

Granham's Farm, Granham's Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by Pierre -Damien Manisse and Anne-Michelle Huvig

Site Code: GFG19/12

(TL 4635 5310)

Granham's Farm, Granham's Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Savills Ltd

by Pierre -Damien Manisse and Anne-Michelle Huvig

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GFG 19/120

November 2019

Summary

Site name: Granham's Farm, Granham's Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire

Grid reference: TL 4635 5310

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 7th to 17th October 2019

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Pierre-Damien Manisse

Site code: GFG 19/120

CHET Event number: ECB5923

Area of site: approximately 0.75 ha

Summary of results: The evaluation was carried out as intended although site constraints caused some modification to the 10 trenches layout. The site is considered to have some archaeological potential in the part located in the middle of the farm buildings, where several pits and deep ditches attest some human activity (likely water management, possibly associated with the moat) pre-dating the modern period. Numerous cut features were shown to be various forms of land drain. A few potsherds only very tentatively suggests a medieval presence. The field at the entrance (north of site) yielded only a ditch pit, and treehole, all undated and this area probably has no archaeological potential. A chalk yard, pre-dating the modern concrete farmyard was seen in almost all the trenches, sometimes with resurfacing evidence.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading, and will be deposited at Cambridgeshire archaeological archive store, with accession number CHET ECB 5922.

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Report 19/120b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Granham's Farm, Granham's Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire (TL 4635 5310) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Keir Dixon on behalf of Savills (UK) Ltd, Unex House, 132-134 Hills Road, Cambridgeshire, CB2 8PA.

Planning permission (S/2449/18/FL) has been granted by South Cambridgeshire District Council for the demolition of existing buildings and conversion and construction of four residential dwellings including associated access and landscaping. This consent is subject to a condition (No. 10) which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to assess the site's archaeological potential and inform a programme of mitigation if appropriate.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018), and the District's policies on the historic environment. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Kasia Gdaniec, Senior Archaeologist (Development Control) for Cambridge County Council, the archaeological adviser to the District, who had highlighted the potential of the site.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Pierre-Damien Manisse, assisted by Anne-Michelle Huvig the 7th and 17th October 2019. The site code is GFG 19/120. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Cambridgeshire archaeological archive store with the accession number CHET ECB 5922.

Location, topography and geology

Granham's Farm is located on the east side of Granham's Road, to the north of Great Shelford and approximately 4.5km south of Cambridge (Fig. 1). A small stream, Hobson's Brook, is located to the west of the site and there are the remains of an earlier moat to the east and south (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 15.3m above Ordnance Datum and is fairly flat although beyond Granham's Farm to the east the ground rises towards Clarke' Hill. The site is located on a spit of underlying geology, recorded as West Melbury marly chalk formation consisting of chalk, marl, and thin limestone with Second River Terrace Deposits, consisting of silt,

sand and gravel, to the west and south and Zig Zag chalk formation to the east (BGS 2000). The observed geology during the evaluation varied across the trenches. In trenches 1, 2 and 3 it consisted of a yellow-orange, clayey sand to sand, with occasional unsorted stones, in the other trenches (4-6, 8-10) it was a yellow-orange, sometimes very light grey, clay. Trench 7 differed significantly in that half of it was a light bluish-white, chalky clay, observed in a test pit to be thicker than 1m.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site was highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Zeki 2015). In summary, Granham's Farm is on the site of a Medieval moated manor, remains of which survive in the form of earthworks. The earthworks were known as *Aldwerk* in the early 13th century (VCH 1982). A manor house on the site is recorded regularly from 1275 with farm buildings mentioned within the moat by 1392. The original manor house is believed to have been rebuilt after enclosure and extended in the late 19th century (VCH 1982).

The Great Shalford area has seen considerable archaeological investigation in recent years Although no prehistoric activity has been recorded within the development area, there is evidence from the Neolithic to the Iron Age in the wider area around the site, with numerous sites visible in aerial photographs, including immediately to the east of the site. There is substantial evidence of Roman settlement in the vicinity and a large villa located 0.5km to the north-west of the site is Scheduled. Late Roman features were discovered during excavation of the Medieval earthwork at Granham's Farm itself.

Great Shelford is thought to have Saxon origins as *Sceldford* and it has been suggested that a late Saxon mint was situated in the area, dating to the 9th or early 10th centuries (Hart 1995). Documentary evidence from Essex, however, suggests a pre-conquest defensive settlement nucleus developed in the area around Granham's Farm although its spatial extent is unknown. Evidence for Medieval settlement-related activity, earthworks and agricultural activity is found distributed throughout the study area covered by the desk-based assessment. This evidence includes Saxon brooches and metal artefacts, former plots and boundary ditches and pits. Within the study area, earthworks, a moat, a fishpond, the former manorial site at Granham's Farm and the site of a possible chapel have been identified. Limited excavation had taken place on the earthworks at Granham's Farm but has not revealed the full stratigraphic sequence of the banks and ditches and moat (Roberts 2000), nor provided conclusive dating evidence.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date and significance of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development.

Specific research aims for the project were:

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site; and

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

The potential and significance of any such deposits located were to be assessed according to research priorities such as those set out in the English Heritage Research Agenda (EH 2005), or any more local or thematic research priorities as necessary.

It was proposed to dig 10 trenches, each 20m long and 1.6–1.8m wide (Fig. 2), using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were located as shown in Figure 2, as close as possible to their originally intended positions. Any archaeological features uncovered were to be cleaned, excavated or sampled by hand, and recorded. The work was to be carried out in a manner that did not compromise the integrity of archaeological remains that warrant preservation *in situ* or that might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. After the completion of that work and demolition of some of the existing derelict buildings, an extra trench will be dug.

Metal detectors (Fischer F5) were used to scan all trenches, spoil heaps and the general locations of the trenches for finds, without success. Groundwater ingress in Trenches 4 to 10 caused the trenches to flood so it was necessary to use a pump to allow hand excavation and recording to take place. Bulk soil samples were taken from almost all cut features to be sieved for environmental evidence and to enhance small finds recovery. It consisted of bags of 5 or 10kg taken from secured contexts.

Results

All 10 trenches were excavated close to their proposed locations (Fig. 2) although Trenches 4, 5, 7, 8 and 10 were all cut short by varying degrees due to working areas constraints and farm access requirements. The overall trench lengths ranged from 6.8m to 23.4m and depths from 0.35m to 1.40m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1 and the excavated features, with dating evidence, are summarized in Appendix 2. A Metal Detector (Fischer F5) was used on site both on spoil and on in situ deposits, which yielded only modern scrap metal and rubbish from the upper modern layers (not collected). Excluding blank trenches 8 and 10, the remaining trenches were fully cleaned by hand,

both their base and sides. This was carried out to better understand the intricacies of the layers but especially to try to spot any dating evidence in a relatively sterile ground and mute features.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1, 17-18)

Trench 1 was aligned NW - SE and was 19.20m long at ground level, 18.00m long at its base and had a depth of 0.90m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.45m of topsoil (50), 0.15m of compacted crushed chalk (yard surface) (52) and 0.30m subsoil (55) overlying the natural geology, a yellow-orange, clayey sand to sand, with occasional unsorted stones (54).

