

Neath Farm Industrial Estate, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge

An Archaeological Excavation



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Between the 16th of May and the 3rd June and between the 4th and 8th July 2011, the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook two areas of excavation within Neath Farm Business Park, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge. One area immediately adjacent to Church End Road revealed a densely packed sequence of linear ditches and gullies of 12-14th date as well as several discrete features and pits, a larger ditch of a 14th century date and possible associated structure. The second area, away from the road contained fewer features; a single linear ditch and four postholes, all of an undetermined date.

Previous excavation of a single 'L'-shaped evaluation trench immediately adjacent to the current Church End Road in April 2011 identified the presence of numerous Saxo-Norman and Medieval ditches and discrete features (Slater 2011a). Consultation with Dan O'Connell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team led to an immediate phase of open area excavation being instituted (Area 1). Following resolution of this area and the demolition of one of the standing structures of the industrial estate, a second area was opened (Area 2). Both followed the written scheme of investigation laid out by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (Evans 2011).

Methodology

Area 1 was located at the loading bay at the eastern extent of the Neath Farm Business Park, adjacent to Church End Road, (NGR 548868, 257420); whilst Area 2 was located 60m to the southwest within the industrial estate itself (NGR 548809, 257408). Following demolition of any modern structures, a 15 tonne tracked excavator with a rock-breaker was utilised to remove the thick reinforced concrete slab and tarmac covering the areas prior to excavation commencing. Once the modern ground surface was removed, underlying material was excavated using a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision, until archaeological deposits were encountered. Each removed horizon was examined and recorded both in plan and in section and all exposed archaeological deposits and features were cleaned, planned and photographed. A full metal detector survey of exposed archaeological features as well as removed deposits was made.

In concordance with the project specifications (Evans 2011), once the areas were stripped and all archaeological features were exposed a full plan of each was made. All excavation was carried out by hand, with a minimum of 20% of exposed linear features and 50% of discrete features being excavated. All plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50 and sections at a scale of 1:10 of each excavated feature as well as the profiles of the edges of the excavation area. The recording followed a CAU modified MoLAS system (Spence 1990) whereas numbers [cut] and (fill) were assigned to individual contexts; and feature numbers, F., to stratigraphic events. All work was carried out in strict accordance with statutory health and safety legislation and with recommendations of SCAUM (Allen & Holt 2002). The site code is NFC11 and the ECB number is 3569.

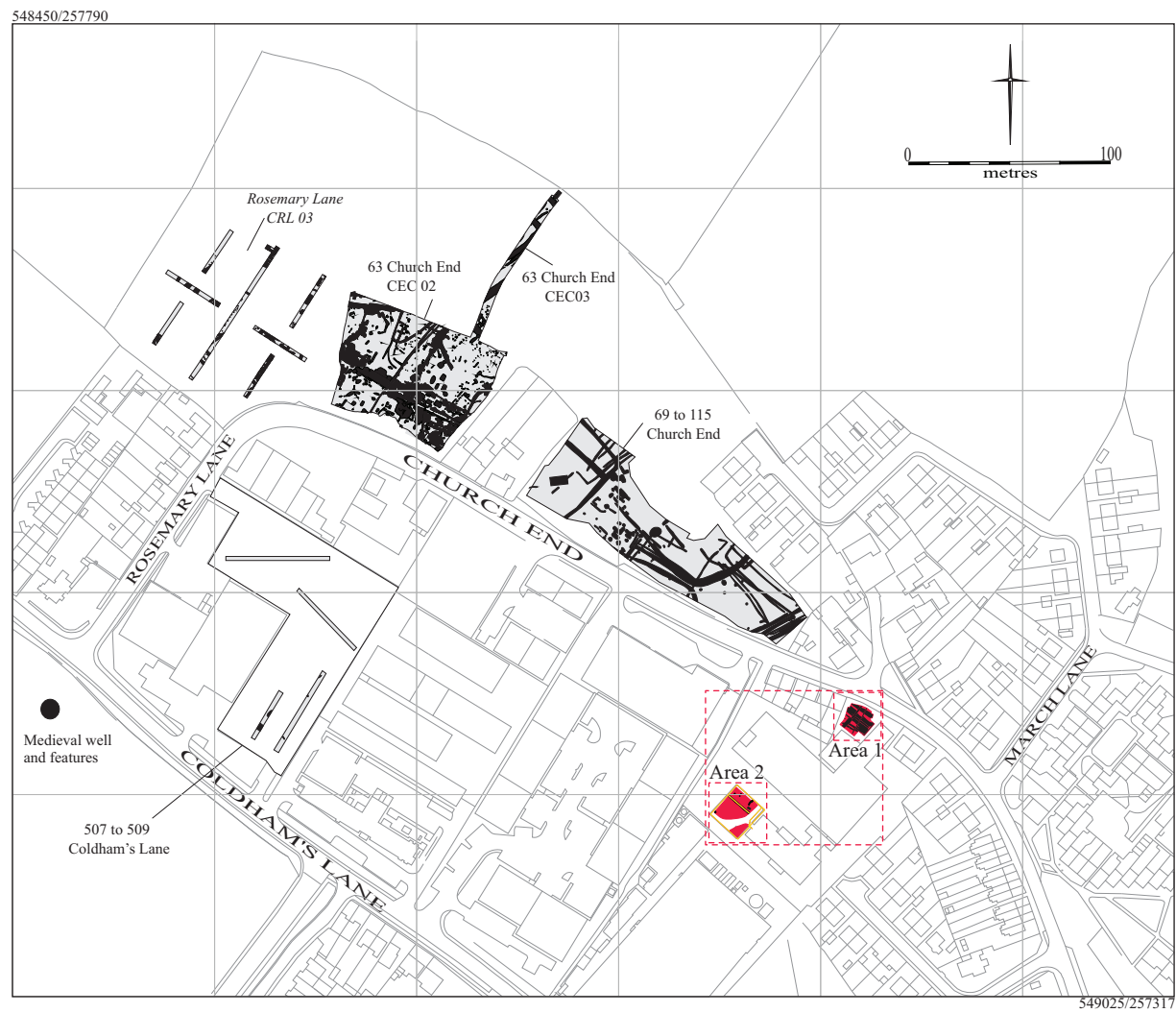
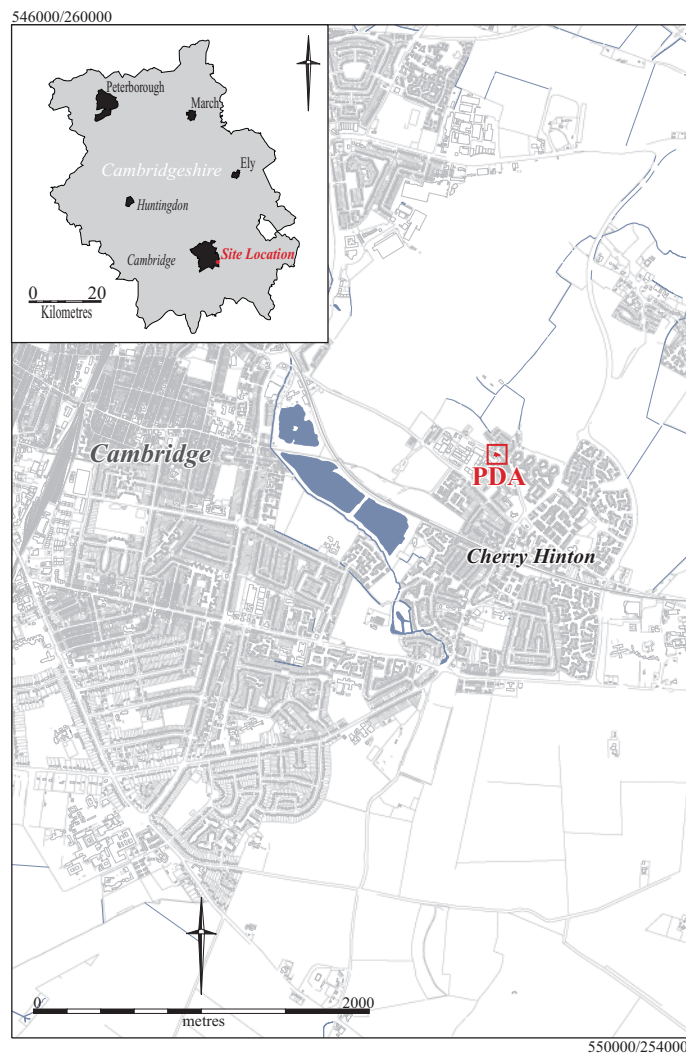


