



CAM ARC Report Number 1015

Medieval Occupation at Oundle Rd, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

Thomas Lyons

June 2008

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Rd, Peterborough,
Cambridgeshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

Thomas Lyons BA

With contributions by Rachel Fosberry and Carole
Fletcher

Site Code: PET GOR 08

Date of works: 25th – 29th February 2008

Grid Ref: TL 1859 9789

Status	Draft/Approved		
Author	Thomas Lyons		
Checked By	James Drummond-Murray		
Authorised By	James Drummond-Murray		

Editor: James Drummond-Murray BA MIFA

Illustrator: Gillian Greer BSc MAAIS

CAM ARC OASIS Report Form

OASIS Number:

PROJECT DETAILS				
Project name	Guild House, Oundle rd, Peterborough.			
Short description	<p>Between the 25th and 28th of February 2008 CAM ARC carried out an archaeological evaluation on the site of the Guild House, Oundle Road, Peterborough. The majority of the proposed development area contained a large office block and associated car parks. To the south of the building was an area of open grassland which sloped down from the road to the building. 150m of trial trenches were excavated with five 25m trenches opened to the south of the building and one other 25m trench to the north of the building.</p> <p>The area of the building had been lowered resulting in truncation of natural geology, original soil sequences and archaeological remains on the northern half of the grass slope. On the southern half, towards the road, a greater depth of stratigraphy was present with some 19th and 20th Century truncation. Beneath this material were archaeological features beneath original soil sequences.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed evidence for Medieval and Post-Medieval occupation in the form of pits, postholes ditches and a possible limestone wall. Pottery was recovered from nearly all features. This included Stamford Ware (850-1250), Shelly Wares (1150-1350) and one sherd of Thetford Ware (875-1150).</p>			
Project dates	Start	25/2/2008	End	28/2/2008
Previous work	none		Future work	yes
Associated project reference codes	PET GOR 08			
Type of project	Evaluation – targeted trenches			
Site status	none			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Office building and associated land			
Planned development	Housing			
Monument types / period (list all that apply)				
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply)	Pottery			
PROJECT LOCATION				
County	Cambridgeshire	Parish	Peterborough	
HER for region	e.g. Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Bedfordshire			
Site address (including postcode)	Guild House, Oundle Road, Peterborough. PE2 9PW			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	1.5ha			
National grid reference	TL 1859 9789			
Height OD	Min OD	7.77m	Max OD	9m
PROJECT ORIGINATORS				
Organisation	CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Ben Robinson			
Project design originator	James Drummond Murray			
Director/supervisor	Thomas Lyons			
Project manager	James Drummond-Murray			
Sponsor or funding body				
ARCHIVES				
	Location and accession number		Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)	
Physical	Cambs County Store		Pottery, animal bone	
Paper	Cambs County Store		Plans & sections. Ceramic & environmental reports	
Digital	CAM ARC		Digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY				
Full title	Medieval Occupation at Oundle Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation.			
Author(s)	Thomas Lyons			
Report number	1015			
Series title and volume				
Page numbers				
Date	June 2008			

Summary

Between the 25th and 28th of February 2008 CAM ARC carried out an archaeological evaluation on the site of the Guild House, Oundle Road, Peterborough. The majority of the proposed development area contained a large office block and associated car parks. To the south of the building was an area of open grassland which sloped down from the road to the building. 150m of trial trenches were excavated with five 25m trenches opened to the south of the building and one other 25m trench to the north of the building.

The area of the building had been lowered resulting in truncation of natural geology, original soil sequences and archaeological remains on the northern half of the grass slope. On the southern half, towards the road, a greater depth of stratigraphy was present with some 19th and 20th Century truncation. Beneath this material were archaeological features beneath original soil sequences.

The evaluation revealed evidence for medieval and post-medieval occupation in the form of pits, postholes ditches and a possible limestone wall. Pottery was recovered from nearly all features. This included Stamford Ware (850-1250AD), Shelly Wares (1150-1350AD) and one sherd of Thetford Ware (875-1150AD).

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1 Introduction

This archaeological Evaluation was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation Brief (approved by Ben Robinson of the Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service) produced by Halcrow, supplemented by a Specification prepared by CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council (formerly Archaeological Field Unit).

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service, 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 second terrace river gravels (British Geological Survey 1984).

3 Archaeological Background

Evaluation and excavation in advance of the Riverside retail Park on Oundle Road to the west of the site (TL1792 9751) revealed ditches pits and postholes. Most of these were undated. However a large rectangular post built structure was excavated. It measured 13m by 7m and consisted of around fifty postholes. No dating evidence was recovered from the structure although it is shown to be similar in form and dimensions to excavated structures at Langdale Heath, Earith (Roman) and West Fen Road, Ely (Saxon) (Pattern 2003).

Evaluation in advance of development at the former British Sugar factory revealed circular buildings, a ditch and post holes. No dateable material was recovered; the excavator interpreted it as probable Iron Age archaeology but it is conceivably Saxon and possible associated with the Saxon and Medieval village of Botolph Bridge to the west (Casa Hatton 2001)

Prehistoric

A scatter of flint artefacts including two hand axes and two flakes were found to the south of the site (HER 1795; TL 1850 9750).

Saxon & Medieval

A possible Saxon settlement is located to the south of the site (TL 189 974). Structures and associated pottery were recovered.

