

# Medieval Activity at 1 High Street Girton Cambridgeshire



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



February 2011

**Client: Architects Cambridge Ltd.**

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## **Medieval activity at 1 High Street, Girton, Cambridgeshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*By Nick Gilmour MA PIFA*

*With contributions by Carole Fletcher BA AIFA*

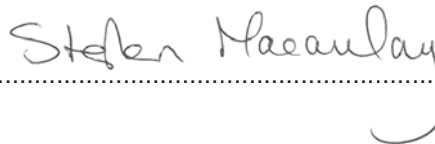
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*Report Date: February 2011*

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**Site Name:** 1 High street, Girton  
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**Client Name:** Architects Cambridge Ltd.  
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**Prepared by:** Nick Gilmour  
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## Summary

*Between 31st January and 2nd February 2011, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation at 1 High Street, Girton. This evaluation produced evidence of medieval occupation of the site, in the form of postholes and ditches. Later medieval activity, in the form of cobbled surfaces, overlaid the medieval features. Pottery of 12th to 16th century date, along with animal bone and horseshoe fragments were recovered. In addition a large assemblage of medieval worked stone objects was recovered, including 17 lava quern fragments, a possible lava millstone, a re-used basalt quern fragment, 2 schist hones and two stone roof tile fragments.*





## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 1 High Street, Girton, Cambridgeshire.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application S/0731/10/F), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 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 Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is situated on Gault Clay and lies to the west of the Second Terrace River deposits of sand and gravel upon which the historic core of the village is positioned.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 There have been a number of archaeological finds and investigations in the area around Girton. There is little evidence of prehistoric activity recorded in the locality other than prehistoric stone objects recorded in 1878 (HER 05301) and a neolithic axe found off the Huntingdon Road (HER 05169).

#### ***Roman***

- 1.3.2 The village of Girton lies on the north side of the *Via Devana*, a Roman Road which ran in a north-west direction from the Roman town of Cambridge (centred at Castle Hill) to Godmanchester. As was typical of Roman Roads, settlement/development occurred along its route during the Roman period (2nd-5th centuries AD). These are best known from the cropmarks recorded by aerial photography and are characterised by rectilinear enclosures and droveways (e.g. MCB11350). In addition archaeological remains have been discovered during recent development at Girton College (MCB6429) and development along the Huntingdon Road.
- 1.3.3 Burial mounds and graves of Roman date are commonly placed along the lines of Roman Roads (the burial of human remains within town limits was forbidden). Roman burials are recorded 400m south of the development site, at Girton College, whilst more Roman graves are recorded at Howe House to the south-west of the site (MCB6299).

#### ***Medieval***

- 1.3.4 Girton was mentioned in the Domesday book as *Gretton*, meaning 'gravel farm'. The village is considered to have originated near the church, at the top of Church Lane. However, it may have developed from a group of separate hamlets, including Duck end and the area around the church (Taylor 1997, 53).

- 1.3.5 The population was 34 at Domesday, rising to 90 landholders in 1279, then falling to 196 poll tax payers in 1337 (Taylor 1997, 53).
- 1.3.6 The development site lies close to the west of the current village core. There is evidence of ridge and furrow nearby lying south and west of the site (CHER 08949a, 11233). Aerial photographs have revealed cropmarks also to the west of a possible medieval grange (CHER 08949). There have also be stray finds of earlier Saxon and medieval pottery in the vicinity of the site (CHER 18595, 18596).
- 1.3.7 A pagan (5th – 7th C AD) Anglo-Saxon cemetery and settlement have been identified at Girton College (MCB 12040, 6429), part of which were investigated in 1881. The remains of a Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) at Howe House to the south-west, MCB244) is known and this was partially investigated recently (ECB152).
- 1.3.8 The village did not develop greatly after the middle ages, with about 35-40 houses in the 16th and 17th centuries and only 25 recorded in the 18th century. By 1801 there was a population of 232, rising to 470 individuals by the 1860s (Taylor 1997, 54). After the 1950's growth was rapid, leading to a population of 3,770 across the parish in 1996.

## 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Architects Cambridge Ltd. who commissioned and funded the work. Particular thanks go to Nick Hawksworth for his assistance and interest on site. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay. Nick Gilmour directed the fieldwork, with the assistance of Nick Pankhurst. The excavation was monitored for Cambridgeshire County Council by Andy Thomas. The JCB was operated by Mark, of Lattenbury Services.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 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.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that between 20 and 25m of linear trenching be excavated to the geological horizons, or to the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits, whichever was encountered first.
- 2.2.2 A total of 19.80m of trench was initially excavated in an approximate L shape. Following a monitoring meeting with Andy Thomas (CCC) additional areas were opened adjoining the original excavation, within the development area. These additional areas significantly helped in understanding the nature of the archaeology on the site.
- 2.2.3 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.4 The site survey was carried out by Louise Bush using a Leica 1200 GPS.
- 2.2.5 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.
- 2.2.6 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East'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.
- 2.2.7 Site conditions were good, with generally overcast days but no rain. Excavation was hampered by the presence of a large number of tree roots from recently felled trees.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Details of each context, together with a trench description are given in appendix A. The results are presented here by phase. Two phases of activity were identified; medieval (mid-12th to 14th century) and later medieval (mid-14th to 16th century).

#### 3.2 Medieval (mid 12th – 14th century)

3.2.1 All of the structural features and ditches identified on the site have been dated to this phase of activity. They have been dated by the pottery they contained and their stratigraphic and spacial relationship to other features.

##### *Structural features*

3.2.2 Several postholes were identified in the trench. In the small excavation area, it was not possible to discern the outline of a particular structure, however, these features all relate in some way to a building or buildings.

##### *Postholes 110, 112 and 114*

3.2.3 Three postholes (**110**, **112**, **114**) were recorded in a tight group in the south-east part of the excavation. Posthole **110** (filled by 111, fig. 3 S.5) was sub-rectangular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It had a length of 0.49m, a width of 0.40m and a depth of 0.18m. It was filled by 111, a mid grey, silty clay, which contained pottery of mid 12th – 14th century date.

