



Archaeological Field Unit

**Manor House, Ginton, Cambridgeshire:
An Archaeological Evaluation**

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April 2005

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. 795

Commissioned by Mr. S. Whitton

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SUMMARY

Between the 21st and 25th February 2005 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Manor House, Glinton (TF 1563 0605), by staff of the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council. The proposed development includes the construction of residential houses. A Brief was issued by Ben Robinson of the Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.

Trench 1 revealed post-medieval occupation relating to the Manor House while Trench 2 revealed post-medieval features with a residual medieval component. Trench 3 revealed a posthole and a number of ditches which may be medieval in origin. Trench 4 revealed a number of postholes some of which contained medieval pottery, suggesting the presence of medieval buildings in the development area. No archaeological features were encountered in Trench 5.

The evaluation has made a useful contribution to current knowledge of Glinton. The medieval features identified may aid understanding the nature of the development of the village during the medieval period.

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Drawing Conventions

Sections	Plans
Limit of Excavation	Limit of Excavation
Cut	Deposit - Conjectured
Cut - Conjectured	Natural Features
Soil Horizon	Intrusion/Truncation
Soil Horizon - Conjectured	Sondages/Machine Strip
Intrusion/Truncation	Illustrated Section
Top of Natural	Archaeological feature
Top Surface	Excavated slots
Break in Section	Modern feature
Cut Number	Stone
Deposit Number 117	Cut Number 118
Ordnance Datum $\frac{18.45m}{X}$ ODN	

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Manor House,
Glinton, Cambridgeshire
(TF 1563 0605)**

1 INTRODUCTION

Between the 21st and 25th February 2005 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Manor House, Glinton, Cambridgeshire (TF 1563 0605) by staff of the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council. The proposed development includes the demolition of farm buildings and construction of eleven Houses. The project was commissioned by Jefferson Sheard Architects on behalf of Mr. Stuart Whitton. A Brief was issued by Ben Robinson of the Peterborough Archaeology Office.

The objective of this evaluation was to identify activities associated with the medieval manor house and provide information about the overall development of the village.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

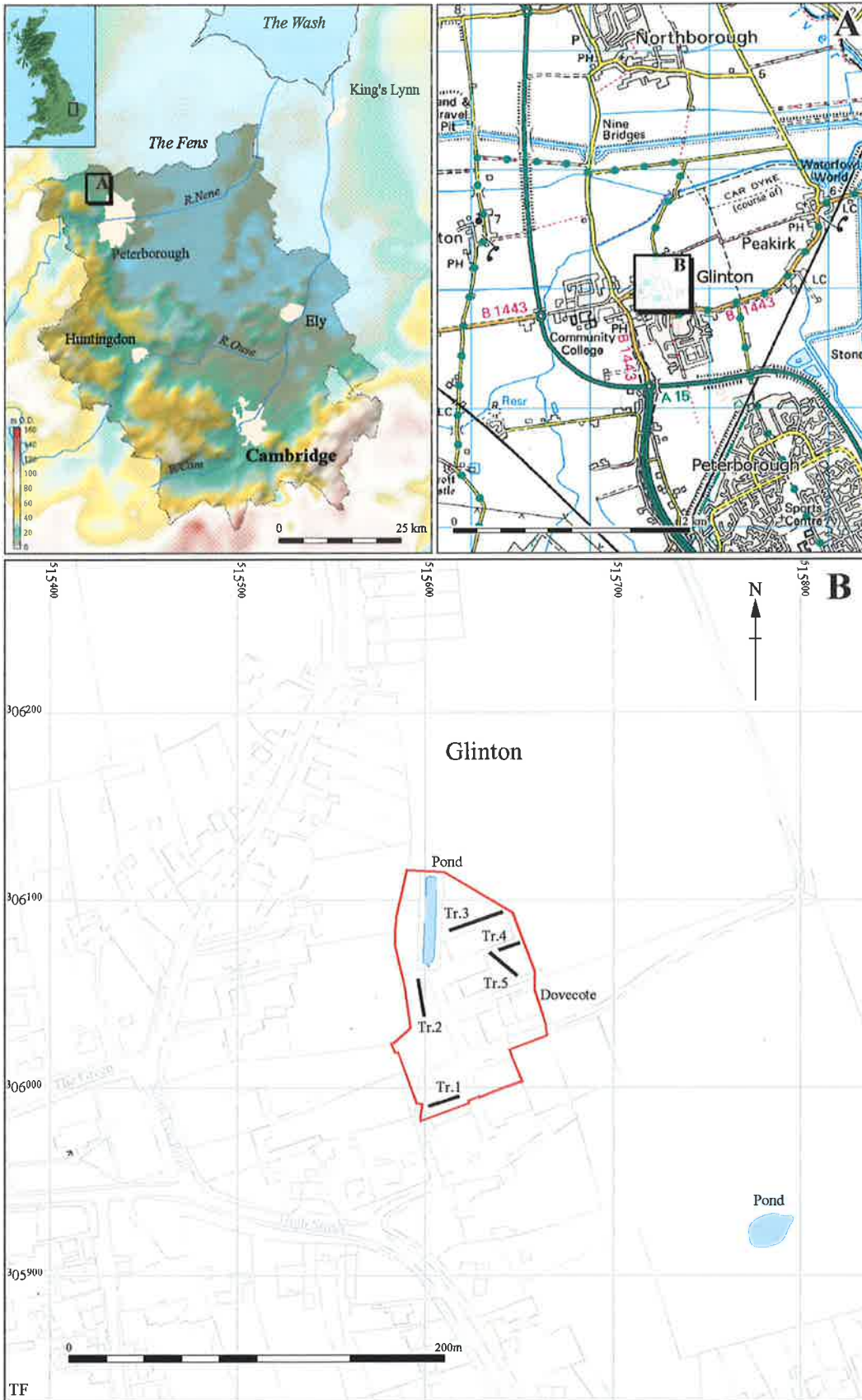
The geology of the site is second terrace gravels overlying Oxford clay and Kellaways sand. The surrounding area is generally flat and has been heavily canalised in the past. The site lies at approximately 9m OD.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval remains are recorded in the Peterborough City Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for the surrounding area although there is nothing recorded for the immediate vicinity of the site.

