial activity recovered from an archaeological evaluation of the site in July 1994. These were placed in the context of documentary and other evidence showing that Huntingdon had assumed great local and regional importance in the late Saxon/early Norman period before suffering a dramatic change of fortune in the later 14th century. It was pointed out that development proposals would result in the complete destruction of much of the medieval and later deposits on the site.

This archaeological evidence was shown to be especially significant because of the lack of archaeological involvement in the modern development of the town. A number of excavations have taken place in the town centre in previous decades, but none have been fully published, while more recent evaluation work stimulated by PPG16 has highlighted the survival of archaeological stratigraphy in the historic core of Huntingdon. The Orchard Lane project provided the first opportunity in recent years to carry out a large urban excavation, initiate a modern archaeological data base for Huntingdon, and provide a background against which future decisions for the management of the town's archaeological resource can be made.

The potential urban morphological and economic data from the site could aid understanding of a number of specific research aims at a local, regional and national level.

##### **Local**

- a). Elucidate the poorly understood urban morphology of Huntingdon in the middle and late Saxon and post-Conquest periods by defining the nature and extent of settlement away from the putative centre at the bridgehead across the Ouse and the High Street.
- b). At its 13th century peak Huntingdon had at least sixteen churches, but the location of many of these is unknown. The excavations offered the opportunity to confirm the position of one, probably St Clements.
- c). Investigate further the evidence for post-medieval brick-making and its implications for zoning of activities within the town.
- d). Artefactual and ecofactual data recovered could be targeted to address points a) - c) and provide information on the morphology and economy of Huntingdon.

##### **Regional and National**

- a). Huntingdon represents a classic type-site of the small County town of the medieval and post-medieval periods, a category that has seen little archaeological investigation to date and needs further research regionally and nationally. Until at least the late 14th century Huntingdon functioned as a major urban centre for the County and region and

its strategically important location, at the point where the main road from London to York crossed a river, occasioned a close royal interest and association.

b). It was a major conduit, market and meeting place for the Fen Edge zone. Evidence from this excavation may elucidate the dynamics of the relationship between the town and its region and thus increase understanding of the economic and social dynamics of Eastern England in general.

c). Excavation in Huntingdon provides opportunities to investigate the growth of urbanism in pre-Conquest England as a whole, and on the fringe of the Danelaw in particular.

## 1.2 Summary of Results

The following is based on the summary account of the context record prepared for deposition in the site archive. For a more complete account of the various categories of artefactual and ecofactual data the reader is referred to the accompanying assessment document.

### Methodology

The evaluation (site code HUNOL 94 I) comprised four linear trenches totalling c.55 sq.m (Trenches A to D, Fig 1), designed to sample, investigate and evaluate surviving archaeological deposits. Following removal of modern overburden by machine, excavation was carried out by hand. Deposits and cuts were recorded as part of a standardised single-context recording system (contexts 1-163) and drawn on multi-context plans and sections @ 1:20 and 1:10 respectively.

The ensuing full excavation (HUNOL 94 II) comprised one open area of c.385 sq.m (Fig 1) and, following continuously-supervised machine clearance of modern deposits, excavation and recording followed a similar methodology to that employed on the evaluation. A new context sequence was used (1001-1154) and the plans were usually of a single context only.

In the immediate post-excavation phase the contexts from HUNOL 94 I and II were cross-referenced and a site matrix created, depicting all recorded contexts in their stratigraphic sequence. On the basis of stratigraphic relationships and spot-dating of pottery, contexts were allocated to discrete periods of human activity.

The sequence of activity on the site is summarised below in tabular form.

PERIOD	DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERISTICS
0	Natural subsoil	Clay with sand, utilised in later periods
1 ( - 1150)	Pre-cemetery activity	Pits, linear cut. Pottery of 900 - 1150 redeposited in later periods
2 (900-1150 - later 14th)	Christian cemetery	Human burials, some intercutting
3 (later 14th - 16th)	Quarrying and backfilling of quarries	Quarries and pits dug to extract clay for brick-making
4 (17th - 19th)	Gardens and orchards	Tree-holes and cultivated soil
5 (19th - 20th)	Builder's yards	Brick drains, foundations, post-hole alignment, soil removal

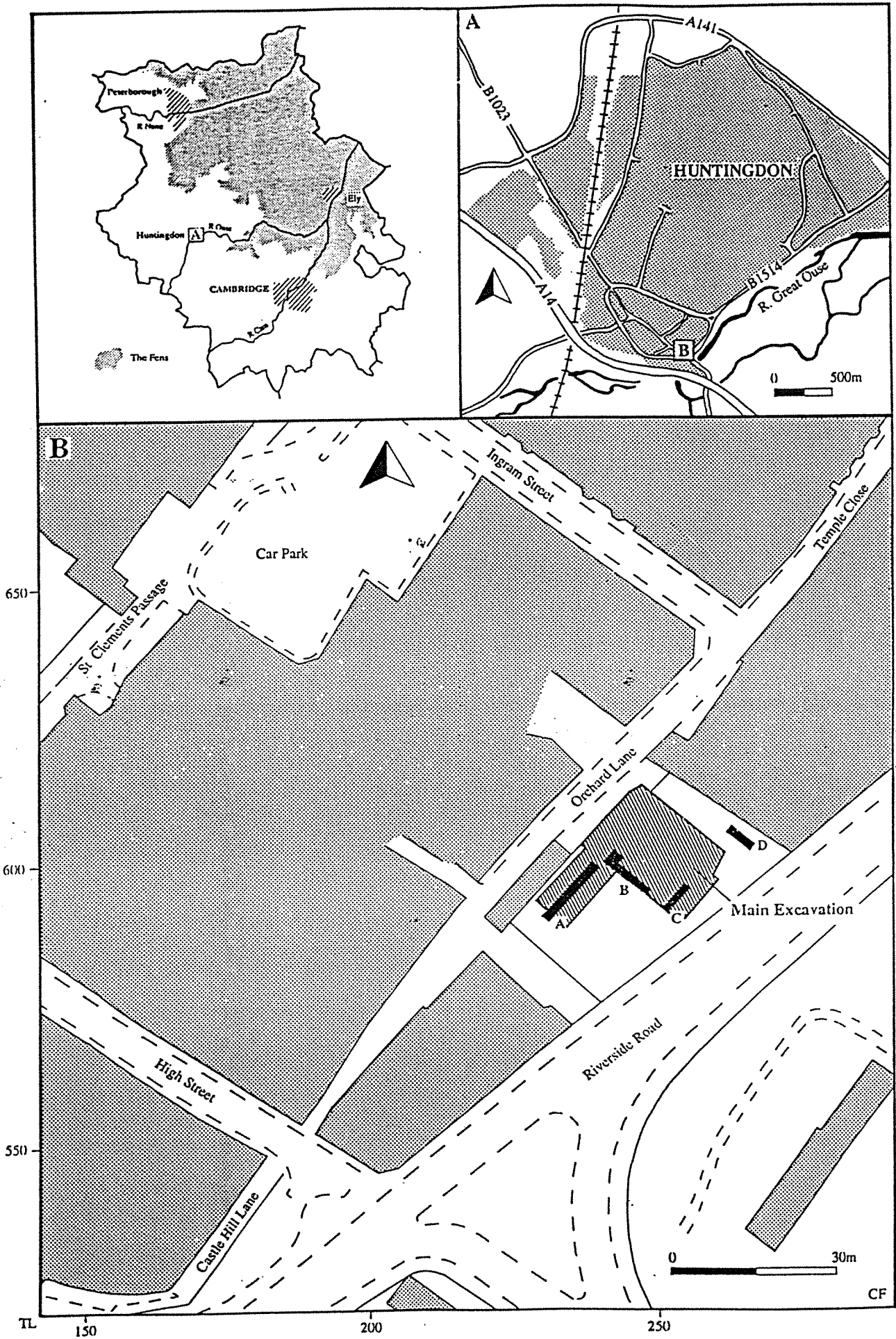


Figure 1 Orchard Lane, location plan

### **Period 0 (Natural subsoil)**

The earliest recorded deposits from the site were natural clay with sand overlying beds of gravel and clay, characteristic of the First to Second Terrace River Gravels of the Ouse valley system.

### **Period 1 (Pre-cemetery activity, Fig 2)**

The fill (1097) of linear cut 1098 was sealed by a redeposited skeleton, but the assignment of this feature, together with pits 33, 31, 35, 1031, 1098, 1102, 1108 and 1122, to a single pre-cemetery phase remains problematic. Stratigraphically, all pre-date Periods 3 and 4 and share few characteristics with features assigned to Period 2. The dating evidence from Period 1 features comprises pottery from 900-1150 AD. Pottery of this date was found redeposited through all later periods and occurred in quantities which suggest derivation from settlement or some other form of intensive activity on the site in the Saxo-Norman period. The redeposition also suggests severe truncation of Period 1 stratigraphy.

### **Period 2 (Christian cemetery, Fig 3)**

Remains of 21 articulated skeletons were recovered (1045, 1069-1073, 1091, 1096, 1100, 1103-1107, 1123-1127, 1130); 1089 had been disturbed and reburied; 1049 represented a small charnel deposit; and redeposited human bone was recovered from many other contexts. A probable grave fill (99) was recorded in Trench D, but not excavated.

The skeletal remains were concentrated at the northern end of the site near Orchard Lane with other scattered remains within a strip running north-west/south-east. During machine clearance it was noted that many of the skeletal remains at the northern end of the site directly underlay Period 5 dumps. The absence of articulated human remains from the eastern end of the site, therefore, probably reflects the severe truncation of deposits in this area during later periods, especially in the 19th and 20th centuries when lowering and scarping took place prior to the construction of brick buildings and concrete standings. This view is supported by reports by local informants of the removal of large quantities of human bone when a ring-road was constructed to the south-east of the excavation site. Little or no redeposited human bone was recorded from the western arm of the site, suggesting that the cemetery did not extend to this area. Ditch 28 (recut as 55) may represent a western boundary to the burials.

Truncation meant that it was impossible to detect grave cuts for more than half of the burials and there was little evidence for coffins using metal fittings. No grave goods were recovered and, where sufficient bones survived, all articulated burials were extended and supine. They were all aligned west/east, with heads to the west. At the northern end of the site burials were intensive and superimposition and disturbance of earlier inhumations had taken place. Deposit 1049 seemed to represent a small charnel deposit, possibly derived from earlier burials disturbed by grave 20/1044, and the bones of skeleton 1089 had been redeposited after disturbance, possibly by the excavation of a tree-hole [1080] in Period 4.

The sum of this evidence, coupled with pottery dates, suggests that part of the excavated site was used as a Christian burial ground until the later 14th century. This cemetery extended east and south-east beyond the limits of the excavation and, although structural remains were not found, documentary sources suggest that it may be part of the churchyard of St Clement. This church is thought to have been located in Orchard Lane, but does not reappear in documentary sources after 1364.

### **Period 3 (Quarrying and backfilling, Fig 4)**

The recut [55] of linear trench 28 had been backfilled (27) before 1500 and a series of large pits were dug across the northern part of the site. Not all were fully excavated, but where sample excavations took place they were found to have flat bases and vertically-

