



CCC AFU Report Number 852

**Medieval and Post-Medieval
Activity at No. 7, March Road,
Coates, Whittlesey,
Cambridgeshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

Rebecca Casa Hatton and Dan Hounsell

January 2006

Cover Images

Machine stripping, Soham	On-site surveying
Roman corn dryer, Duxford	Guided walk along Devil's Dyke
Bronze Age shaft, Fordham Bypass	Medieval well, Soham
Human burial, Barrington Anglo-Saxon Cemetery	Timbers from a medieval well, Soham
Blue enamelled bead, Barrington	Bed burial reconstruction, Barrington Anglo-Saxon Cemetery
Aethusa cynapium 'Fool's parsley'	Medieval tanning pits, Huntingdon Town Centre
Digging in the snow, Huntingdon Town Centre	Beaker vessel
Face painting at Hinchingsbrooke Iron Age Farm	Environmental analysis
Research and publication	Monument Management, Bartlow Hills

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An Archaeological Evaluation

Rebecca Casa Hatton PhD and Dan
Hounsell PhD

With contributions by Rob Atkins
BSocSc DipArch AIFA,
Carole Fletcher BA
and Rachel Fosberry HNC (Cert Ed)
AEA

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Illustrator: Séverine Bézie MA

Summary

Between the 9th and 18th of November 2005 staff of the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CCC AFU) conducted an archaeological evaluation at land off No. 7, March Road, Coates, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 53073/29782) (Fig. 1). The work was carried out in advance of residential development proposed by TM King Builders Limited.

The hamlet of Coates - with Eastrea to the west and Eldernell to the east - sits in the middle of an island which lies to the east of the main Whittlesey island.

The site had been used as gardens, at least from the late 19th century, with negligible modern disturbance affecting its original condition. Archaeological features were preserved in all the excavated trenches, their distribution providing a good indication of the extent and intensity of activity throughout the site.

This evaluation identified two main phases of activity. The earlier phase dated to the late medieval period and was characterised by evidence for light industrial activity (gravel quarrying), water access features and field/plot boundaries. The later phase dated to the post-medieval period and represented an intensification of the earlier, medieval, activities, with the progressive redefinition of boundaries. In addition, the ecofactual and artefactual remains from the evaluation would indicate domestic occupation in close proximity to the development site during both the late medieval and post-medieval periods. Occupation appears to have intensified during the post-medieval period, as suggested by the increased quantity of pottery discarded across the site and, in particular, near the frontage of March Road where a small concentration of fragments of post-medieval building material would point to the existence of a 'singular house' at this location, with the development site representing a zone of associated 'backyard' activities.

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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 S.14
Top of Natural	Archaeological Deposit
Top Surface	Excavated Slot
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	Machined Level
Cut Number	Cut Number 118
Deposit Number 117	Stone
Ordnence Datum 18.45m OD N	
Stone	
Bone	

1 Introduction

Between the 9th and 18th of November 2005 staff of the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CCC AFU) conducted an archaeological evaluation at land off No. 7, March Road, Coates, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 53073/29782) (Fig. 1). The work was carried out in advance of residential development proposed by TM King Builders Limited.

The Planning Application was submitted by TM King Builders Limited. The proposal is for residential development that involves the construction of five dwellings with associated access road and services. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice Team (CAPCA; Planning Application F/YR05/0206/0), supplemented by a Specification (Macaulay 2005).

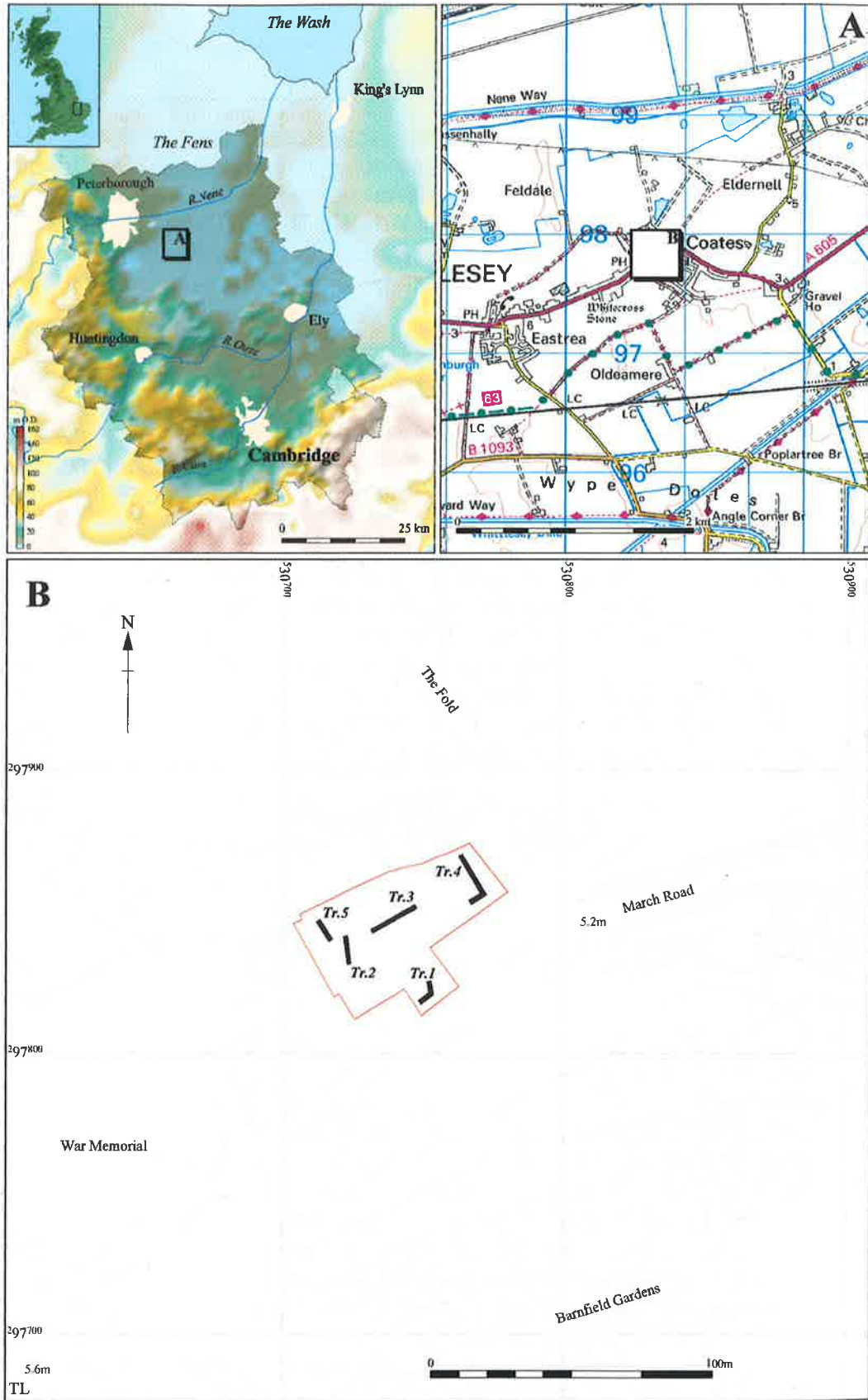
The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CAPCA, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by the CCC AFU and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

2 Geology and Topography

The hamlet of Coates, between Estrea to the west and Eldernell to the east, sits in the middle of an island which lies to the east of the main Whittlesey island. The Whittlesey islands are composed of March Gravels with areas of clayey 'Till' over Oxford Clay formations. The March Gravels consist of sand and gravel of marine/estuarine origin that form the first terrace deposits of the river Nene. Besides the islands, the rest of the parish is characterised by the presence of Flandrian marine deposits of Barroway Drove Clay covered by Nordelph (fen) peat. The Barroway Drove Clay is exposed between Whittlesey and Estrea (Horton 1989).

The town of Whittlesey is located c.10km east of Peterborough and 15km west of March, in the Fenland District of Cambridgeshire. The development site lies off No. 7, March Road, east of North Green, in the hamlet of Coates, east of Whittlesey, at an average height of 5.2m



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

OD. It comprises an area of approximately 0.27ha, which was used as a garden at the time of the archaeological investigation (Fig.1).

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Introduction

At the end of the last glaciation sea levels were low relative to the present day. Most of the fen basin was a dry landscape from about 8000 BC (Early Mesolithic), and a deciduous forest developed (Hall 1987, 4). During the Neolithic period sea levels rose and much of the fen basin was inundated with salt water in the 3rd millennium BC. Wet conditions caused the formation of peat, although areas of the Coates gravel island stood up out of the inundated fenland basin as dry land. Further to the south Barroway Drove clay formed, and a network of channels developed which have survived as silt-filled roddons. The rise in water table in the Bronze Age would have had little impact on the size of the area of dry land, due to the steepness of slope of the gravel islands. By comparison with the Neolithic period, however, much of the roddon system had become inactive and covered with peat. By the Iron Age the development of peat all over the fen basin was complete. During the Roman period the extent of dry land remained similar to that of the earlier periods, although off the gravel island salt water was replaced by fen. At the end of the Roman period rising water levels and flooding are well documented across the fens. Changed climatic conditions, together with the effects of intensified land use and breakdown in both the natural and artificial drainage systems, are among the factors which affected the fen environment. At the same time, marine silting was probably responsible for the blocking of the Thorney channel, *i.e.* the major outlet of the River Nene. The southern peat-covered Barroway Drove Beds offered a better route to release water build-up. As a result, the Nene came to cross the southern fen of Whittlesey (Hall 1987, *passim*).

