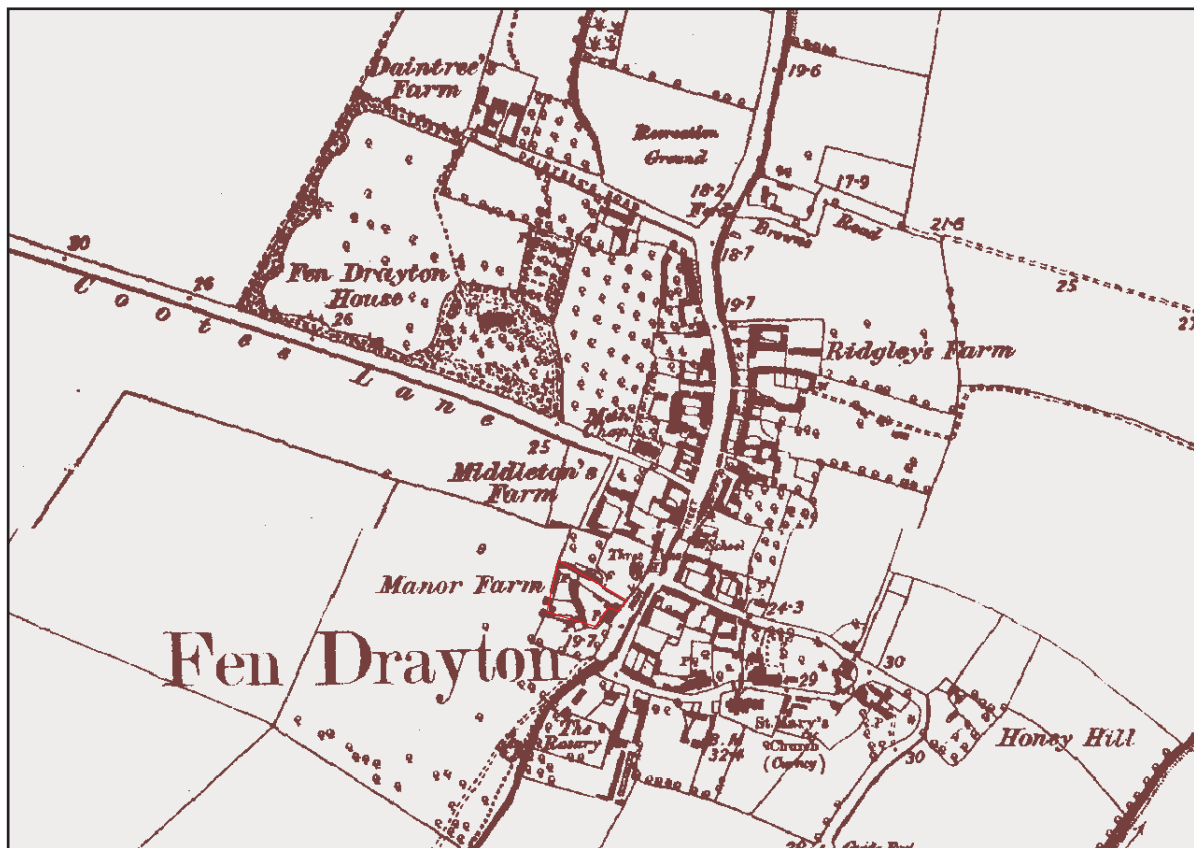


WILDERSPIN GARAGE, FEN DRAYTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

An Archaeological Evaluation



Jennifer Wills

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With contributions by Katie Anderson and Kate Roberts

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Evaluation trenches excavated within the grounds of Wilderspin Garage (formerly Manor Farm), Fen Drayton, revealed evidence for a Roman field system on the same alignment to those known from cropmarks. Two possible farmyard ponds were excavated one of which was Medieval, the other was undated. Both yielded evidence for excellent organic preservation.

Introduction

Between the 8th and 12th September 2003, the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook an archaeological evaluation in the grounds of Wilderspin Garage, Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire (TL 3378/6820), in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a specification of works and was monitored by the County Archaeology Office (CAO) of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Location and Topography

The site comprises 0.44 ha of land on the northwest side of the High Street, Fen Drayton (Figure 1). The site occupies a height of c. 9.20m OD with an underlying geology of Third Terrace Gravels. The evaluation trenches were located on available land encircling the current garage.

Archaeological Background

Excavations carried out 1.3 km to the north of the current site point to settlement in this area since the Neolithic (Wait 1992). Excavations one kilometre to the north of the current site revealed further evidence for Neolithic activities (Mortimer 1995).

Late Bronze Age and early Iron Age remains have also been recovered one kilometre to the north of the current site. These represent short-lived settlement activities with ditches apparently marking out individual plots of land (Mortimer 1995). Evidence for a substantial Iron Age enclosed settlement was recorded as a later phase of activity on this site (Mortimer 1995).

Mortimer's 1995 excavations to the northwest of the current site revealed evidence for a substantial mid 4th century Roman settlement, with ditches that appear to demarcate small garden plots and enclosures. This is probably the settlement associated with extensive cropmarks (SMR 9667) further to the east, that may represent the remains of a villa. An extensive linear horticultural system, of possible orchards or vineyards, was excavated to the east of the probable villa site (Mortimer 1995).

Late Roman evidence has also been recovered for the creation and management of water meadows on the alluvial clays found to the north of modern village. The rise in water levels may have precipitated the shift of settlement to the current village location on the gravel terrace to the south of the Prehistoric and Roman settlements (Mortimer 1995).

