

Witham Archaeology

A Report to Mr and Mrs Atkin

SEPTEMBER 2018



**LAND ADJACENT TO 1 MAIN STREET,
WENTWORTH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

UPDATED REPORT

C Moulis

LAND ADJACENT TO 1 MAIN STREET, WENTWORTH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Event No. ECB5376
Planning Application Ref.: 17/00854/FUL
OASIS ID.: withamar1-315917
NGR: TL 47798 78513

Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching Updated Report

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LAND ADJACENT TO 1 MAIN STREET, WENTWORTH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING UPDATED REPORT

SUMMARY

This document presents an update to a report describing the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching undertaken on land adjacent to 1 Main Street, Wentworth, Cambridgeshire to include the results of the analysis of two environmental samples which were initially assessed as part of the evaluation. The investigation was commissioned by Mr and Mrs. Atkin in response to a condition attached to full planning permission granted by East Cambridgeshire District Council for development of three new dwellings at the site. The evaluation of the site, recommended by the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, was prompted by the high archaeological potential of the site close to the historic core of the village. The objective of the trenching was to assess the potential of the archaeological resource and the likely impact of the proposed development on any significant remains which may be present on the site.

Three trenches were excavated, each placed across the footprint of one of the proposed dwellings. No significant archaeological remains were recorded over the western part of the site, where evidence of 19th and 20th century dumping to raise the ground level and a former sewer associated with the existing dwelling at 1 Main Street were identified.

A group of archaeological features comprising four pits and two ditches was recorded over the eastern part of the site. The features derived from at least two phases of archaeological activity, the earliest containing artefacts of medieval date, with subsequent activity of 16th or 17th century date. Artefacts recovered during the trenching comprised pottery, occasional bone fragments, and items of 19th and 20th century metalwork recovered using a metal detector. Analysis of the environmental samples has provided evidence that both freshwater and marine fauna were exploited by the local community. Crop weed seeds recovered from the samples could indicate that cereals were grown on lime rich clayey soils and that the free threshing wheat was winter sown with the barley and oats being started in spring.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a programme of trial trenching required as a condition of planning permission granted by East Cambridgeshire District Council for residential development comprising 3 new dwellings (Planning ref. 17/00854/FUL). In recognition that ground-works associated with the proposed development could prove detrimental to any archaeological remains present at the site, Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team issued a Brief for Archaeological Evaluation setting out their requirements for archaeological work in advance of construction. The evaluation was intended to assess the archaeological potential of the proposed development area and the likely impact upon any significant remains which may be present on the site.

In response to the requirement for archaeological evaluation, the client commissioned Witham Archaeology to provide a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing a proposal for archaeological trial trenching. The resulting WSI was approved by the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team prior to the investigation. The trial trenching was undertaken by Witham Archaeology in accordance with the approved WSI, between 26th and 29th March 2018.

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 Chartered Institute of Archaeologists.

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

The village of Wentworth is located 2km west of Ely and 10km north-east of Cambridge in the administrative district of East Cambridgeshire. Wentworth is centrally situated in the Isle of Ely, on an elevated ridge running between Ely to the east and Sutton to the west. The ridge falls to Grunty Fen in the south and to West Fen in the north.

The proposed development is located on the south side of Main Street, 250m west of the core of the village as defined by St Peter's parish church. The development area comprises an approximately rectangular area of 0.2 hectares centred on NGR TL 47798 78513, adjacent to 1 Main Street, at an elevation of between 12m OD and 12.5m OD.

Local soils are recorded as 'slowly permeable calcareous clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils' of the Evesham 3 association (Soil survey of England and Wales, 1983). The soils developed on superficial glacial till deposits of the Oadby member over bedrock deposits of the Kimmeridge Clay formation (BGS).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search of the Cambridgeshire Council Historic Environment Record identified few records of sites dating to earlier than the medieval period within a 2km radius of the development site. Coins of Romano-British date were recovered during metal detecting of the fields to the east of the site (CB15655), and Roman pottery was recovered from a ditch during archaeological evaluation approximately 280m to the northeast (MCB15849). An Anglo-Saxon 'small long' brooch was recovered during building work 'opposite the church' (MCB05610), and a copper alloy terminal of probable mid-late Anglo-Saxon date was recovered during metal detecting, again in the fields east of the site (MCB16775).

Wentworth is first recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, indicating late Saxon origins for the village (Open Domesday website). Both elements of the place name are Old English in origin but the meaning of the prefix is uncertain. 'Worth' means an enclosure but 'Went' could derive from the personal name Wintra, the season winter, or alternatively could mean a 'Vineyard enclosure' (University of Nottingham KEPN website). At the time of the Domesday survey 38 households were recorded, and the village was held by the Abbey of Ely. The number of households suggests that the village was fairly large. Later, however, it declined in size.' (Atkinson et al, 2002).

The 12th century parish church of St. Peter (CB14917), located approximately 250m east of the proposed development site, is the principal surviving local monument from the medieval period.

The Cambridgeshire HER records medieval ridge and furrow earthworks (MCB24080) extending along the area to the north of Main Street. The remains are clearly visible on modern Lidar imagery in the fields directly opposite the site (Figure 3). On the north side of Main Street, the north to south aligned ridge and furrow is bounded to the south by what appears to be a headland.

Historic mapping of the area indicates that the existing pair of semi-detached dwellings west of the site were present in 1927 (6 inch Ordnance Survey map, Cambridgeshire XXV.SE), and that the western part of the development site formed part of the gardens associated with the easternmost dwelling. The 1902 25in Ordnance Survey map (Cambridgeshire XXV.15) appears to record an earlier layout, with a smaller pair of semi-detached buildings located between the northwestern corner of the proposed development and the modern dwelling. These dwellings would have been centrally located within the area of garden referenced above. On both maps, a pond is drawn in the area immediately south of the development site.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA, Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation, December 2014) defines the purpose of field evaluation as being '*to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in*

the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:

- *The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource*
- *The formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource*
- *The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research'*

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology WSI 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 (HER).

5.0 METHODOLOGY

All trenches were located in accordance with the plan included in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). However, discretion was applied in the placement of Trench 2, which was moved and staggered so as not to compromise an existing temporary structure on the site. The most recent deposits were removed mechanically, using a small 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was undertaken under archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation was discontinued when archaeological deposits were exposed, or when undisturbed natural deposits were revealed. Exposed surfaces, both vertical and horizontal, were then cleaned by hand to define the archaeological remains.

To characterise the artefact content of the topsoil and subsoil, 90 litre samples of appropriate deposits were hand sorted in each trench. A metal detector was also used to aid artefact recovery.

Potential archaeological features were further investigated by manual excavation in line with the sampling guidelines outlined in the WSI.

A record of the investigations was compiled through:

- Notes detailing the progress of archaeological fieldwork.
- Individual written descriptions of archaeological contexts made on pro-forma recording sheets

and indexed appropriately.

- Measured section drawings showing specific archaeological contexts as well as general stratigraphic sequences, produced at scales 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriately.
- Measured plans of archaeological contexts (individual and/or multiple) at scale 1:20
- Sequences of colour digital and black and white 35mm film photographs showing individual archaeological features and overall site circumstances.

The trenches, the features and the sample hand-excavated slots were located using survey grade GPS equipment, referenced to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. At the request of the curatorial archaeologist, two palaeoenvironmental samples were taken for further processing and analysis.

6.0 RESULTS (Figs. 3-8)

The results of the investigations are described below, with reference to numbers assigned in the field to the various archaeological contexts. The numbers in square brackets refer to cut features, whereas those in parentheses describe deposits. Appendix 1, the Context Summary, provides full descriptions of the contexts. The underlying natural deposit extending throughout the investigation area mid-light yellow sandy clay, including flints, pebbles and small chalk fragments.

Trench 1. (Figure 4)

Trench 1 was 20m in length and located near the western boundary of the site on a north to south alignment. At the southern end of Trench 1 the mid to light yellow sandy clay natural (115) was exposed at a depth of 0.66m below the current ground surface. The earliest deposits above the natural comprised a layer of dark brownish grey clayey silt (112 & 113) (Figure 6, Section 1), 0.22-0.25m thick. This deposit was interpreted as a former topsoil, and artefacts of mid 16th to 17th century date were recovered from (113). At the northern end of the trench, a 0.13m thick, dark grey sandy silt (114) was the earliest layer, above which was dark grey sandy clayey silt (106), 0.2m thick (Figure 6, Section 2). The latter deposit (106) contained inclusions of small stones, chalk fragments and brick or tile fragments, and yielded artefacts of 19th century date. These northern deposits were similarly interpreted as former topsoil.

At the southern end of the trench, the former topsoil (112/113) was truncated by a pit [111] which contained a brownish grey clayey silt (110) (Figure 6, Section 1). The pit was only partially revealed in section at the very edge of the trench. Fragments of 20th century glass jars, with steel screw-top lids, were noted as inclusions within the fill (110). The fill of pit [111] was truncated by a second pit [109], itself filled by deposits (108) and (107). These pit fills were sealed by dark brownish grey sandy clayey silt (105), interpreted as a dumped deposit which may have been a former garden soil. Deposit (105) was truncated by north-northwest to south-southeast aligned cut [126], containing a linear concrete structure (125) (Figure 5, Plate 3). The concrete was interpreted as casing around a drain pipe, although this was not confirmed as the structure was left intact.

In the middle part of the trench, a narrow, north-northwest to south southeast aligned linear cut [124] truncated the former topsoil (105). Just to the north, a similar cut [122] on an approximately east to west alignment truncated deposit (106). Both cuts contained ceramic drain pipes and were interpreted as comprising elements of the same former drainage or sewage system. Toward the north, a north north-east to south-southwest aligned linear cut [120] truncated deposit (106). The cut contained a cylindrical ceramic sewer pipe, the sections of which were securely cemented together (Plate 2). The pipe was part of a former foul sewer system of 20th century date. The fills of these pipe trenches were sealed in the northern part of the trench by dark grey deposit (104), and in the southern part of the trench by dark brownish grey deposit (103). Both (104) and (103) had frequent flecks and inclusions of light bluish grey clay, and were interpreted as dumped, possibly to make up the ground level of the site.

The most recent deposits were dumps of rubble and stone ((101) & (102)) which formed the modern yard surface.

Hand-sorting of 90 litre samples of former topsoil deposits was undertaken at both ends of the trench. At the northern end artefacts of late 18th to 19th century date were recovered from (117), and at the southern

end, artefacts of late 18th to mid 19th century date were recovered from (118). A few items of mid 20th century metalwork (116) were found using a metal detector.

Trench 2. (Figure 4 and 5)

Trench 2 was located towards the middle of the proposed development site, aligned west to east and measured 30m in length. The trench was staggered slightly so as not to de-stabilise an extant temporary structure on the site. The deposits recorded in the two (shorter) western sections were associated, and different in nature to those revealed at the eastern end of the trench. Natural deposits closely resembled those recorded in Trench 1 and their top horizons were recorded at depths of between 0.83m and 0.95m below the current ground surface.

At the western end of the trench, soft dark grey sandy clayey silt (205) lay above the natural (206) (Figure 6, Section 3. Plate 4). Pottery of 19th century date was recovered from (205). Above (205), gritty dark grey sandy clayey silt (204) containing occasional brick and tile fragments was interpreted as a former garden soil. Deposit (204) was sealed by mixed dark grey with light yellowish grey sandy clay (203) interpreted as a dumped deposit, above which was brick rubble in a clayey silt matrix (202). A layer of rubble and stone (201) formed the modern yard surface.

