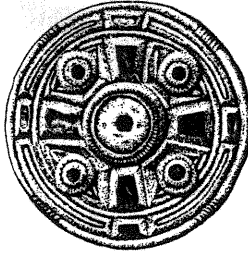


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Archaeological Field Unit

Multi-period features on land at Minerva Business Park, Alwalton

Judith Roberts

1999

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. 155

Commissioned by Ruddle Wilkinson Ltd

**Multi-period features on land at
Minerva Business Park, Alwalton**

Judith Roberts

January 1999

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Report No 155

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SUMMARY

In December 1998 the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit carried out work in response to a brief for archaeological evaluation at Minerva Business Park, Alwalton (TL 1361 9616) following a planning application by Ruddle Wilkinson Limited. Initial documentary assessment considered cartographic, textual and aerial photographic evidence. The only known archaeological remains located on the site from documentary sources were traces of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture.

Following the documentary survey, intrusive evaluation was carried out to determine the presence and extent of surviving archaeological remains. Six trenches were excavated which revealed numerous features including a possible ring ditch with associated postholes, a quarry pit, gullies, and several other ditches, pits and postholes. Animal bone, Roman and middle Saxon pottery, a Niedermendig lava quern fragment and two late Roman coins were recovered from the site.

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Multi-period features on land at Minerva Business Park, Alwalton
(TL 1361 9616)

INTRODUCTION

A brief for an archaeological evaluation was issued by Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeology Office (CAO) (Kaner 1998), following a planning application (no. H0824/98). The application was made by Ruddle Wilkinson Limited and relates to construction of a swimming pool, office buildings and an access road. The site covers an area of approximately 0.57ha. A specification was prepared by William Wall and work was carried out by the staff of the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Field Unit, directed on site by the author.

The presence of Roman and medieval activity in the vicinity and the archaeological potential of the site was highlighted by the CAO brief.

