

CAM ARC Report Number 937

**Medieval Remains on Land
Adjacent to Nos. 15 and 42,
Kingfisher Drive, Burwell,
Cambridgeshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

Mo Muldowney

February 2007

Commissioned by Construct
Reason Limited

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Adjacent to Nos. 15 and 42,
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Mo Muldowney BA PIFA

With contributions by
Chris Faine MA, MSc, BABAO
Carole Fletcher BA, HND
Rachel Fosberry HNC (Cert Ed), AEA

Site Code: BUR KFD 06
CHER Event Number:
Date of works: 6th to 12th February 2007
Grid Ref: TL 58590 67527

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Author	Mo Muldowney		
Checked By	Aileen Connor		
Authorised By			

Editor: Aileen Connor BA AIFA
Illustrator: Crane Begg BSc

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PROJECT DETAILS				
Project name	Evaluation on land behind 15 and 42, Kingfisher Drive, Burwell			
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken and identified features dating from as early as the prehistoric to the post-medieval period. Prehistoric features included ditches, pits and a posthole and the medieval period was characterised by ditches - including a possible lode - clay extraction pits and a possible windmill/dovecote-type structure.			
Project dates	Start	06/02/07	End	12/02/07
Previous work			Future work	unknown
Associated project reference codes	BUR KFD 06			
Type of project	Evaluation			
Site status	None			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Open ground/former garden plot			
Planned development	Residential			
Monument types / period (list all that apply)	Lode; extraction pits; possible windmill/dovecote			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply)	Fibula brooch – Roman (residual) Pottery – 13th to mid-16th century			
PROJECT LOCATION				
County	Cambridgeshire	Parish	Burwell	
HER for region	Cambridgeshire			
Site address (including postcode)	Land behind Kingfisher Drive, Burwell			
Study area (sq.m or ha)				
National grid reference	TL58596752			
Height OD	Min OD	3.89m	Max OD	5.04m
PROJECT ORIGINATORS				
Organisation	CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Kasia Gdaniec			
Project design originator	Aileen Connor			
Director/supervisor	Mo Muldowney			
Project manager	Aileen Connor			
Sponsor or funding body	Construct Reason (David Wyatt)			
ARCHIVES				
	Location and accession number	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)		
Physical		Pottery, animal bone, fired clay, glass, clay tobacco pipe, flint, iron objects, Cu alloy brooch		
Paper		Plans, sections, pro forma sheets, photographs		
Digital		Photographs		
BIBLIOGRAPHY				
Full title	Medieval and post-medieval Remains on Land Behind Nos. 15 and 42, Kingfisher Drive, Burwell, Cambridgeshire			
Author(s)	Mo Muldowney			
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Summary

CAM ARC has been commissioned by Construct Reason Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Kingfisher Drive, Burwell. The work took place from 6th to 12th February 2007.

Archaeological features were found across most of the evaluation area, comprising ditches, pits and a posthole, with the highest number of features located in Trench 1. Although very little dating evidence was recovered, the site appears to be predominantly medieval to early post-medieval in date and there is evidence for at least two phases of activity, pre and post dating a ? 16th century buried soil. Those features predating the buried soil are mainly smaller pits and ditches, those post dating it comprise a possible lode and associated drainage ditches, clay extraction pits and a possible structure. The possible lode runs east to west across the site, draining into The Weirs, it is visible on both the 1886 and 1901 Ordnance Survey maps.

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1 Introduction

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec on behalf of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application 04/00163/FUM), supplemented by a Specification prepared by Aileen Connor on behalf of CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council (formerly Archaeological Field Unit).

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 West Marlbury Marly Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey 1981) and lies on relatively flat land adjacent to The Weirs in the north of Burwell. The land varies in height between 4m and 5m OD.

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric

Evidence for prehistoric activity in the parish of Burwell is mainly confined to surface finds of flint tools including an ovate handaxe, tranchet axes and possible Mesolithic flints (Hall 1996, 102). There is also evidence for a number of round barrows, particularly on the higher ground in the south of the parish (*ibid.*) In 1969 an excavation (ECB1733) comprising trenches took place on land to the west of the Weirs and almost opposite the subject site (Browne 1977, 81-91). The excavation revealed evidence for late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age activity.

3.2 Iron Age and Roman

Iron Age remains have been found in the south of the parish (Hall 1996, 102) and close to the subject site during excavations in 1969 (Browne 1977, 81-91).

Excavation at Newmarket Road on the outskirts of Burwell revealed two large pits of Early to Middle Iron Age date, containing a range of artefacts and ecofacts, some of which may have been deliberately placed. Smaller pits and numerous postholes were found scattered across the site. Some contained Iron Age pottery, although many were undated (Bailey 2006).

Closer to the subject site, at Low Road, excavation revealed pits and ditches that were tentatively dated to late Roman although finds also included a number of middle Iron Age sherds of pottery suggesting earlier activity had also taken place on or near the site (Kenney 1996).

Substantial Roman remains are known to the south of the village (Hall 1996, 107 site 3) and Roman remains have also been found beneath Burwell Castle (Hall 1996, 107 site 4). More recently evidence for Roman occupation has been found beneath new housing development at the junction of Reach Road and Swaffham Road at the south end of the village (AFU site BUR RR01/2).

3.3 Medieval and post-Medieval

The development site lies on the western side of North Street, a long, sinuous road which is first mentioned in 1351 and may well have been laid out along a former headland in the open fields. North Street has a large number of late 16th and early 17th century buildings along its frontage, some of which are of high quality and probably associated with the development of water-borne trade along Burwell Lode. Burwell Lode (known as High Lode by 1580 and renamed the old lode in the 1670s) is a sinuous lode that runs to the north of the much straighter modern Burwell Lode (or New Lode). The new lode was cut in the 1650s, most probably by the Bedford Level Commissioners.

Evidence of medieval and post-medieval quarrying (possibly for clunch extraction) has been found in evaluations near St Mary's church (Bailey 2003) and at Burwell Village Community School on The Causeway (Atkins 2005).

More recently an evaluation at Isaacson's Road on the south side of Burwell, has revealed evidence for clunch extraction, wells and iron smithing dating to the medieval period (Muldowney 2006).

A stream rising near Burwell Castle (Spring Close) combines with other minor watercourses to form a larger one further north that has been known as the Weirs since the 1670s but was previously called the Head Lode. The Weirs ran parallel with North Street and fed the New Lode whose junction lies to the north of the subject site. A series of canals and basins were constructed at an unknown date (but probably late 16th/17th century), running eastwards from The Weirs, towards the

rear of the properties along the western side of North Street. There were originally at least 23 of these structures (including 18 canals), allowing goods to be taken right up to yards and barns/storage buildings situated in the back plots. While their precise dates of construction and abandonment are unknown, it is clear that those to the south of The Hythe (NGR 558450 267280) had gone out of use by 1841 (RCHME 1972, 43). The Weirs watercourse is thought to have been constructed in the 13th century and served to separate the land from the fen at the fen edge (Walker and Walsh 2006).

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 0.5 ha development area would be evaluated. Five trenches were excavated measuring 1.9m wide and having a total length of 160m. Each trench varied in length from 17m to 79m. Each trench was positioned with reference to Tree Retention and Planting Schedules (Dickinson 2006) and the course of underground storm drains.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360° excavator using a 1.9m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket. Excavation ceased when the upper interface of archaeological features was exposed. Topsoil and subsoil were stored at a safe distance from the trench edge.

Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as necessary in order to clarify located features and deposits.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using CAM ARC's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations were recorded using a Leica Total Station Theodolite and tied into the Ordnance Survey national grid, whilst plans and sections were recorded by hand at appropriate scales (1:50, 1:10 and 1:20 respectively). Both colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits using two 35mm cameras, supplemented by colour digital photographs.

Eleven environmental samples were taken from features across the evaluation area and an additional three monolith column samples were taken from the side of Trench 1.

No human remains were encountered.

The development area was until very recently a garden plot belonging to one of the properties fronting onto North Street. It is grassed and retains many trees, some of which have Tree Protection Orders (TPO). Each trench was positioned away from the canopies of the protected trees. There are also a number of scrub areas dominated by brambles. A small patch of protected snowdrops was located near the south-east corner of the site and as a result all trenches were located at least 5m distant. Plant was also directed away from the area.

