
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**THE SUN PH, 78 HARTFORD ROAD, HUNTINGDON,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE29 1XG**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER ECB 5137

Authors: Niomi Edwards (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 2454 7201	Report No: 5528
District: Huntingdonshire	Site Code: ECB 5137
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P7204
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Project details			
Project name	<i>The Sun PH, 78 Hartford Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1XG</i>		
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<i>The riverside location of the site is on the opposite river bank to the Roman fort and town at Godmanchester, but extensive Roman remains have been recorded in the vicinity of the site, especially to the south. The major Saxon and medieval settlement of Huntingdon developed to the south-west and included St. Mary's priory and several churches in the near vicinity. The site had a potential for Roman to medieval remains.</i>			
<i>The trial trench evaluation recorded several ditches that were notable for containing low quantities of medieval pottery, animal bone and human bone. Trench 1 also contained two medieval pits, one of which may represent a well truncated by a later ditch. Additional human bone fragments were found in later (modern) ditches. The human bone includes a range of elements from the skull, torso, arms and legs of at least two individuals. The riverside area in Huntingdon was extensively exploited in the Roman period, and burials and cremations have previously been associated with small enclosures in the vicinity. The area continued to be extensively utilised in the medieval period and although a medieval cemetery is known a substantive distance to the south, the site is closer to St. Mary's Priory and at least two postulated medieval churches. The medieval pits, possibly including a well, contained pottery, animal bone and a range of carbonised cereal grains consistent with domestic occupation in the medieval period.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>February 2018</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	<i>Future work</i>	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>P7204</i>	<i>Site code</i>	<i>ECB 5137</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Former PH</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Ditches (medieval and modern), Pits (medieval)</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Pottery, human and animal bone, environmental remains (medieval)</i>		
	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Huntingdonshire</i>	<i>Huntingdon</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>PE29 1XG</i>		
Area of site	<i>500m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 2454 7201</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.10m AOD</i>		
<i>Project creators</i>			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
	<i>Ambury Developments UK Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>The Sun PH, 78 Hartford Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1XG. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Niomi Edwards</i>		
Report no.	<i>5528</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>February 2018</i>		

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CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE29 1XG**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In February 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Sun PH, 78 Hartford Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1XG (NGR TL 2454 7201; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed conversion of the existing public house, the demolition of outbuildings and new build to form 5no 2-bedroom dwellings (Huntingdonshire District Council Ref. 15/02256/FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

The riverside location of the site is on the opposite river bank to the Roman fort and town at Godmanchester, but extensive Roman remains have been recorded in the vicinity of the site, especially to the south. The major Saxon and medieval settlement of Huntingdon developed to the south-west and included St. Mary's priory and several churches in the near vicinity. The site had a potential for Roman and medieval remains.

The trial trench evaluation recorded several ditches that were notable for containing low quantities of medieval pottery, animal bone and human bone. Trench 1 also contained two medieval pits, one of which may represent a well truncated by a later ditch. Additional human bone fragments were found in later (modern) ditches. The human bone includes a range of elements from the skull, torso, arms and legs of at least two individuals. The riverside area in Huntingdon was extensively exploited in the Roman period, and burials and cremations have previously been associated with small enclosures in the vicinity. The area continued to be extensively utilised in the medieval period and although a medieval cemetery is known a substantive distance to the south, the site is closer to St. Mary's Priory and at least two postulated medieval churches. The medieval pits, possibly including a well, contained pottery, animal bone and a range of carbonised cereal grains consistent with domestic occupation in the medieval period.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Sun PH, 78 Hartford Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1XG (NGR TL 2454 7201; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed conversion of the existing public house, the demolition of outbuildings and new build to form 5no 2-bedroom dwellings (Huntingdonshire District Council Ref. 15/02256/FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET, Gemma Stewart;

dated 30th May 2017), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 5th June 2017) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

Planning Policy Context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is located on the northern side of Hartford Road in Huntingdon on the corner of West Street in the Newtown area. It comprises the existing public house, with a yard area and outbuildings to the rear, extending to some 500m² overall.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The modern town of Huntingdon is situated on the northern side of the valley of the River Great Ouse; with the site situated at c.10m AOD, located just 150m north of the course of the river on the edge of the valley floor. The natural slope rises to the north-west through the urban area, while on the opposite side of the main river channel are several minor braids of the river that meander across the broad valley floor.

3.2 The solid geology of the site is comprised of mudstone that is part of the Oxford clay formation, overlain by river terrace deposits of sand and gravel. The local soils are lime-rich loamy and clayey with impeded drainage.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The valley of the Great Ouse was conducive to human activity from the Palaeolithic period, with several flint blades and flakes from the period recorded on the northern side of the river within c.500m of the assessment site (CHER 01688, 01690, 02683, 09871 & MCB18576). This landscape has continued to produce flint artefacts from the Neolithic period, notably those potentially associated with a former water channel c.300m to the south-west (CHER MCB17084), as well as arrowheads c.300m to the east (CHER 01847), and flakes further to the south-west (i.e. CHER MCB18573). There is a paucity of later prehistoric evidence in the vicinity of the site, with scarce artefacts recovered from gravel pits associated with the river to the east, but poorly located. They include a Bronze Age bronze palstave and none spike (CHER 01962 & 09597) and Iron Age pottery (CHER 01839).

