

Report 2734



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to
55 Dowgate Road, Leverington, Wisbech,
Cambridgeshire.**

ECB 3621



Prepared for
Mr and Mrs Maxey
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August 2011



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Location:	55 Dowgate Road, Leverington, Wisbech, Cambs.
District:	Fenland
Grid Ref.:	TF 4454 1070
HER No.:	ECB 3621
OASIS Ref.	107026
Planning Ref.:	F/YR10/0900/F
Client:	Mr and Mrs Maxey
Dates of Fieldwork:	29 June - 1 July 2011

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Mr. and Mrs Maxey ahead of construction of a single residence within the former kitchen garden of 55 Dowgate Road, Leverington, near Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

Evidence of post-medieval and medieval activity was found in the northern half of the site in Trench 1. Pits and ditches were present, overlaid by agricultural/horticultural 'furrows'.

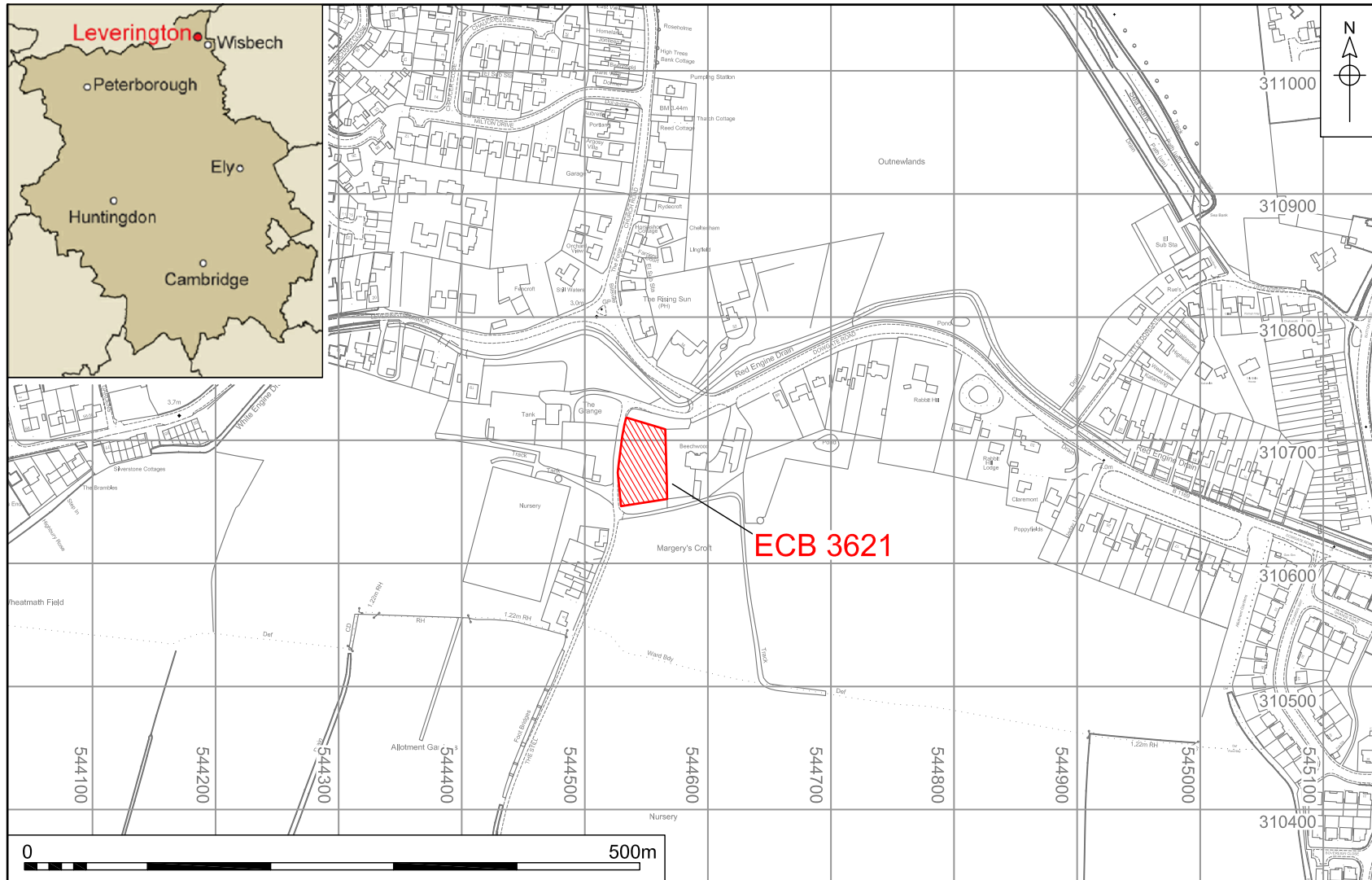
1.0 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by NPS Archaeology in June 2011 at 55 Dowgate Road, adjacent to The Still, in Leverington, Wisbech (Fig. 1). It is proposed to erect a single dwelling on the site; an area that had formerly been the kitchen garden to Crosse Hall (the neighbouring property). The site is surrounded by a red brick wall. Two trenches measuring 10m by 1.8m were opened within the site which is approximately half an acre in size (Fig. 2).

The work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by the Local Planning Authority (Ref. F/YR10/0900/F) and a Brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (CCCHET) (Ref. Kasia Gdaniec, March 30th 2011). It was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU2734/NP) and was commissioned and funded by Mr. and Mrs Maxey.

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire Museums and Archaeology Service (MAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site lies in Leverington to the immediate north-west of Wisbech, close to the River Nene. It is located to the south of Red Engine Drain and Dowgate Road, at an elevation of approximately 3m OD. The area had been a kitchen garden but is now rough grassland surrounded by a wall.

