
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND TO THE NORTH OF OVER ROAD
AND WEST OF HIGH STREET,
WILLINGHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
(PHASES 1, 2, 3, 3A, 3B, 4 & 5)**

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NGR: TL 4010 7010	Report No. 1087
Parish: Willingham	Site Code: HAT 611 and AS 756
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 1531
Signed:	Date: January 2006

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land north of Over Road and west of High Street, Willingham, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<p>Project description (250 words)</p> <p><i>Between March 2002 and January 2005, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (formerly Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT)) carried out five phases of archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the High Street and Over Road, Willingham.</i></p> <p><i>One ditch yielded a small quantity of Late Iron Age pottery, adding to the existing picture of Iron Age and Roman settlement around the later village. The Anglo-Saxon activity recorded to the east of the High Street was not mirrored on the current site, suggesting that it lay within the agricultural hinterland of the middle and late Saxon village.</i></p> <p><i>The principal archaeological features revealed in all phases of the investigation were ditches, likely representing drainage ditches or property boundaries. Finds were sparse, although several features yielded medieval and post-medieval pottery, suggesting a long-established property boundary layout in this part of the village. Pits, perhaps originally dug for extraction of natural sand and gravel, had then been used for disposal of domestic refuse. The site appears to have been a 'backyard' area on the periphery of the medieval and post-medieval village, with little evidence of structures or of any specific industrial or craft activities being carried out.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>March/April 2002 (Phase 1); December 2003 (Phase 2); March/April 2004 (Phase 3); June 2004 (Phase 4); January 2005 (Phase 5)</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>1531</i>	Site code	<i>HAT 611/ AS 756</i>
Type of project	<i>An archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Several rear plots comprising areas of pasture, orchard & some hard surfaces</i>		
Planned development	<i>Construction of residential dwellings</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Medieval and post-medieval ditches and pits; 1 x Late Iron Age ditch</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Medieval/post-medieval pottery & animal bone</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>South Cambs</i>	<i>Willingham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 4010 7010</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>6 – 6.5m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Josh Williams</i>		
Funded by	<i>Bovis Homes Ltd.</i>		
Full title	<i>Land north of Over Road and west of High Street, Willingham, Cambridgeshire: an archaeological evaluation (Phases 1,2, 3, 3A,3B, 4 & 5)</i>		
Authors	<i>Wesley Keir, Brendon Wilkins, Jon Murray, Josh Williams, Ian Cameron, Thomas Woolhouse</i>		
Report no.	<i>1087</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>Jan 2006</i>		

**LAND TO THE NORTH OF OVER ROAD AND
WEST OF HIGH STREET,
WILLINGHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
(PHASES 1, 2, 3, 3a, 3b, 4 and 5)**

SUMMARY

In March and April 2002 Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) carried out Phase 1 of an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to the High Street and Over Road, Willingham. Archaeological Solutions (formerly HAT) carried out a second phase of evaluation in December 2003 and a strip and map exercise (Phase 3) in March and April 2004. Further phases of evaluation took place in June 2004 (Phase 4) and January 2005 (Phase 5).

One ditch (F1027A Tr. 5) yielded a small quantity of Late Iron Age pottery, adding to the existing picture of Iron Age and Roman settlement on the site of the later village. The Anglo-Saxon activity recorded to the east of the High Street was not mirrored on the current site, suggesting that it lay within the agricultural hinterland of the middle and late Saxon village.

The principal archaeological features revealed in all phases of the investigation were ditches, likely representing drainage ditches or property boundaries. Finds were sparse, although several features yielded medieval and post-medieval pottery, suggesting a long-established property boundary layout in this part of the village. A number of pits, perhaps originally dug for extraction of natural sand and gravel, had then been used for disposal of domestic refuse. The site appears to have been a 'backyard' area on the periphery of the medieval and post-medieval village, with little evidence of structures or of any specific industrial or craft activities being carried out.

1 INTRODUCTION Figs. 1 - 2

1.1 During late March and early April 2002 Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation (Phase 1) on land to the north of Over road and west of High Street, Willingham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4010 7010). In December 2003 a further phase (Phase 2) of evaluation was conducted (Figs. 1 & 2). This was followed by a strip and map exercise in the north-western corner of the site in March and April 2004 (Phase 3). Phases 4 and 5 were carried out in June 2004 and January 2005 respectively, as access became available to these parts of the site.

1.2 The work was commissioned by CPM Environmental Planning & Design, on behalf of their client, Bovis Homes Ltd, in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site. The evaluation was conducted as part of a planning condition required by Cambridgeshire County Council (based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeology Office (CCC CAO)). The site was in the process of being developed for residential use during the latter phases of investigation. An

archaeological desk-based assessment had been previously been carried out for the site (Foundations Archaeology).

1.3 The evaluation was conducted according to briefs compiled by the County Archaeology Office of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC CAO, now Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice) (dated 18/6/01 & 01/12/03) and specifications prepared by HAT (dated 14/3/02 & 02/12/03). It conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation and Excavation* (revised 1999), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). The aims of the evaluation were, in summary:

- to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

1.4 At the time of the Phase 1 evaluation, the remainder of the western part of the site was inaccessible. Development has subsequently taken place across the eastern part of the site. Based on these constraints, CCC CAO issued a further brief for the completion of evaluation of the remainder of the western part of the site (Phase 2) (brief dated 01/12/03). The brief also required the cleaning and recording of two areas of strip foundations currently being developed in the eastern part of the site (Areas 'A' and 'B'). Phase 3 consisted of small areas in the north-western parts of the site, extending Trenches 1-3 into an area previously occupied by a spoil heap. Phases 4 and 5 were undertaken as areas previously occupied by a site compound became available.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE Figs. 1 - 2

2.1 The village of Willingham lies towards the southern edge of the Fens, 2km to the south of the river Great Ouse (Old West River). The site lies within the western part of the historic core of the large village of Willingham. It is partially bounded to the east by the High Street and lies adjacent to Over Road to the south. The site is bounded to the north by Manor Farm, and to the west by the rear of properties fronting Over Road and Rooks Grove. The site previously comprised the back plots of properties fronting the High Street and Over Road, which were in mixed use, with areas of pasture, orchard, rough grass and hard surfaces.

2.2 The site lies at an average height of 6 - 6.5m AOD, and was previously characterised by a number of formal property boundaries and drainage ditches. Willingham lies on Jurassic/Cretaceous clay overlain by terrace gravel deposits derived from the Ouse (Hall 1992). The village lies on a promontory of higher ground above the surrounding former fens to the north and east. The former Aldreth Causeway formed an early routeway from Cambridge, via the east of Willingham, across the fen to Haddenham Ridge and thence to Ely.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The historical and archaeological background to the site is presented in detail in the desk-based assessment for the site (Foundations Archaeology). It is summarised below:

- There is a long history of settlement of this part of the Fens, which seems to have been of particular importance during the Roman period.
- Archaeological work to the east of the High Street in 1997 (HER 11973) revealed a possible late Bronze Age/early Iron Age post structure and Iron Age pottery. Residual early/middle Iron Age and Roman finds were also found by HAT at Rampton Road in 2001 (Hounsell & Murray 2001).
- Roman finds of coins and pottery are known from the village, and a single Roman inhumation was found during the 1997 excavations. At the same site (HER 11973b), remains of Saxon occupation were found at the core of the village. These included up to ten post-built timber halls of the middle and later Saxon period, and other Saxon remains are known from Church Street. Medieval occupation is also well-known from the core of the village.

4 FIELD EVALUATION Fig. 2

4.1 Phases of Archaeological Work

4.1.1 The practical logistics of the project required the archaeological work to be carried out in several phases.

- In Phase 1 15 trenches were excavated across the area of proposed development, using a 180° wheeled mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket (labelled Trenches 1-8, 17 – 18, 20 – 23) (Fig. 2). Context numbers from Phase 1 are suffixed ‘A’ (e.g. F1027A).
- In Phase 2, an additional seven trenches were excavated (labelled 11 – 14, 16, 19 and 24). Two small areas, ‘A’ and ‘B’, were cleaned and examined for archaeological features and finds. Contexts from Phase 2 are suffixed ‘B’ (e.g. F1027B). All the trenches were 15-30m in length x 1.6m wide, and were excavated in locations approved by the client and CCC CAO (Fig. 2).
- Phase 3 consisted of stripping an area 16.5m x 3m, extending Trench 2 eastwards.
- Phase 3A consisted of stripping an area 25m x 20m, extending Trench 2 northwards.
- Phase 3B consisted of stripping an area c. 27m x 24m, incorporating the southern part of Trench 1 and the western end of Trench 3.
- Phase 4 consisted of soil stripping and archaeological investigation of an open area c. 21m x 15m, previously occupied by a site compound. It was situated directly north of Trench 5.
- Phase 5 consisted of soil stripping and archaeological investigation of a further open area previously occupied by the site compound, in the north eastern corner of the site. The area measured c.19m x 9m.

4.2 Method of Work

The topsoil and subsoil were mechanically removed under close supervision until the underlying archaeological horizons or natural deposits were visible. All further excavation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological deposits. These were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned with a metal detector.

4.3 Trench Descriptions

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.28m	L1000. Topsoil. Dark greyish brown sandy loam with moderate small flint pebbles.
0.28 – 0.62m	L1001. Subsoil. Light to mid brown clayey loam with sparse coarse components.
0.62m+	L1002. Natural Drift. Orange/yellow sand and gravel with patches of similarly-coloured clay.

Description: A single ditch was recorded in the trench (Tr.1 F1037A), and it was cut by a modern hedge line. It was aligned NNW/SSE and likely represents a continuation of Ditch F1033A in Trench 3. It was steep sided and had a flattish base, some 1.65m wide and 0.48m deep. It contained a single fill (L1038A), a firm, mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional flint pebbles. No finds were present.

