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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**LAND NORTH OF SCHOOL ROAD,  
SAXON STREET, WOODDITTON,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

CHER ECB 2193

Authors: Thomas Woolhouse BA (Desk-based assessment) Andrew MUNDIN BSc PIFA, Dan McConnell BSc (Fieldwork & archaeological text)	
NGR: TL 6662 5987	Report No: 2010
District: East Cambs	Site Code: AS975
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No: 2679
Signed:	Date: May 2006

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## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Land north of School Road, Saxon Street, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire: an archaeological evaluation</i>		
Project description (250 words)	<p><i>In March/May 2006, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation of land north of School Road, Saxon Street, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6662 5987).</i></p> <p><i>The desk-based assessment suggested that the site had some potential for prehistoric remains, and also for evidence of dispersed late Saxon and medieval settlement.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed parallel linear ditches running obliquely to the contours of the site (Trs23-25). Struck flint was found in one of these ditches (Tr. 23 F1021). The finds are not surprising given the known prehistoric activity in the area, and in particular a ploughed-out round barrow is recorded close to these trenches. It is possible they represent activity along the line of the trackway traversing this part of the field to the south, with which they run parallel.</i></p> <p><i>Sparse evidence of late Iron Age activity was identified, with abraded pottery sherds of this date from two intercutting pits (Tr.14 F1068 &amp; F1069). Two separate ditches produced abraded Roman pottery sherds, and abraded pottery sherds of possible Bronze Age date were recovered from a pit (Tr.21 F1078). These finds were generally from dispersed areas of the large site.</i></p> <p><i>A pit/ditch terminal and small gully dating to the Saxo-Norman period were recorded on the western side of the site (Tr. 16 F2003). The pit contained a large deposit of animal bone with reasonably preserved sherds of pottery.</i></p> <p><i>A large solution hollow (Tr. 4 F1014) and a large probable dewpond (Tr. 29 F1083) were recorded, as were a series of post-medieval ditches, two of which contained abraded residual pottery. A small number of features contained abraded pottery sherds of possible Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date. The sparse and abraded finds assemblage likely represent 'background noise' to former periods of activity in the area.</i></p>		
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>March-May 2006</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>
P. number	<i>2679</i>	Site code	<i>AS975</i>
Type of project	<i>An archaeological evaluation and desk-based assessment</i>		
Site status	<i>None</i>		
Current land use	<i>Arable agriculture</i>		
Planned development	<i>Stud farm with associated buildings, services and access roads</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Post-medieval field boundaries/drainage ditches</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Probably residual Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British pottery sherds</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>East Cambs</i>	<i>Woodditton</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>185ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 6662 5987</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>107m / 80m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning &amp; Countryside Advice</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>A Munding, D McConnell</i>		
Funded by	<i>Darley Stud Management Co.</i>		
Full title	<i>Land north of School Road, Saxon Street, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire: an archaeological evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Thomas Woolhouse; Dan McConnell; Andrew Munding</i>		
Report no.	<i>2010</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>May 2006</i>		

**LAND NORTH OF SCHOOL ROAD, SAXON STREET,  
WOODDITTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**SUMMARY**

*In March/May 2006, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation of land north of School Road, Saxon Street, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6662 5987).*

*The desk-based assessment suggested that the site had some potential for prehistoric remains, and also for evidence of dispersed late Saxon and medieval settlement.*

*The evaluation revealed parallel linear ditches running obliquely to the contours of the site (Trs.23-25). Struck flint was found in one of these ditches (Tr. 23 F1021). The finds are not surprising given the known prehistoric activity in the area, and in particular a ploughed-out round barrow is recorded close to these trenches. It is possible they represent activity along the line of the trackway traversing this part of the field to the south, with which they run parallel.*

*Sparse evidence of late Iron Age activity was identified, with abraded pottery sherds of this date from two intercutting pits (Tr. 14 F1068 & F1069). Two separate ditches produced abraded Roman pottery sherds and abraded pottery sherds of possible Bronze Age date were recovered from a pit (Tr.21 F1078). These finds were generally from dispersed areas of the large site.*

*A pit/ditch terminal and small gully dating to the Saxo-Norman period were recorded on the western side of the site (Tr.16 F2003). The pit contained a large deposit of animal bone with reasonably preserved sherds of pottery.*

*A large solution hollow (Tr. 4 F1014) and a large probable dewpond (Tr. 29 F1083) were recorded, as were a series of Post-medieval ditches, two of which contained abraded residual pottery. A small number of features contained abraded pottery sherds of possible Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date. The sparse and abraded finds assemblage likely represent 'background noise' to former periods of activity in the area.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In March-May 2006, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation of land north of School Road, Saxon Street, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6662 5987; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by the Darley Stud Management Company Ltd prior to the development of a stud farm on the c 185ha site (planning application: E/05/00310/FUL). The development proposal comprises the improvement of the land for pasture and the construction of buildings for equine use and domestic inhabitation, as well as associated access roads and services. The evaluation consisted of a desk-based assessment and field evaluation (trial trenching). The latter evaluation was undertaken over three phases because access to part of the site was not possible

because of the presence of newts. A further part of the site remains to be subject to evaluation once the issue of newts has been resolved by the client.

1.2 The desk-based assessment and trial trenching were conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice (CAPCA) (dated 13/02/06), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 24/02/06). The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (revised 2001) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* (revised 2001). The project also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the desk-based assessment were to provide for the identification of areas of archaeological potential within the site, to consider the site within its wider archaeological context, and to describe the likely extent, nature, condition and importance of the archaeology.

1.4 The aims of the evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The evaluation also aimed to identify areas of previous ground disturbance on the site.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site is located in Woodditton, 4km south of Newmarket, close to the Cambridgeshire/Suffolk border (Figs.1-2).

2.2 The site comprises two compact parcels, covering a large area (c. 185ha) of former arable farmland in the centre of Woodditton parish. The smaller portion of the site forms a rough square bounded to the west by Saxon Street, and to the east by the parish boundary with Cheveley. Its northern perimeter follows the south side of Park Road, opposite Cheveley Park. To the south is Saxon Hall.

2.3 The larger part of the site lies to the west of Saxon Street, which forms its eastern boundary, and encompasses Moorley Plantation. Its southern perimeter follows School Road from Saxon Street to the hamlet at Little Ditton, respecting the rear boundaries of residential plots along the roadside. At Little Ditton, the site boundary turns northwards and runs along Maypole Lane. Opposite Church Hall Farm, it leaves the line of the road to follow existing field boundaries north and eastwards to the Stetchworth to Cheveley Road. It then runs eastward along the road to the junction with Saxon Street/Duchess Drive.

2.4 The main area of the site slopes down from an elevation of approximately 107m AOD in the south to 80m AOD in the north. The maximum height of the eastern, smaller, portion of the site is c.105m AOD. The land falls away slightly towards the site boundaries, to just over 100m AOD in the east of the site and 91m AOD in the west.

