AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT MOORLANDS RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME, THE MOOR MELBOURNE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

FEBRUARY 2007

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

MOORLANDS RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME, THE MOOR, MELBOURN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

EVALUATION

Quality Control

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An Archaeological Evaluation at the Moorlands Residential Care Home, The Moor, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire

Unique Event Number: ECB2452

Central National Grid Reference: TL 3852 4519

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December 2006

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ABSTRACT

This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken at the Moorlands Residential Care Home, The Moor, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, centred at National Grid Reference TL 3852 4519. The field evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology between the 27th November and the 1st December 2006. The project was commissioned by Chris Leggett of behalf of the developers, ISG Jackson Limited.

The site is approximately trapezoidal shaped and comprises a two-storied building surrounded by substantial, partially wooded, gardens. It is located towards the northern edge of Melbourn village, c.15km southwest of the City of Cambridge, on level ground.

Nine Evaluation Trenches were machine excavated in the areas affected by the proposed development. Natural deposits were identified in every trench.

Twenty-nine features were identified, all cutting into the natural deposits. They consisted of naturally formed features (such as tree-throws, hollows/disturbance), undated pits and linear features and Post-Medieval pits, ditches and a possible drainage channel.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 An Archaeological Field Evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology under the supervision of Barry Bishop and the project management of Chris Mayo between the 27th November and the 1st December 2006 at the Moorlands Residential Care Home, The Moor, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire. It is centred at National Grid Reference TL 3852 4519 (Fig 1). The site is bounded to the north by an open recreation ground, to the east by houses fronting on to Dickasons, to the south by light industrial units and to the west by The Moor.

1.2 The work was commissioned by Chris Leggett of ISG Jackson Limited on behalf of the Cambridge Housing Society, in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site prior to its proposed redevelopment (Planning Application S/0727/06/F) and in accordance with a planning condition imposed upon planning approval.

1.3 The archaeological investigation was instigated and monitored by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice on behalf of South Cambridgeshire District Council. This report was written by Barry Bishop using the records generated during the fieldwork.

1.4 This report details all deposits encountered and interprets their significance. It also includes an introduction to the site, geology and topography, planning background, archaeological methodology and a summary of the historical and archaeological background.

1.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store under the Unique Event Number ECB2452.

