

**CAM ARC Report Number 975**

**Medieval Occupation on Land  
at Mortimers Lane, Foxton,  
Cambridgeshire**

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**An Archaeological Evaluation**

Gareth Rees

October 2007

Commissioned by Freeland Rees Roberts

**CAM ARC Report Number 975**

# **Medieval Occupation on Land at Mortimers Lane, Foxton, Cambridgeshire**

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## **An Archaeological Evaluation**

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Site Code: FOX MOL 07  
CHER Event Number: ECB 2737  
Date of works: 1st to 3rd October 2007  
Grid Ref: TL 4141 4846

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<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>				
Project name	Evaluation of Land at Mortimers Lane, Foxton, Cambridgeshire			
Short description	Four trenches each 20m long were excavated on a green field site at Mortimers Lane, Foxton. The evaluation revealed evidence of a structure adjacent to the modern street front with evidence of garden plots and small-scale animal husbandry to the rear. There were also a series of depressions up to 5m wide that may be associated with the nearby medieval moated site. The majority of features dated to from the 1 <sup>st</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> century with some later activity.			
Project dates	Start	1/10/07	End	3/10/07
Previous work	Include HER numbers / report references		Future work	unknown
Associated project reference codes	AFU site code: FOX MOL 07 HER Event number: ECB 2737			
Type of project	Evaluation			
Site status	None			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Small enclosed field. Not under cultivation. No paddocks.			
Planned development	Residential			
Monument types / period (list all that apply)	Medieval, domestic.			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply)	mid to late medieval Pottery, animal bone, brick, glass. Post med. Structure			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>				
County	Cambridgeshire	Parish	Foxton	
HER for region	Cambridgeshire			
Site address (including postcode)	3 – 11 Mortimers Lane, Foxton, Cambridgeshire, CB22 6RR			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	0.26ha			
National grid reference	TL 4141 4846			
Height OD	Min OD	15.67m	Max OD	15.96m
<b>PROJECT ORIGINATORS</b>				
Organisation	CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Kasia Gdaniec			
Project design originator	Steve Macaulay			
Director/supervisor	Gareth Rees			
Project manager	Steve Macaulay			
Sponsor or funding body	Freeland Rees Roberts			
<b>ARCHIVES</b>		Location and accession number	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)	
Physical	CAMARC FOXMOL07		Pottery, animal bone, brick, glass	
Paper	CAMARC FOXMOL07		Site indices, context sheets, plans, photos.	
Digital	CAMARC FOXMOL07		Photos	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>				
Full title	Medieval Occupation on Land at Mortimers Lane, Foxton, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation			
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## **Summary**

Between the 1st and 3rd October 2007 CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council (formerly Archaeological Field Unit) conducted an archaeological evaluation on a disused plot of land between number 3 and 11, Mortimers Lane, Foxton in advance of the proposed development of three dwellings.

Four trenches each 20m long were excavated. All contained medieval archaeology. This included a structure adjacent to the modern street; to the west of this was evidence of domestic activity, small-scale animal husbandry and boundaries.

There were also a series of depressions up to 5m wide that may be associated with the nearby medieval moated site to the north. Activity dated from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century and indicated a continuous medieval use for this plot of land.

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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; Planning Application S/1674/04/O), supplemented by a Specification prepared by CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council.

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 West Melbury marly Chalk at an approximate height of 16mOD (British Geological Survey 2002). The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> terrace river gravels lie to the immediate north of the development site and the Hoffer Brook, a tributary of the River Cam runs 450m to the east of the site. Natural marly chalk deposits were encountered in all of the trenches at a depth of about 0.5m.

The site has an imperceptible slope from 16.33m O.D. in the west down to 16.04m O.D. in the eastern corner. The ground itself was covered with long grass, and a stand of young trees. A shed was situated in the northern corner of the development area, but was not disturbed by the trenching.

## 3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Foxton lies south of the River Cam, to the west of Hoffer Brook and to the east of Shepreth/Foxton Brook. Occupation of the river valleys in south-west Cambridgeshire is characterised in the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods by settlements paired on either side of a ford. Foxton and Barrington are an example of this type of settlement pattern.

The 1830s enclosure map (fig. 5) shows an 'L' shaped building just within the eastern boundary of the plot of land under investigation but by 1886 this no longer exists.

### **3.1 Prehistoric and Roman**

Prehistoric activity in Foxton dates back to the Palaeolithic. Axes dating to this period and to the Neolithic have been found to the south west of the village at West Hill (Malim 1990). Finds of bronze axes and the identification of a ring ditch to the west attest to later prehistoric activity in this vicinity.

The presence of extensive crop marks to the south and west suggest that a considerable prehistoric settlement existed. Archaeological investigation of these crop marks in 1993 has shown them to be part of a substantial Iron Age and Roman rural settlement (Herods Farm, Foxton - Macaulay 1995).

Roman finds have been located all around the south and west of the village and a mid Roman cemetery has also been excavated in this area (Maynard et al. 1994). These may be associated with the settlement at Herods Farm as well as with the villa discovered further to the west at Shepreth.

### **3.2 Saxon**

Early Saxon cemeteries have been found along the major river valleys in South Cambridgeshire (Malim & Hines 1998) and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been identified in the eastern part of the Cam valley at Foxton. Saxon burials are recorded on the CHER to the west (MCB4858) and southeast (MCB 4889) of the development site.

It is possible that the layout of the modern settlement dates back to this period. The town brook, or 'common stream', seen to the south of the village on aerial photographs, joins the Shepreth Brook in the west to the Hoffer Brook in the north east. This stream continued in use at least until the construction of the medieval moated site in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

### **3.3 Medieval**

The proposed development sites lies between the medieval parish church of St Lawrence (200m to the southwest) and the medieval moated manor of Mortimers Farm (MCB1619). The moat may have been fed by the town brook, the northern arm of which may have run down the south eastern side of Mortimers Lane before joining the moat and finally flowing into the Hoffer Brook.

The name Foxton is first mentioned in the Domesday survey as *Foxetune* (EPNS 1973), interpreted as 'Farm where foxes abound'. The name appears to have changed by 1396 to Foxston and again by 1549 to Faxton.



## 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 at least 5% of the development area should be subject to trial trenching. 4 trenches each 20m in length were excavated by machine (figure 2).

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

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 of 10 or 20 litres were taken from 11 features to investigate the possibility and quality of preservation of charred remains.

