



CAM ARC Report Number 1036

Medieval Occupation and Post-Medieval Building Remains at Manor Farm, Colne, Cambridgeshire

Evaluation

Taleyna Fletcher

June 2008

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Taleyna Fletcher BA, AIFA

With contributions by Dr Paul Spoerry BTech Hons
PhD MIFA, Chris Faine MA, MSc, BABAO and
Rachel Fosberry HNC (Cert Ed) AEA

Site Code: COL MAN 08
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Date of works: 2nd June – 5th June 2008
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Author	Taleyna Fletcher		
Checked By	James Drummond-Murray		
Authorised By	James Drummond-Murray		

Editor: James Drummond-Murray, BA, MIFA
Illustrator: Lucy Offord, BA

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PROJECT DETAILS				
Project name	Evaluation at Manor Farm, East Street, Colne, Cambridgeshire			
Short description	<p>CAM ARC of Cambridgeshire County Council conducted an archaeological evaluation on land Manor Farm, Colne, Cambridgeshire in early June 2008. The investigation consisted of ten trenches, 146m in length, within the proposed development area of a residential dwelling with access road and services.</p> <p>The trenches revealed a number of early Medieval pits and postholes which may represent early Medieval occupation fronting East Street and two undated ditches were recorded which may be contemporary. A large Medieval pond was recorded at the rear of the site and a rectangular feature with timber foundations set in clay was recorded in a trench close to East Road, on an unusual alignment, which dated to the 18th century and may represent a building. A number of other early and later Medieval pits and postholes were also recorded in other trenches.</p>			
Project dates	Start	02.06.2008	End	05.06.2008
Previous work	none		Future work	unknown
Associated project reference codes	CAM ARC site code: COLMAN08 CHER no. ECB 2939			
Type of project	Evaluation			
Site status	none			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Farm Yard			
Planned development	Residential Development and associated services			
Monument types / period (list all that apply)	Medieval: pits and postholes, pond and ditches (boundary?) Post Medieval: Structural: building remains			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply)	Ceramic: pottery, building material – early Medieval to post Medieval Bone: animal bone – late Medieval cow burial Metal: Iron post/stake, copper alloy strap – late/post Medieval Leather: shoe – C19th			
PROJECT LOCATION				
County	Cambridgeshire	Parish	Colne	
HER for region	Cambridgeshire			
Site address (including postcode)	Manor Farm, East Street, Colne, Cambridgeshire, PE28 3LZ			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	4721 sq m.			
National grid reference	TL3735 7587			
Height OD	Min OD	10.32mOD	Max OD	11.47mOD
PROJECT ORIGINATORS				
Organisation	Cambridgeshire County Council, CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Andy Thomas, CAPCA			
Project design originator	James Drummond-Murray, CAM ARC			
Director/supervisor	Taleyna Fletcher			
Project manager	James Drummond-Murray			
Sponsor or funding body	Campbell Buchanan			
ARCHIVES	Location and accession number		Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)	
Physical	Cambridgeshire County Store		Pottery, animal bone, architectural stone, environmental flots, small finds	
Paper	Cambridgeshire County Store		Plans, sections, context sheets, slides	
Digital	CAM ARC		Digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY				
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Summary

CAM ARC of Cambridgeshire County Council conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at Manor Farm, Colne, Cambridgeshire in early June 2008. The investigation consisted of ten trenches, 146m in total length, within the proposed development area of residential dwellings with access road and services.

The trenches revealed a number of early Medieval pits and postholes which may represent occupation fronting East Street and two undated ditches which may be associated. A large, deep feature, interpreted as a pond was present in a trench at the rear of the site and a rectangular feature with timber foundations set in clay was recorded in a trench close to East Road. This feature which may represent a building was on an unusual alignment which pre-dates the current farm buildings and was dated to the 17th/18th century.

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1 Introduction

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application 0202290OUT) (Thomas 2007), supplemented by a Specification prepared by CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council (formerly Archaeological Field Unit) (Drummond-Murray, 2008).

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 evaluation was at Manor Farm, East Street in the village of Colne (Figure 1). The site lies on a narrow band of 1st Terrace River Gravels and Boulder Clay (British Geological Survey, 1993).

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Little previous archaeological investigation has been done in Colne. A search of the HER was carried out prior to the start of the work (Figure 2).

An archaeological assessment was carried out at Old Church Lane in 1991 on an industrial area first identified in 1921 (Watson, 1991 and ECB492 – Healey et al 1999). This provided further evidence for the presence of Medieval pottery production of local Colne Ware from the 13th and 16th centuries.

A watching brief at The Gardens produced no in situ archaeology (ECB 551 – Parsons 2000) as did monitoring on land east of Brent House (ECB 1958 – Bailey 2005).

Stray finds of Iron Age and Roman material have been made (eg Roman coin HER 03604; Iron Age pottery HER 03721) but nothing to suggest extensive occupation in these periods.

It is generally assumed that Colne shifted from its Medieval site to its current post-Medieval settlement though this may not be entirely correct (Spoerry pers com). The Deserted Medieval Village to the west has two moats and the Medieval church of St Helens. The westernmost might possibly be a garden site rather than a moat but the Church farm moat is almost certainly a Medieval manor (and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument – SAM 33271) – the main holding belonging to the Bishop of Ely.

A second manor was Colnes Dunholts (Druryes) which probably existed by 1175 (Nicholas de Colne) and ended up being owned by the Sharples in the 19th century. As the Enclosure Map of 1814 shows, Sharples land lies to the north-east of the current site and it is possible that the old enclosure of which the site forms part was the focal point of this manor. This is supported by the street to the west being named Drury Lane (formerly Colney Lane).

The main manor was divided on the creation of the Bishopric in 1109 – the part that went with the prior may be Drury's manor.

There is a third manor (La Leghe or Lye) which was probably taken out of the Bishops Main manor before 1279 and was owned by William Baron in 1732. It's location is unknown.

Thus the village had three manors and has shifted over the years. However it's current position sits around an ancient green which is likely to be Late Saxon in origin and represents space between manorial foci in a polyfocal village of 'ends' as is common in this region. The site probably sits within one of these manors/'ends'.

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.

4.1 Excavation

Ten trenches were opened using a 7.5 ton mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket. All trenches were opened to a width of 1.8m under the supervision of an archaeologist. The total length of the trenches was 146m and this constitutes an approximate 5% sample of the development area as required by the brief (Thomas, 2007). The machine removed overburden and modern deposits until reaching the interface between the soil horizons and the natural clay or gravel; the level at which archaeological features were encountered. The position of the trenches was determined by the location of existing farm

buildings. The trench plan was approved by the CAPCA prior to the start of work. After machining, the trenches were cleaned in order to fully expose the archaeological features and to understand their extent and relationships within each trench.

4.2 Recording

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, digital and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. Environmental samples were taken where appropriate from a representative sample of features and the spoil heaps and trench surfaces were scanned visually for pottery and bone.

4.3 Surveying

The trenches were surveyed using a Leica GPS and located on the Ordnance Survey grid. The individual trench plans showing feature locations were then incorporated with the survey data. Levels were taken on sections and trench bases using the Leica GPS.

4.4 Site Conditions

Site conditions were challenging with persistent rain and rising groundwater levels.

5 Results

Trench 1 (figure 3 and 4)

This trench was 25.50m in length and orientated on a north to south alignment. Trench 1 was machined to a depth of 0.44m where natural undisturbed clay and gravel was encountered. A layer of debris and compacted gravel (0.32m) was recorded over a subsoil layer (02) (0.12m), which sealed the archaeology. The top of a brick culvert and a ceramic field drain were also present in this trench.

This trench contained a pit, a posthole and a ditch.

Pit **06** was circular in plan with gentle sloping edges and a concave base (Figure 6 Section 1). This pit measured 1.64m in diameter and 0.28m deep with a single fill Filled by (05), a compacted, mottled grey-brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions. The base of a Colne fabric handmade jug was retrieved from this pit and was spot dated as c1150-1350.

Ditch **72** was linear in plan on an east to west orientation measuring 7.5m wide and approximately 1.2m deep. Due to the width of this ditch, a slot was investigated carefully using the mechanical excavator. It had a gradual sloping northern edge and a very steep sloping southern edge and a rounded base.