The content of the following paragraphs draws upon the background information produced for an archaeological evaluation at Stonald Road, Whittlesey (Casa Hatton 2001), with additional information from recent excavations conducted between Eastrea and Coates.

3.2 Early Prehistoric

Human activity on the gravel islands at this time is demonstrated by the presence of Neolithic worked flint at Eldernell. Neolithic axes have been found some 300m to the north-east of the development site (HER 03751 and 10598). The presence of scattered artefacts does not

demonstrate permanent settlement, although they suggest the presence of early prehistoric activity in the area.

3.3 Bronze Age

The Bronze Age is characterised by ritual activity on the gravel islands. Barrow groups have been identified at Eldernell and Suet Hill, to the north-east and south-west of the development site, respectively (Hall 1987, Sites 11; 19 and 20). The recovery of stray lithic artefacts from Eldernell further corroborates the evidence for activity in the area (*ibid.*, Sites A1-A3, 56-57). The linear distribution of finds would be consistent with the hypothesis that the Coates island was crossed by a prehistoric trackway predating the Fen Causeway Roman Road. A hoard of nine Wilburton type axes, a spearhead, a gouge and various fragments was found just south of the Fen Causeway, at the point where it bends before leaving the dry land (HER 9746). The hoard is likely to represent a ritual deposition, the location of which suggests a possible Bronze Age origin for the Roman routeway (Heawood 1997). Besides the evidence for ritual activity, recent excavations conducted between Whittlesey and Fengate to the west of the development site have revealed evidence for settlement that had previously gone undetected through traditional air reconnaissance and field surveys (Knight 1999; 2000). The Bronze Age sites seem to have occupied a narrow belt between the 1.5m and 4m contours, their distribution along the fen-edge placing emphasis on the economic significance of the fen as an essential grazing resource.

3.4 Iron Age

The only known evidence for Iron Age activity in the parish is represented by two adjacent areas of domestic occupation (huts) on the western side of Whittlesey (Hall 1987, Site 13, 57). Iron Age finds have also been reported from the brick clay quarry to the west of Whittlesey.

3.5 Roman

Roman period remains are frequent both on the Coates gravel island, and on the larger Whittlesey island to the west. The area was traversed by the Fen Causeway, a Roman Road which extended from the southern boundary of Flag Fen near Peterborough in the west, to Grandford near March to the east, following the higher land wherever possible. The road is not visible on the ground where it crosses the Coates island, but it can be seen as a straight gravel track which is raised on a bank when it reaches the fen to the east (Hall 1987, 57). At Coates its traditional projected course follows March Road through the hamlet. Excavations at Stonald Field (Whittlesey) confirmed the route

of the road in the western portion of the parish and showed that it was built in the 1st century, probably for military purposes (Knight 2000). Further out in the fen, much of the monument has been destroyed. However at TL 33/98 workmen reported seeing 'sticks' beneath the causeway in 1937. A worn coin of Vespasian found at the same time implies that it may have been built by the beginning of the 2nd century (*ibid*). The gravel surface of the causeway seems to have been laid on top of natural silting deposits which had accumulated within a prehistoric canal (*ibid*). Excavation at Bradley Fen west of Whittlesey revealed the course of a secondary route parallel to the Fen Causeway, at Stonald Field in Whittlesey. Earthwork remains of a settlement further north are crossed by a trackway which aligns with the road found at Bradley Fen. This latter may have represented a possible alternative route and corresponds with a trackway earthwork north of Moretons' Leam, which by-passes the settlement at Stonald Field (Knight 2000). The trackway may join the route identified near Hall' s Site 8 (1987) at Eldernell (Palmer in Heawood 1997) where, compared with the traditional course, the Fen Causeway seems to turn sharply to the north at its landfall. The projected course of the alternative route east of Eldernell would meet a prehistoric canal which runs parallel to the visible portion of the Fen Causeway 1.2km to the north. Whether this canal was part of the same route system is uncertain. In Roman times it would have been silted-up, though no gravel agger has been recorded.

In the aftermath of the Conquest, the presence of the Fen Causeway probably encouraged the development of Roman rural settlements along its length, and the landfall of the road from the fen is likely to have been a particular focus for settlement. Besides the large quantity of Roman material excavated from the brick pits from the late 19th century, a large number of sites of varying size have been identified on the islands during the Fenland Survey. Three settlement sites are located immediately east of Eldernell (*ibid.*, Sites 5, 14 and 21, 58; HER 03877). No associated finds were found during the Fenland Project fieldwork, although a range of Roman pottery has been recovered around Chapel Farm (HER 01730, 1366), pointing to the presence of a settlement of some size. Some of the cropmarks visible on the islands are also associated with Roman sites (*ibid.*, Site 14 at Whittlesey, Site 21 at Eastrea, Sites 7 and 8 at Eldernell, 59). Cropmarks to the east and south of Coates are undated and may derive from other periods, though a Roman origin for many of these features appears likely on the basis of finds concentrations in the area, including a scatter of Roman pottery 50m to the north-west of the development site (HER 03878), coupled with the presence of the Fen Causeway. The Fenland Project has highlighted the difficulty in assessing what these finds clusters represent. The superficial resemblance to agricultural settlements found on the upland could suggest that mixed farming was practised and the grazing potential of the fen exploited (Hall 1987, 58).

3.6 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

Evidence for Saxon and early medieval activity on the islands is elusive. The nearest known possible early Saxon settlement evidence is located between Coates and Estrea where cropmarks visible on aerial photographs may indicate the presence of sunken-featured buildings (grubenhauser) (Hall 1987, 59) (SAM 109). An archaeological evaluation on land at No. 43 Coates Road, Eastrea, (HER MCB16679) less than 70m to the south SAM 109, revealed three undated ditches and two undated postholes. The location of the site is of significance and suggests that the ditch alignments recorded during the evaluation may form part of an Anglo-Saxon field system, though an earlier, Iron Age date, should not be discounted (Fletcher 2004).

A Saxon cemetery of seven east-west oriented inhumations was found in the eastern part of Whittlesey in the late 19th century (HER 10594).

Early documentary sources refer to two separate manors on the Whittlesey island which were acquired by the monasteries of Ely (Whittlesey St Andrew's) and Thorney (Whittlesey St Mary's) in the Late Saxon period. Later medieval finds have been recovered from the central area of Whittlesey where the churches of St Andrew and St Mary appear to be relatively late in date (13th century). The manor house immediately to the south of St Mary's church is medieval in origin, though it was extensively modified during the 17th century (Pugh 1967, *passim*).

Coates was a hamlet first mentioned in 1280. The name derives from *cot(es)* meaning 'cottages' (Reaney 1943, 264).

On the islands the boundaries of the medieval fields survive as linear banks of the normal Midland Type. Ridges and furrows are not extant, though they are visible on aerial photographs. The Coates Fields, as on the Tithe Map of 1840, form a consistent pattern of cropmarks which spread to the east and west of the nucleated hamlet. Sherds of medieval pottery occur all over the higher ground of the islands, possibly deriving from manuring.

3.7 Post-Medieval

During the post-medieval period Whittlesey prospered as a market town with the right to hold a market being granted in 1715. The two parishes were unified after the dissolution. The ecclesiastical district of Coates was formed out of Whittlesey St Mary in 1850 (Pugh 1967).

During the medieval period the parish was largely occupied by marshes. Early attempts at enclosure were piecemeal. Systematic drainage of the fen started at the beginning of the 18th century and

prompted the enclosure of large portions of land. By the time of the 1840 Tithe Map more land had been enclosed. The final enclosure took place in 1840-1, the award being granted in 1844 (Pugh 1967, 124ff). The Enclosure Map does not extend as far east as Eldernell.

The First Edition of the OS Map (1886) shows the site under investigation as stretching across adjoining plots. The map also shows development along the March Road frontage to the south and along the eastern side of North Green to the west.

4 Methodology

The main aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence (or absence), date, extent, state of preservation, quality, conditions and significance of potential archaeological remains within the area to be affected by development.

Machine excavation of five trenches (Trenches 1-5) was carried out under supervision using a mechanical excavator with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. In accordance with The CAPCA's requirements, the total length of trenching was 85m, covering an area of some 135m², *i.e.* a 5% sample of the development site. The trenches were located along the eastern (Trench 4), western (Trenches 2 and 5) and southern (Trench 1) boundaries, as well as at the centre (Trench 3) of the site, in order to obtain maximum coverage of the area, thus increasing the possibility of discovering potential archaeological remains. Trench 5 was excavated parallel to Trench 2, of which it represented an off-set 'continuation', to avoid damaging existing vegetation (Fig. 1).

The modern topsoil and subsoil, where present, were removed to a depth where the natural gravel and sandy silt deposits were encountered, between 0.78m (northern part of the site) and 0.30m (southern part of the site) below the present ground surface.

The trenches were hand-cleaned to allow the recognition of features and deposits. When encountered, these were recorded using the standard CCC AFU single context recording system (*pro-forma* context sheets). A small number of cut features and deposits were only visible in section. However, when possible, discrete features were 50% sampled and linear features excavated to such an extent as to allow interpretation of function, stratigraphy and recovery of any dating evidence. Individual plans of the trenches were drawn at 1:50 scale. They were later digitally combined and tied into the British Co-ordinate system, as on the Ordnance Survey, to produce a site plan showing the location of the trenches (Fig. 2). Relevant sections were drawn at 1:10 and 1:20 scales, as appropriate.

