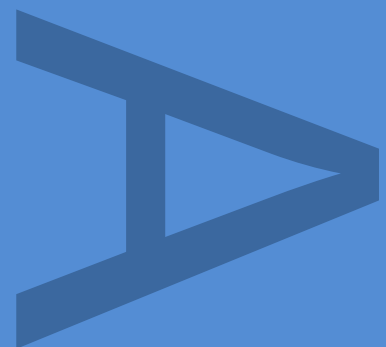


**Land at the Territorial Inn, 4  
Cromwell Walk, Huntingdon:  
An Archaeological Evaluation**

**March 2015**




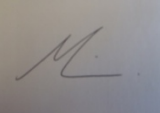
**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY  
ECB4334  
R12023**

LAND AT THE TERRITORIAL INN, 4  
CROMWELL WALK, HUNTINGDON

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3572
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## Land at the Territorial Inn, 4 Cromwell Walk, Huntingdon:

### Archaeological Evaluation

**Local Planning Authority:** Huntingdon District Council  
**Planning Reference:** 14/00693/FUL

**Central National Grid Reference:** NGR TL 2362 7211

**Site Code:** CCWH15

**Event Number:** ECB4334

**Report No.** R12023

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**March 2015**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at the Territorial Inn, 4 Cromwell Walk, Huntingdon (NGR TL 2362 7211) between the 14th and the 15th January 2015 and then subsequently on the 18th February and the 4th and 5th March 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of McCarthy and Stone in response to a brief written by Andy Thomas of Cambridge County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET). The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.*

*The earliest activity was evidenced by features of Late Saxon, Early Medieval, and Medieval date. This consisted of a number of pits located in Trenches 2 and 4, which are likely related to settlement activity fronting onto Ermine Street. The site is located inside the postulated location of the medieval town ditch, with the late Saxon/early medieval town expanding beyond this ditch.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at the Territorial Inn, 4 Cromwell Walk, Huntingdon, PE29 3EN (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 2362 7211) from the 14th to the 15th January with subsequent work undertaken on the 18th February and the 4th and 5th March 2015 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of retirement homes with associated car parking and landscaping (Planning Reference 14/00693/FUL).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Mark Hinman of PCA (Hinman 2015) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Andy Thomas (Thomas 2014) of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).
- 1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.5 A total of four trial trenches were excavated and recorded. This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Geology**

- 2.1.1 The site is recorded by the British Geological Survey to lie on river terrace deposits of sand and gravel, formed up to 2 million years ago in the quaternary period.
- 2.1.2 The solid geology is of the Oxford Clay formation. This consists of mudstone formed approximately 156 to 165 million years ago in the Jurassic Period.
- 2.1.3 Geotechnical investigations carried out on the site in January 2014 (Crossfield Consulting, 2014) confirmed the geological sequence as being made ground overlying river terrace deposits. The made ground deposits were recorded up to depths of between 0.80m and 1.30m below ground level (bgl). Deposits of soft to firm greyish brown sandy gravelly clay/silt were recorded underlying these made ground deposits at a depth of up to 1.90m bgl (WS2, WS3, and WS4). These underlying deposits were recorded as possible made ground.

### **2.2 Topography**

- 2.2.1 The site comprises an area of approximately 0.15ha. It is located in the western part of Huntingdon, 2.0km north-west of Godmanchester and just north of the A14. The site is situated at an elevation of approximately 10.8m AOD (above Ordnance Datum).
- 2.2.2 The surrounding area is generally flat, with the site lying on gravel terraces of the Ouse Valley c 750m north of the current banks of the River Great Ouse. A small stream, now buried, crossed the road to the north of the study site.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 General**

3.1.1 The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance, as recorded in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). Several phases of evaluation and excavation have been conducted within the vicinity of the Territorial Inn. This archaeological and historical background has been drawn from the Desk- Based Assessment compiled by CgMs Consulting Ltd (Gailey, 2014), the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (Hinman, 2014) and the available 'grey literature' reports documenting the adjacent archaeological investigations.

#### **3.2 Prehistoric**

3.2.1 The main evidence for prehistoric activity in the area comes from residual finds; two residual worked flints of possible Neolithic date, and some residual sherds of Bronze Age pottery. These finds were recorded during the investigations at St. Germain's Street c 400m to the south-east (CB 15040), and a site c 400m to the south of the study site (MCB 16321).

3.2.2 The only in situ evidence for prehistoric activity comes from a ditch of Neolithic date recorded during archaeological investigations to the rear of Walden House approximately c 300m to the south-west of the study site (MCB 16320).

#### **3.3 Iron Age and Roman**

3.3.1 The location of a possible late Iron Age and Roman settlement was uncovered c 700m to the south of the site at Mill Common (Cooper and Sperry, 2000).

3.3.2 The route of Ermine Street closely follows the projected line of the Roman road, also called Ermine Street. This is expected to continue along or close to the existing High Street (HER CB15034) towards the river and the major Roman town of Durovigutum (Godmanchester). The site is in an area of peripheral Roman activity on the other side of the river to Durovigutum. The Roman road bound or crossed the western part of the site and evidence of Roman roadside activity on the site cannot be ruled out.



3.3.3 There has been little archaeological evidence for Roman activity in this area. A Roman bronze key (CHER 02613) was found c 150m south-west of the site and other similar isolated Roman finds having been recovered close to the High Street (CHER 02625). The only feature was a large pit containing Roman pottery discovered in the rear of Princes Monument Street approximately 450m south of the study site (MCB 16324).

### **3.4 Saxon, Early Medieval and Medieval**

3.4.1 Investigations on the High Street c 200m south-west of the site recorded evidence of middle Saxon activity. Here deep excavations for new buildings on the High Street produced middle Saxon pottery of 8th to 9th century date (CHER 02605).

3.4.2 Late Saxon/Early Medieval remains comprising several post holes and pits containing domestic refuse and possibly tanning waste were recorded during investigations c 400m south of the study site (MCB 16321). Further remains dating to this period were found c 450m south east of the study site (MCB 16322). Excavations at 112 High Street recorded refuse pits of Saxon/Early Medieval date c 350m south east of the study site (CB 15332).

3.4.3 An evaluation (MCB 17983) and an excavation at Stukeley Road (House, forthcoming), c 500m north-west of the site, identified a number of post-holes, beamslots and ditches associated with settlement activity accompanying the expansion of the medieval town of Huntingdon in the 12th to 13th century.

