



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological excavation on land
to the north of St Andrew's Church
Station Road, Abbots Ripton
Cambridgeshire
April 2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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OASIS report form

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project name	ABBOTS RIPTON
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation on land to the north of St Andrew's Church, Station Road, Abbots Ripton, Cambridgeshire during April 2011. The excavation revealed the corner of the post-medieval parsonage which was known to have stood on the site from at least the 17th century. Other features included boundary ditches, a well and a soakaway, all of which were post-medieval in date.
Project type	Excavation
Site status	None
Previous work	Trial Trench Evaluation (Kemp 1992)
Current land use	Wood/carpark
Future work	Unknown
Monument type/ period	Post-medieval
Significant finds	None
PROJECT LOCATION	
County	Cambridgeshire
Site address	Land to the north of St Andrew's Church, Station Road, Abbots Ripton, Cambridgeshire
OS Easting & Northing	52305 27807
Area	165 m ²
Height aOD	35m
PROJECT CREATORS	
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)
Project brief originator	D, McConnell (CAPCA)
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Director/Supervisor	Tony Walsh
Project Manager	Tony Walsh (NA)
Sponsor or funding body	Abbots Ripton Farming Company
PROJECT DATE	
Start date	April 2011
End date	April 2011
ARCHIVES	
Archive location	ECB3531
Archive contents	Pottery, clay pipe, glass (1 box); site records and related documents (2 large archive boxes); digital photographs, digital report copies
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
Title	Archaeological excavation on land to the north of St Andrew's church, Station Road, Abbots Ripton, Cambridgeshire
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
ON LAND TO THE NORTH OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
STATION ROAD, ABBOTS RIPTON
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
APRIL 2011**

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation on land to the north of St Andrew's Church, Station Road, Abbots Ripton, Cambridgeshire during April 2011. The excavation revealed the corner of the post-medieval parsonage which was known to have stood on the site from at least the 17th century. Other features included boundary ditches, a well and a soakaway, all of which were post-medieval in date.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation of an area 23m long by 9m wide (165m²), on land to the north of St Andrew's church, Station Road, Abbots Ripton, Cambridgeshire during April 2011 (NGR TL 2305 7807, Figs 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by The Abbots Ripton Farming Company prior to the construction of residential accommodation consisting of three almshouses and associated landscaping (Planning Application: 0900536FUL). The excavation followed a Specification produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2010) to meet the requirements of a Design Brief issued by the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice office (CAPCA) (McConnell 2009).

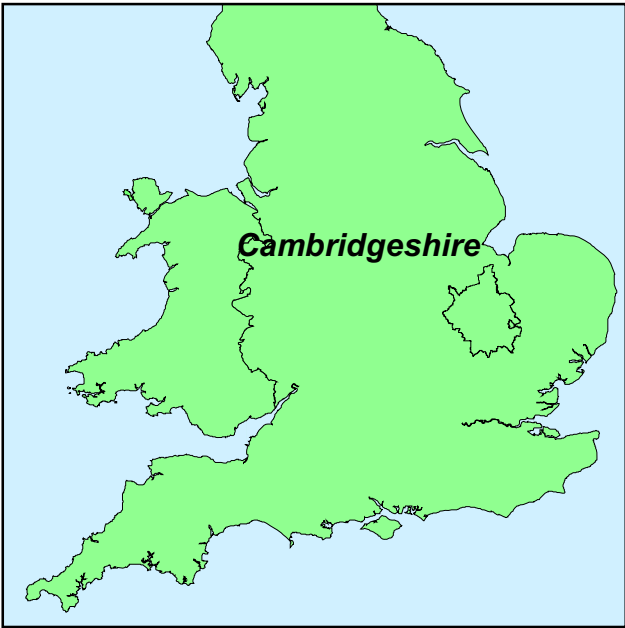
The accession number issued by the Senior Archaeologist (HER), Cambridgeshire Archaeology is ECB3531. This report, which presents the results of the excavation, has been prepared in accordance with Appendix 4 of the English Heritage procedural document Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (EH 1991) and MoRPHE (EH 2006)

2 OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the archaeological excavation was to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site (McConnell 2009, section 4).

Specific objectives were:

- to investigate the morphology and character of the Parsonage
- To contribute to an understanding of the relative controls of medieval and post-medieval (church) establishments on local communities within Cambridgeshire
- To contribute to an understanding of the earlier uses of the site, and its association with the adjacent church.



Scale 1:5000 (A4)

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:1000 (A4) General site plan showing archaeological features and the environs Fig 2

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Topography and geology

The development area is located directly to the north of St Andrew's Church, within the medieval core of the village of Abbots Ripton, c4km north of Huntingdon.

Abbots Ripton sits on Diamicton till (boulder clay) over bedrock of the Kellaways Formation and Oxford Clay (www.bgs.ac.uk/GeoIndex accessed 31/01/11). The site lies at c35.00m AOD.

3.2 Historical and archaeological background

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest, and is believed to have high archaeological potential. A trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit on the development area in 1992 (HER10703) which revealed the truncated remains of an important post-medieval building, thought to be the parsonage dating to the 16th century (Kemp 1992). Medieval pottery was also recovered, which suggested that earlier deposits may survive on the site. The site lies within the recorded area of the Rectory gardens (HER12016).

South of the site are earthworks, associated with two medieval ponds, found in the area behind the Girl Guide Headquarters (HER03465).

