

Land At Coles Lane Oakington, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Ref 53735

August 2003

LAND AT COLES LANE, OAKINGTON

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Prepared on behalf of:

CgMs
Consulting
7th Floor Newspaper House
8-16 Great New Street
London
EC4A 3BN

Ву

Wessex Archaeology

Portway House Old Sarum Park Salisbury Wiltshire SP4 6EB

Report reference 53735

August 2003

Contents

1.1 Project Background 1.2 Location and Geology 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND 2.1 Introduction 2.2 Archaeological Background 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES. 4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY 4.1 Health and Safety 4.2 Fieldwork. 5 RESULTS. 5.1 Introduction. 5.2 Topsoils and Subsoils. 5.3 Archaeological Features and Deposits 5.4 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age (1100-400BC) 5.5 Romano-British (AD43-410). 5.6 Medieval (AD1066-1499) 5.7 Post-medieval (AD1500-1799) 5.8 Undated. 6 FINDS EVIDENCE. 6.1 Introduction. 6.2 Pottery. 6.3 Animal Bone. 6.4 Other Finds. 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE. 8 DISCUSSION. 8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age. 8.2 Romano-British 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE. 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY. APPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARIES APPENDIX 2: TABLE 1: ALL FINDS BY CONTEXT.	•••••••	
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND 2.1 Introduction 2.2 Archaeological Background 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY 4.1 Health and Safety 4.2 Fieldwork. 5 RESULTS	•••••	
2.1 Introduction 2.2 Archaeological Background 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES. 4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY 4.1 Health and Safety 4.2 Fieldwork. 5 RESULTS. 5.1 Introduction 5.2 Topsoils and Subsoils. 5.3 Archaeological Features and Deposits 5.4 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age (1100-400BC) 5.5 Romano-British (AD43-410). 5.6 Medieval (AD1066-1499). 5.7 Post-medieval (AD1500-1799) 5.8 Undated. 6 FINDS EVIDENCE. 6.1 Introduction 6.2 Pottery. 6.3 Animal Bone. 6.4 Other Finds. 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE. 8 DISCUSSION. 8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age. 8.2 Romano-British 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE. 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY APPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARIES	***************************************	
2.2 Archaeological Background 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	GROUND	
3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	***************************************	
4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY 4.1 Health and Safety 4.2 Fieldwork	***************************************	
4.1 Health and Safety 4.2 Fieldwork	***************************************	
4.2 Fieldwork	OGY	
5 RESULTS	***************************************	
5.1 Introduction 5.2 Topsoils and Subsoils 5.3 Archaeological Features and Deposits 5.4 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age (1100-400BC) 5.5 Romano-British (AD43-410) 5.6 Medieval (AD1066-1499) 5.7 Post-medieval (AD1500-1799) 5.8 Undated 6 FINDS EVIDENCE 6.1 Introduction 6.2 Pottery 6.3 Animal Bone 6.4 Other Finds 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE 8 DISCUSSION 8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age 8.2 Romano-British 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY	•••••	
5.2 Topsoils and Subsoils 5.3 Archaeological Features and Deposits 5.4 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age (1100-400BC) 5.5 Romano-British (AD43-410) 5.6 Medieval (AD1066-1499) 5.7 Post-medieval (AD1500-1799) 5.8 Undated 6 FINDS EVIDENCE 6.1 Introduction 6.2 Pottery. 6.3 Animal Bone. 6.4 Other Finds 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE. 8 DISCUSSION. 8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age. 8.2 Romano-British 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE. 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY.	***************************************	
5.3 Archaeological Features and Deposits 5.4 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age (1100-400BC) 5.5 Romano-British (AD43-410) 5.6 Medieval (AD1066-1499) 5.7 Post-medieval (AD1500-1799) 5.8 Undated 6 FINDS EVIDENCE 6.1 Introduction 6.2 Pottery 6.3 Animal Bone 6.4 Other Finds 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE 8 DISCUSSION 8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age 8.2 Romano-British 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY	•••••	
5.4 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age (1100-400BC) 5.5 Romano-British (AD43-410). 5.6 Medieval (AD1066-1499). 5.7 Post-medieval (AD1500-1799) 5.8 Undated. 6 FINDS EVIDENCE. 6.1 Introduction. 6.2 Pottery. 6.3 Animal Bone. 6.4 Other Finds. 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE. 8 DISCUSSION. 8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age. 8.2 Romano-British. 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval. 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE. 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY.		
5.4 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age (1100-400BC) 5.5 Romano-British (AD43-410). 5.6 Medieval (AD1066-1499). 5.7 Post-medieval (AD1500-1799) 5.8 Undated. 6 FINDS EVIDENCE. 6.1 Introduction. 6.2 Pottery. 6.3 Animal Bone. 6.4 Other Finds. 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE. 8 DISCUSSION. 8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age. 8.2 Romano-British. 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval. 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE. 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY.	eposits	
5.6 Medieval (AD1066-1499) 5.7 Post-medieval (AD1500-1799) 5.8 Undated 6 FINDS EVIDENCE 6.1 Introduction 6.2 Pottery 6.3 Animal Bone 6.4 Other Finds 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE 8 DISCUSSION 8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age 8.2 Romano-British 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY	age (1100-400BC)	
5.7 Post-medieval (AD1500-1799) 5.8 Undated 6 FINDS EVIDENCE 6.1 Introduction 6.2 Pottery 6.3 Animal Bone 6.4 Other Finds 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE 8 DISCUSSION 8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age 8.2 Romano-British 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY APPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARIES	•••••	
5.8 Undated 6 FINDS EVIDENCE 6.1 Introduction 6.2 Pottery 6.3 Animal Bone 6.4 Other Finds 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE 8 DISCUSSION 8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age 8.2 Romano-British 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY APPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARIES	***************************************	
6 FINDS EVIDENCE 6.1 Introduction 6.2 Pottery. 6.3 Animal Bone 6.4 Other Finds. 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE. 8 DISCUSSION. 8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age. 8.2 Romano-British 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE. 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY. APPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARIES	••••••	
6.1 Introduction 6.2 Pottery 6.3 Animal Bone 6.4 Other Finds 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE 8 DISCUSSION 8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age 8.2 Romano-British 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY APPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARIES	***************************************	<i>(</i>
6.2 Pottery 6.3 Animal Bone 6.4 Other Finds 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE 8 DISCUSSION 8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age 8.2 Romano-British 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY APPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARIES	•••••	
6.3 Animal Bone 6.4 Other Finds 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE 8 DISCUSSION 8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age 8.2 Romano-British 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY APPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARIES	•••••	<i>(</i>
6.4 Other Finds 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE		
7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE 8 DISCUSSION 8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age 8.2 Romano-British 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY APPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARIES		
8 DISCUSSION	•••••	
8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age	C E	•••••••••
8.2 Romano-British 8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY APPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARIES		
8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval		
9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE	••••••	8
10 BIBLIOGRAPHYAPPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARIES		8
APPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARIES		
APPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARIES	•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	9
ADDENDIY 2. TADIE 1. ALL EINDS DV CONTEXT	ES	10
ATTENDIA 2: TABLE I: ALL FINDS BY CONTEXT	OS BY CONTEXT	16