Figure 1. Location of Areas 1 and 2 with nearby excavated sites.

Archaeological and Historical Background (Figure 1)

The area of Church End, Cherry Hinton has been the subject of several detailed archaeological investigations mostly focussed to the immediate northwest of the current excavation areas (Murray & Vaughan 1999; Kenny 1999; Prosser 1999; McDonald & Doel 2000; Cessford & Mortimer 2003; Mortimer 2003).

The Church End excavations revealed a settlement with Middle Saxon origins, the core of which, identified from distribution of Maxey and Ipswich wares within ephemeral gullies as well as residual contexts, was likely to have been within the western end of the area and extending to the southwest (Cessford & Dickens 2005, 53); with seventh to ninth century features much less well represented in the south and east, closer to the current areas of excavation.

The majority of the archaeology excavated to the northwest of the current area of excavation was of Saxo-Norman date; with what appears to have been a *de novo* settlement founded between the late 9th and mid 10th centuries, with a large 'D'-shaped enclosure, the northern side of which showed multiple phases of recutting and outwards expansion. Later maps show the enclosed area to be potentially utilising and respecting the alignment of the current Church End road at its south-western boundary. The area within the enclosure was sub-divided by ditches forming smaller enclosures, with a northeast to southwest aligned trackway with possible entrance at the northern end.

Located centrally within the 'D' shaped enclosure was a small single and later, double celled church with over 670 associated burials, which appears to have been completely abandoned by the 13-14th centuries (*ibid.*, 57). A further five post and beam built Saxo-Norman structures were identified, as well as 16 wells and over 60 quarry pits, mostly within the western end of the enclosure. The division of activities within the 'D'-shaped enclosure, with an agricultural core to the west and the religious area centred on the church in the eastern end contrasts sharply with other Saxo-Norman domestic and agricultural settlements known regionally (Mortimer 2000, Cessford 2004, Mortimer, Regan & Lucy 2005, Slater 2011b) where timber framed buildings are clearly seen within individual plots or tofts between 45 and 60m wide. The most likely interpretation was that Church End was the manorial or *thegnly* centre of Hintonia.

The settlement to the northwest of the current excavation largely went out of use in the 11th or early 12th centuries; quarry pits and yard areas respecting the line of the current Church End road suggest a low level of occupation by the roadside which continued into the 14th century when the area was finally given over to agriculture (Cessford & Dickens 2005). The development of the Medieval village of Cherry Hinton would appear to be directly associated with the decline of the Manorial centre; St Andrews Church 400m to the southeast constructed between 1200 and 1225 (Wareham 2002), suggests that the core of Medieval activity moved south by this time and the old estates to the north were relegated to the periphery of the village.

The current area of investigation, located to the south of Church End road was the subject of a test-pitting survey undertaken across the whole Business Park. In conjunction with a Ground Penetrating Radar survey (Patten 2006), the test pits

identified limited truncation of topsoil across the wider area with marl geology encountered at between 0.6 and 1.3m below the current land surface. Cut archaeological features were encountered in two of the eight excavated test pits, one of which (Test Pit 8) was located within the current Area 1; a wide shallow ditch, roughly east-west in alignment was partially exposed, the fill of which contained a single sherd of pot of a 12th century date. The results of this test pit resulted in the excavation of a single, 'L' shaped evaluation trench, 17m in total length to further characterise and date the archaeology immediately adjacent to Church End road. The evaluation identified the presence of a series of northwest to southeast aligned intercutting linear ditches of a potentially Saxo-Norman and Medieval date (Slater 2011a). A second 2006 Test Pit, located approximately 8m northeast of the current Area 2 (Test Pit 5) contained an east-west aligned linear ditch containing 12th century St Neots ware, sealed by a subsoil containing worked stone fragments.

RESULTS

Area 1 (Figure 2)

The excavation of Area 1, a total of 172 square metres in area, exposed a dense concentration of archaeological features across the majority of the opened area. The northwest to southeast aligned linear ditches identified within the previous phases of evaluation and test pitting (Patten 2006, Slater 2011a) continued across the majority of the area; the complex intercutting nature making distinction of individual features impossible to differentiate in plan. Two 1m wide slots (A & C) placed laterally across the line of the ditches allowed the developmental sequence to be defined and datable material culture to be recovered. Three further slots (Slots B, D & E) were targeted upon the relationships between ditch features and groups of discrete features identified in plan. These defined stratigraphic relationships facilitated a full developmental sequence to be made. In total, thirty features representing, pits, linear ditches and potentially structural postholes and gullies were identified within Area 1. (See Tables 1-4).

