



Archaeological Field Unit

Medieval and Post-Medieval Remains at Royal Oak Passage, Huntingdon. An Archaeological Evaluation

Steve Hickling

May 2005

CHER No. ECB1922

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. 806

Commissioned by *Exchange Developments Ltd*



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Report No. 806

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SUMMARY

During May 2005 the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Royal Oak Passage, Huntingdon in advance of a residential development.











This evaluation, although on a small scale, produced a significant amount of medieval remains, consisting of pits and postholes typical of urban backyard activity. Parallels can be drawn with the CCC AFU excavations 50m to the south at Walden House in 2005. No evidence was uncovered of settlement fronting onto Royal Oak Passage; it appears to have been oriented on the High Street to the east. Also discovered was considerable post-medieval activity, more pits and postholes, overlain by a thick layer of garden soil dated to the 18th century. One prehistoric feature was present, a ditch in Trench 1, aligned parallel with the modern High Street (Roman Ermine Street). This ditch is very similar in form, alignment and position to one found at the Walden House excavations.






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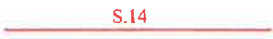


Drawing Conventions

Sections

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	$\frac{18.45\text{m ODN}}{\times}$

Brick	
Concrete	
Stone	
Gravel	
Tile	

Plans

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

Medieval and Post-Medieval Remains at Royal Oak Passage,
Huntingdon. An Archaeological Evaluation

TL 2367 7186

1 INTRODUCTION

In May 2005, the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) conducted an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Royal Oak Passage, Huntingdon. The work was carried out at the request of Exchange Developments Ltd in order to fulfil a Brief for Archaeological Evaluation issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA).

The site is located to the northwest of the market place, within the medieval town. The development area borders St John's Street to the west, Royal Oak Passage to the south and is 45m to the west of the High Street. The proposed development of the site includes fourteen flats (planning application H/04/03747/FUL). The brief called for a minimum of 5% sample excavation of the area to evaluate any archaeological remains on the site.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

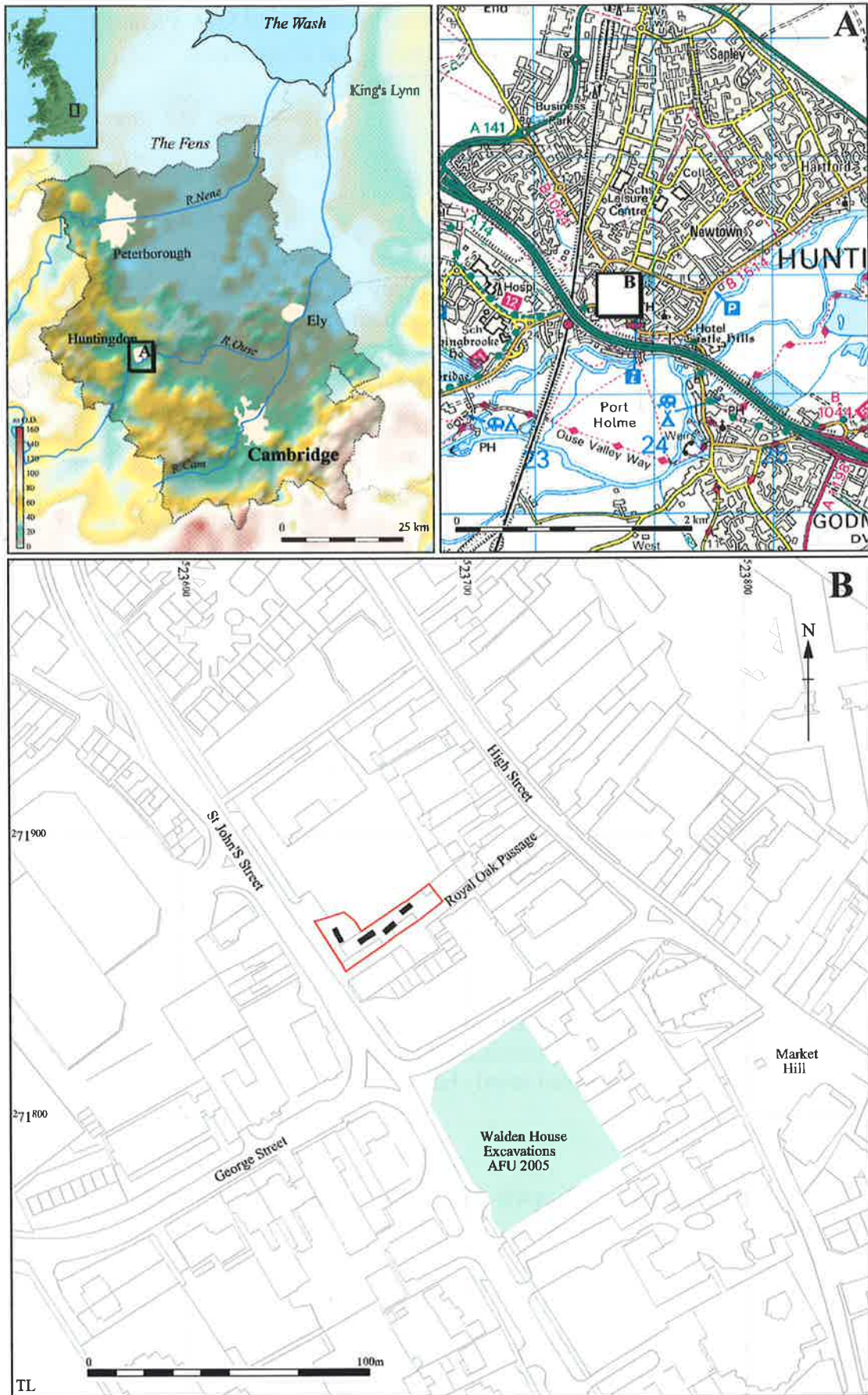
According to the British Geological Survey Map (Huntingdon, Sheet 187, 1:50000) the site is located on First and Second Terrace River Gravels, overlying Oxford Clay. It was found, on excavation, that the natural subsoil was orange sandy silt.

