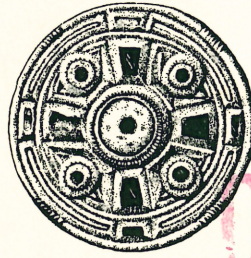


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Archaeological Field Unit

A Medieval Waterfront at the Maltings, Ely

T Reynolds

1994

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No 96

Commissioned By East Cambridgeshire District Council

A Medieval Waterfront at the Maltings, Ely

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1994

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Report No 96

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The site from Riverside Walk. Photo: A.Taylor

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Frontis Piece Showing Site from Riverside Walk by Alison Taylor

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In January 1994, the Archaeology Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council undertook an archaeological assessment of an area between The Maltings and Riverside Walk (Figure 1), Ely in response to a brief by the County Archaeologist's Office (CAO), on behalf of East Cambridgeshire District Council.

The area assessed is in the vicinity of the medieval waterfront and background research has suggested warehouses, hythes and lanes would lie on the site. A single trench was excavated by machine to reveal medieval deposits which were then hand-excavated. Two, superimposed, medieval banks were discovered overlying deposits of a former foreshore into which a single pit had been dug. The pit and banks were all medieval, dating between 1200 -1400, on pottery evidence. In front of the banks the waterfront had been pushed further east by dumping layers of building material (tile, limestone rubble, and small fragments of burnt clay) in succession with layers of clay. The rear of the upper bank had eroded during its lifetime and was refurbished by dumping limestone rubble and tile over the puddled area.

Above the medieval features, a nineteenth century house had been constructed and subsequently demolished, and features representing this were also identified. The evaluation adds considerably to our knowledge of the development of the Ely waterfront and the results should be considered when assessing plans for development in the area.

1 INTRODUCTION

A team of archaeologists from the Archaeology Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council undertook an archaeological assessment in the picnic area between The Maltings and Riverside Walk, Ely (*Figure 1*(TL 546 798)) on behalf of East Cambridgeshire District Council, owners of the site. The work was undertaken in response to a brief from the CAO to permit them to advise County Planners on archaeological considerations for development of the site (it is proposed to extend the existing bar facilities of The Maltings towards the river). A single trench was excavated, running the length of the proposed development and work took place from Tuesday 4th January until Wednesday 12th January.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The underlying geology of the site comprises Kimmeridge Clay which forms part of the hill of the City of Ely. The original course of the River Ouse ran further east (below the hamlet of Stuntney) and was established in its present course sometime in the Twelfth Century due to human activities. Extensive peat deposits also lie close to the site.

The site is surrounded by buildings of nineteenth century date and is presently an open area for picnicing adjacent to the River Ouse. There is a slight slope towards the river and the site lies between 3m and 4m above ordance datum.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Planning Background

There are a number of policies that relate to archaeologically sensitive areas, these are:

Department of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16)

Para. 6 Archaeological remains should be seen as a finite and non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction.

Para. 8 Where nationally important remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation.

Para. 13 If physical preservation *in situ* is not feasible, an archaeological excavation for the purposes of 'preservation by record' may be an acceptable alternative, from the archaeological point of view this should be regarded as a second best option.

Para. 25 Requires local planning authorities to request a prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological field evaluation before deciding upon a planning application on any site where important archaeological remains may exist. This evaluation may lead to requirements for preservation of all, or parts, of the site, or for further archaeological work.