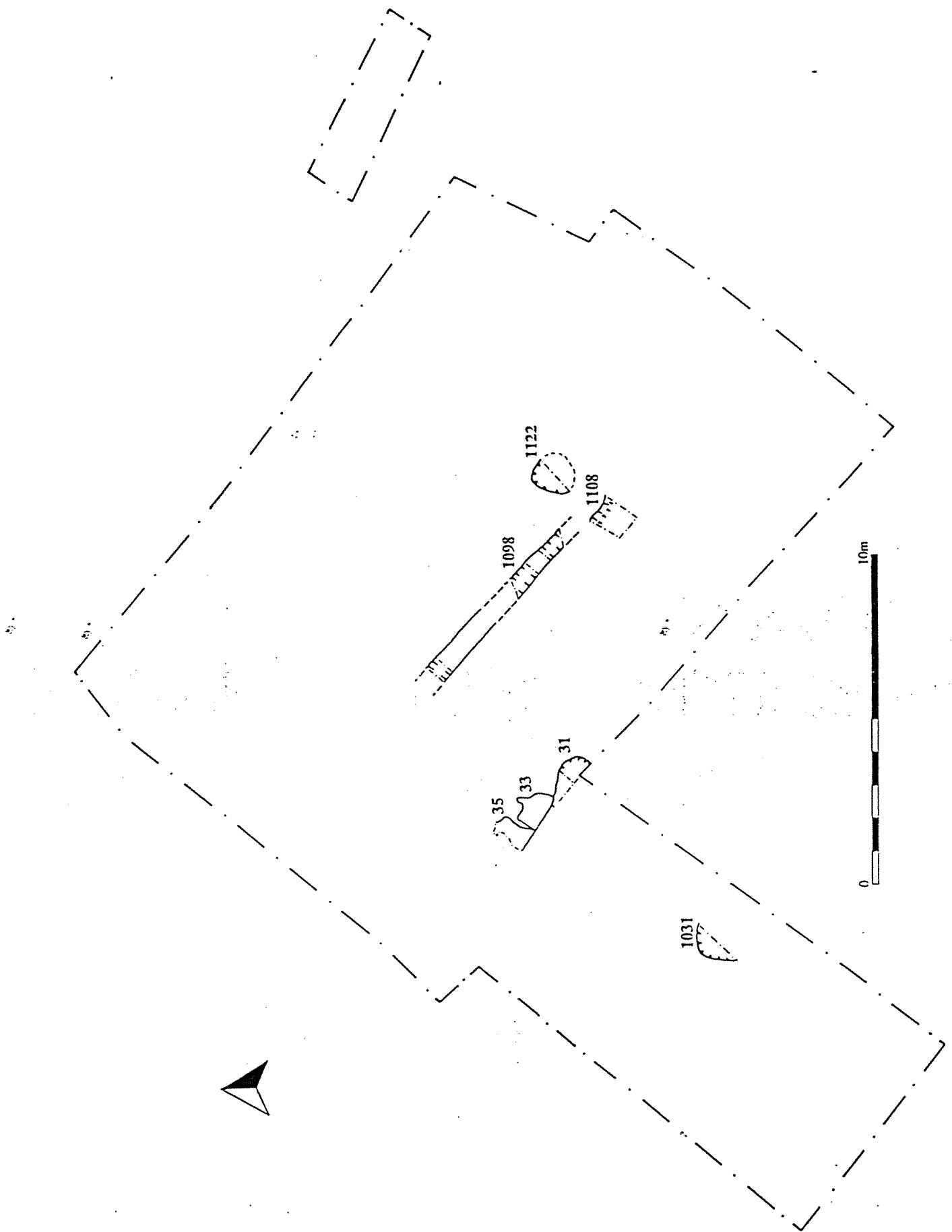


Figure 2 Period 1



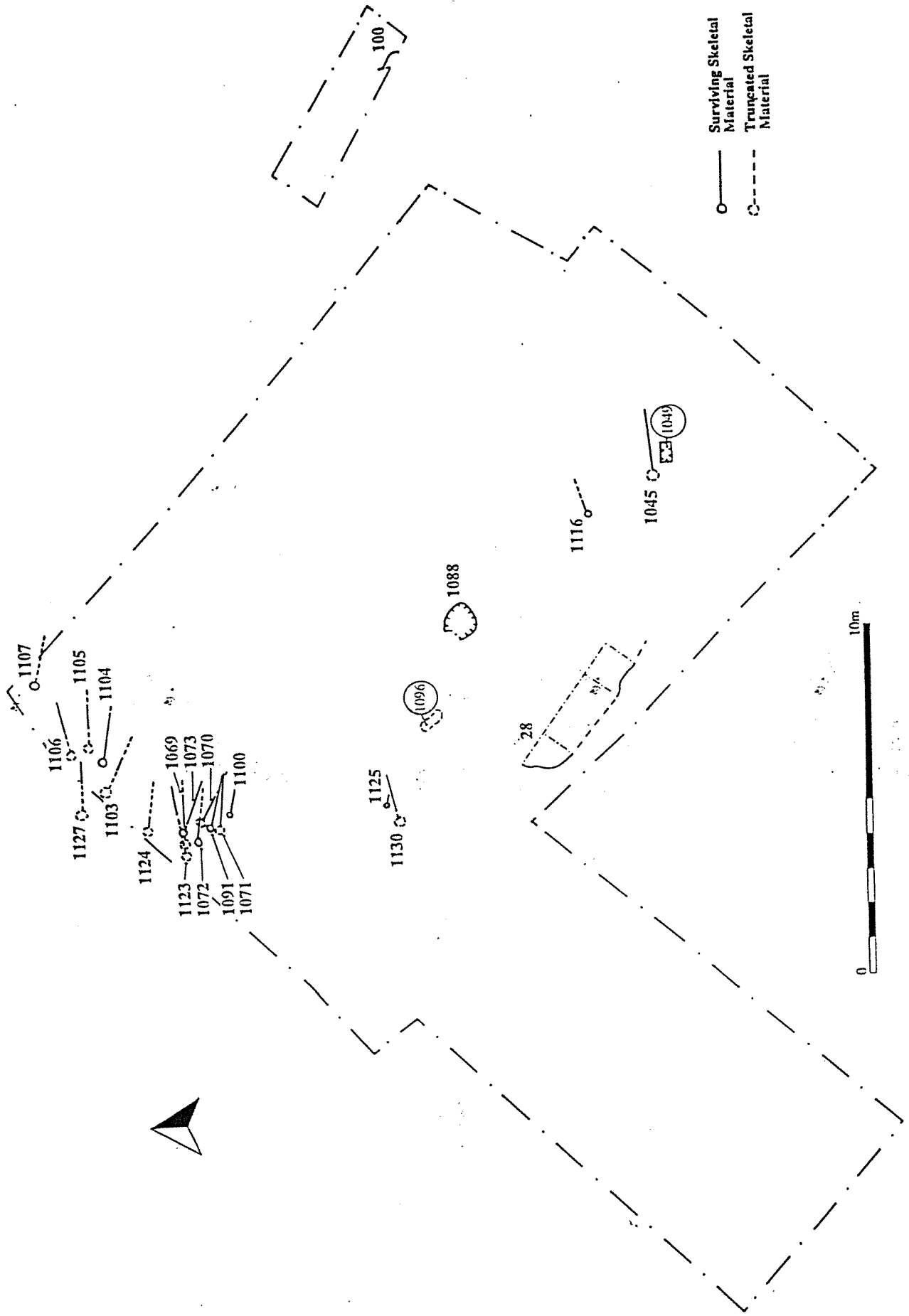


Figure 3 Period 2

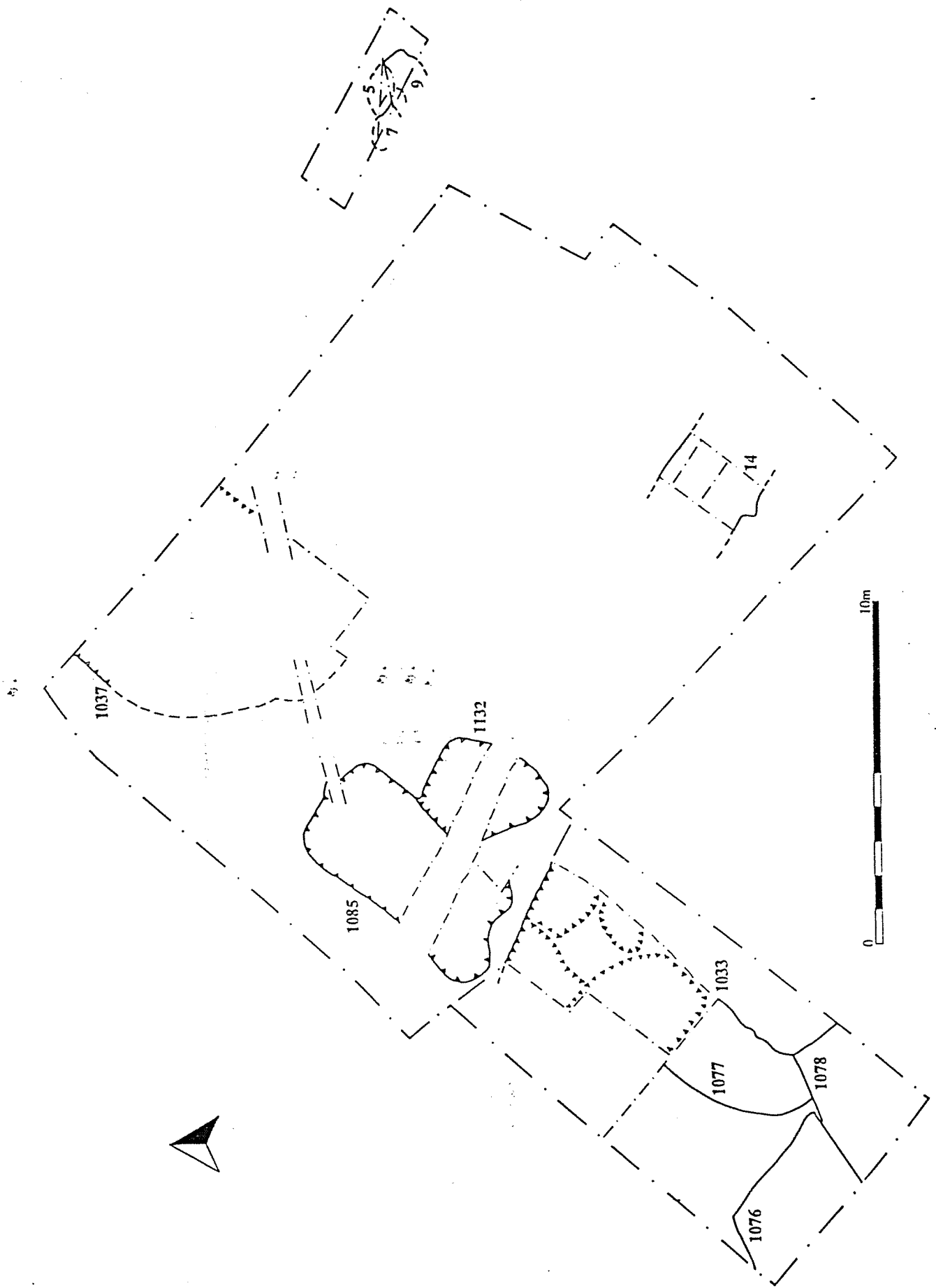


Figure 4 Period 3

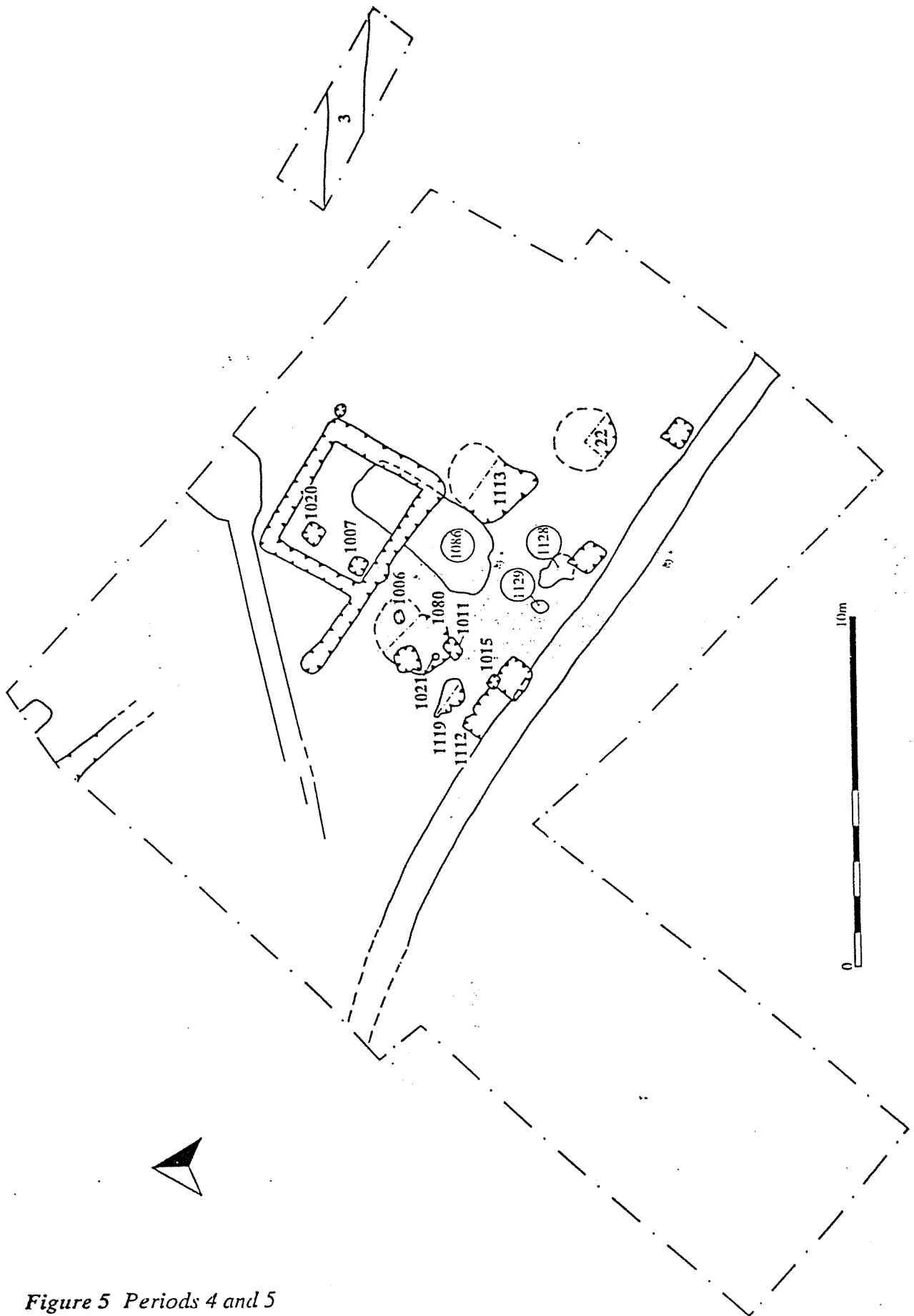


Figure 5 Periods 4 and 5

cut sides near the base. From the east, they comprised 1037, 1085, 1132, 1033 and 1076. The last two pits cut the backfill of cut 1078, which, in turn, cut the backfill of 1077. Neither 1078 or 1077 were excavated.

After going out of use these pits were backfilled. During HUNOL 94 II these fills were seen to be variable and discrete tips, probably as a result of unloading from barrows or carts. However, the variability of the fills had led to their interpretation as separate pits when they were recorded in the evaluation phase.

Cuts 1037, 1132 and 1085 all contained layers of partially-fired and broken bricks (1041 in 1037; 1034/36/37 in both 1132 and 1085), but they did not form the initial, basal fills. At least some of these bricks had been deposited while hot and had partially baked the surfaces of underlying deposits.

Further possible pits [14 and 48] were seen in Trench C and a sequence of pits [7, 5, 9 and 95] in Trench D, but these were not re-examined in the second phase of excavation.

