

Witham Archaeology

A Report to Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd on behalf of Mr J Palmer

May 2014



LAND AT 81 – 83 HIGH STREET, CHATTERIS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Trial Trench Evaluation

R Trimble

81 – 83 HIGH STREET, CHATTERIS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

CHER Event No.: ECB4171
OASIS ID : withamar1-179616
Planning Ref.: F/YR10/0104/F
NGR: TL 3920 8646

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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81 – 83 HIGH STREET, CHATTERIS.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Witham Archaeology on land to the rear of 81 - 83 Chatteris, Cambridgeshire. The project, commissioned by Morton and Hall Consulting Ltd on behalf of Mr John Palmer, was necessitated by a condition of planning permission imposed by Fenland District Council, relating to a scheme for the construction of two new dwellings and renovation of existing buildings on the site.

Previous archaeological work in Chatteris has revealed evidence for Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement in the area immediately north of the parish church and south of New Road. Trial trench investigations in the immediate vicinity of the site have revealed medieval pits on the opposite side of the High Street, at No. 84, and primarily post medieval and modern deposits on land to the north and northeast, at Tern Gardens and No. 91 High Street. The High Street frontage includes a number Grade II listed buildings, mostly of 18th century date and including a several one storey cottages. The one storey cottage at No 81 – 83 is late 17th century, faced with brick in the 19th century. There is a 19th century extension housing a shop or workshop on the south side.

A single trial was trench was excavated revealing late medieval/early post medieval pits overlain by soil layers indicative of a subsequent phase of cultivation. Evidence for later post medieval occupation located at a higher level in the north-eastern part of the trench may relate to buildings shown on the Enclosure Award Map of 1819.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Witham Archaeology at 81 – 83 High Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, on the proposed site of a small scale residential development. The project was commissioned by Morton and Hall Consulting Ltd. on behalf of Mr John Palmer, in response to a condition of planning permission imposed by Fenland District Council. Archaeological fieldwork was carried out on the 28th April 2014.

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 (Figs. 1 & 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 3920 8646, lies to the north of the historic core of the settlement, 500m northwest of the parish church. It is bounded to the south by Slade Way, to the west by the High Street and by adjacent properties to the east and north. The area comprises yards and gardens associated with Nos. 81 - 83 and land formerly occupied by outbuildings extending along Slade Way.

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 6.0m 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 Ramsey 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 archaeological record in the Chatteris area has been greatly influenced by topography and geology, the settlement being situated on a fen island formed by a raised area of Jurassic, Amphill and Kimmeridge clays. In the Cambridgeshire fens, freshwater peat formation appears to have commenced in the 6th or 7th millennium BC, followed by marine flooding from around the 3rd millennium BC, resulting in the widespread deposition of clay and silt over much of the region, and the increasing prevalence of saltmarsh conditions during the late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods. Increasingly wet conditions then led to peat formation in those areas located in close proximity to direct marine influence, resulting in the accumulation of peat deposits above deposits of marine silt and clay. Peat growth was largely continuous until large-scale drainage of the fens in the 17th century. In the area of Chatteris early peat formation was restricted to the fringes of the parish and was rapidly succeeded in the early Bronze Age by marine flooding and the accumulation of clay (Hall 1992 & 1996).

Important Neolithic and Bronze Age remains have been identified on areas of sand and gravel terrace south of the existing settlement, including Neolithic occupation sites, Early Bronze Age barrows and Bronze Age field systems (Hall 1996). Early in the Iron Age, settlement in the area appears to have shifted to higher ground extending between Langwood and Honey Hill, where the Fenland Survey located six sites and two cropmarks, which may have been associated. More detailed investigation has since demonstrated the presence of a major early Iron Age settlement, noted as one of the largest open area settlement sites known in Britain (Evans 2000 and 2003). Occupation at Langwood and Honey Hill continued into the Roman period. A relative absence of Saxon remains in areas covered by the Fenland Survey suggests increasing nucleation in the area of the modern settlement of Chatteris.

Extensive excavations in the historic core of Chatteris, immediately north of the parish church (ECB123 and ECB3219) have revealed complex multi-period remains (Roberts 2000 and Cooper 2004). These remains include Bronze Age pits containing fragments of Beaker and Collared Urn pottery, early Iron Age, late Iron Age and early Roman pits and postholes, Roman enclosures, structures and industrial features of second to 4th century date, Anglo-Saxon pits, postholes and ditches, and medieval pits. Further investigation on adjacent land to the north (ECB2211), extending to New Road, revealed primarily Iron Age remains including three burials, an early Iron Age post-built structure, a hearth, ditches and pits (Thatcher 2006). Further investigation on the same site revealed activity ranging from the Mesolithic to medieval periods.

Investigations in the immediate vicinity of Nos. 81 – 83 High Street include a trial trench evaluation (ECB3924) to southwest at No. 84, where two medieval pits (one possibly a ditch terminal) were recorded, dated on the basis of associated pottery to the 13th/14th century (Adams 2013). Medieval features were sealed by a thick layer of soil indicative of later agricultural use. Above the soil, evidence was located for a late post medieval structure.

To north and northeast of the current site, evaluations at Tern Gardens (House 2009; ECB3285) and 91 High Street (Green and Unger 2008; ECB2941) recorded thick ‘subsoils’ and primarily later post medieval and modern deposits.

The existing cottage at 81 - 83 is a Grade II Listed Building attributed to the late 17th century. It is a one-storey structure with two rooms at ground floor and attics (DCB2110). The ground floor rooms are arranged to either side of a central chimney stack and are provided with inglenook fire places. The door from the High Street is positioned centrally in the wall, opposite the chimney stack. The facade was clad with brick in the 19th century and a shop or workshop was added at the south end of the structure. A two-storey building (probable 19th century) extends to the rear at right angles to the original structure. In addition to Nos. 81 - 83 the High Street features a number of Grade II Listed Buildings – mostly cottages of 18th/early 19th century date.

The enclosure award map of 1819 shows an L shaped structure to the rear of the surviving cottage, with a one arm extending approximately along the southern boundary and the other at right angles extending across Slade Way. The same structures appear on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 maps of 1888 and 1902 and 1972, possibly with additional (lean-to?) structures to the north.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 28th March 2014, 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

A single trench 15m long and 1.6m wide was excavated across the footprint of the proposed building.

