LAND AT THE BELLE, 61 NORTH END, BASSINGBOURN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:
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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Land at The Belle, 61 North End, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority:	**South Cambridgeshire District Council**
Planning Reference:	**S/0961/17/FL**
Central National Grid Reference:	**NGR TL 3296 4428**
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ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) was commissioned by Terra Nova Group Ltd to undertake a single trench archaeological evaluation at The Belle, 61 North End, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3296 4428). The proposed development is for two residential dwellings.

The single trench contained a foundation trench for a post medieval building. The building can be seen on the 1st Edition OS map, the foundation is likely to be for the rear wall of a small 18th century village cottage. No earlier archaeological remains or finds were recovered.

An important note should be made of the overlying geological deposits into which the trench was excavated. The deposits had the appearance of waterlain clays, suggesting the trench was within a wider geological feature or a former water course. The small size of the trench and the limitations of the small site made characterisation very difficult.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) was commissioned by Terra Nova Group Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation at The Belle, 61 North End, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3296 4428) in response to an archaeological brief written by Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET, Stewart 2018). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Kevin McHugh of PCA (McHugh 2018).

1.1.2 The proposed development is for two residential dwellings (Planning Reference S/0961/17/FL). A condition requiring archaeological investigation has been placed on the planning consent due to the high archaeological potential of the proposed development area. This is in line with National Planning Policy Framework 2018, Section 16 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'.

1.1.3 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.

1.1.4 The evaluation comprised a single 10m long trench, at machine bucket width (1.6m). The trench was boxed out at the southern end to avoid a large modern intrusion and the line of a storm drain (Figure 2).

1.1.5 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 stores.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The underlying geology is West Mellbury Marly Chalk Formation. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 94 to 101 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas. (BGS 2018). No superficial drift deposits are recorded.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site lies 4km South of the River Rhee and to the north-west of Royston, Hertfordshire. The site is approximately 30m Above Ordinance Datum (AOD). The surrounding area slopes downward from south to north.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1.1 The following archaeological background is taken from the Archaeological Brief (Gemma Stewart 2018) and the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) data provided with the brief.

3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 An Evaluation at the Causeway, Bassingbourn, 2009 (ECB3238) revealed possible prehistoric activity in the area, with a small quantity of prehistoric pottery recovered (Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age - 3000 BC to 1501 BC).

3.2.2 A metal detecting survey at Linear trackway, enclosure and multi-period finds, Well Head Field (MCB19213) recovered a prehistoric worked flint (Prehistoric - 500000 BC to 42 AD). Metal detecting in the area also uncovered a Bronze Age rapier (HER11494A).

3.2.3 Excavations at Bassingbourn Village College revealed a series of ditches orientated NNE - SSW, provisionally dated to the Iron Age, possibly representing shifting boundaries or several phases of a trackway (MCB17408).

3.3 Roman

3.3.1 Several spot finds of Roman artefacts have been recovered from the surrounding area. These include finds from metal detectorists and are: A Roman statuette (HER 03123), a coin of 1st/ 2nd Century (MCB15964), a coin and brooch (MCB15965) and a coin, brooch, strap fitting, key, buckle and armour hinge (HER 10530). These finds were recorded within 0.75 km of the site.

3.3.2 A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered during "Archaeology in your Backyard" event on 7/7/2007, having been found in the garden of 26 Guise Road, North End (MCB17647).

3.3.3 To the West of the site, aerial photography has recorded cropmarks depicting a possible enclosure, trackway and ditch of Early Iron Age to 5th Century Roman (MCB21155 and MCB22229).

3.4 Saxon

3.4.1 Bassingbourn is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as a large manor comprising 39 households. Large scale archaeological investigations 45m to the east of the site revealed four periods of activity. Identified as spanning the Saxon to Post-Medieval period (CB15039 ECB884, 1046, 2262). The investigations revealed three Saxon phases - early/middle Saxon ditches, pottery and possible structures, two phases of Saxo-Norman domestic occupation associated with major changes in ditch layouts, and an area of pits. The excavations confirm a late Saxon origin for the village, including land divisions surviving to this day (HER 09912).

3.4.2 Excavations at Bassingbourn Village College, at the southern edge of the village, in 2007 revealed, a sunken-featured building in the NW corner of the site (MCB18142). The building was orientated N to S, had a length of 5.5m and a probable width of approximately 3m, with opposing postholes in the middle of each short site. Its two fills contained no datable finds, although the uppermost fill was cut by a pit containing Early to Middle Saxon pottery and fragments of animal bone, many showing evidence of butchery. A circular pit of contemporary date, possibly used as a well, lay to the east of the structure.

3.4.3 Other spot finds of suggested Saxon date have been recorded within 0.75 km of the site, including a fragment of a Cruciform Brooch (HER11494B). Two coins of Middle Saxon date (651 AD - 851AD) were recovered by metal detectorists (MCB15965 and HER07710).

3.5 Medieval

3.5.1 In the medieval period, Bassingbourn was a dispersed settlement comprising several 'Ends', including North End, South End, Church End and Shadbury End. The proposed development site lies in Church End, c.210m north of the 14th century church of Saint Peter and Paul (HER 03191).