## **3 METHOD OF WORK (Desk-based assessment)**

Information was sought from a variety of sources in order to meet the objectives of the desk-based assessment.

### **3.1 Archaeological databases**

The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot-finds within Cambridgeshire comes from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER). In order to provide a representative sample, the HER database was searched for all known entries within a 1km radius of the study area. Entries are listed (Appendix 1) and plotted below (Fig. 3). Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2.

### **3.2 Historical and cartographic sources**

The principal source for these types of evidence was the Cambridgeshire County Record Office (CRO) in Cambridge. Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced in Figures 4-8.

### **3.3 Secondary sources**

The principal sources of secondary material were the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record Office (HER) and the Cambridgeshire County Record Office at the County Council's Shire Hall Complex in Cambridge, as well as AS's own reference library. Relevant material is listed in the bibliography.

### **3.4 Geological/geotechnical information**

This information was drawn from maps published by the British Geological Survey.

## **4 THE EVIDENCE**

### **4.1 Topography, geology and soils**

4.1.1 The site lies on a solid geology of Upper Chalk, overlain by Boulder Clay drift (BGS). The topography of the area is characterised by undulating hills, reaching elevations of up to c.120m AOD. There are no major watercourses in the area, but many of the surrounding villages originated as Anglo-Saxon settlements near springheads in the chalk. One such spring rises in the south-eastern sector of the site, and is the starting point for a stream which flows northwards through the site, roughly parallel to Saxon Street. The area is predominantly rural, with few large settlements. Since the beginning of the last century, much of the land has been used for stud farming.

### **4.2 Archaeological and historical background**

#### *Prehistoric (to AD 42)*

4.2.1 There is little evidence of prehistoric settlement in Woodditton, perhaps in part due to the heavy Boulder Clay soils, which would have posed difficulties for early farmers. The Icknield Way, a major prehistoric trackway linking the south west with East Anglia, passes through the north of the parish and is likely to have brought travellers and trade through the Woodditton area in prehistory.

4.2.2 A cropmark ring ditch (HER 09134) is visible on aerial photographs of the site and may represent a ploughed-out Bronze Age round barrow (NGR TL 663 596). A concentration of Bronze Age funerary monuments of this type follows the south-west to north-east chalk ridge

which runs through south Cambridgeshire, just north of Woodditton. This may reflect a deliberate choice of high, prominent, locations associated with the Icknield Way for burials, but the apparent concentration is also the result of the good cropmark response produced by chalky soils, in contrast to clay (Last in Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, 9). This tentative evidence of Bronze Age funerary activity constitutes the only prehistoric site in the immediate vicinity of the development site, although Iron Age and Roman cropmark enclosures are known from aerial photographs of the wider area (HER MCB10598-9).

#### *Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)*

4.2.3 Woodditton lay some distance from the nearest Roman towns. The Icknield Way, and Ashwell Street running parallel to it, continued in use as Romanised routes (Margary routes 333 and 230, respectively). Recent archaeological monitoring just to the east of the site recorded two small ditches in one test pit. They are thought to be of prehistoric to late Roman date and were tentatively interpreted as drainage ditches associated with the Icknield Way (HER MCB16934; Bailey 2004).

#### *Post-Roman & Anglo-Saxon (AD 411 – 1065)*

4.2.4 Woodditton's western parish boundary is formed by the Devil's Dyke, the northernmost and largest of four earthwork banks and ditches running south-east to north-west across south Cambridgeshire. The dyke is over 11km long, was constructed in one phase and survives, in places, to up to 10.5m in height from the base of the ditch to the top of the embankment. The dykes were strategically positioned across the Icknield Way and thus controlled access to East Anglia. It is still unclear whether the dykes represent territorial boundaries or defensive installations. The dating of the dykes is also debated, although excavations in the 1990s found evidence to suggest that they were built in the immediate aftermath of the Roman withdrawal, in the context of internecine struggles among the surviving Romano-British population. They had previously been connected with conflicts between the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of the 7<sup>th</sup> century (Malim in Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, 27). Woodditton means 'settlement by a dyke or ditch' (Ekwall 1936, 140).

4.2.5 No archaeological evidence of the Anglo-Saxon village has yet been found, but dispersed settlements certainly existed by the time of the Domesday survey (see below). A minster was established in neighbouring Kirtling during the 10<sup>th</sup> century and is likely to have been an important local centre (Oosthuizen in Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, 28). Several mid-10<sup>th</sup> century coins have also been recovered in the parish (Miller in Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, 29).

#### *Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)*

4.2.6 Medieval Woodditton was divided between three principal manors: Ditton Camoys in the west, Ditton Valence in the centre, and Saxton in the east. The site itself was probably divided between the latter two of these (Lewis 2002, 79). In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, the manor house of Ditton Valence stood within a moat, probably at Church Hall Farm just beyond the western boundary of the site. The manor originated in five hides which belonged to Eddeva the Fair in 1066 and to Count Alan by 1086. The overlordship of the manor remained with Count Alan's successors as lords of Richmond until 1457. Saxton Hall manor was held before the Norman Conquest by Wulfwine, a thegn of Edward the Confessor, and after it by Aubrey de Vere. It remained with his descendants for 400 years (Lewis 2002, 86-8). The medieval manor house stood within a moated enclosure immediately east of the modern Saxon Hall. The medieval moat and fishpond survive (HER 01190). To the north-east of Woodditton, Cheveley Park (HER 12335) seems to have first been enclosed as early as the 14<sup>th</sup> century, although the earliest documentary reference to the park is in 1517.

4.2.7 Medieval settlement in Woodditton was dispersed, with peasant houses located around numerous greens in the south of the parish. The focus of settlement in Ditton Valence may have been just south-west of the site around Damp Pond Green, at the crossroads of the Saxon Street to Ditton Green road with the lane from Woodditton Church to Kirtling. In Saxton manor, the earliest settlement may have been around Trunks Well, a spring in the south of the site (Lewis 2002, 81-2).

4.2.8 The medieval economy of the parish was based on mixed cereal growing and sheep grazing, with open-field arable occupying the centre of the parish, including most of the site (Lewis 2002, 79). Newmarket was established on the main road, north of Woodditton, in c.1200, and since the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the most important roads in the parish have been those leading to the town. Woodditton looked to Newmarket as its market, and to Bury St Edmunds rather than Cambridge for the goods and services provided by a county town. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, records list ironwork and a millstone bought at Newmarket and Bury, wheat carted and animals driven for sale to Brandon Ferry on the Little Ouse and hay bought at Lidgate (both in Suffolk). No Cambridgeshire villages or towns are mentioned, illustrating the strength of Woodditton's economic links with Suffolk rather than Cambridgeshire in the medieval period (Lewis 2002, 81-4).

#### *Post-medieval (AD 1540 to present)*

4.2.9 In the 1730s and 40s, most of the land in Woodditton was bought by Charles Seymour, Duke of Somerset, and incorporated into the Cheveley Park Estate. Cheveley Park (HER12335), which probably originated as a medieval deer park, was continuously enlarged and landscaped during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and had wide avenues and rides by 1775. Land in the parish was enclosed c. 1816, although a formal award was not made until 1823.

