# The Former **Bus Depot** Stukeley Road Huntingdon



**Archaeological Evaluation Report** 



**Client: Exchange Developments** 

OA East Report No: 1112 **OASIS No: 61438** 

NGR: TL 2330 7250



# The Former Bus Depot, Stukeley Road, Huntingdon

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Number:

1112

Site Name:

Former Bus Depot, Stukeley Road, Huntingdon

**HER Event No:** 

ECB3187

Date of Works:

June 2009

**Client Name:** 

Camvil Developments

Client Ref:

10648

Planning Ref:

0402816OUT

Grid Ref:

TL 2330 7250

Site Code:

HUN STR 09

**Finance Code:** 

HUN STR 09

Receiving Body:

CCC Stores, Landbeach

Accession No:

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## Summary

Between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009 OA East conducted an archaeological evaluation on the former bus depot, Stukeley Road, Huntingdon (TL 2330 7250). The work was carried out on behalf of Camvil Developments Ltd. in advance of residential development.

Four trenches were excavated uncovering a total of 121m<sup>2</sup>. The plot fronted on to Ermine Street (now Stukeley Road) and the remains of Medieval post-built buildings were found along the street frontage. To the rear of these structures a series of pits and a possible well were uncovered that appeared to represent domestic backyard activity. A large undated boundary ditch was uncovered to the west of the plot.

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# 1 Introduction

# 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the former bus depot, Stukeley Road, Huntingdon (figure 1).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 0402816OUT), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).
- 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 and Policy Guidance 16 Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). 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 lies on Oxford Clays, overlain in places by terrace gravels (British Geological Survey 1970). Barracks Brook runs north to south 50m to the west of the development plot. This brook flows into the river Great Ouse 1km to the south. The development was at a height of 12.97m OD, although the entire site consisted of made-up ground of concrete and hard-core. The ground sloped gradually from north-east to south west, the natural deposits falling by 1m.

## 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

## Prehistoric and Roman

- 1.3.1 There has been very little prehistoric activity recorded in the vicinity of the site. There have been several prehistoric finds within Huntingdon, mainly dating from the Later Neolithic onwards (Abrams 2000). These finds may be related to the communities using the ceremonial complex at Rectory Farm, Godmanchester 1.5km south-east of the development area (Hinman and Kenney.1998)
- 1.3.2 Roman activity is evidenced primarily by the course of Ermine Street that runs southeast to north-west and on to which the current development plot was constructed. Excavations at Stanton Butts, immediately to the north of this plot uncovered the remains of a 'V' shaped ditch, dated to the Roman period, that was interpreted as the roadside ditch (Spoerry and Cooper 1999). The location of a possible Late Iron Age and Roman settlement was uncovered 750m to the east at Mill Common (Cooper and Spoerry 2000) but no evidence of settlement has been found in the immediate vicinity of the site; however finds such as a bronze key (HER 02613) attest to Roman activity in the area.

## Medieval and Post-Medieval

1.3.3 The site lies outside of the medieval settlement of Huntingdon. However, excavations at Stanton Butts to the north (Spoerry et al. forthcoming: 18) and on land adjacent to

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- the railway to the south (House 2008) have produced evidence of road side structures dating from the Saxo-Norman period with an intensification of light industrial activities in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. This indicates that activity at this time spread out of the town along the main road.
- 1.3.4 Cartographic and excavated data suggest a major contraction of Huntingdon in the late Medieval period (Abrams 2000: 6; Roberts 1999). This may be due to the effects of the plague and the economic rise of other nearby centres such as St. Ives (Abrams 2000; Page et al. 1932).

# 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Camvil (developments) Ltd. who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray. I am grateful for specialist advice from Chris Faine, Carole Fletcher and Rachel Fosberry. Michael Webster provided excavation assistance. Andy Corrigan produced the illustrations.
- 1.4.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Andy Thomas, who visited and monitored the works.

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# 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 a 5% sample of the development area was investigated by linear trial trenching.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 excavator using a 1.6m toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees using Leica 1200 GPS system.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metaldetected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 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.
- 2.2.6 Environmental samples of 10 and 20 litres were taken from those deposits that appeared to have good potential for preservation of charred remains, macro-fossils and molluscs.
- 2.2.7 The site consisted entirely of made-up ground. The east of the plot lay over the area of the former bus depot and foundations of this building as well as several layers of concrete flooring was encountered here (plate 1). Oil trap drains, oil and fuel tanks as well as their associated services were present throughout the area. To the south east of the plot there was a layer of hard-core up to 0.3m thick. This covered at least two modern brick built soak-aways covered by re-enforced concrete as well as two oil\diesel tanks and their associated services.
- 2.2.8 Ground clearance work, using a 360 machine and a second machine with breaker continued throughout the archaeological works.
- 2.2.9 Contaminants were encountered in all trenches with the smell of hydro-carbon contamination noticeable as soon as the ground was broken. Thick oil contamination was seen in the base of most features in Trench 1. In those features where excavations reached the water table a film of diesel\oil could be seen accumulating on the surface of standing water. What appeared to be oil was found seeping out of the natural deposits at ground water level in trenches 2 and 3. There had been no ground penetrating geo-technical survey prior to this phase of work and so there may have been other contaminants in the soil that were not visible to the current excavators.

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# 3 Results

# 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Given the nature of the site and the deposits encountered the results will be presented by their relative location to the Stukeley Road\Ermine Street. As expected, the majority of features identified were uncovered adjacent to the modern street, although all trenches contained archaeological deposits. A comprehensive listing of trench depths, descriptions and related context data can be found in Appendix B.

# 3.2 Street Frontage

3.2.1 Trench 1 and the north eastern end of Trench 2 contained features that appeared to be associated with the Medieval street frontage occupation (figure 2).

# Layers

- 3.2.2 The first deposits that had been laid down in this area were layers 87, 89 and 84=88. These consisted of mid greenish grey sandy clays with occasional grit and gravel inclusions. 84 was a friable clay silt that may represent a water-borne deposit. This deposit extended for 5m at the north eastern end of Trench 2 and may also have been seen as layer 58 in Trench 1. These layers contained no finds but environmental samples from 84=88 produced evidence of charcoal perhaps representing a localised burning event.
- 3.2.3 Layers 66 and 52 were firmly packed brownish yellow silty clays. 66 (Trench 2) became thicker from south to north and appeared to have been a levelling deposit over layer 88 (plate 2). It may represent a surface or foundation\platform for an early structure. In Trench 2 this layer measured 3.5m from north-east to south west. Layer 52 consisted of a similar material but survived less well in Trench 1.

