

**MANOR FARM,  
Oundle Road,  
Chesterton,  
Cambridgeshire**

**NGR REF: TL 1261 9541**



***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING***

**(OASIS ID: independ1-328366)**

**(EVENT NR: ECB5472)**

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

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**Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants for the demolition of existing farm buildings, extension to existing barns and subdivision of barn to create three dwellings plus three new dwellings and associated gardens, garages and storage facilities. In the single T-shaped evaluation trench two partly robbed out wall foundations and a number of modern drains were uncovered. The wall foundations may be the remains of Post Medieval farm buildings.*

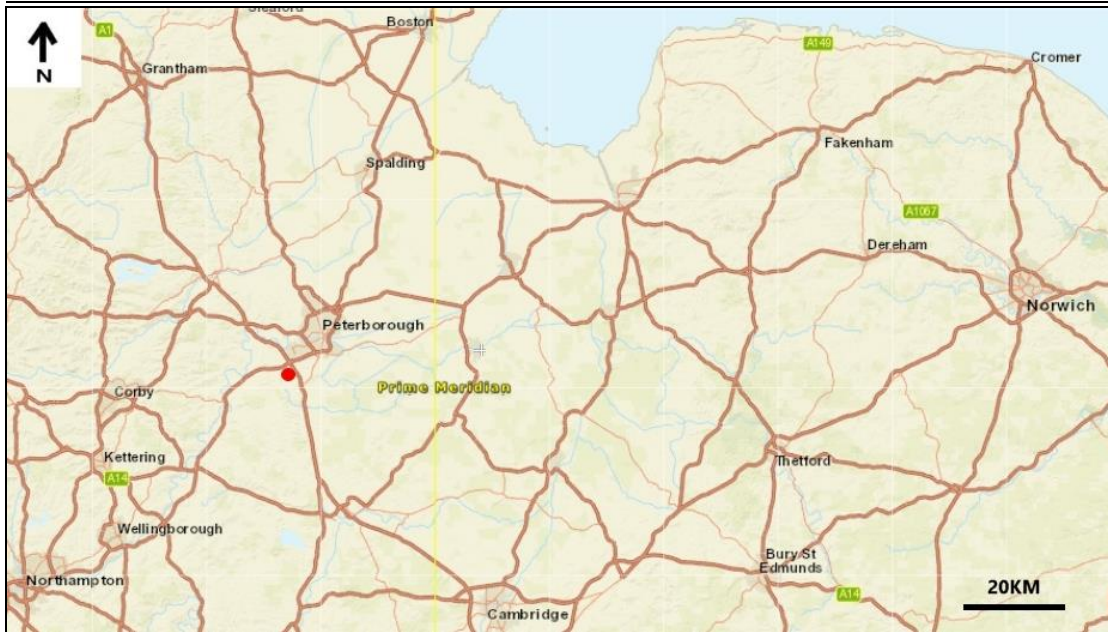
**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Manor Farm, Oundle Road, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 1261 9541) (Figure 1-3). The investigation was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014), as well as discussions with Gemma Stewart, Archaeological Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 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 Field Evaluations* (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 application 15/01223/FUL was for demolition of existing farm buildings, extension to barn and subdivision of barn to create three dwellings plus three new dwellings and associated gardens, garages and storage facilities. The site was located at an average height of 19.5m AOD. The development was located in Chesterton, approximately 540m to the west of the A1 and on the south side of the River Nene near Alwalton. It was situated on Cornbrash Formation- Limestone deposits (BGS accessed 01/06/2018).
- 2.2 The site was located within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by the CHER, and an archaeological evaluation and building recording was required prior to any construction within the site. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission granted by Huntingdon District Council, and was in line with standards described in the NPPF.

