

**35A PETERBOROUGH ROAD,
CASTOR,
PETERBOROUGH,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

NGR REF: TL 1244 9834



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
(OASIS ID: independ1-302057)

NOVEMBER 2017

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants at 35A Peterborough Road, Castor, Cambridgeshire. Two evaluation trenches were opened up in the garden behind the existing property, and a ditch with residual Romano-British and late medieval finds were uncovered. The ditch may once have filled the function as a boundary ditch between two plots in the medieval village.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site was located at 35A Peterborough Road, Castor, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 1244 9834) (Figure 1-3). Two evaluation trenches were opened up within the proposed development area. The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), as well as discussions with Rebecca Casa Hatton, Archaeological Officer at Peterborough City Council. The project was based on a WSI, which complies with the principles of the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2012).
- 1.2 Independent Archaeology Consultants is an archaeological consultancy company based in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The company subscribes to the *Code of Conduct, the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2014), *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Paper 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (EAA Occ. Paper No 24, 2011). All relevant CIfA Codes of Practice were adhered to throughout the course of the project.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning Permission has been granted (APP/J0540/A/14/2229045) for a new development at 35A Peterborough Road, Castor, Cambridgeshire. The project comprised the erection of a new residential development consisting of 2 dwellings.
- 2.2 The development site was located about 5km northwest of central Peterborough, in the village of Castor. It enclosed an area of some 2400m² at an average height of 17m AOD. Castor is located between the clay capped limestone uplands and the terrace river gravels of the valley.
- 2.3 The site was situated within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by Peterborough HER. Therefore, an archaeological evaluation was required prior to any construction on the site. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission granted by Peterborough City Council, and was in line with standards described in NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework).



Figure 1. The location of Castor in England.

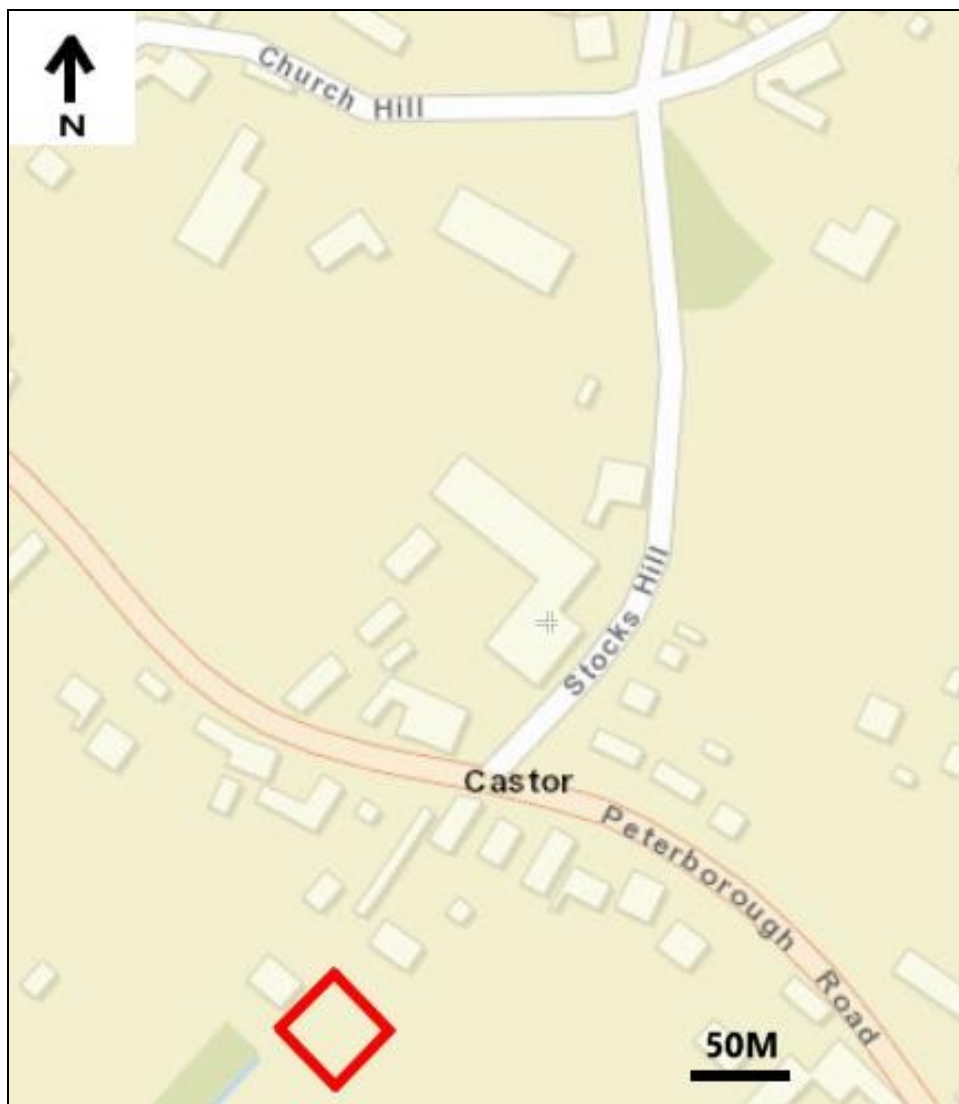


Figure 2. Site Location in Castor.

