



Land West Of Orchard House
Houghton Road
St. Ives
Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

**Land West of Orchard House
Houghton Road
St Ives
Cambridgeshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared on behalf of:
**CgMs Consulting
Morley House
26 Holborn Viaduct
London
EC1A 2AT**

By:
**Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB**

Report reference: 65440.01
CHER Event Number ECB2530

March 2007

**Land West of Orchard House
Houghton Road
St Ives
Cambridgeshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Contents

	Summary	iii
	Acknowledgements	iv
1	PROJECT BACKGROUND	1
	1.1 Introduction	1
	1.2 Site Location, Use and Geology	1
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
	2.1 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	2
3	AIMS OF THE FIELDWORK PROGRAMME.....	3
	3.1 Objectives.....	3
	3.2 Research Framework.....	3
4	METHODOLOGY	3
	4.1 Fieldwork	3
5	RESULTS	4
	5.1 Introduction	4
	5.2 Soil Profile.....	5
	5.3 Geophysical Anomalies and Negative Features.....	5
	5.4 Archaeological features	5
6	FINDS	6
	6.1 General.....	6
	6.2 Worked and Burnt Flint.....	6
	6.3 Human Bone	7
7	ENVIRONMENTAL.....	7
	7.1 Introduction	7
	7.2 Charred Plant Remains and Charcoals	7
8	DISCUSSION.....	9
9	REFERENCES	10
	APPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARY TABLES.....	11

Figures

Figure 1: Site and trench location with geophysical survey

Tables

Table 1: All finds by context

Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

List of plates

Plate 1: Cremation pit 303

Plate 2: Ditch 2107

Front cover: Trench 17

Back cover: South-east of Site during machining

Land West of Orchard House Houghton Road St Ives Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of George Wimpey, South Midlands to undertake an archaeological field evaluation of 3ha of land adjacent to Houghton Road and located to the west of Orchard House, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire, National Grid Reference 529925 272365.

The area either side of the Houghton Road has previously produced numerous findspots of prehistoric worked flint. In the mid-19th century, evidence of an early Romano-British cremation cemetery, with an impressive array of finds, was found to the southwest of the Site, although the precise location remains unknown.

The Site is proposed for residential development, for which outline planning permission has been granted. A condition of the planning consent (Condition 14) requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological assessment to be undertaken to inform the determination of a future detailed planning application.

An initial geophysical survey of the Site was arranged by CgMs and was undertaken in advance of the evaluation. The results of the survey identified a number of anomalies, which indicated that the Site had the potential to contain archaeological features. The results of the geophysical survey were used to locate evaluation trenches to ensure areas of potential archaeological significance were targeted and fully assessed.

The evaluation was undertaken in late February and early March 2007 and comprised the machine excavation of 22 trial trenches, each approximately 30m by 1.8m in size. The majority of the trenches contained no archaeological remains. Two shallow undated ditches were identified in three trenches (Trenches **14**, **21** and **23**) and a series of burnt tree throws were noted (Trenches **18**, **20** and **21**). Extensive evidence was found across the Site for medieval/Post-medieval ridge and furrow, which broadly runs across the site, east to west.

One trench (Trench **3**) was found to contain significant archaeology, in the form of a pit containing an undated cremation burial (**303**), which was truncated by the medieval/Post-medieval ridge and furrow. Additional trenching radiating from this feature did not identify any further archaeological features in the immediate area.

Land West of Orchard House Houghton Road St Ives

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Rob Bourn of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work. Wessex Archaeology would also like to acknowledge the help and assistance of Kasia Gdaniec, who monitored the evaluation on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council during the course of the fieldwork.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Manning. The fieldwork was directed in the field by Jamie Wright, assisted by Barry Hennessy, Charlotte Coles and Patrice de Rijk. The report was prepared by Jamie Wright and Andy Manning, with the illustrations prepared by Linda Coleman. The environmental processing was undertaken by Laura Catlin, the bulk samples were assessed by Dr Chris J. Stevens and Sarah F. Wyles. The charcoal and the requirements for radiocarbon dating were assessed by Dr Catherine Chisham and the cremated remains were assessed by Jackie McKinley. The finds were assessed by Rachel Seager Smith.

Land West of Orchard House Houghton Road St Ives Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of George Wimpey, South Midlands to undertake an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching at land west of Orchard House, Houghton Road, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire (hereafter ‘the Site’).

1.1.2 The Site comprises a rectangular plot of farmland and measures approximately 215m by 140m in size, an area of 3ha. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference 529925 272365 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.3 Outline planning permission (Planning Application H/04/02199/OUT) has been granted for residential development of the Site. A condition of the planning consent (Condition 14) requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), to be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, in advance of any archaeological fieldwork.

1.1.4 A Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation was prepared by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice (CAPCA 2007).

1.1.5 An initial geophysical survey of the Site was arranged by CgMs and was undertaken in advance of the evaluation. The results of the survey were used to target evaluation trenches to ensure areas of identified, or potential, archaeological significance were fully assessed.