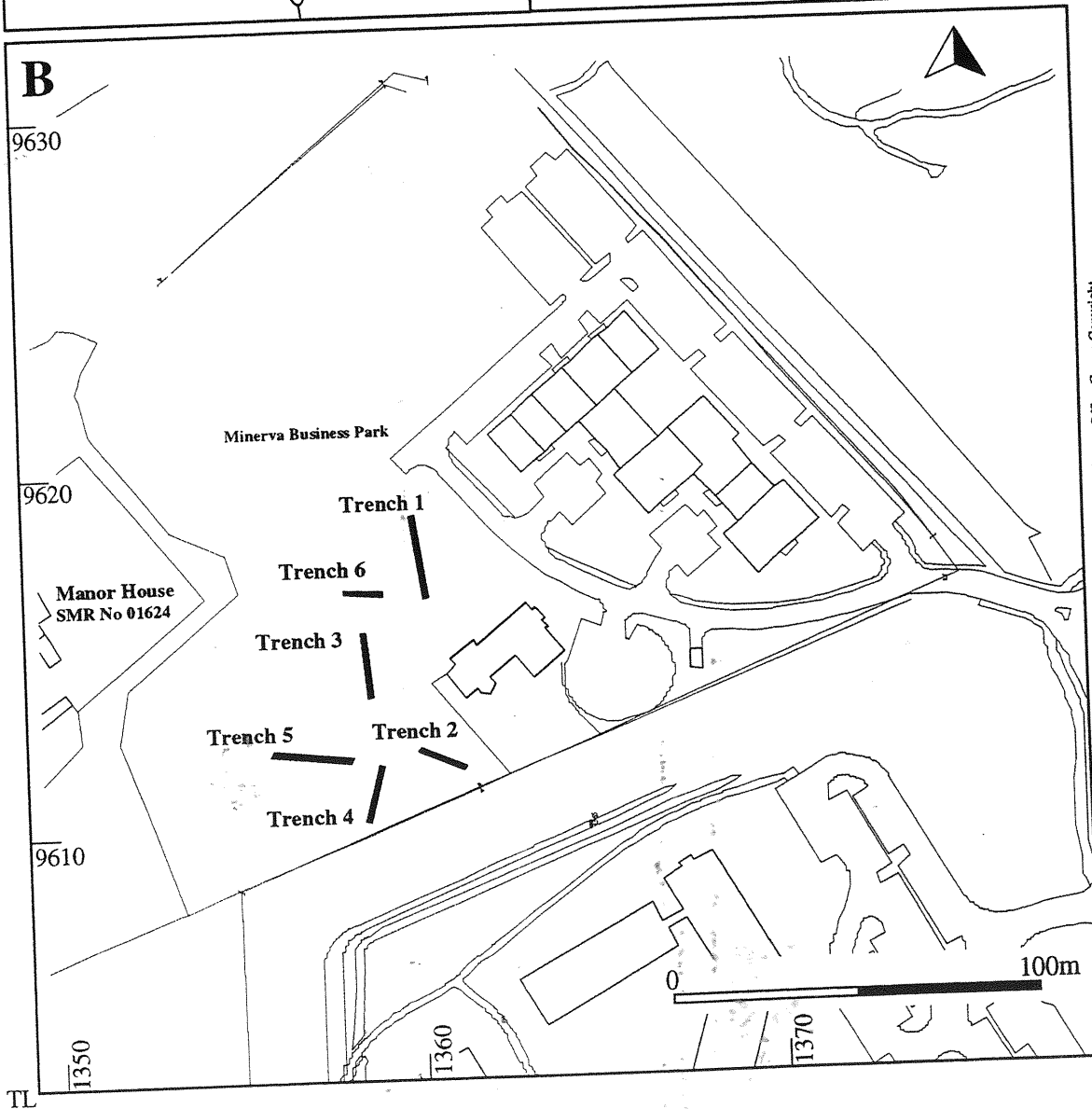
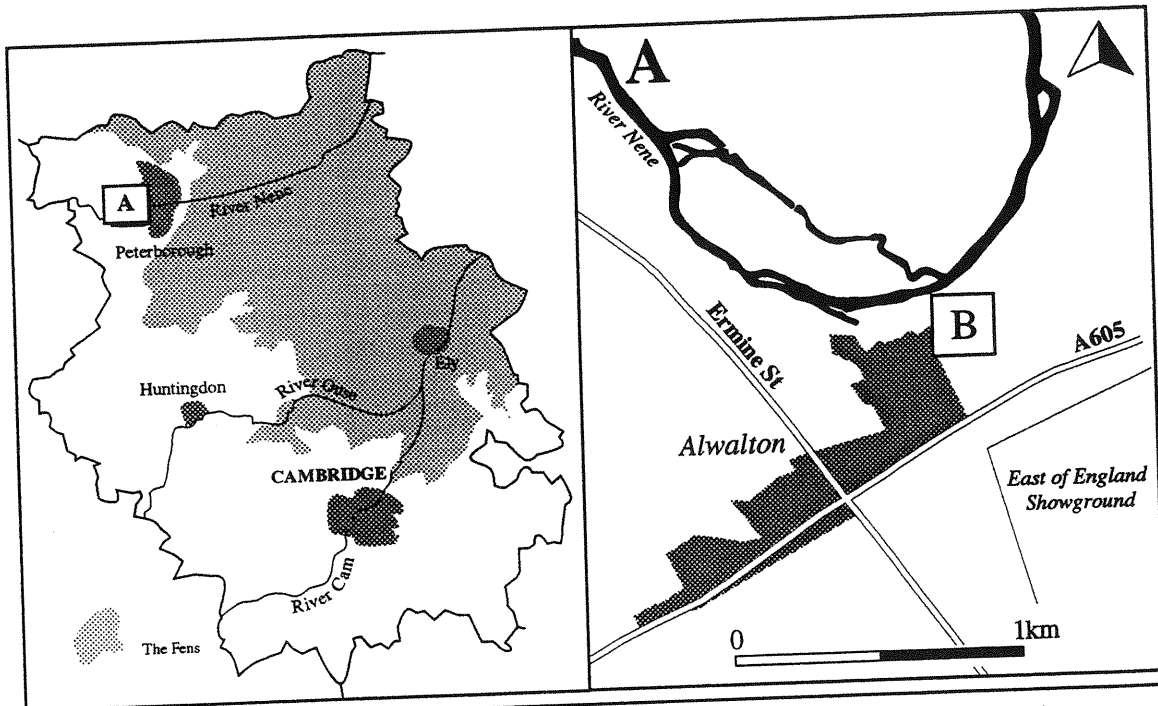
The brief requested a desk based assessment of documentary evidence and replotting of aerial photographic evidence followed by field evaluation of threatened archaeological remains.

A documentary assessment was carried out in November 1998 by the Archaeological Field Unit. An aerial photographic specialist was consulted and an assessment from an adjacent site was reviewed (Palmer 1998). Between 10th and 16th December 1998, following discussion with the CAO, six evaluation trenches were opened which targeted the 'footprint' of the proposed buildings and areas of archaeological potential (Fig 1). The trenches revealed numerous features including a possible ring ditch with associated postholes, a quarry pit, gullies, and several other ditches, pits and postholes. Animal bone, pottery, a Niedermendig lava quern fragment, two late Roman coins and a musket ball were recovered from the site.

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site lies on third terrace sands and gravel overlying Kellaways Sands and Clay (BGS 1984). Cryoturbation has caused considerable mixing on part of the site where the terrace gravels are particularly thin.

The area slopes gently from 21m OD (21.56m bench mark on St. Andrew's Church) in the village of Alwalton, to the south-west, to approximately 7mOD beside the River Nene, some 150m to the north of the site. The development land, until 1996, was pasture with no documentary evidence for any building on the site although a manor house (Cambridgeshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record no. 1624) is located immediately to the north-west of the proposed development site. The cartographic study included the British Geological Survey map for the area, modern 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey maps, 1809 Enclosure map, 1st edition OS 1887, 2nd edition OS 1903, 1938 OS.