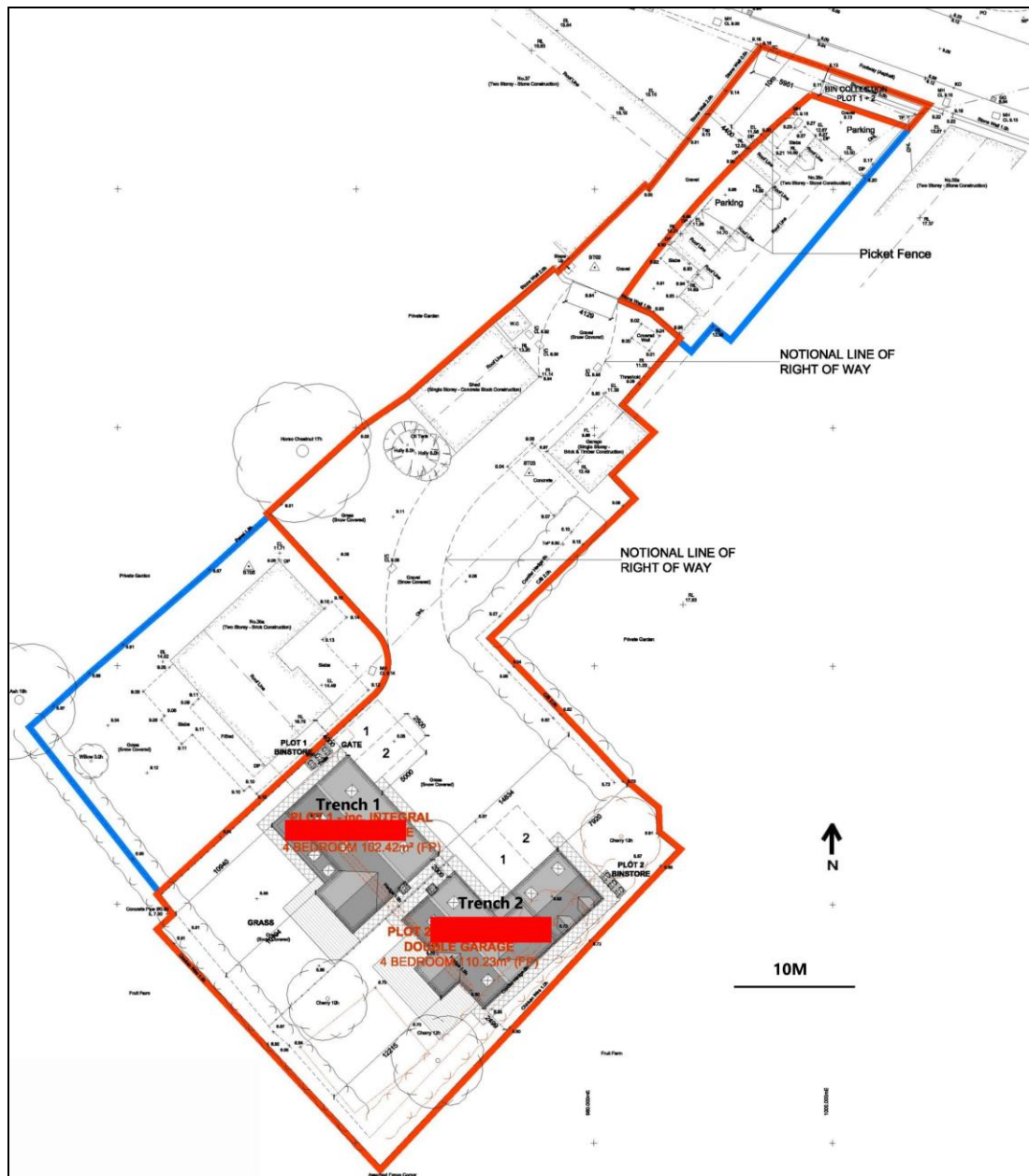


Figure 3. Site Outline and Trench Locations.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The proposed development site falls within an area of archaeological interest. Extensive Roman settlement remains, including high status buildings, have been recorded in the vicinity, some of which are protected within the boundaries of Scheduled Monument PE 93.
- 3.2 The site, therefore, had high archaeological potential, with particular reference to the Roman and medieval period. Cartographic evidence indicated the site had been used as a garden since at least the post-medieval period.

- 3.3 The village of Castor has been the subject of a number of archaeological investigations since the early 19th century. E. T. Artis was the first to excavate elements of this complex during the first half of the 19th century. A series of illustrations published in his *Durobrivae of Antoninus* (1828) depicts the on-going excavation of substantial masonry buildings in the vicinity of Castor church. A plan of the building ranges that he revealed in this area (*ibid*, plate xiii, plan 1) suggested a very large building based on an open courtyard, with east and west wings that projected down slope to the south-west. He mapped a range of Roman rooms (possibly an extension of the palace's west wing). A very fine, near complete, mosaic was found in the middle of the central room. This was transferred to Milton Hall (Artis 1828).
- 3.4 Subsequent investigations have corroborated Artis's results, and have confirmed that a large part of the complex may constitute a single great later Roman 'palatial' building (or *praetorium*, as Artis called it), possibly the seat for an (as yet) unidentified Roman dignitary (Mackreth 1984; Upex 2008). The monumental aspect of the complex is apparent in the scale of the building foundations, their prominent location, and evidence for the methodical terracing of the hillside on which they sit.
- 3.5 Further to the south there is evidence for a series of dispersed Roman buildings, which appear to pre-date the main palatial structure. During his excavations Artis revealed a bathhouse in the south-west corner of the school playing field. He recorded more Roman building ranges close to No. 26 Peterborough Road, within the grounds of the Royal Oak Pub and south of Peterborough Road.
- 3.6 Excavations carried out in the grounds of 'Elmlea' (north of Church Hill) during the 1970s and 1980s confirmed the location of the main range of Artis's palatial Roman building (Upex 2008; *Id.* 2010). Artis's mapping, though perhaps questionable in certain areas, was also found to be quite accurate during the excavation of a service trench across the churchyard. A substantial Roman end wall and cement sub-floor was found to be almost exactly where Artis mapped an end wall of a room within palace's west wing.
- 3.7 Though Artis's work in Castor was evidently extensive, subsequent excavations have demonstrated that there are other substantial Roman building remains that he did not note. Excavation during the 1950s in advance of an extension of the churchyard immediately north of the school field revealed hitherto unrecorded substantial well-preserved Roman building foundations (Green et al 1988).
- 3.8 A small excavation in advance of construction of an office at the school exposed more Roman building remains and a Roman period inhumation (Meadows 1991). Archaeological deposits (at a depth of some 0.50m) were well sealed by modern construction layers and topsoil. Trial pit excavation in advance of the construction of access ramps and play equipment revealed a

