



FORDHAM ABBEY, 49 FORDHAM ROAD, FORDHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



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**FORDHAM ABBEY, 49 FORDHAM ROAD, FORDHAM,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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| Site Code | ECB 4832 | NGR | TL 6304 6963 |
| Planning Ref. | 16/00481/FUM | OASIS | britanni1-264940 |
| Approved By: |  | Date | January 2017 |



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Abstract

In October 2016 and January 2017 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation on land at Fordham Abbey, 49 Fordham Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6304 6963), as a condition of planning application reference 16/00481/FUM, in advance of the erection of a new building to house a sake brewery and visitor centre. A design brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team required a programme of linear trial trenching to adequately sample the threatened area.

The archaeological background suggested that the site had a potential of encountering archaeological remains dating to the Roman and medieval periods, with a specific potential for encountering archaeology associated with the former abbey that once stood on the site. The evaluation revealed three phases of activity on the site.

Phase I, related to the single archaeological feature on the site, gully 1010 located in Trench 5. The gully was sealed by alluvial deposits and sadly was undated, however the construction of this gully pre-dates a historic inundation event that formed the alluvial layer above it (Phase II).

Phase II related to the alluvial deposits associated with the nearby River Snail. The river is located approximately 200m east of the site. These alluvial deposits likely relate to sediments that have been deposited during flood conditions in the past.

Phase III is associated with the pre-existing buildings that were present on the site which were recently demolished. The foundations of these buildings were present in two of the trenches. The demolition also resulted in the spread of a demolition layer across the central area of the site.

Despite the potential of remains associated with the Roman period and more specifically with remains associated with the former medieval abbey no dated archaeological features were encountered.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

In October 2016 and January 2017 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation on land at Fordham Abbey, 49 Fordham Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6304 6963), as a condition of planning application reference 16/00481/FUM, in advance of the erection of a new building to house a sake brewery and visitor centre.

A design brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Thomas, A., dated 6th September 2016) required a programme of linear trial trenching to adequately sample the threatened area. A total of four trenches measuring 25 x 1.8m and a single trench measuring 15 x 1.8m (Fig. 4) which covered over 5% of the site, were excavated to achieve this.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The site is located within the grounds of Fordham Abbey. The proposed development comprises of a new building to house a sake brewery, visitor centre and carpark.

The bedrock geology is described as West Melbury Chalk Formation – Chalk. Which is a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous period when the local environment was previously dominated by warm chalk seas (BGS, 2017).

No superficial deposits have been recorded for the site at the time of this WSI. However, just over 600m to the east of the proposed development the superficial deposits are recorded as River Terrace Deposits, 1 – Sand and Gravel. Which are superficial deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary period when the local environment was previously dominated by rivers (BGS, 2017).

3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The archaeological investigation is to be carried out on the recommendation of the local planning authority, following guidance laid down by the *National Planning and Policy Framework* (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaced *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5, DCLG 2010) in March 2012. The relevant local development framework is the *East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (S 6.16.4; 2015)*.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figs 2, 3 & 4)

The following archaeological background utilises the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER) (1km search centred on the site), Historic England PastScape



(www.pastscape.org.uk), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS) (Fig. 2 & 3). The CHER preferred reference has been used.

The site is located within an area of high archaeological potential on the grounds of Fordham Abbey. The present house dates from the early 18th century and is built on the site of the 13th century Gilbertine Priory (HER 07449a). The grounds were probably landscaped around the time of the construction of the present house, but traces of the priory, including fishponds, may survive sub-surface (HER 07449).

4.1 Prehistoric (814,000BC – 43AD)

Evidence for pre-historic activity in the 1km search area is well documented. Find spots record limited Mesolithic (MCB8978 and MCB8988) and Neolithic (MCB9111, MCB9347 and MCB14998) activity in the wider search area with the closest record to the site, approximately 400m to the north, being MCB9111 which refers to the discovery of a small Neolithic polished stone axe.

A concentration of Bronze Age activity is noted 600m south of the site and includes evidence of two ring ditches. Further excavation in 2012 showed these related to a more complete barrow site. In addition to the two known barrows, a total of 21 cremation burials were also recorded. None of the cremations were interred in a vessel of any material with no suggestion of an organic container. Three cremations were submitted for radiocarbon dating producing results suggesting a Late Bronze Age date for the cemetery.

The wider search area contains Iron Age records with An Iron Age settlement (MCB13271) being located during the Fenland Survey approximately 700m to the north east of the site. Further evidence for prehistoric activity was noted at the Fordham Bypass (MCB16947) located 750m south west of the site. Excavations uncovered a dense area of prehistoric remains which included finds dating from the Neolithic through to the Iron Age.

4.2 Roman (43AD – 410AD)

Roman activity in the search area is represented by four records returned by the CHER search. The closest record (MCB13561) to the site is located 500m to the south and refers to an artefact scatter found during metal detecting. Finds include bone, pottery and tile.

Roman coins were recorded to the north west (MCB9156), while to the south evidence of Roman activity has been discovered (MCB16946 and MCB20916) which includes further artefact scatters and three ditches located in the same excavation as a bronze age barrow cemetery (see above) on the same alignment as Roman ditches encountered during excavations for the Fordham bypass (MCB16947).

The spread of activity in the area suggests a moderate potential for encountering remains of Roman date.



4.3 *Anglo-Saxon (410AD – 1066AD)*

Saxon activity has been recorded only to the north of the site. The closest record (MCB9109), 350m north of the site relates to a find spot where three objects of uncertain use, probably book mounts were recovered. The finds date to the 8th – 9th century.

A concentration of activity is located 900m to the north at Hillside Meadow (MCB14611 and MCB15561) where excavations have revealed domestic and agricultural activity relating to the Saxon occupation of the area.

4.4 *Medieval (1066AD – 1540AD)*

Medieval activity is widely distributed across the search area. The most significant record is Fordham Abbey on which the site is located. A Gilbertine priory was founded here before 1227 and was subsequently dissolved in 1538. A hospital (dedication St Peter and Mary Magdalene) founded before 1279 for 14 poor persons and a priory dedicated to St. Peter and Mary Magdalene was founded by the Canons of the Order of Sempringham immediately before 1227. By 1279 the Prior held the original endowment of a messuage, a watermill and 14 acres of arable land. The house was never very large and none of the Priory buildings have survived. The present house on the site, although called Fordham Abbey dates from c.1710. Slight traces of a levelled fish pond have survived. The gardens and park associated with the abbey (MCB14463) cover a large swathe of the immediate area in the search radius. Two significant listed building records returned by the search are also associated with the abbey, the first 49042, refers to the boundary walls and two pairs of gate piers to the south. The second record 49041, directly refers to the Abbey.

