cambridgeshire archaeology
archaeological field unit

CAM ARC Report Number 914

Post-medieval Ditches at Home Farm, High Ditch Road, Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire

Evaluation

Scott Kenney

December 2006

Cambridgeshire County Council
Environment & Community Services

Commissioned by Hill Partnership

CAM ARC Report Number 914

Post-medieval Ditches at Home Farm, High Ditch Road, Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire

Evaluation

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With contributions by Carole Fletcher BA (Hons), Rachel Fosberry

Site Code: FDI HDR 06
CHER Event Number: ECB2440
Date of works: 6th-13th November 2006
Grid Ref: TL 4883 6025

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Author	Scott Kenney		
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Editor: Aileen Connor BA AIFA
Illustrator: Crane Begg BSc (Hons)

CAM ARC OASIS Report Form

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PROJECT DETAILS				
Project name	Evaluation at Home Farm, High Ditch Road, Fen Ditton			
Short description	An archaeological evaluation has been undertaken on land adjacent to Home Farm, High Ditch Road, Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire (TL 4883 6025). Four trenches were opened up and revealed several phases of ditch running south of and parallel with a scarp crossing the site on an east to west orientation. This ridge had previously been thought to represent the line of the supposed northern section of Fleam Dyke (an Anglo-Saxon defensive earthwork). Finds recovered from the lower fills of the major ditches in Trenches 1 and 4 have been dated securely to the mid to late 18th century, and no earlier material was residual within those deposits. Trench 1 also contained pits that may be medieval in date. No archaeological features were encountered in trenches 2 and 3.			
Project dates	Start	6/11/06	End	13/11/06
Previous work	NA		Future work	yes/no/unknown
Associated project reference codes	Site Code: FDI HDR 06 CHER Event Number: ECB2440			
Type of project	Evaluation			
Site status	None			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Farm yard			
Planned development	Housing			
Monument types / period (list all that apply and use thesaurus of monument types)	18th century ?Ditch, Medieval pits			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply and use MDA object thesaurus)	Medieval pottery, 18th century pottery and CBM			
PROJECT LOCATION				
County	Cambridgeshire	Parish	Fen Ditton	
HER for region	Cambridgeshire			
Site address (including postcode)	Home Farm, High Ditch Road, Fen Ditton Cambridge			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	2500 sq m			
National grid reference	Easting (6 figure)	548830	Northing (6 figure)	260250
Height OD	Max OD	15m	Min OD	11.5m
PROJECT ORIGINATORS				
Organisation	Cambridgeshire County Council, CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Kasia Gdaniec			
Project design originator	Aileen Connor			
Director/supervisor	Scott Kenney			
Project manager	Aileen Connor			
Sponsor or funding body	Hill Partnerships			
ARCHIVES	**Location and accession number**		**Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)**	
Physical	FDI HDR 06		Pottery, animal bone, CBM	
Paper	FDI HDR 06		Context sheets, indices, photographs	
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Full title	Post-medieval Ditches at Home Farm, High Ditch Road, Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire			
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation has been undertaken on land adjacent to Home Farm, High Ditch Road, Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire (TL 4883 6025). Four trenches were opened up and revealed several phases of ditch running south of and parallel with a scarp crossing the site on an east to west orientation. This ridge had previously been thought to represent the line of the supposed northern section of Fleam Dyke (an Anglo-Saxon defensive earthwork).

Finds recovered from the lower fills of the major ditches in Trenches 1 and 4 have been dated securely to the mid to late 18th century, and no earlier material was residual within those deposits. Trench 1 also contained pits that may be medieval in date. No archaeological features were encountered in trenches 2 and 3.

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Break in Section/
Limit of Section Drawing

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Ordnance Datum 18.45m OD

Inclusions

1 Introduction

CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council (formerly Archaeological Field Unit) has conducted an archaeological evaluation on 0.2ha of land adjacent to Home Farm, High Ditch road, Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire.

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application S/0970/05/F), supplemented by a Specification prepared by CAM ARC.

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CAPCA, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by CAM ARC and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

2 Geology and Topography

The site overlies the Lower Beds of the Cretaceous Lower Chalk (British Geological Survey 1975). The BGS map also shows an area of Fourth Terrace River Gravels to the south of High Ditch Road, and this stratum was also encountered during the evaluation as a very thin layer overlying the chalk.

The site is divided by a scarp running east to west across the site. To the north of this the ground is at about 14.3m OD and to the south it is about 1m lower. An Ordnance Survey benchmark used during the evaluation is located on the opposite side of High Ditch Road and has the value 13.72m OD.

