Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire.

An Archaeological Evaluation.

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Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire.
An Archaeological Evaluation
Event Number ECB3295

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with contributions from

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken to address a pre-determination condition placed upon planning consent for the construction of three houses and a football pitch at Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire (TL 2205 6660). A total of twelve trenches, representing 443m, were excavated. The evaluation revealed a series of boundary and enclosure ditches along with several pits. These features together suggest an Early Medieval settlement and infields are on the site, adding to our understanding of the formation of Offord D'Arcy.

INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Thornhill Estates Ltd during the week 9th to 13th November 2009. The investigation was commissioned to define the scope of any archaeological activity on a plot of land at Offord D'Arcy (NGR TL 2205 6660) by trench-based evaluation (see figure 1). This work was part of a pre-determination condition placed upon planning consent for the construction of three houses and a recreation ground. The project followed a specification set out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (Beadsmoore 2009) in response to a brief for an archaeological evaluation issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA) (McConnell 2009).

The site was located to the east of the High Street (B1043) and to the south of Millers Close. The underlying geology comprised First Terrace river gravels (British Geological Survey 1993). The Proposed Development Area (PDA) was situated amongst housing and bounded by open fields to the east. At the time of the evaluation the PDA was 'divided' into three distinct areas. The western third was separated by an old drainage ditch and was dominated by the remnants of an old pond within an area of 'scrubland'. The central third was separated by the drainage ditch to the west and an old hedgerow which had separated it from the cultivated fields to the east, and at the time of the evaluation the hedgerow had been cleared. The eastern third was located within a small portion of a cultivated field.

Archaeological Background

The PDA was situated *c*. 250m east of the River Great Ouse, a river valley well known for its abundant archaeological activity. Excavations along the western edge of the river near to Offord D'Arcy (Little Paxton, Diddington and Buckden) have revealed monuments and settlements spanning the prehistoric and Romano-British periods (French and Wait 1988). The terraces along the eastern side of the river were higher than along the western side and this enabled later Saxon and Medieval settlement to expand.

Located *c.* 300m to the southwest of the PDA is the 12th century Church of St. Peter which was built in the 12th century AD and successively remodelled throughout the Medieval period. To the south of the PDA, was a supposed small moated manorial site at Grove Farm (CHER 012422) which has survived as a series of undated earthworks, although the moat itself has been filled in.

An archaeological evaluation and excavation (Wessex Archaeology 2007) was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology to the immediate south of the PDA in 2006 and 2007. A single curvilinear ditch *c.* 19m in length was recorded and tentatively dated to the Early Medieval period, based upon a single fragment of St. Neots ware pottery. However, the site was predominantly post-Medieval with 15 sub-rectangular features, 11 linear features, and a small pit dated to this period.

There are a number of post-Medieval period buildings in the village of Offord D'Arcy, which are primarily concentrated along the High Street. Two manor houses are recorded, one at Grove Farm and a second, 'The Manor' (DCB 2557), close to the Church of St. Peter, which was first built in the 17th century. To the west of the PDA is the Horseshoe Inn, a Grade II listed building which was constructed in the 17th (DCB 3340)

Within the confines of the PDA were the still active remains of an old pond, visible as a wet hollow which locals stated filled seasonally. This pond was not present on the 1902 maps for Huntingdonshire, but first appeared on the 1926 map for Huntingdonshire (1:2,500), suggesting that it was constructed in the early part of the 20th century.

Methodology

A total of twelve trenches were excavated using a 360º tracked machine with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket and supervised by an experienced archaeologist. The trenches were machine excavated down to a level where any and all archaeological features were visible; these were planned and hand excavated by a team of skilled archaeologists.

Trench sheets were completed for all trenches to record section profiles and geological variances. The trench sheets were accompanied by scale plans of all archaeological features (at 1:50) and detailed recording of excavated features with sections drawn at a scale of 1:10 and digital photographs taken. The Unit-modified version of the MoLAS recording system was employed throughout with all excavated stratigraphic events assigned feature numbers (F.#) and all contexts assigned individual numbers ([context #]). The excavation area and trenches were fixed to the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid and a contour survey undertaken with a Global Positioning System. The site was identified as ODA09.

RESULTS

Twelve trenches were excavated across the PDA, totalling 443m. The depth of cover (topsoil and subsoil) was consistent across the PDA, averaging 0.49m deep with some areas with some areas shallower due to the undulating nature of the ground surface. Of the twelve trenches, only three were completely devoid of archaeological features (Trenches 1, 2, and 9) while the remaining nine revealed evidence for a series of enclosures and cut pit features representative of Early Medieval settlement (see figure 2).