3.2.4 Posthole **112** (filled by 113) was sub-circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It had a length of 0.40m, a width of 0.20m and a depth of 0.26m. It was filled by 113, a mid greyish brown, silty clay, which contained no finds.

3.2.5 Posthole **114** (filled by 115) had a length of 0.25m, a width of 0.20m and a depth of 0.10m. It was sub-circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by 115, a mid grey, silty clay, which contained no finds.

##### *Postholes 118 and 120*

3.2.6 Two inter-cutting postholes (**118** and **120**) were located towards the southern end of the excavated area, both were cut by feature **123**. Posthole **118** (filled by 119) was sub-circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It had a length of 0.16m, and width of 0.15m and a depth of 0.11m. It was filled by 119, a mid greyish brown, silty sand, which contained no finds.

3.2.7 Posthole **120** (filled by 121) was also sub-circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It had a length of 0.31m, a width of 0.20m and a depth of 0.19m. It was filled by 121, a mid grey, clayey silt, which contained no finds.

##### *Posthole 109*

3.2.8 Posthole **109** (filled by 108) was located towards the northern end of the excavation. It was sub-rectangular in plan, with a length of 0.45m, a width of 0.22m and a depth of 0.06m. It was filled by 108, a dark-mid grey, silty clay, which contained pottery of mid 12th to 14th century date.

### ***Ditches***

- 3.2.9 There were several ditches recorded in the trench. They were all aligned either north-east to south-west or a north-west to south-east; parallel and perpendicular to the current course of the High Street.

#### ***Ditch 105***

- 3.2.10 Ditch **105** (filled by 104) was situated in the northern part of the excavation on a north-east to south-west alignment and extended from the edge of excavation for 3.25m before terminating; this is likely to mark the point of truncation rather than the original terminal. The total width of the ditch was not determined, as it continued out of the excavated area on the south-east side. It is, therefore, possible that feature **105** was not a ditch, but part of a larger feature.
- 3.2.11 Ditch **105** had a maximum visible width of 0.52m and depth of 0.08m. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by 104, a dark-mid brownish grey, silty clay, which contained animal bone, muscle shell and pottery. The pottery assemblage included sherds of mid 12th to 14th century date and also mid 14th to mid 16th century date. The later pottery has been regarded as intrusive as ditch **105** was overlain by cobbled surface **103**, from the later medieval phase of activity.

#### ***Ditch 107***

- 3.2.12 Ditch **107** (filled by 106) ran on a north-west to south-east alignment across the northern part of the excavation. It was visible for a total length of 1.60m, continuing out of the trench at both ends. It had a width of 0.66m and a depth of 0.20m, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by 106, a dark-mid grey, silty clay, which contained pottery of mid 12th to 14th century date.

#### ***Ditch 116***

- 3.2.13 Ditch **116** (filled by 117, fig. 3 S.8) ran from the south-east edge of excavation on a north-west to south-east alignment, before turning a right angle and continuing to the south-west. It had steeply sloping sides and a concave base, with a maximum width of 1.46m and depth of 0.32m. It was filled by 117, a mid grey, silty clay, which contained pottery of mid 12th to 14th century date.

#### ***Ditch 128***

- 3.2.14 Ditch **128** (filled by 129) ran on a north-west to south-east alignment for 0.85m from the edge of excavation, before being truncated by ditch **116**. Ditch **128** had a maximum width of 0.45m and depth of 0.10m, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by 129, a mid greyish brown, silty clay, which contained no finds.

### **3.3 Later medieval (mid-14th – 16th century)**

- 3.3.1 Three cobbled surfaces and layers associated with them have been dated to this phase of activity. They have largely been dated to this phase by the pottery they contained.

#### ***Cobbled surfaces***

- 3.3.2 The cobbled surfaces recorded on site may have formed external yard surfaces and appear to have been deliberately covered by a gravelly deposit.

### *Cobbled surface 103*

- 3.3.3 Cobbled surface **103** (fig. 3 S.1) was located in the north-east corner of the excavation, and continued out of the excavated area in three directions. It had a maximum visible length of 4.60m, width of 1.48m and depth of 0.12m. It was made up of well rounded cobbles with diameters between 0.06m and 0.35m, together with limestone fragments, a large amount of broken lava quern, stone roof tiles and two hones. It contained pottery of mid 14th to mid 16th century date.
- 3.3.4 This surface was overlain by layer 102, a mid brownish grey, sandy loam, with very frequent gravel inclusions. Layer 102 contained two horseshoe fragments, animal bone and pottery of mid 14th to mid 16th century date.

### *Cobbled surface 126*

- 3.3.5 Cobbled surface **126** (fig. 3 S.12) was located at the south-west end of the excavation and continued out of the excavated area on three sides. It had a maximum visible length of 2.70m, width of 0.50m and depth of 0.10m. It was made up of well rounded cobbles with diameters between 0.02m and 0.20m. Pottery of mid 14th to mid 16th century date, along with a single fragment of lava quern was recovered from this surface.
- 3.3.6 This surface was overlain by layer 125, a mid brownish grey, sandy loam, with very frequent gravel inclusions. Layer 125 contained no finds. Layer 127 lay beneath cobbled surface **126**. Layer 127 was a mid greyish brown, silty clay, which contained pottery of mid 14th to end of 16th century date. The presence of layer 127 may indicate that cobbled surface **126** sealed a shallow, in-filled, cut feature. Alternatively layer 127 may represent a disturbed area that was consolidated by the construction of cobbled surface **126**.

### *Cobbled surface 132*

- 3.3.7 A small patch of cobbled surface, **132** survived towards the south of the excavated area. The cobbles comprised well rounded sandstone and quartzite pebbles with diameters from 0.04m to 0.20m. The remaining patch was irregular in plan and continued out of the excavated area. A small amount of pottery of mid 11th to early 13th century was recovered from it. This pottery has been regarded as residual, given the similarity of this small deposit to well dated deposits **103** and **126**.

### *Feature 123*

- 3.3.8 Feature **123** was an irregular, shallow feature, located adjacent to ditch **116**. It is suggested that it represents disturbance, either by roots or possibly animals. It had a length of 2.50m, a width of 0.80m and a depth of 0.08m. Feature **123** was filled by 124, a mid greyish brown, silty clay, which contained pottery of mid 14th to 16th century date. It was so shallow that a stratigraphic relationship with ditch **116** could not be established, but from the pottery evidence it is suggested that it represents later activity than the ditch.