#### **Postholes**

- 3.2.4 Three groups of postholes were uncovered in the street frontage area. Postholes **10**, **12** and **14** were located to the north-west of Trench 1 (plate 4; figure 2 sections 8 and 9). All were steep sided and filled with mid yellow brown silts up to 0.3m in depth. **12** contained dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century whilst **14** contained stone packing suggesting that these postholes may represent street front structures.
- 3.2.5 At the south eastern end of Trench 1 a group of eight postholes was uncovered (plate 3). These varied in depth but were generally up to 0.2m in depth with steep sides and flat bases. None contained any significant packing. **43** and **45** were cut in to the fills of beam slot **41** and may represent a post setting within it. **47** was a large posthole at the south-western end of beam slot **41**. It was 0.45m wide and 0.21m deep.
- 3.2.6 Posthole **37** was located to the south east of beam slot **41**. It was 0.4m wide and 0.23m deep. Analysis of environmental remains in **37** produced evidence of wheat, oat, barley, peas and beans as well as eel bones, egg shell and mineralised fly pupae. This suggests that this feature may in fact have been a small refuse pit or that it was backfilled with domestic refuse once a post had been removed.
- 3.2.7 To the north west of the beam slot posthole **39** was 0.35m wide and 0.40m deep. It contained a small amount of animal bone.
- 3.2.8 Two postholes at the north-eastern end of Trench 2 formed the third group. **86** and **93** were both shallow postholes up to 0.1m deep with steep sides containing silt clay fills

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with no packing. They may represent the remains of later postholes cut from higher up in the sequence. Both were cut into layer 66. **93** contained pottery dating to the middle to late 12<sup>th</sup> century AD.

### **Beam Slots**

- 3.2.9 Other structural evidence on the street frontage came from two narrow linear slots that may have held beam foundations for buildings (figure 2; sections 13 and 15). Slot 41 was 0.17m wide and 0.22m deep with postholes 43, 45 and 47 cut into it. Slot 33 was 0.24m wide and 0.4m deep. This was cut by pit 31 which dated to the Medieval period Both had almost vertical sides and contained friable silty fills. These beam slots were perpendicular to the road and parallel with each other, 3.25m apart.
- 3.2.10 Slot **33** was overlain by a brownish yellow silty clay maybe representing a later phase of activity.

## Pits

- 3.2.11 Several pits were also dug in Trench 1 and may have been associated with the structures represented by the postholes. Pit **16** was located at the north-eastern end of Trench 1 and was 1m wide and 0.42m deep. It contained Thetford ware dating the 13th century, the butchered lower limbs of sheep\goat and a cattle humerus. Environmental remains included the remains of eels and mussel shell as well as wheat, oat, barley and egg shell. This suggests that this pit was used for the deposition of domestic refuse.
- 3.2.12 Pit **18** was 0.86m wide and 0.2m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was dated by pottery to the middle 11<sup>th</sup> century to 12<sup>th</sup> century. Pits **20**, **29** and **95** were only partially exposed during excavation. Pit **20** contained 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery whilst that it **29** dated from then 12<sup>th</sup> to middle 14<sup>th</sup> century. Pits **18**, **20** and **29** all contained animal bone.
- 3.2.13 Pit **35** was only partially exposed under the baulk at the southern end of the trench. It was 1.15m wide and 0.45m deep. It contained middle 12<sup>th</sup> to middle 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery.
- 3.2.14 At the far south-east of Trench 1 pit **31** was the largest pit in this area. 1.55m of its width was exposed and it was excavated to a depth of 0.36m. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base and contained a friable silty fill. A large amount of Medieval (mid 12<sup>th</sup> -mid 14<sup>th</sup>) pottery was recovered from this feature as well as a relativity significant assemblage of animal bone (0.32kg). This included butchered cattle and sheep as well as horse, pig and domestic fowl remains. Analysis of environmental remains revealed evidence of charred refuse possibly from a domestic hearth. This included wheat, oats, rye and pea as well as fish scales and bones and eel vertebra.

## 3.3 Backyard Activity

3.3.1 Evidence for activity to the rear of the probable post-built structures in Trench 1 was uncovered in Trench 2 (figure 2).

# Posthole

3.3.2 A single posthole was uncovered in this area 5m from the south-western end of Trench 2. This posthole (91) was 0.2m deep and 0.2m wide and contained no finds. This posthole truncated pit 72 and so may represent a later phase of activity. There were no

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other postholes uncovered nearby to which this may have related; although it may have been associated with pit\well **54** to the south-west.

## Layer 75

3.3.3 In the centre of the trench a layer of yellow brown silty clay had been deposited over the natural deposits. It was 0.14m thick at its thickest point. Pit **74**, **77** and **79** were dug through this layer.

### Pits

- 3.3.4 At the south-western end of the trench pit **54** was 2m wide (plate 5). It was excavated to a depth of 0.5m before the water table stopped excavation. An auger investigation showed that the fills continued for at least another 0.63m; although this was not definitely the base of the feature. The fills contained medieval (12<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery and a small amount of animal bone. Analysis of environmental samples from the upper fills of this pit revealed evidence of charcoal, small bones, fish scales and mussel shells. Given the size and depth of this feature it is possible that it was a well associated with the structures to the north-east that was used for the deposition of refuse in the later stages of its use.
- 3.3.5 Pit **72** was 1.28m wide and 0.28m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained no finds. Pit **72** and **54** were cut by pit **70**. This was subrectangular in shape with steep sides, 0.5m deep and 0.6m wide. It contained a dark blue brown silty clay fill including medieval pottery.
- 3.3.6 To the north-west of these pits were a series of inter cutting pits. The earliest in this sequence was **63** (figure 2; section 20). It was 0.9m wide and 0.52m deep and included medieval (12<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery in its upper fill. It contained four fills and was cut into layer 84 (see above). Pits **74**, **77** and **79** had uncertain relationships in plan; although **77** appeared to cut **79**. Pit **79** was 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep with a broad 'U' shaped profile that was steeper to the north. **77** was 1.5m wide and 0.2m deep with a flat base and moderately sloping sides. Pit **74** was 1.5m wide and 0.37m deep. Each of these pits contained 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery and only one fill that may have represented backfilling after use.
- 3.3.7 Analysis of environmental samples taken from these pits revealed charcoal, small bones and fish scales were common throughout with occasional finds of mussel shells. These finds support the interpretation of these features as refuse pits.
- 3.3.8 Further to the rear of the plot in Trench 4 another pit (6) was 0.25m deep and 0.6m wide (figure 3; section 2). It contained a small amount of animal bone and no pottery. Posthole 8, also in Trench 4, contained only a small amount of animal bone and a single charred grain.

