



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological earthwork survey and excavation on land
at 67 Ermine Street, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire
February-March 2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological earthwork survey and excavation on land at 67 Ermine Street, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire February-March 2011	
Short description	An archaeological excavation was carried out on land at 67 Ermine Street, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire by Northamptonshire Archaeology during February and March 2011. A series of gullies pits and postholes have been dated to the 11th and 12th centuries. They probably lie on the periphery of an area of domestic activity. The features produced a small pottery assemblage, dominated by St Neots type ware, Huntingdon ware and shelly coarseware. The pits contained an extensive range of charred cereal grains and some peas and pulses. The southern part of the site was overlain by a layer of colluviums which had built up as a result of agricultural activity as evidenced by the surviving ridge and furrow earthworks in the northern part of the site.	
Project type	Excavation	
Previous work	Archaeological evaluation, 2008 Oxford Archaeology East	
Current Land use	Vacant plot over to scrub	
Future work	Unknown	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Cambridgeshire	
Site address	67 Ermine Street Great Stukeley PE28 4AG	
Study area ha	0.5ha	
OS Easting & Northing	TL 2210 7450	
Height aOD	c32m above Ordnance Datum	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Kasia Gdaniec Senior Archaeologist, Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Cambridgeshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Supervisor	Tim Upson-Smith	
Project Manager	Anthony Maull	
Sponsor	Liberty Homes Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	February 2011	
End date	March 2011	
ARCHIVES		
	Location	Paper
Paper ECB3536	NA office	
Digital	1 Disc containing digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	unpublished client report (NA report)	
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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	BACKGROUND	1
	2.1 Location and topography	1
	2.2 Historical and archaeological background	3
3	OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY	6
4	EARTHWORK SURVERY	7
5	EXCAVATION	9
	5.1 Gullies	9
	5.2 Postholes	13
	5.3 Pits	15
	5.4 Colluvium layer	17
6	FINDS	17
	6.1 Flint by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray	17
	6.2 Fired clay by Pat Chapman	17
	6.3 The pottery by Paul Blinkhorn	17
	6.4 The metalworking debris by Andy Chapman	20
	6.5 Querns by Andy Chapman	21
	6.6 Other finds by Tora Hylton	21
	6.7 Animal bone by Karen Deighton	22
	6.8 Environmental evidence by Karen Deighton	24
7	GEOARCHAEOLOGY by Mike Allen	27
	7.1 Site background	27
	7.2 Aims	27
	7.3 Methods	28
	7.4 Magnetic Susceptibility	29

7.5	Sampling	29
7.6	Geoarchaeological record	29
7.7	Magnetic susceptibility	30
7.8	Geoarchaeology and land-use history	31
8	CONCLUSIONS	32
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	33

Tables

Table 1:	Historic Environment Record data
Table 2:	Posthole group 1
Table 3:	Posthole group 2
Table 4:	Posthole group 3
Table 5:	Ceramic phase-dating and pottery occurrence per phase
Table 6:	Pottery occurrence per phase by fabric type
Table 7:	Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type
Table 8:	Quantification of metalworking debris
Table 9:	Taxa by context
Table 10:	Ageing and metrical data
Table 11:	Sieved material
Table 12:	Ecofacts by context
Table 13:	Magnetic Susceptibility Profile: Summary magnetic susceptibility results (χ) expressed in SI units $m^3 kg^{-1} \times 10^{-6}$
Table 14:	Mean magnetic susceptibility results for each fill type
Table 15:	Geoarchaeological record-interpretation
Table 16:	Postulated land-use history

Figures

Cover: Excavation in progress

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Historic Environment Record (HER) data

Fig 3: Earthwork survey

Fig 4: General view of ridge and furrow looking west

Fig 5: Excavation area

Fig 6: Gully and pit sections

Fig 7: Section 35

Fig 8: Beam slot [26] and posthole [28]

Fig 9: Pit [41]

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EARTHWORK SURVEY AND
EXCAVATION ON LAND AT 67 ERMINE STREET
GREAT STUKELEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
FEBRUARY-MARCH 2011
ECB3536**

Abstract

An archaeological excavation was carried out on land at 67 Ermine Street, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire by Northamptonshire Archaeology during February and March 2011. A series of gullies pits and postholes have been dated to the 11th and 12th centuries. They probably lie on the periphery of an area of domestic activity. The features produced a small pottery assemblage, dominated by St Neots type ware, Huntingdon ware and shelly coarseware. The pits contained an extensive range of charred cereal grains and some peas and pulses. The southern part of the site was overlain by a layer of colluviums which had built up as a result of agricultural activity as evidenced by the surviving ridge and furrow earthworks in the northern part of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Liberty Homes Ltd to undertake an earthwork survey and open area excavation at 67 Ermine Street, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire (centred on NGR TL 2210 7450 Fig 1). The work was undertaken at the request of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) to fulfil a condition of planning permission for the construction of three houses (Application number **H/03/02068/FUL**).

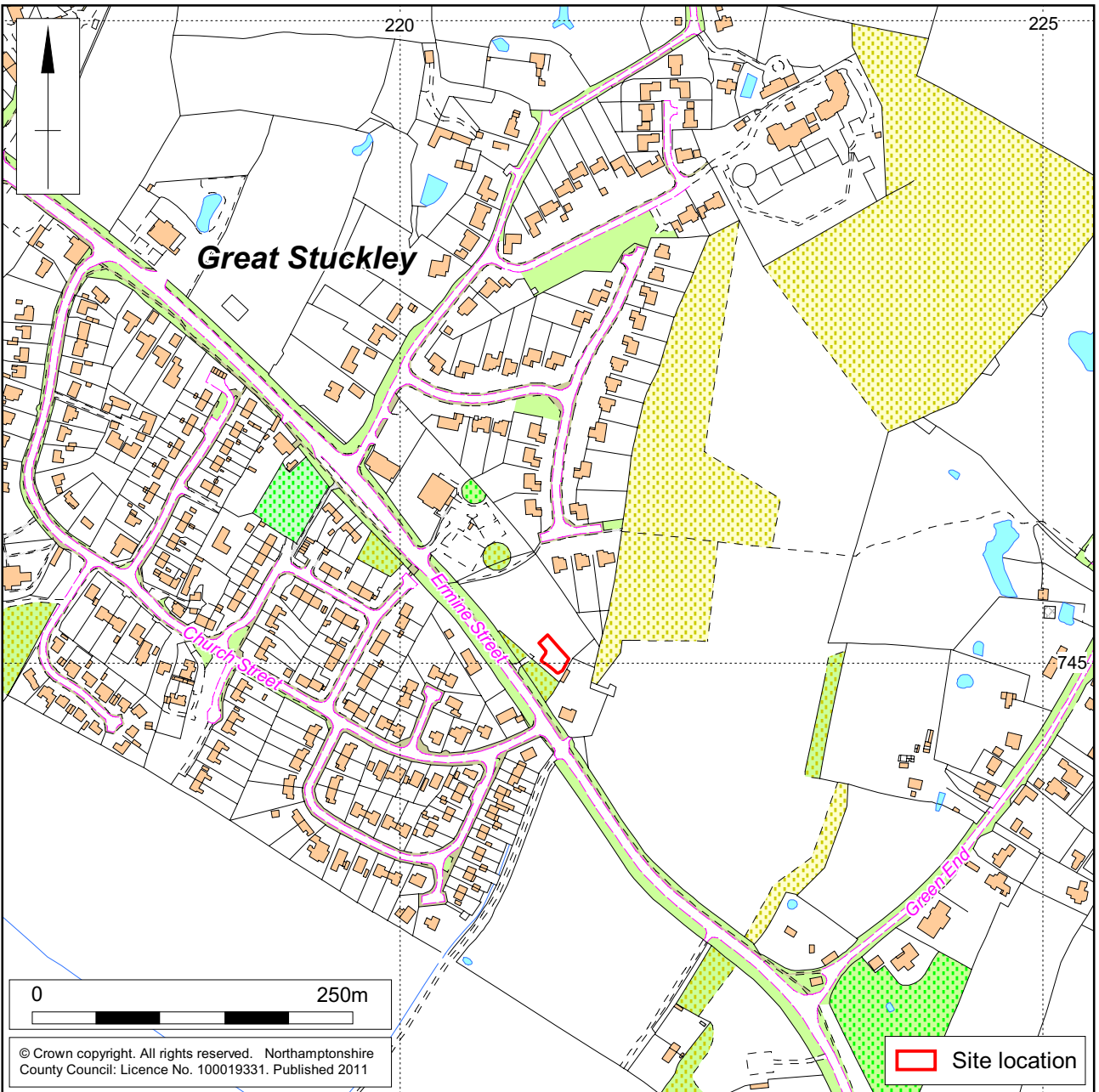
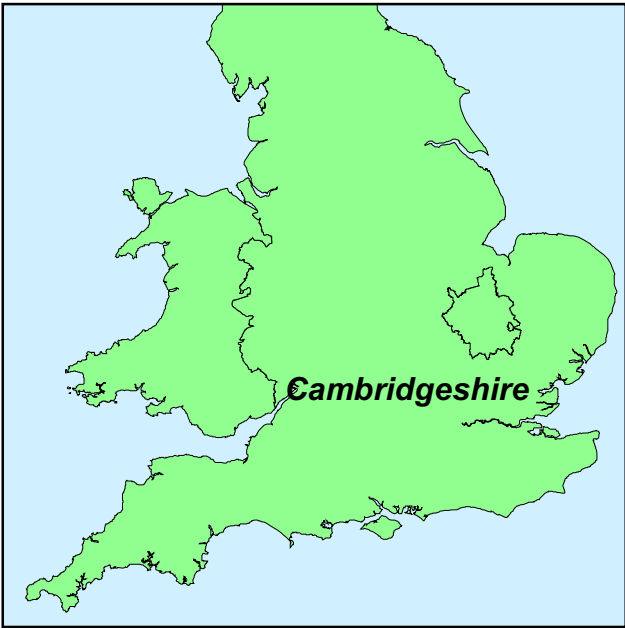
The background and methodologies for the work were stipulated in a brief prepared by the Senior Archaeologist, Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Cambridgeshire County Council (Gdaniec 2010). The work was carried out in accordance with this and the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2011) and agreed by the Senior Archaeologist, Cambridgeshire Archaeology.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

Great Stukeley is made up of three ends, Church End, Owl End and Green End and lies on either side of Ermine Street (B1044). Great Stukeley is c2km north-west of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. The River Great Ouse is situated c4km to the south-east of the village.