Site conditions were fine and dry and generally overcast, providing good circumstances for archaeological investigation and recording.

## 5 Results

Archaeological deposits were encountered across all of the excavated trenches. These were found below an undisturbed topsoil and subsoil of a depth of 0.5m. Features were concentrated near the modern road to the east and became more sparse to the west.

### 5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 (figure 3) was located to the south east of the site. It was aligned north east – south west. Its north western end was 5m from the modern road whilst its south eastern end was 12m from the road. Topsoil was 0.3m deep across the entire length and the subsoil was 0.2m deep at the south and 0.16m deep at the north

### 5.1.1 Structure

Context **15** was a surface made up of unworked chalk blocks up to 0.8m long and 0.3m wide (plate 1). The stones became smaller to the north east. The surface was 2.4m wide and aligned roughly north west – south east. This surface was located over a dark grey silty clay deposit (**83**) that maybe a bedding trench. This feature may have been a footing for a structure that continues to the north east or a surface in a no longer extant structure. The feature was unexcavated but 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery was retrieved from above the surface and 16<sup>th</sup> century from layer **83** below.

### 5.1.2 Ditches

The earliest ditch in this trench (**20/18**) was aligned north east south west and may represent activity prior to the laying out of plots in this area. Environmental samples from this feature produced evidence of cereals. All other ditches were on a north west – south east alignment. Ditches **22**, **27**, **29** and **35** ran roughly parallel to each other. They were between 0.2m and 0.3m deep and varied in width from 0.64m to 1.8m. Pottery from these ditches showed a spread of dates from the 10<sup>th</sup> century in **20** to the 19<sup>th</sup> century in **27**. Butchered cattle bones were retrieved from ditches **22** and **29** (plate 4) suggesting that they were being used for occasional domestic refuse disposal. The ditches may represent the cutting and re-cutting of a boundary between two house plots (figure 4, section 3). A sample from the 12<sup>th</sup> century ditch **35** produced charred remains of cereals whilst that from 13<sup>th</sup> century ditch **29** contained mussel shell but no cereal.

Ditch **24** contained early medieval pottery, bone and an iron nail (s.f.3) and ran roughly perpendicular to the road and truncated ditches **20** and **22**. It ran at a 25-degree angle to the other features in the trench. It had a flat based 'U' shaped profile suggesting that it may have been used as a foundation trench, perhaps for a boundary wall before being robbed out and disused. An environmental sample from this ditch produced cereals and a large quantity of mussel shell.

### 5.1.3 Pits

This trench contained two pits and a posthole. Pits **31** and **33** were both sub rounded, about 0.50m deep and 0.6m in diameter. They contained no finds but were cut by ditch **35**. They may be large structural postholes for an early building that faced on to the street.

Posthole **16** was 0.08m deep and cut early ditch **20**. This contained no finds. It was not associated with any other similar postholes in this trench. It may be associated with postholes **40**, **42**, **44** in trench 3.

## 5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the north of the site. It was aligned north west – south east roughly parallel with the hedged boundary to the site. Topsoil was 0.26m in the east rising to 0.36m deep in the west. The subsoil was 0.2m falling to 0.16m in the west. In this trench was a thick layer of re-deposited natural which sealed four archaeological features.

### 5.2.1 Re-deposited layer

Layer **13** filled a wide 'U' shaped depression about 0.2m deep and 7.1m wide. The deposit was a light greyish brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions very similar to the surrounding natural marly chalk. This feature may have been a ditch, pond or water management feature associated with the moated site about 75m to the north east that was backfilled with up-cast material once it fell out of use. This feature contained a single sherd of abraded prehistoric pottery.

### 5.2.2 Ditches

Ditch **4** was at the north western end of the trench (plate 2). Layer 13 did not overlie this ditch. It was 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep. Finds consisted of 10<sup>th</sup> to mid 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery. It was filled with a particularly dark grey brown deposit suggesting that it was left open and allowed to fill naturally with water lain and organic deposits. This was sampled and produced charred cereal remains.

Ditches **10** and **12** were sealed by layer **13**. They ran on roughly parallel courses north east – south west. Both were over 1m wide and up to 0.15m deep. They had a single mid grey brown chalky fills with very few inclusions. No finds were recovered from these contexts.

### 5.2.3 Postholes

Posthole **6** was also sealed by **13**. It was 0.21m in diameter and 0.05m deep. It was associated with a similar posthole 0.5m to the south east (**8**). This feature contained no finds.

Posthole **8** was 0.5m long by 0.35m wide and 0.07m deep. It was truncated by ditch **10**. This posthole may be the earliest feature in this trench however it contained no finds.

## 5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned north – south. It ran north from c.7m from the south – western boundary. The archaeology was spread across the whole length of this trench and appears to represent several phases of activity. The depth of topsoil increased from 0.1m in the south east to

0.3m in the north west. The subsoil depth also increased from 0.1m to 0.2m.

### **5.3.1 Ditches**

Ditch **38** entered the trench at the south and terminated after 0.95m. It was 0.2m wide and 0.1m deep. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Ditch **50** ran across the trench on a west south west – east north east alignment. It was 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep. No finds were recovered from this ditch.

Ditch **53** was parallel to **50** and was 3.70m wide and 0.4m deep. It contained abraded pottery, animal bone, brick, tile and a single iron nail (s.f.1). This assemblage and the ditches rounded profile imply that this ditch was open for sometime and may represent a major boundary. This feature was sampled and contained the charred remains of cereals.

Ditch **56** was re-cut along the line of **53** (figure 4, section 10). It was 2.4m wide and 0.6m deep. It contained un-abraded mid-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery and bone. Along the centre of the ditch was a loose fill (**14**) 0.3m wide by 0.3m deep. It was comprised of un-worked blocks of natural stone c.0.1m in diameter and contained pottery and bone. This may have acted as a drain around which the other fills of this ditch were backfilled.

To the north of this feature ditch **62** ran from north west to south east for 2.5m. It was 1.55m wide and 0.22m deep. It contained un-abraded pottery and bone. It was truncated by posthole **60** and pits **64** and **66** (figure 4, section 9).

At the far north of the trench ditch **68** ran for 3m on a north west – south east alignment. It was 0.3m deep but its width was truncated by re-cut **70**. Ditch **70** was 0.44m deep and excavated to a width of 0.6m, the northern edge being covered by the baulk. Pottery and animal bone were recovered from the ditch. No charred remains were present in the sample.

