LAND AT 21 CHURCH ROAD
GREAT STUKELEY
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATION NOS:
24/01734/FUL AND 25/00394/FUL

OASIS REFERENCE: preconst1-532665
PCA REPORT NO: R18021
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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Land at 21 Church Road, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority:	**Huntingdonshire District Council**
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ABSTRACT

On the 7th and 8th of July 2025, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on a plot of land at 21 Church Road, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire. The work, which was instructed by Mr Andrew Greenland through the agency of Pegasus Group, was carried out to inform two separate planning proposals that have been submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council for the demolition of an existing building and erection of a replacement dwelling, and the construction of a new building in the northern part of the existing grounds.

In the trench in the northern part of the site, adjacent to the churchyard of St Bartholomew's, the evaluation revealed an undated ditch that could be a former field boundary of prehistoric, Roman or medieval date. Alternatively, it could be the continuation of the curving southern boundary of the churchyard, suggesting that the churchyard may once have been more extensive and that some of the land was later used as a plot for the Old Vicarage. A pit containing an 18th/19th-century horseshoe and a residual sherd of medieval pottery was investigated in the same trench as the ditch.

In the three trenches in the southern and south-eastern part of the site, the evaluation demonstrated that previous modern development had significantly truncated the original land surface, with part of the area having been graded and then raised with a layer of made-ground to provide a level building area. However, where remnant subsoil survived intact, no archaeological features were present. No evidence was encountered to suggest that the two water-filled ditches in this part of the site, as shown on historic maps from the late 19th century onwards, were the remains of a moated site. However they were not excavated during this program of work. They could be the remains of ornamental ponds, similar to the still extant rectangular pond in the grounds of the Old Vicarage immediately north of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 On the 7th and 8th of July 2025, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on a plot of land at 21 Church Road, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire (site centred on NGR TL 21629 74556; Fig. 1). The work, which was instructed by Mr Andrew Greenland through the agency of Pegasus Group, was carried out to inform two separate planning proposals that have been submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) for the demolition of an existing building and erection of a replacement dwelling, and the construction of a new building in the northern part of the existing grounds (HDC planning refs 24/01734/FUL and 25/00394/FUL respectively).

1.2 The applicant was advised to undertake the archaeological work by Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (CCCHET), providers of archaeological advice on planning matters in the county. This was in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework*, Section 16, paragraphs 202 to 221 (MHCLG 2024, since updated), as the site was considered to lie within an area of high archaeological potential, immediately adjacent to the medieval parish church and close to the historic core of the village, with Ermine Street, the Roman road from London to York, and at least two Scheduled Roman barrows lying less than 300m distant from the site.

1.3 The scope of the archaeological evaluation was outlined in a *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* issued by CCCHET (CCCHET 2025) and the methodology for the project was set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by PCA (PCA 2025). The evaluation, which was undertaken following the demolition of the existing buildings to slab level, was to have consisted of the excavation of 4no. 30m trial trenches (a total of 120 linear metres at 1.8m wide; Fig. 2), targeting areas that will be impacted by the proposed redevelopment; due to site constraints (a deep water-filled ditch), Trench 1 had to be shortened to 20m so the total amount of trenching was reduced to 110 linear metres.

1.4 All work relating to this project was carried out in accordance with the approved WSI (*ibid*.) and abided by *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2022), *Standard for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2023a) and *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2023b).

1.5 The project was managed in accordance with the Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE):*

Project Manager's Guide (HE 2015).

1.6 Following Transfer of Title, the site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Council's Archaeological Archive Facility. A summary of information from the project has been entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis, see Appendix 2).

2 SITE BACKGROUOND

2.1 Site location, topography and geology

2.1.1 The site is located in a residential area on the western edge of the Cambridgeshire village of Great Stukeley, which lies approximately 3km north-west of Huntingdon town centre (Fig. 1). The property comprises a roughly rectangular plot of land, *c.* 2.65ha in extent, with the house (Moat House, 21 Church Road) and a complex of outbuildings and garages occupying the north-east corner of the plot, the remainder landscaped with lawns, trees, an orchard and a pond. Only the site of the existing house and the land in northern part of the site (a total of *c.* 0.75ha) are covered by the planning applications and will be subject to redevelopment.

2.1.2 Topographically, the site is situated on a gradual, south-west facing slope overlooking the floodplain of Alconbury Brook, a tributary of the River Great Ouse, its confluence with which lies *c.* 4km to the south. Ground level within the part of the site that is to be redeveloped lies at between 30-35m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

2.1.3 The solid geology within the site consists of Jurassic mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation (BGS 2025). This is overlain by diamicton of the Oadby Member, a Quaternary glacigenic deposit characterised by Cretaceous and Jurassic rock fragments with subordinate lenses of sand and gravel, clay and silt.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

2.2.1 The following is a summary of records of archaeological sites and monuments within 1km of the development area held by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), as supplied with the *Design Brief* (CCCHET 2025). CHER references are given in parentheses.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

2.2.2 An archaeological investigation *c.* 900m south-east of the site identified the remains of a probable Middle Iron Age settlement (MCB19111; Philips 2009). It featured enclosure ditches as well as evidence for a roundhouse, consisting of two curved ditches, daub fragments and non-metallurgical ash suggesting a burned-down roundhouse. The presence of two possible waterholes was another indication of prehistoric occupation. The pottery found on site was also of domestic nature.

