

LAND EAST OF 133 HIGH STREET, CHATTERIS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Report Number: 1155

March 2017



LAND EAST OF 133 HIGH STREET, CHATTERIS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Prepared on behalf of: Mr Simon Howard, c/o L Bevens Associates Architects Ltd The Doghouse 10 Cricketers Way Chatteris Cambridgeshire PE16 6UR

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| Site Code | ECB4963 | NGR | | TL 3910 8666 |
|---------------|---------------|-------|------|------------------|
| Planning Ref. | F/YR14/0240/F | OASIS | | Britanni1-276032 |
| Approved By: | A B | | Date | March 2017 |



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Abstract

On 22 February 2017 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation on Land East of 133 High Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3910 8666 – Fig.1) on behalf of Mr Simon Howard as a condition of a planning application F/YR14/0240/F, in advance of the erection of three residential units and associated works. A brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Stewart, G., dated 30th January 2017) required a 5% sample of the site, which consisted of two 30.00m x 1.80m and a 20.00m x 1.80m trenches.

The excavation has revealed very little archaeological activity on site. A single feature was found in trench 3A, which contained two sherds of modern pottery. Other features identified in trial trench 3 were modern postholes which were associated with modern structures recently removed from the site.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 22nd February 2017 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation on Land East of 133 High Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3910 8666 – Fig.1) on behalf of Mr Simon Howard as a condition of a planning application F/YR14/0240/F, in advance of the erection of three residential units and associated works. A brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Stewart, G., dated 30th January 2017) required a 5% sample of the site, which consisted of two 30.00m x 1.80m and a 20.00m x 1.80m trenches.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located to the northern area of the core of the village of Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, which is located approximately 13km north-west of the cathedral city of Ely. The site lies east of High Street and directly south of Black Horse Lane on a single large parcel of land which is currently waste ground (Fig. 1). Chatteris itself is located on a fen island.

The bedrock geology is described West Walton Formation and Ampthill Clay Formation -Mudstone. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 156 to 161 million years ago in the Jurassic Period when the local environment was previously dominated by shallow seas, (BGS, 2017).

Superficial deposits at the site are described as March Gravels Member - Sand and Gravel. These superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment previously dominated by shorelines, (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). The relevant local planning policy is the *Fenland Local Plan (1993; 2005 Edition)*.



4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figures 2, 3 & 4)

The following archaeological background utilises the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER) (1km search centred on the site), Historic England PastScape (<u>www.pastscape.org.uk</u>), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS) (Fig. 2, 3 & 4).

The site is located in the town of Chatteris 16km west of the city of Ely, Cambridgeshire. Chatteris is first mentioned as Cæateric in 974 and then later as Cietriz in Domesday in 1086. The name may derive from Old English and mean 'raised strip or ridge of a man named Ceatta, however the first element may refer to the Celtic ced which means 'wood' (Mills, 2003).

Chatteris is situated on a fen island that was extensively settled and exploited during the Iron Age and Roman periods, therefore there was a potential for deposits of this date surviving within the development area.

There is only one Palaeolithic entry in the record, a primary flint flake (MCB19426) located 900m to the south of the site.

An evaluation in 2000 by CCC Archaeological Field Unit (ECB123, MCB15323, MCB18461, MCB18462, MCB18463, MCB18464, MCB18465) north of Chatteris Parish Church and 600m to the south east of the site, revealed a Bronze Age ditch terminal, large Bronze Age vessels associated with antler and a loom weight were possibly related with burials. The subsequent area excavation in 2001 recorded seven broad periods of archaeology, including pits containing collared urns and Beaker ware, three crouched inhumations of possible Bronze Age date excavated to the south of the site where nearby a pit containing late Beaker pottery was recorded.

The Iron Age is also represented to the north of Chatteris Parish Church and 600m to the south east of the site (ECB123, MCB15323, MCB18461, MCB18462, MCB18463, MCB18464, MCB18465) where Early Iron Age pits and Late Iron Age features were recorded. A five trench evaluation undertaken by BUFAU in 1996 on land north of 36 Bridge Street (MCB 11898) located 250m to the north-west, revealed Iron Age pottery present in a shallow feature. At New Road, located 500m to the south-east, an



evaluation (MCB17496) by CCC Archaeological Field Unit and subsequent excavation (ECB2211) recorded a multi-phased site including Iron Age settlement activity.

A Roman coin (CB14730) was found at 21 New Road, 400m to the south-east. At the site to the north of Chatteris Parish Church (ECB123, MCB15323, MCB18461, MCB18462, MCB18463, MCB18464, MCB18465) Roman activity was also recorded. Quarry pits (MCB18482) located 500m to the north-west, that were later re-used as rubbish pits containing Roman pottery were recorded during an evaluation at Womb Farm by Cambridge Archaeological Unit in 2009.

