The Victoria Inn, Ouse Walk, Huntingdon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

The Victoria Inn, Ouse Walk, Huntingdon

Archaeological Evaluation

By Chris Thatcher BA

Illustrator: Dave Brown

Report Date: July 2014

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Ouse Walk, Huntingdon. One 5x3m test pit was dug. It contained two medieval pits and a very large ditch that may have been a continuation of one of the ditches recorded nearby at the Hampden House and Model Laundry excavations. This ditch may have been part of the Viking and Saxon burh defences.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Ouse Walk, Huntingdon (TL2426 7176) Fig. 1 & 2). This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 1300484FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.

1.1.2 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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). 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.

1.1.3 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 British Geological Survey indicates that the solid geology of the site comprises Kelways Formation and Oxford Clay Formation – a mix of mudstones, siltstones and sandstones – overlain with River Terrace Deposits. The Natural Environment Research Council classes the soils as 'Efford 1' (571), a medium-to-light soil type. The site lies at 13m AOD.

1.2.2 The area lies in the core of historic Huntingdon, and has been a settled area since at least the Middle Ages, and the ground is potentially heavily disturbed.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

1.3.1 This section is largely drawn from the Hampden House report (Thatcher 2010). The subject site is situated within the Ouse Valley, which is rich in prehistoric remains. During the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age, major ritual complexes sprang up and evolved along the course of the Ouse and, although much of the material culture does not survive, these monuments are highly visible from the air as cropmarks. These ceremonial complexes cover extensive territories and are distributed evenly across the landscape (Malim 2000).

1.3.2 An Iron Age presence has been identified within the Huntingdon area. At Godmanchester, a series of Early Iron Age farmsteads or hamlets have been located at intervals along the gravel terrace (Green 1977). One such farmstead has been sample excavated just east of the town (Wait 1992) whilst other evidence of Iron Age activity is known beneath modern Godmanchester in the form of roundhouses and ditched enclosures encountered below Roman occupation (Green *op. cit*.).

1.3.3 Within Huntingdon itself, a number of prehistoric artefacts are reported in the CHER. These are largely of Neolithic and Bronze Age date. The presence of such artefacts is unsurprising given the preference of early prehistoric populations for low-lying gravels and the major Late Neolithic ceremonial complex at Rectory Farm Godmanchester, which lies about 1km to the south-east of the development area. This site consisted of a huge rectilinear 'horned' ditch enclosure approximately 6.3ha in area, with an internal bank and 24 posts arranged regularly along the perimeter of the enclosure.

Radiocarbon dates from the site suggest a Late Neolithic date of between 5050 ±80BP and ±4850 80BP (McAvoy, in Dawson 2000). Excavations by the AFU south of the enclosure indicate that the activities associated with the monument were widespread (Hinman & Kenney 1998).

1.3.4 Excavations at the former Model Laundry, Ouse Walk revealed some pre-historic activity in the form of residual flint and pottery. 25 lithics were identified representing most stages in the reduction process and included five cores in addition to blades and small chips, indicative of on site knapping (Clarke 2005, 35). Alongside this a small group of Iron Age pottery (5th –3rd Century BC) was recovered.

1.3.5 More Iron Age finds have been discovered within Huntingdon at Watersmeet, including Scored Ware pottery dating from the Middle to Late Iron Age (Cooper and Spoerry, 2000). Bronze age pottery and a Neolithic ditch were recorded during evaluation and excavation in 2004 and 2005 on the Walden Road/Walden house sites (Clarke 2004 and Rachel Clarke pers. comm.).

Roman

1.3.6 Roman Huntingdon is often seen as a suburb of Godmanchester, and/or ribbon development northwards along Ermine Street. Evidence for Roman activity has come mostly from chance finds and also from unpublished excavations. They consist of a villa site overlooking Alconbury Brook, and two investigations within the town that revealed metalled Roman road surfaces, one of these was probably a spur road off the Ermine Street that led to the villa mentioned above, and a large Roman ditch at the former model laundry site. Chance finds have indicated that roadside burial was taking place during this period alongside Ermine Street. Since this is a common Roman practice, further examples may come to light during future archaeological work in the roadside zone.

1.3.7 In 1999 and 2003, evaluations and an excavation at Watersmeet, bordering the Castle, Mill Common and Alconbury Brook, revealed a Roman presence, including a Late Roman cemetery. Excavations at Pathfinder house in 2006 (CHER MCB17284), revealed Roman pits and Ditches of 2nd-4th century date. Further to this, excavations at the former Model Laundry, Ouse Walk (CHER MCB 17084) revealed a substantial Roman ditch that was either part of a significant boundary (Fig. 5), or may have been part of a water-management system (Clarke 2005). Roman pottery from the site indicated a broad span of occupation from the 2nd – 4th century AD, with the majority of the assemblage representing domestic use. This indicates that there was probably domestic Roman activity nearby however any evidence of settlement has yet to be found.