similar depth of overburden at the east side of the school field area (Wall 1997).

- 3.9 An evaluation across the school grounds (Hatton & Spoerry 2000) revealed substantial *in situ* Roman building remains immediately below turf level in the north-east quadrant of the playing field. Adjacent to the (south side) of the main school block building remains were sealed beneath modern tarmac and make-up levels and a buried garden soil at over 0.30m below current ground level.
- 3.10 Some light has also been shed on the post-Roman history of the complex. Evaluation during 1998 in advance of the construction of the church Benefice Centre produced late Roman building remains, together with evidence of early Saxon occupation and the robbing of Roman masonry during the Middle Saxon period (Lucas 1998). The remains of a late Saxon or post-Conquest timber building and a later grave were also revealed. These elements of the complex archaeological stratigraphic sequence were sealed by a garden soil up to 0.80m thick.
- 3.11 Evidence of Middle Saxon settlement was revealed within and outside the area of the Roman building excavated in the churchyard extension (Green et al 1988, 109-148).
- 3.12 Several of the other excavations have produced Early and Middle Saxon settlement evidence, some of which is consistent with high status occupation (Dallas 1973). Castor is historically associated with the nunnery that is said to have been founded in the 7th century by St Kyneburgha.
- 3.13 St Kyneburgha's is a very fine 12th century church. A dedication inscription above the south door of the chancel records its consecration in 1124. Fragments of decorated stone and cross indicate a pre-conquest ecclesiastical presence on the site. Castor parish included the hamlets of Ailsworth, Milton, Upton, and Sutton. The central role of St Kyneburgha's, its antiquity and architectural splendour, further suggest the early significance of this site.
- 3.14 A trial trench and test pit evaluation undertaken on part of the Castor Barns site by Archaeological Project Services during March 2006 (Mellor 2006) hinted at the presence of Roman buildings within the site boundaries.
- 3.15 This was confirmed by a watching brief and small excavation carried out in 2007 and 2008 (Cope-Faulkner 2009). Excavation following topsoil removal in part of the yard area revealed Roman structural remains and features, including the remains of a hypocaust heated building. This was recorded and then preserved beneath the new yard surface.
- 3.16 The evaluation and subsequent recording also revealed that medieval stone post pads, pits and post holes also survive at the site, and that early post-

medieval moulded masonry pieces had been used in the foundations of a barn (Mellor 2006; Cope-Faulkner 2009). Buried post-medieval cobble surfaces were noted within the barns and in the open yard. In some instances these probably pre-date the existing buildings.

- 3.17 Recent investigations at Castor Barns have revealed remains of walls possibly associated with a further Roman building. These have been recorded and preserved *in situ*. Finds included ceramic building material and occasional sherds of pottery. Later, post medieval activity was represented by a cobbled surface and a yard associated with the barns. In particular, investigations carried out at nearby 35 Peterborough Road between 2000 and 2010 produced evidence for Roman and medieval activity (Prentice 2010).
- 3.18 In summary, the site was located within an area of very high archaeological potential at a location where sequences of important archaeological remains spanning the Roman period to the Late Medieval period are known to survive in a good state of preservation.

4 AIMS

- 4.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- Provide a record of archaeological remains whose preservation *in situ* is threatened by the proposed work. If applicable, remains that can be preserved *in situ* will be recorded and prepared for re-burial. Therefore, steps will be taken to ensure construction and future maintenance do not threaten preserved remains
 - Provide detailed information regarding the date, character, extent and degree of preservation of all excavated archaeological remains
 - Define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains
 - Interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional, and national, archaeological context
- 4.2 The evaluation also considered the general investigative themes outlined by: Medlycott, M. 2011 (ed.) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24; *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000), *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997); *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005-2010* (English Heritage 2005).

- 4.3 Specifically, the following investigative aims were accommodated in the programme of archaeological work:

- *characterisation of the site in the broader landscape;
- *characterisation of the activities identified on the site;
- *characterisation of changes affecting land-use through time

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Trial Trenching

- 5.1.1 It was suggested that two 10m long machine cut trenches, both with a width of 2m, were going to be excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The total length of trenching was therefore 20m and the trenches were covering a total area of 40m² (Figure 3).
- 5.1.2 The location of the trenches targeted areas of proposed ground disturbance and provided representative sample coverage. The location of the trenches were slightly flexible, and took into consideration potential above- and below-ground constraints and/or hazards, such as trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance.
- 5.1.3 The trenches were excavated to the upper interface of secure archaeological deposits or, where these were not present, to the upper interface of natural deposits. Thereafter, hand-excavation was required to sample any features exposed.

