LAND OFF FEN END, OVER, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS: S/2577/17/FL

PCA REPORT NO: 13681

SITE CODE: ECB5834

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Land Off Fen End, Over, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority:	**South Cambridgeshire District Council**
Planning Reference:	**S/2577/17/FL**
Central National Grid Reference:	**NGR TL 3797 7069**
Event Number/Site Code:	**ECB5834**
Report No.	**R13681**
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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land off Fen End, Over, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3797 7069). The evaluation took place between the 3rd and 10th of April 2019. The archaeological work was commissioned by Archaeology Collective Ltd. with the aim of characterizing the archaeological potential of the site and enabling the formulation of an appropriate mitigation strategy for any archaeological remains likely to be damaged by development.

The evaluation identified two main phases of archaeological activity, dating to the later prehistoric and medieval periods. The prehistoric phase consisted of the remains of a ditched field system, apparently present across the site but focused in the central area (Trenches 8 and 9). Small quantities of prehistoric pottery and struck flint were also recovered from two pits, although the appearance of the pit fills suggests that these assemblages may be residual. The medieval (predominantly late-12th- to 13th-century AD) remains were more extensive and were focused mainly in the western two-thirds of the site (Trenches 1, 3–4, 10 and 14). The medieval activity took the form of ditches, pits and possible postholes, with the ditches forming a series of small enclosures, likely to have defined medieval tofts and crofts aligned off Fen End. One of the ditch lines, located in the south of the site, may have formed a more significant boundary, as it was composed of a series of larger, repeatedly recut, ditches. The ditches in the north, on the drier gravel geology, appeared to demarcate a set of very small enclosures. These may have contained structures, as indicated by possible postholes in Trenches 3 and 4. Domestic-type finds were consistently present in the medieval features, but were concentrated in features in the south-west, particularly Trench 1, where several large pits and ditches contained substantial and varied assemblages of medieval pottery, animal bone, fired clay and plant remains, the latter possibly derived from nearby domestic ovens or crop-driers.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 A programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land off Fen End, Over, Cambridgeshire, CB24 5NE (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 3797 7069) from the 3rd to the 10th April 2019 (Figure 1; Plate 1).

1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Archaeology Collective Ltd in the role of archaeological consultant. This role included research into the archaeological potential of the site and liaison with the Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council in order to check archaeological evaluation (trial work) requirements. Archaeology Collective are acting on behalf of Granary Developments Ltd. The proposed development is for up to 20 residential dwellings with associated access, car parking and landscaping (South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Reference S/2577/17/FL).

1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Christiane Meckseper of PCA (2019) in response to a Brief issued by Kerry Hopper of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET 2019). The evaluation also adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014a and b).

1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.

1.5 A total of 14 trenches, totalling 225m in length (405m^2), were excavated and recorded. Of these, 13 were 15m long x 1.8m wide and one was 30m x 1.8m (Figure 2).

1.6 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. Upon completion of the

project, the site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store, following transfer of title.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The underlying geology across the site is West Walton and Ampthill Clay (BGS 2019), comprising mudstone, overlain by superficial deposits of River Terrace sands and gravels. Over lies on a gravel island, with land falling away to the River Great Ouse, *c.* 1.9km to the north and west.

2.1.2 The natural geology encountered across the site was (102), a mid-brownish-orange gravelly silt/ light yellowy-orange clayey silt, overlain by 0.39–0.72m of overburden, comprising occasional recent made ground deposits ((208)–(215)), heavily disturbed topsoil (100) and a thin subsoil (101). The overburden deposits had been subject to widespread truncation and disturbance relating to the prior use of the site as a plant nursery. However, although pockets of localised truncation from the piles for the nursery structures did impact the archaeological horizon, in general the archaeological level was undisturbed.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site has an area of 0.85ha and is situated on the north-eastern edge of Over (Figure 1). Over is located on the south-west edge of the Cambridgeshire Fen basin, flanking the east bank of the River Great Ouse, with land to the north-east of the village descending into Bare Fen and land to the west falling into Mare and Middle Fen.

2.2.2 The site was formerly a horticultural nursery occupied by greenhouse structures. It is bordered to the east by fields, to the north and south by existing residential properties and associated gardens and to the west by further residential properties and gardens fronting onto Fen End.

2.2.3 The overall change in elevation across the site is approximately 0.8–0.9m, the land falling away to the north and east and ground conditions becoming increasing wet. The north-eastern part of site lies at approximately 5.5m above Ordnance Datum (OD) and the south-western corner at approximately 6.4m OD.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This background is taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Meckseper 2019) and the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and associated search of the Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER), including a historic map regression exercise (Hopper 2019) undertaken for the site. The Heritage Statement (Duck 2018) prepared for the site was also consulted.

3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 There are very few records of early prehistoric material, represented by Neolithic worked flints found during gardening (CHER 11783) and a Bronze Age arrowhead found while metal detecting (CHER MCB16669). Undated ditches with a few crumbs of possible Iron Age pottery were found during an evaluation at the western edge of Over (CHER MCB26644).

3.3 Iron Age and Roman

3.3.1 There is extensive evidence for cropmarks around Over, recorded from aerial photography. The morphology of most of those cropmarks suggests settlements of Iron Age/Roman date.

3.3.2 At Over the potential Roman sites are located on the higher gravel terraces, particularly the terrace of Bare Fen (Hall 1996). Here, a cropmark complex comprising enclosures, linear features and a trackway, is recorded c.1.6km to the north-east of the proposed development site. During the digging of a modern pond on the site 1st and 2nd century pottery was found (Site 15 in the Fenland Survey, Hall 1996). A further site with less convincing cropmarks is 1.5km to the north (Site 6 in the Fenland Survey, Hall 1996).

3.3.3 Closer to the proposed development site, c 250m to its north-west, is an area of cropmarks (CHER 08893) in the form of enclosures, a trackway and ditches, which could represent either an Iron Age/Roman settlement or a medieval moated enclosure. Further cropmarks comprising linear features are visible approximately 150m to the east of the site (CHER MCB21953).

3.3.4 A Roman inhumation and pottery were found near St Mary's Church (CHER 03597) and findspots of Roman coins (CHER03693), a pottery sherd (CHER 07716, 09836A) and a Roman hypocaust tile (CHER11783) attest to Roman settlement within or around Over.

3.4 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

3.4.1 There is no entry for Over in the Domesday survey of AD 1086, suggesting that the village is medieval in origin rather than Saxon. St Mary's Church dates from the 13th century with an extensive programme of rebuilding taking place in the 14th century (CHER 03559). In the medieval period Over was most likely a small hamlet, set in an agricultural landscape, with its historic core centred around the church c. 650m to the west.

3.4.2 Hall attests that the open fields of the parish were of the Midland type with small strips of former ridge and furrow grouped into furlongs. In the medieval period the undrained Fen still extended up to Highfields, at the northern end of Fen End (Hill 1996, Figure 85).

3.4.3 Earthworks and hedgelines, preserving the remains of medieval ridge and furrow fields, tofts, a pond and a holloway are recorded around Back Lane (CHER 10293), The Doles (CHER10294), south of West Street (CHER11268) and north of Over (CHER11263). Two ditches, possibly dating to the medieval and post-medieval period were found during excavations at Long Furlong (CHER CB15291).

3.5 Post-Medieval to Modern

3.5.1 Post-medieval heritage assets in Over are mainly represented by extant buildings in the form of 17th -19th century cottages and houses along High Street, Church Street and West End. A dovecote, cottage, Ivy House and Furtherwick House along Fen End also date to the post-medieval period and are Grade II listed buildings.

3.5.2 An evaluation immediately adjacent to the proposed development site in 2008 identified a series of undated ditches and one ditch containing 17th century pottery, an iron nail and small quantities of animal bone. These were most likely

field or plot boundary ditches (CHER MCB17872).

3.5.3 Historic maps show that the proposed development site comprised orchards from at least the late 19th century onwards. The nursery is first shown on the OS map of 1972.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 Fourteen 1.8m-wide trial trenches, totalling 225m in length, were excavated, providing an approximate 5% sample (405m²) of the 0.85ha site.

4.1.2 The evaluation trenches were distributed evenly across the site in order to provide a representative sample of the development area. Apart from Trenches 2 and 3, which were moved slightly in order to avoid above-ground constraints, the trenches were excavated in the locations set out in the WSI.

4.2 Excavation Methodology

4.2.1 Ground reduction during the evaluation was carried out using a 14 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator. Topsoil and other overburden deposits of low archaeological value were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits, where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. No deposits of archaeological interest were present above the level of the natural geological horizon.

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 GS014 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving a three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

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]. Where more

than one slot was excavated through an individual feature, each intervention was assigned additional numbers for the cutting event and for the deposits it contained (these deposits within cut features being referred to here as 'fills'). 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.

4.3.3 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. Additional sampling of the overburden deposits for artefacts was also undertaken; as with the metal-detector survey only object of modern date were found, which were not retained.

4.3.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits which 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).

4.4.2 Linear features were investigated by means of regularly-spaced 1m slots. Where stratigraphic relationships between features could not be discerned in plan, relationship slots were also excavated.

4.5 Environmental Sampling

4.5.1 A total of 10 bulk samples (each being 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 past 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, in line with English Heritage recommendations (2011).

5 QUANTIFICATION OF THE ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper Archive

Context register sheets	7
Context sheets	115
Plan registers	0
Plans at 1:20	0
Plans at 1:10	0
Section register sheets	2
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	32
Trench record sheets	14
Photo register sheets	5
Environmental register sheets	1

5.2 Digital Archive

Digital photos	165
GPS survey files	3
Digital plans	1
Access database	1

5.3 Physical Archive

Struck Flint	9
Pottery	117/1431g
Daub/Fired Clay	304g
Slag	111g
Animal Bone	164
Environmental bulk samples	10
Environmental bulk samples (10 litre buckets)	24

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

6.1 Overview (Figure 2)

6.1.1 The results of the archaeological trenching are described below, with all technical data relating to individual features and deposits tabulated in Appendix 2 and details of the deposit sequence within each trench presented in Appendix 3.

6.1.2 Features and deposits are first split into feature type, before being described in ascending numerical cut order. The archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the topsoil or subsoil, unless otherwise stated.

6.1.3 The principal result of the fieldwork was the identification of two main phases of archaeological activity, dating to the later prehistoric and medieval periods. The prehistoric phase consisted of the remains of a ditched field system, present across the site but focused centrally within it (Trenches 8 & 9). These features did not contain finds assemblages and can only be provisionally dated based on the extremely pale, leached nature of their fills and the differing layout to the medieval boundary system. Small quantities of prehistoric material were also recovered from two pits, although the relatively humic appearance of the feature fills, in contrast to the ditches suggests these assemblages may be residual.

6.1.4 The second, medieval (predominantly AD late 12th-13th century) phase was more significant and was focused to the north-west and south-west within the site area, towards the historic core of the village of Over (Trenches 1, 3-5, 9-10, & 13-14). This activity took the form of ditches, pits and postholes, with the ditches forming a series of small enclosures, likely to have been small back-garden plots aligned off Fen End. One of the ditch lines, located to the south-west may have formed a more significant boundary, as it was composed of a series of larger, recutting ditches.

6.1.5 The ditches located to the north, on the dryer, more gravelly superficial geology formed very small enclosures, which may have formed the focus for direct structural occupation. Finds assemblages were in general consistently present but not abundant to the north within the site, although certain features to the

south contained relatively large assemblage of pottery and animal bone. Most notably, two large pits, located to the south-west, closer to Fen End contained assemblages probably deriving from the rake out of domestic ovens or hearths.

6.2 Blank Trenches (Figure 2)

6.2.1 Ten trenches contained archaeological features. Four trenches (Trenches 2, 6, 11 and 12) were blank, containing no archaeologically significant features or deposits. Trenches 6 and 12 contained deposits of material that showed signs of potential contamination with hydrocarbons. Trench 6 had also been subject to a significant degree of modern truncation to a depth of 1.2m below modern ground level, possibly relating to the demolition of the overlying glasshouse structures.

6.3 Trench 1 (Figure 3; Plate 2)

6.3.1 Trench 1 contained five ditches (Slots [156], [159], [177], [183] and [185]), all of which were aligned north-west to south-east, and two large pits ([166] and [171]), which may have been sealed by an intact soil layer (Plate 4). The ditch-line represented by three of the ditches (Slots [177], [183] and [185]) was also identified in Trenches 10 and 14, to the south-east.

6.3.2 Ditch [156] was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east, with gently-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.8m+ in width and 0.2m in depth. It contained a single fill (155) of dark to mid-grey silty sand which contained no finds. This ditch was cut by Ditch [159] to the north-east.

6.3.3 Ditch [159] was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east, with gently-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.8m in width and 0.18m in depth. It contained two fills: a basal fill (158) of light to mid-yellowy-grey clayey silt which contained no finds, and an upper fill (157) of dark grey/ black sandy silt which contained no finds. This ditch cut Ditch [156] to the south-west.

6.3.4 Ditch [177] (Figure 6, Section 26; Plate 3) was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east, with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 1.46m in width and 0.32m in depth. It contained a single fill (176) of mid-brownish-grey clayey silt which contained a small assemblage (13 sherds;

108g) of pottery, comprising Stamford ware, early medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy Ware, Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy Ware, Medieval Ely Ware, South-East Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware and miscellaneous wares, together dating to AD 1175–1225. The fill also contained a large assemblage (52 fragments) of animal bone, including the partial remains of two pony carcasses and half a cattle skull. An environmental sample <1008> taken from the fill contained a significant assemblage of charred wheat, oats and legume fragments. This ditch cut Ditches [183] and [185] to the south-west.

6.3.5 Ditch [183] (Figure 6, Section 26) was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east, with gentle to moderately-sloping sides and a concave base, terminating to the north-west and measuring 1.35m in width and 0.26m in depth. It contained a single fill (182) of mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds. This ditch was cut by Ditches [185], to the north-west, and [177] to the north-east.

6.3.6 Ditch [185] was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east, with moderate to steeply-sloping sides and a flat base, terminating to the south-east and measuring 1.29m in width and 0.3m in depth. It contained a single fill (184) of mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained a small assemblage (12 sherds; 105g) of pottery, comprising St Neots ware, Stamford ware, Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy Ware and medieval Essex-type Micaceous Grey Sandy Ware, together dating to AD 1200–1300, as well as a small assemblage (2 fragments) of animal bone, which derives from a horse and a cattle-sized animal. This ditch cut Ditch [183], to the south-east, and was cut by Ditch [177] to the north-east.

6.3.7 Pit [166] (Figure 6, Section 21; Plate 4) was circular in plan with gentle to steeply-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 1.8m+ in length, 3.31m in width and 0.78m+ in depth. It was recorded as containing six fills: a basal fill (165) of dark to mid-grey sandy silt which contained no finds, a lower fill (164) of light to mid-yellow clay which contained no finds, a lower fill (163) of mid-brownish-grey sandy silt which contained no finds, a middle fill (162) of light to mid-yellow clay which contained no finds, a middle fill (161) of dark brownish-grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal which contained 41g of fired clay

fragments and a large (31 sherds; 399g) assemblage of pottery, comprising early medieval shelly ware, St Neots ware, developed St Neots-type ware, Huntingdonshire Early Medieval Ware, Medieval Ely Ware, South-East Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware, Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy Ware, Stamford ware, Developed Stamford ware and miscellaneous coarsewares, collectively dating to AD 1175–1250. The fill also contained a large assemblage (44 fragments) of animal bone, including bones derived from chicken, amphibians, voles and ducks, as well as a medium-sized assemblage (21 fragments) of fish bone, including herring, roach, salmon and possible sea bream remains. An environmental sample <1000> taken from the fill contained significant quantities of charred cereal grains and weed seeds, as well as silicified cereal chaff. Finally, the pit contained an upper fill (160) of mid-brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal which contained no finds. The pit cut Pit [171] to the north-east. Based on the profile of the feature and the appearance of its fills in section, is possible that (161) is actually a shallower recut of an originally steep-sided pit.