A Saxon urn with an iron knife was found immediately south of the site in the 19th Century (SMR 8181; TL 1860 9780) suggesting a cemetery in the immediate vicinity.

A Medieval coin hoard was discovered to the south of the site. 16 coins dating between the 12th to 14th Centuries AD were recovered (HER 1643; TL 1850 9750).

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 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.

Two environmental samples were taken from fills with significant amounts of burnt clay.

5 Results

Trenches 1 to 5 were located in the southern part of the proposed development area, between the Guild House and Oundle Road. Trenches 1, 2 and 3 were parallel and orientated north south while Trenches 4 and 5 were orientated east west next to Oundle Road. All trenches were excavated to natural geology, which varied in depth, or

where archaeology was encountered. The north south orientations of Trenches 1-3 revealed the differing depths of stratigraphy between Oundle Road and the Guild House. During construction of the latter, the land to the north of Oundle Road, close to the building, appears to have been truncated in order to lessen the gradient from the road to the building and level the area for construction. Some of this material might well have been deposited immediately to the north of the road, as there was a greater relative depth of stratigraphy in the south ends of Trenches 1-3 and Trenches 4 and 5.

Unless stated otherwise, all fills of features were a uniform mid brownish silty clay. This was moderate to firm in consistency.

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located on the west side of the proposed development area and was 25m long. At the north end the trench depth was 0.3m where the ground had been truncated; at the south end it was 0.7m where modern material had raised the ground level.

'Wall'

At the south end of the trench was a spread of limestone masonry (1067) 0.7m below ground level. Above this was a layer of subsoil, 0.12m thick (1023), which sealed the masonry and is presumed to have immediately post-dated its use. This contained several sherds of 11th and 12th Century AD pottery. Above 1023 was a subsoil layer (1001), which contained relatively modern material (including reinforced concrete), below a topsoil layer, 0.3m deep. 1067 was present across the width of the trench (1.8m) and extended 1.5m from the south end of the trench. It had been slightly disturbed by the presence of modern concrete and suffered slight damage during its discovery by machine. However, the majority of 1067 was solid and appeared in-situ. A silty clay soil matrix (1024) was present between the stones which produced a single sherd of medieval shelly ware (12th to 14th Century AD). The masonry was broadly orientated east-west although no construction cut was visible in plan or section. On the east side, almost against the trench edge two flat edged stones appeared to indicate a possible end or corner to the putative wall.

Pits

Three large pits were present in the southern half of Trench 1, **1035, 1037 and 1010.**

Pit **1035** was 3m in diameter and excavated to a depth of 0.4m from the machined level but not bottomed. It appeared circular in plan although it extended beneath both sides of the trench. The fill (1034) contained sherds of Grimstone Ware, Shelly Ware and residual Stamford Ware pottery, giving it a date range between 1250 and 1350 AD. Cut in to the top of Pit **1035**, beneath the west-facing baulk, was Pit **1066**. This was 0.8m in diameter and 0.25m deep; its fill (1065) contained no dateable material (Section 1).

Pit **1037** was sub-circular and located 6m from the south end of the trench. It was nearly 3m in length, 1m wide and excavated to a depth of 1.05m whereupon natural geology was encountered. Its edges were very steep and undercut in places. The primary fill (1064) contained one sherd of Shelly Ware and one residual sherd of Thetford Ware, giving a likely date range of between 1200 and 1350 AD.

Pit **1010** was circular and located 10m from the south end of the trench. It was nearly 2.5m in diameter and excavated to a depth of 0.09m whereupon natural geology was encountered. Its fill (1009) contained Glazed medieval pottery and residual Stamford Ware, giving a date range between 1200 and 1350 AD.

Two further pits remain unexcavated between pits **1035** and **1037**. Pit **1077** was partially visible in plan (0.3m) against the east-facing baulk, 5m from the south end of the Trench. It gave a relative chronology for Pits **1035** and **1037** as it was cut by the former and truncated the latter. Pit **1075** was circular and located 5.5m from the south end of the Trench. It was 0.8m in diameter and cut by Pit **1037** on its northwest side.

Three further shallow pits were excavated to the south and west of Pit **1010**. All remain undated and contained no artefacts.

Pit **1016** was sub circular, 0.5m long and 0.3m wide and 0.09m deep.

Pit **1014** was circular, 0.5m in diameter and 0.08m deep.

Pit **1012** was circular, although it was only partially visible in plan with the remainder of the feature beneath the west-facing baulk and the west edge of the feature cut by Pit **1010**. It was 1.2m in diameter and 0.1m deep.

One linear feature was revealed in the trench, **1099**. This was 13m from the south end of the trench and orientated east-west. It was 1m wide and 0.15m deep. Its fill was of redeposited sandy clay and it is presumably equivalent to **1059** in Trench 2.

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the centre of the proposed development area and was 25m long. At the north end the trench depth was 0.2m where the ground had been truncated; at the south end it was 0.9m where modern material had raised the ground level.

Linear Features

Feature **1063** was orientated north-south and revealed in plan for a total length of 4.5m from the south end of the Trench whereupon it terminated with a square end. A length of 0.75m was excavated at the north terminal. It was 0.8m wide and 0.1m deep and appeared to be a truncated ditch. Its fill (1062) contained a sherd of Stamford Ware with a date range of between 850-1150 AD. Extending west beneath the east-facing baulk, 2m from the south end of the trench, was a possible return of this ditch.

