LAND SOUTH-WEST OF GREEN END, GREAT STUKELEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Land South-West of Green End, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Excavation

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ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. carried out an archaeological excavation on the land South-West of Green End Road between 24th and 30th April 2024. The work was commissioned by Geoff Beaver in response to a planning condition for the proposed residential development of the site. The investigations comprised two small excavation areas mirroring the footprints of the proposed bungalows.

While located adjacent to Ermine Street, which originated in the Roman period, an evaluation of the site in September 2023 had revealed a small number of features containing exclusively Anglo-Saxon pottery.

The excavation revealed further ditches, pits and an irregular 'depression' with a dump of cobbles at one end. One of the ditches was a multi-period boundary ditch with possible enclosures on its northern side. The ditches and pits contained small, abraded quantities of St Neots ware, dating to AD875-1100 and medieval pottery with a date range of AD1050-1400 (average 1-4 fragments), animal bone and evidence for cereal cultivation and/or processing near the site.

Great Stukeley originated as a dispersed settlement in the medieval period and was made up of several 'Ends': Church End, Owl End and Green End. The features revealed during the excavation are likely to represent activity peripheral to settlement at Green End.

The multi-period boundary ditch on Area 2 may have originated in the Late Saxon period, however, this is based on very few sherds of pottery, and it is possible that the date of this ditch is exclusively post-medieval with residual earlier sherds. The ditch matches with field boundaries shown on the 1816 Inclosure Map and Ordnance Survey maps from the late 19th century onwards. However, an earlier origin of the boundary cannot be discounted.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) on land at the proposed development south-west of Green End Road, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire, (NGR TL 22363 74236) between 24-30 April 2024.

1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr. Geoff Beaver in response to a planning condition attached to 2no. detached dwellings with attached carports and site access at land south-west of 10 Green End Road, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire (Planning Reference: 22/00810/FUL). This was in line with *National Planning Policy Framework* 2023, Section 16 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'.

1.3 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by PCA in September 2023 (Pedro 2023) and revealed four possible ditches containing Late Anglo-Saxon Pottery. The archaeological features were significant enough to warrant further work.

1.4 The excavation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by PCA in response to a Brief for Archaeological Investigation issued by Simon Wood of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET 2024).

1.5 The fieldwork and post-excavation assessment and analysis adhered to the approved WSI, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, revised 2019) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014b), the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

1.6 This Archive Report contains the complete and final results of the programme of post-excavation analysis and research carried out on the site archive.

Upon approval of this report by the client and CHET, the project archive will be archived with Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Stores and the Archaeology Data Service. A copy of the approved report will be uploaded to OASIS, the online system for reporting investigations into the historic environment and linking research outputs and archives.

2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Site Location

2.1.1 Great Stukeley lies north-west of Huntingdon and approximately 3.2km to the east of the A1, and Green End is a small hamlet at the southern edge of Great Stukeley (Figure 1). The proposed development site occupies a roughly rectangular area on the corner of Green End and Ermine Street. Ermine Street lies on the south-west, and Green End to the north-west. To the east lie fields, and private residences to the north.

2.2 Geology

2.2.1 The geological substrate is Oxford Clay Formation, while the superficial deposits comprise Oadby Member diamicton (BGS 2023). The investigations confirmed the natural geological deposits to be patches of sandy and silty clay, confirming the geological survey maps.

2.3 Topography

2.3.1 The elevation of the site is flat and varies between c.38m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and c. 39m aOD. The north half of the site lies at 39m aOD and slopes down towards the south to a level of c.38m aOD. The site covers an area of approximately 0.3ha.

2.3.2 The site is heavily wooded around all sides with the exception of the eastern edge which borders onto the residential property of 10 Green End. The small centre is rough grassland including a pond and a mature willow tree.



3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1.1 The following archaeological background is taken from the evaluation report (Pedro 2023) for the site and informed by Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER) data provided with the brief (CHET 2024).

3.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

3.2.1 A trial trench evaluation of the site was undertaken in September 2023, excavating two trenches focussed on the footprints of the proposed bungalows. The evaluation identified features, at this stage interpreted as ditches, dated exclusively to the late Saxon/early medieval period. All features contained small quantities of St Neots ware, dating to 875-1100AD.

3.3 Undated

3.3.1 Cropmarks of unknown date have been identified in Great Stukeley through aerial photography (MCB16939). Two areas of possible features are visible, comprising ditches on common alignment assumed to be pre-medieval, but not confirmed through further investigation. A gradiometer survey suggested a series of enclosures might be present here. More cropmarks were also identified that revealed a ridge and furrow system of unknown date (MCB23695).

3.4 Bronze Age to Iron Age (c. 2500–100 BC)

3.4.1 Approximately 1km south south-west of the proposed development site, Bronze Age features were identified (MCB16363, MCB16362). A 50ha site revealed four concentrations of archaeological remains that included a series of parallel ditches, linear features, and intercutting pits. Some features contained late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pottery and flint waste flakes. The remains were suggested to represent a trackway or field system.

3.4.2 An evaluation west of Ermine Street revealed a prehistoric ring ditch containing no finds, but likely to date to the later Bronze Age (MCB16365).

3.4.3 Excavations relating to development at Ermine Business Park identified Middle Iron Age settlement (MCB19110, MCB19111). The excavations

identified two areas: one industrial in nature, and the other domestic. Among the evidence were industrial pits containing slag, smaller pits possibly used for water heating, and a probable prehistoric field system. The settlement area contained enclosure ditches with a possible roundhouse. Two potential water holes were also identified, along with domestic pottery.

3.5 Roman (c. AD 43–410)

3.5.1 The location of the site is noteworthy as it lies adjacent to the major Roman road of Ermine Street (CB15034), and there is a possibility that an additional road running between Leicester and Huntingdon also lay just 400m to the south-west and joined Ermine Street a short way south of the proposed development site (MCB30156). As such, numerous Roman entries are listed on the HER. Adjacent to Ermine Street and 525m and 715m north-east from the development site are two Roman burial mounds, both Scheduled Monuments (NHLE 1018972, 1018973). Roman coins were found in a field adjacent to the Leicester to Huntingdon Road (CHER 02558).

3.5.2 To the west of Ermine Street and c. 850m SSW of the development site, among other undated features, two Roman ditches were identified (MCB16366). Adjacent to this, traces of a square enclosure were evidenced on aerial photographs from the 1990s, which subsequent gradiometer survey confirmed, with an additional smaller square enclosure to the north-east. Further pit-type features and some linear anomalies were also identified (MCB16364).

3.5.3 A strong Roman presence was identified on the edge of Huntingdon in 2021 during archaeological work relating to the development of a new fire station and St John Business Park c. 1km SSE from the development site (MCB31911). Numerous features were identified, including one enclosure and a drip gully possibly offering evidence for a structure. Four distinct phases were identified running from the 1st century AD through to the 4th century AD. Roman ditches were also identified at an adjacent excavation on the same site (MCB31912).

3.6 Saxon and early Medieval

3.6.1 Late Saxon to early Medieval activity was recorded c. 350m north-west of the site at 67 Ermine Street (MCB18131 and MCB20151) where evaluation provided evidence of small-scale occupation dating to the immediate post-conquest period. Medieval ridge and furrow features sealed other deposits. Additional evidence in the form of a holloway with cart tracks was observed. A beam slot, posthole, and pits were also observed, along with fragments of human skull.

3.6.2 A single Saxon posthole with pottery was identified during trial trenching at 4-10 Ermine Street c. 600m NNW of the development site (MCB20088).

3.7 Medieval and Post-Medieval

3.7.1 The medieval period in the Stukeley area is well-represented on the HER. Medieval gravestones are recorded approximately 800m north-east of the site. In addition to this, there are numerous records of ridge and furrow (CHER 08740; 08747; MCB18216; MCB20150; MCB23366) and earthworks (CHER 09294) within a 1km radius.

3.7.2 The post-medieval period is primarily represented through standing buildings, and through records associated with Stukeley Park (CHER 12102), although further ridge and furrow from this period has been recorded also (MCB17445).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 All aspects of the investigation has been conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (2019), the Standard for Archaeological Excavation (CIfA 2023a), Universal Guidance for archaeological excavation (CIfA 2023b), Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003) and Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE 2015).

4.1.2 The archaeological excavation comprised two areas, mirroring the footprints of the proposed two bungalows. The combined excavated area measured 476sqm (Figure 2).

4.1.3 After discussions during the evaluation phase, tree clearance was arranged for the excavation areas and proposed stockpile locations. Tree clearance to ground level was undertaken by the client prior to the start of the works. Debris from this activity was moved by the 14t 360° excavator.

4.1.4 The tree stumps were removed during the mechanical stripping of the site under archaeological supervision. Where significant roots could not be removed by machine they were removed by the archaeologists with hand tools. This led to a heavily disturbed site with a large amount of remaining smaller roots. The roots were across the south-west of Area 1 and across the entirety of Area 2. The removal of tree stumps did not affect any archaeological features.

4.1.5 During the excavation heavy rainfall caused significant flooding with surface water c.150mm deep. Where possible this was removed via mechanical pump. The water caused significant saturation of the ground and constrained the placement of excavation sampling.

4.2 Excavation methodology

4.2.1 Ground reduction during the excavation was carried out under archaeological

supervision using a 14 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.

4.2.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

4.3 Recording and Finds Recovery

4.3.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Geomax GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better

4.3.2 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on PCA's bespoke digital recording system, based on terminology defined in PCA's Fieldwork Manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). Data was downloaded, mapped and interrogated with the aid of a Geographical Information System (QGIS).

4.3.3 Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. Where more than one slot was excavated through an individual feature, each intervention was assigned additional numbers for the cutting event and for the deposits it contained (these deposits within cut features being referred to here as 'fills'). The record numbers assigned to cuts, deposits and groups are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits excavated during the evaluation and excavation are listed in Appendix 1. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of

the deposit from which they were retrieved.

4.3.4 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector periodically. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.

4.3.5 Cameras with an APS-C or larger sensor and with a resolution of no less than 10 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, archaeological features and deposits.

4.4 Sampling Strategy

4.4.1 Discrete features were half-sectioned, photographed and recorded by a cross-section scaled drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20).

4.4.2 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 to provide uncontaminated finds assemblages within the constraints of group conditions caused by site flooding. Slots were also positioned at feature intersections to determine relationships in section with the aim to assist with phasing the site as required in consultation with the project manager and site supervisor.