The large pits are interpreted as quarries dug to extract the natural clay present under the site, which was then used for making bricks. No evidence of brick-making on the excavation site was recovered, but the dumping of hot bricks from failed firings suggests that kilns were nearby and that the worked-out quarry pits were used as convenient receptacles. The ceramic evidence from the backfills suggests that the pits were not used for dumping contemporary domestic refuse. Most of the pottery was redeposited and probably derives from excavated spoil used to backfill the pits. Pottery datable to later than 1500 is restricted to only one sherd and close dating of the quarrying episode is difficult. However, the shortage of non-redeposited pottery suggests that the quarrying and backfilling episodes were shortlived and may have served to provide material for one building only.

In the 18th century the backfill of quarry 1037 was augmented with fills 1135 and 1146-8 in order, presumably, to counteract slumping or to level up the ground surface.

#### **Period 4 (Gardens and orchards, Fig 5)**

A number of irregular pits [22, 1080, 1112-3, and 1119] are interpreted as tree holes. Each contained only redeposited pottery, but they were sealed by, or associated with, a well-sorted, cultivated soil, variously referred to as 1, 65, 88, 116, 120 and 1008. It contained pottery and other artefacts of 19th century date.

#### **Period 5 (Builder's yards, Fig 5)**

Most of the deposits associated with this period were removed by mechanical excavator and only recorded in section. Those modern cuts that penetrated to earlier levels are depicted on Figure 5. They include brick drains 38/15 and 3. A third drain trench was seen to run east/west diagonally across the site and end at a concrete-capped sump. This drain was neither fully exposed or numbered. The foundations of a small, square, brick building of 19th century date were rapidly emptied and recorded as a negative feature. Its demolition pre-dated an alignment (1023) of post-holes [1006, 1011, 1015, 1020]. Post-hole 1021 may be related to this alignment. The brick building and post alignment are associated with the use of the site as a builder's yard from the later 19th century until the 1980s. Observation of the site prior to machining made it apparent that this usage had wrought major changes to the topography of the site. Near the Orchard Lane frontage (to the north-west of the excavation) dumping and levelling up had taken place (and thereby preserved the medieval skeletons in that area), but in the south-eastern quadrant of the site removal of substantial quantities of soil had occurred. Possibly as much as 0.80m depth of deposits had been removed in the south-eastern corner of the excavated area.

## SUMMARY STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

This statement is based upon the accompanying assessment report for the excavations at Orchard Lane, Huntingdon, drafted in May 1995, in particular the integrated assessment (p. 25).

Despite the problems arising from post-depositional disturbance and residuality, the stratigraphic, artefactual and ecofactual components of the site archive can, in combination, produce an integrated interpretation of the sequence of activity on the site. Of critical importance for the interpretation of Period 1 (900-1150 AD) are the environmental material, animal bone and ceramics from sealed contexts. Additionally, the redeposited ceramics of early date will be important in analysing the date and nature of activity in Period 1. Period 2 is characterised as a cemetery and, consequently, the human skeletal material from contexts of this period and that redeposited in later periods is of critical importance. Brick-making is the defining characteristic of Period 3 and study of artefactual material associated with this industry will be critical for interpretation.

The academic potential of the recovered data may be summarised as follows

- a). The site has been identified as being within the Saxo-Norman settlement of Huntingdon and analysis will aid interpretation of the nature of activity in this part of the town at that date. Analysis of the artefactual and ecofactual components of the site archive will explore the economic relationship between Huntingdon, its hinterland and the wider region.
- b). The location of a medieval cemetery has been confirmed. Analysis of the ceramic data from Period 2 may establish the length of time that the site fulfilled this function and, with the help of other information, confirm the location of one of Huntingdon's "lost" churches. The dating of the cessation of burial on this site may have significance in the context of the known decline of Huntingdon and other urban centres in the later medieval period.
- c). The skeletal material recovered represents the largest group of medieval human remains recovered from Huntingdon under controlled conditions and, although the quantity is too small to be statistically useful or to enable conclusions to be drawn on the population of medieval Huntingdon as a whole, records made of this group will prove important for comparison with any larger groups recovered from the town in the future. Study of these human remains is given added significance by the legal duty to re-inter them.
- d). Study of the material associated with brick production represents an opportunity to investigate an urban industry in the late medieval/early post-medieval period.
- e). The sequence of activity uncovered on this site (settlement, cemetery, extractive industry, horticulture, industry) is of importance, not only for the zoning of activities in Huntingdon through time, but also as a reflection of past attitudes to urban space in general and to sacred ground in particular.
- f). The ceramic material represents an opportunity to make headway in the creation of a local type series and to answer questions on such topics as the continued use of late Saxon types into later periods.
- g). The sequence of activity recorded has fulfilled the objective of studying the morphology of an archaeologically neglected county town. This has implications for the study of smaller urban centres as a whole.

h). Data recovered from this site, and its subsequent interpretation, will initiate a modern archaeological database for Huntingdon and other medieval urban centres in the region which will help set the agenda for future research and aid decisions on management of the county's urban archaeological resource.

i). Comparison of the interpretations made after the evaluative stage and those possible after the excavation of a larger area will enable analysis of the sustainability of conclusions reached via the implementation of PPG16 in stratified urban environments. Comparison of the results from this project with others in the region and further afield may aid refinement of evaluation techniques and provide greater understanding of the weighting to be given to the results of evaluations in such environments.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Research design**

The research aims of the post-excavation analysis can be encapsulated as the preparation of an integrated report and interpretation of the stratigraphic sequence revealed by excavation, placing that site within its urban and local context, addressing wider national research questions, and generating future research questions for Huntingdon and other urban centres in the region.

The specific research aims are outlined at length in the assessment report (pp. 25-6) and summarised above (Section 2). Analysis of specific elements of the data-collection will contribute to the academic objectives as follows (using the objectives set out in Section 2)

##### **3.1.1 Stratigraphic records**

Analysis of all data will contribute to a, b, e, g, h, i.

##### **3.1.2 Pottery**

Quantification of all material, preparation of a type series and report will contribute to a, b, e, f, h, i.

##### **3.1.3 Brick and Tile**

Analysis of the material will contribute to d, e.

##### **3.1.4 Metallic Objects and Special Finds**

Preparation of a catalogue of this material will contribute to h.

##### **3.1.5 Human Skeletal Remains**

Preparation of a catalogue and analysis of pathology will contribute to c, h.

##### **3.1.6 Animal Bones**

Analysis of animal bone from Period 1 contexts (other material suffers from problems of redeposition) will contribute to a, h.

##### **3.1.7 Environmental Material**

Analysis of material from Period 1 contexts will contribute to a, h.

### 3.2 Publication and presentation

It is proposed that a site report is prepared for publication as a longer article in a relevant local publication, most probably Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society (PCAS). This will serve to reflect the significance of the project for local and regional research aims and will concentrate on the preparation of an integrated site report utilising the stratigraphic records and the results of the analysis of the artefactual archive. The report will set the results in a local, regional and national context and outline their implications for period research priorities. The opportunity will be taken to outline future research priorities in the urban topography of Huntingdon, but, while the artefactual archive has value as part of a larger corpus of material through which local research objectives can be addressed, it is not judged worthy of full publication in its own right. Archive reports will be prepared, but publication in this report will take the form of summaries of the information used to prepare the integrated report.

The report will comprise

Introduction	(text)
Background to the Excavations	(text and line drawing)
The Excavation	
Period 1	(text and line drawing)
Period 2	(text, line drawings and half tone plates)
Period 3	(text and line drawing)
Period 4	(text and line drawing)
Period 5	(text)
Artefact Summaries	
Pottery	(text, tables and line drawings)
Brick and Tile	(text and tables)
Metalwork and other Special Finds	(text and line drawings)
Human Skeletal Remains	(text, tables and ?half tone plates)
Animal Bones	(text and table)
Environmental Material	(text and table)
Interpretation	
The site by period	(text)
Discussion	
Huntingdon's urban topography	(text and line drawing)
Huntingdon and its region	(text)
Urban attitudes to land-use	(text)
Future archaeological research in Huntingdon	(text)

Total length would be c15-20,000 words with up to 10 line drawings, 5 or more tables and 2 or more half-tone photographs.

The site data does not lend itself to popular treatment, although material from it and based upon post-excavation analysis may be used in exhibitions in local museums.

## **4 METHODS STATEMENT**

The post-excavation and publication project can be broken down into a number of tasks.

### **4.1 Analysis of stratigraphic data**

The site matrix has already been divided into periods. This will be further broken down into context groups within those periods, and on this basis a "Level 3" report will be written. On completion of this phase, a "Level 4" publication report will be written, arranged by period (and phase if it proves appropriate) and integrating data from artefactual analysis. Relevant draft plans for publication will be produced.

### **4.2 Documentary and background research**

Examination of cartographic and documentary sources relevant to the site will be made at the County Record Offices at Huntingdon and Cambridge. Searches will be made for relevant background material in the County SMR and local history collections, and for comparative published material from elsewhere in Britain and Europe via the libraries of Cambridge University.

### **4.3 Analysis of pottery**

A fully described type series (with special attention given to the coarsewares) will be produced. On this basis all material will be quantified and placed on a computer database. After background research into comparative material a report text will be produced and sherds selected to be drawn for publication.

### **4.4 Brick and tile**

All material will be examined by an approved specialist for inclusion in an archive catalogue and a summary report produced for publication.

### **4.5 Metalwork and other special finds**

X-radiography to take place of all metallic objects and a catalogue to be produced in consultation with specialists. A summary text to be produced as part of published report and objects selected for drawing as appropriate.

### **4.6 Human skeletal remains**

Catalogue and report on pathology to be prepared by approved human bone specialist. Summary report and catalogue to be prepared for final publication and items to be selected for photography and ultimate publication as appropriate.

### **4.7 Animal bones**

Bones from sealed Period 1 contexts to be identified and recorded by approved animal bone specialist. After processing and analysis of material, a report to be written and a summary prepared for publication.

### **4.8 Environmental material**

Further examination to take place of the heavy residues from HUNOL 94 I and closer



identification of species from all samples (in particular those from Period 1 contexts) to be undertaken by approved personnel. Preparation of a full report on the material from Period 1 (900-1150) and a summary report for publication.

#### **4.9 Collation of specialist reports**

After completion of specialist reports, a meeting to be held of the project team to discuss the results and determine their presentation as part of the published report. The material then to be collated into an integrated site report, interpretation and discussion by the lead author and relevant action to be taken by specialists for the final report.

#### **4.10 Preparation of publication drawings**

After discussion by the project team, final publication drawings to be produced by the illustrators of the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council.

#### **4.11 Preparation of the report**

After reception of all the components, report to undergo final editing and to be sent to referees.

### **5 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING**

#### **5.1 Staffing and equipment**

##### **5.1.1 AFU Project Team**

The project will be managed by Dr Paul Spoerry, who will also be acting as editor and will be carrying out the analysis of the pottery. Dr Spoerry is a specialist in medieval ceramics and has research interests in medieval micro-economics, medieval settlement and landscape morphology, and Huntingdonshire's medieval towns.

Niall Oakey BA, MA, MIFA will be lead author of the report, taking responsibility for completing the documentary research, preparing the stratigraphic report, supervising the project on a daily basis and writing the final integrated site report, interpretation and discussion. Mr Oakey, a field archaeologist of many years experience, has considerable experience of preparing reports on stratified urban sites, particularly in York, and is trained in documentary research. Interested in all aspects of urban excavation, he has research interests in the interface between documentary and archaeological evidence, the archaeology of "ritual" and attitudes to the dead, and pre-Reformation church fittings.

Duncan Schlee BA, MSc will be sorting heavy residues. Mr Schlee is an experienced archaeobotanist, approved for this task by Peter Murphy, Co-ordinator of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, Midland Team.

Illustrations will be prepared by Unit staff and the preparation of artefacts for examination by specialists will also be undertaken by Unit staff.

##### **5.1.2 Consultant Specialists**

Outside specialists will provide analysis of certain categories of material. These include

Corinne Duhig will be analysing the human skeletal material. Ms Duhig is experienced in the analysis of human bone from archaeological excavations and is an English Heritage approved specialist.

Other specialists will be contracted as appropriate and will be English Heritage

approved.

## 5.2 Timetable and budget

The time necessary to carry out the separate elements of the project are outlined below.

PO Project Officer  
PM Project Manager  
SI Senior Illustrator  
AI Assistant Illustrator  
FS Finds Supervisor  
FA Finds Assistant  
ES Environmental Supervisor  
SC Specialist Consultant  
C Consultant

<b>5.2.1 Stratigraphic analysis and report-writing</b>		
Stratigraphic analysis and phasing (PO)		3 days
Integration of specialist data and production of archive report (PO)		12 days
Drafting of report plans (PO)		2 days
Production of publication report (PO)		11 days
Editing and meetings (PO)		4 days
<b>5.2.2 Documentary and background research</b>		
Research at County Record Offices and libraries (PO)		4 days
<b>5.2.3 Illustration</b>		
Inking up site plans for archive (AI)		15 days
Archive report - composite plans and sections and phase plans (SI)		10 days
Publication line drawings (SI)		6 days
Artefact drawings (SI)		4 days
<b>5.2.4 Pottery</b>		
Marking of material (FA)		3 days
Type series (PM)		3 days
Quantification (PM)		5 days
Production of report text (PM)		3 days
Background research and editing (PM)		4 days
<b>5.2.5 Brick and tile</b>		
Description, quantification, identification and production of report (SC)		5 days
Researching local parallels and context (PO)		2 days
<b>5.2.6 Metalwork</b>		
X-Radiography of ferrous material (C)		1 day
Cleaning and conservation of composite and metalwork (C)		2 days
Identification of coins/tokens and report (SC)		1 day
<b>5.2.7 Human Skeletal Material</b>		
Production of specialist report, editing and meetings (SC)		6 days
<b>5.2.8 Animal bone</b>		
Processing and selection of material for study (FS)		3 days
Production of report (SC)		5 days
Editing and meetings (SC)		2 days

**5.2.9 Environmental samples**

Processing of heavy residues (ES)

5 days

Identification, quantification and production of report (SC)

6 days

This is expressed as a cascade chart. The precise timing of the production of specialist reports is not critical, but the production of the integrated site report cannot begin until after their completion and a team meeting to discuss their implications and potential integration.

