NEW NEPTUNE STORE, 21 HIGH STREET, HARSTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING REF: S/1072/17/FL

REPORT NO: R13516

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

New Neptune Store, 21 High Street, Harston, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority:	**South Cambridgeshire District Council**
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ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by Neptune Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at 21 High Street, Harston, Cambridgeshire (the former Three Horseshoes pub). This was in response to a planning condition placed on an application for development of the site for commercial and residential purposes. This reports presents the results of the evaluation. Three trial trenches were excavated between 17-19 December 2018.

The evaluation revealed a low density of archaeological features. The features represent a mixture of small pits and rooting with naturally accumulated fills including a small amount of pottery with a date range from 1050-1900 AD. The almost total absence of animal bone and low quantities of environmental material suggests that the pits were not rubbish pits but resulted from agricultural and/or gardening activity. Two small ditches represent a possible field boundary and drainage ditch, dating to the post-medieval period.

The site was most likely agricultural land at the periphery of the medieval settlement of Harston, and the presence of orchards in the area is well attested by historical maps.

The eastern/central part of the site was significantly truncated by modern demolition and construction and it is likely that no archaeological features survive in this area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

1.1.1 Neptune Ltd received planning permission (ref S/1072/17/FL) for the demolition of side and rear extensions and stores, refurbishment of the original building including change of use from use class A3 (restaurant) to use classes A1 (shop), B1 (office) and B8 (storage and distribution) and the erection of a new wing adjoining the rear of existing building. The proposed development also comprises the erection of two residential dwellings.

1.1.2 In line with the National Planning Policy Framework 2018, Paragraph 128, and with Policy CH/2 of the adopted Local Development Framework 2007, a condition (no.11) was placed on the planning consent requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the development taking place. The first phase of this work was an archaeological evaluation to assess the survival, nature and significance of potential heritage assets on the proposed development site.

1.1.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) was commissioned by Neptune Ltd to undertake the programme of archaeological evaluation in response to an archaeological brief written by Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (CCCHET 2017, updated November 2018).

1.1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Meckseper 2018) required by the brief.

1.1.5 The aim of the evaluation was to identify, excavate and record the location, extent, date, character and state of preservation of any archaeological remains on the site which were likely to be threatened by the development, and to identify their significance in a local, regional and national context, as appropriate, with reference to the East Anglian regional research agendas: Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1. Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997); Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy

(Brown and Glazebrook 2000); Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Region (Medlycott and Brown 2008); Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011)

1.1.6 The aim of the evaluation was also to provide sufficient information to enable the formulation of a suitable management/strategy for the site's heritage assets, in light of the redevelopment proposals on the site's archaeology.

1.1.7 Following Transfer of Title, the site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire Archaeological Stores.

1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The site address is 21 High Street, Harston, CB22 7PX (Figure 1). The proposed development site lies at the southern end and east of the High Street of Harston, close to its junction with Station Road. It currently comprises a former public house near the street frontage and a rear plot put to grass and surrounded by mature trees. An outhouse of the public building had been demolished prior to the evaluation and building debris was present in spoil heaps on the site.

1.2.2 The site is bounded by the High Street to the east, pasture and trees to the south and west and further properties with generous rear gardens to the north.

1.2.3 The proposed development site covers an area of approximately 2500 square meters.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Harston lies in the valley of the River Cam or Rhee between a narrow tongue of former fenland lying between the Rivers Rhee and Granta, and the Hoffer Brook to the south-west (Baggs, Keeling and Meekings 1982). The historic core of the village lies on the eastern bank of the River Cam or Rhee and the A10 traverses the village from SW to NE, becoming the High Street in the northern and more modern part of the settlement. The modern village of Harston (including the proposed development site|) lies on fairly level ground between 10m and 20m AOD.

2.2 The underlying geology of the site is River Terrace Deposits, 1 to 2 - Sand and Gravel over West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation bedrock (BGS 2017).

2.3 No known geotechnical work has been undertaken on the site.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The proposed development site lies to the east of the medieval core of Harston along the main road of the A10 which forms the High Street of the village. Several cropmark sites have been recorded from aerial photographs along the course of the River Cam and excavations at Harston Mill to the west of the A10, and at Manor Farm to the south of the village have revealed extensive settlement evidence and field systems dating from the Bronze Age to the Saxon period.

3.2 The following archaeological background is collated from data in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). The numbers in brackets refer to the Historic Environment Record reference number of each heritage asset.

3.3 Undated

3.3.1 Several cropmark complexes (08963, 08944, 09224, 09602, 09526, 09653 and 09647) have been recorded through aerial photographic analysis to the south and west of the proposed development site. The cropmarks comprise enclosures, linear features and pits, and on morphological grounds are likely to be prehistoric to Roman in date, representing field systems and small settlement sites.

3.4 Prehistoric

3.4.1 Two Bronze Age palstaves (04374, 07980) were found c.1km to the south of Harston, close to the scheduled settlement site of Manor Farm (04530).

3.4.2 Here survey and evaluation (ECB1313) tested an extensive cropmark complex and revealed features of four main periods of occupation: Bronze Age, Late Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon. Late Mesolithic and Neolithic flint was found during fieldwalking and an evaluation recorded two Bronze Age ring ditches, and ditches which were part of field systems which extended from the Bronze Age through to the Iron Age and Roman periods.

3.4.3 Evaluation and excavation of another cropmark complex at Harston Mill to the

west of the A10, and c. 600m west of the proposed development site, revealed multiple phases of Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation, including round barrows, ring ditches, timber circles, domestic buildings and refuse pits (CB15256). A crouched burial which could be prehistoric or Saxon in date was recorded. Saxon settlement evidence was also found (see below).

3.5 Roman

3.5.1 A set of Roman tweezers (04362) was found at Harston Mill. Many of the yet unexcavated cropmark complexes along the River Cam, discussed above, may date to the Iron Age and Roman periods and represent small agricultural enclosures and farmsteads. Complex 01693 in particular has been tentatively dated to the Roman period. An Iron Age to Roman field system was identified at Harston Mill (CB15256) and Romano-British settlement evidence was excavated at Manor Farm (04530).

3.6 Saxon

3.6.1 Early to middle Saxon settlement evidence in the form of ditches, pits, postholes and three sunken-featured buildings were recorded at Harston Mill (CB14545). A Saxon spearhead (04375A) was found in Button End to the north-east of the proposed development site. Button End is also the location of several excavated burials, which may be Anglo-Saxon in date (Baggs, Keeling and Meekings 1982).

3.7 Medieval

3.7.1 Harston is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as a fairly large manor with 29 households[1]. The later medieval historic core of Harston village lies adjacent to the River Cam or Rhee and includes the 13th century parish church (MCB14880), and a medieval fishpond on the site of Harston Manor (12286). Most of Harston Manor is post-medieval in date. The proposed development site lies at the eastern edge of the main Cambridge - Royston road which in the medieval period was called the Portway (Baggs, Keeling and Meekings 1982).

[1] http://opendomesday.org/place/TL4150/harston/ [Accessed 13/12/2017]

3.7.2 Medieval ridge and furrow agricultural features are recorded to the south of Harston (MCB24064) and a levelled medieval or post-medieval earthwork has been identified from a cropmark shown on an aerial photograph dating to 1952 (MCB25915), c. 750m to the west of the site.

3.8 Post-Medieval - Modern

3.8.1 In the 15th century Harston had shrunk or around 4-6 tenements. By the Inclosure period in the late 18th century houses were lining the western side of the main Cambridge to Royston Road even though the long narrow closes that they occupied probably originated in the 14th century (Baggs, Keeling and Meekings 1982). Several public houses and cottages dating from the 17th-19th century are situated throughout the village and along its main roads.

3.8.2 The first edition OS map of 1885 shows the proposed development site as a parcel of land with two houses, set slightly back from the High Street, and open ground with mature trees to their rear. By 1901 the adjacent building had disappeared. It is possible that the building shown on the 1885 OS maps forms the core of the former Three Horseshoes public house that currently occupies the site

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised three 1.8m x 20m trial trenches, which was a 5% sample of the 2,500sqm development site. The trenches were distributed across the footprints of the proposed development (Figure 2). Trench 3 was nudged c. 2m westwards on site as it was positioned too close to the existing building.

4.1.2 Immediately after excavation Trench 3 and the eastern end of Trench 2 were subject to rapid flooding. The source for this was most likely a water leak within the disused building that had saturated the ground. Both trenches were photographed, and the areas backfilled. The only layers recorded in Trench 3 was modern disturbed ground with a large amounts of brick, concrete and plastic inclusions. Modern disturbances were also recorded in the central part of Trench 2, extended eastwards. The western end of Trench 2 was subject to archaeological excavation.