Overlying the geological natural and sealing all but the latest (post-Medieval) archaeological features were thin deposits of silty clay subsoil, [1003] and [1004] between 0.1 and 0.3m in thickness, notably thicker in the north-western corner of the excavated area which was lower and contained the densest concentration of ditched features. Overlying the subsoil was a thick deposit of dark grey-brown topsoil [1001] containing frequent ash, charcoal and broken brick fragments; no late features such as furrows were present within this deposit suggestive of an agricultural soil with frequent post-Medieval disturbance. Overlying the topsoil was a very hard compacted deposit of mortared rubble (0.3m) forming the bed for the modern thick reinforced concrete of the 20th century loading bay.

The most prominent features of the excavated area were a sequence of northwest to southeast aligned linear ditches. The stratigraphic relationships between the ditches was only identifiable in section and a high degree of intercutting and frequent segmentation, was identified with some ditches continuing across the length of the site and others terminating within or between excavated slots. The recording of sections across the ditch group (Slots A & C) suggested that the south-westernmost

ditch, **F. 1502** was the earliest and **F. 1521**, the north-eastern ditch closest to the current Church End road to be the most recent. Ceramic recovered from these ditches suggests a sequence from the 12/13th to 14/15th centuries for their development and a notable phasing of expansion and redefinition to the northeast could be seen (Figure 2). Three broad phases of ditches, 12-13th century, 13-14th century and 14-15th century could be suggested through ceramic analysis (Hall & Cessford, below).

Phase I - 12-13th Century

Stratigraphically the earliest northwest to southeast aligned linear ditch was **F. 1502**, which appeared to have been redefined by adjacent ditch **F. 1512**, and again by **F. 1505/ F.1508**, all crossing the length of the excavation area. A series of shorter ditches which extended approximately half-way across the excavated area before terminating (**F. 1511**, **F. 1510**, **F. 1509**) are suggestive of a short-lived break or entranceway through the ditches.

Three discrete features are associated with the 12th-13th century phase. An irregular pit, or probable treethrow, **F. 1523**, containing a small quantity of 12th century ceramic was located to the northeast of the contemporary ditches. A sub-rectangular pit, **F. 1526**, adjacent to and truncating the primary ditch **F. 1502** contained a larger assemblage of 12-13th century ceramic. A heavily truncated pit, **F. 1519**, containing a small quantity of 12th century ceramic was located within the 'gap' in the ditches.

Feature (F.)	Feature type	Context (C.)	Context type	Context Description	Animal Bone by Weight	Ceramic by fabric and date
F. 1502	Ditch	2005 2047 2095	Cut	NW-SE aligned linear ditch in plan, moderate to steeply sloping sides to slightly concaved base	1g	Elyware; Course Greyware: 12/13th Century
F. 1505/ F. 1508	Ditch	2012 2013 2026	Cut	NW-SE aligned ditch in plan, moderate to steeply sloping sides to uneven concaved base	782g	Sandy Greyware; St Neots Ware: 13-14th Century
F. 1512	Ditch	2036 2053 2122	Cut	NW-SE aligned ditch in plan, moderately steeply sloping concaved sides to concaved base	31g	None
F. 1509	Ditch	2030 2074 2116	Cut	NW-SE aligned linear ditch, steep to vertical sloping sides to irregular slightly concaved base	None	Course Grey Ware: 13th Century

F. 1510	Ditch	2032 2118	Cut	NW-SE aligned linear ditch, moderate to steeply sloping slightly concaved sides to generally flat base	4g	Stamford Ware; Thetford Ware: 12th Century.
F.1511	Ditch and Terminus	2034 2120	Cut	NW-SE aligned ditch in plan, moderately steeply sloping concaved sides to concaved base Rounded terminus of linear in plan, gradually sloping concaved sides to concaved base	None	None
F. 1519	Pit	2072	Cut	Pit only seen in section, likely sub-circular. Steeply sloping sides to flat base	1g	St Neots Ware: 12th Century
F.1523	Treethrow	2084	Cut	Irregular sub-rounded in plan; step to near vertical sides, becoming slightly undercut to irregular flat base	52g	St. Neots Ware; Thetford Ware: 12th Century
F. 1526	Pit	2097 2103	Cut	Sub-rectangular in plan, vertical to slightly undercutting sides to irregular flat base.	12g	Thetford Ware; Stamford Ware; St. Neots Ware: 12th Century Course Greyware: 13th Century

Table 1: Phase I, 12-13th Century features.

Phase II - 13-14th Century

The second, 13-14th century phase of linear northwest to southeast aligned ditches, comprised of **F. 1006/ F. 1507**, **F. 1007/ F. 1505** and **F. 1524**, were located to the immediate northwest of the Phase I ditches.

A temporary change in alignment is shown with single ditch **F. 1010/ F. 1518**, aligned perpendicular to the previous ditches. A heavily truncated northwest to southeast aligned linear, **F. 1000**, only identified within the west of the excavated area is likely contemporary with this, forming the corner of a small enclosure; the direct stratigraphic relationship was unclear due to later truncation. The terminus of a second contemporary northwest to southeast aligned linear ditch, **F. 1002**, appears to respect the position of F. 1010/ F. 1518.

Also dating to this phase were two postholes, **F. 1513**, **F. 1527** and two small pits, **F. 1004**, **F. 1516**.

Feature (F.)	Feature type	Context (C.)	Context type	Context Description	Animal Bone by Weight	Ceramic by fabric and date
F. 1006/ F. 1507	Ditch	2022 2110 2113	Cut	NW-SE aligned linear ditch in plan, Steeply sloping straight sides to concaved base.	240g	St. Neots Ware: 12th Century Sandy Brown Ware; Sandy, Course Greyware: 13th Century Sandy Buffware: 13th-14th Century.
F. 1007/ F. 1505	Ditch	2012 2106	Cut	NW-SE aligned ditch in plan, moderate to steeply sloping sides to uneven concaved base.	150g	Sandy Greyware: 13-14th Century
F. 1524	Ditch	2086	Cut	NW-SE aligned linear ditch in plan, steeply sloping concaved sides to concaved base	135g	None
F. 1518/ F. 1010	Ditch	2060	Cut	NE-SW aligned linear, steeply sloping concaved sides to flat base	1g	Thetford Ware: 12th Century. Ely Ware: 13th-14th Century
F. 1000	Ditch	1035	Cut	NW-SE aligned ditch in plan concaved sides to irregular flat base.	None	None
F. 1002	Ditch Terminus	2056	Cut	Rounded terminus of NW-SE aligned linear in plan. Steeply sloping sides becoming vertical towards a flat base	123g	Course Grey Ware: 13-14th Century
F. 1513	Posthole	2038	Cut	Circular in plan Concaved sides to concaved base.	None	None
F. 1527	Pit/ Posthole	2092	Cut	Circular in plan, steeply sloping generally straight sides to narrow tapered base.	349g	None
F. 1004	Pit	1029		Sub-circular in plan, sleep to vertically sloping sides to gradually concaved base.	None	None
F. 1516	Base of	2045	Cut	Sub circular in	None	Course Brown Ware:

	Pit			plan, heavily truncated by later features. Steeply sloping concaved sides to concaved base.		14th Century
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Table 2: Phase II, 13-14th century features.