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Archaeological Background

The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) records numerous sites and findspots within Fen Ditton, with the majority of these being medieval and post-medieval.

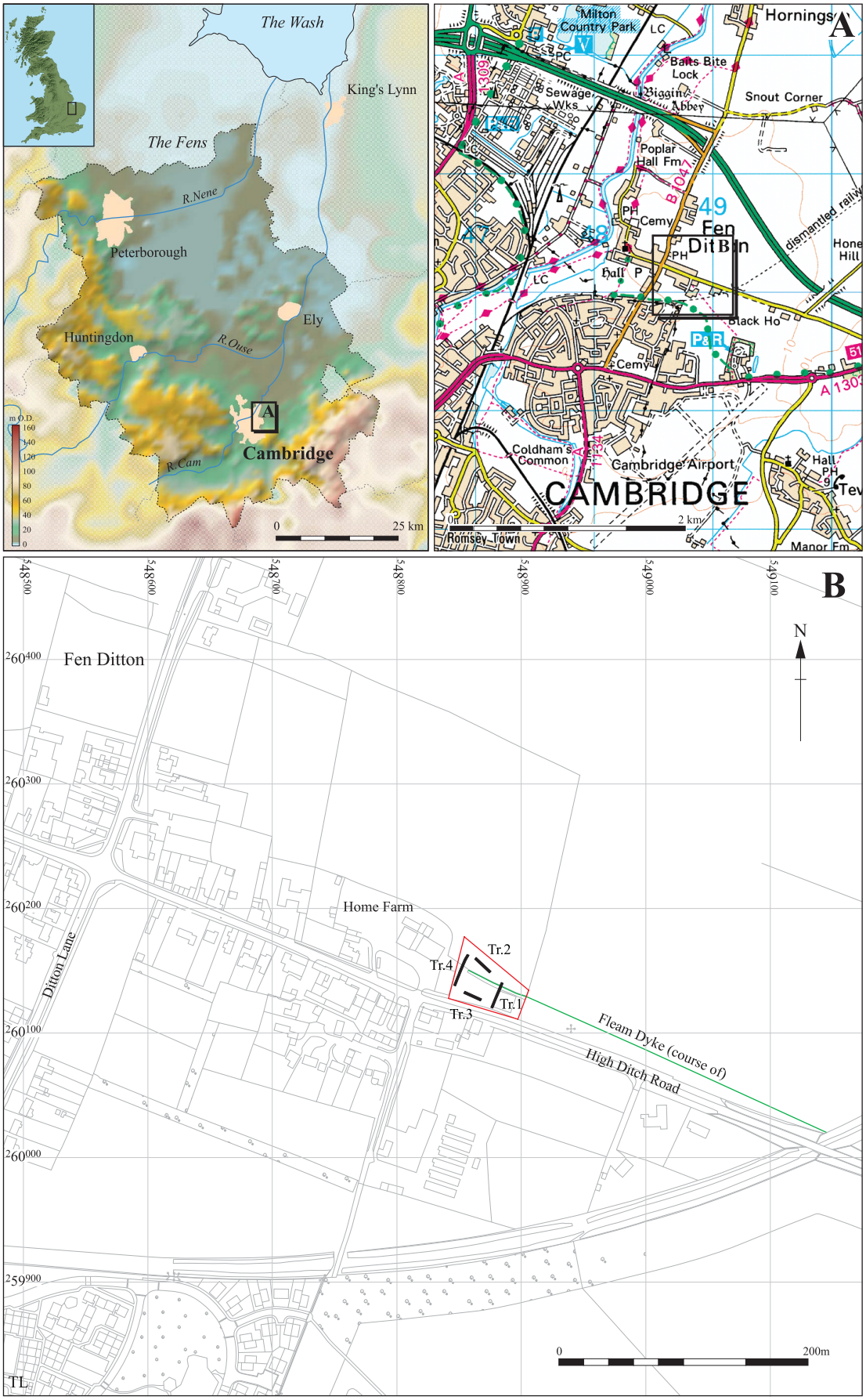

Figure 1 Location of trenches (black) with the development area outlined (red)

The Cambridgeshire Dykes have attracted much attention and debate over many years, a summary of which can be found in PCAS LXXXV (Malim 1996, 27-122). Discussion has largely centred around their date and purpose. Three separate monuments are named Fleam Dyke and it is possible (although unproven) that they are part of a single boundary (*ibid*., 58). The main part of the Dyke (also known as Balsham Ditch) runs from Dungate Farm, Balsham to Shardelow's well at Fulbourn. Here, the monument still exists as a major visible earthwork comprising ditch and bank. To the north of Shardelow's well is a putative extension which dog legs towards Great Wilbraham Fen, but is now entirely filled in and can only be seen as a cropmark, little intrusive investigation has been carried out on this section of the Dyke. The third monument, and the subject of this report, is the High Ditch at Fen Ditton. Put together the three would form a lazy **Z** shape across the landscape in contrast to the other dykes, which are all quite straight. High Ditch itself is indicated on a map of 1731/2 (CRO TR626/P1), lying south of the road to Quy that cut High Ditch Field in two. On later Ordnance Survey maps the ditch is shown on the north side of High Ditch Road, although there is little visible today.