3.5.2 Church End contains a large medieval moated site (HER 01237, DCB333), 45m south-east of the proposed development site. The Bury Yard moated site is situated immediately to the south and west of Mill Lane. The monument includes a roughly D-shaped outer ditched enclosure within which is situated a

rectangular moat. The moat is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1019040).

3.5.3 240m south-east of the site, there was a further rectangular moat (HER 01238) around the 14th century church of Saint Peter and Paul (HER 03191), its churchyard and rectory. The surviving remains of the moat are the northern side 300ft long, the western side (to the NW corner of the churchyard) 200ft long, and the eastern side 350ft long. The southern side disappeared under the Manor Farm. The moat is damp, shallow, and averages 30ft in width. An earlier church prior to Saint Peter and Paul may have stood farther to the east, and well within the moat, which may have been partly filled when the 13th century church was built (HER 01238).

3.5.4 The deserted medieval settlement of Shadborough is located 700m to the north-west of the site (HER 08146). Later called Shadbury End, the settlement here was first mentioned in 1549. John Layer wrote during the C17 that "aunciently there was a high castell (here) ye ruines and monuments remayning to this day".

3.5.5 A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered during "Archaeology in your Backyard" event on 7/7/2007, having been found in the garden of 26 Guise Road, North End (MCB17647). During this event at 90 North End two medieval coins were also discovered (MCB17648).

3.5.6 Excavations of medieval ditches at Back Orchard (CB15579, ECB107) uncovered a series of boundaries dividing up various plots of land in the outlying parts of medieval or post-medieval Bassingbourn. The ditches most likely indicate the location of the north-eastern limits of the medieval or post-medieval village.

3.6 Post-Medieval

3.6.1 The "Archaeology in your Backyard" (MCB17647) event on 7/7/2007, uncovered a single sherd of post-medieval pottery, having been found in the garden of 26 Guise Road, North End. Excavations at Bassingbourn Village College (ECB2553) uncovered post-medieval boundary ditches.

3.6.2 Cartographic evidence shows that the building that is now The Belle Freehouse,

was first shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1886. The same map shows a row of small cottages along the North End street frontage of the proposed development site in the area that is now the car park. These were demolished in the mid- 20th century. Throughout the 19th and 20th century the land directly north of the proposed development site was green fields. The afore mentioned vicarage has dominated land use to the southwest of the site.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 The evaluation comprised a single 10m long trench, at machine bucket width (1.6m). The trench was boxed out at the southern end. The trench was parallel to the adjacent road, North End.

4.2 Excavation methodology

4.2.1 Ground reduction during the evaluation was carried out using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator (Plate 1 and 2). Car park material and other overburden of low archaeological value was removed in spits. Features and deposits encountered at this level were cleaned and recorded prior to further machine excavation to sterile undisturbed deposits. A test pit was machine excavated midway within the trench to investigate deeper deposits. Ground water was encountered approximately 1.1m below the surface (26.66m AOD). The trench was initially shifted to the east, resulting in the trench widening at the southern end. The trench was shifted to avoid a large storm drain and an extensive modern pit, Pit [109]. The modern pit was partly removed by machine, the modern pit was not bottomed.

4.3 Recording and Finds Recovery

4.3.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

4.3.2 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. 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]. Where more than one slot was excavated through an individual feature, each intervention was assigned additional numbers for the cutting event and for the deposits it contained (these deposits

within cut features being referred to here as 'fills'). The record numbers assigned to cuts, deposits and groups are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits excavated 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.

4.3.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the machine stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector periodically. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.

4.3.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits and were used to keep a record of the excavation process. In addition, monochrome photographs were taken of significant features.

4.4 Sampling Strategy

4.4.1 Deposits were photographed and recorded by section drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20). Features and deposits recorded as part of the GPS survey and noted on the relevant context sheets.

4.5 Environmental Sampling

4.5.1 No suitable deposits were identified for environmental sampling.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1.1 Following transfer of title, the archive will be deposited with Cambridge Archaeological Stores. A digital copy of the report will be filed with the Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER).

5.2 Paper Archive

Context register sheets	1
Context sheets	13
Plan registers	1
Plans at 1:50	0
Plans at 1:20	0
Plans at 1:10	0
Plans at 1:5	0
Section register sheets	1
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	2
Trench record sheets	1
Photo register sheets	1
Small finds register sheets	0
Environmental register sheets	0

5.3 Digital Archive

Digital photos	61
GPS survey files	1
Digital plans	1
GIS project	0
Access database	1

5.4 Physical Archive

Struck flint	0
Burnt flint	0
Pottery	29 (1357g)
Clay Pipe	2 (15g)
Ceramic building material (CBM)	8 (7800g)
Glass	1 (264g)
Briquetage	0
Small Finds	0
Slag	0
Animal bone	0
Shell	0
Environmental bulk samples	0
Environmental bulk samples (10 litre buckets)	0
Monolith samples	0
Other samples (specify)	0

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS BY TRENCH

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The trench is described below, technical data for the trench is tabulated in Appendix 2.