Based upon Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of the Stationary Office Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (Cambridgeshire County Council licence No. LA 07649X 1998)

Figure 1 Site and trench location plan

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological record for early human activity in and around Alwalton is somewhat sparse. Several undated ring ditches associated with enclosures have been recorded in the surrounding parishes on the Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Council Sites and Monuments Records (CCCSMR nos. 1436, 9115, 9174 and 9186), within approximately one kilometre of the site. Two Bronze Age swords (CCCSMR no. 1612 and 1995) were found to the north of the River Nene where it runs close to Alwalton. The majority of sites in the area are linked to Roman occupation. Romano-British and Saxon pottery and undated skull fragments have been reported from the site (PCCSMR no. 50347). Four hundred metres to the west of the site a field with upstanding earthworks (interpreted as ramparts) and Roman bricks may indicate the presence of buildings (CCCSMR no. 912). Additionally, a double burial was recorded in the vicinity of Alwalton Hall (CCCSMR no. 5714). The grave contained a Samian cup, a coin of Alexander Severus and two bronze bangles. A large number of Roman sites are located along the A1 (Ermine Street) less than a kilometre to the west.

The archaeological record for Alwalton in the post-Roman period is limited to the Saxon pottery that was found on the development site itself, see above (PCCSMR no. 50347), an Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery (CCCSMR no. 917) approximately one kilometre to the north-east and extensive medieval ridge and furrow field systems in the area. There are records of a settlement from 955 and a Domesday record of 'Alwoltune' having two mills (CCCSMR no. 1864). Subsequent records of Alwalton describe in some detail the addition of a further mill by the early twelfth century. The church of St. Andrew (CCCSMR no. 10571) is also of twelfth century date. By the mid seventeenth century the two water mills and fulling mill had fallen into disrepair. A late sixteenth/ century building is associated with the manor (CCCSMR no 1624) to the north-west of the development site. Medieval ridge and furrow agriculture is evident from aerial photographs of the area (CCCSMR 9824). The development site occupies part of a field with ridge and furrow running in two different directions, with a headland or joint running approximately south-east-north-west across it. On the western part of the site the ridge and furrow runs east-west, to the north-east it runs approximately north-south. This furlong continues eastwards for some 150m. The former open fields of the parish were enclosed in 1809 (County Record Office, Huntingdon ref. PM 1/5). Since that date until the latter part of the twentieth century the site appears to have been agricultural.

METHODOLOGY

The primary objective of the project was to evaluate the character, date, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains on the site.

In addition, the evaluation sought to:

- identify the depositional and structural sequence present on site;
- place the site in its historical and archaeological context within a local framework;

- provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains and suggestions to mitigate the impact of the development.

A preliminary desk-based assessment sought to review of known archaeological information from the site, in order to determine its likely archaeological potential. An aerial photographic specialist was consulted at this stage and an assessment from an adjacent site was reviewed (Palmer 1998). In the opinion of this specialist, based partly on this earlier work, further aerial photographic work was unlikely to be worthwhile. Accordingly, no further aerial photographic work was undertaken. Following these preliminary studies six evaluation trenches were excavated. Their locations were arranged in order to sample the footprint of the proposed buildings and road and to assess the archaeological potential of the site generally.

The modern ground surface and subsoil were removed by machine to a depth where natural gravel or clay deposits were noted, between 0.40m and 0.9m below the present ground level. Trenches were selectively cleaned and planned and features excavated by hand.

Archaeological trenches and features were recorded using a Zeiss RecElta 15 Total Station, and a digital base plan of the site was produced with Prosurveyor mapping software. Archaeological features were partially excavated and recorded using the pro-forma recording sheets of the Archaeological Field Unit. Sections and profiles across excavated features were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate. A written record of all excavated features was made on single context recording sheets and the drawn and written record was supplemented by monochrome and colour photographs. Site records and artefacts are currently held at the AFU offices in Fulbourn under the site code ALWMBP98. In this report fill numbers are shown in plain text and cut numbers in bold. Conditions for excavation and recording were variable. Context recognition was not affected by the weather although wet weather prevented excavation on one day and wet conditions made excavation in some trenches difficult.

The project archive for the evaluation consists of the design brief for an archaeological evaluation (produced on 27th October 1998 by the Simon Kaner, Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeology Office); a specification created in response to that brief by William Wall; correspondence with the County Archaeology Office and client. A standard AFU archive has been produced and the paper archive is stored at the AFU offices, Fulbourn, the material archive is stored in the short term at the AFU office, Fulbourn and in the long term will be deposited at the County Council store at Landbeach under the site code ALWMBP98.

