



Land Adjacent to 79 High Street, Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Excavation



**LAND ADJACENT TO 79 HIGH STREET,
OFFORD D'ARCY,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Statement of Results and Proposals for Analysis, Reporting and Publication

Prepared on behalf of:
Thornhill Estates Ltd
C/o
Savills Ltd
Olympic House,
Doddington Road,
Lincoln
LN6 3SE

by

Wessex Archaeology in London
Unit 113
The Chandlery,
50 Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7QY

Report Reference: 63401.02

March 2007

*© Wessex Archaeology Limited 2007 all rights reserved
Wessex Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No. 287786*

**LAND ADJACENT TO 79 HIGH STREET,
OFFORD D'ARCY,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Statement of Results and Proposals for Analysis, Reporting and Publication

CONTENTS

Summary	iii
Acknowledgements	v
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Project Background.....	1
1.2 Planning Background.....	1
1.3 Location, Topography and Geology	1
2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
2.1 Introduction.....	2
2.2 Palaeolithic (500,000 - 10,000 BC)	3
2.3 Beaker (2600 - 1800BC).....	3
2.4 Bronze Age (2400 - 700BC)	3
2.5 Romano - British (AD 43 - 410)	3
2.6 Saxon (AD 410 - 1066).....	3
2.7 Medieval (1066 - 1499).....	3
2.8 Post-Medieval - Modern (1500 - Present).....	4
4 METHODOLOGY	5
4.1 General.....	5
4.2 Excavation Methodology	5
4.3 Finds Collection and Retention.....	5
4.4 Environmental Sampling	6
5 STRATIGRAPHIC AND STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE	6
5.1 Introduction.....	6
5.3 Possible Early Medieval.....	7
5.5 Undated	9
6 THE FINDS	9
8 RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS	13
8.1 Stratigraphic and Structural Sequence	13
8.4 Publication	15
9 STORAGE AND CURATION	15
9.1 Museum.....	15
9.2 Conservation	15
9.3 Storage	15
9.4 Discard Policy	15
9.5 Archive.....	15
9.6 Copyright	16
9.7 Security Copy.....	16
10 BIBLIOGRAPHY	17

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX..... 18
Description 18

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site plan

Figure 2: Excavation Areas with previously excavated evaluation trenches

Figure 3:All features plan Areas 1 and 2

Cover: General view of Area 2

**LAND ADJACENT TO 79 HIGH STREET,
OFFORD D'ARCY,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Statement of Results and Proposals for Analysis, Reporting and Publication

SUMMARY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Thornhill Estates Limited (The Client), to undertake an archaeological excavation on land adjacent to 79 High Street, Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire (the Site). The Site is centred on NGR 521990 266510. The excavation was undertaken to meet a condition of planning consent following an archaeological evaluation of the Site on the advice of the archaeological advisor to Cambridgeshire County Council. The excavation lay in the east half of the Site and comprised two areas, totalling approximately 475 square metres, representing the footprint of a proposed new building (Area 1) and a trench within the soft landscaping area to the west of the building footprint (Area 2).

The excavation produced a small finds assemblage, the date range of which is prehistoric to post-medieval, with an emphasis on the post-medieval period. On the basis of the initial spot dating of the pottery, the archaeological features and deposits encountered at Offord D'Arcy have been grouped into two periods, comprising early medieval and post-medieval with a small number of undated features.

The possible medieval remains comprise a single curvilinear ditch, possibly an enclosure ditch. Despite the excavation of six interventions representing approximately 45% of the ditches length within the excavation area, it is dated on the basis of a single sherd of pottery recovered during the earlier evaluation. This dating should therefore be viewed with due caution. The post-medieval remains comprise 15 sub-rectangular features, varying between 2m and 8m in length, between 2m and 4m in width and between 0.3m and 0.8m in depth, 11 linear features that varied between 1.2m and 2.5m in width and between 0.2m and 0.5m in depth and a single small sub-circular pit. The presence of a recent subsoil sealing the majority of the post-medieval features may indicate that much of the original topsoil in this area was removed prior to the excavation of the features. Although very closely spaced, intercutting between the post-medieval features was minimal, suggesting that the presence of earlier features was known and that these were actively avoided.

The function of the post-medieval features is uncertain; several horticultural/agricultural and industrial functions have been considered (retting pit, tanning pits, drainage, bedding trenches etc) and, for various reasons, dismissed. Although no parallels for the form, organisation and density of these features are known on areas of gravel terracing, there are remarkable similarities in form, layout and density to the early 19th century brickearth extraction pits in Southampton. Although on the face of it this seems a rather inefficient method of gravel extraction, it could be effective for the *ad hoc* quarrying of relatively small quantities of gravel. The reason that the features appear to carefully avoid each other is probably to ensure that the newly extracted gravel was not contaminated by the backfill/silting in the

earlier features and if an earlier feature was encountered further excavation either avoided it or was curtailed.

The results obtained from the excavation and the previous evaluation indicate utilisation of the general area during the prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods; however, all of the prehistoric and Romano-British material was residual in later features, as was all but one sherd of the medieval pottery. These results are therefore unlikely to significantly enhance the understanding of the origins or development of human activity either on the Site or in the general area. The results are therefore of limited importance and do not merit publication beyond a note in the local archaeological journal.

**LAND ADJACENT TO 79 HIGH STREET,
OFFORD D'ARCY,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Statement of Results and Proposals for Analysis, Reporting and Publication

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wessex Archaeology (London) would like to thank Tim Oakey of FDP Savills Limited who, on behalf of Thornhill Estates Limited, commissioned the project. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Kasia Gdaniec, of Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA) for monitoring the work. Peter Reeves managed the project for Wessex Archaeology. The fieldwork was directed by Vaughan Birbeck, assisted by Gareth Chaffey, Ágústa Edwald and Charlotte Coles. The contribution of all members of the field team to the successful completion of the project is gratefully acknowledged.

This assessment report was written by Vaughan Birbeck and Peter Reeves, with the assistance of: Lorraine Mepham; and Jessica Grimm (finds); Michael J. Allen, Chris J. Stevens, Sarah F. Wyles and Catherine Chisham (environmental evidence); Ágústa Edwald (context index) and Kitty Brandon (illustrations).

LAND ADJACENT TO 79 HIGH STREET, OFFORD D'ARCY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Statement of Results and Proposals for Analysis, Reporting and Publication

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Thornhill Estates Limited (The Client), to undertake an archaeological excavation on land adjacent to 79 High Street, Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire (the Site), which is centred on NGR 521990 266510 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The Site had previously been archaeologically evaluated but due to the inconclusive results obtained, specifically regarding the nature and date of the majority of the post-medieval features investigated, further investigation was requested.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Planning Permission (H/01/1600/FUL) has been granted for the redevelopment of the Site, comprising the conversion of existing barns at the front and middle of the Site into garage and storage space, and the demolition of an existing barn and the construction of two new dwellings with associated garages and access road at the rear of the Site.

1.2.2 Following an archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2006a), consultation with the Office of Cambridgeshire Archaeological Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA) led the latter to recommend the execution of a further phase of archaeological work, to be undertaken prior to the redevelopment of the Site.

1.2.3 A Project Design (Wessex Archaeology 2006b) was prepared in accordance with a Brief prepared by Kasia Gdaniec, of CAPCA (Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice, 2006).

1.3 Location, Topography and Geology

1.3.1 The Site comprises a rectangular piece of land, covering an area of 4082m², located in the centre of the village of Offord D'Arcy. Offord D'Arcy is located c.4.5km to the southwest of Godmanchester and 7km to the north of St. Neots. The village lies on the first and second River Terrace deposits of the Great Ouse which runs some 400m to the west of the Site (**Figure 1**).

1.3.2 The western edge of the Site, which fronts on to the High Street is occupied by a row of clapperboard built barns and stables, a row of similarly built barns runs north south through the middle of the Site. The archaeological excavation areas lie in the east of the Site (**Figure 2**) and comprise approximately 475

square metres in two areas, representing the footprint of the proposed new building (Area 1) and a trench within the soft landscaping area to the west of the building footprint (Area 2). The northwest corner of the Site is occupied by the gravel parking area of the adjacent house, to the west of this is a rectangular shaped lawn with a large filled in, circular brick lined, water feature at its centre. A wood and brick stables and an open sided barn occupy parts of the southern edge and rear of the Site. The remainder of the land is currently covered by overgrown pasture with a number of extensive nettle and bramble patches. To the east, the Site fronts on to open fields which are themselves bordered by a series of ponds and north-south running drains some 60m to the east. The land to the north and south of the Site is currently occupied by housing and back gardens, including a grade II listed, early 18th century, farmhouse at number 79 High Street (Cambridgeshire Historical Environmental Record, (CHER). Ref DCB2579).