6.2 Trench 1

6.2.1 The trench contained a sequence of silty clay deposits (Figure 2), it was unclear or hard to identify if a true 'natural' geological deposit was encountered. The earliest deposit in the trench consisted of a light blueish grey, silty clay (108) (Plates 2 and 3). The deposit was sterile and homogeneous, with the appearance of a waterlain formation (Plate 3). The material appeared banded, the horizons or changes through the deposit were however imperceptible or highly diffuse. Generally, the layer was lighter and increasingly sterile with greater depth. A machine slot was excavated into the material to a depth 1.5m below the surface (26.26m AOD); although it did not appear to be the base of the deposit, it was considered sufficiently sterile to not continue. Various site conditions also made further excavation increasingly difficult, such as the overall depth, the high-water table and the availability of space on site.

6.2.2 Overlying Layer (108) was a mixed layer of similar material, Layer (112). The layer was a mid blueish grey, silty clay, but contained a higher frequency of small chalk patches, small pebbles, grit, occasional small CBM fragments and occasional charcoal flecks (Plate 3). It measured 0.15m in thickness and appeared to be an interface between the highly mixed overriding layers and the cleaner underlying material.

6.2.3 Layer (112) was cut by a foundation trench, Construction Cut [104] (Figure 2, Plate 1). The foundation trench contained a rough partially coursed rubble backfill. A light bluish grey clay had been used as a form of bonding material. Most of the foundation material ([103]) was made up of roughly hewn clunch blocks (see Plate 4) and flint nodules, occasional other stone types were present, as well as a mixture of ceramic building material fragments (see below, section 6.4). In addition to a construction cut fill (105), which contained fragments of late 19th - early 20th century pottery and post-medieval brick (see

Jarrett and Hayward below), three further fills were potentially within the wall cut or levelling associated with it (106), (107) and (111).

6.2.4 The wall foundations were sealed by demolition material or made ground (102). Modern overburden and car park construction materials formed the remainder of the sequence (101) and (100).

6.2.5 A large modern truncation was seen in the southern end of the trench. Pit [109] was excavated by machine (not bottomed) and the trench was adjusted to avoid the feature, the full extent and shape of the feature was not seen. Pit fill (110) contained several fragments of late 19th - early 20th century pottery and a complete soda glass bottle (see Jarett below).

7 THE FINDS

7.1 Pottery

Chris Jarrett

Introduction

7.1.1 A total of 19 sherds/5 estimated number of vessels (ENV)/726g of post-Roman pottery were recovered from the archaeological work, of which, none was unstratified. The pottery dates to the late 19th-early 20th century. The pottery is in a very fragmentary state, although most sherds could be assigned to a vessel type and one vessel has a complete profile. The pottery shows little evidence of abrasion, although two vessels of the same pottery type are either laminated or have a pockmarked surface: this is possibly resultant from horticultural processes or frost-damage. The pottery appears to have been mostly deposited under secondary conditions. The assemblage was quantified by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight. Pottery was recovered from two contexts as small sized groups (fewer than 30 sherds).

7.1.2 The pottery was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20) and recorded in a database format file by fabric, form and decoration. The pottery types have been classified according to the coding system used by the Museum of London (2014): no official coding system exists for the later pottery types in the Cambridgeshire area. The pottery is discussed as an index.

Cut	Context	Fabric	Code	Form	Decoration	SC	ENV	Weight	Spot Date
104	105	DERBS	DERBS	JAR BUNG	RLC	9	1	611	L19-E20 C
104	105	TPW3	TPW3	SAUC	GEO	1	1	20	L19-E20 C
109	110	YELL SLIP	YELL SLIP	BOWL DRN	WSCL	2	1	33	L19-E20 C
109	110	TPW	TPW	PLATE DIN	WLL	6	1	49	L19-E20 C
109	110	TPW	TPW	BOWL MRN	GEO	1	1	13	L19-E20 C
Total	-	-	-	-	-	29	7	1357	-

Pottery Catalogue (SC = Sherd Count, ENV = Estimated Number of Vessels)

Index

Fill [105], Cut (104), spot date: late 19th – early 20th century

7.1.3 Derbyshire stoneware (DERBS), 1800–1900, 9 sherds, 1 ENV, 611g, form: bunghole jar. Part of the neck, angled shoulder, rounded body and base with part of a bung hole. The shoulder has moulded decoration single horizontal bands of wavy lines sandwiching a moulded bead border, lathed horizontal bands, which is repeated at the base of the vessel.

7.1.4 Refined whiteware with under-glaze black transfer-printed decoration (TPW3), 1810–1900+, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 20g, form: saucer. Complete profile, foot ring. On the internal edge of the rim is a black geometrical border consisting of a thick and thin line and a concertina band, above a line and a border of repeating small triangles formed of vertical lines. Heavily pockmarked surfaces.

Total: 10 sherds, 2 ENV, 631g

Fill [110], Cut [109], spot date: late 19th – early 20th century

7.1.5 Refined whiteware with under-glaze blue transfer-printed decoration (TPW), 1780–1900+, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 13g, form: bowl, medium rounded. Body sherd, external border of multiple straight and zigzag lines and a possible hexagonal border. Internal possible landscape design. A late 19th-20th century design

7.1.6 Refined whiteware with under-glaze blue transfer-printed decoration (TPW), 1780–1900+, 6 sherds, 1 ENV, 49g, form: dinner plate. Complete profile and with a recessed base underside. Decorated with the Willow pattern, dated c. 1789 onwards. Heavily pockmarked surfaces.

