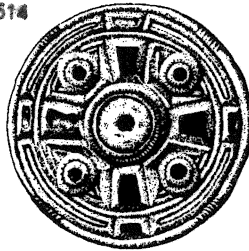




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The Former 'Techne' Site, Hinxton Road, Duxford. An Archaeological Evaluation

Joe Abrams
November 2001

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. 197
Berkeley Homes (Eastern) Limited

**The Former 'Techne' Site, Hinxton Road, Duxford.
An Archaeological Evaluation**

TL 4810 4585

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with a contribution by Paul Spoerry BTech, PhD

2001

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Report No. 197

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the former 'Techne' factory site, Hinxton Road, Duxford (TL 4810 4585) to inform the planning process in advance of the construction of thirty seven dwellings and associated works. The work was carried out by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council between 29th October and 6th November 2001.

A total of 12 Trenches were excavated, all contained archaeological features. A cluster of inhumations were observed, one of which produced pottery dating from the early Anglo-Saxon period. A series of ditches, pits and postholes and a possible roundhouse were observed some of which contained late prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon pottery. A curvilinear ditch in the southwest of the site contained Bronze Age pottery in its terminal end. The site appears to contain evidence for occupation in a number of periods, including the Bronze Age, and perhaps the Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon/medieval periods.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION		1
GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY		1
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND		1
METHODOLOGY		6
RESULTS		7
DISCUSSION		29
CONCLUSION		33
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS		34
BIBLIOGRAPHY		35
LIST OF FIGURES		
Figure 1	Site Location Plans	2
Figure 2	Detail of Trenches 1, 2, 3	9
Figure 3	Photograph of skeleton 227 (Trench 2)	11
Figure 4	Detail of Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7	16
Figure 5	Detail of Trenches 8, 9, 10, 11	21
Figure 6	Detail of Trenches 12	26
Figure 7	Selected Section Drawings	28
Figure 8a	Tithe Map 1842	30
Figure 8b	Inclosure Map 1830	30
LIST OF APPENDICES		
Appendix 1	Context List	36
Appendix 2	Finds List	39
Appendix 3	Pottery Analysis	40

**The Former 'Techne' Site, Hinxton Road, Duxford.
An Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR (TL 4810 4585)

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the former 'Techne' factory site, Hinxton Road, Duxford, Cambridgeshire (TL 4810 4585) to inform the planning process in advance of the construction of thirty-seven dwellings and associated works. The work was carried out by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council between 29th October and 6th November, 2001.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Duxford lies about 11 kilometres southeast of Cambridge, close to the river Cam. The underlying geology is Middle Chalk, but the site lies close to the boundary with river gravels to the east (British Geological Survey 1985).

The site lies within the historic medieval core of the village, c100m south of the parish church of St Peters. The topography of the site varies from its peak on a plateau of land at the extreme north of the site at 31.49m OD adjacent to trench 1. The site slopes rapidly in all directions to 28.17m OD by Trench 10 in the west of the site, 27.09m OD by Trench 8 in the south of the site, and 28.88m OD by trench 6 in the east of the site.

The subject site is bordered on its northern, western and southern edges by the gardens of adjacent residential properties, whilst in the east it is bordered by Hinxton Road.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Valuable information relating to the vicinity of the subject site was gained through reference to reports of previous archaeological work, cartographic, documentary sources, and archaeological databases (Cambridgeshire County Sites and Monuments Record - SMR).

Prehistoric (Before AD 43)

The village lies between two branches of the prehistoric Icknield Way. This routeway is represented by both St John's Street and St Peter's Street in

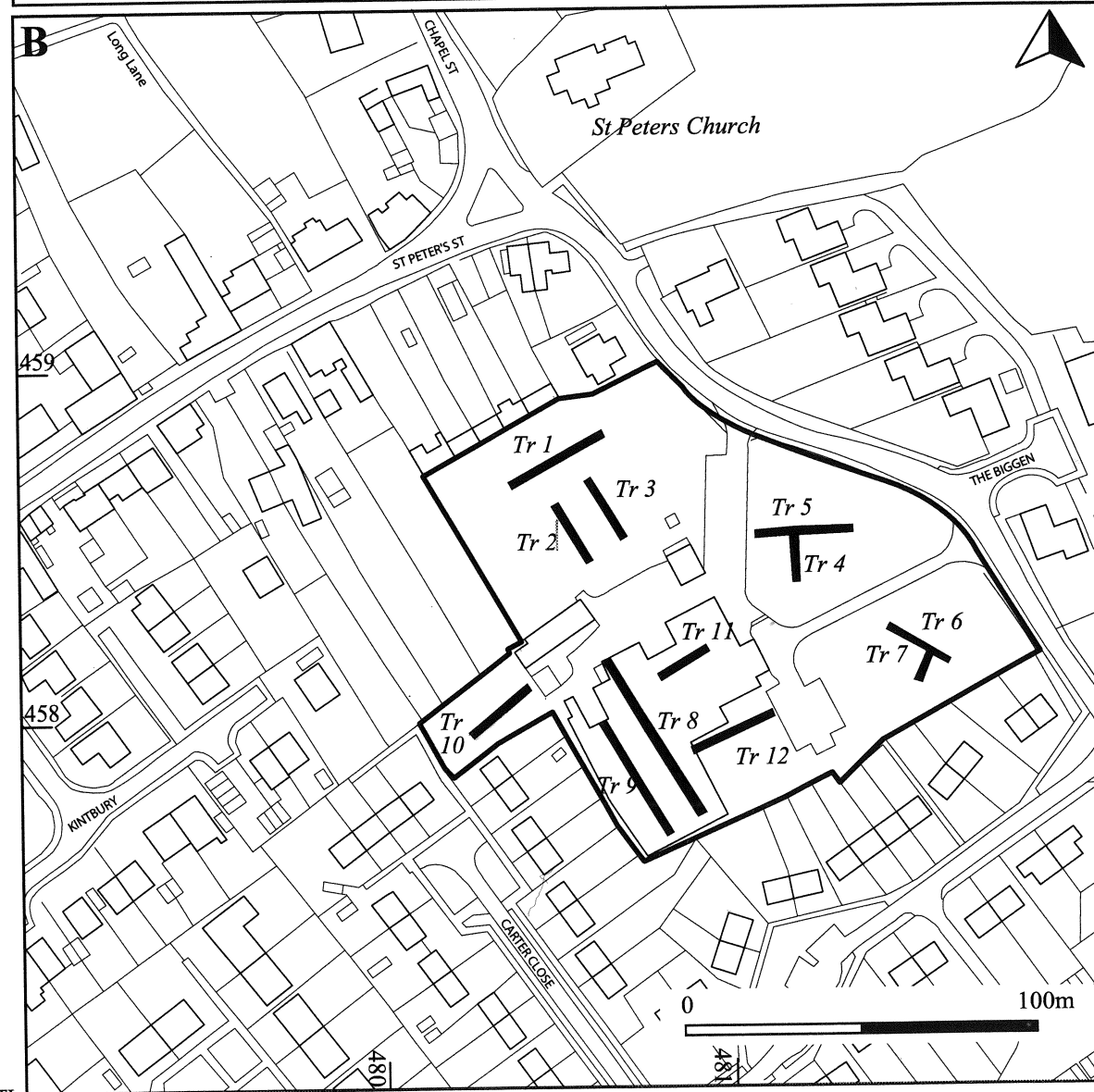
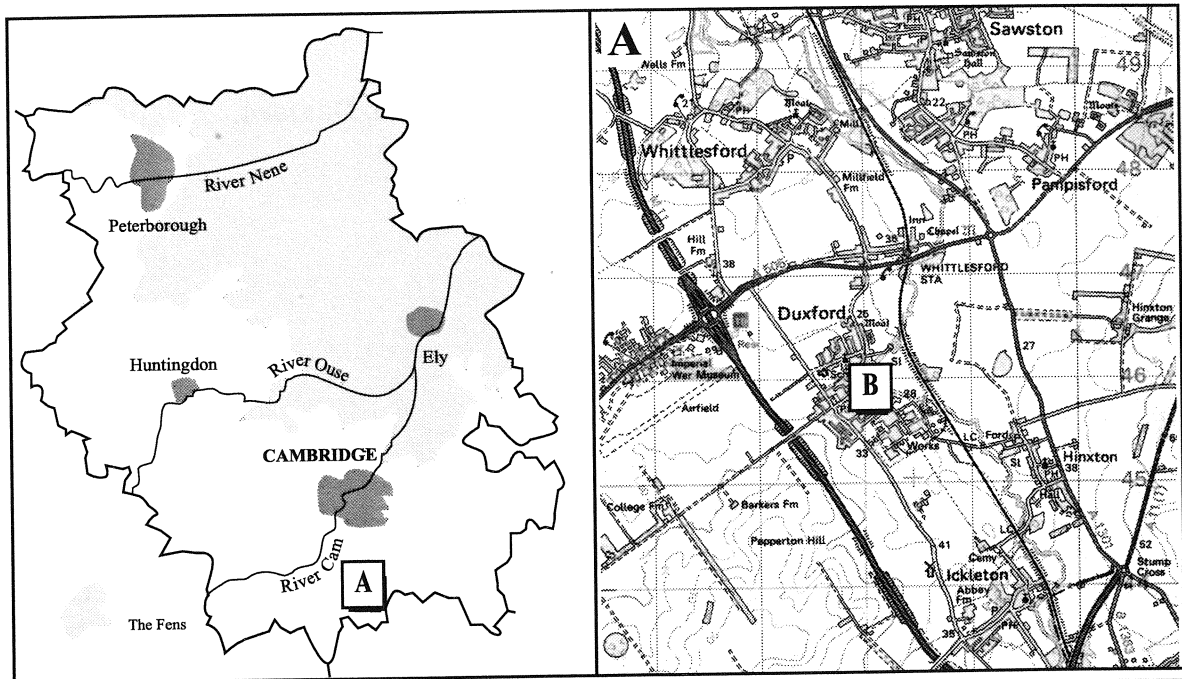


Figure 1 Location of trenches. Development Area outlined.

Based upon Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (Cambridgeshire County Council licence No. LA 07649X. 2001)

Duxford (Taylor 1973). The subject site lies c100m south of St Peter's Street. The preservation of these routes in the street plan of the village suggests that from the earliest period of Duxford's existence there may have been occupation on sites such as this one, adjacent to the route.

Evidence for early settlement in the area is quite extensive. A Bronze Age enclosure (SMR. 04093), and Neolithic flint extraction site (SMR. 10483) lie c 1500m to the north-west of the subject site (C Evans 1990), and stray finds and settlement sites have been found along the river valley (Schlee and Robinson 1995). Evidence for Middle Iron Age settlement (c 600-300 BC), was excavated at Pepperton Hill c 1500m to the southwest of the subject site, features consisted of storage pits, postholes and linear ditches (Price, Brooks & Maynard, 1997).

Other significant and very likely prehistoric remains include a pit (or shaft), c1000m south of the subject site which contained a single inhumation at the base (SMR 04092). Also, a circular cropmark c 700m to the west (SMR 11227), may also be considered as having a broadly prehistoric date.

Due to the proximity of the site to St Peter's Street (Ickniel Way) evidence of prehistoric activity was considered a possibility.

Romano-British (AD 43-410)

Several finds from this period are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site. A Roman iron shackle (SMR 04224) has been found c100m to the north of the site and immediately south of St Peter's church. Another Roman iron shackle and swivel (SMR 04225), were found c800m northeast of the site. Other finds include Roman roof tiles (SMR 04219), found in a gravel pit c800m to the southeast, indicating the likelihood of settlement within the area during this period.

Due to the proximity of the site to SMR 04224 evidence of Romano-British activity was considered a possibility.

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066)

There is little, or no, archaeological evidence for the Anglo-Saxon occupation of the village. Its relatively large population of 37 tenants in 1086 suggests that it was already a thriving settlement by the late Saxon period. In 950 it was called *Dukeswrthe* and in the Domesday survey it was *Dochuesuord*. The name derives from the Old English, meaning "Ducc's enclosure", where Ducc is a personal name (Reaney 1943: 92-94).

Due to the proximity of the site to the historic medieval and Anglo-Saxon core of Duxford, remains from this period were considered a high possibility.

Medieval (AD 1066-1500)

This is the period, which has left the most significant earthworks in Duxford and has caused the historic core to be made a conservation area (1971). This historic core covers an area of 27 ha, of which 21% survived without being affected by 20th century development (Brown & Taylor 1978).

The main earthworks are the remains of the manors, which dominated Duxford during this period. These were the Temple, Lacy's, Bustelers and d'Abernons manors. In 1230 Temple manor was given to the Knight's of the Temple who held it until their suppression in 1308. It then passed into the king's hands and was relinquished in 1313 to the Knights Hospitaller who also owned and ran the hospital at Whittlesford Bridge, 1.5 km to the northeast. The estate remained in their possession until the Dissolution. Since then it has changed hands many times and is still called Temple Farm. Temple Close, a series of converted barns, is west of Chapel Street. Traces of what may be the rectangular moat remain between the farm and the river. On the 1885 Ordnance Survey map of Duxford and the 1830 enclosure map a series of water channels are shown in this area, which may be related to the water mill, a short distance to the east.