The site (c0.5ha) comprises lightly wooded scrubland on the eastern side of Ermine Street, towards the south-eastern periphery of the village. The site is on gently sloping ground, falling from c34.75m above Ordnance Datum in the north to c31.79m above Ordnance Datum in the south of the site where there is a culverted stream immediately south of the existing site boundary.



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

The site, at the time of the excavation, was under rough pasture/scrub. In the northern part of the site there was an area of surviving ridge and furrow aligned roughly east-west across the slope (see Section 4).

The underlying superficial deposits consist of Diamicton deposits, which overlie the Kellaways formation and Oxford clay formation undifferentiated mudstone, siltstone and sandstone bedrock geology (<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/GeolIndex/default.aspx>).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

At Domesday, Great Stukeley was known as Stivecle, and Eustace the Sheriff and Countess Judith, held land in the parish.

In Great Stukeley Eustace has 1 virgate of land to the geld. It is waste. Herbert holds it of him.

In great Stukeley Hungifu had 3 hides to the geld (land tax). [There is] land for 16 ploughs, and in demesne [she had] land for 2 ploughs, apart from the aforesaid hides. There Countess Judith [has] 3 ploughs now, and 18 villans (villagers of higher status than a border) and 8 bordars (a peasant of lower economic status than a villan) with 5 ploughs. There is a church with a priest, and 26 acres of meadow, [and] woodland pasture 9 furlongs long and 8 furlongs broad. TRE (in the time of King Edward), as now, worth £12. Eustace claims it. (Domesday Book, p558-559)

The Domesday entry for Great Stukeley shows a typical small village, but does shed light on a small local dispute between Eustace the Sheriff and Countess Judith. Eustace held a small portion of land a single *virgate* being one quarter of a *hide* which was the standard unit of assessment for tax (*geld*) and notionally seen as the amount of land needed to support a household. The *virgate* which Eustace holds is also *waste* a vacant plot not subject to tax. Eustace for reasons unknown also claimed the more extensive and valuable holdings of Countess Judith.

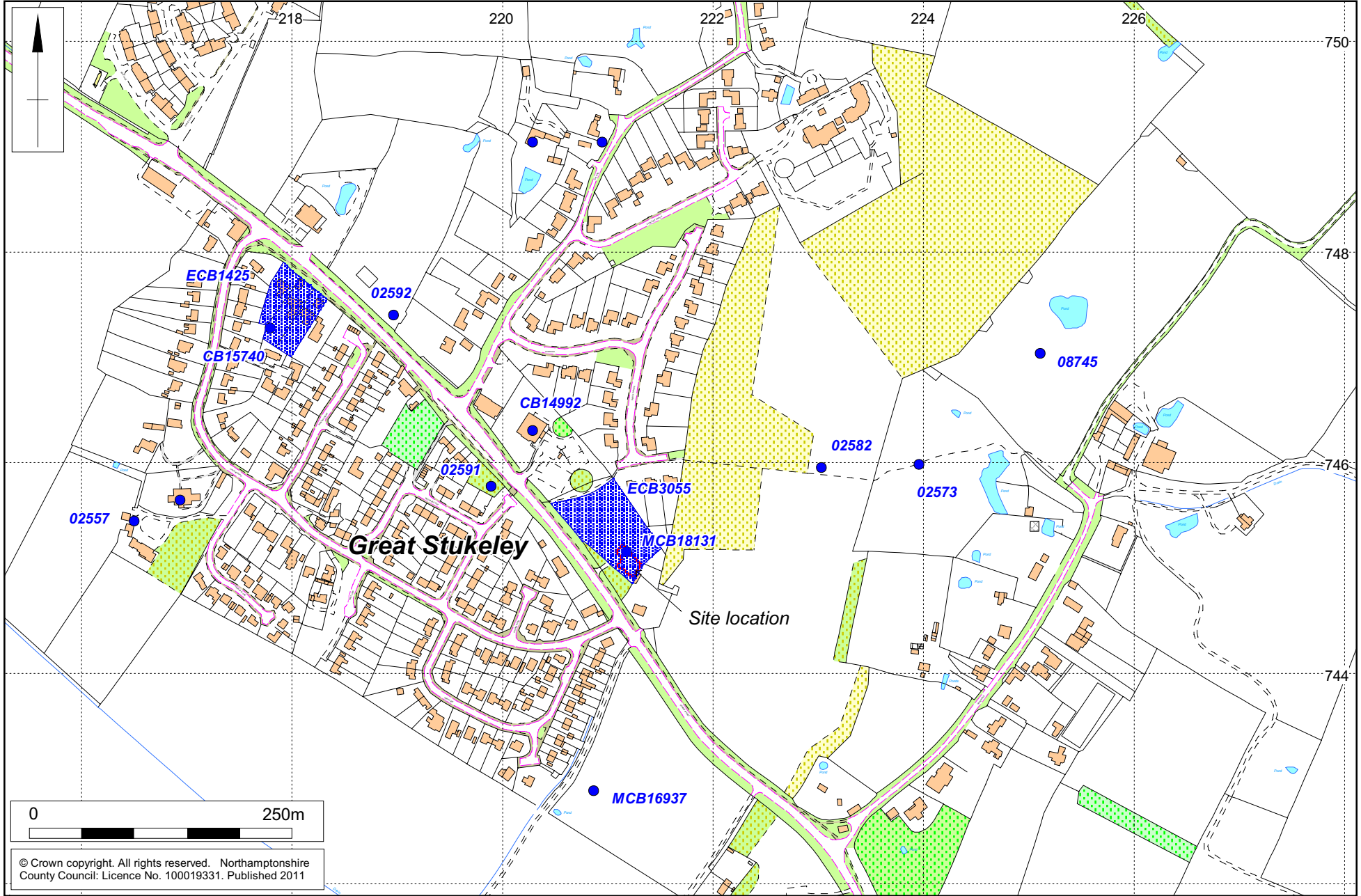
Historic Environment Record

A search of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) of an area within a 500m radius of the site, revealed a number of records relating to sites, from the Roman period through to the present day (Fig 2, Table 1).

The site lies on the eastern side of Ermine Street (HER No CB 15034) the Roman Road between the former Roman towns of Godmanchester to the south and Water Newton to the north, (ultimately Ermine Street goes between London and York). Located along side Ermine Street to the north of the site are two Roman roadside burial mounds (HER Nos 2591 SM 33352 and 2592 SM 33351).

Scale 1:5000

Historic Environment Data Fig 2



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Table 1: Historic Environment Record data

HER No	Monument type	Monument period	Notes
2558	Roman coins	Roman	Find spot no further information
2591 SM 33352	Burial mound	Roman	
2592 SM 33351	Burial mound	Roman	
CB 15034	Ermine Street	Roman	
MCB 18131	Late Saxon/early medieval activity	Saxon/early medieval	Oxford Archaeology East 2008 evaluation, see below
MCB 16937	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Gone by 1966
8745	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	
2582	Building platform	Medieval	
2573	Mound (building platform?)	Medieval?	
2557	Medieval gravestones	Medieval	
CB 14992	Church	13th century-modern	
CB 15740	Ditch	Undated	Archaeological evaluation at the rear of 2 Ermine street

Previous archaeological work

An archaeological evaluation undertaken by Oxford Archaeology East during October 2008 on the site discovered evidence for archaeological remains dating from the mid 11th century. These included a possible hollow way lying at right angles to Ermine Street, within which was identified layers of burnt material. Also observed were a number of earth-cut features containing late Saxon/early medieval pottery (Lyons 2008).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The objective of the work was to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

Relevant research themes contained in the following documents were important considerations:

- Research and archaeology: A framework for the Eastern Counties: 1 Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997)
- Research and archaeology: A framework for the Eastern Counties: 2 Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000)
- Revised regional research framework for the Eastern Region (Medlycott and Brown 2008)

Specific research priorities were:

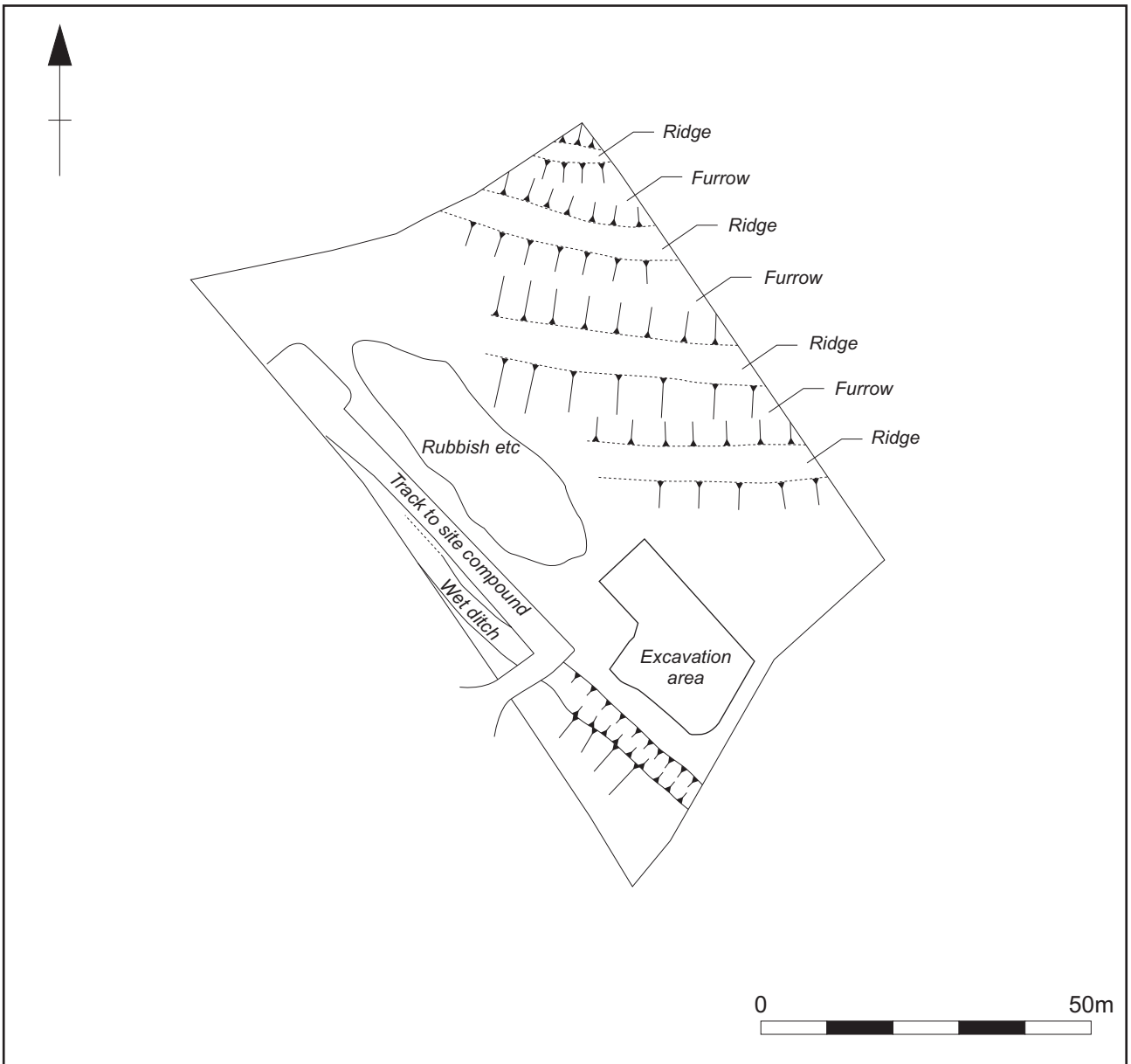
- To characterise the nature of the rural Saxon settlement
- To examine potential change of land use in the early medieval period
- To model the landscape and its transformation through time.

A Level 1 (EH 2007) earthwork walkover survey of approximately 0.5 hectares was undertaken which focused on the ridge and furrow earthworks located within the development area. The survey comprised the annotating of base plans and obtaining photographs and descriptions of the features in the immediate landscape.

The open area of 0.1ha took place within the southern portion of the development area, the position of which was plotted using a Leica 1200 system GPS. The overburden was removed by a 20 ton 360° excavator, using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision, to expose the uppermost horizon of archaeological remains or, where absent, the upper interface of geological deposits.

Archaeological excavation and recording followed the guidelines outlined in the NA *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2006). Each feature or deposit was given a unique number. The details of each context were recorded on pro-forma sheets. The excavation area was cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features and a base plan was drawn at 1:50. Individual features were sampled by hand to determine their date and character (a minimum of 50% of discrete features and 25% of linear features). Levels, which were related to Ordnance Datum, were taken at appropriate points, on section datum and on all major features. The excavation area was related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record was made of the excavation, using 35mm black and white negative film, supplemented by digital images.

All works were carried out accordance with the *Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct* (1985, revised 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation* (1995, revised 2008). All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.



Scale 1:1000

Earthwork survey Fig 3

4 EARTHWORK SURVEY

The walkover earthwork survey identified four degraded ridges and furrows surviving on the north-eastern side of the development area, outside of the area of the excavation (Fig 3). The western part of the site had been partially stripped for a compound and part of it was under a pile of uprooted scrub, although no earthworks appeared to survive towards these areas. There were also traces surviving of the 2008 Oxford Archaeology East evaluation trenches, excavations to find the water pipe and geological test pits and the associated wheel ruts from the machines which carried out these works.

The ridges were very broad and the furrows shallow. The distances between the ridge centres were c12m to c15m, and the ridges survived no higher than c0.5m above the base of the furrows. The ridge and furrow was aligned broadly east-west (Fig 4).



General view of ridge and furrow, looking west Fig 4

In the field immediately to the east of the site there was extensive survival of ridge and furrow earthworks and building platforms with a possible trackway. These earthworks survive within the former Stukeley Park and are recognised in the HER as 02582, 02573 and 08745 (Fig 2)

5 EXCAVATION

The area of the excavation had to be altered due to site constraints; the north-eastern edge of the excavation area was brought in c2m to avoid a 12 inch Anglian Water water main, whilst the south western part of the site was moved in as part of the area fell within the current roadside ditch. A section was removed from the north-west part of the excavation area to allow access into the development area (Fig 5).

The site is characterised by a four gullies aligned north-west to south-west and a number of pits and postholes, overlain by a layer of colluvium, which built up due to increased cultivation. The postholes may have been elements of three separate timber structures.

5.1 Gullies

Four very shallow gullies, aligned north-west to south-west followed the direction of slope down the site to the south-east (Figs 5 and 6), cutting the dark yellow-brown sandy clay natural (03).

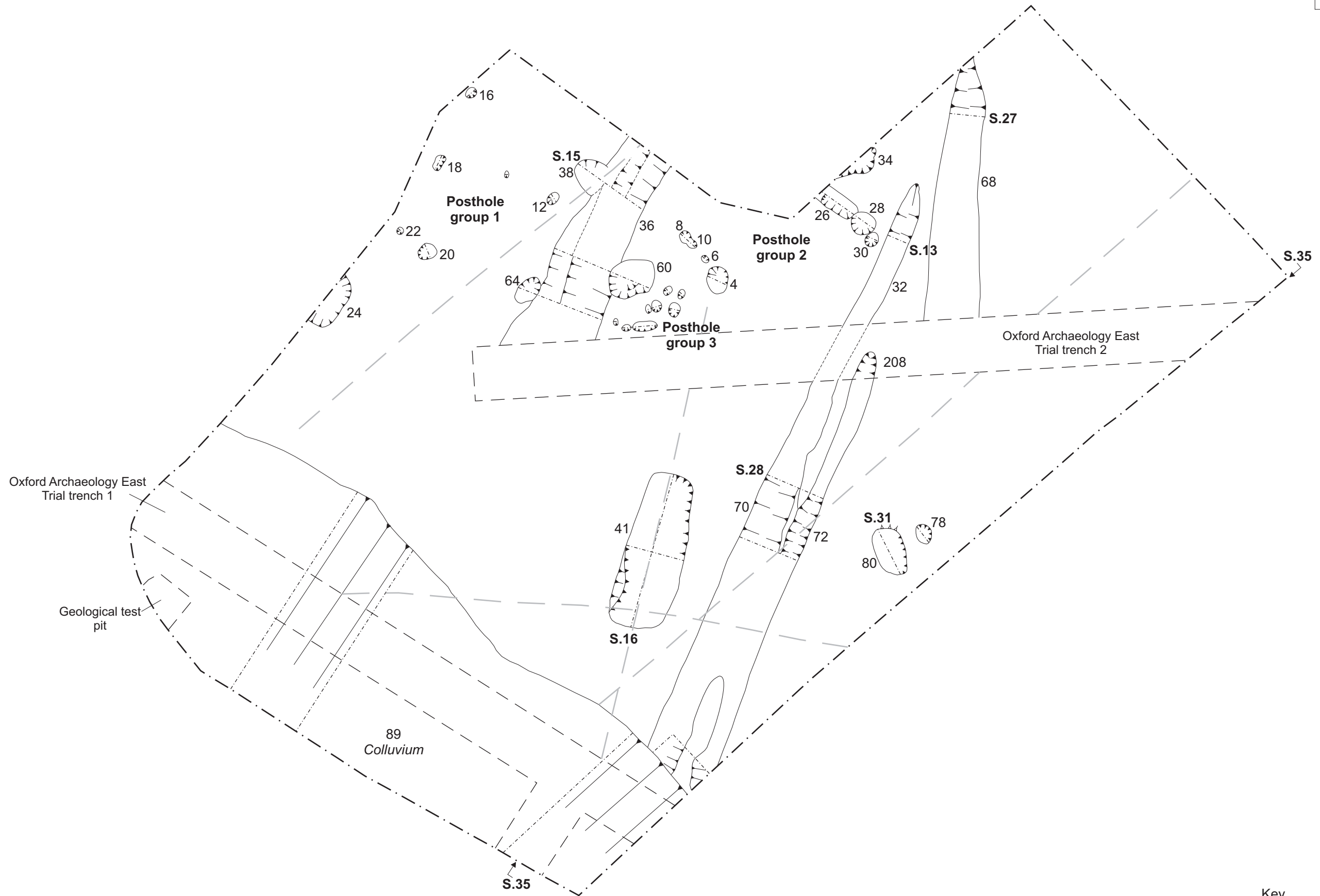
Gullies [36] and [68] were both very shallow and were not observed in the Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) trial trench or to the south-east side of it. Gully [32] was also not observed in the OAE trench but it was observed continuing on its south-eastern side. Gully [72] was observed in the OAE trench and was given the number (208) and described as a beam slot.