7.1.7 Yellow Ware with slip decoration (YELL SLIP), late18th-19th century, mainly dated to after 1820, 2 sherds, 1 ENV, 33g, form: bowl, deep rounded/mixing bowl. Body sherd, externally moulded, internal white slip, internal and external glaze.

Total: 9 sherds, 3 ENV, 95g

Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

7.1.8 The assemblage is of little significance and consists of fragmentary material with little meaning, the pottery types have a national ceramic profile, i.e. the

pottery types consist of wares made on an industrial scale and at such locations as The Potteries, Staffordshire, which were traded across Britain. The assemblage, however, does contain the Derby stoneware bunghole jar/cistern, which was used probably for the storage and serving of alcohol and this is an unusual find in this ware for South-East England. This vessel may very well have been associated with a drinking establishment and it is possible that the item was derived from The Pear Tree public house (the predecessor of The Belle and the location of the study area), North End. It is uncertain, however, of the history of the Pear Tree and whether it is contemporary with the 19th-century bung-hole jar. The Pear Tree cannot be identified on 19th-century OS maps, although there are four beer retailers listed at North End in a 1896 directory (Kelly 1896, 21, <http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4/id/ 54473>). Alternatively, it is possible that the vessel was derived from a domestic household. The pottery has only the potential to date the deposits it was recovered from. As the assemblage consists of such a small quantity of pottery, then there are no recommendations for further work on the material.

7.2 Glass

Chris Jarrett

7.2.1 The glass assemblage consists of a single, intact (264g) clear soda glass bottle made in a two-part Rickett's-type mould. The bottle is 202mm tall and has an applied double ring rim finish (23mm in diameter), a cigar-shaped neck, a rounded shoulder and a cylindrical-section wall. The base has a diameter of 51mm and the concave underside is embossed '199'. The bottle was found in Fill [110], Cut [109]) and dates to the end of the 19th-20th century and was most likely to have been a container for a soft drink, although it may have contained another food or drink product.

7.2.2 The glass bottle has no significance as it occurs on its own and has little meaning. The only potential of the bottle is to date the context it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the bottle.

7.3 Clay Pipe

Chris Jarrett

7.3.1 The assemblage consists of only two stems found in a single context (Fill [105], Cut [104]). The stems are thin and the bores are fine and are most likely to be of a 19th-century date.

7.3.2 The material is of no significance as it has little meaning. The only potential of the stems is to broadly date the context they were recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the items.

7.4 Ceramic Building Material

Dr Kevin Hayward

Introduction and Aims

7.4.1 Four bags of sampled brick and stone were retained from the evaluation.

7.4.2 This small assemblage (8 examples 7800g) was assessed in order to:

-From the fabric and form, provide a list of spot dates of the fill (105) of wall [104]

-The database for this site is ECB554718bm.accdb for the stone and tile

-Identify the geological character and source of any worked stone.

-Made recommendations for further study.

Methodology

7.4.3 The application of a 1kg masons hammer and sharp chisel to each example was undertaken at PCA Central Offices ensured that a small fresh fabric surface was exposed. The fabric was examined at x20 magnification using a long arm stereomicroscope or hand lens (Gowland x10). Photographs, measurements and weights of the brick were taken at PCA Central Office.

7.4.4 As there was no Cambridgeshire ceramic building material fabric reference collection housed at PCA each new tile fabric from this site was prefixed by BEL followed by 1, 2, 3 etc. thus BEL1; BEL2.

Ceramic Building Material 8 examples 7800g

Post Medieval Brick 7 examples 7600g

7.4.5 Almost the entire assemblage consists of different types of later post medieval

brick. These are used in single fill [105] of the rear foundation wall [104] of a post medieval building, identified provisionally as a small 18th century village cottage.

-BAS1 Very fine highly calcareous pale yellow Gault or Kimmeridge clay fabric with highly dispersed small rose quartz (1700-1900) Source Gault or Kimmeridge Clay

-BAS1a Very fine calcareous bright yellow Gault or Kimmeridge clay fabric with highly dispersed small rose quartz (1700-1900) Source Gault or Kimmeridge Clay

-BAS2 Loose red sandy fabric with inclusions of dispersed red iron oxide (1600-1900) Source Local Glacial Clay

-BAS3 Fine Pink and white silty marbly fabric – Either mixing red and white clays or more probably variations in the calcareous Gault or Kimmeridge Clays. (1800-1900)

7.4.6 The brick assemblage is dominated by yellow paving bricks or “White Pavers” made out of locally exploited highly calcareous clays from the underlying Gault or Kimmeridge (Fabrics BAS1; BAS1a; BAS3). It has not been possible to assign an exact source, because both Upper Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay and Lower Cretaceous Gault Clay are highly calcareous and produce the same types of yellow and pink clay. However it is believed that the Kimmeridge Clay was used more widely in Cambridgeshire (Firman 1998). These White Pavers are particularly common in the flooring of 19th century buildings throughout East Anglia (Ryan 1996). They are typically 35-40mm, with some thicker 50mm variants.

7.4.7 Made from the same type of calcareous clay (BAS1) is a complete vent brick with 24 circular holes. These vent bricks are frequently located at the foot of a brick building as a means of circulating air and there use only begins from the 19th century.