The settlement related features were concentrated within Trenches 7 and 8 where a series of ditches and pits dominated. The features within these trenches contained darker, 'dirtier' deposits than elsewhere and the majority of material recovered from the site was from these features. Five pits were excavated (**F.4**, **F.5**, **F.6**, **F.7** and **F.28**) within these trenches and a further four possible pits were left unexcavated (**F.32**, **F.33**, **F.34** and **F.37**). The only other discrete feature encountered was a single posthole, **F.26**, in Trench 5, suggesting that the settlement was focused to the north. A series of six linear ditches (**F.1**, **F.2**, **F.3**, **F.30**, **F.31** and **F.39**) and four possible ditch terminals (**F.8**, **F.35**, **F.36** and **F.38**) were also recorded in Trenches 7 and 8, a total of four of which were excavated (F.1, F.2, F.3 and F.8). The pits and ditches in these two trenches revealed an area of greater density of archaeological features than that recorded elsewhere in the evaluation, suggesting that this was close to the core of the settlement.

The remaining trenches were dominated by linear features which appeared to form a series of enclosures nestled around the settlement. Two potentially different phases were discernable from the ditches, made apparent by a slight shift in alignment. One phase was aligned north northwest-south southeast and was characterised by predominantly wide or recut ditches, such as features 2 and 3 in Trench 7, features **12** to **16** in Trench 3, and features **9** and **11** in Trench 6. The second phase was aligned northwest-southeast and comprised predominantly of narrower features more akin to gullies than ditches, features 1 and 30 in Trench 7, and features **23**, **25**, **27**, and **44** in Trench 5. Similar pottery was recovered from all of the features excavated and it was not possible to determine any clear relationship between the two phases of activity. The Early Medieval pottery recovered indicated that any activity was only likely to have lasted a short period, a few decades, suggesting that the two phases were probably small reorganisations to the layout of the settlement, subtle shifts in enclosure boundaries.

The ditch features probably represented a series of infields or enclosures associated with the settlement to the north. The absence of any archaeological features within the southeast corner of the PDA (Trenches 1 and 2) could indicate that the archaeology exposed represented the limits of the settlement activity and that the area to the southwest was utilised as fields. Two east-northeast west-southwest ditches were aligned parallel, F.12 and F.13 in Trench 3, and these were more substantial than others, and potentially represented the boundary of the settlement, marking the division between the infield enclosures and more open fields to the east.

Trenches 10 and 11 were located towards the western end of the PDA, and exposed a series of linear features, probable boundary ditches, which appeared to form a continuation of the settlement activity evidenced to the east. As with the ditches in Trenches 5 and 6, these features appeared to be outer enclosures on the edge of the settlement. The depositional sequence was similar to that recorded elsewhere and the artefacts recovered were contemporary, although not as abundant as the material from the features within Trenches 7 and 8. Unfortunately, this part of the site was dominated by a large pond which still retained some water at the time of the evaluation. Elements of the pond were exposed within the trenches where it cut the Early Medieval features. The pond first appears on the 1926 OS map for

Huntingdonshire (1:2,500) and was not recorded on the 1902 map suggesting that its origin was probably sometime in the early 20th century.

Although there were no cut archaeological features within Trench 9 the 'geological' deposits encountered were more gravely and mixed than elsewhere across the site, with the exception of the southeastern end of Trench 10. These deposits appeared to represent water affected silts and gravels which were probably deposited by ancient river channels. There are, however, a series of ponds and ditches (one of which bisected the site) which extended to the northwest and southeast leading to the moated manor house at Grove Farm and it is possible that these deposits represent part of this system.

DISCUSSION

The archaeology encountered during the evaluation revealed evidence for the early origins of the settlement at Offord D'Arcy. The concentration of features within Trenches 7 and 8 provide evidence for an Early Medieval settlement with ditches in the surrounding trenches suggestive of a system of infields. The boundary ditch recorded within Trenches 3 and 12 appears to represent the extent of this settlement which was enclosed to the north.

The archaeological activity exposed at the PDA indicates the presence of a small domestic settlement of Early Medieval origin. The pottery suggests that this was occupied for a relatively short period, possibly only a few decades (although the short time frame could have been the result of the limited size of the assemblage recovered from the site). The animal bone recovered indicates that cattle were the dominant species and were exploited for their meat and secondary product; which is representative of typical food waste from domestic activities. The domestic nature of the settlement was further supported by the results from the environmental analysis which concluded that the features sampled contained a range of domestic cooking waste.

The status of the settlement was less conclusive. There were no features which indicated the presence of structures or buildings within the PDA; however, evidence for Early Medieval timber built structures is rarely recovered. Furthermore, evidence for structures can be elusive within the confines of an evaluation trench. As has already been stated the features exposed within Trenches 7 and 8 and the material recovered all indicate domestic activity, but the assemblages themselves were too small to suggest either the economy or status of the settlement. The evidence from the faunal assemblage suggested that marrow fat was being extracted from some of the long bones; there was also evidence for the heating and removing of marrow fat from a single cow mandible, which would have produced only a small quantity. It was cheaper to purchase mandibles than long bones which could suggest that this was a low status settlement (see Rajkovača below). However, the assemblage as a whole was small, although coherent, and no categorical statement regarding status can be made.