Fox (1923, 34) notes that the Fen Ditton Fleam Dyke was most probably a local defensive earthwork when it was first constructed, forming the southern boundary to the tongue of land on which Horningsea stands, with Quy Water forming its eastern boundary and the river Cam to the west. He suggests (*ibid*) that the ditch was subsequently incorporated into the larger system that includes the Fulbourn section of the Dyke, but that this may have been in name only.

3.1.1 Prehistoric and Roman

To the southeast at Greenhouse Farm, excavations and other investigations revealed extensive Iron Age occupation (CHER 13023, CB14592) and conquest period kilns. In the field to the north of the present site, abraded sherds of Roman pottery were found during fieldwalking for the A45/A14 construction (CHER 11201A).

3.1.2 Saxon and medieval

There have been no finds of Saxon date from the vicinity of the current site although the village name has its origin in that period, meaning 'farm by the ditch'. The Church of St Mary the Virgin (CHER 00325) dates from the 12th century, although no standing fabric survives and the current building is mostly later.

The hypothesis of a northern arm to the Fleam Dyke (here called High Ditch), running eastwards from the river Cam at Fen Ditton to Teversham Fen is an idea that draws together several nominative sources, including the line of High Ditch Road and its name and the Saxon name of the village. Woodditton is similarly thought to be named

for its proximity to Devil's Dyke. The name makes its first recorded appearance (as *Heyditch*) in a 13th century document held at St John's College, Cambridge (Reaney 1943).

Mrs V. Pritchard found and recovered human remains and associated artefacts during widening of Newmarket Road at the Bottisham Fen end of the northern section of Fleam Dyke in 1957 (Lethbridge 1958) . The exact location is not published but Lethbridge was confident that the burials were Early Anglo-Saxon in date and that they were buried in the top of a large ditch, this is the only archaeological investigation that has been carried out on the northern arm of the Fleam Dyke, although there have been several campaigns on the southern section e.g. Fox and Palmer 1921, 1922; Smith 1971; Taylor 1976; Wait 1991; Pelling 1992 (Malim 1996, 104).

3.1.1 Post-medieval and modern

Home Farm (CHER 05488) and the dovecote that stands in the farmyard (CHER 10411) are both 18th century although the house may have earlier origins.

3.2 Historical Background

Fen Ditton sits within Flendish Hundred and is mentioned in land transactions before AD991 and the name itself means 'farm by the ditch' in Anglo-Saxon. The medieval village ran north adjacent to the river Cam with the church being its southern end and the manor house of the Bishops of Ely at the northern end. Only in the post-medieval period was the village extended eastwards along the road to Quy Mill (Wareham & Wright 2002).

High Ditch Road is so named by 1821, although the medieval field at the eastern end of the parish was referred to by this name earlier than this and High Ditch itself is indicated on a map of 1731/2 (CRO TR626/P1), lying south of the road to Quy that cut High Ditch Field in two.

The earliest known record of Fleam Dyke is Flemesdich, *c*.1260 referring to a ditch in the parish of Teversham (Reaney 1943, 35). None of the recorded names appear to directly relate to the segment of ditch found in Fen Ditton. By 1825 the Ditch was variously known as Queens, Fleam Dyke or Balsham Ditch. It is believed that Flendish Hundred is named after Fleam Dyke which forms its north-eastern boundary where it passes between Fulbourn and Great Wilbraham. By the time it reaches Fen Ditton, however, the ditch does not form a boundary either for the Hundred or even the parish.

Fleam Dyke seems most commonly to have been referred to as the Ditch or the Great Ditch (Reaney 1943) and the early variants of Fleam are thought to be derived from Old English *fliem* (flight) or *flieming*

(fugitive) (Banham 1996, 100). Reaney also notes (1943, 141) that a Fleame was the watercourse or race of a mill stream – the channel of water from the main stream to the mill, below which the streams unite, and that it also describes a large trench to carry water in order to drain meadows. Reaney dismisses this latter interpretation as unlikely to be the original meaning for Fleam Dyke, but it is perhaps worth reconsidering.