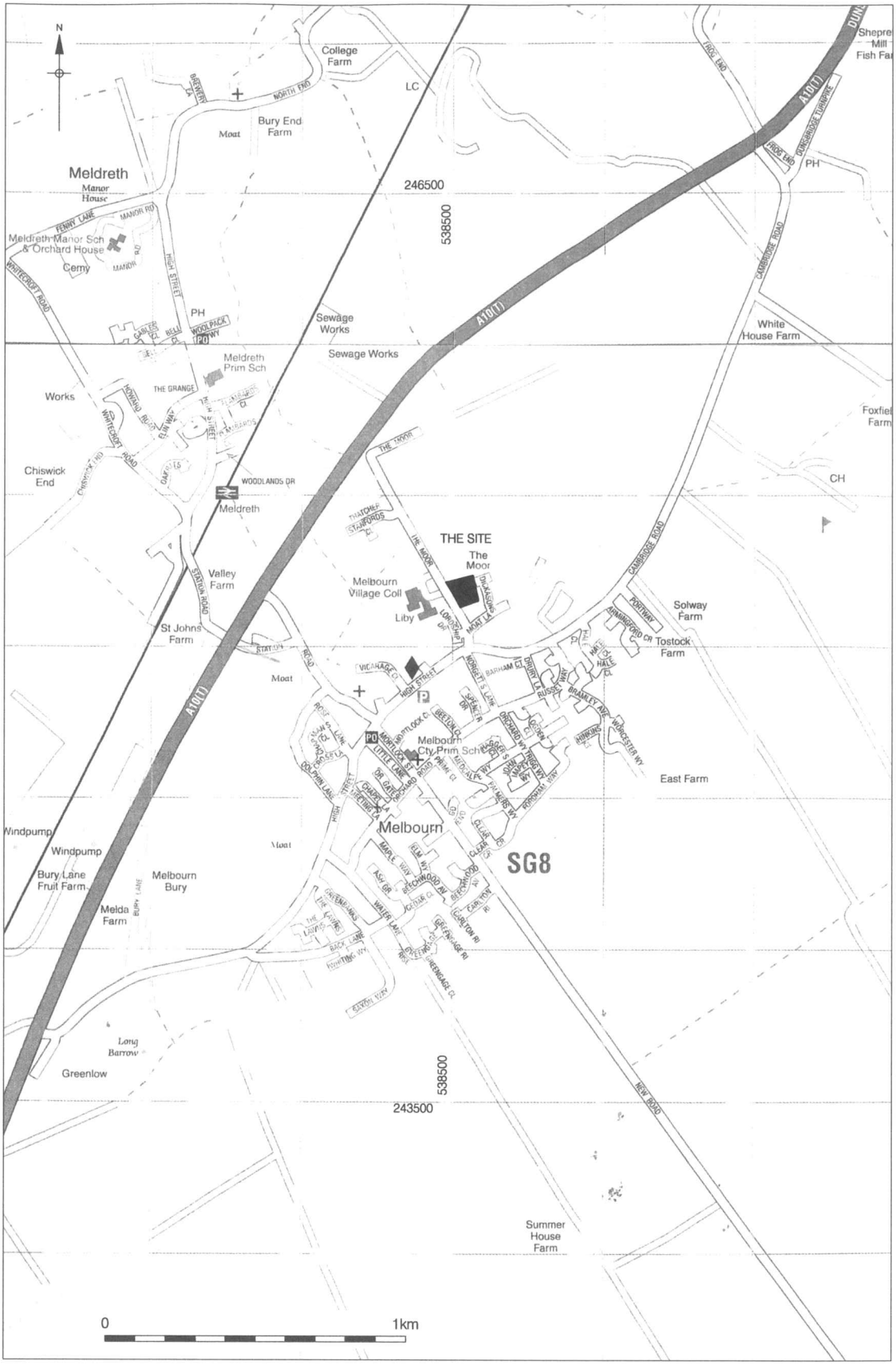


Figure 1
Site location
1:20,000

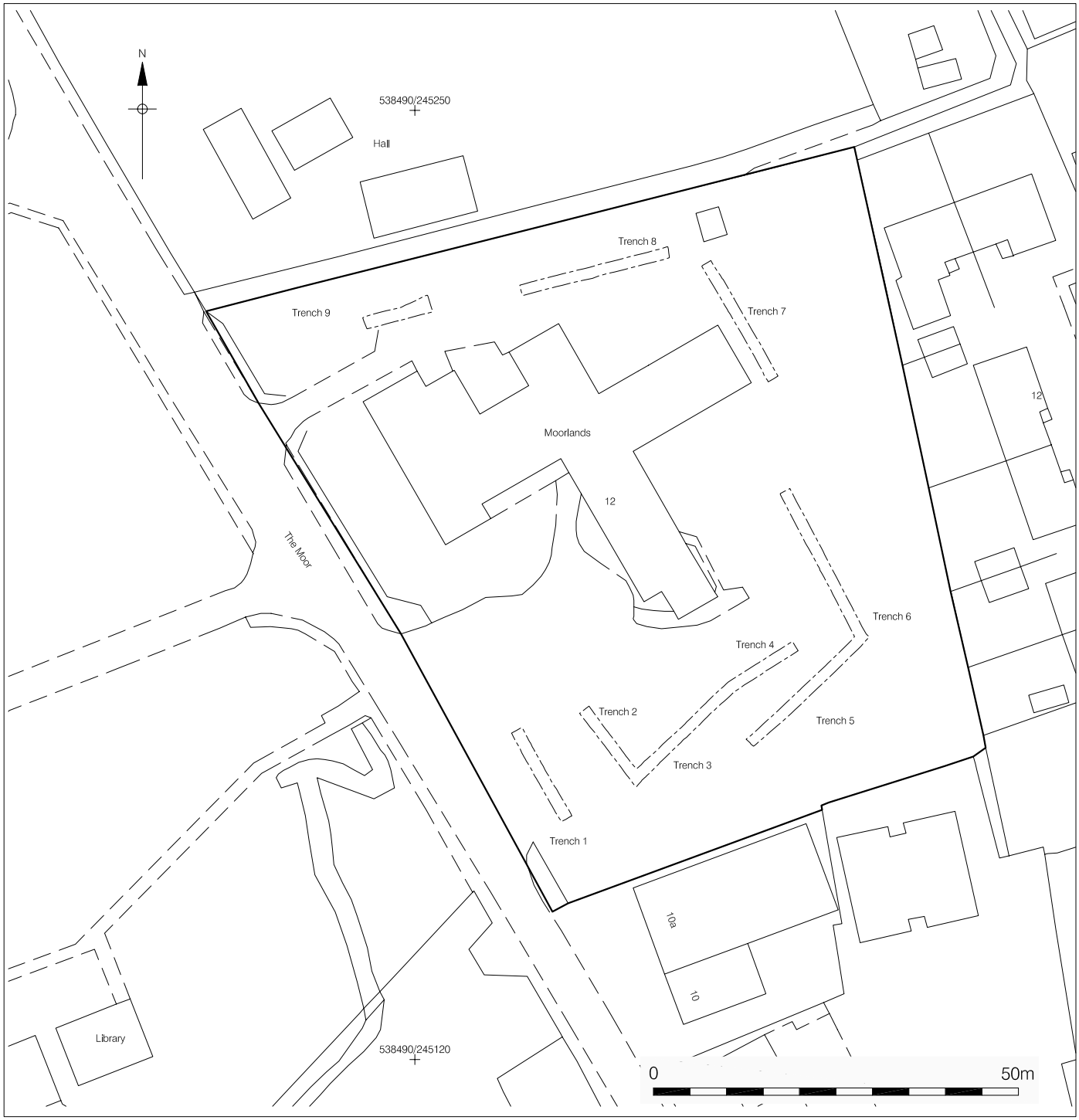


Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1,000

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 The site lays on relatively level ground with no noticeable topographical features, contemporary ground surface varying from a low of 20.87m OD in the north of the site rising to 21.50m OD in south. In the general vicinity, however, ground tends to gently slope down from the south to north, the southweastern extremities of Melbourn Village lying just above the 40.0m OD contour whilst the northern parts of the Village lie just above the 20.0m OD contour. The highest parts of Melbourn Parish consist of a series of hills with localized highpoints of 80.0m – 100.0m OD, located c.3km to the south of the Village centre.

2.3 Mill Stream, which becomes the River Mel, flows northwards through the western side of the Village, eventually confluencing with the River Rhee. A small stream channel, possibly incorporating remnants of the Lordship Farm moat, runs from the High Street towards the southwest corner of the site where it is culverted underground along the western and then the northern edge of the site, and there continues northwards to join the network of ditches that drain the lower-lying ground to the north of the Village.

2.4 Natural deposits in the vicinity consist of Cretaceous Lower Chalk. The natural as revealed in all Evaluation Trenches consisted of an undulating, redeposited and possibly soliflucted, chalk of a plastic consistency and containing occasional sandy lenses and a very high proportion of clay. Although chalk is characteristically pervious, the high clay content of the natural prevented easy drainage, resulting in patches of standing water and a general waterlogging of the site after heavy rain. Its upper surface was recorded as varying from 20.21m OD in Trench 8 to 20.64m OD in Trench 4.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The site lies on the northern edge of Melbourn Village, a Parish of c.1760 hectares that is located along the northern edges of a broad chalk belt that runs from the Chilterns to Norfolk. To the north of this is the Rhee Valley and the low-lying wetlands of the Fens, whilst to the south of the chalk lie less-tractable Claylands that form part of the Thames Basin.

3.1.2 The belt of chalk has long been thought of as providing an easily traversable route that links central southern Britain with East Anglia. A broad zone of parallel trackways, collectively known as the Icknield Way, incorporates Melbourn and appears to have been used from the prehistoric period. Ashwell Street, an important Roman and Saxon route, runs through the Village and one of the trackways of the Icknield Way, now formalized as the A505, constitutes the Parish's southern boundary. The modern Icknield Way Path runs through the southern extremities of Melbourn Parish Village.

3.1.3 The Parish is rich in archaeological remains, the majority of which lie on the higher ground to the south of the Village. To the north of the Village, the land may have been too low-lying and wet to favour permanent settlement. The majority of 'sites' in the Parish have been identified from aerial photographs and as they have yet to be investigated further, a certain degree of ambiguity exists as to their precise nature, dating and associations. Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the Parish include the Causewayed Enclosure and two ring ditches located c.140 m southeast of New Farm (Grid ref TL 36674232), an upstanding Bowl Barrow on Goffers Knoll (Grid ref TL39164244), the bowl barrow known as Grinnel Hill, located c.260 m southeast of Lodge Cottage (Grid ref. TL 37504366) and a bowl barrow located c.205 m southeast of Lodge Cottage (Grid ref. TL 37494372). Areas of Archaeological Interest include sites at Saxon Way (part of Back Lane industrial area) and the northern side of High Street at the moated site south of the River Mel.

3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 No Palaeolithic or Mesolithic findspots are noted within the Parish although artefacts from these periods are not uncommon in the wider region where they are perhaps concentrated within the larger river valleys such as along Cam to the east and the Rhee to the north.

3.2.2 Of potentially great importance is the possible Early Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure located to the south of the Village (NMR-368660: TL 3668 4235). This is

c.120m metres in diameter and consists of a series of ditch segments arranged as a circle. However, it has yet to be confirmed through excavation and other possibilities, such as a Later Neolithic henge or a Bronze Age enclosure, cannot be ruled out for this monument.

3.2.3 The most notable prehistoric features within the Parish consist of large numbers of Bronze Age barrows. Some were recorded during the 19th century as upstanding monuments, although nearly all have since been levelled by agricultural activity and most now have been identified through aerial photography. Around 50 are currently known, most lying between the southern edges of the Village and southern Parish boundary. They are thus located both on the highest and most imposing parts of landscape and close to the Icknield Way zone, which forms a focus for barrow construction along its route in southern Cambridgeshire (eg Malim 2001, fig 2.6). The number of barrows clearly indicates a strong funerary aspect to the landscape but evidence for associated settlement in the vicinity is less obvious. A number of undated enclosures and ditch systems to the south of the Village may indicate Bronze Age settlement and agricultural activity but, with the absence of excavation, this is hard to qualify. Excavated evidence is present within the Village at Water Lane where, during the investigation of a Saxon cemetery, a cluster of artefact-rich pits dating to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age were found close to a similarly dated barrow, and pits and five square/rectangular post-built structures of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date were also identified (Duncan *et al.* 2003). Neolithic/Early Bronze Age settlement evidence is typical ephemeral and frequently consists of little more than surface scatters of artefacts and occasional clusters of pits (Thomas 1996; 1999). The Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age evidence consisting of structures may indicate more-permanent settlement, although the excavators thought that the main focus here might have lain off-site (Duncan *et al.* 2003, 60). Scattered pits and ditches of probable prehistoric date have been revealed within the Village during recent excavations and, despite no major settlement foci having yet been found, suggest fairly intensive activity in the area (eg Poppy 2005; Poppy *et al*. 2006, 190)

3.2.4 There is no evidence of Iron Age settlement in the Parish although the curved ditch of a possible 'hillfort' is recorded in the southwestern part of the Parish (NMR ref 368602: TL 373 412) and a number of Iron Age square barrows have been recorded in the south of the Parish.

3.3 Roman

3.3.1 The major east-west route of the Roman Ashwell Street, itself having a possible prehistoric precursor, runs through the Village (Malim 1997). A possible Roman

settlement consisting of enclosures and a trackway is recorded as cropmarks c.2km to the east of the site (NMR ref 371178: TL 404 444) and a Roman coin hoard was found by a metal detectorist in the Village (NMR ref 1303392: TL 38 44). A rectangular soil-mark to the south of the possible settlement proved on excavation to be a ditch yielding Roman sherds (NMR ref 371110: TL 404 439), a rectangular ditched enclosure, visible as a cropmark, apparently associated with Roman potsherds, was located c.3km southeast of the site (NMR ref 371172: TL 409 433) and a further rectangular enclosure associated with finds of Roman date has been identified less the 1km to the west of the site (NMR ref 368418: TL 3913 4514). A Roman cremation cemetery, probably in use during the 1st and 2nd century is recorded in the southern part of the Village (NMR ref 368476: TL 39 45). Soil-marks associated with Romano-British pottery and iron slag have been recorded near the southern boundary of the Parish (NMR ref 368596: TL 389 418) and Roman pottery was recovered from the surface of two earlier barrows immediately to the south of the Village (NMR ref 368656: TL 389 439). To the west of the site at the Melbourn Village College recent excavations have revealed a Roman ditch and undated other features (Poppy 2005, 221).

3.4 Saxon

3.4.1 Important early Saxon cemeteries have been recorded in the vicinity of Saxon Way and Water Lane in the southern part of the Village during 1951-2 and 2000 (Duncan *et al.* 2003). No evidence of the settlement associated with the cemeteries have yet been found however.

3.5 Medieval and Post-Medieval

3.5.1 Melbourn is recorded as '*Meldeburna'* in AD 970 and as '*Melleburne'* in the Domesday Book (Mills 1998). The present village settlement may have developed along the ancient trackway of Ashwell Street and the springs at Melbourn Bury. It is thought to have coalesced from a series of manor houses and hamlets, possibly after the construction of the Royston to Cambridge Road during the 12th century. The nearest moated manor house is located at Lordship Farm on the corner of The Moor and the High Street. The Bury and Lordship Farms are on the sites of Bury and Argentines Manors, The Old Manor House in the High Street is the resited manor of Trayles and Caxton Manor was sited on the Moor. In the 11th century there were some 50-60 tenants in the Village, in 1377 this had risen to 323 poll-tax payers and by the 17th century Melbourn was referred to as a '*great towne'* of 125 houses (Duncan 2003).