4.2.10 The Cheveley Park Estate was broken up in around 1920 and stud farms began to take up an increasing proportion of the land in the parish. The first, which later became Woodditton Stud, was established in the mid-1890s by Newmarket trainer Martin Gurry. Others were founded after 1920 on land formerly part of the Cheveley Estate.

### **4.3 The site**

#### *The pre-enclosure site (Woodditton in 1815; Figure 4)*

4.3.1 A map of Woodditton prior to inclosure has been reconstructed in the Victoria County History of the parish (Lewis 2002) and is reproduced in Figure 4. Land use in the parish was divided into three broad zones, with an area of heathland in the north-east, adjacent to the London to Norwich Road. The centre of the parish was occupied by Woodditton's open fields, which, just to the north of School Road, gave way to an area of old inclosures and woodland at the southern end of the parish. These inclosures were probably taken out of the open fields during the medieval period.

4.3.2 The site lay on the southern periphery of the parish's open fields and was thus largely in arable cultivation. Along its southern boundary were areas of old inclosures flanking School Road. These may have been occupied by medieval and early post-medieval settlement. Since Anglo-Saxon times, settlement in the parish appears to have been dispersed in a number of hamlets, with no clear village centre (Lewis 2002, 81-2). One scattered settlement was at Little Ditton, near Damp Pond Green, to the south-west of the site. The green itself, and possibly some associated settlement, lay within the south-west corner of the site. The earliest settlement in Saxton manor, in the east of the parish, may have been located around a springhead at Trunks Well rather than at Saxon Hall. This, too, lies within the site. In the medieval period, the site was divided between two of Woodditton's manors. The western half lay within the

manor of Ditton Valence and the eastern half within the lands of Saxton, although by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, all Woodditton's medieval manors had long since been absorbed into the Cheveley Park estate (Lewis 2002, 86).

#### *1823 Inclosure Map (Figure 5)*

4.3.3 Enclosure does not appear to have had a dramatic effect on the division of land within the site. A concentration of small enclosed fields occupied the southern edge of the site. These were probably the old piecemeal enclosures already present by the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and pre-dating the formal enclosure. The majority of the site lay within one large field, the 5<sup>th</sup> Allotment to the Duke of Rutland, who was the principal landowner in the parish (Gardner 1851, 410-11). The smaller portion of the site, east of Saxon Street, was divided between a smaller field owned by the Duke of Rutland and several old inclosures to the north of Saxon Hall. The site was undeveloped, apart from one building in Plot 95 in the far south-west of the site. A stream ran northwards from a pond in the south-east of the site, running roughly parallel to Saxon Street.

#### *Early Ordnance Survey maps (Figures 6-8)*

4.3.4 By the mid-1880s (Figure 6), the site had been subdivided into smaller fields, some demarcated by wide hedgerows. The precise nature of the land use within the site cannot be determined, but small artificial plantations of trees had been established in several areas by this time, presumably growing wood for commercial purposes. The only development apparent within the site was a cluster of buildings at Black Hall, close to the western boundary. These were not shown on the Inclosure Map, or on the reconstruction of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century parish (Figure 4). It is thus fairly likely that they were of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century origin. They are likely to represent a farmhouse and outbuildings.

4.3.5 No changes are indicated on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey (1906; Figure 7). Stud farming took over much of the land in the parish in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and by 1950, large areas to the north of the site were divided into paddocks attached to Derisley Stud and Cheveley Park Stud (1950 Ordnance Survey; Figure 8). The site itself was still in agricultural use, with no changes apparent since the beginning of the century.

## **5 DISCUSSION (Desk-Based Assessment)**

### *Archaeological potential*

5.1 The site had identifiable potential for remains of several periods:

- Prehistoric: Bronze Age funerary monuments are known in the wider landscape and there is potential for further remains of this kind, as well for evidence of associated settlement. The undated cropmark ring ditch recorded in the west of the site (HER 09134; see Section 4.2.2) may represent the remains of a round barrow. Prehistoric or Roman ditches (HER MCB16934), perhaps associated with the Icknield Way, have been identified in a test pit just to the east of the site and further evidence of the line of this route may be found in the site itself. The development and integration of monuments, fields and settlements within the landscape has been identified as a key research theme for the Neolithic and Bronze Age in the eastern region (Brown & Murphy in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 10).
- Medieval: Settlement in Woodditton appears to have always been dispersed rather than concentrated in one centre. The springhead in the south-east of the site at Trunks Well (Figure 4) may have been a focus for late Anglo-Saxon settlement in Saxton manor (Section 4.2.7). The green in the south-west corner of the site may have been a settlement focus in the

medieval period. A number of issues relating to Anglo-Saxon and medieval rural settlement have been designated research priorities in East Anglia. These include the need for larger animal bone assemblages and more crop remains to provide a greater insight into the agrarian economy; and the need for a larger body of artefacts to study rural craft production (Wade in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 23-6).

#### *Previous ground disturbance*

5.2 The majority of the site has been agricultural land since at least the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Figures 5-8). In addition, the reconstructed map of Woodditton prior to inclosure (Figure 4) suggests that most of the site lay within the parish's open fields and has thus probably been under arable cultivation since the medieval period.

5.3 Anglo-Saxon settlement in this part of Cambridgeshire was often focused around natural springs, and the springhead at Trunks Well in the south-east of the site (Fig. 4) could have been an early settlement centre in Saxton manor, before it shifted to the present site of Saxon Hall (Lewis 2002, 82). Slightly later, certainly before 1350, but perhaps before 1100, it is probable that in each manor assarting led to the relocation of peasant houses to sites around numerous greens in the south of the parish. One such medieval settlement site was at Little Ditton, near Damp Pond Green in the south-western corner of the site. These two areas of the site therefore had potential for remains of late Anglo-Saxon or medieval settlement.

5.4 Little development is shown on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century cartographic sources. The group of probable 19<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings at Black Hall close to the western boundary of the site (Figs. 6-8) may have caused isolated ground disturbance to a small area. Beyond this, the main areas of intrusive previous ground disturbance to have taken place on the site will have probably have been associated with the creation and maintenance of field boundaries, and ploughing.

## **6 METHOD OF WORK (Field evaluation)**

6.1 Thirty-five trial trenches, each measuring between 30 - 60m x 1.8m were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision. The trench locations were approved by CAPCA. Undifferentiated overburden was mechanically excavated. Thereafter all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

6.2 Context numbers from the first and second phase of evaluation are prefixed 1000; context numbers from the third phase of evaluation are prefixed 2000.

## **7 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS** Figs. 2, 9-13; Plates 1-36

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

### **7.1 Trenches 1**

Proposed Trench 1 was not excavated based on advice from the client.

## 7.2 Trenches 1 & 2

Proposed Trench 2 was not excavated based on advice from the client.