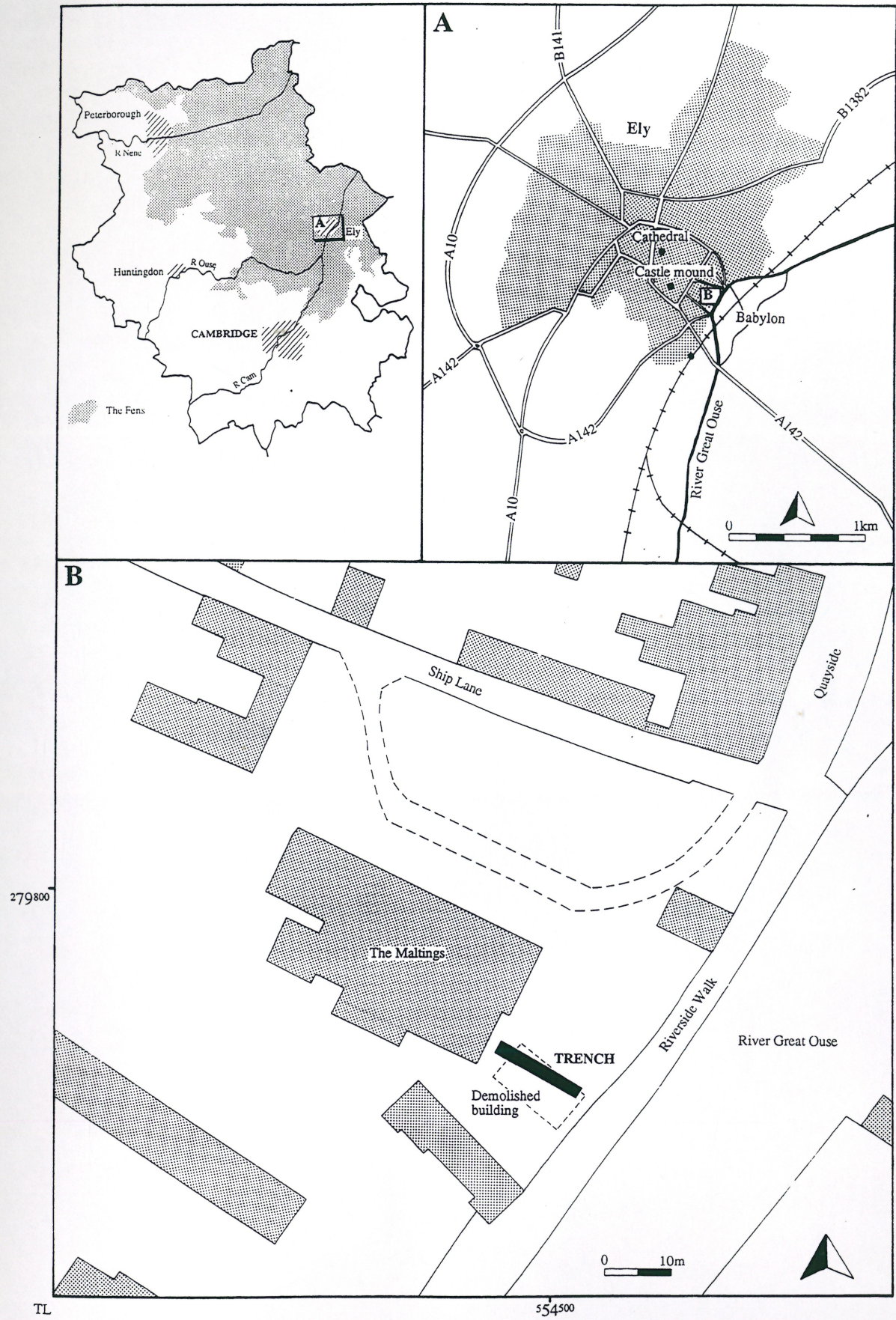


Figure 1 Location of Site

Cambridgeshire County Council Structure Plan

Policy P14/12 The local planning authorities will exercise their powers of development control to preserve scheduled ancient monuments and other important archaeological sites in the County.

Policy P14/13 Where there is no overriding case for the preservation of an archaeological site, opportunities will be sought prior to the granting of planning permission, for excavation and recording of the site.

3.2 Archaeological Background

The Isle of Ely has been occupied since mesolithic times and intermittent prehistoric activity is documented on the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in the form of cropmarks and surface finds. There is no known material in the vicinity of The Maltings of this age. The nearest prehistoric material is a cropmark complex visible on RAF aerial photographs on the golf course to the west of Angel Drove (SMR No.06966). The vicinity of the site, being low-lying, would have been wet and unsuitable for occupation.

Roman finds occur within the area of the City of Ely, suggesting some settlement on the upland (Fox 1923; Phillips 1970) but the River Ouse wound its course at the foot of the hill on which Stuntney is presently situated and so waterfront activities would not have been undertaken in The Maltings area either. A Roman dock with plentiful finds of pottery lay at Stuntney (SMR No. 07118).

Saxon finds also occur on the Isle of Ely but once again, these do not exist on The Maltings site nor in its vicinity. Ely is known from saxon times in place name evidence, it is referred to by Bede as Elge (AD 750) and as Elige (AD 900) in the Anglo-saxon Chronicles. The name reflects the local economy well - Eel Island (Pugh 1967; Reaney 1943)

Major settlement at Ely only began after the founding of a religious house by King Ethelbert (Dowdy 1974; Pugh 1967). An earlier saxon settlement of Cratendune was replaced by the present Ely site after Etheldreda refounded the monastic settlement in AD 673 after the earlier one had been raised by Penda of Mercia. The refounded settlement was again destroyed (by danes) in AD 870 and refounded by King Edgar, c.AD 972. From that point on Ely grew and the religious foundation became a Cathedral in 1109 which would have acted as a spur to further development of the City. The religious house held extensive lands around the Isle of Ely and drew resources from them. The landing of fen produce, building materials and other imports would have required control of local waterways and this was also drawn into the remit of the monastery. This power was lost briefly following the resistance of Hereward in 1070 but a large part of it was returned ten years later. The economy of Ely was based predominantly on its control of water transport and efforts to enhance the waterfront of Ely and improve water-based communications would be expected. The first Bishop, Hervey, took responsibility for improving causeways and access to the City. The Surveys of 1251 and 1416 show the increasing importance of the waterfront area, with larger blocks of land being subdivided by lanes and tenements and warehouses infilling between. As such, the area of The Maltings would have been strategically important. The role of the religious house in the area can be seen in the place names of Monk's Hithe and Castle Hithe. Castle Hithe was noted in 1295 and was set back from the waterfront itself. Monk's Hithe was at the foot of the hill at Barkers Lane and is known from about the same time at Castle Hithe. Seggewyk, the name of a lane close to The Maltings site was the name given to a storehouse of the monastery, it stood on Broad Lane, and is referred to in 1392. Running northwest from Seggewyk Lane is Wynferthing Lane.

Seggewyk Lane is known now as Shipp Lane and forms the frontage of the property boundary of the 1868 Maltings building. The development site lies behind this plot.

