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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**LAND AT HOME FARM, ABINGTON PIGOTTS,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**CHER no. ECB 2779**

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NGR: TL 3090 4475	Report No: 3004
District: South Cambridgeshire	Site Code: AS 1108
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 2899
Signed:	Date: January 2008

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<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Land at Home Farm, Abington Pigotts, Cambridgeshire. An archaeological evaluation.</i>		
<i>In January 2008, Archaeological Solutions carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Home Farm, Abington Pigotts, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3090 4475). The evaluation was commissioned in advance of works to extend and convert existing agricultural buildings into three dwellings, together with other works (Planning ref. S/1204/05/F).</i>			
<i>Evidence of Bronze Age activity has been found in the north-west of the parish. A substantial Iron Age settlement, which continued to be occupied during the Roman period, has been investigated in the same area. Abington Pigotts has an abundant evidence of medieval settlement, with five moated sites in the parish. There is evidence that the village shifted in the later medieval period, possibly in conjunction with the Pigott family's prominence in the village.</i>			
<i>Home Farm itself lies within a moated enclosure of medieval date. Cartographic sources show that the site has been a farmyard, occupied by various agricultural buildings, since at least 1838. The current barn, cartshed and granary may be of late 17<sup>th</sup> - early 18<sup>th</sup> century date.</i>			
<i>Trenches 2 and 4 traversed the moat. The pottery from the basal fill of the moat is relatively recent (16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) and indicates that the moat had been cleared out. Home farmhouse, next to the site and several of the farm buildings were built and modified in the post-medieval period, suggesting possible remains on the site of previous buildings. In the event no features contemporary with the original moat or later periods of activity were revealed.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>January 2008</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	
P. number	<i>2899</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1108</i>
Type of project	<i>An archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Possible archaeological potential</i>		
Current land use	<i>Grade II Listed barn, cartshed and granary with gardens.</i>		
Planned development	<i>Extension and conversion of agricultural buildings into 3 dwellings together with extensive alterations to the rest of the site.</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>section through moat ditch</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>South Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Abington Pigotts</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>0.63ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 3090 4475</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>24m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>G Brogan l L Smith</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr A Dearman</i>		
Full title	<i>Land at Home Farm, Abington Pigotts, Cambridgeshire. An archaeological evaluation.</i>		
Authors	<i>Unger, S., Woolhouse, T.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3004</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>January 2007</i>		

## LAND AT HOME FARM, ABINGTON PIGOTTS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### SUMMARY

*In January 2008, Archaeological Solutions carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Home Farm, Abington Pigotts, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3090 4475). The evaluation was commissioned in advance of works to extend and convert existing agricultural buildings into three dwellings, together with the erection of a cartlodge/workshop, walls, fences, gates and a bridge over an existing part of the Home Farm moat (Planning ref. S/1204/05/F).*

*Evidence of Bronze Age activity has been found in the north-west of the parish. A substantial Iron Age settlement, which continued to be partially occupied into the Roman period, has been investigated in the same area. Abington Pigotts has an abundant evidence of medieval settlement, with five moated sites known in the parish. The parish church was built in c. 1217 and a market is recorded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. There is evidence that the village shifted in the later medieval period, possibly in conjunction with the Pigott family's prominence in the village.*

*Home Farm itself lies within a moated enclosure of medieval date; the larger part of the moat lies to the south-east, on the other side of a road. Cartographic sources show that the site has been a farmyard, occupied by various agricultural buildings, since at least 1838. The (Grade II Listed) current barn, cartshed and granary, which are the proposed for conversion, may be of late 17<sup>th</sup>- early 18<sup>th</sup> century date.*

*Trenches 2 and 4 traversed the moat. The pottery from the basal fill of the moat is relatively recent (16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) and indicates that the moat had been cleared out. The post-medieval period saw a fair degree of building and modifications of cottages/farmhouses in the village. Home farmhouse (HER 01234a) next to the site and several of the farm buildings were built and modified in the post-medieval period, suggesting possible remains on the site of previous buildings. In the event no features contemporary with the original moat or later periods of activity were revealed.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Home Farm, Abington Pigotts, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3090 4475; Figs. 1-2). The archaeological investigation was required to comply with a planning condition on approval for the extension and conversion of agricultural buildings into three dwellings, together with the erection of a cartlodge/workshop, walls, fences, gates and a bridge over an existing part of the Home Farm moat (Planning ref. S/1204/05/F). The investigation was commissioned by Hertford Planning Service on behalf of the client, Mr A Dearman.

