



CCC AFU Report Number 870

Medieval Quarry Pits and Post-Medieval Layers at The Granary, Nos 30-32 West Street, St Ives, Cambridgeshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

Rachel Clarke

June 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
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An Archaeological Evaluation

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With contributions by Barry Bishop BA MA, Chris Faine MA MSc, Rachel Fosberry HND and Paul Sperry PhD MIFA

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation, comprising three trenches, was undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit on the site of a former warehouse at Nos 30-32 West Street, St Ives. The proposed development comprises the construction of six new dwellings and covers an area of c.0.14ha.

The site is thought to lie within the northern fringes of the historic core of the town and is located close to an excavation at the former Permanex site, where 13th-14th century plot boundaries, rubbish pits and a 17th century cock fighting pit were uncovered.

The earliest evidence of activity was in the form of four flints, two of which are characteristic of Neolithic technology. Although residual these will add to the growing data for prehistoric exploitation and activity in St Ives and along the gravel terraces of the Ouse valley.

The main result of the evaluation was the identification of a mass of quarry pits that were encountered in all three trenches at a depth of c.0.7m below ground level. This evidence indicates fairly intensive and extensive gravel extraction on this plot of land over a seemingly defined time span during the medieval period (12th-14th century). No remains of frontage buildings or boundary plots were found. These may have been removed by quarrying, or it is possible that the site may have been located on the immediate fringes of the planned town. The presence of relatively small quantities of pottery, butchered animal bone and other finds indicates some disposal of domestic and possibly industrial waste from nearby settlement. Environmental samples, taken from two medieval pits and one post-medieval layer, were devoid of plant remains.

The pits were sealed beneath several post-medieval cultivation layers and modern rubble/construction deposits. Cartographic evidence indicates that the development area was located within a large parcel of land stretching back to North Road, which seems to have remained largely clear of buildings. The plot of land may have been an orchard in the latter part of the 19th century; no buildings are shown on the West Street frontage until the construction of the factory/warehouse in the 20th century.

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Drawing Conventions

Sections	Plans
Limit of Excavation	Limit of Excavation
Cut	Deposit - Conjectured
Cut-Conjectured	Natural Features
Soil Horizon	Intrusion/Truncation
Soil Horizon - Conjectured	Sondages/Machine Strip
Intrusion/Truncation	Illustrated Section
Top of Natural	Archaeological Deposit
Top Surface	Archaeological Feature
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	Excavated Slot
Tarmac	Modern Deposit
Tarmac - Conjectured	Machined Level
Modern Cut	Waterlogged
Modern Deposit	Clay Deposit
Cut Number	Gravel
Deposit Number 117	Cable
Ordnance Datum 18.45m ODN	Cut Number 118
Stone	Sample Number
Gravel	
Flint	
Clay	
Pot	
Tile	
Brick	
Bone	
Sample Number	

1 Introduction

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application H/02143/04), supplemented by a Specification prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CCC AFU).

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 CCC AFU and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

2 Geology and Topography

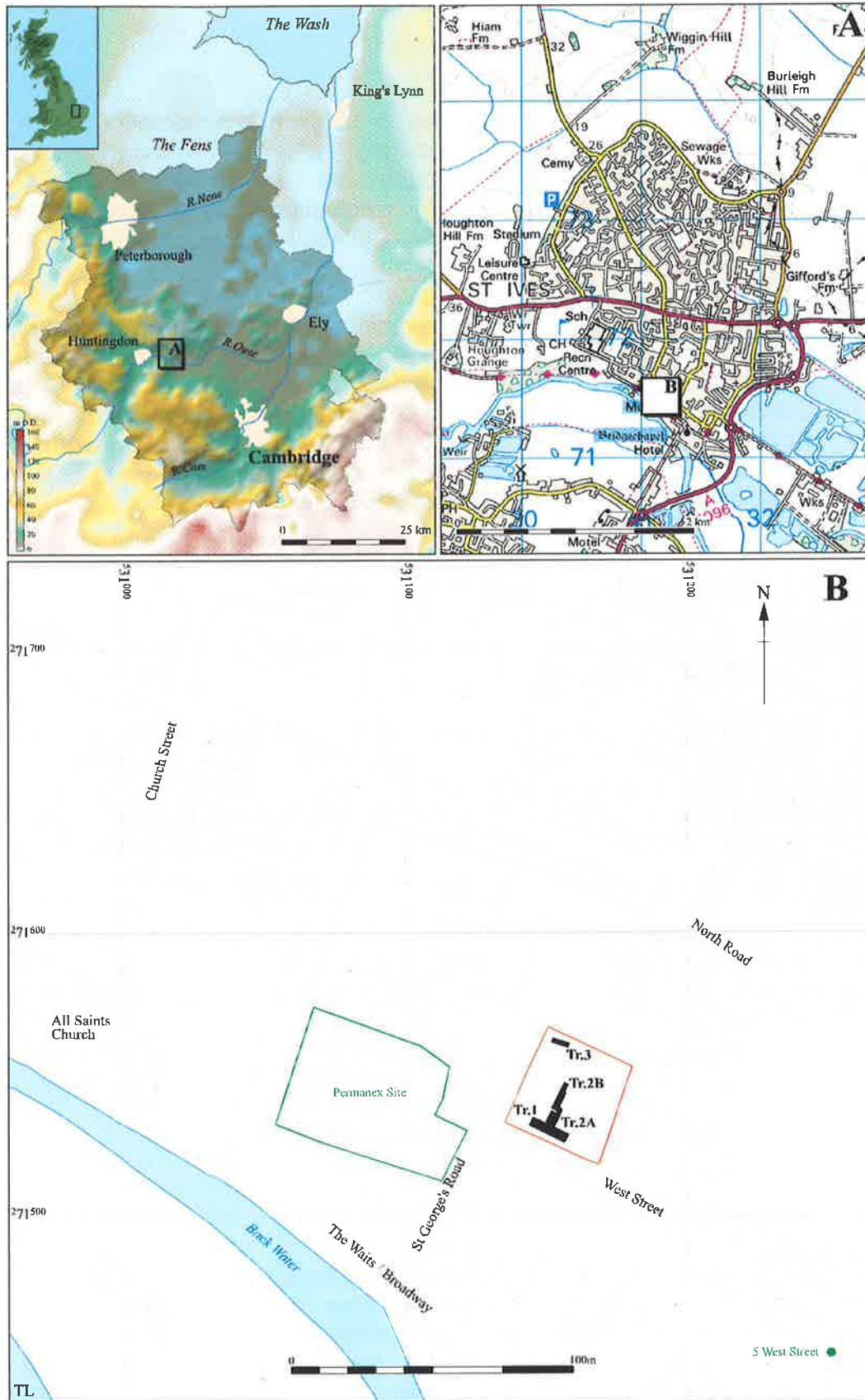
The geology of the site is First and Second Terrace river gravels (British Geological Survey 1975), within the floodplain of the River Great Ouse that flows to the south. The site is located on relatively level ground, rising from 6.3m OD close to the frontage with West Street, to 6.5m OD at the northern edge of the development. The water table was encountered at c.1.8m below current ground level.

The location of the site is potentially significant, situated at the north-western edge of the medieval historic town core and c. 200m to the east of the parish church of All Saints, a focus of Anglo-Saxon settlement.

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric

There have been a number of prehistoric finds in and around St Ives, which is not unexpected given the location of the town on the gravel terraces of the River Great Ouse, although no direct evidence of settlement activity has been found. Finds include Palaeolithic hand axes (MCB2176 (01698), Neolithic flint implements (MCB2686 (02114a)), a Bronze Age arrowhead and spear (MCB2685 and 2594



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

respectively (02114 and 02030)), and an Iron Age coin (MCB4367 (03554)).

3.2 Roman

The Ouse valley was extensively occupied and exploited during the Roman period, although again relatively little direct evidence of settlement has been found within St Ives. Despite numerous finds of Roman pottery and coins (e.g. MCB4478, 4413 and 4362 (03649, 03594b and 03550)), the excavations at The Priory (ECB 1532, located in the south-east of the town) were the first to provide tangible evidence for Roman settlement in the town.

3.3 Saxon

The Anglo-Saxon settlement of Slepe (later St Ives) appears to have been of a modest size and probably developed close to All Saints church, at the west end of The Broadway (Redstone 1932, 210-211). However, the discovery of a *grubenhaus* and associated finds dating to the 6th-7th century during excavations in the grounds of a 19th-century house (The Priory; ECB 1532) in the south-east of the town, suggests that there may have been more than one focus of settlement in this period.

3.4 Late Saxon and Medieval

St Ives became a holding of Ramsey Abbey from the late 10th century, and was later renamed after Saint Ivo (or Ivo), a Persian bishop whose bones were brought to the town by Abbot Ednoth (AD 992-1008). In the early medieval period settlement focus shifted to the part of the town known as 'the Street', which runs east to west from the church, parallel to the river. Following the granting of a weekly market and annual Easter fair, the town expanded and became internationally renowned, particularly within the cloth trade, and was an important focus for pilgrims (Redstone 1932, 210-211).

