

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND OFF SCALDGATE, WHITTLESEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE (WHSG 15)

Work Undertaken For **Paradise Properties** 

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# Archaeological Evaluation on land off Scaldgate, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire

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# 1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land east of Scaldgate, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation was undertaken in advance of proposed residential development at the site.

The site lies in the historic core of the town. Remains of Late Saxon and later date have been found in the vicinity. Medieval ditches, pits and quarries have also been found close to the site.

The evaluation revealed ditches, pits and a quarry. Few artefacts were recovered and, hence, some of the remains are undated, though others are of late medieval to post-medieval date ( $15^{th}$  century and later).

Pottery of late medieval and post-medieval date, post-medieval glass, and faunal remains were recovered.

# 2. INTRODUCTION

# 2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive which intrusive fieldwork and/or determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area site. If or such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (CIfA 2014).

# 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Paradise Properties to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of proposed housing development, as a condition of planning permission (application F/YR15/0375/F). An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Senior Archaeologist, Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council (HET CCC). The site investigation was monitored by HET CCC on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015.

# **2.3 Location, Topography and Geology**

Whittlesey is 8km east of Peterborough and 40km northwest of Cambridge in the Fenland District of Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1). The proposed development is in the historic core of Whittlesey, 120m east of the church of St. Mary, on the east side of Scaldgate at National Grid Reference TL 2719 9697 (Fig. 2).

The site lies on the Whittlesey 'island', a ridge of gravel rising to 8m AOD in the low-lying northern Cambridgeshire fenland, with the site itself at about 5-6m OD. Soils within the town have not been mapped but nearby are fine loamy gleyic argillic brown earths of the Waterstock Association (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 344) developed on the March Gravels above a solid geology of Oxford Clay.

# 2.4 Archaeological Setting

The Fenland has long been recognised as an important archaeological landscape, containing superimposed evidence of settlement, ritual and agricultural remains dating from the prehistoric period onwards. Whittlesey occupies a former island within the fenland.

Evidence for human activity in Whittlesey extends from the earlier prehistoric period

onwards. Three Palaeolithic axes have been recorded from gravel pits east of the town and further lithic scatters and polished stone axes are known from Eldernell, northeast of Coates (Hall 1987, 56).

Two groups of barrows are known in the vicinity, one at Eldernell and a second at Suet Hills. Furthermore, other Bronze Age burials are known from the vicinity (*ibid*. 56-7). Little Iron Age material has been reported but remains of the Roman period are abundant, presumably related to the Roman road, known as the Fen Causeway which passes east-west across the island in the north of the town (*ibid*. 57).

An Early Saxon inhumation cemetery was discovered in 1828, to the north of the site, when seven burials were revealed and aerial photographs have identified an area of sunken floored dwellings (*ibid*. 59).

Whittlesey is first mentioned in a charter of AD 972. Referred to as *Witlesig*, the name is derived from the Old English  $\bar{e}g$ , meaning island, and the personal name *Witel* (Ekwall 1989, 515). The early charter is confirmation of a grant of land to Thorney Abbey (Sawyer 1968).

At the time of the Domesday Survey of *c*. 1086, Whittlesey was held by the Abbey of Ely and the Abbey of Thorney and contained meadow, pasture and arable land (Williams and Martin 1992).

Extant remains of the medieval period include two churches, to serve the Ely and Thorney manors. The earlier, St Andrew's, has elements dating from the 13th century while the other, St Mary's church largely dates from the 15th century (Pevsner 2002, 481). South of St Mary's church is a manor house which has 15th century work within (*ibid.* 483).

During the Domesday survey, two

powerful religious centres, Thorney Abbey and the church of Ely jointly owned the settlement (Williams & Martin 1992). This was a predominantly rural area in the 11th century, with an economy based on agriculture and the extensive Whittlesey Mere which stretched east of the town between Thorney Abbey in the north and Ramsey Abbey in the south. The mere was a rich resource for wildfowl, fish and eels. The abbeys of Ramsey, Thorney and Peterborough all kept boats on the mere in the 11th century, fishing predominantly for eels (Stafford 1985).

The settlement within the town centre is likely to date from the late Saxon period. The site lies in the historic core of the town, approximately 120m east of the medieval church of St. Mary (MCB3644).

Investigations only 20m to the northeast of the present site revealed evidence of severe truncation with nothing earlier than the 17<sup>th</sup> century (ECB893). Quarries of postmedieval date have been identified about 50m to the southwest (ECB2412: Bradlev-Lovekin and Cope-Faulkner 2007). Further investigations 200m south of the present site have revealed evidence of structural remains, pits and ditches containing Saxon and medieval artefacts (ECB1616). Approximately 200m to the west substantial quarry pits reused for refuse disposal, probably of medieval and later date, have been recorded (ECB2979, 3816).

# 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

The objectives were to:

- Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
- Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
- Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
- Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site
- Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
- Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

# 4. METHODS

Two trenches, one on each of the proposed plots, had been proposed. However, due to site constraints, the trench on the western plot was split into three parts (Trenches 1, 1a and 1b). The combined area of Trenches 1, 1a and 1b was 20m by 1.2m, and Trench 2 was approximately 15m by 1.2m. They were excavated to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of the underlying natural geology, as appropriate (Fig. 3).