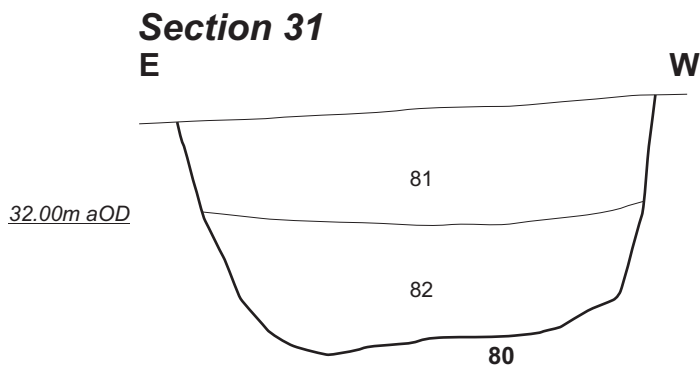
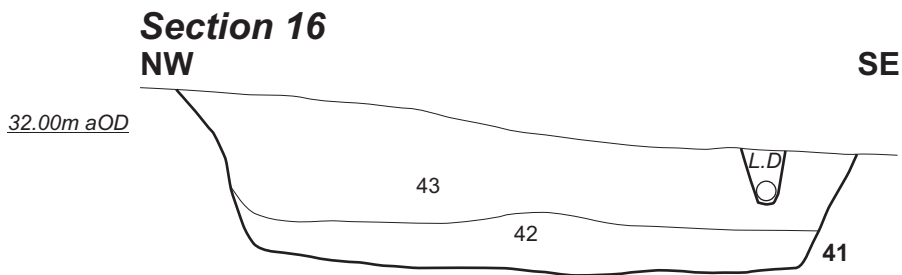
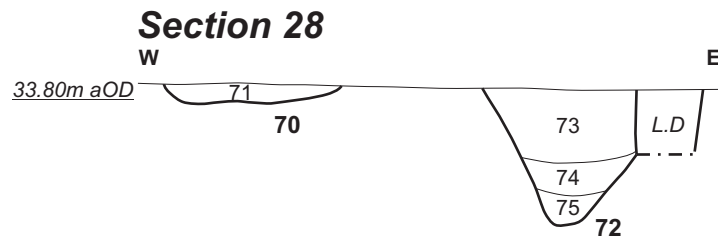
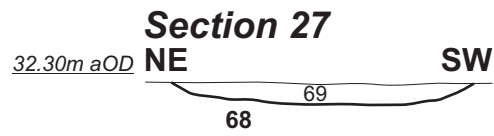
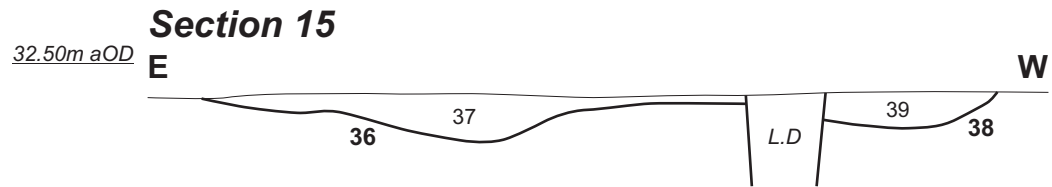
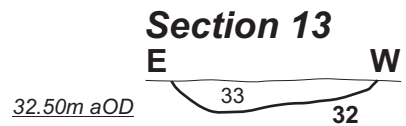
Gully [32] was dated by pottery to the 11th century and gully [36] was dated to the 12th century, although as the amounts of pottery recovered were quite small it is likely that these gullies with [72] were broadly contemporary as they share a common north-west to south-east alignment. Gully [32] had been in use long enough to have had a further gully cut alongside it [72].

Gully [68] was on a slightly different alignment to the other three gullies, being aligned west-north-west to south-east-south, suggesting that it may represent an earlier or later phase of activity.

The fills of the gullies consisted of a firm mid grey-brown silty sandy clay. The environmental sample from the fill (37) of gully [36] was charcoal rich and had 21 wheat/barley grains in it.

The gullies may be the remnants of drainage channels. There was no clear relationship with the colluvium in the south-eastern part of the site and the gullies. However, the general stratigraphy as seen in Section 35 (Fig 7) would suggest that the layer of colluvium overlies most of the south-eastern part of the site, including the gullies.

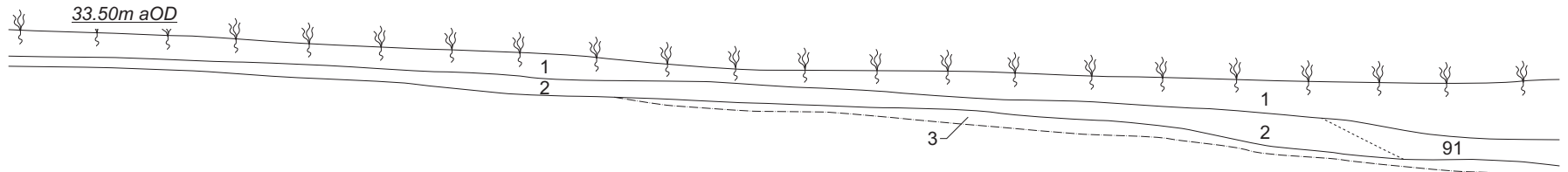




Section 35

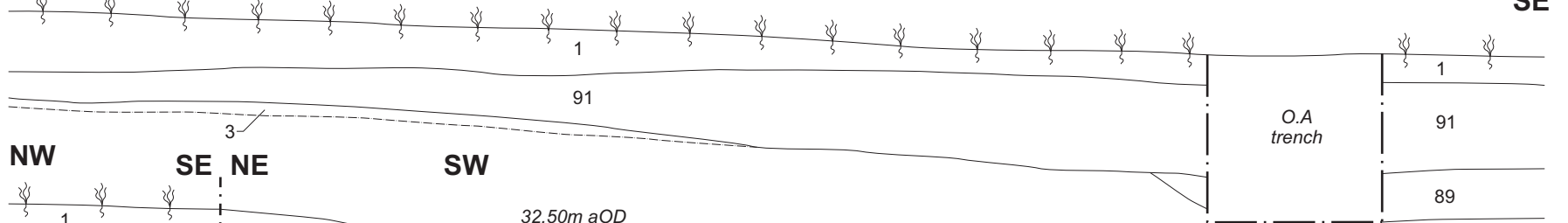
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SE



NW

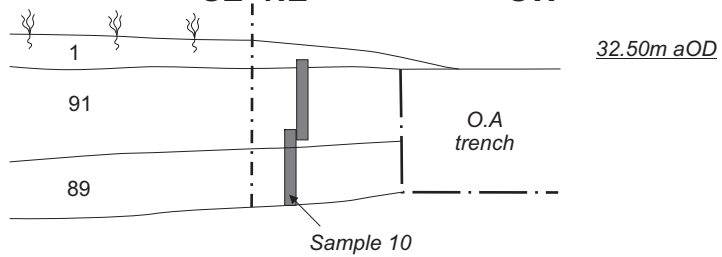
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NW

SE NE

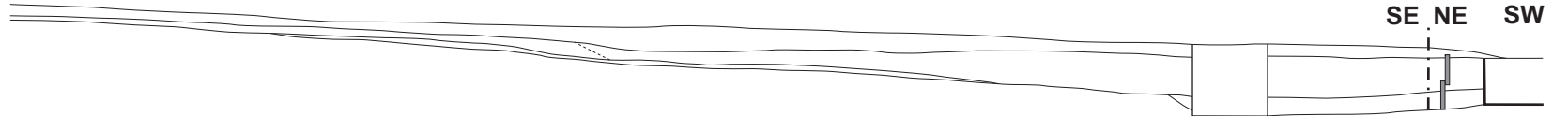
SW



Section 35

NW

SE NE SW



5.2 Postholes

Posthole group 1 (Fig 5, Table 2)

This group of postholes was in the western part of the site. Only one posthole was dated to the Late Saxon period by one small sherd of pottery and therefore cannot be taken as an absolute date for the feature or for the group of postholes, as the other elements of the group were undated.