The evaluation at Offord D'Arcy has helped improve our understanding for the origins of this small village. Early Medieval activity was encountered within three

quarters of the trenches and was dispersed throughout the PDA. This activity was most intense within Trenches 7 and 8 towards the north edge of the PDA where it represented the southern extent of the Early Medieval settlement. This was bounded by several potential enclosures and infields, periphery activity which would no doubt have surrounded the settlement, and evidence for these was recorded in all but three of the trenches (1, 2, and 9). Despite the absence of cut features within Trench 9, their presence within trenches to the east and west would suggest that the archaeology does continue throughout. However, the absence of features within Trenches 1 and 2 would suggest, along with the evidence from the excavation to the south (Wessex Archaeology 2007), that this was probably the start of more open fields, much as is the case today.

APPENDICES

Early Medieval Pottery

David Hall and Craig Cessford

A small assemblage of 75 sherds weighing 729g (9.7g MSW) was recovered from the trench based evaluation at Offord D'Arcy. The pottery was found in predominantly in Trench 7 (62 sherds, 82.7%) with smaller groups in Trenches 8 (7 sherds, 9.3%) and 10 (6 sherds, 8.0%). The pottery is quite severely leached, but is identifiable, and is dominated by material in the local St. Neots-type ware/Lyveden ware tradition. The assemblage is dominated by St. Neots-type ware (66 sherds), a wheel-thrown shelly ware that is typically dark reddish purple in colour with a slightly 'soapy' feel. This ware was first identified during excavations by Tebbutt at St. Neots (Lethbridge and Tebbutt 1933) and then systematically defined by Hurst (1956; 1976, 320-23). The understanding of the ware was advanced by a series of excavations in the St. Neot's area in the 1960's by Peter Addyman and the remains of clamp kilns may have been recognised in St. Neots itself (Addyman 1965; 1969; 1973), but has progressed relatively little since then, although work is currently underway (Spoerry 2005; Vince 2007). Although first identified at St. Neots, this ware appears to have been produced at a number of locations situated along the Jurassic Limestone belt, which extends roughly between Oxfordshire and Cambridgeshire. Its manufacture is generally dated to *c.*875-1200. None of the St. Neots-type ware from this assemblage is identifiably of 'early' 10th-11th century fabric or forms, although given the small size of the assemblage this is not conclusive. The material that can be relatively closely dated is of 12th and late 12th century date. Some of the material identified as St. Neots-type ware displays similarities to Lyveden ware, indeed given the leaching of the pottery some early Lyveden ware may be present. Lyveden ware developed out of the St. Neots-type ware tradition, it was produced in Northamptonshire and has a pink fabric, which is often rather 'soapy' in texture with frequent shell inclusions (Bellamy 1983; Bryant and Steane 1969; Chapman *et al* 2008; Steane 1967). It dates to the 13th-14th centuries, but had its *floruit* during the 13th century. There are also a small number of other pink and shelly coarsewares (4 sherds) that fall within the same broad St. Neots-type ware/Lyveden ware tradition, but can not be closely identified and date to the 13th century.

There was only a small quantity of Thetford-type ware (2 sherds), which is consistent with the location of Offord D'Arcy at the edge of the distribution area for Thetford-type ware. There is also a small quantity of Stamford ware (2 sherds); this is a widely distributed wheel-thrown ware that is slightly superior in quality to the local St. Neots-type wares. 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 Stamford 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). The Stamford ware in the assemblage probably dates to the 12th century and is likely to come from jugs, these are the most commonly found Stamford ware form so far from the production centre and St. Neots-type ware appears to have generally been quite poor at holding liquids.

The assemblage although small is quite coherent and indicates a 12th-13th century date, and indeed could indicate a relatively short period of occupation of only a few decades. Alternatively occupation may have spanned several centuries and the small assemblage recovered simply lacks the appropriate diagnostic elements. In general most features produced relatively small number of sherds, but two contexts F.1 [001] (17 sherds, 99g, MSW 5.8g) and F.2 [003] (31 sherds, 323g, MSW 10.4g) produced moderately sized assemblages indicating that they probably lie in or near an area of occupation.

Faunal Remains

Vida Rajkovača

A small assemblage of 40 bone fragments was recovered during the evaluation undertaken in 2009. Material has been dated to 12-13th century. 40 bone specimens were possible to assign to element and further 29 to species (*c.*70%). The assemblage was identified using Schmid (1972), Hillson (1999) and Cambridge Archaeological Unit reference collection. Where possible, measurements have been taken (Von den Driesch 1976) and withers height calculations follow the conversion factors from Von den Driesch and Boessneck (1974). Ageing of the assemblage employed mandibular toothwear (Grant 1982).

Overall preservation ranged from moderate to quite poor with a number of fragments demonstrating surface exfoliation and extensive erosive damage. In addition to this, the majority of bone bore canine gnawing marks, although dogs have not been confirmed osteologically on the site.