St Andrew's Church stands directly south of the site. It is a grade I listed building (HER02775). Although a church is recorded in the Domesday Book nothing is thought to survive of that structure. The current nave and south arcade was built in the 13th century, and the chancel, north aisle and north chapel were rebuilt in the 15th and 16th centuries. A small excavation was undertaken in 1990 (ECB742) and a watching brief was carried out in 2007 by Lindsey Archaeological Services (ECB2781).

Approximately 400m north and 1km south of the site are two possible Roman settlement sites (HER04289 and HER04296) recorded as cropmarks, burnt stones and sherds of pottery during the Fenland Survey (Hall and Coles 1994).

To the east, at Moat Farm (HER01036), is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM29752) which includes two moated enclosures with associated fishponds. The larger of the two enclosures contains Moat House, which dates from the early 16th century with later additions.

To the south, at Home Farm, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in 1998 by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust including desk-based assessment followed by trial trenches, which found a post-medieval ditch and two postholes. To the west of Moat Farm there are areas of denuded ridge and furrow, part of the medieval open fields of Abbots Ripton, which were recorded as upstanding earthworks in 1940s photographs, but have been reduced by modern ploughing. They were visible as faint cropmarks on aerial photographs taken in 1988.

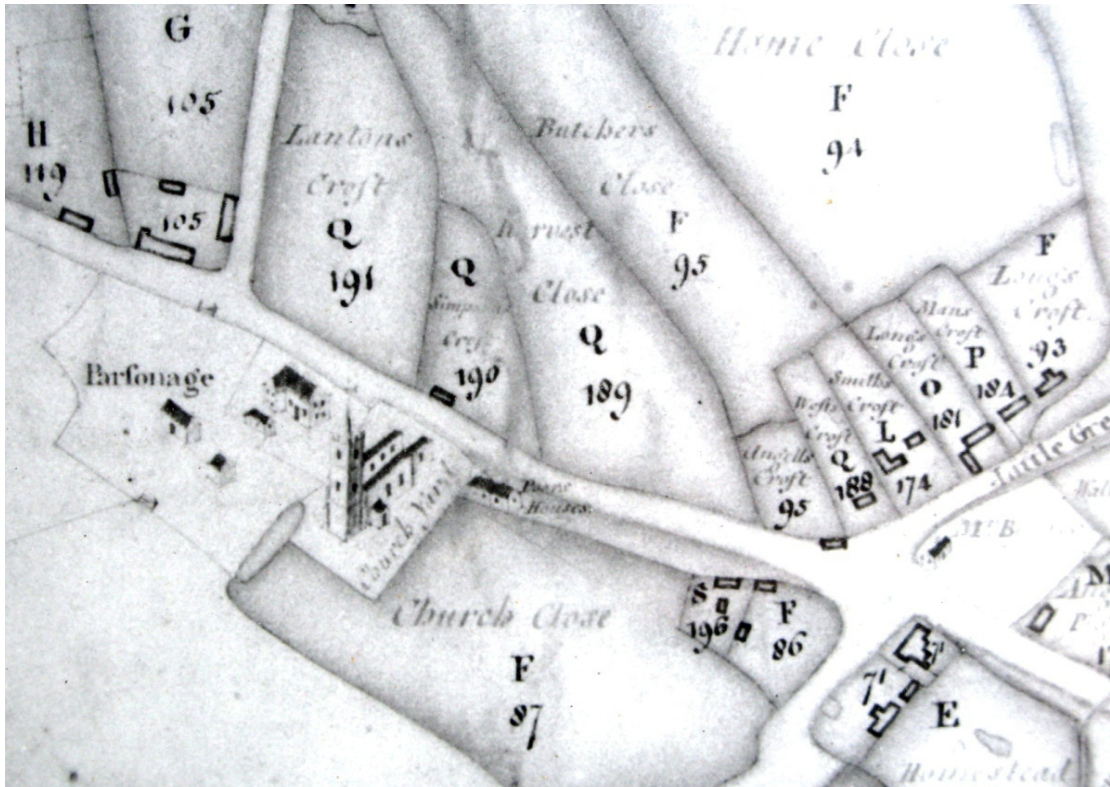
Seventeen listed buildings are recorded in the village; the earliest is the Church.

3.3 Historic maps

The investigation area, containing the parsonage and its associated buildings are depicted on two historic maps; the Tithe map of 1623, which is housed in St Andrew's Church (Fig 3), access to which was by the kind permission of Mr and Mrs Jack Crompton; and the 1773 estate map (Fig 4) which was kindly provided by Mr Robert Pickard of the Abbots Ripton Farming Company.