Phase III - 14-15th Century

The final phase of northwest to southeast aligned ditches within Area 1, located furthest to the northeast, closest to the current Church End road, was represented by three recutting linear ditches, **F. 1520**, **F. 1521**, and **F. 1522**.

The terminus of a deep ditch, **F. 1517**, aligned northeast to southwest and seemingly following the alignment of Phase II ditch F. 1010/ F. 1518 was located within the western corner of Area A. Adjacent to the ditch terminal and extending beyond the southern limit of excavation are the only determinable structural elements within Area 1. Two short, shallow gullies, **F. 1514** and **F. 1515**, likely represented the base of beam-slots with three associated postholes, **F. 1501**, **F. 1528** and **F. 1529**, forming the north-eastern end of the footprint of a structure 4.5m in width. The structural components were devoid of material culture and were too shallow to contain reliable palaeoenvironmental material.

Feature (F.)	Feature type	Context (C.)	Context type	Context Description	Animal Bone by Weight	Ceramic by fabric and date
F. 1520	Ditch/ Gully	2076	Cut	Shallow NW-SE aligned ditch in plan, concaved sides to concaved base.	None	None
F. 1521	Ditch	2080	Cut	NW-SE aligned ditch in plan, steeply sloping concaved sides to concaved base	98g	Pink Shelly Ware; Course Shelly Ware; Course Buff Ware; Course Brown Ware; 13th Century. Grimston Ware: 14th Century. Essex Redware: 14-15th Century
F. 1522	Ditch	2082	Cut	NW-SE aligned ditch in plan. Steeply sloping straight sides to flat base	None	None
F. 1517	Ditch and Terminus	2043 2067	Cut	Rounded terminus of NE-SW aligned ditch steeply sloping concaved sides to narrow flat base	60g	Stamford Ware; St Neots Ware; Thetford Ware: 12th Century Course Grey Ware: 12-14th Century Course Buff Ware; Ely Ware: 13-14th Century.

						Grimston Ware; Ely-Grimston Ware: 14th Century. Hendinham Ware: 14-15th Century
F. 1501	Posthole	2003	Cut	circular in plan, steep to near vertical sides to concaved base	None	None
F. 1514	Beam-slot	2051 2124	Cut	NW-SE aligned linear in plan; Rounded terminus with shallow concaved sides to concaved base.	None	None
F. 1515	Beam-slot	2049	Cut	NE-SW aligned shallow linear gully in plan. Concaved sides to concaved base.	None	None
F. 1528	Posthole	2099	Cut	Circular in plan, steeply sloping concaved sides to concaved base	None	None
F. 1529	Posthole	2101	Cut	Circular in plan, steeply sloping concaved sides to concaved base.	None	None

Table 3: Phase III, 14th-15th century features.

Phase IV - Post-Medieval Features

A single narrow, steep sided linear gully, **F. 1500**, aligned north-east to south-west truncated all the Phase I-III ditches, and contained notable quantities of 17th century ceramics as well as mortar and brick fragments suggestive of a collapsed demolished building.

Feature (F.)	Feature type	Context (C.)	Context type	Context Description	Animal Bone by weight	Ceramic by fabric and date
F. 1500	Gully	2001	Cut	NE-SW aligned ditch in plan, moderate to steeply sloping generally straight sides to flat base.	497g	Glazed Red Earthenware; Staffordshire Slipware; English Stoneware: 17th Cent.

Table 4: Phase IV, Post-Medieval feature.

Map of the study area showing the location of the 1508, 1509, and 1510 sites. The map displays a cross-section of the landscape with various sites marked by dots and labeled with their IDs and years. A scale bar at the bottom indicates 0 to 2 metres.

The map shows the study area with a coastline and various numbered locations. A red dot indicates the study site. A scale bar from 0 to 2 metres and a north arrow are provided.

Figure 3. Sections of Area 1 Slots A & C with ditch terminus F. 1517

Area 2

Area 2 was located 60m to the southwest of Area 1 and was 365 square metres in area. Like Area 1, a substantial quantity of modern overburden was present. A deposit of concrete flooring with a bedding deposit of crushed brick and concrete abutted against a series of modern brick wall foundations [2200] forming all four boundaries of the excavation area. The walls, as well as a live service cable truncated surviving topsoil deposit [2201]; dark grey firmly compacted silty clay containing frequent charcoal mottling and occasional 19th and 20th century ceramics (not retained). A subsoil deposit [2202] of mid to light grey, moderately compacted silty sand, with a maximum thickness of 0.15m was also present across the excavated area. A single linear depression, aligned northeast to southwest (**F. 1554**) was recorded as truncating the subsoil with a fill indistinguishable from topsoil [2202] and is likely to represent the remnants of a Medieval or post-Medieval furrow. An irregular, sub-circular depression, **F. 1555** also truncated the subsoil and geological natural within the western corner of the excavated area; morphologically conforming to that of a tree-throw and root-bowl.

Sealed by subsoil [2202] and truncating the geological 'natural' was a single narrow northwest to southeast aligned ditch, **F. 1550**, and three postholes, **F. 1551**, **F. 1552**, **F. 1553**; all were devoid of material culture.

Feature (F.)	Feature type	Context (C.)	Context type	Context Description	Animal Bone by Weight	Ceramic by fabric and date
F. 1550	Ditch	2205 2208	Cut	Linear in plan, straight moderately steeply sloping sides to narrow concaved base.	None	None
F. 1551	Posthole	2213	Cut	Sub-circular in plan, very steep to vertical sides to moderately concaved base.	None	None
F. 1553	Posthole	2215	Cut	Circular in plan , very steep to vertical sides to flat base.	None	None
F. 1553	Posthole	2217	Cut	Circular in plan , very steep to vertical sides to flat base.	None	None
F. 1554	Furrow Base	2219	Cut	Moderate sloping concaved sides to generally flat base.	None	None
F. 1555	Tree-throw	2221	Cut	Sub circular in plan, moderate to steeply sloping concaved sides to concaved base.	None	None

Table 5: Area 2 features.

