

Medieval Drainage and Cultivation at Chequers Court, Huntingdon



Excavation Report



January 2013

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Medieval Drainage and Cultivation at Chequers Court, Huntingdon

Archaeological Excavation


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Summary

Two phases of archaeological works were carried within the footprint of a proposed new multi-storey car park at Chequers Court car park, Huntingdon between 21st and 29th March 2011 and the 14th November 2011 and 2nd March 2012.

A total of ten discrete areas were investigated revealing a sequence of well stratified features and deposits that spanned the pre-medieval to post medieval periods. Although no Saxon features could be confidently identified on site a number of undated but stratigraphically earlier ditches and a small assemblage of Mid to Late Saxon pottery recovered from later features, demonstrated that the site lay close to an area of Saxon habitation.

There was a marked increase in activity during the 12th to 14th century, characterised by the establishment and maintenance of a series of substantial drainage ditches. The preservation of possible bank material or a medieval cultivation layer between these ditches, in conjunction with the finds and environmental evidence, suggests that during this time the site was cultivated. The drainage of the site, in order to make it viable for agricultural purposes, clearly required a significant investment of energy and this may have been necessitated by the demand for food from the growing population of the town, which was expanding rapidly during the 'high medieval' period.

Evidence for the expansion of the town was recorded in the southern part of the site where pits, post holes and shallow gullies were found that are typical of the types of feature found in the back plots of buildings.

The decline of the town in the aftermath of the Black death was also in evidence with the abandonment of the drainage ditches and slow accumulation of layers of relatively sterile soil layers. A slight increase in activity during the 17th century was noted in the form of two brick built wall foundations that may have been associated with a path or a small ancillary structure.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between 21st and 29th March 2011, Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) carried out an archaeological evaluation (ECB3550) on behalf of Huntingdonshire District Council, within the footprint of a proposed new multi-storey car park at Chequers Court car park, Huntingdon (TL 2413 7190) (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The evaluation consisted of two 4m x 4m test pits, within which were recorded well-preserved, stratified archaeological deposits and features spanning the pre-medieval to post-medieval periods.
- 1.1.3 As a result of this field evaluation a second phase of full scale excavation, comprising eight areas targeted on the pile groups and lift shaft/stairwells associated with the new development, was carried out by OAE between 14th November 2011 and 2nd March 2012 (ECB3912).
- 1.1.4 Both phases of work were undertaken in accordance with Briefs issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 1001717FUL), supplemented by Specifications prepared by OA East (Connor 2011a & b).
- 1.1.5 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).
- 1.1.6 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 Huntingdon is located within the Ouse Valley, which comprises Jurassic clays overlain by river terrace gravels and alluvium. The river Ouse is located several hundred metres to the south-east of the site and a tributary of the Ouse follows the line of Nursery Road which bounds the site on the north side. It is possible that two drainage ditches outside the site to the north-west and south-east may be linked by a culvert across the site but this is unconfirmed (Higgs 2010).
- 1.2.2 A ground investigation survey by AF Howland indicates that the underlying deposits vary in depth. Four boreholes and seven window samples were located across the site. Gravel was encountered in all of the samples at a depth of between 1.7m and 2.4m, clay lay above the gravel in eight of the samples and made-ground was recorded as between 1m and 1.8m thick, interestingly both the shallowest and deepest deposits of made ground were found in adjacent samples in the northern area of the site suggesting an underlying cut in this area, possibly man-made. The report also indicated the possibility of some contamination from hydrocarbons in the north-west corner of the site. Hydrocarbon contamination is frequently found within the town of Huntingdon due to the network of old stream channels underlying the town.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following section is drawn from an archaeological Desk-based Assessment (DBA) prepared by Archaeological Solutions (Higgs 2010). It is supplemented by information from other recent investigations in the vicinity (Fig. 1), notably the adjacent St Germain Street site.

Prehistoric and Roman

- 1.3.2 Although the proposed development is located within the Great Ouse valley, which is rich in prehistoric remains (notably major ritual complexes of Late Neolithic and Bronze Age date), there has been relatively little prehistoric activity recorded in the vicinity of the site. This largely comprises chance finds or residual flints, for example at the Former Model Laundry site (HUNMOL 05; Clarke 2007) located c.250m to the south-east of the current site. Here, a small assemblage of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic flints indicative of on-site knapping and exploitation of the river gravels was recovered; a small quantity of Iron Age pottery was also found.
- 1.3.3 The main focus of Romano-British activity in the area lay c.1.5km to the south-east on the opposing side of the river, where the important small town of *Durovigutum* existed in the area of modern Godmanchester (Higgs 2010). Recent work within Huntingdon, however, has revealed a significant Roman presence, especially close to the river where a number of villa sites and a cemetery have been recorded adjacent to the castle. Domestic Roman activity, in the form of pits, ditches and wells, was recorded at the Pathfinder House site to the north-east of the presumed route of Ermine Street (Mellor 2009), whilst closer to the current site, a substantial Roman ditch was revealed to the south-east during excavations at the Former Model Laundry, Ouse Walk (HUNMOL05; Clarke 2007). Immediately adjacent to the latter site, the remains of a Late Roman building of possible industrial function were recorded at Hampden House, Temple Close (HUNHAH08; Thatcher 2010), c.250m to the south-east of the development area. A few fragments of Roman pottery and tile were recovered from later features at the adjacent site at St Germain Street (RPS 1999; CHER 15040), indicating some activity of this date in the vicinity.

Anglo-Saxon

- 1.3.4 During the later Anglo-Saxon period the town of Huntingdon developed as a port and/or trading centre located at an important intersection of road and river communications. 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 debate as to the location of the late 9th to early 10th century Danish burh.
- 1.3.5 Late Saxon occupation has been found nearby at Orchard Lane (CHER 13020; Oakey and Spoerry 1997) and Hartford Road (CHER 11907 and 11908). Excavations at the Former Model Laundry and the adjacent Hampden House sites, located c.250m to the south-east of the development site revealed a series of substantial ditches/channels that appear to originate in the post-Roman period. These may be defensive in origin (part of the 'D-shaped' Danish enclosure?) or could conceivably represent a significant boundary between habitable land on the higher ground to the south and more marginal floodplain to the north (HUNMOL05, Clarke 2007 & HUNHAH08, Thatcher 2010).

- 1.3.6 Closer to the current proposed development, the adjacent St Germain/Sainsbury's site revealed a number of features, including ditches, pits and gullies that appear to date to the Late Saxon/early medieval period (c.850-1150). These were largely concentrated in the west of the area, closer to St Germain Street and had been truncated by later activity. Most of the ditches were aligned east to west or north-east to south-west.

Medieval

- 1.3.7 By the time of the Domesday survey there were 256 burgesses (freemen who were heads of households), two churches and a mill. The major element in the post-Conquest townscape was 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 (Kenney 2005, 7).
- 1.3.8 Huntingdon continued to prosper and by the early 14th century had attained all the hallmarks of a thriving centre: sixteen churches, two priories, a friary and three hospitals; a stone-built bridge (CHER 02544) carrying Ermine Street over the River Ouse was constructed in AD 1332. However, by the late 14th century the fortunes of the town began to change. A downturn in the local economy combined with a particularly severe visitation of plague saw the beginning of the decline of the town. 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 late 13th century (*ibid*).
- 1.3.9 Numerous excavations and investigations within the town have revealed evidence of medieval occupation and activity, most notably CHERs 11907, 11908, 15040, 15568 and 13020 (not illustrated). At least part of the development site may have lain within a fairly marginal location on the edge of the medieval town, although areas closer to the High Street and other thoroughfares are likely to have been more intensively-occupied. A pit containing shoe leathers and horn cores and interpreted as a tanning pit (ECB1335) was identified during emergency recording at No. 4 Chequers Court to the south-west of the current site. Medieval pits, post-holes and wells have also been recorded c.250m to the south-east of the site at the Former Model Laundry site and Hampden House (HUNMOL05, Clarke 2007 & HUNHAH 08 Thatcher 2010).
- 1.3.10 Of particular relevance is the adjacent St Germain/Sainsbury's site (CHER 15040), which was subject to a programme of archaeological investigation prior to the construction of the current retail park in 1999 (RPS 1999, 8-9). Over half of the features and deposits recorded were broadly dated to the mid-12th to late-14th century. These included ditches, gullies, c.73 pits, a timber-lined well, possible structural remains and cultivation soils spread across the site that indicate remains of a similar date may extend into the current development area. This evidence is very similar to that recorded at other recent excavations in the town undertaken by OA East, notably Hartford Road, Walden House (HUNWHS05) and Gazeley House (HUNTCR07).
- 1.3.11 The ditches and gullies were predominantly aligned north-west to south-east (perpendicular to the medieval street) with a less frequent incidence of north-east to south-east and east-west orientations. Many were interpreted as property boundaries or land divisions, although a larger feature identified in the north of the site may have been the town ditch and ditches to the west may be associated with the medieval phase of St Germain Street. Although largely domestic in character, evidence for industrial activities including crop-processing and possible cat-skinning was identified; a small collection of

leather turn-shoes were also recovered from a medieval well. There was clear evidence of decline by the 15th century, indicated by a paucity of material and general absence of features, combined with the formation of extensive cultivation soils; a pattern that has been identified elsewhere in the town.

Post-medieval

- 1.3.12 The early post-medieval period witnessed a downturn in prosperity for Huntingdon, with few 16th-17th century buildings recorded in the town beyond that of the 16th century Falcon and George Hotels, the former of which was used as the temporary Royal Court and Headquarters in the Civil War. The level and extent of surviving later post-medieval and early modern buildings in Huntingdon reflect its revival in fortunes. Modern remains recorded within the town include a World War I runway on Mill Common and the World War II RAF 'Pathfinder' forces HQ at Castle Hill House (Higgs 2010, 10-11).
- 1.3.13 The adjacent St Germain/Sainsbury's site (CHER 15040) recorded a number of post-medieval features spanning the 16th to 19th centuries, including pits, post-holes, ditches, wells, wall foundations and cultivation deposits (RPS 1999, 11-12). Cartographic evidence indicates that the current site remained largely undeveloped, with some tree coverage; it may have been part of Wood and Ingram's nursery located on St Germain Street, which had ceased trading by 1950 (Higgs 2010, 12).

Archaeological Evaluation

- 1.3.14 Two test pits (Fig. 4) excavated within the development area itself indicated high potential for survival of medieval deposits in some areas. Test Pit 2, in the southern car park, confirmed the presence of well preserved, stratified archaeological deposits and features spanning the pre-medieval to post-medieval periods. Test Pit 1, which was situated in the Sainsbury's car-park suggested that the northern part of the development area was fairly open, marginal land prone to flooding as indicated by flood deposits and the cutting of drainage and/or boundary ditches.
- 1.3.15 It is likely that the whole of the development area was turned over to cultivation in the later medieval/post-medieval periods, confirming with the general contraction and decline observed elsewhere in the town.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Huntingdonshire District Council, who commissioned and funded the archaeological work, particularly Pete Lummis, and Andy Thomas who monitored the Archaeological work. The project was managed by Aileen Connor. Chris Thatcher directed and supervised the fieldwork with the assistance of Pete Boardman, Julian Newman, Steve Porter and Tam Webster. Thanks also to Dan and Chris Clarke from John Henry Group who conducted the ground work and machining.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of these investigations was to determine and record 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 Previous investigations in the vicinity had shown that there was good potential for the site (particularly in the southern and possibly north-eastern areas) to address a number of specific local, regional and national research priorities pertaining to the medieval period and outlined in relevant publications (Glazebrook 1997; Glazebrook and Brown 2000) and the revised Research Framework (Medleycott and Brown 2008; www.eaareports.org.uk). These include but are not confined to:
- Understanding the origins, development, role and importance of Huntingdon as a small town
 - Understanding development cycles within Huntingdon
 - Understanding specialist activities within the town
 - Understanding the morphology of medieval Huntingdon, and contribute towards creating a spatial and temporal model of the town
 - Contributing to forthcoming publication outlining the archaeology and history of Huntingdon and its changing fortunes (Clarke and Connor forthcoming)

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The evaluation brief required that two 4m x 4m test pits be excavated and the subsequent excavation brief identified eight areas for investigation, targeted on the pile groups and lift shaft/stairwells associated with the new development.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation for both phases was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360°-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, 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 A total of twenty four environmental samples were taken from the full range of feature types. Many of the samples were waterlogged.
- 2.2.6 Conditions on site were very wet as a result of the archaeological remains lying below the level of the water table.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A total of ten areas were excavated during the two stages of work; two test pits in the evaluation stage and eight larger trenches during the excavation (Figs. 2 & 3). A brief description of each trench is presented below. Detailed trench descriptions and context details are presented in Appendix A, supplemented by full reports on the finds and environmental samples included as Appendices B and C.

Chequers Court Car Park

- **Test Pit 2:** Located in the southern part of the development site, within the Chequers Court car park (Fig. 3). It was excavated to a depth of 1.5m (8.08m OD), exposing mid-yellow brown sand clay gravel (37) natural within a central sondage. As with Trench 1 the water table was encountered at the base of the trench.
- **Trench 3:** Located to the north-east of Test Pit 2 (Fig. 3). A significant level of modern disturbance was recorded, this included two sections of a concrete foundation, a north-east to south-west aligned footing that extended the full length of the trench, and a large concrete pad that extended to a depth of 2m below the current ground level. Natural deposits were recorded at a depth of 7.94m OD.
- **Trench 4:** Located in the south-eastern corner of the development area. Modern deposits associated with the construction of the Chequers Court car park sealed the trench. Several ditches were recorded cutting the natural deposits at a depth of 8.15m OD and these appeared to represent continuations of features recorded in Trench 3.
- **Trench 5:** Situated between Trenches 3 and 4, close to Test Pit 2. The features identified were predominantly continuations of the ditches recorded in the aforementioned trenches. Natural deposits were recorded at 8.11m OD.