A second manor was held in the honour of Richmond, for Count Alan of Brittany at the time of Domesday. It belonged to the Lacy family by the 1270s and remained with them until 1350 after which it passed down through the Swinburne family. A house known as Old Lacey's Farm survives opposite St John's Church. The site of the medieval manor is opposite the farm, east of the High Street. Surviving earthworks suggest that the moat consisted of two rectangular enclosures. The western half of the moat has subsequently been destroyed by housing.

Bustelers manor, held by Hardwin de Scalers in 1086 and then by the le Goiz family, took its name from William le Busteler, its owner in 1327. In the 17th century it passed to the Parys family, who farmed the land from a house near the west end of the High Street, known as Bustelers Farm. The remains of the medieval moated site were to the south of St Peter's church. The river lay further east at this time and its old course is probably marked by the present parish boundary.

The fourth manor, d'Abernons, was held in 1086 by Arnulf, later lord of the Ardres (Pas de Calais). In 1200 it came into the possession of Roger d'Abernons from whom it took its name. The manor was probably located to the north of the village.

Duxford is an example of a single village containing two parish churches. Both were established by 1200 by the lords of two manors (Lacy's and Bustelers), suggesting competition between the two landowners. This split would remain until the 19th century (see below).

Several significant earthworks from this period are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site. Most significantly the site of Bustelers manor house (SMR

01264), is behind St Peter's church and c100m north of the subject site. Also of interest are several ridges (SMR 09977), recorded the field south of St Peter's church. Associated with these is a roughly square depression that may be a small house plot (SMR 10841).

Due to the proximity of the site to the historic medieval core of Duxford, remains from this period are considered a high possibility.

Post-Medieval (AD 1500-present)

The subject site itself contains the recently demolished site of a Rectory, and associated cottage and gardens. The rectory is presumed to have been related to St Peter's church c 100m to the north, and is recorded on the 1830 Inclosure Map. On the 1842 Tithe Map the site occupies the properties 338 and the northeastern part of 339, when the 1885 Ordnance Survey Map was produced the current boundaries of the development area were clearly established. In 1982 the rectory was re-designated as a factory, with a series of outbuildings, reflecting the current site footprint. It would appear there has been no significant development of buildings on site here since 1982 (Gawn Associates 2000).

In a wider sense Duxford underwent some important political changes during this period. The most important of these was the union of the two churches St John's in the north of the village and St Peter's in the south, although resisted at first the union was achieved in 1675. It is likely that in a secular sense Duxford has always been a single settlement, it was for the purposes of gathering tithes that two parishes existed. St John's received tithes from Lacy's and Temple manor and St Peter's from Busteler's and d'Abernons. Changing manorial fortunes led to the decline of St John's, which fell into a state of dilapidation during the 19th century in which it remains in the present time. The two ecclesiastical parishes were finally united only in 1874, at which time St Peter's became the parish church.

Housing extended eastwards along St Peter's and St John's streets and clustered around the village green. Old houses built on the green indicate encroachment at an early stage. The areas were linked by a network of back lanes, such as Mangers Lane and Long Lane, many of which still survive as footpaths. Until the 1820s, there was almost no housing west of the main road, next to the river. Land there was owned by the various manors and by Duxford Mill (VCH 6: 203). In the 13th century, the arable land was divided equally between the manorial estates and small landholders, a balance, which gradually shifted in favour of the estates. At enclosure in 1830, Duxford parish was essentially four large farms, with very little land left for common rights. Several mills are recorded from Domesday onwards, owned by d'Abernons and Temple manors. A 19th century iron water pump survives adjacent to St Peter's church, and several ponds were once located here.

The village was linked to Ickleton via the southern branch of the Icknield Way, known as Walden Way in the 17th century, and to Hinxton by a road winding across the meadows and crossing the river at a ford. The main road to

Pampisford crossed the river at Whittlesford Bridge, at which site a small hamlet grew up in the 13th and 14th centuries, charging a toll for the crossing and with its own mill. Whittlesford Bridge Hospital was established there and managed by the Knight's Hospitallers and Temple Manor, From the 14th century (VCH 6:207).

Other features from this period are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site. The field west of St Peter's church and c100m north of the site, contains a tree filled depression, apparently one of a group of seven ponds which were in use in the post-medieval period.

Due to the proximity of the site to the historic core of Duxford, and the presence on the site of the Rectory, remains from this period were considered a high possibility.

5 METHODOLOGY

Twelve trenches totalling 280.50m in length, were located within the area of a proposed development, consisting of thirty-seven dwellings and associated works. This gave a 4.1% (561 square metres) sample of the affected area. Topsoil and modern overburden were removed using a wheeled mechanical excavator with a flat bladed ditching bucket to a width of 2.00m. This was carried out under the full time supervision of an archaeologist. Trenches were located to give a representative sample of the available area. Trenches were located on the recently demolished area of the factory buildings in order to test how badly the construction had truncated archaeological deposits. Other parts of the site, which had remained as garden were also evaluated. Tree Protection Orders and areas of concrete hard standing on this site also affected the size and the positioning of the trenching.

After machining each trench was photographed. A sample of selected archaeological features were excavated by hand in order to determine date and character. The AFU's single context based recording system was used to record all the archaeological features and deposits, sections were hand drawn at a scale of 1:10 for features, and 1:50 in the case of entire evaluation Trench sections. Plans were hand drawn at a scale of 1:50. In addition all the spoil heaps from the trenches were scanned for artefacts by eye and a metal detector was used to scan for metal artefacts.

In this report deposit numbers are shown in plain text and cut numbers are in **bold** text. Detailed descriptions of the character and morphology of each feature are listed below the main text for each Trench.

6 RESULTS

All the features discussed below were sealed by subsoil 2, except the post medieval features **103**, **501** and **1106** that clearly truncated it. However some mixing between this subsoil and the deposits within these features is likely in all cases, due to bioturbation and the original formation processes of these deposits.

6.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was 29.00m long 2.00m wide and 0.54m to 1.22m deep and aligned southwest to northeast (see Fig 2). Trench 1 contained six archaeological features cutting into the natural geology.

6.1.2 Detail of layers and features

The topsoil 1 was a dark brown sandy silt layer 0.20m to 0.30m deep, with occasional inclusions of fine and medium chalk pebbles. This well sorted, organic rich layer represents a former garden soil associated with the recently demolished Rectory, and an associated cottage building. Below this was subsoil 2 a greyish mid brown sandy silt layer 0.13m to 0.30m deep, with occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles.

Below subsoil 2 was layer 118, a dark brown sandy silt 0.85m deep, with occasional inclusions of fine chalk pebbles. This layer is very likely to be redeposited topsoil from construction and land clearance, associated with the Techne factory. It is important to note that this layer extends over a significant piece of land to the east, of and adjacent to, trenches 1,2 and 3, where the natural chalk layer slopes down significantly towards trenches 4 and 5. Any archaeological features in this area will be well sealed below 118, and may even be protected by it during the forthcoming construction works – depending on how deep the associated ground works etc need to be.

The natural geological layer 4 was white solid chalk. This was encountered at a depth of 0.54m to 1.22m in Trench 1.

6.1.3 Romano-British (AD 43-410)

Ditch **101**, contained two fills. Fill 100, from which sherds of Romano-British pottery and pieces of animal bone were recovered. Below this was fill 122 from which no artefactual material was recovered. Despite producing sherds of earlier pottery, **101** runs exactly parallel to ditches **105** and **109** suggesting that it may be contemporary with them. It is possible that the small sherds recovered from fill 100 may be residual or that **105** and **109**, although containing later material, may respect an older Romano-British boundary line.

101, 1.10m wide, 0.43m deep, linear in plan, convex near vertical sides, flat base, north-south alignment, contained two fills:

Fill 100, mid/dark brownish grey sandy clay, frequent med and fine chalk pebbles.

Fill 122, mid brownish grey sandy clay, frequent chalk flecks and pebbles.

6.1.4 Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066)

Ditch **105**, clearly truncated pit **107** and contained one fill 104 which produced no artefactual evidence. Pit **107**, which also contained one fill 106, produced sherds of late prehistoric/ Anglo-Saxon pottery and pieces of animal bone. Because of the presence of features containing sherds of reliably dated prehistoric pottery in other parts of the site it is presently not possible to confirm what date this feature is. Its stratigraphic position below ditch **105** may be significant as this feature is thought to be part of an early Anglo-Saxon alignment (see below). Therefore pit **107** would probably have been back filled and gone out of use prior to the cutting of **105**, making it at least early Anglo-Saxon in date and potentially earlier. Further excavation of similar pits such as **117** to the east may produce further evidence to date this phase of activity.

Ditch **109** (see Fig.7) contained two fills; 108, from which were recovered sherds of early Anglo-Saxon pottery (450 – 650 AD) and pieces of animal bone, and fill 121, which produced pieces of animal bone. It was aligned north-south and ran parallel with **101** and **105**. This common alignment is similar to that of the ditches in trench 10 in that they are positioned perpendicular to St Peter's Street and may have served as property boundaries running off this street. It should be noted that cartographic sources from the 19th century (see Fig. 8a/8b), show property boundaries on the same alignment to the west of this point. Such boundaries can have great longevity and may well have covered this piece of land prior to the production of these maps. Some or all of these ditches may be interpreted in this way.

105, 0.60m wide, 0.23m deep, linear in plan, gradual convex sides, convex base, north-south alignment, contained one fill:

Fill 104, mid/dark brownish grey sandy clay, moderate chalk pebbles, occasional medium flint and sandstone pebbles.

107, 0.80m wide, 0.14m deep, circular in plan, concave steep sides, flat base, contained one fill:

Fill 106, mid/dark brownish grey sandy clay, occasional medium chalk pebbles, moderate medium flints.

109, 1.50m wide, 0.73m deep, linear in plan, convex steep side on east, concave steep side on west, convex base, north-south alignment, contained two fills:

Fill 108, mid/dark greyish brown sandy clay, frequent fine chalk pebbles and chalk flecks, occasional medium flint pebbles, occasional land snails

Fill 121, light/mid brownish grey sandy clay, frequent fine and medium chalk pebbles.

6.1.5 Post-Medieval (AD 1520-present)

Pit **103**, clearly truncated ditch **105**, and produced various types of post-medieval artefactual evidence.

103, 1.15m diameter, circular in plan (not excavated), one visible fill:

Fill 102, dark brown fine sand, moderate pieces of charcoal.

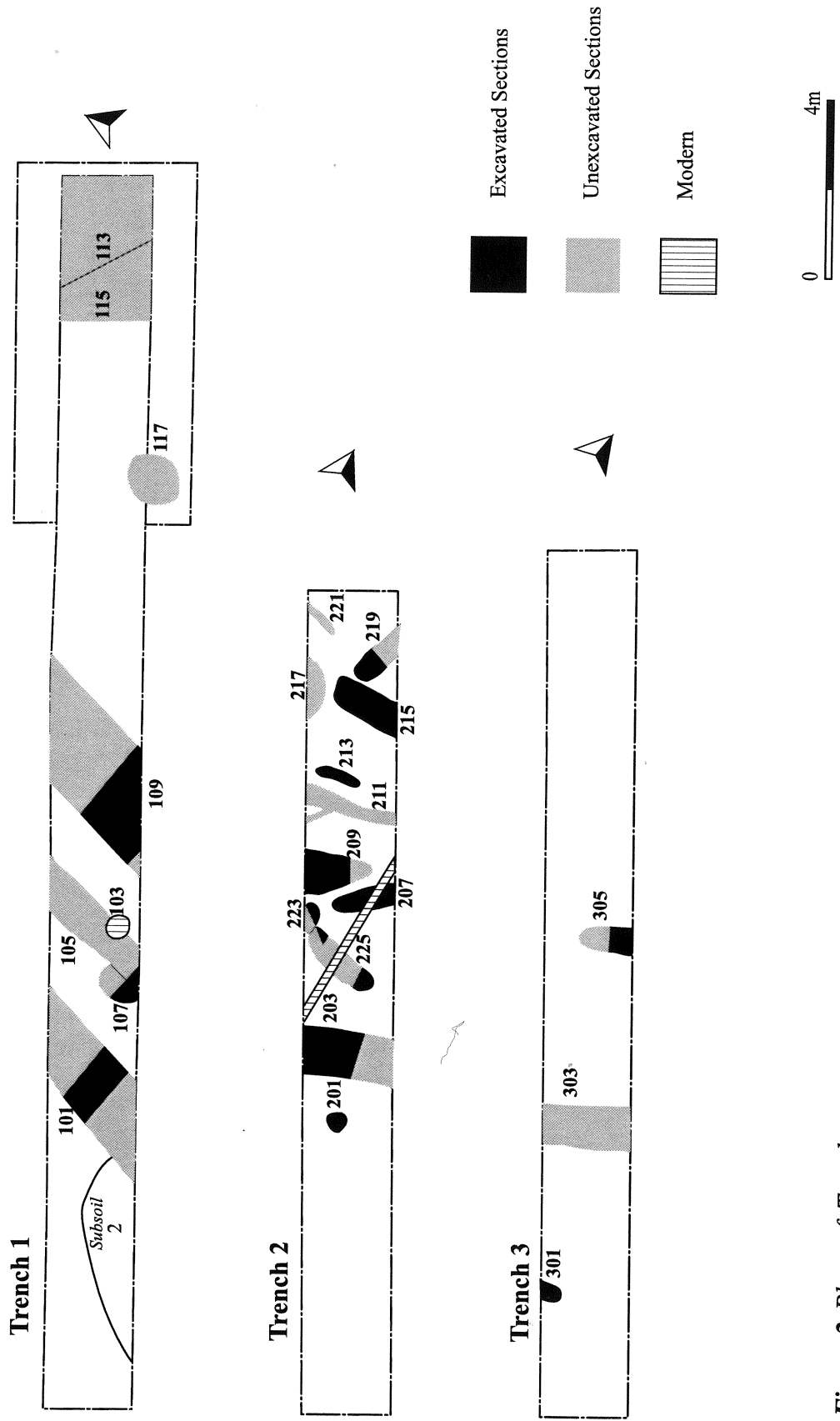


Figure 2 Plans of Trenches

6.1.6 Undated

Ditches **115** and **113** in the lowest part of the trench remain un-excavated and produced no finds.

