

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND EXCAVATION AT BURWELL FEN HUNDRED ACRES, BURWELL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE (BFHA 10)

> Work Undertaken For Royal Haskoning on behalf of The National Trust

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Report Compiled by Mark Peachey BA (Hons)

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Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Burwell Fen Hundred Acres, Cambridgeshire (BFHA 10)

Project Coordinator	Dale Trimble
Supervisor	Mark Peachey
Site Staff	Lavinia Green, Ross Kendall, Bryn
	Leadbetter
Surveying	Andrew Failes
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
CAD Illustration	Ross Kendall, Mark Peachey
Photographic Reproduction	Mark Peachey
Post-excavation Analyst	Mark Peachey

Checked by Proj	ect Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist		
Dale Trimble	R		Tom Lane	
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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation comprising nineteen trial trenches was undertaken at Burwell Fen Hundred Acres, Burwell, Cambridgeshire, in order to assess the impact of the development, undertaken as part of the Wicken Fen Vision Strategy, on archaeological remains.

The area lies in a zone of archaeological potential with artefacts characteristic of Bronze Age funerary activity having been discovered along with Mesolithic and Neolithic flint scatters on sand and gravel knolls in the fen.

Evaluation revealed a Mesolithic flint scatter suggestive of a short episode of flintworking by a mobile population, involving the repair and maintenance of hunting equipment. This scatter reflects previous evidence of a prehistoric presence on the low sand and gravel knolls in the vicinity and lay adjacent to a large palaeochannel, a tributary of the River Cam. A further undated palaeochannel was also revealed.

Several undated features, probably treethrows, were identified while part of a late post-medieval to early modern drainage system was also revealed.

A mitigation phase comprising a programme of excavation, test pitting and sieving for artefacts was also undertaken.

Finds comprised struck flint of Mesolithic date, animal bone and late post-medieval to early modern ceramic building material.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If 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' (IfA 2008).

2.2 Definition of an Excavation

An archaeological excavation is defined as, "a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during the fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design" (IfA 2008).

2.3 Planning Background

The development is part of a National Trust scheme to enclose an area of c139hectares of land and to rewet Adventurers' Fen. Included in this scheme is the construction of a bund between Burwell and Reach Lodes. Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, East Cambridgeshire District Council has placed a condition on planning consent reference 09/00509/FUL) (Application requiring a scheme of archaeological works to be undertaken prior to this archaeological development. The evaluation was carried out between 9th and 20th August 2010 in accordance with a specification prepared by APS and approved by Cambridgeshire Archaeology (CA). Based on the results of the evaluation, the Senior Archaeologist at CA recommended, as part of a mitigation phase, that test pits were excavated to investigate a flint scatter around Trench 10. This work was carried out on 6^{th} -7th September 2010.

2.4 Topography and Geology

Burwell lies 6km northwest of Newmarket and 15km northeast of Cambridge in southern Cambridgeshire (Fig 1). The site of the proposed bund is situated approximately 3km northwest of Burwell within the southern part of Adventurers' Fen inside the northwest corner angle between Reach and Burwell Lodes centred on NGR TL 554 686 (Fig 2).

The area lies within a low lying flat, open river plain at surface heights of 0m OD to -1.20m OD where peats have developed on a substrate of Gault Clay. Small knolls of sand and gravels comprising First River Terrace deposits are scattered around Adventurers' Fen (Hodge *et al.*1984).

2.5 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.

The Fenland Project identified a series of five closely spaced Mesolithic and Neolithic lithic sites on a sandy ridge 2km to the southwest of the site in Swaffham Prior Fen. This is the southeastern edge of the main central palaeochannel of the River Cam. These flint scatters produced many microliths, blades, cores and scrapers, a few axes and axe fragments and Neolithic pottery sherds. Other sites occur on sand and gravel knolls in the fen including a widespread scatter south of the ridge. The lithics lay mainly in the ploughsoil (Hall 1996, 102).

In Hallard's Fen, 1km to the southeast, a probable Neolithic and Early Bronze Age settlement site (HER 06388) has produced large numbers of flint and stone implements including flint cores, waste flakes, axes,

scrapers, burins, arrowhweads and polished stone axes (RCHM 1972).

Other archaeological discoveries in the immediate area include a Bronze Age flint knife and an associated Beaker vessel (HER MCB 7790) which indicate the possibility of a cemetery or barrow of the period in the area.

By the late prehistoric period peat would have spread rapidly over the area from the River Cam in the west to the chalky slopes of Burwell, remaining as fen through to post-medieval times (Hall 1996, 102).

The fen edge town of Burwell is first recorded as *Burewelle* in the Chronicles of the Abbott of Ramsey in 969 AD and means 'spring by the burg' (Ekwall 1989).

Reach Lode is locally known as a navigable 17th century watercourse and drain but there is some evidence that it was in existence in 1279 and may lie partly on the line of precursors dating to as early as the Roman period (HER MCB9521). Burwell Lode was first recorded in 1604 and was recut on its present alignment by the Bedford Level Commissioners at the same time as Reach Lode in the early 1650s. The enclosure and drainage of the fens bounded by the two lodes, including the investigation area, was complete by the early 18th century. However, the subsequent gradual shrinkage of the fen surface made drainage impossible and in 1841 Burwell Drainage Commission was set up to construct engine pumps. These were not satisfactory and much of the area remained unsuitable for agriculture until 1940 when the drainage system was connected to drains in the Swaffham Drainage District by means of a culvert under Reach Lode (RCHM 1972).

There are records of two nineteenth century windpumps in the area; Dawson's Mill (MCB8032) and Dyson's Mill (HER MCB8233) (Fig 3). These were used to assist water flow in the Lodes and are thought to be located in the proposed area of new wetland. Groundworks undertaken in 1943 revealed the foundations of Dawson's mill but Dyson's Mill has been removed and rebuilt elsewhere.

A recent archaeological evaluation and subsequent monitoring and recording investigation, prior to the construction of a bund, ditch and cycleway, immediately to the east of the current site revealed a number of tree-throws, two of which contained Neolithic flints, and an undated palaeochannel (Peachey 2010).

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 might be present within the site, to determine its likely extent, the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site, state preservation, their of spatial arrangement and the extent to which surrounding archaeological features extended into the application area, and to establish the way in which any archaeological features identified fitted into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Fifteen trenches (nos 1-15) measuring 30m x 2m and four (nos 16-19) measuring 50m x 2m were excavated by machine under archaeological supervision (Fig. 3). Subsequently, as part of a mitigation phase, six test pits were excavated alongside Trench 10 in order to investigate a flint scatter. The trenches were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological remains. Each deposit was allocated a

unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

excavation, Following records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. and supplemented by provisional artefact dating.

5. **RESULTS**

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Trench 1 (Fig 9)

The earliest deposit in this trench was mid bluish grey natural clay (102) at least 0.18m thick above which was up to 0.27m thick mottled mid grey/orange clayey silt alluvium (101) sealed by 0.53m thick dark grey clayey silt topsoil (100). No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 2 (Fig 9, Plate 3)

The natural in Trench 2 was firm bluish grey clay (205) reached, in a machine sondage, at a depth of 1.37m. This was overlain by a sequence of deposits probably representing the fill of a palaeochannel. Similar sequences of deposits in Trenches 3-9 suggest it was on a similar alignment to Reach Lode. A 0.6m thick dark brown peat layer (204) containing wood fragments was overlain by a 0.12m thick light yellowish white clayey silt layer (203). This was sealed by 0.25m thick blue silty clay alluvium with orange iron panning (202) above which was 0.25m thick dark greyish brown peat (201) with 0.15m thick dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil (200) above.