## **3.4 Finds Summary**

- 3.4.1 A wide range of finds were recovered from the site. The relatively small quantities recovered are as expected from such a small excavation.

### **Pottery**

- 3.4.2 The evaluation produced a small pottery assemblage of 86 sherds from 12 contexts, weighing 0.697kg. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded to abraded and the average sherd weight from individual contexts is low at approximately 8g.
- 3.4.3 The majority of the assemblage is medieval and late medieval-transitional suggesting domestic activity from the mid 12th century until the end of the 16th century. There are no fabrics present that date to later than the mid 16th century which suggests that after this date the usage of the area may have changed.

### **Worked stone (Plate 3)**

- 3.4.4 A single large fragment of a reused quern stone and 17 fragments from lava querns and a possible lava millstone, were recovered. These all formed part of cobbled surfaces. Several fragments are obviously from different querns and other fragments recovered from different areas of the cobbles cross fit. The majority of the fragments do not join together, although they look similar in terms of thickness and dressing of the grinding surface and are most probably from the same quern.
- 3.4.5 Two hones of fine grained pale grey micaceous schist were recovered from the evaluation, both are broken and the larger hone is very abraded. Fine grained schist hones are common in the medieval period (Crummy 1988, p 77).
- 3.4.6 In addition a fragmentary stone roof tile was recovered, it is sub rectangular, with a single circular drilled nail hole and made from a fine sandstone. A second fragment of stone similar to that of the roof tile was also recovered. The tiles are unusual in an area with little natural building stone and may have come from a domestic building of some status.

### **Animal bone and muscle shell**

- 3.4.7 Twelve fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation with 6 fragments identifiable to species. All but one of the identifiable fragments were from adult cattle, consisting of butchered tibia, loose teeth and rib fragments. A single butchered pig femur was recovered from context 105. Context 127 contained no identifiable fragments. The assemblage is too small to draw any conclusions from but most likely represents general settlement debris. In addition, two fragment of muscle shell were recovered.

### **Miscellaneous finds**

- 3.4.8 A small assemblage of four fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 0.056kg, was recovered from context 127. The condition of the assemblage is abraded and the average fragment weight is small at approximately 14g.
- 3.4.9 A single fragment of metalworking slag weighing 0.035kg was recovered from context 102. The fragment is tap slag, dense and slow cooled, probably late medieval. No other evidence of metalworking was recovered.
- 3.4.10 Two partial horseshoes were recovered. A partial shoe, with a right angled calkin, was identified as a Type 3 horseshoe (Clarke, 1995, p 86-88). The shoe may be dated from the second half of the 13th century to the early 14th century. The other shoe was not closely datable. In addition a single iron nail was recovered.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Medieval activity

- 4.1.1 Activity began on the site in the 12th century, although there are potentially a few sherds of earlier pottery.

#### *Occupation*

- 4.1.2 The medieval remains recorded on this site relate to occupation between the 12th and 14th centuries. Although no definitive building plan was identifiable, several postholes were recorded that indicate the presence of structures on the site. It would appear that these were enclosed by boundary or drainage ditches.
- 4.1.3 The alignment of all the ditches on site, either perpendicular or parallel to the High Street, strongly reinforces that this route is at least medieval in date. This suggests a classic medieval pattern of development, with buildings adjacent to a road, each within a defined plot. The absence of pits, as would be expected behind these buildings, is not surprising given the small size of the area excavated.
- 4.1.4 The finds assemblage, although small, provides an impression of domestic occupation, with butchered bone (App. B6) and standard domestic pottery types (App. B3). The quantity of worked stone is, however, very unusual. Although this was all recovered from later medieval cobbled surfaces, it is of medieval date. Two stone roof tiles would have originated from a high status building (App. B4). It is unlikely that such stone would have been moved a great distance from the location of its primary use, for incorporation into a cobbled surface.
- 4.1.5 There were also a number of limestone fragments included in cobbled surface **103**, including one roughly dressed slab (see plate 3). This must have travelled from some distance, with major sources in the Mendips, Cotswolds and Downs. It is unlikely that this stone was transported solely for use in this surface. It is, therefore, likely that this material was derived from a medieval stone building of some status nearby.
- 4.1.6 The high number of lava quern fragments may be partially explained if a number of them originate from the same quern. However, at least three different querns appear to be present, including one of a sufficiently large diameter to have potentially been driven by an animal (App. B1). The presence of such a concentration of quern stones in a small area could suggest that there was a mill nearby. Alternatively the querns could imply that brewing took place close to the site, with the querns used to grind malted barley.

#### *The development of Girton*

- 4.1.7 The presence of medieval settlement at the southern end of the High Street, at the opposite end from the church, extends the known limit of medieval occupation. It is possible that this is part of the same settlement that expanded from the Saxon core of the village thought to be around the church. However this evidence could also support the idea of Girton developing from two small hamlets, one by the church and the other around Duck End (Taylor 1997, 53).
- 4.1.8 Whichever of these suggestions is correct, this site has shown the boundaries of medieval Girton extend further south, and closer to the ridge and furrow cultivation to the south of Duck End than previously recorded.



## **4.2 Later medieval activity**

- 4.2.1 No direct evidence for later medieval structures was identified on the site. However, three cobbled surfaces were recorded. Two of these had very straight edges to them, suggesting that they abutted a straight boundary or wall. The cobbled surfaces themselves were quite rough, with a number of larger stones standing proud of the general level. However, with the gravelly layer overlaying the stones in place, a more practical surface would be formed. These layers most likely represent external yard surfaces, associated with structures, for which no evidence survives.
- 4.2.2 It would appear that activity on the site ceased by the 16th century and potentially the area returned to fields until the current house was built.

## **4.3 Significance**

- 4.3.1 The evaluation has shown that the site was occupied during the medieval period. This adds significantly to our understanding of the medieval development of Girton.