The defences of Ely are not all thought to date to Conquest times, rather, some are considered as belonging to later twelfth century unrest (Davison 1962; Owen 1993). In 1142 Bishop Nigel of Ely raised a castle against King Stephen and set up a battery to command the waterfront. Thus, even the Castle Hithe would have been controlled by the Cathedral at this time. The waterfront defences were built of wood and designed to control the Soham causeway. The 'castle' was described as being set right in the water in the middle of the opening of the track (Owen 1993) and so does not refer to the Cherry Hill motte and bailey further up the hill from the waterfront. Some of this military activity may have affected the area of the proposed development. Owen (1993) interprets the waterfront defensive structures as having been shortlived and they were certainly inadequate as Ely was taken by Geoffrey de Mandeville in 1143 after pontoon bridges were used to by-pass them.

The position of the River Ouse at its present location (more or less) was established by canalisation by the Cathedral authorities probably at the same time as the Littleport Cut was constructed in the early- to mid- twelfth century. This stabilisation of the river would enhance trade, and control over it, at Ely, and promote development of the waterfront area. This may be seen by contrasting the surveys of 1251 and 1416 (Owen 1993; Pugh 1967).

Monastic interest in the river was maintained in following centuries when Alan of Walsingham organised the building of the first stone bridge in 1341, roads and causeways were also maintained through his work. Earlier, thirteenth century bridges to Soham are recorded as built of brushwood and earth heaped over wooden piles and surfaced with bundles of reeds (Astbury 1958).

Reference to the 1416 survey (as mapped by Owen 1993) and later maps suggests that property boundaries have remained in about the same location since that time. The development area falls to the southeast of Seggewyyk Lane and Wynferthing Lane and would lie beyond the limits of any tenements along the former thoroughfare (although the 1868 Maltings building would front onto it). Equally, the development area falls slightly northeast of the area described as Castle Hithe and so does not lie easily within any recognisable medieval property boundaries.

The fourteenth century saw the first documented occupation on the island known now as Babylon (then, optimistically, as Ultra Aquam), this settlement comprised a number of small tenements. Once these were established a ferry between Babylon and Ely began a service and such a ferry was in existence in the present century.

There were frequent floods in the area during the fifteenth century which would have hindered activities in the waterfront area but trading carried on.

Speed's map of 1610 shows a drain running from close to the bridge returning to the river southwest of the development site and another drain running to the river from Broad Lane which debouches into the river very near to the site. It does not show any building near the development site, but there is a bridge marked over the drain. Subsequent maps are generally based upon this and it is only in the nineteenth century that further evidence for development of the area is mapped. Ordnance Survey maps of the area began in 1885, prior to that are a tithe map of Ely dated 1846 and Bidwell's map of 1851.

The area of the waterfront stabilised from the fifteenth century with trade and industrial buildings dominating. This pattern of occupation continued into the present century, with kilns, timber yards, tanneries and breweries forming the waterfront. The Maltings building itself reflects this and was constructed in 1868. Various smaller dwellings were

also built and one such, dating from the same period, lay on the development site until it was demolished in recent times. Photographs published by The Ely Society (Holmes and Rouse 1972) show plots adjacent to the development area, just after the turn of this century, with traditional crafts such as basket making taking place, exploiting the osiers which grew on the opposite side of the river, Babylon.