Figures

Figure 1: Site and Trench Location
Figure 2: Location of Archaeological Features
Figure 3: Selected Feature Sections

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation comprising 18 trenches on land off Coles Lane, Oakington, on the site of a proposed residential development. The evaluation area comprises approximately 1.3 hectares of land and is situated on the north western side of the village of Oakington centred on National Grid Reference 54119 26471.

Archaeological remains were found throughout the site dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Romano-British, Medieval and Post-medieval periods. The majority of this evidence consisted of ditches indicative of agricultural activity.

Settlement remains of the Medieval and Post-medieval period were found in the south of the site, adjacent to existing house boundaries and in the vicinity of previously recovered Medieval settlement evidence.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned and funded by CgMs Consulting. Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs for his help and advice during the project. The work was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Fieldwork was directed by Angela Batt with assistance from Rob Court, Phil Frickers, Claire Gannon and Jon Crisp. Angela Batt compiled the report and Lorraine Mepham assessed the finds. Graphics were prepared by Kitty Brandon. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Rob Wardill.

LAND AT COLES LANE, OAKINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological trenching evaluation on 1.3 hectares of land proposed as the location for a residential development at Coles Lane, Oakington, Cambridgeshire (hereafter the Site)
- 1.1.2 This report presents the results of the field evaluation, carried out over a two-week period between 30th of June and 9th of July 2003, together with an assessment of the findings.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Specification (D.Hawkins 2003) approved by the Local Planning Authority.

1.2 Location and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Site is located to the north of Oakington, to the rear of existing houses bordering Coles Lane. The Site is centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference 54119 26471 (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the Site consists of Kimmeridge Clay, bordering greensand towards the eastern boundary of the Site.
- 1.2.3 The land is currently covered by rough pasture and nettles and is used for grazing and exercising horses. The ground surface is uneven and a number of low mounds and shallow linear earthworks were present.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological background to the Site is detailed within the Specification (D.Hawkins 2003) and summarised below in section 2.2;

2.2 Archaeological Background

- A scatter of Roman pottery is recorded some 80m from the eastern boundary of the Site (SMR Ref: 5176; TL 413 648) possibly representing settlement activity.
- 2.2.2 Immediately around the Site there is evidence for Medieval ridge and furrow agriculture (TL 411 648). It is possible that the ridge and furrow extends into the evaluation area.
- 2.2.3 Large quantities of late Medieval pottery are recorded from the garden of 33 Coles Road which lies on the southern edge of the evaluation area. This material may be associated with a late Medieval occupation site (SMR Ref:

5193: TL 412 646). The historic core of the documented village settlement of Oakington lies to the south of the present Site

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The principal aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any archaeological remains that may be present within the proposed development area.
- 3.1.2 The evaluation also sought to clarify the extent of ground disturbance and assess the degree of survival of any archaeological deposits.
- 3.1.3 The following specific objectives were also to be addressed (D. Hawkins 2003):
 - Determine the presence or absence of Palaeosoils (or B horizon).
 - Establish the early prehistoric and palaeoenvironmental potential of the Site.
 - Establish the presence or otherwise of late prehistoric, Roman, or later activity/occupation and define the nature of that activity/occupation.
 - Establish the palaeoenvironmental context of any late prehistoric, Roman or later activity/occupation.
 - Establish the presence or absence of early Medieval, late Medieval and Postmedieval activity/occupation and define the nature of that activity/occupation. In particular was there any evidence relating to the documented village settlement of Oakington.
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land use.