Further medieval activity in the search area is noted to the south west (MCB12243) where furlong boundaries have been recorded in the vicinity of the Fordham Bypass.

Given the sites location in the abbey grounds the potential for encountering remains associated with the former abbey and priory, as well as other remains of medieval date is high.

4.5 *Post-Medieval (1540AD – 1900AD)*

Seven records are located within the search area of a post medieval date and relate to post-medieval buildings including Landwade House (MCB14262), an enclosure system at the Fordham bypass (MCB14998), and the now dismantled route of the Ely to Newmarket Railway (MCB14998). These tend to date to the 18th and 19th centuries suggesting a significant period of building activity from the 18th century onwards.

Given the above, the likelihood of encountering archaeological remains dating to the Roman period was considered moderate while encountering remains associated with the former abbey and priory and of a medieval date was high.



5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The CCC HET brief states that the evaluation should aim to determine, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied (Thomas, A. Brief, Section 3.1).

6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Research objectives for the project are in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (Medlycott, 2011).

Specific objectives outlined in the brief state that a particular importance be placed on:

- the amount of truncation to buried deposits,
- the presence or absence of a palaeosol or 'B' horizon,
- the preservation of deposits within negative features,
- site formation processes.

An assessment of the environmental potential of the site through examination of suitable deposits must also be arranged with a suitably qualified specialist. Attention should be paid:

- to the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features, and to soil pollen analysis;
- to the retrieval of plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits located.
- provision for the absolute dating of critical contacts should be made: eg the basal contacts of peats over former dryland surfaces; distinct landuse or landmark change in urban contexts

7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The CCC HET Brief required an adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened. A 5% sample of a site was deemed sufficient to achieve an adequate representative sample. In this case five trenches were cut, four measuring 25m x 1.80m and a single trench measuring 15m x 1.80m would be a suitable sample area.

A 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used to machine down to the first archaeological horizon, thereafter all excavation work was undertaken by hand.



The archaeology was recorded using pro-forma record sheets, drawn plans and section drawings and appropriate photographs will also be taken.

8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 5 - 10)

The trenches were located on the area of the proposed developments (Fig. 5).

8.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 6)

Trench 1 was located in the northern area of the site, was orientated north-east to south-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m. The trench contained two natural features, **1007** and **1008**, which relate to glacial scarring. No archaeological features or finds were present in the trench.

Topsoil layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.25m. This layer overlay subsoil layer **1001** which was 0.54m thick to a depth of 0.79m. The final layer in the trench was natural geology **1003**.

8.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 7)

Trench 2 was located in the southern portion of the site and was orientated north-west to south-east. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.95m. The trench contained tree throw **1006**. No archaeological features or finds were present in the trench.

Modern demolition layer **1004** was present to a depth of 0.17m. Topsoil layer **1000** was 0.10m thick to a depth of 0.27m. This layer overlay subsoil layer **1001** which was 0.43m thick to a depth of 0.70m. The final layer in the trench was natural geology **1003**.

8.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 8)

Trench 3 was located in the centre of the site and was orientated north-east to south-west. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.83m. The trench contained the remains of the modern foundations relating to the building that stood previously on the site. The site also contained natural feature **1009**, which relates to glacial scarring. No archaeological features or finds were present in the trench.

Modern demolition layer **1004** was present to a depth of 0.23m. The next layer in the sequence was topsoil layer **1000** which was 0.29m thick and was present to a depth of 0.52m. This layer overlay subsoil layer **1001** which was 0.31m thick to a depth of 0.83m. The final layer in the trench was natural geology **1003**.



8.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 9)

Trench 4 was located in the north-eastern area of the site and was on a north-east to south-west alignment. The trench contained the remains of the modern foundations that related to the buildings that were present on the site previously and that have been demolished just prior to the evaluation. A modern soakaway also related to the previous buildings was present in the trench. No archaeological features or finds were present in the trench. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.04m.

Modern demolition layer **1004** was present to a depth of 0.50m. The next layer in the sequence was topsoil layer **1000** which was 0.15m thick and was present to a depth of 0.65m. This layer overlay alluvial deposits **1002** which were 0.18m thick to a depth of 0.88m. The final layer in the trench was natural geology **1003**.

8.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 10)

Trench 5 was located in the south-western portion of the site in an area that was covered by trees. Once these were cleared the trench was excavated on a north-west to south-east alignment. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.17m.

The trench contained a single archaeological feature, gully **1010**, (1.80m x 0.31m x 0.08m) which was linear in plan with shallow sloping slides and a concave base. The gully was on a north-east to south-west alignment.

Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.18m. The next layer in the sequence was subsoil layer **1001** which was 0.21m thick and was present to a depth of 0.39m. This layer overlay woodland soil layer **1014** which was 0.39m thick to a depth of 0.78. This overlay alluvial subsoil **1002** which was 0.32m thick to a depth of 1.10m. The final layer in the trench was natural geology **1003**.

9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Figs. 6 - 10)

The deposit model was broadly consistent across the site. In the centre of the site present in trenches 2, 3 and 4 was modern demolition layer **1004**. This layer consisted of dark grey brown, firm, sandy silt with large pieces of rubble present. This layer relates to the demolition of the pre-existing building on the site.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence in all other trenches was topsoil layer **1000**, comprising a mid-brown grey, friable, silty sand, with occasional small inclusions of chalk. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.27m.

Sealed by topsoil **1000** was subsoil layer **1001**, comprising a mid-orange-grey brown, friable silty sand with occasional flint pebble inclusions. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.84m.



In trench 5 subsoil layer **1001** sealed woodland soil layer **1014** which comprised a light grey orange silty sand with infrequent flint pebble inclusions. This layer possibly relates to a period in which the area was planted prior to the land being cleared before the construction of the abbey, or a later post-abbey woodland.

Trenches 4 and 5 both contained alluvial deposits associated with the nearby river snail. These alluvial deposits (**1002**) comprised mid brown orange, loose silty sand with moderate sub angular flint stones.