4.5 Environmental Sampling

4.5.1 A total of 1 bulk sample (20L) were taken to extract and identify micro- and macro-botanical remains. The aim of this sampling was to investigate the past environment and economy of the site, the diet of the ancient inhabitants and the agricultural basis of the settlement. An additional aim of the sampling was to recover small objects that are not readily recovered by hand-collection, such as metalworking debris and bones of fish and small animals. This sample was taken from sealed deposits of which few were identified due to the heavily disturbed nature of the site.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper Archive

Context register sheets	3
Plan registers	0
Section register sheets	2
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	15
Trench record sheets	0
Photo register sheets	2
Small finds register sheets	0
Environmental register sheets	1

5.2 Digital Archive

Contexts	XXX
Digital photos	107
GPS survey files	41
Digital plans	1
GIS project	1
Access database	1

5.3 Physical Archive

Pottery	31 fragments/356g
Animal bone	25 fragments
Marine Shell	0
Explosive Shell (unretained)	1
Environmental bulk samples	1

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The excavated areas revealed a series of ditches, postholes and pits and a large depression, most of which extended beyond the excavated area (Figure 3). The main excavated feature was a multi-period boundary ditch on Area 2, the depression of which was still visible in the landscape beyond the excavated area. The features are discussed in chronological order in the following text.

6.2 Overburden and Natural Geological Deposits

6.2.1 Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by a layer of dark blackish brown, silty loam topsoil (2001) 0.30m deep, overlaying a mid-brownish grey, silty clay subsoil (2002) 0.30m deep.

6.2.2 The natural geological deposit (2003) consisted of a light yellowish grey clay with chalk inclusions.

6.3 Natural Features

6.3.1 The excavation areas previously being wooded meant there were a large number of tree and root disturbances. Some of the features were investigated to determine whether they were of archaeological or natural origin. Features of natural origin were not recorded.

6.4 Late Anglo-Saxon/'Saxo-Norman' (AD 850-1140)

6.4.1 The earliest ditch in a possible multi-period boundary ditch on Area 2 may date to the Late Saxon period. Ditch [2036] was 1.3m wide and 0.2m deep with one fill (2037), comprising firm mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small sub rounded stones (Plate 7). The fill contained 4 fragments (21g) of Late Saxon pottery.

6.4.2 A smaller ditch extended northwards perpendicular from the boundary ditch. This was excavated as Ditch [106] in evaluation Trench 2 and Ditch [2029] in Area 2 (Plate 4). Ditch [2029] was located at the southern end of Area 2 and

visible for a length of 6.7m. It was 1.24m wide and 0.18m deep with moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. It contained one fill (2028), a firm mid brownish grey silty clay, which contained no finds. The ditch is phased to the late Anglo-Saxon period on the basis that it forms the continuation of Ditch [106] in evaluation Trench 2.

6.4.3 Ditch [106] had a linear shape, aligned NNE to SSW, with moderately sloping sides and concave base. It measured 4.5m long, 0.62m wide and 0.13m deep. It contained one fill (105) which was compact, mid- grey clay, in which 4 fragments (92g) of Late Saxon St. Neots ware pottery, one fragment of animal bone and a single fragment of native oyster shell (1.5g) were identified.

6.4.4 Several smaller features were located north of the boundary ditch. These comprised a short length of ditch [2007], elongated pits [2005/2009] and [2011] in Area 1, features [110], [112] and [104] in the evaluation trenches, and posthole [2017] on Area 2 (Plate 3, Plate 5). All features had brownish grey, silty clay fills. Segment [2005] of elongated pit contained 4 fragments (2g) of Late Saxon pottery.

6.4.5 Sample <1> taken from pit [2005] contained a large quantity of charred cereal grain, frequent charcoal fragments and a small amount of charred vetch seedlings. The presence of vitrified material may suggest burning at extremely high temperatures, so it is possible that the fill represents waste from a hearth.

6.4.6 Feature [104] had been described as a ditch in the evaluation report (Pedro 2024) but is more likely to represent a pit (Plate 6). Pits [110], [112] and [104] contained 1 fragment (5-11g) of Late Saxon pottery each.

6.4.7 Ditch [2007] was on an east-west alignment and exposed for a length of 5m and extended beyond the western limit of excavation. It was 0.8m wide and 0.18m deep with a brownish grey silty clay fill (2006) with no finds. It was phased to the Late Saxon period on the basis of adjacent features. It may have formed a small enclosure together with ditch segments [106] and [2029].

6.4.8 Posthole [2017] measured 0.44m in diameter and 0.16 in depth with a firm mid brownish grey silty clay fill (2016), containing 2 fragments (7g) of Late Saxon pottery. It is unclear whether this was a posthole or a small pit.

6.5 Medieval (AD 1140-1485)

6.5.1 The second iteration of the large boundary ditch is represented by Ditch [2038] which measured 1.2m wide and 0.6m deep (Plate 8). Its fill (2037) was a firm mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small, sub angular stones. It contained 1 fragment (7g) of medieval pottery (AD1050-1150).

6.5.2 Ditch [2023] extended northwards perpendicular from Ditch [2038]. It was 0.88m wide and 0.38m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Plate 11). Its fill (2039) was a firm mid yellowish grey silty clay with occasional sub angular stones which contained 1 fragment (6g) of medieval pottery, dating from AD1150-1400.

6.5.3 The main medieval feature on Area 1 was a large infilled hollow, which was excavated by a machine cut slot [2025] and one hand-excavated slot [2032]. The feature was irregular in plan with irregular sides and base and measured c. 10m x 5m but extended beyond the limit of excavation in the south-west. Its mains fills (2030) and (2024) were a soft mid greyish brown silty clay. Upper fill (2031) was a thin spread of small flint cobbles at its northern edge, measuring 1.5m by 3m wide and 0.13m thick, possibly laid down to consolidate this edge (Plate 10). Fill (2030) contained 5 fragments (91g) of medieval pottery, ranging in date from AD1050-1250 to AD 1175-1400.

6.5.4 Pit [2019] was located at the southern end of the depression. It was 1.6m in diameter and 0.84m deep with a firm dark brownish grey silty clay fill (2018) with no finds.

6.5.5 Ditch [2015] measured 0.33m wide and 0.1m deep and extended for 5m across the site extending beyond the limit of excavation in the north-east. Its fill (2024) was a mid- brownish grey silty clay with no finds. It most likely represents a drainage ditch into the depression.

6.5.6 Pit [2013] truncated ditch [2015] (Plate 12) and measured 1m diameter and 0.26m deep with a firm mid brownish grey silty clay fill (2012) which contained 1 fragment of medieval (AD1050-1250) pottery.

6.5.7 Ditch [2027] was a short length of ditch, extending beyond the limit of excavation in the south-west. It was exposed for a length of 2m, extending beyond the limit of excavation in the east. It was and 0.9m wide and 0.42m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill (2026) was a firm mid brownish grey silty clay which contained 4 fragments (65g) of medieval pottery.

6.5.8 Ditch [2027] was parallel to the existing site boundary and may have formed an early plot boundary, or a small enclosure together with ditch [2015].

6.5.9 Feature [2021] was heavily disturbed by tree rooting and very little remained. It was 0.8m wide in but had been horizontally truncated by machining to 0.3m wide. It had gradual sides and a concave base and was 0.38m deep. Fill (2020) comprised brownish grey silty clay with no finds. This ditch was possibly a drainage ditch.

6.6 Post-medieval

6.6.1 The latest ditches in the multi-period boundary ditch on Area 2 were ditches [2041] and [2034]. Ditch [2041] was 0.88m wide and 0.6m deep with two fills (2039) and (2040), which were a brownish and orangey grey silty clay respectively and contained no datable finds. Fill (2039) contained four fragments of dog bones.

6.6.2 Ditch [2034] truncated the upper fill of Ditch [2041] and was 1.38m wide and 0.38m deep. Its fill (2033) was a brownish grey silty clay which contained a post-19th century shotgun cartridge that was not retained.

7 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Pottery

Berni Sudds

7.1.1 A total of 24 sherds of post-Roman pottery were recovered from the mitigation phase, representing an estimated 20 vessels (ENV) and weighing 302kg. When added to the material recovered during the evaluation phase, this brings the site total to 31 sherds, weighing 356g (Sudds 2023).

Methodology

7.1.2 The fabrics were examined under x20 magnification and recorded using a system of mnemonic codes based on common name, following the type series for Cambridgeshire (Spoerry 2016). The forms were recorded in accordance with the Medieval Pottery Research Group's guide to the classification of forms (MPRG 1998). The pottery was recorded and quantified for each context by fabric, vessel form and decoration using sherd count, weight, estimated number of vessels (ENV) and estimated vessel equivalent by percentage rim present (REVE) in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Barclay et al (2016). An ACCESS database recording these attributes can be found with the site archive. A summarised catalogue of the pottery by context, including date ranges and suggested spot dates, is presented in Appendix 2 at the end of the report.

Assemblage chronology

7.1.3 The pottery types recovered from both phases of investigation range in date from the late 9th to the 14th century, with the majority of the small assemblage probably dated from the 10th or 11th to 13th century (Table 1).

Assemblage characterisation

7.1.4 With an average sherd weight of 11g the assemblage is in average condition for a rural site and demonstrates low to moderate levels of abrasion. Although small, there is a difference in degree of fragmentation between the pottery of Late Saxon and medieval date, with the former having an average sherd

weight of 5g and the medieval pottery an average weight of 19g.

7.1.5 St Neots-type ware (NEOT) is the single most numerous type in the small assemblage recovered from site and was also found in small quantities on a number of sites in Great Stukeley as well as representing a ubiquitous find on contemporary sites in surrounding region (CHER MCB18131; Blinkhorn 2011; Pilkinton 2014; Thompson 2019; Spoerry 2016, 30). The group from site is comprised largely of small, non-diagnostic body and base sherds but includes two jar rims, one everted and thickened and the second everted, slightly thickened and hollowed and a bowl or dish with a simple, tapering inturned rim. St Neots-type ware may have been in production prior to c.AD 900 but does not appear to have been in widespread circulation until the 10th century and continued through the 11th century, before developing into medieval shelly wares in the later 11th and early 12th century. There has been some suggestion that inturned bowl rims are more typically pre-conquest, but this cannot be substantiated, with examples still appearing on sites dated to first half of the 12th century (Slowikowski 2013; Hurst 1956, 46, 50, 53).