The topography was gently sloping from 15m OD adjacent to St John's Street to 13m OD at the High Street end. The site had recently contained Victorian and 20th century sheds, workshops and yards, but at the time of the fieldwork being conducted these had mostly been cleared.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Roman

Roman Huntingdon is often seen as a suburb of Godmanchester, and/or ribbon development northwards along Ermine Street. Evidence for Roman activity



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

comes mostly from chance finds, and also from unpublished excavations. The line of Ermine Street, beneath the High Street, traverses north to south 40m east of the site. This acted as a magnet for sporadic activity, occupation and burial, any of which could be represented on this site (Kenney 2003).

3.2 Saxon (Pre-Conquest Medieval)

Recent research seems to suggest that the late Saxon settlement of Huntingdon is located in the southern and western part of the area later enclosed by the medieval town ditch in the north-east and the *bar dyke* in the south-west (Spoerry 2000). This site may therefore be outside the defended burh and/or the general area of late Saxon occupation, however, this is not proven. Observations at 90/91 High Street in 1993 (CHER ECB1336) did, however, identify 11th to 12th century refuse pits immediately behind frontage structures to the north and east of this site, whilst a late Saxon church is known from Whitehills on the southern edge of Mill Common (see Spoerry op. cit.). Thus the distribution of activity and occupation in the late Saxon period is evidently ill-understood and may reasonably have included this site also.

3.3 Post-Conquest Medieval

The major elements in the post-Conquest medieval townscape are the castle, (built in 1068 and at least partially destroyed in 1174), the High Street, Market Hill and up to sixteen churches arranged along this axis and on the secondary streets around it. St John's Street started life as a back lane for High Street properties, but it is unclear when its own frontage filled up with buildings. It is possible that this had occurred by the 13th to 14th centuries, however, recent excavations in a comparable location at Walden House to the south of George Street, suggest that dense refuse disposal and craft activity was present at this time, but that major structures were not.

Certainly we should expect this site to include either a secondary medieval frontage and activity behind it and/or craft processing and refuse disposal areas running away from the distant High Street frontage.

Medieval urban models would also suggest Royal Oak passage itself would have been eventually infilled with low status domestic occupation units where urban rentals were high. Huntingdon's poor economic performance from the mid-13th century onwards would, however, tend to suggest otherwise.

3.4 Post-Medieval

Huntingdon suffered economic decline from perhaps the mid-13th century, owing to competition from St Ives and elsewhere. It also suffered badly from the successive 14th century plagues, in the 15th century during the War of the

Roses and in the Civil War in the 17th century. Throughout this time documents still speak of 'the poor decayed town'. It was only with the rise of the coaching trade in the 18th century that the town found another role and prosperity returned.

The general picture in the late medieval and early post-medieval period is therefore of a town that is much less densely populated than in the preceding centuries.

We are fortunate to have a complete survey of the town's properties at one moment during this period, this being the 1572 Survey (Dickinson 1972). This point in the evolution of the town is also shown on John Speed's map of 1610, which shows no structures on this frontage but is rather pictorial and cannot be relied on for accuracy.