Fencing bounded the development area on all sides with the exception of the west side, which was bounded by The Weirs.

Conditions were variable throughout the evaluation, ranging from sunny and frosty to snow. This did not hamper mechanical excavation, although manual excavation became more problematic whilst snow lay on the ground. In general, mechanical excavation was not impeded, although progress slowed during the excavation of Trench 1, which was up to 0.8m deep in places.

5 Results

Archaeological features were identified in all trenches (with the exception of Trench 3) and comprised predominantly ditches, pits and a single posthole.

The natural chalk (85) was light greyish white and contained a reasonably high clay content as in places it displayed polygonal cracking. Overlying the natural was a thin, pale grey chalky clay layer, (0.05m to 0.18m thick) possibly a buried soil (53). It was observed in all trenches although in trench 1 it was entirely absent from the westernmost 13m. A small number of artefacts were recovered from this layer, including 15th to mid-16th century pottery and an iron object. The majority of the archaeological features on the site relate to this layer (either earlier or later than it) and are presented with reference to it in the results section below.

Overlying the ?buried soil (53) was a 0.1m to 0.5m thick layer of mid orange brown silty clay subsoil (2); which contained pottery, animal bone and some fired clay/brick fragments. It also contained a high proportion of very small flint fragments, similar to those observed in the subsoil of the Brown's Yard excavation to the south in 2003/4 (pers. comm. Kasia Gdaniec). The articulated skeletal remains of four animals were found in this layer, in Trench 5 and Trench 2. Those in Trench 5 were found together and have been identified as birds, the larger of which was a Greylag Goose; the smaller is an unidentified juvenile. The third and fourth skeletons were located towards the north end of Trench 2 and were an adult and 6 month old goats. Associated pottery and fired clay fragments suggests these animals are post-medieval in date. Overlying the subsoil at the eastern end of trench 1

only was a 0.49m thick layer of redeposited chalk (49). Dark brown loamy topsoil (1) occurred throughout and was 0.4m to 0.47m thick and contained post-medieval artefacts including clay tobacco pipes.

The total depth (m) and height (mOD) of each trench is presented in tabular form in the appropriate section. An index of contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 (Fig. 2) was located parallel to the north boundary of the site and oriented east to west. It was 69m long and up to 0.9m deep and contained the highest density and largest number of archaeological features in the evaluation area. They comprised seventeen ditches, five pits, one posthole and two layers. In places there was evidence of disturbance caused by roots.

Location of level in trench	Height (m OD)		Depth (m)	Maximum thickness (m)
	Top	Base		
East end	5.04	4.17	0.87	-
Mid point	4.53	3.75	0.78	-
West end	3.97	3.24	0.73	-
Topsoil	-	-	-	0.42
Subsoil	-	-	-	0.40
Layer 53	-	-	-	0.12

Trench 1 Ordnance Datum heights with corresponding trench and soil depths

5.1.1 Features Earlier than Layer 53

Ditch **17** was located 1.5m from the east end of the trench and was oriented north to south. It was 1.3m wide and 0.52m deep with a steep-sided, flat-based profile. Its single fill (16) contained seven sherds of 13th to mid-14th century pottery. It was sealed by layer 53 and truncated by ditch 15.

Curvilinear ditch **21** was located 9.5m from the east end of the trench and had a stepped, V-shape profile. It was 1m wide and 0.58m deep and contained single fill (20), mid grey chalky clay. No finds were recovered. It was sealed by layer 53

The earliest feature in an 8.5m long area of intercutting ditches was ditch **46**. It was located in the middle of the area and oriented north-west to south-east. A full profile was not visible but it was at least 0.22m wide and 0.36m deep and was filled with mid grey clay (45). No finds were recovered. It was sealed by layer 53.

Ditches **42** and **40** comprised two parallel ditches. Ditch **42** terminated 0.3m from the east edge of ditch **84** (see below) and lay on an almost

east to west alignment. It was at least 0.4m wide and more than 1.4m long. It was filled with mid grey clay (41), from which no finds were recovered. Ditch **40** was very similar, containing the same mid grey clay (45) and was approximately 0.45m wide and over 2.75m long. It did not terminate at the same point as ditch **42**, but continued beyond the south edge of the trench. Ditch **59** was 0.4m wide by 0.08m deep and located approximately 3m to the west of ditch **40** and may be a continuation of that ditch. Together they would have formed a curvilinear ditch oriented approximately east to west and at least 7m long. No finds were recovered from any of these ditches.

Ditch **84** lay on a north to south alignment and was at least 2m wide and up to 0.32m deep. It had a shallow, U-shape profile and contained one fill (83), mid brownish grey clay. No finds were recovered.

Ditch **38** was one of the latest in this sequence, aligned north to south with a slightly irregular, U-shape profile. It was 1.02m wide and 0.31m deep and contained a single fill (37), mid grey chalky clay. No finds were recovered. The other late feature in the sequence was ditch **44**, which was also oriented north to south, but had a deeper, more regular U-shape profile. It measured 0.76m wide and 0.66m deep and contained a single fill (43), light grey chalky clay. Animal bone only was recovered. All these features were sealed by layer 53.

Ditch **13** was located approximately 8m to the west of ditch **59** and was oriented north to south. It was 3m wide by 0.16m deep and had a shallow, flat-based profile. The fill (9) mid brown grey clay contained two Roman and 13th to mid 14th century pottery sherds.

A curvilinear ditch (**15**), combined with a second curvilinear ditch (**19**) may have formed a small circular structure or enclosure approximately 5m in diameter. Both ditches were filled by light to mid grey chalky grey clay (14 and 18) and were up to 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep. One sherd of 13th to mid-14th century pottery was recovered from fill 18. Both ditches cut through layer 53.

Ditch **36** ran approximately parallel with ditch **33** and ditch **69** and was at least 21.5m long. It was a minimum of 0.75m wide and thought by the excavator to be only 0.03m. During post-excavation, however, it was apparent from the photograph that some fill remained. Where excavated, the fill (35) was light grey silty clay and contained no finds. Like ditch **33**, **36** was overlain by layer 53.

Pit **69** was sealed by layer 53, truncated by ditch **48** and lay at the south edge of the trench. It was also truncated by an unexcavated post-medieval pit to the north-west and overlain by layer 53. Although not fully visible to due to its location next to the trench edge, the profile was shallow and flat-based and 0.06m deep. It was at least 0.51m wide and contained two fills; the earliest (72) dark grey silty clay was

0.02m thick and the latest (68) pale grey silty clay was 0.04m thick. Neither contained finds.

Only one posthole (71) was observed. It was truncated by pit 27 on its south-east side and was oval in plan. Although not excavated, it was visible in the edge of the pit and was approximately 0.4m long by 0.32m deep with a steep-sided U-shape profile and single fill (70) light grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Feature 82 was severely truncated by ditch 40 and 46 (Fig. *, S14) and was 0.22m wide/long by 0.1m deep. So little of this feature remains that it is not possible to establish its type or function.

5.1.2 Features Later than Layer 53

Ditch 48 was located parallel to ditch 13 and truncated layer 53. It had an even U-shape profile and was 1.6m wide by 0.72m deep and contained three fills. Primary fill (74) pale grey silty clay with orange mottling was confined to the east edge of the cut and may represent a slump of upcast material up to 0.19m thick. Overlying this was fill (52) mid grey sandy clay with animal bone. Its even profile suggests it may be the fill of a re-cut, perhaps representing a cleaning episode or re-establishment of the feature. Dark grey brown silty clay (47) was the final fill and was 0.2m thick. It contained flint only. During surface cleaning of this feature, SF1, a fragment of Cu alloy fibula brooch was recovered from the east edge.

Ditch 33 had a very similar profile to ditch 69 and lay on an approximate east to west alignment. It truncated ditch 36 towards the west end of the trench and was truncated by two post-medieval pits (29 and unexcavated) towards its east extent. It was at least 0.75m wide by 0.16m deep and contained two fills (32 and 65), the former, light grey silty clay with orange mottling and the latter, light grey silty clay. Neither contained finds.