Phase	Date	SC	ENV	REVE	Weight
5.3	Late Anglo-Saxon	16	13	0.10	73
6	Medieval	14	13	0.21	272
-	Unphased	1	1	0.08	11

Table 1: Distribution of the pottery by phase. SC = Sherd count; ENV = estimated/ minimum number of vessels; REVE = Estimated vessel equivalent by percentage rim present; Weight in grams

Fabric code	Common name	Date range		SC	ENV	Wg	REVE
NEOT	St Neots-type ware	850	1150	17	14	84	0.18
HUNEMW	Huntingdonshire early medieval ware	1050	1200	1	1	15	-
DNEOT	Developed St Neots-type	1050	1250	4	3	65	0.04

	ware						
SCAMSW	South-West Cambridgeshire Sandy ware	1050	1250	3	3	93	0.17
DEST	Developed Stamford ware	1150	1300	1	1	6	-
LYVA	Lyveden A type shelly ware	1150	1400	1	1	6	-
HUNFSW	Huntingdonshire fen sandy ware	1175	1300	1	1	4	-
EAR	East Anglian redware	1200	1400	2	2	9	-
LYST	Lyvedon/ Stanion ware	1225	1400	1	1	74	-

Table 2: The pottery types. SC = Sherd count; ENV = Estimated number of vessels; Wg = Weight in grams; REVE = Estimated vessel equivalent by percentage rim present.

7.1.6 Pottery of early medieval date includes a small number of sherds of Developed St Neots-type ware (DNEOT), South-West Cambridgeshire Sandy ware (SCAMSW), Huntingdonshire Early Medieval Ware (HUNEMW) and Developed Stamford ware (DEST). The diagnostic sherds comprise a DNEOT carinated bowl or dish with upright, slightly thickened rim and two SCAMSW jugs dated to the 12th or early 13th century. Pottery dating from the later 12th or early 13th to 14th century includes single body sherds of Lyveden A type shelly ware (LYVA) and Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware (HUNFSW) and a couple of East Anglian redware (EAR) and Lyveden/ Stanion ware (LYST) jugs. As with the late Saxon pottery, the range of medieval types recovered can be well-paralleled locally and in the broader region (Lyons 2008; Blinkhorn 2011; Thompson 2019; Spoerry 2016, 41, 58).

Distribution

7.1.7 Pottery was collected from 12 individual features, including pits and ditches, with two sherds recovered from a post-hole and a handful of sherds from depression [2032]. All of these produced small assemblages containing 6 sherds or fewer. Post-Roman pottery was recovered from features attributed

to Phase 5.3 and Phase 6, with a single sherd collected from an unphased feature (Table 3).

Phase 5.3: Late Anglo-Saxon

7.1.8 Pits [104], [110], [112], posthole [2017] and ditches [106], [2005] and [2036] produced small assemblages of St Neots-type ware. On other sites in the village, principally to the north-west of the current site, the St Neots-type ware is associated with early medieval and medieval pottery, suggestive of a post-conquest date (Lyons 2008; Blinkhorn 2011; Pilkinton 2014; Thompson 2019; CHER MCB18131). The absence of later pottery alongside the St Neots-type ware, could indicate that activity was taking place on site, or in the near vicinity, during the 10th or 11th century. At 67 Ermine Street the paucity of late Saxon Thetford-type ware, a type also most prevalent during the 10th and 11th century in the region, was taken to suggest an absence of activity prior to c.AD 1100 (Blinkhorn 2011, 19). No Thetford-type ware was recovered from the site, but the proportion of St Neots-type ware in the current assemblage is greater than that observed in similar sized and larger assemblages from elsewhere in the village. The assemblage of unaccompanied St Neots-type ware is very small and not necessarily reliable, but potentially indicative of low-level late Saxon activity in the immediate area.

Phase 6: Medieval

7.1.9 Medieval pottery was recovered from ditches [2023], [2027], [2038] and pit [2013] and depression [2032]. The pottery from pit [2013] and ditches [2023] and [2038] is non-diagnostic and can only be broadly dated from mid-11th to mid-13th or the mid-12th to 14th century. The suite of fabrics in ditch [2027] and depression [2032] is suggestive of a mid-12th to mid-13th century and 13th century date for these features respectively.

Discussion

7.1.10 The small assemblage attests to the presence of Late Saxon and Medieval activity on site, potentially dating from the 10th or 11th to 13th century. The limited range of forms and presence of residues and sooting would be

consistent with domestic activity, but the small and fragmentary nature of the assemblage, dispersed as single sherds or in small groups with some evidence of abrasion, suggest the pottery is likely to redeposited. Taken together with the context of deposition, with the pottery recovered largely from agricultural and/or pastoral enclosure or field systems and features, suggest the site was probably peripheral to direct settlement.

Significance of the assemblage

7.1.11 The primary significance of the assemblage is in providing dating evidence for the features from which it was recovered and consequently contemporary activity in the immediate area. The assemblage is comprised of well-paralleled types and as small, fragmentary and dispersed has little intrinsic interest or further interpretative potential. No further work is recommended, and the assemblage is deemed suitable for discard.

7.2 Animal Bone

[redacted]

Introduction

7.2.1 A total of twenty-five fragments of animal bone (reducing to seventeen bone elements when refitted) were hand collected from a range of contexts during the evaluation and excavation. Material collected from the sieved residues (2mm and 10mm mesh sizes) of one environmental sample was also analysed. Material from the previous evaluation was also included. The catalogue is given in Appendix 3.

Method

7.2.2 The material was firstly sorted into recordable and non-recordable fragments and bones with fresh breaks were reassembled. Identification was aided by Schmid (1972) and Cohen and Serjeantson (1996) for birds.

7.2.3 The following were recorded for each element: context, anatomical element, taxa, proximal fusion, distal fusion, side, burning, butchery, pathology and erosion. Ribs and vertebra were recorded as horse, pig, dog, sheep size or

cattle size but not included in quantification as their multiple numbers introduce bias. Recording of fusion follows Silver (1969). Recognition and recording of butchery are after Binford (1981). The material was recorded onto an access database.

Condition of the bone

7.2.4 Fragmentation was high with 52.4% of long bones 25% or less complete. Bone surface condition was good with only a low level of erosion noted. Evidence for canid gnawing was observed on two bone fragments. Chop and knife marks were noted on two bones.

Distribution

7.2.5 Distribution of the assemblage is summarised below by period and in further detail in Table 3 and Table 4.

Late Anglo-Saxon

7.2.6 Material was recovered from the fills of ditches [2005], [2007] and [2036]. Further material was collected from pit [104] and ditch [106] during evaluation. Taxa were limited to cattle and pig; cattle size and sheep/goat size bone fragments were also present. Sample <1> provided the only wild taxa from the site, this was a snipe distal humerus. This small wading bird has long been hunted for both food and sport.

Medieval

7.2.7 Material came from a fill (2018) of pit [2019] and fill of depression [2032]. The small assemblage (6 elements) was limited to cattle/cattle size fragments and a horse distal metacarpal.

Post Medieval

7.2.8 Four fragmentary dog bones were observed from (2039) in ditch section [2040]. Epiphyseal fusion, where present, suggests the individual/individuals were over one year old at time of death. It is unclear if these represent the remains of a single animal.

Phase	Cattle	CSZ	SSZ	Pig	Horse	Dog	Total
Anglo-Saxon*	3	5	2	1			11
Medieval	1	4			1		6
Post-medieval						4	4

Table 3: Taxa by phase (MNE)

Sample	Context	Cut	Phase	CSZ	SSZ	Snipe	Total
1	2004	2005	5.3	3	5	1	9

Table 4: Taxa by sample, context, and phase (fragment count)

Key to tables: *includes material from evaluation, CSZ=cattle size, SSZ=sheep/goat size

Conclusion

7.2.9 The assemblage represents a small range of domesticated and wild taxa associated with the site. The paucity of material precludes further discussion.

7.3 Environmental Remains

[redacted]

Introduction

7.3.1 This report aims to summarise the findings from the assessment of a single bulk environmental sample taken during an archaeological excavation at Land at Green End Road, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire. The sample volume was 15 litres and was extracted from a Late Anglo-Saxon ditch [2005]. The results are catalogued in Appendix 4.

Aims

7.3.2 The aims of the report are as follows: 1- give an overview of the ecofacts and artefacts extracted from the samples; 2- evaluate the potential of the environmental remains and 3- to fulfil any recommendations for additional analysis.

Methodology

7.3.3 The sample was processed using a modified SIRAF floatation system; the flot residue was collected using a 300 µm mesh and the heavy residue, a 3mm mesh. After being left to dry naturally, the residue was sieved through 2mm, 5mm and 10mm sieves, and sorted to remove ecofacts and artefacts; material was recorded using a non-linear scale, as follows: 1- occasional (1-10), 2- fairly frequent (11-30), 3- frequent (31-100) and abundant (>100).

7.3.4 Macro-botanical identifications were carried out using standard reference catalogues (Jones, Taylor and Ash, 2004; Jacomet, 2006; Cappers, Bekker and Jans, 2012; Neef, Cappers and Bekker, 2012). The nomenclature for plant taxa follows Stace (1991). Terrestrial molluscs were identified using Kerney (1999) and Naggs et. al. (2014).

Preservation

7.3.5 The preservation of archaeobotanical remains in the Great Stukeley assemblage was through carbonisation. Wood charcoal, charred seeds and charred cereal grains were present.

Results

7.3.6 Charred cereal grains and seeds, were present in the sample taken during mitigation work at Great Stukeley. In the sample the charred archaeobotanical remains noted were fairly frequent to frequent in quantity. For the most part, the preservation of cereal remains was good, with a few grains/seeds being of such poor preservation that they were unidentifiable as anything other than charred grains. These specimens were generally distorted, which may indicate burning at extremely high temperature, or possibly even secondary burning of the material. The preservation of seeds was good, with the noted specimens being identifiable to family level, though the range of species was limited.

7.3.7 The most commonly occurring cereal was general wheat (Triticum sp.) and bread wheat (T. aestivum). A number of the bread wheat cereal grains

displayed characteristics of germination before burning, this being a deep dorsal groove. No chaff was present in this assemblage, so cannot be used to further these identifications. Barley (Hordeum vulgare) and rye (Secale cereale) were also present in smaller quantities.