3.4.4 Cromwell House (CHER 02703) which lies immediately south of the study site, stands on the site of the house of Austin Friars (CHER 02703a) founded around the year 1285. The house was given to the Cromwell family after the dissolution.

3.4.5 The Friary and other buildings of the friary were destroyed soon after the dissolution, around 1539, but one range was retained as a house (where Oliver Cromwell was born). The house was entirely rebuilt at the beginning of the 19th century when the present north block was added. The foundations of the original range are thought to lie beneath the current

house. Medieval dumped deposits including roof tile and pottery were recorded during the evaluation immediately to the south of the study site (MCB 19576) which possibly relate to the buildings associated with the house of the Austin Friars.

3.4.6 The site is located c 200m to the north-east of the site of St John the Baptist's church (CHER 02655). The church, which stood on the south side of Ferrar House in the High Street, was demolished during the Civil Wars and pulled down between 1651 and 1660. Part of the churchyard, with a few extant tombs, still remains.

3.4.7 The church of St Andrew, owned by the Abbot of Ramsey, once stood near the stream at the north end of the town most likely on the site of Dryden's Walk and land called St Andrews Close (CHER 02599). The church was in existence before 1086, with presentations made as late as 1529, with the church reported as being in a state of decay at this time.

3.4.8 A number of burials were identified during the renovations of the probation services building (CB 15754). This identified three burials, which may indicate the presence of a larger cemetery, which is thought to be that of the medieval hospital of St John.

3.4.9 The site lay within the northern extent of the medieval town of Huntingdon and the medieval town ditch known as the Kings Ditch is thought to have run along or close to the line of Cromwell Walk immediately to the north of the study site. There is a possibility that the site is located on the line of the medieval town ditch. Investigations to the south, south-east and south-west have recorded evidence of domestic and industrial activity associated with the prosperous medieval town (MCB 16321, MCB 16322, MCB 16324, CB 15040, MCB 19604, MCB 19812, MCB 19575, CB 15671, CB 15649, MCB 16503, and CB 153333).

### **3.5 Post-medieval**

3.5.1 By the late 18th century the site lay within gardens and there was little change by the mid-19th century, however, by the late 19th century the site lay within the formal grounds of the reconstructed Cromwell House. A small

building had been constructed in the centre of the site by this date.

- 3.5.2 Between 1916 and 1926 a military Drill Hall was constructed on the site which was replaced by the most recent building, The Territorial Inn sometime between 1926 and 1972.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Excavation and Sampling**

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of four trial trenches, distributed across the site (Figure 2). Trench 1 was not fully excavated to the natural geological deposits due to restricting conditions upon the site.

4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 23-ton mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.

4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the stripping of the lower soil deposits and all archaeological features were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered.

4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.1.5 All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.

4.1.6 Discrete features such as pits and postholes were at least 50% excavated, where excavation was possible.

### **4.2 Recording Methodology**

4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a

Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

- 4.2.2 Manual plans and section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:20 or 1:50).
- 4.2.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits.
- 4.2.5 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (IfA 2001; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. Features and deposits are described from west to east or south to north depending on the alignment of the trench.

5.1.2 The overlying deposits within the trenches were fairly consistent across the site, a buried soil deposit (104) sealing the archaeological features, a further earlier soil was noted in Trench 3 (105), the deposit was similar to (104) and may have formed through similar processes. The two layers were mid greyish brown, silty clays, fragments of handmade brick were present in the deposit. A lens of crushed brick was seen above layer (104) in Trench 2, a further buried soil overlaid these layers (103), this layer was a dark greyish brown, silty clay deposit. This soil deposit was overlain by modern made ground materials or demolition, forming the remainder of the stratified layers across the site.

### 5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 The trench could not be excavated due to the high water table. The water table was encountered, on site at a depth of 0.5m, as a result the trench was not excavated.

TRENCH 1	Figures 2		Plate n/a	
Trench Alignment: N/A	Length: 5m	Level of Natural (m OD): N/A		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		SE End	NW End	
Modern Crush	(102)	-	-	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 1 was located close to the southern boundary of the site, centrally within the development area.				
The trench was not excavated beyond modern deposits due to a high volume of water.				

### 5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 Trench 2 contained six pits, including a series of intercutting pits at the

south-western end of the trench. There were two pits at the northern end of the trench which could not be excavated due to the high water table.

- 5.3.2 Pit [108] (Plate 2; Figure 3, Section 3) was located at the south-east end of the trench and was not able to be fully excavated due to modern activity. It was 1.75m wide, 1.6m+ long and 0.22m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (107) of dark grey-brown silty sand. The full extent could not be ascertained as it extended beneath a step in the trench.
- 5.3.3 Pit [110] (Plate 2; Figure 3, Section 3) was located to the south of, and truncated pit [108]. It was 1.1m wide 1.25m long and 0.32m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of orangey-grey brown silty sand (109). This feature contained some finds; comprising a single sherd of Late Saxon pottery as well as fragments of tile and animal bone.
- 5.3.4 Pit [112] (Plate 2; Figure 3, Section 3) was located to the west of and is truncated by pit [110]. The pit was 0.5m wide, 1.0m long and 0.20m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of blueish-grey brown silty sand (111). Pit [112] could not be fully exposed due to the presence of a modern gas pipe.
- 5.3.5 Pit [113] (Plate 3; Figure 3, Section 4) was located north-west of a cluster of intercutting pits [108], [110] and [112]. The pit was 1.35m wide, 0.6m+ long and 0.22m deep with steep sides and a flat base. The pit contained a single fill of dark greyish brown sandy silt (114). This deposit contained 4 fragments of Late Saxon pottery and bone fragments. The pit could not be fully exposed with the pit extending beneath a step in Trench 2.
- 5.3.6 Two further pits were identified at the northern end of Trench 2. These could not be excavated as this end of the trench was flooded by the high water level.