4.2 The Roman fort, and later town of Godmanchester (*Durovigutum*) was situated to the south east of modern Huntingdon on the major Roman road of Ermine street, whose route crossed the River Ouse and headed north-west, c.500m to the south-west of the assessment site (CHER CB15034). The bulk of evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity of the site is situated to the south of this road, suggesting the presence of extra mural activity on the opposite river bank to Godmanchester, but that it did not extend to any great extent towards the site. This activity has included small enclosures and surfaces (CHER MCB18577 & MCB18076), burials and cremations (CHER 00868 & 02635), numerous sherds of pottery (i.e. CHER 02597 & 02625) and coins (i.e. 02607 & 02764a). However, two phases of a Roman post-built building have been recorded c.250m to the south-west of the site, with fragments of storage jar, stone and the remains of spelt wheat suggesting it may have been associated with milling along the river outside of the town (CHER MCB20316). An isolated 3rd century coin and tile fragments have also been recorded within 200m of the site, suggesting further Roman activity may remain to be characterised (CHER 02696 & 02733)

4.3 Sparse sherds of Saxon pottery recorded c.8-900m to the west of the site, on the western site of the former Ermine Street suggest their may have been a Saxon settlement at Huntingdon by the 8th/9th century (CHER 02605 & 02606); however the town was truly established with the foundation of a Danish 'burh' (fortress) in about 879, postulated as c.800m to the south west on the river crossing, although there is

no conclusive archaeological evidence for its location or nature (CHER 02581). After the town was retaken, the church of St. Mary was built c.500m to the south-west (HER 04248a), subsequently developing into the parish church; and although Saxon pits have been recorded close to the church (CHER 11907 & 13020), other evidence for Saxon activity appears focused along the High Street (i.e. CHER CB15332 & MCB20474) rather than into the area of the site. Evidence for Saxon-Norman activity indicates the settlement developed to the west, between the High Street and St. John's/Walden Road (CHER MCB16321-3) and towards the river (CHER MCB16331)

4.4 The developing medieval town was overlooked by a Norman motte and bailey castle, built in 1082 c.600m to the south-west (CHER 01774). The medieval town contained numerous churches (i.e. CHER 04248, 02561 & 02649), a friary (CHER 02703a) and hospital of St. John (CHER 02737); however the closest religious institution to the site, c.150m to the north-west was St. Mary's Priory (HER 02648). The historic core of the town to the west of the site has produced extensive archaeological remains, rubbish pits, buildings, surfaces, artefacts and burials to the west of the site. Notable these include extensive remains, including evidence for butchery and blacksmithing in the Chequers Court and Hartford Road area c.350m to the west of the site (CHER MCB20321, MCB20138, MCB20116, MCB20317, MCB22072, CB15649, CB15695 & 11908). On Orchard Lane, c.400m to the south-west a cemetery of at least 21 articulated human skeletons was recorded (CHER 13021), while c.250m to the south-east a moated site was located (CHER 01055). Archaeological investigations along the High Street have demonstrated dense occupation (i.e. HER 11506, 02625A, CB15333-4, MCB17378, MCB17886, MCB17112 & MCB19878), while sparse medieval pottery sherds have been recorded within c.100m of the site on Temple Close (CHER 02733A), as well as slightly further to the north-east (CHER 02547C). Archaeological investigations c.200m to the west recorded undated ditches, with nearby features containing 11th to 12th century pottery, possibly suggesting the presence of enclosures outside the town (CHER MCB17848).

4.5 Following the dissolution of the Monasteries, Huntingdon remained prosperous and several 16th century survive today, almost entirely on the west side of the High Street (CHER 02675, 02678, 02680 & 02681), including fragments of wall painting in Cowper House (HER 02639A). Several 17th century houses survive in the same area (CHER 02676, 02677 & 02679) but the most notable 17th century feature comprises a Civil War Battery that survives as an earthwork c.300m to the north-east, probably built around 1642-3 (CHER 02547). Expansion on the periphery of Huntingdon began to encroach on the area of the site at the beginning of the 20th century, with the construction of an Isolation Hospital 200m to the west (CHER MCB22147) and St. Michaels Church adjacent to the east of the site in 1900-1 (CHER CB14923).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The evaluation provided for up to a c.5% sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched (c.500m²), excluding the footprint of the existing public house to be converted. The evaluation focused on the new house footprints and other areas of proposed ground disturbance. Two trenches of 8m x 1.6m were

excavated (Fig. 2).

5.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

5.3 A one-metre square of topsoil and subsoil were bucket sampled and sorted by hand at each end of the trenches to characterise their artefact content. Soil from this sampling procedure was kept separate from the main spoil heaps. Site records were completed to reflect this exercise and an on-site record was made of the finds recovered. A metal detector was used to enhance finds recovery. The metal detector survey was conducted when the trenches were opened, and the detector was not set to discriminate against iron. The spoil tips were also surveyed. The finds recovered during the sampling of the topsoil and the metal detecting survey were all of 19th and 20th century date.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 4)

Sample section 1A		
0.00 = 13.11m AOD		
0.00 – 0.03m	L1000	Grey silt
0.03 – 0.05m	L1001	Compact Gravel
0.05 – 0.14m	L1002	Tarmac
0.14 – 0.16m	L1004	Made Ground. Friable, light grey brown silty sand with lumps of Tarmac and CBM
0.16 – 0.38m	L1007	Made Ground. Friable, dark grey brown silty sand
0.38 – 0.46m	L1008	Made Ground. CBM rubble
0.46 - 0.64m	L1009	Subsoil. Friable, dark grey brown silty sand
0.64m +	L1010	Natural deposits. Friable, mid orange red sand and gravel

Sample section 1B		
0.00 = 13.12m AOD		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1002	Tarmac
0.12 - 0.15m	L1003	Compact Gravel
0.15 - 0.19m	L1004	Made Ground, as above
0.19 – 0.22m	L1005	Compact Gravel
0.22 – 0.35m	L1006	Made Ground. Light grey brown silty sand with CBM rubble
0.35 – 0.39m	L1007	Made Ground, as above
0.39 – 0.61m	L1009	Subsoil, as above
0.61m +	L1012	Fill of Ditch F1011

Description: Trench 1 contained Ditches F1011 and F1016, and Pits F1013 and F1019. Pit F1013 may be a well. Pit F1019 contained late Saxon - medieval (10th –

12th century) pottery, and Pit F1013 and Ditch F1016 contained medieval (12th – 13th century) pottery. A service run and footing traversed the trench.