4.2 Excavation methodology

4.2.1 Ground reduction during the evaluation was carried out using a 14 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator was used to strip the excavation. Topsoil and other overburden of low archaeological value was removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed.

4.2.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

4.3 Recording and Finds Recovery

4.3.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or.

4.3.2 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to

constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus].

4.3.3 Contexts in Trench 1 were assigned numbers 100+, in Trench 2 200+, etc. Apart from this, the record numbers assigned to cuts, deposits and groups are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits excavated during the evaluation and excavation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

4.3.4 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector periodically. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession. Bucket sampling of topsoil and subsoil of each trench was undertaken and did retrieve a small number of pottery fragments in Trench 1.

4.3.5 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits and were used to keep a record of the excavation process.

4.4 Sampling Strategy

4.4.1 Discrete features were half-sectioned, photographed and recorded by a cross-section scaled drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20). Where large or significant finds assemblages were present, features were subsequently 100% excavated for finds.

4.4.2 Linear features were investigated by means of regularly-spaced slots amounting to 25% of their lengths. Where stratigraphic relationships between features could not be discerned in plan, relationship slots were also

excavated, and these were recorded as part of the GPS survey and noted on the relevant context sheets.

4.5 Environmental Sampling

4.5.1 A total of 2 bulk samples (generally 20-40 litres in volume) were taken to extract and identify micro- and macro-botanical remains. The aim of this sampling was to investigate the past environment and economy of the site, the diet of the ancient inhabitants and the agricultural basis of the settlement. An additional aim of the sampling was to recover small objects that are not readily recovered by hand-collection, such as metalworking debris and bones of fish and small animals. These samples were taken from sealed deposits.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper Archive

Context register sheets	5
Context sheets	55
Plan registers	0
Plans at 1:50	0
Plans at 1:20	0
Plans at 1:10	0
Plans at 1:5	0
Section register sheets	1
Section sheer register sheets	1
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	10
Trench record sheets	3
Photo register sheets	3
Small finds register sheets	0
Environmental register sheets	1

5.2 Digital Archive

Digital photos	202
GPS survey files	2
Digital plans	1
GIS project	0
Access database	1

5.3 Physical Archive

Struck flint	0
Burnt flint	0
Pottery	33 sherds, 401g
Ceramic building material (CBM)	46 fragments, 962g
Glass	0
Briquetage	0
Small Finds	0
Slag	0
Animal bone	0.2g
Shell	0
Environmental bulk samples (10 litre buckets)	2
Monolith samples	0
Other samples (specify)	0
Black and white films	0
Colour slides	0

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

6.1.1 Three trenches, measuring 1.8m by 20m each, were excavated across the footprint of the proposed buildings (Figures 2 and 3).

6.2 Overburden and Geological deposits

6.2.1 Overburden on this site consisted of a fine, loose and very dark humic topsoil (100), (200) and (300) a subsoil (101) and (201), which could possibly be termed a "garden soil", with a moderately compact mid-grey silt composition. The combined depth of the overburden ranged from 0.95m to 1.10m. Bucket sampling retrieved three fragments (158g) of post-medieval pottery from topsoil (100) and two fragments (19g) from subsoil (101).

6.2.2 In Trench 3 modern dump layers (302) and (303) up to 1m thick were located immediately below the topsoil and no subsoil was present.

6.2.3 The natural geology (102), (202) and (301) consisted of compact to loose mid-orange clayey, sandy gravel mottled with light grey patches.

6.3 TRENCH 1

6.3.1 Trench 1 (Figure 4, Plate 1, Plate 4) contained three pits [112], [116], [118], one modern geotechnical bore hole [120] and six tree throws [104], [106], [108], [110], [114] and [122].

6.3.2 Pits [112], [116] and [118] were of a similar size, ranging from 0.70m to 0.90m in length and diameter and 0.13m in depth, with regular, concave profiles (Plate 2). Pit [118] continued beyond the limit of excavation. Fill (111) of pit [112] contained two fragments (6g) of Huntingdon early medieval ware (AD 1050-1200), while fill (115) of pit [116] contained three fragments (6g) of post-medieval pottery. Environmental samples were taken from pits [112] and [116] (samples no 1 and 2 respectively). The samples contained a low number of degraded grains and fragmented charcoal. The material could have originated from discarded waste material from domestic or small-scale industrial fires. The samples also showed a high degree of modern bioturbation (Turner, see below). Sample <1> from pit [112] also contained two small fragments of unidentifiable animal bone.

6.3.3 All other features had irregular profiles with undercutting sides and were interpreted as tree throws (Plate 3). Features [104] and [108] each contained two fragments (18g and 15g) of early medieval pottery (c.AD1050-1300), which may have been incorporated into the fills through root action. Tree throw [122] contained a fragment (14g) of post-medieval cream ware.

6.3.4 Feature [120] was cut through subsoil (101) and most likely represents a modern geotechnical investigation pit.

6.4 TRENCH 2

6.4.1 Trench 2 (Figure 5, Plate 5) contained two ditches [212] and [218], three pits [214], [220] and [223] and a tree throw [216]. There was a high level of modern disturbance with a modern service [206] crossing the trench and large modern pits [204] and [208] in the eastern part of the trench (Plate 9).

6.4.2 Pits [214] and [220] were subcircular in shape, 0.8-1.10m in diameter with relatively steep sided, concave profiles and a depth of 0.30-0.40m. The pits contained no finds. Pit [220] was truncated by modern drain [210] (Plate 7).

6.4.3 Ditches [212] and [218] were 0.5m and 0.8m wide respectively and 0.12m and 0.30m deep. They were on differing alignments and ditch [212] terminated within the trench (Plate 6). Both ditches contained fragments of post-medieval CBM. Ditch [212] also contained three fragments (42g) of post-medieval pottery, including fragments of a chamber pot made in glazed red earthenware, dated c. 1650–1750.

6.4.4 Ditch [218] was truncated by treethrow [216]. The latter had a very irregular profile but contained the largest assemblage of pottery found on the site, which comprised 15 fragments (123g) of medieval pottery dating to 1200-1250.

6.4.5 Two large modern features [206] and [208] were located in the eastern half of the trench. These were cutting through the subsoil with steeply siding edges, >5m in diameter and a depth of >1.40m. The fills of the pits were mixed with modern waste such as plastic, concrete lumps, brick. A modern pit [223] was

also located in the NW edge of the trench. This was c. 0.80m in diameter and c.1m deep. It cut through the subsoil and was barely visible in plan.

6.5 TRENCH 3

6.5.1 Trench 3 was excavated and almost immediately backfilled, due to a rapid inflow of water, most likely from a burst watermain inside the disused pub (Plate 8).

6.5.2 No subsoil was present in Trench 3. Immediately below the topsoil were two thick layers of made ground (302) and (303) (Plate 9, Plate 10). Layer (302) was 0.65m thick and comprised brown silty clay with frequent concrete lumps, bricks, and fragments of ceramic drain pipe (not retained). Layer (303) below was 0.30m thick and comprised a more sterile whitish grey chalk rubble.

6.5.3 Natural clayey gravel was revealed at a depth of 1.20m below present ground level. No archaeological features were revealed.

7 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Post-Roman Pottery

By Chris Jarrett

Introduction

7.1.1 A total of 33 sherds/29 estimated number of vessels (ENV)/401g of post-Roman pottery were recovered from the archaeological work, of which none was unstratified. The pottery dates to the early medieval, medieval and post-medieval periods. The pottery is in a very fragmentary state, although most sherds could be assigned to a vessel type. The pottery shows little evidence of either abrasion (two sherds) or lamination (one sherd) and was probably deposited under secondary conditions. The assemblage was quantified by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight. The pottery was collected by hand as well as from one environmental sample (context [115], sample <2>). Pottery was recovered from nine contexts as small sized groups (fewer than 30 sherds).

7.1.2 The pottery was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20) and recorded in a database format file by fabric, form and decoration. The pottery types have been classified according to Spoerry (2016), while the later industrial fineware types have been catalogued according to the coding system used by the Museum of London (2014): no official coding system exists for the later pottery types in the Cambridgeshire area.

