

Witham Archaeology

A Report to Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd on behalf of Mrs P James

November 2013



LAND AT 24 BRIDGE STREET, CHATTERIS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Trial Trench Evaluation

R Trimble

24 BRIDGE STREET, CHATTERIS CAMBRIDGESHIRE

CHER EVENT NO.: ECB4063
LCCM Accession No.: TBC
Planning Application No.: F/YR08/0409/F
NGR: TL 3901 8670
OASIS ID: withamar1-163439

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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24 BRIDGE STREET, CHATTERIS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken at 24 Bridge Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire. The project was commissioned by Morton and Hall Consulting Ltd on behalf of Mrs P James in response to a condition of planning permission imposed by Fenland District Council.

The site lies to the south of the possible site of a medieval landing place on Slade Lode, and near to previous archaeological finds of Iron Age, medieval and post medieval date.

Two trial trenches were excavated at 24 Bridge Street, revealing a ditch of possible late medieval date and evidence relating to occupation from the 16th/17th century and later.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by Witham Archaeology on the site of a proposed housing development at 24 Bridge Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire. The project was commissioned by Morton and Hall Consulting Ltd on behalf of Mrs P James, in response to a condition of planning permission imposed by Fenland District Council. Fieldwork was completed during the period 21st to 23rd October 2013.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 and 2)

The town of Chatteris in the administrative district of Fenland, Cambridgeshire, is located c. 25km southeast of the centre of Peterborough.

The site, at NGR TL 3901 8670, lies on the north side of Chatteris, west of Bridge Street and north of Angood's Lane. When fieldwork was undertaken, the site comprised two blocks of land forming an approximately L-shaped area. The easternmost block adjacent to Bridge Street contained a tarmac drive and brick-built garage to the north, with a lawn and pond to the south, and shrubbery around the eastern perimeter. The westernmost area aligned with Angood's Lane was mostly under lawn, bordered by shrubs to the west and a screen of mature conifers to the south.

The site is located on solid geology of the Ampthill Clay Formation formed during the Jurassic Period, overlain by drift geology of March Gravels (British Geological Survey, Solid & Drift, 1:50 000), at around 5.0m above Ordnance Datum.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Domesday Book of AD1086 records land in Chatteris held by Ramsey Abbey (given by Athelstan Mannessone and confirmed by Edgar in AD974) and a smaller manor in the possession of the Church of Ely (Pugh 2002). The former remained with Ramsay Abbey until the dissolution, while the latter appears to correspond to the manor of Chatteris Nunns held by the Benedictine nunnery in Chatteris. The nunnery, located in the centre of the town, was founded in the early 11th century by Ednoth, bishop

of Dorchester, and was dissolved in 1538 (CHER No. 03832). In AD1563 there were 206 householders in Chatteris, significantly lower than the numbers recorded for Whittlesey and Ely (Pugh 2002).

The current site lies to the south of Slade Lode, which, during the medieval period, is believed to have provided communication by water to March and Elm (Cooper 2005). The landing place (hythe) may have lain in the area north of the site.

The Victoria County History (Pugh 2002) notes that in Angood's, Skeels' and Cole's yards at the north end of the High Street 'there are several one storied labourer's cottages of a type once extremely common in the Fenland but now passing away'. Map evidence suggests that Skeels' Yard and buildings associated with Cole's Yard (all demolished during the last century) were largely contained within the area of the development. The buildings, depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1888, were present on the site until at least 1926, when they were depicted on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5 shows the area overlaid with boundaries of the current site). A one storied cottage, dated to c. 1800 and possibly of similar type, survives at No 8 Bridge Street, on the south side of Angood's Lane. The Grade II listed building (Heritage List No. 1126011) has a mansard roof and attics with dormer windows.

Archaeological fieldwork in the parish has revealed evidence for Palaeolithic, Neolithic and later prehistoric activity. Bronze Age remains include a number of barrows, while Iron Age activity is represented by six probable settlement sites. Within the town, excavations in the vicinity of the parish church have produced Bronze Age pottery (possibly indicative of a barrow) as well as Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval remains (CHER Nos. CB15323, MCB18461-64).

In the vicinity of the current site, five evaluation trenches were excavated on land to the north, off Cox Lane/Chapel Lane, revealing deep soils of late medieval/post medieval date, but there was no evidence to suggest domestic settlement. The site appears to have been low-lying, on ground subject to flooding from nearby Slade Lode (Britchfield, Crank & Rowlandson 2003; HER ref. CB15741).

At 36 Bridge Street, trial trenching revealed a shallow cut containing three sherds of Iron Age pottery, as well as medieval ridge and furrow and post-medieval boundary ditches (Cutler 1996; HER ref. 11898).

Trial trenching on agricultural land west and northwest of the current site (Collins 2009) revealed Romano-British and later (mostly post medieval) quarries, as well as post medieval furrows and field boundaries.

An evaluation on land to the southeast of the current site, at 9 Bridge Street (Cooper 2005; HER ref. ECB1879), recorded post medieval deposits including nineteenth century rubbish pits. Deposits on the site may have been disturbed during the construction of adjacent school buildings.

An evaluation off Black Horse Lane, east of Bridge Street located a single undated ditch (Cooper 2002; HER ref. CB15012). Further to the south, an evaluation at 91 High Street (Green and Unger 2008) located linear gullies and probable postholes thought to be associated with outbuildings depicted on nineteenth century maps. Trial trenching immediately to the east, at Tern Gardens, identified post medieval activity associated with properties fronting onto the High Street (House 2009).

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 15th October 2013, were to:

- *provide information on the presence/absence, nature, date and quality of survival of archaeological deposits and remains which might be contained within the site, at the depth of proposed construction disturbance, and to assess the importance of such remains in terms of their local, regional and national context.*
- *assess the possible scale of development impact on any remains and provide information which might influence development design so that impact on any remains can be avoided or minimised.*

- provide information that will allow the local planning authority to reconcile development proposals with their policy for preserving archaeological remains and make an informed and reasoned decision on a planning application.
- provide site specific archaeological information which (if necessary) would allow for the design and integration of timing and funding of any further archaeological work (or other mitigating strategy) which might be required in advance of or during any subsequent development programme.
- produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum and from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.
- provide information for accession to the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER).

