

# **An Archaeological Test Pitting Exercise and Evaluation Trial Trenching at Land off Rockmill End/Spong Drove, Willingham, Cambridgeshire**

**Site Code: ECB 2929**

**Central National Grid Reference: TL 4094 7089.**

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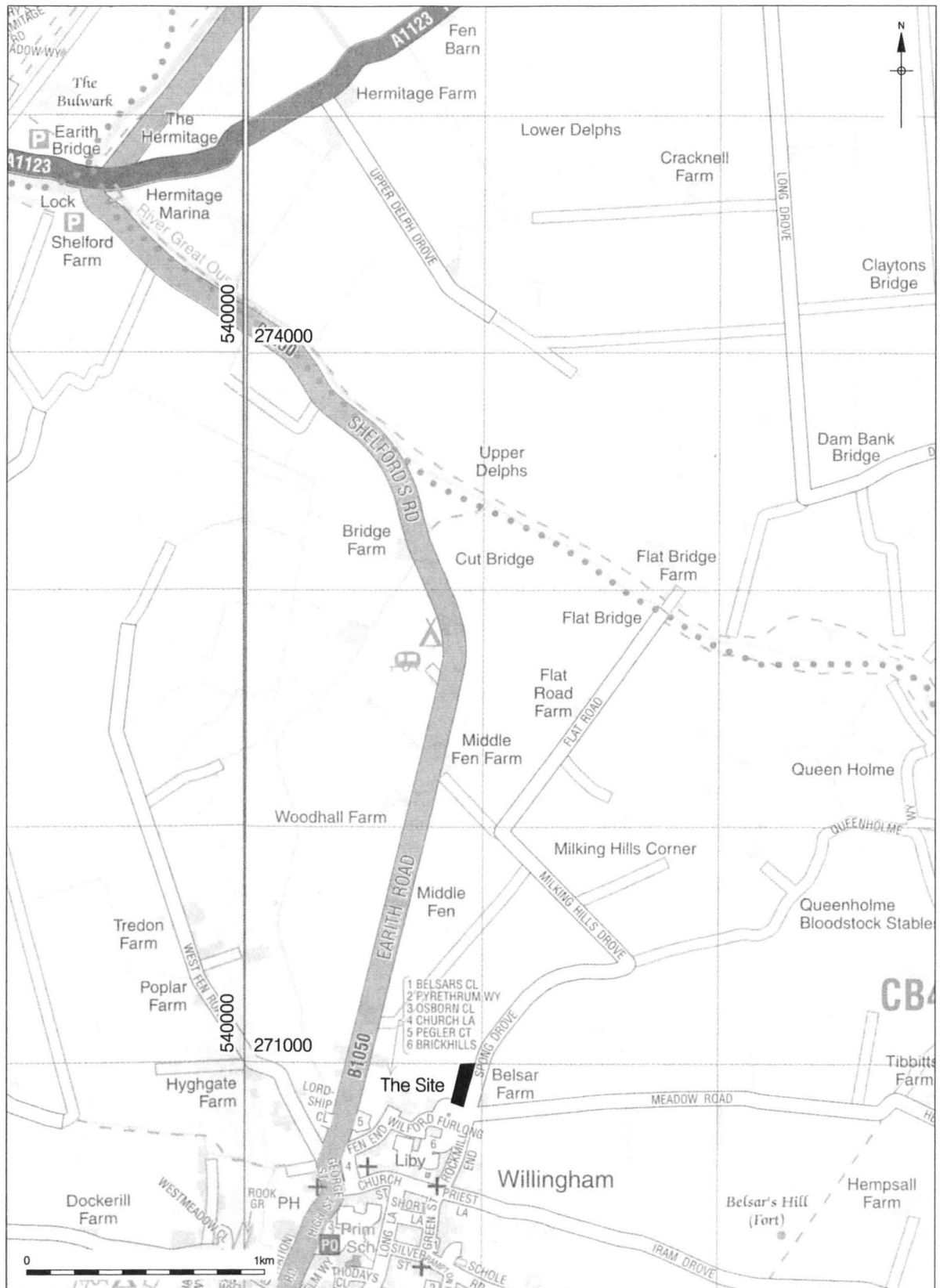
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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 During May 2008, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. carried out an archaeological test pitting exercise and evaluation trial trenching on a field at the northeastern edge of Willingham, Cambridgeshire. Sixteen trial pits, each measuring 1m<sup>2</sup> were hand excavated to the base of topsoil and ten trial trenches measuring 20m by 1.5m were excavated at locations across the site. The work was carried out prior to the proposed development of the site for social housing.
- 1.2 The trial pits were hand excavated in 300mm spits to the base of topsoil and all extracted sediments sieved for finds. The finds retrieved were mostly of recent date and it was later observed during trial trenching that much of the topsoil across the site had been imported.
- 1.3 In most of the evaluation trenches the earliest deposit was a layer of stiff natural clay, with variable quantities of silt and gravel also being present. Only in Trench 7 was gravel the dominant natural substrate. In Trenches 1 – 4, 6, 8 and 10 the basal natural was overlain by a clayey silt subsoil of variable depth. In Trenches 5, 7 and 9, no such deposit was present, the underlying natural being directly overlain by post-medieval made ground.
- 1.4 In Trench 1 a large quarry pit, possibly for the extraction of clay, was cut through the subsoil and deliberately backfilled with rubbish deposits including significant amounts of building rubble, probably of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date. A smaller pit was cut through the subsoil in Trench 2 and backfilled at a similar date. In Trench 5 the made ground was cut by a narrow drainage ditch. In Trench 8 natural deposits were overlain by subsoil, which exhibited a marked natural depression in its surface. This depression had been deliberately filled, probably to form a level ground surface. A drainage ditch was cut through the backfill and sealed by a layer of turf. Recent material was laid over this turf. A similar sequence was noted in Trench 10, though a depression in the subsoil was cut by a drainage ditch of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The depression was then filled for levelling. In Trench 9 the made ground was cut by a number of features, all found to be associated with tree rooting. All sequences were sealed by modern topsoil. No features were recorded in Trenches 3, 4, 6 and 7.
- 1.5 The overall findings of the work were somewhat disappointing, given the archaeological potential of the site. No features earlier than the 18<sup>th</sup> century were identified and there had clearly been recent modifications to the ground surface.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 During the period 12<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2008, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. carried out an archaeological test pitting exercise and evaluation trial trenching on land at the northeastern edge of the village of Willingham, Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Lovell Partnerships Ltd., and carried out as part of a planning condition prior to the development of the site for residential use. The initial phase of work comprised the hand excavation of sixteen test pits to the base of topsoil and the sieving of excavated sediments for the recovery of artefactual material. The second phase of work involved the excavation and recording of ten trial trenches (Fig. 2).
- 2.2 The site was located in a field immediately to the west of Spong Drove, some 600m northeast of the medieval core of Willingham, and in an area close to where prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity had been previously detected, in the form of cropmarks visible on aerial photographs.
- 2.3 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the archaeological test pitting exercise and evaluation trial trenching was prepared by Helen Hawkins of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (Hawkins 2008), in response to a Brief for archaeological work issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CABCA 2008). The WSI was approved by Eliza Gore, Assistant Archaeologist, Cambridgeshire County Council. The work was supervised by Barry Bishop and Peter Boyer and project managed by Helen Hawkins.
- 2.4 The site was located at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 4094 7089 and was allocated the site code ECB 2929.



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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:25,000 at A4



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Figure 2  
Proposed Test Pit Location  
1:1,000 at A4

### **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 3.1 The underlying geology of the site as shown by the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 plan is Jurassic Ampthill Clay overlain by localised deposits of more recent origin, but close to the edge of the Cambridgeshire Fenland.
- 3.2 The site is sub-rectangular in shape, measuring up to 185m NE-SW by 50m NW-SE, and covering an area of c. 0.92 ha. It is located at c. 5m OD, but with a considerably undulating surface topography and a general fall in elevation from south to north. This is particularly noticeable in the northern third of the site, which falls away quite rapidly. The site is located south of the valley of the River Great Ouse, a little under 2.5km from the river itself. It is situated directly to the west of Spong Drove at a noticeably higher elevation than fields immediately to the north and west, suggesting it occupies a small promontory at the edge of fenland. The land is currently under pasture.
- 3.3 The site is centred at National Grid Reference TL 4094 7089, and is bounded by pasture fields to the west and north, Spong Drove to the east and a recent housing development to the south.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Village of Willingham and its surrounding landscape are quite rich in archaeological remains of a number of periods. The known archaeological resource has been compiled from a number of sources, including aerial photographs, chance finds and fieldwork interventions. Records relating to this archaeological resource are included in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), which was consulted as part of this project, all records within a 750m radius of the study site being examined.
- 4.2 The earliest evidence of human activity in the area, albeit slight, dates to the Palaeolithic period. A single Levallois flint flake was recovered from an area of later prehistoric and Roman cropmarks, a little under 700m northeast of the study site (CHER No. 05776c; NGR: TL 417 715). However, no evidence for activity during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods has been detected, though further flint flakes recovered in the area of the Palaeolithic artefact, may date to the latter period.
- 4.3 The first evidence for sustained activity in the area dates to the Bronze Age. An enclosure and ring ditch of this date have been identified some 750m northeast of the study site (CHER No. 05781; NGR: TL 417 713), from aerial photography carried out during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Riley 1945). Evidence of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity has also been detected in Willingham village, some 650m southwest of the study site (CHER No. 11973; NGR: TL 4050 7030), where an archaeological evaluation revealed a ring of postholes surrounding a central pit (Connor and Robinson 1997).
- 4.4 There is extensive evidence for exploitation of the landscape to the north and northeast of Willingham in the Iron Age. In the Queensholme area to the northeast of the study site, where a number of earlier lithic artefacts have been recovered, a number of landscape features, suggestive of managed field systems, have been identified from aerial photographs and archaeological interventions (Silvester 1987).
- 4.5 The evidence from the Queensholme area also suggests that the field systems established in later prehistory, continued to be exploited into the Roman period (*ibid.*). Roman pottery and masonry finds have also been recorded a short distance to the south in the vicinity of the Bronze Age enclosure and ring ditch. Some distance to the south, in an area approximately 750m east of the study site, further Roman material has been identified (Phillips 1970). Finds assemblages recovered include tile, along with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery (CHER No. 05729; NGR: TL 416 706), and a concentration of quern stones along with bone, pottery and roof tile (CHER No.



08606; NGR: TL 4167 7067). Domestic activity certainly appears to be attested in this area.