This group of postholes was on the western edge of the excavation area, it was not therefore possible to suggest if they formed part of a structure, or a fence line.

The fills of the postholes consisted of a firm dark grey sandy clay with orange flecks, the fill (21) of posthole [20] was rich in charcoal and seeds, including breadwheat, wheat, naked and hulled barley, wheat/barley and oats.

Table 2: Posthole group 1

Context/feature	Profile	Length	Width/diameter	Depth	Date
13/12	Shallow U		0.25m	0.05m	Undated
15/14	Shallow U		0.16m	0.05m	Undated
17/16	Shallow U		0.30m	0.16m	Undated
19/18	Flat base	0.40m	0.28m	0.10m	Undated
21/20	Flat base, near vertical sides		0.35m	0.28	Late Saxon
23/22	Flat base, near vertical sides		0.23m	0.18m	Undated

Posthole group 2 (Fig 5, Table 3)

This posthole group was located in the north-western part of the site and includes a possible beam slot [26]. Three of the features, (including OAE 208), were dated suggesting a 12th century date for this group. The elements may form part of a post and beam built structure with the full extent of the structure lying outside the north-western limit of the excavation area.

The fills of the postholes were as those of posthole group 1. The fills (27) of the beam slot [26] and (29) of posthole [28], were very charcoal rich with 1000+ fragments being present in the beam slot. The beam slot was rich in wheat with 296 seeds being identified.



Beam slot [26] and posthole [28]

Fig 8

Table 3: Posthole group 2

Context/feature	Profile	Length	Width/diameter	Depth	Date
05/04	Shallow U	0.70m	0.40m	0.18m	Undated
07/06	Flat base, near vertical sides		0.34m	0.10m	Undated
09/08	U-shaped	0.50m	0.30m	0.28m	Undated
11/10	Flat base, near vertical sides		0.30m	0.10m	12th century
27/26	Flat base, near vertical sides	>0.96m	0.48m	0.30m	12th century
29/28	Shallow U		0.84m	0.19m	
31/30	Near vertical west side shallow sloping east side with flat base		0.25m	0.10m	Undated
205/206 (Oxford East numbers)	Shallow U		c0.50m	0.22m	12th century

Posthole group 3 (Fig 5, Table 4)

This group of postholes was located immediately to the south of posthole group 2. All of these features were undated and quite shallow. It was not possible to identify any form or structure to this group.

The fills of the postholes were as those of posthole group 1.

Table 4: Posthole group 3

Context/feature	Profile	Length	Width/diameter	Depth	Date
45/44	U-shaped		0.15m	0.10m	Undated
47/46	U-shaped		0.15m	0.10m	Undated
49/48	U-shaped		0.25m	0.16m	Undated
51/50	U-shaped		0.20m	0.06m	Undated
53/52	Flat base, near vertical west side stepped east side		0.26m	0.16	Undated
55/54	Shallow with flat base	0.54m	0.25m	0.08m	Undated
57/56	Shallow with flat base		0.28m	0.05m	Undated
59/58	Flat base, with near vertical sides		0.17m	0.05m	Undated

5.3 Pits

The pits on the site can be divided into two types, those with steep near vertical sides and dark black grey silty clay fills and those with shallow curving profiles with mid grey sandy clay fills (Figs 5, 6 and 9).

Pit [41] in the south-eastern part of the site was sub-rectangular in plan, 4.52m long by 1.64m wide by c1m deep (Fig 6, Section 16). The sides of the pit were steep/near vertical; (the pit was not fully excavated by hand due to the ingress of water). The primary fill of the pit (42) consisted of a loose orange-grey sandy silt layer c0.28m thick, which probably derived from material collapsing back in after the pit had been excavated. The principal fill (43), consisted of a firm dark grey-black sandy clay, containing frequent charcoal flecks. The pottery from this layer dated the backfilling of the pit to the 12th century. This pit had 140 breadwheat seeds and 172 hulled barley seeds, with pulses also being present in high numbers.



Pit [41]

Fig 9

Pit [80] (Fig 6, Section 31) on the eastern side of the excavation area was a similar shape to pit [41], but with smaller proportions, 1.3m long by 0.75m wide by 0.62m deep. This pit also had steep near vertical sides. The primary fill of the pit (82), consisted of firm dark grey-black sandy clay 0.32m thick, this was overlain by a firm dark grey sandy clay (81). The pottery recovered from the primary fill would suggest that it was backfilled in the 11th century. The pit contained a large quantity of charcoal, breadwheat, hulled barley, wheat/barley and oats, in addition to quantities of pulses. The single quern fragment from the site also came from this feature.

Pit [60] was sub-circular in plan, 1.2m in diameter by 0.38m deep, and cut gully [36]. The pit had a V-shaped profile with a curving base. The secondary and upper fill of the pit (62) and (63) contained frequent charcoal flecks in the dark grey sandy clay fills. This pit was dated by pottery to the 11th century, but as it cut the 12th-century gully [36] the pottery was residual, which may suggest that those other features dated to this period may also contain residual pottery. The fill of the pit contained large quantities of charcoal, breadwheat and hulled barley. This feature also contained quantities of pulses.

The remaining pits had shallow U-shaped profiles and were filled with a firm mid to dark grey sandy clay with few inclusions.

5.4 Colluvium layer

At some point in the 12th century the site would appear to have gone out of use and a layer of dark grey-brown silty clay colluvium (89) formed over the southern part of the site. The full extent of this layer can be observed in Section 35 (Fig 7). The colluvium layer was likely formed by tillage up slope, with material being washed down slope to form the layer. The layer contained frequent charcoal, bread wheat, wheat and barley grains which are likely to have derived from the activity observed by the pits, postholes and gullies up slope. Within the colluvium (89) was a lense of burnt clay (90), this lens was very charcoal rich and contained 44 cereal grains. The colluvium was overlain by a c0.50m thick layer of dark grey-brown sandy silt loam (91), this layer was split into two contexts during post excavation work (See section 7). The lower part of the layer was a sandy in wash overlain by a further layer of colluvium, which in turn was overlain by a dark brown sandy silt loam topsoil (01).

6 FINDS

6.1 Flint by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

Two pieces of worked flint were recovered, comprising two flakes. They were recovered as residual finds from a 12th-century context.

The flint was in a good condition with post-depositional edge damage consisting of the occasional nick. The patination on one flake was a slight white discolouration of the surface. The flints were a vitreous light brown and mid brown-grey colour, with a light brown coloured cortex. The source of the raw material was possibly local gravel flint.

The worked flint is not directly dateable.

6.2 Fired clay by Pat Chapman

There are ten small fragments of irregularly-shaped fired clay, weighing 52g, from three contexts. Four fragments from context (43) feature [41] and the only one from context (37) feature [36] are hard orange-brown clay with tiny shell inclusions, one with a flat surface. The two fragments from context (82) of pit [80] and one from context (43) of pit [41] are softer red-brown clay with tiny grog and gravel inclusions. One very hard blackened fragment and one hard white fragment come from context (43). These are just random debris.

6.3 The pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 141 sherds with a total weight of 890g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 0.37. It was entirely early medieval in date, with the bulk of the assemblage dating to the 12th century.

Analytical methodology

The pottery was initially bulk-sorted and recorded on a computer using DBase IV software. The material from each context was recorded by number and weight of sherds per fabric type, with featureless body sherds of the same fabric counted, weighed and recorded as one database entry. Feature sherds such as rims, bases and lugs were individually recorded, with individual codes used for the various types. Decorated sherds were similarly treated. In the case of the rim sherds, the form, diameter in mm and the percentage remaining of the original complete circumference was all recorded. This figure was summed for each fabric type to obtain the estimated vessel equivalent (EVE).

The terminology used is that defined by the Medieval Pottery Research Group's Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms (MPRG 1998) and to the minimum standards laid out in the Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of post-roman Ceramics (MPRG 2001). All the statistical analyses were carried out using a DBase package written by the author, which interrogated the original or subsidiary databases, with some of the final calculations made with an electronic calculator. Any statistical analyses were carried out to the minimum standards suggested by Orton (1998-9, 135-7).

Fabrics

The following fabrics were noted:

F100: **St Neots Ware type T1(1)** cAD900-1100 (Denham 1985). Fabric moderate to dense finely crushed fossil shell, with varying quantities of quartz and/or ironstone. Usually purplish-black, black or grey, with fairly fine, dense inclusions. Main forms small jars with sagging bases, although a few lamps are known. 5 sherds, 8g, EVE = 0.

F102: **Thetford-type ware**, 10th–12th centuries (Rogerson and Dallas 1984) Range of reduced, wheel-thrown and hand-finished fabrics mainly comprising quartz sand up to 1mm. Produced at many centres in eastern England, although most of these appear to be the products of the eponymous Norfolk centre. 3 sherds, 28g, EVE = 0.

F200: **St. Neots Ware type T1(2)** cAD1000-1200 (Denham 1985). Wheel-thrown. Fabric as other types, although inclusions tend to be sparser, larger and more ill-sorted, usually weak to strong red, reddish-brown or black. Vessels usually jars, some with thumbled applied strips, 'Top Hat' vessels, large, upright rimmed bowls, lamps and (rarely) pitchers. 46 sherds, 170g, EVE = 0.11.

F205: **Stamford Ware** (Kilmurry 1980). cAD900-1200. Wheel-thrown. White, pink, buff or grey fabric, usually with sparse to dense quartz up to 0.5mm, occasional black or red ironstone up to 1mm. Often glazed with yellow, pale or sage green glaze. 8 sherds, 26g, EVE = 0.