5.0 METHODOLOGY

Two trenches were excavated, one on the eastern side of the site (Trench 1), parallel with Bridge Street, measuring 16m long by 1.6m wide, the other on the western side of the site (Trench 2), parallel with Angood's Lane, measuring 20m long by 1.6m wide. The trenches represent an approximate 5% sample of the total area of the development. Trench locations were determined in consultation with the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Service, focussing primarily upon the footprints of the proposed buildings.

Topsoil and other recent deposits were removed by mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. Trench bases and representative samples of the trench sides were subsequently cleaned by hand, prior to the part-excavation of features and deposits of potential archaeological origin, to ascertain character, extent and date.

Plans of the trenches were produced at scale 1:20, while sections were drawn at scale 1:10. A photographic record was compiled in digital colour and 35mm black and white film and written context descriptions were made on individual *pro forma* recording sheets. Trenches and reference points used for recording were located in relation to fixed reference points.

6.0 RESULTS

6.2 Trench 1 (see Fig. 3)

Trench 1 was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m to reveal naturally formed deposits of clay. The trench was divided into southern and northern parts by a modern drain and manhole left *in situ*. The upper levels of the southern area had been disturbed by excavations for an existing pond, which, at the time of the evaluation, was largely infilled with rubbish.

Natural

Natural deposits of bluish grey gravelly clay (113) were encountered at 0.80m below present ground level, sealed by a layer of mid to dark grey silty sand (112). While not conclusively identified as natural (112) was uniform in depth and present throughout the trench, suggesting a geological origin.

Post Medieval Deposits

On the eastern side of Trench 1 (see Fig.3, Section 4) deposit (112) was sealed by mid grey sandy silt interleaved with lenses of creamy white lime mortar (101), which had been truncated on its north side by the cut for later wall foundation (105) and to the south by the cut [110] for a modern drain. Fragments of a Nottingham stoneware tankard recovered from (101) indicate deposition in the mid to late 18th century.

A stub of the brick foundation (102) for a wall orientated north to south was revealed at the southern end of Trench 1. The foundation, truncated on its north side by the pond and extending beyond the limits of the trench to the south, was loosely constructed in handmade brick, bonded by cream coloured lime mortar. A sample of the brick was dated to the mid 18th to mid 19th century.

Wall foundations (105) located in the central part of Trench 1, appear to relate to the rear of a structure extending to Bridge Street. The west side of the structure was 4.20m in length and 0.32m in width, while the north wall was at least 1.39m long, extending beyond the limits of the trench to the east. The south wall was removed by machine, to reveal, in the west facing side of the trench (see Fig 3, Section 4) a depth of 0.55m and width of 0.30m. Foundation (105) comprised compacted brick rubble in a matrix of lime mortar. A brick sample from the lowest course of the superstructure (103), which survived intermittently, was dated as 18th to mid 19th century. The area bounded by foundations (103) contained a sequence of deposits comprising chalk and gravel (122), sealed by sand and gravel (108), which was in turn overlain by the brick rubble base (123) for a concrete floor (104).

Clay layer (113) continued north of the unexcavated manhole and drain, where it was again overlain by silty sand (112). Deposit (122) was in turn sealed by a layer of gravel and silty sand (116).

Another wall foundation (119), was recorded in the east facing trench side (Fig.3, Section 3) north of the manhole. Constructed in loose brick and tile fragments in a loose/fragmented cement mortar and aligned east to west, it extended across the full width Trench 1. North of (119), a layer of loose demolition rubble (120) 0.30m thick was composed mainly of modern bricks and brick fragments.

The existing surface of tarmac (118) was formed on a base of small ceramic building material fragments and gravel (117).

6.2 Trench 2 (see Fig.4)

Trench 2 was machine excavated to variable depths of 0.85m at the eastern end, 1.35m in the central portion, and 1.00m below existing ground level at the western end.

Geological/Natural Deposits

The primary deposits in Trench 2 were a mid brown clay (234) occupying the central part of the trench and a mid to dark grey clay (247) located further to the west. The deposits were overlain by a layer of mid greyish brown clay and mixed with gravel (244), extending beyond the limit of excavation to the west.

15th/16 century

'Natural' deposits were cut by a ditch, [251], aligned approximately east – west. The upper levels of the ditch were removed by machine, leaving the remainder to be recorded in plan. A hand excavated section across the lower levels of the ditch revealed a concave profile with gently sloping sides. The excavated segment had a width of 0.55m wide and maximum depth of 0.15m. The primary fill of mid to dark grey sandy silt (206), produced three pot sherds from a single vessel dated mid 15th to 16th century. To the east [251] had an uncertain relationship with a possible north-south cut filled by deposit (232), which was recorded as a layer in the north facing section (see below).

In the north facing section of the trench, clay layer (244) was sealed by a shallow depth of light grey ashy material; containing occasional charcoal flecks and fragments (202), present intermittently over a distance of around 2.85m. An identical deposit (233) located further to the west was probably related Pottery dated 16th/17th century was recovered from (202).

A layer of silty sand, ash and gravel (232) sealed (233) and (202), extended throughout the lower central and western parts of the trench, continuing beyond the limits of excavation in all directions. Towards the west end of the evaluation trench (232) was sealed by reddish brown fibrous peaty material (246) containing frequent pea grit.

It seems that deposits (202), (233), (232) and (246) were contiguous with deposits extending into the ditch [206] and might, therefore, be regarded as fills of the ditch and/or as layers extending across adjacent ground. If so, the full depth of ditch [251] would have been *c.* 0.65m. A post medieval iron cauldron was recovered from the higher levels of the ditch under context (256).

An undated pit or posthole [253], which was recorded in plan, may have belonged to this earlier phase of activity.

16th/17th century

A sequence of clay layers occupying the eastern part of the trench may be interpreted as floors and/or associated makeup deposits.

At the base of the sequence, an unconsolidated mixture of clay lumps and silty sand (240) was probably a levelling layer rather than a surface. Layers of coarse yellow/orange gravel - (243) and (245) extending to the west may have been deposited as part of the same process of levelling, as could a layer of silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions (235) overlying (240).