Approximately 7m to the northeast, in the staggered section of the trench, a broadly similar sequence of made ground was revealed (Figure 6, Section 4), although the thickness of the dumped deposits reduced towards the eastern end of the section. A mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt (210), possibly a former subsoil deposit, lay above natural (206). Dark brownish grey sandy clayey silt (209) was recorded above (210), and was interpreted as a former topsoil. It was sealed by a dump of light bluish grey clay (208), overlain by a dumped deposit of dark grey clayey sandy silt (207). The modern yard surface (201), was the most recent deposit recorded in this area.

The eastern half of the trench (beyond the staggered section) was shallower, with the dumped deposits recorded to the west absent. At the eastern end of the trench three pits were revealed. A sub-rectangular pit [212] partially revealed against the northern section at a depth of 0.22m below the current ground surface (Figure 7, Section 7. Plate 5) was at least 1.29m x 0.2m in plan and 0.28m deep. It was filled by mid brownish grey sandy clayey silt (211), from which a single sherd of mid 12th to 14th century pottery was recovered. Approximately 2.5m to the southeast, at the extreme eastern end of the trench, a sub-rectangular pit [218] filled with light to mid brownish grey clay (219) (Figure 7, Section 9) was recorded. The western edge of the pit was truncated by a sub-rectangular pit [214], approximately 2m by 2.4m in plan and 0.67m deep (Figure 7, Section 8. Plate 6). The pit was filled by dark grey silty clay (215) and by light beige brown clay (217). Artefacts recovered from the fill of the pit included a piece of 15th to 18th century brick and a sherd of pottery of 16th to 17th century date. Assessment of an environmental sample from deposit (215) indicated good survival of a range of environmental evidence including mammal, bird and fish bone, charred cereal, pulses and weeds, edible shellfish, bird eggshell and terrestrial and aquatic snails. The features were sealed by dark brownish grey topsoil (213), the most recent deposit recorded in the trench.

90 litre hand-sorted samples of topsoil deposits at both ends of the trench failed to yield any artefacts. A few items of post-medieval (/modern) metalwork (216) were recovered from the spoil around the trench using a metal detector. These finds included a possible lock plate of 19th or 20th century date, and an 1807 halfpenny of George III.

Trench 3. (Figure 5)

Trench 3 was 20m in length and located towards the eastern edge of the development on a north to south alignment. At the southern end of the trench, a layer of mid brown clayey silt comprising contexts (314) and (315), and interpreted a natural deposit, was recorded at a depth of 0.3m below the current ground surface. The layer was truncated by a steep-sided southeast to northwest aligned ditch [313], 0.8m wide by at least 1.6m long and 0.7m deep. Fragments of animal bone and a fragment of mid 12th to mid 14th century pottery was recovered from its fill of mid olive-brown sandy clayey silt (312) (Figure 8, Section 5. Plate 9).

To the north, a north north-west to south south-east aligned ditch (contexts [306] and [308]) crossed the middle part of the trench. The ditch had gently sloping sides and was at least 1.6m wide by 9m long and 0.5m deep (Figure 8, Sections 10 and 11. Plate 8). Cut [306] was filled by gritty light brown clay (307), and cut [308] was filled by similar deposit (309), from which a single sherd of 12th to 15th century pottery and animal bone were recovered.

The northeastern edge of the ditch was truncated by an irregular sub-rectangular cut [300], at least 2.1m by 1.6m in plan and 0.57m deep (Figure 8, Section 6. Plate 7). The feature was filled by mid grey clay (302), mid brownish beige clay (303) and a gritty dark grey silt (301) from which pottery of 13th to mid 14th century date was recovered. An environmental sample from fill (301) indicated good survival of a range of environmental evidence including mammal, bird and fish bone, charred cereal, pulses and weeds, edible shellfish, bird eggshell and terrestrial and aquatic snails. Fill (301) was in turn overlain by a deposit of medium, rounded orange-red stones and low-fired clay (304), and by gritty light to mid beige-brown silty clay (305).

The fills of pit [300] were truncated by narrow linear cut [318], aligned approximately north to south. The cut was filled with coarse gravel over a perforated plastic pipe (317), interpreted as a modern land drain.

90 litre hand-sorted samples of topsoil at both ends of the trench failed to yield any artefacts and scanning the trench and spoil with a metal detector recovered no items of metalwork.

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The evaluation demonstrated a clear variation in the nature of deposits across the site, with a 0.7m to 0.95m sequence of essentially modern deposits revealed in Trench 1 and in the western part of Trench 2. Earlier remains probably dating to the medieval and post medieval periods were revealed in Trench 3 and at the very eastern end of Trench 2.

Towards the western boundary of the site, former topsoil deposits were truncated by late post-medieval or modern pits, and then sealed by dumped accumulations of garden soil, into which elements of previous sewerage and drainage arrangements for the existing dwelling to the west of the site were inserted. The area was then further raised with dumps of mixed soil, and more recently was capped with rubble and stony metalling to form the modern yard. The recorded sequences in this part of the site broadly corresponds with extents of former property boundaries shown on historic maps. The areas of made ground were located in the former garden plot of the existing property to the west; the same area had also been the garden plot for a previous dwelling formerly located just west of the northern end of Trench 1. Some of the made ground doubtless originated in demolition debris from the former cottages on the site (pre 1902), some from excavation spoil derived from construction of the existing semi-detached dwellings, and some from excavation spoil resulting from subsequent alterations to the foul sewer arrangements.

At the eastern end of Trench 2 and in Trench 3, features were identified which contained pottery from the medieval and post medieval periods. The former period is represented in Trench 2 by a pit [212] from which a single sherd of pottery of mid 12th to mid 14th century pottery was recovered. A sherd of post medieval pottery and piece of 15th to 18th century brick were recovered from the fill of a pit [214], which truncated a nearby undated pit [218]. Assessment of an environmental sample taken from the fill of the later pit [214] revealed an assemblage thought likely to indicate contemporary occupation nearby. In terms of its form the feature was convincing as a pit, despite concerns raised by the environmental specialist regarding mollusc species more typical of ditches or more permanent bodies of water. The anomalous species may, in part, be explained by the formerly wet nature of the site. Flooding has been reported within living memory, expanding from the area formerly mapped as a pond at the southeastern edge of the development area, towards the modern cottages (pers. com. Mr Atkin). No other features were revealed in the remaining part of Trench 2, west of pit [212].

In Trench 3, medieval pottery ranging in date from the 12th to 15th century was recovered from the fills of two ditches [308] and [313], a single sherd from each feature. One of the ditches [308] was completely filled when it was truncated by pit [300], the fill of which contained five sherds of pottery ranging in date from the 13th to mid 14th century. A medieval date for the pit is possible, but the stratigraphic evidence of

the feature cutting through the infilled earlier ditch may indicate an association with post medieval activity, with the recovered pottery being residual. An environmental sample from the fill of the pit [300] yielded an assemblage indicative of nearby occupation, with residues typical of domestic waste.

It is possible that early phase of boundaries or property division was formed by the ditches recorded in Trench 3, probably during the medieval period. This was followed by activity on the site during the 16th to 17th centuries, represented by the cluster of pits over the eastern side of the site. It is possible that the activity represented by the pits started during the medieval period, although the evidence of occupation derived from the environmental samples is more likely to date to the post medieval period. No evidence of structures was recorded in the trenches and it may be that the intermittent flooding hinted at by the environmental evidence inhibited direct habitation of the site until the post medieval period.

Analysis of the environmental samples from the site (Appendix C) indicates that edible shellfish, marine fish and freshwater fish were consumed. The presence of the marine resources indicate trade with coastal areas. Charred grain recovered from the samples indicate that free-threshing wheat, hulled barley and oats were grown in the area. Crop weed seeds recovered from the samples could indicate that cereals were grown on lime rich clayey soils and that the free threshing wheat was winter sown with the barley and oats being started in spring.

Finds recovered during the evaluation comprised pottery and bone fragments, and a number of items of unstratified 19th and 20th century metalwork recovered using a metal detector.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Witham Archaeology would like to thank Mr and Mrs Atkin for commissioning the fieldwork and report, and would like to acknowledge the co-operation and assistance on site of Mr Atkin, particularly in the machine excavation of the trenches.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: ECB5376

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 17/00854/FUL

FIELD OFFICER: C. Moulis

NGR: TL 47798 78513

CIVIL PARISH: March

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 26th to 29th March 2018

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr and Mrs E. Atkin

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Sleaford, NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: TBC

ACCESSION DATE: TBC

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Register		4 Sheets
Context Records		64 Sheets
Section Register		1 Sheet
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20		5 Sheets -Drawing film
Sample Register		1 Sheet
Sample sheets		2 Sheet
Black and White photographs	1	9 Shots (57 exposures)
Digital Photographs		23 Shots (69 files)
GPS digital survey data		1 files
Daily Record Sheets		4 Sheets

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: General view of the site prior to machining, looking west