### **5.3.2 Pits**

Two of the pits in this trench were of similar rectilinear form. Pit **46** was 2m long by 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep. It contained no finds. Pit **66** was 1.5m long by 0.4m wide and 0.15m deep. The eastern extent of both lay under the baulk. This pit contained 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

Pit **48** was an irregularly shaped pit 1.75m long and 0.2m deep it contained no finds. The eastern extent of this feature also lay under the baulk.

Feature **58** was 0.7m wide, 0.2m deep and was 0.65m long. The western extent of the feature lay under the western baulk. This was an ovoid pit or ditch terminus that contained a dark blue grey fill. Its fill contained pottery dating from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century and samples produced a large quantity of charred remains.

Pit **64** was in the northern end of the trench and was cut into ditch **62**. It was 0.9m wide, 0.3m deep and sub-rounded in shape. It contained pottery and animal bone as well a single piece of flint. This pit was sampled for charred remains.

### **5.3.3 Postholes**

Postholes **40**, **42** and **44** were in a north – south alignment at the southern end of the trench (plate 3). **40** and **42** were 0.25m apart and **42** and **44** were 0.5m apart. All were sub-rounded c.0.1m in diameter and 0.03m to 0.06m in depth (figure 4, section 7). They may represent a fence line or ephemeral structure and may be associated with the postholes of similar dimensions in trench 1. There were no artefacts to produce dating for these features.

Posthole **60** was 0.08m deep and 0.25m wide. It was located 6.5m south of the northern baulk and 9m north of the posthole group (**40**, **42**, **44**). It cuts pit **58** and ditch **62**. No datable artefacts were recovered from this feature.

## **5.4 Trench 4**

This trench was on an east – west alignment at the west side of the site. It contained a low density of features concentrated at its western end. The topsoil was 0.3m thick in the west of the trench falling to 0.26m in the east. The subsoil was 0.3m at the western end and fell to 0.2m at the eastern end.

### **5.4.1 Pits**

Feature **72** was 5m wide and 0.26m deep. It contained pottery and bone dating to from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. The fill was a similar accumulation to layer **13** in trench 2. A sample from this pit contained cereals.

**76** was a linear cut that ran north to south across the trench. It was 1.38m wide and 0.14m deep. A sample provided evidence of cereals. Pits **80** and **82** were sub-rounded irregular shaped pits c.0.4m in

diameter. These were cut by pit **78**. This was 1.1m wide and 0.12m deep. All of these pits had flat bases. No datable artefacts were retrieved from them.

Feature **74** was a small pit or posthole 0.3m wide and 0.13m deep. It had steep sides and a rounded base. No dateable artefacts were recovered.

## **6 Discussion**

This evaluation has identified significant evidence for occupation from the middle 11<sup>th</sup> century AD and throughout the medieval period. Abraded sherds of St. Neots ware indicate residual 10<sup>th</sup> century activity also. Features dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries were present in all of the trenches excavated. In Trenches 2 and 4 these consisted of a gully and two large hollows all aligned roughly north east – south west. Given their alignment these may be best interpreted as the remnants of an access route to the manor. This would align with the high street just before it kinks to the south. A ditched path or hollow way on this alignment would have provided direct access from the manor site to the church and may relate to the earliest origins of St. Lawrence's.

Evidence from the east of the site indicates substantial and prolonged domestic activity with boundaries cut and re-cut over several generations. The presence of butchered animal remains and cereal supports this. It is likely that the surface/footing located in the east of the site in Trench 1 was that of the south western wall of the structure that appears on the 1830s enclosure map. Pottery from this area suggests a 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century origin for this building. The series of ditches to the south west of the building may indicate the location of the original boundary for this plot of land dating back to the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

Further to the south west the high density of pits and postholes in Trench 3 implies that this area may have been in the back yard or garden of another building. This activity dates from the early medieval period. It has been suggested that ditch **70** may relate to a water management system channelling the flow of the town brook into the 12<sup>th</sup> century moat to the north (Sanderson pers. comm.). Pottery dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> century in the base of this ditch may support this supposition however further investigation is needed to prove it.

## **7 Conclusions**

The evaluation has revealed the presence of fairly dense archaeological remains, predominantly dating to the medieval period, with activity present from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was not possible to identify the full extent of the features located. The structure may

continue to the north and west beyond the development area although it is likely that the majority of its length lies with this plot of land. The nature of the features in Trench 3 implies that they are on the periphery of another dwelling. Given the density of pits and postholes it is likely that this structure lies close to them within this plot.

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

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Freeland Rees Roberts who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Steve Macaulay. Kasia Gdaniec wrote the evaluation brief and Eliza Gore visited and monitored the site. Thanks for comment and advise from Rachel Clarke, Richard Mortimer and Rachel Fosberry. Thanks also go to, Daniel Wheeler, Will Punchard and Steve Graham for excavation assistance and to Louise Bush for producing the illustrations.

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

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## Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Coarse component	Shape in Plan
1	-		Layer	Natural		
2	-		Layer	Natural		
3	4	2	Fill	Ditch	Flint and chalk flecks (rare)	
4	4	2	Cut	Ditch		Linear
5	6	2	Fill	Posthole		
6	6	2	Cut	Posthole		Circular
7	8	2	Fill	Posthole		
8	8	2	Cut	Posthole		Circular
9	10	2	Fill	Ditch	Occ. Charcoal flecks	
10	10		Cut	Ditch		Linear
11	12	2	Fill	Ditch		
12	12	2	Cut	Ditch		Linear
13	-	2	Layer		Frequent chalk	
14	56	3	Fill	Ditch	90% natural stone	
15	-	1	Layer	Surface (external)	90% natural stone	
16	16	1	Cut	Posthole		Elliptical
17	16	1	Fill	Posthole	Occ. chalk lumps	
18	18	1	Cut	Ditch		Linear
19	18	1	Fill	Ditch	Occ. Chalky lumps and charcoal	
20	20	1	Cut	Ditch		Linear
21	20	1	Fill	Ditch	Occ. Lumps of chalk and charcoal	
22	22	1	Cut	Ditch		Linear
23	22	1	Fill	Ditch	Occ. Chalk lumps	
24	24	1	Fill	Ditch		Linear
25	24	1	Fill	Ditch	1% charcoal. Occ. Chalk	
26	24	1	Fill	Ditch	Occ. Chalk	
27	27	1	Cut	Ditch		Linear
28	27	1	Fill	Ditch		
29	29	1	Cut	Ditch		Linear
30	29	1	Fill	Ditch	Occ. Chalk	
31	31	1	Cut	Pit		?
32	31	1	Fill	Pit	60% chalk	