7.3.8 Most of the charred seeds assemblage consisted of non-edible species, the majority being Stinking chamomile (Anthemis cotula) and common segetal weeds/grassland herbs- grasses (Poaceae sp.). Also present were charred legumes (Vicia) and mustard/cabbage (Brassica sp.) seeds.

7.3.9 Charcoal was common in the assemblage, and often highly fragmented in nature. A small number of specimens were of a size suitable for species identification (>4mm in all dimensions), though the quantities of this size were low. The sample also contained vitrified material which is likely to be organic matter that was burnt at extremely high temperatures.

7.3.10 Other plant macrofossils observed include low concentrations of modern plant material. These materials could suggest post-depositional disturbance of the contexts.

7.3.11 Other materials noted throughout were animal bone and pottery. These were passed on to specialists and included in their analysis.

Late Anglo-Saxon

Ditch- [2005] <1>

7.3.12 Charcoal was frequent in this sample, though most of the specimens belonged to the <4mm fraction, with fewer than 25 identifiable specimens present (>4mm in all dimensions). Small amounts of charred vetch/vetchling (Fabacaea sp.) seeds were also present, alongside a large quantity of charred cereal grains. The following cereals were recovered- 33 wheat (Triticum sp.) grains, 40 bread wheat (T. aestivum) grains and 19 sprouted bread wheat grains. The bread wheat grains which displayed signs of sprouting, may have undergone germination prior to charring. Also recovered were 6 barley (Hordeum vulgare) grains and 8 rye (Secale cereale) grains. 36 of the

specimens noted in this sample were identifiable no further than charred cereal grains.

7.3.13 The charred grains in the ditch are likely to represent a dump of hearth material. Other materials noted were small quantities of pottery and animal bone.

Discussion

7.3.14 The general trend for this site suggests that general wheat specimens and the naked wheat T. aestivum (bread wheat), appear to have been the dominant crops during the Late Saxon occupation of the site. Also present were small amounts of barley (Hordeum vulgare) grains and 8 rye (Secale cereale).

7.3.15 The preservation of material on this site is through charring, which often distorts the cereal grains and can cause difficulties in identifying the exact wheat type (Jones 1978). The morphology of chaff is specific to each cereal type and as such can be used to help determine species of the exact taxon of the general wheat specimens present; however, none of this material was noted on the site.

7.3.16 The presence of multiple cereal taxa in the sample is evidence for mixed cereal-based agriculture for this site, although it is not possible to establish whether these species were grown in the same fields as part of a crop rotation, or in different locations. Cereals can be utilised for a variety of purposes, including being part of an everyday diet for those who inhabit the site, or alternatively as fodder for domesticated animals kept on site. The wheat and barley may have been used in baking, as the grains can be ground down into flour (Stone, 2006).

7.3.17 A number of the grains and seeds in this assemblage were too damaged to be closely identified. Small fragments of tarry and vitrified material, which are likely to be the remnants of thermally altered organic matter, such as cereals and weeds, were also observed. These remains provide evidence for the combustion of botanical remains at high temperatures. As well as producing

less chaff than glume-wheats, experimental studies (Boardman and Jones, 1990) have shown that caryopses and chaff of free-threshing cereals distort and degrade more completely when burnt at higher temperatures, with fragile elements, such as rachis, being particularly susceptible to destruction. This may have resulted in chaff being under-represented in this assemblage in comparison to grains and more robust weeds.

Conclusion

7.3.18 Inclusion of cereals, such as wheat and barley, suggest low scale crop cultivation undertaken at the site during the Late Saxon occupation. There is little evidence to suggest function on site and whether day-to-day activity had a domestic or agricultural focus. The unidentifiable state of some of the archaeobotanical assemblage, alongside the presence of vitrified material, may suggest that some burning at extremely high temperatures was undertaken on site.

7.3.19 The presence of un-burnt plant material, roots and burrowing terrestrial molluscs, could indicate post depositional disturbance to the contexts.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The investigations at Green End, Great Stukeley revealed a small assemblage of Late Saxon and medieval features. The main feature was a multi-period boundary ditch, which may have originated in the Late Saxon period.

8.2 Late Saxon to 'Saxo-Norman' Period (AD 850-1150)

8.2.1 Late Saxon, or 'Saxo-Norman' features comprised a boundary ditch [2036] on an east-west alignment with a possible small enclosure represented by ditches [106] and [2029] extending northwards from the ditch. Alternatively, ditches [106], [2029] and [2007] may have formed their own enclosure, separate from the large boundary ditch.

8.2.2 A small number of smaller ditch segments and pits, most extending beyond the limit of excavation, were located north of the boundary ditch. Most of the features contained very small assemblages of 1-4 fragments of Late Saxon pottery. The Late Saxon pottery exclusively comprised St Neots Ware, which spans the period from the Late Saxon into the Norman occupation. Sudds in her report confirms that St Neots Ware was in production prior to c.AD 900 but does not appear to have been in widespread circulation until the 10th century and continued through the 11th century.

8.2.3 Sooting of sherds suggests a domestic function for the pottery. The animal bone and environmental evidence suggest butchery and consumption of cattle, pig, and sheep, with the addition of a small wild snape. What and barley may have been grown and processed in the vicinity. For all finds the scarce occurrence and fragmented nature of the material suggests deposition in secondary contexts and is an indicator of the features being at the edge of settlement

8.3 Medieval Period

8.3.1 The medieval period spans a pottery date range of AD1050-1400 showing an extended, continued activity on the site. The boundary ditch, represented by

ditch [2038] in the southern part of the site continued to be in use with a possible smaller enclosure [2023] extending to its north, reflecting a configuration of ditches and/or enclosures continuing from the Late Saxon period.

8.3.2 The main feature was depression or hollow [2025]/[2031] on Area 2 which would have held water due to the surrounding clay geology and may have been a water hole for grazing animals. Cobble layer (2031) on its northern edge may have been put down to consolidate this edge. A small ditch [2015] may have drained into it - or may have formed a small enclosure to its north-east, together with ditch [2027].

8.3.3 A very small assemblage of medieval pottery (1-4 sherds) and animal bone (6 fragments of cattle size) was retrieved from some of the features, others were phased to the medieval period by association.

8.4 Post-medieval Period

8.4.1 The main phase of the boundary ditch in the southern part of the site dates to the post-medieval period. The central and later re-cuts of the ditch [2041] and [2034] were the deepest, and the ditch is still visible as a depression in the landscape today, extending beyond the limit of excavation. The ditch contained no finds, with the exception of a shotgun cartridge in its upper fill.

8.4.2 Overlaying the site plan with the 1816 Inclosure Map (Figure 5) shows that the ditch could represent the boundary between the Trinity Hall and J. Heathcote fields in the corner of Ermine Street and Green End.

8.4.3 Sometime in the 19th century, the Trinity Hall and Heathcote fields were dissolved and replaced by a single, larger enclosure, marked 'Smithy' on the 1888 Ordnance Survey (OS) map (Figure 6). A former blacksmiths workshop (HER MCB25800) is marked at the corner of Ermine Street and Green End from the 1888 first edition OS map onwards. The southern arm of the 'Smithy' field may also match with the ditches on Area 2 and may replicate the earlier boundary between the Trinity Hall and J. Heathcote fields.

9 CONCLUSION

9.1 While located adjacent to Ermine Street, which originated in the Roman period, the site contained features dated exclusively to the late Saxon and medieval periods. All features contained small quantities of St Neots ware, dating to AD875-1100 and medieval pottery with a date range of AD1050-1400.

9.2 Great Stukeley originated as a dispersed settlement, being made up of at least two 'Ends', Church End, with the parish church of St. Bartholomew's, located c. 650m to the north-west, Owl End located c.1km to the north-east, and Green End, to the immediate north-east of the development site, which seems to survive only as a place or road name.

9.3 Two sites with late Saxon/early medieval features have been excavated and are located along Ermine Street as it moves towards Church End: Late Saxon to early Medieval activity in the form of medieval ridge and furrow sealing earlier deposits and additional evidence in the form of a holloway with cart tracks was recorded at 67 Ermine Street *c.* 350m north-west of the site (Lyons 2008). Four gullies, a beam slot, postholes, and pits along with fragments of human skull were revealed during further excavations at the same site (Upson-Smith 2011). A single Saxon posthole with pottery was identified during trial trenching at 4-10 Ermine Street (Pilkington 2013).

9.4 An evaluation on land south-west of November Cottage, directly across the road from the development site, revealed no archaeological remains (Jefferson 2020). HER data for land immediately adjacent to the development site in the south and east only records surviving remains of ridge and furrow agricultural earthworks.

9.5 The ditches and pits excavated at Green End Road only contained small, abraded quantities of pottery (1-4 fragments) and animal bone and are likely to represent peripheral activity adjacent to Ermine Street, which continued to be a main thoroughfare into the medieval and modern period but located

some distance from any Saxon settlement core. The features are likely to represent peripheral evidence of occupation at the 'Green End' part of Great Stukeley in the medieval period.

