

Archaeological Field Unit

**Late Saxon Occupation at
Newton Primary School, Eltisley,
Cambridgeshire**

Steve Hickling and Richard Mortimer

April 2004

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. 239

Commissioned by *Mouchel Consulting Ltd*

**Late Saxon Occupation at
Newton Primary School, Eltisley,
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TL 2724 5951

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SUMMARY

An excavation was conducted during August 2003 by the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council at Newton County Primary School, Eltisley, Cambridgeshire (TL 2724 5951) in advance of the construction of a school extension. Area excavation followed on from an initial small evaluation trench (Atkins 2003).

An area measuring 14.5m by 10m was investigated, producing evidence for a possible Roman field system and Late Saxon occupation consisting of ditches and pits. Direct occupation within the excavation area appears to have ceased by the 12th to 13th century when the area reverted to arable agriculture.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	1
3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
4	METHODOLOGY	4
5	RESULTS	5
6	DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS	11
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	14
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	15
	LIST OF FIGURES	
Figure 1	Location of excavated area	3
Figure 2	Phase plan	6
Figure 3	Section drawings	9
Figure 4	Location of excavated area showing archaeological features and alignments	12
Figure 5	Vessel type for post-Roman assemblage by fabric as a percentage of the whole assemblage (by weight; kg)	19
	LIST OF APPENDICES	
Appendix 1	Feature Data	16
Appendix 2	Pottery, by Carole Fletcher	17
Appendix 3	Mammal, Bird and Amphibian Bones, by Ian L. Baxter	20
Appendix 4	Charred Plant Macrofossils and Other Remains, by Val Fryer	23
	LIST OF TABLES	
Table 1:	General provenance areas for post-Roman assemblage by weight (kg) and count	17
Table 2:	Faunal remains: number of identified specimens (NISP)	21
Table 3:	Plant and other remains from Phase 2: Possible Middle Saxon deposits (<i>c.</i> AD700–900)	27
Table 4:	Plant and other remains from Phase 3: Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman pits and ditches (<i>c.</i> AD900–1150)	29
Table 5:	Plant and other remains from Phase 3: Pit 84	30
Table 6:	Plant and other remains from Phase 4: Possible early medieval deposits (post-AD1100)	32

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1 INTRODUCTION

During late August 2003, the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) conducted an archaeological excavation at the Newton County Primary School, Eltisley (TL 2724 5951). The work was carried out on behalf of Mouchel Consulting Ltd and was undertaken in order to fulfil a Brief for Archaeological Investigation issued by Kasia Gdaniec, Development Control Archaeologist, Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office.

The site is located in the centre of modern Eltisley, 500m to the south-east of the parish church, on the south-eastern edge of the village green and in the centre of a concentration of medieval moated sites (Fig. 1). The proposed development consists of extension works to the existing school buildings.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The natural drift geology has been recorded as glacial deposits of boulder clay (BGS 1975). Pockets of sand and gravel of varying size (referred to as till) have been recorded in the boulder clay in Eltisley Parish (Edmonds and Dinham 1965). Within the excavation area the natural subsoil consisted mostly of yellow/orange boulder clay with patches of sands and gravels.

Eltisley occupies a plateau of watersheds dividing streams which flow south-east to the Bourn Brook, west to the upper Ouse at St Neots and north to the lower Ouse at St Ives. The ground level at the evaluation was 63.40m OD. The excavation area was on fairly flat ground with a very gentle slope downwards to the north.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Prehistoric and Roman

No prehistoric finds have been recorded within the parish of Eltisley. Similarly there are no known Roman finds within the parish. Ermine Street runs 2.5km to the east of the site and it has been speculated that a second road ran from Cambridge to Ermine Street (A1) at Caxton Gibbet and continued to the west via Eltisley and Croxton (Malim 2000).

3.2 Anglo-Saxon

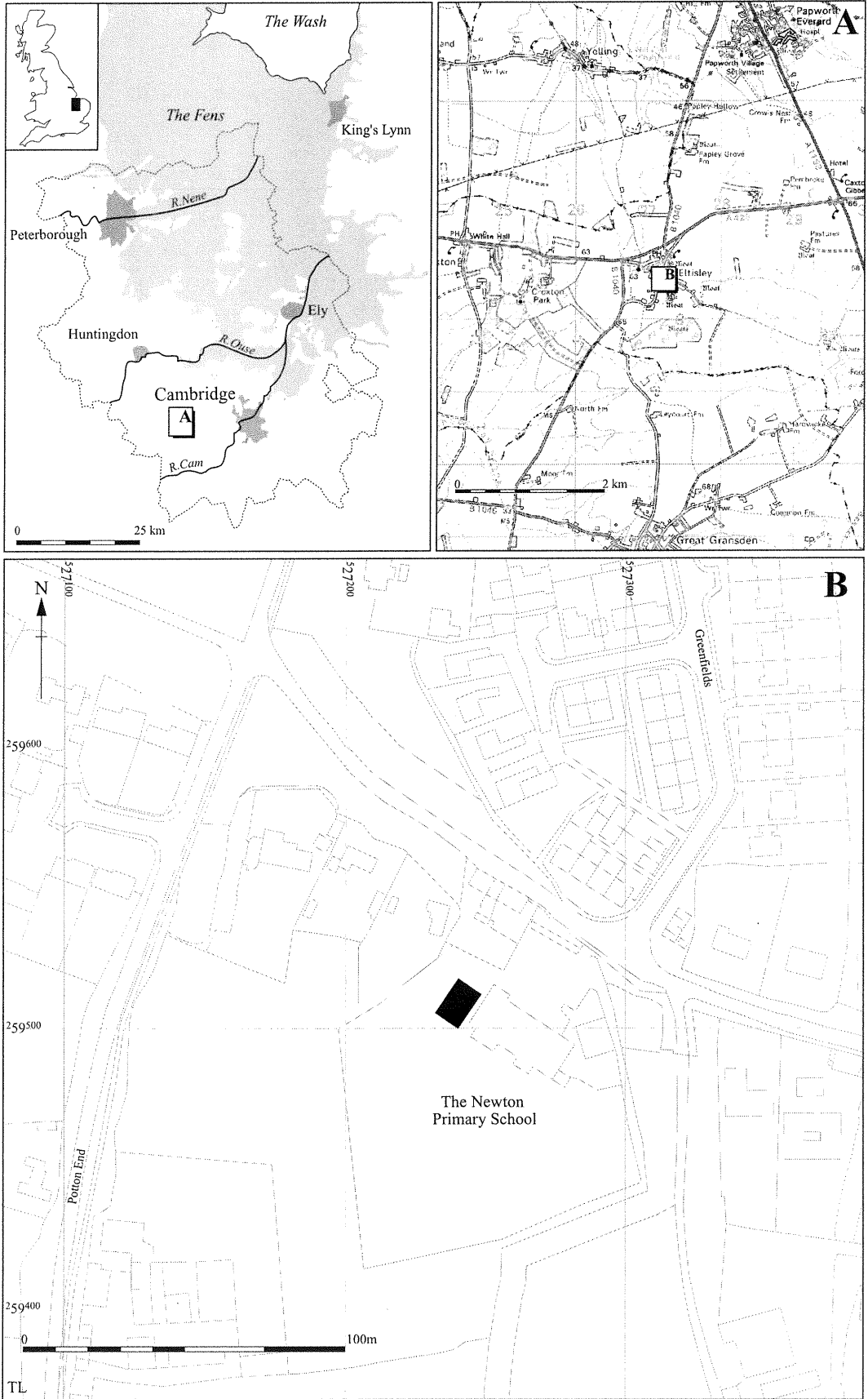
The Domesday Book records Eltisley as *Hecteslei*, meaning ‘Wood (leah) of Elti’, suggesting an Early Anglo-Saxon settlement set within a wooded area (Pugh 1973, 46). It also records that in Edward The Confessor’s time Eltisley formed part of the estates of Earl Alfgar (who died c.1062) and was one of the 12 vills of the royal Hundred of Longstowe. In 1086, 27 peasants were recorded at Eltisley and although only rated as 3 hides, it had land for 9 ploughs and was valued at £13 - one of the most valuable in the Longstowe hundred.