TRENCH 2	Figures 2-4	Plate 1
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 8.0m	Level of Natural (m OD): 8.8-9.5m
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)
		SW End

Concrete	(101)	0.3m	0.22m
Modern Crush	(102)	0.18m	0.2m
Buried Soil	(103)	0.2m	0.62m
Buried Soil	(104)	0.42m	0.34m
Natural	(106)	1.04m+	1.4m+
<b>Summary</b>			
<p>Trench 2 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site.</p> <p>The trench contained six pits, dating to the Late Saxon period and containing a range of finds. Modern intrusions, including modern services, as well as the extremely high water table had impacted on the archaeological features. A modern gas pipe aligned north-east to south-west at the southern end of the trench partially obscured pits [108], [110], and [112]. The trench was stepped for health and safety considerations and as a result the full extent of features in the trench could not be ascertained.</p>			

## 5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 The trench contained two pits, but neither could be excavated due to the high water table. One pit was located at the north-eastern end, which was of clear modern date and was cut from high up just below the modern buried soil deposit (103). The other pit in the trench was located in the middle of Trench 3 and consisted of a small portion of the base of a heavily truncated feature. Neither pit contained any dating evidence.

<b>TRENCH 3</b>	<b>Figures 2 &amp; 3</b>	<b>Plate n/a</b>
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 9.02m	Level of Natural (m OD): 9.1m
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>
		<b>N End</b>
Concrete	(101)	0.24m
Buried Soil	(103)	0.36m
Buried Soil	(104)	0.44m
Buried Soil	(105)	0.26m
Natural	(106)	1.2m+
<b>Summary</b>		
<p>Trench 3 was close to the eastern limit of the site.</p> <p>There were two features in the trench, one modern pit in the north-eastern corner of the trench and the second, a heavily truncated pit, located centrally. The water table proved to be too high meaning excavation could not take place. No finds were recovered from either</p>		



feature.

The northern end of the trench was heavily disturbed by modern services.

## 5.5 Trench 4

- 5.5.1 The trench contained 9 features, an area of intercutting pits was located at the western edge of the trench. The group of pits consisted of six features containing similar fills mid greyish brown, clayey silt deposits. A slot measuring 1.5m in width was excavated into the pitting, showing evidence for a total of four pits ([119], [117], [123] and [121]). All the pits were rounded, roughly circular in plan. Pit [119] was located in the south-western corner of the trench, the pit measured 0.85m in width and 0.22m although the pit was only partially seen within the trench. The pit contained a single fill (120), no finds were recovered from the deposit. Pit [119] cut Pit [117] also seen in the south-west corner of the trench, the pit measured 1.2m in width and 0.14m in depth, the pit contained a single fill (118). Pit [121] was located at the western end of the trench, the pit measured 1.6m in width and 0.12m in depth, the pit contained a single fill (122). The final pit excavated within the slot was Pit [123], the pit measured 1.2m in width and 0.21m, the pit contained a single fill (124). Two further similar pits were not excavated [127] and [125], the pits were located in the north-west corner of the trench.
- 5.5.2 A large pit was located centrally within the trench, the pit [115] was a lozenge shape in plan, and cut Pit [125]. The pit measured 4.4m in length, 1.75m in width and 0.27m in depth. The pit contained a much darker fill than the other pits within the trench, the single fill (116) was a dark brownish grey, clayey silt, containing animal bone and frequent charcoal inclusions.
- 5.5.3 Two possible ditch features ([129] and [131]) were located at the eastern edge of the trench, flowing water prevented excavation of the features, both features exceeded 3.5m in length.

TRENCH 4	Figures 2 & 5	Plate 4
Trench Alignment: SW-NE	Length: 8.5m	Level of Natural (m OD): 9.1m

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)
		NW End
Concrete	(101)	0.25
Modern Crush	(102)	0.34
Buried Soil	(103)	0.31
Crushed Bricks lens	(133)	0.09
Buried Soil	(104)	0.29
Natural	(106)	1.3

**Summary**

Trench 4 was located in the centrally in the site. Within the former public house building footprint.

The trench contained 9 features, no securely datable finds were recovered however the features appear to be similar to the features seen within Trench 2, and were seen at the same stratigraphic level.

## 6 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Post Roman Pottery

#### By Berni Sudds

##### Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small assemblage of pottery dating to the Late Saxon and medieval period was recovered during the evaluation amounting to 7 sherds, weighing 48g. The pottery from site has been provisionally identified and catalogued by sherd count and weight. The fabrics were examined under x20 magnification and recorded using a system of mnemonic codes complying with those previously used in locality (Fletcher 2008, 2011).
- 6.1.2 The Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics was followed for recording and the forms were identified in accordance with the Medieval Pottery Research Group's guide to the classification of forms (MPRG 1998, 2001). The data has been entered onto an Access Database, a copy of which is held with the archive. A summary catalogue of the pottery by context with date ranges and suggested spot dates appears in Table 2.

Fabric code	6.1.3 Common name	Date range		Total SC	Total Wg
NEOT	St Neots-type ware	850	1150	2	5
STAM	Stamford-type ware	850	1250	1	3
HUNEMW	Huntingdonshire early medieval ware	1050	1300	2	18
HUNFSW	Huntingdonshire fen sandy ware	1150	1350	1	16
MCW	Medieval coarseware/ greywares	1150/75	1400	1	6

Table 1: The pottery types. SC = Sherd count; Wg = Weight

- 6.1.4 The assemblage is comprised of types that can be well-paralleled in the town, namely Late Saxon regional St Neots and Stamford-type wares and local coarsewares (Fletcher 2008, 2011). The latter are sandy coarsewares with calcareous inclusions likely belonging to the Huntingdonshire Early medieval ware (HUNEMW) and Huntingdonshire Fen sandy ware (HUNFSW) traditions. With the exception of a single St Neots-type ware jar

rim, the assemblage is comprised of small non-diagnostic body sherds.

Context	Sample number	Fabric code	Form code	Sherd count	Weight	Date range	Spot date
107	2	NEOT	JAR?	1	2	850 - 1150	850 – 1150
109		HUNFSW		1	16	1150 - 1350	1150 - 1300
114		HUNEMW		1	6	1050 - 1300	1050 – 1150
	1	HUNEMW		1	12	1050 - 1350	
		MCW		1	6	1000 - 1400	
		NEOT		1	3	850 - 1150	
		STAM		1	3	850 - 1150	

Table 2: Distribution and dating table

## 6.2 Faunal Remains

By Kevin Rielly

### Introduction

- 6.2.1 The site was situated within the central part of Huntingdon, at the northern periphery of the former Late Saxon and medieval settlement. Excavations produced a series of shallow cut features, these with deposits dating between the 11th and 12th centuries, beneath a Late medieval/early post-medieval buried soil. Animal bones were recovered from three of these features, retrieved by hand and from a small number of soil samples.