Personnel and Task	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
<b>Project Officer</b>																	
Strat. analysis + phasing																	
Archive text	█																
Archive accession		█															
Research																	
Research into bricks			█	█													
Drafting plans																	
Publication text								█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Editing and meetings					█	█	█										
<b>Project Manager</b>					█												
Active management	█	█	█	█		█	█										
Pottery type series																	
Pottery quantification																	
Pottery report																	
Research and editing																	
<b>Senior Illustrator</b>					█												
Archive report plans																	
Publication line drawings						█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Artefact drawings												█	█	█	█	█	█
<b>Assistant Illustrator</b>																	
Inking plans																	
<b>Finds Supervisor</b>					█												
Processing animal bone																	
<b>Finds Assistant</b>																	
Marking pottery																	
Security copying etc						█	█										
<b>Environmental Supervisor</b>																	
Sorting heavy residues																	
<b>Conservator</b>																	
X-raying + conservation																	
<b>Brick specialist</b>					█												
Report writing																	
<b>Coins specialist</b>																	
Report writing																	
<b>HSR Specialist</b>					█												
Report writing																	
<b>Animal bone specialist</b>					█												
Report writing																	
<b>Env. Specialist</b>					█												
Report writing																	
<b>Team meeting</b>					█												

Personnel and Task	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
<b>Project Officer</b>							
Strat. analysis + phasing							
Archive text							
Archive accession							
Research							
Research into bricks							
Drafting plans							
Publication text							
Editing and meetings							
<b>Project Manager</b>							
Active management							
Pottery type series							
Pottery quantification							
Pottery report							
Research and editing							
<b>Senior Illustrator</b>							
Archive report plans							
Publication line drawings							
Artefact drawings							
<b>Assistant Illustrator</b>							
Inking plans							
<b>Finds Supervisor</b>							
Processing animal bone							
<b>Finds Assistant</b>							
Marking pottery							
Security copying etc							
<b>Environmental Supervisor</b>							
Sorting heavy residues							
<b>Conservator</b>							
X-raying + conservation							
<b>Brick specialist</b>							
Report writing							
<b>Coins specialist</b>							
Report writing							
<b>HSR Specialist</b>							
Report writing							
<b>Animal bone specialist</b>							
Report writing							
<b>Env. Specialist</b>							
Report writing							
<b>Team meeting</b>							

# Huntingdon, Orchard Lane

## HUNOL94 I and II

### Cost of Proposed Post-Excavation Recording Programme

#### Post ID Key

PO	Project Officer
PM	Project Manager
EHSC	English Heritage Specialist Consultants Rates
SI	Senior Illustrator
AI	Assistant Illustrator
FA	Finds Assistant
FS	Finds Supervisor
C	Conservator
ES	Environmental Supervisor

Costed Element	Post ID	For X Days	At £Y per Day	Cost
<b>1 Stratigraphic and Main Report</b>				
Refine strat. analysis and phasing	PO	3	£83.10	£249.3
Level 3 Report text sections, integration of specialist data and interpretative statements	"	12	"	£997.2
Drafting of Report plans	"	2	"	£166.2
Level 4 Publication Report	"	11	"	£914.10
Edit Corrections and Meetings	"	4	"	£332.4
<b>TOTAL FOR 1</b>				<b>£2,659.2</b>
<b>2 Documentary &amp; Background Work</b>				
Research time (Records & References)	PO	4	£83.10	£332.4
Travel (90 miles)		90miles	64.2p	£57.78
<b>TOTAL FOR 2</b>				<b>£390.18</b>
<b>3 Illustration</b>				
Inking up of site plans for archive	AI	15	£63.49	£952.35
Archive report composite plans and sections and phase plans	SI	10	£83.77	£837.70
Publication line drawings	SI	6	£83.77	£502.62
Artefact drawings	SI	4	£83.77	£335.08
<b>TOTAL FOR 3</b>				<b>£2,627.75</b>
<b>4 Pottery</b>				
Type Series	PM	3	£104.41	£313.23
Quantification	"	5	"	£522.05
Report	"	3	"	£313.23
Background and Editing	"	4	"	£417.64
Marking of material	FA	3	£63.49	£190.47
<b>TOTAL FOR 4</b>				<b>£1,756.62</b>
<b>5 Brick and Tile</b>				
Description, Quant., ID and Report	EHSC	5	£75.30	£376.50
Study local parallels and research local background	PO	2	£83.10	£166.20
<b>TOTAL FOR 5</b>				<b>£542.70</b>
<b>6 Metallic Finds</b>				
X-Ray Ferrous	C	1	£131.25	£131.25
Cleaning and Conservation of composite and metallic	C	2	"	£262.50
Coins & Token ID	EHSC	1	£75.30	£75.30
<b>TOTAL FOR 6</b>				<b>£469.05</b>
<b>7 Human Skeletal Remains</b>				
Specialist report, editing and meetings	EHSC	6	£75.30	£451.80

Costed Element	Post ID	For X Days	At £Y per day	Cost
<b>8 Animal Bone</b>				
Specialist report	EHSC	5	£75.30	£376.50
Editing and meetings	"	2	"	£150.60
Separation/processing	FS	3	£71.04	£213.12
<b>TOTAL FOR 8</b>				<b>£740.22</b>
<b>9 Environmental Samples</b>				
Processing of flots	ES	5	£71.04	£355.20
ID, Quantification and Report	EHSC	6	£75.30	£451.80
Report Edits and Meetings	"	2	"	£150.60
<b>TOTAL FOR 9</b>				<b>£957.60</b>
<b>10 Archiving and Storage</b>				
Security Copying, ficing etc	FA	2	£63.49	£126.98
Accession of archives	PO	1	£83.10	£83.10
Box total deposition costs	38	boxes	£12	£456
<b>TOTAL FOR 10</b>				<b>£666.08</b>
<b>11 Publication Costs</b>				
Not considered at this stage				<b>*TBA</b>
<b>12 Management</b>				
Project Management time; financial control, liaison etc.	PM	8	£104.41	£835.28
Editing time, report meetings	"	5	"	£522.05
<b>TOTAL FOR 12</b>				<b>£1,357.33</b>
<b>13 External Specialist expenses and travel</b>		4 occasions	£60	<b>£240</b>
<b>14 Consumables</b>				
Equipment, computer time, consumable items				<b>£1,285.85</b>
<b>15 Overheads</b>				
Admin, payroll, premises costs etc. (25%)				<b>£3,536.10</b>
<b>TOTAL FOR PROJECT</b>				<b>£17,680.48</b>

NB If Post-Excavation work has to be transferred to another Project Officer (e.g. if NJO secures post elsewhere) there will be familiarisation costs of up to two weeks of PO time (£831.00) to be added to the above.

## ASSESSMENT REPORT

The information presented below was derived from a programme of archiving and assessment carried out between the end of the excavations in November 1994 and the end of May 1995. A number of colleagues at the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council and outside specialists contributed assessment reports and these are printed as appendices to this report. What follows below is a summary of this information, compiled by the author against the background of the original project design and with the insight derived from directing the excavation and assessment phases.

### 1. STRATIGRAPHIC RECORDS

#### 1.1 Factual data

The quantity and nature of the site records are listed in Appendix A.

In both the evaluation (HUNOL 94 I) and full excavation (HUNOL 94 II) phases a mechanical excavator was used to remove as much of the modern and later medieval deposits as was possible. Exposed contexts were then cleaned, planned and subsequently excavated or sampled as single, discrete units. Decisions as to whether contexts were fully excavated or sampled were made on site on the basis of the amount of archaeological information recoverable within firm parameters of time and finance.

The conditions of the brief for the evaluation phase (HUNOL 94 I) meant that most of the earliest contexts were exposed and recorded, but not excavated, while later medieval and early post-medieval deposits were thoroughly recorded and excavated. This policy was modified for the subsequent excavation when efforts were made to obtain maximum information from the earliest contexts and, as a requirement of the Home Office licence, to clear all human skeletal remains. The results derived from the evaluation, combined with new interpretations based on the exposure of larger areas, meant that hand-excavation of later contexts was more selective, often taking the form of strategic sampling. These changes in policy might have been expected to introduce biases in recording and in artefact recovery.

In both phases of the excavation the AFU's standard single-context recording procedure was used, with appropriate back-up of plans (usually @ 1:20), sections or profiles (usually @ 1:10) and three formats of photography. Site practice differed slightly on HUNOL 94 II, where a single-context planning policy was pursued in most cases.

During both phases running matrices of stratigraphic relationships were compiled and after the completion of HUNOL 94 II these were combined to produce a site-wide matrix, showing all contexts and their stratigraphic relationships. On stratigraphic evidence, this matrix was broken down into a number of periods and the divisions were later refined on the basis of pottery spot-dating into a sequence of :

Period 1 : Saxo-Norman activity (c.900-1150 AD), comprising a scatter of pits and one ditch or foundation trench. Pottery of this phase formed the major component of most assemblages in all subsequent periods.

Period 2 : A Christian cemetery, which went out of use by the later medieval period.

Period 3 : Quarry pits to obtain clay for brick manufacture (16th century).

Period 4 : Use of the site as gardens and orchards (18th-19th centuries).



Period 5 : Workshop and storeyard for builders and undertakers (later 19th-late 20th century).

The site occurs, at best, infrequently in the documentary record, but possible sources of relevant information are listed in Appendix B. A number of secondary sources also exist, including Victoria County History and The History of Huntingdon, from the earliest to the present times (1824) by R. Carruthers. The County SMR also contains relevant information.

## 1.2 Statement of Potential

### 1.2.1 Questions posed in the Project Design

This project represented the first opportunity in recent times to carry out an evaluation and full excavation within the urban area of Saxon, medieval and modern Huntingdon. The project design emphasised the potential of the site to not only answer questions specific to the morphology of an archaeologically neglected county town, but also to provide new data necessary to inform future management of Huntingdon's archaeological resource and to formulate research programmes for this town, its hinterland and other towns in the region.

The phased stratigraphic record derived from the excavations at Orchard Lane represents a sequence of activities on an urban site from the 10th to the 20th centuries. The proximity of the site to the core of historic Huntingdon means that the data will clarify a number of the locally specific research aims outlined in the project design, namely

- a) The location and nature of Saxo-Norman settlement at Huntingdon
- b) The location of one of Huntingdon's "lost" medieval churches
- c) Physical evidence for the decline of Huntingdon in the late medieval period
- d) Zonation of industrial activity in the late medieval and post-medieval periods

In a wider context, Huntingdon's status as a type-site of a small County town with regional importance as an urban centre within the mid-Anglia region in the Saxo-Norman and medieval periods and, as a conduit, market and meeting point for the produce and people of the Fen edge zone, means that the stratigraphic data from this site and the information on urban morphology derived from it are of significance for regional studies.

### 1.2.2 New research questions

Huntingdon represents a type-site for the perceived urban decline that took place in many regions of England in the fourteenth century and the stratigraphic sequence at Orchard Lane encapsulates that process.

The sequence recorded at Orchard Lane represents an opportunity to examine changing attitudes to urban space through time and to examine the implications of those attitudes to the status of "sacred ground". Within a period of, at most, six centuries the site served as a settlement site, a churchyard and the location for an extractive industry. Investigation of the expedients which brought about these changes, the effect that they had upon earlier land-use and what they tell us about attitudes to the remains of the dead in a late medieval/early post-medieval urban environment have important implications for urban archaeological studies.

Against the background of a significant increase in the number of archaeological evaluations being undertaken as a result of PPG16, the stratigraphic records produced in the evaluation and subsequent full excavation of this site represent a timely opportunity to examine the practice of evaluation in stratified urban environments and the sustainability of the interpretations reached by such methods. In this case many of the conclusions and interpretations made, in good faith, on the basis of sample trenches proved invalid when a larger area was exposed. Further research on this aspect of these

excavations is seen as part of an ongoing examination of the results of similar urban sites researched by the AFU (e.g. The Still, Peterborough; Jubilee Terrace, Ely). Furthermore, it is hoped that exchange of similar experiences and data within the wider profession will result in the continuing refinement of evaluation techniques on urban sites and greater understanding of the weighting to be given to the results of such exercises in the curation of the urban archaeological resource.

### **1.2.3 Local, Regional and National Context**

As outlined above, the stratigraphic sequence recorded has great importance in developing our understanding of the archaeology of Huntingdon and provides a firm launch pad for the determination of research aims for this important County town. This assumes greater significance in light of the development expected to take place in the town over the next few years.

At a regional level, PPG16 has resulted in much more archaeological work taking place in the hitherto largely neglected small medieval towns of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire (e.g. Ely, Peterborough, St Ives, St Neots, Godmanchester) and other villages and smaller settlements that form part of the regional Fenland economy. Many of these archaeological interventions are small-scale and evaluative. To be of worth and to fulfil their purpose, they need to be set within the context provided by the results of larger-scale excavations in the region such as those derived from Orchard Lane.

The comments on the increase of archaeological work in the smaller towns of medieval Cambridgeshire can be widened to the national stage. In this context Huntingdon represents an important type-site: a County town on the Danelaw Fringe, assuming local and regional importance in the 10th century, thriving in the early medieval period, but declining sharply in the 14th century. Stratigraphic sequences from large sites in such settlements are still comparatively rare and the records from this site have significance not only for the study of the topography of towns of a particular type, but also for the investigation of past attitudes to urban space.

The stratigraphic records from this site will allow investigation into the validity of conclusions reached on the nature, interpretation and quality of deposits based on the data supplied by urban evaluations and will advance our understanding of the variabilities introduced by residuality of artefacts and ecofacts.