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CCCA PCA) (dated 14/06/2007) and a specification compiled by AS (dated

25/06/2007). The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (both revised 2001), and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the evaluation 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, importance and state of preservation of the archaeology.

### **Planning policy context**

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.5 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains in situ. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 - 2)**

2.1 The site is located in Abington Pigotts in south-west Cambridgeshire, c.10.5km east of Biggleswade (Bedfordshire) and c. 6km north-west of Royston (Hertfordshire). The river Cam (or Rhee) flows north-eastwards c. 2.75km north-west of the village. Home Farm is situated in the north-east of the village.

2.2 The site is part of a farm complex and is located immediately east of the main farmhouse. To the north-east and north-west of the site is extensive farmland; to the south is the main road running south-west to north-east through the village. Home Farm is surrounded by part of a medieval moat; 125m south-east of the site is the continuation of the moat, now separated from the farm by the road. To the south-west of the site are cottages, gardens and farmland. The site is currently occupied by a barn, cartshed and granary, which together form a single long north-west to south-east aligned range. Two smaller buildings lie to the south-east and north-west, respectively, of the main range of farm outbuildings. The buildings are surrounded by landscaping, with a pond to the east.

### **3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based assessment)**

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

#### **3.1 Archaeological databases**

3.1.1 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 c. 1km radius of the site. Entries within an approximate 1km radius of the site are listed (Appendix 1) and plotted below (Figure 3). Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2. Significant HER entries from beyond the 1km radius have also been discussed where relevant.

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

3.2.1 The principal source for these types of evidence was the Cambridgeshire Record Office (CRO), Cambridge. Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced in Figures 4-6.

#### **3.3 Secondary sources**

3.3.1 The principal sources of secondary material were the Cambridge Record Office and AS's own reference library. All sources, including websites, are listed in the bibliography.

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

3.4.1 A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps based on the work of the Geological Survey of Great Britain.

## **4 THE EVIDENCE**

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

4.1.1 The settlement at Abington Pigotts is located on gently-sloping chalk downland at approximately 25-30m AOD; land rises gradually to the south. The site itself is located at the north-east end of the village, at an elevation of c. 24m AOD. There is heavy clay in the northern third of the parish, but elsewhere the clay is overlain by chalk (Taylor 1997, 11). Soils are predominantly of the Wantage 2 association, comprising well-drained calcareous silty soils over argillaceous chalk (SSEW 1983). Traditionally, these soils have supported varied arable crops, with cereals such as barley and sugar beet. The river Cam flows north-eastwards approximately 2.75km north-west of the site. There are several ancient watercourses

in the surrounding area; the site is equidistant between Mill River to the south-east, and an unnamed stream to the north-west, both around 350m away. Both watercourses flow north-eastward, eventually feeding into the Cam.

## **4.2 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 3)**

### *Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)*

4.2.1 Although no evidence has yet been found for early prehistoric activity in Abington Pigotts, a Mesolithic perforated macehead and three other axes have been found in Litlington, 2km to the south-east (Taylor 1997, 79). Several Bronze Age finds have been recorded approximately 875m north-west of the site (HER 03320b), which may suggest the existence of a small settlement site in the area. These include items such as an awl, dagger and socketed axe and are possibly part of a late Bronze Age hoard. The Icknield Way, a network of tracks running broadly south-west to north-east across the chalk upland in this part of South Cambridgeshire, lies *c.* 2km south-east of the site. The track is thought to have been an important communication route from as early as the Neolithic period, although some recent studies have questioned its antiquity (e.g. Harrison 2005).

4.2.2 An extensive Iron Age settlement (HER 03320a) has been identified to the north-west of the village (*c.* 875m north-west of the site). In addition to numerous pits and huts found on the site, there were abundant Iron Age finds including a large assemblage of pottery (Taylor 1997, 11). It is likely that this settlement was of considerable size based on the range of domestic finds in the area.

