

Archaeological Field Unit

# **Medieval Properties, Excavations at Lisle Lane, Ely, 1995-6**

Niall Oakey and Aileen Connor

1999

**Cambridgeshire County Council**

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## Summary of Archaeological Excavations at Lisle Lane Ely

*Excavation was carried out by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council at the corner of Lisle Lane and Cresswell's Lane, Ely during 1995. The excavation comprised two stages; initial evaluation followed by excavation.*

*The surviving archaeological deposits, artefacts and ecofacts have been analysed and interpreted as follows: The site at the corner of Lisle Lane and Cresswell's Lane was the subject of domestic activity during the 12th to 14th centuries. This period saw the introduction of property boundaries aligned with and perpendicular to Lisle Lane possibly coinciding with an early pit digging phase. A building was erected which partially encroached on the site and pit digging, possibly associated with the building, intensified. The building probably continued to be occupied whilst changes were made to the adjacent, possibly connected property. Pits were backfilled and replaced by a trackway leading from Lisle Lane towards a damp, muddy area which was used as a midden, collecting discarded pottery, animal bone and objects which may have been carted there from elsewhere in the town.*

*To the west of the track, parts of three possible properties were identified. These probably fronted Lisle Lane. If any associated buildings had existed they were not identified, possibly because they were located outside the site boundaries along the Lisle Lane frontage. Slight changes in these property boundaries were noted subsequent to the backfilling of a ditch boundary aligned with Lisle Lane. The boundary was then reinstated as a fence line contemporary with the trackway falling into disuse and a final phase of pitting cut into the former track*

*After the mid 14th century the site underwent no further building activity until the 18th or 19th century when a cottage was built.*

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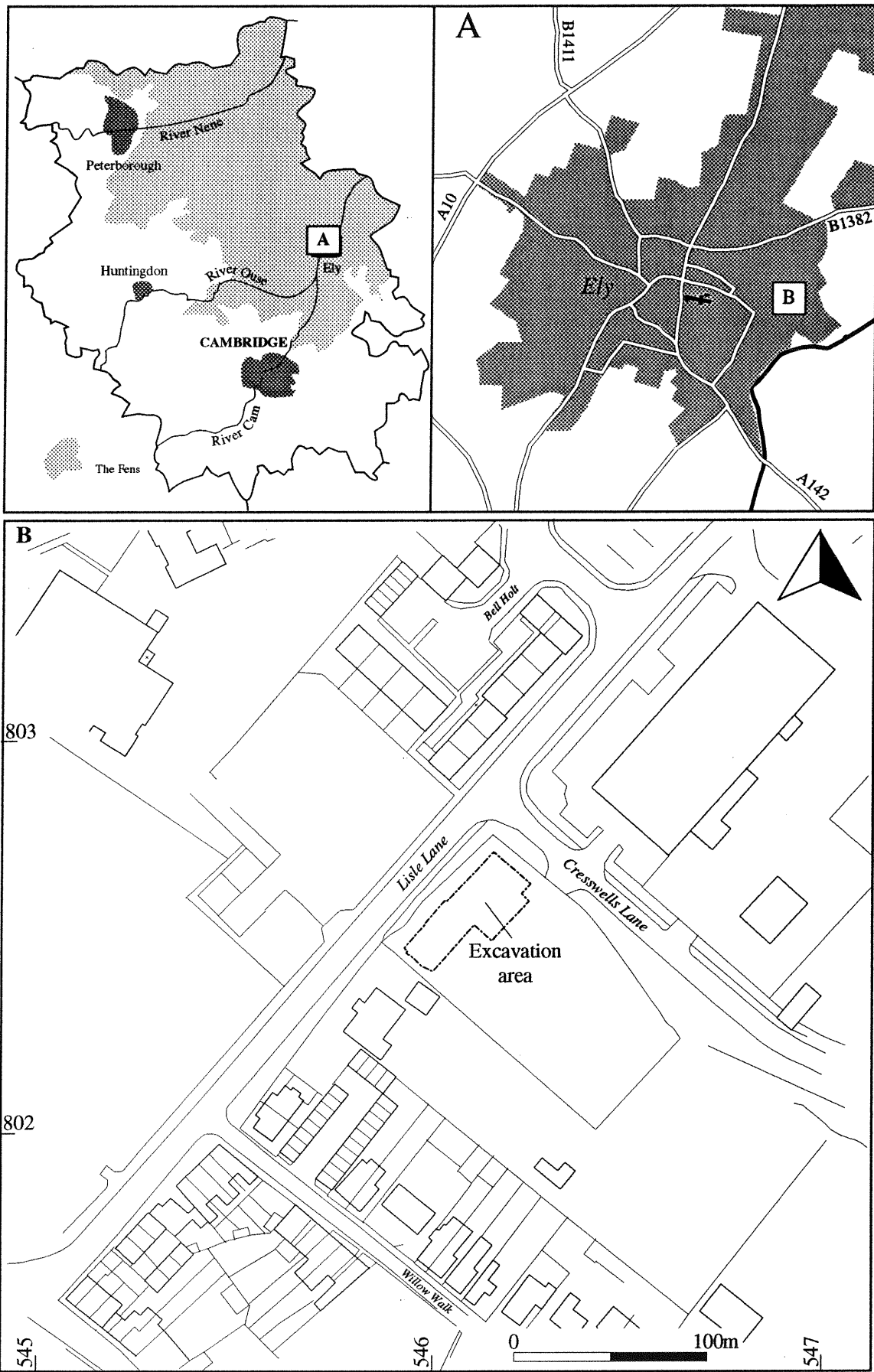
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## **1 INTRODUCTION by Niall Oakey**

In August and September 1995 a team from the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council carried out an archaeological evaluation of a site at the corner of Lisle Lane and Cresswell's Lane, Ely (NGR TL 5463 8025, Figure 1) on behalf of Royal Mail Property Holdings. This was in response to an archaeological condition by East Cambridgeshire District Council, acting on the advice of Development Control - Archaeology Section of Cambridgeshire County Council. The project was designed to sample, investigate and evaluate surviving archaeological deposits threatened by proposed development and the results generated a second phase of archaeological investigations (Oakey, 1995) This was designed to preserve by record the threatened archaeological evidence contained within the site and to pursue a number of research objectives. The resulting excavation took place in December 1995 and January 1996 and was funded by East Cambridgeshire District Council. This account describes the results from both phases of investigation following analysis of the deposits, artefacts and ecofacts.

This project has significance as an opportunity to investigate a site on the periphery of the medieval town of Ely. It offered the chance to develop artefact type-series for the city and its Fenland region and to investigate economic and social aspects of a relatively small medieval urban centre.



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Figure 1 Site Location Map

**2. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY by Niall Oakey and Aileen Connor**

The geology of the site is based on the Kimmeridge clay which forms part of the fen island of Ely (British Geological Survey, Sheet 173).

The site lay on a terrace at the base of the slope from the highest point of Ely Island, at the junction of Lower Greensand and Kimmeridge Clay. Where encountered on the site, natural deposits varied from greenish-grey or blue clay to gravel and grit in yellowish-brown sand. The river Cam lies only 350m to the south of the site and the Kimmeridge clay runs into Fen deposits approximately 150m away. The 5m contour runs through the site.

**3. HISTORICAL and ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND by Niall Oakey**

The stimulus for the growth of medieval Ely was the combination of the presence of the Benedictine monastery (established c970), the construction of the present Cathedral starting in 1081, and the establishment of the bishopric in 1108/9. The community described in the Domesday Survey (1086) was purely agricultural, but by the time of a survey of Episcopal property in 1251 Ely had trebled in size. The variety of trades described indicates a settlement of semi-rural, semi-urban character with commercial growth focusing on the Market Place and along the hithes between Broad Street and the River Ouse (Owen, 1993). In 1334 taxation returns ranked Ely as the 29th wealthiest town in England, (Patten, 1978, p42) but by 1524-5 it had declined to a point where it was not included in a list of the most prosperous 43 towns (*ibid*, p42). This slump may have been triggered by the epidemics and harvest failures of the fourteenth century. The Black Death of 1349/50 affected the Priory severely and uncultivated land around the city was noted in 1350, at the same time no monastic rent could be collected from one Ely street because the houses had been left tenantless by the plague (Pugh, 1953, p35). Further epidemics occurred in the fifteenth century (e.g. 1458-9) (*ibid*, p35).

The economic decline evident in the early sixteenth century was probably exacerbated by the Dissolution and the succeeding centuries are characterised by stagnation. The increasing pace of Fens drainage in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and the arrival of the railway in the nineteenth accentuated the role of Ely as a centre for the marketing and processing of agricultural produce (Jones, 1993, pp 113-5).

The site lies on the periphery of the medieval town of Ely, being east of the Cathedral and market place and north-east of the Ouse hithes. Lisle Lane is mentioned in an Episcopal survey of 1222, where Robert de Insula (Lisle), one of the leading free tenants of the Bishop of Ely, is described as having his chief holding opening from Lisle Lane with small messuages around his gates (Owen, 1993, p.15) and in a 1251 survey Philip de L'Isle occupied a messuage as



knight's fee (Pugh, 1953, p35). A survey of 1417 describes Lisle Lane in some detail. It runs up to the gates of Lilesclose (*sic*) and on its eastern side has room for six tenements with two cottages at the gates and an empty plot. On the western side are three empty plots, two cottages, five tenements and a large building on the corner of Lisle Lane and Forehill (Owen, 1993, p24).

The exact location and nature of 'Lilesclose' is not clear from the documents. While the 1417 Survey was being compiled "a messuage called Llylis place" (Stewart, 1868, p189) was bequeathed to the Priory by John and Albreda Pilet. Unfortunately, no details of the structures on the site were available. Until the later twentieth century Lisle Lane (also known as Bull Lane) ended at a gateway into a field at the point now occupied by the junction with Cresswells Lane and this may perpetuate the position of Lilesclose. The most easterly staithe on the Ely waterfront, Stokhithe, may have been privately promoted to serve the Lisle tenements (Owen, 1993, p16).

Early map coverage of Ely is poor, but in 1610 Speed appears to show that Lisle Lane/Bull Lane did not extend beyond the junction with modern Willow Walk (Owen, 1993). A presentment at a commission into enclosures in 1548 confirms the informal nature of the road layout when it states that in 1487 "there was a common horsewaye from Lyles lane to the field through a close now in the tenure of John Toke" (Palmer, p377). By the time of the first Ordnance Survey map (1885) and again in 1925, Lisle Lane (now known as Bull Lane), ended at a gateway into allotments with its line perpetuated as a footpath. The site of the excavations is shown with numerous trees and was an orchard in the 1930s (J.A. Oakey *pers comm.*) Part of this orchard survives to the south-west of the development area. A small cottage, shown on an 1851 map, (CRO Bidwell's Survey of Ely 1851) was positioned in the north-eastern corner of the site, fronting onto the road, with a garden and/or small paddock behind. Its location coincided with a concentration of bricks and other building material seen lying on the modern ground surface before the excavations commenced.

Bull Lane reverted to its original name of Lisle Lane in the 1950s (Denton, 1983, p10) and since then considerable redevelopment has taken place in this area. Lisle Lane was extended to the north-east in the late 1970s or early 1980s as a tarmac road with light industrial units to the south-east and predominantly residential development on the opposite side. At the time of the investigations the site was occupied by light industrial units and associated concrete yards. These already existed on the 1974 OS map.

Unfortunately, little archaeological work took place in advance of the redevelopment of Lisle Lane, an all too regular occurrence during the post-war redevelopment of Ely. Despite the potential revealed by the documentary records, the Lisle Lane area has, until recently, remained a blank spot in the picture of medieval Ely. No nearby references occur in the Cambridgeshire Site and Monuments Record, but recent archaeological evaluation and excavation 150m to the west of the subject site (on the corner of Lisle Lane and Forehill) revealed

#### **4. METHODOLOGY by Niall Oakey**

The evaluation phase (Phase 1) comprised four linear trenches totalling 102<sup>2</sup> m. (Trenches A - D) and as a consequence of the results an area of c 415<sup>2</sup> m. (Phase 2) was opened. In both phases a mechanical excavator was used to remove most post-medieval and modern overburden which, in practice, entailed stripping down to the surface of natural deposits. All exposed contexts were then cleaned and recorded before a representative sample was excavated. In both phases the Archaeological Field Unit's standard single-context recording procedure was followed and records were produced for contexts 1001 - 1130 in Phase 1 and 1201 - 1283 in Phase 2. All site records are retained and available for consultation in the archives of Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit, while the artefacts and ecofacts are currently stored in the County Archaeological Store under the codes ELYLL 95 I and II.

The nature of the activities on the site (pit-digging, ploughing) involved disturbance of earlier contexts and their contents, giving rise to problems of residuality and redeposition. However, few comparable groups of pottery and faunal remains from Ely have been published so these categories were submitted to detailed analysis in the hope that the results will lay the foundations for future research. The databases and reports produced by the specialists form part of the site archive. Unfortunately, environmental conditions proved unsuitable for the preservation of meaningful amounts of microfaunal and other organic material.