7.4.8 Finally, a red paving brick (50mm thick) fabric BAS2 was made from a local glacial clays. This brick may relate to the 18th century cottage, as these smaller more opportunistic brick pits predate the much larger centralised Gault and

Kimmeridge Clays.

Roofing Material 1 example 200g

-BAS1 Very fine highly calcareous pale yellow Gault or Kimmeridge clay fabric with highly dispersed small rose quartz (1700-1900)

7.4.9 The fashion for using curved, nibbed pan tile as roofing is a feature of the skyline of many towns in southern and eastern England from 1630 to 1900. The tradition is especially prominent in East Anglia, most notably Cambridgeshire, where the use of the yellow Gault clay is especially prominent in later 18th to 19th century roofing e.g. West's Garage Cambridge (Hayward 2017).

Context	Fabric	Material	Size	Date range of material	Latest dated material	Spot date
105	BAS1; BAS1a; BAS2; BAS3	Yellow and Pink Gault or Kimmeridge Vent Brick, White Pavers, Red Paving Brick and a yellow Gault/Kimmeridge Pan Tile	9	1600-1900	1800-1900	1800-1900

C.B.M inventory

Recommendations and Potential

7.4.10 A review of this small ceramic building material assemblage relating to a brick foundation of an 18th century village cottage at the Belle, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire is dominated by Yellow and Pink paving and vent bricks. These were locally exploited mainly from the Upper Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous clays of the Kimmeridge and Gault respectively (Firman 1998). Yellow and white paving bricks were widely used in the 19th century throughout East Anglia (Ryan 1996). Vent bricks also first begin to be used at this time.

7.4.11 Much of the foundation and paving brick seems to relate to later repairs, post dating the original 18th century foundation of the village cottage. The only exception is a red sandy paving brick (BAS 2) made out of local glacial clays, which may relate to the original construction. These smaller more opportunistic glacial pits were more widely exploited early on.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1.1 The potential for structures of post medieval date had been identified prior to the evaluation. It appears likely, due to the alignment and location of the wall footings, that the foundations seen in this evaluation relate to the back wall of a property onto the road frontage of North End. The property may perhaps be characterised as a small village cottage. The footings were substantial for a small rural cottage and contained large clunch blocks and stones, this might be an indication of a second or half storey to the structure. It may also have been a necessity of the poor ground into which the footings had been dug, further discussed below. Similar structures have been archaeologically investigated at Little End, Eaton Socon. The character of the structure, both within a similar 'village end' setting and a contemporary date range was seen (House, 2016). The site showed similar approaches in construction with the sourcing of mixed materials and crudely constructed cottages to accommodate agricultural workers, finding roadside space at the village periphery. Coincidently, in the case of Little End, Eaton Socon, the cottages were also adjacent to a Public House.

8.1.2 An important note should be made of the underlying geological deposits into which the trench was excavated. The deposits had the appearance of waterlain silty-clays, suggesting the trench was within a wider geological feature or a former water course. Many waterways and channels are present in the site vicinity, in particular the Bury Yard moated site southeast from the site (NHLE 1019040). It is possible the ground encountered is a result of these large-scale works, possibly reclaimed marsh. The small size of the trench and the limitations of the small site made characterisation very difficult.

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1.1 The single trench contained a foundation trench for a post medieval building. The building can be seen on the 1st Edition 1886 OS map, the foundation is likely to be for the rear wall of a small 18th century village cottage (Figure 3). The cottage was likely to be accommodation for agriculture workers. No earlier archaeological remains or finds were recovered.

9.1.2 Various modern intrusions were present on the site, two large drains and a large waste disposal pit, the extent of which was not fully ascertained. These features impacted heavily on the surviving remains.

9.1.3 It is probable the unexpected substrate within the trench relates to a geological phenomenon. No evidence was seen for archaeological relevance, however full investigation was not possible or justified. It was considered by the author and should be highlighted that the potential for archaeological information may exist, possibly to a much greater depth.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Terra Nova Group Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. PCA are also grateful to Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for monitoring the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. The project was managed for PCA by Christiane Meckseper and was supervised by Jonathan House. The author would like to thank Matthew 'Haystacks' Jones for his work on the site. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Rosie Scales of PCA's CAD Department.