Trench 3 (Fig 9)

In a machine sondage in this trench the firm grey clay (305) natural was encountered at a depth of 2.05m. Overlying it was a sequence of probable palaeochannel deposits. A 0.8m thick dark brown peat layer (304) was sealed by 0.7m thick bluish grey sandy clayey silt (303). Above this was 0.15m thick light yellowish white clayey silt layer (302). This was overlain by 0.3m thick dark greyish brown ploughsoil (301). Above which was 0.1m thick topsoil (300).

Trench 4 (Fig 9, Plate 4)

This trench also contained probable palaeochannel deposits with light bluish grey sandy clayey silt with occasional wood fragments (405) revealed at a depth of 1.43m. Overlying this was 0.8m thick laminated mid yellowish brownish grey sandy silt (404) above which was 0.16m thick bluish grey sandy clayey silt (403). This was overlain by a thin band of light yellowish white sandy silt (402) sealed by 0.25m thick peaty former ploughsoil (401) topped by 0.15m thick topsoil (400).

Trench 5 (Fig 9, Plate 5)

The probable palaeochannel sequence in this trench comprised mottled light bluish grey to light brownish yellow sandy silt (505), with occasional gravel patches and wood fragments, revealed at a depth of 1.39m, overlain by a 0.3m thickness of dark brown peat (504) above which was 0.4m thick laminated light orangey white/light brownish grey silt (503). A 0.25m thick layer of bluish grey sandy clayey silt (502) sealed this, in turn overlain by 0.07m thick light yellowish white sandy silt (501). Above this was 0.37m thick dark greyish brown topsoil (500).

Trench 6 (Fig 9)

This trench also contained a sequence of probable palaeochannel deposits. At a depth of 0.9m was mottled light bluish grey to light brown silty clay (605) containing wood fragments above which was 0.1m thick dark brown peat (604). This was overlain by 0.2m thick mottled light orangey brown to grey clayey silt (603) which was below 0.12m thick bluish grey silty clay (602). Above this was 0.09m thick light yellowish white sandy silt (601) which was overlain by 0.4m thick dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil (600). No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 7 (Fig 9, Plates 6, 7)

In a machine sondage at the north end of this trench firm natural mid grey clay (704) was revealed at a depth of 2.3m. Overlying this was a sequence of probable palaeochannel deposits beginning with a very thick (1.25m) layer of dark brown peat (703) with frequent wood fragments above which was 0.35m thick mottled mid to light grey clayey silt alluvium (702) overlain by 0.4m thick mottled orangey brown/grey silty clay alluvium (701). At the top of the section was dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (700).

Trench 8 (Fig 9, Plate 8)

The mid grey natural clay (804) was encountered at a depth of 1.65m in a sondage at the north end of this trench, which flooded very quickly. It was overlain by a sequence of probable palaeochannel deposits comprising 0.65m thick dark brown peat (803), containing frequent wood fragments, above which was 0.45m thick mottled dark grey/orangey brown clayey silt alluvium (802). This was overlain by 0.3m thick mid grey clayey silt alluvium (801) which lay below 0.35m thick dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (800).

Trench 9 (Fig 9)

This trench was machined to a depth of 1.05m before flooding. The recorded sequence, also within the probable palaeochannel, comprised a dark greyish brown peat (902) at least 0.5m thick, containing frequent wood fragments, overlain by 0.1m thick mid grey clayey silt alluvium (901). This was sealed by 0.45m thick dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (900).

Trench 10 (Fig 5)

This trench was considerably shallower than those described previously with natural light greyish yellow sandy silt (1001) reached at a depth of 0.3m. This was cut by three features. Towards the northwest end of the trench was southwest to northeast aligned terminating linear feature [1006] (Fig 8, Section 8, Plates 11, 12) which was 1.15m wide and 0.66m deep and shown to be only 3m long in a subsequent widening of the trench, its uneven and undercutting sides suggesting a tree-throw. It was filled with mid grevish brown clayey silt (1007). Southeast of this, north-south aligned terminating linear feature [1002] (Fig 8, Section 6) was 0.55m wide and 0.26m deep, and recorded as 3.3m long, on widening of the trench. It was filled with light greyish brown clayey silt (1003). Immediately southeast of this was another possible linear terminus [1004] (Fig 8, Section 7) which was at least 1.1m long, 0.45m wide and 0.07m deep with gradual sides and uneven base and filled with light greyish brown clayey silt (1005) which contained a single piece of Mesolithic flint.

These features were sealed by 0.3m thick dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil (1000) from which 42 struck flints were retrieved. Subsequently, at the request of the archaeological curator, six one metre square test pits (Fig 5, Plates 19, 20) were excavated, at 5m intervals, adjacent to the southwest side of the trench in order to more thoroughly investigate this scatter, including sieving two buckets of soil from each one. A further 23 struck flints were retrieved from these (Appendix 4). No flints were retrieved from Test Pit 1, the most northwesterly, while the most, nine, retrieved were from the most southeasterly, Test Pit 6. Once this work was completed the gaps between the pits were machine stripped to expose any further features. However, only the continuations of the features described above were revealed.

Trench 11 (Fig 4)

The natural deposit in Trench 11 was mid orangey brown/light grey sandy silt with occasional gravel, at least 0.3m thick. It was cut by several features in the northwestern half of the trench.

Nearest the north end of the trench, feature [1104] (Fig 8, Section 10) was irregular in shape, at least 1.8m long, 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep and filled with mid grey clayey silt (1103). Immediately south of this, irregular, roughly crescent shaped, linear feature [1102] (Fig 8, Section 9) was at least 3.5m long, 0.9m wide and 0.2m deep and filled with mid grey clayey silt (1101). South of this, irregular linear feature [1109] (Fig 9, Section 11) was at least 1.1m long, 0.6m wide and 0.38m deep and filled with mid grey, with orange flecks, clayey silt (1108) which contained animal bone. This was cut by feature [1107] which was at least 0.45m long, 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep and filled with loose, very dark grey sandy silt (1106). This feature was a probable marling pit of likely modern date while the other features were probably tree-throws. They were sealed by 0.4m thick dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (1100).

Trench 12 (Fig 9)

The natural deposit in this trench was mottled light grey/orangey brown clay (1202). This was overlain by 0.22m thick mid grey clayey silt alluvium (1201) above which was 0.33m thick dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (1200). No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 13 (Fig 4)

The natural in this trench was light orangey brown clayey sandy silt (1303). This was cut by irregular shaped feature [1304] (Fig 8, Section 4) which was 1.8m wide and 0.1m deep and filled with mottled light-mid greyish brown/orange clayey silt (1305). Probably a tree-throw, it was sealed by 0.05m thick light brown clayey silt alluvium (1302) above which was 0.15m thick dark brown silty peat (1301). Overlying this was 0.25m thick very dark brown silt topsoil (1300).