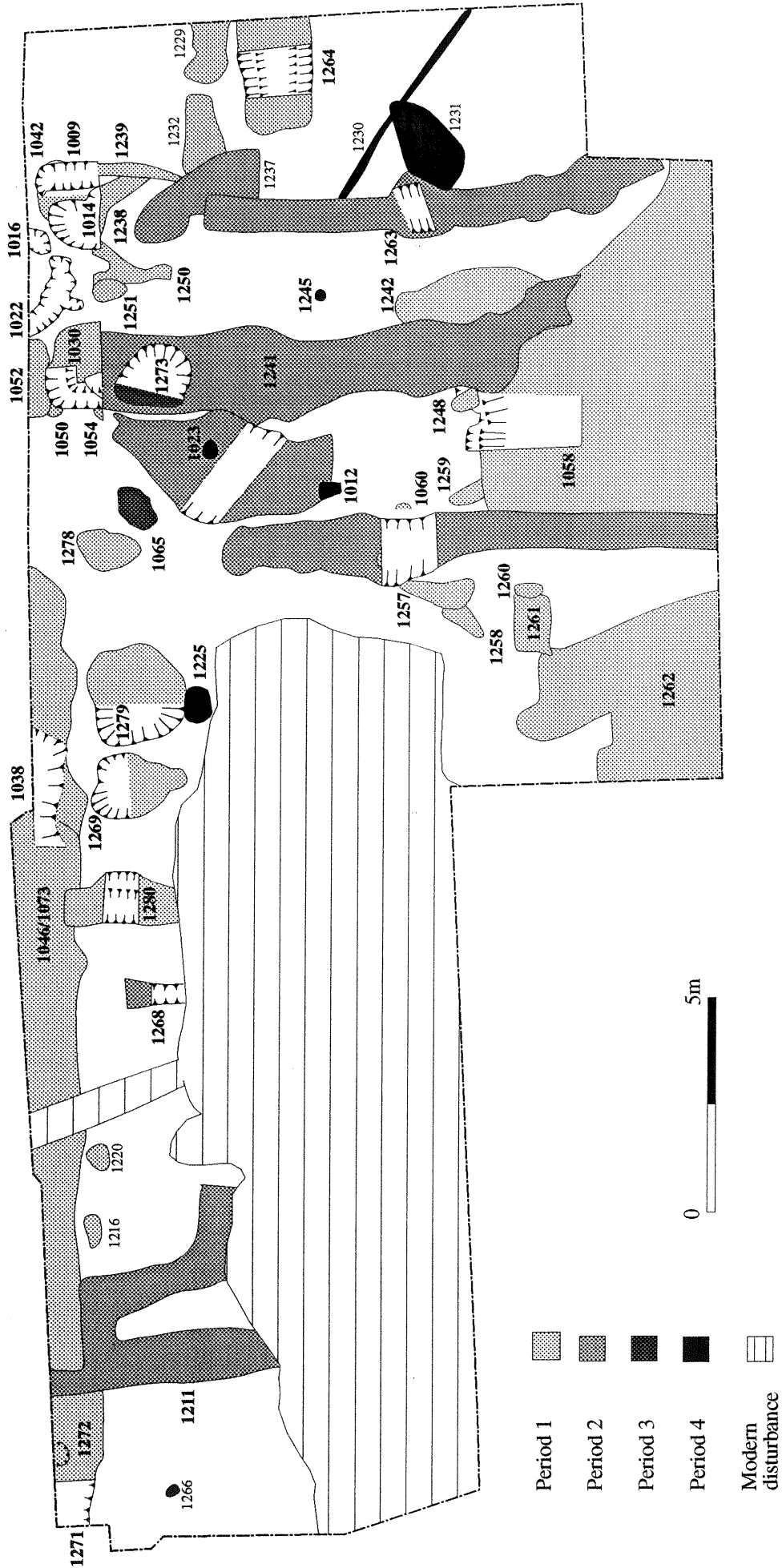
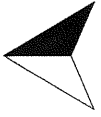


Figure 2 Plan showing features of all phases

## 5. RESULTS by Niall Oakey with contributions by Aileen Connor

### 5.1 Naturally-Laid Deposits

Contexts: 1039, 1049, 1074, 1096, 1097, 1129, 1130, 1203, 1204, 1212, 1217, 1219, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1243, 1244, 1246.

The natural deposits were extremely variable as might be expected on a site lying at the base of the slope from the highest point of Ely Island and at the junction of the Lower Greensand and Kimmeridge Clay. It varied from greenish-grey or blue clay to gravel and grit in yellowish-brown sand.

One sherd of medieval pottery recovered from 1203 was contamination from later deposits.

### 5.2 Period 1 (context groups i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, vii).

The earliest structural activity on the site is dated as mid 12th to mid 14th century based on the pottery. Ditches, possibly representing property boundaries (groups i and v) are present and may represent at least two phases of property boundary changes. Ceramic dating suggests a broadly similar date range of 1150-1350 for both groups, although group v is stratigraphically later and contained a small number of sherds suggesting a date towards the end of the range. Two walls of a possible building were present in the north-eastern corner of the site which may be contemporary with the property boundaries. A series of rubbish pits were located following the line of the east-west property boundary (group v) and a later fence line perpetuated the same boundary. Large, irregular rubbish filled cuts in the south-eastern area of the site may have been a pond or marshy area filled in to provide level ground for redevelopment. Deposits found in evaluation trenches at the southern end of the development area suggest water was standing here and may indicate the close proximity of the Fen.

#### 5.2.1 Context group i

**1280** filled by 1233, 1281, **1264** filled by 1228, contexts 1229, 1232.  
Ceramic dating 1150-1350

Two linear ditches are assigned to the earliest phase; **1264** runs parallel to Lisle Lane and **1280** is at right-angles to it. Not excavated backfills 1229 and 1232 may fill another ditch running parallel and adjacent to **1264**. **1280** and **1264** were eighteen metres apart and had no direct stratigraphic relationship, so there is no certainty that they were either related or contemporary, but their locations and alignment suggest that they may have functioned as property boundaries, perhaps for tenements on the south side of Lisle Lane. The date of their excavation is unknown. A backfilling date in the late 12th to mid 14th century is suggested by pottery in the backfill of both ditches.

Ditch **1264** was exposed for a length of 2.20m, was 0.58m deep and 1.80m wide at the surface, decreasing to 0.48m at the flat base. The single fill, 1228, included one large slab of stone and a number of large pebbles and stones up to 0.10m in width. It comprised dark greyish-brown clayey sand with occasional flecks and fragments of charcoal and smaller pebbles and pieces of flint.

Deposits 1229 and 1232 were parallel to but unexcavated. Although separated by up to 0.40m, these contexts were almost identical in colour and type, both being sands with a few pebbles. They may represent the backfill of another ditch, although they were also located at right-angles to, and may be associated with **1009** (group vi), suggesting the possibility that they represent the walls of a timber framed building.

**1280** was a ditch over 3m long, 0.30m deep and 1m wide at the surface, it had a flint base. The earliest fill, 1233, comprised greyish-brown silty sand with a few small flints and charcoal flecks and was much looser than later fill 1281, a very compacted greenish grey clay. The latter may represent a deliberate backfilling episode utilising natural clay.

### 5.2.2 Context group ii

Cut **1053** filled by 1050, cut by **1052** filled by 1048; **1054** filled by 1051/1249; **1042** filled by 1047 and 1041; **1016** filled by 1015; **1071** filled by 1070; **1069/1067/1279** filled by 1068/1066/1224; **1075** filled by 1076.

Ceramic dating 1200-1350

This group comprises the stratigraphically earliest group of pits. Whether their usage was contemporary is difficult to establish at this juncture. These contexts are concentrated near to the Lisle Lane frontage of the site where activity seemed to be most common and may have been used for the disposal of household rubbish. Alternatively **1054** may have been a post hole and one of a number forming a possible fence line aligned with group v boundary.

The surviving traces of cut **1053** were severely truncated by later activity and backfill 1050 (2.5Y 4/3 olive brown slightly silty clay including fragments of charcoal, brick or tile and chalk) was not excavated. It was truncated by unexcavated cut **1052**, at least 1.80m long and 0.46m wide, containing very soft, powdery white (2.5Y 8/1) to pale yellow (2.5Y 8/3) clay 1048 (cut by **1030**, Period 1, Group iii).

Cut **1054** had suffered even greater truncation and its unexcavated fill 1051/1249 comprised light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) to olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) silty or sandy clay with occasional pieces of charcoal and sub-angular flints (also cut by **1030**, Period 1, Group iii). It was aligned with 1216 and 1220 (group i) and with 1251 (group), and appeared to be quite small in diameter with steep sides suggesting that it may have held a post.

To the north-east, the truncated remains of cut **1042** were sectioned. Its overall shape was impossible to determine, but it measured at least 1.34 x 0.77m and was 0.42m deep with steep sides falling to a relatively flat base. It had a shallow (less than 0.07m deep) basal fill of gravel in a matrix of sand and clay (1047). This had probably accumulated as a result of erosion and weathering which had occurred when the pit was open and before the deposition of the main fill, 1041. This comprised predominantly dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) clayey silt with a little yellowish-brown sand and grey clay (cut by **1014**, Period 1, Group iv).

0.50m north-west of **1042**, cut **1016** survived as a shallow (0.11m), irregularly shaped depression backfilled with dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) slightly silty clay containing frequent gravel (cut by **1014**, Period 1, Group iv). One sherd of pottery was recovered from the context dating to the period 1150-1350.

Possible pit cut **1071** was only exposed over an area of 0.94 x 0.58m and contained unexcavated fill **1070**, a mixed deposit of grey (10YR 6/1) and yellowish-brown (10YR 5/4) very slightly silty clay.

Cuts **1067**, **1069** and **1279** were separately recorded during excavation and contained **1066** (10YR 4/2 dark greyish-brown silty clay), **1068** (10YR 4/3 brown silty clay) and **1224** (2.5Y 4/3 olive brown slightly silty clay). All included occasional pebbles and can now be recognised as forming parts of one large pit measuring at least 3.20 x 2.10 x 0.56m deep. Seven sherds of pottery were recovered from **1224** with a date range of 900 to 1350, the suggested date for the context is 1200-1350.

It was impossible to establish the shape of cut **1076**, filled with **1075**. It measured at least 0.62 x 0.44m and the fill consisted of 10YR 4/3 brown silty clay including frequent small pebbles.

### 5.2.3 Context Group iii **1030** filled by **1035**, **1034** and **1029**, Ceramic dating: 1150-1350

One pit has been allocated to group iii, pottery found in its fills suggest that it was being backfilled at about the same time as nearby structural features such as the possible building approximately 4 metres to the east. The pit was stratigraphically later than group ii pits.

Large pit **1030** measured 1.90 x at least 1.30m and over 0.65m deep. It could not be bottomed due to safety considerations, but the lowest fill encountered was **1035**, a dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty clay. It was sealed by very compact dark grey (5Y 4/1) clay **1034** with frequent small pieces of chalk. The uppermost backfill was **1029**, a dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty clay. It contained one large rectangular stone (0.47 x 0.37 x 0.14m) which had a flat surface on one face and had been burnt on one side. It may have been a hearthstone, but it had broken into several pieces and this may explain its disposal in the pit. The upper fill had much smaller average sherd size than the lower ones which may indicate the deposit had been reworked before being deposited in the pit, either because it had been sitting in a heap elsewhere before its final deposition or that it was derived from an overlying cultivation horizon. Cut **1030** was deeper and more regular in shape than any of the other exposed cuts of Period 1 (although **1042** had been too truncated to estimate its original shape) and this may indicate that it had been dug for another purpose before being backfilled with household rubbish. Alternative functions may have included clay extraction, external latrine pit or the location of a large post.

### 5.2.4 Context Group iv Cuts **1022** filled by **1021**, and **1014** filled by **1013/1238** and **1084**. Ceramic dating 1150-1350

Two features were allocated to this group, **1022** is problematic, its unusual shape and the fact that it was only partially visible within the excavation area make it difficult to interpret. **1014** was a shallow pit with a possible drain leading towards it from the adjacent building, and may be a sump for rain or even foul water originating from the building.

Cut **1022** formed an irregular arc, but it only survived to a depth of 0.12m and had been intensively disturbed by modern tree roots. It was backfilled with gravel in a matrix of dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) sandy silty clay (**1021**). The irregularity of shape and root

disturbance made interpretation of the feature difficult. The few sherds of pottery within the fill were much smaller than the average size for period 1 features.

0.50m to the east, cut **1014** was of similar depth (0.27m), but had a more regular concave base and was subcircular with a linear tail at its south-eastern end. Tiny quantities of animal bone, shell and very small sherds of pottery within the pit fills suggest that although some non biodegradable household waste may have got into the pit, its primary purpose may have been the disposal of biodegradable waste or even water. The initial fill (1013/1238) was dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty sandy clay and was sealed by a dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay (1084) including 30% dark grey (10YR 4/1) clay. 1084 was seen only in section after removal by machine.

#### 5.2.5 Context Group v

**1044** filled by 1043, **1046/1073** filled by 1045/1072, **1038** filled by 1037 and 1036 = 1218, **1271** filled by 1202, **1019/1269** filled by 1018/1210, 1017. Contexts 1216, 1220.  
Ceramic dating 1150-1350

This group of features would seem to represent a ditch on a north-west/south-east orientation. Numerous cuts were identified in evaluation, but these probably represent phases of infilling rather than a sequence of pits. The entire width of this feature was not visible in the excavation area so a margin of uncertainty must remain. As a ditch it was approximately parallel with Lisle Lane and some 10 metres to the south of it. It may represent a boundary for a property or properties fronting Lisle Lane.

The evaluative excavation of trial trench A established a sequence of pits, comprising partially-excavated **1044** backfilled with yellowish-brown (10YR 5/6) compacted silty clay 1043, cut by partially excavated cut **1046/1073** (at least 3.60 x 1m) backfilled with 1045/1072, a dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/1) to brown (10YR 5/3) silty clay. Cutting the latter was **1038**, a linear (over 2.30 x 0.80 x 0.40m deep) feature containing backfills 1037, a grey (10YR 6/1) to pale brown (10YR 6/3) silty clay, and 1036, a similar material, light yellowish-brown (10YR 6/4) in colour. However, the opening of a much larger area revealed that similar material in the form of contexts 1218 and 1202 stretched for 16m along the Lisle Lane edge of the site, cutting the backfills of 1, i ditch **1280** and truncated by later ploughing. Excavation of a section of 1202 revealed the cut (**1271**) to have irregular but almost vertical sides dropping to a slightly concave base. It is now considered that insufficient evidence exists to assert that **1044**, **1046/1073** and **1038** are separate cuts. They probably form part of one cut feature, at least 24m long, which was backfilled either gradually or in swift sequence by different fills and that what were interpreted in evaluation as cuts are, in fact, tip lines within the backfill of a large feature. Only a narrow width of the cut was uncovered and its form can only be speculated upon. It may be a large quarry or part of a linear sequence of small pits, also used to extract the natural clays, sands or gravels, where each pit was successively backfilled with the spoil extracted in the next. As a linear feature it lies 10 metres to the south of and approximately parallel with Lisle Lane leading to the speculative interpretation that it may be a property boundary.