RESULTS

Trench 1

Trench 1 was 23m long, running in an approximately south-north direction. The topsoil (0.2m thick) was a dark brown silty clay, overlying an olive brown gravelly subsoil (0.18m thick). The base of the trench was mainly sandy gravel with patches of clay and the northern end of the trench and all excavated features were soon

flooded to a depth of several centimetres. At the northern end of the trench was a curving linear feature 11 (0.8m wide and 0.18m deep) which butt ended 10m from the end of the trench. It had shallow gently sloping concave sides and a very slightly concave base. The fill, 12, was a compact, greyish brown sandy clay silt with medium pebbles towards the base and occasional flint gravels throughout. A single, small sherd of undiagnostic pottery was recovered from the base of this feature. Ditch 11 cut two linear features which extended beyond the eastern edge of the trench. These were not excavated as this part of the trench was under water. To the south of these features ditch 11 was cut by an east-west running linear ditch, 13. Ditch 13 (0.69m wide and 0.3m deep) had a steep southern edge and a slightly more gradually sloping northern edge with a flat sloping base. The fairly compact, brown, sandy clay silt fill, 14, contained a small quantity of medium pebbles and occasional fragments of gravel and animal bone. Towards the southern end of the trench was a re-cut ditch which ran parallel to ditch 13. The earlier ditch, 51, was over 0.86m wide and 0.42m deep with a gradually sloping northern edge, the southern edge having been removed by recutting. The base was concave. The single fill, 50, was a firm, olive brown clay silt with rounded pebbles and very occasional gravel fragments. The re-cut, 15, which was on a more southerly alignment than 51, was 0.71m wide and 0.31m deep with concave sides and base. The fill, 16, was a firm clay silt with occasional rounded pebbles and very few angular gravel fragments. This fill contained moderate charcoal flecks and fragments of animal bone.

Trench 2

Trench 2, in the south-eastern part of the site, was 14m long, oriented approximately north-west-south-east. This trench occupied slightly higher ground in an area where the terrace gravels appear to be thicker than on the land closer to the river.

At the eastern end of this trench was a ditch, 6, 1.10m wide and 0.23m deep, oriented south-west-north-east with gradually sloping sides and a concave base and a stepped south-eastern edge. The single fill, 5, was a fairly loose dark greyish brown silty sand with pebbles and sub-angular flints. Animal bone fragments and flint flakes were recovered from this fill. Cut into the north-western edge of this feature was an oval posthole, 22 (0.25m x 0.2m and extending 0.2m below the base of the ditch) with almost vertical sides and a pointed base. The fill, 21, was a fairly compact brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular flints and small rounded pebbles. There were no artefacts from this posthole.

Cutting into the fill of ditch 6, on its eastern edge, was a shallow, circular pit, 7 (0.76m diameter, 0.22m deep) which extended beyond the northern edge of the trench. The fill, 10, was a soft, brown, sandy silt with occasional pebbles and gravels and a small number of larger pebbles (>50mm). Fragments of animal bone and flint flakes were recovered from this fill.

Pit 7 also cut into an oval pit, 18, to the east. This feature was 0.7m x 0.5m and 0.25m deep with steep sides and a sharp break of slope to a flat base. The fill, 17, was a fairly soft, brown, sandy silt with occasional gravels and rounded pebbles. No artefacts were found in this pit.

The final feature in this group was a circular posthole, 20. This had a diameter of 0.3m and was 0.32m deep with an almost vertical eastern side and a western side sloping at 45°. This posthole was truncated by pit 18. Its fill, 19, was a fairly