Pit **117**, shares similarities in character and morphology with **107** but produced no artefactual evidence.

113, 2.75m wide within trench, (not excavated), linear in plan, north-west to southeast, contained one visible fill:

Fill 112, greyish mid brown sandy silt, occasional fine charcoal pieces.

115, 1.50m wide, (not excavated), linear in plan, north-west-north to south-east-south alignment contained one visible fill:

Fill 114, greyish light brown sandy silt, frequent medium chalk pebbles.

117, 1.15m diameter, (not excavated), circular in plan, contained one visible fill:

Fill 116, greyish light brown sandy silt, frequent medium chalk pebbles.

6.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was 18.50m long 2.00m wide and 0.38m to 0.44m deep and aligned southeast-northwest (see Fig.2). Trench 2 contained twelve features recorded cutting into the natural geology.

6.2.1 Detail of Layers and Features

The topsoil 1 was a dark brown sandy silt layer 0.28m deep, with occasional inclusions of fine and medium chalk pebbles. This well sorted, organic-rich layer represents a former garden soil associated with the recently demolished Rectory, and an adjacent cottage building. Below this was subsoil 2, a greyish mid-brown sandy silt layer which occurred only in parts of Trench 2 and was 0.16m deep, with occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles. Subsoil 2 also contained pieces of human skeletal remains and it is assumed that these originally derived from the burials described below and were displaced by later ground disturbing activity. The natural geological layer 4 was white solid chalk. This was encountered at a depth of 0.38m to 0.44m in Trench 2.

6.2.2 Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066)

Three inhumations **207**, **219** and **225** and one partial inhumation **213** were recorded in this trench. Features **207** and **213** were fully excavated (although not lifted), and **225** and **219** were partially excavated but are assumed to be complete due to the visible extent of their cuts. Inhumation **219** contained one fill 218, from which sherds of early Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered. The position of the skull, and size of **219** suggest an extended, supine skeleton will be revealed by further excavation. The other inhumations produced no artefactual evidence, however their close proximity to, and the similarity in



Figure 3 Photograph of Skeleton 227 (Trench 2)

their character, morphology and dimensions to **219**, suggests they are likely to be broadly dated to the Anglo-Saxon period.

A thorough excavation of **207**, revealed a well preserved extended, supine skeleton, on a northeast-southwest alignment. Feature **207** contained one fill, which produced no artefactual material. The variable alignment of these inhumations suggests they are pre-Christian, which itself would tie in with the early Anglo-Saxon date suggested by the pottery sherds from **219**. The lack of grave goods beyond one pottery vessel may, however, imply a date towards the end of the pagan Saxon period.

Ditch feature **203** contained two fills that both produced important artefactual evidence, specifically sherds of early/mid Anglo-Saxon pottery and pieces of animal bone. Below this was fill 226, the primary fill of this ditch, from which sherds of residual Roman pottery were recovered. The fact that these sherds occurred in the base of this ditch suggests that it is likely to have been cut and in use during a later period.

It is significant that no inhumations occurred south of ditch **203**. Further excavation may reveal whether this ditch which continues into trench 3 is in fact a boundary ditch delineating the limits of the cemetery. If this is the case then it would be further evidence of an Anglo-Saxon date for the cemetery.

Three further features **209**, **219** and **201** also back up a broadly Anglo-Saxon date for this part of the development area. Ditch terminal **209** contained one fill 208, from which mid/ late Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds, and pieces of animal bone were recovered. Ditch terminal **219** contained one fill 218 from which early Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds and pieces of animal bone were recovered.

Posthole **201** was located immediately south of ditch **203**, this contained one fill from which no artefactual evidence was recovered. Further stripping may reveal whether this relates to a fence line running parallel to this ditch, and which therefore may be of a contemporary date.

Linear features **211** and **221** and pit **217** remain un-excavated, although their stratigraphic position below subsoil 2, and the similarity in the character of these fills suggests that they may be contemporary with **209**, **215** and **219**, with which they are in close proximity.

201, 0.45m long, 0.45m wide, 0.12m deep, sub-triangular in plan, near vertical sides, flat base, contained one fill:

Fill 200, mid/light brownish grey sandy clay, frequent chalk pebbles, occasional flint pebbles.

203, 1.00m wide, 0.50m deep, linear in plan, steep flat sides, flat base, northeast-southwest alignment, contained two fills:

Fill 202, mid/dark brownish grey sandy clay, frequent fine chalk pebbles and chalk flecks, occasional flint pebbles and snail fragments.

Fill 226, light brownish grey sandy clay, frequent fine chalk pebbles, occasional land snails.

207, 1.50m long (within trench), 0.40m wide, 0.15m deep, sub-rectangular in plan, near vertical sides, flat base, northeast-southwest alignment, contained one fill and one skeleton:

Fill 206, mid/dark brownish grey sandy clay, frequent medium chalk pebbles.
Skeleton 227, supine, extended skeleton, skull located beyond confines of trench baulk, pelvis was truncated by modern water pipe.

209, 1.50m long (within trench), 0.80m wide, 0.10m deep, sub-triangular in plan, northeast-southwest in plan, concave sloping sides, flat base, contained one fill:

Fill 208, mid/dark brownish grey sandy clay, moderate medium and fine chalk pebbles.

211, 0.45m wide, (not excavated), linear in plan, aligned northeast to southwest, contained one visible fill:

Fill 210, medium brown sandy silt, frequent medium and fine rounded chalk pebbles.

213, 0.80m long, 0.25m wide, (partially excavated to depth of 0.05m in order to reveal human Femur, Tibia and Fibula), sub-rectangular in plan, aligned east-west.

Fill 212, mid/dark brown sandy clay, moderate medium chalk pebbles.

215, 1.60m long, 0.65m wide, 0.15m deep, sub-rectangular in plan, near vertical sides, flat base, aligned northeast-southwest, contained one fill:

Fill 214, mid/dark brownish grey sandy clay, moderate fine and medium chalk pebbles.

217, 1.40m long, 0.40m wide, (not excavated), semi-circle in plan, contained one visible:

Fill 216, medium brown sandy silt, frequent fine and medium chalk pebbles.

219, 1.40m long, 0.40m wide, 0.18m deep, sub-rectangular in plan, near vertical sides, flat base, aligned north-east-north to south-west-south, contained one fill:

Fill 218, Dark brownish grey sandy clay, occasional medium chalk pebbles.

221, 0.75m long, 0.20m wide, (not excavated), sub-rectangular in plan, aligned northeast-southwest, contained one fill:

Fill 220, medium brown sandy silt, frequent fine and medium chalk pebbles.

225, 1.90m long, 0.50m wide, (not fully excavated), sub-rectangular in plan, concave sides, aligned east-west, contained one visible fill:

Fill 224, mid brownish grey sandy clay, moderate medium chalk pebbles and chalk flecks. Contained a human skull in eastern end, with a high likelihood that the rest of the skeleton is to the west of this.

6.2.3 Medieval (AD 1066-1520)

Three ditch terminals were recorded in this trench. One of these **223**, produced a scale-tang knife, a type that does not generally appear before the thirteenth century (Goodall 1990). Suggesting a medieval date for this feature. Grave goods are not generally encountered during the medieval period hence it is assumed that this feature is a ditch terminal. However the full extent and understanding of this feature cannot be appreciated within the confines of this trench.

223, 0.60m long (within trench), 0.35m wide, 0.12m deep, sub-circular in plan, gradual convex sides, slightly convex base, contained one fill:

Fill 222, dark brownish grey sandy clay, moderate medium chalk pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks. Contained small find **200** a scale-tang knife of 14th century date (Goodall 1990, Cowgill, Neergard and Griffiths 1987).

6.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was 19.50m long 2.00m wide and 0.30m deep aligned southeast-northwest (see Fig.2). Trench 3 contained two archaeological features recorded cutting into the natural geology.

6.3.1 Detail of Layers

The topsoil 1 was a dark brown sandy silt layer 0.05m to 0.30m deep, with occasional inclusions of fine and medium chalk pebbles. This well sorted, organic rich layer represents a former garden soil associated with the recently demolished Rectory, and an associated cottage building. Below this was subsoil 2, a greyish mid brown sandy silt layer 0.12m deep with occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles. The natural geological layer 4 was white solid chalk. This was encountered at a depth of 0.30m in Trench 3.

6.3.2 Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066)

Ditch 303 shared a similar character, alignment and dimensions to 203 in trench 2. For this reason they are assumed to be part of the same feature and therefore contemporary.

303, 1.00m wide, (not excavated), linear in plan, contained one visible fill:
Fill 302, mid/dark brownish grey sandy clay, frequent fine chalk pebbles and chalk flecks, occasional flint pebbles and snail fragments.

6.3.3 Undated

Posthole 301, contained one fill 300 which produced no artefactual evidence but the character of its fill suggests it may be contemporary with 303.

301, 0.50m diameter, (not excavated), sub-circular in plan, contained one visible fill:
Fill 300, medium brown sandy clay, frequent medium chalk pebbles.

6.3.4 Natural features

Feature 305 was originally thought to be a possible ditch terminal, however excavation showed this to be a natural feature.

305, 0.60m wide, sub-rectangular in plan, gradual irregular sides, flat base, contained one visible fill:
Fill 304, light/mid grey sandy clay, frequent chalk flecks and small pebbles.

6.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was 27.00m long 2.00m wide and 0.40m to 0.60m deep, and aligned west-north-west to east-south-east (see Fig.4). Trench 4 contained four archaeological features recorded cutting into the natural geology.

6.4.1 Detail of Layers and Features

The topsoil 1 was a dark brown sandy silt layer 0.15m to 0.30m deep, with occasional inclusions of fine and medium chalk pebbles. This well sorted, organic rich layer represents a former garden soil associated with the recently demolished Rectory, and an associated cottage building. Below this was subsoil 2 a greyish mid brown sandy silt layer 0.10m to 0.32m deep, with occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles. The natural geological layer 4 was white solid chalk. This was encountered at a depth of 0.40m to 0.60m in Trench 4.

Three pits **401**, **404** and **407** and one ditch **507** and one posthole **301** were recorded in this trench

6.4.2 Late Prehistoric/ Anglo-Saxon

Pit **401** contained one relatively shallow (0.10m deep), fill 400 which contained large quantities (see Appendix 2) of animal bone, occasional burnt stones and late prehistoric/ Anglo-Saxon sherds of pottery. Unfortunately due to the small quantity of pottery sherds and its undiagnostic appearance it was not possible to provide a reliable date.

401, 1.15m long, 0.90m wide, 0.10m deep, sub-circular in plan, vertical sides, flat base, contained one fill:

Fill 400, light/mid brown sandy clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

6.4.3 Undated

Pits **404** and **407** are both large, sub-rectangular pits which remain unexcavated. Their dimensions and morphology are very similar to medieval/post medieval quarry pits encountered locally (Paul Spoerry *pers comm*). The positioning of these pits adjacent to Hinxton Road, and on a source of solid chalk also suggests they may be chalk quarry pits.

Feature **404** contained two visible fills, 402, which contained oyster shells and 403 which produced no artefacts. Pit **407**, also contained two visible fills 405, which contained oyster shells and 406, which produced no artefacts.

404, 1.50m – 6.50m wide (not excavated), sub-rectangular in plan, contained two visible fills:
Fill 402, medium brown sandy clay, occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles, occasional oyster shells.

Fill 403, light brown sandy clay, frequent chalk cobbles, frequent fine, medium and large pebbles.