Feature **1057** was orientated east west and located 11m from the south end of the trench. It terminated just short of the west facing baulk and extended beneath the east facing baulk. A length of 0.75m was excavated at the terminal. It was 0.25m wide and 0.06m deep and contained a single sherd of Stamford Ware.

Feature **1059** was orientated east-west and located 14.5m from the south end of the trench. A length of 0.75m was excavated against the east-facing baulk. It was 1m wide and 0.12m deep and contained a single sherd of medieval pottery with a date range of 1200-1350 AD. This Feature is assumed to be equivalent to **1099** in Trench 1.

Postholes

Post hole **1027** was located 6.5m from the south end of the trench at the west facing baulk, where half of it was visible in plan. It was 0.2m in diameter and 0.15m deep (Section 2) and contained two packing stones up to 0.14m in length. Above it was subsoil layer 1025 which appeared to seal the post hole fill 1026. Above 1025 was a 0.1m thick layer of modern soil and building rubble (including reinforced concrete) that presumably represents truncation by post medieval and modern buildings. Above this was 0.4m of modern topsoil.

Posthole **1061** was located almost 10m from the north end of the trench. It appeared sub circular in plan although it was only

partially visible as it had been cut by Feature **1059** on its south side. It was 0.3m in diameter and 0.15m deep.

5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located on the east side of the proposed development area and was 25m long. At the north end the trench depth was 0.22m; at the south end it was 0.75m

Pits and Postholes

Three pits were present in the northern 15m of the Trench, **1018**, **1022** and **1079**.

Pit **1022** was located 12m from the northern end of the trench. It appeared sub rectangular in plan although it extended beneath the east-facing trench baulk. It was 1.5m in length and was 0.28m deep. Its fill (1021) was a friable silty clay which contained burnt or slightly fired clay. A 10 litre environmental sample was taken from this deposit (sample no.2). The clay was visible in the south facing section but was not present in the east facing baulk section of the trench.

Pit **1018** was located 8m from the north end of the trench. It appeared sub circular in plan although it extended beneath the east facing trench baulk. It was 3.5m long, 1.5m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.54m but was not bottomed. Its fill (1017) was a friable silty clay and contained a range of Late medieval pottery dating from 1450AD onwards.

Pit **1079** was located 8m from the south end of the trench and remains unexcavated. It was 1m in length and appeared sub circular in plan although it extended beneath the east facing baulk and lay beneath a trench step covering a sewer pipe.

Three Postholes were present in the trench; two were close to the north end while the third was located 12m from the north end of the Trench, immediately adjacent to Pit **1022**.

Posthole **1053** was located 2.5m from the north end of the trench, against the east facing Trench baulk. It was 0.6m in diameter and 0.13m deep.

Posthole **1051** was located 3m from the north end of the trench. It was circular in plan, although it was cut on its south side by Feature **1041**, and was 0.6m in diameter and 0.06m deep.

Posthole **1020** was located immediately adjacent to Pit **1022**. It was circular, 0.5m in diameter and 0.16m deep. It was filled by

a friable silty clay (1019) which contained a single sherd of medieval pottery with a date range between 1050-1400 AD.

Linear Features

Feature **1069** occupied much of the first 6m of the southern end of the trench. It was orientated broadly north south but ran slightly oblique to the edge of the trench. An investigative slot, 1m by 0.75m, was dug on its edge which revealed a gently sloping profile with a possible posthole or greater depth of fill at the east facing section face.

Feature **1039** was located 5m from the north end of the trench and orientated east west. A length of 0.7m was excavated against the east facing Trench baulk. It was 0.7m wide and 0.16m deep and contained no artefacts or dateable material (Section 5).

In the same excavation slot as Feature **1039** was Feature **1041**. The shape and function of this feature was not ascertained. The excavated slot was 1m by 0.7m. Its fill (1040) was a greyish brown silty clay that contained some burnt and slightly fired clay. A 10 litre environmental sample was taken from this deposit (Sample 1). Immediately to the east of Features **1039** and **1041** was an area of fill that was 3m wide at the west facing baulk that almost certainly contained more features than those recorded.

Feature **1079** was located 10m from the south end of the trench and remains unexcavated. It appeared circular or sub-circular in plan although much of the feature seemed to be beyond the east facing trench baulk and beneath a trench step left high to protect a sewer pipe. What was visible was 1m by 0.6m.

5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located against the southern limit of the proposed development area, on the east side, and was 25m long. At the east end the trench depth was 0.38m; at the west end it was 1.18m.

The eastern 10m of the trench contained several modern features and intrusions. It was excavated to a level where these features were visible; this was a mixed sandy clay which was probably a mixed and redeposited subsoil. For the remainder of the trench length this material was removed and the natural clay geology exposed. The deeper north facing section (Section 9) shows a buried topsoil and associated subsoils beneath several modern redeposited silt and sand layers. A large amount of reinforced concrete was found at approximately 0.7m beneath the current ground level throughout the western half of the trench, just above the original ground surface.

Pits and Postholes

Several archaeological features were visible in plan in the western half of the trench where the overburden had been completely removed.

Postholes **1043** and **1045** were immediately adjacent to each other and excavated along the same section face (Section 7). The former was 0.23m in diameter and 0.1m deep while the latter was 0.24m in diameter and 0.26m deep. Neither Posthole contained any artefacts or dateable material.