### **1.3 Storage and Curation**

All components of the site record archive will be deposited in the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store.

## **2 ARTEFACTUAL ARCHIVE**

The weights of artefacts, categorised by material and context, are presented in Appendix C. The following sections will assess them by material type, but some general statements are appropriate at this point.

The vast majority of artefacts were recovered through hand excavation (i.e. less than 5% were recovered during processing of flotation residues) and represent full retention of most categories of artefact, with some exceptions. Only coins (when seen) were retained from the contexts removed by machine and during initial hand clearance in HUNOL 94 II no artefacts were retained from contexts which contained 19th century or later ceramics. Some contexts (most notably 1008) were partially removed by machine, but in the case of the remainder of 1008, which covered much of the site, a decision was made

to retain all artefacts recovered during rapid clearance by hand. Other contexts almost totally comprised bricks and tiles. In these cases only a sample was retained, with care taken to ensure that the sample included all varieties of form and fabric.

The evaluation (HUNOL 94 I) and the samples taken from it had revealed that waterlogging had not taken place on the site and that anaerobic conditions were unlikely to be met. Survival of organic material apart from bone was non-existent. These factors, together with the very high rate of residuality, influenced the sampling strategy of HUNOL 94 II, which concentrated on the recovery of artefacts from a concentration of burials and analysis of the undisturbed fills of early pits.

## 2.1 Pottery

### 2.1.1 Factual Data

Circa 9.5kg (700+ sherds) of pottery from 64 contexts were examined. (see Appendix D).

64 records provide dates for contextual assemblages. Of these, a group of six contexts have nineteenth-early twentieth century dates. These include (1008) which is a general 'cleaning' identifier but which produced an assemblage that is mostly residual late Saxon-medieval material. One context can be dated to the eighteenth century (1035), but again two thirds of this assemblage is late Saxon-medieval, and one to the sixteenth century (1051), but again all but one of the 13 sherds are earlier than the date assigned for the last 'reworking' of the fill.

34 of the remaining 54 records provide dates in the 900-1150 bracket. These are mostly derived from St Neots type, Thetford type and, to a lesser extent, Stamford wares. The local sequence is not well enough defined for narrower brackets to be provided with any ease in this period.

The post 1150 medieval contexts are either characterised by developed Stamford wares, and thus given a pre-1250 date, or by Lyveden-Stanion type glazed wares from Northamptonshire, in which case a 1200-1350 date more normally applies. In many of these contexts there is a large component of St Neots and Thetford types, suggesting that these types either run on longer than expected in this area, or alternatively, that there is a significant residual late Saxon component in the later medieval contexts.

Two contexts are given late medieval (1350-1500) dates. Context (1038) contained a late medieval handle of unknown source, whilst (27) is in essence a 900-1150 assemblage with a few later pieces providing the date shown.

Sixteen contexts contained Roman material. This is certainly residual in all but one case.

All recorded feature fills were hand excavated. Almost all the pottery was recovered in this way, although a very small amount was recovered during flotation heavy residue processing. It is certain that this assemblage represents something approaching the fullest possible from the site.

Although the assemblage contained much residual material, the re-working of fills had not caused substantial abrasion of the ceramic material.

### 2.1.2 Statement of Potential

Relevant questions from the Project Design are mostly concerned with the morphological evolution, and economic performance, of Huntingdon. As recent and/or published archaeological study in the town is at a premium this excavation was seen as a potential springboard, from which the basis of such research could develop. Thus one

of the first steps was perceived as the investigation of the dynamics of the cultural, and particularly pottery, assemblage through time.

Although this assemblage is beset by problems concerning residuality it still represents the largest recently recovered and well recorded late Saxon to medieval ceramic collection from the town. Thus even if it has shortcomings it undoubtedly still needs quantification and formal identification. In particular, the latter is required if any headway is to be made on the creation of a local type series.

The ceramic assemblage as studied to date provides a conundrum insofar as it is difficult to determine whether late Saxon types, St Neots type ware in particular, continue to be used in Huntingdon well beyond 1150, or whether the presence of such sherds alongside Developed Stamford ware and Lyveden Stanion wares is instead a further indication of substantial residuality. Further study of the assemblage may shed some light here.

The period of use of the site as a burial ground has not yet been adequately dated. Any further information the ceramic assemblage can provide may have significant implications for understanding aspects of urban morphology in Huntingdon.

The suggested absence of any significant activity on the site in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries (a virtual gap in the ceramic record) needs to be considered. Other categories of data will be more pertinent here.

As already identified, at the local level the ceramic assemblage from Huntingdon needs substantial effort invested in it to aid in our understanding of the development of the town. At a regional level much of Cambs. and Hunts. represents a gap in our knowledge of local production and region-wide distribution in the late Saxon and medieval periods. This state of affairs has existed for too long and serious attempts to get to grips with it are long overdue. Despite problems with residuality this assemblage still warrants study to characterise and identify local products, and to assess the relative importance of regionally-distributed types. On a national level the assemblage, being small and of poor quality, has little to offer beyond being a brief opportunity to look at ceramic supply in one of the main centres of the Danelaw fringe.

### **2.1.3 Storage and Curation**

No specific requirements are perceived. It should be noted that, on the basis of those factors described above, the whole assemblage is of value, regardless of the degree of residuality, and thus all material should be kept.

## **2.2 Brick and Tile**

### **2.2.1 Factual Data**

Approximately 49.68kg of material was retained. In all contexts this comprised a representative sample only. For further details see Appendix E.

### **2.2.2 Statement of Potential**

This group represents the largest and most representative collection of late medieval/early post-medieval building material recovered from Huntingdon under the controlled conditions of an archaeological excavation. It has added importance because it seems to largely originate from brick-making which took place very close to the excavation site, utilising raw materials quarried from that site.

It is proposed that the material be examined, quantified and described by a specialist, leading to the production of an archive catalogue. Additional research will take place into brick-making and construction within a local context. These two operations will produce a summary report for publication, in addition to information on the production and use

of brick in late medieval and early post-medieval Huntingdon for inclusion within the integrated site report.

This information will provide a foundation upon which to build a local brick typology and develop further research into Huntingdon's built environment.

### **2.2.3 Storage and Curation**

After study it is proposed that this class of artefact, with the permission of the site owners, be deposited in the County Archaeology Store.

## **2.3 Metallic Objects and Special Finds**

### **2.3.1 Factual Data**

For quantities and weights see Appendices C and F.

With a few exceptions, the majority of these objects are not closely datable. Exceptions include the four coins, the token, a key, a bone toggle and two knife blades, one in association with a decorated bone handle. However, with the exception of the bone toggle, all these objects were either unstratified (i.e. initial site clearance) or from contexts dated to the 19th century. It is probable that, more than any other category of artefact, this group of finds is compromised by the residuality which has such an effect on the interpretation of this site. None of them were recovered from undisturbed contexts of Period 1 (c.900-1150 AD) and, with the possible exception of three objects found in association with skeletons of Period 2 and five nails recovered from a sample taken from a grave fill, it is possible that all were redeposited or derive from the post-medieval and modern periods.

With the exception of bone, no organic materials survive, but most of the metalwork recovered appears to be in good condition and capable of stabilisation. This information has been generated by a rapid scanning of the material.

### **2.3.2 Statement of Potential**

This corpus of material is the largest group of objects recently retrieved from a controlled archaeological excavation in Huntingdon. Most of its constituents can be assigned to datable contexts, but the local, regional and national potential of the group is seriously flawed by the residuality inherent on the site. The importance of this group of finds can be expressed as

- a) a sample of the range and quality of artefacts likely to be encountered in future archaeological interventions in Huntingdon
- b) a corpus of artefacts to be set in context by future excavations of sites in Huntingdon or the region and the creation of local type series.

It is proposed that, after x-radiography, an archive catalogue be compiled and that selected items (e.g. the coins and token) be fully published as part of an integrated site report.

### **2.3.3 Storage and Curation**

After study it is proposed that these artefacts, with the permission of the site owners, be deposited in the County Archaeology Store.

## **2.4 Human Skeletal Remains**

### **2.4.1 Factual Data**

37983 grams of human bone were recovered. They are broken down according to context/burial number in Appendix C and are assessed in more detail in Appendix G. All human bone was collected during hand excavation. At least two of the articulated

skeletons were disturbed during machine clearance and it can be anticipated that some disarticulated human bone was removed during the same process, although this will have been redeposited.

Hand excavation of the articulated skeletons was carried out by personnel experienced in burial archaeology and under the supervision of a Project Officer with considerable experience of supervising cemetery excavations. Recording took place on the AFU's pro-forma burial recording sheets and it is certain that the articulated remains represent the fullest possible recovery. All bone was routinely retained during hand excavation of all contexts and, as part of the post-excavation process, human skeletal remains were separated from the animal bone by a member of staff with a post-graduate qualification in palaeo-pathology.

No complete or near-complete skeletons were recovered and the remains, in general, were fragmentary. However, pathological changes were observed on some of the material.

#### **2.4.2 Statement of Potential**

The excavation has confirmed the presence of a Christian burial ground, probably the churchyard of the medieval church of St Clements. The human skeletal material recovered represents a small sample of the known population of this burial ground and a very small sample of the population of medieval Huntingdon. Nevertheless, it does represent the largest amount of medieval human bone recovered from the town under controlled conditions and is of local importance. In the future, it is to be hoped that it may form part of a larger corpus of human skeletal material from medieval Huntingdon.

The limited amount of bone recovered and its poor state of preservation render this material of little national or even regional importance.

It is proposed that this material be examined by a specialist, catalogued, and that the catalogue and the conclusions reached form part of an integrated site report.

#### **2.4.3 Storage and Curation**

This material will be held in the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store until analysis and cataloguing are completed, at which point arrangements for reinterment will be made with the Town Clerk of Huntingdon.

### **2.5 Animal Bones**

#### **2.5.1 Factual Data**

32003 grms of animal bone were recovered. They are broken down according to context number in Appendix C and assessed in detail in Appendix H. All animal bones were recovered during hand excavation. None were retained from machine excavated layers or from initial hand clearance of 19th century contexts from the site. As an assemblage, it represents something approaching the fullest possible from the site and, in general, is quite well-preserved.

This assemblage suffered from the same shortcoming that affected all artefact groups, namely the high percentage of residuality present on the site. Unable to reconcile this factor with the stratigraphic phasing presented by the excavator, the specialist independently carried out an assessment of 25% of the assemblage, arbitrarily divided into periods on the basis of pottery spot-dating (Appendix H). Unfortunately, this does not take into account the potential of the material recovered from Period 1 contexts which had not undergone disturbance. These produced 6426 grms of animal bone, c.20% of the total recovered. One of these contexts, a sealed pit fill (1093), contained the second largest quantity of bone recovered from any single context.

The problem of residuality may be overcome if it can be shown that at least 90% of the associated artefacts can be homogeneously dated as being redeposited en masse from an earlier context. However, it should be pointed out that the assemblage is probably too small for useful quantitative analysis and that a recovery bias was introduced by the lack of a sieving programme. The latter was another product of the perceived problems of residuality.

### **2.5.2 Statement of Potential**

The project was designed to produce economic and social data on the processes which determined the growth and decline of Saxon and medieval Huntingdon. These include the internal dynamics of the town itself and its interaction with its immediate hinterland (particularly the Fen Edge) and wider region. Unfortunately, the nature of the activity on the site (cemetery, extractive industry, horticultural and industrial) has left little data to further these research aims and, moreover, has disturbed much of the most interesting data.

That aside, the animal bone assemblage (particularly that from undisturbed Period 1 contexts) is important as the largest group of such material from early medieval Huntingdon. Although possibly too small for quantitative analysis, this corpus of material can provide information on the economy and living conditions in Saxo-Norman Huntingdon, together with the relationship of the town to its hinterland. Through comparison with the larger groups of material from nearby rural settlements such as West Cotton and other settlements in the Raunds area, the Period 1 animal bones will provide a starting point for future research into the economy, not only of Saxo-Norman Huntingdon itself, but also of other small towns in the region. It will help to provide a context for the smaller assemblages that often are produced by evaluations in the region.

### **2.5.3 Storage and Curation**

After selective analysis the animal bones will be retained in the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store for possible inclusion in future research projects into medieval animal bones from Huntingdon and the region.

## **2.6 Environmental Material**

### **2.6.1 Factual Data**

A total of nineteen samples were taken during the excavation (fourteen from HUNOL 94 I and five from HUNOL 94 II). The small number of samples from the full excavation is a product of the results of the evaluation phase, where it was recognised that anaerobic conditions were not likely to be encountered and that residuality had affected most of the contexts. Samples were obtained from a wide variety of contexts and periods in HUNOL 94 I, but in HUNOL 94 II emphasis was placed upon undisturbed Period 1 contexts and a grave backfill.

A fuller account of the assessment is given in Appendix I and it should be noted that different techniques were used in the assessments of HUNOL 94 I and HUNOL 94 II. For the former, only the floating fractions have been sorted and the heavy residue remains in store for future analysis, while in the case of the material from the full excavation, both flots and heavy residues were sorted. In both cases the poor organic preservation was noted and survival was often dependent upon charring or mineralisation. Both processes are interpreted as the result of deliberate human action (e.g. processing or consumption). Samples 6 and 101 were taken from deposits of misfired bricks and sample 8 was lost.

Broken down by period, the samples are  
Period 1 : 5, 7, 12, 13, 104, 105  
Period 2 : 1, 102, 103  
Period 3 : 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16  
Period 4 : 9

### 2.6.2 Statement of Potential

The sampling was designed to aid research into the general project design aims of exploring the urban morphology and economy of Saxon and medieval Huntingdon. As for all other artefact groups, the achievement of these aims has been partially prevented by the high degree of residuality and disturbance present on this site. This has resulted in the recovery of only a comparatively small amount of tightly-dated, undisturbed material from the fills of features from Period 1 (c. 900-1150 AD).