4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

4.1 Health and Safety

- 4.1.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) and the Management of Health and Safety regulations (1992) and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation and regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 4.1.2 A risk assessment was prepared by Wessex Archaeology prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

4.2 Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 A total of eighteen 1.8m wide trenches of various lengths, generally of between 20m and 25m, (see **Appendix 1**) were excavated across the Site and within the access corridor leading to the site from Coles Lane (**Figs. 1 & 2**).
- 4.2.2 All trenches were marked out on-site prior to excavation. Topsoil and other overburden was removed with a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket under archaeological direction. Mechanical excavation continued to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geological deposits, whichever was encountered first.

- 4.2.3 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Specification and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (as amended 1999).
- 4.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were fully recorded on Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* sheets in accordance with Wessex Archaeology guidelines for fieldwork recording. A sample of all discrete and linear archaeological features was excavated. A full photographic record was kept comprising black and white negatives, colour transparencies and digital images. All site drawings were drawn at an appropriate scale, typically 1:10 for sections and 1:20 or 1:50 for plans.
- 4.2.5 On Completion of fieldwork all trenches were backfilled with arisings and left level.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Detailed summaries of the individual trenches are presented in **Appendix 1** and full details are available in the project archive. In the following sections context numbers are given in bold.

5.2 Topsoils and Subsoils

- 5.2.1 Across the Site the depth of topsoil was relatively uniform ranging in depth from c. 0.2m-0.3m. The topsoil comprised dark brown clay silt with occasional small stone inclusions. Towards the northern part of the Site, in the vicinity of Trenches 1-9 there was noticeably more sand in the soil matrix.
- 5.2.2 The depth of subsoils varied across the Site, ranging from 0.2m depth to 0.7m with a general trend to thin from north to south. The texture of the material was similar to that of the topsoil, but being more red in colour, with few inclusions of small sub-rounded flints. The interface between this and the underlying natural was in most cases was very diffuse.

5.3 Archaeological Features and Deposits

- 5.3.1 Archaeological remains were found in fifteen of the eighteen evaluation trenches. The principal dated features and deposits were:
 - Boundary/drainage ditches dated to the later prehistoric period (between the Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age).
 - A boundary/drainage ditch of possible Romano-British date
 - Boundary/drainage ditches dated to the Medieval period (between the 13th and 14th century)
 - A Post-medieval floor layer
 - A Post-medieval brick wall
 - Post-medieval ditches and boundaries
- 5.3.2 In addition to these features a small number of undated features were also identified.

5.4 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age (1100-400BC)

Within Trench 2, two narrow shallow parallel ditches were recorded (203 & 206) (Figs. 2 & 3) approximately 20m apart. Ditch 206 was some 0.8m wide and 0.27m deep and has been tentatively dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age from a single sherd of pottery. The second, southern most, ditch (203) was 0.62m wide and 0.2m deep. No dating evidence for this feature was found but its alignment suggests it may be contemporary with ditch 206. Both ditches were found cutting the natural substrata, with their surfaces approximately 0.70m below the current ground level.

5.5 Romano-British (AD43-410)

- 5.5.1 In Trench 3 a section of a north-south ditch 307 (1.16m wide and 0.44m deep) produced one sherd of pottery dated to the Romano-British period (Fig. 3). To the south of this two further ditch sections, of similar dimensions to that in Trench 3, were recorded in Trenches 5 (503) (Fig. 3) and 8 (803). Though these two sections contained no dating evidence they are both on the same north to south alignment as that in Trench 3, and are likely to form part of the same ditch, which would extend over at least 50m.
- 5.5.2 A soil sample taken from the single fill of the ditch indicates that it was located within an open landscape and would have been prone to seasonal flooding. (See Sect. 7) The ditch(es) were cut into the underlying natural substrata, with their upper surfaces approximately 1.10m below the current ground level.
- 5.5.3 Two further sherds of residual Romano-British pottery were recovered from the subsoil in Trench 12 (1202).

5.6 Medieval (AD1066-1499)

- 5.6.1 Nine features dated to the Medieval period were found during the evaluation.
- 5.6.2 A substantial east to west ditch (1105), approximately 2m wide and 0.54m deep, was found in the northern half of Trench 11 (Figs. 2 & 3). Pottery recovered from the fill suggests a 13thor14th century date. The ditch was cut into the natural substrata, with its upper surface approximately 0.7m below modern ground level.
- 5.6.3 In the southern part of the trench sections of two other possible ditches were recorded 0.30m below the ground surface. One (1109) appeared to terminate just inside the trench and contained a single sherd of Medieval pottery. The second (1112), some 1.0m wide by 0.44m deep, is undated but appears to abut ditch 1109 and so may be of a similar date. Their precise function could not be determined.
- 5.6.4 In the north east part of the Site two segments (611 & 909) of a shallow ditch, still partially discernible on the ground, were excavated in Trenches 6 and 9 respectively. Figure 2 shows the projected alignment of the ditch to coincide