Tradition has it that a 10th-century Saxon nunnery was founded at Eltisley and was transferred to Hinchbrooke Priory after the Norman Conquest, and that Pandionia, daughter of a Scottish king, took refuge in the nunnery (Haigh 1988). The site of this possible nunnery is unknown (RCHME 1968, 90) but on early OS maps (where it is referred to as Eltisley Abbey) it is located to the south of the church which is dedicated to St Pandionia and St John the Baptist. This is not proven and it has also been argued that it was located to the north at Papley Grove (Haigh 1988).

3.3 Medieval

Eltisley is centred on a medieval green at the junction between the Cambridge to St Neots road and the Biggleswade to St Ives road. There was a further road from The Green leading eastwards to Caxton. The church is situated by The Green on the roadway to St Neots and has architectural features dating from c.AD1200. The Green itself is faced by several buildings dating from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries suggesting that this was probably the main settlement focus for later medieval Eltisley (Pugh 1973, 47). There are earthworks, including former medieval house platforms, to the west of the road to Biggleswade (SMR 2351 and 10020).

Along the Caxton route there was a second green at Caxton End with a moated site adjacent to the east, possibly implying another settlement focus (SMR 1179). It is uncertain whether Caxton End represented a separate medieval focus, or resulted from later expansion of the original village nucleus. Two 17th- and 18th-century houses presently front the south side of the routeway (RCHME 1968, 90) though it is not known if any medieval structures did so.



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Figure 1 Location of excavated area

This routeway must have formerly been a major thoroughfare, as in the 15th century it seems to have been referred to as the King's Highway from St Neots to Caxton (Pugh 1973, 47).

In 1086 Eltisley appears to have been held as a single manor (Pugh 1973, 52) and it has been suggested that the original manor site may be on the same location as the present Manor Farm moat to the south (SMR 1142a; see below). By 1279, there were three manors at Eltisley. Musters Manor is known from 1202 though it had been absorbed into the principal manor of Eltisley in the 14th century and the whereabouts of the manor house is unknown. There was a manor at Papley (a hamlet in the north of the parish) which originated in a series of grants of land in Eltisley and Caxton made to Hinchingbrooke Priory between the mid 12th and early 14th century. One of the moated sites may be the manor house (SMR 1049). In this period in Eltisley there were several large farms held in freehold. Some of these moated sites may relate to these farms.

The excavation site lies 100m to the east of the main road junction and some 35m to the south of the Caxton Road. A moated site presently called Manor Farm which has remains of a hall within it dating from the late medieval period (SMR 1142; Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 33274)) lies 160m further to the south of the development site. It has a causewayed entrance on the north side of the moat implying the existence of a north to south route either predating or merging into the road to Caxton (Casa-Hatton 2002).

A medieval pottery handle was recorded 40m to the west of the site though there is some doubt as to its exact location (SMR 2352).

Ridge and furrow earthworks have survived as cropmarks and covered most of the parish up to recent times. It has been recorded by the RCHME (1968, 96) as overlying the development site, suggesting that it was part of the ploughland in the late medieval/post-medieval period. The ridge and furrow is recorded as extending up to the road's edge, suggesting that at least in this area there were no buildings fronting the road.

In May 2003 the AFU conducted an archaeological evaluation of the present development site (Atkins 2003).

4 METHODOLOGY

The over-burden was removed using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. The modern surfaces, topsoil and subsoil were stripped down to the level of the archaeological horizons or the natural geology, whichever appeared first. The exposed surfaces were cleaned in order to clarify any features or deposits. All exposed features were excavated and recorded according to AFU standards

and practises. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and plans at a scale of 1:50.

In the following discussion features with multiple cuts (*i.e.* ditches where more than a single slot was excavated) are discussed in the text under their earliest (lowest) context number with equivalent numbers following in square brackets on first introduction. Feature cuts are shown in bold type, *e.g.* **10**, and feature fills bracketed in normal type, *e.g.* (9).

5 RESULTS (Figs 2 and 3)

5.1 Phase 1: ?Roman or Early Saxon

A single north to south oriented ditch, **10** [37/39/70/86], lay perpendicular to, and beneath, all the others. It had a U-shaped profile, was 0.85m wide and 0.25m deep and contained two recognisable fills; the upper fill (9/36/68/89) was a mid yellow-brown clay silt with occasional charcoal, the lower (69/72/90) was a brownish mid yellow silty sand with occasional chalk gravel. Finds: 3 sherds of pottery (8g - 1 probably later Iron Age, 2 Roman).

Ditch **10** is interpreted as being of Roman date, however, the two small Roman sherds recovered from it are both sooted, probably from the same vessel and fairly well abraded, while the single Iron Age sherd, though small, is less so. The possibility remains that the sherd could date to the (later) Early Saxon period with the Roman sherd(s) residual, thus pushing the ditch toward a Middle Saxon date.

5.2 Phase 2: ?Middle Saxon (c.AD700-900)

A narrow, shallow, U-shaped ditch, **49** [52/67], 0.8m wide and 0.12m deep, cut across the northern part of ditch **10** at just less than 90°. Its upper fill (47) was a dark greyish brown clay silt with occasional gravels and charcoal flecks and the lower fill (48/51/66) a mid brown silty clay with rare gravel. There were no finds from any of the three excavated sections. A line of four later pits was cut along the northern edge of the ditch, one clearly cutting through its fill, suggesting that the feature was still functioning as a boundary, though infilled, when these pits were dug and that its associated bank lay to the south.

There was a wide, shallow west to east ditch, **20** [110], parallel to ditch **49** and approximately 6.50m to the south. It was 2.00m wide and 0.25m deep with a flat base and contained a single recognisable fill (22/108/109), a mid grey-brown silty sandy clay with moderate gravel and charcoal inclusions. No finds were retrieved from the two sections during excavation, although 1g of animal bone was recovered from the environmental sample (Sample 13; see Appendix 4). There was no indication within the fill as to the position of any associated bank, although the location of Phase 3 ditches **35/53** (see below) may suggest