Ditch 76 was the latest in Trench 1 and was clearly cut through subsoil (2). It was 2.36m wide by 0.75m deep and had a wide, slightly uneven U-shape profile. The primary fill (77), mid grey sandy clay with orange mottling was up to 0.24m thick and was overlain by (66) mixed dark orange grey sandy clay. Neither contained finds.

Five pits were located near the west end of the trench. Two were excavated in order to establish form, function and date. They ranged in size from 1.5m to 2.5m long and were either sub-rectangular or sub-oval in plan. Excavation of pits 27 and 29 revealed that they were up to 0.78m deep with straight sides and flat bases and were filled with up to three layers of mid grey silty clay. They contained a small amount of 15th to mid-16th century pottery.

Two layers (86 and 87) similar to the subsoil sealed pits **27** and **29** and ditch **33**. They were between 4m and 5m long and 0.16m to 0.33m thick. No finds were recovered.

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 (Fig. 2) was oriented north to south and was 35m long and 0.78m deep. It adjoined Trench 1 to form a 'T'-shape and was 35m long. Three ditches and articulated remains of an animal were identified.

Location of level in trench	Height (m OD)		Depth (m)	Maximum thickness (m)
	Top	Base		
South end	4.62	3.88	0.74	-
North end	4.53	3.75	0.78	-
Topsoil	-	-	-	0.33
Subsoil	-	-	-	0.16
Layer 53	-	-	-	0.26

Trench 2 Ordnance Datum heights with corresponding trench and soil depths

5.2.1 Features Sealed by Layer 53

Ditch **57** was the southernmost feature in the trench, lying on an approximate east to west alignment and sealed by layer 53. It was 1.05m wide by 0.4m deep and had an even, U-shaped profile. It was filled by mid brownish grey clay (56) and contained no finds. It was sealed by layer 53.

5.2.2 Features Cutting Layer 53

Ditch **55** was aligned north-east to south-west and was 1.65m wide by 0.33m deep with a wide, concave profile. It contained one fill (54) mid orange brown silty clay and no finds, although it is almost certainly a post-medieval feature as it truncates subsoil (2).

Ditch **80** was 4m wide by at least 0.7m deep (although it was observed in a mechanically excavated test pit elsewhere at approximately 1.8m deep). It corresponds with a linear east to west aligned depression in the ground and is shown on the 1886 and 1901 Ordnance Survey maps (Fig. 4 and 5) as a channel. At the time of writing, one fill (73) was observed, ostensibly comprised of very dark brown silty clay with abundant brick and post-medieval pottery and other more recent waste material, for instance a toilet seat. The date of the latest backfills is clearly modern and the feature appears to have been cut from the ground surface and truncates ditch 55 and topsoil, however, this may

simply be the latest re-cut of a much earlier feature, possibly associated with The Weirs which is believed to have been constructed in the 13th century (see section 3.3 above).

The articulated remains of an adult goat and 6 month old (presumed) goat were found during machine excavation in subsoil (2), approximately 6m from the north end of the trench. Both animals had been laid on their right hand side and placed within an oval cut, about 0.4m in diameter. The backfill (unnumbered) was similar to the subsoil (2) (see above) and was almost certainly redeposited upcast material. These animal remains are post-medieval.

5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 (Fig. 2) was located in the south-west corner of the development area and oriented north-north-west to south-south-east. It was 20m long and contained no archaeological remains.

Location of level in trench	Height (m OD)		Depth (m)	Maximum thickness (m)
	Top	Base		
South-south-east end	4.01	3.42	0.59	-
North-north-west end	3.89	3.34	0.55	-
Topsoil				0.27
Subsoil	-	-	-	0.22
Layer 53	-	-	-	0.13

Trench 3 Ordnance Datum heights with corresponding trench and soil depths

5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 (Fig 2) was located immediately to the west of the site access point and was oriented north-west to south-east. It was 19 m long and contained two parallel ditches.

Location of level in trench	Height (m OD)		Depth (m)	Maximum thickness (m)
	Top	Base		
South-east end	4.30	3.69	0.71	-
South-east end	4.15	3.50	0.65	-
Topsoil	-	-	-	0.33
Subsoil	-	-	-	0.20
Layer 53	-	-	-	0.15

Trench 4 Ordnance Datum heights with corresponding trench and soil depths

5.4.1 Features Earlier than Layer 53

Ditch 63 lay at the far north-west end of the trench, partially beyond the edge of excavation and sealed by layer 53. It had the same alignment

as ditch **61** but was at least 0.65m wide by 0.27m deep and was filled by four fills (62, 67, 78 and 79). Fills 62, 67 and 79 were a similar light grey clay, measuring between 0.05m and 0.09m thick. Fill 78 was mid grey clay at least 0.07m thick. None of the fills contained finds. A full profile was not visible.

5.4.2 Features Later than Layer 53

Ditch **61** was located 5.5m from the south-east end of the trench and oriented approximately north-east to south-west. It was 0.6m wide by 0.3m deep and had a U-shape profile. It was filled with dark blue grey clay (60) from which three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. This is almost certainly not the date of the ditch however, as it truncated layer 53, which contained late medieval pottery. Despite being parallel with ditch 63, it is unlikely that they were contemporary, due to their relationship with layer 53.

5.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 (Fig. 2) was 17m long and located in the south-east corner of the development area. It was aligned approximately north-east to south-west and contained four pits and two animal burials.

Location of level in trench	Height (m OD)		Depth (m)	Maximum thickness (m)
	Top	Base		
North-east end	4.93	4.21	0.72	-
South-west end	4.81	4.06	0.75	-
Topsoil	-	-	-	0.28
Subsoil	-	-	-	0.37
Layer 53	-	-	-	0.20

Trench 5 Ordnance Datum heights with corresponding trench and soil depths

5.5.1 Features Earlier than Layer 53

Pit **4** was located at the south-west end of the trench and lay partially under the edge of excavation. It was sub-oval in plan and had a wide, shallow profile. It was at least 0.75m in diameter and 0.2m deep and contained one fill (3) light grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Pit **51** was also sub-oval in plan and had a shallow profile. It was 0.5m long by 0.18m deep and contained single fill (50) light grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Pit **8** was located 5m from the north-east end of the trench and was sub-rectangular in plan. It was 2.1m long and 0.52m deep with a probable U-shape profile and a slightly deeper round area at the south

end approximately 0.8m in diameter. It contained single fill (7) light grey clay and no finds.

5.5.2 Features Later than Layer 53

Pit 6 was rectangular in plan and 0.65m long by 0.45m wide and 0.07m deep. It had a square, shallow profile and contained single fill (5) dark greyish brown silty clay. Slag/iron objects of post-medieval date were recovered from the fill.

Two animal burials were found during machine excavation in the subsoil (2). There was no discernable cut. Examination of the bones (see Appendix 3) suggests both were birds, although only the larger bones were identifiable to species (Greylag Goose).

6 Discussion

Archaeological features were found across most of the evaluation area, comprising ditches, pits and a posthole, with the highest number of features located in Trench 1. Although very little dating evidence was recovered (only 494g of pottery), the site appears to be predominantly medieval to early post-medieval in date and there is evidence for at least two phases of activity, pre and post dating a ?16th century buried soil. Those post dating it comprise a canal and associated drainage ditches, clay extraction pits and a possible structure.

The canal runs east to west across the site, draining into The Weirs, it is visible on both the 1886 and 1901 Ordnance Survey maps (Figure 4). It would have formed a relatively short stretch of water (measuring approximately 116m long by 3m wide) leading from the rear of the properties on North Street into The Weirs, and may have been sufficiently large to allow access for small boats to deliver and collect goods for distribution elsewhere. The date of the feature is of great interest but difficult to ascertain. Map evidence shows that it was certainly open in the 19th century and the rubbish in its upper fills shows that it was backfilled in the 20th, but the date of its original construction is less certain. Stratigraphically the feature appears to cut through the 16th century ?buried soil but this relationship is likely to represent only the latest cleaning and filling of the canal not its original construction. The North Street settlement was probably developed in the 13th century to provide access by water for villagers dealing in, or exploiting by boat, locally grown produce (Wareham and Wright 2002, 337). The narrow crofts at the north end of the street run down to private landing places on the Weirs and those at the south end which are further from the water have individual canals cut to run into the Weirs (*ibid*, 337). The canal (80) on the subject site is one such feature. However, it was kept clean during its active life and this

appears to have destroyed any evidence for a construction date, although it is possible that basal fills may survive along some of its length these were not encountered during the evaluation. It may be inferred, however, that the canal was active during the medieval period since the character of activity on either side of it appears very different suggesting it also acted as a boundary. It may also be inferred that the north to south aligned ditches were positioned to drain into it since they do not on the whole appear to continue to the south of it.