Fabric code	Common name	Date range		SC	ENV	Weight
Early Saxon pottery						
ESOSL	Early Saxon oolitic/ shelly limestone tempered	400	700	1	1	6
ESQO	Early Saxon quartz and organic tempered	400	700	1	1	4
ESQS	Early Saxon quartz and sandstone	400	700	1	1	12
ESQT	Early Saxon quartz tempered	400	700	2	2	38
ESSAN	Early Saxon sand tempered	400	700	1	1	5
Late Saxon and medieval pottery						

Fabric code	Common name	Date range		SC	ENV	Weight
NEOT	St Neots-type ware	875	1100	8	6	182
DNEOT	Developed-St Neots-type ware	1050	1250	3	3	16
MSGW	Medieval sandy greyware	1150	1500	1	1	2
MISC GL	Miscellaneous glazed ware	1150	1400	1	1	3
HUNFSW	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	1175	1300	44	28	344
GRIM	Grimston-type ware	1200	1500	7	7	61
Post-medieval pottery						
FREC	Frechen stoneware	1550	1700	1	1	158
GRE	Glazed red earthenware	1550	1900	2	1	95

Table 1: The pottery types. SC = Sherd count; ENV = Estimated number of vessels; Weight in grams.

Early Saxon

7.1.3 A small number of residual early Saxon sherds were recovered from the medieval pits, amounting to 6 vessel fragments. Most are small body sherds, some with external burnishing but a single jar was recovered from pit [215] (214) with a short simple upright rim. Early Saxon pottery has been recovered from other investigations within the town including West Street and the priory (Thompson 2017; MCB15820). Although the sherds are residual, they attest to contemporary activity in the vicinity.

Medieval

7.1.4 The combination of fabrics suggest that both of the pit features in Trench 2 ([213] and [215]) were likely to have been backfilled sometime during 13th century, however, the presence of St Neots-type ware vessels would indicate that activity was taking place on site, or in the near vicinity, during the 10th or 11th century. The range of pottery types identified can be well-paralleled in the town and immediate region (Thompson 2005 and 2017; Spoerry 2016, 58-9; Sudds 2018). The coarsewares are of local origin, dominated by Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware (HUNFSW). The abundance of HUNFSW and absence of Ely ware is notable. At the Permanex site to the north-west the coarsewares were dominated by Ely Ware, although the assemblage was analysed prior to the identification of HUNFSW as a type and given similarity of both, the 'Ely Ware' group probably also includes HUNFSW (Thompson 2005,108; Spoerry 2016, 58). The absence of Ely Ware in the current

assemblage could also be due to date. A small assemblage from Houghton to the west of St Ives was dominated by Ely Ware with much less HUNFSW, despite being closer to Huntingdon, but the assemblage also contained Potterspury wares and is consequently likely to be of 14th century date, when the production of HUNFSW had ceased (Spoerry 2016, 58).

7.1.5 The few glazed wares are comprised largely of Grimston-type ware (GRIM) from Norfolk. The unsourced glazed ware has a fine buff fabric with a grey core and has sparse very fine quartz and iron oxide inclusions, but identification is made difficult by the fact that the sherd is burnt. The range of form types is consistent with the period comprised of coarseware jars and glazed jugs. A few unglazed coarseware jugs were also recorded. The range of decoration identified can also be well-paralleled in the industries represented. No late medieval pottery was recovered, at least from the features uncovered.

Post-medieval

7.1.6 Just two post-medieval vessels were recovered during the evaluation, both unstratified. These comprise a Glazed red earthenware bowl or dish and a Frechen stoneware Bartmann jug. As identified at West Street the Glazed red earthenware vessel has a distinctive, complex 'bifid' rim (Sudds 2018).

Distribution

7.1.7 The distribution of the pottery is shown in Table 2.

Context	Cut	Feature type, etc.	Trench	No. of sherds	ENV	Wt (g)	Spot date	Pottery types (forms)
100	-	Top soil	1	3	3	158	1830–1900	REFW SPON1 (plate), SUND (tall rounded jar), TPW (plate)
101	-	Sub-soil	1	2	2	19	1805–1900	REFW (jar), TPW (unidentified)
103	104	Tree throw	1	2	2	18	C. 1050–1100	EMW (jar/cooking pot), NEOT (bowl)
107	108	Tree throw	1	2	2	15	1175–1300	HEDIC (jar/cooking pot), HUNFSW (unidentified)
111	112	Pit	1	2	2	6	1050–1200	HUNEMW jar/cooking pot), MISC (unidentified)

Context	Cut	Feature type, etc.	Trench	No. of sherds	ENV	Wt (g)	Spot date	Pottery types (forms)
115	116	Pit	1	3	3	6	1830–1900	ENGS BRST (unidentified), HUNFSW (unidentified), MISC (unidentified)
121	122	Tree throw	1	1	1	14	C. 1800–1830	CREA (flared bowl)
211	212	Ditch	2	3	3	42	C. 1650–1750	GRE (chamber pot, unidentified), HEDIF (jug)
215	216	Tree throw	2	15	11	123	C. 1200–1250	ENEMS (jar/cooking pot), MEMS (jar/cooking pot), ?SCAGS (jar/cooking pot), SCAMSW (jar/cooking pot), ?SEFEN (jar/cooking pot), SHW (jar/cooking pot)

Table 2: distribution of the pottery showing for each context pottery was recovered from the cut and feature type, the trench location and its quantification by the number of sherds, estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight in grams (Wt (g)), besides the pottery types and forms

Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

7.1.8 The medieval component of the assemblage generally fits the ceramic profile of South Cambridgeshire and has a similarity to the pottery recovered from Challis Green, Barrington (Spoerry 2016, 49–50) approximately 2miles/3km to the south-east of the study area. However, as the assemblage is in a fragmentary state and was mostly recovered from tree throws, then it is deemed to be of little significance. The post-medieval pottery consists of types typically found in Cambridgeshire. The pottery has the potential to date the deposits it was recovered from and to indicate early and later medieval activity on the study area or within its vicinity. As the assemblage consists of such a small quantity of pottery and with little meaning, then there are no recommendations for further work on the material.

7.2 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

By Amparo Valcarel

7.2.1 This small sized assemblage (46 fragments, 962 g) is characterised by post-medieval brick and abraded daub. The material was collected from fills (211) and (217) of Ditches [212] and [218] respectively. The fragmentary condition would suggest that it has been redeposited.

7.2.2 The application of a 1kg masons hammer and sharp chisel to each example ensured that a small fresh fabric surface was exposed. The fabric was examined at x20 magnification using a long arm stereomicroscope or hand lens (Gowland x10). As there was no Cambridgeshire ceramic building material fabric reference collection housed at PCA, the new fabric was prefixed by HAR followed by 1.

7.2.3 A single brick was collected from fill (211) of Ditch [212], this is made of fabric HAR1, a very fine highly calcareous yellow pale Gault or Kimmeridge clay fabric with highly dispersed small rose quartz (1700-1900). This “White Paver” is made out of locally exploited highly calcareous clays from the underlying Gault or Kimmeridge. These White Pavers are particularly common in the flooring of 19th century buildings throughout East Anglia (Ryan 1996). They are typically 35-40mm, with some thicker 50mm variants.

7.2.4 Examples from abraded and small daub fragments were found in fill (217) from Ditch [218]. The fragments are too small to determine their function.

Context	Cut	Fabric	Material	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date Mortar
211	212	HAR1	Yellow Gault or Kimmeridge White Pavers,	12	1600	1900	1800	1900	1800-1900	No mortar
217	218	3102	Abraded and small daub fragments	34	1500BC	1700	1500BC	1700	1500-1700	No mortar

Table 3: Ceramic Building Material

7.2.5 A review of this small assemblage showed that it mainly comprised yellow

paving brick, widely used in the 19th century throughout East Anglia (Ryan 1996), and small daub fragments, probably related to dumped episodes. No further work is recommended.

7.3 Animal Bone

Ryan Desrosiers

Introduction

7.3.1 One feature in Trench 1, pit [112], yielded animal bone. These remains, weighing a total of 0.02g, are comprised of taxa from the taxonomic order of mammals (Mammalia). This section details the assessment of these faunal remains and presents any recommendations for future archaeological mitigation.

Methodology

7.3.2 The animal bone recovered from Harston was identified, recorded, and quantified (NISP) to species level whenever possible. In the case of unidentifiable fragments, like long bone shaft fragments or vertebral fragments, classification into size classes (e.g. cattle sized, sheep sized, or rat sized) as per Rielly (2018) was attempted. During the recording of individual elements recovered, additional attributes including, species, bone portion, condition, taphonomy, pathology, or anthropogenic alteration to elements were noted. A scale (J-Scale CJ-4000) which is accurate to within a half a gram was used to ascertain weights of specimens. Specimens for which mass could not be determined using this equipment were assigned an assumed weight of 0.01g. Attempts were made by the analyst to refit all possible elements within contexts, with the total number of fragments being additionally noted. All specimens have been recorded within a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

7.3.3 All faunal remains from Harston were recovered through environmental sampling. Specimens found within environmental samples, have been subjected to flot processing, which separates heavy residue (e.g. stones, bone, or pottery) from lighter residue (e.g. charcoal, seeds, or insects) through submergence of soil samples into a closed circulating water system and

subsequent filtration using a >2µ mesh. All environmental samples were taken from sealed archaeological contexts at Harston and have not been processed using sodium bicarbonate ($CHNaO_3$) which is often used to treat and breakdown clayey soil.

