Archaeological Evaluation Report

Middle and Late Saxon Settlement and Enclosure Features Anstey Hall Farm Trumpington

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Middle and Late Saxon Settlement Features at Anstey Hall Farm, Trumpington

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Between 18th and 26th November 2013 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an evaluation at Anstey Hall Farm, Trumpington, Cambridgeshire. Seven trenches totalling 85m in length were excavated in the farmyard and garden adjacent to the east, where trees, scrub, overburden and buried services allowed.

Three trenches around the farm yard and two small trenches in the garden contained archaeological features of Middle Saxon to Late Saxon date; structural features (postholes, gullies and a post-trench), pits and enclosure ditches were found. Two short trenches in the centre of the area were obstructed or truncated by modern activity and showed no archaeological features in plan.

In all trenches a buried soil deposit was visible upto 0.25m thick covering archaeological features or indistinguishable from their upper fills. In the northeast of the farm yard, this was sealed by a cobbled surface of potentially Late Saxon date.

The survival of this deposit and a ditch bank further to the east is likely due to the lack of ploughing in the study area since the establishment of Anstey Hall and the Farm with later soils building up rather than being truncated away. No evidence of definite medieval (12th C and later) occupation was recorded. Later soils appeared to derive from post-medieval farm activity and garden landscaping.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Anstey Hall Farm, Grantchester Road, Trumpington.

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (Thomas, A. 2013), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Philips, T. 2013).

1.1.3 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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). 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.

1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies 500m from the river Cam at a height of between 17.1m and 17.9m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the site extends across an area of West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation bedrock (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html), with no superficial deposits. However, the northern area of the Trumpington Meadows excavation, directly to the south of the current site, showed superficial deposits of Third Terrace gravels overlying the chalk (Patten 2012). Similar deposits were recorded across the current evaluation area and were also encountered during a geotechnical survey of the site (ST Consult, project ref. JN0553) and during monitoring of an Anglian Water drill pit within the western part of the site (Moan 2013).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site sits in a landscape with extensive evidence for Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Saxon activity. Area A of the Trumpington Meadows excavation lies directly to the south of the current site. Within Area A evidence of Middle Iron Age field systems was discovered (Patten 2012, 60-63) and more significantly, two phases of Anglo-Saxon activity. Middle Saxon features centred on a group of four burials and six sunken featured buildings. The burials included one of a young female upon a bed, accompanied by a unique gold cross, dating to the 7th century (*ibid*, 123-139). In the Late Saxon period a series of enclosures replaced the earlier buildings (*ibid*, 139-140); the boundaries of these enclosures extend towards the current site. This Saxon activity was located 150m from the Church of St Mary and St Michael's; the current building dates to the 13th century.

1.3.2 In the paddock immediately to the west of the farm buildings, between the site and Grantchester Road, a 2x2m drill pit was excavated for an Anglian Water Pipeline which contained an undated ditch aligned northeast/southwest (Moan 2013).

1.3.3 Excavations covering nearly 20ha at Clay Farm, approximately 1km to the east, have revealed extensive Middle Bronze Age field systems and settlement, with further occupation throughout the Iron Age and Roman periods. (Phillips and Mortimer 2011).

To the west, cropmarks indicate a series of enclosures and boundaries of probable later prehistoric and Roman date on the gravel terraces overlooking the river Cam (Historic Environment Record Number 08966). There is also some evidence of medieval and post medieval roadside settlement along Trumpington Road (eg HER 16298).

1.3.4 Anstey Hall is located to the east of the proposed development area. The current Grade I Listed Building is mainly of 17th century date although the site may have been the centre of a manor at the time of Domesday (1086). Anstey Hall Farm is in separate ownership to the Hall and includes several agricultural buildings

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 Thanks are given to Hill Residential Ltd & Trumpington Investments Ltd for commissioning and funding the evaluation. Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council monitored the archaeological evaluation. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer and field work was undertaken by Toby Knight and the author with GPS survey conducted by Patrick Moan. Finds were processed by Kat Hamilton. Thanks are given to the specialists who supplied reports.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation 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.

2.1.2 Establishing the presence/absence of a palaeosol or 'B' horizon and site formation were of particular concern.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.2 The site survey was carried out by Patrick Moan using a Leica 1200 GPS system.

2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. There were no metal-detected finds, other than those which were obviously modern.

2.2.4 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.

2.2.5 Bulk samples of sealed archaeological deposits were collected from negative features for environmental processing.

2.2.6 Conditions on site were cold and generally dry, apart from rain on the first day, but the natural gravels and sands drained well.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Results are presented in order of trench number, describing earliest deposits first. The area to the north of Trenches 2 and 3 could not be evaluated as it is used as a paddock.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was 15.5m long running parallel to and south of a farm building, avoiding known and suspected services. A modern buried service drain prevented full excavation of a 1.5m length in the centre of the trench (Fig. 4).

3.2.2 At the east of the trench was a ditch (**35**), 1m wide, 0.4m deep and aligned north to south, at the eastern end of the trench and recorded in both north and south-facing sections. The fill (36) of this ditch contained one fresh rim sherd of imported North French Blackware pottery (34g), potentially dating it to the Middle Saxon period (AD 700-900).

3.2.3 Other features within the trench all broadly to date from the Middle or Late Saxon period. A pit (**33,** fill 34) adjacent to the west of ditch **35** contained a large base sherd of Middle Saxon Maxey ware (46g) and one sherd of residual Early Iron Age pottery (2g). Its stratigraphic relationship with the ditch was unclear. To the west a further feature (**37**) was recorded in the south-facing section but was not visible in the opposite baulk.

3.2.4 West of the modern drain at the centre of the trench a pair of intercutting pits was recorded. The earlier pit (**31**) had been backfilled (32) and contained one small sherd of Late Saxon Stamford ware (2g). This pit was cut to the west by a smaller one (**29**). Its fill (30) contained two sherds of North French Blackware (5g). There is a crossover in the generally accepted dating of these two pottery types between c. AD 875-900, and it is feasible that these features may date to this narrow range, on the Middle/Late Saxon divide.

3.2.5 At the west end of Trench 1 a construction trench terminus (**27**, fill 28) aligned east-to-west containing one sherd of North French Blackware (2g), a sherd which cross-fits with one of those in Context 30, the fill of a pit to the east. The trench was truncated by a ditch (**25**) running north-to-south. The ditch's fill (26) contained a small but mixed pottery assemblage: 2 sherds of St Neots ware (6g), one abraded rim sherd from a Thetford ware pitcher and one Early Medieval sandy sherd. The assemblage as a whole would date to the Late Saxon period, perhaps AD 1050-1150. The ditch is parallel to ditch **35** to the east.

3.2.6 All features were overlain by layer 24, although the lower horizon between this layer and the feature fills was unclear and it is likely that many of the features cut from within this layer. This is interpreted as a buried soil and was observed across the site, in all trenches. At the east of the trench, this layer was partially truncated where a clunch floor (23) had been laid down, probably in the 19th century, sealing the earlier deposits. The clunch surface lay immediately below the topsoil (22). A pair of modern postholes forming a line parallel with the extant farm building were also recorded within the trench; one still contained the remains of a wooden post.

3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 Running 10.4m approximately north-to-south, avoiding a surface rubbish heap, Trench 2 showed no archaeological features in plan. However, a distinct soil layer approximately 0.15m thick was observed above the natural gravels and is equivalent to buried soil layer 24 recorded in Trench 1. The layer was overlain by a mixed soil containing post-medieval tile and other CBM. The southern 3.6m of the trench could not be excavated due to the presence of a tarmac surface on a concrete foundation. This was covered by sandy overburden and topsoil.

3.3.2 The shallow depth of the foundation (no more than 0.4m) indicates that the buried soil, and any features that may lay within or beneath it, have not been truncated in this area (Fig. 3).

3.4 Trench 3

3.4.1 Trench 3 stretched 29m in total from north-northwest to south-southeast, avoiding apple trees, and turning back to the south-southwest at its mid-point (Fig. 5). Concrete and brick foundations 5m from its southern end necessitated a small step out to the west to reach the level of natural deposits.