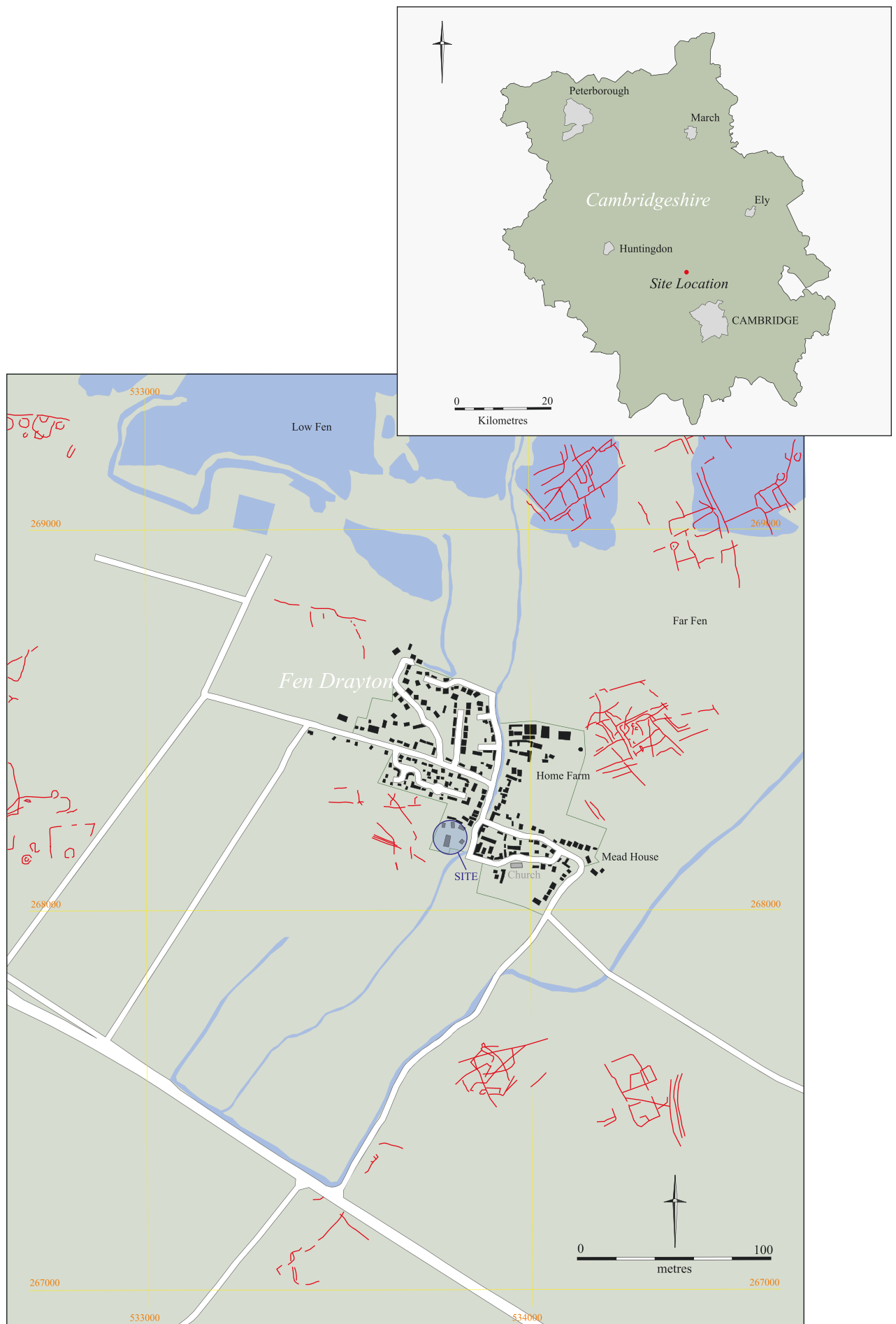


Figure 1: Location map

Further evidence for Prehistoric and Roman activities is known through the presence of several cropmark sites in the vicinity of Fen Drayton (Figure 1). To the immediate west of the current site cropmarks show the presence of a multi-ditched enclosure and drove road associated with a highly irregular field system to its northeast (SMR 8829).

Several Roman finds have been recovered from within Fen Drayton village. Three inhumations, two adults and a child, were recovered *c.* 150m northwest of the site, associated with a Roman colour coated pot (SMR 3330). A further inhumation was found 200m north of the site (SMR 3495). Pottery found with this was dated to the 1st or 2nd century AD. A Roman hoard was also located *c.* 800m west of Wilderspin Garage (SMR 464), however the date of this has never been established.

Evidence for the Medieval and Post-Medieval archaeology of Fen Drayton is sparse. Two substantial lordships were held in Fen Drayton in the 11th century; the larger (Manor) consisting of 4½ hides and the smaller of 3¼. The evaluation area is on the site of the Manor Farm. The church of St. Mary has existed on its current site, to the east of the evaluation site, since at least 1184 (VCH 1982). It is possible that the nave may retain its 12th century shape.

Several Post-Medieval buildings survive in the village including the Three Tuns Pub, which was documented in 1784 (VCH 1982). This retains an early 16th century two storied cross wing. Located on the village green on High Street, immediately to the east of the evaluation site, is the small 19th century village lock-up.

Prior to enclosure in 1840 the southern half of the parish was used for open field arable farming, and the north was devoted to Fen common pasture (VCH 1982). The focus of the village appears to have shifted over time. The 1841 Enclosure Map shows a farm located to the south of the Manor Farm (Wilderspin Garage) that had vanished by the 1886 first edition Ordnance Survey map. The 1886 map shows several other buildings, known as The Rosary, in the south end of the village that have now vanished (Figure 2). The church and village green would traditionally have provided the central focus for a Medieval village. However both are now located in the very south of the village indicating that the focus has moved away from here to the north of the Three Tuns. The boundary of the Manor Farm, as recorded on the 19th century map, is the same as that of Wilderspin Garage today. During the 20th century several fields surrounding the village were subject to gravel extraction.

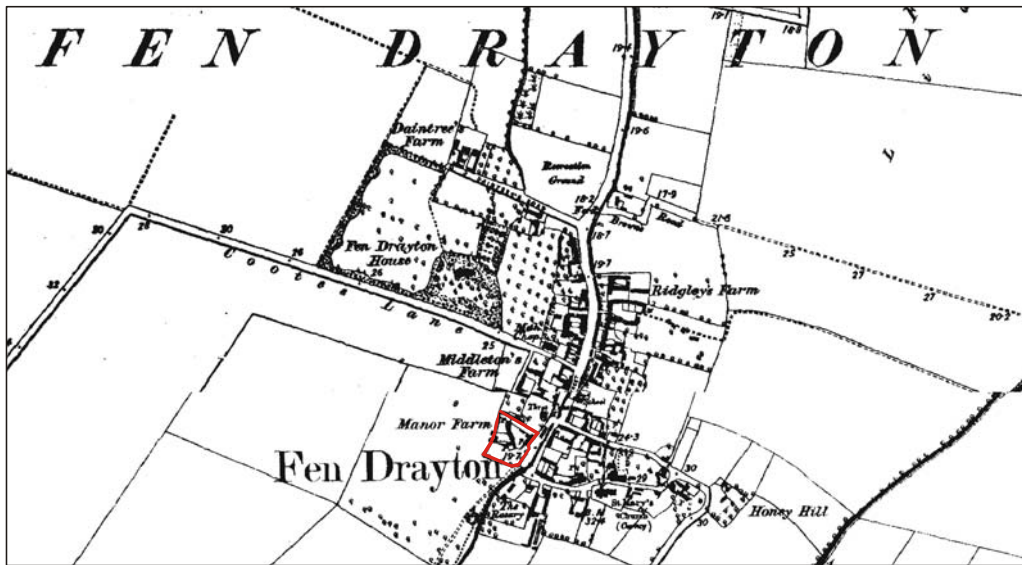


Figure 2: 1891 Ordnance Survey map of Fen Drayton, evaluation site highlighted in red.