Ditch F1011 was linear in plan (1.60+ x 1.11 x 0.42m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1012, was a friable, mid yellow brown silty sand with occasional small – medium sub angular and sub rounded flint. It contained animal bone (52g). F1011 cut Pit F1013.

Pit F1013 was sub circular in plan (1.41+ x 0.85+ x 1.01m+). It had steep sides and its base was unseen. Its basal fill, L1014, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand. It contained animal bone (9g). Its upper fill, L1015, was a friable, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub angular and sub rounded flint. It contained medieval (12th – 13th century) pottery (3; 19g). This feature may be a well. F1013 was cut by Ditch F1011.

Ditch F1016 was linear in plan (1.60+ x 0.85 x 0.87m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep, near vertical sides and a flattish base. Its basal fill, L1017, was a friable, mid blue grey silty sand with moderate small sub angular flint. It contained no finds. Its upper fill, L1018, was a friable, grey brown silty sand. It contained medieval (12th – 13th century) pottery (5; 51g), animal bone (114g) and coke (6g). F1016 was cut by a service and this may account for the fragment of coke.

Pit F1019 was sub circular in plan (0.41+ x 1.02 x 0.26m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1020, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand. It contained late Saxon - medieval (10th – 12th century) pottery (1; 17g).

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 - 4)

Sample section 2A		
0.00 = 13.10m AOD		
0.00 – 0.03m	L1002	Tarmac
0.03 – 0.08m	L1003	Compact Gravel. As above, Trench 1
0.08 – 0.14m	L1004	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1
0.14 – 0.26m	L1007	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1
0.26 – 0.43m	L1008	Made Ground. CBM rubble
0.43 – 0.71m	L1009	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.74m +	L1010	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 2B		
0.00 = 13.09m AOD		
0.00 – 0.06m	L1002	Tarmac
0.06 – 0.12m	L1003	Compact Gravel. As above, Trench 1
0.12 – 0.18m	L1004	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1
0.18 – 0.29m	L1008	Made Ground. CBM rubble
0.29 – 0.56m	L1009	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.56m +	L1010	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 2 contained Ditches F1021, F1023 and F1026. Ditch F1021 contained medieval (late 12th – 14th century) pottery, and Ditches F1023 contained post-medieval and modern pottery and CBM. All the ditches contained human bone.

Ditch F1021 was linear in plan (1.60+ x 1.40+ x 0.61m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and its base was unseen. Its fill, L1022, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small – medium sub angular flint. It contained medieval (late 12th – 14th century) pottery (9; 106g), human bone (124g), animal bone (26g) and shale (7g). F1021 was cut by Ditches F1023 and F1026 and this may account for the shale.

Ditch F1023 was linear in plan (1.60+ x 0.85 x 0.87m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep – moderately sloping sides and its base was unseen. Its basal fill, L1024, was a friable, dark grey brown silty sand. It contained no finds. Its upper fill, L1025, was a friable, mid yellow brown silty sand. It contained 18th – 19th century pottery (3; 66g), CBM (976g), human bone (141g), animal bone (468g) and iron fragments (3; 113g). F1023 was cut by Ditch F1026.

Ditch F1026 was linear in plan (1.85+ x 0.50+ x 0.90m+), orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and its base was unseen. Its fill, L1027, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand. It contained 16th – 17th century pottery (1; 14g), modern (20th century) CBM (1491g), human bone (581g), and clay pipe stem fragments (3; 10g). F1026 cut Ditches F1021 and F1023.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Trench 1 contained a service trench, and Ditch F1026 (Trench 2) was likely a service trench. These service trenches truncated archaeological remains (Ditch F1016 (Trench 1) and Ditches F1021 and F1023 (Trench 2)) and will have impeded the recognition of archaeological features and finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost was silt (L1000), gravel (L1001) and Tarmac L1002 (0.12 – 0.14m thick). Tarmac L1002 overlay made ground deposits L1004 – L1008) (0.24 – 0.32m thick).

8.2 The made ground overlay Subsoil L1009, a friable, dark grey brown silty sand (0.18 – 0.22m thick).

8.3 At the base of the sequence the natural, L1010, was a friable, mid orange red sand and gravel (0.61 - 0.64m below the current day ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1011	Ditch	-
	F1013	Pit	12 th – 13 th century
	F1016	Ditch	12 th – 13 th century
	F1019	Pit	10 th – 12 th century
2	F1021	Ditch	Late 12 th – 14 th century
	F1023	Ditch	18 th – 19 th century
	F1026	Ditch	20 th century (CBM)

9.2 Each trench contained archaeological features. Four features (three in Trench 1 and one in Trench 2) contained late Saxon – medieval pottery (10th – 12th century; 12th – 13th century; and late 12th – 14th century). Two of the features were pits (F1013 and F1019), and two of the features were ditches (F1016 and F1021). F1013 may have been a well rather than a pit. Between 1 and 9 sherds were present in each feature, comprising low quantities of St. Neot's ware and locally-produced medieval coarse wares, including glazed jugs and jars probably of 12th-13th century date. Limited quantities of animal bone were also recorded, dominated by sheep and pig, with occasional cattle and bird (duck) bone also present, consistent with domestic consumption. The environmental remains comprise a range of cereals consistent with domestic food processing activities. The pottery and bone were moderately to heavily abraded suggesting they may not be in their primary location. The latter suggestion is supported by the facts that Pit F1021 included shale; Ditch F1016 contained coke; and cross joins with the human bone from intercutting Ditches F1021, F1023 and F1026 indicates some intermingling of fills and finds.