## **4.4 Recommendations**

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

## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTION AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description						Orientation	E-W
T – shaped trench with extended areas. Contained 3 cobbled surfaces, 6 postholes, 4 ditches and one other feature.						Avg. depth (m)	0.58
						Max. Width (m)	5.50m
						Max. Length (m)	14
Contexts							
context no	type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-			Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-			Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	>4.60	>1.48	0.26	Gravel surface	Pottery, bone, metal	Mid 14th – 16th century
103	Layer	>4.60	>1.48	0.12	Cobble surface	Pottery, bone, stone	Mid 14th – 16th century
104	Fill		>0.52	0.08	Fill of ditch 105	Pottery bone, shell	Mid 14th – 16th century
105	Cut		>0.52	0.08	Ditch	-	Mid 14th – 16th century
106	Fill		0.66	0.20	Fill of ditch 107	Pottery	Mid 12th – mid 14th century
107	Cut		0.66	0.20	Ditch	-	Mid 12th – mid 14th century
108	Fill	0.45	0.22	0.06	Fill of posthole 109	Pottery	Mid 12th – mid 14th century
109	Cut	0.45	0.22	0.06	Posthole	-	Mid 12th – mid 14th century
110	Cut	0.49	0.40	0.18	Posthole	-	Mid 12th – mid 14th century
111	Fill	0.49	0.40	0.18	Fill of posthole 110	Pottery	Mid 12th – mid 14th century
112	Cut	0.40	0.20	0.26	Posthole	-	-
113	Fill	0.40	0.20	0.26	Fill of posthole 112	-	-
114	Cut	0.25	0.20	0.10	Posthole	-	-
115	Fill	0.25	0.20	0.10	Fill of posthole 114	-	-
116	Cut		1.46	0.32	Ditch	-	Mid 12th – mid 14th century

117	Fill		1.46	0.32	Fill of ditch 116	Pottery	Mid 12th – mid 14th century
118	Cut	0.16	0.15	0.11	Posthole	-	-
119	Fill	0.16	0.15	0.11	Fill of posthole 118	-	-
120	Cut	0.31	0.20	0.19	Posthole	-	-
121	Fill	0.31	0.20	0.19	Fill of posthole 120	-	-
122	Fill	0.20	0.20	0.26	Fill of posthole 112	-	-
123	Cut	2.50	0.90	0.26	Trample?	-	Mid 14th – 16th century
124	Fill	2.50	0.90	0.08	Fill of feature 123	Pottery	Mid 14th – 16th century
125	Layer	>2.70	>0.50	0.06	Gravel surface	-	-
126	Layer	>2.70	>0.50	0.10	Cobble surface	Pottery	Mid 14th – 16th century
127	Layer	>2.70	>0.80	0.16	Layer	Pottery	Mid 14th – end 16th century
128	Cut		0.45	0.10	Ditch	-	-
129	Fill		0.45	0.10	Fill of ditch 128	-	-
130	Cut		>0.60	0.10	Ditch, same as 116	-	Mid 12th – mid 14th century
131	Fill		>0.60	0.10	Fill of ditch 130	Pottery	Mid 12th – mid 14th century
132	Layer	>1.28	>0.50	0.10	Cobble layer	Pottery	Mid 11th – early 13th century

## APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Small Finds

*By Carole Fletcher*

#### **Introduction**

B.1.1 Archaeological evaluation at number 1 High Street, Girton, produced a small assemblage of artefacts. Dating is uncertain for the majority of the objects, while the remainder are medieval or early post medieval.

#### **Condition**

B.1.2 Objects are in a relatively stable condition although the ironwork is corroded and encrusted. The non-metal objects are in good condition.

B.1.3 All objects are packaged in crystal boxes or polythene bags with foam support. All bags or boxes are stored in Stewart boxes with silica gel.

#### **The assemblage by material**

B.1.4 The minimum number of objects by material is shown in Table 1.

Iron objects	3
Stone objects	15
Total	18

Table 1: Small finds by material

B.1.5 The assemblage is dominated by stone objects, which are mainly fragments of lava recovered from a cobbled surface.

#### **The assemblage by functional category**

B.1.6 The functional category used is that defined by Crummy in 1983 and 1988. Categories present in the assemblage are 4, household equipment, 8, transportation, 10, tools and 11, general fittings.

#### **Category 4, household equipment**

B.1.7 A single large fragment of a reused quern stone and 16 fragments from lava querns and a possible lava millstone, were recovered from context 103 where they formed part of a cobbled surface. Several fragments are obviously from different querns and other fragments recovered from different areas of the cobbles cross join (SF 5 and SF 14). The majority of the fragments do not join together, although they look similar in terms of thickness and dressing of the grinding surface and are most probably from the same quern although this cannot be proven. A single fragment of lava quern was also recovered from context 126.

B.1.8 Due the small size of some of the lava quern fragments it has not been possible to identify if the fragments are from upper or lower stones.

B.1.9 The diameter of three quern stones could be established, the smallest being 360 mm, the second 500 mm and the largest 600 mm. The larger quern may have been driven by

an animal rather than by hand; Watts says the dividing line between the sizes of querns and millstones is a grey area, suggesting stones over 600 mm in diameter are more likely to have been power driven (Watts, 2002, p 41). The quern stones may have been used for grinding grain however they may also have been used for grinding malt for use in brewing.

B.1.10 Although they were recovered alongside later medieval pottery, the querns and millstone may be early medieval.