## 3.4 Boundary Ditch

3.4.1 To the west of the development area a single ditch, **1**, appeared to mark the extent of activity at the rear of the plot (figure 3; plate 6). It was orientated north-west to southeast and roughly aligned with the road to the east. This ditch had a 'V' shaped profile 2.2m wide and 0.74m deep and could be seen continuing to the south in the WNW-ESE section of Trench 3. It contained three fills. A primary fill (2) consisted of mid brownish grey silty clay with moderate gravel inclusions. The two secondary fills were comprised of similar consistency material but contained less gravel inclusions. A single fragment

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- of bone was recovered from this ditch. An environmental sample also found charcoal and small bones in this ditch.
- 3.4.2 This ditch may be a continuation of those on a similar alignment uncovered in Areas 1 and 2 of the Stanton Butts excavation to the north (Spoerry et al. Forthcoming).

# 3.5 Finds Summary

- 3.5.1 This evaluation produced a small pottery assemblage of 116 sherds, weighing 1.562kg, including unstratified material, from 16 contexts. The material recovered is a mixture of early medieval mid 11th to mid 12<sup>th</sup> and medieval, 12th to mid 14th century in date. No pottery dating to later than the end of the 15th century was recovered. The average sherd from individual contexts is moderate at approximately 13g.
- 3.5.2 61 fragments (1.29Kg) of faunal material was recovered yielding 31 identifiable bones. Faunal material was recovered from pits and ditches largely dating from the Early and High-Medieval periods. Several of the bones had evidence of butchery. All the sheep/goat remains were from juvenile animals. Domestic fowl, horse pig and eel remains were also recovered.
- 3.5.3 A single piece of flint and one iron nail were also recovered.

# 3.6 Environmental Summary

3.6.1 Eleven bulk samples were taken from across the evaluated area. Features sampled included a series of pits and a possible well that were thought to represent backyard activity and a large undated boundary ditch. These included charcoal small bones, fish scales, weed seeds and charred grain.

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## 4 Discussion and Conclusions

- 4.1.1 The evaluation at the former bus depot, Stukeley Road, Huntingdon has revealed evidence of medieval activity dating from the middle 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> century AD. The results of the investigation are comparable to those carried out on the plots immediately to the north and south of the current site (House 2008; Spoerry and Cooper 1999).
- 4.1.2 Evidence uncovered parallel with the road suggests a series of post-built structures and a possible beam-foundation structure fronting on to Ermine Street. Activity in this area was not as intensive as that closer to Huntingdon town centre but inter cutting postholes and pits to the rear of the structures indicate several phases of activity.
- 4.1.3 A deep pit or well found in Trench 2 along with a series of rubbish pits containing pottery, animal bone and charred remains are all consistent with low level domestic occupation. There was no evidence for butchery or any other industrial type activity on the site.
- 4.1.4 Earlier activity may be evidenced by the layers uncovered towards the front of the plot. These greenish sandy clays may have been the fills of underlying features or the result of water accumulation to the west of the road. When activity on the street front commenced these layers were levelled off with clay and gravel surfaces.
- 4.1.5 The large boundary ditch uncovered in Trench 3 remains undated although based on its alignment with those ditches excavated to the north it seems likely that it functioned as a rear boundary to the Medieval activity.
- 4.1.6 The results of this evaluation add to the depth of knowledge about activity along medieval Ermine Street and to the narrative of medieval Huntingdon and its periphery.

### 4.2 Recommendations

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

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# APPENDIX A. HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

- A.1.1 OA East will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Policies, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992,* and in accordance with the manual *Health and Safety in Fieldwork Archaeology* (SCAUM 1997).
- A.1.2 Risk assessments prepared for the OA East office will be adhered to.
- A.1.3 OA East has Public Liability Insurance. Separate professional insurance is covered by a Public Liability Policy.
  - Full details of the relevant Health and Safety Policies and the unit's insurance cover can be provided on request.

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# APPENDIX B. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1		
General description	Orientation	NW-SE
	Overburden (m) Soil cover (m)	0.7 0.7
slot type features. These features may represent two or three buildings. The soil covering consisted of a dark green brown clay silt	Width (m)	1.6
which was uniform in colour and consistency from the natural up to the over burden. The natural was a greenish yellow clay with varying gravel inclusions. This trench was widened at the south eastern end to further define the features exposed there.	Length (m)	16

Trench 2		
General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Perpendicular to Trench 1, this trench ran south west for14.2m. It contained 4 postholes, 7 pits and a packed yellow clay layer which	Overburden (m) Soil cover (m)	0.3 0.8
may represent a levelling layer for a house platform. There was a soil covering of 0.8m below the overburden; the top 0.2-0.3m may	Width (m)	1.6
have represented an old topsoil. The natural was a mid yellow brown silty clay overlying a greenish yellow sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions.	Length (m)	14.2

Trench 3								
General description	Orientation	NNE-SSW						
This trench was located at the south-western side of site. It was 'L' shaped, 13.8m from NNE to SSW and 10.6m from WNW to ESE. It	Overburden (m) Soil cover (m)	0.59 1.00						
was 1.6m wide. It contained a single 'V' shaped ditch. Modern intrusions included two brick built soak-aways and a ceramic sewer	Width (m)	1.6						
pipe. There was up to 0.59m of modern overburden below which was 1m of top and sub-soil. The natural consisted of a yellow silty clay with moderate gravel inclusions overlying a greenish yellow sand clay gravel.	Length (m)	13.8 and 10.6						

Trench 4		
General description	Orientation	E-W
Trench 4 ran east for 12.8m from Trench 3 at the west of the plot. It contained one pit and one posthole cut into a yellow green gravel.	Overburden (m) Soil cover (m)	0.3 0.73
The overburden was 0.3m thick with a soil covering of up to 0.73m.	Width (m)	1.6
A top soil of around 0.2m was also identified.	Length (m)	12.8