### *Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)*

4.2.3 Several Roman villas and burial grounds are known in the area around Abington Pigotts, notably at Guilden Morden, *c.* 3km south-west of the site, and in Litlington, *c.* 2km to the south-east. The course of Roman Ashwell Street runs south-west to north-east approximately 2.5km south-east of Abington Pigotts.

4.2.4 Evidence of Roman settlement in Abington Pigotts itself is mainly concentrated in one area. On the site of the Iron Age settlement (see above), several pits and huts were dated to the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age and numerous early Roman finds were also recorded (HER 03320). A moderate assemblage of Roman pottery was found with a small number of human remains, including one complete skeleton, probably of a woman. Rare Roman agricultural implements, including a scythe and part of a plough, were also recovered (Taylor 1997, 11).

### *Anglo-Saxon (AD 411 – 1065)*

4.2.5 Anglo-Saxon settlements in Cambridgeshire are often found on or adjacent to Roman settlement sites (Taylor 2000, 24). Over one hundred Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have been found in the county, representing the migration route from the Wash, along the river Cam and its tributaries. Cemeteries are commonly found close to previously Romanised towns (Taylor 2000, 25). However, the villa sites near to Abington Pigotts have not yielded evidence of this continuity. A small amount of Anglo-Saxon pottery (HER 03320c) has been found 875m from the site in the same

location as the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman settlement described above. However, this is the only isolated Anglo-Saxon find in the village and surrounding area.

#### *Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)*

4.2.6 In Domesday Book, Abington Pigotts was named *Abingtona* or Abba's Farm, with 'Pigotts' being a 15<sup>th</sup> century addition derived from the name of a wealthy wool merchant family from Hertfordshire who owned most of the estates in the village (Taylor 1997, 11).

4.2.7 Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire are renowned for their dense distribution of medieval moated sites, with approximately 325 known in the two counties (James 2000, 37). The peak period for constructing moated residences was between *c.* AD 1250-1350; often, the moats were intended more as status symbols than for defence. There are several moated sites very close to Home Farm, and Home Farm itself is surrounded by a moated enclosure (Taylor 1997, 11). The moat (HER 01234) around Home Farm and near to The Rookery was originally a large sub-rectangular moat, now separated into two parts by the road. The smaller, incomplete, section holds the farmhouse and yard, while the other larger section on the south-east side of the road is densely covered by woodland. The moated area measures approximately 1.3ha, which is fairly large in comparison to other medieval moated sites. One of the largest, *c.* 2ha in area, has been recorded at Caxton pastures (Taylor 1978, 10). It should be noted that classifications of site in terms of size may not be indicative of wealth as some moated sites have small interior houses but large moats or vice versa (Taylor 1978, 10). However, the moat at Home Farm is likely to have been the site of a fairly high-status residence and is thought to have been the Manor of Berle, owned by the De Berle family. Sewerage works in 1995 allowed for archaeological monitoring of an area very close to the site, within the boundaries of the moat (HER RN 01234b). Late medieval/post-medieval sand-gritted tile was found, which is likely to be associated with a building contemporary with the moat.

4.2.8 There are numerous other medieval moated sites in the area. A slightly smaller site in Abington Pigotts, *c.* 500m south of Home Farm, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (HER 01233; SAM 33596). The moat was the former site of the manor of Grendons, held by the Billboy's family from AD 1268-1316. Although no above-ground remains of a structure are visible, the interior of the moated enclosure remains largely untouched and may well hold well-preserved medieval structural remains and occupation deposits (Salzman 1948, 14). In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Pigott family built themselves a new house on a medieval moated site (HER 01232), 500m to the west of Home Farm, thought to be the location of the original Manor House (Salzman 1948, 14). There are two other large moated sites in the parish, Moynes Manor and Down Hall Manor, both of which lie over 1km from the site (Taylor 1997, 12). Down Hall Manor is a double-moated enclosure with a surviving gatehouse at the entrance, where some of the beams have been radiocarbon dated to AD 1250-1380 (Taylor 1997, 11).

4.2.9 The first market held in the village was recorded in AD 1335 (Website 1). The village seems to have shrunk in the late medieval period and shifted slightly eastwards, with earthworks (HER 03284) representing house sites, paddocks and hollow ways located in the area between the church and the modern village (Taylor



1997, 12). The expansion of manorial estates before the 14<sup>th</sup> century with John Pigott's mass purchase of most of the village has been given as an explanation for this change in location (Taylor 1997, 12).