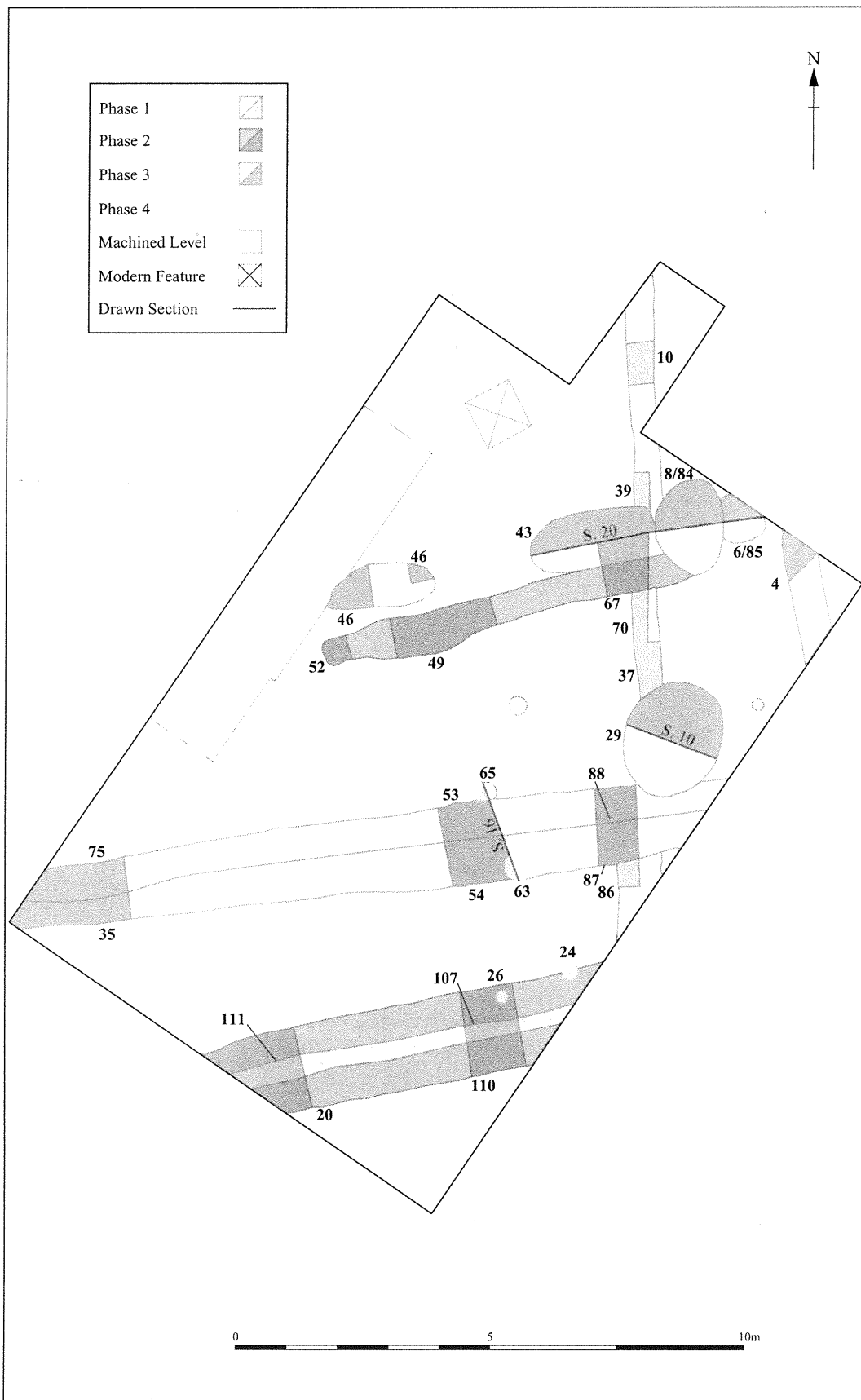


Figure 2 Phase Plan

it lay to the north. A narrow, central recut within the ditch, **107 [111]** has been assigned to Phase 3 (see below).

Most of the subsequent Phase 3 features contained moderate, though not necessarily directly deposited, finds assemblages, while ditches **49** and **20**, though fairly extensively excavated, contained no material at all. This suggests that their construction and infilling took place before this part of the site came under occupation, perhaps early in the development of this area of the village.

5.3 Phase 3: Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman (AD900-1150)

Phase 3 consisted of a recut west to east oriented ditch, a narrow possible north to south ditch, a series of pits and a central recut of an earlier ditch (**20**).

5.3.1 Ditches

Ditch **35 [54/87]** was oriented west to east, V-shaped in profile but with a flat base (Fig. 3). It was *c.* 1.00 m wide (truncated) and a maximum of 0.56m deep. It had three fills: the lower (61/93) a pale yellowish brown silty clay with occasional gravel and rare charcoal flecks; central (59/92) a brownish grey silty clay with rare gravel and charcoal flecks; and upper (58/91) a mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional chalky gravel.

Finds: (91) 7 sherds of pottery (92g – St Neots).
(59) 2 sherds of pottery (6g - St Neots).
(61) 70g of lava quern.

Ditch **35** was recut along its northern side by ditch **53 [75/88]**, of similar profile, 1.00m wide and 0.42m deep (Fig. 3). The recut also contained three recognisable fills: the lower (57) a pale brownish yellow silty clay with moderate gravel and rare charcoal; central (56/95) a mid olive brown silty clay with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks; upper (55/94) similar to fill (57).

Finds: (55) 2 sherds of pottery (14g – 1 St Neots, 1 Stamford)
(56) 2 sherds of pottery (7g – St Neots).

Both the presence of tip lines and the fact that the ditch re-cut was to the north, indicate that the associated bank lay to the south and may also therefore have formed the northern bank to the earlier ditch **20** and its subsequent re-cut (see below).

Ditch **107 [111]** was a narrow, central recut within Phase 2 ditch **20**, 0.65m wide, 0.25m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. Its single recognisable fill (21/106) was a dark greyish brown silty sandy clay with moderate gravel.

Finds: (21) 9 sherds of pottery (79g – 6 St Neots, 1 dev. St Neots, 2 ?sandy wares), 31g of fired clay, 113g of animal bone.
(106) 7 sherds of pottery (14g – St Neots).

Ditch **4** was excavated in the evaluation phase and was oriented approximately north to south. It occupied the eastern corner of the evaluation trench and was not clearly seen in the subsequent excavation phase. It was 0.62m wide and 0.24m deep with a slightly rounded base. Its fill (3) was a light grey-brown

sandy clay. There was no indication within the fill as to the position of any associated bank, however, the location of pits **6** and **8** (see below) immediately to the west would suggest that it lay to the east.

Finds: 2 pottery sherds (21g – 1 St Neots, 1 ?Rockingham Forest sandy ware), 26g of animal bone.

5.3.2 Pits

Pit **29** cut into the northern edge of re-cut ditch **35/53** (Fig. 3). It was oval, 2.2m long, 1.75m wide and 1.1m deep, steep sided with a flat base. It had six recognisable fills numbered consecutively from (33) at the base to (27) at the top. All the fills consisted of a mid greyish brown clay silt with variable (occasional to frequent) amounts of sand and gravel inclusions. The exception was fill 28, which contained the bulk of the finds, a dark greyish brown clay silt with moderate chalk and charcoal inclusions. While this pit contains the largest finds assemblage from the site it does not represent primary disposal, probably not even secondary, since the material is worn and fragmented.

Finds: (27) 5 sherds of pottery (7g – St Neots), 28g of animal bone.

(28) 31 sherds of pottery (154g – 30 St Neots, 1 Stamford), 22g of fired clay, 152g of animal bone, 31g of oyster shell.

(32) 7 sherds of pottery (44g - St Neots), 189g of animal bone.

Samples: 3 and 4 (see Appendix 4)

A line of four pits cut along the northern side of Phase 2 ditch **49**, they were, from the west:

Pit **46** was oval, oriented west to east, 1.8m long, 0.78m wide and 0.39m deep. The long sides were steep, with the ends shallower. There were two fills: the upper (44) a dark brownish grey clay silt with rare gravel, chalk flecks and charcoal inclusions; the lower (45) a mid olive brown clay silt with rare gravel and charcoal flecks.

Finds: (44) 1 pottery sherd (5g – St Neots), 79g of lava quern, 10g of animal bone).

(45) 67g of slag.

Pit **43** was oval, oriented west to east, 2.2m long (but truncated by pit **84**), 1.1m wide and 0.6m deep (Fig. 3). Like pit **46** it had a steep U-shaped profile with slightly shallower ends. There were three fills: basal fill (42) a dark yellowish brown clay silt with occasional chalk and charcoal; central fill (41) a dark greyish brown clay silt with frequent charcoal, occasional burnt clay and two finds-rich lenses of charcoal; upper fill (40) a pale brownish yellow clay silt with frequent burnt clay, moderate gravels and occasional charcoal.

Finds: (40) 1g of fired clay/possible pottery.

(41) 3 sherds of pottery (12g – 2 St Neots, 1 Stamford), 10g of fired clay, 100g of lava quern, 12g of animal bone.

Samples: 6-8 (see Appendix 4)

Pit **6** [**85**] was excavated in the evaluation phase (Atkins 2003) and lay partly in the northern baulk of the main excavation (Fig. 3). Its visible dimensions were 1.46m+ in length, 0.90m+ wide and 0.72m+ deep with very steep sides,