### Methodology

- 6.2.2 The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered.

### Description of faunal assemblage

- 6.2.3 There was a total of 19 bones with 12 by hand recovery and 7 from two samples (see Table 3). These were generally well preserved and without any

gross fragmentation. The bones were derived from three shallow pits, with dating available from two of these features, as follows: - [110] with fill (109) – 1150 to 1200 and [113] with fill (114) – 1050 to 1150. This leaves fill (116) from pit [115]. The assemblage consists of a few cattle, sheep/goat and pig bones alongside some unidentifiable cattle- and sheep-size fragments. There is a general mix of parts amongst the identifiable collections, with a good proportion which can be aged (epiphyses fusion) although without any mandibles. Just one bone could be measured, a cattle distal metatarsus from (116) with a distal breadth of 46.8mm.

Feature:	110	113		115	
Recovery:	HC	HC	S	HC	S
Species					
Cattle				2	1
Cattle-size	1	1		3	1
Sheep/Goat		1	2		1
Sheep					1
Pig			1	2	
Sheep-size				2	
Grand Total	1	2	3	9	4

Table 3. Species distribution by feature and recovery method where HC is hand collected and S is sieved.

#### Conclusions and recommendations for further work

6.2.4 These bones were well preserved and minimally fragmented. They are clearly well dated, here assuming that pitfill (116) is contemporary. There are rather few bones, perhaps representing a sparse and diverse spread rather than concentrated dumps of waste materials. Further excavation will undoubtedly provide more bones, as clearly suggested by the quality of the bones so far unearthed, however there is perhaps little potential regarding the recovery of a large or even a moderately sized assemblage. This will obviously limit the available information. However, this collection and that from further excavation at this site should be seen in terms of the numerous other Huntingdon sites, most of which provided reasonable collections of bones from the Late Saxon through to about the 14th century, especially from the Former Bus Depot on Stukely Road (Faine 2009), the West of Town

Centre Link Road (Faine 2011), Watersmeet, Mill Common (Phillips 2004) and Stukely Road (Rielly 2015). Following this period, the town is historically known to have suffered an economic decline. While each of these site assemblages provides useful local information, a combined dataset (also including some smaller collections as perhaps from this site) will undoubtedly provide a far greater potential for a thorough and detailed review of animal usage related to this town and its environs within the Late Saxon to High medieval era.

- 6.2.5 A small number of samples were taken from this site, each of which provided some bones, and it is important to continue the sampling programme into the next stage of the excavation process. The importance of this exercise is highlighted by the absence of sieving at the other sites mentioned above.

## **6.3 Plant Macrofossils**

**By Marta Pérez**

Introduction

- 6.3.1 This report summarises the findings from the rapid assessment of three flots taken from the fills of three pits during an evaluation at Cromwell Walk, Huntingdon. The aim of this environmental assessment are to: 1) provide an overview of the contents of the samples, 2) determine the environmental potential of these, 3) identify if further analysis or sampling needs to be undertaken and 4) make recommendations for additional sampling of specific contexts.

Methodology

- 6.3.2 3 flots were scanned for the presence of charred grain, chaff, weed seeds, charcoal, molluscs and other environmental remains. These were recorded on a non-linear scale to denote 'abundance': - Occasional (up to 5 items), 2- fairly frequent (5-25), 3- frequent (25-100), 4- abundant (>100). A note was also made of all other inclusions i.e. Modern plant fibres, coal, slag etc. The results of the rapid assessment of the flots are presented in Table 4.

Flots

- 6.3.3 The three flots produced wood charcoal, however only sample <3> produced

fragments large enough to be identifiable. Samples <1> and <2> have some modern roots and coal, which could indicate contamination that can compromise their environmental potential.

- 6.3.4 Cereal grains have been found in the three flots, with very few in samples <1> and <2>, but in important quantities in sample <3>. Preliminary identification suggest: barley (*Hordeum* sp and wheat (*Triticum* sp.), with the occasional presence of rye (*Secale cereale*) and oat (*Avena sativa*). A couple of glume bases and rachis were found in sample <3>, however this is not enough evidence to establish the presence of crop processing on site. It is more likely to suggest that these deposits are of unthreshed material, rather than a deposit of waste bi-product. Many of the cereal grains are puffed and distorted suggesting high temperature and/or repeated burning.
- 6.3.5 Sample <3> also contains an important number of other crops remains, including charred peas (*Pisum sativum*), lentils (*Lens culinaria*) and other beans. A very small amount of peas are present in samples <1> and <2>. Other charred seeds recovered in very low numbers, are: *Rumex*, *Ranunculus* and *Chenopodium*. These represent weeds usually found in association with crops.
- 6.3.6 Very few unburnt seeds were also present in these flots: *Rumex*, *Carex*, *Chenopodium*, *Urtica* and *Sambucus nigra*. These are found on waste land and somewhat wet environments. Their very limited presence could indicate some modern contamination. Although the samples assessed contained these uncharred seeds and a very small number of freshwater snails, nothing indicates that these contexts were waterlogged at any point. Their numbers are too small, they are more likely to derive from some kind of intrusions.

#### Discussion and Recommendations

- 6.3.7 The preservation of these assessed samples could provide some economic or environmental information. The most abundant material: wood charcoal, grains and weeds could produce information about the general environment of the site. Especially more samples from secure contexts [115] (sample

<3>) could prove useful.

6.3.8 Charcoal can provide information on fuel use in the period it was produced. It is too simplistic to assume that the properties of wood types in these assemblages reflect the relative abundance of the taxa in the local environment, although availability may be more important than the physical characteristics of the wood type for people gathering the timber.

6.3.9 Charred plant remains are well preserved. The presence of cereal grain may be indicative of domestic activity, the assemblage indicates a full range of cereals including wheat, barley, rye and oat. This together with the presence of other crops and legumes and peas could provide information about the diet and land use taking place in the vicinity. Additional samples would be useful. Future samples should be taken from well-sealed contexts to avoid contamination.