Excavations at The Priory revealed the presence of medieval features, including a massive ditch likely to be a demarcation of the Priory estate (Fell *et al* 2003). Medieval masonry has also been noted in the garden of the Priory (MCB15820 (03594)) and in surrounding properties. At the former Permanex site (Nicholson 2005, 103-115), located c.50m to the west of the proposed development, a number of medieval plot boundaries, post-holes and pits were uncovered, mainly dating to the 13th-14th century. Medieval pits and ditches have also been uncovered during other investigations within the historic town core, including No 5 West Street (ECB 1952) where a possible hearth with pottery dating from the 12th to 15th century was also recorded.

3.5 Post-medieval

The once flourishing medieval market and fair declined during the 14th century and was abandoned in 1511, although the town remained a market centre of local importance. Many of the medieval houses were destroyed by fire in the 17th century, although several survive within the historic core (Redstone 1932).

Post-medieval remains have been found at various locations within the town; perhaps the most notable are those revealed at the former Permanex site c.60m to the west of the proposed development site. A number of pits, property boundaries, a well and a 17th century cock-fighting ring were recorded at this site, which was located close to the parish church and riverside. Evidence of a hiatus of activity spanning the 15th-16th centuries was also noted (Nicholson 2005).

The earliest map depicting the town centre (Pettis' survey of c.1728), appears to show fairly open ground in the area of the proposed development. The later 19th century Ordnance Survey maps depict a similar situation, showing a large open plot stretching back to North Road, where a few scattered buildings were clustered (Fig. 4).

4 Methodology

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that a T-shaped trench be excavated within the development area to establish the depth and character of deposits, and to determine the relative levels of truncation to the soil profile (Gdaniec 2005). The T-shaped trench was positioned close to West Street, to investigate evidence for medieval and later frontage remains; a smaller trench was located towards the rear of the development area to investigate deposits away from the frontage zone (Fig. 1). As a result of the anticipated depth of deposits likely to be present, it was necessary to increase the width of Trenches 1 and 2 (the T-shaped trench adjacent to West Street) to a maximum of 3.4m in order to allow stepping after c. 0.8m, after which the trench was narrowed to a width of 1.6m.

The combined trenched area was c.80 sq. m, providing a c.5.7% sample of the development area (c.0.14ha). Two parts of the development area were not accessible: a small area of garden to the rear of No 34 West Street that was fenced-off, and the footprint of No 30 West Street, which is designated to be demolished.

The areas to be trenched were scanned with a CAT scanner prior to excavation. Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector, although this process was hampered by the presence of intrusive modern features/disturbance and associated modern metal objects. All hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using CCC AFU's *pro-forma* sheets. The trenches were tied into the Ordnance Survey using a Leica TCR 705 Total Station Theodolite; levels were based on heights obtained from a topographical survey supplied by the client. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales (1:50, 1:20 and 1:10) and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

Because of the nature of the archaeological deposits (predominantly quarry pit fills and post-medieval cultivation soils), it is likely that much of the material on site was substantially reworked, of unknown provenance, and therefore not suitable for environmental sampling. Three samples were taken, however, from two medieval pits and a post-medieval soil layer, in order to assess this potential.

Until recently a steel-framed warehouse/former factory and associated structures, hardstanding and parking area had occupied the site. The warehouse was demolished and removed prior to the evaluation; the hardstanding was broken up and stored on site. A defunct electric cable was encountered, running the length of Trench 2; no other services were found.

Water ingress was encountered at c.1.8m below ground level, which hampered excavation and prevented full-excavation of some of the deeper features. The decision not to pump out these features was reached following a site visit by Andy Thomas where the relative merits of this strategy were discussed in relation to the perceived research benefits bearing in mind the type of archaeology present.

More trench-specific methodologies are outlined in the section below.

5 Results

Modern rubble, gravel and tarmac surfaces, foundations and garden soils were revealed in all three trenches, overlying extensive medieval quarry pits. The following section describes these deposits and features, supplemented by a tabulated list of context descriptions (including dimensions) that is presented in Appendix 1.

5.1 Trenches 1 - 3

5.1.1 Prehistoric

The earliest indication of activity on the site is represented by four worked flints; two recovered during cleaning in Trenches 1 and 2b and two from fills of a medieval gravel pit (49, see below) in Trench 3. Only two of these are diagnostic (an end scraper and thick flake) although all are likely to be Neolithic in date (Appendix 3).

5.2 Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3; Plates 1 - 5)

5.2.1 Medieval

Trench 1, 14m long x 3.4m wide (1.6m wide once stepped), was located adjacent to, and parallel with, West Street in order to investigate any remains of the medieval frontage. Medieval deposits were encountered at c.0.75 - 0.9m below ground level, although these transpired to be the somewhat homogenous upper fills of a mass of intercutting quarry pits. In order to clarify the deposits and, where possible, the stratigraphic relationships, the trench was further machine-excavated to a depth of c.1.2m, leaving a step for safety and to record the relevant sections, beyond which sample hand-excavation was employed. The fills encountered in this and other trenches were on the whole variants of sandy silts, clays and gravels. The larger pits/quarries in this trench (and Trench 3) contained distinctive tip lines of gravel alternating with more silty/less gravelly fills that tended to produce slightly more finds.



Plate 1: Trenches 1 and 2a under excavation with the former Permanex site and All Saints church in the background (looking west)

The earliest deposit in Trench 1 appears to be a possible medieval layer or buried soil (66; S.3), recorded in section only, at the eastern end of the trench. This deposit, a 0.12m-thick layer of dark brown sandy silt, was truncated by two later pits (**19** and **56**), and could equally be the remains of an earlier pit fill extending beyond the trench limits to the east. No finds were recovered from this context, although on stratigraphic grounds it is likely to be of medieval or earlier date.

Pit Group 1 (eastern end of Trench 1)

Five intercutting pits of varying size and shape were identified at the eastern end of Trench 1; the full dimensions for these pits were not visible in plan. Where exposed, the bases the pits all appeared to be generally flat; sides varied from steep to moderately steep and depths ranged between 0.4m and 0.7m.



Plate 2: Trench 1, pit 54, with pits 19 and 21 to north (looking north-west)

The earliest feature in the sequence was **56**, a relatively shallow, and possibly rectangular, pit located against the eastern edge of the trench; this contained a single fill and no finds. This pit was cut to the west by a much larger and deeper pit (**54**; Plate 1; S.3), which contained at least three fills of alternating gravelly silts and clay silts; middle fill (**52**) produced a small quantity of animal bone and pottery. The latter comprises sherds of 12th-14th century pottery (Appendix 4), in addition to a single sherd of post-medieval red ware that could be intrusive from overlying layers.

Pit **54**, which appeared to have been at least 1.4m across, was cut to the north by an unexcavated pit (**23**). Only a small part of this feature was visible in plan, as it was truncated to the east by pit **19**, which was also cut by another pit (**21**). Both of the latter pits were investigated: pit **19** contained three sandy/silty and slightly gravelly fills, whilst pit **21** contained a single sandy silt fill. No finds were recovered from the fill of **21**; middle fill 17 in pit **19** produced 10 sherds of medieval pottery datable to AD 1250-1400 (Appendix 4), and a fragment of tile.