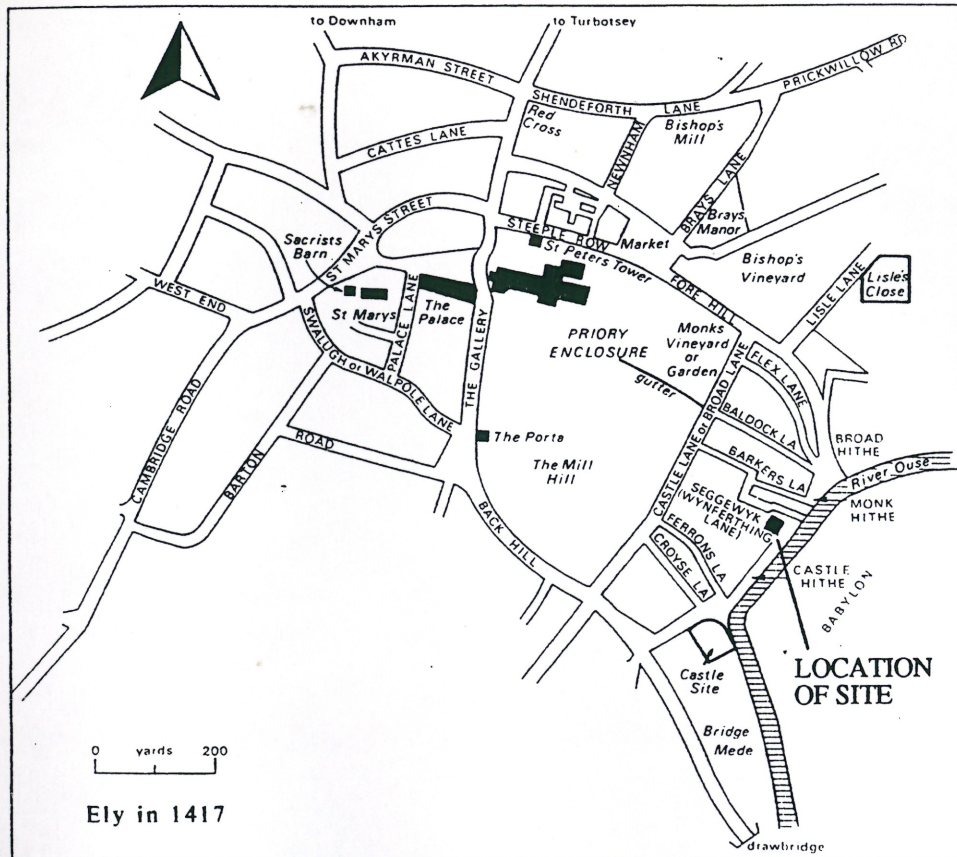


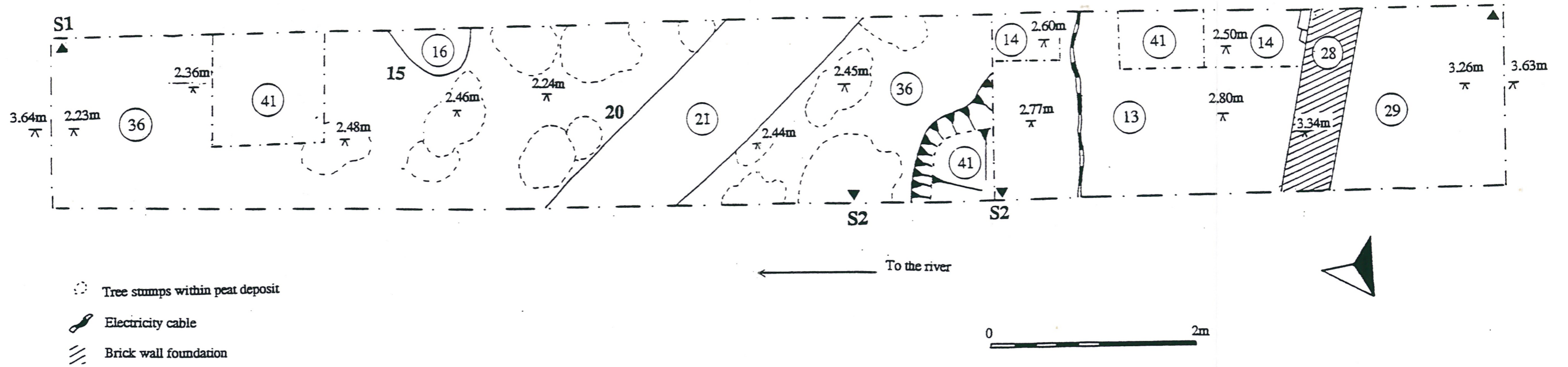
Figure 2 Map of Ely (circa 1417) after Owen, 1993

4 METHODOLOGY

The development area comprised 10m northeast-southwest x 20m southeast-northwest, to sample this area for evaluation purposes the brief provided by the CAO recommended a single trench running along the long axis of the development. This recommendation was followed by the Archaeological Field Unit, a trench c.14m long and 1.6m wide was placed between an existing wall and a paved area which placed it roughly centrally through the development area.

The trench was machine excavated down to the level at which pre-nineteenth century deposits were exposed. It was suggested, in the brief, to concentrate upon clearing existing services to access the surviving stratigraphy, checking maps of the services suggested this would not be sufficiently effective, and it was decided to hand excavate the length of the trench as far as was feasible within the time available. The base of the trench, therefore, was established at the water table. The strategy adopted was successful in that a section through the banks was obtained, emptying existing services would not have identified the deposits as banks.

TRENCH PLAN



SECTION 1

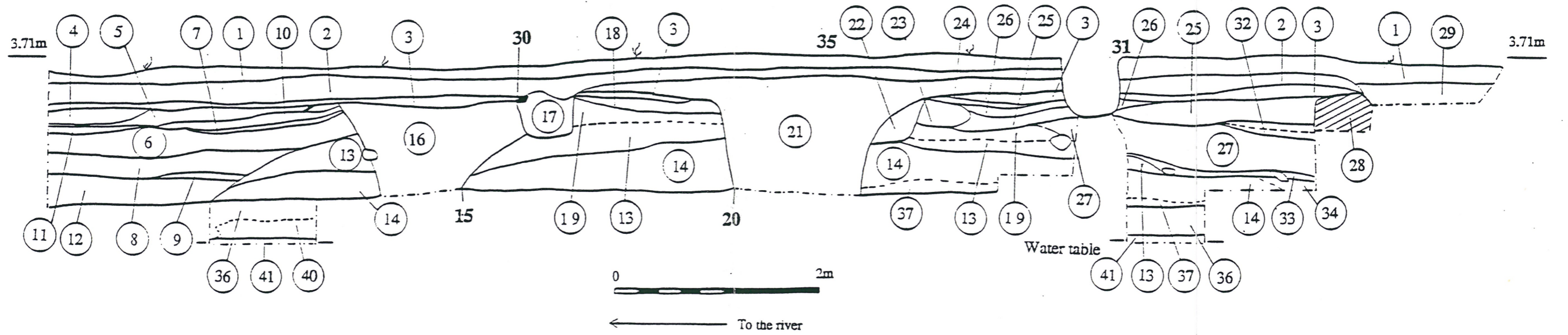


Figure 3 Trench Section and Plan

Recording was undertaken using the Archaeology Field Unit's standard single context recording system and all pre-nineteenth century archaeological features were hand excavated. Samples were taken for environmental analysis from the bank deposits and foreshore, and from the pit cut into the foreshore.