Although a map does not accompany the 1572 survey, it is sometimes possible for entries to be transcribed onto Jeffries' 1768 map of Huntingdon, or the 1752 plan of the Hospital Lands. In this case, however, it is not possible to identify exactly which survey entry or entries relate to this site. Both of these later maps do, however, show a frontage structure on this site, identified as being owned by Mr Hard in the latter.

3.5 Listed Buildings

Two listed buildings lie close to the development site, fronting onto the High Street. The George public house is an early post-medieval coaching inn (CHER 02681) located 50m to the southeast, while 40m to the northeast lies a post-medieval building (CHER 02680) fronting onto the High Street.

4 METHODOLOGY

Four trial trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a JCB fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The modern demolition layers, surfaces and post medieval garden soil were stripped down to the level of the archaeological horizons or the natural geology, whichever appeared first.

The exposed surfaces were cleaned in order to clarify any features or deposits. All exposed features and deposits were excavated and recorded according to AFU standards and practises. Sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20.

Full context data is presented in Appendix 1.

5 RESULTS

All four trenches had similar post-medieval stratigraphy overlying the medieval and earlier remains; a layer approximately 0.3m deep of Victorian and 20th century surfaces and demolition layers overlying a layer of garden soil of variable thickness.

5.1 Trench 1

This trench was 4.5m long and 1.6m wide aligned northeast to south west. Around 0.3m of modern demolition rubble (57) and 0.7m of garden soil (56) were stripped by machine to the level of the natural subsoil. Two features were present, a modern wall foundation (55) and a ditch (46) both aligned southeast to northwest. Ditch 46 was 0.91m wide and 0.41m deep, with an asymmetrical 'V'-shaped profile suggesting that any bank may have been on the eastern side. Its fill (45) was a pale colour (see full description in Appendix 1) suggesting an early date. The presence of two fragments of worked flint (possibly Bronze Age) reinforces this assertion.