9.3 Ditches F1023 and F1026 (Trench 2) contained modern pottery and modern CBM. Like the earlier ditch, F1021, the ditches contained human bone. The human bone was disarticulated and highly fragmented, albeit with relatively well-preserved surfaces. It included pieces of skull, vertebrae, ribs, limbs, hands and feet derived from the skeletons of at least two individuals. There was no indication of the source of the human bone within the site.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The trial trench evaluation recorded several ditches that were notable for containing low quantities of medieval pottery, animal bone and human bone. Trench 1 also contained two medieval pits, one of which may represent a well truncated by a later ditch. The pits may have been associated with riverside activity to the north-east of the historic core of the medieval town of Huntingdon, potentially comprising domestic occupation as suggested by pottery jugs, animal bone and a range of cereals within the environmental remains. There was no indication of any graves that may have contained the human bone recovered from the ditches. The human bone includes a range of elements from the skull, torso, arms and legs of at least two individuals. The riverside area in Huntingdon was extensively exploited in the Roman period, with the site on the opposite side of the river to the fort and town of Godmanchester, in an area where burials and cremations have previously been associated with small enclosures. The riverside area continued to be extensively utilised in the medieval period when it was located to the north-east of the historic core of Huntingdon. A medieval cemetery was established a substantive distance to the south, but the site is located closer to St. Mary's Priory and at least two

postulated medieval churches. An increased understanding of the growth and organisation of urban areas, including medieval Huntingdon and the establishment of churches and cemeteries, has long been recognised in regional research agendas (Ayers 1997, 61). Despite the truncation by later ditches, the artefactual evidence from this site suggests it has a modest potential to further inform on this theme.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Cambridge County Archaeological Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Web resources

www.old-maps.co.uk

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1011	1012		1	Fill of Ditch					52			
1013	1014		1	Fill of Pit					12			
	1015		1	Fill of Pit	12th-13th C	3	19					
1016	1018		1	Fill of Ditch	12th-13th C	5	51		114	Coke		6
1019	1020		1	Fill of Pit	10th-12th C	1	17					
1021	1022		2	Fill of Ditch	Late 12th-14th C	9	106		26	H.Bone		124
										Shale		7
1023	1025		2	Fill of Ditch	18th-19th C	3	66	976	468	H.Bone Fe Frags	3	141 113
1026	1027		2	Fill of Ditch	16th-17th C	1	14	1491		H.Bone		581
										Clay Pipe	3	10
	U/S								179			

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery Report

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 22 sherds weighing 273g. Thirteen sherds are of late Saxon to medieval date, and four are post-medieval. The condition of the assemblage varies but can overall be characterised as moderately to heavily abraded.

Methodology

The sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001). The fabric codes and fabric numbers (in brackets) are those used by the Suffolk County Council pottery type series which are also applicable to Cambridgeshire pottery.

KEY:

STNE (2.70): St Neots ware, 10th-12th

MSHW (3.50): Medieval shelly ware, 12th-mid14th

MCW1 (3.20): Medieval coarseware 1, 12th-14th - common fine to medium and occasionally coarse sub-rounded to rounded quartz and common fine white shell/calcareous or voids. Dark grey throughout

MCW2 (3.20): Medieval coarseware 2, 12th-14th moderate to common fine to medium sub-rounded to rounded quartz including pink grains, sparse shell. Grey surfaces and red-brown core

MCW3 (3.20): Medieval coarseware 3, 12th-14th fine sandy fabric with moderate sub-rounded quartz and occasional coarse quartz or crystalline clusters. Moderate fine calcareous inclusions or voids, fabric similar to MCW1. Mid grey core with pale orange brown surfaces

HFSW (3.63): Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware, 12th-13th

UPG: (4.00): Unprovenanced glazed ware, late 12th-14th fine silty fabric with moderate ooliths or voids. Grey throughout with thin external green glaze

IGBW (6.11): Iron glazed black ware, late 15th-17th

PMRW (6.10): Post-medieval red earthenware, 16th-19th

PMWW (6.20): Post-medieval white earthenware, 16th-19th

The Pottery

Pit F1019 L1020 contained a single body sherd of St Neots ware. Ditch F1021 L1022 contained 9 sherds all medieval shelly or sand and calcareous coarse wares including a jug rim in MCW2, with the exception being a glazed jug neck in a fabric containing sparse ooliths which may be related to the Lyveden-Stanion ware industry from the Corby area. Pit F1013 L1015 included a roulette decorated body sherd which may be an atypical Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware (HFSW) containing only very sparse calcareous inclusions (Spoerry 2016, 159 & 157). Ditch F1016 L1018 contained two medieval shelly ware sagging base sherds similar to St Neots ware but with pinker surfaces and containing sand and which were probably Developed St Neots wares (12th-13th centuries). They were present with an HFSW beaded jar rim. Ditch F1026 L1027 contained a black glazed drinking jug base in a fabric similar to Cistercian ware of transitional/early post-medieval date. Ditch F1023 L1025 contained contained three post-medieval sherds of probable 18th-19th centuries date.