- 1.3.3 Topographically the Site is level and lies at around 15m above Ordnance Datum (OD), on the terrace gravels of the River Great Ouse.
- 1.3.4 The solid geology of the area comprises Oxford Clay overlain by glacial deposits of Boulder Clay, which are in turn overlain by 1st and 2nd Terrace river gravels of the Great Ouse (BGS 1975). A possible alluvial subsoil was recorded in the south and east of Area 1, which may relate to a recent (Roman or later) alluvium recorded elsewhere in the area (French and Wait 1988, 78).

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The valley of the Great Ouse is rich in archaeological remains, a number of sites have been excavated to the west and south west of Offord D'Arcy at Buckdon, Diddington and Little Paxton (French and Wait 1988, 78-9). Prehistoric and Romano-British activity has been found comprising settlement interconnected by a network of droveways, enclosed fields, burial mounds and monuments. The relatively high terrace of the eastern side of the river, lies at c.15m (OD) and the Site lying some 350m to the east of the river, would certainly have been a favourable location for settlement.
- 2.1.2 There were no references in the CHER to archaeological remains on the Site and the Site is not part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). However, a number of references to archaeological discoveries, dating from the Palaeolithic through to the Post-medieval period, are recorded within the vicinity of the Site which clearly lies within what is demonstrably an historic landscape.
- 2.1.3 The Site has been subject to a previous archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology reference 63400). The results had indicated the presence of a medieval enclosure at the eastern edge of the Site, the western part of the Site had been truncated by modern features, whereas the central area was dominated by a mixture of undated and post-medieval features of unknown function. Residual sherds of pottery dating to the Romano-British and

Medieval periods indicated that they may have been some activity relating to these periods in the vicinity.

2.2 Palaeolithic (500,000 - 10,000 BC)

2.2.1 A number of Palaeolithic struck flints have been recorded from Grove Farm 280m to the southwest of the Site (TL218 668) (CHER Ref CB 14638).

2.3 Beaker (2600 - 1800BC)

2.3.1 A number of sherds of Beaker pottery have been uncovered in gravel pits (TL 218 670 TL 218 668) to the north of the Site (CHER Ref 02025/ 02540).

2.4 Bronze Age (2400 - 700BC)

2.4.1 Bronze Age pottery and small flint implements have been found in gravel pits at TL 218 670 and TL218 668 some 600m to the north of the Site (CHER Ref 02025/2540/02486).

2.5 Romano - British (AD 43 - 410)

2.5.1 The Site is located *c.* 5km to the southwest of Godmanchester a recognised Roman “small town” (Glazebrook 1997, 37). Although no major Romano-British site is known in the immediate vicinity of the Site, there is evidence of Romano-British activity in the area including a Roman Road marked on a recent Ordnance Survey map (OS. 2006) as running north-south *c.* 950m to the east of the Site.

2.5.2 Romano-British finds and sites marked on the CHER include a number of coins found 400m to the south of the Site at Apple Close (TL 2200 6610) (CHER Ref 02489), and a number of sherds of Roman pottery found in gravel pits at TL 218 670 and TL 218 668 some 600m to the north of the Site (CHER Ref 02025/2540/02486a). Evidence of a probable Roman road has also been recorded at Apple Close (TL 2200 6610) (CHER Ref 02489).

2.5.3 A need for more research on the Roman road network in the region has been noted in the Regional Research Agenda (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 21).

2.6 Saxon (AD 410- 1066)

2.6.1 A watching brief (CHER Ref ECB460) on land to the northwest of Grove Farm, (TL 221 663) produced a number of Saxon pottery sherds but no archaeological features.

2.7 Medieval (1066 - 1499)

2.7.1 The village is mentioned in Domesday as *Opeforde* and *Upeforde*. At this time the St. Benedict Abbey at Ramsey held “4 hides to geld”, including 16 acres of woodland and 16 acres of pasture (Domesday, Huntingdonshire, 555) whilst Odo held “land for three ploughs” and 4 acres of meadow on behalf of Eustance the Sheriff”, this land had formerly been held by Aethelwine the sheriff (Domesday, Huntingdonshire, 557). Other land was held for the Countess Judith by Hugh comprising “1 plough in demesne”, and 16 acres of meadow (Domesday, Huntingdonshire, 559).

- 2.7.2 The Site lies 280m to the northwest of a small moated, possibly manorial, site at Grove Farm (TL 2211 6634)(CHER Ref 02422/CB14638/MCB Ref 3050). A number of undated earthworks are visible in a field to the west of Grove Farm although the actual moat has been completely filled in. A watching brief (CHER Ref ECB460) on land to the northwest of Grove Farm (TL 221 663) produced a number of medieval pottery sherds but no archaeological features. A series of fishponds and a small water course to the east of the Site may be associated with the moated site.
- 2.7.3 To the east of the Site, the Church of St. Peter (CHER Ref CB14897) which dates to the 12th century, has been subject of an archaeological watching brief (CAPCA reference ECB 13930) which uncovered three sherds of medieval pottery.
- 2.7.4 An area of medieval ridge and furrow (CHER Ref 11592) has been identified, through aerial photography, in fields adjacent to the main East Coast railway line, some 400m to the southwest of the Site (TL 2170 6615).

2.8 Post-Medieval - Modern (1500 - Present)

- 2.8.1 A number of buildings dating from the post-medieval period are noted in the CHER and testify to the village's growth and occupation in this period. These are concentrated along the present High Street, which would appear to date to at least the 16th century.
- 2.8.2 Post-medieval buildings include two Manor houses, one to the south of the Site (Grove Farm) and the other (The Manor) close to the parish church of St. Peter. A number of cottages and houses, an inn (The Horseshoe), an undated dovecote and several barns dating from the 17th and 18th century are also noted on the CHER. A listed Grade II, early 18th century house lies immediately to the east of the Site at 79 High Street (CHER Ref DCB2579).
- 2.8.3 The present layout of buildings on the Site date to at least 1890 and are depicted on the 1890-1891 Ordnance Survey map of the area (not shown), the field to the south of the Site is shown as an orchard and a possible north - south running ditch or field boundary is depicted in the area covered by the eastern section of Area 1.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The primary objective was to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site. The research priorities were;
- establishing the nature of Roman activity on the Site
 - exploring the development and character of late Saxon/early Medieval enclosures and any associated settlement
 - establishing the nature, date and function of the enigmatic features in the centre of the Site and their spatial and temporal relationship to the late Saxon/early Medieval enclosures

- recovering artefact assemblages to assist in defining the character and nature of activity on Site
- using the spectrum of environmental techniques appropriate for this aspect of investigation, to attempt to model the landscape and its transformation brought about by activities on Site.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 All work was conducted in accordance with the prescriptions of the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2006b), and the guidance and standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (revised 2001), and East Anglian Archaeology's, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (2003), excepting where they are superseded by statements below.

4.2 Excavation Methodology

4.2.1 The Site covers an area of 4082m². The excavation areas comprise approximately 475 square metres in two areas (**Figure 2**) representing the footprint of the proposed new building (Area 1) and a trench within the soft landscaping area to the west of the building footprint (Area 2). The modern overburden within these areas was mechanically stripped with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

4.2.2 The areas were then hand cleaned to define archaeological features sufficiently to produce a base plan. The base plan was recorded both digitally using a Total Station and manually and was tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.2.3 All features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's standard methods and *pro forma* recording system, with all features and deposits being assigned a unique number.

4.2.4 A full graphic record was maintained throughout the excavation. Plans and sections were produced at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10, where appropriate. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated, with plans and sections annotated with OD heights.

4.2.5 A full photographic record was also maintained, using digital cameras, colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35mm film).

4.3 Finds Collection and Retention

4.3.1 All finds were treated in accordance with the principles and practices set out by the Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993), Medieval Pottery Research Group (2001) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (revised 2001).

- 4.3.2 All artefacts from all stratified contexts were retained. All retained finds were washed and processed in the manner outlined in *First Aid for Finds* and stored temporarily at Wessex Archaeology's offices in Salisbury. All pottery was marked with site code and context number. Contingency has been made for specialist advice and conservation needs on site should they be necessary and X-raying of objects and other conservation needs will be undertaken by the staff of Wiltshire Museums and Library Service Conservation Consortium, Salisbury.

4.4 Environmental Sampling

- 4.4.1 All samples were taken and treated in accordance with principles and practices outlined by English Heritage (2002) in *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post excavation*, the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*, and the Association for Environmental Archaeology's (1995) *Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations. Recommendations concerning the environmental archaeology component of archaeological evaluation in England*.

