Roman ditches and post-medieval quarry pits at No. 37 Lower End Swaffham Prior

Archaeological Evaluation Report

January 2012

Client: Mr and Mrs A Dickens / Steve Hartley of Ley Construction Ltd

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Roman ditches and post-medieval quarry pits at No. 37 Lower End, Swaffham Prior

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Number: 1324
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HER Event No: ECB 3703
Date of Works: 5th January 2012
Client Name: Mr and Mrs A Dickens/Steve Hartley of Ley Construction Ltd
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Table of Contents

Summary..............................................................................................................................................5

1 Introduction........................................................................................................................................7
   1.1 Location and scope of work..........................................................................................................7
   1.2 Geology and topography..............................................................................................................7
   1.3 Archaeological and historical background....................................................................................7
   1.4 Acknowledgements......................................................................................................................11

2 Aims and Methodology.....................................................................................................................12
   2.1 Aims.............................................................................................................................................12
   2.2 Methodology..............................................................................................................................12

3 Results..............................................................................................................................................13
   3.1 Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4)...............................................................................................................13
   3.2 Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4)...............................................................................................................13

4 Discussion and Conclusions............................................................................................................14
   4.1 Iron Age to Roman ......................................................................................................................14
   4.2 Medieval.................................................................................................................................14
   4.3 Post-medieval to modern............................................................................................................15
   4.4 Significance..............................................................................................................................15
   4.5 Recommendations.....................................................................................................................15

Appendix A. Context Inventory..........................................................................................................16

Appendix B. Finds Reports..................................................................................................................17
   B.1 Roman Pottery..........................................................................................................................17
   B.2 Medieval Pottery......................................................................................................................18
   B.3 CBM...........................................................................................................................................18

Appendix C. Environmental Reports................................................................................................19
   C.1 Animal Bone............................................................................................................................19
   C.2 Environmental samples.............................................................................................................19

Appendix D. Bibliography ..................................................................................................................20

Appendix E. OASIS Report Form ......................................................................................................21
List of Figures

Fig. 1  Site location with development area outlined (red)
Fig. 2  HER entries mentioned in the text within 1km of site
Fig. 3  Trench layout relating to architect's drawing of the manor house
Fig. 4  Trench plans and section
Fig. 5  Evaluation trenches and wall footings observed in Watching Brief

List of Tables

Table 1  Quantity and weight of pottery by ceramic period
Table 2  Roman pottery catalogue

List of Plate

Plate 1  Ditch 9, Trench 2, looking north
Summary

On 5th January 2012 OA East conducted an archaeological evaluation at No.37 Lower End, Swaffham Prior prior to the proposed construction of a house extension and a new swimming pool (TL 5707 6460). The archaeological work comprised two c.5m long evaluation trenches targeted within the footprint of each of the two construction areas.

In the area of the house extension (Trench 2) there were two ditches which were probably associated with a long lived Late Iron Age to Roman settlement. The earliest of the two ditches was likely to have been dug in the Latest Iron Age period and then backfilled in the very early Roman period (mid 1st century AD), while the second ditch was backfilled in the 2nd century or later. In the former there was a significant unabraded collection of pottery and two large animal bones (horse tibia and a cattle jaw) suggesting that domestic occupation was probably located just beyond the evaluation trench. An environmental sample from this ditch indicates that cereals were being processed and/or cooked nearby. The second ditch was fairly sterile and was dated by a single pottery sherd. The second trench within the area of the proposed swimming pool only revealed inter-cutting 18th century quarry pits; activity that would have removed any earlier archaeological remains.

The two trenches were within the area of a moated medieval manor called Shadworth, which is recorded in documents from AD 1330. It is perhaps surprising that no features dating to this period were found and only three residual medieval and late medieval pottery sherds were recovered.
1 **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 **Location and scope of work**

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at No. 37 Lower End, Swaffham Prior prior to the construction of a house extension and a new swimming pool (TL 5707 6460; Fig. 1).

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell (McConnell 2011) of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 10/00376/FUL and 10/377/LBC), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Macaulay 2011).

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East. The paper archive will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course, although the artefacts may be returned to the landowners, Mr and Mrs Dickens (subject to permission by the authorities).