4.2.10 The parish church of St Michaels and All Angels (HER 03910) is located in the north of the village close to Manor Farm (HER 01232a). It is a small building made from flint and was first recorded in 1217. There are some remaining features from this time but it was mostly renovated in c. 1460. There are numerous memorials to the Pigott family, including one for John Pigott, the first of the family to move to Abington (Website 2).

#### *Post-medieval and modern (AD 1540 – present)*

4.2.11 The village population fluctuated during the post-medieval period. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, 24 houses were recorded, but there was a decrease to 17 by the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the surviving cottages in the village are Grade II listed buildings dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. These include Homeside and Homeleigh cottages (c. 250m south-west of the site), which were originally built as one large house. Several farmhouses in the area were also built or extended in 17<sup>th</sup> century, including Manor Farm and Home Farm itself.

4.2.12 The ownership of Home Farm is recorded throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. At the time of the Abington Pigotts Tithe Map (1838), the farm was owned by Mrs Mary Foster Pigott but leased to a Mr Thomas Westrope. This was still the case in 1858 (Kelly's 1858). In 1900, the farm continued to be owned by Mrs Pigott but William and David Sinclair were the farmers and overseers (Kelly's 1900). This continued for at least another 20 years, until David Sinclair was the sole farmer from 1922 (Kelly's 1922).

4.2.13 In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the population of the village peaked at 259 people (Taylor 1997, 12). The parish was at the centre of a major coprolite works, which supported the whole village (Taylor 1997, 12). However, in common with many rural communities, the village saw a population decrease in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and by 1927 only 127 people lived there (Taylor 1997, 12). Conservation restrictions due to the historic character of the village have limited the modern growth of Abington Pigotts (Taylor 1997, 12).

### **4.3 The site**

#### *Tithe Map, 1838 (Fig. 4)*

4.3.1 The Tithe Map depicts a field called Home Field (Plot 108), but Home Farm itself is not labelled. The majority of the farm buildings are within Plot 136, with six separate buildings illustrated. The largest of the buildings is located towards the eastern corner of the plot and is 'L'-shaped. It is in roughly the same position as part of the existing range which is proposed for conversion. In the middle of the plot is another 'L'-shaped building with wings to the south and west. This latter building probably corresponds with the main farmhouse, although the Tithe Apportionment (Appendix 4) lists the area as only yards and buildings, with no further detail and no specific mention of a farmhouse. The other buildings shown on the map are linear

structures, probably barns or outbuildings. One of these, immediately north-east of the farmhouse, roughly corresponds within the central portion of the extant range which is proposed for conversion. To the north-east of the site, Plot 135 is called Home Orchard.

*1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1886 (Fig. 5)*

4.3.2 There were significant changes to the site between the surveying of the 1838 Tithe Map and the production of the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map in 1886. The farm name, Home Farm, is depicted on this map. On what had been Plot 136 on the Tithe Map, a large amount of construction had taken place. An extension appears to have been made to the earlier buildings in the east of the site, which joined the 'L'-shaped building in the eastern corner and the linear building to the north into a single long north-west to south-east aligned range. This range is in the same position as the existing barn, cartshed and granary on the site, and probably corresponds with the extant buildings. The farmhouse in the middle of the plot was still present, but with several modifications. To the north-west of the farmhouse were two new 'L'-shaped buildings. The structure in what had previously been labelled Plot 108 (Home Field) was much larger and appeared to be part of the farm complex. The orchard which was depicted on Plot 135 on the Tithe Map was still in existence and appears to have been enlarged. The partial medieval moat to the south-east of the site was also depicted and surrounded The Rookery, a small wooded area.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1901 (Fig. 6)*

4.3.3 There were few changes to the farm or the surrounding land between 1886 and 1901.

## **5 METHODOLOGY (Trial trenching)**

5.1 Four trial trenches were excavated (Fig. 7), totalling 83m. The individual trenches varied in length between 11 and 13m; all were 1.6m in width. All the trenches were linear, with the exception of Trench 1 which was L-shaped. Trenches 2 and 4 were positioned to examine the course of the moat. Trenches 1 and 3 examined the internal area of the moated platform.