Small Find	Context	Description
3	103	Sub rectangular hard, dark grey stone possibly basalt both surfaces sloped, traces of original handle hole on what would have been the original upper grinding surface. This surface is polished suggesting the stone continued to be used with a new handle cut elsewhere. The stone has been roughly squared and reused perhaps as building material.
5 and 14	103	Lava, three fragments from an ?upper stone with a diameter of approximately 600 mm, thickness varying from 33 mm at the outer edge of the stone to 43 mm closest to the centre of the quern. Maximum length 186 mm. The upper surface is roughly dressed. The grinding surface is worn with shallow curved or sickle shaped furrows.
6	103	Lava, single fragment with a roughly dressed outer surface, grinding surface has widely spaced straight furrows. The spacing of the furrows (23 mm) suggests that this fragment is from a millstone rather than a quern stone. Maximum length 129 mm, maximum thickness 61 mm.
7	103	Lava, single fragment from an upper stone, maximum thickness 31 mm, maximum length 77 mm. The upper surface is roughly dressed. The grinding surface is worn and slightly polished with few traces of the original furrows. The central eye has a diameter of 80 mm.
8	103	Lava, single fragment from an upper stone, maximum thickness 29 mm, maximum length 124 mm. The upper surface is roughly dressed. The grinding surface is worn and slightly polished with shallow straight furrows, the central eye has a diameter of 60 mm.
9	103	Lava, single fragment from an ?upper stone, maximum thickness 46 mm, maximum length 71 mm. The upper surface is roughly dressed. The grinding surface is worn with shallow straight furrows.
10	103	Lava, single fragment from an ?upper stone, maximum thickness 31 mm, maximum length 92 mm, unsure of diameter. The upper surface is roughly dressed. The grinding surface is worn and slightly polished with few traces of the original furrows.
11	103	Lava, single fragment from an ?upper stone, maximum thickness 33 mm, maximum length 75 mm. The upper surface is roughly dressed. The grinding surface is worn with shallow straight furrows.
12	103	Lava, single fragment from an ?upper stone, maximum thickness 35 mm, maximum length 90 mm. The upper surface is roughly dressed. The grinding surface is worn with shallow straight furrows.
13	103	Lava, single fragment from an ?upper stone with a diameter of approximately 360 mm, thickness varying from 31 mm at the outer edge of the stone to 37 mm closest to the centre of the quern. The upper surface is roughly dressed. The grinding surface is worn with shallow curved or sickle shaped furrows.

15	103	Lava, single fragment from an upper stone, maximum thickness 37 mm, maximum length 70 mm. The upper surface is roughly dressed. The grinding surface is worn and slightly polished with few traces of the original furrows. The central eye has a diameter of 100 mm.
19	103	Lava, four fragments from an upper stone with a diameter of over 500 mm, thickness varying from 39 mm at the outer edge of the stone to 32 mm closest to the centre of the quern. Maximum length 174 mm. The upper surface is roughly dressed. The grinding surface is worn with shallow curved or sickle shaped furrows.
20	126	Lava, single fragment from an upper or stone, thickness varying from 43 mm at the outer edge of the stone to maximum thickness 57 mm closest to the centre of the quern. Both surface are roughly dressed.

Table 2: Household equipment

### Category 8, transportation

- B.1.11 Two partial horseshoes were recovered from context 102. SF 1 a partial shoe in reasonable condition, with a right angled calkin, having broken approximately in half through the toe, was identified as a Type 3 horseshoe (Clarke, 1995, p 86-88). The surviving branch has three rectangular nail holes, the nail hole closest to the toe still contains its nail, bent across the outer edge of the horseshoe. The head of the nail is distorted but may be a fiddle key type. The shoe may be dated from the second half of the 13th century to the early 14th century.
- B.1.12 SF 21 is a very worn partial shoe broken at the heel so it is unclear if there was a calkin and also broken at the toe where it appears to have been deliberately bent and broken in the past. The nail holes are a mixture of rectangular (two on the quarter) and more sub-square towards the heel and at the toe. There are traces of five holes in total along the branch and the shoe does not closely match any of the types described by Clarke. The shoe is therefore not closely datable.

Small Find	Context	Material	Identification	Date
1	102	Fe	Horseshoe Type 3	Mid 13th to early 14th century
21	102	Fe	Horseshoe	Not closely datable

Table 3: Horseshoes

### Category 10, tools

- B.1.13 Two hones of fine grained pale grey micaceous schist were recovered from the evaluation, both are broken and the larger hone is very abraded. Fine grained schist hones are common in the medieval period (Crummy 1988, p 77).

Small Find	Context	Description	Date
17	103	Large roughly rectangular fragment of schist hone, very abraded with much of both surfaces having been lost. One end is cut at a 45 degree angle. Maximum surviving length 122 mm, width 44 mm, thickness 18 mm, weight 0.135 kg.	Not closely datable
18	103	A slightly curved, tapering fragment of schist hone. Maximum surviving length 72 mm, width 30 mm, thickness 15 mm, weight 0.053 kg.	Not closely datable

Table 4: Tools

**Category 11, general fittings.**

B.1.14 Fittings consist of a single square headed nail, with a tapered shaft that is square in section (SF 2). Recovered from context 102 and not closely datable.

Small Find	Context	Identification	Date
2	102	Nail	Not closely datable

Table 5: Fittings

**Further Work and Methods Statement**

B.1.15 No further work is required at this stage unless more excavation is undertaken at which point this material should be incorporated into the archive and a more detailed report prepared using appropriate specialists.

**B.2 Metalworking Slag**

*By Carole Fletcher and Peter Boardman*

**Assemblage**

B.2.1 A single fragment of metalworking slag weighing 0.035kg was recovered from context 102. The fragment is tap slag, dense and slow cooled, probably late medieval. No other evidence of metalworking was recovered.

**Further Work**

B.2.1 No further work is required on this assemblage.

## B.3 Pottery

*By Carole Fletcher*

### **Introduction**

B.3.1 The evaluation produced a small pottery assemblage of 86 sherds from 12 contexts, weighing 0.697kg. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded to abraded and the average sherd weight from individual contexts is low at approximately 8g.

B.3.2 Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the text are:

Developed St Neots Type Ware	DNEOT
East Anglian Redwares	EAR
Early Medieval Sandy Ware	EMSW
Early Medieval Sandy Ware Shell Dusted	EMSW (S)
Early Medieval Type Ware	EMWT
Late Medieval Reduced Type Ware	LMRT
Medieval Coarseware	MCR
Medieval Ely Type ware	MELT
Medieval Sandy Grey Ware	MSGW
Potterspury Type ware	POTT
Shelly Ware	SHW
Sible Hedingham Ware	HEDI
St Neots Type Ware	NEOT
Unprovenanced	UNK

### **Methodology**

B.3.3 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.

B.3.4 Dating was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis.