## 7.3 Trench 3 Fig. 2

<i>Sample section: North East End, South East Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 104.04m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. Mid yellow/grey/brown, non-cohesive clayey silt with moderate angular flint blocks <100m, occasional sub-angular flint gravel <20mm, occasional sub-angular quartz gravel <20mm, occasional sub-angular chalk gravel <20mm.
0.40m – 0.60m	L1001. Subsoil. Mid orange/brown cohesive silty clay with moderate angular flint blocks <50mm, occasional sub-angular chalk gravel <10mm.
0.60m+	L1003. Natural clay.

<i>Sample section South Western End, North West Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 103.53m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil layer. See above.
0.38m+	L1001. Sub-soil. See above.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present.

## 7.4 Trench 4 Figs. 2 & 9

<i>Sample section: North Western End, South West Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 103.28m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. As Tr. 1.
0.33 – 0.50m	L1001. Subsoil. As Tr.1, thinning to the south east.
0.50m+	L1003. Natural Clay.

*Description:* Trench 4 contained three linear features (F1005, F1007 and F1010) and a possible large pit/solution hollow (F1014).

F1005 was a ditch of likely post-medieval date, orientated north-south (1.90m+ x 0.80m x 0.35m) located within the south-east third of Trench 4. It had moderately sloping sides which gave way to a rounded base. It contained a single fill (here recorded as L1009), comprising a mid yellow/brown cohesive silty clay with occasional angular flint gravel <40mm. L1009 contained animal bone (4g) and glass (5g). F1005 was also recorded within Trench 6. It appeared to truncate large pit/solution hollow F1014.

F1007 was a gully, orientated north east – south west (1.60m+ x 0.42m x 0.18m). It had moderately sloping sides which gave way to a flattish base. It contained a single fill, L1008, a mid orange/brown cohesive clayey silt with occasional angular flint gravel <20mm. No finds were present. F1007 was sealed by subsoil, L1001.

F1010 was a large ditch, orientated north – south. It was not excavated within Trench 4 as its character was established in Trench 5 (see below for description). Two ceramic land drains were present in the base of the ditch within Trench 5.

F1014 was an area of deeper soil truncated by F1005 on its south-eastern edge. F1014 (1.00m+ x 0.50m+ x 0.80m) contained a single fill, L1015, a mid yellow/brown cohesive clayey silt with occasional sub-angular flint nodules <50mm and moderate chalk flecking <5mm. F1014 contained no finds and was interpreted as a large pit or solution hollow. The fill was very similar to the surrounding natural deposits, and as such it was very difficult to establish the extent of the feature.

### 7.5 Trench 5 Figs 2 & 9

<i>Sample section: North Western End, South West Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 104.10m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.39m+	L1001. Sub-soil. See above.

<i>Sample section: South Eastern End, North East Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 104.51m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.41m+	L1001. Subsoil. See above.

*Description:* Trench 5 contained a single ditch (F1010).

F1010 was a ditch orientated north east-south west. It was linear in plan (1.60m+ x 1.60m x 0.70m), and had moderately sloping sides leading to a rounded base. It contained a single fill, L1011, a light grey/brown cohesive clay with moderate chalk gravel <10mm. It contained no finds. F1010 continued north-eastward into Trench 4. Two ceramic land drains were present in the base of the ditch where excavated in Trench 5.

### 7.6 Trench 6 Figs. 2 & 9; Plates 1 & 2

<i>Sample section: North Western End, South West Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 103.77m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.33 – 0.53m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.53m+	L1003. Natural clay

<i>Sample section: South Eastern End, North East Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 103.75m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.38 – 0.49m+	L1001. Subsoil. See above.

*Description:* A ditch (F1005) was revealed in Trench 6.

F1005 was a ditch, also recorded in Trench 4. It had moderately sloping sides and a narrow base (3.90m+ x 1.23m x 0.46m). Its fill (here recorded as L1006) was a light yellow/orange cohesive silty clay with occasional chalk flecks <10mm. It contained a single sherd of abraded Roman Samian ware (4g), in addition to animal bone (440g), snail shell (8g) and a single struck flint flake (9g). It appeared to be sealed by thin subsoil L1001. The ditch is almost certainly the same ditch recorded in Trench 4, being on exactly the same alignment, though

slightly deeper and wider here. It is likely of post-medieval date, containing glass where excavated in Trench 4.

L1004 (0.75 x 0.42+ x 0.03m) was a thin lense of charcoal and red clay present directly below subsoil L1001. It was partially revealed within the trench and no finds were present within the deposit.

**7.7 Trench 7** Fig. 2

<i>Sample section: North Eastern End, South West Facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 104.13m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil . See above.
0.35m+	L1003. Natural. Mid orange/brown, cohesive clay with occasional sub-angular flint nodules <100mm.

<i>Sample section: South Western End, North East Facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 103.43m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.38m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present

**7.8 Trench 8** Fig. 2; Plate 3

<i>Sample section: North East End, North West Facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 98.59m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.40m+	L1002. Natural. Pale yellow/brown cohesive silty clay with frequent sub-angular chalk gravel <50mm and occasional sub-angular flint nodules <200mm.

<i>Sample section: South Western End, South East Facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 97.10m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.37m+	L1002. Natural. See above.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present

**7.9 Trench 9** Fig.2

<i>Sample section: North Western End, North East Facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 84.09m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.30 – 0.80m	L1012. Colluvium. Mid brown/grey/orange cohesive silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint nodules <50mm.
0.80 – 0.93m	L1013. Colluvium. Mid orange/grey/brown cohesive silty clay with moderate sub-angular flint gravel <20mm.

0.93m+	L1003. Natural. See above.
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<i>Sample section: South Eastern End, South West Facing.</i> 0.00 = 84.35m AOD	
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.37 – 0.79m	L1012. Colluvium layer. See above.
0.79m – 0.91m	L1013. Colluvium layer. See above
0.91m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present

### 7.10 Trench 10 Fig. 2

<i>Sample section: NorthEnd, EastFacing.</i> 0.00 = 84.73m AOD	
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.37 – 0.97m	L1012. Colluvium. See above.
0.97 – 1.15m	L1013. Colluvium. See above.
1.15m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

<i>Sample section: South End, West Facing.</i> 0.00 = 84.90m AOD	
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.35 – 1.00m	L1012. Colluvium. See above.
1.00 – 1.19m	L1013. Colluvium. See above.
1.19m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present

### 7.11 Trench 11 Figs. 2 & 9

<i>Sample section: Central part of the trench, South Facing.</i> 0.00 = 89.05m AOD	
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.38m+	L1002. Natural. See above.

*Description:* A ditch (F1016) was located within this trench.

Ditch F1016 was aligned south east – north west (1.70m+ x 1.10m x 0.50m+). It had steep sides. The ditch was not bottomed due to the discovery of a large concrete drainage pipe within its fill (L1017). L1017 was a mid orange/yellow/brown cohesive silty clay with occasional angular flint/chalk gravel <50mm. No finds were present.

