



**CAM ARC Report Number 948**

## **Land at Coldham's Lane, Cherry Hinton, Cambridgeshire**

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### **Evaluation Report**

Richard Mortimer

April 2007

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### **Evaluation Report**

Richard Mortimer MIFA

With contributions by Katie Anderson MA,  
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Fosberry and Paul Spoerry PhD

Site Code: CAM COL 07  
CHER Event Number: ECB2574  
Date of works: 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
Grid Ref: TL 4840 5760

Status	Approved		
Author	R M		
Checked By	EP		
Authorised By			

Editor: Elizabeth Popescu BA PhD MIFA  
Illustrator: Crane Begg B.Sc. (Hons)

## CAM ARC OASIS Report Form

OASIS Number: cambridg1 - 26580

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>				
Project name	Land at Coldham's Lane, Cherry Hinton, Cambs.			
Short description	Trench evaluation. Roman Field systems, possible prehistoric burial contexts, Romano-British burial contexts, Anglo-Saxon burial contexts. Post-medieval ridge and furrow,			
Project dates	Start	12/03/07	End	16/03/07
Previous work	N/A		Future work	unknown
Associated project reference codes	Site Code: CAM COL 07 ECB 2574			
Type of project	evaluation			
Site status	none			
Current land use (list all that apply)	agricultural			
Planned development	housing			
Monument types / period (list all that apply)	Romano-British Field System. Possible prehistoric ritual/funerary features. Romano-British ritual/funerary features. Anglo-Saxon ritual/funerary features. Post-medieval field system.			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply)	Human bone. Romano-British pottery. Anglo-Saxon pottery.			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>				
County	Cambs	Parish	Cherry Hinton	
HER for region	Cambridgeshire			
Site address (including postcode)	Hatherdene Close, Coldham's Lane, Cherry Hinton, Cambs.			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	1.2ha			
National grid reference	TL 4840 5760			
Height OD	Min OD	14m	Max OD	18m
<b>PROJECT ORIGINATORS</b>				
Organisation	CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Kasia Gdaniec			
Project design originator	Paul Spoerry			
Director/supervisor	Richard Mortimer			
Project manager	Paul Spoerry			
Sponsor or funding body				
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location and accession number</b>	<b>Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)</b>		
Physical	CAM ARC Bar Hill	Pottery, Bone, CBM		
Paper	CAM ARC Bar Hill	Context sheets etc		
Digital	\\ccc.cambridgeshire.gov.uk\data\EIhAfu\Active Projects\Cambs\Cambridge\CAM COL 07	List contents and format of archive materials e.g. ceramic specialist report.		
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>				
Full title	Land at Coldham's Lane, Cherry Hinton, Cambridgeshire: Evaluation Report			
Author(s)	Richard Mortimer			
Report number	948			
Series title and volume				
Page numbers				
Date	April 2007			

## **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Coldham's Lane, Cherry Hinton, on behalf of Januarys Consultant Surveyors. Six percent of the 1.2 hectares of the site was investigated. The principal archaeological features revealed were funerary in nature, comprising possible Bronze Age and Iron age burials, an early Romano-British funerary enclosure containing inhumations and/or cremations, and an Early Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery. A minimum of ten burial features were recorded. These features occupied the southern corner of the site, towards the crest of the hill. An Early Roman field system extending to the north of the enclosure and a large pit or well to the east suggest the area lay at the edge of an Early Roman settlement. Remnant ridge and furrow agriculture of the post-medieval period extended across the whole site.

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## **1 Introduction**

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA), supplemented by a Specification prepared by CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council (formerly the 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 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 lower chalk (British Geological Survey 1881, sheet 188) on the northern edge of the Cherry Hinton peninsular overlooking the wide valley of the Little Wilbraham River and Quy Water. Large parts of this flat land below are currently occupied by Cambridge Airport. The evaluation area drops from c. 18m OD at the extreme south to c. 14m at the north.

## **3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

Recent years have seen several archaeological interventions in the vicinity of the site, including both evaluation trenching and full excavation. The closest previous investigation was that by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) north of Church End (ECB 149) (Cessford and Dickens 2005), providing a useful summary of investigations in the Coldham's Lane area to date. The field closest to the subject site was only evaluated (ECB 1318), but Romano-British and Middle Saxon occupation were identified, with both being concentrated in the zone diagonally adjacent to the present site. In addition earlier findspots indicate the presence of Early Saxon furnished burials immediately to the west of the subject site on the south side of Coldham's Lane (MCB 5583). Other Historical Environment Record (HER) entries within the immediate area include Roman pottery, ditches and wells to the south and east of the site (MCB 6282, MCB 5584, MCB 5868 and 5869). It is clear, therefore,

that there is high potential for occupation and other activity from the Romano-British to Middle Saxon periods at this location.

Further to the east along the northern side of Church End, a range of remains include a Late Saxon and medieval settlement, perhaps originally based around a large enclosure containing a proto-manorial complex, and aligned with the ancient routeway from Church End/Hinton to Cambridge (known as The Old Drift). This central enclosure also included a Late Saxon church and graveyard, believed to have been abandoned by the 12th century (ECB 148), which was excavated by Archaeological Solutions (formerly Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust). The later medieval occupation is believed to have been centred on the existing parish church (at the far, southeastern end of Church End) along with other elements of the known post-medieval village. However, the CAU excavations include evidence for the use of plots at the back of 13th to 14th century properties that appear to have fronted on to an earlier alignment of Church End. In addition medieval wells containing several whole pots were recovered from the Coldham's Lane cement works in the 1950s, in another location without obvious properties of this date. Clearly the medieval occupation of Church End and Hinton is incompletely understood and it is possible that the subject site includes other, yet to be identified, elements in the medieval settlement landscape of Cherry Hinton.

## **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. Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision by a tracked 360<sup>0</sup> excavator using a 2.00m toothless ditching bucket.

The Brief required that a minimum of 5% of the area (1.2ha) be subjected to trial trenching. Initially eight trenches totalling 320m were excavated – 640 sq m or a 5.3% sample. Following on from this initial trenching a further 40m of trial trenching was agreed to clarify the archaeological potential in the southern part of the field. This brought the total area opened for evaluation to 720 sq m, a 6% sample of the area.

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 which 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 a range of contexts. All have been processed and the results are presented in Appendix 9.

Site conditions were dry and bright throughout.

## **5 Results**

The results are presented chronologically below, followed by a description of features of as yet uncertain date.

The topsoil over the site was a dark grey-brown silty clay and varied in depth from 0.28m to 0.36m across the eastern side of the field and between 0.30m and 0.42m across the western side. There was no overall subsoil coverage, the topsoil overlying weathered/ploughed chalky marl natural. However, subsoils were recorded within post-medieval furrows across the site and over larger and deeper features within Trenches 1 and 5 where they were up to 0.12m deep.

### **5.1 Prehistoric**

A few features may be prehistoric in origin, the reasoning behind this suggestion being presented in section 6.1.

#### ***Trench 6***

##### **Burial 79**

A tightly crouched human burial, head to the north and facing due east. Grave cut approximately 1.30m by 0.80m. Only excavated sufficiently to ascertain presence and type of burial. The fill was a grey-brown silty clay with frequent marly chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered.

#### ***Trench 8***

##### **Burial 4**

A Large, sub-rectangular pit aligned northeast to southwest, 1.80m long x 0.90m wide. Only excavated sufficiently to ascertain presence and type of burial. Two human skulls were uncovered against the eastern edge in the southern part of the feature. They were approximately 0.50m apart and both were heavily damaged, with the skull bones spread out as though deliberately flattened. One skull appeared face down, the other facing up and to the northeast. The fill was a mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional angular flint and chalk inclusions. The human bone was left *in situ* and no other finds were recovered.

**Tree throw 17**

A metre to the south of burial 4 was a medium-sized tree throw, only partly within the trench but aligned parallel with the pit, northeast to southwest. The feature was approximately 1.20m wide and 0.35m deep with near-vertical southern and gradual sloping western edges. The fill was a mixed grey silty clay and chalky marl and produced a single sherd of Romano-British pottery and a small (worked) flint flake.

**5.2 Romano-British****5.2.1 Funerary enclosure and burials*****Trench 1*****Ditch 11/13**

The eastern corner of a small rectangular enclosure with its longer axis aligned northwest to southeast. The ditch here was a maximum of 2.00m wide and 0.60m deep from the machined surface and had a wide V-shaped profile (see Section 4, Fig. 3). The ditch had a simple two-fill sequence of grey-brown silty clays, with the lower fill paler and slightly more compacted.