3.4.2 All excavated archaeological features in this trench relate to the Middle or Late Saxon period.

3.4.3 At the southern end a small gully (**41**) contained an unabraded rim sherd of Middle Saxon Maxey ware (18g). The gully is parallel to and 2m from a pair of similarly sized gullies (**43** and **45**) separated by 0.2m and again containing a single sherd of Maxey ware (5g: fill 46 of gully **45**). These together may represent a Middle Saxon structure.

3.4.4 To the north, a series of four further structural features lay on a different alignment, deviating by approximately 45 degrees onto a northwest-to-southeast alignment. These undated parallel gullies (**47** and **51**) 0.1m wide may have accommodated a wattle fence or plank structure. The latter sat within a third, parallel gully (**49**) 0.3m wide.

3.4.5 An undated post-in-trench feature (trench **53** and posthole **55**) lay two metres to the north on the same alignment. The trench was 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep while the posthole was 0.2m in diameter and 0.35m deep. The fills (54 and 56) had a high proportion of hard packed gravel to support the structure.

3.4.6 At the north end of the trench a cluster of Late Saxon structural features was recorded. A pair of narrow gullies (**66** and **67**) similar to those to the south but aligned north-northeast were not excavated but one (**67**) yielded a single sherd of Maxey ware (2g) and 2 sherds of Thetford ware (5g) from the surface. The other abutted a large post-hole (**68**) against the edge of the trench which was not excavated. A sub-rectangular posthole (**64**) may represent a return to the structure represented by gullies **66** and **67** and posthole **68**.

3.4.7 Immediately south of these features but aligned more broadly east/west were a wide, flat-bottomed linear feature (**62**), an unexcavated posthole (**69**) and a large sub-square pit (**59**), 2m across and 0.5m deep with steep sides and a flat base. The linear feature may represent a beamslot associated with the pit. The fill of the beamslot (63) contained 3 sherds of St Neots ware (16g). The pit had two fills, the upper fill (60) yielding a large quantity of animal bone and one sherd of North French Blackware (2g). The earlier, more compacted fill (61) had a good quantity of animal bone as well as 2 sherds of Maxey ware (9g), 2 St Neots (21g), 1 of Thetford ware (4g) and 1 of early

medieval sandy ware (2g) as well as a residual piece of Roman roof tile. The assemblage as a whole would date to c. AD 1050-1150.

3.4.8 These features were overlain by approximately 0.10 to 0.2m of buried soil (58). The southern half of the western baulk of the trench showed that this was covered by a well-constructed cobbled surface (40). This consisted of a sand and gravel base with rounded flint cobbles upto 0.1m in diameter packed on top. The flints were likely extracted from the nearby river Cam or Granta as they are not found in the natural deposits on site.

3.4.9 For 10.3m along the middle of the trench, these layers were truncated by a modern cut, apparently a single trench cut by machine bucket and backfilled. Cutting onto the natural deposits, this truncated post-trench **53** would have truncated any other archaeological features in this part of the trench.

3.5 Trench 4

3.5.1 Positioned in the centre of the modern farmyard, Trench 4 showed no archaeological features across its 9m length. However, the same sequence of buried soil, post-medieval soil and modern overburden/topsoil was recorded. The west end of the trench was truncated by a modern machine-cut refuse pit full of farm rubbish which evidently cut some way into the natural horizon but was not fully excavated.

3.6 Trench 5

3.6.1 Near-parallel to the southern land boundary, Trench 5 was closest to the area excavated at Trumpington Meadows. It lay approximately 15m from the boundary and was 26.5m in length (Fig. 4).

3.6.2 A pair of ditches ran most of the length of the trench, aligned parallel to the modern boundary and perpendicular to the Late Saxon ditches 25m to the south-west (Fig. 3). Where excavated (**8**), the fills (chronologically: 9 then 10) both contained sherds of relatively unabraded Ipswich ware (21g), indicating a Middle Saxon date for the features.

3.6.3 The main east-to-west ditch appeared to have subsidiary ditches (one heading south and perhaps as many as 3 heading north) but these were not excavated due to their limited extents within the evaluation trench. The ditch's eastern terminus lay within the trench, while the western extent (as it reaches the northern baulk) is less clear due to the depth of machining.

3.6.4 A circular pit (**15**) 1.6m across and 0.8m deep cut the main ditch (**8**) on the north side of its eastern terminus. This provided the best evidence of Saxon settlement in the evaluation area. The grey sandy fill (16) contained a significant quantity of animal bone and one worked rubbing or possibly re-used quern stone fragment (SF2). Analysis of an environmental sample yielded fish and eel bones, mineralised fly pupae and mineralised seeds indicating use for disposal of culinary and/or latrine waste.

3.6.5 The upper fill (17) of the circular pit was a darker sandy silt with some mineralisation and contained animal bones and a burnt fragment of bone comb (SF1). This may represent a later feature (**80**) cutting to the same depth.

3.6.6 The fills of the pit and subsidiary ditches had no clear distinction from soil layer 21, 0.15m thick, overlying the natural sand throughout the trench. This represents the same buried soil layer that survives throughout the evaluated area.

3.6.7 Overlying this layer were mixed post-medieval soil layers 20 and 19, then topsoil (18).

3.7 Trench 6

3.7.1 East of the farmyard in the gardens of Anstey Hall it was possible to excavate two small trenches avoiding known services. South of the farm track (and water and gas pipes) Trench 6 extended 7.5m from west to east (Fig. 6).

3.7.2 Three linear ditches were observed, aligned north/south with some variation.

3.7.3 At the west of the trench, a small ditch (**13**) with a depth of 0.3m and width 0.6m produced no finds. To the east was a flat-bottomed ditch (**11**) of similar depth, 0.8m wide. This produced 1 small piece of Roman CBM.

3.7.4 A larger boundary ditch (**3**) with surviving bank to the east (39) extended to a width of 2.7m in section exhibiting a depth of 0.9m (from top of bank). It had four fills (from base: 7, 6, 5, 4). The basal fill (7) produced a small amount of bone, 3 abraded Early Iron Age sherds (6g) and 1 small piece of Roman tile. These have been interpreted as probably residual with a possible Middle Saxon date for the ditch.

3.7.5 The top fill (4) contained animal bone and 4 fragments of lava quern. This deposit overlies the bank material (39) and has been interpreted as being part of the buried soil making up the final ditch fill.

3.7.6 Overlying all three ditches and bank was a thick (0.5m) build up of post-medieval garden soil (2) below 0.2m of topsoil (1). The thick build up is most likely due to the use of the area as a garden rather than farmyard, although no clear evidence for landscaping could be seen.

3.8 Trench 7

3.8.1 Trench 7 (Fig. 6) lay at the eastern edge of the proposed development area, perpendicular to a standing garden wall, and ran 6.5m from north to south allowing an easement of 2m north of known services.

3.8.2 A line of four postholes (from north: **72**, **74**, **76**, **78**) varying in diameter from 0.1m to 0.38m was recorded in plan. The southernmost (**78**) lay partially under the trench baulk and showed that its fill (79) was undifferentiated from the overlying soil layer (84). This layer has been interpreted as the same buried soil recorded in the other trenches. A possible fifth posthole (**70**) was recorded in the eastern baulk on the same line. Fill 79 contained one sherd of abraded Iron Age pottery (6g).

3.8.3 A demolition layer (83) of red bricks and mortar 0.2m thick of likely 19th-century date was recorded in section across the northern half of the trench. This lay above the buried soil (84) but below 0.25m of landscaping soil and 0.2m of topsoil. Layer 83 may be the demolished remains of a predecessor of the modern garden wall or former building. The trench depth illustrates the level of soil build-up in the garden area due to landscaping.

3.9 Finds Summary

Pottery Assemblage

3.9.1 34 sherds, weighing 0.233kg, were recovered from 16 contexts and the condition of the assemblage is moderately abraded to abraded with a low average sherd weight of 7g. Though small, the assemblage is significant due to it representing groups either side of the transition from Middle Saxon to Late Saxon pottery types and due to the presence, at high levels, of imported pottery, notably North French Blackwares. These are still rare outside of high status sites and/or locations that participated in long-distance trade.