B.3.5 The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

### **Assemblage**

B.3.6 The gravelled surface, context 102, produced 28 sherds of pottery (0.172kg) including early medieval sherds of EMSW, four sherds from an unglazed medieval HEDI vessel, a very abraded strap handle from an unglazed jug in an unprovenanced fabric containing grog, fine sand and some mica. Also present were medieval coarsewares including MELT, MSGW and SHW. The context was dated by the presence of 12 sherds of late medieval EAR from an internally glazed, externally sooted, flat based bowl or skillet,



discoloured by heat and use (mid 14th to mid 16th century). The majority of the sherds in the context were abraded.

- B.3.7 From the cobbled surface 103, 19 sherds of pottery were recovered including a rim sherd from an EAR jug with traces of white slip painted decoration around the rim, and sherds from which may be from the same late medieval EAR bowl or skillet found in context 102. In addition seven sherds of LMRT were present, including the rim from a collared jar. A small number of abraded EMSW sherds were also recovered.
- B.3.8 Ditch **105** produced three sherds of pottery (0.025kg), an abraded sherd from a EMSW jar, a sherd of late EAR discoloured by heat and use and a sherd of LMRT. Excavation of ditch **107** produced a single sherd of medieval DNEOT.
- B.3.9 Six post holes were excavated however only two, **109** and **110**, produced any pottery, a single abraded sherd of MCR from **109** and a sherd of medieval SHW from **110**.
- B.3.10 Ditch **116**, which is the same feature as **130**, produced 18 sherds of pottery (0.128kg). These include the only sherd of NEOT recovered during the excavation and body sherds from a EMSW jar and an EMWT jar. Medieval pottery includes a single sherd of HUNFSW, sherds from DNEOT, MELT and MSGW jars, while also present was a rim sherd from a large SHW bowl. **130** produced only three sherds of pottery, a base sherd from a EMSW jar, a sooted body sherd from a MSGW jar and a sherd of MCR. No glazed wares were recovered from the ditch fills and the feature can be dated to the mid 12th-mid 14th century.
- B.3.11 Context 124 produced three sherds of abraded pottery, from a sooted EMSW body sherd, a DNEOT vessel and a sooted MELT jar.
- B.3.12 Stratigraphically the cobbled surface 126 overlay the mid 12th-mid 14th century ditch **116/130** and this relationship is supported by the pottery recovered from the surface itself which produced a moderately abraded base sherd from a POTT vessel and an unabraded handle from an EAR skillet or pipkin dating to the mid 14th century or later. Two sherds of MCR including a clubbed rim sherd were also recovered alongside a rim sherd from a sooted MSGW jar dating from the mid 12th to the late 13th century. Overall the date for the surface is mid 14th-mid 16th century.
- B.3.13 Context 127 produce two sherds from the rim of an LMRT jar of mid 14th-mid 16th century date.
- B.3.14 Cobbled surface 132 produced two sherds of moderately abraded EMSW. One of the early medieval sherds is shell dusted, suggesting that the fabric is Essex ware fabric 13S (Cotter 2000,p39-40).
- B.3.15 The vessels present in the assemblage are primarily domestic in nature comprised mainly of jars or bowls with very few jugs. The majority of the bowl sherds are possibly from one or two vessels, the broken fragments of which were recovered spread across the cobbled and gravelled surfaces recorded by the excavator.
- B.3.16 Fabrics present are a mixture of a small number of wares of local and non-local origin. A small amount of EMSW and single sherd of NEOT suggests some Late Saxon-early medieval activity in the vicinity of the excavation. The EMSW and MSGW are possibly produced in Essex on as yet unidentified sites close to the border of modern Cambridgeshire and also within South Cambridgeshire itself. The fabrics are commonly found on medieval sites along the south Cambridgeshire border (author's own observations). The dominant fabric by weight and count is EAR which includes the medieval jug rim and the late medieval bowl sherds. The EAR nomenclature includes the various redwares produced over much of Essex and form part of a medieval

tradition across East Anglia that continues into the late medieval and post medieval period. All other fabrics are present in restricted numbers.

- B.3.17 The majority of the assemblage is medieval and late medieval-transitional suggesting domestic activity from the mid 12th century until the end of the 16th century. There are no fabrics present that date to later than the mid 16th century suggesting that after this date the usage of the area may have changed.

**Statement of Research Potential and Further Work**

- B.3.18 An assemblage of this size provides only basic dating information for a site. The early medieval and medieval material is abraded and has been disturbed by activity on the site, probably in the post-medieval period. None of the pottery is likely to be located in its place of primary deposition and unless further excavation takes place no further work is required on this assemblage.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Basic Form</b>	<b>Sherd Count</b>	<b>Weight (kg)</b>	<b>Context date range</b>
<b>102</b>	EAR	Bowl	13	0.075	Mid 14th-mid 16th century
	EMSW		3	0.025	
	EMSW	Jar	1	0.009	
	HEDI		4	0.022	
	MELT		1	0.008	
	MSGW		2	0.005	
	SHW		1	0.007	
	UNK	Jug	1	0.013	
	UNK		2	0.008	
<b>103</b>	EAR	Bowl	8	0.093	Mid 14th-mid 16th century
	EAR	Jug	1	0.031	
	EMSW	Jar	2	0.010	
	LMRT		6	0.025	
	LMRT	Jar	1	0.024	
	UNK		1	0.006	
<b>104</b>	EAR				Mid 14th-mid 16th century
	EMSW	Jar	1	0.010	
	LMRT		1	0.013	
<b>106</b>	DNEOT		1	0.002	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
<b>108</b>	MCR		1	0.001	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
<b>111</b>	SHW		1	0.001	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
<b>117</b>	DNEOT	Jar	1	0.008	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
	EMSW	Jar	1	0.008	
	EMWT	Jar	1	0.005	
	HUNFSW		1	0.010	
	MCR	Jar	5	0.036	
	MELT		4	0.019	
	MELT	Jar	1	0.010	
	MSGW	Jar	1	0.006	
NEOT		1	0.002		