1.3.8 Several authors have made attempts to locate the line of Ermine Street between Godmanchester and the northern edge of Huntingdon. Ermine Street lies several hundred metres to the south of the subject site. The Roman period CHER entries imply that the area to the north, south and west experienced a range of activities, whilst the presence of an excavated villa site to the south-west of the site, on the high riverbank, implies that further, related, remains may be present in the zone between there and the line of Ermine Street. It is possible similar riverside occupation existed during the Roman period along the northern bank of the Great Ouse, and the development site would lie within this zone. The Roman tile mentioned in CHER entry 02733 may provide evidence of this type of occupation.

Anglo-Saxon

1.3.9 Although the location of the documented Danish and Late Saxon burhs at Huntingdon (the latter being a re-build or extension of the former) is not known, recent work has attempted to re-assess the evidence. New research indicates that the Late Saxon settlement is located in the southern part of the area later enclosed by the medieval town ditch, to the north-east, and the bar dyke to the south-west (Spoerry 2000). There is, however, much dispute as to the location of the late 9th to early 10th century Danish burh.

1.3.10 The more probable model proposes that the early-defended area consisted of a D-shaped enclosure around the river crossing carrying Ermine Street across the River Ouse. This interpretation suggests that the later castle may reflect the approximate location of the Danish burh with, on topographic grounds, the western burh defences perhaps coinciding with the western part of the Watersmeet site.

1.3.11 The process of Late Saxon urban development eventually resulted in the very substantial town documented by Domesday Book, which also refers to the twenty properties cleared to make way for the castle (Spoerry 2000). Both documentary and archaeological data suggest that the main area of immediately pre-Conquest settlement extended from the later High Street to the east, as far as bar dyke at the end of Mill Common to the west.

1.3.12 The adjacent site at the former Model Laundry (CHER MCB 17084) revealed little in the way of Early Saxon occupation, just a few sherds of pottery, however it did reveal a significant amount of Late Saxon activity (Fig. 4). A series of ditches or channels were identified across the site. The channels appeared to have been partially deliberately in-filled and partly filled through natural processes i.e. flooding and silting. When a channel was in-filled a new channel was cut in a progressively northerly direction. The main channels ran roughly north-west to south-east for at least 40m from the western edge of the site and a probable terminal or entrance was seen at the western edge of the site in trench 9. The eastern trench, Trench 2, revealed no continuation of the channels suggesting they may be located further to the south-east beneath the gardens of the adjacent house (Fig. 4).

1.3.13 The channels possibly represent a significant boundary between habitable land on the higher ground to the south and more marginal floodplain to the north. The deliberate infilling and movement northwards of the channels could be to increase the area of dry land in this marginal location, as pressure on the land increased, perhaps due to population growth in the Danish settlement to the south and west (Clarke 2005).

1.3.14 In light of the recent excavation (Clarke 2005), if the ditches and channels are interpreted as a boundary then the development site may lie just inside the Saxon settlement. Late Saxon occupation has been found on Orchard Lane (Oakey 1997) and Hartford Road (Connor 1996), which itself is probably earlier in date. As highlighted above, a large amount of Saxon activity was uncovered at the Model Laundry site.

Norman & Medieval

1.3.15 The major element in the post-Conquest medieval townscape is the castle, built in 1068 and at least partially destroyed in 1174. The imposition of the castle onto the pre-existing Saxon town necessitated the movement of the river crossing, resulting in the construction of a wooden bridge, and made it necessary to lay out a new High Street and, probably, market place. Both Ladds and Dickinson thought that the original castle curtilage was much larger than that surviving by the post-medieval period, and proposed that the area immediately west of the motte was in fact a second bailey

(Ladds Archive; Dickinson 1972). The distinct rise from west to east under the houses on the street of Castle Hill, along with the substantial earthworks present on the Watersmeet site offer strong support for this model. The fact that the earthworks are not shown on the 1886 OS map (or the 1901 revision) but appear by 1926 may mean that this area was substantially re-modelled in the early 20th century, perhaps when the house called Watersmeet was built. If this land were not part of the castle then it may still have experienced a range of other activities in the medieval period and could have been occupied by buildings, particularly following the castle's demise as a defensive structure.

1.3.16 The stone-built bridge carrying Ermine Street over the River Ouse was constructed in AD 1332. It is believed that the present bridge, with six arches, replaced an earlier timber bridge (Page *et al*, 1932). The surviving structure is considered to be one of the finest of its kind in England and was constructed simultaneously at both ends by two different authorities, without much regard to direction, resulting in the notable bend in the bridge visible to this day. Records describe a chapel on the east side that has not survived, unlike the chapel at St Ives.

1.3.17 The post-conquest period was, in general, a period of population growth and increased prosperity over much of England. Huntingdon was a very successful town during this time. It gained prosperity by being the Shire town and by providing a bridged crossing on Ermine Street, which still formed the basis of the route later to become the Great North Road and A1. In addition Huntingdon collected tolls for all those going to St Ives fair, one of the largest gatherings in the country. By the early 14th century Huntingdon had sixteen churches, two priories, a friary and three hospitals; all the hallmarks of a thriving centre. The castle was partially demolished in the late 12th century and, except for the gaol, ceased to be used. It is not certain whether Huntingdon's lower political profile after this time had any economic effect on the town itself. One might expect this to be the case, although the continued growth of the town's key institutions may suggest otherwise.

