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**LAND OFF CHURCH ROAD
AND HAMERTON ROAD
BUCKWORTH
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

- no 303 -

An Archaeological Evaluation

**Parish: Buckworth
NGR TL148 768**

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Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust



**LAND OFF CHURCH ROAD AND HAMERTON ROAD,
BUCKWORTH, HUNTINGDON CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

During November 1997, the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land off Church Road and Hamerton Road, Buckworth, Huntingdon (NGR TL148 768). The work was undertaken on behalf of Ambrosden Court Ltd. The evaluation revealed Romano-British, mediaeval and post-mediaeval features to be present across the site.

1 INTRODUCTION (Fig.1)

1.1 During November and early December 1997, the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) carried out an evaluation on land off Church Road and Hamerton Road, Buckworth, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL148 768)(Fig.1). The works were commissioned by Anthony Rickett Partnership on behalf of Ambrosden Court Ltd., and were carried out in advance of proposals to redevelop the site. The proposed development includes the construction of six houses, an access route and associated groundworks (Planning Application H1461/96). The archaeological evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning condition required by the Local Planning Authority, based on advice from the Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeology Office (CCC CAO).

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was conducted according to a brief prepared by the CCC CAO (dated 8/97), and a specification prepared by HAT (dated 08/11/97). It complied with the CAO Evaluation Procedures document (March 1995) and with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

1.3 The brief (Section 2.4) required the first phase of the evaluation was a desk-based archaeological assessment, and HAT submitted this report prior to the commencement of the field work (HAT Report No.292).

2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY (Figs. 1 & 2)

2.1 The site is located in the centre of the historic village of Buckworth, covering c.0.8 hectares (Fig.1). The north eastern side is bounded by Hamerton Road, and the south eastern by Church Road. The medieval church and graveyard of All Saints are adjacent to the south western side, and an open field bounds the north west side. The site consists of uneven, rough ground covered with coarse grass and several small ash trees. It slopes downwards in the north west corner. Small hollows and dumps of

spoil and gravel over the site indicate some modern disturbance. A public footpath traverses the site.

2.2 The site is located on the interface of glacial gravels and the Oxford clay. The soils are clay based. The village lies on a NE east facing slope, c.46m OD

2.3 The historical and archaeological background is presented in the desk-based assessment (HAT Report No.292). In summary,

- the air photographic assessment indicated that the assessment site was unresponsive to this technique, but its environs contain extensive evidence for medieval settlement and agriculture;
- known archaeological sites comprise a Mesolithic site and probable Roman cropmarks. The Roman road from Godmanchester to Thrapston passes 0.5km north of the village;
- the Manor of Buckworth was founded in the Saxon period, and formed part of the Hundred of Leightonstone. The Domesday survey (1086) records the manor as being ten hides and formerly belonging to Tosti, Earl of the Northumbrians;
- the shrunken village of Buckworth shows extensive evidence of the former medieval settlement consisting of a well-defined hollow way on the south east side of the village, associated settlement remains and earthworks (to the north, east and south), surrounded by the ploughed out ridge and furrow of an open field;
- the southern part of the assessment site has been open ground for at least the last 150 years, and the northern part was occupied by gardens and cottages from at least the 17th century. The former Fox and Hounds Public House occupied the north corner of the site before it was burnt down over 15 years ago

2.4 Key archaeological issues identified by the desk-based assessment are:

- the shape and location of the settlement in Saxon times; and
- the westward extent of the shrunken medieval village of Buckworth

3 THE INVESTIGATION (Fig. 2)

3.1 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the brief and specification, and conformed to guidelines of CCC CAO and the IFA. The evaluation report conforms to the document CAO1995/1.

3.2 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development (Section 3.1 of the brief). Specifically, the evaluation was also to provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains,

detailing zones of relevant importance against known development proposals (Section 3.7 of the brief). Five trenches were excavated (Fig.2).

3.3 A 180° wheeled excavator (JCB) was used to open the trenches. The overburden was mechanically excavated, thereafter excavation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. A temporary bench mark was established on site, extrapolated from the Ordnance Survey bench mark on the south west corner wall of All Saints Church (value 49.89 m AOD).

4 DESCRIPTION OF TRENCHES (Figs. 2-4)

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

4.1 Trench 1

Sample section: (0.00 = 47.20 m AOD)

- 0.00 - 0.34m *L1000*. Topsoil. Moderately compacted dark grey sandy loam with occasional flint/pebbles. Occasional lumps of abraded brick and tile are present throughout the layer. A dump of blue clay, 0.1m thick, was present at the westernmost end of the section.
- 0.34 - 0.40m *L1002*. Subsoil. Moderately compacted, light to mid greyish brown sandy loam with occasional flint pebbles. Towards the western end the layer appears disturbed. Fragments of tile are present throughout.
- 0.40m + *L1001*. Natural drift. Light orange brown clay with large patches of sand throughout.

4.1.1 Five archaeological features were identified.

4.1.2 F1045 was the western edge of a large subcircular pit (length 2.5m+, width 1.8m, depth 0.39m), stepped in profile. It was filled with a moderately compacted mid greyish brown sandy clay (L1046) with occasional mixed flint pebbles, rootlets and sparse flecks of charcoal throughout. The pit contained post-medieval pottery (number: 17; weight: 494g) and animal bone (some exhibiting butchery marks). Pottery retrieved from the fill ranges in date from the 10th/12th to the 19th century, including sherds from cooking pots, jugs and bowls (Concordance of Finds and Pottery Report below).

4.1.3 The base of a circular post hole (diameter 0.3m; depth 0.2m) cut L1046 (above). The post hole was filled with a dark grey sandy loam with sparse flecks of charcoal. No finds were present.

4.1.4 F1047 was the southern edge of a ?pit partially revealed within the trench and truncated (to the west) by a modern intrusion. The sides of the pit (length 4m+; width 1.4m+; depth 0.13m) were gradual at an angle of *c.*30°. The base of the cut was not fully revealed. It was filled by a moderately compacted dark brown sandy loam (L1048) with occasional flint pebbles. Medieval and early post-mediaeval pottery

(17; 834g), ?floor tile (2; 222g), animal bone (2; 174g) (exhibiting butchery marks), mussel shell (3;6g) and a broken iron nail were found. The pottery sherds date from the 13th/14th century and 15th/16th century, and include jugs and cooking pots.

4.1.5 F1049 was a ?robbed out foundation trench (including a N/S return). The robber trench (width 1.7m; depth 0.3m deep) ran parallel and perpendicular to the line of the medieval street frontage. The N/S return was of smaller dimensions (width 0.7m; depth 0.3m). Both arms were filled by a compacted dark brown sandy loam with dumps of blue grey clay throughout. The fill (L1050) contained occasional flint pebbles, fragments of limestone, brick and tile and very occasional lenses/patches of yellow sandy based lime mortar. The finds comprise medieval and early post-mediaeval pottery (14; 318g), fragments of tile, including floor tile (20; 3344g) and animal bone (2;16g). The pottery sherds date from the 10th/12th centuries to the 15th/16th centuries and are derived primarily from bowls and cooking pots.

4.1.6 F1071 comprised the truncated base of a linear gully/drain running NW/SE through the eastern end of the trench. The cut (width 0.6m; depth 0.2m) was filled by a deposit (L1072) of dark grey clayey sand. No finds were present.

4.2 Trench 2

Sample section: (0.00 = 48.05 m AOD)

0.00 - 0.35m *L1000*. Topsoil. Moderately compacted very dark grey sandy loam with occasional flint pebbles. Occasional lumps of abraded brick and tile are present throughout the layer, and also Roman pottery sherds.

0.35 - 0.45m *L1002*. Subsoil. Moderately compacted light to mid greyish brown loose sandy loam with very occasional rootlets, fragments of limestone, mortar and occasional flint pebbles.

0.40m + *L1001*. Natural drift. Compacted orange sand.

4.2.1 F1029 represented the eastern side of a subcircular pit sealed by L1002. The pit (width 1.6m; depth 0.23m+) was stepped in profile. The base was not fully excavated. The pit was filled by a moderately compacted dark greyish brown sandy loam (L1030) with very occasional flecks of charcoal, rootlets and flint pebbles. The finds comprise medieval pottery (9; 132g); a fragment of faced limestone, scorched (1; 270g), and animal bone (10; 224g). The latter includes cattle bone and sheep bone with butchery marks. Pottery sherds from this deposit date from the 9th/11th century (cooking pots), and Roman sherds (early 2nd/mid 3rd century and 4th/early 5th century) are also present.