Plate 2: Trench 1, north end, sewer pipe [120]. Scale 1m



Plate 3: Trench 1, south end. Modern feature [126]. Scale 1m



Plate 4: Trench 2, west end. Section 3. Scale 1m



Plate 5: Plate 5. Trench 2, pit [212]. Scale 1m



Plate 6: Trench 2, pit [214]. Scale 1m



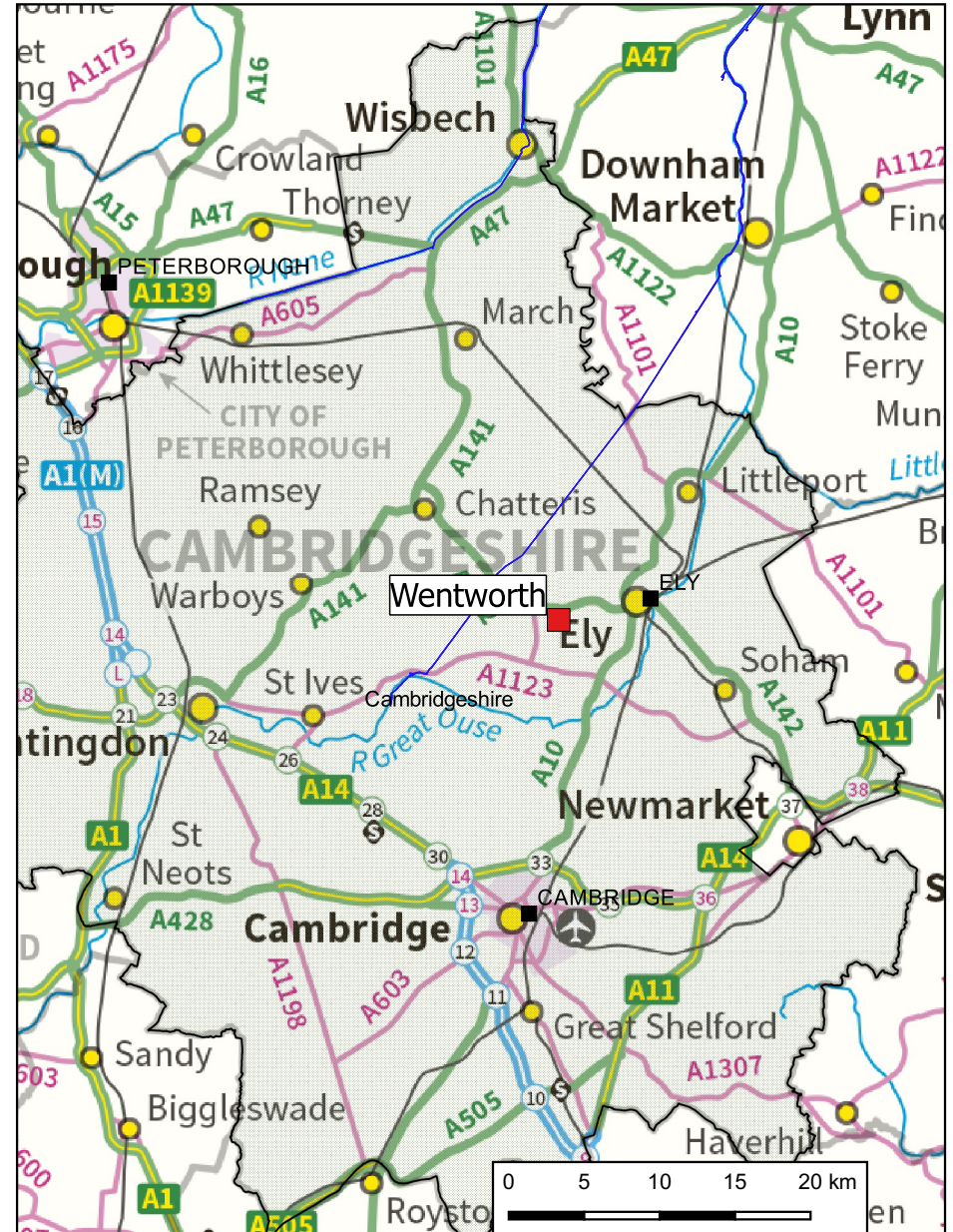
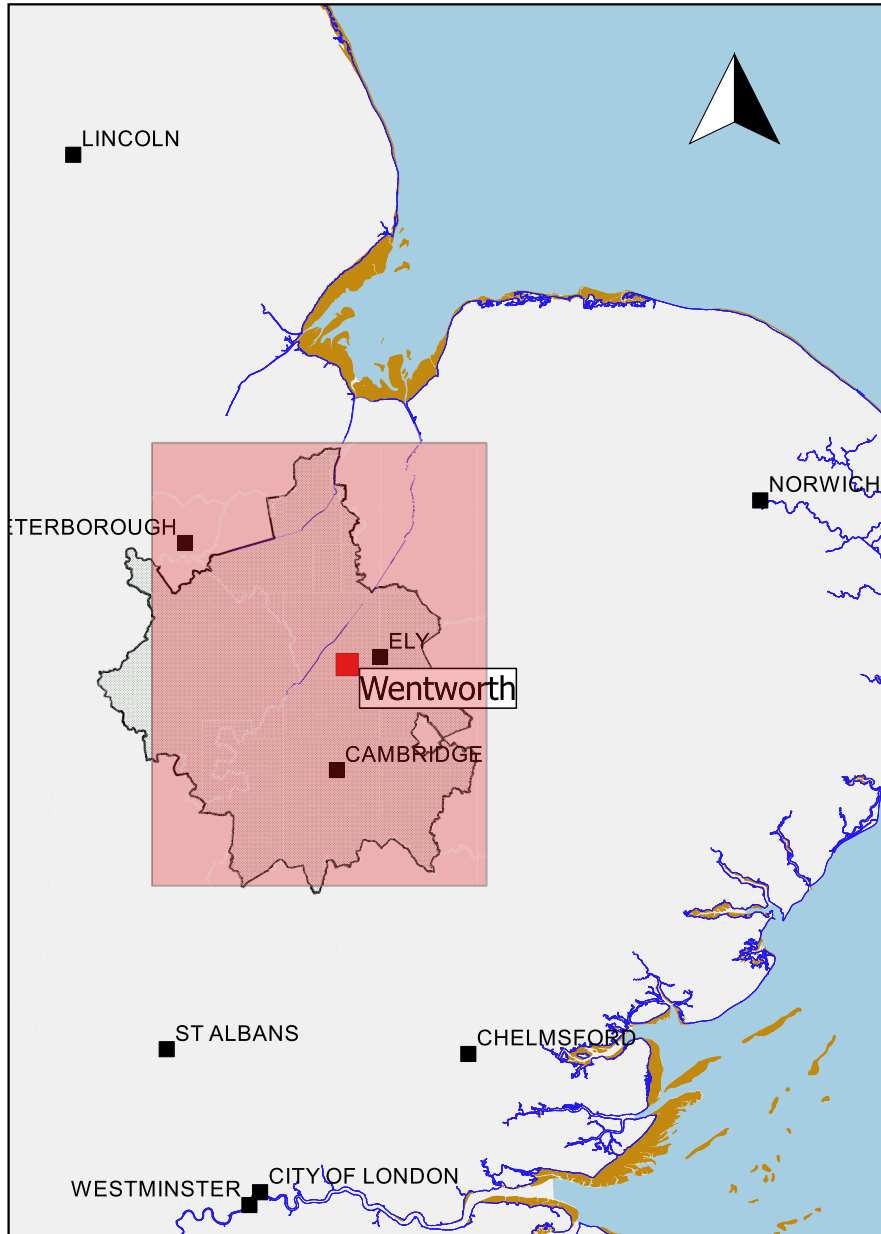
Plate 7: Trench 3, pit [300]. Scale 1m



Plate 8: Trench 3, ditch [308]. Scale 1m

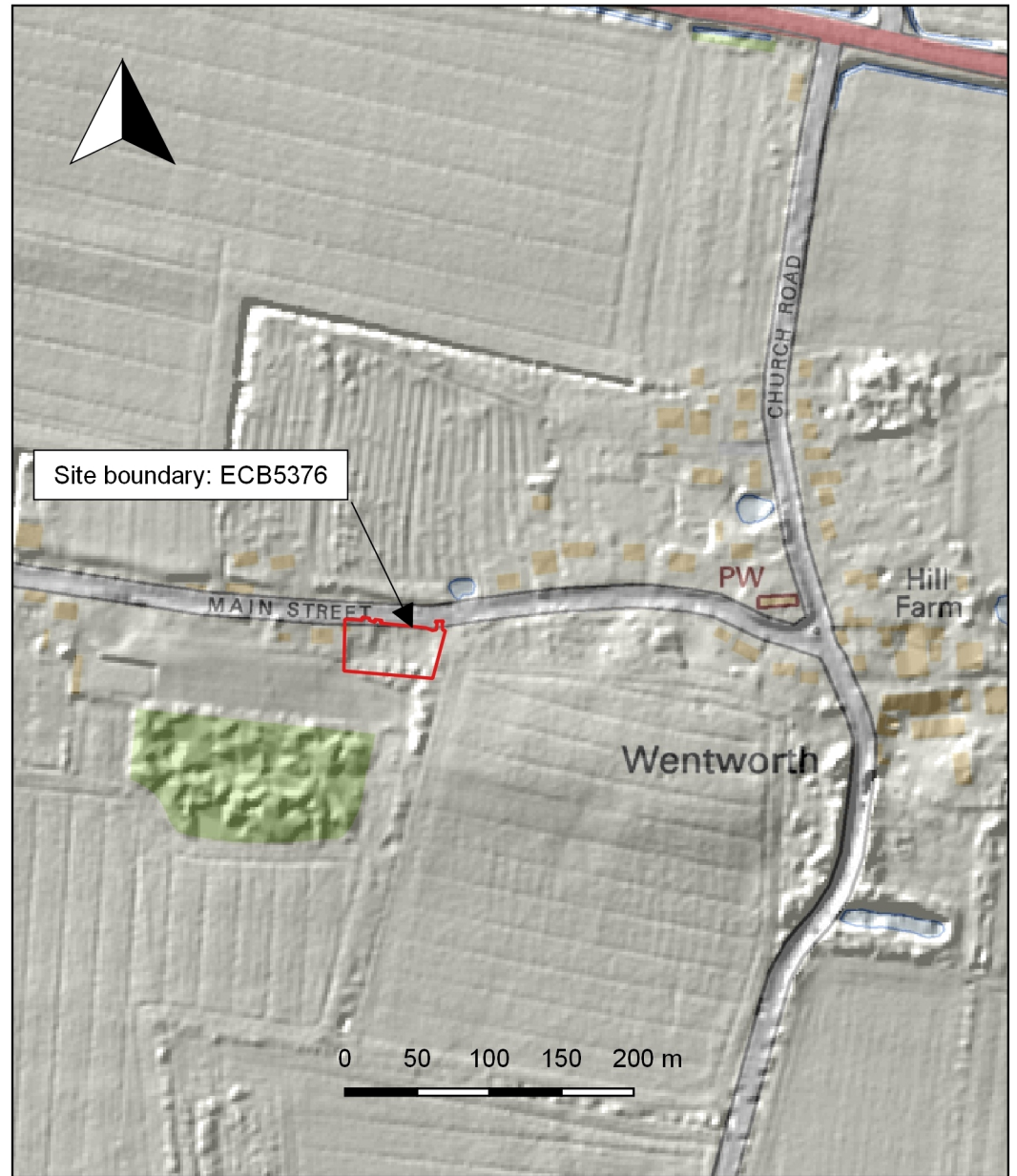
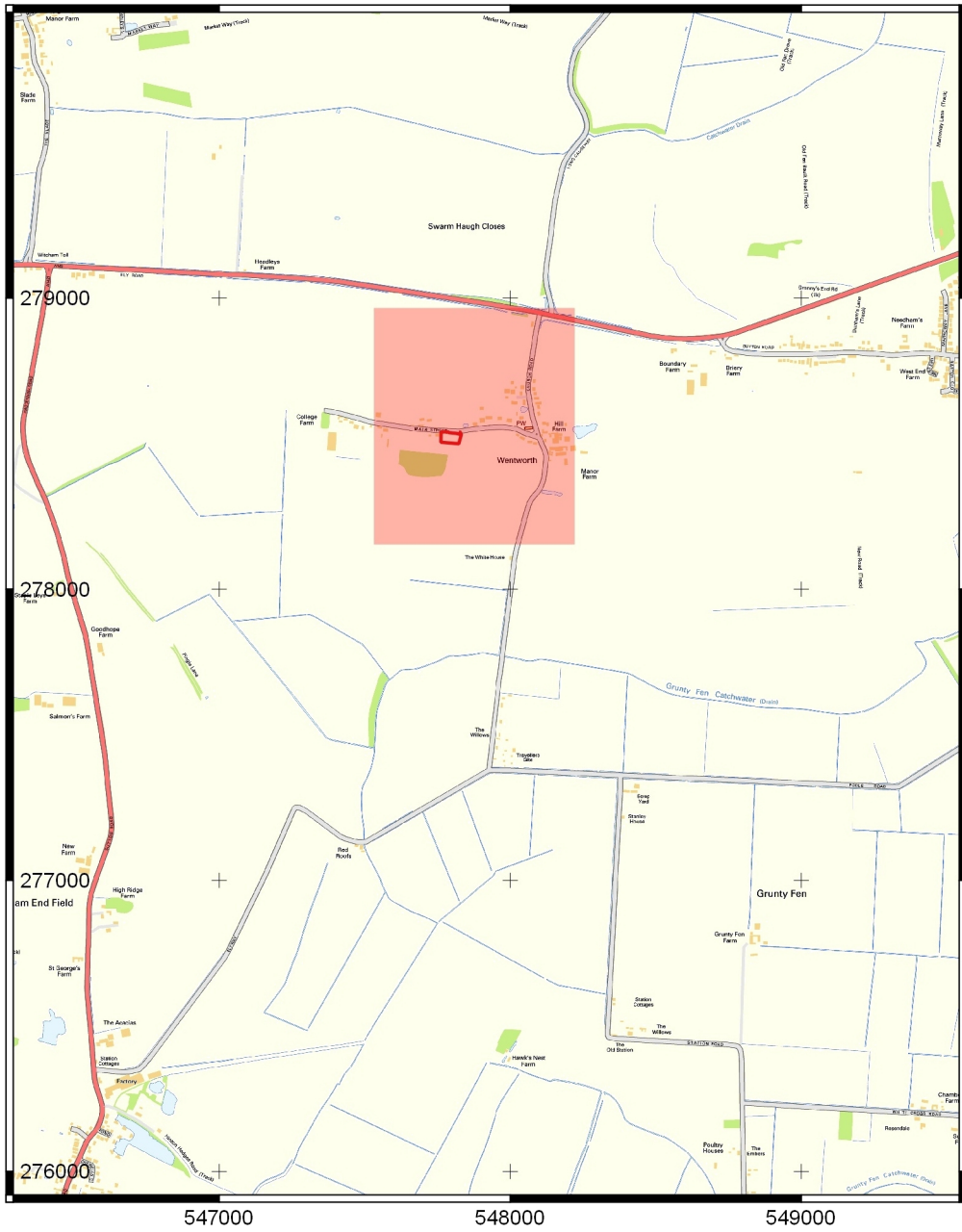