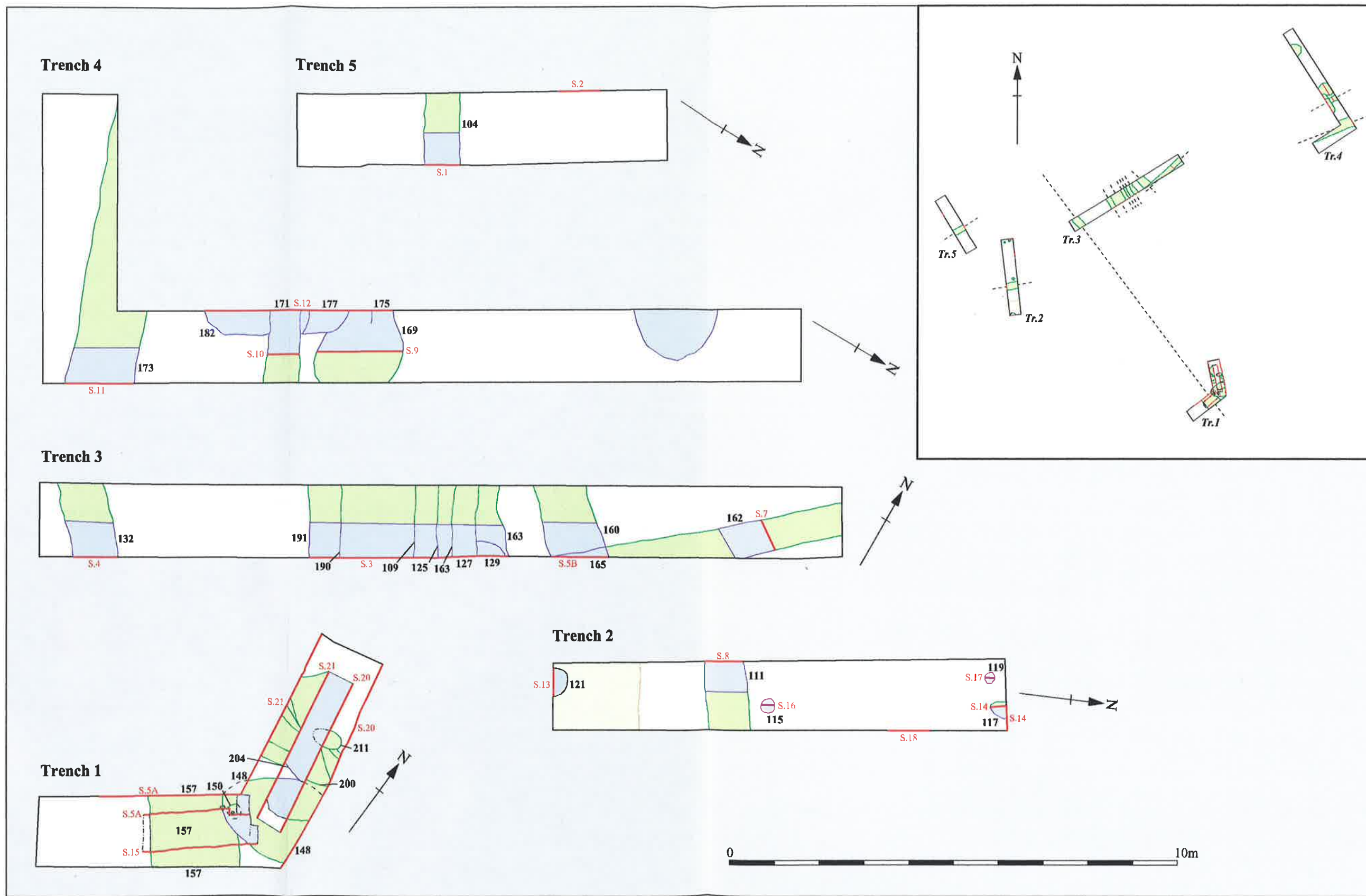


Figure 2: Trench plans

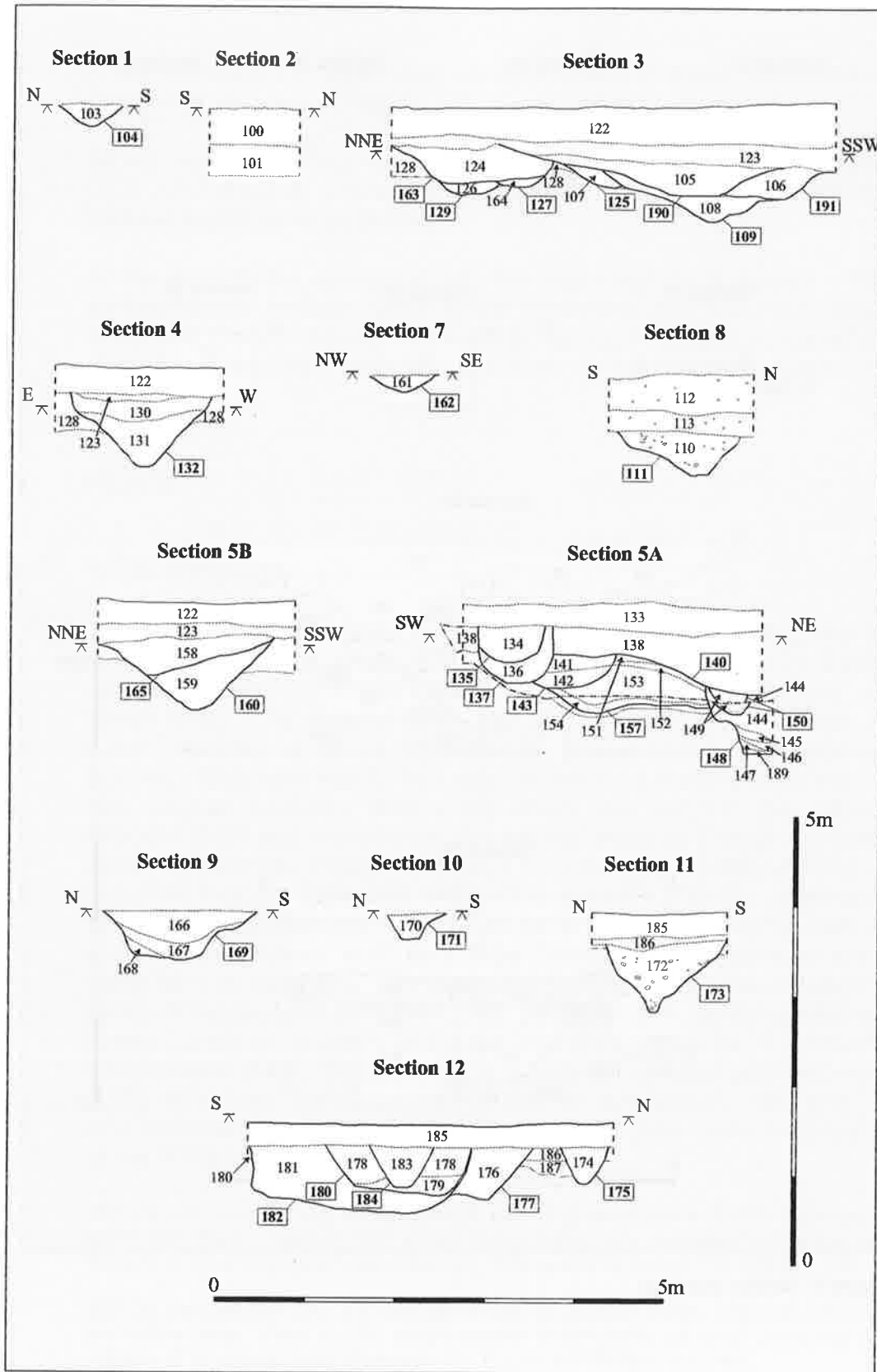


Figure 3: Section drawings

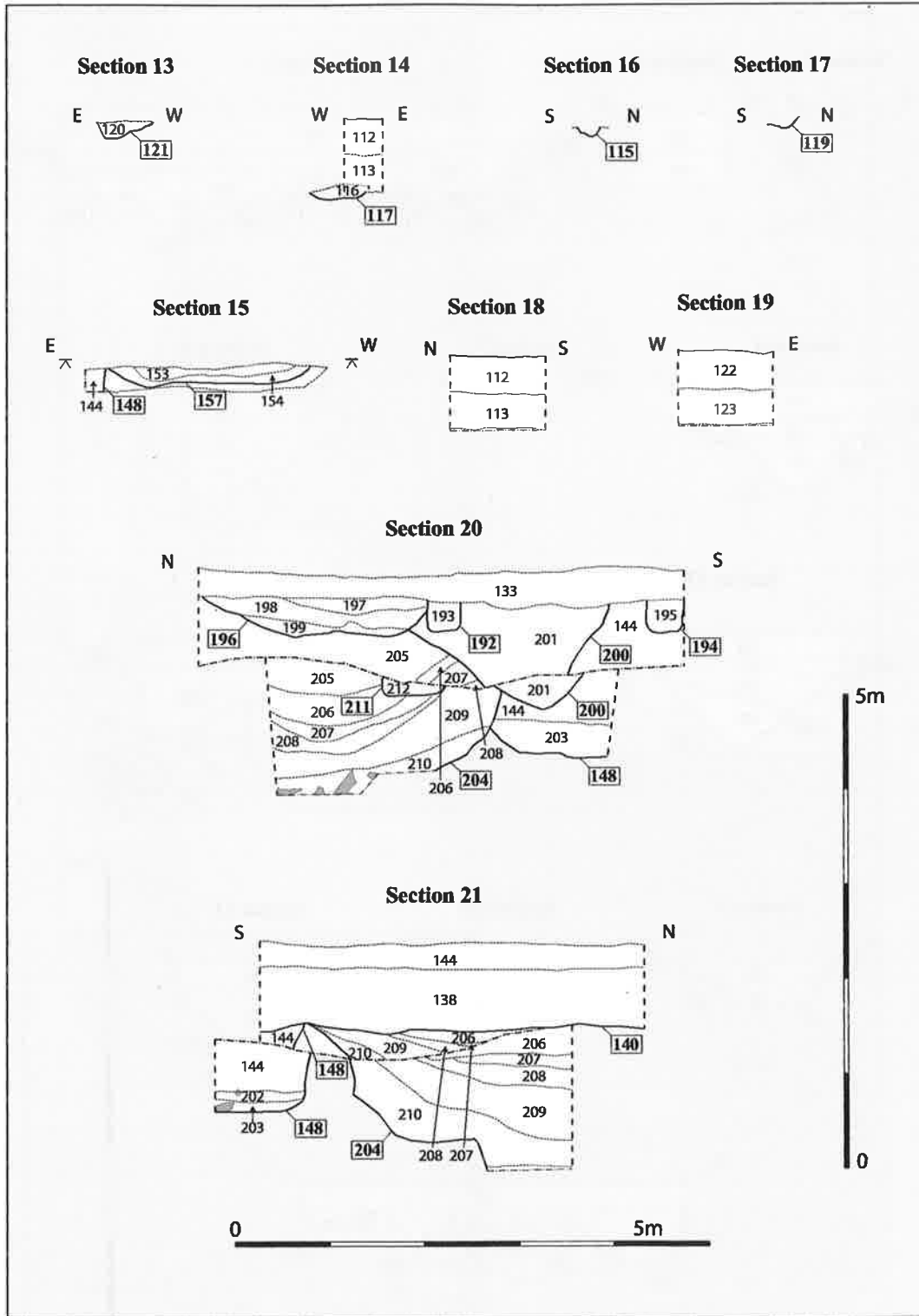


Figure 4: Section drawings

A site photographic record was compiled which included monochrome and colour standard slides, as well as colour digital photographs.

All excavation and post-excavation procedures followed the standard CCC AFU practice, and are in compliance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) guidelines.

At the time of the evaluation the site was used as a garden. The archaeological features were found preserved and uncontaminated under the modern topsoil and subsoil, except in Trench A where no subsoil was recorded. Weather conditions did not affect the evaluation.

5 Results

5.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 2-4)

Trench 1 was 'V' - shaped in plan with segments measuring 14m in length by 1.60m in width, and 13m in length by 1.60m in width, respectively (Fig. 2). It was located in the southern part of the site, off March Road. The removal of the topsoil (133) to an average depth of 0.30m revealed a series of medieval, post-medieval and modern features. Medieval activity was represented by a north-west to south-east aligned boundary ditch (157) which was cut into the natural deposits (102) and represented the earliest event in Trench 1. Post-medieval features included a possible boundary ditch (200) and pits of uncertain function (204 and 148). It is possible that the larger and deeper of these features (204) might have represented some form of water access feature, such as a large domestic well or possibly even some form of water pit. The upper stratigraphic sequence included a series of modern pits (135, 137, 192, 194, 196, 211), which contained animal burials (of primarily geese but also pig¹), and a cut of uncertain interpretation (140). There was also a series of undated pits (143) and (150), which had been truncated by the modern feature (140) and, in turn, truncated some of the dated medieval and post-medieval remains at the bottom of the stratigraphic sequence.

135 (no plan, section 5A): sub-circular pit with 'U'-shaped profile, 0.74m in diameter and 0.40m deep. Filled by 134, a dark brown sandy silty peat which contained the remains of an animal burial (not collected). It is sealed by topsoil 133 and cuts **137**.

137 (no plan, section 5A): sub-circular pit with 'U'-shaped profile, 0.80m in diameter and 0.60m deep. Filled by 136, a dark greyish brown sandy silt which contained the remains of an animal burial (Appendix 2). It is cut by **135** and cuts **140**.

¹ The geese burials were largely put in by the modern landowner and represented the death of various 'working pets' rather than any mass animal burial due to disease.

140 (no plan, section 5A): feature of uncertain shape in plan (only partially exposed) and truncated profile, 6.50+m long, 3.30+m wide and 0.70m deep. Filled by 138/139/155/156, a greyish brown sandy silt with no finds. It is cut by **137** and cuts **143, 150** and **211**.

143 (no plan, section 5A): oval? pit, with wide 'U'-shaped profile, 5+m long (visible length), 5m wide (visible width) and 0.75m deep. Upper fill 141, a yellowish brown sandy silt with no finds. Lower fill 142, a greyish brown sandy silt with no finds. It is cut by **140** and cuts **157**.