4 Methodology

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

The Brief required that 5% of the site was trenched in order to evaluate the presence or absence of archaeology.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 360° tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket 1.8m wide.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those that were obviously modern.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using CAM ARC's pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

Environmental samples were taken from fills of different types of features and from those of different dates.

Site conditions during the evaluation were good and there were no factors that may have had an impact upon the validity of the results and conclusions. Consequently, the confidence rating to be applied to these results is high.

5 Results

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was 22m long, 1.5m deep and contained several phases of ditch, three pits and a single posthole. These features were mostly cut into earlier layers and sealed by later makeup.

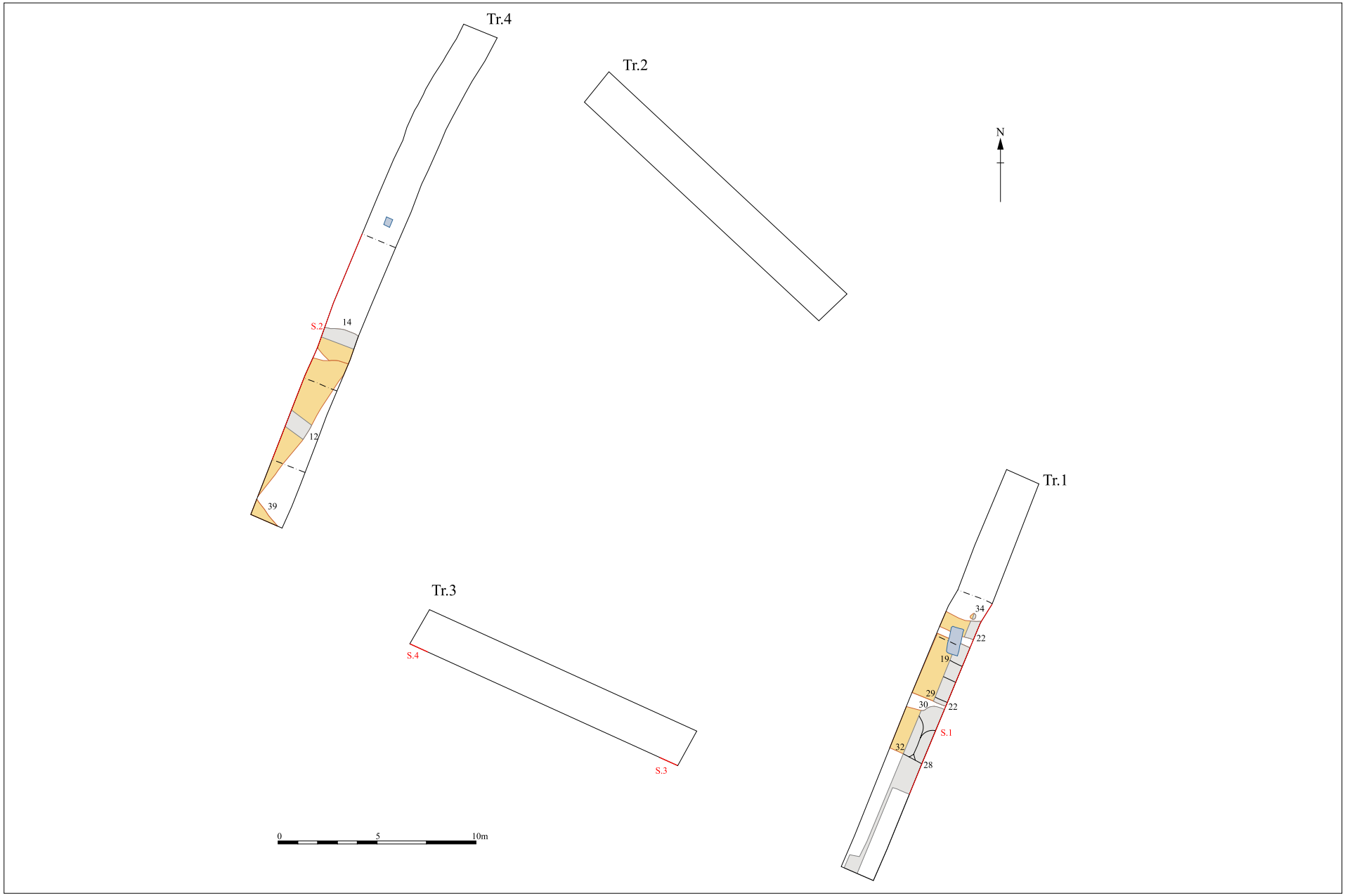

Figure 2: Trench plan

A single posthole 0.3m in diameter and 0.2m deep (**34**) was set just above ditch **22** on the slope of the scarp. It contained a single fill (33), a pale brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. No finds were recovered from the fill.