6.3.8 Pit [171] (Figure 6, Section 21; Plate 4) was sub-rectangular in plan with gentle to steeply-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 1.9m+ in length, 3.12m in width and 0.79m in depth. It contained three fills: a basal fill (170) of mottled mid-grey sandy silt/mid-greyish-yellow clay which contained a small assemblage (5 sherds; 167g) of Medieval Ely Ware, dating to AD 1150–1300, a middle fill (168) of dark grey/ black sandy silt with frequent charcoal which contained a medium-sized assemblage (26 sherds; 366g) of pottery, comprising Medieval Ely Ware, medieval shelly ware, South-East Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware, Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy Ware, early medieval ware and miscellaneous glazed ware, dating to AD 1175–1300, as well as 27g of fired clay fragments. The fill also contained a single fragment of animal bone, from a chicken. An environmental sample <1001> taken from the fill contained significant quantities of charred grains and abundant weeds seeds. Finally, the pit contained an upper fill (167) of dark grey/ black sandy silt with occasional charcoal which contained a small assemblage (11 sherds; 163g) of pottery, comprising Medieval Ely Ware, South-East Fenland Medieval

Calcareous Buff Ware, Lyveden A-type shelly ware and Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy Ware, together dating to AD 1175–1300. The pit was cut by Pit [166] to the south-west. Between the two was a deposit of light yellowy-grey clayey silt (169) which contained no finds. Based on the profile of the feature and the appearance of its fills in section, is possible that (168) is a shallower recut of an originally steep-sided pit.

6.4 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

6.4.1 Trench 3 contained three ditches (Slots [104], [141] and [143]), two of which were aligned north-west to south-east, with the other aligned north-east to south-west, as well as four pits or large postholes ([146], [148], [154] and [173]).

6.4.2 Ditch [104] was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east, with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.61m+ in width and 0.22m in depth. It contained a single fill (103) of mid-orangey-grey clayey gravel which contained a single, probably residual, struck flint barbed and tanged arrowhead (SF1) dating to the Early Bronze Age (2500–1500 BC) (Plate 5).

6.4.3 Ditch [141] (Plate 6) was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east, with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 1.43m in width and 0.48m in depth. It contained two fills: a basal fill (140) of mid-greyish-orange silty sand which contained no finds, and an upper fill (105) of mid-brownish-grey clayey gravel which contained a single piece of struck flint debitage and a small assemblage (seven sherds; 78g) of pottery, comprising early medieval wares, Huntingdonshire Early Medieval Wares, Fen Sandy Wares and Medieval Essex-type Micaceous Grey Sandy wares, dating to AD 1200–1300, as well as a small assemblage (13 fragments) of animal bone, derived from animals including horse and dog. An environmental sample <1002> taken from the fill contained small quantities of wheat. This ditch cut Ditch [143] to the north-east and truncated Pit [146].

6.4.4 Ditch [143] (Plate 6) was linear in plan and aligned north-east to south-west, with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.46m in width and 0.21m in depth. It contained a single fill (142) of mid-brownish-grey gravelly-clay which contained no finds. The ditch was cut by Ditch [141] to the

south-west.

6.4.5 Pit [146] (Plate 6) was circular in plan with steeply-sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 0.74m in length, 0.74m in width and 0.55m in depth. It contained two fills: a basal fill (145) of mid-blueish-grey sandy silt which contained no finds and an upper fill (144) of mid-blueish-grey silty sand which contained two fragments of animal bone, from a dog. The pit was truncated by Ditch [141].

6.4.6 Pit [148] was circular in plan with gently-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 1.1m in length, 0.9m+ in width and 0.24m in depth. It contained two fills: a basal fill (151) of mid-orangey-brown clayey gravel which contained no finds and an upper fill (147) of mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained a single sherd (1g) of St Neots Ware pottery, dating to AD 875–1100, and two fragments of animal bone, from a water shrew. An environmental sample <1003> taken from the fill contained small quantities of wheat and barley.

6.4.7 Pit [154] was circular in plan with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.4m+ in length, 0.78m in width and 0.36m in depth. It contained two fills: a basal fill (153) of mid-blueish-grey clayey gravel which contained no finds and an upper fill (152) of mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained a small assemblage (three sherds; 7g) of pottery, comprising Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy Ware, dating to AD 1175–1300, as well as a single fragment of sheep-sized animal bone.

6.4.8 Pit [173] was circular in plan with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.66m+ in length, 0.66m in width and 0.36m in depth. It contained a single fill (172) of light yellowy-brown clayey gravel which contained no finds.

6.5 Trench 4 (Figure 4; Plate 7)

6.5.1 Trench 4 contained four ditches (Slots [112], [115], [121] and [124]), two of which were aligned north-west to south-east, with the remainder being aligned north-east to south-west, as well as two pits ([107] and [110]) and a possible posthole ([118]).

6.5.2 Ditch [112] was linear in plan and aligned north-east to south-west, with gently-

sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.4m in width and 0.09m in depth. It contained a single fill (111) of mid-brownish-grey silty sand which contained a single struck flint flake. The ditch was cut by Ditch [115] to the south-west.

6.5.3 Ditch [115] was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east, with moderate to steeply-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.9m in width and 0.42m in depth. It contained two fills: a basal fill (114) of light to mid-brownish-grey sand which contained no finds, and an upper fill (113) of mid- to dark brownish-grey silty sand which contained three pieces (1.5g) of burnt flint, 31g of fired clay fragments and a single fragment of sheep-sized animal bone. An environmental sample <1004> taken from the fill contained small quantities of wheat. This ditch cut Ditch [112] to the north-east.

6.5.4 Ditch [121] was linear in plan and aligned north-east to south-west, seemingly starting to terminate to the south-west, with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.8m in width and 0.31m in depth. It contained two fills: a basal fill (114) of light to mid-brownish-grey sand which contained no finds, and an upper fill (113) of mid- to dark brownish-grey silty sand which contained no finds. This ditch was cut by Ditch [124].

6.5.5 Ditch [124] was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east, seemingly starting to terminate to the north-west, with moderate to steeply-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 1.01m in width and 0.34m in depth. It contained two fills: a basal fill (123) of mid-brownish-grey gravelly sand which contained no finds, and an upper fill (122) of mid-grey silty sand which contained a single sherd (11g) of Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy Ware pottery, dating to AD 1175–1300. This ditch cut Ditch [121].

6.5.6 Pit [107] (Plate 7) was circular in plan with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.6m in length, 0.58m in width and 0.11m in depth. It contained a single fill (106) of mid-brownish-grey silty sand which contained no finds.

6.5.7 Pit [110] (Figure 6, Section 3) was circular in plan with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 1m in length, 1.21m in width and 0.66m in

depth. It contained two fills: a basal fill (109) of mid-grey silty sand which contained no finds, and an upper fill (108) of dark brownish-grey silty sand with occasional charcoal which contained two pieces of struck flint, comprising a single flake and a single piece of debitage , as well as a small assemblage (2 sherds; 12g) of prehistoric pottery, including a Beaker-derived sherd, dating to the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age. An environmental sample <1005> taken from the fill contained small quantities of unidentified cereal remains.

6.5.8 Possible Posthole [118] was circular in plan with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.5m in length, 0.4m+ in width and 0.22m in depth. It contained two fills: a basal fill (117) of mid-greyish-brown gravelly sand which contained no finds and an upper fill (116) of mid- to dark brownish-grey silty sand which contained no finds.

6.6 Trench 5 (Figure 4)

6.6.1 Trench 5 contained a single ditch (Slot [126]), which was aligned north-west to south-east, and two pits ([129] and [131]).

6.6.2 Ditch [126] was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east with gently-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.43m in width and 0.07m in depth. It contained a single fill (125) of mid-brownish-grey silty sand which contained no finds.

6.6.3 Pit [129] (Figure 6, Section 8) was circular in plan with moderate to steeply-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.8m+ in length, 1.28m in width and 0.54m in depth. It contained two fills: a basal fill (128) of light to mid-grey silty sand which contained no finds and an upper fill (127) of mid-brownish-grey silty sand which contained four pieces of struck flint, comprising one flake, one blade-like flake and two pieces of debitage, two pieces (1g) of burnt stone, a single sherd (9g) of prehistoric pottery and a single fragment of sheep-sized animal bone. An environmental sample <1006> taken from the fill contained small quantities of wheat.

6.6.4 Pit [131] was circular in plan with moderately-sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 0.5m+ in length, 0.94m in width and 0.16m in depth. It contained a

single fill (130) of mid-grey silty sand which contained no finds.

6.7 Trench 7 (Figure 4)

6.7.1 Trench 7 contained two ditches (Slots [135] and [150]), one of which was aligned east to west, with the other aligned north-east to south-west, as well as a single treethrow ([133]).

6.7.2 Ditch [135] was linear in plan and aligned east to west with gently-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 1.1m+ in width and 0.26m in depth. It contained a single fill (134) of mottled, light grey/mid-orangey-grey clayey silt which contained no finds.

6.7.3 Ditch [150] was linear in plan and aligned north-east to south-west, with moderate to gently-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.8m in width and 0.2m in depth. It contained a single fill (149) of mid-brownish-grey sandy silt which contained no finds. It terminated within the trench, continuing to the north-east.

6.7.4 Treethrow [133] was sub-circular in plan with steep to vertical sides and a concave base, measuring 0.6m+ in length, 0.64m in width and 0.25m in depth. It contained a single fill (132) of mottled, mid orangey-grey silt which contained no finds.

6.8 Trench 8

6.8.1 Trench 8 contained two ditches (Slots [137] and [139]), one of which was aligned north-west to south-east, with the other aligned north to south.

6.8.2 Ditch [137] was linear in plan and aligned north to south with gently-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.66m in width and 0.13m in depth. It contained a single fill (136) of mid-brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

6.8.3 Ditch [139] (Plate 8) was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east with gentle to moderately-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.86m in width and 0.24m in depth. It contained a single fill (138) of light to mid-brown sandy silt. An environmental sample <1007> taken from the fill contained indeterminate charred seeds.

6.9 Trench 9 (Figure 3)

6.9.1 Trench 9 contained two ditches (Slots [175] and [179]), one of which was aligned north-east to south-west, with the remainder being aligned north-west to south-east.

6.9.2 Ditch [175] was linear in plan and aligned north-east to south-west with gently-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.44m in width and 0.14m in depth. It contained a single fill (174) of mid-orangey-grey sandy silt which contained no finds.

6.9.3 Ditch [179] was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east with gently-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.27m in width and 0.06m in depth. It contained a single fill (178) of mid-grey sandy silt which contained no finds.

6.10 Trench 10 (Figure 3)

6.10.1 Trench 10 contained three ditches (Slots [181] and unexcavated ditches [205] and [207]), all of which were aligned north-west to south-east. The ditch-line represented by two of the ditches ([205] and [207]) was also identified in Trenches 1 and 14, to the north-west and south-east, respectively.

6.10.2 Ditch [181] was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east with gently-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.3m in width and 0.14m in depth. It contained a single fill (180) of light to mid-brownish-grey silty sand which contained no finds.

6.10.3 Ditch [205] was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east, measuring 0.4m in width. It had an upper fill (204) of light to mid-greyish-brown silty clay which contained no finds. The ditch was not excavated.

6.10.4 Ditch [207] was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east, measuring 0.4m in width. It had an upper fill (206) of light to mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds. The ditch was not excavated.

6.11 Trench 13 (Figure 5)

6.11.1 Trench 13 contained two ditches (Slots [201] and [203]), both of which were

aligned north-west to south-east.

6.11.2 Ditch [201] was linear in plan and appeared to be aligned north-west to south-east, with gently-sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 0.7m+ in width and 0.18m in depth. It contained a single fill (200) of dark to mid-grey clayey silt which contained no finds.

6.11.3 Ditch [203] was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east with gently-sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 0.36m in width and 0.07m in depth. It contained a single fill (202) of dark to mid-grey clayey silt which contained no finds.

6.12 Trench 14 (Figure 5)

6.12.1 Trench 14 contained four ditches (Slots [187], [189], [194] and [197]), three of which were aligned north-west to south-east, with the remainder being aligned north-east to south-west, as well as two pits ([191] and [199]). The ditch-line represented by three of the ditches (Slots [189], [194] and [197]) was also identified in Trenches 1 and 10, to the north-west.

6.12.2 Ditch [187] was linear in plan and aligned north-east to south-west with moderate to gently-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.76m in width and 0.22m in depth. It contained a single fill (186) of light to mid-greyish-brown clayey silt which contained no finds. This ditch was cut by Ditch [189] to the south-west.

6.12.3 Ditch [189] (Figure 6, Section 29; Plate 9) was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.9m in width and 0.44m in depth. It contained a single fill (188) of light to mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained a small assemblage (2 fragments) of animal bone, deriving from a horse and a cow. This ditch cut Ditch [187] to the north-east, Ditch [197] to the south-west, truncated Ditch [194], and cut Pit [191] to the north-east.

6.12.4 Ditch [194] (Figure 6, Section 29; Plate 9) was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base,

measuring 0.38m in width and 0.32m in depth. It contained two fills: a basal fill (193) of light brownish-grey gravelly clay which contained no finds, and an upper fill (192) of mid-blueish-grey clay which a single sherd (3g) of Medieval Ely Ware pottery, dating to AD 1150–1350, as well as two fragments (4g) of lavastone quern, probably dating to the 11th–13th centuries AD. The fill also contained a small (13 fragments) assemblage of animal bone, including horse, cattle, and a metacarpal which may derive from a donkey. An environmental sample <1009> taken from the fill contained small quantities charred cereal remains. This ditch was truncated by Ditches [189] and [197].

6.12.5 Ditch [197] (Figure 6, Section 29; Plate 9) was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.96m in width and 0.44m in depth. It contained two fills: a basal fill (196) of light brownish-grey silty clay, an environmental sample from which <1010> did not contain any significant remains, and an upper fill (195) of light to mid-greyish-brown silty clay which contained no finds. This ditch truncated Ditch [194] and was truncated by Ditch [189] to the north-east.

6.12.6 Pit [191] (Figure 6, Section 29; Plate 9) was circular in plan with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.45m+ in length, 0.5m+ in width and 0.29m in depth. It contained a single fill (190) of mid-greyish-brown silty clay which contained no finds. This pit was cut by Ditch [189] to the south-west.

6.12.7 Pit [199] was circular in plan with gently-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.6m in length, 0.76m in width and 0.14m in depth. It contained a single fill (198) of mid-grey silty clay which contained a single sherd (2g) of Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy Ware pottery, dating to AD 1175–1300.