Trench 14 (Fig 4)

The sequence of deposits in this trench were probably within a palaeochannel, the edge of which was not revealed. In the base of the northwestern half of the trench was light grey silty clay (1415) containing wood fragments. It was overlain by 0.15m thick dark brown peat with occasional wood fragments (1416). This layer was sealed by 0.27m thick dark grey clayey silt (1412). These layers were dipping below 0.25m thick mid brownish grey silty sand (1407), seen in a sondage at the southeast end of the trench (Fig 9, Section 5, Plate 14). Overlying this was 0.4m thick dark brown peat with frequent wood fragments (1406) which was overlain by up to 0.4m thick grevish blue sandy clayey silt (1405). Above this was 0.37m thick light orangey yellow/grey sandy silty clay (1404) overlain by 0.15m thick mid bluish grey sandy silty clay (1403). The top fill of the probable palaeochannel was 0.18m thick light yellowish white sandy silt (1402).

Layer (1402) was cut by three features. Vertical sided, flat bottomed feature [1418] was 0.4m wide and 0.33m deep and filled with dark greyish brown sandy silt (1418). Adjacent feature [1413] was 0.55m wide and 0.4m deep with near vertical sides and a flattish base and filled with dark greyish brown sandy silt (1414) while feature [1408], a probable tree-throw, with concave sides and a flat base, was almost 2m wide and 0.7m deep. It contained three fills: 0.35m thick very dark brown sandy silt (1409) overlain by a 0.1m thick mottled light grey/dark brown sandy silt (1410) topped by 0.26m thick black sandy silt (1411).

These features were sealed by 0.2m thick dark greyish brown clayey silt (1401) ploughsoil above which was 0.17m thick topsoil.

Trench 15 (Fig 5, Plate 15)

In this trench the natural deposit was mid brownish yellow, with occasional grey mottles, silty sand with occasional gravel patches (1503). This was cut by two features.

Irregular feature [1504] (Fig 8, Section 1) was 1.5m long, 0.88m wide and 0.17m deep and filled with light yellowish grey sandy silt (1505). Further to the east, irregular steep sided feature [1506] (Fig 8, Section 2) was 1.4m long, 0.35m wide and 0.2m deep with a fill of light greyish brown clayey silt (1507) which contained animal bone. Both features were probably tree-throws and were sealed by 0.15m thick orangey grey sandy clayey silt layer (1502) (Fig 8, Section 3). A 2m x 0.5m box extension (Fig 9, Section 13, Plate 16) to the trench was made, on the advice of the archaeological curator, to investigate this possible buried soil for struck flint. However, none was found.

Layer (1502) was sealed by 0.2m thick dark greyish brown sandy peat layer (1501) over which was 0.35m thick topsoil (1500).

Trench 16 (Figs 6, 9, Plate 17)

Trenches 16 and 17 formed a cross shape

over one of the proposed pond areas in the eastern side of the site. Natural deposits in Trench 16 comprised bluish grey silty clay (1603) overlain by a 15m wide, 0.34m thick mid vellowish orange silty sand (1602) layer seen in section. This was interpreted as either material near the edge of a sandy knoll or a roddon. Overlying this was 0.12m thick mid yellowish brown clayey silt (1601) above which was 0.3m thick topsoil (1600). No archaeological features were revealed apart from the terminus of the late post-medieval/early modern ditch [1705] excavated in Trench 17. This and a similar parallel feature were not excavated as it was agreed with the archaeological curator that one segment would suffice in the event of a late date.

Trench 17 (Fig 6)

In this trench the natural deposits were light bluish grey clay with yellowish orange sandy patches (1702). This was cut, towards the north end of the trench, by irregular sided feature [1703] (Fig 8, Section 12), probably a tree-throw, which was 1.5m wide and up to 0.5m deep and filled with mid bluish grey clayey silt (1704). This was sealed by 0.1m thick mid brown clayey silt subsoil (1701). Cutting subsoil was northwest-southeast this aligned steep sided ditch [1705] (Fig 9, Section 12, Plate 18). The ditch was 1.4m wide and 1.2m deep with a primary fill of 0.65m thick loose black sandy silt with occasional wood fragments (1706). This contain late post-medieval to early modern ceramic building material and was overlain by 0.58m thick mid reddish black mix of peat and redeposited clay with frequent wood fragments (1707). A similar parallel feature was not excavated.

Trench 18 (Figs 7, 9)

Trenches 18 and 19 formed a cross shape over the second proposed pond area. The natural deposit in Trench 18 was light orangey yellow sandy silt with bluish grey clay patches (1801). This was cut, near the southeast end of the trench by two features, probably tree-throws. Irregular linear feature [1802] (Fig 8, Section 14) was at least 3m long, 0.65m wide and 0.15m deep and filled with light brown clayey silt (1803). Immediately adjacent, irregular feature [1804] (Fig 8, Section 15) was 1.5m long, 0.8m wide and 0.11m deep and filled with light brownish grey sandy silt (1805).

The features were sealed by 0.3m thick topsoil (1800).

Trench 19 (Figs 7, 9)

The natural deposits in this trench were mottled orange brown/light grey sandy silt (1902).

A single sub-circular feature with concave sides [1904] (Fig 8, Section 16) was identified in this trench. Measuring 0.7m in diameter and 0.1m deep, it was filled with light grey clayey silt (1903) and was probably a natural feature of uncertain origin.

6. **DISCUSSION**

Natural deposits comprised mid bluish grey clay in Trenches 1-3, 7, 8, 16 and 17 in the eastern and southern parts of the site. Slightly to the west, in Trenches 18 and 19, they comprised orangey brown clayey silt with bluish grey clay patches. Over the slightly higher northern part of the site in Trenches 10-13 and 15 natural deposits were formed of generally orangey brown clayey silty sand with occasional gravel patches. This was one of the sand and gravel knolls, Quaternary River Terrace deposits.

Trenches 2-9 appeared to be on the course of a large palaeochannel on a similar alignment to Reach Lode and probably an ancient tributary of the River Cam. The Fenland Project recorded a postulated palaeochannel on a similar alignment branching off the River Cam palaeochannel (Hall 1996, 105, Fig 53) while a palaeochannel can seen on a satellite image to the west side of Reach Lode (Google Maps). Trench 14 was also within a palaeochannel.

The features revealed in Trenches 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18 and 19 are of likely natural origin probably ancient tree-throws. Short, straight gully [1002] in Trench 10 is the only one of these features with a regular shape although a single Mesolithic struck flint was retrieved from possible linear terminus [1004].

As on sites in the vicinity recorded by the Fenland Project (Hall 1996, 102), it was from the topsoil of Trench 10 that 42 struck flints, part of a scatter, were retrieved. The mitigation phase of six hand dug test pits, evenly spaced along the side of the trench, produced a further 23 struck flints. This trench, along with Trenches 11-13 was on a sand and gravel knoll which would have formed an island in the fen and was recorded by the Fenland Project (ibid, 105, Fig 53). Flint scatters had previously been discovered on other sand and gravel knolls in the vicinity and on the sandy Swaffham Prior ridge to the southwest (ibid, 102). While only one of the flints was a diagnostic Mesolithic piece, the care and competency involved throughout the assemblage support this date. Flints were found nowhere else on the evaluation and this scatter was short indicative episode of a of flintworking probably involving the repair and maintenance of hunting equipment on a gravel terrace or knoll (Bishop, Appendix 4).