Filled by (71), a compacted mid-dark brown silty clay with no obvious inclusions. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this ditch.

Posthole **16** was circular in plan with steep sloping edges and a concave base. This posthole measured 0.20m in diameter and 0.10m deep with a single fill.

Filled by (15), a light orangey grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this posthole.

Trench 2 (figure 3 and 4)

This trench was 15m in length and orientated on an east to west alignment. Trench 2 was machined to a depth of 0.40m where natural undisturbed gravel was encountered. A layer of dark brown topsoil (0.23m) was recorded over a subsoil layer (02) (0.17m), which sealed the archaeology.

This trench contained two pits, four postholes and a large, deep feature interpreted as a pond.

Posthole **18** was circular in plan with concave edges and a concave base. This posthole measured 0.25m in diameter and 0.05m deep with a single fill.

Filled by (17), a mid grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this posthole.

Posthole **20** was circular in plan with steep sloping edges and a concave base (Figure 6, Section 6). This posthole measured 0.25m in diameter and 0.12m deep with a single fill.

Filled by (19), a mid grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this posthole.

Posthole **22** was circular in plan with gradual sloping edges and a concave base. This posthole measured 0.35m in diameter and 0.12m deep with a single fill.

Filled by (21), an orangey grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this posthole.

Posthole **24** was circular in plan with steep sloping edges and a flat base. This posthole measured 0.24m in diameter and 0.09m deep with a single fill.

Filled by (23), a mid grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this posthole.

Pit **08** was oval in plan with gradual sloping edges and a concave base (plate 1). This pit measured 0.80m in diameter and 0.20m deep with a single fill.

Filled by (07), a light grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel stones. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this pit.

Pit **14** was oval in plan with concave sloping edges and a concave base (plate 1). This pit measured 0.80m in diameter and 0.16m deep with a single fill.

Filled by (13), a light grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this pit.

Pond **12** investigated using a mechanical excavator due to its width. It was initially thought to be a ditch, however it did not continue in trench 4 located immediately to

the north, and therefore has been interpreted as a pond. It was not fully revealed in plan, however it had moderately steep sloping edges and a concave base. This pond measured 8m wide and 2m deep with 3 fills (plate 2).

Upper fill (09), a dark grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks. It was approximately 0.80m thick.
No finds were retrieved from this fill.

Fill (10) was a mottled mid and light grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel stones. It was approximately 0.40m thick.
No finds were retrieved from this fill.

Fill (11) was a very dark grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel stones and preserved organic material including tree roots and plants.. It was approximately 0.80m thick. The environmental sample from this context contained hazelnuts, fruit stones, amphibian bones and twigs and woody fragments.
Finds retrieved from this ditch included a complete cow burial and a fragment of architectural stone (SF1) (plates 3 and 4). Pottery retrieved included a jar rim and a pitcher base of late Medieval Colne ware (1400-1550) and a green glazed handle from a Grimston-copy jug (1300-1500).

Trench 3 (figure 3 and 4)

This trench was 10.5m in length and orientated on a north to south alignment, forming a "T" shape with Trench 2. Trench 3 was machined to a depth of 0.46m where natural undisturbed clay and gravel was encountered. A layer of dark brown topsoil (0.26m) was recorded over a subsoil layer (0.20m) which sealed the archaeology.

This trench contained two ditches truncated by a pit. Another feature was planned at the southern end of the trench immediately after machining. However, this soon became submerged by water and it was not possible to investigate further at this stage.

Ditch **56** was linear in plan with steep sloping edges and a flat base (Figure 6, Section 10). This ditch measured 1.2m wide and 0.50m deep with a single fill.
Fill (55) was a light grey brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions.
No finds were retrieved from the fill of this ditch.

Ditch **58** was linear in plan with steep sloping edges and a flat base. This ditch measured 0.35m deep with a single fill.
Fill (57) was a mid grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions.
No finds were retrieved from the fill of this ditch.

Pit **54** was not fully revealed in plan with steep sloping edges and what appeared to be a flat base (Figure 6, Section 10). This pit measured approximately 0.54m in diameter and 0.50m deep with a single fill.
Fill (53) was a dark grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel and charcoal inclusions. Pottery retrieved from the fill of this ditch was dated as c.1150-1350
The environmental sample taken from this fill contained charred cereal grains, animal, fish and amphibian bones. Pottery was also found within this sample.

Pit(?) **74** was located at the southern end of Trench 3 and was not excavated due to water. This possible pit measured at least 1.70m in length and 1.80m wide.
It was not possible to tell how many fills were present.
No finds were retrieved from the surface of this pit.

Trench 4 (figure 3 and 4)

This trench was 10.50m in length and orientated on an east to west alignment, parallel to trench 2. Although not originally within the trench design, this trench was added in order to establish the continuation or presence of the large pond feature in Trench 2, originally thought to have been a moat or ditch. Trench 4 was machined to a depth of 0.50m where natural undisturbed clay and gravel was encountered. A layer of dark brown topsoil (0.31m) was recorded over a lighter brown subsoil layer (0.19m) which sealed the archaeology.

This trench contained a pit, a posthole and two ditches (one unexcavated due to water).

Pit **66** was circular in plan with moderate sloping edges and a flat base (Figure 6, Section 12). This pit measured 0.74m in diameter and 0.36m deep with a single fill. Fill (65) was a mid grey with silty clay and occasional gravel stones inclusion. A small fragment of undiagnostic brick was retrieved from this fill. The environmental sample taken from this fill contained charred weed seeds.

Posthole **70** was circular in plan with steep sloping edges and a flat base. This posthole measured 0.30m in diameter and 0.20m deep with a single fill. Filled by (69) was mid grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel stones. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this posthole.

Ditch **68** was linear in plan, orientated east to west with gentle sloping edges and a concave base. This ditch measured 0.40m in wide and 0.22m deep with a single fill. Filled by (67), a mid grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel stones. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this ditch.

Ditch **76** was not excavated. It measured approximately 0.75m wide and continued beyond the northern edge of Trench 4. It was on a north to south orientation and appeared to feed into ditch **68**, and may be contemporary for drainage. No finds were retrieved from the surface of this ditch.

Trench 5 (figure 3 and 4)

This trench was 15.5m in length and orientated on a north to south alignment, joining Trench 6 to form an “L” shape. Trench 5 was machined to a depth of 0.55m where natural undisturbed bright orange gravel was encountered. This trench was located within the farmyard and a thick layer of debris and surface layers were removed measuring 0.27m. a layer of dark brown topsoil (0.16m) was recorded over a subsoil layer (0.13m) which sealed the archaeology.

This trench contained a single pit.

Pit **44** was oval in plan with steep sloping edges and a concave base (plate 5) (Figure 6, Section 9). This pit measured 1.32m in length, 0.75m wide and 0.28m deep with a single fill. Fill (43) was a mid orangey brown with silty clay and occasional gravel stone inclusions.

Pottery retrieved from this pit was a sherd of Medieval Colne grey ware, a non-recognised fabric from an early vessel type dated c.11th-12th century. The environmental sample taken from this context contained sparse charred grain.

Trench 6 (figure 3 and 4)

This trench was 9.0m in length and orientated on an east to west alignment joining Trench 5 to form an “L” shape. Trench 6 was machined to a depth of 0.55m where natural undisturbed bright orange gravel was encountered. This trench was located within the farmyard and a thick layer of debris and surface layers were removed measuring 0.27m. a layer of dark brown topsoil (0.16m) was recorded over a subsoil layer (0.13m)

No archaeological features were recorded within this trench.

Trench 7 (figure 3 and 5)

This trench was 16m in length and orientated on an east to west alignment, parallel with East Street. The location of this trench was intended to find any evidence of the foundations of a thatched, timber-framed building known to have been in this location until the mid 1970s (and present on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey maps). Trench 7 was machined to a depth of 0.57m where natural undisturbed clay was encountered. A layer of sand and demolition debris measuring 0.27m was encountered which may have been associated with an earlier building on the site. This layer was over a dark brown topsoil (0.23m), which was over a subsoil layer (0.17m).