4.2.2 F1033 was a linear ditch (width 0.75m+; depth 0.23m) orientated NE/SW. Its profile suggests that it had been re-cut on two or more occasions. It contained two deposits: the primary (L1035) comprised a very compacted yellow-green clay with very occasional flecks of charcoal. A small fragment of animal bone (1g) was found. The secondary fill (L1034) comprised very loose dark brown sandy loam with occasional flint pebbles. No finds were recovered.

4.2.3 F1031 was a linear ditch (width 1.14m; depth 0.3m) traversing the southern end of the trench, aligned E/W, perpendicular to the medieval street frontage. The southern edge was cut at a near vertical angle, the northern edge was more gradual, and the base was lightly stepped. The ditch contained a mid brown loosely compacted sandy gravel (L1036) with very sparse charcoal flecks. L1036 contained no finds. The upper fill of the ditch comprised a dark brown sandy loam (L1032) with occasional small flints. Roman pottery sherds from this layer suggest a spot date of 3rd/4th century.

4.2.4 F1037 and F1039 were the remains of a ?double palisaded ditch, traversing the southern half of the trench, aligned E/W, perpendicular to the medieval street frontage. The eastern half of two post holes were cut adjacent along the centre line of each ditch. Ditch F1037 (width 0.7m; depth 0.17m) was concave. Post hole F1041 (width 0.33 m; depth 0.2 m) contained a loose grey sandy gravel (L1042) with sparse charcoal and occasional flint/pebble, and was overlain by ditch fill (L1038). Finds from L1042 include Roman (4th/5th century) pottery (2; 6g), fragments of tile, including floor tile (8; 676g), animal bone (4; 66g) (pig tibia), mussel shell (1), and an iron nail. L1038 comprised a loosely compacted dark brown sandy loam with occasional charcoal and flint pebbles. Finds from L1038 include Roman (4th/early 5th century) pottery (3; 24g), fragments of roof tile (square pegged)(1), and animal bone (11; 86g).

The northern ditch (F1039)(width 0.95m; depth 0.16m), like F1037, was concave. Post Hole F1043 (width 0.32m; depth 0.2m) was filled by L1044, a very loosely compacted sandy gravel with very occasional flint pebbles and occasional flecks of charcoal. Finds from L1044 include fragments of tile (1; 20g) and animal bone (4; 14g). The ditch was filled by L1040 (which overlay Post Hole F1043), a loosely compacted dark brown sandy loam with occasional charcoal flecks and pebble flints. Finds from L1040 included Roman pottery (5) (4th/early 5th century), fragments of faced limestone (scorched)(2), and animal bone (21; 182g)(cattle/sheep, one exhibiting cut marks).

4.3 Trench 3

Sample section: (0.00 = 48.43 m AOD)

0.00 - 0.30m *L1000*. Topsoil. Moderately compacted very dark grey sandy loam with occasional flint/pebbles. Occasional lumps of abraded brick and tile are present throughout the layer.

0.35 - 0.65m *L1002*. Subsoil. Moderately compacted light to mid brown loose sandy loam with rootlets, fragments of limestone, mortar and occasional flint/pebbles. The layer becomes slightly darker and more clayey towards the western end of the trench with moderate amounts of limestone fragments towards its base

0.40m + *L1001*. Natural drift. Sand (east end), clay (west end).

4.3.1 F1003 represented a shallow linear ditch (width 1.18m; depth 0.36m) traversing the eastern end of the trench, aligned NE/SW. The edges were cut steeply at c. 45 ° degrees from the horizontal forming a concave base. The ditch was filled by

a loosely compacted dark brown silt sand (L1004), which became paler towards its base. The deposit contained frequent rootlets, isolated flecks of charcoal and flint/pebble. Finds from L1004 comprise Roman pottery (8; 58g) including a piece of stamped Samian, degraded animal bone (6), small patinated flint chips (2) and an iron nail shank. The condition of the animal bone suggests that the feature may have been waterlogged at some time (Animal Bone Report below). Roman pottery suggests a 2nd/3rd century date.

4.3.2 F1005 was a shallow linear ditch (width 1.1m; depth 0.39m) traversing the western end of the trench, aligned NE/SW. It may be associated with Ditch F1003 (above). The edges were cut steeply at *c.*45° and *c.*50° degrees from the horizontal forming a concave base. It contained a compacted mid brown clayey loam (L1006) which became darker in areas with roots. The fill contained frequent rootlets, occasional fragments of limestone, and infrequent flecks of charcoal. Roman pottery sherds (5; 22g) suggest a 4th/5th century date. A small fragment of animal bone (1g) was found.

4.3.3 F1007 comprised a small sub-circular post hole (length 0.36m, width 0.33m, depth 0.1m). It contained a loosely compacted light - dark brown silt sand (L1008) with very occasional flint/pebble and very occasional charcoal flecks. Pottery sherds (2; 14g) of late mediaeval (15th/16th century) and Roman date (residual) were found, and the post hole was located 0.6 m to the west of ditch F1003 (above).

4.3.4 A second post hole (length 0.4m, width 0.2m, depth 0.2m), F1009, was found 3.5 m SW of Post Hole F1007 (above). It contained a loosely compacted mid brown sandy silt (L1010) with very occasional flint/pebble and moderate charcoal flecks. L1010 contained animal bone (4; 44g) (cattle and horse) and small patinated, notched flakes (2).

4.3.5 F1011 represented a small circular pit (diameter 0.8m; depth 0.13m). The sides were cut at *c.*20° from the horizontal and formed a concave base. The pit contained compacted mid - dark brown sandy loam (L1012) with occasional flint/pebble, chalk nodules, fragments of limestone, and rootlets. A sherd of mediaeval (13th/14th century date) pottery and a fragment of animal bone (1g) were found.

4.3.6 F1013 was the southern half of a deep ?circular pit (diameter 2m +; depth 0.8m). Its western side was cut steeply at 70° from the horizontal. The eastern side was more gradual 15-20° slope over 1m before falling off steeply to form a rounded base. The pit contained three fills: the primary, L1018, comprised a compacted greenish grey silty clay. The secondary, L1015, comprised a loosely compacted light to mid brown clayey loam with occasional chalk flecks, flint/pebble and charcoal flecks. Two partial articulated skeletons of pigeons or doves, along with pig and cattle bones were found within this deposit. The truncated remains of a re-deposited dump of natural (L1014) containing sparse charcoal flecks partly sealed the underlying deposit. Finds from L1014 include fragments of animal bone (1; 2g) and a ?clay loomweight (4; 58g).

4.3.7 F1016 was a probable re-cut of Ditch F1025 (width 1.18m+; depth 0.65m), a wide linear ditch traversing the centre of the trench, aligned N/S. The edges were cut steeply: the western edge at c.45 ° and the eastern edge at c.80° degrees from the horizontal, forming a concave base. The ditch was filled by a very compacted dark brown sandy loam (L1017) with very occasional fragments of limestone, chalk nodules, flecks of charcoal and frequent rootlets. The finds from L1017 include an abraded quartz-tempered sherd of pottery (undated) (12g), fragments of tile (3; 28g) and animal bone (5)(cattle/pig).

4.3.8 F1019 represented the northern half of a shallow linear pit, or the termination of a linear ditch. The feature was orientated N/S (width 1.1m, depth 0.18m). The pit/ditch contained a loose mid brown silt loam (L1020) with occasional flint pebble. L1020 contained no finds.

4.3.9 F1021 comprised a small sub-circular post hole (length 0.33m width 0.28m depth 0.1m). It was filled by a loosely compacted mid brown sandy loam (L1022) with very occasional charcoal flecks and flint/pebbles. The post hole may be associated with Post Holes F1007 and F1009 (above). L1022 contained no finds.

4.3.10 F1023 comprised a small sub-circular post hole with a pointed base (length 0.31m, width 0.27m, depth 0.19m). It contained a loosely compacted mid to dark brown sandy loam (L1024) with occasional flint/pebble and occasional charcoal flecks. L1024 contained no finds. The post hole was located between Pit F1013 and Ditch F1025.