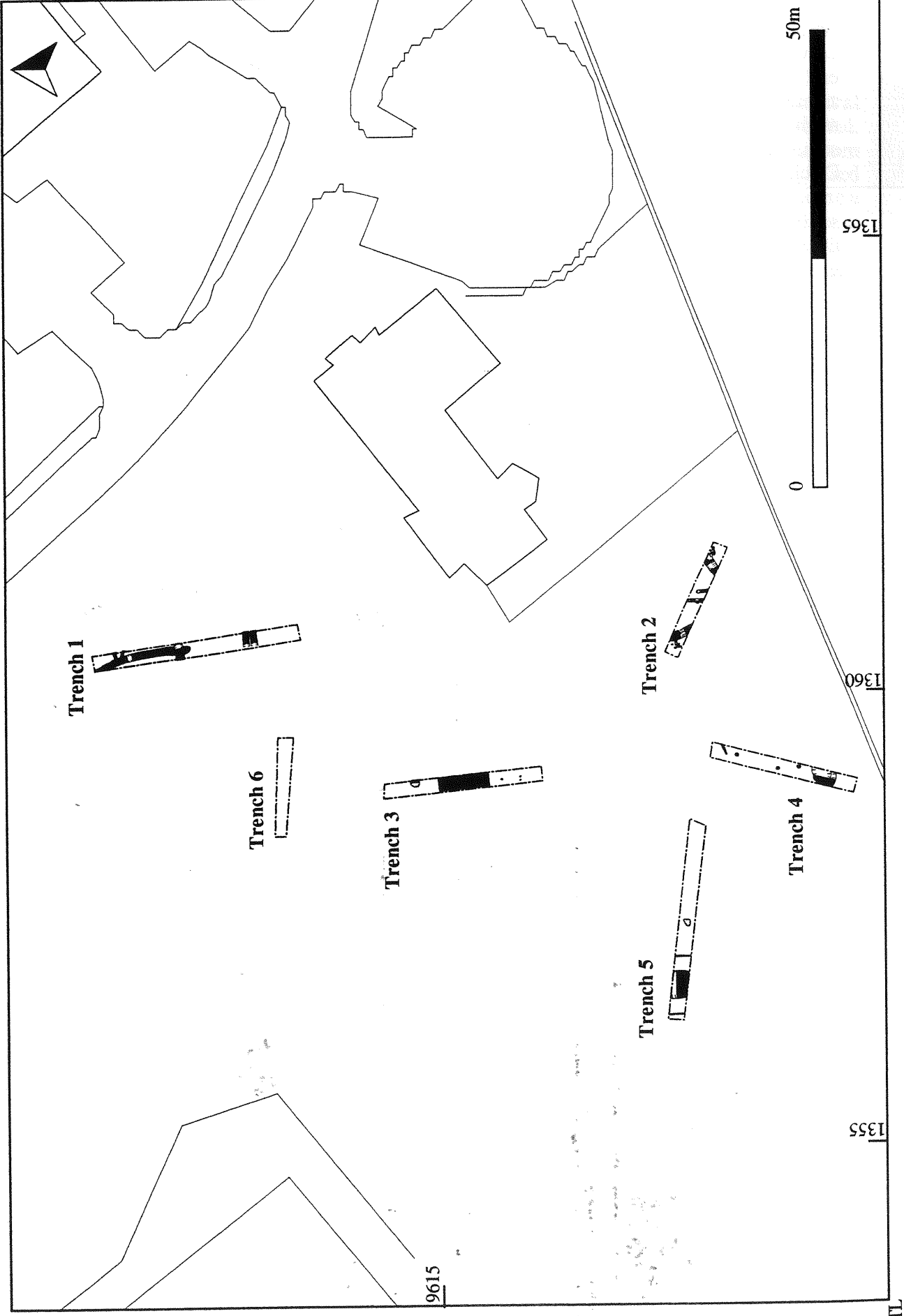


Figure 2 Layout of trenches

compact brown silty sand with moderate amounts of pebbles and sub-angular flint gravels.

Towards the middle of trench 2 were two linear features running approximately parallel in a north-south direction. The easternmost of these, 24, was over 1.3m long, 0.36m wide and 0.16m deep with gradually sloping sides and a flat base. This feature butt-ended towards the middle of the trench. Its single fill, 23, was a fairly loose dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate amounts of gravel and occasional small pebbles. To its west was another shallow gully, 26, (<2m long, 0.3m wide and 0.18m deep with concave sides and base) and its fill, 25, was similar to 23 (above). There were two postholes, 53 and 55, associated with this gully. Both were circular with diameters of approximately 0.4m. Posthole 53 was 0.25m deep and its fill was similar to 19 (above). Posthole 55 was not excavated. Posthole 53 was cut by gully 26 whereas posthole 55 appeared to cut the gully.

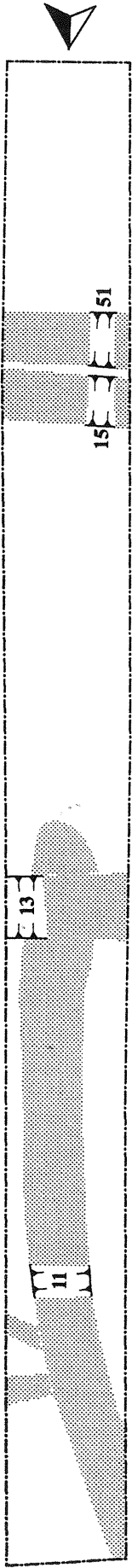
At the western end of the trench was further evidence for structures consisting of a curving ditch, 28 (1m wide, >2.5m long and 0.48m deep) with straight, gradually sloping sides and a flat base. This ditch contained two fills: a primary fill, 27, and a secondary fill, 56. Fill 27, 0.16m thick, represents weathering and a slow silting up of the ditch. It was a fairly compact yellowish brown sandy silt with a high proportion of gravel and occasional rounded pebbles. The upper fill (0.38m thick) was a soft, strong brown silty sand with occasional pebbles and fragments of gravel and was probably deliberately backfilled. A posthole 30 was cut in the base of ditch 28. The posthole was circular (0.3m diameter, 0.27m deep) with vertical sides and a concave base and its fill, 29, was a fairly compact dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate gravels and occasional pebbles. It appears that the posthole was contemporary with the ditch but that the post was removed and the ditch silted up, sealing the posthole.

The western edge of ditch 28 cut a gully or beam slot, 38 (0.2m-0.3m wide and 0.04m deep), which extended northwards from the southern edge of the trench and then turned eastwards at right angles where its eastern extremity had been cut by ditch 28. The gully had gradually sloping sides and a flat base. Its single fill, 37, was a loose, brown, silty sand with occasional flints. The corner of the slot had been cut by a rectangular posthole, 64 (0.2m long, 0.18m wide and 0.25m deep) with vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, 63, was a fairly compact, brown, silty sand with rounded pebbles and angular gravels. Two further postholes were noted in this area - 32, to the north of the slot, and 34, to the south. Another possible posthole was noted during cleaning but this was very shallow (0.02m) and its diameter was 0.15m. Postholes 32 and 34 were very similar, both had diameters of approximately 0.2m, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Their fills (31 and 33) were also similar, being fairly compact, brown, silty sand with pebbles and gravel. No finds were recovered from any of the features in this group.