3.5.2 The site itself appears to have been located at the edge of village and in agricultural use until the 19th century when it was developed into an orchard. The Moor area became built up in the 1900s and some substantial villas were built in the High Street. The first documented and archaeologically attested buildings constructed at the site consisted of the current Residential Care Home, built during the 1950s.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 The proposed development at the site includes the demolition of standing buildings and the new build of 35 extra care flats, five one-bedroom flats, six two-bedroom flats and eight three bedroom houses. Combined with necessary supporting infrastructure works, the development is likely to have an inverse impact upon any deposits of archaeological significance that may have been present at the site.

4.2 An archaeological Evaluation of the site was required because of policies contained within and in accordance with central government guidance on archaeology and planning (Planning Policy Guidance Notes 16: Archaeology and Planning), County and Local Development Plans.

4.3 National guidance for the need to archaeologically evaluate a site of potential archaeological significance prior to its development is given in Planning Policy Guidance Notes 16 Archaeology and Planning:

> *"The applicant should be required to undertake a field evaluation to establish the nature and complexity of the surviving archaeological deposits. This should be completed prior to a planning decision being made. This evaluation will enable due consideration to be given to the archaeological implications and may lead to proposals for mitigation of disturbance and/or the need for further investigation."*

4.4 Relevant guidance on archaeology and planning is given in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2: Adopted 2004. This states that South Cambridgeshire District Council recognizes that:

> *"Archaeological remains form a finite and non-renewable heritage which is part of our national identity. They are valued for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and tourism. It is essential that sites of archaeological interest are not needlessly destroyed or damaged*."
>
> *"Where it is considered by the District Council, following consultation with the*
> *County Development Control Archaeological Officer, that there may be archaeological potential in a site, the developer will be required to commission an archaeological evaluation to define the character and condition of any archaeological remains. Such an evaluation will include information on the character and depth of the deposits, and the impact of development upon those remains together with any mitigation measures to avoid unnecessary damage to archaeological remains."*
>
> *"Where the balance of the value of the site, against the benefits for the development leads to the granting of planning permission, the District Council is required by PPG 16 to seek the preservation by record of important remains which would otherwise be destroyed. This means the undertaking of an archaeological excavation at the expense of the developer. Conditions will be imposed on planning permissions to require developers to commission appropriate excavation and*

recording work, and to ensure that the visible historic features within, or adjacent to, developments are protected from their development. Where a development would affect sites of particular interest, the District Council will require the developer to enter into a planning obligation to ensure that there is appropriate and satisfactory provision for investigation, excavation, recording and publication of any archaeological remains within the site. Archaeological sites are part of the public heritage and the District Council will encourage, and in appropriate cases require, developers to make arrangements for public access and research."

4.5 This has been formalized into Policy EN15 which states that:

"The Council will protect, preserve and enhance known and suspected sites and features of archaeological importance, and their settings, by:

(a) requiring, in all cases involving proposed works at sites of known or potential archaeological interest, that an appropriate level of assessment and/or evaluation is carried out by a suitably qualified person so that the archaeological implications of any proposed development can be established; and

(b) refusing planning permission for development which would result in damage to sites and features of national archaeological importance, and their settings, including the Scheduled Ancient Monuments identified on the Proposals Map.

Where planning permission is granted for development on sites of archaeological interest, in-situ preservation of remains will be preferred. In all cases where this is not merited or is not feasible the Council will require that satisfactory provision is made for a programme of excavation and recording of remains by a suitable person or body prior to the commencement of any approved development."

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Specific Aims of the Fieldwork

5.1.1 The Brief for the archaeological evaluation work was written by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council. Its objectives are stated to be:

> *The evaluation should aim to determine, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied. Specific concerns include:*
>
> - *The amount of truncation to buried deposits.*
> - *The presence or absence of a palaeosol or 'B' horizon*
> - *The preservation of deposits within negative features.*
> - *Site formation processes generally*
> - *An assessment of the environmental potential of the site*
> - *An assessment of any artefactual or economic information*

5.1.2 The Method Statement was compiled by Chris Mayo of Pre-Construct Archaeology and details the methodology and recording systems to be employed, the treatment of finds and samples and the reports and archives that would be generated. It details Research Objectives to be addressed during the course of the evaluation. These comprise:

- *An understanding of the nature of the geological sequence at the site*
- *Assess the potential for prehistoric activity at the site*
- *Assess the potential for Roman activity at the site*
- *Assess the potential for Saxon/early Medieval activity at the site*
- *Assess the potential for mid-late Medieval activity at the site*
- *Assess the potential for Post-Medieval activity at the site*
- *Assess the degree that previous activity has impacted upon earlier remains and deposits*

5.2 Fieldwork Methodology

5.2.1 Nine Evaluation Trenches were excavated (Fig 2). Due to the presence of substantial quantities of contractor's plant at the site, the original designated locations for the trenches (Mayo 2006) were unavailable and the trenches were relocated elsewhere, although they were repositioned with full consideration of the need to provide representative coverage of the areas affected by the proposed development.

5.2.2 All services running through the site had the potential to be live, and a CAT scanner was therefore also used on all excavation locations. A live gas pipe and several ceramic water-runoff drainpipes were successfully avoided.

5.2.3 The Institute of Field Archaeologists *''Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations''* was observed in the production of the archaeological specification, the content of this report, and the general execution of the project.

5.2.4 Undifferentiated soil horizons were removed under archaeological supervision using a JCB-type mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The spoil generated was examined by hand for artefactual material.

5.2.5 Following machine clearance, all faces of the Trenches were cleaned and examined using appropriate hand tools. All investigation of the archaeological levels was by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording in both plan and section. With the exception of a few features obviously created by tree roots, all features were sample-excavated by hand and fully recorded with all artefactual and ecofactual material being retained for further analysis. Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were excavated as a contiguous trench, as were Trenches 5 and 6.

5.2.6 Recording on site was undertaken using the single context recording system as specified in the Museum of London Site Manual (Spence 1990). Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and full or representative sections at a scale of 1:10. Contexts were numbered sequentially and recorded on pro-forma context sheets. All Trenches were planned and representative sections drawn.

5.2.7 A photographic record was compiled, consisting of photographs in both black and white prints and colour slides.

5.2.8 Levels were taken on all features and contemporary ground level at the site, as transferred from the Ordnance Survey Bench Mark located on the corner of 2 Meadow Way on the Cambridge Road, which had a value of 23.08m OD.

5.2.9 On completion of the fieldwork, the Trenches were backfilled and reinstated.

5.2.10 The site was given the Unique Event Number ECB2452

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 Natural Deposits (Fig 5)

6.1.1 Natural deposits across the site were revealed in all trenches and consisted of an undulating, redeposited and possibly soliflucted, chalk of a plastic consistency and containing occasional sandy lenses and a very high proportion of clay. Although chalk is characteristically pervious, the high clay content of the natural prevented easy drainage, resulting in patches of standing water and a general waterlogging of the site after heavy rain. The highest and lowest recorded levels for this deposit is tabulated for each Trench in Table 1.

Trench No.	Context No.	Highest Recorded Surface Level (m OD)	Lowest Recorded Surface Level (m OD)
Trench 1	69	20.61	20.49
Trench 2	02	20.58	20.33
Trench 3	70	20.60	20.43
Trench 4	71	20.73	20.64
Trench 5	72	20.73	20.46
Trench 6	73	20.71	20.63
Trench 7	74	20.60	20.27
Trench 8	75	20.36	20.21
Trench 9	76	20.28	20.25

Table 1: Context numbers and highest and lowest recorded levels for natural deposits

6.2 Subsoil Features

6.2.1 A total of 29 sub-soil (negative) features were recorded and are detailed below by Trench number. These were all found cutting into the natural chalk deposits after the overlying soil horizons had been removed.

6.2.2 **Trench 1** (Fig 3)

6.2.2.1 Traversing through most of the central and southern parts of Trench 1 on an approximate north-south alignment was an amorphous and nebulous feature. It measured 8.26m north-south and varied in width from between 0.15m to over 1.50m, continuing west and east beyond the edges of the Trench. It was vaguely dendritic in plan and extremely irregular in profile, with sides ranging from gradual to vertical and, particularly along its eastern side, was steeply undercut [58]. In the slot that was excavated, its fill consisted of a moderately compacted mid brownish grey silt-clay containing occasional sandy, chalk gravel and flint pebble lenses [57]. There were no finds although the fill was very organic, becoming almost like a structureless peat. It had a highest recorded level of 20.61mOD and was recorded to a depth of up to 0.46m although in places was much shallower and, conversely, in places continued to a greater depth were it had undercut and 'burrowed' into the natural deposits. Upon

excavation, it quickly filled with ground water to a level of c.20.50mOD. This feature clearly was naturally formed, possibly as a soil-filled glacial or peri-glacial wedge, or perhaps as an extended tree-throw hollow.

6.2.2.2 Immediately to the east of [58] was a semi-circular feature measuring 1.25m north to south and 0.60m east-west, continuing east beyond the limits of excavation [60]. It had a highest recorded level of 20.56mOD and was a maximum of 30mm deep, being filled with a loosely compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt-clay containing occasional chalk gravel [59]. It has been interpreted as disturbance caused by roots.

