Post Medieval Remains at Manea

Archaeological Evaluation Report

June 2010

Client: Peter Humphrey Associates

OA East Report No: 1190
OASIS No: oxfordar3-78455
NGR: TL 4753 8996
Post medieval Remains at Manea

Archaeological Evaluation

By Jonathan House BA

Editor: James Drummond-Murray BA MIFA

Report Date: June 2010
Report Number: 1190
Site Name: School Lane, Manea
HER Event No: ECB 3389
Date of Works: June 2010
Client Name: Peter Humphrey Associates
Client Ref: N/A
Planning Ref: F/YR10/0083/F
Grid Ref: TL 4753 8996
Site Code: MANSCL10
Finance Code: MANSCL10
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach
Accession No: MANSCL10
Prepared by: Jonathan House
Position: Supervisor
Date: June 2010
Checked by: James Drummond Murray
Position: Project Manager
Date: 
Signed: 

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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 .............................................................................................. 7

## 2 Aims and Methodology ........................................................................................ 8

2.1 Aims ....................................................................................................................... 8
2.2 Methodology ........................................................................................................ 8

## 3 Results ................................................................................................................... 9

3.1 Introduction .......................................................................................................... 9
3.2 Trench 1 ................................................................................................................ 9
3.3 Trench 2 ................................................................................................................ 9
3.4 Finds Summary ...................................................................................................... 9

## 4 Discussion and Conclusions ............................................................................... 10

4.1 Post Medieval ....................................................................................................... 10
4.2 Significance .......................................................................................................... 10
4.3 Recommendations ............................................................................................... 10

## Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory .................................. 11

## Appendix B. Bibliography .................................................................................... 12

## Appendix C. OASIS Report Form ......................................................................... 13
List of Figures

Fig. 1  Site location map.
Fig. 2  Trench plan
Fig. 3  Sections

Plates

Plate 1  Trench 1 photograph.
Plate 2  Trench 2 photograph.
Plate 3  Section 1 photograph.
Plate 4  Section 2 photograph.
Summary

Summary text.

An Evaluation was carried out at School Lane, Manea, Grid ref TL 4753 8996. The evaluation consisted of two trenches located within the proposed development area. The trenches revealed ditches which are likely to be associated with drainage, the backfill of which is of Post Medieval date, the ditches would have also have acted as boundaries at the edge of Manea itself.
1  INTRODUCTION

1.1  Location and scope of work

1.1.1  An archaeological evaluation was conducted at School Lane, Manea, at grid reference TL 4753 8996.

1.1.2  This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application F/YR10/0083/F), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).

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 lies on Ampthill Clays at a height of c3.00m OD, the ground height steadily falls towards the north, while slightly rising to the south and east, forming the Manea fen island. The site is on the north-eastern periphery of the village, within the 'fen edge' zone.

1.3  Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1  The site lies in an area of known Roman occupation. Various Roman finds have come from the fields immediately to the west of the site (HER 06048) and a pewter hoard was found to the east (HER 05868).

1.3.2  There is also the possibility of prehistoric remains as there are several find spots in the area e.g. Iron Age pottery (HER10899), neolithic implements (HER 05981a) and a Bronze Age vessel (05981b) and flint scatter (05875).

1.3.3  However two evaluations at Williams Way c 300m to the south of the site (ECB 640 – O'Brien et al 2001; ECB 1856 – Payne 2004) and another at West Field Road c 1km to the south-west (ECB 1867 – Fletcher 2005) produced little in the way of archaeology.

1.4  Acknowledgements

1.4.1  The author would like thank Peter Humphrey Associates who commissioned the works and Mr Jollee who funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and the illustrator was Andy Corrigan, with Jonathan House as the on-site staff. The project was monitored by Dan McConnell.
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 all archaeological deposits should be investigated, and recorded.
2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Rachel Clarke using a Leica GPS.
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 No environmental samples were taken from the site, as no appropriate features were identified during the investigations.
2.2.6 Site conditions were very wet due to heavy rainfall during the archaeological works. The wet conditions hampered the cleaning of features for photography, aside from this the conditions did not inhibit the archaeological works.
3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction
3.1.1 Two trenches were excavated, the results are presented and described by trench.