Detail of 1623 tithe map Fig 3



Detail of 1773 estate map Fig 4

4 EXCAVATION RESULTS

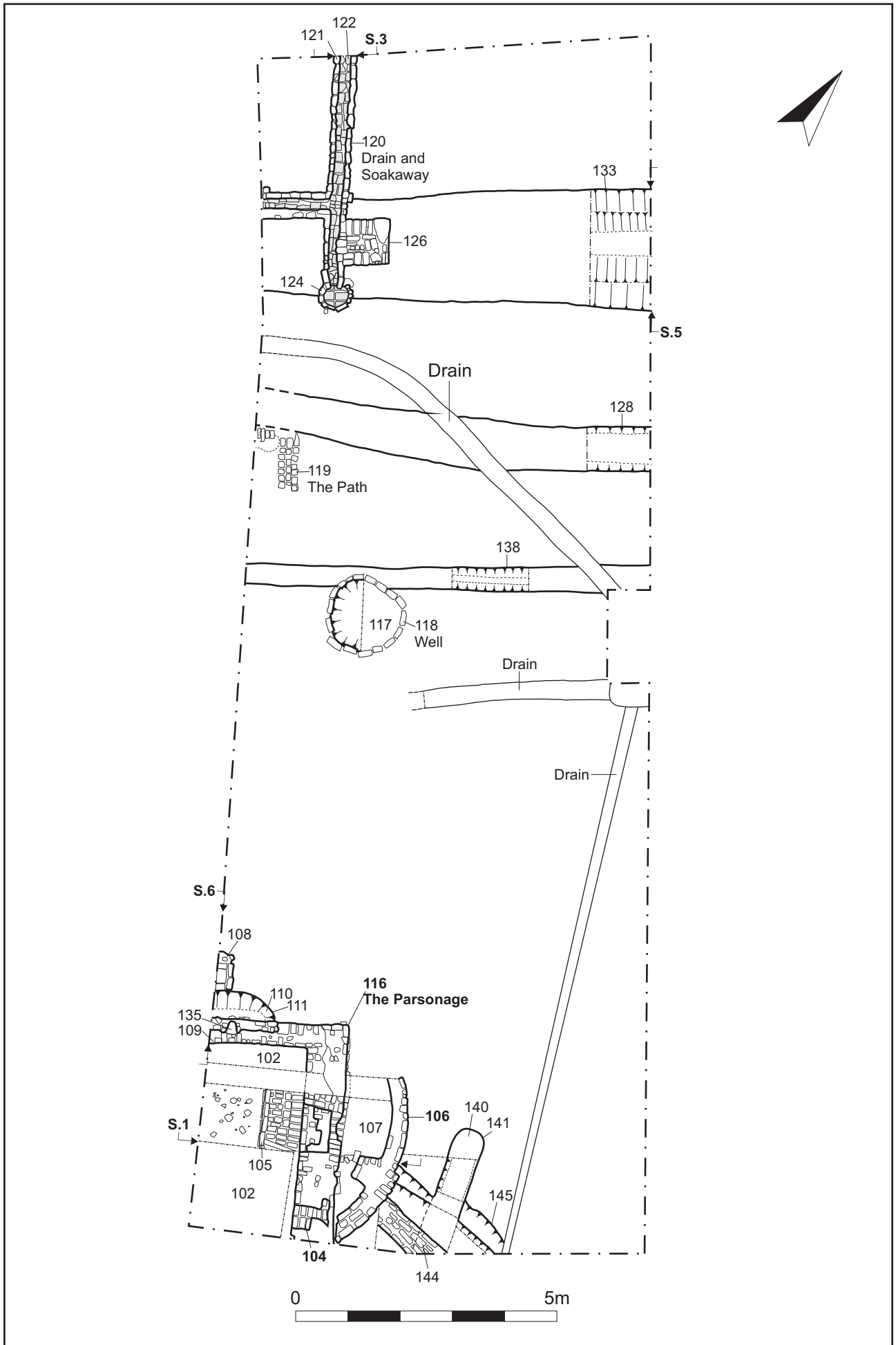
4.1 Methodology

The excavation area corresponding to the footprint of the new build almshouses was laid out by The Abbots Ripton Farming Company prior to the commencement of groundworks. Topsoil and subsoil were removed under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a flat toothless bucket. The up-cast was removed from the site by tractor and trailer.

Archaeological excavation and recording followed the guidelines outlined in NA's *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2006). Where necessary archaeological remains were cleaned by hand. Each feature or deposit was given a unique number consisting of the trench number and an individual context number. The details of each context were recorded on *pro-forma* sheets. The site was planned (scale 1:50) and section drawings were made at an appropriate scale (1:10 or 1:20). Levels were taken across the site at appropriate points, on section datum and on all major features and related to Ordnance Datum. A photographic record was made of the excavation, using 35mm black and white negative and colour slide film, supplemented by digital images.

Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (Walker 1990). The archive will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC 1992).

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



Scale 1:100

Site plan Fig 5

The natural substrate across the site comprised a firm mid brown clay with bluish-grey mottling and chalky flecks. This was overlain by a dark brown-grey silty clay subsoil, (107), which was 0.15m-0.30m thick. In the southern corner of the site this was overlain by a similar material, (102), 0.20m-0.30m thick, which contained abundant brick and mortar pieces relating to the demolition of former buildings on the site. The topsoil across the site comprised a dark brown-grey clay loam, (101), 0.15m-0.30m thick.

4.2 Ditches and gullies

In the north-western part of the site there were three ditches aligned north-east to south-west (Fig 5). These are likely to represent a single boundary shifting over time, with possible medieval origins and final abandonment in the 19th-century.

Ditch [133]

A substantial boundary ditch, 2.60m wide by 0.90m deep, was aligned north-east to south-west (Figs 5 and 9, section 5). In profile, the steep, convex edges sloped c45° to a narrow concave base. The primary fill (132) comprised a dark yellowish-brown silty clay 0.10m thick, which was overlain by redeposited edge derived natural clay (131), 0.05m thick, along its south-east edge. This was overlain by mid grey-green silty clay, (136) which was 0.43m thick and contained occasional charcoal flecks. This was overlain by a dark grey silty clay, (130), 0.40m thick which contained frequent charcoal and coal flecks and red brick fragments. The upper fill (129) comprised a light brown-yellow clay 0.25m thick with frequent chalky flecks and mortar fragments. Pottery dating from the 16th to 19th centuries was retrieved from the ditch.