1.1.6 A Project Design setting out the strategy and methodology by which Wessex Archaeology would implement the programme of archaeological evaluation was submitted to, and approved by the Senior Archaeologist with CAPCA, acting on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, prior to the commencement of the field evaluation programme.

1.2 Site Location, Use and Geology

1.2.1 The Site comprises a sub-rectangular section of farmland, bounded by Houghton Road to the south, residential housing to the east, farmland to the west and playing fields to the north. (**Figure 1**).

- 1.2.2 At the time of the evaluation the Site comprised pasture land. The western half of the Site was fairly flat, lying at a height of 33m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) with a gentle downwards slope towards the eastern boundary, which lay at a height of 30.30m aOD.
- 1.2.3 The Site is located on Upper Jurassic Ampthill Clay, capped by Quaternary Boulder Clay (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1975). Lying approximately 1km to the south of the Site is the Great Ouse River. A narrow exposure of Oxford Clay and Corallian Beds is mapped between the Site and the River, which is fringed by 1st and 2nd Terrace gravels.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.1.1 The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) contains a total of 13 recorded archaeological findspots or sites, either on the Site or within 750m of the Site boundaries. A summary of the results is included below.
- 2.1.2 The majority of these recorded sites (8 in all) are prehistoric in date and comprise small Mesolithic (8500-4000BC) or Neolithic flint scatters (4000-2400BC), which are located in a broad band to the west and especially to the south of the Site. This material is likely to be related to prehistoric activity, focused on the gravel terraces of the Great Ouse.

Mesolithic

- 2.1.3 A microburin was found at Houghton Farm, 350m to the west of the Site, and worked flints adjacent to St Ives Thicket, 400m to the south of the Site.

Neolithic

- 2.1.4 A worked flake was recovered from The Hayards, 750m to the west of the Site, and a flint blade Houghton Hill, 300m to the west of the Site. Small scatters of between two and nine flints are recorded at Houghton Grange, 400m to the southwest of the Site, The Grange 200m to the south-west and two scatters adjacent to St Ives Thicket, 400m to the south of the Site. These scatters have included arrowheads, scrapers, awls, burins and waste flakes.

Romano-British

- 2.1.5 A small number of findspots and sites of this period are known (five in total).
- 2.1.6 A small number of scattered artefacts, including coins, pottery and metalwork have been found at Houghton Hill Farm, 450m to the west of the Site, and pottery and metalwork were also recovered from St Ives Thicket, 350-700m to the south of the Site. Within the eastern area of the Site itself, a small piece of bronze metal work was recorded as being recovered from a builder's trench.

Medieval/post medieval

- 2.1.7 Although no later finds are recorded on the CHER, surviving traces of likely medieval and post medieval ridge and furrow cultivation is clearly evident in

fields surrounding the Site, associated with the settlement at Houghton, which dates from the early medieval period.

3 AIMS OF THE FIELDWORK PROGRAMME

3.1 Objectives

3.1.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to;

- clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be threatened by development
- identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site.
- assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.

3.2 Research Framework

3.2.1 The recorded CHER sites and findspots highlight the potential for early prehistoric flint scatters, Early Romano-British burials and possible settlement and medieval/Post medieval cultivation.

3.2.2 The principal themes to be examined by the evaluation were;

- to test the northwards extent of the early flint scatters, which are presently mainly recorded to the south of the Houghton Road
- to investigate whether the Romano-British cemetery extends further to the north of the Houghton Road and/or evidence to support the presence of additional cemeteries or associated settlement
- to investigate the extent and preservation of medieval/post medieval cultivation within the Site
- to facilitate judgements on the status of the archaeological resource and allow the formulation of an appropriate response ('a mitigation strategy') to the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains, if required.

3.2.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (revised 1999).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

General

4.1.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of an initial 22 trial trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.8m and representing a 5% sample of the available 3ha Site (**Figure 1**). The trenches were targeted on anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, undertaken in advance of the evaluation (Stratascan

2007). Following comments from the Senior Archaeologist with CAPCA, a number of changes in the trench arrangement were made.

- 4.1.2 The trenches were surveyed by Global Positioning System to ensure that the trenches were accurately located on areas of archaeological potential and tied into the OS National Grid.
- 4.1.3 All trenches were stripped using a mechanical excavator, under constant archaeological supervision. All overburden was removed to the top of the natural geology or the top of the archaeological deposits, whichever was higher.
- 4.1.4 All recording was on Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* sheets in accordance with Wessex Archaeology guidelines for fieldwork recording. A full photographic record was kept comprising black and white negatives, colour transparencies and digital images. All site drawings were at an appropriate scale, typically 1:10 for sections and 1:20 for plans.
- 4.1.5 One trench (Trench 3) was identified as containing a likely human cremation burial. The remains were completely excavated in accordance with the standards set out in the IFA Technical Paper 13, *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed remains* under licence (Ref 07-0029), obtained in advance from the Department of Constitutional Affairs.
- 4.1.6 Following on-site consultation with the Senior Archaeologist with CAPCA, additional trenching was undertaken, radiating from the cremation burial, to locate any further such features. The fieldwork was undertaken between 26th February and 6th March 2007.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The evaluation found no evidence for significant archaeological features, with the exception of a single undated cremation burial (**303**) within the eastern area of the Site and a pattern of medieval/Post-medieval ridge and furrow running east-west throughout the extent of the Site.
- 5.1.2 Context numbers referred to in this report were trench specific and consisted of the trench number followed by two digits, so that e.g. context **103** was located in Trench 1 and **310** in Trench 3.
- 5.1.3 A trench summary of the contexts recorded within each trench is contained in **Appendix 1**.