The final layer in the sequence was natural geology **1003** which consisted of light yellow-white, compact, chalky clay with occasional flint pebble inclusions.

10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background suggested that the site had a potential of encountering archaeological remains dating to the Roman and medieval periods, with a specific potential for encountering archaeology associated with the former abbey that once stood on the site. The evaluation revealed three phases of activity on the site.

Phase I, relates to the single archaeological feature on the site, Gully **1010** located in trench 5. The gully was sealed by alluvial deposit **1002** and although undated, relates to an earlier phase than the inundation alluvial deposit in Phase II.

Phase II relates to the alluvial deposits (**1002**) associated with the nearby River Snail. The river is located approximately 200m east of the site. These alluvial deposits likely relate to sediments that have are deposited during flood conditions in the past, although it is unclear if this pre or post-dates the abbey on site.

Phase III is associated with the pre-existing buildings that were present on the site which were recently demolished. The foundation runs of these buildings were present in two of the trenches (trenches **3** and **4**). The demolition also resulted in the spread of demolition layer **1004** across the central area of the site.

Despite the potential of remains associated with the Roman period and more specifically with remains associated with the former medieval abbey no dated archaeological features were encountered.

11.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The final archive will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (CHET). The digital archive will be stored with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).



12.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The site was excavated by Matthew J. Baker, Matthew Adams and Martin Brook of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



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Historic England PastScape www.pastscape.org.uk

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) www.ads.ahds.ac.uk

Historic England National List for England

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>

DEFRA Magic <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic>



APPENDIX 1 – DEPOSIT TABLES

Deposit Tables

TRENCH 1

| Trench No | Orientation | Height AOD | Shot ID |
|-------------------|----------------|---|---------|
| 1 | NE-SW | 13.26m | 1 |
| Sample Section No | Location | Facing | |
| 1 | SE Side SW End | NW Facing | |
| Context No | Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 1000 | 0.00-0.25m | Topsoil: Mid grey-brown, friable silty sand with occasional small chalk inclusions. | |
| 1001 | 0.25-0.79m | Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, loose, silty sand with occasional flint pebbles inclusions. | |
| 1003 | 0.79m + | Natural: Light yellow-white, compact chalky clay with occasional flint pebble inclusions. | |

| Trench No | Orientation | Height AOD | Shot ID |
|-------------------|----------------|---|---------|
| 1 | NE-SW | 13.41m | 2 |
| Sample Section No | Location | Facing | |
| 2 | NW Side NE End | SE Facing | |
| Context No | Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 1000 | 0.00-0.27m | Topsoil: Mid grey-brown, friable silty sand with occasional small chalk inclusions. | |
| 1001 | 0.27-0.58m | Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, loose, silty sand with occasional flint pebbles inclusions. | |
| 1003 | 0.58m + | Natural: Light yellow-white, compact chalky clay with occasional flint pebble inclusions. | |

| Feature Context | Feature Type & Description (m) | Layer/Fill Context | Layer/Fill Description | Spot Date | Other |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|---|-----------|-------|
| 1007 | Glacial Scar (L3.20m x W1.80m+ x D0.34m), Irregular profile. | | Mid yellow-brown, friable silty sand with occasional small flint and chalk inclusions. | | |
| 1008 | Glacial Scar (L1.40m x W1.20m+ x D0.22m), Irregular profile. | | Mid reddish-yellow-brown, friable silty sand with occasional small-medium flints and small chalk inclusions | | |

TRENCH 2

| Trench No | Orientation | Height AOD | Shot ID |
|-------------------|----------------|---|---------|
| 2 | NW-SE | 13.77m | 3 |
| Sample Section No | Location | Facing | |
| 3 | NW Side SW End | NE Facing | |
| Context No | Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 1004 | 0.00-0.17m | Demolition Layer: Dark grey-brown, firm, sandy silt with frequent rubble. | |



| | | |
|-------------|------------|---|
| 1000 | 0.17-0.27m | Topsoil: Mid grey-brown, friable silty sand with occasional small chalk inclusions. |
| 1001 | 0.27-0.70m | Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, loose, silty sand with occasional flint pebbles inclusions. |
| 1003 | 0.70m + | Natural: Light yellow-white, compact chalky clay with occasional flint pebble inclusions. |

| Trench No | Orientation | Height AOD | Shot ID |
|-------------------|----------------|---|----------|
| 2 | NW-SE | 14.26m | 4 |
| Sample Section No | Location | Facing | |
| 4 | SW Side NW End | SW Facing | |
| Context No | Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 1000 | 0.00-0.21m | Topsoil: Mid grey-brown, friable silty sand with occasional small chalk inclusions. | |
| 1001 | 0.21-0.54m | Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, loose, silty sand with occasional flint pebbles inclusions. | |
| 1003 | 0.54m + | Natural: Light yellow-white, compact chalky clay with occasional flint pebble inclusions. | |

| Feature Context | Feature Type & Description (m) | Layer/Fill Context | Layer/Fill Description | Spot Date | Other |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|---|-----------|-------|
| 1006 | Treebole (L0.70m+ x W0.80m+ x D0.21m), Irregular profile. | | Mid red-brown, friable silty sand with occasional small-medium flint inclusions | | |

TRENCH 3

| Trench No | Orientation | Height AOD | Shot ID |
|-------------------|----------------|---|----------|
| 3 | NE-SW | 13.05m | 5 |
| Sample Section No | Location | Facing | |
| 5 | NW Side SW End | SE Facing | |
| Context No | Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 1005 | 0.00-0.11m | Chalk Surface: Pale yellow-white, compact chalk with occasional flint inclusions. | |
| 1001 | 0.11-0.34m | Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, loose, silty sand with occasional flint pebbles inclusions. | |
| 1003 | 0.34m + | Natural: Light yellow-white, compact chalky clay with occasional flint pebble inclusions. | |

| Trench No | Orientation | Height AOD | Shot ID |
|-------------------|----------------|---|----------|
| 3 | NE-SW | 12.65m | 6 |
| Sample Section No | Location | Facing | |
| 6 | NW Side NE End | SE Facing | |
| Context No | Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 1004 | 0.00-0.23m | Demolition Layer: Dark grey-brown, firm, sandy silt with frequent rubble. | |



| | | |
|-------------|------------|---|
| 1000 | 0.23-0.52m | Topsoil: Mid grey-brown, friable silty sand with occasional small chalk inclusions. |
| 1001 | 0.52-0.83m | Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, loose, silty sand with occasional flint pebbles inclusions. |
| 1003 | 0.83m + | Natural: Light yellow-white, compact chalky clay with occasional flint pebble inclusions. |