- 4.4.2 Bulk samples (10 litres) were taken from sealed archaeological features for the recovery of plant macrofossils, small animal bones and small artefacts. Bulk samples were processed by flotation and scanned. The aim of this was to assess, but not analyse, the environmental potential of deposits. Residues and sieved fractions were recorded and retained as part of the project archive.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC AND STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The excavation produced a small finds assemblage, the date range of which is prehistoric to post-medieval, with an emphasis on the post-medieval period. On the basis of the initial spot dating of the pottery, the archaeological features and deposits encountered at Offord D'Arcy have been grouped into two periods, comprising early medieval and post-medieval with a small number of undated features (**Figure 3**).
- 5.1.2 The possible medieval remains comprise a single curvilinear ditch, possibly an enclosure ditch, that, despite the excavation of six interventions representing approximately 45% of its length within the excavation area, is dated on the basis of a single sherd of pottery recovered during the earlier evaluation. This dating should therefore be viewed with due caution. The post-medieval remains comprise 15 sub-rectangular features, varying between 2m and 8m in length, between 2m and 4m in width and between 0.3m and 0.8m in depth, 6 linear features that varied between 0.80m and 1.m in width and between 0.2m and 0.4m in depth, 5 sub-oval features and a single small sub-circular pit (**Figure 3**).
- 5.1.3 **Figure 3** illustrates the phasing of the features recorded in the previously excavated evaluation trenches, numbered Trench 3 to 6. Trench 5 is shown

blank as the excavation Site survey, more accurate due to a lack of obstructions, shows the features located immediately to the west.

5.2 The Soil Sequence

5.2.1 The natural sub-strata comprised the orange brown coarse sand and gravel of the Great Ouse terrace gravels; in the east and south of Area 1 these were overlain by a possible alluvial subsoil, a yellowish brown sandy clay up to 0.07m thick. This may represent a remnant of a recent (Roman or later) alluvium recorded elsewhere in the general area (French and Wait 1988, 78). All features in this area of the site cut the subsoil. A dark grey silty sand loam subsoil deposit, up to 0.20m thick, was recorded in Area 2 and in the north-west of Area 1, however, this sealed the fills of all of the features in this area and is therefore of post-medieval or modern date. The similarity of this deposit to the fills of the underlying features suggests that they are all products of the same formation process. Both subsoil deposits were removed by machine, in Area 1 to expose any features pre-dating the deposit and in Area 2 to expose the post-medieval or modern features that it sealed.

5.2.2 The modern overburden comprised very dark greyish brown sandy loam topsoil that in some cases overlay gravel and brick surfaces and in some cases was overlain by them. Abundant modern finds, including machine made bricks were noted within several of the surfaces and within the topsoil. These surfaces appear to reflect the recent use of this area of the Site as a farmyard with at least two, and possibly three, phases of crudely metalled surfaces, possibly interspersed with periods of disuse.

5.3 Possible Early Medieval

5.3.1 The only feature on the Site of possible early medieval date comprised an approximately 19m length of curvilinear ditch in the south-east of Area 1. This varied in width between 0.6m and 1.3m and was between 0.07m and 0.26m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. This feature cut two otherwise undated features (**1020** and **1009**) and was cut by post-medieval feature **1025**. Four interventions were dug across this feature during this stage of work (**1006**, **1016**, **1018** and **1022**) and two were excavated during the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2006a), comprising approximately 45% of its total length within the excavation area. Despite this relatively large sample, the ditch is dated on the basis of a single sherd of St. Neots Ware pottery, which has a production date ranging from the ninth to twelfth century, and so the dating of this feature should be viewed with due caution.

5.4 Post-Medieval or Modern

5.4.1 The post-medieval features were located in the north and east of Area 1 and across the whole of Area 2, to the north and west of the possible early medieval ditch. Although very closely spaced, intercutting between these features was minimal, suggesting that the presence of earlier features was known and that these were actively avoided.

5.4.2 The 15 post-medieval sub-rectangular features were confined to the north and west of Area 1. These varied between 2m and 8m in length, between 2m and 4m in width and between 0.3m and 0.8m in depth; all had vertical-

undercutting sides and fairly flat bases. Five of these features were sample excavated (**1003, 1025, 1028, 1031 and 1033**). While intercutting between features was minimal, feature **1028** did appear to have been cut by linear feature 1014, although the similarity of the two fills means that this relationship was uncertain; both produced finds of post-medieval or modern date. Feature 1033, in the north-east of Area 1 was dated as medieval on the basis of finds recovered during the evaluation; however, a sondage excavated during this stage of work produced post-medieval pottery, along with residual Romano-British pottery, and post-medieval or modern CBM.

- 5.4.3 Four of the six post-medieval linear features were encountered in Area 2 and the remaining two were in Area 1. Four of these were sample excavated in six interventions. The single example investigated in Area 1 (**1001 and 1014**) was, on average, 1.20m wide and 0.45m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. This appeared to cut sub-rectangular feature **1028**, although the similarity of the fills mean that this was uncertain. Three of the four curvilinear features in Area 2 (**2003/2010, 2011/2012 and 2015**) were examined; these were between 0.8m and 1.3m wide and between 0.20m and 0.40m deep with steep-vertical sides and fairly flat bases. All three of the investigated curvilinear features in Area 2 appeared to be cut by a large sub-oval pit (**2009**), although intercutting was minimal and the similarity between the various fill made the determination of the stratigraphic relationships difficult.
- 5.4.4 Two of the 5 sub-oval pits in Area 2 were investigated (**2009 and 2018**). The full extent of these features was uncertain as both continued beyond the limits of excavation. They were between 0.40m and 0.45m deep with moderately steep sides and flat bases. While feature **2009** cut the fills of the earlier curvilinear features, they appear to respect the position of feature **2018**, carefully avoiding it, suggesting that they post-dated **2018**.
- 5.4.5 The small sub-circular pit (**1035**) in the north of Area 1 was approximately 0.85m in diameter and 0.52m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Relatively large quantities of post-medieval or modern finds, including clay pipe fragments, CBM and transfer printed pottery were recovered from the single fill of this feature.
- 5.4.6 The subsoil in the north and west of Area 1 (**1011**) and across the whole of Area 2 (**2001**) sealed all the features in these areas and is very similar to the fills of the underlying features. It is therefore possible that all of the topsoil was removed from these areas prior to the excavation of the densely spaced post-medieval features and that the present sub-soil developed following their disuse and is probably the product of similar formation processes.
- 5.4.7 The function of the post-medieval features is uncertain; several horticultural/agricultural and industrial functions have been considered and, for various reasons, dismissed. The lack of any water retentive linings, such as clay, and the well drained nature of the underlying gravels preclude their use as retting pits or tanning pits. While some of the linear features do appear to have slight gradients, the direction of these gradients was not consistent and they are unlikely to represent drainage features. The features are probably too

deep and appear too closely packed and too irregular to represent bedding trenches. Although no parallels for the form, organisation and density of these features are known on areas of gravel terrace, there are remarkable similarities in form, layout and density to early 19th century brickearth extraction pits excavated in Southampton (see Morton 1992, p9, plate 1 and p206, figure 85: Birbeck et al 2005, p7, figure 6) and these features may represent similar extraction methods being employed to quarry gravel. Although on the face of it this seems a rather inefficient method of gravel extraction, it could be effective for the *ad hoc* quarrying of relatively small quantities of gravel; the reason that the features appear to carefully avoid each other is probably to ensure that the newly extracted gravel was not contaminated by the backfill/silting in the earlier features and if an earlier feature was encountered further excavation either avoided it or was curtailed. The need for gravel for use around a farm is perhaps demonstrated by the successive phases of gravelled surfaces recorded within the modern overburden.

- 5.4.8 The environmental evidence from the bulk samples recovered from the various fills of these features indicate that the charred plant remains probably relate to the burning of general farmyard waste that included grain that had fallen from stores. The waterlogged material included the blue mineral vivianite, which is indicative of rotting vegetation in anaerobic conditions, but is also sometimes associated with cess or high phosphates from animals. Given the proximity of the farm and the fairly frequent presence of probable culms of straw and charred cereal remains it is probable that the fills of the post-medieval features contain at least some farmyard waste. It is suggested that, following the extraction of a quantity of gravel, the resultant hole was used for the disposal of general farmyard waste; when further gravel was required the earlier feature would probably have been relatively easily identified and avoided, to prevent the contamination of the newly extracted gravel.

5.5 Undated

- 5.5.1 Five features investigated in Area 1, all in the south of the Area, produced no finds whatsoever; two of these (**1009** and **1020**) were cut by the possible early medieval ditch and all 5 features cut the alluvial sub-soil (**1012**). While some of these features could represent shallow, irregular pits or small post-holes, their irregular form may indicate a natural origin, possibly root disturbance.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This section considers the finds recovered from the excavation, in the light of the assemblage already recovered from the site during the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2006a), and assesses their potential to contribute to an understanding of the site.
- 6.1.2 The overall assemblage is very small – very limited quantities were found in either evaluation or excavation – but includes material of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date. The quantities of finds by context are given in **Table 1** (which includes summary totals for the evaluation stage).