- 4.6 Further evidence of activity has been recorded at a number of locations within the area of the current Willingham village. Archaeological interventions along High Street revealed a number of finds and features of Roman date, including a burial possibly of this period (Connor and Robinson 1997). Further, slight evidence of Roman activity was recorded during interventions to the rear of 48 Church Street (Dickens 1999) and to the north of the village an archaeological evaluation at 6-8 Earith Road revealed Roman enclosures, with a finds assemblage dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> centuries (Thatcher 2006).
- 4.7 Elsewhere in the village, chance finds have been recorded at a number of locations. Roman pottery has been recorded at sites less than 400m southwest of the study site (CHER Nos. 5602 & 5603; NGRs: TL 4051 7066 & TL 405 707) and further to the south along High Street (CHER No. 05604; NGR: TL 403 704). A coin of the Emperor Gratian was also found a little over 400m south of the site (CHER No. 05730; NGR: TL 409 704).
- 4.8 Much of the evidence of Roman activity in Willingham comes from locations close to the modern A1050 High Street/Earith Road, which follows the approximate line of a former Roman Road. The evidence thus suggests some level of roadside activity and a possible Roman settlement at Willingham. The evidence for activity alongside the road also extends further to the north. A hoard of Roman pewter artefacts was found in a pit to the west of Earith Road and some 550m northwest of the study site (CHER No. 11499; NGR: TL 4045 7125), and evidence of Roman occupation was found a short distance further north (Hall 1996). The evidence comprised an area of darkened earth containing quern fragments, pottery, bone and burnt stone (CHER No. 08613; NGR: TL 4046 7139).
- 4.9 Towards the end of the Roman period, it appears that climatic deterioration may have led to the abandonment of the field systems to the north of Willingham and possibly of the settlement itself. Stratigraphic sequences in the areas of the field systems contain significant clay deposits, dated to the late Roman period, suggesting the area had become extensively flooded at this time.
- 4.10 Historic documents record that the Manor of Willingham was granted to the Convent of Ely by Uva or Ulva in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. It is believed that a church and associated burial ground may have been established at about this time, possibly on the site occupied by the current Church of St Mary and All the Saints (CHER No. 05794; NGR: TL 404 705), which itself dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Indeed during restoration during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, fragments of re-used Saxon latticework sculpture were

found in the Norman chancel structure of the church (Fox 1922). A number of post-built Saxon halls were also recorded during archaeological interventions adjacent to High Street (CHER No. 11973b; NGR: TL 4050 7030), a little over 200m southwest of the church (Connor and Robinson 1997). Pottery recovered suggested occupation during the early to middle Saxon period, indicating that a small settlement had been established at Willingham some time before the granting of the Manor to the Ely Convent. Later Saxon occupation has not yet been recorded from the village, but late Saxon pottery has been recorded in an area some distance to the east (CHER No. 08606A; NGR: 4167 7067).

- 4.11 Archaeological interventions to the rear of 48 Church Street suggest that medieval development of the village was in this area. An archaeological evaluation recorded a pre-13<sup>th</sup> century deep pit or well (Dickens 1999) and a subsequent watching brief recorded what may have been further contemporary features (Masser 2000). Sherds of medieval pottery have also been recorded at Fen End to the north of the church and a little over 400m southwest of the study site (CHER No. 05602a; NGR: TL 4051 7066). A windmill recorded to the east of the village on a 19<sup>th</sup> century tithe map (CHER No. 05581; NGR: TL 413 703), may also have had medieval origins.
- 4.12 Archaeological evidence suggests there may have been a break in the continuity of occupation in at least some parts of the village. Interventions at 23 Green Street recorded medieval structural deposits along the street frontage, but with occupation ceasing after the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The site was not re-occupied until the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century (Hickling 2005). It is not clear whether this is a reflection of population decline following plague in the latter 14<sup>th</sup> century. Elsewhere, post-medieval deposits have been recorded alongside those of medieval date during interventions along the High Street (Connor and Robinson 1997; Grant *et al.* 2003).
- 4.13 In addition to dated archaeological deposits and documentary records there also a number of undated entries on the CHER, mostly relating to cropmarks outside of the village. Earthworks in fields adjacent to Manor Farm, immediately west of the village may represent former tracks and ponds (CHER No. 09898; NGR: TL 402 704) and there are unidentified low earthworks close to school playing fields in the village (CHER No. 09899; NGR: TL 404 702). Both of these records probably relate to medieval and/or post-medieval activity. To the northwest of the study site a double ditched track extends northwards for 600m (CHER No. 11151; NGR: TL 402 715). To the east of this another double ditched track extends for 2km to the NNE (CHER No. 11154; NGR: TL 407 716). Both of these features are possibly associated with the extensive late prehistoric and Roman field systems located to the north of Willingham, though no definite dating evidence is available. Approximately 300m northeast of the study site a large rectilinear feature with associated with ditched trackway is apparent

as a cropmark (CHER No. 11155; NGR: TL 411 713). Again, this may be related to nearby late prehistoric and Roman field systems, though there is no available dating evidence to support this. Finally, a series of cropmarks located some distance northeast of the study site probably represent droves and are likely to be of more than one period (CHER No. 11157; NGR: TL 417 713). It is possible that there was activity here in the later prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods.

- 4.14 The overall pattern shows two broad areas of archaeological activity within the vicinity of the study site. The area to the north is dominated by cropmarks mostly representing later prehistoric and Roman field systems, though there may also be elements of medieval activity. The area to the south is dominated by Willingham village, where there is limited evidence of prehistoric activity, but more extensive evidence of Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity. There is also limited evidence of Roman and late Saxon activity to the east of the village. There is no evidence of past activity in the immediate vicinity of the study site. It is not clear whether this is because of a genuine lack of activity in this area (it certainly lies south of recorded prehistoric cropmarks, east of Roman roadside activity and north of the core of the Saxon and later settlement), or simply because there has been insufficient recording of evidence of past activity during recent developments.

## **5 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

- 5.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, which fully recognise the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians.
- 5.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authorities are bound by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance Department of the Environment, Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16), by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.
- 5.3 The relevant Strategic Structure Plan framework is provided by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan, adopted on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2003. It includes the following policy relating to the Historic Built Environment:

### **POLICY P7/6 HISTORIC BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES WILL PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY AND DISTINCTIVENESS OF THE HISTORIC BUILT ENVIRONMENT.

- 5.4 The Plan goes on to further define the Archaeological Resource, threats to it and policies pertaining to archaeology and development:

### **HISTORIC BUILT AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE**

**7.17** THE STRUCTURE PLAN AREA HAS AN EXCEPTIONALLY RICH ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE ARISING FROM ACTIVITY FROM THE EARLIEST HUMAN OCCUPATION TO THE PRESENT DAY. THIS HERITAGE INCLUDES A RANGE OF SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS, SOME OF WHICH ARE SIGNIFICANT FEATURES IN THE LANDSCAPE. HOWEVER, A HIGH PROPORTION OF OUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES SURVIVE BELOW THE GROUND AND ARE LIABLE TO DAMAGE FROM AGRICULTURAL PROCESSES, MINERAL EXCAVATION, NEW ROAD SCHEMES, FORESTRY AND DEVELOPMENT. LOWERING OF THE WATER TABLE BY DRAINAGE IS ALSO CAUSING DAMAGE TO SITES, PARTICULARLY IN THE FENS. ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS SHOULD BE SEEN AS A FINITE AND NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE, WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE AS AN EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND TOURISM RESOURCE. APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT IS ALSO ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THAT THEY SURVIVE IN GOOD CONDITION. PRESERVATION IN SITU WILL DEPEND UPON A NUMBER OF FACTORS AND WHERE THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE PRIOR TO EXCAVATION. PLANNING GUIDANCE ON ARCHAEOLOGY CAN BE FOUND IN PPG16.

- 5.5 Further policy detail regarding archaeology and the planning process is provided in a guidance note issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA) on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005:

### **Archaeology within the Planning Process – Guidance Note**

The archaeological process is integral to any development proposal and should be considered as early as possible in the planning process.

*Objective 1: Speak to the Development Control Archaeologist.*

Get advice as early as possible. We will undertake a free preliminary site appraisal in consultation with the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record to identify whether important

archaeological remains are likely to survive on the site. The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record is constantly being updated and enhanced, so it is not advisable to rely on the results of a previous search or assessment for a new proposal.

*Objective 2: Identify the potential impact of development.*

Archaeological Assessment/Evaluation of the site may be required. In many instances, further information will be required before an informed judgement can be made regarding the likely impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. This will usually take the form of a combination of non-intrusive and/or intrusive survey techniques. Non-intrusive techniques may include Desk-Based Assessment, Aerial Photographic Assessment, Earthwork Survey, Geophysical Survey and Surface Artefact Collection ('fieldwalking'). Intrusive survey will usually involve trench based evaluation of an appropriate sample of the proposed development area in order to determine the extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. Where early discussions with local planning authorities or the developer's own research indicate that important archaeological remains may exist, it is reasonable for the planning authority to request the prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out before any decision on the planning application is taken.

*Objective 3: Identify Proximity of any Scheduled Ancient Monuments*

Scheduling under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 affords statutory protection to monuments deemed to be of national importance. It makes no difference what the monument is, the protection is the same. There are 258 scheduled monuments in Cambridgeshire. It is an offence to undertake any action that will impact on the physical remains of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). Scheduled status is imposed by the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS). English Heritage act as advisors to DCMS and should be consulted about schemes likely to have a direct impact, or an effect on the setting of a SAM. Schemes not likely to have a significant adverse effect on a SAM may be considered, but will require Scheduled Monument Consent. There is a presumption under the Act, reiterated in PPG16, against destruction of or development upon a SAM.

*Objective 4: Minimise any potential impact before submitting a Planning Application*

If there will be an impact on important archaeological remains the planning authority has three options

1. Refuse the application - when the impact on the archaeological heritage is considered to outweigh the benefits of development.
2. Place conditions on planning consent allowing for the mitigation of the impact of on archaeological remains (see below).
3. Request details of how the severity of any impact on archaeology can be reduced to an acceptable level within the proposed scheme as part of the planning application.

There are three main ways that the potential impact on archaeological remains can be reduced:

1. Preservation of archaeological remains in situ - achieved by development not being allowed within the area of archaeological interest.
2. Preservation of archaeological remains in situ - through design and engineering solutions to prevent or limit the impact of the development on the archaeology.
3. Preservation of archaeological remains by record -the excavation, recording, analysis, presentation and publication of archaeological remains which will be disturbed or destroyed by the development.

*Objective 5: Archaeological Mitigation*

Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings are affected by a proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation. Preservation in situ should in any case be considered the preferred mitigation option. Development proposals may require amendments to reduce the impact upon the archaeological deposits in the ground, through sympathetic building design, raising ground levels or careful siting and management of open areas. Such proposals can be discussed with CAPCA and Planning Authority. Where development will affect remains of lesser importance, and physical preservation in situ is not feasible, an archaeological excavation for the purposes of 'preservation by record' may be an acceptable alternative. CAPCA will produce on request a free Design Brief, which sets out the requirements for any necessary archaeological work. A detailed costed specification can then be obtained from one or more Archaeological Contractors. The specifications MUST be agreed with CAPCA, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, before any work is undertaken.

- 5.6 The relevant local planning framework is provided by the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan adopted in February 2004 (though currently undergoing revision). The Plan contains the following policies which provide a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features:

**POLICY EN15:** 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.

**POLICY EN16:** WHERE PLANNING PERMISSION IS GRANTED FOR ANY DEVELOPMENT WHICH AFFECTS ANY ASPECT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE WHICH IS CONSIDERED TO BE IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF THE ABOVE POLICIES, THE DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE, AND IN APPROPRIATE CASES REQUIRE BY CONDITION OR PLANNING OBLIGATION, DEVELOPERS TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE DEPOSIT OF RECORDS ARISING FROM EXCAVATIONS, FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AND EDUCATION ON SITE AND/OR IN THE FORM OF PUBLICATIONS.