Cropmarks indicating Iron Age and Roman settlements are visible to the north of the village and to the south-east. Roman Car Dyke runs just over a kilometre to the north-east and east of the site. Roman pottery and a quern has been found along Peakirk Road, less than 300m south of the development site. Roman and Iron Age pottery has also been found approximately 400m to the south.

Anglo-Saxon pottery has been found in the village and also 800m to the east of the development site.



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Figure 1 Location of trenches with the development area outlined (red)

Glington is mentioned in the Domesday survey as a holding of Peterborough Abbey and of three of the Abbey's knights (Page, 1908). It appears to be large settlement in the 11th century with meadow, woodlands, two mills and two female slaves among the assets mentioned.

Medieval remains from the vicinity include the church which was built in the 12th century and modified in the 14th and 15th centuries. Evidence for medieval agriculture is evident in the fields surrounding the village as lanes and ridge and furrow. Documentary records indicate that the manor of Glington was among the riches of Peterborough Abbey's holdings.

The site contains a post-medieval dovecote which is square with a pyramidal roof. This dovecote dates to the 18th century. A re-used date stone of 1594 has been inserted on the west face.

The manor farmhouse may have been built between 1620-30, its curved gables are reminiscent of the beginning of the 17th century, while the pediment over the front door is late 17th century.

Cartographic Evidence

The 1886 first edition Ordnance Survey map depicts a large range of farmyard buildings associated with the Manor House. More importantly this map pinpoints the current dovecote northeast of the Manor House.

4 METHODOLOGY

A mechanical excavator (with 1.6m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket) was used to excavate five trenches under archaeological supervision (Trenches 1-5). A total of 95m of trench was excavated, a c.5% sample of the site. The trenches were planned at 1:50 and sections drawn at 1:20. All features and deposits were recorded using the AFU single context system. Each distinct cut, fill and layer was allocated an individual number. In the following text cut numbers are presented in **bold** and deposit numbers in plain text.

Monochrome and colour and digital photographs were taken. In addition a building survey(Appendix 3) was undertaken as part of the evaluation.