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# CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Width	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile	Date Range
1	1	3	cut	ditch	2.2	0.98	linear	V	
2	1	3	fill	ditch	0.9	0.5			
3	1	3	fill	ditch	1.3	0.4			
4	1	4	fill	ditch	2.2	0.5			
5	6	4	fill	pit	0.6	0.24			
6	6	4	cut	pit	0.6	0.24	sub-circular	U	
7	8	4	fill	post hole	0.6	0.25			
8	8	4	cut	post hole	0.6	0.25	circular	U	
9	10	1	fill	post hole	0.49	0.2			
10	10	1	cut	post hole	0.49	0.2	sub-circular		
11	12	1	fill	post hole	0.34	0.3			mid 12th - mid 14th century
12	12	1	cut	post hole	0.34	0.3	sub-circular	U	
13	14	1	fill	post hole	0.3	0.2			
14	14	1	cut	post hole	0.3	0.2	sub-circular	U	
15	16	1	fill	pit	1	0.42			13th - mid 14th century
16	16	1	cut	pit	1	0.42	sub-circular	wide U	
17	18	1	fill	pit	0.86	0.2			mid 11th - mid 12th cent
18	18	1	cut	pit	0.86	0.2	sub-circular	wide U	
19	20	1	fill	pit		0.2			14th- end of 15th century
20	20	1	cut	pit		0.2	sub-circular	wide U	
21	21	1	cut						
22	23	1	fill	post hole	0.35	0.25			
23	23	1	cut	post hole	0.35	0.25	circular	U	
24	25	1	fill	post hole	0.4	0.09			
25	25	1	cut	post hole	0.4	0.09	circular	U	
26	27	1	fill	post hole	0.33	0.22			
27	27	1	cut	post hole	0.33	0.22	sub-circular	U	
28	29	1	fill	pit	1.05	0.35			mid 12th - mid 14th century
29	29	1	cut	pit	1.05	0.35	sub-circular	U	
30	31	1	fill	pit	1.5	0.3			mid 12th - mid 14th century
31	31	1	cut	pit	1.5	0.3	sub- rectangular	U	
32	33	1	fill	slot	0.24	0.4			
33	33	1	cut	slot	0.24	0.4	linear	U	
34	35	1	fill	pit	0.85	0.46			mid 12th - mid 14th century



Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Width	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile	Date Range	
35	35	1	cut	pit	0.85	0.46	sub-circular	wide U		
36	37	1	fill	post hole	0.5	0.26				
37	37 1 cut		cut	post hole	0.5	0.26	sub-circular	U		
38	39	1	fill	post hole	0.34	0.19				
39	39	1	cut	post hole	0.34	0.19	sub-circular	U		
40	41	1	fill	slot	0.22	0.17				
41	41	1	cut	slot	0.22	0.17	linear	U		
42	43	1	fill	post hole	0.28	0.06				
43	43	1	cut	post hole	0.28	0.06	sub-circular	U		
44	45	1	fill	post hole	0.2	0.18				
45	45	1	cut	post hole	0.2	0.18	sub-circular	U		
48	49	1	fill	post hole	0.27	0.55			mid 12th - mid 14th century	
49	49	1	cut	post hole	0.27	0.55		U		
50		1	layer			0.63				
52		1	layer	floor		0.25				
53		1	layer			0.58				
54	54	2	cut	pit	2	0.5	sub-circular			
55		1	layer							
56		1	layer							
57		1	layer			0.68				
58		1	layer			0.28				
59		1	layer			1.2				
60		1	layer			1			mid 12th - mid 14th century	
61		1	layer			0.2				
62		1	layer			1.25				
63	63	2	cut	pit	0.9	0.52	sub-circular	U		
65		1	masonry							
66		2	layer	surface (external)	1.8	0.2				
67	54	2	fill	pit	2	0.5				
68	54	2	fill	pit	1.8	0.3			mid 12th - mid 14th century	
69	70	2	fill	post hole	0.6	0.5			13th - mid 14th century	
70	70	2	cut	post hole	0.6	0.5	sub-circular	U		
71	72	2	fill	pit	1.28	0.28				
72	72	2	cut	pit	1.28	0.28	sub-circular	U		
73	74	2	fill	pit	0.7	0.4			mid 11th-end of 12th century	
74	74	2	cut	pit	0.7	0.4	sub-circular	wide U		
75		2	layer		1.6	0.1				
76	77	2	fill	pit	1.5	0.18			mid 11th-end of 12th	



Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Width	Depth	Shape in Plan	Profile	Date Range
									century
77	77	2	cut	pit	1.5	0.18	sub-circular	wide U	
78	79	2	fill	pit	0.7	0.35			
79	79	2	cut	pit	0.7	0.3	sub-circular	U	
80	63	2	fill	pit	1.5	0.3			mid 12th - mid 14th century
81	63	2	fill	pit	0.4	0.1			
82	63	2	fill	pit	0.75	0.3			
83	63	2	fill	pit	0.9	0.35			
84		2	layer			0.4			
85	86	2	fill	post hole	0.5	0.05			
86	86	2	cut	post hole	0.5	0.05	sub-circular	wide U	
87		2	layer			0.55			
88		2	layer			0.35			
89		2	layer			0.3			
90	91	2	fill	post hole	0.2	0.2			
91	91	2	cut	post hole	0.2	0.2	sub-circular	U	
92	93	2	fill	post hole	0.5	0.1			mid - late 12th century
93	93	2	cut	post hole	0.5	0.1	sub-circular	wide U	
94	95	2	fill	post hole	0.65	0.18			
95	95	2	cut	post hole	0.65	0.18	sub-circular	wide U	



# APPENDIX C. FINDS REPORTS

## C.1 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

## Introduction

The evaluation at Stukeley Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire produced a small pottery assemblage of 116 sherds, weighing 1.562kg, including unstratified material, from 16 contexts. The material recovered is a mixture of early medieval mid 11th to mid 12th century including NEOT, THET and STAM sherds which are common fabrics in Cambridgeshire during this period. The medieval, 12th to mid 14th century assemblage fabrics such as DNEOT, LYST ,SHW and more local fabrics recently identified by Dr Paul Spoerry and the author (Spoerry pers. comm.). In addition a single imported medieval sherd of French white ware was recovered, an unusual find in a Huntingdon assemblage.