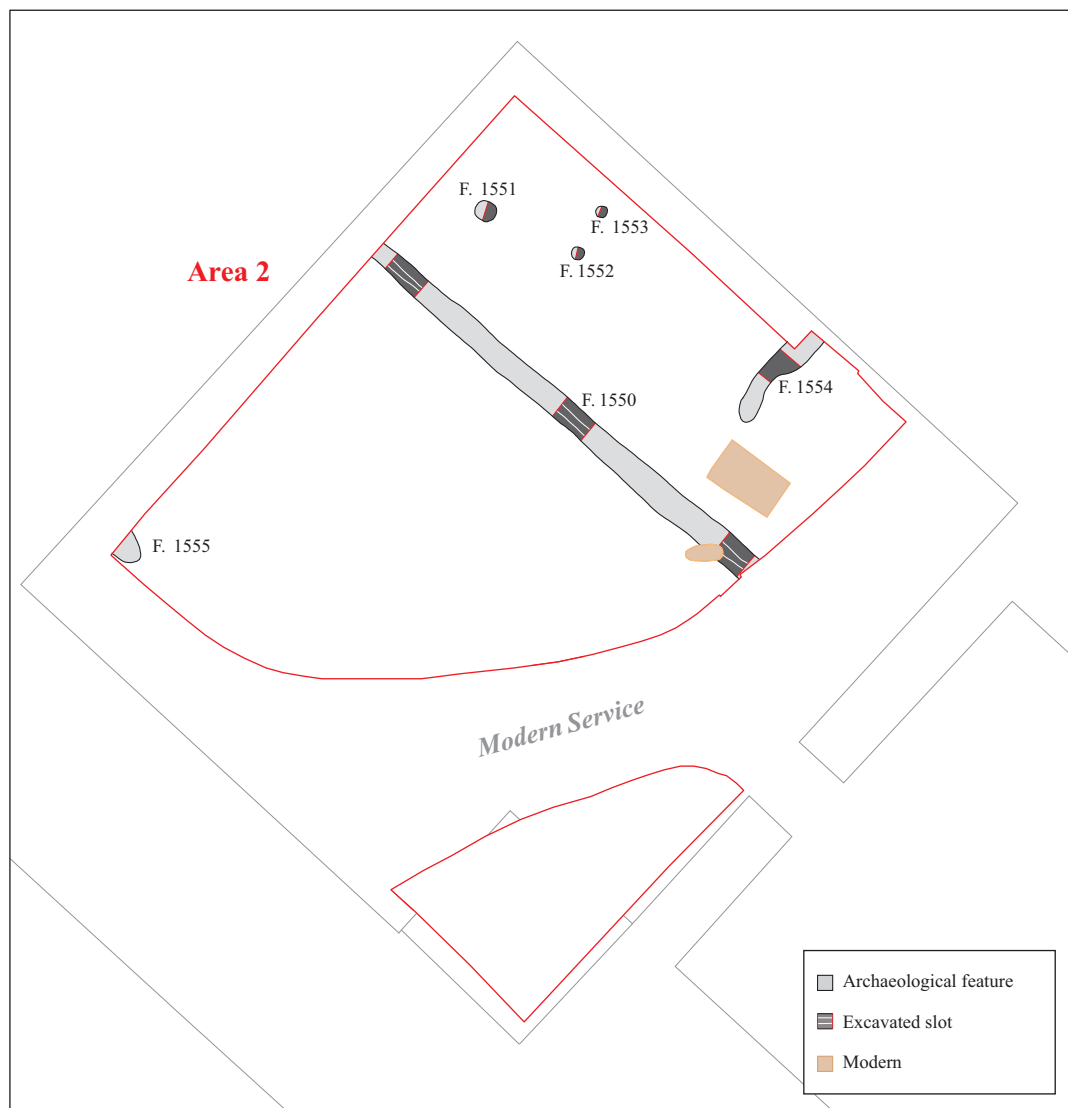
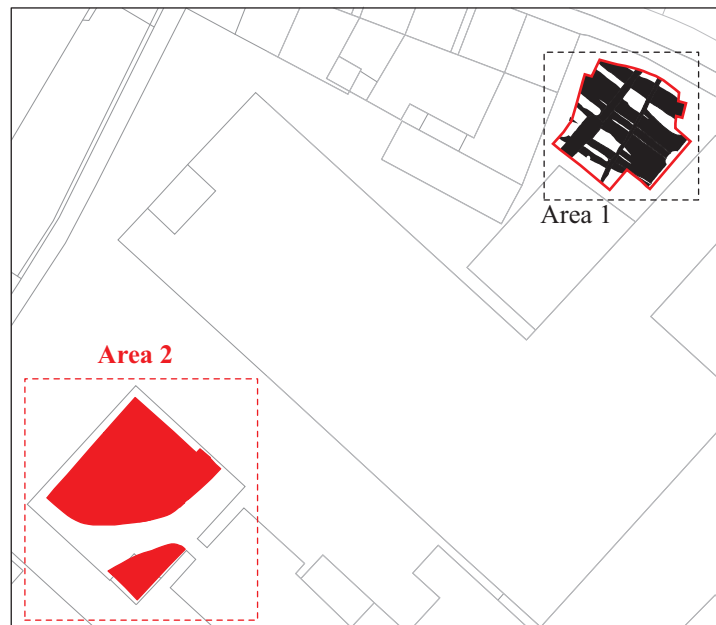


Figure 4. Area 2 plan.

SPECIALIST REPORTS

Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery- *David Hall & Craig Cessford*

The excavations produced a moderately sized assemblage of 211 sherds weighing 2528g (excluding 33g of highly abraded unidentifiable material). The assemblage consists predominantly of Saxo-Norman (10th–12th centuries) and Medieval (13th–15th centuries) material, plus a small number of post-Medieval (16th–18th centuries) sherds. The ceramic evidence indicates occupation spanning the 11th/12th–14th centuries.

Fabric	Count	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
St. Neots-type	56	440	7.9
Thetford-type	13	203	15.6
Stamford	7	28	4.0
<i>Saxo-Norman (10th–12th century)</i>	76	671	8.8
Pink shelly	3	36	12.0
Misc. coarse wares	81	957	11.8
Ely	19	248	13.1
Ely-Grimston	1	5	5.0
Grimston	4	147	36.8
Essex Redware	2	10	5.0
Hedingham	19	382	20.1
<i>Medieval (13th–15th century)</i>	129	1785	13.8
Glazed Red Earthenware	3	39	13.0
Staffordshire-type slip	2	13	6.5
English stoneware	1	20	20.0
<i>Post-Medieval (16th–18th century)</i>	6	72	12.0
Total	211	2528	12.0

Table 6: Pottery quantification.