South of this linear feature was an irregular shaped pit **1019/1269**, measuring 1.85 x 1.60m, but only 0.25m deep. It was backfilled with 1018/1210, an olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) to brown (10YR 4/3) silty sandy clay. 1018/1210 was sealed by a very dark greyish-brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay, 1017. Pottery from each of the contexts dated the backfilling of the pit to the period 1150-1350, animal bone and an iron object were also found in the fills of this pit.

Small subcircular deposits 1216 (0.85 x 0.48m) and 1220 (0.70 x 0.50m) were constituted of similar olive brown (2.5Y 4/3-4/4) sandy clay with sandier and clay-rich patches. They were

each 0.50m south-east of 1218, and may represent the position of timber posts, perhaps lending support to the interpretation of **1038** etc. as a property boundary.

#### 5.2.6 Context Group vi

Cut **1009** filled by 1008/1239, 1086, 1085. Contexts 1250, 1251, 1247 and 1248, **1061** filled by 1060.

Ceramic dating 1200-1500

Group vi consists of a miscellaneous group of features of uncertain interpretation. **1009** may be the remnant of a slot to hold a timber beam, perhaps indicating the presence of a building. It is possible that 1229 and 1232 (group i) to the south of, and at right angles to **1009**, are remnants of a return wall of the same structure rather than representing an external boundary. The remaining unexcavated deposits may represent the remnants of structures such as posts, but their interpretation is ambiguous.

Cut **1009** on an east-west orientation, was a linear gully at least 3.37m long, 0.58m wide and 0.18m deep. The base was very irregular and the feature came to a butt end to the north-west. It was backfilled with 1008/1239, a dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty clay, overlaid by 1086, a brown (10YR 4/3) clayey silt and 1085. The latter was mixed yellowish-brown (10YR 5/6) clay. The feature may represent a beam slot and could be associated with 1229 and 1232 (group i). Pottery recovered from 1008 could not be dated more closely than 1200 to 1500 AD, and may represent a demolition rather than construction date

Deposit 1250, a dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) clayey sand (2.00 x 4.00m), formed an irregular linear shape in plan, truncated by 1251. The deposit was not excavated but appeared to be leading either into or away from pit **1042**, it is possible, therefore, that the deposit represents an infilled gully perhaps draining into or flowing out of the pit.

Deposit 1251, a sub-circular area (0.70 x 0.50m) of olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy clay which truncated 1250. Patches of very similar material 1247 (0.50 x 0.30m) and 1248 (0.60 x 0.50m) were located further south-east but neither was excavated.

The character and size of 1247, 1248 and 1251 suggest that they may be the backfills of post-holes, but their date is unknown and their contemporaneity not established. 1251 is aligned with 1216, 1220 (group v) and 1249 (group ii), all four post holes are approximately parallel with 1218 (group v) which may constitute a property boundary.

**1061** was a subcircular feature (0.40 x 0.17m+) filled by 1060 dark greyish brown silty clay (2.5y 4/2) truncated by **1265** (period 2). The feature was not excavated but its size and shape in plan suggest that it may have held a post.

#### 5.2.7 Context Group vii

**1058** filled by 1055, 1056, 1057, 1031, 1010, 1240, 1242, 1262, 1261, 1260, 1257, 1258, 1259. Contexts 1094, 1095.

Ceramic dating 1250-1350

At the southern end of the excavation area and in evaluation trenches at the south end of the development site, waterlain deposits and rubbish deposits were found infilling large irregular features. The location of the site towards the edge of the Isle of Ely as it slopes towards the river Cam and the Fen would suggest that these deposits relate to the low lying Fenland and that rubbish deposits found in the excavation area and nearer to Lisle Lane represent an attempt to bring the land into use.



Excavation of trial trench B had exposed large, shallow feature **1058**. Machine excavation had revealed water-lain clays and hand excavation suggested a large water-filled feature which was later backfilled. Not excavated contexts 1055, 1056 and 1057 were probably water-lain deposits and comprised brown to brownish-yellow (10YR 5/3 - 10YR 6/6) gravelly, slightly silty sand (1055); mixed brownish-yellow (10YR 6/8) and grey (10YR 6/1) clay (1056); and 1057 which was very similar to 1056, but included gravel. These were sealed by a dark olive grey silty, slightly sandy clay, 1031, which was seen to be 0.22-0.38m deep where excavated at the north-western end of cut **1058**. As well as pottery, animal bone and oyster shell, this deposit also included two pieces of worked bone (one possibly used as a musical instrument, the other is a decorated piece of unknown function) and a gilded copper alloy strip. Both it and overlying context 1010 (5Y 3/2 dark olive grey, slightly silty clay) are interpreted as deliberate dumping episodes utilising domestic rubbish. 1010 also included tree branches. The opening of a larger area in the second phase of excavations exposed a larger area of deposits identical to 1010 (1240, 1242, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1257, 1258, 1259), but possibly filling at least two large features. 1240 probably filled the same feature as the deposits recorded in the evaluation (1055, 1056, 1057, 1031, 1010). 1262 may either have filled a second water filled feature and 1242, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, and 1261 would seem to be pockets of water lain deposits infilling small irregular hollows around the edges of the main ponds. Although truncated, these fills suggest that the north-western edge of cut **1058** was irregular in plan and suggest a pond or marshy area rather than a deliberately cut ditch or channel. A width of 1.30m of the edge of **1058** was exposed and showed it to slope sharply at an angle of 60° before sloping more gradually at 15-20°. This sharp edge may be more appropriate for a pond than a marsh.

In evaluation trench C grey clay (1094) was seen in section to have accumulated around a decayed piece of wood 1095. This may have taken place within the same water-filled feature and would suggest that it was at least 50 x 15m in size.

### 5.3 Period 2

**Contexts:** 1006, 1059, 1206, 1211, 1237, 1241. **1263** filled by 1234, 1235, 1236, 1282; **1265** filled by 1227, 1254, 1255, 1256; **1268** filled by 1267. **1027** filled by 1026. **1063** filled by 1062  
Ceramic dating 1200-1350

Period 2 features can be broadly characterised into two categories, linears and cultivation soils. Finds from period 2 suggest that activity was broadly contemporary with period 1, but certain stratigraphic relationships suggest that period 2 events post date certain period 1 events. The interpretation of the period 2 features is debatable. They could be seen as features relating to agriculture, suggesting a period of local urban decline and return to field systems, however, the evidence is not sufficient to support this interpretation, equally the features could represent further activity in an urban situation, the deposits representing gardens rather than fields and the linear features representing continuity of property division.

Deposit 1006 was recorded during evaluation as a varied deposit of silty clay. 1006 was rich in artefacts including pottery, animal bones, tile and fired clay or daub, other finds included a bone dice, a fine copper alloy pin and a small iron object which may be part of a key or lock, it sealed features of Period 1. The nature of 1006 and the process which had formed it are uncertain, linear features aligned south-west/north-east to the south of 1006 may be the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation and this deposit may be the remains of an associated headland running parallel to Lisle Lane. Deposit 1006 also coincided with the underlying linear feature in group v, period 1. The deposit may therefore represent the upper fills of this

feature and perhaps the remnants of garden soil, a line of post holes (period 1) appears to define the edges of the deposit, since it does not continue to the south of these.

Although these features may represent the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation it is worth considering an alternative interpretation. The linear features all followed a north-west/south-east orientation parallel with period 1 features such as 1239 (possible building) and 1280 (possible property boundary). They also run at right angles to other period 1 features such as 1271 and 1264 (possible property boundaries). This may be coincidental or a result of factors influencing features in both periods, however, it may be that these features relate to the period 1 occupation. Two factors lend support to this interpretation, the pottery recovered from these features suggests they were contemporary with the period 1 features, and secondly the orientation and alignment of the features is coincident with features identified as belonging with period 1 and structural in character.

Deposits 1206, 1211, 1241 were unexcavated linears which may be furrow fills or features associated with the structural phases of period 1. 1241 is probably the same as 1026, the fill of 1027. 1241/1026 is of interest because of its position in relation to linears 1263 and 1265, its irregular shape and the possibility that it was truncated by the period 1, group vii pond deposits. The feature lay approximately midway between 1263 and 1265 and was very shallow. 1241 was described as containing fragments of animal bone, pottery and shell on its surface suggesting that the deposit was derived from rubbish. The shallowness of the deposit, coupled with its irregular shape perhaps suggest that it may be the remnant of an anthropogenic soil with 1059. The deposits both occur within the confines of features 1263 and 1265 and may be part of the same layer. The layer may relate to a possible trackway leading from Lisle Lane towards the pond area at the south of the excavation area.

Three of the putative plough furrows were tested by excavation.

1268 proved to be a 0.46m wide, shallow (0.10m deep), U-shaped gully containing a brown (10YR 5/3) fine silty clay (1267).

1265 was wider (0.90 - 1.00m), probably because less truncated by later activity, but had a similar slightly concave base. Although originally identified as a series of different elements, its fill comprised a single mixed dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) silty sandy clay (1026, 1027, 1227, 1254, 1255 and 1256).

1263 proved similar in dimensions and profile to 1265 and had a main fill of greyish-brown to light olive brown (2.5Y 5/2-3) fine silty clay, 1236. However, it was sampled at a point where the fill was a darker greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2-3) silty sand (1235) with a concentration of broken oyster and mussel shells. It was anticipated that this marked the location of a truncated earlier feature, but no trace of such a feature was found, suggesting that the shell had been disturbed and then dragged by the plough to its final location. Fills 1234 and 1282 were similar concentrations of shell and may have been produced in the same way.

Deposit 1237 was an irregular oval spread of olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) silty clay located at the north-western end of 1263 and appeared to be cut by it. It contained more gravel than the fill of the furrow and was notable for 7 or 8 larger stones (0.08m x 0.10m) around its edges. It may have been created by the turning of the plough at the end of the furrow, resulting in the localised deposition of larger stones dragged along the furrow, an alternative interpretation is that the deposit was associated with the putative period 1 building, since it was located at the corner of the structure.

Deposit 1059 was a shallow olive (5y 4/3) silty clay flecked with charcoal, it covered a large area of the evaluation trench to the north of the pond area and was cut by a number of pits including 1283 (period 3). The deposit may be the same as 1241.

Deposit 1241 was a firm light olive brown (2.5y 5/3) clayey sand, flecked with charcoal and containing oyster shell, animal bone and tiny fragments of pottery. The deposit formed an irregular linear shape approximately 10 metres long by 2 metres wide. It stopped against deposit 1240 (period 1) at its southern end and may have been truncated by it. At its northern end it was truncated by pits 1273 and 1283 (period 3) and continued north into evaluation trench A where it terminated as 1027, with an excavated depth of 0.08m. The deposit may be the same as deposit 1059 recorded in evaluation.

#### 5.4 Period 3

**1273** filled by 1270, , **1065/1276/1277** filled by 1064/1275/1278, **1033** filled by 1032, 1028, 1040; **1283** filled by 1226. Contexts 1082, 1083  
Ceramic dating 1200-1350

Three pits of varying size and shape in plan, but all quite shallow were allocated to period 3 based on being stratigraphically later than period 2 deposits, pottery from the backfills of the two larger pits dates to 1200-1350 . The large pits, 1273 and 1283 contained quantities of pottery, animal bone and shell suggesting the deposits derived from domestic rubbish. A possible interpretation is that the putative period 1 building only a few metres to the east of these pits was the origin of these deposits, suggesting the possibility that this building continued to be occupied up to the middle of the 14th century. Perhaps it is no coincidence that the site would appear to be abandoned and marginilised at the same time as Ely began to see a period of economic decline.

Cut **1065/1276/1277** are probably part of the same small subcircular feature. The feature was very truncated and contained lenses of gravel within fills 1065/1275/1278.

**1273** was a subcircular pit with irregular sides and a flat base (1.8m diameter x 0.28m deep). It was filled by 1270, a light olive brown silty sandy clay with lumps of redeposited blue grey clay and contained pottery, animal bone and oyster shell.

**1283** was partially excavated during evaluation, a sondage was placed through the pit and numbered **1033**, fills 1028, an olive brown sandy silty clay (2.5y 4/3), 1032 an olive brown silty clay (2.5y 4/3) and 1040 an unexcavated light olive brown sandy silty clay were recorded in the sondage. 1226, recorded during excavation as the fill of **1283** is probably the same as 1028. The feature was irregular in plan approximately 5 x 3m and at least 0.35m deep. Stratigraphically the pit may be later than linear 1241 (period 2), although the area of interface was very limited and the relationship open to question. Pottery recovered from fills 1028, 1032 and 1226 suggest a date in the 13th to 14th century. The range and variety of finds from the pit included pottery, animal bone, shell, a copper alloy stud and iron nails suggesting that it had been used for rubbish disposal.

Redeposited natural clay was often a major component of the fills, and layers 1083 and 1082 (seen only in section) were similar, but their derivation and function is difficult to determine.

#### 5.5 Period 4

**1023/1025** filled by 1024, 1005; **1012** filled by 1011, 1007; **1266** filled by 1215; **1272** filled by 1213. Contexts 1004, 1077-1081, 1087-93, 1098-1128, 1207-1209, 1214, 1225, 1230, 1231, 1245.

**1023** was an oval, vertically-sided post pit (0.50 x 0.35 x 0.41m) with post impression **1025** at its base. Fills 1005 and 1024 were both very dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 3/2) silty clay.

**1272** had similar, but shallower, dimensions, it was located at the north-western corner of the excavation and this may also be a post pit filled by 1213.

1245 was the unexcavated topsoil fill of a square, modern posthole.

**1266**, backfilled with 1215, is probably another posthole (0.32 x 0.21 x 0.18m), but the postholes were widely spaced and have no obvious relationship.

**1012** was an oval pit (0.90 x 0.52 x 0.33m) with vertical sides and contained the complete skeleton of a juvenile pig, crammed into the pit and sealed with 1011 a dark olive brown (2.5Y 3/3) silty clay. Similar animal burials were noted during machine clearance for the

second phase of fieldwork. They were to the west, but at a similar distance from Lisle Lane and may form a "shadow" of the back fence of modern properties along the lane.