### 7.12 Trench 12 Figs. 2 & 9; Plate 4

<i>Sample section: Central Part of the Trench, West Facing.</i> 0.00 = 93.73m AOD	
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.

0.35m+	L1002. Natural. See above.
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*Description:* Within Trench 12 a large spread of clay (L1020) was revealed between the topsoil (L1000) and the natural (L1002). A modern field drain traversed the trench

Layer L1020 was revealed in the central area of the trench, and the trench was extended eastwards to expose more of the deposit. L1020 was a mid orange/brown cohesive clay with occasional sub-angular chalk gravel and occasional angular flint nodules. It contained no finds. This layer is likely the result of an undulation within the natural (L1002).

### 7.13 Trench 13 Figs. 2 & 10

<i>Sample section: Central Part of the Trench, South West Facing.</i>	
0.00 = 92.13m AOD	
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil layer. See above.
0.34m+	L1002. Natural. Chalky drift. See above.

*Description:* A substantial hollow (F1018) was recorded in Trench 13. It was truncated by a recent field drain.

A large (1.90m+ x 8.60m x 0.58m+) sub-circular natural hollow (F1018) lay within the centre of Trench 13. It was sub-circular in plan, with irregular, undercutting sides. It continued beyond the limits of excavation, and contained a single mid green/brown/grey cohesive silty clay with frequent angular flints and degraded chalk nodules (L1019). It contained no finds.

### 7.14 Trench 14 Figs. 2 & 10

<i>Sample section: Central Part of the Trench, South West facing.</i>	
0.00 = 96.05 m AOD	
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil layer. See above.
0.31 – 0.49m	L1001. Natural subsoil layer. See above.
0.49m+	L1002. Natural chalk/clay. As above.

*Description:* A number of features were present.

F1076 (1.80+ x 0.60 x 0.10m) was a shallow gully, aligned SW/NE. It exhibited gently sloping sides and a rounded base, and was sealed by subsoil L1001. It contained a single fill (L1077), consisting of a mid orange/brown clayey silt with occasional flint pebbles. No finds were present.

F1074 (1.80+ x 1.25 x 0.50m+) was a steep-sided ditch, aligned SW/NE and appeared to be sealed by subsoil L1001. It contained a single fill (L1075), consisting of a compact, yellow/brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. No finds were made, excepting the base of the feature contained two ceramic land drains.

F1067 was a ditch, aligned NNE/SSW, (1.80+ x 1.00 x 0.40m) with steep sides and rounded base. It contained a single deposit (L1073) of mid orange brown clayey silt. No finds were made.

Two small intercutting pits (F1068 & F1069) were present in the southern end of the trench. F1069 cut F1068. F1069 (1.00+ x 1.10 x 0.40m), was sub-ovoid in plan where seen, with moderately steep sides and a flattish base and contained two fills. Upper fill L1071 was a compact, grey/brown silty clay with occasional chalk and flint inclusions. Finds comprise a single abraded pottery sherd of late Iron Age date (1g), animal bone (5g) and struck flint (12g). Lower fill, L1072, was a compact, orange/brown silty clay with occasional flints. No finds were made from this deposit.

F1068 (0.90+ x 0.70 x 0.50m) had gently sloping sides and a slightly irregular base. It contained a single deposit of grey/orange silty clay (L1070). Finds from the deposit comprise abraded pottery sherds of late Iron Age date (5g) and oyster shell (9g).

### 7.15 Trench 15 Fig. 2

Sample section: West facing section, north end. 0.00 = 91.47m AOD	
0.00 – 0.30m	L2000. Topsoil (plough soil). Brown grey silty clay.
0.30 – 0.55m	L2007. Colluvium. Light brown sandy clay with very occasional chalk and charcoal fragments and worked flint.
0.55 – 0.87m	L2008. Colluvium. Light mottled grey brown silty clay with very occasional chalk and manganese.
0.87m+	L2009. Colluvium. Grey (mottled brown) clay with frequent manganese and occasional baked clay.

Sample section: West facing section, south end. 0.00 = 92.09m AOD	
0.00 – 0.32m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.
0.32 – 0.52m	L2007. Colluvium. As above.
0.52 – 0.75m	L2009. Colluvium. As above.
0.75m+	L2010. Colluvium. Brown sandy clay with occasional manganese.

*Additional description of deposits:* The stratigraphic sequence in this trench was characterised by layers of colluvium, deposits. The trench was located in a lower lying area with the ground sloping up to the east and west. Colluvium can contain residual archaeological material. A piece of worked flint was found in layer L2007, and L2009 was a darker colour and contained some baked clay fragments.

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed, and it is possible that archaeology is sealed by the colluvial deposits.

### 7.16 Trench 16 Figs. 2 & 10

Sample section: North west facing section, south west end. 0.00 = 95.05m AOD	
0.00 – 0.25m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.
0.25 m+	L2002. Natural. Light brown clay with light grey mottles.

Sample section: South east facing section, north east end. 0.00 = 93.62m AOD	
0.00 – 0.39m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.

0.39 m+	L2002. Natural. Light brown clay with light grey mottles.
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*Description* A pit/ditch terminal (F2003) and a gully (F2011) were recorded in this trench.

F2003 (1.37+ x 1.82 x 0.79m) was a pit or ditch terminus, continuing beyond the confines of the trench to the south east, which contained three fills (L2004, L2005 and L2006). It exhibited steep, slightly undercutting bell-shaped sides and a flattish, concave base. Basal fill L2004 was a light orange/brown friable silty clay with sparse coarse components. No finds were made from the deposit. L2005 was a light to mid grey/greenish friable clayey silt with occasional flint pebbles, chalk nodules and charcoal flecks. Finds from the deposit comprise 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery (19g) and a fragment of animal bone (<1g). Upper fill L2006 was a mid grey clayey silt with occasional flint pebbles, chalk nodules and charcoal flecks. A significant quantity of animal bone (2561g) was recovered from the deposit, in addition to pottery sherds of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century date (77g), CBMs (82g) and two pieces of struck flint (68g).

Gully F2011 (1.90+ x 0.82 x 0.28m) was also identified in Trench 16 running north/ south. It exhibited a bowl-shaped profile with steep sides and rounded base. It contained a single fill (L2012). The latter consisted of a light to mid orange/brown clayey silt with occasional flint pebbles and chalk nodules. Finds from the deposit comprise pottery sherds (3g; 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> C) and a piece of flint (7g).

#### 7.17 Trench 17 Fig. 2

Sample section: North west facing section, north east end. 0.00 = 98.48m AOD	
0.00 – 0.29m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.
0.29m+	L1002. Natural. As above.

Sample section: North west facing section, south west end. 0.00 = 99.15m AOD	
0.00 – 0.28m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.
0.28m+	L1002. Natural. As above.

*Description* No archaeological features were present.