A possible 16th century buried soil (53) is significant in terms of date, phasing and land-use. In total, 59% of features pre-dated this layer whilst only 41% truncated it and undated features that pre or post date it can at least be assigned a relative date based on this relationship. Activity pre dating the ?16th century buried soil comprised a group of otherwise undated pits in the southeast area of the site (trench 5) and a series of ditches on both east to west and north to south alignments. Two of the north to south aligned ditches contained medieval pottery but the remainder are undated. There is no discernible difference between the alignments of the ditches pre or post dating the buried soil, nor between ditches that are undated and those that contain pottery.

It is possible that some of the pre buried soil features may be prehistoric (pits **4, 8, 51 69** ditches **36, 63**, and posthole **71**). All had pale grey fills and some contained burnt flint. The alignment of the ditches does not distinguish them from the later ones and so it is possible that they too are medieval in spite of their pale fills. The pits and posthole are perhaps more likely to belong to the prehistoric period although this can not be confirmed. If they are prehistoric (and there are certainly a few residual finds of this date on the site) then they suggest activity here may be related to other known prehistoric activity in the north part of Burwell, such as the possible settlement evidence from the Neolithic/Bronze Age on Hallard's Fen and Mesolithic and Neolithic period stone tools to the east (Hall in Walker and Walsh 2006).

The only dateable features sealed by layer 53 were ditches **13** and **17**. Both contained pottery dating to the early medieval period and had similar, squared profiles.

Most of the excavated features that post-dated layer 53 contained dating evidence and although some pottery was residual, such as in ditches **13, 15/19, 48** and **61**, all were dateable to either the late-medieval or post-medieval period.

Activity in the late-medieval period, other than the deposition of layer 53, comprised ditches (**13, 33, 48** and **61**), pits (**27** and **29**, etc) and a possible circular structure (**15/19**). Their presence at this time is consistent with the development of Burwell along North Street, which is thought to have begun in 13th century. From the range of features it

appears that the land was not intensively occupied, but was subject to division/drainage by the ditches and there may have been a structure such as a dovecote or hen coop. There also appears to have been a period of clay extraction in the north-west corner of the area (pits **27** and **29**). The proximity of the pits to The Weirs and at least two other accessible/navigable channels suggests the possibility that the clay was transported elsewhere by river.

Post-medieval activity is restricted to the final backfill of the main channel (**80**), a boundary ditch (**79**) and another ditch (**55**). The boundary ditch appears on the 1901 map (Fig 4) and formed the east edge of a small, square enclosure in the north-west corner of the plot. No doubt it also drained water into the Weirs. One pit (**6**) was probably also post-medieval. Other activity of this date includes the burial of a Greylag Goose, two goats and another possible bird.

The finds assemblage was small, little pottery and few animal bones, the majority of which were derived from complete skeletons, however, a number of the bones do display signs of butchery suggesting domestic activity somewhere nearby if not on the site itself. Perhaps that may lie to the east of the current development area, as was demonstrated at Brown's Yard 300m to the south, where the east part of the plot, fronting onto North Street, contained two possible timber buildings (Walker and Walsh 2006).

7 Conclusions

The results of this evaluation show that the development area contains archaeological features dating from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. Only a small assemblage of finds was recovered, which did not facilitate dating, but it was possible to assign features to various periods and establish their characteristics.

The prehistoric period consisted of scattered remains with no artefacts, suggesting low-level, sporadic activity was taking place. Activity increased from the early medieval period with the possible creation of a lode channel and minor sub-division or drainage of the area. This is in keeping with other early-medieval activity in Burwell, particularly the north part of the village, which is known to have developed around this time.

The later-medieval period was characterised by signs of industrial activity, such as clay extraction in the north-west corner and a possible windmill/dovecote-type structure in the north-east corner. Both activities may have been located within the back plot of the Queens Arms Inn (to the east of the development area, fronting onto North Street), which was built, according to an inscription, in 1587.

Post-medieval activity was minor, extending to a couple of boundary ditches and some animal burials, implying that the land use had changed again, perhaps when the land reverted to private use and become a garden.

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

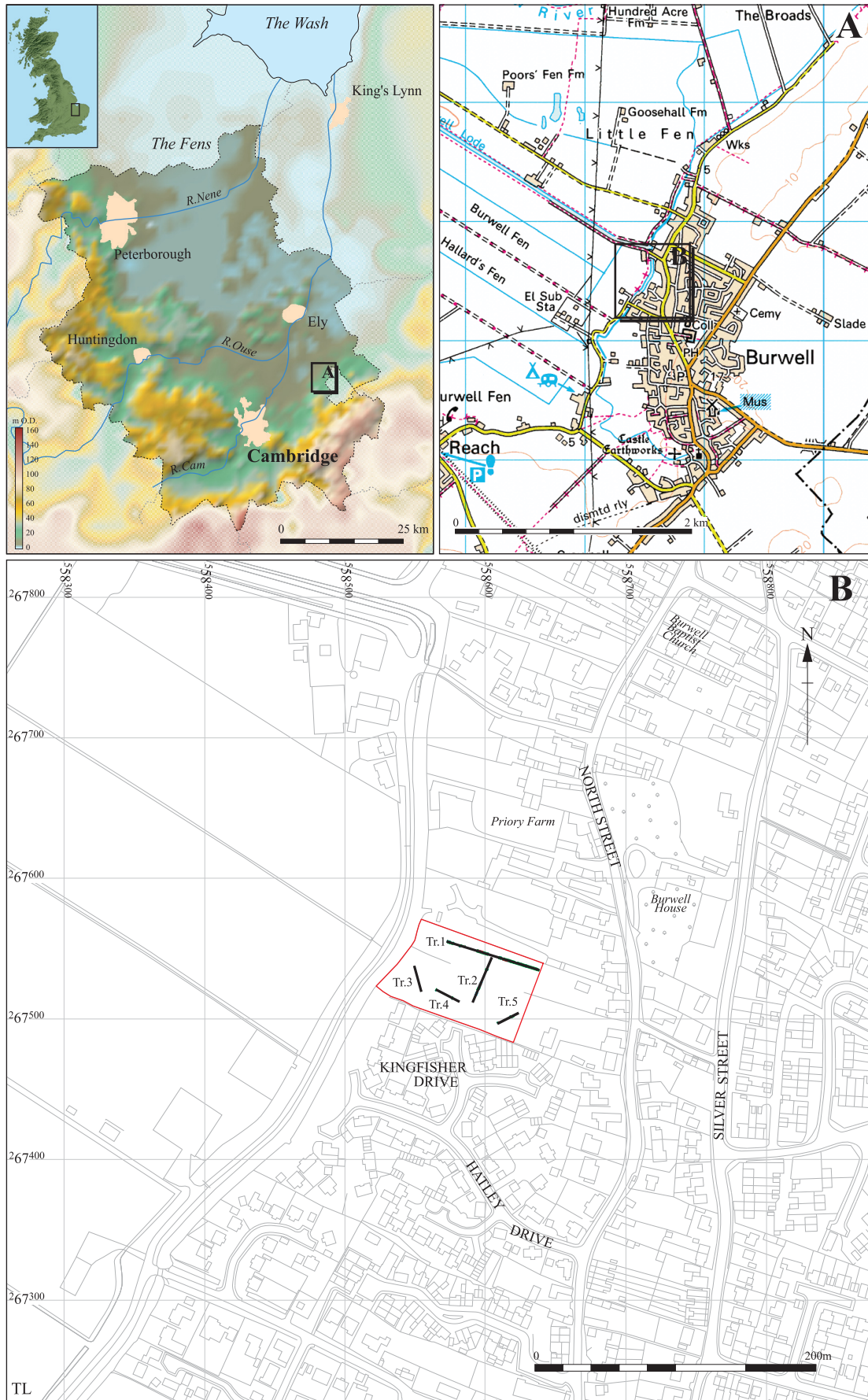
Acknowledgements

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

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Wareham, A.F. and Wright, A.P.M.	2002	<i>A History of the County of Cambridge and The Isle of Ely Vol.X.</i> Oxford university Press