No pottery dating to later than the 15th century was recovered. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the average sherd from individual contexts is moderate at approximately 13g.

Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the following text are:

**Developed St Neots** DNEOT Early Medieval Sandy ware **EMEMS** FRE WW French white ware Huntingdonshire late medieval ware **HUNCALC** Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware **HUNEMW** Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware **HUNFSW** Lyveden-Stanion ware LYST Sandy Grey ware (Roman) SGW Shelly ware SHW

St Neots NEOT/NEOTT

Stamford ware STAM

Thetford/Thetford type ware THET/THETT

## Methodology

The basic guidance in the Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2) has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991). In addition the Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents Guidance for the processing and publication of medieval pottery from excavations (Blake and Davey, 1983), 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.

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 types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been spot dated on a context-by-context basis.

The pottery and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition.

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## Assemblage

The assemblage includes pottery types present in both the late Saxon and early medieval periods; however the presence of HUNEMW fabrics which are thought to be post conquest in date, indicate that the earlier material in the assemblage is also likely to be post conquest, some of this material is residual in medieval contexts. The 12th,13th and 14th centuries are also represented with the presence of DNEOT, HUNFSW, LYST and SHW.. The assemblage indicates domestic activity on or close to the site from the mid to late 11th century continuing through the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries

## Fabrics, Forms and Provenance

The fabrics present are a mixture of coarse and fine wares in the late 11th-mid 12th centuries including locally produced HUNEMW. The NEOT, STAM and THETT jar bowl and jug sherds would have been used for cooking, serving and storage.

From the mid 12th century new pottery types become available to the medieval occupants of Huntingdon, local production of pottery continues and HUNFSW appears in the ceramic assemblage. It is not clear if HUNFSW replaces HUNEMW or if production of both overlapped for some time, with HUNFSW developing from HUNEMW. In this assemblage only HUNFSW jars are represented, however other pottery assemblages from recent excavations in Huntingdon indicates that potters were also producing jugs, and bowls.

Alongside the locally produced jars pottery from several adjoining counties was present. The sherds of STAM and DEST show trade with the important late Saxon-early medieval pottery production centre in Stamford, Lincolnshire. LYST from Northamptonshire and SHW a fabric with several sources including Northamptonshire and the Peterborough region are also present. Both fabrics are commonly found on medieval sites in Huntingdon.

A single sherd from an imported FRE WW jug was an unusual find as few medieval imported wares have been identified in the Huntingdon assemblages. This sherd may have reached Huntingdon from Kings Lynn via the River Ouse.

Pottery present in the assemblage comes from a range of sources including local products HUNEMW and HUNFSW which have only been recently recognised and for which no kiln has yet been located, however recent excavations have produced a possible waster sherd from the town centre excavations undertaken by OA East (formally CAM ARC) in 2007-2008 suggesting a kiln in the near vicinity (Clarke, 2009).

# Assemblage in relation to excavated features

The features described by the excavator as part of the street frontage, produced low levels of pottery. Post hole **12** produced only a single sherd of DNEOT and beam slot **31** contained 19 sherds weighing 0.309kg, a mixture of residual NEOT, STAM and THET and medieval fabrics DNEOT, HUNFSW and SHW.

From the pits associated with the occupation in Trench 1 larger amounts of pottery were recovered. Pit **16** produced the largest number of sherds of any excavated feature, 33 sherds weighing 0.662kg and contained residual THET, STAM and NEOT and medieval HUMFSW, DNEOT, SHW and the sherd of imported white ware. This sherd is from a large dark green glazed jug with applied feet and is one of only three glazed medieval sherds in the assemblage.

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Pit **18** (0.071kg) contains only NEOT, STAM and THET sherds however the small nature of some of the sherds suggest the pottery from this feature may all be residual. Pit **31** contained 19 sherds, 0.309kg of pottery a mixture of residual NEOT,STAM, THET and medieval DNEOT, HUNFSW and SHW and dates to the mid 12th - mid 14th century

The activity relating to the rear of the plots again produced low levels of pottery. Feature **54**, described as pit or a well produced eight sherds (0.063kg) of pottery, including DNEOT and the handle from a HUNFSW jug dating to the mid 12th-mid 14th century. Pit **74** by comparison contained early medieval fabrics five sherds in total weighing 0.029kg. Pit **70** which cuts the previous features contained a residual sherd of Roman SGW, alongside DNEOT and unabraded sherds from a LYST jug, dating the context to the 13th-mid 14th century.

## Statement of Research Potential

An assemblage of this size would often provide only basic dating information for a site, however this assemblage was recovered from an area close to three previous excavations undertaken in 1999 and 2008; Stanton Butts, Stukeley Road 1999, (Cooper & Spoerry 2000) and Stukeley Road, 2008, (House 2008). The assemblage is similar in nature to those recovered from previous excavations, although on a smaller scale and offers another insight into the medieval occupation of this area of Huntingdon.

Should further work be undertaken this assemblage should be reassessed alongside any new material recovered and with reference to the earlier excavated material.

## C.2 Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

# Introduction

1.29Kg of faunal material was recovered from the evaluation at Stukeley Road, Huntingdon yielding 31 "countable" bones (see below). All bones were collected by hand apart from those recovered from environmental samples; hence a bias towards smaller fragments is to be expected. Residuality appears not be an issue and there is no evidence of later contamination of any context. Faunal material was recovered from pits and ditches largely dating from the Early and High-Medieval periods. Sixty-one fragments of animal bone were recovered with 31 identifiable to species (51% of the total sample). Contexts 4, 5, 9, 19, 40, 60, 69, 73 & 90 contained no identifiable elements.

# Methodology

All data was initially recorded using a specially written MS Access database. Bones were recorded using a version of the criteria described in Davis (1992) and Albarella & Davis (1994). Initially all elements were assessed in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness, tooth wear stages (also where applicable) and epiphyseal fusion. Completeness was assessed in terms of percentage and zones present (after Dobney & Reilly, 1988). Initially the whole identifiable assemblage was quantified in terms of number of individual fragments (NISP) and minimum numbers of individuals MNI (see table 1). The ageing of the population was largely achieved by examining the wear stages of cheek teeth of cattle, sheep/goat and pig (after Grant, 1982). Wear

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stages were recorded for lower molars of cattle, sheep/goat and pig, both isolated and in mandibles. The states of epiphyseal fusion for all relevant bones were recorded to give a broad age range for the major domesticates (after Getty, 1975). Measurements were largely carried out according to the conventions of von den Driesch (1976). Measurements were either carried out using a 150mm sliding calliper or an osteometric board in the case of larger bones.

