

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
REDBRICK FARM BARN
HARDWICK
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

NGR TL 3738 5856

On behalf of Camstead Homes



Joe Abrams BA AIFA

July 2003

ASC:HRF02/3

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Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	HRF02	<i>Project No:</i>	425
<i>County:</i>	Cambridgeshire		
<i>District:</i>	South Cambridgeshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Hardwick		
<i>Parish:</i>	Hardwick		
<i>NGR:</i>	TL 3738 5856		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	0.439ha		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Disused Farm Yard and Barns		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Conversion of Barns into offices and construction of Car Park		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	S/1131/02/F		
<i>Client:</i>	Camstead Homes 1 Chequers Court Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3NB		
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Internal Quality Check

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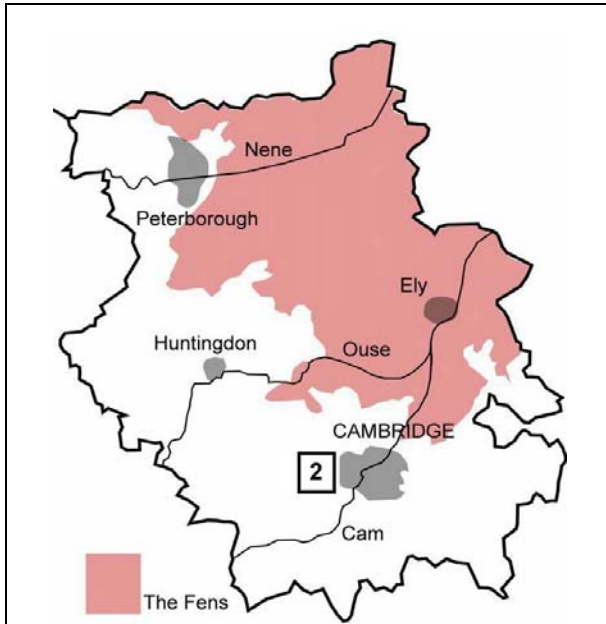