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

CBM = ceramic building material

LAYER	Animal Bone	CBM	RB Pottery	Med. Pottery	P-Med Pottery	Other Finds
1002	1/11	6/67	5/11		1/1	1 worked flint; 1 copper alloy
1008	4/28					1 worked flint
1015	4/142	5/256	7/41			1 burnt flint
1028		1/96	3/28			
1034		8/219	1/2		3/11	1 stone
1035	2/133	10/1060			1/51	1 clay pipe; 1 iron
2002		4/14				
2006		5/46			1/58	2 iron
2007	15/327	1/30		6/40		1 stone; 7 iron
TOTAL	26/641	40/1788	16/82	6/40	6/121	
<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>7/17</i>	<i>8/255</i>	<i>9/59</i>	<i>12/169</i>	<i>1/24</i>	<i>1 flint</i>

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the site, but, as for the evaluation, the quantities recovered are very small, and much of the assemblage is in poor, abraded condition, suggesting a high degree of residuality.
- 6.2.2 Romano-British sherds were identified from four contexts, all within Area 1 (ditches **1001**, **1014**; pits **1027**, **1033**), comprising grog-tempered, shelly and sandy wares. No diagnostic sherds were present. In all cases Romano-British sherds occurred residually in later contexts.
- 6.2.3 Medieval sherds were restricted to a single context in Area 2 (feature **2010**); these include Medieval Ely type ware (MEL), as well as some miscellaneous shelly and sandy wares. The likely date range is 12th/13th century. The same contexts produced a post-medieval roof tile fragment.
- 6.2.4 The remaining sherds are post-medieval or modern, including coarse redwares and modern refined whitewares.

6.3 Ceramic and Stone Building Material

- 6.3.1 This category includes fragments of roof tile, brick and field drain. All is of probable post-medieval date, apart from a single fragment from Area 1 (ditch **1001**) which has been tentatively identified as Romano-British.
- 6.3.2 Two pieces of worked stone (sandstone) are also likely to represent roof tile fragments, although of unknown date (ditch **1033**, feature **2010**).

6.4 Other Finds

- 6.4.1 Other finds comprise a small amount of animal bone (horse, cattle), two pieces of prehistoric worked flint, one piece of burnt, unworked flint (unknown date), eight iron nails, and an unidentified copper alloy object.

7 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 Five bulk samples were taken from the excavation. Two samples were taken from Area 1, from the fill (1028) of a square feature (1027) of post-medieval date and the upper fill (1008) an undated enclosure ditch (1006). Within Area 2 samples were taken from the basal fill (2006) of a curvilinear feature (2009) and a large pit (2018, context 2019), both of a post-medieval date. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals. In addition the samples were assessed during processing for waterlogged material, and sub-samples were taken from the curvilinear feature 2009 and pit 2018. A further monolith sample (Sample 1) was taken through the fill (1028) of the square feature (1027) in Area 1.
- 7.1.2 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods and the presence of charred remains quantified. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).
- 7.1.3 The flots were generally small with little wood charcoal and mainly cereal remains. There were high numbers of roots in two of the samples that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement, reworking or the degree of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred plant remains were generally well preserved, especially in comparison to wood charcoal.

7.2 Charred Plant Remains

- 7.2.1 All the samples contained numerous grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum* s.l.), and some of barley (*Hordeum vulgare* s.l.). Grains of oat (*Avena* sp.) were also common, although it was unclear whether they were from the domestic variety or the cultivated. Both deposits from Area 1 also contained grains of rye (*Secale cereale*). Cereal grains were slightly less frequent within the pit 2012. The only other crop remain recovered was a single seed of probable lentil (*Lens culinaris*) from pit 2018. The sample from pit 1027 in Area 1 contained a charred stone of plum (*Prunus domestica*) or sloe (*Prunus spinosa*). Weed seeds were infrequent and included wild pea (*Lathyrus* sp.), clover (*Trifolium* sp.), and docks (*Rumex* sp.) from Area 1.
- 7.2.2 The range of cereal remains and the presence of lentil is in keeping with remains recovered from other medieval and post-medieval sites in Cambridgeshire (Ballantyne 2002; Smith 2001; Stevens 1997) and in Britain as a whole (Greig 1991). No chaff was recovered and weed seeds were generally scarce indicating that the samples were probably processed to more or less clean grain prior to being charred. As such operations are often conducted in the field it is probable that such waste did not make it back to the farm. The remains probably relate to the burning of general farmyard waste that included grain that had fallen from stores.

7.3 Charcoal

- 7.3.1 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples; however, generally little charcoal was recovered from any of the samples.

7.4 Waterlogged Plant Remains

- 7.4.1 Two features in Area two, a curvilinear ditch **2009** and pit **2018**, were noted to be waterlogged. Laboratory flotation was undertaken with flots retained on a 0.25mm mesh and residues on a 0.5mm mesh. The larger fraction (>5.6mm) was sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were visually inspected under a x10 to x40 stereo-binocular microscope to determine if waterlogged material occurred. Where waterlogged material was present, preliminary identifications of dominant taxa were conducted and are presented below.
- 7.4.2 Both samples contained the blue mineral vivianite, indicative of rotting vegetation in anaerobic conditions, but also sometimes associated with cess or high phosphates from animals. Given the proximity of the farm and the fairly frequent presence of probable culms of straw and charred cereal remains it is probable that the deposits contain at least some farmyard waste. The samples also both contained wood and some twig and round wood material.
- 7.4.3 The samples contain species associated with rough wet grassland with patches of overgrown shrub. Significantly no clear indication of species associated with human settlement was found in the deposits.

Table 2: Waterlogged Plant Remains

	Feature Type	curvilinear	pit
	Feature	2009	2018
	Context	2006	2019
	Sample	4	5
Latin Name	Common Name		
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>	buttercup	+	++
<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	field buttercup	+	+
<i>Urtica urens</i>	small nettle	-	+
<i>Chenopodium rubrum</i>	red-goosefoot	-	+
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.	orache	+	+
<i>Stellaria media</i>	chickweed	+	-
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>	black bindweed	-	+
<i>Polygonum arvense</i>	knotgrass	++	++
<i>Polygonum arenarium/rurivagum</i>	knotgrass	++	+
<i>Malva</i> sp	mallow	+	-
<i>Prunus</i> cf. <i>domestica/spinosa</i>	plum/sloe	-	1 frg.
<i>Rubus</i> sp	bramble	+	-
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn	+	+
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> (thorn)	hawthorn	-	+
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	petty spurge	+	-
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	hemlock	+	-
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	henbane	++	+
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	black horehound	+	-
<i>Stachys /Galeopsis</i>	woundwort/hemp-nettle	-	+
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	self-heal	-	+
<i>Sambucus niger</i>	elder	+	+
<i>Arctium</i> sp	burdock	+	-
<i>Cirsium/Carduus</i> sp.	thistle	+	+
<i>Picris echioides</i>	bristly ox-tongue	-	+
<i>Carex</i> sp. (trigonous)	sedge	++	++
POACEAE large culm nodes	grass/cereal straw nodes	+	+
<i>Poa annua</i>	annual meadow grass	-	+

7.5 Sediments

7.5.1 A single monolith (sample 1) was taken through fill (**1028**) of the square feature (**1027**) in Area 1. The fill was described on-site as a poorly sorted dark greyish brown sandy silt loam with gravel lenses and common small gravel inclusions. Its nature and the inclusions of animal bone, post-medieval CBM, burnt flint and Romano-British pottery throughout clearly support an interpretation of a deliberate dump with little time-depth to the sedimentation. As such, no detailed sediment descriptions are required to further understanding of this deposit. However, should there be a requirement for limited microfossil (pollen) assessment to elucidate the contemporary landscape, the monolith is suitable for sub-sampling and would require description at that time.

8 RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Stratigraphic and Structural Sequence

8.1.1 The original research aims of the project were;

- establishing the nature of Roman activity on the Site
- exploring the development and character of Late Saxon/early medieval enclosures and any associated settlement.
- establishing the nature, date and function of the enigmatic features in the centre of the Site and their spatial and temporal relationship to the Late Saxon/early medieval enclosures
- recovering artefact assemblages to assist in defining the character and nature of activity on Site
- using the spectrum of environmental techniques appropriate for this aspect of investigation, to attempt to model the landscape and its transformation brought about by activities on Site.

8.1.2 No Romano-British features or deposits were identified within the excavation areas. A small assemblage of Romano-British pottery, comprising 16 sherds of grog-tempered, shelly and sandy wares and a single fragment of possible Romano-British CBM was recovered. All were residual finds recovered from the fills of later features within Area 1 (ditches **1001** and **1014**; pits **1027** and **1033**) and all were heavily abraded. While this small assemblage could indicate Romano-British activity in the general vicinity of the Site, it is insufficient to establish the nature of such activity.