- 5.7 The site is currently occupied by a pasture field, which contains a number of topographic irregularities, which may represent previously unrecorded development in the area, though there is no evidence of recent development. The area may have been subject to past cultivation activity and ploughing. This has possibly removed potential shallow sub-surface archaeological features, whereas features of a greater depth may survive *in situ*, as may residual finds in more recent contexts.
- 5.8 It is proposed to develop the site for residential purposes. The nature and scale of the proposed development suggests it is likely that any archaeological remains now present on the study site would be seriously impacted upon by the development process.
- 5.9 A Brief for archaeological work on the site was prepared by CAPCA in line with the County and District planning policies (CAPCA 2008). In response to this and the policies contained within the local authorities' plans, a written scheme of investigation was produced for a programme of archaeological work (Hawkins 2008).

- 5.10 The Brief issued by CAPCA suggested that a geophysical survey of the site should be carried out if site conditions were deemed suitable. However, advice provided by David Bunn of Pre-Construct Geophysics was that because of the small size of the site and the nature of the local geology, geophysical survey was unlikely to produce any meaningful results. It was therefore agreed with Eliza Gore, Assistant Archaeologist at Cambridgeshire County Council, that a geophysical survey was not required. The archaeological intervention thus comprised a test pitting exercise and evaluation trial trenching.
- 5.11 The evaluation aimed to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The evaluation also sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions, and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- 5.12 Within these parameters and given the archaeological and historical background, the evaluation sought to address a more site-specific objective of establishing whether there was any evidence of later prehistoric, Roman or medieval remains on the site, as identified in the wider Willingham area. The results of the evaluation would also be used to determine any further mitigation strategies for the site.

## **6 METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 The fieldwork was carried out according to the Brief (CAPCA 2008) and the WSI (Hawkins 2008), though with modifications to take account of logistical concerns. The programme of work conformed to the IFA code of conduct.
- 6.2 The initial phase of work comprised the hand excavation of sixteen test pits, spread evenly across the site in a grid system, 20m apart. Each measured 1m by 1m, with topsoil removed in 300mm spits and sieved using a wide mesh sieve. The interface between topsoil and underlying deposits was also removed and sieved. All finds identified during sieving were retained. The location of each test pit was recorded and tied into local and national grids (Fig. 2).
- 6.3 It was initially intended to excavate ten evaluation trenches, each measuring 15m in length and 2m wide, giving a total excavated area of 300m<sup>2</sup>. However, because of the size of the machine provided, ten trenches, each measuring 20m by 1.5m were excavated, still giving a total excavated area of 300m<sup>2</sup>.
- 6.4 All trenches were machine excavated in spits to the surface of identifiable archaeological deposits or to the surface of natural deposits if identifiable archaeological remains were not present. All machining was undertaken by a 180° wheeled excavator using a toothless bucket, under archaeological supervision. Longitudinal sections and bases of the trenches were then cleaned, and sample sections and base plans recorded. Exposed sections and spoil heaps were also checked in order to collect any dateable evidence and assess the extent of residual finds preservation. A written, drawn and photographic record of each trench was made, and the location of each trench was recorded and tied into local and national grids (Fig. 2).
- 6.5 Two temporary benchmarks (TBMs) were established on the road immediately to the east of the site. The most northerly of these (value 5.50m OD) was established in order to provide levels for evaluation Trenches 1-4 and 6. The southern TBM (value 6.67m OD) was established in order to provide levels for evaluation Trenches 5 and 7-10. The TBMs were transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark (value 7.01m OD), located on the front of the house at 2 Priest Lane, Willingham, to the south of the site.
- 6.6 When the archaeological work had been completed, all test pits and evaluation trenches were backfilled by machine, with the materials excavated from them.



## 7 TEST PITTING EXERCISE

- 7.1 This exercise was carried out in order to determine the presence of finds in the topsoil and therefore give an indication of the possible nature of any underlying archaeological deposits. Artefactual material was recovered from sieving all topsoil spits, though this was mostly of recent date. The finds types recovered are listed in the table below:

TP	Spit	Context No.	Finds
1	1	1	Pottery, Metal, CBM, Bone
2	1	2	Pottery, Metal, CBM
3	1	3	CBM, CTP
3	2	4	Pottery, Glass, CBM, CTP
4	1	5	Pottery, Metal, CBM, Bone
5	1	6	Pottery, Glass, CBM, CTP
6	1	7	Pottery, Glass, Metal, CBM, CTP, Bone
6	2	8	Pottery, CBM
7	1	9	Pottery, Metal, CBM
7	2	10	Pottery, Metal, CBM, CTP
8	1	11	Pottery, Metal, CBM, CTP, Bone
8	2	12	Pottery, CBM, Bone
9	1	13	Pottery, Metal, CBM, Burnt Flint, CTP, Bone
9	2	14	Pottery, CBM
10	1	15	Pottery, Metal, CBM, CTP, Bone
11	1	16	Pottery, Metal, CBM, CTP, Bone
11	2	17	Pottery, Metal, CBM, Bone
12	1	18	Pottery, CBM, CTP
12	2	19	CBM, Bone
13	1	20	Pottery, Metal, CBM, CTP, Bone
14	1	21	Pottery, Metal, CBM
15	1	22	Pottery, Metal, CBM, CTP, Bone
16	1	23	Pottery, Metal, CBM, CTP

CBM = Ceramic Building Material; CTP = Clay Tobacco Pipe; All metal recorded was iron.

- 7.2 Much of the material recovered was very small and fragmentary and was discarded once it had been recorded. Subsequent evaluation trenching revealed that much of the topsoil across the site contained imported material. The value of the test pitting exercise in determining the possible nature of underlying deposits, is therefore negligible.

## **8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE: EVALUATION**

### **8.1 TRENCH 1**

- 8.1.1 This trench was located in a low-lying area towards the northwest corner of the site (Figs. 2, 3 & 11) and aligned NW-SE. The basal deposit (Fig. 9) was a stiff, light yellowish brown clay with black mottling [26], recorded at an upper elevation of 4.24m OD. It was overlain by up to 0.20m of a firm, light yellowish brown, silty clay [25], interpreted as a weathered natural/subsoil deposit and recorded at an upper elevation of 4.39m OD. This was cut by an extensive feature [28], which covered over half of the evaluation trench. It had moderately sloping, slightly concave sides and was in excess of 1m deep. It has been interpreted as a quarry pit, possibly for the extraction of clay. It was backfilled with a variable deposit, generally comprising a firm, light greyish brown silty clay [27]. This contained abundant ceramic building material (CBM) and brick samples recovered suggest a 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century date. This was directly overlain by topsoil [24] up to 0.20m thick, recorded at surface elevations between 4.78m OD and 4.45m OD. It contained a high proportion of gravel, particularly towards its base, suggesting an imported element. It is possible that the gravel was deposited to aid drainage or that the whole deposit was imported from elsewhere. A stone hone was recovered from this layer.

### **8.2 TRENCH 2**

- 8.2.1 Trench 2 was also located in a low-lying area but towards the northeast corner of the site (Figs. 2, 4 & 11), and aligned NE-SW. The basal deposit was a compact, mid yellowish and bluish grey clay [31], with patches of silt and gravel (Fig. 9). It was recorded at an upper elevation of 3.75m OD. It was overlain by up to 0.25m of firm, mid yellowish brown clay [30], similar to deposit [25] recorded in Trench 1 as weathered natural/subsoil. It was recorded at an upper elevation of between 4.05m OD and 3.95m OD. At the northeastern end of the trench it was cut by an irregular pit [33], measuring at least 1.6m by 1.6m and 0.40m deep. It had been backfilled with a variably compacted, mid greyish brown, clayey silt [32], which was similar in appearance to fill [27] of possible quarry pit [28] in Trench 1. The sedimentary sequence in Trench 2 was capped by up to 0.25m of topsoil [29], recorded at upper elevations between 4.59m OD (southwest) and 3.82m OD (northeast). Again, a significant amount of gravel was present, suggesting an imported element.

### **8.3 TRENCH 3**

- 8.3.1 This trench was located to the south of Trenches 1 and 2 (Figs. 2 & 11), approximately midway between the eastern and western edges of the site. It was

aligned approximately NNE-SSW. The basal deposit was a firmly compacted, light yellowish brown clay [36], with significant silt and gravel lenses, recorded at a surface elevation of between 4.75m OD and 4.70m OD (Fig. 9). It was overlain by up to 0.20m of firm, light yellowish brown, silty clay [35], similar to the weathered natural/subsoil deposits recorded in Trenches 1 and 2 and recorded at a surface elevation of between 4.94m OD and 4.80m OD. The sequence was capped by topsoil [34] up to 0.40m thick, the surface elevation of which, varied between 5.50m OD (south) and 5.01m OD (north). In common with the topsoil in Trenches 1 and 2, this also had a surprisingly high gravel content. No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

#### **8.4 TRENCH 4**

- 8.4.1 This trench was located south of Trench 3 and on a perpendicular alignment (Figs. 2 & 11). The basal deposit was a stiff, mid yellowish and bluish brown clay with silt lenses [39], recorded at an upper elevation of between 4.84m OD and 4.72m OD (Fig. 9). It was overlain by a firm, mid yellowish brown, silty clay [38], up to 0.45m thick and recorded at an upper elevation of 5.20m OD. It was interpreted as a weathered natural/subsoil deposit. It was overlain by up to 0.45m of topsoil [37], recorded at an upper elevation of 5.70m OD, and which again included a high proportion of gravel. No archaeological features were detected in this trench.

#### **8.5 TRENCH 5**

- 8.5.1 This trench was located to the southwest of Trench 4 (Figs. 2, 5 & 11) and aligned NW-SE. The basal deposit was a stiff, mid yellowish and bluish grey clay with gravel patches [42], recorded at an upper elevation of 5.21m OD (Fig. 9). No subsoil was observed above this natural deposit; instead it was overlain by 0.15m of firm, light greyish brown, clayey silt, which contained occasional fragments of CBM and coal [41]. This was recorded at an upper elevation of 5.33m OD and has been interpreted as a made ground deposit. It was cut by a narrow linear feature [44] on an approximately north-south alignment. This was at least 5m long, extending beyond the edges of the trench, 0.20m wide and at least 0.10m deep. It had moderately sloping, concave sides, a slightly concave base and has been interpreted as some type of land drainage feature, probably of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date. It was backfilled with a soft, mid greyish brown clayey silt containing occasional small pebbles [43]. The backfilled ditch was sealed by up to 0.20m of a firm, mid to dark brown, clayey silt topsoil recorded at an upper elevation of 5.59m OD.

