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**Medieval Ditches at The New Vicarage, 2 Fulbourn  
Old Drift, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge:  
An Archaeological Excavation**

Taleyna Fletcher

January 2004

**Cambridgeshire County Council**

Report No. 762

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Hinton, Cambridge: An Archaeological Excavation**

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## SUMMARY

*In early October 2004, the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council conducted an archaeological excavation on land at The New Vicarage, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge (TL 4905 5702). The work was carried out on behalf of The Diocese of Ely in advance of the construction of a new parsonage.*

*Evaluation of the site (Mortimer and Phillips 2004) consisted of two trenches, one of which identified several features including a series of ditches, a possible post pit and four postholes. The pottery recovered dated these features to the 10th and 11th centuries. In the second trench a single posthole which contained a piece of 19th century brick.*

*The subsequent investigation was within the footprint of the proposed new parsonage which, given the results of the previous investigation, was considered to be an area of high archaeological potential.*

*The excavation revealed at least four phases of activity, comprising several ditches, a well and a modern fenceline. These features represent phases of medieval and post-medieval boundary activity possibly associated with the back plots of enclosed areas which may have fronted on to the High Street. A small assemblage of pottery was recovered during the excavation, largely dating to the 12th to 14th century.*

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Limit of Excavation	
Cut	
Cut - Conjectured	
Soil Horizon	
Soil Horizon - Conjectured	
Intrusion/Truncation	
Top of Natural	
Top Surface	
Break in Section	
Cut Number	
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	$\frac{18.45m}{\times}$ ODN

### Plans

Limit of Excavation	
Deposit - Conjectured	
Natural Features	
Intrusion/Truncation	
Sondages/Machine Strip	
Illustrated Section	
Archaeological Deposit	
Excavated Slot	
Modern Deposit	
Cut Number	118

# **Medieval Ditches at The New Vicarage, 2 Fulbourn Old Drift, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge: An Archaeological Excavation (TL 4905 5702)**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Between the 7th and 12th October 2004 the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council undertook an excavation at the site of the New Vicarage, Fulbourn Old Drift in the parish of Cherry Hinton, Cambridge (TL 4905 5702). This work followed initial evaluation investigation which revealed the presence of medieval settlement remains (Mortimer and Phillips 2004). The site is located close to the centre of Cherry Hinton, on the southern corner of the junction of two known medieval roads; the High Street and Fulbourn Old Drift. (Fig.1)

The work was commissioned by The Design Partnership on behalf of the Diocese of Ely who funded the work in advance of the development of the site for a new Vicarage and associated underground services.

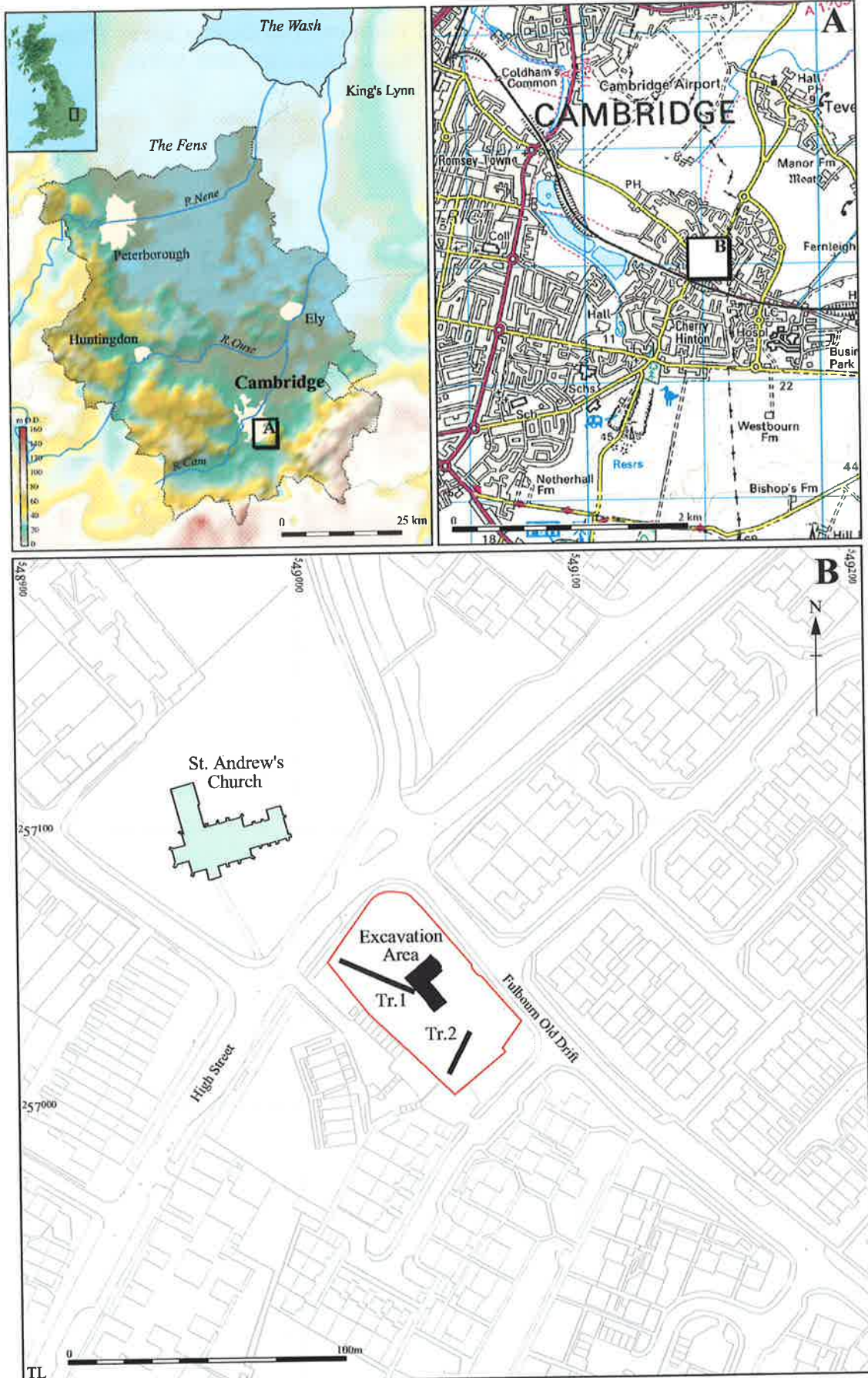
The excavations were carried out in accordance with a County Archaeology Office Brief (Gdaniec, 2004). The archaeological objectives for the excavation were recorded in the specification for the site (Macaulay 2004). The specification was approved by the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office (CAO) before the start of the excavation. The location of the open area was determined by the layout and location of the proposed New Vicarage building.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

According to the British Geological Survey the site lies on the Lower beds of the Lower Chalk (British Geological Survey, sheet no. 188). The site is located on some of the highest ground in the area at approximately 19m OD.

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Two recent large-scale excavations have been undertaken some 500m to the north-west of the site along the northern side of Church End Road; the first by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust in 1999 (McDonald & Doel 2000), and the second by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit in 2002 (Cessford and Mortimer 2004). These excavations have revealed large areas of a densely



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**Figure 1** Location of evaluation trenches and excavation area with the development area outlined (red)



occupied Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement, dating to the 8th to 13th centuries, the former site including a small church and part of a contemporary cemetery containing over 670 inhumations. While the northern and eastern boundaries of this settlement are located, there is as yet no known southern boundary.