Trench 2

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.24m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.24 – 0.52m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.52m+	L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

4.4 Phase 3 Area of Investigation Fig. 10

An area measuring approximately 16.5m x 3m was excavated in the north-western corner of the site, extending Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 10). A ditch (F3003) traversed the area on a northeast-southwest alignment (0.81m wide x 0.29m deep). It had a V-shaped profile with straight sides, *c.* 35° from horizontal. It was filled with a mid grey-brown sandy clay with occasional small stones (L3004). It contained significant quantities of animal bone (1726g), along with pottery sherds (368g), CBM fragments (351g), clay pipe fragments (19g), oyster shell (76g), mussel shell (4g) and glass (28g).

Five metres to the west of Ditch F3003, two post holes (F3005 and F3007) and a pit (F3009) were excavated. Post hole F3005 was circular with steep sides gently breaking to a narrow rounded base (length 0.46m, width 0.45m, depth 0.17m). Its fill was a dark brown clayey silt with small stones (L3006). It contained pottery sherds (86g), CBM fragments (444g), animal bone (43g), an iron object (16g) and a clay pipe fragment (10g).

The other post hole (F3007) was also circular with steep sides abruptly breaking to a rounded base (diameter 0.50m, depth 0.25m). Its fill was a dark brown clayey silt with small stones (L3008). It contained no archaeological finds. F3009 was a sub-circular pit with gently sloping sides breaking to a rounded base (diameter 1.32m, depth 0.25m). Its fill was a dark brown clayey silt with small flint pebbles (L3010).

4.5 Phase 3A Area of Investigation Fig. 11

An area measuring approximately 25m x 20m was excavated in the north-western corner of the site, encompassing the area to the north of Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 11).

A shallow gully (F3017) traversed the area from northeast to southwest. It had moderately steep sides with a narrow, rounded base (width 0.56m., depth 0.19m). Its fill was a mid brown clayey silt (L3018) with occasional flint pebbles. It contained no archaeological finds. F3017 was cut by Gully F3015. It was also recorded in Phase 3B (below).

Ditch F3011 was aligned N/S. It had steep sides breaking sharply to a narrow rounded base (width 0.80m, depth 0.35m). It was located in the north-eastern corner of the area. Its fill was a light grey sandy clay (L3012) with occasional chalk flecks and rounded flint pebbles. F3011 had been re-cut by Ditch F3013 which had a shallow eastern side and a steep western edge with a rounded base (width 1.40m, depth 0.39m). Its fill was an orange-brown silty sand (L3014) which contained animal bone (22g).

F3013 cut shallow Ditch F2023 which was aligned NE/SW. F2023 had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base (width 0.60m, depth 0.16m). Its fill was an orange-brown silty sand (F3024) with occasional chalk flecks and sub-angular pebbles.

Ditches F3013 and F3017 were cut by a curvilinear gully (F3015). The latter had shallow, concave sides, gradually breaking to a rounded base (width 0.60m, depth 0.10m), and was filled with an orange-brown sandy silt (L3016).

Two small, circular pits (F3019 and F3021) were located in the western half of the area. F3019 had irregular sides and a flat base (length 1.09m, width 0.98m, depth 0.25m) and was filled with a mid brown clayey silt (L3020) with occasional flint pebbles. F3021, to the west, had shallow undulating sides and an irregular base (diameter 1.00m, depth 0.14m), and had a similar fill (L3022). F3021 contained animal bone (57g).

4.6 Phase 3B Area of Investigation Fig. 12

An area measuring approximately 27m x 23m was excavated in the north-western corner of the site, incorporating the southern half of Trench 1 and the western end of Trench 3.

The area revealed a number of archaeological features. The area was dominated by a curving ditch of recent date probably representing a former hedgeline (F3025). Ditch F3025 became discontinuous to the south. It was traced for a length of some 25m+, was up to 1.6m wide and 0.65m deep, with steep sides. It contained a compact, grey silty clay.

A NW/SE aligned ditch (F3035) was recorded traversing the area, truncated by both the possible hedgeline Ditch F3025, Ditches F3067 & F3071 and Post Hole F3037. F3035 was moderately steep-sided and exhibited a flattish, concave base, and was 1.8m wide and up to 0.52m deep. No finds were made from the mid grey/brown clayey silt fill.

Two further E/W aligned ditches traversed the southern part of the area, both exhibiting butt-ended terminals within the area. F3041 was partially revealed within the area and traced for a length of 6m+. It was 1.8m wide and up to 0.84m deep. It exhibited a near-vertical northern edge and a flattish base. The ditch contained three fills; upper fill L3044 was a mid orange/brown clay with chalk flecks containing no finds. Intermediate fill L3043 was a mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. Finds included pottery sherds (13g) and animal bone (9g). Basal fill L3042 was a similar, darker grey deposit which contained no finds.

Ditch F3067 was also aligned E/W and it truncated hedgeline F3025. F3067 was traced for a length of 10m+ and was 1.5m wide and 0.60m deep. It was steep-sided and flat-based. It was filled with a mottled grey/brown clayey silt with frequent shell and pea gravel, L3068. No finds were made from the deposit.

Ditch/Gully F3071 cut ditch F1035. It was aligned E/W and appeared to terminate. It was traced for length of 5m+ and was 0.72m wide and 0.24m deep. It was bowl-shaped in profile with steep sides and contained a grey/brown silty clay (L3072) with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. No finds were made.

F3049 was the terminus of a ditch which continued to the east. It was E/W aligned and truncated pit F3047. The ditch was traced for length of 3m+, was 1.77m wide and 0.26m deep, with moderately steep sides and slightly irregular base. It contained a single deposit (L3050) which comprised an uncompact, reddish brown clayey silt with occasional gravel and rootlets. Animal bone (109g) was recovered from the deposit.

Pit F3047 was sub-circular in shape where seen (it was truncated by ditch F3049). F3047 was 1.5m in diameter and 0.50m deep, with a bowl-shaped profile and steep sides. It contained a single fill (L3048), a mottled grey/orange silty clay with rare charcoal and flint pebbles. No finds were made from the deposit.

Pit F3051 was slightly irregular in plan, with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (L3052) which comprised a mid to light brown uncompact clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and flint pebbles. No finds were made.

Pit F3029 was a shallow pit which truncated two earlier pits (F3031 & 3033). F3029 was some 2.3m in diameter and 0.06m deep, with a flat base. It contained a single deposit of dark brown silty clay with occasional chalk/charcoal, similar to former hedgerow F3025 (L3030). The latter contained pottery sherds (125g), animal bone (164g) and a coin (4g).

F3031 and F3033 were both truncated by pit F3029. F3031 was 0.8m in diameter and 0.28m deep, with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. It contained a single fill (L3032) which was a mid orange/brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and flint pebbles. No finds were made from the fill.

F3033 was 1.6m in diameter and 0.31m deep, with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. It contained a single fill (L3034) comprising a mid brown clay with occasional flint pebbles, gravel and charcoal flecks. No finds were made from the fill.

F3045 was a thin gully, aligned NNE/SSW, truncated at its southern end by pit F3047 and a modern intrusion. It was traced for some 8m, was 0.50m wide and 0.09m deep. It exhibited steep sides and a flattish base, and contained a single fill (L3046). The latter comprised a mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. No finds were made.

F3037 & F3039 were large post holes or pits either side of ditch F3035. F3037 cut the infilled ditch. It was 0.75m in diameter and 0.19m deep, with a gentle, bowl-shaped profile. It contained a single fill (L3038) comprising a blue/grey silty clay. No finds were made.

F3039 was sub-circular in plan and some 0.8m in diameter and 0.36m deep. It exhibited steep sides and a rounded base and contained a single fill (L3040). The latter consisted of a dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt which contained no finds.

F3057 and F3055 formed a cross-shaped 'feature' which may have represented a foundation trench for an unidentified structure, though F3055 appeared to cut F3057. Both F3057 and F3055 were some 6.5m long and 1.8m wide and c.0.6m deep, with steep, near-vertical sides and flattish bases. F3057 truncated the edge of ditch F3035. F3055 was filled with a single deposit of dark reddish brown clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks, chalk flecks and flint pebbles. Finds from the deposit (L3056) comprised pottery sherds (5g) and animal bone (11g). The fill of F3057 (L3058) was a mid grey/brown compact silty clay with rare charcoal flecks. No finds were made from the deposit.

A small pit (F3053) truncated the fill of F3057. F3053 was 0.7m in diameter and 0.26m deep, with moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (L3054) consisting of a mid greyish brown sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks and flint pebbles. A partial animal burial was present in the deposit (258g; Fig. 12). No other finds were made.

The final group of features within this area were a N/S row of four pits/post holes, along the western edge of the excavation area (F3059, F3061, F3063 & F3065). F3059 was 0.35m in diameter and 0.28m deep, with steep, near-vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (L3060), a mid greyish brown sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks and flint pebbles. No finds were made. F3061 was 0.26m in diameter and 0.14m deep, with moderately steep sides and a bowl-shaped profile. It also contained a single fill (L3062), a mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional flint pebbles. No finds were made. F3063 was 0.3m in diameter and 0.14m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base. It contained a single fill (L3064), a mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. F3065 was 0.37m in diameter and 0.18m deep, with moderately steep sides breaking sharply to a flat base. It contained a single fill (L3066), a mid brown/grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and rootlets. No finds were made

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.30m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.30 – 0.66m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.66m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: A single ditch was recorded (Tr.3 F1033A). It was aligned NNW/SSE, continued into Trench 1 and was traced for some 22m+, was 1.8m wide and 0.7m deep. It exhibited steep sides and a flattish base. A single sherd of post-medieval (18th century +) pottery (3g) and animal bone (375g) were recovered from the mid greyish brown compact sandy loam fill (L1034A).