Sainsburys Car Park

- **Test Pit 1:** Located within an extension of the Sainsbury's car park in the north eastern part of the proposed development area (Fig. 2). Mixed natural deposits composed of sandy clay and gravel (7) were recorded at a depth of 1.75m below ground level (8.00m OD). The water table was encountered at this height and as a result the base of the trench flooded.
- **Trench 6:** Located in the north-eastern part of the development area. It was excavated to a depth of 1.76m (7.90m OD) below ground level, whereupon natural deposits were exposed. A relatively high density of features were recorded within this trench.
- **Trenches 7 and 8:** These are described together as they were originally intended to be a single trench but had to be separated in order to avoid cabling for a parking meter in the car park. Natural deposits were recorded at 8.00m OD.
- **Trench 9:** The westernmost trench within the development area. It was excavated to a depth of 1.60m and the natural deposits were recorded at 8.20m OD.
- **Trench 10:** Lay in the north-western part of the development area. Natural deposits were recorded at 8.20m OD.

3.1.2 A significant depth of deposits was recorded on site but on the whole the stratigraphic sequence was not complicated, perhaps as a result of its location in a marginal area on

the outskirts of the medieval town. The phasing presented below is largely based on stratigraphic relationships, spatial associations and, to a certain extent, similarity in alignment of linear features. Where possible this has been combined with dating evidence provided largely by pottery and ceramic building material (CBM).

- 3.1.3 Four periods of activity have been identified that span the pre-medieval to post-medieval and modern periods:
- **Period 1: pre-medieval (before 1066):** A number of features were recorded in Test Pits 1 & 2 and Trench 6, which were stratigraphically earlier than the bulk of the features recorded on site, but otherwise undated. These were predominantly shallow ditches and gullies.
 - **Period 2: medieval (AD 1066 – 1500):** The evidence from this period comprised a variety of feature types that can be broadly divided into 3 phases of activity. The site lay within a dynamic, changeable landscape, prone to flooding and inundation. As a result, it is likely that the phases presented below overlapped to some extent rather than representing specific, well defined shifts in activity.
 - **Period 3: Post-medieval (AD 1500 – 1800):** Several cultivation and garden soils were recorded across the development site. Two brick built wall foundations and a post hole dated to the 17th century were also recorded in Test Pit 2.
 - **Period 4: Modern (1800 - present):** Extensive modern disturbance was recorded across the development area in the form of concrete foundations, storm drains, service runs and levelling layers for the modern car parks.

3.2 Period 1: Pre-medieval

Test Pit 1

- 3.2.1 A curvi-linear ditch (**8**), orientated north-east to-south-west and measuring 0.62m wide x 0.28m deep was recorded (Fig. 9, Section 1). In profile it had moderately-steep sides, a slightly concave base and was filled by a single pale yellow brown clay silt deposit (**9**) from which no finds were recovered (Plate 1). An environmental sample from the ditch fill produced small quantities of charcoal and animal bone fragments but no other remains (App. C2).

Test Pit 2

- 3.2.2 A north-north-east to south-south-west aligned ditch (**35**) was recorded that measured 0.50m wide x 0.21m deep and had a rounded profile (Fig. 9, Section 7). It was filled by single pale to mid yellowish-grey slightly sandy clay silt (**36**) that contained a flint fragment of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date (Plate 2). An environmental sample from fill **36** produced small quantities of charcoal but no other remains (App. C2).

Trench 6

- 3.2.3 A small pit (**146**) was recorded at the southern end of the trench that was oval shaped in plan, 0.90m long and 0.55m wide. It had a gently sloped profile up to 0.18m deep with a single dark grey brown fill that contained no finds.
- 3.2.4 A shallow linear feature (**143**) was recorded at an acute angle to the north-western trench edge. This feature was 0.70m wide by 0.32m deep and filled by a mid grey brown silt clay, from which no finds were recovered. Features **143** and **146** were sealed by a medieval deposit (**145**).

3.3 Period 2: medieval

Phase 1 (Fig. 5)

Test Pit 1

- 3.3.1 In Test Pit 1, a medieval soil layer 6 (Fig. 9, Section 1) comprised of a pale yellowish-grey clay silt, that was up to 0.18m thick, extended across the base of the test pit. Layer 6 was relatively sterile and may represent an early soil horizon sealing Ditch **8**. This layer could be contemporary with Layers 34 and/or 17 in Test Pit 2 (see below) (Fig. 9, Section 1).

Test Pit 2

- 3.3.2 A similar layer (34) was recorded in Test Pit 2. Layer 34 sealed Ditch **35** and comprised a 0.32m-thick mixed greyish brown silty clay deposit that contained lenses and lumps of clay. A single sherd of mid-12th to mid-14th century pottery was recovered (Fig. 9, Section 7). The nature of this layer suggests that it might derive from flooding. Layer 34 was overlain by a layer of mid-brown clay silt (17) that measured 0.15-0.20m thick and appeared to extend across the northern half of the trench. No datable material was recovered; the only find comprised a single fragment of butchered cattle bone.

Trench 3

- 3.3.3 The earliest evidence for activity in Trench 3 comprised a north-west to south-east aligned ditch (**108**) located approximately 6m from the south-western trench limit. Ditch **108** was 2m wide by 0.7m deep and relatively shallow sided, containing two sterile fills (107, 109) (Fig. 9, Section 23).
- 3.3.4 This feature appeared to continue through Trenches 4 and 5, as **120** and **123** respectively. Although undated, it was sealed by Layer 104 (Phase 2), dated to the mid 12th to mid 14th century. It is suggested that this feature, in conjunction with Ditches **120** and **123**, formed part of a boundary that continued in a south-easterly direction.

Trench 4

- 3.3.5 A possible buried soil layer (112) was recorded in the southern part of the trench. This layer was 4.5m wide and up to 0.22m thick. It was truncated by Ditch **114**, which dated to the 13th to mid 14th century, but contained no finds itself.
- 3.3.6 The stratigraphically earliest cut features were Ditches **114** & **120**. Ditch **114** crossed the central part of the trench on a north-west to south-east alignment. In comparison with many of the ditches on site it was fairly small, at 0.56m in width by 0.35m deep, and had a very steep-sided, narrow based profile filled by a single deposit (113) that contained sherds of Developed Stamford ware, Lyveden Stanion ware and Huntingdon early medieval ware pottery with a date range from the 13th to mid 14th century (App. B3).
- 3.3.7 Lying on the same alignment approximately 3m to the north was Ditch **120**; a continuation of Ditch **108** from Trench 3. Although truncated on its southern side by Ditch **118** (Phase 2), it was at least 1.10m in width and 0.46m deep with a fairly shallow, concave sided profile. It contained a single, sterile mid grey brown fill (119) (Fig. 9, Section 28).

Trench 5

- 3.3.8 Ditch (**123**) was recorded in the southern half of the trench (Plate 7) on a north-west to south-east alignment and represented the third visible section of Ditches **108** and **120** (Trenches 3 & 4 respectively). It was 1.36m in width by 0.48m deep, with a fairly steep sided U-shaped profile and filled by a single mid brown grey, clay silt deposit (126) that contained no finds.
- 3.3.9 At the southern limit of the trench was a shallow sided, flat based feature (**125**) that was truncated on its northern side by a later ditch (**124**) (Fig. 9, Section 29). The surviving portion was 1.40m wide by 0.38m deep with a single fill that contained a sherd of Developed St Neots Type ware (App. B3).

Trench 6

- 3.3.10 A ditch (**132**) was recorded crossing the central part of the trench, on a north-west to south-east alignment, parallel with the ditches recorded in Trenches 3, 4 and 5 to the south. Ditch (**132**) had a steep sided, U shaped profile 1.80m wide and approximately 0.50m deep, although its exact dimensions were difficult to establish as the ground conditions, which were extremely wet, resulted in the inundation and collapse of the sides of the feature. It contained a single fill from which a sherd of pottery dating to the mid 12th to mid 14th century was recovered. This feature was also observed to the west in Trench 7 as Ditch **150**.
- 3.3.11 To the north a shallow linear feature (**148**) was recorded that extended across the trench on a north-west to south-east alignment before turning through 90° and continuing beyond the northern trench limit. Ditch **148** was 0.95m in width by 0.32m deep with very steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (149), from which five sherds of 12th to 14th century pottery were recovered. The distinctive, almost rectangular profile (Fig. 10, Section 34), shape in plan and relatively high frequency of finds recovered from it might indicate that Ditch **148** represented a structural feature.

Trenches 7 and 8

- 3.3.12 Ditch **150** (Plate 8) lay on the projected line of Ditch **132** in Trench 6 and had a similar, steep-sided, U shaped profile that was 1.56m in width by 0.76m deep (Fig. 10, Section 36). Its fill sequence was quite distinctive with a total of seven fills (151 - 157) preserved. A sample of wood comprising approximately fifty fragments of brushwood, one of which was worked, was collected from the secondary fill (152), a compacted layer near the base of the ditch (App. C2). In the upper half of the ditch, fills 155 and 156 were found to contain sherds of pottery dating from the 12th to 14th century and 11th to 12th century respectively. These latter pieces are amongst the earliest finds recorded on site and although they cannot be considered *in situ*, as a result of being recovered stratigraphically out of sequence, they do suggest that there was activity on site preceding the surviving ditches. The consistent recovery of seeds from plants indicative of cultivated soils was unique to this feature (App. C3).
- 3.3.13 Ditch **150/132** was not observed to the west and it is possible that it terminated somewhere between Trench 7 and Trench 10. The spot height taken at the base of the ditch (7.17mOD) was higher than the closest corresponding height from Trench 6, to the east (approximately 7.08mOD), suggesting that any water within the ditches would have drained eastwards. The environmental evidence, specifically the types of flora identified, supports this inference as it indicates that they contained flowing water (App. C2). This may explain the distinctive fill sequence of Ditch **150/132** as it might be

expected that close to the 'start' of a ditch the passage of water would be slower, allowing individual deposits to settle rather than become washed away and/or mixed.

Trench 9

- 3.3.14 Trench 9 contained the only evidence for ditches on a differing alignment in the form of Ditch **163** (Plate 9), which ran down the centre of the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment. This was perpendicular to Ditch **108/120/123** and it is possible that these two features formed the corner of an enclosure or a boundary demarcating an area to the south. The full width of Ditch **163** was not exposed within the trench but it was at least 1.80m wide and it was not excavated to its full depth as a result of the wet ground conditions. The southern edge of cut **163** was very steep and convex, at least 0.75m deep and did not appear to be bottoming out, all of which suggest that it was a fairly substantial feature. Two mid to dark grey brown fills were recorded, from which no finds were recovered.

Phase 2 (Fig. 6)

Test Pit 1

- 3.3.15 Layer 5 sealed Layer 6 in Test Pit 1 and was characterised by its mixed composition that included mottles and patches of mid to dark blue-grey clay within the generally yellowish brown silty clay matrix. It was 0.28m thick and the mottled and clay-rich nature of this deposit indicated that it may in part have derived from flood deposits and that the immediate environs was somewhat marshy or water-covered. A single sherd of mid-12th to mid-14th century pottery was recovered from Layer 5.

Test Pit 2

- 3.3.16 In the northern half of the test pit six post-holes (**18, 20, 22, 24, 26** and **38**) and two pits (**30** and **32**) were cut into Layer 17 (Fig. 9, Sections 2 & 3).
- 3.3.17 The full extents of Pits **30** and **32** (Plate 3) were not revealed although their exposed portions were fully-excavated, revealing them to be c.0.5m deep and at least 1.5m across, with moderately-steep sides and fairly flat bases. Each contained a single fill (**31** & **33** respectively) of yellowish brown silty clay composition. Fill **31** contained small quantities of butchered animal bone in association with pottery datable to the mid-12th to mid-14th century. The environmental samples from both pits produced low levels of charred cereal remains, animal bone, pottery, mussel shell and hammerscale. The presence of hammerscale suggests low levels of blacksmithing activity occurring in the vicinity.
- 3.3.18 No relationship between the pits and post holes could be discerned, although it is possible that Pit **32** pre-dated the post-holes. A shallow, poorly-defined feature (**38**) located in the north-west corner of the test pit may have truncated Pit **32** and post-hole **24**.
- 3.3.19 The post-holes were all sub-circular in plan and measured between 0.2m and 0.48m wide and 0.16m and 0.32m deep. The deepest post-holes (**20** & **22**) (Plate 2) were located towards the centre of the group and had steep-sided profiles; the remainder were relatively shallow with concave profiles. All contained similar mid-greyish brown clay silt fills with occasional sub-rounded stones and pebbles, two of which contained pottery. Post-hole **20** contained sherds of mid-9th to mid-12th century date, which were the earliest examples recovered from the site, and included a relatively unabraded

sherd from a Middle Saxon shelly ware jar. Post-hole **22** produced five sherds with an overall date of c. mid-14th century (App. B3).

Trench 3

- 3.3.20 A mid orange grey soil deposit (104) (Fig. 9, Section 23) sealed Ditch **108**. It was up to 0.66m thick and contained four sherds of Huntingdon Fen Sandy ware pottery and a single sherd of Lyveden Shelly ware dating to the mid 12th to mid 14th century (App. B.3).

Trench 4

- 3.3.21 A shallow feature (**116**) that continued beyond the eastern limit of the trench truncated Ditch **114**. Given the preponderance of ditches on site, it seems likely that feature **116** represented a ditch terminal. No finds were recovered from its single fill (115) but the greatest density of charred cereal grains were recovered from the environmental sample taken from this feature (App. C3).
- 3.3.22 By far the largest feature within the trench was Ditch **118**, which measured 2.04m in width by 0.90m in depth (Fig. 9, Section 28). The gravel natural into which the ditch was cut was fairly unstable and prone to collapse but the ditch had a distinctive steeply sloped western face and stepped eastern edge, very similar to that of Ditch **101** (Phase 3) in Trench 3. Its three fills (117, 121 & 122) comprised dark clay silts that are likely to have been derived from water borne sediments. Fill 121 contained two sherds of mid 12th to mid 14th century pottery.

Trench 5

- 3.3.23 A layer of mid reddish brown clay silt (131) whose southern limit ran east to west across the trench, overlay the natural in the northern part of the trench (Fig. 10, Section 31). The full thickness of Layer 131 could not be ascertained, as it was truncated by the modern levelling layers for the car park, but it survived to a depth of 0.52m. The pottery recovered from it included a range of wares dating from the 13th to 15th century. Its southern edge was sloping and abutted by Layer 130 (Phase 3). On the eastern side of the trench there was a significant amount of modern disturbance, which might imply that Layer 131 originally extended further southwards; the survival of Layer 131 perhaps gives some indication of the ground level during the medieval period which would suggest that the ditches recorded on site were, in many cases, far deeper than their surviving cuts suggest. A very similar layer (145) was recorded in the southern part of Trench 6 (below).