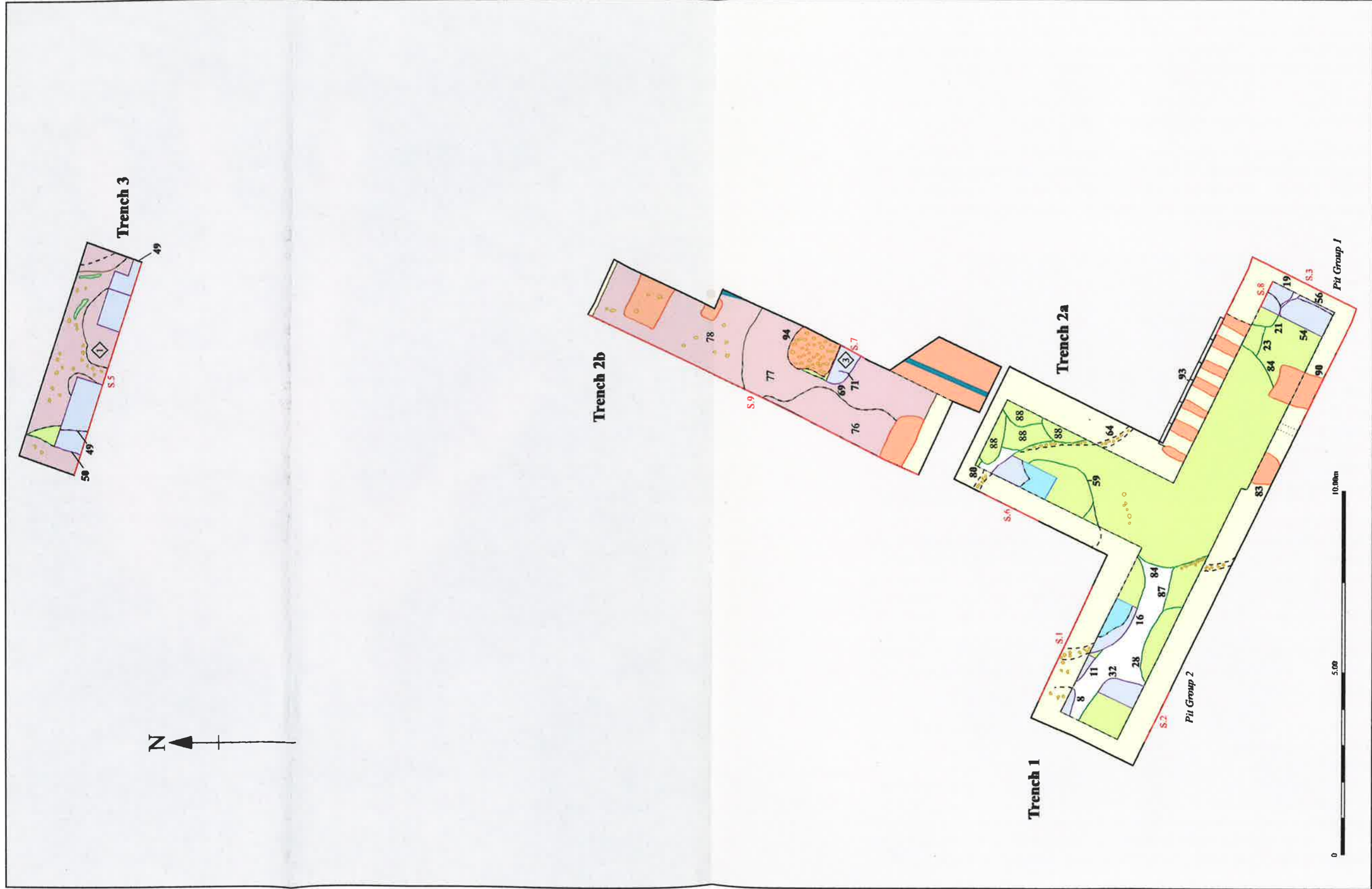


Figure 2: Trench plans



Plate 3: Trench 1, pits 19, 21 and 23 (looking north-east)

Pit Group 2 (western end of Trench 1)

A similar group of pits was identified at the western end of the trench, where natural gravel was also exposed at a depth of c.1.2m below ground level.

The earliest feature in the northernmost pits of this group was pit 8, a small part of which was exposed in the north-west corner of the trench (S.1). Three fills were identified, none of which produced finds. This pit could date to the medieval period (or earlier), as it was truncated by another pit (11) to the east, which produced a small quantity of 12th-14th century pottery from its primary fill (10). Both pits appear to have had similar profiles and depths (c. 0.6m), with relatively flat bases. A large (at least 3m wide) possibly oval pit (16) truncated pit 11 on its eastern side; the western edge of 16 could be traced on the higher machine-cut step, although its relationship with massive pit 84 (see below) could not be ascertained. A few sherds of 12th-14th century pottery were recovered from the earliest (15; Appendix 4) of the four fills in this pit; the base of the cut was not reached due to water ingress.



Plate 4: Trench 1, pits 8, 11 and 16, with pit 32 in the foreground (looking north-east)

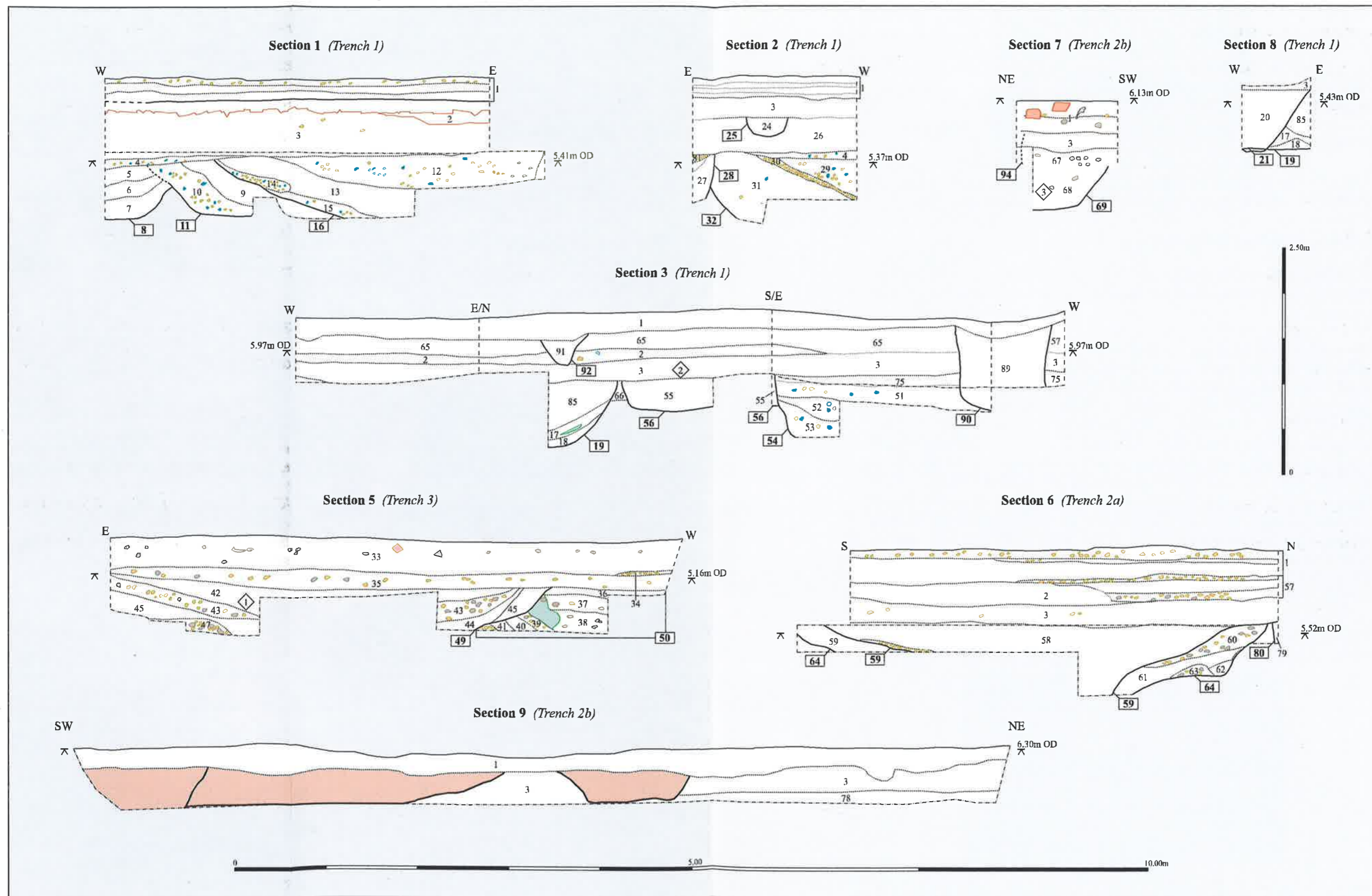


Figure 3: Section drawings

Three pits (**28**, **32** and **87**) were located to the immediate south of this northern group, separated by a narrow band of natural gravel. Pit **32**, revealed in the south-west corner of the trench, appears to have been sub-rectangular in shape with moderately steep sides and at least 0.7m deep; the base was not excavated due to water-ingress. Three fills (29, 30 and 31) were identified, including a distinctive band/tip line of gravel separating two more silty deposits (S.2); a few sherds of 12th-14th century pottery and fragments of animal bone were recovered from the lowest fill (31; Appendix 4 and 5).

This feature was cut by a steep-sided pit (**28**) that was only partly excavated for the retrieval of finds and to explore the stratigraphic relationship with other pits. A small quantity of medieval (12th-14th century; Appendix 4) pottery was recovered from the lowest (27) of the three fills identified. Pit **87**, a small part of which was exposed within the trench, was cut by pit **28** on its western side; this feature was planned but not excavated.

A thin spread of redeposited gravel (4) was observed in section overlying infilled pits **8**, **11** and **16**. No dating evidence was recovered, although it is likely that this is contemporary with the latest phase of quarrying/infilling in this area.

Quarry pit 84

A massive, possibly oval, quarry pit (**84**) at least 6.5m across dominated the centre of the trench, and continued into Trench 2a to the north. This feature was planned only, although pottery sherds indicating a possible medieval (AD1250-1400; Appendix 4) date and fragments of bone were recovered from its upper fill (72). This pit cut a number of the pits described above (e.g. **87** and **23**); its relationship with pit **16** could not be determined.