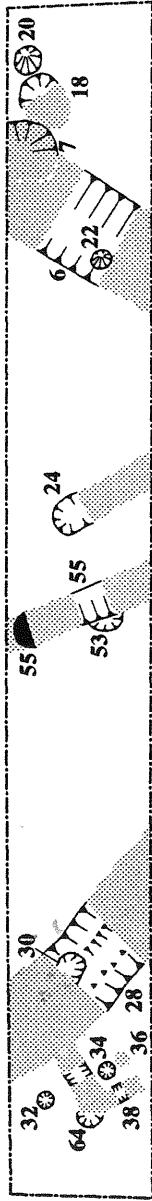
Trench 3

Trench 3 was 18m long, oriented in an approximately north-south direction. In the northern part of the trench and sealed by a bank (see below) was a circular, shallow pit, 45, 1.11m wide and 0.18m deep with even, concave sides and base. This pit contained two fills, the primary-fill 46, (0.03m thick) appeared to have slumped in from the northern edge of the pit. Fill 46 was a moderately compact, dark brown, sandy silty clay with very occasional pebbles and an unabraded fragment of early St. Neots/Maxy ware. The secondary fill, 47, (0.14m thick) was a moderately compact,

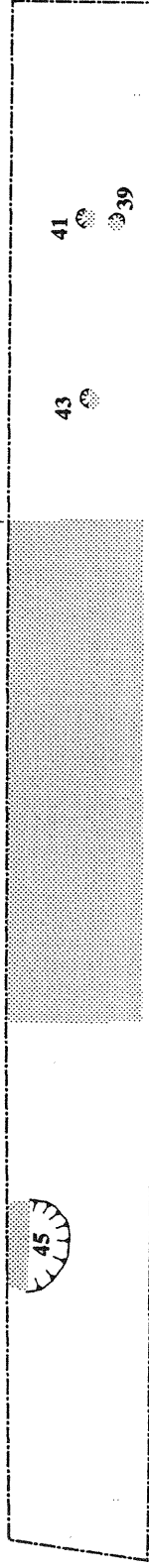
Trench 1



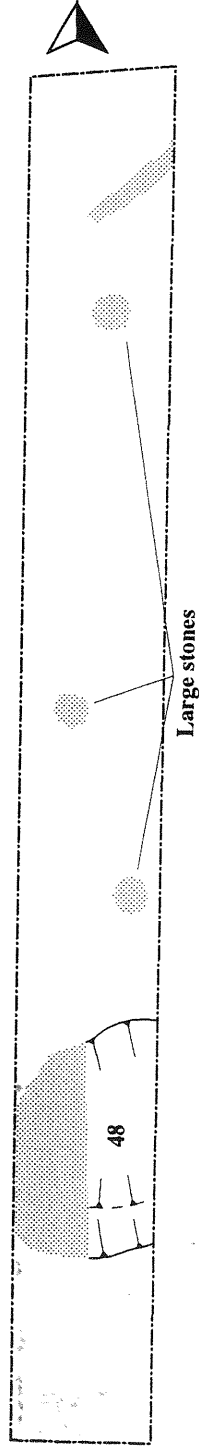
Trench 2



Trench 3



Trench 4



Trench 5

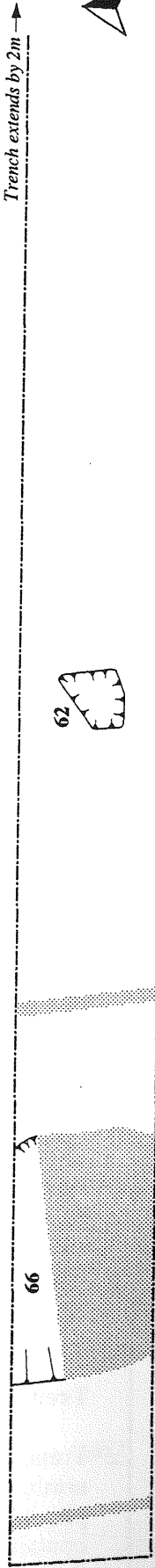
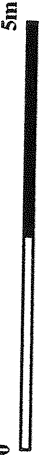


Figure 3 Trench plans showing archaeological features



dark greyish brown, silty clay with angular gravel fragments. Animal bone, daub and unabraded sherds of early-middle Saxon pottery were recovered from this fill.

Across almost the entire length of the trench was a bank, probably a furlong boundary (Hall, 1982). The width of the bank (over 13m) is in keeping with those found on gravel soils. The bank was made up of at least three layers (58, 59 and 60), with a ridge (57) abutting its southern edge. The basal layer, 60 (0.17m thick), was a moderately compact, brown, silty sandy clay with occasional large pebbles and flint gravels. This layer was sealed by 59 (12.6m wide and 0.4m thick), a moderately compact, light, olive brown silty clay with occasional gravel fragments. The uppermost surviving layer, 58, (0.27m thick) was a fairly compact, light olive brown, silty clay with small gravel inclusions. The ridge abutting ridge, 57 (0.42m thick), was a moderately compact, dark yellowish brown, silty clay with occasional large pebbles and small flint gravels. No finds were noted in the section.