The solid geology in this area is of Kimmeridge Clay or West Walton Beds overlain by silty, marine alluvium (Lawes Agricultural Trust 1973).

The topsoil on the site is a mid to dark brown fine silt, 0.32m to 0.4m deep which contained fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM), coal and charcoal. The underlying subsoil was a very fine, smooth sandy silt, 0.1m to 0.25m deep. Beneath the subsoil were layers of naturally deposited, clean sandy silt, which appeared to have been laid down during various short and prolonged episodes of flooding.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

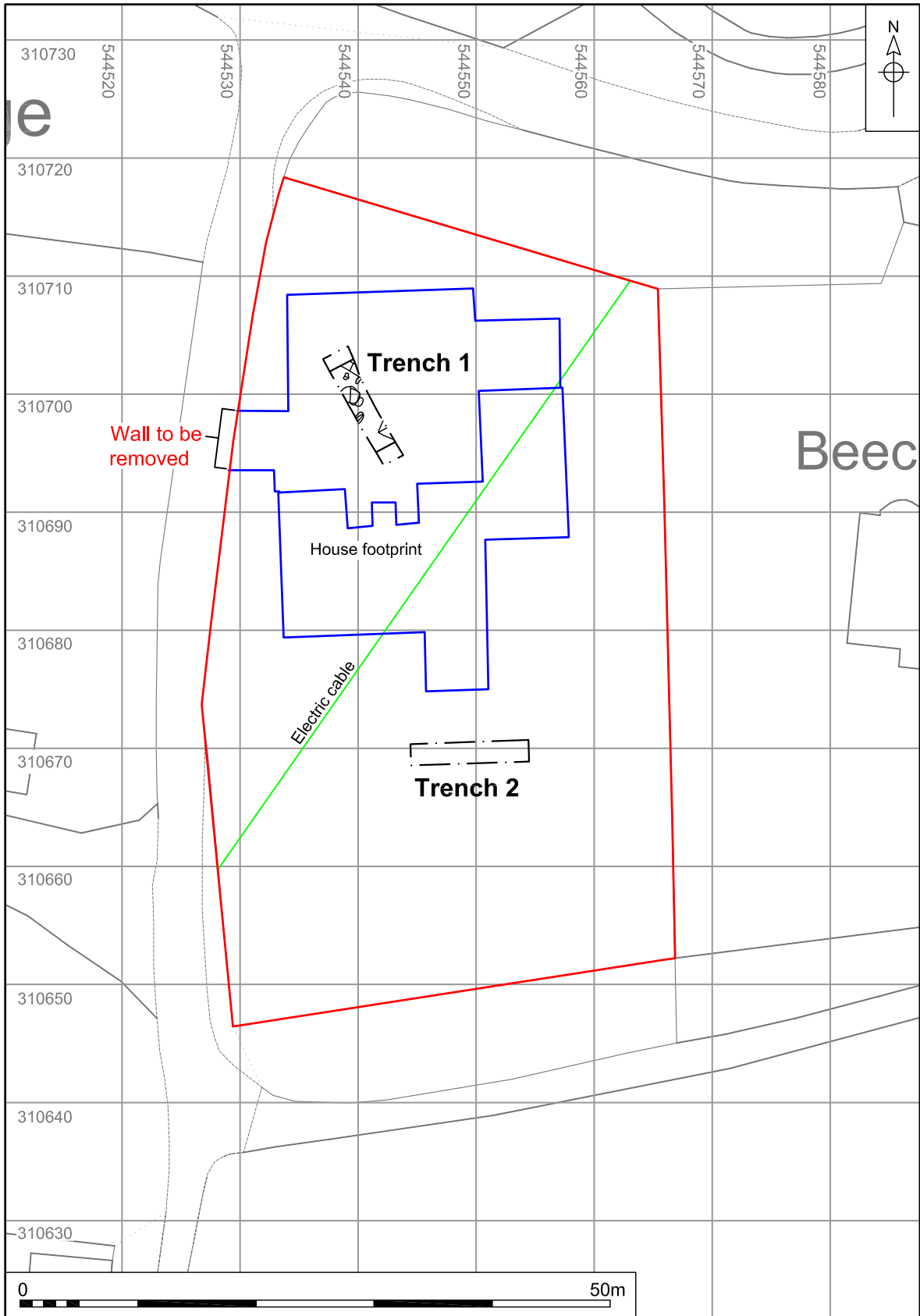
The site is located within the walled garden of Beechwood, formerly known as Crosse Hall. The hall is thought to have been built by Thomas Crosse of Wisbech in the early 17th century (Victoria County History (VCH) 2002). The house has undergone a number of alterations since that time and its present form is the result of substantial changes made in the mid to late 19th century by its then occupant, Henry Sharpe (VCH 2002). The Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map of this area shows two internal sub-divisions within the walled garden (Fig. 3) and it was thought that these or similar features might be exposed by the evaluation work. A similar walled garden with a Grade II listing is situated further along Dowgate Road at The Grange (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) 48196).

To the immediate north-west of the site is a small area of woodland that contains a Civil War artillery redoubt (CHER MCB17291). Its proximity to Crosse Hall suggests that it was raised with the consent of the Crosse family and the Archaeological Brief issued by the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET) has highlighted the extent of the family holdings and the relationship between the Crosse family and the New Parliamentarians as an area of potential interest.

A Grade II listed octagonal dovecote (CHER 48097), built in the grounds of Crosse Hall in the 18th century, stands to the south-east of the site, and a horse harness pendant of unknown date has been recorded as a stray find from just outside the southern entrance to the site (MCB16729).

Approximately 270m to the east of the garden is 'Rabbit Hill', a Scheduled round barrow (DCB8218/CB246/SAM 264). Rabbit Hill is one of a group of prehistoric burial mounds that lie on the fen edge in the Leverington area; a second – Cherry Tree Hill (SAM 265) – lies approximately 500m to the north-east of the site. Also to the north-east is 'Roman Bank': a 550m-long medieval embankment that acted as a sea defence for the low-lying fens (SAM 51).