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken by a mechanical excavator

using a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

deposit exposed during Each the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was also compiled and sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the excavated trenches was plotted with a survey grade differential GPS.

A metal detector was used repeatedly to check trench bases and excavated spoil to enhance the recovery of metal artefacts.

During the site monitoring, the Historic Environment Officer for Cambridgeshire County Council requested that a bulk environmental sample be taken. This sample was retrieved, processed and assessed, and is reported herein (Appendix 3).

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced.

# **5. RESULTS** (Figs. 4-6)

The results of the archaeological evaluation are discussed in trench order. Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field. Natural deposits on the site comprised sands and sandy silts with some iron panning.

# Trench 1 (Fig. 4; Plate 2)

Trench 1 was divided into three parts owing to the presence of brick footings from recently demolished buildings.

The earliest deposit was 0.22m thick mid grey silty clay (011). This was cut, at the west end of the trench, by a shallow feature [020] (Fig. 6, Section 8) which measured at least 2m by 1.2m and was 0.14m deep. It was filled by mid grey silty clay (019) which contained 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century pottery and animal bone.

Towards the east end of the trench, natural (011) was cut by [007] (Fig. 6, Section 7), a possible east-west aligned linear feature or pond. It had a flat base and was filled with mid grey silt (006) and was at least 0.95m wide and 0.25m deep. This feature was sealed by 0.28m thick mid grey silty clay layer (005).

Cutting (005) was steep-sided, flat bottomed sub-circular pit [015] (Fig. 6, Section 3; Plate 4) which measured 2.45m wide and 0.72m deep and contained several fills. A basal fill of 0.24m thick grey brown silt (014) was overlain by 0.26m thick yellow grey clay silt (013). Above this, 0.48m thick mid grey silt (012) contained  $15^{th}$ - $16^{th}$  century pottery and animal bone. A 0.36m thick slump of yellow brown silty sand (018) (Fig. 6, Section 4) was overlain by a 0.06m dump of sand and gravel (010).

The pit was overlain by 0.12m thick sand and gravel (004) above which was 0.2m thick grey silt (002) and 0.11m thick grey clay silt (009) which contained 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Above (009) were 0.12m thick sand and gravel (008) and 0.2m thick dark grey silt (003). These deposits were cut by sub-square stanchion pit [017] which was filled by dark grey sandy silt and gravel (016) (Fig. 6, Section 3) containing metal. This was sealed by a 0.3m thick modern yard surface (001).

# Trench 1a (Fig. 4)

In this trench the natural sand (105) was overlain by 0.08m thick greyish yellow clayey silt (104). This was cut by ditch [109] which was 0.48m wide and 0.45m deep. It was filled by a 0.43m thick mix of clay, sand and clayey silt (108) overlain by 0.28m thick mid grey clay (107) (Fig. 6, Section 10). Ditch [109] was cut by pit [116], which was revealed to a greater extent in Trench 1b, immediately to the northwest.

The features were overlain by 0.08m thick mid grey brownish blue clayey silt (106) above which was a 0.11m thick peaty layer (103) that contained 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century pottery and glass and animal bone. This was overlain by 0.18m thick mid brownish yellow sand (102) above which was 0.1m thick sand and gravel (101). This was topped by up to 0.46m thick made ground (100) (Fig. 6, Section 9) containing sand, silt and cobbles.

# Trench 1b (Fig. 4)

In this trench, the natural deposits of mid yellow brown sandy silt (124) were overlain by 0.45m thick brownish yellow grey clay silt (123).

This was cut by steep-sided probable pit [116] (Fig. 6, Section 1; Plate 6) which was at least 4m by 1.2m in plan and 0.9m deep. It also contained several fills, with lower fill (121) being 0.14m thick mid grey clay silt. This was overlain by 0.07m thick light to mid grey clay silt (120). Above this was 0.17m thick dark brown peat (119). This was composed of sedge and grass vegetation with occasional small woody fragments, and contained waterlogged seeds and insect remains, and sheep bones (Appendix 4). A slump of yellowish grey silt (122) was observed in the side of the feature.

In the north part of the trench, the feature was cut by a northwest-southeast aligned ditch [115] (Fig. 6, Sections 1 and 11). This was 0.43m wide and 0.38m deep with steep concave sides and a flat base. A 0.17m thick lower fill of mid greyish red brown clayey silt (114) was overlain by yellowish grey clay silt (113). An overlying thin dump of mid grey ash (112) was sealed by 0.45m thick dark brown organic silt clay (111). Fill [111] was overlain by 0.13m thick mid brown sandy silt (118).

The features were sealed by a 0.37-0.45m thick layer of yellow brown clay with gravel (110)/(117) above which was made ground (100).

# Trench 2 (Fig. 5; Plate 3)

Cutting the natural yellow brown sandy silt (209) was sub-circular pit [219] (Fig. 6, Section 5; Plate 8). This was 1.8m by at least 0.54m in plan and 0.84m deep with near vertical sides and a gently concave base. Yellow sandy silt lower fill (218) was overlain by 0.11m thick mid grey silt (217). This was overlain by 0.09m thick dark brown organic silt and ash (216) which was sealed by 0.34m thick yellow brown clay silt (215) which contained animal bone. This was cut by north-south aligned ditch [220] which was 1.5m wide and 0.66m deep and filled with yellowish grey silt (214) which contained animal bone, mussel and cockle shell.