Ditch [128]

To the south and 2.10m from ditch [133] there was a less substantial linear ditch, [128]. This was 0.70m-0.90m wide by 0.20m deep with steep sloping sides and a broad, slightly concave base. The fill comprised a mid grey-brown silty clay which contained a single sherd of shelly coarseware pottery (c 1200 to 1500).

Ditch [138]

To the south and 1.90m from ditch [128], there was a third ditch, [138] which was 0.45m wide by 0.24m deep with gradually sloping concave sides and narrow concave base. The fill comprised a light brown-grey silty clay which contained occasional charcoal flecks and red brick fragments. A single sherd of late medieval coarseware (c1400 to 1500) was retrieved from the ditch.

4.3 Structures

The Parsonage, Structure 116

In the southern corner of the excavation area there was part of a substantial north-west to south-east aligned brick-built building and associated cellar, aligned north-west to south-east (Fig 5). The building is likely to be the parsonage shown on maps from the 17th to 19th centuries.

The walls appeared to cut subsoil (107), although no foundation cut was visible so it is possible that the subsoil accumulated after the building's construction. The bricks were handmade, unfrosted and generally measured 215 x 100 x 68mm (8½ x 4 x 2⅝ inches). They were predominantly orange-red in colour although there were a few that were pale yellow. The bonding comprised a soft lime mortar which ranged in colour from light to dark orange-yellow.

The eastern wall, (104), was 0.80m-0.85m wide and appeared to have been built upon an earlier foundation (Fig 6).

In the middle of the exposed section of the wall there was a light well into the cellar, 1m to 0.80m wide and 0.50m deep, which had been rendered with a creamy white plaster, 0.05m thick. The outside was upstanding 0.20m (two courses) from the natural substrate whilst the inside was 1.05m (13 courses) from the top of the wall to the floor of the cellar (Fig 7, section 1).



Structure 116, wall (104), north-west facing elevation Fig 6

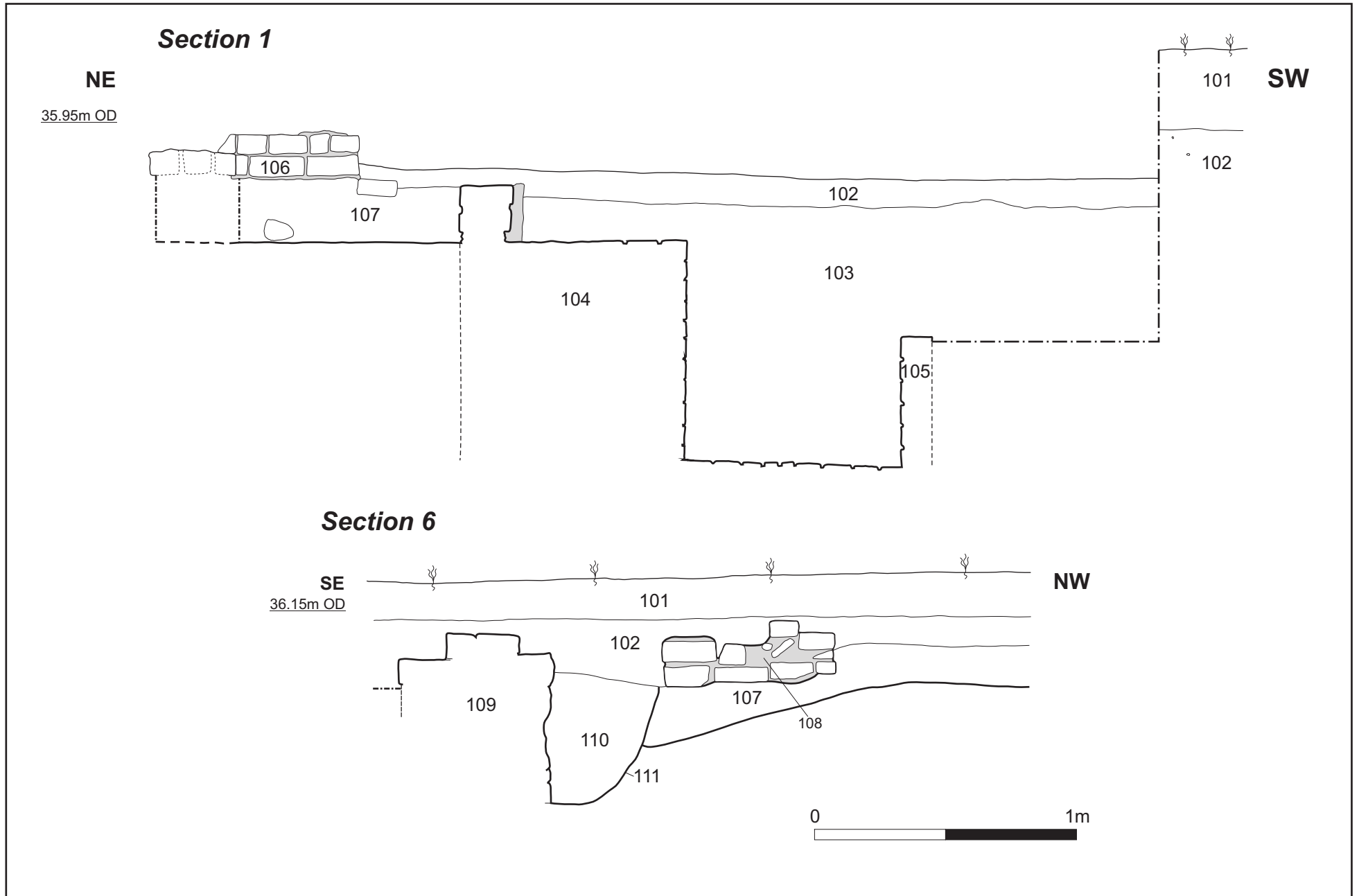
The cellar was divided by a short wall, (105), 0.50m high (five courses) by one brick wide. The top of the wall was not mortared suggesting that it survived to its original height. The red brick floor sloped from north-west to south-east and was divided by a small ceramic drain, 0.10m wide, which ran out beneath wall (104) and into a more substantial, 1m wide, vaulted brick drain, (144), to the south-east. The brick drain was within a broad cut, [145] at least 3m wide, 1m deep with a steep, stepped profile. Overlying the drain were layers of dark to mid brown clay with occasional brick and mortar fragments and pottery dating from the 13th to 20th centuries.