Two archaeological features, both pits, were identified within the trench. In the centre of trench, pit 14 consisted of a near-square cut measuring 1.00m long by 0.88m wide and 0.11m deep. It had a flat base and was filled with a firm dark brown-grey clayey silt (75), which yielded a small number of pig rib bones. An iron drain pipe cut across the centre of the feature in a NW-SE direction. Pit 15 was recorded at 2.5m from the south-east end of the trench, and was 0.77m wide and 0.25m deep with two fills (76-77) from which no finds were recovered. Its irregular form in plan and profile suggests a natural feature such as a tree-throw.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2, 15-16)

Trench 2 was aligned SW - NE and was 21.50m in length and 0.40m deep at its SW end and 0.58m deep at its NE end. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil (50), 0.05m of chalk yard surface (52), 0.13m to 0.25m of subsoil (55), all overlying the natural geology (54). Three parallel linear features (10, 11, 12) and one curvilinear (13) were seen in this trench. Hand excavation showed that they had similar fills (70, 71, 72, 73) of compact crushed chalk and chalk nodules (<0.20m) although their dimensions varied between 0.52m wide and 0.39m deep (11) and 0.24m wide and 0.20m deep (13). The fills, profiles and layout of the features suggest that they are all land drains. The relation between the curving drain 13 and drain 10 could not be established. Several worked stones were found in the upper deposit and probably are intrusive.

Trench 3 (Figs. 3 and 4; Pl. 13-14)

Trench 3 was aligned W - E and was 20.00m long, 0.52m deep at its eastern end and 0.63m deep at the western. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil (50) at the western end and 0.30m at the east, 0.04m of a Tarmacadam pathway (154), 0.25m of made ground (preparatory layers for the Tarmacadam) (155), above a compacted chalk yard resurfacing (156), which was only visible at the western end of the trench. This overlay an occupation layer which was visible as a thin grey silt deposit (157) only 0.01-0.02m thick; and present only at

the western end of the trench, another compacted chalk yard surface (52), which almost petered out towards the eastern end of the trench and was set on top of between 0.10m and 0.23m of buried subsoil (55), all of which overlaid the natural geology (54).

As with Trench 2, Trench 3 contained a series of three parallel linear features on a NW-SE alignment across the trench. These observed cutting through the overburden and were cleaned and investigated by hand. All three cuts (7, 8, and 9) were filled with a similar chalk material (65, 66, 67 and 68), and had similar profiles to those seen in Trench 2 and, as with those features, and all can be interpreted as land drains.

Trench 4 (Figs 3 and 5; Pl. 8-9)

Trench 4 was aligned S - N and was 10.20m long and 0.48m deep at its north and 1.20m at the south. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of concrete (51), above 0.18m of made ground (88), 0.30m of buried top- or subsoil (55), all overlying natural geology (53). Here the natural geology had changed to a yellow-orange clay mottled with light grey patches. The chalk yard (52) usually present in most of the trenches was absent for most part of this trench, only appearing above ditch 18 at the south end, presumably due to the existence of a building at this position as attested by brick wall (85). Along the upper level of the western section of the trench and projecting out from it towards its southern end was indeed a wall (85) constructed of brick with a pinkish sandy mortar (joint thickness up to 0.015m) with small gravel (1-2mm) inclusions. Three courses of the wall are preserved at most. The W-E return of the wall seen in the trench was cut to assess its foundation. This elevation was lying on a 0.16m thick chalk foundation (86). While the S-N foundation doesn't differ much in its composition from the crushed chalk used for the yard, the W-E foundation seems made of larger chunk of chalk. This deposit usually appears to lie directly on top of the natural geology. It also seals a pair of pits, 16 and 17. Both of these appear subcircular in plan although both extend into the western side of the trench so it was not possible to ascertain their full shape. Pit 16 measured 1.30m in length and extended into the trench by 0.38m. Excavation showed that it was 0.38m deep and filled with a 0.17m thick layer of light grey silty clay (78) at its base with a 0.21m thick layer of soft mid grey silty clay (79) above, neither of which contained any finds. Located 1m south of pit 16, pit 17 similarly was 1.37m long and extended 0.32m into the trench, to a depth of 0.31m. Its single fill (80) also contained no finds. There might be a third pit, 32, only considered in postexcavation, located below the corner made by that wall. Indeed in this place the natural below the chalk foundation appeared disturbed, a mixed grey and yellow silty clay, possibly indicative of a feature with diffuse edges that was not properly addressed during the evaluation. It would also have been truncated by the land drain

at north. It was definitely not part of a foundation trench for the brick wall as not seen below the south-north section of the said wall. It could be restituted with a breadth of 0.80m minimum and a depth of 0.16m.

At the south end of the trench, ditch 18 was only partially revealed, probably to the extent of around half its width. It was aligned broadly east-west, 1.90m of its width being within the trench, and was 0.88m deep with a flat base. Multiple fills (81–3, 89, 90) were variants of clays, some with common mollusc shell inclusions but the only find was a single sheep/goat bone. Sealing the top fill of that ditch, but only seen in the western section, was a very thin deposit, (87), a mid brown clayey silt, only a few centimetres thick. Probably shortly after a land drain, 19, was dug into it and cutting through ditch 18 too. Deposit (87) and land drain 19 attested a period of use of this farm yard before the introduction of the chalk level (52) to consolidate it.

Trench 5 (Figs 3 and 5; Pl. 3, 10, 19-20)

Trench 5 was aligned S - N and was 10.70m long and 0.35m at north and 0.65m at south deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10 to 0.12m concrete (51), 0.22m made ground (88), 0.16m chalk yard (52), 0.46m subsoil (55), overlying natural geology (53). Features 20 to 25 were all located within this trench.

Cut 21 was aligned ESE-WNW, which had been entirely stripped during the evaluation as not recognized as such. It was at least 3.50m wide. It was 0.50m deep. It was filled with an homogeneous mid-greyish brown clay (96) with a line of small stones (97) at its base. Both deposit contained no finds. While it was quite apparent on the east section, on the opposite side its edges were less clear and its breadth could only be ascertained by the distinctive discolouration stagnant water caused to the geological horizon below, turning into a characteristic light bluish grey. Though it appeared as a linear feature, at least 2.10m long, interpreting it as a pond might not be senseless. The resulting ground below it and the accumulation of small stones at its base differed from the other ditches, which had running water. It was also a place that was not sealed by the usual chalk yard and may have been left open to provide water for livestock or "linked to furlong drains and gutters", a not so uncommon function (Upex 2004, p138). Its relationship to features 23 and 24 could not be ascertained with certainty. It was anyway cut after its disuse by a small circular pit, 22, which was 0.90m in diameter and 0.26m deep. Its fill of dark brown clayey silt (92) with common chalk flecks and rare charcoal flecks produced 60 pig bones but no datable finds. Sieving of the soil sample provided numerous charred cereal grains (wheat and barely) and some weeds and grasses. Just to the north of ditch 21, another small circular pit, 20, against the eastern edge of the trench, had a very similar fill to that of pit 22, and again, no finds except bones from the hind quarters of a calf. A third pit, 28, took place in between pits 20 and 22,

Ditch 23 was around 2m wide at top, crossing the trench on a due east—west alignment. It was up to 1.22m deep with a single fill (93) of mid-brownish grey clay with common mollusc shell inclusions. No finds were recovered from this deposit. Ditch 23 cut ditch 24 which was aligned SE–NW, 0.90m wide and 0.84m deep. Its fill of midgrey clay also contained many mollusc shells and a large animal bone, but no dating finds.