- with existing surface contours. Dating of this ditch is based on the recovery of two sherds of Medieval pottery from ditch section 909, though it is recognised that these finds may be redeposited.
- 5.6.5 Trench 16 contained a single ditch (1603), 0.9m wide and 0.35m deep, on an east west alignment. The fill contained 2 sherds of Medieval pottery and several pieces of burnt clay possibly representing building material. The surface of the ditch was 0.40m below the current ground surface.
- 5.6.6 One small pit (1304), containing two sherds of Medieval pottery, was found extending out from the section in the northern end of Trench 13, at a depth of 0.35m below the ground surface.
- 5.6.7 Within the northern half of Trench 18, located in the access route to the Site adjacent to 33 Coles Lane, an extensive deposit or spread of material (1804) was found. The deposit was at least 3.5m in extent from north to south and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the north, east and west. The deposit comprised dark reddish brown silty clay, very similar to the subsoil from which it probably derived, and contained relatively large quantities of Medieval pottery and animal bone. The surface of this deposit was at least 0.60m below the current ground surface. The depth of this deposit was not determined.

5.7 Post-medieval (AD1500-1799)

- 5.7.1 Four Post-medieval features were found in the evaluation trenches.
- 5.7.2 A substantial ditch (1002), 2.35m wide and 0.26m deep, was located in Trench 10 on a roughly northeast to southwest alignment. The fill contained Postmedieval pottery and clay pipe and one residual sherd Medieval pottery. The ditch is on a similar alignment to the Medieval ditches in Trenches 6 and 9, though unlike these it does not correspond to any extant feature. This alignment may have been a common one used as both a drainage channel and as a boundary marker.
- 5.7.3 In Trench 12 a further spread of material (1205) was recorded. The material comprised a dark grey brown silt loam occasional small flints chalk flecks. The full extent of this deposit was not recorded as it continued beyond the limit of excavation to the north, south and east. However, its maximum recorded extent was some 4m. The deposit contained Medieval (12th/13th century) and Post-medieval pottery, brick, animal bone and lumps of mortar. The layer lay only 0.10m below the current ground surface giving rise to the possibility of recent or modern truncation.
- 5.7.4 Within the extent of deposit 1205 one course of part of a northwest to southeast aligned brick wall (1204) was exposed in the eastern end of Trench 12. The bricks were bonded in a yellow mortar and were of Post-medieval date.

- 5.7.5 A number of sherds of Post-medieval pottery were recovered from around the wall. There was a small amount of modern disturbance as the feature lay only 0.10m below the current groundsurface.
- 5.7.6 To the east in Trench 13 a layer of sandy clay material (1302) was recorded possibly representing part of a floor surface. This lay only 0.1m below the modern ground surface. From the top of this layer pottery, roof tile and animal bone were recovered which indicated a Post-medieval date for the deposit.

5.8 Undated

5.8.1 A number of undated ditches (607, 708 & 805) and one pit (1503) were also recorded. These contained no datable pottery and did not match the alignment of other dated features.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds, deriving from 12 of the 18 trenches excavated (no finds were recovered from trenches 1, 4, 6, 7, 15 or 17). Finds have been quantified by material type within each context; the results are presented in **Table 1**. The assemblage ranges in date from later prehistoric to Post-medieval, although the bulk of the material is of Medieval date.

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence from the Site. This small assemblage includes sherds of later prehistoric, Romano-British, Medieval and Post-medieval date. The prehistoric and Romano-British sherds are fairly small and abraded, while Medieval and later sherds are in relatively good condition, fragmentary but unabraded.
- 6.2.2 One small, undiagnostic body sherd from ditch **206** has been identified as of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date, solely on the basis of the flint-tempered fabric.
- 6.2.3 Romano-British material is restricted to four sherds. Of these, three are coarse greywares of uncertain source and date, which occurred residually in ditch 307 and spread 1205. In addition, one base sherd in a coarse shelly fabric provided the only dating evidence from ditch 307.
- 6.2.4 The majority of the sherds are of Medieval date. These include a small proportion (11 sherds) in shelly fabrics, while the remainder comprise sandy wares of various types, some oxidised and some reduced, some handmade and some wheelthrown. A broad date range of late 12th to early 14th century can be suggested for these sherds.

6.2.5 The remaining sherds are of Post-medieval date, and comprise two sherds of modern fine whiteware from spread 1205, and ten sherds of coarse redwares from layer 1302.

6.3 Animal Bone

- 6.3.1 A total of 45 animal bones (from 62 fragments) was recovered, the majority from Medieval contexts. Iron Age/Romano-British and Post-Medieval contexts contained only 8 bones in total, with cattle and horse but mainly unidentified and in poor-fair condition. These are not discussed further due to small numbers. Five bones came from undated contexts.
- 6.3.2 All 32 bones from Medieval contexts were in fair condition, with little evidence of gnawing (3 bones). Fourteen could be identified (44%) of which cattle were the most common (9 bones, or 64% of the identified fragments), followed by sheep/goat (3 bones) and horse (2 bones). Most of the sheep/goat elements were loose teeth, suggesting that some of this material had been reworked, since teeth survive well and become separated form the mandible during redeposition.
- 6.3.3 Five bones (16%) could be aged, and 3 (9%) could be measured to indicate the size and age at death of the animals. One had been butchered and one burnt.
- 6.3.4 The small size of this assemblage limits any further analysis. However, more work on this Site is likely to produce a relatively well-preserved assemblage with the potential to inform on animal husbandry and, perhaps, consumption patterns.