Plate 9: Trench 3, ditch [313]. Scale 1m



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Figure 1. General location



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Figure 2. Site location

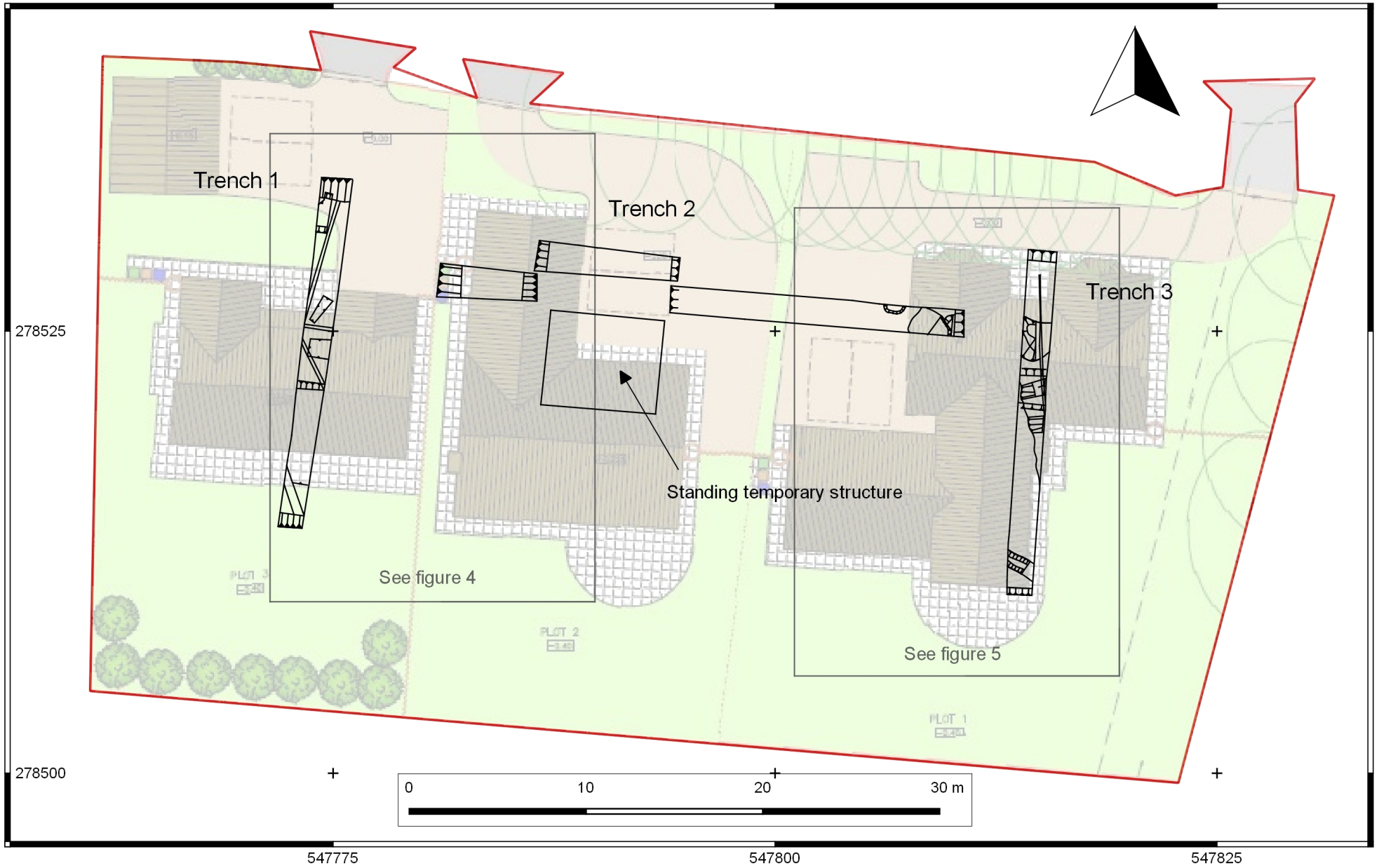
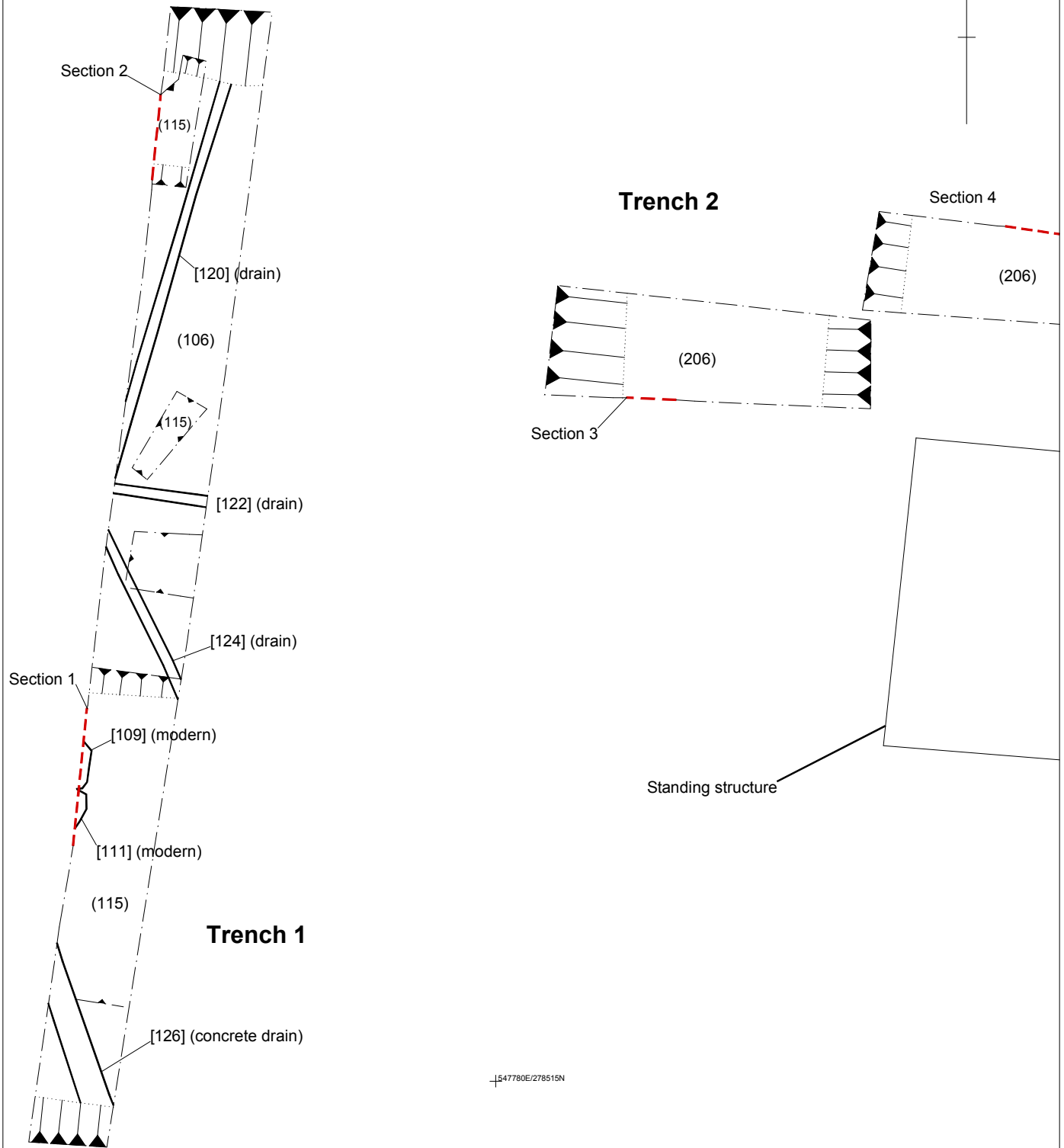


Figure 3. Site plan (with proposed development)

547780E/278535N



547780E/278515N



Witham Archaeology

Project:	Wentworth, Main Street (ECB5376)
Scale:	1:100

Figure 4. Trench 1 and Trench 2 (west)

