

# Land at Kilkenny Avenue (MOD site), Ely, Cambridgeshire

**Archaeological Evaluation Report** 

May 2023

**Client: Palace Green Homes** 

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Prepared by: Rona Booth (Fieldwork Supervisor)

Checked by: Louise Moan (Senior Project Manager)

Edited by: Joshua White (Post-Excavation Project Officer)

Approved for Issue by: Elizabeth Popescu (Head of Post-Excavation and Publication)

Signature:

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HOPEU

OA South
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 OES
OA East
15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridge
Cambridge
CB23 8SQ

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800 t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

info@oxfordarch.co.uk oxfordarchaeology.com

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Chartsooutvednicer Ken Welsh, 85c. MCMA FivereUmitedCompany, to: 181887 Registered Charty, No. 186827 Registered Orbity, No. 186827 Jourshouse, Oring Mead, Orbital 0x3.081

**OA North** 

Moor Lane

Lancaster LA1 1QD

Moor Lane Mills

t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

Mill 3



# Land at Kilkenny Avenue (MOD site), Ely, Cambridgeshire Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Rona Booth BA (Hons) PhD PCIfA

With contributions from Martha Craven BA PCIfA, Carole Fletcher HND BA ACIfA, Ted Levermore MA (cantab.) MA, Denis Sami PhD and Zoë Uì Choileàin MA MSc BABAO

# Illustrations by Séverine Bézie BA MA

# Contents

Sumn	nary	7
Ackno	owledgements	8
1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Scope of work	1
1.2	Location, topography and geology	1
1.3	Archaeological and historical background	1
1.4	Previous archaeological investigations	2
2	AIMS AND METHODOLOGY	3
2.1	Alms	3
2.2	Methodology	3
3	RESULTS	5
3.1	Introduction and presentation of results	5
3.2	General soils and ground conditions	5
3.3	General distribution of archaeological deposits	5
3.4	Trench 2	5
3.5	Trench 3	5
3.6	Trench 5	5
3.7	Trench 6	6
3.8	Trench 7	6
3.9	Trench 8	7
3.10	Trench 9	7
3.11	Finds summary	7
3.12	Archiving	8
4	DISCUSSION	9



4.1	Reliability of f	ield investigation	9
4.2	Evaluation ob	jectives and results	9
4.3	Interpretation	1	9
4.4	Significance	1	0
APPEI	NDIX A	TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY1	1
APPE	NDIX B	FINDS REPORTS1	4
B.1	Pottery	1	4
B.2	Stone	1	5
B.3	Mortar	1	6
		1	
		1	
B.6	Fuel residues	1	6
APPEI	NDIX C	ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS1	7
C.1	Environmenta	al Samples1	7
C.2	Animal Bone	1	9
APPEI	NDIX D	BIBLIOGRAPHY2	0
APPFI	NDIX E	OASIS REPORT FORM	1



# **List of Figures**

igure 1	Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) within the development area (red)
igure 2	HER entries mentioned in the text
igure 3	Proposed development area (red) showing trenches (black) and constraints
igure 4	Detailed plans of Trenches 5 and 7
Fiaure 5	Selected sections

# **List of Plates**

Plate 1	Trench 2, looking north-west
Plate 2	Trench 3, baulk section, looking north-east
Plate 3	Trench 7, Ditch 20, looking north-east
Plate 4	Trench 8, baulk section, looking south-west
Plate 5	Trench 9, looking south-west
Plate 6	Bricks fragments from Trench 8

# **List of Tables**

Table 1	Quantification of pottery by fabric
Table 2	Summary catalogue of pottery
Table 3	Environmental samples
Table 4	Summary animal bone catalogue



# **Summary**

During March 2023 Oxford Archaeology carried out trial trenching at Land off Kilkenny Avenue (MOD site), Ely in Cambridgeshire. Seven trenches were opened to the north, south and east of the Kilkenny estate.

The trial trenching at the eastern edge of the site revealed a ditch dating to the Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon period. Two postholes and a second ditch of uncertain date were also identified in the same trench. The ditch may represent a continuation of the activity recorded during the High Flyers Farm evaluation, which identified a complex of ditches and gullies dating from the Late Iron Age to Romano-British periods, with some of these features demonstrating evidence of having been maintained into the Anglo-Saxon period.

Two trenches to the south of the site revealed layers of made ground and rubble most likely related to the demolition of Newbarns House, previously situated in this part of the site until the 1970s. The remainder of the trenches were largely devoid of archaeological remains.



# **Acknowledgements**

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Louise Moan. The fieldwork was directed by Rona Booth, who was supported by Gareth Hayes. Surveying and digitising were carried out by Daria Adamson and Katharine Waring. Thanks are also extended to the various finds and environmental processors, specialists, illustrator and editor for their contributions.



# 1 Introduction

# 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by Palace Green Homes to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Kilkenny Avenue (MOD site), Ely in Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning consent granted for a residential development of 27 dwellings, located throughout existing housing at the site (planning reference 20/01006/FUM). A brief was set by Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET; Speariett 2023) and a written scheme of investigation (WSI; Moan 2023) was produced by OA detailing the work necessary to inform the planning process. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements and details the results of the investigation.

# 1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The city of Ely is located in the east of Cambridgeshire, around 22km north-east of Cambridge and *c.* 36km south-east of Peterborough. The site lies on the northern edge of Ely on relatively flat ground (at *c.* 21m OD) in a former MOD housing estate, close to the Princess of Wales Hospital. The trenches were dispersed around the estate, situated off Kilkenny Avenue, Nigel Road, Gunning Road, Heaton Drive and Merrifield Gardens. The nearest accessible point of the River Great Ouse is located *c.* 1.5km to the south-east of the site.
- 1.2.2 The geology of the northern and western parts of the site comprises mudstone of the Kimmeridge Clay Formation, with the eastern and southern parts of the site consisting of sand belonging to the Woburn Sands Formation (British Geological Survey 2015).

# 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A full 1km radius search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) centred on TL 54909 81776 was commissioned. The following summary is based on the results of this search, with pertinent records shown in Fig. 2.