Cherry Hinton was recorded as the (single) Manor of '*Hintone*' at Domesday – the Cherry being added in the 16th century. Two Manors are known to have been in existence by the 13th or 14th century, Uphall in the north of the parish and Netherhall in the south (Wareham 2002). The village also has two principle *foci* (again north and south), Church End and Mill End, and while the recent large-scale excavations were within the Church End area they were some distance from the church itself and the crossroads on which it stands. The Church of St Andrew dates from the 13th century and may have replaced the Saxon manor church excavated to the north on Church End road. The direct occupation of the Church End site ended soon after the Conquest and it is possible that St Andrew's Church formed the nucleus of the post-Conquest settlement. Coldhams Lane is the present main route westward from the staggered crossroads, this is a post-medieval road and the original medieval westward route was that which proceeds directly from the Old Drift onto Church End road itself. (Fig. 2) This road formed the north-eastern boundary of the Saxon settlement by the 9th century, and dates either to this period or was possibly Romano-British (Wareham 2002).

To the west of the current development area, at 507-9 Coldhams Lane, further pits and ditches of medieval date were uncovered (Kenney 2000).

Consultation of maps held at the County Records Office show the site inhabited by a Vicarage from at least the early 19th century. Two maps from 1806 (CRO 152/P7 and CRO Q/RDc13) show the vicarage occupying a smaller plot of land, closer to the corner of the Old Drift and the High Street, with the land behind (which occupies some of the excavation area) belonging to St Thomas' Hospital. By 1889 however, the Ordnance Survey map clearly shows the Vicarage occupying what appears to be the same area as today.

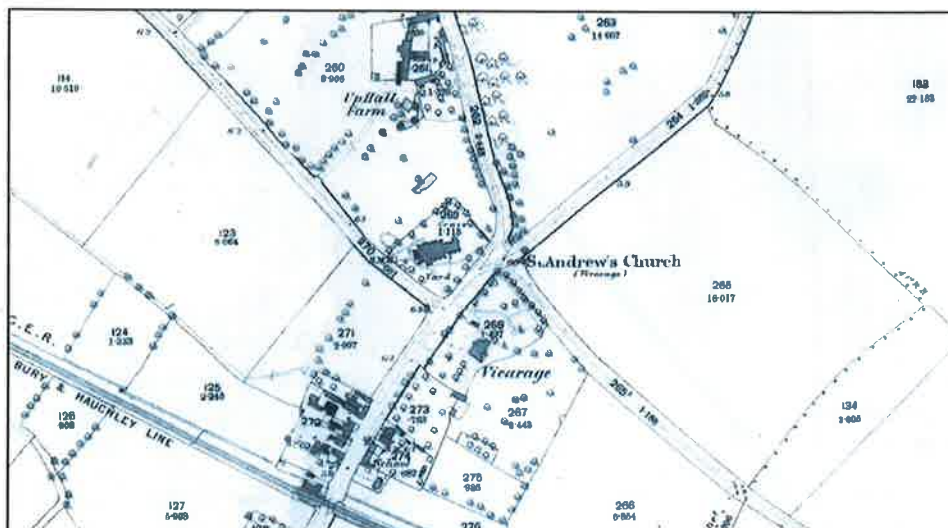


Plate 1.1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map

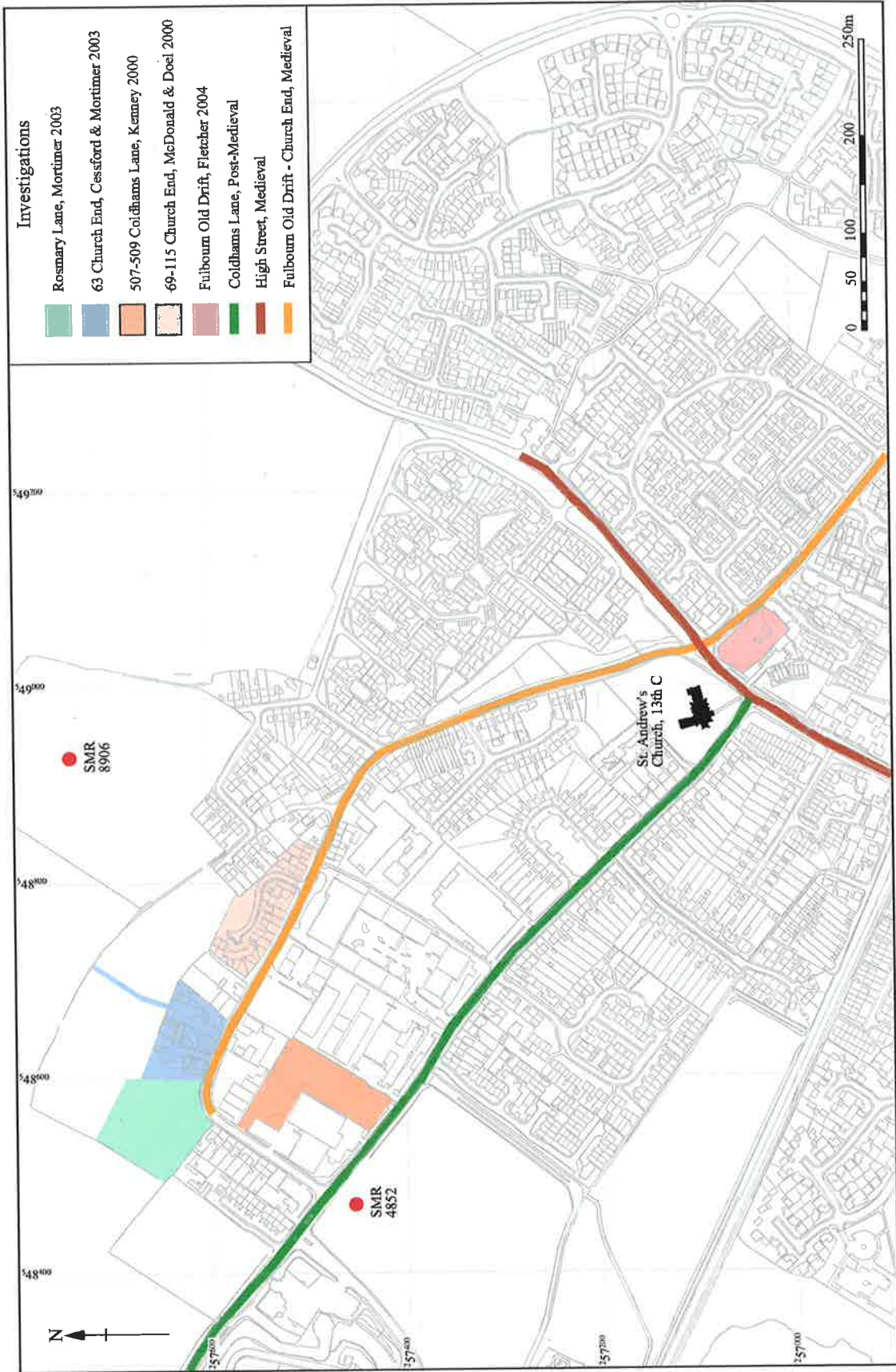


Figure 2 Map showing location of previous investigations in the vicinity

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Excavation**

An "L-shaped" area was opened with a JCB 180° mechanical excavator, using a 1.6m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. The machine continued to remove overburden and deposits until reaching the interface between the soil horizons and the natural chalk, the level at which archaeology was encountered.

### **4.2 Area Locations**

The location of the site was determined by the area which was to be affected by building work and by the amount of land available for investigation which did not have trees with protection orders. The location of the excavation area was set by the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office (CAO) (Fig. 1).