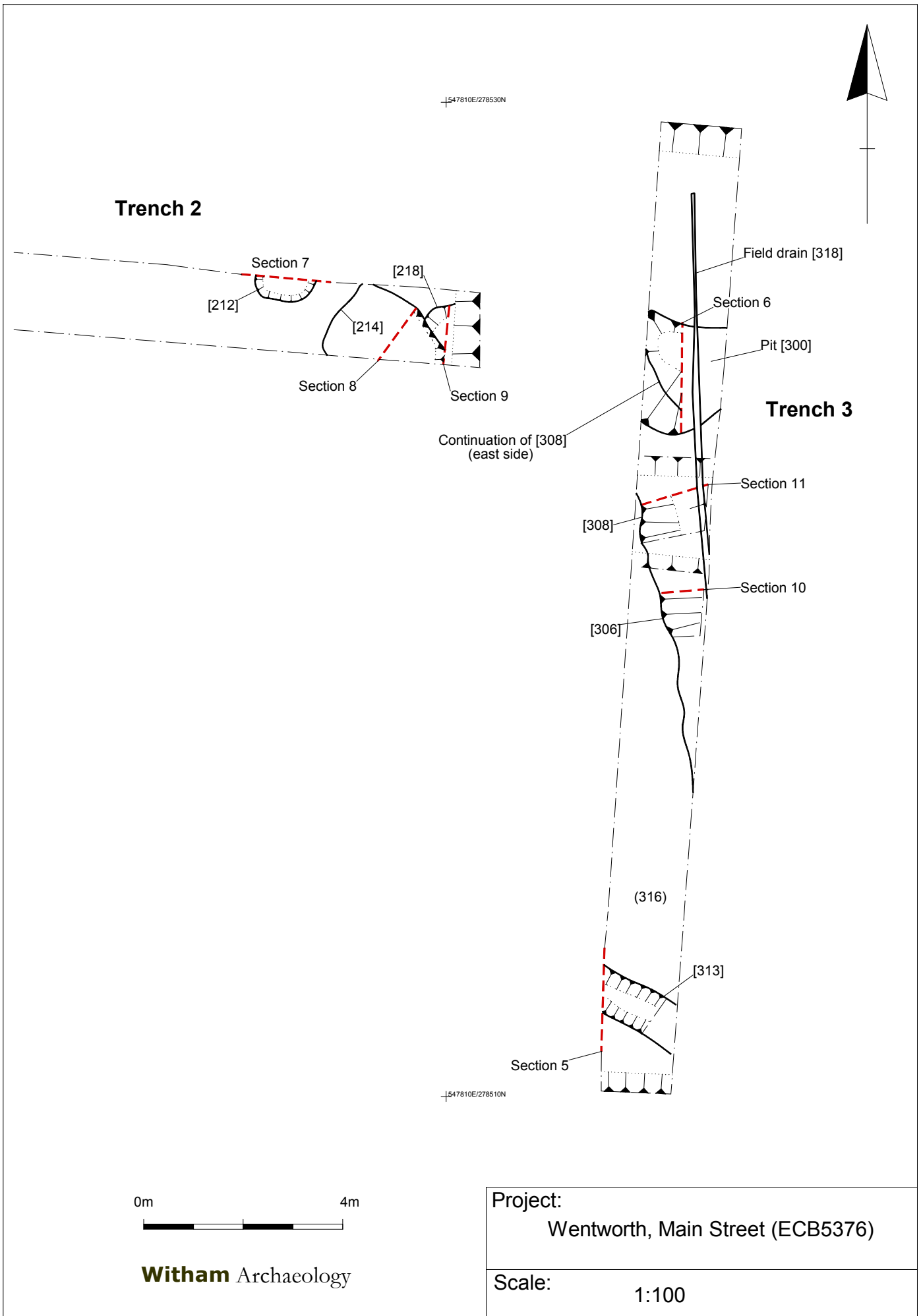
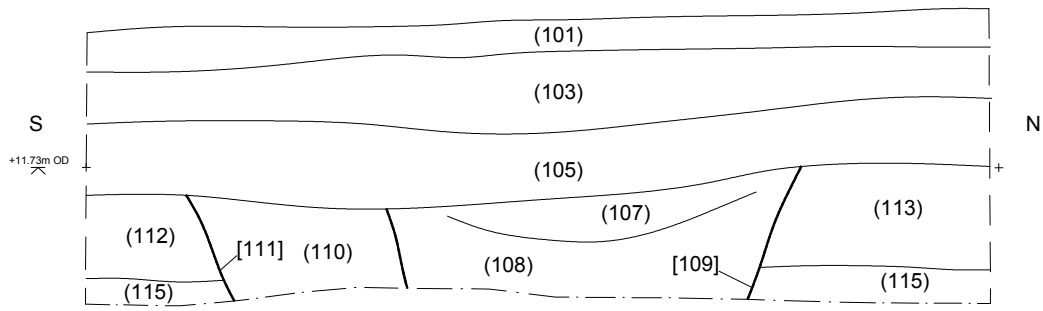
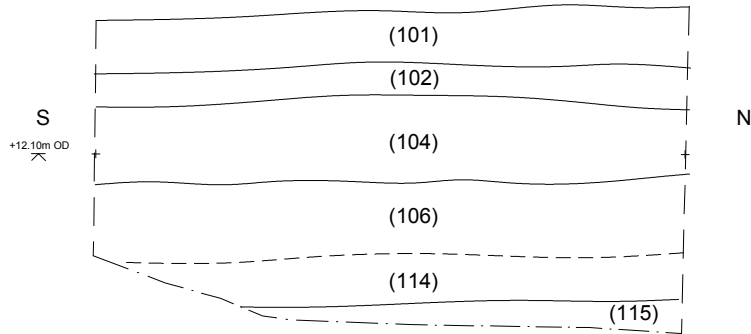


Figure 5. Trench 3 and Trench 2 (east)

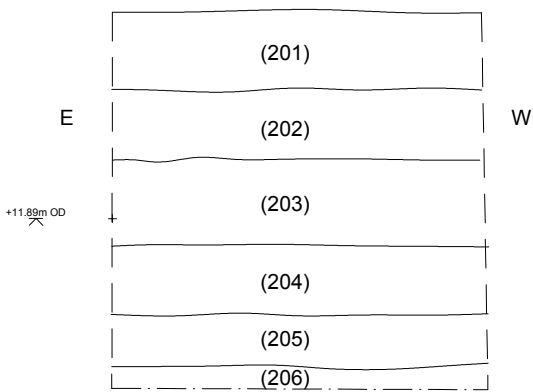
Section 1



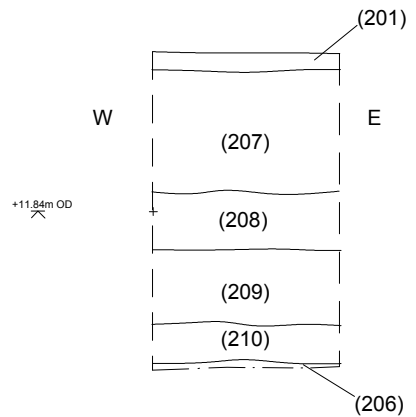
Section 2



Section 3



Section 4

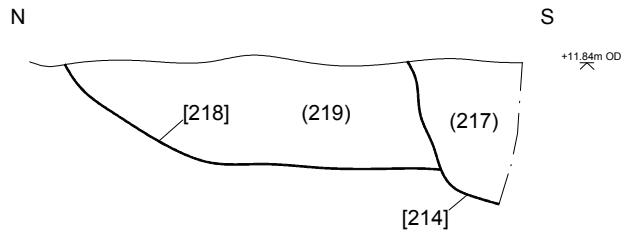


Witham Archaeology

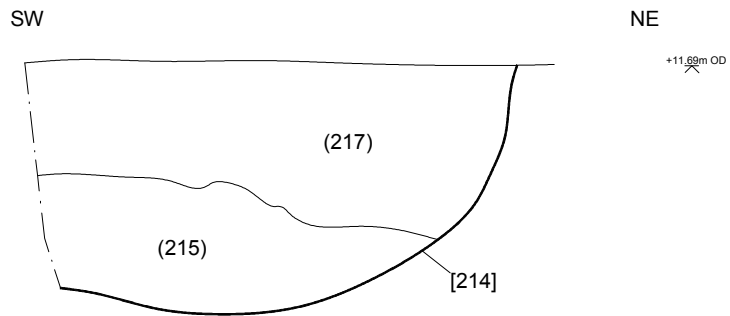
Project:	Wentworth, Main Street (ECB5376)
Scale:	1:20

Figure 6 . Trenches 1 and 2. Deposits

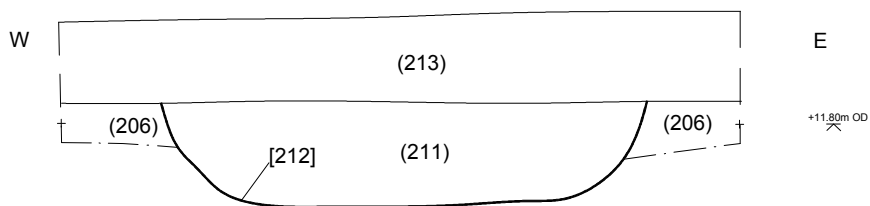
Section 9



Section 8



Section 7



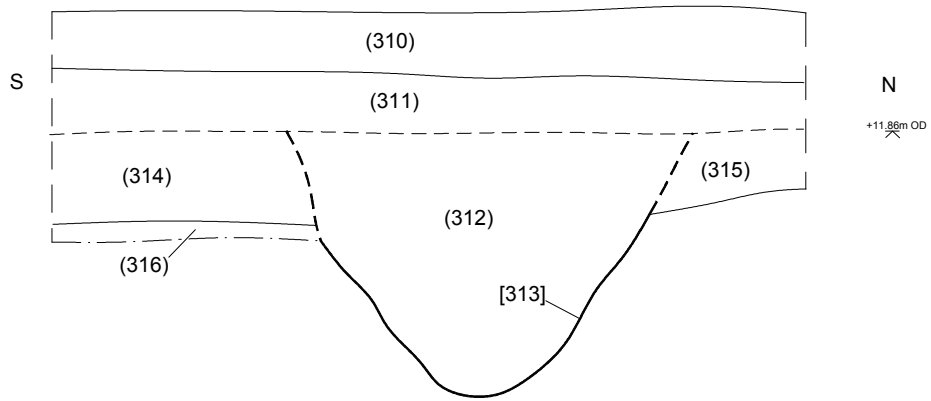
Witham Archaeology

Project:
Wentworth, Main Street (ECB5376)