407, 3.75m – 14.30m wide (not excavated), sub-rectangular in plan, contained two visible fills:

Fill 405, medium brown sandy clay, occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles, occasional oyster shells.

Fill 406, light brown sandy clay, frequent chalk cobbles, frequent fine, medium and large pebbles.

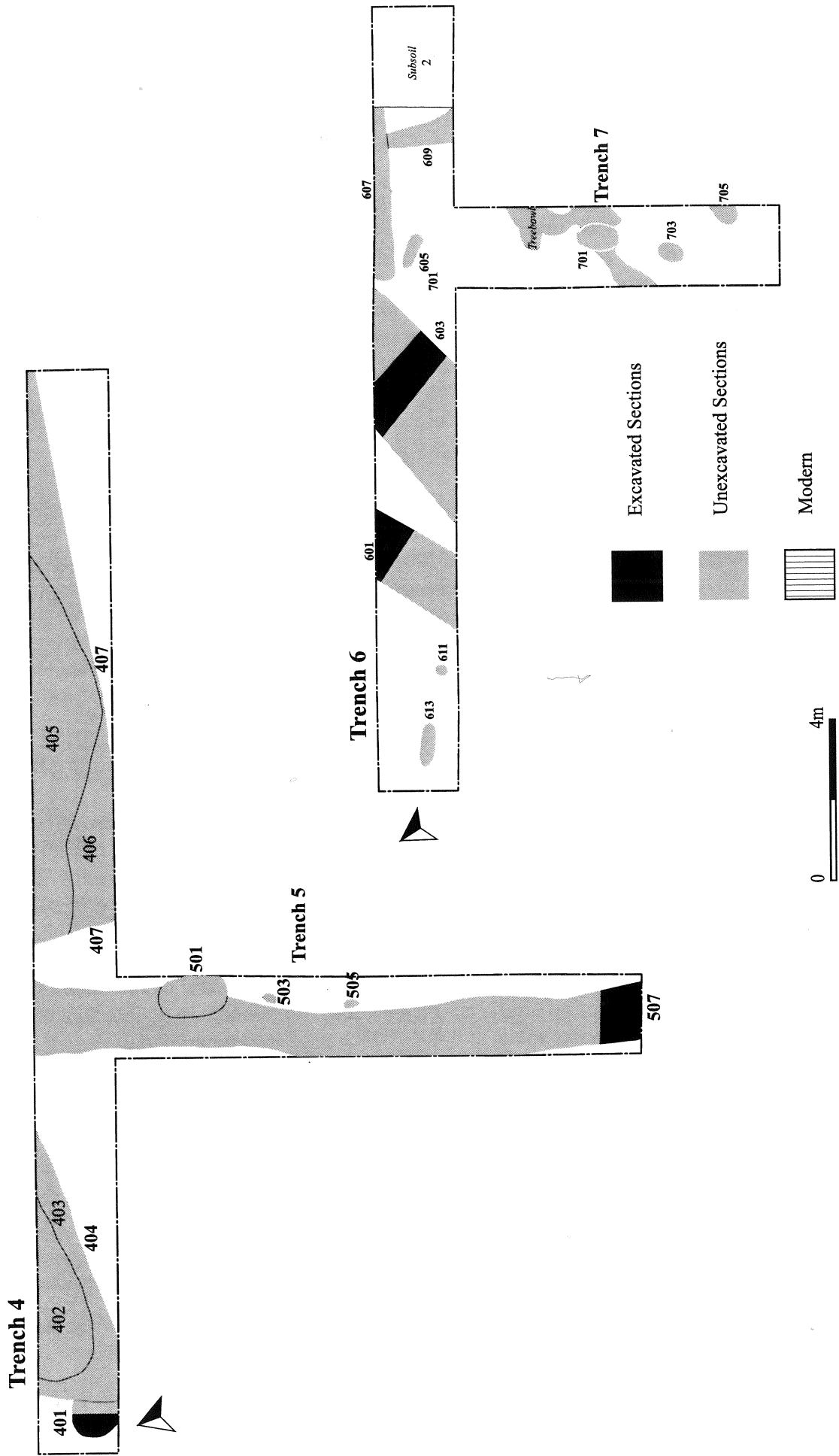


Figure 4 Plans of Trenches

6.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was 13.00m long 2.00m wide and 0.30m to 0.50m deep, and aligned southwest to northeast (see Fig.4). Trench 5 contained four archaeological features recorded cutting into the natural geology.

6.5.1 Detail of Layers and Features

The topsoil 1 was a dark brown sandy silt layer 0.25m deep, with occasional inclusions of fine and medium chalk pebbles. This well sorted, organic rich layer represents a former garden soil associated with the recently demolished Rectory, and an associated cottage building. Below this was subsoil 2 a greyish mid brown sandy silt layer 0.05m to 0.22m deep, with occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles. The natural geological layer 4 was white solid chalk. This was encountered at a depth of 0.30m to 0.50m in Trench 5.

6.5.2 Medieval (AD 1066-1520)

Ditch **507** contained one fill 506, from which sherds of Medieval pottery, fired clay and pieces of animal bone were recovered. The alignment of this ditch is perpendicular to Hinxton road, and therefore it is possible that it represents a field boundary running off this road, which was in use during this period.

Two posthole features **503** and **505** were recorded close to ditch **507**, the fills of these postholes (502 and 504) were very similar in character to deposit 506 within **507**. They may form part of a fence line adjacent to ditch **507**; further excavation should reveal whether this is the case.

503, 0.35m long, 0.20m wide, (not excavated), sub-rectangular in plan, aligned northeast-southwest, contained one visible fill:
Fill 502, Dark brown sandy clay.

505, 0.35m long, 0.20m wide, (not excavated), sub-rectangular in plan, aligned northwest-southeast, contained one visible fill:
Fill 504, Dark brown sandy clay.

507, 1.40m wide, 0.72m deep, linear in plan, steep convex (east), steep (west) sides, aligned southwest-northeast, contained one fill:
Fill 506, mid brown silty clay, occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles.

6.5.3 Post-Medieval (AD 1520-present)

Pit **501** contained one fill 500, from which 17th century pottery sherds were recovered. This feature also truncated subsoil 2 and ditch **507**, suggesting that it is a recent feature.

501, 1.70m long, 1.00m wide, (not excavated), sub-rectangular in plan, aligned northwest-southeast, contained one fill:
Fill 500, dark brown silty clay, occasional charcoal pieces.

6.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was 19.50m long 2.00m wide and 0.30m to 0.40m deep, and aligned west-north-west to east-south-east (see Fig.4). Trench 6 contained seven archaeological features recorded cutting into the natural geology.

6.6.1 Detail of Layers and Features

The topsoil 1 was a dark brown sandy silt layer 0.20m deep, with occasional inclusions of fine and medium chalk pebbles. This well sorted, organic rich layer represents a former garden soil associated with the recently demolished Rectory, and an associated cottage building. Below this was subsoil 2 a greyish mid brown sandy silt layer 0.20m deep, with occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles. The natural geological layer 4 was white solid chalk. This was encountered at a depth of 0.30m to 0.40m in Trench 1.

6.6.2 Romano-British (AD 43-410)

Ditch **601** (see Fig.7) contained one fill 600, from which sherds of Roman pottery and pieces of animal bone were recovered. This was aligned east-west which differs from that of ditch **603** just 0.75m to the east (see below). This ditch is broadly perpendicular to Hinxtton Road (see Fig.8a/8b), which may suggest that it represents a field boundary running off this route way.

601, 1.50m wide, 0.50m deep, linear in plan, steep, flat sides, flat base, aligned east-west, contained one fill:

Fill 600, mid brown silty clay, moderate fine and medium chalk pebbles.

6.6.3 Late Saxon (1000 – 1200 AD)

Ditch **603** (see Fig.7) contained one fill 602, from which sherds of Late Anglo-Saxon sherds of pottery and pieces of animal bone were recovered. This was also aligned northeast-southwest which is also broadly perpendicular to Hinxtton Road (see Fig.8a/8b), which may suggest that it represents a field boundary running off this route way.

603, 2.50m wide, 1.40m deep, linear in plan, steep flat sides, flat base, aligned northeast-southwest, contained one fill:

Fill 602, medium brown silty clay, moderate fine and medium chalk pebbles.

6.6.4 Undated

Features **607** and **609** may represent beamslots, and **605**, **611** and **613**, may represent postholes that form a structural element to the site. All these features are undated but share very similar fills to both **601** and **603** and therefore may produce finds from either period.

605, 0.80m long, 0.30m wide, (not excavated), sub-rectangular in plan, aligned north-south, contained one visible fill:

Fill 604, medium brown sandy clay, occasional medium chalk pebbles.

607, 4.30m long, 0.50m wide, (not excavated), sub-rectangular in plan, contained one visible fill:

Fill 606, medium brown sandy clay, occasional medium chalk pebbles.

609, 1.70m long, 0.90m wide, (not excavated), linear in plan, contained one visible fill:

Fill 608, medium brown sandy clay, occasional medium chalk pebbles.

611, 0.30m diameter, (not excavated), circular in plan, contained one visible fill:

Fill 610, medium brown sandy clay, occasional medium chalk pebbles.

613, 1.10m long, 0.30m wide, (not excavated), sub-rectangular in plan, aligned west-north-west to south-east-south, contained one visible fill:

Fill 612, medium brown sandy clay, occasional medium chalk pebbles.

6.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was 8.00m long 2.00m wide and 0.44m to 0.50m deep, and aligned south-west-south to north east north (see Fig.4). Trench 7 contained three archaeological features recorded cutting into the natural geology.

6.7.1 Detail of Layers and Features

The topsoil 1 was a dark brown sandy silt layer 0.20m deep, with occasional inclusions of fine and medium chalk pebbles. This well sorted, organic rich layer represents a former garden soil associated with the recently demolished Rectory, and an associated cottage building. Below this was subsoil 2 a greyish mid brown sandy silt layer 0.22m deep, with occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles. The natural geological layer 4 was white solid chalk. This was encountered at a depth of 0.44m to 0.50m in Trench 1.

6.7.2 Undated

This trench was more effected by bioturbation than any others on the development area, but there were three round features **701**, **703** and **705** which appear to be small pits. Despite the disturbance, which had affected **701** in particular these features had maintained clear edges. The character of their fills was very similar to that of **605**, **607** and **609** immediately to the east, because of this it is likely that they are broadly contemporary.

701, 1.10m long, 0.65m wide, (not excavated), oval in plan, aligned north-east-north to south-west-south, contained one visible fill:

Fill 700, medium brown sandy clay, occasional medium chalk pebbles.

703, 0.50m diameter, (not excavated), circular in plan, contained one visible fill:

Fill 702, medium brown sandy clay, occasional medium chalk pebbles.

705, 0.50m long, 0.50m wide, (not excavated), sub-circular in plan, contained one visible fill:

Fill 704, medium brown sandy clay, occasional medium chalk pebbles.

6.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 was 50.00m long 2.00m wide and 0.14m to 0.53m deep, and aligned southwest to northeast (see Fig.5). Trench 5 contained eight archaeological features recorded cutting into the natural geology.

6.8.1 Detail of Layers and Features

Demolition layer 3 was a mid brown sandy silt, with frequent medium angular concrete and modern brick fragments 0.10m to 0.50m deep. Below this was subsoil 2 a greyish mid brown sandy silt layer 0.10m to 0.40m deep, with occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles. The natural geological layer 4 was white solid chalk. This was encountered at a depth of 0.14m to 0.53m in Trench 8.

6.8.2 Late prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon

Ditch feature **801** contained one fill 800, from which sherds of late prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered. A clear date for these sherds cannot be assigned at present (see Appendix 3 – Pottery Analysis).

This feature had a clear alignment with ditch **1232** in trench 12 (see Fig.4), which produced similar pottery sherds (see below). Further stripping in this area may confirm this relationship, as well as providing a larger pottery assemblage with which to date the site.

801, 0.40m wide, 0.20m deep, linear in plan, near vertical sides, flat base, aligned north-south, contained one visible fill:

Fill 800, dark brown sandy silt, occasional medium chalk pebbles.

6.8.3 Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066)

Ditch **805** contained one fill 804, which produced mid/late Anglo-Saxon pottery, a human finger digit, pieces of burnt flint and animal bone. This had a clear alignment with ditch **905** (trench 9), and they are considered to be contemporary. As with many of the ditches on the site this may have served as a boundary ditch although further stripping would be necessary in order to understand its full extent and likely purpose. The presence of disarticulated human remains in this ditch suggests that other inhumations may be close by, but that they may have been disturbed in antiquity and fragments thus distributed randomly within the fills of the ditches which truncated them.

Ditch terminal **803** contained one fill 802, which produced no artefactual evidence. However, the character of its fill is very similar to that of 804 within ditch **805**, and because of this it is likely that they are broadly contemporary.

803, 1.50m long, 0.75m wide, 0.05m deep, sub-rectangular in plan, concave gradually sloping sides, flat base, aligned northwest-southeast, contained one visible fill:

Fill 802, mid brown silty clay, occasional medium chalk pebbles.