Methodology

Six trenches, equalling 107m, were excavated by a 360° tracked digger, using a 1.90m wide trenching bucket (Figure 3). The location of the trenches in the eastern half of the site was affected by services to the garage and post office, both of which are still in use. The topsoil and subsoil were stripped by machine in order to expose the underlying archaeology. Once machined the trenches were hand cleaned, where necessary, and planned at 1:50. The sections were drawn at 1:10. All excavation was carried out by hand. All recording was conducted using the CAU modified Museum of London system. Context numbers are referred to in the text in bracketed type, e.g. **[001]** for fills and **[002]** for cuts. All work was carried out in strict accordance with statutory Health and Safety legislation and with the recommendations of SCAUM (Allen and Holt 2002). The site code was FDG 03.

Results

Machine excavation revealed that trenches 1 to 5 contained archaeological remains (Figure 4). Trench 6 had suffered from modern truncation and had no surviving archaeology. With the exception of trenches 3 and 4 the topsoil and subsoil was between 0.30m and 0.40m deep.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was 4m long with c. 0.30m of topsoil and subsoil. Only one feature, **[022]**, was recorded in this trench. This was a northeast-southwest oriented ditch. Three sherds of local Romano-British pot were recovered from the fill of this ditch. This ditch may be associated with **[032]** and **[034]** in Trench 3, which is on the same alignment, although by this point has split into two small gullies.



Figure 3: Location of trenches

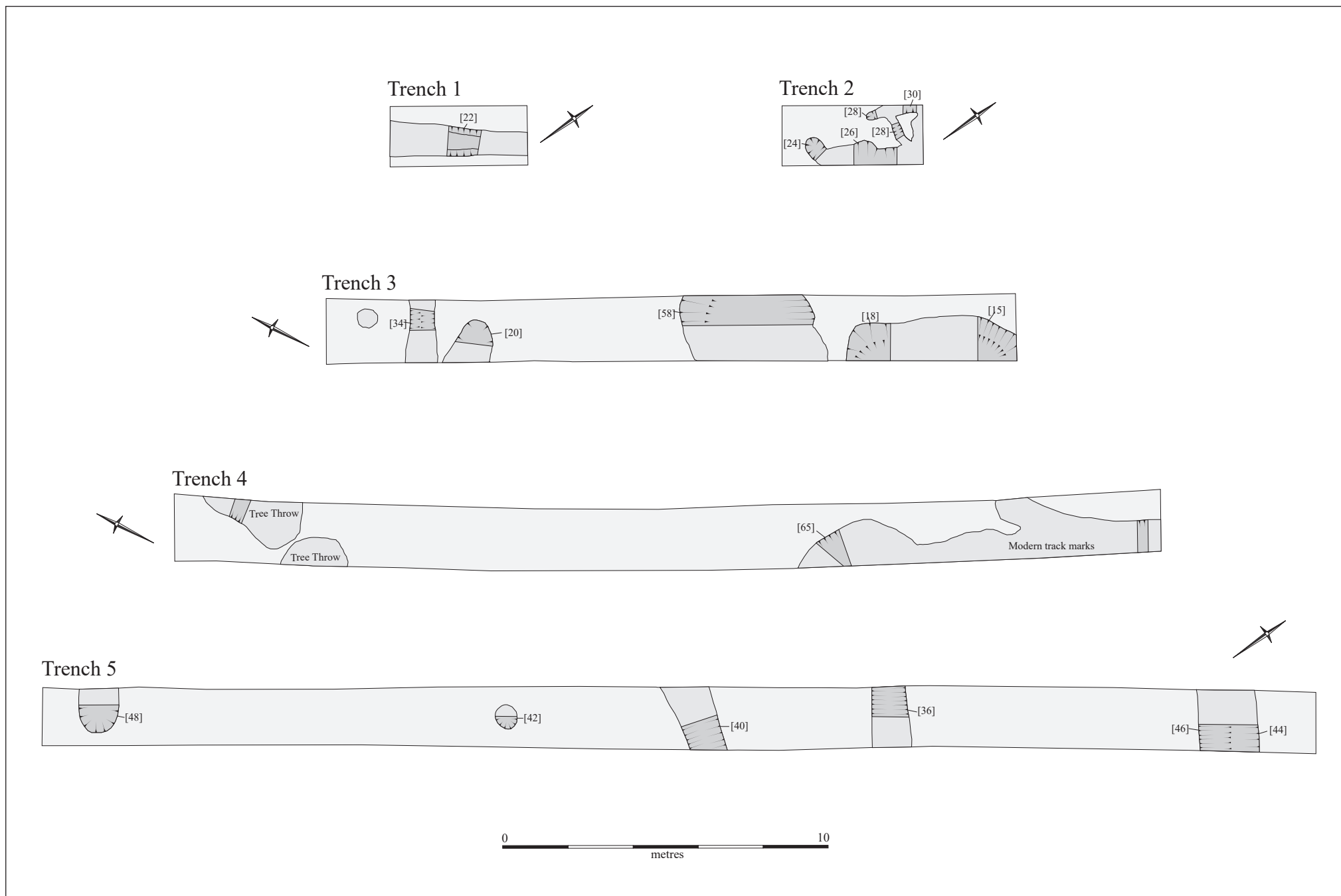


Figure 4: Trench plans

Trench 2

Trench 2 was 4.25m long and had a similar soil make up to Trench 1. Several features were recorded in this trench. Pit [024] contained brick, which could not be dated, but may be Post-Medieval. This appears to be the latest feature in this trench and cuts [025] which is a possible pit. A small right-angled gully, [028], was also recorded in this trench. This may be the remains of a wall footing, however, the area exposed was too small to be certain about the function of this feature. Unfortunately no definite dating evidence was recovered from any of the features in this trench.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was 20m long. This trench was located alongside the garage access road and was the closest trench to Fen Drayton High Street. An overburden of at least 0.80m had developed in this part of the site due to the levelling of a 20th century dumping ground. Several features were recorded in this trench. The earliest dated feature were gullies [032] and [034]. The upper fills of these had Post-Medieval brick pressed into them, however this may be a consequence of the levelling of the rubbish dump. The sealed finds from both gullies were 1st/2nd century Romano-British pot. Both had identical fills, therefore it was not possible to determine their relationship. These gullies are on the same alignment as ditch [022] in Trench 1 and may be part of the same northeast-southwest ditch system.