4.3.11 F1025 comprised a wide linear ditch (width 3.3m, depth 0.4m), re-cut by F1016 to the west. It was filled with a light to mid yellow brown clayey loam with lenses and patches of redeposited clay (L1026) throughout. It contained occasional chalk and limestone. Finds from L1026 include medieval pottery (25; 300g), fragments of animal bone (4; 52g) (cattle), lumps of slag (3; 180g), and a very large flat headed nail (52g). The pottery dates from the 13th/14th century, with some earlier 9th/11th century and Roman sherds.

4.3.12 F1027 comprised a circular pit (diameter 0.5m, depth 0.15m). The fill comprised a loosely compacted mid brown sandy clay (L1028) with occasional flint/pebble, limestone fragments and rootlets throughout. L1028 contained no finds.

4.4 Trench 4

Sample section:

- 0.00 - 0.30m *L1000*. Topsoil. Moderately compacted dark grey sandy loam with occasional flint/pebbles. Occasional lumps of abraded brick and tile are present throughout the layer.
- 0.30 - 0.50m *L1002*. Subsoil. Compacted light to mid brown loose sandy loam with rootlets, fragments of limestone, mortar and occasional flint/pebbles.
- 0.50m + *L1001*. Natural drift. Orange sand.

4.4.1 The features within Trench 4 were subject to surface finds recovery only i.e. they were not half sectioned.

4.4.2 F1068 represented the southern corner of a pit. Its upper fill comprised a grey sandy loam (L1051) which contained 19th-century china.

4.4.3 F1065 represented a curvilinear feature (a ?gully, width 1.1m) aligned E/W, within the northern half of the trench. Its upper fill, L1052, comprised a loose dark brown sandy loam with occasional amounts of flint/pebble. Finds from L1052 include Roman pottery sherds (mid 2nd/early 5th century)(6; 88g), and a fragment of scorched limestone.

4.4.4 F1069 was a pit (diameter 0.7m). Its fill, L1053, comprised a loose dark greyish sandy loam with occasional flint/pebble. L1053 contained no finds.

4.4.5 F1061 was the western half of a small pit. Its fill, L1054, comprises a loose dark greyish sandy loam with occasional flint/pebble. The finds from L1054 comprise large sherds (2) from the same St. Neots ware storage jar.

4.4.6 F1070 represented a pit/post hole (diameter 0.5m). Its upper fill, L1055, comprised a compacted dark brown sandy loam with occasional patches of redeposited clay and flint/pebble.

4.4.7 F1062 was a ditch traversing the southern end of the trench, aligned NE/SW. Its upper fill, L1056, comprised a compacted dark brown sandy loam with occasional flint/pebble and ironstone. Finds from L1056 comprise Roman pottery sherds (2; 6g) of a early 2nd/mid 3rd century date.

4.5 Trench 5

Sample section:

- 0.00 - 0.40m *L1000*. Topsoil. Moderately compacted dark grey sandy loam with occasional flint/pebbles. Occasional lumps of abraded brick and tile are present throughout the layer.
- 0.40 - 0.60m *L1002*. Subsoil. Compacted light to mid brown loose sandy loam with rootlets, fragments of limestone, mortar and occasional flint/pebbles.
- 0.60-0.80m *L1060*. Layer. Very compacted dark brown orange clayey sand. Course and gritty with flint/pebbles, pea gravel and rootlets.
- 0.60m + *L1001*. Natural drift. Orange sand.

4.5.1 The features within Trench 5 were subject to surface finds recovery only i.e. they were not half sectioned.

4.5.2 F1063 was a linear ditch (width 0.9m), aligned E/W, traversing the centre of the trench. Its upper fill, L1057, comprised a loose dark brown sandy loam with occasional flint/pebble. Finds from L1057 comprise Roman pottery sherds (4; 22g)

and fragments of animal bone (2)(cattle). The pottery dates from the 2nd/3rd century.

4.5.3 F1064 represented the western half of a ?circular pit (width 1.5m). Its fill, L1058, comprised a loose dark greyish sandy loam with occasional flint/pebble. The finds from L1058 comprise fragments of animal bone (9; 142g)(cattle).

4.5.4 F1066 represented the north eastern corner of a ?pit. Its fill, L1059, comprised a loose dark greyish sandy loam with occasional flint/pebble. L1059 contained no finds.

4.5.5 L1060 is described within the sample section. Finds from L1060 comprise a Roman pottery sherd (1; 6g) and fragments of animal bone (3) (including a horse tooth and cattle bone with butchery marks). It represents an earlier layer and is cut by the features within the trench.

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

5.1 Despite heavy rain during the project, it was not felt that any factors hindered the recognition of archaeological contexts.

6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 The evaluation revealed features of mediaeval and earlier date to be located across the site, commonly sealed by up to 0.4m of topsoil and subsoil.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 The evaluation revealed archaeological features to be present across the site, both along the street frontages and in the interior of the site. The features range in date from the Roman period, through the mediaeval, and into the post-mediaeval period. They include pits, ditches and post holes and are indicative of occupation on the site during these times. Finds of sherds from cooking pots and animal bone with butchery marks suggests that domestic occupation was present in this central part of the village.

7.2 The discovery of Roman material is of interest, given the low density of known Roman sites in the immediate vicinity. The site lies c.0.5 km south of a former Roman road (Godmanchester-Thrapston, aligned E/W). Some of the Roman pottery is relatively unabraded and would suggest that much it was close to its place of primary deposition, though some is clearly residual. Interestingly, much of the Roman pottery is late (i.e. 4th/early 5th century), and a key issue would be to appreciate if any continuity exists between occupation of the site at this time and the growth of the mediaeval settlement.

7.3 Whilst no features were definitely Saxon, the presence of sherds dating from the 9th-11th centuries suggests that later Saxon and early mediaeval occupation was present on the site.

7.4 The view that Buckworth is a shrunken mediaeval village is supported by this project, with mediaeval occupation features present across the site.

7.5 The topographic location of the site: a crested location by the church with views across the locality, would certainly make this an appropriate location for early occupation. The present church of All Saints, immediately adjacent to the south, is believed to date from the 12th century onwards, though a church is mentioned in Domesday.

7.6 Features close to the Hamerton Road frontage are likely of early, and later, post-mediaeval date, almost certainly associated with the former public house and properties present here. The former Fox and Hounds P.H. was believed to date from the early 17th century, though some features (e.g. F1049) revealed in this part of the site may be associated with slightly earlier properties.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