Three pits (**28**, **30**, **32**) were excavated, the fills of which were such mixed deposits of orange-brown sandy silts with frequent chalk flecks and lumps that they could not be distinguished and may have been contemporary. These pits were each at least 1.75m long, 0.75m wide, and up to 0.4m deep. Pottery recovered from the fill (31) of pit **32** has been dated to the 13th to 14th centuries.

Layer 25, a pale brownish grey sandy silty clay with moderate chalk flecks sealed the pits and was itself cut by a ditch **22**.

To the north of the pits, the pale grey silty clay fill (23) of an unknown feature (**24**) was encountered, of which too little survived within the trench for clear interpretation, although it may have been an early phase of ditch.

This feature was cut by a ditch (**22**), which contained a single pale olive grey silty clay fill (21) with frequent small stones. This ditch 5m wide, 1.3m deep with a very wide flat-based **V** profile was sealed by layer 20.

A grey silty clay layer (20) sealed the fill of ditch **22** and was in turn cut by ditch **19**. On the north side of ditch **22** a layer of orange-brown sandy clay silt subsoil (3) sealed both the ditch and posthole **34**.

A ditch on an east to west alignment (**19**) cut across the trench and through layer 20. This ditch was 2.75m wide, 1.2m deep with a wide flat-based **V** profile and contained four fills. The lower fill (18) was a very pale grey chalky silty clay, above which was a firm pale olive grey silty clay (17) and then brown sandy clay silt (16). The upper fill (15) was a very dark brown sandy clay silt containing occasional brick fragments and small stones.

Sealing these deposits was 0.2m of reddish brown silty clay subsoil mixed with brick rubble and hardcore, which in turn was overlain by tarmac 0.1m thick.

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was 16m long, 0.6m deep and contained no archaeological features. Dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil 0.3m thick overlay 0.3m of reddish brown sandy silty clay subsoil. No finds of any date were recovered from this trench.