6.4 Other Finds

6.4.1 Other finds were scarce, and comprised a few pieces of ceramic building material (fragments of Post-medieval brick and roof tile), a clay pipe stem, some featureless fragments of fired clay of uncertain date and function, a piece of igneous-derived rock not apparently worked, two copper alloy buttons and an iron nail.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 A single sample from ditch 307 was examined to identify shells noted in the field to characterise the ditch fill environment
- 7.1.2 Shells were present but numbers were low, but whole shells of the terrestrial species *Cepaea* sp. and *Trichia hispida* were present. Both are catholic species enjoying open to shady, but terrestrial habitats. Two fresh/brackish water species were present. These were *Lymnaea* cf. *truncatula* and the Planorbid, *Anisus leucostoma* The latter is considered amphibious, and both can survive drying out and occupy wet meadows.
- 7.1.3 These are consistent with both a ditch which is intermittently wet (possibly seasonally), or of damp floodplain meadow. The lack of shade loving species tends to confirm the open nature (i.e. not wooded) of the environment.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age

8.1.1 The two probable prehistoric ditches were located in the north-western part of the evaluation area. They appear to have functioned as boundaries and/or drainage ditches possibly within an arable environment. However, the remains do not indicate that prehistoric settlement activity is present within the evaluation area.

8.2 Romano-British

8.2.1 Romano-British features consist of a single north to south aligned ditch found crossing three of the evaluation trenches. Again, the function is likely to be for drainage and/or boundary marking. The environmental evidence indicates an open, possibly meadow landscape. No evidence to suggest the presence of Romano-British settlement activity in the immediate vicinity was found.

8.3 Medieval and Post-medieval

- 8.3.1 Medieval and Post-medieval features occupy approximately the same areas in the south and east of the Site. Many of the features comprise ditches that mirror existing boundaries and drainage ditches and may therefore have served a similar function.
- 8.3.2 Evidence for Medieval and later structures and floor surfaces was found in three trenches (12, 13 & 18) all of which were located close to the southern boundary of the evaluation area. These remains correspond with the evidence of a possible late Medieval occupation/settlement site found in the nearby garden of 33 Coles Road (see section 2.2 above).
- 8.3.3 Although it was hypothesised that remains of Medieval ridge and furrow agriculture may have survived within the evaluation area, no convincing evidence of this was found in during the evaluation. The existing undulations and mounds observable in the field appear to be largely associated with modern dumping, although some could be remnants of Medieval or Postmedieval boundary features.
- 8.3.4 There was a noticeable variation in levels of archaeological preservation across the Site. To the north, where deeper top and subsoils were present, all archaeological evidence took the form of cut features, with none of the spreads of material that were found further to the south. It is also worthy of note that the layers and floor surfaces found in the southern part of the Site were often only 0.1m below the modern ground surface.

9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE

9.1.1 The existence of largely undamaged Medieval and Post-medieval settlement remains very close to the ground surface in the southern part of the evaluation area, suggests that the land in and around these features was not, to any significant degree, under cultivation during or after these periods. Survival of other features and deposits of these periods in this area of the Site is therefore

- likely to be good. Other earlier remains may also have survived well here below the later deposits.
- 9.1.2 To the north of the Medieval/Post-medieval remains, prehistoric and Romano-British remains are present, but at a noticeably greater depth, suggesting a greater degree of past cultivation in this area. Whilst this may in part explain the absence of spreads and deposits relating to intensive settlement, such as those found to the south, it is more likely that the northern part of the Site was only ever extensively occupied, primarily for agricultural purposes.
- 9.1.3 The majority of all the remains found appears to represent evidence of agriculture and therefore only of moderate archaeological significance. Of greater significance is the Medieval and later settlement evidence found in the south of the Site which may provide data on the early village settlement of Oakington.
- 9.1.4 No evidence of buried Palaeosoils was uncovered. It is likely that they are not present throughout most of the Site. Survival is only likely to have occurred below, and in the vicinity of the Medieval and later settlement remains in the south of the evaluation area.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hawkins D. 2003. Land at Coles Lane, Oakington, Cambridge: Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation. CgMs Consulting.