9.6 The Late Saxon origin of the boundary ditch on Area 2 is based on very few sherds of pottery (4 fragments of Late Saxon and 1 fragment of medieval pottery), and it is possible that the date of this ditch is exclusively post-medieval with residual earlier sherds. The ditch matches with field boundaries shown on the 1816 Inclosure Map and Ordnance Survey maps from the late 19th century onwards. However, an earlier origin of the boundary cannot be discounted.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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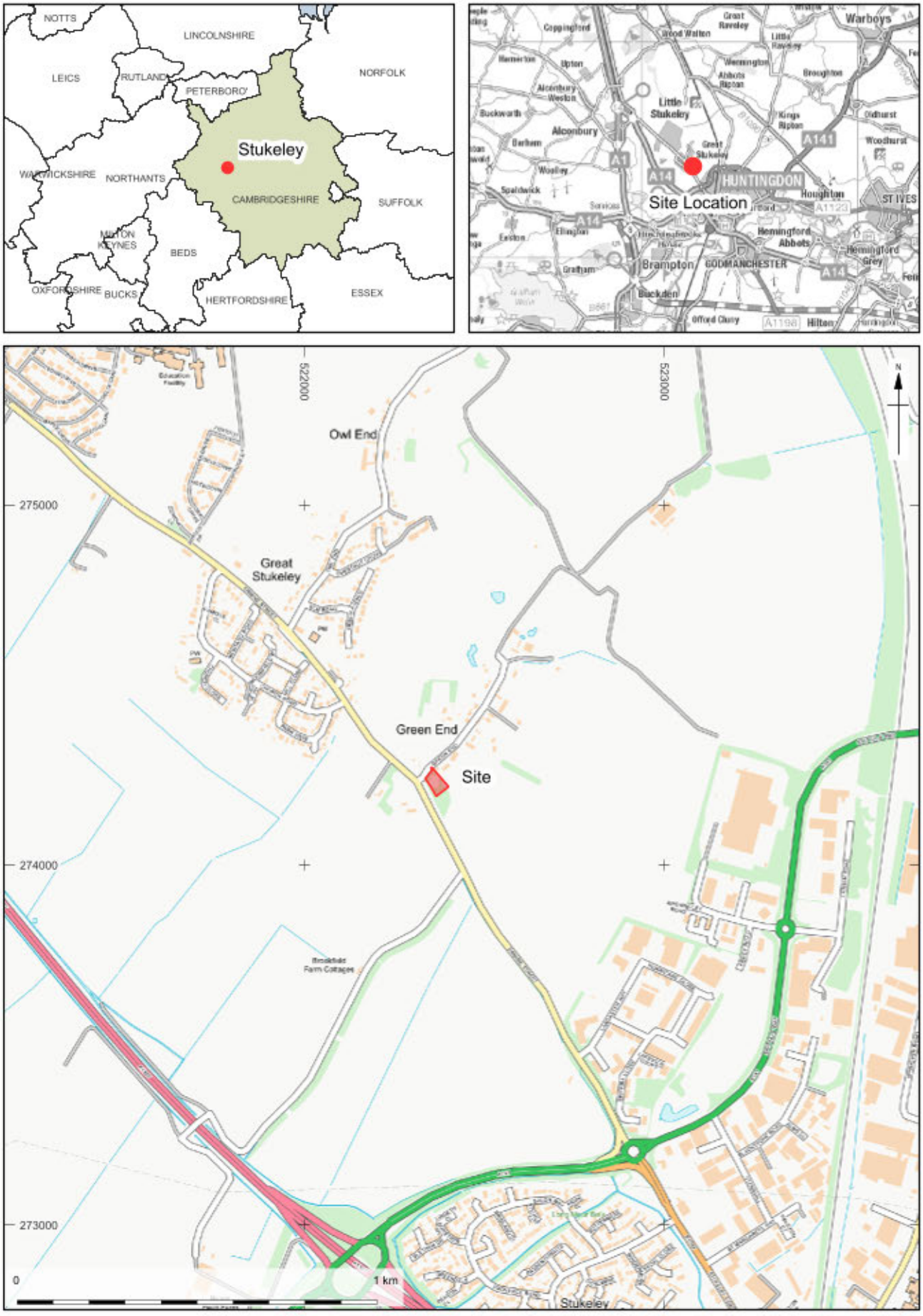
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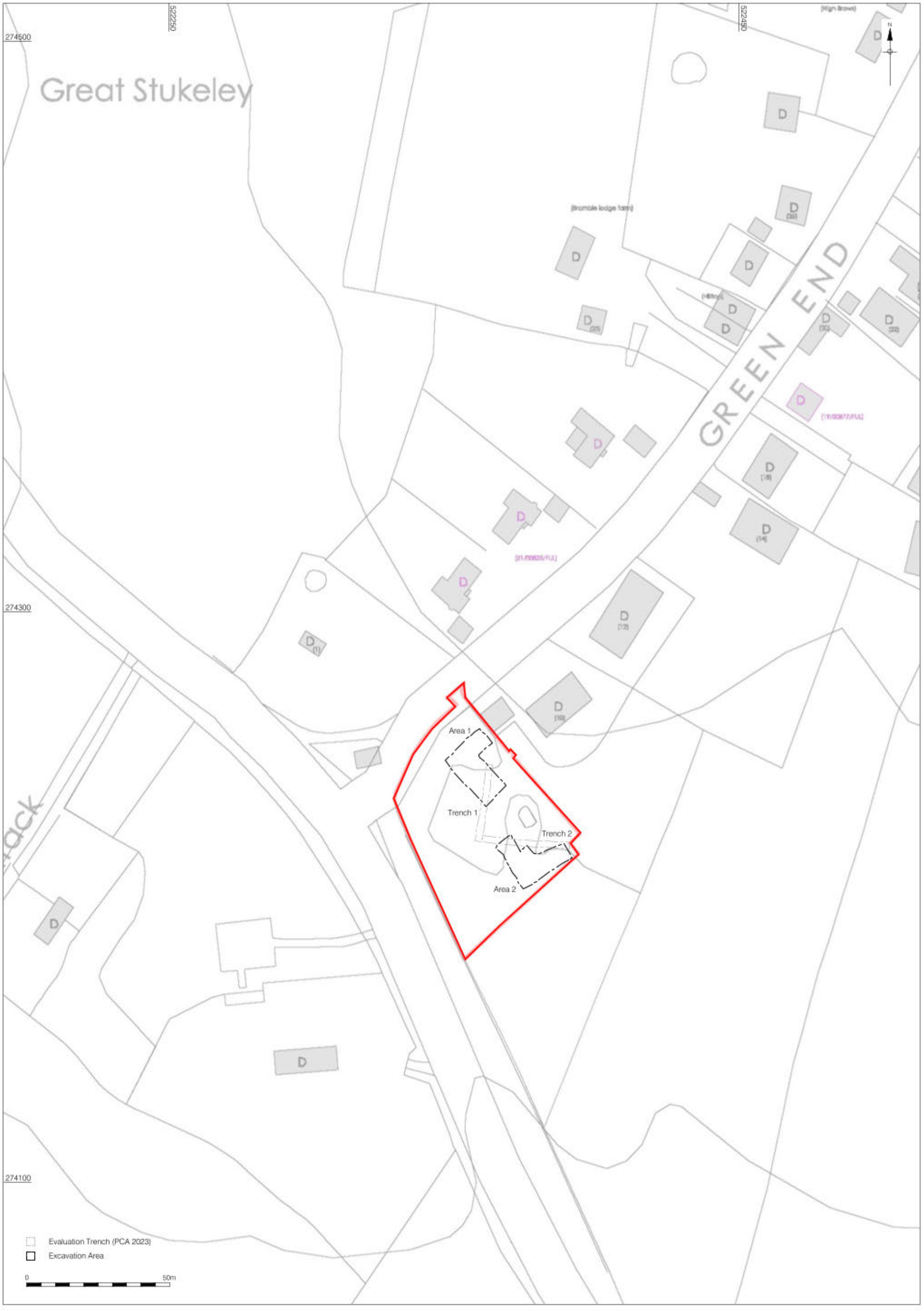
Upson-Smith, T. 2011 *Archaeological earthwork survey and excavation on land at 67 Ermine Street, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire: February-March 2011*. Northamptonshire Archaeology report no: 11/106

12 FIGURES



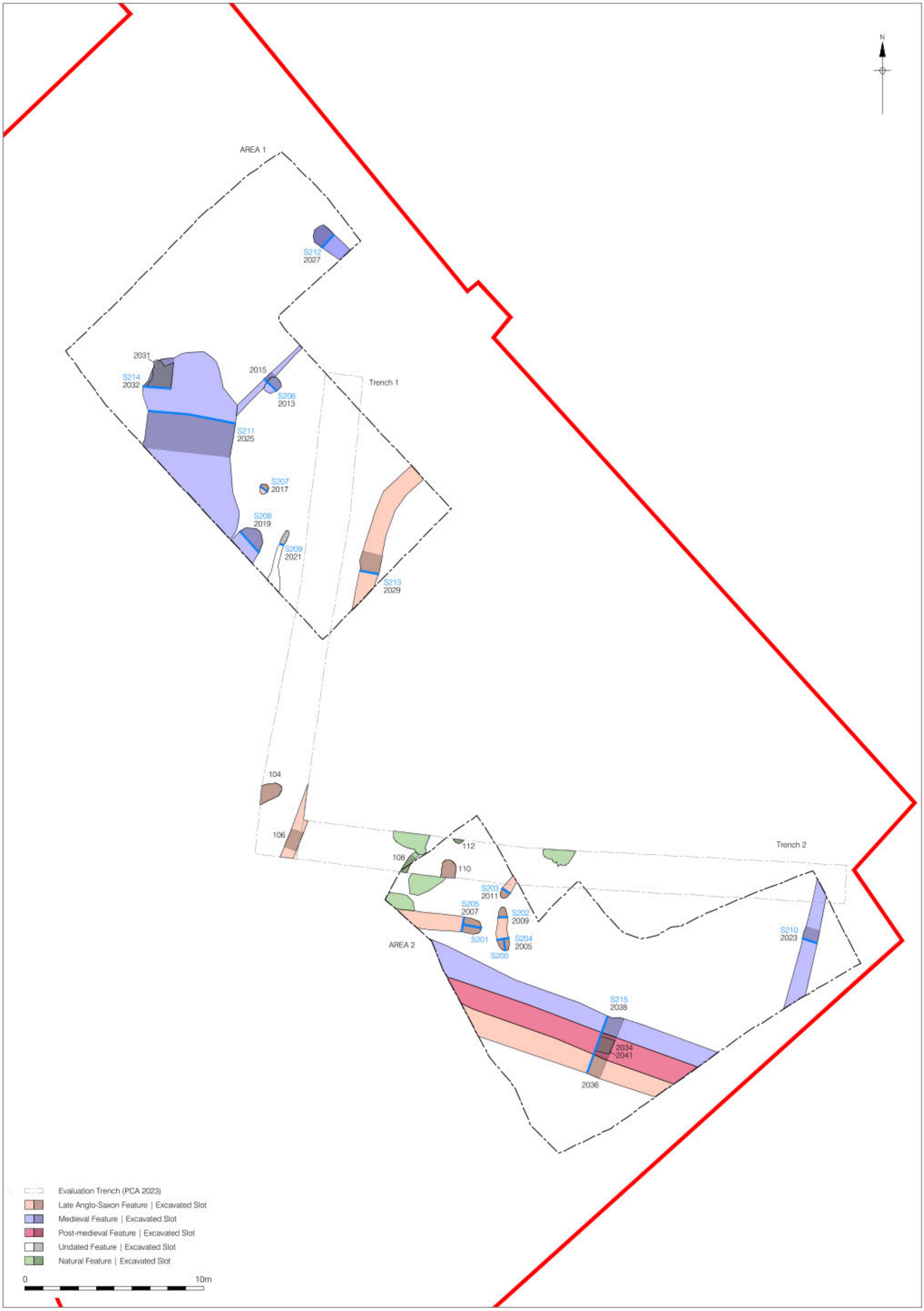
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Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000, 1:250,000, 1:15,000 at A4