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 360° degree mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. 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.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

### 6.1 Trench 1 Fig.9

<i>Sample Section 4. S facing. Fig.9</i> <i>0.00m = 25.03m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam with frequent small stones
0.18 – 0.31m	L1006	Subsoil. Dark brown silty loam with moderate small stones
0.31m+	L1008	Natural. Mid greyish white silty clay with frequent chalk

<i>Sample Section 3. E facing. Fig.9</i> <i>0.00m = 25.35m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.02m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above
0.02 – 0.12m	L1007	Light grey clay with occasional chalk
0.12m+	L1008	Natural. As Above

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 1*

### 6.2 Trench 2 Fig. 9

<i>Sample Section 6. W facing. Fig.9</i> <i>0.00m = 25.12m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.29 – 1.17m	L1009	Mottled grey / red silty clay
1.17m+	L1008	Natural. As above Tr.1

<i>Sample Section 5. E facing. Fig.9</i> <i>0.00m = 25.35m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.19 – 0.23m	L1006	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.23 – 0.41m	L1015	Re-deposited natural.
0.41 – 0.61m	L1009	As above Tr.2

*Description: Moat Ditch F1013 extended across the length of Trench 2. It contained a deep deposit of mottled grey silty clay (L1009) and re-deposited natural (L1015). No finds were present.*

### 6.3 Trench 3 Fig.10

<i>Sample Section 1. W facing. Fig.10</i> <i>0.00m = 24.70 AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1001	Concrete paving.
0.14 – 0.21m	L1002	Levelling material. Sandy gravel
0.21 – 0.31m	L1003	Mid reddish brown silty loam
0.31 – 0.42m	L1004	Dark brownish black silty loam

0.42m+	L1008	Natural. As above Tr.1
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<i>Sample Section 2. W facing. Fig. 10</i> <i>0.00m = 24.28m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1001	Concrete paving
0.09m++	L1008	Natural.

*Description: A posthole, two concrete footings, a drain and a concrete pad were present within Trench 3, and all were modern. No archaeological features and finds were recorded.*

#### **6.4 Trench 4 Fig. 10**

<i>Sample Section 7. W facing. Fig.10</i> <i>0.00m = 25.40m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.30 – 0.42m	L1014	Upper fill of Moat Ditch F1013. Dark brown / black silty loam
0.42m+	L1008	Natural. As above Tr.1

<i>Sample Section 8. E facing. Fig.10</i> <i>0.00m = 24.85m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.43 – 1.07m	L1014	Fill of Moat Ditch F1013. Dark brown / black silty loam
1.07 - 1.29m	L1010	Fill of Moat Ditch F1013. Yellowish brown silty clay
1.29 – 1.37m	L1011	Fill of Moat Ditch F1013. Mottled grey / red silty clay
1.37m+	L1012	Fill of Moat Ditch F1013. Mid grey silty clay

*Description: Moat Ditch F1013 extended across the length of Trench 4. A modern drain truncated the moat.*

Within Trench 4 Moat Ditch F1013 was 4.80m+ wide and 0.77m+ deep. Its profile was not revealed within Trench 4. It contained four fills: L1014, L1010, L1011, and L1012. The basal fill, L1012, was a mid grey silty clay. It contained 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery (430g), cbm (597g) and animal bone (128g). Overlying L1012, L1011, was a mid brown silty clay. No finds were present. Overlying L1011, L1010, was a yellowish brown silty clay. It contained no finds. Overlying L1010, L1014 the principal upper fill of the moat comprised re-deposited natural. L1012 contained relatively recently finds indicating that the moat had been cleared out

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

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

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The topsoil, L1000, a mid brown loam with frequent small stones, overlay Subsoil L1006, a dark brown silty loam with moderate small stones. L1006 overlay the natural, L1008, a mid greyish white silty clay with frequent chalk. Within Trench 3 concrete paving, L1001, overlay levelling material, L1002. Below the latter, L1003 comprised a mid reddish brown silty loam, which in turn overlay L1004, a dark brown / black silty loam.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

### *9.1 Summary of the archaeology*

9.1.1 Trenches 2 and 4 traversed the moat. The pottery from the basal fill of the moat is relatively recent (16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) and indicates that the moat had been cleared out during this period.