The corner was at a right-angle and had, within its central fill, a deposit of two animal bones (horse legs) and two burnt hearth stones. The two excavated sections produced ten sherds (120g) of mid-late 1st century and mid 1st to 2nd century pottery.

**Pit 8**

Cut into the upper fill of ditch 11/13, directly above the deposit of horse bone, was a shallow, oval, flat-bottomed pit, 0.90m x 0.60m x 0.12m deep. The fill was a dark grey-brown charcoal-rich clay silt. The small quantities of animal bone (30g) and pottery (7g) were probably 'accidental' inclusions within the fill. The single pottery sherd dates to the mid 1st to 2nd century.

***Trench 6*****Ditch 115**

A ditch forming the southwestern side of the enclosure remained unexcavated but was approximately 1.50m wide and exhibited two fills; a lower pale weathering fill and an upper dark grey-brown silt.

**'Burial' 121**

A small rectangular feature, possibly a human burial, c. 1.00m x 0.50m, aligned northeast to southwest with the enclosure. At the centre of the southern end of the feature the truncated remains of a pottery vessel, some 20cm in diameter, were visible. Parts of this

vessel were loose and were retained, it was of black-slipped ware and dates from the mid-late 1st century. No human remains were visible within the feature, which remained unexcavated.

#### **Feature/deposit 120**

Immediately to the south of 121 was a small, rectangular patch of charcoal-rich silt, approximately 0.40m x 0.15m and aligned east to west. This deposit remained unexcavated.

#### **Other Features and Finds**

To the north of burial 121 was a possible posthole or small circular pit, 0.50m in diameter. This too remained unexcavated.

Surface find 118 – a sherd of Late Iron Age reduced sandy ware pottery - was recovered from the area between burial 121 and the enclosure ditch. Despite the Iron Age attribution it would be possible for this pottery to have been contemporary with the Early Roman wares present on site.

### **Trench 8**

#### **Ditch 15**

The northern corner of the enclosure was far less substantial than in Trenches 1 and 6, measuring between 0.80 and 1.20m in width and a maximum of 0.22m deep (see Section 21, Fig. 3). Six sherds of Romano-British pottery (29g), animal bone (132g) and worked flint (single small flake) were recovered from the fill. The fill was similar to the lower fill of ditch 11/13. The pottery dates to the mid-late 1st century and mid 1st to 2nd century.

#### **Layer 108**

At the south of the trench a layer of soft, mixed pale grey-brown subsoil was left *in situ* for a distance of approximately 4m. A sequence of pottery spot-finds were recovered from the machined surface of the layer (105-108), including what appeared to be a whole buried vessel (106), damaged by the machine – 9 sherds have been retained. All the pottery dates to the mid-late 1st century and mid 1st to 2nd century. A trial excavation in the corner of the trench showed the remaining depth of layer 108 to be approximately 0.12m.

## **5.2.2 Field System**

### **Trench 4**

#### **Ditch 65**

Aligned northeast to southwest, 1.30m wide, 0.50m deep, with a broad U-shaped profile. Lower fill (66) a light grey silty clay with chalk inclusions, upper fill (67) a mid grey-brown silty clay. The ditch

contained a very small finds assemblage of pottery (5 sherds – mid-late 1st century), brick fragments and animal bone. This feature probably equates with ditch 20 (Trench 7) and ditch butt end 87 (Trench 6).

### ***Trench 5***

#### **Ditch 58**

Aligned northwest to southeast, 2.30m wide, 0.75m deep with a steep southern edge, gentler northern edge and flat base (see Section 15, Fig. 3). Basal fill (73) a light grey chalky clay, central fill (64) grey chalky clay mixed with grey-brown silt, upper fill (57) a mid brown silty clay with chalk inclusions. Along the northern edge fill (63), a greyish brown silty clay, represented the final silt infilling. Six sherds (116g) of pottery was recovered from fill 63 and dates to the mid-late 1st century. This feature probably equates with ditch 62 (Trench 7).

#### **Ditch 50**

Aligned northwest to southeast, 0.80m wide, 0.20m deep with gently sloping edges and flat base. Single fill (49), a mid grey silty clay with chalk lenses, contained small quantities of animal bone and fired clay. This feature probably equates with ditch 31/33 (Trench 7).

#### **Tree throw 52**

Truncating ditch 50, a large (1.85m wide, 0.30m deep) probable tree throw exhibited a mixed sequence of redeposited natural infills (74-76) sealed by 51, a mid grey-brown silty clay. The upper fill contained a single sherd of mid-late 1st century pottery and a small amount of animal bone.

### ***Trench 6***

#### **Ditch 87**

The southern terminus of ditch 20/65 (Trenches 7 and 4) aligned northeast to southwest. A rounded butt end, 1.20m wide and 0.55m deep with a single fill (86) of mid grey-brown silty clay. Contained four sherds of Romano-British pottery (mid 1st to 2nd century) and a sherd of, possibly contemporary, Late Iron Age reduced sandy ware.

### ***Trench 7***

#### **Ditch 20**

Aligned northeast to southwest, 1.40m wide, 0.47m deep, with a broad U-shaped profile. Lower fill (19) a light grey silty clay with chalk inclusions, upper fill (18) a mid grey-brown silty clay. Contained very small finds assemblages of pottery (5 sherds – mid 1st to 2nd century), fired clay fragments, struck flint and animal bone. This feature probably equates with ditch 65 (Trench 4) and ditch butt 87 (Trench 6).

**Ditch 31/33**

Aligned northwest to southeast, ditch 33 was 0.80m wide, 0.20m deep with gently sloping edges and flat base and a single fill 34, a mid grey silty clay with chalk lenses. At the southeast was a deeper recut, 31, 0.30m deep and with a slightly darker, siltier fill (32). This fill produced thirteen sherds of Romano-British pottery, dating to the mid-late 1st century. This feature probably equates with ditch 50 (Trench 5).

**Ditch 62**

Aligned northwest to southeast, 2.00m wide, only excavated sufficiently to record alignment. Upper fill 62 contained assemblages of Romano-British pottery, fired clay and animal bone. This feature probably equates with ditch 58 (Trench 5).

**Feature 60**

Running along the northern edge of ditch 62 for approximately 1.00m (extending beyond eastern edge of trench) was a narrow, shallow, round-based feature, possibly a separate small ditch and possibly a burrow. Its fill was dark and silty and relatively loose. It produced fifteen sherds of mid 1st to 2nd century pottery, including large pieces of a Baetican (Spanish) amphora.

**Post trench 37**

Initially hidden by a post-medieval furrow fill was a short post trench, 1.95m long, 0.30m wide and 0.45m deep, with rounded ends. The fill, 38, was a rich chestnut-brown (possible due in part to decayed wood?) silty clay with few inclusions. On excavation the positions of the posts were visible, posts that would have been circular and c. 0.25m in diameter with rough, flattish bases. Contained very small finds assemblages of pottery (one sherd – Romano-British), fired clay fragments and struck flint.

**5.3 Anglo-Saxon*****Trench 1*****Burial 6**

A small, shallow ovoid pit, approximately 0.75m x 0.60m x 0.12m deep. The fill was a pale grey-brown redeposited natural marly clay. The pit contained the remains of a neonatal infant burial (see Appendix 7), extended, slightly on its right side and with its head to the west. Accompanying the burial, upright to the south of the body, was a small bowl or open-necked jar of Early Anglo-Saxon date (see Appendix 4). The burial had been compromised by machining with both the body and the vessel revealed, and both were lifted after recording.

**Burial 48**

Some 0.70m to the south of burial 6 was a probable grave, 1.60m long and of unknown width (extending beyond the eastern trench edge), with straight sides and squared corners. The feature remained unexcavated but there was a metal detector signal approximately 0.40m from the head of the grave. The fill was a pale grey-brown redeposited natural marly clay.

#### **Burial 46**

Some 0.70m southwest of burial 48 was a larger grave, 1.80m x 0.85m, with straight sides and squared corners. The fill sequence showed a pale grey-brown redeposited natural marly clay overlying a redeposited pale brown soil. A small, shallow excavation at the centre of the feature revealed part of a human spinal column, sufficient to indicate that the skull would have lain at the west. Very close to the head was a large piece of iron, some 30mm across and standing just proud of the grave fill. It clearly represented the top of a well-buried object and no attempt was made to remove it. The metal detector picked up a second Fe signal approximately 0.20m further west. A single, probably residual, sherd of Romano-British pottery (black-slipped ware, mid 1st to 2nd century) was recovered from the fill.