Plate 1 Ditch 46, Trench 1

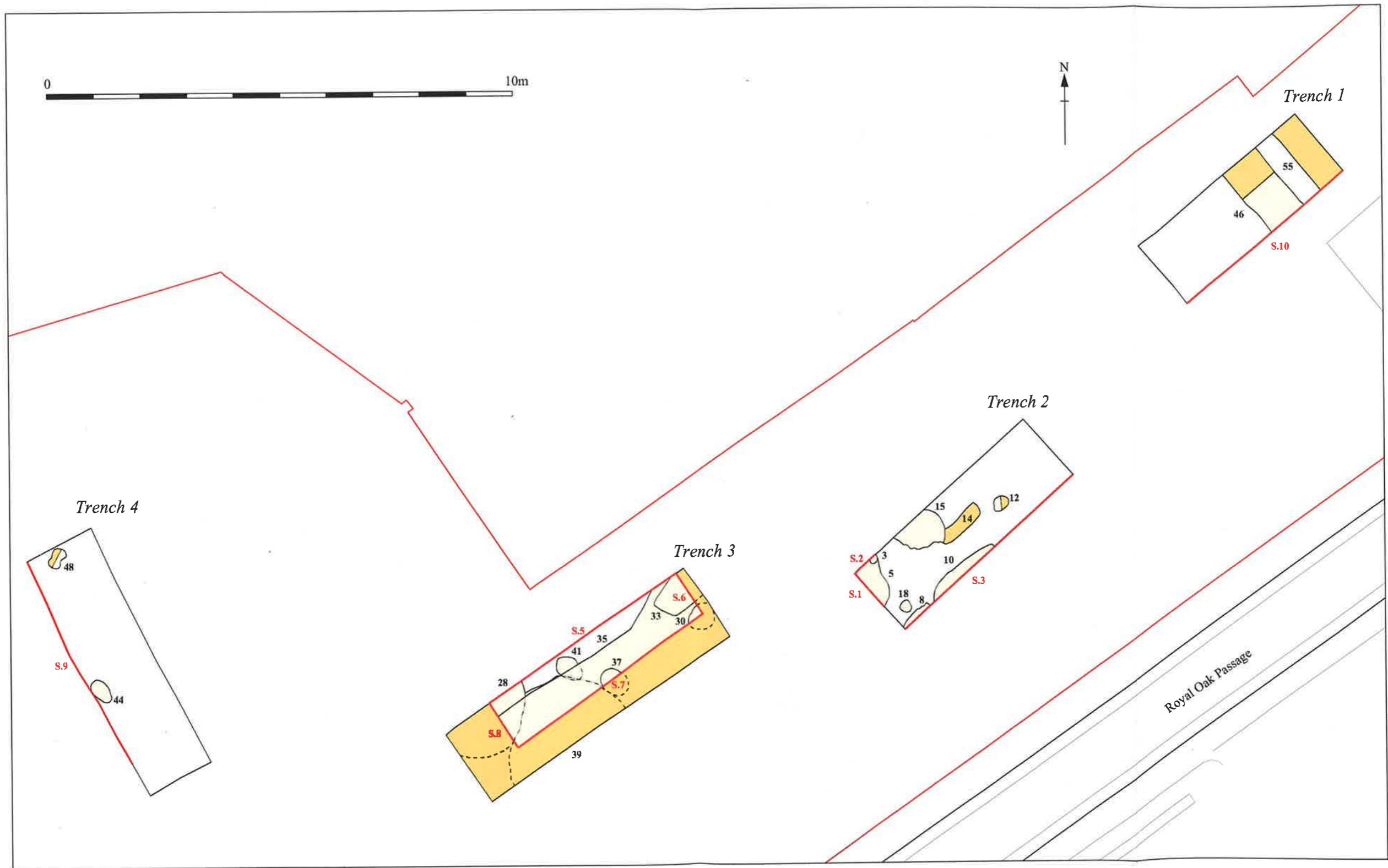


Figure 2 Trench plans

Fig. 2 Trench Plans

5.2 Trench 2

This trench was 4.9m long and 1.6m wide, aligned northeast to southwest. Around 0.25m of modern demolition rubble and 0.5m of garden soil (1) were stripped by machine to the level of the natural subsoil. Seven features were present, of various types and dates. Posthole 18 was circular, 0.28m in diameter and 0.17m deep, while Posthole 12 was 0.3m in diameter and modern in date. Feature 15 was irregular in shape with a mixed fill and was thought to be a tree root bole. Only a tiny part of Pit 10 was visible against the side of the trench, but its fill (9) was very similar to the garden soil (1). Pit 8 appeared to be cutting into Pit 10 and was cut from a point midway up the garden soil (1). It had two fills, the upper one (6) was a compacted reddish brown silty clay, resting on top of (7) a mixed dark grey, orange and black silty clay, probably a backfill. Again, only a small portion of Pit 5 was visible against the side of the trench, but it appeared to be sub-circular and at least 0.49m deep. It contained one fill (4) a mid-dark brown silty clay with gravel that produced two sherds of medieval pottery. It was cut by a possible posthole (03), 0.36m deep with almost vertical sides.



Plate 2 Trench 2

5.3 Trench 3

This trench was 4.8m long and 1.6m wide, aligned northeast to southwest. Around 0.3m of modern demolition rubble and surfaces (19-23) and 0.34m of garden soil (26) were stripped by machine to the level of the natural subsoil. Eight features were present. Possibly the earliest feature was Posthole 41, an oval feature 0.4m deep with vertical sides containing one fill (42) that produced two medieval pottery sherds. Pit 28 was possibly circular, 0.8m deep with vertical sides and a flat bottom and containing one fill (29) that produced six medieval sherds. Both 28 and 41 were cut by Pit 39, a large oval feature, 0.5m deep with gently sloping sides that contained one fill (40) that produced five medieval sherds. Pit 33 was sub-rectangular in shape, 0.6m wide and 0.32m deep, and had one fill (34) that produced nine sherds of 17th to 18th century date. Both Pit 33 and Pit 39 were cut by a large shallow pit (35) which covered most of the base of the trench. This was 0.32m deep, whose one visible side, the northwestern, was gently sloping. Its fill (36) contained a large amount of rooftile probably dating to the 16th century. Cutting Pit 35 were two later features, a modern, possible posthole (37) with vertical sides and a very loose fill (38) that produced one late medieval and one post-medieval sherd, and Pit 30, again with vertical sides but a much more compact fill. Perhaps the most recent feature was Pit 24, only visible in section, cutting the garden soil (26) and sealed by the modern demolition layers and surfaces (19-23). This was filled by Context 25, a deposit rich in brick and tile fragments.