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Pit 1013	1015	1x3g MCW1 1x5g MSHW 1x11g HFSW	12 th -13 th	MCW1: simple flat topped A2 type rim MCW3: dispersed horizontal rouletted line decoration
Ditch 1016	1018	1x5g MCW1 2x33g MSHW 2x13g HFSW		MSHW: x2 sagging base/body sherds HFSW: C1 large square beaded jar rim
Pit 1019	1020	1x17g STNE	10 th -12 th	
Ditch 1021	1022	1x17g MCW2 1x8g MCW3 4x48g MSHW 2x23g HFSW 1x10g UPG	Late 12 th -14 th	MCW2: B2 flat top small square bead jug rim
Ditch 1023	1025	2x33g PMRE 1x33g PMWW	18 th -19 th	PMRE: crude poorly fired fabric, may be CBM PMWW: hard fired with pale orange-brown glaze
Ditch 1026	1027	1x14g IGBW	16 th -17 th	IGBW: Cistercian type ware body and base of small drinking mug/jug

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

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Spoerry, P. 2016 The Production and Distribution of Medieval Pottery in Cambridgeshire *East Anglian Archaeology* Report 159

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of six fragments (2467g) of modern CBM. Ditch F1023 (L1025) contained a single piece (976g) of salt-glazed white earthen ware sewer pipe. Ditch F1026 (L1027) contained five fragments (1491g) of gault perforated engineering brick. All are representative of 20th century construction materials, with the sewer pipe possibly of Victorian origin.

The Metalwork

By Rebecca Sillwood

Three iron finds were made – a nail in two pieces and a large fragment of cable or wire – all from a single context: ditch fill L1025. The nail (13g) is undated. The thick cable or wire (6mm diameter) is possibly structural, or part of a fence. This is clearly modern in date.

The Human Remains

Dr Julia E.M. Cussans

A small assemblage of disarticulated human remains was recovered during trial trench evaluation. All of the remains derived from intercutting ditches from the south east end of Trench 2. In total 46 bone fragments were recorded and bones found within each deposit are described below. Full details of the human remains present along with visual representations are stored in the site archive.

Ditch F1021 L1022

Bone preservation was rated as ok-good, with minor surface abrasion and a few fresh breakages. One tibia fragment has significant trowel or mattock damage. A total of four fragments were recorded. A summary of the bones present is given in Table 2 below. Two pieces of left proximal tibia were present indicating a minimum number of individuals (MNI) of two. The less complete of the two fragments joins with the tibia fragment from Ditch F1023 L1025, see below.

Context Details	Bones present
L1022 F1021 Ditch Fill	Right femur shaft fragment Left proximal tibia (fused) Left proximal tibia fragment (fused) Right cuboid

Table 2. Human remains recovered from Ditch F1021 L1022

Ditch F1023 L1025

Bone preservation was rated as ok. The bones were highly fragmented and some were considerably abraded; a small number had concreted deposits adhering to their surface. In total 25 fragments were recorded but a significant proportion of these were unidentified possible human fragments. A summary of the bones present is given in Table 3 below. The tibia fragment joins with the fragments mentioned above from Ditch F1021 L1022. L1025 and L1022 are in close proximity to each other (Trench 2; Fig. 4) and hence there is some potential for cross over. It is difficult to say if all of the bones from Ditch F1023 L1025 likely belonged to one individual or if more than one person is represented.

Context Details	Bones present
L1025 F1023 Ditch Fill	Left temporal fragment (mastoid process) Five rib fragments Right proximal ulna Right fibula shaft fragment Left proximal tibia fragment (fused) Sternum fragment Left third metacarpal Left fourth metatarsal Long bone fragments 1x?tibia, 2x?fibula 15 other unid. ?human fragments

Table 3. Human remains recovered from L1025

Ditch F1026 L1027

Bone preservation was rated as good with mostly large fragments present. A small number of the bones were quite abraded, but there were only a small number of

fresh breaks. The right femur shaft is somewhat battered indicating it likely underwent significant movement/ transportation prior to its burial in Ditch F1026L1027. The radius fragment was noted as being particularly abraded. A summary of the bones present is given in Table 4 below. It was noted that the two humerus fragments present did not join together and in fact had a minor overlap in bone present and hence belonged to two different individuals (MNI = 2). Where present all epiphyses were fused. No pathological lesions were noted.

Context Details	Bones present
L1027 F1026 Ditch Fill	One thoracic vertebrae One lumbar vertebrae Right proximal radius (fused) Right femur shaft fragment Left humerus shaft fragment Left distal humerus (fused) Left femur shaft fragment Left distal fibula (fused) Sternum fragment Sacrum Right third metacarpal One middle phalange (hand or foot) One metapodial fragment Four unid. ?human fragments

Table 4. Human remains recovered from L1027

Summary

Overall bone preservation was ok, if somewhat fragmented. There were clear signs on some of the bones that they were not in their place of primary deposition. A selection of body parts was present including skull, vertebrae, ribs, limbs, hands and feet. At least two and possibly more individuals were represented.

The Animal Bone

Dr Julia E. M. Cussans

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from trial trench evaluation. The majority derived from ditch fills and one bone came from a pit or well fill (Table 5). Preservation ratings ranged from poor through to good on a five point scale from very poor through to excellent. Bone abrasion was variable between the contexts with higher levels of abrasion being noted in poorer preserved contexts. A few fresh breakages were noted in some contexts, the only gnawed bone present was unstratified. No burnt bones were present.

In total 36 bone fragments were recorded, half of which could only be identified as medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal; a further small quantity could only be identified as large (cattle or horse sized) mammal (Table 5). Identified taxa were cattle, sheep/ goat, pig, probable rabbit (small mammal) and probable duck (bird). Cattle were represented by a mix of elements, several of which showed signs of butchery including a tibia which had been chopped through the shaft (Ditch F1016 L1018) and a large distal humerus (unstratified) which had been sawn through above the articulation and was though likely to be modern. No ageable material or pathological lesions were present.

Sheep/ goat were largely represented by limb bones, but an ageable mandible was also present. The mandible belonged to a juvenile animal with the deciduous fourth premolar still in place, the second molar just in wear and the third molar not yet erupted. No butchered or pathological bones were present. Sheep/ goat bones from Ditch F1023 L1025 did however contain a set of articulating forelimb bones (humerus, radius and ulna). These also derived from an immature animal with the proximal humerus and distal radius still unfused.