Roman (AD 43-AD 410)

2.2.3 Ermine Street, the Roman road from *Londinium* (London) to *Eboracum* (York), passes

through Great Stukeley and comes within 300m of the site (CB15034).

2.2.4 Two Roman barrows, both of which are scheduled monuments, are located adjacent to Ermine Street, near the centre of the village. One is located *c.* 290 east of the site and consists of a small, round tumulus, with a shallow depression in the centre of the mound and a surrounding ditch (02591; Scheduled Monument ID 1018973). The second barrow, which is located *c.* 180m north-west of the first, consists of a large mound with a diameter of 23m and height of 3m, surrounded by a shallow ditch that is cut by the road (02592; Scheduled Monument ID 1018972).

2.2.5 Roman coins are reported to have been found in the vicinity if the site (02558).

Anglo-Saxon and medieval (AD 410-1485)

2.2.6 The church of St Bartholomew, which is located immediately north of the site, has rubble walls with oolite dressings; the roofs are covered with tiles and lead (CB14991). There was an earlier church on the site, and from a number of fragments of Norman stone found in the walls during a modern restoration it appears to have been of 12th-century date. To this church a north aisle with an arcade of four bays was added about the middle of the 13th century. Shortly after a south aisle with a four bay arcade was built; at the same time the chancel was rebuilt. About 1300 the north aisle was rebuilt and considerably widened, and the east and west bays of the north arcade probably rebuilt. In the 15th century the chancel arch was rebuilt, the middle part of the south wall of the south aisle appears to have been rebuilt and the south porch added, though this was partly rebuilt or altered in the 17th or 18th century. The west tower was built late in the 15th century but a difference between the walling of the upper and lower stages suggests that the work was not all carried out at the same time. The clerestory to the nave is about the same date or a little later. In 1909-10 the church was completely restored; work then done included the stripping of the modern internal wall-plaster and the rebuilding of most of clerestory south wall with old material. The south porch was restored in 1913 and the south part rebuilt.

2.2.7 Medieval gravestones have been recorded in the graveyard of the church (02557).

2.2.8 In 2008, an evaluation *c.* 600m east of the site provided evidence for small scale occupation activity, dated to the late 11th century (MCB18131; Lyons 2008). The area contained the well-preserved remains of medieval ridge and furrow, which sealed the features in the southern part of the site. The southernmost trench revealed a substantial sequence of deposits and shallow grooves, suggesting the presence of a hollow way with cart tracks at right angles to Ermine Street. Other features were

recorded in this part of the site, including a beam slot, a posthole and a pit containing charcoal, providing evidence of small scale occupation. A single fragment of human skull was also recovered, possibly from a disturbed or truncated Roman burial in the vicinity of the two Roman barrows.

2.2.9 Remnants of ridge and furrow ploughing of medieval date have been identified from LiDAR images and from aerial photographs *c.* 600m north of the site (08740) and *c.* 100m to the south (CB15503).

2.2.10 In 2013, an archaeological evaluation of land between 4 and 10 Ermine Street, *c.* 300m east of the site, revealed a single posthole with some sherds of Late Saxon pottery and a drainage ditch backfilled during the early 20th century (MCB20088; Pilkington 2013).

2.2.11 At 67 Ermine Street, an open area excavation revealed four north-west to south-west aligned ditches and a number of pits and postholes. Pottery dating to the 11th century was recovered from one of the ditches. The postholes were in three groups. Close by Posthole Group 2 was a possible beam slot. All the postholes were undated with the exception of two, one of which contained a Late Saxon pottery sherd and the other a 12th-century sherd (MCB20151; Upson-Smith 2011).

2.2.12 In Stukeley Park, *c.* 800m north-east of the site, earthworks shown on aerial photographs may be the remains of a medieval manor or other farming settlement (09294). The site appears as a large rectangular platform abutting the present lane. This is surrounded by a possible moat on three sides and there is a single large rectangular sunken area to the south which may be the remains of a fishpond. The extensive earthwork remains of ridge and furrow ploughing can be seen throughout the park. A distinct hollow way can be seen extending across the park from the southern side of the earthworks, north-west to the southern side of Stukeley Hall where there are possible traces of a few platforms of village remains. The hollow way can be traced south-east of the possible manor site as a green lane skirting Green End.

2.2.13 Cropmarks shown on aerial photographs reveal a large rectilinear enclosure, a number of smaller enclosures and associated linear features, possibly connected with medieval settlement at Owl End, *c.* 900m north-eat of the site (MCB20013).