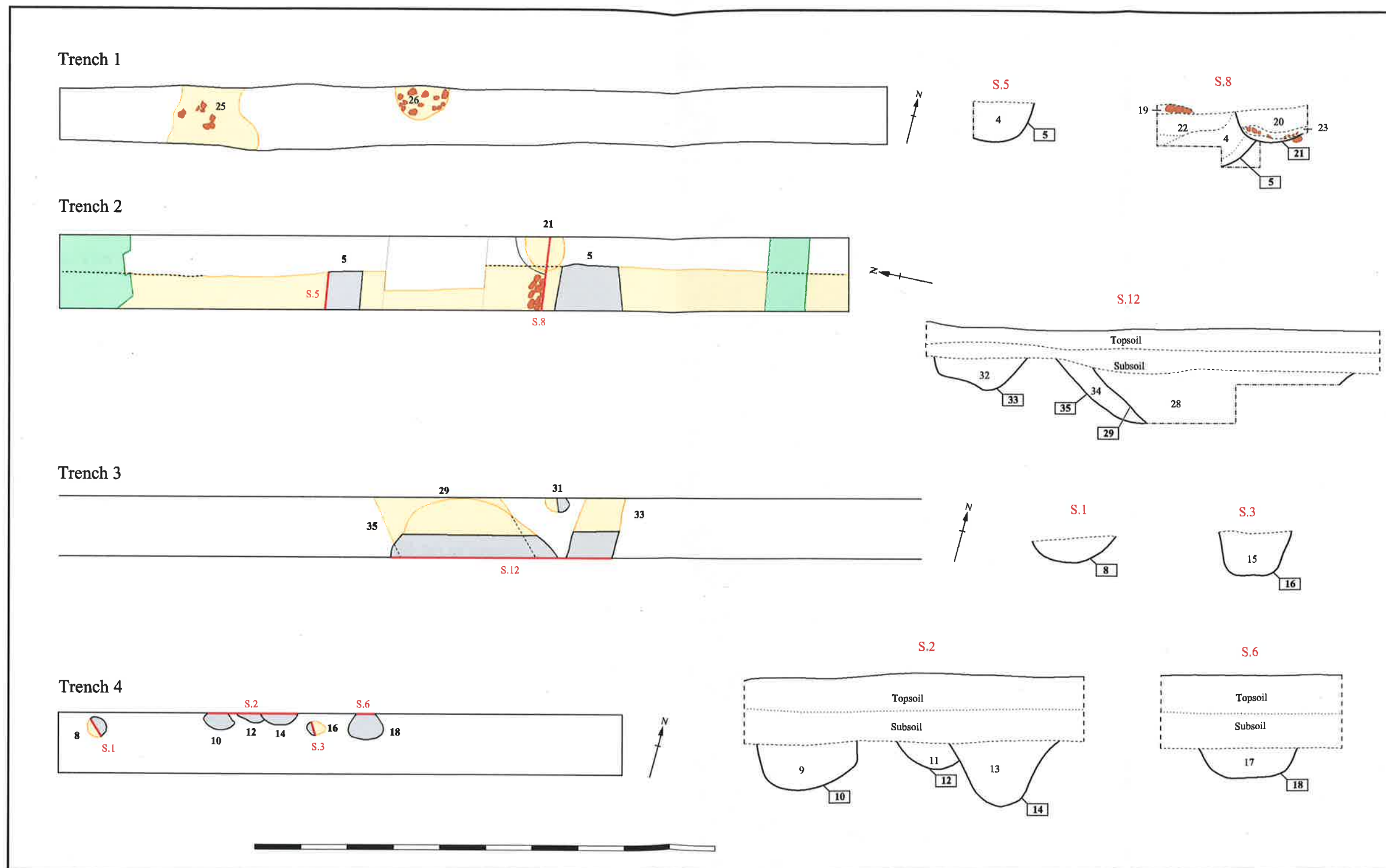


Figure 2 Plan and section drawings.

5 RESULTS

Evaluation has demonstrated the presence of medieval remains in Trenches 2, 3 and 4. The most significant findings of the evaluation were the presence of medieval pits and postholes in Trench 4. Other remains include post-medieval pits and ditches in Trenches 1, 3 and 4.

Across the development area the topsoil was a dark greyish brown silty clay which varied in depth from 0.20-0.50m. Subsoil was a dark brownish clay silty clay which varied in depth from 0.25-0.40m across the site.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

Trench 1 was 17m long and 0.65m deep and located on an east-west alignment.

In the western part of trench two areas of dumped material were identified deposits (25 and 26). Layer 25 was a yellowish grey silt with a frequent amount of worked Barnack stone and gravel. Layer 26 was a yellowish grey silty sand with a frequent amount of limestone cobbles.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

Trench 2 was 20m long 1.1m deep and located on a north-south alignment.

The earliest activity located was feature (5) which ran on a north-south alignment and was over 20m long. It contained a single fill (4) of greyish brown silty clay that was 0.4m deep and contained fragments of modern pottery, bird bone and a piece of stone roof tile. This feature represents either a foundation trench or a pond/water lain type feature.

In the centre of the trench pit (21) truncated the earlier feature (5). The pit was 0.70m wide and 0.38m deep and contained two fills 20 and 23. Fill 20 was a dark greyish silty clay which contained no artefacts. Fill 23 was brown silty clay which contained no artefacts.