This trench contained three postholes, two stakeholes, the remains of 18th/19th century building foundations, two ditches and two pits.

Posthole **26** was circular in plan with moderate sloping edges and a concave base. This posthole measured 0.35m in diameter and 0.09m deep with a single fill. Filled by (25), a mottled dark grey brown silty clay with occasional flint stones, chalk and charcoal flecks.

Pottery retrieved from this posthole was spot dated as 1150-1350.

Posthole **28** was sub-circular in plan with moderate sloping edges and a concave base (Figure 6 Section 15). This posthole measured 0.40m in diameter and 0.09m deep with a single fill.

Filled by (27), a mottled dark grey brown silty clay with occasional flint stones, chalk and charcoal flecks.

A single sherd of 12th Century St Neots Ware was retrieved from this posthole as well as a small sherd of Prehistoric pottery which may be residual.

Posthole **30** was circular in plan with moderate sloping edges and a concave base. This posthole measured 0.30m in diameter and 0.08m deep with a single fill.

Filled by (29), a mottled dark grey brown silty clay with occasional flint stones, chalk and charcoal flecks.

The remains of an iron stake (SF3) (plate 6) was retrieved from this ditch, the spike facing downwards, and possibly *in-situ*.

Stakehole **32** was circular in plan with steep sloping edges and a narrow rounded base. This stakehole measured 0.05m in diameter and 0.06m deep with a single fill. Filled by (31) was a mottled dark grey brown silty clay with occasional flint stones, chalk and charcoal flecks. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this stakehole.

Stakehole **34** was circular in plan with steep sloping edges and a narrow rounded base. This stakehole measured 0.05m in diameter and 0.06m deep with a single fill. Filled by (33) was a mottled dark grey brown silty clay with occasional flint stones, chalk and charcoal flecks. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this stakehole.

Brick foundations, which may have related to a building in this location until the mid 1970s was recorded within this trench.

Ditch **60** was not excavated. It measured approximately 0.5m wide and was on a north to south orientation, continuing beyond the edges of Trench 7. The upper visible fill was a light greeny brown. No finds were retrieved from the surface of this ditch.

Ditch **62** was not excavated. It measured approximately 0.65m wide and was on a northwest to southeast orientation, continuing beyond the edges of Trench 7. The upper visible fill was a mid grey brown. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this ditch.

Pit **64** was not excavated as it was under water. It measured approximately 1m in diameter and continued beyond the southern edge of Trench 7. It appeared very similar in shape and colour of fill to pit **36**. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this pit.

Pit **36** was circular in plan with moderate sloping edges and a concave base. This pit measured 0.60m in diameter and 0.10m deep with a single fill. Fill (35) was a waterlogged, very dark blackish-brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, occasional flint and gravel stone inclusions. A sherd of green-glazed local Colne ware from the base of a jug was recovered which was spot dated as c1150-1350. The environmental sample taken from this fill contained charred cereal grains and grass seeds, animal bone (some burnt), fish and amphibian bones, mussel shells, charred peas and an iron nail. Small fragments of pottery were also found.

Trench 8 (figure 3 and 5)

This trench was 13.50m in length and orientated on a north to south alignment joining with Trench 9 to form a "T" shape. Trench 8 was machined to a depth of 0.52m where natural undisturbed clay was encountered. A thick layer of debris and compacted yard surfaces measuring 0.22m was recorded over a lighter brown subsoil layer (0.19m) which sealed the archaeology.

This trench contained a pit and a large rectangular feature with a clay and timber part-lining.

Pit **52** was sub-circular in plan, however due to water, it was not excavated. This pit measured approximately 1.50m in diameter, continuing beyond the eastern edge of Trench 8.

Two sherds of post-Medieval pottery was retrieved from this feature as well as the remains of a leather shoe (SF4). The pottery comprised a single sherd of hand-painted white ware from a saucer and a sherd of yellow ware with industrial slip from a serving bowl. Both dated from 1820 onwards.

Feature **48** appeared to be sub-rectangular in plan and measured approximately 7m in length, approximately 0.25m deep (plate 7) and appeared to be orientated northeast to southwest. This cut appeared to contain at least for fills:

Fill (49) was a light creamy brown thick, compacted clay. This layer was not excavated and appeared to be packing/support between the southern edge of the cut and timber beam (50)

Beamslot (?) (50) measured 2.5m in length and continued beyond the edges of the trench (plate 8). This beam had rectangular-shaped voids at regular intervals 0.26m apart. Each void measured 0.10m by 0.06m and at least 0.10m deep (plates 9 and 10).

Fill (46) was a very dark blackish brown gravely fill with a maximum thickness of 0.10m. This fill was very compacted and difficult to excavate.

Several sherds of post-Medieval glazed pottery was recorded from this layer dated between 16th and 18th century as well as a fragment of copper alloy strap/band (SF2) and a sherd of residual Ely ware bowl rim (1150-1350).

The environmental sample taken from this fill contained numerous water-logged seeds, pottery, brick and tile fragments and an iron nail.

Fill (47) was a mid grey-brown compacted gravely fill with a depth of approximately 0.05m and no obvious datable finds.

Fill (45) was a very compacted, bright orange silty gravely mix. There were no obvious finds from the surface and full thickness was not established during the investigation.

Trench 9 (figure 3 and 5)

This trench was 27m in length and orientated on an east to west alignment parallel to East Street and joining with Trench 8 to form a "T" shape. Trench 9 was machined to a depth of 0.52m where natural undisturbed clay was encountered. A thick layer of debris and compacted yard surfaces measuring 0.22m was recorded over a lighter brown subsoil layer (0.19m), which sealed the archaeology.

No archaeological features were recorded within this trench.

Trench 10 (figure 3 and 5)

This trench was 6.50m in length and orientated on an east to west alignment. Trench 10 was machined to a depth of 0.64m where natural undisturbed bright orange gravel was encountered. A dark brown topsoil (0.44m) was recorded over a subsoil layer (0.20m) which sealed the archaeology.

This trench contained three pits.

Pit **38** was irregular in plan with gradual sloping edges and a concave base (Figure 6, Section 14). This pit measured 1.50m in length, continuing beyond the northern edge of Trench 10 and was 0.07m deep with a single fill.

Fill (37) was a mid dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravel stone inclusions. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this pit. The environmental sample taken from this fill contained sparse charred grain and weed seeds, animal bone and mussel shell.

Pit **40** was sub-circular in plan with gradual sloping edges and a concave base. This pit measured 0.85m in length, continuing beyond the southern edge of Trench 10 and was 0.13m deep with a single fill.

Fill (39) was a mid dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravel stone inclusions. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this pit.

Pit **42** was not fully revealed in plan with steep, almost vertical sloping edges and a flat base. This pit measured 1.50m in length, continuing beyond the northern and southern edges of Trench 10. It measured 0.25m in depth with a single fill.

Fill (41) was a mid dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravel stone inclusions. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this pit.

6 Discussion

Archaeology was recorded in almost every trench investigated. Although excavation conditions were hampered by flooded trenches and rising ground water, dating was retrieved from most features.

Using pottery spot dating provided by Dr Paul Spoerry, it is possible to summarise activity on the site in three phases.

6.1 Early Medieval (1150-1350)

This period represents the earliest activity recorded within the investigation, however a residual sherd of Prehistoric pottery was retrieved from a posthole in Trench 7, suggesting there may be earlier features in the vicinity. Activity from this period was recognised by pottery present in features, which dated c.1150-1350, typically early Colne fabrics, St Neots Ware and Huntingdonshire-Fen sandy wares.

Archaeological features dating to the early Medieval period were present across the site and noted in trenches 1, 3, 5 and 7. All of the features of this date were small pits and postholes. Although pit **64**, posthole **30** and stakeholes **32** and **34** (all in Trench 7) did not contain datable finds, there were so alike in form, deposit and close location to dated features of the period, they have been considered here as contemporary. These features may represent settlement activity through buildings and rubbish pits, however more of the area would need to be investigated in order to understand the layout or density of any structures. Trench 7 located close to (and parallel to East Street) appears to have a high density of postholes and stakeholes and may represent the remains of buildings. Further research may be necessary into the origins of East Street to establish if these features may represent a building fronting onto a road of similar date.