Plate 5: Trenches 1 and 2a, large quarry pit 84 and other features (looking west)

5.2.2 *Post-medieval*

Two layers (26 (S.2) and 75 (S.3)) were recorded in section overlying the infilled quarry pits at the western and eastern ends of the trench respectively. These layers could be the same as they are stratigraphically equivalent and were only observed in the main north-facing section of the trench. However, the soil descriptions vary: 26 is described as a 0.4m-thick mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent peagrit, gravel and charcoal and occasional brick fragments, whilst 75 is described as a mid 'beige' brown sandy clay with rare gravel, peagrit and tile. These differences could be explained by variations in the soil colour and consistency across the trench. No finds were recovered from this layer, although the presence of brick and tile, and similarity to overlying layer 3, indicates a post-medieval date. A small pit (25) was recorded in section (S.2) at the western end of the trench, cutting layer 26; no finds were present although it is likely to be post-medieval in date.

During machining of Trench 1, a number of narrow linear features (93; appearing as darker stripes against the quarry fills below) were noted, some of which were recorded in plan on the machine step (Fig. 2). These were filled by the same material as overlying layer 3 (see below), and are probably contemporary. A possible interpretation for these parallel features is that they are plough scores, or the result of some similar activity related to cultivation.

Layer 3, a dark greyish brown loam with frequent peagrit, flint/gravel, brick/tile, china and glass, represents an extensive and substantial soil accumulation across the trench and site as a whole. The layer appeared to increase in thickness from c.0.2m to nearly 0.5m at the western end of the trench, although it is feasible that there was more than one layer here (layer 26 was very similar to 3) that was not discernable in section. Although clearly of later post-medieval date, a sample <3> was taken, as it is likely that this soil relates to a period when the site was open and possibly used as an orchard or small wood. No remains, other than modern rootlets and fragments of brick, glass and coke, were recovered to support or refute this interpretation (Appendix 6).

An intermittent layer (2) of light greyish brown silty clay with frequent peagrit/gravel and occasional brick fragments was recorded overlying layer 3 in the main south-facing section of the trench, continuing northwards into Trench 2a (S.3 and S.6). No finds were retrieved, although the presence of brick combined with its stratigraphic location indicates a later post-medieval date for this layer, which is likely to be a levelling deposit. A similar layer (65), containing more frequent china, slate and brick fragments (not retained), overlay layer 2 in the eastern part of the trench; this appears to be stratigraphically-equivalent to a layer of gravel and grey clay recorded in Trench 2a (layer 57, see below), and may also be a levelling/construction layer.

Three late post-medieval/modern features/pits (**83**, **90** and **92**; S.3) were recorded in section, cutting layers 2 or 3 in the eastern half of the trench. All were largely removed by machine, and recorded in section and/or plan only. Pit **83** was notable for the abundance of rubbish contained within it, including assorted rusty metal items, metal pots and pans, china plates, glass bottles and leather boots dating to the late 19th/early 20th century. These were not retained.

A series of modern construction/levelling layers and surfaces were recorded across the trench (and Trench 2, see below) overlying the pits and earlier deposits. A general number (1) was assigned to these deposits, which comprised a layer of brick rubble, overlain by degraded tarmac, gravel and concrete. These are likely to relate to the construction of the warehouse and associated car park/forecourt in the 20th century.

5.3 Trench 2a (Figs 2 and 3; Plates 6 and 7)

Trench 2 was divided into two parts (Trench 2a and 2b) to avoid a buried (defunct) electric cable. Trench 2a adjoined Trench 1, forming a T-shaped trench, and was designed to investigate any medieval building remains and associated 'backyard' activity to the rear of these.

This part of Trench 2 extended for 5m north-to-south, was 3.5m (2m after step) wide and was excavated to a depth of c.1.1m; the same machining and sampling methodology was employed as that for Trench 1. A small area of natural gravel was encountered at c.0.9m below ground level, but the trench was machined deeper in order to clarify the deposits in plan.



Plate 6: Trench 2a showing quarry pits before excavation, with Trench 2b in the background (looking north-east)

5.3.1 Medieval

As with Trench 1, numerous pits were present, two of which (**59** and **64**) were investigated by hand. The earlier of the two pits (**64**) appears to have been quite large, and possibly sub-circular or oval. Its full dimensions are not known as the relationship with quarry pit **84** (see above) was not discernible in plan, and the pit clearly extended beyond the confines of the trench. The (excavated) northern edge of the pit appeared to have a step, perhaps to aid access; four fills/dumps were identified that were very similar (gravely silts and silty clays) to those identified in the pits investigated in Trench 1 and elsewhere on the site (S.6). The uppermost two fills (60 and 61) produced small quantities of medieval (AD1250-1350; Appendix 4) pottery, tile and a fragment of burnt shale/coal-like material.



Plate 7: Trench 2a, quarry pits **59** and **64** (looking north-west)

The southern edge of another pit (**80**) was revealed to the north of **64**; too little was exposed to indicate its size or shape, and no finds were recovered to suggest a date. A group of at least four pits (or dumped fills within a larger pit), assigned group number **88**, was also identified to the north and east of **64**; these were planned but not excavated. The pits all contained similar upper fills to those recorded elsewhere in the trench and one at least appears to have been cut by **64**, although this relationship was not further explored. A thin band of redeposited gravel that marked the boundary between these pits and pits **64** and **84** was also just visible on the machine step on the eastern side of the trench. This indicates that this was the level from which these features were cut (c.0.8m below ground level).

Pit **64** was cut by a smaller, oval pit (**59**) that appears to have measured at least 2.75m across and over 0.8m deep with moderate and then steep sides; the base was not reached due to water ingress. A single greyish brown silty clay fill (58) was identified, which produced a small assemblage of medieval (AD1250-1350; Appendix 4) pottery and animal bone. The animal bone is fragmented, and appears to have been butchered.

5.3.2 Post-Medieval

As might be expected, a similar sequence of post-medieval deposits to that recorded in Trench 1 was encountered in this trench. The only difference was context 57, a number assigned to a modern construction level comprising gravel lenses and grey clay that was observed between layers 2 and 1 (S.6). This is likely to relate to the construction of the warehouse/factory unit to the immediate north.

5.4 Trench 2b (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 8)

Trench 2b was located to the immediate north of Trench 2a and extended into the area of the former warehouse/factory. This continuation of Trench 2 measured 10m long, was on average 2.2m wide and was excavated to a depth of c.0.7m at which point a recognizable sequence of redeposited gravel, clays and silty clays was encountered. The deposits in this trench were much more heavily disturbed and truncated by modern services (including a defunct electric cable) and foundations associated with the former factory/warehouse.

5.4.1 Medieval

A similar series of deposits (redeposited gravels, clays and silts), presumed to be backfills in quarry pits extending northwards from Trenches 1 and 2a, was revealed, these were planned but not excavated.

The earliest feature identified was a potentially large pit (71) of unknown shape and dimensions observed (but not investigated) during excavation of the western side of pit 69 (see below), where the top of the natural gravel was also revealed (c.0.9m below ground level). No finds were retrieved, although this feature is likely to be medieval and clearly predates pit 69. It is possible that one or more of the deposits recorded in plan in the base of the trench (76, 77 and 78) formed the upper fills of pit 71, or perhaps pit 80 recorded at the northern edge of Trench 2a.



Plate 8: Trench 2b, pit 69 and overlying deposits (looking south-east)

A discrete pit (69) that cut the top of the infilled quarries was investigated and found to be sub-oval or sub-rectangular, c.0.5m across and 0.4m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Plate 8; S.7). Several sherds of medieval (AD1250-1400; Appendix 4) pottery, in addition to a small amount of animal bone and mussel shell were recovered from the single silty fill (68) of this pit, which is indicative of domestic waste. Sample 3 from this deposit produced a single 12th-14th century pottery sherd; no plant remains were present (Appendix 6).

5.4.2 Post-Medieval

Pit 69 was overlain in section by a 0.2m-thick layer of gravely silty clay (67) possibly equivalent to 75 in Trench 1 and/or 35 in Trench 3 (S. 7). No finds were retrieved, although the presence of tile fragments (not retained) may indicate a post-medieval date. Layer 3, which was present across the site (numbered 33 in Trench 3) sealed 67, and was in turn overlain by modern rubble and gravel layer 1. A number of modern truncations were present that were not investigated (S.9); pit 69 was truncated by a gravel- and concrete-filled foundation (94) probably associated with the warehouse.

5.5 Trench 3 (Figs 1 and 2; Plate 9)

Trench 3 was located in the north-west corner of the site, parallel to the northern boundary, and was designed to investigate the extent of occupation or related activity in this area. The trench was 6m long, 1.6m wide and was machine-excavated to a depth of c.0.65m, at which point medieval deposits were encountered. Topsoil and concrete had been removed in this area prior to the evaluation, which accounts for the shallower machine-depth.