Just south of these features, ditch 25 may have been parallel to 21. It only appeared on the south end of the trench and could not be fully observed, especially its relation with 23 and 24. It was at least 0.26m wide and 0.68m deep. Its fill was a firm mid greyish brown clay with scarce small stones (95), again with no finds except for pieces of fired clay.

Trench 6 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Pl. 5, 11-12 and 21)

Trench 6 was aligned W - E and was 23.40m long and between 0.55 to 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m concrete (51) on south side only, 0.40m topsoil (50) overlaid by (51) at south, overlying natural geology (53). This is one of the rare place where a buried topsoil was present. It was a dark greyish brown loamy silt. It is indicative of the limit of the chalk yard as the latter as replaced the former elsewhere. Extending from 1m from the west end to 11m along the trench, and nearly on the same alignment as the trench, ditch 29 was at least 0.95m wide (possibly up to double that) but only 0.25m deep. Its single fill (153) of mid grey clay contained a single tiny (1g) sherd of medieval pottery, which can at best be regarded as only tentative dating evidence. North of this was a small oval pit or posthole, 28, 0.55m by 0.35m in plan and only 0.05m deep. its mid grey clay fill contained no finds. Aligned SW–NE across the trench, ditch 2=4 was 1.05m wide and 0.34m deep, with a single sterile fill of mid-grey clay (57) which was cut by ditch 1=3. Ditch 1 was aligned due north-south, was 1.20m wide and 0.70m deep. It contained two fills, light grey clay (60) overlain by a darker grey clay (59). Neither contained any finds.

Trench 7 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Pl. 6)

Trench 7 was aligned WSW - ENE. It was split in two to preserve access to backyard, also moved further east to establish if ditch in trench 9 continued. The first half was 7.40m on top and 6.80m on base long and 1.40m deep at the WSW end in Geology (157) then 0.45m deep. The other part was 0.45m deep at WSW and 0.70m at ENE. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m concrete (51), over up 0.20m chalk yard (52), overlying natural geology (157)- (53) in the second half. Aligned almost along the trench, were ditch 6, 1.4m wide and up to 0.6m deep, and what appears to be a shallower recut, 30. It is possible that 'recut' 30 was in fact just a spread of fill material beyond the bounds of the original cut. Neither the basal fill (64) nor top fill (99) of ditch 6 contained any finds,

and while recut 30 yielded only a cattle tooth. Next to the ditch was a posthole, 27, 0.28m in diameter and 0.20m deep, which also contained no finds.

Trench 8 (Pl. 4)

Trench 8 was aligned S - N and was 17m long and 0.64m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m concrete (51), 0.12m made ground (88), 0.18m chalk yard (52), overlying natural geology (53). No finds were recovered and no features observed.

Trench 9 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 7)

Trench 9 was aligned SW - NE and was 20.60m top and 20m base long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10 to 0.12m concrete (51), 0.10m made ground (88) except at NE where it was directly the chalk, chalk yard (52), 0.09m subsoil (55), overlying natural geology (53). Ditch 5 was located near the SW end of the trench, aligned NW–SE. It was 1.75m wide and 0.23m deep with two fills, identical to those of ditch 6 in Trench 7. Basal fill (63) was a firm light grey clay with no inclusions, and above this was a light orange-brown to brown clay (62), also with no inclusions. The ditch had been recut (31) to a shallower, wider profile, and this was filled by a mid brownish-grey clay (61) which contained a few cattle bones and a single prehistoric struck flint, which is most unlikely to date the feature. The profile, recut and fills strongly suggest that ditches 5 and 6 were closely related.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 17.60m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m concrete (51), 0.12m made ground (88), 0.20 to 0.30m chalk yard (52), overlying natural geology (53). No finds were recovered and no features observed.

Finds

Pottery by Sue Anderson

A single sherd (1g) of pottery was recovered from the sieved sample of fill (153) of ditch 29. The sherd was a body fragment of a hard, black, sandy coarseware, with occasional calcareous inclusions (probably chalk). It is most likely to be a fragment of medieval Ely-type ware (fabric MEL) dating to the 12th to 14th centuries. Ely

ware is typically more common to the north of Cambridge, but does sometimes occur in the southern Cambridgeshire villages (e.g. Spoerry 2016, table 6.1).

Brick and Tile by Danielle Milbank (Appendix 4)

A modest quantity of brick and tile fragments were recovered from three contexts encountered in the evaluation (22 pieces weighing 3.621kg). It was in moderate condition, fairly fragmented but largely not abraded.

Topsoil layer (50) contained a range of forms in one fabric type, a fine, hard, evenly fired clay with a sandy base and a mid red colour. The two forms present are flat tiles, with no peg holes or nibs present, though they are likely to represent one of these common tile types. The second type is of similar thickness and is slightly curved, and may represent curved ridge tiles or perhaps (but less likely) pan tiles. On the basis of the form and finish, these examples are likely to be of broadly 19th or early 20th century date. One fragment of plain tile was encountered, stamped with the letters 'UE'. These indicate a tile of likely industrial origin and early to mid 20th century date, though a maker or function could not be identified on the basis of the stamped letters.

Ditch 31 (61) encountered in trench 9 contained a single small fragment of tile in a fairly fine sandy fabric with a pale orange buff colour and a thickness of 11mm. The form and finish are not easily identified as the fragmented is small, however the thickness is suggestive of a medieval or early post-medieval date for the fragment.

Brick fragments were examined under x10 magnification and categorised according to Harley 1974. A piece of brick was recovered from drain structure, which is. It comprises a hard fabric with sparse sand inclusions and a mid red colour, of a fairly regular form with sharp arrises, and a thickness of 50mm. The characteristics suggest mechanised production (Harley type 5) and it is likely to be of 18th century or later date.

A brick sample was taken from a section of wall (85) exposed in trench 4, which is of a hard, evenly-fired fabric with a rough texture, occasional small grog inclusions, moderate voids and a pale buff colour with very slight orange lensing. The form is fairly neat, with slight striations on one side and a sandy base suggesting it was moulded rather than manufactured by machine, and may represent a locally-made gault brick, again broadly Harley type 5 and of likely 18th century date.

Summary

The material encountered in the excavation is modest and represents activity on the site, with a fragment of possible late medieval date but the majority of the material of post medieval and modern date, though no closely datable forms were identified.

The medieval and post-medieval material comprised roof tiles, perhaps peg tiles though no peg holes were present.

Fired clay by Danielle Milbank

A small quantity (60g) of fired clay was recovered from ditch slot 25 (95) in trench 5. The material is a fairly fine clay with moderate fine sandy inclusions and occasional strawmarks. The colour is a pale grey with a dark grey black interior and one surface is flat and smooth, suggesting it is daub or possibly oven or hearth lining. It is not closely datable and could be medieval or earlier, based on the fabric and form.

Metal objects by Danielle Milbank

A single metal object was recovered in the course of the evaluation, with the use of a metal detector to enhance the recovery of metal finds. This comprised a single, badly corroded iron nail from deposit 75. It is large (124mm longs and 5mm wide), with a slightly rectangular profile and rectangular head. It appears to be handmade and can be considered to be broadly post-medieval.