Plate 3 Trench 3

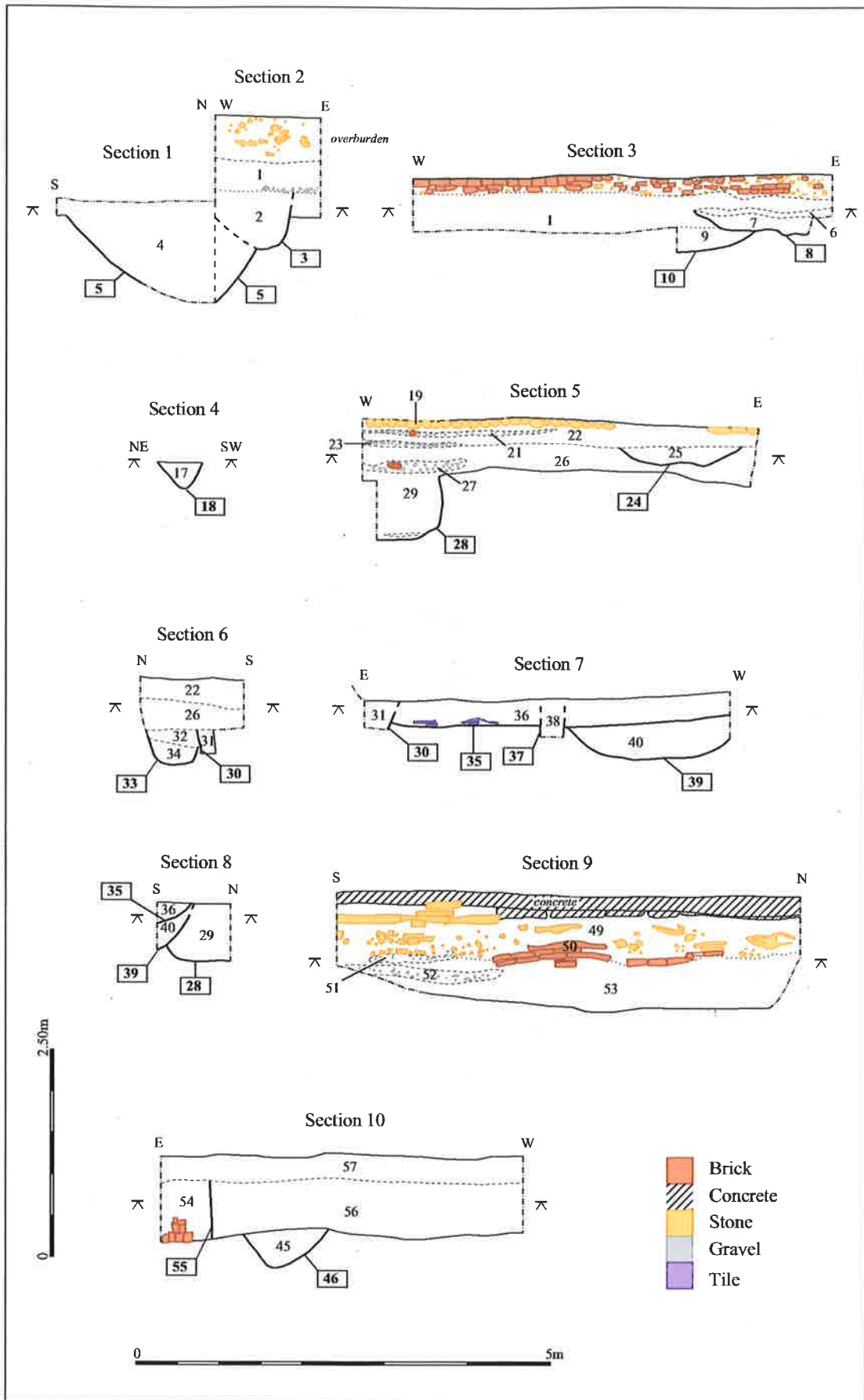


Figure 3 Sections

5.4 Trench 4

This trench was 5.6 m long and 1.6m wide, aligned northwest to southeast. The trench had several services running along its length, including a Victorian culvert. Around 0.85m of modern demolition rubble and surfaces (49-51) and up to 0.6m of garden soil (53) were stripped by machine to the level of the natural subsoil. The level of the natural subsoil appeared to dip down towards the north, forming a possible hollow. Two small features were visible in the base of the trench (**44** and **48**). Pit **44** was oval and 0.2m deep, whose fill was rich in animal bone, suggesting that it was used for rubbish disposal. Feature **48** was irregular and was interpreted as a tree root bole.



Plate 4 Trench 4

6 DISCUSSION

Ditch **46** (Trench 1) is by far the earliest feature on this site, possibly dating to the Bronze Age. It appears to be a continuation of a ditch of similar date found in excavations at Walden House (AFU 2005, R. Clarke pers. comm.). Both features are on the same alignment and have a similar profile. They also appear to be parallel to the line of Ermine Street (the High Street), suggesting that Roman Ermine Street may be respecting an earlier prehistoric landscape.

Published models for the location and extent of late Saxon Huntingdon tend to position it within the zone north of the river and south of the market place (Spoerry 2000). The lack of evidence for pre-Conquest archaeology here does not refute that assertion.