### **4.3 Recording**

A 10m by 10m grid was set out using a Leica Total Station Theodolite and the site base plans were then hand drawn at a scale of 1:50. All features were hand excavated to meet the requirements of the specifications set out by the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Office's archaeological brief. All features and deposits were recorded using the AFU's single context recording system. Each cut, fill and layer was allocated an individual number, and incorporated into the indices used during the evaluation. The location of the site was tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using the Leica Total Station Theodolite. Environmental samples were taken from a representative quantity of deposits for post-excavation analysis. Due to the absence of an environmental report from the evaluation stage of works, the results have been incorporated into the environmental appraisal of the excavation. Colour print, colour slide and monochrome photographs were taken as well as digital photographs using a Canon A10 Digital camera.

The nearest benchmark was located on St Andrew's Church on the corner of Coldhams Lane and High Street. The height was subsequently traversed onto the site, where an average value of 17.46m OD was recorded.

## **5 RESULTS**

The excavation revealed the presence of six ditches on an approximate north-east to south-west orientation and one on a north-west to south-east orientation as well as a small pit or well and a modern fenceline (comprising four postholes) and a ditch terminus. Due to the absence of dating evidence from most of these features, it has not been possible to phase the entire site securely.

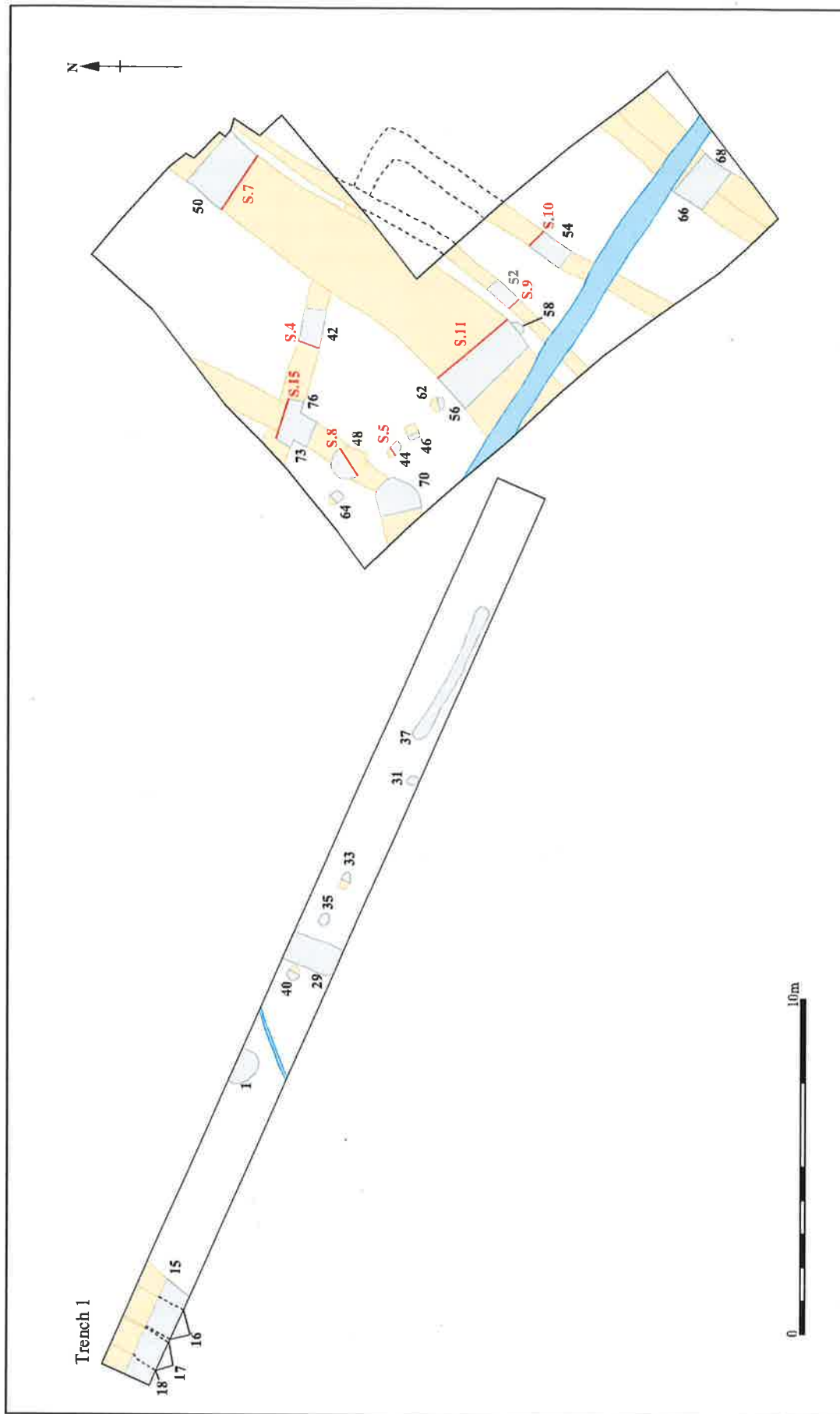


Figure 3 Excavation area and evaluation trench 1

Relationships between some features, however, suggest there are at least three phases, the third phase dating to the 13th to mid 14th century. The results will be presented stratigraphically and where possible by association, running from north to south. In this report deposit numbers are shown in plain text and cut numbers are in **bold text**.

## 5.1 Phase 1 (undated)

This phase, represented by a possible enclosure, was the earliest in a stratigraphic sequence within the excavation area. Although undated, this enclosure was truncated by a ditch (**73**) which, by association, has been tentatively dated to the 10th to 11th century.

This ditch which turned at a right angle may represent an enclosure. This possible enclosure consists of two identified ditches; one north-west to south-east orientated excavated in two slots (**42** and **76**) and the other orientated north-east to south-west through which one slot was investigated (**60**) which was found to have been re-cut (**54**). Although the corner of these ditches was beyond the limits of the excavation area, their position indicates that they would have joined up. (Fig.2). Despite the fact that no dating evidence was retrieved from any of the excavated slots, this appears to be the earliest feature on the site as it was truncated by three other ditches. It was truncated ditch **50/56** which has been securely dated to 13th to mid 14th century; this means that this enclosure must be earlier in date.

Ditch **42** was linear in plan with gently sloping sides, an imperceptible break of slope and a flattish base (Section 4), measuring 0.7m wide and 0.15m deep. Filled by 41, a greyish brown silt with no inclusions.

Ditch **76** was linear in plan with steep sides, a gradual break of slope and a concave base (Section 15), measuring 1.4m long, 0.48m wide and 0.29m deep. Ditch 76 contained two fills:

Fill 74 was a greyish brown silt with rare flint pebbles.

Fill 75 was a whiteish grey with patches of greyish brown silt containing rare flint.

Ditch **60** was linear in plan with angular sides, a sharp break of slope and a flat base (Section 10), measuring 1m long, 0.3 wide and 0.12m deep. Filled by 59, a mid greyish brown silty clay with redeposited chalk nodules and small angular and sub-angular stones.

Ditch **54** was linear in plan with angular to concave sides, a sharp break of slope and a concave base (Section 10), measuring 1m long, 0.52 wide and 0.19m deep. Filled by 53, a mid greyish brown silt with chalk nodules.

## 5.2 Phase 2 (undated)

The second phase of activity on site was represented by a ditch (**73**). No dating evidence was retrieved from this ditch, although stratigraphically is the second earliest in a sequence of inter-cutting features at the north-western end of the investigation area. Although no artefacts were retrieved to securely date this

ditch (and phase), it does appear to be parallel with post trench or deep sided ditch (29) recorded during the evaluation of the site which was securely dated to the 10th to 11th century. If these ditches are contemporary, this suggests evidence of a late Saxon date for this phase. A number of undated parallel ditches to the south may have been contemporary.