148 (sections 5A, 15, 20 and 21): oval pit with stepped profile, 1.90+m long (visible length), 1.8m wide and 0.96m deep. Filled by 144, 145, 146, 147, 189, 202 and 203. Fill 144, a yellowish brown sandy clayey silt with sherds of post-medieval pottery (Appendix 3) and animal bone (Appendix 2). Fill 145, a yellowish brown clayey sandy silt with sherds of post-medieval pottery (Appendix 3) and animal bone (Appendix 2). Fill 146, a yellowish brown sandy silt with no finds. Fill 147, a yellowish brown silty sand with fragments of post-medieval brick. Fill 189, a light yellowish brown silty sand with no finds. Fill 202, a dark greyish brown sandy silt with residual sherds of late medieval pottery (Appendix 3). Fill 203, a light yellowish brown sandy silt with residual sherds of medieval pottery (Appendix 3), and fragments of post-medieval brick, glass, limestone, mortar, and animal bone (pig) (Appendix 2). It is cut by **150, 194** and **204**, and cuts **157**.

150 (sections 5A): circular pit with wide 'U'-shaped profile, 0.48m in diameter and 0.30m deep. Filled by 149, a light yellowish brown silty sand with no finds. It is cut by **140** and cuts **148**.

157 (sections 5A and 15): linear ditch NW-SE aligned, with flat, wide 'U'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 5m wide and 0.30m deep. Filled by 151, 152, 153 and 154. Fill 151, a greyish brown sandy silt with no finds. Fill 152, a light yellowish brown silty sand with no finds. Fill 153, a light yellowish brown sandy silt with no finds. Fill 154, a dark greyish brown sandy silt with sherds of medieval pottery (Appendix 3) and animal bone (Appendix 2). Environmental Sample 1 (Appendix 4). It is cut by **143** and **148**, and cuts the natural deposits 102.

192 (no plan, section 20): sub-circular pit with 'U'-shaped profile, 0.34m in diameter and 0.32m deep. Filled by 193, a greyish brown sandy silt which contained the remains of an animal burial. It is sealed by topsoil 133 and cuts **196**.

194 (no plan, section 20): sub-circular pit with 'U'-shaped profile, 0.40m in diameter and 0.34m deep. Filled by 195, a light greyish brown sandy silt which contained the remains of an animal burial and residual fragments of post-medieval brick (Appendix 2). It is sealed by topsoil 133 and cuts **148**.

196 (no plan, section 20): sub-circular pit with 'U'-shaped profile, 1.30m in diameter and 0.39m deep. Filled by 197, 198 and 199. Fill 197, a yellowish brown sandy silt with no finds. Fill 198, a light yellowish brown silty sand with no finds. Fill 199, a dark greyish brown sandy silts with no finds. It cuts **200** and is cut by **192**.

200 (section 20): linear ditch NE-SW aligned, with convex 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 2.20m wide and 1.10m deep. Filled by 201, a greyish brown sandy silt with sherds of post-medieval pottery (Appendix 3) and animal bone (Appendix 2). It is cut by **196** and cuts **211**.

204 (sections 20 and 21): pit? of uncertain shape in plan, with stepped profile, 3.20+m long (visible length), 1.80+m wide (visible width) and 1.50+m deep (not bottomed). Filled by 205, 206, 207, 208, 209 and 210. Fill 205, a brown sandy silt with residual sherds of late medieval pottery (Appendix 3) and animal bone (Appendix 2). Fill 206, a greyish brown sandy silt with sherds of early post-medieval pottery (Appendix 3), together with fragments of post-medieval brick and animal bone

(Appendix 2). Fill 207, a dark grey sandy silt with residual sherds of late medieval pottery (Appendix 3), fragments of post-medieval brick and animal bone (Appendix 2). Environmental Sample 2 (Appendix 4). Fill 208, a light yellowish grey sandy silt with residual sherds of medieval pottery (Appendix 3), fragments of post-medieval brick and animal bone (again primarily pig) (Appendix 2). Fill 209, a greyish brown sandy silt with residual sherds of late medieval pottery (Appendix 3) and animal bone (Appendix 2). Fill 210, a light yellowish brown silty sand with sherds of post-medieval pottery (Appendix 3), fragments of post-medieval brick and animal bone (Appendix 2). It is cut by **211** and cuts **148**.