The features are for the most part dated by small amounts of pottery. The largest group of which is 17th or 18th century in date and derives from the fill of Pit 35 in Trench 3. Much of the remaining pottery from features dates to the mid-12th to mid-14th centuries, with very little later intrusive material. A lack of late medieval finds and features supports evidence from elsewhere in the town that indicates severe contraction in the late medieval period (*e.g.* at Walden House, R. Clarke pers. comm.).

Analysis of the features and dated finds, in particular from Trench 3, suggests an activity sequence comprising 12th to 14th century pitting, perhaps associated with small timber constructions, followed by a lull in activity for *c.* 300 years or more, during which time cultivation may have taken place on the site. Cut features reappear by the late 17th or 18th century and these include a large shallow pit (35) in Trench 3 that contained a dump of 16th century roof tiles.

The evidence suggests that the landscape of this area was remodelled in the late medieval or post-medieval periods when garden plots were laid out, and these were subsequently remodelled further at southwestern end of the site.

The latter phenomenon can be seen in Trench 4. Here the natural topography slopes upwards towards St John's Road, a trend that is represented in the height above sea level of the top of the natural subsoil in trenches 1-3 (13.17m, 13.48m and 13.73m). The height of the top of the natural subsoil in Trench 4 is, however, only 13.46m. In addition Pit 44 in Trench 4 also appears to be the base of a heavily truncated rubbish pit. The pronounced dip at the northern end of Trench 4 suggests the overall surface here has been truncated. The truncation probably occurred in order to produce flatter ground for the gardens shown on the early maps (Kenny 2003).

The environmental samples produced hammerscale (residues from iron smithing) in two high medieval contexts (29 and 40). This suggests industrial activity in this area in the high medieval period.

7 CONCLUSIONS

This evaluation, although on a small scale, produced a significant amount of medieval remains, consisting of pits and postholes typical of urban backyard activity. Parallels can be drawn with the CCC AFU excavations 50m to the south at Walden House in 2005. No evidence was uncovered of settlement

fronting onto Royal Oak Passage, it appears to have been oriented on the High Street to the east. Also discovered was considerable post-medieval activity, more pits and postholes, overlain by a thick layer of garden soil dated to the 18th century. One prehistoric feature was present, a ditch in Trench 1, parallel to the modern High Street (Roman Ermine Street) which was probably also found at the Walden House excavations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Exchange Developments Ltd who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Paul Spoerry and Toby Gane. Thanks are due to Dennis Payne and Spencer Cooper who assisted with the fieldwork. Crane Begg completed the illustrations, while Carole Fletcher examined the ceramics and building material and Rachel Fosberry assessed the environmental samples.

The brief for archaeological works was written by Kasia Gdaniec, Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA), who visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

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| Spoerry, P. | 2000 | <i>The Topography of Anglo-Saxon Huntingdon</i> Proc. Cambridge Antiq. Soc. Vol LXXXIX |