33	<b>33</b>	1	Cut	Pit		?
34	<b>33</b>	1	Fill	Pit	60% chalk	
35	<b>35</b>	1	Cut	Ditch		Linear
36	<b>35</b>	1	Fill	Ditch	Occ. Chalk	
37	<b>38</b>	3	Fill	Ditch	Occ. Chalk	
38	<b>38</b>	3	Cut	Ditch		Linear
39	<b>40</b>	3	Fill	Posthole	Occ. Chalk	
40	<b>40</b>	3	Cut	Posthole		Round
41	<b>42</b>	3	Fill	Posthole	Occ. Chalk	
42	<b>42</b>	3	Cut	Posthole		Round
43	<b>44</b>	3	Fill	Posthole	Occ. Chalk	
44	<b>44</b>	3	Cut	Posthole		Round
45	<b>46</b>		Fill	Pit	Occ. Chalk	
46	<b>46</b>	3	Cut	Pit		Rectangular
47	<b>48</b>	3	Fill	Pit		
48	<b>48</b>	3	Cut	Pit		Irregular
49	<b>50</b>	3	Fill	Ditch	Occ. chalk	
50	<b>50</b>	3	Cut	Ditch		Linear
51	<b>53</b>	3	Fill	Ditch		
52	<b>53</b>	3	Fill	Ditch	Occ. Chalk	
53	<b>53</b>	3	Cut	Ditch		Linear
54	<b>56</b>	3	Fill	Ditch	Occ. Grit and chalk.	
55	<b>56</b>	3	Fill	Ditch	Occ. Chalk	
56	<b>56</b>	3	Cut	Ditch		Linear
57	<b>58</b>	3	Fill	Pit		
58	<b>58</b>	3	Cut	Pit		Ovoid
59	<b>60</b>	3	Fill	Posthole	Occ. Chalk	
60	<b>60</b>	3	Cut	Posthole		Round
61	<b>62</b>	3	Fill	Ditch	Occ. Grit	
62	<b>62</b>	3	Cut	Ditch		Linear
63	<b>64</b>	3	Fill	Pit	Occ. grit, charcoal, chalk	
64	<b>64</b>	3	Cut	Pit		Round
65	<b>66</b>	3	Fill	Pit	Occ. grit, charcoal	
66	<b>66</b>	3	Cut	Pit		Rectangular
67	<b>68</b>	3	Fill	Ditch		
68	<b>68</b>	3	Cut	Ditch		Linear
69	<b>70</b>	3	Fill	Ditch	Occ. Grit	
70	<b>70</b>	3	Cut	Ditch		Linear
71	<b>72</b>	4	Fill	Pit		
72	<b>72</b>		Cut	Pit		Linear
73	<b>74</b>	4	Fill	Posthole		

74	<b>74</b>	4	Cut	Posthole		Round
75	<b>76</b>	4	Fill	Pit		
76	<b>76</b>	4	Cut	Pit		Linear
77	<b>78</b>	4	Fill	Pit		
78	<b>78</b>	4	Cut	Pit		Round
79	<b>80</b>	4	Fill	Pit		
80	<b>80</b>	4	Cut	Pit		Ovoid
81	<b>82</b>	4	Fill	Pit		
82	<b>82</b>	4	Cut	Pit		Ovoid
83	-	1	Layer	Surface (external)	Occ. chalk	
84	<b>85</b>	1	Fill	Pit	60% chalk	
85	<b>85</b>	1	Cut	Pit		Ovoid

## Appendix 2: Post Roman Pottery

by Carole Fletcher

### 1 Introduction and Background

The evaluation at Mortimers Lane, Foxton, Cambridgeshire produced a small pottery assemblage of 94 sherds, weighing 1.416kg. The material from the topsoil and any unstratified material are included in these totals.

Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the following text and dating table are:

CSTN	Cistercian ware
COLST	Colchester type ware
CREA	Creamware
DNEOT	Developed St Neots ware
EMEMS	Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware
FREC	Frechen stoneware
GBASS	Glazed Basalt ware
HEDI	Sible Hedingham
LMR	Late medieval reduced ware
LUST	Lustre ware
MEL	Medieval Ely ware
MEMS	Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware
METTS	Metropolitan type slipware
NEOT	St Neots ware
PEARL	Pearlware
PMR	Post-medieval Red wares
RFWE	Refined Earthenware
SGW	Sandy Grey ware (Roman)
SHW	Shelly ware
THET	Thetford ware
TRAN	Transitional Redwares
YELL	Yellow ware

### 2 Methodology

The basic guidance in the Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2) has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991). In addition the Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents Guidance for the processing and publication of medieval pottery from excavations (Blake and Davey, 1983), A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms (MPRG, 1998) and Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.

Dating was carried out using CAM ARC's in-house system based on that previously 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.

The pottery and archive are curated by CAM ARC until formal deposition.

### **3 The Assemblage**

Fieldwork generated a small assemblage of 93 sherds weighing 1.416kg from 85 contexts; with an average sherd weight of approximately 15g this moderate sherd weight is due mainly to the presence of PMR sherds. The assemblage consists of an almost equal mixture of unabraded, moderately abraded and abraded pottery. The majority of the unabraded material is late 18th or early 19th century recovered from context 28 which would appear to represent the latest activity on the site. Context 15 was dated to the 17th century and produced material that included sherds of METTS and FREC, while context 83, which contained only a single sherd of CSTN was dated to the 16th century.

The earliest material present is a sherd of flint and sand tempered pottery of indeterminate date, though likely to be prehistoric, recovered from context 13. A single sherd of Roman SGW pottery was recovered as a residual element in a mid 12th-13th-century context. There are a number periods represented in the assemblage these include early medieval, medieval and post medieval materials.

Six contexts in the pottery assemblage contain mainly undiagnostic sherds of late Saxon-early medieval material; these may date from as early as the 10th or as late as the 12th century. A single context 51 is more closely dated to the early medieval period and the presence of EMEMS in this context and further sherds present in other later contexts suggests that this part of the assemblage may be early medieval rather than late Saxon. A further six contexts span the 13th or 13th and 14th centuries; the fabrics present in these contexts are DNEOT, MEL, MEMS, HEDI and the earlier EMEMS. Only two glazed medieval sherds were recovered from these contexts the thumb base of a MEL jug and a very small sherd from a HEDI jug. The remaining contexts represent the 15th, 16th, 17th and 19th century assemblage.