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)
1	25m	1.8m
Context No	Description	Depth (m)
100	Topsoil	0-0.30m
101	Subsoil: mid orange brown silty sand	0.30-0.93m
102	Fill of 103	
103	Cut of ditch	
104	Natural: orange brown sand with patches of clay and occasional limestone inclusions	0.93m+

Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)
2	25m	1.8m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
No		
200	Topsoil	0-0.14m
201	Subsoil: mid orange brown silty sand	0.14-0.90m
202	Fill of 203	
203	Cut of NW/SE aligned Ditch	
204	Fill of 206	
205	Fill of 206	
206	Cut of NW/SE aligned Ditch	
207	Natural: orange sand with patches of clay and bands of iron staining	0.90m+

Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)
3	25.60m	1.80m
Context No	Description	Depth (m)
301	Topsoil	0-0.28m
302	Subsoil: Clay loam	0.28-0.75m
303	Natural: Calcareous clay	0.30m+
304	Natural: sandy clay	0.40m+
305	Natural: blue grey clay	0.75m+
306	Fill of 307	
307	Cut of Ditch	

Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)
4	16.80m	1.90m
Context No	Description	Depth (m)
401	Topsoil: dark brown sandy silt	0-0.30m
402	Subsoil: mid yellow brown sandy loam. Very occasional flint inclusions and moderate manganese staining	0.30-0.90m
403	Natural: yellow brown sandy clay	0.90-1.15m
404	Natural: medium dark brown red clay sand. In places the iron panning has formed solid patches	0.90-1.10m
405	Natural: light-mid grey clay	1.00-1.10m

Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)
5	25m	1.8m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
No		
500	Topsoil: Mid grey sandy silt	0-0.19m
501	Subsoil: mid brown clay sand	0.19-0.66m
502	Fill of 503	
503	Cut of NE/SW Ditch	
504	Natural: Mid brown yellow sand with patches of blue	0.66m+
	grey clay	

Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)
6	20m	1.80m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
No	•	
601	Topsoil	0-0.20m
602	Subsoil	0.20-0.65m
603	Natural: silty clay	0.65m+
604	Natural: silty sand	0.65m+
605	Natural: blue grey clay	0.65m+
606	Fill of 607	
607	Cut of Post-medieval/ modern pit	
608	Fill of 609	
609	Cut of modern ditch possible field boundary	
610	Fill of 611	
611	Medieval or Post-medieval boundary ditch	

Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)
7	23.60m	1.90m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
No		
701	Topsoil: Dark brown sandy silt	0-0.30m
702	Subsoil: mid yellow brown sandy loam very occasional	0.30-0.60m
	sub-angular flints and manganese staining	
703	Natural: Mid orange brown clay sand	0.60-0.85m
704	Natural: Light -medium grey clay includes white pea grit	0.60-0.85m
	frags	
705	Natural: mid yellow brown clay sand moderate sub	0.85m+
	angular flint pebbles	
706	Layer of dark grey brown sandy clay. Modern inclusions, of	harcoal flecks
	and occasional flecks of burnt clay, animal bone and	pottery.
707	Fill of 708	
708	Cut of tree throw	

Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)
8	25m	1.8m
Context No	Description	Depth (m)
800	Topsoil: mid grey clay sand	0-0.20m
801	Subsoil: mid orange brown clay sand	0.20-0.68m
802	Fill of 803	
803	Cut if NE/SW Ditch	
804	Fill of 805	
805	Cut if NE/SW Ditch	
806	Natural: Orange sand with patches of blue grey clay and iron panning	0.68m+

Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)
9	25m	1.8m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
No		' '
901	Topsoil	0-0.50m
902	Subsoil: mid brown silty clay	0.50-0.83m
903	Natural: orange brown silty clay	0.83+
904	Natural: yellow red brown silty sand occasional chalk flecks	0.83+
905	Natural: blue grey clay	0.83+
906	Fill of 907	
907	Modern ditch	
908	Fill of 909	
909	Medieval or Post-medieval boundary ditch	

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)
No		
10	19.20m	1.90m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
No		
1000	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay occasional small-medium	0-0.20m
	sub-rounded flints	
1001	Subsoil: mid brown silty clay occasional small-medium	0.20-0.60m
	sub-rounded flints	
1002	Cut of Post-medieval ditch	
1003	Fill of 1002	
1004	Natural; orange brown sandy clay	0.60m+

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)
No		
11	24.80m	1.90m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
No		
1101	Topsoil: Dark brown sandy silt	0-0.35m
1102	subsoil: dark brown sandy clay frequent charcoal flecks,	0.35-0.70m
	cbm, shell and occasional flints	
1103	Fill of 1105	
1104	Fill of 1105	
1105	Cut of u shaped med ditch	
1106	Fill of 1109	
1107	Fill of 1109	
1108	Fill of 1109	
1109	Cut of Ditch	
1110	Fill of 1112	
1111	Fill of 1112	
1112	Cut of u shaped med ditch	
1113	Natural: dark yellow brown coarse sandy clay	0.70-1.20m
1114	Natural: dark yellow brown coarse sandy clay	1.20-1.30m

Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)
12	20.80m	2.00m
Context No	Description	Depth (m)
1201	Topsoil: dark black/brown clay silt with occasional small stone inclusions	0-0.23m
1202	Subsoil: mid orange brown clay loam occasional very small flints boundary between this and the natural is very diffuse	0.23-0.88m
1203	Natural: light grey orange clay occasional patches of more sandy material	0.88m+
1204	Masonry brick arrangement in the east end of trench	
1205	Post-medieval spread	