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*Figure 1. The location of Chesterton in England.*



*Figure 2. Site Location in Chesterton (Red). (Ordnance Survey maps produced with Licence nr: Ordnance Survey 0100031673).*

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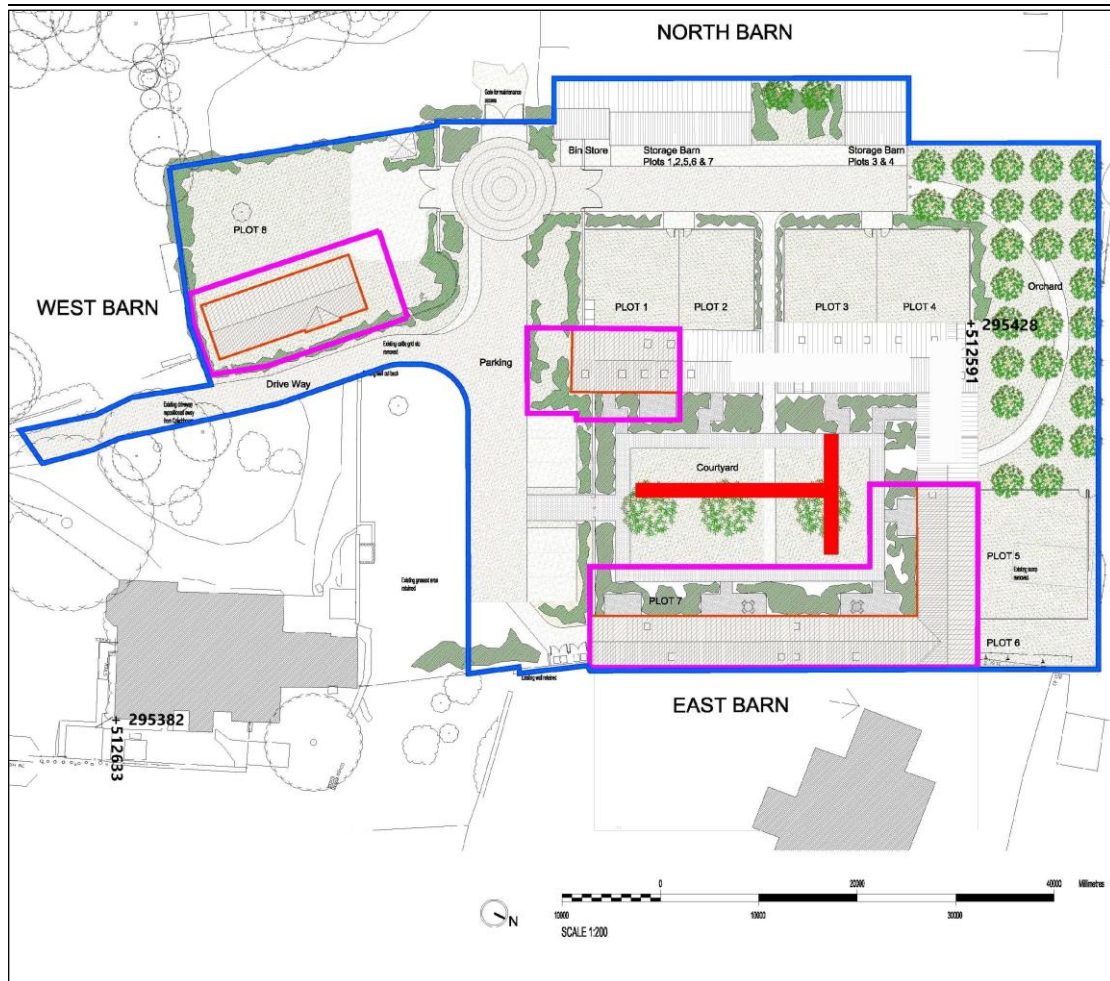


Figure 3. Site Outline and Trench Locations.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Within an area of 1km from the proposed development site there were about sixty known archaeological features and findspots dating mainly to the Medieval, Roman Period and Prehistoric periods as indicated by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Records. The surroundings have also been the subject of archaeological investigations in recent years.
- 3.2 To the north of the application area was designated the fort and Roman walled town of Durobrivae and its south, west and east suburbs, immediately south and east of Water Newton village (National Heritage List for England reference 1021429, HER DCB7846) and the non-scheduled remains of cropmarked sites relating to Prehistoric and Roman settlement, earlier Prehistoric ceremonial and funerary monuments and large quantities of metal detection finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme during rallies in non-scheduled fields to the south of the extensive area of scheduled remains.