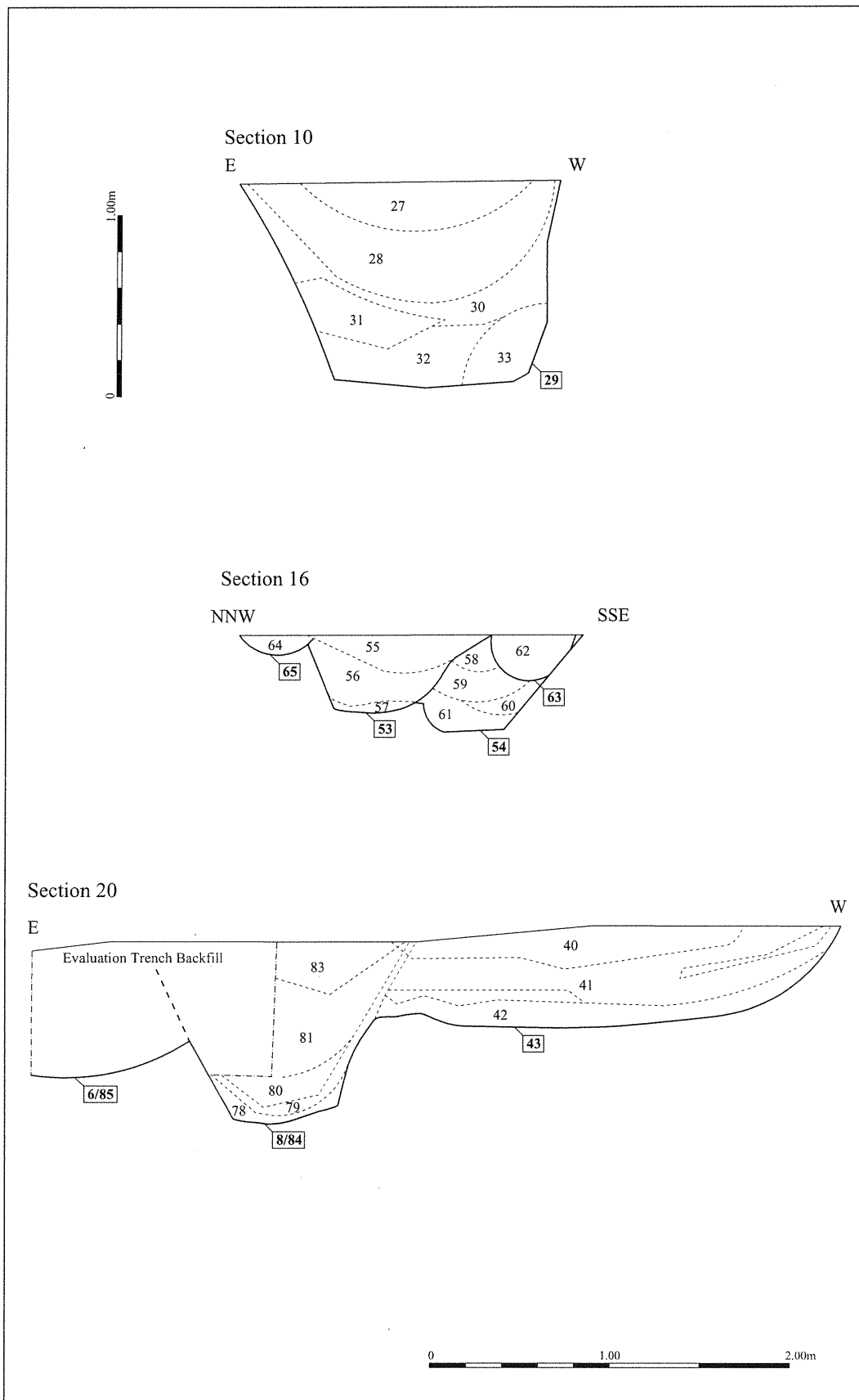


Figure 3 Section drawings

and the single recognisable fill (5) was a mid yellow-brown clay silt with occasional charcoal and chalk gravel.

Finds: 3 pieces of animal bone (the fragment of humerus identified as human in the evaluation report (Atkins 2003) has been re-interpreted as non-human; Dodwell pers. comm.).

Pit **8** [**84**] cut both pits **43** and **6**. It was oval in plan, measured 1.90m x 1.50m, 1.00m deep, with steep sides and a relatively flat base (Fig. 3). There were five fills, numbered consecutively from (78) at the base to (83) at the top, and the evaluation phase fill (7) is taken here as being equivalent to upper fill (83). The fills varied slightly between pale and dark grey silty clays with occasional to moderate charcoal, burnt clay, sand and gravel inclusions.

Finds: (7/83) 4 sherds of pottery (33g - 3 St Neots, 1 dev. St Neots), 109g of lava quern, 2g of animal bone.

(81) 3g of animal bone.

(80) 1 sherd of pottery (1g - St Neots), 1g of animal bone.

Samples: 1, 9-11 (see Appendix 4)

There are possibly two phases, and two pit types, within the pit sequence – long, relatively shallow pits cut along the front of ditch **49** (pits **46** & **43**), and oval, steep-sided, deeper pits cut into the ditch fills themselves (**8** & **29**). While the latter contain larger finds assemblages, none contain any directly deposited primary or secondary dumping: they cannot, even in their secondary, infilled stage, be described as rubbish pits.

The two obviously later features within this phase, ditch recut **107** and pit **8**, along with possible north to south ditch **4**, contained single sherds of pottery types datable to the 12th century or slightly later, within their assemblages (developed St Neots ware, Rockingham Forest ware and possible Oolitic sandy wares). These features are interpreted as dating towards the end of the Late Saxon sequence, with some later material within their final fills, rather than as a separate and later phase of occupation.

5.4 Phase 4: ?Early Medieval (post-AD1100)

A group of six small, shallow and undated postholes overlay the Phase 2 and 3 ditches at the east of the area.

Posthole **24** was circular, 0.2m in diameter and 0.09m deep. Its fill (23) was a reddish grey-brown silty sandy clay. It cut ditch **20**.

Posthole **26** was circular, 0.42m in diameter and 0.08m deep. Its fill (25) was a brown silty clay with rare gravel. It also cut ditch **20**.

Finds: 2g of animal bone.

Sample: 25 (see Appendix 4).

Posthole **63** was oval, 0.5m in length, 0.38m wide and 0.24m deep (Fig. 3). Its fill (62) was a mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderate gravel. It cut ditch **35**.

Posthole 65 was circular, 0.45m in diameter and 0.1m deep (Fig. 3). Its fill (64) was a mid greyish brown clayey silt with rare chalky gravel. It cut ditch 53.

There were two further, unexcavated postholes to the north with no feature relationships. No datable finds were recovered from any of the postholes and the dating offered for this phase is tentative. It is not certain that these features relate to the medieval period, although the fact that they cut through the tops of earlier ditches, and not in areas where hedgebanks would be expected, suggests that they were erected while these banks were still visible, if not necessarily in use.

5.5 Natural Features

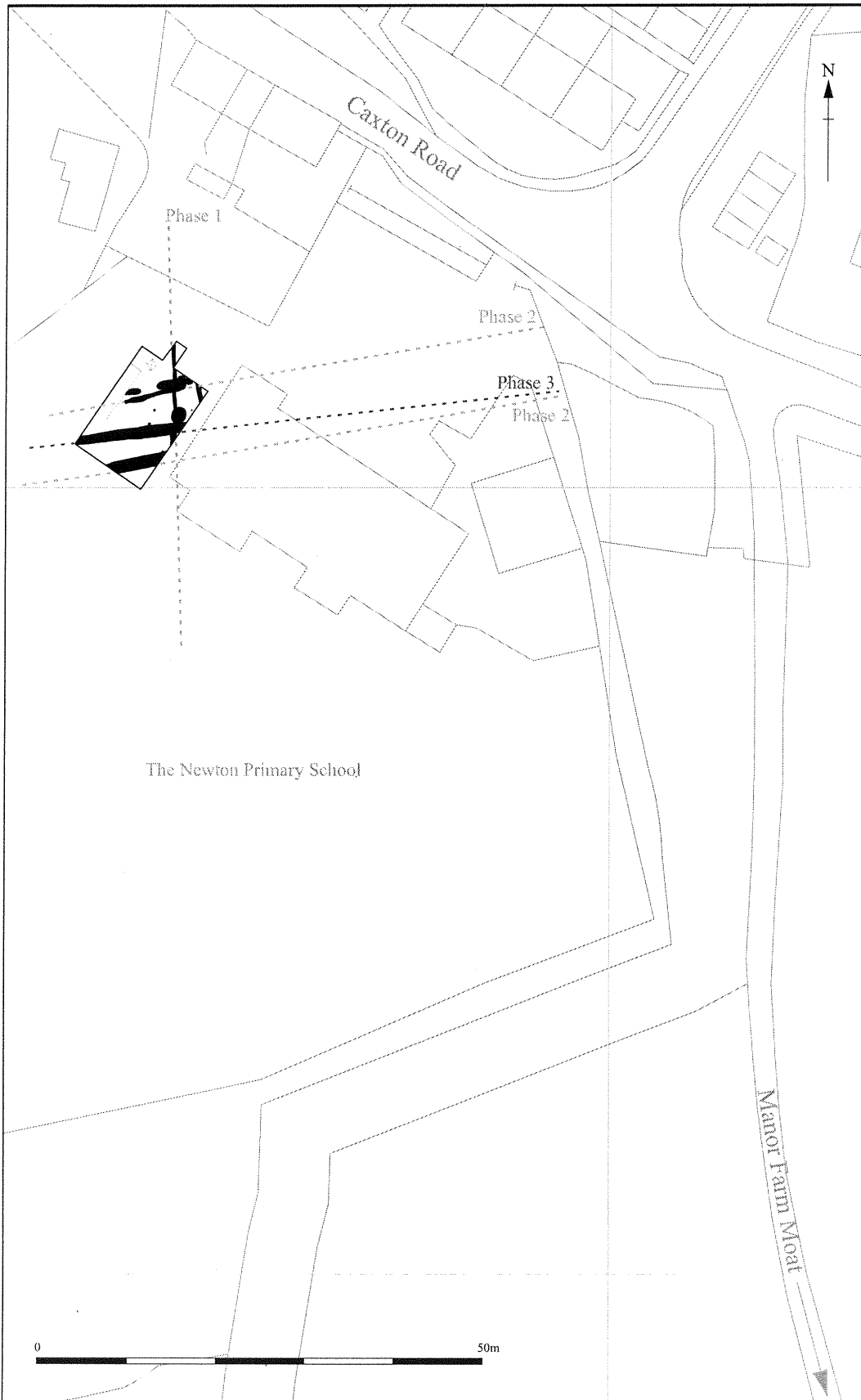
Three tree throws (two of which were part excavated: 77 & 97) were recorded. They produced no finds material and do not appear on the site plan.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The single Phase 1 ditch (ditch 10) may be one element within a wider Romano-British field system. The two sherds recovered from it are the only Roman sherds within the assemblage, but they appear to be derived from a single vessel and it would be possible to see them as parts of a single, residual sherd dispersed within a later feature. Unfortunately the third sherd recovered from the ditch, while a little less abraded, is difficult to date securely – it could either be later Iron Age (further suggesting a Roman date for the feature) or later Early Saxon. The parish of Eltisley has until now recorded no Romano-British finds but lies just west of the principal north to south Roman road (Ermine Street) and on the line of a proposed west to east road from Cambridge (Malim 2000). No definitive date or period is here assigned to this feature.