8.1.3 Only a single feature, the curvilinear ditch in the south-east of Area 1, was tentatively dated to the early medieval period. This shallow ditch contained no evidence of re-cutting or maintenance and is dated on the basis of a single small (6g) sherd of St Neots Ware recovered during the evaluation. No structural or settlement type features were identified and the possible medieval pits identified in this area during the evaluation have, on further examination and excavation proven to be of post-medieval date.

- 8.1.4 The densely spaced features in the centre of the Site all appear to be of post-medieval or modern date and appear to represent a sequence of small, *ad hoc*, gravel extraction features. These were all to the north and west of the possible enclosure ditch, although one of the sub-rectangular features (**1025**) cut the fill of the earlier ditch. Environmental evidence suggests that following the excavation of the gravel the resultant holes were used for the disposal of general farmyard waste.
- 8.1.5 Artefacts appear to be either entirely residual or of post-medieval date. Several of the larger brick fragments are similar in size and colour to the bricks used in the construction of the adjacent barns and probably represent building waste from the construction of these. The artefacts cannot therefore help to define the character and nature of activity on Site.
- 8.1.6 There does not appear to be any significant differences between the environmental evidence obtained from the post-medieval features and that from the possible early medieval ditch. The results do not therefore enhance those obtained from the evaluation. The local environment appears consistent with being in the proximity of a farmyard in both the earlier and later features.
- 8.1.7 The results obtained from both the excavation and the evaluation indicate utilisation of the general area from the prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods; however, all of the prehistoric and Romano-British material was residual in later features, as was all but one sherd of the medieval pottery. These results are therefore unlikely to significantly enhance the understanding of the origins or development of human activity either on the Site or in the general area. The results are therefore of limited importance and do not merit publication other than as a note in the local journal.

8.2 Finds

- 8.2.1 With the exception of confirming or clarifying the dating of some features, this small assemblage adds little to the finds already recovered from the site. Material of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval date is present, but occurred almost entirely as residual finds in post-medieval features. No further analysis is proposed, and these finds do not warrant publication.

8.3 Environmental Evidence

Charred plant remains

- 8.3.1 The charred plant remains have the potential to reveal the range of crops utilised within the farm. However, given their homogeneous nature, and that the range of crops species has been fully recorded further analysis would not add to the information already provided.

Charcoal

- 8.3.2 The samples are too small to provide any potential for further analysis.

Waterlogged plant remains

- 8.3.3 The waterlogged plant remains have the potential for revealing the nature of the local environment. However, it is unlikely that further analysis would add to the information already provided within the assessment and previous evaluation report.

Sediments

- 8.3.4 The sediments themselves have little potential to further the understanding of feature **1027** but the continuous sequence collected by monolith is suitable for pollen assessment if required. If it is, the monolith sample should be described following Hodgson (1976) and sub-sampled. However, substantial data on the cultivated and natural vegetation of the local area has been gained through assessment of the plant macrofossils and no pollen work is proposed.

8.4 Publication

- 8.4.1 The post-excavation assessment has concluded that the results of the excavations at Offord Darcy are of little or no significance and do not merit publication other than as a note in the local journal.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 Until an appropriate Museum has been identified the archive will be kept at Wessex Archaeology. Future deposition of the finds with a Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

9.2 Conservation

- 9.2.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment comprise the metal objects.

9.3 Storage

- 9.3.1 The finds are currently stored in perforated polythene bags in four cardboard boxes, ordered by material type, following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990).

9.4 Discard Policy

- 9.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, burnt, unworked flint has already been discarded following quantification. No further discard is anticipated.

- 9.4.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in Wessex Archaeology's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms with nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002) and is available upon request.

9.5 Archive

- 9.5.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995).

- 9.5.2 The paper archive comprises:

	Format	No. sheets
Assessment report	A4	34
Written Scheme of Investigation	A4	20
Context Index	A4	4
Context records	A4	92
Graphics Register	A4	2
A4 Graphics	A4	12
A3 Graphics	A3	7
A1 Graphics	A1	1
Environmental records	A4	7
Photographic records	A4	4
Day book	A4	11

9.6 Copyright

- 9.6.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by the Trust for Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

9.7 Security Copy

- 9.7.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ballantyne, R. M. 2002, 'Plant Remains'. In, A. Hall 'A Late Sixteenth Century Pit Group from Pembroke College Library, Cambridge'. *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 91: 89-101
- BGS 1975, Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 187 (Huntingdon)
- Birbeck, V., Smith, R.J.C., Andrews, P. and Stoodley, N. 2005, The Origins of Mid-Saxon Southampton: Excavations at the Friends Provident St. Mary's Stadium 1998-2000. Wessex Archaeology Monograph
- French, C.A.I. and Wait, G.A. 1988, *An Archaeological Survey of the Cambridgeshire River Gravels*. Cambridgeshire County Council
- Greig J., 1991, The British Isles, in W. van Zeist, K. Wasylikowa, K-E. Behre (eds) *Progress in Old World Palaeoethnobotany*, Rotterdam, 229-334
- Hodgson, J.M., 1976. *Soil Survey Field Handbook*. Harpenden, Soil Survey Technical Monograph No. 5
- Morton, A.D 1992, Excavations at Hamwic Volume 1: Excavations 1946-83, Excluding Six Dials and Melbourne Street. Council for British Archaeology Research Report No. 84
- Smith, W. 2001, The charred plant remains, 92-6, in Ellis, P. and Ratkai, S., 'Late Saxon and medieval village remains at Longstanton, Cambridgeshire: archaeological excavations at Home Farm 1997' in Ellis, P., Coates, G., Cutler, R. and Mould, C., *Four Sites in Cambridgeshire: excavations at Pode Hole Farm, Paston, Longstanton and Bassingbourn, 1996-7*, Brit. Archaeol. Rep. 322, 81-91
- Stace, C. 1997, *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press.
- Stevens, C. J. 1997, Charred plant remains from late Saxon and medieval contexts, In Mortimer, R. *Excavations at Cottenham*, Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report.
- Wessex Archaeology 2006a, Land adjacent to 79 High Street, Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire. Interim archaeological evaluation report, unpub. client report, ref. 63400.03
- Wessex Archaeology 2006b, Land adjacent to 79 High Street, Offord D'Arcy, Cambridgeshire. Written Scheme of Investigation, unpub. client report, ref. 63401.01

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No.	Fill of/ Filled with	Co Ordinates	Description
1000	N/a	522009 266515 13.65m OD	Modern overburden; a mixture of topsoil and former gravel surfaces overlying a patchy medium yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil (1012). All removed by machine.
1001	Filled with 1002	522003 266527 12.83m OD	Cut of ditch. 1.10m long intervention dug at northern end of 5m long north-south linear ditch. The ditch was 1.30m wide and 0.40m deep with vertical sides and a fairly flat base. Possibly a drainage ditch.
1002	Fill of 1001	522003 266527 13.15m OD	Fill of ditch. Dark greyish brown loam with common small gravel inclusions and common roots. Probably the result of deliberate backfilling. Animal bone, worked flint, Romano-British and post-medieval CBM, Romano-British and post-medieval pottery and an unidentified copper alloy object recovered.
1003	Filled with 1004- 1005	521990 266526 12.92m OD	An intervention into a square feature at the north-western end of area 1. Not fully excavated due to flooding. Possibly a gravel extraction pit.
1004	Fill of 1003	521990 266526 12.72m OD	Orange grey sandy clay, lower fill of cut 1003.
1005	Fill of 1003	521990 266526 12.92m OD	Mid brown sandy clay, top fill of cut 1003.
1006	Filled with 1007-1008	522010 266503 13.02m OD	Cut of ditch. 1m long intervention at southern end of a c. 18m long north-south possible enclosure ditch. The ditch was 1.36m wide and 0.26m deep with moderately steep, concaved sides and a concaved base. Cuts natural feature 1009.
1007	Fill of 1006	522010 266503 13.32m OD	Dark greyish brown sandy silt with abundant gravel inclusions. Primary fill of cut 1006, initial deposition soon after feature was cut.
1008	Fill of 1006	522010 266503 13.06m OD	Light greyish brown sandy silt with rare flint and gravel inclusions. Secondary fill of cut 1006, gradual silting process over lengthy period of time. Worked flint and animal bone fragments recovered. A 10 ltr. Bulk sample was taken (3).
1009	Filled with 1010	522009.5 266503 13.29m OD	Cut of natural feature, 0.62m long intervention dug. Feature is 0.75m wide and 0.15m deep with gentle, concaved sides and a flat base. Possibly a natural feature. Truncated by 1006.
1010	Fill of 1009	522009.5 266503 13.32m OD	Light greyish brown sandy silt with rare gravel inclusions. Single fill of possible natural feature.
1011	N/a	521995 266525 13.36m OD	Subsoil. Dark grey silty sand loam, occasional lenses of gravel. Only present in the north and west of the area, where it seals post-medieval features. Removed by machine.
1012	N/a	522010 266520 13.25mOD	Fairly patchy medium yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil, up to 0.07m thick. Only present in the east and south of Area 1. Cut by all features.
1013	N/a	522009 266515 13.20m OD	Predominantly orange brown coarse sand and gravel. Natural terrace gravels sub-strata.
1014	Filled with 1015	522002 266523	Cut of ditch. Second intervention in a 5m long north-south ditch (see 1001). This intervention was 1.30m