211 (section 20): sub-circular pit with 'U'-shaped profile, 1.60 long, 1.10m wide and 0.15m deep (truncated?). Filled by 212, a dark greyish brown sandy silt which contained the remains of an animal (pig) burial (Appendix 2) and residual fragments of post-medieval brick. It is cut by **200** and **140?**, and cuts **204**.

5.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 2-4)

Trench 2 was rectangular in plan, 10m long by 1.60m wide. It was located along the western boundary of the development site, on a north-west to south-east alignment (Fig. 2). The removal of the topsoil (112) to a depth of 0.38m and subsoil (113) to a depth of 0.78m revealed a series of small and shallow pits/postholes (**115**), (**119**) and, possibly (**117**) and (**121**), as well as a linear ditch north-east to south-west oriented (**111**). The postholes/pits appeared to be on a north-west to south-east alignment and may have represented the remains of a post-built fence running perpendicular to the ditch. There was no conclusive evidence for the presence of buildings on the site. Ditch (**111**) probably defined a boundary. All the features had been cut into the natural deposits.

111 (section 8): linear ditch NE-SW aligned, with flat 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 1.37m wide and 0.49m deep. Filled by 110, a dark yellowish brown silty sand. It contained fragments of animal bone (Appendix 2). Environmental Sample 4 (Appendix 4)

115 (section 16): circular posthole/pit with wide 'U'-shaped profile, 0.30m in diameter and 0.09m deep. Filled by 114, a light yellowish grey silty sand. It contained no finds.

117 (section 14): circular? pit? with wide 'U'-shaped profile, 0.45m in diameter (visible diameter) and 0.15m deep. Filled by 116, a yellowish brown silty sand. It contained no finds.

119 (section 17): circular posthole/pit with wide 'U'-shaped profile, 0.26m in diameter and 0.1m deep. Filled by 118, a brown silty sand. It contained no finds.

121 (section 13): oval? pit? with wide 'U'-shaped profile, 0.57m long (visible length), 0.30m wide (visible width) and 0.18m deep. Filled by 120, a dark yellowish brown silty sand. It contained no finds.

5.3 Trench 3 (Figs. 2 and 3)

Trench 3 was rectangular in plan, 18m long by 1.60m wide. It was located at the centre of the development site, on a north-east to south-

west alignment (Fig. 2). The removal of the topsoil (122) to a depth of 0.42m and subsoil (123) to a depth of 0.78m revealed a series of parallel, inter-cutting ditches on a north-west to south-east alignment (**109**, **125**, **127**, **129**, **163**, **190** and **191**), two linear ditches on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment (**132** and **160**), and a later ditch on a north-east to south-west alignment (**162/165**). The ditches probably represent boundaries of different periods.

109 (section 3): linear ditch NW-SE aligned, with 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 2+m wide and 0.55m deep (truncated depth). Filled by 108, a light yellowish brown silty sand. It contained no finds. It is cut by **191** and cuts **125**.

125 (section 3): linear ditch NW-SE aligned, with truncated profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 0.65m wide (truncated width) and 0.10m deep (truncated depth). Filled by 107, a light yellowish brown sandy silt. It contained no finds. It is cut by **109** and cuts **163**.

127 (section 3): linear ditch NW-SE aligned, with truncated profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 0.66m wide (truncated width) and 0.12m deep (truncated depth). Filled by 164, a light yellowish brown sandy silt. It contained no finds. It is cut by **163** and cuts **129**.

129 (section 3): ditch/pit, with 'U'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 0.50m wide (truncated width) and 0.12m deep (truncated depth). Filled by 126, a light yellowish brown sandy silt. It contained no finds. It is cut by **127** and cuts the natural deposits 128.

132 (section 4): linear ditch WNW-ESE aligned, with 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 1.58m wide and 0.72m deep. Upper fill 130, a light yellowish brown sandy silt. It contained no finds. Lower fill 131, a greyish brown sandy silt with sherds of late medieval pottery (Appendix 3) and animal bone (Appendix 2). Sealed by subsoil 123, it cuts the natural deposits 128.

160 (section 5B): linear ditch WNW-ESE aligned, with 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 1.20m wide and 0.80m deep. Filled by 159, a light yellowish brown sandy silt with animal bone (Appendix 2). It is cut by **162/165** and cuts the natural deposits 128.

162/165 (sections 5B and 7): linear ditch NE-SW aligned, with wide 'U'-shaped profile, 6.5m long (visible length), 0.75m wide and 0.18m deep. Filled by 161/158, a dark brown sandy silt with sherds of post-medieval pottery (Appendix 3) and animal bone (Appendix 2). It is sealed by subsoil 123 and cuts **160**.

163 (section 3): linear ditch NW-SE aligned, with flat convex profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 1.8m wide and 0.40m deep. Filled by 124, a light yellowish brown sandy silt. It contained no finds. It is cut by **125** and cuts **127**.

190 (section 3): linear ditch NW-SE aligned, with 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 2.2m wide and 0.40m deep. Filled by 105, a light greyish brown silty sand with animal bone (Appendix 2). It is sealed by the subsoil 123 and cuts **191**.

191 (section 3): linear ditch NW-SE aligned, with 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 1+m wide (truncated width) and 0.38m deep. Filled by 106, a light greyish brown silty sand. It contained sherds of medieval pottery. It is cut by **190** and cuts **109**.

5.4 Trench 4 (Figs. 2 and 3)

Trench 4 was 'L'-shaped in plan with the longer segment being 16m in length by 1.60m in width, and the shorter segment 6m in length by 1.60m in width. It was located along the eastern boundary of the development site, to the east of Trench 3 (Fig. 2). The earliest feature in the trench was represented by a linear ditch on a north-east to south-west alignment (**173**), which was cut into the natural deposit (**187**) and was sealed by the subsoil (**186**) 0.40m deep. The ditch might have represented a substantial boundary and was characterised by the presence of a basal slot for a possible wooden palisade. It was filled by a homogenous leached silty clay, the presence of which may point to an early date for the feature. A series of post-medieval features including a ditch (**171/184**) on a north-east to south-west alignment and a cluster of inter-cutting quarry pits of varying depths and sizes possibly associated with gravel extraction (**169**, **175**, **177**, **180** and **182**) had been cut into the subsoil (**186**) and were sealed by the topsoil (**185**) 0.32m deep.

169 (section 9): circular pit with flat, convex 'V'-shaped profile, 1.73m in diameter. Filled by 166, 167 and 168. Upper fill 166, a dark yellowish brown clayey silt which contained no finds. Mid fill 167, a dark greyish brown clayey silt which contained animal bone (Appendix 2). Environmental Sample 3 (Appendix 4). Lower fill 168, a yellowish silty sand with no finds. It is cut by **175** and **177**, and cuts subsoil **186**.

171/184 (section 10): linear ditch NE-SW aligned with flat 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 0.70m wide and 0.44m deep. Filled by 170/183, a brown clayey silt which contained sherds of post-medieval pottery (Appendix 3). It is sealed by topsoil **185** and cuts **180**.

173 (section 11): linear ditch, NE-SW aligned, with stepping 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 1.35m wide and 0.75m deep. It was filled by 172, a very light yellowish brown sandy clay with fragments of animal bone (Appendix 2). It is sealed by subsoil **186** and cuts the natural deposits **187**.

175 (section 12): pit of uncertain shape in plan, 0.38m deep. Filled by 174, a dark brown clayey silt with no finds. It is sealed by topsoil **185** and cuts **169**.

177 (section 12): pit of uncertain shape in plan (truncated), 0.57m deep. Filled by 176, a greyish brown clayey silt with fragments of bone (Appendix 2). It is cut by **182** and cuts **169**.

180 (no plan, section 12): pit of uncertain shape in plan, 1.60m in diameter (visible in section) and 0.52m deep. Filled by 178 and 179. Upper fill 178, a dark brown clayey silt with no finds. Lower fill 179, a yellowish brown clayey sand with no finds. It is cut by **171/184** and cuts **182**.

182 (section 12): oval? pit, 2.43m long (visible length), 0.50m wide (visible width) and 0.73m deep. Filled by 181, a light yellowish brown clayey silt with residual sherds of medieval pottery (Appendix 3). It is cut by **180** and cuts **177**.

5.5 Trench 5 (Figs. 2 and 3)

Trench 5 was rectangular in plan, 8m long by 1.60m wide. It was located along the western boundary of the development site to the north-west of, and on the same north-west to south-east alignment as, Trench 2 of which Trench 5 represented an off-set 'continuation' (Fig. 2). The removal of the topsoil (100) to a depth of 0.42m and subsoil (101) to a depth of 0.76m revealed a linear ditch on a north-east to south-west alignment (**104**) which produced sherds of medieval pottery (Appendix 3) and fragments of clay pipe. The ditch probably represented a boundary.

104 (section 1): linear ditch NE-SW aligned, with 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 0.71m wide and 0.24m deep. Filled by 103, a greyish brown silty sand. It contained sherds of post-medieval pottery and fragments of clay pipe.

6 Discussion

Based on direct stratigraphic relationships, dating provided by diagnostic finds, feature typology and shared similarities in terms fill composition, location and alignment, when applicable, the main phases of activity were identified as late medieval and post-medieval.