5.5.1 Medieval

Following initial cleaning it appeared that there were a number of discrete features in the trench; however, once excavation began it soon became apparent that these were in fact dumps in the top of at least two large quarry pits (Plate 9; S.5). The earliest pit (50) was located at the north-western end of the trench; its full dimensions were not exposed within the trench although it was at least 2m long and over 0.45m deep. Seven fills of alternating gravely clays, clay silts and sandy clays were identified, two of which (36 and 37) produced small quantities of 12th-14th century pottery, animal bone, and tile (Appendices 2 – 5).

Pit 50 was truncated on its eastern side by a similar large pit or quarry (49) that extended for c. 5m across the length of the trench and was hand-excavated to a depth of 0.6m. The exposed edge of pit 50

appears to be moderately steep, with a possible break of slope, or step, similar to that observed in pit 64 in Trench 2a. Neither of the bases of these features was reached due to water ingress, encountered at c.1m below ground level. Six fills of alternating gravel and silty clay/gravelly clay were identified, four of which (42, 43, 45 and 47) contained small quantities of finds including bone and flint, and pottery of a similar date to that from pit 50 (Appendices 2 – 5). The upper fill/silting (42) in pit 50 produced the largest group of pottery (0.103kg), although this is still a very small amount in relation to the size of the feature. Sample 1 from this deposit produced very few remains other than a bone fragment; no plant remains were present (Appendix 6).



Plate 9: Trench 3, sections through quarry pits 49 and 50 (looking north-west)

5.5.2 Post-medieval

A sequence of post-medieval garden/cultivation soils (35 and 33; equivalent to 67 and 3 in Trenches 1 and 2 respectively), with a cumulative thickness of 0.6m, was recorded overlying the quarry pits (S.5). A modern feature/deposit (34) was present at the western end of the trench.

6 Discussion

The main result of the evaluation has been the identification of numerous (at least 20) pits and quarries of predominantly medieval date that appear to extend across the development area. These ranged in size from 0.5m to over 6m across and many were in excess of 0.6m deep. Where revealed, the sides ranged from moderately steep (some with a step) to very steep; the larger pits generally appeared to have shallower sides. The bases of the features (where exposed) tended to be fairly flat. Similar fills were observed in most of the pits, including gravel, clays and silts. These may represent dumps of unwanted gravel and clay followed by periods of disuse/inactivity/silting and then further activity (?dumping from adjacent pits).

Only very small areas of natural gravel were exposed in the trenches, the largest area was revealed between groups of pits in the western end of Trench 1. The gravel appeared to be of good quality, and it is likely that this is the reason for the mass of quarry pits identified across the site. The density of pits indicates that quarrying was undertaken intensively during the medieval period; the pottery indicates a fairly tight date range for this activity (1150-1400). It is feasible that some of the pits may be post-medieval, although the only sherd of pottery datable to this period appears to be intrusive, and no later medieval/earlier post-medieval finds were recovered to suggest that quarrying continued beyond the 14th century.

No evidence of street-frontage buildings was found; if earlier medieval properties had been present here, any remains would have been removed by the quarrying. The same may be true for any boundary plots as no evidence for these was found either. Dating of the pits/quarries is not very clear as relatively few datable finds (mostly pottery) were recovered, and these are on the whole fairly small. This is quite typical of quarries/features of this type and it is likely that the deposits (and finds within them) have been reworked over a period of time. The intermittent silty fills identified in many of the pits may represent episodes of abandonment, suggesting that the quarries may not have been constantly in use. No pottery predating the 12th century was recovered from the medieval and later features, which might be expected if earlier occupation had been present on the site.

The presence of pottery, bone, tile and shell – albeit in small quantities – is indicative of some nearby domestic activity/occupation in this period. The animal bone assemblage, although fragmentary is made up entirely of domestic species: cattle remains dominate, followed by sheep/goat. All the bones show extensive signs of butchery, and could represent industrial, as well as domestic, activities such as tanning (Appendix 5). The potential for preservation of plant remains and other

environmental evidence appears to be particularly poor, which could be a result of the soil conditions or types of features present (Appendix 6).

Quarrying activity appears to have ceased on the site by the later medieval period, following which the site seems to have remained fairly open. A 0.8m thick build-up of cultivation/topsoil layers accumulated over the quarry pits, overlain in turn by modern rubble and construction deposits. No evidence of buildings predating the 20th century factory/warehouse was identified, although a number of small late post-medieval/19th century rubbish pits were present.

7 Conclusions

The discovery of a small quantity of Neolithic flints (Appendix 3), although residual, is of interest and this evidence will add to current knowledge of the extent and date of prehistoric activity in St Ives and along the Ouse valley.

It was expected that medieval and post-medieval remains similar to those uncovered at the former Permanex site to the west might be revealed within the development area. Although no direct evidence of settlement was found, the results of the evaluation are still important, as they will contribute to a wider understanding of the medieval topography of the town, and zones of activity within it. The development site was clearly once an important source of gravel and appears to have been exhaustively quarried in the medieval period. It is not certain whether the urban core of the town once extended as far as the site as the quarrying may have destroyed these remains. However, it is also feasible that the site was in a relatively peripheral location immediately outside the main settlement focus. Recent research (Spoerry forthcoming) suggests that the medieval planned town was focused around the river and market to the south and extended as far as what is now North Road. West Street falls within the northern extension of this part of the town, suggesting that buildings and tenement plots might be expected here.

The various maps of the town do indicate that the development site was located within a plot of land that appears to have remained relatively open throughout the post-medieval period. Pettis' map of St Ives (c.1728) shows no buildings along the West Street frontage, although a possible building may be present towards the centre of this large plot, outside the development area. Buildings seem to have developed along the narrow lanes running northwards out of the town, including Nicholas Lane that runs to the east of 30 West Street, and along what is now North Road. The 1889/90 Ordnance Survey map shows the same large tract of land (including the development site) extending from West Street back to North Street (Fig. 4) as under trees; a path (possibly a former lane?) dissects the area and the only buildings shown front onto North Road. It is possible that this area of land was all quarried during the 'high' medieval period, after which it

may have been used as some form of common land that was later taken under cultivation (or used as an orchard) in the later post-medieval period.



Figure 4: 1888/9 Ordnance Survey extract with approximate outline of development area (red)

The evidence from this site contrasts with that from the former Permanex site (Nicholson 2005) to the west, where tenements/boundaries and a number of pits, mainly dating to the 13th and 14th centuries, were identified. This latter area was clearly within the main core of the medieval town, and was located much closer to the church and river than the current site. The quarrying could be contemporary with the occupation of the Permanex site, perhaps providing building materials during the town's expansion, or gravel to build up areas to ameliorate the effects of flooding. Other nearby sites (such as No 5 West Street) produced similar evidence in the form of 13th-14th century rubbish pits and boundary ditches to the rear of properties fronting onto the Broadway. These features cut an alluvial layer, overlying a silty clay deposit, below which was the natural gravel; these layers were not present in the evaluation area, although they could have been removed by quarrying.

These results may indicate that the medieval town was generally focused around the Broadway and river to the south, with only peripheral development north of West Street. The presence of some domestic rubbish in the quarry backfills may suggest that these features were occasionally used to dispose of waste, possibly from the townspeople and perhaps from more industrial processes such as tanning, which would have been undertaken closer to the river.

Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

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The brief for archaeological works was written by Kasia Gdaniec, Andy Thomas visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