Trench 6

- 3.3.24 Ditch **137** was aligned parallel with Ditch **132** (Phase 1) and was 2.52m wide by approximately 0.50m deep, with relatively steep sides and a wide, flat base (Fig. 10, Section 33). It contained two fills (138 & 139) comprised of homogeneous grey brown clay silts that in all likelihood represented water lain sediments. It was truncated on its southern side by a later ditch (**140**) (Phase 3). The terminal of this feature may have been observed in Trench 10 (**172**).
- 3.3.25 In the southern part of the trench a layer (145), very similar in character and composition to Layer 131 from Trench 5, was recorded extending southwards. As with Layer 131, it was vertically truncated by modern intrusions but its surviving thickness was 0.85m and it was found to contain a range of mid 12th to 14th century wares, including Lyveden Stanion, St Neots and Huntingdon Fen Sandy ware. The northern

edge of Layer 145 sloped at an angle of approximately 45° and it is suggested that 145/131 represented either a surviving medieval soil layer, or possibly a remnant of bank material bounding the ditches to the north and south (Fig. 10, Section 35).

Trench 10

- 3.3.26 Ditch **(172)** entered the trench from the east before terminating close to the western edge. In profile, Ditch **172** had almost vertical sides and a relatively flat base and was 1.50m wide by 0.80m deep (Fig. 10, Section 38). It contained two fills (173 & 174): the primary deposit (174) was a sterile dark grey brown silt clay, whilst upper fill 173 was a light blue grey silt clay that was found to contain three sherds of mid 13th to 14th century pottery.

Phase 3 (Fig. 7)

Test Pit 1

- 3.3.27 A sterile dark brown clay silt layer (4), measuring 0.2-0.35m thick, extended across the trench and sealed Layer 5 (Phase 2). This probably represented a late medieval cultivation soil similar to Layer 16 in Test Pit 2.

Test Pit 2

- 3.3.28 A 0.10m-thick layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (16), similar to Layer 4 above, sealed the cut features in Test Pit 2 (Fig. 9, Section 2). This contained an intrusive sherd of 19th century pottery and a sherd of 13th to mid-14th century date.

Trench 3

- 3.3.29 Two sections were dug through Ditch **101** (Plate 5), which lay approximately 1m to the south of Ditch **108** (Phase 1) and truncated Layer 104 (Phase 2). A concrete pad precluded the excavation of a full profile in the first slot, however a second segment established that it was 2.10m in width by 1.00m deep with a steeply sloped western face and a stepped eastern edge (Fig. 9, Section 22).
- 3.3.30 Three deposits filled the ditch (100, 105 & 106). The fills were homogeneous clay silt in composition becoming progressively darker down to the basal deposit (106). It is suggested that they were water lain accumulations. A single sherd from a Lyveden Stanion ware jug, dated to the 13th to mid 14th century, was recovered from fill 105, while the tertiary fill (100) contained sherds of mid 12th to late 13th century pottery (App. B.3). A continuation of the ditch was recorded in Trench 5 (**124**) and Trench 9 (**166**).

Trench 5

- 3.3.31 Lying in between Phase 2 Ditches **123** and **125** was Ditch **124** (Plate 7), which was 2m wide by 0.62m deep (Fig. 9, Section 29). This feature had a steep-sided profile and was filled by two clay silt deposits (127 & 128). The primary fill (128) was sterile, the dark grey brown tertiary fill (127) contained two sherds of Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware, dated to the mid 12th to mid 14th century.
- 3.3.32 Layer 130, which abutted Layer 131 (Phase 2) comprised a dark blue grey silty clay (Fig. 10, Section 31). It is suggested that this layer represented infilling during the later medieval period.

Trench 6

- 3.3.33 Ditch **140** truncated the southern edge of Ditch **137** (Phase 2) and was very similar in shape and dimensions (Fig. 10, Section 33). Its primary fill (142) comprised a water lain dark grey brown silt that was sealed by a mid grey brown clay silt (141), also the result of natural silting and weathering. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.3.34 Abutting Layer 145 (Phase 2) and overlying the ditches was a layer of mid grey brown silty clay (136), between 0.35m – 0.40m thick, that contained a relatively high frequency of mid C13th to mid C14th pottery. This was in turn sealed by a sterile deposit (135) that extended across the entirety of the trench (Fig. 10, Section 35).

Trenches 7 and 8

- 3.3.35 The southern edge of Ditch **158** was observed in Trench 8. It was not fully exposed as a result of a concrete slab in the upper part of the trench but a section was excavated in order to establish a partial profile of the ditch. No finds were recovered but its alignment led to it being interpreted as a continuation of Ditch **140** from Trench 6.

Trench 9

- 3.3.36 Close to the northern limit of the trench was a possible ditch terminal (**166**) that may have represented the western limit of Ditch **101** from Trench 3. Ditch **166** was not fully exposed in plan or section as a result of its location close to the trench edge and the wet ground conditions (Plate 10). It was however possible to ascertain that it had a similar profile to Ditch **163** (Phase 1) and that it was approximately 1.00m deep. It was filled by two water lain, grey brown clay silt deposits (167 & 168). A single sherd of Lyveden Stanion ware, dated to the 13th to mid 14th century, was recovered from the upper fill (167).

Trench 10

- 3.3.37 Close to the southern limit of the trench was a ditch (**169**) that may have been a continuation of Ditch **140/158** to the east. Ditch **169** was approximately 2m wide by 0.86m deep with steep sides. It contained two fills (170 & 171) and the upper fill (171) contained a single sherd of mid 12th to mid 14th century pottery.

3.4 Period 3: post-medieval

Test Pit 1

- 3.4.1 Overlying Layer 4 was a c.0.30m-thick very dark grey silty clay layer (3) with occasional sub-angular flints and tile fragments (Fig. 9, Section 1). This is likely to be a post-medieval garden or topsoil equivalent to Layer 13 in Test Pit 2.

Test Pit 2

- 3.4.2 Sealing Layer 16 was a very dark grey silty clay layer (13), up to 0.45m thick that probably represented a post-medieval garden or ploughsoil equivalent to Layer 3 in Test Pit 1. This was cut by a large post-hole (**28**), and two brick walls (14 and 15). Post-hole **28** had near vertical sides and measured 0.45m wide x 0.70m deep (Fig. 9, Section 2) (Plate 4). It was filled by a mid-greyish brown clay silt (29) containing fragments of late 17th to early 18th century brick and tile, clay-pipe and a residual sherd of medieval pottery. The base of the cut contained tile pieces which were laid flat to act as a pad for the former timber post.

- 3.4.3 The two brick walls were parallel and aligned south-east to north-west in the northern part of the test pit (Fig. 9, Section 3). Wall 14 measured 1.20m long x 0.23m wide, wall 15 was 1.40m long x 0.24m wide. Brick samples from the walls indicate a late 17th to early 18th century date of construction; they may have acted as offsets or buttresses for a wall north-west of the test-pit, or may be related to post-medieval garden features.

Trench 3

- 3.4.4 The post-medieval sequence comprised two soil layers (102 & 103) that extended across the entirety of the trench (Fig. 9, Section 23). These were mid to dark grey brown clay silt layers that were in turn sealed by the modern levelling layers associated with the construction of the existing car park.

Trench 4

- 3.4.5 The medieval ditches were sealed by a soil layer (111) that extended across the entirety of the trench. Layer 111 was a mid yellow grey clay silt that contained pottery dating from no earlier than the 17th century. It was overlain by 110, a dark grey brown clay silt that was in turn sealed by the modern made deposits associated with the construction of the Chequers Court car park.

Trenches 7 and 8

- 3.4.6 A brick-built culvert was observed crossing the southern part of the trench on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment. In section it was roughly circular, with a diameter of approximately 1m and extended almost to the base of the trench.

Trench 9

- 3.4.7 A layer of mid brown clay silt, 0.80m thick and containing seven sherds of pottery dated to the 19th century, sealed the ditches described above. This was in turn cut by a steep sided, flat based ditch (**164**) visible in the south-east facing trench section.

3.5 Finds Summary

The Flint

- 3.5.1 A single Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age worked flint was recovered from context 36 (Test Pit 2, Period 1) during the evaluation.

The Glass

- 3.5.2 A single abraded fragment of window glass was recovered from context 13 (Test Pit 2, Period 3) during the evaluation. The glass was thin and the surfaces lightly oxidised and flaking.

The Pottery

A small, moderately abraded post-Roman pottery assemblage of 130 sherds, weighing 1.928kg was recovered. The assemblage was mainly medieval, with a small number of Middle Saxon sherds, late Saxon-early medieval sherds and a number of 15th-19th century sherds also present. It was broadly domestic in character and representative mainly of rubbish deposition.

Clay Tobacco Pipes

- 3.5.3 A single fragment of white ball clay pipe stem was recovered from context 29 (Test Pit 2, Period 3).

Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay

- 3.5.4 A small, abraded assemblage of five fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 0.227kg and a single fragment of fired clay (0.009kg) was recovered from three contexts.

3.6 Environmental Summary

Faunal Remains

- 3.6.1 One hundred fragments of animal bone weighing 6.7kg was recovered, of which 74 were identifiable to species. The assemblage was dominated by cattle remains along with smaller numbers of sheep/goat, horse, cat and dog elements. The cattle remains consist mainly of butchered lower limb elements and mandibular fragments and are typical of primary butchery waste.

Environmental Remains

- 3.6.2 A total of twenty-four bulk samples were taken from medieval ditches, post-holes/pits and layers. Occasional charred cereal grains and charred plant remains, consisting of a single pea and a brome seed, were recovered. There was little evidence for culinary waste, suggesting that the area was not close to human habitation. The ditch flora indicated that the ditches contained flowing water.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 A sequence of occupation spanning the prehistoric to post medieval period was revealed by the excavations at Chequers Court. The surviving remains were predominantly dated to the medieval period and these are discussed by period below.

Prehistoric

4.1.2 The evidence for prehistoric activity on the site was very sparse and consisted of a single, residual flint fragment of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, recovered from Ditch **35** (Fig. 3). To the west, at the adjacent St Germain site, two residual worked flints were also recorded. Although these finds indicate activity during the prehistoric period it is suggested that subsequent truncation is likely to have severely impacted and even destroyed any further evidence, making it impossible to draw any conclusions as to the nature or extent of prehistoric activity on the site.

Pre-medieval

4.1.3 A sherd of Middle Saxon Maxey ware was recovered from Post Hole **20**, this rare find suggests a Middle Saxon presence in the vicinity. The presence of residual Late Saxon-early medieval material in later features is also indicative of domestic occupation close to the site from the mid 11th century onwards (App. B3). However, given the general paucity of material from this period it seems more likely that during this time the site itself was given over to agricultural activity rather than habitation.

4.1.4 Several ditches were recorded in the Test Pits and Trench 6 that were sealed or truncated by layers and features dated to the medieval period. They lay on broadly north-east to south-west alignments and followed a similar pattern to a series of parallel ditches revealed at the St Germain Street. These were aligned east-west or north-east to south-west and may have demarcated plot boundaries fronting onto St Germain Street, or its predecessor (RPS 1999, 28). Several of the ditches produced pottery broadly-datable to the Late Saxon/early medieval period (AD875-1150) whilst others produced no dating evidence at all.

4.1.5 It is suggested that the earliest phase of ditching (**8, 35 & 143**) at this site was part of a similar pattern of land division to that recorded to the west and that these features may be associated with the former lane to the south-east shown on early maps (Clarke & Webster 2011).

4.1.6 In the absence of any finds being recovered from the ditches, other than late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint from Ditch **35**, it cannot be ruled out that they might represent evidence for perhaps Roman or prehistoric activity. Small quantities of Roman pottery and tile were found at St Germain Street, which suggests that the immediate vicinity may have been occupied or cultivated to some extent prior to the Saxon period.

Medieval cultivation and water management

4.1.7 The evidence for activity during the medieval period was almost exclusively in the form of ditches that extended across the development site on north-west to south-east alignments, parallel with the town ditch to the north. At the St Germain Street site a series of very similar features were recorded in the north-eastern part of the site (RPS 1999, 8) and, although it is not possible to directly link any of the features from these

two pieces of work, it seems highly likely that they represent part of a network of drainage ditches within the bounds of the town ditch, possibly draining towards the river.