Topsoil and other recent deposits were removed by mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The entire northeast facing trench side was cleaned by hand to allow the recording of deposits revealed in section. The trench base was also cleaned by hand, to delineate features and deposits of potential archaeological origin revealed in plan. All features visible across the base of the trench were subsequently subjected to sample excavation, to determine character, extent and date.

The archaeological record was compiled through plans and sections at scales 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate, individual written context descriptions on *pro forma* recording sheets, and photographs in 35mm monochrome and colour digital. The trench was then located with reference to fixed points represented on Ordnance Survey large-scale mapping.

6.0 RESULTS (Figs. 3 and 4)

Detailed context descriptions are provided in Appendix A

Phase I - Natural

Natural sand and gravel mixed with clay (025) was revealed at depths of between 0.75m and 0.95m below existing ground level, the lowest deposits occurring in the north-eastern part of the trench, in the area furthest from the High Street.

Phase II – Late Medieval/Early Post Medieval

Four features were identified across the base of the trench, cutting the natural (025). The largest of these features, [033], located in the area nearest to the High Street, was partially revealed on the northwest side of the trench. Interpreted as a possible rubbish or extraction pit, it was at least 3.00m across and 0.62m deep, containing a primary fill of mid to dark grey silt, (032), and a secondary fill of mid grey sandy silt, (031). The latter fill yielded four sherds of pottery dated as 15th to 17th century.

A pit, [037], located c. 2m northeast of [033], was oval shaped in plan and 0.40m deep. It contained a fill of light to mid grey clay and gravel, (036), producing a single sherd of pottery dated as late 12th to mid 14th century. A smaller sub-circular pit, [035], located between [037] and [033], produced no dated artefacts but has been attributed to Phase II on the basis of position in the stratigraphic sequence and spatial relationship to [037] and [033]. Measuring 0.52m – 0.62m across by 0.24m deep, the cut contained a fill of light to mid grey clay and gravel, (034). At the eastern end of the trench, [038] was a shallow cut approximately 0.35m in diameter, possibly representing the remnant of a pit. It is only tentatively ascribed to Phase II.

Layers of mid greyish brown sandy silt (009) and charcoal rich sandy silt (008) overlying natural, (025), at the south-western end of the trench are included in Phase II on the basis of a single sherd of mid 12th to mid 13th century pottery from (008). A fragment of building material in (009) was dated 16th to 18th century.

Phase III – Probable Earlier Post Medieval

Mid grey sandy silt up to 0.35m thick, (007), extended throughout the trench, sealing layer (008). The layer – probably correlating with (030), which sealed the fills of pit [033] – may have been formed through a process of cultivation. It was sealed in the north-eastern part of the trench by a thick layer of greyish brown sandy clay (024), and in the central part of the trench by layers of sand and gravel, (027), and silty clay (026). The latter was sealed by a thick layer of sand and gravel, (006), extending to the south-western end of the trench. A layer of yellowish brown clay and sandy silt, (005), overlay (006) at the southwestern end of the trench.

Layer (024) was cut by a steep sided cut, [021], containing greyish brown sandy clay (020).

Phase IV – Probable Later Post Medieval

A shallow depth of soot or charcoal, (017), extended throughout the north-eastern part of the trench, overlain by sandy clay containing frequent charcoal flecks (016). The deposits, indicating a possible surface, were separated at the north-eastern end of the trench by (015), a layer of sand and gravel.

A linear cut, [023], running at right angles to the trench, may have originated from the robbing of a wall foundation associated with the possible surface suggested by (017) and (016). The feature contained a fill of brick and stone rubble, (022), consistent with interpretation as a robber trench. Soot or fine charcoal filling one side of the cut probably originated from disturbance to (017). A group of 18th century pottery was recovered from (022) together with glass and metal finds dated as 19th to early 20th century. The mixed character of the assemblage may reflect an element of intrusive material or some mixing of 18th and 19th century deposits to form the fill of cut [023]. The latter explanation would be consistent with interpretation as the fill of a robber trench.

A cut, [014], partially revealed at the north-eastern limit of excavation, may have represented one edge of another robber trench relating to a structure associated with (016)/(017). It was filled by limestone rubble and sand (013).

Phase V – 19th Century/Modern

The fill, (022), of the possible robber trench, [023], was sealed by a shallow layer of sand and gravel, (019). The latter was in turn sealed by soot mixed with gravel, (018).

Thick topsoil, (010), extended throughout the north-eastern part of the trench, sealing (019). The upper levels of the trench on the south-western side were occupied by recent demolition material interspersed with clay. A cut near the south-western end of the trench may be interpreted as a robber trench formed by the recent demolition of the structure shown on recent mapping (see Fig. 2). Another modern cut, [012], was recorded at the opposite end of the trench, filled by sandy silt (011).

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation succeeded in locating pits and layers of probable late medieval and/or early post medieval origin in the area nearest to the existing buildings at Nos. 81 – 83 High Street. The activity, located at around 0.75m below existing ground level, is difficult to interpret from the available evidence but probable relates to occupation along a precursor to the existing High Street. Rubbish pits are often encountered on land to the rear of medieval/post medieval properties.

The pits may have been truncated during a phase of cultivation/gardening represented by (007) and possibly (024).