Struck flint by Steve Ford

A single struck flint was recovered from ditch 31 (61). It is not closely datable and only a broad Neolithic or Bronze Age date can be suggested.

Animal Bone by Ceri Falys

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from eight features. A total of 135 fragments of non-human bone were present for analysis, weighing 520g (Appendix 3). The comparative animal bone reference collection of the Department of Archaeology of the University of Reading was used for identification, in addition to Hillson 2012. The overall preservation of the remains is poor, with the majority of pieces of bone displaying significant fragmentation. The surface preservation is also generally poor, with fragments displaying damage to the cortical bone surface and/or areas of concretion adhering to the surfaces.

Initial osteological analyses roughly sorted elements based on size, not by species, into one of three categories: "large" (horse/cow), "medium" (pig, sheep/goat, deer), and "small" (e.g. dog, cat etc.). No bones are

designated to the "small" category. Wherever possible, a more specific identification to species and side of origin was made. The minimum number of individuals both within and between the species was determined based on duplication of skeletal elements or differences in the stages of skeletal development.

Just 8.9% (n=12) of the fragments were not identifiable to species or element of origin. Of the identifiable fragments, the minimum number of animal individuals represented in the small assemblage is estimated to be five: two cows, two pigs and one sheep/goat.

A total of 34 fragments from "large-sized" animals were recovered from three features. Of those, only evidence for cattle (adult and juvenile animals) has been identified, which include the remains of the hind end of a juvenile cow from pit 20 (91) in trench 5. Skeletal elements present include both tibiae, metatarsals, the left talus, and phalanges (proximal and distal), all with unfused epiphyses. A minimum of one adult cow has been identified based on a tooth in ditch 30 (150, trench 7) and a the distal half of left tibia in ditch 31 (61, trench 9).

Medium-sized animals are represented by 89 fragments from three features. A total of 60 pieces of a juvenile pig skeleton came from pit 22 (92) in trench 5. The spine (6 unfused bodies and neural arches), 12 pieces of rib shaft, both femora and tibiae (with unfused epiphyses) are presented. In contrast, a skeletally mature pig in pit 14 (75) in trench 1, has been identified by the presence of 28 fragments of ribs (a minimum of seven ribs). No evidence of butchery has been observed, however, a localized patch of active new bone formation (grey coloured, porous woven bone) is present on the visceral surface of one of the midshaft fragments.

Finally, a sheep/goat has been identified by the distal 2/3 of a right tibia, from drain 18 (82) in trench 4. The anterior surface of the tibia displays multiple cutmarks down the medial surface of the anterior crest.

In summary, the small assemblage of poorly preserved animal bone contains the remains of a minimum of five animal individuals of differing ages (2 cows, 2 pigs, and 1 sheep/goat). Limited evidence of butchery practices and pathological alterations were also observed.

Environmental assessment by Mark Robinson (Appendix 5)

Fieldwork encountered probable medieval features, mostly drainage ditches but including pits. Twenty five bulk samples from them were floated onto a 0.25mm mesh in order to recover molluscs and plant remains (Appendix 5A). Twenty one samples were found to contain land and freshwater snails and 5 to contain carbonised seeds. In addition, some charcoal of *Corylus avellana* (hazel) was found in ditch 25, Context 95, Sample 24 while numerous uncarbonised seeds of *Lemna* sp. (duckweed) survived in ditch 18, Context 81, Sample 11 and ditch 29, Context 153, Sample 23. The snails and seeds were identified under a binocular microscope and the results given in Appendix 5B

and 5C. The nomenclature for the molluscs follows Anderson (2005). Reference seeds can be found in ArboDat 2016, an online reference catalogue.

Molluscs (Appendix 5B)

The molluscan assemblages in the samples were mostly mixed aquatic species, snails of marshy and wet habitats, and snails of open drier terrestrial habitats. In general terms, the most diverse range of molluscs and the highest concentrations of snails were from the ditches but the two samples from the pit Feature 15 also fell into this category. These samples tended to contain some snails which require well-oxygenated running water, such as Bithynia tentaculata and Vallonia cristata, which had probably been derived from episodes when water flowed along the ditches, perhaps only when the nearby River Cam was in flood. The majority of the shells, however, were of water snails which can tolerate the stagnant conditions which possibly persisted in the ditch bottoms for much of the year: Planorbis planorbis, Anisus spirorbis and Galba truncatula. The last two species readily tolerate periods of drought when the water has entirely dried up leaving damp mud. Many of the ditch samples plus those from Pit 15 also contained shells of species favoured by somewhat marshy conditions where there is herbaceous vegetation that has not been heavily grazed or cut short. These included Carychium sp., Oxyloma or Succinea sp., Vertigo antivertigo and V. angustior. The last species is now very rare in Britain although it does survive in East Anglia (Kerney 1999, 101). Some of the snails of this habitat, such as Oxychilus cellarius, also occur in woodland but a full woodland fauna was absent. This element probably reflected the conditions on the sides of the ditches. Finally, the ditch samples plus those from Pit 15 contained shells from species of open relatively dry habitats, particularly Pupilla muscorum and Vallonia excentrica. They had probably been living on the general ground surface of the site along with species such as Cochlicopa sp., Trochulus hispidus, Vallonia costata and Vertigo pygmaea, which also occur in damper terrestrial habitats. The occurrence of seeds of Lemna sp. (duckweed) in a couple of the ditch samples confirms the evidence from the molluscs for stagnant water in the ditch bottoms. Although the sediments were not fully waterlogged, seeds of duckweed are very resistant to decay.

Snails were absent from the sample from Pit 22 while Pits 28, 14 and 16 only contained the terrestrial snail *Trochulus hispidus*. The occurrence of *Galba truncatula* and *Anisus spirorbis* in Pit 20 and *Aplexa hypnorum* in Pit 17 was perhaps due to the pit's having stagnant water in the bottom. The rich aquatic faunas in the samples from Pit 15 were possibly due to its being filled with alluvial sediment cleared from a ditch or perhaps the feature was a ditch rather than a pit.

Seeds (Appendix 5C)

The carbonised cereal grains were all of typical medieval crops: bread or rivet wheat, rye and hulled barley. Although both two-row and six-row barley possess median grains, the absence of any lateral grains, which are only found in the six-row variety, strongly suggests that the barley grains from Feature 22, Context 19 Sample 16 were of two-row barley. The only weed seeds were of *Agrostemma githago* (corn cockle) and *Fallopia convolvulus* (black bindweed), both common cereal weeds during the medieval period. The remains recovered from the site probably represented weed seeds and both corn cockle and black bindweed have large seeds which readily remain with the crop during cleaning by winnowing and sieving. Two-row barley is better suited to malting than six-row hulled barley but there was no sign of germination amongst the grains from Feature 22.

Conclusion

The evaluation was carried out almost as intended with 10 trenches dug, though some had to be slightly moved or shortened. Meteorological conditions were poor with trenches 4-10 being recurrently flooded.