1230 represented the unexcavated backfill of a pipe- or cable-trench and appeared to be cut by a more modern disturbance containing 1231.

1214, 1207 and 1208 were localised modern (*i.e.* 19th or 20th century) backfills of rubbish pits cutting a much larger area of dumping, 1209, with an outlying area 1225. Most of this material was removed by machine and could be seen to cut the linear features of Period 2 and to penetrate to the natural. This episode of "land reclamation/landfill" may be associated with, or be the progenitor of, the great depths (1.15m in Trench C, 1.10m in Trench D) of modern dumping seen in the machine-dug sections of evaluation Trenches C and D.

1004 Sealed the backfills of Period 1, vii feature **1058**, a 0.17m thick layer of very dark grey (10YR 3/1) silty clay ) which contained many small pottery sherds deriving from a wide date range from the late medieval to 1900. Given the absence elsewhere on the site of dated contexts assigned to domestic occupation in the post-medieval period, 1004 may originate elsewhere, having been introduced as dump or levelling material. This may have taken place as recently as the laying of the concrete yard which covered much of the area. The boundary between 1004 and topsoil 1078 was difficult to detect in section, but the latter had been sealed by a localised area of demolition-derived material (1080) and a more general area of gravel (1077) when terracing and other topographical changes took place in association with the laying out of the modern Lisle Lane and the erection of small industrial units on the site.

## **6 POTTERY by Paul Spoerry, BTech, PhD**

### **6.1 Introduction and Background**

An assemblage totalling 1037 sherds, 8573g, was recovered from the two phases of work at Lisle Lane. A spot dating report and assessment were carried out on the first phase material which highlighted the potential of the assemblage, particularly through the possible recovery of larger, stratified groups in the second stage. Unfortunately the second stage works did not reveal any large groups and, in fact, less material was recovered than during the evaluation. Despite this, there is enough material to carry out some analysis. This is particularly important as it will provide a comparative background to the larger assemblage from the nearby site at Jubilee Terrace (Spoerry forthcoming). Trends seen in one assemblage may be better understood by such comparisons. Those sherds chosen for illustration do not form a cohesive group but form a part of a growing corpus for the town which will require publication at some future date.

### **6.2 The Period Assemblages**

The stratigraphic report has divided the remains into four Periods. These are;-

Period 1. An assortment of cut features, including linears, postholes, pits and probable quarries, all of which have experienced truncation. In addition the largest group of pottery derives from the fill of a pond or marshy channel.

Period 2. Alternative interpretations include possible trackway and continuity of property boundaries or remnant of ridge and furrow.

Period 3. Pits and their backfills.

Period 4. Post-pits, pipe-trenches and levelling deposits of 'modern' date.

It is apparent from Table 1 that the size of the period assemblages varies quite significantly. Period 1 is the largest, whilst Period 3 is barely large enough to provide statistically valid information regarding the nature of the population from which the assemblage derives. Period 4 is, on the face of it, a good-sized group, however, it derives from a mixture of recent features and is composed of material of a variety of different dates. It is probably unwise to study the Period 4 assemblage in detail as it is not representative of any *one* episode of activity. The small average sherd weight exhibited by the Period 4 assemblage serves to illustrate the large amount of re-working, and thus fragmentation, that this group has experienced.

The stratigraphic interpretation, as listed above, raised the possibility that the Period 2 and Period 3 assemblages may both derive to a significant extent from phases of activity which are as likely to have involved re-working, as they are

to have involved deposition of new material. The average sherd weights do not, however, support the suggestion that they purely represent a Period 1 assemblage that has experienced further fragmentation. The alternative suggestion that periods 2 and 3 represent continuity of period 1 activity is better supported by the pottery.

Period 1 is the one group that is of particular interest, being representative of various activities presumably associated with occupation and, by virtue of the diversity and number of deposits, having identifiable subdivisions. The groups identified in the initial stratigraphic analysis were used as a basis for subdividing, and analysing variation within, the Period 1 assemblage. Table 1 indicates the basic data available. It is obvious from this table that statistically valid information cannot be recovered from the very small groups deriving from Groups iv) and vi).

*Table 1 Main Assemblage and Subdivisions*

Period/Group	No. Sherds	Weight	Av. Sherd Weight
Period 1	702	5790g	8.2g
Group i)	15	568g	
Group ii)	68	458g	
Group iii)	49	727g	
Group iv)	56	59g	
Group v)	60	367g	
Group vi)	7	29g	
Group vii)	445	3582g	
Period 2	134	1126g	8.4g
Period 3	36	392g	10.8g
Period 4	150	923g	6.2g
Total	1037	8573g	8.3g

### 6.3 Period Dates

The dating of pottery from Periods 1 to 3 is remarkably similar, however, this does not necessarily mean that all of the material from the latter two phases is residual and derives from Period 1 activities.

Pottery from Period 1 includes 27 sherds that certainly pre-date the general Period date of 1200-1350, whilst eleven sherds post-date this bracket. Most of these earlier and later sherds derive from Context (1010), which, is the main context representing the pond or channel fill. This feature appears to have been partially disturbed in later phases, which may account for the small amount of contamination. The date of the main phase of discarded pottery in the pond or channel deposits is 1200-1350.

Period 2 includes only one sherd that certainly dates to after 1350, whilst only nine sherds pre-date circa 1150 and are therefore undoubtedly residual. The main assemblage is composed of material that is representative of the period 1200-1350, some sherds being of types that start earlier, and some of types that run on later.

Period 3 includes three sherds of pre-1150 date and one of post-1350 date. The indications are that this period is firmly dated to the period 1200-1350.

Period 4 includes pottery of a whole range of dates up until the nineteenth century. It is in no way a cohesive group.

In conclusion, the assemblages from Periods 1, 2 and 3 are all indicative of the same dating bracket 1200-1350.

Use of the site from then on is sporadic and of low intensity.

#### 6.4 The Period Assemblages

A comparison of the proportion of main fabric types and vessel functional types across Periods 1 to 3 was carried out. Period 3 is really too small to guarantee valid results, however, the data and results have been retained as they do provide a useful third group.

##### 6.4.1 Fabric Types

Table 2 shows the quantification data produced by comparing the Period assemblages with grouping by Pottery type or groups of 'like' types. Figure 3 is a bar chart of these values.

*Table 2 Percentages of broad pottery types in Period Assemblages (by weight)*

Pottery Type	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
Ely ware	65.4	59.2	63.2
Ely ware chalk and shell variants	23.6	6.6	14.8
Early medieval ware	3	6.7	6.1
Essex Micaceous wares	2.4	4.6	0.8
Regional Finewares	1.5	12.8	2
St Neots and Shelly wares	1.6	2.9	9.5
Non-local sandy wares	0.8	2	3.1
Intrusive and Unknown	1.5	5.1	0.5

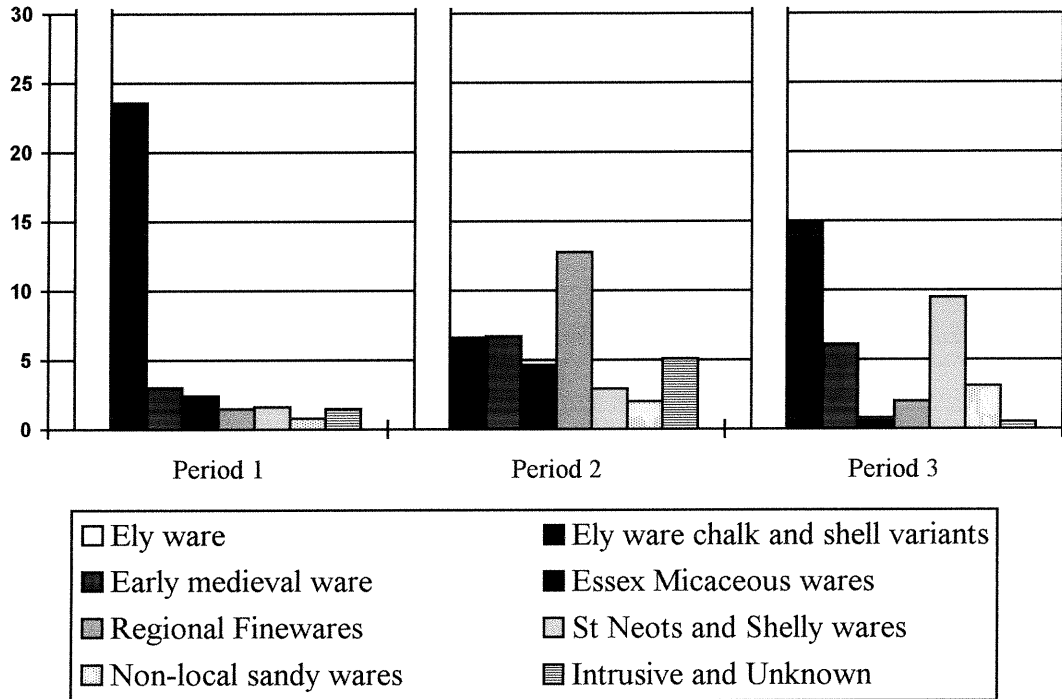


Figure 3 Percentages of broad pottery types in Period Assemblages (by weight)

These statistics confirm the expectation that three assemblages from the same broad date-range and from one small site, ought to provide similar figures. This is not, however, the whole story as it is apparent that there is substantially more Ely ware chalk and shell-tempered variants in Period 1, than in 2 and 3. In addition the amount of Early Medieval Ware increases after Period 1, Either of these slight trends may therefore have temporal significance, however, both types are not well enough known to be certain of this. Early medieval Ware is certainly a type that is common in twelfth century deposits (Clarke and Carter 1977) and, if anything, it should decrease in importance in the assemblage throughout the period in question. The increase in the presence of various 'regional finewares' seen in Period 2 may also be significant, especially if the Period 3 figures are not taken too seriously (as has been suggested above). Glazed and decorated pottery is a phenomenon that sees its greatest expansion in the mid thirteenth to mid-fourteenth century. It might seem reasonable to see an increase in such types over time within the dating bracket being considered here.



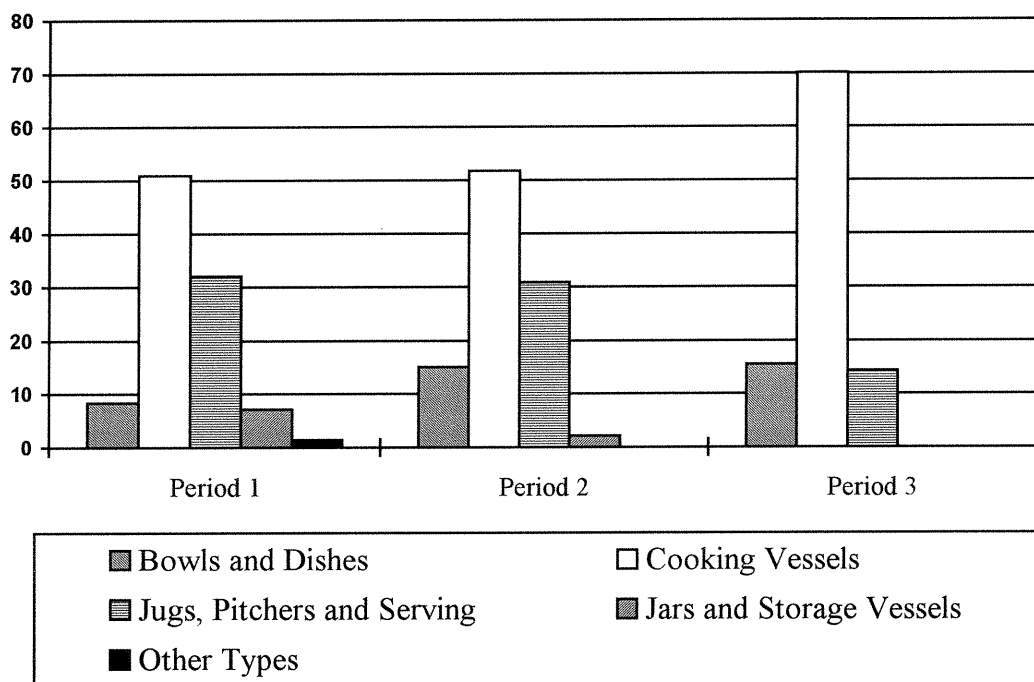
6.4.2 Vessel Types

*Table 3 Vessel Functional Types in Periods*

Vessel Functional Type	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
Bowls and Dishes	8.4	15.1	15.5
Cooking Vessels	51	51.8	70.1
Jugs, Pitchers and Serving	32	30.9	14.3
Jars and Storage Vessels	7.2	2.2	0
Other Types	1.4	0	0

n.b. Percentages are of all pottery (by weight) for which a vessel can be assigned

Table 3 shows the percentages, by weight, of each Period assemblage that can be attributed to broad vessel functional types. Sherds for which no vessel type is known have been omitted from calculations.



*Figure 4 Vessel Functional Types in Periods*

Periods 1 and 2 show remarkable consistency with regard to the amount of dominant types, namely cooking vessels and jugs, pitchers and serving vessels. There are, however, differences with regard to the minor types. There is a higher percentage of material from bowls in Period 1, whilst there are many more jars and storage vessels in Period 2. Period 3 echoes both these latter trends by continuing the increase in storage vessels and having a total absence of bowls. In conclusion, it seems that there are indeed differences in these assemblages in terms of the types of vessels represented, but the variation is

one of waxing and waning of minor types whilst the main area of ceramic usage (cooking vessels and jugs) remains constant. Whether this variation is temporally, or activity, related is not certain.

Because of the dominance of Ely ware type fabrics in this assemblage, variations in the vessel types are essentially variations in the Ely ware assemblage.

## 6.5 Group Assemblages in Period 1

The Period 1 assemblage derives from contexts that have been placed into seven groups on stratigraphic grounds. Five of these groups contain enough pottery for analysis of their content to be statistically valid, although almost two thirds of the pottery derives, in fact, from Group vii pond deposits. Those groups for which statistics have been studied are shown in Table 4.