Post-medieval to modern (1485-present)

2.2.14 An L-shaped earthwork located in the eastern part of the site, which is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of *c.* 1885 and on LiDAR imagery of the area, is likely to be associated with an ornamental pond, although they could be the remains of a post-medieval moat (MCB30822).

2.2.15 The village of Great Stukeley contains a great many post-medieval buildings and monuments of historical interest, a number of which are Listed.

2.2.16 The park and gardens of Stukeley Park, a post-enclosure park associated with Stukeley Hall, are located *c.* 600m north-east of the site (12102).

2.2.17 Manor Farm, which is located *c.* 300m north-east of the site, is a 17th-century two-storey farmhouse with a timber-framed and weatherboarded barn, probably of early 18th-century date, to the south (02704).

2.2.18 At Cartwrights Farm, *c.* 1km north-east of the site, is a dovecote of possible 18th-century date. The square building is built of gault brick and has a peg-tiled, saddle back roof (10369).

2.2.19 The airfield of RAF Alconbury is located to the north of the village (CB15126). Built in 1938 as a satellite for RAF Wyton, the airfield initially had three runways. Until 1942, it was the base for 15, 40 and 156 Squadrons of the Royal Air Force. In 1942 the airfield was expanded to a 200ha. site, the length of the runways was increased, and 26 hardstanding loops were added. In 1943 a Strategic Air Depot was built on the east side of the site in the village of Little Stukeley, including engineering workshops and extra hardstanding. From 1942 onward the site was used by the 8th United States Army Air Force. The 93rd bomber group flying B-24 Liberators were the first American Unit at the base, from September to December 1942; they were followed by the 92nd Bombardment Group, nicknamed "Fame's Famous Few", operating B-17 Flying Fortresses. For a short time between April and June of 1943 they were joined by the 95th Bomber Group. On 27th May 1943, as aircraft were being armed, there was an accidental detonation of some of the 500 pound bombs, which killed and injured a number of men and destroyed or damaged 15 aircraft. In September 1943 the 92nd moved out to be replaced by 482 Bombardment Group's pathfinders, operating Flying Fortresses and Liberators. From March 1944 they concentrated on testing and training with radar devices. The depot to the east side of the site was run as a separate station by 2nd Strategic Air Depot. After World War Two the base continued to be used by the United States Air Force (Europe), flying F-4 Phantoms in the 1970s.

2.2.20 In 2024, an archaeological evaluation of the farmyard at Washingley Farm, *c.* 900m east of the site, identified a number of ditches and pits of 19th to 20th-century date, along with a Victorian structure shown on historic Ordnance survey maps that measured approximately 3.4m long by 1.2m wide (MCB33000; Thompson 2024). Although medieval pottery was recovered from a pit, it was considered residual as later

post-medieval finds were also recovered.

Undated

2.2.21 Approximately 750m north-east of the site, a rectilinear mound of unknown date is shown in the grounds of Stukeley Park on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of Huntingdonshire dated to 1885 (02573), adjacent to another undated mound considered to be a building platform (02582).

2.2.22 Two areas of possible archaeological features are visible on aerial photographs *c.* 1km south-east of the site (MCB16939). The complexes comprise ditches on a common alignment and are thought to be pre-medieval in date. A concentration of ditch-type anomalies were detected in this area by a gradiometer survey, suggesting a series of enclosures. Within the enclosures, several pits and short ditch-type anomalies were also evident.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The aim of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (PCA 2025, 10), was to assess the archaeological potential of the site by trial trenching. This was achieved through the identification, sample excavation and recording of archaeological remains encountered by the evaluation and determining their extent, date, character and state of preservation. The results of the evaluation will assist CCCHET in determining the nature and extent of any mitigation works that may be required.

3.2 Soil samples were to have been taken for assessment, primarily to establish the palaeoenvironmental potential of the site but also to gain an insight into the range of activities (i.e. domestic, industrial, agricultural) that were undertaken at the site in the past. However, no deposits suitable for sampling were encountered.

3.3 To determine the significance of the results of the evaluation in a local, regional and national context (as appropriate), reference has been made to the East Anglian regional research agendas in the East of England Regional Research Framework (https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 The evaluation, which was undertaken following the demolition of the existing buildings to slab level, was to have consisted of the excavation of 4no. 30m trial trenches (a total of 120 linear metres at 1.8m wide; Fig. 2), targeting areas that will be impacted by the proposed redevelopment; due to site constraints (a deep water-filled ditch), Trench 1 had to be shortened to 20m so the total amount of trenching was reduced to 110 linear metres. Trench 3 had to be moved slightly from its approved position due to the presence of an ornamental pond that is to be retained as part of the redeveloped site. The trenches were distributed within the footprints of the proposed dwellings in order to provide a representative sample of the development area.