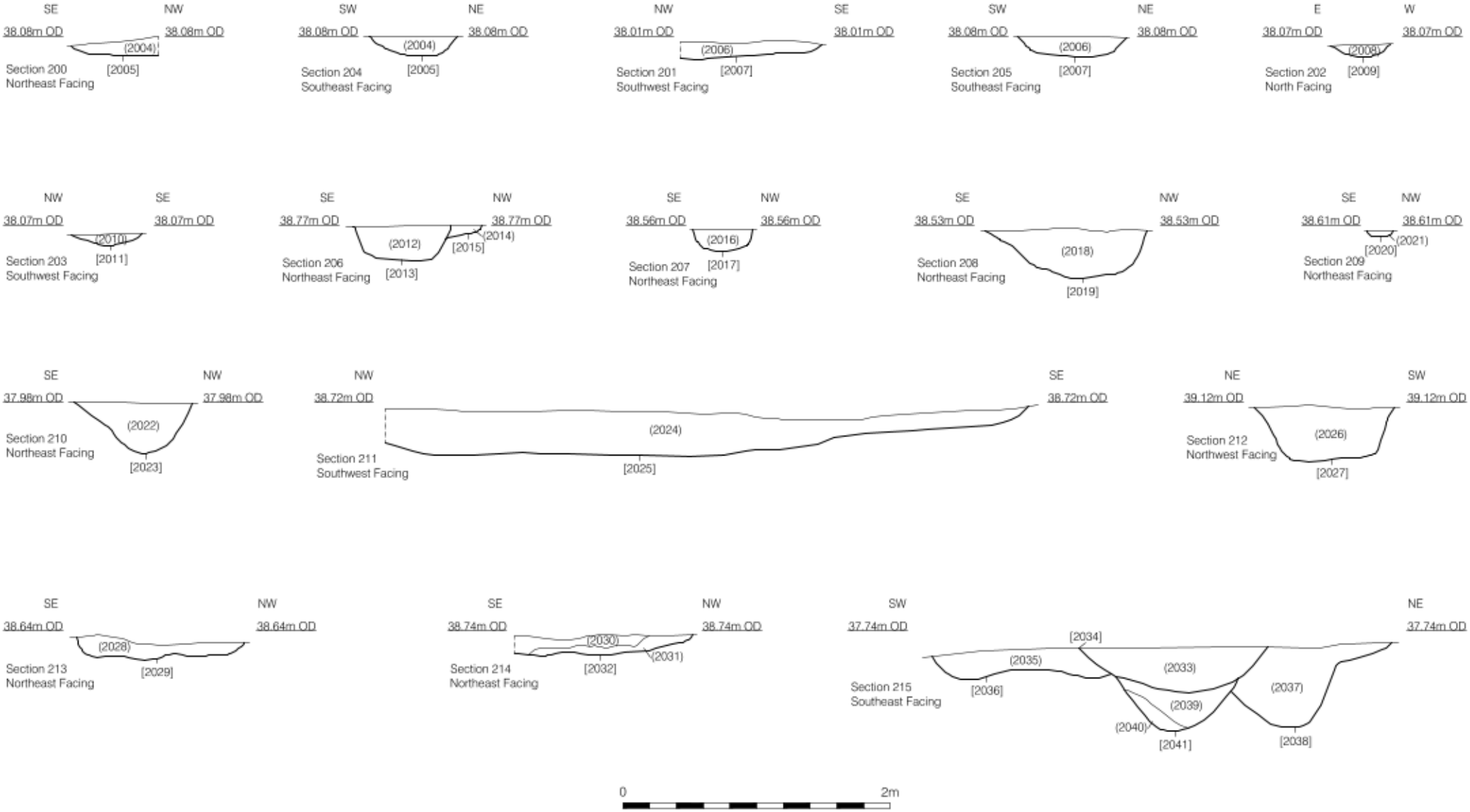
Background map kindly provided by CAMPBELL McCRAE Limited
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Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:1250 at A3



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Figure 3
All Features Plan
1:200 at A3



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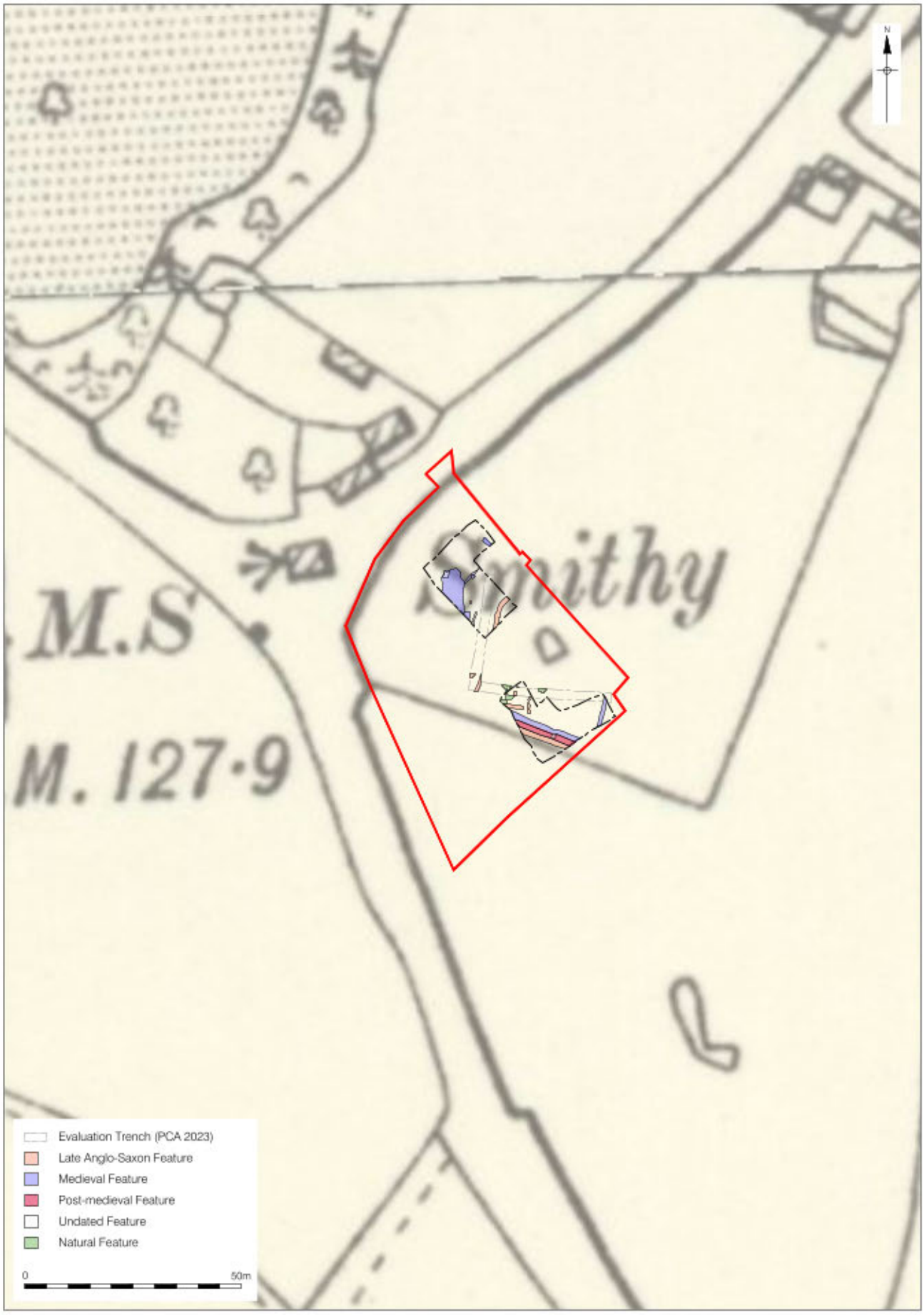
Figure 4
Sections
1:40 at A4



Map reference: HP85/26/1
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Figure 5
All Features Plan Overlaid with 1816 Enclosure Map
1:1250 at A4

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Figure 6
All Features Plan Overlaid with 1888 Ordnance Survey Map
1:1250 at A4

13 PLATES



Plate 1: Site prior to excavation. Looking south-west



Plate 2: Area 2 showing rooting. Looking east



Plate 3: Late Saxon features [2005/2009] and [2011]



Plate 4: Late Saxon ditch [2029]



Plate 5: Late Saxon pit [110] in evaluation trench, looking south



Plate 6: Late Saxon pit [104] in evaluation trench, looking west



Plate 7: Late Saxon boundary ditch [2036], looking south-east



Plate 8: Medieval [2038] (left) and post-medieval [2034] and [2041] (right) boundary ditch segments, looking south-east



Plate 9: Large boundary ditch, looking north-west



Plate 10: Medieval hollow with machine cut segment [2025] in background and hand dug segment [2031] with cobble layer (2030) in foreground, looking south



Plate 11: Medieval ditch [2023], looking south



Plate 12: Medieval pit [2013] and ditch [2015]

14 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

Site Code	Context No	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Other Comments
ECB7154	103	104	2	Fill	Pit	1	1.07	0.17	Compact mid brownish grey clay with infrequent small chalk	Fill of ditch terminus within trench 2. Very compact and similar to natural just darker grey. Iron age to early roman pottery in fill.
ECB7154	104	104	2	Cut	Pit	1	1.07	0.17	Linear, moderate sides, concave base and NE-SW aligned	Cut of ditch terminus. Feature cut by trench at angle so section not representative. Relatively shallow ditch for width but given trench depth likely heavily ploughed out. Late iron age to early pottery in fill. Function unclear given limits of eval but presumably agricultural
ECB7154	105	106	1	Fill	Ditch	1	0.62	0.12	Compact mid brownish grey clay with infrequent small stones. occasional chalk	Dark fill of ditch. Compact clay with small amount of pottery, animal bones and single shell in it
ECB7154	106	106	1	Cut	Ditch	1	0.62	0.12	Linear, moderate sides, concave base and N-S aligned	Small ditch running NS in trench 1. Function unclear but pottery animal bone and shell in fill