Anglo-Saxon activity is present at the evaluation and subsequent excavation site to the north of Chatteris Parish Church (ECB123, CB15323, MCB18461, MCB18462, MCB18463, MCB18464, MCB18465) where a timber framed structure was recorded.

Medieval cultivation activity was present on land behind Bridge Street (MCB11898) located 250m to the north-west during an evaluation by BUFAU. A Medieval drainage pipe (MCB01508) was found at the site of the former St Mary's Abbey, 700m to the south-east. Various worked stone and brick have been found (MCB01528, MCB15351 and MCB15978), possibly from the former Abbey of the Blessed Virgin Mary (MCB03700, MCB03832), located on the southern periphery of the search area, the Benedictine Nunnery was founded in 1006 and later dissolved in 1538. An earthwork survey and aerial photographic assessment have revealed extensive medieval agricultural remains at Manor Park (MCB08670, ECB573) lying 350m to the east of the site. Further Medieval agricultural remains were mapped around Chatteris during the Chatteris to Haddenham water scheme in 2007 (ECB2987).

Post-medieval quarrying was recorded during an evaluation at Kingsfield School (MCB16931), 450m to the south, and also at Womb Farm (MCB18481) 500m to the north-west along with boundary ditches. An archaeological evaluation at Tern Gardens (MCB19100) revealed yard activity associated with the properties fronting. The evaluation at Cox's Lane and Chapel Lane adjacent to the site (ECB1427) also recorded some post-medieval soil horizons. Meeks Cemetery (MCB19106) was created in 1850 and is located 500m to the east in New Road. The Parochial Cemetery (MCB19107) is located further to the east on New Road and 800m east of the proposed development, it was formed in 1856. At 9 Bridge Street (ECB1879) 20m to the north, Victorian rubbish

dumps were recorded in to trenches excavated by CCC Archaeological Field Unit. At 91 High Street (ECB2941) 120m south east of the site, Archaeological Solutions located likely 19th century post-holes, brick foundations and a gully during an evaluation. MCB20341 refers to the location of the Chatteris Methodist chapel, 30m north of the site, as depicted on the 1st edition OS map from 1885. It does not appear on the 1926 OS map placing its demolishing in the years proceeding this.

Modern records include the former route of The Great Northern and Great Eastern Joint Railway line (03698) between March and St Ives that was opened in February 1848 and completely closed in 1967. A four trench evaluation at Station Road Business Park by Archaeological Solutions (ECB1999) revealed substantial levelling activity associated with the construction of the railway 530m to the south-west. An evaluation at 19A Station Street by Northamptonshire Archaeology (ECB2125) in 2005, 600m to the south revealed mid to late 20th century pits and trenches.

Undated and blank records include some stonework from located in the Vicarage gardens (MCB12047). At Black Horse Lane (MCB15012) an evaluation revealed an undated boundary ditch. No remains were present during an evaluation at land north-east of 7 Dock Road (ECB127) 495m to the north of site.

There are 113 listed building present within the 1km search, therefore a 100m search perimeter was located around the centre of the site revealing seven entries (Fig. 4.). All these buildings are Grade II listed. The most significant building record relating to the site is 133 High Street (47983) which lies directly adjacent to the site on its western boundary. This early 19th century house has a single storey and attic and is constructed from yellow gault brick with a red pantile roof. There is a two storey range to rear with an earlier projecting wing. There is a finger street plaque on one wall with "Black horse lane" inscribed.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The CCC HET brief stated 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 (Stewart, G. Brief, Section 3.1).

6.0 **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Specific objectives outlined in the brief stated 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 should also be arranged with a suitably qualified specialist. Attention should be paid:

- to the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dryland 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. The precedent exists whereby a 5% sample of a site is deemed to constitute an adequate representative sample. In this case two 30x1.80m trenches and one 20x1.80m trench set out in a systematic grid formation was a suitable sample area.



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

A professional metal detector was used to scan the machined spoil heaps and exposed surfaces. A programme of Bucket sampling was conducted where 90 litres of spoil was hand sorted from each soil horizon at both ends of the single trench. Demonstrably modern finds were not retained.

The archaeology was recorded using pro-forma record sheets, drawn plans and section drawings. Appropriate photographs were taken.

8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figure 6)

8.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated north-west to south-east and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.88m in sample section 1B. Trench 1 contained no archaeological features.

8.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m. No archaeological features were present in the trench.