Layers (016) and (017) and possible robber trench [023] in the north-eastern part of the trench indicate ground level during the late post medieval period. This activity probably relates to buildings shown on the Enclosure Award Map of 1819 and subsequent Ordnance Survey maps.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Mr John Palmer for assistance in ensuring that the project was brought to a successful conclusion. Thanks are also due staff of the Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council for advice and information, and to Gary Taylor and other specialists at APS for completion of the various finds reports.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

CHER EVENT NO.: ECB4171

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: F/YR10/0104/F

FIELD OFFICER: R Trimble

NGR: TL 3920 8646

CIVIL PARISH: Chatteris

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 28/04/2014

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Morton and Hall Consulting Ltd on behalf of Mr John Palmer

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.: TBC

ACCESSION DATE: TBC

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	39
Plans at Scale 1:20	1
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	1
Section Drawings at Scale 1:10	3
Photographs	95
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: Trench as excavated, looking towards the High Street; 2m and 1m scales



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



Plate 3: Pit [033], looking west-southwest; 1m scale

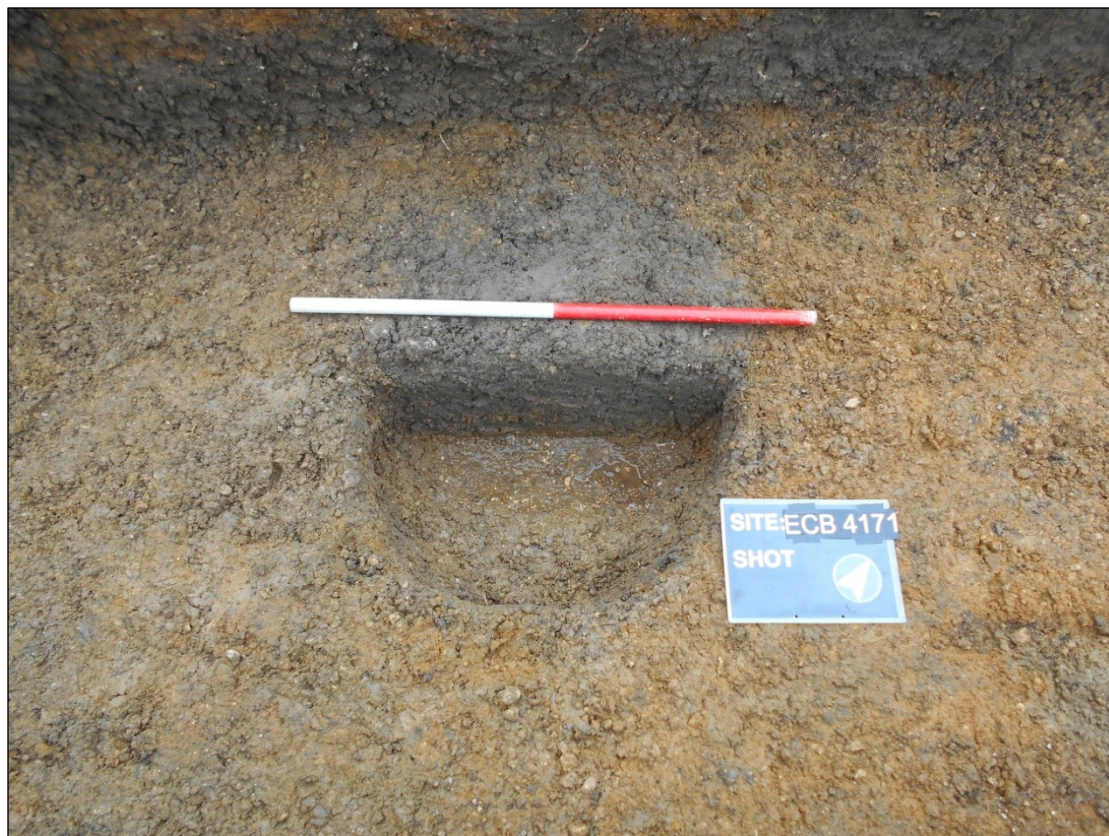


Plate 4: Cut [037], looking north-northwest; 1m scale

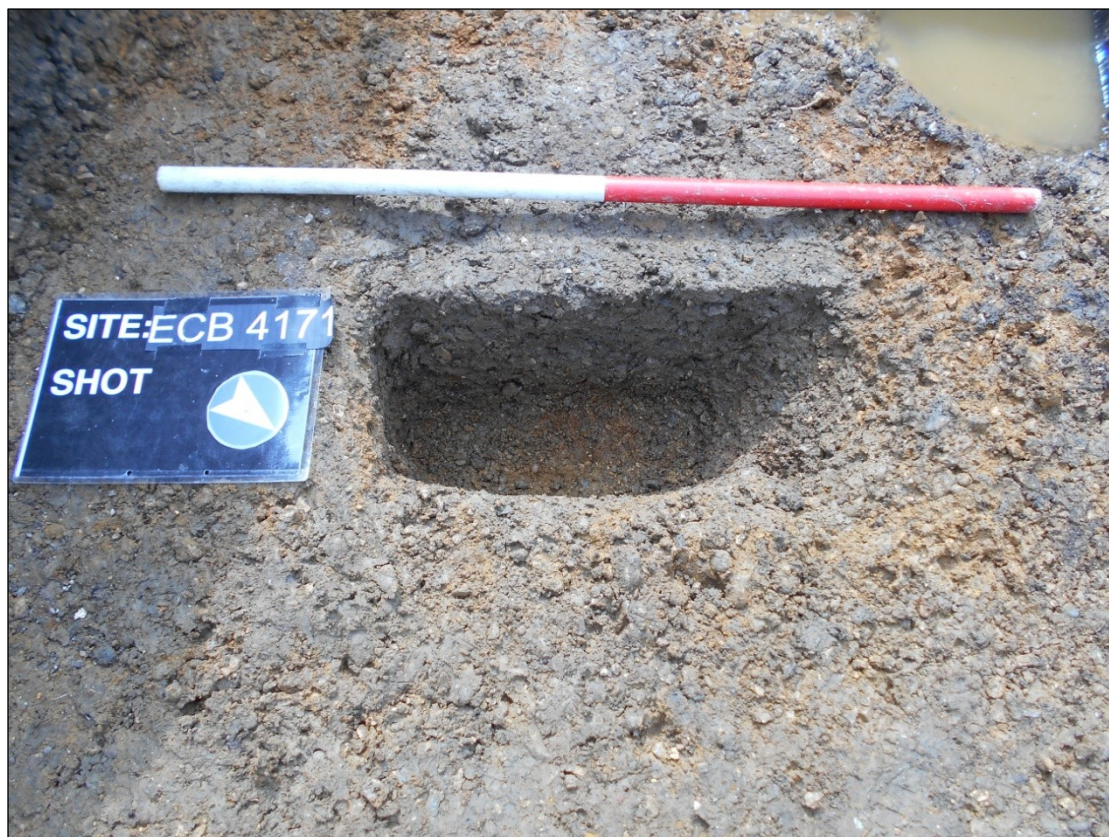
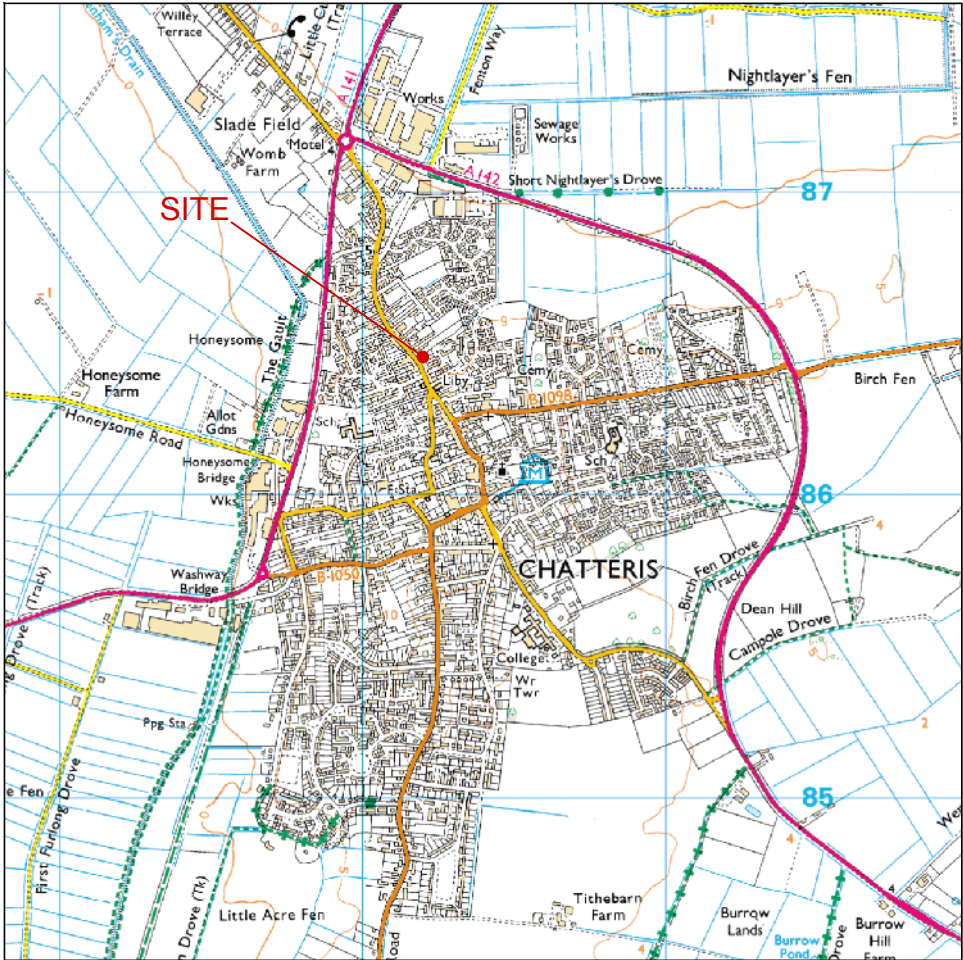
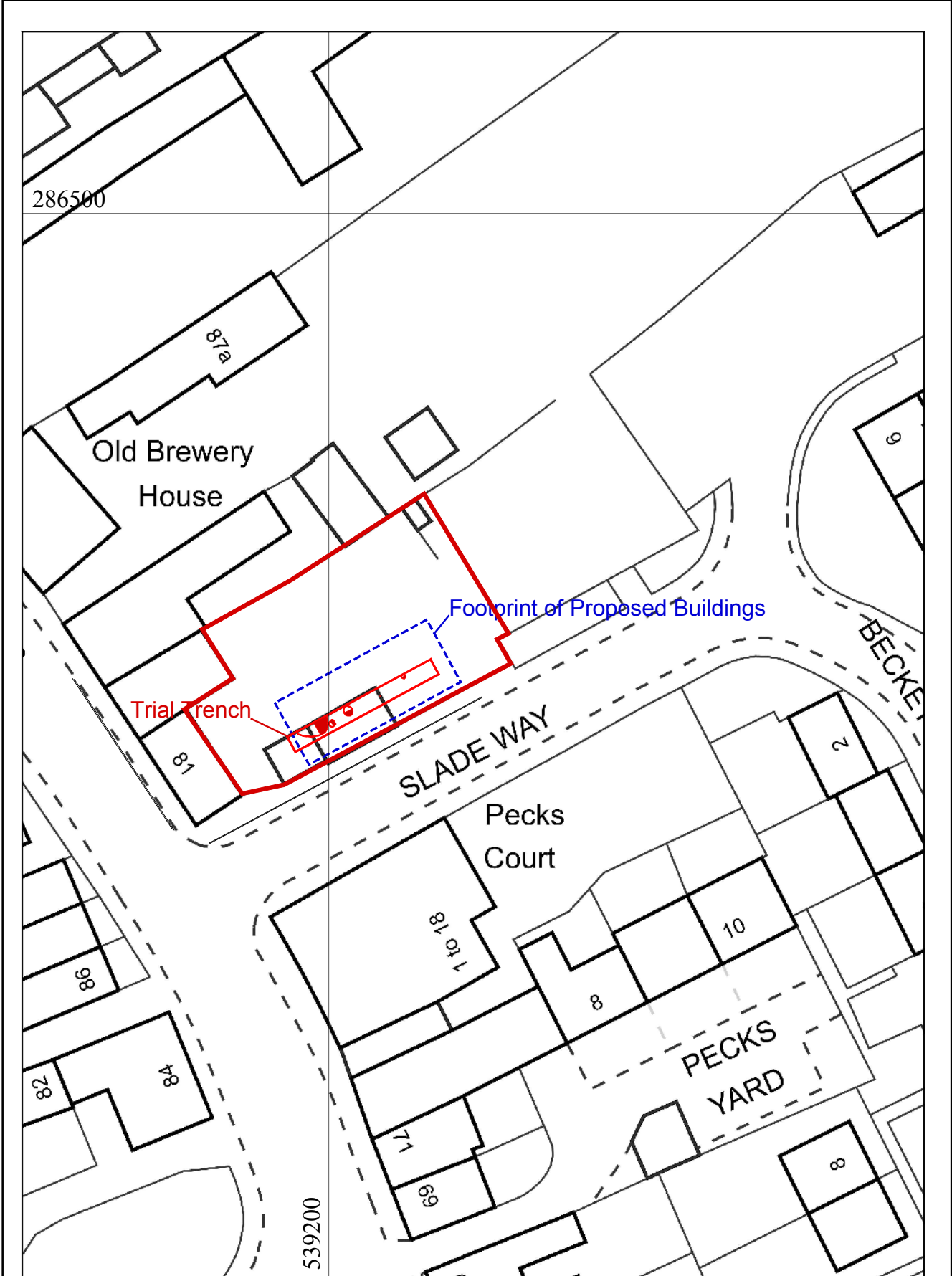


