

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, Huntington Town Centre
Digging in the snow, Huntingdon Town Centre	Beaker vessel
Face painting at Hinchingbrooke Iron Age Farm	Environmental analysis
Research and publication	Monument Management, Bartlow Hills

CCC AFU Report Number 884

**An Archaeological Evaluation
at No. 80 High St Sutton-in-the-
Isle, Cambridgeshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

Spencer Cooper HND, BA

Site Code: SUT HIS 06
CHER Event Number: ECB 2317
Date of works: 19-20/6/06
Grid Ref: TL 4421 7881

Editor: Elizabeth Shepherd Popescu BA,PhD,MIFA
Illustrator: Séverine Bézie MA

Summary

On 19th and 20th June 2006, Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at No.80 High St, Sutton in advance of the construction of dwellings.

It was envisaged that this evaluation would identify activities associated with the medieval settlement of Sutton. In the event the evaluation revealed limited evidence in the form of post-medieval/modern build up or levelling layers.

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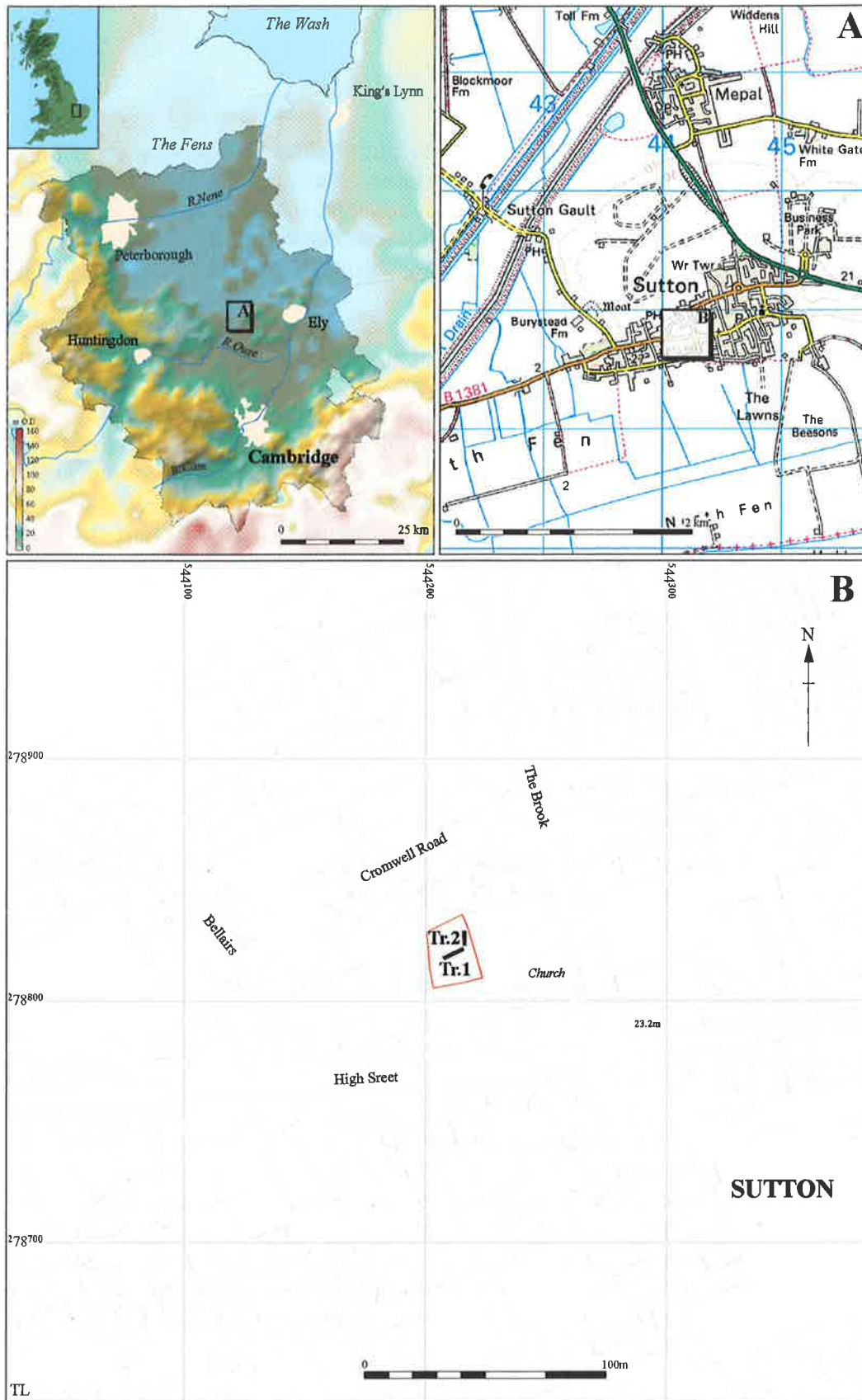
Drawing Conventions