- 4.1.8 It is quite probable that these features also served a secondary function as plot boundaries. Their alignment, perpendicular to St. Germain Street to the west and Hartford Road to the east, implies properties leading off those roads since access would otherwise be impossible. Although only one 'property' can be identified, by inference a second and third would have lain either side. The most notable distinction between these parcels of land is the presence of potential structures in the southern, and potential the northernmost 'property', and the clear evidence for cultivation in the central 'property'.
- 4.1.9 The finds evidence dated them to the 12th to 14th century, contemporary with those recorded to the west (RPS 1999, 8) but on this site it has been possible to identify at least three phases of ditching (Figs. 4 - 6) on the basis of the stratigraphic evidence recorded where the ditches intersected. These phases do not indicate any particular change in the nature of occupation on the site. Their size, overall shape and nature of their fills was fairly consistent, suggesting a continuity of purpose, but what they do highlight is that the site lay within a dynamic landscape, probably prone to flooding, that required a significant amount of effort to keep it in a viable state. It is possible that Layer 104 in Trench 3 represents deposition by a flooding event. This layer, which dated from the mid 12th to mid 14th century, sealed Ditch **108** and was subsequently truncated by Ditch **101**.
- 4.1.10 The inference that the ditches were for drainage purposes is supported by the environmental evidence gleaned from the samples which contained examples of Wetland plant species such as Hemlock, saw sedge and varieties of reed that would have grown on ditch banks and also pond weed, that indicate that the ditches contained flowing water. Amphibian bones were also recovered (App. C2).
- 4.1.11 Of particular note was Layer 131/145 (Fig. 10, Sections 31 & 35), which was preserved in the central part of the development area and visible in Trenches 5 (131) and 6 (145). It was up to 0.85m thick at its deepest point and bounded by Ditch **118** to the south and Ditch **140** to the north; with a maximum width of 18m. The assemblage of pottery recovered from it was contemporary with that recovered from the ditches. The edges of Layer 131/145 were sloped and it is possible that it represented the surviving remnant of a bank. It should be noted that this layer is likely to have outlasted individual phases of ditching and, given its width, it could even represent a cultivation layer between the drainage ditches. The layer was well mixed and homogeneous, suggesting that even if it comprised upcast from the excavation of the drainage ditches, it was thoroughly mixed in the proceeding years, as would be expected of cultivated soils. There was also evidence for well established flora in the vicinity of the site in the form of fifty fragments of brushwood recovered from Ditch **150** that may have come from a hedgerow, perhaps marking the edge of plots of land within the development site.
- 4.1.12 This is corroborated by the finds and environmental assemblages, specifically from Ditch **132/150**, which revealed evidence for the cultivation of the immediate environment during this period, particularly during Phase 1. A variety of waterlogged seeds were recovered including cornflower, stinking mayweed, docks and poppies, all of which favour cultivated and disturbed soils (App. C2). Small quantities of charred cereal grains were also recovered in the southern part of the site (Trench 4), which may indicate relative proximity to an area of habitation. Animal bone, mussel shells and pottery also recovered from the ditches and Layer 131/145 suggest that midden

material was used to manure the area. The environmental sequence established to the west, at St Germain Street, was similar although slightly greater quantities of charred cereal grains were recovered, perhaps as a result of the site being closer to areas of habitation (RPS 1999, 27).

- 4.1.13 Given the extensive modern disturbance noted across the entire development, some of which extended over a metre below the current ground level, it is quite possible that Layer 131/145 is merely the only surviving remnant, rather than the full extent, of this type of material within the site (Fig. 5). The survival of a number of cultivation layers at St Germain Street certainly appear to support this (RPS 1999, 10).

Medieval Settlement Expansion

- 4.1.14 Although the majority of the evidence from the excavation was for cultivation and organised land division, rather than settlement activity, there was some suggestion in the southernmost part of the development area that areas of habitation lay nearby.
- 4.1.15 In Test Pit 2 occupation-related or domestic activities may be represented by a number of pits and post-holes. The pits (**30 & 32**) may have been quarries. Conversely, the small quantities of hammerscale recovered from them might indicate blacksmithing in the vicinity and that they had an industrial function. Similar evidence has been found elsewhere in the town, notably to the south of the High Street at excavations to the rear of Walden House and Gazeley House (HUNWHS05 and HUNTCR07) (Clarke & Webster 2011).
- 4.1.16 Charred cereal grains were also recovered from these features and from Ditch **116** in Trench 4 and these are indicative of crop processing that would have taken place in or near to settlement. The post-holes in Test Pit 2 were the only example of this feature type recorded on site and despite them not forming a coherent plan they do represent evidence for the construction of either buildings or perhaps a boundary.
- 4.1.17 If these features do indeed represent the edge of settlement then it may be that Ditch **163** in Trench 9 represents the north-western limit of this putative zone of occupation. As the only major ditch within the development site that ran on a different, south-west to north-east, alignment it seems likely that it demarcated a significant boundary and whilst it was not possible to fully excavate this feature it was clearly of considerable size, a minimum of 1.80m in width and over 0.75m deep. It is possible that it formed part of a single border in conjunction with Ditch **108**, which was aligned perpendicular and continued to the east.
- 4.1.18 Ditches **114** and **116**, located within Trench 4, were smaller than average for the site and had parallels at the excavations to the west where a series of gullies were recorded in close proximity to St Germain Street (RPS 1999, 7). It may be that these features also represent small sub divisions of back plots close to areas of habitation.
- 4.1.19 Ditch **148**, in Trench 6, remains an anomaly as it was quite different in character to the ditches and gullies recorded elsewhere; its square cut profile being reminiscent of a structural cut such as a beamslot. If this were the case then it would place the structure far to the north of the other surviving structural evidence. An interesting comparison might be found in the far north-eastern part of the St Germain Street site where a possible robbed-out foundation trench was recorded perpendicular to the town ditch (RPS 1999).
- 4.1.20 With reference to the project aims (Section 2), the apparent shift from discrete and relatively small occupational features in the south of the site, to those more commonly associated with drainage and cultivation in the north, provides evidence for the

northwards expansion of the town to the rear of the High Street into previously marginal areas. This is mirrored at the adjacent St Germain Street site where mid-12th to mid/late-14th century plot boundaries/ditches, pits and wells were concentrated along the western part of the site close to St Germain Street and also at the Huntingdon town centre redevelopment project to the south of the High Street where increased activity during this time has also been recorded (Clarke & Webster 2011).

Late medieval to post medieval decline

- 4.1.21 There was an apparent decline in activity on the site after the 14th century with many of the ditches falling into disuse and, based on the homogeneous silty character of their fills, silting up. Accumulations of soil and silt represented by Layers 130 (Trench 5) and 135 and 136 (Trench 6), that contained a relatively high frequency of mid 13th mid 14th pottery, were laid down during this time. Similar layers (4 & 16) were recorded in the Test Pits and at St Germain Street site, where these layers were up to 0.6m thick (RPS 1999, 11). Previously it appears that the drainage ditches within the area were reinstated, as evidenced by the cutting of Ditch **101** through Layer 104 in Trench 3, subsequent to the disuse of Ditch **108**.
- 4.1.22 This absence of activity coincides with a general decline of the town in the aftermath of the Black Death, further evidence of which has been recorded throughout Huntingdon. At St Germain Street a number of late medieval/post medieval ditches and gullies were established and several pits and a timber-lined well dug, suggesting that some habitation persisted during this time, closer to the street frontage. Some of the pits may have had specific industrial functions associated with tanning or possibly retting and these in particular are reminiscent of features identified during excavations to the rear of Gazeley House and Walden House (HUNTCR07 and HUNWHS05), which were interpreted as 14th-16th century industrial features (Clarke & Webster 2011).
- 4.1.23 These findings are supported by the cartographic evidence, notably Speed's map of 1610, which shows the retraction of the urban core in the early post-medieval period when large areas of previously occupied land, including the current site, reverted to pasture or other agricultural use (Clarke & Webster 2011).
- 4.1.24 During the post medieval period the site appears to have been largely undeveloped until the late 17th century with garden soils or cultivation layers (3, 12, 13 & 103) accumulating over an extended period of time across the development area. The only evidence for human activity on the site during this time were two parallel late-17th to early-18th century brick wall foundations in Test Pit 2. A partly-walled narrow lane (marked as 'FP') is shown crossing the site on the 1st, 2nd and 4th edition Ordnance Survey maps (Higgs 2010, figs 7-9) and it is possible that these wall foundations are somehow related to these (Clarke & Webster 2011). A substantial post-hole containing brick and tile of a similar date to the walls may be associated with them. To the west, numerous brick foundations, wells and pits were recorded, some of which also date to the late 17th century. Cultivation deposits were also identified across the site. Some of these remains probably relate to the Nursery that was established here in the mid-18th century (Higgs 2010, 12).

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The excavation has confirmed the presence of well-preserved, stratified archaeological deposits and features spanning the pre-medieval to post-medieval periods within the proposed development area. Although little evidence pre-dating the medieval period

survives on the site, the small quantities of Saxon pottery recovered indicate that there was some activity during this time.

- 4.2.2 To the east, at the Model Laundry and Hampden House sites (HUNMOL05 and HUNHAH08 respectively), Late Saxon drainage and land reclamation was in evidence in the form of a succession of large ditches dug across those sites. It is possible that evidence for similar activities had been truncated on this site by the continued need to drain the land and cultivation activities during subsequent periods. Certainly during the 12th to 14th century the areas closer to the river were viable for more permanent occupation, primarily in the form of craft industrial processes (Thatcher 2010).
- 4.2.3 At the Chequers Court site it appears that the primary activities on the site in the medieval period were drainage and cultivation and that this part of Huntindgon remained a fairly open landscape, prone to flooding. Despite this, the repeated re-instatement of the drainage ditches throughout the 12th to 14th centuries demonstrates a fairly significant investment of time and effort in maintaining the site. This may go some way to demonstrating the demand for agricultural land to support the growth of the town during this time. This growth was in evidence in the southern part of the site in the form of pits, post holes and shallow gullies that may have represented features associated with settlement.
- 4.2.4 The evidence from the later medieval to post medieval period fits with the established pattern of decline and contraction of the town and is illustrated by the disuse and infilling of the drainage ditches and accumulations of cultivation soils across the site. This was followed by limited redevelopment of the southern part of the site, suggested by the construction of brick wall foundations and a substantial post-hole in the late 17th or early 18th centuries.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Test Pit 1							
General description					Orientation		
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.					-		
					Avg. depth (m)		0.44
					Width (m)		2.10
					Length (m)		37.70
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1	Layer	-	0.09	Tarmac	-	-	
2	Layer	-	0.7	Hardcore	-	-	
3	Layer	-	0.28-0.30	Post medieval top soil	-	-	
4	Layer		0.25-0.35	Late medieval/post medieval layer	-	-	
5	Layer		0.15-0.28	Medieval soil/flood deposit	pottery	Mid-12th to mid-14th c.	
6	Layer		0.12-0.18	Medieval or earlier soil/interface	-	-	
7	Natural			Clays and sandy fine gravels	-	-	
8	Cut	0.62	0.28	Narrow ditch	-	-	
9	Fill	0.62	0.28	Ditch fill	-	-	
Test Pit 2							
General description					Orientation		
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.					-		
					Avg. depth (m)		0.44
					Width (m)		2.10
					Length (m)		37.70
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
10	Layer		0.11	Tarmac car park	-	Modern	
11	Layer		0.20-0.25	Hardcore	-	-	
12	Layer		0.4	Rubble levelling material	-	-	
13	Layer		0.40-0.45	Post medieval soil/sub soil	Pottery; CBM	19th-20th c. & Late 17th-early 18th c.	
14	Wall	0.23		Brick wall	-	Late 17th-early 18th c.	
15	Wall	0.24		Brick wall	-	Late 17th-early 18th c.	
16	Layer		0.35	Late medieval soil	pottery	13th-mid-14th /19th c.	
17	Layer		0.15-	Medieval soil	Bone	Animal bone	

			0.20			
18	Cut	0.32	0.16	Post hole	-	-
19	Fill			Fill of post hole 18	-	-
20	Cut	0.45	0.32	Post hole	-	-
21	Fill			Fill of post hole 20	pottery	Late Saxon/Early medieval (mid 9th-mid-12th c.)
22	Cut	0.4	0.26	Post hole		-
23	Fill			Fill of post hole 22	pottery	Mid-14th c.
24	Cut	0.65	0.18	Double post hole	-	-
25	Fill			Fill of post hole 24	-	-
26	Cut	0.2	0.3	Post hole	-	-
27	Fill			Fill of post hole 26	-	-
28	Cut	0.45	0.79	Post Hole	-	-
29	Fill			Fill of post hole 28	Pot; tile/brick	(pot 11th-mid-14thc.) Late 17th-early 18th century
30	Cut		0.5	Pit	-	-
31	Fill			Fill of pit 30	pot/bone/sl ag	Mid 12th-mid 14th c.
32	Cut		0.52	Pit	-	-
33	Fill			Fill of pit 32	-	-
34	Layer		0.35	Medieval soil	pottery	Mid 12th-mid 14th c.
35	Cut	0.5	0.26	Ditch	-	-
36	Fill			Fill of ditch 35	flint	
37	Natural			Sands gravels and clays	-	-
38	Cut			?post hole	-	-
39	Fill			Fill of post-hole	-	-

Trench 3

General description

2 x medieval drainage ditches and post med cultivation layers	Orientation	NE-SW
	Avg. depth (m)	2
	Width (m)	2.10
	Length (m)	4.8

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Fill	2.12	0.24	Fill of Ditch 101	pottery	Mid-12th to mid-14th c.
101	Cut	2.12	1.02	Ditch Cut	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.36	Cultivation Layer	-	-
103	Layer	-	0.52	Cultivation Layer	pottery	18th c. +
104	Layer	-	0.66	Cultivation Layer	-	-

105	Layer	1.98	0.32	Cultivation Layer	pottery	Mid-13th to mid-14th c.
106	Fill	1.06	0.5	Fill of Ditch 101	-	-
107	Fill	1.98	0.22	Fill of Ditch 108	-	-
108	Cut	1.98	0.78	Ditch Cut	-	-
109	Fill	1.5	0.58	Fill of Ditch 108	-	-
Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
4 x medieval drainage ditches and post med cultivation layers.					Avg. depth (m)	1.3
					Width (m)	4.5
					Length (m)	25.8
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
110	Layer	-	0.38	Cultivation Layer	-	-
111	Layer	-	0.45	Cultivation Layer	pottery	17th c.+
112	Layer	-	0.22	Cultivation Layer	-	-
113	Fill	0.61	0.34	Fill of Ditch 114	pottery	13th to mid-14th c.
114	Cut	0.61	0.34	Ditch cut	-	-
115	Fill	0.49	0.26	Fill of Ditch 116	-	-
116	Cut	0.49	0.26	Ditch cut	-	-
117	Fill	1.52	0.26	Fill of Ditch 118	-	-
118	Cut	2.02	0.88	Ditch cut	-	-
119	Fill	1.22	0.48	Fill of Ditch 120	-	-
120	Cut	1.22	0.48	Ditch cut	-	-
121	Fill	1.48	0.46	Fill of Ditch 118	pottery	Mid-12th to mid-14th c.
122	Fill	0.84	0.42	Fill of Ditch 118	-	-
Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
3 x medieval drainage ditches and post med cultivation layers					Avg. depth (m)	1.2
					Width (m)	5.15
					Length (m)	18.4
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
123	Cut	1.36	0.48	Topsoil	-	-
124	Cut	1.96	0.62	Subsoil	-	-
125	Cut	-	0.38	Natural	-	-
126	Fill	1.36	0.48	Fill of Ditch 123	-	-
127	Fill	1.96	0.44	Fill of Ditch 124	pottery	Mid-12th to mid-14th c.