### 6.5.1 Fabric Types

As with the period assemblages the group assemblages were broken down into several broad pottery types and then statistics calculated on the weight of pottery present.

*Table 4 Percentages of broad pottery types in Period 1 Group Assemblages (by weight)*

Pottery Type	Group i	Group ii	Group iii	Group v	Group vii
Ely ware	53.2	75.8	13.1	55.9	77.8
Ely ware chalk and shell variants	27.5	10.3	85.2	10.6	13.6
Early medieval ware	11.6	2.6	0	4.6	2
Essex Micaceous wares	0.9	0	1.1	18	1.6
Regional Finewares	2.3	0	0	4.4	1.6
St Neots and Shelly wares	1.2	4.1	0	4.4	1.4
Non-local sandy wares	0.5	6.8	0.7	0.5	0.2
Intrusive and Unknown	2.9	0.4	0	1.6	1.7

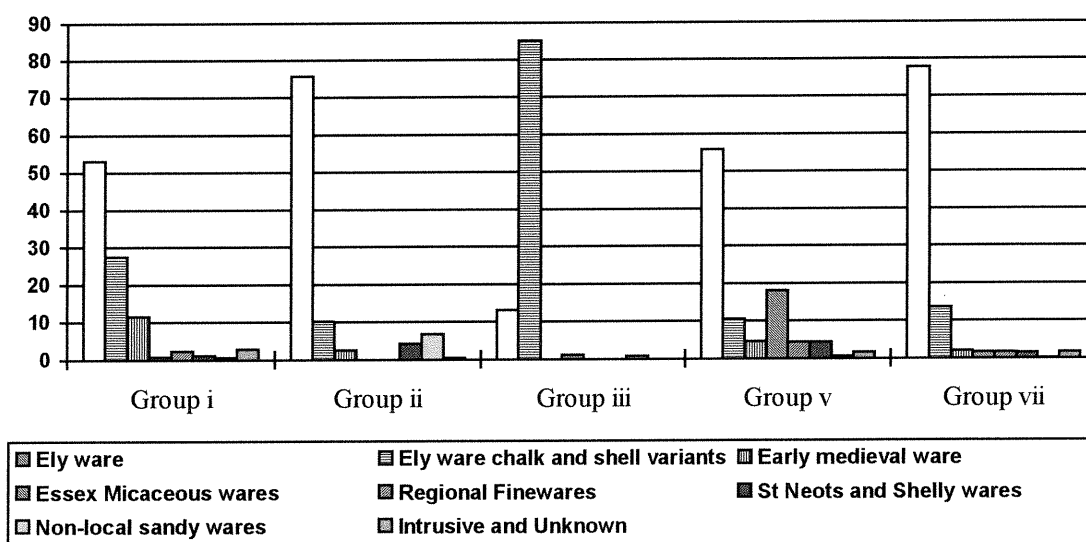


Figure 5. Percentage of Period 1 Group Assemblages by Weight for Broad Pottery Types

The group with the smallest number of data points is Group ii) with 49 sherds.

Group vii), containing 445 sherds and deriving from a general spread of deposits rather than from a discrete feature, is the one set of statistics that may truly represent the ‘typical assemblage’ of this part of the town at a certain point in time. If this is used as the benchmark then variation away from this may be worth noting. The low incidence of all types of pottery other than Ely ware variants exhibited by Group vii points to the fact that the general ceramic assemblage in Ely in the thirteenth to fourteenth century is one totally dominated by local products. If we are to observe variation and attach meaning to these statistics, then it will be in terms of how and why other types appear in the assemblage and assume some secondary dominance, against a background of local vessels meeting most local needs.

The most striking characteristic of the groups is that they are all dominated by Ely ware type pottery, but that in Group iii) it is the Chalk and Shell tempered variant. This statistic shows how careful one must be when reading meaning into statistics derived from such small amounts of pottery. The presence in this group of 35 sherds of one shell-tempered Ely ware jug has completely biased the results. Ignoring this problem for the time being, it is worth noting that Early medieval ware is most common in Group i), but little was recovered elsewhere, and Essex Micaceous wares, although present in most groups are only a significant component in Group v). This material is derived from several different vessels and an increased presence, in general, can indeed be supported here. The higher incidence of non-local sandy wares in Group ii) is also a product of several sherds from different vessels and may suggest a greater diversity of provenance if nothing else.

More detailed study of this data is not warranted. Where larger assemblages from this part of town are in the future obtained, comparison with this Period 1 information can, and should, be made. This might involve the removal of the dominant Ely ware component and the study of the presence of other types across larger groups as well as consideration of any variation in the presence of Ely ware in general.

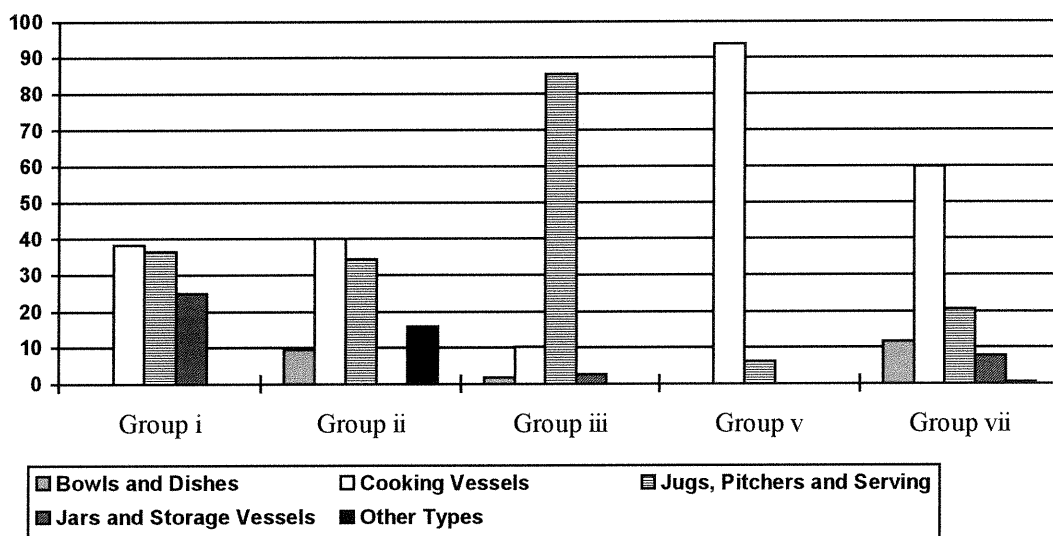
Little meaning can be extracted from the variation observed other than to say that Group v) suggests greater contact with producers in Essex and the presence of more early Medieval Ware in Group i) may indicate more contact with areas to the west, or may suggest a slightly earlier date.

### 6.5.2 Vessel Types

As was carried out for the period assemblages in Section 4.2 above, the amount (by weight) of each vessel functional type in the Period 1 group assemblages was calculated. The results are shown in Table 5.

*Table 5*

Vessel Functional Type	Group i	Group ii	Group iii	Group v	Group vii
Bowls and Dishes	0	9.5	1.7	0	11.6
Cooking Vessels	38.4	40.2	10.2	93.9	59.8
Jugs, Pitchers and Serving	36.6	34.5	85.5	6.1	20.5
Jars and Storage Vessels	25	0	2.6	0	7.8
Other Types	0	15.9	0	0	0.4



*Figure 6 Vessel Functional Types in Period 1 Groups*

These data have been used to create a bar chart, presented here as Figure 6. Comments regarding Group sizes, as made in the previous section, again apply

here. Group vii) is by far the largest and probably also represents material of a more diverse origin than represented in the other groups. This should be used as the standard against which other groups are compared.

Group vii) shows a dominance of cooking vessels, at 60%, but with other types well-represented in the assemblage (in descending order of jugs, bowls and jars). Of the other four groups, none shows exactly this trend. Group iii) is most different, having a great dominance of jugs etc. This stems from the presence of, in particular, one vessel and so these figures must be viewed with some scepticism. Group v) is even more dominated by cooking vessels than Group vii). This is the result of the presence of small parts of many different Ely ware vessels and, for that reason, is likely to be a valid observation. Group i) contains large sherds from two Ely ware storage jars which represent 25% of the assemblage of identifiable sherds. Group ii) is the most varied, but the fact that each of the vessel types is only represented by a few examples may detract from the likelihood that this may be significant. Group ii) is in fact the one assemblage most like that of Group vii).

In conclusion the general indications from this assemblage is that this is very much a domestic group, with kitchen use highest on the list of activities. Groups i) and ii) have more table wares, whilst group v) is purely a kitchen/hearth assemblage.

## 6.6 Ely Ware

The vast majority of pottery from the site is Ely ware, or one of its variants. Table 2 shows the variation in the amount of this material across Periods 1 to 3. Other than the obvious dominance of all three assemblages, the only statistic that is worthy of comment is the fact that the shelly and chalk-tempered variants are very common in Period 1 (23.6% of assemblage), and less so in Periods 2 and 3. This could indicate that there was less of the variants in circulation during the later periods, perhaps suggesting that these types decline before the general supply of local material does. Alternatively it could illustrate that the period assemblages are different in some other way. As has been discussed in 4.2 above, the percentages of some vessel types in each Period assemblage do vary, but little significance can be attributed to this variation. At this site shell-tempered and chalk-tempered Ely ware do not appear to be very different from the more common Ely ware, in the types of vessels represented. This is at odds with suggestions from elsewhere; for example, at Potters Lane, Shelly Ely ware appears to be the favoured fabric type in the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries for angled bowls (Spoerry unpub.). This is not the case here.

Ely ware is fully described elsewhere (Spoerry *op.cit.*), and the variants seen here are not unique. This industry has only recently been given a kiln-site attribution. In the past it was either given a verbal description, e.g. Brown Gritty Ware (Coppack 1980) or assigned to a general area as Cambridgeshire

Sandy ware (Lentowicz pers.comm.). The so-called Grimston Software seen at Kings Lynn (Clarke and Carter 1977) is in actual fact almost certainly Ely ware.

A very few sherds of late medieval to post-medieval Ely ware were identified, mostly in the Period 4 assemblage. This fabric differs from the earlier material in being harder fired and with a much finer sand temper.

Those sherds chosen for illustration will not be drawn as part of this archive report, but will instead be presented in a forthcoming document alongside a wider range of Ely ware from several other sites in the town (Spoerry forthcoming).

## **6.7 A Selection Of Other Pottery Types**

### **6.7.1 Early Medieval Ware**

This type has been recorded in many assemblages from Norfolk, with the emphasis in the west of the County. Wade discussed it in detail (1980) and concluded that, due to the variable oxidation state of the material and also to the fact that no kilns have been discovered, it was probably made in clamp kilns, possibly in many different locations. The range of vessel types is quite limited, with cooking pots, commonly with piecrust rim decoration, and bowls representing almost the whole assemblage at North Elmham (Wade 1980) and Castle Acre castle (Milligan 1982).

At Lisle Lane the cooking pot, with and without piecrust rim, is the only Early Medieval Ware vessel type recovered.

### **6.7.2 Essex Micaceous Wares**

Some of these types are only generally attributable to Essex industries (late medieval micaceous redware), whilst others, such as Mill Green fineware and Sible Hedingham glazed ware derive from known, and particular, production sites. All have micaceous fabrics. The finewares are all very smooth with very fine quartz sand temper and a sandy/soapy feel, whilst the coarseware contains medium quartz sand inclusions.

### **6.7.3 Other Glazed Finewares**

The most important producer of glazed pottery for this assemblage, besides that from the Ely ware and Essex micaceous ware industries, is Stamford. Half of this is true Stamford ware, pre-1150 in date and almost certainly residual in all contexts here. This material provides hints of there having been late Saxon or early post-Conquest activity somewhere in the vicinity, but it is surprising that this is not backed up by much larger amounts of unglazed material from the same period. Only 18 sherds of St Neots ware and no Thetford wares were

recovered. A more normal pre-1150 assemblage in this part of the country, whether residual or not, would be expected to have a dominance of these two types, with Stamford ware very much in the minority.

Developed Stamford ware and Grimston ware appear to be the secondary glazed products in the thirteenth century, alongside those discussed above. It so happens that, as Stamford declined in importance as a fineware producer around 1250, Grimston was just becoming much more widely distributed. This assemblage probably straddles this change so it is very difficult to extract meaning from the presence of so few sherds in groups that are dated across this key period.

The very small amount of Grimston ware is, perhaps surprising, as a direct river trade route exists between Ely and Kings Lynn, where this is the dominant type.

A few sherds of Brill/Boarstall glazed medieval ware and Scarborough ware attest to wider trade contacts, both probably riverine in at least the last stretch of the journey.

## **6.8 Conclusions**

This assemblage is too small on its own to support any major interpretative statements regarding the ceramic assemblage in medieval Ely, however, it provides one element in achieving that aim. Period 1 represents what appears to be a good domestic assemblage from the thirteenth to early fourteenth centuries, without much residual material. On its own this is not a hugely significant group, but when used alongside several others to characterise variation over time and space, it will indeed prove valuable. Several other site groups will be published over the next few years, thus the hope of use of this data in a synthetic study to look at medieval ceramic supply and use in the city of Ely is by no means a vain one. A few key points of note include the surprising significance of Essex glazed ware producers when compared to Grimston (with many examples in Period 1, Group v); the presence of a fair amount of Early Medieval Ware in Period 1, Group I, perhaps indicating a different use origin for this group or, alternatively, a slightly earlier date for this group. The final option is that Early Medieval ware is used in Ely appreciably after 1200, which is at odds with its dating elsewhere.

## 7 THE FAUNAL REMAINS by Lorrain Higbee.

### 7.1 Quantity and Provenance of Material

The total assemblage amounts to 7176g and consists of 708 fragments. All were hand collected from excavated features.