Figure 1: Location within County

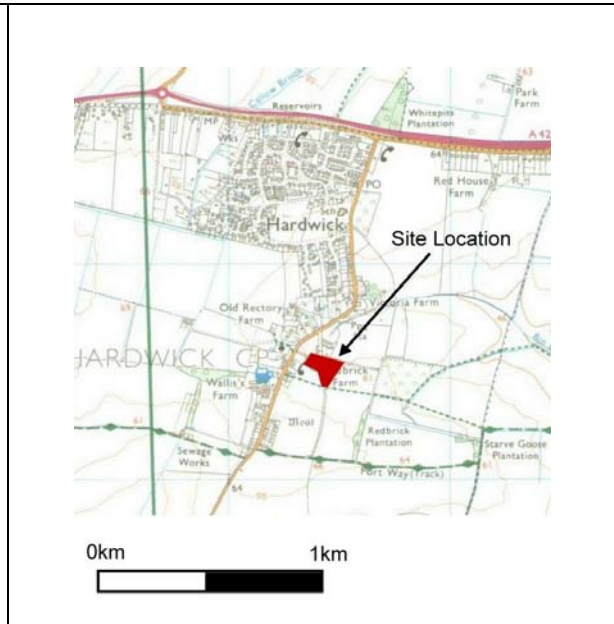


Figure 2: General Location

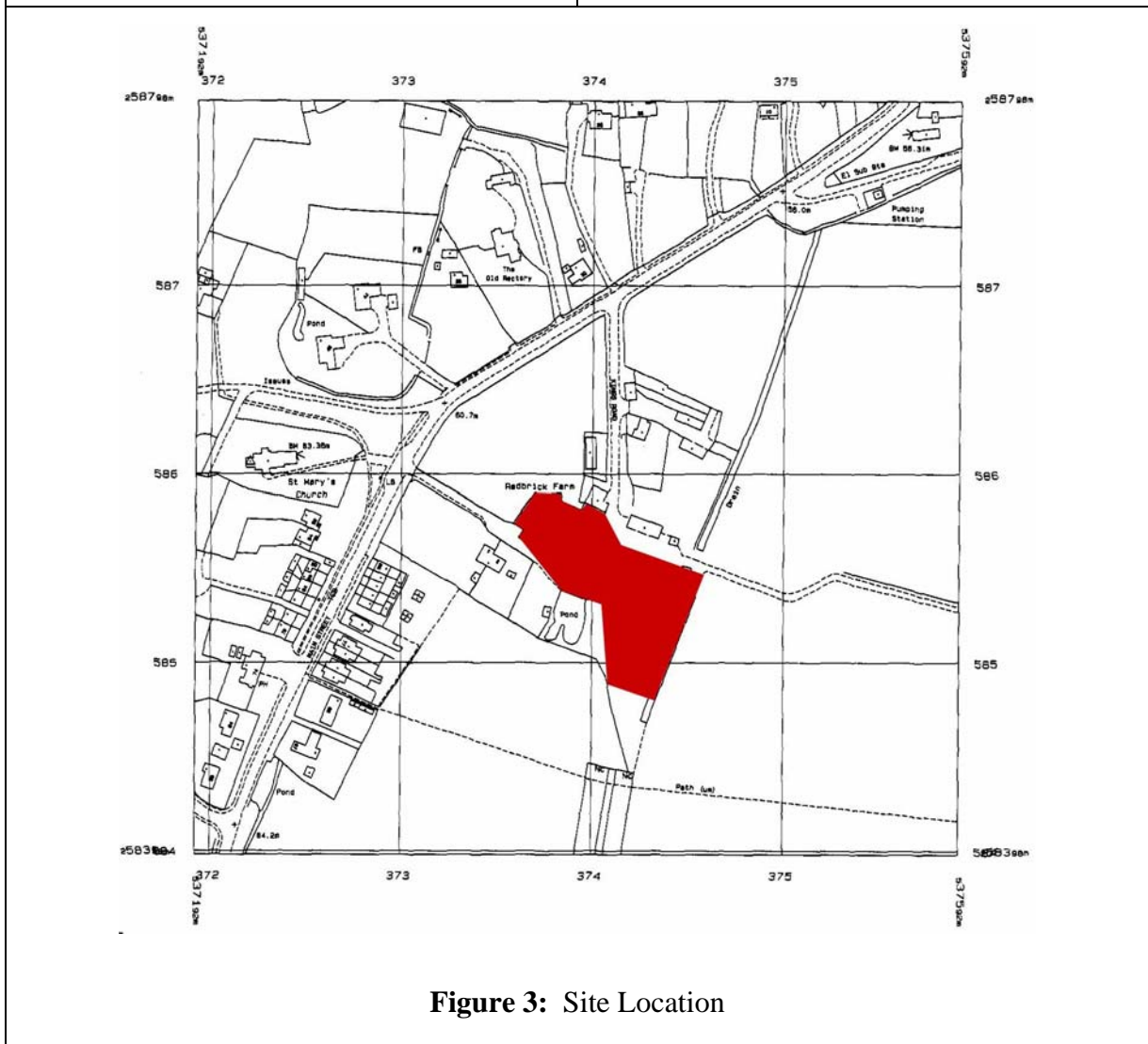


Figure 3: Site Location

Summary

During July 2003 an evaluation was carried out at Redbrick Farm Barns, Hardwick, Cambridgeshire. One un-dated ditch terminal was recorded from which no artefactual material was recovered.

The existence of significant earthworks in the field immediately northwest of the site was noted during the project.

1 Introduction

1.1 During July 2003 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an archaeological evaluation on a site at Redbrick Farm Barns (NGR TL 3738 5856: Fig. 3). The project was commissioned by Camstead Homes, and was carried out according to a brief prepared by Jeremy Parsons of the Cambridgeshire County Council, County Archaeology Office, and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ASC (Abrams 2002).

1.2 *Reason for Work*

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned in response to a PPG 16 (archaeology and planning) planning condition imposed by the local planning authority, South Cambridgeshire District Council. The condition was imposed due to the area being identified as having archaeological potential. In particular it was considered possible that occupation features dating to the medieval and possibly Anglo-Saxon periods may be present, as the site is located close to the suspected core of settlement during these periods. It was expected that any archaeological remains within the development area would be severely damaged or destroyed by the ground works associated with the construction of a car parking area.

1.3 *Setting*

1.3.1 The site is an irregular shaped plot 0.439ha in size. It is located in the historic core of Hardwick village, within the parish of Hardwick.

1.3.2 The site lies at an elevation of *c.*58 to *c.*61m OD. The underlying geology is classified as belonging to the Hanslope Association (Soil Survey 1983), being 'slowly permeable calcereous clayey soils' overlying boulder clay.

1.3.3 The boundaries of the site consist of open fields to the south and east, a pond and detached dwelling to the west and the Kings Road and a neighbouring farmhouse to the north.