8.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was orientated north-west to south-east for 20m. A 10m extension was added to the southern end of the trench with a north-east to south-west orientation and forming an 'L' shape. This was needed to avoid live foul drain services and make up the percentage coverage required. The trench contained one pit **1003** (0.51m x 0.83m x 0.49m), which was sub-rectangular in plan, with steeply sloping sides leading onto a flat base. The pit was cut through subsoil layer **1001**. The pit contained one fill **1004**, which



consisted of a mid grey-brown, loose, silty clay with occasional inclusions of small rounded flint pebbles. The fill contained two sherds of pottery which was modern in date.

9.0 **DEPOSIT MODEL (Figure 5)**

The deposit model was generally consistent across the site, with an area of hard core present in the north-west area of the site located close to a concrete pad of a burnt down shed.

In all trenches the top of the stratigraphic sequence was topsoil layer **1000**. This comprised of a dark grey-brown, loose, silty sand with frequent inclusions of angular and sub-angular flints. Beneath topsoil layer **1000** was subsoil layer **1001** that comprised of a mid grey-brown, compact silty clay. At the base of the stratigraphic sequence was natural **1002** which was a mid orange-brown, compact sandy clay, with frequent inclusions of rounded flint pebbles and a mid to dark blue-green grey contaminated area in trial trench 3.

The measurements for each trial trench are as follows:

Sample section 1A

Topsoil layer **1000** was present to a maximum depth of 0.25m. This layer overlay subsoil layer **1001** which was up to 0.39m thick, to a maximum depth of 0.64m. This layer overlay natural **1002**.

Sample section 1B

Topsoil layer **1000** was present to a maximum depth of 0.24m. This layer overlay subsoil layer **1001** which was up to 0.52m thick, to a maximum depth of 0.76m. This layer overlay natural **1002**.

Sample section 2A

Topsoil layer **1000** was present to a maximum depth of 0.29m. This layer overlay subsoil layer **1001** which was up to 0.14m thick to a maximum depth of 0.43m. This layer overlay natural **1002**.



Sample section 2B

Topsoil layer **1000** was present to a maximum depth of 0.38m. This layer overlay subsoil layer **1001** which was up to 0.32m thick to a maximum depth of 0.70m. This layer overlay natural **1002**.

Sample section 3A

Hard core layer **1005** was present to a depth of 0.30m. This overlay topsoil layer **1000** which was up to 0.20m thick. This overlay subsoil layer **1001** which was 0.39m thick, to a maximum depth of 0.89m. This overlay natural **1002**.

Sample section 3B

Topsoil layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.50m. This layer overlay subsoil layer **1001** which was 0.17m thick. This overlay natural **1002**.

10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background for the site suggested that there was a high potential for medieval to post-medieval evidence on the site. However, the excavation has revealed very little archaeological activity on site. A single feature **1003** was found in trench 3A, which contained two sherds of modern pottery. Other features identified in trial trench 3 were modern postholes which were associated with structures recently removed from the site.

11.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

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



12.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank Mr Simon Howard for commissioning the project.

We would also like to thank Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for her advice and assistance on the project.

The site was excavated by Matthew J. Baker and Adam Leigh of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



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

English Heritage National List for England www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-forengland

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



APPENDIX 1 – DEPOSIT TABLES

Deposit Tables

TRENCH 1

| Orientation | Height AOD | Shot ID |
|-------------|---|--|
| N-S | 4.13m (SS1A) | 2 & 3 |
| Location | Fa | acing |
| | W Side S End | E Facing |
| Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 0.00-0.25m | Topsoil: Dark grey-brown, loose, | silty sand with frequent angular and |
| | sub-angular pebbles. | |
| 0.25-0.64m | Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, compact | t, silty clay. |
| 0.64m+ | Natural: Mid orange-grey-brown, | compact silty clay with pockets of |
| | mid orange-brown, moderately | compact silty sand, both with |
| | moderately frequent sub-rounded | flint pebbles |
| Location | Fa | acing |
| | E Side N End | W Facing |
| Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 0.00-0.24m | Topsoil: Dark grey-brown, loose, | silty sand with frequent angular and |
| | sub-angular pebbles. | |
| 0.24-0.76m | Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, compact | t, silty clay. |
| 0.76m+ | Natural: Mid orange-grey-brown, | compact silty clay with pockets of |
| | mid orange-brown, moderately | compact silty sand, both with |
| | moderately frequent sub-rounded | flint pebbles |
| | N-S Location Depth 0.00-0.25m 0.25-0.64m 0.64m+ Location Depth 0.64m+ 0.00-0.24m 0.00-0.24m | N-S 4.13m (SS1A) Location Fa W Side S End W Side S End Depth Deposit Description 0.00-0.25m Topsoil: Dark grey-brown, loose, sub-angular pebbles. 0.25-0.64m Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, compact 0.64m+ Natural: Mid orange-grey-brown, mid orange-brown, moderately moderately frequent sub-rounded Location Fa E Side N End E Depth Deposit Description 0.00-0.24m Topsoil: Dark grey-brown, loose, sub-angular pebbles. 0.24-0.76m Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, compact 0.76m+ Natural: Mid orange-grey-brown, loose, sub-angular pebbles. |