Posthole **1029** was 0.13m in diameter and 0.16m deep. Its fill was a greyish brown friable silty clay that contained a single sherd of medieval pottery with a date range from 1150-1400 AD.

Pit **1033** was located at the north facing trench baulk. It was sub-circular and 0.6m in diameter and 0.03m deep. Its fill (1032), a greyish brown silty clay, contained two small sherds of undateable pottery.

Pit **1031** was sub circular. It was 0.5m in diameter and 0.04m deep, although it was cut by Pit **1093** on its northern side. Its fill contained a single sherd of Stamford Ware pottery (850-1230 AD).

Pit **1093** was located at the south facing trench baulk and cut Pit **1031**. It appeared sub-circular in plan although much of the feature was beyond the north facing trench baulk. It was 0.75m in diameter and 0.04m deep and contained no dateable material or artefacts. On its northwestern side it was cut by a modern service trench which was clearly visible at the west end of the trench.

Features **1047** and **1049** were 0.03m deep and seemed highly truncated.

At least seven features remain unexcavated in the immediate vicinity of the recorded features in Trench 4. These varied in size and shape. The largest of these was **1091** which was located at, and beyond, the north facing trench baulk and cut Posthole **1029**. This was sub-rectangular and at least 1.5m long. Pits **1081** and **1095** were sub-circular and up to 1m wide while Postholes **1085** and **1087** were not more than 0.3m in diameter.

5.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located against the southern limit of the proposed development area, on the west side, and was 25m long. At the east end of the trench the depth was 0.43m; at the west end it was 1.07m.

The majority of the trench was excavated on to relatively modern silty subsoil and redeposited natural deposits (Section 8). Amongst this material were several pieces of reinforced concrete surfaces, 0.7m beneath the ground level. These were removed wherever possible but on occasions extended too far into the trench sides for the machine to excavate them safely.

For the last 7m of the trench the machine was able to get beneath the concrete and fully remove all the overburden. In this part of the trench the stratigraphic sequence was very similar to that of Trench 4. Two archaeological features were revealed, **1071** and **1073**. These were a circular posthole and sub-rectangular pit, respectively. Posthole **1071** was 0.2m in diameter and 0.12m deep. Pit **1073** was 0.5m long, 0.2m wide and 0.1m deep. Neither contained dateable material or any artefacts.

5.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was located behind the Guild House where there was a flat area of grass between the two north projecting wings of the building. Immediately beneath the topsoil were modern levelling layers including sections of brick walling and reinforced concrete.

The trench was 25m long and orientated north south. A machine dug sondage was dug through the make-up material to natural geology to determine the depth and sequence of the presumed levelling layers and to see whether any original soil sequences and/or archaeological deposits survived. Natural geology was found 1.4m below the ground level. The trench section consisted entirely of made ground and no buried soils or deposits were encountered. Trench 6 was not surveyed.

6 Discussion

Due to the nature of the proposed development area and its current land use only the southern part was available for satisfactory archaeological evaluation. This represents roughly a quarter of the proposed development area, the remainder being beneath the Guild House office building and two associated areas of car parking.

The site lies on land that slopes gently north towards the River Ouse from Oundle Road (A605). During fieldwork it became apparent

that the site had been subject to significant topographical alteration when the Guild House site had been built. The building is visibly lower than the houses in Swains Court to the east and west of the site and the gradient of the grass steeper than that of the roads down Swain Court.

The north ends of Trenches 1, 2 and 3 were noticeably shallow and markedly different to the deeper sequences in the southern ends of the trenches as well as those in Trenches 4 and 5 at the southern edge of the proposed development area. It is probable that this is a result of scarping or truncation of the land at the centre of the Guild House site and its redeposition elsewhere on the site, in order to create a level area for the building. In doing so this would have removed the original top and sub soils across the area beneath the building leaving the truncated natural geology just beneath the current topsoil. The greater stratigraphic depth at the south end of the site can be directly attributed to this action. It also seems possible, perhaps likely, that this part of the site contained an unsurveyed building(s) judging by the amounts of rubble and building material present.

It follows that this activity would have significantly impacted on any existing archaeological deposits. This appears to be reflected in the survival of features on site. Archaeological remains were present in Trenches 1-5. A variety of pits, postholes and linear features were revealed with a fairly consistent distribution across the south of the site. However, the majority of them were relatively shallow and the lack of significant subsoil deposits above them means that almost certainly it was only the bases of the features that remained.

Exceptions to this are the deeper Pits **1037** and **1018**. These are close to smaller features that appear truncated.

The only place where there seems to be any surviving original soil sequences is against the street frontage of Oundle Road where they lie beneath Post-medieval and modern levels. However, despite their being undisturbed, several of the excavated features revealed in Trench 4 were very shallow, although this was perhaps simply due to truncation during machining.

Trench 6 was excavated to ascertain whether or not the Guild House site had been landscaped during construction and if so to investigate whether this had disturbed any archaeological deposits that may have been present.

7 Conclusions

This evaluation has confirmed the presence of significant archaeological remains dating from throughout the medieval period, including settlement and structural evidence. It has not only revealed that the Guild House site was landscaped during construction of the building but also that the local topography was significantly altered enough to affect the preservation and survival of archaeological remains.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank GC Peterborough Ltd who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray. The fieldwork was conducted by the author, Glenn Bailey, Spencer Cooper, Shannon Hogan and Al Wright. Simon Griffin was the archaeological consultant from Halcrow Group Ltd.