Fabrics from Essex are common in the assemblage in the 11th and, 13th-14th centuries with EMEMS, HEDI and MEMS. The 15th and 16th fabrics include COLST, TRAN and PMR sherds it is unclear if the TRAN and PMR fabrics are Essex or Cambridgeshire products as Ely also produces redwares in this period. The assemblage contains mainly jars with only a single jug sherd recovered from the 13th-14th century contexts. The jars are present in almost all fabrics throughout

the assemblage and are the most common form in all centuries except the 19th where bowls are the predominant form.

The number of 17th, 18th and 19th century contexts are too small to draw clear conclusions about provenance other than to say they appear to follow the common pattern for this region. That is to say new fabrics and forms appear from further outside the region including the importation of continental stonewares and as transportation and communication improve in the 18th century the pots from the earthenware industries of the midlands become common.

#### **4 Discussion**

The assemblage is small, few features have more than one context containing pottery and the majority of contexts produced no pottery. This has made the assemblage difficult to assess beyond providing dating information. Dating has however indicated early medieval activity on the site, unfortunately much of the material of this date is abraded having been reworked and redeposited, it may not therefore accurately date the features from which it was recovered. However the presence of this material is important in indicating activity on or close to the site from the mid 11th century onwards. There is also a low level of medieval domestic activity across the site and the pottery suggests a continuation of this activity into the 16th, 17th and 19th centuries.

#### **Bibliography**

- |   |              |  |
|---|--------------|--|
| Blake, H and Davey,<br>P.<br>English Heritage | 1983<br>1991 | Guidelines for the Processing and Publications<br>of Medieval Pottery from Excavations.<br>Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic<br>Buildings_Occasional_Paper 5<br>MAP2 |
| Medieval Pottery<br>Research Group            | 1998         | A Guide to the Classification of Medieval<br>Ceramic Forms.<br>Medieval Pottery Research Group<br>Occasional Paper I   |

**Dating**

Context	Fabric	Form	Number of sherds	Weight in kg	Date Range for context
3	NEOT		1	0.002	10th to mid 12th century
13	Flint & sand temp		1	0.003	Prehistoric
15	FREC		1	0.042	17th century
	TRAN		1	0.010	
	METTS	Bowl	19	0.233	
	PMR	Bowl	8	0.279	
	PMR	Jar	1	0.036	
21	NEOT		1	0.026	10th to mid 12th century
23	COLST	Jug	3	0.152	15th to mid 16th century
	LMR		1	0.012	
26	DNEOT	Jar	3	0.057	13th to mid 14th century
	EMEMS		2	0.006	
	EMEMS	Jar	1	0.031	
	EMEM shell dusted		1	0.005	
	MEL	Jar	3	0.011	
	NEOT	Jar	1	0.007	
28	GBAS	Lid	1	0.008	19th century
	LUST		3	0.013	
	PEARL	Plate	3	0.042	
	PMR	Bowl	4	0.165	
	RFWE	Bowl	1	0.035	
	RFWE	Lids	1	0.005	
	YELL	Bowl	3	0.056	
	EMEMS	Jar	1	0.014	
30	MEL	Jug	1	0.021	13th century
	Unknown		1	0.024	
36	NEOT		1	0.003	10th -mid 12th century
	THET		2	0.006	
51	CREA	Plate	1	0.003	mid 11th to mid 12th century (intrusive CREA)
	EMEMS		1	0.004	
	NEOT		1	0.002	
	NEOT	Jar	1	0.005	
54	HEDI	Jug	2	0.002	early 15th century
	MEMS		1	0.004	
	TRAN/PMR		2	0.017	
57	NEOT		1	0.001	10th to mid 12th century
61	DNEOT		1	0.003	13th to mid 14th century
	MEMS	Jar	1	0.007	
63	DNEOT		1	0.002	mid 12th to mid 14th century
	NEOT		1	0.001	

Context	Fabric	Form	Number of sherds	Weight in kg	Date Range for context
	SGW (Rom)		1	0.003	
	SHW		1	0.005	
65	EMEMS/MEMS	Jar	1	0.003	13th to mid 14th century
	HEDI	Jug	1	0.001	
69	EMEMS	Jar	2	0.015	13th century
	MEMS	Jar	1	0.007	
71	NEOT		1	0.008	10th to mid 12th century
	THET	Jar	1	0.008	
	THET		1	0.01	
83	CSTN	Drinking Vessel	1	0.004	16th century



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## Appendix 3: Faunal Remains

by Chris Faine

### 1 Introduction

A total of 26 “countable” bones were recovered from the Mortimers Lane site with 38 fragments being unidentifiable to species (59.3% of the total sample). Faunal remains were obtained from 16 contexts, with 8 of these containing no identifiable elements (**3, 15, 19, 28, 57, 61, 63 & 65**). The condition of the assemblage is extremely good, with the majority of fragmentation being attributed to butchery rather than any taphonomic processes.

### 2 Methodology

All elements identifiable to species and over 25% complete were included in the quantification. 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.

Any instances of butchery were also noted and 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.

### 3 The Assemblage

With the exception of context **71** all identifiable material was recovered from ditch contexts. These consisted almost entirely of butchered domestic mammal remains. Context **18** contained portions of butchered sheep/goat lumbar vertebrae, tibiae and an intact mandible from an animal around 1- 1½ years of age. Context **23** contained a number of butchered horse lumbar vertebrae and astragali, along with a single cattle metacarpal and maxilla (plate 4). Further horse remains were recovered from context **26** in the form of intact 1<sup>st</sup> phalange, along with portions of sheep/goat and cattle metatarsals. The remaining contexts (**36, 51, 54, 69 & 71**) contained a variety of butchered cattle remains, largely consisting of long bone fragments from adult animals.

#### **4 Conclusions and Recommendations**

Due to the extremely small sample size few conclusions can be drawn. What can be said is that the assemblage most likely represents general domestic or settlement waste. Whilst a larger sample would help clarify the nature of animal exploitation at the site, no further work is required on the assemblage at this stage.

