Medieval Remains at Cromwell Square, Huntingdon



Archaeological Investigation Report



October 2011

Client: Campbell Buchannan

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NGR: TL 23925 72097



Medieval remains at Cromwell Square, Huntingdon

Archaeological Investigation

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Report Number: 1311

Site Name: Medieval remains at Cromwell Square, Huntingdon.

HER Event No: ECB3635

Date of Works: 1/8/2011 to 10/8/2011

Client Name: Campbell Buchannan

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Summary

Summary text.

An archaeological investigation was carried out at Huntingdon, Grid ref TL 23925 72097. The evaluation consisted of 7 trenches located within the proposed development area. The archaeological investigation followed the demolition of the existing structures on the site.

All of the trenches had experienced modern disturbance, however islands of archaeological deposits survived in varying depths across the site. The character of the partial remaining deposits and features was found to be very similar to the adjoining site excavated in 2007. (Gilmore and Spoerry, 2007.) With structures and plot boundaries of Medieval date, however the level of truncation and the depth of modern overburden made the slight archaeological remains difficult to locate and inaccessible.

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INTRODUCTION

1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted at Cromwell Square, Huntingdon.
- 1.2 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 0800968FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

2 Geology and topography

- 2.1 The geology of Huntingdon comprises 1st and 2nd terrace gravels of the River Ouse overlying Oxford Clay. The site slopes slightly from north to south with a height of 10.50m AOD in the centre. North of the site the land rises to 15m AOD at a point formerly known as Ambury Hill or Smerhill (Spoerry 2000) c. 200m away.
- 2.2 The inner ring road of Huntingdon runs to the south of the site (Figure 1), approximately along the line of the proposed medieval town ditch (Figure 4). Ambury Road, to the west of the development area follows the line of a track to Abbots Ripton, this route is shown on the early maps of Huntingdon (Figure 2). Thus, the site lies next to the point at which the track to Abbots Ripton crossed the town ditch.

3 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

- 3.1 The subject site is situated within the Ouse Valley, which is rich in prehistoric remains. During the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age, major ritual complexes sprang up and evolved along the course of the Ouse and, although much of the material culture does not survive, these monuments are highly visible from the air as cropmarks. These ceremonial complexes cover extensive territories and are distributed evenly across the landscape (Malim 2000).
- 3.2 To the west of Huntingdon lies the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age ceremonial complex of Brampton, where mortuary enclosures, cursus monuments and ring ditches have been identified (op. cit.). In 1990 and 1991 an investigation of a portion of this monument group found evidence for a Neolithic mortuary enclosure situated at the end of a cursus (Malim 1990). Investigations close by and north of the Alconbury Brook at Huntingdon Racecourse revealed evidence of prehistoric land clearance, settlement and ritual activity adjacent to an ancient stream channel (Macaulay 1996).
- 3.3 More locally, the existence of a major Late Neolithic ceremonial complex at Rectory Farm Godmanchester, which lies about 1.5km to the south-east of the development

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- area may have acted as a focus for prehistoric activity and deposition locally (McAvoy, in Dawson 2000).
- 3.4 Within Huntingdon itself, artefacts of prehistoric date have been found and reported to the CHER. These are largely of Neolithic and Bronze Age date. The presence of such artefacts is unsurprising given the preference of early prehistoric populations for low-lying gravels.
- 3.5 Excavations at the former Model Laundry, Ouse Walk revealed some pre-historic activity in the form of residual flint and pottery. Twenty-five lithic fragments were identified representing most stages in the reduction process and included five cores in addition to blades and small chips, indicative of on site knapping (Clarke 2005, 35). Alongside this a small group of Iron Age pottery (5th –3rd Century BC) was recovered.
- 3.6 Within the Huntingdon area, an Iron Age presence has also been identified. At Godmanchester a series of Early Iron Age farmsteads or hamlets have been located at intervals along the gravel terrace (Green 1977).
- 3.7 More Iron Age finds have been discovered within Huntingdon at Watersmeet, including Scored Ware pottery dating from the Middle to Late Iron Age (Cooper and Spoerry, 2000). Bronze age pottery and a Neolithic ditch were recorded during evaluation and excavation in 2004 and 2005 on the Walden Road/Walden house sites (Clarke 2004 and Rachel Clarke pers. comm.).
- 3.8 Possible prehistoric remains were previously identified during the evaluation carried out on the subject site (Cooper and Spoerry 1998). These remains consisted of a possible palisade ditch and two potential bonfire bases, however, no prehistoric finds were recovered.

Roman

- 3.9 A small Roman settlement appears to have developed at Huntingdon along the line of Ermine Street, a major Roman road connecting London to Lincoln and York; the line being in part perpetuated by the medieval High Street. Huntingdon has often been interpreted as either a suburb of Godmanchester, located approximately 1 km to the south, or as roadside ribbon development (Kenney 2005).
- 3.10 There is some evidence for Roman activity in and around Huntingdon, comprising occasional finds such as coins (CHERs 02602; 02603; 02607; 02608) and pottery sherds (CHERs 00869; 02625; 02637), many of which were found near the river or close to the presumed line of Ermine Street. There are also three unpublished excavations, including a villa site overlooking Alconbury Brook, and two investigations within the town that revealed metalled Roman road surfaces. Within the roadside zone, various remains have been found, including burials (CHER ECB 1872), roadside ditches and occasional structures. Significant Roman riverside activity, including a large channel, or series of channels containing Roman building material, was also identified during an evaluation to the rear of Glendower, Mill Common (Kenney 2005, 24). However, little evidence for Roman activity has been identified in the northern area of Huntingdon near to this site.

Anglo-Saxon

3.11 Although the location of the documented Danish and Late Saxon burhs at Huntingdon (the latter being a re-build or extension of the former) is not known, recent work has attempted to re-assess the evidence. New research indicates that the Late Saxon settlement is located in the southern part of the area later enclosed by the medieval



town ditch to the north-east and the bar dyke to the south-west (Spoerry 2000). There is, however, much dispute as to the location of the late 9th to early 10th century Danish burh.

- 3.12 One model, although not the most favoured, is based on the comparative situation at Stamford (Mahany 1982) and would place the burh at a defensible location some distance to the north-west of the river crossing, its western limit conforming to the boundary of the bar dyke. The alternative and more probable model proposes that the early defended area consisted of a D-shaped enclosure around the river crossing carrying Ermine Street across the River Ouse. This interpretation suggests that the later castle may reflect the approximate location of the Danish burh.
- 3.13 The process of Late Saxon urban development eventually resulted in the very substantial town documented by Domesday Book, which also refers to the twenty properties cleared to make way for the castle (Spoerry 2000). Both documentary and archaeological data suggest that the main area of immediately pre-Conquest settlement extended from the later High Street to the east, as far as bar dyke at the end of Mill Common to the west. One particularly noteworthy CHER entry is that of the Late Saxon church and burial ground at Whitehills.
- 3.14 Late Saxon occupation has been found on Orchard Lane (Oakey 1997), Hartford Road (Connor 1996, Mortimer 2007) and early to late Saxon activity was uncovered at the Model Laundry site (Clarke 2005).