There is no artefactual evidence for a Middle Saxon presence (8th to 9th century) on the site, though within such a limited excavation area this is unsurprising – the principal identifier would be Ipswich or Maxey ware pottery, which is rarely found in quantity away from the settlement core. If it follows the regional pattern the development of the village layout at Eltisley is likely to have begun in the Middle Saxon period rather than within the Late Saxon, and it is possible that this initial layout is represented on site by the artefact-free ditches of Phase 2.

The remainder of the archaeological features uncovered have been dated to the Late Saxon to early medieval period (c.10th to 12th century). The character of these features, and the general lack of direct deposition within them may



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Figure 4 Location of excavated area showing archaeological features and alignments

suggest backyard or toft activity at a distance from the focus of occupation. The ditches in both Phases 2 and 3 probably denote boundaries, either of individual plots of land or internally within these plots. That there is limited recutting of the ditches, and none are of any great size, would suggest the latter.

The function of the pits is unclear. They cut along the northern sides of the ditches, suggesting that the enclosure they lay within was to the north and its boundary hedgebank immediately to the south. There are sands and gravels within the clays on the site and it is possible that these pits represent small-scale quarrying along the back or sides of the enclosures.

For a single period site there was a relatively high density of archaeological features and it is possible, indeed likely, that this density continues across the surrounding area, intensifying toward those areas of direct occupation. There are a small number of medieval sherds within the later features, suggestive more of final infilling of earlier features than of a subsequent phase of archaeology. The 12th and 13th centuries would have seen a re-organisation of the settlement layout, and the specific area of the site, away from any street frontage, would have been turned over to direct agriculture, either as pasture or more probably, ploughland. The earthworks of ridge and furrow agriculture covered the site until the school was built in the late 1960s.

The main alignments of the ditched features within the three major phases are of note (Fig. 4). Although Caxton Road to the north is the closest principal thoroughfare, none of the ditch alignments appear to respect its line. Instead, the ditches in Phases 2 and 3 are better seen as perpendicular to the boundary at the east of the school grounds (and/or the trackway to the moat further to its east). This boundary continues north of Caxton Road, joining the Manor Farm moat to a second, smaller moated complex (Pond Farm). It is possible that the modern route of Caxton Road is based upon a medieval (post-Conquest) or even late medieval layout, the initial Middle/Late Saxon plan having been superseded.

The small ceramic assemblage (see Fletcher, Appendix 2) indicates a domestic group, based around the food storage and cooking, the majority of which dates to AD900-1150. The small group of animal bone is dominated by cattle and notably includes a fragment converted into a spindle whorl (see Baxter, Appendix 3). Other domesticates include pig, horse, dog, chicken and goose, while wild species may indicate pit falls. The pig remains suggest the presence of woodland in the vicinity and one example may indicate the presence of wild pig.

There is a cluster of woodland place-names around Eltisle, suggesting that this area was well wooded during the pre-Conquest period, but by the 11th century it has been suggested that only a little of this woodland remained (Williamson 2003, 59) and it is possible that the regular open-field system may have been established relatively late in this area.

Environmental samples taken from the site (see Fryer, Appendix 4) produced a range of cereals and wild flora, indicating processes such as cereal processing, domestic refuse and fuels. Of particular note was the contents of pit 84 which almost certainly derived from waste generated by the processing of cereals (principally wheat) which were probably grown on the local clay soils. The increasing use of such heavy soils for agricultural production appears to be feature of the Middle Saxon and later periods, and another significant agricultural innovation represented at Eltisley is the use of free-threshing tetraploid wheat. This is one of a very few pre-13th century records for rivet type wheat production, but it remains unclear whether such production is a pre- or post-Conquest advance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank Mouchel Consulting Ltd who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Judith Roberts and the archaeology of the site was excavated and interpreted by Sam Whitehead, Tony Baker and Andy Rudge (who supervised the fieldwork). Emily Oakes produced the illustrations and Carole Fletcher co-ordinated the finds processing. The brief for archaeological works was written by Andy Thomas, County Archaeology Office, who visited the site and monitored the evaluation. This report was edited by Elizabeth Shepherd Popescu.

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APPENDIX 1: FEATURE DATA

Note: Features in italics were uncovered in the evaluation phase (Atkins 2003)

Context	Type	Description	Date
4	<i>Ditch</i>	<i>North to south oriented, 0.62m wide and 0.24m deep</i>	1150-1250
6	<i>Pit</i>	<i>Oval, 1.90m by 1.50m, 1.00m deep</i>	900-1150
8	<i>Pit</i>	<i>Circular, 1.40m in diameter, 1.00m deep</i>	1000-1150
10	<i>Ditch</i>	<i>North to south oriented, 0.85m wide and 0.25m deep</i>	?Roman
20	Ditch	East to west oriented, 2.00m wide and 0.25m deep	?700-900
24	Posthole	Circular, 0.20m in diameter, 0.09m deep	post-1100
26	Posthole	Circular, 0.42m in diameter, 0.08m deep	post-1100
29	Pit	Oval pit, 2.2m by 1.75, 1.1m deep	1000-1150
35	Ditch	East to west oriented, 0.62m wide and 0.36m deep	900-1150
37	Ditch	Same as 10	?Roman
39	Ditch	Same as 10	?Roman
43	Pit	Rubbish pit, oval, 2.2m (truncated) by 1.1m, 0.6m deep	900-1150
46	Pit	Oval, 1.8m by 0.78m, 0.39m deep	900-1150
49	Ditch	East to west aligned, 0.8m wide, 0.12m deep	?700-900
50	Natural		N/A
52	Ditch	Same as 49	?700-900
53	Ditch	East to west orientated, 1m wide, 0.42m deep	900-1150
54	Ditch	Same as 35	900-1150
63	Posthole	Oval, 0.5m by 0.38m, 0.24m deep	post-1100
65	Posthole	Circular, 0.45m in diameter, 0.1m deep	post-1100
67	Ditch	Same as 49	?700-900
70	Ditch	Same as 10	?Roman
75	Ditch	Same as 53	900-1150
77	Natural	Tree throw	N/A
84	Pit	Same as 8	1000-1150
85	Pit	Same as 6	900-1150
86	Ditch	Same as 10	?Roman
87	Ditch	Same as 35	900-1150
88	Ditch	Same as 53	900-1150
97	Natural	Tree throw	N/A
99	Layer	Tarmac surface	Modern
100	Layer	Hardcore	Modern
101	Layer	Ponding, 0.35m deep, dark greyish brown sandy silty clay	900-1150
102	Layer	Small lens of mixed silty sandy clay within 101	900-1150
103	Layer	Subsoil, mixed pale silty sand	post-1100
104	Layer	Natural	N/A
107	Ditch	East to west oriented, 0.65m wide, 0.25m deep	900-1150
110	Ditch	Same as 20	?700-900
111	Ditch	Same as 107	900-1150
112	Layer	Unstratified finds	N/A

APPENDIX 2: POTTERY

by Carole Fletcher

1 QUANTITY AND DATE RANGE OF MATERIAL

The fieldwork generated a small assemblage of 113 sherds of pottery, weighing 0.6 kg, including unstratified material.