1.3.4 Access to the site is from the north via Kings Road. The northern part of the site is covered by concrete slabs forming a yard and providing access to a steel barn which lies immediately east of the access road. On the west, disused agricultural buildings surround a courtyard. This courtyard is partially covered with concrete; the remainder has become overgrown with thick undergrowth. Rough grassland covers the remainder of the southern and eastern parts of the site.

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the brief (Section 3.0), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, which were liable to be threatened by the development.
- To produce an accurate and full record of the archaeology present, such that a permanent record will be made and the results presented in such a way that they may be re-examined and interpreted in the future.
- The objectives of the evaluation included special reference to the identification of the presence or absence of a paleosol or 'B' horizon and the degree of truncation of any buried deposits. Environmental and faunal remains were also to be assessed for environmental potential of the site as a whole.
- To provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relative importance against development proposals. An impact assessment will also be supplied.

2.2 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 2.5 and 4.0), which required:

- A programme of linear trial trenching and/or test-pitting to adequately sample the threatened available area, and to excavate sufficient archaeological features to provide the information required by the brief (Section 2.1). All features were investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with the CAO. A 5% sample of the area to be affected by the development was subject to trial trenching.
- Following advice from a suitably qualified specialist a reassessment and re-plotting of available aerial photographs was not undertaken.