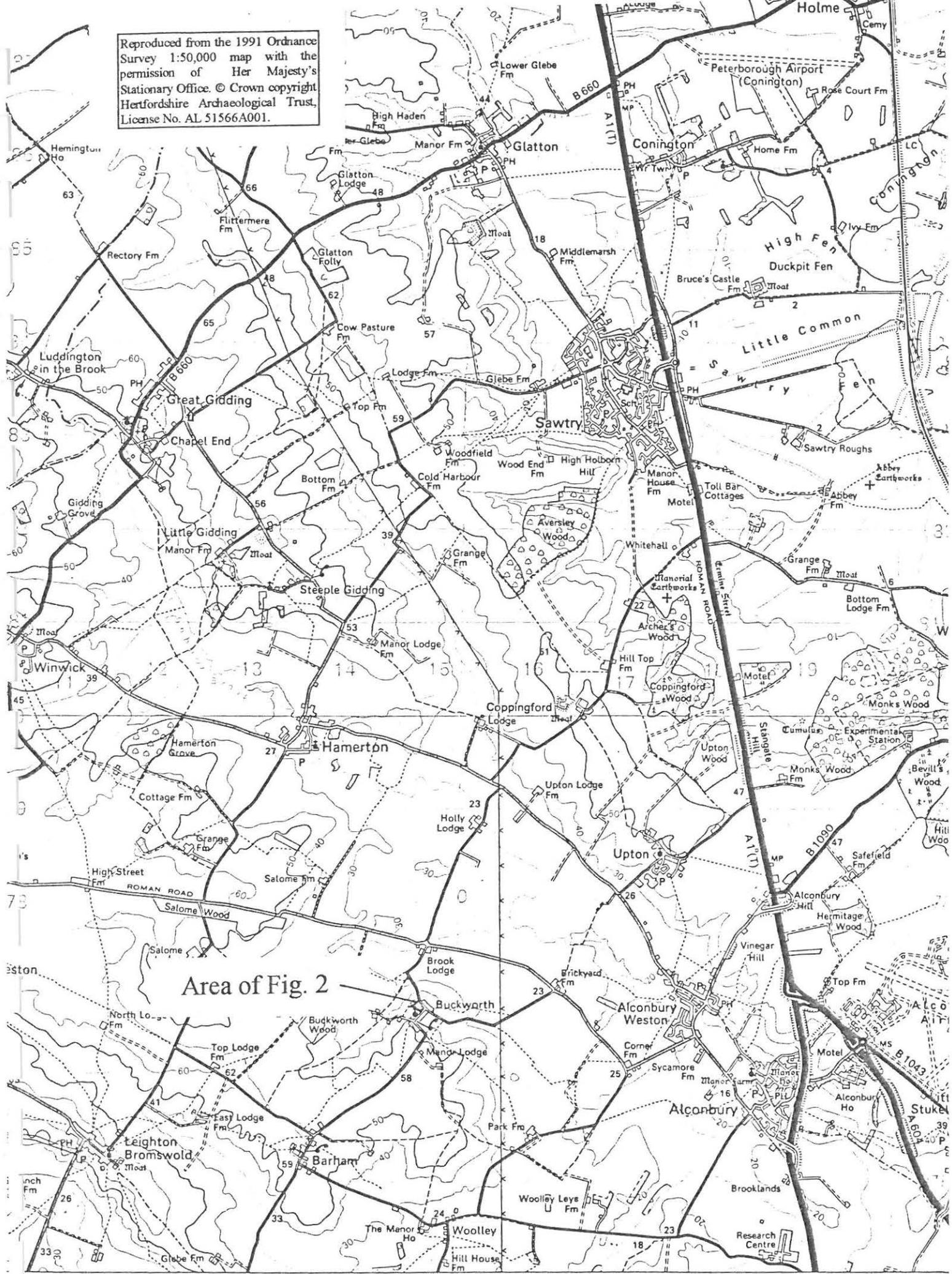
HAT is grateful to Ambrosden Court Limited for their co-operation and funding of the evaluation, and to their architects, Anthony Rickett Partnership.

HAT would also like to acknowledge the CCC CAO (in particular Mr. Simon Kaner) for their input into the project.

9 REFERENCES

Humphrey, R, *Land off Church Road and Hamerton Road, Buckworth, Cambridgeshire, An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, HAT Report No.292, 1997

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Area of Fig. 2

Fig. 1 Site Location Plan

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 13 19 20
 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73
 Huntingdon 14 km or 9 miles
 St Neots 14 km or 9 miles A1(1)