Pig was represented by a mandible fragment; no teeth were present and there were no obvious signs of butchery. The probable rabbit bone was a humerus which was unfused at both the proximal and distal ends. The bird bone was a distal radius, thought most likely to belong to a duck.

This assemblage is, overall, relatively well preserved and presents small quantities of useful data. A much larger assemblage would likely yield a good body of data relating to on site economy, animal husbandry and the exploitation of domestic and possibly wild taxa in the vicinity.

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Preservation	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Small mammal	Bird	Total
1011	1012	1	Fill of Ditch		good		1			4			5
1013	1014	1	Fill of Pit		poor					1			1
1016	1018	1	Fill of Ditch	12th-13th C	ok	1				3			4
1021	1022	2	Fill of Ditch	Late 12th-14th C	good	1							1
1023	1025	2	Fill of Ditch	18th-19th C	ok	3	5	1	3	10	1	1	24
	U/S				ok	1							1
					Total	6	6	1	3	18	1	1	36

Table 5. Quantification of animal bone from The Sun Public House

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the trial trench evaluation at The Sun Public House, five bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. Four of the samples were from features spot dated to the medieval period. The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and quality of preservation of environmental archaeological remains, as well as to make a provisional interpretation of the site's diet and economy during the medieval period.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

For the purpose of assessment, all samples >10 litres were 50% sub-sampled. Any with the potential to produce an assemblage of >30 identifiable specimens from a dateable deposit will be fully processed and retained with the site archive.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 6.

Preservation of archaeological plant remains in the sampled deposits was through carbonisation, with carbonised cereal remains recovered from all five samples. Identifiable cereal grains were of hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type), oat (*Avena* sp.) and rye (*Secale cereale*). These represent a common range of cereal crops in medieval archaeobotanical assemblages (e.g. Ballantyne 2005; Moffett 2006). A single free-threshing type wheat rachis node was identified in L1018 (F1016), representing limited evidence for crop processing activities, although this could have been present as a contaminant within a cleaned crop. A small range of non-cereal taxa were also present, including stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), medium legumes (Fabaceae) and wild grasses (Poaceae). All of these could have grown as arable weeds but the low concentration is not indicative of material derived from crop processing by-products. The

density of material was relatively low and is unlikely to represent discrete dumps of carbonised crop debris. More likely, the material is domestic in character, representing material generated through food preparation activities that became carbonised in domestic hearths.

Charcoal was present to common in the samples, being represented by relatively small (<5mm) fragments. The only vessel pattern positively identified was oak (*Quercus* sp.) but this may not have been the only fuel resource utilised. The charcoal remains are likely to represent spent fuel debris deposited with other refuse material.

Mollusc remains were common only in ditch fill L1022 (F1021) and reflect primarily ground litter conditions. These probably represent well vegetated habitats in the vicinity of the ditch.

Conclusions

The preservation of carbonised cereals and associated weed taxa in the samples from The Sun Public House demonstrate the routine use of cereals at the site. This was most likely in the form of routine food preparation activities and domestic activity, with little evidence at present for more intensive agricultural processing activities.

Should further excavation work be undertaken at the site, a programme of bulk sampling for carbonised plant remains is likely to shed further light on the use of cereal crops at the site during the medieval period.

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Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Trench	Spot date	Volume processed (litres)		% processed	Cereals		Non-cereal taxa		Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants				Other remains						
							Volume taken (litres)			Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes	Hazelnut shell	Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs		Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules			
ECB5137	1	1012	1011	Fill of Ditch	1	-	40	20	50%	XX	-	HB (XX), FTW (XX), Oat (X), NFI (XX)	X	<i>Anthemis cotula</i> (X)	-	XX	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	-	-	XX	-	XX	-	-	-	-	Clinker (X)	
ECB5137	2	1015	1013	Upper Fill of Pit/Well	1	12th-13th C	40	20	50%	XX	-	HB (X), FTW (XX), NFI (XX)	X	Medium Fabaceae (X)	X	XX	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	
ECB5137	3	1017	1016	Fill of Ditch	1	12th-13th C	20	10	50%	X	-	Hord (X), FTW (X), NFI (X)	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	
ECB5137	4	1018	1016	Fill of Ditch	1	12th-13th C	40	20	50%	XX	X	HB (XX), FTW (XX), Oat (X), Rye (X), NFI (XX), FTW rachis (X)	X	Small Poaceae (X), Medium Poaceae (X)	-	XX	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	X	-	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	X	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-
ECB5137	5	1022	1021	Fill of Ditch	2	Late 12th-14th C	40	20	50%	X	-	NFI (X)	-	-	-	X	-	XX	-	<i>Clausilidae</i> , <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp., <i>Vertigo</i> sp., <i>Vitrea</i> sp.	XX	X	XX	-	-	-	Small mammal bone (X)	

Table 6: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from The Sun Public House. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Oat (*Avena* sp.); Rye (*Secale cereale*); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-316237

Project details

Project name	The Sun PH, 78 Hartford Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1XG
Short description of the project	In February 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Sun PH, 78 Hartford Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1XG (NGR TL 2454 7201; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed conversion of the existing public house, the demolition of outbuildings and new build to form 5no 2-bedroom dwellings (Huntingdonshire District Council Ref. 15/02256/FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. The riverside location of the site is on the opposite river bank to the Roman fort and town at Godmanchester, but extensive Roman remains have been recorded in the vicinity of the site, especially to the south. The major Saxon and medieval settlement of Huntingdon developed to the south-west and included St. Mary's priory and several churches in the near vicinity. The site had a potential for Roman to medieval remains.
Project dates	Start: 01-02-2018 End: 28-02-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7204 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5137 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Monument type	DITCHES Modern
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	HUMAN BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition

Position in the planning process Pre-application

Project location

Country England
 Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE HUNTINGDON The Sun PH, 78 Hartford Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1XG
 Postcode PE29 1XG
 Study area 500 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 2454 7201 52.331624180772 -0.172093716724 52 19 53 N 000 10 19 W Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 10m Max: 10m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Project brief originator Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeology Office
 Project design originator Jon Murray
 Project director/manager Jon Murray
 Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
 Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Human Bones"
 Digital Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
 Digital Contents "Survey"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Cambridge County Archaeological Store
 Paper Contents "Survey"
 Paper Media available "Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title The Sun PH, 78 Hartford Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1XG
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Edwards, N
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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



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View of Trench 1 looking north-east



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F1011 and F1013 in Trench 1 looking south-east



3
F1016 in Trench 1 looking north-west



4
F1019 in Trench 1 looking north-west



5
View of Trench 2 looking south-east



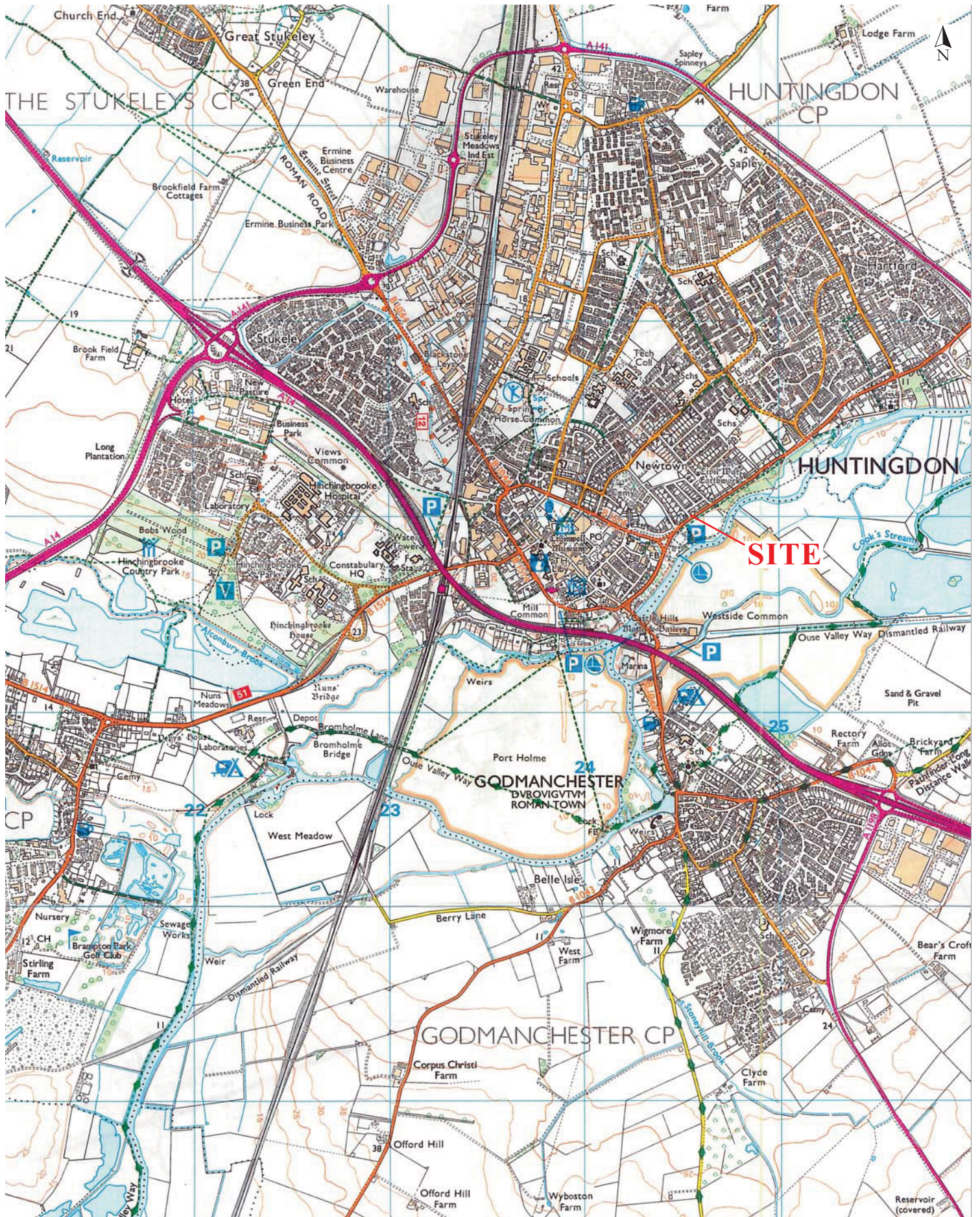
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F1021 and F1023 in Trench 2 looking south-west