2.3 Standards

The work conforms to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

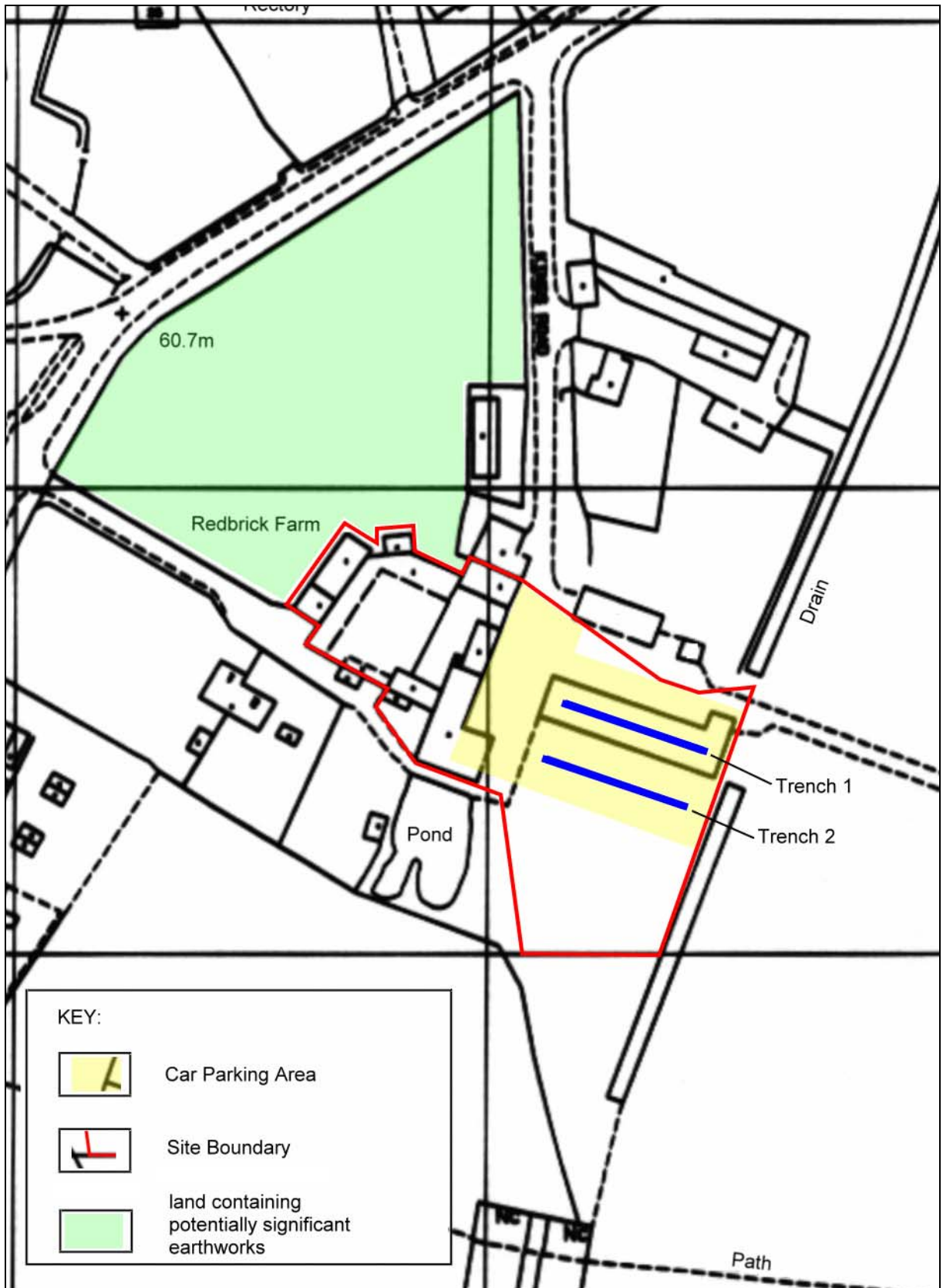


Figure 4: Trench location plan (Scale 1:1250)

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric (*before 600BC*) to Iron Age (*600BC-AD43*)

The SMR records the existence of earthworks (SMR 03226) *c.*50m west of the site which may date to the Iron Age or Roman periods. These are the curved northern boundaries of closes 90 and 92 visible on the 1838 Tithe Map (Fig. 7). There is apparently no artefactual evidence to back up the suggested Iron Age or Roman date, and it is possible that these are medieval or later in origin.

No definite sites dating to this period have yet been identified within the study area. However, in the neighbouring parish of Caldecote an extensive area of settlement activity dating to the Iron Age has been recorded over recent years (Kenney 2001, Redding 2002). The focus of this activity lies *c.*2km west of the site at Caldecote Highfields, on land which also has heavy clay soils, and shares a similar elevation to Hardwick village. Similar activity within the vicinity of Hardwick cannot be entirely ruled out.

3.3 Roman (*AD43-c.450*)

No definite sites dating to the Roman period are recorded within the parish. It has been suggested that a Roman road running between St Neots and Cambridge may have run directly through the core of the village (Taylor 1997). The suggested alignment of this road is northwest to southeast, located immediately south of the site and running immediately north of St Mary's Church to the west. Although this is a projected route and therefore may be inaccurate the possibility of features related to it must be considered during the evaluation.

Other sites of interest in relation to the Roman period are the earthworks discussed above (SMR 03226) which have also been assigned a possible Roman date and the recent excavations at Caldecote Highfields, *c.*2km west of the site (Kenney 2001), which recorded settlement features and a possible vineyard dating to the Roman period.

3.4 Saxon (*c.450-1066*)

The earliest documentary reference to a settlement at Hardwick, or *Herdouic*, records that it was willed to Ely priory in AD 997 by Ealdorman Beorhtnoth, who was killed in a battle with the invading Danes (Talyor 1997). The development area is located *c.*150m east of St Mary's Church, which contains decorative elements thought to date to this period (SMR 03252). These consist of several crosses within the church marked in stone and/or plaster, and painted red. Settlements of this period often cluster around the parish church and therefore the site lies within an area of relatively high potential for remains of this period, although none have been recorded to date.

3.5 Medieval (*1066-1500*)

Throughout the medieval period the village remained in the possession of Ely. This was confirmed by Edward the Confessor and remained effective until AD 1600 (Pugh 1967). The Domesday survey refers to a settlement in Hardwick (Morris 1981) and

records a relatively low population of eleven. Despite being named *Herdouic*, meaning sheep farm (Reaney 1943), the economy of the village and parish was predominantly arable farming throughout the medieval period. The heavy and notoriously wet clay soils of the area were unsuitable for sheep farming on a large scale (Pugh 1963).

The population of this settlement grew throughout the early medieval period until it reached 43 tenants in AD 1279. In 1377 eighty-one poll-tax payers are recorded, and by the end of the medieval period in the 16th century, only 14 families were recorded.

Several sites of this date are recorded by the SMR. Perhaps most significant of these are a moated homestead (SMR 01100) and the parish Church of St Mary's (SMR 04217). The moated site lies c.300m southwest of the site and was partially excavated by a team from Durham University (no report available), during 1974-75. This revealed cobbled surfaces and pottery sherds dating to the 13th century as well as loom weights, knives, nails, horseshoes and animal bones. It is suggested that this was the manor house belonging to the bishops of Ely, referred to in a detailed account of their holdings made in AD 1251.

The majority of St Mary's Church dates to the 14th to 15th century (Pevsner 1970) with one window on the south side of the chancel being early medieval or possibly earlier. Other medieval elements within the church include a sundial, a font and a set of wall paintings portraying the seven deadly sins.