128	Fill	0.8	0.22	Fill of Ditch 125	-	-
129	Fill	-	0.36	Fill of Ditch 125	pottery	Mid-12th to mid-14th c.
130	Layer	-	0.6	Cultivation Layer	pottery	Mid-12th to mid-14th c.
131	Layer	-	0.6	Cultivation Layer	pottery	Mid-12th to mid-15th c.
Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
5 x Ditches, 1 x pit and medieval cultivation layers.					Avg. depth (m)	1.7
					Width (m)	4
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
132	Cut	1.8	0.35	Ditch Cut	-	-
133	Fill	1.8	0.35	Fill of Ditch 132	pottery	Mid-12th to mid-14th c.
134	Layer	-	0.95	Cultivation Layer	-	-
135	Layer	-	0.38	Cultivation Layer	-	-
136	Layer	-	0.4	Cultivation Layer	pottery	Mid-13th to mid-14th c.
137	Cut	1.8	0.65	Ditch Cut	-	-
138	Fill	1.8	0.32	Fill of Ditch 137	-	-
139	Fill	1.5	0.4	Fill of Ditch 137	-	-
140	Cut	2.55	0.65	Ditch Cut	-	-
141	Fill	2.55	0.45	Fill of Ditch 140	-	-
142	Fill	1.74	0.22	Fill of Ditch 140	-	-
143	Cut	0.7	0.32	Ditch Cut	-	-
144	Fill	0.7	0.32	Fill of Ditch 143	-	-
145	Layer	-	0.8	Cultivation Layer	pottery	Mid-12th to mid-14th c.
146	Cut	0.55	0.18	Pit cut	-	-
147	Fill	0.55	0.18	Fill of Pit 146	-	-
148	Cut	0.95	0.32	Ditch Cut	-	-
149	Fill	0.95	0.32	Fill of Ditch 148	pottery	Mid-12th to mid-14th c.
Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
1 x ditch and post medieval brick-built culvert.					Avg. depth (m)	1.9
					Width (m)	5
					Length (m)	8
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
150	Cut	1.56	0.81	Ditch Cut	-	-

151	Fill	1.15	0.14	Fill of Ditch 150	-	-
152	Fill	1.19	0.04	Fill of Ditch 150	-	-
153	Fill	1.23	0.11	Fill of Ditch 150	-	-
154	Fill	1.31	0.1	Fill of Ditch 150	-	-
155	Fill	0.89	0.11	Fill of Ditch 150	pottery	Mid-12th to mid-14th c.
156	Fill	1.43	0.17	Fill of Ditch 150	pottery	Mid-11th to mid-12th c.
157	Fill	1.56	0.23	Fill of Ditch 150	-	-

Trench 8

General description 1 x ditch and post medieval brick-built culvert.	Orientation	NE-SW
	Avg. depth (m)	1.54
	Width (m)	5
	Length (m)	5

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
158	Cut	1.25	0.48	Ditch Cut	-	-

Trench 9

General description 3 x medieval ditches.	Orientation	NE-SW
	Avg. depth (m)	1.45
	Width (m)	4
	Length (m)	13.5

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
159	Layer	-	0.09	Tarmac	-	-
160	Layer	-	0.4	Made Ground	-	-
161	Layer	-	0.8	Cultivation Layer	pottery	19th c.
162	Fill	1.8	0.85	Fill of Ditch 163	-	-
163	Cut	1.8	0.85	Ditch Cut	-	-
164	Cut	1.1	0.8	Ditch Cut	-	-
165	Fill	1.1	0.8	Fill of Ditch 164	-	-
166	Cut	-	1.4	Ditch Cut	-	-
167	Fill	-	0.85	Fill of Ditch 166	pottery	Mid-13th to mid-14th c.
168	Fill	-	0.55	Fill of Ditch 166	-	-

Trench 10

General description 2 x medieval ditches.	Orientation	NE-SW
	Avg. depth (m)	1.64
	Width (m)	3.5
	Length (m)	15

Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
169	Cut	-	-	Ditch Cut	-	-
170	Fill	-	-	Fill of Ditch 166	pottery	16th to 18th c.
171	Fill	-	-	Fill of Ditch 166	pottery	Mid-12th to mid-14th c.
172	Cut	1.5	0.8	Ditch Cut	-	-
173	Fill	1.5	0.42	Fill of Ditch 166	pottery	Mid-13th to mid-14th c.
174	Fill	1.5	0.8	Fill of Ditch 166	-	-
175	Layer	1.5	0.15	Cultivation Layer	pottery	Mid-12th to mid-14th c.

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Flint

Assemblage

- B.1.1 A small worked flint (0.003kg) of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date was recovered from context 36 during the evaluation. No other flint was recovered.

B.2 Glass

Assemblage

- B.2.1 A single abraded fragment of window glass (0.001kg) was recovered from context 13 during the evaluation. The glass is thin (1mm) and the surfaces are lightly oxidised and flaking, the thinness of the glass suggests it may be earlier than the 19th century pottery found alongside it. The shard is not closely datable and no further work is required on this assemblage.

B.3 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher BA AIFA

Introduction and methodology

- B.3.1 The evaluation and subsequent excavations produced a small post-Roman pottery assemblage of 130 sherds, weighing 1.928kg. This total includes material from test pits and subsoil contexts. In addition four sherds (0.049kg) of unstratified material were recorded which, alongside a single Prehistoric sherd (0.007kg) recovered from context 144, are excluded from the above totals and the analysis of the assemblage within this report.
- B.3.2 The assemblage is mainly medieval, while also present are a small number of Middle Saxon sherds, late Saxon-early medieval sherds and a number of 15th-19th century sherds. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the average sherd weight is small to moderate at approximately 15g.
- B.3.3 Recommendations in the evaluation report suggest that the assemblage should be examined in relation to the assemblage recovered from the adjacent Sainsbury's site on St Germain Street in 1999 (RPS,1999), however the small size of the excavation assemblage did not warrant a detailed comparison.

Methodology

- B.3.4 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) *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.3.5 Recording 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 on a context-by-context basis. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Fabric Name	Fabric Code	No. Sherds	Weight (kg)
Bourne D ware	BOND	1	0.022
Brill	BRILL	4	0.027
Cream ware	CREA	1	0.009
Developed St Neots Type ware	DNEOT	14	0.141
Developed Stamford ware	DEST	1	0.004
Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware	EMEMS	1	0.004
Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware/ Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware	EMEMS/MEMS	1	0.059
English Stoneware	ENGS	3	0.129
Grimston Type ware	GRIM	1	0.012
Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	HUNEMW	10	0.172
Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	HUNFSW	34	0.342
Huntingdonshire Late Medieval Calcareous ware	HUNCAL	3	0.024
Lyveden A Type Shelly ware	LYVA	13	0.094
Lyveden-Stanion Glazed ware	LYST	8	0.150
Maxey Type ware	MAX	1	0.008
Medieval Ely ware	MEL	1	0.019
Modern Redwares	MODR	7	0.068
Post Medieval Black Glazed ware	PMBL	1	0.039
Post-medieval Redware	PMR	0	0.206
Refined White Earthen ware	RFWE	3	0.027
Sandy Shelly ware	SSHW	2	0.085
South Cambridgeshire Grog Tempered Sandy ware	SCAGS	1	0.028
St Neots Type ware	NEOT	5	0.029
Staffordshire Slip ware	STSL	1	0.202
Stamford ware	STAM	2	0.010
Total		130	1.928

Table 1. Fabric abbreviations and summary by fabric, sherd count and weight

Sampling Bias

B.3.6 The excavation was carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling strategies on a feature by feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases. Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental remains, there has also been some recovery of pottery. These small quantities of sherds are abraded, not closely datable and have not been considered in this report.

The Assemblage

B.3.7 Ceramic fabrics and abbreviations and a summary catalogue by fabric, sherd count and weight are given in Table 1. The unstratified material has been excluded from this list and all calculations in the body of this report, although it is recorded in the catalogue.

Pottery by period

B.3.8 A single, relatively unabraded sherd from a Maxey ware vessels represents the Middle Saxon finds from the site, indicating some Middle Saxon activity in the vicinity of the excavation.

B.3.9 Late Saxon-early medieval and early medieval wares represent 2% (by weight) of the total assemblage. Seven Late Saxon-early medieval sherds, weighing 0.039kg, from five contexts, including a sooted body sherd of St Neots ware and a single sherd from a

Stamford ware jug, date from the mid 9th to mid 12th century. Some of these sherds were found in association with early medieval fabrics however, suggesting a post-conquest date.

- B.3.10 Early medieval fabrics include 10 sherds (0.172kg) of Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware including a near-complete profile of a sooted jar, a single sherd of Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware and a sherd of what has tentatively been identified as South Cambridgeshire Grog Tempered Sandy ware, described recently by Dr Paul Spoerry (Spoerry forthcoming) and recognised at several sites in South Cambridgeshire. The production source for this fabric is currently unknown.
- B.3.11 Medieval fabrics form the bulk of the pottery recovered, comprising 79 sherds, approximately 46% of the total assemblage by weight. The largest group of sherds are Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware and include jar rim and body sherds, the majority of which are sooted, and a large base sherd possibly from a jug which was heavily limescaled internally. Other fabrics present include Developed St Neots Type ware, Lyveden A Type Shelly ware and a single sherd from a Medieval Ely ware jar. A small number of medieval glazed sherds were recovered (10% of the assemblage by weight), consisting of eight sherds from Lyveden-Stanion jugs and three sherds from Brill vessels. Also present are single sherds from Developed Stamford and Grimston jugs.
- B.3.12 In contrast, only three sherds of late medieval pottery were identified, all Huntingdonshire Late Medieval Calcareous ware, including a base sherd and sooted fragment from a jar.
- B.3.13 Thirteen sherds of post-medieval pottery were identified during the excavations, approximately 24% of the assemblage by weight, and include a rim sherd from a Bourne D jar from Lincolnshire, an unabraded body sherd from a Post-medieval Black Glazed ware bowl and nine sherds from Post-medieval Redware vessels including the hollow handle from a pipkin. The Post-medieval Black Glazed ware and Post-medieval Redware are produced throughout the region and the vessels present cannot be tied to any one kiln. Some of the vessels may be of local manufacture, perhaps from the post-medieval redware kilns at Ely identified in the Broad Street excavations (Cessford, C., Alexander, A. and Dickens, D., 2006).
- B.3.14 Also present are a number of 18th and 19th or 20th century sherds, including rim sherds from Creamware and Refined White Earthenware plates, English stoneware jar and bowl sherds and the base and body sherds from several plant pots.

Assemblage in relation to excavated features

- B.3.15 Test pit 1 produced a single residual sherd of St Neots ware, a sherd of Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware and four sherds of Developed St Neots Type ware from what has been described by the excavator as a medieval soil or flood deposit context 5, dating the context to the mid 12th-mid 14th century.
- B.3.16 Test pit 2, post hole **20** produced some of the earliest pottery recovered from the excavation, a relatively unabraded sherd from a Middle Saxon Maxey Type ware jar recovered alongside a small glazed sherd from a Late Saxon-early medieval Stamford ware jug. Post hole **22** contained a late medieval (c. mid 14th century) sherd from a sooted Huntingdonshire Late Medieval Calcareous ware jar and a small abraded sherd from a medieval Brill jug. Also present were small sherds of Late Saxon-early medieval St Neots, Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware and medieval Developed St Neots Type ware. Post holes **18**, **24**, **26** and **38** produced no pottery. The excavator indicates these post holes cut the medieval soil 17 which produced no datable material. The sherd of

Huntingdonshire Late Medieval Calcareous ware (Mid 14th-end of 15th century) may relate to the structure's final use or destruction rather than its construction (Clarke and Webster 2011).

- B.3.17 From pit **30** were recovered a rim sherd from a sooted Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware jar and a body sherd from a reduced Developed St Neots Type ware vessel, both of which are datable to the mid-12th to mid-14th century.
- B.3.18 Context 34, described as a medieval soil, produced a single abraded sherd of mid 12th-mid 14th century Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware.
- B.3.19 Context 16, described as a late medieval soil, contained a small sherd from a medieval Brill jug and an intrusive body sherd from a transfer decorated Refined White Earthenware plate. The sherd may have originated in the overlying context 13, the post-medieval soil/subsoil, which itself contained a fragment of a Creamware plate, sherds of transfer decorated Refined White Earthenware and plant pot which can be dated to the 19th-20th century. Also present were English stoneware and a residual sherd from a Post-medieval Black Glazed ware bowl
- B.3.20 Post hole **28** cut context 13, however it produced only a small residual sherd of Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware-Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware which is not closely datable and fragments of late 17th to early 18th century brick and tile (Fletcher and Atkins in Clarke and Webster 2011).
- B.3.21 Trench 3 was the first trench of the excavation to produce pottery. Ditch **101** produced three medieval sherds from two contexts, which were a large base sherd from an Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware/Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware vessel, sherds from a Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware jar and a decorated Lyveden-Stanion jug sherd, overall dating the ditch fills to the 13th century.
- B.3.22 From layer 103 were recovered a large unabraded sherd from a late Staffordshire Slip ware bowl most likely 18th century, a Post-medieval Redware sherd and three fragments from several plant pots. Layer 104 also produced a sherd of plant pot, however the remaining pottery is medieval including four sherds of Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware and a small sherd of Lyveden A Type Shelly ware. The fragment of plant pot may be intrusive.
- B.3.23 In Trench 4, layer 111 produced a mix of small medieval and late medieval sherds alongside relatively large sherds of post-medieval redware, including a glazed hollow handle from a pipkin and part of a handled jar. The layer is 17th century or later.
- B.3.24 Gully **114** produced the largest sherd of Lyveden-Stanion recovered from the excavation, an incised and twisted rod handle from a jug. Alongside this were recovered a sherd of Developed Stamford, two sherds of Lyveden A Type Shelly ware and a residual sherd of Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware. The fill of the gully dates to the 13th-mid 14th century. Ditch **118** produced only two small medieval sherds.
- B.3.25 Pottery was recovered from two ditches in Trench 5, of which ditch **124** produced two small sherds of Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware and ditch **125** a single sooted sherd from a Developed St Neots jar. Both fills date from the mid 12th to mid 14th century.
- B.3.26 Layer 130 is a mixed context containing both a small sherd of Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware and Post-medieval Redware and dating is therefore unclear.
- B.3.27 Layer 131, a buried soil possibly similar to that (136) in Trench 6, produced a mixed group of sherds, mainly medieval, including Lyveden-Stanion and Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware alongside residual Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware, Stamford ware

and two sherds of Middle Saxon Maxey Type ware. A single abraded sherd of Huntingdonshire Late Medieval Calcareous ware was also present, although this may be intrusive. The context may date to the 13th to mid 14th century or to the later mid 14th if the buried soil relates to the contraction of Huntingdon after the mid-14th century.