Assemblage Description and Chronology

7.3.4 Evaluation trenching at Harston yielded 2 fragments of animal bones from one feature. No specimens recovered refit with one another. The species of any specimens recovered from Harston could not be determined.

7.3.5 Given the dearth of highly diagnostic elements within the assemblage present, the Harston assemblage is not statistically significant. Overall, the state of preservation of the Harston assemblage is relatively poor.

PHASE	TRENCH	CONTEXT	CUT	ENVIRO SAMPLE	FEATURE	SPECIES	WEIGHT (g)	FRAG COUNT	PART	ELEMENT
Medieval	Medieval	111	112	1	PIT	Unidentified	0.01	1	Shaft Fragment	UNID
Medieval	Medieval	111	112	1	PIT	Unidentified	0.01	1	Shaft Fragment	UNID
						TOTALS:	**0.02**	**2**		

Table 4: Specimens recovered from Harston

7.3.6 All fragments (both hand collected and sampled) display evidence of extraneous taphonomic factors influencing preservation, including possible acidic soil conditions. No specimens from Harston display direct evidence of human consumption or alteration.

Discussion and Conclusions

7.3.7 Very little can be gleaned analytically from the Harston faunal assemblage due to the distinct dearth of diagnostic elements. As these specimens are unidentifiable and unmodified, they provide no insight into local and regional subsistence practices within the East of England during the Medieval period.

7.3.8 Overall, at the current state of the assemblage, the potential for further analysis of the Harston faunal assemblage is almost non-existent. As such, all specimens would be prime for discard during the archival process.

7.3.9 If archaeological mitigation is undertaken in the future, further excavation in the vicinity of this site would not likely yield a reasonable quantity of animal bones and would not likely aid in informing a more comprehensive understanding of animal husbandry within Harston, and likely the surrounding area.

7.3.10 If archaeological mitigation is suggested, it is recommended that an environmental sampling regiment is undertaken to increase the likelihood of recovery of fish and microfaunal remains. If fish or small mammal bones are recovered from further archaeological mitigation at Harston, they should be subject to analysis by a relevant specialist.

7.4 Plant Macrofossils

Kate Turner

Introduction

7.4.1 This report summarises the findings of the rapid assessment of the environmental remains in two bulk soil samples collected during the archaeological evaluation of land at New Neptune Store, Harston. These samples were taken from the fills of two circular pits, [112] and [116], the context information for which is given in Table 5. A full catalogue of plant macrofossils is given in Appendix 3.

7.4.2 The aim of this assessment is to:

Give an overview of the contents of the assessed samples;

Determine the environmental potential of these samples;

Establish whether any further analysis is necessary.

Context No.	Cut No.	Trench	Type	Category	Enviro Sample	Interpretation
111	112	1	Fill	Pit	1	Natural infilling of circular pit
115	116	1	Fill	Pit	2	Natural infilling of circular pit

Table 5: Context information for environmental samples

Methodology

7.4.3 Two environmental bulk samples, of eight and five litres in volume, were processed using the flotation method; material was collected using a 300 µm mesh for the light fraction and a 1 mm mesh for the heavy residue. The heavy residue was then dried, sieved at 1, 2 and 4 mm and sorted to extract artefacts and ecofacts. The abundance of each category of material was recorded using a non-linear scale where '1' indicates occasional occurrence (1-10 items), '2' indicates occurrence is fairly frequent (11-30 items), '3' indicates presence is frequent (31-100 items) and '4' indicates an abundance of material (>100 items).

7.4.4 The light residue (>300 µm), once dried, was scanned under a low-power binocular microscope to quantify the level of environmental material, such as seeds, chaff, charred grains, molluscs and charcoal. Abundance was recorded as above. A note was also made of any other significant inclusions, for example roots and modern plant material.

Results

7.4.5 For the purposes of this assessment samples will be discussed individually, in order to assess environmental potential. Cultural material collected from the heavy residues has been catalogued and passed to the relevant specialists for further assessment. A full account of the sample contents is given in table 2.

7.4.6 Sample <1>, context (111), fill of Pit [112]

7.4.7 Recovery of environmental remains from Pit [112] was poor; charcoal was abundant in this feature with over one-hundred specimens reported, however fragment size was generally small (<2 mm), and less than ten pieces of a size for species identification (>4 mm in length/width) were extracted. Carbonised cereals were relatively rare; only a small number of barley (Hordeum sp.) and wheat (Triticum spp.) grains were present, along with several grains that were too damaged to be identified to species. No charred seeds or chaff were recognised.

7.4.8 The moderately sized mollusc assemblage was comprised of species common to open ground, including Cecilioides acicula and Vertigo pygmaea, along with shells of ecologically catholic snails from the genera Trichia sp. and Cochlicopa sp. A number of juvenile specimens were identified, along with snail eggs. Cecilioides acicula, a non-native subterranean species, is often interpreted as evidence of burrowing activity when found in archaeological deposits.

7.4.9 Animal bone was identified in the residue, along with shell. Cultural artefacts were absent.

7.4.10 Evidence of possible bioturbation was present in the form of modern seeds (duckweed, elder, bramble, rush), modern plant material and insect remains. A quantity of heavily fragmented coal and vitrified material was recovered from the flot residue.

7.4.11 Sample <2>, context (115), fill of pit [116]

7.4.12 Archaeobotanical material was sparse in sample <2>, charcoal was, again, present in moderate amounts, but few specimens of identifiable size were recovered, less than twelve in total. Barley, emmer/spelt wheat (Triticum dicoccum/spelta) and bread wheat (Triticum aestivum/durum) grains were identified in low numbers, but no more than ten specimens of each; several severely damaged grains were also reported. Seeds and chaff were again absent.

7.4.13 Snails were relatively infrequent, and a wide range of habitat specific taxa were encountered, including open ground species such as Vertigo sp. and Vallonia sp., catholic snails from the genus Trichia and Cochlicopa, wetland snails (Oxyloma sp.) and species common to dry, exposed places (Pupilla muscorum).

7.4.14 Cultural artefacts were limited to a quantity of fragmented pot, encountered in the heavy fraction. Roots, burrowing snails, modern plant material and insect remains were all present in the flot, suggesting the likelihood of post-

depositional disturbance.

Discussion

7.4.15 The small grain assemblage recovered from the Harston samples suggests the possibility of cereal crops including barley, naked wheat and emmer/spelt wheat being cultivated or consumed in the local area. Overall concentrations of this material are very low however, with no more than ten specimens of each type of grain being recovered from each sample, thus this cannot be used to suggest that significant amounts of production or consumption were being undertaken. A proportion of the recovered grains were too heavily degraded for species to be identified, likely as a result of exposure to prolonged, or high temperature combustion, resulting in a loss of diagnostic features. Chaff and weed seeds were absent, which may indicate that sieving and winnowing is being undertaken elsewhere, or perhaps that this material did not survival well during burning. The cereals found in this assemblage may have been accidentally charred during cooking or may perhaps be the remains of spoilt grains that were disposed of. The charcoal recorded in these deposits is heavily fragmented, and likely to constitute the spent fuel from domestic or small-scale industrial fires. The molluscs assemblage is too small to be environmentally diagnostic.

Conclusions and Recommendations for further work

7.4.16 A rapid assessment of the archaeobotanical remains in the Harston bulk samples has shown that ecofact preservation is generally poor, and therefore further work is not recommended. A summary of this assessment should be included in any future publications.

7.4.17 A rapid assessment has shown that charcoal, and potentially other carbonised plant remains, have the potential to be preserved on this site. Should future interventions be undertaken this should be reflected in the environmental sampling strategy, and samples should, where possible, be collected from well-sealed deposits, with little evidence for post depositional disturbance.

7.4.18 If large amounts of snails are encountered, contiguous bulk samples should be collected from section, of at least one litre every ten centimetres.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The evaluation at the New Neptune Store, Harston, revealed a low density of medieval to post-medieval archaeological features in the form of five pits and two ditches. It also recorded several tree throws and root disturbances as well as large modern truncations in the central/eastern part of the site.