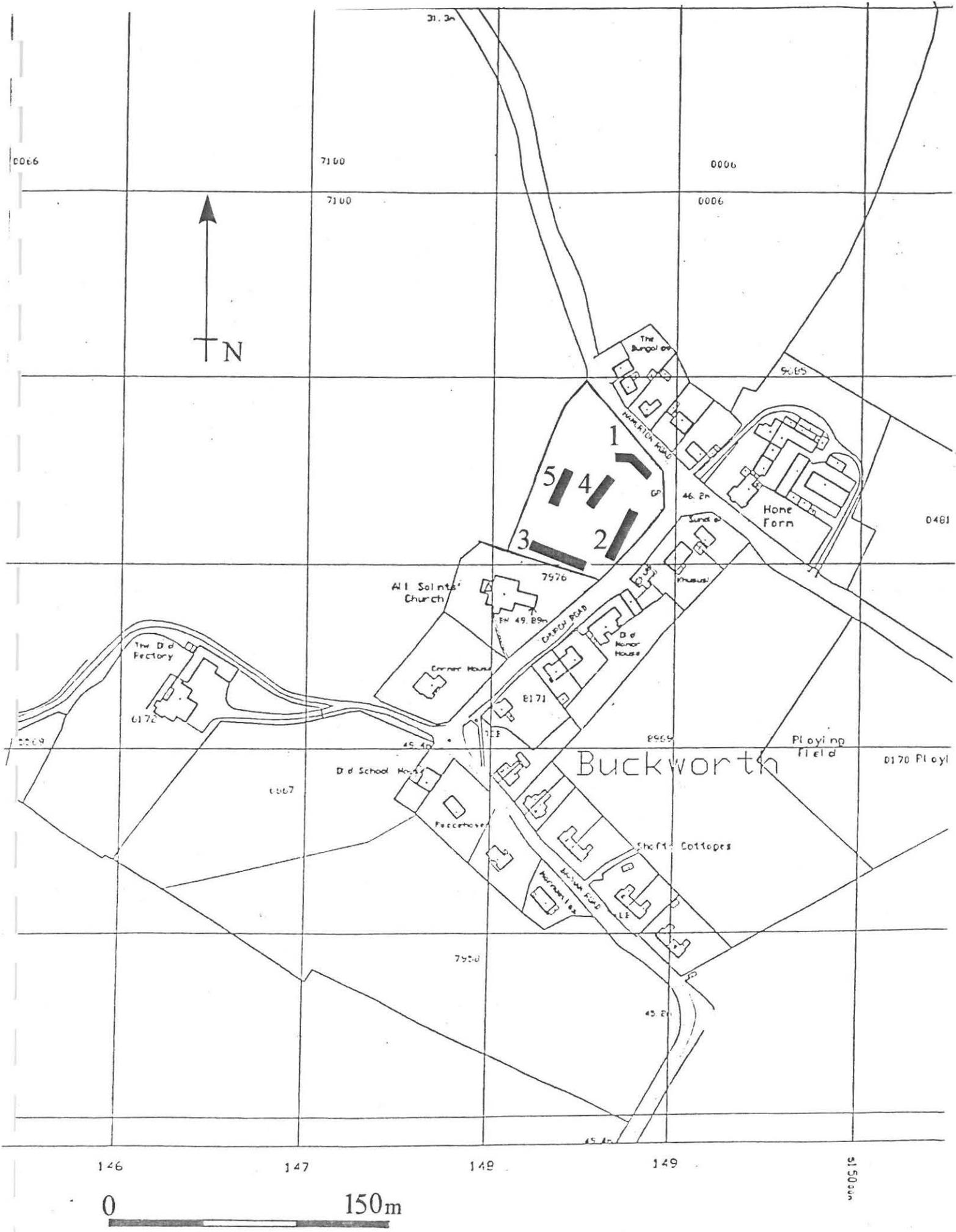


Fig. 2 Trench Location Plan

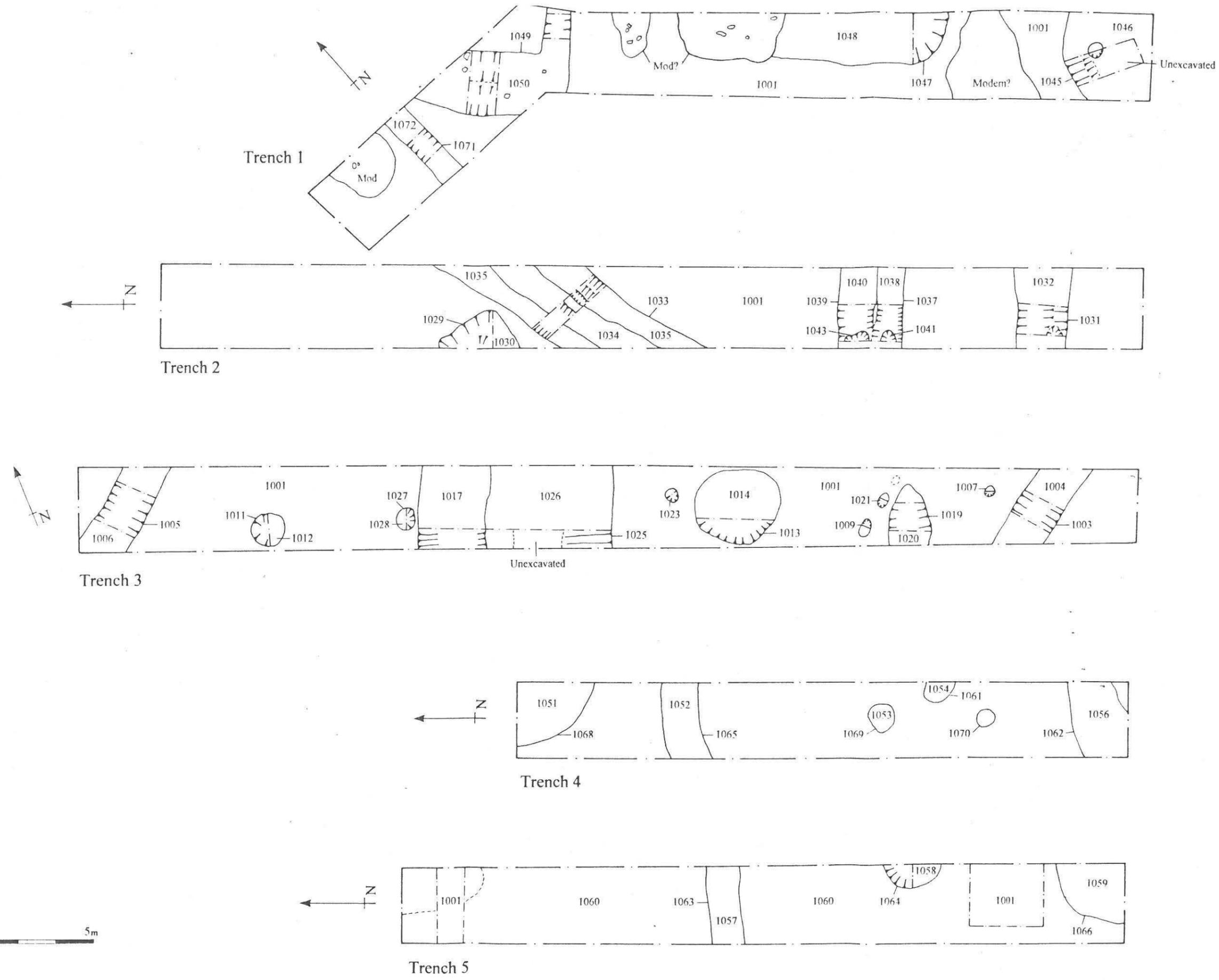


Fig. 3 Plan of Archaeological Features

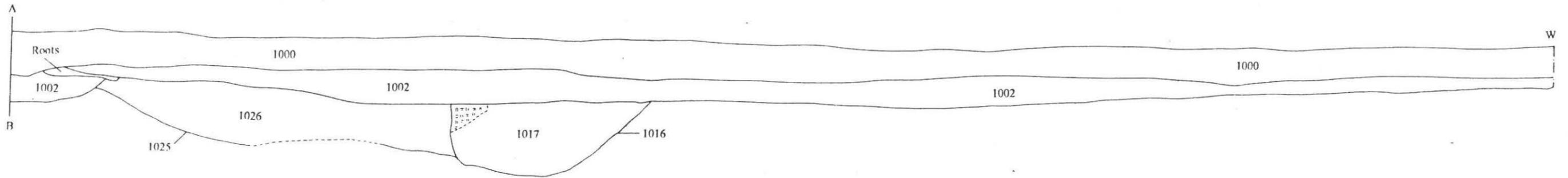
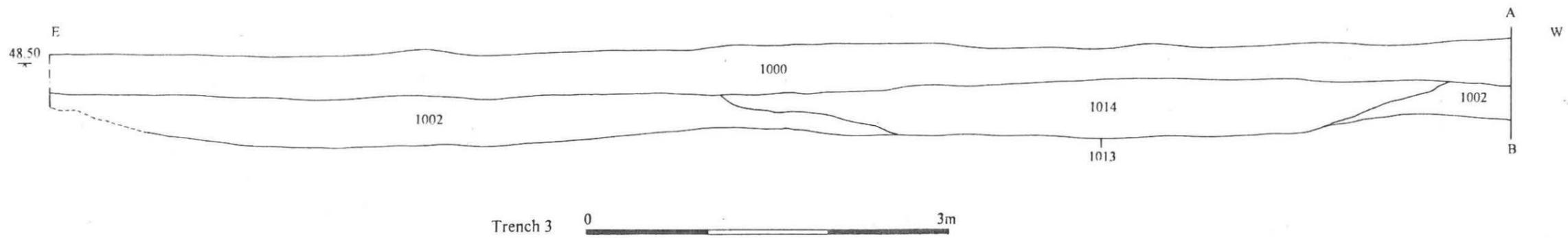
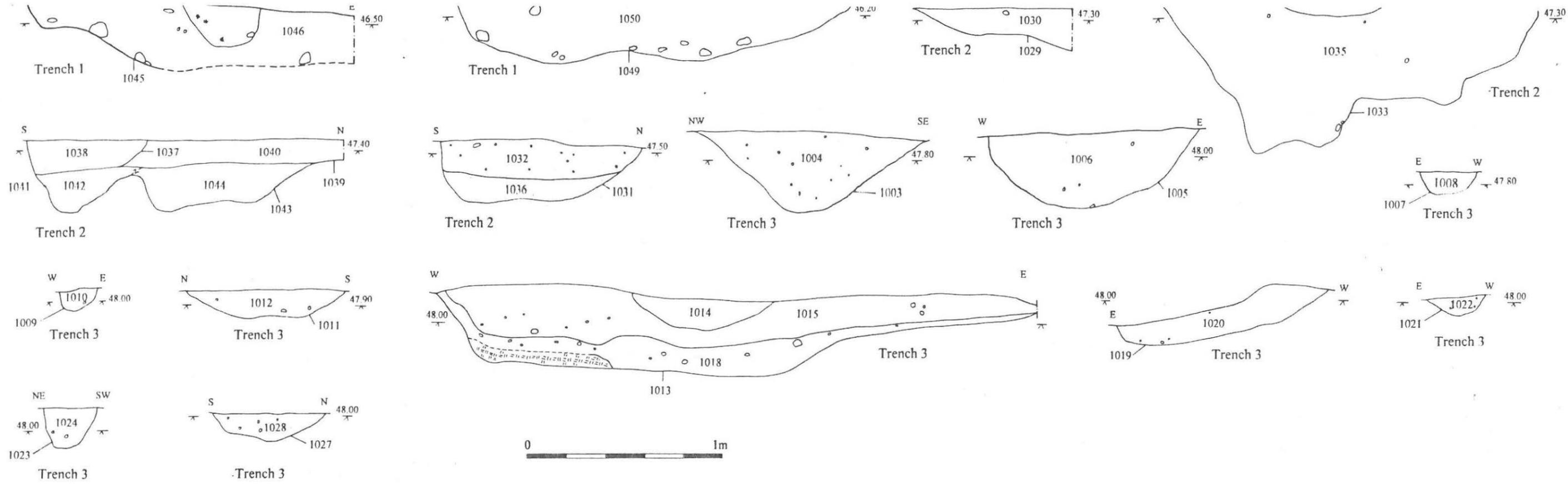


Fig. 4 Sections Through Archaeological Features

10 APPENDICES

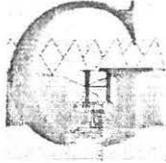
Concordance of Finds Site Code HAT 282

Context	Tr	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	Building Material	Animal Bone	Other
1000	2	Unstrat	Post Med (includes some RB)	14 sherds (299g)			
1002	All	General Subsoil	Medieval	6 sherd (54g)		2 frags (38g)	1 small patinated flint chip (1g)
1004	3	Fill of ditch 1003	?Roman (includes stamped Samian) 2nd/3rd century	8 sherds (58g)		6 degraded frags (84g)	2 small patinated flint chips (2g) 1 Fe nail shank
1006	3	Fill of ditch 1005	?Roman 4th/5th century	5 sherds (22g)		1 small frag (1g)	
1008	3	Fill of post hole 1007	Late medieval 15th/16th century	2 sherds (14g)			
1010	3	Fill of post hole 1009				4 frags of (44g)	2 small notched patinated flints (4g)
1012	3	Fill of pit 1011	Med 13th/14th	2 sherds (4g)		1 frag (1g)	
1014	3	Upper fill of pit/ditch 1013				1 small frag (2g)	4 frags from a clay loomweight (58g)
1015	3	Lower fill of pit ditch 1013				5 fragments (54) plus small bones from perhaps a pheasant	
1017	3	Fill of linear cut 1016	?Medieval	2 sherds (12g)	3 small frags (burnt) (28g)	5 frags (68g)	