All artefacts recovered by hand excavation were retained for analysis and samples of building materials were also held. This report contains preliminary analysis, with information on the potential for analysis of various data categories, further work is intended upon the environmental samples.

5 RESULTS

The single trench was c.14m long by 1.6m wide and had a maximum depth of 1.8m (*Figure 3*). A total of 46 contexts were assigned, these are listed in Appendix 1.

Working from the base upwards, context 41 is an undated silty-clay lying at the present water table and so not fully investigated. Above it is an organic silty-clay with peat (36, 40) in which reeds and the stumps of small shrubs/trees are well-preserved. Pottery dating to the late C13th/early C14th was obtained from it. Cut into this deposit was a pit 38, it was irregularly-shaped with a flat base (*Figure 4*). The pit was filled by an organic clay-silt (43) and a lump of repositioned peat (44) deriving from context 36/40. A single well-fired sherd of C13th date and a single cut bone fragment came from the pit.

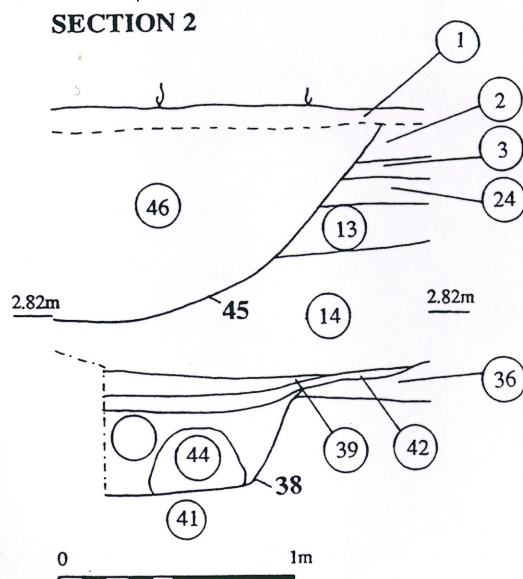
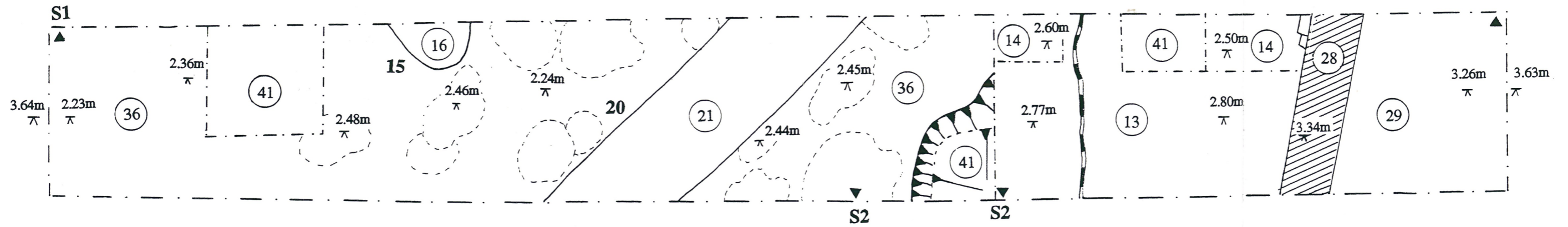


Figure 4 Section of foreshore pit 38

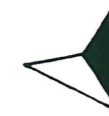
Sealing the peat/mud was a grey-brown silty-clay, 14, which had been dumped over it to form a bank. Its basal levels were stained by the peat/mud and this interface layer was excavated separately, 37. This interface level yielded a residual 'developed St Neots-type sherd' of C12th date, tile, freshwater mussel and land snail and, very occasionally, small lumps of chalk. The bank, 14, yielded early C14th pottery, tile, and two iron nails. The upper part of the deposit was sterile but a c.1cm thick dark band at its upper surface suggests a short exposure as a land surface allowing the built up of a small organic (humic) content, or a period of inundation.

TRENCH PLAN

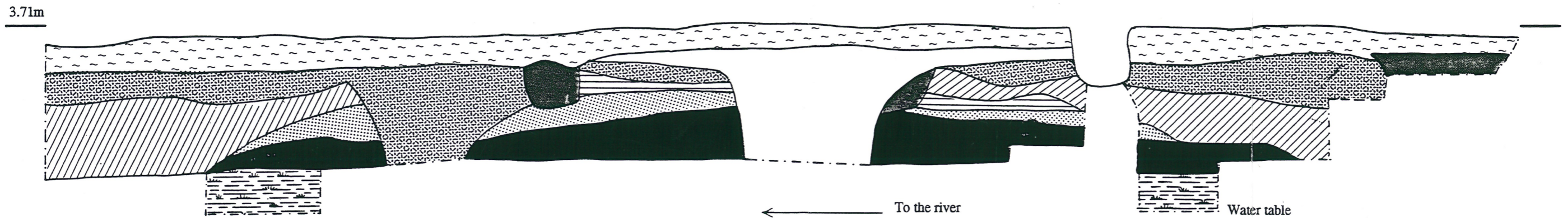


- Tree stumps within peat deposit
- Electricity cable
- Brick wall foundation

← To the river



SECTION 1



- Key:
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Phase 1 Foreshore | Phase 6 Construction of house |
| Phase 2 Clay bank | Phase 7 Demolition of house |
| Phase 3 Expansion of clay bank | Phase 8 Modern Services |
| Phase 4 Erosion of clay bank | Phase 9 Modern landscaping |
| Phase 5 Consolidation of river bank | |