Appendix 1: Context Data

Context	Feature	Trench	Description	Date
1	Layer	2	Same as 26	
2	3	2	Mid-dark brown silty clay with gravel and brick/tile fragments	
3	Posthole	2	Subcircular, 0.4m wide, 0.36m deep	
4	5	2	Mid-dark brown silty clay, with gravel	1150-1350
5	Pit	2	Subcircular, 0.89m wide, 0.49m deep	
6	8	2	Reddish brown silty clay with gravel	
7	8	2	Mid-dark grey silty clay with gravel	
8	Pit	2	Sub circular, 0.55m wide, 0.25m deep	
9	10	2	Mid-dark grey silty clay with gravel	
10	Pit	2	Sub circular? 0.85m wide, 0.3m deep	
11	12	2		
12	Posthole	2		
13	14	2	Mid grey silty clay. Loose	
14	Posthole	2	Circular, 0.24m wide, 0.17m deep, vertical sides	
15	16	2	Light greyish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles	
16	Treebole	2	Irregular, 0.7m wide, 0.2m deep	
17	18	2	Mid grey silty clay with gravel	
18	Posthole	2	Circular, 0.28m diameter, 0.17m deep, steep sides	
19	Layer	3	Cobbles	
20	Layer	3	0.06m deep, dark brown sand	
21	Layer	3	0.04m deep, pale cream crushed mortar	
22	Layer	3	0.15m deep, dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravel and brick/tile fragments, moderate mortar fragments and occasional charcoal	
23	Layer	3	0.05m deep, mid reddish brown gravelly sand with occasional charcoal and brick/tile fragments	
24	Pit	3	1.45m wide, 0.22m deep. Very irregular	
25	24	3	Dark brown sandy silt with frequent mortar and brick/tile fragments	
26	Layer	3	0.34m deep, dark brown sandy silt with moderate gravel and occasional charcoal and brick/tile fragments	1600-1700
27	Layer	3	0.15m deep, dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravel, occasional charcoal and brick/tile fragments	
28	Pit	3	0.8m deep and with vertical sides	
29	28	3	Dark greenish brown sandy silt, moderate charcoal and lumps of natural silt, occasional gravel	1200-1400
30	Pit	3	Fragment of a pit with vertical sides	
31	30	3	Dark brown sandy silt with moderate gravel and occasional charcoal	
32	Layer	3	0.22m deep, dark brown sandy silt, occasional gravel, charcoal and brick/tile fragments	
33	Pit	3	Subrectangular, 0.6m wide, 0.32m deep, vertical sides	
34	33	3	Dark brown sandy silt. Frequent gravel, moderate brick/tile fragments, occasional charcoal	1650-1800
35	Pit	3	Unknown width and length, 0.32m deep	
36	35	3	Dark brown sandy silt, moderate gravel and tile fragments, occasional charcoal	1700-1800
37	Posthole	3	Circular, 0.28m diameter, unknown depth. Vertical sides	
38	37	3	Dark brown sandy silt, moderate gravel, occasional charcoal. Loose	1600-1700
39	Pit	3	Oval? 2m= long, 0.5m deep, almost vertical sides	
40	39	3	Dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional brick fragments, gravel and charcoal	1200-1400
41	Posthole	3	Oval, 0.5m long, 0.4m wide, 0.4m deep. Vertical sides	
42	41	3	Dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional gravel and charcoal	1200-1400
43	44	4	Mid-dark brown silty clay with gravel and brick fragments	1200-1400
44	Pit	4	Oval, 0.57m long, 0.37m wide, 0.2m deep	
45	46	1	Light brown silty clay, occasional gravel	Bronze Age?
46	Ditch	1	Linear SE-NW, 0.91m wide, 0.41m	
47	48	4	Mid brown silty clay with gravel and brick fragments	
48	Treebole	4	Circular, 0.47m diameter, 0.16m deep	
49	Layer	4	Garden soil with demolition rubble	
50	Culvert	4	Brick masonry	
51	Layer	4	Mortar fragments	
52	Layer	4	Gravel	
53	Layer	4	Same as 26	
54	55	1	Dark greyish brown silty clay with brick masonry	
55	Foundations	1	0.6m wide, 0.8m deep, linear, SE-NW	
56	Layer	1	Garden soil, same as 26	
57	Layer	1	Modern make-up	

Appendix 2: Finds Data

Pottery

Fieldwork generated a small assemblage of 31 sherds (1.160kg) of pottery. This material consists of moderately abraded pottery with the majority assemblage including unstratified material dated to the mid-seventeenth to mid-late eighteenth century. There is only a single sherd of Saxo-Norman material, a small abraded sherd of THET, the remaining sherds are medieval.

The medieval and post-medieval material was recovered from pits and post holes. Several medieval vessel types were recognised, including SHW jars and sherds from a highly decorated MGFT jug. The later post-medieval material is mainly PMBL or PMR and includes the complete base from a well-made eighteenth century PMR or country pottery jug. Fragments from a PMBL chamber pot and a STSL drinking vessel were also recovered.

The assemblage is small, has no complete vessels, and full statistical analysis is not viable. The majority of the medieval material was manufactured relatively locally in Northamptonshire and Essex. The post-medieval material derives from Essex and more distant producers in the midlands. The material is moderately abraded, suggesting some reworking of the material after initial deposition. The character of the assemblage suggests the medieval and post-medieval material derive originally from a domestic context. No preservation bias has been recognised and no long-term storage problems are likely. The assemblage offers little potential for further study.

Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the following table are:

Thetford ware	THET
Mill Green type fine ware	MGFT
Post-medieval Black Glazed ware	PMBL
Post-medieval Red ware	PMR
Raeren	RAER
Shelly Ware	SHW
Staffordshire Slip ware	STSL

Spot Dates

Context	Fabric	Number of Sherds	Weight of sherds in Kg	Spot Dating Range	
4	SHW	2	0.02	Mid 12th to mid 14th century	
26	PMBL	2	0.08	17th century	
29	ESMIC	1	0.01	13th to late 14th century	
	SHW	2	0.02		
	THET	1	0.01		(residual)
	UNK	1	0.01		
34	STSL	1	0.01	Mid 17th to late 18th century	
	PMR	8	0.18		
36	PMR	1	0.74	18th century	
	RAER	1	0.01		
38	PMBL	1	0.01	17th century	
	LLYST	1	0.01		(residual)
40	SHW	5	0.04	Mid 12th to mid 14th century	
42	SHW	1	0.01	Mid 12th to mid 14th century	
	ESMIC	1	0.01		
43	MGFT	2	0.01	Mid 12th to mid 14th century	