Norman & Medieval

- 3.15 By the time of Domesday survey there were 256 burgesses (freemen who were heads of households), two churches and a mill.
- 3.16 The major element in the post-Conquest medieval townscape is the castle, built in 1068 and at least partially destroyed in 1174. The imposition of the castle onto the pre-existing Saxon town necessitated the movement of the river crossing, resulting in the construction of a wooden bridge, and made it necessary to lay out a new High Street and, probably, market place. Inskip Ladds, compiler of the VCH entry for Huntingdon, thought that the original castle curtilage was much larger than that surviving by the post-medieval period, and proposed that the area immediately west of the motte was in fact a second bailey (Ladds Archive, Norris Museum, St Ives). The distinct rise from west to east under the houses on the street of Castle Hill, along with the substantial earthworks present on the Watersmeet site (see 3.3) offer strong support for this model and recent evaluation and excavations within part of this zone although revealing principally Roman period remains (Nicholson 2006), also suggest reinforcement of the natural scarp in the medieval period (Cooper and Spoerry 2000).
- 3.17 The stone-built bridge carrying Ermine Street over the River Ouse was constructed in AD 1332. It is believed that the present bridge, with six arches, replaced an earlier timber bridge (Page et al, 1932). The surviving structure is considered to be one of the finest of its kind in England and was constructed simultaneously at both ends by two different authorities, without much regard to direction. Fortunately, the two parts joined in the middle, but as they were not on the same axis the bridge exhibits a notable bend. Records describe a chapel on the east side that has not survived, unlike the chapel at St Ives.
- 3.18 The next two hundred years were, in general, a period of population growth and increased prosperity over much of England. Huntingdon was a successful town at the outset, being strategically located and the local administrative centre, but it then lost its

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Royal castle in 1174 and subsequently suffered market competition from St Ives located five miles downstream, a newly-founded market centre and site of what was to become one of medieval England's most important international fairs. Huntingdon eventually gained legal right to tolls on goods coming into St Ives, by then one of the largest gatherings in the country, and this offset some of the negative effects of competition. By the early 14th century Huntingdon had sixteen churches, two priories, a friary and three hospitals; supposed hallmarks of a thriving centre, but all was not well with the town.

- 3.19 The 14th century was the period during which fortunes changed further for Huntingdon, an extreme example of a trend seen all over the country. Huntingdon had always gained much of its prosperity from its position as a meeting point for goods passing up the Ouse from the Fenland and the Wash and goods travelling along Ermine Street. During the late 13th and 14th centuries there are many references to disputes between the borough and landowners restricting river flow and riverine access further downstream. In addition, the construction of a bridge downstream at St Ives and the demise of St Ives' fair all weakened the local economy. These unfortunate circumstances were compounded by countrywide overpopulation and several years of failed harvests, followed by several waves of plague. It seems that there was a particularly severe visitation of the Black Death to Huntingdon itself, and the shortage of people and parlous state of local finances is regularly attested in documents in the 14th and 15th centuries. Six of the churches are not mentioned in documents after the mid-14th century and by the 16th century only four were still functioning: St Mary's, All Saints, St Benedict's and St John's. Archaeological investigations within the town suggest that occupation inside the town ditch may have been rather piecemeal after the 13th century.
- 3.20 Huntingdon had a small Jewry in the 12th and 13th centuries. References exist to its chest of charters and in 1279 a curious grant was made to the bailiffs and good men of Huntingdon for three years of one penny for every Jew or Jewess crossing the bridge on horseback, or a halfpenny if on foot (Page et al 1932). The name Temple Close may refer to the original location of such a foundation, rather than to any Templar activity in the area, for which there is no evidence. Although Temple Close or Lane has been used as a street name since at least 1572, it appears that name migrated over the centuries. It once applied to what is now St Clement's Passage, and is currently in use to the south-west of that lane.

St. Mary's Priory, Huntingdon

- 3.21 A precise date for the foundation of the priory of St. Mary, Huntingdon is difficult to ascertain. It is mentioned in a charter of 973 (Noble 1930, 89), however, at this time it is likely to have been a collegiate church, that was to be re-founded as a priory after the Norman conquest (Hart 1966, 108-9). At this time the priory was re-located outside of the town, to a site, around 300m to the north-east of the development area, currently underneath a cemetery (Noble 1930, 89).
- 3.22 While this was the location of the main precinct, the lands of the priory covered a much larger area. A charter of c. 1180 makes it clear that the priory was situated on two hides of land by a brook (Nobel 1930, 228-9; Hart 1966, 109). These two hides are mentioned again in a copy of Henry III charter to the Priory, dated 1253, given in a fourteenth century document. This document also provides other interesting information:

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"The Priory and Convent of Huntingdon is built on two hydes of land of the gift of Eustace the Sheriff [...] On these two hydes the church of the Priory of the said Canons stands, the Infirmary of the House, the office of the Sacrisist, with the whole enclosure of the same running even to the King's ditch and Smerhill and all houses within Berneys and all the land that is within Grymesdich which belongs to the aforesaid hydes; which is worth per annum with meadows gardens cartilages and other appurtenances £4, and there are fifty cotterells in the View of the said Cannons belonging to the aforesaid two hydes" (Noble 1930, 259-269).

3.23 This suggests that the lands of the priory extended from the medieval town ditch of Huntingdon (King's ditch) out to Ambury Hill (Smerhill), which lies a short distance to the north of the subject site. Thus, the development area would lie within the Priory's estate, although more than 300m west of the probable site of the church and convent. The document also mentions other buildings that were found within the priory enclosure; an infirmary and a sacristy. It is also more then likely that there were more buildings within the enclosure to service the priory and manage its economy (e.g. as described in Coppack 1990).

Post-Medieval

- 3.24 Huntingdon suffered during the 15th-century War of the Roses and in the Civil War of the 17th century, when the castle defences were re-modelled. Throughout this period documents still speak of 'the poor decayed town'. It was only with the rise of the coaching trade in the 18th century that the town found another role and prosperity returned.
- 3.25 It is this point in the evolution of the town that the earliest surviving maps depict. Although a map does not accompany the 1572 survey, it is possible for entries to be transcribed onto Jeffries' 1768 map (Figure 2) of Huntingdon, or the 1752 plan of the Hospital Lands. These and John Speed's map of 1610, all show the development area as a blank. Although they do show that Ambury road to the west of the site has existed for some time. Such maps would not have recorded temporary structures or quarrying for instance, and cannot therefore be taken as an indicator that the area was completely unused at this time.

4 Acknowledgements

4.1 The author would like to thank Campbell Buchannan who commissioned and funded the archaeological works. The author would also like to thank the site staff, Peter Boardman and Patrick Moan, and Gareth Rees. Thanks are also extended to Aileen Connors who managed the project and Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council who monitored the project.

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AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

1 Aims

1.1 The objective of this archaeological investigation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The Brief required that all archaeological deposits should be investigated, and recorded.
- 2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metaldetected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.5 Seven bulk samples were taken from aproipriate features or layers from the trenches.
- 2.6 The site conditions and the weather did not inhibit the archaeological work.