← To the river

Water table

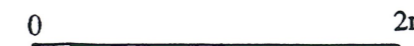


Figure 5 Phasing Diagram

Above the bank, 14, was a second 'bank' deposit, made up of yellow silty clay. This deposit caps the lower bank but does not extend over its whole length. The deposit was very homogenous and sterile. The landward side of this deposit was, however, mottled suggesting puddling or water action, this part was given a separate context, 19. Over 19 was a layer of rubble, 33, and silty clay which appears to 'make good' the eroded deposit 19 below. The rubble comprised tile and limestone fragments.

The riverward side of the banks, 13 & 14, had been built up by successive layers of silty-clay and building rubble, 12, 8, 9, 6, 7. Materials from these dated to the late C13th/early C14th.

The landward side of the banks are covered by a silty-clay layer, 27, which produced C14th and C15th pottery, limestone fragments and tile. This deposit is made up ground inside the banks, upon it would have been the waterfront activity surface of the C14th/C15th but this surface has been lost to building works of the C19th.

The entire length of the trench is overlain by preliminary deposits for the construction of the C19th house (Nos. 7, 10, 11, 4, 5, 18, 25, 26, 32, 15, 16). 32 is a burnt deposit underlying the extant brick exterior wall foundation, while 15 and 16 are a pit and its fill which were backfilled prior to the house being constructed.

Layer 3 is a chalk deposit, sterile of artefacts, laid down as a screed for the floor of the house, while cuts 30 and 35 were dug as footings for interior walls, their fills (17 & 22) were produced when these were robbed out in the C20th.

Deposit 28 is a three brick high exterior wall foundation of the C19th house, the bricks are standard yellow Cambridgeshire bricks and they are unfroged.

Cut through the house deposits was cut 20, a C20th pipe trench with a basal gravel fill and overlying mixed rubble deposit (21). Cut 31 was made to access the electricity cable.

Deposits 1 and 2 are the result of landscaping the area for picnic use, 1 being the turf layer and 2 a sand laid down to level the ground surface.

6 INTERPRETATION.

There are nine phases of activity apparent from the excavation trench (*Figure 5*), these are:

Phase 1. The Ouse foreshore, an uninterrupted access to the river, with reeds and small trees growing. A pit was dug, probably for waste disposal. Date - C13th

Phase 2. Construction of a low clay bank, raising the water front, c. 0.4m. Its upper surface is humic reflecting either a brief exposure as land surface or an inundation. Given the even depth of the dark staining the latter is probable. Date - Base: late C13th/early C14th. Upper part:sterile.

Phase 3. Increase to the height of the bank by addition of the yellow clay, virtually doubling its height in its mid-part. Date - No direct evidence, it is overlain by deposits of late 14th to 15th centuries.

Phase 4. Puddling and erosion of the upper bank deposit on the landward side. Date - pre15th century.

Phase 5. Reinstatement of landward side of the bank by placing rubble over it. The waterfront itself is extended out by dumping of successive layers of clay and rubble. Date - late C14th /C15th.

Phase 6. The area is cleared prior to house construction, a pit is dug and backfilled and some activity involving burning undertaken. House is built. Date - mid.C19th.

Phase 7. The C19th house is demolished, internal wall footings are robbed out, exterior wall foundation is left. Date - mid. C20th

Phase 8. A pipe (drain or sewer) cuts through the site using an easement in addition to the pipetrench itself. Date - mid.C20th.

Phase 9. The area is landscaped for picnics as part of improvements to the Ely river frontage and The Maltings.

Note. The building rubble laid down prior to the C19th contained limestone fragments as at least 50% of their contents, the rest being mostly tile. Three of the limestone fragments were cut/dressed. There were no obvious bricks. This is interesting as bricks were used in Ely at an early date. The monks first introduced them from Flanders in the early C14th. Local bricks were made and used shortly afterwards. Generally, bricks were used for internal use as they gave a smoother internal surface for rendering (Atkinson 1944). If there was any significant trade in these local bricks, some might be expected to appear in the rubble dumps, either introduced from demolition in town or from ballast for boats. A building material survey from medieval dumps in Ely may be something for future research as it would particularly complement deposit mapping and standing building work being undertaken.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The area of The Maltings has been one of significant activity since the C13th. The medieval development of the waterfront area has been identified by trenching and two main periods of activity were witnessed, that of the medieval period and that of the C19th. The time between may have been evident on the site prior to C19th activities but now has been removed. Further evaluation at the site, away from the site of the C19th house, may fill in this gap. Features placed on top of the medieval bank will have been lost to the present work but may still be available for study outside the C19th house plot. This should be considered in assessing the need for further archaeological work on the site. In addition to this, further documentary study and additional resourcing for the analysis of environmental samples could be considered.