Cambridgeshire sites at Honey Hill, Ramsey and Eye Hill Farm, Soham investigated by the Fenland Project showed that earlier Neolithic scatters could be as small as 20-30m across. As at Burwell Fen, any buried soil, where the flints would have lain, or shallow features had been ploughed out. Whatever occupation had occurred in prehistory did not create major sub-surface features. The distributions of scatters reflected limited and sporadic use of locations such as small camps with different forms of working distributed across both the landscape and the seasons (Edmonds *et al.* 1999).

Modern features in Trenches 11, 14 and 15 were probably marling pits. A sample segment of two parallel linear features in Trenches 16 and 17 was excavated and shown to be of late post-medieval to early modern date. It seemed too deep for a marling trench and was probably part of a drainage system.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Burwell Fen Hundred Acres, Burwell, Cambridgeshire as the site lay in an area of archaeological potential.

The evaluation revealed a Mesolithic flint scatter suggestive of a short episode of flintworking, by a mobile population, probably directed towards the repair and maintenance of hunting equipment. This reflects previous evidence of a prehistoric presence on the low sand and gravel knolls in the vicinity and lay adjacent to a large palaeochannel, a tributary of the River Cam. A further undated palaeochannel was also revealed.

Several undated features, probably treethrows, were identified while part of a late post-medieval to early modern drainage system was also revealed.

Finds comprised struck flint of Mesolithic date, animal bone and late post-medieval to early modern ceramic building material.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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National Trust who commissioned the project. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble Site Supervisor: Mark Peachey Site Assistants: Lavinia Green, Bryn Leadbetter (evaluation); Ross Kendall (test pitting) Surveying: Andrew Failes Finds processing: Denise Buckley Photographic reproduction: Mark Peachey CAD Illustration: Ross Kendall, Mark Peachey

Post-excavation analysis: Mark Peachey

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RCHM 1972 An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Cambridgeshire Vol II. NE Cambridgeshire

11. ABBREVIATIONS

- APS Archaeological Project Services
- HER Heritage Environment Record
- IfA Institute for Archaeologists
- NGR National Grid Reference
- RCHMRoyal Commission on Historic Monuments



Figure 1 General location map



Figure 2. Site Location Plan



Figure 3. Trench Location Plan



Figure 4. Trenches 11, 13 and 14 plans.



Figure 5. Plan of Trenches 10 and 15





Figure 7. Plans of Trenches 18 and 19.



Figure 8. Sections 1-4, 6-10, 14-16





Plate 1. Looking southeast from bank of Reach Lode prior to machining of Trench 7 in left foreground



Plate 2. Machining Trench 8 looking north from Reach Lode bank towards Burwell Lode



Plate 3. Representative section of Trench 2 sondage looking southwest



Plate 4. Oblique shot of Trench 4 looking south with representative section in foreground



Plate 5. Representative section of Trench 5 looking southwest



Plate 6. Trench 7 showing peat layer containing bog oak looking northwest



Plate 7. Representative section of Trench 7 sondage looking northwest immediately after machining



Plate 8. Trench 8, within palaeochannel, immediately after machining looking southeast



Plate 9. Pre-excavation shot of Trench 10 looking ESE



Plate 10. Gully terminus [1002], Section 6, looking southeast



Plate 11. Gully [1006], Section 8, looking southwest



Plate 12. Gully terminus [1006] fully excavated, looking northeast



Plate 13. Tree-throw [1102], Section 9, Trench 11, looking south



Plate 14. Southeast end of Section 5, palaeochannel fills in Trench 14, looking southwest



Plate 15. Pre-excavation shot of Trench 15 looking southeast

Plate 16. Test pit extension to Trench 15 showing peat (1501) and buried soil (1502) looking northeast



Plate 17. Pre-excavation shot of Trench 16 looking west



Plate 18. Ditch [1705], Section 12, looking west



Plate 19. Trench 10, Test Pit 5 looking northwest



Plate 20. Trench 10 test pits looking west

Appendix 1: Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared by Archaeological Project Services

May 2008

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological excavation of land at Adventurer's Fen, Burwell in advance of development undertaken as part of the Wicken Fen Vision Strategy. The development forms part of a scheme to enclose an area of c139 hectares of land as part of a National Trust scheme to rewet Adventurer's Fen.
- 1.2 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in August 2010 to determine the archaeological implications of the construction of a bund as part of the scheme. This identified an area where worked flints occur in the topsoil and a number of features of unknown date were also recorded
- 1.3 The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record contains records which suggest that the area has a high archaeological potential. Artefacts characteristic of Bronze Age funerary activity have been discovered in the area and small knolls of First River Terrace Gravels in Adventurer's Fen may have been attractive to early prehistoric communities as has been discovered elsewhere in the Fenland.
- 1.5 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for a programme of archaeological investigation at Burwell Fen, Cambridgeshire.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview
 - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.2.4 List of specialists
 - 2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Burwell lies 6km northwest of Newmarket and 15km northeast of Cambridge in southern Cambridgeshire. The site of the proposed bund is situated approximately 3km northeast of Burwell within the southern part of Adventurer's Fen, a land allocation falling within the northwest angle corner angle between Reach and Burwell Lodes. The site is located at Trench 10 of the preceding evaluation, close to the northwest corner of the site (Fig 1) at NGR 555140 269037.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, a condition has been placed on planning

consent (Application to be confirmed) by East Cambridgeshire District Council requiring a scheme of archaeological work to be undertaken at the site. The first phase of this work comprised an archaeological evaluation to assess the nature and potential of the site. Based on the results of the evaluation the Senior Archaeologist at Cambridgeshire Archaeology has requested that further investigations are undertaken as part of a mitigation phase.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The area lies within a low lying flat, open river plain at surface Ordance Datum heights of 0m OD to -1.20m OD where peats have developed on a substrate of Gault Clay. Small knolls of sand and gravels comprised of First River Terrace deposits are scattered around Adventurer's Fen.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 Archaeological discoveries in the immediate area include a Bronze Age flint knife and an associated Beaker vessel (Her ref. MCB 7790) which indicate the possibility of a cemetery of barrow of the period in the area.
- 6.3 There are also records of two nineteenth century windpumps in the area; Dawson's Mill (MCB8032) and Dyson's Mill (Her ref. MCB8233). These were used to assist water flow in the Lodes and are thought to be located in the proposed area of new wetland. Groundworks undertaken in 1943 revealed the foundations of Dawson's mill but Dyson's Mill has been removed and rebuilt elsewhere.
- 6.4 Reach Lode is locally known as a navigable 17th century watercourse and drain but there is some evidence that it was in existence in 1279 and may lie partly on the line of precursors dating to as early as the Roman period (Her ref. MCB9521)
- 6.5 In some parts of the fen the small gravely knolls formed of First River terrace deposits dotted around Adventurer's Fen have been shown to be locations for prehistoric activity, eg. MCB's 1373 6 and 7597)
- 6.6 A number of worked flints of, provisionally dated as later Mesolithic\earlier Neolithic prehistoric date were recovered from Trench 10 of the preceding evaluation. Trench 10 is located in an area where the underlying natural deposits are relatively high, suggesting a preferred location for settlement.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The primary aim of the project is to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site **by record** and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.
- 7.2 The excavation is directed at the recovery of a controlled sample of flints from the topsoil in the area of Trench 10.
- 7.3 These remains have potential to provide data to address the following areas of research or 'gaps in knowledge' as defined in Glazebrook, J. (ed.) 1997, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1 Resource Assessment.* East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Paper 3 and Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. 2000, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2 Research Agenda and Strategy.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8.:

7.4

Later Mesolithic \Early Neolithic

Despite the known potential of the fenland region to contain well preserved sites of

Later Mesolithic\Early Neolithic date 'there is a scarcity of known occupation sites, (Austin, 2000).