- B.3.28 Excavation in Trench 6 produced the largest group of sherds (17.5% of the total assemblage by weight), recovered from the buried soil layer context 136. The sherds present include a single residual sherd tentatively identified as early medieval South Cambridgeshire Grog Tempered Sandy ware and sherds of Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware. Medieval wares form the majority of the sherds and include the only sherd of Grimston ware. recovered from the assemblage.
- B.3.29 The most common fabric by count is Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware (eight sherds weighing 0.082kg), which includes the convex base from a jug. By weight the most common fabric is Sandy Shelly ware (0.085kg) consisting of a sooted base sherd and the rim from a large rounded bowl.
- B.3.30 Three features in Trench 6 produced pottery. Context 145, described as bank material, is dated to the Mid 12th to mid 14th century by a small number of residual Late Saxon-early medieval and early medieval sherds including Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware. Medieval fabrics consist of two sherds of Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware (0.022kg) and a single sherd of Lyveden A Type Shelly ware.
- B.3.31 Ditch **148** produced only mid 12th to mid 14th century sherds, including a rim from a Medieval Ely ware, the only sherd of Medieval Ely ware from the excavation. Also present were a sherd from a glazed Brill jug, a sooted sherd from the base of a Lyveden A Type Shelly ware jar and a small abraded sherd of Developed St Neots Type ware.
- B.3.32 Ditch **132** produced only a single sherd from the base of a sooted Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware, however the ditch was also recognised in Trench 7 where it was recorded as Ditch **150**. Ditch **150** was the only feature in Trench 7 to produce pottery and two contexts produced a total of 7 sherds (0.212kg). From context 155 four sherds of Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware, including the rim from a sooted and internally limescaled jar were recovered. From context 156 a near complete profile of a Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware small, rounded jar. The fabric is coarser than normally seen in Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware vessels, however a Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware spouted pitcher in a similar coarse fabric was recovered from the Huntingdon Town Centre excavation and is described in Sperry forthcoming.
- B.3.33 Layer 161 in Trench 9 was a mix of residual medieval and post medieval sherds alongside modern redwares, mostly fragments of plant pot. Also in Trench 9, Ditch **166** produced a single unabraded sherd from a Lyveden-Stanion Glazed ware jug.
- B.3.34 In Trench 10, two contexts from ditch **169** produced pottery. From secondary fill 171 a relatively unabraded sherd of Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware and from the primary fill an unabraded sherd of Post-medieval Redware. The post-medieval pottery may be intrusive although the size and unabraded nature of the sherd suggests that it is not.
- B.3.35 Ditch **172** produced a Lyveden-Stanion Glazed sherd, an abraded sherd from a sooted Lyveden A Type Shelly ware jar and a base sherd from a Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware vessel. From layer 175 a base sherd from a Developed St Neots jar was recovered. The pottery from the ditch and the layer are 13th to mid 14th century in date.

Conclusion

- B.3.36 The whole assemblage is broadly domestic in character, and produced a similar although smaller range of fabrics and vessels to those seen in the occupational assemblages from Stukely Road and Town centre excavations. This assemblage appears to represent mainly rubbish deposition. The presence of Middle Saxon Maxey ware from post hole **20**, suggests some Middle Saxon activity in the vicinity of the site and the presence Late Saxon-early medieval and medieval material, although somewhat disturbed by later activity, indicates domestic occupation from the mid 11th century onwards close to the area of excavation.
- B.3.37 The area falls within the bounds of the expanding 13th century medieval town, yet low levels of material recovered suggests that this area was under-developed throughout the early medieval and medieval period, possibly due to the threat of flooding or poor drainage as indicated by flood deposits and the cutting of drainage and/or boundary ditches (Clarke and Webster 2011).

Illustration Catalogue (Fig. 11)

- B.3.38 Near complete profile of a Huntingdonshire early medieval ware hand made, wheel finished, small rounded jar with an everted, very slightly externally thickened and rounded rim with a convex and obtuse base. Slight traces of sooting externally and patches of heavy sooting internally. Reduced pale-mid grey external and internal surfaces with mid-dark grey core. Moderately rough fracture, slightly rough fabric with common medium quartz and moderately common medium-coarse calcareous inclusions Ditch 132/150, (156).

Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight	Date range
4	Prehistoric		1	0.01	
5	DNEOT		4	0.035	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
	HUNEMW		1	0.004	
	NEOT		1	0.003	
13	CREA	Plate	1	0.009	19th-20th century
	ENGS	Bowl	1	0.097	
	ENGS	Jar	2	0.032	
	MODR	Plant pot	1	0.004	
	PMBL	Bowl	1	0.039	
	RFWE	Plate	2	0.025	
16	BRILL	Jug	1	0.003	19th-20th century
	RFWE	Plate	1	0.002	
21	MAX		1	0.008	c. Mid 9th century
	STAM	Jug	1	0.003	
23	BRILL	Jug	1	0.004	14th/Mid 14th-end of 15th century
	DNEOT	Jar	1	0.008	
	HUNCAL	Jar	1	0.013	
	HUNEMW	Jar	1	0.003	
	NEOT	Jar	1	0.002	
29	HUNFSW	Jar	1	0.003	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
31	DNEOT		1	0.003	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
31	HUNFSW	Jar	1	0.009	

34	HUNFSW		1	0.006	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
100	EMEMS/MEMS		1	0.059	Mid 12th-late 13th century
	HUNFSW	Jar	1	0.013	
103	MODR	Plant pot	3	0.027	18th century+
	PMR		1	0.018	
	STSL	Bowl	1	0.202	
104	HUNFSW		3	0.033	18th century+ or Mid 12th-mid 14th century if plant pot intrusive.
	HUNFSW	Jar	1	0.009	
	LYVA		1	0.004	
	MODR	Plant pot	1	0.006	
105	LYST	Jug	1	0.006	13th-mid 14th century
111	BRILL	Jug	1	0.004	17th century +
	HUNCAL	Jar	1	0.007	
	HUNFSW		1	0.003	
	HUNFSW	Jar	1	0.002	
	PMR	Jar	2	0.088	
113	DEST	Jug	1	0.004	13th-mid 14th century
	HUNEMW		1	0.004	
	LYST	Jug	1	0.078	
	LYVA		2	0.019	
121	DNEOT		1	0.003	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
	LYVA		1	0.007	
127	HUNFSW		2	0.01	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
129	DNEOT	Jar	1	0.03	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
130	HUNFSW		1	0.008	18th century+ or Mid 12th-mid 14th century
	PMR		1	0.004	
131	HUNCAL		1	0.004	13th-mid 14th century or mid 14th-end 15th century
	HUNEMW		2	0.005	
	HUNFSW		1	0.004	
	HUNFSW	Jar	1	0.023	
	HUNFSW	Jug?	1	0.004	
	LYST	Jug	2	0.014	
	LYVA		4	0.011	
	MAX		2	0.021	
	STAM		1	0.007	
133	HUNFSW	Jar	1	0.007	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
136	DNEOT		4	0.051	Mid 13th-mid 14th century
	GRIM	Jug	1	0.012	
	HUNEMW		2	0.006	
	HUNFSW		7	0.023	
	HUNFSW	Jug	1	0.059	
	LYST	Jug	2	0.022	
	LYVA		2	0.005	
	PMR	Bowl	2	0.024	
	SCAGS		1	0.028	
	SSHW		1	0.020	
	SSHW	Bowl	1	0.065	
145	EMEMS		1	0.004	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
	HUNEMW		1	0.006	

	HUNFSW		2	0.022	
	LYVA	Jar	1	0.015	
	NEOT		1	0.003	
149	BRILL	Jug	1	0.016	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
	DNEOT		1	0.003	
	LYVA	Jar	1	0.027	
	MEL	Jar	1	0.019	
	HUNFSW		1	0.02	
155	HUNFSW	Jar	4	0.05	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
156	HUNEMW	Jar	2	0.144	Mid 11th-end of 12th century
161	BOND	Jar	1	0.022	19th century
	DNEOT	Jar	1	0.007	
	MODR	Plant pot	2	0.031	
	PMR		2	0.008	
	PMR	Bowl	1	0.019	
167	LYST	Jug	1	0.012	13th-mid 14th century
170	PMR		1	0.05	16th-18th century
171	HUNFSW		1	0.02	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
173	HUNFSW		1	0.015	13th-mid 14th century
	LYST	Jar	1	0.018	
	LYVA	Jug	1	0.006	
175	DNEOT		1	0.018	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
99999	LYST	Jug	1	0.032	Unstratified
	LYVA		1	0.008	
	MODR	Pant pot	1	0.001	
	Nottingham Stoneware		1	0.008	

B.4 Clay Tobacco Pipes

Assemblage

- B.4.1 A single short fragment of white ball clay pipe stem weighing 0.003kg, was recovered from context 29. The stem is not closely datable and no further work is required on this assemblage.

B.5 Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay

By Carole Fletcher and Robert Atkins

Assemblage

- B.5.1 A small assemblage of five fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 0.227kg and a single fragment of fired clay (0.009kg) was recovered from three contexts. The condition of the overall assemblage is abraded and the average CBM fragment weight from individual contexts is small at approximately 0.045kg.
- B.5.2 The CBM and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Statement of Research Potential and Further Work

B.5.3 An assemblage of this size provides only basic dating information for a site. No further work is required on this assemblage.

Context	Form	Count	Weight (kg)	Description and Fabric	Date Range
13	Brick	1	0.032	Hand made brick with sanded surfaces. Dark red sandy fabric.	Late 17th-early 18th century
	Roof Tile	1	0.006	12mm thick. Hard fired smooth cream-yellow fabric with pink swirls and numerous small irregular voids.	
29	Brick	1	0.047	Hand made brick with sanded surfaces (mixed with chalk). Red sandy fabric with occasional lumps of chalk 1-5mm.	Late 17th-early 18th century
	Brick	1	0.104	Hand made brick with wiped or wire cut surface. Hard fired smooth cream-yellow fabric with pink swirls and irregular voids.	
	Roof Tile	1	0.038	12mm thick Hard fired smooth yellow-pink surfaces and dull pink-red margins with a grey core and irregular voids, unevenly fired.	Early post medieval
31	Fired Clay	1	0.009	Irregular fragment with no surfaces. Pale and dark grey fabric with some quartz, small amounts of chalk and charcoal/	Not closely datable

Table 2: Ceramic building material

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

Assemblage

- C.1.1 One hundred fragments of of animal bone was recovered from the evaluation with 74 identifiable to species. The total weight of the assemblage was 6.7kg. All bones were collected by hand apart from those recovered from environmental samples; hence a bias towards smaller fragments is to be expected.
- C.1.2 Residuality appears not be an issue and there is no evidence of later contamination of any context. Table 3 shows the species distribution for the assemblage. The assemblage is dominated by cattle remains along with smaller numbers of sheep/goat elements. A single horse 1st phalanx was recovered from context **171**. Commensal species are limited to dogs and cats. Cattle remains consist mainly of butchered lower limb elements and mandibular fragments.
- C.1.3 All fragments were from adult animals with the exception of a neonatal radius and tibia from contexts **133 & 170** respectively. A single metatarsal from context 165 showed evidence of dog gnawing. The largest single context by weight (context **115**), contained a dump of cattle ribs and vertebrae (NISP: 30) Sheep/goat remains consist almost entirely of metapodia along with 2 radii fragments. No juvenile remains were recovered. Dog remains were recovered from several contexts including a number of complete but fragmentary lower limb elements from context **127**. An adult mandible was recovered from context **173**. The only other commensal element took the form of a partial cat humerus from context **113**.
- C.1.4 This is small assemblage that most likely represents primary butchery waste, with any further processing taking place elsewhere.

	NISP	NISP%
Cattle (Bos)	50	67.6
Sheep/Goat (Ovis/Capra)	11	14.8
Horse (Equus)	1	1.4
Dog (Canis familiaris)	11	14.8
Cat (Felis sylvetris)	1	1.4
	74	100

Table 3: Species distribution for the assemblage

C.2 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and Methods

- C.2.1 A total of twenty-four bulk samples (including four from the evaluative phase) were taken from features within the excavated areas of the site at Chequers Court, Huntingdon in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of the archaeological investigation. Samples from the evaluation had indicated that recovery of charred plant remains were likely to be limited but that the site was in an area of high water table and waterlogged remains were likely to be recovered.
- C.2.2 The samples were taken from medieval post-holes/pits, layers and earlier ditches. The ditches were sealed by medieval deposits and the pits were cut into these deposits. Sample 39, fill 174 of ditch **172** was not processed due to diesel contamination.
- C.2.3 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 x. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection.