Layers of mid greyish yellow sandy clay (242), light brown and greyish yellow sandy clay (231), and mid greenish yellow sandy clay (203) probably represented actual floor surfaces. The layer (231) sloped significantly indicating a degree of subsidence, possibly resulting from the presence of a cut running at right angles to the ditch [251], as described above. There were clear differences in both colour and texture between (203) and (231), which indicate that the floors may have belonged to different phases. Context (203) was overlain by a shallow deposit ash and charcoal (230) indicative of a fire, which might have affected the building associated with the floor.

Probable floors (231) and (203) were both sealed by an extensive layer of mid brownish yellow sandy clay (204) interpreted as a later phase of flooring. Brick from (204) was date as 17th to 19th century. Floor (204) was overlain by another floor layer of mid grey clay (229), which was in turn sealed by a shallow deposit of silty sand (228). Sealing the western periphery of (204) was a shallow layer of ash and charcoal (239), which was in turn sealed by reddish orange (scorched) clay (238). West of (238) there was a shallow layer of dark grey silty sand (241) whose relationship to (239) and (238) was not established. Above (238) and (241) a layer of yellow sand (237), partially truncated by the cut of a modern drain [248], probably represented a further episode of levelling or make up. The absence of an overlying floor layer may reflect substantial truncation of later deposits.

Later Post Medieval and Modern Deposits

A substantial deposit of mid brown silty sand (212) containing frequent stone and occasional modern brick overlay floor (204). The deposit probably accumulated as a result of the demolition or disuse of building or buildings associated with the underlying floor surfaces. It was overlain by an extensive layer of chalk (211) which might be interpreted as a late surface. A separate layer of chalk (227), located further to the west and sealing (228), may have represented a continuation of (211).

At the western edge of (211) a mid yellow clay layer (221) might be interpreted as an overlying floor. It had been severely truncated by modern pits [219] and [222].

Comparatively late levelling or makeup deposits extended throughout the trench, recorded as contexts (210), (217), (218) and (226). Overall, the material was mixed, comprising patches and lenses of mid brown silty sand and very dark grey silty sand, with frequent gravel and moderate quantities of modern brick and tile. The deposits were truncated in the eastern part of the trench by five intercutting features – [213], [215], [219], [222] and [224]. Cuts [248] and [207] contained modern services.

Topsoil (254) extended throughout Trench 2, averaging 0.20m in depth.

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Naturally occurring clay deposits were encountered in both trenches – at around 0.80m below existing ground level in Trench 1 and 1.00m below existing ground level in Trench 2.

Above the clays In Trench 1, no evidence was found to suggest archaeological activity predating the 18th century. All of the brick structures recorded in the area were 18th or 19th century in date and can be correlated with buildings shown on late 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps (see Fig. 5). The modern concrete floor associated with (105) is presumably a late resurfacing in the interior of one of the units forming the east–west range on the south side of Cole’s Yard.

In Trench 2, clay deposits at the base of recorded sequence appear to dip to the west, suggesting a fall to lower lying ground in the area furthest from Bridge Street. The ditch [251] may represent a property boundary or drainage feature originating in the late medieval to early post medieval period. The feature

appears to have defined the northern limit of the sequence of floors recorded in the north facing section of the trench and probably, therefore, continued in use over a long period of time. The sequence of deposits overlying 'natural' and sealed by the floors on the south side of the trench, probably formed part of the fill of [251] and/or extended as layers immediately to the south.

Although the sequence of clay layers in Trench 2 indicates multiple phases of surfacing it is not clear whether the floor layers relate to replacement structures or only to episodes of resurfacing or repair to an original floor. Earthen floors in downstairs rooms appear to have been the rule rather than the exception even in better houses across eastern England in the late 17th/early 18th century (Barley 1987, 82). In fact, 'floors of clay mixed with oxblood and ashes made a hard floor which might even be polished'. The remains at Bridge Street probably relate to the labourers' cottages mentioned in the Victoria County History (see above) or to their precursors. The absence of other structural evidence (foundations etc.) probably reflects the ephemeral nature of comparatively low status early post medieval building – for example, the light timber framing and clay walls of the mud and stud tradition, best known from remaining examples in the Lincolnshire fens (Mercer 1975, 125).

To conclude, floors indicative of 16th/17th century structures were encountered in Trench 2 at around 0.60m below existing ground level. Although there was no evidence to suggest occupation on the site prior to this date the ditch [251] could have been functioned as a property boundary during the late medieval period. Brick foundations recorded in Trench 1 all appear to relate to buildings dating to the 18th century or later.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Matthew Hall of Morton Hall Consulting Ltd for assistance in preparations for the fieldwork, Alex Beeby and Gary Taylor (APS) for the supply of finds reports, and Dan McConnell (Historic Environment Services, Cambridgeshire County Council) for the provision of relevant information and guidance.

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10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

CHER EVENT NO.: ECB4063

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: F/YR08/0409/F

FIELD OFFICER: R & G Trimble

NGR: TL 3901 8670

CIVIL PARISH: Chatteris

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 21st – 23rd October

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd on behalf of Mrs P James

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, Unit 6, Sleaford Station Business Centre, Station Road, Sleaford Lincolnshire, NG34 7RG

FINAL LOCATION: Cambridgeshire Archaeological Store

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: To be confirmed

ACCESSION DATE: January 2014

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	85
Plans at Scale 1:20	2
Section Drawings at Scale 1:10	3
Black and White photographs	18
Digital Photographs	43
Set of Site Notes	1

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: Southern end of Trench 1, looking northeast; 1m and 2m scales