A large pond or ditch, [058], was excavated in Trench 3 (Figure 5). Because of the limited area exposed during the evaluation it was not possible to determine the precise function of this feature, which was *c.* 4m wide and 0.65m deep. As it entered the baulk on the north side of the trench the pond/ditch appeared to be butt-ending, however it was not possible to determine if this was the edge of a pond or a ditch butt. Whatever the function of this feature the environmental samples taken from it indicate that it contained water, and was located in a damp, shaded area. The waterlogged conditions of this feature allowed for the preservation of a wooden stake and fragments of round-wood. The pottery recovered from this feature was largely dated to the 13th century and included several sherds of Buckinghamshire Brill Ware and a large storage vessel of an unknown local type. Several layers of modern overburden were recorded above this feature (049/050/051). These were dumped layers of gravel and ash that are associated with the rubbish dump.

Less than 1m east of [058] was a further feature rich in organic remains, [015] (Figure 5). The presence of several clayey fills suggested that this may have been a pond. Fill (010) was a very clean, sterile, grey clay that contained no finds and negligible environmental remains. In section this fill had a vertical northern edge that did not appear to have been cut suggesting that it may have been a clay lining for the pond. A large amount of preserved wood, including some fragments of stakes and round-wood pieces, was recovered from fill (011). These were found in a haphazard arrangement and are unlikely to have related to wooden supports for the pond lining. No dateable finds were recovered from the fill of this pond. A shallow rectilinear pit, [018], cut the upper fill, (007), of the pond. Several fragments of early 16th century Raeren jug from the same vessel were recovered from this pit, from fill (017).

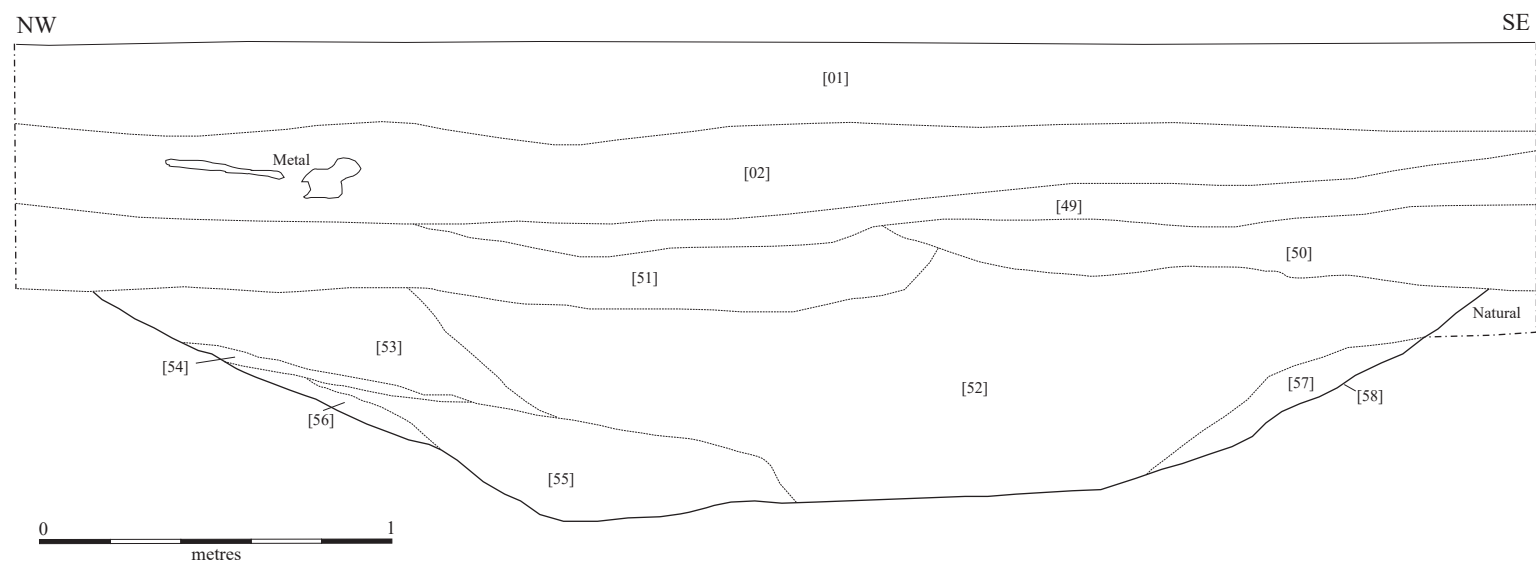
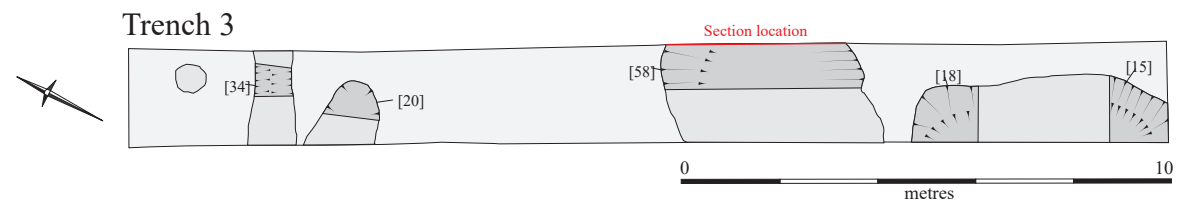


Figure 5: Section from trench 3

Trench 4

Trench 4 was a 30m long northwest-southeast oriented trench. This was located to the southwest of the garage parallel to a line of trees. This area had been subject to a lot of disturbance as a result of the construction of the garage and the use of the area as a rubbish dump. Prior to excavation this area was cleared of rubbish and undergrowth by machine. The topsoil and subsoil in this area were very disturbed suggesting that recent activities on this area of the site had resulted in a degree of truncation. Four features were recorded in this trench although only one is likely to be of archaeological significance. This was pit [065] which was only partially excavated. No clear edge was defined in this feature, however, the surface area of the feature suggests that it may be of substantial depth. The area of the pit visible on plan indicated that it was at least 4m in diameter.

Two pale sand filled features, with poorly defined edges, were recorded at the northwest end of the trench. Both were only partially visible and given their unclear edges were probably tree throws, consequently neither feature was given context numbers.