Ben Robinson, Peterborough City Council Archaeologist, visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

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- | | | |
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Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Length	Width	Depth	Truncated by	Other Comments
1001									Topsoil
1002									Subsoil
1009	1010	1	fill	pit			0.05		
1010		1	cut	pit		1	0.05		
1011	1012	1	fill	pit		1.25	0.1		Not completely visible in plan
1012		1	cut	pit			0.1		
1013	1014	1	fill	pit			0.13		
1014		1	cut	pit		0.4	0.13		
1015	1016	1	fill	pit			0.08		
1016	0	1	cut	pit	0.2	0.3	0.08		
1017	1018	3	fill	pit			0.54		
1018		3	cut	pit	3.5	1.5	0.54		Not bottomed. Not completely visible in plan
1019	1020	3	fill						
1020		3	Cut	post hole					
1021	1022	3	fill						
1022		3	Cut	pit					
1025		2	layer				0.35		Subsoil
1026	1027	2	fill	post hole			0.2		
1027		2	Cut	post hole		0.2	0.2		
1028	1029	4	fill	post hole			0.16		
1029		4	Cut	post hole		0.13	0.16		
1030	1031	4	fill	pit			0.03		
1031		4	Cut	pit			0.03		
1032	1033	4	fill	pit			0.03		
1033		4	Cut	pit		0.6	0.03		
1034	1035	1	fill	pit			0.5		Not completely visible in plan
1035	0	1	Cut	pit			0.5		Not bottomed
1036	1037	1	fill	pit			0.25		
1037	0	1	Cut	pit		3	1		
1038	1039	3	fill	ditch			0.16		
1039		3	Cut	ditch	1.8	0.7	0.16		Uncertain

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Length	Width	Depth	Truncated by	Other Comments
									relationship with 1041
1040	1041	3	fill	ditch			0.07		
1041		3	Cut	ditch		2	0.07		Unidentified feature
1042	1043	4	fill	post hole			0.09		
1043		4	Cut	post hole		0.25	0.09		
1044	1045	4	fill	post hole			0.26		
1045		4	Cut	post hole		0.25	0.26		
1046	1047	4	fill				0.03		
1047		4	Cut		1.2	0.4	0.03		Unidentified feature
1048	1049	4	fill	post hole			0.05		
1049		4	Cut	post hole			0.05		
1050	1051	3	fill	pit			0.06		
1051		3	cut	pit		0.3	0.06	1039	
1052	1053	3	fill	pit			0.13		
1053		3	Cut	pit		0.6	0.13		Not completely visible in plan
1054	1055	2	fill	pit			0.15		
1055		2	Cut	pit		0.9	0.15		
1056	1057	2	fill	ditch			0.04		
1057		2	Cut	ditch	0.75	0.3	0.04		
1058	1059	2	fill	ditch			0.22		
1059		2	Cut	ditch	0.75	1	0.22		
1060	1061	2	fill	post hole			0.13		
1061		2	Cut	post hole			0.13	1059	
1062	1063	2	fill	ditch			0.05		
1063		2	Cut	ditch			0.05	modern feature	
1064	1037	1	fill	pit			0.75		Lower fill
1065	1066	1	fill	pit			0.17		
1066	0	1	Cut	pit			0.17	1035	Not completely visible in plan
1067		1	masonry		1.9	1.8			Unexcavated
1068	1069	3	fill	ditch			0.75		
1069		3	Cut	ditch	6	1.8	0.75		
1070	1071	5	fill	post hole			0.08		

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Length	Width	Depth	Truncated by	Other Comments
1071		5	Cut	post hole		0.35	0.08		
1072	1073	5	fill	pit			0.04		
1073		5	Cut	pit	0.5	0.2	0.04		
1074	1075	5	fill						
1075		1	cut					1037	
1076	1077	1	fill						Unexcavated
1077		1	Cut						Unexcavated
1078	1079	3	fill						Unexcavated
1079		3	Cut						Unexcavated. Not completely visible in plan
1080	1081	4							Unexcavated
1081		4							Unexcavated
1082	1083	4	fill						Unexcavated
1083		4	Cut						Unexcavated
1084	1085	4	fill						Unexcavated
1085		4	Cut						Unexcavated
1088	1089	4	fill						Unexcavated
1089		4	Cut						Unexcavated
1090	1091	4							Unexcavated
1091		4							Unexcavated
1092	1093	4	fill	pit			0.05		
1093		4	Cut	pit		0.5	0.05		Not completely visible in plan
1094	1095	4	fill						Unexcavated
1095		4	Cut						Unexcavated
1096	1097	4	fill						Unexcavated
1097		4	Cut						Unexcavated
1098	0								

Appendix 2: Post Roman Pottery

by Carole Fletcher

1.1 Summary

Fieldwork at Oundle Road, Peterborough, produced a small pottery assemblage of 59 sherds, weighing 0.699kg from 17 contexts representing 15 features of four main types, pits, from which the majority of the assemblage was recovered, ditches, postholes and a single slot. Due to the nature of evaluation it is often difficult to establish the true nature of a feature and several features are therefore labelled as pit/ditch or pit/post hole. In addition the excavator identified a layer (context 1023) and pottery was recovered from the wall matrix (context 1024).