5.2 Metal Detecting

- 5.2.1 Thorough metal detector sweeps of exposed features and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process.

5.3 Hand Excavation

- 5.3.1 All man-made features were investigated. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws and natural strips of clay in the natural) were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity. Hand excavation and feature sampling were sufficient to establish the date and character, and to allow appropriate levels of recording.
- 5.3.2 Deposits and layers (including buried horizons of top- and subsoils) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationships with other features. Thereafter, mechanical removal and visual scanning for artefacts was accepted. The evaluation provided a representative sample of the site's archaeology at no significant cost to the value or integrity of the archaeological remains therein.

6 RECORDING

- 6.1 A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used for all elements of the archaeological recording programme.
- 6.2 Measured plans were produced that show all exposed features (including natural features, modern features, etc.) and excavated areas. Individual measured plans and sections in the scales 1:20 and 1:50 were produced for all excavated features and deposits. These were accurately tied into trench plans/trench location plans that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably local features (boundaries, buildings, roads, etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum.
- 6.3 A photographic record comprising monochrome and digital photos formed part of the excavation record. A selection of digital photos was also included in this report.

7 RESULTS

Trench 1

- 7.1 Trench 1 was orientated east-west, was 10m long, 2m wide and up to 1.58m deep. The lowest level encountered in the trench was the Natural deposits, which consisted of red orange silty clay with inclusions of yellow-grey lime gravel (Figure 4).
- 7.2 Cut into the Natural was the 0.38m deep ditch [104] with its fill (103) of dark grey, plastic silty clay. The ditch was orientated NW-SE and had rounded sides and a rounded bottom. It could be dated to the late medieval period due to finds of pottery and animal bones in its fill. It is likely to have been a boundary ditch between two plots in the medieval village (Figure 5).
- 7.3 Sealing the ditch was the up to 0.48m deep subsoil (102), which consisted of light brown, soft silty clay with occasional limestone. The subsoil also contained occasional Romano-British pottery. The uppermost deposit in Trench 1 was the up to 0.80m thick topsoil (101) of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional roots.

Trench 2

- 7.4 Trench 2 was orientated southwest-northeast, was 10m long, 2m wide and up to 1.35m deep. The lowest level encountered in the trench was the Natural deposits, which consisted of red orange silty clay with inclusions of yellow-grey lime gravel (Figure 6).

- 7.5 Cut into the Natural was the 0.45m deep ditch [204] with its fill (203) of dark grey, plastic silty clay. The ditch was orientated N-S and had rounded sides and a rounded bottom (Figure 7). This ditch is likely to be a continuation of the ditch seen in Trench 1, as a smaller testpit was open up in the area between Trench 1 and Trench 2 to study the connection between the two features (See the Trench Plan).
- 7.6 Sealing the ditch [204] was the up to 0.40m deep subsoil (202), which consisted of light brown, soft silty clay with occasional limestone. The uppermost deposit in Trench 2 was the up to 0.50m thick topsoil (201) of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional roots.



Figure 4. Trench 1. Overview. South west facing photo.



Figure 5. Ditch [104] with its fill (103). The fill of the ditch contained late medieval pottery and animal bones. East facing photo.



Figure 6. Trench 2. Overview. North east facing photo.



Figure 7. Ditch [204] with its fill (203) contained late medieval animal bones and pottery mixed with residual Romano-British building material. South east facing photo.

8 FINDS AND SAMPLES

The Pottery (By Paul Blinkhorn)

The pottery assemblage comprised 4 sherds with a total weight of 216g. It comprised a mixture of Romano-British, late medieval and early post-medieval wares. It was recorded using the system of codes and chronologies suggested by Sperry (2016), as follows:

BOND: Bourne 'D' Ware, Ca 1430-1650. 1 sherd, 14g.

PMR: Glazed Red Earthenware, Ca 16th-19th century. 1 sherd, 172g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Both the sherds of Romano-British pottery were somewhat abraded. That from context (102) is a grey ware bodysherd, while that from (103) is from the rim of a Nene Valley Colour-Coated vessel. The fragment of PMR from context (103) is from the rim of a very large bowl with internal glazing. This is a typical product of the tradition.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	RB		BOND		PMR		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
(102)	1	18	1	14			M15thC
(103)	1	12			1	172	16thC
Total	2	30	1	14	1	172	

The Animal Bones (By Tania Kausmally)

Introduction

The archaeological excavation at castor in Cambridgeshire yielded a very limited number of animal bones (53 fragments) from a single ditch context. The skeletal remains were all non-human faunal remains and were uncovered together with pottery dating to the medieval period. The remains are of limited archaeological significance due to the size and nature of the assemblage as well as the broad dating.

Methods

The bone was identified using guidelines by Schmid (1972) and Hillson (1996). Portions of the bones was recorded, as proximal, shaft and distal, to produce a fragment count based on Number of Identifiable Fragments (NISP). To identify the relative distribution of body parts within each species a Minimum Number of Elements was recorded (MNE), this was calculated from the sum of the most frequent portion of an element present. A Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) was produced based on the single most frequent element of each species identified taking fusion into account.

Bones that could not be identified to species were assigned size categories, Large (cattle-size), medium (sheep/goat/pig size) and small (cat/rodent size).