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.26m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.26 – 0.50m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.50m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: A ditch (Tr. 4 F1055A) and a gully (Tr. 4 F1057A) were recorded in the trench. F1055A was aligned generally E/W, some 3.65m wide and 0.4m deep, and was slightly irregular in plan. The flat-based ditch contained a single fill (L1056A), a firm, mid greyish brown sandy clay, containing animal bone (281g) only. F1057A was a gully, aligned NE/SW, with steep sides and a slightly V-shaped base. It contained a single fill (L1058A), a mid brown firm sandy clay which contained no finds.

Trench 5 (Fig. 4)

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.26m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.26 – 0.48m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.48m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: Two ditches (Tr. 5 F1027A, and Tr. 5 F1043A) and two gullies (Tr. 5 F1031A and Tr. 5 F1061A) were recorded.

F1027A was a large ditch, aligned N/S, containing three fills and yielding finds of Late Iron Age date, comprising pottery sherds (51g) and also animal bone (115g). It was some 4m wide and 0.53m deep, with gentle to moderately sloping sides and a flattish, slightly concave base. The upper fill (L1028A) was a firm mid grey/brown clayey silt with occasional flint gravel. The intermediate fill (L1029A) was a dark orange/brown sandy silt with moderate flint gravel, whilst the basal fill (L1030A) was a silted deposit of dark grey sticky silty clay with fine gravel.

F1043 was another, narrower, N/S aligned ditch. It was 1.2m wide and 0.35m deep, with steep sides and a flattish base. It contained a single fill (L1044A), a mid brown, firm clayey sand. No finds were present.

Trench 6 (Fig. 4)

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.40m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.40 – 0.60m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.60m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: Two ditches (Tr. 6 F1041A and F1047A) and a possible pond (Tr. 6 F1049A) were recorded in the trench. The latter truncated a shallow possible feature (F1053A).

F1041A was a N/S ditch, recorded in Trenches 5 - 7.

F1047A was a NW/SE aligned ditch cut by possible pond F1049A. It was steep-sided and flat based, some 0.29m deep, and filled with a light to mid brown firm clayey silt (L1048A). No finds were present.

F1049A was a large feature, possible a shallow former pond. It was some 16m wide and 0.75m deep and contained a single, waterlogged fill (L1050A – a dark grey clayey silt with moderate gravel inclusions) which yielded sherds of High Medieval and Late Medieval pottery (mid 12th – 16th century; 191g), building materials (858g) and animal bone (974g). It truncated the edge of a shallow feature (F1053A), which contained a single fill (L1054A) of light grey clayey silt but no finds.

Trench 7 (Fig. 5)

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.36m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.36 – 0.67m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.67m+ L1002. Natural Drift.

Description: A ditch (Tr. 7 F1045A) and a possible post hole (Tr. 7 F1059A) were recorded in the trench.

F1045A was N/S aligned and recorded in Trenches 5 & 6. It was 1.12m wide and 0.32m deep, with a bowl-shaped profile. It contained a single fill (L1046A), a firm, mid greyish brown clayey sand. It contained no finds.

F1059A was a small possible post hole, some 0.35m in diameter and 0.15m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (L1060A), a firm, mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles. It contained no finds.

Trench 8 (Fig. 5)

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.30m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.

0.30 – 0.60m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.

0.60m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: Four ditches (Tr. 8 F1023A, Tr.8 F1035A, Tr.8 F1039A and Tr.8 F1051A) were recorded in the trench.

F1023A was a large, E/W aligned ditch or large pit, partially revealed within the trench. It contained three fills, which yielded High Medieval pottery sherds (139g), animal bone (4164g) and a possible piece of stone shot (11g). It was steep-sided and exhibited a flattish, slightly irregular base. It was 5.24m+ wide and 1m deep. The upper fill (L1024A) was a soft, mid brown sandy silt with occasional flint pebbles. The intermediate fill (L1025A) was a firm, dark grey clayey silt with frequent gravel lenses. The basal fill (L1026A) was a firm, dark grey silt with fine gravel.

F1035A was a shallow, wide, irregular ditch which had probably been recut. It was E/W aligned, 1.87m wide and 0.25m deep, with gently sloping sides and an undulating base. It contained a single fill (L1036A), comprising a soft, mid yellow/brown clayey sand with moderate flint pebbles. It contained no finds.

F1039A was an E/W ditch. It was 0.93m wide and 0.31m deep, with moderately steep sides and bowl-shaped profile. It contained a single fill (L1040A), a soft mid yellow/brown clayey sand with moderate inclusions of flint pebbles. It contained no finds.

F1051A was an E/W ditch, 1.2m wide and 0.35m deep, with a steep northern edge and a more irregular, stepped southern edge and concave base. It contained a single fill (L1052A), similar to that of F1039A above. It contained no finds.

Trench 11 (Fig. 6)

0.00 – 0.31m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.

0.31 – 0.58m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.

0.58m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: Five shallow linear features were investigated in this trench (Tr. 11 F1003B, Tr. 11 F1005B, Tr. 11 F1007B, Tr. 11 F1009B, and Tr. 11 F1011B).

F1003B was a shallow linear ditch orientated NE – SW (L 6.5m+; W 0.28m; D 0.06m). It had concave sides with a gradual break in slope. Its fill (L1004) was a mid grey orange silty clay with occasional subangular flints. It contained no finds. This feature was cut by F1005B.

F1005B was a shallow linear ditch orientated NW – SE (L 1.8m+; W 0.35m; D 0.09m). It had concave sides with a gradual break in slope, and a flat base. Its fill

(L1006B) was a mid grey orange silty clay, identical to F1003B L1004B. No finds were present.

F1007B was a linear ditch orientated NW – SE (L 1.8m+; W 0.35m; D 0.10m). The sides were concave with a gradual break in slope. The base was gently rounded. Its fill, L1008B, was a mid grey orange silty clay. It contained no finds.

F1009B was a linear ditch with gradual sloping sides and a flat base (L 1.8m+; W 0.50m; D 0.10m). It was also orientated on a NW – SE alignment and was filled with L1010B, mid grey orange silty clay.

F1011B was a linear feature (L 1.8m; W 0.55m; D 0.25m) with sloping sides. The base was flat and the fill was mid grey orange silty clay. Like F1009B, F1007B and F1005B, this feature was also orientated on a NW – SE axis, broadly in line with the current property boundaries and at right angles to the High Street. The exception was F1003B, which was orientated NE / SW.

None of the features contained finds. The similarity of their fills may indicate a contemporaneous date.

Trench 12 (Fig. 6)

Sample section

0.00 – 0.30m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.

0.30 – 0.50m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.

0.50m+ L1002. Natural Drift.

Description: A further four linear features (Tr. 12 F1015B, Tr. 12 F1017B, Tr. 12 F1019B and Tr. 12 F1021B) and a pit (Tr. 12 F1013B) were recorded in this trench, which was parallel to Trench 11. The ditches (F1015B, F1017B, F1019B and F1021B) were orientated NW / SE.

F1015B was a linear ditch with gently sloping sides (L 11.8m+; W 0.72m; D 0.12m). Its fill, L1016B, was a mid grey orange silty clay. No finds were present.

F1017B was a linear ditch (L 1.8m; W 0.64m; D 0.9m) with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1018B, was a mid grey orange silty clay. It contained no finds.

F1019B was a large ditch with uneven sides. Its dimensions were L 1.8m+; W 2.0m+; and D 0.30m. Its fill, L1020B, was a mid grey orange silty clay.

In the NE edge of the trench a linear feature (F1021B) was investigated (L 1.8m+; W 2.0m; D 0.25m). The sides were concave and sloped at 40° from the horizontal. Its base was rounded. Its fill, L1022B, was a mid grey orange silty clay. No finds were present.

Trench 13 (Fig. 6)

Sample Section

0.00 – 0.22m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.22 – 0.62m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.62m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: Two large ditch features were recorded in this trench, Tr. 13 F1029B and Tr. 13 F1031B.

F1029B had regular, moderately steep, uniform sides (L 1.80m; W 3.60m; D 0.70m). It contained two fills, L1037B and F1031B. The primary deposit (L1037B) was a mid dark grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal (L 1.8m+; W 3.60m; D 0.3m). No finds were present. The secondary deposit (L1030B) was mid grey silty clay. It contained animal bone and shell (L 1.8m; W 3.60m; D 0.4m).

F1031B was a ditch (L 1.8m+; W 2.2m; D 0.62m), parallel to F1029B. It had steep sides and a flat base. It had a single fill (L1032B), a mid grey brown silty clay. Tree rooting was evident.

Trench 14

Sample Section

0.00 – 0.27m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.27 – 0.39m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.39m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 16 (Fig. 7)

Sample Section

0.00 – 0.23m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.23 – 0.43m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.43m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: Two ditches were recorded in this trench, Tr. 16 F1023B and Tr. 16 F1025B.

F1023B was a ditch orientated NE – SW, with gently sloping sides (L 1.8m+; W 1.75m; D 0.60m). The base was concave. Its fill, L1024B, was a mid orange brown silty clay. It contained mollusc shells and brick, and the environmental samples indicate the presence of fish bones.

F1025B was a ditch orientated N – S with gently sloping sides and a concave base. The dimensions were L 1.8m+; W 1.45m and D 0.27m. Its fill, L1026B, was a mid grey orange silty clay. No finds were present, though the environmental assessment included the presence of a number of small fish bones within the ditch fill, as with adjacent ditch F1023B.

Trench 17a

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.28m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.28 – 0.45m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.45m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 17b

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.24m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.24 – 0.53m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.53m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features were present

Trench 18 (Fig. 7)

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.24m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.24 – 0.50m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.50m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: Two ditches (Tr. 18 F1021A and Tr. 18 F1018A) and a gully (Tr. 18 F1016A) were recorded within the trench.

F1018A was a wide, N/S aligned ditch containing two fills. It was 4.4m wide and 0.89m deep, with steep sides and a flattish base. The upper fill (L1020A) was a mid greyish brown, firm clayey silt with moderate gravel. The basal fill (L1019A) was a dark blue/grey firm silty clay with gravel. No finds were present.