Several linear features were noted at the southeast end of this trench. All were very unclear and upon excavation were revealed to be very shallow. These were interpreted as track marks, probably caused by the weight of heavy plant moving around during the construction of the garage. Consequently these features were not recorded on plan. A further, more clearly defined, linear feature was recorded at the southeast end of the trench, however upon excavation this was revealed to be very shallow and contained several fragments of Post-Medieval or modern brick.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was 38.50m long, oriented northeast-southwest along the northwest boundary of the garage. The topsoil in this trench was c. 0.25m deep, with a subsoil c. 0.10m deep. At the northeast end of the site a layer of modern rubble had been laid on the surface of the topsoil. The field immediately to the northwest of this trench contains possible Roman cropmarks (SMR 8829). Several features of archaeological significance were noted in this trench. Three ditches were recorded running parallel to one another on a northwest-southeast alignment. Ditch [042] was the butt-end of a shallow ditch from which no finds were recovered. [036] was a v-shaped ditch, 1m wide and 0.43m deep, unfortunately no datable finds were recovered from this feature. Ditch [044] was steep sided with a concave base and was at least 0.95m wide. Two fragments of abraded 2nd/3rd century Roman pottery were recovered from the base of this feature. Ditch [046] was a re-cut of [044], on the same alignment but slightly further south. This contained two fragments of Roman pot. Although ditches [044/046] were the only ones from which dating evidence was recovered the alignment of all the ditches suggests that they may be contemporary. The ditches are on a similar alignment to that of a possible trackway, of several parallel ditches, recorded in the cropmarks to the immediate west of the site (Figure 1).

A further ditch and re-cut were excavated in Trench 5. Ditch [040], and its re-cut [038], was on an east-west alignment. A ditch running for c. 300m on a similar

alignment has been recorded, from cropmarks, to the north of the site. Although only a very small section of ditch [038/040] was revealed it is possible that it belongs to the same system as that to the north. Only one fragment of badly abraded, locally made, Romano-British pot was recovered from the fill, (039), of the earlier ditch [040].

A single small pit was excavated in this trench, [042]. This contained two fragments of St. Neots Ware and a 13th century sandy-gritty ware. This feature was the only Medieval feature exposed on the northwest edge of the site. Given the small area exposed during the evaluation it was not possible to determine if this pit was isolated or if it was associated with other Medieval features that may be in the vicinity.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was 9.50m long and situated in an area that had formerly sited a dairy. Consequently the ground here had suffered from serious disturbance and no archaeological features were present.

Discussion

Despite the presence of Prehistoric remains in the vicinity of the evaluation site no evidence was recovered for Prehistoric activity on the site. One fragment of possible Iron Age (or Roman) pot was recovered from Romano-British ditch [034], however this is likely to have been residual.

The Romano-British features excavated appear to be earlier than those recovered during the excavations to the north of the village (Mortimer 1995). The 1st to 3rd century date for the pot suggests that an as yet unidentified early Roman settlement may have existed in the vicinity. The probability of this is strengthened by the 1st to 3rd century date of a number of stray Roman finds found within the village. The ditches recorded during the evaluation correspond in alignment to some of those revealed by cropmarks to the immediate west of the site. Consequently they may belong to the same system of ditches. The small amount of Romano-British pottery recovered during the evaluation indicates that the ditches probably represent field boundaries or field drainage ditches.

Only two of the features excavated could be dated to the Medieval period. The single pit in Trench 5 may be an isolated feature. Given the limited excavation possible during the evaluation it is not possible to ascribe a definite function to feature [058]. The waterlogged nature of the lower fills, which included worked fragments of wood, alongside the presence of environmental remains consistent with standing water suggests this may have been a pond, or possibly a large drainage ditch. The environmental remains also indicate that this feature was located close to an area of woodland.

Pond [015] was also excavated during the evaluation. The environmental remains in this pond were very similar to those recovered from [058] suggesting that these two waterlogged features represent ponds. The lack of dating evidence recovered from

this feature means it is not possible to determine the relationship of these two very similar features.

These two pond like features may represent a succession of silted up farmyard ponds. The presence of an established woodland in the vicinity of these ponds suggests that they were either on the edge of the farm or that there was a copse of woodland within the farm boundary.

The potential for further Medieval waterlogged organic remains to be recovered from this site is high, with the possibility for further wooden stakes to be recovered. Although modern truncation has occurred in several areas of the site the potential for preservation of archaeological remains in the areas surrounding Trenches 1, 2 and 5 is good.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Alan Oliver, Scion Property Developments Ltd for sponsoring this evaluation and for his interest in the site. Thanks are also due to the staff of Wilderspin Garage for their interest and patience. Many thanks are due to Corinna Hattersley for her hard and speedy work. Norma Challands processed the finds and David Hall did the spot dating on the Medieval pottery. Marcus Abbott compiled the graphics. The site was monitored by Kasia Gdaniec (CAO). Robin Standing managed the project.

Appendix 1 - Roman Pottery (Katie Anderson)

A total of 31 sherds of Roman Pottery, weighing 248g were recovered from the Fen Drayton excavations from six different contexts. All of the sherds were looked at individually and details of fabric and form and date (where possible) were recorded.

Assemblage Composition

All of the pottery appears to have come from Roman features because no pottery of a later date was found in the same contexts. There is however, one possible residual sherd but this has yet to be confirmed as Roman. However all of the pottery was small and abraded with a mean weight of just 8g, therefore it is possible that they could be secondary deposits.

Of the 31 sherds recorded, none were established British or imported wares and all seem likely to have been made locally. All of the sherds can be considered as coarse wares due to their fabrics and forms.

Context (021) contained three sherds of pottery which are likely to have come from the same vessel because they shared the same fabric, even though they did not join. The fabric was a coarse, reduced ware with quartz and silver mica and was probably made locally. A vessel form could not be determined, therefore this pottery has only been dated 'Romano-British'.

Context (031) contained eleven sherds which are all from the same vessel. The fabric was quartz tempered with mica and a reduced exterior and orange/grey sandwich fired

core. Although there was no rim present the sherds could still be identified as coming from a necked jar with a cordon. Without the rim the exact vessel form could not be determined but the general form can be dated 1st-2nd century AD. This context also had one grey ware sherd and one coarse sandy ware. All of the sherds in this context are likely to have been made locally.

There were ten sherds from context (033), nine of which shared the same fabric and were therefore probably from the same vessel. The fabric was a coarse, sandy grey ware with no other noticeable inclusions. A vessel form could not be determined as they were all plain body sherds with the exception of one sherd from the base, which did not help determine a date since it was the very common plain, flat base. Therefore the pottery could only be dated Romano-British. This context also contained one grog tempered sherd which could be Iron Age or Roman.

