Granham's Farm
Great Shelford
Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

OA East Report No: 1261
OASIS No: oxfordar3-99811
NGR: TL 4636 5301

Client: Leigh Smart

May 2011
Granham's Farm, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: May 2011
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Summary

On the 19th April 2011, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation at 40 Granhams Road, Great Shelford. This is the site of a medieval moated manor and is adjacent to probable Saxon earthworks.

The evaluation revealed a single ditch, sealed below a post-medieval floor or wall and dumped deposits. Pottery from the ditch is of Early-Middle Saxon date. It is suggested that the ditch may be Middle Saxon and relate to a Saxon manor on the site.
1 **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 **Location and scope of work**
1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 40 Granhams Road, great Shelford, Cambridgeshire.

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.

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 and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 **Geology and topography**
1.2.1 The site is located on the northern bounds of Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire. Situated on West Melbury Marley Chalk, the site lies at an average of 15 m OD.

1.3 **Archaeological and historical background**
1.3.1 The site is located within an early medieval landscape. The application area is situated directly within a medieval moated manorial site (Historic Environment No. MCB 15567), with only the south eastern portion of the moat still extant. Directly to the east of the application area is a possible middle Saxon enclosure (HER No. MCB1264), and a possible early medieval chapel is also located directly to the west of the site (HER No. MCB 1265).

1.4 **Acknowledgements**
1.4.1 The author would like to thank Leigh Smart who funded the work. The excavation was carried out by the author, with the mechanical excavator provided by Lattenbury Services. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer.
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 10m of trenching be excavated, to the level of archaeological features, or geological horizon. Due to the presence of a soakaway at the west end of the trench, the trench could only be excavated for 8m.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision using a 3 tonne rubber tracked 360° excavator with a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

2.2.4 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 monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.5 It was very sunny on the day of excavation, which made taking photographs extremely difficult.
3 **RESULTS**

3.1 **Introduction**

3.1.1 Only a single trench was excavated. The results are, therefore, presented below by period.

3.2 **Possible Saxon Ditch**

3.2.1 Sealed by layer 3, and cut into the natural marley chalk, was ditch 7. This ran almost parallel to the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment. It had near vertical sides and a flat base, with a depth of 0.56m. The total width of the ditch could not be determined, but its visible width was at least 1.30m.

3.2.2 The lower fill of this ditch (6) was a mid-brownish grey, silty clay. Two sherds of pottery of Early-Middle Saxon date were recovered from this fill. The upper fill of the ditch (5) was a mid greyish brown silty clay. It contained no finds, other than a single fragment of burnt stone.

3.3 **Subsoil Layer 3**

3.3.1 Below layer 2 was layer 3. This was a mid greyish brown, silty loam, with occasional gravel inclusions. Two sherds of pottery of 17th century date were recovered from this layer.

3.4 **Post Medieval Archaeology**

3.4.1 Feature 4, uncovered below the topsoil, was a wall or possibly the edge of a floor, which ran the entire length of the trench (Fig. 2). It continued beyond the excavated area to the south-east, with a maximum visible width of 0.25m. Feature 4 was made up of compact hard mortar with gravel, stone and brick inclusions. The two bricks incorporated in the deposit were both 'Cambridge whites', of the same type used in the construction of the neighbouring house, which date the feature to the late post-medieval to modern period.

3.4.2 Feature 4 was constructed on top of apparently dumped deposit, 2. This was a pale brownish grey, sandy loam, with frequent gravel inclusions. Two sherds of pottery of 19th century or later date were recovered during machining of this layer.

3.5 **Finds Summary**

3.5.1 Very few finds were recovered during the evaluation. Two fragments of animal bone were found in layer 2, however, the pottery is of greater interest.

3.5.2 Two sherds of transfer printed, refined white earthenware were recovered from layer 2 and these date to the 19th century or later.

3.5.3 A single sherd of Staffordshire type slipware and a further sherd of Metropolitan type slipware were recovered from layer 3. These date to the 17th century.

3.5.4 Two sherds of organic tempered, soft, handmade pottery were recovered from fill 6 of ditch 7. These are probably of early-middle Saxon date.
4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Saxon Archaeology

4.1.1 Whatever the original function of deposit 2, it appears to have to sealed and preserved the underlying archaeology. The single ditch (7) recorded in the trench contained two abraded sherds of Early-Middle Saxon pottery. Although this pottery is not sufficient to definitively date the ditch to the middle Saxon period, the near absence of other finds (including charcoal) re-enforces this suggestion. If the ditch belonged to the medieval phase of activity, known to have taken place on the site, then more detritus (muscle shell, animal bone, pottery) would be expected.

4.1.2 If this ditch is Saxon it almost certainly belong to a Saxon manor, which developed later into the medieval moated manor on the site.

4.2 Post-medieval Archaeology

4.2.1 Given the presence of the standing buildings, some of which are known to have occupied the site since the Georgian period, it is not surprising that evidence of later post-medieval activity was discovered. Wall 4 does not appear on the first edition OS map, although it is of 19th century date. It could represent a garden wall, or less likely part of a structure.

4.2.2 The probable dumped deposit (2) may relate to the construction of the Georgian sections of the house. It is possible that this is part of a levelling layer, alternatively it could be an attempt to create a stable and dry building platform.

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 The results of this evaluation may be significant in helping to understand the development of the medieval moated manor on the site from its Saxon precursor.

4.4 Recommendations

4.4.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.
### APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

#### Trench 1

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<td>Topsoil</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>0.22</td>
<td>Dumped deposit</td>
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<td>19th century</td>
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<td>0.08</td>
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<td>19th century</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Fill</td>
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APPENDIX B. 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 - PPS 5

**Development Type:** Large/Medium Scale Extensions to Existing Structure

#### 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
- [ ] Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- [X] 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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<td>Dan McConnell</td>
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<td>Project Manager</td>
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<td>Supervisor</td>
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### Digital Media

- Database
- GIS
- 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:
Figure 1: Location of trench (black) with the development area outlined (red)
Figure 2: Trench plan and selected sections

Convention Key

Limit of Excavation
Illustrated Section
Archaeological Feature
Excavated Slot
Wall
Cut Number 118
Deposit Number 118

Section 1
Section 2
Section 3

Convention Key

Cut
Deposit Horizon
Top Surface/Top of Natural
Limit of Excavation
Limit of Section
Cut Number 118
Deposit number 117
Ordinance Datum 18.45m OD

15.30m OD
16.46m OD
16.48m OD

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Plate 1: Section through ditch 7, from the north-east

Plate 2: Trench section from the south-east