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RESULTS

1 Introduction

1.1 The results below are described by trench, in numeric order.

2 Trench 1

- 2.1 The trench consisted of islands of archaeological features, surviving between deep truncation, the truncation appeared to be for the most part modern, removal of structural footings is likely to have had a big impact.
- Where archaeological deposits did survive, in particular at the east end of the trench, evidence for the presence of structures could be seen. (see plate 2) In the form of both beamslots and post holes. The number and proximity of the beamslots suggest successive structures, four beamslots were seen on the same alignment, 104, 105, 107, and 108, all west-north-west, east-south-east, on the same alignment as the road to the south of the site. Two possible returns of beamslots were recorded, one of which may be a return of 108, cut 115. The second beamslot on the north-north-east, south-south-west, alignment was 111. All the beamslots had reasonably consistent dimensions, measuring in width 0.2m to 0.28m, and around 0.1m in depth. A cluster of varied post holes were seen amongst the beamslots, 106, 110, 173, and 175, with 175 appearing to be a driven post. The fills of the features were also very similar, with relationships very difficult to distinguish. The fills were a mid yellowish brown, silty clay, the occasional sherds of pottery, generally fall in the 11th and 12th centuries, the sherds were all however very small and abraded.
- A further beam slot, was seen slightly further to the east of the above features, possibly forming a corner, cut **178**, the beamslot although similar in dimensions had a different alignment, being close to a north-east, south-west, alignment. Two post holes, **184** and, **182**, possibly associated with this structure.
- Further structural remains were seen at the midway point within the trench, again as beamslots and post holes. Two beamslots, **190**, and **188**, and three post holes, **192**, **194**, and **196**. The beamslots were sharing the same general alignments, and again the post holes found in close proximity, though with the relationship of the features unclear, whether representing successive constructions, or if the features are the remains of a single construction.
- 2.5 Two truncated pits were recorded at the north-east end of the trench, **100**, and **186**, both with similar mid greyish brown, silty clay fills. From the two pits datable material was only found in pit **186**, which had a date range of mid 9th to mid 12th century.

3 Trench 2

- 3.1 Two features were identified within the trench, a north-south running ditch **134**, that was truncated away at the southern end of the trench. The fill was a light brownish yellow, silty clay, pottery from the feature indicated a date range of mid 9th to mid 12th century.
- 3.2 A steep sided pit **138**, was also seen with what appeared to be half the feature exposed in the trench. The feature contained three fills, see section 4, fig. 5, the basal fill (137) was a dark blueish grey, peat like deposit, the overriding fills consist of clay backfilling. Environmental sampling of (137) showed wheat grains and burnt straw within the deposit. The deposit is dated by pottery, with a date range between the mid 12th, and mid 14th centuries.

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4 Trench 3

4.1 The trench contained a single feature, in the south-east corner of the trench, a pit **143**. The pit was only partially seen in the corner of the trench measuring 0.8m, and 0.05m in depth. The fill was a light greyish brown, silty clay, it is likely the feature is the remains of a truncated pit.

5 Trench 4

- 5.1 Trench 4 had the most intact archaeological deposits, as the immediate area appeared to be outside the truncation seen in the other trenches. (see section 6. fig 4.) The former topsoil and subsoil were sealed beneath modern demolition material. A ditch was recorded cutting the subsoil, cut 149, the ditch was running east-north-east, to west-south-west. The ditch measured 0.82m in width and 0.15m in depth. Finds from the ditch were dated between mid 9th to mid 12th century, these are almost certainly residual fragments. A further buried soil was investigated within a test pit, the soil contained finds of mid 12th to mid 14th date.
- Two ditches and a large pit were seen sealed beneath the buried soil. The latest of the two ditches **151**, was highly truncated and ran on the alignments seen across the site, north-west-north, to south-east-south. The earlier ditch **168**, ran at a right angle to this ditch. No datable evidence was recovered from either ditch.
- 5.3 Stratigraphically and physically below ditch **168**, a large pit was excavated, this was uncovered along with the ditch within the base of the test pit, the test pit was extended into a slot to enable excavation of the pit, pit **172**. The depth of the trench and subsequently the feature itself, limited excavation of the feature, only 2m of the pit was revealed in plan, this was excavated to a depth of 1.8m from the surface. (see section 14. Fig. 5. and plate 6.) The pit was large and flat based, with partial horse remains were found near the base, pottery from the feature, suggests a 10th to late 12th century date.

6 Trench 5

- 6.1 The trench contained two features, a north, south, running ditch, ditch **139** was highly truncated, the remaining dimensions measured 1.2m in width and 0.17m in depth. The fill was a mid greyish brown, silty clay, pottery finds from the feature dated from 10th to late 12th century.
- 6.2 The pit feature, **141**, cut the ditch, the pit measured 0.75m in width and 0.19m in depth. No datable material was recovered from the feature, the feature did however contain burnt daub material.

7 Trench 6

7.1 Trench 6 contained two ditches, a large ditch **157**, running on the west-north-west, east -south-east alignment shared across the site. The full width of the ditch was not seen, as the feature was located at the northern end of the trench, the ditch could be seen running along the line of trench 7B, although truncated away at the western end of trench 7B. The ditch contained four fills, finds from which suggested a date range of mid 9th to mid 12th century. (see section 12, fig. 4)

8 Trench 7A

8.1 Trench 7 became 7A and 7B, this adjustment was carried out during machine excavation of the trench, it soon became obvious that the trench was running on the



alignment of a former 19th century drainage ditch, or culvert. The trench was adjusted to avoid this feature **152**. No other features were visible in trench 7A.

9 Trench 7B

9.1 The trench was moved to avoid feature **152**, running down the alignment of the trench. The trench was relocated further to south-west, however the trench then uncovered the modern backfill of a basement, known to exist in the central area of the site. Structural remains were also uncovered within the trench, in the form of brick foundations, most likely relating to the military buildings which had occupied the site.

10 Finds Summary

10.1 The finds in general form an early medieval domestic asseblage, much of the pottery was however quite abaraded, and it is likely that the high level of truncation has caused a skewing of the general overall picture. One obvious difference from the 2007 excavation finds assemblage to this asseblage is the lack of medieval glazed wares, it is possible that if more than the very base of features had survived a much higher frequency of glazed wares would have been present within the assemblage.

11 Environmental Summary

11.1 Where samples were taken results provided good data, however the restrictions of appropriate available deposits for sampling limited the result, especially in coparison to the 2007 excavation.

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DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

1 Disscussion

- 1.1 Despite the smaller area available for excavation as part of this investigation, and the high levels of modern disturbance and truncation, it is possible to recognise parts of the site in relation to the 2007 excavation. The presence of structural remains within the southern portion of the site, seem to support the idea of an early medieval street frontage, against an outer road of the town ditch. As part of the early medieval expansion of the town. Finds evidence from the 2007 excavation suggest a limited continuation into the medieval period.
- 1.2 The absence of structural remains over the rest of the site and the occasional north south running ditches, may represent the backyard plots, commonly seen with early Medieval, and Medieval urban development. The area for available for excavation was limited however where deposits survived the presence of pitting and deposition of burnt materials as seen in pit 141, would be indicative of backyard activity of the period.
- 1.3 When placing both the 2007 excavation plan, and the trench plans form this investigation together, (see fig. 2.) it is possible to discern a potential trackway or thoroughfare, the north, south running ditch at the east side of the 2007 excavation, identified as ditch 7, with dating from the mid 11th to mid 14th century, (Gilmore and Spoerry. 2007) appears to be parallel with the north, south running ditch 139, seen in Trench 5. The gap between the two ditches, presuming they were relatively contemporary, would be appropriate for a potential route of access at approximately 10m wide. This is corroborated by the lack of features seen between the ditches, although it is in modern times a road and therefore not excavated as part of the overall development.