Site Code	Context No	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Other Comments
ECB7154	107	108	2	Fill	Rooting	1	0.35	0.1	Compact light yellowish orange clay with frequent chalk and small stones	Possible ditch? Cut by bioturbation
ECB7154	108	108	2	Cut	Rooting	1	0.35	0.1	Curvilinear, gradual sides, concave base and NE-SW aligned	Possible ditch? Cut by bioturbation
ECB7154	109	110	2	Fill	Pit	1	0.79	0.19	Compact mid greyish orange clay	
ECB7154	110	110	2	Cut	Pit	1	0.79	0.19	Sub-circular, moderate sides, concave base and N-S aligned	
ECB7154	111	112	2	Fill	Pit	0.6	0.22	0.15	Compact mid greyish brown clay	
ECB7154	112	112	2	Cut	Pit	0.59	0.22	0.15	Sub-circular, moderate sides, concave base and E-W aligned	Disturbed by bioturbation

Site Code	Context No	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Other Comments
ECB7267	2004	2005		Fill	Ditch	0.65	0.58	0.14	Soft dark brownish grey silty clay with moderate small charcoal flecks, moderate small sub angular stones	charcoal rich fill of terminus. Colour, compaction, etc similar to fill in the rest of the ditch. sampled due to charcoal content and not as heavily rooted as other slots.
ECB7267	2005	2005		Cut	Ditch	0.65	0.58	0.14	Linear, gradual sides, flat base and N-S aligned	Cut of terminus of shallow ditch. Only 2.40m long. Either terminates as 2009 and restarts as 2011, which runs into the baulk, or has an undulating base that shallows out between the two termini 2009 and 2011.
ECB7267	2006	2007		Fill	Ditch	1.05	0.8	0.15	Soft mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional small sub angular stones , occasional small charcoal flecks	Single naturally silted fill of terminus, very similar to fills of nearby ditches. No dateable finds, only animal bone.
ECB7267	2007	2007		Cut	Ditch	1.05	0.8	0.15	Linear, moderate sides, flat base and E-W aligned	Cut of ditch, wider but no deeper than N-S ditch to east of it disappears under baulk, only 4m visible. Use unknown, as is date as no dateable finds recovered.

Site Code	Context No	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Other Comments
ECB7267	2008	2009		Fill	Ditch	0.5	0.43	0.1	Soft dark brownish grey silty clay	Similar naturally silted fill to fills of same ditch and other shallow ditches in the area. No finds so no dating material. Heavily root disturbed, same as other features in the area.
ECB7267	2009	2009		Cut	Ditch	0.5	0.43	0.1	Linear, gradual sides, concave base and N-S aligned	Cut of terminus- other end of 2005. Very shallow at this point so may not be a terminus and may just be the ditch undulating so the cut is no longer visible, as opposes terminus 2011 which continues to NE under the baulk.
ECB7267	2010	2011		Fill	Ditch	0.45	0.5	0.8	Soft mid brownish grey silty clay	Very shallow fill, heavily root disturbed, similar to fills 2004 and 2008 of nearby ditch.
ECB7267	2011	2011		Cut	Ditch	0.45	0.5	0.8	Linear, gradual sides, concave base and NE-SW aligned	Very shallow segment of ditch, possibly related to ditch 2009 and 2005. Heavily truncated by rooting. Extends NE into baulk. No finds so no provisional date. Unclear function.
ECB7267	2012	2013	2	Fill	Pit	0.76	0.76	0.26	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay	Small pit with disturbance. Containing late iron age pottery.

Site Code	Context No	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Other Comments
ECB7267	2013	2013	2	Cut	Pit	0.76	0.76	0.26	Circular, steep sides, flat base	High degree of disturbance due to wooded area.
ECB7267	2014	2015	2	Fill	Ditch	0.5	0.26	0.1	Hard mid brownish grey silty clay	
ECB7267	2015	2015	2	Cut	Ditch	0.5	0.26	0.1	Linear, gradual sides, convex base and NE-SW aligned	Drainage ditch extending to large depression [2025]
ECB7267	2016	2017		Fill	Posthole	0.44	0.44	0.16	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay	
ECB7267	2017	2017		Cut	Posthole	0.44	0.44	0.16	Circular, steep sides, flat base	Posthole.
ECB7267	2018	2019		Fill	Pit	1.6	0.84	0.37	Firm dark brownish grey silty clay	
ECB7267	2019	2019		Cut	Pit	1.6	0.84	0.38	Circular, steep sides, concave base	Feature extends beyond LOE.
ECB7267	2020	2021		Fill	Ditch	1	0.19	0.4	Hard mid brownish grey silty clay	
ECB7267	2021	2021		Cut	Ditch	1	0.18	0.4	Linear, gradual sides, concave	Heavily disturbed. Machined to level where clear but visible towards loe as wider ditch

Site Code	Context No	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Other Comments
									base and N-S aligned	up to 0.6m .
ECB7267	2022	2023		Fill	Ditch	0.65	0.88	0.38	Firm mid yellowish grey silty clay with occasional sub angular stones	Slightly mottled natural I filling, heavily disturbed by still extant rooting. Pot found near surface so possibly intrusive
ECB7267	2023	2023		Cut	Ditch	0.65	0.88	0.38	Linear, steep sides, concave base and NE-SW aligned	Cut of ditch in NE corner of A2. Only about 3m exposed. Deeper than other small linears to the west. Single fill with pot but possibly intrusive due to rooting.
ECB7267	2024	2025		Fill	Depression	4.78	1.8	0.38	Soft mid greyish brown silty clay	Machine excavated. Finds associated with same as fill 2030 suggest medieval date.
ECB7267	2025	2025		Cut	Depression	4.78	1.8	0.38	Sub-rectangular, gradual sides, flat base	Possible shallow waterhole with associated medieval finds. Machine excavated.
ECB7267	2026	2027		Fill	Ditch	0.8	1.04	0.42	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay	Medieval pottery found. Heavily disturbed.
ECB7267	2027	2027		Cut	Ditch	0.9	1.04	0.42	Linear, vertical / near vertical sides, flat base and NW-SE aligned	Terminus of ditch h extending I to loe to the se

Site Code	Context No	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Other Comments
ECB7267	2028	2029		Fill	Ditch	1	1.24	0.18	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay	
ECB7267	2029	2029		Cut	Ditch	1	1.24	0.18	Linear, moderate sides, irregular base and N-S aligned	Very irregular ground conditions, flooding and heavy bioturbation meant the ditch was very difficult to define beyond d this slot to the north.
ECB7267	2030	2032		Fill	Depression	0	1.32	0.15	Soft mid greyish brown silty clay	Shallow naturally silted deposit overlying stone layer 2031 in depression 2032. Pot finds indicate a medieval date.
ECB7267	2031	2032		Layer	Depression	0	1.2	0.13	Hard - - grey stone	Possible surface but most likely a stone consolidation layer placed around the edge of a natural depression that was utilised as a pond/watering hole. Stones would've prevented edge erosion and provided an easier surface for animals/people to access the water. Variation in stone size and inconsistency in their positioning indicates this wasn't a proper metalled surface, although heavy disturbance from rooting may account for some of this as most of the stones were fairly loose and not all

Site Code	Context No	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Other Comments
										compacted into the ground.
ECB7267	2032	2032		Cut	Depression	0	1.32	0.15	Sub-circular, gradual sides, irregular base and N-S aligned	Possible waterhole/pond with stones consolidation round edge, 2031. Could be a natural depression utilised for water collection rather than a purposefully excavated feature.
ECB7267	2033	2034		Fill	Ditch	1	1.38	0.38	Soft dark brownish grey silty clay	Fill of ditch made up of residual topsoil naturally washing in from extant bank to North. Single spent shotgun cartridge, likely dated to pre -1954, found in fill
ECB7267	2034	2034		Cut	Ditch	1	1.38	0.38	Linear, gradual sides, concave base and NW-SE aligned	Post med ditch cutting subsoil, with bank on North side still extant in landscape. Roughly aligns with boundary of a smithy on historical mapping of the area. Appears to follow older boundary lines as it truncates 3 ditches on the exact same alignment that are sealed by the subsoil/this ditch . Residual shotgun cartridge (not retained) in single fill. Measurements on this sheet are of excavated slot and do not represent the full

Site Code	Context No	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Other Comments
										width or depth of the ditch as it appears on the surface.
ECB7267	2035	2036		Fill	Ditch	1	1.3	0.2	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small sub rounded stones	Single fill ditch on south side of post med boundary ditch 2034. Eroded edge and heavy rooting on North side of ditch where it is truncated by later ditch has affected original shape of ditch and obscured point of truncation so it is not clear if there is a relationship between this ditch and ditch 2041 in this area also. Pot of possible Saxon date as well as animal bone recovered
ECB7267	2036	2036		Cut	Ditch	1	1.3	0.2	Linear, moderate sides, concave base and NW-SE aligned	Very shallow ditch in comparison to deeper ditches visible in same section and on same alignment. Truncated by later ditch 2034 and unclear whether there is a relationship with ditch 2041due to eroded edge on the north side and heavy bioturbation from large roots where ditches meet. Pot from single fill suggests a Saxon date.

Site Code	Context No	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Other Comments
ECB7267	2037	2038		Fill	Ditch	1	1.2	0.6	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small., sub angular stones	Highly root disturbed and subsequently mottled fill of 2038. Large area of disturbance where fills of ditches to the south meet, resulting in unclear relationships and diffuse boundaries between the fills. Pot was found in this disturbed area so not securely within this context.
ECB7267	2038	2038		Cut	Ditch	1	1.2	0.6	Linear, gradual and steep sides, concave base and NW-SE aligned	Cut of possible boundary ditch - one of 4 on this alignment visible in section. Shallow with gradually sloped side at top on slope on North side due to heavy rooting and likely erosional action. Steep sides otherwise and depth reflect those of possibly later ditch 2041.
ECB7267	2039	2041		Fill	Ditch	1	0.88	0.4	Soft mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional small sub angular stones	Top fill of ditch 2041. Diffuse boundaries with adjacent fills and some mottling due to heavy rooting. Overlays slumping fill 2040. No dateable finds, only animal bone.
ECB7267	2040	2041		Fill	Ditch	1	0.2	0.8	Firm light orangish brown silty clay	Slumping fill on south side of ditch 2041- lighter colour and composition close to the

Site Code	Context No	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Other Comments
										natural, as well as position in section suggests this interpretation.
ECB7267	2041	2041		Cut	Ditch	1	0.88	0.4	Linear, steep sides, concave base and NW-SE aligned	Not visible on surface as completely truncated at top by 2034. Truncates 2038. No relationship with 2036. On same alignment as other ditches visible in this section - likely all boundary ditches.