### 7.2 Methodology

#### 7.2.1 Identification

Individual skeletal elements were not identified to species level unless they bore clear features typical of that particular species. Only 235 of the total number of fragments could be identified to species level. The 400 other fragments in the assemblage are mostly ribs and vertebrae which are notoriously difficult to assign to species (excluding the atlas, axis, and sacrum) and small splinters of bone (less than 2cm). Since less than half of this already small assemblage could be identified, all of the rib and vertebrae fragments were analysed for evidence of butchery and pathology in order to obtain the maximum amount of information. Where any of these were noted they were recorded as occurring on "large mammal" (cattle, horse, red deer), "medium mammal" (sheep/goat, pig), "small mammal" (dog, hare/rabbit, rodent) and "unidentified bird".

#### 7.2.1 Quantitative analysis

In order to obtain some indication of the degree of fragmentation of the material NISP and MNI were calculated (see Table ). The first of these is the number of bone fragments assigned to a species, whilst the latter is the minimum number of individuals necessary to account for all the identified bones of a species. So that MNI could be calculated individual bone elements had to be sided left or right, after which the bone element with the highest figure (L or R) was chosen as the MNI for each species. So that the individual MNIs were not artificially inflated, a system of recording fractions was used rather than assigning whole numbers to fragments of long bones (Klein & Cruz-Urbe, 1984, p.27).

#### 7.2.2 Ageing

An attempt has been made to estimate the age of the principal domestic stock animals using the established methods of tooth eruption (only on fairly complete tooth rows) and epiphysal fusion (Silver, 1969, pp283-302). However, given the small percentage of identifiable bones in the assemblage and the low MNIs for all species, the age ranges obtained are of little significance and cannot be used to formulate any definite conclusions about stock management.

### 7.3 Preservation

The bulk of the assemblage has survived in a very good state of preservation and still retains sharp, clear ancient breaks indicating that it has been largely



unaffected by taphonomic processes since initial deposition. A few specimens show slight signs of root etching and chemical weathering. The complete absence of fish remains from the site (including sieved bulk samples) may be an indication that soil conditions were not favourable for their survival.

#### 7.4 The Assemblage

The small number of bones available for interpretation obviously limits the scope of this report particularly with regard to comparisons between the Period samples (Table 6). However, a number of interesting points can be made about the assemblage as a whole.

*Table 6 Species List by Period*

Species	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4
Cattle	•	•		•
Sheep/goat	•	•		•
Pig	•	•		•*
Red Deer	•	•		•
Horse		•		
Dog	•	•		
Hare/rabbit	•			•
Weasel/stoat	•			
Rodent	•			
Frog	•			
Partridge	•			
Domestic Goose	•			•
Crow		•		
Woodcock		•		•
Bantam		•		•
Mallard	•			
Pheasant	•	•		•

\* = includes a complete pig burial from cut 1012.

##### 7.4.1 Domestic stock animals

The typical domesticates (cattle, sheep/goat, and pig) are represented in all periods and make up approximately 74% of the total identified assemblage (Table 6). At least seven individual sheep/goat are represented in the sample, that is 21% of the total NISP and MNI. Both pigs (12.5% MNI and 26% NISP) and cattle (9% MNI and 27% NISP) have a higher NISP than MNI figure. Based on the NISP figures alone these stock animals appear to be more important elements of the assemblage than sheep/goat. However, I would suggest that these figures are slightly misleading as the NISP for pig is inflated by the inclusion of a nearly complete skeleton. Also, the difference between the NISP and MNI for cattle might be a reflection of the necessity to cut these large carcasses into manageable joints of meat. In other words, it is likely that the high NISP for cattle is a result of greater fragmentation. The MNI percentage would seem to give a truer picture, particularly since it is less sensitive to bone fragmentation and given the decision to record bone fractions in its' calculation.

Age estimations of the cattle bones indicate an age at death of between 12-18 months and 30-48 months. For the other domesticates age estimates are slightly lower with the majority of pig bones indicating ages between 6-12 months and 12-24 months, and just a few aged between 36-42 months. Likewise the majority of ageable sheep/goat bones have produced estimates of 3 months, or between 16 and 24 months, with just a few aged at between 18-48 months. Little comment can be made about the utility and husbandry of these animals based on these age estimations since the sample is small, but it can be tentatively suggested that the cattle were allowed to mature as working animals and that the sheep/goat killed under 18 months were principally bred for meat as sheep do not produce their first fleece until they reach their first year.

The largest number of identifiable fragments of cattle bone belong to those bones with the highest meat value (scapula, humerus, pelvis, and femur). However, amongst the identified sheep/goat and pig bone there is an almost equal representation of high and low quality meat bones (radius, ulna, and tibia). As already indicated by the NISP figures cattle carcasses would have been split into manageable joints of meat. Evidence from this assemblage seems to suggest that the fore limbs were detached from the distal end of the scapula and the major meat-bearing bones of the hind limbs were intensively butchered and possibly sold on the bone. Sheep/goat and pig would have been butchered in much the same way given their similar size. During the Medieval period it was common to include the scapula and humerus of the fore limb in the same joint of meat and evidence in support of this might be the recorded presence of "hook holes" on the sheep/goat scapula in this assemblage. The main meat-bearing bones of the hind limb were split at the mid-shaft of the tibia. Butchery marks have been noted on both the major meat-bearing bones and bones of less meat quality of all three domesticates, and on the vertebrae and rib fragments of both "large and medium" mammals. Some are consistent with primary carcass dismemberment, others are more consistent with cutting the meat off the bone. Worthy of note are two mandibles, one sheep/goat (context 1006), the other cattle (1228), which have clear, deep cut marks around the dorsal condyle at the back of the jaw. These were probably made whilst detaching the mandible from the skull to enable the tongue to be removed easily. Also noteworthy are two sheep/goat scapula fragments, both of which have irregular holes through the *margo vertebralis* area of the blade. These have been interpreted as a "hook hole" for hanging the forelimb meat joints, possibly as part of some preparation process or simply for display purposes.

Although butchery practises are known to have changed in the sixteenth century when it became common policy to split the vertebrae down their dorsal-ventral axis into sides of beef, mutton or pork, no change could be detected between the butchery practises of the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods from this assemblage.

The bulk of the bone fragments from domestic stock produced no evidence of pathology. Only cattle bones exhibited any sign of disease. A distal humerus (1010, period 1/vii) and a distal metapodial (1207 period 4) both have exostosis

or new bone growth. This could have been the result of an infection or inflammation.

Two fragments of worked bone were recovered from pond deposit 1031. One is the fourth metatarsal of a pig which has a hole drilled through the middle. The other is a fragment of the rib of a "medium mammal" and has a punched out circular pattern down one length of it. A bone dice was also recovered from context 1006. Whilst no other worked fragments were recovered from the site it is possible that horn was utilised since a small number of cores were recovered, all of which had been quite carefully removed from the skull.

#### 7.4.2 The exploitation of other animals

Two other domestic species represented in the assemblage are horse and dog. The horse comes from only one Medieval context (1006) and represents one individual. Dog occurs in two Medieval contexts (1010 and 1006). Neither shows any sign of butchery or pathology.

Wild animals present include red deer and ?hare/rabbit. Both are only present in small numbers (2 and 1 individual respectively) and all appear to be mature individuals. In the Medieval period these species would have been considered luxury items available from deer parks and managed warrens, and not an affordable food resource for the majority of Ely's population.

A ?weasel/stoat is represented by the presence of one tooth from Medieval context 1045. The pelvis of a rodent and the tibia-fibula of a frog were also recorded. These can only be treated as chance finds.

Table 7 Number of identified specimens & minimum number of individuals by species.

<b>Species present</b>	<b>NISP</b>	<b>MNI</b>
Cattle <i>Bos</i>	62	3
Sheep/Goat <i>Ovis/Capra</i>	51	7
Pig <i>Sus</i>	60	4
Horse <i>Equus</i>	1	1
Dog <i>Canis familiaris</i>	2	1
Red Deer <i>Cervus elaphus</i>	7	2
?Hare/Rabbit <i>Lagomorphs</i>	9	1
?Weasel/Stoat <i>Mustela</i>	1	1
Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	9	2
Domestic Fowl (Bantam) <i>Gallas gallas</i>	11	3
Pheasant <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	13	4
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1	1
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	4	1
Common Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	2	1
Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	1	1

Note: A complete pig burial from 1012 was counted as one fragment so as not to bias the NISP calculation

### 7.4.3 Birds

The remains of seven species of bird have been recorded from the site and they make up 40% of the MNI or 19% of the NISP. Whilst not very important in terms of meat weight, comparatively large numbers seem to have been eaten. Of the total, 18% (MNI) are represented by goose, fowl (probably small enough to be Bantam (Cohen & Serjeantson, 1986) and duck (mallard)). Whilst only fowl can definitely be said to have been domesticated at this time, there is archaeological evidence to suggest that both geese and ducks were also domesticated in the Medieval period, having being reared as poultry during the Roman period. However, the possibility that these species were exploited from wild populations cannot be ruled out. It is highly probable that if these three species were domesticated they would have been initially kept for their eggs by individual house holders and killed after their first year when they produce fewer eggs. This certainly seems to be substantiated by the low number of immature individuals of these species in the assemblage. Only two immature individuals, both domestic fowl, were recorded.

Pheasant appears as the commonest single bird species in the assemblage, comprising 12.5% of the total MNI. This is surprising since it would have been an extremely expensive item to purchase.

Of the other birds in the assemblage (woodcock and partridge), none appear to have been extensively exploited, and the crow may be seen as a scavenger of the rubbish dumps.

The majority of the bird bones were complete limb bones and most birds do not require much butchery to provide manageable servings. Cut marks were only discovered on two bones, a pheasant *tarso-metatarsus* and a goose *carpo-metacarpus*, both from context 1010. This deposit contained more bird bones than any other context on the site. All of the bones from this context were from the wing and feet, and seem to represent one individual each of pheasant, fowl and goose. It is possible that this part of the assemblage represents the discarded refuse from one meal or feast.

## 8 DISCUSSION by Aileen Connor

The date range for periods 1, 2 and 3 has been put in the period 1200-1350 based on the ceramics (Spoerry pp ). It seems that closer dates can not be achieved from the period assemblages although Spoerry has noted some differences between them which may be due to temporal influences.

Very little later pottery was found on the site which suggests abandonment from the mid 14th century on. This date coincides with economic deterioration in Ely and may reflect a more widespread abandonment of marginal properties. It is possible that this particular location was given over to more rural activities at an even earlier date if the interpretation of period 2 features as representing ridge and furrow agriculture is upheld, however, the features are ambiguous and could equally belong to a continuing phase of urban use as gardens and

property divisions. Indeed the pottery recovered from period 2 features was no more abraded than that recovered from period 1, and some features contained large, unabraded fragments of pottery entirely inconsistent with reworking by the plough.

Stratigraphically, period 1 features included a number of phases.

The earliest phase is represented by group ii pits, with the possible exception of **1054** (see below). These were generally very truncated by later features and although they may represent a phase of occupation no structures were found that could be directly associated with them. The date for this group is suggested by the ceramic assemblage to be between 1200 and 1350, although pottery dating as early as 950 was found in the assemblage suggesting the possibility that activity was occurring on the site from at least this date.

Group ii pits may be contemporary with the digging of group i ditches, and the imposition of property boundaries along Lisle Lane. These ditches probably represent the earliest of a series of boundary ditches based on ceramic dating and on the stratigraphic relationship between north-south ditch **1280** (group i) and east-west ditch **1218** (group v). Following backfilling of group ii pits, a building was erected adjacent to ditch **1264** (group i) and pits dug for rubbish disposal (groups iii and iv). Foundation slots for walls (**1009**, **1229**, **1232**) suggest the building was at least 3 metres by 4 metres, but the building plan was not seen in its entirety as it continued beyond the edges of the excavation. It is perhaps reasonable to suggest that these walls belonged to a building fronting Lisle Lane. The building would then have been approximately 14 metres long by at least 3 metres wide. House 4 at St Peters Street, Northampton was also 14 metres long by 5 metres wide during its late 13th and 14th century phases. The function of this building can not be determined since there were no associated floors, and although nearby pits may have contained rubbish generated by occupants of the building this is not provable. The best candidates for association with the building are pits **1030** and **1014**. Pit **1030** (group iii) contained a possible hearthstone which may have originated from the neighbouring building. Pit **1014** was stratigraphically later than group ii pits, a linear deposit **1238** led into the pit and was apparently earlier than **1009** (group vi) the north-west wall of the building. This may represent a drain leading into or out of the pit. Although **1238** appeared to be cut by **1009** it is interesting to note that it did not continue beyond **1009**, it is possible, therefore, that the two features were contemporary. Given this possibility, pit **1014** and gully **1238** may have been used to drain waste water away from the building (**1009**, **1229**, **1232**).