Fabric Descriptions

Saxo-Norman Wares

The Saxo-Norman material is exclusively comprised of the triumvirate of fabrics – consisting of St Neots-type, Thetford-type and Stamford wares – that are found ubiquitously on sites of this period throughout southern Cambridgeshire. As is typical across the region, St. Neots-type ware is the most common fabric by count, Thetford-type ware is a substantial component of the assemblage especially by weight and Stamford ware is only a minor element.

Thetford-type ware was a wheel-thrown ware that is typically reduced hard grey and tempered with occasional sub-angular or sub-rounded quartzite inclusions. It was manufactured at numerous kiln sites in Thetford, as well as at other locations scattered across East Anglia (Hurst 1957; Rogerson & Dallas 1984). Thetford-type ware is typically dated to the period c.900–1100, although production most probably began in the 9th century and continued into the 12th century (Hurst 1976, 314–20). Indeed it is notable that whilst the kilns at Thetford itself only appear to have been in operation between the 10th–12th centuries, the ware was probably already being manufactured at Ipswich by the mid 9th century (P. Blinkhorn *pers. comm*). It is therefore the earliest of the three Saxo-Norman fabrics. Thetford-type ware sherds are generally thin, except for those derived from large storage vessels, and jar rims tend to be smaller and more finely made than those of contemporary St. Neots-type pots.

St. Neots-type ware comprises a wheel-thrown shelly ware that is typically dark reddish purple in colour with a slightly ‘soapy’ feel; the resultant vessels often appear to have been too porous to have contained liquids. Although first identified at St Neots, this ware actually appears to have been produced at a number of different locations situated along the Jurassic Limestone belt that roughly extends between Oxfordshire and Cambridgeshire (Hurst 1976, 320–23; Vince 2007). Its manufacture

is generally dated to between c.900–1100, although production in some form most probably began in the late 9th century and continued into the 12th century (Hurst 1956; Denham 1985). Whilst this ware has previously been identified within early 10th century contexts in Cambridge, it is more usually associated with 11th–12th century activity.

Stamford ware is a wheel-thrown ware that is slightly superior in quality to both the Thetford-type and St. Neots-type wares. Although it is now known that this ware was also produced at Pontefract (Roberts & Cumberpatch 2009) it is probable that all the material from Cambridgeshire derived from Stamford. Sherds are typically off-white or pale pink/grey in colour and often contain occasional quartz and black or red ironstone inclusions; they are usually glazed with a yellow, pale or sage-green slip (Hurst 1958; Hurst 1976). Production of this ware is typically dated to c.900–1200 and, in general, early sherds (c.900–1100) have a clear light green glaze whilst the glaze of the later ‘developed’ Stamford ware (c.1100–1200) is dark green with copper blotches (Hurst 1976, 323–36). This latter material also appears to have continued in production until the 14th century. Unlike the widely produced St Neots-type and Thetford-type wares, only the single eponymous Lincolnshire source has so far been identified for Stamford ware (*cf.* Kilmurry 1980). A further distinction may also be discerned. Although this material originated in the 10th century its widespread distribution, including its presence in Cambridge, appears to be a largely 11th century and later phenomenon; this is around a century later than the introduction of the St Neots-type and Thetford-type wares. Despite this late start, however, Stamford ware was the most widely distributed pottery of the period and Cambridge appears to lie at the southeastern limit of one part of its distribution network (*ibid.*, figs. 31–32). On such distant sites, Stamford ware rarely exceeds 5% of the assemblage and is often less than 1% (*ibid.*, 162).

Medieval Wares

The Medieval (13th–15th century) wares are dominated by coarsewares in a range of grey and brown fabrics, several of which are relatively sandy. The majority of the Medieval coarsewares found in Cambridge are poorly understood and come from a range of as yet unidentified sources in southern Cambridgeshire, Essex and the Fenland (Spoerry 2005; Spoerry in prep; Vince 2008). Pink Shelly ware appears to represent a 13th century development of St. Neots-type ware and was produced in Northamptonshire. The main coarseware that can be identified is Medieval Ely ware, which was made at Potters Lane and elsewhere in Ely from at least the early 12th century onwards (Hall 2001; Spoerry 2008). This material has been sub-divided into two categories: Medieval Ely ware, which constitutes the bulk of the material, and; Ely-Grimston ware, which is rather higher quality material that deliberately imitates Grimston ware.

There was also a small quantity of Grimston ware itself (Leah 1994). The finewares consist solely of Essex Redwares, of which Hedingham ware is a sub-type. By the end of the 14th century Essex Redwares had become the most common types of fineware in use in Cambridge. The growth in this industry reflects its significant role in supplying London (Pearce *et al.* 1982) and there is evidence that redwares were reaching Cambridge prior to c.1370 (Newman & Evans 2011, 190). The most common Essex Redware fabric that can easily be distinguished is Hedingham ware, which included distinctive rounded stamped strip jugs with twisted rod handles and rows of cartwheel stamps and applied strip decoration (Cotter 2000, 75–80; Walker forthcoming). The Hedingham pottery industry based in north-central Essex, its main products were decorated and glazed fine wares, mainly jugs, and, typically, grey-firing coarse wares, produced between the 12th–14th centuries. The industry comprises some fourteen known production sites, most of which are clustered around the triangle formed by the settlements of Sible Hedingham, Gosfield and Halstead, with evidence for two production sites further west. The northern half of Essex, southwest Suffolk and south Cambridgeshire appear to be main areas of Hedingham ware distribution, and it is widely but sparsely distributed around The Fens. Coastal distribution is also significant. Smaller quantities reached Norfolk, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, the London area and parts of south Essex. There are several Medieval fabrics missing from the assemblage that are often found in groups locally, they are however generally the less common types and their absence is not significant given the small overall size of the assemblage. The various wares present indicate that activity probably continued until the 14th century, the fabrics present make it unlikely that activity ended in the 13th century and there is no definitely 15th century material

Although a relatively small assemblage, the ceramic analysis of material recovered from Neath Farm benefits from the publication of a more substantial group from the adjacent site of Church End Road (Cessford with Dickens 2005). In general the fabrics found at the two sites are similar; Although Roman and Middle-Saxon wares are missing from the current Neath Farm assemblage these were only a small component of the Church End Road assemblage, so their absence from this much smaller group is not necessarily meaningful. It is notable that medieval wares are more common relative to Saxo-Norman wares at Neath Farm than at Church End Road. It appears that the enclosed settlement at Church End Road went out of use in the late 11th or early 12th century, although the area was still utilised for farming and quarrying (*ibid*). It is possible that in contrast occupation at Neath Farm continued into the 13th–14th centuries.