Sealing this, and extending beyond the feature, was a 0.45m thick mid grey brown/yellowish grey clay silt (208), perhaps an alluvial deposit. This was truncated by two features, [210] and [223].

At the northern end of the trench deposit (208) was cut by 0.88m deep sub-circular pit [210] that contained a sequence of fills

(Fig 6, Section 2; Plate 7). A slump of light greyish yellow gravelly sandy silt (207) was present on the lower north side of the pit. Above this was a 0.3m thick dump of yellow-brown sandy silt with black and grey ashy lenses (206). This contained moderate quantities of mussel shell and some animal bone. Overlying this was 0.35m thick brown silt (205) that also yielded mussel shell and animal bone. Above this was light brownish yellow clayey silt (204) which was up to 0.1m thick. This was sealed by 0.13m thick brown silt (203).

Overlying pit [210] and its fills was a dark brown-grey organic silt, 0.15m thick, possibly a remnant topsoil (202). Above this was a mixed brown silt and sand with gravel, 0.1m thick (201), possibly a dump for levelling.

Towards the centre of the trench, deposit (208) was truncated by northwestsoutheast linear cut [223] (Fig. 6, Section 6). This was up to 0.7m wide and 0.32m deep and is possibly a drain. It was filled with mixed orange-yellow and dark grey sandy gravelly silt (222). Sealing this was a 0.15m thick layer of orange-yellow sand and gravel (221), possibly hardstanding or track foundation. To the north, a further deposit of orange-yellow sandy gravel (213), up to 0.13m thick, overlay deposit (208). Deposit (213) was in turn overlain by levelling deposits of mixed sandy gravel (211, 212). The trench was sealed by 0.28m thick dark grey-brown sandy silt (200), perhaps garden soil (Fig. 6, Section 5). Two stanchions, foundations of garages that occupied the site until shortly before the investigation, cut the east side of the trench towards its north end (Fig. 5).

# 6. **DISCUSSION**

In each of the trenches natural sands and sandy silts were overlain by a layer of

subsoil, probably formed by flood deposition.

Several possible drainage ditches were revealed. East-west ditch [007] was undated but was truncated by 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century pit [015]. A second probable drainage ditch [109] was also undated but overlain by a peaty deposit (103) of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century date. Ditch [109] was truncated by a large quarry pit [116] which was, in turn, cut by another drainage ditch [115]. There was no indication that ditch [115] crossed the quarry and it may have drained into it. A peaty deposit (119) in the quarry suggests that vegetation was developing in waterlogged conditions in the feature. Environmental assessment of the deposit indicated it was largely composed of sedge and grass vegetation and contained abundant waterlogged seeds (Appendix 3). No dating evidence was recovered from either feature.

In Trench 2 in the northeastern part of the site was an approximately northwestsoutheast ditch [220]. This broadly parallels the northern limit of the property and may be an earlier form of the plot boundary, or perhaps an internal division. Probable pits [210, 219] were also recorded in this area. However, these features were all undated. A small gully [223] in Trench 2 was directly below a hardstanding deposit and considered to be fairly recent.

Recent deposits associated with previous buildings in the area sealed the site. These recent structural remains included several stanchion pits. Examination of one of these stanchion pits, (017), indicated that the insertion of the stanchion had deformed earlier deposits (Fig. 6, Section 3). The 'drag-down' deformation of earlier deposits is a typical effect of driven piles (English Heritage 2007, 8-9).

The results of the evaluation largely

accords with the findings of previous investigations nearby. These past investigations have revealed extensive post-medieval disturbance (ECB893) and quarries of medieval and post-medieval date (ECB2412, 2979, 3816). Although several of the features and deposits in the lacked investigation dating present evidence, those that did contain artefacts were generally of the post-medieval period, with nothing earlier than the 15<sup>th</sup> century. A quarry pit, comparable to those identified on nearby sites, was revealed but was undated. However, the absence of any artefacts prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> century may suggest that all the archaeological remains identified are no earlier than this, and hence of late medieval and post-medieval date.

# 7. CONCLUSIONS

archaeological evaluation was An undertaken on land at Scaldgate, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire as the site lay in the historic core of the town near to previous discoveries of medieval and later remains. The site is also on the 'fen island' which was a focus of settlement and other activity from the prehistoric period and later.

The evaluation revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and later deposits. Ditches, perhaps for drainage, pits and a quarry were revealed. Dating evidence provided by artefacts was limited but, where present, indicated the features are no earlier that the late medieval – early postmedieval period. Similar evidence of postmedieval activity including quarry pits has been found nearby previously.

Small quantities of late medieval and postmedieval date, post-medieval glass, animal bone and mollusc shells were retrieved.

# 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Paradise Properties for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Denise Drury.