# Bronze Age

- 1.3.2 A Bronze Age barrow and associated beaker burial were excavated during the 1950s (CHER 06136), close to the southern edge of the proposed development site, off Langham Way.
- 1.3.3 An excavation undertaken to the south-west of the site at the Isle of Ely school (ECB4413) identified Middle Bronze Age remains including parts of a field system and enclosure, with associated postholes and waterholes, indicating the presence of a settlement (MCB23517).

# Iron Age and Romano-British

1.3.4 Archaeological works at High Flyers Farm identified extensive Iron Age and Romano-British remains, including a complex of enclosures, gullies, pits, postholes and



trackways (MCB19588, MCB19589 and MCB19590). Iron Age and Romano-British remains have also been recorded during fieldwork off High Barns, which identified gullies, midden spreads, field systems, enclosures, pits, an oven and a small cemetery (CB14805).

1.3.5 A Roman road is recorded to the west of the proposed development area and is believed to run from Cambridge to Denver (CHER 05352). The presence of this road has been confirmed in three archaeological excavations carried out to the east of the A10 (ECB4948, ECB6403 and ECB6755; not illustrated).

# Anglo-Saxon

1.3.6 Evidence of low-level Anglo-Saxon settlement activity has been recorded at High Flyers Farm and two inhumation cemeteries have also been recorded in the area – one off High Barns (CHER 02074) and one off Lynn Road (ECB4948). Anglo-Saxon pottery has also been recovered during fieldwalking along the route of the Ely bypass (CHER 07253C).

### Modern

1.3.7 The First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1885 shows that the south-west part of the development area (in the vicinity of Trenches 8 and 9) was occupied by Newbarns House (MCB26910), which is no longer present. It is shown in various forms and sizes on OS maps up until the 1970s. These maps show that it had formal gardens to the east, as well as various outbuildings. The First Edition OS map also shows that structures were present in the vicinity of Trenches 6 and 7 in the south-east of the site. Later OS maps show that the rest of the site was developed from the mid-20th century onwards, with the land utilised in agriculture prior to this.

# 1.4 Previous archaeological investigations

- 1.4.1 The site is located within an area where a considerable number of archaeological investigations have been carried out some of which have been outlined in the previous section. To the immediate north and east, geophysical survey (ECB3521), trial trenching (ECB3530 and ECB3643) and excavation (ECB5194) have been undertaken at High Flyers Farm. Several phases of fieldwork have also been undertaken to the south-east off High Barns (ECB704, ECB1209, ECB1210, ECB1216, ECB1217, ECB1430, ECB3370, ECB3867 and ECB3868). However, no known archaeological investigations have previously been carried out within the footprint of the proposed development.
- 1.4.2 Further works carried out in the vicinity include evaluations off Redman Close (ECB2645) and at the Former Princess of Wales RAF hospital (ECB947 and ECB2244). However, none of the investigations at these locations revealed significant archaeological remains.



# 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

# 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:
  - i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present
  - ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence
  - iii. To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent) and establish the quality of preservation of any remains
  - iv. To provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits, as well as to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and the possible presence of masking deposits
  - v. To set results within their local, regional and national archaeological context and in particular the wider cultural landscape and past environmental conditions
  - vi. To provide in the event that archaeological remains are found sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost

# 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 As stated in the WSI (Moan 2023), to adequately sample the development area for archaeological remains, *c.* 132m of trenching was required (equating to a 3% sample of the proposed development area). Due to the already developed nature of the site and the presence of numerous services, trenches were only able to be placed within five small areas (Fig. 3). Nine trenches ranging in length from 8-25m were originally stipulated for excavation in order to achieve the 3% coverage required, however, the presence of further constraints identified during fieldwork meant that Trenches 1 and 4 were unable to be investigated. Consequently, only seven trenches ranging between *c.* 11-20m in length by 1.8m wide, located within four parts of the site, were able to be excavated as part of these works.
- 2.2.2 Service plans were checked before work commenced on site and the footprint of each trench was scanned by a qualified and experienced operator using a CAT and Genny with a valid calibration certificate.
- 2.2.3 The trenches were excavated by a JCB equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, to the upper interface of the archaeological deposits or the geological horizon. The soil overburden was removed in 0.1m thick spits. Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector by an experienced operator.
- 2.2.4 Spoil was stored alongside trenches, with topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposits kept separate to allow for sequential backfilling.
- 2.2.5 Bucket samples of the soil overburden were taken from the ends of each trench, to characterise artefactual remains in the soil horizons above the archaeological level.



These were processed on site for the purpose of finds retrieval. All seven trenches contained modern finds within these layers (bricks, iron and plastic waste). A sample of bricks and a glass bottle neck fragment from Trenches 8 and 9 were retained for purposes of dating.

- 2.2.6 Site survey was carried out using a survey-grade differential GPS fitted with 'smartnet' technology, with an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.
- 2.2.7 A digital and paper register of all trenches, features and photographs was kept. All features, layers and deposits were issued with unique context numbers. Each feature was documented on context sheets and hand-drawn in section. Written descriptions were recorded on pro-forma sheets comprising factual data and interpretative elements. The photographic record comprises high resolution digital photographs. Photographs include both general trench shots and photographs of specific features.
- 2.2.8 The site archive is currently held by OA and will be deposited within the Cambridgeshire County Council stores in due course.
- 2.2.9 Two bulk environmental samples were taken for processing at OA's environmental facility at Bourn.



# 3 RESULTS

# 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. Full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in App. A. A detailed plan of Trenches 5 and 7 is presented in Fig. 4 and selected sections are illustrated in Fig. 5. Finds reports are presented in App. B and environmental data is presented in App. C.

# 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was variable. In most trenches, the natural clay geology was overlain by one or more layers of made ground which in turn were overlain by a thin layer of topsoil. A thin layer of subsoil was also present in Trenches 6 and 7.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were very poor and the site was wet due to snow and heavy rain. Despite this, archaeological features, where present, were clear enough to identify against the underlying natural geology.

# 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were only present in Trenches 5 and 7. Trenches 8 and 9 revealed sequences of made ground that contained significant quantities of building rubble, most likely originating from the demolished building that previously stood on the site (see Section 1.3). Trenches 2, 3 and 6 were devoid of archaeological features, but also contained deposits of made ground.