## **8.6 TRENCH 6**

8.6.1 This trench was located southeast of Trench 4 and east of Trench 5 (Fig. 2) and was aligned NE-SW. The basal natural deposit comprised a stiff, dark grey clay interspersed with extensive lenses of friable, light brown gravel [76], recorded at an upper elevation of between 5.16m OD and 5.02m OD (Fig. 9). It was overlain by a 0.28m thick deposit of firm, mid brown clayey silt [75], interpreted as subsoil and recorded at an upper elevation of 5.41m OD. This in turn was overlain by a 0.16m thick deposit of friable, mid greyish brown, sandy, clayey silt [74], recorded at an upper elevation of 5.54m OD, interpreted as made ground and probably comparable with layer [41] in Trench 5. The sequence was capped by a layer of slightly friable, very dark greyish brown, clayey silt topsoil [73], recorded at an upper elevation of 5.78m OD and with a concentration of gravel towards its base. No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

## **8.7 TRENCH 7**

8.7.1 This trench was located to the south of Trenches 5 and 6 and on a similar alignment to Trench 3 (Fig. 2). The basal deposit was predominantly a friable, light brown gravel with patches of stiff, mid grey to pale yellow clay [65], recorded at an upper elevation of between 5.41m OD and 5.25m OD (Fig. 9). As was the case in Trench 5, no subsoil was apparent, instead the natural gravel was overlain by a 0.26m thick deposit of very firm, mid brown clayey silt, containing frequent small angular to sub-rounded flint pebbles [64]. Recorded at an upper elevation of 5.67m OD, this was interpreted as made ground, and was overlain by up to 0.19m of slightly friable, mid brown clayey silt [63], interpreted as another made ground deposit. This was recorded at an upper elevation of 5.74m OD. The stratigraphic sequence was completed by up to 0.22m of loose, very dark greyish brown, clayey silt topsoil [62], recorded at upper elevations varying between 5.96m OD and 5.83m OD. No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

## **8.8 TRENCH 8**

8.8.1 This trench was located to the south of Trench 7 and perpendicular to it (Figs. 2, 6 & 11). The basal deposit was a compact, pale yellow clay [72], which exhibited a decline in surface elevation from east to west (Fig. 10). This was overlain by a deposit of firm, light yellowish brown silty clay [71], the surface of which exhibited a significant dip, being recorded at a maximum surface elevation of 5.89m OD towards the east of the trench, and just 5.27m OD in the dip. The deposit also became intermittent in the base of the dip, rising again to the west. Consequently the thickness of the material

was up to 0.40m to the east of the trench, declining to nothing in the centre of the dip. The deposit has been interpreted as a natural subsoil and the dip appears to have been a natural depression, probably caused by deflation processes, rather than being a deliberately excavated anthropogenic feature. Nevertheless, although the depression was formed naturally, it became infilled, probably at a much later date, with a firm, mid yellowish to greyish brown clayey silt [70]. This may have been a deliberate act in the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century in order to level the ground surface of the site in this area. A short while later an approximately north-south aligned ditch [67] was cut through infilling deposit [70]. This was 0.80m wide and 0.53m deep, with moderately sloping, slightly concave sides, sharply breaking to a concave base. The ditch appears to have been a drainage feature and was probably excavated to take advantage of an alignment where the surface elevation had been previously reduced.

- 8.8.2 The ditch was backfilled with a firm, mid brown clayey silt [66] from which a few finds were recovered. Although pottery, possibly as early as the 17<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from this fill, it is likely to have been residual as the deposit through which it was cut, was of a much later date. Overlying the backfilled ditch and extending to the east and west was a 0.11m thick layer of firm, very dark greyish brown clayey silt [77], which could clearly be seen in the exposed section as a buried turf horizon (Figs. 10 & 12). It was recorded at an upper elevation of between 5.70m OD and 5.65m OD. It was overlain by up to 0.20m of firm, mid greyish brown, sandy clay silt [69], which contained CBM and concrete fragments and appears to have been deposited relatively recently. It was recorded at an upper elevation of 5.99m OD at the eastern edge of the trench, where it directly overlay subsoil [71]. The sequence was completed by a recent layer of topsoil up to 0.18m thick, the surface of which exhibited a slight dip, reflective of the underlying stratigraphy, and the base of which contained concentrated gravel. The surface elevation varied between 6.14m OD and 5.96m OD.

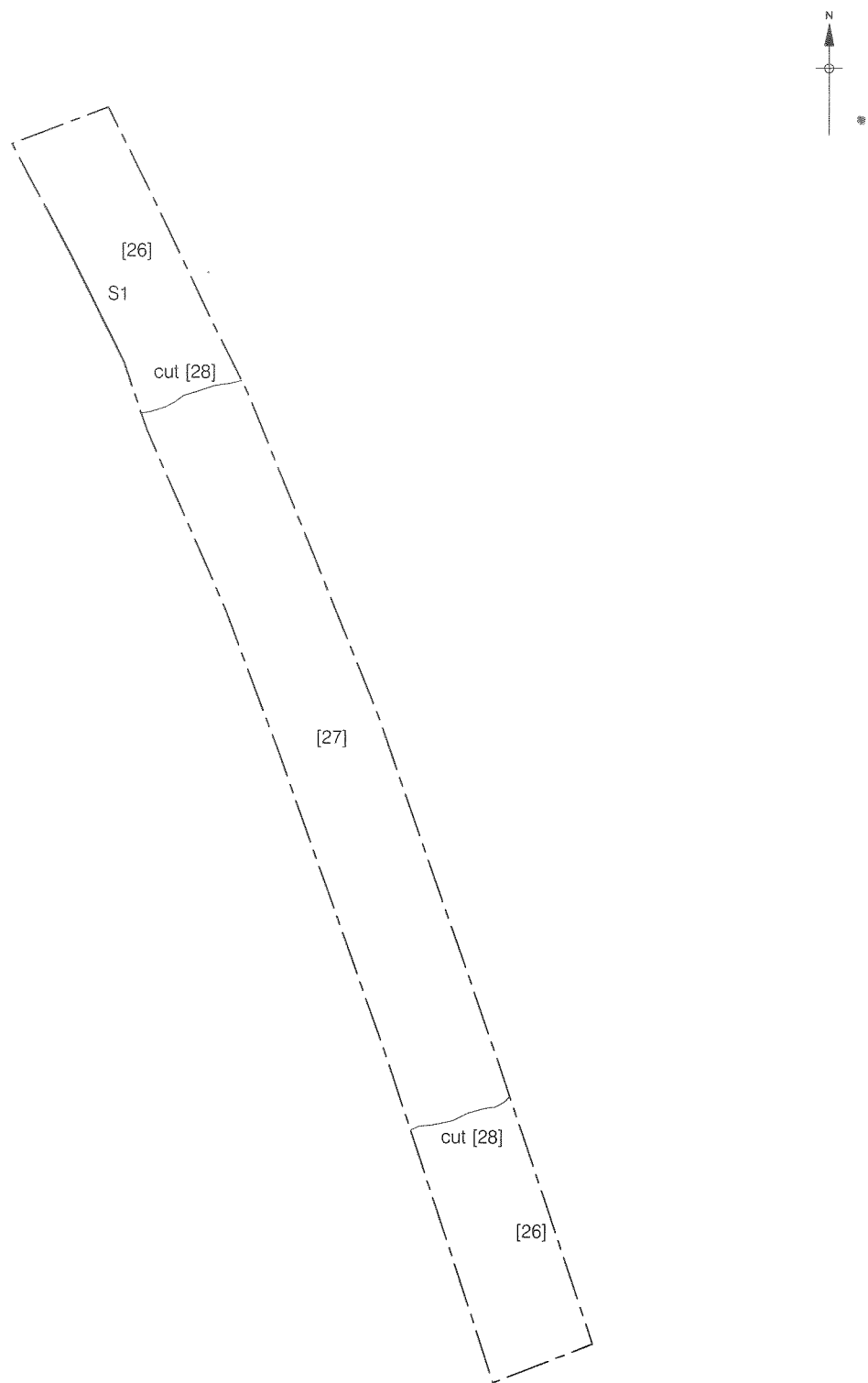
## **8.9 TRENCH 9**

- 8.9.1 This trench was located towards the southwest corner of the site (Figs. 2, 7 & 12) and was approximately aligned NW-SE. The basal deposit was variable, comprising natural deposits of stiff, light yellowish brown clay and firm, mid reddish brown silty clay [59], recorded at an upper elevation of between 5.67m OD and 5.50m OD. In common with Trenches 5 and 7, no subsoil was observed; instead the natural deposits were overlain by up to 0.41m of stiff, mid greyish brown, clayey silt [58], which included frequent, small sub-rounded to angular flint pebbles, along with fragments of coal and clinker. This was recorded at an upper elevation of 6.06m OD and has been interpreted as a made ground deposit of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date. Cut into this deposit towards the northwestern end of the trench was a small number of

features (Figs. 7 & 9). Excavation of three of these; [53], [55] and [61], showed that they were associated with rooting, possibly all relating to the same root system. A fourth feature [57] appears to have been a linear ditch, aligned approximately NE-SW with a broadly concave profile. It was 0.74m wide and 0.22m deep, though its extent was unclear. It had become backfilled with a friable, mid greyish brown clay silt [56], though no dateable finds were recovered from this deposit. The stratigraphic sequence in this trench was completed by a layer of topsoil [51], up to 0.26m thick, which was recorded at an upper elevation of between 6.27m OD at the approximate trench centre point, and 6.04m OD at the northwestern end. There was a concentration of gravel towards the base.