Clay Pipes

Context Number	Description	Date
34	1 stem fragment	Post medieval
36	1 fragmentary bowl with a pronounced foot and rouletting, probably DUA type 15 or 18.	1660-80

Ceramic Building Material, by Carole Fletcher BA

1 Introduction and Background

The evaluation at Royal Oak Passage, Huntingdon produced a ceramic building material assemblage of 41 fragments, weighing 9.141kg. Of the 57 contexts recorded, 7 contained ceramic building material. The material from the topsoil and any unstratified material are included in these totals.

2 Methodology

The basic guidance in MAP2 has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991). In addition the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG) 'Draft: Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material' act as a standard.

The assessment was carried out using the Archaeological Field Unit's in-house system. All fragments have been counted classified, and weighed. Fragments warranting possible illustration have been flagged, as have possible cross-fits.

All the Ceramic Building Material (CBM) has been recorded on a context by context basis; this information was entered directly onto a full quantification database (Access 2000) which allows for the appending of further quantification data.

The AFU curates the CBM and archive until formal deposition of the site archive.

3 Evaluation

The trenches were machine excavated with further excavation carried out by hand and selection was 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, some CBM was recovered.

4 THE ASSEMBLAGE

Fieldwork generated a small assemblage of 41 fragments, weighing 9.141kg of CBM. This material consists mainly of a moderately abraded and near complete roof tile including peg and crested ridge tile.

4.i Main Form Types and Dating

Form	Brick / Tile	Brick	Tile	Peg Tile	Roof Tile	Ridge Tile
Weight in Kg	0.454	0.997	1.750	1.991	2.015	1.934
Count	1	2	6	12	16	4

Where a single surface survives, either upper or lower, the material has been classified as brick/tile, where both surfaces survive the material is classified as tile.

The peg tiles and the roof tile were recovered mainly from contexts with a seventeenth or eighteenth century date however it seems likely that the roof furniture is earlier. Dating peg tile can be difficult but the crested ridge tile is here likely to date to the sixteenth century.

5 Recommendations

The assemblage was small and though near complete tiles are present full statistical analysis is not viable. The material is moderately abraded, suggesting some reworking of the material after initial deposition. The character of the assemblage suggests the material came originally from a domestic building. No preservation bias has been recognised and no long-term storage problems are likely. The assemblage offers little potential for further study

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Appendix 3: Environmental Data, by Rachel Fosberry

1. Introduction and methods

Samples were taken from across the excavated area; three from medieval features and one from a prehistoric ditch. 10 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 below.

2. Results

Sample Number	Context Number	Context Type	Sample type	Residue contents	Flot
1	29	Pit fill	Flotation	800ml Pottery, large animal bone, small animal bone	15ml Single wheat grain, 3 flakes hammerscale, charcoal flecks up to 3mm
2	40	Pit fill	Flotation	1100ml Pierced tile, Mussel shell, small animal bones, large animal bones including some burnt, 4 x Fe nails, burnt brick, flake and spheroidal	55ml Shiny, cokey material, fish scale, modern seeds of <i>Sambucus</i> sp., <i>Chenopodium</i> sp. Charred seed of <i>Silene</i> sp.

				hammerscale	
3	53	Trench section	Artefact Retrieval	900ml Small fragments of brick, burnt brick, pottery, and large animal bone. Flake and spheroidal hammerscale	Not examined (Sample for artefact retrieval)
4	45	Ditch fill	Flotation	300ml No artefacts present	15ml 12 cereal grains. Preservation variable some can be identified as barley, others too abraded for identification Modern roots and seeds

Charcoal fragments are present in all samples in varying quantities

3. Conclusions and Recommendations

The range of artefacts present in Samples 1 to 3 suggest that they derive from domestic and industrial processes common in the medieval period.

Sample 4 does not contain any artefacts to substantiate the prehistoric date however cereal grains were recovered showing evidence of occupation.

Barley was often used for animal fodder but may have been used for human consumption in the form of bread and soup and it was also used for the brewing of beer. The grains may have been accidentally burnt while being dried prior to storage, or during cooking over open fires.

It is not considered that full analysis of these samples would add significantly to this interpretation and further work is not recommended.



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