A later steep-sided gully or trench, [141], aligned north to south, cut the layers overlying the brick drain. It was 0.50m wide, 1.10m deep with steep almost vertical sides and a broad flat base. It was filled with a dark clay loam with abundant charcoal, coal and clinker inclusions. Where it crossed the brick drain, replacement machine bricks in the top of the vaulting suggested it had been damaged and repaired during the digging of gully [141].

The cellar was filled with rubble, (103), almost certainly derived from the demolition of the building, which consisted of bricks, brick fragments and mortar with occasional wood and stone fragments. Two sherds of 18th and 19th-century pottery were retrieved from the rubble.

Scale 1:20

Structure 116, sections 1 and 6 Fig 7





The possible repair to wall (109), looking south-east Fig 8

The northern wall, (109), was 0.45m-0.50m wide and had evidence of a possible repair approximately 1m from the corner of the building (Fig 8). The area of repair comprised a patch of randomly placed bricks, half bricks and stone fragments which had been mortared to the outside of the wall. This corresponded with a steep sided-pit, [111]/(110), which had been dug up against the side of the wall, presumably to facilitate the repair (Fig 7, section 6). There was a sub-rectangular beam slot, [135], 0.50m long, tapered from 0.50m to 0.20m wide and at least 0.45m deep with vertical sides. The fill comprised a dark brown loam with occasional brick fragments and contained a single sherd of 18th-19th-century pottery.

To the north-west and 0.45m from wall (109) there was a small rectangular group of mortar bonded bricks, (108). This was only partially exposed and was at least 0.30m wide, 0.70m long and 0.20m high. It had no clear relationship to the main building and may have been truncated by pit [111] (Fig 7, section 6).

On the eastern side of the building there was a curving wall, (106), which was 0.30m to 0.40m wide, 4m long and projected 1.20m from the side of the building (Fig 5). The bricks and bonding were similar to that of the main building with a higher occurrence of half bricks needed to achieve the apsidal shape. There was no foundation for the wall and the single course of surviving bricks appeared to have been laid on a thin mortar bed directly on the subsoil (Fig 7, section 1). At the southern end, it overlay the fill of the drain cut [145]. Near to the southern end of the wall there was an internal buttress, 0.30m by 0.40m which survived to two courses.

The northern part of the wall had not survived but the line of it was traced by a mortar spread which ended close to the northern corner of the main building, suggesting it originally ended at the corner. The southern end was not keyed into wall (104) and appeared to abut it, suggesting it was a later addition to the building.

The fact that wall (106) extended to the corner of the building suggests that it was probably not intended as a curved bay window, since it is unusual for such features to take up the whole width of the section of wall against which they are built, either as an original or later feature. Also, in this instance, if it were a bay window it would have covered the light well to the cellar and there is no indication that the window opening to the latter has been infilled or altered. The most likely conclusion is that the curved addition, especially with such a shallow arc, is a verandah with a canopy which became a popular feature during the Regency period (1810-1820). Such an addition would not have required deep foundations since the superstructure would have been relatively light, the vertical posts comprising wood, wrought iron or even cast iron columns and of variously rustic or classical form depending on the taste of the owner. The shallow foundations of this addition do not indicate they supported anything particularly substantial. The canopy could have taken a number of forms, but was most likely a convex timber roof covered in lead or copper sheeting. Such verandahs offered a fashionable, yet cheap addition to an existing building with the minimum alteration to the fabric, although it is almost certain that when it was added a set of French doors were inserted into the east end of the existing bay.

The light well for the cellar would still have been functional since such features were usually covered with a wrought or cast iron grille, and if the existing one was not deemed decorative enough it would be a simple matter to install another.

The well, Structure 118

This sub-circular well was located in the middle of the excavation area and had a diameter of 1.30m and was excavated to 0.40m (Fig 5). It comprised unbonded pale yellow bricks and was filled with a dark brown-grey silty loam with frequent red brick fragments and pottery dating from the 15th to 20th centuries. The north-western edge of the well cut ditch [138].