Trench	9 \ /						
No							
13	26m	1.80m					
Context	Description	Depth (m)					
No							
1300	Topsoil: dark black/brown clay silt with occasional small	0-0.17m					
	stone inclusions						
1301	Subsoil: mid brown silty clay occasional small-medium	0.15-0.30m					
	sub-rounded flints						
1302	Medieval Layer	0.15m+					
1303	Natural: Orange clay sand	0.30m+					
1304	Cut of Pit						
1305	Fill of Pit						
1306	Layer of gravel occurs in the north end of the trench where rises to man made mound in field modern in origin	0.30-0.37m					

Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)
14	25m	1.80m
Context No	Description	Depth (m)
1400	Topsoil: dark black/brown clay silt with occasional small stone inclusions	0-0.22m
1401	Subsoil: mid brown silty clay occasional small-medium sub-rounded flints	0.22-0.59m
1402	Natural: Orange clay sand	0.59m+

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)		
No				
15	25m	1.80m		
Context	Description	Depth (m)		
No	_			
1500	Topsoil: dark black/brown clay silt with occasional small	0-0.20m		
	stone inclusions			
1501	Subsoil: mid brown silty clay occasional small-medium	0.20-0.60m		
	sub-rounded flints			
1502	Natural: Orange clay sand	0.60m+		
1503	Cut of small sub-circular Pit			
1504	Fill of Pit			

Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)
16	24m	1.80m
Context No	Description	Depth (m)
1600	Topsoil: dark black/brown clay silt with occasional small stone inclusions	0-0.25m
1601	Subsoil: mid brown silty clay occasional small-medium sub-rounded flints	0.25-0.59m
1602	Natural: Orange clay sand	0.59m+
1603	Cut of Ditch	
1604	Fill of Ditch	

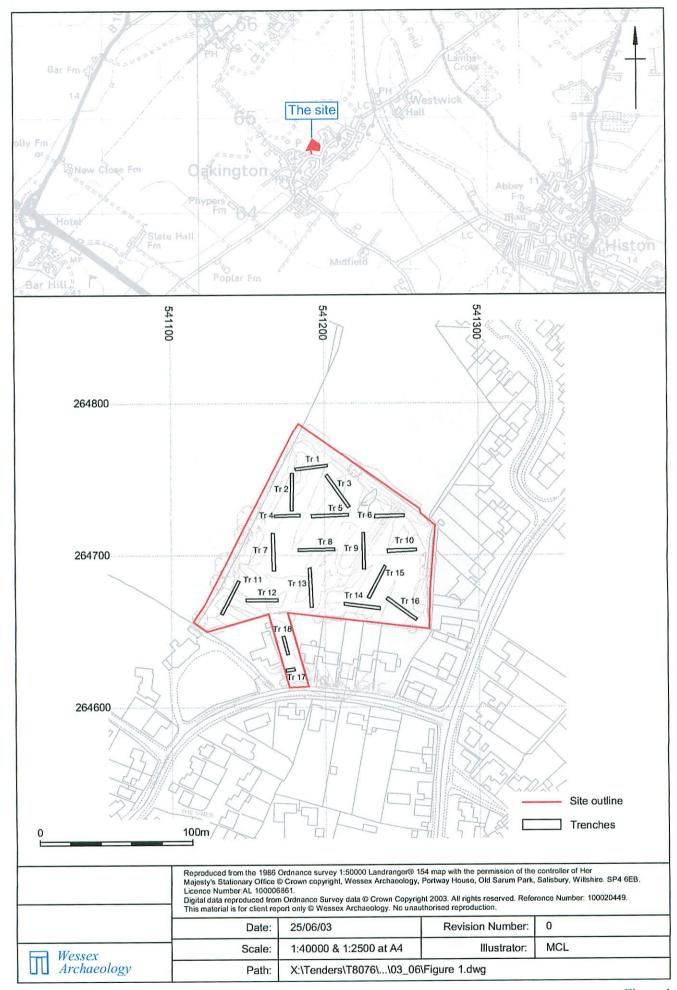
Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)		
17	5.50m	1.8		
Context	Description	Depth (m)		
No				
1700	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay occasional small sub- rounded flints modern building debris in this layer	0-0.40m		
1701	Subsoil: mid brown silty clay occasional small-medium sub-rounded flints	0.36-0.58m		
1702	gravel layer appears in the east end if the trench only	0.44-1.02m		
1703	modern makeup layer thickest at western end of trench	0.30-1.40m		
1704	Natural: orange brown sandy clay	0.80m+		
1705	Natural: grey blue clay only exposed at east end of trench	1.00m+		
1706	Dark black brown layer modern in deposition	0.44-0.74m		

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)		
No				
18	10m	1.80m		
Context No	Description	Depth (m)		
1800	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay occasional small sub- rounded flints	0-0.21m		
1801	Light loose sand deposit at the south end of the trench modern	0.21-0.30m		
1802	Subsoil: mid red brown silty clay occasional small flints	0.21-0.60m		
1803	Natural: mid red brown silty clay occasional small flints	0.60m+		
1804	Spread slightly darker red brown silty clay at north end of trench contained pottery and animal bone	0.60m+		

APPENDIX 2: Table 1: All finds by context

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes) CBM = ceramic building material; Cu = copper alloy; Fe = iron