TRENCH 4

| Trench No | Orientation | Height AOD | Shot ID |
|-------------------|----------------|---|----------|
| 4 | NE-SW | 12.45m | 7 |
| Sample Section No | Location | Facing | |
| 7 | NW Side SW End | NW Facing | |
| Context No | Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 1004 | 0.00-0.50m | Demolition Layer: Dark grey-brown, firm, sandy silt with frequent rubble. | |
| 1000 | 0.50-0.65m | Topsoil: Mid grey-brown, friable silty sand with occasional small chalk inclusions. | |
| 1002 | 0.65-0.88m | Alluvial Deposits: Mid orange-brown, loose silty sand with moderate sub-angular flint inclusions. | |
| 1003 | 0.88m + | Natural: Light yellow-white, compact chalky clay with occasional flint pebble inclusions. | |

| Trench No | Orientation | Height AOD | Shot ID |
|-------------------|----------------|---|----------|
| 4 | NE-SW | 12.63 | 8 |
| Sample Section No | Location | Facing | |
| 8 | SE Side NE End | SE Facing | |
| Context No | Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 1004 | 0.00-0.27m | Demolition Layer: Dark grey-brown, firm, sandy silt with frequent rubble. | |
| 1000 | 0.27-0.53m | Topsoil: Mid grey-brown, friable silty sand with occasional small chalk inclusions. | |
| 1001 | 0.53-0.84m | Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, loose, silty sand with occasional flint pebbles inclusions. | |
| 1003 | 0.84m + | Natural: Light yellow-white, compact chalky clay with occasional flint pebble inclusions. | |

TRENCH 5

| Trench No | Orientation | Height AOD | Shot ID |
|-------------------|----------------|--|-----------|
| 5 | NW-SE | 14.53m | 19 |
| Sample Section No | Location | Facing | |
| 9 | NE Side NW End | SW Facing | |
| Context No | Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 1000 | 0.00-0.14m | Topsoil: Mid grey-brown, friable silty sand with occasional small chalk inclusions. | |
| 1001 | 0.14-0.35m | Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, loose, silty sand with occasional flint pebbles inclusions. | |



| | | |
|-------------|---------|---|
| 1003 | 0.35m + | Natural: Light yellow-white, compact chalky clay with occasional flint pebble inclusions. |
|-------------|---------|---|

| Trench No | Orientation | Height AOD | Shot ID |
|-------------------|----------------|--|-----------|
| 5 | NW-SE | 14.68m | 20 |
| Sample Section No | Location | Facing | |
| 10 | SW Side SE End | NE Facing | |
| Context No | Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 1000 | 0.00-0.18m | Topsoil: Mid grey-brown, friable silty sand with occasional small chalk inclusions. | |
| 1001 | 0.18-0.39m | Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, loose, silty sand with occasional flint pebbles inclusions. | |
| 1014 | 0.39-1.10m | Woodland Soil: light grey orange, silty sand with infrequent flint pebble inclusions. | |
| 1002 | 1.10m + | Alluvial Deposits: mid brown orange, loose, silty sand with moderate sub angular flint stones. | |
| 1003 | 1.10m+ | Natural: Light yellow-white, compact chalky clay with occasional flint pebble inclusions | |

Context Descriptions

| Feature Context | Feature Type & Description (m) | Layer/Fill Context | Layer/Fill Description | Spot Date | Other |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|--|-----------|-------|
| 1010 | Gully (L1.80m+ x W0.31m x D0.08m), Linear in plan, NE-SW alignment, shallow sloping sides, concave base. | 1011 | Fill of Gully - Light yellow-brown, compact sandy silt | | |



APPENDIX 2 – OASIS SHEET

On Approval of Draft Report

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

OASIS ID: **britannia1-264940**

Project details

| | |
|--|--|
| Project name | Fordham Abbey, 49 Fordham Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire |
| Short description of the project | In October 2016 and January 2017 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation on land at Fordham Abbey, 49 Fordham Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6304 6963). A design brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team required a programme of linear trial trenching to adequately sample the threatened area. The archaeological background suggested that the site had a potential of encountering archaeological remains dating to the Roman and medieval periods, with a specific potential for encountering archaeology associated with the former abbey that once stood on the site. The evaluation revealed three phases of activity on the site. Phase I, related to the single archaeological feature on the site, gully 1010 located in Trench 5. The gully was sealed by alluvial deposits and sadly was undated, however the construction of this gully pre-dates a historic inundation event that formed the alluvial layer above it (Phase II). Phase II related to the alluvial deposits associated with the nearby River Snail. The river is located approximately 200m east of the site. These alluvial deposits likely relate to sediments that have been deposited during flood conditions in the past. Phase III is associated with the pre-existing buildings that were present on the site which were recently demolished. The foundations of these buildings were present in two of the trenches. The demolition also resulted in the spread of a demolition layer across the central area of the site. |
| Project dates | Start: 24-10-2016 End: 30-01-2017 |
| Previous/future work | No / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | ECB4832 - Sitecode |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Other 3 - Built over |
| Monument type | NONE None |
| Significant Finds | NONE None |
| Methods & techniques | "Sample Trenches" |
| Development type | Rural commercial |



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

Project location

Country England
Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE FORDHAM Fordham Abbey,
49 Fordham Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire
Postcode CB7 5LL
Study area 0 Hectares
Site coordinates TL 563030 269620 51.918747081365 0.273042564198 51 55 07 N 000 16 22 E
Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator Matthew Baker
Project director/manager Dan McConnell
Project supervisor Matt Baker
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body KPT Architects

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Cambridgeshire HER
Digital Archive ID ECB4832
Digital Contents "Survey", "none"
Digital Media available "Database", "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient Cambridgeshire HER
Paper Archive ID ECB4832
Paper Contents "none"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "



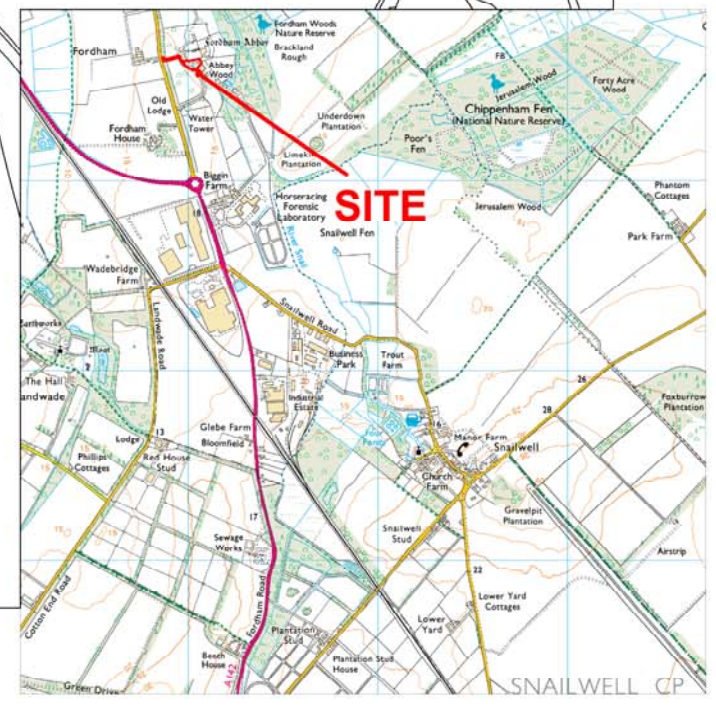
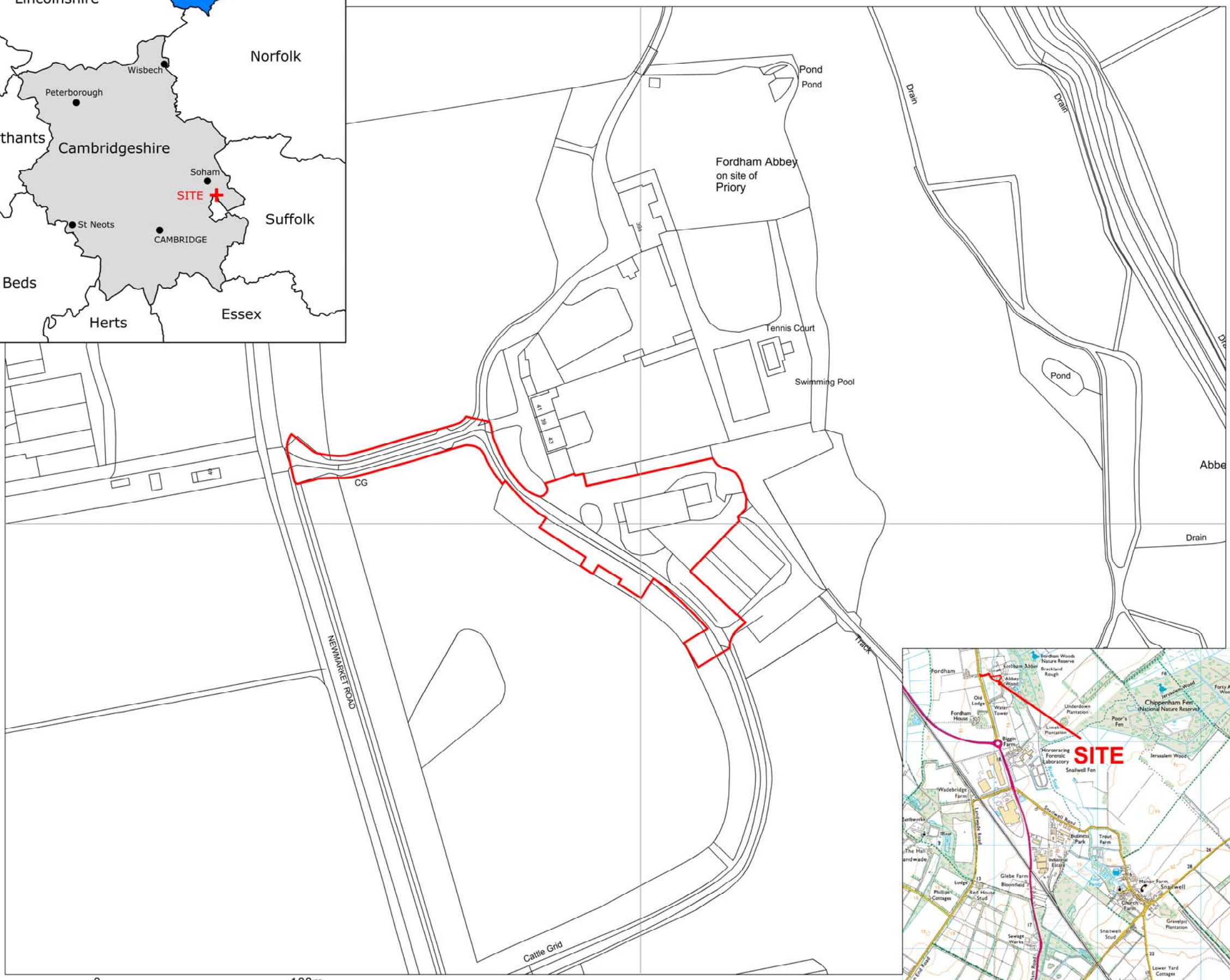
**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Fordham Abbey, 49 Fordham Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor (s) M. Brook
Other bibliographic details R1150
Date 2017
Issuer or publisher Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication Bury St Edmunds
Description A4 bound report with A3 pull-out figures