2 Conclusion

- 2.1 No evidence was seen for pre-historic activity as part of this investigation, however even in the 2007 excavation evidence for pre-historic remains was scarce at best. The first activity seen on the site appears to be of early medieval date, with boundaries established and the erection of timber structures. It is unclear if this was carried out under the ownership of the priory, and its relationship to the priory remains unclear despite the close proximity of the priory. This investigation gave scant evidence for continued use into the medieval period, however evidence for the continued existence of the boundaries and potential use of structures was seen in the 2007 excavation. The decline of Huntingdon from the late 13th century onwards is well documented. This is apparently substantiated by the finds, with very little dating beyond the mid 14th century at the latest.
- 2.2 The site is likely to have been used purely for cultivation or grazing forming the buried soils observed on the site, where such deposits still survived. This activity is likely to of continued up until the construction of the military structures on the site and the creation of the large drainage ditch or culvert seen in trench 7A.

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APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth
100		2	1	cut	pit	0.7	0.55	0.1
101		2	1	fill	pit	0.7	0.55	0.1
102	186	0	1	cut	pit	1.3	0.6	0.07
103	178	0	1	cut	beam slot	0	0.26	0.14
104		0	1	cut	beam slot	0	0.2	0.07
105		0	1	cut	beam slot	3	0.26	0.11
106		0	1	cut	post hole	0	0.2	0.07
107		0	1	cut	beam slot	1.6	0.28	0.09
108		0	1	cut	post hole	1.4	0.21	0.08
109		0	1	cut	post hole	0	0.19	0.07
110		0	1	cut	post hole	0	0.15	0.14
111		0	1	cut	ditch	0	0.39	0.1
112	188	0	1	cut	gully	0	0.38	0.1
113	190	0	1	cut	beamslot	1.45	0.19	0.07
114	196	0	1	cut	post hole	0	0.08	0.07
115	197	0	1	layer	buried soil	0	1.6	0.08
116		0	1	layer	layer	3.2	1.7	0.07
117	185	102	1	fill	pit	0		
118		103	1	fill	beam slot	0	0.26	0.14
119		104	1	fill	pit	0	0.2	0.07
120		105	1	fill	beam slot	3	0.26	0.11
121		106	1	fill	pit	0	0.2	0.07
122		107	1	fill	beam slot	1.6	0.28	0.07
123		108	1	fill	post hole	1.4	0.21	0.08
124		109	1	fill	post hole	0	0.19	0.07
125		110	1	fill	post hole	0	0.15	0.14
126		111	1	fill	ditch	0	0.39	0.1
127		112	1	fill	gully	0	0.38	0.1
128		113	1	fill	pit	1.45	0.19	0.07
129		114	1	fill	pit	0	0.08	0.07
130		0	1	layer	subsoil	0		
131		0		Void	Void	0		
132		0	5	layer	buried soil	0		0.1
133		0	2	fill	ditch	0	0.38	0.19
134		0	2	cut	ditch	0	0.38	0.19
135		0	2	fill	pit	0	0.77	0.31
136		0	2	fill	pit	0	0.72	0.31
137		0	2	fill	pit	0	0.72	0.08



Context	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth
138		0	2	cut	pit	0	0.77	0.49
139		0	5	cut	ditch	0.5	0.4	0.17
140		0	5	fill	ditch	0.5	0.4	0.17
141		0	5	cut	pit	0.5	0.75	0.19
142		0	5	fill	pit	0.5	0.75	0.19
143		0	3	cut	pit	0.8	0.7	0.05
144		0	3	fill	pit	0.8	0.7	0.05
145		0	4	layer	top soil			0.31
146		0	4	layer	sub soil			0.15
147		0	4	layer	buried soil			0.2
148		0	4	fill	ditch	0	0.7	0.08
149		0	4	cut	ditch	0	0.7	0.08
150		0	4	fill	ditch	0	0.36	0.07
151		0	4	cut	ditch	0	0.36	0.07
152		0	7	cut	ditch	0		
153		0	7	cut	ditch	0		
154		0	7	fill	ditch	0		
155		0	6	fill	ditch	1	0.35	0.35
156		0	6	cut	ditch	1	0.35	0.35
157		0	6	fill	ditch	0		0.6
158		0	6	cut	ditch	0		0.11
159		0	6	fill	ditch	0		0.06
160		0	6	fill	ditch	0		0.28
161		0	6	fill	ditch	0		0.16
162		0	6	fill	ditch	0		0.24
163		0	6	fill	ditch	0		0.3
164		0	4	layer	buried soil	0		0.09
165		0		Void	Void	0		
166		0		Void	Void	0		
167		168	4	fill	ditch	0		0.36
168		0	4	cut	ditch	0		0.36
169		0	4	fill	pit	0	1.94	0.4
170		0	4	fill	pit	0	1.92	0.12
171		0	4	fill	pit	0	1.9	0.24
172		0	4	cut	pit	0	1.94	0.72
173		0	1	cut	beam slot	0	0.34	0.09
174		173	1	fill	beam slot	0	0.34	0.09
175		0	1	cut	post hole	0	0.15	0.28
176		175	1	fill	post hole	0	0.15	0.28
177		178	1	fill	beam slot	0	0.27	0.12
178	103	0	1	cut	beam slot	0	0.27	0.12



Context	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth
179		180	1	fill	beam slot	0	0.34	0.12
180		0	1	cut	beam slot	0	0.34	0.12
181		182	1	fill	post hole	0	0.13	0.1
182		0	1	cut	post hole	0	0.13	0.1
183		184	1	fill	post hole	0	0.2	0.12
184		0	1	cut	post hole	0	0.2	0.12
185	117	186	1	fill	pit	1.3	0.6	0.07
186	102	0	1	cut	pit	1.3	0.6	0.07
187		188	1	fill	beam slot	0	0.38	0.1
188	112	0	1	cut	beam slot	0	0.38	0.1
189		0	1	fill	beam slot	1.45	0.19	0.07
190	113	0	1	cut	beam slot	1.45	0.19	0.07
191		192	1	fill	post hole	0	0.15	0.11
192		0	1	cut	post hole	0	0.15	0.11
193		194	1	fill	post hole	0	0.16	0.11
194		0	1	cut	post hole	0	0.16	0.11
195		196	1	fill	post hole	0	0.08	0.07
196	114	0	1	cut	post hole	0	0.08	0.07
197	115	0	1	layer	buried soil	0	1.6	0.08

Table 1. Context inventory.

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1.1 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 Archaeological works produced a small pottery assemblage of 46 sherds, weighing 0.305kg.
- B.1.2 Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the text and summary dating table are:

Fabric	Fabric name	Count	Weight (kg)
DNEOT	Developed St Neots	6	0.052
HUNEMW	Huntingdonshire Early Medieval Ware	5	0.026
HUNFSW	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy Ware	1	0.009
LIA SW	Latest Iron Age Sandy Ware	1	0.01
NEOT	St Neots type ware	17	0.054
SHW	Shelly Ware	1	0.001
STAM	Stamford Type Ware	2	0.006
SW	Sandy Ware	1	0.002
THET	Thetford Type Ware	12	0.147
Total		46	0.305

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- B.1.3 For the purpose of this report the total stratified assemblage is 46 sherds, weighing 0.305kg. Material is recorded in the context summary dating table (Table 2).
- B.1.4 The material recovered is domestic in nature and the bulk of the assemblage is Late Saxon-early medieval pottery (mid 9th-mid to late 12th century), a broard date range was given due to the level of abrasion which made identification of form difficult. The abraded nature of much of the assemblage suggests high levels of residuality. Medieval pottery (mid 12th-mid to mid 14th century) was also present and single sherd of Latest Iron Age pottery was recovered as a residual element in buried soil (context 197)
- B.1.5 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.
- B.1.6 Dating was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis.
- B.1.7 The pottery and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition.