#### 7.18 Trench 18 Fig. 2

Sample section: North west facing section, north east end. 0.00 = 101.10m AOD	
0.00 – 0.29m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.
0.29m+	L1002. Natural. As above.

*Description* No archaeological features were present.

#### 7.19 Trench 19 Fig. 2

Sample section: North east facing section, north west end. 0.00 = 101.64m AOD	
0.00 – 0.31m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.

0.31m+	L1002. Natural. As above.
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*Description* No archaeological features were present.

There appeared to be a pit at the north-western end of the trench but excavation indicated that this feature was a tree hollow

## 7.20 Trench 20 Figs. 2 & 10

<i>Sample section: Eastern End, North West Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 103.22m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.26 – 0.46m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.46m+	L1002. Natural. See above.

*Description:* Two adjacent ditches were revealed within the trench.

F1063 (2.00+ x 0.47 x 0.30m) was aligned NNW/SSE, and exhibited gently sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a single fill (L1064), an orange/brown clayey silt with occasional flint inclusions. Finds comprise two struck flints (15g).

F1065 was a ditch, aligned near N/S (1.80+ x 0.89 x 0.24m). It exhibited shallow, irregular sides and a flattish base, and contained a single fill (L1066), a compact, orange/brown clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks and flint pebbles. Finds comprise a single struck flint (2g).

## 7.21 Trench 21 Figs. 2 & 10

<i>Sample section: North Eastern End, North West Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 103.09m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.35 – 0.57m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.57m+	L1080. Natural Grey Clay. See above.

*Description:* A single shallow possible pit was identified within the trench.

F1078 (1.10 x 1.05 x 0.12m) was a pit, partially revealed within the trench. The pit exhibited gently sloping irregular sides and an irregular base. It contained a single deposit (L1079), which comprised a compact, mid grey/brown clayey silt with occasional chalk nodules. Finds from the deposit comprise 3 abraded pottery sherds of possible Bronze Age date (10g), animal bone (18g) and a single burnt flint nodule (14g).

## 7.22 Trench 22 Fig. 2

<i>Sample section: North Eastern End, North West Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 97.13m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.34 – 0.47m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.47m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

<i>Sample section: South Western End, South East Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 97.52 AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.36 – 0.49m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.49m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present

### 7.23 Trench 23 Figs. 2 & 11

<i>Sample section: North Western End, North East Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 94.81m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.50m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.50 – 0.60m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.60m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

<i>Sample section: South Eastern End, South West Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 94.95m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.48m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.48 – 0.61m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.61m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

*Description:* Five parallel ditches/gullies and a ditch containing a field drain were revealed in Trench 23 (F1021, F1023, F1025, F1027 and F1029), aligned south west – north east. The ditches were all similar although their function is unknown. It is likely, however, that they relate to agricultural activity. F1021 contained a small quantity of animal bone and struck flint.

Ditch F1021 (1.90m+ x 0.80m x 0.24m) was linear in plan and aligned south west – north east. It had moderately sloping sides which gave way to a rounded base. It contained a single fill, L1022, an orange/brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular flint gravel. It contained animal bone (9g) and struck flint (163g).

Ditch F1023 was parallel to Ditch F1021. F1023 was linear in plan (1.90m+ x 0.70m x 0.16m) and had moderately sloping sides which gave way to a rounded, slightly irregular base. It contained a single fill, L1024, a mid orange/brown cohesive silty clay with frequent sub-angular flint gravel. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1025 was parallel to Ditch F1023 (1.90m+ x 0.68m x 0.24m). F1025 was linear in plan with moderately steep sides which gave way to a flattish base. It contained a single fill, L1026, a mid orange/brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular flint pebbles. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1027 was parallel to Ditch F1025. F1027 (1.90m+ x 0.72m x 0.27m) was linear in plan with moderately steep sides which gave way to a flattish base. Its fill, L1028, was a mid orange/brown cohesive silty clay with frequent sub-angular flint gravel. It contained no finds.

F1029 was located 5.20m to the north-west of gully F1027. It was parallel to Ditches F1021, F1023, F1025, and F1027. F1029 was slightly wider (1.90m+ x 1.65m x 0.28m) than the other ditches. It had gently sloping sides and a rounded, slightly irregular base. The feature contained a single deposit (L1030), a mid orange/brown cohesive silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint gravel. It contained no finds.

A further ditch was also investigated within the trench (not labelled). It was on the same alignment as the other features and contained a large ceramic field drain at its base (Fig. 10). An irregular spread of material cut by this drain was interpreted as a tree hollow.

#### 7.24 Trench 24 Figs. 2 & 11; Plates 6 & 7

<i>Sample section: North Western End, North East Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 95.83m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.38 – 0.43m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.43m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

<i>Sample section: South Eastern End, South West Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 96.06m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.37 – 0.45m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.45m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

Description: Trench 24 contained six ditches/gullies on the same alignment and with similar profiles as those within Trench 23. A further linear feature on a similar alignment was clearly a recent field drain. Four of these linear features were investigated (F1031, F1033, F1035 and F1037). It is probable that the features are in fact the same ditches as those within Trench 23. A ditch was also recorded in Trench 25 (see below). F1037 was wider and deeper than the other features recorded in the trench.

Ditch F1031 (1.90+ x 1.40 x 0.28m) was linear in plan, aligned north-east - south west and exhibited moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. Its fill, L1032, was an orange/brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint gravel. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1033 (1.90+ x 1.25 x 0.36m) was parallel to F1031. It exhibited moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1034, was a mid orange/brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular flint gravel. It contained no finds.

Gully F1035 (1.90+ x 0.65 x 0.23m) ran parallel to the other ditches within Trench 24 (NE/SW), and had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1036, was a mid orange/brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint gravel. It contained no finds.

F1037 was located 9.40m to the north-west of Ditch F1035. F1037 was slightly wider and deeper (1.90+ x 1.72 x 0.61m) than the other ditches within Trench 24. It had steep sides and a flattish, slightly rounded base. It contained two fills, L1038 and L1039. The basal fill, L1038, was a mid orange/brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint gravel and frequent chalk flecks (<30% of deposit). It contained no finds. The upper fill, L1039, was a mid orange/brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint gravel. It contained no finds. The ditch was sealed by subsoil L1001.

#### 7.25 Trench 25 Figs. 2 & 11; Plates 8 & 9

<i>Sample section: North Western End, North East Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 97.25m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.

0.26 – 0.31m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.31m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

*Description:* Trench 25 contained two ditches and a recent field drain. F1040 was almost certainly a continuation of one of the ditches recorded in Trenches 23 and 24, as was the adjacent (unexcavated) feature to the south east.

Ditch F1040 was orientated south west – north east. It had moderately steep sides and a flattish base (1.90m+ x 1.05m x 0.29m). Its fill, L1041, was a mid orange/brown silty clay with moderate sub-angular flint gravel. It contained no finds.