1.2 **Geology and topography**

1.2.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS 1974) places the site within Totternhoe Stone comprising Lower Beds (Chalk Marl). The site is on fairly flat land, although there is a slight slope with the land falling away to the north. Trench 2, adjacent and to the southwest of the manor house was located at 8.02mOD and 30m to the north of it, Trench 1 was at 7.6mOD, within the vegetable garden. To the north of the vegetable garden there is a gentle slope down to a fenland area.

1.3 **Archaeological and historical background**

*Archaeological background: Development Area*

1.3.1 The site is within a rectangular medieval moated site (Fig. 2; HER 01133c; Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (RCHM) Class A1(b)) which was the former manor house of Shadworth (RCHM 1972, 126-127). The RCHM records the moated site as the following: "consists of a rectangular area of 1½ acres surrounding the (existing) house. The wide ditch, filled with a spring in the S. corner, survives only as a slight hollow on the S.E. where it has been destroyed by the garden, and the other three sides, now 30ft. wide and 8ft. deep, have been recut for modern drainage. Owing to the natural slope of the land the interior had to be levelled by raising the N.W. end by 3ft. The moat is shown on the (1815) Enclosure Map".

1.3.2 In the centre of the former enclosure there is a building ‘The Manor House’ the timber framing of which has been dated as being 17th century (HER 01133a; Grade II listed building No.1127043). The Late Tony Baggs looked at the structure but could not accurately date it (Mrs Dickens pers. comm.). The timber framed building was later refaced in brick in c. AD 1830.
1.3.3 Associated and to the north-east of The Manor House is a barn (HER 01133b; Grade II listed building No.1127044. In the barn there is a post inscribed 'RB 1767' and this is likely to be the date of the barn's construction (RCHM 1972, 127).

*HER search within 1km of the development area (Fig.2)*

1.3.4 The 1km search around the development area has shown a varied landscape with sites dating from the prehistoric to modern remains (Fig. 2):

**Pre-Iron Age**

1.3.5 Various lithic scatters, including Mesolithic and Neolithic material, have been found within the 1km radius of the site, indicating some activity was taking place, although no settlement evidence has been recorded (none of the finds spots are on plan).

**Iron Age and Roman**

1.3.6 At least four known Iron Age settlements have been recorded within 1km of the site and most of these seem to have continued into the Roman period. The Iron Age HER records consist of:

* An Early Iron Age to Roman settlement c.1km to the north-west (HERs 06392 and 06394).

* A single Iron Age settlement, between 0.75km and 0.95km to the north-east, may be represented by four adjacent HER records. These comprise an area of Iron Age pottery (HER 06437); Iron Age skeletons and pottery (HER 06442); an Iron Age soilmark and flint scatter (HER 04436) and an area where c.50 Iron Age pottery sherds have been found including Belgic sherds (HER 06443). Five Roman pottery sherds were also found in this area (HER 06443A).

* There was possibly a separate Iron Age site near to the above settlement, which was located 0.7km to the north of the development site (HER 06809B). Here, a scatter of Iron Age pottery was found including Belgic types.

* A large Iron Age pottery scatter was found 1km to the south-east of the site (HER 11537A). The site was later partly overlaid by a Roman temple complex (see below).

1.3.7 There are many Roman records within 1km of the site, representing a villa, a temple, probable other high status sites and several settlements (Fig. 2). It is also likely that an undated linear cropmark may be the remains of a Roman road. Three Roman HER records have been listed above as they were found with Iron Age remains. The remaining Roman HER records consist of:

* Reach Villa located 0.5-0.7km to the north-north-east of the site was excavated in 1892/3. This excavation found several rooms with the walls made of flint (Atkinson 1894; ECB 806; HER 06809). The villa is a Scheduled Monument (SM 87).

* A probable high status Roman building was recorded 0.4km to the north (HERs 06781 and 06782). Here, the former reference refers to Roman pottery, box flue tiles, roofing tiles, mortar and flint found in an area measuring up to 30m across. Adjacent, to the east of this a tessera and some Roman pottery were also found.