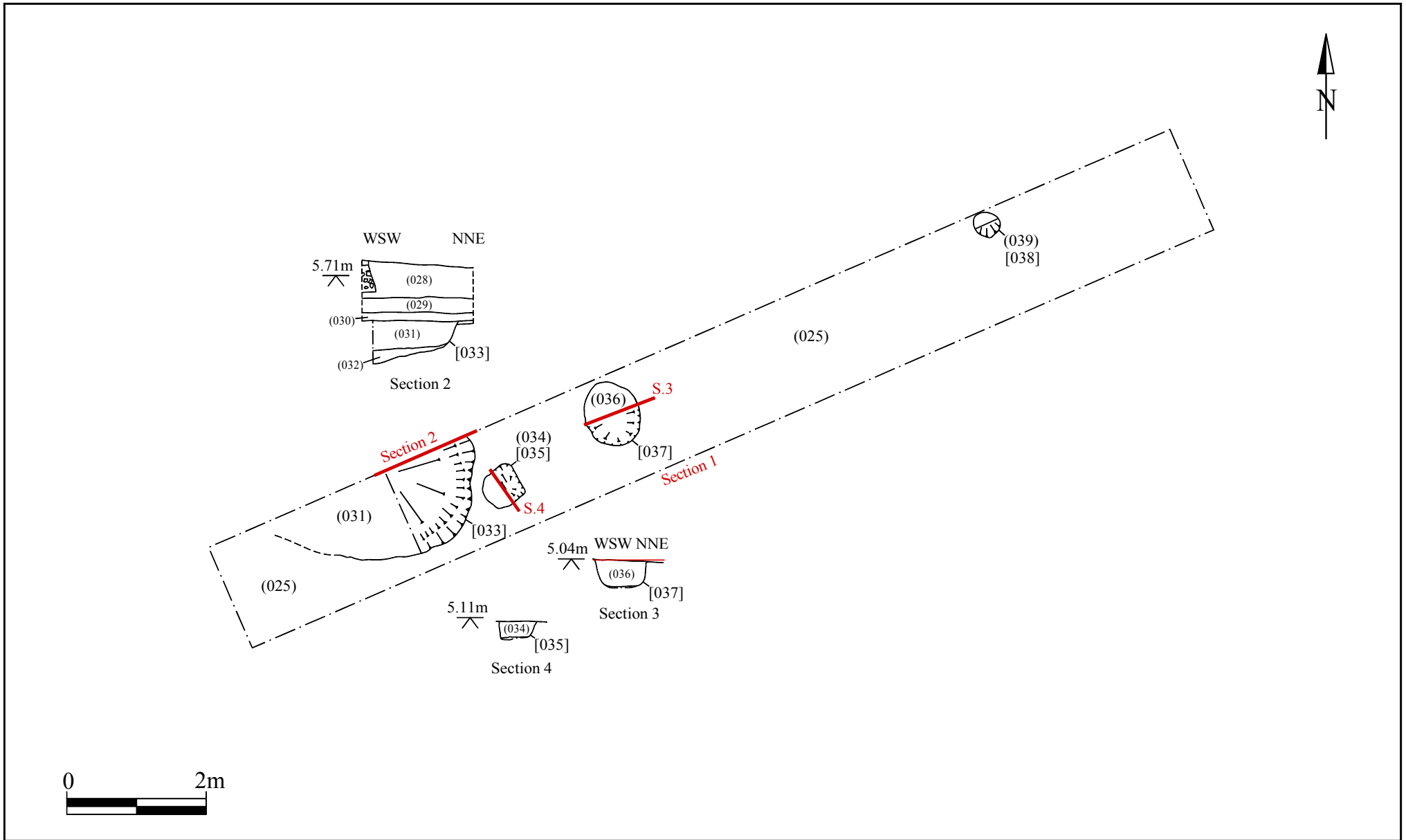
Plate 5: Cut [035], looking west-southwest; 1m scale