The main periods represented in the assemblage are Late Saxon and early post-Conquest. The date of most material falls within the 900 to 1150 bracket, with seven sherds being more closely dated to 1000 to 1150. There is very little medieval material within the assemblage: only six such sherds were identified. These comprise two sherds of Oolitic Sandy ware ((OLSW) 1150 to 1350), two sherds of Developed St Neots ware (1150 to 1350), a Sandy ware sherd and an abraded base sherd identified as Rockingham Forest Sandy ware.

The medieval fabrics were recovered from five contexts and with the exception of the sherd recovered from context (2) (subsoil), relate to a limited number of possible medieval features on the site. Further to this material there are three pre-850 sherds, of these two have been identified as being Roman in origin. The third sherd is believed to be prehistoric. A single sherd of early post-medieval pottery was identified during evaluation.

2 PROVENANCE AND CONTAMINATION

Basic statistics relating to source area for the assemblage are given in Table 1. This indicates a local source for the bulk of the assemblage.

General provenance	% of assemblage by count	% of assemblage by weight
Huntingdonshire	89	88
Lincolnshire	4	5
Northamptonshire	3	4
Essex	1	1

Table 1: General provenance areas for post-Roman assemblage by weight (kg) and count

The dominance of fabrics from Huntingdonshire is very obvious and is due in part to the site's close proximity to St Neots, which lies less than 10km distant. This fabric dominance is not fully represented in all vessel types. This however can be explained; St Neots is a coarse ware and as such fulfils the needs of a household for storage, cooking and some serving vessels. Table vessels or jugs and pitchers are produced in other fabrics and at Eltisley these vessels are represented by the Stamford ware sherds from Lincolnshire.

Contamination of this assemblage is light, with few residual sherds. The medieval sherds in the assemblage are not thought to be intrusive.

3 SAMPLING BIAS

The area was excavated by machine and further excavation was carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling procedures on a feature-by-feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases. Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental remains, there has also been some recovery of pottery. These are only small amounts, however, and serious bias is not expected to result.

4 CONDITION

The assemblage is small with an average sherd weight of approximately 5g. Statistical analysis is not viable on an assemblage of this size. The majority of the Late Saxon to post-Conquest material was manufactured locally. There is a very small degree of residuality in the assemblage. Only seven contexts fall outside the date range for the majority of the assemblage (900 to 1150). Almost all of the material is moderately abraded, suggesting some reworking of the material after initial deposition.

This assemblage contains no complete vessels. It is significantly fragmented and in a well-understood and published region would be deemed of limited value beyond the basic requirements of the stratigraphic sequence and the need to provide comparative period statistics.

5 PROVENANCE AND FUNCTIONAL ASSEMBLAGE

5.1 Geographical location

The assemblage is very small and it appears that the fabric types are almost all local. St Neots ware is the dominant fabric in the assemblage and the site lies within 10km of St Neots. The other Saxo-Norman pottery is Stamford ware from Lincolnshire. The two OLSW and sherd of Rockingham Forest ware sherds come from the Northamptonshire region and the prehistoric sherd is of unknown origin.

5.2 Main Vessel types

The vessel types represented in the assemblage are mainly coarse ware jars. There are three rim sherds from St Neots ware jars and various sooted body sherds in the same fabric. There is also a single rim sherd from a St Neots ware bowl. The Stamford ware sherds are all glazed and represent the only table vessels present in the Saxo-Norman assemblage. The medieval fabrics include a Developed St Neots ware jar rim and body sherds. The assemblage is therefore one of domestic vessels.

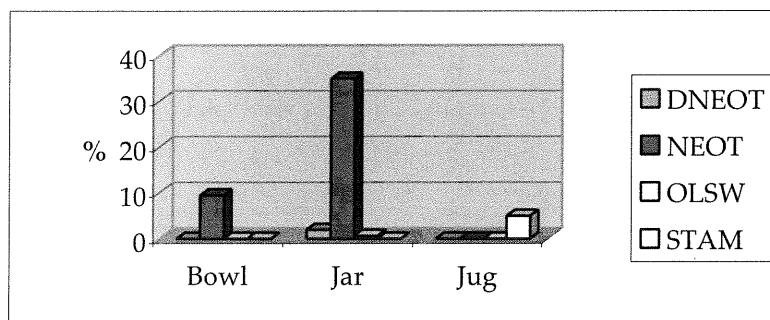


Figure 5: Vessel type for post-Roman assemblage by fabric as a percentage of the whole assemblage (by weight kg)

6 CONCLUSION

The small size of the assemblage makes it difficult to generalise about activity on the site. However it would appear that the assemblage is domestic in nature, with the majority of the vessels represented possibly used in the storage and cooking of food. There are very few table vessels as demonstrated in Figure 1 and these are only present in Saxo–Norman Fabrics.

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APPENDIX 3: MAMMAL, BIRD AND AMPHIBIAN BONES

by Ian L. Baxter

1 INTRODUCTION

A total of 37 identifiable animal bones came from the site, 26 by hand-collection and a further 11 from the environmental sample residues (Table 2). The features from which the animal bones are derived are pits and ditches dating from the Late Saxon to early medieval period.

2 METHODOLOGY

As this is such a small assemblage all identifiable fragments have been recorded and counted.

The separation of sheep and goat was attempted on the proximal radius using criteria described in Boessneck (1969). Wear stages were recorded for all mandibular teeth. Tooth wear stages follow Grant (1982). The few bone measurements taken follow von den Driesch (1976) and Payne and Bull (1988).

Small rodents (murids and microtines) were identified to species level on the basis of gnathic morphology following Lawrence and Brown (1968). The calculation of cattle withers height is based on Matolcsi (1970).

3 RESULTS

This is a very small assemblage of animal bones and few conclusions can be drawn regarding the local economy in the Late Saxon to early medieval periods. However, all the main domestic mammals and birds are represented by the assemblage. Cattle are the main taxon in the hand-collected material. A largely complete radius found in context (32) came from a beast approximately 108cm high at the shoulder. This size of animal is typical for the period. The only tooth recovered came from a fairly old animal, which is also typical. In the medieval period cattle were primarily employed as draught animals. An unfused femur head found in context (41) has been utilized as a spindle whorl by posterior reduction and drilling a hole through its centre. Only one bone could be conclusively identified as sheep, but goats are generally scarce on rural sites and sheep were always the main meat species. Ovicaprid remains include three foot bones from a perinatal animal found in context (44). Pig remains are relatively frequent, suggesting the presence of extensive woodland in the vicinity of the village. A distal humerus from context (28) is quite large and close to the mean for a modern wild population from Kizilcahamam in Turkey published by Payne and Bull (1988, Appendix 2). Consequently, the presence of wild pigs amongst the assemblage cannot be excluded.

The minor domesticates are represented by single specimens belonging to horse and dog. An unstratified horse upper incisor came from an animal aged

approximately 6 years on the basis of wear (Barone 1980). A medium sized dog maxilla containing P₄ was found in (34). Domestic birds comprise a chicken ulna in (28) and a goose coracoid fragment in (73). It is not possible to be certain that the goose bone is domestic but it is the right size.