Faunal Remains

3.9.2 Fifty six fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation with 25 fragments identifiable to species. No juvenile domestic mammal remains were recovered from any context and it is likely that this assemblage represents general settlement waste.

Environmental Summary

Six bulk samples were taken from Saxon deposits, including a pit, ditch, post-hole and a gully. The initial results showed that preservation of plant remains was variable with both carbonised (charred) and mineralised plant remains present. Carbonised plant remains commonly relate to agriculture and domestic, culinary activities whereas mineralised remains usually indicate cess.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Prehistoric & Roman

4.1.1 A few fragments of residual, abraded ceramics (sherds of Iron Age pottery, 3 pieces of Roman CBM and one sherd of Roman pottery) were retrieved from later features suggesting little direct use of the site in these periods.

4.2 Middle Saxon

4.2.1 Four ditches, in Trenches 1, 5 and 6 have tentatively been dated to the Middle Saxon period, and show that the enclosures recorded 25m to the south-west at Trumpington meadows continue well into the study area. None can conclusively be dated and they could represent Later Saxon ditches containing solely residual material. However, the lack of any later finds, and the Middle Saxon nature of their pottery assemblages, with two Ipswich sherds from Trench 5 and an unabraded North French Blackware sherd from Trench 1, are here taken to indicate a Middle Saxon date. The presence of a contemporary beamslot and three pits in Trench 1, and a cess pit in Trench 5 (undated but containing a significant animal bone assemblage and a fragment of a bone comb), indicate the presence of potentially domestic buildings in both these areas, set within ditched enclosures. A further Middle Saxon beamslot structure was recorded to the east in Trench 5, and the post alignment recorded in Trench 7, though undated, would likely date to the Early or Middle Saxon period.

4.2.2 It is clear from the featured archaeology, the ceramic assemblage, faunal assemblage, and environmental evidence that Middle Saxon settlement was not restricted to the area recorded at Trumpington Meadows but that it spreads north towards the Church and the Grantchester Road. The ditches in Trench 6 and postholes in Trench 7 indicate there may also be a Middle Saxon presence further to the east of the study area, towards Anstey Hall itself.

4.3 Late Saxon

4.3.1 There may be a slight shift of focus to the north and east in the Late Saxon period, in the direction of the 13th-century Church of St Mary and St Michael. This is perhaps suggested by the density of Late Saxon settlement features and finds in the northern end of Trench 3 in particular. The pits and structural features within the trenches again indicate the presence of direct domestic occupation and buildings in these areas.

4.4 Buried Soil and Cobbled Surface

4.4.1 The consistent buried soil layer recorded across the site demonstrates the lack of truncation of archaeological features within the area, either through ploughing or other activities. The absence of medieval features and/or pottery at the site (even in the later soils) suggests that there has been a hiatus in settlement activity on this part of the site until the establishment of Anstey Hall Farm in the late medieval/post-medieval period. The latest contexts recorded in the evaluation are dated to the late 11th or early 12th centuries, at the latest. This close to the Medieval church the lack of 12th to 14th century settlement evidence is obvious, and must represent a deliberate choice or policy, possibly linked to the establishment of the church itself or the post conquest Manor.

4.4.2 The depth and condition of the cobbled surface recorded in Trench 3 serves to highlight the distinction between the buried soil layer and the post-medieval soil build-

up recorded across the site. The lack of any evidence for Medieval activity, either within or above the buried soils, suggests that the cobbled surface must either date to the end of the earlier activity at the site, i.e. the Late Saxon period, or to the commencement of the later, post-medieval activity. At present there is nothing to suggest which is most likely, though a Late Saxon date should probably be assumed until otherwise proven.

4.5 Post-medieval

4.5.1 Anstey Hall Farm has a farmhouse, a dovecote and barns dating from the 17th to 19th centuries (CHER 01145). No post-medieval features were recorded below ground but the trench baulk sections indicated a post-medieval build-up soil of between 0.4 and 0.6m below the topsoil and overburden across the site.

4.6 Significance

4.6.1 The high status Middle Saxon burials at Trumpington Meadows to the south of the current site may represent the antecedents of the 13th-century church at Trumpington (Patten 2012, 176), or of the Manorial centre that would become Anstey Hall. The church stands just 45m to the north of Trench 3 and with the current evaluation locating structural evidence from the intervening Middle and Late Saxon periods, there is the potential for ecclesiastical and/or manorial structural evidence to have survived within the area. Trench 3, in the northern part of the site, is the closest trench to the medieval church, and has provided the majority of the Late Saxon structural evidence, although the nature of these is unclear.

4.6.2 The paddock to the north of Trenches 2 and 3 could not be evaluated at this stage but it is perhaps likely that more Late Saxon occupation evidence will be preserved in that area.

4.6.3 The unploughed buried soil offers a rare opportunity to sample an *in situ* Saxon occupation layer which would generally have been ploughed away or removed by construction in other situations.

4.7 Recommendations

4.7.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1							
General description						**Orientation**	E-W
Middle to Late Saxon features: two ditches, a construction gully and 3 pits cut into natural deposits of sand and gravel.						**Avg. depth (m)**	0.7
						Width (m)	1.5
						Length (m)	15.5

Context	Cut	Category	Function	Breadth	Depth	Fill description	Shape in plan
22		layer	topsoil/overburden				
23		layer	yard surface				
24		layer	buried soil			dark brown;sandy silt;freq gravel	
25		cut	boundary/drain	2	0.6		linear
26	25	fill	silting			dark brown;sandy silt;occ gravel	
27		cut	structure	0.35	0.25		linear; terminus
28	27	fill	packing/disuse			dark brown;sandy silt;freq gravel	
29		cut		0.6	0.3		circular
30	29	fill	silting			dark brown;sandy silt;freq gravel	
31		cut		1	0.25		sub-oval
32	31	fill	backfill			mid brown;silty sand;freq gravel; >5% grit	
33		cut		0.9	0.6		sub-square
34	33	fill	disuse			dark brown;sandy silt;occ gravel; ~5% grit	
35		cut	boundary	0.9	0.4		linear (extrapolated from sections)
36	35	fill	disuse			dark brown;sandy silt;occ gravel	
37		cut		0.7	0.2		(s-facing section only)
38	37	fill	disuse			dark brown ;sandy silt;occ gravel	

Trench 2			
General description		**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology except buried soil in section. This lay on natural gravel deposits. Southern part of the trench covered with shallow concrete and tarmac surface.		**Avg. depth (m)**	0.8
		Width (m)	1.5
		Length (m)	10.4

Trench 3							
General description						**Orientation**	N-S
A series of Late Saxon construction features and one pit. These were covered over by the buried soil and then a cobbled surface. Central part of trench truncated by modern machine cut.						**Avg. depth (m)**	0.5
						Width (m)	1.5
						Length (m)	29

Context	Cut	Category	Function	Breadth	Depth	Fill description	Shape in plan
40		layer	cobble surface				mid-brown;sandy silt (base);flint cobbles > 50%; upto 0.1m; packed into gravel
41		cut			0.4	0.15	
42	41	fill	disuse				mid brownish grey;silty sand;regular small gravel
43		cut			0.4	0.15	
44	43	fill	disuse				mid orange brown;silty sand;freq gravel
45		cut			0.5	0.15	
46	45	fill	disuse				mid-orange brown;silty sand;occ small gravels
47		cut	structure?		0.15	0.1	
48	47	fill	disuse				dark greyish brown;silty sand;occ small stones
49		cut	structure?		0.2	0.1	
50	49	fill	disuse				mid orange brown; silty sand;occ small stones
51		cut	structure		0.1	0.1	
52	52	fill	structure				dark greyish black;silty clay;occ small stones
53		cut	post-trench		0.3	0.2	
54	53	fill	packing				mid orange brown;silty sand;freq stone/gravel
55		cut	post-in-trench		0.2	0.55	
56	55	fill	packing				mid greyish brown;silty sand;occ large stones
57		layer	subsoil (post-medieval)				dark grey;humic sandy silt;
58		layer	buried soil				dark brown;sandy silty;occ gravel
59		cut					