#### **Trench 6**

##### **Burial 113**

A probable grave overlying Roman enclosure ditch 115 and aligned southwest to northeast. The feature was sub-rectangular, 1.95m x 0.75m with rounded corners. The fill was a mixed redeposited chalky marl and mid-dark brown silty ditch fill.

##### **Burial 109**

Probable grave extending 0.50m from the northern trench edge. Feature was similar in appearance and alignment (southwest to northeast) to burial 113 to the east, and would also have been overlying Roman ditch 115. Bone was recorded just at the surface of the feature but not removed.

#### **Trench 8**

##### **Burial 102**

Grave aligned southwest to northeast, 1.85m x 0.60m. The grave was shallow and part of the body was loosened by the machine. This bone (parts of the left shin and upper arm – see Appendix 7) was retained, the rest of the body remains *in situ* with parts visible enough to indicate that the head lay to the west. Part of an iron object, probably a knife, was visible overlying the pelvic area, this too remained *in situ*.

## 5.4 Features of uncertain date

### *Trench 1*

#### **Pit 70**

A very large, probably circular pit, extended 1.10m from the eastern edge of the trench with a maximum recorded diameter of 2.60m (see Section 20, Fig. 3). Its sides were near-vertical and the feature was excavated to 1.00m below trench level (1.40m from field level). The base of the feature was augured and what appeared to be solid marly clay was reached at 0.50m down – putting the feature at c. 1.50m deep from the trench surface. It is possible however that this marly clay level could represent slumped or redeposited natural.

The lower fills (89, 72, 71) were grey silty clays, with a darker, charcoal-rich and more compact clay matrix the further down in the feature they were. An environmental sample from context 72, the lowest excavated fill of the feature, was the richest sample processed (see Appendix 9) and contained several large fragments of egg-shell along with fishbone, fish scales, small animal bones, cereal grains, grassland seeds and burnt snails. The upper three fills (90, 91 & 92) were grey silty clays (lighter at the top, getting progressively darker down the feature) with occasional to rare inclusions (flint and chalk gravel).

A small fragment of decorated middle Saxon (reticella) vessel glass was recovered from lower fill 89 (Hillary Cool, pers. comm.). A single sherd of mid-late 1st century pottery was also recovered from the pit surface.

#### **Postholes 39, 41, 43 and 45**

A group of relatively large, circular postholes, 0.40-0.45m in diameter and 0.15m deep with flat bases. Their fills were pale brown silty clay with few inclusions. No post pipes were visible. No finds were recovered from any of these features.

### *Trench 2*

#### **Ditch 25**

A narrow, shallow ditch aligned roughly north to south, 0.65m wide, 0.25m deep with a broad U-shaped profile. The fill was a pale brown compact clay silt with very few inclusions. A single small, abraded sherd of mid-late 1st century pottery was recovered from the feature, along with a small flint flake and scraps of animal bone.

#### **Postholes 96, 97, 98, 99, 100 and 101**

A line of small postholes running down the length of the trench – aligned northeast to southwest. They were circular, 0.20m in diameter, flat bottomed and an average of 0.05m deep. All six were wholly excavated but no finds were recovered.

#### ***Trench 4***

##### **Pit 68**

Small pit or possible tree throw extending 0.35m from the northern trench edge and a minimum of 1.35m wide. The fill was a compact orange-brown silty clay with few inclusions. No datable material was recovered from the feature but part of a butchered cattle leg was recovered from the feature's surface.

#### ***Trench 5***

##### **Ditch 54**

Narrow, shallow ditch aligned northwest to southeast, 0.65m wide, 0.17m deep. Fill a pale-mid grey-brown silty clay with few inclusions. No finds were recovered from this feature.

##### **Ditch 56**

Narrow, shallow ditch aligned northwest to southeast, 0.45m wide, 0.10m deep. Fill a pale-mid grey-brown silty clay with few inclusions. No finds were recovered from this feature. Ditches 54 and 56 lie roughly 2.50m apart. Neither ditch extended eastwards into Trench 7.

#### ***Trench 6***

##### **Pit 85**

Shallow, circular feature, only just extended into the excavation area, 0.60m diameter, 0.10m deep. Fill a mid grey-brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.

### **5.5 Post-Medieval**

#### ***Trench 3***

##### **Furrow 27**

Aligned northeast to southwest, narrow (1.40m), shallow furrow. The fill was a pale-mid grey, compact clay silt, quite dirty and with relatively common inclusions (gravel, charcoal, small brick or tiles fragments, flecks of oyster shell etc). A single later medieval pottery sherd was recovered, along with post-medieval roof tile, animal bone and burnt flint.

##### **Furrow 29**



Aligned northeast to southwest, broad (1.80m), shallow furrow. The fill of the feature was the same as for furrow 27 above. A single sherd of 18th/19th century pottery was recovered from the feature, along with post-medieval brick fragments and part of a clay tobacco pipe bowl. Feature is the same as 24 (Trench 4).

#### ***Trench 4***

##### **Furrow 24**

Aligned northeast to southwest, broad (1.80m), shallow furrow. The fill of the feature was the same as for furrow 27 above. A single sherd of 18th/19th century pottery was recovered from the feature, along with post-medieval brick and roof tile fragments. Feature is the same as 29 (Trench 3).

##### **Other furrows/ploughscars**

A series of seven further post-medieval and modern furrows and ploughscars were excavated and recorded within this trench. All were aligned broadly northeast to southwest. None produced finds and they were therefore not assigned context numbers. Their fills were broadly the same as for furrow 27 above.

#### ***Trench 6***

##### **Furrow/ditch 93**

The slight remains of a post-medieval furrow (0.10m deep) were truncated at the east by a ditch, 1.30m wide and 0.40m deep. What evidence there is suggests a bank on the eastern side of the ditch. Both features were aligned northeast to southwest. The fills of both features were a mid grey silty clay. No finds material was recovered.

##### **Furrow 81**

Furrow, aligned northeast to southwest, 1.80m wide and 0.15m deep, fill a mid grey silty clay. Truncated along its eastern edge by ditch 83. No finds were recovered from this feature.

##### **Ditch 83**

Aligned northeast to southwest, 1.40m wide x 0.50m deep, fill a mid grey silty clay. A bank may have lain on the western side of the ditch. A single, residual Roman pottery sherd was recovered, along with a post-medieval roof tile fragment and a small quantity of animal bone.

##### **Ditch 111**

Aligned northeast to southwest, 0.60m wide x 0.15m deep, fill a mid grey-brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.

### ***Trench 7***

#### **Furrow 35**

Aligned northeast to southwest, 2.50m wide and a maximum of 0.15m deep, fill a dirty grey-brown silty clay with fairly common inclusions (sm-med gravel, charcoal, tile fragments etc.). Two fragments of 18th/19th century pottery were recovered from the feature.

## **6 Discussion**

### **6.1 Possible prehistoric funerary/ritual features**

Nearly 40m to the west of the Roman funerary enclosure and the other known burials, lay an inhumation in a shallow oval grave (burial **79**, Trench 6). The position of the body, crouched and facing due east, and the grave's seeming isolation and 'clean' backfill, suggest that this may be an earlier Bronze Age burial. The location of this southern part of the field within the local topography would have made it an ideal location for Bronze Age burial mounds or barrows. This part of the site lies at around 17.5m OD, just over the crest of the chalk hill, on the watershed overlooking a wide basin to the north and east. No ring ditch was recorded around the burial.

To the east, in the area where later burials were concentrated, was a large pit (**4**, Trench 8), the southern half of which was partially excavated to reveal two human skulls, aligned along the eastern edge of the pit. Both skulls appeared to have been flattened, deliberately and prior to backfilling, rather than by the compaction of the soil above them. The northern half of the pit was not excavated and it is clearly possible that further human remains may lie within it. No dating evidence was recovered from partial excavation. The feature was situated just a metre to the north of a large tree throw (**17**) that contained a single sherd of Early Roman pottery within its backfill. If the placing of the pit is seen as related to the position of the standing tree then it may suggest a later Iron Age date for this feature.

### **6.2 Romano-British funerary enclosure and burials**

A small Romano-British ditched enclosure may have lain at the core of funerary activity. The enclosed area was rectangular and measured 20m x 13m internally with its long axis aligned northwest to southeast. Small quantities of pottery were recovered from within the excavated sections of the ditch and parts of whole pottery vessels were buried inside the enclosure. The pottery dates the enclosure to the second half of the 1st century AD. The northern corner of the enclosure would have been positioned beneath the tree, on the opposite side to the pit containing skulls in Trench 7. At least one contemporary burial was

recorded within the enclosure, burial **121** in Trench 6. In Trench 8 a layer of subsoil remained *in situ*, with at least one buried vessel visible, and it is likely that the enclosure contained further burials. These could either be inhumation or cremation burials, as could burial 121. The small charcoal-rich feature and circular pit/posthole to either side of this burial could also be funerary-related.