Micro-mammals from the environmental samples are water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) and field vole (*Microtus agrestis*), both represented by teeth recovered from (28). From the same sample and also one taken from (81) came bones of anuran amphibians. These are probably frogs (*Rana* sp.) but no diagnostic elements were recovered. These small wild species are probably pitfall victims.

Taxon	Phase		Total
	Saxo-Norman/Early Medieval		
	Hand-collected	Sample	
Cattle (<i>Bos</i> f. domestic)	8	-	8
Sheep/Goat (<i>Ovis/Capra</i> f. domestic)	7 ¹	2	9
Sheep (<i>Ovis</i> f. domestic)	(1)	(-)	(1)
Pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	4	1	5
Horse (<i>Equus caballus</i>)	1	-	1
Dog (<i>Canis familiaris</i>)	1	-	1
Water Vole (<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>)	-	2	2
Field Vole (<i>Microtus agrestis</i>)	-	1	1
Mouse/Vole (Murid/Microtine)	-	1	1
Large Mammal	1	-	1
Medium Mammal	2	-	2
Fowl (<i>Gallus</i> f. domestic)	1	-	1
Goose (<i>Anser/Branta</i> sp.)	1	-	1
Anuran (<i>Rana/Bufo</i> sp.)	-	4	4
Total	26	11	37

Table 2: Faunal remains: number of identified specimens (NISP).

Note; "Sheep/ Goat" also includes the specimens identified to species. Numbers in parentheses are not included in the total of the period.

¹three bones from a partial skeleton

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APPENDIX 4: CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS

by Val Fryer

1 INTRODUCTION

Samples for the extraction of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from pit, ditch and post-hole fills of possible Middle Saxon (Phase 2), Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman (Phase 3) and possible early medieval (Phase 4) date. It was hoped that analysis of the assemblages would:

1. provide data about the function of the features from which they were taken;
2. provide information about aspects of the local economy;
3. highlight any differences in site use between the various excavation phases;
4. supplement the existing regional archaeobotanical data set.

Thirteen samples were submitted from the following contexts:

Phase 2 ditch:	Sample 13
Phase 3 pits:	Samples 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8
Phase 3 ditches:	Samples 1b, 5 and 12
Phase 3 pit 84:	Samples 9, 10, 11 and 1 (pit 7). Sample 1a (pit 7) was taken from pit 8 at the evaluation stage, but this context was later amalgamated with pit 84.
Phase 4 post-hole:	Sample 2

Of the assemblages studied, the four from pit 84 were of particular significance and were fully quantified (Table 5).

2 METHODS

The samples were bulk sieved by a member of the AFU team, collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Tables 3-6. Identifications were made by comparison with modern reference specimens. Nomenclature within the tables follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. The macrofossils have been categorised as cereals, herbs, wetland plants, tree/shrub macrofossils and other plant macrofossils. The presence of other materials has also been noted. As most assemblages contained insufficient material for full quantitative analysis (*i.e.* <200 specimens), the density of plant remains in Tables 2, 5 and 6 has been expressed as follows: x = 1 – 10 specimens, xx = 10 – 100 specimens and xxx = 100+ specimens. Other abbreviations used in the tables are explained at the end of the text section.

Modern contaminants including fibrous roots, seeds and leaves were present at a low density in most samples.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Plant macrofossils

Cereal grains/chaff, seeds of common weeds and wetland plants, and tree/shrub macrofossils were present at varying densities in all samples. Preservation was very variable; a high density of the grains were severely puffed and distorted (probably due to high temperatures during combustion), but most seeds and chaff elements were reasonably well preserved.

3.2 Cereals

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded, with wheat being predominant. Rachis nodes of both bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type and rivet wheat (*T. turgidum*) type were recorded throughout, but were especially common in the samples from pit **84**. Oat grains were particularly abundant in Samples 10 and 1a (pit **7**: also pit **84**), but although floret base fragments were recorded, none retained the diagnostic basal abscission scars, and it was therefore, not possible to ascertain whether wild or cultivated varieties were present.

3.3 Wild flora

Seeds of common weed plants were present throughout. Segetal taxa were predominant, and included brome (*Bromus* sp.), indeterminate grasses (Poaceae), dock (*Rumex* sp.), field madder (*Sherardia arvensis*) and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). Seeds of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) were common or abundant in all except Sample 2 (Phase 4 post-hole), probably indicating that a large proportion of the cereals recorded from the site were grown on the local heavy clay soils.

Wetland plant macrofossils were rare, with sedge (*Carex* sp.) and spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) nutlets being recorded from only three Samples (1a (pit **7**), 2 and 12). Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments were present within seven assemblages.

4 Other plant macrofossils

Charcoal fragments were abundant throughout. Other plant macrofossils included indeterminate buds, culm nodes, thorns (of *Prunus* type), twigs and inflorescence fragments.

5 Other materials

The fragments of black porous 'cokey material and black tarry material are probable residues of the combustion of organic materials (including cereal grains) at extremely high temperatures. Fish bones, eggshell and small bone fragments were rare, but all may be derived from dietary refuse.

6 DISCUSSION

For the purposes of this discussion, the samples will be dealt with by period.

6.1 Phase 2: Possible Middle Saxon deposits (c.AD 700–900) (Table 3)

One sample was taken from a ditch fill of Phase 2 date. It contained small quantities of possible cereal processing debris, comprising grains, chaff and weed seeds, but it is tentatively suggested that some material may be intrusive from overlying deposits, as the rivet wheat type rachis node noted (Sample 13) is an unusually early occurrence.

6.2 Phase 3: Saxo-Norman pits and ditches (c.AD 900–1150) (Table 4)

Cereal grains are reasonably abundant in the Saxo-Norman pit fills, with chaff elements and weed seeds being rare by comparison. This may indicate that the assemblages are largely derived from domestic refuse, where grain has been spilled during culinary preparation. This hypothesis may be supported by the presence of other dietary waste in Samples 3 and 8 and by the charred thorns and twigs in Samples 7 and 8, which are possibly derived from the use of hedge brush as kindling or fuel.

The assemblages from ditch fills (34) (Sample 5) and (106) (Sample 12) contain very few macrofossils, and it appears most likely that material present is derived from scattered refuse or wind-blown detritus which has become accidentally incorporated within the ditches. Sample 1b from ditch fill 21 contained small quantities of possible cereal processing debris, comprising grains, chaff and weed seeds

6.3 Phase 3: Pit 84 (Table 5)

Four samples were taken from fills within pit 84. All contained significant quantities of grains, chaff and weed seeds and, as a result were fully quantified. All four assemblages are probably derived from cereal processing waste, with wheat being the principal grain represented, possibly because of its suitability for production on the local heavy soils. Bread wheat type rachis nodes, with deciduous glume bases and characteristic ‘crumpled’ glume inserts, are common in all four samples but significantly, rivet wheat type nodes, with rounded swellings beneath the glume insert and persistent glume bases, account for approximately 25% of the recorded wheat chaff. Although tetraploid wheat rachis nodes are known from a number of medieval deposits (for example Hinxtton Hall, Cambridge (Fryer and Murphy forthcoming) and North Shoebury, Essex (Murphy 1995)), they are not commonly seen in earlier contexts. Examples have been identified in 11th century deposits at West Cotton, Northamptonshire (Campbell 1994), but at the time of writing it is still

unclear whether the introduction of free-threshing tetraploid wheat was a pre- or post-Conquest innovation. Oat grains are also common within the assemblages, although it is not known whether they are present as weeds, or as a crop in their own right. Barley is comparatively rare, and the recorded grains are all very puffed and distorted. The reason for this is not fully apparent, unless they are present as remnants of an earlier batch of processing which, as a result, have been burnt on more than one occasion. This may also explain why a proportion of the other recorded grains are heavily burnt, while the more delicate chaff and weed seeds, which would normally be destroyed by such intense heat, are relatively intact. Rye is virtually absent, being represented by only four possible grains from the entire pit.

6.4 Phase 4: Early medieval deposits (post-AD1100) (Table 6)

A single post-hole (context 26) was sampled. Plant macrofossils were not common, but the presence of grains, chaff and weed seeds may indicate that some or all of the material is derived from cereal processing refuse.