3.2 Trench 1
3.2.1 Trench 1 was excavated on a east west alignment, and measured 7.25m in length. Two layers were observed within the trench a top soil (100), measuring 0.26m, and a brownish grey, silty clay subsoil (101), measuring 0.17m.
3.2.2 The trench contained one feature, at the east end of the trench, the feature appeared to be a ditch 107, however its full width was not seen, and the trench could not be extended to find the width due to the proximity of a recent construction ( Dwelling F/FR09/0360/F). The ditch was running approximately north south and cut through the sub soil (101). The ditch was 3.8m wide within the trench, and established as 1.2m in depth with the use of an auger, see fig 3 section 2.

3.3 Trench 2
3.3.1 Trench 2 was excavated on a north south alignment, and measured 31.5 in length. The top soil measured 0.13m in depth, and the sub soil measured 0.17m.
3.3.2 The trench contained two features, a small ditch 103, ditch 103 measured 0.85m wide and 0.58 in depth, this ditch also cut the sub soil see fig 3 section 1. The second feature was very similar in appearance to ditch 107, so is likely to be another large ditch if not the same ditch making a return. Ditch 111 is located at the northern end of trench 2, on a east west alignment, the full width of the ditch was exposed within the trench and measured 5.5m, and augured to a depth of 1.50m.

3.4 Finds Summary
3.4.1 Dating evidence was recovered from all the features, all the finds were Post medieval in date, and all the features contained bricks of various types. The pottery ranged from the late 18th century to the late 19th century, the assemblage contained Frechen Stone Ware, Staffordshire Slip Ware, Post Medieval Red Ware sherds, and some later Transfer Prints (Paul Spoerry pers. comm.)
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Post Medieval

4.1.1 The development area is situated at the limits of Manea, it seems little expansion of the town has occurred over the last 200 years, and this is true of development area according to cartographic evidence. It is likely the large ditch was a substantial drain for the town and its the activity of the last 200 years at the edge of the settlement which appears in the backfill of the ditch, which on the evidence of the finds was filled by the end of the 19th century.

4.1.2 The smaller ditch 103 potentially could have drained into the larger ditch; and although primarily being dug for drainage, it may have also acted as a property boundary for housing to the south. Ditch 107 and 111 would have certainly formed a boundary, just its size alone would have caused it to be a significant boundary, and is likely to carry on into the surrounding field system. It is possible that the ditches are of an earlier date, and that the backfilling only occurred as they fell out use, being replaced with modern drainage, however it is unlikely to be significantly earlier.

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 The site is of low archaeological significance.

4.3 Recommendations

4.3.1 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General description</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
<th>Avg. depth (m)</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
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<td>E-W</td>
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<td>Layer</td>
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<td>Layer</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Cut</td>
<td>≥3.8</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>Ditch</td>
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APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY


Drummond Murray, J. 2010. Specification For An Archaeological Evaluation: School Lane, Manea

Websites

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

**Project Details**

<table>
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**Type of Project/Techniques Used**

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**Please select all techniques used:**

- [ ] Aerial Photography - interpretation
- [ ] Aerial Photography - new
- [x] Annotated Sketch
- [ ] Augering
- [ ] Dendrochronological Survey
- [ ] Documentary Search
- [ ] Environmental Sampling
- [ ] Fieldwalking
- [ ] Geophysical Survey
- [ ] Grab-Sampling
- [ ] Gravity-Core
- [ ] Laser Scanning
- [ ] Measured Survey
- [ ] Metal Detectors
- [ ] Phosphate Survey
- [ ] Photogrammetric Survey
- [ ] Photographic 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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<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>James Drummond Murray</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:

An Evaluation was carried out at School Lane, Manea, Grid ref TL 4753 8996. The evaluation consisted of two trenches located within the proposed development area. The trenches revealed ditches which are likely to be associated with drainage, the backfill of which is of Post Medieval date, the ditches would have also have acted as boundaries at the edge of Manea itself.
Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation

Deposit - Conjectured

Natural Features

Sondages/Machine Strip

Intrusion/Truncation

Illustrated Section

Archaeological Deposit

Excavated Slot

Modern Deposit

Cut Number

118

Sections

Limit of Excavation

Cut

Cut-Conjectured

Deposit Horizon

Deposit Horizon - Conjectured

Intrusion/Truncation

Top Surface/Top of Natural

Break in Section/
Limit of Section Drawing

Cut Number

118

Deposit Number

117

Ordnance Datum

18.45m OD

Inclusions

Convention Key

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Report Number 1190
Figure 1: Location of trenches (black) with the development area outlined (red)
Figure 3: Section drawings
Plate 3: Section 1

Plate 4: Section 2