Plate 2: Northern end of Trench 1, looking southwest; 2 x 1m and 2m scales



Plate 3: Trench 2, looking west; 2 x 1m and 2m scales



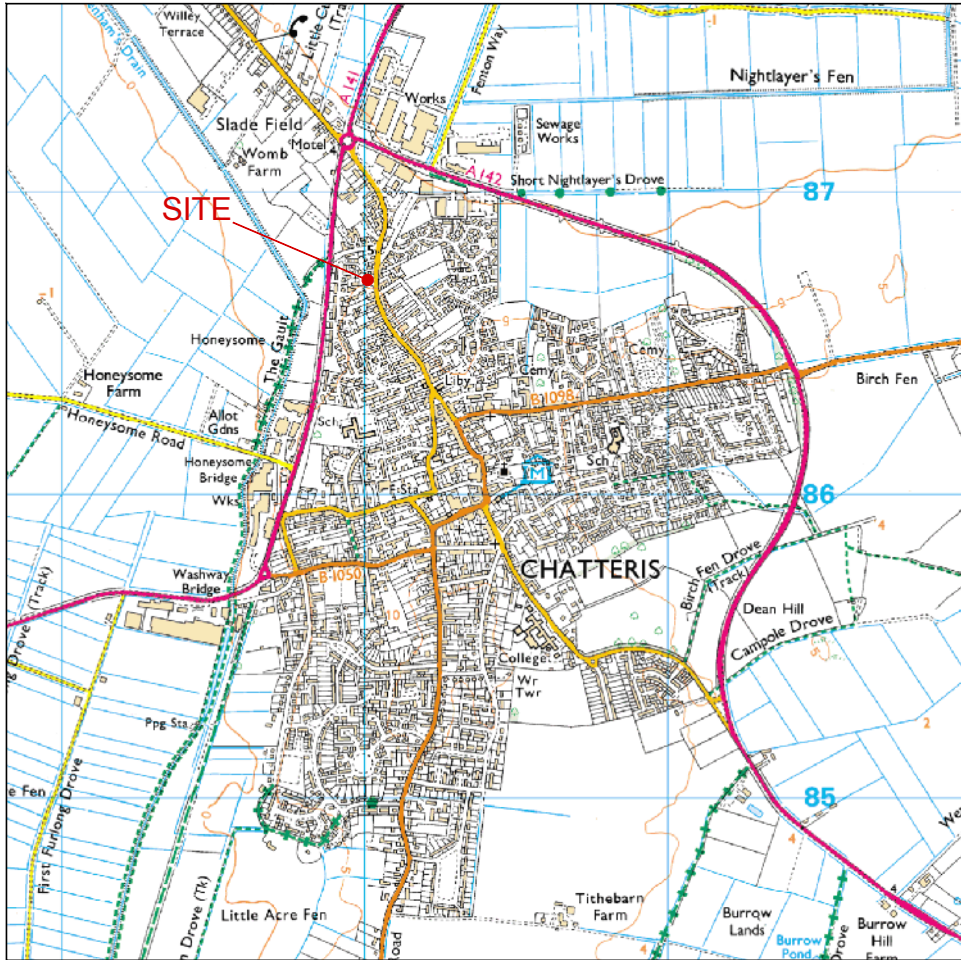
Plate 4: Trench 2, Section 1, looking southwest; 1m and 2m scales



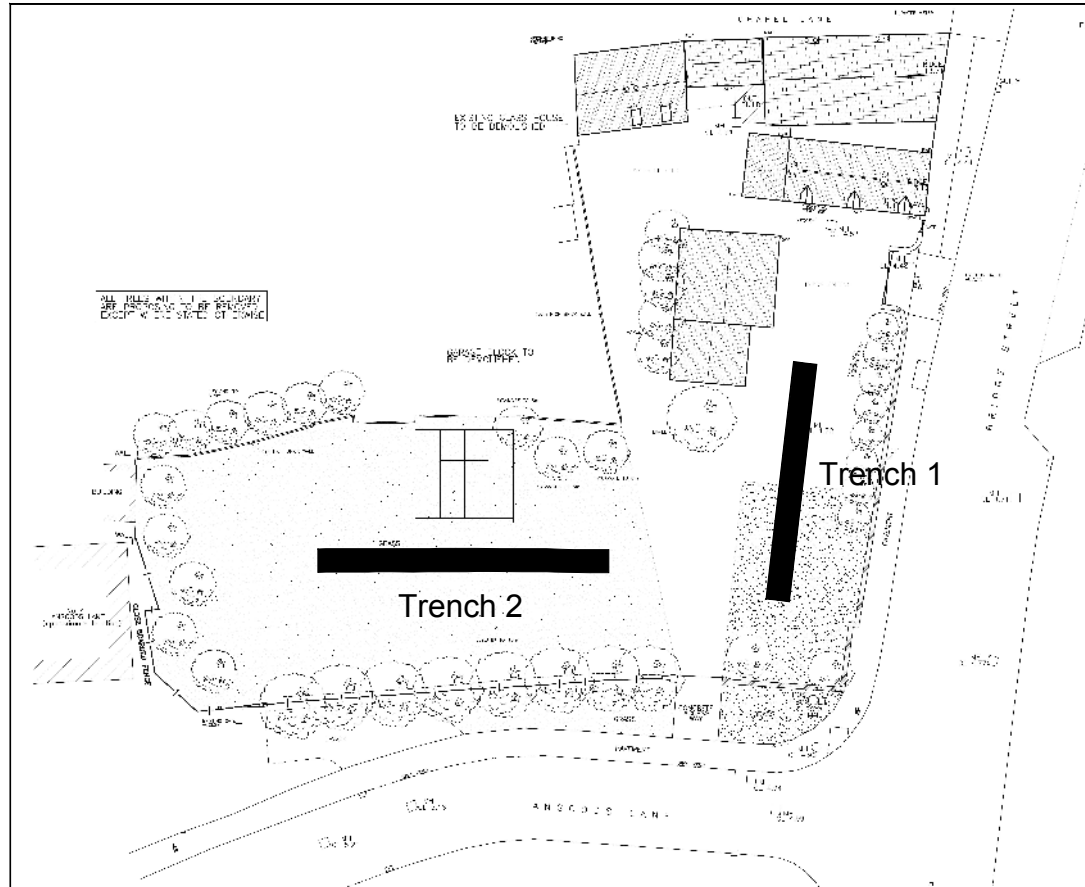
Plate 5: Trench 2, Section 1, looking southeast; 1m and 2m scales