	Neath Farm count	Church End Road count
Roman	0	151
Middle Saxon	0	38
Saxo-Norman	76	3237
Medieval	129	875
Post-Medieval	6	220
Total	211	4521

Table 7: Pottery by period from Neath Farm and Church End Road.

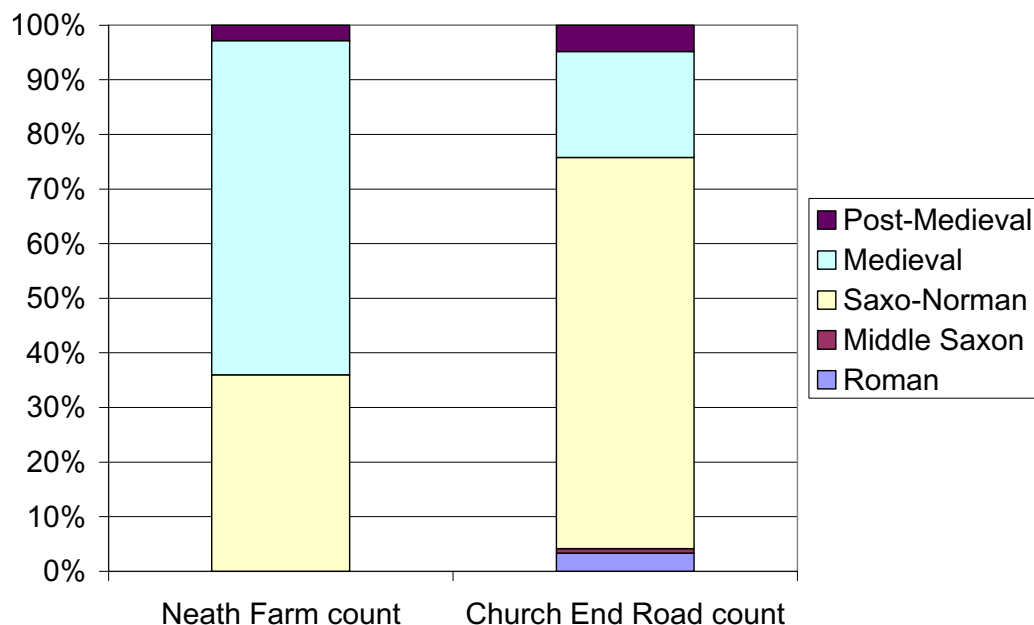


Table 8: Pottery by period from Neath Farm and Church End Road.

Animal Bone - Vida Rajkovača

The small scale open area excavations at Neath Farm resulted in the recovery of a faunal assemblage totalling 124 assessable specimens, weighing 3058g. The assemblage consists of hand-recovered material (60 specimens; 3050g) and material from the heavy residues (64 specimens; 8g).

Animal bone came from ditches ranging in date from 12th and through to the 14th century. For the purpose of this assessment, the assemblage has been quantified and considered as a whole. The assemblage was identified with the aid of Schmid (1972), Hillson (1999) and reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. Unidentifiable fragments were assigned to general size categories where possible. This information is presented in order to provide a complete fragment count.

The assemblage displayed a moderate to good level of preservation, with only two specimens exhibiting signs of surface erosion and exfoliation; this is reflected in two-thirds of the assemblage being assigned to species level. The assemblage was fragmented and no complete specimens were available for measurements. Recent breaks were also recorded on three cow, four horse, one sheep/goat and one dog specimen. Gnawing was recorded on 12 specimens (20% of the hand-recovered material) recovered from ditches F. 1505, F. 1508, F. 1517, F. 1521 and F. 1527, implying these features were left open for some time before being backfilled.

Butchery was observed on seven specimens (c. 12% of the hand-recovered material) was crude and the actions include disarticulation, meat removal and splitting for marrow extraction. The recovered horse third metatarsus demonstrated signs of heat-cracking, also possibly for marrow removal.

Occurrence of species

The assemblage is entirely comprised of domestic species with an exception of a single frog/ toad fragment which is not anthropogenic in origin. Cattle are the prevalent species (Table 9), followed by horse and sheep/ goat. Pig is conspicuously underrepresented (identified based on maxilla fragment), although this is based on small numbers. The presence of dog (represented by skull and pelvis fragments) and chicken tarso-metatarsus suggest this is a typical domestic assemblage. Faunal material from heavy residues was highly fragmented and this is reflected in the high number of unidentifiable fragments.

The general characteristics of the Neath Farm assemblage, with its low species diversity and reliance on livestock sources of meat are in keeping with findings from majority of domestic assemblages recovered in Britain. The assemblage is quantitatively inadequate for any propositions about animal use and, beyond the discussing the ratio of different species, it would be inappropriate to consider the assemblage any further.

Taxon	Hand-recovered			Heavy residues			Total
	NISP	%NISP	MNI	NISP	%NISP	MNI	
Cow	15	37.5	2	.	.	.	15
Sheep/ goat	11	27.5	2	.	.	.	11
Pig	1	2.5	1	.	.	.	1
Horse	10	25	2	.	.	.	10
Dog	2	5	1	.	.	.	2
Chicken	1	2.5	1	.	.	.	1
House mouse	.	.	.	3	75	1	3
Frog/ toad	.	.	.	1	25	1	1
Sub-total ID to species	40	100	.	4	100	.	44
Cattle-sized	11	11
Sheep-sized	9	.	.	17	.	.	26
Rodent-sized	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	40	.	.	40
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
Total	60	.	.	64	.	.	124

Table 9: Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) and Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) for all species from all features. The abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Bulk Environmental Samples - *Anne de Vareilles*

Six samples from Neath Farm were processed using an Ankara-type flotation tank. The flots were collected in 300µm aperture meshes and the remaining heavy residues washed over a 1mm mesh. Both the flots and heavy residues were dried indoors prior to analysis. The >4mm fractions of the heavy residues were sorted by eye; the results are included in Table 10. Sorting of the flots and identification of macro remains were carried out under a low power binocular microscope (6x-40x magnification). Identifications were made using the reference collection of the G. Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, university of Cambridge. Nomenclature follows Zohary & Hopf (2000) for cereals, Stace (1997) for all other flora and an updated version of Beedham (1972) for molluscs.