F1021A was an irregular feature partially revealed in the trench. It possibly represents the western terminal of an E/W aligned ditch. Late medieval pottery sherds (40g) and shell (1g) were recovered from the fill. It was traced for a length of 6.5m and was 1.15m+ wide and 0.43m deep. The single fill (L1022A) comprised a mid brownish grey soft sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.

F1016A was a small, shallow, N/S aligned gully, terminating to the south within the trench. It was 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (L1017A), a firm, mid brownish/grey sandy clay with moderate flint pebbles.

Trench 19 (Fig. 7)

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.30m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.30 – 0.58m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.58m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: A small area of tree rooting was observed in this trench alongside Tr. 19 F1033B, a NE-SW aligned ditch.

The full extent of Ditch F1033B was partially obscured by the trench edge. A number of slots were excavated along its length, which extended for 23m+, was 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep. The sides gradually sloped at 30° from the horizontal to a flat base. It was filled by L1034B, mid grey orange silty clay. No finds were present.

Trench 20

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.28m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.28 – 0.48m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.48m L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: A single tree hollow was identified within the trench.

Trench 21

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.25m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.25 – 0.50m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.50m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were located within the trench. Two modern land drains were present.

Trench 22 (Fig. 8)

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.25m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.25 – 0.55m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.55m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: Two ditches (Tr. 22 F1011A and Tr. 22 F1013A) were recorded within the trench.

Ditch F1011A was aligned NNE/SSW, and was regular and flattish-based. It was 0.8m wide and 0.16m deep, with a bowl-shaped profile. It contained a single fill (L1012A); consisting of a firm, grey/brown clayey silt. No finds were present.

Ditch F1013A was also aligned NNE/SSW. It contained two fills and exhibited a similar profile to F1011A. It was 0.82m wide and 0.24m deep. The upper fill (L1015A) was a firm, mid brown clayey silt, whilst the basal fill was a firm, greyish brown clayey silt. No finds were present.

Trench 23 (Fig. 8)

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.25m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.25 – 0.55m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.55m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: Three ditches (Tr. 23 F1005A, Tr. 23 F1007A and Tr. 23 F1009A) and a gully (Tr. 23 F1003A) were recorded in the trench.

F1003A was a narrow, NNE/SSW aligned gully with a flat base. It was 0.41m wide and 0.1m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1004A, was a firm, mid brown clayey silt. No finds were present.

F1005A was a NNE/SSW aligned ditch, parallel to ditch F1009A to the west. It was 0.76m wide and 0.28m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. The single fill (L1006A, a firm, grey/brown clayey silt) yielded no finds.

F1007A was a NE/SW aligned ditch. It was 0.65m wide and 0.14m deep, with steep sides and a concave, flattish base. The single fill (L1008A – a firm, mid brown clayey silt), yielded no finds.

Ditch F1009A was aligned NNE/SSW. It was 1m wide and 0.32m deep, with a bowl-shaped profile and rounded base. The single fill (L1010A – a compact, mid brown clayey silt), contained no finds.

Trench 24 (Fig. 8)

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.24m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.

0.24 – 0.50m L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.

0.50m+ L1002. Natural Drift. As Trench 1.

Description: A modern pit and a NW – SE orientated ditch, Tr. 24 F1027B, were observed in this trench.

F1027B was a linear ditch with regular steep sides. It was 1.8m+ in length, 1.30m wide and 0.50m deep, and contained four different fills, L1028B, L1035B, L1036B and L1038B. The base was rounded. The primary deposit was L1036B, mid grey brown silty clay and contained no finds. It was 1.8m+ in length, 0.75m in width and 0.08m deep. This was overlain by L1035B, dark grey black silty clay containing animal bone and medieval pot sherds. It was 1.8m in length, 0.75m wide and 0.12m deep and contained medieval pottery. Intermediate fill L1028B was a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional flint pebbles, some 0.5m wide and 0.12m thick. It contained no finds. The final fill, L1038B, was light brown yellow redeposited natural, which had deliberately backfilled the feature. It was 1.8m in length, 0.90m wide and 0.18m deep, and contained no finds.

Foundation Areas 'A' and 'B' (Fig. 9)

This area was investigated following the insertion of concrete footings. Features had thus been truncated by the current building works. The area was machine-excavated to a clean surface to enable a reliable plan and sections to be drawn. Area B in the south-eastern corner of the site contained modern drain runs.

In Area A in the north-east corner of the site, a shallow modern gully and a large medieval pit were investigated. F1039B was 8.5m+ in length, 3.5m+ in width and 1.30m deep. The exact shape in plan could not be determined due to modern truncation, but the sides sloped steeply. The base was rounded. The feature was filled by L1040B, L1041B, L1042B and L1043B. The primary fill was L1042B, a dark brown black organic silty peat containing animal bone. It was 3m+ in length,

1.35m+ wide and 0.45m deep. It was overlain by L1043B, mid dark brown silty clay, containing small to medium sized rounded pebbles and occasional sub angular flint nodules (L 3.00m+; W 1.70m+; D 0.25m). A small amount of animal bone was recovered from this context. This was sealed by L1041B, an orange/green silty clay gravel, hard and compact with occasional medium sized rounded pebbles. It was 3m in length, 2.40m+ wide and 0.36m deep and contained medieval pottery. L1040B was the final fill of the feature, and was mid grey brown silty clay. It was 8.5m+ in length, 3.5m wide and 0.3m deep, and contained no finds.

4.7 Phase 4 Area of Investigation Figs. 14 - 15

Archaeological features recorded in Phase 4 include: a single ditch (F3073) and its re-cut (F3077), one linear feature (F3094), two post holes (F3079, F3088) and eight pits (F3081, F3083, F3086, F3090, F3092, F3097, F3099, F3101).

F3073 was a pit or ditch terminal oriented north to south with minimum dimensions (1.30 x 1.04 x 0.53 m), and continuing beyond the area to the north. It was steep-sided with a base stepped to the west. It contained three fills (L3074, L3075, L3076). It was re-cut by F3077. L3074 was firm greyish brown silty clay with occasional flint nodules and contained no finds. L3075 was firm grey orange-brown silty clay with moderate flint nodules and contained no finds. L3076 was firm orange grey-brown silty clay with frequent flint nodules and contained no finds.

F3077 was a re-cut of F3073. It was 0.29m deep and had steep to moderately sloped sides and an uneven base. It contained one fill (L3078) which was firm brownish grey silty clay with occasional flint nodules and no finds.

F3079 was a semi-rectangular post hole feature (1.10 x 0.93 x 0.30m). It had a steep northeast side, a stepped southwest side and a fairly flat base. It had one fill (L3080) which was firm grey-brown silty clay with occasional flint nodules and contained no finds.

F3081 was a shallow, circular pit (1.14 x 0.89 x 0.13m). It had moderately sloped sides and a concave, slightly irregular base. It had one fill (L3082) which was firm mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional flint nodules, frequent cobbles (0.05–0.10 m) and contained no finds.

F3083 was a sub-circular pit feature (1.02 x 0.85 x 0.25m). It had gently curved sides and a flat base. It contained two fills (L3084, L3083). L3084 was very firm orange-brown silty clay with occasional flint nodules and contained no finds. L3085 was firm greyish brown silty clay with moderate flint nodules and contained no finds. F3083 was a shallow pit of unknown utility.

F3086 was a sub-circular pit feature (0.85 x 0.60 x 0.15 m). It had steep sides and an irregular concave base. It had one fill (L3087) which was firm greyish brown silty clay with moderate flint nodules and no finds. F3086 was a shallow pit of unknown utility.

F3088 was a circular post hole feature (0.46 x 0.40 x 0.09 m). It had steep sides and a flat base. It contained one fill (L3089) which was firm greyish brown silty clay with frequent flint (5-20mm) and no finds. F3088 was a post hole feature that may have been associated with a post-built structure.

F3090 was a circular pit feature (0.70 x 0.70 x 0.20 m). It had steep to gently curved sides and an irregular concave base. It contained one fill (L3091) which was firm greyish brown silty clay with frequent gravel (5-10 mm) and no finds. F3090 was a small irregularly shaped pit of unknown utility.

F3092 was a shallow, oval pit feature with minimum dimensions (0.75 x 0.75 x 0.06 m). It had gently curved sides and a fairly flat base. The pit extends beyond the north trench wall. It contained one fill (L3093) which was firm grey-brown silty clay with frequent gravel (5-20mm) and no finds. F3092 was a very shallow pit of unknown utility.

F3094 was partially traced across the area but appeared to have been previously truncated to the south. F3094 was a linear feature with minimum dimensions (1.50 x 1.20 x 0.24 m). It had steep sides and a fairly flat base. It contained two fills (L3095, L3096). L3095 was the primary fill of F3094 and was firm greyish brown silty clay with frequent gravel (5-10mm) and three flakes of struck flint. The secondary fill (L3096) was firm grey-brown silty clay with frequent gravel (5-40mm) and no finds. F3094 may have been a ditch or pit feature but may also be a natural feature due to varied natural drift giving the appearance of a cut. The presence of flint flakes in the primary fill lends evidence to this feature having been cultural.

F3097 was an irregularly shaped pit with minimum dimensions (0.70 x 0.68 x 0.21 m). It had a steep north eastern side, a stepped south western side and a flat base. It had one fill (L3098) which was firm greyish brown silty clay with frequent gravel (5-20 mm) and no finds.

F3099 was a sub-circular pit feature with minimum dimensions (1.0 x 0.96 x 0.18 m). The pit extends south beyond the south wall of the trench. It had gently sloping sides and a fairly flat base. It had one fill (L3100) which was firm greyish brown silty clay with moderate gravel (5-10 mm) and no finds.