* An archaeological evaluation at Gallow's Hill, Swaffham Prior in 1993, just under 1km to the south-east, identified a Romano-British temple complex and Anglo-Saxon burials (Bray and Malim 1998; Malim 2006; ECB 249). Undated cropmarks of a settlement (HER 06872) recorded directly to the west and these are possibly Roman.
Leading towards this settlement were cropmarks of a double ditched road running for 0.7km (HER 06871), aligned north to south.

* Roman pottery found in two adjacent locations in 1924 may denote the location of a Roman settlement c.0.8km to the north-east of the site (HERs 06434 and 06435).

* A further Roman settlement lay c.200m to the south-west of the site (HER 06421). This settlement is postulated as large quantities of Roman pottery, box flue tiles and a pannular brooch were found within modern extraction pits (RCHM 1972, 128). A single Roman sherd recovered directly to the west of this site may be part of it (HER 06833A).

* Large quantities of Roman pottery, roof tiles, plaster and animal bones have also been found after ploughing c.0.3km to the north-east of the site (HER 06425).

* Roman pottery has been found between 0.7km and 0.9km to the south-west of the site (HERs 06713 and 06767).

* Large quantities of Roman pottery were also found 0.35km to the south-west of the site (HER 11535).

* An archaeological evaluation at Green Head Road, Swaffham Prior, 0.5km to the south found residual Roman pottery within post-medieval clunch pits (Hall 2003; ECB 2026).

**Saxon**

1.3.8 There are only a few possible Saxon HER references within 1km of the site including possible Saxon burials. The HER records consist of:

* Devils Ditch/Dyke, a Scheduled Monument (SM5), runs north-west to south-east, 0.9km to the north-east of the site (HER 07801).

* An archaeological evaluation at Gallow's Hill, Swaffham Prior in 1993, just under 1km to the south-east, found Anglo-Saxon burials (Bray and Malim 1998; Malim 2006; ECB 249).

* Between four and six human skulls were found c.0.7km to the south of the site during construction of a By-Pass in 1973 (HER 06427). The skulls are of unknown date but the HER records that 'an archaeologist' thought they were Saxon in date. A further six undated human burials were recovered just north of the skulls during service trenching in 1966 (HER 06428) suggesting there may be an extended cemetery in this area.

**Medieval**

1.3.9 There are many HER records for the medieval period including listed buildings, earthwork structures and finds spots, however given the nature of the current site, this section only records the moated manor sites. There are three other medieval moated sites known in Swaffham Prior, all are also to the west of the High Street/Lower End Roads (HERs 01125, 01126 and 01134). The nearest to the site was a former medieval manor site located 200m to the south-west (HER 01125) but this has been completely destroyed (RCHM 1972, 129). A second medieval moated site lies 0.6km to the south-west (HER 01126) and the third, 0.7km to the south-west (HER 01134).
Post-medieval and modern

1.3.10 There are numerous HER records within the 1km radius around the site including the two listed buildings within the development area (see Section 1.3.2 and 1.3.3 above). The other listed buildings in the village have not been included below. Within the HER records there are two relating to post-medieval quarry pits. An archaeological evaluation at Green Head Road, Swaffham Prior, 0.5km to the south of the site, uncovered post-medieval clunch quarry pits and it is thought that this quarrying had removed all earlier archaeological deposits (Hall 2003; ECB 2026). The second site was an evaluation at Mill Hill, Swaffham, 0.4km to the south of site, which found post-medieval boundary features and two post-medieval clunch quarry pits (Jones 2006; ECB 2145).

Undated

1.3.11 There have been a few undated features uncovered within the 1km HER search around the site. A few of the undated features have been integrated in the above sections (e.g. in the Roman section an undated road and associated settlement cropmarks were recorded). In addition to these records, an archaeological watching brief, c.0.4km to the north of the site, at Central Farm, Reach found undated linear and other discrete features (Cane 1998; ECB 315). An evaluation 0.5km to the south-west of the site revealed two shallow undated ditches (Hatton 2004; ECB 1798).

Historical background

1.3.12 The place name ‘Swaffham’ derives from the Old English ‘Swafham’ meaning ‘the Swabian home - the tribal land of the Swaeve, a tribe from Eastern Germany’ (Ekwall 1991). The earliest documentary reference to the settlement dates to c.AD 907 (Reaney 1943, 133), and it is again recorded in the 950s when the north-eastern part of Swaffham was called ‘the ham of the Swaeve’ (Wright 2002, 273). The present Swaffham Prior was, by AD 1066, distinguished from its southern neighbour, the modern Swaffham Bulbeck (ibid, 273). Swaffham Prior was also called Great Swaffham in this period as it was slightly larger in size than its neighbour. It may have received its name after Benedictine nuns founded a priory at Swaffham in the late 12th century, when the Prior of Ely became its main landlord.