## The Assemblage

The largest numbers of faunal remains were recovered from contexts **15** and **30**. Context **15** consisted of butchered sheep/goat lower limb elements along with a single butchered cattle humerus. A wider variety of species were recovered from context **30**, including butchered cattle and sheep goat remains along with a single horse fibula and pig scapula. All the sheep/goat remains were from juvenile animals. A number of domestic fowl remains were also recovered from context **30**, including an inominate displaying several small knife cuts. The remaining contexts consisted largely of butchered cattle and sheep lower limb elements, with loose horse and pig teeth being recovered from context **68**. Few measurable bones were recovered, with the exception of a female cattle metacarpal from context **80** with a withers height of around 1.2m. Identifiable remains from environmental samples were limited, consisting of eel remains from contexts **15**, **31** and **36** and a small mammal humerus from context **15**.

## **Conclusions**

This is an extremely small assemblage with domestic species proportions comparable to other sites in the immediate, (albeit in much smaller numbers) such as the Old Music and Drama Centre (Gilmour, forthcoming). The nature of much of the domestic mammal assemblage most likely represents general settlement debris rather than any particular industry or husbandry practice.

	NISP	NISP%	MNI	MNI%
Sheep/Goat (Ovis/Capra)	14	38.9	6	26
Cattle (Bos)	8	22.2	8	34.8
Pig (Sus scrofa)	2	5.6	2	8.7
Horse (Equus caballus)	2	5.6	2	8.7
Domestic fowl (Gallus sp.)	5	13.8	2	8.7
European Eel (Anguilla anguilla)	4	11.2	2	8.7
Small mammal	1	2.7	1	4.4
Total:	36	100	23	100

4.2.2

Table 1: Species distribution for the entire assemblage.

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# APPENDIX D. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

# D.1 Environmental samples

By By Rachel Fosberry

## Introduction and Methods

Eleven bulk samples were taken from across the evaluated area at The Former Bus Depot, Stukeley Road, Huntingdon. Feature sampled included a series of pits and a possible well that were thought to represent backyard activity and a large undated boundary ditch.

The samples were contaminated with hydrocarbons. They were soaked in a solution of Decon 90 for two weeks prior to processing in order to decontaminate.

Ten litres of each sample were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table x.

## Quantification

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

```
# = 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens
```

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

```
+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant
```

## Results

The results are recorded on Table x.

Preservation is by charring and by mineralisation. The plant remains are preserved by carbonisation. Preservation is variable but in the majority of the samples containing cereals, the grains had become severely puffed and distorted during charring and/or had abraded before deposition.

Charcoal fragments are present in most of the samples in varying quantities.

Small fragments of animal bone are present in the majority of the residues. Elements of fish bone and small mammal bones are also common along with mussel shell fragments.

Small sherds of pottery were recovered from many of the residues.

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Weed seeds were common in Samples 8,9 and 10 taken from pits 31,37 and 16. Charred weed seeds include Corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arevense*), cleavers (*Gallium aparine*), Black medick (*Medicago lupulina*), buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.), Brome (*Bromus* sp.), Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), clover (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.), Fat Hen (*Chenopodium album*) and grass seeds (*Poaceae* sp.)

Sample 8, Context 31 contain uncharred seeds of nettle (*Urtica* sp.) and dead-nettle (*Lamium* sp.). It is most probable that these are modern contaminants rather than being preserved due to waterlogging.

Samples 9 and 10 from Contexts 36 and 15 both contain mineralised remains in the form of fly pupae, mineralised millipede segments and egg cases.

## Discussion

The most interesting assemblages are from pits 31, 37and 16. The charred plant remains in these samples are dominated by cereal grains. The assemblage indicates that a full range of cereals were utilised including wheat (*Triticum sp.*) and barley (*Hordeum sp.*) and occasional rye (*Secale cereale*) and Oat (*Avena sativa*). The lack of any chaff elements indicates that the cereals were imported as cleaned grain. Barley was often used for animal fodder but may have been used for human consumption in the form of bread, soup and was also used for the brewing of beer. No germinated grains were recovered to suggest brewing activities. The grains may have then been accidentally burnt during cooking over open fires prior to being deliberately deposited in purpose-dug refuse pits. Many of the cereal grains are puffed and distorted suggesting high temperature and/or repeated burning. This variability of the preservation indicates that the pits contain the remains of several depositional events. The presence of mineralised remains in samples 9 and 10 could suggest the presence of cess or may simply indicate decomposing domestic waste.

The samples from the back yard area are devoid of food plants but do contain general refuse. The presence of small bones suggest rodent activity in the area.

The layer 84 (equivalent to 88) seems to be solely comprised of charcoal, perhaps representing a localised burning event

The presence of Mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) shell, eel vertebra and the remains of bony fish show that both marine and freshwater resources were exploited.

The samples from contexts 67 and 68 were taken from a feature that was initially interpreted as a well. The results of sampling refute this interpretation, as it did not contain any macrofossils that had been preserved by waterlogging.

It would appear that the food waste was deliberately buried in deep purpose-dug pits as an attempt to keep the area clean. The paucity of plant remains in the back yard samples suggests that this method of rubbish disposal was effective although the presence of rodents would have been inevitable.

## Statement of Research Potential

The preliminary appraisal of a selection of samples from this site have shown that there is potential for the recovery of plant remains. Further excavation could provide interesting information on domestic activity and refuse disposal from traditional medieval dwellings.

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## Further Work and Methods Statement

In summary, the plant remains recovered from this site are dominated by crop plants, both cereals and legumes, along with other dietary refuse in the form of mussel shells. It is not considered that full analysis would add significantly to this interpretation and additional work is not recommended at this stage.

If further excavation is planned, sampling should be undertaken as investigation on the nature of cereal waste and weed assemblages is likely to provide an insight into to utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this period.