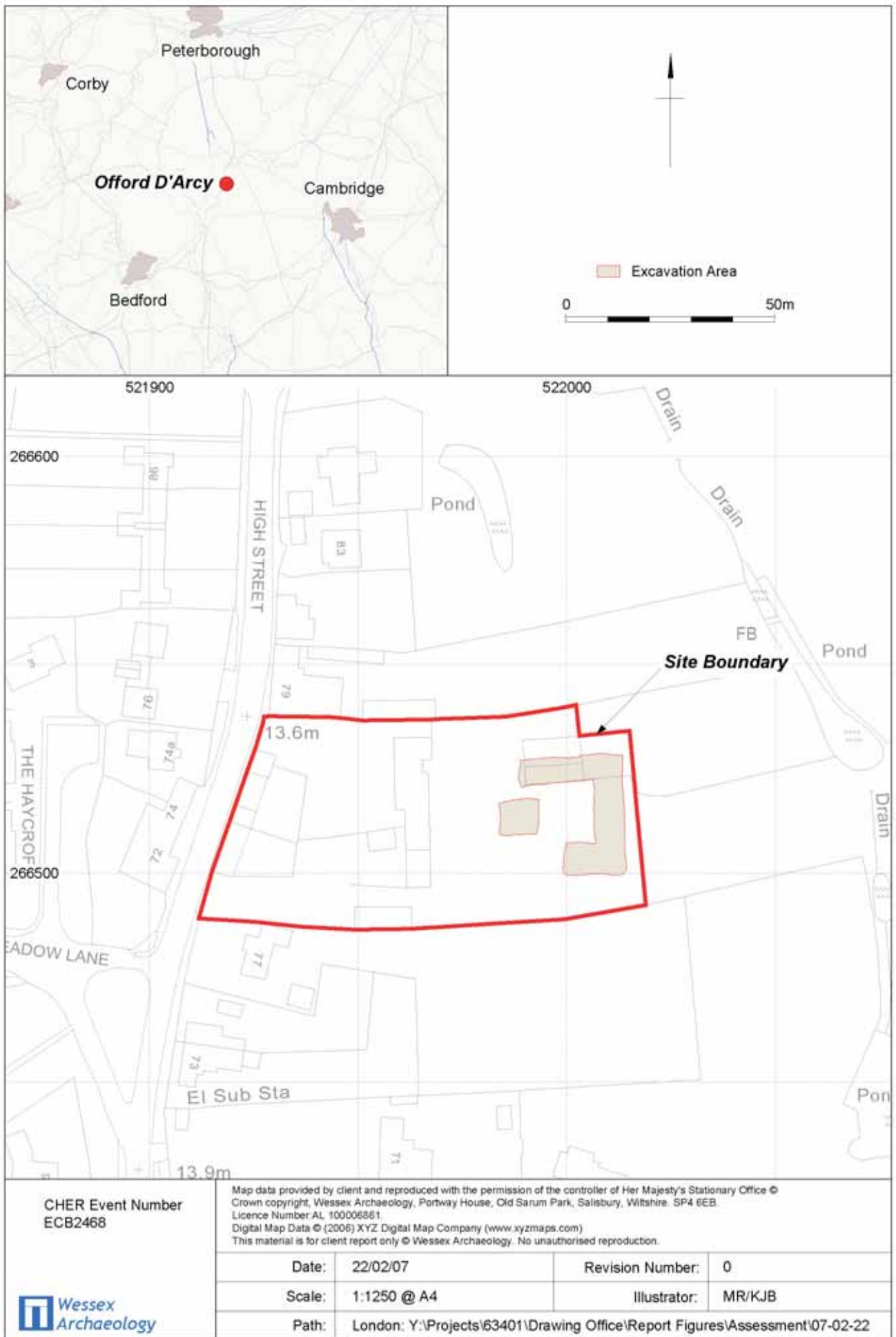
		12.68m OD	long. The ditch was 1.15m wide and 0.54m deep with very steep sides and a fairly flat base. Possibly a drainage ditch.
1015	Fill of 1014	522002 266522 13.29m OD	Dark greyish brown sandy silt loam with common small gravel inclusions. Contained sparse animal bone, burnt flint, post-medieval CBM, Romano-British pottery and common charcoal flecks. Poorly sorted, probably dumped.
1016	Filled with 1017	522010 266507 13.15m OD	Second 1m long intervention in 18m long enclosure ditch running north-south (see 1006). Ditch is 0.60m wide and 0.07m deep with gentle, concaved sides and a flat base.
1017	Fill of 1016	522010 266507 13.27m OD	Light greyish brown sandy silt, primary fill of 1016. Common gravel inclusions. No finds recovered.
1018	Filled with 1019	522009 266511 13.28m OD	Third 1m long intervention in 18m long enclosure ditch running north-south (see 1006 and 1016). Ditch is 0.81m wide and 0.13m deep with concaved sides and a flat base. Truncates natural feature 1020.
1019	Fill of 1018	522009 266511 13.35m OD	Light greyish brown sandy silt, single fill of 1018, represents gradual deposition. Rare gravel inclusions, no finds recovered.
1020	Filled with 1021	522009 266511 13.30m OD	Cut of fairly large seemingly natural feature. 1m long intervention dug. The feature is 0.66m wide and 0.13m deep with shallow, concaved sides and a flat base.
1021	Fill of 1020	522009 266511 13.35m OD	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Single fill of natural feature. Sparse gravel and stone inclusions. No finds recovered.
1022	Filled with 1023-1024	522009 266516 13.26m OD	Fourth 0.70m long intervention in 18m long enclosure ditch running north-south (see 1006, 1016 and 1018). Ditch is 0.67m wide, 0.17m deep with gentle, concaved sides and a concaved base.
1023	Fill of 1022	522009 266516 13.33m OD	Light greyish brown sandy silt, primary fill of 1022. Common gravel and pea grit inclusions. Not dateable evidence.
1024	Fill of 1022	522009 266516 13.29m OD	Light greyish brown sandy silt, secondary fill of 1022, represents gradual infilling. Sparse gravel inclusions. No finds recovered.
1025	Filled with 1026	522009 266516 12.95m OD	Cut of large, irregular feature c. 2.80m long north-east to south-west and 2.27m wide north-west to south-east. . The feature was excavated to a depth of 0.37m. It has steep, convex sides. Probably a gravel extraction pit.
1026	Fill of 1025	522009 266516 13.33m OD	Dark greyish brown sandy silt, single fill of 1025. Sparse gravel inclusions and rare chalk lumps and flecks. The fill probably derives from surrounding topsoil. No finds recovered.
1027	Filled with 1028	522001 266523 12.80m OD	Cut of 1.6m+ long and 0.70m+ wide sub-square pit that continues beyond the limits of excavation. The feature is 0.43m deep with very steep sides and a flat base. Possibly truncated by 1014. Possible gravel extraction pit.
1028	Fill of 1027	522001 266523 13.29m OD	Dark greyish brown sandy silt loam with gravel lenses and common small gravel inclusions. Poorly sorted, dumped fill of pit 1028. Animal bone, post-medieval CBM, burnt flint and Romano-British pottery recovered. A 10 ltr. Sample was taken (2) and a column sample (1)
1029	Filled with 1030	522007 266501 13.046	Cut of circular pit, 0.9m in diameter and 0.23m deep with moderately steep, concaved sides and a concaved base. Function unclear.
1030	Fill of	522007	Light greyish brown sandy silt, single, secondary fill of