1.3.18 The 14th century was the period during which fortunes changed for Huntingdon, an extreme example of a trend seen all over the country. Huntingdon had always gained much of its prosperity from its position as a meeting point for goods passing up the Ouse from the Fenland and the Wash and goods travelling along Ermine Street. During the late 13th and 14th centuries there are many references to disputes between the borough and landowners restricting river flow and riverine access further downstream. In addition, the construction of a bridge downstream at St Ives and the demise of St Ives' fair all weakened the local economy. These unfortunate circumstances were compounded by countrywide overpopulation and several years of failed harvests, followed by several waves of plague. It seems that there was a particularly severe visitation of the Black Death to Huntingdon itself, and the shortage of people and parlous state of local finances is regularly attested in documents in the 14th and 15th centuries. Six of the churches are not mentioned in documents after the mid-14th century and by the 16th century only four were still functioning: St Mary's, All Saints, St Benedict's and St John's. Archaeological investigations within the town suggest that occupation inside the town ditch may have been rather piecemeal after the 13th century.

1.3.19 Huntingdon had a small Jewry in the 12th and 13th centuries and the name Temple Close may refer to the original location of a Jewish religious foundation, rather than to any Templar activity in the area, for which there is no evidence. Although Temple Close or Lane has been used as a street name since at least 1572, it appears that name

migrated over the centuries. It once applied to what is now St Clement's Passage, and is currently in use to the south-west of that lane, close to the development area.

1.3.20 There was a significant amount of domestic medieval activity on the former model laundry site (Clarke 2005). A number of layers, pits and ditches were investigated, with and apparent concentration of features in the south west corner of the site, close to Ouse Walk. A flood deposit was recorded which sealed the Late Saxon channels, and in turn was cut by the medieval features. Artefacts from the site give a date from c1150 – 1400. One large pit may have been used for tanning and two cattle horn cores were recovered from its backfill, the process of horn working was often undertaken nearby to tanning. The ditches may have been dug to serve a similar purpose as the Saxon ditches, for drainage away into the river to the East, and possible to also demarcate boundaries or properties (Clarke 2005).

1.3.21 Medieval pottery was found at the same location as the Roman tile mentioned above (CHER 02733a), and this may indicate nearby occupation utilising the area for rubbish dumping. A moated site lay to the east, close to the riverbank (CHER 01055), but was filled in during the construction of the ring road. This may have been the source of the medieval pottery found less than 100m to the west.

Post-Medieval

1.3.22 Huntingdon suffered during the 15th-century War of the Roses and in the Civil War of the 17th century, when the castle defences were re-modelled. Throughout this period documents still speak of 'the poor decayed town'. It was only with the rise of the coaching trade in the 18th century that the town found another role and prosperity returned.

1.3.23 It is this point in the evolution of the town that the earliest surviving maps depict. Although a map does not accompany the 1572 survey, it is possible for entries to be transcribed onto Jefferys' 1768 map of Huntingdon (Fig. 5), or the 1752 plan of the Hospital Lands. These and John Speed's map of 1610, all show the development area as a blank. Such maps would not have recorded temporary structures or quarrying for instance, and cannot therefore be taken as an indicator that the area was completely unused at this time.

1.3.24 The 1826 map of the Earl of Sandwich's estates indicate trackways crossing this area, leading to the river, but no buildings (HRO no ref.). Again, this is not an absolute indicator of a lack of activity.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Ambury Developments who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Thanks to Dan McConnell who wrote the brief for the archaeological works and monitored the excavations. The project was managed by Aileen Connor. Chris Thatcher directed the fieldwork with the assistance of Pete Boardman.

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 one 5x3m trench be opened, located to avoid avoid known services/obstructions. The trench was made wide enough to allow the trench sides to be stepped in order to investigate deeper deposits.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision by a 360º mini excavator with a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees.

2.2.4 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.

2.2.5 Two environmental samples were taken, one from ditch **17** and one from pit **8**..

2.2.6 Site conditions were good, with dry, bright weather and ground water encountered at approximately 1.90m below ground level.

3 Results

3.1 Trench 1

3.1.1 There follows a brief description of the features and deposits within Trench 1 (Plate 1). Beneath the modern paving and its associated make up layers was a 0.30m thick layer of topsoil (1) comprised of a dark grey brown clay silt, with small stone inclusions (Section 1). Layer 1 sealed a subsoil deposit (2). Layer 2 was also about 0.30m thick and was a lighter mid grey brown clay silt (Section 1).

Ditch 17

3.1.2 A very large ditch (**17**) was observed that spanned the entire base of the trench (Plate 2). The uppermost fills of this feature lay at 9.50mOD (Section 1). Although the edges of the ditch were not visible, the alignment of its upper fills indicated it was in all likelihood aligned broadly north-east to south-west (Fig. 2). Excavation of its full width and depth were precluded by its large size (App. A). As a result, ditch **17** was augered in two places, which revealed that it was at least 1.70m deep.