F3101 was a sub rectangular pit feature (0.78 x 0.37 x 0.08 m). It had steep sides and a flat base. It had one fill (L3102) which was firm greyish brown silty clay with frequent gravel (5-10 mm) and no finds.

4.8 Phase 5 Area of Investigation Figs. 16 & 17

Archaeological features recorded during Phase 5 include: three pits (F3103, F3105, F3113), four linear features (F3109, F3119, F3123, F3128) and two post holes (F3111, F3131). A number of modern foundation trenches traversed the area.

F3103 was a sub-circular pit feature (0.42 x 0.40 x 0.13m). It was truncated by another pit feature (F3105) and the foundation trench. It had steep sides and a

concave base. It had one fill (L3104) which was loose mid brown-grey silty sand with occasional sub angular flint (<30mm) and no finds.

F3105 was a sub-circular pit feature (2.25 x 1.70 x 0.50m). It cuts a pit (F3103) and a gully (F3109) and is cut by the foundation trench. It had steep concave sides and a concave base. It contains three fills (L3106, L3107, L3108). L3106 was loose light brown-grey silty sand with occasional sub angular flint (<50mm) and no finds. L3107 was moderately compact mid orange grey-brown silty sand with moderate sub angular flint (< 50mm) and no finds. L3108 was moderately compact mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional sub angular flint (< 50 mm) and no finds.

F3109 was a curvilinear gully with minimum dimensions (8.20 x 0.48 x 0.11m). It had steep concave sides and a concave base. It was cut by a pit (F3105) and a post hole (F3111). It contained one fill (L3110 in Segment A, L3117 in Segment B and L3118 in Segment C). L3110, L3117 and L3118 were the same fill and were loose mid orange brown-grey silty sand with moderate sub angular flint (< 50mm) and no finds. F3109 was a curvilinear gully feature that was heavily truncated by the foundation trench.

F3111 was a circular post hole (0.64 x 0.62 x 0.42m), cutting shallow gully F3109. It had steep concave sides and a concave base. It contained one fill (L3112) which was moderately compact mid-dark brown grey silty sand with occasional sub angular flint (< 60mm) and no finds. F3111 cuts a gully (F3109) and is cut by the foundation trench.

F3113 was a large sub-circular pit with minimum dimensions (2.01 x 2.00 x 0.88m). It had steep concave sides and a flat base. It was cut by the foundation trench and contains three fills (L3114, L3115, L3116). L3114 was a compact mid-dark grey-brown silty clay rich in organics with frequent clay lumps, occasional sub angular flint gravel and no finds. L3115 was compact mid brown-grey silty sand with occasional sub-angular flint gravel (<20mm) and contained pottery sherds dating between the 12th and 15th centuries. L3116 was loose grey green-brown silty clay with occasional sub angular flint gravel (< 20mm) and no finds. F3113 may have been a late medieval refuse or cess pit due to the heavy organic matter of the primary fill (L3114).

F3119 was a linear gully with minimum dimensions (8.71 x 0.70 x 0.36m). It was cut by the foundation trench and cuts two gullies (F3123, F3128). It had steep concave sides and a concave base. It had one fill (L3120 in Segment A, L3121 in Segment B, L3122 in Segment C). The fill (L3120, L3121, L3122) was compact light green brown-grey silty sand with moderate sub angular flint gravel (< 30mm). Some pottery sherds were recovered from L3121 in Segment B of F3119 and these date between the 14th and 17th centuries. F3119 may have been a late medieval gully, possibly used for drainage.

F3123 was a linear feature with minimum dimensions (7.60 x 0.96 x 0.30m). It was cut by a gully (F3119) and contained two fills. The primary fill was L3124 in Segment A and L3126 in Segment B and the secondary fill was L3125 in Segment A and L3127 in Segment B. The primary fill (L3124, L3126) was compact light brown-grey silty clay with occasional sub angular flint gravel (< 30 mm) and charcoal flecks.

Pottery sherds were recovered from L3124 which date to between the 11th and 13th centuries. The secondary fill (L3125, L3127) was moderately compact mid grey-brown silty sand with moderately sub angular flint gravel (< 50mm). Some animal bone was recovered from L3127. F3123 may have been a early medieval boundary ditch or gully and could have been used to drain the area or mark territory.

F3128 was a linear ditch/gully with minimum dimensions (1.80 x 0.96 x 0.33m). It was cut by a gully (F3119) and truncated at the southeast end by the foundation trench. It contains one primary fill (L3129 in Segment A and L3130 in Segment B). The primary fill (L3129, L3130) was moderately compact mid grey-brown silty sand with moderate sub angular flint gravel (< 30mm). L3130 contained pottery sherds that date between the 12th and 15th centuries.

F3131 was a sub-circular post hole (0.28 x 0.27 x 0.09m). F3131 was truncated by modern activity and only the base remains. It had steep sides and a concave base. It had one fill (L3132) which was loose mid-dark brown grey silty sand with occasional sub angular flint gravel (< 20 mm) and no finds.

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

5.1 Excepting Areas A and B, it is not felt that any factors hindered the identification of archaeological features or deposits during the evaluation.

6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 A dark greyish brown sandy loam topsoil with moderate small flint pebbles was present across the site (L1000). It varied in depth from a minimum of 0.22m to a maximum of 0.36m. Beneath the topsoil was light to mid brown clayey loam subsoil with sparse coarse inclusions (L1001). The subsoil was encountered at depths of between 0.22 and 0.36m and extended in some places to a maximum depth of 0.67m below ground level.

6.2 The natural drift, orange/yellow sand and gravel with patches of similarly coloured clay (L1002) was encountered at depths from 0.43m to 0.67m below ground level. The variations in the depths of layers are minor and do not indicate any significant patterns to the build-up of deposits across the site.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Summary of the Archaeology

7.1.1 The five phases of trial trenching and excavation on land north of Over Road and west of the High Street, Willingham, revealed a large number of archaeological features, distributed across the site. These were principally ditches and gullies, although a lesser number of pits, post holes and other features including a possible pond (F1049A Tr. 6) were also present. The linear features were interpreted as property boundaries and drainage ditches, with evidence of rubbish dumping from

occupation areas nearby. Several features yielded pottery indicative of a medieval or post-medieval date, but a large number of the excavated features were devoid of datable material. A possible Late Iron Age ditch (F1027A Tr. 5) and a ditch containing a small quantity of struck flint (F3094 Phase 4 Area) suggested prehistoric activity in the area.

7.2 Interpretation of the Site: Prehistoric Features

7.2.1 Three fragments of worked flint were recovered from the primary fill of a linear feature (F3094) excavated in the Phase 4 Area in the north-west of the site. It may represent a prehistoric ditch.

7.2.2 A further ditch (F1027A) found in the north of the site (Tr. 5) yielded Iron Age pottery including two joining necked jar sherds of typical Late Iron Age type (AD 5 – 70). The sherds were recovered from the basal fill of the ditch so are not likely to be intrusive. Previous excavations have produced other evidence of Iron Age settlement in Willingham, including a possible Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age post-structure found to the east of the High Street in 1997 (HER 11973; see Section 3.1). Numerous chance finds attest to continuing occupation in the Roman period. The very large size of Ditch F1027A (4.00m wide) suggests it was an important feature, intended to make a clear statement about the ownership or function of an area. However, no other Iron Age material was found on site, even in residual contexts, suggesting few other contemporary features were ever present.

7.3 Interpretation of the Site: Medieval and Post-medieval Activity

7.3.1 The Anglo-Saxon settlement remains recorded on the east side of the High Street (HER 11973b, Section 3.1) were not mirrored on the present site, which probably therefore lay within the agricultural hinterland of the middle and late Saxon village.

7.3.2 The principal archaeological features revealed in all phases of the evaluation were ditches, many of which probably represent property boundaries and drainage channels. Few contained datable material, so no clear chronology could be determined for the division of this area of Willingham into different plots. Many of the ditches ran at right-angles to the High Street to the east or Over Road to the south, suggesting they may be boundaries extending back from properties along the street frontages. The layout of the ditches corresponds fairly well with the alignment of boundaries still present behind the street front today and there is no evidence from the site that a radically different layout ever existed in this area of the village. The earliest ditches/gullies can be tentatively assigned an early medieval date. The lower fill of Ditch/Gully F3123 (Phase 5 Area), for example, contained a sherd of shelly ware which could feasibly be of 11th – 12th century date. Ditch F1023A, also in the north-east of the site (Tr. 8), contained a mid-12th to mid-14th century jug handle with olive green glaze. Other ditches yielded finds of 'High Medieval', later medieval and early post-medieval date (e.g. Gully F3119 Phase 5). This area of Willingham thus appears to have been divided into numerous property holdings throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, perhaps from as early as c. 1100/ 1200.

7.3.3 A number of pits were distributed across the site, but concentrated particularly in the northern area. They may originally have been dug to extract natural sand and gravel for building. Some were very large, notably F1039B in the north-east corner of the site (Area A), which measured 8.50 x 3.50 x 1.30m deep. Many of the pits appear to have gradually filled in over time, as they have a number of separate fills. Pit F1039B, for example, contained four distinct layers (see Section 4.3.23). Pit F3113, also in the north-east of the site (Phase 5), contained three different fills (Section 4.5.1). During this gradual natural in-filling, a number of the pits had been used for rubbish disposal. In some cases, small quantities are suggestive of the casual discard of unwanted material (e.g. Pit F1039B contained 31g of medieval pottery and 365g of animal bone). Other pits seem to have been used for deliberate dumping of large quantities of waste: feature F1023A in Tr. 8 was a large ditch or pit in which 139g of medieval pottery and over 4kg of animal bone had been dumped. Many of the ditches and gullies on site had also filled in through a mixture of natural erosion/silting and deliberate disposal of medieval and post-medieval waste. The waste was domestic in character, with no evidence of any specific industrial or craft activities being carried out.