5.2 Soil Profile

- 5.2.1 Geological deposits were encountered immediately below topsoil.
- 5.2.2 Solid geology (Amphill Clays) was not encountered but the drift (Boulder Clay) was. This highly calcareous clay was generally covered by presumed periglacial deposits - a c. 0.2m depth of silty clay with varying proportions of inclusions and colours and sometimes with 0.2m wide bands of coarse sandy clay. Cut into the natural clays were furrows of medieval or post medieval ploughing. The furrows were 0.7m wide and c. 7m apart.
- 5.2.3 Ceramic field drains and mole plough scars were frequently encountered during machining, reinforcing the initial impressions of a waterlogged soil.

5.3 Geophysical Anomalies and Negative Features

- 5.3.1 A comparison of features exposed by machining and the geophysical anomalies shows that the non-intrusive survey had accurately predicted the ridge and furrow which was recorded in most of the trenches.
- 5.3.2 A linear anomaly in the south-west of the Site was present in Trenches 21 and 23, extending further to the south than on the original plot. A second short linear anomaly coincided with a burnt tree throw in the eastern end of Trench 18. Only one of the anomalies interpreted as possible pits was positively uncovered (in Trench 20) and was identified as a burnt tree throw.
- 5.3.3 The southern edge of the large oval anomaly to the west of centre of the Site was targeted in Trench 18, but only an unusually dense patch of gravel was present. The square anomaly in the southwest of the Site was investigated in Trench 21 and was found to be the result of modern disturbance.

5.4 Archaeological features

- 5.4.1 An undated cremation burial, two undated shallow ditches, a small number of tree throws and the widespread remains of ridge and furrow were the only archaeological features observed.

Cremation Burial 303

- 5.4.2 A subcircular shallow pit, **303**, 0.56m in diameter and only 0.06m in depth, containing abundant charcoal, burnt bone and burnt or fired clay was uncovered in the northwestern end of Trench 3, located close to the eastern boundary of the Site (**Plate 1**). Due to charcoal staining of the natural clay, into which the pit had been cut, the pit was excavated to a total depth of 0.17m, to ensure the complete removal of the fill.
- 5.4.3 The upper 0.06m of the pit fill, **304**, contained the majority of the artefacts and ecofacts. The same materials were also in what appeared to be the upper part of the natural clay but in vastly reduced quantities. It now appears that drying and shrinking of the natural clay had allowed material to move downwards from the pit fill, leading to contamination of the underlying natural clay. The cremation deposit was excavated in quadrants by layer and

was 100% sampled. The pit appears to have been truncated by the ridge and furrow ploughing.

Ditch 2107/2304

- 5.4.4 A shallow ditch 2107/2304, at least 25m in length, 0.80m in width and 0.30m in depth, was uncovered running north-south through Trenches 21 and 23 (**Plate 2**). No artefacts were recovered.

Ditch 1403

- 5.4.5 Aligned northwest to southeast and exposed for a length of 4m this ditch was 0.6m wide and 0.25m deep at the level of machining. It contained a single, fill and contained no dating evidence.

Tree Throws

- 5.4.6 Tree throws that had been subsequently burnt were present in Trenches 18, 20 and 21. Tree throws in Trenches 18 and 20 (**1803** and **2003**) were both classic examples with a crescent shape and concave to the east or north-east. Both tree throws showed strong evidence of burning with black and red fills on the surface that feathered off into *in situ* natural clays. No dating material was recovered from any of the tree throws.

- 5.4.7 In Trench 21 there were two small features (**2103** and **2105**) containing charcoal, which have been interpreted as three throws. There was no scorching of the natural clays and the episodes of burning must have been short lived. Feature **2103** was slightly larger than **2105** at 0.4m by 0.65m and 0.15m deep. Both features contained common charcoal but no other artefacts.

6 FINDS

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation, deriving from four stratified and five unstratified contexts within eight trenches. The assemblage (quantified by context in **Table 1**) consists largely of worked flint, with minor occurrences of modern pottery (unstratified in trench 4); burnt, unworked flint, and small amounts of fired clay and cremated human bone.

6.2 Worked and Burnt Flint

- 6.2.1 The worked flint comprises flake and core material; one core (unstratified) may have been reused as a hammerstone. There are no other tools or utilised pieces. Most pieces are edge damaged, and the degree of patination varies. In the absence of diagnostic pieces this small group cannot be closely dated; none was found in stratified contexts.
- 6.2.2 The burnt flint is of unknown date, as are the small quantities of fired clay and cremated bone recovered from pit 303.