Ditch 73 ran north-east to south-west and continued beyond the northern extent of the excavation area. It orientated parallel to five other ditches recorded to the south. It truncated ditch 42 which may represent the earliest feature on site and was truncated by well 48 which was dated to 13th to mid-14th century. The ditch was also truncated by a later ditch terminus (70). As the ditch did not re-appear on the other side of this later feature, it presumably terminated at this point.

Ditch 73 was linear in plan with gently sloping sides, a gradual break of slope and a flat base (Section 15), measuring 1m long, 0.84m wide and 0.26m deep. Ditch 73 contained two fills: Fill 71 was a whiteish grey chalk containing redeposited natural. Fill 72 was a light greyish brown silt containing some lumps of redeposited chalk.

A posthole (58) was not completely visible in plan as it was truncated on its northern side by a later ditch (56). This posthole appears to have been isolated and not part of an identified structure. No dating evidence was retrieved, although its pale deposit and stratigraphic relationship to the 13th to mid 14th century ditch places this feature in the earlier phase of activity on the site.

Posthole 58 was square with rounded corners in plan, with steep sides, a gradual break of slope and a flat base, measuring 0.26m wide and 0.08m deep. Filled by 57, a light greyish brown silt which was sterile.

### 5.3 Phase 3 (13th to mid-14th Century)

Activity from this phase comprised a north-east to south-west orientated ditch and a small pit or well, both securely dated by artefactual evidence artefacts.

The Phase 3 ditch (comprising excavated slots 50 and 56) was orientated north-east to south-west, continuing across the site and beyond the eastern and western limits of the excavation area. This relatively shallow ditch contained finds datable to the 13th to mid 14th century. It truncated by a possible enclosure ditch and was truncated by a modern service trench.

Ditch 50 was linear in plan with steep, shallow sides, a moderately abrupt break of slope and a flattish base (Section 7), measuring 1.1m long, 1.78m wide and 0.34m deep. Filled by 49, a dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt with occasional small-medium sized stones, moderate chalk flecks and lumps, and frequent plant roots.

Ditch 56 was linear in plan with gently sloping sides, an imperceptible break of slope and a flat base (Section 11), measuring 1m long, 2.7m wide and 0.3m deep. Filled by 55, a greyish brown silt with rare pot, one piece of bone, occasional flecks of charcoal, several lumps of charcoal, and occasional flint pebbles.

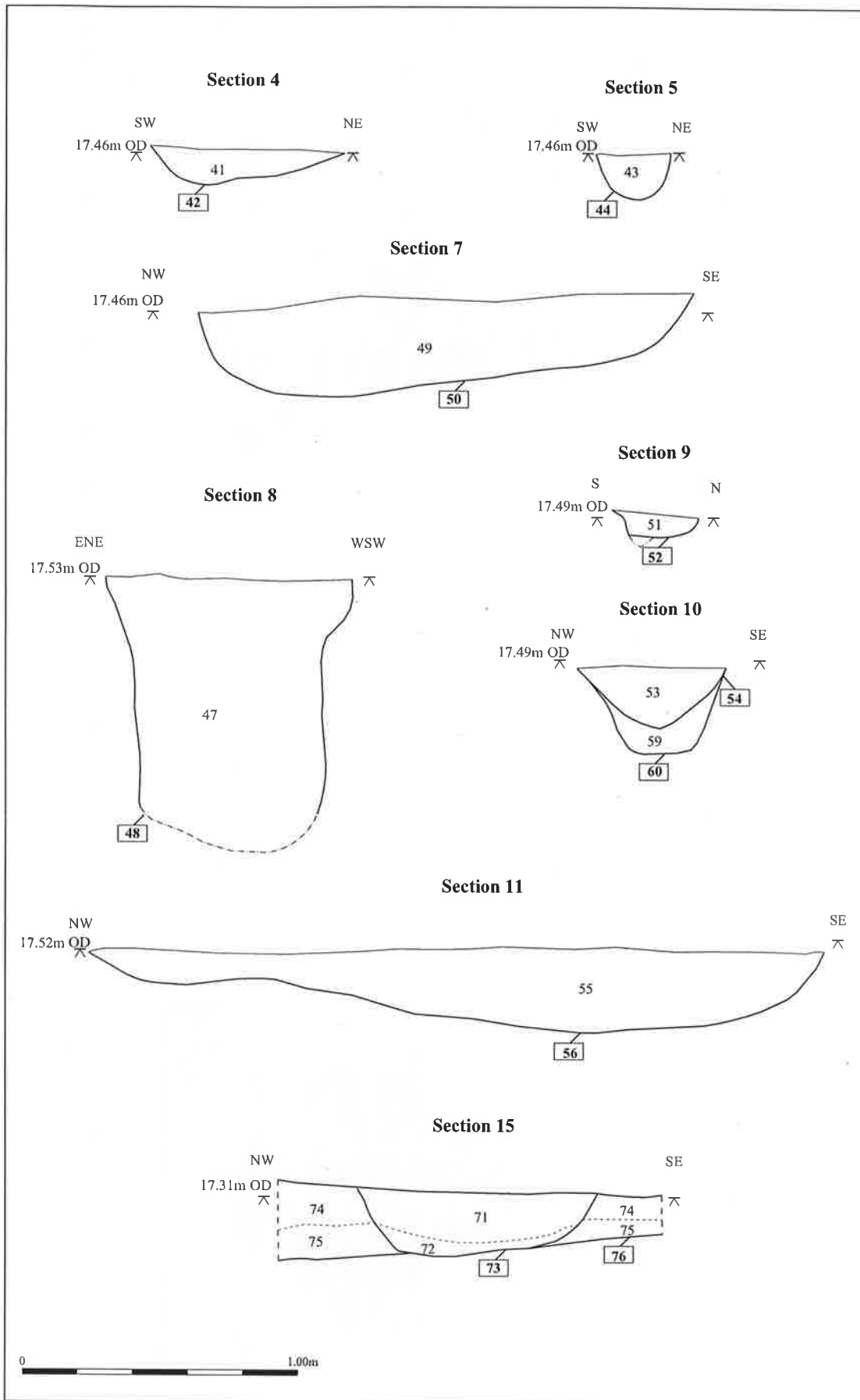


Figure 4 Sections



*Plate 2. Ditch 50*

A well (48) was identified in the north-west corner of the investigation area. This feature was interpreted as a well on the basis of its depth and silty sterile fill suggesting it had been left open to naturally fill up. The well was excavated to a depth of 0.96m by hand, although due to restriction of movement, it was necessary to stop at this point. An auger was used in an attempt to establish the full depth and number of deposits beyond the point where hand excavation had to be stopped. Due to the compaction of the deposit the auger was only able to investigate to a depth of 0.20m further. Several sherds of pottery were recovered from the fill of the well dating its disuse of the 13th to mid 14th century. The early sherds may be residual as the pit truncated an earlier ditch (73).

Well 48 was circular in plan with steep, almost vertical sides, a steep break of slope and unexcavated base, measuring 0.85 wide and 0.96m deep. Filled by 47, a brownish grey silt with rare charcoal flecks, occasional flint pebbles, and occasional pottery (10-15 sherds).



*Plate 3. Well 48*



#### 5.4 Phase 4 (Post-Medieval)

A post-medieval fenceline comprising four postholes (**62**, **64**, **44** and **46**) on a north-north-west to south-south-east orientation was identified in the north-west corner of the site. Dating evidence was retrieved from context 61, the fill of posthole **62** dating to 18th century. Although no finds were recovered from the other postholes, they were all the same shape in plan and had similar fills, depths and dimensions suggesting that they are contemporary. These postholes have been interpreted as a fenceline, possibly representing a boundary coming away from the High Street, although further investigation is necessary to support this suggestion.