Trench 2 also contained a cluster of postholes and pits, although undated despite 100% excavation, and may indicate another possible location of a building or activity from this period.

6.2 Middle-Late Medieval (1350-1550)

Activity from this period was recognised by pottery present in features, which dated c.1400-1550, typically late Medieval Colne ware and a local Grimston-copy-type.

This period was represented by a large pond-type feature in Trench 2. This feature was approximately 8m wide and more than 2m deep. Due to safety reasons it was mostly excavated using a mechanical excavator. As far as was reasonably practical, the pond was excavated stratigraphically and all spoil was scanned for finds. An almost complete cow skeleton was retrieved which was located against one side and a fragment of worked architectural stone, which may be from a building of high importance in the area.

6.3 17th-18th Century

Activity from this period was represented by what appears to be a sub-square feature spanning the junction of Trenches 8 and 9. This feature appeared to have a beam slot with voids for rectangular upright posts set within it. This timber had then been set within the cut, supported with a thick, heavy clay. The upper layer within this feature (46) was a very dark, flinty layer with strong evidence of burning (charcoal and burnt bone). It contained fragments of post-Medieval red-wares, typical of this date. The regular shape and timber upright posts set into a beam may suggest evidence of a building.

6.4 19th Century

A pit within Trench 8 represented activity from this period. Although not fully excavated due to difficult circumstances mentioned previously, sherds of hand-painted white wares and industrial-slip decorated yellow ware and a 19th century shoe, indicate a date for the upper fills at least.

6.5 Undated

A number of features planned during this investigation remain undated either due to a lack of datable finds or because it was not possible to excavate through the water levels. Some undated features can be assigned to a group with others based on similarity of shape, deposits and location, such as pits and stakeholes in Trench 7. However, there were a number of ditches within Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 7 which did not

contain any dating evidence and their different alignments may suggest more than one phase of activity.

7 Conclusions

The evaluation at Colne has produced evidence of settlement activity across the site dating from the early Medieval period (1150-1350) to the 19th century.

The early medieval period is of particular interest as little evidence of activity from this time has been recorded within Colne previously. A small but interesting assemblage of early Medieval locally produced pottery is a significant find from this piece of work. This assemblage represents Colne production earlier than that from the known kiln site (which has been researched and published (Watson, K 1992 and Healey 1999). Further work would enable the reference collection of Colne Wares to be extended and provide an opportunity to see what other fabrics were being used in Colne in the early Medieval period on a consumption site. (Dr Paul Spoerry, *pers comm.*)

The discovery of a large feature interpreted as a pond is also significant in this location. It would be of interest to understand more about the actual size, date and function of this feature and whether or not it may be associated with one of the Manors at Colne.

The presence of what may be a post-Medieval building is also of interest. The alignment of this building is different to that of East Street and to the 19th century stables and outbuildings, which post-date it. Its function is still unclear as is what other buildings or features may be close-by that may be associated with it.

The environmental results have indicated that there is potential for the recovery of plant remains preserves by charring and water-logging, should any further work take place, more interesting samples of this type may be found.

This evaluation has provided an opportunity to add to look at the archaeology of a settlement where little work has been carried out previously. In order to put the settlement-related features into context and understand how they may relate to the wider landscape, further work may be required. This would also provide an opportunity to look further into pottery production and use, furthering our understanding of the Colne Wares.

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

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Campbell Buchanan who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Thanks to Lucy Offord and also to Farmer Christmas who was of great assistance during the investigation. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray.

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

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Appendix 1: Context Table

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Other Comments	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Orientation
1		All	Layer	Topsoil											
2		all	layer	subsoil											
3	0	1	layer	make-up	levelling		30	very dark grey, black	silty clay	common rubble- brick, mortar, gravel, sand	levelling deposit over whole site				
4	0	1	layer	sub soil			0.35	dark grey	silty clay	occasional gravel	sub soil, continues through most of trench four				
5	6	1	fill	pit	disuse	1.64	0.28	mottled grey brown and grey yellow	silty clay	occasional gravel, rare pot					
6	0	1	cut	pit		1.64	0.28					circular	slightly uneven, roughly 45 degrees, concave	sharp at top. More gradual at base	
7	8	2	fill	pit	disuse	0.8	0.2	light grey	silty clay	rare gravel	single fill of small pit, digi photos taken				
8	0	2	cut	pit		0.8	0.2				cut of small pit, possibly truncated by 12	sub-circular	gradual sloping, slightly	sharp at top, gradual at base	n-s

Context	Cut	Trench	Catagory	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Other Comments	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Orientation
													concave		
9	12	2	fill	pond			0.8	dark grey brown	silty clay	occasional gravel	digi photos taken				
10	12	2	fill	pond			0.4	mid mottled grey and light brown	silty clay	occasional gravel	digi pictures taken				
11	0	2	fill	pond			0.8	very dark grey	silty clay	common organic material, occasional bone, rare pot	digi photos taken				
12	0	2	cut	ditch pond			2				cut of large pond/ ditch. More likely to be a pond. Digi photos taken	linear	steep, fairly straight	fairly gradual at top and base, steep in middle	N-S
13	14	2	fill	pit	disuse	0.8	0.16	light grey	silty clay	occasional charcoal, occasional gravel					
14	0	2	cut	pit		0.8	0.16				probably cut by 12	sub-circular	slightly concave	gradual at top and base	n-s
15	16	1	fill	post hole	disuse	0.2	0.1	light orangy grey	silty loam	occasional charcoal flecks					
16	0	1	cut	post hole	structural	0.2	0.1				no other	circular	steep, very	sharp at	

Context	Cut	Trench	Catagory	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Other Comments	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Orientation
17	0	2	fill	posthole		0.25	0.05	mid grey	silty clay	common charcoal flecks, occasional gravel	postholes to relate to		slightly concave	top, gradual at base	
18	0	2	cut	post hole	structural	0.25	0.05				possibly related to 12?	circular	concave, gently sloping	sharp at top, gradual at base	
19	20	2	fill	post hole	disuse	0.25	0.12	mid grey	silty clay	common charcoal flecks, occasional gravel					
20	0	2	cut	post hole	structural	0.25	0.12				one of a group of postholes possibly related to 12	circular	sloping at roughly 45 degree angle	sharp at top gradual at base	
21	22	2	fill	post hole	disuse	0.35	0.12	orangy grey	silty clay	charcoal flecks					
22	0	2	cut	post hole	structural	0.35	0.12				part of a group of postholes possibly related to 12	circular	gradually sloping	fairly sharp at top, gradual at base	
23	24	2	fill	post hole	disuse	0.24	0.09	mid grey	silty clay	common charcoal flecks					
24	0	2	cut	post hole	structural	0.24	0.09				One of a group of postholes possibly related	circular	sides sloping at roughly 45 degrees	sharp at top gradual at base	

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Other Comments	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Orientation
											to 12				
25	26	7	fill	post hole	disuse	0.35	0.09	mottled dark grey brown	slightly silty clay	occasional flint stones, chalk and charcoal, pottery					
26	0	7	cut	post hole	structural	0.35	0.09				continues beneath trench edge	circular	moderately steep	sharp	
27	28	7	fill	post hole	disuse	0.35	0.09	mottled dark grey brown	slightly silty clay	occasional flint stones, chalk and charcoal					
28	0	7	cut	post hole	structural	0.4	0.09					sub-circular	moderately steep	sharp	
29	30	7	fill	post hole	disuse	30	0.08	mottled dark grey brown	slightly silty clay	occasional flint stones, chalk and charcoal					
30	0	7	cut	posthole	structural	0.3	0.08					circular	moderately steep	sharp	
31	32	7	fill	stake hole	disuse	0.05	0.06	mottled dark grey brown	slightly silty clay	occasional flint stones, chalk and charcoal					
32	0	7	cut	stake hole	structural	0.05	0.06					circular	steep	abrupt	
33	34	7	fill	stake hole	disuse	0.05	0.06	mottled dark grey brown	slightly silty clay	occasional flint stones, chalk and charcoal					
34	0	7	cut	stake hole	structural	0.05	0.06					circular	steep	abrupt	
35	36	7	fill	pit	disuse	0.6	0.1	very dark brown/black	silty clay	occasional flint stones, gravel,	dark organic fill, very wet -				