6.3 Human Bone

- 6.3.1 The cremated human bone was found unurned, and only small quantities are represented (a total of 320g, most of which came from the pit fill, **304**). The bone, which represents the remains of an adult, is in fragmentary condition, well oxidised, and little trabecular bone survives. Pit **303** was excavated in quadrants and the soil sieved for total bone recovery; the distribution of bone quantity across the quadrants appears fairly consistent, but a high proportion of skull vault fragments were noted in one quadrant.
- 6.3.2 Further analysis of the bone would be needed to confirm details of age and sex (if condition of the bone allows), and allowing comment on pyre technology, as well as examining the bone distribution in more detail, in order to highlight possible patterning, and therefore aspects of funerary ritual.

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

Tr	Context	Worked Flint	Burnt Flint	Fired Clay	Human Bone	Pottery
-	unstrat.	1/115				
3	304			250g	315g	
3	305				5g	
4	unstrat.	1/18				1/7
5	unstrat.	1/121				
6	unstrat.	3/107				
8	unstrat.	1/132				
18	1804		1/7			
20	2004		6/38			
	TOTAL	7/493	7/45	250g	320g	1/7

7 ENVIRONMENTAL

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 Ten samples were taken from quadranted spits of the cremation deposit (**304**) in Pit **303** and the underlying natural deposit (**305**) to retrieve any charred plant remains and wood charcoal and datable finds as well as cremated bone.

7.2 Charred Plant Remains and Charcoals

- 7.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 2**) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).
- 7.2.2 The flots were generally larger than average, but contained a high number of roots (up to 80%) and probable modern seeds that may be indicative of

stratigraphic movement, reworking or the degree of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

Charred plant remains

7.2.3 Very little charred material was retrieved from the samples. Three samples produced charred grain fragments; the indeterminate grain fragment and possible barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain were poorly preserved, whereas the free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) grain was in better condition.

7.2.4 However as this grain is more common from Saxon and later sites, it is likely that it is intrusive material, particularly as the flot consisted of 80% roots. The weed seeds recorded in the samples were mainly goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.) and one seed of speedwell (*Veronica* sp.). They were all considered likely to be modern intrusive seeds.

Charcoal

7.2.5 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 2**. Very little charcoal of greater than 4mm was recorded. The charcoal was mainly mature wood fragments.

7.2.6 The charcoal was relatively plentiful from the feature as a whole. However, it occurs at a shallow depth and the degree of rooting (and by inference bioturbation) is exceptionally high. There is a high possibility therefore of contamination of the sample with older or indeed more recent material.

7.2.7 Although the wood charcoal is physically dateable, it is not recommended that radiocarbon dating be attempted due to this risk of contamination, the date gained may not relate to the date of cremation. The actual cremated bone is small in terms of volume and individual fragment size and is also not well-suited to dating.

Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature type/no	Context	Sample	size litres	Flot							Residue	
				flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	Charred other	Seeds	Charcoal >4mm	Other	Charcoal >4mm	
Cremation Pit 303												
Surface	304	1	1	25 ⁶⁰	-	-	A	<i>Chenopodium</i> (Prob. modern)	C	-	-	
Surface	304	3	10	80 ⁴⁰	-	-	A*	<i>Chenopodium</i> (Prob. modern)	C	-	-	
NE Quad	304	4	2	15 ⁷⁰	-	-	B	<i>Chenopodium</i> (Prob. modern)	C	Vallonia (C)	-	
NW Quad	304	5	2	20 ⁷⁵	-	-	B	<i>Chenopodium</i> (Prob. modern)	C	Vallonia (C)	-	
SE Quad	304	6	2.5	50 ⁵⁰	C	-	B	1 x ?Barley grain <i>Chenopodium</i> (Prob. modern)	B	Vallonia (C)	-	
SW Quad	304	7	2	50 ⁶⁵	-	-	B	<i>Chenopodium</i> (Prob. modern)	C		-	
NE Quad	305	8	1	10 ⁸⁰	-	-	C	<i>Chenopodium</i> (Prob. modern)	-		-	
NW Quad	305	9	3	15 ⁸⁰	C	-	C	1 x indeterminate grain <i>Chenopodium</i> (Prob. modern)	-	Vallonia (C)	-	
SE Quad	305	10	3	25 ⁸⁰	C	-	C	1 x free-threshing wheat grain <i>Chenopodium</i> (Prob. modern)	C	Vallonia (C)	-	
SW Quad	305	11	3	20 ⁸⁰	-	-	C	<i>Chenopodium</i> (Prob. modern)	-	-	-	

KEY: A** = exceptional, A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, C14 = radiocarbon suggestions

NOTE: ¹flot is total, but flot in superscript = % of rooty material.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1.1 The majority of the evaluation trenches identified no evidence for significant archaeological remains. The evaluation identified a widespread pattern of ridge and furrow, which runs east to west and covers the entire Site. In addition, two shallow undated ditches were identified in three trenches (Trenches **14**, **21** and **23**) and a series of burnt tree throws were also noted (Trenches **18**, **20** and **21**), although none of these features contained any datable evidence.