Context	Cut	Category	Function	Breadth	Depth	Fill description	Shape in plan
60	59	fill					mid grey;silty sand;rare gravel
61	59	fill					light grey;sand;rare gravel
62		cut	structure?		0.75	0.18	
63	62	fill	packing?				light grey;sand;moderate gravel
64		cut	structure	0.75	0.25	0.1	
65	64	fill	disuse				orange-brown;silty sand;moderate gravel
66		cut			0.15		
67		cut			0.15		
68		cut			0.5		
69		cut			0.25		

Trench 4		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology except buried soil in section. This lay on natural sand and gravel deposits. Western part of trench is truncated by a large modern refuse pit.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.7
	Width (m)	1.5
	Length (m)	9

Trench 5		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
One central Middle Saxon enclosure ditch align east-to-west, with branches to north and south. This was cut by a large pit used for latrine waste. This itself is cut by another feature (or recut). Covered by buried soil and sequence of post-medieval soil layers. Sandy natural deposits.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.7
	Width (m)	1.5
	Length (m)	26.5

Context	Cut	Category	Function	Breadth	Depth	Fill description	Shape in plan
8		cut	enclosure ditch	0.9	0.4		linear
9	8	fill				mid greyish brown;sandy silt;occ small stones	
10	8	fill				mid yellowish brown;sandy silt;freq gravel	
15		cut	culinary and latrine waste	1.15	0.75		sub-circular
16	15	fill	culinary and latrine waste			pale whitish grey;silty sand;occ small flint	
17	80	fill	fill of recut?			mid orange brown;silty sand;occ small stones	
18		layer	topsoil				
19		layer	subsoil				
20		layer	disuse?			light greyish brown;gravelly sand;	
21		layer	buried soil			dark greyish brown;silty sand;	

Context	Cut	Category	Function	Breadth	Depth	Fill description	Shape in plan
80		cut	recut?	0.3	0.8		

Trench 6							
General description						**Orientation**	E-W
Three ditches of probably Middle-to-Late Saxon date, the largest with a bank on its eastern side. Natural deposits of sand and gravel.						**Avg. depth (m)**	0.9
						Width (m)	1.5
						Length (m)	7.5
Context	**Cut**	**Category**	**Function**	**Breadth**	**Depth**	**Fill description**	**Shape in plan**
1		layer				v dark brown;sandy topsoil;occ gravel	
2		layer				dark brown-ish grey;sandy silt; subsoil;occ gravel	
3		cut	boundary	2.5	0.9		linear
4	3	fill	part of buried soil?			mid-dark brownish grey;clayey silt;moderate gravel	
5	3	fill				light-brown-buff;sandy silt;occ gravel	
6	3	fill				mid-grey/greenish brown;sandy silt;occ gravel	
7	3	fill				light brown-buff;silty sand;moderate gravel	
11		cut		0.8	0.3		linear
12	11	fill				dark brown;clayey sandy silt;freq gravel	
13		cut		0.6	0.3		linear
14	13	fill				mid-dark brown;sandy silt;freq gravel; occ chalk	
39	3	fill	bank upcast			dark reddish brown;sand;occ gravel	

Trench 7							
General description						**Orientation**	E-W
Three ditches of probably Middle-to-Late Saxon date, the largest with a bank on its eastern side. Natural deposits of sand and gravel.						**Avg. depth (m)**	0.9
						Width (m)	1.5
						Length (m)	7.5
Context	**Cut**	**Category**	**Function**	**Breadth**	**Depth**	**Fill description**	**Shape in plan**
70		cut		0.3	0.2		(visible in w-facing section)
71		fill				mid brown;silt;occ gravel	
72		cut		0.2	0.08		circular
73		fill				mid brown;silt;occ gravel	
74		cut		0.1	0.04		circular
75		fill				mid brown;silt;occ gravel	
76		cut		0.36	0.06		circular

Context	Cut	Category	Function	Breadth	Depth	Fill description	Shape in plan
77		fill				mid brown;silt;occ gravel	
78		cut		0.38	0.2		circular
79		fill				mid brown;silt;occ gravel	
81		layer	topsoil				
82		layer	garden/subsoil				
83		layer	demolition				
84		layer	buried soil			dark brown;sandy silt;moderate gravel	

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Paul Spoerry and Carole Fletcher

Introduction

Archaeological works produced a small pottery assemblage of 34 sherds, weighing 0.233kg, recovered from 16 contexts. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded to abraded. The average sherd weight from individual contexts is low at approximately 7g.

Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the summary catalogue by context are:

Fabric	Full name	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight (kg)
EMEMS	Early medieval Essex micaceous sandy wares	1	0.002
GTHET	Grimston Thetford ware	1	0.012
IPS G	Ipswich ware - gritty	2	0.026
NEOT	St Neots type ware	7	0.043
NFBW	North French Blackwares	6	0.043
PPOTF	Flint-tempered Prehistoric fabrics	5	0.014
RMAX	Southern Maxey ware	6	0.080
SCASS	South Cambs smooth sandy ware	1	0.002
STAM	Stamford ware	1	0.002
THET	Thetford type wares	4	0.009

Table 1 Fabrics present

Methodology

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.

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. Additionally hand-made pottery has been categorised on the basis of principal inclusion types, as observed at low power (x 10-x20) magnification. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis. The archives are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Assemblage

Flint-tempered prehistoric pottery is present in its own (7) and as residual sherds.

Middle Saxon pottery is most common and this consists of both Imports (North French Blackwares) and Maxey and Ipswich wares. The Imports include smooth, hard, almost vitrified fabrics and a red-quartz tempered vessel.

Late Saxon pottery is present in the form of St Neots type, Thetford type and Stamford wares.

Early medieval pottery occurs as South Cambridgeshire (SCASS) and Essex (EMEMS) fabrics (Spoerry forthcoming). These are found in association with Late Saxon pottery suggesting perhaps an 11th to early 12th century date for these contexts (26 & 61).

Discussion

This assemblage, although small, is significant due to it representing groups either side of the transition from Middle Saxon to Late Saxon types and also due to the presence of imported pottery. North French Blackwares, as discussed by, for example Hodges (1981), although the most common group of imports of the Middle to Late Saxon period, are still rarely found outside of high status sites and/or locations that participated in long-distance trade. That such a small group has generated several sherds, in more than one Blackware fabric type and including decorated examples, renders the assemblage real importance. That these fabrics are also found in association with both of the regional Middle Saxon wares, and there is potential for continuity into the Late Saxon period, also makes the assemblage significant.

References

Blake, H. and Davey, P., 1983, *Guidelines for the Processing and Publications of Medieval Pottery from Excavations.* Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings Occasional Paper 5

Hodges, R., 1981, The Hamwih Pottery, CBA research Report No. 37.

Medieval Pottery Research Group, 1998, *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms.* Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1

Myers, J.N.L., 1977, *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Pottery of the Pagan Period,* Volumes 1 and 2. Cambridge University Press.

Spoerry, P. S., forthcoming, *The production and distribution of medieval pottery in Cambridgeshire*, EAA.

Context	*Fabric*	*Basic Form/description*	*Sherd Count*	*Sherd Weight (kg)*	*Spotdate for Fabric*	*Context date range*
7	PPOTF	BS with v coarse flint	3	0.006	Iron Age?	Iron Age?
9	IPS G	BS, ext sooted	1	0.005	720-850	720-850
10	IPS G	Neck and jar rim, ext sooted	1	0.021	720-850	720-850
26	NEOT	Jar rim	2	0.006	850-1150	1050-1150
26	GTHET	Pitcher rim with abraded stamped decoration	1	0.012	1000-1200	
26	SCASS	BS	1	0.002	1050-1200	
28	NFBW	Scored BS, Xfit with 30	1	0.002	700-900	700-900
30	NFBW	Scored BS, Xfit with 28	2	0.003	700-900	700-900
30	NFBW	Rilled, softer BS	1	0.002	700-900	

Context	Fabric	Basic Form/description	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight (kg)	Spotdate for Fabric	Context date range
32	STAM	Pink fabric and early thick yellow glaze	1	0.002	875-1100	875-1100
34	RMAX	Hand-made jar base	1	0.046	650-850	650-850
34	PPOTF	BS	1	0.002	Iron Age?	
36	NFBW	Slightly everted jar rim, sooted	1	0.034	700-900	700-900
42	RMAX	Upright jar/bowl rim	1	0.018	650-850	650-850
46	RMAX	BS	1	0.005	650-850	650-850
60	NFBW	BS	1	0.002	700-900	700-900
61	RMAX	BS	2	0.009	650-850	1050-1150
61	NEOT	Rim of 'top hat pot'	1	0.015	850-1150	
61	NEOT	BS	1	0.006	850-1150	
61	THET	BS	2	0.004	850-1150	
61	EMEMS	BS	1	0.002	1050-1200	
63	NEOT	Rim of small jar and BS	3	0.02	850-1000	850-1000
67	THET	BS	2	0.005	850-1150	850-1150
67	RMAX	Thin BS	1	0.002	650-850	
79	PPOTF	BS	1	0.006	Iron Age?	Iron Age?