- 3.3 In addition, to the north and west of the application area there were medieval earthworks and ridge and furrow (01605, 09175A). The ridge and furrow continued to the south of Oundle Road (01602).
- 3.4 The proposed development site was located roughly 45m to the south west of Manor Farm (Historic Environment Record reference 05712) and 90m to the south west of 12<sup>th</sup> century Saint Michael's Church, with rich medieval architectural features from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards (MCB17087).
- 3.5 There was a limited investigation history in this part of Chesterton, but where it has occurred, for example to the east of the church, this identified evidence of medieval and Post-medieval occupation (ECB1079). Further investigations have indicated Roman activity in an area some 100m northeast of the proposed development sites (ECB606) and (ECB553). Field walking south east of the sites between 2001 and 2002 revealed evidence of historic industrial activity (ECB2201).
- 3.6 A group of archaeological features and find spots were also located east of the A1, some 500 northeast of the site. Here were for instance remains of Roman pottery kilns (MCB16964) and (MCB16970), as well as medieval ridge and furrow systems some 80m south-west of Alwalton Hall (MCB25039). Roman pottery scatters, possibly associated with the previously mentioned kilns, have also been found just west of the A1 (MCB16970).
- 3.7 A Prehistoric ring ditch has also been located some 500m north of the proposed development site (MC17579), and a shrunken medieval settlement with associated earthworks was known from an area some 50m south of the development site (MCB17605). A larger area with medieval ridge and furrow systems has also existed some 250m south of the site (MCB25040).

#### **4 AIMS**

- 4.1 The evaluation aimed at determining, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains were potentially threatened was studied.
- 4.2 The evaluation results will be used to:
- a) determine the character, date, condition and significance of the archaeological resource;
  - b) define the nature and extent of any mitigation works that may be required.
- 4.3 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).*

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

### **5.1 Trial Trenching**

Based on the layout of the site it was suggested that two evaluation trenches were going to be opened up within the site. These two trenches were later linked together, so that a T-shaped trench was formed. This trench had one north-south orientated leg which was 18m long and 2 m wide, and one east-west orientated leg which was 12m long and 2m wide.

The total length of trenching was therefore 30m, totalling 60m<sup>2</sup>, or ca 4% of the development area. All trenches were opened up under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket.

The location of the trenches targeted areas of proposed ground disturbance and focused on the areas that were going to be covered by the new dwelling and the extension. The location of the trenches were, however, 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. The investigation area was searched for live cables and other potential threats before the evaluation began, and the management of spoil heaps were planned carefully.

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 potentially archaeological features.

The field evaluation was not carried out at the expenses of the heritage assets present within the site and was minimally intrusive to any archaeological remains.

### **5.2 Metal Detecting**

Metal detector sweeps of exposed features and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process. The metal detector was not set to discriminate against iron.

### **5.3 Hand Excavation**

All man-made features were. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws) will be sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity. Hand excavation and feature sampling will be sufficient to establish the date and character, and to allow appropriate levels of recording.

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. The characterisation of the artefact contents of the ploughsoil was attempted, to provide an understanding of the presence/absence and condition of underlying archaeological remains: Were the artefacts in the topsoil mixed, and of different periods, (as a result of ploughing or recent ground disturbance) or was the stratigraphy in the ground still intact, with older artefacts in lower deposits?

The artefact contents of the ploughsoil and any lower soil horizons were examined as part of the fieldworks. A bucket sampling programme was conducted, where 90 litres of spoil was hand sorted for each horizon encountered. Bucket sampling points were placed at each end of trenches. Unstratified artefacts were sought and recovered from the spoil heaps. All exposed features were subject to a minimum of 50% excavation.