4.2 Survey and machine excavation

4.2.1 The trenches were largely set out in accordance with the approved trench plan using a Geomax Global Positioning System (GPS), with slight changes to their locations made to avoid trees and piles of rubble. Prior to machine excavation, the locations of each trench were scanned with a CAT (Cable Avoidance Tool) to check for services.

4.2.2 Using an 8-tonne tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, the overburden was removed in level spits down to the surface of the geological substrate or first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. Topsoil and subsoil/modern made-ground were kept separate and stored in temporary bunds adjacent to each trench.

4.2.3 Exposed archaeological features and deposits were cleaned using hand tools to define their boundaries and extent within the trenches. Limits and locations of all trenches, pre-excavation and post-excavation plans of archaeological features and heights above Ordnance Datum were recorded using a Geomax GPS.

4.2.4 Following sign-off by CCCHET, the trenches were simply backfilled, topsoil uppermost, and tracked in by the machine.

4.3 Recording and sampling

4.3.1 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA *Operations Manual I: Fieldwork Induction Manual* (Taylor and Brown 2018). All archaeological features and deposits were sufficiently excavated to fulfil the project aims stated in Section 3 above.

4.3.2 Drawn records were in the form of survey plans and section drawings of all excavated archaeological features at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50), while all individual deposits and cuts were recorded using PCA's tablet-based digital recording system linked to a Geographical Information System (QGIS) that was used to interrogate the data.

4.3.3 Cameras with an APS-C or larger sensor and with a resolution of no less than 18 megapixels were used. Images are of archival quality, non-proprietary RAW (.DNG) or .TIFF files. Suitable horizontal and vertical scales were used as appropriate. Digital photographs were taken of all trenches and deposits.

4.3.4 Linear features were investigated by means of slots excavated across their width and measuring at least 1m in length, positioned to avoid areas of intercutting/disturbance in order to provide uncontaminated finds assemblages. A minimum of 10% of each linear was excavated. Discrete features such as pits and postholes were at least 50% excavated and when considered appropriate 100% excavated.

4.4 Environmental sampling and finds

4.4.1 Deposits were assessed in accordance with *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (EH 2011). No deposits suitable for sampling were identified.

4.4.2 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (CIfA 2020; Brown *et al*. 2016).

4.5 Metal detecting and Treasure

4.5.1 Prior to the mechanical excavation of the trenches, the area of each trench was scanned using a metal detector. Once the trenches were open, the spoil heaps and any features exposed in the trenches were scanned for finds. The metal detector was not set to discriminate against iron.

4.6 Monitoring visits

4.6.1 A monitoring visit was held on Tuesday 8th July 2025, with Lu Speariett (CCCHET), Rebecca Ward (Pegasus) and Simon Carlyle (PCA) in attendance.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper archive

Context register sheets	1
Section register sheets	1
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	2
Photo register sheets	1

5.2 Digital archive

Digital photos	19
Digital context sheets	9
Digital trench record sheets	4
GPS survey files	1
Digital plans	1
GIS project inc all context and trench data	1
Access database	1

5.3 Physical archive

Metal objects	1
Animal bone	20

6 EVALUATION RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A post-medieval pit and an undated ditch were revealed in Trench 4, which was located in an orchard next to the churchyard (Fig. 2); the pit contained an 18th/19th-century horseshoe, and the ditch yielded a small assemblage of horse and cattle bone.

6.1.2 Trenches 1 to 3 were located within the footprints of the recently demolished buildings and established that this area had been heavily truncated by previous development of the site. There was evidence to suggest that the land in this area had been partly terraced, and the ground level raised with a layer of made-ground. No archaeological features were encountered in these trenches and there were no artefacts in the excavated deposits.

6.1.3 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with full context details and trench information presented in Appendix 1.

6.2 General stratigraphy

6.2.1 In Trenches 1-3 the geological substrate (3), which was often extensively truncated, was encountered between 0.34-1.13m below ground level (bgl) (31.45-32.22m aOD) and consisted of firm, dark grey clay with frequent chalk inclusions. Remnant subsoil (2), consisting of mid brown silty clay, was recorded in these trenches, although in Trenches 2 and 3 it was intermittent and had largely been truncated by past development of the area. The topsoil (1), where present, consisted of soft, dark brownish grey clayey silt, often mixed with or sealed by demolition rubble; it was largely redeposited and had been disturbed by recent demolition activity.

6.2.2 In Trench 4, the geological substrate (3) was encountered at 0.9m bgl and consisted of firm, dark grey clay with frequent chalk inclusions. The overlying subsoil (2) was firm, mid greyish brown silty clay and was 0.3m thick. The topsoil (1) was soft, dark brownish grey clayey silt with a thickness of 0.3m.

6.3 Trench 1

6.3.1 Due to the presence of a deep, water-filled ditch, Trench 1 was reduced in length to 20m, with 10m removed from its northern end (Figs 2 and 4; Plate 1). The geological substrate (3), which was encountered at a depth of 0.86m bgl (32.02m aOD), was overlain by subsoil (2), which was *c.* 0.3m thick. This in turn was overlain by remnant *in situ* topsoil (1), approximately 0.5m thick, the upper part of which had been disturbed by recent demolition works, with a thin layer (*c.* 0.1m thick) of rubble left on the surface.