# 3.4 Trench 2

3.4.1 Trench 2 (Plate 1) was situated off Gunning Road at the northern end of the development. It measured 13m in length and was orientated south-east to north-west. A layer of made ground (25), up to 0.88m thick, overlay the natural geology. The made ground consisted of a light brown silty clay that contained modern building rubble, including concrete and broken bricks, none of which were retained. The made ground was overlain by a thin layer of topsoil (24), up to 0.23m thick.

### 3.5 Trench 3

3.5.1 Trench 3 (Plate 2) was situated to the east of Trench 2 and on the same alignment. It measured 17m long and the stratigraphy in this trench was a continuation of that recorded in Trench 2. The made ground (25) was slightly shallower (up to 0.68m thick) and the topsoil (24) was deeper (up to 0.3m thick).

# 3.6 Trench 5

3.6.1 Trench 5 (Fig. 4) was located towards the eastern edge of the development, north of Heaton Close. It measured 13m long and was aligned north-north-east to south-southwest. Contaminated ground was identified in the north-north-east end of the trench,



where a linear feature containing a large amount of modern rubble was also recorded. The feature was left unexcavated due to health and safety concerns. A burnt, slightly concreted modern deposit was also identified at this end of the trench.

3.6.2 At the request of CHET, the trench was extended by a further 2m at its southern end to investigate a possible ditch. The trench extension revealed further contaminated ground and the feature of interest proved to be a modern rubbish pit (14; Fig. 5, Section 1). Pit 14 had a steep, near vertical northern side and a flat base. It contained a single deposit of mid brownish grey clayey silt (16), from which a shard of 18th-or 19th-century bottle glass was recovered. The pit was sealed by a deposit of made ground that extended across the whole trench (15). This deposit consisted of a mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional fragments of brick rubble. This was overlain by a further deposit of made ground, which comprised a light brown silty clay up to 0.28m thick (19). A thin layer of topsoil (17) up to 0.26m thick overlaid deposit 19.

# 3.7 Trench 6

3.7.1 Trench 6 was situated in the south-east corner of the site, south of Heaton Close. It measured 12m long and was aligned south-south-west to north-north-east. The Trench 6 soil profile consisted of made ground (26), above a mid brownish grey clayey silt subsoil (7). The made ground was up to 0.56m thick and consisted of a mid brown clayey silt containing abundant modern rubble. Above the subsoil was a *c.* 0.3m thick deposit of mid brownish grey clayey silt topsoil (9). A single sherd of later medieval pottery (11g) was recovered from the topsoil.

# 3.8 Trench 7

- 3.8.1 Trench 7 lay to the immediate south of Trench 6 (Fig. 4). It measured 19m long and was aligned north-west to south-east. Two postholes (10 and 12), a substantial ditch (20) and a shallower ditch (22) were identified in this trench.
- 3.8.2 Ditch **20** (Plate 3) was situated towards the centre of the trench and oriented northeast to south-west. It measured 1.65m wide, 0.58m deep and contained a single deposit of mid brownish grey silty clay (21; Fig. 5, Section 2). This deposit produced six sherds (41g) of Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery, a fragment of lava quern, six fragments of animal bone and a single unworked burnt flint.
- 3.8.3 Ditch **22** was located north of ditch **20** and was aligned north-west to south-east. It was very shallow, with a depth of 0.08m and a width of 0.74m (Fig. 5, Section 5). It had gently sloping sides, a concave base and contained a single deposit of light brownish grey clayey silt, which produced no finds (23).
- 3.8.4 A posthole (12) was cut into the top of ditch 22. The posthole had a diameter of 0.38m and was 0.1m deep with steep sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 5, Section 4). Its single fill consisted of a dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent pebble inclusions (13). A single fragment of animal bone and two abraded fragments of lime mortar (26g) were recovered from this deposit.
- 3.8.5 Posthole **10** was situated at the north-west end of the trench. It measured 0.38m long, 0.32m wide and 0.08m deep (Fig. 5, Section 3). It had steep sloping sides, a concave



- base and contained a single deposit of light brownish grey silty clay that was devoid of finds (11).
- 3.8.6 The features in Trench 7 were overlain by a remnant subsoil up to 0.25m thick (7), which was in turn overlain by a deposit of made ground up to 0.62m thick (8), followed by a layer of topsoil measuring up to 0.36m thick (9; Fig. 5, Section 5).

# 3.9 Trench 8

- 3.9.1 Trench 8 was located in the south-west of the proposed development area, west of Merrifield Gardens. It measured 15m long and reached up to 2m at its deepest point (Plate 4). The natural geology was only reached in part of the trench, but machine excavation of the deposits was abandoned before it was revealed over the whole trench, owing to safety concerns. The trench stratigraphy consisted entirely of demolition deposits and made ground, under a thin layer of topsoil.
- 3.9.2 Although in places the deposits were somewhat mixed, the general sequence consisted of a gravel rich silt (4), approximately 0.4m thick, overlaying the natural geology. This was in turn overlain in the southern end of the trench by a sandy silt (3) a deposit possibly associated with the demolition of Newbarns House. Bricks from the demolition deposits date to the late 19th and early 20th centuries (pers. comm. Ted Levermore). At the centre of the trench, a concentrated area of rubble within a sandy silt matrix (27) was recorded and may indicate the presence of a cellar. A layer of construction sand (2) measuring up to 0.5m thick and a layer of sandy silt (28) measuring 0.35m thick formed the penultimate deposits under the topsoil (1), which measured up to 0.2m thick. The neck of a glass bottle dating from either the 18th or 19th century was recovered from the topsoil.

# 3.10 Trench 9

- 3.10.1 Trench 9 was situated just north-west of Trench 8, measured 18m long and was aligned north-east to south-west (Plate 5). It had a similar stratigraphy to Trench 8, although there was noticeably less demolition rubble present, possibly indicating that the main footprint of Newbarns House was primarily located across the position of Trench 8.
- 3.10.2 The topsoil (1) and construction sand (2) in this trench had depths of 0.25m and 0.3m respectively. These deposits overlay made ground (3; up to 0.6m thick) and a gravel-rich silt (4; up to 0.4m).

# 3.11 Finds summary

3.11.1 The finds recovered during the trial trenching were few in number and in relatively poor condition. The six sherds (41g) of abraded Anglo-Saxon pottery provide a tentative spot date for ditch **20** of *c.* AD 450 to 850. A fragment of lava quern from the same context may be contemporary. Four mammal bones, three from ditch **20**, including a sheep/goat molar, are in very poor condition. Three amphibian long bones were also recovered from ditch **20**, but were not identified to species.