The evaluation provided a representative sample of the site's archaeology at no significant cost to the value or integrity of archaeological remains therein. The siteworks were carried out in consultation with the Archaeological Officer for Cambridgeshire County Council.

#### **5.4 Recording**

A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used for all elements of the archaeological recording programme.

Measured plans were produced to show all exposed features (including natural features and modern features etc.) and excavated areas. Individual measured plans and sections were also 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 mapped local features (boundaries, buildings, roads etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum.

A photographic record comprising monochrome and digital photos form part of the excavation record. A selection of digital photographs was also used in this report (a maximum of two photographs per A4 sheet).

## **6 RESULTS**

### **Trench 1**

6.1 Based on the layout of the site it was suggested that two evaluation trenches were going to be opened up within the site. These two trenches were later linked together, so that a T-shaped trench was formed. This trench had one north-south orientated leg which was 18m long and 2 m wide, and one east-west orientated leg which was 12m long and 2m wide.



- 6.2 The lowest deposit encountered consisted of the Natural of Cornbrash Formation-Limestone deposits. Cut into the natural were the two wall foundations [102] and [104], the post hole [110] and the two modern drains [106] and [108].
- 6.3 The wall foundation [102] was east-west orientated and was visible over the entire 2m wide trench. The wall was 0.52m wide and consisted of natural limestones in poorly preserved mortar (101). The wall foundation trench had been cut 0.20m into the ground from the bottom of Trench 1.
- 6.4 A single sherd of glazed redware from the period ca 1600-1800 AD was found beneath one of the foundation stones in wall (101) and can possibly date the structure to that period.
- 6.5 The wall foundation [104] was located further to the north in Trench 1 and was also east-west orientated. It was visible over a total length of 1.60m and was 0.57m wide. The actual wall (103) consisted of partly robbed out limestones and the foundation had been cut 0.20m into the ground from the bottom of Trench 1.
- 6.6 It is possible that the two parallel walls belonged to the same building, as the building material and the distance between the two walls of about 7m gives this structure a similar size as the two preserved historic barns that are still standing east and west of Trench 1.
- 6.7 The posthole [110] was located between the two stone walls, but had no obvious connection to the two walls. The posthole was about 0.45m wide and 0.20m deep. Its single fill (109) of dark brown, silty clay had preserved pieces of wood from the former wooden post and is not likely to be very old.
- 6.8 The two drains [106] and [108] were both northeast-southwest orientated and visible over a distance of 2.5m respectively 3m. Both drains contained preserved clay pipes and are not likely to be more than ca 150 years old.
- 6.9 Covering all features in Trench 1 was an up to 0.50m thick demolition layer of frequent crushed bricks and mortar (111). The uppermost layer in Trench 1 consisted of up to 0.17m thick, grey and solid concrete (112). This concrete has been covering the farm yard since the 1960s.



Figure 4. Trench 1. Overview photo from south.



Figure 5. Stone wall foundation [102] in the southern part of Trench 1 was possibly from a former Post Medieval farm building within the area.

## **7 FINDS**

### **The Pottery (By Paul Blinkhorn)**

The pottery assemblage comprised 1 sherd of glazed redware with a total weight of 32g. It occurred in context (101), where it was sealed by a foundation stone from the wall. The following fabric types were noted:

**17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Glazed Redware**, AD 16000-1800, 1 sherd, 32g.

The sherd was fairly large and in reasonably good condition. The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region (eg. Clarke and Clarke 1977).