6.1 Late Medieval (mid 13th-15th century)

Medieval activity on the site was characterised by series of postholes and ditches, which were sealed by the subsoil, except in Trench 1. These features are likely to have marked field boundaries. The absence of direct stratigraphic relationships prevented the definition of chronological sequences and sub-phasing. Residual sherds of late medieval pottery in later contexts could indicate that activity during this phase was more intense than indicated by the surviving, predominantly findless, features

6.1.1 Postholes (Figs. 2 and 4)

In Trench 2 the removal of the subsoil (113) revealed a series of small and shallow postholes (**115**, **117**, **119** and **121**), on an approximately north-west to south-east alignment, fairly regularly spaced at a distance of some 5m. They may have represented the remains of a post-built fence running perpendicular to a north-east to south-west oriented ditch (**111**) (below).

6.1.2 Ditches (Figs. 2-4)

The medieval ditches recorded during the evaluation appeared to follow two main alignments, being north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west aligned, with two instances of west-north-west to east-south-east oriented ditches. In Trench 1 a north-west to south-east aligned boundary ditch (157) contained sherds of mid 13th-mid 14th century pottery (Appendix 3) and represented the earliest event in the trench. It may have continued north-westwards as (132) in Trench 3. In Trench 2 the removal of the subsoil (113) revealed an undated boundary ditch north-east to south-west oriented (111). In Trench 3 the subsoil (123) sealed a series of parallel, inter-cutting ditches on a north-west to south-east alignment (109, 125, 127, 129, 163, 190 and 191), two parallel linear ditches on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment (132 and 160), and a later ditch on a north-east to south-west alignment (162/165). Ditch (132) is likely to represent the continuation of ditch (157) in Trench 1. None of the other ditches recorded in Trench 3 appeared to continue in Trench 1 where they would have been truncated by later, post-medieval, pitting (below). In Trench 5 a linear boundary ditch on a north-east to south-west alignment (104) was recorded. It ran perpendicular to the series of north-west to south-east aligned ditches in Trench 3 (132 and inter-cutting 109, 125, 127, 129, 163, 190 and 191) and could have been part of one or more enclosures.

The varying alignments and available stratigraphic relationships coupled with the dating provided by the pottery would indicate that the ditches represented boundaries of different periods, as indicated by the sequence in Trench 3. Here, the west-north-west to east-south-east aligned ditch (160) and, by association, (132) which ran parallel to it and contained sherds of late medieval pottery (Appendix 3) clearly pre-dated the north-east to south-west aligned ditch (162/165) dating to the 16th century (Appendix 3). The north-west to south-east oriented boundary, as defined by features (109, 125, 127, 129?, 163, 190 and 191), was maintained over a relatively long period of time, as suggested by its frequent re-cuts. Its relationship with ditches (132, 160 and 162/165) is uncertain.

6.2 Post-Medieval (16th-17th century)

The most recent features, quarry pits and boundary ditches, on the site were sealed by the modern topsoil and were cut into the subsoil, except in Trench I.

6.2.1 Pits (Figs. 2-4)

Two deep inter-cutting pits possibly associated with mineral extraction or water access, (204 and 148) were recorded in Trench 1. Both

features produced residual sherds of medieval pottery, as well as sherds of 16th-17th century pottery (Appendix 3) and fragments of post-medieval brick (Appendix 2). Pit (211) was relatively shallow. It contained fragments of post medieval brick, as well as a substantial amount of pig bone (Appendix 2). Pit 204 contained remains of fish, including eel, perch, stickleback and pike, which are typical of sieved material from Cambridgeshire (Appendix 5).

Although no conclusive evidence for structures was uncovered during the evaluation, the bricks and other debris from pits (148, 204 and 211) may suggest the presence of a building nearby.

Trench 1 also contained a series of undated pits (143 and 150), and a cut of uncertain interpretation (140), which had truncated some of the dated medieval and post-medieval features at the bottom of the stratigraphic sequence (above). Trench 4 contained a cluster of possible quarry pits of varying depth (169, 175, 177, 180 and 182), which had been cut into the subsoil (186) and were sealed by the topsoil (185). Pit (182) contained residual sherds of medieval pottery (Appendix 3).

6.2.2 Ditches (Figs. 2-3)

In Trench 4 the topsoil (185) sealed a 17th century ditch on a north-east to south-west alignment (171/184) which stratigraphically appeared to post-date the quarry pits. The evidence may point to a change in land use during the post-medieval period.

6.3 Modern (Figs. 2-4)

In Trench 1 the removal of the topsoil (133) revealed a series of modern pits (135, 137, 192, 194, and 196), which contained animal burials (geese), as well as a possible boundary ditch on a north-east to south-west alignment (200).

6.4 Undated (Figs.2-3)

In Trench 4 the subsoil (186) sealed a substantial boundary ditch with a possible associated wooden palisade/fence on a north-east to south-west alignment (173). It was filled by homogenous leached silty clay which was not observed in any of the other excavated features on the site. Though undated, the ditch could be pre-medieval in origin. The absence of finds would be consistent with a Saxon, or even prehistoric, date.

7 Conclusions

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

The site had been used as gardens, at least from the late 19th century, with negligible modern disturbance affecting its original conditions. Archaeological features were preserved in all the excavated trenches, their distribution providing a good indication of the extent and intensity of activity throughout the site.

In synthesis, two main phases of activity were identified. The earlier phase dated to the medieval period (mid 13th-15th century) and was characterised by evidence for field/plot boundaries. The later phase dated to the post-medieval period (16th-17th century) and represented an intensification of the earlier, medieval, activities, with the progressive redefinition of the boundaries following a period of light industrial activity in the form of gravel extraction.

In addition, the ecofactual and artefactual remains from the evaluation would indicate domestic activities and, possibly, occupation, in close proximity to the development site. These remains are consistent with food and general disposal of domestic waste during both the late medieval and post-medieval periods, although the pottery is of considerable wealth in fen terms, especially in comparison with the typical local wares from some Whittlesey sites (Kasia Gdaniec, pers. comm.). Similarly, the environmental evidence suggests that cereals were consumed and, possibly, processed nearby. Activity appears to have intensified during the post-medieval period, as suggested by the increased quantity of pottery discarded across the site and, in particular, in Trench 1, *i.e.* near the frontage of March Road. It is interesting to note that Trench 1 also produced fragments of building material which would point to the existence of a relatively short-lived structure of early 17th century date nearby, possibly along March Road?.

The evaluation did not produce sufficient evidence to assist the analysis of settlement expansion at Coates. Coates is recorded as early as AD 1280 as *cot(es)* meaning 'cottages' (Reaney 1943, 264). The street plan of the hamlet and, in particular, the shape of North Green could indicate that the medieval settlement or 'cottages' originally clustered around the green. Away from the it the settlement probably consisted of 'singular houses' (Kasia Gdaniec, pers. comm.), at least until the late 18th-early 19th century when cartographic evidence shows the progressive expansion of the built-up area and infilling of the enclosed plots east of North Green. It is possible that one such singular house existed in close proximity to the development site sometime around 1600. Absence of conclusive evidence for

structural remains would be consistent with development along the eastern edge of the green itself and, possibly, along March Road, with the development site representing a zone of 'backyard' activities.

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Maps

Tithe Map of 1840

Cambridge Record Office

Enclosure Map of 1844

Cambridge Record Office

OS 1st ed. (1886)

Cambridge Record Office, Map X.15

Appendix 1: List of Contexts

Context No.	Cut No.	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Description
100	-	5	deposit	topsoil	dark peaty loam, 0.42m thick
101	-	5	deposit	subsoil	dark brown sandy silt, 0.76m thick
103	104	5	fill	ditch	greyish brown silty sand
104	104	5	cut	ditch	linear ditch NE-SW aligned, with 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 0.71m wide and 0.24m deep
108	109	3	fill	ditch	light yellowish brown silty sand
105	190	3	fill	ditch	light greyish brown silty sand
106	191	3	fill	ditch	light greyish brown silty sand
107	125	3	fill	ditch	light yellowish brown sandy silt
109	109	3	cut	ditch	linear ditch NW-SE aligned, with 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 2+m wide and 0.55m deep (truncated depth)
110	111	2	fill	ditch	dark yellowish brown silty sand
111	111	2	cut	ditch	linear ditch NE-SW aligned, with flat 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 1.37m wide and 0.49m deep
112	-	2	deposit	topsoil	dark peaty loam, 0.38m thick
113	-	2	deposit	subsoil	dark brown sandy silt, 0.78m thick
114	115	2	fill	posthole	light yellowish grey silty sand
115	115	2	cut	posthole	circular posthole/pit with wide 'U'-shaped profile, 0.30m in diameter and 0.09m deep
116	117	2	fill	pit?	yellowish brown silty sand
117	117	2	cut	pit?	circular? pit? with wide 'U'-shaped profile, 0.45m in diameter (visible diameter) and 0.15m deep
118	119	2	fill	posthole	a brown silty sand
119	119	2	cut	posthole	circular posthole/pit with wide 'U'-shaped profile, 0.26m in diameter and 0.1m deep
120	121	2	fill	pit?	dark yellowish brown silty sand
121	121	2	cut	pit?	oval? pit? with wide 'U'-shaped profile, 0.57m long (visible length), 0.30m wide (visible with) and 0.18m deep
122	-	3	deposit	topsoil	dark peaty loam, 0.42m thick
123	-	3	deposit	subsoil	dark brown sandy silt, 0.78m thick
124	163	3	fill	ditch	light yellowish brown sandy silt
125	125	3	cut	ditch	linear ditch NW-SE aligned, with truncated profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 0.65m wide (truncated width) and 0.10m deep (truncated depth)
126	3	fill	ditch/pit	3	light yellowish brown sandy silt
127	127	3	cut	ditch	linear ditch NW-SE aligned, with truncated profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 0.66m wide (truncated width) and 0.12m deep (truncated depth)
129	129	3	cut	ditch/pit	ditch/pit, with 'U'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 0.50m wide (truncated width) and 0.12m deep (truncated depth)
130	132	3	fill	ditch	a light yellowish brown sandy silt