Context	Tr	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	Building Material	Animal Bone	Other
1026	3	Fill of linear cut	High Medieval 12-14th	25 sherds (300g)		4 frags (52g)	3 lumps of slag (180g) 1 very large flat headed nail (52g)
1030	2	Fill of pit 1029	Medieval (pot 9th/11th century)	9 sherds (132g)	1 fragment of faced stone of limestone (scorched) (270g)	10 frags (224g) includes sheep butchery (saw) marks evident	
1032	2	Upper fill of ditch 1031	?Roman 3rd/4th century	4 sherds (48g)			
1035	2	Lower fill of ditch 1033				1 small fragment (1g)	
1038	2	Fill of linear slot 1039	?Roman/Medieval	3 sherds (24g)	1 fragment of roof tile (square peg) (62g)	11 fragments (86g) includes sheep	
1040	2	Fill of linear slot 1039	?Roman/Medieval	5 sherds (111g)	2 fragment of faced limestone (scorched) one large (2232g) other (100g)	21 frags (182g) includes cow	
1042	2	Fill of post hole 1043	?Roman/Medieval	2 sherds (6g)	8 frags of tile (676g) floor tile present	4 frags (66g) sheep	1 frag of mussel shell (1g) 1 fe nail 1 fe object
1044	1	Fill of post hole 1043			1 frag of tile (20g)	4 frags of bone (14g)	
1046	1	Fill of fill of pit 1045	Post Medieval 18th/19th century	17 sherds (494g)			
1048	1	Fill of pit 1047	Late medieval 15th/16th century	17 sherds (834g)	2 frags of floor tile (222g)	2 frags of bone (174g) includes pig	3 frags of mussel shell (6g) 1 Fe nail

Context	Tr	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	Building Material	Animal Bone	Other
1050	1	Fill of linear cut 1049	Late medieval 15th/16th century	14 sherds (318g)	20 frags of tile, 19 of which are floor tile (3344g)	2 frags of bone (16g)	
1052	4	Fill of pit 1065	?Roman/Medieval	6 sherds (88g)	1 fragment of scorched limestone (92)		
1054	5	Fill of ditch 1061	Medieval	2 large sherds from same vessel ?St Neots ware large storage jar (632g)			
1056	4	Fill of ditch 1062	?Roman/Medieval	2 sherds (6g)			
1057	5	Fill of pit 1063	?Roman/Medieval	4 sherds (22g)		2 frags (10g)	
1058	5	Fill of pit 1064				9 frags (142g)	
1060	5	Layer		1 sherd (6g) (burnt)		3 frags (208) includes cow	

The Hertfordshire Group



Environmental Sciences Division

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Archaeozoological Assessment

A Report by Roger T.Jones BSc. November 1997
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Archaeozoological Assessment

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The site, and its environs are described in detail elsewhere.

1.0.1 Methodology

All together twenty archaeological contexts yielded eighty eight mammalian and avian bones and fragments by conventional hand picking, no recovery by sieving bulk samples was attempted.¹

The skeletal remains were identified, using the R.T.Jones Reference Collection, context by context and a record made using anatomical nomenclature described by Hughes et al. 1952, Romer 1970 and Getty 1975. Where measurements were possible and would aid comprehension of the collection these have been made following Jones et al. 1974 and 1976. Where possible these measurements equate to those described in Von den Driesch 1976. In addition the general condition of the bone was noted if not "normal" and a record was made of any third party modifications to the surface such as gnawing and butchery marks. This record can be found in the **Faunal Collection** at 4.0

2.0 DISCUSSION

Overall the assemblage is small and scattered over a relatively high number of contexts for its size. In turn this means that little can be determined with any certainty about the local animal husbandry, subsequent product utilisation and waste disposal. Only salient points are therefore discussed.

The Iron Age Context 1015, the lower fill of the pit/ ditch 1013 and below the upper fill at context 1014 is of some interest. The recovery of one almost complete bird skeleton and two further bone from a different individual would indicate that the deposit is undisturbed. Both of these specimens were identified as belonging to the pigeon family (*Columba sp.*). A comparison of the humerus of the adult skeleton, which had a maximum overall length

¹ Pers. Comm Claire Halpin Herts Archaeological Trust.

of 43.9 mm., with modern reference specimens of the Rock/Stock Dove (*Columba livia/oenas*) (maximum humerus lengths of 46.1mm from the Orkney Isles to the north of its habitat range and further south from Normandy in France, 46.6 mm), together with that of a domestic racing pigeon (*Columba domsetica*) at 48.9mm. Indicates that this specimen is more likely to be that of a dove. Present habitat preferences of these two wild doves are similar, Burton, P.J.A. 1981., preferring to nest in rocky cliffs or the man made form, the derelict walls of an old building, and sometimes in the hollows of tall old trees. The nesting habits of these doves leads them to be often found in association dereliction phases of medieval castles and abbeys. However, the recovery of an almost complete skeleton, indicating little disturbance, from the lower fill of an Iron age structure is unusual and if the structure is firmly dated to the Iron Age this find is of some import.

The potentially Roman Context 1004 produced three fragments of a cattle (*Bos sp.*) metacarpal which fitted together. All of these fragments showed heavy leaching in low pH (acidic) conditions. Further the black mottling could indicate that at some point in time the deposit that they were in had been water logged. This would fit with the context being a ditch which at some point, over a reasonable amount of time (years) had been filled with water. Unfortunately the other three bone fragments from this context did not show the same conditions. The effects of leaching and water logging should be looked for in the other finds from this context with a view to its integrity and spatial position in relation to the linear slot 1039 since similar leaching was found on a single fragment in context 1040, dated as Medieval.

In context 1044 and context 1050 a foetal radius and femur of cattle were recovered. Foetal material from cattle is relatively uncommon, being fragile and early destroyed over time. In view of the over all small size of this bone collection to find two such bones would be very unusual indeed and would either point towards some difficulty with the husbandry method on this site or more likely that the contents of the two context having been disturbed and thereafter mixed.

In general terms the major domestic "farm" animals are represented, with cattle, horse (*Equus sp.*), Ovicaprid (*Ovis/Capra sp.*) which are all probably sheep rather than goat and pig (*Sus sp.*) as well as the effects of gnawing and bone digestion probably indicating dog (*Canis sp.* domestic). There was clearly the local breeding of cattle, indicated by the foetal bones in context's 1044 and 1050 as well as the young calf in context 1038 and juvenile to adult material through out other contexts. Chopping and marks left by small knives point to local utilisation for food. There is good representation of all of the major domesticates for the size of sample. This could indicate larger deposits of animal bone in the un-excavated areas of the site.

3.0 REFERENCES

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4.0 FAUNAL CATALOGUE

Context 1002

- 1 Cattle second phalanx (adult)
- 1 Ovicaprid cervical vertebrae epiphysis not fused (juvenile)

Context 1004

- 1 Unidentifiable fragment
- 2 Large Ungulate skull fragments probably cattle

3 Fragments which fit together to form the proximal to mid-shaft of a cattle metacarpal. All of these fragments show heavy signs of mineral leaching and subsequent erosion of the bone surface. This is most commonly associated with a low pH value at some point post deposition. The black mottling may indicate that the deposit that this material came from had also been water logged at some point in time. The animal that this bone came from would have been small in stature. (measurements PB 51.3 mm and PD 28.6 mm.).

Context 1006

- 1 Unidentifiable fragment

Context 1010

- 1 Fragment of humerus probably cattle or horse
- 1 Proximal fragment of the medial small metacarpal from a right metacarpal of a large horse. The bone has been gnawed.

Context 1014

- 1 Fragment of an ovicaprid femur

Context 1015

1 Rib fragment probably cattle

2 Fragments from the same cattle axis (2nd cervical vertebra). This animal was relatively small.

2 Fragments from the same 1st phalanx of a large pig. The bone shows signs of gnawing and considerable erosion. The latter is often equated with bones which have passed through a carnivores gut.