Assemblage

- B.1.8 The assemblage is Beam slot **105** produced a small body sherd from a DNEOT (Mid 12th-mid 14th century) vessel a base sherd from an early medieval HUNEMW jar and an body sherd from a Late Saxon-early medieval THET jar, all the sherds are similarly abraded and could be contemporary suggesting a date of mid to late 12th century. Beam slot **107** produced a body sherd from a NEOT vessel and from a THET jar. Post hole **173** associated with the beam slot produced only sherds of NEOT including an abraded jar rim. The date of the potter both features may be 10th-mid 12th century although a similar date to the pottery in **105** is more probable.
- B.1.9 Post hole **108** produced two sherds of DNEOT including a base sherd and Post Hole **196** produced a single abraded sherd of SW which is not closely datable.
- B.1.10 Pit 102 contained a base sherd from a Late Saxon-early medieval NEOT vessel, 104 produced a sherd of early medieval HUNEMW and 138 a single moderately abraded sherd of medieval HUNFSW.
- B.1.11 Pit 172 produced two THET sherds including the largest sherd in the assemblage (0.051kg), an abraded rim sherd from a jar. Pit 186 produced two abraded sherds of NEOT.
- B.1.12 Ditch **111** produced the largest number of sherds recovered in the assemblage (11 sherds, 0.037kg) and produced two medieval DNEOT sherds, three early medieval HUNEMW sherds including a rim sherd from a sooted jar, small abraded NEOT and THET sherds. The overall date for the feature is mid 12th-mid 14th century.
- B.1.13 Ditch 134 produced a single sherd of Late Saxon-early medieval STAM and from Ditch 139 were recovered four sherds (0.060kg) from a moderately abraded Late Saxon-early medieval THET jar.
- B.1.14 Ditch **149** produced two Late Saxon-early medieval NEOT body sherds and ditch **157** contained a NEOT sherd and a single sherd from a STAM jug which is the only glazed sherd in the assemblage.



B.1.15 The buried soil (147, 164, 197) recorded in various trenches across the site produced a mixed assemblage of Late Saxon-early medieval and medieval pottery including a rim sherd from a medieval DNEOT jar and a small SHW sherd. The remaining sherds are NEOT and a abraded sherd of sandy ware which is not closely datable.

Provenance, fabric and form

- B.1.16 The provenance of the assemblage is a mix of local production from Cambridgeshire early medieval and medieval local fabrics HUNEMW and HUNFSW and Late Saxon-early medieval NEOT and medieval DNEOT from the south west of the county. The remainder of the assemblage, is made up of small numbers of sherds from Lincolnshire (STAM) and SHW from Northamptonshire or the Peterborough area.
- B.1.17 HUNEMW and HUNFSW have only recently been recognised and unfortunately no kiln has yet been located. Although excavations in Huntingdon Town Centre undertaken by OA East in 2007 produced a possible HUNFSW waster sherd, suggesting a kiln in the near vicinity (Fletcher forthcoming).
- B.1.18 The forms present are limited, jars and jugs were the only forms present and no industrial vessels or those associated with heating or lighting were identified within the assemblage. The levels of glazed wares present are also low with only a single sherd present.

Discussion

- B.1.19 The site lies adjacent to the Old Music and Drama Centre Brookside Huntingdon. excavated by OA East in 2007 (Gilmour and Spoerry 2009) which produced a larger and less abraded assemblage, with similar Late Saxon-early medieval fabrics present. The medieval assemblage at Cromwell square was recovered from heavily truncated features and is sparser than that of the Old Music and Drama Centre with no medieval glazed wares present. The presence of so few fabrics in either assemblage is unexpected, particularly since the excavations at Hartford Road, Walden House and the more recent Town Centre excavations produced a broad range of fabrics in addition to the local wares present. (Fletcher 2009)
- B.1.20 The pottery is all domestic in origin. The Late Saxon-early medieval wares are abraded and have been disturbed by activity on the site. The presence of HUNEMW alongside NEOT, THET and STAM sherds indicates that there was domestic activity on the site from the late 11th century, however the small size of the assemblage, the lack of pre-conquest vessels and the mixture of coarse wares appear to be representative of low levels of occupation on the periphery of the early medieval and medieval town. Domestic occupation was neither of high status,or located close to the centre of the earlier town or to areas of growth in the 13th century. (Fletcher 2009)
- B.1.21 The assemblage provides alongside that of the Old Music and Drama (Gilmour and Spoerry 2009) an insight into the land use, development and pottery usage for an area away from the centre of medieval Huntingdon (Fletcher 2009).

Assessment Dating table

Context	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight (kg)	Date Range
101	DNEOT		2	0.025	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
117	NEOT		1	0.006	11th-mid 12th century
119	HUNEMW		1	0.008	Mid 11th to late 12th century
120	DNEOT		1	0.004	Mid to late 12th century
	HUNEMW	Jar	1	0.005	

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Context	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight (kg)	Date Range
	THET	Jar	1	0.005	
122	NEOT		1	0.003	10th-mid 12th century
	THET		1	0.010	
126	DNEOT		1	0.010	Mid to late 12th century
	DNEOT	Jar	1	0.005	
	HUNEMW		2	0.006	
	HUNEMW	Jar	1	0.007	
	NEOT	Jar	2	0.002	
	THET		4	0.007	
133	STAM		1	0.002	Mid 9th-mid 12th century
137	HUNFSW		1	0.009	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
140	THET	Jar	4	0.060	10th-end of 12th century
147	DNEOT	Jar	1	0.008	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
	NEOT	Jar	3	0.014	
148	NEOT	Jar	2	0.004	Mid 9th-mid 12th century
157	STAM	Jug	1	0.004	Mid 9th-mid 12th century
160	NEOT	Jar	1	0.003	Mid 9th-mid 12th century
164	NEOT	Jar	2	0.006	Mid 9th-mid 12th century
169	THET	Jar	2	0.065	10th-late 12th century
174	NEOT	Jar	2	0.005	Mid 9th-mid 12th century
185	NEOT		1	0.002	Mid 9th-mid 12th century
	NEOT	Jar	1	0.008	
195	SW		1	0.002	Not Closely Datable
197	NEOT		1	0.001	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
	SHW		1	0.001	
	SW		1	0.008	

Table 2: Pottery dating

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APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Faunal Remans

By Chris Faine

- C.1.1 759g of faunal material was recovered from the excavations at Cromwell Square yielding 47 "countable" bones (see below) with 17 identifiable to species (36.1% of the total sample). All bones were collected by hand apart from those recovered from environmental samples; hence a bias towards smaller fragments is to be expected. Residuality appears not be an issue and there is no evidence of later contamination of any context. Faunal material was mostly recovered from pits and layers largely dated to the mid to late Medieval period.
- C.1.2 The assemblage primarily consists of butchered adult sheep remains (largely mandibular and lower limb elements) along with cattle lower limb bones. Other large mammal remains included portions of horse ribs and vertebrae from context 171. This preponderance of sheep remains can also be seen in the assemblages from the nearby Model Laundry (Clarke, 2005), Old Music and Drama Centre (Gilmour, 2007) and Stukeley Road sites (Rees, 2009).