1.3.13 Swaffham Prior had two ecclesiastical parishes sharing a single yard, 0.8km to the south of the site, which probably reflects an early manorial or tenurial division (RCHM 1972, 116). The two parishes were united in 1667 by an Act of Parliament (Wright 2002, 273; RCHM 1972, 116). There were 16 peasants and four servi recorded in the Domesday Book for Swaffham Prior (quoted in Wright 2002, 275). By 1279 there were c.110 landholders, and 54 inhabitants were taxed in 1327 (ibid, 275).

1.3.14 The history of the manors at Swaffham Prior has been recorded in Wright 2002, 279-285. The main manor can be traced from the mid 10th century when a two-hide estate in Swaffham was sold by Wynsige to his kinsman. This estate passed through several hands before being conveyed with an additional 70a to the Abbey at Ely and then to Swaffham Prior in the early 12th century. The other land within the parish was formerly owned by Ely's sokemen and by 1086 this passed to the bishops of Ely with the manor tenanted to Hardwin de Scalers and his descendants.

1.3.15 Afterwards, the land within Swaffham Prior was repeatedly divided up, and this has resulted in at least seven separate manors in the parish (RCHM 1972, 116). There are four moated manor sites presently recorded in the parish, with the development area belonging to Shadworth manor (see Section 1.3.9 above; Fig. 2). Shadworth's manor
can be traced from 1330 by documents held in Queen's College, Cambridge (Wright 2002, 283). The manor was then held by the Bishops of Ely, and was tenanted to John Brigham of West Wratting. This manor passed through several hands before being bought by John Shadworth in 1383, a London mercer and alderman (ibid, 284). The manor later passed again through several hands before being acquired for Queen's College, Cambridge, possibly through a dedication in 1478 (ibid, 284). Shadworth manor farmland comprised 291a in 1491, reduced to 232a in c.1800, and converted at inclosure in 1815 into c.160a. In c.1923 Queen's College sold its manor to C. Y. Woolard whose family owned it into the 1970s (ibid, 284). It is presently owned by Mr and Mrs A. Dickens.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank the clients Mr and Mrs A. Dickens and their contractors Steve Hartley of Ley Construction Ltd. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray. Dan McConnell monitored the evaluation on behalf of the planning authority. Sally Croft of Cambridgeshire County Council kindly supplied HER information. Rachel Clarke edited the report. I am grateful for specialist reports from Chris Faine, Carole Fletcher, Rachel Fosberry and Steve Wadeson. The fieldwork was carried out by the author.
2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Brief required that the evaluation should include a programme of linear trenching and/or test pitting to adequately sample the site (McConnell 2011). The location of the trenching was agreed with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Officer prior to the evaluation and comprised two 5m long trenches targeted within the footprint of the two proposed areas of construction (Macaulay 2011). This has meant that a c.7% sample of the area (c.250 sq.m) affected by the development was examined.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked mini excavator (Kabotta) using a toothless ditching bucket. The evaluation was undertaken during dry but extremely windy conditions.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using tapes with standing buildings used as fixed points of location. All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. A single 10 litre environmental sample was taken from Roman ditch (9).
3 RESULTS

3.1 Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4)

3.1.1 Trench 1 was positioned perpendicular to the standing coach house (former listed barn) within the vegetable plot of the house. It was aligned north-west to south-east, was 5.6m long and 1.6m wide and machined to a depth of 0.8m below ground level. During the machining of the trench, a large thick ‘layer’ of post-medieval material with only two small areas of natural chalk exposed. The homogeneous nature of the deposit and the lack of features exposed at 0.8m below ground level, resulted in a machine excavated sondage through the material which exposed the top of intercutting pits, at which machining was stopped (Fig. 4). Pit 4 was then hand dug to a depth of 1.45m below ground level. The exact dimensions of the pit were uncertain as the backfill of the pits were all similar. It was more than 1.4m long, more than 1m wide and at least 0.65m deep with steep sides. It was backfilled with a single deposit (3) comprising a dark grey brown sandy silt containing medieval pottery, roof tile and a brick fragment. Inter-cutting pit 12, was adjacent to the south-east and was filled with a single dark grey brown sandy silt (5).