3.1.3 A total of eight fills (9-16) were exposed, most of these appeared to comprise naturally derived material (Sections 2 & 3). It is suggested that these represented part of a bank formed of upcast from the initial excavation of the ditch and subsequently dumped back into it as backfill.

3.1.4 The exceptions were fills 10 & 16. Tertiary fill 10 was a dark grey brown clay silt that was in all likelihood topsoil derived material lying in the depression left by the settlement of the ditch backfills. This layer may well have formed much later than the ditch itself, perhaps even during the post medieval period (Sections 2 & 3). Fill 16 comprised a dark greyish brown clay silt that was more characteristic of a gradual accumulation of material (Sections 2 & 3). Two small sherds of highly abraded medieval Sandy Greyware and Roman Sandy ware pottery were recovered from this fill (App. B.2).

3.1.5 Overall, this fill sequence was very similar to those observed in the ditches recorded nearby, at Hampden House (Para 4.1.1). The ditches at the afore mentioned site were wide based. Although the overall shape of ditch **17** could not be ascertained, the auger bores suggested that within the confines of the trench the depth of the base was consistent, at 2.40m below ground level, which is perhaps indicative of a similarly wide based profile.

Pits 6 & 8

3.1.6 Pit **8** extended beyond the south-eastern limit of the trench and truncated ditch **17**. Although only partially exposed in plan, it appeared to have a broadly sub rectangular shape in plan (App. A). It was filled by a single deposit (7) that was a homogeneous dark brown grey clay silt containing several sherds of medieval pottery. The pottery comprised sherds of Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware, Developed St Neots-type ware and South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware, which suggested a late 12th-13th century date for the feature (App. B.2).

3.1.7 This feature was truncated by a smaller pit (**6**) (App. A). It contained one fill, a homogeneous, grey and brown clay silt from which no finds were recovered. Positioned in close proximity to Pit **7** was a partially preserved post medieval post hole (**4**).

3.2 Finds Summary

3.2.1 Small quantities of pottery were recovered from the pit (**8**) and ditch (**17**).

3.3 Environmental Summary

3.3.1 Two samples were taken (fill 7 of pit **8** & fill 16 of ditch **17**). Neither sample was very productive, containing only two grains and a couple of weed seeds from the pit and sparse charcoal from the ditch.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Local Context

4.1.1 At Hampden House, to the south-east, the earliest evidence for post Roman activity on the site came in the form of ditches **2001** & **4153**, which encompassed the northern third of the development area (Fig. 4). The earlier ditch (**2001**) truncated the Roman structural remains whilst pit **4100**, securely dated to the early 12th century, was cut through the upper fills of ditch **4153**. This stratigraphic sequence provided a date range spanning the immediate post Roman period, to the early medieval.

4.1.2 This is very similar to the sequence observed at Ouse Walk, where ditch **17** (Plate 2) was sealed by a pit (**8**) dated to the late 12th to late 13th century (App. B.2). In order for the latter to feature to have been excavated it is anticipated that the ditch must have been infilled for some time, placing the ditch's advent and use phase within the post-Roman period.

4.1.3 Immediately to the north-west of Hampden House, the Model Laundry excavations recorded a similar sequence of ditches and channels that ran north west to south east towards the river (Fig. 4). On both sites there was evidence for both deliberate backfilling and natural silting of the ditches. This suggests a prolonged investment of time and resources in the management of the landscape in the vicinity, probably for drainage and the reclamation of land towards the north.

4.1.4 It is suggested that the earliest phase of this northwards expansion was represented by ditches **2001** and **4153**. Furthermore, a bank recorded to the south of these ditches is also of potential significance. The relative longevity of the bank is attested to by the preservation of the Roman remains beneath it; elsewhere on site Late Saxon and Early medieval features had entirely truncated all remnants of earlier activity. The implication therefore is that the evidence for pre-medieval activity was preserved beneath the bank throughout a period of gradual land reclamation and the subsequent use of the land for occupation and cultivation.

4.1.5 Such longevity hints at some importance. It has been suggested that the Danish burh consisted of a D shaped enclosure encompassing the river crossing and castle site (Spoerry 2000). When taken in conjunction with Jeffery's map, the evidence gleaned from the excavations at Hampden House, Model Laundry and this site, do perhaps provide a putative line of this ditch. On that map, a boundary is depicted enclosing an area fronting onto the river to the north-east of the High Street (Fig. 5). Given its position in relation to 'Castle Hills', as marked on the Jeffery's map, this boundary could conceivably mark the line of the eastern element such a D Shaped enclosure ditch. If this were the case, ditch **17** at Ouse Walk may well represent a return of this feature, as it began to turn onto an alignment roughly parallel with the River Ouse, to the south-east.