# 9. PERSONNEL

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# 11. ABBREVIATIONS

- APS Archaeological Project Services
- BGS British Geological Survey
- CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists



Figure 1. General location map



N

Figure 2. Site Location Map

0



Figure 3. Trench location plan



Figure 4. Trench 1, 1a, 1b plans









Plate 1. General view of site looking west



Plate 2. Trench 1 looking northwest



Plate 3. Trench 2 looking southwest

Plate 4. Trench 1, Pit [015], Section 3, looking southwest



Plate 5. Trench 1, Feature [020], Section 8, looking south



Plate 6. Trench 1b, Pit [116], Section 1, looking south



Plate 7. Trench 2, Pit [210], Section 2, looking northwest



Plate 8. Trench 2, Pit [219], Section 5, looking northwest

# Appendix 1

# CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Trench	Description         Interpretation		Date
001	1	Hard, creamy hardcore, black tarmac and mid- dark brown sandy silt with some organic. Deposit 0.3m thick.	Garden/ yard surface.	Modern
002	1	Firm, dark grey with reddish rusty mottles, silt with occasional gravel and moderate charcoal. Deposit 0.2m thick. Same as (003).	Levelling/ make up.	
003	1	Firm, dark grey with reddish rusty mottles, silt with occasional gravel and moderate charcoal. Deposit 0.2m thick. Same as (002).	Levelling/ make up.	
004	1	Firm, orangey brown with light grey mottles, sand and gravel. Deposit 0.12m thick.	Gravel dump/ levelling.	
005	1	Moderate-firm, mid grey silty clay with occasional gravel. Deposit 0.28m thick.	Layer, flood/ ponding.	
006	1	Firm, mid grey with orange/ brown mottles, silt with moderate gravel. Deposit 0.25m thick. Similar to (005).	Fill of [007].	
007	7 1 Linear cut, with gentle straight sides and flat base. Seen 1m+ long, seen 0.95m+ wide and 0.25m deep. Aligned east-west. Filled by (006) shall and cut by [015].		Possible ditch/drain or shallow pond.	
008	1	IFirm, mid yellow brown (orange) sand and gravel, no inclusions. Deposit 0.12m thick.Possible foundation deposit.th		
009	1	Moderate-firm, mid- dark grey clay silt with frequent gravel and occasional charcoal. Deposit 0.11m thick.	Natural accumulation of gravel and organic material- flood deposit.	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century
010	1	Moderate-firm, mid yellowish brown sand and gravel. Deposit 0.06m thick.	Gravelly dump. Final fill of pit [015]	
011	1	Moderate- firm, mid grey, silty clay with occasional gravel. Deposit 0.22m thick. Same as (005) and (208).	Layer, flood/ ponding.	
012	1	Moderate-firm, light- mid grey silt clay with occasional gravel. Deposit 0.48m thick.	Fill of pit [015].	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century
013	1	Firm, light greenish yellow and light grey mottles clay silt, with moderate sub-angular gravel. Deposit 0.26m thick.	Fill of [015].	
014	1	Soft, mottled light- mid grey and mid brown silt with moderate gravel. Deposit 0.24m thick.	Fill of [015].	
015	1	Sub-circular cut with sharp near vertical- straight sides and a flat base. Seen 2.45m by 1.2m+ and 0.72m deep	Pit.	
016	1	Soft, loose, dark grey with mid brown mottles, sandy silt and gravel. Deposit 0.66m thick.	Only fill of [017].	
017	1	Sub-square cut with rounded corners, with near vertical sides. Cut not bottomed. Filled by (016). Seen 0.3m+ by 0.6m and 0.66m deep. Cuts [015].	Pit/ Stanchion	Modern

018	1	Soft- moderate, mid yellow brown silty sand with rare small gravel inclusions. Deposit	Slump in side of [015]	
010	1	0.36m thick.	Stamp in side of [015].	
		Moderate-firm pliable, mid grey silty clay with		15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>
019	1	moderate iron stains, rare small stones (at	Silting of [020].	century
		margin of deposit). Deposit 0.14m thick.		-
		Possible linear cut, with clear gradual sides and		
020	1	gently sloping-flat base. Filled by (019). Seen	Shallow feature,	
020	1	2m+ by 1.2m+ and 0.14m depth. May form	possible linear	
		part of [109].		
		Moderate but crumbly in patches, dark brown	Fill to foundation wall.	
100	1 /1	and mixed mid – dark grey brown organic silt	build up to side of	
100	la/b	and clay silt, with some sand, fine grit and	former buildings and	
		patches of layered cobbles. Deposit 0.1/m –	rough cobbled surface.	
		0.46m thick.	Lesen went of	
101	10	Moderate-firm, light-mid brownish yellow	Layer, part of a	
101	14	thick	foundation	
		Moderate light-mid brownish vellow course	Toundation.	
102	1a	sand with occasional small pebbles and	Laver silting/flood	
102	14	moderate silt.	Layer, shang nood.	
		Soft- moderate, black organic silt/ peat with		17th 10th
103	1a	occasional-moderate small-medium flint	Layer, silting/ flood.	1718
		stones. Deposit 0.11m thick.		century
		Moderate-firm, pliable, light greyish yellow		
104	1a	clayey silt with moderate sand. Deposit 0.08m	Layer, silting/ flood.	
		thick.		
105	19	Moderate-firm, light brownish yellow medium	Natural cande	
105	14	course sand. Deposit at least 0.14m thick	Tuturar sands.	
		Moderate, mid grey with brownish hue, clayey		
106	1a	silt with occasional-moderate flint stones and	Upper silting of [109].	
		some organics. Deposit 0.08m thick.		
107	1a	Moderate, mid grey clay with some sand and	Fill of [109].	
		organic and rare stones. Deposit 0.28m thick.		
109	1.0	Moderate, mixed light-mid greyish brown, mix	Main ailting of [100]	
108	1a	thick	Main shung of [109].	
		NW-SE aligned linear cut with steen sides and		
109	1a	concave base 0.9m wide 0.48m deep	Ditch/ drain.	
		Moderate dark brown organic silt with slight		
110	1b	clay, rare rounded pebbles and possibly some	Levelling/	
110	10	cess. Deposit 0.45m thick.	consolidation layer.	
111	11	Moderate dark brown organic silt with slight	Silting fill over [115]	
111	Ib	clay, rare rounded pebbles, 0.45m thick	and [116].	
112	116	Soft black and grey ash with moderate silt,	Dump of ashy material	
112	10	0.03m thick	in [115] and [116].	
113	1b	Moderate, light yellowish grey clay silt with	Natural silting of [115]	
115	10	cess material. Deposit 0.22m	and [116].	
		Moderate, light-mid greyish red brown clayey		
114	1b	silt with moderate iron stains. Deposit 0.17m	Silting of [115].	
		thick.		