## 7.26 Trench 26 Fig. 2

<i>Sample section: North Eastern End, North West Facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 97.20m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.38 – 0.39m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.39m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

<i>Sample section: South Western End, South East Facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 95.76m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.43m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.43 – 0.48m	L1001. Sub-soil. See above.
0.48m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present.

## 7.27 Trench 27 Fig. 2

<i>Sample section: North Eastern End, North West Facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 91.19m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.43m	L1000. Modern topsoil. See above.
0.43m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

<i>Sample section: South Western End, South East Facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 90.55m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.56m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.56m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present

## 7.28 Trench 28 Figs. 2 & 11; Plate 10

<i>Sample section: North End, West Facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 87.72m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.34 – 0.43m	L1001. Subsoil. See above
0.43m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

<i>Sample section: South End, East Facing.</i>	
0.00 = 89.02m AOD	
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.38 – 0.43m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.43m+	L1003. Natural. See above.

*Description:* Several linear features, aligned north west – south east, were recorded in Trench 28. Six were clearly modern plough scars. Six were of different form, and two were investigated (F1042 and F1044). An irregular probable tree hollow was also recorded within the trench.

Gully/ditch F1042 was orientated north west – south east. It measured 1.90m+ x 0.40m x 0.12m deep. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1043, was a light orange/yellow uncompact silty sand with moderate sub-angular flint gravel <10mm. It contained no finds.

F1044 was a ditch or gully, slightly more substantial than F1042 (1.90m+ x 0.70m x 0.21m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1045, was a mid orange/brown sandy silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint gravels. It contained no finds.

### **7.29 Trench 29** Figs. 2 & 12

<i>Sample section: NorthEnd, East Facing.</i>	
0.00 = 104.32m AOD	
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.37 – 0.52m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.52m+	L1080. Natural. See above.

*Description:* A large probable dewpond was recorded within the centre of the trench. A shallow ditch was recorded in the southern part of the trench.

Probable dewpond F1083 was sealed by L1001. It was partially revealed within the trench, and appeared to be a large, shallow circular feature (where seen). It was 12m+ x 1.8m+ and was 0.32m deep, with slightly irregular sides and flattish base. It contained a single fill (L1084 Seg A, L1085 Seg B), comprising a mixed deposit of mottled mid orange/brown/grey silty clay and sand, with frequent snail shell. Two fragments of burnt flint (18g) were recovered from L1084.

Shallow ditch F1081 was aligned SE/NW, and was 7m+ long, 1m wide and 0.10m deep. It exhibited gentle to moderately sloping sides and a flattish base, and contained a single fill (L1082). The latter comprised a compact, orange/grey silty clay with sparse coarse components. No finds were present.

### **7.30 Trench 30** Figs. 2 & 12

<i>Sample section: South west facing section, north west end.</i>	
0.00 = 105.34m AOD	
0.00 – 0.36m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.
0.36 – 0.50m	L2001. Subsoil. Light brown clay.
0.50m+	L2002. Natural. As above.

Sample section: South west facing section, south east end. 0.00 = 105.13m AOD	
0.00 – 0.30m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.
0.30 – 0.40m	L2001. Subsoil. As above.
0.40m+	L2002. Natural. As above.

*Description* One archaeological feature (F2013) was identified in Trench 30.

F2013 (10.00+ x 1.25+ x 0.70m) was a ditch, with a steep side (where seen) breaking sharply to a flattish base. It was aligned north north west – south south east and was sealed by subsoil 2001. It contained two fills (L2014 and L2015). Upper fill L2014 was a mid brown silt with sparse coarse components, whilst lower fill L2015 was a light brown silty clay with occasional chalk nodules and fragments. No finds were made from the latter, but L2014 contained a single undateable sherd of pottery (3g) and a fragment of post-medieval CBM.

### 7.31 Trench 31 Fig. 2

Sample section: South west facing section, north west end. 0.00 = 101.99m AOD	
0.00 – 0.40m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.
0.40m+	L2002. Natural. As above.

Sample section: South west facing section, south east end. 0.00 = 101.34m AOD	
0.00 – 0.44m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.
0.44m+	L2002. Natural. As above.

*Description* No archaeological features were present.

### 7.32 Trench 32 Figs. 2 & 12; Plate 11

<i>Sample section: North Eastern End South East Facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 103.82m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.31 – 0.55m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.55m+	L1002. Natural. Chalky clay. See above.

*Description:* Two intercutting linear features (F1056 & F1058) were present, in addition to a land drain.

F1056 (6.00+ x 0.6 x 0.20m) was a ditch, aligned near E/W. It truncated Ditch F1058, and had steep sides breaking to a more gently sloping, flattish base. It contained a single fill (L1057), containing a single Roman pottery sherd (7g) and two burnt flints (111g).

Gully F1058 (4.50+ x 0.40 x 0.12m). It exhibited gently sloping sides and flattish base. The single fill (L1059) was an orange/brown clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks and flint pebbles. No finds were present.

### 7.33 Trench 33 Fig. 2

<i>Sample section: North Eastern End, South East Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 106.11m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.17m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.17 – 0.44m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.44m+	L1002. Natural. Chalky clay. See above.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present.

### 7.34 Trench 34 Fig. 2

<i>Sample section: North Eastern End, South East Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 106.10m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.19 – 0.42m	L1001. Subsoil. See above.
0.42m+	L1002. Natural. Chalky clay. See above.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present

### 7.35 Trench 35 Figs. 2 & 13; Plate 12

<i>Sample section: South Eastern End, South East Facing.</i>	
<i>0.00 = 101.65m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.20 – 0.66m	L1047. Colluvium.
0.66m+	L1060. Natural. Gravel & sandy clay.

*Description:* Four linear features were identified within the trench.

F1046 (1.80+ x 2.75+ x 1.11m) was sealed by colluvium L1047. It had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. It contained two fills. Upper fill L1048 was a compact, mid grey/yellow silty clay with occasional angular flint pebbles. It contained no finds. Lower fill L1049 was a compact, mottled grey/brown silty clay with moderate flint pebbles. No finds were present.

F1046 was truncated by Gully F1086 (1.80+ x 0.98 x 0.28m), which ran parallel with it, along its eastern edge. It exhibited moderately steep sides and a slightly irregular base, and was filled with a single deposit of light to mid brown silty clay (L1087). No finds were present within the deposit.

F1050 was a ditch, aligned NE/SW, with a bowl-shaped profile (1.80+ x 0.80 x 0.20m). It contained a single fill (L1051), which comprised a light grey/yellow silty clay with occasional flint pebbles. No finds were present.

F1052 was a NE/SW aligned ditch, some 0.28m wide. It contained a light yellow/grey compact silty clay (L1053). No finds were present.

F1054 was the edge of a possible linear feature, partially revealed in the northern end of the trench. It was unexcavated.

**7.36 Trench 36** Figs. 2 & 12

<i>Sample section: North East Facing.</i> 0.00 = 100.88m AOD	
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000. Modern agricultural topsoil. See above.
0.20 – 0.95m	L1047. Colluvium.
0.95m+	L1060. Natural. Gravel & sandy clay.