805, 1.10m wide, 0.40m deep, linear ditch, steep sides, flat base, aligned northwest-southeast, contained one visible fill:

Fill 804, mid brown silty clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

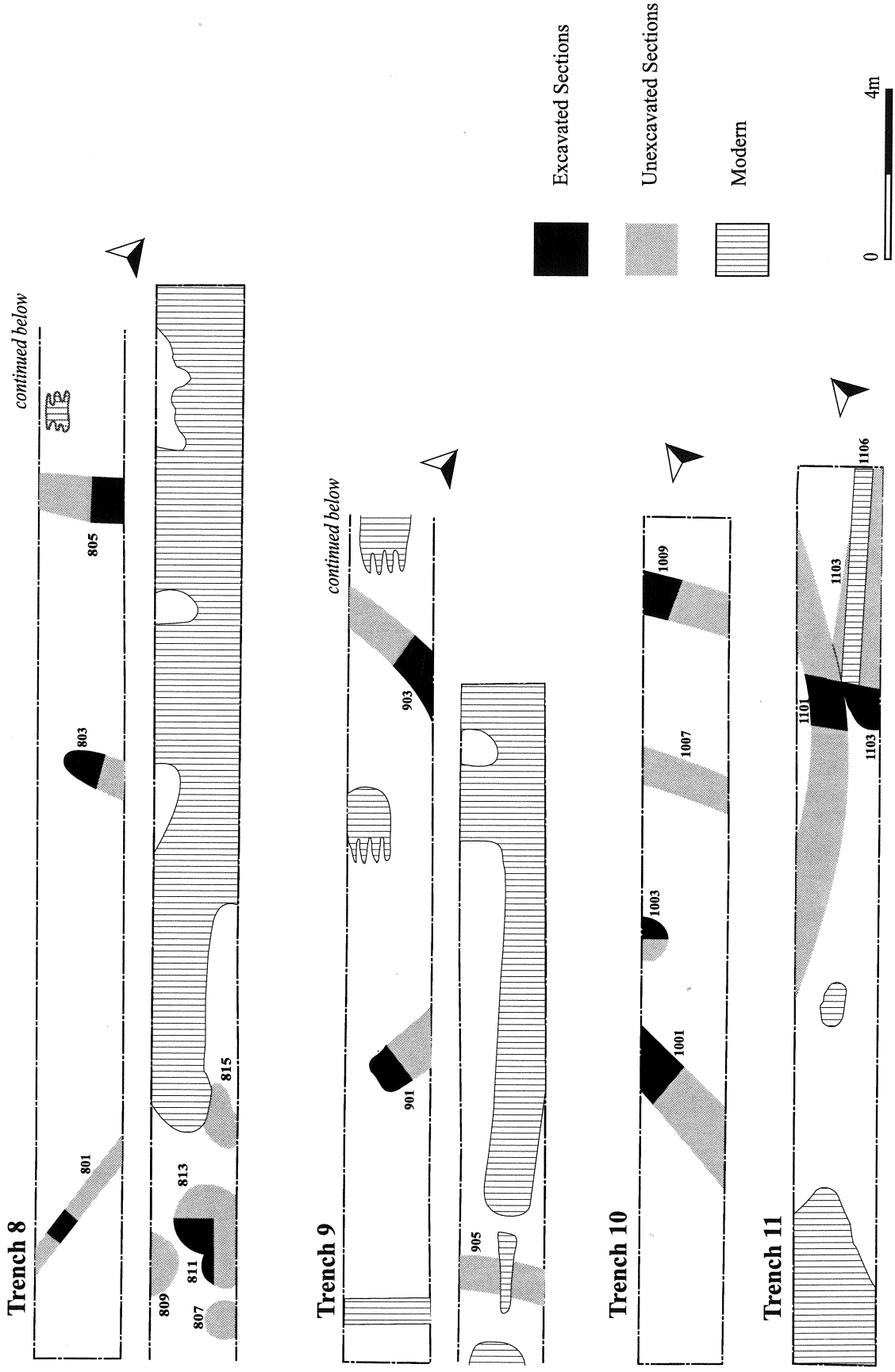


Figure 5 Plan of Trenches 8, 9 10, 11

6.8.4 Undated

Pit features **807**, **809**, **811**, **813** and **815** all shared fills, which were identical in character however none of them produced any dateable artefactual material. Morphologically they are very similar to the cluster of pits in Trench 12 which includes **1203** and **1205**. Pit **1203** contained medieval and residual late prehistoric material. Further excavation of these pit clusters would be required in order to accurately phase them.

807, 0.85m diameter, (not excavated), circular in plan, contained one visible fill:
Fill 806, greyish dark brown silty sand, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

809, 1.50m wide, (not excavated), semi-circular in plan, contained one visible fill:
Fill 808, greyish mid brown silty sand, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

811, 0.90m wide, (not excavated), sub-circular in plan, contained one visible fill:
Fill 810, greyish mid brown sandy clay, frequent fine rounded chalk gravel (pea grit).

813, 1.65m diameter, 0.25m deep, circular in plan, vertical sides, flat base, contained one visible fill:
Fill 812, dark brown sandy clay.

815, 1.50m long, 0.75m wide, oval shape in plan, contained one visible fill:
Fill 814, greyish dark brown silty sand, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

6.9 Trench 9

Trench 9 was 36.00m long 2.00m wide and 0.10m to 0.40m deep, and aligned southwest to northeast (see Fig.5). Trench 9 contained three archaeological features recorded cutting into the natural geology.

6.9.1 Detail of Layers and Features

Demolition layer 3 was a mid brown sandy silt, with frequent medium angular concrete and modern brick fragments 0.10m to 0.50m deep. Below this was subsoil 2, a greyish mid brown sandy silt layer 0.13m to 0.30m deep with occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles. The natural geological layer 4 was white solid chalk. This was encountered at a depth of 0.54m to 1.22m in Trench 1.

6.9.2 Bronze Age

Curvilinear ditch terminal **901** (see Fig.7) contained one fill, from which 47 sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered (see Appendix 2 – Finds List). Approximately 6.50m to the northeast is curvilinear ditch **903** (see Fig.7) which also contained one fill 902, from which a further 5 sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered. The alignment of both these features suggests that they both form part of the same curvilinear ditch (see Fig. 2). Further stripping within the vicinity of trench 9 would reveal whether they are part of a sub-circular feature, in which case a similar ditch terminal would be expected c 15m to the west of **901**.

901, 1.00m wide, 0.45m deep, sub-rectangular shape in plan, steep sides, flat base, aligned north-south, contained one fill:

Fill 900, dark brown sandy clay, occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles.

903, 0.95m wide, 0.45m deep, linear shape in plan, steep irregular sides, flat base, aligned east-west, contained one fill:

Fill 902, dark brown sandy clay, occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles.

905, 0.75m wide, (not excavated), linear in plan, aligned northwest-southeast, contained one fill:

Fill 904, mid greyish brown sandy clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

6.10 Trench 10

Trench 10 was 20.00m long 2.00m wide and 0.50m deep, and aligned southwest to northeast (see Fig.5). Trench 10 contained four archaeological features recorded cutting into the natural geology.

6.10.1 Detail of Layers and Features

The topsoil 1 was a dark brown sandy silt layer 0.20m to 0.30m deep, with occasional inclusions of fine and medium chalk pebbles. This well sorted, organic rich layer represents a former garden soil associated with the recently demolished Rectory, and an adjacent cottage building. Below this was subsoil 2 a greyish mid-brown sandy silt layer 0.13m to 0.30m deep, with occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles. The natural geological layer 4 was white solid chalk. This was encountered at a depth of 0.50m in Trench 1.

6.10.2 Post-Medieval (AD 1520-present)

Ditch **1001** contained one fill 1000, from which post medieval pottery and pieces of ceramic building material and animal bone were recorded. To the east of this was pit **1003**, which contained one fill 1002, from which pieces of animal bone and ceramic building material were recovered.

Two ditches were located further to the east. Ditch **1007** which contained one fill 1006, this produced no artefacts and **1009**, which contained one fill 1008, from which ceramic building material was recovered.

All of these features share striking similarities in fill character, morphology and dimensions, and because of this it is suggested that they are broadly contemporary.

1001, 1.40m wide, 0.40m deep, linear in plan, steep sides, flat base, aligned north-south, contained one fill:

Fill 1000, light brown sandy silt, occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles.

1003, 1.40m long, 0.80m wide, 0.25m deep, semi-circular in plan, steep concave sides, flat base, contained one fill:

Fill 1002, mid brown sandy silt, occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles.

1007, 0.80m wide, (not excavated), linear in plan, steep sides, flat base, aligned north-west-north to south-east-south, contained one fill:

Fill 1006, light brown sandy clay, moderate medium chalk pebbles.

1009, 1.03m wide, 0.58m deep, linear shape in plan, steep sides, flat base, aligned north-west-north to south-east-south, contained one fill:

Fill 1008, mid brown sandy silt, fine and medium chalk pebbles.

6.11 Trench 11

Trench 11 was 15.00m long 2.00m wide and 0.30m to 0.50m deep, and aligned southwest to northeast (see Fig.5). Trench 11 contained three archaeological features recorded cutting into the natural geology.

6.11.1 Detail of Layers and Features

Demolition layer 3 was a mid brown sandy silt, with frequent medium angular concrete and modern brick fragments 0.30m to 0.50m deep. Below this was subsoil 2 a greyish mid brown sandy silt layer 0.13m to 0.30m deep, with occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles. The natural geological layer 4 was white solid chalk. This was encountered at a depth of 0.54m to 1.22m in Trench 11.

6.11.2 Romano-British (AD 43-410)

Curvilinear ditch **1101**, contained one fill 1100 from which Roman pottery sherds and pieces of animal bone were recovered. Ditch **1101** clearly truncated 1102 within ditch terminal **1103**. Feature **1103** contained one fill 1102, from which pieces of animal bone were recovered.

1101, 0.75m wide, 0.20m deep, curvilinear in plan, concave near vertical sides, flat base, aligned northeast-southwest, contained one fill:

Fill 1100, mid brown silty clay, occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles.

1103, 1.10m wide, 0.80m deep, sub-rectangular in plan, near vertical sides, flat base, aligned northeast-southwest, contained one fill:

Fill 1102, mid brown silty clay, moderate medium chalk pebbles.

6.11.3 Post-Medieval (AD 1520-present)

Wall **1106** contained mortar/sand 1105, and chalk cobbles and 'Cambridge yellows' (19th century bricks). This wall truncated ditch terminal **1103**.

1106, 0.45m wide, 0.20m deep, linear shape in plan, vertical sides, flat base, aligned northeast-southwest, contained two fills:

Fill 1104, white, large rounded chalk cobbles.

Fill 1105, yellow coarse sand.

6.12 Trench 12

Trench 12 was 25.00m long 2.00m wide and 0.58m to 0.65m deep, and aligned southwest to northeast (see Fig.6). Trench 12 contained sixteen archaeological features recorded cutting into the natural geology.

6.12.1 Detail of Layers and Features

The topsoil 1 was a dark brown sandy silt layer 0.20m to 0.30m deep, with occasional inclusions of fine and medium chalk pebbles. This well sorted, organic rich layer represents a former garden soil associated with the recently demolished Rectory, and an adjacent cottage building. Below this was subsoil 2 a greyish mid brown sandy silt layer 0.13m to 0.30m deep, with occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles. The natural geological layer 4 was white solid chalk. This was encountered at a depth of 0.58m to 0.65m in Trench 1.

6.12.2 Late prehistoric or Saxon

Ditch **1201** (see Fig.7) contained two fills 1200, from which late prehistoric/ Anglo-Saxon pottery and pieces of animal bone, burnt stone and daub were recovered, and 1230, from which no finds were recorded.

Ditch **1232** (see Fig.7) contained one fill, from which pieces of animal bone were recovered. Ditch **1232** is closely aligned with **801** (trench 8), with which it shares an identical fill (800).

1201, 0.90m wide, 0.46m deep, linear shape in plan, near vertical sides, flat base, north-south alignment, contained two fills:

Fill 1200, dark brown sandy clay, moderate fine and medium chalk pebbles.

Fill 1230, mid brown sandy clay, frequent medium chalk pebbles.

1232, 0.60m wide, 0.45m deep, linear in plan, near vertical sides, flat base, aligned north-south, contained one visible fill:

Fill 1231, mid brown sandy clay, frequent medium chalk pebbles

Fill 1233, dark brown sandy clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

6.12.3 Medieval (AD 1066-1520)

Pit **1203** (see Fig.7) contained one fill 1202, from which residual late prehistoric/ Anglo-Saxon and late Medieval pottery sherds and ceramic building material were recovered. This suggests that feature **1203** is of Late medieval date, of unknown function, although storage with subsequent use as a rubbish pit is always a possibility.

1203, 1.40m long, 0.84m wide, 0.35m deep, semi-circular in plan, vertical sides, flat base, contained one fill:

Fill 1202, mid brown sandy clay, moderate fine and medium chalk pebbles.