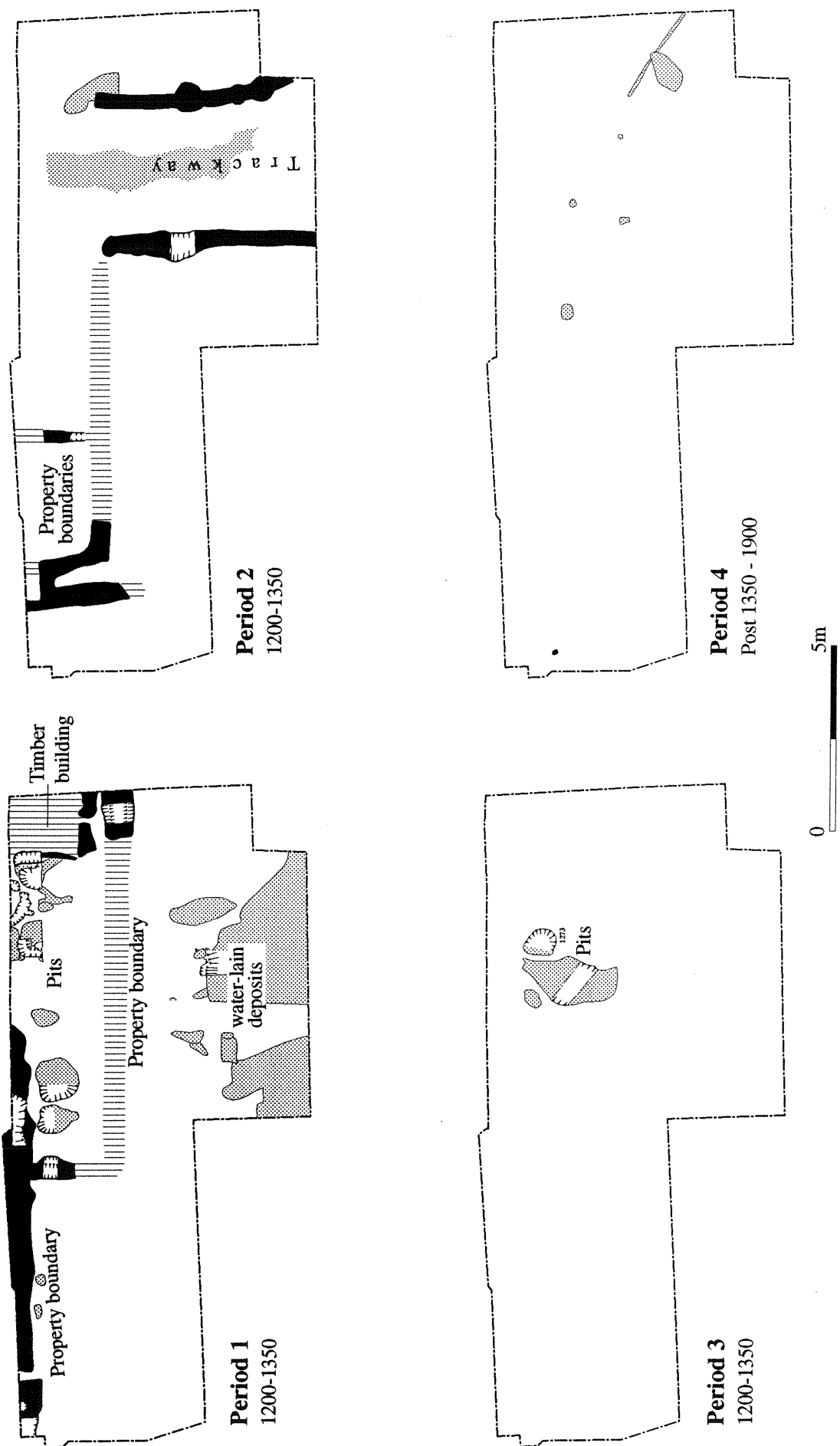


Figure 3 Interpretive plans

Ditch **1271** (group v) was later than ditch **1280** and must represent a change in the layout of property along Lisle Lane. Unfortunately, the ditch could only be seen in part as it continued beyond the edges of the excavation, however, there was a suggestion that it may have terminated or turned a corner to return towards Lisle Lane, approximately 10 metres to the west of the building.

Possible post holes 1216 and 1220 (group i) **1054** (group ii) 1251 (group vi) and even 1275 and 1278 (period 3) were aligned with each other and lay parallel and slightly to the south of **1271**. These six possible post holes may represent a fence line, approximately parallel and perhaps associated with ditch **1271** (group v). A seventh post hole, **1272**, was on approximately the same alignment as these six post holes at the west end of the site. This post hole was allocated to period 4 based on its stratigraphic association with **1271** although there were no finds associated with it. It is possible, therefore, that it belongs with the earlier, period 1 features, but may indicate that the ditch boundary **1271** was later replaced by a fence, represented by these seven post holes. If this interpretation is correct, then the fence would have continued through most of the width of the excavation area and beyond the line of the original boundary ditch.

Period 2 deposits may relate to this fence line, 1006 in particular was confined to the north of the possible fence line, suggesting a relationship between the two features. The artefact rich soil has been interpreted as either a headland for a system of ridge and furrow or as a garden soil. A fine pin and bone dice were recovered from this deposit which perhaps suggests a domestic rather than an agricultural origin. The character, finds from the deposit and relationship to the fence line would seem to support the latter interpretation.

Deposits at the southern end of the excavated area have been interpreted as a possible pond (group vii) which was infilled during the 13th and 14th centuries. The backfills included rubbish originating from domestic contexts including large quantity of cooking vessels but also some objects relating to other aspects of everyday life including part of a possible buckle, a decorative mount for a belt or horse furniture and a pig metatarsal which may be a musical instrument. The relationship of this pond to the occupation deposits is unclear, there is no direct stratigraphic association and the finds suggest that the pond was being infilled at approximately the same time as the rubbish pits were being used. By inference it is possible to connect the infilling of the pond to the occupation of building **1009**. Spatially the pond sits immediately to the south of a gap between building **1009**, and ditches **1264** and **1271**. It also sits between two period 2 north-south linear features **1263** and **1265**, although these features may simply be cultivation marks, it would seem more likely that they represent the boundaries of a trackway leading off Lisle Lane towards the wet area in order to carry out deliberate infilling.

Short lengths of four more linears on the same alignment were also identified, two of the linears (1211 and 1280) were apparently earlier than the backfilling of 1271, these two features with 1265 are all approximately 8 metres apart and

perhaps could be interpreted as property markers. 1211\* and 1268 on the other hand both apparently cut through the backfill of 1271 and were located approximately 1 metre to the west of the two former features, thus retaining a width of approximately 8 metres between them, and perhaps indicating that the features represent a reinstatement of the same properties. Unfortunately the evidence was insufficient to be certain of this interpretation, however excavations at St Peters Street, Northampton revealed buildings along the street frontage which had widths of between 6.5 and 7.7 metres along the street front and were approximately 3.5 metres deep, this interpretation of individual properties is thus not without parallels based on these dimensions. This suggests that the linears represent a series of shifting boundaries over a period of time but within the date range 1200-1350 set by the ceramics.

The phasing of possible trackway markers 1263 and 1265 can be extrapolated by reference to pits which appear to sit within the line of the track. By inference it is likely that the track post dates period 1 pits, is contemporary with period 1 group v ditch and then falls out of use again when period 3 pits are dug, and period 1-4 post holes are constructed to make a new fence line. The phasing of the building is unknown but it would not seem unreasonable to suggest that it continued to be occupied, in whatever capacity, throughout the exterior changes.

No further structural changes were in evidence in the excavation area and it is likely that the property or properties were abandoned in the mid 14th century based on the ceramic evidence. The structural evidence does not suggest any further activity on the site until the early to mid 19th century. At this time a cottage was built, the building rubble from its demolition was found in the north-eastern corner of the site and it was also shown on a map of 1851. Ceramics possibly dating as early as the 17th century suggest some limited activity prior to this.

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**Appendix A: Index of contexts**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Period /group</b>	<b>Date range</b>	<b>Description / Finds / Small Finds (sf)</b>
1001	NA	1200-1300	Machine clearance / pot
1002	NA		Machine clearance / tile or brick
1003	NA	1350-1500	Machine clearance of deeper deposits / pot, tile or brick, animal bone, flint
1004	4	1800-1900	Fill of <b>1058</b> Very dark grey (IOYR 3/1) silty clay / pot, tile or brick, clay pipe, animal bone, shell, flint, glass
1005	4	1600-1800	Upper fill of <b>1023/25</b> . Very dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 3/2) silty clay / pot, tile or brick, clay pipe, animal bone, shell / sf2
1006	2	1200-1250	Horticultural layer. Mixed silty clay / pot, tile or brick, daub, animal bone, shell, flint / sf1, sf3, sf12
1007	4	1800-1900	Upper fill of <b>1012</b> . Dark olive brown (2.5Y 3/3) silty clay / pot, daub, animal bone, shell, flint, glass, slate
1008	1/vi	1200-1500	Fill of <b>1009</b> . Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty clay / pot, tile or brick, animal bone
<b>1009</b>	1/vi		Beam-slot filled by 1008, 1085, 1086
1010	1/vii	1250-1350	Fill of <b>1058</b> . Dark olive grey (5Y 3/2) slightly silty clay / pot, tile or brick, daub, animal bone, shell, worked stone, flint / sf4, sf5
1011	4		Fill of <b>1012</b> / Complete skeleton of juvenile pig
<b>1012</b>	4		Oval pit filled by 1011.
1013	1/iv	1150-1250	Fill of <b>1014</b> . Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty clay / pot, tile or brick, animal bone, shell
<b>1014</b>	1/iv		Truncated sub-circular pit filled by 1013, 1084
1015	1/ii	1150-1350	Fill of <b>1016</b> Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) very slightly silty clay / pot, animal bone
<b>1016</b>	1/ii		Very shallow small sub rectangular pit filled by 1015
1017	1/v	1150-1350	Upper fill of <b>1019</b> Very dark greyish-brown (IOYR 3/2) silty clay / pot, animal bone
1018	1/v	1150-1350	Lower fill of <b>1019</b> Brown (IOYR 4/3) silty clay / pot, flint / sf13
<b>1019</b>	1/v		Sub-rectangular pit filled by 1017, 1018.
1020	NA		Not used.
1021	1/iv	1150-1350	Fill of <b>1022</b> Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) sandy silty clay / pot, animal bone
<b>1022</b>	1/iv		?Tree root. Very irregular shallow cut filled by 1021
<b>1023</b>	4		Same as <b>1025</b>
1024	4		Fill of post hole <b>1025</b> Very dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 3/2) silty clay. Very compacted
<b>1025</b>	4		Post hole
1026	2		Fill of <b>1027</b> Grey (5Y 5/1) clay / shell
<b>1027</b>	2		?Pit Truncated, very shallow, small, sub-circular cut filled by 1026
1028	3	1200-1300	Fill of sondage <b>1033</b> Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy silty clay / pot, daub, animal bone, shell, flint / sf6, sf7, sf8
1029	1/iii	1150-1350	Fill of <b>1030</b> Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty clay / pot, daub, animal bone, shell, unworked stone, worked stone
<b>1030</b>	1/iii		Deep, large, sub-circular pit
1031	1/vii	1200-1350	Fill of cut <b>1058</b> Dark olive grey (5Y 3/2) silty, slightly sandy clay / pot, daub, animal bone, shell, flint / sf9, sf10, sf11
1032	3	1150-1350	Fill of sondage <b>1033</b> Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) silty clay / pot, animal bone, flint
<b>1033</b>	3		Sondage
1034	1/iii	1150-1300	Fill of <b>1030</b> Dark grey (5Y 4/1) clay / pot, animal bone, shell
1035	1/iii	1150-1350	Fill of <b>1030</b> Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty clay / pot, animal bone
1036	1/v	1150-1300	Upper fill of <b>1038</b> Light yellowish-brown (IOYR 6/4) slightly silty clay / pot, animal bone
1037	1/v	1150-1300	Lower fill of <b>1038</b> Mixed grey (IOYR 6/1) and pale brown (IOYR 6/3) silty clay / pot, animal bone
<b>1038</b>	1/v		?Pit filled by 1036, 1037
1039	NA		Natural Olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) sandy clay
1040	3		?Fill. Not excavated. At base of <b>1033</b> Light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) sandy silty clay
1041	1/ii	1150-1350	Upper fill of <b>1042</b> Dark greyish-brown (IOYR 4/2) clayey silt / pot, animal bone
<b>1042</b>	1/ii		Sub-circular, steep-sided pit filled by 1041
1043	1/v		Fill of <b>1044</b> Yellowish-brown (IOYR 5/6) silty clay
<b>1044</b>	1/v		?Pit Not excavated, filled by 1043
1045	1/v	1150-1300	Fill of <b>1046</b> Mixed dark grey (IOYR 4/1) and brown (IOYR 4/3) silty clay / pot, animal bone, flint
<b>1046</b>	1/v		?Pit filled by 1045
1047	1/ii		Fill of <b>1042</b> Yellowish-brown (IOYR 5/6) sand
1048	1/ii		Fill of <b>1052</b> White (2.5Y 8/1) and pale yellow (2.5Y 8/3) very soft, powdery clay
1049	NA		?Natural Grey (2.5Y 5/1) clay
1050	1/ii		Fill of <b>1053</b> Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) slightly silty clay
1051	1/ii		Fill of <b>1054</b> Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) silty clay
<b>1052</b>	1/ii		?Pit not excavated
<b>1053</b>	1/ii		?Pit not excavated, filled by 1050
<b>1054</b>	1/ii		?Pit not excavated, filled by 1051
1055	1/vii		Unexcavated. Brown (IOYR 5/3) slightly silty sand, fill of 1058