7 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Worked Flint

By Ella Egberts

Introduction and Methodology

7.1.1 The site produced a small quantity of struck flint and unworked burnt stone. The assemblage has been comprehensively catalogued by context, including further descriptive details of the material (Table 1). This report summarises the data in the catalogue; it quantifies and describes the material and presents a preliminary assessment and outline of its significance. No statistically based technological, typological or metrical analyses have been conducted and a more detailed examination may alter or amend any of the interpretations offered here.

	Flake	Blade like flake	Debitage <15mm	Retouched	Burnt stone (no.)	Burnt stone (wt: g)
Total	3	1	4	1	5	2.4

Table 1: Quantification of struck and burnt flint

7.1.2 A total of five struck flints, four pieces of micro-debitage (flakes and flake fragments less than 15mm in maximum dimension) and five pieces (2.4g) of unworked burnt flint were recovered from a series of pits and ditches. The largest quantity of material was recovered from context (127), a pit [129] in Trench 5 that contained a small flake, a small blade-like flake, two pieces of micro-debitage and two fragments of unworked burnt flint (0.9g). The remaining unworked burnt flint was found in context [113], a ditch [115] in Trench 4 which contained three small fragments, together weighing 1.5g. Other worked flint was found as single pieces. One ditch [104] in Trench 3, fill (103), contained an Early Bronze Age arrowhead (SF1).

The Assemblage

Raw Material

7.1.3 The struck flints from this site are made from fine-grained, translucent (dark) grey and lighter grey opaque flint. Where present, the cortex is a weathered nodular surface. The raw material may have been obtained from the Pleistocene river terrace deposits in the area, which comprise general glaciofluvial deposits and/ or diamicton (Oadby Member) Tills (BGS 2019).

Condition

7.1.4 The worked flint is in slightly chipped to chipped condition. This suggests that it was not found *in-situ* in primary depositional contexts and had moved to some extent after having been discarded.

Description

7.1.5 A total of nine struck flints were recovered from the site. The assemblage includes flakes, a blade-like flake, micro-debitage, and an arrowhead. The flakes are mainly small, thin and relatively well struck, but do not show any specific diagnostic technological or typological characteristics, and therefore can only be generally dated to the prehistoric period. The single retouched piece (SF1), recovered from Ditch [104] fill (103), is a barbed and tanged arrowhead, which can usually be dated to the Early Bronze Age period (2500–1500 BC) (Green 1980). The arrowhead was produced on a relatively narrow flake with steep bifacial edge retouch along its entire margin and the start of invasive pressure-flaked retouch towards the tip. The tang is offset from the centre, which seems to leave insufficient space for the left barb, whereas the right barb is fully formed with a slightly bevelled end. As such, this piece apparently represents an attempt to make a barbed and tanged arrowhead. This is interesting, as the form is comparable to Early Bronze Age arrowheads, but the manufacturing technique is different, as the edges are mainly steeply retouched and not invasively pressure-flaked, although a start was made at the tip. Additionally, it seems to be made on quite a narrow flake, probably resulting in limited space to develop two barbs and resulting in an off-centre tang. This arrowhead could therefore present an abandoned attempt to make a barbed and tanged arrowhead. Interestingly, similar arrowheads have been found at Clay Farm, Cambridge (Bishop 2011), where similar crudely-made barbed and

tanged arrowheads were found in securely dated Middle Bronze Age and Iron Age ditches. Based on the late prehistoric contexts from which these arrowheads were recovered, and the recognition of different methods of manufacture, this might suggest they are Middle Bronze Age attempts at manufacturing arrowheads. This could also be the case for the arrowhead from Fen End.

Significance

7.1.6 The worked flints from Fen End indicate human activity during the Early Bronze Age and possibly later. The recovery of finds of this date from this location fits well with the rich evidence for prehistoric activity around the Cambridgeshire Fen edge (e.g. Billington 2013; Bishop 2012).

Potential

7.1.7 The struck flint assemblage from the evaluation has been comprehensively catalogued and no further analytical work is recommended. Nevertheless, it does demonstrate prehistoric activity at the site which further fieldwork could potentially elucidate. Should further fieldwork take place, the assemblage reported on here should be redocumented in conjunction with any additional flint-work following the completion of the archaeological programmes.

7.1.8 The most interesting struck flint from the site is the attempted barbed and tanged arrowhead, which may date to the Early Bronze Age or might be a later prehistoric attempt to reproduce an earlier form.

7.2 Prehistoric Pottery

By Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne

Introduction

7.2.1 A very small assemblage, comprising three sherds (21g) of handmade prehistoric pottery, was recovered from the evaluation, displaying a low mean sherd weight (MSW) of 7g. The pottery derived from two contexts, relating to two pits (Table 2). The assemblage is relatively undiagnostic, with only one sherd (3g) sufficiently diagnostic to be assigned a closer Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date. The remainder of the assemblage can only be broadly dated,

based on fabric compositions, to the broad prehistoric period. No other phases of work have been undertaken on the site; as such this report encompasses the totality of the site assemblage to date. The ceramics are in a stable condition. This report provides a quantified description of the assemblage with a brief discussion.

Context	Cut	Feature Type	No. sherds	Wt (g)	Overall Context Spot Date	Fabrics-Sherd No./ Weight (g)	Reason
108	110	Pit	2	12	LN–EBA	G1 (3) F1 (9)	Fabric, decoration
127	128	Pit	1	9	(L?)PH	ShV1	Fabric

Table 2: Prehistoric pottery by context

Q1	Rare to sparse fine sand (present as crumbs)
ShV1	Moderate to common crushed plate-like shell (<2mm), rare moderate to coarse subangular voids (chalk?)
F1	Rare to sparse fine to coarse calcined flint
G1	Rare to sparse fine to medium grog

Table 3: Prehistoric pottery fabric series

Methodology

7.2.2 All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2009). After a full inspection of the assemblage, fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and modal size (Table 3). Sherds from all contexts were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gram) and assigned to a fabric type (sherds broken in excavation were refitted and counted as a single sherd). Sherds weighing less than 1g were classified as ‘crumbs’ and were recorded by context and weight in the catalogue (3g total). Sherd type was recorded, along with technology (all sherds in the assemblage are handmade), evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/ or residue. Rim and base forms were described using a codified system recorded in the catalogue and were assigned vessel numbers. Where possible, rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted (one rim, not measurable). All pottery was subject to sherd size analysis. Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as ‘small’ (100% by Sherd Count (SC)); sherds measuring 4–8cm were classified as ‘medium’ (0% by SC), and sherds over

8cm in diameter were classified as 'large' (0% by SC). The assemblage contained a minimum of one vessel, based on the single rim sherd present.

7.2.3 Pit [110] produced two small sherds of pottery, one which is likely to have derived from a Beaker-tradition vessel. The Beaker sherd is thin-walled and composed of a fine grog (G) fabric. Notably, the sherd is decorated on its exterior by multiple faint linear incisions, creating a cross-hatched effect. The crossed-hatched area appears to be delineated into a horizontal zone by further horizontal parallel incised lines. Although this decorative motif can be found in later prehistoric pottery, the fabric type and decoration exhibited by this sherd are most commonly found in the Beaker tradition, on fineware vessels (Clarke 1970). The other sherd recovered from the feature is a simple, rounded rim sherd (Type 2) in a relatively coarse, calcined flint fabric. This type of fabric was used throughout various prehistoric periods, with calcined flint fabrics generally being phased out towards the end of the Early Iron Age. Due to the lack of diagnostic features, it is not possible to date this sherd more closely.

7.2.4 Pit [129] produced a single sherd of pottery. As the sherd is not diagnostic and is composed of a shell and chalk(?) fabric, all that can be said is that it is broadly prehistoric in date, as shelly fabrics were commonly used throughout prehistory in the areas surrounding the Cambridgeshire Fens, due to the presence of fossil shell within the Ampthill, Kimmeridge and Oxford Clay deposits. Having stated this, the presence of a few crumbs of fine sand- (Q) tempered pottery within the pit suggest that an Iron Age date may be most likely.

Summary and Discussion

7.2.5 The small size and poor condition of the prehistoric pottery assemblage limits the conclusions that can be drawn from it. The prehistoric pottery recovered from the evaluation can be assigned to two periods: the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age, in the form of the single sherd derived from a Beaker vessel, and a more general 'prehistoric' phase, based on the few undiagnostic handmade sherds and crumbs. More tentatively, dates of earlier than the Middle Iron Age (<400 BC) for the undiagnostic sherd from Pit [110], and broadly Iron Age (800 BC–AD 50) for the assemblage from Pit [129] can be suggested. The

chronology of Beaker pottery in Britain is currently under review (Ambers *et. al.* 1992; Case 1993, 2001); however, Beakers are generally acknowledged to date from *c*. 2500–1700 BC (Needham 2005, 171).

7.3 Medieval Pottery

By Berni Sudds

7.3.1 A small assemblage of post-Roman pottery was recovered during the evaluation, amounting to 113 sherds, representing 88 vessels and weighing 1410g. The fabrics were examined under x20 magnification and recorded using a system of mnemonic codes based on common name, following the type series for Cambridgeshire (Spoerry 2016). The pottery was recorded and quantified for each context by fabric, vessel form and decoration using sherd count (with fresh breaks discounted), weight, estimated number of vessels (ENV) and estimated vessel equivalent by percentage rim present (REVE). An ACCESS database recording these attributes can be found with the site archive. The pottery types encountered appear below in Table 4. A summarised catalogue of the pottery by context, including date ranges and suggested spot dates, is represented in Table 5.

Fabric Code	Common Name	Date Range		SC	ENV	Weight (g)
NEOT	St Neots-type ware	875	1100	5	5	38
STAM	Stamford-type ware	875	1200	5	4	13
EMW	Early medieval ware	1050	1200	3	3	15
EMSHW	Early medieval shelly ware	1050	1200	1	1	6
HUNEMW	Huntingdonshire Early Medieval Ware	1050	1200	10	8	185
EMEMS	Early medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware	1050	1225	4	2	32
DNEOT	Developed-St Neots-type ware	1050	1250	3	3	55
MISC CW	Miscellaneous coarseware	1050	1300	1	1	23
DEVS	Developed Stamford-type ware	1150	1250	1	1	5
MEL	Medieval Ely ware	1150	1350	25	18	565
LYVA	Lyveden A type shelly ware	1150	1400	1	1	8
MISC GL	Miscellaneous glazed ware	1150	1400	1	1	4
SHW	Medieval shelly ware	1150	1400	1	1	5
SEFEN	South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware	1150	1450	21	12	218
HUNFSW	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy	1175	1300	24	22	153

	ware					
MEMS	Medieval Essex-type Micaceous Grey Sandy wares	1200	1400	3	3	40
MISC	Miscellaneous/ unsourced	900	1500	4	2	45

Table 4: The post-Roman pottery types

SC = Sherd count; ENV = Estimated number of vessels; Weight in grams.

7.3.2 The post-Roman pottery recovered ranges in date from the late 9th to 14th century, with the majority dating from the late 12th to 13th century. The earliest pottery is represented by a small assemblage of St Neots-type ware (NEOT), Stamford-type ware (STAM) and early medieval coarsewares (EMW; EMSHW; HUNEMW; EMEMS). The medieval coarsewares are comprised primarily of Medieval Ely Wares (MEL), Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy wares (HUNFSW) and South-East Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware (SEFEN). There are also smaller quantities of Medieval Essex-type Micaceous Grey Sandy wares (MEMS) and later shelly wares (DNEOT; LYVA; SHW). The medieval glazed wares include Developed Stamford-type ware (DEVS) and an unsourced glazed (MISC GL). The latter could be a Bourne product (BOUA/B) but has some coloured quartzes. Jars and rounded bowls represent the only form types identified, although the glazed wares are likely to derive from pitchers and jugs.

7.3.3 Most of the assemblage was recovered from features in Trench 1, in the west of the site, with particularly fresh groups recovered from the fills of Pits [166] and [171]. The combination of fabric and form suggest these groups date from the late 12th to early 13th or late 12th to 13th century. Smaller quantities were retrieved from features in Trenches 3 and 4, in the north of the site, and Trench 14, in the south. All of the pottery is in good condition, suggesting it is likely to have been deposited soon after breakage and probably from contemporary occupation areas on or directly adjacent to the site. The composition of the assemblage can be well paralleled at nearby Longstanton and elsewhere in the local vicinity (Spoerry 2016, 53–5, table 6.5).

Cut	Context	Category	Fabric	Form	Comments	SC	W(g)	Date Range	Spot Date
124	122	Ditch	HUNFSW	-	Body/ base sherd. Abraded.	1	11	1175-1300	1175 - 1300
141	105	Ditch	EMW	-	Body sherd. External sooting.	1	10	1050-1200	1200 - 1300
		Ditch	EMW	-	Small base sherd. Internal wear, external sooting.	1	4	1050-1200	
		Ditch	HUNEMW	Jar	Thickened, internally bevelled rim. Hollowed neck. Handmade body. Fabric sample retained. External sooting.	3	42	1050-1200	
		Ditch	HUNFSW	-	Small body sherd. Sparse calc.	1	2	1175-1300	
		Ditch	MEMS	-	Sagging base. External sooting.	1	20	1200-1400	
148	147	Pit	NEOT	-	Body/ base sherd. External sooting.	1	1	875-1100	875 - 1100
154	152	Pit	HUNFSW?	-	Base sherd. MCW? Fine sandy fabric nr HUNFSW but some coloured quartzes and sparse organic inclusions.	3	7	1175-1300	1175 - 1300
166	161	Pit	EMSHW	-	Body sherd. No obvious fossil shell.	1	6	1050-1200	1175 - 1250
		Pit	EMEMS	-	Base sherds. External sooting. Fabric sample retained.	3	29	1050-1225	
		Pit	DNEOT	Jar	Thickened rim, rounded top. Sooting/ scorching to top of rim.	1	29	1050-1250	
		Pit	DNEOT		Thickened rim. External sooting. External sooting.	1	15	1050-1250	
		Pit	DNEOT	-	Body sherd. External sooting. NEOT?	1	11	1050-1250	
		Pit	HUNEMW	-	Shoulder sherd from a jug? Handmade. Light external sooting.	1	44	1050-1200	
		Pit	HUNEMW	-	Body sherds. External sooting.	3	49	1050-1200	
		Pit	HUNEMW	-	Body sherd.	1	7	1050-1200	
		Pit	HUNEMW	-	Body sherd. Burnt or second? Pinkish grey and heat-cracked.	1	26	1050-1200	
		Pit	HUNEMW	-	Body/ base sherd.	1	17	1050-1200	
		Pit	MISC CW	-	Body sherds, fresh breaks. Coarse sand, sparse calc (shell and rounded limestone). Coloured quartzes, iron ore and flint.	1	23	1050-1300	
		Pit	MEL	Rounded bowl	Thickened (folded) rim, rounded top. Some internal scorching/ reduction. Curfew?	1	42	1150-1350	
		Pit	MEL	-	Body sherds.	2	17	1150-1350	
		Pit	MEL	-	Base sherd. Open form?	1	19	1150-1350	
		Pit	MEL	-	Body/ base sherd. External sooting.	1	10	1150-1350	
		Pit	MEL	-	Body sherd. External sooting.	1	6	1150-1350	
		Pit	SEFEN	-	Body sherds.	2	4	1150-1450	
		Pit	SEFEN	-	Body sherds. Fresh break. Incised horizontal line.	1	5	1150-1450	
		Pit	HUNFSW	-	Body sherds.	2	14	1175-1300	
		Pit	HUNFSW	-	Small base sherd. Thick internal residue.	1	2	1175-1300	
166	161	Pit <1000>	NEOT	-	Body sherd.	1	3	875-1100	1175 - 1250
		Pit <1000>	NEOT	-	Body sherd. External sooting.	1	12	875-1100	
		Pit <1000>	STAM	-	Very small body sherd. Unglazed. ?STAM.	1	1	875-1200	