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Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context No	Cut	Type	Trench	Description/comments	Provisional Date
1	-	Layer	1 & 2	Modern surfaces, brick rubble, gravel and concrete layers associated with warehouse. Cumulative thickness c. 0.3m	Modern
2	-	Layer	1 & 2a	Intermittent layer of light greyish brown silty clay with frequent peagrit, flint/gravel, occasional charcoal and brick fragments. No finds; 0.18m maximum thickness. Construction/levelling layer below 1?	Modern
3	-	Layer	1 & 2	Dark greyish brown silty clay (loamy) with frequent peagrit, flint/gravel, charcoal, brick and tile fragments, 19thC/modern pottery and glass (not retained). Below 2, average 0.2m thick, but increasing to 0.5m at W end Tr. 1. Probable garden/orchard soil sealing quarry pits. Sampled <2>	19thC?
4	-	?Layer/ dump	1	Dark reddish brown silty clay with frequent peagrit, flint/gravel; compact, up to 0.08m thick shown in section of western end of Tr 1 only. No finds	Undated
5	8	Pit fill	1	Upper fill in quarry pit – Dark greyish-brown silty loam with occasional peagrit and flint gravel; 0.14m thick. No finds. Cut by 11 to E	Medieval
6	8	Pit fill	1	Midde fill in quarry pit – Mid greyish-brown with orange mottling, silty loam with rare peagrit and flint gravel; 0.2m thick. No finds	Medieval
7	8	Pit fill	1	Primary fill/dump in quarry pit – Mid greyish-brown silty loam with rare peagrit and flint gravel; 0.21m thick. No finds	Medieval
8		Pit/ Quarry	1	Possibly oval, only partly revealed in NW corner of Tr 1; fairly gradual sides and gentle BOS; flat base; > 0.7m x >0.25m x 0.6m deep	Medieval
9	11	Pit fill	1	Description same as 7. Upper fill in quarry pit; 0.2m thick. No finds	Medieval-
10	11	Pit fill	1	Primary fill/dump in quarry pit Mid greyish brown silty loam with frequent peagrit and flint/gravel; 0.25m thick. Occasional pottery	Medieval (1150-1250)
11		Pit/ Quarry	1	Full extent not visible in plan – truncated to E by quarry pit 16. Sides gradual with moderate to sharp BOS to flat base (where revealed) located in W end of Tr1 against N edge. > 1.1m x >0.27m x 0.6m deep	Medieval (1150-1250)
12	16	Pit fill	1	Upper fill/dump in quarry pit. Mid reddish brown clayey silt with frequent peagrit and flint/gravel; occasional pottery; 0.4m thick.	Medieval
13	16	Pit fill	1	Middle fill in quarry pit. Mid greyish brown silty loam with occasional peagrit and flint/gravel; 0.3m thick; no finds	Medieval
14	16	Pit fill	1	Dump of peagrit in mid greyish brown silty loam matrix. Compact; 0.1m thick max; redeposited gravel/trample against W edge of pit in edge of pit.	Medieval
15	16	Pit fill	1	Primary fill in quarry pit. Mid yellowish grey clayey silt with occasional peagrit and flint/gravel; 0.12m thick; occasional pottery. Possibly a natural accumulation/silting in base of quarry?	Medieval (1150-1250)
16		Pit/ Quarry	1	Possibly oval in plan, gentle sides and BOS; base not reached due to water ingress; c. 3m x >0.75m x >0.65m. Uncertain relationship with quarry pit 84 to E.	Medieval (1150-1250)
17	19	Pit fill	1	Middle fill in quarry/pit. Mid brown silt with occasional fine gravels. 0.10m thick.	Medieval (1250-1400)
18	19	Pit fill	1	Primary fill in quarry/pit. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional peagrit and flint/gravel; no finds; 0.4m thick.	Medieval
19		Pit/ Quarry	1	Possibly circular or oval quarry pit partly exposed at E end of Tr 1, steep, slightly concave side with gradual BOS to possibly flat base (not fully-exposed). Truncated by pit 21 to W; truncates pit 56 to S and ?medieval layer(?) 66.	Medieval (1250-1400)
20	21	Pit Fill	1	Sole fill in pit? Mid yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional peagrit and flint/gravel; no finds; 0.66m	?Medieval

Context No	Cut	Type	Trench	Description/comments	Provisional Date
				thick.	
21		Pit/ Quarry	1	Possible quarry, although only contained a single fill; unknown shape, possibly circular; >0.74m wide x 0.66 deep. Partly exposed at E end of Tr 1; steep side, flat base. Truncates pit 19.	?Medieval
22	23	Pit Fill	1	Sole fill in pit? Dark yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional peagrit and flint/gravel; no finds; unexcavated, recorded in plan only.	?Medieval
23		Pit/ Quarry	1	Possible quarry, unexcavated. Partly exposed at E end of Tr 1. Truncated by pit 21 and massive quarry (unex) 84.	?Medieval
24	25	Pit fill	1	Mid greyish brown silty clay containing masses of modern rubble (pot and rusty metal). Recorded in section only.	Modern
25		Pit	1	Modern pit with rubbish, recorded in N-facing section only, removed by machine, cuts layer 26.	Modern
26		Layer	1	Mid greyish brown with frequent peagrit, flint/gravel, charcoal, rare brick and tile fragments, (not retained), physically below 3 and overlies 4 and infilled gravel pits. May equal 75 and 34? Full extent unknown.	Post-medieval?
27	28	Pit fill	1	Primary fill in ?quarry pit. Mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional peagrit, gravel, mostly removed by machine for clarification; some pottery from cleaning; >0.45m thick	Medieval (1150-1350)
28		Pit/ Quarry	1	Oval pit, part revealed against S edge of Tr1 (W end). Upper part excavated by machine for clarification, recorded in section; >0.9m long, >0.25m wide; > 0.45m deep.	Medieval (1150-1350)
29	32	Pit fill	1	Upper fill. Mid greyish-brown silty clay with frequent peagrit and gravel; no finds; 0.3m thick	?Medieval
30	32	Pit fill	1	Band of yellow gravel and mid greyish brown silty clay; 0.08m thick (washed in?), mid fill.	?Medieval
31	32	Pit fill	1	Primary fill. Mid greyish-brown silty clay with frequent peagrit and gravel; occ pottery; >0.74m thick. Abandoned due to water ingress.	Medieval (1150-1350)
32		Pit/ Quarry	1	Sub-rectangular pit, part revealed in SW corner of Tr1; truncated by machine for clarification. Hand-excavated section along E edge.; >1.55m long, >1.25m wide; >0.74m deep.	Medieval (1150-1350)
33		Layer	3	Very dark brownish grey loam with occasional gravel, brick, tile, glass, pottery, slate, chalk etc (not retained); probably equivalent to (30 in Trs 1 & 2); 0.35m thick –garden soil	Modern/19thC
34		Layer/spread	3	Thin (0.05m) layer of sandy gravel recorded in section; base for concrete pad/foundation at W end of trench – removed by machine	Modern
35		Layer	3	Mid-dark yellowish grey brown silty sandy clay, frequent gravel, rare tile and pot (modern/late post-medieval); 0.18m thick. Post-medieval cultivation soil sealing medieval quarry pits.	Post-medieval
36	50	Pit fill	3	Upper fill: Mid yellowish brown sandy silt clay; 0.08m thick; occasional gravel; rare pottery (possible contamination with fills of 49)	Medieval (1150-1350)
37	50	Pit fill	3	Upper fill. Dark brownish grey silt clay with few inclusions; 0.2m thick; rare pottery, bone and flint.	Medieval (1150-1350)
38	50	Pit fill	3	Upper/middle fill. Dark grey sandy silt clay with occasional gravel; large dump of 'dirty' yellowish brown sandy clay at E edge. 0.24m thick; no finds	Medieval (1150-1350)
39	50	Pit fill	3	Middle fill: mid yellowish brown gravelly clay; 0.1m thick; no finds	Medieval (1150-1350)
40	50	Pit fill	3	Lower fill: mid yellowish brown sandy silt clay with rare small stones; 0.1m thick; no finds	Medieval (1150-1350)
41	50	Pit fill	3	Primary fill? Mid yellowish brown sandy silt clay with rare small stones and lenses of dark grey silt; 0.1m thick; no finds	Medieval (1150-1350)
42	49	Pit fill	3	Upper fill/silting. Dark brownish grey sandy silt clay, very soft, with occasional small-medium rounded stones, pottery and bone. Extends across top of quarry 49; 0.3m thick; partly machined-off. Sampled <1>.	Medieval (1150-1350)
43	49	Pit fill	3	Upper fill below 42. Mixed yellowish orange and brownish grey silty sandy clay with frequent gravel; rare pottery and flint; 0.15m thick	Medieval (1200-1350)