The predominant aim of the excavation will be to characterize the character of occupation at the site in terms of its duration, permanence and nature of activities.

- 7.5 The narrower objectives of the work will be to:
 - 7.5.1 Determine the date of the archaeological remains present on the site.
 - 7.5.2 Determine the extent and spatial arrangement of archaeological remains present within the site.
 - 7.5.3 Establish the character of archaeological remains present within the site.
 - 7.5.4 Determine the extent to which surrounding archaeological remains extend into the site.
 - 7.5.5 Identify the way in which the archaeological remains identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

- 8.1 General Considerations
 - 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation. A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the investigation, and updated throughout its duration.
 - 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). Archaeological Project Services is an IFA registered archaeological organisation (no. 21) managed by a Member (MIFA) of the institute.
 - 8.1.3 All work will be carried out in accordance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, 2003.*
 - 8.1.4 Any artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and the discovery promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 8.2 Methodology
 - 8.2.1 At the location of evaluation Trench 10, a 30m long transect of 1m square test pits at 5m intervals will be excavated along the line of the proposed bund. Following the test pitting topsoil will be stripped from the 30m length from the full 3m width of the proposed bund groundworks.
 - 8.2.2 All worked flints will be hand collected during excavation of the test pits, apart from those retrieved through controlled sieving of a 20 litre sub sample through a 5mm mesh.
 - 8.2.3 Following the site stripping, areas will be cleaned if necessary and a pre-excavation plan of the entire area of investigation will be compiled.
 - 8.2.4 Where safe to do so, all discrete features should, in normal circumstances, be fully excavated but should in any case not be less than 50% of the whole.
 - 8.2.5 Linear features not directly associated with settlement will be sampled at 10m intervals in 1m wide sections to allow an informed interpretation of their date and function. Junctions of linears and other features will also be excavated to determine stratigraphic

relationsips.

- 8.2.6 The excavation of linear features associated with settlement must be a minimum of 25%; this may increase depending on the nature of the physical evidence. Structural remains such as eaves drip gullies, beam slots and post-holes demonstrated to be part of a buildings construction will require total excavation.
- 8.2.7 All industrial features including "domestic" ovens and hearths should be 100% excavated and sampled for analysis.
- 8.2.8 Archaeological features will be recorded on APS pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 8.2.9 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at more appropriate scales.
- 8.2.5 Throughout the duration of the investigation a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. Colour digital images will also be taken to augment the photographic record and may be used in subsequent site reports. The photographic record will consist of:
 - the site before the commencement of field operations
 - the site during the investigation to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within the area.
 - individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important.
 - the site on completion of fieldwork
- 8.2.10 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered, ready for later washing and analysis. All finds work will be carried out to accepted professional standards and the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Guidelines for Finds Work* (1992).
- 8.2.11 Conservation of artefacts will be carried out by Lincoln City and County Museum. The resources available for conservation is dependent on the quantity and type of artefacts recovered from the site.
- 8.2.12 The location of the site recording grid will be established by a GPS or EDM survey and accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably mapped local features.
- 8.2.13 During the investigations, all exposed surfaces, excavation horizons, and spoil, will be regularly and repeatedly metal-detected to ensure optimum recovery of artefacts. Any identified artefacts will be excavated from its parent context in normal stratigraphic sequence.
- 8.2.14 Samples will be taken from a representative range of feature types of medieval date, and any post-medieval features of especial significance, for subsequent environmental analysis.
- 8.2.15 Prior to commencement of site operations, Archaeological Project Services will liaise with the Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Office to acquire an event code.

9 POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT, ANALYSIS AND REPORT

- 9.1 Stage 1
 - 9.1.1 If appropriate, the site archive will be subject to a full Archaeological Assessment as set out in *Management of Archaeological Projects II*. On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the excavation will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting a Level II archive. A preliminary stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared, along with a site narrative. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour slides/prints will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers, with the original stored digitally on CD ROM. The black and white contact prints will be labelled. In both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
 - 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Finds will be sent to external specialists for identification, dating and Assessment. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 A full Assessment Report will be prepared and will consist of statements setting out the following:-
- 9.2.2 *Factual Data* ie quantity of material and records; the provenance of the material; the range and variety of material; the condition of the material and the existence of primary sources or relevant documentation which may enhance the study of the site data.
- 9.2.3 Statement of Potential for each material category including a review of the research questions posed in the Project Design which the data has the potential to answer, new research questions resulting from the data gathering and the potential for the data to enhance local, regional and national research
- 9.2.4 *Storage and Curation* recommendations on the discard of material and long-term storage requirements.
- 9.3 <u>Stage 3</u>
 - 9.3.1 On completion of Stage 2, an Updated Project Design will be prepared (as set out in MAP II Appendix 5). This will include site background, summary statement of potential, revised aims and objectives, methods statement and a detailed update that sets out a revised programme to complete the project.

9.4 Stage 4

- 9.4.1 Full analysis will be undertaken on the stratigraphic/structural elements of the site and the artefacts and ecofacts identified in the assessment report as being worthy of full analysis. Following analysis a full report will be produced. This will consist of:
 - A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
 - A description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
 - A description of the methodologies used during the investigation and

discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results

- A text fully describing the findings of the investigation.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site
- Appropriate illustrations of location, sections, plans, artefacts, reconstructions
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
- Integration of all the data and a full discussion of the site including consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.
- Full Bibliography

10 ARCHIVE

- 10.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered in accordance with guidelines issued by Cambridgeshire County Council for deposition of archives. This work will be undertaken by the Finds Supervisor, an Archaeological Assistant and the Conservator (if relevant). The archive will be deposited with the receiving museum as soon as possible after completion of the project, and within 12 months of completion.
- 10.2 If required, microfilming of the archive will be carried out, with the silver master transferred to the RCHME and a diazo copy deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record.
- 10.3 An Event Number will; obtained from the HER and the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store has agreed receipt of the project archive which will be ordered to their requirements with regards to labelling, ordering, storage, conservation and organisation of the archive.
- 10.4 The landowner has agreed in principle to legal transfer of title of the archaeological objects retained during the investigation from themselves to the receiving museum. The transfer of title will be effected by a standard letter supplied to the landowner for signature.

11 REPORT DEPOSITION

11.1 An unbound draft copy of the report will be supplied initially to the County Archaeological Office for comment. Copies of the final report will be sent to: the client; the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office (2 copies and a digital copy); and the Cambridgeshire County Historic Environment Record.

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the investigation will be submitted for inclusion in the journal *Proceedings of the Cambridgeshire Antiquarian Society*. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Postmedieval Archaeology, Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.
- 12.2 The post-excavation assessment may establish that fuller reporting and publication is required. If such is the case, the format, nature and extent of such publication will be determined by review of the assessment in consultation with the archaeological curator.