A series of undated ditches were identified during work at Ringer's Lane, to the north-west of the site (ECB411). These features do not appear on Ordnance Survey maps of the area and are considered to predate 1824.



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Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:500

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required a 5% sample of the area to be affected by the development to be covered by the evaluation. As deep evaluation trenches would have a negative impact on the construction work, however, and may require deeper foundations to be employed, it was agreed in advance that the trenches could be placed outside the footprint of the building, rather than within it.

Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection. The footprint of the house was also scanned with a metal detector but the sole find was a modern horseshoe. This was subsequently discarded.

No environmental samples were taken.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

The temporary benchmark used during the course of this work was transferred from an Ordnance Survey spot height with a value of 3m OD, at the junction of Church Road and Dowgate Road.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in hot, dry weather.



Figure 3. Ordnance Survey 1st Edition (detail), showing internal divisions within the garden

5.0 RESULTS

Two trenches each measuring 10m long by 1.8m wide were excavated.

A record was also made of the structure of the perimeter wall, as a short section of it is to be removed for access to the new building.

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was opened in an area designated as a driveway for the proposed development, on the north side of the new building's footprint. The trench was orientated north-west to south-east and a number of features were revealed at its base (Fig. 4, Plate 1).



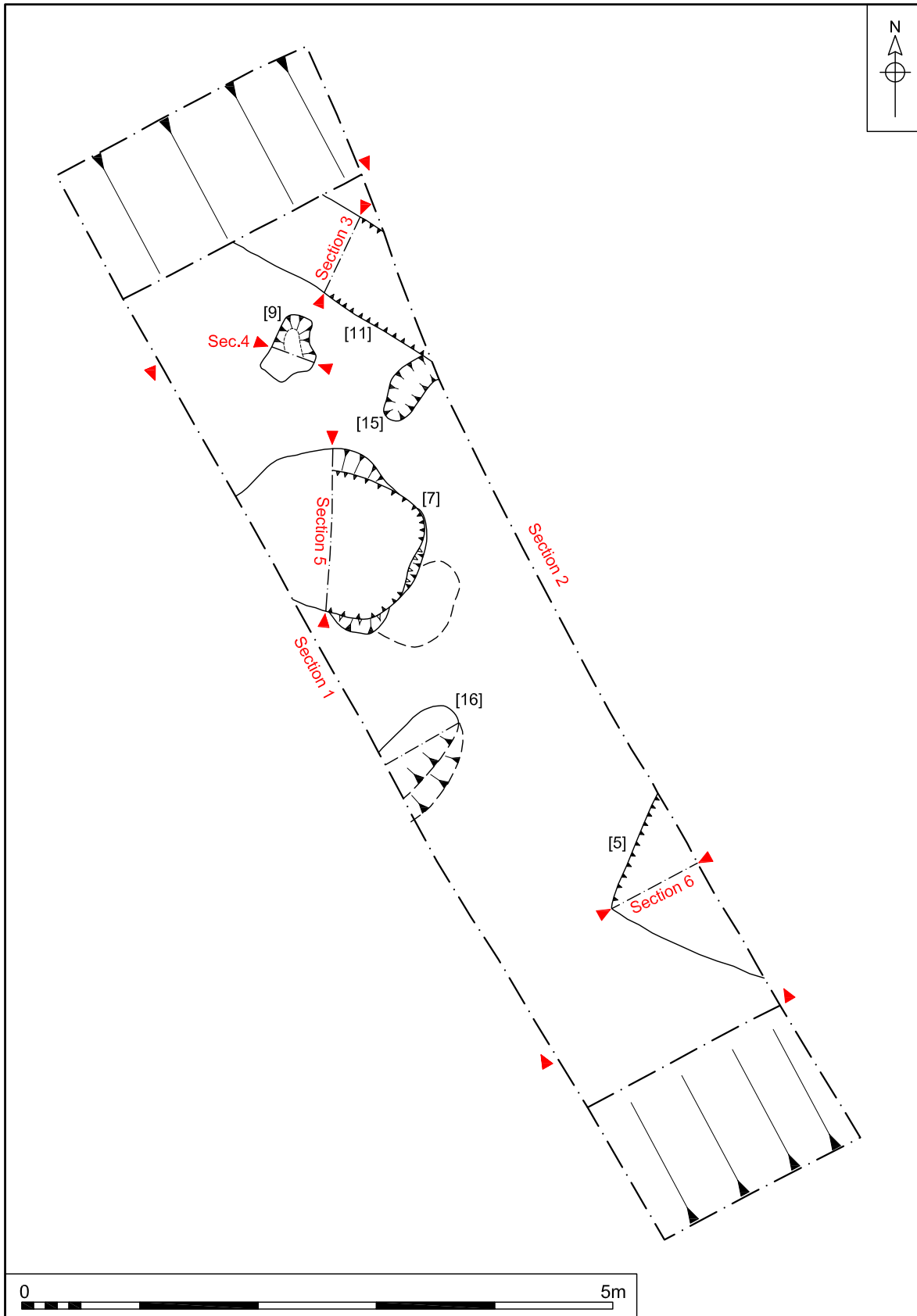
Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south east (1m scale)

The topsoil (1) was a compact mid to dark brown fine silt, approximately 0.4m deep across the trench. It contained fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM), coal and charcoal.

Below the topsoil was a very fine, pink-brown, smooth silty-sand subsoil (2), 0.1m to 0.25m deep.

Cut into the subsoil were the foundations [13] of an old wall [14] (Fig. 5 Section 1, Plate 2) – possibly an old internal subdivision of the garden. Brick rubble was seen in the upper levels of the trench during machining but no wall was present. However the location of this wall is roughly in the area where divisions are shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 3).