8.2 The pits were dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods with pottery ranging from the 12th to the 19th century in date. Ditch [212] contained a fragment of post-medieval yellow brick and fragments of 17th-18th century pottery. Its alignment is parallel to existing field boundaries and it is possible that this ditch represents an earlier plot boundary, even though no subdivisions of the plot are indicated on available historic maps. Alternatively, the ditch, as well as ditch [218] could represent a drainage ditch. A large drainage ditch has been in existence along the northern and western site boundary from at least the 19th century onwards and it is possible that the site has always required extensive drainage.

8.3 The function of the pits is unclear. The relative lack of cultural material in them makes it unlikely that they are rubbish pits, they could be small pits, either related to agricultural and gardening activities on the plot or representing 'backyard' activity related to potential occupation near the street frontage.

8.4 It is difficult to assign a precise date to any feature or to interpret any of the features as part of a contemporary landscape. It is likely that occupational activity was present in the vicinity from the 12th century onwards and material got gradually incorporated into the features and was moved around through bioturbation. For example, on the basis of the ceramic evidence pit [112] was dated to the 12th century while pit [116] was dated to the 18th century. However, both pits had a similar morphology and environmental assemblage, possibly waste material deriving from a domestic hearth, so it is likely that the two features are contemporary, and the pottery assemblage is intrusive or residual.

8.5 The presence of a relatively large number of tree throws and rooting is not

surprising. Several trees are shown on the site on the 1986 first edition OS map (Figure 6) and adjacent properties show the regular tree lines of orchards. A street opposite the proposed development site is still called 'Orchard Close', indicating the predominance of this activity within the area.

8.6 The thick subsoil, encountered within the trenches, is also a widespread feature in southern Cambridgeshire, where in many places soil was imported and improved to support market gardening and orchard cultivation (Hinman pers comm). Similar thick subsoils have recently been recorded during an evaluation at Land West of Balsham Road, Fulbourn (Meckseper 2018b).

8.7 The eastern half of Trench 2 and the entirety of Trench 3 were subject to modern truncation and disturbances. The truncation of Trench 3 is not surprising, as this trench is located across the footprint of a 19th and 20th century extension of the main building on the plot. Historic maps show that this extension stood on the site until at least the mid 1970s and had acquired an additional small shed to its south-east by the mid- 20th century. The construction of this extension, plus its demolition in the late 20th century would have caused considerable ground disturbance and subsequent making good and levelling of the area. Those layers are represented in Trench 3.

8.8 Several small buildings are shown to the north of the extension. These do not directly impact on Trench 2, but it is possible that quarrying for construction material and rubbish deposition thereafter, associated with several phases of construction and demolition at the site would have impacted on the land immediately adjacent. The large pits present in the eastern half of Trench 2 may be the result of such activity. Modern services to the existing buildings also caused truncation in Trench 2.

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 The evaluation revealed a low density of archaeological features. In total there were five pits and two small ditches. Other features were interpreted as tree throws and rooting, due to their very irregular profiles and shape in plan. However, some of the tree throws contained pottery, but even if those features were interpreted as pits, this would not significantly change the nature of activity on the site.

9.2 The features on the site represent a mixture of small pits and rooting with naturally accumulated fills including a small amount of pottery with a date range from 1050-1900 AD. The almost total absence of animal bone and low quantities of environmental material suggests that the pits were not rubbish pits but resulted from agricultural and/or gardening activity.

9.3 Few archaeological excavations have been undertaken in the vicinity of the site. The nearest investigations were at Harston Mill, c. 650m to the south-west, where ditches, pits and postholes, mainly of Saxon date were found. The medieval core of the village is around All Saints' Church which lies c. 620m to the west on the bank of the River Cam. Occupation or traffic along the High Street into Cambridge may account for some of the pottery in the features, or the pottery got introduced to the site through manuring. The site was most likely agricultural land at the periphery of the medieval settlement of Harston, and the presence of orchards in the post-medieval period is well attested by historical maps.

9.4 The eastern/central part of the site was significantly truncated by modern demolition and construction and it is likely that no archaeological features survive in this area.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Neptune Store Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. PCA are also grateful to Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for monitoring the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. The project was managed by Christiane Meckseper and supervised by Rita Pedro. The report was written by Rita Pedro and edited by Christiane Meckseper. The author would like to thank the site team Rita Pedro and Valerio Pinna for their hard work. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Rosie Scales of PCA's CAD Department.

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12 FIGURES

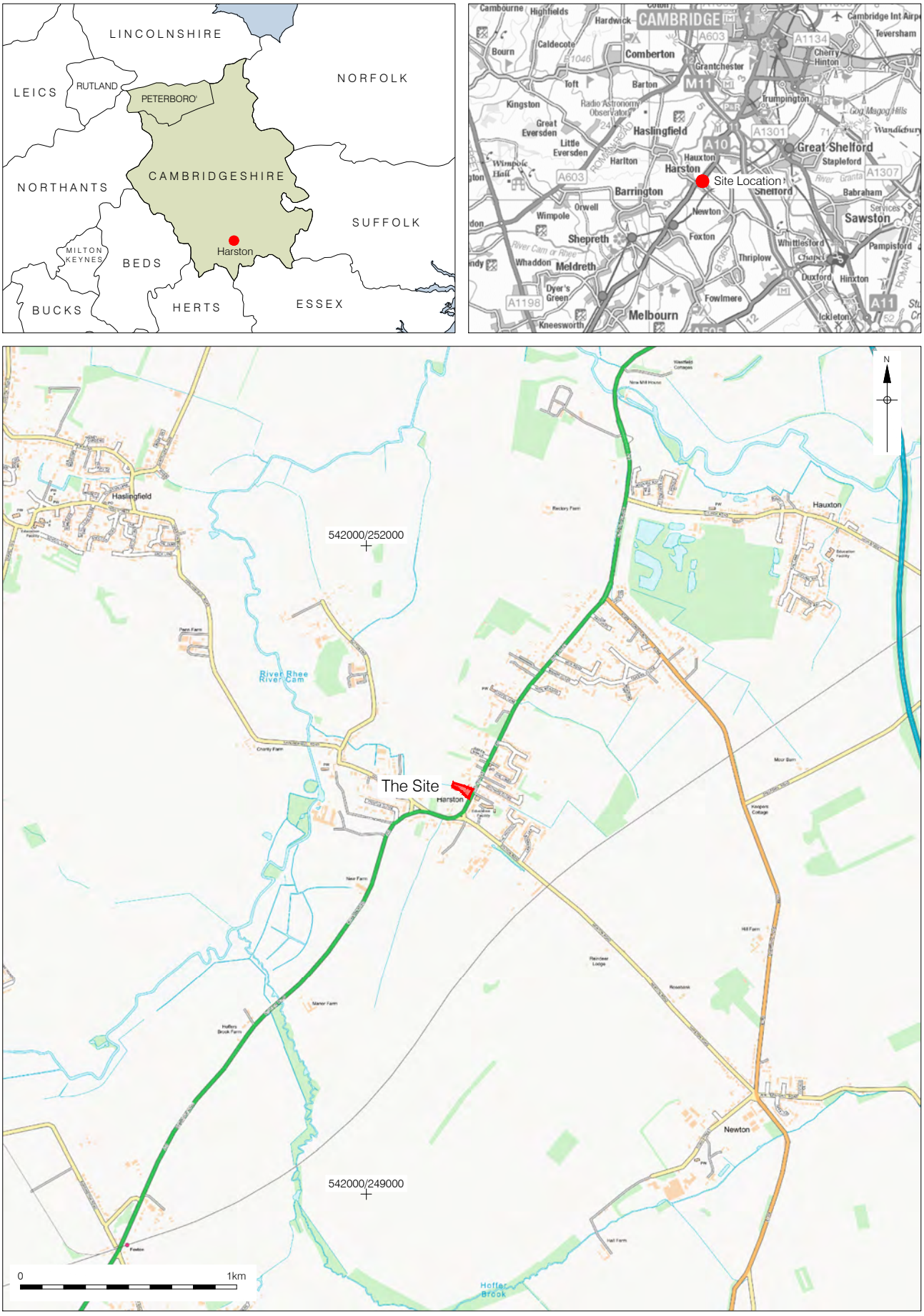

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Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000, 1:250,000, 1:25,000 at A4