9.1.2 The post medieval period saw a fair degree of building and modifications of cottages/farmhouses in the village. Home Farmhouse (HER 01234a) next to the site and several of the farm buildings were built and modified in the post-medieval period, suggesting possible remains on the site of previous buildings. In the event no features contemporary with the original moat or later periods of activity were revealed within the area encompassed by the moated platform.

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

9.2.1 The evidence to suggest that the moat surrounding Home Farm was cleared out sometime in the post-medieval period indicates that this was considered to be an important feature of the farm and that care was taken over its maintenance. De-silting of moats would be required with some regularity to keep them clear.

### *9.3 Finds and environmental evidence*

9.3.1 The finds evidence is limited but the absence of medieval artefacts from the moat is interesting. As stated above, this implies that the moat may have been scoured out at some point prior to the deposition of the post-medieval material that was recovered. No archaeological trace of such activity appears to have been evident, however.

### *9.4 Research potential*

9.4.1 Based on the above information the main research potential of the site may be related to attitudes towards the medieval landscape in the post-medieval period. The information recorded during the evaluation gives some indication as to the character of the site in the post-medieval and early modern periods.

## 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at the Cambridgeshire County Archaeological 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.

## 11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Hertford Planning Service for commissioning this evaluation and Mr Andrew Dearman for funding the project and for his kind assistance.

AS also gratefully acknowledges the advice and input of staff at the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record and of staff at the Cambridgeshire Record Office, Cambridge.

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- 2) [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)

## APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a *c.* 1km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). The locations of the sites are shown in Fig. 3. Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2.

HER No.	NGR TL	Description
<b><i>Prehistoric (700,000 BC – AD 43)</i></b>		
03320b	TL 300 449	Several late Bronze Age implements were found at this point including a bronze awl, dagger and socketed axe.
01725	Unknown	Two types of Iron Age pottery were found in the parish. A jar of coarse grey ware and a carinated bowl of grey brown ware were found but the exact location is unknown.
03320a	TL 300 449	An Iron Age settlement is presumed to be on this site (HER 03320). A large collection of Iron Age finds have been found including a ring headed pin, bronze fibula, bone weaving combs with loom weights and a large assemblage of pottery. A gold coin of Cunobelin was found in the parish of 1875.
<b><i>Roman (AD 43 – 410)</i></b>		
03320	TL 300 449	This is <i>c.</i> 20 acre Roman settlement site found by antiquarians situated on Bellus Hill. Many Roman finds were found in 19 <sup>th</sup> century by coprolite digging including Samian ware and coins of Drusus Senior, the father of Germanicus, <i>c.</i> 9 BC. Some fragments of human skull were also found along with one complete skeleton although this could be from the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age period.
<b><i>Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)</i></b>		
03320c	TL 300 449	Anglo-Saxon pottery was found on this site. No further information available.
<b><i>Medieval (AD 1066 – 1550)</i></b>		
01232	TL 304 448	This is a medieval moated site situated north-east of Manor Farm. It consists of a small rectangular area with a wet moat covered with a dense coppice. The site is unusual due to the disproportionate size of moat compared to enclosed island. Entrance to the moat is at the SE corner, thought to be the original. John de Abington is thought to have owned the enclosure until his death in 1293. In 1427 the Pigott family became the owners.
01232a	TL 304 448	Manor Farm is a Grade II* listed building possibly a 16 <sup>th</sup> century extension to an original medieval building. Timber framed and plastered with red brick and some reused early medieval limestone plinth. There have been 17 <sup>th</sup> century alterations with