8.1.2 The only significant archaeological feature found was cremation burial within Pit **303**, at the eastern edge of the Site. No datable material was found with the cremated remains, which appear to have been heavily truncated by later medieval/Post-medieval ploughing. Additional trenching radiating from this pit did not identify any further archaeological features in the immediate area.

- 8.1.3 In relation to previously recorded findspots, the cremation burial was found close to the location of the fragment of Romano-British copper alloy recovered from a builder's trench at the eastern edge of the Site. However, the cremated deposit, due to modern contamination, has little potential to provide an accurate radiocarbon date, which would have enabled the burial to be put into context.
- 8.1.4 The cremation burial itself could be related to the early Romano-British cremation cemetery found in the mid 19th century, although the precise location of this cemetery is unclear. While it is possible that the Site could have contained further cremation burials- subsequently removed by later ploughing- no evidence for residual Romano-British finds or scattered bone and charcoal deposits was observed across the Site. On the available evidence, the cremation burial appears to have been either an isolated burial or a possible outlier of the main cemetery. In addition, no evidence at all was found to suggest settlement, which antiquarian references associated with the cemetery.
- 8.1.5 A small quantity of residual worked and burnt flint was recovered across the Site, largely collected as unstratified material. All the worked flint (core and flakes) is undatable, but is still consistent with the previously recorded small scatters of Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flint, which has been regularly found in the vicinity of the Site.

9 REFERENCES

- CAPCA, 2007, *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*, Unpublished Brief
- Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1975, Huntington, Sheet 187, Drift Deposits, 1:50,000
- Stratascan, 2007, *Geophysical Survey Report; Orchard House, Houghton, St. Ives* Unpublished Client Report ref. J2304
- Stace, C., 1997. *New flora of the British Isles*. 2nd Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Wessex Archaeology, 2007, *Land West of Orchard House, Houghton Road, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire; Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*, Unpublished Client Rep. Ref. 65440

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARY TABLES

TRENCH 1

NGR	530007.2, 272418.5, 30.3	529976.2, 272421.5, 31.0
Dimensions	Length 31.1, Width 2.3, Max. depth 0.45 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
101	Topsoil: A greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel. Relict ploughsoil.	0 – 0.25
102	Natural: A yellowish brown silty clay with coarse sand. Several ceramic land drains present, some ridge and furrow ploughing in the E containing animal bone and cinders/coke (not retained)	> 0.25
	E end was flooded.	

TRENCH 2

NGR	529974.7, 272391.9, 31.3	530005.6, 272393.0, 30.4
Dimensions	Length 30.9, Width 2.2, Max. depth 0.38 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
201	Topsoil: A greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel. Relict ploughsoil.	0 – 0.25
202	Natural: A yellowish brown clay/coarse sandy clay with frequent medium gravel. Occasional patches of highly calcareous clay.	> 0.25
	A 9.7m long and 0.3m wide slot was excavated to 0.4m max. along to N edge of trench to try (unsuccessfully) to locate geophysical anomaly.	

TRENCH 3

NGR	529975.9, 272386.9, 31.2	530008.0, 272357.2, 30.5
Dimensions	Length 146.9 (total), Width 11.0 (max.), Max. depth 0.40 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
301	Topsoil: A greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel.	0 - 0.25
302	Natural: Yellowish brown silty clay with frequent pea grit, gravel (flint and chalk). Patches of orange brown coarse sandy clay.	> 0.25
303	Shallow pit: A 0.50m by 0.56m oval with a concave base at 0.17m depth. Possibly over-excavated where bone and burnt/fired clay had migrated down cracks in natural. Excavated in quadrants and 100% sampled.	0.25 – 0.42
304	Fill: The upper fill of 303 was a very dark grey/black with much charcoal, burnt bone re burnt/fired clay and occasional small flint gravel. Sharp boundary with 305.	0.25 – 0.31
305	Fill: A yellowish brown silty clay with rare small flint gravel. Although pos. in situ natural this contained burnt bone, charcoal and red clay. The artefacts may have fallen down cracks opened during long periods of dry weather or bioturbation may have been responsible.	0.31 – 0.42
	A 11m by 7m area was opened around 303 and 116m of extra trench excavated in a star radiating from it.	