	1029	266501 13.28m OD	1029 with sparse gravel inclusions. No finds recovered.
1031	Filled with 1032	521998 266525 12.80m OD	Cut of sub-square feature, 1.90m long E-W and 1.84m wide N-S. 0.96 m wide intervention dug. The feature is 0.36m deep with steep sides and a flat base. Possible gravel extraction pit.
1032	Fill of 1031	521998 266525 13.18m OD	Mid brown orange silty clay, single fill of 1031. The fill contained sparse flint inclusions, bone, post medieval pottery and iron objects.
1033	Filled with 1034, 1040	522012 266521 12.43m OD	Cut of a large feature that continues beyond northern limit of excavation. This was 7.60m+ long north-south and 1.97m+ wide east-west. A 1.30m long intervention was dug and found to be approximately 0.80m deep with vertical-undercutting sides and a flat base. Probable gravel extraction pit.
1034	Fill of 1033	522012 266521 13.23m OD	Pale greyish brown sandy clay loam, secondary fill of 1033. The fill contained common, small gravel inclusions, sparse pot (post medieval and possibly medieval), CBM and charcoal flecks.
1035	Filled with 1036	522005 266525 12.80m OD	Cut of circular feature, 0.90m long, 0.82m wide and 0.52m deep with moderate sides and concaved base. Probably a rubbish pit.
1036	Fill of 1035	522005 266525 13.35m OD	Mid brown silty clay single, secondary fill of 1036. The fill contained occasional large sub-angular and sub-circular stone inclusions, modern brick fragments, coal, bones, pottery and cement.
1037	1006, 1016, 1018, 1022		Group assigned to enclosure ditch in area 1. Four interventions were dug, none produced any dateable evidence, only small fragments of animal bone were recovered. Previous excavation had revealed artefacts of ninth-twelfth century date.
1038	Fill of 1039	522004 266501 13.24m OD	Dark grey silty sand, secondary fill of possible posthole 1039. Frequent gravel inclusions, no dateable evidence.
1039	Filled with 1038	522004 266501 13.17m OD	Cut of possible, oval posthole. 0.44m long, 0.38m wide and 0.15m deep with straight, moderate sides and a flat base.
1040	Fill of 1033	522012 266521 12.78m OD	Dark greyish brown sandy silt loam with orange brown sandy lenses. Basal water-lain fill of cut 1033. The fill contained common gravel and abundant root inclusions and sparse flecks of charcoal.
1041	Fill of 1042	522008 266507 13.33m OD	Mid brown silty sand, secondary fill of a possibly natural feature, 1042. The fill had frequent gravel inclusions.
1042	Filled with 1041	522008 266507 13.19m OD	Cut of small oval pit, 0.90m long and 0.70m wide. The feature continues to west beyond the limit of excavation, but clearly not far. It was 0.15m deep with straight, moderate sides and a flat base. The cut is possibly natural.
1043	Fill of 1044	521990 266524 12.90m OD	Dark grey silty clay, top fill of 1044. Mottled with patches of yellow brown soil in the darker matrix. Occasional pebble inclusions; post-medieval brick fragments noted, but not retained. Unexcavated.
1044	Filled with 1043	521990 266524 12.90m OD	Cut of sub-square feature. It is 3.70 m long 1.60m wide and extends beyond the southern limits of excavation. Probably a gravel extraction pit. Unexcavated.
1045	Fill of 1046	521993 266525 12.90m OD	Dark brown silty clay, top fill of 1046. Occasional pebble inclusions. Unexcavated.

1046	Filled with 1045	521993 266525 12.90m OD	Cut of sub-square feature, 4m long N-S and 2.70m wide E-W, continues to N beyond the limit of excavation. Probably a gravel extraction pit. Unexcavated.
1047	Fill of 1048	521995 266522 13.16m OD	Black silty clay, top fill of 1048. Occasional pebble inclusions; post-medieval brick fragments noted, but not retained. . Unexcavated.
1048	Filled with 1047	521995 266522 13.16m OD	Cut of sub-square feature, ca. 2 m long N-S and 1m wide E-W. Feature continues to S beyond limit of excavation. Probably a gravel extraction pit. Unexcavated.
1049	Fill of 1050	521997 266527 13.16m OD	Mid grey silty clay, top fill of 1050. Frequent pebble inclusions. Unexcavated.
1050	Filled with 1049	521997 266527 13.16m OD	Cut of square feature, 3.5m long E-W and 1.70m wide N-S. Feature continues N beyond the limits of excavation. Probably a gravel extraction pit. Unexcavated.
1051	Fill of 1052	521995 266525 13.16m OD	Mid greyish brown silty clay, top fill of 1052. Occasional pebble inclusions. Unexcavated.
1052	Filled with 1051	521995 266525 13.16m OD	Cut of sub-square feature, 2,80m long and 2.80m wide. Probably a gravel extraction pit. Unexcavated.
1053	Fill of 1054	521995 266522 13.17m OD	Dark brown, silty sand, top fill of 1054. Frequent gravel inclusions. Unexcavated.
1054	Filled with 1053	521995 266522 13.17m OD	Cut of sub-square feature, 3m long E-W and 1.60m wide N-S. Continues S beyond the limit of excavation. Probably a grave extraction pit. Unexcavated.
1055	Fill of 1056	522001 266526 13.25m OD	Dark grey sandy silt, top fill of 1056. Occasional gravel inclusions; post-medieval brick fragments noted, but not retained. . Heavy root disturbance. Unexcavated.
1056	Filled with 1055	522001 266526 13.25m OD	Cut of linear feature, 4.60m long N-S and 2.50m wide E-W, continues N beyond the limit of excavation. Heavy root disturbance in the fill might suggest a natural formation of the feature, e.g. a tree throw/line. Unexcavated.
1057	Fill of 1058	522009 266518 13.30m OD	Dark brown silty clay, top fill of 1058. Occasional pebble inclusions; post-medieval brick fragments noted, but not retained. . Unexcavated.
1058	Filled with 1057	522009 266518 13.30m OD	Cut of irregular/linear feature, 5m long NE-SW and 2m wide NW-SE. Terminates at NE end approx. 1.50 m from limit of excavation but continues beyond its limits to the SW. The feature has been truncated at NE end by previous evaluation excavation. Probably a gravel extraction feature. Unexcavated.
1059	Fill of 1060	522009 266525 13.26m OD	Dark greyish brown silty clay, top fill of 1060. Occasional pebble inclusions. Unexcavated.
1060	Filled with 1059	522009 266525 13.26m OD	Cut of large, irregular feature, 8m long N-S and 3.70m wide E-W. Continues N beyond the limit of excavation. Probably a gravel extraction feature. Unexcavated.
1061	Fill of 1062	522000 266503 13.38m OD	Mid brown silty clay, top fill of 1062. Frequent gravel inclusions. Unexcavated.
1062	Filled with 1061	522000 266503 13.38m OD	Cut of linear feature at the W edge of excavation. 6.70m long N-S and 0.70m wide E-W. Function not clear. Unexcavated.