The drain and soakaway, Structure 120

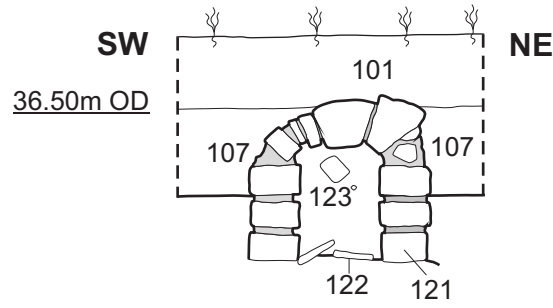
This was situated in the north-west corner of the excavation area and comprised a drain and small circular soakaway, both of which were of brick and tile construction (Fig 10). The structure was not exposed in its entirety and its exact function was unclear, although the movement of water towards the circular element was clearly the goal of its construction. It may have been associated with an agricultural building such as a cow shed.

The exposed section of drain consisted of two arms, both extending beyond the limit of excavation. The arm aligned north-west to south-east was at least 4m long and the arm aligned north-east to south-west was at least 1.20m long and had a pronounced downward slope into the main arm. Both were 0.45m-0.50m wide and 0.25m deep.

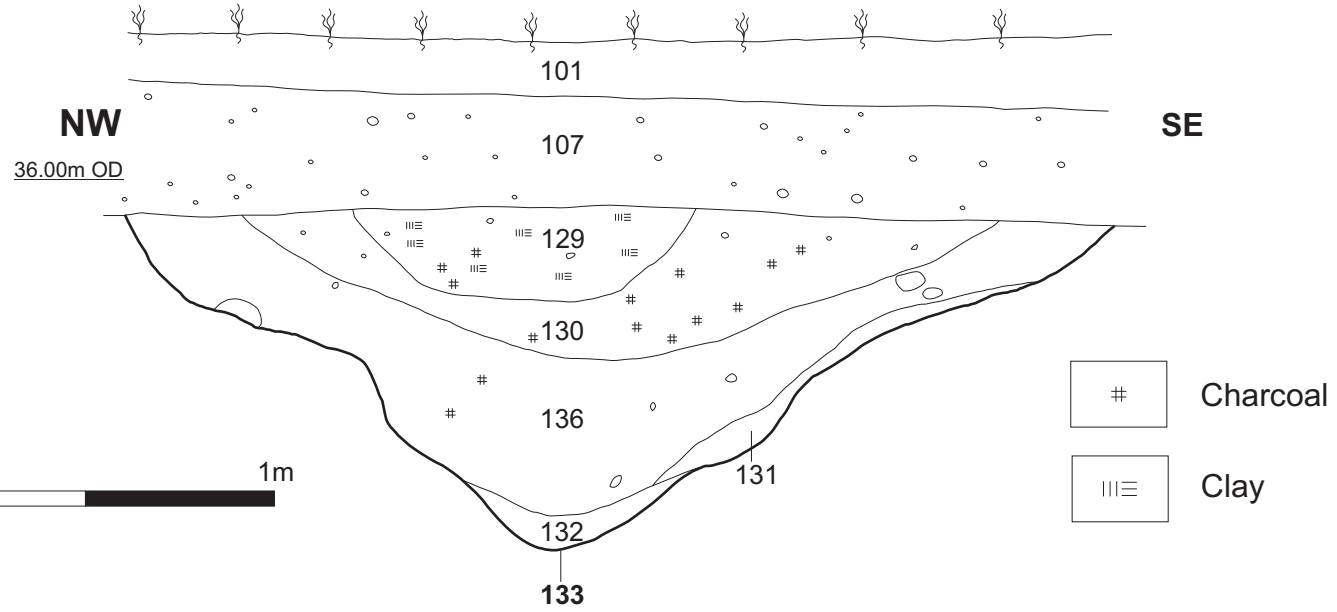
The mortar bonded brick walls of the drain (121) survived to three courses, the lower two courses were cut into the natural substrate although there was no clear foundation cut. The bricks varied in size and colour and included many half and quarter bricks, some of which had white wash or remnants of render, suggesting that they had been reused for the drain's construction. The drain had been covered by a vaulted brick and stone capping which could only be seen in the north-west edge of excavation (Fig 9, section 3).

The bottom of the drain was lined with two rows of creamy-white ceramic tiles (122), which overlapped slightly in places and were stained orange on their upper surfaces. They typically measured 160 x 120mm (6½ x ¾ inches) and peg/nail holes in some suggested they had originally been used as roof tiles. The fill of the drain, (123) comprised a loose dark brown loam with frequent brick and stone fragments and pottery dating from the 17th to 20th-centuries.

Section 3



Section 5



Scale 1:20

Drain 121, section 3 and ditch 133, section 5 Fig 9



The drain and soakaway, structure 120, looking north-west Fig 10

At the south-east end of the drain there was a small, subcircular soakaway, (124) which was of the same brick and tile construction as the drain. It was 0.50m in diameter, 0.20m deep and was filled with red brick fragments, presumably intentionally placed there to aid drainage.

Integral to the north-east facing wall there was a brick and stone plinth, (126) which was 0.35m wide, 0.40m long and 0.15m deep. Its function was unclear but it may have been a structural element of the surrounding building.

The drain was constructed over ditch [133] after it had gone out of use, probably at the end of the 19th-century.

The path, 119

To the south and 2.50m from the soakaway there was a small paved area, (119), 1.20m long by 0.40m wide (Fig 5). It comprised square and sub rectangular handmade bricks which were up to 105mm wide and 43mm thick (4 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches) and were worn smooth on their upper surfaces. They appeared to have been laid on a thin layer of subsoil, 0.05m thick.

5 FINDS

5.1 The medieval and post-medieval pottery by Iain Soden

A total of 154 sherds of pottery were recovered from fourteen contexts, weighing 2168g. They break down into 21 basic types and span the period c1200-c1850.