3.1.2 Above the pits was the 0.45m thick ‘deposit’ (2) which was seen across the trench and comprised a mid to dark grey brown sandy silt. In this layer there were post-medieval artefacts including c.18th century brick (not retained) as well as a residual medieval pottery sherd. Sealing this layer was a 0.35m thick topsoil (1) which comprised a mid grey brown sandy silt.

3.2 Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4)

3.2.1 Trench 2 was positioned north-west to south-east, 4.3m from the existing manor house. The trench was 5.66m long and 1.5m wide and machined to a depth of 0.58m. Two ditches (9) and (11) were seen across most of the trench, cutting the chalk natural (Fig. 4). Ditch 9 was aligned north-west to south-east and was 0.8m wide and 0.46m deep with steep sides and a slightly rounded base (Fig. 4; Plate 1). It was mostly filled with a mid grey sandy silt (8), apart from a small charcoal enriched area which presumably represented a burnt deposit in the southern side of the ditch; it measured c.0.5m² and was 0.08m thick. There was a moderate to large quantity of artefacts throughout the backfill, but this was not concentrated in any one part of the deposit. The assemblage comprised relatively unabraded mid 1st century AD hand-made pottery as well as a horse tibia and cattle jaw bone. The burnt deposit was bulk sampled and this contained charred wheat grains and chaff, which indicate that cereals were processed and/or cooked nearby (see Section C.2).

3.2.2 A shallow Roman ditch (11) presumably cut ditch (9) on its southern side but this relationship could not be clearly discerned. It was aligned roughly east-to-west, was 0.48m wide and 0.13m deep, with shallow to moderately steep sides and a slightly concave base. It had a mid grey sandy silt backfill (10) which contained a single sherd of Roman 2nd century pottery. The two ditches were sealed by a 0.23m thick mid grey sandy silt subsoil (7) which had several Roman pottery sherds dating to at least the 2nd century. This subsoil was sealed by the topsoil (0.35m thick) which consisted of a mid to dark grey brown sandy silt with some brick fragments (not retained).
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Iron Age to Roman
4.1.1 The evaluation has found two ditches which were presumably part of a previously
unknown settlement probably dating from the Latest Iron Age or earlier and continuing
around the Middle Roman period. It is likely the earlier ditch was dug just prior to or just
after the Roman Conquest as it was backfilled with hand made pottery dating to the mid
1st century AD. This pottery comprised significant parts of two vessels in a fairly
unabraded condition. Evidence from an environmental sample from the ditch showed
that cereals were being processed and/or cooked nearby. Together, these two pieces of
information suggest that Roman occupation was located very close to the evaluation
trench. The second Roman ditch was backfilled in the 2nd century or later. Pottery
dating from at least the mid 2nd century was recovered from the subsoil but there was
no definite evidence the settlement continued into the Late Roman period. There were
also no Saxon remains or artefacts found in the two trenches. It is uncertain what the
status of the settlement found in the subject site was, as only locally produced pottery
and animal bone was recovered by the evaluation. Just 49 pottery sherds were found
and therefore a larger quantity of artefacts is required before questions such as status
and function can be answered.

4.1.2 The 1km HER record search around the site shows that there were at least four other
Iron Age settlements known in this area (see Section 1.3.6; Fig. 2), with many if not all of
these settlements seemingly continuing into the Roman period. In the Roman period
there were possibly up to ten or more separate settlements in this area although one or
two of the records may in reality have been part of the same settlements. There was
therefore possibly twice the number of Roman settlements compared with the Iron Age
period. Hand made Iron Age pottery is far less robust than most Roman pottery and it
is therefore possible that the fewer recorded Iron Age sites may be due to this pottery
not having survived in the plough soil. Alternatively, it is possible that there was an
increase in population in the Roman period in this area.