C.2 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- C.2.1 Seven bulk samples were taken from features within the excavated areas of the site at Cromwell Square, Huntingdon in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their archaeobotanical potential. Features sampled include pits, layers of a potentially sealed floor surface, a beam slot and a ditch dating to the medieval period.
- C.2.2 Ten litres of each sample were processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 3. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection.

Quantification

C.2.3 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories.

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= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

C.2.4 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

Results

C.2.5 The results are recorded on Table 3.

Sample No.		100	101	102	103	104	105	106
Context No.		137	140	142	169	197	197	120
Feature No.		138	139	141	172			105
Feature type		pit	ditch	pit	pit	layer	layer	beam slot
Cereals								
Avena sp. (grains)	Oat	#	###	###			#	#
Hordeum sp. (grains)	Barley	#	#	#			#	#
Triticum aestivo-compactum. (grains)	Wheat	###	##	##	#		##	#
Triticum aestivo-compactum. (chaff)		#						
Cereal indet. (grains)							#	
Chaff		###						
Other food plants								
Pisum sativum	Peas		#	#				
Dry land herbs								
Anthemis cotula	Stinking mayweed		#	##				#
Calendula sp.	Marigold			#				
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoot	#		#			#	
Euphorbia sp.	Spurge		#					
Poaceae	Grass			#				
Raphanus raphanistrum (sequila)	Wild radish			#				
Rumex sp.	Dock	#					#	#
Wetland/aquatic plants								
Cladium mariscus	Saw-sedge							#
Juncus tenuis	Slender rush			#				
Other plant macrofossils								
Charcoal <2mm		+++	+++	++	+	++	+++	++
Charcoal >2mm<10mm		+++	+			++	++	++
Charcoal >10mm			+				++	+
Charred root/stem		++						
Indet.culm nodes		+						
Other remains								
molluscs		+	+	+	+	++	+	++
Bone		+				+		
Volume of flot (millilitres)		90	10	30	1	2	70	2
% flot sorted		50	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 3. Results



- C.2.6 Preservation is by carbonisation and is generally good. The charred plant material is comprised of cereal grains, chaff elements and occasional weed seeds.
- C.2.7 The cereal grains have been identified by their characteristic morphology rather than their chaff elements which are less well preserved. Bread wheat (*Triticum aestivo-compactum*) and oats (*Avena sativa*) occur most commonly along with occasional grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). Chaff elements are common in Sample 1 and mainly consist of straw fragments with only occasional rachis segments of both bread wheat and barley.
- C.2.8 Weed seeds occur rarely and represent plants that are likely to have been growing in cultivated fields and would have been harvested along with the crop such as dock (Rumex sp.), stinking mayweed (Anthemis cotula), wild radish (Raphanus raphanistrum), marigold (Calendula sp.), goosefoot (Chenopodium sp.), spurge (Euphorbia sp.) and grass seeds (Poaceae).
- C.2.9 Wetland plants are represented by a charred nutlet of saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) and a single seed of slender rush (*Juncus tenuis*).

Discussion

- C.2.10 The charred plant assemblage consists of food waste in the form of cereals and pulses in addition to the remains of burnt straw and wood charcoal along with occasional weed seed contaminants. The cereal grains would have been accidentally burnt whilst cooking over open fires or through the deliberate burning of spilt/spoilt grain. Moderate quantities of cereal grains were recovered. Pulses are less frequent but are less likely to be accidentally burnt than cereal grains are. The poor representation of crop processing waste in the form of chaff suggests that the earlier stages of processing had taken place elsewhere, either in an unexcavated area of the site or the crops may have been brought in already cleaned. The seed assemblage is consistent with what one would generally expect to find amongst cereal crops growing on cultivated land.
- C.2.11 Oats are more common in the samples from the earlier features (10th to 12th century) namely Samples 101 (fill 140 of ditch 139) and 102 (fill 142 of pit 141). Both samples produced similar assemblages rich in oat grains along with bread wheat grains. Pit 141 is cut into ditch 139 which may account for the similarity in content. Oats are most likely to have been consumed as porridge or may have been used for fodder. Bread wheat is most commonly used for flour. Sample 102 also contains several seeds of stinking mayweed which is a plant commonly associated with the cultivation of heavy clay soils. It produces numerous small seeds which are often retained in the seed head and are picked out by hand prior to using the clean grain. Disposal of these contaminants into the hearth leads to carbonisation and the seed heads usually then break up into individual seeds.
- C.2.12 Samples 100 (fill 137 of pit **138**) and 106 (fill 120 of beam slot **105**) are from the later features dating from the 12th to the 14th century. Sample 100 contains burnt straw fragments along with a moderate amount of wheat grains. Only ccasional culm nodes and rachis fragments were included with the burnt straw suggesting that the straw is unlikely to be crop-processing waste and may represent the disposal of burnt flooring/thatching material in a mixed deposit containing domestic waste. Sample 106 was taken from a beamslot and contains only sparse quantities of cereal grains. A single nutlet of saw-sedge may have derived from thatch as this wetland plant was commonly used as a thatching material.

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C.2.13 Samples 104 and 105 were taken from a buried soil/layer **197**. Both samples contain charcoal and Sample 105 also contains cereal grains, predominantly bread wheat

Further work and Method Statement

- C.2.14 The plant assemblage in the samples from Cromwell Square, Huntingdon shows that a range of crops were utilised on this site with slight changes in preference occurring during the successive periods of occupation. Similar plant assemblages were recovered from excavations at the Old Music and Drama Centre in 2007 (Gilmore and Spoerry, 2007) which also produced moderate quantities of cereal grains, weed seeds and some evidence of the exploitation of wetland resources in the form of sedges.
- C.2.15 The small number of samples and the truncation of the site precludes further interpretation. It is not considered that full analysis would add significantly to this interpretation and additional work is not recommended.