Results

Faunal material was recovered from trenches 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11. Large domesticates such as horse and cow predominate the assemblage, followed by sheep/ goat and pig. One fragment of tarso-metarsasus was recovered from F. 8 and it is goose-sized, but impossible to assign to species level. This small assemblage has produced one ageable specimen and that was an ovicaprid mandible recovered from F. 25 was aged to 3-4 years.

	Trench 5			**Trench 7**		**Trench 8**		**Trench 10**	**Trench 11**			
Taxon	**F. 23**	**F.24**	**F. 25**	**F. 3**	**F. 28**	**F.5**	**F.8**	**F.11**	**F. 17**	**F. 20**	**F. 21**	**Total**
Ovicaprid	1		1	1		1					1	5
Horse			2		4			1				7
Cow			3		8			3	2			16
Pig			1									1
Cattle-sized								1	1	2	2	6
Sheep-sized	1	3										4
Bird n.f.i.							1					1
Total	**2**	**3**	**7**	**1**	**12**	**1**	**1**	**5**	**3**	**2**	**3**	**40**

Table 1: Number of specimens identified to species (or NISP) by feature from ODA09.
The abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that a specimen was or could not be further identified.

The only biometrical data available from this assemblage was drawn from a complete horse metacarpal. This specimen was used to derive withers height estimates which came at 137cm or 13 hands implying that the horse was pony-sized (see Kiesewalter 1888 in Von den Driesch and Boessneck 1974).
Two of the large cattle bone shafts have been axially split for the removal of marrowfat. In addition to this, cow mandible was observed with the light scorching on the basal part of the diastema.

Conclusion

The results from this small assemblage have shown that cattle are clearly the dominant species, being exploited for meat and their secondary products. In addition to this, large bone shafts were further utilised being vertically split for the extraction of marrow fat. It could be said that this small assemblage represents typical food waste from domestic activities, with no butchery marks that could suggest the presence of a skilled or specialised/ professional butchers on site. This is with an exception of a cow mandible which was observed with burning and butchery marks on the diastema consistent with the process of heating and removing marrow fat from the mandible. This is common in faunal assemblages that date from Romano-British and later periods and it is likely to represent special procedure for extracting marrow liquid (Dobney *et al*. 1996: 26). The mandible contains small amount of marrow which could, after being heated, easily be poured out. Liquid mandibular marrowfat may have been used to provide lamp oil, or as a base for cosmetic products. Another explanation for this butchery action where one is using a considerable effort to recover a small amount of marrow might be the socio-economic differences, where mandibles were cheaper to acquire than large shafts of bone.

The size of the assemblage is inadequate to sustain propositions about site's economy and husbandry practices. However, several points of interest were observed in this assemblage hinting the importance of the future investigations on this site.

Assessment of Bulk Environmental Samples
Anne de Vareilles

Four bulk soil samples were selected for analysis. Three samples were processed using an Ankara-type flotation machine; flots were collected in 300µm sieves and the remaining heavy residues washed over a 1mm mesh. Sample 2 F.19 was waterlogged and so a 500ml sub-sample was wet-sieved using a 300µm sieve. The >4mm fractions of the heavy residues were sorted by eye by Frances Cox, smaller fractions have been stored for future reference. Finds recovered are included in table 2. Sorting of the flots was carried out under a low power binocular microscope (x6–40) in the George Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge. Nomenclature follows Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals, Stace (1997) for other flora and an updated version of Beedham (1972) for molluscs. All macro-remains are listed in table 3.

Preservation

Carbonised, waterlogged and mineralised plant remains were recovered. The cess pit F.7 contained both charred and mineralised remains. The latter do not always float and it is therefore possible that mineralised seeds might still be found in the unsorted heavy residue fraction. F.19 was waterlogged but the sub-sample only produced a small range of seeds despite the large flot. The paucity of seeds is likely to be the result of post-depositional drying rather than a true reflection of the Medieval landscape. Mollusc shells occurred sporadically in features F.19 and F.11, types are recorded in table 3. Modern rootlets were present in all samples, indicating that plant macro-remain and small finds may have been lost and/or displaced through bioturbation.

Results and Discussion

Early Medieval Ditch F.11 [35]

This ditch contained very few plant remains: less than ten cereal grains, one bit of wheat chaff (*Triticum* sp.), a few individual wild plant seeds and a little charcoal.

Early Medieval Pit F.5 [9] and Cess Pit F.28 [63]

Both pits contained a range of heavily burnt and distorted cereal remains, most notably grains of free-threshing (*T. aestivum sl.*) as well as perhaps some other varieties of wheat, a little hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare sl.*) and possibly some rye (*Secale cereale*). Both pits also contained a few small pulses that were probably edible beans or peas (*Vicia/ Lathyrus/ Pisum* sp.).