The fill of eastern corner of the enclosure contained a deliberate, placed deposit of horse bone and hearth stones and, cut into its surface a small charcoal-rich pit. Both these deposits may serve to enhance the 'ritual' nature of the enclosure.

The difference in the size and depth of the two excavated corners of the enclosure is of note (see sections 4 & 21, Fig 3, showing the eastern and northern corners). The distance between the two sections, at 20m, is not sufficient to explain the rapid change in depth of the ditch. It is possible that the northern corner was cut deliberately shallow in order to avoid damage to the root system of the tree beyond it (if the tree was standing). It is also possible that an earlier mound occupied this area (see burial 102 below) and that the ditch was therefore dug from considerably higher up. Layer 108, the shallow subsoil layer that survived within this northern part of the enclosure, may also be a remnant of an earlier mound, or have been preserved beneath one. An earlier mound in this area, perhaps Bronze Age or Iron Age, could not only help to explain the placement of the Early Roman funerary enclosure but also that of the subsequent Anglo-Saxon burials.

### **6.3 Romano-British Field system**

The field system recorded is of the same early date as the funerary enclosure, probably set out very soon after the conquest and in use in the 1st and possibly early 2nd centuries. At least three elements of a field system were recorded (Trenches 4, 5, 6 & 7), with two others probable (Trench 5), and a short but deep post trench, possibly part of a small structure. The quantity of finds material recovered is not sufficient to suggest immediate, on-site settlement, but indicates that this area was on the edge of the settlement. This settlement-edge location would also fit with the placing of the small funerary enclosure. There is no suggestion of any great longevity of occupation here either – no finds beyond the early 2nd century at the latest, and no recutting or realignment of the ditches.

The field system appears to have been set out, at the edge of a settlement area that must stretch to the south and east, soon after the conquest, and abandoned shortly afterwards, perhaps within fifty years.

#### **6.4 Anglo-Saxon burials**

Six definite or possible Early Saxon burials lay in the area of the Roman enclosure. They were recorded within the enclosure (**102**), outside the enclosure (**6**, **46** & **48**) and lying across the enclosure ditch (**109** & **113**). All were aligned southwest to northeast and at least four out of the six contained grave goods (three with iron, one with a pottery vessel). Both adults and infants were represented (102 and 6 respectively). The pottery vessel dates to approximately the 6th century.

Burial 102 in the northern corner of the enclosure was considerably shallower than the others and was clipped by the machine bucket during stripping. This may add credence to the theory that an earlier mound occupied this area. Prehistoric mounds, particularly Bronze Age Barrows, were frequently used as locations for burial grounds in the Early Saxon period. However, Early Saxon furnished inhumations were also reported during quarrying immediately to the west of the site, on the south side of Coldham's Lane. These were found at some point prior to 1939 and were reported as having 'daggers at the waist'. Burial 102 within the enclosure fits this description. While not accurately recorded these earlier burials appear to have lain within 100m of those recorded here and it is possible that all these burials belong to the same large early cemetery.

#### **6.5 Features of uncertain date**

The principal undated features are the large pit **70** in Trench 1, the two groups of postholes in Trenches 1 & 2 and two small ditches in Trench 5.

Dating for pit 70 relies upon the small fragment of mid Saxon vessel glass recovered from the lower fill. The glass dates to the 8th or 9th centuries. Immediately to the east of the site is a large 9th century Saxon manorial enclosure (Cessford and Mortimer 2004) and this feature may represent edge of settlement activity. The lower backfilling of the feature contained quantities of ecofactual occupation debris in the form of charred seeds and small food animal remains, but no artefactual remains, no pottery or building debris, suggesting that while activities are going on in the vicinity they are far from the settled area. The function of the feature is uncertain. It was at least 3.00m in diameter and close to 2.00m deep prior to truncation. On solid chalk a well has to be cut deep enough to reach the water table and this should be considerably deeper than 2.00m. Excavations to the north on Rosemary Lane (Mortimer 2003) uncovered a number of medieval wells at around 13.00m OD that were cut at least 6 or 7m into the chalk.

If, however, the marly chalk encountered by auger was not solid natural chalk but redeposited or slumped material then the feature may be far deeper than it presently appears and could have served as a well. An earlier shaft, with its final settling infill in the mid Saxon period, would also remain a possibility.

The group of postholes in Trench 1 have clean 'early' fills and are substantial enough to form part of a post-built structure. There is no 'settlement' debris of any period on the site except for the Early Roman, and very little of that. Whether these postholes are Saxon, Roman or earlier it is perhaps unlikely that they represent a domestic structure.

The postholes in Trench 2 were small and relatively shallow (even allowing for truncation). They too had clean, possibly 'early' fills and could date to any period up to the Middle or Late Saxon (they are the closest features to the relatively dense Saxon and Medieval archaeology recorded to the east of the site). They appear to mark a fence line, on broadly the same alignment as both the Roman and post-Medieval features on the site.

There were two small, parallel ditches in Trench 5 spaced 2.50m apart (**54 & 56**) which probably represent two sides of a small bank. They were on alignment with Roman ditches to both sides but neither produced any finds material, dateable or otherwise. Their fills were also slightly paler than those of the Roman ditches. While, by association, these ditches should probably be assigned a Roman date, there is some reason to suggest that they may be earlier. The Roman field system is both early and short-lived and the presence of four parallel ditches within the space of 12m indicates at least two phases of activity. The size and alignment (northeast to southwest) of these smaller ditches could suggest an earlier, Middle Bronze Age, attribution.

The only other significant undateable feature recorded was a narrow ditch **25** in Trench 2. Its alignment differed from all others on the site, being close to north/south. The fill of the feature was also slightly different, slightly darker, to that of the Roman ditches. It is similar in appearance to Middle Saxon ditches recorded to the east at sites on Rosemary Lane and Church End (Mortimer 2003; Cessford and Mortimer 2004) and may represent the western edge of this early medieval activity.

## **6.6 Post-Medieval**

The ditches and furrows that cross the site are all aligned southwest to northeast, except for a few deeper modern pan-busting ploughscars. The dating for the inception of the ridge and furrow agriculture here can not be earlier than the post-medieval period, perhaps the 17th or

18th century. Only a single, small and abraded, sherd of earlier, 15th/16th century, pottery was recovered – the majority of the furrows producing 18th or 19th century material only. The quantities of this later material do not suggest any really intensive or long-lived manuring activity in the area.