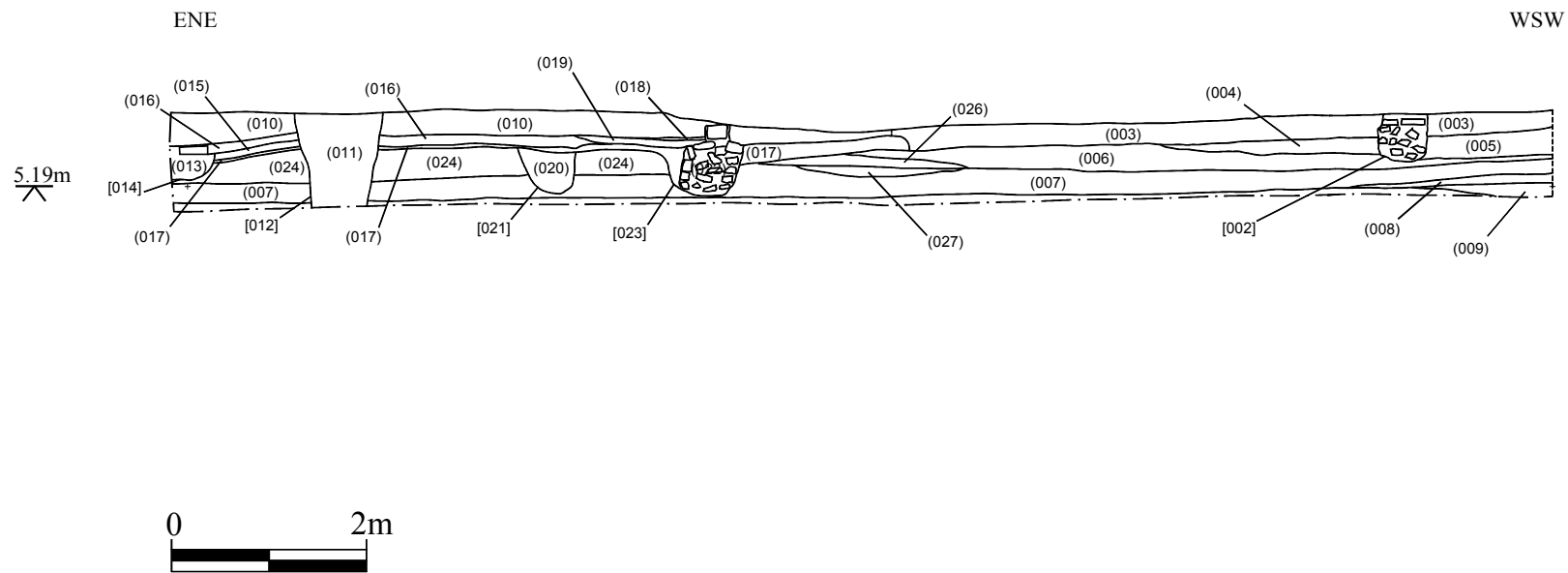


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APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Fill of [002]	Mixed rubble – mostly red brick
002	Cut – possibly from a robbed foundation	0.45m wide x 0.50m deep with steep sides
003	Demolition layer	Rubble mixed with mid grey clay and charcoal
004	Layer	Moderately compact, mid yellowish brown silty clay containing frequent angular stone to 30mm; 2.20m in extent and 0.2m thick
005	Layer	Compact, mid yellowish brown clay mixed with mid grey sandy silt, containing charcoal flecks and frequent limestone flecks; c. 5m in extent x 0.30m thick (max.)
006	Layer	Loose, light orange-brown sand and small gravel to 5mm; 8.15m in extent x 0.30m thick (max.)
007	Layer	Soft mid grey sandy silt containing frequent gravel; extends throughout to a depth of 0.35m (max.)
008	Layer	Soft, dark grey/black sandy silt with high charcoal content containing occasional small stone; c. 3m in extent by 0.10m thick
009	Layer	Soft, mid greyish brown sandy silt containing occasional gravel to 5mm; c. 2.5m in extent x c. 0.15m thick
010	Topsoil	Loose, moderately compact mid to dark brownish grey clayey sand; c. 5.2m in extent x 0.28m (max.) thick
011	Fill of [012]	Loose, mixed mid brown and grey sandy silt, containing frequent gravel and stone with occasional brick
012	Cut	Steep sides with dimensions of 0.90m x at least 0.20m x 0.75m+ deep
013	Fill of [014]	Loose, mid brown sand and irregular limestone rubble
014	Cut – possibly robbing	Sides sloping at around 45° to a concave base; 0.45m+ across x 0.35m deep
015	Layer	Loose to moderately compact mid orange brown sandy and gravel to 5mm; 0.95m across x 0.10m thick
016	Layer – possibly a surface	Moderately compact to compact (slightly friable), mid brown sandy clay containing frequent charcoal flecks; c. 4.0m in extent x 0.15m thick (max.)
017	Layer	Soft, fine black soot or charcoal; c. 7.0m in extent x up to 0.20m thick
018	Layer	As (017) but mixed with small gravel; 0.80m thick x 30mm thick
019	Layer	Light yellowish brown sand and gravel to 5mm; c. 1.30m in extent x 0.10m thick
020	Fill of [021]	Mid greyish brown sandy clay including patches of charcoal or soot and frequent stone to 20mm
021	Cut	Steep sides giving way to a concave base; 0.60m across x 0.45m deep
022	Fill of [023]	Brick and occasional limestone rubble
023	Cut – possibly robbing	Linear, aligned c. NW-SE, with steep sides and a concave base; 0.85m wide x 0.50m deep
024	Layer	Moderately compact, mid greyish brown sandy clay containing patches of charcoal or soot; 5.10m in extent x 0.30m thick (ave.)
025	Natural	Compact, light to mid yellowish brown mixed sand and gravel to 30mm (60%) and clay (40%); 0.10m thick extending throughout the trench
026	Layer	Moderately compact to compact

027	Layer	Moderately compact, mid orange-brown sand and gravel to 5mm mixed with clay; 1.75m in extent x 0.10m thick
028	Layer	Light to mid grey sandy silt; at least 1.60m in extent x 0.42m thick
029	Layer	Firm (blocky), greenish brown sandy silt containing occasional gravel; 2.20m+ in extent x 0.20 - 0.23m thick
030	Layer	Firm, light to mid greenish grey silty clay containing moderate gravel; 2.20m in extent x 0.15m thick
031	Secondary fill of [033]	Firm, mid grey sandy silt containing moderate gravel and small angular stone; 0.42 (max.) thick
032	Primary fill of [033]	Soft, mid to dark grey silt containing moderate gravel and occasional shell fragments; 0.20m thick (max.)
033	Cut – probably a pit	Semi-circular (exposed portion only), extending beyond limit of excavation on NW side of the trench, with steep sides in where revealed; at least 3.00m x 1.30 in area x 0.62m deep
034	Fill of [035]	Light to mid grey clay and gravel
035	Cut – pit	Sub-circular in plan, with steep sides and flattish base; 0.52m – 0.62m across x 0.24m deep
036	Fill of [037]	Light to mid grey clay and gravel
037	Cut - pit	Oval in plan, with steep sides and slightly concave base; 0.95 x 0.80m in plan x 0.40m deep
038	Cut – remnant of pit?	Circular with a dished profile; 0.35m diameter x 90mm deep
039	Fill of [039]	Light to grey clay and gravel

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 19 sherds from 13 vessels, weighing 792 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 Archive Catalogue 1, with a summary of pottery types shown in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the Early Medieval to the Post Medieval period.