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 The results of this evaluation are of some significance for our understanding of Huntingdon during the post Roman to Early medieval period. Despite the limited scope of the works, the archaeological sequence identified within the trench will make an important contribution to the wider corpus of evidence recorded from other sites in the locale, such as Model Laundry and Hampden House. Namely, the combined findings of these works all appear to indicate the presence of a particularly extensive, pre-medieval ditched enclosure close to the river. With this in mind it seems increasingly likely that these features perhaps mark a section of the Danish burh encompassed this part of the town.

4.3 Recommendations

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

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained 2x pits and 1x large ditch					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.90
					Width (m)	3
					Length (m)	5
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	031	Topsoil	pot, CBM, bone	-
2	Layer	-	0.33	Subsoil	-	-
3	Fill	0.43	0.16	Posthole fill	pot	post med
4	**Cut**	0.43	0.16	**Posthole**	**-**	**post med**
5	Fill	0.80	0.16	Fill of Pit	-	med
6	**Cut**	**0.80**	**0.16**	**Pit**	**-**	**med**
7	Fill	1.68	0.90	Fill of Pit	pot, CBM, bone, Fe, slag	med
8	**Cut**	**1.68**	**0.90**	**Pit**	**-**	**med**
9	Fill	-	0.48	Ditch Fill	-	post Ro
10	Fill	-	0.57	Ditch Fill	-	post Ro
11	Fill	-	0.39	Ditch Fill	-	post Ro
12	Fill	-	0.10	Ditch Fill	-	post Ro
13	Fill	-	0.34	Ditch Fill	-	post Ro
14	Fill	-	0.22	Ditch Fill	-	post Ro
15	Fill	-	0.12	Ditch Fill	-	post Ro
16	Fill	-	0.80	Ditch Fill	pot	post Ro
17	**Cut**	**-**	**1.70**	**Ditch**	**-**	**post Ro**

Appendix B. Finds Reports

B.1 Slag

B.1.1 Archaeological works produced a single fragment of undiagnostic slag from context 7, weighing 0.009kg.

B.2 Pottery

by Carole Fletcher

B.2.1 Archaeological works produced a pottery assemblage of 14 sherds, weighing 0.098kg. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded to abraded and the mean sherd weight is low at approximately 0.007kg.

Methodology

B.2.2 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) 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.2.3 Recording 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 on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

B.2.4 The assemblage is a mixture of early modern and medieval with a single sherd of Roman material. The pottery may represent rubbish deposition although at very low levels, the small medieval sherds are heavily abraded suggesting they originated from a midden and represent a manuring scatter. The later pottery is a background scatter of material, again representing some degree of rubbish deposition. A small amount of Roman material is commonly found in Huntingdon assemblages, due to the presence of Ermine Street running through the town and its close association with the Roman settlement of *Durovigutum modern day* Godmanchester.

Pottery Catalogue

Ctxt	Fabric	Decoration	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Date Range	Date Range
1	Post-medieval Redware		Bowl rim sherd	1	0.036	16th-19th	18th
	English Stoneware		Body sherd	1	0.008	18th-19th	
	Staffordshire-type black-glazed ware		Bowl body sherd		0.011	17th-18th	
3	Refined White Earthenware	Transfer printed – Flow blue	Body sherd	1	0.001	19th	19th – 20th
			Body sherd	1	0.001	Late 18th-20th	
	Redware		Jar rim sherd	3	0.013	19th-20th	
7	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware		Body sherd	2	0.010	Late 12th-end of 13th	Late 12th-end of 13th
	Developed St Neots-type ware		Body sherd	1	0.001	Mid 11th-Mid 13th	
	South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware		Body sherd	2	0.005	Mid 12th-mid 15th	
16	Medieval Sandy Greyware		Body sherd	1	0.007	Mid 12th-mid 15th	Mid 12th-mid 15th
	?Roman Sandy ware		Body sherd	1	0.005	1st-4th	
Total				**14**	**0.098**		

Table 1: Pottery

B.3 Ceramic Building Material

by Carole Fletcher and Robert Atkins

B.3.1 The excavation generated a small assemblage of material (0.499kg) recovered from three contexts. A single fragment from a Roman *tegula* was recovered from context 7, however the bulk of the diagnostic fragments are broadly medieval or early post-medieval.

Ctxt	Count	Weight (kg)	Identification
1	1	0.248	Roof tile fragment in buff hard fired fabric, the upper and lower surfaces have patches of mortar adhering to them. Medieval or early post-medieval.
	1	0.100	Roof tile fragment in pale pink-yellow relatively poorly mixed clay. Medieval or early post-medieval.
3	1	0.006	Fragment of brick or tile. Not closely datable
	1	0.006	Undiagnostic fragment of brick or tile. Not closely datable
7	1	0.104	Fragment of Roman *tegula*. Slightly sandy fabric, orange-red surfaces and margins with pale grey core.
	2	0.035	Fragments from a roof tile in a sandy fabric with red-brown surfaces and margins, and mid grey-brown core. Medieval.
Total	**7**	**0.499**	

Table 2: Ceramic Building Material

Appendix C. Environmental Reports

C.1 Animal Bone

By Chris Faine

C.1.1 Three fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation. The total weight of bone recovered was 0.052kg with a single identifiable fragment being recovered from context **1**, in the form of an adult sheep mandible from an animal around 1-2 years of age at death. Context **7** contained 2 unidentifiable medium mammal fragments.