The pottery recovered includes late Saxon, early medieval, medieval and a single sherd from a post medieval vessel. All appear to be domestic in origin and more than a third of the sherds in the assemblage are sooted.

The condition of the whole assemblage is moderately abraded with a moderate average pottery sherd weight of approximately 11g.

1.2 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.

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

1.3 Functional assemblage

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

BOUA	Bourn A/B (medieval)
BOND	Bourn D
BAST	Baston-Bourn type ware
DNEOT	Developed St Neots ware
EMWT	Early Medieval type ware
GRIM	Grimston ware
LYST	Lyveden-Stanion ware
MEL	Medieval Ely ware
NEOT/NEOTT	St Neots ware/St St Neots type ware
OSHW	Olitic Shelly ware
SHW	Shelly ware (likely to have come from the Peterborough region)
PMR	Post-medieval Red wares
RSW	Reduced Sandy ware
SSHW	Sandy Shelly ware
STAM	Stamford ware
THET/THETT	Thetford/Thetford type ware
UNK	Unknown

A broad range of pottery was recovered with dates ranging from the 10th to the 18th century. Six contexts in the pottery assemblage contain only sherds of late Saxon or early medieval material; these may date from as early as the 10th or as late as the end of the 12th Century, and include THET/THETT and NEOT jar sherds and STAM jug sherds. Four of these contexts also contain EMWT sherds and can be more closely dated to the early medieval period, mid 11th to the end of the 12th Century. The presence of EMWT suggests that this part of the assemblage may be early medieval rather than late Saxon.

A further eight contexts span the mid 12th to 14th or mid 15th century; the fabrics present across these contexts are BOUA, DNEOT, GRIMT, LYST, MEL, and SHW which is likely to be a local rather than a Lincolnshire or Northamptonshire product. Only five glazed medieval sherds were recovered from these contexts, GRIMT sherds from two jugs, one of which was decorated and three BOUA jug sherds from two separate vessels. The remaining three contexts represent mid 15th to the late 17th Century with two contexts containing BOND alongside residual medieval material in context 1017. The third context contains a single sherd of PMR that dates to the 16th or 17th century.

The vessel form for each sherd was recorded where it could be identified and apart from undiagnostic sherds the assemblage contains only jar and jug sherds. Jars are present in almost all fabrics throughout the assemblage and are the most common form in all centuries except from the mid 15th century when jugs appear to become the predominant form.

The assemblage has a broad range of fabric types present from a wide range of sources considering the relatively small number of sherds recovered. These include GRIM from Norfolk, LYST from Northamptonshire and local SHW. The most common fabrics in the assemblage from the 10th to 16th century are from Lincolnshire, the earliest being STAM followed by medieval BOUA and post-medieval BOND. The contexts are too small to draw clear conclusions about provenance other than to say they appear to follow the common pattern for this region.

1.4 Conclusion

The assemblage is small, few features have more than one context containing pottery and the majority of features produced no pottery. This has made the assemblage difficult to assess beyond providing basic dating information. Much of the material is medieval, however dating has also 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.

Bibliography

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

Dating Table

Context	Fabric	Form/sherd type	Number of sherds	Weight In kg	Date Range for context
1009	BOUA	Jug	3	0.013	13th century
	STAM	Jar	3	0.040	

Context	Fabric	Form/sherd type	Number of sherds	Weight in kg	Date Range for context
1017	BOND	Jug		0.091	Mid 15th to early 17th century
	BOND		2	0.019	
	BOUA	Jug	2	0.098	
	LYST	Jug	2	0.019	
	STAM	Jar	1	0.002	
	UNK		1	0.004	
1019	BOUA		1	0.012	13th to mid 15th century
1021	EMWT		2	0.011	Mid 11th to end of 12th century
1023	EMWT	Jar	4	0.039	Mid 11th to end of 12th century
	THETT	Jar	2	0.051	
1024	SHW	Jar	1	0.006	Mid 12th to mid 14th century
1028	MEL		1	0.007	Mid 12th to mid 14th century
1030	STAM	Jug	2	0.007	10th to mid 12th century
1032	BOND		2	0.002	Mid 15th to early 17th century
1034	BAST	Jar	1	0.020	Mid 13th to mid 14th century
	BOUA	Jar	2	0.036	
	GRIM	Jug	1	0.014	
	NEOTT	Jar	1	0.003	
	OSHW	Jar	4	0.020	
	RSW		1	0.007	
	SHW		1	0.010	
	SSHW	Jar	1	0.004	
	STAM	Jar	1	0.006	
	STAM	Jug	1	0.022	
1046	PMR		1	0.002	16th to late 17th century
1054	DNEOT	Jar	1	0.009	Mid 12th to mid 14th century
1056	STAM	Jug	1	0.003	10th to mid 12th century
1058	GRIM	Jug	1	0.005	13th to late 15th century
1062	EMWT		1	0.003	Mid 11th to mid 12th century
	NEOT	Jar	1	0.010	
	STAM	Jar	2	0.003	
1064	BOUA	Jug	1	0.049	13th century to late 14th century
	NEOT	Jar	1	0.005	
	THET	Jar	1	0.017	
1068	EMWT	Jar	1	0.019	10th to late 12th century
	THETT	Jar	1	0.011	

Appendix 3: Environmental Remains

By Rachel Fosberry

1 Introduction and Methods

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

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

2 Results

The results are recorded on Table 1.