115	1b	Linear cut with moderate-steep sides and gently concave base. Aligned roughly northwest-southeast. Filled by (114); (113); (112); (111). Seen 1m+ long, 0.43m wide and 0.38m deep. Cut by [116].	Ditch.	
116	1b	Large straight edged cut, with steep-concave sides and broad gently concave base. Possibly aligned north-south. Filled by (118); (111); (113); (119); (120); (121); (112) and possible (122). Seen 1.2m+ by 4m+ and 0.9m deep.	Pit, Quarry or large ditch.	
117	1b	Moderate crumbly deposit, mixed yellow and brown yellow silt clay and clay silt with some gravel. Deposit 0.37m thick.	Layer. Levelling/ made ground.	
118	1b	Moderate, mid brown sandy silt with moderate stone. Deposit 0.13m thick.	Layer, consolidation over soft spot.	
119	1b	Soft-moderate, dark brown-black brown organic silt/ peat. Deposit 0.17m thick.	Settling in [116].	
120	1b	Moderate friable, light-mid grey clay with frequent silt. Deposit 0.07m thick.	Silting/ settling in [116].	
121	1b	Moderate, light- mid grey clay silt. Deposit 0.14m thick.	Settling, primary deposit in [116].	
122	1b	Soft-moderate, light grey-yellowish grey silt with some clay. Deposit 0.2m thick.	Natural settling/ slump in side of [116].	
123	1b	Moderate, light-mid grey brown- yellowish grey with yellow/greenish hue, silt- clay silt with slight sand and occasional pebbles. Cut by [210]. Deposit 0.45m thick. Possibly continues as (208); (005) and (011).	Layer, flood deposits.	
124	1b	Moderate, light-mid yellow brown sandy silt with moderate-frequent iron flecks. Deposit as seen 0.14m+ thick.	Natural silts.	
125	1b	Moderate-firm concreted (due to mineralisation deposit), mid red brown sandy silt with slight clay, frequent iron pan and occasional small pebbles. Deposit at least 0.14m thick.	Natural.	
200	2	Soft-moderately crumbly, mid-dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent grit. Deposit 0.28m thick.	Layer. Existing man- made/ levelling and garden soil.	
201	2	Moderate, mixed mid brown and brownish yellow silt and sand with gravel. Deposit 0.1m thick.	Dump or levelling.	
202	2	Moderate, dark brown grey with purple hue organic silt. Deposit 0.15m thick.	Residual topsoil.	late 18 <sup>th</sup> -early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
203	2	Moderate, mid brown with green hue, silt with occasional small pebbles. Deposit 0.13m thick.	Settling over [210].	
204	2	Firm pliable, light brownish yellow- yellow clayey silt with some sand. Deposit 0.1m thick.	Possible seal/ cap to consolidate filling of [210].	
205	2	Moderate, mid brown with slight grey and yellow hues, silt with some clay, occasional mussel shells and occasional small pebbles. Deposit 0.35m thick.	Fill of [210].	