		Pit <1000>	DEVS	-	Body sherd. Mottled green glaze and incised curvilinear lines. Saintonge?	1	5	1150-1250	
		Pit <1000>	HUNFSW	-	Body sherd. Little calc. Internal burnt residue.	1	3	1175-1300	
171	167	Pit	MEL	-	Body sherd.	1	3	1150-1350	1175 - 1300
		Pit	MEL	-	Shoulder sherd. EMEL?	1	17	1150-1350	
		Pit	MEL	-	Body/ base sherd.	1	9	1150-1350	
		Pit	LYVA	-	Body sherd. DNEOT? Grey core, pale orange surfaces.	1	8	1150-1400	
		Pit	SEFEN	-	Shoulder sherd from a jug?	1	29	1150-1450	
		Pit	SEFEN	-	Body sherds. External sooting.	2	18	1150-1450	
		Pit	SEFEN	-	Shoulder sherd.	1	13	1150-1450	
		Pit	SEFEN	Jar	Jar with squared rim, internally bevelled to top and hollowed neck.	1	56	1150-1450	
		Pit	SEFEN	-	Body/ base sherd. External sooting.	1	3	1150-1450	
		Pit	HUNFSW	-	Body sherd. External sooting.	1	7	1175-1300	
171	168	Pit	MEL	Bowl	Shallow rounded bowl. Simple, upright slightly thickened rim (folded). Rounded top. Sagging, knife-trimmed base. External sooting. Very similar vessel in (170) but with larger rim diameter.	6	230	1150-1350	1175 - 1300
		Pit	MEL	-	Small body sherd.	1	2	1150-1350	
		Pit	MEL	-	Base sherd?	1	10	1150-1350	
		Pit	MEL	-	Sagging base. External sooting. Handmade?	1	13	1150-1350	
		Pit	SHW	-	Body sherd, partially vesiculated surfaces. External sooting. Fossil shell but not bryozoa evident. Possibly LYVA.	1	5	1150-1400	
		Pit	MISC GL	-	Body sherd. Near GRIM in appearance but coloured quartzes, iron ore and sparse calc inclusions. Fine sandy fabric like Bourne and HUNFSW. Grey core, off white/ buff surfaces. Patchy green glaze.	1	4	1150-1400	
		Pit	SEFEN	-	Sherds from the same sagging base. Internal wear, external lamination. Fairly frequent shell/ chalk.	4	27	1150-1450	
		Pit	SEFEN	-	Body sherd.	1	14	1150-1450	
		Pit	SEFEN	-	Base sherds. Internal burnt residue.	6	46	1150-1450	
		Pit	HUNFSW	-	Base sherd. Smoothed surfaces.	1	6	1175-1300	
		Pit	HUNFSW	-	Body sherd.	1	4	1175-1300	
171	168	Pit <1001>	EMW	-	Small body sherd. Coarse sandy fabric. ?EMW	1	1	1050-1200	1175 - 1300
		Pit <1001>	HUNFSW	-	Body sherd.	1	4	1175-1300	
171	170	Pit	MEL	Bowl	Shallow rounded bowl. Simple, upright slightly thickened rim (folded). Rounded top. External sooting. Very similar vessel in	1	115	1150-1350	1150 - 1300

					(168) but with smaller rim diameter.				
		Pit	MEL	-	Fresh break (con-joining). External sooting. Reduced surfaces.	1	22	1150-1350	
		Pit	MEL	-	Fresh break (con-joining). Buff-external surface, reduced internal surface.	1	8	1150-1350	
		Pit	MEL	-	Body/ base sherds. Handmade? Uneven internal surfaces. External sooting.	2	22	1150-1350	
177	176	Ditch	STAM	-	Body sherd. Pale green glaze.	1	3	875-1200	1175 - 1225
		Ditch	EMEMS	Jar	Small, slightly thickened rim, externally bevelled top. EMS/ EMEMS? Too small to measure accurately.	1	3	1050-1225	
		Ditch	MISC	-	Thick walled body/ base sherds from vessel with narrow base. High-fired fine sandy ware. HUNFSW? Little calc.	3	43	900-1500	
		Ditch	HUNFSW	-	Body sherds.	4	21	1175-1300	
		Ditch	HUNFSW	Jar	Thickened (folded), flat-topped rim. Grey core, buff surfaces. Too small to measure accurately.	1	10	1175-1300	
		Ditch	HUNFSW	Jar	Thickened (folded), flat-topped rim. Grey core and surfaces. Too small to measure accurately.	1	8	1175-1300	
177	176	Ditch <1008>	MEL	-	Sagging base, slightly abraded. Crude. Early MEL?	1	17	1150-1350	1175 - 1225
		Ditch <1008>	SEFEN	-	Body sherd.	1	3	1150-1450	
185	184	Ditch	NEOT	-	Carinated body sherd from bowl with inturned rim.	1	4	875-1100	1200 - 1300
		Ditch	NEOT	-	Body sherd, external sooting.	1	18	875-1100	
		Ditch	STAM	-	Body sherds. Two vessels. Clear (yellow) and pale green glaze.	3	9	875-1200	
		Ditch	MISC	-	Small sherd from a flaring base. Fine fabric, high-fired with a trace of white slip? Roman? Import?	1	2	900-1500	
		Ditch	HUNFSW	-	Base sherds.	2	12	1175-1300	
		Ditch	HUNFSW	-	Body sherds. External sooting.	2	40	1175-1300	
		Ditch	MEMS	-	Body sherd.	1	12	1200-1400	
		Ditch	MEMS	-	Body sherd. Internal wear/ lamination to surface.	1	8	1200-1400	
194	192	Ditch	MEL	-	Body sherd.	1	3	1150-1350	1150 - 1350
199	198	Pit	HUNFSW	-	Small abraded body/ base sherd.	1	2	1175-1300	1175 - 1300

Table 5: Summary catalogue of the post-Roman pottery by context

SC = Sherd Count; W(g) = Weight in grams

7.4 Ceramic Building Materials and Worked Stone

By Kevin Hayward

Introduction and Methodology

7.4.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out on land at Fen End, Over, Cambridgeshire produced a small amount of fired clay fragments (99 fragments, 304g). The fragmentary condition suggests that it has been redeposited.

7.4.2 The application of a 1kg mason's 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 appropriate.

The Assemblage

7.4.3 The composite disaggregated earth and wattle building material collected termed 'daub' (fabric 3102) forms a dominant part of the assemblage. Accumulations of this material are particularly notable in features in Trench 1, especially fills (161) and (168) of Pits [166] and [171] (68 examples), with smaller concentrations in Trench 4, notably Ditch [115] fill (113) (Table 6).

7.4.4 These fragments are made of a very coarse orange clayey/ earthy fabric with occasional silt and angular chalk inclusions. All the fragments have burnt surfaces.

7.4.5 It is possible that the much coarser pieces of clay, found dispersed in features across the site, are examples of fired clay lining. As no in-situ oven or kiln structures were found, it is not possible to establish their original function with certainty, but the charred plant macrofossil assemblages from pits in Trench 1 suggest the presence of domestic ovens or crop-driers somewhere in the vicinity of the site during the 'high' medieval period.

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Size	Date Range of Material		Latest Dated Material		Spot Date
4	113	115	3102	Fired clay fragments	31	1500 BC	1700	1500 BC	1700	Undatable
1	161	166	3102	Fired clay fragments	41	1500 BC	1700	1500 BC	1700	1200-1700
1	168	171	3102	Fired clay fragments	27	1500 BC	1700	1500 BC	1700	1200-1700

Table 6: CBM Quantification

Significance and Potential

7.4.6 The building material assemblage from Fen End, Over, is dominated by large quantities of burnt/ fired clay fragments, suggesting that both wattle-and-daub buildings and ovens or kilns were located nearby. The material is poorly preserved and should all be discarded after any analysis is complete.

7.5 Lava Quernstone

By Märit Gaimster

7.5.1 Two small fragments (weight 4g) of lava quern were retrieved from the upper fill (192) of Ditch [194] in Trench 14. Lava quern stone was imported from the Rhineland in large quantities during the later Roman period, and again during the middle and late Anglo-Saxon periods (*cf*. Parkhouse 1997). Imported lava quern continues to appear in the later Middle Ages, although the results from Winchester indicated that much of the lava quern found in contexts dating to later than the 10th–11th centuries were likely residual (Biddle and Smith 1990, 882). The declining use of hand querns to pound or grind foodstuffs and other materials appears to have coincided with the spread of the mortar and pestle around the middle of the 13th century (*ibid.*, fig. 266). At Fen End, the lava quern was associated with a sherd of pottery dating from 1150–1350 (Sudds, Section 7.3). The fragmented state of the pieces would perhaps suggest a date at the earlier end of this date.

Significance and Recommendations for Further Work

7.5.2 The small fragments of imported Rhineland lava quern stone fit well with the presence of medieval settlement on or near the site, with a suggested date range of use for objects of this type in the 11th to 13th centuries. No further work is recommended for the fragments; however, they should be mentioned in any publication arising from future fieldwork at the site.

7.6 Slag

7.6.1 Five small fragments of iron slag (111g) were recovered from fill (105) of Ditch [141] (Trench 3). Based on preliminary visual examination, they appear to be fragments of smithing hearth bottom. Should further metalworking remains be

encountered in any future fieldwork at the site, this material will be assessed and analysed by an appropriate specialist.

7.7 Animal Bone

By Kevin Reilly

Introduction

7.7.1 Animal bones were found in five trenches, located in the western and south-eastern parts of the site, within medieval features. The vast majority of these were hand-recovered; however, the collection was augmented by bones retrieved from a number of bulk samples.

Methodology

7.7.2 The bone was recorded to species/ taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones, such as ribs, fragments of long-bone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic, including natural and anthropogenic, modifications to the bone were registered. The sample collections were washed through a modified Siraf tank using a 1mm mesh and the subsequent residues were air-dried and sorted. A concerted effort was undertaken to refit as many bones as possible, noting the actual number of fragments prior to refitting.

Description of the Faunal Assemblage

7.7.3 The site provided a total of 362 bones by hand recovery and 86 from 7 bulk samples. Following refitting the former total reduces to 79 and the latter to 85 fragments. The difference shown in the hand collected totals is essentially related to the somewhat fragmented remains of two equid skulls recovered from Ditch 2, trenches 1 and 14 (see below). All the bones were in a relatively good state of preservation while fragmentation, apart from the examples mentioned, was moderate to low. Very few gnawed bones were observed.

Count:	N1		N2	
Recovery:	HC	S	HC	S
Trench				

1	310	76	54	75
3	19	3	15	3
4		1		1
5		1		1
14	33	5	10	5
Grand Total	362	86	79	85

Table 7: Distribution of hand-collected (HC) and sieved (S) bones by trench

7.7.4 Animal bones were recovered from five out of the 14 trenches (see Table 7), generally located in the western part of the site, apart from those recovered from Trench 14, in the south. Most of the bones were taken from ditch fills and, in particular, from Ditch 2, which appeared in both Trench 1 and Trench 14. Otherwise, there were some bones derived from pits, which were almost entirely recovered from bulk samples (Table 8). Individual features with the largest collections include Ditch [177] (Trench 1, part of Ditch 2) with 49 hand-collected and 18 sieved bones, Ditches [141] (Trench 3) and [194] (Trench 14) with 12/1 and 8/0 fragments, respectively, and Pit [166] (Trench 1) with 2/57 bones. The majority of the bone-bearing features also provided datable artefact assemblages, which were indicative of a deposition period between the 12th and 14th centuries, with the single exception the contents of Pit [148] (Trench 3), which dates to between AD 970 and 1150.

Feature:	Ditch 2	Other		Total
Feature type:	Ditch	Ditch	Pit	
Recovery/Trench				
Hand collected				
1	49	2	3	54
3		12	3	15
14	2	8		10
Sieved				
1	18		57	75
3		1	2	3
4		1		1
5			1	1
14		5		5
Grand total	51(18)	22(7)	6(60)	79(85)

Table 8: Distribution of hand-collected and sieved bones (refitted totals) by trench, feature and feature type

7.7.5 The hand-collected bones include a range of domesticate mammals and chicken, with a somewhat more diverse species range amongst the sieved assemblage, also featuring small insectivores (water shrew) and rodents, as well as other bird species (mallard), a few fish bones and amphibians. The latter

species range was essentially recovered from Pit [166] (with the exception of the water shrew skull and mandible from Pit [148] in Trench 3). The other major sieved component, from Ditch [177], is mainly composed of cattle-size indeterminate fragments. These are almost certainly associated with the hand-collected equid remains from the same deposit, comprising a few vertebrae and ribs, and includes the majority of the cattle-size bone component from Trench 1 (see Table 9), a single splint bone and the highly fragmented remains of two skulls and their associated mandibles. The tooth eruption and wear data show that one of the skulls is from an animal aged about 2 years and the other about 3 years (after Schmid 1972, 77 and Goody 2000, 100–1), both from medium-sized ponies. It is possible that these represent the redeposited remains of two carcasses, perhaps including the vertebrae and ribs. Other partial equid 'articulations' were recovered from Ditch [141] (Trench 3), with an atlas, axis and one further cervical vertebra, and also from Ditch [194] (Trench 14), with a metacarpus, a splint bone, and 1st and 2nd phalanges. The metacarpal in the latter articulation is rather small and gracile and could represent either a small horse or a donkey. It is certainly worthy of further analysis should further excavation be carried out at the site.

Trench:	1	3	4	5	14
Species					
Cattle	7(1)				5
Equid	16	10			5(1)
Cattle-size	18(18)	(1)			(4)
Sheep/Goat	4(1)				
Sheep	1				
Pig	1				
Sheep-size	4(20)	1	(1)	(1)	
Dog	1	4			
Water shrew		(2)			
Vole	(1)				
Small rodent	(6)				
Chicken	2(1)				
Chicken-size	(3)				
Mallard	(2)				
Uniden bird	(1)				
Uniden fish	(15)				
Amphibian	(6)				
Grand Total	54(75)	15(3)	(1)	(1)	10(5)

Table 9: Species representation using refitted hand collected and sieved (in brackets) totals by trench.

7.7.6 Ditch [177] also provided the major part of a cattle skull (anterior half), which could also represent part of a discarded carcass or else butcher's waste (though no butchery cuts were observed). This species is otherwise represented by a general mix of skeletal parts.

7.7.7 Finally, there are a scatter of dog fragments, with two bones potentially part of the same skeleton, a pelvis and tibia, from Ditch [141] (Trench 3).

Conclusions and Recommendations for Further Work

7.7.8 The site has provided a notable quantity of bones, recovered by both hand collection and from the bulk samples, with clear concentrations within certain parts of the site. The great majority of the bones appear to have been deposited between the 12th and 14th centuries AD. There is a wide diversity of food species, with major domesticates, poultry and fish, as well as a range of 'accidentals', including the shrew, rodents and amphibians, no doubt indicative of the proximity of this settlement area to its waterlogged rural hinterland.

