

Hall Terrace archaeological survey

The grant of planning permission for the construction of a bungalow at the rear of Hall Terrace included a condition requiring an archaeological investigation of the part of the site which will be built on. This builds on evidence from earlier investigations of the site of Carlton Hall (Carlton News Feb 2017, Feb 2018, see PC website).

The latest excavation [ULAS Report No. 2018-116] has resulted in the discovery of a sequence of Roman boundary features and a medieval burgage ditch. 19 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered, and included fragments of central Gaulish samian ware, sandy grey ware, a fragment of a Mancetter-Hartshill mortarium, and a fragment of a Lower Nene Valley mortarium. These sherds could not be closely dated, but were all younger than late 1st century.

27 sherds of post Roman pottery were recovered, and included a possible fragment of Torksey ware (c.850-1200), and a fragment of Potters Marston ware (c.1100-1400). The other datable sherds originated in every century up to the present day. Some of the early sherds had been used for cooking; the remainder probably represented liquid containers.

Soil samples from the site contained low densities of charred plant remains, dominated by free-threshing wheat with weed seeds typical of cereal fields.

This is important evidence for the occupation of the core of the village during the Roman period, followed by a gap, and then continuous occupation from the late Saxon or early medieval period. Further work might indicate the location and size of the Roman and early medieval settlements.

The recent Bosworth Links Project has recovered evidence of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age activity on the higher ground around Market Bosworth. It would be surprising if the ridge of land on which Carlton sits was not similarly occupied long before Roman times.

Chris Peat