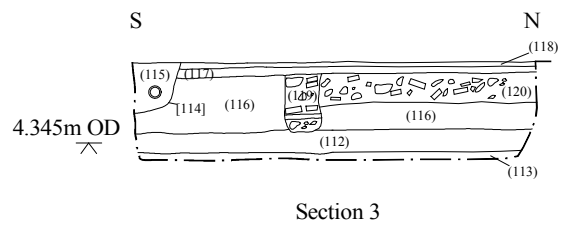
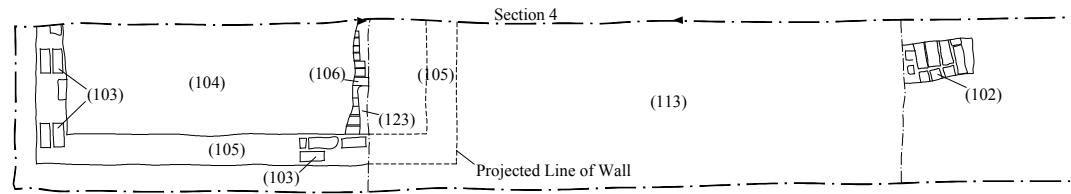
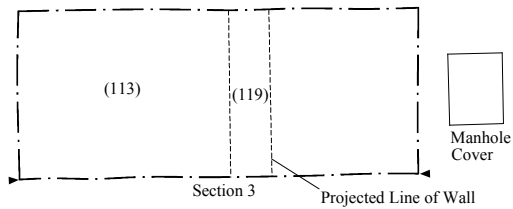
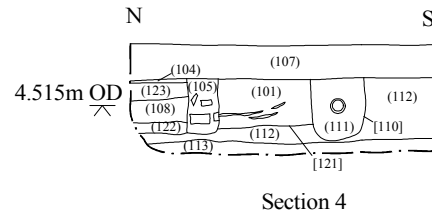
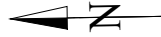
Plate 6: Trench 2, Ditch [251] and Pit or posthole [253], looking west; 1m scale