Quantification

- C.2.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively in the table below according to the following categories:

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

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

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

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	20	22	27	23	21	24	25	26	28	29	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
Context No.	9	31	33	36	105	113	127	115	109	121	122	122	131	130	141	142	149	145	155	153	168	170
Feature No.	8	30	32	35	101	114	124	116	108	118	118	118			140	140	148		150	150	166	169
Feature Type	ditch	pit	pit	ditch	ditch	ditch	ditch	pit	ditch	pit	ditch	ditch	layer	layer	ditch	ditch	ditch	bank	ditch	ditch	ditch	ditch
Trench	1	2	2	2	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	4	5	5	6	6	6	6	7	7	9	10
Equivalent to					101/ 114/ 124	101/ 114/ 124	101/ 114/ 124		118/ 108	118/ 108	118/ 108	118/ 108	118/ 108			140	140		150/ 132	150/ 132	166	169
Cereals																						
Avena grain							#			#			#									
Hordeum grain			#																			
Triticum grain						#									#							
T.aestivum/compactum grain			#			#		##		#			#					#				
Cereal indet.			#					##					#					#				
Other food plants																						
Pisum sativum																						
Dry land herbs						#																
Agrostemma githago																				### wtf		
Anthemis cotula																			#wf	#w	#w	
Bromus sp.																						#
Carduus/Cirsium sp.															#w							#w
Centaurea																				#w		

Results

- C.2.1 The results are recorded above in Table 4. Preservation is mixed; the pits and layer deposits contain plant material that is preserved by carbonisation and the majority of the ditch deposits contain waterlogged plant remains with only occasional charred plant inclusions.
- C.2.2 Preservation of the charred material is poor and is limited to charcoal fragments and abraded charred cereal grains. Barley (*Hordeum* sp.), wheat (*Triticum* sp.) including bread/club wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) and oats (*Avena* sp.) have been identified although preservation is poor. The majority of the cereal grains were recovered from the pits and layers although single grains occur in some of the ditch deposits. A single charred pea (*Pisum sativum*) was recovered from Sample 22, fill 113 of ditch **114** and a charred brome (*Bromus* sp.) seed was noted in Sample 38, fill 170 of ditch **169**.
- C.2.3 A fairly diverse range of waterlogged seeds were recovered from the ditch samples although densities are low with seeds rarely exceeding 50+ specimens. Seeds of plants that are usually associated with cultivated soils include cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*) and corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*) along with stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) which is a plant that particularly favours clay cultivated soils. Docks (*Rumex* sp.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), sow-thistle (*Soncus asper*) and poppies (*Papaver* sp.) are plants that can be found in cultivated soils and also on disturbed soils in general. Stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and thistle (*Carduus/Cirsium* sp.) could have been growing in and around the site and generally suggest fairly high levels of nitrogen.
- C.2.4 Wetland plant species are represented by a single nutlet of saw sedge (*Cladium mariscus*), bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and most likely represent the flora growing on the ditch banks. Pond weed (*Pomogeton* sp.) is an obligate aquatic that would have been growing in the water-filled ditch. Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) is a plant species that prefers damp soils near streams and ditches.
- C.2.5 Trees and shrubs are represented by seeds/pips of wild-cherry (*Prunus* sp.), brambles (*Rubus* sp.) and elderberry (*Sambucus* sp.) which are also likely to be growing in the vicinity of the ditches.
- C.2.6 Small bones and occasional Mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) shells were noted in the residues of the ditch samples.
- C.2.7 A sample of wood was collected from context 152, fill of Ditch **150** and comprised approximately fifty fragments of brushwood up to 15cm in length and between 4mm and 15mm in diameter. Only one fragment appears to have been worked as suggested by an oblique cut at one end.

Discussion

- C.2.8 The charred plant assemblage is restricted to occasional charred cereal grains, the greatest density of which was recovered from Sample 23, fill 115 of pit **116** in Trench 4. The only other charred plant remains recovered consist of a single pea and a brome seed. Such a small assemblage precludes interpretation other than the general lack of culinary waste suggests that the area excavated is not that close to human habitation.
- C.2.9 Ditch **132/150** is somewhat unusual in the consistent recovery of seeds from plants that usually grow in cultivated soils. It is possible that these seeds represent crop processing waste but cereal remains would also be expected to be included. The evidence may suggest that the ditches sampled may be enclosing areas of cultivation.

C.2.10 The ditch flora indicates that the ditches contain water that was not stagnant and possibly flowing. The inclusion of animal bones, mussel shells and pottery indicate that domestic and culinary refuse were deposited in the ditches although it is also possible that midden material was used to manure the cultivated fields. The small bones recovered from the residues of the ditch samples are mainly amphibian.

Conclusions

C.2.11 Environmental sampling during excavations at Chequers Court has shown that charred and waterlogged plant remains are present but that they are of limited interpretable value. The charred plant assemblage is too small to provide any detailed information on human activity in the area suggesting that the site is situated away from main settlement. The waterlogged plant assemblage provides information on the nature of the ditches and the local environment.

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-139828			
Project Name	Medieval drainage and Cultivation at Chequers Court Huntingdon			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	01-03-2011	Finish	01-03-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	HUNCQC11	Planning App. No.	1001717FUL
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

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
Ditch	Medieval 1066 to 1540	Pottery	Early Medieval 410 to 1066
Wall	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Huntingdon	Chequers Court, Huntingdon, PE29 3NQ
Parish		
HER		
Study Area		National Grid Reference
		TL 2413 7190

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Chris Thatcher

Project Archives

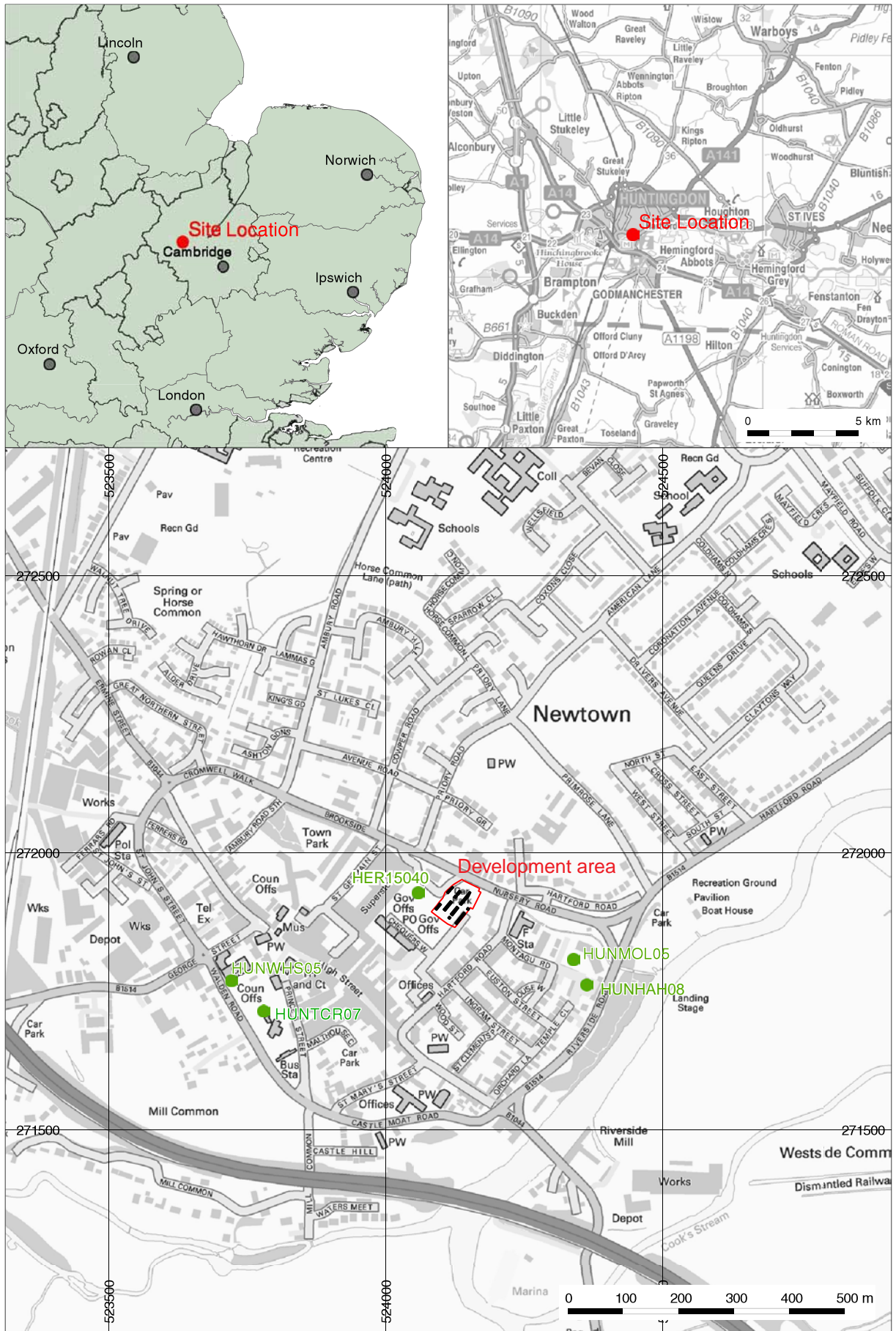
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OA East	OA East	OA East

Archive Contents/Media

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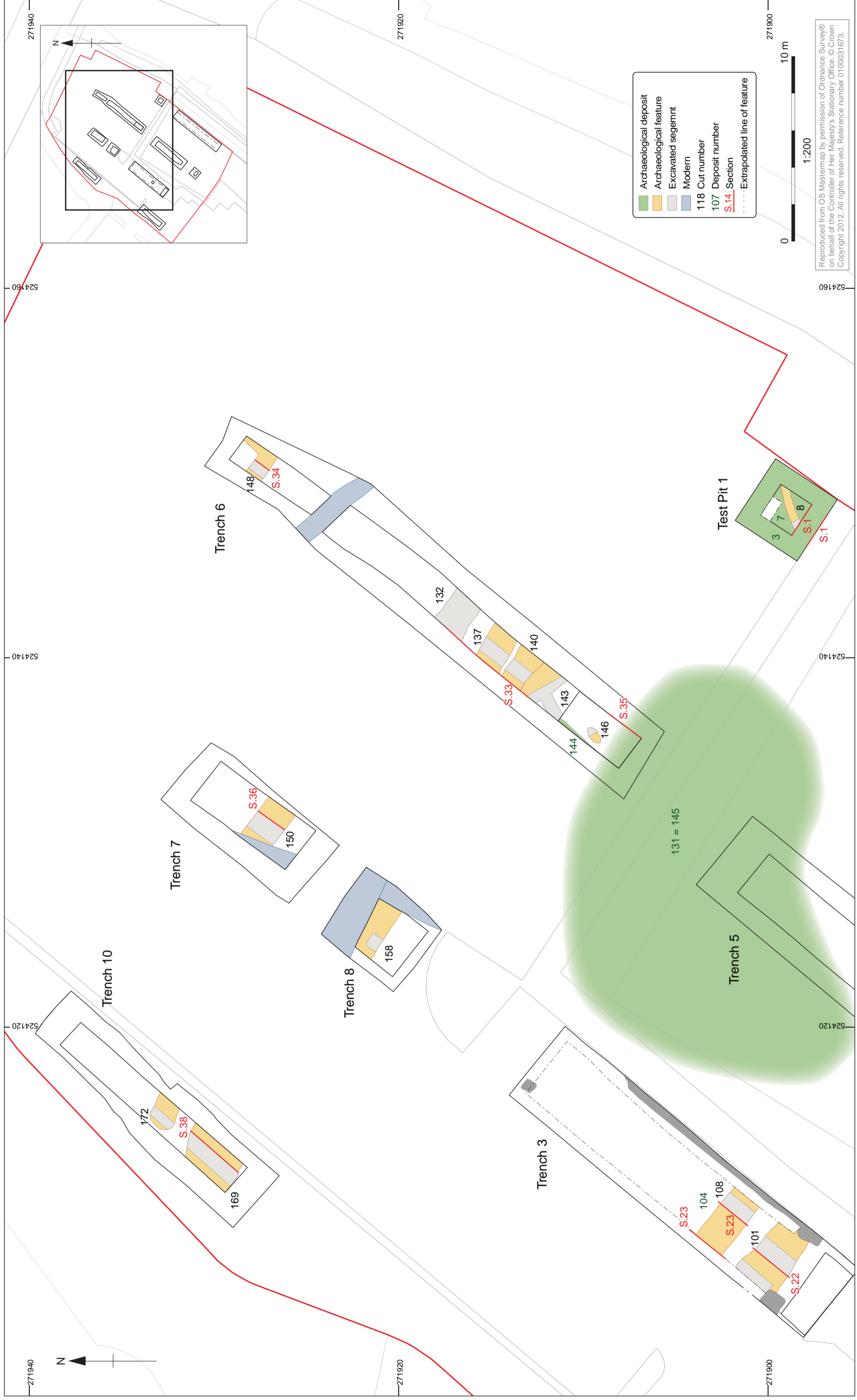
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location