6.2.3 **Trench 2** (sub-soil features described from north to south) (Fig 3)

6.2.3.1 The most northerly feature recorded in Trench 2 consisted of a shallow irregularly linear feature aligned north-south [04]. It measured at least 4.10m long, continuing north beyond the limits of excavation, was a maximum of 1.10m wide and had a highest recorded level of 20.48mOD. It was 0. 23m deep and filled with a moderately compacted light yellowish grey sandy silt-clay containing frequent chalk pebbles, moderate animal bone and occasional lenses of sand and sub-angular flint pebbles [03]. This is interpreted as part of a ditch or trench and probably continues to the south, as recorded as contexts [08] and [10] (see below).

6.2.3.2 To the south of [04] was an irregularly circular feature measuring c.1.20m in diameter and with a maximum-recorded level of 20.33mOD [06]. It was filled with a loosely compacted mid brownish grey highly organic sandy silt-clay containing frequent chalk gravel and pebbles and with a number of in situ roots present [05]. This remained unexcavated but is interpreted as a tree-throw hollow or a pit dug for planting a tree, which had subsequently become distorted through root growth.

6.2.3.3 In the southern part of Trench 2 was an oval or rectilinear feature with a highest recorded level of 20.44mOD [08]. It measured 0.90m north-south and 0.38m east-west but continued southwards and eastwards beyond the limits of excavation. It had gradual sides merging into a concave base and was a maximum of 50mm deep. It almost certainly continued southwards into Trench 3 were it became an irregular, roughly 'L' shaped, feature. This measured 1.60m from north to south but continuing in both directions beyond the limits of excavation, was 3.90m wide and had a highest recorded level of 20.45mOD [10]. This had gradually sloping sides merging in to a flat or gently concave base and was a maximum 0.12m deep. Both features [08] and [10] were filled with similar deposits to feature [03], comprising moderately compacted light yellowish grey sandy silt-clay containing frequent chalk pebbles, moderate animal bone and occasional lenses of sand and sub-angular flint pebbles, although small fragments of ceramic roof tile were present in [07] and [09].

6.2.3.4 The similar alignments and fills of features [03], [08] and [10] suggest that they may be related. They are interpreted as parts of the same ditch of trench that had been dug to, and slightly into, the top of the natural deposits. The high quantities of bone

present in these features suggests that this may have been deliberately dumped into the ditch or trench, possibly to aid drainage, to add fertilizer or perhaps a combination of both. The only dating recovered consisted of the roof tile, which would indicate a medieval or later date for the features. It is suggested that they may have been associated with attempts to provide drainage or improve the soil of the 19th century orchard, known from documentary sources to have occupied the site.

6.2.4 **Trench 3** (sub-soil features described from west to east) (Fig 3)

6.2.4.1 The most easterly feature in Trench 3 consisted of ditch [10], described above. To the east of this was a small roughly circular feature measuring 0.48m in diameter [12]. It had a highest recorded level of 20.53mOD and was filled with a loosely compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt-clay containing frequent in situ roots [11]. It was interpreted as either as pit dug for shrub/tree planting or disturbance caused by a tree or shrub, and was not excavated.

6.2.4.2 To the east of [12] was a linear or elongated feature that measured 1.60m north to south but continued beyond the limits of excavation in both directions and was 1.60m wide, although its eastern edge had clearly been heavily disturbed by an in situ root, and it is thought that its original width would have been nearer 0.80m [14]. It had a highest recorded level of 20.55mOD and was a maximum of 0.17m deep. It had gradually sloping sides merging into a concave base and was filled with a moderately compacted mid brownish grey slightly sandy silt-clay containing frequent chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional flint gravel and pebbles [13]. Due to the limits of excavation it is difficult to interpreter this feature; it may have represented a shallow north-south aligned ditch although it is also possible that it was caused by tree planting or disturbance from the removal of such.

6.2.4.3 To the east of [14] was a approximately sub-circular feature measuring 1.20m east-west, 0.62m north-south but continuing north beyond the limits of excavation, and had a highest recorded level of 20.56mOD [16]. It was filled with a loosely compacted mid brownish grey sandy silt-clay containing occasional chalk gravel and pebbles and a mass of in situ tree roots [15]. It was interpreted as either as pit dug for shrub/tree planting or disturbance caused by a tree or shrub and was not excavated.

6.2.4.4 To the east of [16] was an oval or north-south aligned linear feature [18]. It measured 1.40m in length but continued to the south beyond the limits of excavation, was a maximum of 1.35m wide and had a highest recorded level of 20.49mOD This had gently sloping sides to the west and slightly steeper sides to the east, a concave base and was a maximum of 0.20m deep. Its fill consisted of a moderately compacted light brownish grey sandy silt-clay containing occasional chalk gravel [17]. No finds were recovered although the fill had a high organic content. Due to the limits of excavation it is difficult to interpreter this feature; it may have represented a large pit or the

northern terminal of a ditch although it is also possible that it was caused by tree planting or disturbance from the removal of such.

6.2.5 **Trench 4** (sub-soil features described from west to east) (Fig 3)

6.2.5.1 The most easterly feature in Trench 4 consisted of an oval shaped pit with gradually sloping sides merging into a concave base [20]. It measured 0.80m north-south, 0.64m east-west and had a highest recorded level of 20.68mOD. It was cut to a depth of 20.62mOD and was filled with a moderately compacted light greyish brown sandy silt-clay containing occasional chalk gravel [19]. This feature is interpreted as a pit; no finds were recovered but it may have been dug for horticultural purposes, such as for shrub planting.

6.2.5.2 To the east of [20] was a semi-circular feature measuring 0.40m north-south but continuing to the south beyond the limits of excavation, at least 1.86m east-west and had a highest recorded level of 20.64mOD [24]. It was filled with a loosely compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt-clay containing frequent in situ roots and occasional chalk gravel, pebbles and cobbles [23]. It was interpreted as either as pit dug for shrub/tree planting or disturbance caused by a tree or shrub, and was not excavated.

6.2.5.3 The most westerly feature in Trench 4 was an oval shaped pit measuring 0.95m north-south but continuing north beyond the limits of excavation, 1.66m wide and with a highest recorded level of 20.66mOD [22]. It was a maximum of 0.16m deep with irregular but generally steep sides and an uneven but level base. It was filled with a moderately compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt-clay containing moderate chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional flint pebbles [21]. This feature is interpreted as a large pit, no finds were recovered but it may have been dug for horticultural purposes, such as for shrub or tree planting.

6.2.6 **Trench 5** (sub-soil features described from west to east) (Fig 3)

6.2.6.1 The most westerly feature in Trench 5 consisted of an irregularly shaped feature measuring a maximum of 1.27m east-west, 0.92m north-south and had a highest recorded level of 20.50mOD [26]. It was filled with a moderate to loosely compacted dark brownish grey silt-clay containing frequent roots and moderate chalk gravel and pebbles [25]. It was interpreted as disturbance caused by a tree or shrub, and was not excavated.

6.2.6.2 To the east of [26] was a semi-circular feature measuring 0.36m north-south but continuing to the south beyond the limits of excavation, 1.20m east-west and had a highest recorded level of 20.60mOD [28]. It had variable steep to gradually sloping sides, a concave base and was a maximum of 0.14m deep. It was filled with a moderate to firmly compacted mid brownish grey silt-clay containing occasional chalk and flint gravel and pebbles [27]. Due to the limits of excavation it is difficult to interpret this feature; it may have represented a pit or the northern terminal of a ditch,

although it is also possible that it was caused by tree planting or disturbance from the removal of such.

6.2.6.3 To the east of [28] was a northeast-southwest aligned linear feature measuring 3.02m in width and continuing both north and south beyond the limits of excavation [30]. It had a highest recorded level of 20.72mOD and had steep, slightly stepped sides and a flat base, which was recorded at 20.03mOD. It was filled with firmly compacted light grey gravel to boulder-sized fragments of hard chalk, some of which appeared to have been squared-off [29]. The cavities with the fill were filled with a mid grey silt-clay and occasional ceramic building fragments were present. A very similar feature, [40], was recorded to the north of this in Trench 7 which was on a similar but not exact alignment and was cut to a similar level. These have been interpreted as representing a large drainage ditch or channel, possibly associated with the 19th century use of the site as an orchard and possibly indicated on the OS map of 1890.

6.2.6.4 To the east of this and located in the eastern end of Trench 5 and southern end of Trench 6 was a feature measuring at least 1.58m in width and 3.90m in length, but continuing to the north, east and south beyond the limits of investigation [32]. It had a highest recorded level of 20.62mOD and was a maximum of 0.25m deep. Upon excavation it proved to consist of two parallel, northeast-southwest aligned, channels, the western being 0.14m deep and the eastern 0.25m deep. It was filled with a moderate to loosely compacted dark greyish brown silt-clay containing moderate roots and chalk gravel and pebbles [31]. Due to the limits of excavation it is difficult to interpret this feature; it may have represented a double-ditch or a recut ditch, although the quantities of roots present suggested the possibility that it was caused by disturbance from tree roots.