Table 2: Pottery Summary

B.2 Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

Results

Fifty six fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation with 25 fragments identifiable to species. Seven contexts contained identifiable material, with context **7** containing only unidentified fragments. The total weight of the assemblage was 300g. The largest number of identifiable fragments were recovered from contexts **16** & **61**. Context **16** contained cattle metapodial and cranial fragments along with a single pig humerus, inominate and a fragments of sheep femur. A single juvenile tibiotarsus from an unidentified bird species was also present. Context **61** contained a partial sheep left hind leg (femur, tibia & metatarsal) along with a fragmentary cattle humerus and 1st phalanx. Faunal material from other contexts is scarce, consisting of fragmentary cattle and sheep long bones and rib fragments. A single pig femur was recovered from context 10. No juvenile domestic mammal remains were recovered from any context and it is likely that this assemblage represents general settlement waste.

References

Dobney, K & Reilly, K. 1988. *A method for recording archaeological animal bones: the use of diagnostic zones*. Circaea 5(2): 79-96

Davis, S. J. M. 1992. A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites. *Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 19/92.*English Heritage.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

Six bulk samples were taken from Saxon deposits during the evaluation of the site at Anstey Hall, Trumpington, Cambridgeshire. The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether plant remains are present, their mode of preservation and whether they are of interpretable value with regard to domestic, agricultural and industrial activities, diet, economy and rubbish disposal. Features sampled include a pit, ditch, post-hole and a gully.

The initial results showed that preservation of plant remains was variable with both carbonised (charred) and mineralised plant remains present. Carbonised plant remains commonly relate to agriculture and domestic, culinary activities whereas mineralised remains usually indicate cess.

Methodology

The total volume (up to seventeen litres) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and a complete list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Stace (1997).

Quantification

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

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens #### = 100+ specimens

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

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Key to table x:

m = mineralised

Results

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Flot contents
1	7	3	ditch	Charred grain # and legume #
2	16	15	pit	Charred grain #, mineralised weed seeds #, mineralised fly pupae, fish bone ##
3	17	15	pit	Charred grain #, mineralised weed seeds #

4	26	25	Ditch	Charred grain ##
5	28	27	Gully	Charred grain, charred weed seed #
6	79	78	post hole	Charred grain ##

Table 1: Environmental samples from CAMAHT13

All of the samples produced flots that contain numerous modern rootlets which may have resulted in movement of any preserved material throughout deposits. Plant remains preserved by carbonisation are restricted to cereal grains, sparse charcoal and a single weed seed. Preservation of cereal grains is generally poor with most of the grains having fragmented and/or abraded suggesting partial degradation prior to deposition. Free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum sensu-lato*) occurs most commonly along with occasional grains of oat (*Avena* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). No chaff elements are present. Charred weed seeds are commonly recovered with cereal grains in many archaeobotanical assemblages but are rare in this case with only a single clover (*Trifolium* sp.) seed noted (Sample 5, fill 28 of gully **27**).

Pit **15** contains mineralised remains in addition to the charred cereals. Single seeds of dock (*Rumex* sp.) and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) were noted in Sample 2 taken from lower fill **16** along with several mineralised fly pupae. This sample also contains numerous bones, most commonly vertebrae of fish and eels. Sample 3, upper fill 17, contains a single mineralised seed of the mustard/cabbage (*Brassica/Sinapis* sp.) family, occasional mineralised fly pupae and sandy concretions that are possibly caused by the chemical processed involved in mineralisation.

Discussion

The charred plant assemblage is restricted to cereal grains with no chaff and only a single weed seed evident. This suggests that the grains originated from cleaned cereal stores and are likely to have become accidentally burnt during cooking or through the deliberate disposal of spilt grain on a hearth fire. The quantity and preservation of grain recovered preclude further interpretation other than evidence that wheat and barley were used, probably for bread, fodder and/or beer. It is not possible to determine whether the oats are of the cultivated or the common wild variety that would have grown amongst other crops. Legumes are less likely to be burnt accidentally than grain as they do not need to be exposed to heat as cereals do and would have been an important dietary constituent.

The combination of carbonised and mineralised plant remains recovered from pit 15 suggests that the feature has been used for the disposal of household refuse that included culinary and latrine waste. The disposal of latrine waste often produces mineralised plant and insect remains because the phosphates in the sewage replace the organic components leading to a form of semi-fossilization. Fish remains are commonly found in mineralised deposits and may have contributed to the mineralisation process. The single seeds of dock and nettle most likely originated from weeds growing within the site. Both plants are produce hundreds of very small seeds that can be widely dispersed.

References

R.T.J. Cappers, R.M. Bekker and J.E.A. Jans, 2006, Digital Seed Atlas of the

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Groningen Archaeological Studies 4, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde, The Netherlands.
www.seedatlas.nl

Stace, C., 1997 New Flora of the British Isles. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

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Patten, R.	2012	*Trumpington Meadows, Cambridge, An Archaeological Excavation*, Cambridge Archaeological Unit Rep. No. 1134
Philips, T. and Mortimer, R.	2013	*Specification for Archaeological Evaluation, Anstey Hall Farm, Trumpington,* Unpublished Oxford Archaeology East Specification
Thomas, A.	2013	*Brief for Assessment of Impact on Heritage Assests, Anstey Hall Farm, Trumpington.* Unpublished CHET Brief.

APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-165914		
Project Name	Evaluation at Anstey Hall Farm		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	19-11-2013	Finish	26-11-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CAMAHT13	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	ECB 4074	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Housing Estate

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Aerial Photography - interpretation	☐ Grab-Sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Gravity-Core	☒ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
☐ Augering	☒ Measured Survey	☐ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochronological Survey	☐ Metal Detectors	☐ Test Pits
☐ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☐ Topographic Survey
☐ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☐ Fieldwalking	☐ Photographic Survey	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus and significant finds using the MDA Object type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditches	Early Medieval 410 to 1066	Pot	Early Medieval 410 to 1066
Surface	Early Medieval 410 to 1066	Bone	Early Medieval 410 to 1066
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Cambridge	Anstey Hall Farm, Grantchester Road, Trumpington	
Parish	Cambridge		
HER	CHER		
Study Area	0.3haz	National Grid Reference	544234 254873

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas CCC HET
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Stores, Landbeach	OA East	CCC Stores, Landbeach
CAMAHT13	CAMAHT13	CAMAHT13

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☒	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☐	☐
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☒	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☒	☒
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☒ Database	☐ Aerial Photos
☒ GIS	☒ Context Sheet
☐ Geophysics	☐ Correspondence
☒ Images	☐ Diary
☒ Illustrations	☐ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☒ Spreadsheets	☐ Map
☐ Survey	☐ Matrices
☐ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☐ Research/Notes
	☐ Photos
	☒ Plans
	☒ Report
	☒ Sections
	☐ Survey

Notes:

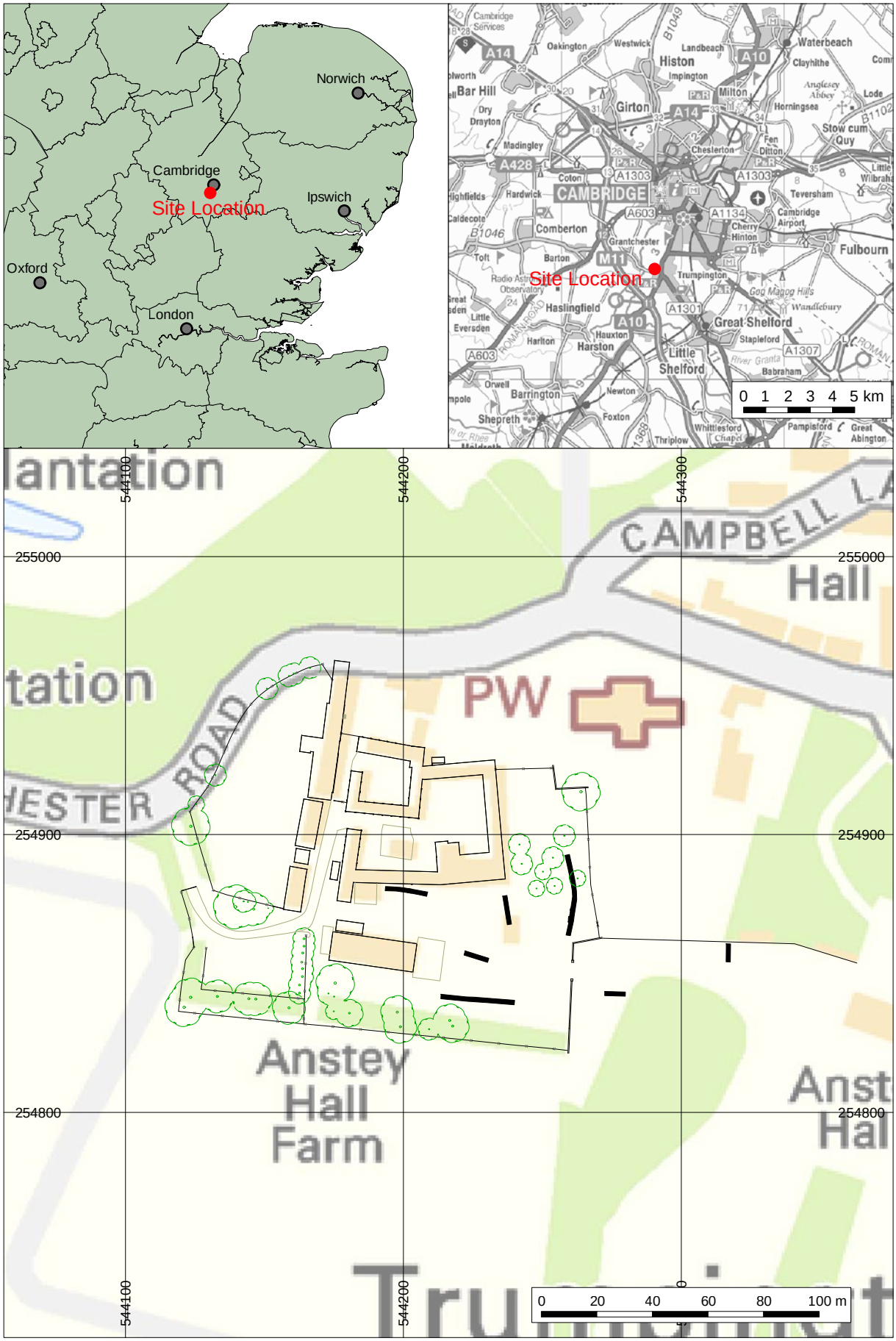

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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (solid black) in Anstey Hall Farm

Figure 2: Plan of trenches and proposed development

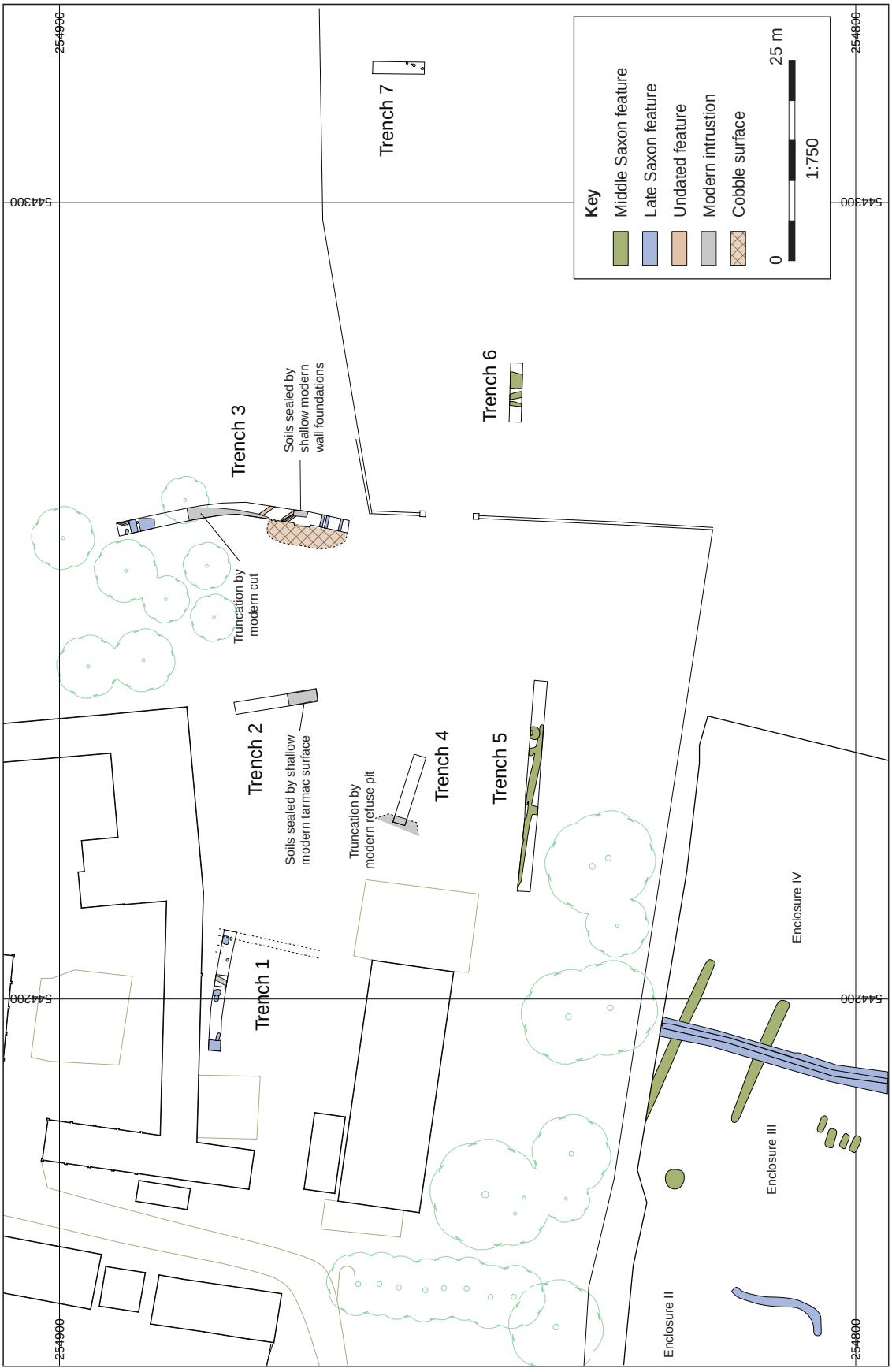
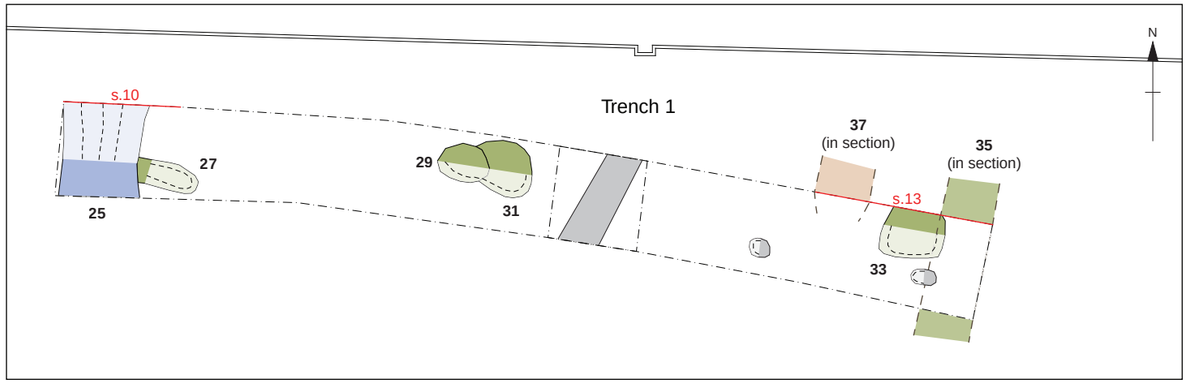
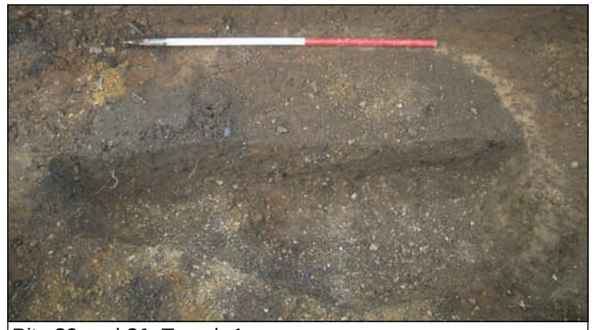
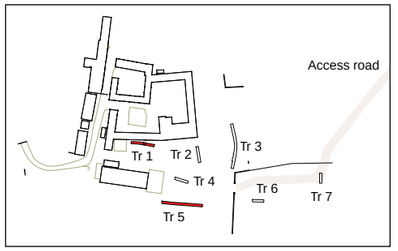