C.2 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.2.1 Two bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas at Ouse Walk, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. The samples were taken from pit **8** and ditch **17**, both of which date to the medieval period.

Methodology

C.2.2 The total volume (up to 18 litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present.

C.2.3 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. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and a complete list of the recorded remains are presented in Table.

C.2.4 Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Results

C.2.5 Preservation of plant remains is by preservation and is generally poor. Sample 1, fill 7 of pit **8** contains a small charred plant assemblage of single grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum sensu-lato)* and oat (*Avena* sp.), a rachis (stem) fragment of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and single seeds of chickweed (*Stellaria media*) and grass (Poaceae). Sample 2, fill 16 of ditch **17** contains sparse charcoal only. The residues are devoid of finds.

Discussion

C.2.6 In general the samples were poor in terms of identifiable material. The charred plant assemblage from pit **8** has limited diversity. Charred cereal grains are commonly

encountered in archaeological deposits, often with associated charred weed seeds, Wheat and oat are common cultivated cereals in the medieval period although the oat grain may be a wild variety as it is not possible to distinguish the cultivated form by grain morphology. The lack of plant remains in ditch **17** is probably due to non-preservation as the feature would have been a convenient depository for domestic refuse. The context sampled (7) was not waterlogged and so plant remains would only have been preserved if they had been burnt.

C.2.7 The small quantities of preserved plant remains recovered from the excavated features at are of insufficient quantity to aid interpretation of the features. However, the recovery of even such limited charred plant remains does indicate that there is the archaeobotanical potential at the site and a schedule of bulk sampling should be included if any further excavation is to take place on this site.

Appendix D. Bibliography

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Thatcher, C.	2010	Multi period remains at Hampden House, Temple Close, Huntingdon Archaeological Excavation
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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-186679		
Project Name	The Queen Victoria, Ouse Walk, Huntingdon		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	01-07-2014	Finish	03-07-2014
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	HUNOWK14	Planning App. No.	1300484FUL
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Urban Residential

Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types & Period

List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period
	None
	Select period...
	Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	The Queen Victoria, Ouse WalkHuntingdon PE19 1PL
District	Huntingdon		
Parish	Huntingdon		

HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	0.2ha	National Grid Reference	TL24267176

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Dan McConnell
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Chris Thatcher

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East	OA East

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☒	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☐	☐
Environmental	☒	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☒	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☐ Database	☐ Aerial Photos
☐ GIS	☒ Context Sheet
☐ Geophysics	☐ Correspondence
☒ Images	☐ Diary
☒ Illustrations	☐ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☐ Spreadsheets	☐ Map
☐ Survey	☐ Matrices
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☐ Research/Notes
	☐ Photos
	☒ Plans
	☒ Report
	☒ Sections
	☐ Survey