Taphonomy was recorded to identify fragmentation in 20% intervals. Surface preservation was divided into four categories following the York system (Harland *et al.* 2003). Modifications to the bones, such as carnivore gnawing, chop marks, knife marks were recorded and location on the bone noted. Butchery marks were recorded by location and type (Cleaver (Chopping), Knife (skinning) and saw (Cutting) (Harland *et al.* 2003 and Seetha 2006).

Fusion was based on Sisson and Grossman (Getty 1975). No dentition was recovered. Measurements were carried out following guidelines by von den Driesch (1976) and compared to measurements provided on ABMAP (Animal Bone Metrical Archive Project) database (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/abmap/>).

Results

A total of 53 fragments were available for analysis, of these 19 were small unidentified fragments and 12 were identified by size only. The preservation was excellent with very limited evidence of weathering or trampling. No root etching was recorded on the bone. There overall completeness was poor with 62.26% (33/53) being less than 20% complete (Figure 1). The surface preservation was excellent allowing reliable observations on butchery and animal activity. Carnivore gnawing was noted in two elements. One pelvis fragments of a large mammal and one metatarsus shaft from a sheep/goat, exhibiting both gnawing and puncture marks.

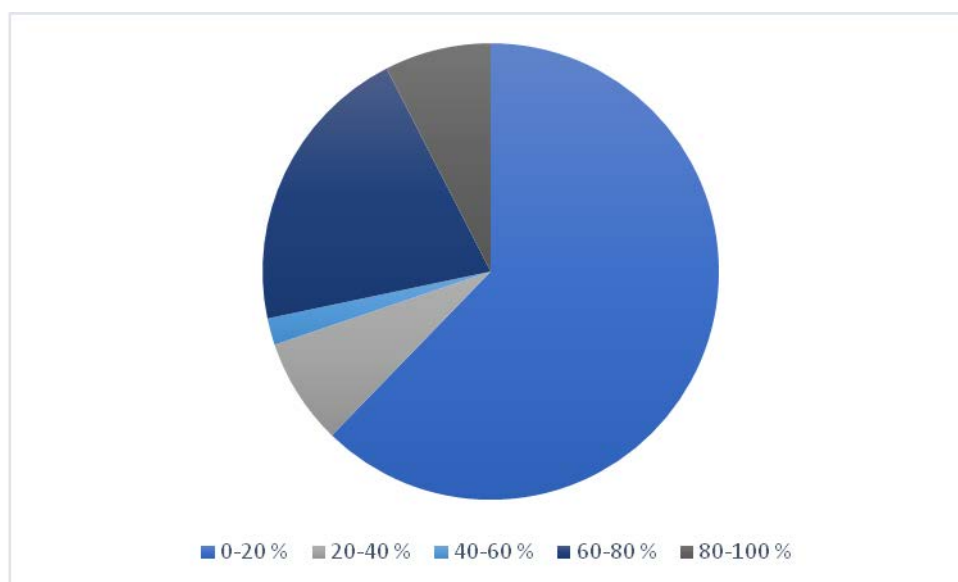


Figure 1 Skeletal completeness

A total of four species were identified, all domesticates; cattle, horse, pig and sheep/goat (Table 1). The MNI yielded a total of at least four animals one from each of the identified species. The larger NISP and MNE of pig were vertebrae matched to an atlas identified as pig and does not indicate a higher prevalence rate of pig over the other domesticates.

	NISP	MNE	MNI
Cattle (<i>Bos.</i>)	5	4	1
Horse (<i>Equus.</i>)	2	2	1
Sheep/goat (<i>Ovis/Capra</i>)	3	3	1
Pig (<i>Sus.</i>)	12*	8	1
Medium mammal	3	-	-
Large mammal	9	-	-
Unidentified	19	-	-
Total	53	17	4

Table 1 Identification of fragments present (*9 of the fragments were vertebrae matching the atlas and axis identified as pig)

Ageing evidence suggested that cattle and sheep/goat were butchered at mature ages. Cattle were aged at more than 3.5 years and sheep/goat were ages as older than 2 years. Remains of pig were all immature suggesting an age of less than 2 years. This is a typical pattern as both cattle and sheep/goat are typically kept for secondary production, such as milk, traction and wool whilst pigs are generally kept for meat only.

A large portion of the assemblage was not identifiable to species. Due to the small identified assemblage size, any interpretation in relation to body part distribution is notional. Elements identified as cattle and pig were both those of butchery waste and domestic waste. The element sheep/goat were all butchery waste whilst the two elements from horse were domestic waste (Table 2).

	Cattle	Horse	Sheep/goat	Pig
Horn core				
Skull				
Mandible/teeth	2		2	
Atlas				1
Axis				1
Scapula				
Humerus		1		
Radius				
Ulna				
Pelvis				
Sacrum				
Femur				
Tibia	2	1		
Fibula				
Astragalus				
Calcaneum				
Carpal				
Tarsal				
Metacarpal	1			
Metatarsal			1	1
Lat. Metapodial				
Phalanx I				
Phalanx II				
Phalanx III				
Lateral phalanx				
Ribs				

Vertebrae				
Long bone				
Unidentified				
Total	5	2	3	3*

Table 2 Body part distribution (NISP) (*Matched vertebral fragments not included)

Evidence of butchery was limited. One tibia of horse displayed knife marks on the mesial portion of the tibia. Chop marks were identified in three fragments of large mammal pelvis, tibia and humerus.