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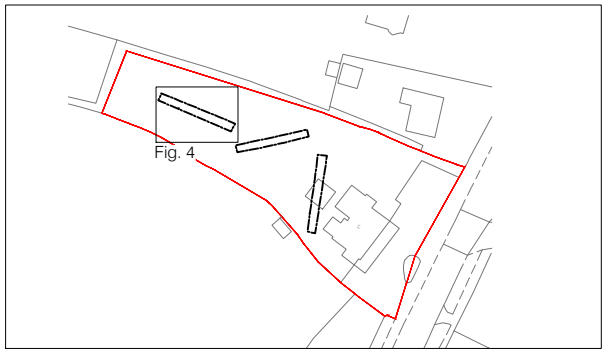
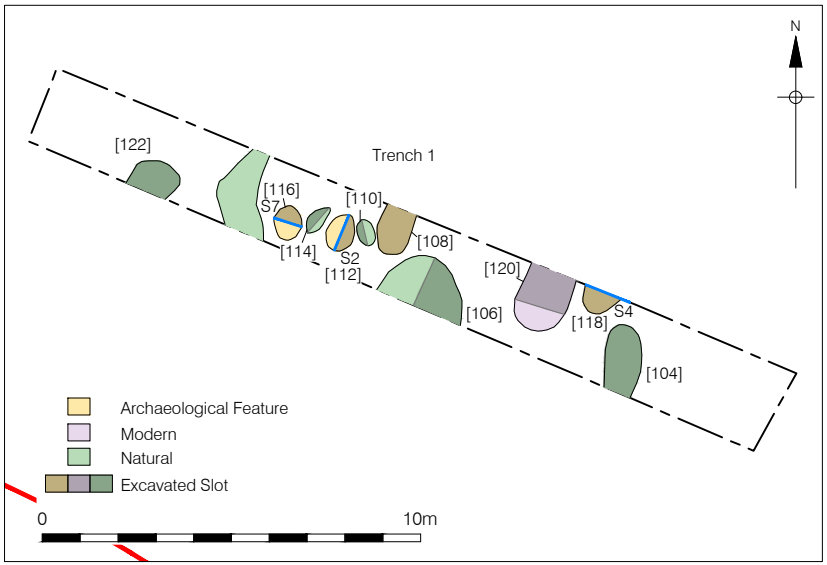
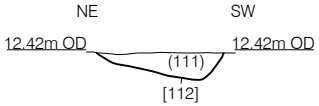
Figure 2
Trench Locations and Proposed Development Plan
1:400 at A4

02/01/19 RS

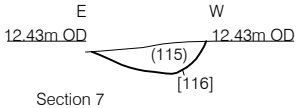
Figure 3
All Features Plan
1:400 at A4



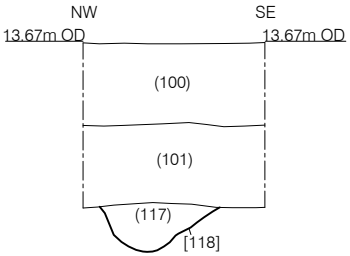




Section 2
Trench 1
Northwest Facing



Section 7
Trench 1
North Facing



Section 4
Trench 1
Southwest Facing

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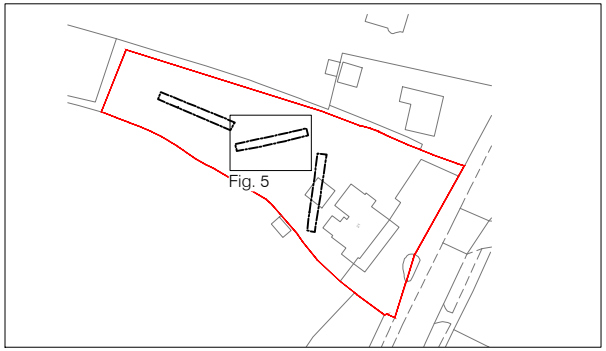
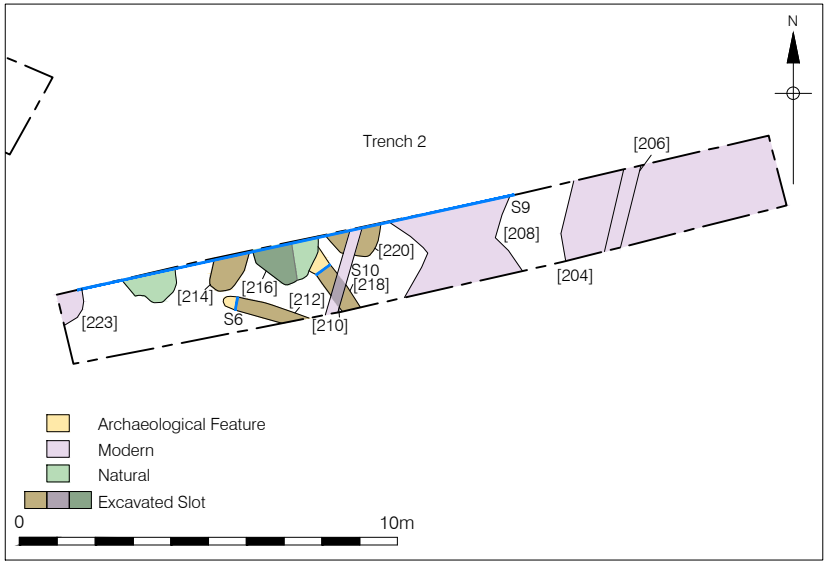
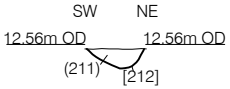
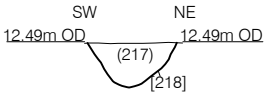
Figure 4
Trench 1 Plan and Sections
Inset 1:2000, Plan 1:200, Sections 1:50 at A4



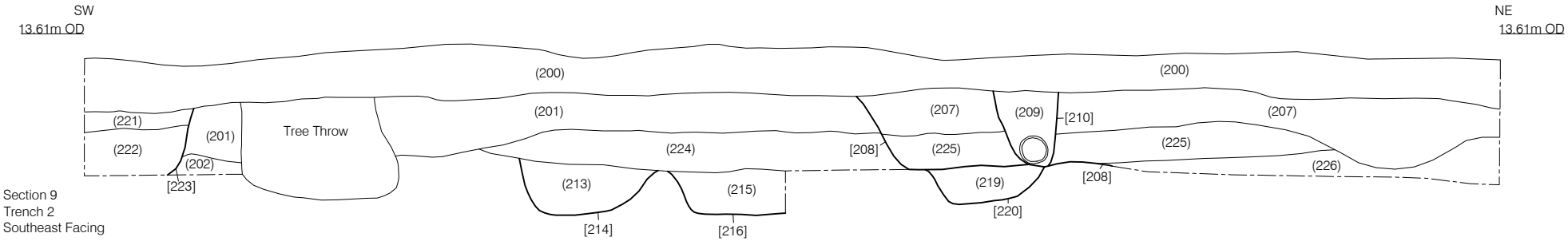




Section 6
Trench 2
Southeast Facing



Section 10
Trench 2
Southeast Facing



Section 9
Trench 2
Southeast Facing

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Figure 5
Trench 2 Plan and Sections
Inset 1:2000, Plan 1:200, Sections 1:50 at A4