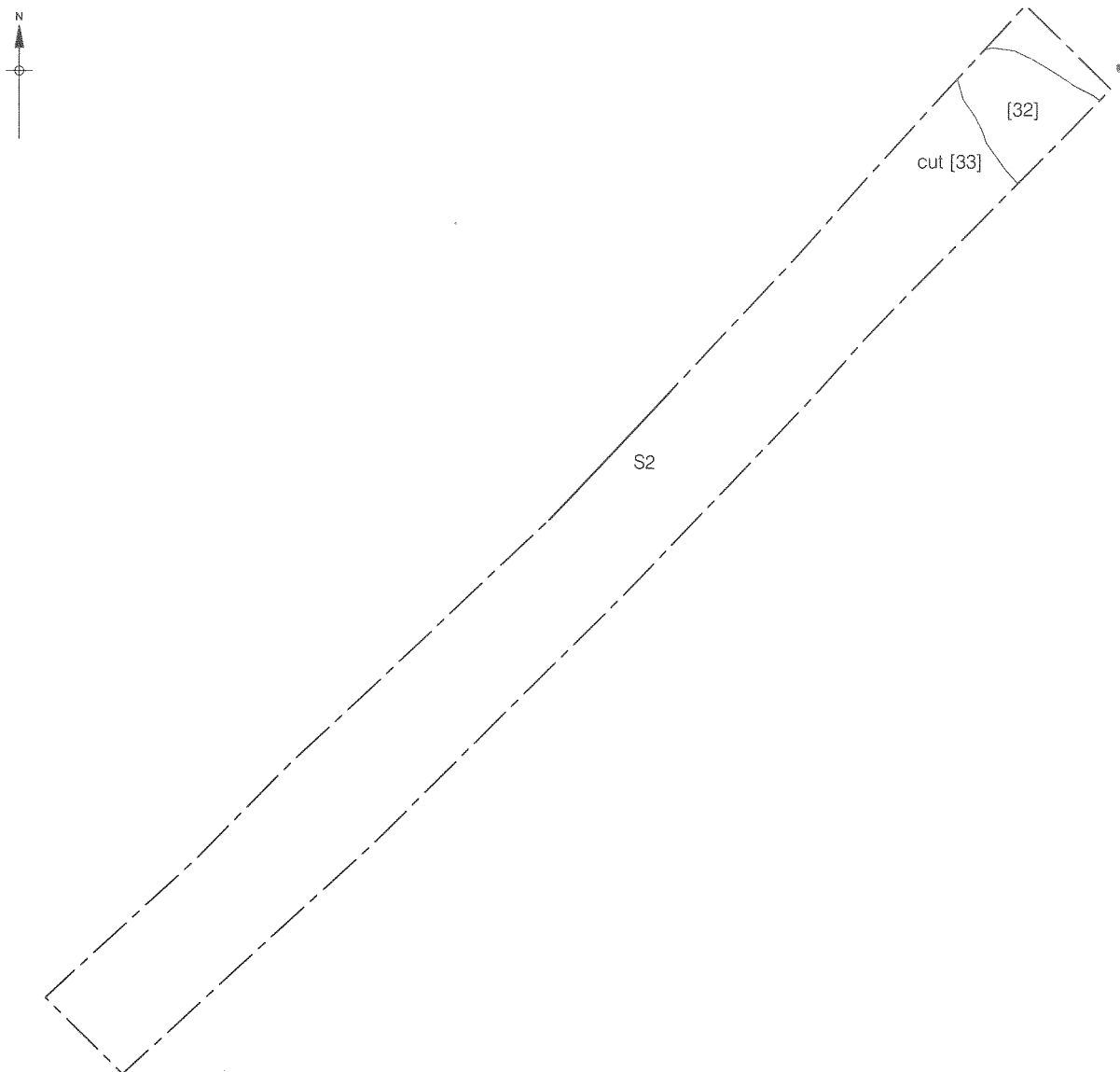
## **8.10 TRENCH 10**

- 8.10.1 This trench was located to the southeast of Trench 8 (Figs. 2, 8 & 12) and was aligned approximately NE-SW. The basal deposit was a mid yellowish to bluish grey clay [48], which exhibited a generally flat surface at c. 5.35m OD, rising to 5.49m OD at the northeastern end of the trench. This was overlain by a light yellowish brown clay [47], which in common with layer [71] in Trench 8 appears to have been subsoil with a significant natural depression in its surface (Fig. 10). Consequently the thickness of the deposit varied between 0.09m and 0.49m and its surface elevation between 5.40m OD and 5.89m OD. Towards the northeastern end of the trench the deposit was cut by an approximately north-south aligned linear feature [50], 0.40m wide and 0.40m deep, with steep, slightly variable sides and a narrow base. It appears to have been a drainage ditch. This had become backfilled with a firm, mid greyish brown clayey silt containing small pebbles and coal fragments [49], it also contained a sherd of pottery, which may have been as early as 17<sup>th</sup> century (though more likely 18<sup>th</sup> century) and may have been the earliest feature on the site. The depression in the top of layer [47] was filled, and the backfilled ditch [50] was sealed by up to 0.50m of firm, mid yellowish brown clayey silt [46], which contained frequent small pebbles, along with fragments of CBM and coal. It appears to have been comparable with layer [70] in Trench 8 and was recorded at an upper elevation of 5.86m OD. The sequence was capped by a 0.15m thick layer of topsoil [45], recorded at an upper elevation of between 6.11m OD and 5.90m OD.



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Figure 3  
Plan of Trench 1  
1:100 at A4

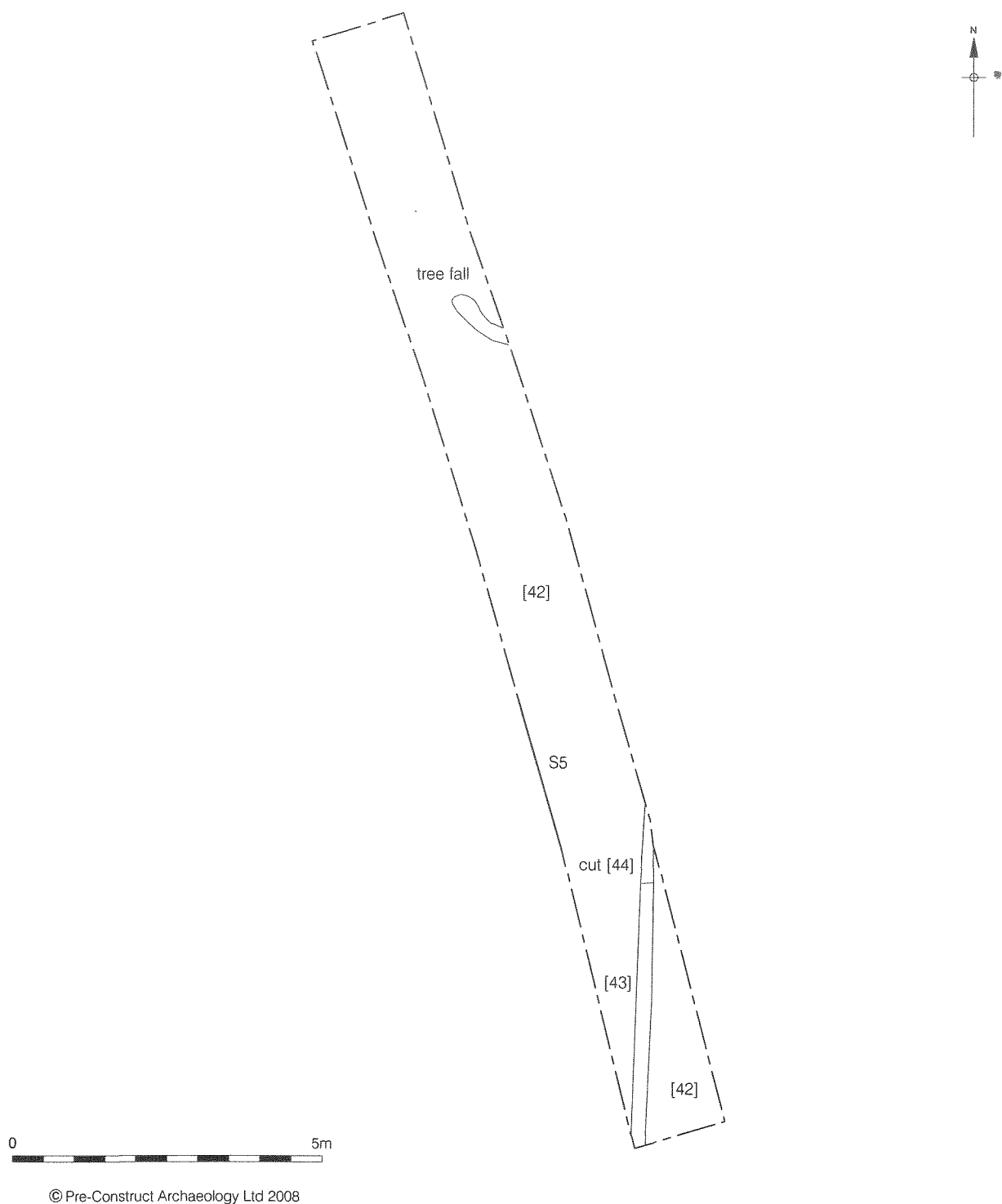


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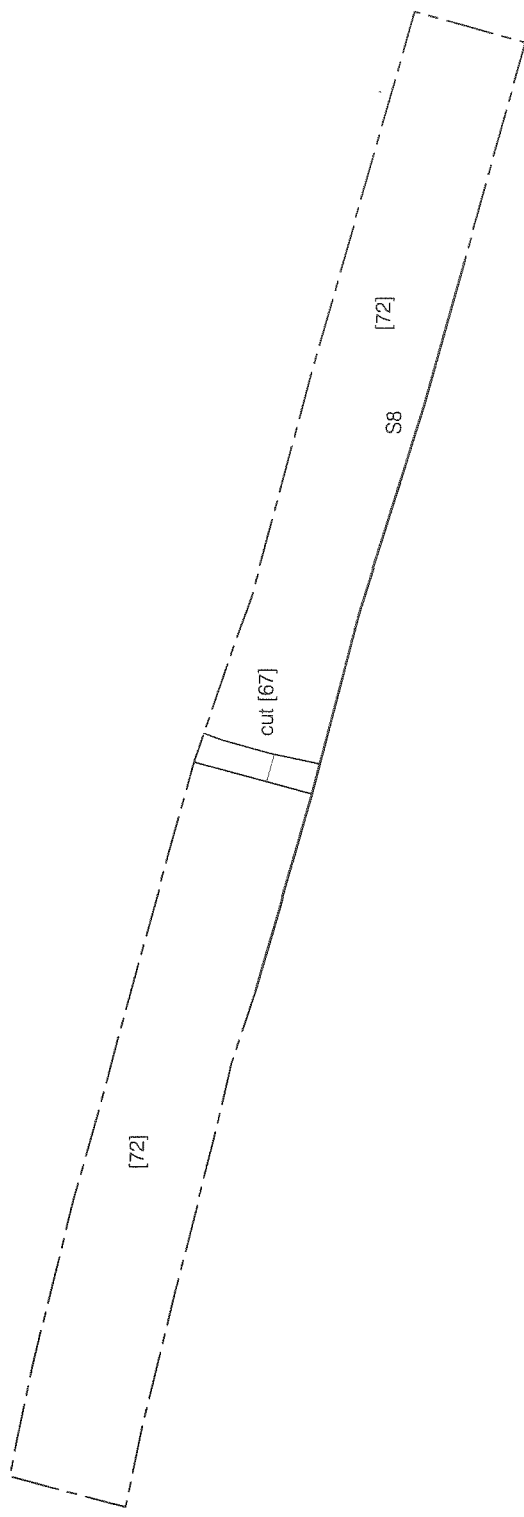
Figure 4  
Plan of Trench 2  
1:100 at A4





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Figure 5  
Plan of Trench 5  
1:100 at A4



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Figure 6  
Plan of Trench 8  
1:100 at A4