However, within a local context the samples taken from Period 1 features represent the largest group of ecofacts from Saxo-Norman Huntingdon and provide important information, not only about the nature of activity taking place on the site (domestic, in the form of cess and rubbish pits, and industrial, in the form of residues and possible fuels), but also of the variety of foodstuffs available in the town at the time. The latter may provide information on the economic relationship of Huntingdon to its hinterland.

Urban environmental evidence from this period is at a premium in the modern county of Cambridgeshire and, although the quantities are too small to be of national significance in the study of Saxon and medieval urban environments, this material is of great local importance. Further examination of the heavy residues from HUNOL 94 I and closer identification of the species from all samples will prove a valuable first step in understanding the economy of Saxo-Norman Huntingdon and will provide pointers for future research into the other urban centres of the region and their relationships with the surrounding countryside.

### 2.6.3 Storage and Curation

After processing, it is proposed to retain the sorted residues for comparative studies with material from other future sites of a similar date.

## 3 INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT REPORT

The integrated study of all components of the site archive will address a number of questions, both those raised in the project design and new topics.

### 3.1 Site Specific

Those outlined in the project design include

- a). The location and nature of Saxo-Norman settlement at Huntingdon
- b). The location of one of Huntingdon's "lost" medieval churches
- c). Physical evidence for the decline of Huntingdon in the late medieval period
- d). Investigation of post-medieval brick-making
- e). Zonation of industrial activity in the late medieval and post-medieval periods



### 3.2 Potential new research topics

- a). Examination of changing attitudes to urban land-use, namely the factors which determined a sequence of settlement site, churchyard and quarry.
- b). Creation of a type series for local medieval ceramics. The
- c). In light of the different interpretations arising from the evaluation and full excavation phases of the project, an examination of the practice of evaluation in stratified urban environments and the sustainability of the interpretations reached by such methods.

### 3.3 Local, regional and national importance

- a). As a first step towards understanding the archaeology and morphology of Huntingdon, determining future research priorities for the town and informing decisions relating to the curation of archaeological deposits in Huntingdon.
- b). Much of the recent work in smaller towns of the region has been small-scale and evaluative in nature. The results and interpretations from these sites need to be set within the context provided by larger urban excavations such as that at Orchard Lane.
- c). Artefactual and ecofactual data recovered from Period 1 (900-1150 AD) will elucidate the economic relationship between Saxo-Norman Huntingdon, its hinterland and the region.
- d). Stratigraphic sequences and referenced data collections from larger sites in the smaller towns of medieval England are still comparatively rare. As a type-site of a County town assuming local and regional importance in the 10th century, thriving in the early medieval period, but declining in the 14th century, excavations in Huntingdon can provide valuable insights into the factors which determined the fortunes of this class of settlement and the ways in which these are reflected in the archaeological record.
- e). Locally, regionally and nationally, PPG16 has resulted in much more evaluative work taking place in the smaller urban centres. The results from this site represent an important opportunity to judge the validity of conclusions on the nature, interpretation and quality of deposits derived from such sites against the background of a fuller data set collected from excavation over a larger area. It will highlight the problems posed by extrapolating from a limited sample and the variabilities introduced by residuality. Such a study and comparison with other evaluations will contribute to the continuing refinement of evaluation techniques on urban sites and greater understanding of the weighting to be given to the results of such exercises.

## **APPENDIX A : SITE RECORDS**

### **HUNOL 94 I**

Summary account of the context records

6 sheets of context lists

163 context records

1 burial record sheet (recorded in more detail in HUNOL 94 II)

1 sheet site objects register

1 sheet site drawings register

16 sample record sheets and 1 sheet sample register

11 photographic record sheets

3 trench matrices (Trenches B, C, D)

10 A4 sheets of plans @ 1:20 and sections @ 1:10

1 A4 sheet showing trench locations @ 1:200

1 A3 sheet showing matrix combining Trenches A, B and relevant HUNOL II contexts

13 A3 sheets of plans @ 1:20 and sections @ 1:10

123 Black and White prints

80 Colour prints

115 Colour slides

### **HUNOL 94 II**

Summary account of context records (incorporating HUNOL 94 I)

5 sheets of context lists

152 context records (including burial records)

2 sheets site objects register

1 sheet site drawings register

5 sample record sheets and 1 sheet sample register

9 photographic record sheets

1 site notebook

2 trench matrices (incorporating HUNOL 94 I and II)

21 sheets of plans @ 1:20 showing site grid and trench edges (generated by Total Station)

4 A3+ sheets of multi-context plans and sections @ 1:10 and 1:20

1 A4 sheet showing site grid @ 1:200

131 single and multi-context plans @ 1:20

2 A3 sheets @ 1:200 tying site into O.S.base (generated by Total Station)

1 plan @ 1:20 showing trench outlines and grid

4 period plans @ 1:20

51 black and white prints

80 colour prints

60 colour slides

## APPENDIX B : DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

(Information provided by P.C.Saunders, Deputy County Archivist at the County Record Office, Huntingdon).

Speed's map of Huntingdon (1610)  
Plan of the Hospital lands in Huntingdon, 1752 (SM 11/71)  
Jeffreys plan of Huntingdon (printed 1768)  
Huntingdon St.Mary tithe map, 1850  
Drawings for Old Series one-inch maps, 1808-13  
Ordnance Survey 1:2500 and 1:500 plans, 1885 sheets XVIII.14 and XVIII.14.16  
R.A.F. aerial photographs, 1945

St Mary's Cartulary (published in Transactions of the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archaeological Society)  
Written survey of 1572 (H26 - Acc926 and 3991/1)  
Written survey of 1598 (M58/3)

**APPENDIX C : FINDS BY WEIGHT**





Trench	Context	Pot	Animal Bone	Human Bone	Shell	Glass	Clay pipe	Stone	Spindle Whorl	Flint	Tile	Fired clay	Daub	Brick	Metal Work	Totals
II	1049		139	1472												1611
II	1050	60	308	215	10					2						595
II	1051	110	183	57							45	34			45	474
II	1068		46													46
II	1069		101	1215												1316
II	1070		12	1102												1114
II	1071		82	1726												1808
II	1072		126	2567											9	2693
II	1073			4330											4	4334
II	1075	157	203	61												421
II	1079	124	132	32	8						43	12		12	69	432
II	1081	51	1077	289	2				53							1472
II	1083	56	246	23							312	11				648
II	1084	99	1054		303											1456
II	1086	96	231	64	57							46				494
II	1087	8	240	98												346
II	1089		183	2839												3022
II	1091	9		1656												1665
II	1092	7														7
II	1093	224	2162	69	124											2579
II	1094	31	655	75							146			643		1550
II	1095	223	732	620	1											1576
II	1096			712												712
II	1097	23	681						3							707
II	1099	20			2							3				25
II	1100		37													37
II	1103			289												289
II	1104		2	2117												2119
II	1105		54	907												961
II	1106		141	463												604
II	1107		115	279												394
II	1111		244		5					2						251

Trench	Context	Pot	Animal Bone	Human Bone	Shell	Glass	Clay pipe	Stone	Spindle Whorl	Flint	Tile	Fired clay	Daub	Brick	Metal Work	Totals
II	1114	91	1111										40			1242
II	1116			1454						2						1456
II	1118	41	31	64	4						81	25			24	270
II	1120		120	313												433
II	1121	40	425	835												1300
II	1123			880											5	885
II	1124		24	316												340
II	1125			248												248
II	1126		107	18												125
II	1127		78	1130											8	1216
II	1130	29	114	2729												2872
II	1153	30														30
II	1154	4														4
<b>Totals</b>		<b>9450</b>	<b>32003</b>	<b>37983</b>	<b>1572</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1252</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>31060</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>21987</b>	<b>1344</b>	



## APPENDIX D : POTTERY by Paul Spoerry

### Pottery Types (listed in Appendix D)

The types represent a 'short-hand' by which more lengthy descriptors can be avoided. Many are derived from MOLAS research, but have been adapted, where necessary, to reflect the local situation. The area of most uncertainty in these codes is the date range. As the local sequence barely exists these have been applied with caution.

#### Named Types

BCHIN	Bone China
BORD	Surrey-Hants Border white wares
CSTN	Cistercian type wares
DEST	Developed Stamford ware
ENGS	English stonewares
LYST	Lyveden-Stanion type wares
NEOT	St Neots type wares
PMBL	Post-Medieval Black Glazed wares
PMR	Post-Medieval Redwares
SAIM	Saintonge ware with mottled green glaze
SIEG	Siegburg stoneware
STAM	Stamford ware
TGW	English Tin Glazed wares
THET	Thetford type wares

#### Local 'described' Types

MCHW	Medieval chalk-tempered wares
MHSW	Medieval hard sandy wares
MSHW	Medieval shelly wares (where not NEOT)
MSSHW	Medieval sandy shelly wares
MSW	Medieval sandy wares
SHW	Shelly wares (Saxon/medieval)

#### 'Catch-Alls'

BCHIN	Bone China
ORGT	Organic tempered wares
RPOT	Roman pottery
UNK	Unknown types not further described here

Appendix D, Table 1

Context	Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight	Earliest	Latest
cleaning	SHW	2	39	1000	1300
2	NEOT	3	35	900	1150
2	THET	1	5	900	1150
2	MSHW	1	25		
2	MSW	1	14		
6	NEOT	2	14	900	1150
6	THET	1	40	900	1150
8	NEOT	5	27	900	1150
8	MSSHW	2	6		
8	THET	1	7	900	1150
13	NEOT	1	3	900	1150
13	NEOT	1	24	900	1150
13	MSW	1	10		
19	NEOT	1	10		
21	NEOT	3	22	900	1150
21	MSSHW	3	21	900	1350
21	LYST	1	11	1200	1350
27	NEOT	19	102	900	1150
27	NEOT	4	47	900	1150
27	THET	2	20	900	1150
27	DEST	2	30	1150	1250
27	MHSW	3	30	1350	1500
27	STAM	1	2	900	1150
27	UNK	1	23		
27	MHSW	2	13		
27	MSW	23	108		
27	UNK	1	24		
27	RPOT	1	25		
27	RPOT	1	2		
27	UNK	1	13		
27	MSSHW	1	4		
30	NEOT	7	39	900	1150
30	THET	1	16	900	1150
30	THET	4	27	900	1150
30	LYST	1	13	1200	1350
30	RPOT	1	24		
32	NEOT	1	22	900	1150
32	NEOT	1	14	900	1150
32	NEOT	2	18	900	1150
32	THET	4	75	900	1150
32	MSSHW	1	2		
34	NEOT	2	29	900	1150
37	THET	1	2		
41	NEOT	2	12	900	1150
41	THET	4	24	900	1150

42	NEOT	1	45	900	1150
42	NEOT	6	126	900	1150
42	THET	1	7	900	1150
42	MSW	2	18		
42	UNK / RPOT	1	4		
42	RPOT	1	3		
45	NEOT	1	5	900	1150
45	MSSHW	2	4		
45	DEST	1	3	1150	1250
47	NEOT	1	3	900	1150
50	NEOT	1	8	900	1150
50	?NEOT	3	22	1000	1250
50	THET	2	37	900	1150
50	MSSHW	4	8	1000	1350
50	MSSHW	1	19	1000	1350
50	MSW	2	13		
50	LYST	1	89	1200	1350
50	LYST	1	76	1200	1350
56	RPOT	1	21		
56	RPOT	1	7		
56	LYST	1	54	1200	1350
56	LYST	1	7	1200	1350
56	MHSW	4	38		
56	MSW	1	5		
56	UNK	1	4		
56	ORGT	1	8	650	850
56	NEOT	17	199	900	1100(+)
57	SAIM	1	4	1250	1650
57	LYST	1	82	1200	1350
57	SHW	1	8	1150	1350
57	LYST	1	6	1200	1350
57	UNK	1	15	1200	1350
57	MSSHW	7	174	1000	1350
57	MHSW	3	60	1250	1500
57	MHSW	1	73	1250	1500
57	MRSW	5	74		
57	MSW	5	53		
57	MCHW	2	11		
57	SHW	6	59		
57	NEOT	27	377	900	1300
60	NEOT	3	54	900	1200
60	MSSHW	1	13	900	1200
61	THET	2	7	900	1150
61	NEOT	1	7	900	1150
68	LYST / UNK	1	5	1150	1350
94	THET	1	13	900	1150
94	RPOT	1	28		
1001	NEOT	2	86	900	1150
1001	NEOT	3	4	900	1200
1001	THET	1	17	900	1150
1001	THET	2	76	900	1150
1001	?THET	1	11		

1001	RPOT	2	28		
1003	BCHIN	3	60	1820	1950
1003	PMR	1	15	1600	1800
1004	ENGS	4	115	1800	1950
1004	PMBL	1	20	1800	1950
1008	NEOT		1050	900	1150
1008	THET		997	900	1150
1008	UNK		291		
1008	CSTN	7	51	1500	1600
1008	TGW	1	1	1600	1800
1008	PMR	3	84	1600	1800
1008	?LYST		101		
1008	LYST	4	51	1230	1350
1008	DEST /	7	70	900	1250
	STAM				
1008	SIEG	1	10	1350	1550
1010	BCHIN	1	6	1820	1950
1010	ENGS	2	28	1800	1950
1010	UNK	1	3		
1010	PMR	1	15	1600	1800
1010	NEOT	1	3	900	1150
1018	UNK	1	92	1820	1950
1019	ENGS	1	22	1800	1950
1019	BCHIN	1	24	1820	1950
1024	NEOT	1	23	900	1150
1024	NEOT	1	7	900	1150
1024	SHW	2	29		
1024	LYST	1	5	1200	1350
1024	THET	1	10	900	1150
1024	MLW	1	14		
1026	NEOT	8	110	900	1150
1026	THET	16	86	900	1150
1026	MSW	1	5	1150	1350
1026	?STAM	1	2	900	1150
1026	UNK	2	31	1150	1350
1028	NEOT	6	61	900	1150
1028	MCHW	1	2		
1028	THET	1	64	900	1150
1028	THET	5	99	900	1150
1028	MSW	4	8		
1028	MHSW	1	18		
1030	NEOT	2	6	900	1150
1030	?THET	1	3	900	1150
1034	UNK	2	45		
1034	THET	1	16	900	1150
1034	MSW	1	9	1100	1300
1034	DEST	1	5	1150	1250
1035	RPOT	1	70		
1035	RPOT	1	6		
1035	PMR	1	63	1550	1750
1035	PMR	2	96	1600	1800
1035	PMR	1	17	1600	1800
1035	BORD	1	8	1550	1750