Context No.	Cut No.	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Description
131	132	3	fill	ditch	greyish brown sandy silt
132	132	3	cut	ditch	linear ditch WNW-ESE aligned, with 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 1.58m wide and 0.72m deep
133	-	1	deposit	topsoil	dark peaty loam, 0.30m thick
134	135	1	fill	pit	dark brown sandy silty peat
135	135	1	cut	pit	sub-circular circular pit, 'U'-shaped profile, 0.74m in diameter and 0.40m deep
136	137	1	fill	pit	dark greyish brown sandy silt
137	137	1	cut	pit	sub-circular pit with 'U'-shaped profile, 0.80m in diameter, and 0.60m deep
138	140	1	fill	?	greyish brown sandy silt
140	140	1	cut	?	feature of uncertain shape in plan (only partially exposed) and truncated profile, 6.50+m long, 3.30+m wide and 0.70m deep
141	143	1	fill	pit	yellowish brown sandy silt
142	143	1	fill	pit	greyish brown sandy silt
143	143	1	cut	pit	oval? pit, with wide 'U'-shaped profile, 5+m long (visible length), 5m wide (visible width) and 0.75m deep
144	148	1	fill	pit	yellowish brown sandy clayey silt
145	148	1	fill	pit	yellowish brown clayey sandy silt
146	148	1	fill	pit	yellowish brown sandy silt
147	148	1	fill	pit	yellowish brown silty sand
148	148	1	cut	pit	oval pit with stepped, 'V'-shaped profile, 1.90+m long (visible length), 1.8m wide and 0.96m deep (not bottomed)
149	150	1	fill	pit	light yellowish brown silty sand
150	150	1	cut	pit	circular pit with wide 'U'-shaped profile, 0.48m in diameter and 0.30m deep
151	157	1	fill	ditch	greyish brown sandy silt
152	157	1	fill	ditch	light yellowish brown silty sand
153	157	1	fill	ditch	light yellowish brown sandy silt
154	157	1	fill	ditch	dark greyish brown sandy silt
157	157	1	cut	ditch	linear ditch NW-SE aligned, with flat, wide 'U'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 5m wide and 0.30m deep
158/161	162	3	fill	ditch	dark brown sandy silt
159	160	3	fill	ditch	light yellowish brown sandy silt
160	160	3	cut	ditch	linear ditch WNW-ESE aligned, with 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 1.20m wide and 0.80m deep
162/165	162	3	cut	ditch	linear ditch NE-SW aligned, with wide 'U'-shaped profile, 6.5m long (visible length), 0.75m wide and 0.18m deep
163	163	3	cut	ditch	linear ditch NW-SE aligned, with flat convex profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 1.8m wide and 0.40m deep
164	127	3	fill	ditch	light yellowish brown sandy silt
166	169	4	fill	pit	dark yellowish brown clayey silt
167	169	4	fill	pit	dark greyish brown clayey silt

Context No.	Cut No.	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Description
168	169	4	fill	pit	yellowish silty sand
169	169	4	cut	pit	circular pit with flat, convex 'V'-shaped profile, 1.73m in diameter
170/183	171	4	fill	ditch	brown clayey silt
171	171	4	cut	ditch	linear ditch NE-SW aligned with flat 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 0.70m wide and 0.44m deep
172	173	4	fill	ditch	very light yellowish brown sandy clay
173	173	4	cut	ditch	linear ditch, NE-SW aligned, with stepping 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 1.35m wide and 0.75m deep
174	175	4	fill	pit	dark brown clayey silt
175	175	4	cut	pit	pit of uncertain shape in plan, 0.38m deep
176	177	4	fill	pit	greyish brown clayey silt
177	177	4	cut	pit	pit of uncertain shape in plan (truncated), 0.57m deep
178	180	4	fill	pit	dark brown clayey silt
179	180	4	fill	pit	yellowish brown clayey sand
180	180	4	cut	pit	pit of uncertain shape in plan, 1.60m in diameter (visible in section) and 0.52m deep
181	182	4	fill	pit	light yellowish brown clayey silt
182	182	4	cut	pit	oval? pit, 2.43m long (visible length), 0.50m wide (visible width) and 0.73m deep
185	-	4	deposit	topsoil	dark peaty loam, 0.32m thick
186	-	4	deposit	subsoil	dark brown sandy silt, 0.40m thick
189	148	1	fill	pit	light yellowish brown silty sand
190	190	3	cut	ditch	linear ditch NW-SE aligned, with 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 2.2m wide and 0.40m deep
191	191	3	cut	ditch	linear ditch NW-SE aligned, with 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 1+m wide (truncated width) and 0.38m deep
192	192	1	cut	pit	sub-circular circular pit with 'U'-shaped profile, 0.34m in diameter and 0.32m deep
193	192	1	fill	pit	greyish brown sandy silt
194	194	1	cut	pit	sub-circular pit with 'U'-shaped profile, 0.40m in diameter and 0.34m deep
195	194	1	fill	pit	light greyish brown sandy silt
196	196	1	cut	pit	sub-circular pit with 'U'-shaped profile, 1.30m in diameter and 0.39m deep
197	196	1	fill	pit	yellowish brown sandy silt
198	196	1	fill	pit	light yellowish brown silty sand
199	196	1	fill	pit	dark greyish brown sandy silts
200	200	1	cut	ditch	linear ditch NE-SW aligned, with convex 'V'-shaped profile, 1.60m long (visible length), 2.20m wide and 1.10m deep
201	200	1	fill	ditch	greyish brown sandy silt
202	148	1	fill	pit	dark greyish brown sandy silt
203	148	1	fill	pit	a light yellowish brown sandy silt
204	204	1	cut	pit?	pit? of uncertain shape in plan, with

Context No.	Cut No.	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Description
					stepped profile, 3.20+m long (visible length), 1.80+m wide (visible width) and 1.50+m deep (not bottomed)
205	204	1	fill	pit?	brown sandy silt
206	204	1	fill	pit?	greyish brown sandy silt
207	204	1	fill	pit?	dark grey sandy silt
208	204	1	fill	pit?	light yellowish grey sandy silt
209	204	1	fill	pit?	greyish brown sandy silt
210	204	1	fill	pit?	light yellowish brown silty sand
211	211	1	cut	pit	truncated?)
212	211	1	fill	pit	dark greyish brown sandy silt

Appendix 2: Finds List

Context No.	Cut No.	Trench	Bone	Ceramic	Glass	Limestone	Mortar	Shell	Stone
103	104	5		0.039					
105	190	3	0.534						
110	111	2	0.003						
131	132	3	0.035	0.008					
136	137	1	0.007						
144	148	1	0.007	0.193					
145	148	1	0.012	0.001					
147	148	1		0.283					
154	157	1	0.112	0.219					
159	160	3	0.123						
161	162	3	0.013	0.066					
167	169	4	0.001						
172	173	4	0.094						
176	177	4	0.093						
181	182	4		0.014					
183	184	4		0.015					
195	194	1	0.018	0.001					
201	200	1	0.035	0.066					
202	148	1		0.024					
203	148	1	0.322	0.748	0.001	0.016	0.053		
205	204	1	0.003	0.392					
206	204	1	0.052	1.552					
207	204	1	0.082	1.438				0.001	
208	204	1	0.053	1.099					
209	204	1	0.354						4.611
210	204	1	0.042	1.441					
212	204	1	1.075	0.074					
99999			0.004						

Appendix 3: The Pottery

by Carole Fletcher BA

1 Introduction and Background

The evaluation on Land North of No. 7 March Road, Coates, Whittlesey produced a small pottery assemblage of only 80 sherds, weighing 1.488kg. Of the 113 contexts recorded, 17 contained pottery. The material from the topsoil and any other unstratified material are included in these totals.

Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the following text are:

Bourne B or Bourne B type ware	BONB/BONBT
Bourne D ware	BOND
Cistercian ware	CSTN
Grimston ware	GRIM
Local medieval unglazed	LMU
Late medieval reduced ware	LMR
Lyveden-Stanion wares	LYST
Medieval Ely type ware	MELT
Post-medieval black glazed ware	PMBL
Post-medieval Red wares	PMR
Toynon All Saints (Lincs)	TOYN

2 Methodology

The basic guidance in the Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2) has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991) In addition the following documents act as a standard: 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).

Spot dating was carried out using the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit's (CCC AFU) in-house system based on that used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described types. New types have been given descriptive identifiers, but full fabric descriptions using binocular microscope and x20 magnification have yet to be carried out for these. 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 (see Appendix A); this information was entered directly onto a full quantification database (Access 2000), which allows for the appending of quantification data.