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Context	Period /group	Date range	Description / Finds / Small Finds (sf)
1056	1/vii		Unexcavated. Brownish-yellow (IOYR 6/8) clay fill of 1058
1057	1/vii		Unexcavated Grey (IOYR 6/1) clay fill of 1058
<b>1058</b>	1/vii		?Pond. Sharp slope on northern edge filled by 1055, 1056, 1057
1059	2		Truncated ?horticultural layer Olive (5Y 4/3) silty clay
1060	1/vi		Fill of <b>1061</b> Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty clay
<b>1061</b>	1/vi		?Pit. Not excavated ?Sub-circular, filled by 1060
1062	2		Fill of <b>1063</b> Olive (5Y 5/4) slightly silty clay
<b>1063</b>	2		?Pit. Not excavated ?Rectilinear, filled by 1062
1064	3		Fill of cut <b>1065</b> Light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) slightly silty clay
<b>1065</b>	3		?Pit. Not excavated ?Sub-circular, filled by 1064
1066	1/ii		Fill of <b>1067</b> Dark greyish-brown (IOYR 4/2) silty clay
<b>1067</b>	1/ii		?Pit Not excavated, filled by 1066
1068	1/ii		Fill of <b>1069</b> Brown (IOYR 4/3) silty clay
<b>1069</b>	1/ii		?Pit Not excavated, filled by 1068
1070	1/ii		Fill of <b>1071</b> Mixed grey (IOYR 6/1) and yellowish-brown (IOYR 5/4) very slightly silty clay
<b>1071</b>	1/ii		?Pit Not excavated, filled by 1070
1072	1/v		Fill of <b>1073</b> Mixed dark greyish-brown (IOYR 4/1) and grey (IOYR 5/1) silty clay
<b>1073</b>	1/v		?Pit or pits Not excavated, filled by 1072
1074	NA		?Natural Yellowish-brown (IOYR 5/8) gravelly sand
1075	1/ii		Fill of <b>1076</b> Brown (IOYR 4/3) silty clay
<b>1076</b>	1/ii		?Pit Not excavated, filled by 1075
1077	4		Modern hard-core. Levelling Yellowish-brown (IOYR 5/8) gravelly sand
1078	4		Topsoil Very dark grey (2.5Y 3/1) sandy silt
1079	4		?Ploughsoil Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty clay
1080	4		Dump Very dark brown (IOYR 7/3) sandy, gritty, loose mortar
1081	4		?Dump. Only seen in section Dark greyish-brown (IOYR 4/2) silty clay
1082	3		?Dump. Only seen in section Dark grey (IOYR 4/1) silty clay
1083	3		?Dump. Only seen in section Dark grey (IOYR 4/1) clay
1084	1/iv		?Upper fill of <b>1014</b> . In section. Dark greyish-brown (IOYR 4/2) silty clay
1085	1/vi		?Upper fill of <b>1009</b> . In section. Mixed yellowish-brown (IOYR 5/6) sand and greyish-brown (IOYR 5/2) clay
1086	1/vi		Fill of <b>1009</b> . Only seen in section Brown (IOYR 4/3) clayey Silt
1087	4		Dump/Backfill Yellow (IOYR 7/6) loose mortar incl demolition debris
1088	4		Dump/Backfill Yellowish-brown (IOYR 5/8) sandy clay
1089	4		Dump/Backfill Very dark greyish-brown (IOYR 3/2) sandy silty clay
1090	4		Dump/ Backfill Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) slightly sandy clay
1091	4		Dump/Backfill Yellowish-brown (IOYR 5/6) sandy silt
1092	4		Root hole Grey (2.5Y 5/1) clay
1093	4		Dump/Backfill Very dark grey (IOYR 3/1) sandy clayey silt
1094	1/vii		Accumulation of material within water-filled feature Grey (2.5Y 5/1) clay
1095	1/vii		Decayed wooden stake Very dark grey (IOYR 3/1) decayed wood
1096	NA		Natural Mixed grey (2.5Y 5/1) clay and light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) sandy silt
1097	NA		Natural Greenish-grey (Gley 1 5/1) to light greenish-grey (Gley 1 7/1) clay
1098	4		Topsoil Dark greyish-brown (IOYR 4/2) sandy silt
1099	4		Modern hard-core. Levelling Yellowish-brown (IOYR 5/8) gravelly sand
1100	4		Fill of <b>1101</b> Mixed very dark grey (IOYR 3/1) sandy silt and yellowish-brown (IOYR 5/4) clayey silt
<b>1101</b>	4		Modern ?post-hole, filled by 1100
1102	4		Unexcavated fill of <b>1103</b> Mixed very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) slightly clayey silt and brown (IOYR 4/3) slightly clayey sandy silt
<b>1103</b>	4		Unexcavated irregular cut filled by 1102
1104	4		?Fill/Dump Dark greyish-brown (IOYR 4/2) slightly clayey sandy silt
1105	4		Dump Very dark greyish-brown (IOYR 3/2) sandy silt
1106	4		Fill of cut 1107 Very dark greyish-brown (IOYR 3/2) sandy silt
<b>1107</b>	4		Modern ?pit. In section Small, sloping sides, rounded base, filled by 1106
1108	4		Dump Very dark greyish-brown (IOYR 3/2) sandy silt
1109	4		Dump/?Fill of <b>1114</b> Very dark greyish-brown (IOYR 3/2) slightly clayey sandy silt
1110	4		Dump/?Fill of <b>1114</b> Very dark greyish-brown (IOYR 3/2) sandy silt
1111	4		Fill of <b>1114</b> Very dark grey (IOYR 3/1) slightly clayey sandy silt
1112	4		Fill of <b>1115</b> Very dark greyish-brown (IOYR 3/2) sandy silt
1113	4		?Fill of <b>1115</b> Mixed very dark greyish brown (IOYR 3/2) and brown (IOYR 4/3) slightly clayey silt
<b>1114</b>	4		Modern pit. Seen only in section Sides variable falling steeply to a slightly concave base, filled by 1109, 1110, 1111.
<b>1115</b>	4		Large modern pit? Seen only in section Northern edge stepped to a rounded base, filled by 1112, 1113.

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Context	Period /group	Date range	Description / Finds / Small Finds (sf)
1116	4		Dump Very dark grey (IOYR 3/1) sandy silt
1117	4		Fill of <b>1118</b> Mixed dark greyish-brown (IOYR 4/2) sandy silt and very dark greyish-brown (IOYR 3/2) sandy silt
<b>1118</b>	4		?Post-hole/Rabbit hole. Seen only in section Almost vertical sides dropping to a rounded base, filled by 1117
1119	4		Dump Very dark grey (IOYR 3/1) slightly clayey sandy silt
1120	4		Dump/Backfill Mixed very dark grey (IOYR 3/1) sandy silt and light yellowish-brown (2.5Y 6/3) clayey sand
1121	4		Dump Dark greyish-brown (IOYR 4/2) silty clay
1122	4		Dump Very dark grey (IOYR 3/1) slightly clayey silt
1123	4		Dump Very dark greyish-brown (IOYR 3/2) silty clay
1124	4		Dump/Backfill Very dark greyish-brown (IOYR 3/2) silty clay
1125	4		Dump Dark greyish-brown (IOYR 4/2) silty clay
1126	4		Dump Very dark greyish-brown (IOYR 3/2) clayey silt
1127	4		Modern accumulation/ Dump in derelict ?osier bed Very dark grey (IOYR 3/1) clayey silt. Very dark grey (IOYR 3/1) very slightly silty clay. Included tin can and plastic bag
1128	4		?Naturally-deposited layer Olive grey (5Y 4/2) clay
1129	NA		Natural Dark greenish-grey (Gley 1 4/1) clay
1130	NA		Natural Dark greenish-grey (Gley 1 4/1) clay
1201	NA		Machine clearance. Finds: pot, sf101, sf102, sf103, sf104, sf105 Natural Dark greenish-grey (Gley 1 4/1) clay
1202	1/v	1150-1350	Fill of <b>1271</b> , Very mixed, but predominantly yellowish-brown (10YR 5/8) silty clay / pot /
1203	NA	1150-1350	Bioturbated natural Dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/6) sandy clay / pot
1204	NA		Bioturbated natural Dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/5) sandy clay
1205	NA		Bioturbated natural Olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) sandy clay
1206	2		Fill of linear Dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/6) sandy clay
1207	4		Fill of unexcavated modern rubbish pit. Part of 1209 Olive grey (5YR 4/2) sandy clay
1208	4		Fill of unexcavated modern rubbish pit. Part of 1209 Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) slightly sandy clay
1209	4		Fill of large modern rubbish pit Very dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 3/2) sandy silt
1210	1/v	1150-1350	Fill of pit <b>1269</b> Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy clay / pot
1211	2		Fill of unexcavated linear Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) silty clay
1212	NA		Natural Olive grey (5Y 5/2) mottled clay
1213	4		Fill of pit <b>1272</b> Mixed dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/6) sandy clay
1214	4		Fill of modern rubbish pit Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) silty clay
1215	4	1150-1350	Fill of post-hole <b>1266</b> Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy clay / pot
1216	1/v		Fill of unexcavated pit Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy clay
1217	NA		Natural Olive grey (5Y 5/2) mottled clay
1218	1/v		Fill of <b>1038</b> . Sampled as 1202 Olive (5Y 4/4) mixed sandy clay
1219	NA		Natural Olive grey (5Y 5/2) mottled clay
1220	1/v		Fill of unexcavated pit Olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) sandy clay
1221	NA		Natural Olive grey (5Y 5/2) mottled clay
1222	NA		Natural Olive grey (5Y 5/2) mottled clay
1223	NA		Natural Olive grey (5Y 5/2) - pale olive (5Y 6/4) clay
1224	1/ii	1200-1350	Fill of pit <b>1279</b> Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy, silty clay / pot
1225	4		Fill of modern rubbish pit. Same as 1209. Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) silty clay
1226	3	1150-1350	Fill of ?tree-hole <b>1283</b> Dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay / pot
1227	2		Fill of <b>1265</b> Dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) silty sandy clay
1228	1/i	1150-1300	Fill of ditch <b>1264</b> . Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2 - 5/2) clayey sand / pot
1229	1/i		?Fill of unexcavated ditch Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) silty sand
1230	4		Fill of field drain or service trench Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) clayey sand
1231	4		?Fill of modern pit Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) silty, clayey sand
1232	1/i		Fill of unexcavated cut Light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) clayey sand
1233	1/i		Earlier fill of ditch <b>1280</b> Greyish-brown (2.5Y 5/2) silty sand
1234	2		Fill of <b>1263</b> Dark grey (2.5Y 4/1 - 4/2) silty clay
1235	2	1200-1350	Fill of <b>1263</b> Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2 - 4/3) silty sand / pot, daub, clay pipe, sf106, sf107
1236	2		Fill of <b>1263</b> Greyish - light olive brown (2.5Y 5/2 - 5/3) fine silty clay
1237	2		Unexcavated fill Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) silty clay
1238	1/iv		Fill of <b>1014</b> . ?Same as 1013 Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) sandy clay
1239	1/vi		Fill of <b>1009</b> ?Same as 1008 Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) fine silty clay
1240	1/vii		Fill of <b>1258</b> Olive grey (5Y 4/2) silty clay
1241	2		Fill of unexcavated linear Light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) clayey sand
1242	1/vii		Fill of <b>1258</b> Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) clayey silty sand
1243	NA		Natural Greenish-grey (Gley 1 6/1) clay

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Context	Period /group	Date range	Description / Finds / Small Finds (sf)
1244	NA		Natural Greenish-grey (Gley 1 6/1) clay
1245	4		Unexcavated fill of ?post-hole Very dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 3/2) silty clay
1246	NA		Natural Greenish-grey (Gley 2 5/1) clay
1247	1/vi		Unexcavated fill of ?post-hole Brown (10YR 5/3 - 5/2) clayey sand
1248	1/vi		Unexcavated fill of ?post-hole Brown (7.5YR 4/3) clayey sand
1249	1/ii		Unexcavated fill of <b>1054</b> . Same as 1051. Light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) sandy clay
1250	1/vi		Fill of unexcavated linear feature Dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 4/2) clayey sand
1251	1/vi		Fill of unexcavated pit. ?Same as 1083. Olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy clay
1252	NA		Not used
1253	NA		Not used
1254	2	1150-1350	Fill of <b>1265</b> . Dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) silty, sandy clay / pot, daub
1255	2		Fill of <b>1265</b> . Dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) silty sandy clay
1256	2		Fill of <b>1265</b> . Dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay
1257	1/vii		Fill of <b>1058</b> . Dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay
1258	1/vii		Fill of <b>1058</b> . Dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) silty sandy clay
1259	1/vii		Fill of <b>1058</b> . Dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay
1260	1/vii		Fill of <b>1058</b> . Dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay
1261	1/vii		Fill of <b>1058</b> . Brown (10YR 4/3) sandy silty clay
1262	1/vii		Fill of <b>1058</b> . Dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay
<b>1263</b>	2		Shallow linear containing 1234-6 and 1282
<b>1264</b>	1/i		Deep, flat-based ditch, filled by 1228
<b>1265</b>	2		Shallow linear, filled by 1227 and 1254-6
<b>1266</b>	4		Small, oval, steep-sided post-hole, filled by 1215
1267	2		Fill of linear <b>1268</b> . Brown (10YR 5/3) silty clay
<b>1268</b>	2		Shallow linear filled by 1267
<b>1269</b>	1/v		Shallow, sub-circular pit filled by 1210
1270	3	1200-1350	Fill of <b>1273</b> . Light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) silty sandy clay, with 40% redeposited natural clay / pot
<b>1271</b>	1/v		Pit, filled by 1202 Only sampled within excavation - shape and profile unknown
<b>1272</b>	4		Shallow, sub-ovular pit, filled by 1213
<b>1273</b>	3		Oval pit with rounded base and irregular sides filled by 1270
1274	NA		Not used
1275	3	1150-1350	Fill of <b>1276</b> Very dark grey (10 YR 3/1) silty clay / pot
<b>1276</b>	3		Unexcavated cut, filled by 1275
<b>1277</b>	3		Unexcavated, cut, containing 1278
1278	3	1150-1350?	Fill of <b>1277</b> Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) silty clay / Pot
<b>1279</b>	1/ii		Sub-circular, deep, steep-sided pit filled by 1224
<b>1280</b>	1/i		Narrow, flat-bottomed ditch, filled by 1233 and 1281
1281	1/i	1150-1350	Later fill of <b>1280</b> Greenish-grey (Gley 1 5/1) clay with flecks of chalk and charcoal / pot
1282	2		Fill of linear <b>1263</b> Dark grey (2.5Y 4/1) clayey sand
<b>1283</b>	3		?Tree-hole Irregular ellipse with sloping sides

## **Appendix B: Catalogue of Other Finds**

### **Copper Alloy**

- Sf1 (1006) - Fine pin with round head
- Sf4 (1010) - gilded decorative plaque with pierced open-work Fleur-de-lys design. Possibly a belt stud or horse brass.
- Sf7 (1028) - Gilded stud, possibly from a belt
- Sf10 (1031) - gilded strip, possibly fragment of a buckle
- Sf105 (1201) - Possibly a harness ring or annular brooch

### **Iron**

- Sf2 (1005, ) - Nail
- Sf5 (1010) - Large Nail with discoidal head, possibly for securing a copper alloy vessel
- Sf6 (1028) - Nail
- Sf8 (1028) - Nail
- Sf12 (1006) - object
- Sf13 (1018) - object
- Sf14 (1029) - object
- Sf103 (1201) - Object
- Sf104 (1201) - Object, possibly a latch lifter
- Sf106 (1235) - Object
- Sf107 (1235) - Nail

### **Lead**

- Sf101 (1201) -
- Sf102 (1201) -

### **Bone**

- Sf3 (1006) Bone dice
- Sf9 (1031) Pig metatarsal, possibly a Buzz-disc (Lawson, 1995)



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