7.3.4 Despite the evidence of property boundaries and domestic rubbish dumping, the site appears to have been peripheral to the main areas of occupation. There was little evidence of any buildings on the site contemporary with the ditches and dumped waste. A few post holes were recorded (e.g. F3079, F3088, F3005, F3007, F3111 and F1059A), but no obvious groupings or alignments suggestive of structures were apparent. They may represent the remains of fence posts or small outbuildings. The lack of charred plant material in the environmental samples from the site may also suggest it was peripheral to the main focus of activity in the village. The site was thus a 'backyard' area in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. The enigmatic cross-shaped 'feature' in Phase 3b is difficult to interpret, though there has been suggestion that it could represent a feature such as a foundation for a structure (perhaps quarterbar bases for a post-mill?), though there is no clear evidence to confirm or deny this, other than perhaps that the feature is too small to have supported such a large structure.

7.4 Preservation of the Archaeology

7.4.1 There was little evidence of previous truncation, as much of the site was either pasture or orchard prior to the trial trenching. The features were sealed by mature subsoil.

7.5 Finds and Environmental Evidence

7.5.1 A small pottery assemblage of 34 sherds (773g) was recovered during the phases of evaluation. The sherds were generally in good condition, with angular sides and little evidence of surface abrasion, suggesting they were recovered from the contexts in which they had originally been deposited. The medieval and post-medieval sherds were largely from everyday domestic vessels, including a 12th – early 16th century cooking pot. Unsurprisingly for a fenland village, local wares, including Ely-type fabrics, were common.

7.5.2 The first two phases of the evaluation yielded only a small quantity (10 fragments) of animal bone, although the condition of the material was good. Cattle bone was most common, with butchery marks on all fragments and some evidence of gnawing from dogs. During Phase 3 of the investigation, a sizeable assemblage of 60 fragments was recovered from one context (Ditch F3003 L3004), although some degradation had occurred and less than half the bones were identifiable. The assemblage included the pelvis of an adult horse, with some chopping evident. No signs of bone working or skinning indicative of cottage industry were found; rather, the bone appears to be largely small-scale household waste from food preparation.

7.5.3 The environmental samples taken from several ditches and pits did not allow conclusive interpretations to be drawn about the past environmental conditions prevailing in the area. Freshwater molluscs were fairly common in Ditch F1025B, suggesting that it was at least seasonally waterlogged and probably acted as a drainage ditch. Accumulation of water in parts of the site is perhaps also indicated by the presence of quantities of Duckweed in the basal fill of Pit 1039B. It was tentatively suggested that the site was a relatively open, un-shaded area peripheral to the main focus of inhabitation in Willingham.

7.6 Research Potential

7.6.1 The features from the site are typical of the ‘backyard’ areas found on the periphery of many fenland villages. The animal bone assemblage is too small to provide much detailed information regarding the diet and economic status of the inhabitants of medieval and early post-medieval Willingham. Similarly, the finds assemblage did not include any material with a significant bearing on the issues of rural craft production and industry discussed by Wade (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 25). There was no evidence of any specific cottage industry taking place on or near the site. The lack of datable material in many of the ditches makes it impossible to pinpoint the chronology of the laying-out of boundaries in this part of the village. Thus it difficult to suggest the agencies influencing village development.

7.6.2 The significance of the site is thus limited to local questions about Willingham’s history. It has shown that this part of the village was divided into plots throughout the medieval period, perhaps from as early as c. 1100-1200, but that it was always peripheral to the main areas of inhabitation.

8 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

8.1 The archive comprises an A4 file of context sheets, the finds listed in the concordance, B/W film, colour slides and a series of A1 plan/section sheets. It will be deposited at the County Archaeology Store, Cambridge.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS
DOCUMENTARY ARCHIVE FORM

Site Details			
County:	Cambridgeshire	Museum:	County Archaeology Store
Site Code:	HAT 611/ AS 756	AS Project Number:	1531
Site Name:	Land at Over Road, Willingham		
NGR:	TL 4010 7010	Accession Number:	
Site Type:	Trial Trench Evaluation	Date of Work:	March 2002 – Jan 2005
Planning Ref:	S/1572/01/F	SMR No:	
Related Work:			
Brief Description of Documentary Archive:	A4 file and associated plans		
Brief Finds Description (Quantity & Date):			
Ownership Form Returned:		Archive Deposited:	

Introduction			
Brief/s		Specification/s	
Date	Present	Date	Present
01/12/2003	Yes	02/12/2006	Yes

A: Reports		
Report Type	Report No	Present
Evaluation	1087	

B: Primary Site Records		
Total No. of Files:	1 Folder	
Total No. of Site Drawing Sheets:		
Location of A4 Files (Tick)	Finds Room:	Corridor:
Material	Present	Details
Site Notes	Yes	
Context Register	Yes	
Context Sheets	Yes	
Levels Sheets	Yes	
Site Drawings		
Plan/Section Register	Yes	
Plan Sheets	Yes	
Section Sheets	Yes	
Combined Plan/Section Sheets	Yes	
Other Site Drawings		
Digital Plans		
Plans	Yes	
Data		
C: Finds Data		

Small Finds Register	None		
Finds Concordance	Yes		
Finds Box List	None		
X-Rays	None		
Conservation Photo Plates	None		
Conservation Lab Sheets	None		
Other Finds Information (Give Details)	None		
Specialist Finds Reports			
Material	Report Type	Report Present	Specialist Archive Material (Give Details)
Pottery		Yes	
Animal Bone		Yes	

D: Site Photographs				
Photographic Register Present		Yes	Digital Photo Register Present	Yes
Black & White 35mm				
Film No	Negative Nos	Shot Nos	Contact Sheet Present	Negatives Present
Colour Slides				
Film No	Negative Nos	Shot Nos	Present	
Digital Photos				
Shot Nos	Files Present		Hard Copies Present	

E: Environmental Data					
Sample Register Present:		Yes	Sample Present:	Sheets	Yes
Processing Register Present:			Sieving Present:	Sheets	
Sample Concordance Present:					
Specialist Environmental Reports					
Material	Report Type	Report Present	Specialist Archive Material (Give Details)		

F: Documentary Records, Press & Publicity; G: Relevant Correspondence; H: Miscellaneous

APPENDIX 2

CONCORDANCE OF FEATURES

Trial Trench Evaluation Phase 1

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date
F1003A		23	Cut of Gully	Undated
	L1004A	23	Fill of Gully F1003A	Undated
F1005A		23	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1006A	23	Fill of Ditch F1005A	Undated
F1007A		23	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1008A	23	Fill of Ditch F1007A	Undated
F1009A		23	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1010A	23	Fill of Ditch F1009A	Undated
F1011A		22	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1012A	22	Fill of Ditch F1011A	Undated
F1013A		22	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1014A	22	Fill of Ditch F1013A	Undated
F1016A		18	Cut of Gully	Undated
	L1017A	18	Fill of Gully F1016A	Undated
F1018A		18	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1019A	18	Basal Fill of Ditch F1018A	Undated
	L1020A	18	Upper Fill of Ditch F1018A	Undated
F1021A		18	Cut of Ditch	Mid 14 th – 16 th century
	L1022A	18	Fill of Ditch F1021A	Mid 14 th – 16 th century
F1023A		8	Cut of Ditch	Mid 12 th – mid 14 th century
	L1024A	8	Fill of Ditch F1023A	Mid 12 th – mid 14 th century
F1027A		5	Cut of Ditch	Iron Age – AD 70
	L1028A	5	Fill of Ditch F1027A	Iron Age – AD 70
F1031A		4	Cut of Gully	Undated
	L1032A	4	Fill of Gully F1031A	Undated
F1031B		13	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1032B	13	Fill of Ditch F1031B	Undated
F1033A		3	Cut of Ditch	18 th century
	L1034A	3	Fill of Ditch F1033A	18 th century
F1035A		8	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1036A	8	Fill of Ditch F1035A	Undated
F1037A		1	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1038A	1	Fill of Ditch F1037A	Undated
F1039A		8	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1040A	8	Fill of Ditch F1039A	Undated
F1041A		6	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1042A	6	Fill of Ditch F1041A	Undated
F1043A		5	Cut of Ditch	Undated

	L1044A	5	Fill of Ditch F1043A	Undated
F1045A		7	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1046A	7	Fill of Ditch F1045A	Undated
F1047A		6	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1048A	6	Fill of Ditch F1047A	Undated
F1049A		6	Cut of Possible Pond	Mid 12 th – 16 th century
	L1050A	6	Fill of Possible Pond F1049A	Mid 14 th – 16 th century
F1051A		8	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1052A	8	Fill of Ditch F1051A	Undated
F1053A		6	Cut of Possible Feature	Undated
	L1054A	6	Fill of Possible Feature F1053A	Undated
F1055A		4	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1056A	4	Fill of Ditch F1055A	Undated
F1057A		4	Cut of Gully	Undated
	L1058A	4	Fill of Gully F1057A	Undated
F1059A		7	Cut of Post Hole	Undated
	L1060A	7	Fill of Post Hole F1059A	Undated
F1061A		4	Cut of Gully	Undated
	L1062A	4	Fill of Gully F1061A	Undated