15 APPENDIX 2: POTTERY CATALOGUE

Cut	Cxt	Fabric	Form	SC	ENV	Wgt	Comments	Date range		Spot date
104	103	NEOT		1	1	5	Body sherd. Internal burnt limescale residue.	850	1150	850 - 1150
106	105	NEOT		2	2	3	Small body sherds.	850	1150	850 - 1150
106	105	NEOT		1	1	20	Slightly sagging base. Nr DNEOT but soapy feel. Late example?	850	1150	
106	105	NEOT	Jar	1	1	9	Everted, slightly thickened, hollowed rim. Grey core, dark orange internal surface, brown external surface. Some external sooting. Rim diameter: 170mm; REVE 0.07.	875	1150	
110	109	NEOT		1	1	6	Body sherd. Some surface abrasion.	850	1150	850 - 1150
112	111	NEOT	Jar	1	1	11	Everted, thickened rim. Dark grey core, thin dark-orange margins. Dark greyish-brown surfaces. Surfaces abraded. Rim diameter: 150mm; REVE 0.08.	850	1150	850 - 1150
2005	2004	NEOT		4	4	2	Very small body sherds.	850	1150	850 - 1150
2013	2013	DNEOT	Bowl or dish	1	1	16	Carinated bowl or dish with upright, slightly thickened rim. Rim diameter: 340mm; REVE 0.04.	1050	1250	1050 - 1250
2017	2016	NEOT		1	1	1	Very small thin-walled body sherd.	850	1150	850 - 1150
2017	2016	NEOT		1	1	6	Body sherd. Light external sooting.	850	1150	
2023	2022	LYVA		1	1	6	Small body sherd.	1150	1400	1150 - 1400
2027	2026	DNEOT		1	1	7	Base sherd. LYVA?	1050	1250	1150 - 1250
2027	2026	DNEOT		2	1	42	Con-joining body sherds. Light external sooting.	1050	1250	

Cut	Cxt	Fabric	Form	SC	ENV	Wgt	Comments	Date range		Spot date
2027	2026	HUNEMW		1	1	15	HUNEMW? Base sherd.	1050	1200	
2027	2026	SCAMSW	Jug	1	1	16	Upright neck and thickened, flat-topped rim. Internal wear/ abrasion. Rim diameter: 100mm; REVE 0.17.	1050	1250	
2027	2026	DEST		1	1	6	Burnt/ reduced body. External mottled green glaze.	1150	1300	
2032	2030	SCAMSW	Jug	1	1	70	Oval rod-handle. Three horizontal stab marks to top and three slightly diagonal knife slashes below in a vertical line. Grey core and buff margins and surfaces. Lightly abraded.	1050	1250	1225 - 1300
2032	2030	HUNFSW		1	1	4	Small body sherd.	1175	1300	
2032	2030	EAR		2	2	9	Two small sherds. One base and one body sherd. Partial internal clear glaze. Lightly abraded. X1 HFW?	1200	1400	
2032	2030	LYST	Jug	1	1	74	Sagging base from a large jug? Partial external green glaze. Wear to underside of base. Lightly abraded.	1225	1400	
2036	2035	NEOT	Bowl or dish	4	1	21	Fresh breaks. Carinated bowl or dish with simple, tapering inturned rim. Rim diameter: 395mm; REVE 0.03.	850	1150	850 - 1150
2038	2037	SCAMSW		1	1	7	Body sherd.	1050	1250	1050 - 1250

16 APPENDIX 3: ANIMAL BONE CATALOGUE

Site Code	Context	ENV ID	Species	Bone	Bone Part	Fragment count	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Gnawed	Eroded	Butchered	Request	Comments	Bone number	Proportion	P/Ant Fusion	D/Post Fusion	Meas 8
ECB7154	103		CSZ	INN	F	1				1							CH?			20	1			
ECB7154	103		SUS	MAX	F	1														21	1			
ECB7154	103		CSZ	TIB	F	1				1									N=7	22	2			
ECB7154	105		CSZ	SCP	F	1			1						PDG3					23	2			
ECB7267	2004		CSZ	HUM	F	1						1			DG2		KN			20	1			
ECB7267	2004	1	SNIP	HUM	DES	1														37	2			
ECB7267	2004	1	SSZ	RIB	F	1													N=3	38				
ECB7267	2004	1	SSZ	LBF	F	1													N=2	39	1			

Site Code	Context	ENV ID	Species	Bone	Bone Part	Fragment count	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Gnawed	Eroded	Butchered	Request	Comments	Bone number	Proportion	P/Ant Fusion	D/Post Fusion	Meas 8
ECB7267	2004	1	CSZ	LBF	F	1													N=3	40	1			
ECB7267	2006		BOS	MTT	PES	1	1	1	1	1										21	3			
ECB7267	2006		BOS	RAD	DE	1							1	1						22	1		UF	
ECB7267	2006		BOS	INN	M	1		1	1	1	1	1								23	3			
ECB7267	2006		CSZ	MAN	F	1														24	1			
ECB7267	2018		CSZ	LBF	F	1			1											25	1			
ECB7267	2018		CSZ	SCP	F	1				1	1									26	2			
ECB7267	2030		EQU	MTC	DES	1						1	1	1						27	3		F	41
ECB7267	2030		BOS	MTT	F	1										SRE				28				

Site Code	Context	ENV ID	Species	Bone	Bone Part	Fragment count	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8	Gnawed	Eroded	Butchered	Request	Comments	Bone number	Proportion	P/Ant Fusion	D/Post Fusion	Meas 8
ECB7267	2030		CSZ	LBF	F	1														29	1			
ECB7267	2030		CSZ	RIB	F	1														30	1			
ECB7267	2035		SSZ	LBF	F	1														31				
ECB7267	2035		SSZ	INN	F	1														32	1			
ECB7267	2039		CAN	RAD	PES	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								33	3	F		
ECB7267	2039		CAN	FEM	M	1			1	1	1	1	1	1						34	4		F	
ECB7267	2039		CAN	TIB	S	1			1	1	1									35	3			
ECB7267	2039		CAN	HUM	PES	1	1	1	1											36	3	F		

17 APPENDIX 4: ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

Sample Number 1		
Context Number		2004
Feature Number		2005
Feature type		Ditch
Period		Late Anglo-Saxon
Volume of flot (millilitres)		38
Volume of sample (litres)		15
FLOT RESIDUE:		
Charcoal		
Charcoal >4mm		1
Charcoal 2-4mm		3
Charcoal <2mm		4
Charcoal of ID size		<2
Charred seeds	Common name	
Small Poaceae sp.	Small grasses	6
Large Poaceae sp.	Large grasses	2
Anthemis cotula	Stinking camomile	12
Brassica sp.	Mustard/ cabbage	5
Vicia/Lathyrus (<3mm whole fruit)	Vetch/vetchling	4
Vicia/Lathyrus (split cotyledon)	Vetch/vetchling	3
Uncharred seeds	Common name	
Galium aparine	Catchweed	1
Cereals	Common name	
Hordeum vulgare	Barley	6
Triticum sp.	Wheat	33
Triticum aestivum	Breadwheat	40
Triticum aestivum (sprouted)	Breadwheat (sprouted)	19
Secale cereale	Rye	8
Indeterminate		36

Sample Number 1		
Other plant macrofossils		
Roots/ tubers		x
Molluscs		
Vallonia sp.		x
Other remains		
Insect remains		x
Vitrified material		x
HEAVY RESIDUE:		
Charcoal		
Charcoal >4mm		xx
Charcoal 2-4mm		xxxx
Charcoal of ID size		<22
Charred seed		
Unidentifiable		x
Finds		
Pottery		x
Animal bone		x
Key: x- Occasional, xx- fairly frequent, xxx- frequent, xxxx- abundant, Y- present		

18 APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

OASIS Summary for preconst1-521815

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-521815
Project Name	Excavation at Land South-West of Green End Road, Great Stukeley
Sitename	Land South-West of Green End Road, Great Stukeley
Sitecode	ECB7267
Project Identifier(s)	ECB7267
Activity type	Excavation
Planning Id	22/00810/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	24-Apr-2024 - 30-Apr-2024
Location	Land South-West of Green End Road, Great Stukeley NGR : TL 22363 74236 LL : 52.35254327653052, -0.20485148731121 12 Fig : 522363,274236
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Cambridgeshire Local Authority District : Huntingdonshire Parish : The Stukeleys
Project Methodology	The archaeological excavation comprised two areas, mirroring the footprints of the proposed two bungalows. The combined excavated area measured 476sqm. Tree clearance to ground level was undertaken by the client prior to the start of the works. The tree stumps were removed during the mechanical stripping of the site under archaeological supervision. Where significant roots could not be removed by machine they were removed by the archaeologists with hand tools. This led to a heavily disturbed site with a large amount of remaining smaller roots. The roots were across the south-west of Area 1 and across the entirety of Area 2. The removal of tree stumps did not affect any archaeological features.

Project Results	While located adjacent to Ermine Street, which originated in the Roman period, an evaluation of the site in September 2023 had revealed a small number of features containing exclusively Anglo-Saxon pottery. The excavation revealed further ditches, pits and an irregular 'depression' with a dump of cobbles at one end. One of the ditches was a multi-period boundary ditch with possible enclosures on its northern side. The ditches and pits contained small, abraded quantities of St Neots ware, dating to AD875-1100 and medieval pottery with a date range of AD1050-1400 (average 1-4 fragments), animal bone and evidence for cereal cultivation and/or processing near the site. Great Stukeley originated as a dispersed settlement in the medieval period and was made up of several 'Ends': Church End, Owl End and Green End. The features revealed during the excavation are likely to represent activity peripheral to settlement at Green End. The multi-period boundary ditch on Area 2 may have originated in the Late Saxon period, however, this is based on very few sherds of pottery, and it is possible that the date of this ditch is exclusively post-medieval with residual earlier sherds. The ditch matches with field boundaries shown on the 1816 Inclosure Map and Ordnance Survey maps from the late 19th century onwards. However, an earlier origin of the boundary cannot be discounted.
Keywords	Boundary Ditch - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Boundary Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Boundary Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Sherd - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Private individual
HER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	[redacted]
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECB7267
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive; Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeological Store;

Report generated on: 10 Sep 2024, 13:45

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