- 3.11.2 Two fragments of lime mortar and a fragment of unburnt coal from posthole **12** and a later medieval jar base (*c.* AD 1150 to 1450) from the topsoil 9 have limited dating potential.
- 3.11.3 The bricks from Trenches 5, 8 and 9 are all of late 19th to early 20th century date and most likely result from demolition and dumping. The assemblage includes London Brick Company flettons which postdate AD 1900 (pers. comm. Ted Levermore; Plate 6). The neck of a glass bottle dating from either the 18th or 19th century was also recovered from topsoil 1. The remainder of the finds include an unworked burnt flake and some fragments of coal.

# 3.12 Archiving

3.12.1 The site archive is currently held by OA and will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archive Facility under the Event Number ECB7054 during 2023. The archive will comprise one finds box and one paperwork box. Prior to archiving a signed Transfer of Title form will be attained for the project. Archiving will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Cambridgeshire* (CCC 2020).



# 4 DISCUSSION

# 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The results of the trial trenching are deemed reliable. Despite the poor weather conditions, it was possible to identify the archaeology against the natural geology. However, the overall programme of trial trenching was hampered by the presence of numerous services and the residential property boundaries that surround the site.

# 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The results of the trial trenching are believed to have met the project aims. The site appears to have limited archaeological potential and any remains present are restricted to areas where masking deposits of made ground are less common and previous building works have had less impact such as around Trenches 5 and 7.
- 4.2.2 Only Trench 7 revealed archaeological features not severely impacted by the demolition or construction works. The revealed section of ditch **20** within Trench 7 was not impacted by the modern constraint to the immediate south.

# 4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The land off Kilkenny Avenue has been subject to significant development and this is reflected in the findings from the trial trenching.
- 4.3.2 The earliest datable feature was ditch **20**, revealed in Trench 7, which contained Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery. This ditch perhaps represents a continuation of one of the more substantial ditches seen during the trial trenching that took place at nearby High Flyers Farm (Fig. 2, MCB19588, MCB19589 and MCB15950; Taylor 2011). These ditches formed part of a complex of mainly rectilinear enclosures and field systems that lie to the east of Trench 7 and dated to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Interestingly, low levels of Anglo-Saxon pottery were also recovered from some of the ditches recorded at High Flyers Farm, where it was surmised that occupation and maintenance of some of the ditches continued into the Anglo-Saxon period (Taylor 2011). The evidence from ditch **20** at Kilkenny Avenue may support this suggestion. Evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement was identified *c.* 250m north-west of the site (Mason 2023) and it is possible that the activity recorded at Kilkenny Avenue may have had some association.
- 4.3.3 Ditch **22** (Trench 7), although somewhat ephemeral, may have also belonged to this same field system. It was cut by a later posthole (**12**) that produced post-Roman lime mortar and was sealed by what appears to have been a remnant subsoil (7).
- 4.3.4 There is nothing to suggest the two disparate postholes **10** and **12** were contemporary, with their fills having very different compositions. No suitable dating evidence was recovered from these features and consequently a date cannot be suggested for them.
- 4.3.5 The results from Trenches 8 and 9 correlate with the historic maps of the site, which show that the southern end of the proposed development was once occupied by the now demolished Newbarns House (MCB26910). When demolished, the ground was



raised to such an extent that the made deposits in these trenches reached a depth of up to 2m, effectively negating the chances of any earlier archaeology surviving in this location. All the associated finds from these trenches are of post-medieval or modern date.

# 4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The findings from the trial trenching are limited and the overall archaeological significance of the site is not particularly high.
- 4.4.2 However, ditch **20** and possibly ditch **22** in Trench 7 are noteworthy in that they potentially show a continuation of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British agricultural landscape identified at High Flyers Farm. The dating of ditch **20** to the Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon period is of some significance as it may support the suggestion that the Iron Age to Romano-British landscape continued in use into the post-Roman period.
- 4.4.3 Low level post-medieval to modern activity at the site was evidenced by the recovery of a small number of finds dating from these period and deposits associated with the demolition of Newbarns House were also identified.



# APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 2 General of	descriptio	n	Orientation	NW-SE		
			av. Consi	sts of topsoil overlying made	Length (m)	13
			03	tural geology.	Width (m)	1.8
3				3 33	Avg. depth (m)	1.02
Context	Туре	Width	Depth	Description	Finds	Date
No.	31	(m)	(m)			
24	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
25	Layer	-	0.88	Made ground	-	-
	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>			
General o	description	n			Orientation	NW-SE
			av. Cons	ists of topsoil overlying made	Length (m)	17
			tural geology.	Width (m)	1.8	
3				3 33	Avg. depth (m)	0.86
Context	Туре	Width	Depth	Description	Finds	Date
No.	31	(m)	(m)	·		
24	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
25	Layer	-	0.68	Made ground	-	-
	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 5		•				
General c	descriptio	n			Orientation	NNE-SSW
Modern f	eature id	entified. (	Consists c	of topsoil overlying subsoil and	Length (m)	13
made gro	und, the	latter of	which al	so partially overlies the basal	Width (m)	1.8
fill of the	modern f	eature.			Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context	Type	Width	Depth	Description	Finds	Date
No.		(m)	(m)			
17		(m)	()			
1 /	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
15	Layer Layer	· · ·		Topsoil Made ground	-	-
	_	-	0.26			
15	Layer	-	0.26	Made ground		
15 19	Layer Layer	-	0.26	Made ground Made ground		-
15 19	Layer Layer Layer	-	0.26 0.24 0.28	Made ground Made ground Natural		- - - - 18th or
15 19	Layer Layer Layer Cut	-	0.26 0.24 0.28 0.32	Made ground Made ground Natural Modern feature	- - -	
15 19 14 16	Layer Layer Layer Cut	-	0.26 0.24 0.28 0.32	Made ground Made ground Natural Modern feature	- - -	- - - - 18th or
15 19 14 16 Trench 6	Layer Layer Layer Cut Fill	-	0.26 0.24 0.28 0.32	Made ground Made ground Natural Modern feature	- - - - Glass	18th or 19th century
15 19 14 16 Trench 6 General o	Layer Layer Cut Fill	- - -	0.26 0.24 0.28 0.32 0.20	Made ground Made ground Natural Modern feature Lower fill of 14	Glass	18th or 19th century
15 19 14 16 Trench 6 General c	Layer Layer Layer Cut Fill  description	- - - - - nrchaeolo	0.26 0.24 0.28 0.32 0.20	Made ground Made ground Natural Modern feature Lower fill of 14	Glass  Orientation Length (m)	18th or 19th century NNE-SSW 12
15 19 14 16 Trench 6 General c	Layer Layer Layer Cut Fill  description	- - - - - nrchaeolo	0.26 0.24 0.28 0.32 0.20	Made ground Made ground Natural Modern feature Lower fill of 14		
15 19 14 16 Trench 6 General c Trench de ground w	Layer Layer Cut Fill  description evoid of a hich in tu	on archaeolo	0.26 0.24 0.28 0.32 0.20 gy. Consi	Made ground Made ground Natural Modern feature Lower fill of 14  ists of topsoil overlying made tural geology.		
15 19 14 16 Trench 6 General of Trench de ground w	Layer Layer Layer Cut Fill  description	on archaeolo urn overlie	0.26 0.24 0.28 0.32 0.20 gy. Consides the national Depth	Made ground Made ground Natural Modern feature Lower fill of 14		
15 19 14 16 Trench 6 General c Trench de ground w Context No.	Layer Layer Cut Fill  description evoid of a hich in tu	on archaeolo	0.26 0.24 0.28 0.32 0.20 gy. Consides the national Depth (m)	Made ground Made ground Natural Modern feature Lower fill of 14  ists of topsoil overlying made tural geology.  Description		
15 19 14 16 Trench 6 General of Trench de ground w	Layer Layer Cut Fill  description evoid of a hich in tu	on archaeolo urn overlie	0.26 0.24 0.28 0.32 0.20 gy. Consides the national Depth	Made ground Made ground Natural Modern feature Lower fill of 14  ists of topsoil overlying made tural geology.		
15 19 14 16 Trench 6 General context No. 9	Layer Layer Cut Fill  description evoid of a hich in tu  Type Layer	on archaeolo arn overlie Width (m)	0.26 0.24 0.28 0.32 0.20 gy. Consides the national Depth (m) 0.25	Made ground Made ground Natural Modern feature Lower fill of 14  ists of topsoil overlying made tural geology.  Description  Topsoil		
15 19 14 16 Trench 6 General c Trench de ground w Context No.	Layer Layer Cut Fill  description evoid of a hich in tu	on archaeolo arn overlie Width (m)	0.26 0.24 0.28 0.32 0.20 gy. Consides the national Depth (m)	Made ground Made ground Natural Modern feature Lower fill of 14  ists of topsoil overlying made tural geology.  Description		



-	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-			
Trench 7	. ,								
General o	descriptio	n			Orientation	NW-SE			
Two dit	ches and	d two	postholes	s identified. The overlying	Length (m)	19			
stratigrap	ohy consis	sts of top	soil over	lying made ground, which in	Width (m)	1.8			
turn over	lies the n	atural ge	ology.		Avg. depth (m)	1.04			
Context	Type	Width	Depth	Description	Finds	Date			
No.		(m)	(m)	-					
9	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-			
8	Layer	-	0.51	Made ground	-	-			
7	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	-	-			
10	Cut	0.38	0.08	Posthole	-	-			
11	Fill	-	0.08	Fill of 10	-	-			
12	Cut	0.38	0.1	Posthole	-	-			
13	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of 12	Mortar	Medieval			
20	Cut	1.65	0.58-	Ditch	-	-			
21	Fill	-	0.58	Fill of 20	Pottery	c. AD 450			
					,	to 850			
22	Cut	0.74	0.08	Ditch	-	-			
23	Fill	-	0.08	Fill of 22	-	-			
Trench 8	•	<u>'</u>	'			<u>'</u>			
General	description	n			Orientation	NE-SW			
Trench de	evoid of a	archaeolc	gy. Cons	ists of topsoil overlying made	Length (m)	15			
				natural geology. The made	Width (m)	1.8			
ground co	ontained	CBM dati	ng from t	the 19th and 20th centuries.	Avg. depth (m)	1.5			
Context	Туре	Width	Depth	Description	Finds	Date			
No.	31	(m)	(m)	·					
1	Layer	-	0.5	Topsoil	Glass	19th or			
				·		20th			
						century			
2	Layer	-	0.5	Made ground	-	Modern			
3	Layer	-	0.5	Construction sand	-	Modern			
4	Layer	-	0.4	Gravel rich silt	-	-			
	Layer	-		Natural	-	-			
27	Layer	-	-	Demolition deposit	-	Modern			
28	Layer			Made ground	-	Modern			
	Layer			Natural	-	-			
Trench 9			1			1			
General	description	n			Orientation	NE-SW			
			gy. Cons	ists of topsoil overlying made	Length (m)	18			
				natural geology. The made	Width (m)	1.8			
0				the 19th and 20th centuries.	Avg. depth (m)	1.35			
Context	Туре	Width	Depth	Description	Finds	Date			
No.	71/2	(m)	(m)						
1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	Brick	19th or			
	","					20th			
						century			
2	Layer	-	0.3	Construction sand	-	Modern			
		+				+			



3	Layer	-	0.6	Made ground	-	Modern
4	Layer	-	0.4	Gravel rich silt	-	-
	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



# APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

# B.1 Pottery

By Denis Sami

### Introduction and Provenance

- B.1.1 Evaluation trenches produced seven post-Roman pottery sherds of which six were of possible Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon date, with one base sherd from a high medieval jar also recovered (Table 1). Sherds are abraded and the average sherd weight is 7.42g.
- B.1.2 *The Production and Distribution of Medieval Pottery in Cambridgeshire* by Paul Spoerry (2016) is used in this assessment to identify and describe the different vessels present.

Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)
E/MASX(Granitic)	6	41
SEFEN	1	11
Total	7	52

Table 1. Quantification of pottery by fabric

# The assemblage

- B.1.3 Six sherds of possible Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered from ditch **20** in Trench 7. Sherds are undiagnostic parts of walls. All the fragments present moderate poorly sorted inclusions of granitic material, sparce calcareous fragments and rare bronze mica.
- B.1.4 A single fragment from a base produced in a South-East Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware (SEFEN; Spoerry 2016) was also recovered from the topsoil (9) of Trench 6.