Trial Trench Evaluation Phase 1

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date
F1003B		11	Cut of Shallow Linear Ditch	Undated
	L1004B	11	Fill of Shallow Linear Ditch F1003B	Undated
F1005B		11	Cut of Shallow Linear Ditch	Undated
	L1006B	11	Fill of Shallow Linear Ditch F1005B	Undated
F1007B		11	Cut of Shallow Linear Ditch	Undated
	L1008B	11	Fill of Shallow Linear Ditch F1007B	Undated
F1009B		11	Cut of Shallow Linear Ditch	Undated
	L1010B	11	Fill of Shallow Linear Ditch F1009B	Undated
F1011B		11	Cut of Shallow Linear Ditch	Undated
	L1012B	11	Fill of Shallow Linear Ditch F1011B	Undated
F1013B		12	Cut of Pit	Undated
	L1014B	12	Fill of Pit F1013B	Undated
F1015B		12	Cut of Linear Ditch	Undated
	L1016B	12	Fill of Linear Ditch F1015B	Undated
F1017B		12	Cut of Linear Ditch	Undated
	L1018B	12	Fill of Linear Ditch F1017B	Undated
F1019B		12	Cut of Linear Ditch	Undated
	L1020B	12	Fill of Linear Ditch F1019B	Undated
F1021B		12	Cut of Linear Ditch	Undated
	L1022B	12	Fill of Linear Ditch F1021B	Undated
F1023B		16	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1024B	16	Fill of Ditch F1023B	Undated
F1025B		16	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1026B	16	Fill of Ditch F1025B	Undated
F1027B		24	Cut of Ditch	Early medieval (or earlier)
	L1028B	24	Fill of Ditch F1027B	Undated
F1029B		13	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1030B	13	Fill of Ditch F1029B	Undated
F1031B		13	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1032B	13	Fill of Ditch F1031B	Undated
F1033B		19	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L1034B	19	Fill of Ditch F1033B	Undated

Phase 3, 3A/B Area Investigation

Feature	Context	Area	Description	Spot Date
F1039B		A & B	Cut of Medieval Pit	AD 1150 - 1400
	L1040B	A & B	Fill of Medieval Pit F1039B	AD 1150 - 1400
	L1041B	A & B	Fill of Medieval Pit F1039B	AD 1150 - 1400
	L1042B	A & B	Fill of Medieval Pit F1039B	AD 1150 - 1400
	L1043B	A & B	Fill of Medieval Pit F1039B	AD 1150 - 1400
F3003		3	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L3004	3	Fill of Ditch F3003	Undated
F3005		3	Cut of Post Hole	Undated
	L3006	3	Fill of Post Hole F3005	Undated
F3007		3	Cut of Post Hole	Undated
	L3008	3	Fill of Post Hole F3007	Undated
F3009		3	Cut of Post Hole	Undated
	L3010	3	Fill of Post Hole F3009	Undated
F3011		3A	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L3012	3A	Fill of Ditch F3011	Undated
F3013		3A	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L3014	3A	Fill of Ditch F3013	Undated
F3015		3A	Cut of Curvilinear Gully	Undated
	L3016	3A	Fill of Curvilinear Gully F3015	Undated
F3017		3A	Cut of Shallow Gully	Undated
	L3018	3A	Fill of Shallow Gully F3017	Undated
F3019		3A	Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3020	3A	Fill of Pit F3019	Undated
F3021		3A	Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3022	3A	Fill of Pit F3021	Undated
F3025		3B	Cut of Curvilinear Gully	Undated
	L3026	3B	Fill of Curvilinear Gully F3025	Undated
F3029		3B	Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3030	3B	Fill of Pit F3029	Undated
F3031		3B	Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3032	3B	Fill of Pit F3031	Undated
F3033		3B	Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3034	3B	Fill of Pit F3033	Undated
F3035		3B	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L3036	3B	Fill of Ditch F3035	Undated
F3037		3B	Cut of Post Hole	Undated
	L3038	3B	Fill of Post Hole F3037	Undated
F3039		3B	Cut of Post Hole	Undated
	L3040	3B	Fill of Post Hole F3039	Undated
F3041		3B	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L3042	3B	Fill of Ditch F3041	Undated

F3045		3B	Cut of Thin Gully	Undated
	L3046	3B	Fill of Thin Gully F3045	Undated
F3047		3B	Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3048	3B	Fill of Pit F3047	Undated
F3049		3B	Cut of Ditch Terminus	Undated
	L3050	3B	Fill of Ditch Terminus F3049	Undated
F3051		3B	Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3052	3B	Fill of Pit F3051	Undated
F3053		3B	Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3054	3B	Fill of Pit F3053	Undated
F3055		3B	Cut of Feature	Undated
	L3056	3B	Fill of Feature F3055	Undated
F3057		3B	Cut of Feature	Undated
	L3058	3B	Fill of Feature F3057	Undated
F3059		3B	Cut of Pit/Post Hole	Undated
	L3060	3B	Fill of Pit/Post Hole F3059	Undated
F3061		3B	Cut of Pit/Post Hole	Undated
	L3062	3B	Fill of Pit/Post Hole F3061	Undated
F3063		3B	Cut of Pit/Post Hole	Undated
	L3064	3B	Fill of Pit/Post Hole F3063	Undated
F3065		3B	Cut of Pit/Post Hole	Undated
	L3066	3B	Fill of Pit/Post Hole F3065	Undated
F3067		3B	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L3068	3B	Fill of Ditch F3067	Undated
F3071		3B	Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L3072	3B	Fill of Ditch F3071	Undated

Phase 4 Area Investigation

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date
F3073		Cut of Ditch	Undated
	L3074	Fill of Ditch F3073	Undated
	L3075	Fill of Ditch F3073	Undated
	L3076	Fill of Ditch F3073	Undated
F3077		Cut of Ditch Re-cut	Undated
	L3078	Fill of Ditch Re-cut F3077	Undated
F3079		Cut of Post Hole	Undated
	L3080	Fill of Post Hole F3079	Undated
F3081		Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3082	Fill of Pit F3081	Undated
F3083		Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3084	Fill of Pit F3083	Undated
	L3085	Fill of Pit F3083	Undated
F3086		Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3087	Fill of Pit F3086	Undated
F3088		Cut of Post Hole	Undated
	L3089	Fill of Post Hole F3088	Undated
F3090		Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3091	Fill of Pit F3090	Undated
F3092		Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3093	Fill of Pit F3092	Undated
F3094		Cut of Linear Feature	Undated
	L3095	Fill of Linear Feature F3094	Undated
	L3096	Fill of Linear Feature F3094	Undated
F3097		Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3098	Fill of Pit F3097	Undated
F3099		Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3100	Fill of Pit F3099	Undated
F3101		Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3102	Fill of Pit F3101	Undated

Phase 5 Area Investigation

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date
F3103		Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3104	Fill of Pit F3103	Undated
F3105		Cut of Pit	Undated
	L3106	Fill of Pit F3105	Undated
	L3107	Fill of Pit F3105	Undated
	L3108	Fill of Pit F3105	Undated
F3109		Cut of Curvilinear Gully	Undated
	L3110	Fill of Curvilinear Gully F3109	Undated
F3111		Cut of Post Hole	Undated
	L3112	Fill of Post Hole F3111	Undated
F3113		Cut of Pit	12 th – 15 th century
	L3114	Fill of Pit F3113	12 th – 15 th century
	L3115	Fill of Pit F3113	12 th – 15 th century
	L3116	Fill of Pit F3113	12 th – 15 th century
	L3117	Same Fill of Pit F3105	Undated
	L3118	Same Fill of Pit F3105	Undated
F3119		Cut of Linear Gully	14 th – 17 th century
	L3120	Fill of Linear Gully F3119	14 th – 17 th century
	L3121	Fill of Linear Gully F3119	14 th – 17 th century
	L3122	Fill of Linear Gully F3119	14 th – 17 th century
F3123		Cut of Linear Gully	12 th – 14 th century
	L3124	Primary Fill of Linear Gully F3123	12 th – 14 th century
	L3125	Secondary Fill of Linear Gully F3123	12 th – 14 th century
	L3126	Same as Primary Fill of Linear Gully F3123	12 th – 14 th century
	L3127	Same as Secondary Fill of Linear Gully F3123	12 th – 14 th century
F3128		Cut of Linear Ditch/Gully	12 th – 15 th century
	L3129	Fill of Linear Ditch/Gully F3128	12 th – 15 th century
	L3130	Fill of Linear Ditch/Gully F3128	12 th – 15 th century
F3131		Cut of Post Hole	Undated
	L3132	Fill of Post Hole F3131	Undated

APPENDIX 3 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Trial Trench Evaluation Phase 1

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery (g)	Building material (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Other (g)
1021A	1022A	Tr 18	Ditch	Mid 14 to 16 th century AD	40			Snail shell (1g), Cockle shell (1g)
1023A	1024A	Tr 8	Ditch				1184	
1023A	1025A	Tr 8	Ditch	Mid 12 th to mid 14 th century AD	139		330	?Stone shot (11g)
1023A	1026A	Tr 8	Ditch				2650	
1027A	1028A	Tr 5	Ditch	Iron Age	19		107	
1027A	1030A	Tr 5	Ditch	AD5 – AD70	32		8	
1033A	1034A	Tr 3 Seg 2	Ditch	18 th century AD+	3		375	
1049A	1050A	Tr 6 Seg A	?Pond	Mid 12 th to 16 th century AD	64	? (310g)	239	
1049A	1050A	Tr 6 Seg B	?Pond	Mid 14 th to mid 16 th century AD	127	brick (548g)	735	
1055A	1056A	Tr 4	Ditch				281	

Trial Trench Evaluation Phase 2

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Other (g)
1027B	1035B	24	Ditch Fill	Early Medieval (or earlier)	25g	95g	
1029B	1030B	13	Ditch Fill			53g	Oyster Shells, 25g
“	1037B	13	Ditch Fill			29g	
1039B	1040B	Area A	Pit Fill			14g	Oyster Shell, 4g
“	1041B		Pit Fill	c. AD 1150-1350/1400	31g	308g	
“	1042B		Pit Fill			43g	

Phase 3A/B Area Investigation

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery (g)	Building material (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Other (g)
	2007						53g	
3003	3004				351g	368g	318g 1408g	Clay Pipe 19g Oyster Shell 76g Mussel Shell 4g Glass 28g
3005	3006				444g	86g	43g	Fe Object 16g Clay Pipe 10g
3009	3010	2	Pit Fill				14g	
3013	3014		Ditch Fill				22g	
3021	3022		Pit Fill				57g	
3029	3030		Pit Fill			125g	164g	Coin 4g
3041	3043		Ditch Fill			13g	9g	
3049	3050						109g	
3053	3054		Pit Fill				258g	
3055	3056		Ditch Fill			5g	11g	
	4003				239g	366g	30g	Glass 18g Bone Knife Handle 21g Clay Pipe 7g
	4005				56g		102g	Fe Nail 3g

Phase 5 Area Investigation

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	Animal Bone (g)	Other (g)
3113	3115	Secondary Fill of Pit	12th-15th	(1), 4g		
3119	3121	Fill of Gully (Slot B)	14th-17th	(1), 4g		
3123	3124	Primary Fill of Linear Gully (Slot A)	12th-14th	(1), 34g		
	3125	Secondary Fill of Gully (Slot A)			1	
	3127	Secondary Fill of Gully (Slot B)			325	
3128	3130	Fill of Gully (Slot B)	12th-15th	(11), 212g		Mussel shell (1), 1g

APPENDIX 4

SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

By Andrew Fawcett and Peter Thompson

A total of 20 sherds, weighing 480g, were recovered from the trial trenches at Over Road/High Street, Willingham, Cambridgeshire, during two phases of evaluation. The general condition of the pottery is good, with an average sherd weight of c.26g. Only a small number of sherds occurred in each context.