Trench	Context	Desc.	Animal Bone	СВМ	Clay Pipe	Fired Clay	Prehist pottery	RB pottery	Med pottery	Post-med pottery	Stone	Metal
2	200	topsoil	Done		1.00	<u> </u>	pottery	pottery	pottery	pottery		1 Cu
2	204	ditch 206					1/1					
3	301	topsoil						-				1 Cu
3	306	ditch 307	2/34					1/22				
5	502	ditch 503	19/531									
8	802	ditch 803	2/114									
8	804	ditch 805	6/17									
9	908	ditch 909	8/256						2/5		1/98	·
10	1003	ditch 1002	8/19		1/1				2/4			
11	1103	ditch 1105	8/98						3/42			
11	1107	ditch 1109	2/15									
11	1108	ditch 1109							1/1			
12	1201	topsoil							3/36			
12	1202	subsoil						2/27	14/117			
12	1204	masonry		1/1806								
12	1205	spread	1/3	4/454		ĺ		1/6	1/2	2/7		1 Fe
13	1302	layer	3/79	1/17						10/386		
13	1305	pit 1304							2/4			
14	1400	topsoil							1/17			
16	1604	ditch 1603				8/47			2/9			
18	1804	spread	3/157						62/403			
TOTALS			62/1323	6/2277	1/1	8/47	1/1	4/55	93/640	12/393	1/98	1 Fe; 2 Cu



Location of evaluation area Figure 1

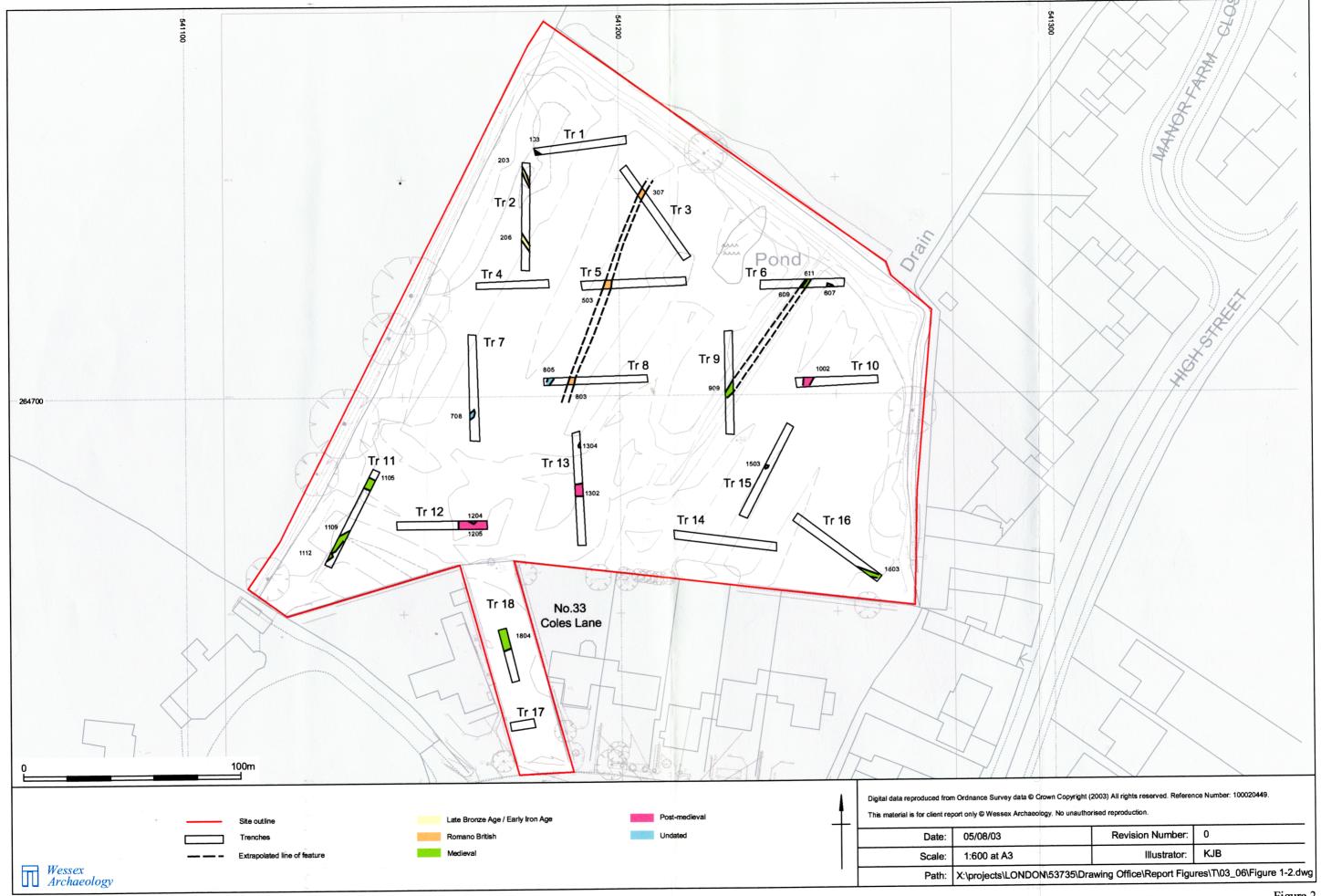


Figure 2