*Description:* A single ditch of likely recent date was exposed in the trench.

F1061 was aligned near E/W. It was some 1.65m wide and contained a single fill (L1062), consisting of an uncompact, yellow/orange sandy clay with modern brick fragments.

**7.37 Trench 37** Fig. 2

Sample section: North west facing section, north east end. 0.00 = 99.44m AOD	
0.00 – 0.25m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.
0.25 – 0.51m	L2001. Subsoil. As above.
0.51m+	L2002. Natural. As above.

Sample section: North west facing section, south west end. 0.00 = 99.72m AOD	
0.00 – 0.25m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.
0.25 – 0.43m	L2001. Subsoil. As above.
0.43m+	L2002. Natural. As above.

*Description* No archaeological features were present.

**8 CONFIDENCE RATING**

8.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds.

**9 DEPOSIT MODEL**

9.1 The majority of sections revealed a common stratigraphy. The topsoil (L1000) was a mid yellow/grey/brown, non-cohesive clayey silt between 0.26m – 0.50m deep. Below

L1000, was a subsoil, L1001 (except Trenches 5 and 7-13). L1001 was a mid orange/brown cohesive silty clay located at depths of 0.26 – 0.60m below ground level. Below L1000 within Trenches 5 and 7-13 was L1002, the natural. L1002 was a pale yellow/brown cohesive silty clay located at depths of 0.26m+ below ground level. L1003 was a slightly different natural to L1002. It was a mid orange/brown, cohesive clay, present to a depth below ground level of 0.28m+.

9.2 Trenches 9 and 10 which overlay the valley bottom contained colluvium. L1012 was a mid brown/grey/orange cohesive silty clay, 0.30m to 0.97m in depth below ground level. Below L1012, L1013 was a mid orange/grey/brown cohesive silty clay, 0.80m – 1.15m below ground level. In both trenches, L1012 was directly overlain by Topsoil L1000. Trenches 15, 35 & 36 also revealed colluvial deposits.

## **10 DISCUSSION**

### *10.1 Summary of the archaeology*

10.1.1 The majority of the archaeological features encountered during the project were ditches. A pit or ditch terminal was recorded in Trench 16 (F2003). A large solution hollow was revealed (Tr. 13 F1018). A large probable dewpond was recorded in Trench 29 (F1083).

10.1.2 Post-medieval and more recent ditches were recorded in many of the trenches. One of these ditches (F1005, recorded in both Trenches 4 & 6) also yielded a single abraded sherd of residual Roman pottery, whilst Ditch F2013 (Trench 30) contained a sherd of possible late Iron Age/ early Roman pottery, although this was found in association with post-medieval building material. The parallel ditches in Trenches 23, 24 and 25 are undated and their function is uncertain; it is possible they represent activity along the line of the trackway traversing this part of the field to the south, with which they run parallel.

10.1.3 Sparse evidence of late Iron Age activity was identified, with abraded pottery sherds of this date in two pits in Trench 14 (F1068 and F1069). Two ditches (in Trench 6 F1005 and Trench 32 F1056) produced abraded Roman pottery sherds. Abraded pottery sherds of possible Bronze Age date were recovered from Gully F1076 in Trench 21. These finds were generally from dispersed areas of the large site.

10.1.4 Saxo Norman activity was located in Trench 16 in the form of a pit/ditch terminal (F2003) and a small gully (F2011). Unabraded pottery sherds and a large, possibly placed, deposit of animal bone were recovered from F2003. These features were found in isolation, but given the dispersed character of the evaluation trenches, further features from the period could lie close by.

### *10.2 Interpretation of the site: archaeology and history*

10.2.1 The general lack of archaeological evidence suggests that the site was principally in agricultural use, though it could be suggested that the trenches are very dispersed and therefore not representative of the whole site. The proposed development is, however, of very low density, corresponding with the volume and layout of the trial trenches.

10.2.2 Trenches 23 – 25 revealed parallel linear ditches running obliquely to the contours of the site. Struck flint was found in Ditch F1021 (Tr. 23). The finds are not surprising given the

known prehistoric activity in the area, in particular a ploughed-out round barrow is recorded close to Trenches 23 – 25 (Figs. 2 and 3).

10.2.3 A small number of features contained abraded pottery sherds of possible Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date.

10.2.4 The sparse and abraded prehistoric finds assemblage may represent ‘background noise’ to former periods of activity in the area.

10.2.5 The presence of Saxo-Norman activity in Trench 16 is surprising given that the greatest potential for this period is in the south of the site, although the proximity of the features to the valley bottom should be noted.

### *10.3 Interpretation of the site: geology and topography*

10.3.1 Topsoil (L1000/L2000) overlies a subsoil (L1001/L2001), which in turn overlies the natural deposits of clay and chalk (L1002/L2002 and L1003). In Trenches 9, 10 and 15, in particular, colluvial layers were recorded; these trenches were located in a now dry valley bottom on the eastern side of the site. Colluvial layers were also recorded at the southern edge of the site, in Trenches 35 and 36.

### *10.4 Preservation of archaeology*

10.4.1 Ploughing will have had the greatest impact on the archaeological remains, and plough scars were recorded in Trench 28. Little else in the way of previous ground disturbance was noted on the site during the course of the evaluation.

### *10.5 Finds and environmental evidence*

10.5.1 Finds were sparse and comprise pottery sherds, animal bone and struck flint. The struck flint was abraded and possibly not within a primary context.

10.5.2 The majority of the pottery assemblage was in poor condition, with sparse quantities of small and abraded sherds of possible Bronze Age, Late Iron Age/Belgic and Romano-British date. These perhaps hint at ‘background noise’ for local activity during these periods.

10.5.3 The animal bone assemblage was generally small and poorly preserved.

10.5.4 The exception was pit/ditch terminal F2003 in Trench 16, which contained well preserved pottery and bone assemblages dating to the Saxo-Norman period

### *10.6 Research potential*

10.6.1 Trenches 23, 24 and 25 revealed ditches. One of these features contained struck flint (Tr.23 F1021), and the features were located in the vicinity of a ploughed out Bronze Age barrow (HER 09134). Other features contained small quantities of struck flint. Sparse finds of probable residual Bronze Age pottery (Tr. 21 Pit F1078) are also suggestive of low-level

activity of this period. Iron Age sherds were also found within two small pits in Trench 14 (F1068, F1069), and are also indicative of a low-level presence in the area during this period. A Saxo-Norman pit and gully were located in Trench 16 (F2003, F2011). Sparse evidence of local Romano-British activity was also recorded.

10.6.2 The features and finds recovered from this site are not, in themselves, sufficient to make a substantial contribution to the regional research agendas for the prehistoric, Roman and Saxon periods. They do, however, form a part of the archaeological landscape which is being, and has been, revealed by recent and on-going evaluations and excavations in this area.

## **11 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

11.1 The archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site at the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

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