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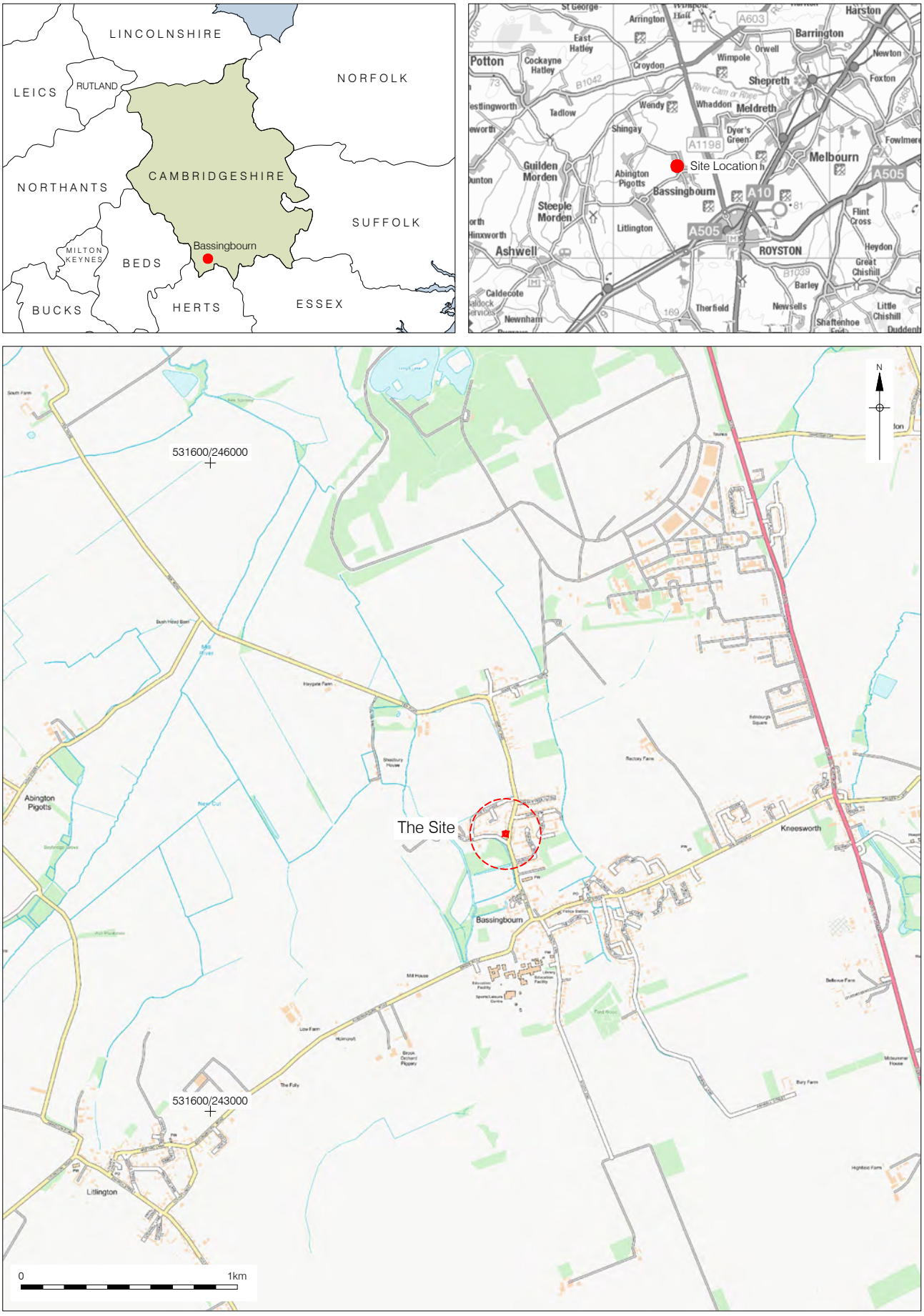