Sections

Limit of Excavation	- - - - -
Cut	_____
Cut-Conjectured	- - - - -
Deposit Horizon	_____
Deposit Horizon - Conjectured	- - - - -
Intrusion/Truncation	- - - - -
Top Surface/Top of Natural	_____
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	- - - - -
Natural Deposit
Cut Number	118
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD X
Inclusions	O

Plans

Limit of Excavation	_____
Deposit - Conjectured	- - - - -
Natural Features	=====
Sondages/Machine Strip	- - - - -
Intrusion/Truncation	- - - - -
Illustrated Section	S.14 _____
Cut Number	118



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

3.2 Roman

Roman remains have been found in the vicinity of the village, including a cremation of probable 2nd-century date (CHER 05744) found whilst cutting a drainage channel along Oates Lane, which is approximately 50m north of the subject site. The ashes were contained in a large storage jar with another smaller jar placed inside. Other Roman remains have been found in the parish but these are largely unprovenanced. Tebbutt found pottery sherds in 1953 at TL 3929 7897 'on a roddon' (Hall 1996). Hall notes that a site at that location is unlikely and the finds probably represent some outliers of the Roman complex in neighbouring Colne Fen to the west. A bronze statuette of Hercules was found before 1891 (HER 05631; Heichelheim 1937) and a Christian hoard of six large platters and a pewter tazza of the 4th century were found in 1898 (HER 05884; Toynbee 1964).

3.3 Anglo-Saxon

Archaeological work in the village has found dwellings (c.500m to the west of the subject area) dating from the 9th century to later medieval period (Abrams 2000; Hatton 2002). Anglo-Saxon remains including a gold ring (Albert 1849) have been recorded in the parish but these again are unprovenanced.

3.4 Medieval

The name Sutton means South Town and may relate to its position in the Isle of Ely. The medieval village probably clustered around the church and along the High Street. The village is L-shaped, more than a kilometre long, and runs along the former main road from Ely to Chatteris. Medieval pottery has been found in the village, as might be expected in a village which is listed in the Domesday survey (Pugh 1967). The general importance of medieval Sutton can be seen by the fact that in 1313 the Prior of Ely received the right to hold a weekly market at Sutton on Thursdays. The village was the only conventual estate outside Ely itself with such a privilege (Pugh 1967). The market continued into the post-medieval period.

An archaeological evaluation, comprising three trenches located approximately 40m down slope from the High Street, was undertaken to the rear of No. 31 High Street in 2004 (Fletcher 2005). This identified a number of ditches and inter-cutting pits in two of the three trenches, which produced pottery datable to the 12th to early 14th century, although the majority of features are securely dated to the 13th century. The location of these features set back from the medieval High

Street is representative of backyard activity including rubbish deposition and drainage.

Another small excavation at Red Lion Lane revealed 12th to 14th-century pits, ditches and two hearths. Activity came to an end c.1350 (Hatton 2002, ECB 252).

3.5 Post-Medieval

The high degree of prosperity in Sutton is demonstrated by the name of Golden Sutton found in the Chancery proceedings of 1599 (Pugh 1967). Immediately to the east of the development is a brick built Georgian Baptist chapel with an associated burial ground. This chapel was built in 1749 and by 1820 it had a regular membership of nearly 60 and a congregation of 200 to 250 (Pugh 1967).

Archaeological evidence for this period is characterised by post-medieval quarrying which is located 135m to the south of the subject site at Nos 8-10 the Row (ECB1864; Atkins 2005), and also 300m to the west at Painters Lane (ECB251; Hatton 2001).

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 at least 5% of the development should be subject to trial trenching.

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. All metal-detected and 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. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

5 Results

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the western part of the development area in close proximity to the modern western boundary. It measured 9m long and 1.1m deep and was located on an east to west alignment. This trench contained five occupation layers which represent levelling or build up layers overlying Kimmeridge clay. No archaeological features were identified within this trench. The earliest deposit encountered was natural greyish blue Kimmeridge clay (6). Above 6 was a brownish pale orange silty clay (layer 5) that was 0.26m deep and contained modern post-medieval brick. Layer 5 was overlain by layer 4 which was a brown silty clay and 0.46m deep. Above layer 4 was a mid brown clay silt (layer 3) which was 0.38m deep. Layer 3 was overlain by a mid orange brown that was 0.42m deep and contained crushed concrete. Topsoil (1) was a dark orange brown silty clay which was 0.08m deep and contained modern brick.

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the centre of the development area in close proximity to the modern northern boundary. This trench measured 6.5m long and 1.1m deep and was located on a north to south alignment. No archaeological features were identified within this trench. It contained three occupation layers overlying Kimmeridge clay. The earliest deposit encountered was natural greyish blue Kimmeridge clay (6). Above 6 was a light brown silty clay (layer 9) which was 0.35m deep and contained post-medieval brick. Layer 9 was overlain by layer 8 which was a brown silty clay and 0.30m deep. Above layer 8 was a greyish brown (layer 7) silty clay which was 0.10m deep and contained crushed concrete.