Metric analysis was limited to two elements one distal tibia of horse and one distal metacarpal of cattle. Comparative measurements on ABMAP showed that the horse tibia was slightly smaller than average whilst the cattle metacarpus was slightly above average (Table 3).

Species	Element (Measurement)	Measurement	ABMAP (mean values)
Horse (Equus.)	Tibia (Bd)	Bd=65.5 Dd=40.7	66.14
Cattle (Bos.)	Metacarpal (Bd)	54.9	53.41

Table 3 Metric results (ABMAP Cattle/MC/Bd/Medieval N=182, ABMAP

Horse/Tibia/Bd/Medieval N=36)

Conclusion

The limited number of medieval animal bones uncovered from a ditch in Castor in Cambridgeshire, revealed the presence of cattle, horse, sheep/goat and pig. Due to the limited number of bones available it was not possible to consider their relative importance. No wild species, fish or bird were uncovered from the ditch. Cattle and sheep/goat were butchered at a mature age whilst pigs were butchered prior to full maturation. One horse tibia exhibited skinning marks on the shaft suggesting that horses were skinned after death possible for consumption of humans or carnivores or for as part of utilising the fur or bones for toolmaking. Higbee (2014) noted there is little evidence of consumption of horse meat during the medieval period whilst historical records recommend horse meat for dogs. At an excavation in Northwest Cambridge a large number of horse bones were uncovered with butchery marks as well as extensive gnawing marks, suggesting these bones were predominantly dog feed (Higbee 2014).

Appendix 1

Species	Element	No of fragments	Side	Age
Cattle	Metacarpus	1	L	>24-30
Cattle	Mandible	1	R	n/a
Cattle	Tibia	2	R	>42-48
Cattle	Max Molar	1	n/a	Mature
Horse	Tibia	1	L	>24-30
Horse	Humerus	1	L	n/a
Large mammal	Pelvis	1	n/a	n/a
Large mammal	Tibia	1	R	n/a
Large mammal	Long bone	1	n/a	n/a
Large mammal	Femur	1	n/a	n/a
Large mammal	Long bone	5	n/a	n/a
Medium mammal	Tibia	1	R	n/a
Medium mammal	Humerus	2	n/a	n/a
Pig	Atlas	1	C	n/a
Pig	Vertebrae	10	C	Immature
Pig	MT4	1	R	<24
Sheep/goat	Mandible	1	L	Mature
Sheep/goat	Metatarsus	1	n/a	n/a
Sheep/goat	Max Molar	1	n/a	Mature
Unidentified	Fragments	19	n/a	n/a

The Environmental Samples (By Val Fryer)

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Castor, undertaken by Independent Archaeology Consultants, recorded a ditch of probable late medieval date. A sample for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblage was taken from the ditch fill.

The sample was processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Kerney and Cameron (1979). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and seeds were also recorded.

The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Artefacts/ecofacts were not recorded.

Results

The flot is small (<0.1 litres in volume) and extremely limited in composition. Occasional charcoal/charred wood fragments are present, but no other plant macrofossils are recorded. The flot largely consists of black porous and tarry material, all which would appear to be a bi-product of the combustion of coal. Small pieces of coal are also present. Occasional shells of open country and catholic species of mollusc are present, but as all are moderately well-preserved, their contemporaneity with the ditch fill is currently uncertain.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the paucity of material within this assemblage would appear to suggest that, during its period of use, the ditch was entirely peripheral to any focus of domestic and/or agricultural activity. The few remains which are recorded may well be derived from either night soil (spread on the land during the later medieval and post-medieval periods) or from the use of steam implements during the early modern era.

As the assemblage is so limited in composition, no further analysis is required.

Sample No.

Context No.

Plant macrofossils

Charcoal <2mm	x	Table 1. Charred plant remains from Castor, Cambridgeshire
macrofossils and other		
Charcoal >2mm	x	

Other remains

Black porous/tarry material	x	Key to Table: x = 1 – 10 specimens
Small coal frags.	x	
Small mammal/amphibian bone	x	

Open country molluscs

Helicella itala	x
Vallonia excentrica	x

Catholic molluscs

Cochlicopa sp.	x
Trichia hispida group	x

Sample volume (litres) 9

Volume of flot (litres) <0.1

% flot sorted 100%

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The archaeological evaluation at 35A Peterborough Road, Castor, Peterborough consisted of two 10m long and 2m wide trenches. In both trenches parts of the same late medieval boundary ditch was being uncovered.

- 9.2 The ditch was north-south orientated and was curving slightly. The feature is likely to have been a boundary ditch between two plots in the medieval village. Similar ditches are known to have existed in many villages in the Peterborough area.
- 9.3 During an evaluation at 35 Peterborough Road, Castor, a site which was located some 30m east of the site described in this report, medieval pits and a ditch was uncovered. This ditch was also interpreted as a boundary ditch and, just as was the case at the 2017 investigation, the features contained some older Roman finds mixed in with the medieval finds (Prentice 2010).
- 9.4 The fact that residual Roman finds are found in the fills of archaeological features in the area is not surprising as Castor is known to have contained substantial Roman buildings, as well as Roman pottery production to the south-west of the site. However, no evidence for any medieval buildings was ever found, but the boundary ditch was likely to occupy the rear of the plot.
- 9.5 The fact that the ditch found in 2017 can be dated to the late medieval period is interesting, as this may be an indication that a reorganisation of the plots may have occurred in this part of Castor in the 16th century. All pottery from the ditch found in 2010 seems to have been early medieval.
- 9.6 If a reorganisation of land took place in Castor in the late medieval period this process may have been linked to the reorganisation of Church land in the aftermaths of the Protestant Reformation. Another explanation to the different dates of the two ditches is perhaps the drainage of the marshy land west of the site in the late medieval period.
- 9.7 Such drainage activities may have increased the sizes of the plots in the village, and may have resulted in the excavation of new boundary ditches. The boundary ditch found in November 2017 may therefore be a late medieval ditch, which was meant to serve as a replacement for the ditch found in 2010.
- 9.8 The investigation that was carried out in November 2017, therefore, gave a very similar result as the evaluation carried out in 2010. Both evaluations contributed to a better understanding of the division into different plots in the medieval village, and both investigations have given an idea of the sizes of the plots in early- and late medieval periods.