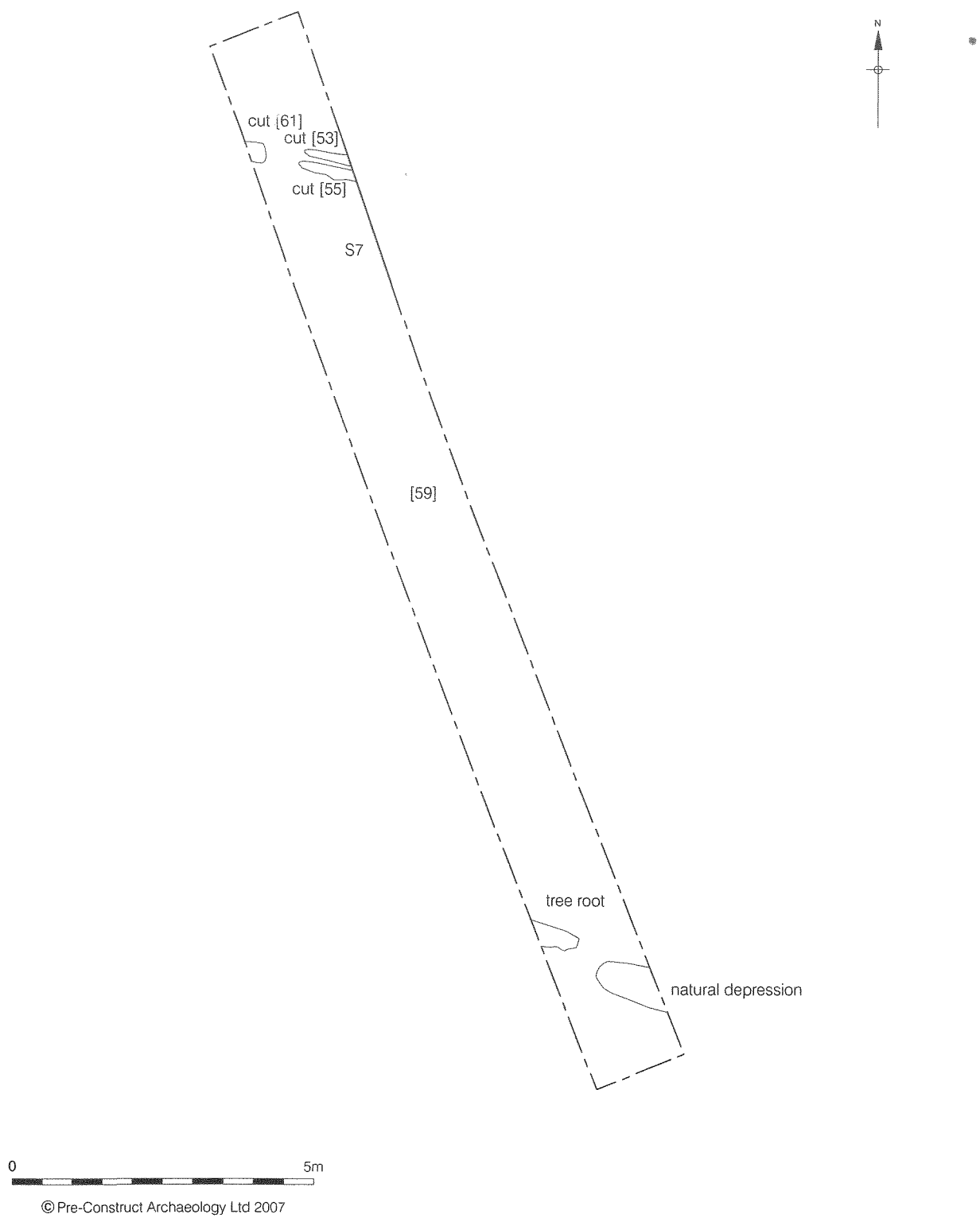
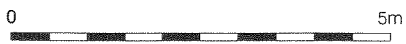
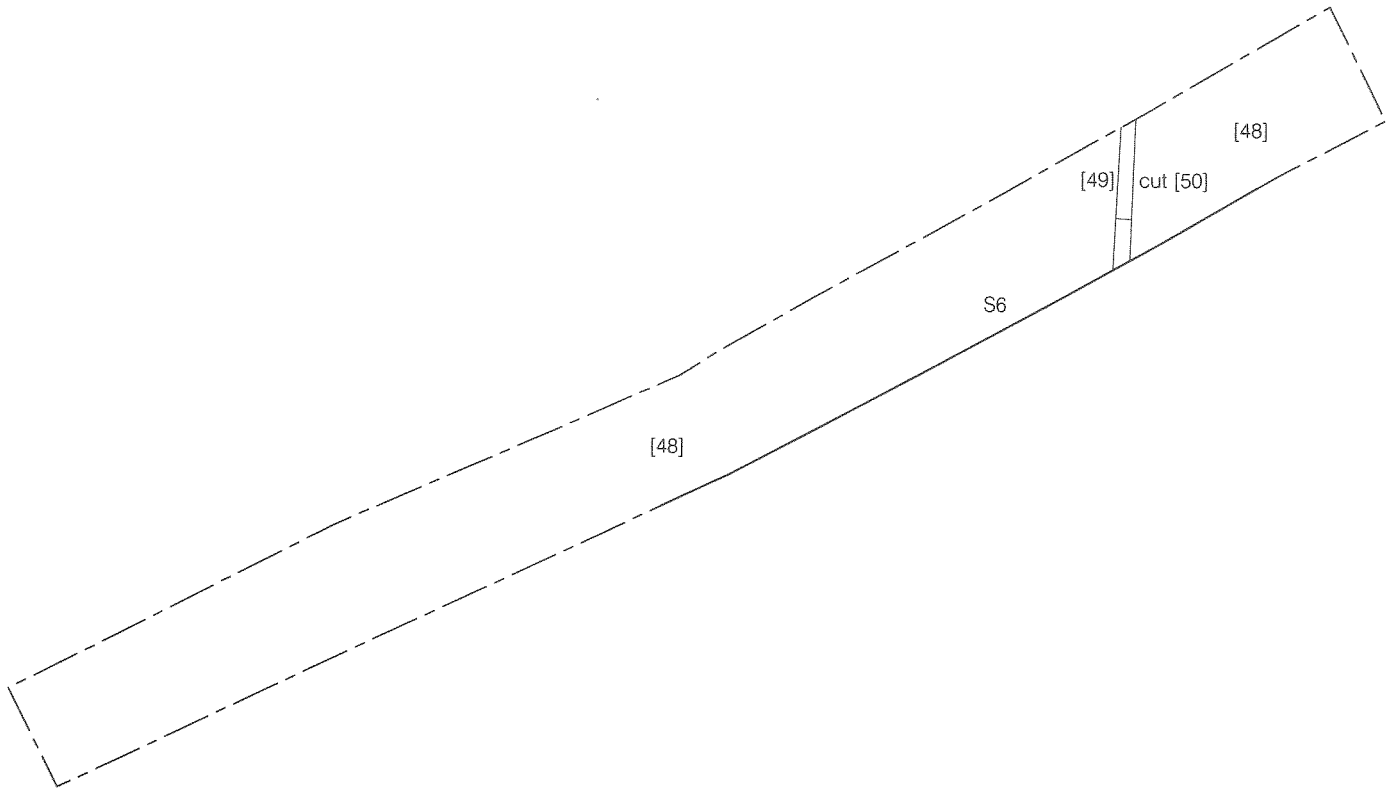


Figure 7  
Plan of Trench 9  
1:100 at A4



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Figure 8  
Plan of Trench 10  
1:100 at A4

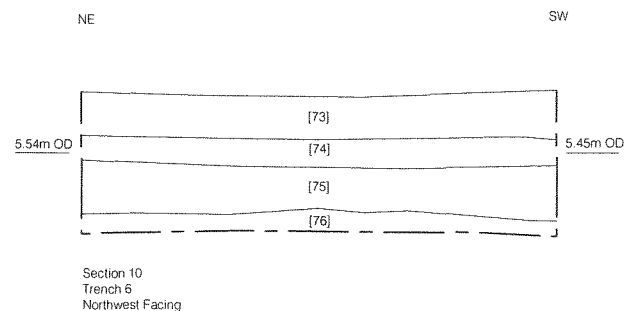
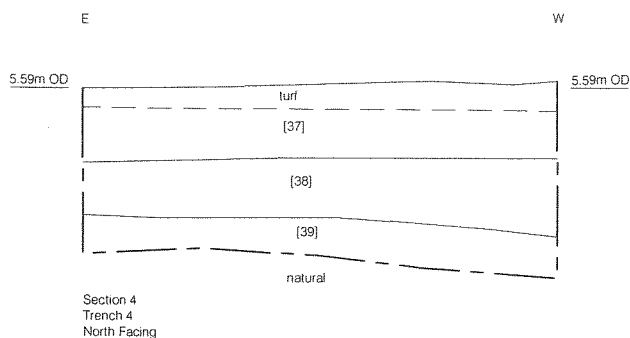
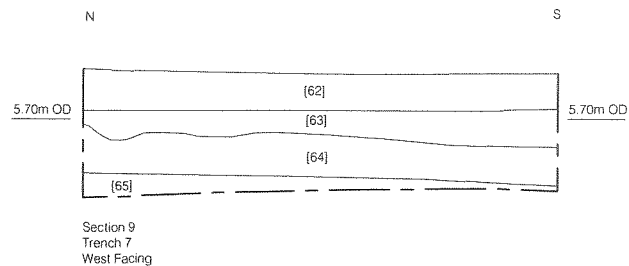
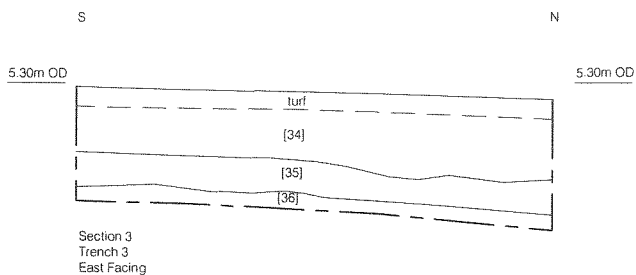
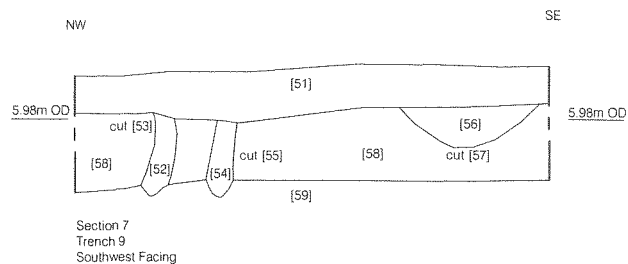
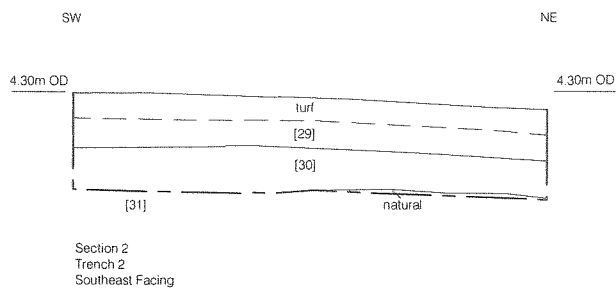
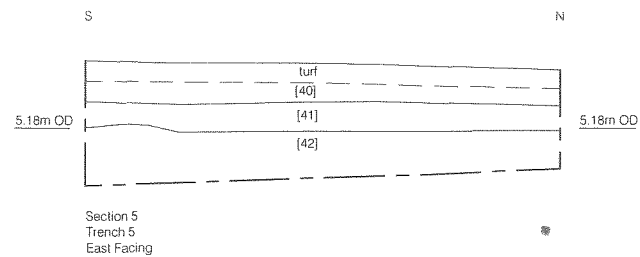
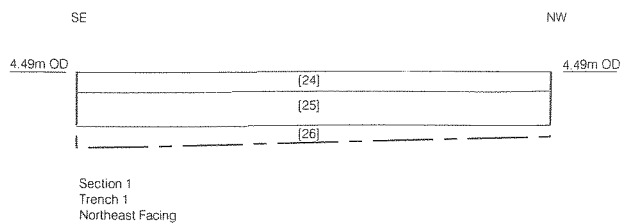
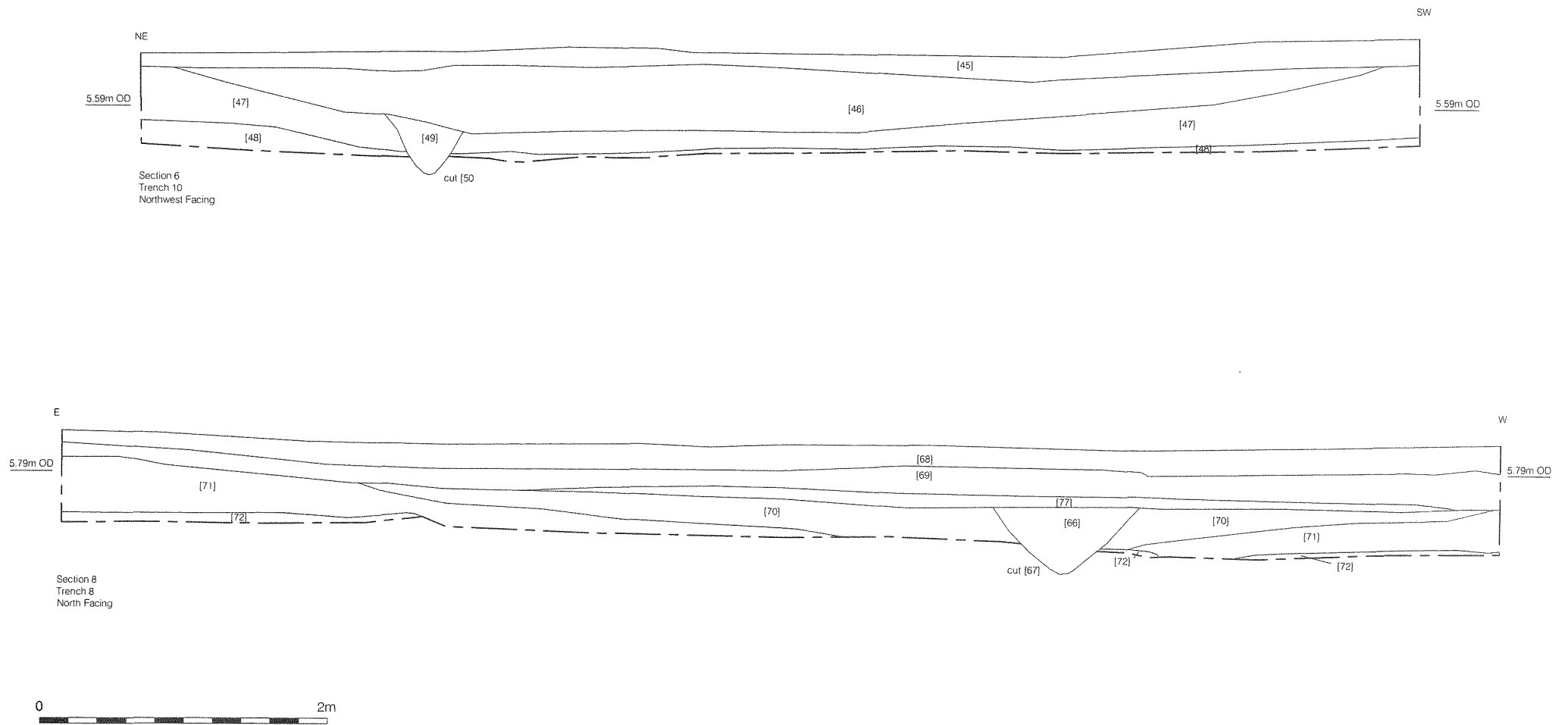