Entered by Martin Brook (martin@brit-arch.com)
Entered on 17 March 2017

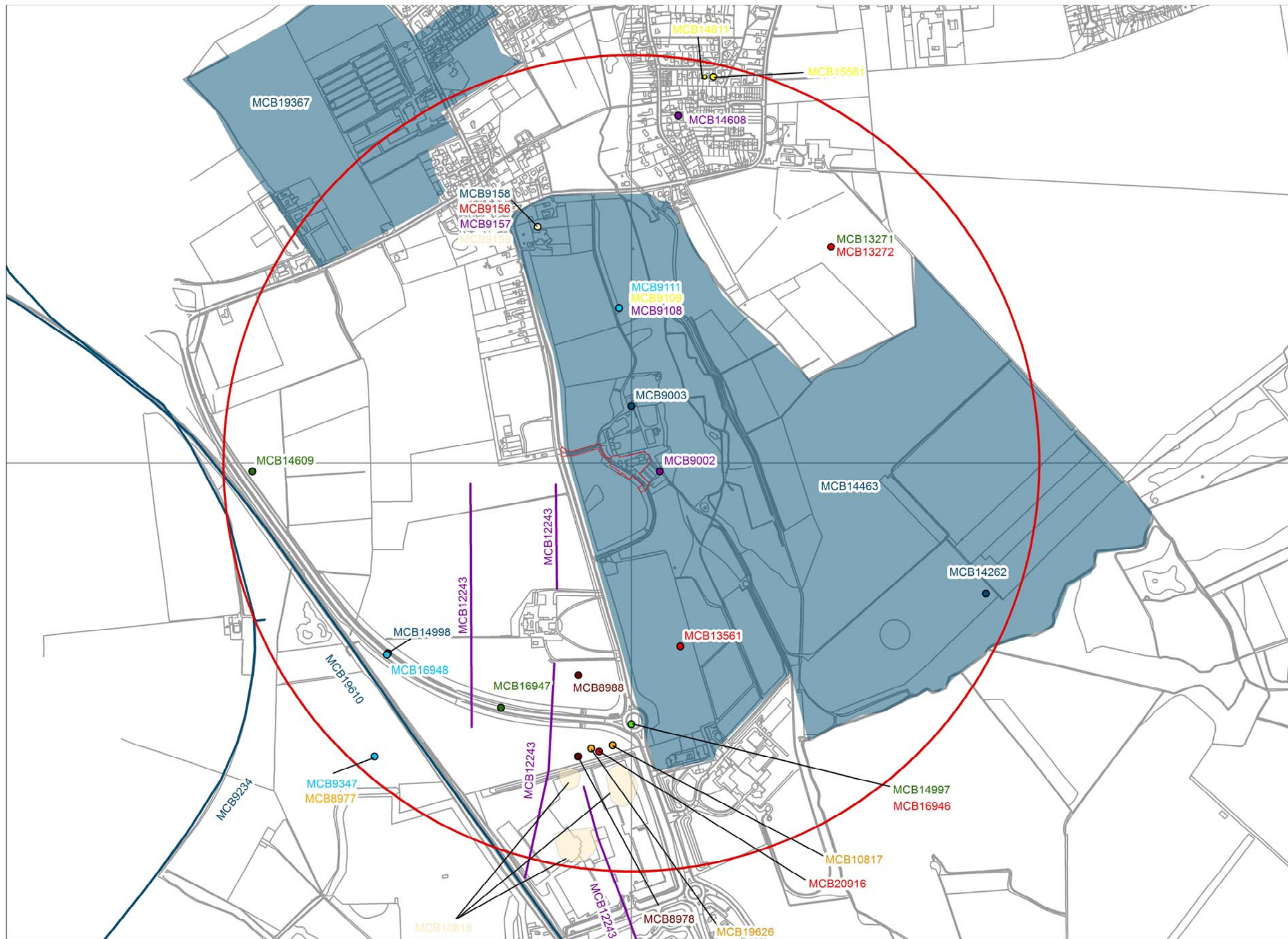
OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice
© ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012
Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page



| | | | |
|---|---|---------|-------|
| NGR: | 563030 269620 | REF: | R1150 |
| PROJECT: | FORDHAM ABBEY, 49 FORDHAM ROAD, FORDHAM | | |
| DESCRIPTION: | GENERAL LOCATION PLAN | | |
| CLIENT: | KPT ARCHITECTS | | |
| BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD | | | |
|  UNIT 2 THE OLD WOOL WAREHOUSE ST ANDREWS STREET SOUTH BURY ST EDMUNDS SUFFOLK IP33 3PH T: 01449 763034 E: info@britannia-archaeology.com W: www.britannia-archaeology.com © Copyright Britannia Archaeology Ltd 2017 | | | |
| DATE: | JAN 2017 | PLOT: | A3 |
| VERSION: | 1 | AUTHOR: | MCA |
| APPROVED: | MB | FIGURE: | 1 |

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-  HER Search Area
-  Undated Record
-  Multiperiod Record
-  Modern Record
-  Post-medieval Record
-  Medieval Record
-  Anglo Saxon Record
-  Roman Record
-  Iron Age Record
-  Bronze Age Record
-  Neolithic Record
-  Mesolithic Record
-  Palaeolithic Record
-  Site Boundary

| | |
|---|------------|
| NGR: 563030 269620 | REF: R1150 |
| PROJECT: FORDHAM ABBEY, 49 FORDHAM ROAD, FORDHAM | |
| DESCRIPTION: CHET: MONUMENTS DATA PLAN | |
| CLIENT: KPT ARCHITECTS | |
| BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD  UNIT 2 THE OLD WOOL WAREHOUSE ST ANDREWS STREET SOUTH BURY ST EDMUNDS SUFFOLK IP33 3PH T: 01449 763034 E: info@britannia-archaeology.com W: www.britannia-archaeology.com © Copyright Britannia Archaeology Ltd 2017 | |

1:10000 0 1:10000 500m

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| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| DATE: OCT 2016 | FIGURE: 2 |
| APPROVED: MB | |



- HER Search Area
- Archaeological Event
- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monuments
- Registered Parks & Gardens
- Grade I Listed Building
- Grade II* Listed Building
- Grade II Listed Building
- Site Boundary

NGR: 563030 269620 REF: R1150

PROJECT: FORDHAM ABBEY, 49 FORDHAM ROAD, FORDHAM

DESCRIPTION: CHET: EVENTS & LISTED BUILDINGS DATA PLAN

CLIENT: KPT ARCHITECTS

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DATE: JAN 2017 PLOT: A3 VERSION: 1

AUTHOR: MJB FIGURE: 3

APPROVED: DPM

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NGR: 563030 269620 REF: R1150

PROJECT: FORDHAM ABBEY, 49 FORDHAM ROAD, FORDHAM

DESCRIPTION: TRENCH LOCATION PLAN

CLIENT: KPT ARCHITECTS

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AUTHOR: MCA

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FIGURE: 4

1:500



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-  Sample Section
-  Concrete Hard Standing
-  Excavated Feature
-  Trench
-  Site Boundary

| | | | |
|---|--|----------|-------|
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| PROJECT: | FORDHAM ABBEY, 49 FORDHAM ROAD, FORDHAM | | |
| DESCRIPTION: | GENERAL FEATURE PLAN | | |
| CLIENT: | KPT ARCHITECTS | | |
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| | | VERSION: | 2 |
| AUTHOR: | MCA | FIGURE: | 5 |
| APPROVED: | DPM | | |