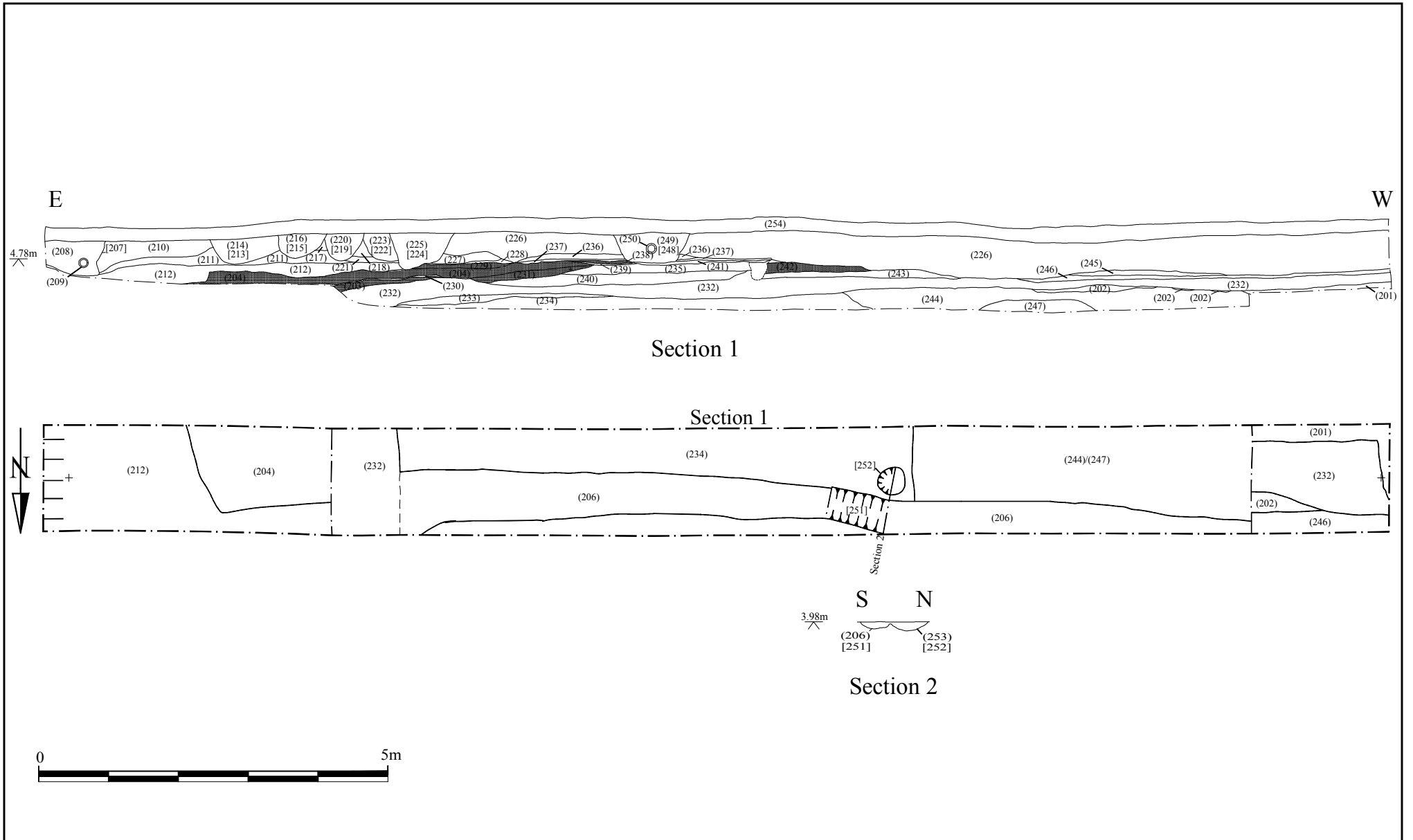


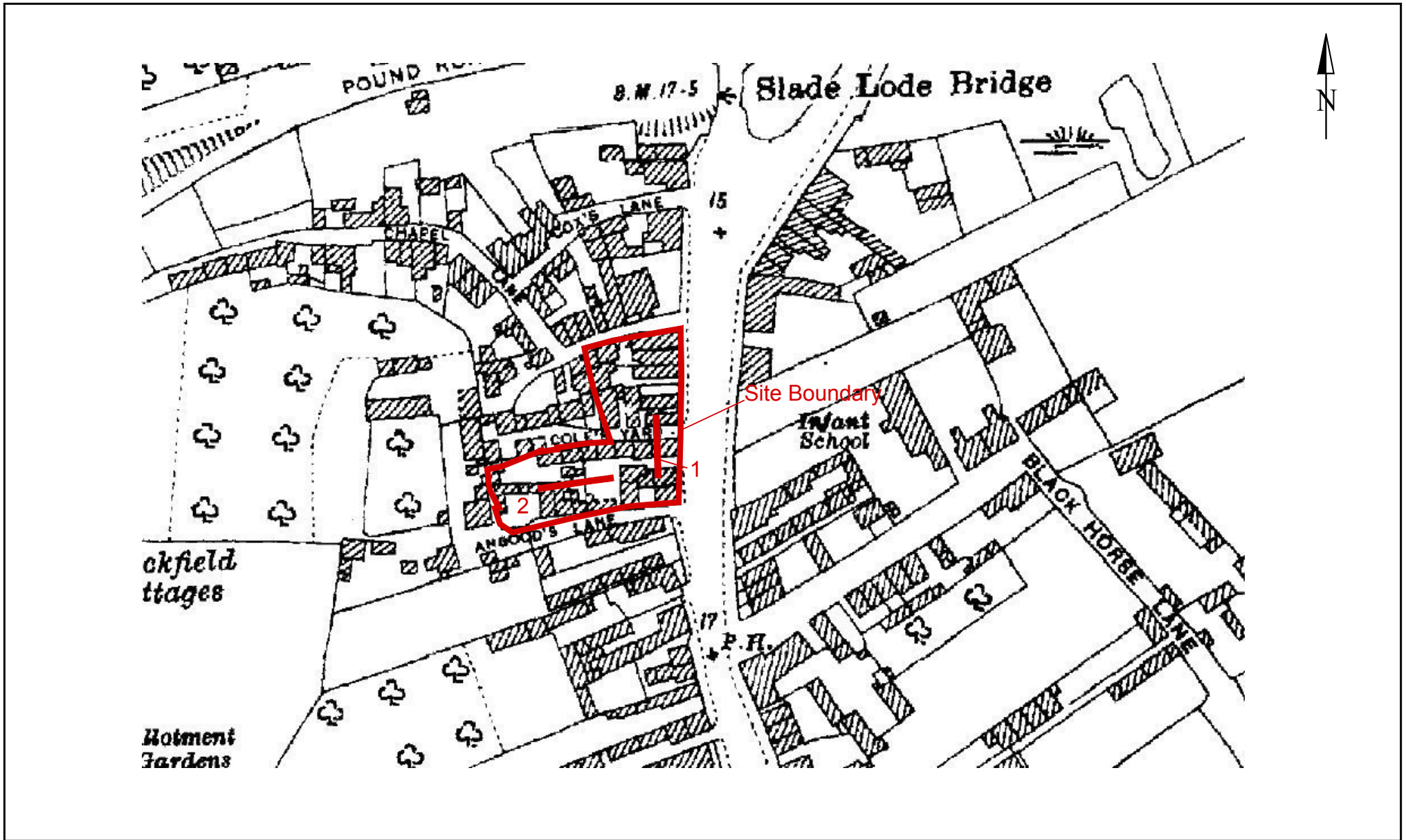
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APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
101	Possible pit fill	Mid grey sandy silt interleaved with lenses of creamy white lime mortar (101), truncated to north and south by later features; 0.90m wide x 0.48m deep.
102	Wall stub	Brick foundation (102) wall, aligned north-to-south; truncated by a modern pond to the north and extending beyond limits of excavation the south; measures 0.72m+ long by 0.38 wide. Haphazardly constructed in handmade brick bonded by cream coloured lime mortar.
103	Brick wall	Lowest course of a brick structure, surviving in places above brick foundations (105).
104	Floor	Concrete floor.
105	Wall foundation	Brick wall foundations representing the west side of a structure extending from Bridge Street; external dimensions of 4.20m north-south by 1.39m+ east - west (extending beyond limits of the trench to the east) with walls 0.30 – 0.32m wide. The south wall, removed by machine, was 0.55m deep as seen in section. Constructed from compacted brick rubble in a matrix of lime mortar.
106	Floor	Modern brick floor surface.
107	Topsoil	Dark grey silt sand containing frequent gravel.
108	Floor levelling material	Orange sand and gravel 0.25m thick.
109	Wall foundation	Rubble wall footings comprising brick fragments and crushed lime mortar.
110	Modern drain	Cut for modern drain.
111	Backfill of [110]	Fill of modern drain cut [110]
112	Natural	Mid to dark grey silty sand averaging 0.20m thick.
113	Natural	Bluish grey, gravelly clay
114	Modern drain	Cut for modern drain.
115	Backfill of [114]	Fill of modern drain cut [114]
116	Make up material	Gravel and mid grey silty sand mixed in equal proportions, measuring 0.55m deep.
117	Hardcore below (118)	Small ceramic building fragments and gravel, 0.10m thick
118	Existing surface	Tarmac, 0.03m thick.
119	Wall foundation	Aligned east to west and extending across the width of the trench. Comprised brick and tile fragments in a loose/fragmented cement mortar; 0.55m deep by 0.35m wide.
120	Demolition layer	Modern bricks and brick fragments
121	Possible pit cut	Only base survives. Remainder truncated away. Flat base. 0.90m N-S extent and 0.44m depth.
122	Makeup layer for floor	Mixed chalk and gravel measuring 0.12m deep.
123	Makeup layer for floor	Brick rubble
201	Layer/fill of [251]	Bluish grey clay. 2.10m E-W extent. 0.10m depth.
202	Layer/fill of [251]	Light grey ash containing occasional charcoal flecks and fragments, extends discontinuously over a distance of around 2.85m E-W, varying in depth between 0.10m to the east and 0.03m to the west.
203	Clay floor surface	Mid greenish yellow sandy clay, extending 1.48m E-W x 0.06m thick (max.).
204	Clay floor surface	Hard mid brownish yellow sandy clay containing a moderate quantity of small stones and small patches and lenses of ash and charcoal. E-W extent of 5.65m x average depth of 0.16.
205	U/S finds Tr 2	
206	Fill of [251]	Mid to dark grey sandy silt.