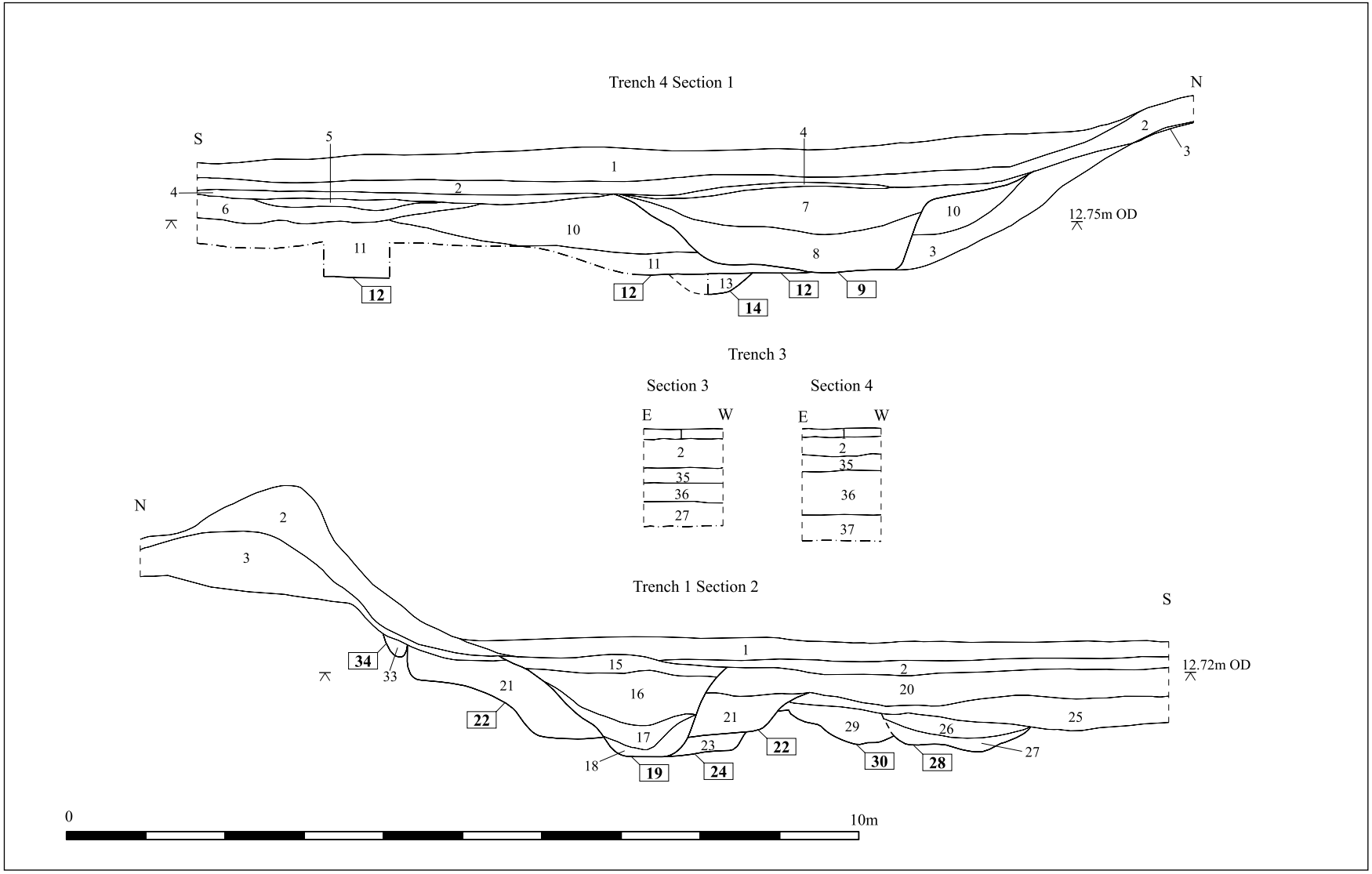

Figure 3: Section drawings

5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was 15m long, 1.4m deep and contained no archaeological features. At the bottom of the stratigraphic sequence were three layers of brownish grey slightly silty clay with few inclusions and only barely distinguishable from one another by very minor colour differences The basal layer (37) was 0.3m thick and overlay chalk natural. The middle layer (36) was between 0.25 and 0.55m thick while the upper layer (35) was 0.2m thick. Sealing these deposits was 0.2-0.3m of reddish brown silty clay subsoil mixed with brick rubble and hardcore, which in turn was overlain by tarmac 0.1m thick. No finds of any date were recovered from this trench.

5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was 25m long, 1.75m deep and contained several ditches and numerous layers, both above and below the ditch sequence.

On the south facing slope of the scarp across the trench was a layer of orange–brown sandy clay silt subsoil (3) up to 0.2m thick sealed by layer 10.

A ditch (**14**) crossed the trench on an east to west alignment, containing a single very pale grey silty clay fill (13) with frequent small stones and chalk flecks. Ditch **14** had very gently sloping sides and a flat base, and appeared to be straight sided, narrowing to a butt end just beyond the western baulk of the trench. No finds were recovered from the fill, which was cut by ditch **12**.

Ditch **12** ran on a northeast to southwest alignment and was straight in plan with vertical sides and a flat base. The fill (11) was an olive grey silty clay with olive green staining towards the base. Brick, clay pipe and 18th century pottery were recovered from the fill, which was sealed by layer 10.

Layer 10 was a very smooth pale olive grey slightly silty clay and was in turn sealed by layer 6, a brown sandy clay silt 0.4m thick. Layer 5, an olive brown silty clay 0.1m thick was above layer 6. No finds were recovered from these layers. Layer 10 was also cut by ditch **9**.

Ditch **9** was 5.5m wide, 1.2m deep with a very wide flat-based **V** profile and contained two fills. The lower fill (8) was a firm pale olive grey silty clay from which 18th century glass bottles and pottery were recovered, while the upper fill (7) was a brown sandy clay silt containing occasional brick fragments and small stones.

A very thin layer of yellow sandy clay (4) sealed both the upper fill of the substantial east to west ditch (**9**) and layer 6. Sealing these

deposits was 0.2m of reddish brown silty clay subsoil mixed with brick rubble and hardcore, which in turn was overlain by tarmac 0.1m thick.

When this trench was being backfilled, it was extended slightly to the south in order to examine the relationship between the deposit sequences in Trenches 3 and 4. This extension revealed what appeared to be a return of ditch **12** turning to the southeast. A left hand portion of cattle mandible (C. Faine, pers. comm.) was recovered from the fill (38) of this ditch (**39**). The fill was identical to 11.

6 Discussion

Although the ditch systems on the site date from the mid to late 18th century, the pits at the bottom of the stratigraphic sequence in Trench 1 did contain some medieval pottery and this could mean that they were earlier. This would be quite unusual, since the medieval village was some distance to the west and may represent a hitherto undiscovered outlying farmstead or hamlet.