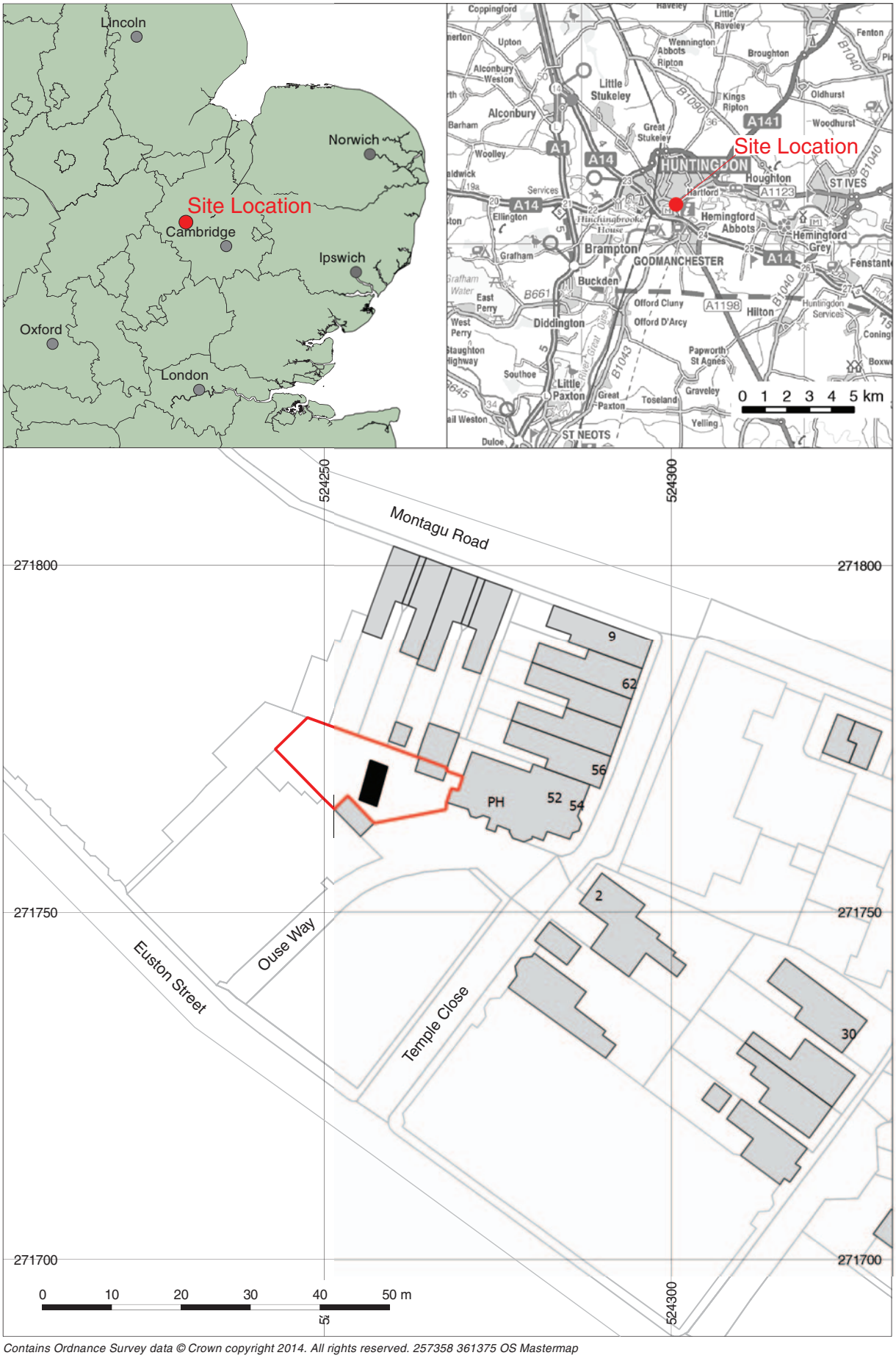

Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trench (black) in development area (red)