Beneath the subsoil in Trench 1 were a number of furrows [16] (Fig. 5 Sections 1 and 2) which appeared to relate to early cultivation of the soil and may well date to the early garden phase.



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Figure 4. Plan of Trench 1. Scale 1:50

Just below the upper furrows were a number of more substantial features cut into the natural (Fig. 4) – the level to which the trench was ultimately machined. All features and deposits contained modern root disturbance.



Plate 2. Trench 1, foundation cut [13] and rubble wall foundation [14]



Plate 3. Trench 1, pit [5], looking south-east

At the south-eastern limit of Trench 1, part of a very square-cut pit [5] was revealed (Figs 4 and 5 Section 6, Plates 3 and 4) with at least one right-angled corner (no others were exposed) and almost vertical sides.

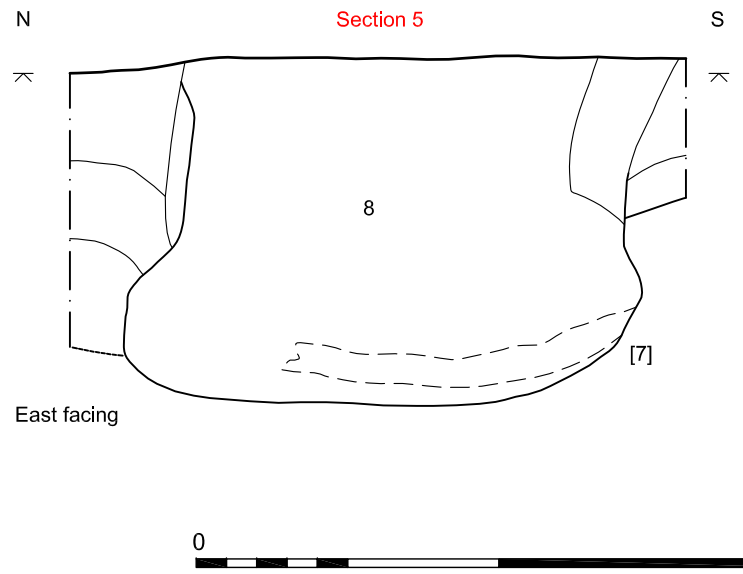
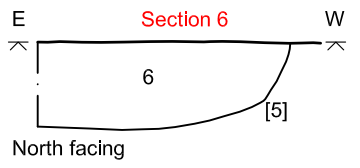
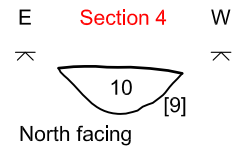
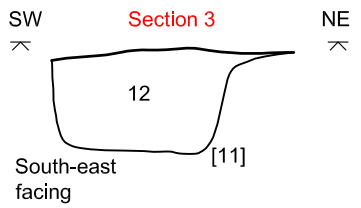
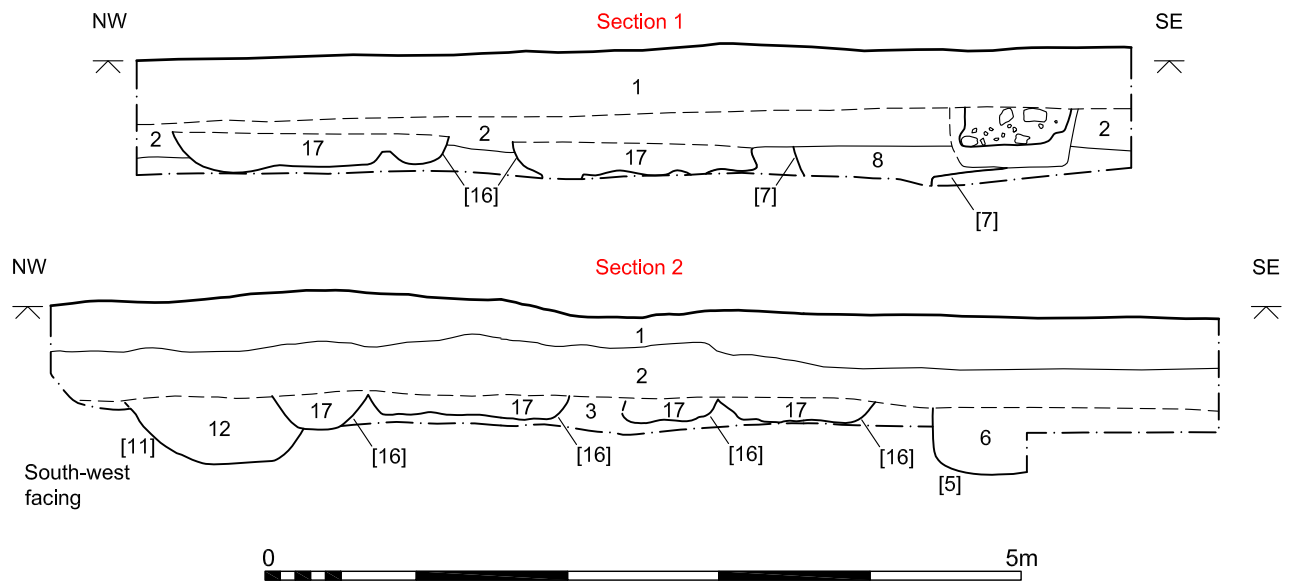


Plate 4. Trench 1, pity [5], looking north-east

Pit [5] measured at least 1.4m by 1m and was approximately 0.44m deep and was filled with an extremely fine and smooth, dark brown silt with sand-coloured patches (6). The deposit was without stones but contained occasional flecks of coal and charcoal. Finds from this deposit comprised four sherds of medieval pottery, four fragments of medieval to post-medieval CBM, and a piece of clay tobacco pipe stem, along with metal-working debris, an iron nail, mortar and animal bone of unknown date.