Context	Cut	Trench	Catagory	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Other Comments	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Orientation
										charcoal flecks	hindered findsw retrieval				
36	0	7	cut	pit	rubbish?	0.6	0.1				one of two pits with similar fills located very close to each other	circular	gradual to moderately steep	moderate	
37	38	10	fill	quarry pit?	disuse	1.2	0.07	mid-dark brown	sandy silt	frequent gravel stones					
38	0	10	cut	pit	quarry?	1.2	0.07					amorphous	moderately sloped	moderate	
39	40	10	fill	pit	disuse	1.2	0.13	mid dark brown	sandy silt	frequent gravel stones					
40	0	10	cut	pit	quarry	1.2	0.13					sub-circular	moderately sloped	moderate	
41	42	10	fill	pit	disuse	1.9	0.25	mid-dark brown	sandy silt	frequent gravel stones	layer/sheet placed on base, may have acted as a water proof membrane?				
42	0	10	cut	pit		1.9	0.25				impossible to determine shape- continues beyond trench edges. Possibly related to air raid shelter which was in this	indeterminate	steep almost vertical	very sharp	

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Other Comments	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Orientation
											location				
43	44	5	fill	pit	disuse	1.32	0.28	mid orangy brown	sandy clay	occasional gravel					
44	0	5	cut	pit		1.32	0.28					sub-circular	sw fairly steep, ne gentle, slightly concave	sharp at top, gradual at base	ne-sw
45	48	8	Layer	building?	Surface?	?	?	Bright orange	Gravely silt	Gravel	Very compact				
46	48	8	layer	building?	Surface?		0.1	very dark brown black	silt, sand and gravel	frequent gravel, frequent charcoal and fragments of burnt/charred wood	most finds collected from surface of layer appear 18th/19th century. Finds - pot, tile, bone, metal				
47	48	8	layer	building?			0.1	mid grey brown	silt sand and gravel	frequent gravel, frequent charcoal and frags of burnt/charred wood					
48		8	Cut	Building?			7.0					Rectangular	Steep	Sharp	Northeast to southwest
49	48	8	Layer	Building	Use/packin g			mid creamy grey	Clay	Clay	Packing against edge of cut 48 to support				

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Other Comments	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Orientation
											beamslot 50?				
50	48	8	Timber	Building?	Packing	0.10	?				Beamslot with vertical voids for insertion of timber upright posts.				
51	52	8	fill	pit							no issued for unexcavated pit, this pit was submerged under water and not possible to excavate at this stage. However, pottery was recovered from the upper part of the pit during machining c ! 8th-19th century				
53	54	3	fill	pit	disuse	0.54	0.5	dark grey	silty clay	occasional charcoal and gravel. Pottery	may not be completely bottomed due to rising water levels				
54	0	3	cut	pit		0.54	0.5				cuts ditches 56 and 58	indeterminate	roughly 45degrees, straight	sharp at top and base	n-s
55	56	3	fill	ditch	disuse	1.2	0.5	light grey	silty clay	rare gravel					

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Other Comments	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Orientation
56	0	3	cut	ditch		1.2	0.5				may not be fully excavated due to rising water levels. Truncated by 54	linear	gradual then steep sloping sides	fairly sharp at top, midway sharp, base sharp	e-w
57	58	3	fill	ditch	disuse			mid grey	silty clay	occasional gravel					
58	0	3	cut	ditch			0.35				recut by 56	linear	roughly 45 degree angle	sharp at top and base	e-w
65	66	4	fill	pit	disuse	0.74	0.36	mid grey with blue clay mottle	silty clay	occasional gravel, pottery (1 piece)					
66	0	4	cut	pit		0.74	0.36					circular	s. side steep, N. side slightly shallower but steep	S- sharp top and base, N- more grad at middle break	
67	68	4	fill	ditch	disuse	0.4	0.22	mid grey	silty clay	occasional gravel	section excavated against bulk so full profile not seen				
68	0	4	cut	ditch	drainage?	0.4	0.22					linear	concave, gentle slope	fairly sharp at top, gradual at base	nw-se
69	170	4	fill	post hole	disuse	0.3	0.2	mid-grey	silty clay	occasional gravel	relationship between				

Context	Cut	Trench	Categ ory	Feature Type	Function	Width	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Other Comments	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Orientation
											posthole and 68 unclear				
70	0	4	cut	post hole	structural	0.3	0.2				posthole possibly earlier than ditch 68 but relationship is uncertain	circular	steep	sharp at top and base	

Appendix 2: Finds Quantification Table

Context	Material	Object Name	Weight in kg	Comments
5	Ceramic	Vessel	0.03	
11	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	3.23	brick
11	Ceramic	Vessel	0.36	
11	Bone	Bone	3.63	Cow?
25	Ceramic	Vessel	0.01	
27	Ceramic	Vessel	0.01	
35	Ceramic	Vessel	0.04	
37	Bone	Bone	0.01	
43	Ceramic	Vessel	0.01	
46	Ceramic	Vessel	0.10	
46	Bone	Bone	0.18	
51	Ceramic	Vessel	0.02	
53	Ceramic	Vessel	0.13	
65	Ceramic	Vessel	0.01	
99999	Ceramic	Vessel	0.01	
99999	Ceramic	Tobacco pipe	0.01	

Appendix 3: Environmental Results, by Rachel Fosberry

1 Introduction and Methods

Seven bulk samples were taken from deposits 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. Features sampled included a large Medieval pond and several pits of early Medieval to post-Medieval date. Two of the features were undated and were processed for the recovery of dating evidence which was unsuccessful.

The samples were soaked in a solution of Decon 90 for five days prior to processing in order to break down the heavy clay.

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.

Sample Number	Context Number	Cut Number	Flot contents	Residue Contents
1	11	12	Organic plant matter, hazelnuts	Amphibian bones, hazelnuts, fruit stones, twigs and woody fragments
2	35	36	Charred cereal grains and grass seeds	Animal bone (some burnt), fish and amphibian bones, pottery, mussel shells, charred peas, Fe nail
3	43	44	Sparse charred grain	No finds
4	37	38	Sparse charred grain, weed seed	Animal bone, mussel shell
5	46	48	Numerous waterlogged seeds	Pottery, brick and tile fragments, Fe nail
6	53	54	Charred cereal	Animal, fish and

			grains	amphibian bone, pottery
7	65	66	Charred weed seeds	No finds

Table 1: Environmental Samples from COL MAN 08

Preservation is predominantly by charring although waterlogged plant material was recovered from Samples 1 and 5.

Charred cereal grains were present in five of the samples but the only significant assemblage was recovered from Sample 2 which contained numerous wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains.

Charred weed seeds were rare and consisted of a single seed of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) and a grass seed (*Poaceae* sp.)

Sample 5 contained numerous weed seeds preserved by waterlogging. These included nettle (*Urtica* sp.), campion (*Silene* sp.), sedges (*Carex* sp.), buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.).

3 Discussion

The charred plant remains recovered from this evaluation are dominated by charred wheat grains. The grains may have been accidentally burnt while being dried prior to storage or during cooking over open fires prior to being either deliberately deposited in pits (Sample 2) or dispersed as rubbish across the site. These grains, 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. Presence of amphibians probably represents things that have hopped/crawled into the feature.