No archaeological features were encountered in this trench.

6.4 Trench 2

6.4.1 In Trench 2, which was located at the southern edge of the site (Fig. 2), the geological substrate (3) was encountered at approximately 0.4m bgl (*c.* 31.45m aOD). The surface of the geological substrate and remnant subsoil (2) was recorded at the eastern end of the trench, but along its greater part the geological substrate had been truncated and was overlain by redeposited topsoil and building rubble, suggesting that this area had been graded and ground level raised with made-ground when the site was originally developed (Plate 2). The concrete footings and foundation trenches of demolished buildings were recorded in the central and western parts of the trench. No archaeological features were encountered in this trench.

6.5 Trench 3

6.5.1 The sequence of deposits encountered in this trench was broadly the same as that recorded in Trench 2, with the geological substrate (3) extensively truncated and overlain by deposits of made-ground and rubble (Plate 3). The geological substrate was encountered at approximately 0.95m bgl (*c.* 31.70m aOD). The concrete footings and foundation trenches of a number of walls were recorded in the central and southern parts of the trench and at its southern end were the remains of a possible basement that would have been within one of the recently demolished buildings. No archaeological features were encountered in this trench.

6.6 Trench 4

6.6.1 In Trench 4, which was located in the orchard at the northern end of the site, the geological substrate (3) was encountered at a depth of between 0.41-0.92m bgl (32.70-33.24m aOD) (Fig. 3; Plate 4).

6.6.2 Near the centre of the trench was ditch [6], which was aligned north-west to south-east, measured 0.83m wide by 0.45m deep and had steeply sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 3, Section 1; Plate 5). Its fill (5) consisted of extremely hard mid greyish brown clay that contained fragments of animal bone.

6.6.3 Immediately east of the ditch was pit [9], which extended beyond the limits of the trench to the north and south. It measured over 2.0m long by 4.0m wide by 0.76m deep and had moderately steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 3, Section 2; Plate 6). Its basal fill (8), which was up to 0.39m thick, consisted of firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions. The upper fill (7), which was up to 0.27m thick, consisted of

hard, mid greyish brown silty clay, from the surface of which was recovered a hand-forged horseshoe dating to the 18th to 19th century and a residual sherd (1g) of medieval pottery.

7 FINDS

7.1 Medieval pottery *by Berni Seddon*

7.1.1 A single (1g) abraded body sherd of Stamford ware (STAM), which has a patchy, thin, external glaze, was recovered from fill (9) of pit [7] in Trench 4. The sherd, which is residual, has a date range of AD 875-1200, but probably dates to the 11th to 12th century AD.

7.2 Iron horseshoe *by Thomas Lucking*

7.2.1 A single iron horseshoe in two refitting pieces was recovered from fill (9) of pit [7] in Trench 4. It is of post-medieval form, probably of 18th- or 19th-century date. It measures 95mm long, 94mm wide, 12mm thick and weighs 139.3g. As a single object it provides limited insight into historic activities on site but does suggest the context from which it was recovered is of post-medieval date.

7.2.2 No further work is recommended. This object is of low archaeological value, for which this report provides sufficient record, and may be discarded.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

8.1 Animal bone *by Tess Townend*

Introduction

8.1.1 Trial trenching yielded 20 bone fragments, which reduced to four specimens after refitting. The material was recovered from the fill (5) of undated ditch [6] in Trench 4. Horse and cattle were the only identified species. This section details the assessment of these faunal remains, their analytical potential, and presents any recommendations.

Methodology

8.1.2 All animal bone was collected by hand. It was identified and recorded to species level where possible, using Schmid (1972) for mammals, in addition to an in-house reference collection. Fracture type was described after Outram (2001).

8.1.3 The recorded attributes included species, bone portion, condition, taphonomy, fusion, pathology and anthropogenic modifications. Attempts were made to refit elements within contexts, and the total number of fragments were documented.

Assemblage description

8.1.4 All material derived from the fill (5) of undated ditch [6] in Trench 4 (Table 1). Twenty bone fragments were recovered, consolidating into four identified specimens after refitting. Horse and cattle were the only identified species. Horse was represented by an incomplete left metatarsal, displaying an impact scar and new breaks. Cattle remains included an incomplete left metacarpal, and the distal portions of both left and right humeri, the right bearing three chop marks.