Basemap Digitised from 1886 6inch OS Map

02/01/19 RS

Figure 6
All features plan with transcript of 1886 6inch OS Map
1:400 at A4

13 APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: Pre-excavation shot of Trench 1 - looking East

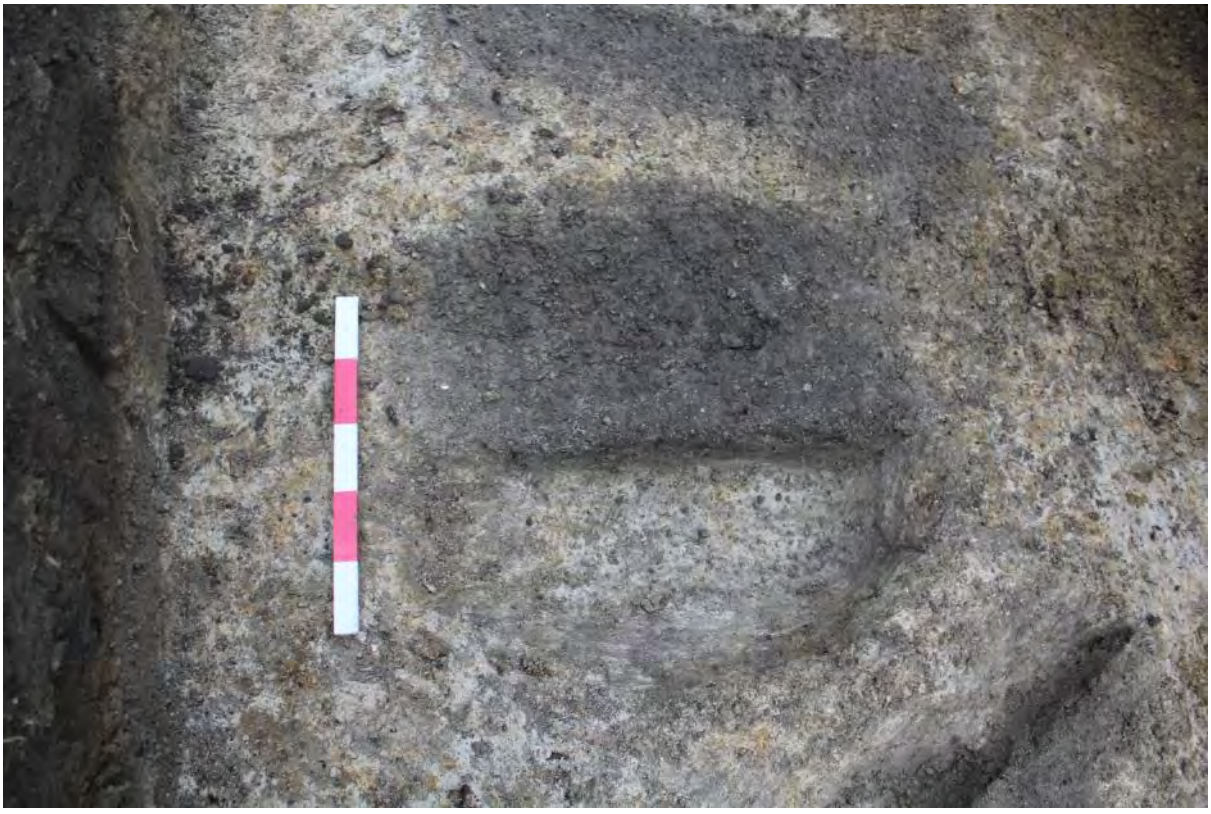

Plate 2: Trench 1, pit [112] - looking West

Plate 3: Trench 1, tree throws [110], [108] and [106], looking SSW

Plate 4: Post-excavation shot of Trench 1 - looking East

Plate 5: Pre-excavation shot of Trench 2 - looking SW

Plate 6: Trench 2, ditch [212] and pit [214] - looking NE

Plate 7: Trench 2, pit [220] with pit [208] above, south-facing section

Plate 8: Pre-excavation shot of Trench 3 - looking North

Plate 9: Trench 3, looking N-E, layers (302) and (303)

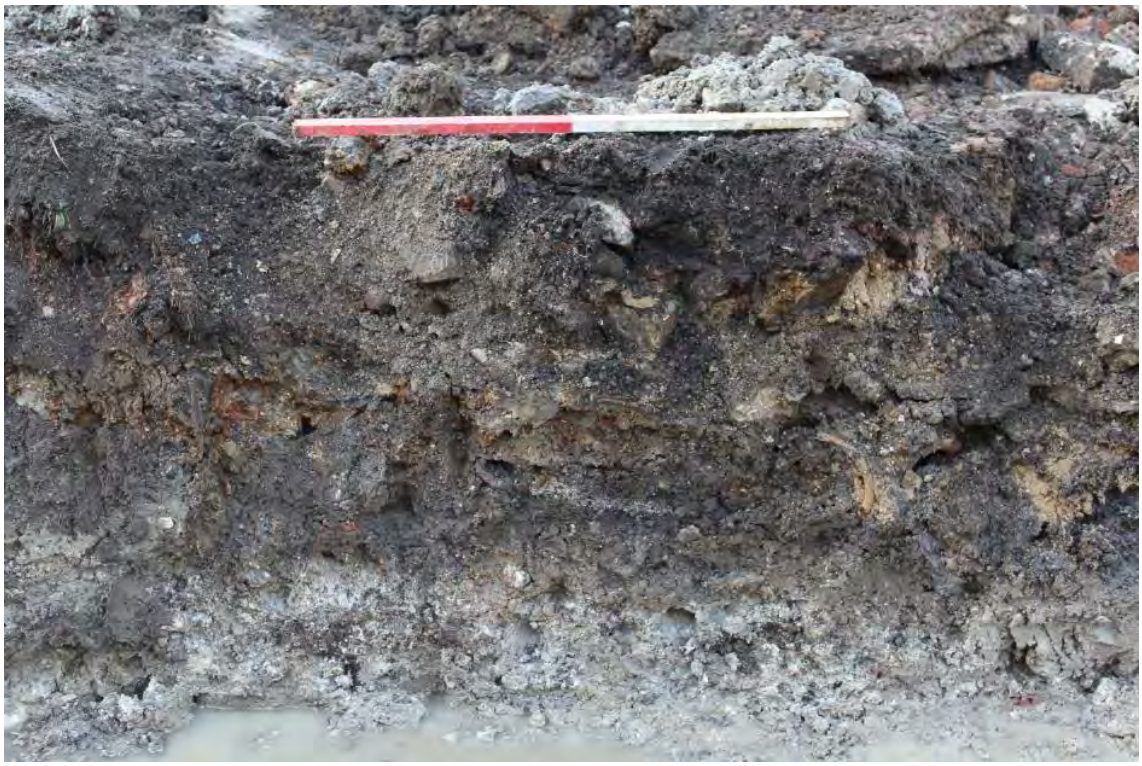

Plate 10: East facing section of Trench 3 - layers (302) and (303)

14 APPENDIX 2: TRENCH DETAILS AND CONTENTS INDEX

Trench	1		**End 1**	**End 2**
Alignment	W-E	**Topsoil depth (m)**	0.45	0.35
Trench length (m)	20	**Subsoil depth (m)**	0.6	0.5
Max machine depth (m)	1.08	**Natural depth (m OD)**	12.49	12.52

Summary of archaeological features

6 treethrows, 1 borehole, 3 pits

Context	**Cut**	**Type**	**Category**	**Length (m)**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**
100	100	Layer	Topsoil	20	2	0.45	Loose, dark grey/black, silt, with many roots, charcoal (very organic)
101	101	Layer	Subsoil	20	2	0.6	Moderately compact, mid grey, silt, moderate frequency of small sized stones
102	102	Layer	Natural	20	2	0	Sandy and gravelly, orange mottled with light grey patches, varied between clayey
103	104	Fill	Treethrow	0	0	0.32	Sandy silt, mid greyish brown, loose, occasional pot, occasional subangular pebbles and occasional charcoal
104	104	Cut	Treethrow	1.5	0.92	0.32	Short a slight curve (banana shape), gradual, slightly concave base

105	106	Fill	Treethrow	0	0	0.35	Loose, mid brownish grey, clayey silt, occasional flint cobbles and occasional recent plants
106	106	Cut	Treethrow	2.3	1.2	0.35	Irregular shape, undercutting sides with uneven base
107	108	Fill	Treethrow	0	0	0.15	Loose, mid brownish grey, silt, occasional small flint cobbles, chalk flakes and frequent plants remains
108	108	Cut	Treethrow	1	0.9	0.15	Irregular shape, gentle sloping sides and flat and uneven base
109	110	Fill	Treethrow	0	0	0.17	Sandy silt, mid brownish grey,loose, occasional small flint fragments, occasional chalk flakes, moderate gravel
110	110	Cut	Treethrow	0.76	0.3	0.17	Suboval/irregular shape, concave sides, uneven base, with NW/SE orientation
111	112	Fill	Pit	0	0	0.13	Loose, dark brownish grey, silt, occasional small flint fragments, occasional gravel, frequent chalk
112	112	Cut	Pit	0	0.7	0.13	Circular, concave and steepy sides, concave base

113	114	Fill	Treethrow	0	0	0.12	Loose, mid brownish grey, silt, occasional flint fragments, occasional chalk flakes
114	114	Cut	Treethrow	0.8	0.35	0.12	Oval, undercut, uneven base, NE-SW
115	116	Fill	Pit	0	0	0.25	Loose, mid greysih brown, clayey silt, occasional small gravel, occasional plants remains
116	116	Cut	Pit	0	0.9	0.25	Circular, steep concave sides, concave base
117	118	Fill	Pit	0	0	0.35	Moderatly loose, mid grey, sandy silt, small subangular stones inclusions, occasional chalk flakes
118	118	Cut	Pit	0.5	0.77	0.35	Subcircular and irregular, steep sloping concave sides, concave base, N-S
119	120	Fill	Bore Hole	0	0	0.3	Loose, light brownish grey, silt, occasional burnt clay, occasional gravel, occasional small subangular stones, rare chalk flakes
120	120	Cut	Bore Hole	1.8	1.3	0.3	Subcircular irregular shape, irregular sides, irregular base