The pottery recovered is presented in Appendix 1.

None of the types are out of place, but almost all the medieval material is residual in later contexts. It is noticeable that almost all of the contexts which represent the infilling or consolidation of the ground contain 19th-century wares, suggesting that either the use of the building ceased in the 19th-century or that it was ruinous and became a dump for contemporary materials from elsewhere. The well too was filled in at the same time.

Only contexts (127), ditch [128] and (137), ditch [138] may be medieval in date but that would be very tentative, based upon single sherds of pottery in their fills.

Individually, none of the wares present draw particular comment. It may be that the household dumping taking place derived from well-appointed households since the ditch [133] contained White salt-glazed stonewares (press-moulded plates), not uncommon but in their day a chic addition to the dinner table. Since this was filled in during the 18th century, the fills may have come from the Parsonage while it was still in use.

Unfortunately nothing amongst the pottery indicates when the Parsonage was built, or what the exposed part of the building might have been used for. The pottery does not relate to any rooms or even specific floors, but is what has been incorporated either during alteration or during the process of demolition/abandonment. This process may have gone on as late as the final decades of the 19th century.

5.2 The clay-tobacco pipe by Tim Upson-Smith

A group of 25 clay tobacco-pipe fragments were recovered during the excavation. These comprised two bowl fragments, 22 stem fragments and one stem fragment with a very partial bowl fragment. The assemblage dates to between the late 17th century and the mid 19th-century. The two bowl fragments were complete enough to be dated using Oswald's simplified typology using bowl, foot/spur form (Oswald 1975, 37-41). The two bowls had different makers marks.

The clay pipe fragments from stratified contexts serve to refine the pottery dating.

Table 1: Clay tobacco pipes by context

Fill/feature	Stem	Bowl	Date
102	5	Partial bowl late 18th/early 19th-century, marked CD on spur	19th century
103	2		17th century
107	1		19th century
117/118	1	1, incomplete marked RE on spur	18th century
130/133	11	Very partial bowl fragment	19th century
140/141	1		18th century
142/145	1		18th century

5.3 The ceramic building material by Pat Chapman

Bricks

Five brick samples and four fragments were taken from two structures and other features. A complete brick from structure 116, wall (104), measures 215 x 100 x 68mm (8½ x 4 x 2⅝ inches). The fabric is red sandy clay, there is no frog, and it is partially covered with white lime mortar.

Two bricks come from drain structure 120, wall (121). The complete brick is 220 x 110 x 60mm (8⅝ x 4⅜ x 2⅜ inches), it has no frog and is made from friable red-brown sandy clay, with white lime mortar on one surface up to 20mm thick. The other brick is 95mm wide but only 45mm thick (3¾ x 1¾ inches), made with fine yellow-white clay, with one smooth stretcher and the other stretcher black as if overfired.

There are two thin broken bricks from path (119). One is 105mm wide and 43mm thick (4⅛ x 1⅝ inches) and made from pale orange-pink clay. One surface is very smooth. The other brick, 98mm wide and 40mm thick (3⅞ x 1½ inches), is made from hard silty yellow clay, with one very smooth surface.

The remaining four brick fragments are in a fabric of dark red-orange sandy clay, slightly overfired, from ditch fills (127) and (137).

These bricks are most likely 18th to 19th-century in date. Although thin bricks tend to be earlier in date, these examples were probably made for paving. The pale yellowish-white bricks began to appear towards the end of the 18th century, particularly in the eastern counties. White lime mortar was not superseded by Portland cement until the mid 19th-century.

Roof tile

The flat roof tile sherd from subsoil (102), has two pegholes 16mm in diameter and 70mm apart. The fabric is pinkish-brown with a black core. The bottom half of a flat tile, from structure 120, drain floor (122), is 160 x 12mm (6½ x ⅝ inches). It has been overfired to pale grey. This type of tile has a long history and is rarely closely datable.

Field drain

A horseshoe field drain from subsoil (102), 70mm wide and 70mm high internally, was made from fine pale pink sandy clay. This type of drain came into use in the late 18th century until it was replaced by the middle of the 19th century.

Overall the bricks and tiles are 18th to 19th-century in date.

5.4 Other finds

The hone by Andy Chapman

From the fill (117) of a post-medieval well [118] there is half of a hone/sharpening stone. It is manufactured in a fine-grained sandstone containing mica, and has a circular section with a maximum diameter of 35mm, tapering to 22mm diameter at the surviving end. It is a typically post-medieval hone, as would be used for sharpening agricultural implements, such as sickles or scythes, or large knives.

Worked bone by Tora Hylton

A fragment of a bone handle was recovered from the demolition material, (103), from the cellar of structure 116. It has been manufactured from a single piece of animal bone; just the terminal of the handle (butt end) survives and the exterior surface displays signs of wear and abrasion. The handle is oval/sub-circular in section with a central cavity, into which the tang would have been hafted. The handle dates to the 17th/18th-centuries.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Animal bone by Karen Deighton

Introduction

A total of 856g of animal bone was collected from four contexts during the course of excavation. This material was analysed to determine the level of preservation, the taxa present and the contribution of the faunal remains to the understanding of the site and its economy.

Method

Identifiable bones were noted. Any ageable and measurable bones (after Von Den Driesch 1976) present were also noted. Ageable elements usually include cheek tooth rows where tooth eruption and wear can be assessed, bones where the state of epiphyseal fusion is apparent (Silver 1969) and neonatal/juvenile bones (Amorosi 1989).