Carbonised plants remains occurred in all samples albeit in low quantities. Charcoal volumes never exceeded 1ml/flot and seeds only occurred sporadically. The grains are heavily puffed and distorted, having apparently suffered physical erosion post-carbonisation before entering the buried environment.

The assemblages recovered do not differ significantly between samples. Free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum* sl.) seems to have been the most popular cereal during the four centuries represented. Hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare* sl.) and oats (*Avena* sp.) also occurred. The latter could not be identified to a wild or domestic type however, from the absence of chaff. Hazel-nut (*Corylus avellana*) and lentil (*Lens culinaris*) represent the only other retrieved edible food plants. F.1519 [2071] had a few burnt juvenile *Bythinia tentaculata* and one burnt juvenile *Gyraulus albus*. Both these fresh-water snails were presumably burnt as water was used to quench a fire.

The quality, quantity and distribution of plant remains all suggest that the assemblage represents loose settlement waste randomly or unintentionally introduced into the negative features

Sample number		1	4	5	2	3	6
Context		2071	2094	2096	2058	2040	2077
Feature		1519	1502	1526	1518	1517	1521
Feature type		Pit	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
Phase/Date		12-13th	12-13th	12-13th	13-14th	14-15th	14-15th
Sample volume - litres		10	15	14	13	10	15
Flot fraction examined - %		100	100	100	100	100	100
Charcoal							
>4mm		+	+	+	-	++	
2-4mm		++	+	+	+	++	-
<2mm		+++	++	++	++	++	++
Estimated charcoal volume - ml.		>1	>1	>1	>1	>1	>1
Cereal caryopses							
<i>Hordeum vulgare sensu lato</i>	Hulled Barley	4					
<i>Hordeum/Triticum</i> sp.	Barley or Wheat	6				1	1
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> sl.	Free-threshing Wheat	9	2	2	3	3	
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	Wheat					1	
Indeterminate cereal grain fragment		8		5		4	
Non cereal							
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Hazel-nut shell frag.	1					
small <i>Rumex</i> sp.	small dock seed					2	
<i>Vicia / Lathyrus</i> sp. 2-4mm	Vetches / Wild Pea		1	1			
cf. <i>Lens culinaris</i> Medikus	Lentil	1					
<i>Avena</i> sp.	Oat, wild or cultivated			1			1
cf. <i>Avena</i> sp.	Possible Oat				1	1	
Indet. Poaceae	Wild or cultivated grass	1	3				
Large Poaceae >4mm	Wild grass seed	1		1		1	

Key: '-' 1 or 2, '+' <10, '++' 10-50, '+++>50 items.

Table 10: Results of bulk environmental samples.

DISCUSSION

The majority of archaeological features encountered during the 2011 excavations at Neath Farm were within Area 1, with linear ditches seeming to mirror the alignment of the current Church End road, and dating from the 12th to 15th centuries and probably forming a long lived and constantly redefined roadside boundary. This would appear to correspond with the decline and ultimate demise of the Saxo-Norman manorial core of Hintonia identified as being located immediately to the northeast, if, as is thought from the early 13th century construction of St Andrews Church, the core of the village of Cherry Hinton moved south. Similar late Saxo-Norman and Medieval roadside boundaries have recently been identified at the peripheral settlement at Walsingham Way and West Fen roads, Ely (Mortimer *et al* 2005; Slater 2011b). The ceramic assemblage recovered from Area 1 further supports this core shift, with a larger quantity of Medieval ceramics than Saxo-Norman; a reversal of that from the Church End excavations. The Saxo-Norman presence, represented by 76 sherds of Thetford, Stamford and St. Neots wares suggests the possibility of earlier, 10th to 12th century activity in the vicinity, which whilst likely on a smaller scale to the Church End excavations is likely associated with pre-Conquest occupation in the wider landscape.

The dating of the Area 1 ditches, whilst difficult due to the large quantity of residuality within the ceramic assemblage, does demonstrate an expansion from the southwest to northeast, which suggests the likelihood of further activity occurring to the south and southwest, extending up the hill away from the road. The limited footprint of Area 1 did not allow much of this activity to be identified, but the partially exposed post and beam structure within the south of the Area 1, which stratigraphically dated to the 13-14th centuries suggests some form of roadside activity, similar to that in the Medieval phases identified to the north. The faunal assemblage, with moderate quantities of all main domestic species represented corresponds well with the prevalence of wild grass seeds as well as domesticated cereals within the ditches and pits from all the phases, suggesting a localised landscape of mixed open grazing land as well as cultivation.

The contrast between the archaeology encountered within Areas 1 and 2 with a single ditch and group of probably structural postholes, later truncated by a likely agricultural furrow and treethrow, appear to follow the sequence identified within the excavations to the north; that of a steady decline in occupation and transformation to largely open agricultural land by the later Medieval period. The alignment of linear ditch F. 1550 within Area 2 corresponds well with the roadside boundaries which may suggest some form of contemporary property division, aligned on the roadway whilst the complete sterility of the features may suggest a peripheral location from any domestic core. The possible 12th century date of the east-west aligned linear within 2006 Test Pit 5 adjacent to the current Area 2 suggests a widespread distribution of archaeological features from at least this date across the whole Neath Farm Industrial Estate.

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OASIS ID: cambridg3-115765

Project details

Project name	Neath Farm Industrial Estate, Cherry Hinton, An Archaeological Excavation
Short description of the project	Between the 16th of May and the 3rd June and between the 4th and 8th July 2011, the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook two areas of excavation within Neath Farm Business Park, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge. One area immediately adjacent to Church End Road revealed a densely packed sequence of linear ditches and gullies of 12-14th date as well as several discrete features and pits, a larger ditch of a 14th century date and possible associated structure. The second area, away from the road contained fewer features; a single linear ditch and four postholes, all of an undetermined date.
Project dates	Start: 16-05-2011 End: 08-07-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	BOUNDARY Medieval
Significant Finds	VESSEL Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Environmental Sampling','Targeted Trenches','Test Pits'
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE Neath Farm Industrial Estate, Cherry Hinton
Postcode	CB13GL

Study area	537.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 548868 257420 51.9081824198 0.251915998810 51 54 29 N 000 15 06 E Point
Site coordinates	TL 548809 257408 51.9081732832 0.251829750073 51 54 29 N 000 15 06 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 13.30m Max: 15.50m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Christopher Evans
Project director/manager	Christopher Evans
Project supervisor	Adam Slater
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Ventress Property Development

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Drawing','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

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