Condition

The assemblage includes a large number of substantially- sized and fresh pieces. Two fragments show evidence of post-use burning, with one sooted over a broken edge, and another partially reoxidised over a break. Two pieces have sooting patterns indicative of use over a hearth or fire, whilst a further vessel has an internal deposit, possibly cress or scale.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Period	Cname	Full Name	Earliest Date	Latest Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Early Medieval	DST	Developed Stamford Ware	1150	1230	1	1	16
Medieval	ELY	Ely Type Ware	1175	1350	2	2	49
Late Medieval to Post Medieval	BONC	Colne Bourne Type	1450	1650	4	2	181
Post Medieval	BERTH	Brown Glazed Earthenware	1550	1800	5	2	391
	TGE	Tin Glazed Earthenware	1550	1750	1	1	23
	YEL	Yellow Ware	1550	1800	1	1	8
	STSL	Staffordshire Type Slipware	1650	1780	1	1	51
	STMO	Staffordshire Type Mottled Glazed	1670	1800	1	1	37
	SWSG	Staffordshire Type White Salt Glazed Stoneware	1700	1770	3	2	36
Total					19	13	792

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from layer (008), as well as from pits [033] and [036]. Material from possible robber trench [023] was collected during machining.

Range

There is a range of Post Medieval pottery types, most of which came from possible robber trench [023]. The bulk of the material from this feature, which produced some large fresh pieces, is likely to date to the 18th century. Types of this date include Staffordshire Type White Salt Glazed Stoneware (SWSG), Tin Glazed Earthenware (TGE), Staffordshire Type Slip Ware (STSL), Staffordshire Type Mottled ware (STMO) and Brown Glazed Earthenware (BERTH). There is a range of domestic vessel types, including bowls, a dish, a large jar and a mug. There are no pieces of 19th century date or later within this group.

A piece from a dish in Early Medieval Developed Stamford Ware (DST) is a notable sherd from elsewhere; this item came from layer (009). Additionally, fragments from a bowl in Post Medieval Colne Bourne Type (BONC) were recovered from pit [033], whilst a sherd from a bowl in Ely Medieval ware (ELY) came from pit [037].

Potential

This is an interesting small assemblage, including some fine and fresh pieces of 18th century date as well as Medieval and Post Medieval domestic types. The material should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long-term storage.

Summary

A broad selection of Post Medieval and some Medieval pottery was recovered from the site. One feature, [025], gave pieces from at least nine vessels, most of which were 18th century in date. Earlier pottery also came from other stratified deposits.

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 two fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 746 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

The ceramic building material is fresh.

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	NoF	W(g)	Description	Date
009	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; fine-medium sandy; calcareous	1	674	940mm wide x 490mm deep; cloth marks; stone impression in base; sand moulded; struck upper	16th-18th
022	PNR	Pegged, Nibbed or Ridge Tile	Gault; calcareous	1	72	Flat roofing tile	18th-19th

Provenance

Ceramic building material was recovered from layer (009) and fill (022) within possible robber trench [023].

Range

There is a section of Post Medieval brick from (009) and a piece of plain, flat roofing tile from [023].

Potential

There is limited potential for further work. The material should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long-term storage.

Summary

Two pieces of Post Medieval ceramic building material were recovered.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 2 (65g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

Methodology

The faunal remains were laid out in context order and reference made to published catalogues (e.g. Schmid 1972; Hillson 2003). All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element and side. Also fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as micro (mouse size), small (rabbit size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size).

The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996), Grade 0 being the best preserved bone and Grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

Provenance

The bone was collected from the fill of a robber trench (022) and the fill of a pit (031).

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate, averaging at grades 2-3 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

Results

Table 3, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
022	Large mammal	rib	-	1	58	Parallel knife marks
031	Large mammal	rib	-	1	7	

Summary

As a small assemblage it requires no further comment. The bone should be retained for the site archive, for which it is stable, and perhaps re-examined if further work is undertaken.

GLASS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Four pieces of glass weighing a total of 23g were recovered.

Condition

The glass is in good condition.

Results

Table 4, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
022	olive green bottles, light-moderate iridescence, probably 2 separate vessels, 19 th century	3	12	19 th -early 20 th century
	dark olive green bottle, 19 th -early 20 th century	1	11	

Provenance

The glass was recovered during machine excavation which revealed a rubble fill (022) of a possible wall robber trench.

Range

Fragments of several, at least 3, bottles of 19th-early 20th century date were recovered.

Potential

Other than providing dating evidence the glass is of limited potential and could be discarded.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

A single other find weighing was recovered.

Condition

Although corroded the other find is in moderate-good condition.

Results

Table 5, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
022	iron	one half of a pair of shears/scissors	1	125	late 19 th -20 th century

Provenance

The other find was recovered during machine excavation which revealed a rubble fill (022) of a possible wall robber trench.

Range

A single branch, handle and blade, of a large pair of scissors or shears was found. This has a large handle loop to accommodate several fingers. Such items are often referred to as kitchen scissors, though are also used in dress-making and similar activities involving the cutting of fabric. Although a date range has been suggested the object is most likely of 20th century date.

Potential

The other find is of limited potential and could be discarded.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 6 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 6, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
008	Mid 12th-Mid13th	
009	16th-18th	
022	19 th -early 20 th	based on glass and metal; a large group of 18th century pottery was also recorded
031	Mid 15th-Mid 17th	
036	Late 12th-Mid 14th	

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
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

- ~ 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/acbm/CBMGDE3.htm>>
- Hillson, S, 2003 *Mammal Bones and Teeth. An introductory guide to methods of identification* (London)
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- Schmid, E, 1972 *Atlas of Animal Bones for Prehistorians, Archaeologists and Quaternary Geologists* (Amsterdam, London, New York: Elsevier)
- Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
- Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