7 CONCLUSIONS

In summary, the production and possible consumption of cereals appear to have been of considerable significance to the occupants of the site throughout the Anglo-Saxon and Saxo-Norman periods. However, although it would appear that both domestic refuse and cereal processing waste are present, many assemblages (with the exception of those from pit **84**) produced such low densities of material that it is not possible to safely differentiate between consumer and producer deposits. In contrast, the material within pit **84** is almost certainly derived from waste generated by the processing of cereals (principally wheat) which were probably grown on the local clay soils. The increasing use of such heavy soils for agricultural production appears to be feature of the Middle Saxon and later periods, and another significant agricultural innovation represented at Eltisley is the use of free-threshing tetraploid wheat. This is one of a very few pre-13th century records for rivet type wheat production, but it is still unfortunately unclear whether such production is a pre- or post-Conquest advance.

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Key to Tables

fg = fragment tf = testa fragment coty = cotyledon

Sample No.		13
Context No.		109
Cereals	Common name	
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)	Oat	
Cereal indet. (grains)		x
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	Barley	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	Wheat	x
<i>T. aestivum/compactum</i> type (rachis nodes)	Bread wheat type	
<i>T. turgidum</i> type (rachis nodes)	Rivet wheat type	x
Herbs		
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	Stinking mayweed	x
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.	Orache	x
Chenopodiaceae indet.		x
<i>Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp.	Medick/clover/trefoil	
Small Poaceae indet.	Grasses	x
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	Dock	
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.	Vetch/vetchling	x
Tree/shrub macrofossils		
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Hazel	x
Other plant macrofossils		
Charcoal <2mm		xx
Charcoal >2mm		x
Indet.seeds		x
Other materials		
Black porous 'cokey' material		
Sample volume (litres)		10
Volume of flot (litres)		<0.1
% flot sorted		100%

Table 3: Plant and other remains from Phase 2: possible Middle Saxon deposits c.AD 700 – 900

Sample No.	Context No.	3	4	6	7	8	1b	5	12
Context type		28	32	40	41	41	21	34	106
		pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	ditch	ditch	ditch
Cereals									
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)		x	x	x		xcf	xcf		x
Cereal indet. (grains)		xx	x	x	x	xxx	x		x
(detached embryos)					x		xcf		
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		x	x	x			xx		
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. (grains)				xcf					
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)		xx	x	x	xx	xxx		x	x
(rachis nodes)									x
<i>T. aestivum/compactum</i> type (rachis nodes)		x	x	x		xx	x		
<i>T. turgidum</i> type (rachis nodes)				x				xcf	
Herbs									
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.		x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Brassicaceae indet.		x	x						
Caryophyllaceae indet.		x							
<i>Centaurea</i> sp.		x							
<i>Chenopodium ficifolium</i> Sm.						x			
Chenopodiaceae indet.								x	x
<i>Galium</i> sp.				x	x				
<i>G. aparine</i> L.									
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L.		x							
<i>Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp.				xcf			xcf	x	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.							xx	xcf	
Small Poaceae indet.			x	x				x	x
<i>Rumex</i> sp.							x	x	
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i> L.						x			x
<i>Urtica urens</i> L.				x					
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.		x		x			x	x	x

Sample No.	3	4	6	7	8	1b	5	12
Context No.	28	32	40	41	41	21	34	106
Context type	pit	pit	pit	pit	pit	ditch	ditch	ditch
Wetland plants								
Carex sp.								X
Tree/shrub macrofossils								
Corylus avellana L.	X					X		
Other plant macrofossils								
Charcoal <2mm	XX	X	XX	XXX	XX	XXX	XX	XX
Charcoal >2mm	X		X	XX				
Charred root/rhizome/stem	X			X	X		X	
Indet.buds					X			
Indet.culm nodes			X		X			
Indet.seeds	X		X	X			X	
Indet.thorns (<i>Prunus</i> type)				X	X			
Indet.twigs				X	X			
Other materials								
Black porous 'cokey' material		X	X		XXX	X	X	XX
Black tarry material					XX			
Bone	X							
Burnt/fired clay	X							
Eggshell					X			
Fish bone	X				X			
Small coal frags.	X							
Small mammal/amphibian bone	X			X				
Vitrified material					X			X
Sample volume (litres)	20	20	10	10	2	20	20	20
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 4: Plant and other remains from Phase 3: Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman c.AD900-1150

Sample No.		9	10	11	1a
Context No.		80	83	81	7
Cereals	Common name				
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)	Oat	9	62	6	220
(awn frags.)		1	1	1	
(floret bases)		9fg	5fg	1fg	18fg
Cereal indet. (grains)		42	41	15	48
(detached embryos)		2	5	1	6
(basal rachis nodes)			2		1
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	Barley	3cf	22	7	22+1cf
(rachis nodes)		1+1cf	17	1	
<i>Hordeum/Secale cereale</i> type (rachis nodes)	Barley/rye	2	16		
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. (grains)	Rye	1cf	2cf		1cf
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	Wheat	96	287	126	960
(rachis node frags.)		30	49	15	128
(rachis internode frags.)		7	9	1	14
<i>T. aestivum/compactum</i> type (rachis nodes)	Bread wheat type	44	121	13	172
<i>T. turgidum</i> type (rachis nodes)	Rivet wheat type	15	30	2	50
Herbs					
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i> (L.)Nevski	Sterile brome		1cffg		
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	Stinking mayweed	28+8fg	144	5	106
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.	Orache		6		2
Brassicaceae indet.		1	18	2	4
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	Brome	2cf	9	3	22
Chenopodiaceae indet.		4	17	2	
Fabaceae indet.		4fg	1fg	5fg	
(pod frags.)			10fg		6fg
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.)A.Love	Black bindweed	2fg	2		2tf
<i>Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp.	Medick/clover/trefoil	1cf	2cf	1cf	1cf
Small Poaceae indet.	Grasses	13	84	12	68
Large Poaceae indet.		2	5		30
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	Knotgrass	1tf	4		
<i>Potentilla</i> sp.	Cinquefoil		1cf		1cf
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> L.	Self-heal	1cf	7cf	1cf	
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L.	Wild radish		1cf		
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	Dock	5	8	2	8
<i>R. acetosella</i> L.	Sheep's sorrel		1	1cf	
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i> L.	Shepherd's needle		1cffg		
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i> L.	Field madder	1	10	2	8
<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.)Vill.	Chickweed		1		
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.	Vetch/vetchling		1+9coty		4+14coty
Wetland plant macrofossils					
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.	Spike-rush				4fg
Tree/shrub macrofossils					
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Hazel	1fg	6fg		14fg
Other plant macrofossils					
Charcoal <2mm		xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm		x	xx	x	x
Charred root/rhizome/stem			xx		xx
Indet.buds			2		1

Sample No.		9	10	11	1a
Context No.		80	83	81	7
Indet.capitula frag.		1			
Indet.culm nodes		5	24	3	10
Indet.inflorescence frags.		xxx			xx
Indet.seeds		7	22	3	18
Other materials					
Black porous 'cokey' material		xx	xx	xx	xx
Black tarry material		xx	x		
Bone			x		x
Burnt organic concretions		x			
Eggshell					x
Small coal frags.			x		
Sample volume (litres)		2	10	10	
Volume of flot (litres)		<0.1	0.1	<0.1	0.2
% flot sorted		100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 5: Plant macrofossils and other remains from Phase 3: Pit 84

Sample No.		2
Context No.		25
Cereals	Common name	
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)	Oat	x
Cereal indet. (grains)		x
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	Barley	x
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	Wheat	xx
<i>T. aestivum/compactum</i> type (rachis nodes)	Bread wheat type	x
Herbs		
Small Poaceae indet.	Grasses	x
<i>Reseda lutea</i> L.	Mignonette	xcf
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	Dock	x
Wetland plants		
<i>Carex</i> sp.	Sedge	x
Tree/shrub macrofossils		
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Hazel	x
Other plant macrofossils		
Charcoal <2mm		xxx
Charcoal >2mm		x
Charred root/rhizome/stem		x
Indet.inflorescence frags.		x
Indet.seeds		x
Other materials		
Black porous 'cokey' material		xx
Sample volume (litres)		4
Volume of flot (litres)		<0.1
% flot sorted		100%

Table 6: Plant macrofossils and other remains from Phase 4: possible early medieval deposits (post-AD1100)



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