Post hole **62** was sub-rectangular in plan with steep vertical sides, a very sharp break of slope and a flat base, measuring 0.34m long, 0.3m wide and 0.22m deep. Filled by 61, a dark brown silt with rare chalk lumps and frequent roots.

Post hole **64** was sub-rectangular in plan with steep vertical sides, a very sharp break of slope and a flat base, measuring 0.33m long, 0.22m wide and 0.33m deep. Filled by 63, a dark brown silt with rare chalk lumps and frequent roots.

Post hole **44** was square with rounded corners in plan, with steep sides, a sharp break of slope and a flat base (Section 5), measuring 0.26m wide and 0.16m deep. Filled by 43, a greyish brown silt with no inclusions.

Post hole **46** was sub-circular in plan with steep sides, a sharp break of slope and a flat base, measuring 0.3m wide and 0.2m deep. Filled by 45, a brownish grey silt with redeposited chalk inclusions.

#### 5.5 Undated Features

Three undated ditches remain unphased. Their alignment indicates a probable medieval date.

Ditch **52** was orientated north-east to south-west. It ran across the site, and continued beyond the western limits of the excavation area, shallowing out just before the eastern edge. It ran on the same orientation as five other ditches recorded within the excavation, and less than 0.40m to the south of the large boundary ditch (**50** and **56**). No dating evidence was retrieved from the fill of this feature, however it did truncate the enclosure ditch; the earliest identified feature.

Ditch **52** was linear in plan with concave sides, an angular break of slope and a flattish base (Section 9), measuring 1m long, 0.3m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled by 51, a light greyish brown silty clay with small stones.

Ditch **66** was on the same north-east to south-west orientation as the other ditches recorded on site. It was linear in plan, continuing beyond the eastern and southern edges of the excavation area. This ditch truncated ditch **68**, and

given its similar width and depth, it could be suggested that this represents a re-instatement of a seasonal boundary ditch which had silted up. No dating evidence was retrieved from the fill of this ditch.

Ditch 66 was linear in plan with concave sides, a gradual break of slope and a concave base. Filled by 65, a mid greyish brown silty clay with small stones.

Ditch 68 was recorded at the southern end of the excavation area. On the same north-east to south-west orientation as most of the other ditches on site, this ditch continued beyond the east and west limits of the excavation area. It was truncated by ditch 66, and by a modern service trench. It appears that this may have been an early boundary which was re-instated by a later ditch. However, due to the similarity of the ditch deposits it is likely that they were relatively close in date, although no dating evidence was retrieved from either ditch despite almost total excavation. The deposits from this and the re-cut ditch were both very pale in colour and much paler and siltier than any other of the features on the site. This may suggest that these are early in date and perhaps contemporary with the right-angled enclosure ditch (Phase 1).

Ditch 68 was linear in plan with concave sides, a gradual break of slope and a concave base, measuring 1m long, 0.75m wide and 0.15m deep. Filled by 67, a mid greyish brown silty clay with chalk nodules and small stones.

## 5.6 Natural Features

Tree throw 70 was identified in the north-west corner of the site. Although not fully revealed in plan, this appears to have been the result of tree root disturbance. It did not appear in evaluation Trench 1. No dating evidence was retrieved from the fill, however the loose compaction and dark colouration of the soil suggests that it may be relatively late in date. The feature truncated ditch 73 (Phase 2) for which there was no secure dating evidence.

Tree throw 70 was linear in plan with concave sides, a gradual break of slope and a concave base, measuring 1m long, 0.95m wide and 0.26m deep. Filled by 69, a mid-dark greyish brown silty clay with redeposited chalk and charcoal in a band, and small stones.

## 5.7 Summary of Evaluation

Other than a modern posthole in Trench 2, only Trench 1 contained evidence of archaeological remains. Located close to the excavation area (Fig.1), Trench 1 contained two identified phases of activity;

### *10th/11th Century*

At the northern end of Trench 1 were a series of ditches aligned north-east to south-west. Heavily truncated and extending beyond the northern limit of the trench, the function of this ditch sequence is not clear. It was of considerable

size and so could be enclosing a settlement. It is roughly aligned with the High Street and could represent an early roadside ditch.

At the centre of Trench 1, again aligned north-east to south-west was a deep post pit, post trench or steep-sided ditch (29). The evidence strongly suggests this may have been a post trench or some other structural feature. Given its width and depth any posts set within in it would have been of considerable size, bigger than would be necessary for, say, an animal paddock. A similar example was found 500m away at one of the Church End excavations (Cessford and Mortimer 2004). What the purpose of these features is remains unknown. The significant amount of pottery in the upper fill suggests deliberate backfilling. If so, it must have lain close to a settlement. The orientation of this ditch is the same as ditch 73 (Phase 2) within the excavation area. If these ditches are contemporary, possibly forming part of a small paddock enclosure, then this provides dating evidence for this phase of the excavation.

Four postholes 31, 33, 35 and 40 on a roughly north-west to south-east orientation were recorded in Trench 1. These postholes were aligned in a manner which suggests they could be structural, possibly a fence line, or even a wall for a hall type building. Pottery found in posthole 35 dates this to the 10th to 11th century. Given that the pottery from the upper fills of pit/trench 29 appear to be later, the postholes pre-date feature 29. It is also worth noting that the postholes were positioned perpendicular to the High Street.

A possible beamslot (37) may have been associated with the postholes. A fragment of 10th- to 11th-century pot came from its fill (38).

Possible evidence of this phase was recorded within the northern part of the excavation area (undated ditch (73) possibly being contemporary), suggesting a shift in settlement location or a change in land use by later periods. The activity from this phase appears to be located closer to the route of the High Street.

#### *12th/13th Century*

A ditch (17), oriented north-east to south-west was dated to 12th to 13th century. This ditch is the latest cut in the north-west corner of Trench 1. In section it could be clearly seen truncating the two earlier ditches, (16 and 18). This ditch is broadly contemporary with ditch 50/56 on the same alignment recorded within the excavation area.

A pit or tree throw (1) was irregular and shallow. Most of the feature had been truncated leaving only the base. The large number of pottery sherds recovered are unlikely to be found in a tree throw and an interpretation as a pit base is more likely.

Cut 15 was a ditch oriented north-east to south-west, the purpose of this feature is unclear. It may be connected to road construction or maintenance after the ditch sequence had gone out of use.

## 6 DISCUSSION

Investigations have revealed the survival of archaeological features within the development area of the New Vicarage. Features identified represent at least four phases of activity, the third being securely dated to the 13th to mid 14th century. A number of undated features were also recorded, some or all of which are also likely to have been medieval in date.

The features themselves were mostly ditches and are likely to be remnants of boundaries relating to properties or plots of land which may have extended from the current High Street to the north-west. All of the ditches identified in the excavation are roughly on a parallel alignment with the High Street, on a north-east to south-west orientation. Although dating evidence was scarce, it appears that activity on the site spanned more than four centuries. The inter-cutting features represent boundary marking activity, probably associated with demarcation of plots of land fronting the High Street.

Trench 1 of the evaluation on the site (Mortimer and Phillips, 2004) identified much earlier activity. Postholes and a ditch represented settlement activity from the 10th-11th century. Although the trench was relatively close to the current investigation area, the northern end is significantly closer to the High Street. What this may suggest is that there has been continuous occupation on the site, set back from the High Street, spanning four centuries. What is also apparent is that the later activity from the 13th-mid 14th century is set further back. This provides evidence to suggest that boundaries were shifted further back from the High Street by this time, and the scarcity of finds from the later ditches may indicate a shift away from the settlement core. The only possible suggestion of settlement found during the excavation was pit/well 48. Only a small amount of pottery was recovered from its fill however, and more domestic waste would be expected from a domestic pit or back-filled well.