		Soft, mid yellow brown sandy silt with dark	Dumm ( activity mbase	
206 2		black and light-mid grey ash lenses, moderate	in [210]	
		cockle shells. Deposit 0 3m thick	III [210].	
		Soft-moderate light grevish vellow gravely	Slump in side and base	
207	2	sandy silt with slight clay. Denosit 0.07m thick	of [210]	
		Moderate light-mid grey brown-vellowish	01 [210].	
		grey with yellow/ greenish hue silt-clay silt		
208	2	with slight sand and occasional pebbles	Layer, ponding/ flood	
200	_	Deposit 0.45m thick Possibly continues as	soil.	
		(005) and $(011)$ . Overlies cuts [220] and [219]		
		Firm, light yellow brown-brown yellow sandy		
		silt with slight clay, moderate small pebbles		
209	2	and frequent iron panning/ mineralisation.	Layer, natural sand.	
		Deposit seen 0.1m thickness		
		Curved cut with steep sides and some		
210	2	undercutting and gently concave base. Seen		
210	2	1.4m+ by 0.35m+ and 0.88m deep. Contains	Pit or ditch terminus.	
		(204); (205); (206); (207) and possibly (203).		
		Moderate, mix of dark brown grey with purple		
211	2	hue organic silt and light brownish yellow-	Levelling made	
211	2	yellow, clayey silt with some sand. Deposit	ground.	
		0.14m thick.		
212	2	Moderate, dark brown grey with purple hue	Turf/ garden soil	
212	2	organic silt. Deposit 0.15m thick.	Tull/ galueli soli.	
		Moderate-firm light-mid organic brown	Consolidation layer	
213	2	gravely sand with some silt. Deposit 0.13m thick.	possibly associated	
210			with former	
			outbuildings.	
014		Moderate, mid-dark yellowish grey silt with	Possible dump or fill of	
214	2	some greenish patches and occasional-	[219] and [220].	
		Moderate pebbles. Deposit 0.25m thick.		
215	2	brown mottles, elsy silt with some sand	Dump in [210]	
215	2	Deposit 0.34m thick	Dump m [219].	
		Soft- moderate dark black brown organic silt	Dump/ activity phase	
216	2	with some ash Deposit 0.09m thick	in [219]	
		Moderate pliable, mid grev clay silt, 0.11m		
217	2	thick.	Silting fill in [219].	
		Soft-moderate, light-mid brown vellow sandy		
218	2	silt. Deposit 0.21m thick.	Slumping in [219].	
		Amorphous-gently curving cut with steep-near		
		vertical sides with some under cutting and a		
219	2	broad gently concave base. Seen 0.54m+ by	Pit or quarry.	
		1.8m and 0.84m deep. Filled by (215), (216),		
		(217), (218)		
		Linear cut with gradual becoming near vertical		
220	2	sides with broad gently concave base. Aligned	Ditch	
220	-	roughly northwest-southeast. Seen 0.66m+		
		long, 1.5m wide and 0.5m deep. Filled by (214)	· · · · · ·	
			Layer possible	
221	2	Moderate-firm, mid orange yellow sand and	hardstand/toundation	
		gravel. Deposit 0.15m thick.	associated with	
			builder's yard/ nursery.	1

222	2	Soft-moderate, mix of orangey yellow and dark grey sand-gravel and silt. Deposit 0.32m thick.	Only fill of [223].	
223	2	Linear cut with moderate smooth sides and a narrow concave base. Aligned roughly northwest-southeast. Seen 1.2m length, 0.7m width and 0.32m deep. Filled by (222). Associated with (221).	Drain.	Modern

### Appendix [#]

### THE FINDS

#### **POST ROMAN POTTERY**

By Alex Beeby

#### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which can also be used to record material from surrounding counties. A total of five sherds from five vessels, weighing 75 grams, were recovered from the site.

#### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery dates to the later medieval to post medieval period.

#### Condition

The pottery is in a fairly fragmentary condition. A single sherd is burnt and is encrusted in soot. The remaining pieces are in a fresh state

#### Results

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Sub Fabric	Form	Part	Description	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
009	BOU	Bourne 'D' ware	Smooth	Bowl	Rim	Burnt; thick orange glaze; complex bifurcated rim; ?ID	15th-16th	1	1	13
012	BOU	Bourne 'D' ware	Bumpy	Closed	BS			1	1	9
012	BOU	Bourne 'D' ware	Bumpy	Jar	BS	Misfired/melted olive green glaze	15th-16th	1	1	28
019	BOU	Bourne 'D' ware	Smooth	Jug or Jar	BS		15th-16th	1	1	20
103	SLIP	Slip ware	Orange fabric	Closed	BS	White trailed on brown	17th-M18th	1	1	5
	Total							5	5	75

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

#### Provenance

From Trench 1, pottery was recovered from layer (009), fill (012) in pit [015] and fill (019) in feature [020]. A single sherd was also retrieved from layer (103) in Trench 1a.

#### Range

There are four sherds of Bourne 'D' ware (BOU) and a single fragment of post medieval slipware (SLIP). All of the BOU came from Trench 1; this material is dated to the 15th or 16th centuries. A single fragment of SLIP from Trench 1a is of a slightly later, 17th to 18th century date. The pottery is typical domestic waste.

#### Potential

The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive. Pieces are stable and should pose no problem for long term storage.

#### FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

#### Introduction

A total of 33 (362g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts. An additional 20 mollusc shells were recovered weighing 45g.

#### Methodology

The faunal remains were laid out in context order and reference made to published catalogues (e.g. Schmid 1972; Hillson 2003). All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element and side. Also fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as micro (mouse size), small (rabbit size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size).

The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996), Grade 0 being the best preserved bone and Grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

#### Provenance

The faunal remains were retrieved from the fill of a pit (012), a linear feature (019), from silting layers (103), ditch fills (109), pit or ditch fills (205 and 206) and the fills of a ditch or quarry pit (214 and 215).

#### Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate, averaging at grades 2-3 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

#### Results

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
010	medium mammal	long bone	-	1	2	
012	bird	ulna	-	1	<1	
019	cattle	mandible	-	8	89	2 beasts, incl molars
103	large mammal	rib	-	2	30	
106	large mammal	rib	-	1	10	
205	large mammal	rib	-	3	33	1 calcined
205	medium mammal	long bone	-	1	6	calcined
206	large mammal	rib	-	3	15	1 burnt
200	medium mammal	rib	-	1	1	burnt
	sheep/goat	mandible	R	1	41	
214	sheep/goat	humerus	-	1	39	
214	medium mammal	rib	-	3	11	
	medium mammal	long bone	-	3	8	
215	large mammal	long bone	-	1	27	
215	large mammal	rib	-	3	49	

#### Table 2, Fragments Identified to Taxa

#### Table 3, Molluscs

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
205	mussel	shell		2	1	
206	mussel	shell		15	40	
214	mussel	shell		1	2	
214	cockle	shell		2	2	

#### Summary

As a small assemblage, falling below the minimum of c. 300 bones required for meaningful analysis, the faunal remains invite little comment. Cattle, which probably includes the large mammal remains, are dominant with only one context producing readily identifiable sheep/goat bones. Of the bones, there are a large number of ribs though none exhibit

butchery marks. Despite this, most of the assemblage is likely to represent food waste, which may account for the burning seen. The mollusc shell is also considered to be food waste.

The faunal remains are archive stable and should be retained as part of the site archive. If future work is undertaken at the site, the assemblage may warrant re-examination.

#### GLASS

By Gary Taylor

#### Introduction

Four sherds of glass together weighing 111g were recovered.

#### Condition

The glass is in fairly good condition, but is starting to show signs of iridescence and lamination.

#### Results

Table 4, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
102	Base of green vessel, moderate kick-up, moderate iridescence	3	111	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>
103				century
202	Small sherd of brown vessel with raised white decoration, slight iridescence.	1	<1	late 18 <sup>th</sup> -early
202				19th century

#### Provenance

The glass was recovered from silting layer (103) and topsoil (202).

#### Range

Pieces of a wine bottle of 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century date were recovered. In addition, a fragment of a Nailsea glass vessel, in brown metal with a white trail, of late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> century date was retrieved. Flecked and trailed glass was a speciality of the Nailsea glassworks, the decoration being applied to bottle glass which was less heavily taxed than flint glass (Wills 1981, 52). It is likely to represent discard from a household of medium status and affluence.

#### Potential

The glass is of limited potential but provides some dating evidence and the Nailsea fragment is of note.

#### **OTHER FINDS**

By Gary Taylor and Denise Buckley

#### Introduction

Seven items together weighing 12g were recovered.

#### Condition

The iron is heavily corroded

#### Results

Table 5, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
016	Iron	Nail or hook?	1	11	
103	Wood	wood, twig	2	<1	
205	Charcoal	charcoal, including possible roundwood	4	<1	

#### Provenance

The finds were recovered from pit/stanchion fill (016), silting layer (103) and fill of pit or ditch terminus (205).

#### Range

The other finds are mostly organic and include pieces of charcoal and twigs. There is also a single iron item. This is probably a nail, curved by being drawn out of wood, but could possibly be a small hook.

#### Potential

The other finds are of very limited potential. The organic material could be discarded.

#### SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 6 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 6,	Table 6, Spot dates						
Cxt	Date	Comments					
009	15 <sup>th</sup> -16th	Based on a single sherd					
012	15 <sup>th</sup> -16th						
016							
019	15 <sup>th</sup> -16th	Based on a single sherd					
103	17 <sup>th</sup> -Mid 18 <sup>th</sup>	Based on a single sherd and glass					
106							
202	late 18 <sup>th</sup> -early 19th	Based on 1 glass					
205							
206							
214							
215							

#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
PCRG	Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group
TR	Trench
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

#### REFERENCES

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Wills, G., 1981, Glass (rev ed)

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# Appendix 3: Scaldgate, Whittlesey – WHSG15 Environmental Archaeology Assessment

### Introduction

A single sample was taken from the evaluation excavations at Scaldgate, Whittlesey, from an organic secondary fill of large feature 116, a possible post-medieval quarry pit (Table 1). The sample was submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment.

### Table 1. Scaldgate, Whittlesey – WHSG15. Sample collected for environmental study

sample	context	feature	samp. vol	sample	context type	phase
no.	no.		(1).	weight (kg)		
1	119	?quarry	13	15	Secondary fill of quarry? pit	undated
		pit 116				

### **Methods**

The soil sample was processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The sample was washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.25mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 0.5mm mesh for the residue. The flot was retained wet while the residue was dried. The wet volume of the flot was measured, and the volume and weight of the dried residue recorded. An unwashed sub-sample of the deposit was retained for possible pollen analysis.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheets and bagged independently. A magnet was run through the residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill. The residue was then discarded. The float of the sample was studied under a low power binocular microscope. The presence of environmental finds (ie snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The float was then bagged. The float and finds from the sorted residues constitute the material archive of the sample.