7.7.9 The wealth of equid remains is clearly an important element and it is possible that additional parts of the remains recovered from Trenches 1 and 14 could be recovered in any future fieldwork. Of interest here is the rather young ages of the equids represented in the former trench and the small and gracile individual recovered from the latter. The death or cull of animals prior to reaching working age would suggest disease and, indeed, given the number of individuals present, is perhaps indicative of a contagion of some significance. It is possible that the small equid is a donkey, this adding to a very short list of identifications of this species from medieval English sites (Baxter 2002, 93-4). There is undoubtedly a problem concerning the identification of donkey bones (Baxter 1998), but at the same time, historical sources do suggest that donkeys were little-used in medieval Britain, though there may have been a somewhat greater level of exploitation in the drier eastern parts of the country (Baxter 2002, 93). Adding to the available information is obviously of paramount importance and it is hoped that the small equid from this site will provide further evidence concerning the presence of this elusive species. It is recommended that the equid metacarpus should be analysed following the method shown in

Eisenmann and Bekouche (1986).

7.7.10 Should further fieldwork be carried out at the site, time should also be set aside for the identification and analysis of the fish bones. It is not uncommon to find the remains of this food group at medieval inland sites, although perhaps more within towns than smaller conurbations (see Armitage 2015, 89). It would be of interest to see whether any of these fish are marine and, in particular, if they were fresh rather than preserved, the former indicative of some degree of affluence (*ibid*.).

7.7.11 The condition of the evaluation assemblage is indicative of good survival conditions at the site and any further excavation, in association with a targeted sampling strategy, would undoubtedly add to the bone collection already recovered. There is certainly high potential for the recovery of a substantial animal bone assemblage from this site, which is likely to provide sufficient information to enable a relatively detailed review of animal usage in this locality during the medieval period. There is a dearth of medieval assemblages from rural/ small settlements in this general area (noting, for example, the information documented in Albarella and Pirnie 2008, Website 2) which can provide this level of information. Notable exceptions include sites on the periphery or in the immediate hinterland of medieval Cambridge, such as Harvest Way (Hadjikoumis 2016) and Church End (Swaysland 2004). Such sites should obviously be considered for comparative purposes.

7.8 Fish Bone

By Ryan Desrosiers

Introduction

7.8.1 A total of 21 fragments of fish bone were recovered from a single ‘high’ medieval feature, Pit [166] in evaluation Trench 1. These remains, weighing a total of 0.5g, are comprised of taxa from three taxonomic families: *Cyprinidae*, *Clupeidae* and *Sparidae*. This section assesses the fish remains and their potential for further analysis.

Methodology

7.8.2 The fish bone recovered from Fen End was identified, recorded and quantified (NISP) to species level whenever possible. To closely inspect specimens, a 10x magnification jeweller's loupe was used. During the recording of individual elements, additional attributes, including species, bone portion, condition, taphonomy, pathology and any anthropogenic alterations to elements were noted. A scale (J-Scale CJ-4000), 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 to refit all possible elements within contexts, with the total number of fragments being additionally noted. All specimens have been recorded in a *Microsoft Excel* (.xlsx) spreadsheet using coding devised by Rielly (2018).

7.8.3 A minority (14.29% by weight) of the fish bone was collected by hand, with the remaining majority of remains (85.71% by weight) recovered through environmental bulk-sampling. Once brought back from site, all hand-collected specimens were washed by hand in warm water using medium- to firm-bristled brushes (depending on condition of specimens). Bulk soil samples were subject to flotation processing to separate the heavy residues (e.g. stones, bone, pottery) and light residues (e.g. charcoal, seeds, insect remains) from the soil matrix, through submergence of soil samples in a closed circulating water system and subsequent filtration using a >2µ mesh. After being laid out to dry, heavy residues were further sieved through 10mm, 5mm, and 2mm mesh and sorted into material types, with the <2mm portion discarded.

Assemblage Description and Chronology

7.8.4 Archaeological evaluation at Fen End produced 21 fragments of fish bone from a single fill (161) of Pit [166] (Sample <1000>). Attempts to refit yielded no additional information regarding the elements present.

Species	Common Name	Latin Name	Habitat
HERR	herring	clupea harengus	marine
ROAC	roach	rutilus rutilus	fresh/brackish
SALM	salmonid sp.	salmonidae	anadromous
CF. SPAR	possible sea-bream	*sparidae*	marine
UNIF	unidentified fish		

Table 10: Fish species types

7.8.5 Commonly exploited marine species (Table 10), including herring and possible sea-bream, are the most abundant species within the fish bone assemblage. Additionally, while only present in smaller quantities, salmonid and roach remains were collected during both hand-collection and environmental sampling.

7.8.6 Overall, the state of preservation of the fish bone assemblage is relatively good. This is in line with the observations of Rielly (Section 7.7) regarding the preservation of the larger faunal remains. No specimens display evidence of extraneous taphonomic factors influencing preservation. No specimens from Fen End display direct evidence of human consumption or alteration.

Species	(161) [166]
HERR	3
<1000>	3
ROAC	2
<1000>	2
SALM	1
HC	1
Cf. SPAR	3
<1000>	3
UNIF	12
<1000>	10
HC	2
Grand Total	*21*

Table 11: Species (by NISP) quantification

Discussion and Conclusions

7.8.7 Overall, the Fen End fish bone assemblage is relatively small but well preserved. As the assemblage is relatively small, it is difficult to determine to what extent the taxa present were exploited.

7.8.8 An assessment of the fish remains present would suggest that these species are likely to have been preserved at the place of procurement, then transported

to Fen End. Day-to-day subsistence at Fen End was likely not dominated by these taxa, as their procurement would have been relatively costly and required a degree of economic affluence. It is surprising, given the proximity of the fens, that there was not greater exploitation of freshwater taxa.

7.8.9 Regionally, the Fen End assemblage is probably not unlike other sites on the fen edge, such as Orchard Lane, Huntingdon (Oakey and Spoerry 1994), which had many of the taxa present at Fen End.

7.8.10 If any further archaeological mitigation is undertaken, the specimens detailed within this assessment should be integrated into future analyses. Given the relative abundance of fish remains recovered from environmental samples, it is also recommended that an environmental sampling strategy is devised to increase the likelihood of recovery of fish remains. If fish bones are recovered from any further archaeological mitigation at Fen End, they should be subject to analysis by an appropriate specialist.

7.9 Plant Macrofossils

By Kath Hunter Dowse

7.9.1 Following an evaluation at Fen End, Over, 10 samples were assessed for their potential for plant remains and other environmental evidence, including charcoal. The samples were processed using a flotation technique recovering the flot to 300µm and the residue to 1mm. The residues were sorted in-house by PCA, with charcoal and other plant remains extracted from the greater than 2mm fraction. The flots and material extracted from the residues were rapidly assessed by the author using an MTL stereo microscope. The results from this assessment are recorded in Appendix 4. Some samples contained grains and large legume seeds or charcoal sufficiently well preserved to have the potential to be used for radiocarbon dating; these are listed in Table 12. Samples considered to have potential for further analysis are recorded below.

Sample Number	Context	Comments
1000	161	Charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.),Rye (*Secale cereale*),
1001	168	Wheat (*Triticum* sp.), Barley some sprouted (*Hordeum* sp.), cultivated oat in floret base (*Avena sativa*), oat (*Avena* sp.), broad bean (*Vicia faba*),
1002	105	Wheat (Triticum sp.),
1003	147	Wheat (*Triticum* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.)
1004	113	Charcoal
1005	108	Charcoal includes ring porous,
1008	176	Charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.), oat (*Avena* sp.), possible barley (cf. *Hordeum* sp.), possible garden pea (cf. *Pisum sativum*),

Table 12: Samples with C14 potential

7.9.2 Due to the availability of only low-power microscopy the assessment of charcoal is very basic. It attempts to identify the presence of ring porous or diffuse vessel patterns. Where possible, the author has attempted to identify whether the charcoal represents roundwood, heartwood, twig or root. The act of trying to identify the above characteristics in abraded charcoal is by necessity destructive. Hence, where only a few fragments are present, no attempt is made to identify them. The frequency of all charred remains has been recorded using the following criteria:

* 1–5 items

** 6–10 items

*** 11–50 items

****50–100+ items

7.9.3 The frequency for charcoal recorded in Appendix 4 in brackets e.g. (***) represents the proportion that appears to be larger than 2mm in all dimensions and may be identifiable to species.

7.9.4 Where identification of other plant macrofossils has taken place, the nomenclature for cereals follows Zohary *et al.* (2012) and for other plants Stace (2010). The term “seed” may include achene, fruit, nutlets etc.

7.9.5 The criteria used to select samples for further analysis of archaeobotanical

remains is based on a scheme developed by Wendy Carruthers. This allows various factors to be taken into account when assessing samples. The priority categories used in this assessment are as follows:

A= high potential on archaeobotanical grounds (*i.e*. rare or interesting plant taxa or exceptional preservation) or due to the scarcity of information from this type of deposit (e.g. Neolithic contexts).

B= good potential due to reasonable preservation and/or frequent identifiable charred plant remains, *i.e*. the assemblage can provide a useful amount of information.

C= some charred material but present in low concentrations or very poorly preserved. The samples will only be worth including if part of a group, or if the context is especially important or particular information is required.

D= no charred material or so few to have been fully identified and recorded.

7.9.6 While there are charred plant remains in all of the samples assessed, only three samples contained either grain or seeds in sufficient numbers to suggest any potential for more detailed analysis.

7.9.7 Samples 1000, 1001 and 1008 all contained assemblages which could provide further information about the crops being grown and the local environment during the occupation of the site.

7.9.8 The types of plant remains present in these three samples are consistent with the interpretation of the deposits as being medieval in date. There is evidence of wheat (*Triticum* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), cultivated oat (*Avena sativa*) and rye (*Secale cereale*), along with broad bean (*Vicia faba*) and possible garden pea (cf. *Pisum sativum*). The presence of silicified cereal chaff in samples 1000 and 1001 suggest that it may have been burnt as fuel. Further analysis of the weed seeds may also help to interpret how and where the crops were being grown. The presence of a range of artefacts associated with the plant remains,

including marine shells, fish scales, burnt bone and pottery, suggests that the deposits may have resulted from the dumping of a range of domestic waste. The presence of charred grain and legumes may suggest the redeposition of waste from an oven and/or a crop-drier. Whether this crop-drying was being carried out on a domestic or larger scale would require further investigation. It might be useful to compare this assemblage with other medieval sites in Cambridgeshire (Moffett 2000; Ballantyne 2005; Fryer 2005) as well as with Anglo-Saxon crop-drier/ malting oven assemblages from Barley, Hertfordshire (Hunter Dowse 2018), and Raunds (Hunter 2017; Campbell 1994) and West Cotton (Campbell 1994; Campbell and Robinson 2010) in Northamptonshire.

7.9.9 While only two samples produced charcoal in excess of 10 fragments that might be suitable for species identification (Samples 1004 and 1005), it is recommended that consultation with a relevant specialist is sought should further charcoal be recovered from any future fieldwork at the site.

8 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Overview (Figure 7)

8.1.1 Archaeological features, comprising ditches, pits and possible postholes, were identified in ten of the fourteen trial trenches. There was a concentration of archaeological features in the north-western two-thirds of the site, with particular focuses towards the northern (Trenches 3 and 4) and south-western (Trenches 1 and 10) corners, as well as in Trench 14, towards the south/ south-east.

8.1.2 The archaeological features appear to belong to two main phases of activity, dating to the later prehistoric and medieval periods.

8.1.3 The prehistoric 'phase' appears to consist of the remains of a ditched field system, present across the site, but most evident in the central area (Trenches 7, 8 and 9). Its identification is mainly based on the offset orientations of these ditches compared to the medieval and modern boundary alignments, and the very leached/ sterile appearance of the ditch fills compared with the fills of dated medieval features. Two pits might also belong to this period, based on the presence of small quantities of prehistoric struck flint and handmade pottery, most notably a single Early Bronze Age Beaker-tradition potsherd in Pit [110] (Trench 4). Although these assemblages may be *in-situ* and thus reflect the actual date of the features, the dark, anthropogenically-enriched appearance of the pit fills is in stark contrast to the sterile fills of the possible prehistoric ditches. As such, the prehistoric finds may be residual in medieval pits. Nevertheless, even if residual they are an important indicator of Bronze Age and potentially Iron Age activity in this area of Over.

8.1.4 The medieval remains are more extensive, comparatively well-dated, and are focused mainly in the western part of the site, towards the route of Fen End (Trenches 1, 3–4, 10 and 14). The medieval activity consists of ditches, pits and possible postholes, with the ditches apparently forming a series of small enclosures, likely to have been medieval tofts/ crofts aligned off Fen End. The pottery from these features ranges in date between the 9th and 14th centuries AD, but there is a clear focus in the late 12th–13th century for most of the activity.

Small amounts of St Neots-type ware, Stamford ware and various early medieval wares might indicate an earlier medieval phase but were almost all present in features of 'high' medieval date.

8.1.5 The ditches located in the north of the site, on the marginally higher and better-draining gravel geology in Trenches 3 and 4, appear to have formed a set of very small enclosures, potentially medieval building plots. The presence of buildings in this area is supported by possible postholes in both trenches, particularly in Trench 3. It should be noted, however, that finds assemblages in this part of the site were considerably smaller than those in the south/ south-west (Trench 1).

8.1.6 Finds were consistently present in features across the site but were most abundant in features in the south and, particularly, south-west. Particularly large and varied groups of medieval pottery, animal bone and crop remains were found in the pits and ditches in Trench 1. The medieval artefact assemblages are generally in good condition, with potsherds having fresh, unabraded surfaces, indicating that they are likely to have been found in primary depositional contexts close to where they were originally discarded. The medieval faunal assemblage is diverse and includes all the major domesticates, as well as poultry, fish and 'accidental' inclusions, such as rodents and amphibians. The presence of fish and these small species indicates excellent bone survival and preservation conditions at the site, at least in sealed pit contexts. Significant/ interesting aspects of the animal bone assemblage include the relatively high proportion of equid remains, including some partially articulated bones of ponies and a possible donkey metacarpal, the latter – if correctly identified – a rare example of donkey from a medieval English context. The young age at death of the equids suggests that they died or were culled, before reaching working age, possibly due to disease or ill health. Perhaps surprisingly considering the location of the site on the fen edge, the fish species are mainly marine and would have been imported to the site in a preserved state. Small amounts of lavastone quern and fragmentary daub/ fired clay are also present, indicating possible crop-processing or culinary preparation, and the presence in the area of wattle-and-daub buildings and/ or ovens. Charred

cereal grains, legumes and weed seeds were present in most soil samples taken from medieval features, but the main significant concentrations were in Pits [166] and [171] in Trench 1. These assemblages appear to be a mixture of domestic waste, hearth sweepings and possible waste from crop-drier(s) somewhere in the vicinity, the presence of ovens being further suggested by the concentrations of fired clay fragments in these pits.

8.1.7 Overall, the artefactual and environmental assemblages from the medieval features are domestic in character and their variety and condition suggest that they derive from occupation taking place on or immediately adjacent to the site.