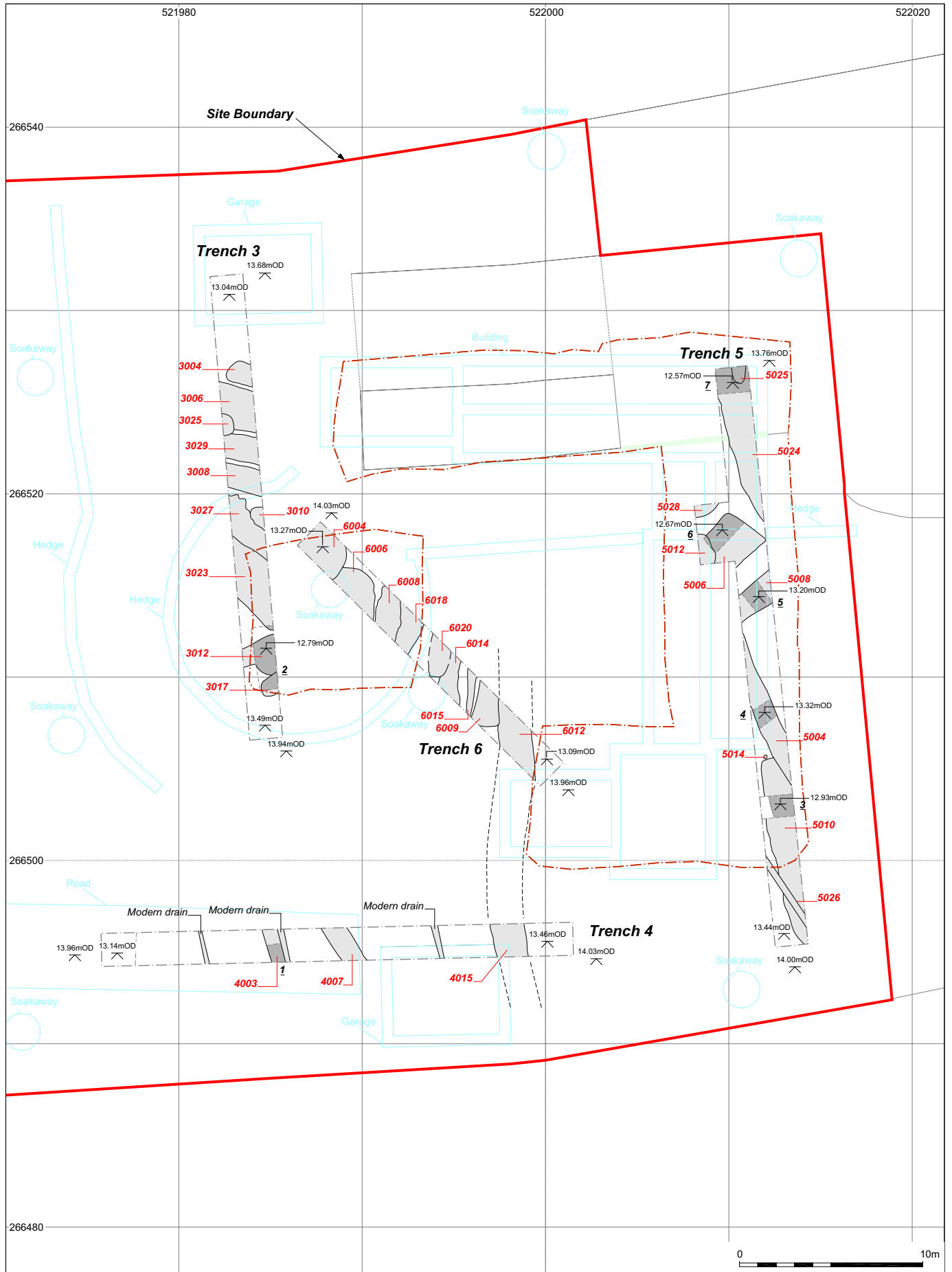
2000	N/a	521988 266510 13.65m OD	Modern overburden. Dark brown sandy loam with frequent pebbles and the remains of brick and gravel surfaces. Removed by machine.
2001	N/a	521988 266510 13.40m OD	Subsoil. Dark grey silty sand loam, occasional lenses of gravel. Removed by machine.
2002	Fill of 2003	521988 266510 13.22m OD	Dark brown silty sand. Single fill of 2003. Frequent sub-angular pebble inclusions. The fill contained 1 fragment of post medieval pot and fragments of bricks.
2003	Filled with 2002	521988 266510 12.93m OD	Cut of curvilinear feature, ca 8m long N-S and 1.30m wide E-W. Curves from S edge of excavation to the NE corner where it continues beyond the limit of excavation. 1m wide intervention was dug at its S end. The ditch is 0.25m deep with straight, steep sides and a flat base.
2004	N/a		Predominantly orange brown coarse sand and gravel. Natural terrace gravels sub-strata.
2005	Fill of 2009	521987 266516 13.10m OD	Mid greenish brown silty clay, top fill of cut 2009. Occasional pebble inclusions. No dateable evidence recorded.
2006	Fill of 2009	521987 266516 12.92m OD	Dark brown sandy silt, lower, secondary fill of cut 2009. Occasional pebble inclusions. The fill contained fragments of shell, brick and post medieval pottery and two iron nails. Very organic in smell and texture, probably formed in wet conditions. 10 ltr. sample taken no. <4>.
2007	Fill of 2010	521985 266516 13.10m OD	Black silty clay, secondary fill of cut 2010. Appears to be truncated by later cut 2009. Occasional pebble inclusions, contained few fragments of burnt flint, animal bones and post medieval pottery and bricks. Clearly formed under wet conditions.
2008	Fill of 2011	521988 266515 13.10m OD	Dark brown sandy silt, top fill of cut 2008. Included lenses of gravel. No artefacts retrieved.
2009	Filled with 2005-2006	521987 266516 12.77m OD	Cut of sub-oval feature, 3.20m+ long E-W and 1.30m+ wide N-S. Appears to truncate earlier cuts 2010 and 2011. The feature is 0.45m deep with straight, moderate sides and an irregular/flat base. Probably a gravel extraction feature.
2010	Filled with 2007	521985 266516 12.57m OD	Cut of curvilinear feature, c 8m long N-S and 1.30 m wide E-W. 0.90m long intervention was dug, second one in this feature, see 2003. The ditch is 0.55m deep, here, with steep straight sides and a flat base. Probably a gravel extraction feature.
2011	Filled with 2008	521988 266515 12.92m OD	Cut of sub-oval feature, c 6.65m long N-S and 0.85m wide E-W. 0.50m long intervention was dug. The ditch is 0.25m deep here, with straight moderate sides and a flat base. Probably a gravel extraction feature.
2012	Filled with 2013	521990 266510 12.82m OD	Cut of curvilinear feature, c. 6.65m long, 0.85m wide and 0.40m deep with steep, straight sides and a flat base. This 1.0m long intervention was the second in this feature (see 2011). Probably a gravel extraction feature.
2013	Fill of 2012	521990 266510 13.21m OD	Dark brown sandy silt, secondary fill of 2012. Frequent pebble inclusions. Did not contain any artefacts. 10 ltr. sample taken no. <6>.
2014	Fill of 2015	521987 266515 13.10m OD	Dark brown silty clay, secondary fill of 2015. The fill had occasional pebble inclusions and a lens of greenish brown silty clay. Fairly organic in smell and texture. No artefacts retrieved.
2015	Filled with	521987	Cut of curvilinear feature, c. 6.5m long, 1.18m wide and

	2014	266515 12.81m OD	0.20m deep with straight moderate sides and a flat base. Probably a gravel extraction feature.
2016	2003, 2010		Group no. for two interventions into the same curvilinear feature, see 2003 and 2010.
2017	2012, 2011		Group no. for two interventions into the same curvilinear feature, see 2012 and 2011.
2018	Filled with 2019-2023	521986 266510 12.66m OD	Cut of sub-oval pit, c. 5m+ long, 2.5m+ wide and 0.40m deep with moderately steep, concave sides and a flat base. Continues to beyond the western limit of excavation.
2019	Fill of 2018	521986 266510 13.02m OD	Dark greyish brown silty clay, lowest fill of pit 2018. Rare stone/gravel inclusions. The fill is likely to have formed in standing water. No dateable evidence was recovered. 10 ltr. sample taken no. <5>.
2020	Fill of 2018	521986 266510 13.03m OD	Light greyish brown silt clay with dark grey brown mottling. Fill of pit 2018, sparse gravel inclusions. Fill is likely to have formed in standing water. No dateable evidence was recovered.
2021	Fill of 2018	521986 266510 13.03m OD	Light greyish brown silt clay with pale grey lenses. Fill of pit 2018. Sparse gravel inclusions. Fill is likely to have formed in standing water. No dateable evidence was recovered.
2022	Fill of 2018	521986 266510 13.03m OD	Light greyish brown silt clay with dark grey brown mottling. Fill is likely to have formed in standing water. No dateable evidence was recovered.
2023	Fill of 2018	521986 266510 13.03m OD	Light greyish brown sandy silt, common gravel/pea grit inclusions. Top fill of pit 2018. Rapid deposition likely to represent a deliberate backfill.
2024	Fill of 2025	521992 266511 13.09m OD	Dark brown sandy silt, top fill of 2025. Frequent gravel inclusions. Unexcavated.
2025	Filled with 2024	521992 266511 13.09m OD	Cut of sub-oval feature, 2.70m long and 0.60m wide, continues to the south and east beyond the limit of excavation. Probably a grave extraction feature. Unexcavated.
2026	Fill of 2027	521991 266514 13.04m OD	Mid brown sandy silt, top fill of 2027. Frequent gravel inclusions. Unexcavated.
2027	Filled with 2026	521991 266514 13.04m OD	Cut of sub-square feature, 2m long and 1.50m wide. Appears to be quite shallow. Probably a gravel extraction feature. Unexcavated.
2028	Fill of 2029	521992 266514 13.02m OD	Dark brown sandy silt, top fill of 2029. Occasional gravel inclusions. Unexcavated.
2029	Filled with 2028	521992 266514 13.02m OD	Cut of curvilinear feature, 3m long and 0.50m wide, continues beyond the eastern limit of excavation. Probably a gravel extraction feature. Unexcavated.
2030	Fill of 2031	521991 266512 13.08m OD	Dark brown sandy silt, top fill of 2031. Occasional gravel inclusions. Unexcavated.
2031	Filled with 2030	521991 266512 13.08m OD	Cut of curvilinear feature, 6.5m+ long and up to 1.20m wide. Continues beyond southern limit of excavation. Not excavated.



Site Plan

Figure 1



CHER Event Number ECB2468



- Proposed development
- - - Excavation areas
- Previously excavated evaluation trench



Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	22/02/07	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:200 @ A3	Illustrator:	MR/KJB
Path:	London: Y:\Projects\63401\Drawing Office\Report Figures\Assessment\07-02-22		

Excavation areas with previously excavated evaluation trenches

Figure 2



CHER Event Number ECB2468



- Proposed development
- Excavation areas
- Intervention
- Previously excavated evaluation trench
- Possible early medieval feature
- Post-medieval or modern feature
- Undated feature



Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	22/12/06	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:200 @ A3	Illustrator:	MR/KJB
Path:	London: Y:\Projects\63401\Drawing Office\Report Figures\Assessment\07-02-22		

All features plan Areas 1 and 2

Figure 3



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

London Office: Unit 113, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY.

Tel: 020 7953 7494 Fax: 020 7953 7499 london-info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