3 Unidentifiable fragments.

2 Partial skeletons of pigeon or dove (*Columba sp.*) one individual being adult and one a juvenile. The juvenile is represented by a 3rd metacarpal and a coracoid while the adult is much more complete comprising :- the sternum, furcula, pelvic, right and left femora, right and left tibio-tarsi, right and left tarso-metatarsi, right and left scapula, right and left coracoids, a humerus, ulna and radius, right and left 3rd metacarpals, 6 vertebrae and 2 phalanxes.

The maximum length of the adult humerus is 43.9 mm and has been compared to a selection of modern reference material (R.T.Jones Reference Collection) as follows:-

Rock Dove/Stock (*Columba livia/oenas*) from the Orkney Isles 1971 specimen number 0000375 measures: 46.1 mm

The same species from Normandy, France 1973 specimen number 0000664 measures : 46.6 mm

A domestic racing pigeon (*Columba domestica*) from Egham, Surrey 1971 specimen number 0000373 measures: 48.9 mm.

Context 1017

3 Fragments which are all probably from the same cattle rib.

1 Fragment of cattle mandible

1 Left humerus from a medium sized adult pig Trochlead length (10 or LT): 26.2mm

Context 1026

1 Cattle rib

1 Adult cattle second phalanx

1 Adult cattle Molar₃

1 Large ungulate fragment.

Context 1030

1 cattle Os coxa

1 Dorsal end of a cattle thoracic vertebrae showing chop marks to its spine medio-laterally

1 Large ungulate vertebrae fragment

1 Large ungulate scapula fragment from the vertebral boarder.

1 Cattle rib

1 Fragment of a tibia probably cattle

1 Large ungulate lower limb fragment

1 Unidentified fragment

2 Ovicaprid rib fragments one showing light chop marks

1 Ovicaprid right maxilla fragment with molar¹ just erupting.

Context 1035

1 Unidentifiable fragment

Context 1038

2 Fragments of the same left cattle mandible, with premolar₂ and premolar₃ erupting and premolar₄ just in ware (vary young calf).

7 Large ungulate fragments

1 Cattle rib

1 Metacarpal mid-shaft from a robust Ovicaprid with the following dimensions: MB 15.9mm and MD 12.0 mm.

Context 1040

1 Cattle thoracic vertebrae spine.

1 Ovicaprid rib with knife cut marks

1 Cattle maxilla (comprised of 6 fragments) with all teeth in heavy ware (adult).

1 Cattle maxilla (comprised of 7 fragments) with premolar² just in ware and a very porous bone structure (a juvenile)

1 Large ungulate fragment showing the same kind of leaching and erosion as the material from context 1004

4 Large ungulate fragments.

1 Ovicaprid distal tibia fragment (adult)

1 Calcined small ungulate lower limb fragment.

Context 1042

1 Mid-shaft of a pig tibia.

Context 1044

1 Adult ovicaprid metacarpal with a distal measurement of DB = 24.7

1 Large ungulate fragment

1 Small ungulate fragment

1 Foetal cattle radius

Context 1046

1 Tibia fragment probably pig.

1 Proximal end of a large ovicaprid radius

1 Distal end of a large ovicaprid humerus

The latter two bones may be from the same animal and have formed a "cut of meat" since there are chop marks and knife cut to both which would be relevant.

Context 1048

1 Right cattle humerus with chopping marks to its anterior distal surface.

1 Adult ovicaprid 1st phalanx showing some gnawing marks

Context 1050

1 Foetal cattle femur (at about the same stage of growth as the specimen in context 1044

1 Right ovicaprid scapula with the glenoid dimensions of GD = 20.5 mm and GB = 32.2 mm.

Context 1057

1 Small ungulate fragment

1 Cattle deciduous premolar₄

Context 1058

1 Cattle cervical vertebra with neither condyle fused

1 Fragment of cattle cervical vertebra

2 Large ungulate vertebral epiphysis (not related to the first item in this context)

4 Large ungulate rib fragments.

Context 1060

1 Cattle horn core fragment

1 Well worn horse molar²

1 Juvenile cattle left scapula. The bone shows repeated knife cuts in the area of the bone between the acromion process and the glenoid fossa.

CERAMIC REPORT FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT SPALDWICK, CAMBRIDGESHIRE (FIAT 282)

By E.J. Peckma BA, MSc

A total of 146 sherds weighing 2360g from the evaluation at Spaldwick were examined.

The assemblage was analysed by context. The sherds were divided into ware types by macroscopic examination. Sherd number and sherd weight for each ware was recorded. Vessel form was noted where possible and any points of interest such as sherd condition, sooting and re-use were also noted.

No detailed fabric description was undertaken and no comparison with other material was attempted. The spot dates given are derived entirely from the ceramic types present in each context.

The pottery quantification records form part of the site archive and are held by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust.

CATALOGUE

c.1002 General subsoil (not trench specific) 1 sherd 25g

1 unglazed, quartz tempered base sherd from a wheelmade Black Burnished 2 ware vessel. Both surfaces of the sherd are highly burnished. Date range early 2nd to mid 3rd century.

Context spot date: early 2nd to mid 3rd century.

TRENCH 1

c.1046 Fill of pit 1045 16 sherds 347g

1 unglazed shell tempered rim sherd from a wheelmade cooking pot. The sherd is slightly abraded. Date range 10th to 12th century.

1 unglazed, quartz tempered base sherd from a wheelmade cooking pot. Date range 12th to 13th century.

1 rim, 6 body and 3 base sherds from unglazed quartz tempered wheelmade bowls and jars. Date range 15th to 16th century.

2 iron washed glazed, wheelmade body sherds from stoneware vessels. Date range 17th to 18th century.

1 wheelmade body sherd from a tin glazed jug. Date range 17th to 18th century.

1 glazed body sherd from a wheelmade bowl. Date range 18th to 19th century

Context spot date: 18th-19th century.

c.1048 Fill of pit 1047

19 sherds 676g

1 rim and 1 body sherd from quartz tempered, wheelmade, cooking pots. The sherds are slightly abraded. Date range 13th to 14th century.

4 rim and 16 body sherds from quartz tempered, wheelmade oxidised jugs; at least two different vessels are represented. Many of the sherds have fresh breaks and several sherds join. Date range 15th to 16th century.

Context spot date: 15th to 16th century.

c.1050 Fill of linear cut 1049

16 sherds 302g

1 unglazed, shell tempered body sherd from a wheelmade cooking pot. Date range 10th to 12th century.

3 unglazed, quartz tempered body sherds from wheelmade cooking pots. Date range 12th to 14th century.

2 unglazed, quartz tempered sherds which join to form the profile of a wheelmade bowl. The surfaces are heavily pitted and abraded. Date range 15th to 16th century.

1 rim and 6 body sherds in a quartz tempered fabric from unglazed, wheelmade, oxidised vessels. Date range 15th to 16th century.

1 glazed body sherd and 1 rim sherd of quartz tempered wheelmade oxidised vessels. The rim sherd is part of a handled bowl form. Date range 15th to 16th century.

1 fine textured, white fabric rim sherd with a rich all over green glaze from a wheelmade bowl. The sherd is probably a Surrey product. Date range 15th to 16th century.

Context spot date: 15th to 16th century.

TRENCH 2

c.1000 Unstratified

13 sherds 180g

3 unglazed, shell tempered body sherds from wheel made vessels. One sherd is 1.5cm thick with rilling and an incised wavy line on its outer surface. All sherds are likely to be South Midlands shell-tempered wares. Date range 4th to early 5th century.

1 unglazed granitic (quartz and mica) tempered body sherd from a handmade (?) vessel. The sherd is too small to ascribe a date to.

2 rim and 5 body sherds in an unglazed, quartz tempered fabric from wheelmade Black Burnished 2 wares. Date range early 2nd to mid 3rd century.

1 rim and 1 body sherd from fine tempered white fabric wares with dark brown and black all over slip. Both sherds are likely to be Nene Valley colour-coated wares. Date range mid 2nd to early 5th century.

Spot date for the unstratified material is 3rd to late 4th/early 5th century.

c.1030 Fill of pit 1029

9 sherds 126g

3 unglazed, shell tempered body sherds from wheelmade vessels. One sherd is thick walled (1.5cm) and has rilling on its outer surface. All sherds are likely to be South Midlands shell-tempered wares. Date range 4th to early 5th century.