8.2 Prehistoric Field Boundary Ditches?

8.2.1 The prehistoric remains appear to consist of the fragmentary remains of a ditched field system, present across the site but focused centrally within it (Trenches 7, 8, 9 and 13). These features did not contain finds, but a later prehistoric (Bronze Age–Iron Age) date can be provisionally suggested based on three strands of evidence: the pale, 'leached' appearance of their fills, which contrasted with the dark fills of medieval features, their generally offset alignments from those of the medieval ditches and the modern property/ plot boundary layout in this part of Over, and the presence of a 'background noise' of later prehistoric pottery and struck flint at the site, probably mainly residual but nevertheless indicative of activity in the area during the Bronze Age and possibly Iron Age. The prevailing alignment of this ditch system varies slightly but appears to be roughly north–south by east–west. The ditches forming the system are generally quite narrow and shallow and are therefore morphologically similar to the later prehistoric field systems that are widely found on light soils across East Anglia's river valleys and the Cambridgeshire fen edge.

8.2.2 Due to the limited exposure of the suggested prehistoric ditches, it is not possible to directly link them with the extensive cropmark evidence in the surrounding area, either that present directly to the north-east of the site (CHER MCB21953, 10183 and 10184) or the cropmark complex of suggested Roman date further to the north-east (Hall 1996). However, some of the smaller, fainter

cropmarks present in the seemingly multiphase cropmark complex in the field adjacent to the site (CHER MCB21953) do share a broadly similar alignment to the evaluation ditches and might form part of the same field/ boundary system.

8.3 Prehistoric Pits

8.3.1 As discussed above, two identified pits may also belong to the prehistoric phase of activity. The associated finds assemblages are limited and generally undiagnostic, although a single Beaker-derived potsherd was found in Pit [110] (Trench 4). Although it is possible that the associated finds assemblages reflect the actual date of these features, the darker, relatively anthropogenically-enhanced appearance of the pit fills contrasts with the extremely leached fills of the 'prehistoric' ditches. As such, the prehistoric finds from these pits may be residual in later, presumably medieval, features, as is likely the case for the barbed and tanged arrowhead recovered from Ditch [104] (Trench 3).

8.4 Medieval Plot Boundary Ditches

8.4.1 Evidence for medieval land divisions/ enclosures was widespread and was focused mainly in the western two-thirds of the site (Trenches 1, 3–4, 10 and 14). The ditches located in the north of the site appear to form a series of small enclosures, measuring roughly 12–16m across on each axis, and likely to be small tofts/ crofts associated with medieval properties fronting onto Fen End. The very small size of these plots and the presence of small pits/ possible postholes in the same area suggest that they may have surrounded structures.

8.4.2 Two of the ditch lines in the south of the site, sharing the same north-west to south-east alignment, may have formed a more significant boundary, as they were demarcated by more substantial ditches which were repeatedly recut/ reinstated. The layout of the medieval ditch system matches the alignment of Fen End and the orientation of extant modern property boundaries in the area, as well as mirroring the north-east to south-west by north-west to south-east orientation of various cropmarks in the wider area, the most relevant of which is the set of large and well-defined linear features visible in the field directly to the north-east (CHER MCB21953), which have been interpreted as either a Roman enclosure or a medieval moated site.

8.5 Medieval Discrete Features

8.5.1 Pits were present across the trenches containing the medieval ditch system, although they were focused mainly in the areas where ditches were more frequent (Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 14).

8.5.2 The pits identified in the northern part of the site were generally small, relatively deep in relation to their widths, and in some cases had steep-sided profiles, which would be in keeping with them being postholes. The associated finds assemblages were also small, indicating that they were not primarily refuse pits.

8.5.3 Two large pits, each more than 3m wide and fairly deep, were present in Trench 1, in the south-west of the site. These contained large and varied assemblages of finds, mainly consisting of 'fresh' sherds of pottery, fired clay fragments, and animal and fish bone, in dark, charcoal-rich fills that also contained preserved charred/ silicified cereal grains and weed seeds. The characteristics of these pits suggest that their fills derive from deliberate rubbish-dumping, including rake-out from domestic ovens/ hearths or possibly crop-driers, somewhere in the near vicinity.

8.6 Significance and Research Potential

8.6.1 The first point of interest is the possible later prehistoric (Bronze–Iron Age) field system and potentially broadly contemporary pits. The presence of prehistoric field systems (commonly dating from the Middle to Late Bronze Age) in the river valleys and fen-edge of East Anglia is an increasingly recognised phenomenon. Type sites for this activity are located nearby, around Over Quarry, close to the River Great Ouse (Yates 2007). The abundance of undated/ provisionally dated linear cropmarks in the Over area makes the identification of any pre-Roman field systems important, as any excavated and dated remains have the potential to inform, clarify and possibly subdivide the dating of these cropmark complexes. Fully understanding the extent and significance of prehistoric remains at the site would require further fieldwork (Kerry Hopper, pers. comm.).

8.6.2 The second area of interest is the medieval phase of activity at the site, comprising part of a settlement/ settlement-edge area, with pits containing primary deposits of refuse set within tofts and crofts aligned off Fen End. The

development and nature of different medieval rural settlement types has been identified as a priority for research in the eastern region (Medlycott 2011, 78) and the site at Fen End clearly has potential to contribute to this topic. Similar to the issues discussed for the possible prehistoric ditches, the medieval boundary system at Fen End gain significance due to the number of unexcavated cropmark complexes located nearby. Of particular relevance is the suggested medieval moated enclosure directly to the north-east.

8.6.3 The Fenland Survey remarks in relation to Over and nearby Swavesey that 'neither village has any [medieval] remains outside the compact area of its central core' (Hall 1996, 151). In Over, this settlement core is at Church End, 600m west of the site. The evaluation results show that this model of the medieval settlement pattern in Over is too simplistic and that settlement was actually polyfocal, with another settlement focus at Fen End and potentially other, as-yet-unidentified dispersed settlement foci elsewhere in the parish. Indeed, a dispersed medieval settlement pattern is suggested by the names 'Fen End' and 'Church End', place-names in '-end' frequently having originated during the economic and population expansion of the *c.* 12th and 13th centuries. The presence of possible medieval moated sites (e.g. CHER 08893 and 21953), visible as cropmarks in the area, further adds to the picture of a dispersed medieval settlement pattern. Although Over has earthwork/ cropmark remains of ridge-and-furrow, probably the remnants of communal open field agriculture of the sort which characterised the 'Champion'/ 'Planned' countryside of medieval Midland England (Hall 1996, 151–3; Rackham 1986, 4–5), its polyfocal settlement pattern is perhaps more in keeping with the 'ancient' countryside of East Anglia (*ibid.*).

8.6.4 The rich animal and fish bone assemblage recovered from the evaluation suggests there is potential for the recovery of a substantial, well-preserved and diverse animal bone collection, which could provide a relatively detailed insight into medieval animal usage in the locality. This is of particular significance due to the relative lack of faunal assemblages from medieval rural sites in the area. The presence of possible donkey is also of considerable interest given their rarity in medieval English contexts. The environmental assemblages from pits

in the south-west of the site (Pits [166] and [171], Trench 1) suggest good potential for cereals and seed remains which could provide useful information about medieval agriculture in Over, as well as the nature of the contemporary environment and vegetation, and the processes being carried out on/ around the site during the medieval period.

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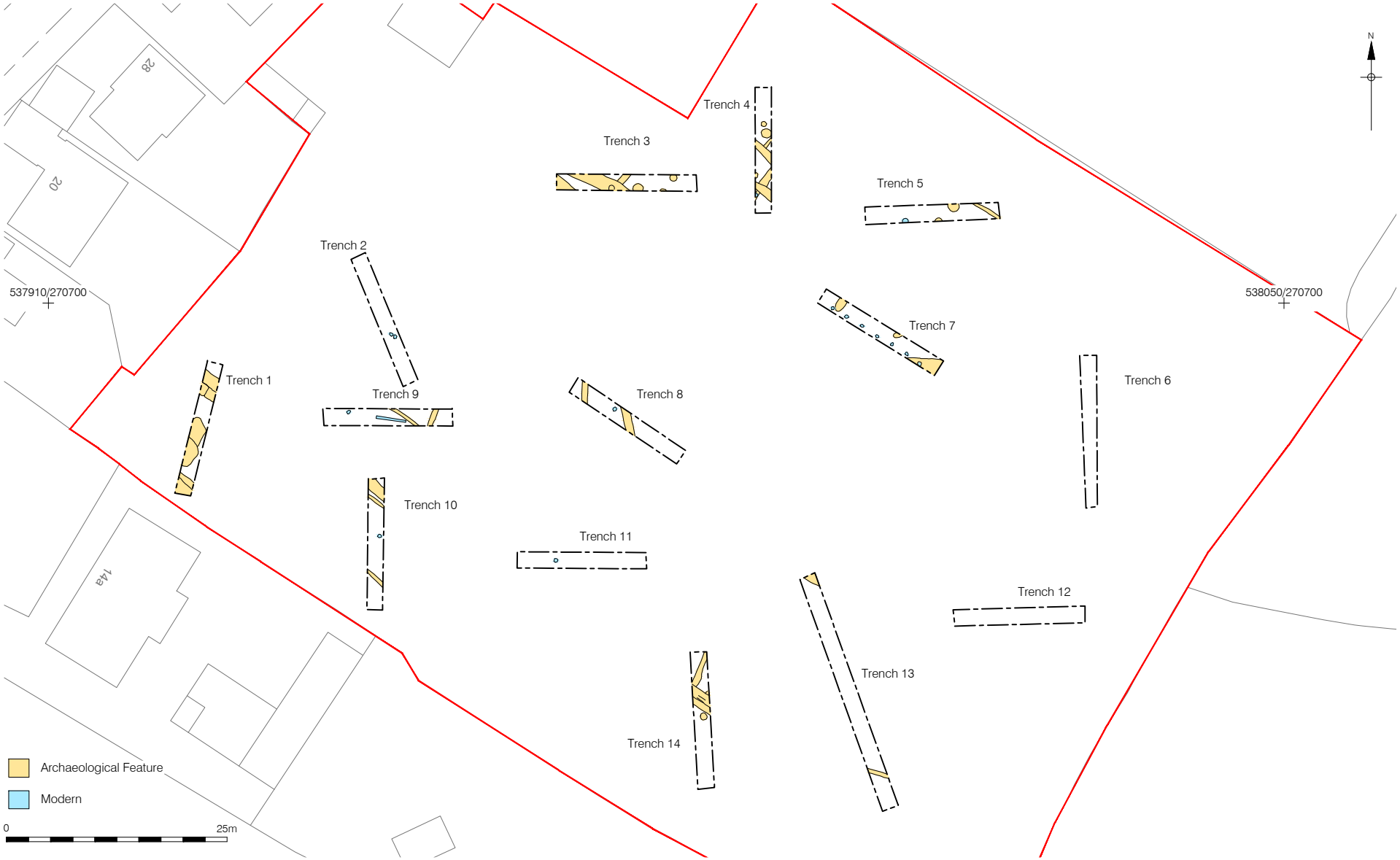
11/03/19 RS