207	Drain Cut	0.85m E-W extent x 0.50m depth
208	Backfill of [207]	
209	Drain pipe	Modern ceramic drain
210	Modern overburden	Mixed orange gravel and light brownish grey sand. 1.65m E-W extent x 0.45 maximum depth
211	Surface?	Crushed and compacted white chalk extending 3.62m E-W x 0.26m deep (max.).
212	Demolition/post demolition layer	Mid brown silty sand containing frequent quantities of small stones and occasional modern brick fragments.
213	Modern Pit	Concave profile measuring 0.98m in E-W extent and 0.37m in depth
214	Fill of [213]	Dark grey sandy silt.
215	Modern Pit	Concave profile measuring 0.68m in E-W extent and 0.36m in depth
216	Fill of [215]	Dark grey sandy silt
217	Modern overburden	Mixed dark and mid grey sand silt and gravel.
218	Modern overburden	Mixed dark and mid grey sand silt and gravel.
219	Modern Pit	Concave profile, 0.55m E-W extent x 0.40m deep.
220	Backfill of [219]	Dark grey sandy silt
221	Clay floor surface	Mid yellow clay. Heavily truncated by later pits, it survived to a length of 0.77m and had a depth of 0.09m.
222	Modern Pit	Severely truncated by pit [224]. Concave profile. 0.53m E-W extent, 0.40m depth
223	Backfill of [222]	Mid to dark grey sandy silt
224	Modern Pit	Concave profile, 0.90m E-W extent x 0.55m deep.
225	Backfill of [224]	Dark grey sandy silt
226	Modern overburden	Mixed dark grey sand with lenses of orange gravel. 6.58m in E-W extent and 0.50m average depth.
227	Surface?	Compacted crumbly white chalk - possibly a continuation layer (211); 130mm thick.
228	Layer	Very dark grey silty sand, 0.03m in maximum thickness.
229	Clay floor surface	Mid grey clay extending 1.44m E-W x 0.08m in maximum depth.
230	Layer	Shallow layer of very dark grey ash and charcoal.
231	Clay floor surface	Firm light brown and greyish yellow sandy clay extending 1.75m E-W x 0.11m deep.
232	Layer	Mid grey ash, reddish grey silty sand and gravel mixed in equal proportions, extending over a distance of 15.05m E-W and continuing beyond the limit of excavation in each direction. Varies in depth between a maximum of 0.32m and minimum of 0.08m.
233	As (202)	As (202) in composition, extending 3.09m E-W x maximum 0.12m deep.
234	Waterlain sediment	Firm mid brown clay containing a moderate quantity of small stones. Extends 6.90m E-W x 0.25m deep.
235	Makeup layer beneath floors	Light brown silty sand including frequent quantities of gravel.
236	As (227)	80mm thick (max.)
237	Makeup layer for floors	Shallow, even layer of clean yellow sand partially truncated by the cut of drain [248]. It had a full extent of 3.65m and a thickness of 0.03m.
238	Clay floor surface	Reddish orange clay (238) measuring 0.95m E-W x maximum 0.05m deep.
239	Layer	Mid grey ash and charcoal (239) measuring 0.94m E-W x 0.03m deep.
240	Makeup layer	Light brownish yellow clay lumps in a matrix of grey silty sand, extending 3.78m E-W x 0.18m deep (max.).
241	Layer	Very dark grey silty sand (241), 0.05m thick.
242	Clay floor surface	Firm mid greyish yellow sandy clay extending 1.45m E-W x 0.13m deep.
243	Levelling layer – possibly related to (232)	Coarse yellow/orange gravel extending 2.79m E-W x 0.12m deep (max.).

244	Waterlain deposit?	Mid greyish brown clay and gravel mixed in equal proportions, extending over a distance of at least 5.82m east-west and continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the west. At least 0.30m deep.
245	Levelling layer – related to (243)?	Composition as (243), extending 2.28m E-W x maximum 0.07m deep.
246	Layer	Reddish brown fibrous peaty material containing frequent pea grit, extending 5.35m E-W x 0.05m deep.
247	Layer	Firm mid to dark grey clay extending 1.66m E-W x at least 0.18m deep.
248	Modern drain Cut	Steep sides with flat base. 1.10m E-W extent. 0.43m depth.
249	Fill of [248]	Mid grey silty sand.
250	Drain pipe	Ceramic drain pipe in cut [248]
251	Ditch	Linear cut aligned approximately east – west and partly lowered by machine excavation. Excavation across the base revealed a concave profile with gently sloping sides and a width of 0.55m by 0.15m deep (max.).
252	Cut of post-hole	Circular in plan with gently sloping sides and irregular flattish base. 0.42m in diameter, 0.11m depth.
253	Fill of [252]	Dark grey sandy silt
254	Topsoil	Very dark grey sandy silt, averaging of 0.20m in depth and extending throughout the area of Trench 2.
255	Animal burrow	Void in section measuring 0.30m in width and 0.25m in height.
256	Fill of [251]	Upper levels of ditch [251]

APPENDIX B – FINDS REPORTS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post-Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which can also be used to record material from surrounding counties. A total of 12 sherds from eight vessels, weighing 439 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery dates to the Post Medieval period.

Condition

The pottery is in a relatively fresh condition, with some large pieces. None of the material is classed as abraded.

Results

Table 1, Post-Roman Pottery Archive

Tr	Cxt	Came	Full Name	Sub Fab	Form	Dec	Part	Comment	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
2	101	NOTS	Nottingham Stoneware		Tankard	Raised cordons; engine turned zig zag	BSS		M18th-L18th	2	1	35
2	201	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	Bichrome	Bowl or Dish	Geometric linear roller stamping	BS	Burnt; soot over break; orange and green bichrome	16th-M17th	1	1	37
2	202	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	+Fe	Bowl		Rim	Long everted grooved rim	16th-M17th	1	1	15
2	203	BERTH	Brown Glazed Earthenware		Bowl		Profile	Complex rim; sooted	16th-18th	2	1	190
2	203	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	Cu Bichrome	Jug		BS		L16th-M17th	1	1	43
2	205	RGRE	Reduced Glazed Red Earthenware		?		BS	Sooted over break; concretion	16th-17th	1	1	19
2	205	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware		Handled Bowl	Friiled handle	Handle with HJ		16th-M17th	1	1	73
2	206	BONC	Colne - Bourne Type	Sandy	Jug		BSS	Misfired glaze	M15th-16th	3	1	27
Total										12	8	439

Provenance

Trench 1

Post-Roman pottery was recovered from deposit (101) in Trench 1.