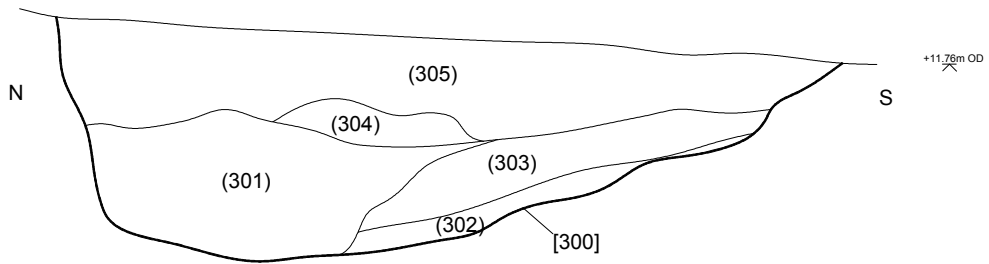
Scale: 1:20

Figure 7. Trench 2 features

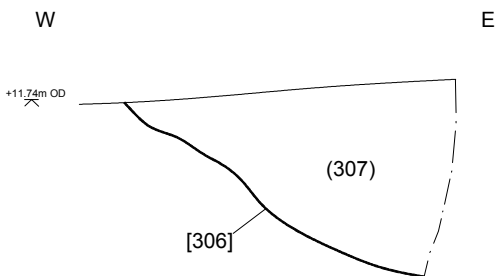
Section 5



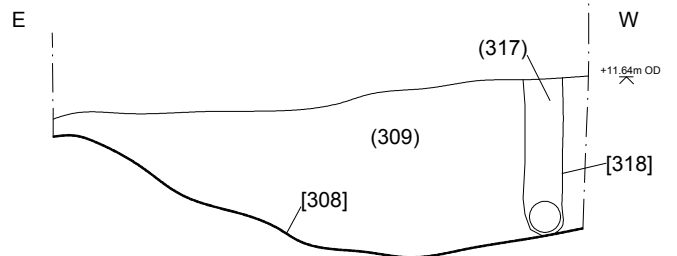
Section 6



Section 10



Section 11



Witham Archaeology

Project:	Wentworth, Main Street (ECB5376)
Scale:	1:20

Figure 8. Trench 3 features

Appendix A. Context Summary

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
101	1	Rubble and hardcore	Modern yard surface
102	1	Sub-angular stones ('Road planings')	Modern yard surface
103	1	Firm dark brownish grey deposit with moderate bluish grey flecking and small patches. Sandy clayey silt with frequent small stones and small brick/tile and coal fragments. 0.2m thick	Dumped deposit. Made ground
104	1	Firm dark grey deposit with frequent light bluish grey flecks and inclusions. Sandy clayey silt with frequent grits, small stones, chalk fragments, brick/tile fragments and coal fragments. 0.22m thick	Dumped deposit. Made ground
105	1	Moderately firm dark brownish grey sandy clayey silt. Frequent small coal fragments, grits and pebbles, and moderate small brick/tile fragments. 0.22m thick	Layer. Possibly dumped. Former garden soil
106	1	Moderately firm dark grey sandy clayey silt with moderate small grits and chalk fragments, and occasional small brick/tile fragments. 0.2m thick	Layer. Possibly dumped. Former garden soil
107	1	Soft dark greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of pit [109]
108	1	Soft mixed deposit. 50% light yellowish brown silty clay and 50% dark grey sandy clayey silt. Occasional brick/tile fragments. 0.3m thick	Fill of pit [109]
109	1	Sub-rectangular cut, at least 1m wide. Near vertical sides	Pit (modern)
110	1	Soft dark brownish grey clayey silt, 0.25m thick. Fill included 20 th century screw-top glass jars	Fill of pit [111]
111	1	Sub-rectangular cut, at least 0.55m wide. Near vertical sides	Pit (modern)
112	1	Soft dark brownish grey clayey silt with occasional brick/tile fragments. 0.22m thick	Layer. Possibly former garden soil
113	1	Soft dark brownish grey clayey silt with occasional brick/tile fragments and occasional small pebbles and chalk fragments. 0.25m thick	Layer
114	1	Soft dark grey sandy silt, 0.13m thick	Layer
115	1	Firm mid-light yellow deposit. Varies between sandy clay and clayey sand, with flints, pebbles and chalk fragments	Natural deposit
116	1	Finds recovered with a metal detector	Finds recovery
117	1	90l sample of former topsoil, north end of trench	Finds recovery
118	1	90l sample of former topsoil, south end of trench	Finds recovery

Appendix A. Context Summary

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
119	1	Ceramic sewer pipe and backfill	Drain. Part of the former sewage arrangements for the existing dwellings. Modern
120	1	Linear cut, aligned north north-east to south south-west	Trench for drain-pipe (119)
121	1	Ribbed ceramic drain pipe and backfill	Drain. Part of the former sewage arrangements for the existing dwellings. Modern
122	1	Linear cut, aligned approximately east to west	Trench for drain-pipe (121)
123	1	Cylindrical ceramic drain pipe and backfill	Drain. Part of the former sewage arrangements for the existing dwellings. Modern
124	1	Linear cut, aligned approximately north north-west to south south-east	Trench for drain-pipe (123)
125	1	Linear band of concrete, 0.5m wide, aligned approximately north north-west to south south-east	Possibly concrete casing around a drain-pipe. Part of the former sewage arrangements for the existing dwellings. Modern
126	1	Linear cut, aligned approximately north north-west to south south-east	Trench for feature (125)
201	2	Rubble and stone	Modern yard surface
202	2	Compact dark grey deposit. 90% brick rubble and 10% clayey silt. 0.2m thick	Dumped deposit
203	2	Firm mixed dark grey with light yellowish grey deposit. Sandy clayey silt with frequent grits, pebbles and small chalk fragments. 0.23m thick	Layer
204	2	Moderately firm dark grey sandy clayey silt with frequent grits and pebbles and occasional small brick/tile fragments. 0.18m thick	Layer. Former garden soil on made ground
205	2	Soft dark grey sandy clayey silt, 0.15m thick	Former topsoil
206	2	Moderately firm mid-light yellow deposit. Varies from sandy clay to clayey sand, with flints, pebbles and chalk fragments	Natural deposit

Appendix A. Context Summary

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
207	2	Moderately soft dark grey clayey sandy silt. 0.33m thick	Dumped deposit
208	2	Firm/stiff light bluish grey clay, 0.15m thick	Dumped deposit
209	2	Soft dark brownish grey sandy clayey silt with occasional pebbles and small chalk fragments. 0.2m thick	Layer. Former garden soil on made ground
210	2	Soft mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt, 0.1m thick	Subsoil
211	2	Moderately soft mid brownish grey sandy clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.28m thick	Fill of pit [212]
212	2	Sub-rectangular cut, in plan at least 1.29m by 0.2m and 0.28m deep	Pit
213	2	Soft dark brownish grey humic sandy silt with moderate small stone and occasional brick/tile fragments. 0.24m thick	Topsoil
214	2	Sub-rectangular cut, 2m by 2.4m in plan and 0.67m deep. Near vertical sides with a gradual break of slope to a very gently concave base	Pit
215	2	Moderately firm dark grey silty clay with frequent pea grit and moderate small stones up to 20mm diameter	Fill of pit [214]
216	2	Finds recovered using a metal detector	Finds recovery
217	2	Moderately firm light beige brown clay with frequent pea grit	Fill of pit [214]
218	2	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.98m wide and 0.28m deep. Steep sides with a gradual break of slope to a flattish base	Pit
219	2	Moderately firm light to mid brownish grey clay with occasional small stones. 0.28m thick	Fill of pit [218]
300	3	Sub-rectangular cut, at least 2.1m by 1.6m in plan and 0.57m deep. Steep sides with gradual breaks of slope to a gently concave base	Pit
301	3	Soft very dark grey silt with frequent pea grit and moderate small stones. 0.4m thick.	Fill of pit [300]
302	3	Firm mid grey clay. 60mm thick	Fill of pit [300]
303	3	Moderately firm mid brownish beige clay. 0.15m thick	Fill of pit [300]
304	3	Deposit of medium, rounded orange-red stones and low-fired clay	Fill of pit [300]
305	3	Moderately firm light to mid beige-brown silty clay with frequent pea grit and moderate small stones	Fill of pit [300]

Appendix A. Context Summary

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
306	3	Linear cut, at least 0.88m wide and 0.5m deep. Gently sloping sides with gradual breaks of slope to a concave base. Aligned north north-west to south south-east	Ditch
307	3	Moderately firm light brown clay with frequent pea-grit and moderate medium stones up to 20mm diameter. 0.5m thick	Fill of ditch [306]
308	3	Linear cut, at least 1.4m wide and 0.44m deep. Gently sloping sides with a gradual break of slope to a gently concave base. Aligned north north-west to south south-east	Ditch
309	3	Light brown clay with frequent pea-grit and moderate medium stones up to 20mm diameter	Fill of ditch [308]
310	3	Soft dark grey humic sandy silt with occasional pebbles. 0.19m thick	Topsoil
311	3	Soft dark brown sandy clayey silt with occasional pebbles. 0.16m thick	Layer
312	3	Firm mid olive-brown deposit with occasional light yellowish brown flecking. Sandy clayey silt with occasional pebbles. 0.7m thick	Fill of ditch [313]
313	3	Linear cut, 0.8m wide and at least 1.6m long. Steep sides with gradual breaks of slope to a concave base. Aligned approximately south-east to north-west	Ditch
314	3	Moderately firm mid brown clayey silt. Up to 0.23m thick, thinning towards the north	Layer
315	3	Firm mid brown clayey silt	Layer
316	3	Moderately firm mid-light yellow deposit. Varies from sandy clay to clayey sand, with flints, pebbles and chalk fragments	Natural deposit
317	3	Deposit of medium pebbles over a perforated plastic drainage pipe	Modern land drain
318	3	Linear cut, aligned approximately north to south. 0.12m wide	Trench for land drain [317]

APPENDIX B

LAND ADJACENT TO 1 MAIN STREET, WENTWORTH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE (ECB35376) - FINDS REPORT

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), with a full list of concordant codes from the Cambridgeshire fabric type series (Spoerry, 2016), included in Table 1 below. A total of 27 sherds from approximately 20 vessels, weighing 244 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 ranges in date from the medieval to the early modern period.

Condition

The pottery is in a fragmentary but generally unabraded state. One fragment is sooted in a manner indicative of usage over a hearth or fire.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Cambs Code	Full Name	Sub Fabric	Form	Decor	Part	Comment	Date	NoS	NoV	W
1	106	BERTH	PMR/ GRE	Brown glazed earthenware		Drinking Vessel?		BS		M17th-18th	1	1	4
1	106	PEARL	PEARL	Pearlware		Hollow		BSS		19th	2	1	2
1	113	DUTRT	PMR/ GRE	Dutch red earthenware		Bowl		Base; ?ID		M16th-17th	1	1	29
1	117	BERTH	PMR/ GRE	Brown glazed earthenware		Bowl		Base			1	1	26
1	117	NCBCB	-	Nineteenth century brown earthenware		Bowl?		Rim		L18th-19th	1	1	12
1	118	CREA	CREA	Creamware		?		Base		L18th-M19th	1	1	1
1	118	PMX	-	Post-medieval unclassified Types		Bowl		Rim	Probably STSL or similar		1	1	3
1	119	SWSG	-	Staffordshire white saltglazed ware		Hollow	Scored line and circle decoration; blue wash	BS		18th	1	1	7

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Cambs Code	Full Name	Sub Fabric	Form	Decor	Part	Comment	Date	NoS	NoV	W
2	205	PEARL	PEARL	Pearlware		Tea cup	Blue Transfer print - Willow Pattern	Rims		19th	3	1	7
2	205	PMX	-	Post-medieval unclassified Types		Bowl?		Base	Moulded foot ring; possibly 19th century CBM or late Colne Transitional ware?		1	1	52
2	211	ELY	MEL	Ely ware		Jar or bowl		Base	Sooted exterior	M12th-M14th	1	1	6
2	215	BL	PMR/GRE	Black Glazed Earthenware		Drinking vessel?		BS		M16th-17th	1	1	2
2	215	ELY	MEL	Ely ware		?		BSS	Sample 2		5	1	4
3	301	GRIM	GRIM	Grimston ware		Jug		BS		13th-15th	1	1	26
3	301	GRIM	GRIM	Grimston ware		?		BS	Sample 1		1	1	1
3	301	ELY	MEL	Ely ware		?		BS	Sample 1		1	1	8
3	301	HUNEMW	HUNEMW	Huntingdons hire early medieval ware		Jar		Rim	Sample 1	L11th-12th	1	1	24
3	301	SNEOT	DNEOT	St Neots ware	DNEOT	?		BS	Sample 1; ?ID; abraded		1	1	3
3	309	MEDLOC	-	Medieval local types	Reduced; medium sandy; flint	Closed		BS	Wheel turned; pale grey margins; ELY product?	12th-15th	1	1	14
3	312	ELY	MEL	Ely ware		?		BS		M12th-M14th	1	1	13
Total											27	20	244

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from within all three of the excavated trenches. Table 2 below shows the origin of the material.

Table 2, the Origin of the Pottery

Trench	Feature Type	Cut	Fill/Deposit	NoS	NoV	W(g)
1	Layer	-	106	3	2	6
	Layer	-	113	1	1	29
	Unstratified	-	117	2	2	38
	Unstratified	-	118	2	2	4
	Modern Drain	-	119	1	1	7
2	Layer	-	205	4	2	59
	Pit	212	211	1	1	6
	Pit	214	215	6	2	6

Trench	Feature Type	Cut	Fill/Deposit	NoS	NoV	W(g)
3	Pit	300	301	5	5	62
	Ditch	308	309	1	1	14
	Ditch	313	312	1	1	13
Total				27	20	244

Range

There is a range of medieval, post-medieval and early modern dated domestic pottery, with all three trenches producing material from stratified deposits.