## **8 DISCUSSION**

- 7.1 The archaeological evaluation at Manor Farm, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire indicated that remains of a possible Post medieval farm building were present in Trench 1. Two parallel limestone walls may have formed the outer walls of an east-west orientated building, and the size and building material of the structure is similar to two preserved barns east and west of the trench.
- 7.2 This may indicate that a U-shaped farm structure once existed within the farmyard, where the destroyed building in Trench 1 could have formed the northern wing, which was connecting the two standing barns in east and west. An undated posthole between the two walls may possibly belong to the same structure, but the purpose of the posthole remains unknown.
- 7.3 None of the historic OS-maps over Chesterton, however, show such a U-shaped structure surrounding the farm yard. This may indicate that the potential building had already been demolished by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the first more accurate maps of the village were produced.
- 7.4 The results of the archaeological evaluation at Manor Farm, Chesterton in August 2018 should also be seen in the light of the historic building recording program, which was carried out by Historic Building Consultant Maggie Henderson in September 2018.
- 7.5 This survey indicated that large parts of the preserved barn west of the farm yard may go back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The result of the historic building recording program, therefore, fits well together with the date of the single pottery sherd, which was found in beneath one of the foundation stones in wall (101).
- 7.6 The results of the archaeological evaluation and the historic building survey at Manor Farm, Chesterton has, therefore, contributed with new knowledge about the historic development of Manor Farm. Independent Archaeology

Consultants would like to thank Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team for its advisory and planning role throughout this project.

## **9 ARCHIVE**

The archive consists of the following:

### Paper Record

The project brief	The project report
Written Scheme of Investigation	The primary site records
The photographic and drawn records	Finds

The archive will be deposited following the gaining of the transfer of title, and will be transferred to:

The Archaeological Collections for Cambridgeshire County Council.

## **10 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*British Geological Survey*. Internet based service.

*English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda (1997); Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005-2010* (English Heritage 2005).

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*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014. Reading.

Treasure Act. 1996. London.

## APPENDICES

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
		<b><u>Trench 1 (T-shaped)</u></b>		
(101)	0.20	Limestone wall of natural limestones in poorly preserved mortar	[102]	(111)
[102]	0.20	Cut of limestone wall foundation	Natural	(101)
(103)	0.20	Limestone wall of natural limestones in poorly preserved mortar	[104]	(111)
[104]	0.20	Cut of limestone wall foundation	Natural	(103)
(105)	0.45	Ceramic drain pipe. Fill of [106]	[106]	(111)
[106]	0.45	Cut for drain [106]	Natural	(105)
(107)	0.37	Ceramic drain pipe. Fill of [108]	[108]	(111)
[108]	0.37	Cut for drain [108]	Natural	(106)
(109)	0.20	Single fill of posthole [110]. Dark brown, silty clay with preserved pieces of wood	[110]	(111)
[110]	0.20	Cut of posthole [110]	Natural	(109)
(111)	0.50	Demolition layer of crushed bricks and mortar	(101) (103) (105) (107) (109)	(112)
(112)	0.17	Grey, solid concrete slab	(111)	-
Natural	-	Light yellow to white, compact Cornbrash formations-Limestone deposits	-	[102] [104] [106] [108] [110]

## Manor Farm, Oundle Road, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation and Historic Building Recording

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***OASIS ID: independ1-328366***

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation and Building Recording, Manor Farm, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation and building recording within the site for a new development
Project dates	Start: 27-08-2018 End: 07-09-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MFC18 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	15/01223/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	SN CL Post Medieval
Monument type	SN CL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SN CL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SN CL Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Metal Detectors", "Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE CHESTERTON Manor Farm, Oundle Road, Chesterton,

## Manor Farm, Oundle Road, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation and Historic Building Recording

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	Cambridgeshire
Postcode	PE7 3UA
Study area	2 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 1261 9541 52.544510204987 -0.339219706182 52 32 40 N 000 20 21 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 18m Max: 21m

### 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	Cambridgeshire HER
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Digital Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

## Manor Farm, Oundle Road, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation and Historic Building Recording

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Publication type

Title Archaeological Evaluation and Building Recording, Manor Farm, Oundle Road, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Carlsson, C

Date 2018

Issuer or publisher Independent Archaeology Consultants

Place of issue or publication Peterborough

Entered by Christer Carlsson (contact@independentarchaeology.co.uk)

Entered on 13 September 2018