Table 1: Summary of animal bone specimens (NISP) recovered by the evaluation

Species	Bone	Portion	Side	Specimen	Fragments	Preservation
Horse	Metatarsal	Proximal	Left	1	10	Poor
Cattle	Metacarpal	Proximal	Left	1	5	Poor
Cattle	Humerus	Distal	Left	1	4	Poor
Cattle	Humerus	Distal	Right	1	1	Poor

Conclusions

8.1.5 Given the small overall NISP (number of identified specimens), the Great Stukeley

assemblage is not analytically significant. The small quantity of the recovered assemblage suggests that further excavation may not reveal more than a minor collection, suggestive of poor potential.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Situated immediately adjacent to the medieval parish church and churchyard of St Bartholomew and close to the historic core of the village of Great Stukeley, the site was considered to have a high archaeological potential. Furthermore, with Ermine Street, the Roman road from London (*Londinium*) to York (*Eboracum*), and at least two Scheduled Roman barrows lying less than 300m distant from the site, it was also considered likely that Roman remains could be encountered by the trenching.

9.2 Despite this potential, the evaluation revealed few features of archaeological intertest, and these were solely located in Trench 1, the trench nearest to the churchyard. An undated ditch near the centre of this trench may be a former field boundary, potentially of prehistoric, Roman or medieval date, as map evidence shows that prior to modern development of the site, this corner of Great Stukeley was open farmland (https://www.oldmapsonline.org). However, it is worth noting that if the alignment of this ditch is projected to the south-east (Fig. 2), albeit with a very slight curve, it would join up with the existing curving boundary on the south side of the churchyard, which raises the possibility that the churchyard was once more extensive and consisted of a sub-circular enclosure, possibly of some antiquity. The abrupt change in direction of the modern curving boundary on the south side of the churchyard at its south-west corner (not to mention the relatively small size of the modern churchyard) suggests that this may be the case; land that may have once formed the western end of the churchyard may have been used to provide a plot for the Old Vicarage.

9.3 The other feature encountered in Trench 4 was a relatively large, flat-bottomed pit, situated immediately adjacent and to the east of the ditch mentioned above. From the surface of the uppermost fill of this pit was retrieved an 18th to 19th-century horseshoe and a residual sherd of 11th to 12th-century pottery. The full extent and purpose of this feature is unknown.

9.4 In the area of the recently demolished buildings in the southern and south-eastern part of the site, the evaluation demonstrated that previous modern development of the site had resulted in significant truncation to the original land surface, with the foundation trenches of concrete footings and possible basements cutting into the geological substrate. Furthermore, in Trenches 2 and 3 the surface of the geological substrate appeared to have been graded, and ground level built up with a deposit of made-ground, in places up to 1.13m thick. However, remnant subsoil deposits were recorded in this area and no archaeological features were encountered beneath this horizon, so

it is unlikely that archaeological remains, had they been present, were removed by past development of the site in areas where the subsoil was not present.

9.5 No evidence was encountered to suggest that the water-filled ditch to the north of Trench 1 and that on the eastern edge of the development area, as shown on historic maps from the late 19th century onwards, were the remains of a moated site. They are more likely to be the remains of ornamental ponds, similar to the still extant rectangular pond in the grounds of the Old Vicarage immediately north of the site.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank Mr Andrew Greenland for commissioning and funding the project and Lu Speariett of CCCHET for monitoring the work on behalf of Huntingdonshire District Council.

10.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Thomas Learmonth (Project Supervisor), Gary Smith and Fin Thompsett. This report was written by Thomas Learmonth, with specialist contributions by Berni Seddon, Thomas Lucking and Tess Townend, and the figures were prepared by Ramon Navas. Finds processing was coordinated by Sîan O'Neill and QGIS support was provided by Valerio Pinna. The project was managed for PCA by Simon Carlyle and for Pegasus by Rebecca Ward.