Sample number	Context number	Feature	Flot					
			Vol flot (ml)	Charcoal	Seeds	Grains	Mollusca	Other
1	114	Pit	15	3 (small)	(1) char. (1) unchar.	1	1 (fresw)	Abundant coal and modern roots.
2	107	Pit	19	3 (small)	(1) char. (1) unchar.	1	1 (fresw)	Some coal and roots
3	116	Pit	104	4	(2) char. (2) unchar	(4) cereal (3) pulses	1 (land)	(2) Small animal bones.

Table 4. Assessment flots CCWH 15

Key: 1- Occasional, 2- fairly frequent, 3- frequent, 4- abundant



## **7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Discussion**

7.1.1 The trial trench evaluation has identified features of Late Saxon and medieval date. This consisted of a number of Late Saxon and medieval pits, containing a range of finds: pottery, tile and bone. These finds would appear to suggest domestic activity associated with settlement.

7.1.2 The features identified on this site likely relate to Late Saxon and medieval settlement activity, fronting onto the course of Ermine Street. A town ditch is thought to roughly follow the course of the ring road, which forms the northern boundary of the site. The Late Saxon and medieval town is known to have expanded beyond the ring road with settlement activity recorded further to the east (Gilmour, 2009 and House, 2011), and a number of sites along the course of Ermine Street to the north of the site continuing to front onto the road. The town is known to have significantly declined in the 14th century as a result of the Black Death and wider social and economic changes in the medieval economy which characterised this period.

7.1.3 The town grew to incorporate the site during the 19th century, however the site appears to be relatively undisturbed until the construction of a Drill Hall in the early part of the 20th century. Prior to this construction the site is likely to have been limited to use as gardens or cultivation, this would be consistent with the buried soil deposits sealing the medieval and earlier features.

### **7.2 Conclusions**

7.2.1 The trial trench evaluation has identified features of mostly Late Saxon/early medieval and medieval date.

7.2.2 The character of the features and the associated finds is typical given the location of the site, and its proximity to the course of Ermine Street, and its position just inside the postulated location of the medieval town ditch.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank CgMs Consulting Ltd for commissioning the work and Anthill Plant Hire for operating the excavator. PCA are also grateful to Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for his advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Taleyna Fletcher for managing the project. The author would also like to thank the project team: Jon House, Matthew Jones and Taleyna Fletcher for their hard work, and finally PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

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- 3) <http://www.old-maps.co.uk> Date accessed: 19/02/2015

## Figure 1 Site Location

## Figure 2 Trench Location

Figure 3 Trenches 1 and 3



Figure 4 Trench 2

Figure 5 Trench 4

**10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES**



Plate 1: Trench 2, view north-west



Plate 2: Trench 2, view south-east with Pits [108], [110] and [112]



Plate 3: Trench 2, view west showing Pit [113]



Plate 4: Trench 4, view north-east

## 11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
101	-	Layer	Concrete	Modern concrete	1, 4
102	-	Layer	Modern Crush	Modern levelling layer	1
103	-	Layer	Made Ground	Modern made ground	1, 4
104	-	Layer	Made Ground	Modern made ground	1, 4
105	-	Layer	Overburden	Subsoil	1, 4
106	-	Layer	Natural	Natural geology	1, 4
107	108	Fill	Pit	Fill of [108]	1
108	108	Cut	Pit	Pit	1
109	110	Fill	Pit	Fill of [110]	1
110	110	Cut	Pit	Pit	1
111	112	Fill	Pit	Fill of [112]	1
112	112	Cut	Pit	Pit	1
113	113	Cut	Pit	Pit	1
114	113	Fill	Pit	Fill of [113]	1
115	115	Cut	Pit	Pit	4
116	115	Fill	Pit	Fill of [115]	4
117	117	Cut	Pit	Pit	4
118	117	Fill	Pit	Fill of [117]	4
119	119	Cut	Pit	Pit	4
120	119	Fill	Pit	Fill of [119]	4
121	121	Cut	Pit	Pit	4
122	121	Fill	Pit	Fill of [121]	4
123	123	Cut	Pit	Pit	4
124	123	Fill	Pit	Fill of [123]	4
125	125	Cut	Pit	Pit	4
126	125	Fill	Pit	Fill of [125]	4
127	127	Cut	Pit	Pit	4
128	127	Fill	Pit	Fill of [127]	4
129	129	Cut	Pit	Pit	4
130	129	Fill	Pit	Fill of [129]	4
131	131	Cut	Pit	Pit	4
132	131	Fill	Pit	Fill of [131]	4
133	-	Layer	Made Ground	Made ground	4

## 12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-206198

### Project details

Project name Land at the Territorial Inn, Cromwell Walk, Huntingdon

Short description of the project This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at the Territorial Inn, 4 Cromwell Walk, Huntingdon (NGR TL 2362 7211) between the 14th and the 15th January 2015 and then subsequently on the 18th February and the 4th and 5th March 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of McCarthy and Stone in response to a brief written by Andy Thomas of Cambridge County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET). The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The earliest activity was evidenced by features of Late Saxon, Early Medieval, and Medieval date. This consisted of a number of pits located in Trenches 2 and 4, which are likely related to settlement activity fronting onto Ermine Street. The site is located inside the postulated location of the medieval town ditch, with the late Saxon/early medieval town expanding beyond this ditch.

Project dates Start: 14-01-2015 End: 05-03-2015

Previous/future work Not known / Yes

Any associated project reference codes CCWH15 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Current Land use Other 2 - In use as a building

Monument type PIT Uncertain

Monument type PIT Uncertain

Monument type PIT Early Medieval

Monument type PIT Early Medieval

Monument type PIT Uncertain

Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	BRICK Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
<hr/>	
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE HUNTINGDON Land at the Territorial Inn, Cromwell Walk, Huntingdon
Postcode	PE29 3HR
Study area	0.15 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 2362 7211 52.3327313332 -0.185552647816 52 19 57 N 000 11 07 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 8.90m Max: 10.89m
<hr/>	
Project creators	
Name	of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

Organisation

Project brief Cambridgeshire County Council  
originator

Project design Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
originator

Project director/manager Taleyna Fletcher

Project supervisor Jon House/ Matthew Jones

Type of Private Developer  
sponsor/funding  
body

Name of McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd  
sponsor/funding  
body

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Project archives

Physical Archive CCC County Archaeology Store  
recipient

Physical Archive CCWH15  
ID

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"