Mineralised wild plant seeds and small bone fragments were found in the cess pit F.28. Whilst some seeds are likely to have been eaten, such as the apple or pear pips (*Malus/ Pyrus* sp.) and the elder seeds (*Sambucus nigra*), others probably became mineralised after deposition. Direct evidence for cess in the form of coprolites was not

found (mineralization without the addition of cess can occur when organic matter builds up and is quickly compressed).

Medieval Ditch F.19 [41]

The flot obtained from the sub-sample was large so only half was sorted. No cereals but a small range of waterlogged plant taxa were retrieved from a dense matrix of old and modern rootlets. The majority of the recovered seeds are tough and woody which tends to suggest that more delicate specimens have not survived fluctuating water levels. Bright yellow buttercups (*Ranunculus bulbosus/acris/repens*) growing on damp soil are the species most widely represented, followed by fool's water-cress (*Apium nodiflorum*), elder, knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), sedge (*Carex* sp.) and stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*). Six other species were only represented by one or two seeds each and include bramble (*Rubus* sp.), lesser chickweed (*Stellaria pallida*), bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*) and three specimens of the mint family. True aquatics are missing form the assemblage suggesting that although the ditch was wet it did not hold permanent standing water.

Sample number		**2**	**1**	**3**	**4**
Context		41	35	9	63
Feature		19	11	5	28
Feature type		Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Cess
Excavation Trench		11	10	8	7
Phase / Date		Medie.	Early Medieval		
Sample volume - litres		0.5	8	10	15
Flot volume - mililitres			6	7	12
Flot fraction examined -%		50	100	100	100
Charcoal					
large >4mm			-	-	+
medium 2-4mm			-	++	++
small <2mm			++	+++	+++
vitrified				-	-
parenchymous tissue					-
Cereal remains					
Hordeum vulgare sensu lato	Hulled barley grain		1cf.	2	3
Triticum aestivum sl.	Free-threshing wheat grain			19	38
Triticum sp.	Indeterminate wheat grain			13	16
Hordeum / Triticum sp.	Barley or wheat grain			9	10
Secale cereale	Rye grain			2cf.	
Indeterminate cereal grain fragments				6	36
Triticum sp. unripe glume	indet. wheat chaff		1		1
culm base	straw root node			1	
Non-cereal seeds					
Ranunculus acris / repens /bulbosus L.	Meadow / Creeping / Bulbous Buttercup	+++ wl			
Urtica dioica L.	Common Nettle	+ wl			
Chenopodium sp. type 1	Goosefoots		1	1	
Atriplex patula L./*prostrata* Boucher ex DC	Oraches				2m
Stellaria cf. *pallida* (Dumort.) Crép	Lesser Chickweed	- wl			
Polygonum aviculare L.	Knotgrass	+ wl			
Rumex sp.	Dock				1

Rubus sp.	Bramble	- wl			
Malus / Pyrus sp.	Apple or Pear pip				1m
Vicia / Lathyrus sp. <2mm across	Vetches / Wild Pea				
Vicia / Lathyrus / Pisum sp.	Vetches / Wild Pea / Pea			9	2
Medicago / Trifolium sp.	Medics or Clover			2.5	1
Apium nodiflorum (L.) Lag.	Fool's Water-cress	++ wl			
Indeterminate Apiaceae	Carrot family seeds				1m
Solanum dulcamara L.	Bittersweet	- wl			
Ballota nigra L.	Black Horehound	- wl			
Lycopus europaeus L.	Gipsywort	- wl			
Stachys / Salvia sp.	Woundworts / Claries	- wl			
Sambucus nigra L.	Elder	+ wl			4m
Anthemis cotula L.	Stinking Chamomile		1	1cf.	
Eleocharis sp.	Spike Rushes				1cf.
large trigonous *Carex* sp.	trilete Sedge seed	+ wl			
large Poaceae >4mm	large wild grass			2	7
medium Poaceae 2-4mm	small wild grass			1	3
Indet Poaceae fragments	wild/cultivated grass seed frags		8	+++	+++
Indet. Poaceae culm internode	Grass stem fragment			1	
Indeterminate wild plant seeds					1

Table 2: Plant-macro remains. Key: '-' 1 or 2, '+' <10, '++' 10-50, '+++' >50 items. cf. = compares favourably. P = present, m = mineralised, wl = waterlogged

Sample number		**2**	**1**	**3**	**4**
Feature		19	11	5	28
Mollusca	**Habitat**				
Hippeutis complanatus	fresh water		-		
Carychium tridentatum / minimum	Damp and shady	-			
Vertigo sp.	N/A		-		
Ceciloides acicula	Catholic		+		
Trichia sp.	Catholic		+		
Other finds from the Flot					
Insect remains					1m
<2mm bones, including of frog					+
<2mm bone fragments					+m
Modern, intrusive rootlets		P	P	P	P
Finds from the >4mm heavy residues					
T. aestivum sl.	free-threshing wheat grain			1	1
Triticum sp.	unspecific wheat grain			1	
Corylus avellana	Hazel-nut shell fragment				1
Malus / Pyrus sp.	Apple or pear pip				1m
Indeterminate seed					1
Charcoal				++	++
Pottery sherd				+	
Bone fragment				++	++
small bone			-		+

Table 3: Mollusca and other finds. Key: '-' 1 or 2, '+' <10, '++' 10-50, '+++' >50 items. cf. = compares favourably. P = present, m = mineralised, wl = waterlogged

Conclusion

The features sampled contained a typical range of badly distorted Medieval cooking waste and a mineralised assemblage which may represent cess. No unusual or exotic specimens were recovered.