Preservation is by charring. Both samples contain grains of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.). Weed seeds include goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*). Charred leaf fragments of saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) are present in Sample 2.

Sample Number	Context Number	Cut Number	Flot contents	Residue Contents
1	1040	1041	Cereal grains, charcoal, weed seeds, fish bone, small mammal bones	Pottery, animal bone, mussel shell
2	1021	1022	Cereal grains, Saw-sedge, small mammal bones, uncharred seed	Fired clay, mussel shell

Table 1: Environmental samples from PET GOR 08

4 Discussion

Preliminary observations suggest that preservation of charred plant remains is good. The plant remains recovered from these samples are dominated by the cereal grains that, along with other dietary remains

namely animal bone, fishbone and mussels, are probably derived from low-density deposits of domestic refuse and/or hearth waste.

The grains may have been accidentally burnt while being dried prior to storage or during cooking over open fires prior to being deliberately deposited in the pits. Barley was often used for animal fodder but may have been used for human consumption in the form of bread, soup and was also used for the brewing of beer. No germinated grains were recovered to suggest brewing activities.








Saw sedge was one of the major vegetation types of the Fen and was commonly used as fuel.

5 Conclusions and Recommendations



The low densities of plant remains from the site are not considered to merit full analysis. If further excavation is planned, sampling should be undertaken as investigation on the nature of cereal waste and weed assemblages is likely to provide an insight into to utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this period.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation	_____
Natural Features	_____
Break of slope	- - - - -
Illustrated Section	<u>S.14</u>
Archaeological Deposit	
Unexcavated feature	
Sub soil	
Excavated Slot	
Modern Deposit	
Reinforced concrete	
Cut Number	118
Inclusions	

Sections

Limit of Excavation	- - - - -
Cut	_____
Cut-Conjectured	- - - - -
Deposit Horizon	_____
Deposit Horizon - Conjectured	- - - - -
Intrusion/Truncation	- - - - -
Top Surface/Top of Natural	_____
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	- - - - -
Cut Number	118
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD X
Inclusions	
Buried topsoil	