4.1.3 The Roman settlements represented within this study area seem to have been
relatively wealthy, as there have been up to three reasonably high status buildings
recorded. A villa (SM 87; HER 06809) was excavated more than 100 years ago just
0.5km-0.7km to the north of the site, and a further two buildings may be denoted by two
areas where box flue and CBM roof tiles have been found, respectively 0.4km to the
north (HERs 06781 and 06782) and 0.2km to the south-west (HER 06421). The
settlement within the subject site would have been part of a well structured economic
network with settlement and other sites linked by rivers/canals and a road system. Cropmarks show that it is likely there was a Roman road 0.4km to the east of the site,
and this seems to have led to a settlement and adjacent large temple complex 1km to
the south-east of the subject site. The large Roman town of Duroliponte (Cambridge)
lay 12km to the south-west, and this is the main settlement where the site’s occupants
would have bought and sold goods etc.

4.2 Medieval
4.2.1 The evaluation trenches were within a moated medieval manor called Shadworths,
which is documented from AD 1330 (see Section 1.3.15). It is therefore perhaps
surprising that no medieval structures or features were uncovered and just three
residual medieval and late medieval pottery sherds were found within the two
evaluation trenches. Some of the roof tile may, however be medieval in date and a brick fragment from pit 4 could have been made any time from the c.late 15th century.

4.2.2 Land ownership in Swaffham Prior increased from two owners recorded in the Domesday Book to being divided into seven manors in the later medieval period (see Sections 1.3.12 to 1.3.15), each therefore owning relatively small land areas. The four known moated manor sites were all located adjacent to each other in a line only c. 200m apart (Fig. 2). The land ownership of Shadworth manor is recorded as being tenanted and then owned by many different people between AD 1330 and c.1478 when Queen's College, Cambridge acquired it (Wright 2002, 283-4). In 1491, Shadworth manor was recorded as just having 291a, not very large for a manor. This manor may have not been very economically sucessful, at the time of falling population in the 14th and 15th centuries, and this may explain the relatively large number of times the manor changed hands.

4.3 Post-medieval to modern
4.3.1 The post-medieval quarry pits were directly to the north of the listed barn dated as being constructed in 1767 (see Section 1.3.3). This barn was partly constructed with clunch which was presumably excavated locally. Indeed, it is very likely the clunch was being dug from the quarry pits found in the evaluation as it is probably too much of a co-incidence that 18th century brick was seen in the backfill ('layer' 2) deposit of the quarry pits. This local use of clunch building materials in this post-medieval period occurred elsewhere in Swaffham Prior, with two small areas of post-medieval quarrying for clunch having been recorded in archaeological works, 0.4km and 0.5km to the south of the site respectively (Hall 2003; ECB 2026 and Jones 2006; ECB 2145).

4.4 Significance
4.4.1 The evaluation site has identified evidence of a previously unknown Iron Age/Roman settlement and this discovery is of local importance. Unfortunately, the settlement survives in only one of the two proposed development locations, as 18th century quarry pits will probably have destroyed any earlier remains in the area of the proposed swimming pool.

4.5 Recommendations
4.5.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.
**APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Cut</th>
<th>Trench</th>
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<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Topsoil</td>
<td>Modern</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Top backfill deposit of quarry pits?</td>
<td>?18th century</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>2nd century AD</td>
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APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Roman Pottery

By Stephen Wadeson

Introduction

B.1.1 A total of 49 sherds, weighing 0.850kg was recovered from the evaluation (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ceramic Period</th>
<th>Sherd Count</th>
<th>Weight (kg)</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
<th>MSW (g)</th>
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<td>Early Roman</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>0.709</td>
<td>83.4</td>
<td>17.3</td>
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<td>Romano-British</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.141</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>17.6</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>0.850</td>
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Table 1: Quantity and weight of pottery by ceramic period

The Assemblage

B.1.2 This is a relatively small assemblage which is primarily Early Roman in date (mid 1st to mid/late 2nd century AD), although the vast majority was derived from a single fill of ditch 9. This deposit contained the substantial remains of two handmade, Early Roman carinated vessels in addition to partial remains of a flagon (Table 2). Recovered from context 2, the top fill of post-medieval quarry pits, a further single residual sherd from a straight sided dish dating from the mid 2nd century AD was also identified.