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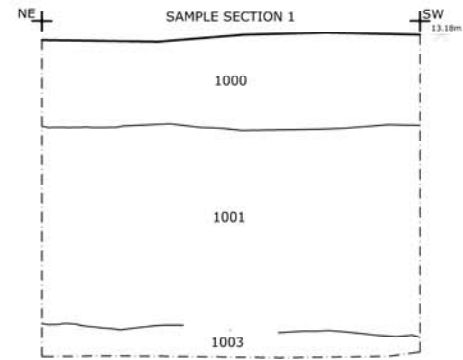


TRENCH 1



SS1

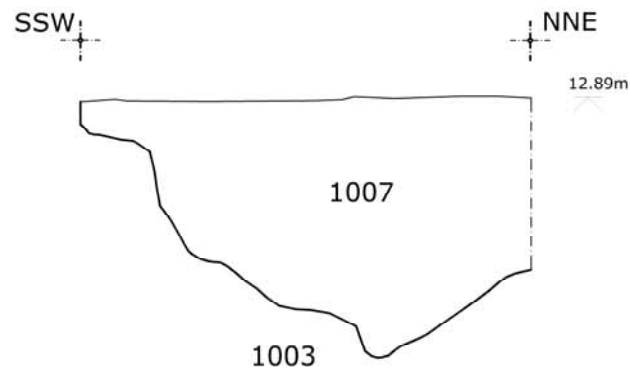
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1:20 0 1:20 1m



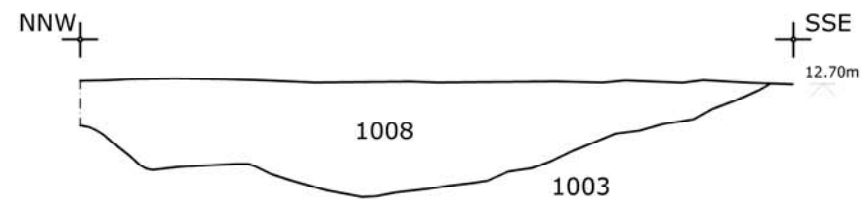
DP1: Site Section 1 - View S



1:10 0 1:10 50cm






DP14: 1007 Natural Feature - View SW



1:10 0 1:10 50cm



DP15: 1008 Natural Feature - View NE

-  Excavated Feature
-  Sample Section
-  Trench

NGR: 563030 269620 REF: R1150

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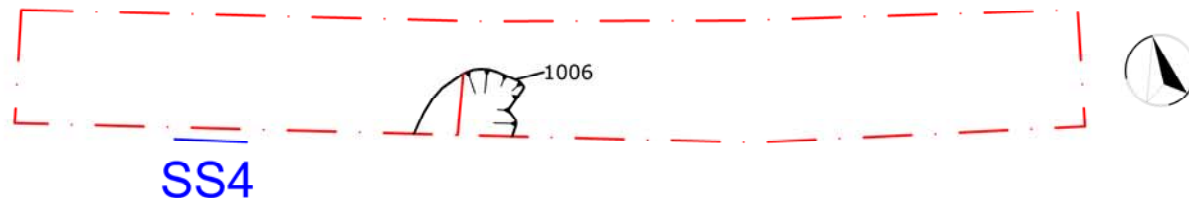
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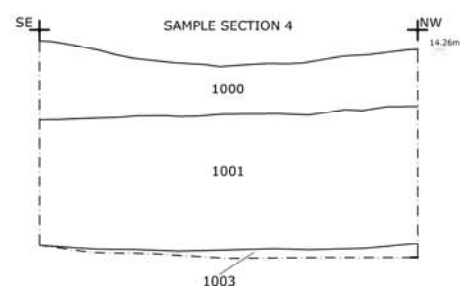
AUTHOR: MCA

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TRENCH 2



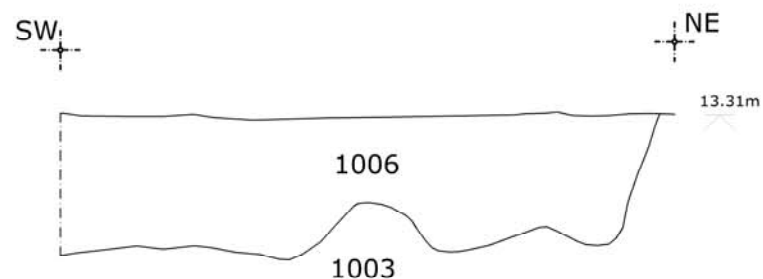
1:100 0 1:100 5m



1:20 0 1:20 1m






DP4: Sample Section 4 - View SW



1:10 0 1:10 50cm



DP13: 1006 Natural Feature - View NW

-  Excavated Feature
-  SS4 Sample Section
-  Trench

NGR: 563030 269620 REF: R1150

PROJECT: FORDHAM ABBEY, 49 FORDHAM ROAD, FORDHAM

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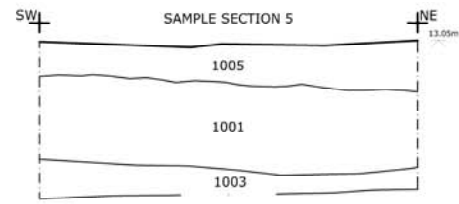
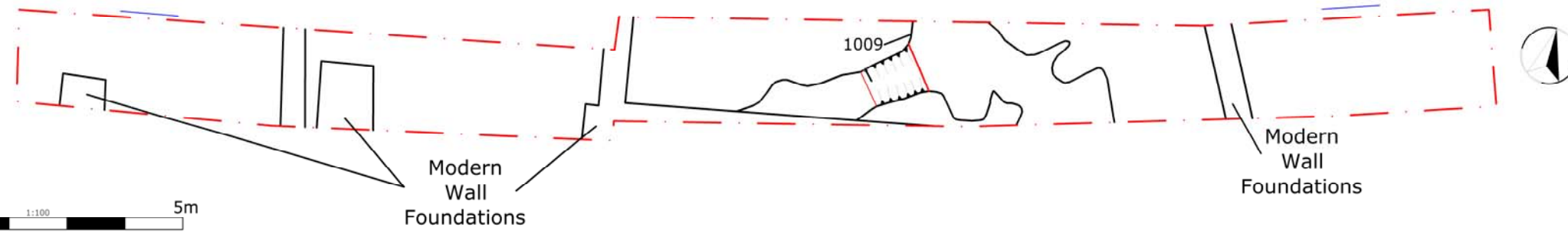
AUTHOR: MCA
APPROVED: MB