6.2.7 **Trench 6** (sub-soil features described from south to north) (Fig 3)

6.2.7.1 Feature [32] truncated an irregularly linear northwest-southeast aligned feature measuring 4.20m in length but continuing northwards beyond the limits of excavation, and varying from 0.25m wide in the south to at least 1.20m wide in the north [34]. It had a highest recorded level of 20.71mOD and was filled with a moderately compacted light brownish grey silt-clay containing moderate roots and chalk and flint gravel and pebbles [33]. This was interpreted as disturbance caused by a tree or shrub roots and was not excavated.

6.2.7.2 Feature [34] was truncated to the north by a north-south aligned linear feature that measured at least 3.60m in length by 0.60m wide, but continued west and south beyond the limits of excavation and had been truncated by the foundations of the recently demolished standing building to the north [36]. It had a highest recorded level of 20.63mOD, was a maximum of 0.12m deep and had very gradually sloping sides and an undulating base. It was filled with a moderate to loosely compacted mid brownish grey silt-clay containing moderate chalk gravel and occasional tree roots

[35]. This has been interpreted as a possible ditch although it may easily have been created through disturbance by tree roots, some of which were still present within the fill.

6.2.7.3 Truncating [36] to the north and continuing for 4.30m was a cut representing the dug-out foundations for the recently demolished standing building. The northern part of this truncated a semi-circular feature measuring 0.85m north-south by at least 0.37m east-west, being truncated to the west [38]. It had a highest recorded level of 20.48mOD, was a maximum of 70mm deep and had gradual sides merging into a concave base. It was filled with a moderate to firmly compacted mid brownish grey silt-clay [37]. It has been interpreted as either the base of a shallow pit, possibly associated with horticultural activity such as shrub planting.

6.2.7.4 To the north of [38] the remainder of Trench 6 had been heavily disturbed to below the surface of the natural deposits during the recent demolition of the standing building that formerly occupied the area. No deep archaeological features were observed and any shallow features would not have survived.

6.2.8 **Trench 7** (sub-soil features described from south to north) (Fig 4)

6.2.8.1 Cutting through much of the southern part of Trench 7 was a northeast-southwest aligned linear feature measuring approximately 3m in width [40], the uncertainty due to the oblique angle at which the feature crossed the trench and that its southern edge had been truncated by a modern service trench. It had a highest recorded level of 20.39mOD, had been cut to a lowest recorded level of 19.99mOD and had steep, slightly stepped sides and a flat base. It was filled with firmly compacted light grey gravel to boulder-sized fragments of hard chalk, some of which appeared to have been squared-off [39]. The cavities with the fill were filled with a mid grey silt-clay and occasional ceramic building fragments were present. A very similar feature, [30], was recorded to the south of this in Trench 5 which was on a similar but not exact alignment and which was cut to a very similar level. These have been interpreted as representing a large drainage ditch or channel, possibly associated with the 19th century use of the site as an orchard and possibly indicated on the OS map of 1890.

6.2.8.2 Immediately to the north and west of ditch [40] was a circular cut with vertical sides and a flat base measuring 0.47m in diameter and with a highest recorded level of 20.40mOD [42]. It was 0.15m deep and filled with moderate to firmly compacted light brownish grey silt-clay containing frequent chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional flint gravel and pebbles [41]. It has been interpreted as a posthole or a small shrub planting pit.

6.2.8.3 Immediately to the north of [42] was a southwest-northeast aligned linear feature with irregular edges and a shallow 'U' shaped profile [44]. It measured 2.10m southwest-northeast continuing to the south beyond the limits of excavation, varied in width from 0.90m to 1.20m and had a highest recorded level of 20.27mOD. It was a maximum of

90mm deep and filled with a moderately compacted light brownish grey silt-clay containing frequent chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional flint pebbles [43]. It is unclear whether this represents the base of a shallow ditch or disturbance from tree roots.

6.2.8.4 Feature [44] was truncated to the north by a straight-sides cut measuring 1.48m east-west by at least 0.60m north-south, but continuing east, west and north beyond the limits of excavation. It had shallow sides merging into a convex base, a highest recorded level of 20.29mOD and was 0.22m deep [46]. It was filled with a moderately compacted light brownish grey silt-clay containing frequent chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional flint pebbles [45]. Due to the limits of excavation, it is difficult to interpret this feature. It may represent the base of a shallow east-west aligned ditch, an irregularly sided large but shallow pit, or further disturbance caused by tree roots.

6.2.9 **Trench 8** (sub-soil features described in order from west to east) (Fig 4)

6.2.9.1 The most westerly feature in Trench 8 comprised a semi-circular cut measuring 1.30m east-west by 0.55m north south but continuing southwards beyond the limits of excavation [48]. It had a highest recorded level of 20.36mOD, was 0.13m deep and had gradual sides imperceptibly merging into a concave base. It was filled with a moderately compacted light brownish grey silt-clay containing moderate chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional flint pebbles [47]. It has been interpreted as a shallow pit, possibly used for tree/shrub planting.

6.2.9.2 To the north of [48] was an irregular, nebulous feature measuring 2.43m east-west, its eastern edge being cut by a modern service trench, and 0.80m north-south but continuing northwards beyond the limits of excavation [50]. It was a maximum of 0.12m deep with a highest recorded level of 20.25mOD, had irregular sides varying from vertical to gradual and an uneven base displaying many concavities caused by root penetration. It was filled with a loosely compacted dark brownish grey silt-clay containing moderate chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional roots and flint pebbles [49]. It has been interpreted as a tree-throw hollow or disturbance caused by tree roots.

6.2.9.3 In the eastern end of Trench 8 was an oval shaped feature measuring at least 2.50m east-west by 1.30m north-south, but continuing northwards beyond the limits of investigation [52]. It had a highest recorded level of 20.23mOD, very steep to vertical sides and a flat, slightly undulating base. It was up to 0.44m deep and filled with a moderately compacted light greyish brown silt-clay containing moderate chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional chalk boulders and flint pebbles [51]. It truncated to the west a sub-rectangular feature measuring at least 0.78m north-south but continuing northwards beyond the limits of excavation, 0.50m east-west to where it had been truncated [54]. It had a highest recorded level of 20.25mOD, was 0.28m deep and had vertical sides and a flat base. It with and filled with loosely compacted dark

greyish brown silt-clay containing frequent roots, moderate chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional ceramic building material fragments and flint pebbles [53]. Features [52] and [54] are interpreted as pits, [54] appears to have been dug for the purposes of shrub planting although the purpose of [52] is not clear.

6.2.10 **Trench 9** (Fig 4)

6.2.10.1 Only a single feature was present in Trench 9. This consisted of a roughly oval shaped feature measuring 1.20m east-west by 0.38m north-south with a highest recorded level of 20.28m [56]. It was at least 0.20m deep with a steep northern edge and a heavily undercut southern edge, the fill 'tunnelling' into and underneath the natural deposits. Its fill consisted of a moderately compacted light brownish grey silt-clay containing moderate chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional flint pebbles [55]. It is interpreted as disturbance caused by a large root penetrating the natural deposits.

6.3 Soil Horizons (Fig 5)

6.3.1 In all of the trenches the natural deposits were overlain by deposits of loosely compacted dark grey organic-rich sandy silt-clay containing frequent roots, chalk gravel and pebbles, and occasional chalk cobbles, flint pebbles and occasional ceramic building material fragments. The fragments of chalk became proportionally more common towards the base of the deposits. These have been interpreted as naturally formed, biologically reworked soil horizons. The dimensions and highest recorded levels for these deposits are tabulated for each Trench in Table 2. In the northern half of Trench 6 these deposits had been completely removed, probably recently during the demolition of the standing building that formerly occupied that area.

Trench No.	Context No.	Greatest Thickness (m)	Highest Recorded Level (m OD)
Trench 1	62	0.40	20.95
Trench 2	01	0.55	21.03
Trench 3	01	0.40	21.04
Trench 4	01	0.50	21.21
Trench 5	01	0.52	21.50
Trench 6	01	0.53	21.39
Trench 7	64	0.42	20.81
Trench 8	65	0.40	20.65
Trench 9	67	0.46	20.79

Table 2: Context numbers, thicknesses and highest recorded levels for topsoil deposits

6.4 'Made Ground' (Fig 5)

6.4.1 In Trenches 1, 7, 8 and 9 this deposit was overlain by mixed ceramic building material rubble containing fragments of metal, glass and plastic. In Trench 1 this

had presumably been deposited to raise and level the ground, whilst in Trenches 7, 8 and 9 this had been recently laid on a terram membrane to form a consolidation surface for the contractor's compound associated with the current redevelopment of the site. The dimensions and highest recorded levels for these deposits are tabulated for each Trench in Table 3.