### Discussion

B.1.5 This very small assemblage can only provide a limited contribution to the site research objectives, offering a possible spot-date for ditch **20**. This feature could have tentatively been filled between *c*. AD 450 to 850. The sherds are domestic products suggesting the presence of a potential settlement in the area. The high medieval sherd could have been the result of manure scattering on the site.

Context	Cut	Trench	Feature	Description	Form	Quantity	Weight (g)	Date AD (min.)	Date AD (max.)
21	20	7	Ditch	E/MASX(Granitic)	Wall	3	24	450	850
21	20	7	Ditch	E/MASX(Granitic)	Wall	3	17	450	850
99999	0	6	Topsoil	SEFEM	Base	1	11	1150	1450

Table 2. Summary catalogue of pottery



# B.2 Stone

# By Carole Fletcher

# Introduction and methodology

B.2.1 A fragment of vesicular basalt lava was recovered from Trench 7. The functional category used is defined by Crummy (1983; 1988) 'Category 4: Household utensils and furniture'. The stone was identified visually using a x10 magnifying lens and simplified recording has only been undertaken, with material type, basic description and weight recorded in the text of this report. The stone and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition or dispersal.

# Assemblage

B.2.2 A single sub-rectangular piece of mid grey vesicular basalt lava was recovered from ditch **20**. Part of the grinding surface and the dressed edge survive, although not enough to establish a diameter. The grinding surface is slightly smoothed, however, it is unclear if it is part of an upper or lower stone, due to the loss of the non-grinding surface (104g, 63mm x 53mm, thickness 22-28mm).

### Discussion

B.2.3 The lava rotary quern fragment may have originated in a domestic setting, strongly linked to agriculture. The find is fragmentary and dated by its association with the Anglo-Saxon pottery with which it was recovered. The fragment may be of Mayen lava, which is associated with rotary querns from the Late Iron Age onwards.

# Retention, dispersal or display

B.2.4 Should further work be undertaken, additional fragments of lava quern may be recovered. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record. The quern fragment may be retained or dispersed for educational use prior to archive deposition.



# B.3 Mortar

By Ted Levermore

B.3.1 Two abraded fragments of lime mortar (26g) were recovered from deposit 13, posthole 12, in Trench 7. Both pieces are made of a lime base with frequent fine yellowish brown sandy minerals, with rarer additional medium stones and chalk or lime chunks. The smaller fragment (8g) contains areas of pinkish clay; the lack of clear edges suggests they are areas of poorly hydrated material rather than grog. This composition is typical for the post-Roman period and the fragments are likely of a medieval date. Both fragments are weather worn and rounded, so likely spent time exposed to the elements before final deposition.

# B.4 Flint

By Rona Booth

B.4.1 A single unworked burnt flint was recovered from ditch **20** in Trench 7. The date of the flint cannot be ascertained and the flint can be deselected prior to deposition of the archive.

### B.5 Glass

By Carole Fletcher

- B.5.1 Two fragments of glass were recovered from Trenches 5 and 8 respectively.
- B.5.2 An irregular fragment (24g, 5.5-7mm thick) of curved mid olive-green glass was recovered from pit 14 in Trench 5. The glass surface is matt, with some weathering and there are small bubbles within the glass. The shard is from a cylindrical utility bottle (approximately 100mm in diameter) and although not closely datable, it probably dates to the 18th or 19th century.
- B.5.3 From Trench 8, a large fragment from the neck of a dark olive-green utility bottle (100g) was recovered. The neck has broken at the shoulder of the vessel. The vessel has a two-part finish, a 'v'-shaped lip, an up-tooled flattened side string rim and a roughly cylindrical neck with a constricted bore of 20mm. The bottle fragment is very probably of late 18th to early 19th century date.
- B.5.4 The shards of glass are not significant, other than to indicate low levels of rubbish deposition, probably disturbed by later ploughing. Both pieces can be deselected prior to deposition of the archive.

# **B.6** Fuel residues

By Carole Fletcher

B.6.1 Posthole **12** in Trench 7 produced an irregular fragment (2g) of unburnt black bituminous coal. The fuel is undiagnostic and not closely datable. The coal fragment may be from a domestic fire or the result of mechanised ploughing or harvesting using an engine or a steam-driven threshing machine. The fragment can be dispersed prior to deposition of the archive.



# APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

# **C.1** Environmental Samples

By Martha Craven

### Introduction

C.1.1 Two bulk samples were taken from features during the evaluation in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from features encountered within Trench 7.

# Methodology

- C.1.2 The total volume (up to 15L) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.
- C.1.3 The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 3. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers et al. 2006) and OA East's reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (2010) for other plants. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible.

### Quantification

- C.1.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:
- C.1.5 # = 1-5, # # = 6-25, # # # = 26-100, # # # # = 100+ specimens
- C.1.6 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as snail shells have been scored for abundance:
- C.1.7 + =occasional, ++ =moderate, +++ =frequent, ++++ =abundant

### Results

- C.1.8 Plant material in the samples is very rare and is restricted to sparse charcoal.
- C.1.9 Sample 1, fill 11 of posthole **10**, is completely sterile and did not contain any artefacts or ecofacts.
- C.1.10 Sample 2, fill 21 of ditch **20**, contains a small amount of charcoal and frequent, relatively well-preserved snail shells.



# Discussion

- C.1.11 The sparsity of plant remains within the samples suggests that there is very limited potential for the preservation of such material at this site.
- C.1.12 Unfortunately, due to the lack of material recovered it is difficult to make many inferences regarding plant usage at this site. It is possible that this area was not a focus of agricultural processing or domestic activity, but it may also be the case that the site's geology is not conducive to the preservation of plant remains.