Digital Archive CCC County Archaeology Store  
recipient

Digital Archive ID CCWH15

Digital Contents "Glass"

Digital Media "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"  
available

Paper Archive CCC County Archaeology Store  
recipient

Paper Archive ID CCWH15

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Context  
available sheet","Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey"



","Unpublished Text"

---

Project

bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land at the Territorial Inn, 4 Cromwell Walk, Huntingdon: An  
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Author(s)/Editor(s) House, J

Author(s)/Editor(s) Jones, M

Other R12023

bibliographic  
details

Date 2015

Issuer or PCA  
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Place of issue or Pampisford  
publication

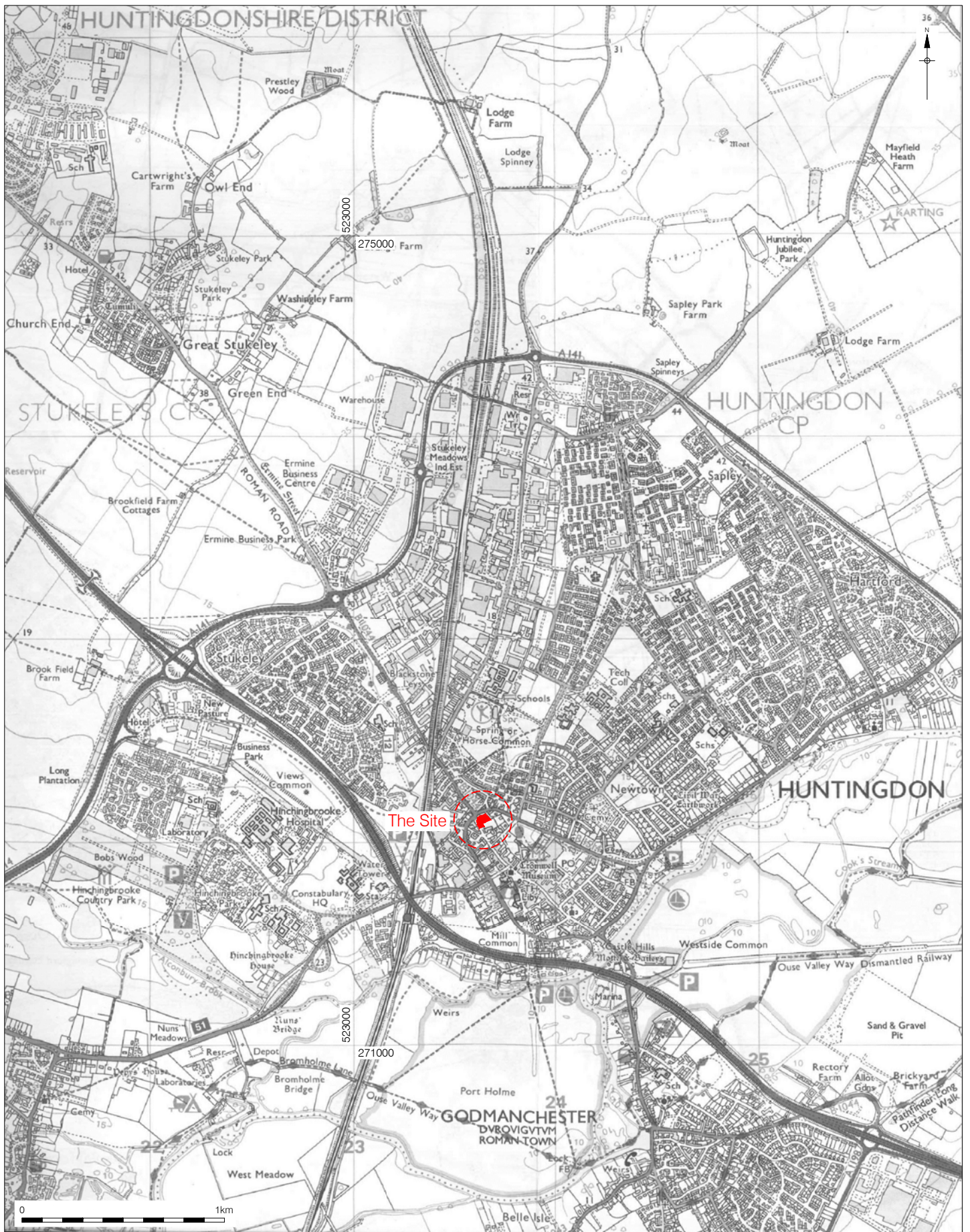
Description A4 Bound Grey Literature report with included figures and plates

URL [www.oasis.ac.uk](http://www.oasis.ac.uk)

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Entered by Matthew Jones ([mjones@pre-construct.com](mailto:mjones@pre-construct.com))

Entered on 16 March 2015



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19/12/13 JS; updated 10/03/2015 AMB

Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:25,000 at A4



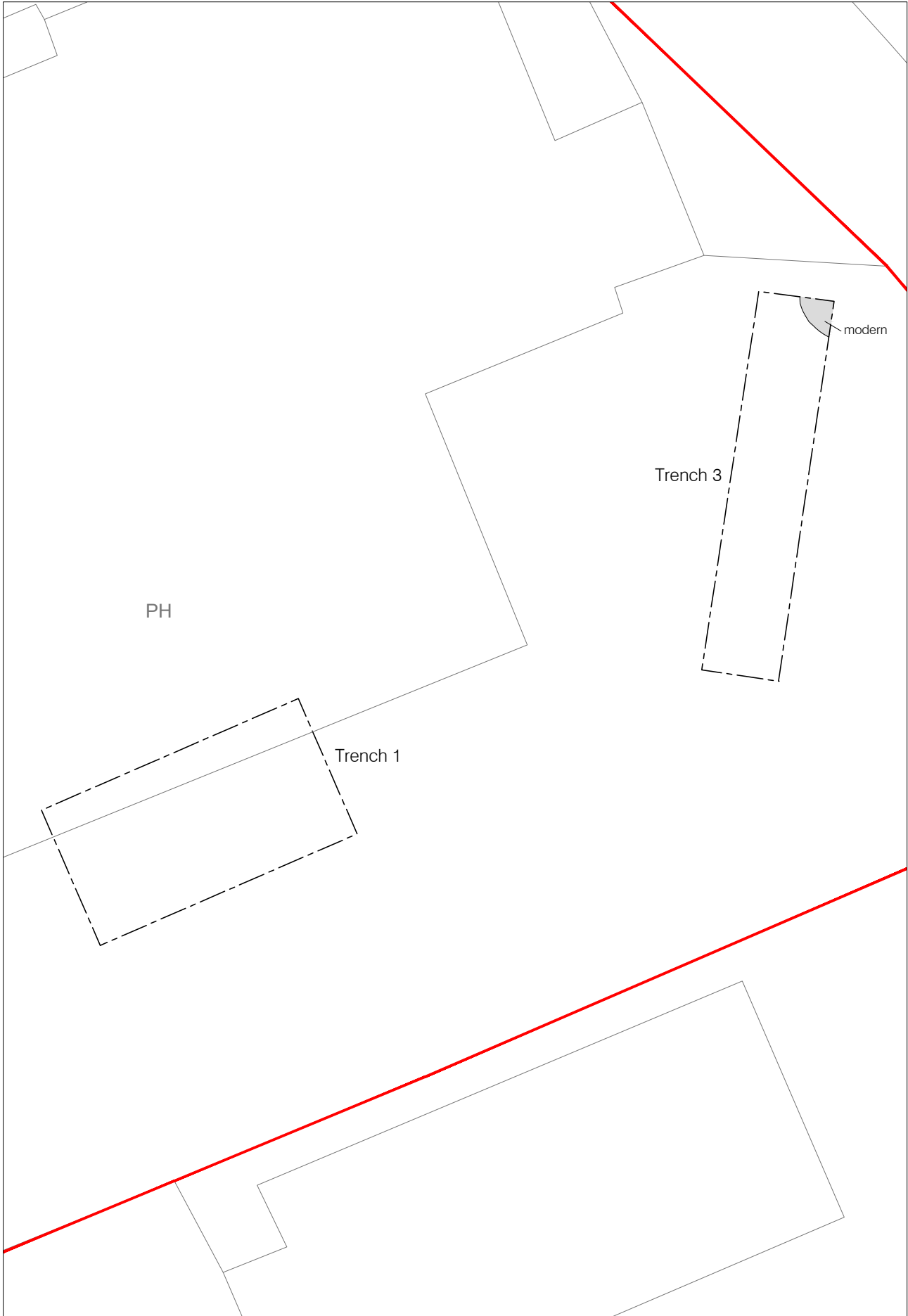


Figure 3  
Plan of Trenches 1 and 3  
Plan 1:125 at A4

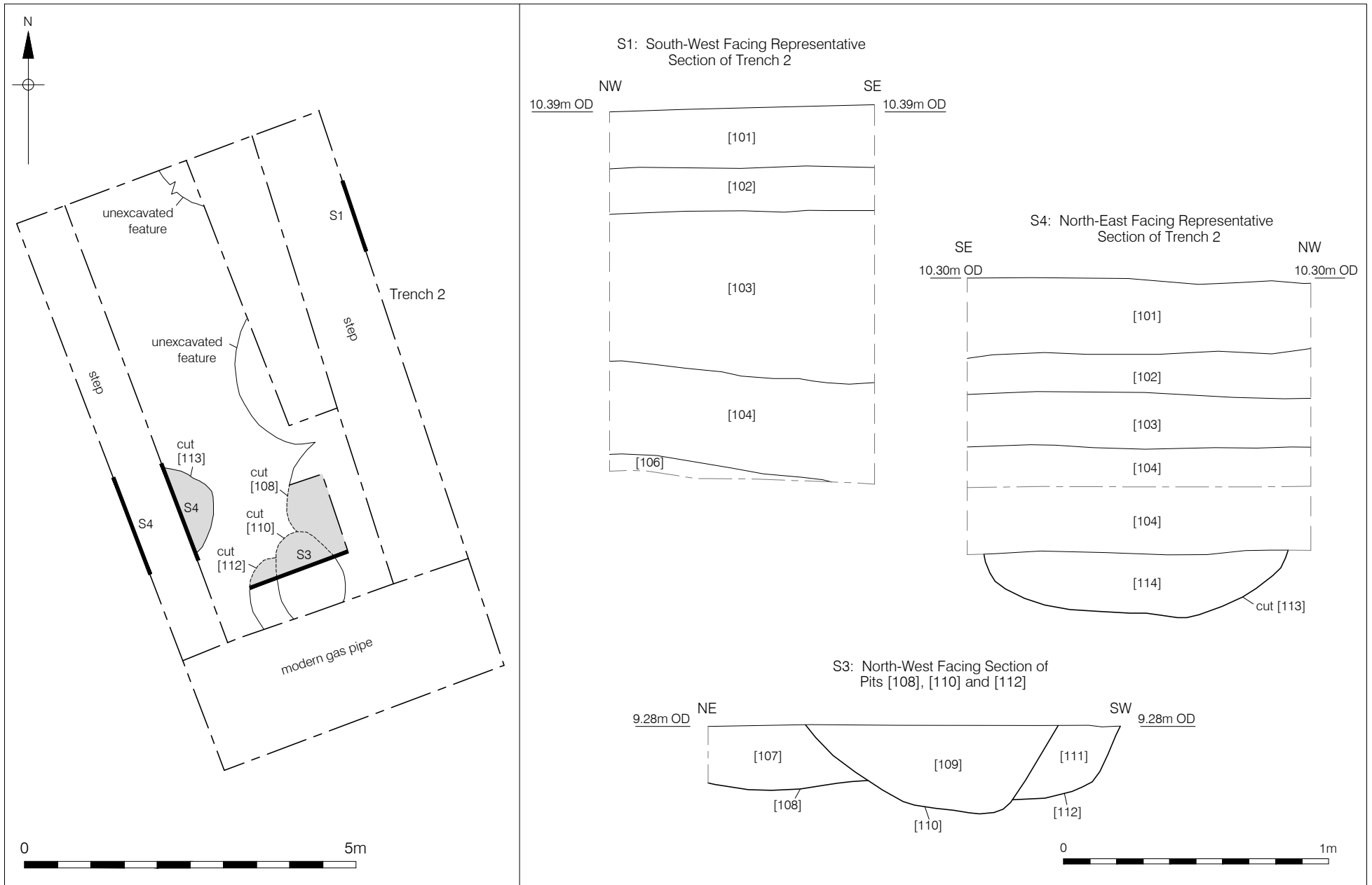


Figure 4  
Trench 2 Plan and Sections  
Plan 1:80; Sections 1:20 at A4

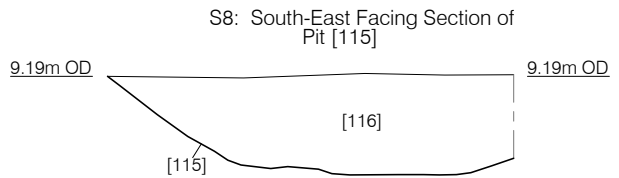