		19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century renovations, including the NE wing being removed in the last 20 years.
01233	TL 309 443	This is a small homestead medieval moated site situated at the north end of Boybridge Grove, and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 33596). The moat is sub rectangular in plan and the island is roughly trapezoidal. This is the site of the manor of Grendons, held by the Billboy's family from 1268-1316. No above ground remains of the structure are visible.
01234	TL 30932 44622	A medieval homestead moated site situated to the south of Home Farm and the east of The Rookery. A large sub rectangular moat, separated by the road. The smaller (incomplete) section holds the house and farmyard whilst the other is densely covered by woodland.
01234a	TL 309 447	An early timber framed 17 <sup>th</sup> century farmhouse with later 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> century additions. The farmhouse was originally moated (HER 01234) and remains of this are clearly traceable. A barn, cartshed and granary are 35m NE of the farmhouse and included under the same HER number but are listed separately. The dovecote built c. 1700 is in a poor state.
03190	TL 304 447	The parish church of St Michaels and All Angels is flint built and some structural remains from the 12 <sup>th</sup> century still exist. It was first recorded in 1217 but rebuilt in c. 1460. Top of the tower was rebuilt in 1924 due to danger of collapse. There are numerous dedications to the Pigott family, who owned most of the parish in the 16 <sup>th</sup> century. The church is a Grade II* listed building.
03284	TL 3054 4455	These are earth works indicating village shrinkage during or after the medieval period which includes a ditched house site, a trackway and well and a ridge and furrow.
03320d	TL 300 449	Early medieval glazed pottery found on this site. Any settlement was abandoned before 16 <sup>th</sup> century.
<b><i>Post-medieval (AD 1550 – 1900)</i></b>		
03184	TL 304 447	Abington Hall was a house built in 1829. No further information available.
<b><i>Undated</i></b>		
03137	TL 309 454	This is the spot of a secret tunnel, which was cut through whilst a gas line pipe was being built in 1980. No further investigation was allowed by the farmer and so it remains undated.
03320e	TL 300 449	Pewter plates, salt cellars and scythe found during coprolite excavations and documented by Mr. G. Pigott but they are undated.
11433	TL 3155 4465	Soilmarks and Cropmarks in Litlington suggesting ditch and banked linear features and incomplete enclosures. Not completely convincing and remains undated.
12272	TL 305 445	Rectory with informal grounds and groves. This is possibly Abington Pigotts 'Hall' as has same NGR.

## APPENDIX 2      CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Date	Map	Scale	Location
1838	Abington Pigotts Tithe Map	-	CRO
1886	OS. 1st Edition. Cambs Sheet LVII.4	25": 1 mile	CRO
1901	OS. 1st Edition. Cambs Sheet LVII.4	25": 1 mile	CRO

### APPENDIX 3 LISTED BUILDINGS

The following listed buildings are those that lie within a *c.* 1km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). The locations of the sites are shown in Fig. 3. Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2.

Pref. Ref	NGR TL	Name	Grade	Description
52404	TL 30524 44255	Bibles Grove Cottages	II	Two cottages formerly a row of four dated to 1815.
52405	TL 30439 44663	Church of St Michael and All Angels	II*	Parish church with some 12 <sup>th</sup> century features but mostly renovated in the 14 <sup>th</sup> century.
52406	TL 30393 44813	Manor Farmhouse	II*	Farmhouse formally manor house built by Henry Pigott but possibly an addition to an existing medieval building.
52407	TL 30454 44747	Barn <i>c.</i> 75m from Manor Farmhouse	II	Late 16 <sup>th</sup> century timber framed barn.
52413	TL 30686 44380	Grove Cottage	II	Early 18 <sup>th</sup> century house with later 20 <sup>th</sup> century additions.
52417	TL 30703 44408	Bumble Bee Cottage	II	17 <sup>th</sup> century timber framed house with later additions.
52418	TL 30703 44429	Small barn NE of Bumble Bee Cottage	II	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> century barn with thatched roof. Included for group value.
52419	TL 30719 44447	Pax Cottage	II	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> or early 18 <sup>th</sup> century cottage with thatched roof.
52420	TL 30734 44480	Hind Cottage	II	Possibly early 18 <sup>th</sup> century timber framed cottage which was formerly a row.
52421	TL 30756 44516	Swifts Cottage	II	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> or early 18 <sup>th</sup> century timber framed cottage which was formerly a pair of cottages with a half hipped thatched roof.
52422	TL 30738 44556	Home Cottage and Home View Cottage	II	Pair of late 18 <sup>th</sup> century timber framed cottages.