Layer 22 may represent foundation material for a cobbled surface (19) located in the centre of the site. Layer 19 contained fragments of post-medieval brick, a single sherd of medieval pottery and an iron nail.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was 30m long 1.1m deep and located on a north-west to south-east alignment. In the northern end of trench a number of features were identified. Ditch 33 ran on a north-south alignment and was 0.85m wide and 0.35m deep.

Cutting into ditch **35** was pit (**29**) measuring 1.25m wide and 0.30m deep. It contained a single fill (28) which comprised a grey clayey silt. This rubbish pit produced 13 sherds of medieval pottery, two fragments of post-medieval brick, fragments of window fittings and over 23 fragments of bone from cattle, pig and bird.

Ditch **35** was 2.50m wide and 0.40 deep and contained a single fill (34) of pale grey silty gravel. Roman pottery (a Nene Valley colour coated sherd) and medieval pottery and a single fragment of animal bone were recovered from the fill.

Ditch **33** was 1.01m wide and 0.38m deep and contained a single fill (32) of a grey silty clay.

To the south of ditch **33** was a post hole (**31**) which was 0.4m wide and 0.20m deep and contained a single dark grey silty fill 30.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was 11.50m long and 0.60m deep and was located on an east-west alignment. A number of pits and postholes were identified in the centre and the west end of the trench. At the western end of the trench a posthole **8** was revealed which measured 0.40m wide and 0.12m deep. It contained a single fill 7 of mid grey silty clay.

Adjacent to two intercutting pits (**12** and **14**) was another pit (**10**). Pit **10** was 0.52m wide and 0.30m deep and contained a single fill 9. Fill 9 was a mid grey silty clay which contained no artefacts. Pit **14** truncated pit **12**.

Pit **12** was 0.30m wide and 0.14m deep and contained a single fill 11 of mid grey silty clay which produced no finds.

Pit **14** was 0.53m wide and 0.35m deep and contained a single fill 13 of mid grey silty clay which contained Saxo-Norman pottery dated to 900-1150.

Pits **16** was 0.35m wide and 0.30m deep and contained a single fill 15 of mid grey silty clay which contained a small fragment of animal bone.

Pits **18** was 0.55m wide and 0.15m deep and contained a single fill 17 of mid grey silty clay.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was 19m long 0.70m deep and ran on an east-west alignment. No archaeological features were uncovered in this trench.

6 INTERPRETATION

Trench 1

Trench 1 revealed two deposits that were post-medieval in date and may relate to the 17th century outbuildings of the Manor House.

Trench 2

Cut 5 may represent either a foundation cut for a building or possibly some kind of water lain feature. It appears to have been truncated by a pit 21 which contained animal remains.

Trench 3

Trench 3 revealed a posthole, and a number of ditches which maybe medieval or post-medieval in origin. The presence of postholes again indicated that timber medieval buildings are present within the development area.

Trench 4

Trench 4 revealed a number of postholes and pits which maybe medieval or post-medieval in origin. The presence of postholes suggests that timber medieval buildings maybe present within the development area.

7 CONCLUSION

The objective of the project was to establish the character, date, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological remains within the site.

The most notable observation to emerge from the results of the evaluation was the presence of medieval pottery in Trenches 3 and 4 (Appendix 2).

The low density of medieval finds and features encountered within the evaluation is surprising considering the site is located close to a medieval manor house.

Ceramic evidence suggests we have activity ranging from the Saxo-Norman period through to the post medieval.

The results of the building survey indicate there was only one main phase of construction. The outer shell consisted courses of Barnack stone and appears to be of one phase. The interior brickwork appears to be 17th or 18th century in date. The quoins and the date stone may have originated from an earlier phase of the Manor House.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Jefferson Sheard Architects, who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Judith Roberts. The illustrations were drawn by Crane Begg. The Brief for archaeological works was written by Ben Robinson, of County Archaeology Office.

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Maps Consulted

1880 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map Sheet XXX.16

APPENDIX 1:THE FINDS

Context	Material	Quantity	Context date
2	ceramic bone ceramic stone	2 body sherds 1 large mammal rib fragment brick fragment 16th-18th century 1 roof tile fragment	16-18th century
4	ceramic bone stone	5 sherds of modern plate (post-1800) 1 fragment bird bone 1 fragment roof tile	modern
7	bone	1 small indeterminate fragment	
13	ceramic	4 sherds	900-1150
15	bone	1 small indeterminate fragment	
19	iron ceramic ceramic	square sectioned nail brick fragment 16-18th century 1 rim sherd 1200-1400	16-18th century
25	lead ceramic stone	window came 1 large fragment modern brick 4 fragments roof tile	modern
28	iron ceramic ceramic bone	fragments of window fittings 13 sherds medieval pottery 1150-1350 2 fragments modern brick 23 fragments animal bone (cattle, pig and bird)	modern
32	bone	1 scapula fragment - large mammal, 2 indeterminate fragments	
34	ceramic bone	1 sherd Nene Valley colour coated 1 sherd medieval shelly ware 1 large mammal foot bone	medieval

APPENDIX 2: POST-ROMAN POTTERY

By Carole Fletcher BA

Quantity and date range of material

The fieldwork generated a very small assemblage of pottery from six contexts.