B.1.3 These vessels are typical of a utilitarian domestic assemblage. The pottery itself is relatively unabraded suggesting that much of the assemblage was recovered in or near to its primary site of deposition and it is therefore likely that occupation was close to the area of the evaluation trench.

Statement of Potential

B.1.4 It is likely that further excavations in the area of the two ditches would produce a large enough assemblage to enable a greater understanding of the time period of the settlement and its social status within the surrounding landscape.

Further Work and Methods Statement

B.1.5 No further work is necessary on the assemblage unless further archaeological work takes place at the site. In the event of further work, the assemblage should be integrated into any future assessment and/or analysis.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Era</th>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Desc</th>
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<th>Qty</th>
<th>Wgt (Kg)</th>
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<tr>
<td>008</td>
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<td>GRITTY BUFF WARE</td>
<td>U</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>49</td>
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Table 2: Roman pottery catalogue

**Key:**  
C=Century, E=Early, M=Mid, L=Late.  
R=Rim, U=Undecorated body sherd, D=Decorated body sherd

### B.2 Medieval Pottery

*By Carole Fletcher*

**Introduction and methodology**

B.2.1 Just three sherds of medieval pottery (47g) were recovered from the evaluation and these were residual from subsoil layer in Trenches 1 (layer 2) and fill 3 of post-medieval quarry pit 4. A single body sherd (10g) of a vessel probable originating in Essex came from layer/fill 2. This sherd has mica inclusions and an internal green glaze. It probably dates to the late medieval period (c.AD 1350+). There were two medieval sherds from quarry pit fill 3 (37g). These comprise a Medieval Essex Micaeous Sandy (MEMS) body sherd in a grey fabric (26g). This is a cooking pot sherd with sooting on the external surface (c. AD 1175-1325). The second sherd (11g) was a Red Ware body sherd which also probably originated from Essex. It has a reduced core and oxidised surface and dates from the mid 14th century.

### B.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

*By Rob Atkins*

**Introduction and methodology**

B.3.1 A single brick fragment (0.11kg) was recovered from quarry pit fill 3 within Trench 1. It is poorly made in a dark red sandy fabric, and it is likely to be either late medieval or early post-medieval in date (late 15th to early 17th centuries).

B.3.2 Eight roof tile fragments (0.16kg) were found in two contexts (2 and 3) of Trench 1. In the former there were three roof tile fragments in a hard orange sandy fabric with a reduced core (0.014kg). The five roof tile fragments from pit fill 3 were in two different fabrics. Four peg roof tile fragments comprise a hard orange sandy fabric with a reduced core (0.112kg) and a single fragment in a yellow sandy fabric (0.033kg).
APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal Bone

By Chris Faine

Result

C.1.1 Just two animal bones weighing 0.62kg were recovered from the evaluation and they both were found in Early Roman ditch 9. These two bones survived in reasonable condition and consisted of a horse tibia and a cattle jaw (mature adult).

C.2 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and Methods

C.2.1 A single ten litre bulk sample was taken during evaluation of the site, from the fill (8) of a Roman ditch 9.

C.2.2 The total volume of the sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification.

Results

C.2.3 The sample produced a flot of 20ml in volume and contains occasional charred grains and chaff elements of bread wheat (Triticum aestivum-compactum) along with numerous charred leaf fragments of saw-sedge (Cladium mariscus). Occasional seeds of elderberry (Sambucus nigra) and henbane (Hyoscyamus niger) were noted. The elderberry and henbane seeds are untransformed and it is extremely likely they may be modern contaminants.

Discussion

C.2.4 The recovery of charred wheat grains and chaff indicate that cereals were processed and/or cooked nearby. Bread wheat does not require parching for processing so the grains must have been burnt accidentally during cooking or through spillage.

C.2.5 Saw-sedge is commonly used for fuel and for thatching and its presence shows that this important fenland resource was being exploited.

Further Work and Methods Statement

C.2.6 Assessment of a single sample has shown that there is the potential for the recovery of plant remains. If further excavation is planned, sampling should be undertaken as investigation on the nature of the preserved plant remains is likely to provide an insight into utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economy on this site.
APPENDIX D. WATCHING BRIEF

By Jonathan House

Introduction and methodology

D.1.1 A watching brief was carried out on the No. 37 Lower End, Swaffham Prior site on the 22nd August 2012.