Although potentially archaeological features were revealed in most of the trenches, many were clearly of recent date, and almost all the others undated. Reconstructing the sequence of occupation can only be hypothetical and considered with caution. The oldest evidence, in the form of a struck flint recovered in ditch 31, is probably residual. Other worked flints have been found in the vicinity (Collins 2017, p.72) but only as stray finds. The broad Neolithic and Bronze Age date given in the finds report matches the known prehistoric environment.

For the Iron Age and Roman period, this evaluation comes more as a negative testimony. The areas of occupation as shown on Zeki 2015 (fig 15, p. 18) did not seem to extend at this location of Granham's Farm.

Only ditch 29 might be dated by Medieval pottery but only a single tiny abraded sherd which cannot be regarded as a secure enough dating evidence. The sterile clay fills with few inclusions in most of the ditches suggested these were waterlain deposits. The undated linear features could therefore relate to the moat nearby, to deal with water management. The two or three sterile pits sealed by the wall in trench 4 could have been established at the same time. Despite the relatively close proximity of trench 10 from an earlier evaluation (OA 2011) south-east of the farm buildings, which provided Saxon evidence in the form of a ditch, no related feature could be found. The density of ditches and their various orientation makes it difficult in short windows to estimate how they can relate, especially in the absence of dating finds. The main ditches by their size seemed to

be 18 in trench 4 and 23 in trench 5. They seemed to share a common WSW-ENE axis. That is the orientation of some of the earthworks evaluated by J. Roberts (Roberts 2002, fig. 2, p.4). But in terms of width we are far from the dimensions considered for the moat. So those ditches were likely secondary channels (to feed/flush it or the pond?). Ditch 23 might continue as 29 in trench 6. Ditch 5 and recut 31 in trench 9 are the obvious continuation of respectively 6 and 30 in trench 7. There is a possibility they related to 24 or 25 in trench 5. All in all the incomplete mapping of those ditches raises more questions than it provides answers.

Being in a lowland and in an area which retained water easily, most of the features revealed in the northern field probably dealt with draining that excess water away be it in the Post-Medieval period or in more recent times. The methodical drainage system seen in trench 2 and 3 obviously post-dated the introduction of this phenomenon in England (1810; Douglas 2019) but predated the development of the farmyard according to stratigraphy. When the place was definitely turning into a farming estate, a chalk yard was indeed laid down to avert trampling on an unsteady and dampen ground, especially over the now backfilled disused ditches. The brick wall seen in trench 4 belonged to a building visible in the Ordnance Map of 1888 (Zeki 2015, fig.4 and 6) but not yet there on the Enclosure Map of 1835. It might date of the same phase. Some pits might relate to 19th century farming activity too (refuse pits with cattle and pig bones) as well as pond 21 as they seemed to have been ignored by the ground consolidation phase and were only overlaid by the modern concrete yard.

Based on the results of this evaluation, it is considered that the site has archaeological potential and further work has to be considered in order to understand the evaluation findings.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at South or West end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	19.20m top, 18m base	2.10m	0.90m	0.45m dark brown silty loam topsoil (50), 0.15m crush compacted chalk (chalk yard) (52), 0.30m mid brown -beige brown silt-clayey silt with transitional horizon to geology at base with common root disturbance ,Subsoil (55), 0.05m +.natural geology (54). Features 14 pit cut by iron cable, 15 dubious pit/tree hole. [Pl. 1, 17-18]
2	21.50m top, 21.20m base	2.10m	0.40m at WSW, 0.58m at ENE	0.15m topsoil (50), 0.05m chalk yard (52), 0.13-0.25m subsoil (55), 0.08m + natural geology (54). Four chalk-filled drains (10-13). [Pl. 2, 15-16]
3	20m top, 18.80m base	2.10m	0.52 at east, 0.63 at west	0.12-0.15m at W, 0.30m humic horizon, thicker at east ,topsoil (50), 0.035m Tarmacadam pathway (154), made up ground, up to 0.25m preparatory layers for Tarmac (155), only visible at west end, chalk yard resurfacing (156), 0.01-0.02m thin grey silt deposit, only visible at west end, occupation layer (157), getting very thin at east end, chalk yard (52), 0.10m at west for 3m then up to 0.23m most of the trench, subsoil (55), 0.35m + natural geology (54). Features 7-8-9, chalk-filled drains. [Pl. 13-14]
4	10.20m	2.10m	0.48m at north, 1.20m at west	0.10-0.12m concrete (51), 0.18m made ground (88), 0.30m mid to dark brownish grey silty clay, Subsoil (55) or buried topsoil (50), 0.08m + natural geology (53). Features 16-17 pits, 18 ditch truncated by gully/drain 19. [Pl. 8-9]
5	10.70m	2.10m	0.35m at north, 0.65m at south	0.14m concrete (51), 0.22m made up ground (88), 0.16m chalk yard (52), 0.46m brown-grey clay, soft, with some greenish/bluish tint, probably water abundant, Subsoil (55), 0.46m+ natural geology (53). Features 20-22-26 pits, 21-2324-25 ditches. [Pl. 3, 10, 19-20]
6	23.40m	2.10m	about 0.55-0.60m	0.12m concrete (51) on south side only, 0.40m topsoil (52), overlaid by (51) at South, 0.10m + natural geology (53). Features 1 to 4-29 ditches, 28 dubious patch.[Pl. 5, 11-12, 21]
7	7.40m + 11.50m top, 6.80m + 11.20m base	2.10m	west part,0.45- 1.40m East part 0.70m	0.12m concrete (51), up to 0.20m chalk yard (52), 1m/0.15m+ natural geology (157-53). Features 1 to 4-29 ditches, 28 dubious patch. [Pl. 6]
8	17m	2.10m	0.64m	0.10m concrete (51), 0.12m made ground (88), 0.18m chalk yard (52), 0.20m + natural geology (53). Features 6-30. [Pl. 4]
9	20.60m top, 20m base	2.10m	0.56m	0.10-0.12m concrete (51), 0.10m made ground (88), except at NE where directly chalk, 0.01-0.30m chalk yard (52), 0.09 -0.20m mid brownish grey silty clay, subsoil (55), 0.11m + natural geology (53). Features 5 and 31 ditches. [Pl. 7]
10	17.60m	2.10m	0.60m	0.12m concrete (51), 0.12m made ground (88), 0.20-0.30m chalk yard (52), 0.25m + natural geology (53) light bluish grey clay in some places, otherwise the usual light yellow orange clay.