<b>Context</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Basic Form</b>	<b>Sherd Count</b>	<b>Weight (kg)</b>	<b>Context date range</b>
	SHW		1	0.002	
	SHW	Bowl	1	0.031	
<b>124</b>	DNEOT		1	0.003	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
	EMSW	Jar	1	0.002	
	MELT	Jar	1	0.006	
<b>126</b>	EAR	Bowl	1	0.023	Mid 14th-mid 16th century
	MCR		1	0.003	
	MCR	Jar	1	0.025	
	MSGW	Jar	1	0.025	
	POTT		1	0.031	
<b>127</b>	LMRT	Bowl	2	0.023	Mid 14th-end of the 16th century
<b>131</b>	EMSW	Jar	1	0.019	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
	MCR		1	0.005	
	MSGW	Jar	1	0.006	
<b>132</b>	EMSW		1	0.003	Mid 11th-early 13th century
	EMSW (S)		1	0.005	

Table 6: Pottery dating

## B.4 Stone

*By Carole Fletcher*

### **Assemblage**

- B.4.1 A fragmentary stone roof tile was recovered from context 103. The tile SF 4 is a sub rectangular fine sandstone with a single circular drilled nail hole. The stone has broken into four irregular fragments all of which have traces of sooting on one surface, however it is unclear if the sooting is post depositional. A second fragment of stone similar to that of the roof tile was also recovered. The fragment is similar in thickness to the roof tile and although undiagnostic has also been tentatively identified as roof tile. The tiles are unusual in an area with little natural building stone and may have come from a domestic building of some status. The tiles are medieval or early post-medieval

### **Further Work**

- B.4.2 No further work is required on this assemblage

<b>SF Number</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Weight (kg)</b>	<b>Material/Comment</b>
4	103	Roof tile	0.912	Fine grained sandstone Maximum surviving length 200 mm, width 150 mm, thickness 18-27 mm
16	103	?Roof tile	0.190	Fine grained sandstone Maximum surviving length 65 mm, width 91 mm, thickness 19 mm

Table 7: Building stone artefacts

## B.5 Ceramic Building Material

*By Carole Fletcher*

### **Assemblage**

- B.5.1 A small assemblage of four fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 0.056kg, was recovered from context 127. The condition of the overall assemblage is abraded and the average fragment weight from individual contexts is small at approximately 14g.
- B.5.2 The CBM and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

### **Statement of Research Potential and Further Work**

- B.5.3 An assemblage of this size provides only basic dating information for a site. No further work is required on this assemblage.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight (kg)</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Range</b>
127	Roof Tile	4	0.056	Hard fired dull pale cream-yellow fabric completely oxidised, rough fracture. Moderate quartz (0.5 mm), occasional flint 1-2 mm	Not closely datable

Table 8: Ceramic building material

## B.6 Faunal Remains

*By Chris Faine*

### **Assemblage**

B.6.1 Twelve fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation with 6 fragments identifiable to species. All but one of the identifiable fragments were from adult cattle, consisting of butchered tibia, loose teeth and rib fragments. A single butchered pig femur was recovered from context 105. Context 127 contained no identifiable fragments. The assemblage is too small to draw any conclusions from but most likely represents general settlement debris.

### **Further Work**

B.6.2 No further work is required on this assemblage.

## B.7 Mollusca

*By Carole Fletcher and Rachel Fosbery*

### **Assemblage**

B.7.1 A total of 0.004kg of shells of marine molluscs were collected from the excavated area. The mussel shells, tentatively identified as blue mussel, *Mytilus edulis*, are not well preserved and may have been deliberately broken or crushed.

### **Further Work**

B.7.1 No further work is required on this assemblage

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Weight (kg)</b>	<b>Count</b>
104	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	0.003	1
106	Mytilus edulis	0.001	1

Table 9: Mollusca types

## APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- |   |      |   |
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## APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-92381			
Project Name	1 High Street, Girton, Cambridgeshire			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	31-01-2011	Finish	02-02-2011
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	GIRHIS11	Planning App. No.	S/0731/10/F
HER No.	ECB 3526	Related HER/OASIS No.	n/a

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Small Scale (e.g. single house)

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
ditch	Medieval 1066 to 1540	pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
posthole	Medieval 1066 to 1540	quern stone	Medieval 1066 to 1540
surface	Medieval 1066 to 1540	whetstone	Medieval 1066 to 1540

### Project Location

County	cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	south cambridgeshire	1 High Street Girton Cambridgeshire CB3 0QA	
Parish	Girton		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	120sqm	National Grid Reference	TL 4199 6204

## Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	Stephen Macaulay
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay
Supervisor	Nick Gilmour

## Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC stores	OA East office	CCC stores
GIRHIS11	GIRHIS11	GIRHIS11