The additional documentary research may be able to identify whether the banks were built up as part of works undertaken by Alan of Walsingham when the stone bridge was constructed in the C14th, or whether monastic or cathedral resources were spent in the development. Thus far, ceramic 'spot-dating' has been used to establish the chronology of developments on the site, now that a 'history' for the site exists, it may be possible to use historical sources to identify, more specifically, the date of different phases and the persons or organisations responsible for their happening.

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I would like to thank Dorothy Owen and The Ely Society for their kind permission to reproduce figure two.

I would also like to thank Paul Spoerry and David Hall for providing spot dating of the pottery.

Finally, I should like to thank the site team, Sarah Hinds, David Mitchell and Simon Bray for their labours in less than amenable conditions, and also Sarah Hinds and Jenn Goode for producing the illustrations and Malin Holst for the final report production.

Appendix 1

List of Contexts

Ctx. No.	Nature	Description	Finds
001	Dark grey clayey-silt	topsoil	none
002	Yellow brown sand	subsoil	none
003	Dark grey /white silt	floor layer?	none
004	Dark brown clay/silt	dum[none
005	Dark yellow/brown silt/clay/sand	dump	none
006	Very dark grey/ brown clay/silt	dump	limestone frags, bone, molluscs
007	Pale brown silt/clay	dump	none
008	Dark grey clay/silt	dump	bone, tile, brick, limestone frags.
009	Yellow clayey-silt	dump	none
010	Dark grey clayey-silt	rubble layer	none
011	Dark grey/brown silty-clay	rubble layer	none
012	Very dark grey silty-clay	dump	bone, 13th/14thc pottery, occasional tile
013	Pale yellow silty/clay	built up bank	none
014	Very dark grey/ brown silty-clay	basal clay of bank	early 14thc pottery, occasional tile, nail, wood
[015]	Cut of ditch/pit		none
016	Grey/brown silty-clay	fill of [15]	none
017	Very dark grey silty-clay	fill of [17]	plaster
018	Light yellow/brown silty-clay	dump/rubble foundation layer	big rubble frags.
019	Dark grey silty-clay	layer	none
[020]	Cut of sewer		none
021	Dark brown silty-clay	fill of [20]	none
022	Very dark grey/ brown silty-clay	rubble layer/patch	bricks, rubble
023	Pale yellow silty-clay	redeposited clay 013	none
024	Grey/brown silty-clay	rubble layer	none
025	Very pale brown sandy-silt	levelling layer	bricks, rubble, tile, bone
026	Dark grey/brown silty-clay	weathering layer	none
027	Dark brown silty-clay	rubble layer	occasional tile, 14th/15thc pottery, limestone frags, molluscs
028	Yellow bricks	wall	none
029	Grey silty-clay	subsoil	none
[030]	Cut of modern pit		none
[031]	Cut of trench for electricity cable		none
032	Dark red silty-clay	layer connected with wall foundation	none
033	Very dark grey/ brown silty-clay	dump layer	limestone & tile frags
034	Dark grey/brown silty-clay	puddling/weathering layer	none
[035]	Cut of modern pit		none
036	Black silty/clay	master number "wooden complex" /peat	13th/14thc
037	Clay some silt	interface between 014 & 036	tile, 12thc pottery, snails, v. occasional chalk, occasional bone
[038]	Cut of pit		none
039	Olive grey compact clay	fill of pit [38]	1 piece each of bone, 13thc pottery
040	Dark & light brown organic (peat)	lighter peat layer under 036	none
041	Black silty-clay	basal layer	none
042	Dark grey compact clay	fill of pit [38]	none
043	Black semi-compact clay-silt	outer lower silt fill of pit [38]	1 piece each of bone, pottery
044	Black (dark reddish brown) compact peat	organic dump at base of pit [38]	organics
[045]	Cut of modern pit		none
046	Rubble	fill of pit [45]	none

Appendix 2

Environmental Potential

(1) Fauna

The amount of material present does not make up a significant sample *in toto*, that from any given context is negligible. The total faunal assemblage could be made up by a single cow, pig, sheep/goat with two dogs and a single deer.

(2) Molluscs

This category comprised finds of freshwater mussel, landsnail, and occasional oyster, as with the other fauna, few individuals are represented and little further work could be conducted on the visible assemblage. Sediment samples have been taken and these may yield interesting material but it should be noted that the bulk of deposits are dumps and so assemblages would not necessarily reflect the waterfront environment.

(3) Sediments/Pollen/Plant Remains

Bulk samples were taken from all bank deposits and the foreshore, pollen and sediment analysis of bank deposits will not be of great worth as these will reflect the off-site environments of their origin. Sediment studies may inform on whether the dark humic band at the top of 14 is the result of inundation or derives from *in situ* plant growth.

The foreshore deposits should be fully studied for context of deposition, microfauna and floral contents as this will inform on the environment of the site prior to the construction of the bank in the early C14th. Samples have been sent to Dr P. Murphy of the University of East Anglia for analysis.