TRENCH 4

NGR	529986.1, 272341.2, 31.2	530014.4, 272327.8, 30.53
Dimensions	Length 31.3, Width 2.5 (max.), Max. depth 0.35 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
401	Topsoil: A greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel.	0 - 0.22
402	Natural: Yellowish brown clay with frequent pea grit, occasional gravel and chalk. Rare patches of coarse sandy clay.	> 0.22
403	Fill: Greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel.	0.22 – 0.42
404	Ditch: A N to S V-shaped ditch that was 0.2m wide and produced post medieval pottery.	0.22 – 0.42

TRENCH 5

NGR	529975.4, 272345.8, 31.4	529981.1, 272315.1, 31.4
Dimensions	Length 31.3, Width 2.3, Max. depth 0.38 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
501	Topsoil: A greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel.	0 – 0.25
502	Natural: A yellowish brown clay with pea grit and flint and chalk gravel.	> 0.25

TRENCH 6

NGR	529967.0, 272322.5, 31.5	529935.4, 272322.0, 32.1
Dimensions	Length 31.6, Width 2.2, Max. depth 0.38 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
601	Topsoil: A greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel.	0 - 0.25
602	Natural: Yellowish brown clay with frequent pea grit, occasional small flint gravel and occasional small rounded chalk.	> 0.25

TRENCH 7

NGR	529956.3, 272341.9, 31.7	529940.1, 272367.9, 31.9
Dimensions	Length 30.6, Width 2.3, Max. depth 0.48 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
701	Topsoil: A brown silty clay with rare flint, some rounded chalk and rare pea grit.	0 – 0.30
702	Natural: Pale greyish brown to yellowish brown silty clay. Some small chalk fragments and rare flint gravel.	> 0.30

TRENCH 8

NGR	529935.4, 272377.2, 32.0	529965.1, 272385.5, 31.4
Dimensions	Length 30.7, Width 2.3, Max. depth 0.40 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
801	Topsoil: A greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel.	0 – 0.25
802	Natural: A yellowish brown clay with occasional small gravel.	> 0.25
	Much of the E was flooded.	

TRENCH 9

NGR	529939.6, 272394.0, 32.0	529957.0, 272418.7, 31.5
Dimensions	Length 30.2, Width 2.4, Max. depth 0.47 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
901	Topsoil: A greyish brown silty clay with rare medium to large flint gravel and some brick fragments.	0 - 0.25
902	Natural: Pale yellowish brown silty clay with patches of large flint gravel and in the middle of the trench an area of calcareous silty clay.	> 0.25
	Several field drains ran NE to SW across the trench and one N to S.	

TRENCH 10

NGR	529928.2, 272411.2, 32.1	529896.6, 272410.6, 32.2
Dimensions	Length 31.6, Width 2.2, Max. depth 0.40 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1001	Topsoil: A brown silty clay with rare flint, some rounded chalk and rare pea grit.	0 – 0.25
1002	Natural: A yellowish brown silty clay with occasion coarse calcareous sand and small stones and some flint gravel.	> 0.25
	Much of the trench flooded.	

TRENCH 11

NGR	529909.0, 272405.6, 32.2	529909.0, 272375.8, 32.3
Dimensions	Length 29.8, Width 2.0, Max. depth 0.40 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1001	Topsoil: A greyish brown silty clay with rare to common medium gravel.	0 – 0.30
1002	Natural: A yellowish brown clay with occasional medium and some large gravel. Very calcareous in S of trench.	> 0.25
	Three approx. E to W furrows crossed the trench the N third of which was under water.	

TRENCH 13

NGR	529923.7, 272363.4, 32.1	529892.1, 272363.4, 32.3
Dimensions	Length 31.6, Width 2.2, Max. depth 0.40 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1301	Topsoil: A greyish brown silty clay with rare medium to large flint gravel and some brick fragments.	0 - 0.20
1302	Natural: A yellowish brown silty clay with coarse sand. Large puddles in the whole trench.	> 0.20

TRENCH 14

NGR	529912.1, 272338.8, 32.3	529882.1, 272339.7, 32.6
Dimensions	Length 30.0, Width 2.1, Max. depth 0.40 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1401	Topsoil: A brown silty clay with rare flint, some rounded chalk and rare pea grit.	0 – 0.26
1402	Natural: A yellowish brown silty clay with calcareous pea grit in the centre and gravel in W of trench.	> 0.26
1403	Ditch: A NW to SE aligned 0.6m wide linear feature with gently sloping sides and rounded base.	0.26 – 0.51
1404	Fill: A pale greyish brown silty clay containing rare medium flint gravel. The only fill, from which no dating evidence was recovered.	0.26 – 0.51

TRENCH 15

NGR	529905.5, 272323.3, 32.3	529890.2, 272297.7, 32.6
Dimensions	Length 29.38, Width 2.2, Max. depth 0.45 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1501	Topsoil: A greyish brown silty clay with rare medium gravel.	0 – 0.25
1502	Natural: A yellowish brown silty clay. In the centre and NE was very calcareous with chalk peagrit and very small stones, some rare flint gravel.	> 0.25
	Two approx. E to W furrows crossed the trench and two or three field drains were present.	

TRENCH 16

NGR	529871.4, 272304.1, 32.8	529870.6, 272334.7, 32.8
Dimensions	Length 30.5, Width 2.2, Max. depth 0.45 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1601	Topsoil: A greyish brown silty clay with rare flint gravel and rare chalk fragments.	0 - 0.25
1602	Natural: A yellowish brown silty clay with rare medium gravel and rare small chalk fragments. Some large flint.	> 0.25
	Four furrows and a land drain were present.	