Context (039) contained just one sherd, which was very abraded. It was grog tempered and again, was probably made locally. This was a plain body sherd so a vessel form could not be identified. This sherd therefore can only be dated Romano-British because there is not enough evidence to acquire a more specific date.

There were only two sherds of pottery in context (043) but they joined together. The fabric was shell tempered and the vessel form was a plain rimmed dish/bowl. This particular vessel form can be paralleled with a vessel from the Roman town of Durobrivae, Water Newton, Cambridgeshire and is dated 2nd-3rd century AD (Perrin 1999, 123).

The final context to contain Roman pottery was (045) which contained two sherds. The first was a quartz tempered, reduced ware with a burnished exterior, thus possibly a local imitation of Dorset black burnished ware. The remaining sherd had a buff/orange exterior and grey core and was quartz tempered. There was a single horizontal grooved line. Neither the form nor sources of the pottery from this context could be established. Although the fabrics suggest local origins, it was not possible to obtain a more specific date, therefore this context has been dated Romano-British.

Conclusion

Due to the small quantity of Roman pottery from the site there are relatively few conclusions that can be made. Although this in itself indicates that this site was not an area of specific Roman activity, otherwise we would expect to find far more than 31 sherds of pottery. All of the pottery is likely to have been locally made.

Although none of the Roman pottery appeared to be residual, the quantity and condition suggests they may have been secondary deposits. Only two of the contexts could be dated more accurately than 'Romano-British'. (031) and (043) contained sherds which had dateable vessel forms and consequently the contexts were dated 1st-2nd century AD and 2nd-3rd AD respectively. There was no evidence from the remaining pottery that suggested any date later than these.

Appendix 2 - Environmental Samples (Kate Roberts)

Methodology

Five samples were submitted for analysis from pits and ponds. All were floated using an Ankara-type flotation machine (French, 1972). The flot was collected using a 300µm sieve, and the heavy residue was washed over a 1mm mesh. The flots were kept wet for examination and then sub-sampled for examination. For three samples only 5ml were examined in order to test their further potential. 100ml of the other two samples were examined. Plant remains were identified using the reference collection of the Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (1997). The contents of the flots are summarised at the end of the report in table form. The heavy residues have not yet been examined.

Preservation

The majority of the plant remains were preserved by water logging, although there was a small amount of charred material in [11], [12] and [60]. There were virtually no molluscan remains present in these samples.

All of the samples, except that from [10], were very rich. The plant remains were also very well preserved, with little or no signs of degradation. Intrusive material appeared to be rare, suggesting an undisturbed burial environment.

Results

<3>, (012), organic pond, 100ml

This sample contained a negligible to moderate amounts of water loving plants. These included bulbous/meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus/acris/repens*), water crowfoot (*Ranunculus* Subg. BATRACHIUM), pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*), water-pepper (*Persicaria hydropiper*), sedge (*Carex* sp. and spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.)). There were also some plants which exist in damp areas. There were small amounts of chickweed (*Stellaria media*) and a black mustard type (*Brassica nigra* type) and a large amount of hemlock (*Conium maculatum*). This is also found in woodland, and other woodland plants included elder (*Sambucus nigra*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), and nipple-wort (*Lapsana communis*). Other weed seeds were those which exist in waste ground. These included stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), small nettle (*Urtica urens*), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), common/spear-leaved orache (*Atriplex patula/prostrate*), campion (*Silene* sp.), black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), dock (*Rumex* sp.), charlock (*Sinapis arvensis*), black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*), dead-nettle (*Lamium* sp.), thistle (*Cirsium/Carduus* sp.), prickly sow-thistle (*Sonchus asper*) and stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*). There were also a large amount of water flea eggs (*Daphne* sp.). A single charred free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum sensu lato*) grain was present. The plant seeds with a definite habitat here all point to damp ground, possibly with the contents of the feature being filled with water, which at some point must have been stagnant due to the presence of the water flea eggs. There is also some indication of woodland.

<5>, (060), organic pit fill, 100ml

This sample contained negligible amounts of water plants. These included bulbous/meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus* c.f. *bulbosus/acris/repens*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) and sedge (*Carex* sp.). There were also small to moderate amounts of seeds of plants of damp ground. These included chickweed (*Stellaria media*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra* type), and hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), also a woodland plant. Woodland plants included small to negligible amounts of wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and honeysuckle (*Loniera periclymenum*). Other weed seeds were generally those of waste ground and these included small to negligible amounts of corn buttercup (*Ranunculus arvensis*), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), common/spear-leaved orache (*Atriplex patula/prostrate*), campion (*Silene* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.), woundwort (*Stachys* sp.), red bartsia (*Odontites verna*), thistle (*Cirsium/Carduus* sp.), prickly sow-thistle (*Sonchus asper*) and stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*). There was also a single seed from swine-cress (*Coronopus squamatus*) which grows specifically on trampled ground. There were also small amount of charred free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum sensu lato*) and a charred stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) which may suggest that the charred wheat was grown on a heavy clay soil. Moderate amounts of water flea eggs (*Daphne* sp.) were present in this sample. This sample again is suggesting an immediate environment of water and woodland.

The next three samples were assessed in 5ml subsamples for further potential and the small amount and variety of plants may be a reflection of this.

<1>, (010), clayey pond, 5ml assessment

This sample was the least rich of all five samples taken. Little wood and comparatively few other plant remains were present. There were negligible to small amounts of water crowfoot (*Ranunculus* subg. BATRACHIUM), pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*). These are all plants which thrive in wet or damp environments. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) was also present which grows in scrub and forest areas. Small to negligible amounts of generic weeds of waste ground were also present. These included stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). The impression given by this sample is that of a damp or wet shady environment.

<2> (011) clayey pond, 5ml assessment

This sample contained negligible to small amounts of water loving plants. These included bulbous/meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus* c.f. *bulbosus/acris/repens*), water crowfoot (*Ranunculus* subg. BATRACHIUM), water-pepper (*Persicaria hydropiper*), fool's watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*), and spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.). There were also moderate amounts of pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*) which exists beside ponds, a negligible amount of chickweed (*Stellaria media*) which can exist in damp places and a large amount of hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) which grows in damp places and woods. This is again supported by the presence of moderate quantities of elder (*Sambucus nigra*) which can be found in a wood and a negligible amount of nipple-wort (*Lapsana communis*) which can be found on wood margins and

hedgerows as well as waste places. Also present were small to negligible amounts of weed seeds of waste ground. These included stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), small nettle (*Urtica urens*), campion (*Silene* sp.), and prickly sow-thistle (*Sonchus asper*), as well as a moderate amount of dock (*Rumex* sp.) some of which were still within their tepals. Again the impression of this sample is of a damp, shady, possibly wooded local environment. Also present in this sample were moderate amounts of water flea eggs (*Daphne* sp.). These only live in stagnant water, and so the immediate environment of this context is likely to have been stagnant water, suggesting that it is likely to have been water filled for at least some of its life and is likely to have been a pond. A single charred grain of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum sensu lato*) was present in this sample. This is also a very rich and varied sample and it would be useful to further investigate it.