The water table in this area is high and two of the samples produced flots containing abundant organic material. This suggests that the deposits had been waterlogged. The assemblage in Sample 5 appears to represent mainly a natural accumulation of plant remains from local vegetation suggesting a damp grassland environment.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

The samples show only a low abundance of charred material that is not considered worthy of further analysis at this stage. If further work is planned in this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is included as this assemblage shows that there is potential for the recovery of plant remains preserved by both charring and waterlogging.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation	
Deposit - Conjectured	
Natural Features	
Sondages/Machine Strip	
Intrusion/Truncation	
Illustrated Section	
Archaeological Feature	
Excavated Slot	
Modern Deposit	
Rubble	
Brick	
Wooden Beam	
Cut Number	
Deposit Number	117

Sections

Limit of Excavation -----

Cut -----

Deposit Horizon -----

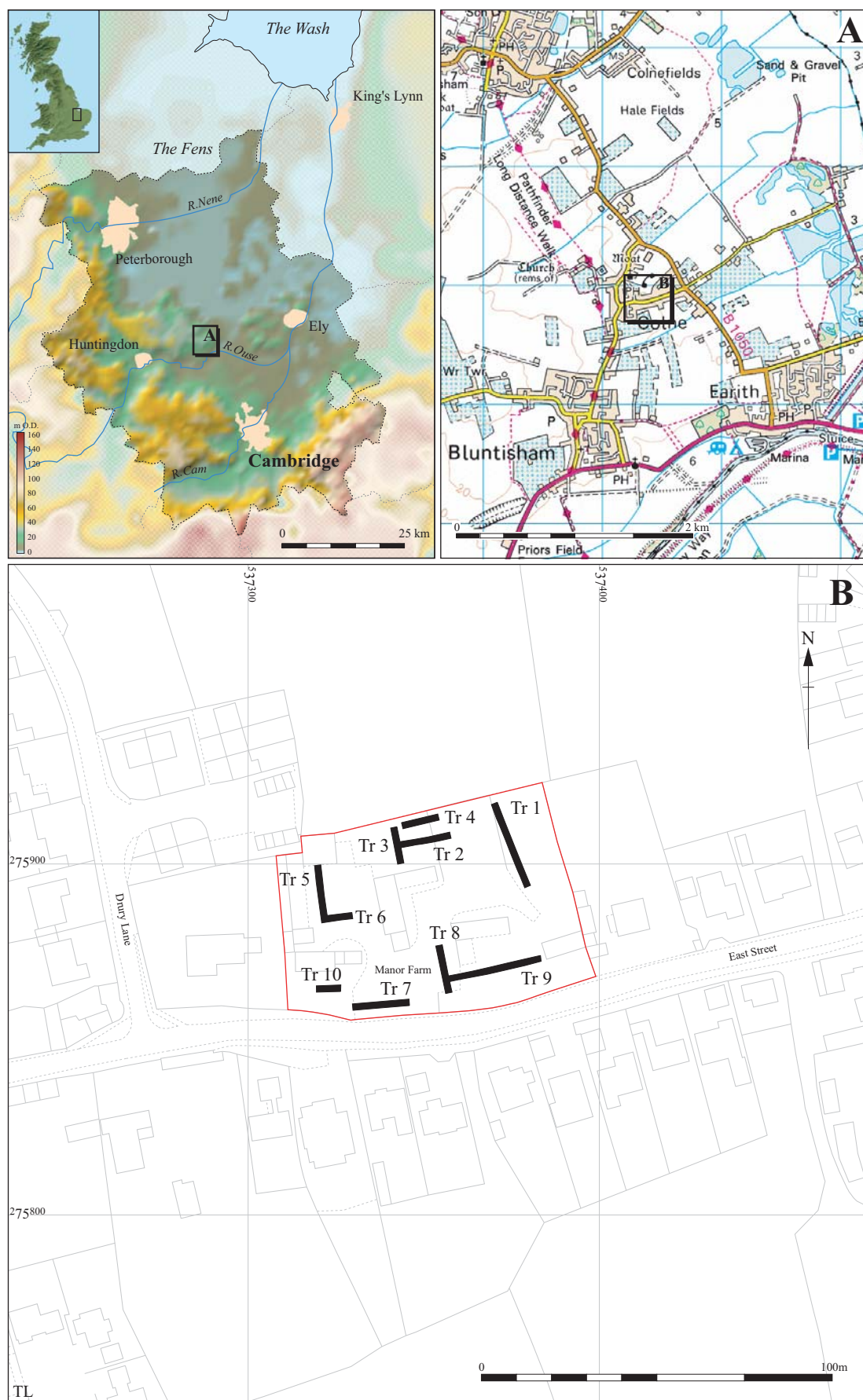
Top Surface/Top of Natural -----

Break in Section/
Limit of Section Drawing -----

Cut Number 118

Deposit Number 117

Ordnance Datum 18.45m OD
^



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

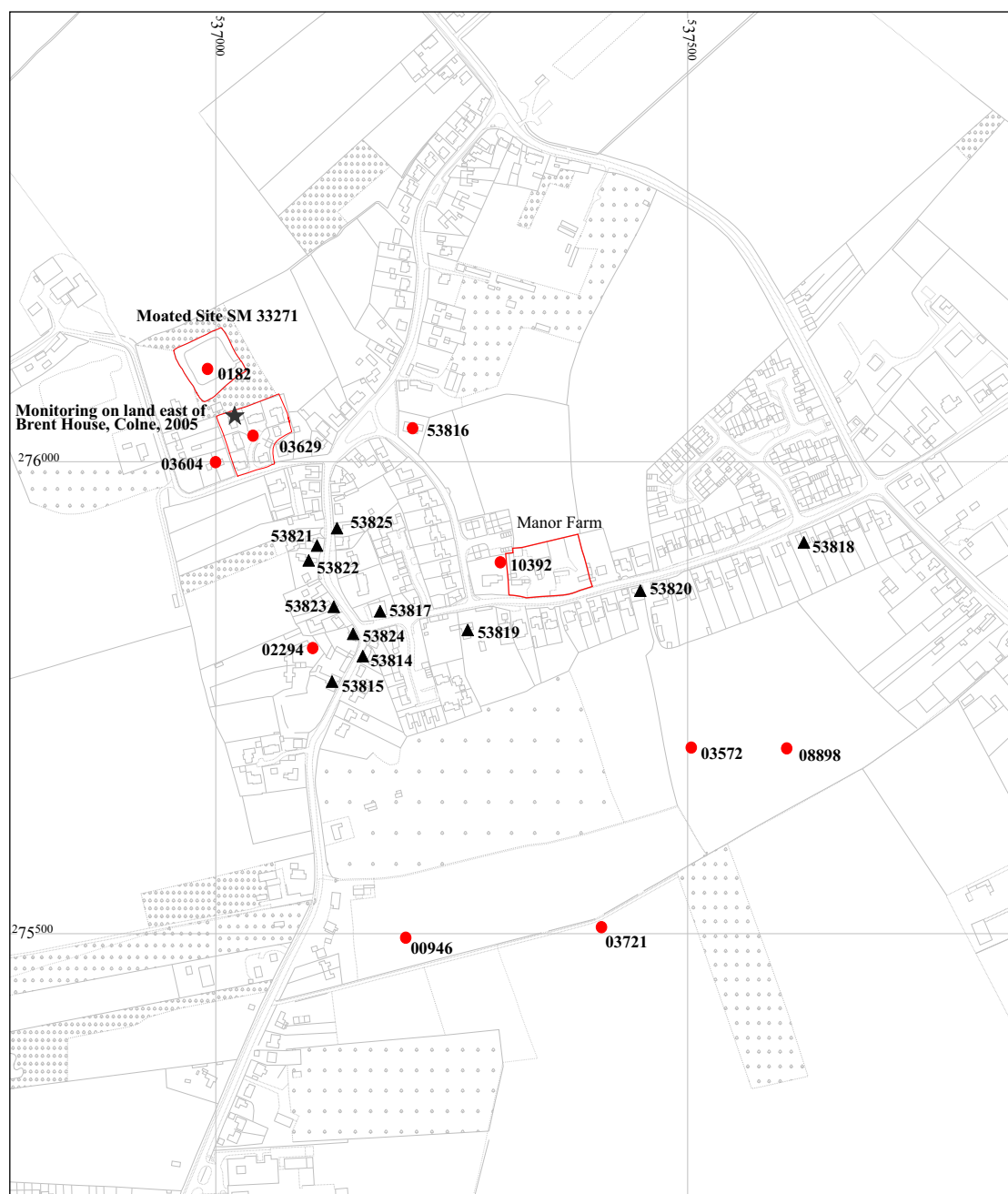