TRENCH 17

NGR	529862.1, 272862.1, 32.8	529844.1, 272376.1, 33.0
Dimensions	Length 29.6, Width 2.2, Max. depth 0.38 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1701	Topsoil: A brown silty clay.	0 – 0.22
1702	Natural: A yellowish brown silty clay	> 0.22
	Two furrows crossed the trench	

TRENCH 18

NGR	529894.3, 272373.0, 32.3	529863.5, 272372.3, 32.7
Dimensions	Length 30.8, Width 2.1, Max. depth 0.40 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1800	Topsoil: A greyish brown sandy clay with rare medium gravel.	0 – 0.30
1801	Natural: A yellowish brown silty clay. In the centre and NE was very calcareous with chalk peagrit and very small stones, some rare flint gravel.	> 0.30
1802	Natural: Twelve metres from the W end was a patch of silty clay containing many medium and large flints. This was 2m across, was cut to the N by ridge and furrow and coincided with a large positive oval geophysical anomaly.	> 0.30

1803	Tree throw: A crescentic feature, concave to the NE. It was 2m across, shallow to SW and overhung to NE.	0.30 – 0.75
1804	Fill: A yellowish brown silty clay that contained a 50mm thick charcoal rich lens at a depth of 0.3m.	0.30 – 0.75

TRENCH 19

NGR	529867.1, 272399.3, 32.6	529885.8, 272421.3, 32.4
Dimensions	Length 28.9, Width 2.3, Max. depth 0.40 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1901	Topsoil: A greyish brown silty clay with rare flint gravel and rare chalk fragments.	0 - 0.25
1902	Natural: A mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional to frequent peagrit and very small gravel	> 0.25
	Land drains and mole ploughing evident.	

TRENCH 20

NGR	529858.5, 272399.4, 32.7	529830.3, 272409.2, 33.2
Dimensions	Length 29.8, Width 2.3, Max. depth 0.37 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
2001	Topsoil: A grey silty clay with few small angular flints. Some fine roots and a sharp boundary. The top had a small blocky/large crumb structure and the base large blocky.	0 – 0.20
2002	Natural: mostly silty clay varying between pale yellow brown and brown in colour. Common medium angular flint and few medium rounded chalk fragments. Bands of reddish brown fine sandy clay, 0.2m wide were present. Patches were stone free and few large flints were present.	> 0.20
2003	Tree throw: A 1.5m by 1.1m oval shape with gently sloping sides and a flat base. A former 0.1m diameter root was evident descending through the natural.	0.20 – 0.37
2004	Fill: A crescentic fill around the W of the tree hollow. Strongly coloured red and black.	0.20 – 0.33
2005	Fill: A yellowish brown silty clay redeposited natural mostly to E of 2003.	

TRENCH 21

NGR	529843.9, 272295.0, 33.5	529819.6, 272295.6, 33.9
Dimensions	Length 22.4, Width 2.1, Max. depth 0.40 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
2101	Topsoil: A greyish brown sandy clay with rare medium gravel.	0 – 0.20
2102	Natural: A yellowish brown silty clay with common peagrit, gravel and rounded chalk. There were patches of paler silty clay and of sandy clay.	> 0.20
2103	Burnt tree roots: A subrectangle of 0.40m by 0.65m. It had a max. depth of 0.1m decreasing to 0.02m in the recorded section.	0.20 – 0.30
2104	Fill of 2103: A redeposited natural containing common charcoal fragments.	0.20 – 0.30
2105	Burnt tree roots: A slightly irregular oval of 0.34m by 0.50m with a concave undulating base.	0.20 – 0.33
2106	Fill of 2105: Redeposited natural containing few small stones and common charcoal.	0.20 – 0.33
2107	Ditch: A N to S ditch that was 1.8m wide. The W side sloped at c. 45° to a rounded base but the E side had a c. 0.8m wide horizontal step – the ditch may originally have been 0.8m wide but obscured by a hedge to its E.	0.20 – 0.45
2108	Fill of 2107: A yellowish brown silty clay with occasional gravel.	0.20 – 0.45
2109	Fill of 2107: A pale greyish brown silty clay with frequent flint and chalk stones. Not present in section.	0.25 – 0.35
2110	Fill of 2107: A yellowish brown clay with frequent manganese dioxide staining filling a slight hollow at the base of the cut. Not present in section.	0.35 – 0.45

TRENCH 22

NGR	529855.2, 272334.2, 33.1	529826.1, 272343.7, 33.6
Dimensions	Length 29.1, Width 2.2, Max. depth 0.30 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
2201	Topsoil: A greyish brown silty clay with rare flint gravel and rare chalk fragments.	0 - 0.25
2202	Natural: A pale to mid yellowish brown clay with frequent peagrit and occasional small gravel	> 0.25
	Land drains ran N to S and mole ploughing ran both E to W and N to S.	