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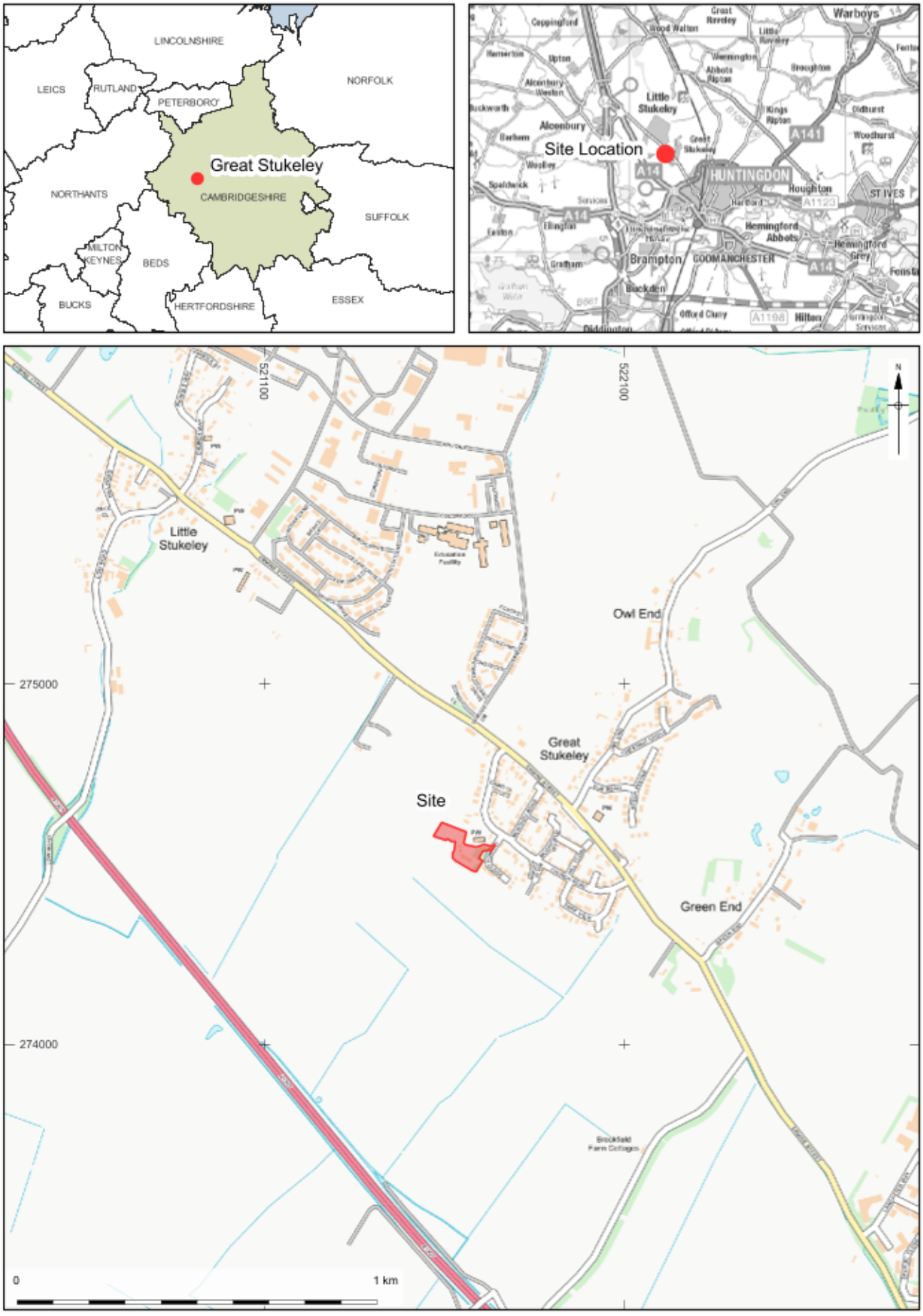
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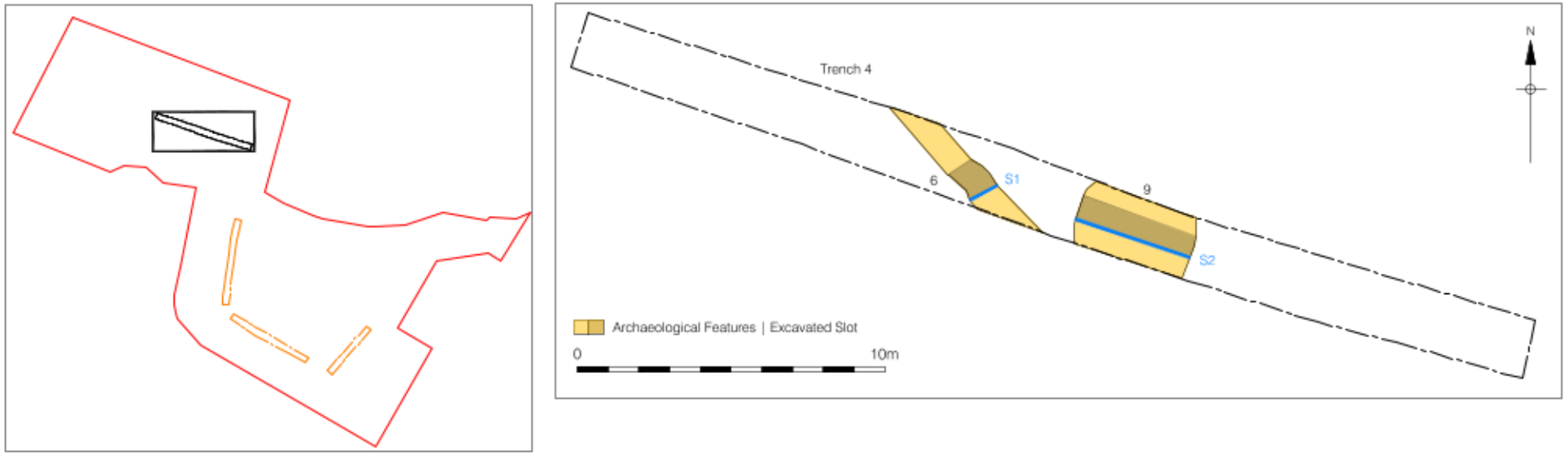
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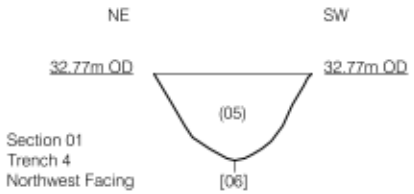
Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000, 1:250,000, 1:15,000 at A4