1035	ENGS	1	6	1700	1900
1035	DEST	1	2	1150	1250
1035	NEOT	1	11	900	1150
1035	NEOT	3	23	900	1150
1035	MSHW	4	17	900	1200
1035	MSW	3	13		
1036	NEOT	18	103	900	1150
1036	MHSW	3	10	1000	1400
1036	DEST	3	9	1150	1250
1036	STAM	1	3	950	1150
1036	MSHW	2	17		
1036	MSW	6	57	1150	1350
1036	MSW	1	10		
1036	DEST	2	20	1150	1250
1038	MSSHW	1	11	900	1350
1038	MSSHW	1	3	900	1350
1038	MSHW	1	7	900	1350
1038	UNK	1	28	1300	1500
1039	NEOT	17	82	900	1150
1039	NEOT	1	43	900	1150
1039	NEOT	3	23	900	1150
1039	MCHW	1	4		
1039	THET	9	71	900	1150
1039	RPOT	3	24		
1039	RPOT	1	2		
1039	DEST	2	35	1150	1250
1045	NEOT	1	2	900	1150
1047	NEOT	1	3	900	1150
1050	STAM	1	2	900	1150
1050	DEST	1	6	1150	1250
1050	MSW	1	8		
1050	MSW	2	39	1000	1350
1050	MSSHW	1	5		
1051	NEOT	5	43	900	1150
1051	THET	4	35	900	1150
1051	MHSW	1	5		
1051	RPOT	1	5		
1051	LYST	1	11	900	1150
1051	PMR	1	11	1500	1600
1075	NEOT	5	117	900	1150
1075	MSHW	1	10		
1075	MSSHW	1	5	900	1350
1075	MSW	1	15	900	1150
1075	MHSW	1	10		
1079	NEOT	5	51	900	1150
1079	THET	7	24	900	1150
1079	MSHW	1	2		
1079	LYST	1	8	1150	1350
1079	?DEST	4	39	1150	1250
1081	THET	5	33	900	1150
1081	LYST	1	2	1150	1350
1081	MSW	1	2		
1081	MHSW	1	2		

1081	NEOT	4	12	900	1150
1083	NEOT	7	56	900	1150
1084	NEOT	2	52	900	1150
1084	NEOT	3	13	900	1150
1084	THET	2	13	900	1150
1084	MHSW	4	12		
1084	RPOT	1	9		
1086	NEOT	11	56	900	1150
1086	MSW	10	27		
1086	STAM	2	9	900	1150
1086	STAM	1	4	900	1150
1087	NEOT	1	5	900	1150
1087	MCHW	1	3		
1091	NEOT	2	7	900	1150
1091	THET	1	2	900	1150
1092	MSW	2	7	900	1300
1093	THET	3	20	900	1150
1093	NEOT	1	93	900	1150
1093	NEOT	11	111	900	1150
1094	NEOT	3	7	900	1150
1094	MSSHW	2	10		
1094	THET	3	14	900	1150
1095	RPOT	3	7		
1095	STAM	1	4	900	1150
1095	THET	1	6	900	1150
1095	NEOT	1	10	900	1150
1095	NEOT	27	162	900	1150
1095	MSSHW	1	7		
1095	MSHW	1	8		
1095	MSHW	3	17		
1095	MSW	1	2		
1097	RPOT	3	13		
1097	RPOT	1	5		
1097	MSW / RPOT	1	5	900	1150
1099	NEOT	2	20	900	1150
1114	RPOT	4	9		
1114	STAM	1	5	900	1150
1114	NEOT	4	16	900	1150
1114	THET	5	61	900	1150
1118	RPOT	1	4		
1118	STAM	1	4	900	1150
1118	THET	3	28	900	1150
1118	NEOT	2	5	900	1150
1121	THET	4	40	900	1150
1130	NEOT	1	29	900	1150
1153	NEOT	4	20	900	1150
1153	THET	1	10	900	1150
1154	NEOT	1	2	900	1150
1154	THET	1	2	900	1150
TOTALS		677	9450		



HUNTINGDON  
 ORCHARD LANE  
 (HUNOL94)  
 SPOTDATES

Context	Date Range
2	900-1150
6	900-1150
8	900-1150
13	900-1150
19	900-1150
21	1200-1350
27	1350-1500
30	1150-1200
32	900-1150
34	900-1150
37	900-1150
41	900-1150
42	900-1150
45	1150-1250
47	900-1150
50	1200-1350
56	1150-1250
57	1250-1350
60	900-1200
61	900-1150
68	1150-1350
94	900-1150
1001	900-1150
1003	1820-1950
1004	1800-1950
1008	1900+
1010	1800-1950
1018	1820-1950
1019	1820-1950
1024	1200-1350
1026	1100-1200
1028	900-1150
1030	900-1150
1034	1100-1200
1035	1700-1800
1036	1150-1200
1038	1300-1500
1039	1150-1200
1045	900-1150
1047	900-1150
1050	1150-1250
1051	1500-1600
1075	900-1150
1079	1150-1200
1081	1150-1350



1083	900-1150
1084	900-1150
1086	900-1150
1087	900-1150
1091	900-1150
1092	900-1300
1093	900-1150
1094	900-1150
1095	900-1150
1097	Roman or 900- 1300
1099	900-1150
1114	900-1150
1118	900-1150
1121	900-1150
1130	900-1150
1153	900-1150
1154	900-1150

## APPENDIX E : BRICK AND TILE by Paul Spoerry

### The assemblage

Ceramic building material (CBM), mostly in the form of brick and roof tile, was recovered from twelve contexts from HUNOL94 I and twenty two contexts from HUNOL94 II. In all a total weight of approximately 49.86kg of material was retained (six boxes). This includes 6570g from (1008), the general cleaning layer, and *samples* of substantially complete bricks and peg tiles from a number of contexts. Thus a large proportion of the assemblage, by weight, cannot be used in calculations of total weight present in any given deposit or phase.

The samples included 5100g of variously-sized fragments of badly-fired or over-fired bricks from context 30, which it is believed may represent kiln waste deposited whilst still hot. This material is heavily oxidised and it's appearance is probably not representative of the desired result.

The most complete pieces include un-frogged bricks of apparently earlier post-medieval date and peg tiles in a similar orange or yellow fabric. This has some affinity with the later yellow 'gault clay' products from the region, but is possibly a very local product.

### Proposed work

The main areas of interest for further study appear to be:

- i) Description of fabric types represented in pre-19th century brick and tile. Basic quantification of all CBM, once types defined.
- ii) Provide dates for types (esp. bricks) based on measured information and local parallels.
- iii) Study of evidence for local production from within this assemblage, and also by comparison with known types in region and in structures within immediate area.
- iv) Reconsider dating of types in light of other data from excavation.
- v) Describe daub fragments, interpret, and consider implications of it's presence.

### Bulk quantification of CBM

Context	Weight (g)	Comments
2	838	badly fired brick frag and yellow (gault or furnace) tile
21	61	bm frag
27	23	daub
30	28	?daub
30	5100	over-fired brick frags (red)
32	18	?daub
42	130	daub
47	40	yellow tile
50	5727	brick and peg tile- orange 7 yellow ?local fabric

51	7390	as (50), no complete pieces
52	1980	as (50)
56	222	roof tile and daub
57	132	2 x roof tile, 1 x brick
1001	429	peg frags, brick frag and ? ridge frag
1003	2984	Complete 'gault' peg, 1/2 orange peg, 2 brick frags
1004	920	various (?recent) yellow and red roof tile frags
1008	6570	Assorted BM, mostly later post-med, but wide range
1009	143	yellow peg frag
1010	129	peg frags
1012	42	2 peg frags
1018	37	peg frags
1024	142	4 tile and brick frags
1028	119	2 tile frags
1030	607	brick and tile frags
1034	6340	3 brick samples, red fabric and ?local product, 4 further pieces, burnt and over-fired
1035	152	4 tile frags
1041	4100	5 brick samples
1042	4050	peg tile and brick frags, ?local orange-yellow fabrics
1043	10	tile frag
1045	10	3 tile frags
1051	44	tile frags
1079	54	?medieval tile fabric ( x 2) and one later brick frag
1083	313	Roman tile frag (?tegula)
1094	894	3 tile frags and 1 brick frag
1118	83	Roman tile frag

## APPENDIX F : METALLIC OBJECTS AND SPECIAL FINDS

This category comprises 47 individually-recorded items (4 from HUNOL 94 I and 43 from HUNOL 94 II) and their weights by context and material are included in Appendix C.

### Breakdown by Material

They include

- 4 coins (including 2 of silver) and 1 token. All were either unstratified or from contexts of Period 4
- 38 other metallic objects, comprising 1 of lead, 2 of copper alloy, 1 of steel and 34 of iron (including at least 16 nails)
- 1 glass object
- 1 bone toggle
- 1 composite bone knife handle and iron blade fragment
- 1 piece of clay daub

### Breakdown by Period

By stratigraphically-defined period, they can be broken down as follows

- 7 - Unstratified
- 28 - Period 4
- 9 - Period 3
- 3 - Period 2

The objects from Period 2 were found in association with skeletons and comprise two iron nails and a lead object.

Niall Oakey  
17 May 1995

## APPENDIX G : HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS by Corinne Duhig

The material, consisting of 23 'skeletons' in various degrees of preservation and three boxes of disturbed and redeposited bone, was examined in the Archaeological Field Unit office on 3 January 1995. Percentage preservation was noted at the excavation stage, confirmed at the assessment examination and coded as shown below:

4= >75%  
 3= 50-75%  
 2= 25-50%  
 1= <25%

There are no skeletons with grade 5 - complete or nearly complete - preservation. The five skeletons of grade 4 have at least some fragments of skull and innominate present, but only one has an almost complete cranium and a pubic symphysis. Scarcely any bones are unbroken and those from the more fragile areas of the skeleton are severely fragmented, although erosion is slight and cortices are generally intact. One group is charred.

Four of the adult skeletons are accompanied by a few bones from immature individuals, as noted in the table below. One burial clearly contains five femora (interestingly, two being strongly platymeric and probably articulating with a pair of platycnemic tibiae), and supernumerary adult bones might be found with other burials when the full examination is carried out.

Animal bone, some with butchery marks, was found in almost all contexts, even those apparently undisturbed. It will be passed to the zooarchaeologist.

### HUNOL 94 : Evaluation (July 1994)

The combined bones from contexts 6, 8, 13, 19, 21, 27, 42 and 61 represent at least two adults (duplicating portions of skull vault, mandibles and first metacarpals) and one immature individual.

Contexts 30 and 57 contained animal bone only.

### HUNOL 94 : Excavation (October-November 1994)

<i>Context</i>	<i>preservation</i>	<i>skull present</i>	<i>innominate present</i>	<i>comments</i>
1045	2	-	-	-
1049	2	-	-	five femora
1069	2	-	-	
1070	3	yes	yes	adult & imm
1071	3	-	yes	adult & imm
1072	4	yes	yes	
1073	4	yes	yes	
1089	3	yes	yes	
1091	4	yes	yes	imm
1096	2	yes	-	
1100	3	yes	yes	imm
1103	1	-	-	

1104	4	yes	yes	
1105	1	-	-	
1106	1	-	-	
1107	1	-	-	adult & imm
1116	2	yes	-	
1123	2	-	yes	imm
1124	1	-	-	
1125	3	yes	-	imm
1126	1	-	-	imm
1127	2	-	-	
1130	4	yes	yes	adult & imm

Two boxes contain disturbed/redeposited bone from a large number of contexts, apparently representing at least three adults and two subadults.

### Potential

The partial and fragmented state of the remains renders ageing and sexing problematical except in a few cases, and few long bones will be complete even if repaired, which precludes measurement, so these skeletons are likely to be less informative than most inhumations from Cambridgeshire (where preservation and recovery are usually excellent). As bones and fragments from the disturbed and redeposited contexts probably derive from the primary inhumations, it will be necessary to attempt refitting to increase the number of bones available for each individual. Despite this additional work, however, it is not anticipated that complete or near-complete skeletons will be produced, and recording time consequently will be less than normal.

Such uneroded bone surfaces as found in this material can, potentially, show pathological conditions clearly. Bone changes observed on preliminary examination all appear, with the exception of the platymeria/platycnemia mentioned above, to be arthritic in type. It is not proposed to record the more common pathological changes in the greatest detail (for example, the precise location of each vertebral arthritic lesion) on skeletons which are otherwise largely uninformative.

4 January 1995

## **APPENDIX H : ASSESSMENT OF THE ANIMAL BONES by Umberto Albarella, University of Birmingham**

### **The site and its excavation**

The site was excavated in October and November 1994 by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council, under Niall Oakey's direction. The excavation has provided information about the history of this area over more than a thousand years.

The excavator has divided the site into a sequence of five periods :

Period 1 : related to activities between 900 and 1150 AD. Only a few cut features have survived, but much pottery of this period has been found in later contexts.