10 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief

Written Scheme of Investigation

The photographic and drawn records

The project report

The primary site records

Finds

The archive is currently maintained by Independent Archaeology Consultants.
The archive will be transferred to:

The Archaeological Collections at Peterborough Museum.

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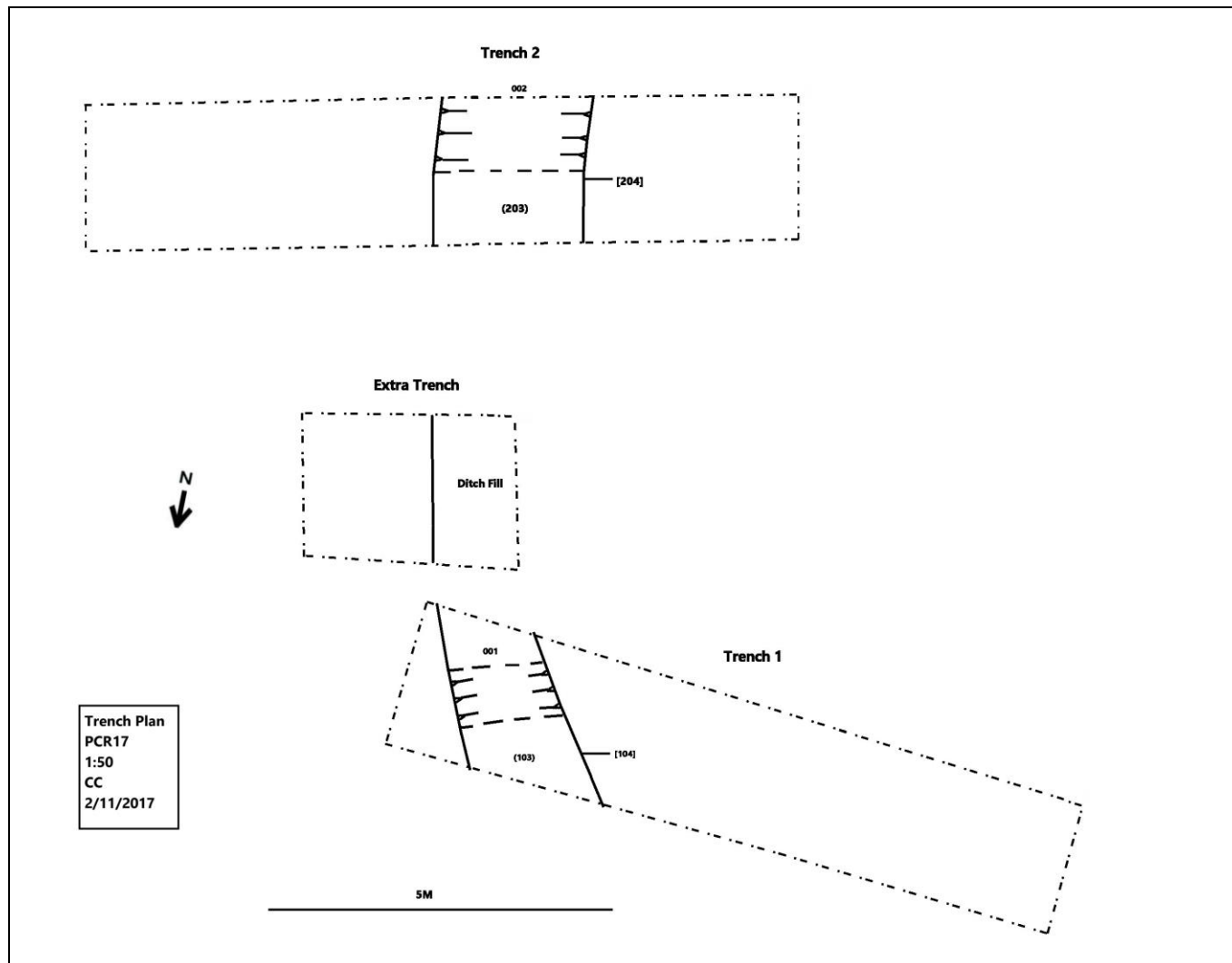
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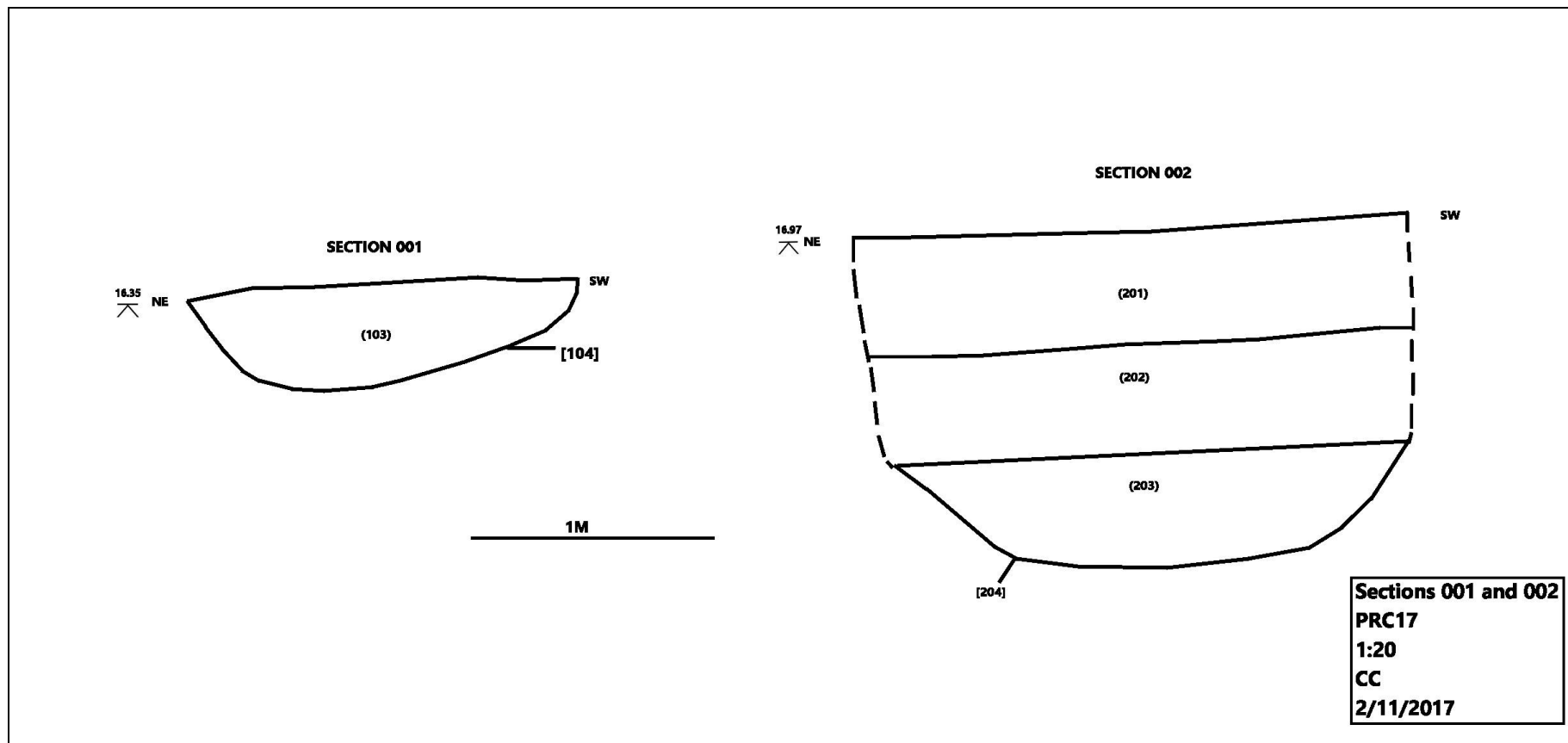
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APPENDICES