At the opposite (north-west) end of the trench, a linear feature or ditch [11] was exposed with the same apparent east-west orientation and straight, almost vertical sides (Figs 4 and 5 Sections 2 and 3, Plate 5). This feature was at least 2m long by 0.7m wide and approximately 0.33m deep. It was filled with a soft, dark brown silty sand (12) containing occasional charcoal flecks. Numerous modern roots were present. Medieval and post-medieval CBM was recovered from the fill, as was animal bone.

Adjacent to the ditch was small, sub-rectangular feature [9] with dimensions 0.56m long by 0.22-0.36m wide and 0.16m deep (Fig. 4). In section, the feature appeared to be bowl-shaped (Fig. 5 Section 4, Plate 6), but its shape in plan suggested that it might have been a post hole. The fill (10) was a stoneless dark brown, smooth silt from which one fragment of animal bone was recovered.



Deposits in baulk section at the east and west ends of Trench 2

N	East end	S	S	West end	N
1	1	1	1	1	1
18	18	18	18	18	18
19	19	19	23	23	23
20	20	20	24	24	24
21	21	21	25	26	26
22	22	22	27	27	27

Figure 5. Trenches 1 and 2, sections. Scale 1:50 and 1:25



Plate 5. Ditch [11], looking north



Plate 6. Trench 1, section across possible post-hole [9]

A very large, quite square flat-bottomed pit [7] was exposed near the north-west end of the trench (Fig. 4). This was situated quite close to the wall foundation [14] (Fig. 5 Section 1). The edges of the pit had been disturbed by modern roots but it appeared to be roughly 1.2m by 1.4m in size, with an overall depth of 1.35m.



Plate 7. Trench 1, section across pit [7], looking west



Plate 8. Trench 1, pit [7] from above

The base of the feature was reached utilising a mechanical excavator (with approval of the archaeological monitor) as the trench was already deep. The sides of the feature appeared to be undercut (Fig. 5 Section 5, Plates 7 and 8) but this could well have been the result of collapse when the pit was first dug as the

natural soil into which it was cut was very fine, soft silt. The pit was heavily disturbed by modern roots. The fill (8) was very dark brown, soft silty sand containing occasional tiny stones and charcoal flecks. Fragments of metal-working slag and pottery were found throughout the fill of the feature from top to bottom.

The finds from the pit comprised fifteen fragments of medieval pottery (two medieval, one medieval/post-medieval and seven post-medieval), CBM, eight lumps of slag and six pieces of animal bone.

Although only one fill was identified, it is feasible that it may have been backfilled slowly over a period of time. There was both medieval and post-medieval material within the fill.

The purpose of the pit is unclear although its square shape might suggest a structural function. However its size is more like that of an extraction pit for sand (for building) or a waste pit.

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 contained no archaeological features, although it did expose a number of deposits which indicate episodes of flooding in the past. These layers show a continuous build-up of deposits prior to the post-medieval period, with no signs of human activity apart from a fragment of medieval pottery collected from the subsoil (18).

The trench was orientated east-west in the south-eastern corner of the site (Fig. 2). At the east end of the trench, topsoil (1) was 0.32m deep. Beneath the topsoil was the same, pinkish silt subsoil noted in Trench 1 (here given a different context number (18)) which was 0.19m deep.



Plate 9. Trench 2, deposits in the east section

Beneath the subsoil were four distinct layers (Fig. 5, Plate 9). These were a light yellow silt (19) 0.24m-0.26m deep, which may indicate a sudden episode of flooding. This deposit was mixed with subsoil and was very disturbed by roots/worm activity. Beneath it was a slightly clayey, orangey-grey-brown, waterlain silt (20), 0.24-0.25m deep and probably deposited in standing water. Beneath that was a more compact, mottled clay silt with very occasional charcoal flecks and some worm disturbance (21) which was 0.19m-0.2m deep. At the base of the trench (at a depth of approximately 1.2m beneath the modern ground surface) was a very soft but compact light to mid-pinkish-grey, very smooth, slightly clayey silt (22) which was probably water-lain.



Plate 10. Trench 2, deposits in west section

At the western end of the trench a similar pattern was observed (Fig. 5, Plate 10) with 0.33m of topsoil (1) over 0.21m of subsoil (2). Beneath the subsoil was the pale yellow silt (23) but here it was thinner (only 0.11m deep) and more clearly visible as a series of thin laminations, comprising two layers of yellow silt with a layer of darker, browner silt sandwiched in between. Beneath this was the pink-grey-brown clayey silt (24), which was slightly thicker, with a depth of 0.27m-0.28m. Below this was a 0.05m thick layer of bright yellow, fine, slightly sandy silt (25) over a 0.07m thick layer of smooth, pink-grey-brown clayey silt (26) over another layer of bright yellow, fine, slightly sandy silt (27) which was 0.03m thick and (at a depth of 1.08m from the current ground surface) a second layer of pink-grey-brown clayey silt (28). The western end of the trench was machined to a depth of only 1.12m, while the east end of the trench was machined to a depth of 1.2m.

The furrows visible in Trench 1 were not present in Trench 2.

5.3 The Wall

To afford access to the proposed new development, approval has been granted for a 5m length of the garden wall to be removed to make a gateway (Fig. 2). As a result, the archaeological brief for the evaluation work included a proviso to make a record of that stretch of the wall to ensure that no former features or characteristics would be lost.



Plate 11. Internal section of wall to be removed, looking north-west



Plate 12. External section of wall to be removed, looking east

The stretch of wall in question is straight and its line will be preserved on either side of the proposed new gateway. Internally, the stretch of wall to be removed was ivy-covered at the time of the investigation (Plate 11) but an examination was made of its structure in the visible parts next to that point, and the external side – which was ivy-covered only at the very top – was also examined and recorded (Plate 12).