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# Results:

Residue comments	small amount of charcoal, some very small fragments of coal not removed			some charcoal	lots of charcoal			charcoal	lots of charcoal, fe knife and other object	charcoal	
Metal									fe +		
Magnetic residues	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Fired clay								+			
Pottery		+		+	+			‡	‡ +	+	
Marine molluscs		mussel		mussel				mussel	mssel		
Small animal bones								‡	‡ ‡	‡	
Residue	300	1600	1600	2000	1000	1200	2200	2000	2100	1400 +	+ 008
Volume (ml)				- 2	1	1	- 2		2	<del>-</del>	
Flot comments	Charcoal and small bones only	Charcoal, small bones and fish scales	Charcoal, small bones and fish scales	Charcoal, small bones and fish scales	Charcoal and small bones only	Charcoal only	Charcoal only	Wheat, oat, rye, pea, chickw eed seeds, uncharred nortite and dead nettle seeds Fish scales and bone, eel vertebra	Mineralised fly pupae, wheat, oat, barley, Pea, bean, eggshell (some burnt), burnt snail, Henbane, black medick, corn gromw ell, buttercup, brome, cleavers, fat hen, clover, grass seeds	Mneralised fly pupae, egg cases and milipede segments, w heat, oat, barley, eggshell	Single charred grain
Charcoal > 2mm		‡		‡	‡			‡	‡ +	‡	
Charcoal	+	‡	+	‡	‡	+	0	‡	‡	‡	+
<2mm	‡		‡			+	+	<u>+</u>	<u>+</u>		+
Snails from	0	#	#	#	#	0	0	#	0	#	0
flot Modern	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
Seeds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#	0	#	0
Weed Seeds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#	0	#	0
Legumes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#	0	#	0
Cereals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#	#	#	0
fishscale		#	#	#				#	#	#	#
Flot Volume (ml)	7	2	7	2	2	1	1	30	30 #	90	-
Comments	no finds, back boundary	poss back yard refuse. Upper fill	poss back yard refuse. Low er fill	very dark fill - back yard refuse	charcoal/organic fill of pit	cessy layer	cessy layer	brow n clay	charcoal rich feature	charcoal rich, no pot	charcoal rich, no pot
Sample Size	20	20	20	20	20	10	10	10	10	10 1	10
Feature Type		54 pit/w ell	54 pit/w ell	post 70 hole	pit		layer	pit	pit	pit	6 pit
Cut No.	4	68 54			1 63	4	8	30 31	36 37	15 16	2 6
Context No.		2 68	3 67	4 69	5 81	6 84	7 88	36	36	10	=======================================
Sample No.			l							_	_



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# APPENDIX F. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project De	etails									
OASIS Num	nber c	xfordar3-61438								
Project Nam	ne F	ormer Bus Depo	t, Stukeley Roa	d, Huntingdon						
Project Date	es (fieldv	vork) Start	22-06-2009	22-06-2009			06-200	9		
Previous W	ork (by (	DA East)	No		Future	Wo	rk Unk	known	]	
Project Refe										
Site Code				Planning Ap	n No		0.4000	1400LIT		
	HUN STE	R 09				_	04028	16OUT		
HER No.	ECB 318	7		Related HER	R/OASIS N	lo.	cambr	ridg1-46490; ECB294	7	
Type of Pro	ject/Tec	hniques Use	d							
Prompt		Direction from	Local Planning	Authority - PPG	16					
Developmen	t Type	Housing Estat	e							
Please sel	ect all	techniques	used:							
Aerial Photo	ography - i	nterpretation	Grab-Saı	mpling			Remo	ote Operated Vehicle	Survey	
Aerial Photo	ography - r	new	Gravity-C	Core		×				
Annotated S	Sketch		Laser Scanning				Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure			
Augering			Measured Survey				Targeted Trenches			
☐ Dendrochro	nological	Survey	☐ Metal Detectors				Test F	Test Pits		
□ Documenta	ry Search		☐ Phosphate Survey ☐ Topographic Surve					graphic Survey		
	ital Sampli	ing	☐ Photogrammetric Survey				☐ Vibro-core			
☐ Fieldwalking	9		☐ Photographic Survey ☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site V					te Visit)		
Geophysica	l Survey		Rectified Photography							
List feature typ	es using tl	vith their respecti	ument Type	e Thesaurus o features/finds v	vere found, p			ng the MDA Object "none".	ct type	
Monument		Period		Objec	:t			Period		
Boundary		Uncertair	1	Potte	ry			Medieval 1066 to 15	40	
Structures		Medieval	1066 to 1540					Select period		
Pits		Medieval	1066 to 1540					Select period		
Project Lo	ocatio	า								
County	Cambrid	heshire	Site A	Address (in	clud	ding p	ostcode if possib	le)		
District	Huntingo	don		Form	er Bus Depot	t, Stu	ıkeley F	Road, Huntingdon, PE	29 6HG	
Parish	Huntingo	don								
HER	Cambrid	ge								
Study Area	0.2ha			Natio	National Grid Reference TI 2330 7250					



Project	0	riq	iin	ato	rs
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Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	James-Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Gareth Rees

# **Project Archives**

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Stores, Landbeach	CCC Stores, Landbeach	CCC Stores, Landbeach
HUN STR 09	HUN STR 09	HUN STR 09

# **Archive Contents/Media**

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	
Animal Bones	$\times$		
Ceramics	$\times$		
Environmental	X		
Glass			
Human Bones			
Industrial			
Leather			
Metal	X		
Stratigraphic		X	
Survey		X	
Textiles			
Wood			
Worked Bone			
Worked Stone/Lithic			
None			
Other			

Digital Media	Paper Media
□ Database	Aerial Photos
GIS	
Geophysics	
	☐ Diary
	□ Drawing
Moving Image	Manuscript
X Spreadsheets	□ Мар
X Survey	Matrices
X Text	Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	Research/Notes
	☑ Photos
	⊠ Sections
	Survey

# Notes:

Appendix G.