Trench number	Sample number	Context number	Cut number	Feature type	Volume processed (L)	Flot volume (ml)	Snail shells	Charcoal volume (ml)	Pottery	Small mammal Bones	Burnt flint	Struck flint
7	1	11	10	Posthole	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	2	21	20	Ditch	15	10	+++	<1	#	#	#	#

Table 3. Environmental samples



# C.2 Animal Bone

By Zoë Uì Choileàin

# Introduction and methodology

- C.2.1 A small collection of animal bone was collected from features excavated during the trial trenching. Seven recordable fragments were recovered but only one fragment is identifiable to species a sheep/goat third molar from in deposit 21, ditch 20.
- C.2.2 All bone was identified using Schmid (1972). Surface preservation was evaluated using the 0-5 scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (2004, 14-5).

### Results

- C.2.3 The preservation of bone best represents a 2-3 on the McKinley scale. This means that most of the surface is masked by erosion, primarily soil acidity and root activity.
- C.2.4 The sheep/goat third molar from context 21 (ditch 20, Trench 7) belongs to an adult animal. The occlusal surface is broken meaning that tooth wear stages cannot be used to determine age at death.
- C.2.5 A full catalogue of recordable bone is displayed in Table 4 below.

# Retention, dispersal and display

C.2.6 All bone can be discarded prior to deposition of the archive.

Context	Sample	Таха	Element	Count	Condition	Notes
13		medium mammal	long bone	1	2	
21		sheep/goat	LMT	1	1	M3 - broken
21		medium mammal	long bone	2	3	
21	2	Amphibian	long bone	3	1	

Table 4. Summary animal bone catalogue



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# APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

OASI	Project Details OASIS Number Project Name  Oxfordar3-515104  Land at Kilkenny Avenue (MOD site), Ely											
Start of Fieldwork March 20 Previous Work No			2023			_	<u> </u>		-	rch 2023 known		
Project Reference Codes Site Code ELYKKA2 HER Number ECB7054						_	J 11		20/	01006/FUM 7		
Prompt Development Type Place in Planning Process			ess		NPPF Residential Planning condition							
interpretation  Aerial Photography - new			apply)	Grab-sampling			Surve Samp	Remote Operated Vehicle Survey Sample Trenches Survey/Recording of				
<ul><li>☐ Augering</li><li>☐ Dendrochonological</li><li>Survey</li></ul>		×	Measured Survey Metal Detectors						Fabric/Structure Targeted Trenches Test Pits			
× Environmental Sampling □			Photogrammetric Survey □ V Photographic Survey × V			Vibro- Visual	opographic Survey /ibro-core /isual Inspection (Initial Site /isit)					
	Geophysical Surv	vey			Rectified	Visit) Rectified Photography						
Mon	ument		Perio	d			Obj	Object				Period
Ditch	١		Anglo	-Saxor	)		Pot	tery	1			Anglo-Saxon
	holes		Unkn	own				Pottery			Medieval	
Ditch	1		Unkn	nown			Glass					18th to 19th Century
						Lava quern fragment				Anglo-Saxon?		
					Lim	e m	ortar	fragme	ents	Medieval?		
Projec	Project Location											
County Cambridgeshire						Addr	ess (ind	cluding	Postcode)			
District East Cambridgeshire							nny Av		,			
Parish Ely						Ely	,					
HER office Cambridgeshire						CB7	4RZ					
Size of Study Area c. 6.5ha												
National Grid Ref TL 54909 81776												



Pro	iect	0	rio	ıin	ato	ors

Organisation
Project Brief Originator
Project Design Originator
Project Manager
Project Supervisor

Cambridgeshire County Council
Lu Speariett
Louise Moan (Senior Project Manager)
Louise Moan (Senior Project Manager)
Rona Booth (Fieldwork Supervisor)

# **Project Archives**

Physical Archive (Finds) Digital Archive Paper Archive

Location	עו
Cambridgeshire County Council	ECB7054
Oxford Archaeology	ELYKKA23
Cambridgeshire County Council	ECB7054

Physical Contents	Present?		Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork ass	ociated
Animal Bones Ceramics Environmental Glass Human Remains Industrial Leather Metal Stratigraphic Survey Textiles Wood Worked Bone Worked Stone/Lithic None	x x x		x	x x .x 	
Other  Digital Media Database GIS Geophysics Images (Digital photos) Illustrations (Figures/Pla Moving Image Spreadsheets Survey Text Virtual Reality	x tes)	×	Paper Media Aerial Photos Context Sheets Correspondence Diary Drawing Manuscript Map Matrices Microfiche Miscellaneous Research/Notes Photos (negatives/prints) Plans Report	× :/slides)	x



Sections × Survey ×



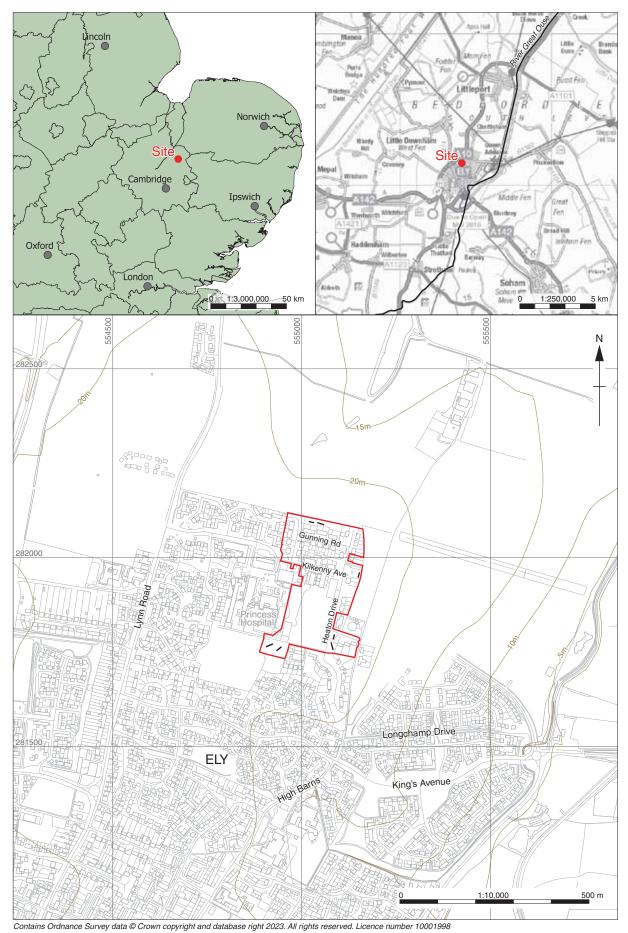


Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) within the development area (red)