Trench No.	Context No.	Greatest Thickness (m)	Highest Recorded Level (m OD)
Trench 1	61	0.43	21.36
Trench 7	63	0.20	21.03
Trench 8	66	0.26	20.87
Trench 9	68	0.15	20.94

Table 3: Context numbers, thicknesses and highest recorded levels for made ground/levelling deposits

Figure 3
Trenches 1-6
1:160

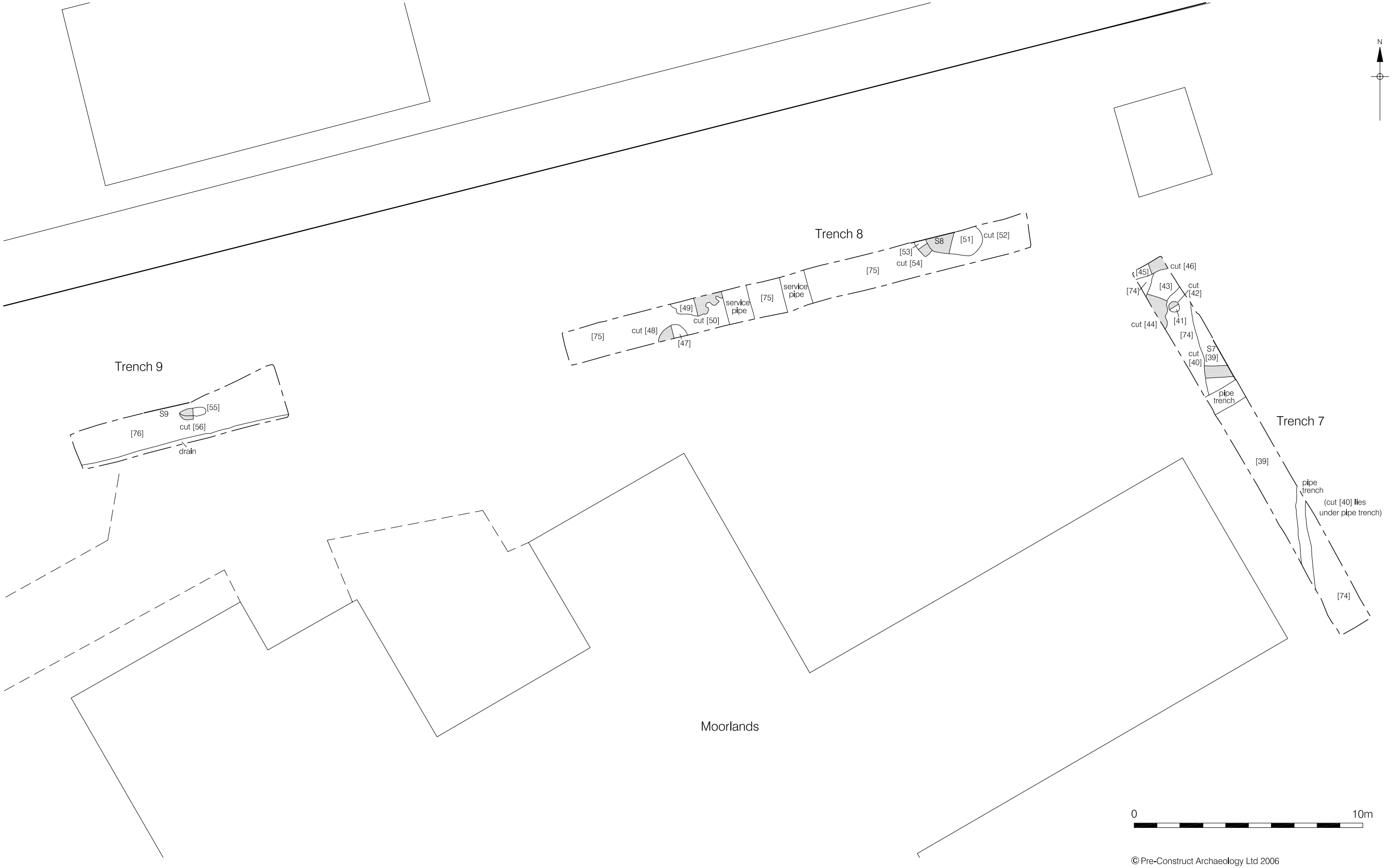
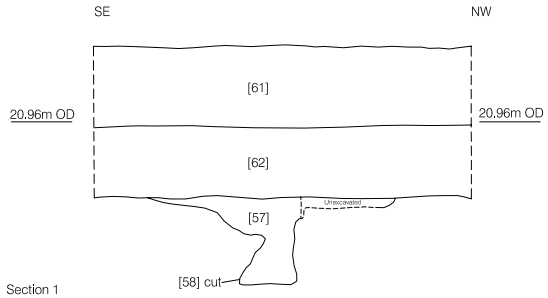
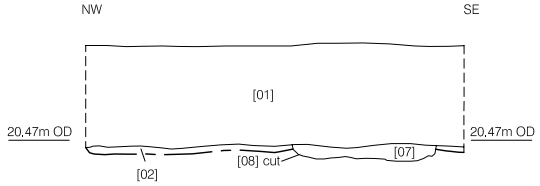


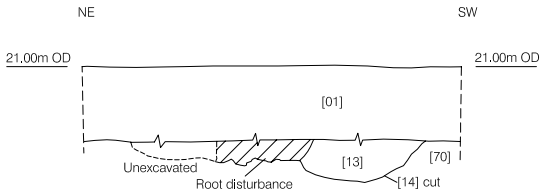
Figure 4
Trenches 7-9
1:160



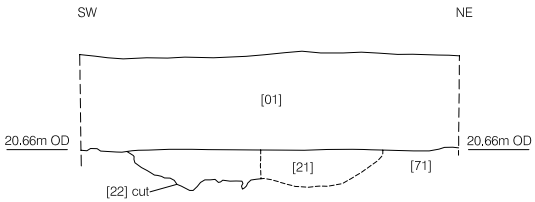
Section 1
Southeast facing
Trench 1



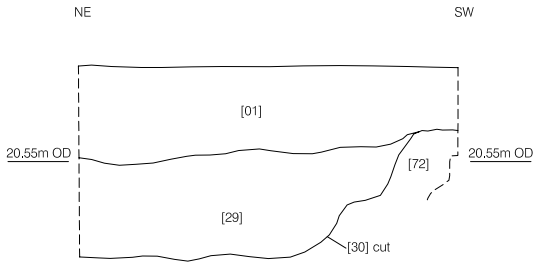
Section 2
Southwest facing
Trench 2



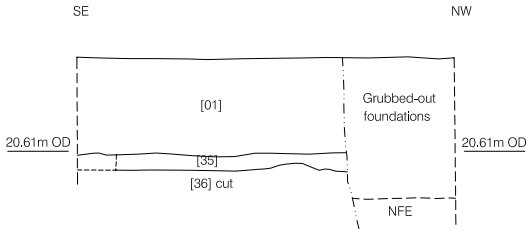
Section 3
Northwest facing
Trench 3



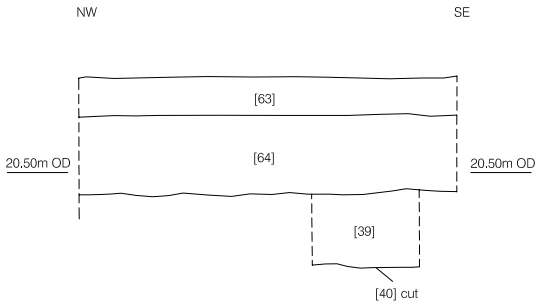
Section 4
Southeast facing
Trench 4



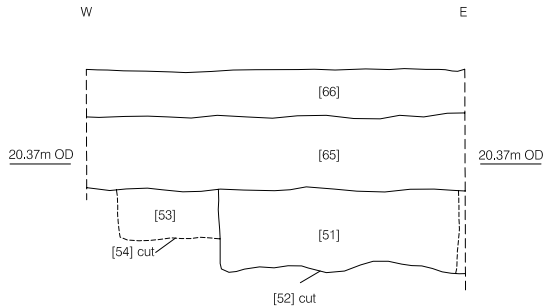
Section 5
Northwest facing
Trench 5



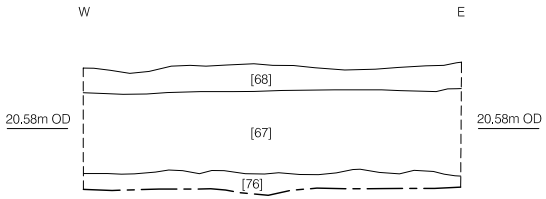
Section 6
Northeast facing
Trench 6



Section 7
Southwest facing
Trench 7



Section 8
South facing
Trench 8



Section 9
South facing
Trench 9

Figure 5
Sections 1-9
1:40

7 SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

7.1 Natural deposits were observed in all Trenches and consisted of glacially/peri-glacially reworked chalk.

7.2 Sub-soil features cutting natural deposits were recorded in all Trenches. A possible peri-glacial crack/ice-wedge was recorded in Trench 1.

7.3 Several features consisted of irregularly shaped shallow pits with ephemeral edges and which were clearly caused by trees or shrubs being up-rooted or disturbance caused by their roots to the underlying natural deposits.

7.4 A number of circular or oval pits were also recorded. These were typically shallow, measured between 0.80m and 1.80m maximum dimension and had diffuse irregular edges. Their fills frequently had a high organic content, they often contained high quantities of roots and it is thought that they may have represented pits that had been dug for tree and shrub planting, the edges of which had subsequently become obscured through the growth of the plant.