Figure 2: Trench plan

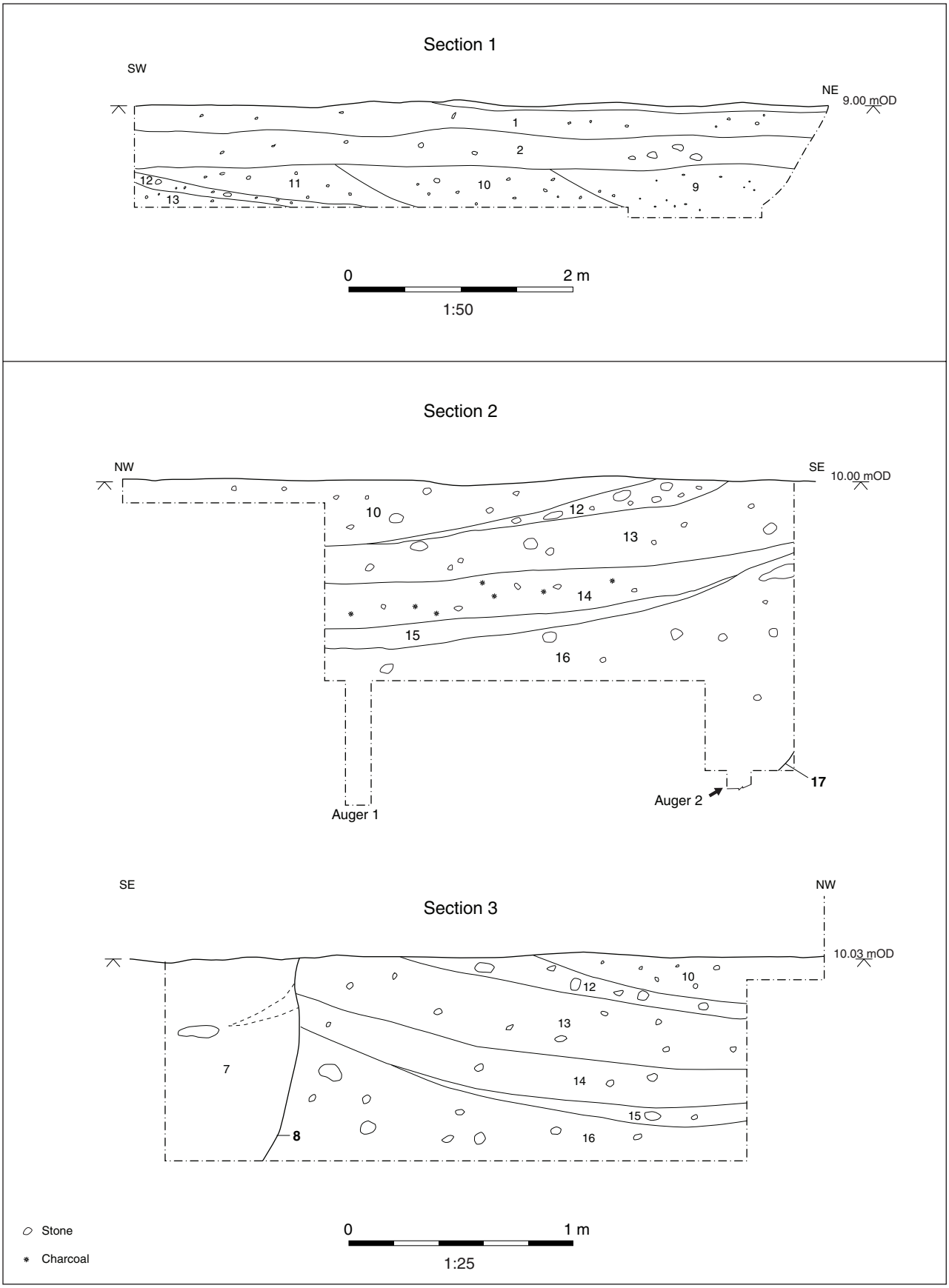

Fig 3: Drawn sections

Figure 4: Suggested line of ditch, showing evaluation trench and previous work

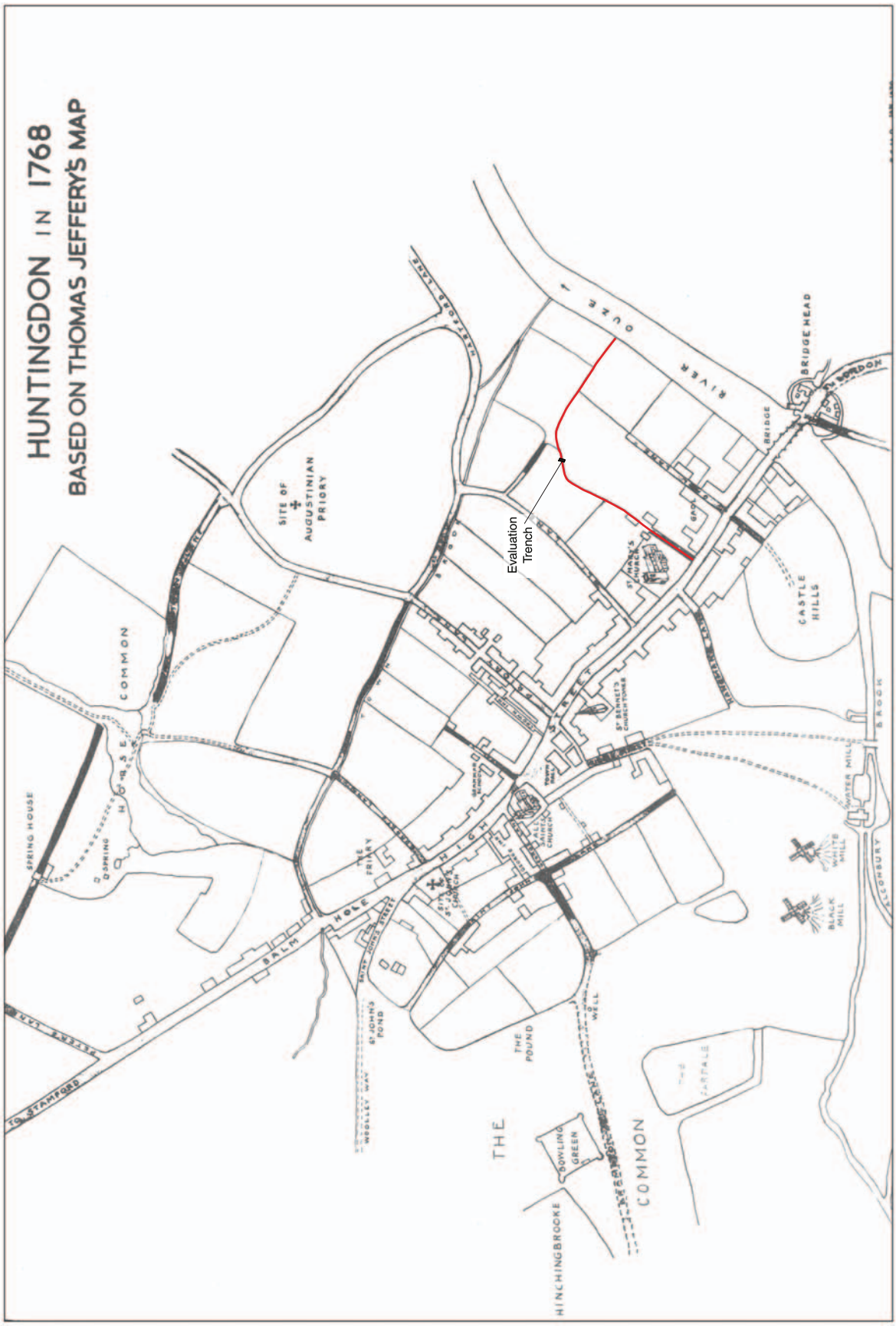

Figure 5: Thomas Jeffery's map of Huntington 1768, with land boundary and approximate evaluation trench location highlighted

Plate 1: Trench shot, looking North-West

Plate 2: Ditch **17**, looking South-West

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