FIGURE: 7

TRENCH 3

SS5

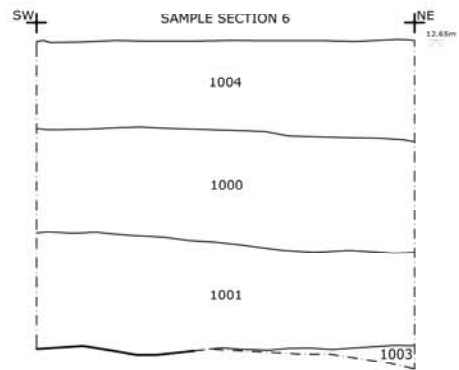
SS6



1:20 0 1:20 1m



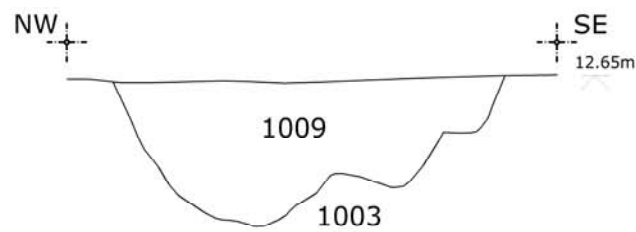
DP5: Sample Section 5 - View N



1:10 0 1:10 50cm






DP6: Sample Section 6 - View N



1:10 0 1:10 50cm



DP16: 1009 Natural Feature - View SW

-  Excavated Feature
-  SS4 Sample Section
-  Trench

NGR: 563030 269620 REF: R1150

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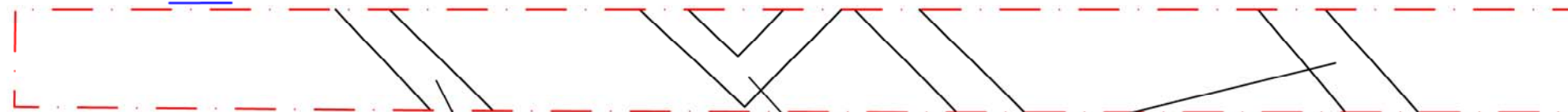
AUTHOR: MCA

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FIGURE: 8

TRENCH 4

SS8

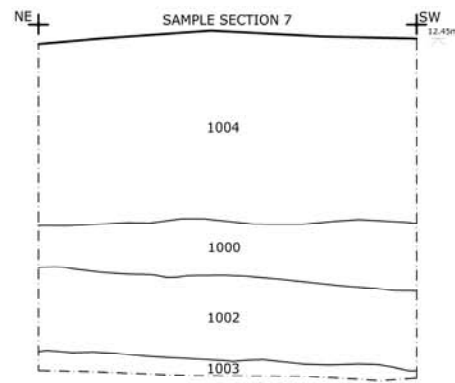


SS7

Modern Soak Away

Modern Wall Foundations

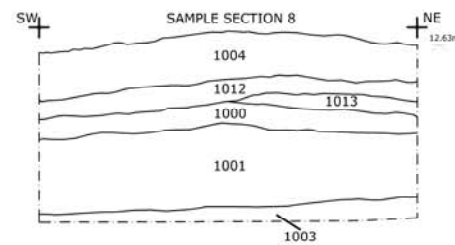
1:100 0 1:100 5m



1:20 0 1:20 1m






DP7: Sample Section 7 - View SE



1:20 0 1:20 1m



DP8: Sample Section 8 - View NW

-  Excavated Feature
-  SS4 Sample Section
-  Trench

NGR: 563030 269620 REF: R1150

PROJECT: FORDHAM ABBEY, 49 FORDHAM ROAD, FORDHAM

DESCRIPTION: TRENCH 4: SECTIONS, PLAN & PHOTOGRAPHS

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AUTHOR: MCA FIGURE: 9

APPROVED: MB

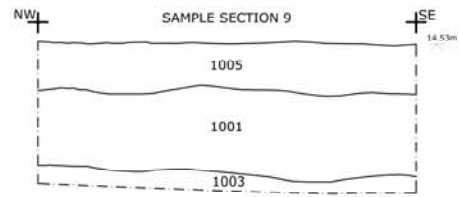
TRENCH 5

SS9



SS10

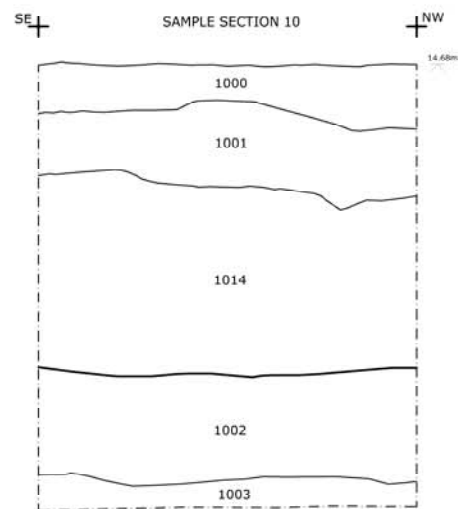
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1:20 0 1m



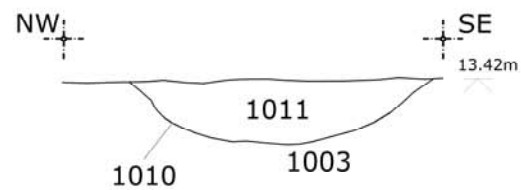
DP19: Sample Section 9 - View NE



1:10 0 50cm






DP20: Sample Section 10 - View SW



1:10 0 50cm



DP17: 1010 Gully - View SW

-  Excavated Feature
-  Sample Section
-  Trench

NGR: 563030 269620 REF: R1150

PROJECT: FORDHAM ABBEY, 49 FORDHAM ROAD, FORDHAM

DESCRIPTION: TRENCH 5: SECTIONS, PLAN & PHOTOGRAPHS

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FIGURE: 10