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

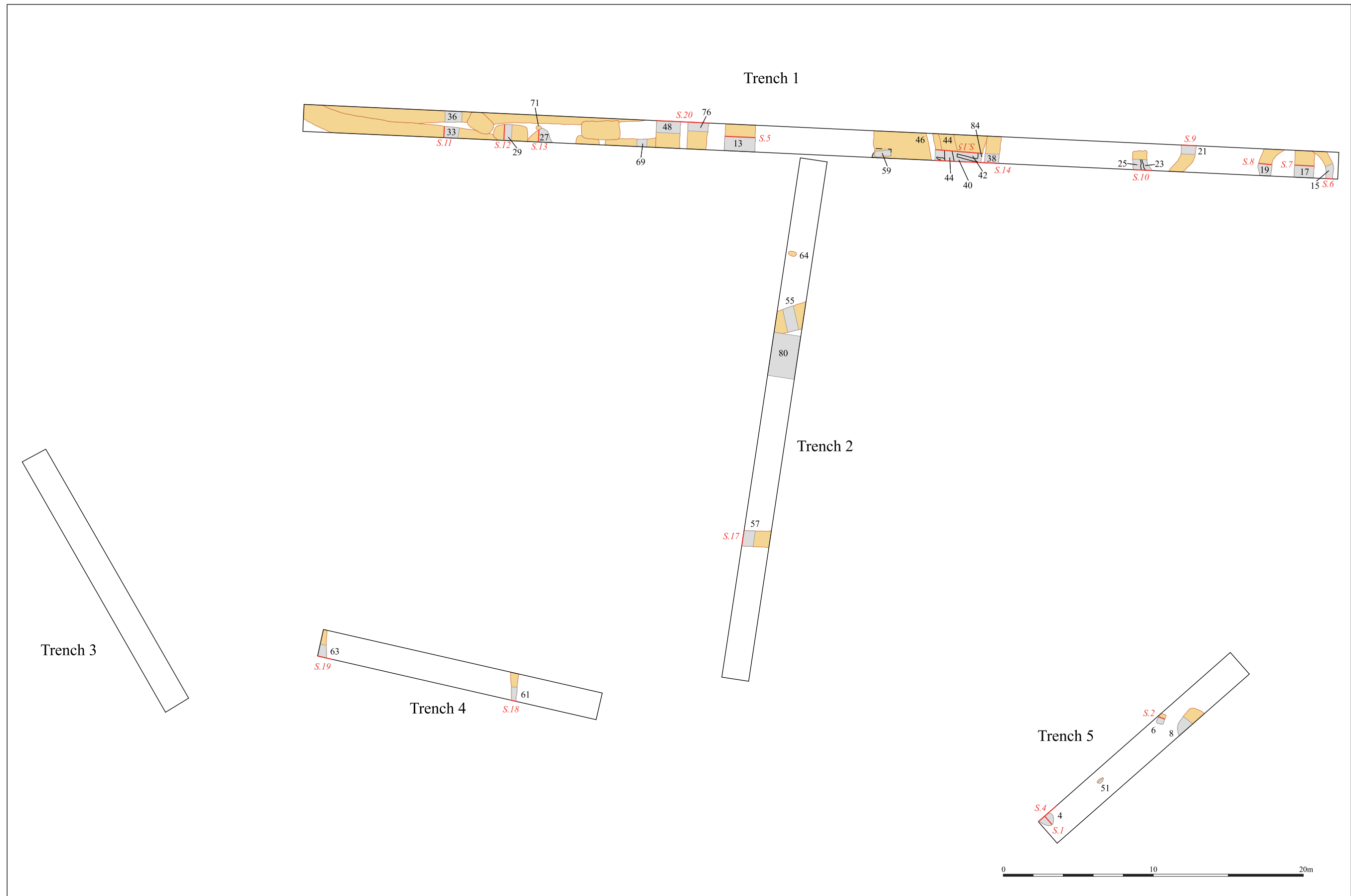


Figure 2: Trench plan

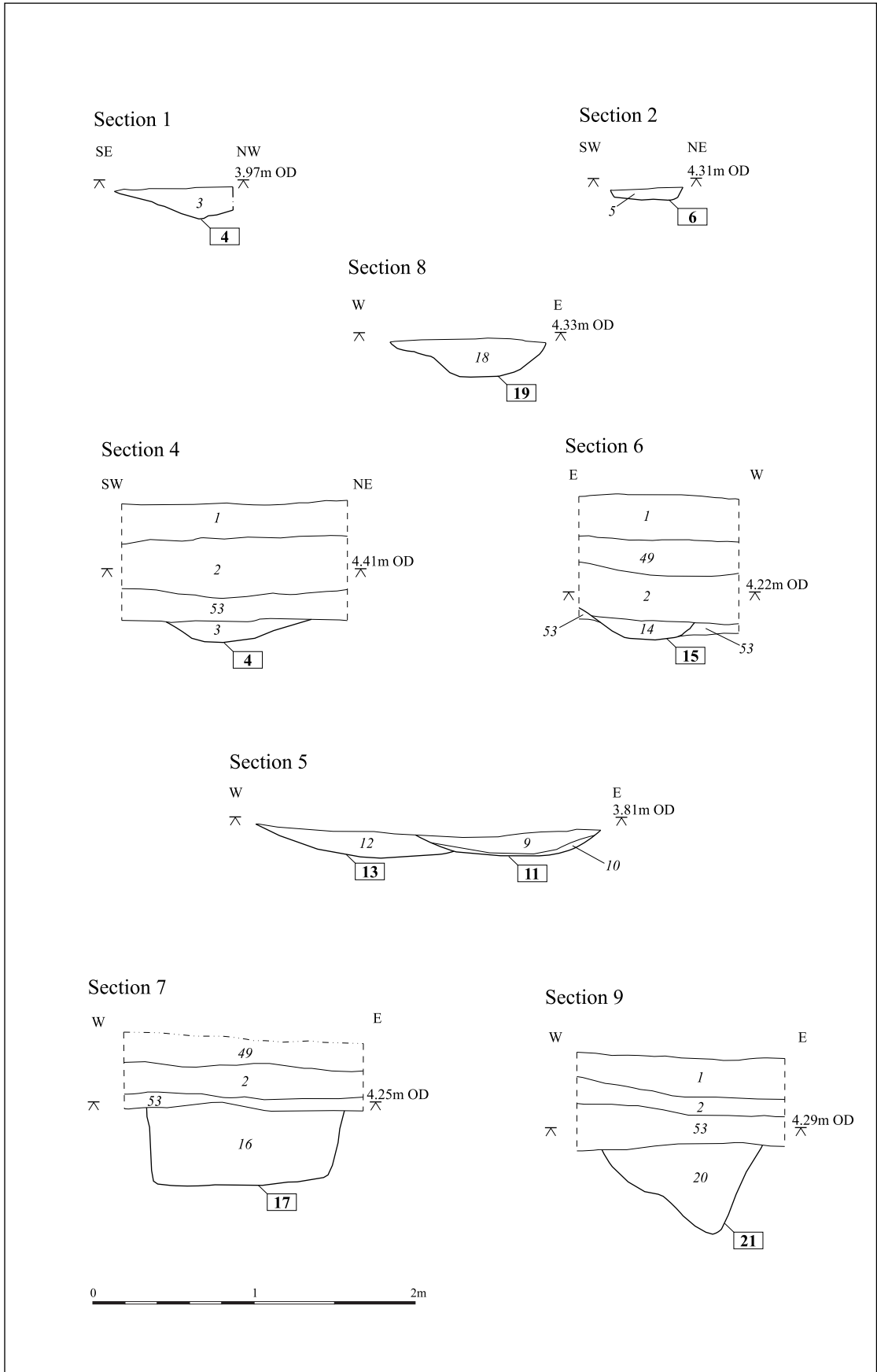


Figure 3: Section drawings

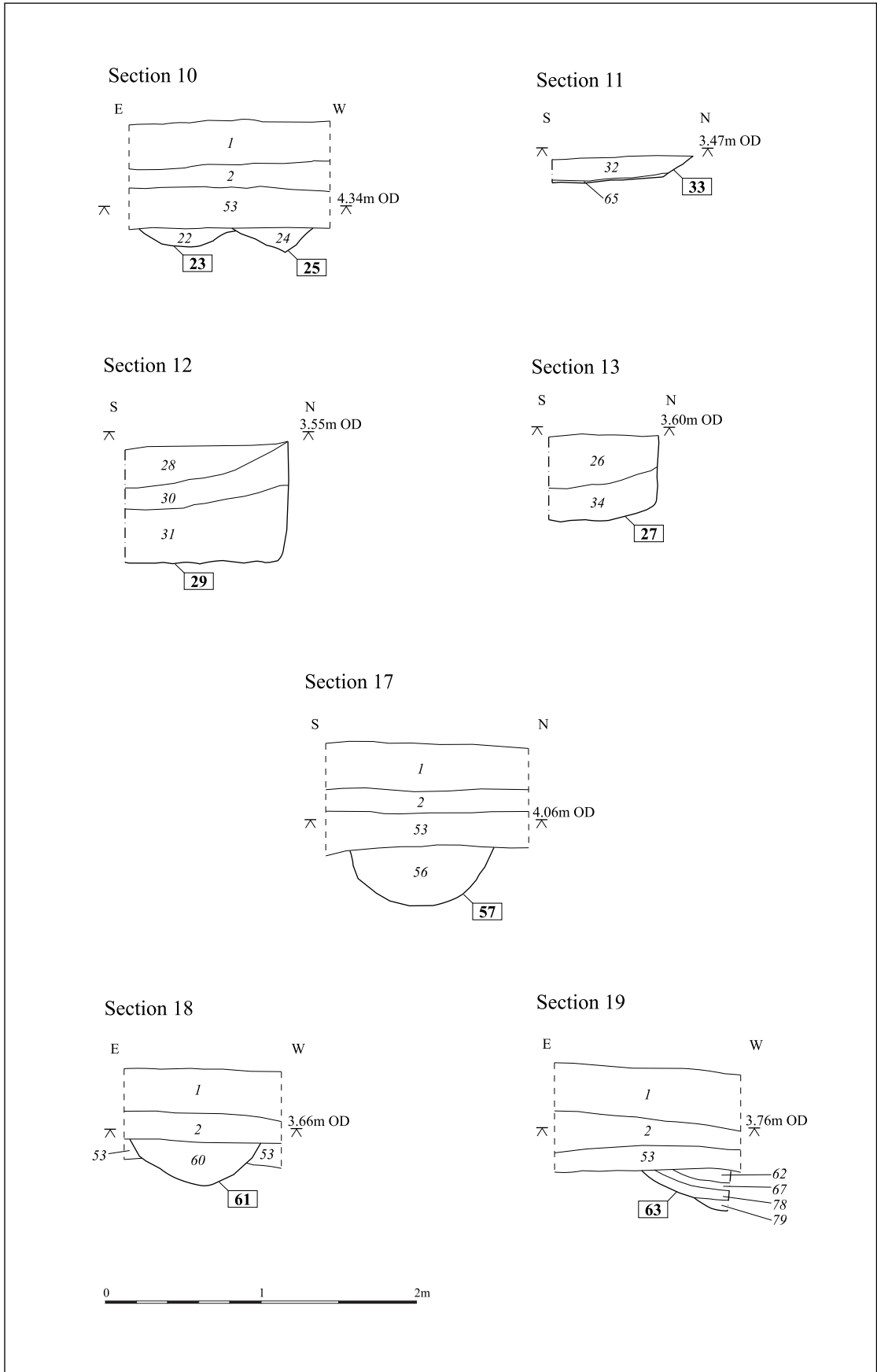


Figure 4: Section drawings

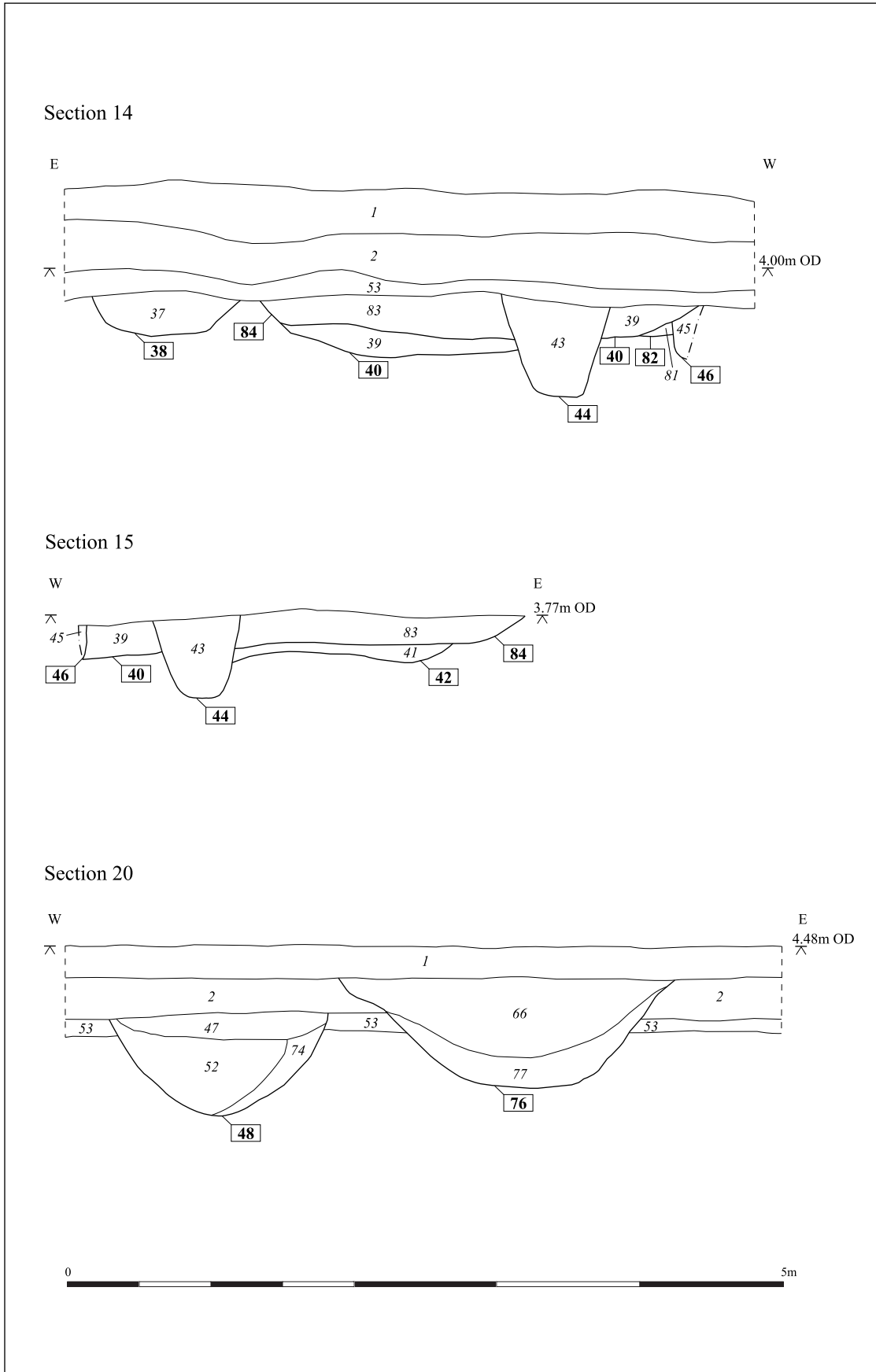
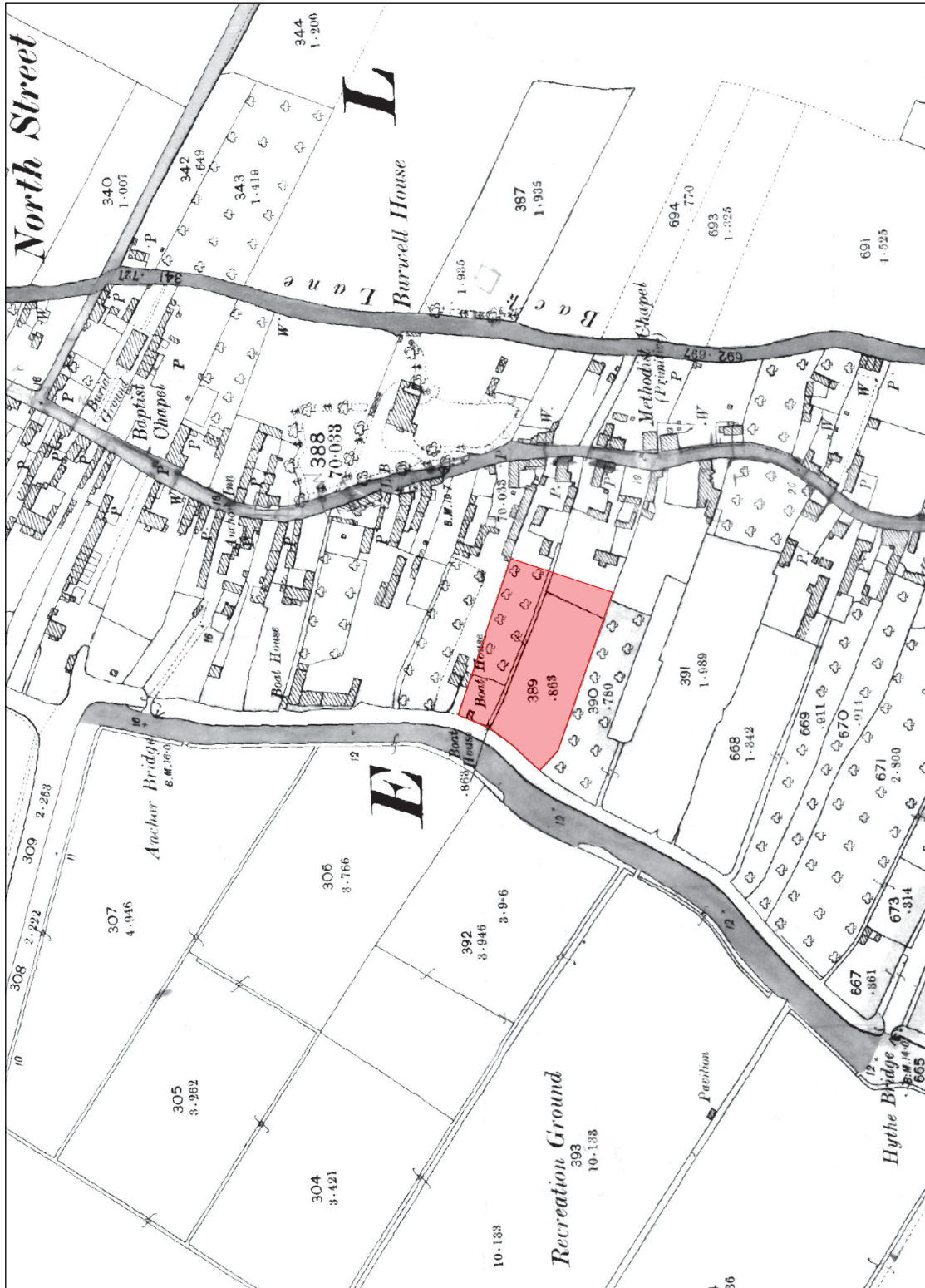


Figure 5: Section drawings



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Figure 6: 1901 Ordnance Survey historic map extract (with approximate development area highlighted in red)

Appendix 1: Context List

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Weights in Kilogrammes								Sample
					Bone	CBM	Fired clay	Flint	Mortar	Tobacco pipe	Pottery	Window glass	
1		All	layer	Topsoil	0.019	0.391			0.029		0.064	0.033	11
2		All	layer	Subsoil	0.082		0.037	0.018		0.003	0.069	0.014	12, 13
3	4	5	fill	pit									
4	4	5	cut	pit									
5	6	5	fill	post hole									1
6	6	5	cut	post hole									
7	8	5	fill	pit									2
8	8	5	cut	pit									
9	13	1	fill	ditch			0.009			0.002	0.024		3
10	0		not used										
11	0		not used										
12	0		not used										4
13	13	1	cut	ditch									
14	15	1	fill	ditch									5
15	15	1	cut	ditch									
16	17	1	fill	ditch							0.095		6
17	17	1	cut	ditch									
18	19	1	fill	ditch							0.021		7
19	19	1	cut	ditch									
20	21	1	fill	ditch									8
21	21	1	cut	ditch									
22	23	1	fill	ditch?									
23	23	1	cut	ditch?									