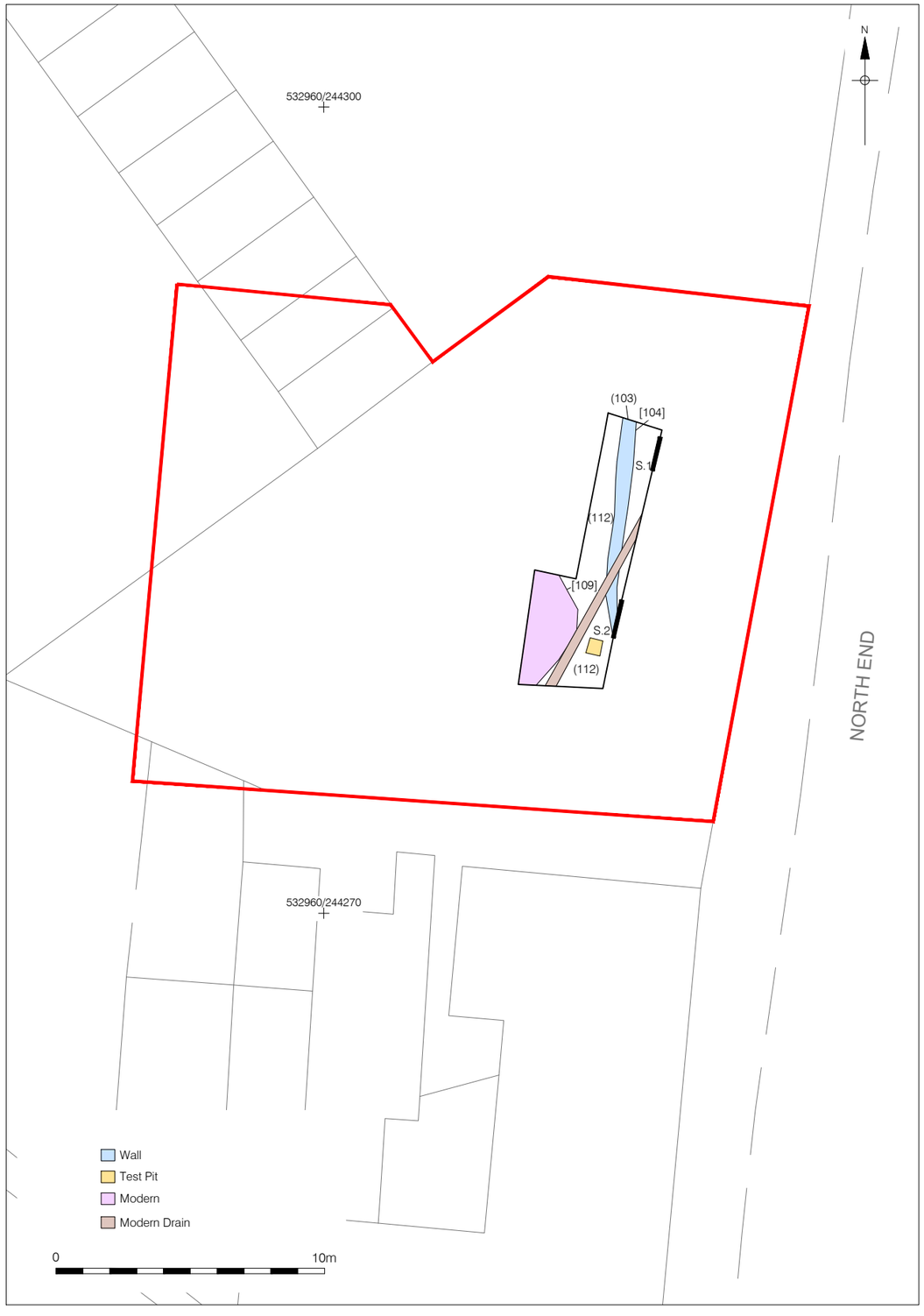
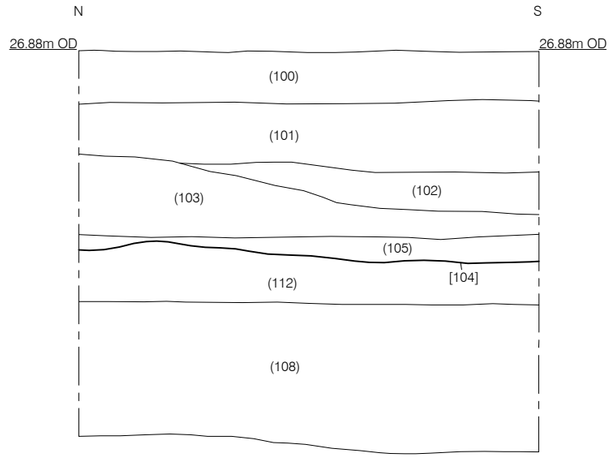
12 FIGURES