7.5 The most substantial feature recorded at the site consisted of a 3.00-3.50m wide steep sided ditch. This was recorded in Trenches 5 and 7, was aligned approximately north-south and appeared to traverse through much of the site. It was filled with large blocks of hard chalk, possibly building clunch, and contained occasional pieces of tile and unfrogged brick dateable to the 17th – 19th century. It is thought most likely to represent a drainage channel, possibly dug to drain the otherwise rather wet and waterlogged site when it was put into commercial use as an orchard during the 19th century. It possibly appears as a line traversing north-south through the site as shown on the Ordnance Survey County Map: Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely, dated 1890.

7.6 Also aligned north-south and recorded in Trenches 2 and 3 was a further ditch. This was much shallower, only intermittently cutting the surface of the natural chalk, and possibly terminated after a short east-west return. It contained a number of cattle long bones, vertebrae, ribs and a canine mandible, as well as a few fragments of ceramic tile similar to that found in ditch [30]/[40]. The presence of relatively high quantities of bone in the ditch suggests its deliberate deposition; it possibly represented an attempt to provide improved drainage and/or to increase the fertility of the land, and is thought most likely to be associated with the 19th century orchard.

7.7 In Trench 8 a relatively deep oval pit with steep to vertical sides was recorded. This also produced a few small tile fragments similar to the features described above. Although the function of this feature is uncertain, it is thought most likely to also be associated with the 19th century orchard. It truncated a shrub-planting pit. In Trench

7 was a steep sided circular pit that may have represented a posthole although no other structural elements could be associated with it.

7.8 Overall, all of the features identified are likely to be either natural or date to the Post-Medieval period. Most probably represent horticultural activity associated with the 19th century orchard and the gardens of the 1950s Residential Care Home. No features or artefactual evidence relating to earlier periods were identified, suggesting that the site was not a focus for intensive or prolonged activities that leave archaeological traces. It supports map regression evidence that indicates, for the historic period, the site lay beyond the main focus of settlement and was used primarily for agricultural activities.

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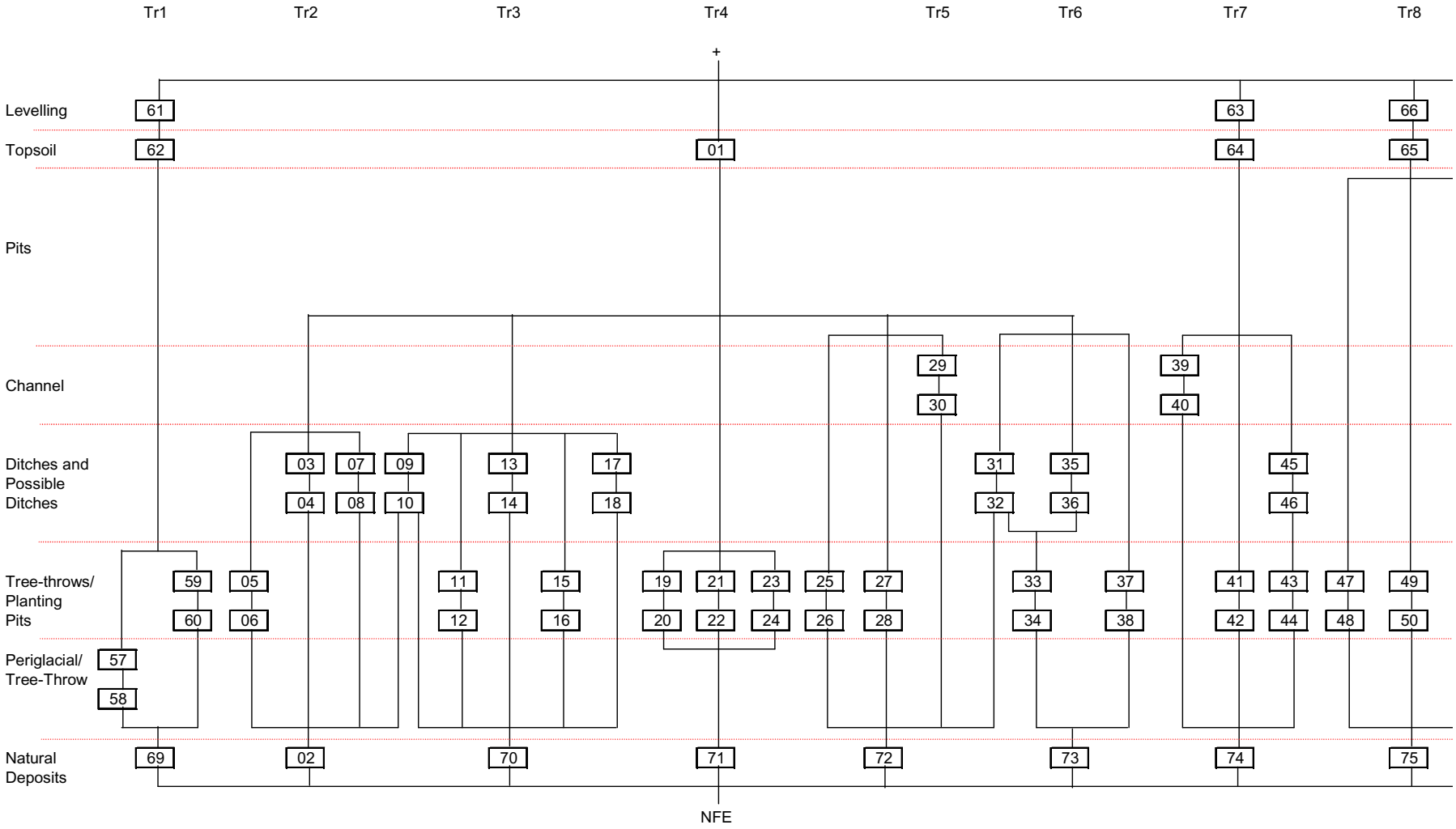
9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9.1 The author and Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Chris Leggett of ISG Jackson for commissioning and generously funding the project. Thanks are also due to Andy Thomas of Cambridge Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice who monitored the work on behalf of South Cambridgeshire District Council and who provided help and advice during the project.

9.2 The author would like to thank Chris Mayo for his project management and editing of this report. Finally, many thanks are due to Rik Archer for his hard work on site, Lisa Lonsdale for logistical support and to Jeremy Rogers and Josephine Brown who compiled the illustrations.

APPENDIX 1: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Layer	Loosely compacted dark grey organic-rich sandy silt-clay containing frequent roots, chalk gravel and pebbles, and occasional chalk cobbles, flint pebbles and occasional ceramic building material fragments	Topsoil horizon
02	2	Layer	Chalk of a plastic consistency and containing occasional sandy lenses and a very high proportion of clay	Natural Glacially Affected Chalk
03	2	Fill	Moderately compacted light yellowish grey sandy silt-clay containing frequent chalk pebbles, moderate animal bone and occasional lenses of sand and sub-angular flint pebbles	Fill of [04]
04	2	Cut	Irregularly linear aligned north-south with gradually sloping sides imperceptibly meeting a slightly concave base	Ditch, equivalent to [08], [10]
05	2	Fill	Loosely compacted mid brownish grey highly organic sandy silt-clay containing frequent chalk gravel and pebbles and with a number of *in situ* roots present	Fill of [06]
06	2	Cut	Irregularly circular with gradually sloping sides imperceptibly meeting a slightly concave base	Root disturbance
07	2	Fill	Moderately compacted light yellowish grey sandy silt-clay containing frequent chalk pebbles, moderate animal bone and occasional lenses of sand, sub-angular flint pebbles and ceramic roof tile	Fill of [08]
08	2	Cut	Oval or rectilinear with gradual sides merging into a concave base	Ditch equivalent to [04], [10]
09	3	Fill	Moderately compacted light yellowish grey sandy silt-clay containing frequent chalk pebbles, moderate animal bone and occasional lenses of sand, sub-angular flint pebbles and ceramic roof tile	Fill of [10]
10	3	Cut	Roughly 'L' shaped with gradually sloping sides merging in to a flat or gently concave base	Ditch equivalent to [04], [08]
11	3	Fill	Loosely compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt-clay containing frequent *in situ* roots	Fill of [12]
12	3	Cut	Roughly circular, not excavated	Root disturbance
13	3	Fill	Moderately compacted mid brownish grey slightly sandy silt-clay containing frequent chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional flint gravel and pebbles	Fill of [14]
14	3	Cut	linear or elongated with gradually sloping sides merging into a concave base	Ditch/root disturbance
15	3	Fill	Loosely compacted mid brownish grey sandy silt-clay containing occasional chalk gravel and pebbles and a mass of *in situ* tree roots	Fill of [16]
16	3	Cut	Sub-circular, not excavated	Root disturbance
17	3	Fill	Moderately compacted light brownish grey sandy silt-clay containing occasional chalk gravel	Fill of [18]
18	3	Cut	Oval shaped with gently sloping sides to the west and slightly steeper sides to the east and a concave base	Ditch terminal/root disturbance
19	4	Fill	Moderately compacted light greyish brown sandy silt-clay containing occasional chalk gravel	Fill of [20]
20	4	Cut	Oval shaped pit with gradually sloping sides merging into a concave base	Pit, possibly for shrub planting
21	5	Fill	Moderately compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt-clay containing moderate chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional flint pebbles	Fill of [22]
22	5	Cut	Oval shaped pit with irregular but generally steep sides and an uneven but level base	Pit, possibly for shrub planting