The discovery of boundary activity relating to the 13th-mid 14th century is contemporary with the development of St Andrews Church and the potential shift of the settlement focus from the Church End/Rosemary Lane area to the north to the area surrounding the church. The existence of the later features in the excavation, alongside the mainly 10th to 12th century remains in the evaluation may indicate a shift from settlement-related activity to enclosure activity in this part of the parish by the 13th-mid 14th century.

A fenceline, represented by four postholes, is believed to date to 18th century. This line appears to run at a right angle to the High Street, possibly marking a boundary, or part of a timber structure. Further investigation is required to substantiate this claim. Four aligned postholes were also identified within Trench 1 of the evaluation. These were dated again by a single sherd, and although on a slightly different alignment, may represent an earlier boundary.

Soil samples were taken during the evaluation and excavation stages of investigation and taken back to the AFU for processing and analysis. The samples revealed that preservation on the site was generally very poor and that modern contaminants, mostly from rootlets were present in almost all samples. The analysis of the samples did however identify that crops of barley, wheat and rye were utilised on site, and with wheat being the predominantly used crop. However, as only a relatively small quantity of crop specimens were retrieved, it is unlikely that they were being grown on site and were either wind-blown or imported to the site for use in domestic cooking.

Only a small quantity of animal bone was retrieved from the site; this was mainly from small and medium sized mammals with no evidence of butchery practice. This suggests if there was a nearby settlement, animal bone and other associated domestic waste was disposed of in specifically dug waste pits and that the bone retrieved was a result of natural waste accumulating within abandoned ditches.

The pottery vessels recovered on the site indicate a small domestic assemblage with no evidence of local manufacturing.



*Plate 4. Excavation Area, facing south-east*

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

Investigations at the site of the New Vicarage, Cherry Hinton have identified the survival of archaeological features of early to middle medieval date, representing activity spanning up to four hundred years. The work has identified the survival of boundaries or property plots maintained from the 10th through to the 13th century, which possibly shifted away from the road frontage in the 13th-mid 14th century. This boundary system may represent the demarcation of plots which may relate to properties or fields systems backing on to the medieval High Street. The results when compared to those of the evaluation appear to indicate a shift in boundaries. The relative diminishing concentration of finds also suggests extensions of plots away from the potential settlement core.

To understand fully how these boundaries worked and fitted into the immediate environment would require further investigation. Trench 2 of the evaluation, which was located 15m to the south-west of the excavation area contained one modern feature, suggesting that there is little evidence of any continuation of surviving archaeological features set much further back from the High Street.

A substantial amount of knowledge has been gathered in recent years as a result of the archaeological work which has been undertaken in the Cherry Hinton area. However, most of the earlier work has concentrated in the north of the parish, around the Church End (McDonald & Doel 2000, Cessford and Mortimer 2004) and Coldhams Lane area (Kenney 2000). Despite the small area investigated preventing broad interpretation of medieval Cherry Hinton, this investigation has been highly significant in recognising activity from the early to middle medieval period. This excavation allowed work to be carried out in an area that has been mostly lost through early 20th-century residential development.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## APPENDIX 1. Finds Quantification Table

Context	Material	Object Name	Weight in kg	Comments
2	Organic	Bone	0.04	
2	Ceramic	Vessel	0.18	
2	Shell		0.03	Mussel
5	Ceramic	Vessel	0.07	
7	Organic	Bone	0.01	
7	Flint		0.01	
7	Ceramic	Vessel	0.52	
7	Shell		0.00	Mussel
8	Organic	Bone	0.04	
8	Flint		0.00	
8	Ceramic	Vessel	0.03	
8	Shell		0.00	Mussel
9	Ceramic	Vessel	0.01	
10	Organic	Bone	0.00	
10	Ceramic	Vessel	0.08	
12	Flint		0.00	
14	Cinder		0.00	
14	Organic	Bone	0.00	
14	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.01	
14	Shell		0.00	Snail
23	Fired clay		0.00	
23	Organic	Bone	0.01	
23	Flint		0.00	
25	Fired clay		0.03	
25	Organic	Bone	0.09	
25	Ceramic	Vessel	0.39	
25	Shell		0.01	Mussel
26	Ceramic	Vessel	0.15	
27	Ceramic	Vessel	0.30	
28	Ceramic	Vessel	0.30	
28	Stone	Whetstone	0.06	SF 2
36	Ceramic	Vessel	0.14	
38	Ceramic	Vessel	0.00	
47	Ceramic	Vessel	0.07	
49	Organic	Bone	0.01	
49	Ceramic	Vessel	0.02	
49	Shell		0.01	Oyster
55	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.02	
55	Organic	Bone	0.01	
55	Ceramic	Vessel	0.05	
59	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.00	
63	Ceramic	Vessel	0.00	
67	Flint		0.00	
67	Organic	Bone	0.03	



APPENDIX 2. Context Table

Context	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Length	Width	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Thickness/ Extent	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Profile
1		1	1	cut	pit		0.9	0.55	0.15						irregular	imperceptible	gradual	irregular		complex
2		1	1	fill	pit		0	0.55	0.15	grey	clayey silt	occasional irregular pebbles, one cobble, one medium sized flint	compact	0.15m thick						
3				topsoil			0		0.2	very dark brown	silty loam									
4				plough soil			0		0.4	pale grey brown	chalky silty loam	occasional gravel and calk fragments	compact							
5				subsoil			0		0.12	mid greyish brown	chalky silt		compact							
6		17	1	fill	ditch	disuse	0		0.15	pale-mid grey	re-deposited chalk in a silt matrix									
7		17	1	fill	ditch	disuse	0		0.25	mid grey	clayey silt	occasional charcoal and gravel, very occasional chalk fragments	compact							
89		17	1	fill	ditch	disuse	0		0.2	mid grey	clayey silt	occasional charcoal and gravel, very occasional chalk fragments								
98							0													
10		16	1	fill	ditch	disuse	0		0.2	mid-dark grey	clayey silt	few inclusions	loose							
11		11	2	cut	post hole		0	0.65	0.3						sub-circular	steep, partially stepped	sharp, gradual at one end	flat		complex
12		11	2	fill	post hole use		0	0.3	0.2	light greyish brown	sandy, clayey silt	occasional coarse pebbles and chalk, moderate fine pebbles and chalk fragments	compact	0.2m thick surrounding g postpipe						
13		11	2	fill	post hole		0	0.2	0.2	light greyish brown	clayey silt	occasional angular pebbles, moderate fine chalk fragments	loose							

Context	Same as Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Length	Width	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Thickness/ Extent	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Profile	
14	11	2 fill		post hole		0	0.4	0.1	brownish grey	clayey silt	occasional angular pebbles, moderate fine pebbles	loose								
15	15	1 cut		ditch		0	0.2							linear	gently sloping, stepped	truncated	truncated	NE-SW		
16	16	1 cut		ditch		0	0.7	0.4						linear	steep	gradual	concave	NE-SW		
17	17	1 cut		ditch		0		0.55						linear	gently sloping	gradual	flat	NE-SW	wide, flat bottomed U.	
18	18	1 cut		ditch		0		0.35												
19		1 topsoil				0		0.25	dark brown	silty loam	pea grit									
20	15	1 layer		ditch		0		0.2	mid grey	slightly clayey silt	occasional gravel and chalk fragments	compact								
21	16	1 fill		ditch	disuse	0		0.15	grey and white	redeposited chalk in clayey silt matrix		loose								
22		weathered 1 natural				0		0.2		redeposited chalk										
23	18	1 fill		ditch	disuse	0		0.15	pale-mid grey	clayey silt	very occasional gravel	very compact								
24	18	1 fill		ditch	disuse	0		0.2	pale grey	fine chalky silt	occasional gravel	compact								
25	29	1 fill		ditch	disuse	0	1.1	0.4	mid brown with chalky flecks	sandy silt	occasional-moderate pottery, occasional bone, occasional flint chunks	Moderate	0.4m thick/upper fill							