Archive catalogue 1, Post Roman Pottery

Cxt	Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Comment	Date
008	DST	?	Dish	1	1	16		Profile	Burnt; sooted over break; Kilmurray Type 15; horizontally grooved wall; atypical fabric; fine Cu glaze; ?ID - copy?	M12th- M13th
022	SWSG		Hollow	1	1	24		Base	High moulded foot rim; not finished internally - jar?	18th
022	YELL		Closed	1	1	8		Base	STSL?; probably drinking vessel	
022	STSL		Press Moulded Dish	1	1	51	Joggled brown on yellow	Rim	Sooted rim	M17th- 18th
022	TGE		Bowl	1	1	23	Hand painted floral decoration	Rim		
022	SWSG		Bowl	2	1	12	Moulded geometric and curving decoration	Rim ;BS	Blue wash	18th
022	STMO		Mug	1	1	37		Handle	Strap handle	L17th- 18th
022	BERTH		Closed	1	1	9		BS	Amber glaze	
022	BERTH		Large Jar	4	1	382		Rim to lower wall	Internal pale deposit; square everted rim; amber glaze; straight sides; very large vessel	M16th- 18th
022	COLNE		Jug	1	1	57		Rim with UHJ	Hollow everted rim	
031	ELY		?	1	1	8		Base	Very abraded	
031	COLNE		Bowl	3	1	124		Rims	Long everted rim	M15th- M17th

036	ELY	Ca	Bowl	1	1	41		Rim	Long Everted rim; sooted internally; reoxidised over the break; Sperry Type C	L12th- M14th
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APPENDIX C – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM 81 – 83 HIGH STREET, CHATTERIS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE (ECB 4171)

Val Fryer, Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6EF
June 2014

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Chatteris, undertaken by Witham Archaeology, recorded pits and other discrete features of probable late medieval to post-medieval (fifteenth – seventeenth century) date. A single sample for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblage was taken from the primary fill of pit [033].

The sample was processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). Occasional charred cereals/seeds were recorded, but most macrofossils were waterlogged, with the latter being denoted within the table by a lower case ‘w’ suffix.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Although highly comminuted charcoal/charred wood fragments are present at a high density, other charred plant macrofossils are scarce. However, at least two wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded along with a possible rivet wheat (*T. turgidum*) type rachis node. Charred seeds of brome (*Bromus* sp.) type and dock (*Rumex* sp.) are also present. Waterlogged plant macrofossils occur marginally more frequently and although most are moderately well preserved, some are so severely crushed and distorted that accurate identification is impossible. Seeds of ruderal weeds/colonising plants are predominant, with taxa noted including fool’s parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*), hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) and nettles (*Urtica dioica* and *U. urens*). Seeds/fruits of wetland/aquatic plants including sedge (*Carex* sp.), spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.), rush (*Juncus* sp.) and duckweed (*Lemna* sp.) are also recorded along with a single elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) seed. Highly comminuted root/stem fragments are the main component within the assemblage, but other plant macrofossils include indeterminate culm nodes and what appear to be charred fruit fragments.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, it would appear most likely that this assemblage formed as plant remains and other detritus blew into standing water at the bottom of the freshly dug pit. The composition of the assemblage would appear to indicate that the pit was dug into an area of rough, damp grassland, with the presence of both henbane and stinging nettles suggesting that the soil was nutrient rich, probably as a result of the presence of either human or animal ordure. Although charcoal fragments are abundant, most are extremely small and are almost certainly derived from wind-dispersed detritus. Other anthropogenic remains are exceedingly scarce, possibly indicating that the pit was peripheral to any focus of human activity.

As plant macrofossils are relatively scarce, and as analysis of a single assemblage in isolation would add little to the data contained within this assessment, no further work is recommended. However, a summary of this report should be included within any publication of data from the site.

Reference

Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
cf = compare w = waterlogged

Sample No.	1
Context No.	32
Feature No.	33
Cereals	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x
<i>T. turgidum</i> type (rachis node)	xcf
Cereal indet. (grains)	x
Dry land herbs	
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i> L.	xw
Apiaceae indet.	xw
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	xcf
Chenopodiaceae indet.	xw
<i>Conium maculatum</i> L.	xw
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> L.	xw
<i>Lapsana communis</i> L.	xcfw
<i>Potentilla</i> sp.	xcfw
<i>P. anserina</i> L.	xcfw
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	x
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.	xxw
<i>U. urens</i> L.	xw
Wetland/aquatic plants	
<i>Carex</i> sp.	xw
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.	xw
<i>Galeopsis</i> sp.	xw
<i>Juncus</i> sp.	xxw
<i>Lemna</i> sp.	xw
Tree/shrub macrofossils	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	xw
Other plant macrofossils	
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xx
Charred root/stem	x
Waterlogged root/stem	xxxx
Indet. culm nodes	xw
Indet. fruit frags.	xcf
Indet. seeds	xw x
Wood frags. >5mm	xw
Other remains	
Black porous 'cokey' material	x
Vitreous globule	x
Waterlogged arthropod remains	x
Sample volume (litres)	30
Volume of flot (litres)	0.3
% flot sorted	50%

Table 1. Plant macrofossils and other remains from 81 - 83 High Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire

APPENDIX D
OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM:

England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: withamar1-179616

Project details

Project name	Trial Trench Evaluation at 81 - 83 High Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	A trial trench evaluation was undertaken at 81 - 83 High Street, Chatteris, in advance of a small scale housing development. A single trench to the rear of the existing late 17th century cottage revealed pits of probable late medieval to early post medieval date sealed by soil layers layers indicative of cultivation or possibly disuse of the area. The soils were overlain, in the area furthest from the High Street, by layers of probable 18th (possibly 19th) century date, associated with a possible robber trench. The latter stratigraphy may have been associated with a structure shown on the OS map of 1888.
Project dates	Start: 28-04-2014 End: 28-04-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4171 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND CHATTERIS Land to the rear of 81 - 83 High Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	PE16 6NR
Study area	430.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 3920 8646 52.4579316857 0.0489409541304 52 27 28 N 000 02 56 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	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr John Palmer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Metal","Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","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 81 - 83 High Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Trimble, R
Other bibliographic details Witham Archaeology Report No. 56
Date 2014
Issuer or publisher Witham Archaeology
Place of issue or publication Sleaford
Description A4, comb-bound

Entered by Russell Trimble (russell.trimble@withamarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on 24 May 2014

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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

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