Trench 1

Most of the pottery from Trench 1 is of 18th to 19th century date; the fabrics from here, including, among others, Pearlware (PEARL) Creamware (CREA) and Staffordshire white salt-glazed ware (SWSG) are typical domestic types in this area. The earliest fragment, diagnostically, is a piece in Dutch Red earthenware (DUTRT), which came from layer (113); this piece is probably of mid 16th to 17th century date.

Trench 2

Early modern dated Pearlware (PEARL) came from layer (205) in Trench 2, whilst medieval Ely ware fragments were recovered from two pits within this feature, [212] and [214], both of which were at the eastern end of this Trench.

The dating of pit [214] is problematic, as this feature also produced a single sherd of post-medieval black glazed ware (BL); this item, which is of mid 16th to 17th century date may be intrusive, or the medieval sherd, which is small in size, may be residual.

Trench 3

The pottery from Trench 3 is exclusively of medieval date. Types including Huntingdonshire early medieval ware (HUNEMW), Grimston ware (GRIM) and Ely ware (ELY), came from one of the features within this Trench (pit [300]). Additional single fragments of medieval pottery also came from fills within ditches [308] and [313].

Potential

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

Summary

A small assemblage of post-Roman dated pottery was recovered, with contexts within all three trenches producing material. Small quantities of medieval pottery came pits and ditches within Trenches 2 and 3, with the area around Trench 3 and the far eastern end of Trench 2 likely to produce further material of medieval date.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL & FIRED CLAY

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 191 fragments of material, weighing 204 grams, was recovered.

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 3 below.

Condition

There is a single, fragment of brick, which has partially vitrified surfaces. In this case, the vitrification is likely to be an effect caused during firing, rather than post-depositional damage.

The fragments of fired clay recorded here are small with no obvious areas of smooth surface; a few items show signs of slight bleaching, perhaps from prolonged exposure to sunlight, or a chemical bleaching agent such as saline solution.

Results

Table 3, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Description	Date	NoF	W(g)
2	215	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; medium sandy; Ca	Surfaces partially vitrified; mortar adhered; just 39mm thick; later medieval/early post-med?	15th- 18th	1	62
3	301	FCLAY	Fired Clay	Oxidised; fine sandy; Ca	Formless flakes; most less than 1cm across; some rounded; some pieces with grass impressions; one fragment with slight curve - possibly object?; Sample 1; some items slightly bleached	Undated	190	143
Total							191	205

Provenance

A single piece of ceramic building material was recovered from fill (215) within pit [214] in Trench 2, whilst a large collection of fired clay fragments came from (301) within pit [300] in Trench 3.

Range

The fragment from [214] is from a handmade brick. The piece is unusually thin and is probably of post-medieval date, although a very late medieval date cannot be ruled out. The fired clay fragments, from pit [301] are formless and undiagnostic.

Potential

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

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Nathan Sleaford with Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 8 (123g) 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

Three contexts produced animal bones: pit fill (215), and ditch fills (309) and (312). The majority of the animal bone was recovered from fill (312).

Condition

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

Results*Table 4, Fragments Identified to Taxa*

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Comments	Number	W (g)
215	Unidentified	Unidentified	-		1	1
309	Medium mammal	Long bone	-		1	43
312	Cattle	Teeth	-	1 st upper L. molar	1	37
312	Cattle	Teeth	-	deciduous upper L. premolar; (3 or 4)	1	22
312	Unidentified	Unidentified	-		1	1
312	Large mammal	Cranial	-		3	19
Total					8	123

Summary

The animal bone assemblage is very small so it is not possible to discuss the material in meaningful detail. Cattle are certainly present and the recovery of deciduous teeth may indicate that younger animals were reared or brought to the site. The rest of the bone was largely undiagnostic, but the medium mammal bone may indicate that sheep/goat were also present.

Potential

The bone should be retained as part of the site archive. The pieces should pose no problem for long term storage.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 5 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 5, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
106	19 th	
113	Mid 16 th to 17 th	
117	Late 18 th to 19 th	
118	Late 18 th to mid 19 th	
119	18 th	
205	19 th	
211	Mid 12 th to mid 14 th	
215	Mid 16 th to 17 th	
301	13 th to mid 14 th	
309	12 th to 15 th	
312	Mid 12 th to mid 14 th	

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments

NoS Number of sherds
NoV Number of vessels
TR Trench
W (g) Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

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APPENDIX C

Main Street, Wentworth, Cambridgeshire – ECB5376: Environmental Report

Introduction

Two samples were taken from the evaluation excavations conducted by Witham Archaeology at Main Street, Wentworth on the Isle of Ely in Cambridgeshire (Table 1). The samples were taken from pit fills in evaluation trenches 2 and 3, with <1> provisionally dated to the medieval, and <2> to the early post-medieval period. The samples were submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment for the potential recovery of biological materials including charred plant remains for potential information on crop-husbandry and processing and other human activities at the site.

Table 1. Main Street, Wentworth – ECB5376. Samples collected for environmental study

sample no.	context no.	samp. vol (l).	sample weight (kg)	context type	period
1	301	32	42	Fill of pit 300	13-mid 14 th C
2	215	36	46	Fill of pit 214	Mid 16 th -17 th C

Methods

The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1.0mm mesh for the residue. The flots and residues were dried and the dried residues re-floated for the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volumes of the flots were measured, and the volume and weight of the dried residues recorded.

The residues were sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheets and bagged independently. A magnet was run through the residues in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill. The residues were then discarded. The flots were divided into fractions using a stack of sieves for ease of assessment and scanned using a stereo-binocular microscope, with a magnification of up to x40. The presence and abundance of charred plant remains was recorded, along with the frequency of charcoal fragments larger and smaller than 2mm, the larger pieces being potentially identifiable and thus suitable for analysis. Other biological evidence in the flots was also noted, including un-charred plant material, bones, snails and insect remains. The item frequency of the charred plant and other environmental remains was scored using the following scale (see Table 3). The flots were then bagged. The flots and finds from the sorted residues constitute the material archive of the samples.

The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 2 and 3.

Results

The samples washed down to a residue of rounded and sub-rounded chalk, sub-rounded and angular flint gravel, pebbles, ironstone, concreted sediment and coarse sand. Archaeological finds recovered included pottery, firecracked flint, fired earth, burnt stone, flint chips – probably natural, corroded iron, a little animal bone, bird eggshell, marine shell and a magnetic fraction composed mainly of magnetised ironstone and sediment with rare flakes and spheroids of hammerscale (Table 2).

Table 2: Main Street, Wentworth. Archaeological finds from the sample

sample	cont	vol in l.	residue vol .in ml.	pot no/wt g	Fe	Flint no	Burnt stone g.	Fired earth g.	magn. comp. g.	hammer-scale no. fl ³ k/sph	bone wt g.	marine shell wt g.	other
1	301	32	4600	9/49	3/26	13	220g (?)	137	11.4	1 sph	6.6	60	Flint-natural?; Fe-nails? Reduce fired peat?
2	215	36	3500	9/10		26	42	1	2.2	6 fl; 1 sph	15	8	Flint-natural?;

Table 3. Main Street, Wentworth. Environmental finds from the two processed samples

Sample	Context	Vol. in l.	Flot vol. ml	Char-coal */*	Char'd grain *	Charr'd chaff *	Char'd seed *	Insects*	Snail *	Bird eggshell wt g.	Comment
1	301	32	87	3/5	3		2		3	1.2	Charred Free-threshing wheat, barley, oats, grasses, weeds, culm nodes, legumes, peas, beans; inder sheep size bone, bird, water vole, frog/toad, cyprinid vertebra; cf chicken eggshell; common mussel; snails – <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Trochulus hispidus</i> , <i>Vallnoia excentrica</i> , <i>V. costata</i> , <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> , <i>Vertigo</i> sp., <i>Oxychilus alliarus</i> , <i>O. cellarius</i> , <i>Anisus leucostoma</i> , <i>Planorbis planorbis</i> , <i>Bithynia tentaculata</i> ;
2	215	36	10	2/3	2		2		3	+	Charred freethreshing wheat, barley, legumes, pea; sheep/goat, indet sheep size, frog/toad, cyprinid vertebra, small gadid (2); cf chicken eggshell; common mussel; snails – <i>Trochulus hispidus</i> , <i>Oxychilus alliarus</i> ++, <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Anisus leucostoma</i> , <i>Planorbis planorbis</i> , <i>Bithynia tentaculata</i> ;

\$ - frequency of >2mm/<2mm fragments of charcoal

* frequency of items: 1=1-10; 2= 11-100; 3=101-250; 4=251-500; 5=500-1000; 6+>1000

diversity as follows: 1=1-3; 2=4-10; 3=11-25; 4=26-50 taxa

+ present but too small to weigh

The magnetic fraction in both samples included a spheroid of hammer scale with context 215 producing six flakes of hammer scale. The density of hammer scale is very low and could be intrusive from later activity, having moved down through the soil through natural soil processes.

The range of environmental data includes charcoal, charred cereal grain, charred legumes, occasional charred weed seeds, a few fragments of mammal bone, small fish bones, terrestrial snails, bird eggshell and marine mussels (Table 3). Charcoal is fairly abundant in <1>, the fill of pit 300, but relatively poor in the other sample.

Charred plant remains were recovered from both pit fills although most of the material was from the medieval pit fill (301) which produced over 400 quantified items (and a density of *c* 13 items per litre of processed soil) with a smaller but broadly similar assemblage from the early post-medieval pit fill (215). Both charred plant assemblages consisted largely of cereal grains (Table 3), poorly preserved and fragmented, most of the identifiable grains belonging to free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*), a few rachis fragments from pit fill (301) showing the presence of hexaploid bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*). There were smaller numbers of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grains with the better-preserved remains indicative of (six-row) hulled barley. A few oat (*Avena*) grains were present in pit fill (301). Several large ribbed rounded culm nodes in this pit fill probably represent cereal straw. A flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) seed was also identified in the medieval pit fill sample.

Small numbers of charred legume seeds were recovered from both samples although poor preservation and fragmentation of the remains limited identification to species; several seeds, however, were tentatively identified as broad bean (*Vicia faba*), pea (*Pisum sativum*) and definite common vetch (*Vicia sativa*) while the larger fragments in both fills also probably belong to cultivated pulses likely to be either peas or beans.

There were few charred wild plant/weed seeds in the assemblage, which included several common crop weeds, one of *Galium aparine* (cleaver) and a mineralised seed of *Lithospermum arvense* (field gromwell). There were a fairly good amount of *Cladium mariscus* (great fen sedge) seeds which, along with a few *Carex* (sedge) seeds, probably represent the collection of wild vegetation from the surrounding fenlands for various uses on site (see below), possibly by uprooting given the presence of root/rhizome and tuber fragments in the sample. The charred plant remains in both samples mainly represent the residues of virtually clean cereal and legume crops probably accidentally burnt while being dried before milling/storage or during food preparation. The few weed seeds were mainly large ones, similar in size to the grains and therefore difficult to remove other than by hand sorting and thus often found in almost fully processed crops.

The animal bone remains are limited but sheep/goat, water vole, frog/toad, cyprinid (dace, roach etc –freshwater fishes) and small gadid (marine) fish are present. Bone preservation appears good and is not likely to be a limiting factor in terms of the potential of any bone assemblage recovered during any future excavations. The small gadid bones and marine mussel shells indicate trade with the coast, while the two cyprinid vertebrae indicate

freshwater fishing. The bird eggshell in sample 1 is abundant and all of similar thickness and comparable with chicken, although not specifically identified.