APPENDIX 2: Table of contexts

Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Туре	Date	Finds	Dating evidence
1-3, 6		50	topsoil	Modern	Tile, dumped worked stones, seed	By finds
4-10		51	Concrete yard	Modern		
1-5, 7- 10		52	Chalk yard	Early Modern?		Postdate the drains 7-13
4-10		53	Geology			
1-3		54	Geology			
1-5		55	Subsoil			
6	1	56; 60	Ditch		Molluses	
6	2	57	Ditch		Molluses	
6	3	58	Ditch			
6	4	59	Ditch			
9	5	62-63	Ditch		Molluses	
7	6	64; 99	Ditch		Molluscs	
3	7	65	Drain	Post 1810		Sealed by chalk farm yard (52)
3	8	66	Drain			
3	9	67-68	Drain			
2	10	69	Drain			
2	11	70-71	Drain			
2	12	72	Drain			
2	13	73-74	Drain			
1	14	75	Pit		Molluscs, animal bones	
1	15	76-77	Pit		Molluses	
4	16	78-79	Pit		Molluses	Sealed by wall 85 and foundation 86
4	17	80	Pit		Molluses	Sealed by wall 85 and foundation 86
4	18	81-3, 89-90	Ditch		Molluscs, animal bones	·
4	19	84	Drain		CBM	
4		85	Wall	Post-medieval/Early Modern?	Brick	
4		86	Wall foundation	Post-medieval/ Early Modern?		
4		87	Deposit			Sealed by chalk farm yard (52) but later than ditch 18
4		88	Made Ground	Modern		Preparatory layer for the modern concrete yard
5	20	91	Pit		Molluscs, animal bones	
5	21	96-97	Ditch		Molluses	
5	22	92	Pit		Seeds, animal bones	
5	23	93	Ditch		Molluses	
5	24	94	Ditch		Molluscs, animal bones	
5	25	95	Ditch	Medieval or earlier	Fired clay (daub)	
5	26	98	Pit		Molluscs	
7	27	151	Post hole		Molluscs	
6	28	152	Dubious pit		Molluscs, seeds	
6	29	153	Ditch	Medieval	Pottery, seeds	
7	30	150	Ditch		animal bones	
9	31	61	Ditch	Prehistoric?	Flint, CBM, animal bones	
3		154	Tarmac	Modern		
3		155	Deposit	Modern		Preparatory layer for the modern tarmac
3		156	Deposit			
7-8		157	Geology	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	32	158	Pit			Sealed by wall 85 and foundation 86

APPENDIX 3: Inventory of animal bone

Cut	Fill	No Frags	Wt (g)	Cow	Large	Pig	Sheep/goat	Unident	Comments
14	75	28	88	-	-	28	-	-	Pig rib fragments (min of 7). Pathology
18	82	1	36	-	-	-	1	-	Distal 2/3 of a sheep/goat tibia. Multiple cutmarks (scratches) down the anterior crest
20	91	25	35	25	-	-	-	-	Hind quarters of a juvenile cow (incl. tibiae, metararals with unfused epiphyses)
22	92	60	137	-	-	60	-	-	Juvenile pig (incl. vertebrae, ribs, femora, tibiae, with unfused epiphyses)
24	94	1	5	-	-	-	-	1	Unidentified (?large animal) midshaft fragment
30	150	2	47	2	-	-	-	-	Cow tooth, scapula (glenoid fossa)
31	61	6	160	4	-	-	-	2	Cow distal half of a left tibia
31	63	12	12	-	3	-	-	9	Large-sized vertebra of unidentified species

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of ceramic building material

Cut	Fill	Туре	Trench	Sample	No	Wt (g)
	50	Topsoil (buried)	2	25	20	1272
31	61	Ditch	9		1	16
19	84	Drain	4		1	1174
	85	Brick Wall	4		1	2333

APPENDIX 5: Environmental remains

5A: Sample list

Cut	Fill	Туре	Trench	Sample	Sample size (kg)	Artefacts/Finds?
1	56	Ditch	6	1	5	seeds, molluscs)
2	57	Ditch	6	2	5	molluses
1	60	Ditch	6	3	5	seeds, molluscs
5	63	Ditch	9	4	10	molluscs
9	67	Land drain	3	5	5	molluses
14	75	Pit	1	6	5	molluses
15	76	Pit	1	7	10	molluses
15	77	Pit	1	8	5	molluses
16	78	Pit	4	9	5	molluses
17	80	Pit	4	10	5	molluses
18	81	Ditch	4	11	5	molluses
18	82	Ditch	4	12	5	No
18	83	Ditch	4	13	5	molluses
31	61	Ditch	9	14	5	molluses
20	91	Pit	5	15	5	bones, molluscs
22	92	Pit	5	16	5	seeds
23	93	Ditch	5	17	5	molluses
24	94	Ditch	5	18	5	molluses
21	96	Ditch	5	19	5	molluses
6	64	Ditch	7	20	5	molluses
27	151	Pit	7	21	5	molluses
28	152	Pit	6	22	5	seeds, molluscs
29	153	Ditch	6	23	10	pottery, seeds
25	95	Ditch	5	24	5	No
	50	Topsoil	6	25	5	No

APPENDIX 5: Environmental remains 5B: Land and Freshwater Molluscs

Context \$6 \$7 60 63 67 Bithynia tentaculata (L.) + - 3 4 5 Bithynia sp. - - - - - - Valvata cristata Müll. - - + + - <td< th=""><th>6 7 7 5 6 6 7 7 5 8 6 7 7 5 8 7 7 5 8 7 7 5 8 7 7 5 8 7 7 5 8 7 7 5 8 7 7 7 7</th><th>8 7 7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1</th><th>8 6</th><th>0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0</th><th>8 1 +</th><th>23 83</th><th>19 4 +</th><th>15 + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +</th><th>12 33</th><th>94 99 18 18 18 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1</th><th>96 64 19 20 + -</th><th>151 21</th><th>152 22</th><th>153 23</th></td<>	6 7 7 5 6 6 7 7 5 8 6 7 7 5 8 7 7 5 8 7 7 5 8 7 7 5 8 7 7 5 8 7 7 5 8 7 7 7 7	8 7 7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	8 6	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	8 1 +	23 83	19 4 +	15 + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +	12 33	94 99 18 18 18 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	96 64 19 20 + -	151 21	152 22	153 23
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present, ++ some, +++ many

5C: Carbonized Seeds

		Feature	1	1	22	28	29
		Context	56	60	92	152	153
		Sample	1	3	16	22	23
CEREAL GRAIN							
Triticum sp.	- short free threshing grain	rivet or bread wheat	3	-	-	1	3
Triticum sp.		wheat	1	1	-	-	-
Secale cereale		rye	-	-	-	-	1
Hordeum sp. hulled	- median grain	barley	2	-	69	-	-
Hordeum sp. hulled		barley	-	-	153	-	-
cereal indet			5	-	47	-	1
Total cereal grain			11	1	269	1	5
WEED SEEDS							
Agrostemma githago		corn cockle	-	-	1	-	-
Fallopia convolvulus		black bindweed	_	_	3	-	_

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Project name Granham's Farm, Granham's Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire

Short description of the project

The evaluation revealed pits and deep ditches in the area in the middle of the farm buildings, certainly pre-dating the modern period and likely to relate to water

management, perhaps associated with the nearby moat. Although only a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered, these features could belong to that period. Elsewhere

only undated or modern features were revealed.

Project dates

Start: 07-10-2019 End: 17-10-2019

Previous/future work

Yes / Yes

Any associated project reference codes

GFG19/120 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes

S/2449/FUL - Planning Application No.