Appendix 3

Glossary Of Archaeological Terms

Anglo-Saxon The period dating between the withdrawal of the Roman legions in 410 and the Norman invasion of 1066. Within this period several ethnic groups from northern Europe vied for control of the British Isles, including the Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Danes, and Norwegians. The latter two groups are collectively known as the Vikings and became involved in British politics from the eighth century, later than the others. The Vikings were successful in occupying a large part of the north and Midlands of England, before providing a King (Cnut) for the whole of England. For most of this time England was divided up into several kingdoms until Saxon resistance to Viking incursions led to the unification of England under Aethelstan and Alfred.

Artefact Any object made by people. Generally, this word is used for finds such as pottery, stone tools, or metal objects, but it can be used in a much wider context in that the landscape we have today is a product of human activity and is thus an artefact itself.

Croft A small enclosed piece of land, usually arable but sometimes pasture, attached to a rural property (toft).

Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) For various reasons medieval settlements were sometimes abandoned or shifted in location. Earthworks of the old village can often be seen showing the position of house platforms, crofts, lanes, fields and ponds.

Earthworks Archaeological features that are still extant above the ground as banks and ditches, platforms, roads, ponds, canals, etc. They were either constructed of soil or became covered by it later, leaving the archaeology showing in relief.

Enclosures: An area defined by a continuous surrounding ditch. These may be enclosures around human settlements, fields, or paddocks for stock. Rectilinear enclosures are ones with straight sides and corners, whilst curvilinear enclosures are ones with rounded sides.

Holloway: A track that has been hollowed out by long usage.

Iron Age. Prehistoric period c. 700 BC - AD 43 when iron was used extensively for tools and weapons. The period traditionally ends with the Roman invasions of AD 43 but in fact there was a considerable time of adjustment after this date when the Iron Age way of life continued with little change from Roman influence.

Medieval. Historic period that begins with William the Conqueror's invasion in 1066. Post-Medieval is generally considered to date from 1500.

Midden. A heap or stratum of refuse (broken pots and tools, ashes, food remains etc) normally found on the site of an ancient settlement.

Moated Site or 'Moat' A particular class of monument from the medieval period. Most 'moats' represent the former site of a 'Manor House' with a partial or complete moat dug around it. 'Moat' building is believed to have been more of a 12th - 13th century fashion statement than an actual attempt to defend a settlement site.

Modern The period since modern industrialisation, roughly corresponding to 1800 onwards.

Motte An early medieval fortification in the form of a flat-topped mound. A motte would usually be expected to have possessed a stockaded enclosure on top of the mound, and would often have been accompanied by a defenced enclosure known as a bailey.

Natural The local subsoil that is unaltered, in nature and location, by human action.

Palaeosol. A preserved soil which does not owe its origin to the existing land surface.

Penannular. In the form of a complete circle, except for a single break in the ring.

Pit alignment. A line of pits, usually dated to the Iron Age or Roman period. They are thought to be a native means of boundary marking. The pits do not often have rubbish in them and so are not thought to be rubbish pits.

Posthole. A hole dug to receive a post. They can also result from driving posts into the ground. The latter, however, do not have distinct fills such as packing and a post pipe. A post pipe is the fill of a posthole which formed in the place of a removed post.

Post-Medieval This period is generally considered to date from 1500, and is not used for dates after about 1800.

Ridge and Furrow. Medieval cultivation techniques led to a phenomenon of corrugated fields. Strips of land were allotted to individuals and a furrow was left between one person's strip and the next, leading to a corrugated ridge and furrow effect. Ridge and furrow shows up as cropmarks on air photographs and more rarely as earthworks in pasture fields.

Rolled. A measure of how worn the edge of worked flint is, when transported by streams the flint rolls downstream and the edges wear. The degree of rolling can indicate how far the piece has been transported.

Roman. Historic period AD 43 - 410 when much of Britain was part of the Roman empire. The term Romano-British is now widely used to describe the people of this period, as few were Roman themselves, but they were a provincial manifestation of the empire developing in a unique way. AD 410 was the date the legions were withdrawn, but the Romano-British culture continued for some time into the 5th century in tandem with Anglo-Saxon migration.

Stakehole As *posthole*, but corresponding to a smaller piece of wood, usually from an insubstantial structure.

Stratigraphy: Order and relative position of strata. Deposits in archaeological sites will be layered one on top of another, with the highest layer being the latest being the latest deposits, thus giving a chronological relationship to the layers and the artefacts within them. Features (such as ditches, pits, or walls) cut through these layers will obviously date to later events, and will in turn contain their own discrete sequence of deposits. On the other hand features that have been covered by layers are obviously earlier than the deposition of those layers that seal them.

Thermoluminescence: A technique for dating fired clay, based on the fact that flaws in the lattice of any crystal will trap alpha particles, produced by radiation, which on heating will be released in the form of light. The quantity of light emitted will depend on three factors - the number of flaws in the crystal, the strength of the radioactivity to which it was exposed, and the duration of exposure. The second can be measured directly from the sample, and the first by retesting the sample after exposure to a radioactive source of known strength. These will allow the all-important third factor, the time since the crystal was last heated, to be calculated.

Toft A medieval rural house site, usually accompanied by a *croft*.



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