Table 3: Main Street, Wentworth (ECB5376): The Charred Plant Remains

	Period	13 th -mid 14 th -C	Mid 16 th -17 th C
	Context type	Pit [300] fill	Pit [214] fill
	Context number	301	215
	Sample number	1	2
	Vol. proc. soil (L)	32	36
	Vol. flot (ml)	87	10
Cereal grains			
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> / <i>turgidum</i> type	free-threshing wheat	19	3
<i>T. cf. aestivum</i> / <i>turgidum</i> type	?free-threshing wheat	40	6
<i>Triticum</i> spp.	wheat	14	4
<i>cf. Triticum</i> spp.	?wheat	25	7
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	barley (hulled/twisted)	4	
<i>H. vulgare</i> L.	barley (hulled/straight)	4	
<i>H. vulgare</i> L.	barley (hulled/indet)	3	1
<i>H. vulgare</i> L.	barley (indet)	18	
<i>cf. H. vulgare</i>	?barley	5	2
<i>Avena</i> spp.	oat	3	
<i>cf Avena</i> spp.	?oat	3	
Cerealia indet.	Indet. grains	175	26
Cerealia indet.	Indet. grain fragments (<1mm)	++	+
Chaff			
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> s.l.	hexaploid bread wheat rachis	3	
Other plants			
<i>Rumex</i> spp.	dock	2	
<i>Malva</i> spp.	mallow	3	
<i>Vicia sativa</i> L.	common vetch	1	
<i>cf V. faba</i> L.	?broad bean	1	
<i>cf Pisum sativum</i>	?pea	2	
<i>cf Vicia/Pisum</i> spp.	?bean/pea fragments (>2mm)	4	2
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> spp.	vetch/tare/vetchling (>2mm)	11	
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum</i> spp.	vetch/tare/vetchling/pea (>2mm)		2
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum</i> spp.	vetch/tare/vetchling/pea (<2mm)	2	
<i>Medicago/Trifolium</i> spp.	medick/trefoil	14	2
Fabaceae indet.	indet legume frags (>2mm)	18	2
Fabaceae indet.	indet legume frags (<2mm)		2
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L.	flax	1	
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i> L.	field gromwell	1 (min)	
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	cleaver	1	
<i>Cladium mariscus</i> L. (Pohl)	great fen sedge	35	
<i>Carex</i> spp.	sedge	3	
Poaceae/Cerealia indet.	wild grass (large seeds)	7	1
Poaceae indet.	wild grass (small seeds)	2	
Poaceae indet.	grass culm node fragments	3	
indet	tuber/rhizome/root fragments	++	
Indet.	items	+	
Charcoal		+++++	+++
	Total nos. of items	427	60
	<i>Density of plant items (per litre of processed soil)</i>	<i>13.3</i>	<i>1.7</i>

Small assemblages of terrestrial and freshwater molluscs are present in both samples. The assemblages in both samples include open country, woodland/shaded and aquatic taxa, the latter suggesting either flooding of the area or the introduction of aquatic vegetation

carrying snails to the deposits. In sample 2 the woodland/shaded habitat species *Oxychilus alliarus* is common suggesting some shade or vegetation cover. Both samples produced *Anisus leucostoma* a species typical of water bodies and ditches that tend to dry out seasonally, and *Planorbis planorbis* and *Bithynia tentaculata*, two species found in more permanent water, the latter tending to occur in larger water bodies (Macan 1977). These assemblages might be more typical of hedged ditches rather than pits and it may be appropriate to reconsider whether their interpretation as pits is correct given that both features are only part revealed in the evaluation trenches.

Discussion

The two samples indicate good survival of a range of environmental evidence including mammal, bird and fish bone, charred cereal, pulses and weeds, edible shellfish, bird eggshell and terrestrial and aquatic snails. The very calcareous character of the soils suggest that pollen would not survive and the absence of any preserved organic remains other than a few intrusive uncharred seeds suggests that waterlogged deposits are unlikely unless features of greater depth occur on site.

The snail assemblages in both samples suggest that perhaps the identification of the sampled features as pits may be worth re-evaluation since these assemblages are more typical of waterfilled ditches. Irrespective of the type of feature the archaeological assemblages clearly indicate nearby occupation with the range of archaeological finds and environmental evidence suggesting domestic waste. This is more concentrated in context 300 than 215. There is no coal in the early post-medieval deposit (215) indicating that wood is still the main fuel type. A little possibly reduce fired peat in 300 might indicate another source of fuel in the medieval period. The few flakes and spheroids of hammer scale could indicate contemporary smithing but at these densities within a modern village this material could easily have moved down through the soil by bioturbation from later deposits.

The cereal crops, free-threshing wheat, hulled barley and oats, are typical of the period and were the main grains (along with rye) cultivated at the time in southern Britain (Greig 1991, 321; Moffett 2006, 45). Free-threshing wheat was the preferred bread making grain and the most commercially valuable cereal at this time, wheaten flour also being used for pies and pastries (Hammond 1995, 2) although all three cereals (including oats in mixes) may have been used for bread and in pottage (Campbell *et al* 1993, 24-5). The barley and oats were also used as animal fodder. Peas, beans and common vetch have all been found on medieval sites in southern Britain although usually in small amounts; peas and beans may have been grown for use as both human food (particularly following poor cereal harvests) and fodder, historical evidence showing the increased cultivation of vetch during the medieval period (Greig 1991, 323). Flax was also grown as a fibre plant although the seeds were probably also eaten (Greig 1991, 326).

The few crop weeds provide some information on crop husbandry; *Lithospermum arvense*, a plant that usually grows in calcareous loams, may be indicative of the cultivation of the lime rich clayey soils around the site while *Galium aparine* may point to the winter-sowing of cereals, probably free-threshing wheat, with barley and oats usually being sown in spring.

The charred plant remains also suggest that wild plant resources around the site were also exploited; great fen sedge is found in wet base rich areas in fens and by streams and ponds and growing to a height of up to 3m was a common and an important economic plant in East Anglia, having a range of uses especially for thatching but also as tinder being used for the bake house ovens at several colleges in Cambridge during the 17th Century (Mabey 196, 391); it is possible that the plant served a similar purpose at the site for use as fuel for hearths and ovens as well as for roofing materials.

The very few small fish bones indicate exploitation of local freshwater rivers, but also inshore marine environments, the latter with the common mussel shells indicating trade with coastal areas.

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Appendix D

The Metal Finds and Clay Pipe from 1 Main Street, Wentworth (ECB5376)

By Gary Taylor

Artefacts recovered during investigations on land adjacent to 1 Main Street, Wentworth, Cambridgeshire are reported, below.

The finds were examined and reported in accordance with ClfA guidelines (2008).

The Metal

Introduction

A total of 11 items weighing 255g were recovered.

Condition

The metal items are in good condition, though a few are corroded and encrusted.

Results

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context date
116	iron	Probable strap hinge, late post-medieval	1	61	Mid 20 th century
	Iron and copper alloy	Probable lock, late 19 th -mid 20 th century	1	59	
	Copper alloy	Lock mortis strike plate, late 19 th -mid 20 th century	1	10	
	Copper alloy	Tube, possible electricity wire sleeve, late 19 th -mid 20 th century	1	20	
	Copper alloy and carbon	Battery, dry cell, innards, 20 th century	1	20	
	Copper alloy	Perforated machinery part, embossed 'BY BRITAINS LTD LONDON', mid 20 th century	1	40	
216	Copper alloy	Possible lock plate, late 19 th -20 th century	1	11	Late 19 th -20 th century
	Copper alloy	Coin, George III halfpenny, 1807	1	8	
301 ◇1	iron	Nails, rectangular shafts, 1 with flat round head, corroded and encrusted	3	26	
TOTALS			11	255	

Note: ◇ = sample number

Provenance

The items were recovered as unstratified material from metal detecting (116, 216) and a pit fill (301).

Discussion

A quantity of predominantly early modern metal was recovered, facilitated through metal detecting. The assemblage is somewhat unusual in that several items associated with doors, including a lock, 2 probably lock plates, and a strap hinge were retrieved. These may have derived from the dismantling or breaking of doors.

The oldest datable item recovered is a coin, a halfpenny of George II dated 1807.

Potential

The metal items are of negligible potential. They are mostly early modern and while the composition of the collection is unusual, with several pieces of door furniture collected, the material can be discarded.

The Clay Pipe

Introduction

The clay pipe was analysed in accordance with guidelines prepared by Davey (1981). A single piece weighing 1g was recovered.

Results

Ctx	Bore diameters, /64"						Total	Wt(g)	Comments	Context date
	9	8	7	6	5	4				
117						1	1	1	stem	19 th century

Provenance

The clay pipe was recovered from a former topsoil (117). It is probably a fairly local product, perhaps made in nearby Ely.

Discussion

A small fragment of clay pipe stem of probable 19th century date was recovered.

Potential

The clay pipe is of limited potential and can be discarded.

Context Date Summary

The dating in the following table is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Spot dates

Cxt	Date (Century AD)	Comments
116	Mid 20th	Based on metal; unstratified
117	19th	Based on 1 clay pipe
216	Late 19 th -20th	Based on 1 metal
301		

References

CIfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Davey, P, 1981 Guidelines for the processing and publication of clay pipes from excavations. *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* 4: 65-88.

Abbreviations

CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

No. Number

Wt(g) Weight (grams)

APPENDIX E – OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: withamar1-315917

Project details

Project name	Archaeological trial trenching on land adjacent to 1 Main Street, Wentworth, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	<p>A programme of archaeological trial trenching was undertaken on land adjacent to 1 Main Street, Wentworth, Cambridgeshire. The investigation was commissioned by Mr and Mrs. Atkin in response to a condition attached to full planning permission granted by East Cambridgeshire District Council for development of three new dwellings at the site. The evaluation of the site, recommended by the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, was prompted by the high archaeological potential of the site close to the historic core of the village. The objective of the trenching was to assess the potential of the archaeological resource and the likely impact of the proposed development on any significant remains which may be present on the site. Three trenches were excavated, each placed across the footprint of one of the proposed dwellings. No significant archaeological remains were recorded over the western part of the site, where evidence of 19th and 20th century dumping to raise the ground level and a former sewer associated with the existing dwelling at 1 High Street were identified. A group of archaeological features comprising four pits and two ditches was recorded over the eastern part of the site. The features derived from at least two phases of archaeological activity, the earliest containing artefacts of medieval date, with subsequent activity of 16th or 17th century date. Artefacts recovered during the trenching comprised pottery, occasional bone fragments, and items of 19th and 20th century metalwork recovered using a metal detector.</p>
Project dates	Start: 26-03-2018 End: 29-03-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5376 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5376 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	17/00854/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods &	"Sample Trenches"

techniques

Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE WENTWORTH Land adjacent to 1 Main Street
Postcode	CB6 3QG
Study area	0.2 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 47798 78513 52.384266215161 0.171889415308 52 23 03 N 000 10 18 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 11.4m Max: 11.85m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Witham Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Dale Trimble
Project director/manager	Dale Trimble
Project supervisor	Gary Trimble
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store
Physical Archive ID	ECB5376
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store
Digital Archive ID	ECB5376
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store
Paper Archive ID	ECB5376
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

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