The waterlogged plant remains from ditch F.19 demonstrate that the immediate surroundings were very wet and poorly drained. It is unlikely however, that the ditch contained standing water.

Feature Descriptions

Trench 1		
General Description	**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained no archaeological features. Natural was a soft sandy gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.30
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.20
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	20.15

Trench 2		
General Description	**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench contained no archaeological features. Natural was a soft sandy gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.28
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.24
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	30.00

Trench 3		
General Description	**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained five linear features. Natural was a soft sandy gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.30
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.17
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	34.85

Contexts

Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments
12	ENE-WSW ditch	17	f				
		18	c	1.15	0.42		Early Medieval boundary
13	ENE-WSW ditch	19	f				
		20	c	1.70	0.28		Re-cut of F.14
14	ENE-WSW ditch	21	f				
		22	f				
		23	f				
		24	c	1.60	0.70		Boundary re-cut by F.13
15	ENE-WSW ditch	25	f				Re-cut of F.16, continues into Tr. 4
		26	c	0.70	0.13		
16	ENE-WSW ditch	27	f				Re-cut by F.15, continues into Tr. 4
		28	c	1.23	0.21		

Trench 4		
General Description	**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench contained two parallel ditches which continued from Trench 3 and so were unexcavated. Natural was a soft sandy gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.25
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.10
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	20.70

Contexts

Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments
29	ENE-WSW ditch						Continuation of F.15 and F.16 in Tr. 3

Trench 5							
General Description						**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained six linear features, a possible terminal and a posthole. Natural was a soft sandy gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.26
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.26
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	65.00
Contexts							
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
23	WNW-ESE ditch	47	f			flint	
		48	c	1.30	0.30		
24	ENE-WSW ditch	49	f			Bn	
		50	c	0.90	0.09		
25	WNW-ESE ditch	55	f			Bn	
		56	f			Bn	
		57	c	1.44	0.50		
26	posthole	51	f				
		52	c	0.30	0.30		
27	WNW-ESE ditch	53	f			flint	
		54	c	0.80	0.15		
43	terminal/ pit						unexcavated
44	WNW-ESE ditch						unexcavated
45	ENE-WSW ditch						unexcavated

Trench 6							
General Description						**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench contained three linear features (of which one was a continuation from Trench 5), and a large hollow. Natural was a soft sandy gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.32
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.22
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	34.35
Contexts							
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
22	natural hollow	58	f				a natural depression in the ground the deposits were very sterile
		59	f				
		60	c	6.50	0.34		
23	WNW-ESE ditch	47	f			flint	
		48	c	1.30	0.30		
46	NEN-SWS ditch						extends at right angles from F.23 - unexcavated
47	NW-SE ditch						unexcavated

Trench 7							
General Description						**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench contained five linear features, a pit, and three possible terminals or pit features. Not all of the features were excavated. Natural was a soft sandy gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.28
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.20
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	64.00
Contexts							
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
1	WNW-ESE ditch	1	f			pottery	12th to 13th century AD
		2	c	0.75	0.23		
2	NNW-SSE ditch	3	f			pottery	12th to 13th century AD
		4	c	0.85	0.57		re-cut of F.3
3	NNW-SSE ditch	5	f			Bn; flint	
		6	c	1.2	0.30		re-cut by F.2
28	pit	61	f			pottery	12th to 13th century AD
		62	f			pottery	12th to 13th century AD
		63	f			pottery	12th to 13th century AD
		64	c	2.00	0.70		cess stained pit
30	WNW-ESE ditch						unexcavated
31	NNW-SSE ditch						unexcavated
32	terminal/ pit						unexcavated
33	terminal/ pit						unexcavated
34	terminal/ pit						unexcavated

Trench 8							
General Description						**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained four pits, one linear feature and five possible terminal or pits. Not all of the features were excavated. Natural was a soft sandy gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.27
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.22
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	24.20
Contexts							
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
4	pit	7	f				
		8	c	0.55	0.11		
5	pit	9	f			pottery	12th to 13th century AD
		10	c	1.00	0.25		
6	pit	11	f			pottery	12th to 13th century AD
		12	c	0.52	0.10		
7	pit	13	f				
		14	c	0.55	0.17		
8	WNW-ESE ditch	15	f			Bn; flint	
		16	c	0.90	0.20		