Figure 9  
Sample Sections 1-5, 7, 9, 10  
1:40 at A4



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Figure 10  
Sample Sections 6 and 8  
1:40 at A4

Figure 11: Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8



Trench 1, Looking NW



Trench 2, Looking SW



Trench 3, Looking N



Trench 4, Looking W



Trench 5, Looking NW



Trench 8, Looking W



Figure 12: Trenches 9 and 10, and Trench 8 Section



Trench 9, Looking SE



Trench 10, Looking SW



Trench 8, detail of north-facing section



## **9 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 9.1 The evidence from the test pitting exercise was somewhat inconclusive as it appears that much of the topsoil across the site comprised a significant element of imported material.
- 9.2 From the information derived from the evaluation trenches, four broad stratigraphic phases could be deduced:
- Phase 1: Natural
  - Phase 2: Subsoil development (undated)
  - Phase 3: 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Phase 4: 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Phase 5: Modern
- 9.3 Despite the moderate to high archaeological potential of the site and its apparent lack of previous development, prior to the archaeological investigations, no evidence of activity pre-dating the 18<sup>th</sup> century was found (although a small number of residual finds may have dated to earlier periods).
- 9.4 The earliest deposit encountered in all trenches was either natural Ampthill Clay, a combination of this with silt and gravel, or in one case, a natural gravel deposit. The surface of natural deposits was recorded at various elevations, but exhibited a general upwards slope from northeast to southwest. It was recorded at a lowest surface elevation of 3.75m OD towards the northern end of Trench 2 and at an upper surface elevation of 5.67m OD in Trench 9.
- 9.5 In seven of the ten trenches, natural deposits were overlain by subsoil, generally comprising a firm, mid brown clay. The thickness of this deposit varied considerably across the site, as did its surface elevation. The undulating nature of the surface of the material appears to have been a result of natural processes, rather than truncation by anthropogenic means. The unevenness of the deposit was most noticeable in Trenches 8 and 10, where measures had been taken in the post-medieval period to infill natural depressions and form a more even surface.
- 9.6 In Trench 10 a feature was recorded cutting directly into the subsoil. This appears to have been a drainage feature of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date. In Trenches 1 and 2 pits were cut into the subsoil and backfilled in the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century. That in Trench 1 appears to have been a large quarry pit, possibly for clay extraction. Elsewhere the subsoil was overlain by ground-raising deposits broadly dated to the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century. In three trenches, such deposits directly overlay basal natural.

- 9.7 Further drainage features were recorded cutting into the ground-raising deposits in Trenches 5 and 10. Again these appear to have been of a broad 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 9.8 In Trench 8 the made ground was capped by a turf layer, which had become buried by the recent deposition of imported material that contained an element of demolition rubble, including large concrete fragments. In all Trenches the stratigraphic sequence was capped by a layer of modern topsoil. This also appears to have contained a significant imported element. Further concrete fragments were found in trenches to the south of the site and across much of the site a significant deposit of gravel was observed at the base of the topsoil, possibly material imported to improve the drainage qualities of the soil.
- 9.9 The overall findings of the work were somewhat disappointing, given the archaeological potential of the site. No features earlier than the 18<sup>th</sup> century were identified and there had clearly been recent modifications to the ground surface.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank Lovell Partnerships Ltd. for commissioning and funding the work. PCA would also like to thank Eliza Gore of Cambridgeshire County Council for monitoring the project and Albion Archaeology for the loan of their sieves for use during the test pitting exercise.
- 10.2 The author wishes to thank Helen Hawkins for project management and editing this report, Barry Bishop for supervising the test pitting exercise, Sarah Leveille and Sandy Pullen for their assistance on site, Josephine Brown for the illustrations, and Chris Jarrett and Kevin Hayward for assessing the finds. Thanks also to Lisa Lonsdale for logistical support.

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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

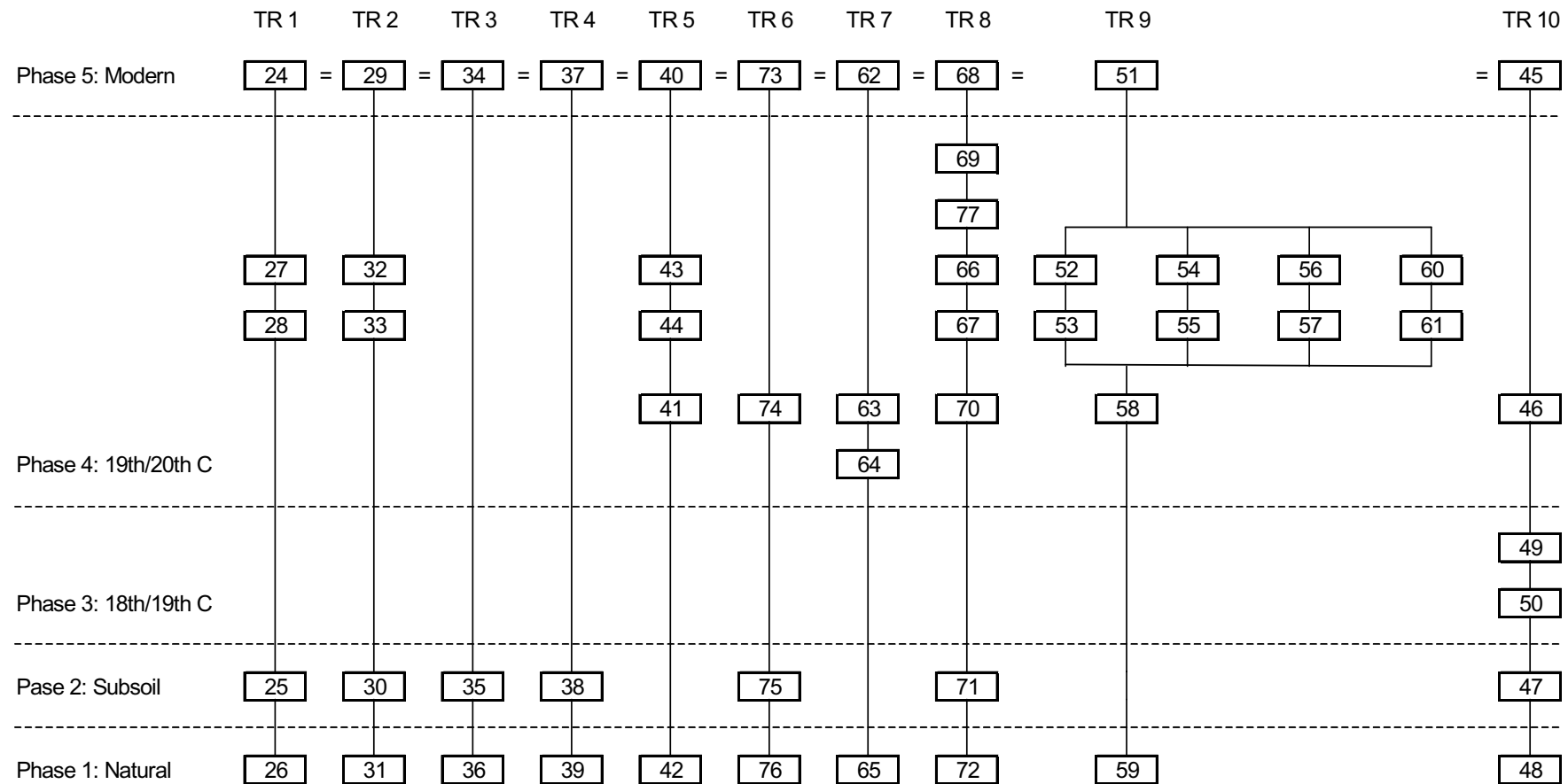
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ECB 2929	3	Layer	TP 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	4	Layer	TP 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	5	Layer	TP 4	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	6	Layer	TP 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	7	Layer	TP 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	8	Layer	TP 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	9	Layer	TP 7	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
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ECB 2929	11	Layer	TP 8	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
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ECB 2929	13	Layer	TP 9	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	14	Layer	TP 9	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
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ECB 2929	16	Layer	TP 11	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	17	Layer	TP 11	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	18	Layer	TP 12	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	19	Layer	TP 12	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	20	Layer	TP 13	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	21	Layer	TP 14	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	22	Layer	TP 15	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	23	Layer	TP 16	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	24	Layer	TR 1	N/A	1	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	25	Layer	TR 1	TR 1	1	N/A	Subsoil	2		Subsoil/weathered natural
ECB 2929	26	Layer	TR 1	N/A	1	N/A	Natural	1		Natural clay
ECB 2929	27	Fill	TR 1	TR 1	N/A	N/A	19th/20th C	4		Fill of [28]
ECB 2929	28	Cut	TR 1	TR 1	N/A	N/A	19th/20th C	4		Possible quarry pit
ECB 2929	29	Layer	TR 2	N/A	2	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	30	Layer	TR 2	N/A	2	N/A	Subsoil	2		Subsoil/weathered natural
ECB 2929	31	Layer	TR 2	TR 2	2	N/A	Natural	1		Natural clay
ECB 2929	32	Fill	TR 2	TR 2	N/A	N/A	19th/20th C	4		Fill of [33]
ECB 2929	33	Cut	TR 2	TR 2	N/A	N/A	19th/20th C	4		Recent pit
ECB 2929	34	Layer	TR 3	N/A	3	N/A	Modern	5		Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	35	Layer	TR 3	N/A	3	N/A	Subsoil	2		Subsoil/weathered natural