F301: **Huntingdonshire Early Medieval Ware**, mid 11th to 12th centuries (Spoerry 2008,71): Generic name for a quartz sand and calcareous tempered group of pottery fabrics. 51 sherds, 416g, EVE = 0.20.

F330: **Shelly Coarseware**, AD1100-1400 (McCarthy 1979). Products of numerous known and very probably many unknown kilns on the Jurassic limestone of west Northamptonshire/east Bedfordshire. Pale buff through virtually all colours to black, moderate to dense shelly limestone fragments up to 3mm, and any amount of ironstone, quartz and flint. Full range of medieval vessel types, especially jars and bowls, and 'Top Hat' jars. 24 sherds, 226g, EVE = 0.06.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 5. The range of fabric types is typical of sites of the period in the area, and has many parallels (eg Spoerry 2008, 71).

Chronology and quantitative analysis

Each context-specific pottery assemblage was given a seriated phase date, based on the range of fabric types present. The details are shown in Table 6. The data indicate very strongly that there was little activity at the site before the 12th century, and despite the presence of possible late Saxon wares, a case can be made that there was no activity before the Norman Conquest, other than that represented by the two residual sherds of Romano-British pottery.

All the Stamford Ware from the site is glazed, a technique which the potters of the tradition did not use widely until after the middle of the 11th century (Kilmurry 1980, fig. 28). The fact that Thetford Ware is almost entirely absent from the site, other than a single very small and abraded sherd from the Oxford Archaeology East evaluation (Lyons 2008), also suggests very strongly that there was little activity before AD1100, as the material is ubiquitous on 10th and 11th-century sites in the area (Spoerry 2008, 71). The sherds of T1(1) St Neots Ware could indicate low-level late Saxon activity, but such pottery was still in use in the second half of the 11th century, and could be of such date. The few sherds from this site are small and abraded, but the ware in question is very soft and friable, and often is represented by only small sherds even well-stratified. For example, at Raunds Langham Road, Northamptonshire, the large assemblage of St. Neots ware from the late Saxon features had a mean sherd weight of just c5g (Blinkhorn 2009, fig. 6.17), which was little different to that of the same material when residual in medieval contexts. The data in Table 6 also show that there is virtually no residual St Neots Ware or other late Saxon pottery in the medieval contexts, which suggests very strongly that there was no destruction of late Saxon strata by later activity.

It is also very likely that occupation at the site ended in the early years of the 13th century. Glazed wares, such as Grimston Ware, Ely Ware and Stanion Ware, are entirely absent, despite being reasonably common on sites of the period in the area (Spoerry 2008, 70-2). Overall, it would seem that medieval activity at the site dates to the period AD1050–1200 and may even have been entirely limited to the post-Conquest period.

Table 5: Ceramic phase-dating and pottery occurrence per phase

Phase	Chronology	Defining Wares	No	Wt g	EVE	Mean Sherd Wt (g)
LS	900-1000	F100	2	4	0	2.0g
CP1	1000-1050	F205, F200	11	61	0.07	5.5g
CP2	1050-1100	F301	2	42	0	21.0g
CP3	1100-1200	F330	126	783	0.30	6.2g

Table 6: Pottery occurrence per phase by fabric type

Phase	F100	F102	F200	F205	F301	F330	Total Wt
LS	100%	0	-	-	-	-	4g
CP1	0	0	91.8%	3.3%	-	-	61g
CP2	0	0	0	0	100%	-	42g
CP3	0.5%	3.6%	14.6%	3.1%	47.8%	28.9%	783g

The assemblage

The assemblage is in reasonable condition, comprising largely unworn sherds. The mean sherd size for the main period of activity (7.1g) is rather low and indicates that the bulk of the assemblage is likely to be the product of secondary deposition.

Most of the material comprises unglazed plain bodysherds, other than the Stamford Ware, and a few rimsherds. Of the latter, just six were noted, five from jars and one from a large Shelly Ware (fabric F330) bowl, a fairly common form in that tradition. Two of the jar rims were in F200, two in F301 and the other in F330. One of the F301 rimsherds had an incised wavy line on the outside of the neck, and a body sherd in the same fabric with the same decoration, although from a different vessel, was also noted. These are the only decorated sherds, other than a fragment of a storage jar in the same fabric with a thumbled applied strip. Jugs were not obviously represented, other than the fact that some of the glazed Stamford Ware sherds are likely to be from pitchers. It is a typical assemblage of the period, and appears to be of an entirely domestic nature.

Table 7: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	RB		F100		F102		F200		F205		F301		F330		
Fill/cut	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
11/10			1	2									1	1	12thC
21/20			1	2											LS?
27/26							4	21							11thC
29/28							1	6							11thC
35/34			1	2											LS?
37/36							2	2	1	4	9	62	5	27	12thC
39/38									1	2	1	9	1	8	12thC
43/41	2	11			3	28	30	100	2	3	35	291	14	161	12thC
61/60									1	2					11thC
62/60											1	1			M11thC
82/80	1	3					4	29							11thC
89 layer	1	2	2	2			5	12	3	15	4	12	3	29	12thC
91 layer											1	41			M11thC
Total	4	15	5	8	3	28	46	170	8	26	51	416	24	226	

6.4 The metalworking debris by Andy Chapman

Three features produced small quantities of metalworking debris, weighing 1.36kg (Table 8). Both the fill (37) of gully [36] and the fill (43) of pit [41] produced a few larger pieces, measuring up to 60mm long. These are not specifically diagnostic but they are all dense ferrous slags and some pieces have quite fluid surfaces. One piece in particular has some of the characteristics of tap slag, but appears to be part of a flow within rather than

outside a furnace. It is suggested, therefore, that the debris is probably from iron smelting rather than smithing.

Table 8: Quantification of metalworking debris

Fill/cut	Number	Weight (g)	Comments
37/36	2	325	Miscellaneous, dense and fluid
43/41	3	980	Miscellaneous, dense and fluid
89 layer	1	55	Miscellaneous
Total	7	1360	

6.5 Querns by Andy Chapman

There is a small fragment of grey vesicular lava, measuring 30x28x26mm and weighing 30g, from the fill (82) of pit [80], which probably comes from a rotary quern. The use of lava from the Eifel region of Germany, near the Belgium border, for the manufacturing of querns was common during the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods and continued into the medieval period.

6.6 Other finds by Tora Hylton

Eleven small finds were recovered during the excavations. With the exception of a Roman coin from topsoil (01) and a post-medieval shoe buckle from subsoil (02), all the finds were recovered from stratified contexts and are medieval in date.

Roman by Ian Meadows

A single copper alloy minim was recovered from topsoil (01). The coin measures 9mm in diameter, it has not been struck well and the surface detail is not clear because of corrosion deposits, especially on the reverse. On the obverse three spikes suggestive of a radiate crown can be discerned and indicating this piece was based upon a late 3rd century prototype.

Medieval

Nine finds were recovered from medieval deposits. Five relate to the use of horses, one may be part of a lead badge and three are undiagnostic fragments (two possible nail shanks and one strap fragment).

Finds relating to the use of horses include a horseshoe, three horseshoe nails and part of a buckle. The horseshoe was recovered from colluvium deposits (89), and although complete, corrosion deposits make dating difficult. The size of the horseshoe (120mm x 120mm) and the presence of tapered heels, one with a 'thickened heel' calkin (cf, Clark 1995, fig 59, a), suggests that typologically the shoe is medieval in date. The horseshoe nails were recovered from Gully [36] and Pit [41], one is a complete fiddle-key nail with a semi-circular head and the other two have flat T-shaped heads; the latter are probably examples of worn fiddle key nails (ibid 1995, 86). Finally, part of an iron buckle with D-shaped frame (Length: 26mm Width: 42mm) was recovered from pit [80]. Iron buckles of this type are generally assumed to have been used as heavy duty strap buckles for harness fittings etc.

A small fragment of cast lead measuring 23mm x 21mm was recovered from colluvium deposits [89]. Although incomplete, this 'lozenge-shaped' fragment may represent part of a pilgrim souvenir, which originally may have been in the shape of a cross. The underside of the fragment is flat and the upper surface is decorated with a motif comprising a centrally placed ring and pellet in relief, within a 'lozenge-shaped' frame, further pellets are visible in the corners. The use of pilgrim souvenirs and secular badges flourished in a 14th and 15th centuries but examples of the former are known from the mid 12th and 13th century.

Post-medieval

Part of a metal alloy shoe buckle was recovered from subsoil (02). Stylistically the buckle dates to c1720-1790. The frame is sub-rectangular with rounded corners; the short side of the frame is perforated, for retaining a separate spindle which would have supported the chape and tongue. The frame is decorated with a moulded groove and circle motif.

6.7 Animal bone by Karen Deighton

A total of 1.4kg of animal bone was collected by hand from 10 contexts during the course of excavation. This material was assessed to determine the level of preservation, the taxa present, to aid the understanding of the site.

Identifiable bones were noted. Ageable and measurable bones (after Von Den Driesch 1976) were also noted. Ageable elements included cheek tooth rows where tooth eruption and wear can be assessed (Payne 1973 for sheep/goat), bones where the state of epiphyseal fusion is apparent (Silver 1969). Elements for sexing were pig canines (Schmid 1972). Hand collected bones had previously been washed. Material from sieved samples was included (sieve sizes 1mm, 2mm and 3.4mm).