35	terminal/ pit						unexcavated
36	terminal/ pit						unexcavated
37	terminal/ pit						unexcavated
38	terminal/ pit						unexcavated
39	WNW-ESE ditch						unexcavated

Trench 9		
General Description	**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained no archaeological features. Natural was a soft sandy gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.25
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.15
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	56.60

Trench 10		
General Description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained three linear features and a modern dog burial which was left unexcavated. Natural was a soft sandy gravel.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.25
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.15
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	25.70

Contexts

Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments
9	ENE-WSW ditch	29	f			pottery	12th to 13th century AD
		30	f				
		31	c	2.60	0.50		
10	NW-SE ditch	32	f			pottery	12th to 13th century AD
		33	c	0.79	0.12		
11	NNW-SSE ditch	34	f			pottery	
		35	f				
		36	c	1.20	0.34		
48	ENE-WSW ditch						unexcavated

Trench 11		
General Description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained two linear gullies, a tree throw and one edge of a pond with re-cut channels which fed into it. Natural was a mix of soft sandy gravel, and compact river gravels.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.23
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.13
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	44.40

Contexts

Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments
18	NNW-SSE gully	39	f				
		40	c	0.88	0.22		
19	pond channel	41	f				the most recent channel which fed into the pond
		42	c	1.20	0.30		
20	pond channel	43	f				a earlier channel which fed into the pond
		44	c	unknown	0.30		
21	NNW-SSE gully	45	f			Bn	cut by the pond channels
		46	c	1.00	0.20		

Trench 12							
General Description						**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench contained three linear ditches all aligned NNW-SSE. None of the features were excavated. Natural was a soft sandy gravel.						**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.25
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.28
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	22.80
Contexts							
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill/ Layer**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Selected Artefacts**	**Comments**
37	NNW-SSE ditch						unexcavated
38	NNW-SSE ditch						unexcavated
39	NNW-SSE ditch						unexcavated