The bank and ridge also sealed several postholes in the southern part of the trench. Posthole 39 was circular (diameter 0.18m, depth 0.07m) with even, concave, sides and a rounded base. Its fill, 40, was a compact, brown, silty clay with occasional gravel fragments. Posthole 41 was also circular, diameter 0.23m and 0.08m deep, with even, concave, sides and a concave base. The fill, 42, was a compact, brown, silty clay with occasional flint gravels. The final posthole in this group, 43, was circular, diameter 0.22m and 0.16m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The fill, 44, was a moderately compact, brown, silty clay with occasional gravel fragments.

Trench 4

This trench was 16m long, oriented approximately north-south, in the southern part of the site. At the southern end of the trench was a large irregular pit, 48 (2.3m wide and varying in depth from 0.33m-0.43m). The full extent of the pit was not revealed but it appeared to be oval with irregular, concave sides and sloping base. The single, homogeneous fill, 49, was a soft, brown, silty sand with occasional gravel fragments. Its shape and the nature of its fill indicates it was probably a quarry pit.

Three groups of large stones (several larger than 0.1m) were located along the trench. There was no clear cut associated with these stones but it is possible they were the remnants of post packing or post pads. At the northern end of the trench a narrow (0.25m wide), linear feature was noted. This butt ended 1.3m from the eastern edge of the trench and was not excavated.

Trench 5

Trench 5, in the south-western corner of the site was 22.5m long and was oriented approximately east-west. There was 0.3m of topsoil at its eastern end and 0.23m of topsoil at its western end. This sealed 0.3m of sandy clay silt subsoil at the western end and 0.26m of subsoil at the eastern end. The base of the trench was an unsorted sandy gravel. At the western end was a narrow, irregular, linear feature, approximately 0.35m wide which may be the base of a ditch as machining in this part of the trench was far deeper than to the east. This feature was not excavated. To the east was a wide ditch or pit, 66, (3.55m wide and 0.72m deep) which extended beyond the edges of the trench. This feature initially appeared to be linear with

parallel sides but on excavation the edges were seen to be slightly curved. The single fill, 65, was a dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt, which appeared to be slightly sorted, with rounded pebbles towards the base which were significantly different from the angular gravels of the natural. Finds from this fill included small abraded fragments of pottery (probably early Saxon organic tempered ware), fragments of animal bone and two fourth century Roman coins which were discovered by metal detector before the feature was excavated. Parallel to this ditch was a further narrow gully (0.40m wide) which was not excavated. Midway along the trench was a sub-rectangular pit, 62 (0.75m long, 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep), which had steep northern and southern sides and a shallowly sloping eastern edge. The base was flat. The single fill, 61, was a very dark greyish brown, loose, sandy clay silt with occasional rounded stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Trench 6

Trench 6, 11m long, was oriented east-west and contained 0.3m of topsoil and 0.2m of gravelly subsoil. The trench contained a single linear feature, 68, 0.6m wide which ran north-south and continued beyond the edges of the trench. This feature was excavated into the gravel to a depth of 0.14m and contained a single fill, 67, which was a sandy silt with occasional gravels. There were no finds from this context.

DISCUSSION

The aims of this study were to highlight the potential for preservation of archaeological remains on the subject site and to identify the nature of any remains that may be affected by the proposed development.

The development involves considerable construction work on site including excavation of a swimming pool and trenches for foundations, a road and services. The potential impact on surviving archaeological features or material will therefore be considerable.

Intrusive evaluation revealed intensive occupation in the south-east part of the site with less dense occupation of other parts of the area. The slightly higher, better drained gravels appear to have been occupied in the Neolithic period although dating evidence is restricted to occasional flint tools and flint working debris. The small quantity of Roman material and number of features which can be dated to the Roman period suggests this area was peripheral to settlement along Ermine Street. The site was probably agricultural from the later prehistoric period until post-Roman and medieval occupation developed in the vicinity.

The presence of Anglo-Saxon pottery and Niedermendig lava from trenches 1, 3 and 5 and from elsewhere on the site (PCCSMR no. 50347) suggest that this area was occupied during the post-Roman period and that many of the features may relate to domestic settlement. The postholes and certain of the gullies and slots indicate the presence of structures on the site but the narrowness of the trenches made accurate interpretation difficult.

It would appear, however, that the settlement shifted westwards during the medieval period and was centred around the church (CCCSMR no. 10571) and close to the river by the tenth to twelfth centuries. A manor is also known from this time and it may have been close to the present manor site although there was no archaeological or historical evidence for its exact location available to the author. From the medieval period the development site came under the plough and ridge and furrow agriculture appears to have truncated and masked all earlier features.

CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation identified the depositional sequence present on site as being topsoil/subsoil with rounded pebbles but very little gravel overlying terrace gravels/sand and clay.