Any associated project reference

CHET:ECB5922 - Museum accession ID

codes Type of project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 3 - Built over Monument type **DITCHES Uncertain**

Monument type PITS Uncertain

Significant Finds **CERAMICS Medieval** Significant Finds LITHICS Late Prehistoric Significant Finds **CERAMICS Post Medieval**

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Field evaluation

Development type Rural residential

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition)

planning process

Project location

Country England

CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE GREAT SHELFORD Granham's Farm, Site location

Granham's Road, Great Shelford

Study area 0.75 Hectares

TL 4635 5310 52.156320483579 0.139600903052 52 09 22 N 000 08 22 E Point Site coordinates

Height OD / Depth Min: 14m Max: 16m

Project creators

Name of Organisation

originator

TVAS East Midlands

Project brief

Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)

Proiect design originator

Danielle Milbank

Danielle Milbank Project

director/manager

Project supervisor Pierre-Damien Manisse

Type of

sponsor/funding

body

Developer

Name of

sponsor/funding

body

Savills (UK) Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient

Cambridgeshire archaeological archive store

Physical Archive

CHET:ECB5922

ID

"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics" **Physical Contents**

Digital Archive

recipient

Cambridgeshire archaeological archive service

Digital Archive ID CHET:ECB5922

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media

available

"Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive

recipient

Cambridgeshire archaeological archive service

Paper Archive ID