Results

Fragmentation was moderate and largely the result of old breaks. Bone surface abrasion was also moderate. Nine examples of canid gnawing were noted, which could attest to the presence of dogs/foxes at the site. Two possible examples of butchery were noted one was consistent with dismembering (knife marks concentrated around the distal epiphysis of a cattle humerus) and the other with chopping. Evidence for burning was noted from contexts (43) pit [41] and (62) pit [60].

The taxa present

Table 9: Taxa by context

Fill/cut	Feature	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse	Chicken	L.ung	S.ung	Total
35/34	pit		1						1
37/36	gully	1							1
43/41	pit	6	4		1	1			12
61/60	pit	1							1
82/80	pit		1	1				1	3
87/86	gully	2		1			1		4
89	layer	2							2
91	layer	3		1					4
Total		15	6	3	1	1	1	1	28

Contexts 13 and 79 produced indeterminate bone fragments only

Table 10: Ageing and metrical data

Taxon	Tooth eruption and wear	Epiphyseal fusion	Neonates/juveniles	Sexing	Measurements
Cattle		8			4
Sheep/goat	1		1		
Pig		1		1	

Table 11: Sieved material

Fill/cut	Sample	Weight (g)	Cattle	S/G	Pig	S.ung	Amphibian	Total
43/41	1	261	1	3	4	4	1	13
62/60	2	6		1				1
82/80	3	35			3		1	4
27/26	4	3		1				1
29/28	5	3		1				1
89 layer	8	124			2			2
Total		432	1	6	9	4	2	22

Marine shell

A single oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell was recovered from context 43. This was a very large, regular shaped upper valve with ribbing. Ornamentation such as ribbing can be indicative of growth in shallow water and large regular shaped valves can suggest cultivation. However, these statements are tentative with regards to the current assemblage due to the small amount of material involved.

Discussion

The mixed nature of the assemblage both in terms of taxa and anatomical parts suggests the origin to have been kitchen waste. A possible concentration of bone was noted in context (43) the fill of pit [41], suggesting the pit to have been used for waste disposal.

Little can be added to the understanding of the site due to the small size of the assemblage, however, it can be said that a small range of common domesticates were associated with the site and the taxa present are typical for the medieval period.

Finally it is interesting to note that almost as many identifications (44% compared with 56%) were made from material recovered from sieving as from material recovered by hand. Unsurprisingly the smaller ungulates were better represented in the sieved assemblage.

6.8 Environmental evidence by Karen Deighton

A total of nine samples were collected by hand from a range of contexts during the course of excavation. This material was processed and assessed to determine the presence, preservation and nature of any ecofacts.

The samples were processed using a modified siraf tank fitted with a 250micron mesh and flot sieve. The resulting flots and residues were dried. The flots were then sorted with the aid of a stereoscopic microscope (10x magnification) and residues were scanned. Samples 1 and 2 were subsampled due to the large amount of charred material present. Any charred plant remains were identified with the aid of the author's reference collection, Cappers *et al* (2006) and Jacomet (1996) and the SCRI website. Molluscs were identified with the aid of Cameron and Kerney (1994).

Results

Preservation was solely by charring. Fragmentation and surface abrasion were at a low level.

Taxonomic distribution

Table 12 Ecofacts by context

Fill/cut	43/41	62/60	82/80	26/27	28/29	21/20	37/36	89	90
Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Feature	pit	pit	pit	post slot	posthole	posthole	gully	layer	lens
Date	C12th	C11th	C11th						
Volume litres	80	20	40	10	10	10	10	40	10
Charcoal	100	100	1000+	1000+	200	200	100	1000+	100 0+
Breadwheat <i>Triticum aestivum</i>	140 (1120)	35 (140)	232	33	45	28	1	64	4
Breadwheat/spelt <i>T.aestivum/spelta</i>	12 (96)			1					
Wheat <i>Triticum sp</i>				296		150		203	
Naked barley <i>H. vulgare var. nudum</i>	4 (32)		5	4		3		3	
Hulled barley <i>H.vulgare</i>	172 (1376)	54 (216)	22	16	40	14		11	3
Wheat/barley <i>Triticum/Hordeum</i>			58	5		38	21	25	35
Oat <i>Avena sativa</i>			14	2		3		3	1
Cereal indet			47	32				13	1
Total cereal	328 (2624)	89 (356)	375	389	85	248	21	322	44
Pos celtic bean <i>Faba sp</i>	3 (24)		2						
Possible pea <i>Cf Pisum sativum</i>	27 (216)	8 (32)	24	1		4		11	
Large pulse <i>Leguminosae sp</i>		1 (4)							
Small pulse <i>Leguminosae sp</i>	23 (184)	8 (32)	23	5	3	12		14	1
Vetch <i>Vicia sp</i>	1 (8)					1		3	
Total pulse	54 (432)	17 (68)	50	6	3	17		28	1
Fat hen <i>Chenopodium album</i>		2 (8)		1		4	1		1
Sheep sorrel <i>Rumex acetocella</i>				8	3	1			
Stinking mayweed <i>Anthemis cotula</i>	2 (16)		2	1	2	3			

Fill/cut	43/41	62/60	82/80	26/27	28/29	21/20	37/36	89	90
Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Feature	pit	pit	pit	post slot	posthole	posthole	gully	layer	lens
Date	C12th	C11th	C11th						
Volume litres	80	20	40	10	10	10	10	40	10
Chickweed <i>Stella medaria</i>				1					
Speedwell <i>Veronica sp</i>	2 (16)				2	1			
Nipplewort <i>Lapsana communis</i>		1 (4)							
Buckwheat family <i>Polygonaceae</i>			3						
Nutshell <i>Corylus sp</i>	1 (8)	1 (4)	1						
indet	1 (8)				4				
Total wild	6 (48)	4 (16)	6	11	11	9	1		1
Total seed	388 (3104)	110 (440)	431	406	99	274	22	350	46
Items/litre soil	38.8	22	17.7	40.6	9.9	27.4	2.2	8.75	4.6
Terrestrial molluscs									
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>									1
<i>Euconulus fulvus</i>		1	1					7	1
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i>		1	1						3
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>			8	4			2	27	
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>			2					7	
Indet	1	6	4	1			2	4	16
Total mollusc	1	8	15	5			4	45	20
Small mammal		4	2						

Figures in brackets are estimated

Discussion

The absence of chaff, dominance of cereal grains and the low number of wild/weed taxa suggest a late stage in crop processing (ie a crop prepared for use or storage). The most likely explanation would appear to be that the features had been used for refuse disposal after they had fallen into disuse.

Hulled barley and breadwheat are the dominant cereal types and both are expected for the medieval period. The low numbers of oat grains noted could suggest it was present as a wild contaminant rather than grown as a crop. The presence of peas and beans could suggest these were grown and stored along with the cereal crops as a maslin. Edible pulses were a cheap source of protein and acted as soil nitrogen fixers (thus improving soil fertility).

The wild taxa present are all crop weeds, although fat hen can be ground for flour in times of economic stress and its leaves eaten. All the wild taxa noted are annual with the exception of sheep sorrel which is a perennial; however, the seeds are too few in number to permit comment on crop regimes.

Mollusc taxa of both damp sheltered habitats (e.g. *C. lubrica*, *D. rotundatus*) and dry calcareous environments (e.g. *V. excentrica*, *P. muscorum*) were present. Snails are too few in number and range of taxa to allow any firm statements on the local environment to be made.

7 GEOARCHAEOLOGY by Mike Allen

Two overlapping monoliths (sample 10) taken through a colluvial sequence (including the natural (03), colluvium (89), (91) and the topsoil (01)) by the excavators was provided for description and geoarchaeological reporting. Sedimentological and pedological description was undertaken to provide a geoarchaeological record and define an outline land use history.

7.1 Site background

The geology is recorded as Kellaways Formation and Oxford Clay formation (undifferentiated)–mudstone, siltstone and sandstone–which support typical calcareous pelosols of the Evesham 3 Hanson Association and typical brown earths of the Swaffham Prior Association.

The colluvium (Fig 7, Section 35) lies at the flookslope, and the slope above has three very shallow gullies running down slope, and a number of pits and postholes; one of the posthole groups could form a building. The pottery evidence would suggest that this activity dates to the 12th century.

7.2 Aims

The aims of description were to provide a geoarchaeological record and attempt to provide an outline land-use history which would aid the project aims recorded as: -

- To characterise the nature of the activity
- To examine potential change of land use in the early medieval period
- To model the landscape and its transformation through time.

7.3 Methods

The face of the undisturbed sediment in the monolith was cleaned carefully before description to expose an unweathered surface and attempt to reveal any soil or sediment structure. These latter crucial pedological elements are usually poorly observable in monoliths and are undoubtedly best observed and recorded *in situ* on site. Descriptions were recorded moist following nomenclature outlined by Hodgson (1976), and munsel soil colours recorded in natural light.

The monoliths were overlapping (as depicted in the field records), but this overlap was not recorded on the monoliths so was estimated from the 1:50 section drawings and from the sampled sediments sequence (details in Appendix 1). As such although measurements are accurate, the thickness of the deposit at 500mm (i.e. context 091b recorded at base of the upper monolith and top of the lower monolith) is an estimate.