Figure 2: HER plot within 500m radius of Manor Farm in red

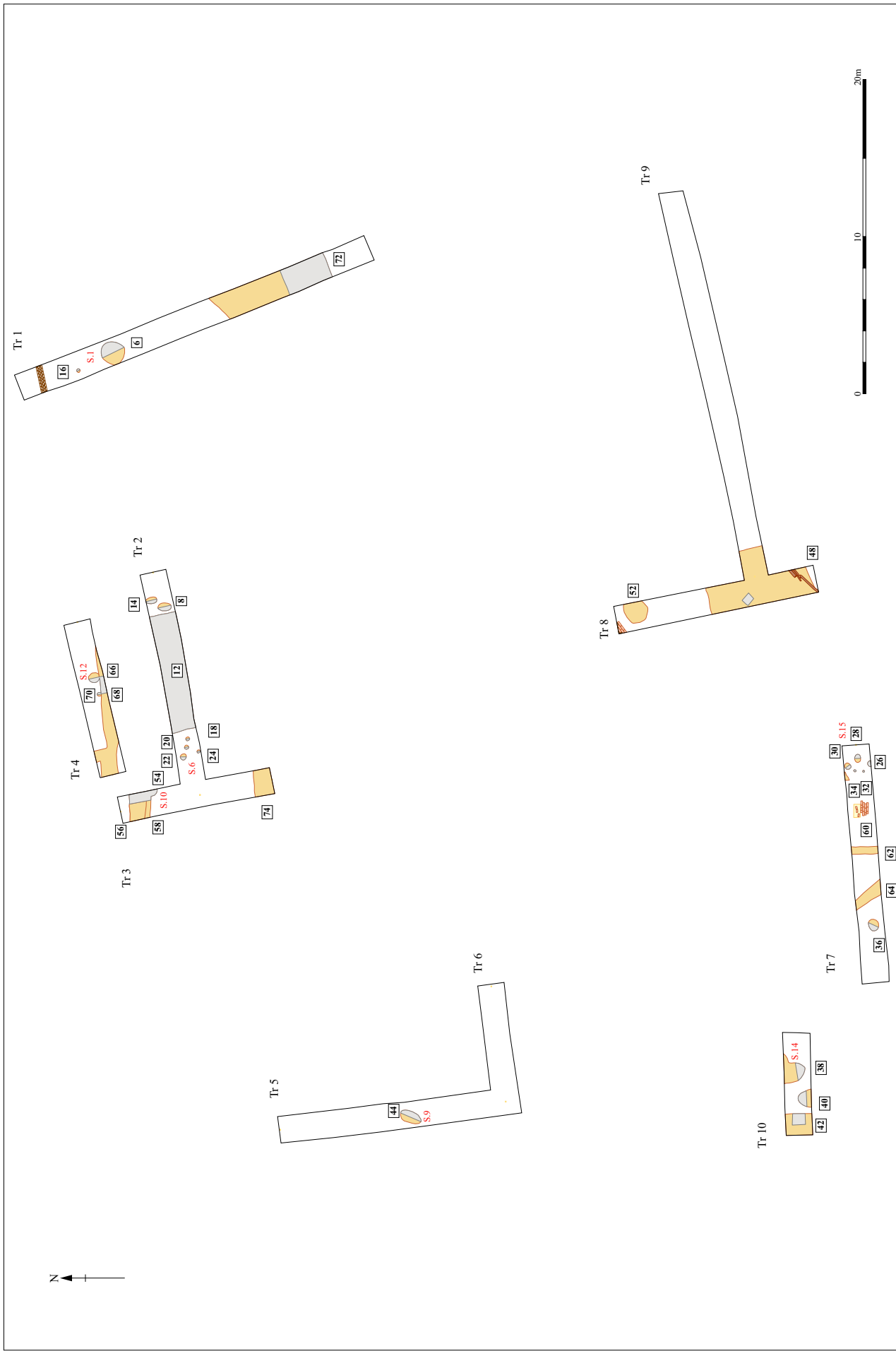


Figure 3: Trench plans 1 - 10

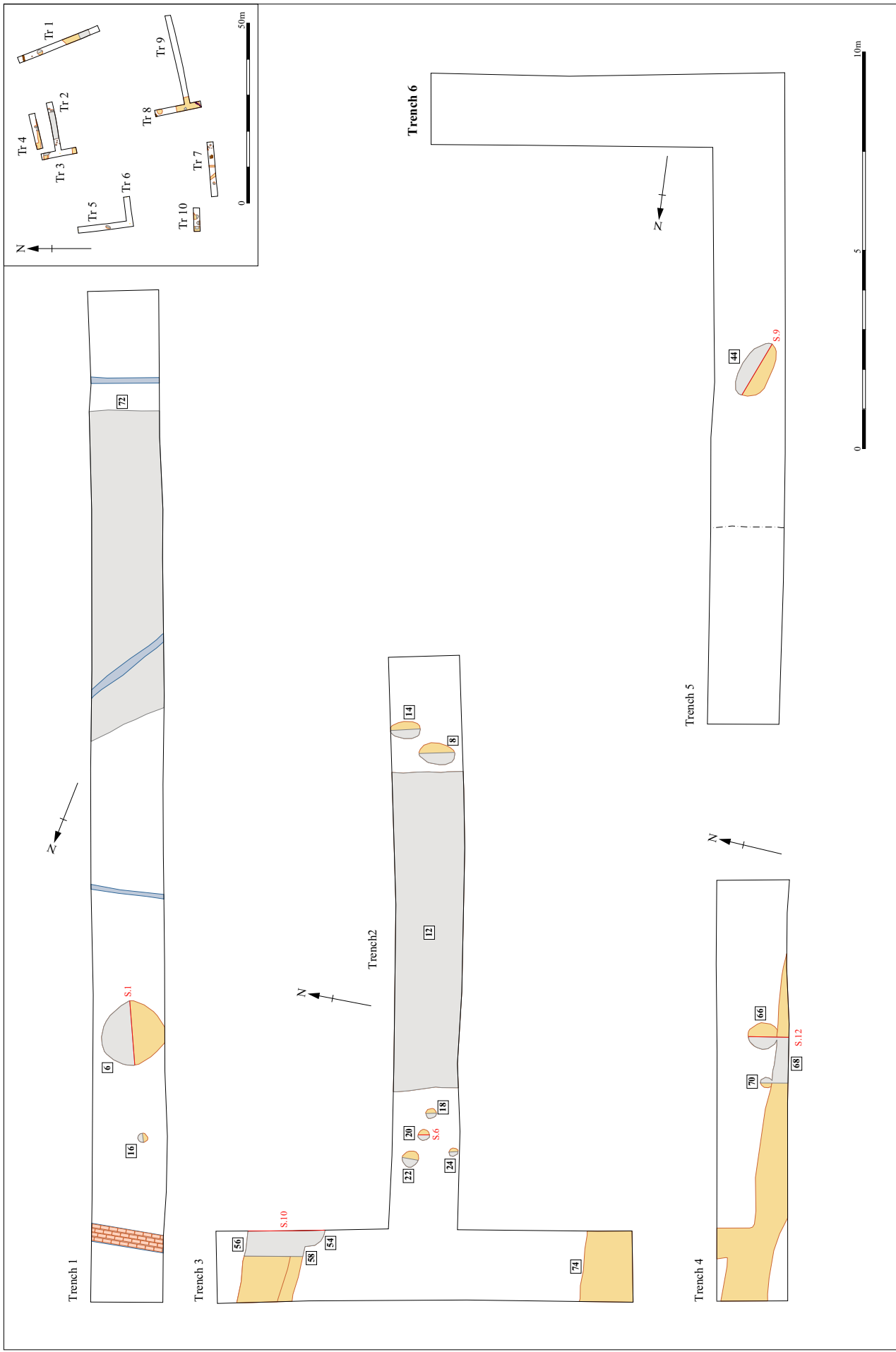


Figure 4: Trench plans 1 to 6

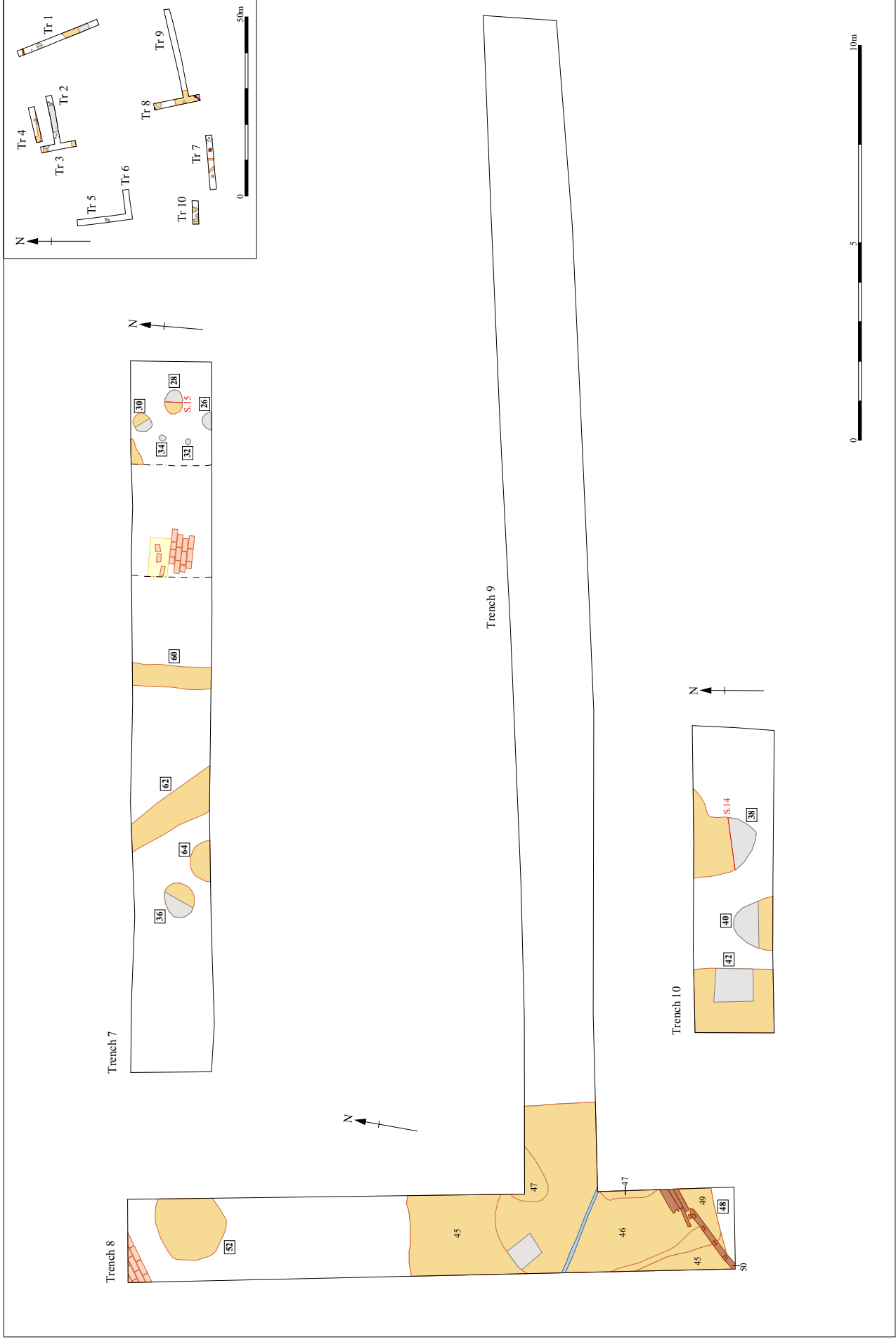


Figure 5: Trench plans 7 to 10

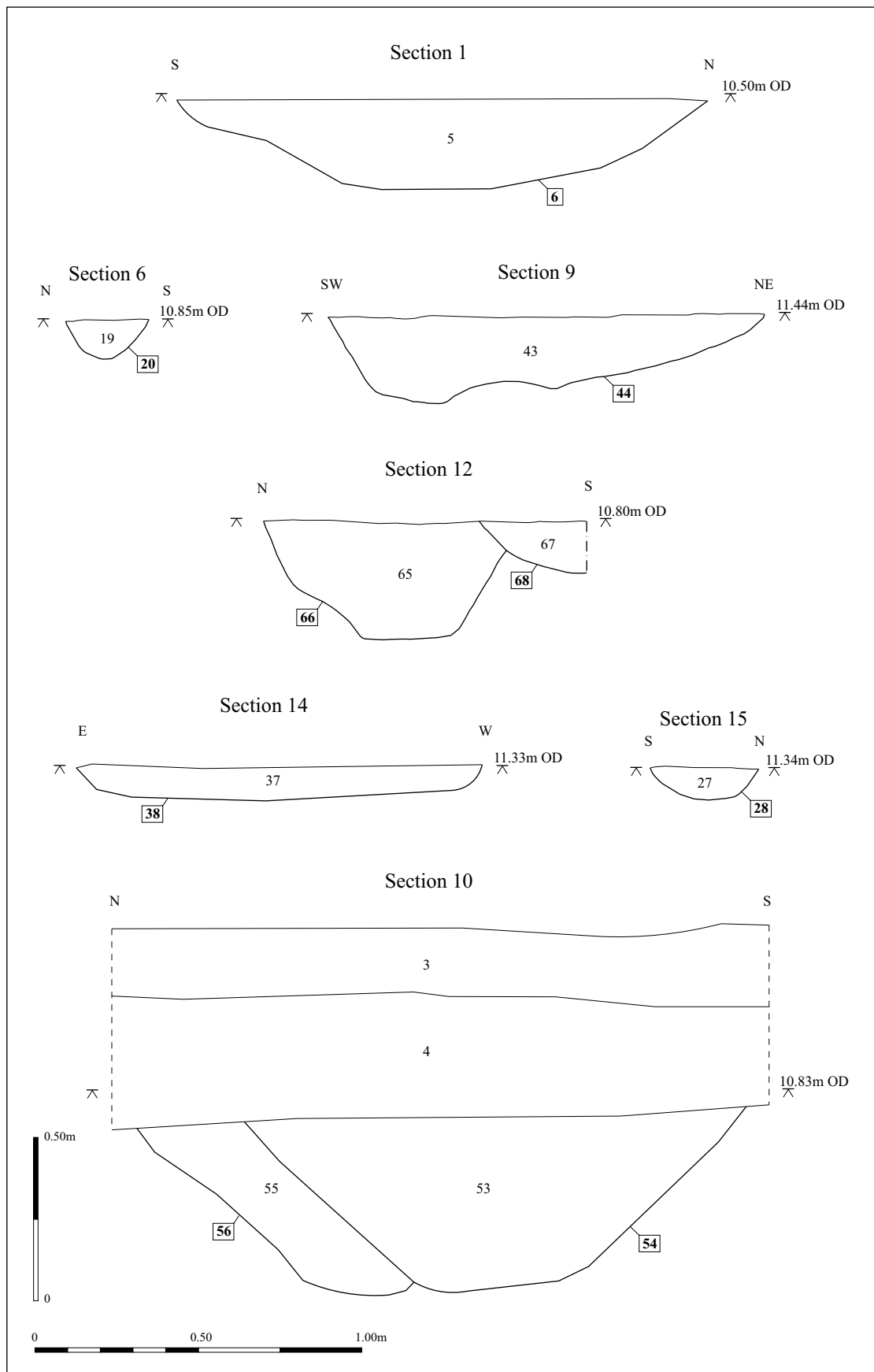


Figure 6: Section drawings



Plate1: Pits 08 and 14



Plate 2: Pond 12



Plate 3: SF1: Architectural Stone Fragment



Plate 4: SF1: Architectural Stone Fragment



Plate 5: Pits 44



Plate 6: SF 3 Iron Stake

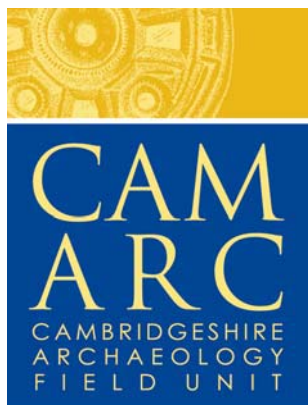


Plate 7: Feature 48 Trench 8/9



Plate 8: Feature 48 Trench 8/9





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>