Prehistoric

Two contexts pre-date the medieval period (Tr.5 Ditch F1027A L1028A and L1030A). L1030A contained two joining necked jar sherds, a typical late Iron Age type dated from around AD5 to AD70.

Medieval

Ditch F1023A L1025A contained a jug handle with an intact olive green glaze, dated to the mid 12th to mid 14th century.

Three contexts contained late medieval sherds (Tr.18 Ditch F1021A L1022A, Tr. 6 ?Pond F1049A L1050A (Seg A) and 1050A (Seg B)). In particular a partially glazed, whole vessel base was contained within 1050A.

The sherd from Tr.24 Ditch F1027B L1035B is probably handmade with sand and shell tempering and could be Early Medieval or earlier but is not diagnostic enough be sure:

x1 sherd weighing 25g sandy fabric with quartz, fine white shell and vesicles, probably from dissolved shell. Dark grey fabric and surfaces. Sagging base sherd

The three sherds from Pit 1039B Area A can be dated to the High Medieval period c. AD 1150 to 1350/1400 by the presence of a green glazed Lyvendon-type sherd:

1x11g. Sandy fabric with sub-angular quartz

1x 13g Fine sandy wheel-made sherd with larger quartz including rare large pink rounded quartz

1x 7g green glazed oolitic limestone tempered sherd

The Pottery Phase 5

By Peter Thompson

The evaluation produced 14 sherds of pottery weighing 0.293 kg from 4 features. The pottery is in good condition with angular edges and little evidence of wear on surfaces and an average sherd size is almost 21g. A minimum of 5 vessels is represented in 3 fabrics/wares.

The dominant ware is Ely-type ware (MELY) found in Pit 3113 and Gully 3128 comprising black or grey fabrics usually with buff surfaces with mixed white inclusions, mainly of a calcareous nature, comprising oolitic limestone and shell but

also occasionally some very coarse flint or quartz. The sherds have the appearance of being handmade but wheel-finished and include a cooking pot with a rim diameter of approximately 16cm and a body sherd with wavy incised decoration. Medieval Ely ware was manufactured at kilns in Ely between the 12th and 15th centuries, and in other places such as Colne, and was used into the early 16th century.

A body sherd of handmade Medieval Shelly Ware (MSW) came from Gully 3123. The platy shell inclusions and profile could fit in with that of 11th-12th century St Neots-type ware made in a number of locations in Cambridgeshire, but might also be a succeeding Medieval Shelly Ware of 12th-13th or possibly 14th century date.

The remaining sherd from Gully 3119 is a Glazed Red Earthenware with a clear/brown glaze on both sides suggesting a post-medieval date. However, the fabric contains quite abundant quartz sand and the profile has the appearance of a medieval jug form, suggesting the pottery could be Late Medieval. A date centred on the 15th to 17th century appears most appropriate.

Feature	Context	Type	Quantity	Date	Comments
3113	3115	Pit	1x43g MELY	12 th -15 th	Handmade body sherd. Wavy line decoration
3119	3125	Gully	1x5g GRE	14 th -17 th	Clear/brown glaze both sides, thin sherd possibly to jug
3123	3124	Gully	1x34g MSW	11 th to 13 th	Handmade
3128	3130	Gully	11x211g MELY	12 th -15 th	2 conjoining wheel-finished rim sherds to cooking pot 16cm diam. Minimum of 2 vessels. Minimum 2 vessels

Bibliography

Hall D 2003 *'The Pottery' in Taylor, A medieval and Post-medieval Street Frontage: Investigations at Forehill, Ely* PCAS

Animal Bone

By Carina Phillips BA MA

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from Over Road, Willingham, during the execution of Phases 1 & 2. It consists of only 10 fragments weighing 542g. Six contexts contained animal bone (1035B, 1030B, 1037B, 1040B, 1041B, 1042B), forming the fill of two ditches (1027B, Trench 24 and 1029B, Trench 13) and pit (1039B, Area A). The preservation of the bone is good, with little fragmentation.

Cattle bone is most common (5 fragments identified), most significantly were the chop marks identified on all the cattle bone fragments indicative of butchery. A single pig humerus was identified, the chop marks present on this are probably due to butchery. The remaining fragments were classed as 'cattle-sized', with one sheep/pig sized rib fragment. Gnawing was noted on three fragments indicating the presence of dogs. The size of the assemblage limits any further conclusions.

During Phase 3 60 fragments were recovered principally from one context Ditch F3003 L3004. A second context Pit F3009 L1010 contained one bone. Some fragmentation has occurred.

Thirty six of the fragments within F3003 L3004 were unidentifiable. The pelvis of an adult horse is present (parts of both right and left sides), chopping was evident on the left acetabulum. The partial articulated spine of an adult horse was also recovered in a fragmented state. Part of the right ankle/foot of a sheep/goat was present (the metacarpal and associated first phalanges). Measurement suggests this animal had a withers height of 52.4cm (Teichert 1975). The right tibia of a sheep/goat was also present possibly from the same animal. Pit F3009 L3010 was the only other context to yield animal bone identified as part of a right pig scapula.

References cited

Teichert, M. 1975. Osteometrische Untersuchungen zur Berechnung der Widerristhöhe bei Schafen. In: Clason, A.T. (ed). *Archaeozoological Studies*, pp. 51-69. Amsterdam & Oxford: North-Holland/ New York: Elsevier

The Animal Bone Phase 5

By Carina Phillips BA MA

The phase 5 excavation of Over Road, Willingham produced only 3 fragments of animal bone. All fragments were excavated from Gully F3123 (L3125 and L3127) dated to the 12th - 14th Century. The bone was of moderate preservation, with high modern fragmentation. Part of a fragmented cattle femur was the only bone that could be identified to species. There was no evidence of butchery on any of the bone. Further excavation is likely to produce only small quantities of animal bone, of moderate preservation.

Plant Macrofossils and Mollusc Shells

By Val Fryer

Introduction

The evaluation revealed features of medieval or later date. Samples for the extraction and evaluation of the plant macrofossil and mollusc assemblages were taken from

Ditch F1027B L1036B	Tr.24	Sample 2
Ditch F1023B L1024B	Tr.16	Sample 5
Ditch F1025B L1026B	Tr.16	Sample 7
Ditch F1029B L1037B	Tr.24	Sample 9
Pit F1039B L1042B	Area A	Sample 10.

Methods

The samples were bulk floated collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils, mollusc shells and other remains noted are listed on Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997) for the plant macrofossils and Evans (1972) and Macan (1969) for the molluscs. Charred and un-charred (?waterlogged) plant remains were noted, but at the time of writing it is not known whether the latter are contemporary with the contexts from which there were taken, or later contaminants.

Evaluation Results

Plant macrofossils

Plant macrofossils were generally rare. With the exception of charcoal fragments, poorly preserved charred remains were only noted as single specimens in Sample 2, and comprised an indeterminate cereal grain, and seeds of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) and possibly charlock (*Sinapis* sp.). Single un-charred bramble (*Rubus* sect. *Glandulosus*) 'pips' were noted in Samples 7 and 9, and duckweed (*Lemna* sp.) seeds were common in Sample 10.

Molluscs

Mollusc shells were present at varying densities in all five samples. For the purposes of this report it was assumed that all specimens recovered were contemporary with the features from which they were taken. All four of Evans (ibid.) ecological groups (i.e. woodland/shade loving, open country, catholic and marsh/freshwater slum species) were represented, and freshwater obligate species were also present throughout and predominant in Sample 7.

Animal macrofossils

Animal macrofossils were rare, but fragments of large and small mammal bones and mineralised fish bones were recorded.

Other materials

Small fragments of black tarry material and coal were recovered from Samples 9 and 10.

Conclusions

Sample 7 was taken from the fill of ditch [1025B]. Shells of freshwater obligate molluscs are predominant, and appear to indicate that this feature was at least seasonally water filled and probably acted as a drainage ditch. The remaining assemblages contain insufficient material for conclusive interpretation, although it is tentatively suggested that the features may have been situated in relatively open or unshaded areas. The lack of charred plant material may indicate that this area was peripheral to any main focus of activity.

Recommendations for further work

On the basis of this report, it would appear that mollusc assemblages recovered from the deeper features on the site have a moderate potential for the interpretation of the local environment. However, their contemporaneity with their context must be proven.

References

Evans, J., 1972 *Land Snails in Archaeology*. London.

Macan, T.T., 1969A Key to the British Fresh- and Brackish-water Gastropods. *Freshwater Biological Association Scientific Publication* No. 13

Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 10 – 100 specimens xxx = 100+ specimens
w = waterlogged m = mineralised