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

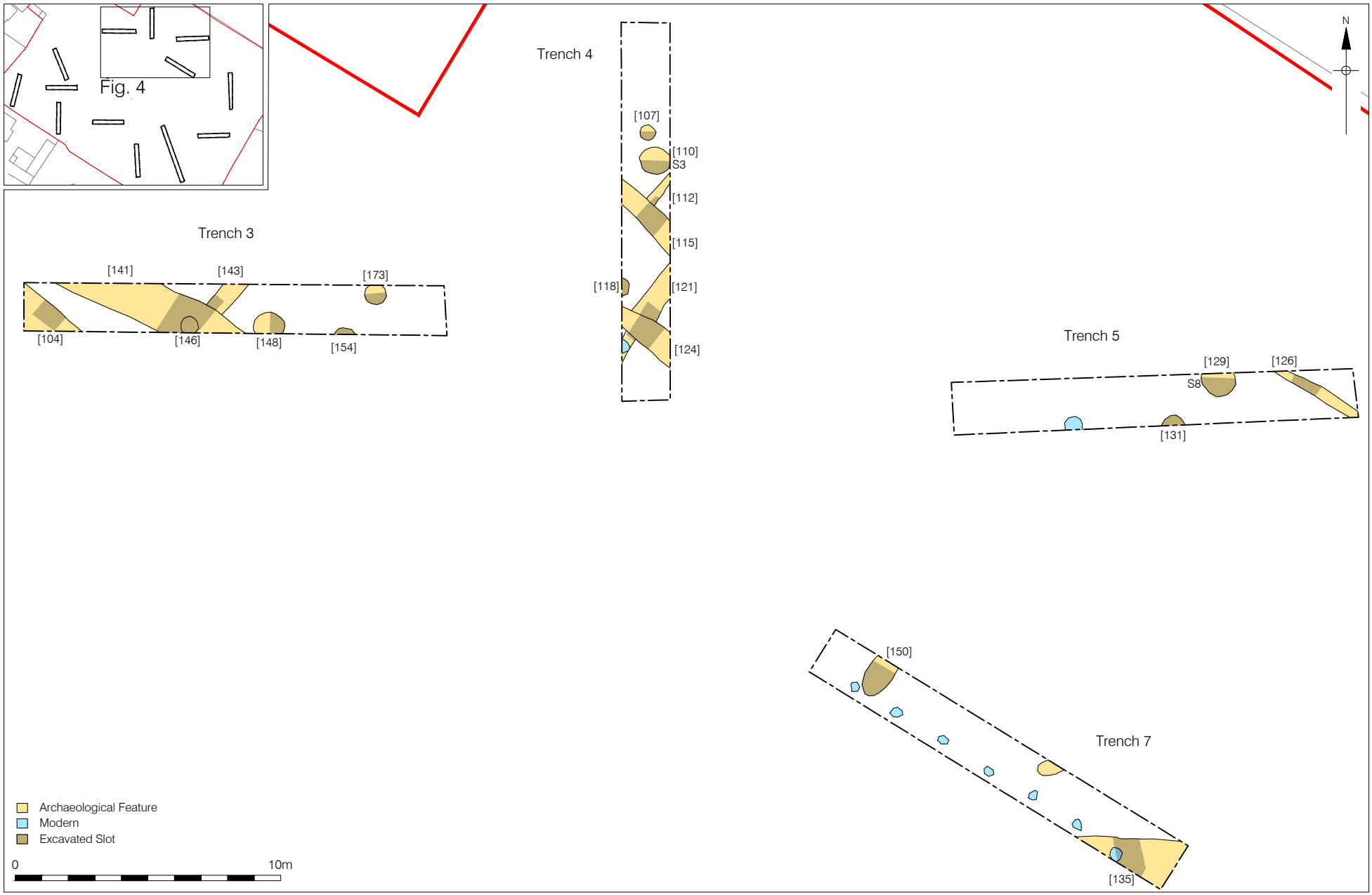


11/04/19 RS

Figure 2
Detailed Trench Location
1:625 at A4

11/04/19 RS

Figure 3
Detail of Trenches 1, 9 and 10
Inset 1:2500, Plan 1:200 at A4

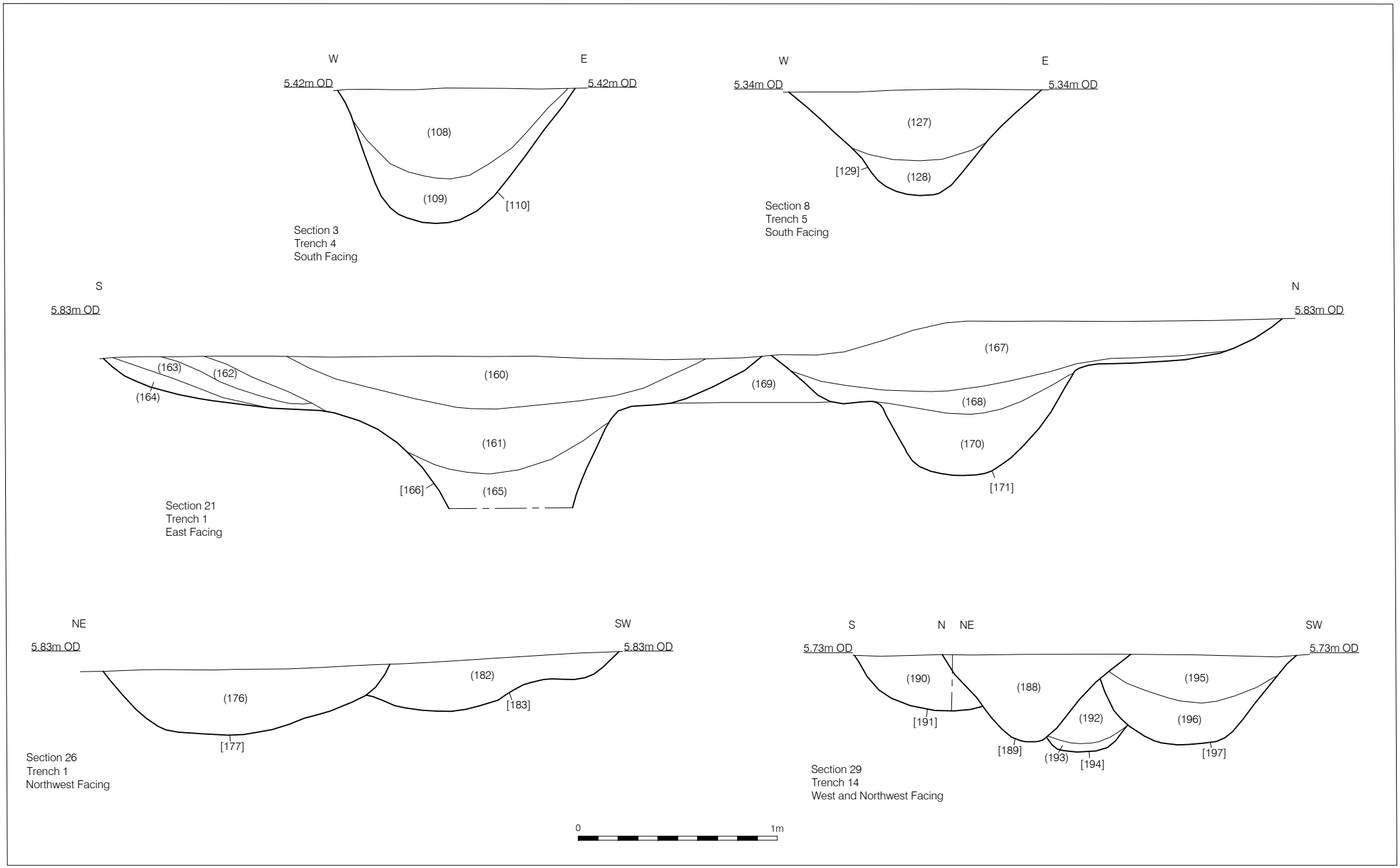


11/04/19 RS

Figure 4
Detail of Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 7
1:200 at A4

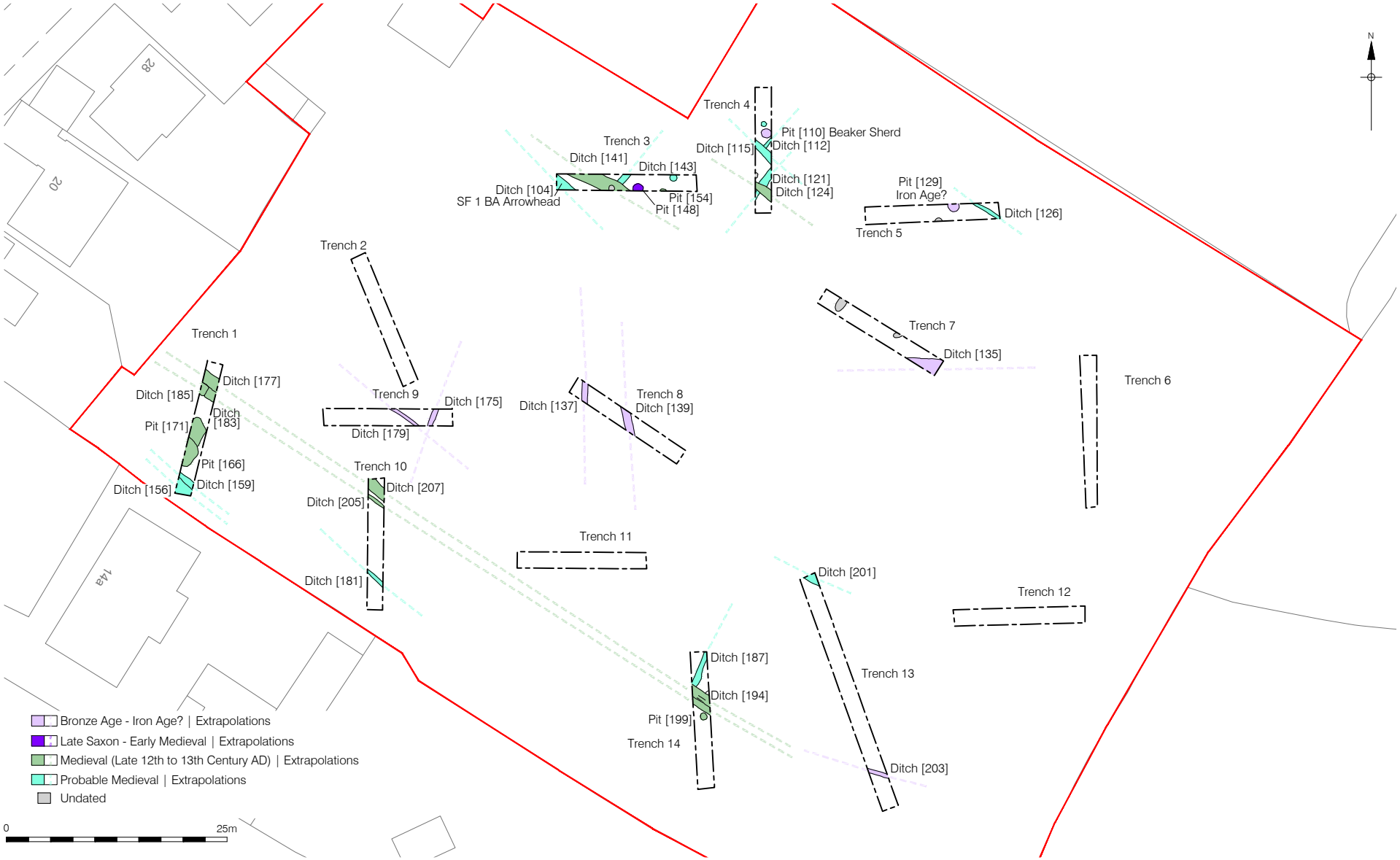
11/04/19 RS

Figure 5
Detail of Trenches 13 and 14
1:200 at A4



11/04/19 RS

Figure 6
Selected Sections
1:25 at A4



08/05/19 RS

Figure 7
Phase Plan
1:625 at A4

11 APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: Site, pre-excavation, view north-west

Plate 2: Trench 1, pre-excavation, view south-west

Plate 3: Trench 1, detail of animal bone in Ditch [177], north-west to top

Plate 4: Trench 1, Pits [166] and [171], view south-west

Plate 5: SF1, Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead

Plate 6: Trench 3, Ditches [141] and [143] and Pit [146], view south-east

Plate 7: Trench 4, Pit [107] in foreground, view south

Plate 8: Trench 8, Ditch [139], view north

Plate 9: Trench 14, Ditches [189], [194] and [197] and Pit [191], view SE

12 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Trench	Context No.	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Fill Sequence
0	100	0	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.59	Moderate, light to mid-brownish-grey silty sand	
0	101	0	Layer	Subsoil	0	0	0.72	Firm, mid-brownish-grey clayey silt	
0	102	0	Layer	Natural	0	0	1.21	Firm, mid-brownish-orange gravelly silt/ light yellowy-orange clayey silt	
3	103	104	Fill	Ditch	1	0.61	0.22	Firm, mid-orangey-grey clayey gravel	1/1
3	104	104	Cut	Ditch	1	0.61	0.22	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base	
3	105	141	Fill	Ditch	1.43	1.6	0.38	Firm, mid-brownish-grey clayey gravel	2/2
4	106	107	Fill	Pit	0.6	0.58	0.11	Moderate, mid-brownish-grey silty sand	1/1
4	107	107	Cut	Pit	0.6	0.58	0.11	Circular in plan, moderate sides, concave base	
4	108	110	Fill	Pit	1	1.16	0.44	Moderate, dark brownish-grey silty sand with occasional charcoal	2/2
4	109	110	Fill	Pit	0	1.15	0.23	Moderate, mid-grey silty sand	1/2
4	110	110	Cut	Pit	1	1.21	0.66	Circular in plan, steep sides, concave base	
4	111	112	Fill	Ditch	0.4	0.4	0.09	Moderate, mid-brownish-grey silty sand	1/1
4	112	112	Cut	Ditch	0.4	0.4	0.09	Linear in plan, gentle sides, concave base	
4	113	115	Fill	Ditch	1	0.9	0.33	Moderate, mid-to dark brownish-grey silty sand	2/2
4	114	115	Fill	Ditch	1	0.4	0.07	Moderate, light to mid-brownish-grey sand	1/2
4	115	115	Cut	Ditch	1	0.9	0.42	Linear in plan, moderate to steep sides, concave base	
4	116	118	Fill	Posthole	0.5	0.4	0.22	Moderate, mid-to dark brownish-grey silty sand	2/2
4	117	118	Fill	Posthole	0.5	0.4	0.22	Moderate to loose, mid-greyish-brown gravelly sand	1/2
4	118	118	Cut	Posthole	0.5	0.4	0.22	Circular in plan, steep sides, concave base	
4	119	121	Fill	Ditch	0.5	0.8	0.26	Moderate, mid-to dark brownish-grey silty sand	2/2
4	120	121	Fill	Ditch	0.4	0	0.04	Loose to moderate, mid-grey gravelly sand	1/2
4	121	121	Cut	Ditch	0.5	0.8	0.31	Linear in plan, steep sides, concave base	

4	122	124	Fill	Ditch	1	1.01	0.29	Moderate, mid-grey silty sand	2/2
4	123	124	Fill	Ditch	1	0.66	0.06	Moderate, mid-brownish-grey gravelly sand	1/1
4	124	124	Cut	Ditch	1	1.01	0.34	Linear in plan, moderate to steep sides, concave base	
5	125	126	Fill	Ditch	1	0.43	0.07	Moderate, mid-brownish-grey silty sand	1/1
5	126	126	Cut	Ditch	1	0.43	0.07	Linear in plan, gentle sides, concave base	
5	127	129	Fill	Pit	0.8	1.28	0.36	Moderate, mid-brownish-grey silty sand	2/2
5	128	129	Fill	Pit	0	0.69	0.16	Moderate, light to mid-grey silty sand	1/2
5	129	129	Cut	Pit	0.8	1.28	0.54	Circular in plan, moderate to steep sides, concave base	
5	130	131	Fill	Pit	0.5	0.94	0.16	Moderate, mid-grey silty sand	1/1
5	131	131	Cut	Pit	0.5	0.94	0.16	Circular in plan, moderate sides, flat base	
7	132	133	Fill	Treethrow	0.6	0.64	0.25	Moderate, mottled mid-orangey-grey silt	1/1
7	133	133	Cut	Treethrow	0.6	0.64	0.25	Subcircular in plan, steep to vertical sides, concave base	
7	134	135	Fill	Ditch	1	1.1	0.26	Moderate, mottled light grey/mid-orangey-brown clayey silt	1/1
7	135	135	Cut	Ditch	1	1.1	0.26	Linear in plan, gentle sides, concave base	
8	136	137	Fill	Ditch	1	0.66	0.13	Moderate, mid-brown sandy silt	1/1
8	137	137	Cut	Ditch	1	0.66	0.13	Linear in plan, gentle sides, concave base	
8	138	139	Fill	Ditch	1	0.86	0.24	Moderate, light to mid-brown sandy silt	1/1
8	139	139	Cut	Ditch	1	0.86	0.24	Linear in plan, gentle to moderate sides, concave base	
3	140	141	Fill	Ditch	1.43	0.5	0.12	Firm, mid-greyish-orange silty sand	1/2
3	141	141	Cut	Ditch	1.43	1.6	0.48	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base	
3	142	143	Fill	Ditch	0.36	0.46	0.21	Firm, mid-brownish-grey gravelly clay	1/1
3	143	143	Cut	Ditch	0.36	0.46	0.21	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base	
3	144	146	Fill	Pit	0	0.74	0.55	Firm, mid-blueish-grey silty sand	2/2
3	145	146	Fill	Pit	0	0.47	0.24	Firm, mid-blueish-grey sandy silt	1/2
3	146	146	Cut	Pit	0.74	0.74	0.55	Circular in plan, steep sides, flat base	
3	147	148	Fill	Pit	1.1	0.9	0.16	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay	2/2
3	148	148	Cut	Pit	1.1	0.9	0.24	Circular in plan, gentle sides, concave base	
7	149	150	Fill	Ditch	1.6	0.8	0.2	Moderate, mid-brownish-grey sandy silt	1/1