## **7 Conclusions**

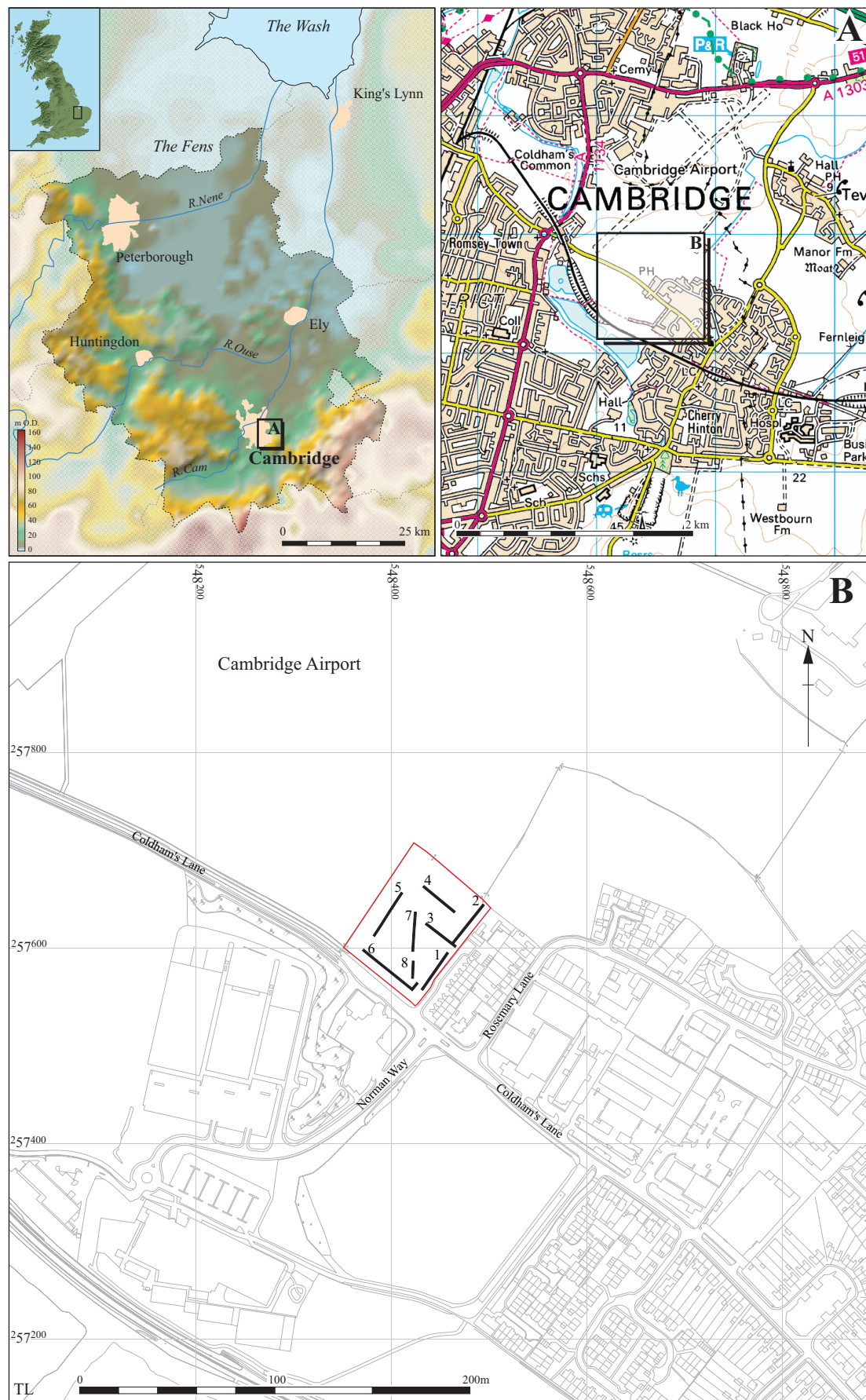
The evaluation at Coldham's Lane has revealed an intensive, if limited area of funerary activity during the prehistoric, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon periods.

The prehistoric element is not clearly understood and may be linked to burial mounds of either the Early/Middle Bronze Age or later Iron Age. The Early Roman burials may lie within a small funerary enclosure some 15m by 20m in size. The (6th century) Anglo-Saxon burials may be localised around the Roman enclosure or an earlier mound, or could be part of a much larger cemetery extending to the south and west.

There is also evidence that the area lay at the edge of an early Romano-British settlement site but that use of this part of the site was limited in scale and longevity.