Results

Preservation

The level of fragmentation was moderate to high and bone surfaces exhibited a low level of surface abrasion. Two instances of canid gnawing were noted. No evidence for butchery was observed.

Taxa present

Table 2: Animal bone by context

Fill/cut	Feature	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse	S.ung	L.ung	Total
102	Subsoil						1	1
103	Cellar fill			1		1	1	3
107	Subsoil	1	2					3
130/133	Ditch	3	1	1		1	1	7
132/133	Ditch				1			1
137/138	Gully		1					1
142/145	Drain	2				1		3
Totals		6	4	2	1	3	3	19

Context 127 produced indeterminate bone fragments only.

Discussion

The mixed nature of the bone both in terms of the body parts and taxa represented suggest the origins of the assemblage to be butchery or kitchen waste. The presence of horse could be the result of knacker for dog food or glue.

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.

6.2 Marine shell by Karen Deighton

Introduction

A total of 164.8 grams of marine shell was collected from five contexts during the course of excavation. This material was analysed to determine the level of

preservation, the taxa present and the contribution of the remains to the understanding of the site and its economy.

Method

Shells were identified to taxon and numbers were noted. The state of preservation and any ornamentation was also noted.

Results

Preservation and ornamentation

Fragmentation and surface abrasion were moderate.

All oyster upper valves showed signs of ribbing, which can suggest growth in shallow water.

The taxa present

Table 3: Marine shell by context

Fill/cut	Feature	Oyster			Cockle	Total
		Upper Valve	Lower valve	Fragments		
102	Subsoil	1	2	3	1	7
103	Cellar fill	1				1
107	Subsoil	4	8			12
117/118	Well	1				1
134/135	Posthole	1				1
Totals		8	10	3	1	12

Discussion

Little can be added to the understanding of the site due to the small size of the assemblage, other than that some trade with the coast was taking place as all shells are from marine taxa.

Conclusion

Analysis has shown a small assemblage which adds little to the understanding of the site.

7 DISCUSSION

Residual pottery in the subsoil, (107), attests to medieval activity on the site from the 13th to the 16th centuries. The only possible medieval features appeared to be the gully [138] and the ditch [128], however, this dating is based on only a single sherd of pottery from each which are likely to be to be residual in nature.

There was only a small pottery assemblage associated with the parsonage building and such a small area of it was exposed by the excavation that little can be said about the date of its construction, form or function. The dating of the brick forms and the scant pottery would suggest a construction date in the 18th century with the later addition of the curved verandah during the early part of the 19th century.

The maps of 1623 (Fig 3), 1773 (Fig 4) and 1847 all show a building in the approximate position to that encountered by the excavation in slightly varying forms. Although old maps cannot generally be considered reliable records of actual architectural forms of individual buildings, they would suggest in this instance that the parsonage had seen extensive alteration or rebuilding during its lifetime. This could explain the view of the north-west facing elevation, the junction of walls (105) and (109) (Fig 4) where the 18th-century bricks appeared to have been laid around and over a core of slightly smaller bricks. Between 1847 and 1880, as evidenced by the tithe map and the first edition Ordnance Survey map the parsonage was demolished and the land levelled.

Too little of the parsonage was revealed to add to the understanding of its association with the adjacent church or to an understanding of the relative controls of medieval and post-medieval church establishments on local the local community within Cambridgeshire.

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APPENDIX 1: Table of pottery by context and type, sherd count/weight (g)

Type/Context	Production range	102	103	107	110/ 111	113/ 114	117/ 118	123/ 120	127/ 128	130/ 133	134/ 135	136/ 133	137/ 138	140/ 141	142/ 145	Total
Lyveden/Stanion ware	c.1250- c1500			3/33											1/12	4/45
Shelly Coarseware	c.1200-1500			8/78					1/7							9/85
St Neots-type bowls	c.1400-1600			11/113												11/113
Late medieval coarseware	c.1400-1500			4/33			1/5						1/1			6/39
Late medieval reduced ware	c.1400-1500			1/19												1/19
Cistercian ware	c.1450-1580			1/1												1/1
Glazed red earthenware	c.1500-1650	1/10								11/287		9/148			3/64	24/509
Midland Blackware	c.1600-1800									9/141						9/141
Slipware	c.1680-1740											6/83				6/83
Manganese glazed earthenware	c.1680-1740											9/130				9/130
Tin glazed earthenware	c.1650-1750					1/19				4/34				1/16	1/1	7/70
Brown stoneware	c.1690-1750			2/21	4/37					6/78		1/3		1/1	2/24	16/164
White salt-glazed stoneware	c.1720-1770		1/26							8/113						9/139
Creamware	c.1760-1820			1/16							1/3					2/9
Unglazed earthenwares	c.1650-1900	4/57						1/85				3/35			5/65	13/242
White glazed earthenwares	c.1800-1900						1/1	8/177						1/9		10/187
Mocha	c.1830-50							2/14								2/14
Lustreware	c.1830-60							2/14								2/14
Underglaze transfer printed earthenware	c.1800-1900		1/1					3/20						1/8		5/29
Pancheon	c.1800-1900											2/53				2/53
English stonewares	c.1880-1920	2/41						1/14						1/8	1/9	5/72
Total		7/108	2/27	31/314	4/37	1/19	2/6	17/324	1/7	38/653	1/3	30/452	1/1	5/42	13/175	154/2168



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