The individual components of the sample were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 2 and 3.

### Results

The single sample washed down to a very small residue (Table 2) of sub-angular flint, small stones, coarse sand and iron rich concretions. The bulk of the sample material was humified organic rich silts. Archaeological finds were absent except for a corroded proximal sheep metacarpus and sheep incisor. A small chip of flint is possibly natural rather than debitage. A magnetic fraction is composed almost entirely of mineralised organic debris with occasional iron rich small stones and concretions.

A small fraction of the 1200ml flot was quickly scanned under the microscope at magnifications up to x40. The flot is largely composed of fine vegetable matter, probably sedge and grass leaf fragments, with very occasional small twig and wood fragments. Well preserved seeds are abundant and insect fragments are also present in numbers (Table 3) and would require extraction using paraffin flotation.

### Table 2: Scaldgate, Whittlesey – WHSG15 – Archaeological finds from the sample

sample	cont	vol in l.	residue vol .in ml.	pot no/wt g	Flint no	Fire- cracked flint wt g.	Fired earth wt g.	magn. comp. g.	bone wt g.	other
1	119	13	50	-	1	-	-	1.8	6	magnetic fraction largely mineralised organic debris

**Table 3**: Scaldgate, Whittlesey – WHSG15. Environmental finds from the samples

sample	cont.	vol. in	wet flot	char- coal	wood	charred grain	charred chaff	charred seed	unchar'd seed	insects	comment
			vol. ml.	\$		*	chuir	*	*		
1	119	13	1200	-	3/4 (est)	4 (est.)	-	-	5 (est)	5 (est)	Fine organic debris composed of sedge/grass vegetation; occasional small twigs and wood and bark fragments; abundant waterlogged seeds and insects; charred cereal grain not identified. Sheep metacarpus and incisor.

\$ - frequency of >2mm/<2mm fragments of charcoal

\* frequency of items: 1=1-10; 2= 11-100; 3=101-250; 4=251-500; 5=500-1000; 6+>1000

# diversity as follows: 1=1-3; 2=4-10; 3=11-25; 4=26-50 taxa

est - abundance estimated from the 5ml sub-sample of the flot scanned.

A charred cereal grain was recorded in the scanned fraction (approx 5ml) which would suggest a fairly large number of charred grains if the whole sample was sorted, but no charcoal was noted, although it may be present if a larger proportion of the flot was scanned.

### Discussion

There was no dating evidence found in the sample, but analysis of the pollen may give a clue to the date and radiocarbon analysis of selected material from the organic fraction could be used to date the deposit.

The results at this stage indicate that the base of the feature has remained waterlogged since it was dug and has filled with largely non-woody organic debris and silts. The single charred cereal grain noted in the sub-sample of the flot that was scanned indicates some activity in the area, but without a lengthy sorting programme, the character of this activity and its potential date cannot be established. The organic remains and the pollen sub-sample would also afford suitable material for a spot assessment of the contemporary environment but without a firm archaeological date this information would not be useful.

Unless radiocarbon dating of the deposit is undertaken no further work can be recommended for the sample.

### **Acknowledgements**

I should like to thank Trude Maynard and Angela Bain for the sample processing.

*Bibliography* Williams, D.1973 Flotation at Siraf, *Antiquity*, 47, 198-202, Harmondsworth.

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# Appendix 4

# GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.			
Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.			
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> [004].			
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench. <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.			
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.			
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).			
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.			
Layer	A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut			
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.			
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity			
Old English	The language used by the Saxon $(q.v.)$ occupants of Britain.			
Palaeolithic	The 'Old Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 500000 - 11000 BC in Britain.			
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.			
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.			
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.			
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas.			

### Appendix 5

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 1 Context register sheet
- 70 Context records
- 2 Trench record sheets
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 4 Daily record sheets
- 1 Plan record sheet
- 1 Section register sheet
- 1 Sample record sheet
- 1 Environmental sample sheet
- 10 Sheets of scale drawings
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix
- 1 Bag of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services The Old School Cameron Street Heckington Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Cambridgeshire County Council Castle Court Shire Hall Cambridge CB3 0AP

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	WHSG 15
Cambridgeshire C.C. HER Event No:	ECB 4510
OASIS Record No:	archaeol1-220854

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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# **Printable version**

# OASIS ID: archaeol1-220854

### **Project details**

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Scaldgate, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	An evaluation in the historic core of Whittlesey, near to previous discoveries of medieval and later remains including quarry pits identified drainage ditches, a quarry and other pits. Several of the features were 15th century or later, with no earlier evidence identified.
Project dates	Start: 22-07-2015 End: 27-07-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WHSG15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4510 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	QUARRY Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### **Project location**

#### 17/08/2015

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND WHITTLESEY SCALDGATE
Study area	1540.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 2719 9697 52.5553117711 -0.123712878263 52 33 19 N 000 07 25 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5.00m Max: 6.00m

#### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Cambridge Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice
Project design originator	Gary Taylor
Project director/manager	Gary Taylor
Project supervisor	Fiona Walker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### **Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass", "Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images vector","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Map","Matrices","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "
Project bibliography 1	
	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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