Figure 3: Plan of all trenches with excavations at Trumpington Meadows (after Patten 2013)





Pits **29** and **31**, Trench 1.
Looking north.



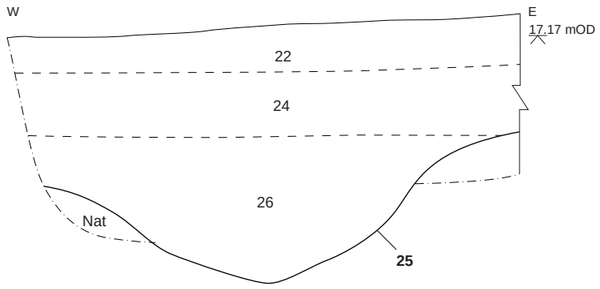
Convention Key

- Excavated slot
- Middle Saxon feature
- Late Saxon feature
- Undated feature
- Modern intrustion
- Cobbled surface
- 123 Cut number
- S.11 Section line and number
- Break of slope
- Limit of excavation

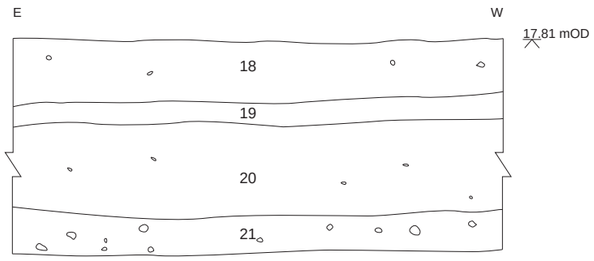
0 5 m

Plans 1:100

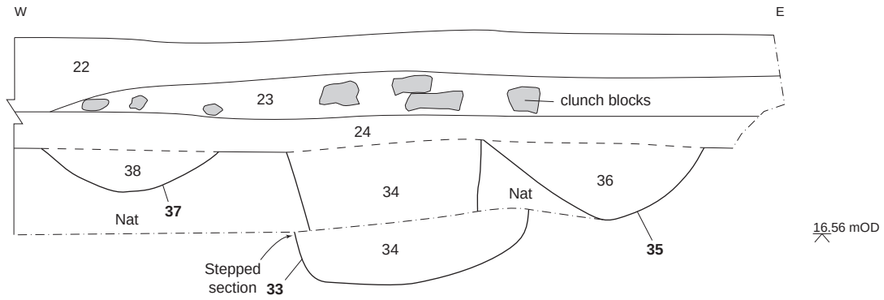
Section 10, Trench 1



Section 4, Trench 5



Section 13, Trench 1



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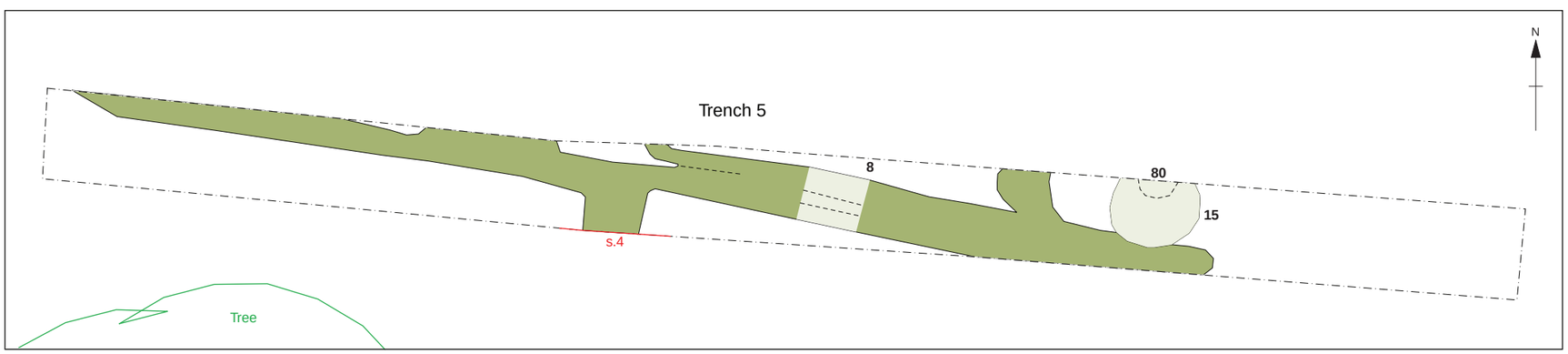
Sections 1:25



Pit **15** and feature **80** cutting ditch **8**, Trench 5.
Looking west.

Figure 4: Trenches 1 and 5

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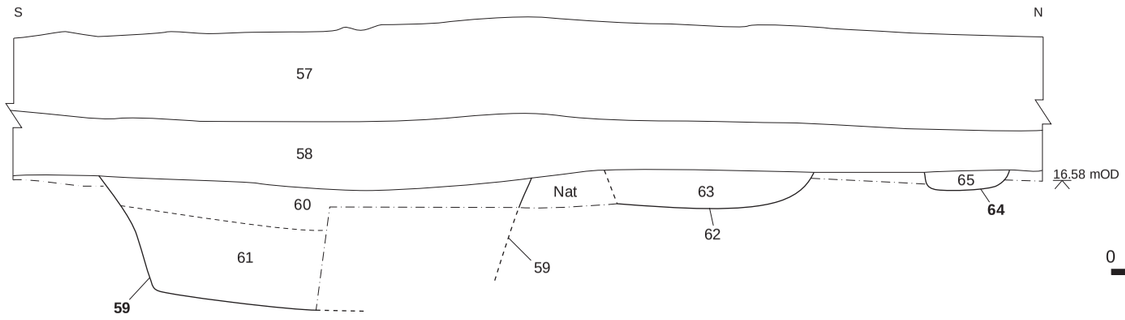
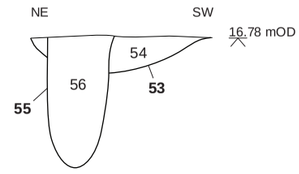
Section 14, Trench 3