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

3 Evaluation

The trenches were machine excavated with further excavation carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling procedures on a feature by feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases. Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental remains, there has been some recovery of pottery.

4 The Assemblage

Fieldwork generated a small assemblage of 80 sherds, (1.488kg) of pottery. This material consists of moderately abraded pottery with the majority assemblage including unstratified material dated to the mid fifteenth to mid-late seventeenth century. Approximately a third of the assemblage is medieval in date and includes of sherds of BONB, GRIM, LMU, LMR, MELT, TOYN and LYST. Several medieval vessel types were recognised, including BONB jars and jugs, an LMR jar and sherds from late medieval LYST and TOYN jugs, and a single base sherd from a late medieval TOYN bowl. The most significant find was from context 154, a medieval context that contained a near complete face from a GRIM face jug. The later post-medieval material is mainly BOND and includes Jars, Jugs and a single bowl sherd. Small amounts of PMBL and PMR were also recovered alongside a sherd from a CSTN drinking vessel

The assemblage is small, has no complete vessels, and full statistical analysis is not viable. There is no Saxo-Norman material from the site and only 28 sherds of medieval pottery; of these the majority are residual within post-medieval contexts. The majority of the post medieval material derives from Lincolnshire, with a small number of sherds from Essex, Norfolk and more distant manufacture in the midlands. 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. The GRIM face jug sherds from Norfolk may be considered for illustration.

Bibliography

Blake, H and Davey, P 1983 *Guidelines for the Processing and Publications of Medieval Pottery from Excavations*. Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings Occasional Paper 5

English Heritage 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects*

Medieval Pottery Research Group 1998: A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1

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Appendix: Spot Dates

Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the following text are:

Bourne B or Bourne B type ware	BONB/BONBT
Bourne D ware	BOND
Cistercian ware	CSTN
Grimston ware	GRIM
Local medieval unglazed	LMU
Late medieval reduced ware	LMR
Lyveden-Stanion wares	LYST
Medieval Ely type ware	MELT
Norfolk Bichrome	BICR
Post-medieval black glazed ware	PMBL
Post-medieval Red wares	PMR
Tin Glazed earthen ware	TGW
Toynton All Saints (Lincs)	TOYN
Sandy Ware	SW

Context No.	Fabric	Number of Sherds	Weight in kg	Spot dating Date Range
103	PMBL	2	0.039	17th Century
131	BOND	1	0.008	Mid 15th to mid 17th Century
144	BONB	1	0.003	16th Century
	BOND	4	0.054	
	CSTN	1	0.01	
	PMR	1	0.019	
	TOYN	4	0.088	
145	PMR	1	0.001	16th or 17th century
154	BONBT	1	0.021	Mid 13th to mid 14th Century
	GRIM	5	0.195	
	LMU	2	0.003	
161	BICR	1	0.003	Early to mid 16th Century
	BOND	3	0.035	
	LMU	1	0.002	
	PMR	1	0.021	
	TGW	1	0.005	
181	SW	1	0.014	13th to late 15th Century
183	CSTN TYPE	1	0.01	17th Century

Context No.	Fabric	Number of Sherds	Weight in kg	Spot dating Date Range
		1	0.006	
201		4	0.043	16th Century
	GRIM	1	0.004	
	LMR	1	0.009	
	PMR	1	0.01	
202	BOND	4	0.021	Mid 15th Century
	MELT	1	0.004	
203	LMU	1	0.01	13th to late 15th Century
205	BONB	1	0.138	Mid 15th Century
	BOND	1	0.038	
	SW	1	0.006	
	TOYN	1	0.057	
206	BOND	7	0.148	16th Century
	CSTNT	1	0.016	
	UNK	1	0.013	
207	BONB	1	0.01	Mid 15th Century
	BOND	3	0.035	
	LYST	2	0.02	
208	LMR	1	0.017	Mid 14th to late 15th Century
209	BONB	1	0.006	Mid 15th Century
	BONBT	1	0.007	
	BOND	1	0.06	
210	BOND	11	0.281	16th to mid 17th Century

Table App.3.1: Pottery

Appendix 4: Environmental Evidence

by Rachel Fosberry

1 Introduction and Methods

Four bulk samples were taken from features within the excavated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. 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. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification.

2 Results

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Sample Size (L)	Flot Comments	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Small animal bones	Large animal bones	Fish bone	Pottery	Magnetic residues
1	154	157	ditch	10	Carex flacca, C.nigra, C.hirta, Rumex, Wheat,Oat,Trifolium/medicago, Polygonum aviculare	+	+	0	0	0	0	+
2	207	204	pit?	10	Barley, Lolium, flax, wheat, chenopodium, gallium, rumex.	+	+	0	+	+	+	0
3	167	169	pit	10	Charcoal only	+	+	+	+	0	0	+
4	110	111	ditch	10	One oat, one wheat	+	+	0	+	0	0	0

Table App.4.1: Environmental samples

2.1 Plant Macrofossils

Preservation is by charring and is generally poor to moderate. Charcoal fragments are present in all of the samples in varying quantities. Modern contaminants in the form of rootlets and a few common seeds such as *Chenopodium* sp. are present in most of the samples.

Charred seeds of common grassland plants were recovered from Samples 1 and 2 and include dock (*Rumex* sp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), Cleavers (*Gallium* sp.) and grass seeds (*Lolium* sp. and *Poacea* sp.). Sample 1 also contains sedges (*Carex flacca*, *C. nigra*, *C. hirta*) and a single pea (*Pisum* sp.) and Sample 2 contains a single flax seed (*Linum usitatissimum*).

2.2 Cereals

Cereal grains are present in small quantities in all of the samples except Sample 3 and include barley, wheat and oats but only in small quantities. Preservation was variable but many of the grains were abraded making identification tentative in samples 1 and 4.

2.3 Bone

Fragments of animal bone were recovered from Samples 2, 3 and 4. Fishbone, in particular vertebrae, are common in Sample 2.

2.4 Industrial Activity

A single spheroid of hammerslag was recovered from the residue of Sample 3.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

This rapid scan of four samples from this site has shown that there is preservation of plant remains that have a limited potential to aid interpretation of the site. The presence of cereal grains and associated weed seeds indicate domestic, culinary activity. The grains may have been accidentally burnt while being dried prior to storage or during cooking over open fires. Barley was often used for animal fodder but may have been used for human consumption in the form of bread, soup and was also used for the brewing of beer. No germinated grains were recovered to suggest brewing activities. The other dietary remains of animal bone and fishbone in Sample 2, along with the charred grain are probably derived from the deposition of small quantities of burnt domestic refuse. The presence of sedges and grassland seeds in Sample 1 could suggest their use as flooring/bedding material.

It is not considered that full analysis would add significantly to this interpretation.

Key to Tables

+ = 1 – 10 specimens ++ = 10 – 100 specimens +++ = 100+ specimens

Appendix 5: Fish and Amphibian Bones

by S. Hamilton-Dyer

1 Introduction and Methods

Three samples were made available for examination. The condition of the bone is generally good, which aids identification. Taxonomic identifications were made using the author's modern comparative collections. All fragments were briefly examined and the notes taken but the bones and anatomical elements were not individually recorded.

SS 1 context 154

This sample contains several amphibian bones, some definitely of frog, and two small mammal bones.

SS 3 context 167

This sample also contains amphibian bones including frog, of a larger size than the previous sample. Small mammals are represented by a partial femur of shrew morphology.

SS 2 context 207

This sample contains a great variety of material. Again, there are bones of amphibian, probably frog. Small mammal bones include several of shrew (probably common on size but none are diagnostic), and a tail vertebra of a larger type such as water vole. Birds are represented by two claw phalanges of small size.

The fish remains are of four species. There is a single eel precaudal vertebra, one scale of perch, various elements of stickleback and several vertebrae of very small pike (about 100 mm total length).

Species List

shrew, *Sorex sp.*

small mammal bones not identified to family or species

bird bone fragments not identified to family or species

amphibian, includes common frog, *Rana temporaria*

eel, *Anguilla anguilla*

pike, *Essox luscus*

3-spined stickleback, *Gasterosteus aculeatus*

perch, *Perca fluviatilis*

fish bones not identified to family or species.

2 Discussion

These remains are typical of sieved material from Cambridgeshire. The fish are all species still present in the area today. Eels and sticklebacks can be found in most water bodies, eels even in ditches, and are tolerant of a wide variety of conditions. Pike and perch are more often found in slow flowing rivers and in lakes. It is interesting to note that the site is not far from Whittlesea Mere, where a pike fishery is known to have been important in the medieval period. At that site the remains of a variety of very small fish were considered to be evidence of gutting pike (Lucas *et al* 1998). It is possible that these remains are also from gutting fish, either of fish caught in the immediate vicinity or caught elsewhere and brought to the site. An alternative explanation is that these are remains from small fish used as soup or stock, although the use of stickleback seems unlikely.

Bibliography

Lucas, G., Hall, D., Fryer, V., Irving, B., and French, C. (1998) A medieval Fishery on Whittlesea Mere, Cambs. *Medieval Archaeology*, XLII



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cambridgeshire archaeology
archaeological field unit

Fulbourn Community Centre Site
Haggis Gap
Fulbourn
Cambridge
CB1 5HD

Tel : 01223 576201
Fax: 01223 880946
email: arch.field.unit@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
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