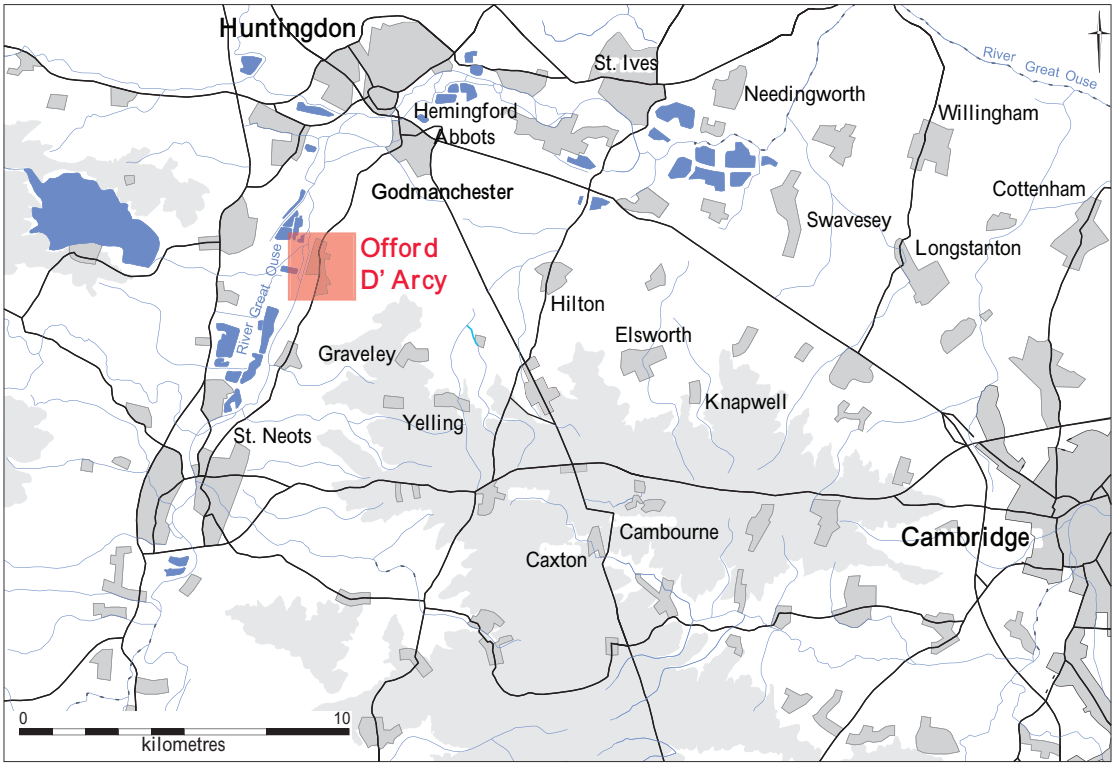

Figure 1. Location Map

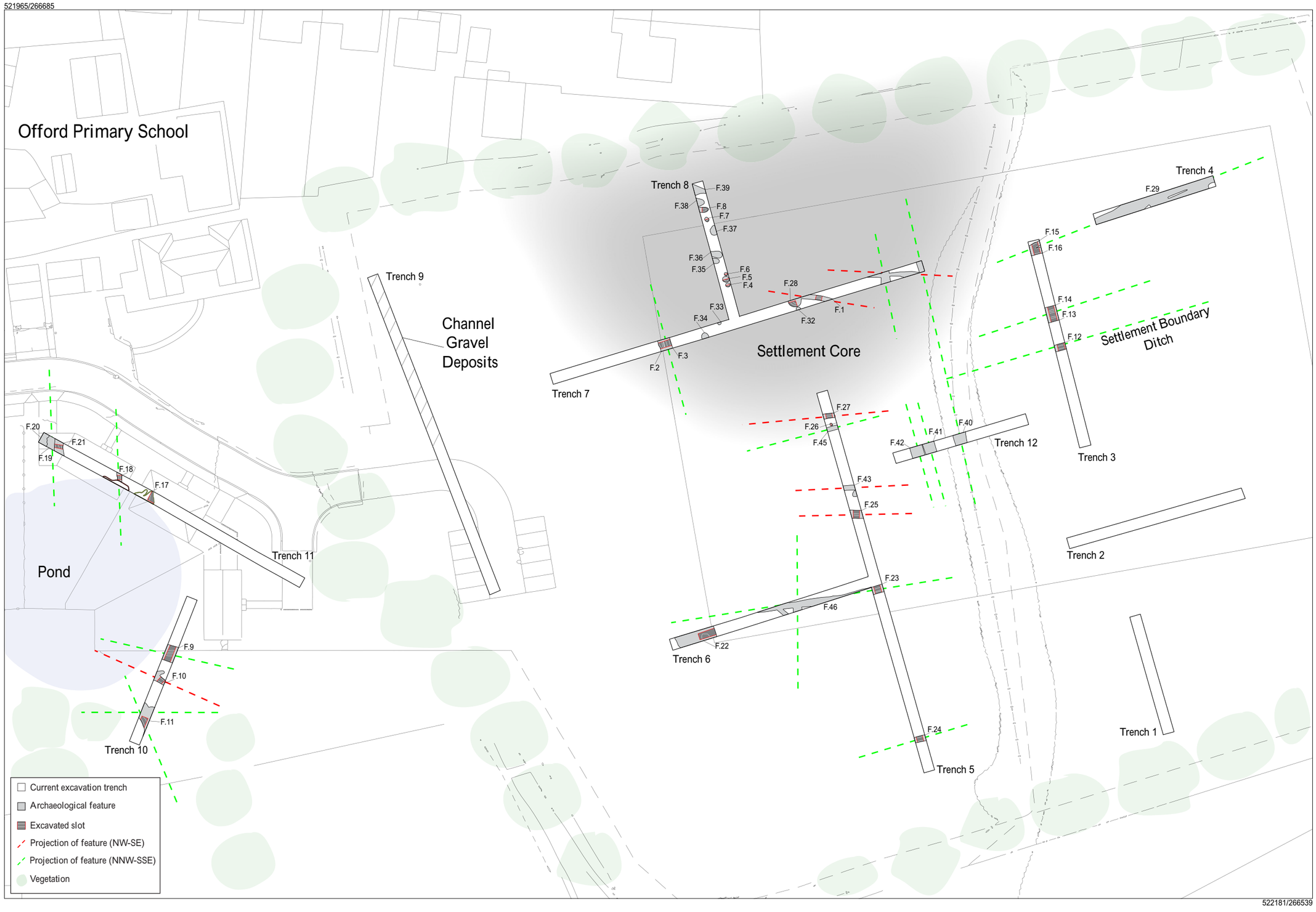

Figure 2. Trench Plan

Figure 3. Photograph of F. 12 (top) and F. 28 (bottom) .

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OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: cambridg3-68181

Project details

Project name	Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken to address a pre-determination condition placed upon planning consent for the construction of three houses and a football pitch at Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire (TL 2205 6660). A total of twelve trenches, representing 443m, were excavated. The evaluation revealed a series of boundary and enclosure ditches along with several pits. These features together suggest an Early Medieval settlement and infields are on the site, adding to our understanding of the formation of Offord D'Arcy.
Project dates	Start: 09-11-2009 End: 13-11-2009
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ODA09 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB3295 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE OFFORD DARCY Offord D'Arcy
Postcode	PE19 5
Study area	2.54 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 2205 6657 52.2833333333 -0.210555555556 52 17 00 N 000 12 38 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 12.60m Max: 14.10m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Emma Beadsmoore
Project director/manager	Emma Beadsmoore
Project supervisor	Ricky Patten
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Thornhill Estates Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	ODA09
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	ODA09
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	ODA09
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

Project bibliography 1

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