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Dobney, K & Reilly, K. 1988. A method for recording archaeological animal bones: the use of diagnostic zones. *Circaea* 5(2): 79-96

Grant, A. 1982. The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates. In B. Wilson, C. Grigson & S. Payne (eds.) *Ageing and sexing animal bones from archaeological sites*. Oxford: BAR British Series 199.

Hambelton, E. 2000. A method for converting Grant mandible wear stages to Payne style wear stages in sheep, cow and pig. In Millard, A (eds.) *Archaeological Sciences 1997. Proceedings of the conference held at the University of Durham*. BAR International Series 939.

## Appendix 4: Environmental Remains

by Rachel Fosberry

### 1 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.

The plant remains are dominated by the grains of cereals, mostly wheat. Occasional seeds of wild taxa are also present. All samples contained modern rootlets along with other modern plant material.

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 on Table x.

### 2 Results

The results are recorded on Table x.

Sample No.	Context No.	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Pot	Bone	Mussel shell
1	51	15+		+	+	-
2	63	5+		-	+	-
3	69	2-		+	+	-
4	57	30++		+	+	-
5	3	40+		+	+	-
6	71	20+		-	-	-
7	75	10+		-	-	-
8	19	40+		+	+	+
9	25	20+		-	+	++
10	36	1+		+	+	-
11	30	5-		-	-	+

Table x: Environmental Samples from FOX MOL 07

Preservation is by charring and is generally poor to moderate. Charcoal fragments are present in all of the samples in small quantities and modern contaminants in the form of rootlets and numerous snail shells are present in most of the samples.

Cereal grains are present in small quantities in all but two of the samples. Their compact, rounded morphology suggest that they are free-threshing wheat grains.

Fragments of animal bone, small pottery sherds and fragments of Mussel (*Mytilus* sp.) shells were present in many of the residues.

### **3 Conclusions and recommendations**

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

The other remains of pottery and dietary refuse along with the charred grain are probably derived from the deposition of small quantities of burnt domestic refuse.

No further work on this assemblage is required.

#### **Key to Tables**

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

## Drawing Conventions

### Plans

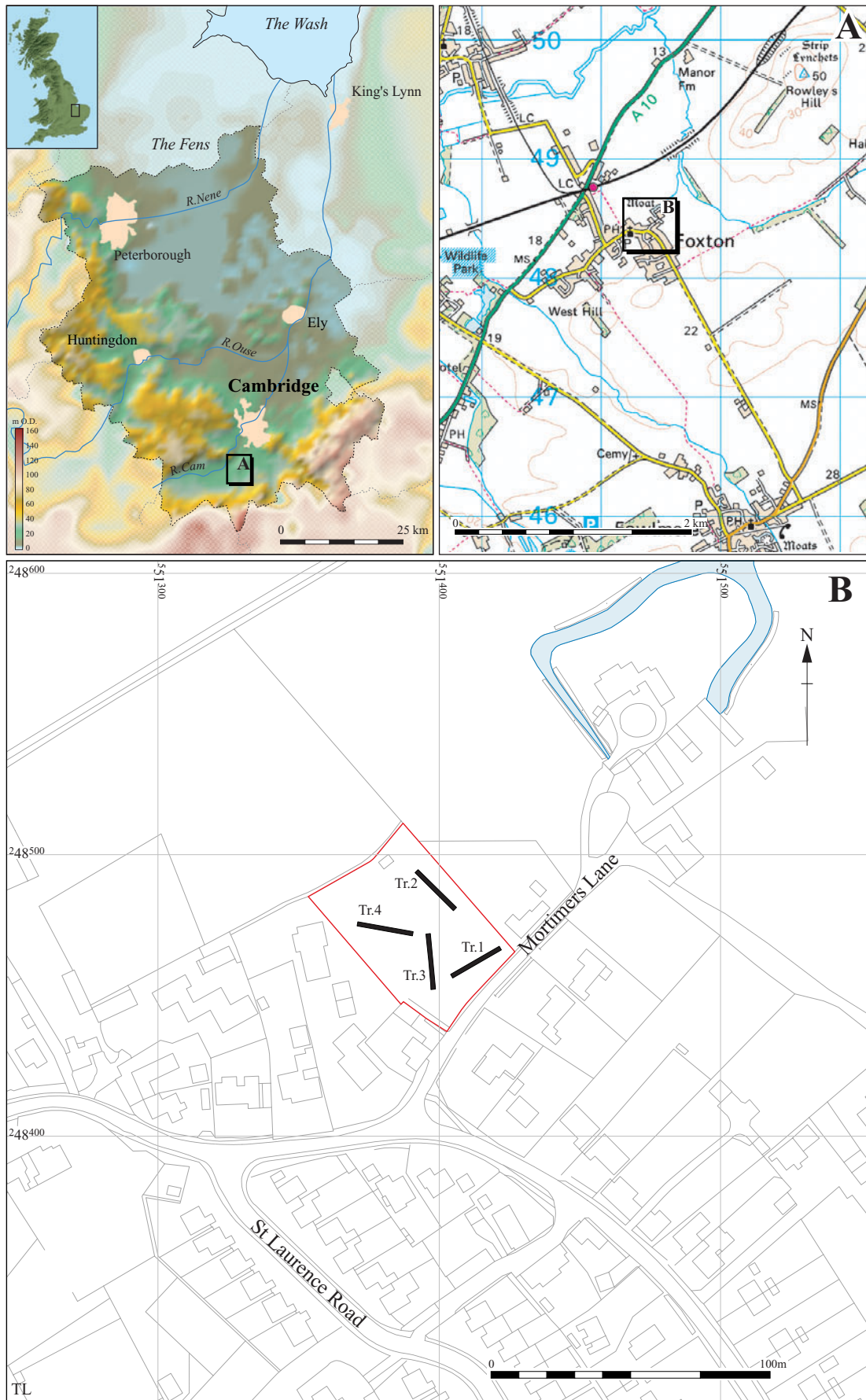
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Deposit - Conjectured	
Intrusion/Truncation	
Sondages/Machine Strip	
Illustrated Section	S.14

Archaeology	<div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid black;"></div>
Excavated Slot	<div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #cccccc; border: 1px solid black;"></div>
Deposit	<div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #90ee90; border: 1px solid black;"></div>
Modern	<div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #6699cc; border: 1px solid black;"></div>
Cut Number	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">118</span>

### Sections

Limit of Excavation	
Cut	
Cut - Conjectured	
Soil Horizon	
Soil Horizon - Conjectured	
Top of Natural	
Top Surface	
Break in Section	
Cut Number	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">118</span>
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	$\frac{18.45\text{m OD}}{\times}$