52423	TL 30686 44438	Darby and Joan Public House	II	Early to mid 18 <sup>th</sup> century public house incorporating an earlier building at rear.
52424	TL 30710 44509	Stocks Tree Cottage	II	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> century timber framed cottage with 20 <sup>th</sup> century alterations.
52425	TL 30738 44523	Sunnyside Cottage	II	Early 19 <sup>th</sup> century timber framed cottage.
52426	TL 30796 44609	The Trees Cottages	II	Pair of 19 <sup>th</sup> century timber framed cottages.
52427	TL 30867 44680	Home Side and Homeleigh	II	Originally a 17 <sup>th</sup> century farmhouse split into 2 cottages.
52428	TL 30881 44719	Home Farmhouse	II	Early 17 <sup>th</sup> century farmhouse with 19 <sup>th</sup> century additions and alterations. Timber framed and plastered with 19 <sup>th</sup> century gault brick.
52429	TL 30914 44748	Barn, cartshed and granary.	II	Barns, cartshed and granary form the north-west/south-east range, possibly late 17 <sup>th</sup> century.
52430	TL 30896 44718	Pump	II	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century pump, cast iron with spout, domed cap and lever.

#### APPENDIX 4 1838 TITHE APPORTIONMENT

Entry No.	Owner	Occupier	Plot/Field name	Land Use	Area (a.r.p)
102	Mrs Mary Foster Pigott	William Hopes & others	cottage garden	garden	1.28.6
103	Mrs Mary Foster Pigott	Abraham Pearman	home garden and buildings		
104	Mrs Mary Foster Pigott	Abraham Pearman	orchard	pasture	1.3.6
107	Mrs Mary Foster Pigott	George Stanford	cottage garden	garden	5.5
108	Mrs Mary Foster Pigott	Thomas Westrope	Home Field and Garden	meadow	4.3.24
109	Mrs Mary Foster Pigott	Thomas Westrope	Home Field	arable	17.3.24
131	Mrs Mary Foster Pigott	Thomas Westrope	Few fields	arable	26.3.14
135	Mrs Mary	Thomas	Home	pasture	3.2.24

	Foster Pigott	Westrope	orchard		
136	Mrs Mary Foster Pigott	Thomas Westrope	Home yards and buildings		2.2.22

**APPENDIX 5      CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**

**AS 1108: Home Farm, Abington Piggots, Cambridgeshire**

Concordance of finds by feature

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Spot Date</b>	<b>Pottery</b>	<b>CBM (g)</b>	<b>A.Bone (g)</b>	<b>Other</b>
1000		1	Topsoil					Worked Stone (2) 2390g
1013	1012	4	Fill of Moat	16th-18th Century	(6), 430g	597	128	Wood (3) 50g

## APPENDIX 6            SPECIALISTS REPORTS

### **The Pottery**

*Peter Thompson*

The evaluation recovered 6 sherds weighing 430g from L1012. The sherds are all from one large cylindrical shaped vessel with a pale orange buff fabric and white, possibly slipped, surfaces. The fabric contains sparse to moderate red quartz and voids probably from dissolved calcareous material. It can be classed as a local Early Post-medieval red ware of 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date.

### **The Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey*

Evaluation excavations produced a total of five fragments (159g) of stratified CBM and a further single fragment (2390g) of unstratified CBM.

Moat F1013 L1012 produced five fragments (159g) of post-medieval CBM. These fragments are 13mm thick, flat, and almost certainly derived from peg (roof) tile. The tile is red-brown (5YR 4/3) throughout with inclusions of common, well-sorted quartz sand (0.25mm). The fragments are only slightly abraded but with such a relatively small fragment size are unable to offer any further insights.

A single piece of CBM (2390g) was recovered from topsoil L1000 and comprises a complete late post-medieval to early modern ceramic object probably used in the structure of a building. The object is semi-circular (diameter 220mm) with a semi-circular 'hole' (diameter 60mm) through the centre of its straight edge, and a depth of 75mm. The fabric of the object has olive yellow (5YR6/6) margins and surfaces with a yellow (2.5Y7/6) core and is extremely hard with a near conchoidal fracture. Inclusions comprise common well-sorted quartz (0.1-0.25) with sparse red and black iron rich grains and white quartzite (0.2-0.5mm, occasionally larger). The object has since been covered with mortar. Possible functions for this object include the component part of a door (into which the door was set) or possibly a component of a support or faux column attached to or part of a building.

### **Animal Bone**

*Carina Phillips*

Animal bone was recovered from a single context L1012. The bone consists of only three fragments. These have been identified as parts of a large (cattle/horse sized) vertebra, a sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra* sp.) metatarsal and a sheep/goat humerus. All the bones are black in colour due to an anaerobic environment (pers comm. R. Jones). There was no evidence of butchery on any of the bones. The small size of the assemblage restricts further comment on the animal bone.