Period 2 : this period is represented by a Christian Cemetery which went out of use in the 14th century.

Period 3 : this is represented by a series of pits interpreted as quarry pits to obtain clay for brick-making ("brick pits"). The pits were backfilled in the 16th century.

Period 4 : 18th and 19th century. The site was then used as garden and orchard.

Period 5 : 19th and 20th century. The site was used as a workshop and storeyard.

The site seems to be highly residual, having been repeatedly turned over (Niall Oakey, pers. comm.), but, unfortunately a precise figure of residuality (and contamination) is, at this stage, unknown.

### **The bone assemblage**

#### **Recovery**

Animal bones were found and hand collected in all five periods. A few contexts were sieved but they did not produce bones. Other biological remains, such as plant remains, were also very poorly represented.

#### **Preservation**

The bones are highly fragmented but generally fairly well preserved. Gnawing marks are uncommon, but small fractures and partial erosion probably due to trampling and movements of the soil were very common. This probably suggests that most bones had a relatively rapid burial, but were then redeposited.

#### **Storage**

The bones are stored in 8 standard "long-bone" boxes. They were washed and bagged by context. They will be stored in the County Archaeology Store.

#### **Division of assemblage**

The five periods suggested by the excavator cannot be used for the study of the animal bones, due to the large chronological overlap between different periods. To give an example, features filled up with material dated to 900-1150 AD can be found in any of the five periods. This is due to the large amount of residual material in the later contexts. In order to assess the quantity and potential of the faunal assemblage by time and context, I had to divide the contexts into three main chronological periods :

Period A : 900-1150 AD

Period B : 1150-1350 AD

Period C : 1800-1900 AD

It must be noticed that these periods are not defined stratigraphically. A few contexts do not fit in this chronological framework and are considered not worth further study.

## Quantity

	Grave pit fills	Brick pit fills	Other contexts (mainly pit fills)	Total
Period A	1955 gr	3905 gr	7863 gr	13.7 Kg
Period B	1331 gr	2797 gr	1633 gr	5.7 Kg
Period C				9.5 Kg

A pilot study of two (out of eight) boxes has been carried out and has produced 97 "countable" specimens (see Davis 1992 and Albarella & Davis 1994). It can be therefore estimated that the whole assemblage will provide c.400 "countable" specimens.

The bones from the rest of the assemblage were quickly scanned - but not recorded in detail - in order to check the possible presence of different taxa or other interesting features not observed in the two boxes selected for the pilot study.

## Results of the pilot study

The bones are divided by chronological periods (see above):

	Period A			Period C		
	NISP	MAND	MEAS	NISP	MAND	MEAS
Cattle	9	1	4	17		3
Caprine (Sheep (Goat	15 (8 (-		7	28 (12 (-	1	11
Pig	9	1	3	10		1
Equid	1			+		
Dog	-			3	2	2
Cat	-			2		1
Red deer	+			-		
Chicken	1			1		1
Bird	-			2		2
TOTAL	35	2	14	63	3	21

NISP = number of identified specimens

MAND = number of mandibles which retained 2+ teeth of the dP4/P4-M3 row

MEAS = number of specimens which provided useful measurements (see Albarella & Davis 1994)

+ = the taxon is present, although no "countable" specimens were identified.

The assemblage is, as usual for urban sites of these periods, dominated by the domestic stock. No clear selection of body parts was noticed, although ruminant metapodials seem particularly abundant in the whole assemblage. The presence of two equid bones with clear butchery marks is interesting.

## Comments on the usefulness of the animal bone assemblage

The main problem of this site is its residuality. This is so high that the animal bones, which do not provide chronological information in themselves, cannot be studied following a traditional stratigraphic sequence. For instance, the fills of the brick pits of the period 3 of the stratigraphic sequence (see above) mainly contain pottery of the period 1.



This problem is so serious that this assemblage is probably not worth further study, unless the residuality of the medieval periods were so high (i.e. >90%) that contexts of periods 2 and 3 (as defined by the excavator) could be studied as contexts of an earlier date, i.e. 900-1150 AD and 1150-1350 AD.

As concerns the postmedieval periods, the only context which has provided a reasonably large animal bone assemblage is the context 1008 (cultivated soil). This context has been dated to the 19th century. Its faunal assemblage would be worth further study only if the residuality (and eventual contamination) were less than 10%.

If these conditions were met the only way the study of this assemblage can be tackled is through a three period basis, as already done for the pilot study (see above). Contexts which cannot be attributed to any of these three periods have produced very few bones and are not worth further study.

Other problems which affect this assemblage are its small size and the lack of an extensive program of sieving (with the consequent recovery bias), probably justified by the highly residual character of this site.

It is improbable that the assemblage will provide sufficient quantitative information about the frequency of different species and the kill-off patterns (due to the low number of ageable mandibles). Metric data from cattle and sheep metapoidals and from pig teeth may be of interest, especially in view of a more general comparison with animals from different periods and areas.

The presence of butchered equid (probably horse) bones should be mentioned in the final report, even if no further study of the animal bones were carried out.

#### **Estimated time required for study and report**

The whole assemblage will be considered worth further study, only if at least 90% of the associated artefacts can be homogeneously dated (see above for details). If this is the case, this is the timetable which should be considered :

Recording bones (4 days)  
Data processing and analysis (4 days)  
Writing of report (3 days)  
Revision of report for publication (1 day)

Total (12 days)

#### **References**

Albarella U. & Davis S. 1994. The Saxon and Medieval bones excavated 1985-1989 from West Cotton, Northamptonshire. London, AML report 17/94.

Davis S. 1992. A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites. London, AML report 71/92.

17th April 1995.

## APPENDIX I : ASSESSMENT OF FLOTATION SAMPLES by Duncan Schlee

### An assessment of flotation samples from the evaluation excavations at Orchard Lane, Huntingdon, July 1994

A total of fourteen soil samples were processed for the recovery of charred plant remains, small animal bones etc. The samples were all taken from contexts interpreted as pit fills (since amended) except one from a ditch and one from a grave. The fills sampled were interpreted as either primary fills or later fills that appeared particularly fruitful.

For the purposes of this report, only the floating fractions were sorted. The unsorted heavy residues are in storage and can be sorted if further work is justified. Charred seeds, small bones and other potentially identifiable fragments were picked out from the flots, except for the wood charcoal fragments. Although they were generally small volumes, the samples produced a reasonable quantity and range of charred plant and other macroremains. Identifications were made without recourse to reference collections and some are therefore necessarily tentative.

Wheat is the most prevalent cereal crop, with lesser amounts of barley. Well-preserved grains of what is thought to be rye were recovered in similar quantities to the barley. The identifiable wheat appears to all be free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum*/*T. turgidum*), which is not unusual for Medieval contexts. In general, the barley grains were not well-preserved and may have been either two- or six-row types. The possible rye grains will need comparison with reference specimens before identification can be certain, but rye is not uncommon for the Medieval period. The lack of crop processing residues such as spikelet forks, glume bases and rachis fragments, together with the general scarcity of weed seeds, suggests that no crop processing was being carried out on the site. However, some charred *bromus* sp. seeds, a common crop weed, may represent fine cleaning of cereals prior to their domestic use.

The presence of a few small weed seeds and one piece of charred straw node probably represents the remains of plant material being used as fuel rather than evidence for crop-processing on site. The range of other plant foodstuffs, such as peas and hazel nuts, suggests that the charred plant debris derives from domestic, culinary activities rather than agricultural processes. In short, it seems likely that the foodstuffs recovered from the site represent processed produce imported into the site, rather than raw materials being processed on site. Small fish bones and fragments of animal bones also suggest domestic waste, but small fragments of coal and possible slag may represent either domestic fuel debris or evidence for some form of industrial activity.

Sample no	1	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Bread wheat	21	5	46	16	44	22	10	13	5	9		12	1	
Barley	4	3	14	6		7	4	4		2				2
Rye?	6	4	18	8	12	5		6		3				
grain frags indet	14	8	75	14	36	11	10	3		7	1		3	14
Chaff													1	
Hazel shell		3	2		5	3				1	1	1	1	3
Weeds		1	1	1						1	1	1		
Legumes	1			4		2	1	2					1	
Fruit?														3
Charcoal	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Fish bones	1	14		2	1	6		1		3				
Animal bones		1				x	x		x		x	2	2	x
Insect parts						1								
Snails		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Slag?	1	x	x	1		x	x			x		x		
Coal	x					x		x			x		x	

Table of Macro Remains Recovered From Floated Samples

**An analysis of samples from excavations at Orchard Lane, Huntingdon, October-November 1994**

A total of five soil samples were taken during the main excavations :

Sample 101 (1034), a small bag of brick dust and fragments, was not processed. Samples 102 and 103 were both samples from the same grave fill (1073), taken for recovery of small finds.

Sample 104 (1093) was taken from a cess pit for the recovery of plant remains.

Sample 105 (1114) was taken from a pit for the possible recovery of residues from an industrial process.

All the samples except sample 101 were floated. The resulting flots and heavy residues were sorted for the recovery of all potentially interesting inclusions.

Quality of preservation was variable. Although bone and shell was generally well preserved, there was no organic survival since the soils have not been continuously waterlogged since deposition. Insect and plant remains were however preserved by charring and mineralisation.

Mineralisation commonly occurs in features that have contained cess deposits, where the "rich chemical soup" can result in phosphate replacement of organic tissues. By their very nature, the plant species usually recovered from cessy deposits can be biased towards plant foods directly associated with diet, rather than from other sources. Mineralised seeds, however, often lose much of the surface detail that aids identification. This is partly due to post-depositional processes where tissues have decomposed or been dissolved in the cessy fill, and partly from some seeds having passed through the digestive tracts of humans.

**Results**

Sample 102

5 small iron objects (possibly coffin nails)

Pot sherds

Animal, bird and fish bones

Fragments of mussel and oyster shells

Small fragments of burnt bone

Fragments of wood charcoal  
12 Bread wheat grains  
4 possible barley grains.

#### Sample 103

Pot sherds  
Animal and bird bone fragments  
Mussel shell fragments  
Wood charcoal fragments  
8 Bread wheat grains.

#### Sample 104

Pot sherds  
Animal, bird, fish and amphibian bones  
Fragments of larger specimens of mussel and cockle shells  
Whole specimens of small mussel and cockle shells  
2 large land snails  
Fragments of avian egg shell  
Mineralised insect eggs, larvae and pupae  
13 mineralised possible hawthorn stones  
4 mineralised Prunus sp. (possible plum stones?)  
7 mineralised elderberry seeds  
5 mineralised wheat grains  
1 mineralised Polygonum seed  
10 mineralised Chenopodium type seeds  
9 mineralised indeterminate fruit pips (?)  
6 charred large legume seeds (probably peas)  
5 charred barley grains  
22 charred wheat grains  
9 indeterminate charred cereal grains  
31 indeterminate charred grain fragments.

#### Sample 105

Animal and fish bone  
Mineralised insect larvae, pupae and eggs  
1 mineralised elderberry seed  
6 mineralised possible apple pips  
3 mineralised indeterminate large seeds  
5 indeterminate weed seeds  
2 charred barley grains  
2 charred rye (?) grains  
16 charred wheat grains  
10 indeterminate cereal grains  
Fragments of burnt bone  
Fragments of wood charcoal  
Slag droplets.

#### **Discussion**

From the range and quantity of inclusions within them, the two samples <102> and <103> taken from grave fill (1073) indicate that there were rubbish pits or dumps at the site before the graves were dug. The fills are obviously very mixed, and beyond noting the presence or absence of plant remains, little significance can be attached to what was found. With the exception of the iron objects (possibly coffin nails?), the other inclusions are fairly ubiquitous "background noise" and occur within most of the other samples.

Sample <104> appears to be the primary fill (1093) of a cess pit feature. Much of the

sample consisted of concreted lumps with mineralised plant stems and insect pupae. The range of inclusions and their mode of preservation suggests that there were several different routes or events by which material came to be deposited in the feature. The amphibian bones and large snail shells probably represent things that have hopped or crawled into the feature.

The animal, bird, fish bones, and birds egg shell all originate from food waste dumped in the feature, the smaller bones and bone fragments possibly being remains of consumed food. The mussel and cockle shells also represent the remains of meals, but the small size of many of the specimens (<2cm) and the presence of a whole uneaten cockle might suggest that they were discarded as too small to eat.

The charcoal and charred cereal grains represent hearth cleanings that have been disposed of in the feature, but do not suggest anything more than casual spillage of foodstuffs. The mineralised weed seeds may have found their way into the feature by natural agencies or may be impurities in processed cereals that have survived digestion. The larger mineralised pips and seeds all probably originate from partially digested fruit. The numerous mineralised remains indicate that the fill was being actively broken down by insect larvae during the useful life of the feature, accounting partially for the lack of organic preservation.

Sample <105> from pit fill (1114) also contained concreted lumps of mineralised organic material characteristic of a cess pit, together with some pale grey glassy slag droplets that might indicate some form of industrial activity nearby. The quantities and range of inclusions, and the lesser quantity of insect pupae, may suggest that this feature was not primarily a cess pit, but a more general rubbish pit into which cessy material had been dumped.

The multiplicity of possible routes by which material is likely to be deposited in a cess pit, coupled with problems of differential preservation favouring more robust seeds and charred seeds, means that the range of botanical species represented is not complete and interpretation may be difficult. Generally speaking, there is insufficient evidence from the samples taken to suggest anything other than an urban domestic economy, with no evidence of either high status foods or on-site agricultural crop-processing. The mussel and cockle shells reflect the significance of river traffic for the economy of Huntingdon at the time. Further identification of the bird, animal, and fish bone from the samples might further enlarge the lists of foods consumed at the site.

3rd March 1995