TRENCH 23

NGR	529847.2, 272312.1, 33.3	529820.5, 272307.8, 33.9
Dimensions	Length 27.1, Width 2.3, Max. depth 0.40 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
2301	Topsoil: A grey silty clay with few small angular flints. Some fine roots and a sharp boundary. The top had a small blocky/large crumb structure and the base large blocky.	0 – 0.20
2302	Natural: A yellowish brown silty clay with few to common peagrit, gravel and chalk very small stones.	> 0.20
2303	Fill: A yellowish brown silty clay with occasional flint gravel.	
2304	Ditch: A N to S, 1m wide ditch, the same as 2107 . It was not excavated in this trench due to flooding.	0.20 – 0.33



- Evaluation trench
- Archaeology
- Ridge and furrow
- Tree throw hole

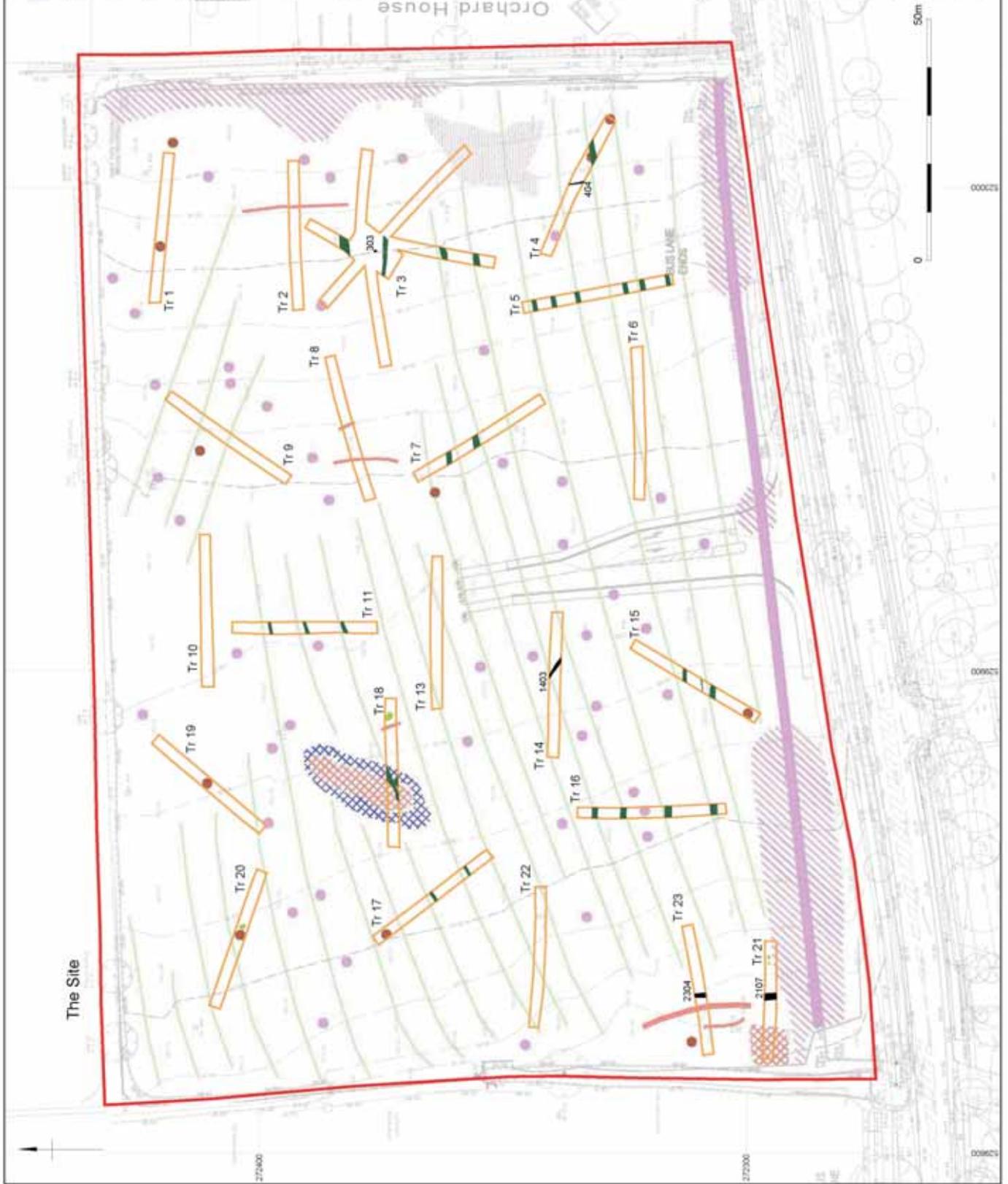
Reproduced from the 1991 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Explorer map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright, Wessex Archaeology, Porchester House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6ES. Licence Number: 100021190

Digital image supplied by client

This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Revision Number:	0
Illustrator:	LJC
Date:	21/03/07
Scale:	1:50 000 & 1:800 @ A3
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\65440.D. 0.1

Report Figures\EVAL07-03-21\65440eval.dwg



Site and trench location with geophysical survey

Figure 1



Plate 1: Cremation pit 303



Plate 2: Ditch 2107



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