Figure 1: Convention key



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Figure 2: Location of trenches (black) with the development area outlined (red)

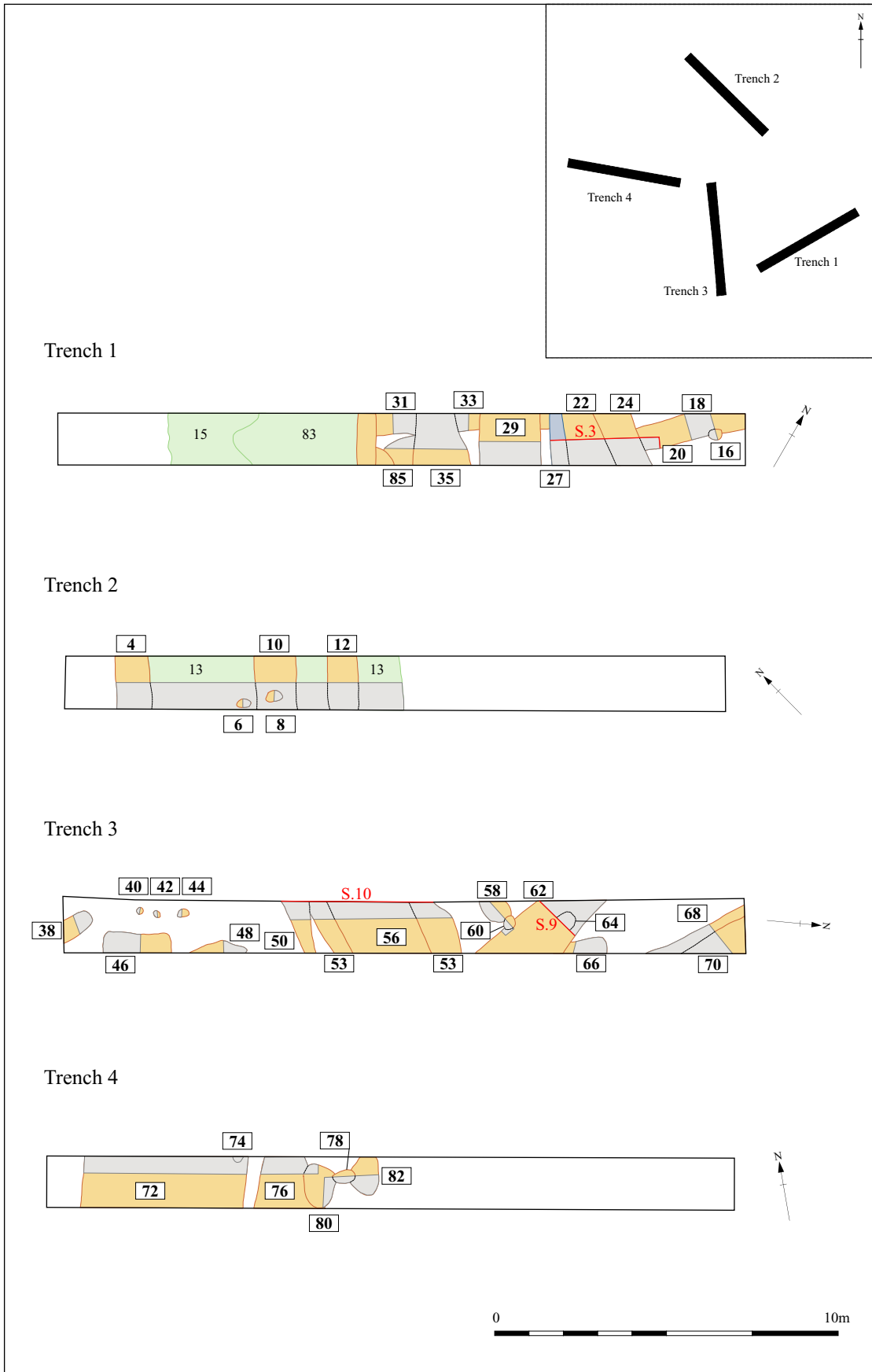


Figure 3: Trench plans

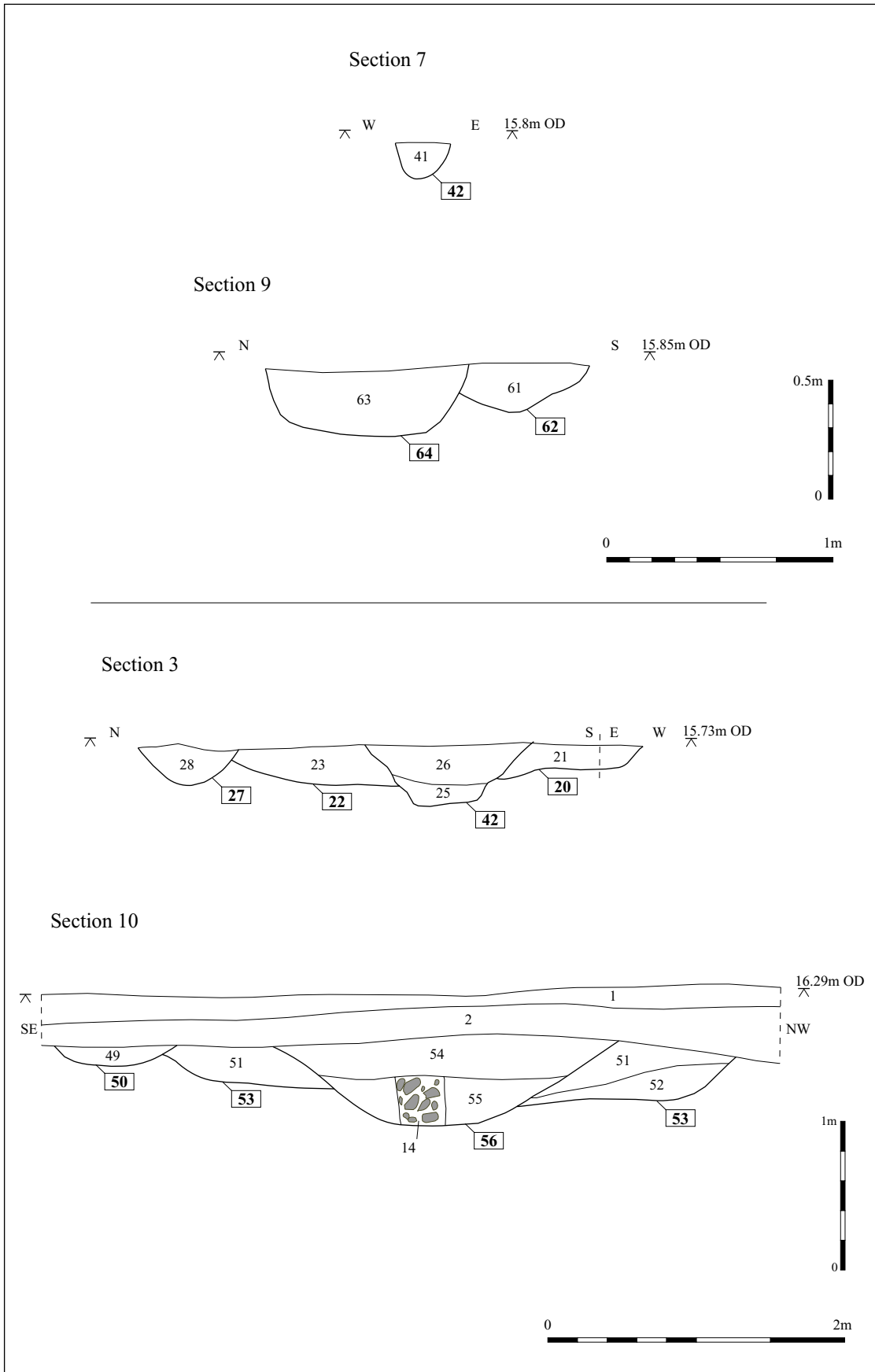


Figure 4: Sections



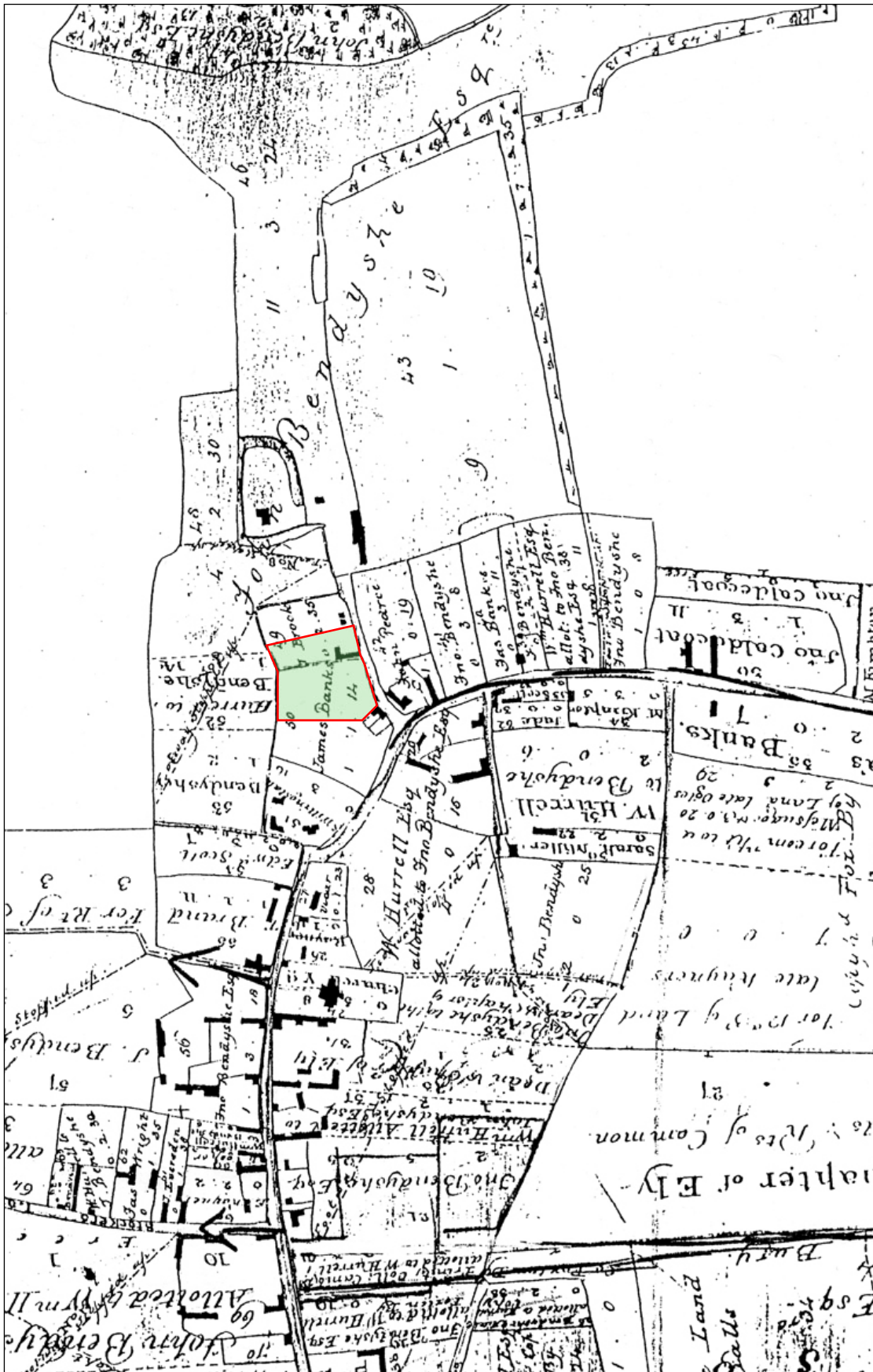


Figure 5: Extract from 1830 enclosure map



Plate 1: Structural remains (Trench 1)



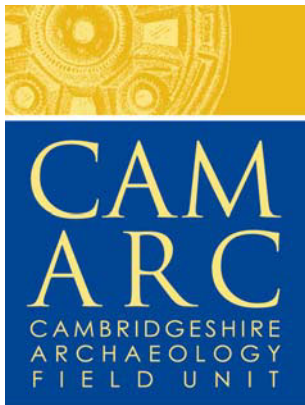
Plate 2: Section through boundary ditch facing south-west (Trench 2)



*Plate 3: Postholes facing north (Trench 3)*



*Plate 4: Butchered domestic animal bones showing, left an adult cattle metatarsal (23) and right an adult cattle humerus (30)*



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