The section of wall to be removed has a height of 1.85m and is located within the tallest part of the wall. Some 10m to the south of the proposed new opening, the wall height drops by approximately 0.3m. The width of the wall was measured at the south entrance, where it was 392mm (three layers) thick.

Internally, the wall appears to be a straight, vertical structure with no decorative additions. The exterior side has a decorative top consisting of a row of headers under a row of stretchers – both stepped out slightly from the wall face; over which is a canted coping with a rowlock capping (Plates 13 and 14).

The interior face of the wall appears to be mostly laid in stretcher bond, while the exterior face is predominantly in Flemish bond. Both are variable however and headers appear in the wall face with no apparent pattern. The wall has been heavily patched at various points in the past, and a number of different brick and mortar types were visible (Plate 15). The two main types of brick used in the wall are a red brick 238mm by 62mm by 105mm and a browner brick 220mm by 70mm by 108mm (Plate 16).



Plate 13. Typical example of decorative capping, external wall, looking north-east



Plate 14. Typical example of decorative capping, external wall, looking east



Plate 15. Typical example of the interior of the wall, showing heavy patching, looking west



Plate 16. The main brick types in the exterior wall; a pinkish red brick and a browner brick (visible at top right)

At the base of the wall (at least within the section to be removed), the mortar is untidy and crumbling. It is a very gravelly, pale, whitish mortar with fine black and grey gravel inclusions which has been patched in places. The bricks at the base of the wall are crumbling and are of a pinkish red brick fabric. Very occasionally, there is a brick (or stone?) of dark, purple-grey fabric. In the middle of the wall, the bricks appear more brown than pink and the mortar is very white to cream in colour. The bricks in the upper part of the wall are mostly of the pinkish fabric. The mortar here varies greatly, presumably due to repairs having been made over time. The mortar in the decorative capping is very thick and is off-white in colour, with only very, very fine and occasional gravel inclusions.

No features such as blocked entrance ways or arch details were noted in the section that is proposed to be removed.

6.0 FINDS

6.1 Post-Roman Pottery

by Sue Anderson

6.1.1 Introduction

Twenty-three sherds of pottery weighing 133g were collected from five contexts. Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix 3.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	Wt/g	Eve	MNV
Early medieval ware	EMW	3.10	4	14		4
Early medieval ware gritty	EMW G	3.11	1	5		1
Ely coarseware	ELCW	3.61	1	2		1
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	3	8		1
Bourne Ware Type A, B & C	BOUA	4.72	2	9		2
Bourne Ware Type D	BOUD	5.24	11	83	0.08	11
Unidentified	UNID	0.001	1	12		1
<i>Totals</i>			23	133	0.08	21

Table 1. Pottery quantification by fabric.

6.1.2 Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series, which includes East Anglian and Midlands fabrics. Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes together with number codes for ease of sorting in database format. The results were input directly onto an MS Access database.

6.1.3 The assemblage

The pottery ranged in date from the early medieval phase (11th–12th centuries) to the late medieval period (15th/16th century). Although some pottery was sourced from the King's Lynn and Ely areas, the majority of sherds represent vessels which were made in Bourne, Lincolnshire.

The early medieval wares were generally in medium sandy fabrics typical of Norfolk, although one coarse gritty ware is of unknown origin. All fragments were body sherds and were found in association with later wares.

High medieval wares comprised a small chip of Ely coarseware and three sherds of a single green-glazed Grimston vessel, presumably a jug. Two body sherds of medieval Bourne Ware were present, one with a small patch of glaze and the other in a coarser handmade fabric.

Eleven sherds from eleven different vessels were in the late medieval Bourne D Ware. They included fragments with green glaze over a thin white slip, as well as

undecorated pieces. One fragment was either a plain upright rim or part of a strap handle – in either case it was probably from a jug.

One sherd was unidentified. It was a fine unglazed redware fragment from the base of a wide handle and was covered in soot. It may be a late medieval ware.

6.1.4 Pottery by context

A summary of the pottery by feature is provided in Table 2.

Feature	Context	Fill Of	Fabrics	Date
Pit	6	5	EMW, ELCW, BOUA	12th-14th c.*
Pit	8	7	EMW, GRIM, BOUD, UNID	15th-16th c.
Deposit	15		EMWG, BOUD	15th-16th c.
Subsoil	2		BOUA	12th-14th c.
Subsoil	18		BOUD	15th-16th c.

* contains later roof tile

Table 2. Pottery types present by trench and feature.

The pottery suggests a medieval date for pit [5] and a late medieval date for pit [7], and there is redeposited material of both dates from the subsoil. All three non-subsoil contexts produced later medieval or post-medieval roof tile, however.

6.1.5 Discussion

There is evidence for activity of early to high medieval date on the site, but all pottery of this date appears to be redeposited in later medieval contexts.

The majority of the medieval wares were sourced from north-west Norfolk and south Lincolnshire, with a small quantity of pottery probably being derived from the Cambridgeshire fens around Ely. Most medieval sites in the region show a similar pattern, with the main pottery types being from known (or assumed) pottery production centres within a 20–25 mile radius.

The group is too small to provide any further interpretation.

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

by Sue Anderson

Twenty-one fragments of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) weighing 791g were collected from four contexts. In addition, one piece of lime mortar (39g) was recovered from pit fill (6). The assemblage was quantified (count and weight) by fabric and form (Appendix 4). Fabrics were identified on the basis of macroscopic appearance and main inclusions. The width, length and thickness of bricks and floor tiles were measured, but roof tile thicknesses were only measured when another dimension was available. Forms were identified from work in Norwich (Drury 1993), based on measurements. Other form terminology follows Brunskill's glossary (1990).