<4>, (052), organic pit, 5ml assessment

Moderate quantities of hemlock were present in this sample. This is common in damp places, near water, and in woods. A negligible amount of elder was also present, again a possible woodland plant. All the other plants from this context were weeds of waste ground. There were moderate amounts of stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*). There were also small to negligible amounts of common/spear-leaved orache (*Atriplex patula/prostrate*) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). Again an impression of damp and shade is prevalent in this sample. This sample is rich enough to merit further investigation.

Conclusions

These samples all give a similar impression. Most of the contexts appear to have been ponds, or at least to have contained water which was there long enough to become stagnant. The only context which does not give this impression is (010) which, while it does contain a small amount of water plants, is not so rich in these as some of the other contexts. Similarly all but (010) are rich in woodland plants, and so it would appear that these contexts were surrounded by woodland. It may even be that it was full grown woodland, rather than successional scrubby vegetation, as there are none of the usual scrubby seeds present in these contexts such as bramble or dogwood. The presence of Honeysuckle in (012) and (060), which takes a long time to establish itself, and wood-sorrel in (060) further reinforce the suggestion quite well established woodland.

sample number		<1>	<2>	<3>	<4>	<5>
context		[10]	[11]	[12]	[52]	[60]
trench		Tr.3	Tr.3	Tr.3	Tr.3	Tr.3
description		clayey pond fill	clayey pond fill	organic pond fill	organic pit fill	organic pit fill
volume examined		5ml	5ml	100ml	5ml	100ml
sample volume/ litres				5		10
flot fraction examined		1/10	1/20	1/2	1/20	1/8
<i>Triticum aestivum sensu lato</i> grain	free-threshing wheat grain		c-	c-		c+
cereal indet.						c+
large <i>Ranunculus</i> c.f. <i>bulbosus/acris/repens</i>	c.f. bulbous/meadow buttercup		-	+		-
<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	Corn Buttercup					-
<i>Ranunculus</i> subg. <i>BATRACHIUM</i>	water crowfoot	-	-	+		
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	stinging nettle	-	+	+	++	+
<i>Urtica urens</i>	small nettle		-	+		
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	fat-hen	+		-	++	-
<i>Atriplex patula/prostrata</i>	common/spear-leaved orache			+	-	+
<i>Stellaria media</i>	chickweed		-	+		++
<i>Silene</i> sp.	campion		-	+		-
<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i>	pale persicaria	+	++	++		
<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	water-pepper		-	+		
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	knotgrass					-
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>	black-bindweed			+		
small <i>Rumex</i> sp.	small-seeded dock type	-	++	++	+	+
<i>Rumex</i> sp. tepal fragments			+			
small <i>Rumex</i> sp with tepal			+	+		
<i>Coronopus squamatus</i>	swine-cress					-
<i>Brassica nigra</i> type (coarse textured)	black mustard			+		+
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i> type (fine texture)	charlock			-		
<i>brassica</i> type seed-case				+		-
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	wood-sorrel					-
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	hemlock		++	+++	++	++
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	fool's watercress		-			
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	black nightshade			+		
<i>Stachys</i> sp.	woundwort					-
<i>Lamium</i> sp.	dead-nettles			-		
<i>Odontites vernus</i>	red bartsia					-
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elder	-	++	+++	-	+
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	honeysuckle			+		+
<i>Carduus/Cirsium</i> sp.	thistle			+		-
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	nipple-wort		-	-		
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	prickly sow-thistle		-	++		
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	stinking chamomile			-		+ c-
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.	spike-rush		+	-		
small trilete <i>Carex</i> sp.	sedge					-
small seed indet.				+		+
roots		++				
vegetative matter			+++	+++	++	+++
large wood > 4mm		-	++	+++	++	+++
med wood 2 - 4mm		+	+++	+++	++	+++
small wood < 4mm		++	+++		++	+++
catkin			-	+		-
bract				-		-
small charcoal (<2mm)				++	+	++
med. charcoal (2-4mm)				+		++
large charcoal (>4mm)				+		++
<i>Daphne</i> sp. eggs	water flea eggs		++	+++		++
intrusive seeds				+		

Table 1. Environmental sample results, ‘-’ 1 or 2 items, ‘+’ < 10 items, ‘++’ 10 – 50 items, ‘+++’ > 50 items, ‘c’ charred.

Appendix 3 - Context Descriptions

Context No.	f/c/l	Feature	Trench	Type	Description
1	1			topsoil	Dark brown silt
2	1			subsoil	Mid brown silt, frequent gravel
3	1		3	soil make up	Pale brown grey gravelly silt, moderate compaction, above layer (004)
4	1		3	dump layer	mid grey brown gravelly silt, brick, metal, glass and other modern rubbish, moderate compaction, above layer (008)
5	f/c		3	field drain	Mid brown silt, cut only partially visible, c. 0.25m wide and 0.25m deep.
6	1		3	redeposited natural	Pale orange brown redeposited natural gravelly sand, above fills (007) and (016)