7
F1023 and F1026 in Trench 2 looking north-east

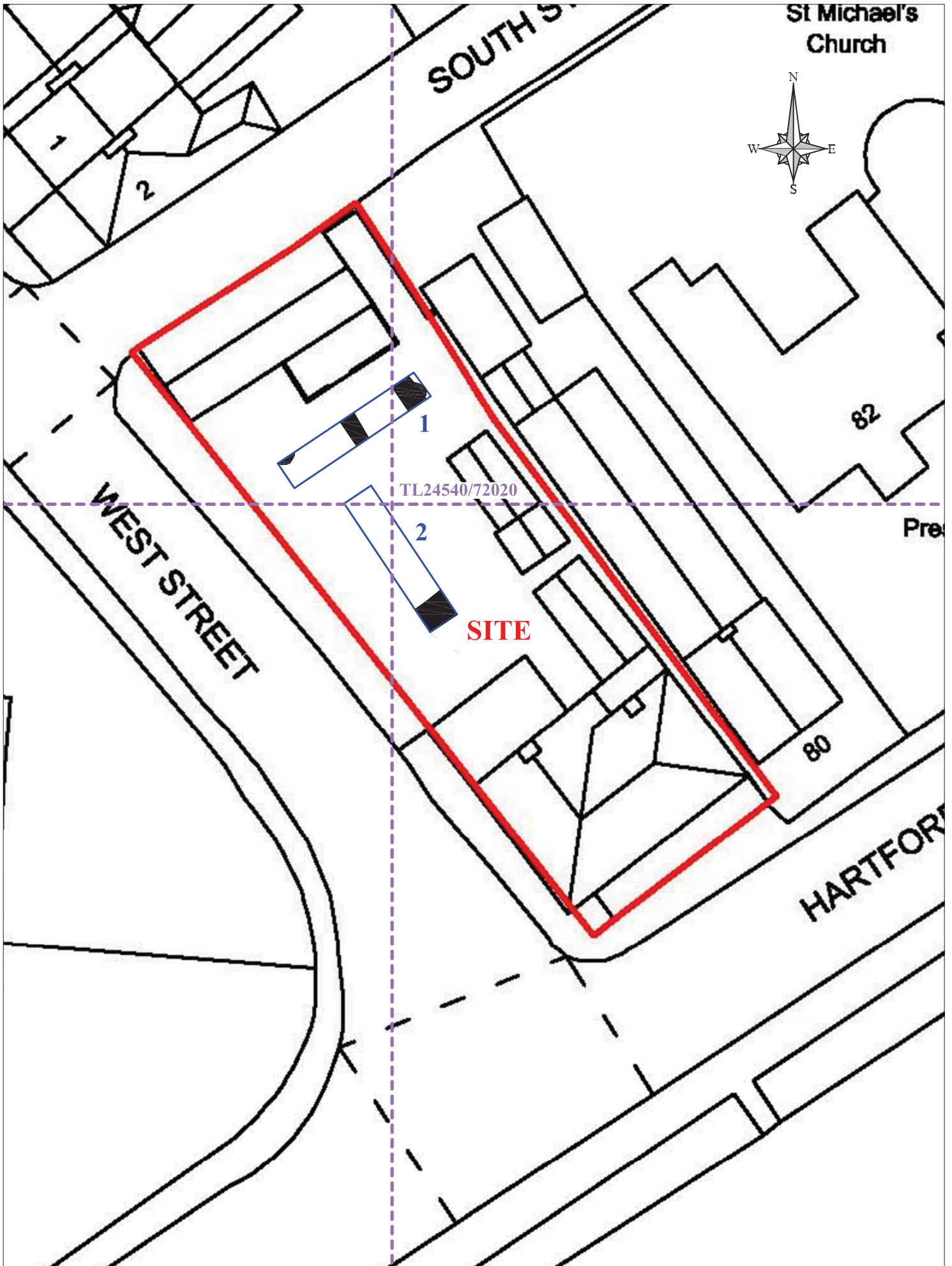


8
Sample Section 2 in Trench 2 looking south-west



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Site (P number)



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:250 at A4

The Sun, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire (P7204)

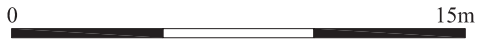


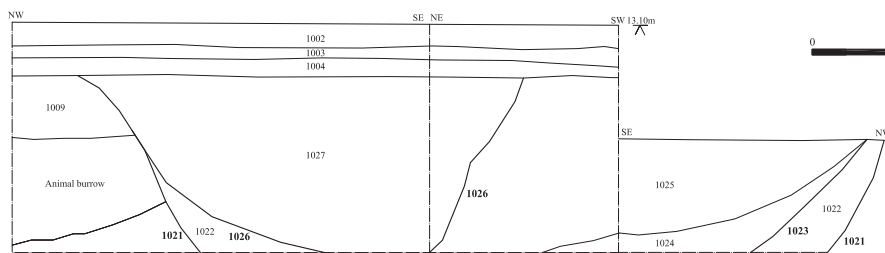
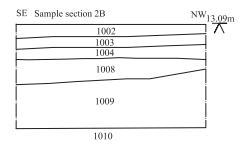
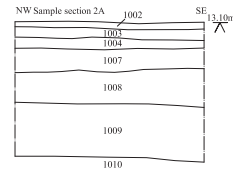
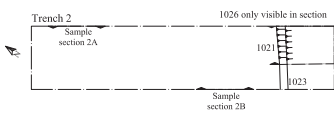
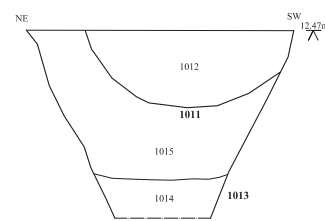
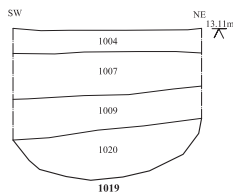
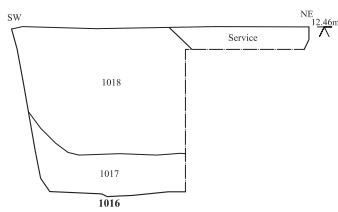
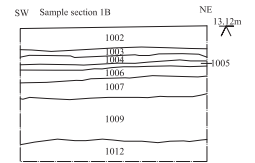
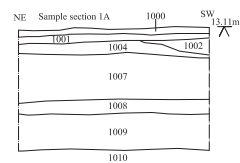
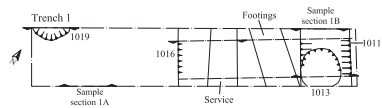
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Fig. 3 Proposed development

Scale 1:250 at A4

The Sun, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire (P7204)





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Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
 The Sun, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire (P7204)