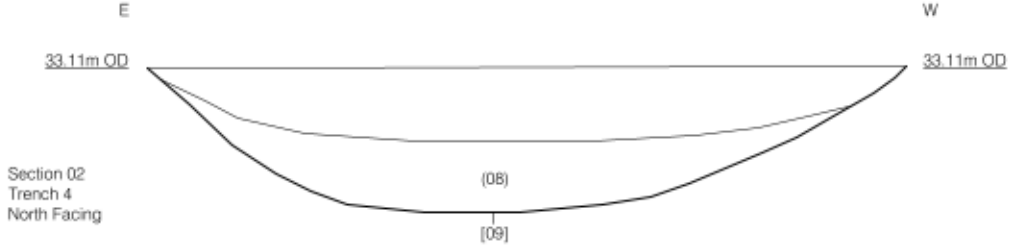


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Figure 2
Detailed Trench Location
1:1,250 at A4









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Figure 3
Trench 4, Plan and Sections
Inset 1:2000, Plan 1:200, Sections 1:40 at A4



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Figure 4
Site Plan Overlying the OS Six inch, Huntingdonshire, Sheets XVII.NE/XVIII.SW, 1902
1:1,250 at A4

PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north-east



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking north-west



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking north



Plate 4: Trench 4, looking north-west



Plate 5: Trench 4, Ditch [6], looking south-east



Plate 6: Trench 4, Pit [9], looking south-west

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DETAILS AND CONTEXTS INDEX

Trench Number	Alignment	Length (m)	Max Machine depth (m)	Topsoil thickness End 1 (m)	Subsoil thickness End 1 (m)
1	N-S	20	1.2	0.6	0.2
2	SE-NW	30	1.3	0	0.3
3	N-S	30	0.97	0.28	0.7
4	E-W	30	0.97	0.3	0.4

Context No	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Description
1			Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.3	Soft dark brownish grey clayey silt
2			Layer	Subsoil	0	0	0.3	Hard mid greyish brown silty clay
3			Layer	Geological substrate	0	0	0	Hard dark greyish grey clay with chalk inclusions
4			Layer	Layer	0	0	1	Loose light yellowish yellow brick and sand rubble
5	6	4	Fill	Ditch	1	0.83	0.46	Compact mid greenish grey clay with occasional chalk
6	6	4	Cut	Ditch	1	0.83	0.45	Linear, steep sides, concave base and NW-SE aligned
7	9	4	Fill	Pit	1	4	0.38	Hard mid - brown clay
8	9	4	Fill	Pit	1	4	0.38	Hard mid - brown clay with frequent deposits of chalk
9	9	4	Cut	Pit	1	4	0.76	Not visible, moderate sides, flat base

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS Summary for preconst1-532665

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-532665
Project Name	21 Church Road, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
Sitename	21 Church Road, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire
Sitecode	ECB7573
Project Identifier(s)	ECB7573
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	24/01009/FUL & 24/01010/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	07-Jul-2025 - 08-Jul-2025
Location	21 Church Road, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire NGR : TL 21629 74556 LL : 52.35558188569821, -0.215506796328102 12 Fig : 521629,274556
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Cambridgeshire Local Authority District : Huntingdonshire Parish : The Stukeleys
Project Methodology	The evaluation, which was undertaken following the demolition of the existing buildings to slab level, was to have consisted of the excavation of 4no. 30m trial trenches (a total of 120 linear metres at 1.8m wide), targeting areas that will be impacted by the proposed redevelopment; due to site constraints (a deep water-filled ditch), Trench 1 had to be shortened to 20m so the total amount of trenching was reduced to 110 linear metres.
Project Results	the evaluation revealed an undated ditch that could be a former field boundary of prehistoric, Roman or medieval date. Alternatively, it could be the continuation of the curving southern boundary of the churchyard, suggesting that the churchyard may once have been more extensive and that some of the land was later used as a plot for the Old Vicarage. A pit containing an 18th/19th-century horseshoe and a residual sherd of medieval pottery was investigated in the same trench as the ditch. In the three trenches in the southern and south-eastern part of the site, the evaluation demonstrated that previous modern development had significantly truncated the original land surface, with part of the area having been graded and then raised with a layer of made-ground to provide a level building area. However, where remnant subsoil survived intact, no archaeological features were present. No evidence was encountered to suggest that the two water-filled ditches in this part of the site, as shown on historic maps from the late 19th century onwards, were the remains of a moated site. However they were not excavated during this program of work. They could be the remains of ornamental ponds, similar to the still extant rectangular pond in the grounds of the Old Vicarage immediately north of the site.

Keywords	Rubbish Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Boundary Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Horseshoe - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Pot - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Private or public corporation Mr A Greenland
HER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Simon Carlyle
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECB7573
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeological Store; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

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