12.3 Details of the investigation will also be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

13 CURATORIAL MONITORING

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office. As much notice as possible will be given in writing to the curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.
- 13.2 It is envisaged that there will be a site meeting with the curator immediately upon completion of the stripping/cleaning to discuss the extent of investigation by archaeological excavation required.

14 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

- 14.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptability from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

15 STAFF TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 15.1 The work will be directed by Tom Lane MIFA, Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Project Services. The on-site works will be supervised by an Archaeological Supervisor with knowledge of archaeological investigations of this type. Archaeological excavation will be carried out by Archaeological Technicians, experienced in projects of this type.
- 15.2 The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

Air Photograph plotting	g	Roger Palmer, independent specialist
Conservation		Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln.
Pottery Analysis		Prehistoric: David Knight Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust or Dr Carol Allen, independent specialist. Small assemblages may be reported on by Dale Trimble, Project Manager for APS or by Dr Anne Boyle, the in house pottery specialist at APS. All work by the latter will be mentored by the named specialists.
Roman:	Barbara	Precious, independent specialist (formerly City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit), or local specialist if required. APS is currently operating an IFA workplace bursary employing a Alex Beeby who may undertake the work mentored by the named specialist.
Anglo-Saxon:		Dr Anne Boyle, APS in house pottery specialist.
Medieval and later:		Dr Anne Boyle, APS in house pottery specialist.
Other Artefacts		J Cowgill, independent specialist

Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist
Animal Remains Analysis	M . Holmes, independent specialist
Environmental Analysis	Val Fryer, independent specialist
Soil Micromorphology	Dr Charly French, independent specialist
Pollen Assessment	Pat Wiltshire, independent specialist
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

16 PROGRAMME OF WORKS

16.1 The duration for the excavated is estimated at 2 days using a team of one site assistants and one project officer. Post-excavation work is likewise dependent on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered, and the involvement of specialist analysts.

17 INSURANCES

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Gurney, D, 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, ALGAOEE

Specification: Version 1, 1st September 2010

APPENDIX 2

Context Summary

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
100	1	Loose dark grey clayey silt, 0.53m thick	Topsoil	
101	1	Friable mottled mid grey/orange clayey silt, up to 0.27m thick	Alluvium	
102	1	Firm mid bluish grey clay, at least 0.18m thick	Natural	
200	2	Loose dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.15m thick	Topsoil	
201	2	Friable dark greyish brown peat, 0.25m thick	Peat layer	
202	2	Soft blue silty clay with occasional iron pan, 0.25m thick	Alluvium	
203	2	Soft, plastic light yellowish white clayey silt, 0.12m thick	Dessicated peat	
204	2	Soft, plastic dark brown peat with moderately frequent wood fragments , 0.60m thick	Peat layer	
205	2	Firm, bluish grey clay, at least 0.18m thick	Natural	
300	3	Loose dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.10m thick	Topsoil	
301	3	Friable dark greyish brown peat, 0.30m thick	Peaty former ploughsoil	
302	3	Soft, friable light yellowish white clayey silt, with occasional snail shells, 0.15m thick	Layer	
303	3	Firm bluish grey sandy, clayey silt with occasional shells, 0.70m thick	Alluvium	
304	3	Soft, plastic dark brown peat with occasional wood fragments , approx 0.80m thick	Peat layer	
305	3	Firm grey clay, at least 0.10m thick	Natural	
400	4	Loose dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderately frequent snail shells, 0.15m thick	Topsoil	
401	4	Loose, friable dark greyish brown peat with moderately frequent snail shells, 0.25m thick	Peaty former ploughsoil	
402	4	Friable light yellowish white sandy silt, 70mm thick	Desiccated peat layer	
403	4	Firm bluish grey sandy, clayey silt with occasional iron pan and wood fragments, 0.16m thick	Alluvium	
404	4	Soft mottled mid yellowish brown/grey sandy silt laminations, 0.80m thick	Alluvium	
405	4	Soft light bluish grey sandy, clayey silt with moderately frequent iron pan and occasional wood fragments, at least 0.20m thick	Alluvium	
500	5	Loose dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional peat patches and frequent snail shells, 0.37m thick	Topsoil	
501	5	Friable light yellowish white sandy silt with occasional snail	Desiccated peat	

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
		shells, 70mm thick	layer	
502	5	Soft bluish grey sandy, clayey silt with occasional snail shells and iron pan, 0.25m thick	Alluvium	
503	5	Soft, plastic mottled light orangey white/light brownish grey silt laminations with occasional snail shells, 0.40m thick	Alluvium	
504	5	Soft, friable black peat with occasional wood fragments , 0.30m thick	Peat layer	
505	5	Soft mottled light bluish grey/light brownish yellow sandy silt with occasional gravel patches and moderately frequent wood fragments , at least 0.18m thick	Alluvium	
600	6	Loose dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional snail shells, 0.40m thick	Topsoil	
601	6	Friable light yellowish white sandy silt, 90mm thick	Desiccated peat layer	
602	6	Firm bluish grey silty clay with occasional snail shells, 0.12m thick	Alluvium	
603	6	Soft mottled light orangey brown/grey clayey silt with moderately frequent decayed wood fragments and snail shells, 0.20m thick	Alluvium	
604	6	Soft dark brown peat with occasional wood fragments , 0.10m thick	Peat layer	
605	6	Soft mottled light bluish grey/light brown sandy, silty clay with occasional sand/gravel patches, wood fragments, and snail shells, at least 0.15m thick	Alluvium	
700	7	Loose dark brown clayey silt, 0.30m thick	Topsoil	
701	7	Friable mottled orangey brown/grey silty clay, 0.40m thick	Alluvium	
702	7	Soft mottled mid to light grey clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Alluvium	
703	7	Loose dark brown peat with frequent wood fragments , 1.25m thick	Peat layer	
704	7	Firm mid grey clay	Natural	
800	8	Loose dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil	
801	8	Friable mid grey clayey silt, 0.30m thick	Alluvium	
802	8	Soft mottled dark grey/orangey brown clayey silt, 0.45m thick	Alluvium	
803	8	Soft dark brown peat with frequent wood fragments , 0.65m thick	Peat layer	
804	8	Firm mid grey clay	Natural	
900	9	Loose dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.45m thick	Topsoil	
901	9	Friable mid grey clayey silt, 0.10m thick	Alluvium	
902	9	Soft dark greyish brown peat with frequent wood fragments, at least 0.50m thick	Peat layer	