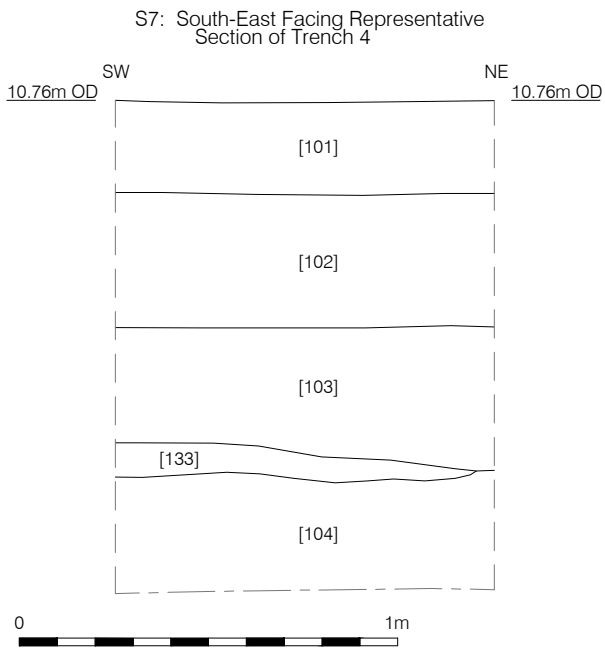
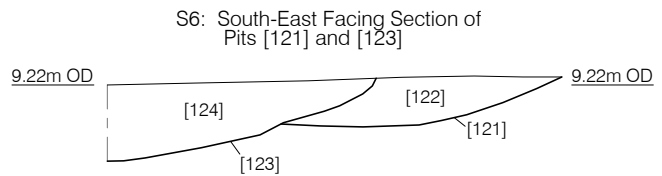
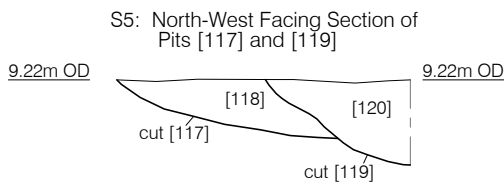
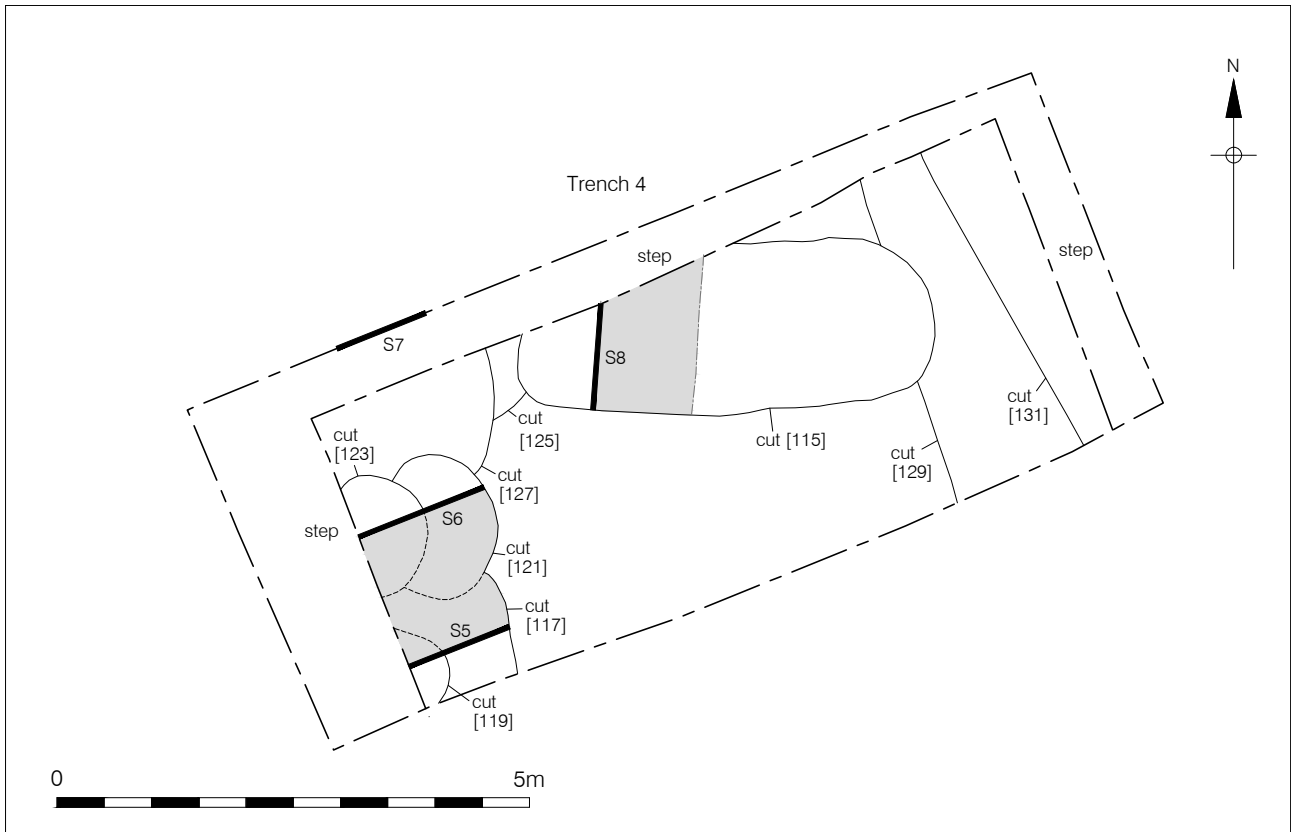


Figure 5  
Trench 4 Plan and Sections  
Plan 1:80; Sections 1:20 at A4

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