6.12.4 Undated

Perhaps the most significant features in this trench are postholes **1215**, **1217**, **1219**, **1221**, **1223** and curvilinear gully **1229**. Together these features form a tight circular formation, which suggests they may be part of a roundhouse or other circular structure.

Posthole **1217** contained one fill 1216, from which a single piece of animal bone was recovered. Postholes **1221** and **1223** were intercutting but shared identical fills (1220/1222), from which no stratigraphic relationship was

Trench 12

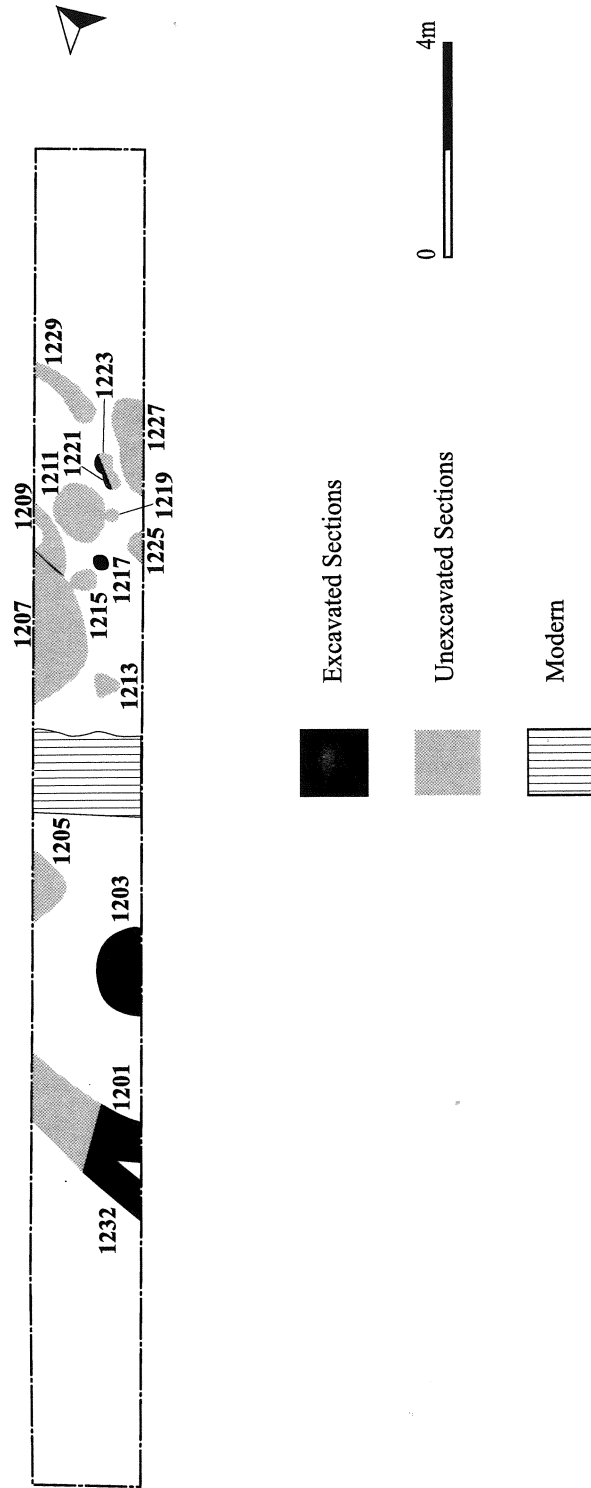


Figure 6 Plan of Trenches

discernible. Neither fill produced artefactual evidence, however they may represent an episode of post replacement/maintenance at this point of the structure. Unfortunately no dating evidence for these features was found during the evaluation.

Other features in this trench include four sub-circular pits **1205**, **1211**, **1225** and **1227**. These remain unexcavated however they share similarities in the character of their fills and their morphology with **1203**. This suggests that they may be contemporary with this excavated feature, although further excavation will be required to clearly demonstrate the date and function of these features (see 7 Discussion).

1205, 1.35m long, 0.60m wide, (not excavated), semi-circular in plan, contained one visible fill:

Fill 1204, greyish dark brown sandy clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

1207, 2.90m long, 1.00m wide, (not excavated), semi-circular in plan, contained one visible fill:

Fill 1206, greyish dark brown sandy clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

1209, 1.30m long, 0.50m wide, (not excavated), curvilinear in plan, contained one visible fill:

Fill 1208, greyish dark brown sandy clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

1211, 1.25m diameter, (not excavated), sub-circular in plan, contained one visible fill:

Fill 1210, greyish dark brown sandy clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

1213, 0.40m long, 0.40m wide, (not excavated), sub-triangular in plan, contained one visible fill:

Fill 1212, greyish dark brown sandy clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

1215, 0.50m diameter, (not excavated), sub-circular in plan, contained one visible fill:

Fill 1214, greyish dark brown sandy clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

1217, 0.36m diameter, 0.20m deep, circular in plan, vertical sides, concave base, contained one visible fill:

Fill 1216, dark brown silty clay, occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles.

1219, 0.25m diameter, (not excavated), circular in plan, contained one visible fill:

Fill 1218, greyish dark brown sandy clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

1221, 0.30m diameter, 0.10m deep, circular in plan, concave steep sides, concave base, contained one visible fill:

Fill 1220, greyish dark brown sandy clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

1223, 0.30m diameter, 0.10m deep, circular in plan, concave sides, concave base, contained one visible fill:

Fill 1222, dark brown sandy clay, occasional fine and medium chalk pebbles.

1225, 0.60m long, 0.35m wide, (not excavated), semi-circular in plan, contained one visible fill:

Fill 1224, greyish dark brown sandy clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

1227, 1.80m long, 0.60m wide, (not excavated), semi-circular in plan, contained one visible fill:

Fill 1226, greyish dark brown sandy clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

1229, 1.50m long, 0.40m wide, (not excavated), curvilinear in plan, aligned north-south, contained one visible fill:

Fill 1228, greyish dark brown sandy clay, occasional fine chalk pebbles.

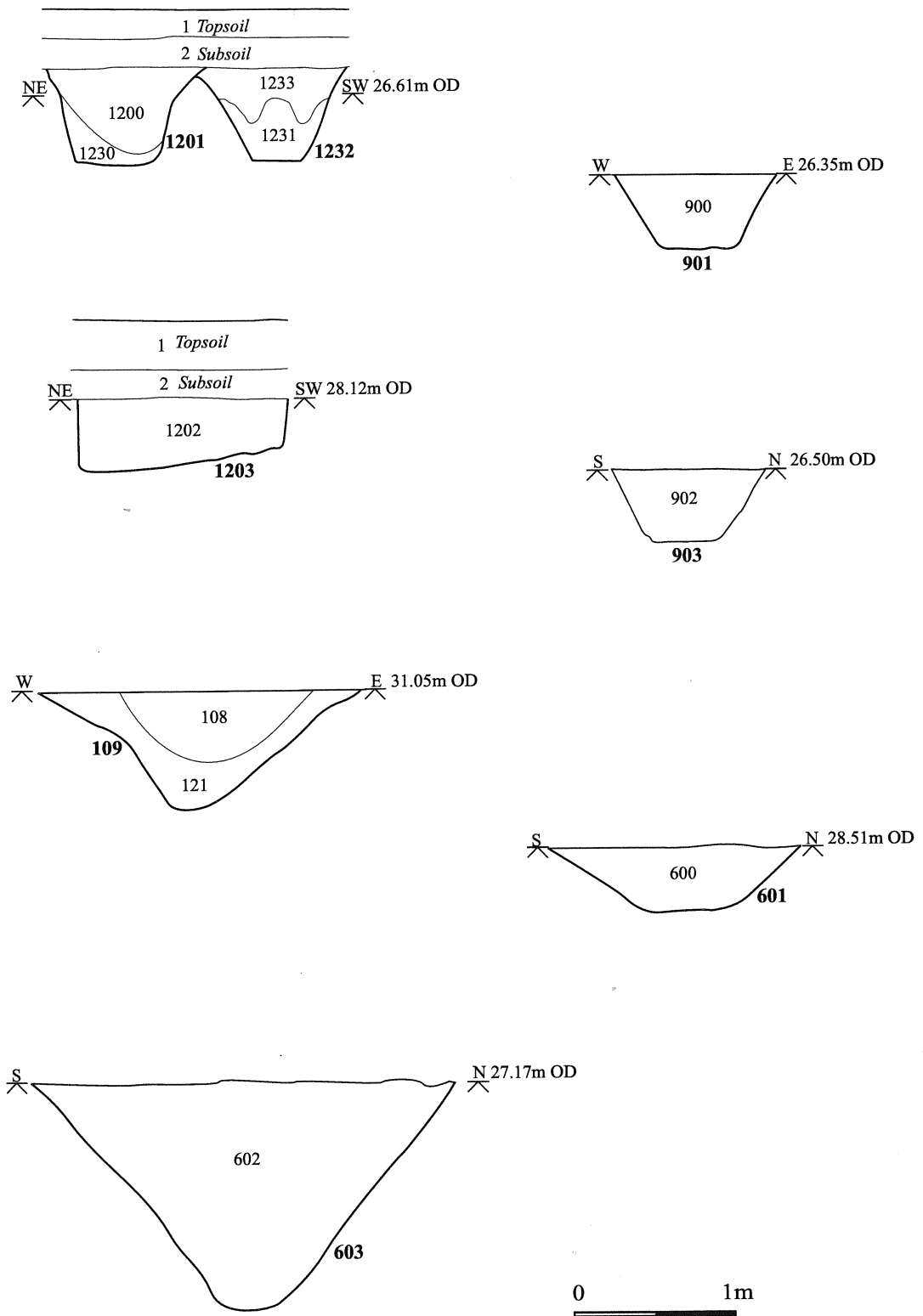


Figure 7 Selection of Sections

7 DISCUSSION

The following discussion is split into four areas. This is for topographical and practical reasons (Tree Protection Orders and land boundaries), which dictate that the site currently has to be treated as four distinct zones.

7.1 Trenches 1,2 and 3 – (northern, topographically higher, part of development area)

This part of the development area was particularly high (31.49m OD) even in comparison to the bench mark (29.96m OD) taken on the Parish church of St Peter which itself was placed on a noticeable rise in the landscape. Because of this, and because of anecdotal evidence gathered on arrival at the site, it was considered that this entire area may be 'made ground'. Trenches 1, 2 and 3 showed this to be a false presumption as archaeology was revealed in all three trenches at a shallow depth (c 0.20m). However, trench 1 also revealed an area of 'made ground' towards its eastern end and it is possible this relates to groundworks during the construction of the former 'Techne' factory, in the latter part of the last century. This may be of significance in deciding the dimensions of any future excavation area, as the depth of made ground in this area may mitigate any potential damage to the archaeological features which it overlies.

The height of this part of the site in comparison to the land at the south, north west and east in particular was very apparent (as the land slopes considerably towards the river Cam, the TBM in the eastern part of the site was 28.70m OD). A position such as this can often give a piece of land a high archaeological potential as it provides a commanding view of the landscape. In addition in this particular case the proximity of the river also makes it attractive for a variety of human activities, such as settlement, religious activity/monuments and inhumation, or elements of all of these. From the excavations we have positive evidence for inhumation and the density of ditches on this part of the site may tell us something about the boundaries of this inhumation cluster although this could not be ascertained within the confines of our trenches. Alternatively it may be that these relate to a different phase of activity, and they may instead be enclosure/boundary ditches demarcating land ownership etc.

Trench 2 recorded the highest density of archaeological features in this part of the development area. The majority of features contained Anglo-Saxon material, most significantly three inhumations one partial inhumation and a 14th century knife from a ditch terminal were recorded. It is anticipated that further excavation will reveal further inhumations and other features, particularly boundary ditches, in the immediate vicinity of trench 2.