Context No	Cut	Type	Trench	Description/comments	Provisional Date
44	49	Pit fill	3	Middle fill below 43. Mixed dark grey and mid yellowish brown sandy clay silt with occasional gravel; 0.1m thick; no finds	Medieval
45	49	Pit fill	3	Lower fill below 44. As 42, but more gravelly; rare pottery and bone; 0.2m thick	Medieval (1150-1350)
46	49	Pit fill	3	Equals 45	Medieval (1150-1350)
47	49	Pit fill	3	Lower fill, below 45. Mixed light yellowish brown clayey gravel with patches of mid grey silty clay, >0.12m thick; rare pottery	Medieval (1150-1350)
48	49	Pit fill	3	Lower fill similar to 45 etc, not excavated due to water ingress.	Medieval
49		Pit/Quarry	3	Large quarry pit of unknown shape/dimensions located across most of Tr 3; truncates pit 50. At least 2m wide, extending beyond confines of the trench, and over 0.45m deep (excavation abandoned due to water ingress). Contained numerous alternating backfills of gravels silts and clays with only occasional finds of bone and pottery (abraded). Too gravelly to auger depth. One sample taken from upper fill, which is most datable.	Medieval (1150-1350)
50		Pit/Quarry	3	Large quarry pit of unknown shape/dimensions located in W end of Tr 3 and truncated by pit 49. At least 5m wide, extending beyond confines of the trench, and over 0.55m deep (excavation abandoned due to water ingress). Contained numerous alternating backfills of gravels silts and clays with only occasional finds of bone and pottery (abraded). One edge exposed: moderately steep; base unknown but possibly flat as the fills level out. Too gravelly to auger depth, possible natural gravel reached on E edge..	Medieval (1150-1350)
51	54	Pit fill	1	Upper fill: Mid orangey brown sandy silt with common peagrit and gravel, rare charcoal flecks; no finds; c. 0.2m thick. Below layer 75	?early post-medieval
52	54	Pit fill	1	Middle fill. Mid-dark orange brown silt with rare peagrit; rare charcoal flecks; occasional pottery (1 sherd PMR, 2 x medieval) and bone; 0.25m thick	Early Post-Medieval (1600-1800)
53	54	Pit fill	1	Lower fill. As 51, with occasional flints	?early post-medieval
54		Pit/Quarry	1	Large ?circular quarry pit located at E end Tr 1, truncates pit 56. Partly exposed/sample-excavated: 1.42m wide x 1.32m long x 0.6m deep, not fully excavated to base due to water ingress. 1 sherd of PMR could be intrusive, or this may be a post-med pit?	Early Post-Medieval (1600-1800)
55	56	Pit fill	1	Sole fill: Mid greyish brown sandy silt with common flint/gravel and peagrit; 0.38m thick; no finds	?Medieval
56		Pit/Quarry	1	Shallow, sub-rectangular pit partly exposed against E edge of trench. At least 0.98m x >0.36m wide x 0.38m deep with steep sides and flat base. Truncated by pit 54	?Medieval
57		Layer	1 & 2a	Modern construction layer consisting of purplish gravel above grey clay overlying a mix of yellow gravel and stone rubble – very compact. Associated with construction for factory & associated services? Removed by machine/recorded in section	Modern
58	59	Pit fill	2a	Sole fill in large later quarry pit: Mid greyish brown silty clay with rare peagrit and gravel; rare pottery. Disuse/silting in pit.	Medieval (1250-1350)
59		Pit/Quarry	2a	Large pit located against W edge of trench, truncated by machine for clarity with additional hand excavation. At least 2.75m long and over 0.8m deep –excavation ceased due to water ingress. Truncates top of pit 64 and possibly 84	Medieval (1250-1350)
60	64	Pit fill	2a	Upper mid yellowish brown gravelly silty clay fill with frequent peagrit; rare pottery; 0.3m thick. Trample/use deposit?	Medieval (1250-1350)
61	64	Pit fill	2a	Middle fill: mid greyish brown silty clay with rare peagrit and rare pottery; 0.15m thick. Disuse (temporary)/silting deposit?	Medieval (1250-1350)
62	64	Pit fill	2a	Dump of dark greyish brown silty clay against edge of pit; no finds	?Medieval

Context No	Cut	Type	Trench	Description/comments	Provisional Date
63	64	Pit fill	2a	Dump of yellow orange sandy-clay gravel (natural) against edge of pit; no finds	?Medieval
64		Pit/ Quarry	2a	Irregular shape quarry, extent difficult to determine on surface as merges with pit 84 to south and another pit to east. At least 2.5m across and over 0.8m deep. Massively truncated by later pit 59; not fully-excavated due to water ingress. Possibly has stepped side and flat base (as other pits all seem to have flat bases where reached).	Medieval (1250-1350)
65		Layer	1	Post-medieval soil layer (0.2m thick); dark brown sandy silt with glass, china, CBM, slate etc. Recorded in section at E end of trench only; possible dump/make-up deposit/part of 5). Below 1 and above 2; no finds retained	Modern/post-medieval
66		Layer	1	Possible medieval buried soil/layer or fill of pit not full-exposed in trench? Dark brown sandy silt; 0.12m thick. Recorded in section only – only fragments/v. small areas surviving between pits at E end of trench. No finds	?Medieval
67		Layer	2b	Post-medieval soil layer (0.2m thick); mid yellowish brown sandy silt clay with common pebbles with rare tile etc. Recorded in W-facing section above pit 69. Below old topsoil layer 3 may equal 35 or 75?? No finds	?Post-medieval
68	69	Pit fill	2b	Sole fill: Dark grey sandy clay silt with occasional small stones, pottery and bone; 0.45m thick; sample <3>	Medieval (1250-1400)
69		Pit/ Quarry	2b	?Sub-oval pit of unknown dimensions (obscured/truncated by modern foundation 70 and extends beyond limit of trench to E); at least 0.5m wide x >0.4m and 0.45m deep.	Medieval (1250-1400)
70	71	Pit fill	2b	Mixed yellowish brown sandy clay fill of large quarry pit seen in (and cut by) edge of pit 69. Unexcavated/no finds	?Medieval
71		Pit/ Quarry	2b	Possibly large quarry pit; unknown dimensions or shape, may extend for some distance in trench. Seen in edge of pit 69. One of several pits in this trench that were not sampled but are likely to be similar to those in 1 and 2B to South.	?Medieval
72	84	Surface finds	1	Surface finds from massive pit in centre of Tr 1 and 2B (fill dark yellowish grey brown sandy clay silt with occasional gravel and peagrit)	Medieval (1250-1400)
73	-	Surface find	2B	Unstratified Neolithic flint found during cleaning of trench/over quarry pits	Neolithic
74	94	Intrusion	2B	Gravel base of foundation/modern intrusion largely removed by machine but truncating pit 69	Modern
75	-	Layer	1	Mid 'beige' brown sandy clay silt with rare gravel and peagrit, occasional tile. Layer recorded in section above medieval pits in E end Tr 1. No finds	Post-medieval?
76	80?	Pit fill	2b	Mixed dark grey brown silty gravelly clay – upper quarry pit fill/dump recorded in plan only at S end of trench; lots of modern disturbance; possibly part of 80? No finds	?Medieval
77	-	Pit fill	2b	'Dirty' yellowish brown silty clay – upper quarry pit fill/dump recorded in plan only. Possibly part of 71? No finds	?Medieval
78	-	Pit fill	2b	Mixed dark grey brown silty gravel – upper quarry pit fill/redeposited natural recorded in plan only at N end of trench; lots of modern disturbance. No finds	?Medieval
79	80	Pit fill	2a	Fill of pit; only tiny part exposed in section at N end of trench; no finds	?Medieval
80		Pit/ Quarry	2a	Southern edge of pit only partly exposed/recorded in section – probably continues into Tr 2B. Unknown size/shape	?Medieval
81	28	Pit fill	1	Reddish gravel tip-line recorded in section only; no finds	?Medieval
82	83	Pit fill	1	Dark brownish grey silty clay fill containing abundant domestic rubbish including bottles, china, leather shoes; tin pans and rusty metal etc. Possibly once in a barrel, now decayed? Finds photographed (in situ) but not retained	?19thC
83		Pit	1	Circular cut with vertical sides, half removed by machine and recorded in section. 2m wide and over	?19thC

Context No	Cut	Type	Trench	Description/comments	Provisional Date
				1m deep; cuts layer 3.	
84		Pit/Quarry	1 & 2a	Massive possibly oval cut in centre of trenches, recorded in plan only although several finds retrieved from top fill under context 72. At least 6.5m across, uncertain relationship with pit 64 as very similar upper fills	Medieval (1250-1400)
85	19	Pit fill	1	Middle fill/dump in quarry pit. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional peagrit and flint/gravel; occasional pottery; 0.4m thick.	?Medieval
86	87	Pit fill	1	Fill of unexcavated pit cut by 28 and 84. No finds, similar to other fills in trench	?Medieval
87		Pit/Quarry	1	Unexcavated pit, partly exposed against S edge of trench; truncated by 28 and 84, appears to cut natural gravels	?Medieval
88		Pit/Quarry (Group)	2a	Group of unexcavated quarry pits/dumps/fills in N part of Tr 2A (may continue into 2B); very similar to other fills/pits in these trenches	?Medieval
89	90	Pit fill	1	Gravelly fill in modern pit recorded in section; removed by machine. No finds, but modern china seen in section.	Modern
90		Pit	1	Steep-sided modern pit recorded in section (1m wide x 0.9m deep). Undated but below 1 and cuts 57/65 (i.e. v. late post-medieval/modern).	Modern
91	92	Pit fill	1	Fill in modern pit recorded in section; removed by machine. No finds, but modern china seen in section.	Modern
92		Pit	1	Small V-shaped cut of modern pit recorded in section (0.4m wide x 0.3m deep). Undated but below 1 and cuts 57/65 (i.e. v. late post-medieval/modern).	Modern
93		Group	1	Group number assigned to a series of roughly N-S narrow linear cuts/scores c. 0.3m wide cutting across mixed upper quarry pit fills across trench. Mostly removed by machine. Fill same as 3. Plough scores/related to cultivation?	?19thC
94		Pit/intrusion	2b	Base of modern foundation cut/intrusion (1.2m x 1m x >0.3m) observed in section – base (filled by 74) truncates pit 69; cuts layer 3. Probably associated with warehouse construction/services	Modern

Appendix 2: Finds Summary

A relatively small assemblage, comprising animal bone, pottery, tile, flint, shale and shell, was recovered by the evaluation. The pottery, bone and flint are reported on separately (see below); the mussel shell (0.004kg), tile (0.023kg) and shale (0.046kg) are in too small quantities to merit further study.