Before the Enclosure Act of 1803 and award of 1807, the area of the lower part of the site was called the Townsend Close Allotment, which would explain why it might have been terraced in the late 18th century, creating the scarp across it (CRO R60/24/2/24). This terracing may well have necessitated a drainage channel along the break of slope between the upper field and the lower allotment in order to prevent runoff from the former flooding the latter. The 1885 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows the course of Fleam Dyke lying to the north of High Ditch Road for a short stretch from Home Farm (the subject site) to the railway bridge. Fox supports this interpretation, observing that the Fleam Dyke can be seen here as a faintly visible bank and ditch, he goes on to say that to the east of the railway, High Ditch Road is constructed on the bank of the Dyke with the ditch presumably to the south of the road (Fox 1923, 126).

The presence of a fairly substantial bank and ditch would seem to be indisputable where it was observed at the Junction of High Ditch Road and Newmarket Road, but the current investigation has called into question how far this extended to the west and whether it could still be described as a ditch by the time it reached the subject site. This investigation has also called into question the date and the nature of the earthwork, the evidence appearing to suggest a much later (medieval or later) date for its construction. As to its nature; although a fairly substantial feature existed in this location and on the correct alignment it is not clear whether this feature was ever a fully formed ditch.

The question as to whether the Fen Ditton Fleam Dyke is a continuation of the Fulbourn Fleam Dyke seems to have been avoided, since most of the discussion and investigations have been carried out

on the southern sections of the Fleam Dyke. Much that has been written about the supposed northern Fleam Dyke simply assumes its existence and subsequent destruction and proceeds on that basis. No attempt seems to have been made to test the hypothesis. Cyril Fox cites the Fen Ditton segment as having been for the most part destroyed (Fox 1923, 126), but confidently claims that it continued into Teversham Fen, its alignment having been preserved by the deflection of the Cambridge to Newmarket Road at this point.

There can be no doubt from the descriptions and finds recovered in 1957 (Lethbridge 1958), that a backfilled ditch containing Anglo-Saxon burials was located close to the junction of High Ditch Road and Newmarket Road. This does not mean however that the ditch in question was related to the supposed northern Fleam Dyke. Interestingly Lethbridge suggested a late Roman date for this segment of the ditch in contrast to the Fulbourn to Balsham section which is almost certainly Anglo-Saxon, and Fox (1923, 34) had already suggested that this ditch may be an earlier local defensive earthwork.

It has been suggested that High Ditch Road preserves the line of a sizeable defensive ditch, which was at some point backfilled, its own bank slighted and then the roadway constructed on top (Fox 1923). This explanation neatly avoids questions such as 'where's the evidence?' by saying it is all under the modern road. Nothing would survive of the bank and the backfilled ditch would remain inaccessible until such time as the road is completely rebuilt if ever.

Logic suggests however that such a heroic undertaking would be unnecessary, when it would be far quicker and simpler to have the road run along the top of the flattened bank. In this scenario, the ditch would survive, probably to the south of the new road. High Ditch Road does in fact stand higher than the surrounding fields, although only along the eastern end of its line to where it meets Newmarket Road. In fairness, Fox does note this, although he also suggests that the scarp across the subject site preserves the line of both bank and ditch of the supposed dyke. This notion has been perpetuated unchallenged and persists even on the latest Ordnance Survey mapping.

On the 1731/2 map, 'High Ditch' is indicated to the south of the road that today bears the same name. The feature on this map appears to be a substantial drain and other water sources seem to empty into it. It runs through the middle of what was once High Ditch Field, at the eastern end of the modern High Ditch Road before it joins what is now Newmarket Road.

Recent development work on the south side of High Ditch Road within Fen Ditton has also failed to reveal any sign of a large defensive ditch parallel to the modern road (author's own observations). Again, this may be taken to reinforce the notion that the line of the dyke lies beneath the road.

7 Conclusions

The evaluation has demonstrated that little archaeology earlier than 18th century exists within the development area. The scarp that runs across the site may have originally been natural and was later modified, although there is no evidence to indicate that it was related to the putative northern arm of Fleam Dyke.

In the course of background research for this report, it has become clear that the idea of a continuous Dyke running from Balsham to fen Ditton must be questioned. Even the short segment that passes through Fen Ditton and cuts off the Fen Ditton/Horningsea 'peninsula' needs further investigation.

Further work in this area may in fact reveal the line of the suggested northern section of Fleam Dyke. For the moment, however, it appears that if it existed at all, it must remain concealed beneath the line of the road.

Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Hill Parnership who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Aileen Connor who also edited the report. Lucy Offord worked on the evaluation, Crane Begg produced the illustrations and Chris Faine (animal bone), Carole Fletcher and Rachel Fosberry (environmental supplied specialist analysis.