7	150	150	Cut	Ditch	1.6	0.8	0.2	Linear in plan, moderate to gentle sides, concave base	
3	151	148	Fill	Pit	0	0.71	0.11	Firm, mid-orangey-brown clayey gravel	1/2
3	152	154	Fill	Pit	0	0.78	0.21	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay	2/2
3	153	154	Fill	Pit	0	0.65	0.11	Firm, mid-blueish-grey clayey gravel	1/2
3	154	154	Cut	Pit	0.4	0.78	0.36	Circular in plan, moderate sides, concave base	
1	155	156	Fill	Ditch	1	0.8	0.2	Moderate, dark to mid-grey sandy silt	1/1
1	156	156	Cut	Ditch	1	0.8	0.2	Linear in plan, gentle sides, concave base	
1	157	159	Fill	Ditch	1	0.51	0.06	Moderate, dark blackish-grey sandy silt	2/2
1	158	159	Fill	Ditch	1	0.7	17	Moderate, light to mid-yellowy-grey clayey silt	1/2
1	159	159	Cut	Ditch	1	0.8	0.18	Linear in plan, gentle sides, concave base	
1	160	166	Fill	Pit	0.9	2.07	0.28	Moderate, mid-brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal	6/6
1	161	166	Fill	Pit	1.8	2.75	0.33	Moderate, dark brownish-grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal	5/6
1	162	166	Fill	Pit	0	0.68	0.07	Moderate, light to mid-yellow clay	4/6
1	163	166	Fill	Pit	0	0.98	0.1	Moderate, mid-brownish-grey sandy silt	3/6
1	164	166	Fill	Pit	0	1.1	0.07	Moderate, light to mid-yellow clay	2/6
1	165	166	Fill	Pit	0	0.95	0.26	Moderate to firm, dark to mid-grey sandy silt	1/6
1	166	166	Cut	Pit	1.8	3.31	0.78	Circular in plan, gentle to steep, base not reached	
1	167	171	Fill	Pit	1.9	2.62	0.35	Moderate, dark blackish-grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal	4/4
1	168	171	Fill	Pit	0	2.2	0.13	Moderate, dark blackish-grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal	3/4
1	169	171	Fill	Pit	0	0.72	0.24	Firm, light yellowy-grey clayey silt	2/4
1	170	171	Fill	Pit	0	1	0.32	Firm, mottled mid-grey sandy silt/mid-greyish-yellow clay	1/4
1	171	171	Cut	Pit	1.9	3.12	0.79	Subrectangular in plan, gentle to steep sides, concave base	
3	172	173	Fill	Pit	0.66	0.66	0.11	Firm, light yellowy-brown clayey gravel	1/1
3	173	173	Cut	Pit	0.66	0.66	0.11	Circular in plan, moderate sides, concave base	
9	174	175	Fill	Ditch	1	0.44	0.14	Moderate, mid-orangey-grey sandy silt	1/1
9	175	175	Cut	Ditch	1	0.44	0.14	Linear in plan, gentle sides, concave base	
1	176	177	Fill	Ditch	1	1.46	0.32	Moderate to firm, mid-brownish-grey clayey silt	1/1

1	177	177	Cut	Ditch	1	1.46	0.32	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base	
9	178	179	Fill	Ditch	1	0.27	0.06	Moderate, mid-grey sandy silt	1/1
9	179	179	Cut	Ditch	1	0.27	0.06	Linear in plan, gentle sides, concave base	
10	180	181	Fill	Ditch	1	0.3	0.14	Moderate, light to mid-brownish-grey silty sand	1/1
10	181	181	Cut	Ditch	1	0.3	0.14	Linear in plan, gentle sides, concave base	
1	182	183	Fill	Ditch	0.7	1.35	0.26	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay	1/1
1	183	183	Cut	Ditch	0.7	1.35	0.26	Linear in plan, gentle to moderate sides, concave base	
1	184	185	Fill	Ditch	0.5	1.29	0.3	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay	1/1
1	185	185	Cut	Ditch	0.5	1.29	0.3	Linear in plan, moderate to steep sides, flat base	
14	186	187	Fill	Ditch	1	0.76	0.22	Firm, light to mid-greyish-brown clayey silt	1/1
14	187	187	Cut	Ditch	1	0.76	0.22	Linear in plan, moderate to gentle sides, concave base	
14	188	189	Fill	Ditch	1	0.9	0.44	Firm, light to mid-brownish-grey silty clay	1/1
14	189	189	Cut	Ditch	1	0.9	0.44	Linear in plan, steep sides, concave base	
14	190	191	Fill	Pit	0.45	0.5	0.29	Moderate, light to mid-greyish-brown silty clay	1/1
14	191	191	Cut	Pit	0.45	0.5	0.29	Circular in plan, moderate sides, concave base	
14	192	194	Fill	Ditch	1	0.38	0.25	Firm, mid-blueish-grey clay	2/2
14	193	194	Fill	Ditch	1	0.38	0.06	Moderate, light brownish-grey gravelly clay	1/2
14	194	194	Cut	Ditch	1	0.38	0.32	Linear in plan, moderate sides, flat base	
14	195	197	Fill	Ditch	1	0.93	0.24	Firm, light to mid-greyish-brown silty clay	2/2
14	196	197	Fill	Ditch	1	0.87	0.22	Firm, light brownish-grey silty clay	1/2
14	197	197	Cut	Ditch	1	0.96	0.44	Linear in plan, steep sides, concave base	
14	198	199	Fill	Pit	0.6	0.76	0.14	Firm, mid-grey silty clay	1/1
14	199	199	Cut	Pit	0.6	0.76	0.14	Subcircular in plan, gentle sides, concave base	
13	200	201	Fill	Ditch	0.8	0.7	0.18	Moderate, dark to mid-grey clayey silt	1/1
13	201	201	Cut	Ditch	0.8	0.7	0.18	Linear in plan, gentle sides, flat base	
13	202	203	Fill	Ditch	1	0.36	0.07	Firm, dark to mid-grey clayey silt	1/1
13	203	203	Cut	Ditch	1	0.36	0.07	Linear in plan, gentle sides, concave base	

10	204	205	Fill	Ditch	2.4	0.4	0	Firm, light to mid-greyish-brown silty clay	1/1
10	205	205	Cut	Ditch	2.4	0.4	0	Linear in plan	
10	206	207	Fill	Ditch	2.8	1.2	0	Firm, light to mid-brownish-grey silty clay	1/1
10	207	207	Cut	Ditch	2.8	1.2	0	Linear in plan	

13 APPENDIX 3: TRENCH TABLES

TRENCH 1	Figures 2 & 3		
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 15m	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.77m-5.93m	

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.5m	0.39m
Subsoil	(101)	0.63m	0.58m
Natural	(102)	0.64m+	0.59m+

Summary

Trench 1 was located in the south-western corner of the site.

The trench contained five ditches and two pits.

TRENCH 2	Figure 2		
Trench Alignment: NW–SE	Length: 40m	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.25m-5.39m	

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.37m	0.33m
Subsoil	(101)	0.57m	0.54m
Natural	(102)	0.58m+	0.55m+

Summary

Trench 2 was located along the north-western edge of the site.

The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

TRENCH 3	Figures 2 & 4		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 15m	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.4m–5.41m	

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Made Ground	(208)	0.48m	0.5m
Subsoil	(101)	0.62m	0.52m
Natural	(102)	0.63m+	0.53m+

Summary

Trench 3 was located in the north-western corner of the site.

The trench contained three ditches and four pits.

TRENCH 4	Figures 2 & 4	

Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 15m	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.43m-5.44m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.26m	0.21m
Subsoil	(101)	0.41m	0.39m
Natural	(102)	0.42m+	0.40m+

Summary

Trench 4 was located in the north-western corner of the site.

The trench contained four ditches, two pits and a single posthole.

TRENCH 5	Figures 2 & 4		
Trench Alignment: E–W	Length: 15m	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.25m-5.32m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.41m	0.39m
Subsoil	(101)	0.57m	0.48m
Natural	(102)	0.58m+	0.49m+

Summary

Trench 5 was located along the north-eastern edge of the site.

The trench contained a single ditch and two pits.

TRENCH 6	Figure 2		
Trench Alignment: N–S	Length: 15m	Level of Natural (m OD): 4.3m-4.28m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Made Ground	(208)	0.17m	0.25m
Made Ground	(209)	0.52m	0.51m
Made Ground	(210)	0.76m	0.77m
Made Ground	(211)	1.20m	1.20m+
Natural	(102)	1.21m+	-

Summary

Trench 6 was located in the north-eastern corner of the site.

The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits and had been subject

to a significant degree of truncation.

TRENCH 7	Figures 2 & 4	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 15m	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.29m-5.3m

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.29m	0.3m
Subsoil	(101)	0.65m	0.51m
Natural	(102)	0.66m+	0.52m+

Summary

Trench 7 was located in the north-eastern part of the site.

The trench contained two ditches and a single treethrow.

TRENCH 8	Figure 2	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 15m	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.44m-5.56m

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.3m	0.29m
Subsoil	(101)	0.58m	0.50m
Natural	(102)	0.59m+	0.51m+

Summary

Trench 8 was located in the central part of the site.

The trench contained two ditches.

TRENCH 9	Figures 2 & 3	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 15m	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.55m-5.67m

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.39m	0.38m
Subsoil	(101)	0.66m	0.51m
Natural	(102)	0.67m+	0.52m+

Summary

Trench 9 was located in the south-western part of the site.

The trench contained two ditches.

TRENCH 10	Figures 2 & 3	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 15m	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.54m-5.83m

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.36m	0.36m
Subsoil	(101)	0.53m	0.53m
Natural	(102)	0.54m+	0.54m+

Summary

Trench 10 was located along the south-western edge of the site.

The trench contained three ditches.

TRENCH 11	Figure 2	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 15m	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.53m-5.69m

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.3m	0.38m
Subsoil	(101)	0.48m	0.5m
Natural	(102)	0.49m+	0.51m+

Summary

Trench 11 was located in the central part of the site

The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

TRENCH 12	Figure 2	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 15m	Level of Natural (m OD): 4.99m-5.18m

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Made Ground	(212)	0.3m	0.2m
Made Ground	(213)	0.45m	0.39m
Subsoil	(101)	0.65m	0.58m
Natural	(102)	0.66m+	0.59m+

Summary

Trench 12 was located along the south-eastern edge of the site.

The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

TRENCH 13	Figures 2 & 5	

Trench Alignment: NW–SE	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.53m-5.55m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Made Ground	(214)	0.24m	0.28m
Made Ground	(215)	0.39m	-
Subsoil	(101)	0.54m	0.53m
Natural	(102)	0.55m+	0.54m+

Summary

Trench 13 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site.

The trench contained two ditches.

TRENCH 14	Figures 2 & 5		
Trench Alignment: N–S	Length: 15m	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.74m-5.75m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.21m	0.22m
Subsoil	(101)	0.38m	0.45m
Natural	(102)	0.39m+	0.46m+

Summary

Trench 14 was located near the south-eastern corner of the site.

The trench four ditches and two pits.

APPENDIX 4: ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE DATA

Sample No.	Context	Cut	Add. Info.	Sediment Volume (l)	Flot Volume(ml)		Charred									Silicified			
						% scanned	grain	cereal NFI	chaff	legume	seed	fruit/nut	ACL	charcoal	other	chaff	Comments	Potential	Charcoal Potential
1000	161	166	Pit fill. Pot/ bulk/ organic waterlogged	27	20	100	**	**	*	*	***		*	(*)**		**	Charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.),Rye (*Secale cereale*),possible oat (cf.*Avena* sp.), possible barley (cf.*Hordeum s* p.)cerealgrain nfi, cereal straw nodes, Silicified wheat awn fragments, breadlike amorphous charred fragments, Stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*),corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*) Campion type (*Silene s* p.), orache/goosefoot type (*Atriplex/Chenopodium* sp.), possible knapweed/corn flower type (cf.*Centaurea* sp.) indet seeds. Fish scale Abundant modern roots with few modern seeds.	B	poor
1001	168	171	Pit fill,Pot/ bulk/ organic waterlogged	25	32	100	****	****	*	*	****	*			*	*	Wheat (*Triticum* sp.), Barley some sprouted (*Hordeum* sp.), cultivated oat in floret base (*Avena sativa*), oat (*Avena* sp.), cereal straw nodes, broad bean (*Vicia faba*), 4mm and 2mm legumes, tuber/rhyzome fragments, hazel nut shell, abundant weed seeds includes stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), cleavers (*Galium aperine*), clover/bird'sfoot trefoil type (Trifolium/*Lotus* sp.), burnt bone, Fish scale, pottery Abundant modern roots with few modern seeds.Blind awl snail (*Cecilioides acicula*)	B	poor
1002	105	141	Ditch slot, bulk, contains some charcoal	16	<2	100	*	*			*		*	(*)*			Wheat (Triticum sp.), cereal nfi, black bindweed *(Fallopia convolvulus)* , clover /bird'sfoot trefoil type. (Trifolium /Lotus sp.)very small flot with modern seeds	D	poor
1003	147	148	Pit, bulk, contained pottery, bone	15	<2	100	**	**		*	**						wheat (*Triticum* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), cereal nfi, stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), , grass type (Poaceae), possible corn spurry type (cf. *Spergula arvensis*) Very small flot.	C	poor
1004	113	115	Ditch slot, bulk, low levels of bioturbation	17	7	100	*				*			(**)***			Wheat (*Triticum* sp.), cleavers (*Galium aperine*), molluscs, Abundant roots and moden seeds.	D	fair
1005	108	110	Pit, bulk, dark fill, charcoal, finds retrieval	16	14	100		*					*	(***)****			cereal nfi, amorphous charred fragments, Charcoal includes ring porous, mussel shell, abundant modern roots	D	moderate
1006	127	129	Pit, bulk, dark fill, charcoal, low levels of bioturbation	17	<2	100	.				*			(*)*			Cereal nfi, dock (*Rumex* sp.), very small soily flot with modern roots.	D	poor
1007	138	139	Ditch slot, bulk, medium levels of bioturbation, appears sterile	16	<2	100					*			(*)*			Charred indet seed. The charcoal is impregnated with iron. Modern roots, moss and seeds.	D	poor
1008	176	177	Ditch/ bulk/ waterlogged- animal bone rich	13		100	**	**						(*)*			Charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.), oat (*Avena* sp.), possible barley (cf. *Hordeum* sp.), possible garden pea (cf. *Pisum sativum*), large legume fragments (cf. *Pisum sativum* /*Vicia faba)* , brassica type,Mussel shell.Modern roots, molluscs.	C	poor
1009	192	194	Ditch/ bulk/ waterlogged- animal bone rich	13	3	100	*										Charred cereal nfi. Soily flot with abundant modern roots. Molluscs	D	poor
	196	197															Molluscs		

15 APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-349387

Project details

Project name	Land Off Fen End, Over, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land off Fen End, Over, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3797 7069). The evaluation identified two main phases of archaeological activity, dating to the later prehistoric and medieval periods. The prehistoric phase consisted of the remains of a ditched field system, present across the site but focused centrally within it (Trenches 8 and 9). Small quantities of prehistoric material were recovered from two pits, although the relatively dark appearance of the feature fills suggests these assemblages may be residual. The second, medieval (predominantly late AD 12th-13th century) phase was more significant, and was focused to the north-west and south-west within the site area, towards the historic core of the village of Over (Trenches 1, 3-5, 9-10, and 13-14). This activity took the form of ditches, pits and postholes, with the ditches forming a series of small enclosures, likely to have been small back-garden plots aligned off Fen End. One of the ditch lines, located to the south-west may have formed a more significant boundary, as it was composed of a series of larger, recutting ditches. The ditches located to the north, on the dryer, more gravelly geology formed very small enclosures, which may have formed the focus for direct structural occupation. Finds assemblages were in general consistently present but not abundant to the north within the site, although certain features to the south contained relatively large assemblage of pottery and animal bone. Most notably, two large pits, located to the south-west, closer to Fen End contained assemblages probably deriving from the rake out of domestic ovens or hearths.
Project dates	Start: 03-04-2019 End: 10-04-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5834 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None

Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLE Medieval
Significant Finds	STRUCK FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	SLAG Medieval
Significant Finds	FIRED CLAY Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	WORKED STONE Medieval
Significant Finds	SHELL Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	'"Sample Trenches"'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE OVER Land Off Fen End, Over, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	CB24 5NE
Study area	405 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 3797 7069 52.316543314035 0.024353395198 52 18 59 N 000 01 27 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.5m Max: 1.21m

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	CCC Historic Environment Team
Project design originator	Christiane Meckseper
Project director/manager	Tom Woolhouse
Project supervisor	Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne
Type of sponsor/funding body	Archaeological Consultancy
Name of sponsor/funding body	Archaeology Collective Ltd
Project archives	
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Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Database","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

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