Trench 3 contained ditch 303, a continuation of 203 excavated in trench 2, but no other significant archaeology was revealed in this trench and certainly no inhumations. This may be of significance in determining the possible

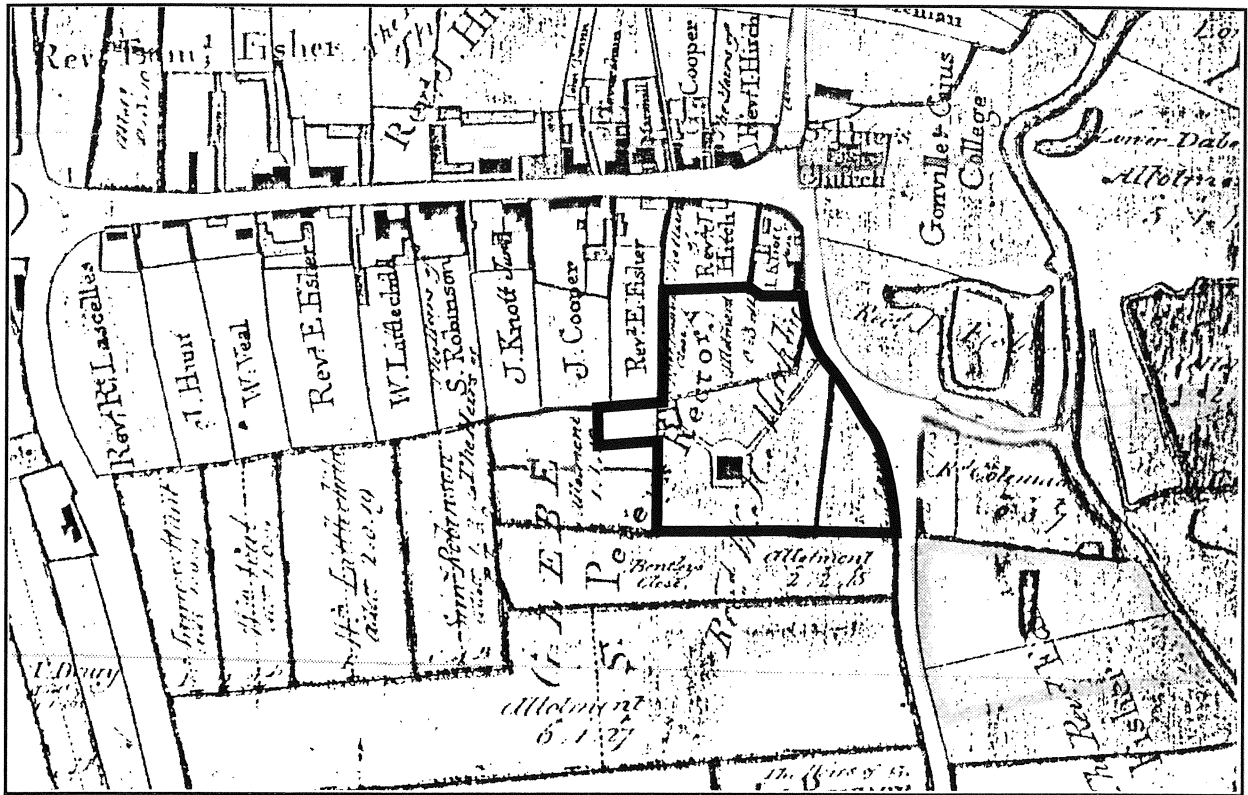


Figure 8a Tithe Map 1842

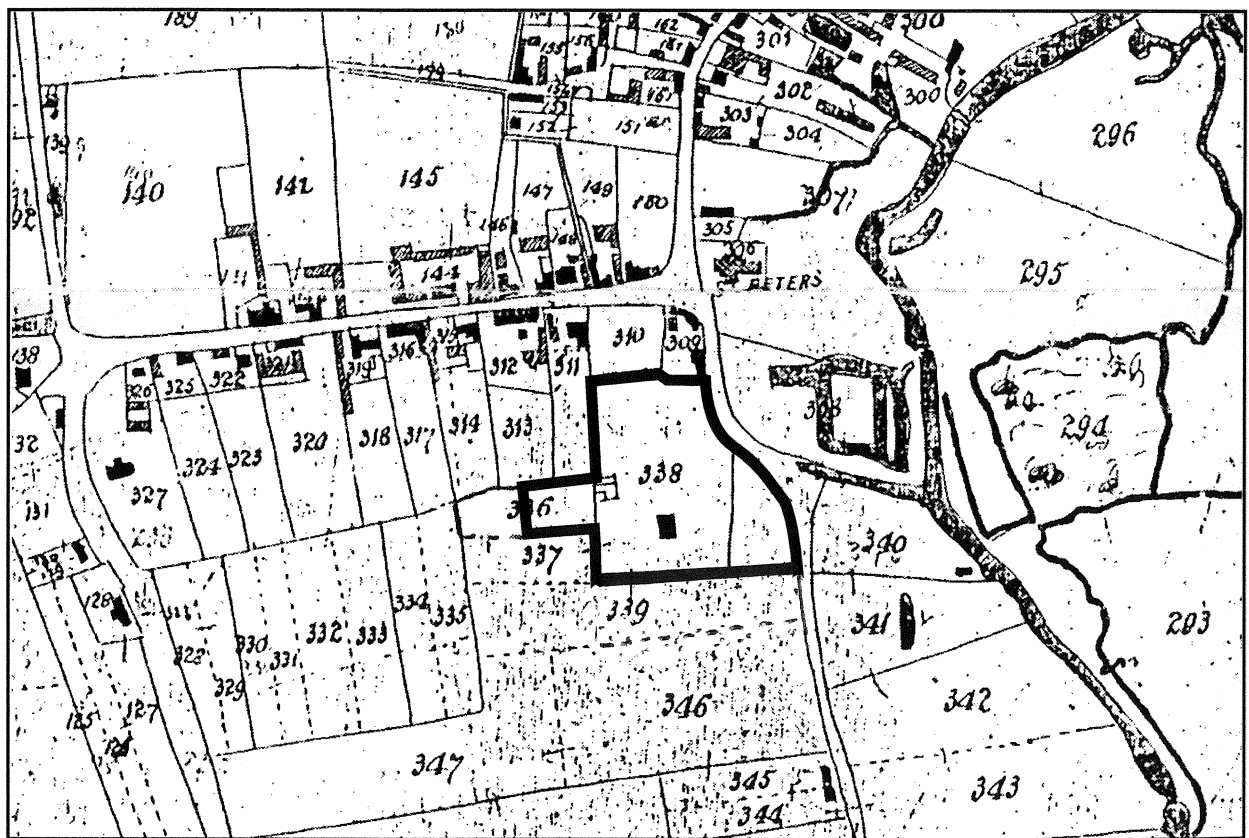


Figure 8b Inclosure Map 1830

boundaries of any cemetery, as trench 2 is parallel to trench 1 and positioned c10m to the east. The presence of human skeletal remains (HSR) in the subsoil 2 of trench 2 and the absence of any HSR in trenches 1 or 3 may also indicate that any cemetery does not extend as far north or east as these trenches.

Trench 1 contained several archaeological features and two ditches, **101** and **109**, produced Anglo Saxon material. The trench did not, however, produce any inhumations, which may be of significance as it lies c 10m from and perpendicular to, trenches 1 and 3.

7.2 Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7 – (eastern tree covered part of development area)

The trenches in this area were characterised by large ditches, although trench four contained two very large possible quarry pits running perpendicular to Hinxtan Road.

The presence of oyster shells within pits **404** and **407** may indicate that these large features have been back filled with domestic rubbish. Further excavation may reveal more about the date of these features, which do not appear on any of the 19th century maps as post-medieval quarry pits sometimes do. Artefactual and ecofactual evidence from such contexts can be very useful in gaining an understanding of the diet and economy of a settlement.

Significantly the three ditches sampled in this part of the site all had distinctly different morphology and alignments (see Fig. 3), they also contained finds from three different periods. **507** contained medieval pottery, **601** contained Roman pottery and **603** contained Late Anglo-Saxon pottery. What they may have in common is that they are all roughly perpendicular to Hinxtan Road, which is curving at this point. This may suggest that they are land boundaries, which run off the line of this road. They may have had a secondary function as drainage ditches on this strip of land, as lying only c100m west of the Cam it may have been subject to periodic flooding.

Indeed it is possible that the ditch features encountered on the current development area may have extended further east towards the Cam. Such an idea may be supported by the results of a previous evaluation at the former Ciba Geigy site a short distance from the subject site but on the opposite side of the Hinxtan Road. Several linear ditches were encountered during that evaluation. In particular ditch **601** (trench 6) on the subject site and ditch **13** (trench 7) on the previous evaluation (Roberts 1999), share similar dimensions, character and morphology.

Of particular interest was ditch **603**, which had a very distinctive steep V-shaped profile with a narrow flat base, it was 1.40m deep and 2.50m wide. Such a ditch would make a considerable statement in the landscape, it may be that this ditch is defensive or at least a more flamboyant territorial marker than the other ditches recorded within the development area. Further excavation may reveal more about the function and extent of this feature.

Trench 6 also produced a number of smaller features that, although unexcavated, could be interpreted as beamslots and postholes for timber structures. Their date is not known, but their morphology tends to suggest that they may be post-Roman.

7.3 Trenches 8, 9, 11 and 12 – (southern part of site, within footprint of former factory)

Trench 12 immediately south of the now demolished rectory recorded the highest density of archaeological features on the site, including a particularly clear example of a potential roundhouse consisting of 1215, 1217, 1219, 1221, 1223, and curvilinear ditch 1229. No dating was recovered from these features, however a late prehistoric date is expected based on artefactual evidence from nearby features and with reference to other sites within the region which have recorded similar features. Several pits 1203, 1205, 1207, 1211 and 1227 suggest that the area immediately adjacent to trench 12 may well produce further evidence of settlement.

Trench 9 contained significant evidence of Bronze Age settlement on the site. The large curvilinear ditch characterised by 901 and 903, may be part of a much larger curvilinear feature, part of which may be picked up by further stripping although the projected angle of this feature would place some of it under residential gardens to the west of trench 9.

Trench 9 contained a significant area of pitting including 807, 809, 811, 813 and 815. Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered, however a late prehistoric date may be expected for features of this type and further excavation may confirm this. Ditch 805 produced one human finger digit, which may suggest that it or other ditches or pits in the area have disturbed inhumations in this part of the site which have as yet not been located. Alternatively it may represent the sort of unusual treatment of human remains more often found in Iron Age contexts.

Trench 11 also contained a curvilinear feature 1101, but in this case it was different in morphology to that encountered in trench 8, and at this point is not considered contemporary.

It should also be noted that several pieces of broken grey asbestos were recorded in the demolition rubble associated with a now defunct electric cable in trench 12, other pieces were randomly distributed across the footprint of the former factory site. It will be necessary to take account of the possibility of asbestos contamination in this part of the development area.

7.4 Trench 10 – (western part of the site, narrow strip within former cottage garden)

Trench 10 contained four linear features all four features shared identical fills, and all three ditches share a similar alignment. Significantly that alignment matches that of the land boundaries, which are depicted on 19th century cartographic sources, for this part of the site (see Fig. 8a/8b). The only

artefactual evidence from this part of the site was of post-medieval date. It is possible that these features were property boundaries as they run broadly north south and perpendicular to St Peter's Road. Cartographic sources record property boundaries running in this pattern and in this area in the 19th century.

No evidence of settlement or inhumation was encountered in this part of the site.

7.5 The effect of recent activity on the development area.

It should also be noted that although there are significant variations in the topography of the site, it appears that the archaeology in all parts of the site has remained largely unaffected. This suggests that the topography is mostly natural in origin and that later developments have accentuated these variations rather than dictated them.

The only part of the site that appears to have suffered any significant damage is characterised by the northern ends of trenches 8 and 9. Despite being machined harder than the rest of these trenches no archaeological features were recorded and modern foundation trenches containing brick rubble continued below the level at which archaeology was encountered in the central and southern parts of these trenches.

A strip of land c 10m wide to the east of trenches 1 and 3 appears to be *made ground*, of c1.20 m depth. This may have logistical considerations regarding the quantities of spoil, which would be generated by stripping the entire northern part of the site. This strip is also where the gas and electrical services for the site are located.

8 CONCLUSION

The topographically high area explored with trenches 1, 2 and 3 in the northern part of the development area and the lower lying southern area sampled by trenches 8, 9, 11 and 12 produced the greatest variety of features and the highest quantity of artefactual evidence. In comparison the areas to the east (trenches 4,5,6 and 7), and west (trench 10) were dominated by ditches, likely to have served as boundaries, although trench 4 contained three pit features and trench 6 postholes and possible beamslots.

Artefacts show evidence for activity during a possible six periods, although more excavation may reduce this as certain key issues regarding pottery typology are answered.

There are three major issues which should be addressed during any further work. Firstly, the site has produced evidence of Anglo-Saxon inhumations (trench 2). Features dating to this period have been missing in other archaeological investigations of the village, making this cemetery an important

resource. Further analysis of these remains will provide valuable information on the population at this time.

Secondly, the extent and character of any settlement on the site is not entirely clear. There is however good evidence based on the density of finds and types of features present, to suggest settlement on the site during the Bronze Age (trench 9) and Late prehistoric (trench 12) periods, with further undated remains that may represent structures being found in trench 6.

Thirdly, a piece of disarticulated human bone in ditch 805 may be a random find, but the possibility of inhumations in this part of the site which were not picked up by the evaluation trenches remains. This must be considered during any future fieldwork.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Berkeley Homes (Eastern) Limited (and Paul Hatfield in particular) who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Thanks also to Diane Walls, Jessica Brown and David Whiter for their work on the site, to Jon Cane for the illustrations, and to Paul Spoerry who managed the project. The author also worked on the site.

The project was carried out in response to a brief written by Jeremy Parsons from the County Archaeology Office (Development Control), who visited and monitored the site.