D.1.2 The watching brief required the attendance of an experienced archaeologist, during the excavation of wall footings.

D.1.3 A small extension on the south-western end of the building had been removed, which had very shallow foundations of less than 0.3m, the new extension footings were then measured out from the main building, adjacent to the south-west end of the building (see Fig 5.).

D.1.4 The wall footings were excavated with a 360-type tracked machine, using a toothed, narrow bucket. The footings were excavated to an approximate depth of 0.75m, or 7.15m AOD.

Results

D.1.5 The footings were excavated through a layer of mixed building debris, possibly relating to both construction of former building works associated with the main house, as well as material from the more recent demolition. The layer measured 0.1m in thickness, this demolition material was overlying the remains of a prior top soil, 0.05 to 0.1m in depth.

D.1.6 The top soil covered a relatively undisturbed sub soil of mid grey brown, sandy silt, and measured 0.24m; the remaining depth of the footings was dug into the chalk natural.

D.1.7 Beside features previously seen within the evaluation phase, a single feature was observed within the excavation of the footings, the feature was either a ditch or pit and measured 1m in width and 0.63m in depth. The feature had a single backfill of light greyish brown, sandy silt, no finds were recovered.

Conclusion

D.1.8 The ditch or pit seen during the watching brief, had a similar backfill to the ditches seen within evaluation, and the feature appeared to run under the Manor building, and is likely to be contemporary with the ditches seen in Trench 2, of late Iron Age/early Roman, or mid 2nd Century date.

D.1.9 No other features were observed during the excavation of the wall footings.
APPENDIX E. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Atkinson, T.D., 1894 On a Roman house at Swaffham Prior, Cambridgeshire Proc. Cambridge Antiq. Soc. 8, 229-234


Cane, J., 1998 A archaeological recording brief at Central Farm, Reach Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit Report B032 (unpublished)


Hall, A., 2003 Green Head Road, Swaffham Prior. An archaeological evaluation Cambridge Archaeological Unit report 520 (unpublished)


Reaney, P.H., 1943 The place names of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely (Cambridgeshire University Press)

Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (RCHM)., 1972 An inventory of historical monuments in the county of Cambridge. Volume 2 North-east Cambridgeshire (Ebenezer Baylis and son: Worcester)

APPENDIX F. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

**Project Details**

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**Type of Project/Techniques Used**

- Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
- Development Type: Small Scale (e.g. single house)

Please select all techniques used:

- Aerial Photography - interpretation
- Aerial Photography - new
- Annotated Sketch
- Augering
- Dendrochronological Survey
- Documentary Search
- Environmental Sampling
- Fieldwalking
- Geophysical Survey
- Grab-Sampling
- Gravity-Core
- Laser Scanning
- Measured Survey
- Metal Detectors
- Photographic Survey
- Phosphate Survey
- Photogrammetric Survey
- Rectified Photography
- Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- Sample Trenches
- Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
- Targeted Trenches
- Test Pits
- Topographic Survey
- Vibro-core
- Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)

**Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods**

List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus and significant finds using the MDA Object type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

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**Project Location**

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| National Grid Reference | TL 5707 6460 |

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- ☒ Geophysics
- ☒ Images
- ☒ Illustrations
- ☒ Moving Image
- ☒ Spreadsheets
- ☒ Survey
- ☒ Text
- ☒ Virtual Reality

## Paper Media

- ☐ Aerial Photos
- ☒ Context Sheet
- ☐ Correspondence
- ☐ Diary
- ☒ Drawing
- ☐ Manuscript
- ☒ Map
- ☒ Matrices
- ☐ Microfilm
- ☐ Misc.
- ☒ Research/Notes
- ☒ Photos
- ☒ Plans
- ☒ Report
- ☒ Sections
- ☐ Survey

---

**Notes:**

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© Oxford Archaeology East  Page 23 of 23  Report Number 1324
Figure 1: Site location with development area outlined (red)
Figure 2: HER entries mentioned in the text within 1km of site
Figure 3: Trench layout relating to architect's drawing of the manor house
Figure 4: Trench plans and section
Figure 5: Evaluation trenches and wall footings observed in Watching Brief