7	f	4	3	pond	Mid brown sandy gravel lens, no finds, above fill (009)
8	l		3	soil make up	Bright red iron panned gravelly silt, above layer (006)
9	f	4	3	pond	Dark red brown gravelly sand, tile and bone, occasional cobble inclusions, loose compaction, above fills (010) and (011)
10	f	4	3	pond	Mid grey brown clay, no finds, no inclusions, firm compaction, above fill (014)
11	f	4	3	pond	Dark grey blue clay, several pieces of preserved wood, no inclusions, very wet, moderate compaction, above fills (012) and (014)
12	f	4	3	pond	Dark blue black organic sandy gravel, no finds, primary fill of [015]
13					Not Used
14	f	4	3	pond	Lens of redeposited natural gravel, primary fill of [015]
15	c	4	3	pond	Gradually sloping sides, becoming steeper, gradual break of slope, flat base, 5m+ x 1.25m+, 0.75m deep
16	f	15	3	pit	Redeposited natural gravel, no finds, above fill (017)
17	f	15	3	pit	Mixed patchy dark and pale brown clay with iron pan patches, pot and bone, moderate compaction, primary fill of [018]
18	c	15	3	pit	Gradually sloping sides, gradual break of slope, flat base, shallow side of pond, 5m+ x 1.25+, 0.45m wide
19	f	2	3	furrow	Dark brown silty clay, no inclusions, brick, loose compaction, fill of [020]
20	c	2	3	furrow	Gradually sloping sides, gradual break of slope, flat base, north-south linear, 1.18m wide, 0.06m deep
21	f	1	1	ditch	Dark green brown sandy silt, with occasional charcoal flecks, frequent pebble inclusions, compact and slightly cohesive, fill of [022]+F34
22	c	1	1	ditch	Steeply sloping southeast side, gradually sloping northwest side, non-perceptible break of slope, concave base, northeast to southwest linear, 0.90m wide, 0.24m deep
23	f	14	2	pit	Dark brown black sandy silt, occasional cobbles and pebbles, moderate compaction, fill of [024]
24	c	14	2	pit	Gradually sloping sides, gradual break of slope, concave base, oval, 0.90m x 0.50m, 0.15m deep
25	f	13	2	possible pit	Dark green brown sandy silt, with occasional charcoal and frequent chalk flecks, frequent pebble inclusions, bone, moderate compaction, fill of [026]
26	c	13	2	possible pit	Northwest side only visible, steeply sloping sides, sharp break of slope, flat base, 0.50m+ wide, 0.19m deep
27	f	12	2	gully	Dark brown sandy silt, occasional pebble inclusions, frequent chalk and occasional charcoal flecks, 1 pot sherd, moderately compact, fill of [028]
28	c	12	2	gully	Moderately steeply sloping sides, non-perceptible break of slope, curvilinear east-west/north-south, 0.25m wide, 0.13m deep
29	f	11	2	possible ditch	Pale green brown sandy silt, frequent charcoal flecks, occasional pebble inclusions, moderate compaction, fill of [030]

30	c	11	2	possible ditch	Very gradually sloping sides, concave, slightly uneven base, north-south linear, 0.30m + wide, 0.07m deep
31	f	1	3	gully	Dark grey brown silty clay, frequent gravel and pebble inclusions, pot, firm compaction, fill of [032]
32	c	1	3	gully	Steeply sloping sides, non-perceptible break of slope, concave base, north-south linear, 0.36m wide, 0.20m deep
33	f	1	3	gully	Dark grey brown clay, frequent pebbles and cobbles, pot and intrusive brick, firm compaction, fill of [034]
34	c	1	3	gully	Steeply sloping sides, non-perceptible break of slope, concave base, north-south linear, 0.40m wide, 0.21m deep
35	f	9	5	ditch	Mid brown, sandy silt with frequent pebbles, occasional charcoal and frequent chalk flecks, moderate compaction, fill of [036]
36	c	9	5	ditch	Steeply sloping sides, non-perceptible break of slope, concave base, northnorthwest-southsoutheast linear, 1.00m wide, 0.43m deep
37	f	8	5	ditch	Light brown sandy silt, occasional pebbles, fill of [038]
38	c	8	5	ditch	Gradually sloping sides, gradual break of slope, flat base, east-west linear, 0.75m wide, 0.27m deep
39	f	8	5	ditch	Pale yellow brown sandy silt, occasional pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks, pot, bone, flint and burnt stone, firm compaction, fill of [040]
40	c	8	5	ditch	Gradually sloping sides, gradual break of slope, concave base, 1.10m wide, 0.27m deep
41	f	7	5	pit	Mid brown sandy silt, occasional pebbles, occasional chalk flecks, loose-moderate compaction, fill of [042]
42	c	7	5	pit	Gradually sloping sides, slightly stepped on south edge, non-perceptible break of slope, concave base, 0.75m x 0.65m, 0.16m deep
43	f	10	5	ditch	Dark red brown sandy silt, moderate pebbles, pot, very dry, firm compaction, fill of [044]
44	c	10	5	ditch	Steeply sloping side, non perceptible break of slope, concave base, 0.62m + wide. 0.56m deep
45	f	10	5	ditch	Dark red brown sandy silt, frequent pebbles, pot and bone, very dry firm compaction, becoming less compact lower down, fill of [046]
46	c	10	5	ditch	Very steeply sloping sides, non-perceptible break of slope, concave base, 1m wide, 0.65m deep
47	f	6	5	ditch	Mid grey brown sandy silt, occasional pebbles, pot, firm compaction, fill of [048]
48	c	6	5	ditch	Gradually sloping sides, non-perceptible break of slope, concave base, 1.20m wide, 0.27m deep
49	l		3	dump layer	Mid orange gravel layer of redeposited natural, above layer (050)
50	l		3	dump layer	Dark grey brown sandy silt, frequent gravel and pebbles, brick, above layer (051)
51	l		3	dump layer	Mid grey blue ash, associated with rubbish dump, above fill (052)

52	f	3	3	pit/ditch	Dark green brown clay, frequent pebbles and cobbles, streaks of iron pan, charcoal flecks, moderate organic remains, pot, firm compaction, above fills (053), (057) and (059)
53	f	3	3	pit/ditch	Mid green grey clay, orange mottles, pot moderate compaction, above fill (054)
54	f	3	3	pit/ditch	Lens of redeposited natural gravel, above fill (055)
55	f	3	3	pit/ditch	Mid green grey clay, orange mottles, pot moderate compaction, above fill (056)
56	f	3	3	pit/ditch	Pale green gray sandy silt, no finds/inclusions, loose compaction, primary fill of [058]
57	f	3	3	pit/ditch	Mid orange brown mixed clay and natural sand, no finds/inclusions, primary fill of [058]
58	c	3	3	pit/ditch	Gradually sloping sides, non-perceptible break of slope, concave base, 4m wide, 0.85m + deep
59	f	3	3	pit/ditch	Dark grey black clay, no inclusions, preserved wood, occasional charcoal, bone, very wet, moderate compaction, above fill (060)
60	f	3	3	pit/ditch	Dark blue black organic silt, pot and preserved wood, loose compaction, above fills (061) and (062)
61	f	3	3	pit/ditch	Slumped redeposited dirty natural, only partially exposed
62	f	3	3	pit/ditch	Slumped redeposited dirty natural, only partially exposed
63	f	3	3	pit/ditch	Pale grey sandy gravel, no finds/inclusions, loose compaction, only partially exposed
64	f	5	4	possible pit	Light brown sandy silt, 90% pebbles and cobbles, very firm compaction, fill of [065]
65	c	5	4	possible pit	Only partially visible, possibly circular, 4m diameter

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