It is clear that this land was not within the settlement of Alwalton during the medieval and post-medieval period but suggests rather that was agricultural following its early Saxon occupation.

The presence of prehistoric and late Roman/early Saxon occupation in the eastern part of the development area highlights the potential for preservation of remains on the development site and their importance for understanding the prehistoric occupation of the terrace gravels close to the River Nene and also to clarify the late and post-Roman occupation of the area to the east of Ermine Street and south of the Nene. It is likely that the swimming pool, office buildings, access road and services on the development site will have an impact on major archaeological remains. It is also possible that further archaeological remains will be encountered when the northern part of the business park is developed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Ruddle Wilkinson Ltd (Mr. D. M. Turnock) who commissioned the work. Thanks also to Spencer Cooper, Bob Hatton and Chris Montague who worked on site under adverse conditions, to Scott Kenney who carried out the Total Station survey, Jon Cane who prepared the illustration and William Wall, Project Manager. The metal detector survey was carried out by Steve Critchley. Paul Sperry and Paul Sealey (Colchester Museum) gave their thoughts on the pottery. The work on site was monitored by Simon Kaner, Cambridgeshire County Council Development Control Officer

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APPENDIX I

Sites and Monuments records consulted:

The following record numbers are in the vicinity of the site or mentioned in the design brief (Kaner 1998):

SMR	grid ref	description
	TL	
*912	1328/9613	Roman building
917	1446/9663	Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery
1436	147-/961-	Ring ditches – crop mark (SAM 193)
*1610	1375/9655	Roman belt
1612	138-/966-	Bronze Age sword
*1620	1641/9700	Neolithic/Bronze Age inhumation & ditched enclosure
1624	135-/962-	16/17th century manor house
1864	1321/9618	Mills
1995	1375/9655	Bronze Age sword
5714	1327/9595	Alwalton Hall
9174	1435/9557	Ring ditch – crop mark
9186	1435/9560	Ring ditches – crop mark
9115	1415/9690	Ring ditch and enclosure – crop mark
9824	1350/9550	Ridge and furrow
*10091	139-/962-	Roman inhumations
10571	1335/9594	St. Andrew's church
‡50347	1354/9616	Skull fragment, Romano-British and Saxon pottery

Unless marked otherwise all the above numbers are from the Cambridgeshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record. Roman sites along Ermine Street are too numerous to be listed separately here.

* Sites and Monuments Record numbers referred to in the CAO brief

‡ Peterborough City Council Sites and Monuments Record number

APPENDIX II

Finds types and weight (in grams) by context

Trench	Context no.	Pottery	sherds	daub/brick	metal	stone	flint	flint frags	bone	total
	unstrat				11+	45				56+
2	5						6	3	9	15
2	10					229			2	231
1	12	1	1							1
1	14								49	49
1	16								76	76
3	46	13	2							13
3	47	155	16						79	96
5	65	22	5	69					20	111
Total		191	24	69	11+	274	6	3	235	648

+ This figure does not include the two fourth century Roman coins found during metal detecting.

APPENDIX 3

Pottery Assessment

A small assemblage of 21 sherds was recovered from this evaluation. The pottery derives from four contexts:-

Context	Fabric	No Sherds	Fabric Date Range	Context date	Comments
12	RQ1	1	400-650	400-650	tiny reduced black quartz-tempered sherd
46	FSHEL	1	400-800	400-800	very smooth and thin walled shelly vessel (globular), but prob hand-made
47	MAXG	12	650-850	650-850	large hand-made coarse shelly bowl-type vessel
	MAXG	2	650-850		similar fabric but smaller vessels
	MAXG	2	650-850		2 rim frags from probable bowl-type vessel. hand made; flat, hammerhead rim
65	RGREY	1	200-400	400-800	Late Roman grey ware
	ORGT	1	400-800		Oxidised thick-walled bs with organic temper voids (seed/grass)

One Roman sherd is probably residual. All others are probably early or middle Saxon in date, with 47 being the only group that *definitely* dates to the latter period. This group of shelly, hand-made pottery is almost certainly Maxey fabric G (Addyman 1964), which is now more usually called Maxey ware (Hurst 1976). This type appears in the third phase of Anglo-Saxon activity at Maxey. A sample from Maxey was dated to 780-830 (+/- 15%) using Thermoluminescence Spectroscopy (op. cit.).

Consideration has been given to the possibility that the hand-made pottery from Alwalton may, alternatively, be of prehistoric date. This has been ruled out for three reasons. 1) The presence of a Roman sherd in context 65 and of an unstratified piece of Niedermendig lava. 2) The good match of fabric and, possibly, form between published Maxey ware and the context 47 group. 3) The absence of other evidence for prehistoric activity here. Also, all of the pottery is in fabric types that have good post-Roman matches on sites in the general area.

Addyman, P, 1964, 'A Dark Age settlement at Maxey, Northants', *Med. Arch.* 8, 20-73.

Hurst, J G, 1976, 'The Pottery' in D M Wilson, *The Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England*, Methuen, 283-348.

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