Context	Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
23	4	Fill	Loosely compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt-clay containing frequent *in situ* roots and occasional chalk gravel, pebbles and cobbles	Fill of [24]
24	4	Cut	Semi-circular, not excavated	Root disturbance
25	5	Fill	Moderate to loosely compacted dark brownish grey silt-clay containing frequent roots and moderate chalk gravel and pebbles	Fill of [26
26	5	Cut	Irregularly shaped feature, not excavated	Root disturbance
27	5	Fill	Moderate to firmly compacted mid brownish grey silt-clay containing occasional chalk and flint gravel and pebbles	Fill of [28]
28	5	Cut	Semi-circular with variable steep to gradually sloping sides and a concave base	Ditch terminal/Pit, possibly for shrub planting
29	5	Fill	Firmly compacted light grey gravel to boulder-sized fragments of hard chalk, the cavities filled with a mid grey silt-clay and occasional ceramic building fragments	Fill of [30]
30	5	Cut	Linear, northeast-southwest aligned with steep, slightly stepped sides and a flat base	Drainage Channel equivalent to [40]
31	5	Fill	Moderate to loosely compacted dark greyish brown silt-clay containing moderate roots and chalk gravel and pebbles	Fill of [32]
32	5	Cut	Linear northeast-southwest aligned with two parallel concave linear depressions	Ditch/root disturbance
33	6	Fill	Moderately compacted light brownish grey silt-clay containing moderate roots and chalk and flint gravel and pebbles	Fill of [34]
34	6	Cut	Linear northwest-southeast aligned, not excavated	Root disturbance
35	6	Fill	Moderate to loosely compacted mid brownish grey silt-clay containing moderate chalk gravel and occasional tree roots	Fill of [36]
36	6	Cut	Linear north-south aligned with very gradually sloping sides and an undulating base	Ditch/root disturbance
37	6	Fill	Moderate to firmly compacted mid brownish grey silt-clay	Fill of [38]
38	6	Cut	Semi-circular with had gradual sides merging into a concave base	Pit, possibly for shrub planting
39	7	Fill	Firmly compacted light grey gravel to boulder-sized fragments of hard chalk, the cavities filled with a mid grey silt-clay and occasional ceramic building fragments	Fill of [40]
40	7	Cut	Linear northeast-southwest aligned with steep, slightly stepped sides and a flat base	Drainage Channel equivalent to [30]
41	7	Fill	Moderate to firmly compacted light brownish grey silt-clay containing frequent chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional flint gravel and pebbles	Fill of [42]
42	7	Cut	Circular with vertical sides and a flat base	Posthole/small shrub planting pit.
43	7	Fill	Moderately compacted light brownish grey silt-clay containing frequent chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional flint pebbles	Fill of [44]
44	7	Cut	Linear southwest-northeast aligned with irregular edges and a shallow 'U' shaped profile	Ditch/root disturbance
45	7	Fill	Moderately compacted light brownish grey silt-clay containing frequent chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional flint pebbles	Fill of [46]
46	7	Cut	Straight-edged with shallow sides merging into a convex base	Ditch/Pit/ Root disturbance
47	8	Fill	Moderately compacted light brownish grey silt-clay containing moderate chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional flint pebbles	Fill of [48]
48	8	Cut	Semi-circular with gradual sides imperceptibly	Pit, possibly for

Context	Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			merging into a concave base	shrub planting
49	8	Fill	Loosely compacted dark brownish grey silt-clay containing moderate chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional roots and flint pebbles	Fill of [50]
50	8	Cut	Irregular, nebulous shaped with irregular sides varying from vertical to gradual and an uneven base displaying many concavities caused by root penetration	Tree-throw Hollow
51	8	Fill	Moderately compacted light greyish brown silt-clay containing moderate chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional chalk boulders and flint pebbles	Fill of [52]
52	8	Cut	Oval with very steep to vertical sides and a flat, slightly undulating base	Pit of unknown function
53	8	Fill	Loosely compacted dark greyish brown silt-clay containing frequent roots, moderate chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional ceramic building material fragments and flint pebbles	Fill of [54]
54	8	Cut	Sub-rectangular with vertical sides and a flat base	Pit, probably for shrub planting
55	9	Fill	Moderately compacted light brownish grey silt-clay containing moderate chalk gravel and pebbles and occasional flint pebbles	Fill of [56]
56	9	Cut	Roughly oval with a steep northern edge and a heavily undercut southern edge	Root disturbance
57	1	Fill	Moderately compacted mid brownish grey silt-clay containing occasional sandy, chalk gravel and flint pebble lenses	Fill of [58]
58	1	Cut	Dendritic in plan and extremely irregular in profile with sides ranging from gradual to vertical and, particularly along its eastern side, was steeply undercut	Glacial feature/tree-throw
59	1	Fill	Loosely compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt-clay containing occasional chalk gravel	Fill of [60]
60	1	Cut	Semi-circular with gradually sloping sides imperceptibly meeting a slightly concave base	Root disturbance
61	1	Layer	Mixed ceramic building material rubble containing fragments of metal, glass and plastic	Hardcore levelling
62	1	Layer	Loosely compacted dark grey organic-rich sandy silt-clay containing frequent roots, chalk gravel and pebbles, and occasional chalk cobbles, flint pebbles and occasional ceramic building material fragments	Topsoil horizon
63	7	Layer	Mixed ceramic building material rubble containing fragments of metal, glass and plastic	Hardcore levelling
64	7	Layer	Loosely compacted dark grey organic-rich sandy silt-clay containing frequent roots, chalk gravel and pebbles, and occasional chalk cobbles, flint pebbles and occasional ceramic building material fragments	Topsoil horizon
65	8	Layer	Loosely compacted dark grey organic-rich sandy silt-clay containing frequent roots, chalk gravel and pebbles, and occasional chalk cobbles, flint pebbles and occasional ceramic building material fragments	Topsoil horizon
66	8	Layer	Mixed ceramic building material rubble containing fragments of metal, glass and plastic	Hardcore levelling
67	9	Layer	Loosely compacted dark grey organic-rich sandy silt-clay containing frequent roots, chalk gravel and pebbles, and occasional chalk cobbles, flint pebbles and occasional ceramic building material fragments	Topsoil horizon
68	9	Layer	Mixed ceramic building material rubble containing fragments of metal, glass and plastic	Hardcore levelling
69	1	Layer	Chalk of a plastic consistency and containing occasional sandy lenses and a very high proportion	Natural Glacially Affected Chalk

Context	Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			of clay	
70	3	Layer	Chalk of a plastic consistency and containing occasional sandy lenses and a very high proportion of clay	Natural Glacially Affected Chalk
71	4	Layer	Chalk of a plastic consistency and containing occasional sandy lenses and a very high proportion of clay	Natural Glacially Affected Chalk
72	5	Layer	Chalk of a plastic consistency and containing occasional sandy lenses and a very high proportion of clay	Natural Glacially Affected Chalk
73	6	Layer	Chalk of a plastic consistency and containing occasional sandy lenses and a very high proportion of clay	Natural Glacially Affected Chalk
74	7	Layer	Chalk of a plastic consistency and containing occasional sandy lenses and a very high proportion of clay	Natural Glacially Affected Chalk
75	8	Layer	Chalk of a plastic consistency and containing occasional sandy lenses and a very high proportion of clay	Natural Glacially Affected Chalk
76	9	Layer	Chalk of a plastic consistency and containing occasional sandy lenses and a very high proportion of clay	Natural Glacially Affected Chalk

APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-21425

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at the Moorlands Residential Care Home, The Moor, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the Moorlands Residential Care Home, The Moor, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, centred at National Grid Reference TL 3852 4519. It was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology between the 27th November and the 1st December 2006. The project was commissioned by Chris Leggett of behalf of the developers, ISG Jackson Limited. The site is approximately trapezoidal shaped and comprises a two-storied building surrounded by substantial, partially wooded, gardens. It is located towards the northern edge of Melbourn village, c.15km southwest of the City of Cambridge, on level ground. Nine Evaluation Trenches were machine excavated in the areas affected by the proposed development. Natural deposits were identified in every trench. Twenty-nine features were identified, all cutting into the natural deposits. They consisted of naturally formed features, including tree-throws hollows/disturbance, undated pits and linear features and Post-Medieval pits, ditches and a possible drainage channel.
Project dates	Start: 27-11-2006 End: 01-12-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECB2452 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE MELBOURN Moorlands Residential Care Home, The Moor, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	SG8 6ED
Study area	300.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 3852 4519 52.0872670882 0.02198719887220 52 05 14 N 000 01 19 E Point
Height OD	Min: 20.21m Max: 20.73m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice

Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Barry Bishop
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	ISG Jackson Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images vector','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at the Moorlands Residential Care Home, The Moor, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Bishop, B
Date	2006
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 document

Entered by	Archivist (archive@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	18 December 2006

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