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project De	etails										
OASIS Num	nber	oxforda	ar3-112686	;							
Project Nam	ne [Mediev	al remains	at Cromwell S	quare, Hu	ıntingdon					
Project Date	es (field	lwork)	Start	01-08-2011			Finish	10-08	3-201	1	
Previous Wo	ork (by	OA Ea	ast)	Yes			Future	Work	Unl	known	
Project Refe	ranca	Code									
Site Code	HUNCF				Planni	ng App.	No.	0	0800968FUL		
HER No.	ECB36	35			Relate	d HER/	OASIS N	o.	ECB 2	2736	
Type of Proi	Type of Project/Techniques Used										
Prompt	Jeou ic.			น า Local Planning	g Authority	y - PPS 5					
Dis-50 001	4 -11		!								
Please sel			-								
Field Observation (periodic visits)			▼ Part Excavation				Salv	age Record			
☐ Full Excava	ition (100	1%)		Part Survey				Syste	ematic Field Walking		
☐ Full Survey				Recorde	ed Observa	ation			Syst	ematic Metal Detector Su	rvey
Geophysica	al Survey			Remote Operated Vehicle Survey				Test	Pit Survey		
Open-Area	Excavati	on		Salvage Excavation				Watching Brief			
	es using	the NN	/IR Mon		e Thesa	aurus ar	-			g the MDA Object ty	/pe
Monument			Period			Object			1	Period	
Dwelling			Medieval 1	1066 to 1540		ceramic	;			Medieval 1066 to 1540	
			Select per	iod						Select period	
			Select per	iod						Select period	
Project Lo	ocatio	n									
County	Cambr	ridgshire	;			Site Ad	ldress (in	cludir	ng po	ostcode if possible)	
District	Huntin	gdon				2 Cron	nwell Sq,	_			
Parish	Huntin	gdon				PE29					
HER	Hunt.										
Study Area	3740m	12			National Grid Reference TL 23925 72097					TL 23925 72097	



Pr	oje	ct	0	ria	ıin	atc	rs
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		OA EAS	Т						
Project Brief Orig	inator	CCC	DC						
Project Design O	riginator	Aileen C	een Connor						
Project Manager Aileen C		onnor							
Supervisor Jonatha			n House						
Project Archi	ves								
Physical Archive			Digital A		Paper Arc	chive			
County Stores			OA East		County Sto	pres			
HUNCRS11			HUNCR		HUNCRS1	1			
Archive Content	:s/Media								
	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents	Digital Me	dia	Paper Media			
Animal Bones	×			☐ Database		Aerial Photos			
Ceramics	×			☐GIS					
Environmental				☐ Geophys	cs	Correspondence			
Glass						Diary			
Human Bones					ns	☐ Drawing			
Industrial				☐ Moving Ir	nage	☐ Manuscript			
Leather				☐ Spreadsh	eets				
Metal						☐ Matrices			
Stratigraphic				⋉ Text		Microfilm			
Survey				☐ Virtual Re	eality	☐ Misc.			
Textiles						Research/Notes			
Wood						× Photos			
Worked Bone						─ ► Plans			
Worked Stone/Lithic						—			
						▼ Sections			
None	_	П				Survey			

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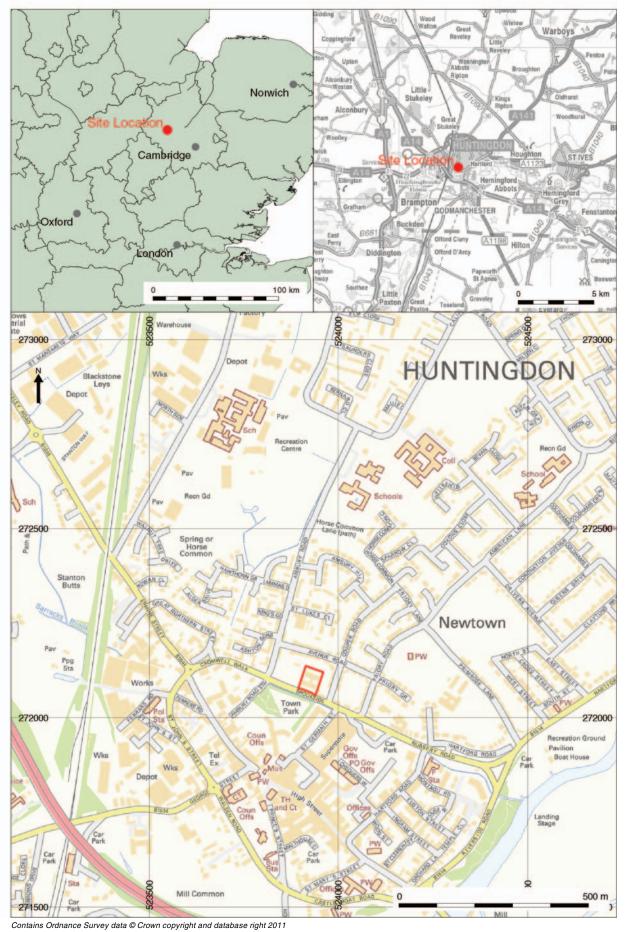