Context	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Length	Width	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Thickness/Extent	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Profile
26	29	1 fill		ditch	disuse	0	0.84	0.34	0.34	light brown with lumps of redeposited chalk	chalky clay	occasional pot, occasional flint inclusions	compact	0.34m thick/stretches across ditch						
27	29	1 fill		ditch	disuse	0	0.38	0.22	0.22	blackish brown	sandy silt	one piece of pot	moderate	0.22m thick						
28	29	1 fill		ditch	use	0	0.8	0.28	0.28	mostly white and some grey	redeposited chalk in a grey silt matrix	several pieces of pot, occasional flint chunks, occasional charcoal.	compact	0.28m thick						
29	29	1 cut		ditch	palisade	1.6	1.1	0.96	0.96						linear	vertical	sharp	flat with a channel running down the middle	NE-SW	
30						0														
31	31	1 cut		post hole		0.3	0.25	0.08	0.08		clayey silt		loose		sub-circular	concave	sharp	flat		flat based U
32	31	1 fill		post hole		0	0.25	0.08	0.08	mid grey										
33	33	1 cut		post hole		0.3	0.23	0.05	0.05		clayey silt		loose		sub-circular	concave	sharp	flat		flat based U
34	33	1 fill		post hole		0	0.23	0.05	0.05	mid grey										
35	35	1 cut		post hole		0.4	0.28	0.15	0.15		clayey silt		loose		sub-circular	steep	gradual	concave		flat based U
36	35	1 fill		post hole		0	0.28	0.15	0.15	mid grey										
37	37	1 cut		shallow ditch		4.2	0.2	0.01	0.01						linear	imperceptible	imperceptible	flat	E-W	
38	37	1 fill		shallow ditch										0.01m thick, one bit 0.03m thick						
39	40	1 fill		post hole		0	0.3	0.03	0.03	blackish grey	sandy silt		moderate	0.03m thick						
40	40	1 cut		post hole		0.3	0.3	0.03	0.03						circular	imperceptible	imperceptible	concave		
41	42	1 fill		ditch	disuse	0	0.7	0.15	0.15	greyish brown	silt		moderate							
42	42	cut		ditch	disuse	0	0.7	0.15	0.15						linear	gently sloping	imperceptible	flattish	NW-SE	shallow U
43	44	fill		post hole	disuse	0	0.26	0.16	0.16	greyish brown	silt		loose	0.16m thick						

Context	Same as	Cut Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Length	Width	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Thickness/Extent	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Profile
44		44	cut	post hole		0	0.26	0.16						square with rounded corners	steep	sharp	flat		U shaped
45		46	fill	post hole	disuse	0	0.3	0.2	brownish grey	silt	redeposited chalk	moderate	0.2m thick/only fill						
46		46	cut	post hole		0	0.3	0.2			rare charcoal flecks, occasional flint pebbles, rare-occasional pottery (10-15 sherds)			sub-circular	steep	sharp	flat		U shaped
47		48	fill	well	disuse	0	0.85	0.96	brownish grey	silt		moderate-compact							
48		48	cut	well	use	0	0.85	0.96			occasional small-medium sized stones, moderate chalk flecks and very slightly lumps, frequent clayey silt					not fully excavated	not fully excavated		
49		50	fill	ditch	disuse	0	1.78	0.34	dark greyish brown		occasional small-medium sized stones, moderate chalk flecks and very slightly lumps, frequent plant roots	very, very compacted	0.34m thick/only fill						
50		50	cut	ditch	boundary	1.1	1.78	0.34									flat with some indulations		shallow, flat bottom
51		52	fill	ditch	disuse	0	0.3	0.1	light greyish brown	silty clay	small stones	soft-moderate	0.3m thick	linear	steep, shallow	moderately abrupt		ENE-WSW	
52		52	cut	ditch	boundary	1	0.3	0.1									flattish	W-E	U shaped
53		54	fill	ditch	disuse	0	0.52	0.19	mid greyish brown	silt	chalk nodules-possibly redeposited	soft-moderate	0.19m thick						
54		54	cut	ditch	boundary	1	0.52	0.19						linear	angular to concave	sharp to top and bottom	concave	NNE-SSW	V shaped



Context	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Length	Width	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Thickness/Extent	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Profile	
67		68		fill	ditch	disuse	0	0.75	0.15	mid greyish brown	silty clay with chalk nodules	small stones	moderate		linear	concave	gradual	concave	E-W	U shaped	
68		68		cut	ditch	boundary	1	0.75	0.15	mid-dark greyish brown		redeposited chalk and charcoal in a band, small stones	moderate	0.26m thick/only fill							
69		70		fill	ditch	disuse	0	0.95	0.26		silty clay		moderate			concave	sharp to top, gradual to base	concave	W-E	flat bottomed U	
70		70		cut	ditch	modern boundary	1	0.95	0.26												
71		73		fill	ditch	backfilling	0	0.84	0.17	whitesih grey	chalk	redeposited natural	moderate	0.17m thick 0.09m thick/lower fill		linear					
72		73		fill	ditch	disuse	0	0.65	0.09	light greyish brown	silt	some lumps of redeposited chalk	moderate								flat bottomed U
73		73		cut	ditch	boundary	1	0.84	0.26							linear	gently sloping	gradual	flat	NE-SW	
74		76		fill	ditch	disuse	0	0.48	0.17	greyish brown	silt	rare flint pebbles	moderate	0.17m thick/upper fill 0.15m thick/lower fill							
75		76		fill	ditch	disuse	0	0.35	0.15	whitesih grey with greyish brown inclusions	redeposited chalk and silt	rare flint pebbles	moderate								
76		76		cut	ditch	boundary	1.4	0.48	0.29						linear	steep	gradual	concave	E-W	U shaped	

## **APPENDIX 3. Pottery Report**

Carole Fletcher

### **METHODOLOGY**

The basic guidance in the Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2) has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991). In addition the Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents Guidance for the processing and publication of medieval pottery from excavations (Blake and Davey 1983), A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms (MPRG 1998) and Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics (MPRG 2001) act as a standard.

Spot dating was carried out using the AFU's in-house system based on that used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. Sherds warranting possible illustration have been flagged, as have possible cross-fits.

All the pottery has been spot dated on a context-by-context basis and subsequently fully quantified. This information was entered directly onto a full quantification database (Access 2000).

The pottery and archive are curated by the AFU until formal deposition.

### **QUANTITY AND DATE RANGE OF MATERIAL**

The fieldwork generated a small assemblage of 36 sherds of pottery, weighing 0.151 kg. The main periods represented in the assemblage are early medieval and high medieval with the date of most material falling within the mid 12th to mid 14th century bracket, with seven sherds being more closely dated to 11th or 12th century. In addition there are four Late Saxon or early post-Conquest sherds. There is very little post-medieval material within the assemblage: only one such sherd was identified consisting of a single sherd of glazed white earthenware.

The medieval fabrics were recovered from three contexts, and among those fabrics identified are Essex Micaceous Sandy wares (ESMIC), Sible Hedingham ware (HEDI) and two sherds of medieval Ely type ware (MELT). In addition to this three sherds of St Neots ware and seven sherds of Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy wares (EMEMS) were also recovered.