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
1000	10	Loose dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional snail shells, 0.30m thick	Topsoil	
1001	10	Soft/loose light greyish yellow sandy silt with frequent iron pan	Natural	
1002	10	N-S aligned linear cut with rounded ends, 3.3m long, 0.55m wide and 0.26m deep, with steep concave sides and shallow rounded base	Gully or natural feature	
1003	10	Soft, friable light greyish brown clayey silt, with occasional snail shells, 0.26m thick	Fill of [1002]	
1004	10	Sub-rectangular cut, at least 1.1m long, 0.45m wide and 0.07m deep, with gradual sides and uneven base, oriented N-S	Possible gully terminus	Mesolithic
1005	10	Soft, friable light greyish brown clayey silt with occasional flints, 70mm thick	Fill of [1004]	Mesolithic
1006	10	NE-SW aligned oblong cut, 3m long, 1.15m wide and 0.66m deep, with varying gradual and steep, concave sides and tapered concave base	Probable tree-throw	
1007	10	Friable light-mid greyish brown clayey silt with sandy patches and black, organic patches and occasional shells, 0.66m thick	Fill of [1006]	
1008	10	Loose/friable light-lid orangish brown sandy silt, 0.30m thick	Possible natural slump into [1006]	
1100	11	Loose dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.40m thick	Topsoil	
1101	11	Friable mid grey clayey silt, up to 0.20m thick	Fill of [1102]	
1102	11	Crescent shaped cut, at least 3.5m long, 0.90m wide and 0.20m deep, with gradual and steep sides and uneven base	Tree-throw	
1103	11	Friable mid grey clayey silt with occasional orangey mottles, 0.30m thick	Fill of [1104]	
1104	11	Irregular cut, at least 1.8m long, 0.70m wide and 0.30m deep, with convex sides and uneven base	Probable tree-throw	
1105	11	Soft, friable mottled mid orangey brown/light grey sandy silt with occasional gravel, at least 0.30m thick	Natural	
1106	11	Loose, very dark grey sandy silt, 0.30m thick	Fill of [1007]	
1107	11	Sub-rectangular cut, at least 0.45m long, 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep, with vertical and undercut sides and flattish base, oriented NE-SW	Probable marling pit	
1108	11	Friable mid grey/orange flecked clayey silt, 0.38m thick	Fill of [1109]	
1109	11	Cut of feature, 1.10m length, 0.60m width and 0.38m depth with concave and undercut sides and sloping base, oriented SW-NE	Possible linear or tree-throw	
1200	12	Loose dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.33m thick	Topsoil	
1201	12	Friable mid grey clayey silt, 0.22m thick	Alluvium	
1202	12	Firm mottled light grey/orangey brown clay, at least 0.22m thick	Natural	

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
1300	13	Friable very dark brown silt, 0.25m thick	Topsoil	
1301	13	Friable dark brown silty peat, 0.15m thick	Desiccated peat layer	
1302	13	Friable light brown clayey silt with occasional shells, 50mm thick	Alluvium	
1303	13	Soft, friable light orangey brown clayey, sandy silt	Natural	
1304	13	Irregular shaped cut, 1.8m wide and 0.10m deep with gradual and undercut sides, and moderately flat base	Probable tree-throw	
1305	13	Soft, friable mottled light-mid greyish brown/orange clayey silt with frequent snail shells, up to 0.10m thick	Fill of [1304]	
1400	14	Loose dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.17m thick	Topsoil	
1401	14	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.20m thick	Former ploughsoil	
1402	14	Loose light yellowish white sandy silt with occasional snail shells, 0.18m thick	Desiccated peat fill of [1420]	
1403	14	Soft mid bluish grey sandy, silty clay with occasional iron pan and shells, 0.15m thick	Fill of [1420]	
1404	14	Soft mottled light orangey yellow/grey sandy, silty clay with occasional snail shells, 0.37m thick	Fill of [1420]	
1405	14	Soft, plastic greyish blue sandy, clayey silt with occasional iron pan and shells	Fill of [1420]	
1406	14	Soft, plastic dark brown peat with frequent wood fragments and occasional snail shells, at least 0.40m thick	Peat fill of [1420]	
1407	14	Plastic mid brownish grey silty sand with frequent snail shells, 0.25m thick	Fill of [1420]	
1408	14	Cut of feature, 1.95m wide, 0.70m depth with gradual, concave sides and flat base, oriented NE-SW	Possible tree-throw	
1409	14	Friable dark blackish brown sandy silt with occasional wood fragments and shells, 0.35m thick	Fill of [1408]	
1410	14	Friable mottled light grey/dark brown sandy silt with occasional snail shells, 0.10m thick	Fill of [1408]	
1411	14	Loose black sandy silt with occasional shells, 0.26m thick	Fill of [1408]	
1412	14	Soft, plastic dark grey clayey silt with occasional light yellow patches, wood fragments and shells, 0.27m thick	Fill of [1420]	
1413	14	Cut of feature, 0.55m wide, 0.40m depth, with near vertical sides and flattish base, oriented SW-NE	Possible marling pit	
1414	14	Loose dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent snail shells and occasional wood fragments, 0.40m thick	Fill of [1413]	
1415	14	Soft, plastic light grey silty clay with yellow patches, moderately frequent wood fragments, and occasional snail shells, 0.13m thick	Natural	

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
1416	14	Soft, plastic dark brown peat with occasional wood fragments, 0.15m thick	Peat fill of [1420]	
1417	14	Firm mid grey clayey silt with frequent wood fragments and occasional snail shells, 0.35m thick	Alluvium fill of [1420]	
1418	14	Cut of feature, 0.4m wide, 0.33m depth, with vertical sides and flat base, oriented SW-NE	Possible marling pit	
1419	14	Loose dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderately frequent wood fragments and occasional snail shells, 0.33m thick	Fill of [1418]	
1500	15	Loose dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil	
1501	15	Loose dark greyish brown sandy peat, 0.20m thick	Peat layer	
1502	15	Soft light orangey grey sandy, clayey silt with occasional iron pan, 0.15m thick	Possible buried soil	
1503	15	Loose mid brownish yellow silty sand with occasional grey patches, gravel patches, and moderately frequent iron pan, at least 0.25m thick	Natural	
1504	15	Irregular feature, 1.5m long, 0.88m wide, 0.17m deep, with shallow sides and rounded base	Tree-throw	
1505	15	Hard light yellowish grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.17m thick	Fill of [1504]	
1506	15	Irregular feature, 1.95m long, 0.35m wide and 0.20m deep, with steep sides and concave, tapering base	Tree-throw	
1507	15	Friable light greyish brown clayey silt with moderately frequent snail shells and occasional wood fragments, 0.20m thick	Fill of [1506]	
1600	16	Loose dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional snail shells, 0.30m thick	Topsoil	
1601	16	Compact mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional snail shells, 0.12m thick	Layer/subsoil	
1602	16	Soft, loose mid yellowish orange silty sand with occasional snail shells, 0.34m thick	Sandy knoll or roddon	
1603	16	Firm bluish grey silty clay with occasional iron pan, at least 70mm thick	Natural	
1700	17	Loose dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional snail shells, 0.35m thick	Topsoil	
1701	17	Friable mid brown clayey silt with occasional snail shells, 0.10m thick	Subsoil	
1702	17	Firm light bluish grey clay with yellowish orange sandy patches, moderately frequent iron pan, and occasional snail shells	Natural	
1703	17	Cut of feature, up to 0.50m depth, with uneven sides and base	Tree-throw	
1704	17	Firm to friable mid bluish grey clayey silt with frequent iron pan, up to 0.50m thick	Fill of [1703]	
1705	17	Cut of feature, 1.20m depth, with steep sides and uneven,	Drainage ditch	18 th -20 th C