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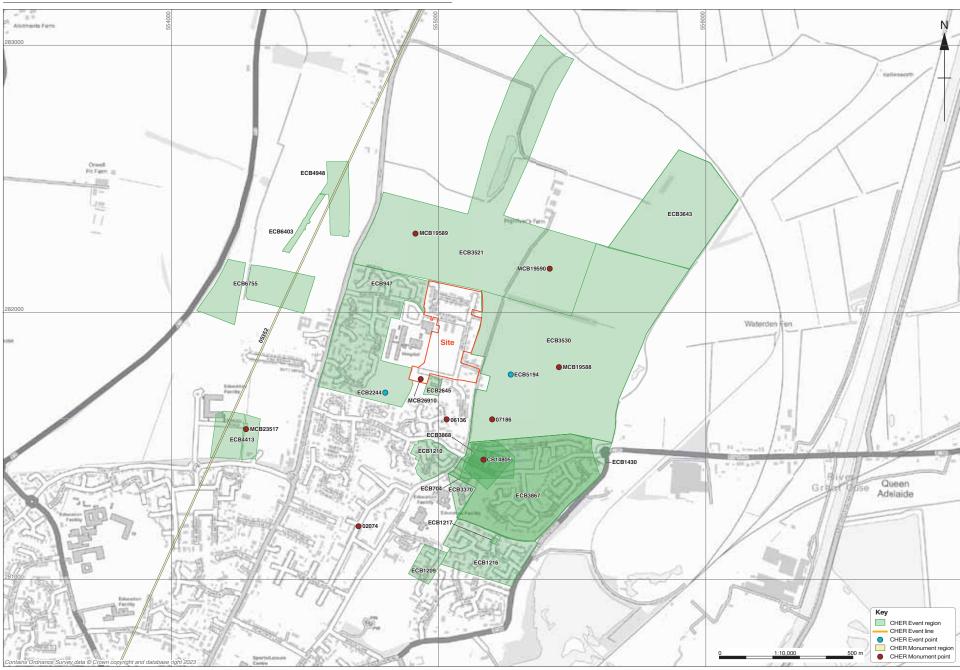


Figure 2: HER entries mentioned in the text

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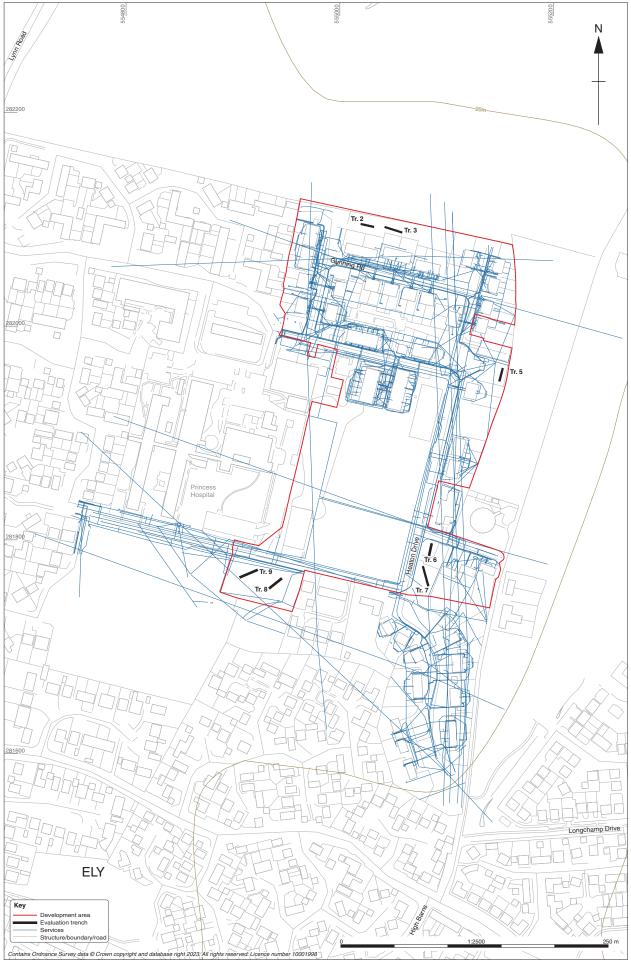


Figure 3: Proposed development area (red) showing trenches (black) and constraints

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Figure 4: Detailed plans of Trenches 5 and 7

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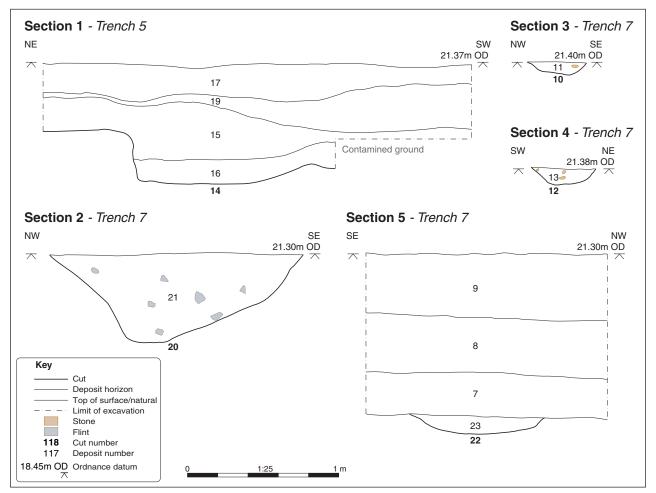


Figure 5: Selected sections

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Plate 1: Trench 2, looking north-west



Plate 2: Trench 3, baulk section, looking north-east





Plate 3: Trench 7 ditch **20**, looking north-east



Plate 4: Trench 8, baulk section, looking south-west





Plate 5: Trench 9, looking south-west



Plate 6: Bricks fragments from Trench 8





### Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House Osney Mead Oxford OX2 DES

t: +44(0)1865 263800 f: +44 (0)1865 793496 e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com

### **OA North**

MIII 3 Moor Lane Lancaster LA1 1 QD

t: +44(0)1524 541 000 f: +44(0)1524 848 606 e: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com

# **OAEast**

15 Trafalgar Way Bar Hill Cambridgeshire CB23 8SQ

t: +44{0}1223 850500 e: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com



Chief Executive Officer
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