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





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



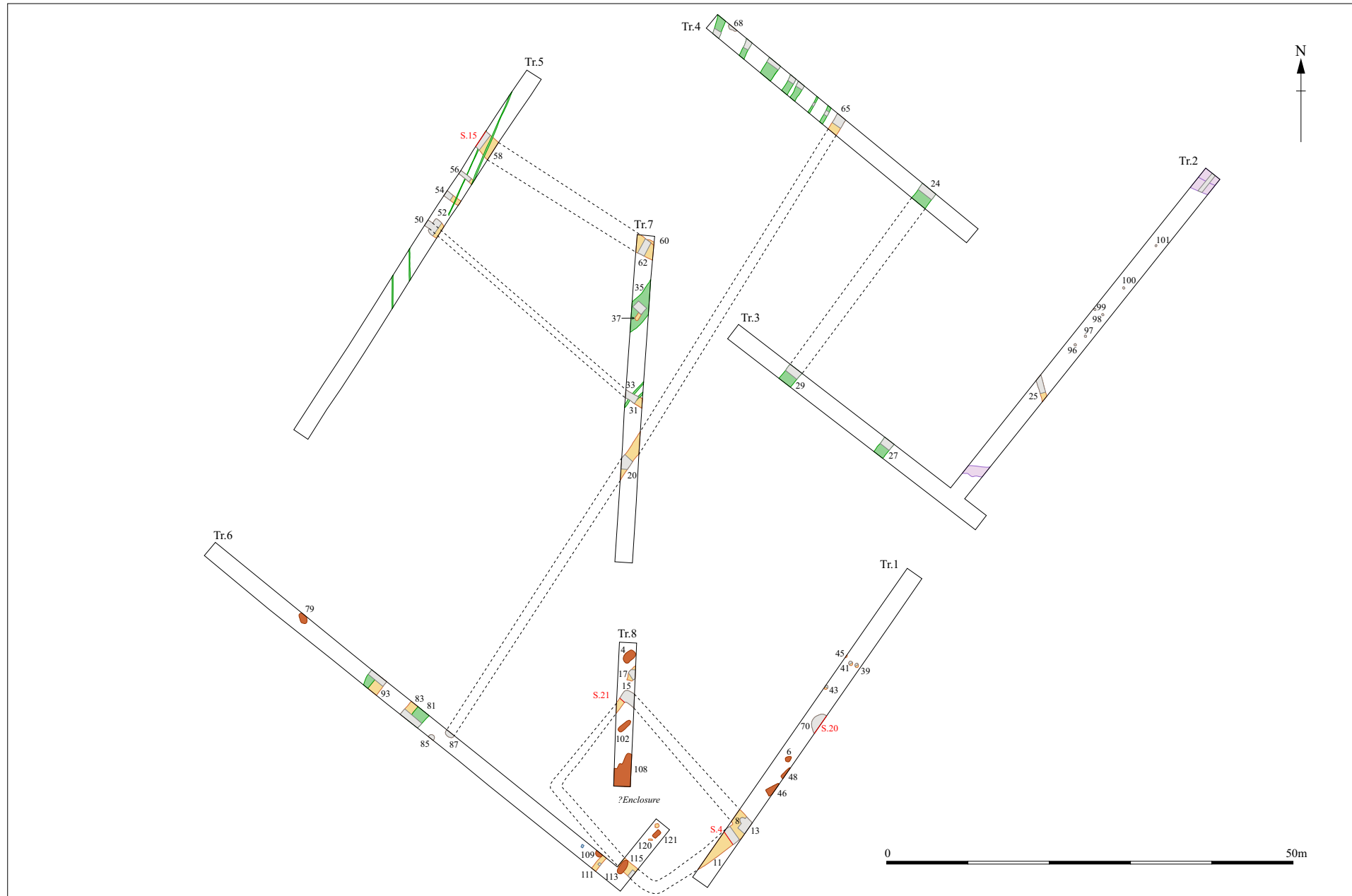


Figure 2: The trenches

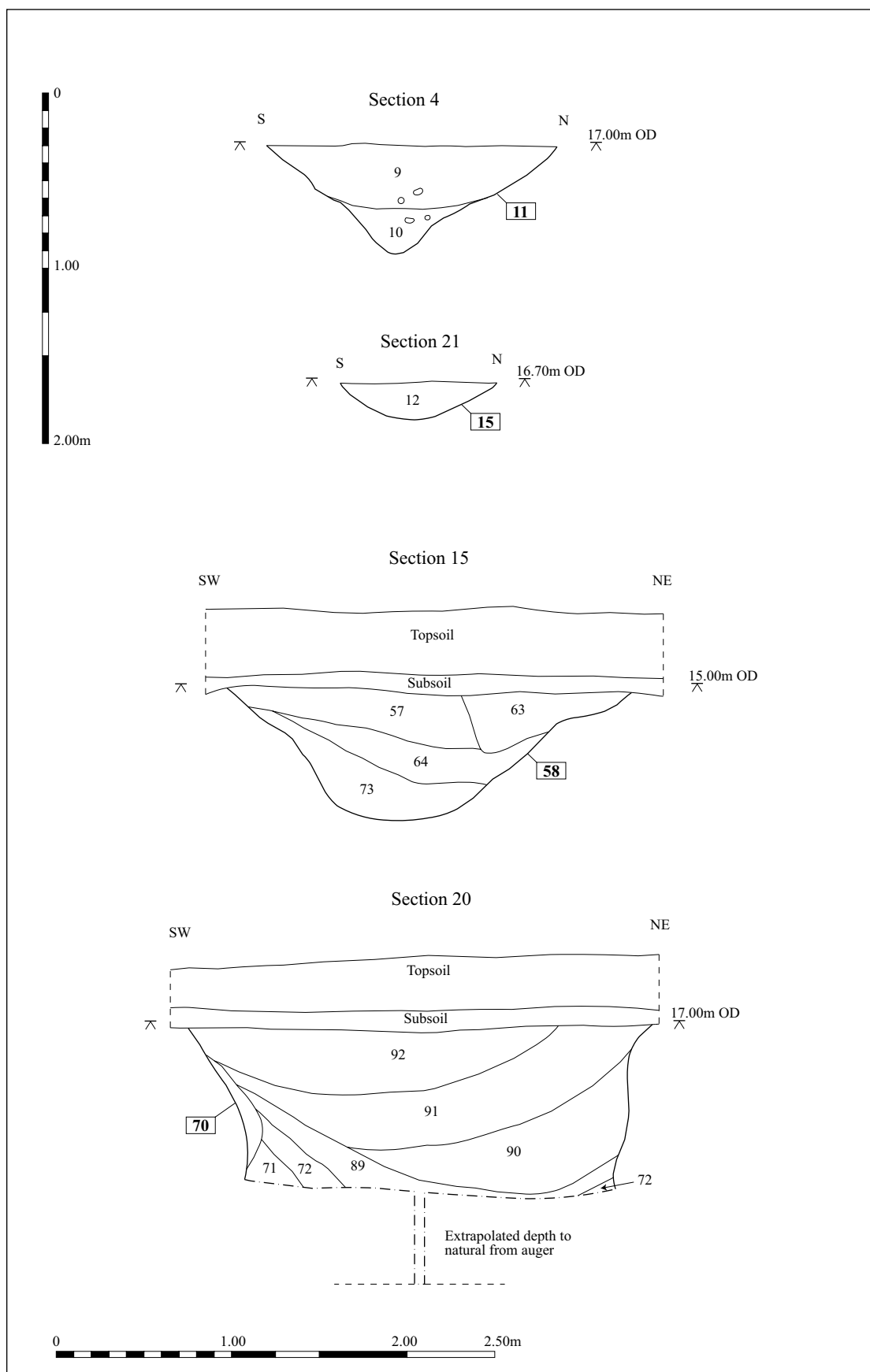


Figure 3: Sections

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Januarys Consultant Surveyors, and in particular their agent Kirstie Walker, who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Paul Spoerry. The CAM ARC staff, who excavated and interpreted the archaeology of the site were Nick Gilmour, Helen Stocks, Dan Wheeler and the author. The site survey was undertaken by Rachel Clarke and Louise Bush and the report illustrations were produced by Crane Begg. The report was edited by Elizabeth Popescu. Hilary Cool very kindly identified the Saxon Glass.

The brief for archaeological works was written by Kasia Gdaniec, who visited the site and monitored the evaluation, and is, as ever, appreciated for her knowledge and enthusiasm.

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## Appendix 1: Context Index

Context	Cut	Feature	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Excavator	Feature date
1	4		8	fill	burial	NG	unknown
2	4		8	skeleton	burial	NG	unknown
3	4		8	skeleton	burial	NG	unknown
4	4		8	cut	burial	NG	unknown
5	6		1	fill	burial	NG	Anglo-Saxon
6	6		1	cut	burial	NG	Anglo-Saxon
7	8		1	fill	pit	NG	Romano-British
8	8		1	cut	pit	NG	Romano-British
9	11	11	1	fill	ditch	NG	Romano-British
10	11	11	1	fill	ditch	NG	Romano-British
11	11	11	1	cut	ditch	NG	Romano-British
12	13	11	1	fill	ditch	NG	Romano-British
13	13	11	1	cut	ditch	NG	Romano-British
14	15	11	8	fill	ditch	NG	Romano-British
15	15	11	8	cut	ditch	NG	Romano-British
16	17		8	fill	tree throw	NG	unknown
17	17		8	cut	tree throw	NG	unknown
18	20	20	7	fill	ditch	NG	Romano-British
19	20	20	7	fill	ditch	NG	Romano-British
20	20	20	7	cut	ditch	NG	Romano-British
21	13	11	1	fill	ditch	NG	Romano-British
22	13	11	1	fill	ditch	NG	Romano-British
23	24	24	4	fill	furrow	DW	post-medieval
24	24	24	4	cut	furrow	DW	post-medieval
25	25		2	cut	ditch	RM	?Middle Saxon
26	25		2	fill	ditch	RM	?Middle Saxon
27	27	27	3	cut	furrow	RM	post-medieval
28	27	27	3	fill	furrow	RM	post-medieval
29	29	24	3	cut	furrow	RM	post-medieval
30	29	24	3	fill	furrow	RM	post-medieval
31	31	50	7	cut	ditch	RM	Romano-British
32	31	50	7	fill	ditch	RM	Romano-British
33	33	50	7	cut	ditch	RM	Romano-British
34	33	50	7	fill	ditch	RM	Romano-British
35	35	35	7	cut	furrow	RM	post-medieval
36	35	35	7	fill	furrow	RM	post-medieval
37	37		7	cut	post trench	RM	Romano-British
38	37		7	fill	post trench	RM	Romano-British
39	39		1	cut	post hole	RM	unknown
40	39		1	fill	post hole	RM	unknown

41	41		1	cut	post hole	RM	unknown
42	41		1	fill	post hole	RM	unknown
43	43		1	cut	post hole	RM	unknown
44	43		1	fill	post hole	RM	unknown
45	45		1	cut	post hole	RM	unknown
46	46		1	cut	burial	RM	Anglo-Saxon
47	46		1	fill	burial	RM	Anglo-Saxon
48	48		1	cut	burial	RM	Anglo-Saxon
49	50	50	5	fill	ditch	HS	Romano-British
50	50	50	5	cut	ditch	HS	Romano-British
51	52		5	fill	tree throw	HS	Romano-British
52	52		5	cut	tree throw	HS	Romano-British
53	54	54	5	fill	ditch	HS	Romano-British
54	54	54	5	cut	ditch	HS	Romano-British
55	56	56	5	fill	ditch	HS	Romano-British
56	56	56	5	cut	ditch	HS	Romano-British
57	58	58	5	fill	ditch	HS	Romano-British
58	58	58	5	cut	ditch	HS	Romano-British
59	60		7	fill	burrow	HS	Romano-British
60	60		7	cut	burrow	HS	Romano-British
61	62	58	7	fill	ditch	HS	Romano-British
62	62	58	7	cut	ditch	HS	Romano-British
63	58	58	5	fill	ditch	HS	Romano-British
64	58	58	5	fill	ditch	HS	Romano-British
65	65	20	4	cut	ditch	DW	Romano-British
66	65	20	4	fill	ditch	DW	Romano-British
67	65	20	4	fill	ditch	DW	Romano-British
68	68		4	cut	tree throw	DW	unknown
69	68		4	fill	tree throw	DW	unknown
70	70		4	cut	pit	DW	?Middle Saxon
71	70		4	fill	pit	DW	?Middle Saxon
72	70		4	fill	pit	DW	?Middle Saxon
73	58	58	5	fill	ditch	HS	Romano-British
74	52		5	fill	tree throw	HS	Romano-British
75	52		5	fill	tree throw	HS	Romano-British
76	52		5	fill	tree throw	HS	Romano-British
77	79		6	fill	burial	HS	Prehistoric
78	79		6	skeleton	burial	HS	Prehistoric
79	79		6	cut	burial	HS	Prehistoric
80	81	83	6	fill	furrow	HS	post-medieval
81	81	83	6	cut	furrow	HS	post-medieval
82	83	83	6	fill	ditch	HS	post-medieval
83	83	83	6	cut	ditch	HS	post-medieval
84	85		6	fill	pit	HS	unknown
85	85		6	cut	pit	HS	unknown