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

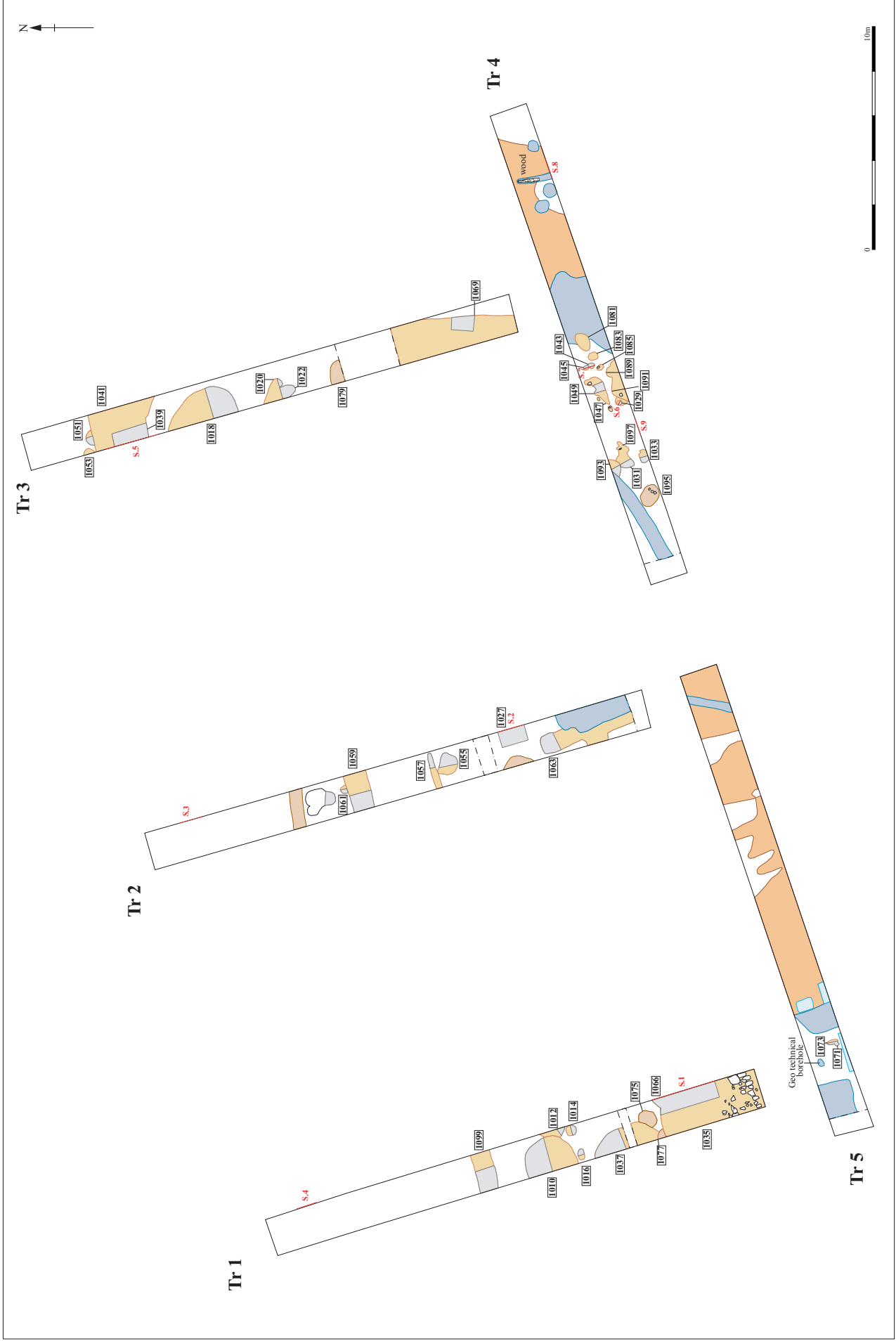


Figure 2: Trench plans 1-5

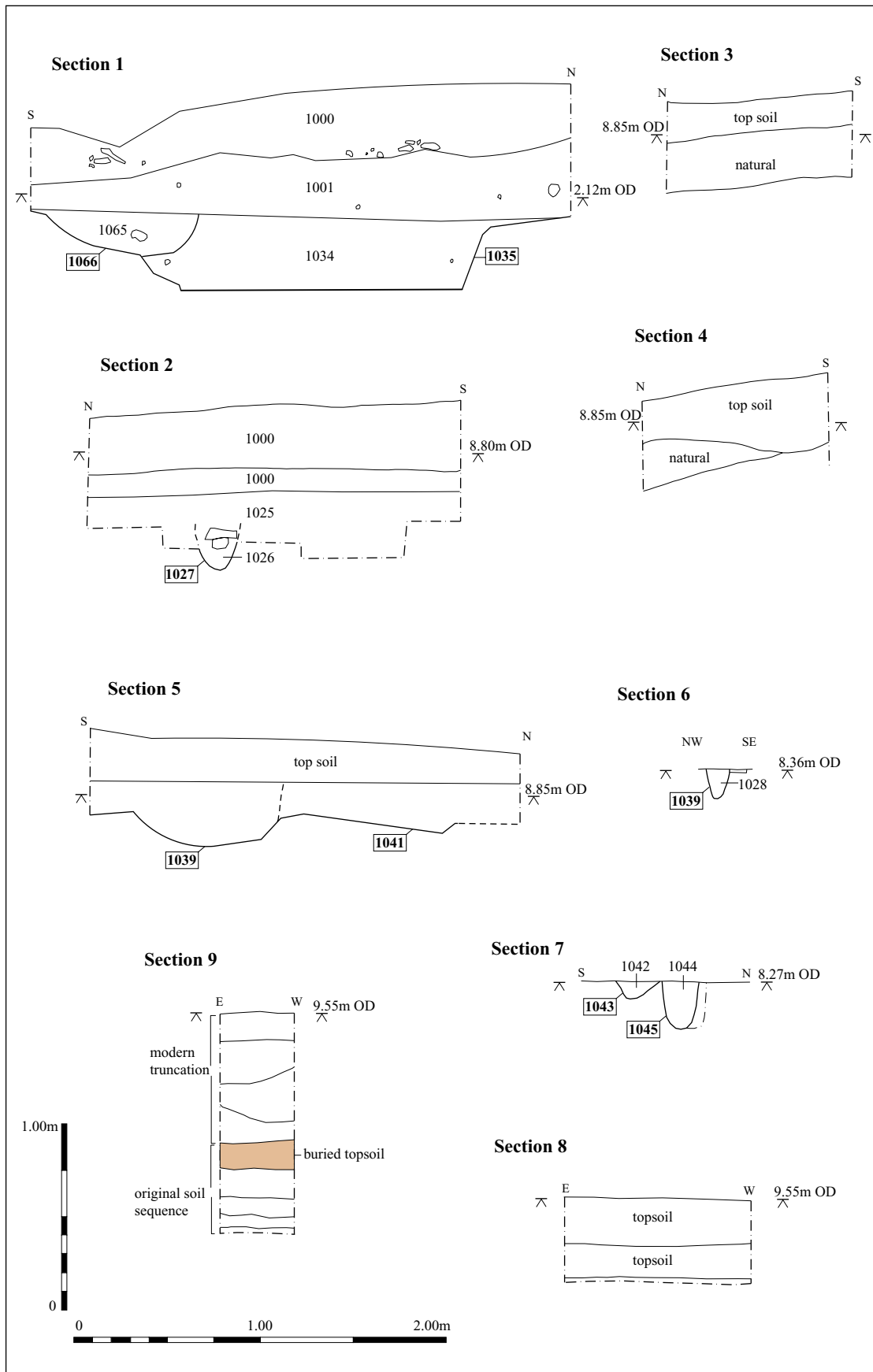


Figure 3: Sections



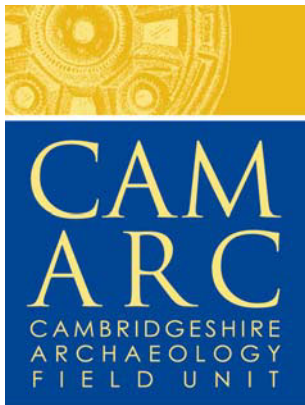
Plate 1: View of Trench 1



Plate 2: Pit 1022 in Trench 3



Plate 3: Profile of Trench 6



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

General Enquiries: 01954-204191
Fax: 01954-273376

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