24	25	1	fill	ditch?									
25	25	1	cut	ditch?									
26	27	1	fill	pit	0.025	0.026					0.015		
27	27	1	cut	pit									
28	29	1	fill	pit		0.113							
29	29	1	cut	pit									
30	29	1	fill	pit									
31	29	1	fill	pit									
32	33	1	fill	ditch									
33	33	1	cut	ditch									
34	27	1	fill	pit									
35	36	1	fill	ditch									
36	36	1	cut	ditch									
37	38	1	fill	ditch									
38	38	1	cut	ditch									
39	40	1	fill	ditch									
40	40	1	cut	ditch									
41	42	1	fill	ditch									
42	42	1	cut	ditch									
43	44	1	fill	ditch									
44	44	1	cut	ditch									
45	46	1	fill	ditch									
46	46	1	cut	ditch									
47	48	1	fill	ditch	0.021			0.005					14
48	48	1	cut	ditch									
49		1	layer	levelling									
50	51	5	fill	pit									
51	51	5	cut	pit									
52	48	1	fill	ditch	0.154								
53		All	layer	buried soil			0.011				0.064		13
54	55	2	fill	ditch									
55	55	2	cut	ditch									
56	57	2	fill	ditch									
57	57	2	cut	ditch									
58	59	1	fill	ditch									

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Weights in Kilogrammes							Sample	
					Bone	CBM	Fired clay	Flint	Mortar	Tobacco pipe	Pottery		Window glass
59	59	1	cut	ditch									
60	61	4	fill	ditch							0.044		9
61	61	4	cut	ditch									
62	63	4	fill	ditch									10
63	63	4	cut	ditch									
64		All	layer	subsoil	1.48		0.006						
65	33	1	fill	ditch									
66	76	1	fill	ditch									
67	63	1	fill	ditch									
68	69	1	fill	ditch									
69	69	1	cut										
70	71	1	fill	pit									
71	71	1	cut	pit									
72	69	1	fill	ditch									
73			not used										
74	48	1	fill	ditch									
75			not used										
76	77	1	fill	ditch									
77	77	1	cut	ditch									
78	63	4	fill	ditch									
79	63	4	fill	ditch									
80	80	2	cut	ditch									
81	82	1	fill	unidentified									
82	82	1	cut	unidentified									
83	84	1	fill	ditch									
84	84	1	cut	ditch									
85		All	layer	natural									
86		1	layer	layer									

Appendix 2: The Pottery by Carole Fletcher

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 CAM ARC 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. CAM ARC curates the pottery and archive until formal deposition of the site archive.

Evaluation

The trench was machine excavated with further excavation carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling procedures on a feature by feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases. Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental remains, there has been limited recovery of pottery.

The Assemblage

The fieldwork generated 36 sherds (0.494kg) of pottery. Sherds were recovered from eight contexts and are a mixture of Roman, medieval and post-medieval alongside fragments of plant pot, modern white earthenware and transfer printed vessels. The material is summarised in the table below.