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Figure 2: Trench Plan



Figure 3: Trench Plan



Figure 4: Period 1: Pre Medieval



Figure 5: Period 2: Phase 1



Figure 6: Period 2: Phase 2



Figure 7: Period 2: Phase 3

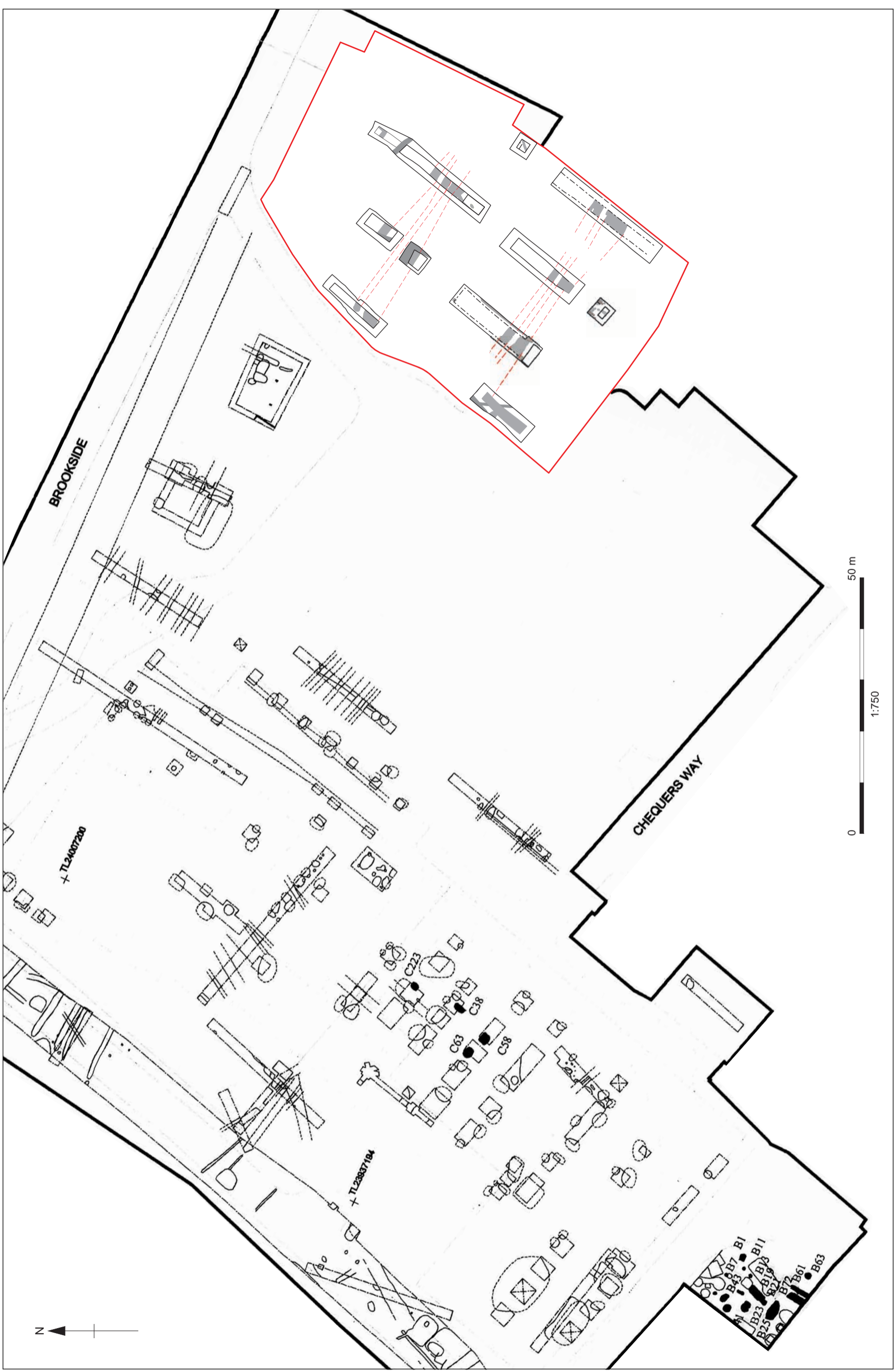


Figure 8: Chequers Court excavations in relation to St Germain St excavations

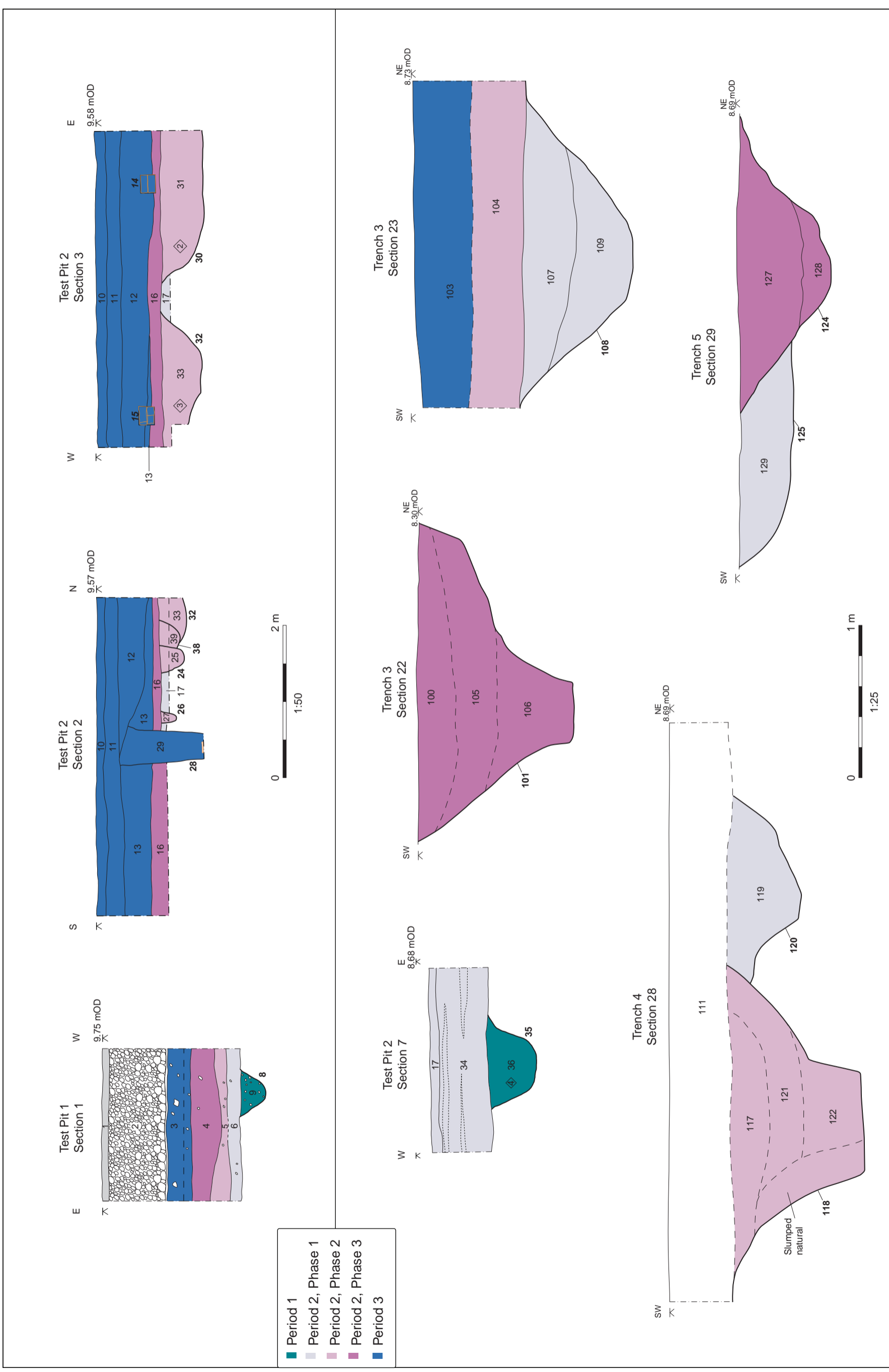


Figure 9: Sections 1, 2 and 3 at scale 1:50 and sections 7, 22, 23, 28 and 29 at scale 1:25

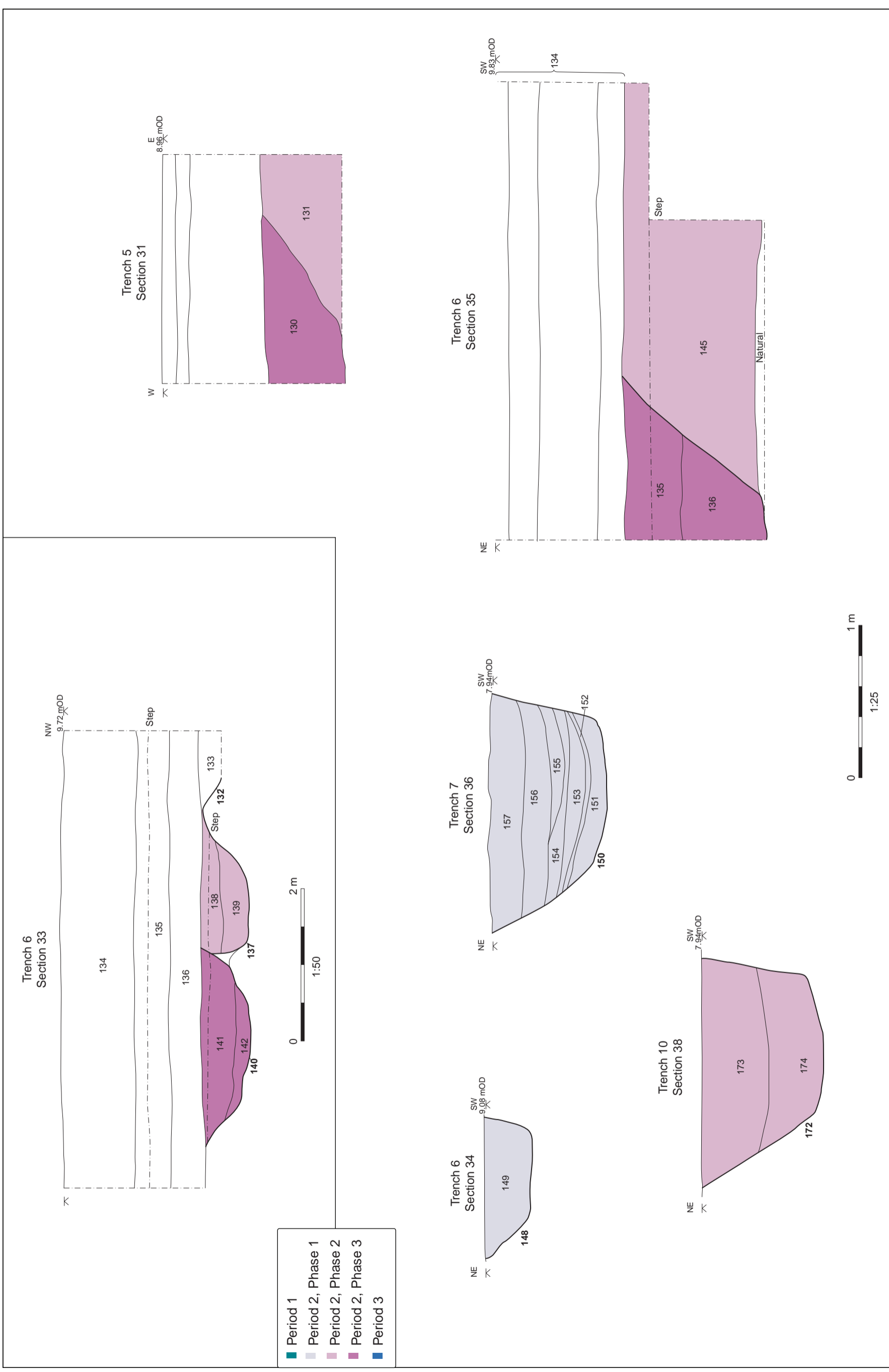


Figure 10: Section 33 at scale 1:50 and sections 31, 34, 35, 36 and 38 at scale 1:25



Figure 11: Huntingdonshire early medieval hand made rounded jar from Ditch 132/150 (156) (photo to be replaced by drawing)



Plate 1: Test Pit 1. Section 1 and ditch 8



Plate 2: Test Pit 2. Ditch 35, post holes 20 and 22



Plate 3: Test Pit 2. Section 3 and pit 32



Plate 4: Test Pit 2. Section 2 and post-holes 26 and 28



Plate 5: Trench 3. Ditch 101



Plate 6: Trench 4. Ditches 114, 118 & 120



Plate 7: Trench 5. Ditches 123, 124 & 125



Plate 8: Trench 7. Ditch 150



Plate 9: Trench 9. Ditch 163

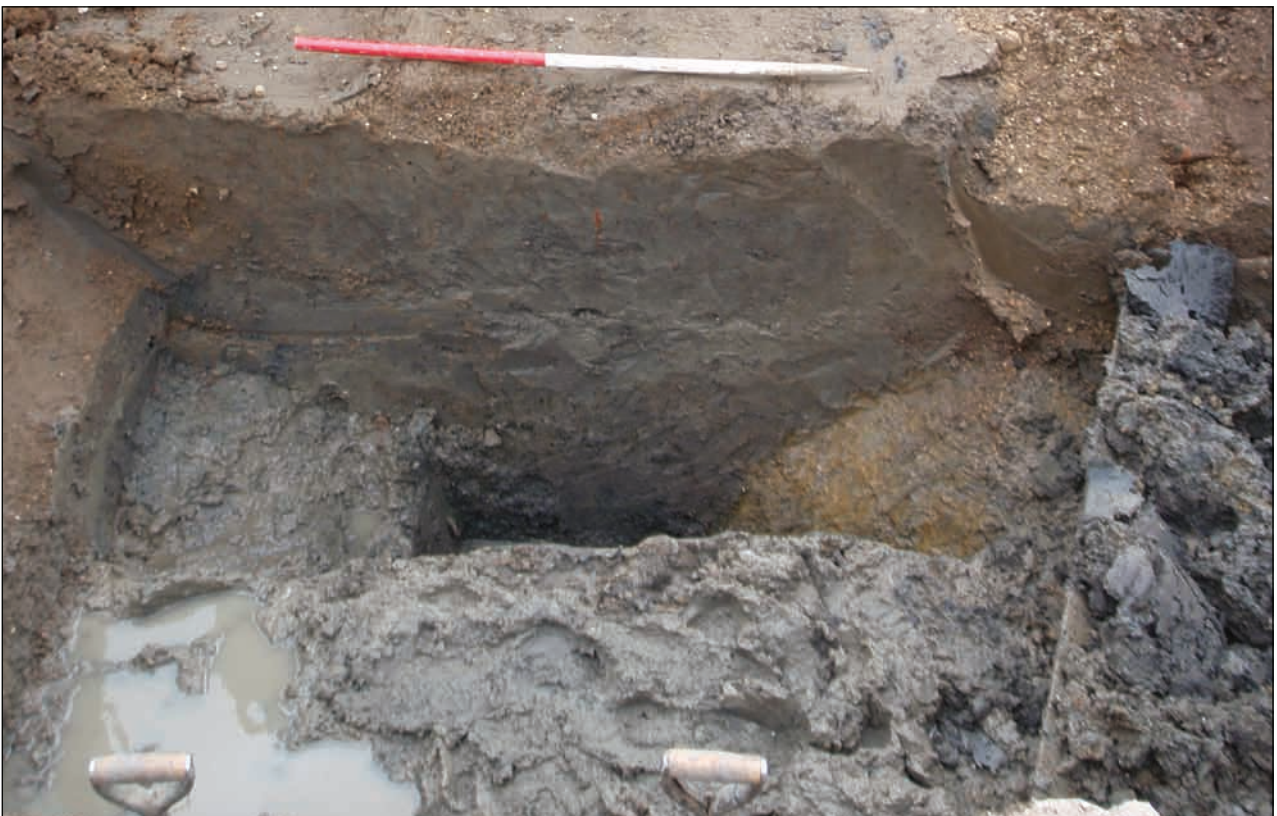


Plate 10: Trench 9. Ditch 166



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