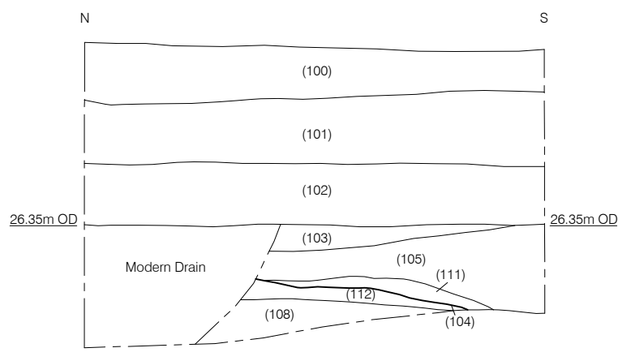
02/11/18 RS

Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000, 1:250,000, 1:25,000 at A4





Section 1
West Facing

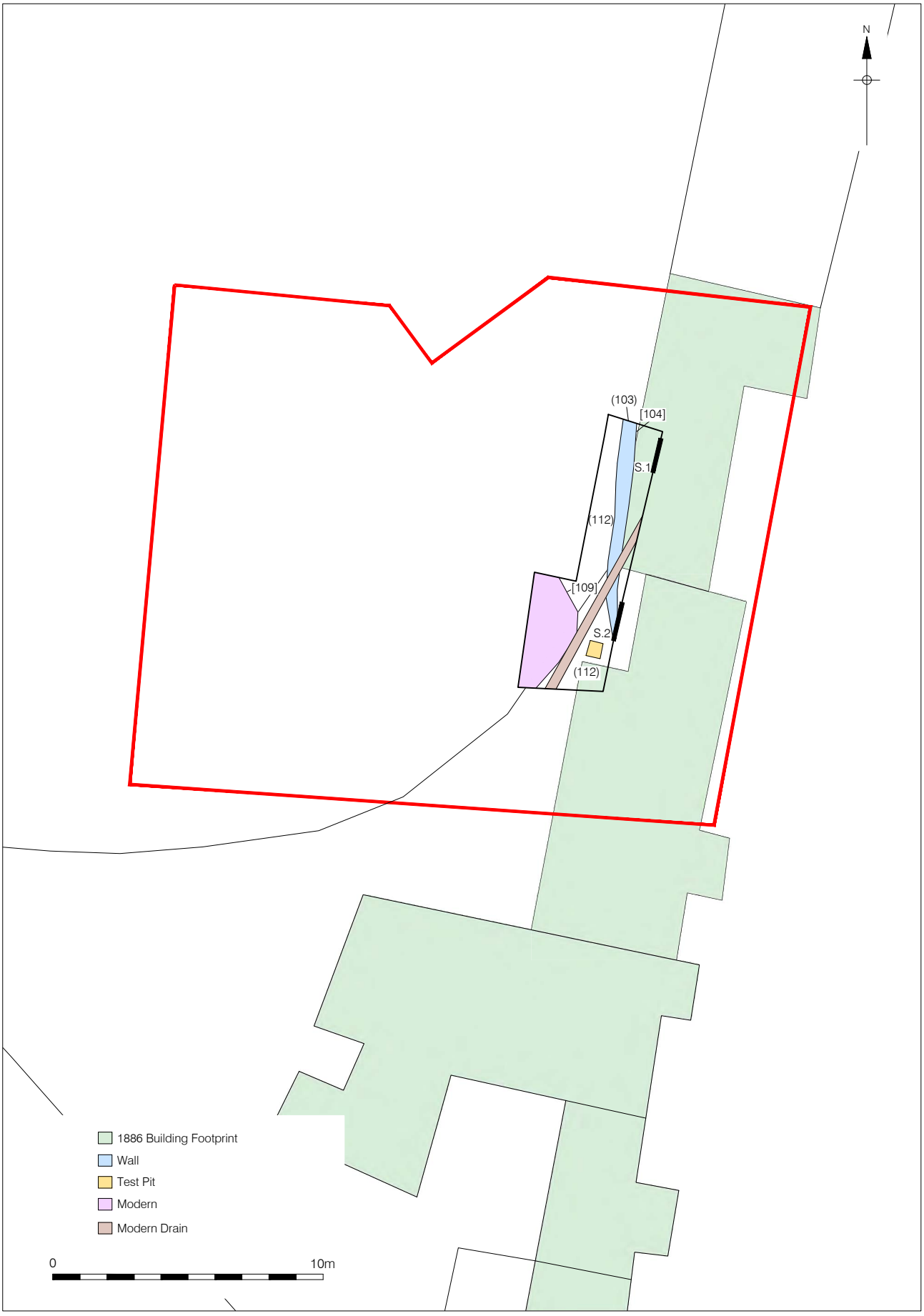


Section 2
West Facing

0 1m

02/11/18 RS

Figure 2
Trench Plan and Sections
Plan 1:200; Sections 1:20 at A3



Building footprints digitised from the 1886 25inch OS Map

02/11/18 RS

Figure 3
Features overlain on transcribed 1886 OS Map
1:200 at A4

13 APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: Trench shot, showing foundation trench [104]; view to north.

Plate 2: Trench shot, final machine depth, and hand dug test pit; view to north

Plate 3: Machine test slot into Layer (108), view east.

Plate 4: Clunch blocks [103], from foundation trench [104].

14 APPENDIX 2: CONTENTS INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Section	Description
100	100	Layer	Made Ground	0	0	0.18	1, 2	Car Park
101	101	Layer	Made Ground	0	0	0.23	1, 2	Dark grey, sandy silt
102	102	Layer	Made Ground	0	0	0.12	1, 2	Mid yellowish grey, silty clay
103	104	Masonry	Wall	7.5	0.4	0.45	1, 2	Clunch, Flint, C.B.M. foundations
104	104	Cut	Wall	7.5	0.4	0.45	1, 2	Straight linear, vertical sides
105	104	Fill	Wall	7.5	0	0.3	1, 2	Light bluiesh grey, clay
106	104	Fill	Wall	7.5	0.3	0.26	1, 2	Light greyish white, chalk
107	104	Fill	Wall	7.5	0.2	0.2	1, 2	Mid, brownish grey, silty clay
108	108	Layer	Natural	0	0	1	1, 2	Mid bluiesh grey, silty clay
109	109	Cut	Pit	0	4	1.5	0	Rounded, near vertical sides

110	109	Fill	Pit	0	4	1.5	0	Dark brownish grey, clayey silt
111	104	Fill	Wall	0.9	0	0.04	2	Light greyish white, chalk
112	112	Layer	Made Ground	0	0	0.19	1,2	Mid, brownish grey, silty clay

15 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-333860

Project details	
Project name	Land at The Belle, 61 North End, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	The single trench contained a foundation trench for a post medieval building. The building can be seen on the 1st Edition OS map, the foundation is likely to be for the rear wall of a small 18th century village cottage. No earlier archaeological remains or finds were recovered.
Project dates	Start: 30-10-2018 End: 30-10-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5547 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 2 - Other transport infrastructure
Monument type	COTTAGE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE BASSINGBOURN CUM KNEESWORTH 61 North End, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire

Postcode	SG8 5PA
Study area	191 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 3296 4428 52.080456231416 -0.059476007199 52 04 49 N 000 03 34 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 27.6m Max: 27.76m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	CCC Historic Environment Team
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Project director/manager	Christiane Meckseper
Project supervisor	Jonathan House
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Terra Nova Group Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Archive Facility
Physical Archive ID	ECB5547
Physical Contents	"Glass","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	PCA
Digital Archive ID	ECB5547
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

available	
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Archive Facility
Paper Archive ID	ECB5547
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at The Belle, 61 North End, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	House, J.
Other bibliographic details	R13464
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	PCA
Place of issue or publication	Pampisford
Description	Grey Lit evaluation report
Entered by	Sian O'Neill (SO'Neill@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	15 November 2018

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