Condition

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.

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.

Context	Sherds		Pottery	Context date
2	2		Medieval shelly ware and late medieval glazed red ware	Late mediaeval
4	4			post-1800
13	4		Stamford ware	900-1150
19	1			1200-1400
28			Stamford ware and Thetford ware	1150-1350
34	1		Medieval Lincolnshire fine shelly ware	

APPENDIX 3 BUILDING SURVEY

Introduction

On the 8th March 2005 a Dovecote (SMR No 005125) (Tf 156O63) within the grounds of Glinton Manor House was recorded by Spencer Cooper of the AFU Cambridgeshire County Council. This was in accordance with a brief issued by Ben Robinson of the Peterborough Archaeology Office. The Dovecote is located to the north east of the Manor House.

The Glinton Dovecote is an 18th century large square building consisting of coursed regular unhewn Barnack stone with ashlar quoins. It is believed that the roof was hipped with slate. The doorway is straight headed with a stone lintel. A reused date stone of 1594 AD is present on the western face. The state of the building is good with the roof missing and details concerning the windows and door missing. Three sides of the building were clearly visible for recording; the northern side having been obscured by a modern barn.

Condition

The building is generally in good condition with all four walls surviving up to the height of 5m. The roof is believed to have fallen down in 1975 (Jeevar, P, 1976)

Methodology

The dovecote and wall were examined and a photographic record was made in accordance with RCHME 'Level 2' Guidelines, 1982.

Materials

The principal building material is hewn Barnack stone used in the majority of regular courses. Worked ashlar Barnack stone used for the quoins. At the very top of the building are several courses of red hand made bricks. Remnants of wooden roof timbers survive at the top of the building. The interior nesting boxes are made of red handmade bricks

Building Description

General

The dovecote measures 6.10m by 6.10m with a southern entrance and two windows present on southern and western side.

South Façade

The south façade is 6.10m wide and 7m high and consists of regular coursed Barnack stone with flush quoins. Many of the quoins appear to be reused possibly originating as moulded lintels for the Manor House. Over 67 courses of Barnack stone are present with the average dimensions of stone measuring 0.30m by 0.13m.

The doorway is located in the centre of the southern elevation. It measured 0.90m wide and 2m high and a dressed stone lintel measuring 1.20m long and 0.30m wide was observed. On the west side of the doorway the entrance is rendered with mortar. The eastern side revealed internal constructional details that show that the brick nesting boxes were built against the Barnack outer wall rather than being tied in to it.

West Façade

This façade consists of regular coursed Barnack stone with flush quoins. Many of the quoins appear to be reused possibly moulded fragments from the Manor House. On the top course in the centre was a reused stone with an inscription of 1594.

East Façade

This elevation consisted of regular coursed Barnack stone with flush quoins. Many of the quoins appear to be reused possibly may have been moulded lintels from the Manor House. At the top of the building is a window with a wooden frame.

North façade

This elevation consists of regular coursed Barnack stone with flush quoins. Many of the quoins appear to be reused possibly may have been moulded fragments from the Manor House. A modern farm building obscured most of this façade.

Interior

Description

The floor of the dovecote consists of large flagstones ranging from 0.80m-1.2m. The interior is lined with brick nesting boxes with stone ledges. The bricks were handmade probably 17th or 18th century. The stone ledge is made of Barnack stone. The average size of the bricks were 0.23m by 0.11m. Over 21 rows of bricks survive on all four sides.

Conclusion

The observations noted above indicate there was only one main phase of construction. The outer shell consisted courses of Barnack stone and appears to be of one phase. The interior brickwork appears to be 17th or 18th century in date. The quoins and the date stone may have originated from an earlier phase of the Manor House.

This Dovecote is believed to be one of the largest of its kind in Cambridgeshire. The size of the structure may reflect the importance and status of the manor house.

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Jeevar, P, 1976 Dovecotes of Cambridgeshire.

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