To aid in characterising the sequence a rapid simple programme of magnetic susceptibility measurements were made on 10g samples of air dry sediment >2mm retained in demagnetised 10cc azlon pots, and measured using a Bartington MS2B meter coupled to a dual frequency MS2B coil. For this rapid magnetic susceptibility profile measurements were only recorded at low frequency (LF). Three measurements were made of each samples and the mode recorded (Tables 13 and 14).

Table 13: Magnetic Susceptibility Profile: Summary magnetic susceptibility results (χ) expressed in SI units $m^3 kg^{-1} \times 10^{-6}$

Context	Depth and fill type	sample wt (g)	LF1	LF1 corrected	LF2	LF2 corrected	LF 3	LF 3 corrected	average
091a	150mm, colluvium 1	10	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
	200mm, colluvium 1	10	38	38	38	38	38	38	38
	250mm, colluvium 1	10	28	28	28	28	29	29	28
	300mm, colluvium 1	10	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
	350mm, colluvium 1	10	35	35	35	35	36	36	35
	400mm, colluvium 1	10	41	41	41	41	40	40	41
091b	450mm, sandy inwash	10	27	27	28	28	28	28	28
	500mm. Sandy inwash	10	20	20	21	21	21	21	21
089	550mm, colluvial soil	10	43	43	44	44	44	44	44
	600mm, colluvial soil	10	59	59	60	60	60	60	60
	650mm, colluvial soil	10	60	60	60	60	61	61	60
	700mm, colluvial soil	10	58	58	58	58	58	58	58
	750mm, colluvial soil	10	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
	800mm, colluvial soil	10	47	47	49	49	49	49	49
003	850mm, parent material Rw	10	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
	900mm, parent material Rw	10	17	17	17	17	16	16	17
	950mm, parent material Rw	10	12	12	13	13	13	13	13

Table 14. Mean magnetic susceptibility results for each fill type

fill	contexts	range	Mean (χ) m ³ kg ⁻¹ x10 ⁻⁶
Colluvium 1	091a	28-41	34.3
Sandy inwash	091b	20-28	24.5
Colluvial soil	089	43-61	57.6
Weathered natural	003	12-17	15

7.4 Magnetic Susceptibility

Magnetic susceptibility enhancement may be due, at one level, to pedogenic activity and enhanced biological activity in top soils, enabling the differentiation between topsoil and 'subsoils' (Tite & Mullins 1971; Allen 1986; Allen & Macphail 1987), and vegetation types the topsoil supported to be inferred (Allen 1986; 1988). The principals are summarised elsewhere (e.g. Allen 1986; 1988; 1990). Anthropogenic activity, such as burning, may result in enhancement (but at different orders of magnitude than that created by environmental or pedogenic enhancement) may be detected and related to past soil regime or vegetation type.

7.5 Sampling

The sequence was sub-sampled in 10mm band-widths at 50mm intervals for pollen and magnetic susceptibility (see below and Appendix 1). In addition the colluvial soil (context 89) was removed in its entirety in as two contiguous disturbed bulk samples of about 1 litre. Samples were taken at 530-730mm, and 730-890mm.

7.6 Geoarchaeological record

The full geoarchaeological record is given below, with summary interpretation of each layer and their context ascription. Context 91, has been divided into two units (91a and 91b) and the lower c60mm of the deposit was clearly more compact, and sandier.

Table 15: Geoarchaeological record-interpretation

context	Depth * (mm)	Unit samples	Description
01	0-70		Dark brown (10YR 3/3) humic sandy silt loam, stone-free with rare fine and medium fleshy and fibrous roots, clear boundary Ah / Ap
91a	70-460	150mm200 mm 250mm300 mm 350mm400 mm	Dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) firm sandy silt loam/silt loam almost stone-free with medium weak prismatic structure, rare small charcoal pieces (to 3mm), rare fine fibrous roots, becoming sandier with depth, clear (to abrupt) boundary Colluvium 1 (colluvial b)
91b	460-520	450mm500 mm	Brown (10YR 4/2) structureless band of firm dense compacted sandy (medium and fine) loam, stone-free, rare small fibrous roots, rare fine charcoal (to 2mm), abrupt boundary Sandy ?in wash
89	520-890	550mm600 mm 650mm700 mm 750mm800 mm 850mm	Dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) firm pliable silty clay loam, stone-free (very rare small stones) with weak ?prismatic to columnar structure, common fine charcoal (mainly 2-3mm) and very small cbm fragments throughout and small to medium (to 6-7mm) distinct yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) fine/medium sand patches, abrupt boundary bB (colluvial soil)
03	910-890+	900mm 950mm	Dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/4) massive stone-free clay loam, some elements of colluvial soil worked into this by weathering and biotic activity Rw – weather parent material ('natural')

* depth in monolith

7.7 Magnetic susceptibility

The rapid magnetic susceptibility profile showed considerable variation and susceptibility enhancement (Tables 13 and 14). Low readings (av. 15) were recorded in the weathered parent material (Rw, 003), but considerable enhancement in the overlying colluvial soil, context 089 (av. 57.6). The overlying sandy inwash was relatively low (context 091b; av. 24.5), and slight increase was shown in the overlying colluvium, context 019a (av. 34.3). From this cursory examination we can indicate that: -

- i) the colluvial soil (89) is enhanced as a result of human activity and burning, and in situ pedogenesis
- ii) the overlying sandy in wash (91b) is probably the result of erosion of subsoil material
- iii) the upper colluvium (91a) is probably almost entirely agricultural with little or no evidence of human activity

7.8 Geoarchaeology and land-use history

The top of the weathered parent material ('natural') was present (context 03) as a heavily weathered and biotically disturbed and mixed dark yellowish-brown stone-free clay loam (weathered Oxford Clay formation or Boulder Clay).

Above the weathered parent material ('natural'), the basal Holocene deposit was colluvium with some soil formation indicating the development of a colluvial brown earth (context 89) the loss of the former brown forest soil. The lack of an *in situ* forest soil indicates that the basal soil and former woodland soil (argillic brown earth or brown forest soil) that would have existed in earlier post glacial times had been lost by erosion and human activity. Nevertheless, the colluvial soil (context 89) itself indicates human activity; created accelerated erosion and colluviation, possibly as a result of devegetation and tree clearance, but more probably cultivation and tillage. More significantly, not only does the colluvial soil contain soil structure indicating *in situ* pedogenesis (soil formation) after colluviation, but also contains common fine charcoal fragments and small cbm, daub or pottery fragments indicating either human activity at this footslope location, or the erosion of artefact-rich deposits from human activity immediately upslope. The quantities of material present seem to indicate the former, or at least a combination of the two, and this is reflected in the enhanced magnetic susceptibility readings (Tables 13 and 14).

The overlying sandy stone-free compacted in wash band only 60mm thick (91b) represents the erosion and deposition of, probably, subsoil material as reflected by the sediment nature and depressed magnetic susceptibility readings (Tables 13 and 14). The abrupt boundary with the colluvial soil (89) may indicate the truncation of the upper part of that deposit by this erosion episode. This deposit clearly reflects a change in the land-use and of the intensity and proximity of human activity. It suggests a change from occupation activity to tillage.

The upper colluvium (91a) was not differentiated in the field, but is an unsorted colluvium with weak structure about 0.5m thick and typical slopewash deposit derived from long-term cultivation.

Table 16 Postulated land-use history

	Geoarchaeological Event	Deposit	Archaeological activity	Possible date
9	Development of current soil	01	-	recent
8	Colluviation	91a	Long term tillage	Medieval to recent
7	Sandy in wash	91b	Renewed tillage	Post conquest
6	Soil development	89	-	Conquest
5	Colluviation	89	Tillage	Conquest
4b	Erosion and truncation of former soil	-	Onset of tillage	Conquest
4a	Archaeological activity	-	Conquest settlement	Conquest
3	Development of post-glacial soil	-	-	Mesolithic – Neolithic ->
2	In situ weathering and bioturbation of parent material	03	-	Early Holocene - Conquest
1	Parent Material	03	-	Geological

8 CONCLUSIONS

The excavation revealed an area characterised by four gullies and a number of pits and postholes which may relate to elements of structures. The site would appear to have a short lived settlement phase with pottery dating to the 11th and 12th centuries only recovered. The site then was turned over to agricultural activity.

The nature of the finds and the environmental assemblage would suggest that the excavation area was on the periphery of domestic activity, as evidenced by the animal bone (suggestive of kitchen waste) and the large quantity of seeds which may represent crop processing. The pottery, however, was mainly represented by smaller sherds deriving from in some cases from residual contexts which would suggest that it was not the result of primary disposal. The presence of a small amount of slag on the site would point to small scale metal working taking place in the vicinity also.

During the latter part of the 12th century (the latest pottery from the site dates to this period), the site would appear to go out of use as an area of settlement when pressure builds on cultivating all areas of available land and a series of layers of colluvium build up over the site as a result of more intensive agricultural activity up slope. This is further evidenced by the survival of ridge and furrow earthworks on the northern part of the site.

The hollow way observed by Oxford Archaeology East (OAE), was found to be part of the layer of colluvium and the layers observed by OAE, lenses within the colluvium.

Latterly the site was part of the Great Stukeley Park, which would account for the survival of the ridge and furrow earthworks on the site as these were not ploughed out by modern agricultural activity. In more recent years the site has been a vacant plot, or to use the Domesday term *waste*.

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