The brief for archaeological works was written by Kasia Gdaniec, who visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

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Appendix 1: The Finds Assemblage

by Carole Fletcher BA

1 METHODOLOGY

The basic guidance in MAP2 has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991) In addition the MPRG documents *Guidance for the processing and publication of medieval pottery from excavations* (Blake and Davey, 1983) and *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG, 1998) act as a standard.

Spot dating was carried out using the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Units (CCCAFU) in-house system based on that used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described types. All sherds have been counted classified, and weighed.

All the pottery has been spot dated on a context by context basis; this information was entered directly onto a quantification database (Access 2000), which allows for the appending of further data.

CCCAFU curates the finds and archive until formal deposition.

2 THE ASSEMBLAGE

The fieldwork generated a very small pottery assemblage of 14 sherds (0.846kg) including unstratified material. Also recovered were two fragments of ceramic building material (CBM); part of the stem of a clay tobacco pipe and a fragment of oyster shell.

Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the following text are:

Sible Hedingham ware	HEDI
Medieval Ely / Medieval Ely Type ware	MEL/MELT
Post medieval Red ware	PMR
Refined White Earthen ware	RFWE

This assemblage contains both medieval and Post–medieval sherds. Context 8 produced seven sherds from the base and body of a single PMR glazed jar. Alongside this pottery were the fragments of two dark natural green glass wine bottles, two bases a single rim and a shard from the neck survives. The bottles were cylindrical with rounded basal edges, a pronounced kick and unpolished pontil mark. The neck shard shows ripples and stress marks from its shaping and the rim has an applied collar. A parallel for this type of bottle can be found on the Museum of London web pages and dates to the mid to late 18th century and dates the context. (http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)

Context 11 contained four large relatively unabraded sherds from a HEDI jug, a medieval glazed ware from Essex. A small sherd of RFWE, from a willow pattern plate, and a fragment of clay pipe stem were also identified. Finally an incomplete brick was found, the dimensions of which suggest it is late 18th or early 19th century. The medieval HEDI sherds would appear to be residual in this context.

Context 31 is the final context to contain pottery, two sherds from a mid 13th to mid 14th century coarse MELT bowl, also recovered was a single fragment of oyster shell, which was a common medieval food. This context would appear to be medieval in date. Context 33 contained a single fragment of CBM, possibly medieval.

Few conclusions can be drawn from such a small assemblage. However the presence of the MELT bowl and the large HEDI sherds suggest that some form of domestic activity was taking place outside the known bounds of the medieval settlement at what is now Fen Ditton.

No preservation bias has been recognised and no long-term storage problems are likely. Due to the small size of the assemblage and its unsuitability for statistical analysis it offers little potential for further study.

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	Accessed 29/11/2006	*http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/ceramics/pages/object.asp?obj_id=529805*

Addendum: Spot Dating

Context	Fabric	No of Sherds	Weight in kg	Vessel Forms	Rim/Base/Body Sherds	Spot dating Date Range for the context
8	PMR	7	0.674	Jar	Base & Body Sherds	Mid to late 18 th century
11	HEDI	4	0.065	Jug	Body Sherd	Late 18th century
	RFWE	1	0.002	Bowl	Body Sherd	
31	MELT	2	0.109	Bowl	Rim & Body Sherd	Mid 13 century to mid 14th century

Appendix 2: Environmental Remains

by Rachel Fosberry

1 Introduction and Methods

Three bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Ten litres of each sample were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 1mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification.

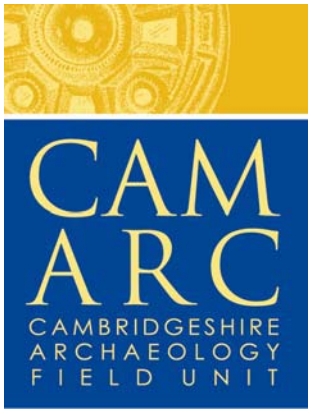
2 Results

All three samples were devoid of any charred plant macrofossils. Sample 1 context # did contain a few uncharred seeds of *Lemna* sp. (duckweed) and *Rubus* sp. (bramble). None of the samples contained any artefacts in their residues.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

The lack of charred plant remains at this site suggests that either conditions do not favour preservation or that there is no evidence of occupation/use. The seeds in Sample 1 may be modern in origin although both duckweed and bramble produce robust seeds that can survive for long periods.

In conclusion, these samples do not provide any useful interpretive information and no further work is required.



CAM ARC,
Cambridgeshire County Council,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridgeshire,
CB3 8SQ

General Enquiries: 01954-204191
Fax: 01954-273376

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/archaeology