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
		sloping base, oriented NW-SE		
1706	17	Loose black sandy silt with occasional wood fragments, 0.65m thick	Fill of [1705]	18 th -20 th C
1707	17	Loose to firm mid reddish black mix of peat and redeposited clay, with frequent wood fragments, up to 0.58m thick	Fill of [1705]	
1800	18	Loose dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional snail shells, 0.30m thick	Topsoil	
1801	18	Soft, loose light orangey yellow sandy silt with bluish grey clay patches	Natural	
1802	18	Cut of feature, 0.65m width and 0.15m depth with uneven sides and base	Probable tree-throw	
1803	18	Friable light brown clayey silt with frequent orangey brown sand patches, 0.15m thick	Fill of [1802]	
1804	18	Cut of feature, 0.11m depth, with concave sides and uneven base	Tree-throw	
1805	18	Friable light brownish grey sandy silt with occasional snail shells, 0.11m thick	Fill of [1804]	
1900	19	Loose dark greyish brown clayey silt, up to 0.45m thick	Topsoil	
1901	19	Friable orange-flecked mid grey clayey silt, 0.15m thick	Alluvium	
1902	19	Friable mottled orangey brown/light grey sandy silt, at least 50mm thick	Natural	
1903	19	Friable orange-flecked light grey clayey silt, 0.10m thick	Fill of [1904]	
1904	19	Sub-circular cut, 0.70m diameter and 0.10m deep, with gradual, concave sides and rounded base	Possible pit or natural feature	

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Anne Boyle

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). A total of two fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 46 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 1.

Condition

Both fragments show signs of abrasion, and one has traces of soot.

Results

Table 1, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
1706	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Gault	1	42	Flat roofer, soot	16th to 18th?
1706	CBM	Ceramic Building Material		1	4	Flake	18th to 20th?

Provenance

Both fragments come from (1706), the fill of linear [1705].

Potential

Both fragments are stable and pose no problems for long-term storage.

Summary

Two fragments of ceramic building material were retrieved from the site, these are difficult to date but probably fall into the post-medieval to early modern period.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 3 (21g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

Provenance

The finds were retrieved from the fill of a linear or tree throw (1108) and the fill of a tree throw (1507).

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate.

Results

Table 2, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Number	W (g)	Comments
1108	sheep/goat	metatarsus	2	11	both join
1507	sheep/goat	radius	1	10	

Summary

As a small undated assemblage the animal bone is of limited potential. It should be retained as part of the site archive.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
1706	18th to 20th?	Date on CBM

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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Appendix 4: Lithic Report by Barry Bishop

Introduction

The evaluation resulted in the recovery of 66 pieces of struck flint. This report quantifies and provides a summary description of the assemblage and further details for each piece is given in Table 3. The assemblage was recovered from topsoil deposits and from a series of test-pits with a single piece being recovered from cut feature [1004] (see Table 1). This suggests that the material had originally been discarded directly onto the ground surface and subsequently incorporated into the topsoil via processes such as bioturbation and ploughing.

Quantification

Location	No of Struck Flints
Test pit 2	4
Test-pit 3	3
Test-pit 4	2
Test-pit 5	5
Test-pit 6	9
Undifferentiated topsoil	42
Feature [1004]	1

Table 1: Quantification of Worked Flint from BFHA 10

Condition

Around half of the assemblage has experienced some degree of edge chipping and abrasion, a relatively low proportion considering that it was recovered from topsoil deposits, although the majority of pieces are broken. Just under 10% of the pieces are burnt, indicating that flintworking may have taken place in the vicinity of a hearth.

All of the struck pieces had recorticated to a white or bluish white colour, resulting in some of the thinner edges of the flakes becoming friable and partially disintegrating.

Raw material

The raw materials consist of flint with a variably thick, slightly weathered chalky cortex and with frequent ancient thermal scars. Recent breaks on some of the pieces revealed the flint to be translucent grey or black in colour and of good knapping quality, comparable to that originating in the Holywell or Lewes Nodular Chalk Formations, which outcrops a few km to the southeast of the site. The presence of frequent thermal scars and flaws indicates the raw materials were gathered from superficial deposits, either glacial boulder clays, which can be found c.2 km to the northeast of the site, or as relatively unrolled cobbles within alluvial deposits, present at and in the vicinity of the site. It is possibly significant that the test-pits, located in the vicinity of Trench 10, coincide with a localised patch of Quaternary River Terrace Deposits.

Technology and Typology

Decortication Flake	Core Rejuvenation Flake	Core Tablet	Useable Flake	Chips	Flake Fragments	Micro-blade	Blade (Non -prismatic)	Blade (prismatic)	Blade-like Flake	Micro-burin	Backed Blade	Burin	Serrate	Truncated Blade	Blade Core	Core fragment	Conchoidal Chunk
3	3	1	6	5	13	1	3	19	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
4.5	4.5	1.5	9.1	7.6	19.7	1.5	4.5	28.8	3.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	4.5	1.5	1.5

Table 2: Typology of the Worked Flint from BFHA 10

The assemblage derives from a carefully considered blade-based reduction strategy (Table 2). Blades contribute a third of the assemblage, the vast majority of which derive from systematic core working. Three cores were recovered, all of which had been used to produce blades. Two of these have opposed

striking platforms and the remainder a single platform, although this also has some radial removals taken from its base and it is possible that it is a re-used fragment from a transverse axe. The cores are extensively reduced and worked down to a small size, their weights ranging from 36g to 47g. A concern with core maintenance is evident in the form of careful platform edge preparation and also from the three core rejuvenation flakes that were recovered. These had all been removed transversely across the platform edge, removing parts of the striking platform and core face. Retouched implements consist of single examples of a backed blade, a transversely truncated blade, a burin and a serrated blade. Also recovered was a failed micro-burin consisting of a blade with an oblique notch cut into its right dorsal margin near its bulbar end (cf Rankine 1946, fig 2), but which had snapped further down towards its distal end. These are not normally considered to be implements in their own right but are usually thought of as waste products from the manufacture of microliths (eg Finlay 2000a).

Discussion

The assemblage is technologically homogeneous and potentially derives from a single phase of activity. It is dominated by knapping waste and indicates raw material preparation and core reduction occurring at the site. Many of the blades, although potentially useable, may have broken during manufacture and these may also represent discarded waste pieces. The only truly diagnostic piece is the micro-burin, which can be dated to the Mesolithic period, but both the care and competency evident in the reduction strategy and the other retouched pieces would strongly support such a date for the entire assemblage.

The retouched inventory is varied and such types are likely to have had a number of different uses. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that they all are associated with the preparation and repair of arrow shafts. In addition, although no microliths are present, the micro-burin indicates that these were being manufactured at the site. Again, it is quite probable that microliths were put to a variety of uses (eg Clarke 1976; Finley 2000a; 2000b) but it also likely that one of their main functions was as projectile points. Taken as a whole, the assemblage is suggestive of a short episode of flintworking that might have been directed towards the repair and maintenance of hunting equipment.

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Appendix 5

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, e.g. [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
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).
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
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.
Roddon	Raised banks of clay or silt representing sinuous channels which formed dendritic patterns and which later became silted up. Roddons stand proud of the fen surface due to tidal levees and also due to post depositional compression and wastage of the surrounding peat.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 6

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 8 Context register sheets
- 67 Context record sheets
- 21 Trench record sheets
- 5 Photographic record sheets
- 1 Section record sheet
- 2 Plan record sheets
- 2 Levels sheets
- 13 Daily record sheets
- 28 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

Accession Number:

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

OASIS Record No:

ECB3401/ECB3448

BFHA 10

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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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