121	122	Fill	Treethrow	0	0	0.44	Moderaty compact, mottled brown/grey/yellow , gravelly sil with clay lumps, frequent chalk and flint fragments, occasional modern plants remains
122	122	Cut	Treethrow	1.6	0.7	0.7	Oval, undercut and steep sides, uneven, E-W
123	122	Fill	Treethrow	0	0	0.25	Loose, light brown, silt, occasional small cobbles, occasional plant remains

Trench	2		**End 1**	**End 2**
Alignment	SW-NE	**Topsoil depth (m)**	0.35	0.45
Trench length (m)	20	**Subsoil depth (m)**	0.6	0.65
Max machine depth (m)	1.4	**Natural depth (m OD)**	12.56	12.11

Summary of archaeological features

2 ditchs, 2 pits, 1 layer, 3 modern pits, 2 modern drain lines

Context	**Cut**	**Type**	**Category**	**Length (m)**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**
200	200	Fill	Topsoil	20	2	0.35	Loose, dark grey/black, silt, with many roots, charcoal (very organic)
201	201	Fill	Subsoil	20	2	0.6	Moderatly compact, mid grey, silt, moderate frequency of small sized stones
202	202	Fill	Natural	20	2	0	Sandy and gravelly, orange mottled with light grey patches, varied between clayey
203	204	Fill	Pit	0	0	1.5	Moderatly compact, mottled brown/white/grey, clayey silt, occasional subangular stones, frequent chalk
204	204	Cut	Pit	5	2	1.5	Unknown, concave and moderatly steep sides, unknown base

205	206	Fill	Line Drain	0	0	0.5	Moderatly compact, dark grey, clayey silt, occasional stones inclusions
206	206	Cut	Line Drain	1.8	0.5	1.5	Linear, vertical steep slopping sides, SE-NW
207	208	Fill	Pit	0	0		Moderatly compact, mottled brown, white and grey, clayey silt, occasional small sub angular stones inclusions
208	208	Cut	Pit	5.45	2	1	Unknown shape, concave and moderatly steep sides, unknown base
209	210	Fill	Line Drain	0	0	0.52	Moderatly compact, dark grey, clayey sil, occasional small subangular stones
210	210	Cut	Line Drain	1.8	0.5	0.52	Linear shape, vertical sides, concave base, NW-SE
211	212	Fill	Ditch	0	0	0.12	Loose, mid grey, silt, occasional small subangular stones
212	212	Cut	Ditch	2.1	0.49	0.12	Linear, concave and moderatly steep sloping, cocave base, WSW-ENE
213	214	Fill	Pit	0	0	0.4	Moderatly compact, mid grey, ssilty clay, moderate frequency of medium sized subangular stones

214	214	Cut	Pit	0.6	1.1	0.4	Sub circular shape, concave and slightly irregular moderate steep sides, concave base, SW-NE
215	216	Fill	Treethrow	0	0	0.4	Moderatly compact, dark grey, silty clay, moderate frequency of small and medium subangular stones
216	216	Cut	Treethrow	1.6	1	0.4	Irregular sub circular, irregular and undercutting sides, irregular base, SW-NE
217	218	Fill	Ditch	0	0	0.3	Moderaly loose, dark grey, clayey silt, occasional small subangular stones, moderate plants remains, occasional charcoal
218	218	Cut	Ditch	1.5	0.6	0.3	Linear, concave sides, gradual slope, concave base, SE-NW
219	220	Fill	Pit	0	0	0.3	Moderate compaction, dark grey, silty clay, occasional small subangular stones inclusions
220	220	Cut	Pit	0.64	0.9	0.3	Subcircular, concave and moderate sloping sides, concave base, SW-NE
221	223	Fill	Pit	0	0	0.08	Compact, very light grey, silt, frequent chalk inclusions

222	223	Fill	Pit	0	0	0.4	Moderatly compact, greyish brown, silt, frequent medium sized subangular stones
223	223	Cut	Pit	1.8	0.8	0.48	Unknown, concave and steep sloping sides, unknown base
224	224	Layer	Layer	3.4	2	0.4	Moderatly compact, mid brown colour, silt composition, rare small subangularstones
225	208	Fill	Pit	0	0	0.3	Moderatly compact, mid brown, silty clay, occasional small and medium sized subangular stones
226	208	Fill	Pit	0	0	0.2	Moderatly compact, dark grey, clay, occasional charcoal inclusions

			End 1	End 2
Trench	3			
Alignment	N-S	**Topsoil depth (m)**	0.25	0.1
Trench length (m)	20	**Subsoil depth (m)**		
Max machine depth (m)	1.25	**Natural depth (m OD)**	12.44	12.19

Summary of archaeological features

2 modern layers (2 modern pipes and 1 treethrow not recorded)

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
300	300	Layer	Topsoil	20	2	0.25	Loose, dark grey/black, silt, with many roots, charcoal (very organic)
301	301	Layer	Natural	20	2		Sandy and gravelly, orange mottled with light grey patches, varied between clayey
302	302	Layer	Unknown	5	2	0.65	Moderatly compact, brown, silty clay, small and medium sized subangular stones
303	303	Layer	Unknown	5	2	0.5	Loose, very light grey, chalk

15 APPENDIX 3: PLANT MACROFOSSILS

Sample No.		1	2
Context No.		111	115
Feature No.		112	116
Volume of bulk (litres)		8	5
Volume of flot (millilitres)		25	8
Method of processing		F	F
HEAVY RESIDUE			
Charcoal			
Charcoal >4 mm		1	1
Charcoal 2-4 mm			1
Charcoal <2 mm			
Bone			
Animal bone		3	
Shell			
Shell (misc.)		2	2
Other material			
Pottery			3
FLOT RESIDUE			
Charcoal			
Charcoal >4 mm			1
Charcoal 2 - 4 mm		1	1
Charcoal <2 mm		4	3
Frags. of ID size		X	<5
Seeds	Common Name		
Juncus spp.	Rushes	1	
Lemna sp.	Duckweed	1	
Rubus sp.	Brambles	1	
Sambucus sp.	Elder	1	
Cereals			
Hordeum sp.	Barley	1	1
Triticum spp.	Wheat	1	1
Triticum dicoccum/spelta	Emmer/spelt wheat		1
Triticum aestivum/durum	Naked wheat		1
Broken/distorted cereal - indeterminate grains		2	1
Other Plant Macrofossils			
Modern plant material		1	1

Sample No.		1	2
Context No.		111	115
Feature No.		112	116
Volume of bulk (litres)		8	5
Volume of flot (millilitres)		25	8
Method of processing		F	F
Roots/tubers		3	3
Molluscs	Habitat		
Cecilioides acicula	Open ground	2	1
Cochlicopa lubrica	Catholic	1	1
Oxyloma sp.	Wetlands		1
Pupilla muscorum	Dry, exposed places	1	1
Trichia spp.	Catholic	1	
Vallonia spp.	Open ground		1
Vertigo pygmaea	Open ground	1	1
Snail eggs		1	
Juveniles - indeterminate		3	2
Broken shell			1
Other Remains			
Insect remains			1
Insect eggs/worm cases		1	
Vitreous material		4	1
Coal		2	

16 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-340699

Project details	
Project name	New Neptune Store, 21 High Street, Harston, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	Three 20m long trial trenches were excavated in advance of residential and commercial development. Trenches 1 and 2 revealed a low density of pits with medieval and post-medieval pottery. A small, possible post-medieval boundary ditch and a post-medieval drainage ditch were also found. There was a large number of features interpreted tree throws and rooting, some of which also contained medieval and post-medieval pottery. The area was agricultural land in the medieval period and later backyard plot or orchard. The eastern part of the site (Trench 3) was severely truncated by modern disturbances, most likely related to construction and demolition of buildings related to the extant Three Horseshoes Pub
Project dates	Start: 17-12-2018 End: 19-12-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5312 - HER event no. S/1072/17/FL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Project location	

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HARSTON New Neptune Store, 21 High Street, Harston, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	CB22 7PX
Study area	2500 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 4238 5805 52.20183950546 0.083680934386 52 12 06 N 000 05 01 E Point

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Gemma Stewart, CCC Historic Environment Team
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Project director/manager	Christiane Meckseper
Project supervisor	Rita Pedro
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	CCC County Archaeology Store
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	CCC County Archaeology Store
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	CCC County Archaeology Store
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	New Neptune Store, 21 High Street, Harston, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation
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