Appendix 3: Flint

By Barry Bishop

A small assemblage comprising four flints was recovered during cleaning, or as residual finds in medieval quarry pits. Two flints are datable to the Neolithic: a long end scraper made on a flake struck from a keeled core (backfill in a medieval quarry pit in Trench 3), and a thick flake struck from a blade core (from the surface of a quarry pit in Trench 1). The remaining flints comprise a narrow flake, which may have a notch cut into the side of it (surface find in Trench 2B), and an irregular flake from a quarry pit in Trench 3.

Context	Cut	Trench	Description	Weight (kg)	Provisional date
12	16	1	Thick flake struck from a blade core	0.014	Neolithic
37	50	3	Long end scraper made on a flake struck from a keeled core	0.008	Neolithic
43	49	3	Irregular flake	0.019	Undiagnostic
73	-	2b	Narrow flake, which may have a notch cut into the side of it	0.007	Undiagnostic

Table 1: Flint by context and trench

All the worked flint is manufactured from black translucent flint; the condition is somewhat chipped and abraded, confirming that the flints do not derive from insitu deposits.

No further work is required on this material.

Appendix 4: Post-Roman Pottery

By Paul Spoerry

1 Introduction and Background

The evaluation produced a small pottery assemblage of 75 sherds, weighing 0.431kg. The material from the topsoil and any unstratified material *are* included in these totals.

Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the following text are:

Colne type ware	COLNT
Grimston ware	GRIM
Hunts Fenland sandy ware	HUNFS
Norfolk Local unglazed wares	LMU
Lyveden-Stanion glazed ware	LYST
Medieval Ely ware	MEL
Medieval Ely type ware	MELT
Medium sandy ware	MSW
Post-medieval Red ware	PMR
Shelly Ware (Rockingham Forest)	SHW

2 Methodology

Fieldwork

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, although as much of the site seems to have been medieval quarry pits, there is a high likelihood of residuality.

Ceramic Analysis

The basic guidance in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) has been adhered to along with the MPRG documents (MPRG 1998 and 2001). *Guidance for the processing and publication of medieval pottery from excavations* (Blake and Davey, 1983) acts as a standard.

Spot dating was carried out using the CCCAFU's 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. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. Sherds warranting possible illustration been identified, as have possible cross-fits.

All the pottery has been spot dated on a context by context basis.

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

Results

The pottery is almost exclusively 'high medieval' dating mostly to the period 1150-1400; although many sherds are small, abrasion is generally low.

Despite the site being mostly composed of putative quarry pits, the pottery for the most part seems to be in single period context groups

Interpretation and Conclusions

The assemblage is small, has no complete vessels, and full statistical analysis is not viable. It shows the general range of fabrics likely to have been common in medieval St Ives.

The presence of sherds from vessels made in Norfolk is significant, and shows the importance of cross-fenland trade and transportation to the town.

No preservation bias has been recognised and no long-term storage problems are likely. The assemblage offers little potential for further study.

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

Medieval Pottery Research Group 2001: *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Context	Fabric	Number of Sherds	Weight (g)	Notes	Spot Dating Range for sherds	Context Date
10	LYST MELT	1	5		1150-1350	1150-1350
		1	5		1150-1350	
15	LYST MSW	1	5	Odd sandy/micaceous brown	1150-1350	1150-1350
		1	2		1150-1350	
17	GRIM	1	3	Slip Buff, coarse Thin-walled, dk grey L grey, wavy l dec bowl brown	1250-1500	1250-1400
	MELT	1	3		1150-1400	
	LMU	4	8		1200-1500	
	MSW	3	24		x	
	MSW	1	11		x	
27	HUNFS	2	40	Brown surf, dk grey core	1150-1350	1150-1350
31	LYST SHW	2	25		1150-1350	1150-1350
		1	4		x	
36	LYST HUNFS	1	1	Jug, but micaceous	1150-1350	1150-1350
		1	18		x	
37	MELT LMU	2	12	With shell	1200-1400	1200-1400
		5	8			
42	LYST	1	43	Thumbled jug base With shell Jug rim glaze	1150-1350	1150-1350
	MEL	2	48		1150-1350	
	MELT	1	3		1150-1350	
	LYST	1	6		x	
	MSW	1	3		x	
43	MEL	1	20	Jug Jug rim, rilling	1200-1400	1200-1350
	MELT	1	8		1200-1400	
	HUNFS	1	4		1200-1350	
	MSW	2	7		x	
45	HUNFS MSW	1	4	Reduced grey	1150-1350	1150-1350
		1	7		x	
47	LMU	1	8	Hand-made, dk grey	1150-130	1150-1350
52	PMR	1	26	Dogtooth impressed line	1600-1800	1600-1800
	HUNFS	1	5		1150-1350	
	GRIM	1	3		1250-1500	
58	LYST	1	18	Base Int gg bowl (later)	1150-1350	1250-1350
	LMU	1	13		1150-1400	
	MELT	1	7		1250-1500	
	HUNFS	1	9		1150-1350	
60	MEL	1	23	Int gg bowl	1150-1350	1250-1350
	MELT	1	3		1250-1500	
	GRIM	2	12		1250-1500	
61	GRIM	1	3	Glazed Jar/cp	1250-1500	1250-1350
	HUNFS	1	18		x	
	LYST	1	20		1150-1350	
68	GRIM LMU MSW HUNFS MELT	7	32	Assorted jugs, some glaze Assorted grey/brown Brown/grey Orange/buff surf, grey core	1250-1500	1250-1400
		3	10		1150-1400	
		1	3		x	
		2	15		x	
		1	2		x	
72	GRIM	2	9	Strut from face jug Wavy line dec jug Hard-fired / late	1250-1400	1250-1400
	MEL	2	26		x	
	COLNT	1	5		1250-1500	
TOTAL		75	0.431kg			

Table 1: Spot dates

Appendix 5: Animal Bone

By Chris Faine

Introduction

The site produced 94 contexts (the vast majority dating from the medieval period), of which 9 contained animal remains. Of these six contained identifiable elements. The assemblage comprises 15 elements with 11 identifiable to species (73% of the total sample). All bones were recovered by hand, with preservation being extremely good, albeit fragmented.

Recording

Initially all elements were assessed and catalogued in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness and fusion. In addition, any taphonomy i.e. butchery, gnawing etc was recorded where necessary. All unidentifiable fragments were classed as being from large/medium sized mammals. Completeness was assessed by percentage and anatomical zones present (after Dobney and Reilly, 1988). All data was entered using MS Excel.

Assessment

In terms of species distribution the assemblage is made up entirely of domestic species (see table 1). Cattle remains dominate, making up 45.4% of the identifiable sample, followed by sheep/goat remains (36.3%). All the contexts in question represent pit fills and all bones show extensive signs of butchery. In the two largest contexts (52 and 72; quarry pits 54 and 84 respectively), this is seen in the form of severe chop marks, but also smaller cuts, particularly at the joints. This could indicate a variety of industrial process besides butchery (i.e. tanning) but any further conclusion cannot be drawn due to the small sample size. Other contexts contain amounts of more heavily butchered remains from a similar range of species. All remains are from adult animals.

Species	NISP	NISP%	MNI	MNI%
Cattle (<i>Bos</i>)	5	45.4%	1	33.3%
Sheep/Goat (<i>Ovis/Capra</i>)	4	36.3%	1	33.3%
Pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	2	18.3%	1	33.3%
Total	11	100%	3	100%

Table 1: Species distribution

Conclusion

Unfortunately the small sample size means that few conclusions can be drawn. What is clear is that the contexts represent industrial/household waste of some kind deposited in the pits mentioned above. A larger sample size would certainly give a greater understanding of the assemblage and site as a whole.

References

- Dobney, K. and Reilly, K 1988 'A method for recording archaeological animal bones: the use of diagnostic zones,' *Circaea* 5, 79-96.

Appendix 6: Environmental Remains

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and Methods

Three bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated 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.

Up to ten litres of each sample were processed by bucket flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 1mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts is noted in Table 1.

Results

All three samples are devoid of plant remains. The flot from Sample 2 is comprised of a considerable quantity of cinder/clinker-type material. The flots of Samples 1 and 2 were of small volume (both 1ml) and both contained a few flecks of the same material.

Small fragments of animal bone were recovered from Sample 1. Sample 2 contains pieces of brick, post-medieval pottery and a piece of modern glass; Sample 3 contains a single piece of pottery.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Type	Charred Plant remains	Bone	Glass	Pot	Brick	Industrial Waste	Charcoal
1	42	49	Quarry pit	-	+	-	-	-	+	-
2	3		Layer	-	-	+	+	+	+++	+
3	68	69	Pit	-	-	-	+	-	+	+

Table 1: Environmental samples from STI WES 06

Conclusions

The lack of plant remains suggests that either the conditions at the site do not favour preservation or that there was no evident occupation. The industrial waste recovered from sample 2 was not unusual considering the post-medieval date of the layer, however the presence of similar material in the other two samples suggest some degree of disturbance or bioturbation within these deposits resulting in contamination from later material.

These samples do not provide any useful interpretative information and no further work is required.

Key to Tables

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



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