Fifteen fragments of brick (646g) were recovered, all in fine silty clay fabrics typical of the estuarine clays used for the production of medieval bricks. Some fragments had straw impressions, suggesting that there had been a degree of organic tempering in the bricks. However, these bricks are not in the wide variety of

colours normally seen in the medieval bricks, being either pinkish-red or orange in colour, nor did they show any signs of poor firing techniques. As no surfaces had survived, it is uncertain whether these fragments represent very well made 'early' bricks or were later bricks made with clay from an estuarine source, but the latter seems more likely given their association with late medieval pottery and roof tile.

Six fragments of plain roof tile (145g) in white-firing fabrics were found in three of the four contexts which contained brick. Whilst these tiles are superficially similar to the yellow estuarine clays of the medieval period, they represent later exploitation of the local gault clays and contain a high proportion of calcareous material (represented by leached out voids in these examples). They are likely to be of late medieval or post-medieval date.

6.3 Mortar

By Sue Anderson

This comprised medium sandy and carbonised (?coal) aggregates in a cream-coloured lime matrix (Appendix 5). The piece was an irregular lump with two possible flat surfaces which may represent impressions of pieces of brick or stone. The fragment was probably infill from a coarsely bonded wall and is likely to be post-medieval.

6.4 Clay Pipe

by Lucy Talbot

Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered. These came from context (2), the subsoil in Trench 1, and context (6), the fill of pit [5].

6.5 Metal Working Debris

by Lucy Talbot

Ten pieces of metal-working debris, weighing 162g in total, were recovered from three contexts within Trench 1. The single fragment retrieved from probable root disturbance context (15), is the only piece attributable to a specific industrial process, that of smelting; whilst the remaining nine examples are classified as undiagnostic slags and were recovered from contexts (6) and (8), the fills of pits [5] and [7] respectively.

6.5.1 Conclusion

This is a very small assemblage of largely undiagnostic material, which is not indicative of any specific industrial process, either smelting or smithing, being carried out anywhere in the vicinity.

6.6 Iron

by Lucy Talbot

The site produced two iron objects. One, a complete modern fullered horseshoe, the type and size worn by a light riding horse or Hunter type of around fifteen to sixteen hands in height, was collected from topsoil (1) and was subsequently discarded. Showing very little wear from use, this horseshoe must have been, at

the time, an unexpected and frustrating loss to the rider. Also recovered and retained, from context (6) the fill of pit [5], was an undated nail.

6.7 Faunal Remains

by Julie Curl

6.7.1 Methodology

The assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992). All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. A note was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When possible a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were noted for each context, including species and element group counts. The information was entered into an Excel database. A summary of the data recorded is included in a table in this report and the full database is available in the digital archive.

6.7.2 The assemblage

A total of ninety-six grammes of faunal remains consisting of ten pieces was recovered. Bone was produced from two pits ([5] and [7]), one post-hole ([9]) and a ditch fill ([11]) (Appendix 6). The pit and ditch fills also produced ceramics and building material dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods; the post-hole contained no datable artefacts.

The remains are generally in good, sound condition, although highly fragmented from butchering. No gnawing was seen on any of the bone, which would suggest that the remains were buried rapidly and not available for scavengers.

Three species were identified: cattle, sheep/goat and pig; with mostly adult remains, although the pig was a juvenile. Elements from both primary and secondary butchering and food waste were seen, with clear chop and cut marks visible on all but the teeth.

6.7.3 Conclusions

This is a small assemblage that appears to be derived from butchering and food waste from domestic stock. It is assumed the porcine remains are probably from domestic pig; given that there is no firm dating for the fill, wild boar has to be considered, but is less likely, taking into account the later dates of other finds from this site.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The origin and purpose of the features revealed in the evaluation was not clear, but it seems possible that there may have been some form of structure on the site prior to it becoming a kitchen garden and there was some form of medieval activity in the vicinity.

The pottery recovered suggests a medieval date for pit [5] and a late medieval date for pit [7], but both features also contained later, post-medieval material. The presence of furrows across the area where there were features indicates that it is possible that the later material was introduced to the features by agricultural/horticultural activity.

Pottery from the site is relatively local in provenance – predominantly from north-west Norfolk and south Lincolnshire, with some from the Cambridgeshire fens; and, in this, is fairly typical of medieval sites in this region.

Several lumps of metal-working debris were recovered from the features in Trench 1, suggesting that some form of metal-working took place in the vicinity, but the type of debris was not indicative of any particular process.

Evidence of one of the internal garden divisions depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of Leverington may have been found, in the form of the foundation cut [13] and brick rubble foundations [14] in Trench 1. Furthermore, evidence of agriculture/horticulture within the garden is apparent in the form of furrows cut into the natural deposit beneath the subsoil. It seems that activity within the site was confined largely to the north end of the site, no evidence of any features or even furrows being recorded in Trench 2 which produced just a single fragment of medieval pottery from the subsoil.

There is a possible civil war redoubt 50m to the north-west, but no artefacts associated with the civil war were found on the site, despite metal-detecting of the spoil.

The structure of the perimeter wall was examined along a 5m section which is to be removed to create an entrance to the new development. No entrance features or openings (former or current) were noted and the essential character of the wall should not be lost by removing a part of it. The line and height of the wall and the capstone detail will be preserved on either side of the new opening.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by the Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council.

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The finds were washed and recorded by Lucy Talbot. The post-Roman pottery, ceramic building material and mortar was analysed by Sue Anderson. The clay pipe, metal-working debris and iron were reported on by Lucy Talbot and the faunal remains by Julie Curl.