The Portway, an important communications route, ran c.100m to the south (Taylor 1997) of the site, aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. The route ran between Bourn to the west and Coton to the east.

The SMR also records the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks immediately south of the site (SMR 03437) and c.400m to the west (SMR 09572).

3.6 Post-Medieval (1500-1900)

In AD 1600 Hardwick was forcibly confiscated from Ely by the Crown, after which it was sold to a succession of private landowners (Taylor 1997). In the late 17th century the manor and its associated lands were donated to support the Bishop of Ely, Matthew Wren, who had been imprisoned by Cromwell. Following the restoration Wren gave the land to Pembroke College in order to help build another Chapel.

The population grew gradually throughout this period, until by 1871 there were 248 inhabitants. However, the local economy was still based on arable agriculture and therefore a decline in population followed the agricultural depression, so that by 1901 there was only 112 inhabitants. During this period the area was known locally as 'Hungry Hardwick' (Pugh 1967), due to the infertility of the land. Its general prosperity and development was further hampered by poor communications, due largely to the fact that the village became unreachable during wet weather. In the year 1836, the local curate remarked that Hardwick was 'a very poor place and the people very ignorant' due to their isolation.

The SMR records several sites of interest around the village, which date to Post-Medieval period. Amongst these are the Chequers Inn c.100m southwest of the site, which is 16th to 17th century in origin.

Also of interest with respect to the site is the pond which lies immediately south of the assessment area. This is shown on the 1837 Enclosure Map (Fig. 5) and is likely to have earlier origins. Such ponds may have served several functions. During the medieval period they were sometimes used to store fresh fish or as places for watering and/or washing. They are sometimes the result of clay quarrying, as with the example located immediately north of St Mary's Church (SMR 03265).

3.7 Modern (1900-present)

It was not until the 20th century and the creation of better roads that the village began to expand once again, a process that continued throughout the last century until the village had grown beyond all recognition and reached a population of 2,490 by 1996.

During the 20th century the site has remained in use as part of Redbrick Farm. The land remained a mixture of open grassland and agricultural buildings throughout the modern period.

4 Results

- 4.1 Two trenches were excavated as part of the evaluation (Fig. 5). Only Trench 1 contained archaeology. Both trenches are discussed below and the detailed technical information on each trench can be found in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The uppermost layer (1) of Trench 1 was made up of gravel and black/blue clay. This had formed the base of a cowshed/barn demolished immediately before the evaluation was undertaken. A major component of this deposit was cow-dung and urine, which had contributed significantly to its colour and consistency. Below this was layer 2, a mid/dark grey silty clay containing occasional fine rounded chalk pebbles. This deposit appeared to be identical to the buried soil layer (4) which was recorded in trench 2 (below), apart from its colouring. It is likely that this grey staining was due to leaching from the dung/urine rich layer 1.
- 4.3 A ditch terminal [101] was excavated in Trench 1. This was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east and stretched for 2.5m, within the trench. It was 0.54m wide and 0.25m deep. It contained deposit 100, a green/ mid brown silty clay containing chalk pebbles and charcoal flecks. This feature contained no artefactual material and therefore remains un-dated. However, it was sealed by layer 2 and is therefore considered to be pre-modern, and could be of considerable antiquity. Such features can serve various functions from boundary markers between plots of land to drip gullies around houses. In this case it has not been possible to assign a function as only a small part of the feature was revealed.
- 4.4 A second feature [103] was also excavated within Trench 1. This irregular shaped feature was excavated in order to test its character. It contained one deposit 102 a blue/dark grey clay identical to the natural clay in other parts of the trench. This feature is thought to have been natural in origin.
- 4.5 The uppermost layer (3) within Trench 2 was a mid/dark brown sandy silt, 0.25m deep this contained occasional pieces of metal, animal bone and modern building material. It is thought that this layer had been imported in order to make-up the level of ground within this part of the site. When compared the surrounding fields south and east of the site and the core of the village to the northwest, the farmyard was located within relatively low-lying ground. It would therefore have been liable to flooding and any efforts to raise the ground level would have offset this problem.
- 4.6 This suggestion is borne out by analysis of ordnance datum levels adjacent to either trench. The surface of Trench 1, within the former cowshed was 59.08m OD whereas adjacent to Trench 2 it was 59.88m OD. It is therefore likely that layer 3 was deposited since the building of the cowshed and therefore during the modern period.
- 4.7 It is also of interest to note that the pond immediately southwest of the site also lay in relatively low-lying ground (60.12m OD). The existence of a pond on this spot again suggests that water management has been a significant factor in the man-made changes to the immediate landscape. The pond is likely to be Post-Medieval or Medieval in origin and is therefore of historical interest in its own right.