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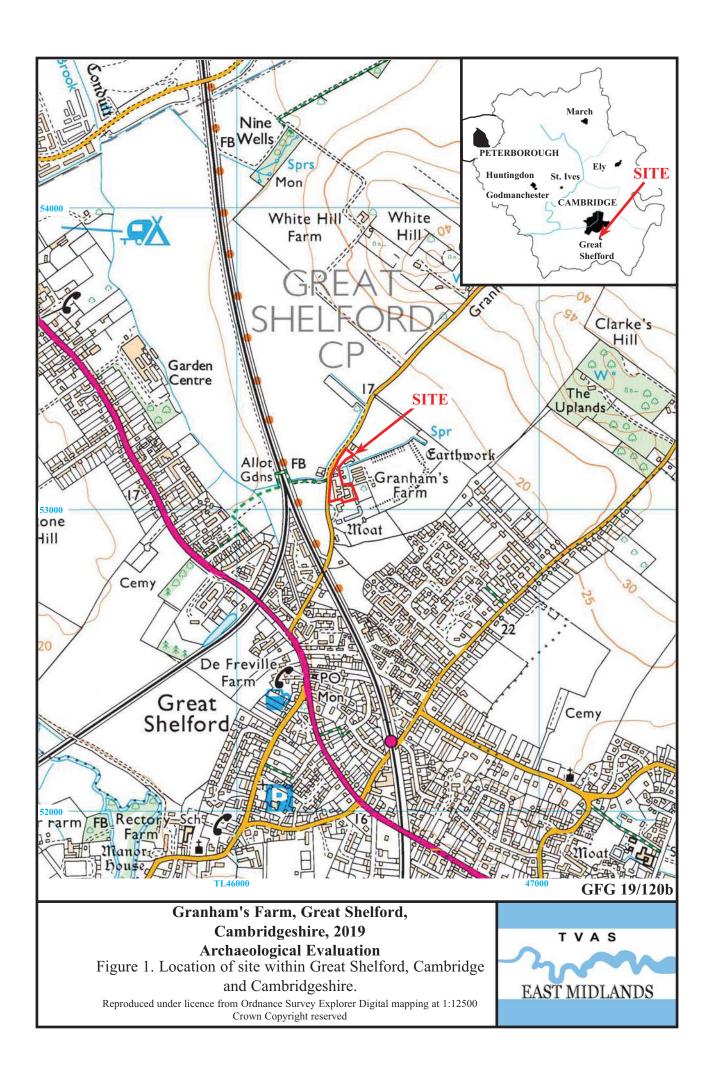
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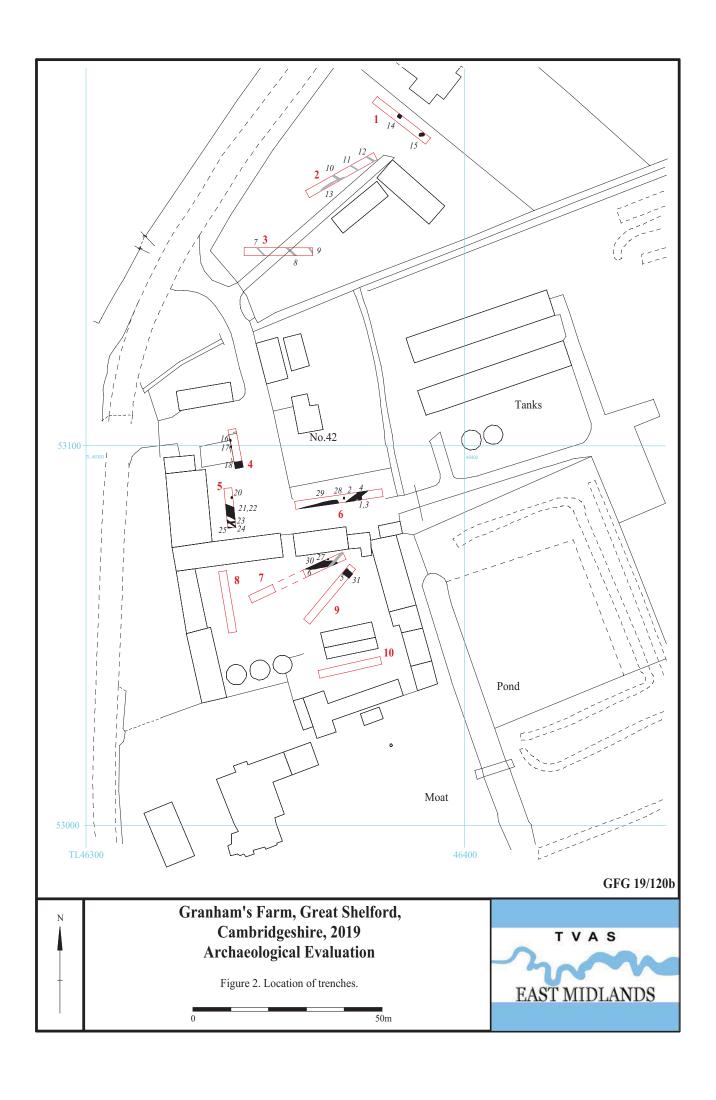
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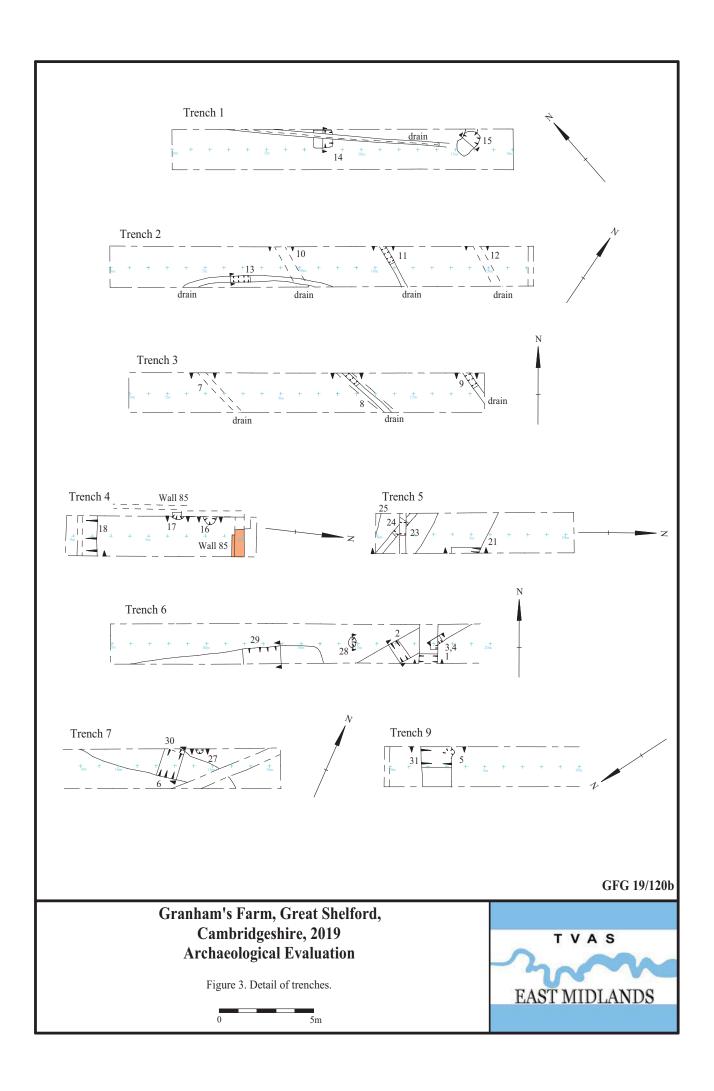
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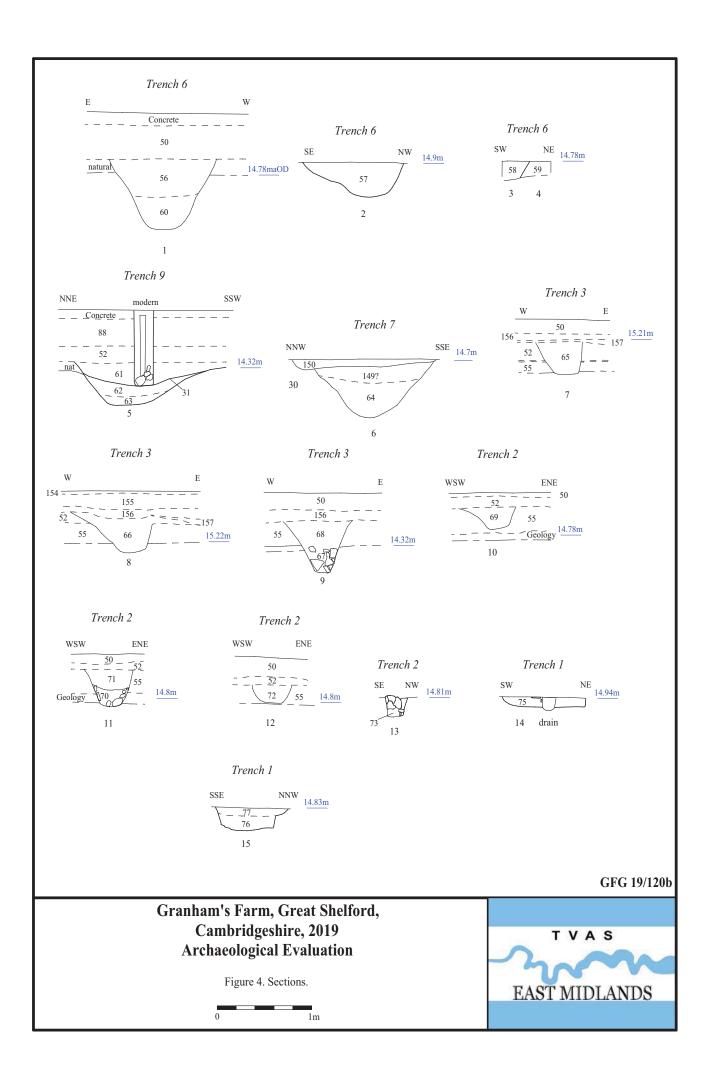
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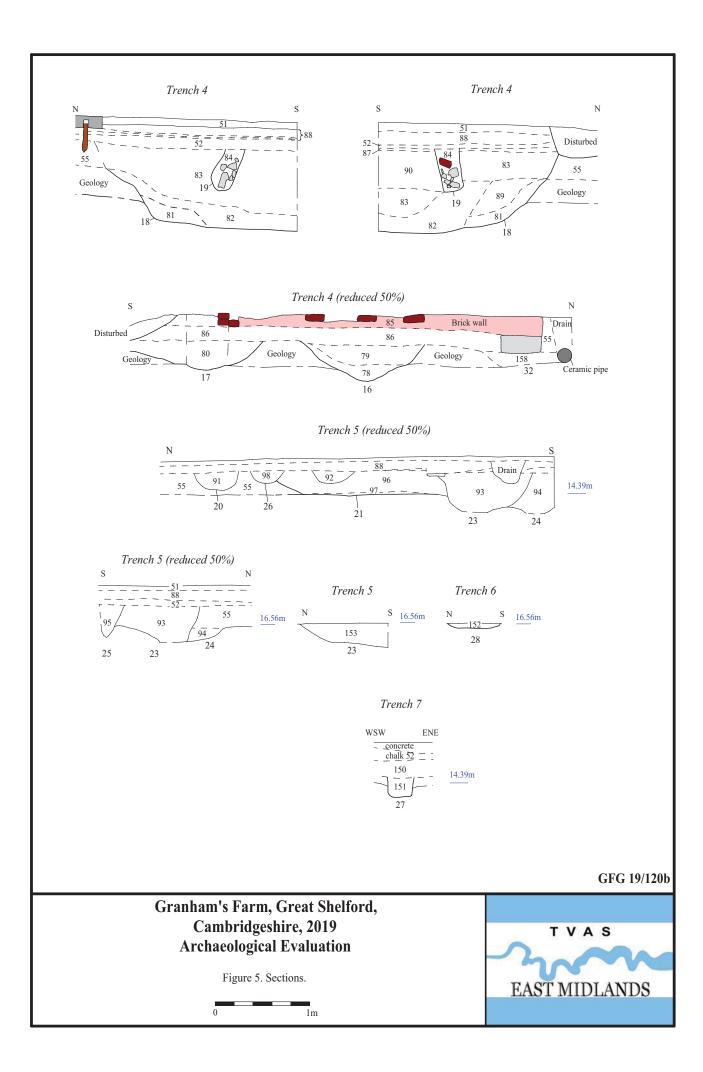




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south east, Scales: 2x1m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north east, Scales: 2x1m.

Granham's Farm, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire, 2019 Archaeological Evaluation Plates 1 and 2.





Plate 3. Trench 5, looking north, Scales: 2x1m.



Plate 4. Trench 8, looking north north west, Scales: 2x1m.

Granham's Farm, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire, 2019 Archaeological Evaluation Plates 3 and 4.





Plate 5. Trench 6, ditch 2, looking south west, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 6. Trench 7, ditch 6 and 30, looking south east, Scales: 1m and 0.4m.

Granham's Farm, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire, 2019 Archaeological Evaluation Plates 5 and 6.





Plate 7. Trench 9, ditch 5, looking south west, Scales: 2x1m.



Plate 8. Trench 4, pit 16 under brick foundation, looking west, Scales: 2x1m.

Granham's Farm, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire, 2019 Archaeological Evaluation Plates 7 and 8.



TIME CHART

Calendar Years

Modern	AD 1901
Victorian	AD 1837
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman	AD 43
Iron Age	AD 0 BC 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC
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