Section 8, Trench 3



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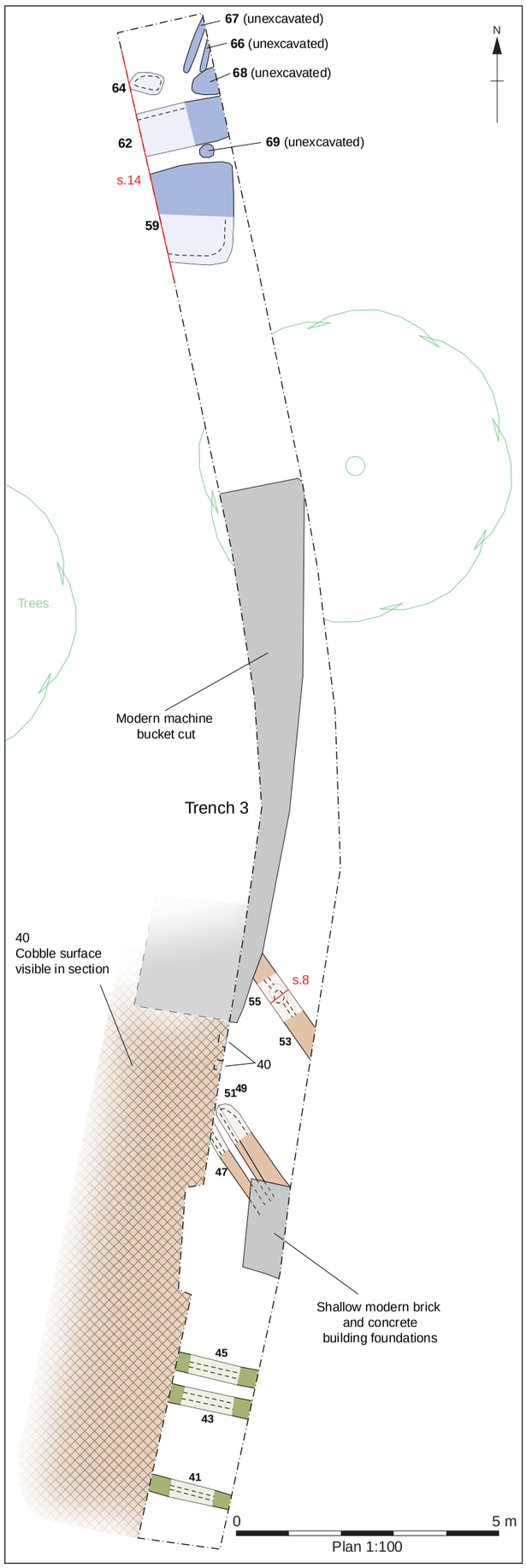
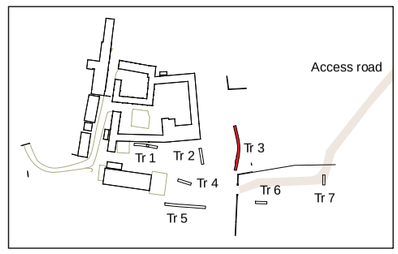


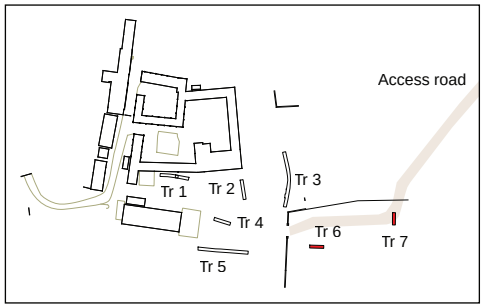


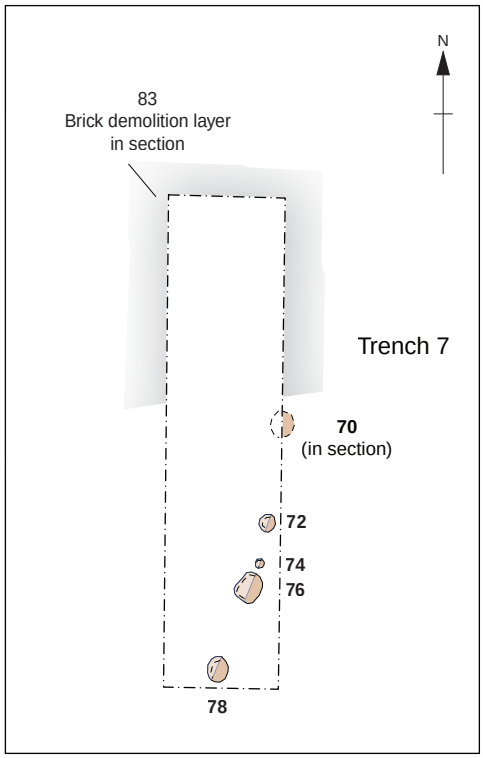
Cobble surface 40 in section, sealing soil layer 58, Trench 3.
Looking west.

Gullies **45** and **43**, Trench 3.
Looking east.

Figure 5: Trench 3

Post holes **70** (in section), **72**, **74**, **76** and **78**, Trench 7. Looking south-east.





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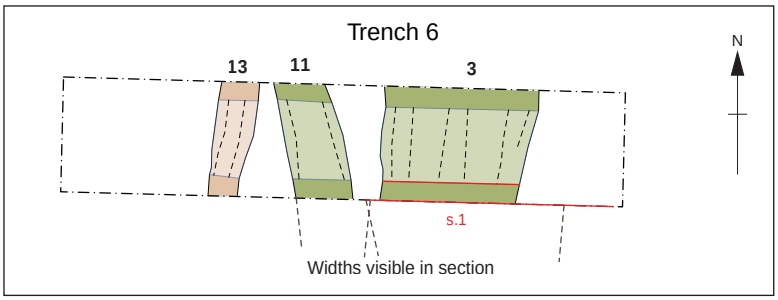
Plans 1:100



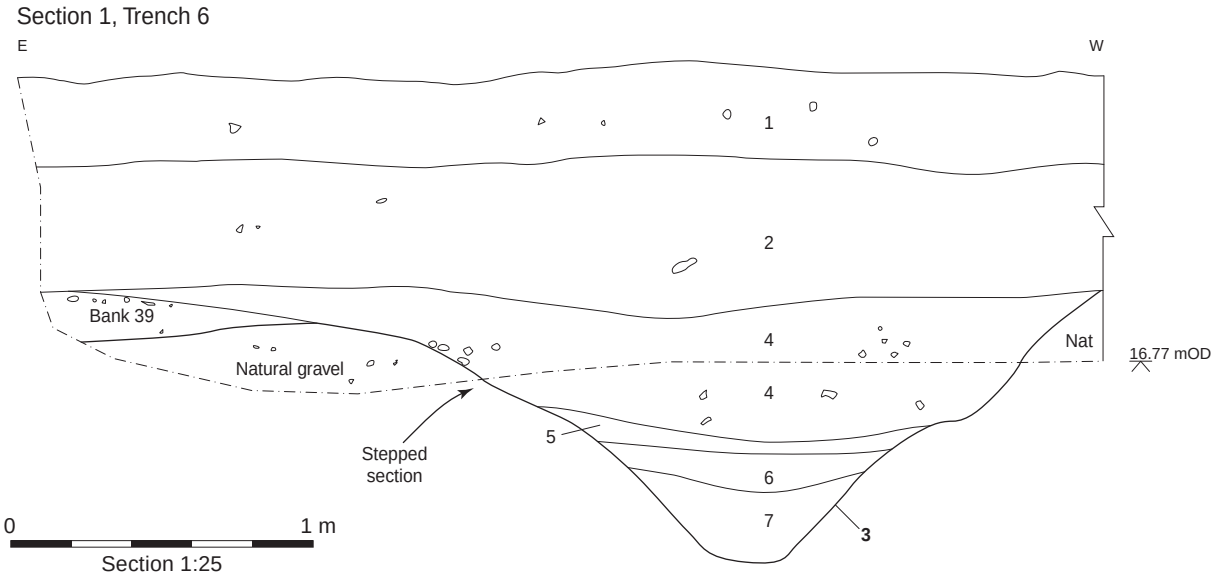


Figure 6: Trenches 6 and 7

Plate 1: Trench 1. Looking west.

Plate 2: Trench 2. Looking south.

Plate 3: Trench 3, northern part. Looking south.

Plate 4: Trench 3, southern part. Looking north.

Plate 5: Trench 4. Looking west.

Plate 6: Trench 5. Looking east.

Plate 7: Trench 6: Looking west.

Plate 8: Trench 7. Looking south.

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