Drawing Conventions		
Plans		
Limit of Excavation		
Deposit - Conjectured		
Natural Features		
Sondages/Machine Strip		
Intrusion/Truncation		
Illustrated Section	S.14	
Archaeological Deposit		
Excavated Slot		
Modern Deposit		
Wall		
Cut Number	118	
S	Sections	
Limit of Excavation		
Cut		
Cut-Conjectured		
Deposit Horizon		
Deposit Horizon - Conjectured		
Intrusion/Truncation		
Top Surface/Top of Natural		
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing		
Cut Number	118	
Deposit Number	117	
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD ⊼	
Inclusions	&	

Convention Key



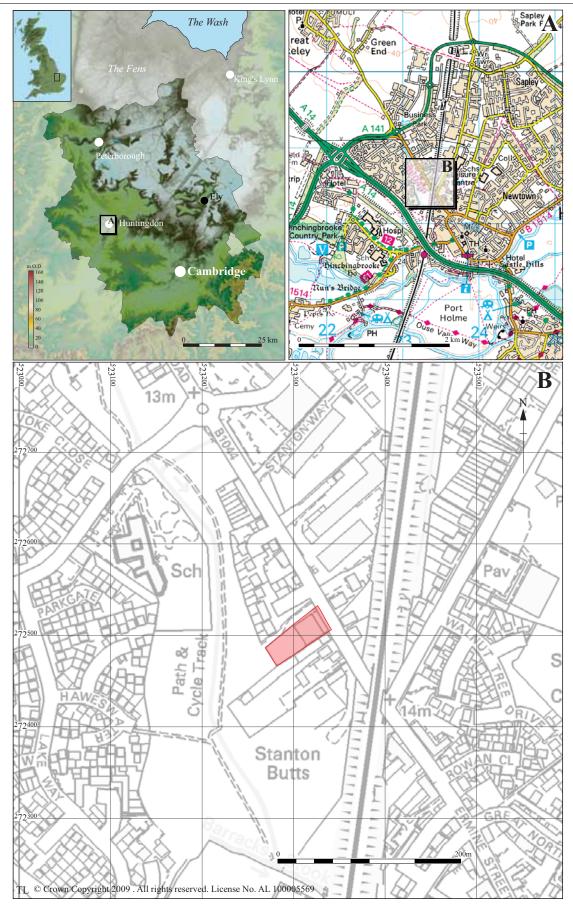
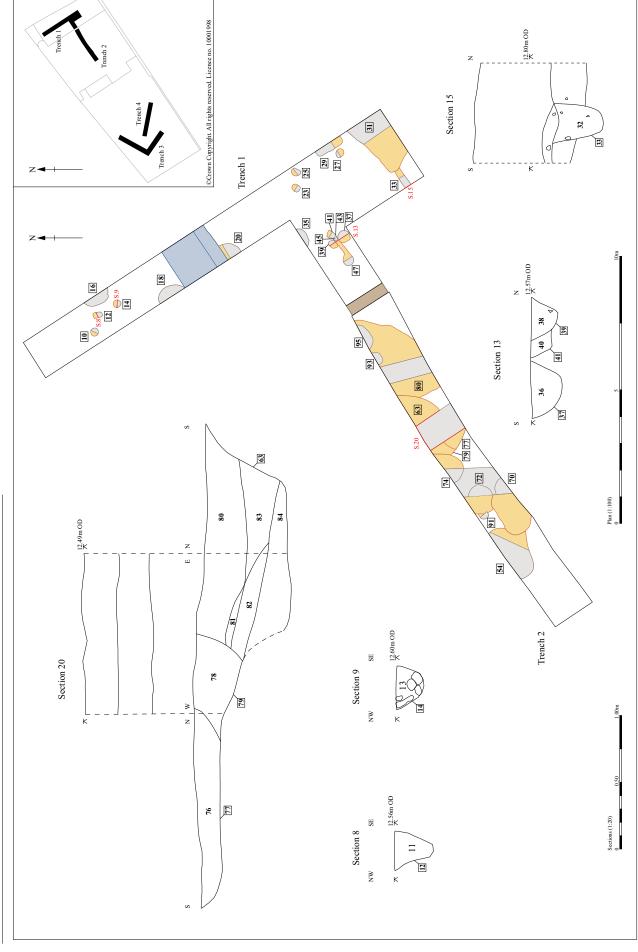


Figure 1: Location of the development area (red)



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Figure 2: Street frontage and backplots (Trench 1 and 2)

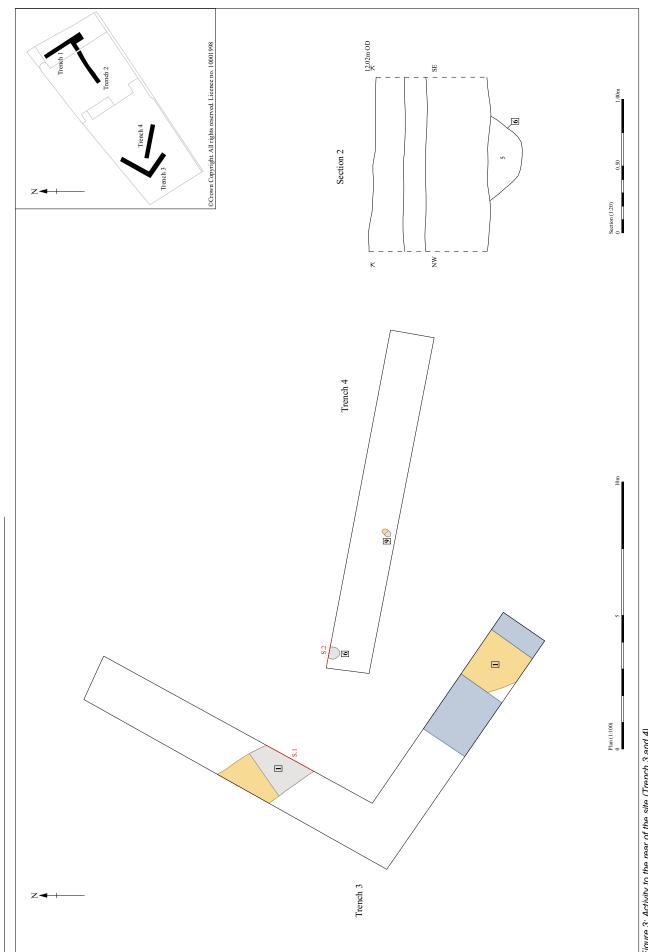


Figure 3: Activity to the rear of the site (Trench 3 and 4)





Plate 1: Site conditions (facing east)



Plate 2: Layer 66 overlying 87-89, Trench 2 (facing south west)





Plate 3: Trench 1 (facing north)





Plate 4: Structural postholes, Trench 1



Plate 5: Pit 54, Trench 2





Plate 6: Boundary ditch 1, Trench 3



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