3 unglazed, quartz tempered body sherds from Black Burnished 2 ware vessels. 2 sherds have mortar on their surfaces and have heavily chipped surfaces. Date range early 2nd to mid 3rd century.

1 body sherd and 1 rim sherd in an unglazed, quartz tempered fabric from handmade cooking pots. The rim sherd has sooting on the rim and evidence of cooking residues on the internal surface. Date range 9th to 11th century.

1 unglazed, shell tempered body sherd from a handmade cooking pot. Sooting is present on the outer surface. Date range 9th to 11th century.

Context spot date: 9th to 11th century.

c.1032 Upper fill of ditch 1031

4 sherds 44g

2 unglazed, quartz tempered body sherds from wheelmade Black Burnished 2 ware vessels. One sherd has burnished bands and lattice decoration on its outer surface. Date range early 2nd to mid 3rd century.

1 unglazed, quartz tempered body sherd from a wheelmade Greyware vessel. A band of white slip or paint is present on the outer surface. Date range 1st to 4th century.

1 unglazed, wheelmade rim sherd from a fine tempered white ware vessel. The surfaces have an all over brown slip. This product is likely to be a Nene Valley colour-coat ware. Date range mid 2nd to late 4th/early 5th century.

Context spot date 3rd to 4th century.

c.1038 Fill of linear slot 1039

3 sherds 23g

1 rim sherd and 2 body sherds in a shell tempered fabric from unglazed, wheelmade jars. All the sherds are likely to be South Midlands shell-tempered wares. Date range 4th to early 5th century.

Context spot date: 4th to early 5th century.

c.1040 Fill of linear slot 1039

6 sherds 104g

2 rims and 1 body sherd in a shell tempered fabric from wheelmade, unglazed jars. All sherds are likely to be South Midlands shell tempered wares. Date range 4th to early 5th century.

2 rims and 1 base sherd from unglazed, wheelmade, fine tempered, white fabric ware vessels. All sherds have an all over brown slip. All sherds are likely to be Nene Valley colour-coat wares. Date range mid 2nd century to early 5th century.

Context spot date 4th to early 5th century.

c.1042 Fill of post hole 1041

1 sherd 7g

1 unglazed, shell tempered body sherd from a wheelmade (?) vessel. The sherd is likely to be a South Midlands shell-tempered ware. Date range 4th to early 5th century.

Context spot date: 4th to early 5th century.

TRENCH 3

c.1004 Fill of ditch 1003

7 sherds 54g

5 unglazed, quartz tempered body sherds from wheelmade burnished vessels. All the sherds are likely to be Black Burnished 2 wares. Date range early 2nd to mid 3rd century.

1 unglazed, quartz tempered body sherd from a wheelmade Greyware vessel. Date range 1st to 4th century.

1 base sherd from a Samian vessel. The lower surface has part of a stamp impression on the surface. Date range 1st to 3rd century.

Context spot date 2nd to 3rd century.

c.1006 Fill of ditch 1005

5 sherds 22g

1 unglazed, quartz tempered body sherd from a wheelmade Greyware vessel. Date range 1st to 4th century.

1 unglazed, shell tempered body sherd from a wheelmade (?) vessel. The sherd is abraded. Date range 4th to 5th century.

3 unglazed, quartz tempered body sherds from wheelmade vessels. All sherds are abraded. The abraded condition of the sherds and the lack of any diagnostic features makes dating very difficult; they are likely to be Roman rather than medieval.

Context spot date: 4th to 5th century.

c.1008 ^{Pit} Fill of Ditch 1007

2 sherds 14g

1 unglazed, wheelmade body sherd from a fine tempered white fabric vessel. The sherd has a brown all over slip and is likely to be a Nene Valley colour-coat ware. The sherd is heavily abraded. Date range 2nd to early 5th century.

1 unglazed, quartz tempered body sherd from a late medieval, wheelmade, oxidised vessel. Date range 15th to 16th century.

Context spot date: the abraded condition of the Roman sherds implies that it is residual and that the date for the context is, therefore, taken from the presence of the late medieval sherd; 15th to 16th century.

c.1012 Fill of pit 1011

1 sherd 4g

1 unglazed body sherd in an oolitic limestone tempered fabric from a wheelmade vessel. The tempering of the fabric suggests that the sherd is Lyveden ware. Date range 13th to 14th century.

Context spot date: 13th to 14th century.

c.1017 Fill of linear cut 1016

1 sherd 5g

1 unglazed, quartz tempered body sherd from a handmade cooking pot. The sherd is abraded. The abraded condition of the sherd together with the lack of diagnostic features means that dating the sherd is impossible.

Context spot date: not ascertainable.

c.1026 Fill of linear cut

23 sherds 273g

1 rim and 1 body sherd of an unglazed, quartz tempered, wheelmade, burnished vessel. Both sherds are likely to be Black Burnished 2 ware. Date range early 2nd to mid 3rd century.

1 unglazed, quartz tempered body sherd from a wheel thrown Greyware vessel. Date range 1st to 4th century.

8 unglazed, quartz tempered body sherds from handmade cooking pots. Some sherds have a slight sooting. The date range for the sherds may be 9th to 11th century.

1 rim and 8 body sherds in an unglazed, shell tempered fabric from wheelmade (?) cooking pots. The rim has been pinched to give a pie crust effect. Date range 11th to 13th century.

2 glazed, quartz tempered body sherds from wheelmade (?) jugs. Date range 13th to 14th century.

1 large, glazed oolitic limestone tempered body sherd from a wheelmade jug. The tempering of the fabric indicates that the vessel is a Lyveden product. Date range 13th to 14th century.

Context spot date 13th to 14th century.

TRENCH 45

c.1002 General subsoil

5 sherds 32g

1 unglazed, shell tempered body sherd from a wheelmade (?) vessel. The sherd is likely to be a South Midlands shell-tempered ware. Date range 4th to 5th century.

3 unglazed, fine tempered, white fabric, wheelmade body sherds. The sherds show evidence of an all over brown slip on their surfaces. They are, however, heavily abraded. It is likely that they are Nene Valley colour coat wares. Date range mid 2nd to early 5th century.

1 unglazed, quartz tempered rim sherd from a wheelmade, burnished vessel. It is likely to be a Black Burnished 2 ware. Date range early 2nd to mid 3rd century.

Context spot date: 2nd to 4th century.

c.1052 Fill of pit 1065

7 sherds 87g

2 unglazed, fine tempered, white fabric, wheel thrown base sherds with an all over brown slip. Both sherds are likely to be Nene Valley colour-coat wares. Date range mid 2nd to early 5th century.

1 rim and 4 body sherds in an unglazed, shell tempered fabric from wheelmade vessels. All the sherds are likely to be South Midlands shell-tempered wares. Date range 4th to 5th century.

Context spot date: 4th to 5th century.

c.1056 Fill of ditch 1062

2 sherds 6g

1 rim and 1 body sherd in an unglazed, quartz tempered fabric from wheelmade burnished vessels. The sherds are likely to be Black Burnished 2 wares. Date range early 2nd to mid 3rd century.

Context spot date: early 2nd to mid 3rd century.

c.1057 Fill of pit 1063

4 sherds 23g

1 unglazed, quartz tempered base sherd from a wheelmade, burnished vessel. The sherd is likely to be Black Burnished 2 ware. Date range early 2nd to mid 3rd century.

3 unglazed, quartz tempered body sherds from wheelmade Greyware vessels. Date range 1st to 4th century.

Context spot date: 2nd to 3rd century.

c.1060 Layer

1 sherd 6g

1 unglazed, quartz tempered body sherd from a wheelmade Greyware vessel. Date range 1st to 4th century.

Context spot date: 1st to 4th century.

COMMENTS

Despite the relatively small size of many of the sherds in the assemblage, the majority of them are in good condition. The few abraded sherds have been commented on where they occur in the catalogue. The good condition of much of the ceramic material appears to indicate that most of the sherds are in their place of primary deposition.

The character of the ceramic forms present in the assemblage for all periods, together with the presence of sooting and food residues on some sherds indicates that the assemblage is domestic in nature rather than a more specialised activity.

2 December 1997