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Ordnance Survey 1886
Tithe Map 1842
Inclosure Map 1830

Appendix 1 - Context List

Trench No	Context No	Fill of	Filled by	Context type
1/2/3/4/5/6/ 7/12	1	-	-	Topsoil layer
1/2/3/4/5/6/ 7/8/9/10/12	2	-	-	Subsoil layer
8/9/11	3	-	-	Demolition layer
1/2/3/4/5/6/ 7/8/9/10/11/ 12	4	-	-	Natural geology
1	100	101	-	Ditch fill
1	101	-	100, 122	Ditch cut
1	102	103	-	Pit fill
1	103	-	102	Pit cut
1	104	105	-	Ditch fill
1	105	-	104	Ditch cut
1	106	107	-	Pit fill
1	107	-	106	Pit cut
1	108	109	-	Ditch fill
1	109	-	108, 121	Ditch cut
1	112	113	-	Ditch fill
1	113	-	112	Ditch cut
1	114	115	-	Ditch fill
1	115	-	114	Ditch cut
1	116	117	-	Pit fill
1	117	-	116	Pit cut
1	118	-	-	Re-deposited topsoil layer
1	121	109	-	Ditch fill
1	122	101	-	Ditch fill
2	200	201	-	Post hole fill
2	201	-	200	Post hole cut
2	202	203	-	Ditch fill
2	203	-	202, 226	Ditch cut
2	206	207	-	Grave fill
2	207	-	206, 227	Grave
2	208	209	-	Ditch terminal fill
2	209	-	208	Ditch terminal
2	210	211	-	Ditch fill
2	211	-	210	Ditch cut
2	212	213	-	Pit fill
2	213	-	212	Pit cut
2	214	215	-	Ditch terminal fill
2	215	-	214	Ditch terminal
2	216	217	-	Pit fill
2	217	-	216	Pit cut
2	218	219	-	Ditch terminal fill
2	219	-	218	Ditch terminal
2	220	221	-	Ditch fill
2	221	-	220	Ditch terminal
2	222	223	-	Grave fill
2	223	-	222	Grave cut
2	224	225	-	Grave fill
2	225	-	224	Grave cut
2	226	203	-	Ditch fill
2	227	207	-	Skeleton

Trench No	Context No	Fill of	Filled by	Context type
3	300	301	-	Pit fill
3	301	-	300	Pit cut
3	302	303	-	Ditch fill
3	303	-	302	Ditch cut
3	304	305	-	Ditch fill
3	305	-	304	Ditch cut
4	400	401	-	Pit fill
4	401	-	400	Pit cut
4	402	404	-	Pit fill
4	403	404	-	Pit fill
4	404	-	402, 403	Pit cut
4	405	407	-	Pit fill
4	406	407	-	Pit fill
4	407	-	405, 406	Pit cut
5	500	501	-	Pit fill
5	501	-	500	Pit cut
5	502	503	-	Posthole fill
5	503	-	502	Posthole cut
5	504	505	-	Posthole fill
5	505	-	504	Posthole cut
5	506	507	-	Ditch fill
5	507	-	506	Ditch cut
6	600	601	-	Ditch fill
6	601	-	600	Ditch cut
6	602	603	-	Ditch fill
6	603	-	602	Ditch cut
6	604	605	-	Pit fill
6	605	-	604	Pit cut
6	606	607	-	Pit fill
6	607	-	606	Pit cut
6	608	609	-	Ditch fill
6	609	-	608	Ditch cut
6	610	611	-	Posthole fill
6	611	-	610	Posthole cut
6	612	613	-	Pit fill
6	613	-	612	Pit cut
7	700	701	-	Bioturbation fill
7	701	-	700	Bioturbation
7	702	703	-	Pit fill
7	703	-	702	Pit cut
7	704	705	-	Pit fill
7	705	-	704	Pit cut
8	800	801	-	Ditch fill
8	801	-	800	Ditch cut
8	802	803	-	Ditch terminal fill
8	803	-	802	Ditch terminal cut
8	804	805	-	Ditch fill
8	805	-	804	Ditch cut
8	806	807	-	Pit fill

Trench No	Context No	Fill of	Filled by	Context type
8	807	-	806	Pit cut
8	808	809	-	Pit fill
8	809	-	808	Pit cut
8	810	811	-	Pit fill
8	811	-	810	Pit cut
8	812	813	-	Pit fill
8	813	-	812	Pit cut
8	814	815	-	Pit fill
8	815	-	814	Pit cut
9	900	901	-	Ditch terminal fill
9	901	-	900	Ditch terminal cut
9	902	903	-	Ditch fill
9	903	-	902	Ditch cut
9	904	905	-	Ditch fill
9	905	-	904	Ditch cut
10	1000	1001	-	Ditch fill
10	1001	-	1000	Ditch cut
10	1002	1003	-	Ditch fill
10	1003	-	1002	Ditch cut
10	1006	1007	-	Ditch fill
10	1007	-	1006	Ditch cut
10	1008	1009	-	Ditch fill
10	1009	-	1008	Ditch cut
11	1100	1101	-	Ditch fill
11	1101	-	1100	Ditch cut
11	1102	1103	-	Ditch terminal fill
11	1103	-	1102	Ditch terminal cut
11	1104	1106	-	Chalk building material
11	1105	1106	-	Mortar
11	1106	-	1104, 1105	Wall
12	1200	1201	-	Ditch fill
12	1201	-	1200	Ditch cut
12	1202	1203	-	Pit fill
12	1203	-	1202	Pit cut
12	1204	1205	-	Pit fill
12	1205	-	1204	Pit cut
12	1206	1207	-	Pit fill
12	1207	-	1206	Pit cut
12	1208	1209	-	Ditch fill
12	1209	-	1208	Ditch cut
12	1210	1211	-	Pit fill
12	1211	-	1210	Pit cut
12	1212	1213	-	Posthole fill
12	1213	-	1212	Posthole cut
12	1214	1215	-	Posthole fill
12	1215	-	1214	Posthole cut
12	1216	1217	-	Posthole fill
12	1217	-	1216	Posthole cut
12	1218	1219	-	Posthole fill
12	1219	-	1218	Posthole cut
12	1220	1221	-	Posthole fill

Trench No	Context No	Fill of	Filled by	Context type
12	1221	-	1220	Posthole cut
12	1222	1223	-	Posthole fill
12	1223	-	1222	Posthole cut
12	1224	1225	-	Pit fill
12	1225	-	1224	Pit cut
12	1226	1227	-	Pit fill
12	1227	-	1226	Pit cut
12	1228	1229	-	Ditch fill
12	1229	-	1228	Ditch cut
12	1230	1201	-	Ditch fill
12	1231	1232	-	Ditch fill
12	1232	-	1231, 1233	Ditch cut
12	1233	1232		Ditch fill

Appendix 2 - Finds List

Context	Finds category	Date/description	Quantity
2	Clay pipe	Post medieval	1 piece
100	Bone	Animal	11 pieces
100	Pot	Roman – samian	3 sherds
106	Bone	Animal	1 pieces
106	Pot	Late prehistoric/ Saxon	1 sherd
108	Bone	Animal	100 pieces
108	Pot	Early Saxon (450 – 650 AD)	18 sherds
121	Bone	Animal	9 pieces
202	Bone	Animal	15 pieces
202	Pot	Early/mid Saxon (600 – 800 AD)	5 sherds
202	CBM	-	5 pieces
206	Pot	Late prehistoric/ Saxon	2 sherds
208	Bone	Animal	4 pieces
208	Pot	Mid/Late Saxon (850 – 1000 AD)	6 sherds
218	Bone	Human clavicle	2 pieces
218	Bone	Animal	7 pieces
218	Pot	Early Saxon (450 – 650 AD)	6 sherds
226	Bone	Animal	6 pieces
226	Pot	Roman – samian, white ware	1 sherds
226	CBM	-	1 piece
232	Bone	Animal	3 sherds
400	Bone	Animal	78 pieces
400	Stone	Burnt	9
400	Pot	Late prehistoric/ Saxon	4 sherds
500	Pot	Post medieval – Redwares (1700 +)	2 sherds
506	Bone	Animal	6 pieces
506	Fired clay	Part of mould	2 pieces
506	Pot	Medieval (1200 – 1400 AD)	6 pieces
600	Bone	Animal	1 piece
600	Pot	Roman	2 sherds
602	Bone	Animal	5 pieces
602	Pot	Late Saxon (1000 – 1200 AD)	2 sherds
800	Pot	Late prehistoric/ Saxon	1 sherd
804	Bone	Animal	2 pieces
804	Stone	Burnt flint	2 pieces

804	Bone	Human finger digit	1
804	Pot	Mid/late Saxon (850 – 1200 AD)	1 sherd
812	Bone	Animal	2 pieces
900	Bone	Animal	10 pieces
900	Stone	Burnt	3
900	Pot	Bronze Age	47 sherds
902	Bone	Animal	10 pieces
902	Pot	Bronze Age	5 sherds
1000	Bone	Animal	8 pieces
1000	Pot	Post medieval	4 sherds
1000	CBM	-	4 pieces
1002	Bone	Animal	11 pieces
1002	CBM	-	2 pieces
1008	CBM	-	2 pieces
1100	Bone	Animal	3 pieces
1100	Pot	Roman – greyware	1 sherd
1102	Bone	Animal	5 pieces
1200	Bone	Animal	11 pieces
1200	Stone	Burnt	2
1200	Pot	Late prehistoric/ Saxon	2 sherds
1200	CBM	-	4 pieces
1202	Bone	Animal	6 pieces
1202	Pot	Late prehistoric (residual)	1 sherds
1202	Pot	Late Medieval 1350 – 1550 AD	2 sherds
1202	CBM	-	3 pieces
1216	Bone	Animal	1 piece
1231	Bone	Animal	2 pieces

Appendix 3 – Pottery Spot Dates and Preliminary Analysis

Paul Spoerry

An assemblage of 116 sherds was recovered from twenty one contexts in ten out of twelve excavated trenches.

The assemblage is made up of pottery from a variety of periods from the Bronze Age, through Roman, Early, Middle and Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval.

The most complete pieces are all hand-made pottery, including part of one early Saxon vessel from a grave in Trench 2 (218) and a large part of a probably later Bronze Age vessel with rope-decorated rim from Trench 9 (900). The wide jar shape with weak shoulder of this vessel would perhaps place it in the late Bronze Age post-Deverel-Rimbury plain ware phase of the early first millennium BC (Last 1998), however, it also shows close similarities with the form and decoration of pottery from Lakenheath identified as very early Iron Age (Briscoe 1949).

The more complete examples of later Prehistoric and early Saxon vessels offer examples for illustration should they become part of a larger group. Saxon pottery seems to derive from domestic as well as funerary contexts.

LP/S = Late Prehistoric (late Bronze Age or Iron Age) or early-middle Saxon

Context	Pot types	Date/Notes	Context date
100	Samian x 1		Roman
	Redware x 2		
106	Hand-made Flint T x 1	Late Prehistoric or Saxon	LP/S
108	Various hand-made x 16	Very variable, some burnishing, sand, veg and calcarous tempers	Early Saxon 450-650
	Brown, hard, wheel-made x 2	Ridges and roller decoration	?early Roman
202	Hand-made rims x 2	1 x shell (Maxey), 1 x Veg temper, quite regular	Early-middle Saxon 600-800AD
	Various hand-made x 3	Calc/shell temper	
206	Hand-made x 2	Sand and ?calc temper	LP/S
208	St Neots type ware x 2	Jar rim	Late Saxon 850-1000
	Thetford ware x 2	Applied strip	
	Hand-made x 2	Mica and ? igneous inclusions	
218	Hand-made vessel x 4	Sand temper, good profile	Early Saxon 450-650
	Hand-made x 1	Burnished, mica and veg temper	
226	Samian x 1		Roman
	Buff, Verulamium x 1		
	Other Roman x 1		
400	Hand-made silty x 4	Dk red-brown, parallel with fabric of Bronze Age sherds from Melbourn (BCAS)	LP/S
500	Post-med redwares x 2		1600-1800 AD
506	Essex micaceous x 1	Base of jar	1200-1400 AD
		Also fired clay possibly from a mould	
600	Red colour coat x 2	Hard-fired and soft rims	Roman
602	Wheel-made rim of jar x 1	Thetford or EMW type	100-1200AD
	Coarse shelly x 1		
800	Hand-made flinty sherd x 1	Abundant flint	LP/S, probably the former
804	Thetford ware x 1	Jar	850-1200 AD
900	Hand-made vessel (large) x 45	See text above for description of this open jar form.	Late Bronze Age (poss early I/A)
902	Hand-made x 4	Calc inclusions mostly	LP/S
	Hand-made rim x 1	Rope-decorated rim	
1000	Essex late med and post-med micaceous redware x 3	Various vessels	1600-1800

1100	Roman greyware x 1		Roman
1200	Various hand-made x 3	Calc/shell temper	LP/S
1202	Hand-made rim x 1	Hard-fired, calcareous (LP/S)	1350-1500
	Late medieval hard sandy ware x 2	Hard-fired Ely-type (1350- 1500)	

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