- 4.8 The land immediately northwest of the site rises steeply to 60.71m OD, a metre higher than that adjacent to the evaluation trenches. This contained various earthworks, some of which may have archaeological significance. Study of these was beyond the remit of this project, however their existence is relevant as they lie close to the parish church of St Mary's a parts of which date to the Medieval period. Settlements often cluster around such buildings and therefore the higher ground close to the church may have been far more attractive for settlement than that which was evaluated during this project.



Plate 2: Ditch terminal [101]



Plate 1: Periglacial feature [103]



Plate 3: Cleaned section of Trench 1



Plate 4: Cleaned section of Trench 2

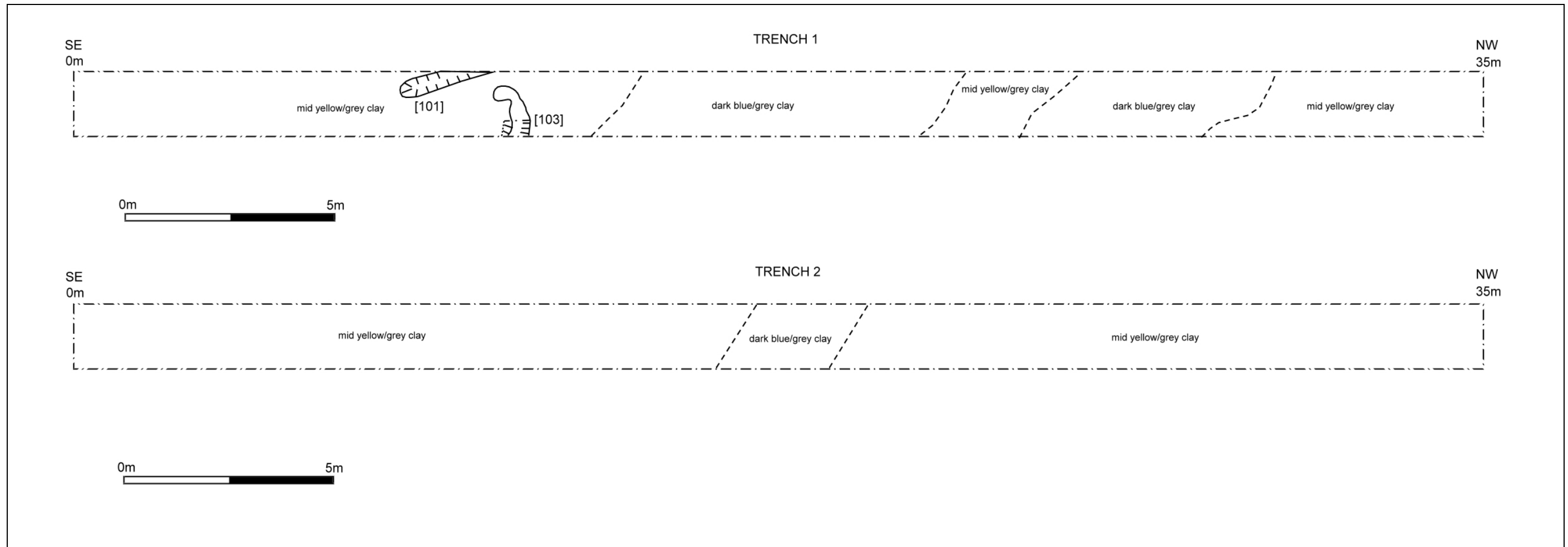


Figure 5: Plan of trenches 1 and 2

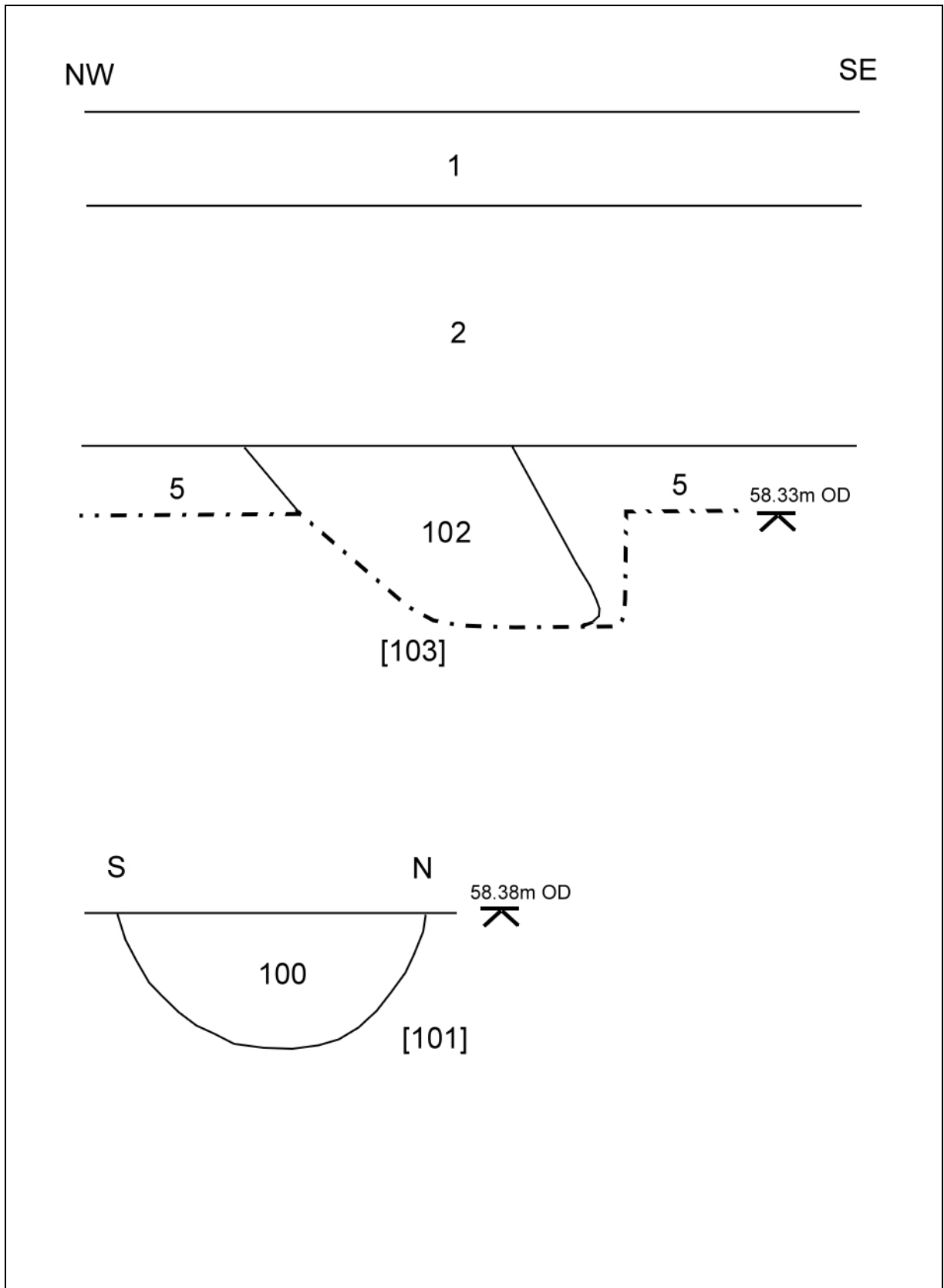


Figure 6: Section Drawings of [101] and [103] (scale 1:10)

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 One un-dated ditch was recorded during the evaluation. It is suggested that the evaluation area was in low lying and therefore traditionally wet ground. This made it unattractive for settlement during the past in comparison to the relatively high ground which lay immediately northwest, close to the parish church.
- 5.2 The existence of significant earthworks in the field immediately northwest of the site was noted during the project.
- 5.3 A high degree of confidence can be placed on the results of this evaluation. The work was carried out under perfect weather conditions, and archaeology cut into natural boulder clay subsoil was clearly identified.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to David Middleton of Camstead Homes for commissioning ASC to undertake this work. Thanks are also due to Clark Graham of Hurst Surveys for his on-site support and co-operation during the works. Kasia Gdaniec, Development Control Archaeologist, Cambridgeshire County Council monitored the site on behalf of the local planning authority, South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Joe Abrams and Nigel Wilson, report and illustration preparation was undertaken by Joe Abrams of ASC Ltd.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Desk Based Assessment
4. Initial Report
5. Clients site plans
6. Site records
7. Site record drawings
8. List of photographs
9. B/W prints & negatives
10. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Council.

8. Bibliography

IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.

IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.

Kenney S 2001 *Iron Age Settlement and a Roman Vineyard on Land off Hall Drive, Caldecote: An Archaeological Evaluation*. Cambridgeshire County Council Report 2000.