86	87	20	6	fill	ditch	HS	Romano-British
87	87	20	6	cut	ditch	HS	Romano-British
88	70		1	fill	pit	DW	?Middle Saxon
89	70		1	fill	pit	DW	?Middle Saxon
90	70		1	fill	pit	DW	?Middle Saxon
91	70		1	fill	pit	DW	?Middle Saxon
92	70		1	fill	pit	DW	?Middle Saxon
93	93	35	1	cut	ditch	DW	post-medieval
94	93	35	1	fill	ditch	DW	post-medieval
95	93	35	1	fill	ditch	DW	post-medieval
96	96		2	cut	post hole	RM	unknown
97	96		2	cut	post hole	RM	unknown
98	96		2	cut	post hole	RM	unknown
99	96		2	cut	post hole	RM	unknown
100	96		2	cut	post hole	RM	unknown
101	96		2	cut	post hole	RM	unknown
102	102		8	cut	burial	RM	Roman/Saxon
103	102		8	fill	burial	RM	Roman/Saxon
104	102		8	skeleton	burial	RM	Roman/Saxon
105	108		8	spot find	buried soil	RM	Romano-British
106	108		8	spot find	buried soil	RM	Romano-British
107	108		8	spot find	buried soil	RM	Romano-British
108	108		8	layer	buried soil	RM	Romano-British
109	109		6	cut	burial	RM	Anglo-Saxon
110	109		6	fill	burial	RM	Anglo-Saxon
111	111	27	6	cut	ditch	RM	post-medieval
112	111	27	6	fill	ditch	RM	post-medieval
113	113		6	cut	burial	RM	Anglo-Saxon
114	113		6	fill	burial	RM	Anglo-Saxon
115	115	11	6	cut	ditch	RM	Romano-British
116	115	11	6	fill	ditch	RM	Romano-British
117	115	11	6	fill	ditch	RM	Romano-British
118	118		6	spot find		RM	Romano-British
119	119		6	spot find		RM	Romano-British
120	120		6	burnt patch		RM	Romano-British
121	121		6	cut	burial	RM	Romano-British
122	121		6	fill	burial	RM	Romano-British
123	0		5	spot find		RM	Romano-British
124	0		5	spot find		RM	Post-medieval

Table 1: Context Index

## Appendix 2: Struck and burnt flint

Context	Cut	Feature	Trench	Feature Type	Feature date	Material	Description	Weight (g)
9	11	11	1	ditch	Romano-British	Flint	burnt frag	10
9	11	11	1	ditch	Romano-British	Flint	small flake	1
14	15	11	8	ditch	Romano-British	Flint	small flake	2
16	17		8	tree throw	unknown	Flint	small flake	3
19	20	20	7	ditch	Romano-British	Flint	small flake	3
26	25		2	ditch	?Middle Saxon	Flint	small flake	1
28	27	27	3	furrow	post-medieval	Flint	2 burnt frags	20
38	37		7	post trench	Romano-British	Flint	small flake	1
91	70		1	pit	Romano-British	Flint	flake	9

Table 2: Struck and burnt flint assemblage

## Appendix 3: Romano-British Pottery

By Katie Anderson

The assemblage comprised 117 sherds of pottery, although three were Late Iron Age in date. All of the material was examined and details of fabric, form, and date, were recorded, as well as any other information deemed important.

All of the material dated to the Early Roman period, mid 1st-2nd century AD. However, due to the condition of most of the sherds, and the generic nature of the fabrics and forms, more specific dating was problematic. Those sherds that could be more accurately dated were mid-late 1st century AD in date. The presence of a Late Iron Age sherd alongside four Early Roman sherds in ditch **87**, suggests that this sherd may have been contemporary, and thus this feature could be dated to the transition between the Late Iron Age and Early Roman period.

The pottery consisted of small, abraded sherds, with a mean weight of 14.4g, which was influenced by the presence of a small number of large sherds, particularly the ten amphora sherds recovered from context 59, ditch **60**. However, with the exception of contexts 16 (tree throw **17**), 26 (ditch **25**), 47 (burial **46**) and 82 (ditch **83**), the assemblage does not appear to be residual, thus implying that its condition is either a result of redeposition, or else the material was left on the surface for a period of time sufficient to allow for a high level of abrasion, before being deposited into the features.

The assemblage was dominated by coarse, sandy wares, most of which are likely to have been locally made. Although this material is all

Early Roman in date, there were only a small number of sherds from known kilns. This comprised four sherds from find spot 123, which are likely to be from the Greenhouse Farm kilns, although similar fabrics were produced at a number of different sites in Cambridgeshire in the mid-late 1st century AD, suggesting other potential sources. The lack of any Cherry Hinton finewares is interesting, since this site is located very close to the kilns, and was occupied at the time of pottery production. However, the lack of these wares could be a result of the size of the excavation, rather than reflecting anything more meaningful about the nature of the site, and therefore should not necessarily be used as proof until further work is carried out.

The only sherds which are known to have come from outside of the local area were the ten Baetican amphora sherds from feature **60**, which are a useful indicator that this site had access to wider trade networks. The lack of established Early Roman wares, such as Verulamium wares and Southern Gaulish Samian, are again, probably the result of the size of the evaluation, rather than reflecting an impoverished site. However, further work would be able to confirm this. Very few vessel forms could be determined, consisting of nine jars, one bowl, one lid and one amphora, although this supports the view that this was a broadly domestic assemblage.

Context	Cut	Feature	Trench	Fabric	No.	Pottery date	Feature date
7	8		1	reduced sandy	1	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
10	11	11	1	Oxi Sandy	1	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
12	13	11	1	CS GW	1	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
12	13	11	1	Oxi Sandy	1	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
12	13	11	1	Oxi Sandy	1	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
12	13	11	1	Oxi Sandy	4	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
12	13	11	1	Black-slipped	1	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
22	13	11	1	Black-slipped	1	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
14	15	11	8	CS GW	3	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
14	15	11	8	reduced sandy	3	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
16	17		8	Oxi Sandy	1	Mid 1st-2nd AD	unknown
18	20	20	7	Buff sandy	3	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
18	20	20	7	Oxi Sandy	1	RB	RB
19	20	20	7	Oxi Sandy	1	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
26	25		2	Oxi Sandy	1	Mid-late 1st AD	unknown
32	31	50	7	CS GW	6	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
32	31	50	7	Black-slipped	2	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
32	31	50	7	Oxi Sandy	3	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
32	31	50	7	CS GW	1	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
32	31	50	7	Whiteware	1	RB	RB
38	37		7	Oxi Sandy	1	RB	RB
47	46		1	Black-slipped	1	Mid-late 1st AD	AS
51	52		5	Black-slipped	1	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
63	58	58	5	CS GW	3	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
63	58	58	5	Black-slipped	1	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
63	58	58	5	CS GW	2	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
59	60		7	Black-slipped	1	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB



59	60		7	Baetican amph	10	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
59	60		7	Oxi Sandy	2	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
59	60		7	Buff sandy	2	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
61	62	58	7	CS GW	5	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
61	62	58	7	Oxi Sandy	4	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
61	62	58	7	Black-slipped	1	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
61	62	58	7	Black-slipped	1	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
61	62	58	7	Black-slipped	1	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
66	65	20	4	Oxi Sandy	2	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
66	65	20	4	Oxi Sandy	1	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
66	65	20	4	Black-slipped	1	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
66	65	20	4	Black-slipped	1	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
92	70		1	reduced sandy	1	Mid-late 1st AD	unknown
82	83	83	6	Oxi Sandy	1	RB	RB
86	87	20	6	CS GW	3	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
86	87	20	6	Oxi Sandy	1	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
86	87	20	6	reduced sandy	1	LIA?	RB
105	108		8	CS GW	2	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
106	108		8	Oxi Sandy	9	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
107	108		8	Oxi Sandy	1	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
108	108		8	Red-slipped	1	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
122	121		6	Black-slipped	12	Mid-late 1st AD	RB
118			6	reduced sandy	2	LIA?	RB
123			5	Oxi Sandy	1	Mid 1st-2nd AD	RB
123			5	Buff sandy	4	Mid-late 1st AD	RB

Table 3: Romano-British pottery spot-dates

## Appendix 4: Anglo-Saxon Pottery

By Paul Spoerry

A single, small Anglo-Saxon pottery vessel was recovered from the fill of a neonate burial, cut 6 context 5. The vessel was complete but shattered, and weighs 308g.

The vessel is an open necked hand-made jar with a simple, slightly out-turned rim and rounded base. It has a mid brown/grey fabric with abundant medium-coarse quartz inclusions and rare medium mica flakes. The vessel has sooty deposits externally and internally.

Both the form and fabric of the vessel are comparable to Early Saxon funerary and domestic vessels recovered from cemeteries in the Cambridge region.

## Appendix 5: Post-Medieval Pottery

Context	Cut	Feature	Trench	Feature Type	Feature date	Description	Weight (g)
23	24	24	4	furrow	post-medieval	Staffordshire slip ware, c. 18th C	5
28	27	27	3	furrow	post-medieval	small fragment with slight green glaze. No clear provenance, c. 14th-15th C	1
30	29	24	3	furrow	post-medieval	Staffordshire slip ware, c. 18th C 2 fragments Glazed	6
36	35	35	7	furrow	post-medieval	Red earthenware, 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> C	12

Table 4: post-medieval pottery spot-dates

Six small fragments of late medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from four separate furrow fills. The earliest piece, from context 28, cut 27, is of later medieval type, too small and worn to be clearly provenanced but possibly of Ely-type ware. There are three 18th century fragments of Staffordshire slip wares, again small and worn, and two pieces of Glazed Red Earthenware of similar date.