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
		Trench 1 (10m x 2m)		
(101)	0.80	Topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional roots.	(102)	-
(102)	0.48	Subsoil of light brown, soft silty clay with occasional limestone.	(103)	(101)
(103)	0.38	Fill of ditch [104]. Dark grey, plastic silty clay with occasional pottery and animal bones.	[104]	(102)
[104]	0.38	Cut of ditch [104]. Rounded sides and bottom.	Natural	(103)
Natural	-	Red-orange, plastic silty clay with inclusions of limestone gravel.	-	[104]
		Trench 2 (10 x 2m)		
(201)	0.50	Topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional roots.	(202)	-
(202)	0.40	Subsoil of light brown, soft silty clay with occasional limestone	(203)	(201)
(203)	0.45	Fill of ditch [204]. Dark grey, plastic silty clay with occasional pottery and animal bones.	[204]	(202)
[204]	0.45	Cut of ditch [204]. Rounded sides and bottom.	Natural	(203)
Natural	-	Red-orange, plastic silty clay with inclusions of limestone gravel.	-	[204]





OASIS ID: independ1-302057

Project details

Project name	35A Peterborough Road, Castor, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation consisting of two trenches. A medieval boundary ditch was found, and pottery, animal bones and environmental samples were collected from its fill.
Project dates	Start: 02-11-2017 End: 03-11-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	PRC17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	APP/J0540/A/14/2229045 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	SN NT Medieval
Monument type	SN NT Medieval
Significant Finds	SN CL NT Romano-British
Significant Finds	SN CL Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Environmental Sampling", "Metal Detectors", "Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

35A Peterborough Road, Castor, Peterborough: Archaeological Evaluation

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE PETERBOROUGH CASTOR 35A Peterborough Road, Castor, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	PE5 7AX
Study area	2400 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 1244 9834 52.570877628973 -0.340732340022 52 34 15 N 000 20 26 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 15m Max: 18m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project director/manager	Christer Carlsson
Project supervisor	Christer Carlsson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Peterborough Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"
Digital Archive recipient	Peterborough Museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector"
Paper Archive recipient	Peterborough Museum
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	35A Peterborough Road, Castor, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Carlsson, C
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Place of issue or publication	Peterborough
Entered by	Christer Karlsson (contact@independentarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	24 November 2017