Trench 2

Layer (201), floor (203), probable fill (202) and fill (206) in ditch [251] gave pottery from within Trench 2. Unstratified finds from this trench were labelled with context number (205).

Range

There is a range of common domestic Post-Medieval types, including Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE), Brown Earthenware (BERTH), Colne Ware (BONC) and Nottingham Stoneware (NOTS).

Trench 1

Deposit (101) produced sherds from a tankard in Nottingham Stoneware. This fine vessel, with raised cordons and zig zagged engine turned decoration, dates to the mid to late 18th century.

Trench 2

Including finds from (202), ditch [251] gave pieces from two vessels, including a fine walled jug in Colne (Bourne Type) ware (BONC) and fragments from a dish in Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE). The dish has very unusual geometric roller stamped decoration, and could be a continental import, perhaps of Dutch manufacture. A 16th century date is suggested for this feature.

Both layer (201) and floor (203) produced pottery of a similar date, these contexts seemingly belonging to the later 16th to 17th centuries.

Potential

The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage. Should further work be carried out on the site, a search for parallels with the fragment of roller stamped vessel from [251] would be beneficial. The area of Trench 2 has good potential for yielding further evidence of domestic activity of 16th to 17th century date.

Summary

A small assemblage of Post-Medieval pottery was recovered during the evaluation. Most of the material came from Trench 2 and is of 16th-17th century date. These remains attest to domestic activity in this area during the Post-Medieval period.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002). A total of eight fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 5174 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2 below.

Condition

There are two complete bricks and six fragments from two further items. The complete examples have a yellow and brown encrusted deposit, possibly from submersion in water or waste for a prolonged period.

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Comment	Date	NoF	W(g)
102	BRK	Gault; calcareous	Mortar adhered; encrusted with brown/yellow deposit; clinkered header; 220x110x56mm; complete	18th- M19th	1	2291

Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Comment	Date	NoF	W(g)
103	BRK	Oxidised; calcareous	Mortar adhered; encrusted with brown/yellow deposit; Fenland; 220x104x61mm; complete	18th- M19th	1	2474
204	BRK	Dull oxidised; calcareous	Mortar adhered; sand moulded; leached; Fenland	17th-19th	1	170
204	BRK	Bright oxidised; calcareous	Mortar adhered; sand moulded; sunken margins; grass/straw content; bleached surfaces; Fenland	17th-19th	5	239
				Total	8	5174

Provenance

Ceramic building material was recovered from wall (102) and foundation (103) in Trench 1 and floor (204) in Trench 2.

Range

There are eight pieces from at least four Post-Medieval bricks. The size of the two complete brick from Trench 1, suggests a production date before the brick size standard of 1840 was introduced.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The material is suitable for discard, although appropriate permissions would have to be obtained before such an action could be carried out. Should the ceramic building material be retained it is stable and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary

Two complete bricks and fragments from at least two others were recovered during the evaluation. The pieces are of Post-Medieval date.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

A single item weighing 13.3kg was recovered.

Condition

The item is in moderate-good condition. It is substantially complete, but corroded and with some encrustation.

Results

Table 3, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (kg)	Date
256	Iron	cauldron, cast, with horizontal moulding wires and vertical mould seam; 2 suspension loops of approximately triangular form	1	13.3	post-medieval, 17 th -18 th century?

Provenance

The other find was recovered from the fill (256) of a ditch [251].

Range

A single iron cauldron was recovered. This large vessel is cast, and has 4 horizontal moulding wires around its girth. These moulding wires were provided to add strength to the vessel wall. There is also a vertical mould seam ridge, indicating that the vessel was either cast in a two-piece mould, or was cast in two halves and then welded together. Two short stubby feet survive but the vessel was probably originally a tripod, the third foot having been attached to part of the base that has broken away. There are two handles that create triangular suspension loops immediately below the rim.

Cast iron cauldrons are scarce in the archaeological record, often identified only from small fragments, though they were a commonplace domestic vessel used for cooking food or heating water. They may have originated in the late medieval period, though copper alloy examples were overwhelmingly dominant, if not exclusive, at this time. Rather, iron cauldrons seem to succeed copper alloy types in the post-medieval period. Although archaeological finds of iron cauldrons are rare a late 17th-early 18th century example was found at Kebister, Shetland (Owen and Lowe 1999, 305).

Potential

The other artefact is of moderate potential and is a rare find of a cast iron cauldron. It provides some functional evidence, probably the heating of water or cooking of food, and broad indications of date.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 4 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 4, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
101	M18th-L18th	
103	18th-M19th	Based on CBM
201	16th-M17th	
202	16th-M17th	
203	L16th-M17th	Probably 17th
204	17th-19th	Based on CBM
205	16th-17th	
206	M15th-16th	Based on 3 sherds from a single vessel
256	17th-18th	Based on single metal item

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
HJ	Handle Join
W(g)	Weight (grams)

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- ~ 2002, *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, version 3.2 [internet]. Available at <<http://www.tegula.freeseve.co.uk/acbmg/CBMGDE3.htm>>
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- Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

APPENDIX C
OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM:

England

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OASIS ID: withamar1-163439

Project details

Project name	Trial Trench Evaluation at 24 Bridge Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	Two trial trenches were excavated at 24 Bridge Street, Chatteris. The site lies to the south of a possible site of a medieval landing place on Slade Lode, and near to previous archaeological finds of Iron Age, medieval and post medieval date. The trenches revealed a ditch of possible late medieval date and evidence relating to occupation from the 16th/17th century and later.
Project dates	Start: 21-10-2013 End: 23-10-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4063 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	FLOOR Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CAULDRON Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND CHATTERIS 24 Bridge Street, Chatteris
Postcode	PE16 6RF
Study area	1800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 3901 8670 52 0 52 27 36 N 000 02 46 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Witham Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Russell Trimble
Project director/manager	Russell Trimble
Project supervisor	Russell Trimble
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mrs P James

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Metal","Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Matrices","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at 24 Bridge Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Trimble, R
Other bibliographic details	Report No. 52

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