## Appendix 6: Other Ceramic Materials

Context	Cut	Feature	Trench	Feature Type	Feature date	Material	Description	Weight (g)
9	11	11	1	ditch	Romano-British	Fired clay	soft pink-orange well-fired clay	1
18	20	20	7	ditch	Romano-British	Fired clay	v small- probably degraded pottery	1
19	20	20	7	ditch	Romano-British	Fired clay	soft pink-orange well-fired clay	6
38		37	7	post trench	Romano-British	Fired clay	soft slightly gritty orange well-fired clay	1
49	50	50	5	ditch	Romano-British	Fired clay	soft pink-orange well-fired clay	5
61	58	62	7	ditch	Romano-British	Fired clay	soft slightly gritty orange well-fired clay	1
66	20	65	4	ditch	Romano-British	CBM	well fired Roman brick fragment	60
66	20	65	4	ditch	Romano-British	CBM	degraded R-B brick or tile frags	74
23	24	24	4	furrow	post-medieval	CBM	2 degraded med/pm roof tile frags, both orange fabric throughout	25
23	24	24	4	furrow	post-medieval	CBM	p-m brick frag	4
28	27	27	3	furrow	post-medieval	CBM	p-m roof tile fragment. Grey interior, orange surface	20
30	24	29	3	furrow	post-medieval	CBM	p-m brick frag	2
30	24	29	3	furrow	post-medieval	CBM	p-m brick frag	5
30	24	29	3	furrow	post-medieval	Tobacco pipe	small bowl fragment - not dateable	1
82	83	83	6	ditch	post-medieval	CBM	p-m roof tile fragment. orange fabric throughout	27

Table 5: Other ceramic material

**Romano-British**

Very small quantities of fired clay were recovered, in two fabrics; a soft pink-orange well-fired clay with no inclusions, and a sandier, grittier version. Three degraded fragments of Roman brick were also found.

**Post-medieval**

A small quantity (seven fragments) of post-medieval brick and roof tile was recovered, along with part of an 18th or 19th century clay pipe bowl.

**Appendix 7: Human Bone**

By Natasha Dodwell

The distal halves of an adult left tibia and humerus were machined out during the evaluation and derive from an articulated skeleton 104, the rest of which has been left *in situ*. The bones are in good condition although the cortical surfaces have been affected by root action.

The remains of a neonate skeleton 005, probably placed on its right side with its head to the west were recovered from a small pit. An inventory of the skeletal elements has been made and long bone measurements (Scheuer and Black 2000) and the stage of dental development (Ubelaker 1989) suggest that the infant died at birth ( $\pm 2$  mos.).

**Bibliography**

- |                          |      |  |
|--------------------------|------|--|
| Scheuer, L. and Black, S | 2000 | <i>Developmental Juvenile Osteology</i> Academic Press, London   |
| Ubelaker, D.H.           | 1989 | <i>Human Skeletal Remains: Excavation, Analysis, and Interpretation</i> Taraxacum Press, Washington, D.C |

## Appendix 8: Animal bone

By Chris Faine

The very small assemblage consisted of 71 fragments, with 26 elements identifiable to species (36.6% of the sample). All unidentifiable elements were classed as medium/large mammals. Preservation of the sample is fair, albeit extremely fragmented in some cases. Faunal remains were recovered from contexts dating to the Romano-British, possibly Middle Saxon and post-medieval periods. However, almost all identifiable elements (93%) were recovered from Romano-British contexts. Contexts 12, 14, 18, 26, 28, 30, 49, 51 and 61 contained no identifiable elements.

Material from the Romano-British period was recovered from a series of pit and ditch fills. Eight fragments were recovered from ditch fills. Context 9 contained portions of butchered cattle cranium and inominate. Context 10 contained a single butchered cattle femur. Horse remains were recovered from context 12 in the form of a complete radius and butchered distal humerus that may have been placed as a deliberate deposit. All these were within enclosure ditch feature **11**. A single piece of shattered horse radius was also recovered from context 66 (ditch **65**).

Fifteen fragments were recovered from pit contexts. Context 7 (pit **8**) contained a single portion of butchered cattle lumbar vertebra. In the large pit **70** context 89 contained a butchered cattle rib along with a portion of butchered sheep/goat axis and mandible from individual around 3-4 years of age and contexts 71 & 72 contained a variety of elements. These included portions of sheep/goat lumbar vertebra, inominate, astragalus and metacarpal, along with a single cattle horn core. Butchered portions of domestic goose and fowl femora were also recovered, in addition to an unidentified fish vertebra and a femur, ulna and humerus of an adult house mouse (*Mus musculus*).

A single portion of butchered sheep/goat metacarpal was recovered from context **82**, a post-medieval ditch fill. Context **69** (a fill of an undated tree-throw), contained a portion of butchered distal cattle humerus.

Given the extremely small sample size few conclusions can be drawn from this assemblage. However, the presence of so many of the fragments in ditch and pit contexts and the level of butchery may suggest small-scale domestic waste, perhaps at the edge of a settlement area.

## Appendix 9: Environmental Remains

By Rachel Fosberry

### 1 Introduction and methods

Nine 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.

Between ten and thirty 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 on Table 6.

### 2 Results

The results are recorded on Table 6.

Sample Number	Context Number	Cut Number	Context Type	Flot contents	Residue contents
1	7	8	Pit	Charcoal only	Bone
2	5	6	Grave	Cereal grains	HSR - neonate
3	66	65	Ditch	Cereal grains	No finds
4	49	52	Ditch	Cereal grains	No finds
5	51	52	Square feature	Single cereal grain	Few bone fragments
6	59	60	Ditch	Cereal grains, small seeds	No finds
7	42	39	Posthole	Single cereal grain	No finds
8	86	87	Ditch	Single cereal grain	No finds
9	72	70	Pit/well	Cereal grains, grassland seeds, fish scale, burnt snail	Egg shell, bone, fishbone and scales, fe nail

Table 6: Environmental Samples

Preservation is by charring and is generally poor to moderate. Charcoal fragments are present in most of the samples in varying

quantities. The residues of Samples 1, 6 and 9 all contained charcoal and were subjected to a secondary flotation.

Most of the samples contain low densities of charred grains predominantly *Triticum* sp. (wheat) and *Hordeum* sp. (barley). Charred seeds of common weed plants include *Rumex* sp. (dock), *Poaceae* sp. (small grass seeds) and *Gallium* sp. (cleavers). Modern contaminants in the form of rootlets and snails are present in most of the samples.

Human skeletal remains were recovered from Sample 2, context 5 and have been reintegrated with the excavated material.

Sample 9, context 72 (pit 70) is the richest sample and contains several large (up to 2cm) fragments of egg-shell along with fishbone, scales and animal bones.

Hammerscale was recovered from Samples 1, pit 8 and Sample 9, pit 70.

### **3 Conclusions and recommendations**

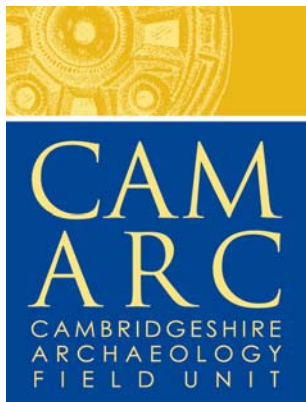
The quantity of plant remains was moderate with only limited species diversity. The majority of the samples contained charred plant remains, predominantly cereal grains and a few weed seeds. Hammerscale is present in two samples and indicate that blacksmithing may have occurred in the vicinity.

Possible interpretations for pit 70 include a well. The results of sampling may refute this interpretation, as the sample did not contain any macrofossils that had been preserved by waterlogging. The sample did contain a significant amount of dietary refuse including the remains of fish, and it is likely that these waste products were dumped in the feature prior to it being backfilled.

Wheat grains are difficult to identify on the basis of morphology alone. Two morphological forms were tentatively identified as *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat) along with the more rounded free-threshing wheat. These cereals, together with the barley recovered from pit 70 are typical of Roman assemblages. The lack of crop-processing waste would suggest that the cereals were not being processed in the immediate vicinity. Barley was often used for animal fodder but may have been used for human consumption in the form of bread, soup and beer. No germinated grains were recovered to suggest brewing activities

The charred cereal grains recovered from grave fill 5 are fragmented and very abraded and are presumably residual. The low frequencies of plant remains from this and the other features suggest that they probably represent general debris blowing around the site.

It is not considered that full analysis would add significantly to this interpretation and additional work is not recommended on this assemblage at this stage.



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