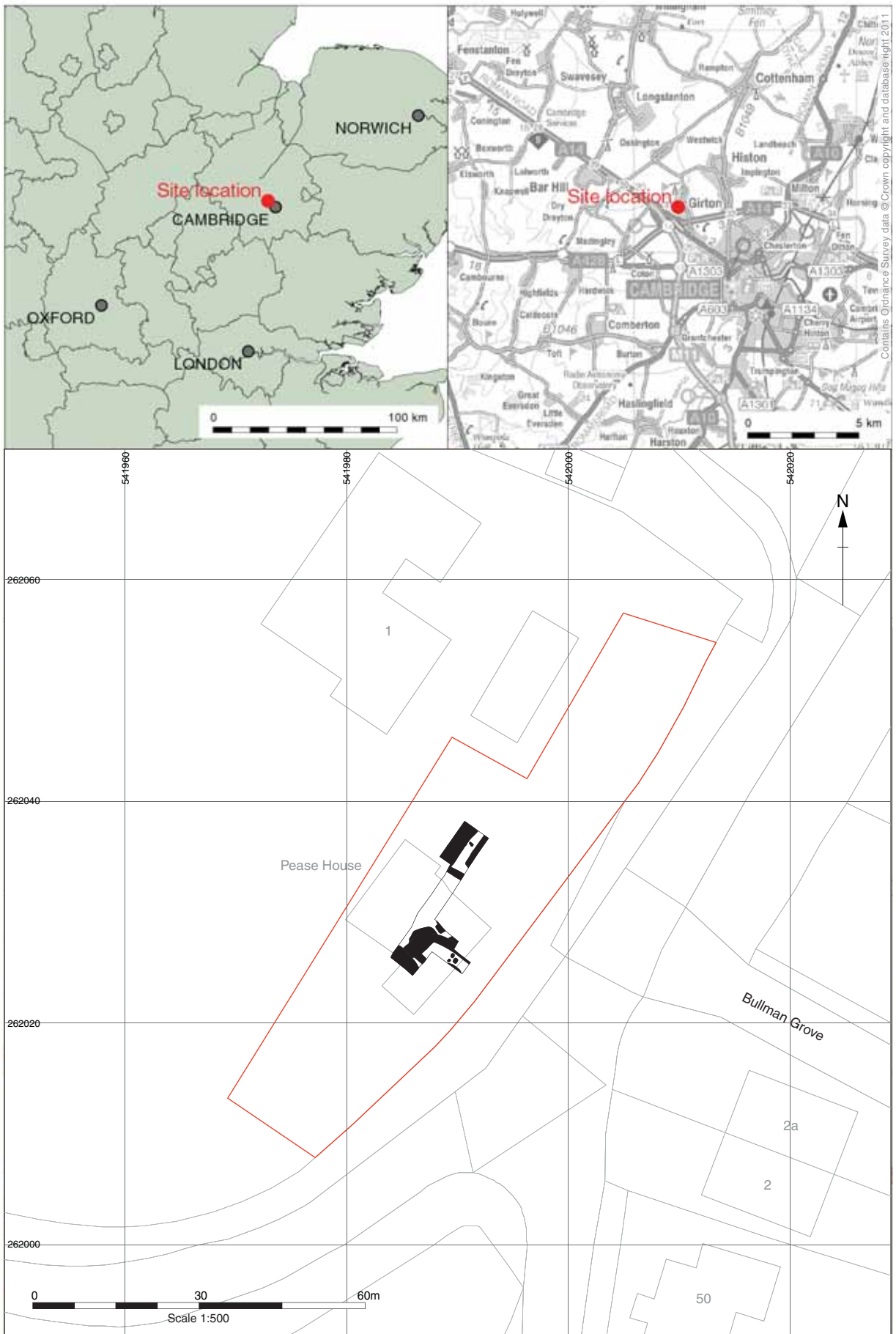
## Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
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<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:





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Figure 1: Site location with development area outlined red



Figure 2: Trench location, plan and detailed pre-excitation view of deposit 103

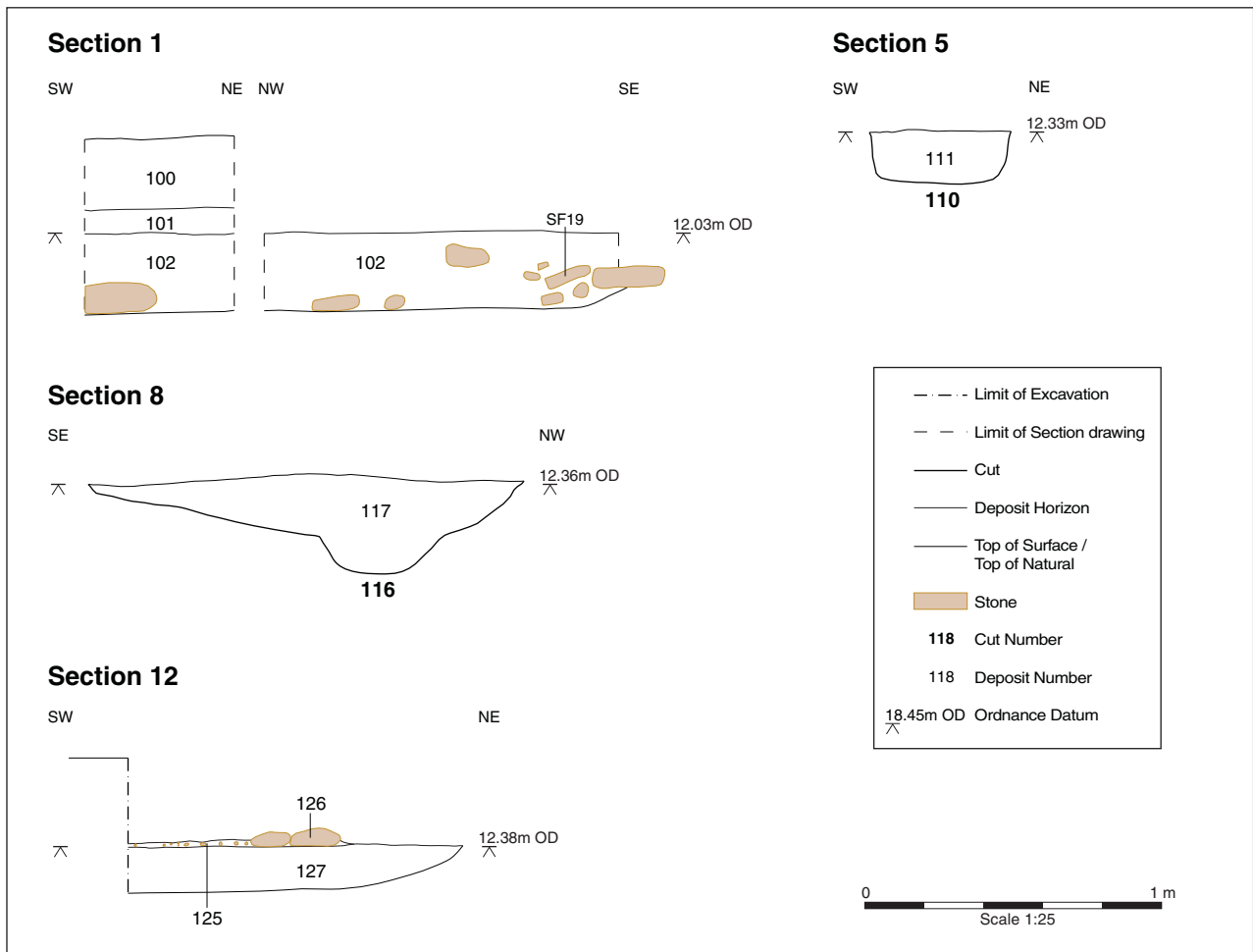


Figure 3: Section drawings



Plate 1: Cobbled surface 103 from the west



Plate 2: Western end of excavated area from the west



Plate 3: The worked stone assemblage



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