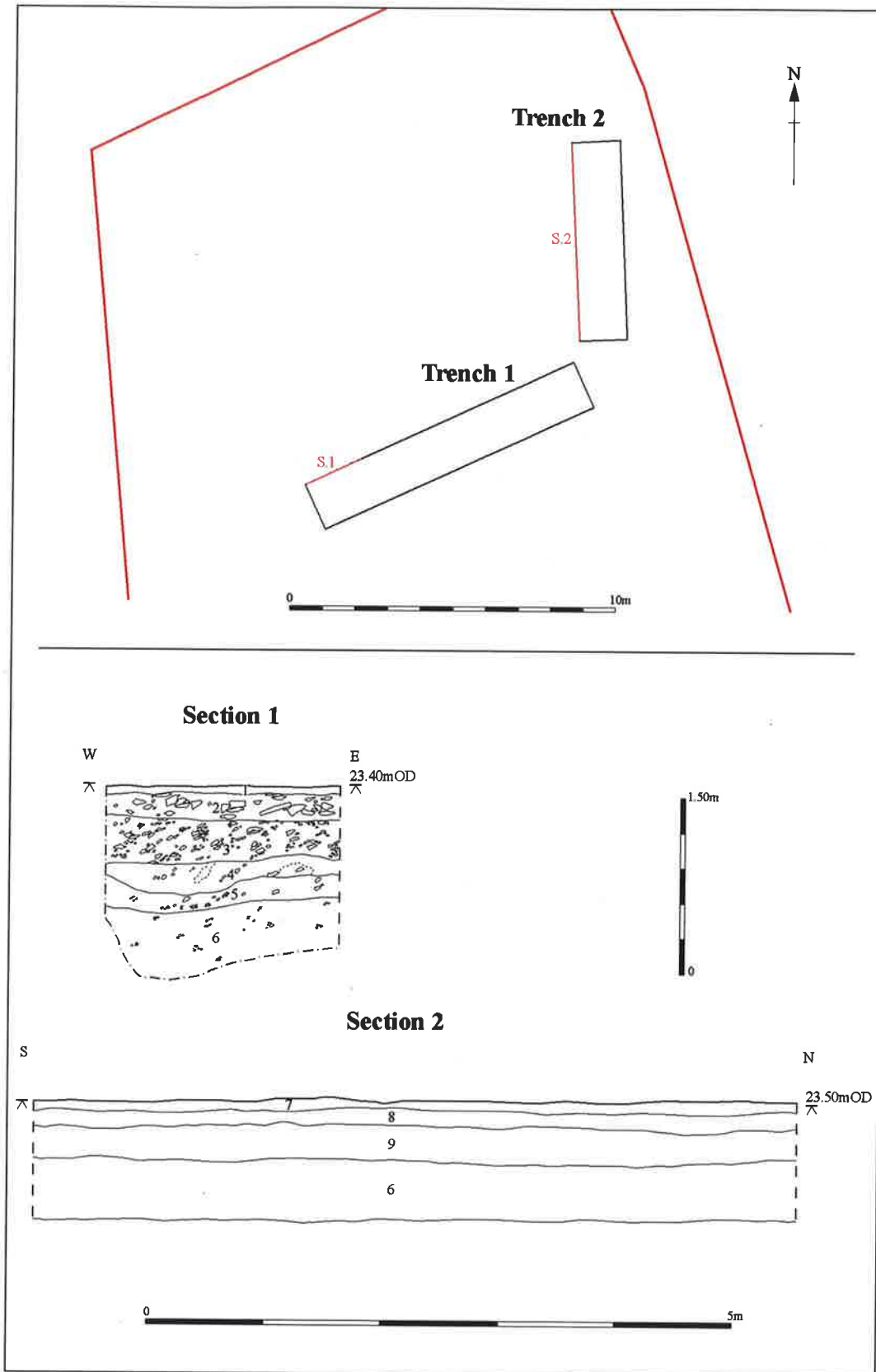


Figure 2: Trench plans and drawing sections

6 Discussion

The two trenches demonstrate post-medieval /modern build up layers (layers 1-8) overlying Kimmeridge clay. Results of the evaluation indicate an absence of Roman, Iron Age and medieval remains in the development area. This is surprising considering the central location of the site within the present settlement.

7 Conclusions

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

Results of the evaluation have made a limited contribution to the understanding of the medieval and post-medieval landscape of Sutton. In terms of the settlement development it may be the case that this site denotes the periphery of the medieval settlement and that further to the west is predominantly post-medieval in character.

Post-medieval build-up layers and lack of archaeological features uncovered in this evaluation have implications for a working model for the development medieval Sutton.

The County Archaeology Office will make recommendations for any future work based upon this report.

Acknowledgements

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

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•cambridgeshirearchaeology
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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