Figure 1: Site location with development area outlined red

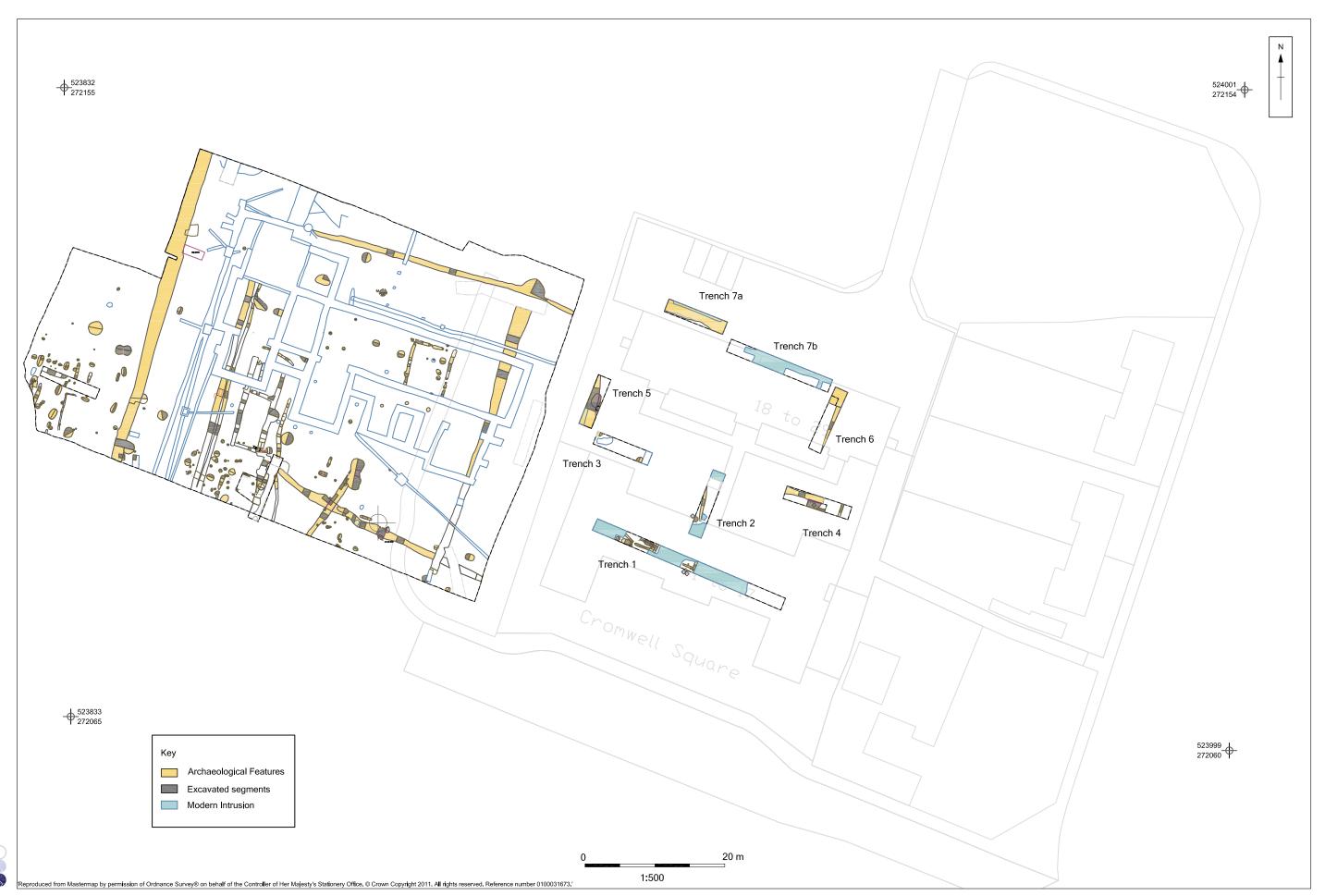
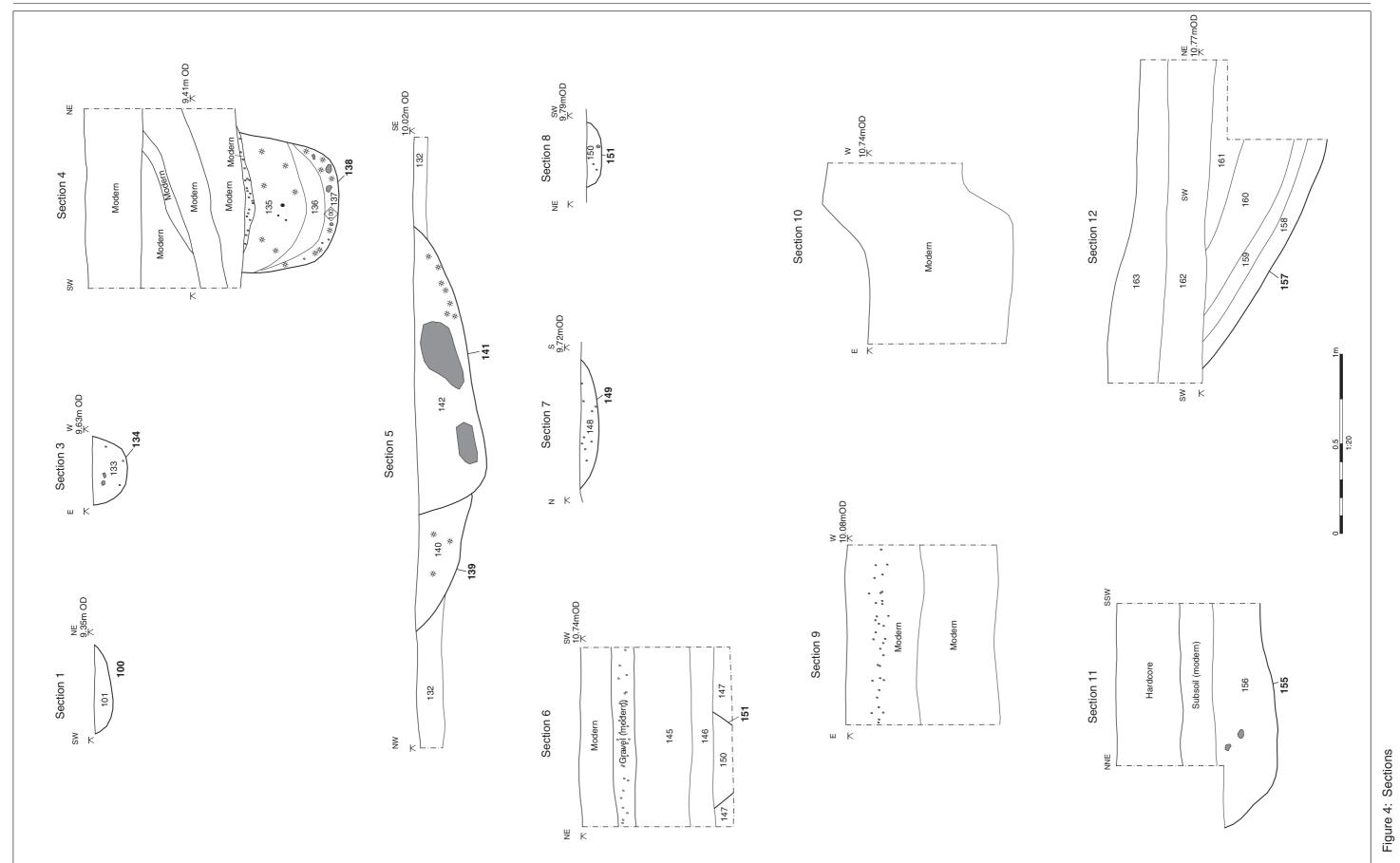


Figure 2:Plan of the evaluation with the 2007 excavation, on the site of the Music and Drama Centre, Brookside



Figure 3:Detailed trench plan of evaluation





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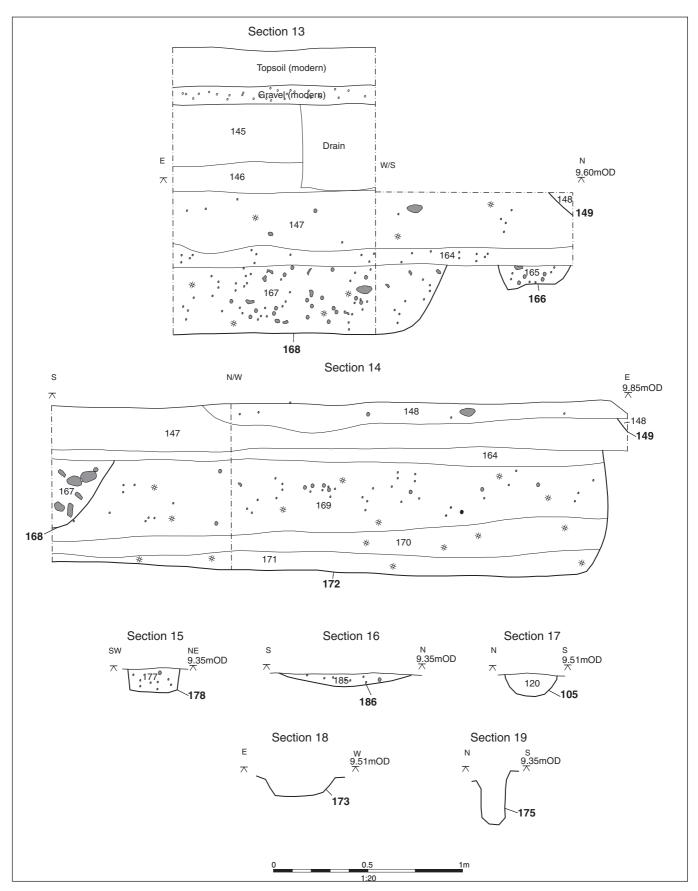


Figure 5 : Sections

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Plate 1: Trench 1, taken from east-north-east



Plate 2: Structural remains at east end of Trench 1, taken form north-north-west





Plate 3: Trench 2, taken from south-south-east



Plate 4: Pit 138, Trench 2, taken from west





Plate 5: Test pit excavated within Trench 4, showing ditch 168 excavated



Plate 6: Test pit excavated withing Trench 4, extended into larger slot for pit 172





Plate 7: Trench 7b, taken from south West



Plate 8: General shot of site showing development on 2007 excavation area, taken from north west



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