No preservation bias has been recognised and no long-term storage problems are likely.

Context	Description	Weight (kg)	Spot Date
01	1 Roman? Micaceous Ware base sherd almost certainly from the same vessel as in context 60	0.019	Post 1760
	2 redware sherds from a plant pot	0.020	
	1 Post medieval redware (PMR) bowl rim sherd	0.018	
	1 body sherd from a glazed modern redware vessel	0.001	
	1 small sherd of transfer printed refined white earthen ware (RFWE)	0.001	
02	2 sherd of transfer printed RFWE ware (TRANS)	0.006	Post 1790
	1 sherd of annular ware RFWE 3g	0.003	
	2 sherd RFWE 3g	0.003	
	2 sherds of PMR, a base and body sherd from a bowl	0.039	
	3 sherds from a Cistercian ware (CSTN) drinking vessel	0.002	
	1 body sherd from a transitional redware (TRAN) vessel	0.007	
	1 Ely type sherd (MELT) 5g	0.005	
1 coarse sandy ware sherd 5g	0.005		
09	1 body sherd Roman? Grey ware	0.011	1200-1350
	1 body sherds MELT	0.014	
16	1 Rim sherd from a bowl in a coarse MELT fabric 34g	0.034	1200-1350
	2 body sherds MELT	0.017	
	4 body sherds of grey medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware (MEMS)	0.045	
18	1 MELT jar rim abraded	0.021	1200-1350
26	2 Colchester type ware jug sherds	0.015	1400-1550
53	1 Roman sherd from an oxidised grey ware	0.015	1400-1550
	2 base sherds of Colchester type ware	0.049	
60	3 Roman? Micaceous Ware base sherds almost certainly from the same vessel as in context 1	0.144	Roman

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Appendix 3: Finds Summary by Mo Muldowney

Fired Clay

Context number	Type	Trench	Quantity	Weight (g)
1	topsoil	all	2	
2	subsoil	all	2	
53	layer	1	1	

All fired clay fragments were unidentifiable and retrieved from either late-medieval or post-medieval contexts.

Ceramic Building Material

Context number	Cut	Type	Trench	Quantity	Weight (g)
1	-	topsoil	all	7	
26	27	pit	1	1	
28	29	pit	1	2	

The CBM fragments are either orange, dark red or pale yellow in colour and are tile fragments, except for the dark red piece in context 28, which is brick.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

Three fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered from the subsoil (2) and fill 9 (ditch 13). They are not diagnostic enough to determine a more precise date than either late- or post-medieval.

Glass

Four sherds of glass were recovered from the topsoil(1). All are clear, though two have a green tinge and are most likely to be post-medieval window or bottle fragments.

Flint

Two flint fragments were recovered from subsoil (2) and fill 47 (ditch 48). The fragment from 2 is a rough scraper-like tool and may be Bronze Age in origin. The smaller fragment from fill 47 is an attempt to make a blade and has broken at both the tip and base. Both pieces are residual.

Metal Finds

The metal finds have been sent to Nina Crummy for identification

Context number	Cut	Type	Trench	Description
2		subsoil		Iron object
66				Cu Alloy brooch fragment
5	6	posthole	5	Various iron objects including screw tip and nail
53		Buried soil		Iron object

Appendix 4: The Faunal Remains by Chris Faine

Introduction

A total of 96 “countable” bones were recovered from the site with 30 fragments being unidentifiable to species (23.8% of the total sample). Fragments were obtained from 5 contexts (contexts **047** and **026** contained no identifiable fragments). The condition of the assemblage is extremely good, with the majority of fragmentation being attributed to butchery rather than any taphonomic processes.

Methodology

All elements identifiable to species and over 25% complete were noted and recorded. Loose teeth, caudal vertebra and ribs without proximal epiphyses were noted but not included in any quantification. Elements not identifiable to species were classed as “large/medium/small mammal” but again not included in any quantification. Initially all elements were assessed in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness, tooth wear stages (also where applicable) and epiphyseal fusion. Tooth wear was assessed using Grant (1982). Completeness was assessed in terms of percentage and zones present (after Dobney & Reilly, 1988). Initially the whole identifiable assemblage was quantified in terms of number of individual fragments (NISP) and minimum numbers of individuals MNI (see table below). Any instances of butchery were also recorded. The type of lesion, its position, severity and direction were all noted. The presence of any further taphonomy, i.e. burning, gnawing etc was also noted. No pathology was noted on any fragments.

The Assemblage

The table below shows the broad species distribution from the assemblage. A variety of remains were recovered from both topsoil and subsoil contexts. The topsoil (**001**) contained an intact radius and two butchered radii identified as sheep/goat. Subsoil contexts (**002**) contained portions of butchered sheep/goat tibia, a single cattle 1st phalange and a number of bird remains. Coming from two individuals, these most likely represent the lower limbs of a domestic or Greylag goose (*Anser anser*) and a smaller unidentified passerine.

The largest number of identifiable fragments was recovered from context **64** (60 fragments). These represented an almost complete skeleton of an adult goat (identified via cranial morphology). Analysis of epiphyseal fusion and molar wear suggests an individual no younger than 3 years of age, with a withers height of around 54 cm. Also recovered from this context were the remains a much younger

individual (presumably also goat although this cannot be proven) aged around 6 months. No evidence of butchery was seen either of these two specimens suggesting deliberate deposition. Context **52** contained a single butchered cattle metacarpal showing evidence of gnawing at the epiphyses.

	NISP	NISP%	MNI	MNI%
Goat (<i>Capra hircus</i>)	60	62	2	25
Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)	20	22	1	12.5
Unidentified bird	10	11	1	12.5
Sheep/Goat (<i>Ovis/Capra</i>)	4	3	2	25
Cattle (<i>Bos</i>)	2	2	2	25
Total	96	100	8	100

Species distribution for entire identifiable assemblage

Discussion

Unfortunately the sample size is too small to draw any conclusions about the site as a whole. However, scattered faunal remains do show signs of butchery and, as mentioned above the semi articulated goat remains might represent deliberate deposition.

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Appendix 5: Environmental Remains by Rachel Fosberry

INTRODUCTION AND METHODS

Eleven 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 and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted in the results section below.

Three monolith samples were taken from Trench 1 and are currently undergoing soil stratigraphic analysis by C. Rolfe, Cambridge University.

RESULTS

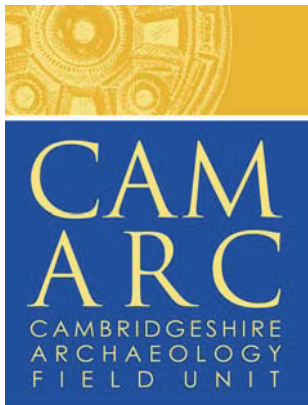
Sample Number	Context Number	Cut Number	Context Type	Flot contents (Charred plant remains)	Residue contents
1	5	6	Post hole	Cereal grains +, Weed seeds +	Fe nail, Fe screw, small bones (probably fish), Freshwater snails
2	7	8	Pit	-	Freshwater snails
3	9	10	Ditch	-	Freshwater snails
4	12	13	Ditch	-	Freshwater snails, small pot sherd
5	14	15	Ditch	Sparse vitrified charcoal	Freshwater snails, small pot sherd
6	16	17	Ditch	Cereal grains +, Weed seeds +	Freshwater snails
7	18	19	Ditch	Cereal grains +, Weed seeds +	Freshwater snails, small Fe lump
8	20	21	Ditch	-	Freshwater snails
9	60	61	Ditch	Cereal grains +	Freshwater snails, pottery
10	62	63	Ditch	Cereal grains +, Weed seeds +	Freshwater snails
14	47	48	Ditch	-	Freshwater snails

+ = 1 – 10 specimens ++ = 10 – 100 specimens +++ = 100+ specimens

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The samples examined from this evaluation were largely unproductive. The flots produced a low abundance of charred material in the form of cereal grains and sparse charcoal fragments. This suggests the samples represent general scatters of burnt debris rather than discrete purposeful deposits.

If further work is planned for this site, it is recommended that environmental sampling be targeted towards selected features.



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>