ECB 2929	36	Layer	TR 3	TR 3	3	N/A	Natural	1	Natural clay and gravel
ECB 2929	37	Layer	TR 4	N/A	4	N/A	Modern	5	Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	38	Layer	TR 4	N/A	4	N/A	Subsoil	2	Subsoil/weathered natural
ECB 2929	39	Layer	TR 4	TR 4	4	N/A	Natural	1	Natural clay
ECB 2929	40	Layer	TR 5	N/A	5	N/A	Modern	5	Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	41	Layer	TR 5	N/A	5	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Made ground
ECB 2929	42	Layer	TR 5	TR 5	5	N/A	Natural	1	Natural clay and gravel
ECB 2929	43	Fill	TR 5	TR 5	N/A	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Fill of [44]
ECB 2929	44	Cut	TR 5	TR 5	N/A	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Drainage ditch
ECB 2929	45	Layer	TR 10	N/A	6	N/A	Modern	5	Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	46	Layer	TR 10	N/A	6	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Made ground
ECB 2929	47	Layer	TR 10	N/A	6	N/A	Subsoil	2	Subsoil/weathered natural
ECB 2929	48	Layer	TR 10	TR 10	6	N/A	Natural	1	Natural gravel and clay
ECB 2929	49	Fill	TR 10	TR 10	6	N/A	18th/19th C	3	Fill of [50]
ECB 2929	50	Cut	TR 10	TR 10	6	N/A	18th/19th C	3	Drainage ditch
ECB 2929	51	Layer	TR 9	N/A	7	N/A	Modern	5	Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	52	Fill	TR 9	N/A	7	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Fill of [53]
ECB 2929	53	Cut	TR 9	TR 9	7	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Root hole
ECB 2929	54	Fill	TR 9	N/A	7	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Fill of [55]
ECB 2929	55	Cut	TR 9	TR 9	7	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Root hole
ECB 2929	56	Fill	TR 9	N/A	7	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Fill of [57]
ECB 2929	57	Cut	TR 9	N/A	7	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Unclear feature
ECB 2929	58	Layer	TR 9	N/A	7	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Made ground
ECB 2929	59	Layer	TR 9	TR 9	7	N/A	Natural	1	Natural silt and clay
ECB 2929	60	Fill	TR 9	N/A	N/A	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Fill of [61]
ECB 2929	61	Cut	TR 9	TR 9	N/A	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Root hole
ECB 2929	62	Layer	TR 7	N/A	9	N/A	Modern	5	Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	63	Layer	TR 7	N/A	9	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Made ground
ECB 2929	64	Layer	TR 7	N/A	9	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Made ground
ECB 2929	65	Layer	TR 7	TR 7	9	N/A	Natural	1	Natural gravel and clay
ECB 2929	66	Fill	TR 8	TR 8	8	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Fill of [67]
ECB 2929	67	Cut	TR 8	TR 8	8	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Drainage ditch
ECB 2929	68	Layer	TR 8	N/A	8	N/A	Modern	5	Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	69	Layer	TR 8	N/A	8	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Made ground
ECB 2929	70	Layer	TR 8	N/A	8	1	19th/20th C	4	Made ground
ECB 2929	71	Layer	TR 8	N/A	8	N/A	Subsoil	2	Subsoil/weathered natural
ECB 2929	72	Layer	TR 8	TR 8	8	N/A	Natural	1	Natural clay

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ECB 2929	73	Layer	TR 6	N/A	10	N/A	Modern	5	Modern topsoil
ECB 2929	74	Layer	TR 6	N/A	10	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Made ground
ECB 2929	75	Layer	TR 6	N/A	10	N/A	Subsoil	2	Subsoil/weathered natural
ECB 2929	76	Layer	TR 6	TR 6	10	N/A	Natural	1	Natural clay and gravel
ECB 2929	77	Layer	TR 8	N/A	8	N/A	19th/20th C	4	Buried turf layer

## APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX





## APPENDIX 3: FINDS SPOT DATING

### Chris Jarrett and Kevin Hayward

The finds assemblage was mostly derived from the sieving of topsoil during the test pitting exercise. Consequently much of the material is very small and fragmentary, though identifiable material is present, both from the test pits and evaluation trenches. With few exceptions the material appears to represent deposition during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### Clay tobacco pipes

Context	Trench	Spit	No. of fragments	Spot date	Comments
3	TP3	1	1	1580-1910	Stem
4	TP3	2	1	1580-1910	Stem
6	TP5	1	2	1580-1910	Stems
7	TP6	1	3	1580-1800	Stem
10	TP7	2	1	1580-1900	Stem
11	TP8	1	2	17 <sup>th</sup> C	Stem and bowl frag.
12	TP8	2	1	1580-1910	Stem
13	TP9	1	1	1580-1910	Stem
15	TP10	1	4	1580-1910	Stems
16	TP11	1	3	17 <sup>th</sup> C	Stem and bowl frag.
18	TP12	1	2	17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> C	Stem
20	TP13	1	2	17 <sup>th</sup> C	Stem and part of 17 <sup>th</sup> C bowl
22	TP15	1	1	1580-1900	Stem
23	TP16	1	2	1580-1900	Stem

Most of the clay tobacco pipe assemblage consists only of stem fragments and can therefore only be generally dated to between 1580-1910, though where bowl fragments and more distinctive stem fragments are present, dating can be a little more precise.

#### Flint

Context	Trench	Spit	No. of fragments	Spot date	Comments
13	TP9	1	2	Prehistoric – late medieval	Burnt flint
52	Tr9		1	Prehistoric – late medieval	Flint flake with cortex

The flint assemblage is somewhat indeterminate, consisting only of burnt fragments and a flake with some edge modification, probably caused by recent activity.

## Pottery

Context	Trench	Spit	No. of fragments	Spot date	Comments
1	TP1	1	11	1760-1780	CREA DEV, SWSG, PMR, ?MPOT
2	TP2	1	2	1600-1900	PMR
6	TP5	1	6	18 <sup>th</sup> C	CHPO BW, PMR
8	TP6	2	3	13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> C	MPOT, GLAZED GREYWARE AND GREYWARE
9	TP7	1	15	1760-1800	PMR, STSL, CREA DEV, TGW
10	TP7	2	8	1800-1900	REFW, TPW, PMR, ?MPOT
12	TP8	2	6	1760-1780	CREA DEV, SWSG, PMR SLIP, ?MPOT
13	TP9	1	5	1775-1830	SUND MOT, CREA DEV/REFW, PMR, XX
14	TP9	2	4	1600-1900	PMR
15	TP10	1	29	1800-1830	BLUE, TPW, CREA DEV, PMR, PMBL, ?MPOT, ?RPOT
16	TP11	1	12	1760-1830	CREA DEV, PMR; FLP, PMR, MPOT
18	TP12	1	18	1770-1840	PEAR BW, LONS, PMBL, PMR
20	TP13	1	10	1780-1900	TPW, PMR, XX/MPOT
21	TP14	1	3	1780-1900	TPW, MPOT
23	TP16	1	12	1800-1830	REFW, CREA DEV, PMR, MPOT
49	Tr10		1	1600-1900	PMR
66	Tr8		1	1600-1900	PMR BOWL

Key: BLUE = Blue coloured refined white earthenware (1800-1900); CHPO BW = Chinese porcelain, blue and white (1590-1900); CREA DEV = Developed Creamware (1760-1830); LONS = London stoneware (1670-1930); MPOT = Medieval pottery; PEAR BW = Pearl ware with blue and white decoration (1770-1820); PMBL = Post-medieval black-glazed ware (1580-1700); PMR = Post-medieval redware (1580-1900); PMR SLIP = Slip-decorated post-medieval redware (1800-1900); REFW = Refined white earthenware (1800-1900); RPOT = Roman pottery; STSL = Combed slipware (1660-1870); SUND MOT = Mottle-glazed Sunderland-type ware (1775-1850); SWSG = White salt-glazed stoneware (1720-1780); TPW = Transfer-printed ware (1780-1900); TGW = Tin-glazed earthenware (1570-1846). Form: FLP = Flower pot.

Much of the pottery assemblage suggested a deposition in the 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Only in TP 6 was the only material recovered of medieval date and this in abraded condition. Further abraded sherds of possible residual medieval pottery were also recorded in TP1, TP7, TP8, TP10, TP11, TP13 and TP16, and a possible sherd of Roman pottery was recorded in TP10.

## Building Material

Context	Trench	Spot date	Comments
27	Tr1	1400-1800	Peg tile, two different local, silty iron oxide fabrics
27	Tr1	1850-1950	Mortar adhered to brick fragments and peg tile
27	Tr1	1500-1800	Reused bricks, local red fabric 3033

The building material from context [27] includes early post-medieval, stock moulded bricks but re-used with a Victorian mortar.

## APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-43626

### Project details

Project name	Spong Drove, Willingham, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	During May 2008, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. carried out an archaeological test pitting exercise and evaluation trial trenching on a field at the northeastern edge of Willingham, Cambridgeshire. Sixteen trial pits, each measuring 1m <sup>2</sup> were hand excavated to the base of topsoil and ten trial trenches measuring 20m by 1.5m were excavated at locations across the site. The work was carried out prior to the proposed development of the site for social housing. The trial pits were hand excavated in 300mm spits to the base of topsoil and all extracted sediments sieved for finds. The finds retrieved were mostly of recent date and it was later observed during trial trenching that much of the topsoil across the site had been imported. In most of the evaluation trenches the earliest deposit was a layer of stiff natural clay, with variable quantities of silt and gravel also being present. This was overlain by natural subsoil or by post-medieval made ground. A number of features were identified but these were all associated with later post-medieval field drainage and tree rooting. The overall findings of the work were somewhat disappointing, given the archaeological potential of the site. No features earlier than the 18th century were identified and there had clearly been recent modifications to the ground surface.
Project dates	Start: 12-05-2008 End: 30-05-2008
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB2929 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE WILLINGHAM Land off Rockmill End/Spong Drove
Postcode	CB24

Study area	0.92 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4094 7089 52.3175840295 0.06798383783440 52 19 03 N 000 04 04 E Point
Height OD	Min: 3.75m Max: 5.67m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice
Project design originator	Helen Hawkins
Project director/manager	Helen Hawkins
Project supervisor	Barry Bishop
Project supervisor	Peter Boyer
Type of sponsor/funding body	Lovell Partnerships Limited
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lovell Partnerships Ltd.

#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Section'

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Test Pitting Exercise and Evaluation Trial Trenching at Land off Rockmill End/Spong Drove, Willingham,

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