## PROVENANCE AND CONTAMINATION

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

General provenance	% of assemblage by count	% of assemblage by weight
Cambridgeshire	6	16
Essex	77	69
Hunts. / Beds.	11	8
Staffordshire	3	2
Unknown	3	5

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

The dominance of Essex pottery can clearly be seen, this dominance spanning the entire date range of the assemblage. Much of the Essex material can be considered to be coarse wares and as such fulfil the needs of a household for storage, cooking and some serving vessels. The single sherd from a HEDI jug provides the only evidence of fine wares in this assemblage. Contamination of this assemblage is light, with few residual sherds, the St Neots sherds are contemporary with the EMEMS sherds and are not thought to be residual. The single sherd of white earthenware is not intrusive as it was recovered from a posthole that formed part of a modern fence line.

## 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, no pottery has been recovered.

## CONDITION

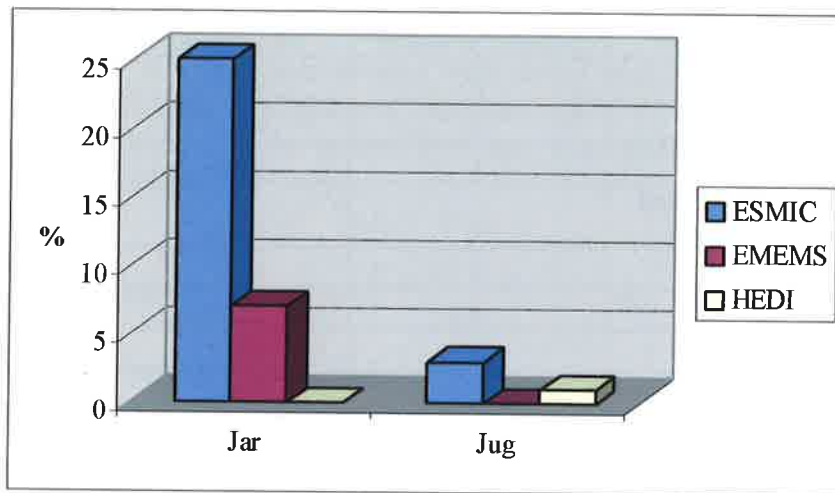
The assemblage is small with an average sherd weight of approximately 0.004 kg. Statistical analysis is not viable on an assemblage of this size. The majority of the early and high medieval material was manufactured in Essex with only a small amount of material supplied from other areas. Almost all of the material is moderately abraded to 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.



## FUNCTIONAL ASSEMBLAGE

The vessel types represented in the assemblage are mainly coarse ware jars. The early medieval material consists of seven sherds of EMEMS, and the medieval fabrics include a single sherd from a HEDI jug, a rim sherd from a ESMIC ware jar, and body sherds from two or more other ESMIC ware jars were also recovered. The abraded St Neots ware sherds could not be assigned a vessel type. Almost half of the assemblage could not be assigned to a vessel type although the assemblage appears to be domestic.



*Figure 1: Vessel type for post-Roman assemblage by fabric as a percentage of the whole assemblage (by weight kg)*

## 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 of food. There are very few table vessels as demonstrated in Fig.1 and these are only present in high medieval fabrics.

The pottery from the excavation of the building footprint is slightly later in date than that recovered from the earlier evaluation of the surrounding area, suggesting that the site was continuously occupied from Late Saxon period onwards.

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Medieval Pottery Research Group, 1998, *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Res. Group Occas. Pap. 1

Context	Fabric	Number of sherds	Weight in kg	Spot dating
47	ESMIC	8	0.030	13th – mid 14th century
	NEOT	2	0.007	
	SW	1	0.008	
	EMEMS Shell Dusted	1	0.004	
	MEL	2	0.024	
49	ESMIC	4	0.019	13th – mid 14th century
	HEDI	1	0.002	
	NEOT	1	0.003	
55	ESMIC	8	0.028	13th – mid 14th century
	NEOT	1	0.002	
	EMEMS	3	0.015	
	EMEMS Shell Dusted	3	0.006	
63	White Earthenware	1	0.003	18 <sup>th</sup> Century

Table 2: Pottery Quantification

## APPENDIX 4. Environment Appraisal

Rachel Fosberry

### INTRODUCTION AND METHODS

Nine Samples were taken across the site; five were taken during the evaluation (two were subsequently discarded) and a further four in the excavation. Ten litres of each sample were processed by bucket flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 1mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 1.

### RESULTS

The results are recorded on Table 1.

Preservation is by charring and is generally poor. All of the samples from the evaluation contain fragments of mussel shells and also fragments of charred cereal grains that were mostly abraded and poorly preserved. A rodent lower mandible was recovered from Sample 5. The residues from the excavation (Samples 6-9) did not contain any artefacts at all. Modern contaminants in the form of rootlets are present in all of the samples. Very few weed seeds are present. Samples 6, 8 and 9 all contained moderate quantities of a tiny seed (1mm) which has been tentatively identified as *Cerastium* sp (mouse-ear). Charcoal fragments are present in most samples in varying quantities.

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Sample 4 (Context 28) contains grains of barley, wheat and rye indicating that all three crops were utilised on site. Samples 1 (Context 23) and 5 (Context 2) contain mainly wheat grains suggesting that this was the predominant cereal. The absence of wood charcoal in Sample 4 indicates that if this feature did contain a post, it certainly was not burnt *in-situ*. Sample 6 was initially interpreted as a well, although the plant remains recovered were not waterlogged as might be expected in such a feature. The weed seeds recovered include charred *Gallium aparine* (cleaver) seed that would have been a sticky burr that could have been brought into site on clothing and *Leucanthemum vulgare* (Ox-eye daisy).

The presence of charred grains shows that there is potential for the recovery of plant remains from this site, although the lack of weed seeds limits the amount of interpretation of the features sampled.

Sample Number	Context Number	Feature Type	Sample Size	Area	Method	Volume processed	Comments	Flot Volume (ml)	Weed Seeds	Charcoal <2mm	Small animal bones	Marine molluscs	Other (from residue; mussel shell fragments)
1	23	ditch	10	Trench 1	Bucket flotation	10	Flot contains numerous modern rootlets and a few very poorly preserved fragments of wheat grains. No weed seeds.	45		+		+	mussel shell fragments
4	28	post pit/post trench	10	Trench 1	Bucket flotation	10	Flot contains grains of barley, wheat and rye. Preservation is variable; best preserved is barley	20		+		+	mussel shell fragments
5	2	pit	10	Trench 1	Bucket flotation	10	Flot contains numerous modern rootlets and a few very poorly preserved fragments of wheat grains. A single charred Gallium aparine seed is present.	0	+	+	+	+	mussel shell fragments and rodent lower mandible
6	47	pit/well	10	Excavation	Bucket flotation	10	Flot contains very fragmented and poorly preserved wheat grains. Weed seeds include Leucanthemum vulgare and un-id tiny seed	15	++	+	-	-	-
7	59	ditch	10	Excavation	Bucket flotation	10	Flot contains molluscs only	35	-	+	-	-	-
8	49	ditch	10	Excavation	Bucket flotation	10	Flot contains very fragmented and poorly preserved wheat grains and un-id tiny seed	15	+	+	-	-	-
9	67	ditch	10	Excavation	Bucket flotation	10	Flot contains very fragmented and poorly preserved wheat grains and un-id tiny seed	25	+	+	-	-	-

Table 1: Environmental Remains

Key: + = 1-10 specimens  
 ++ = 11-100 specimens



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County Council

Education, Libraries  
and Heritage

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