The report was edited by Jayne Bown and illustrated and produced by David Dobson.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
1	Deposit			Topsoil	Post-Med/Modern	1
2	Deposit			Subsoil	Post-Medieval	1
3	Deposit			Pale yellow silt		1
4	Deposit			Clay layer beneath silt		1
5	Cut	Pit/Ditch		Square pit	Med/Post-Med	1
6	Deposit		5	Light brown silt fill of pit	Med/Post-Med	1
7	Cut	Pit		Deep, squarish pit	Med/Post-Med	1
8	Deposit		7	Dark brown silt -fill of deep pit	Med/Post-Med	1
9	Cut	Post-hole		Small sub-rectangular post-hole		1
10	Deposit		9	Mid-brown silt fill of post-hole		1
11	Cut	Ditch		Square-cut ditch at north end of trench	Post-Medieval	1
12	Deposit		11	Mid brown silt fill of ditch	Post-Medieval	1
13	Cut	Wall cut		Foundation cut for wall	Post-Medieval	1
14	Masonry			Rubble wall foundation or backfill of robbed out wall	Post-Medieval	1
15	Deposit			Probable root disturbance or furrow by [11]		1
16	Cut	Furrows		Furrows	Post-Medieval	1
17	Deposit			Fill of furrows	Post-Medieval	1
18	Deposit			Subsoil	Med/Post-Med	2
19	Deposit			Light yellow silt layer		2
20	Deposit			Slightly clayey, waterlain silt		2
21	Deposit			Compact, mottled, clay silt		2
22	Deposit			Light/Mid-pinkish-grey clayey silt		2
23	Deposit			Pale yellow silt (as (19))		2
24	Deposit			Pink-grey-brown clayey silt (as (20))		2
25	Deposit			Bright yellow sandy silt		2
26	Deposit			Smooth pink-grey-brown clayey silt		2
27	Deposit			Bright yellow sandy silt		2
28	Deposit			Smooth pink-grey-brown clayey silt		2

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Feature Type	Quantity
Med/Post-Med.	Ditch	1
	Pit	2
	Post-hole	1
Post-medieval	Furrows	1
	Wall	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
1	Iron	1	473g	Modern	Horseshoe - DISCARDED
2	Pottery	1	4g	Medieval	
2	Clay Pipe	1	3g	Post-medieval	Stem frag
6	Pottery	4	9g	Medieval	
6	Ceramic Building Material	2	22g	Med./Post-Med.	Brick frags
6	Ceramic Building Material	2	55g	Med./Post-Med.	Roof tile frags
6	Mortar	1	38g	Unknown	
6	Clay Pipe	1	1g	Post-medieval	Stem frag
6	Metalworking Debris	1	5g	Unknown	Slag
6	Iron	1	6g	Unknown	Nail
6	Animal Bone	2	1g	Unknown	
8	Pottery	15	91g	Medieval	
8	Ceramic Building Material	1	65g	Med./Post-Med.	Brick frags
8	Ceramic Building Material	7	351g	Post-medieval	Brick frags
8	Ceramic Building Material	2	51g	Medieval	Roof tile frags
8	Metalworking Debris	8	151g	Unknown	Slag
8	Animal Bone	6	32g	Unknown	
10	Animal Bone	1	32g	Unknown	
12	Ceramic Building Material	3	199g	Post-medieval	Brick frags
12	Ceramic Building Material	2	37g	Medieval	Roof tile frags
12	Animal Bone	1	31g	Unknown	
15	Pottery	2	16g	Medieval	
15	Ceramic Building Material	1	11g	Med./Post-Med.	Brick frag
15	Metalworking Debris	1	6g	Unknown	Slag; Tap
18	Pottery	1	11g	Medieval	

Appendix 2b: Oasis Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Medieval	Ceramic Building Material	2
	Pottery	23
Med./Post-Med.	Ceramic Building Material	6
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	10
	Clay Pipe	2
Modern	Iron	1
Unknown	Animal Bone	10
	Iron	1
	Metalworking Debris	10
	Mortar	1

Appendix 3: Post-Roman Pottery

Pottery: analysis														
Ctxt	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Decoration	Glaze		Rim diam	Rim %	Soot	Notes
									int	ext				
2	BOUA	U	1	5	1									HM Ely-type?
6	BOUA	U	1	4	1					SC				
6	ELCW	U	1	2	1									
6	EMW	U	2	3	2									
8	EMW	U	2	11	2							+		
8	GRIM	D	3	8	1					G				
8	BOUD	U	5	26	5									
8	BOUD	D	3	27	3			slipped		G				
8	BOUD	D	1	8	1				SC					
8	UNID	U	1	12	1							+		fine redware, base of handle
15	EMWG	U	1	5	1							+		
15	BOUD	R	1	11	1	JG	UPFT				80	8		may be handle frag
18	BOUD	D	1	11	1			slipped		G				

Appendix 4: Ceramic Building Material

Context	Fabric	Form	No	Wt/g	abr	peg	Comments	Date
6	est	B	1	12			red	med+
6	est?	B	1	11			orange	med+?
6	wfc	RT	2	56		1 x R		lmed+
8	est	B	6	341			red, some with straw impressions	med+
8	est?	B	2	73	+		orange	med+?
8	wfc	RT	2	52				lmed+
12	est?	B?	4	197	+		orange, some straw impressions	med+?
12	wfc	RT	2	37				lmed+
15	est?	B?	1	12			orange	med+?

Appendix 5: Mortar

Context	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	Colour	Surface	Notes
6	msca		1	39	cream	2 poss flat?	irregular lump, prob infill

Appendix 6: Faunal Remains

Context	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Age	Element range	Butchering	Comments
6	2	1	Mammal	2				
8	6	32	Cattle	1	a	ll	ch	Proximal metacarpal
			Sheep/goat	2	a	t		
			Mammal	3				
10	1	32	Pig/boar	1	j	ul	c, ch	Humerus, cuts around lower mid-shaft
12	1	31	Cattle	1	a	t		Molar

Key:

NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present.

Age = Estimate age based on fusion of bones and tooth wear; a = adult, j = juvenile

Element range = ll = lower limb, t = teeth, ul = upper limb

Butchering = ch = chopped, c = cut