Morris 1981 *Domesday Book: Cambridgeshire*. Phillimore

Pevsner N 1970 *The Buildings of England: Cambridgeshire*

Pugh R B 1967 onward. *Victoria History of the Counties of England. Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely. Vols 1-9*. Univ. of London Inst. Of Historical Research (London)


Redding, M 2002 *Archaeological Excavations at Land East of Highfields Road, Highfields, Caldecote, Cambridgeshire*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report 482.


SMR. Sites and Monuments Record of Cambridgeshire County Council

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Taylor A 1997 *Archaeology of Cambridgeshire, Vol 1: South-west Cambridgeshire*. Cambridgeshire County Council.

Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1				
	Max Dimensions			
	Width	1.60m	Depth	0.80m to 1.10m
	Levels			
	Top NW end of trench		59.08m OD	
	Base NW end of trench		58.43m OD	
	Top of SE end of trench		59.88m OD	
Base of SE end of trench		59.08m OD		
Orientation		Northwest to southeast		
NGR Co-ordinates		NW TL 37416 58554	SE TL 37447 58543	
Reason for Trench To evaluate land beneath the former cowshed/barn				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m)	
1	Layer	Gravel floor of cowshed/barn, blackish dark blue clay, frequent coarse gravel and rounded pebbles.	0.15m	
2	Layer	Subsoil layer, possibly a buried topsoil/ploughsoil layer below the barn floor. Mid/dark grey silty clay, moderate rounded fine chalk pebbles.	0.40m	
5	Layer	Natural subsoil, yellow/grey and blue/grey clay, occasional sub-rounded pebbles.		
100	Deposit	Fill of [101]. Greenish mid brown silty clay, moderate fine rounded chalk pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks.	0.25m	
[101]	Ditch terminal	Semi-circular ditch terminal shape in plan, steeply sloping concave sides, concave base, aligned west-north-west to east-south-east.	0.25m	
102	Deposit	Fill of [103]. Blue-ish dark grey clay. No inclusions.	0.20m	
[103]	Peri-glacial feature	Irregular shape in plan, irregular steeply sloping sides, flat base, aligned southwest to northeast.	0.20m	

Trench 2					
	Max Dimensions				
	Width	1.60m	Depth	0.90m	
	Levels				
	Top NW end of trench	59.88m OD			
	Base NW end of trench	58.96m OD			
	Top of SE end of trench	60.33m OD			
Base of SE end of trench	59.42m OD				
Orientation		Northwest to southeast			
NGR Co-ordinates		NW	TL 37411 58542	SE	TL 37443 58531
Reason for Trench		To evaluate land adjacent to the cowshed/barn			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation		Depth (mm)	
3	Layer	Topsoil layer, mid/dark brown sandy silt, occasional pieces of animal bone, pieces of metal and building material in the northwest end of the trench.		0.25m	
4	Layer	Subsoil layer, possibly a buried topsoil/ploughsoil layer. Mid brown silty clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.		0.40m	
5	Layer	Natural subsoil, yellow/grey and blue/grey clay, occasional sub-rounded pebbles.			

Appendix 2: Context Summary Table

Context Register

Context	Type	Description
1	Layer	Gravel base of barn
2	Layer	Buried soil (original topsoil)
3	Layer	Topsoil
4	Layer	Buried soil (original topsoil)
5	Layer	Natural clay subsoil
100	Deposit	Fill of [101]
[101]	Cut	Ditch terminal
102	Deposit	Fill of [103]
[103]	Cut	Natural feature

Appendix 3: SMR Summary Sheet

SMR Record Number	Parish Hardwick	Site Name Redbrick Farm Barns, Hardwick.
Date of Fieldwork 1 st July 2003	Grid ref. TL 3738 5856	Fieldworker Joe Abrams
Sponsor Camstead Homes	Activity Evaluation	
Finds location N/a	Finds Destination N/a	
Records location ASC Ltd, Letchworth House, Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 1NE	Records Destination Cambridgeshire County Council, Archaeological Archives Storage Centre, Worts Farm, Landbeach, Cambridgeshire	
Finds Quantity N/a	Records Quantity 1 box	
<p>Summary of Results</p> <p>During July 2003 an evaluation was carried out at Redbrick Farm Barns, Hardwick, Cambridgeshire. One un-dated ditch terminal was recorded from which no artefactual material was recovered.</p> <p>The existence of significant earthworks in the field immediately northwest of the site was noted during the project.</p>		