TRENCH 2

| Trench No | Orientation | Height AOD | Shot ID |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 2 | E-W | 4.32m (SS2E | 3) 5&6 |
| Sample Section No | Location | | Facing |
| 2A | | S Side W End | N Facing |
| Context No | Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 1000 | 0.00-0.29m | Topsoil: Dark grey-brown, loos | se, silty sand with frequent angular and |
| | | sub-angular pebbles. | |
| 1001 | 0.29-0.43m | Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, comp | bact, silty clay. |
| 1002 | 0.43m+ | Natural: Mid orange-brown, | moderately compact silty sand with |
| | | moderately frequent sub-round | led flint pebbles |
| Sample Section No | Location | | Facing |
| 2B | | N Side E End | S Facing |
| Context No | Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 1000 | 0.00-0.38m | Topsoil: Dark grey-brown, loos | se, silty sand with frequent angular and |
| | | sub-angular pebbles. | |
| 1001 | 0.38-0.70m | Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, comp | bact, silty clay. |
| 1002 | 0.70m+ | Natural: Mid orange-brown, | moderately compact silty sand with |
| | | moderately frequent sub-round | ded flint pebbles |



TRENCH 3

| Trench No | Orientation | Height AOD | Shot ID |
|-------------------|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 3 | N-S | 5.10m (SS3A) | 10 |
| Sample Section No | Locatio | n Faci | ng |
| 3A | | E Side N End | W Facing |
| Context No | Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 1005 | 0.00-0.30m | Hard-core Layer: Mid orange-brown sub-angular and rounded flint pebble | |
| 1000 | 0.30-0.50m | Topsoil: Dark grey-brown, loose, sil sub-angular pebbles. | ty sand with frequent angular and |
| 1001 | 0.50-0.89m | Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, compact, s | ilty clay. |
| 1002 | 0.89m+ | Natural: Mid orange-grey-brown, co frequent sub-rounded flint peb contaminated areas | |

TRENCH 3A

| Trench No | Orientation | Height AOD | Shot ID |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3A (Extension) | E-W | 4.88m (SS3B) | 9 |
| Sample Section No | Location | Facir | ng |
| 3B | | N Side E End | S Facing |
| Context No | Depth | Deposit Description | |
| 1000 | 0.00-0.50m | Topsoil: Dark grey-brown, loose, silt | y sand with frequent angular and |
| | | sub-angular pebbles. | |
| 1001 | 0.50-0.67m | Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, compact, si | ilty clay. |
| 1002 | 0.67m+ | Natural: Mid orange-grey-brown, co | mpact silty clay with moderately |
| | | frequent sub-rounded flint pebbles | |

| Feature | Feature Type & Description (m) | Layer/Fill | Layer/Fill Description | Spot Date |
|---------|------------------------------------|------------|---|-----------|
| Context | | Context | | |
| 1003 | Pit (L0.51m+ x W0.83m x | 1004 | Mid grey-brown, loose, silty clay with occasional | Modern |
| | D0.49m), ?Sub-rectangular in plan, | | small sub-rounded flint pebbles. | |
| | steeply sloping sides with a flat | | | |
| | base. | | | |



APPENDIX 2 – OASIS SHEET

OASIS FORM - Print view

https://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm

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: britanni1-276032

Project details

| Project name | Land East of 133 High Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire |
|---|---|
| Short description of the project | Archaeological Evaluation |
| Project dates | Start: 22-02-2017 End: 22-02-2017 |
| Previous/future work | No / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | ECB 4963 - HER event no. |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Other 5 - Garden |
| Monument type | PIT Modern |
| Significant Finds | NONE None |
| Methods & techniques | "Targeted Trenches" |
| Development type | Housing estate |
| 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 FENLAND CHATTERIS Land East of 133 High Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire |
| Postcode | PE16 6RB |
| Study area | 254 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TL 539108 286666 51.934731160243 0.239045152544 51 56 05 N 000 14 20 E Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 4.02m Max: 5.1m |

Project creators

| Name of Organisation | Britannia Archaeology Ltd |
|--------------------------|---|
| Project brief originator | Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body |

1 of 2

24/02/2017 14:10



OASIS FORM - Print view

https://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm

| Project design originator | Dan McConnell |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Project director/manager | Dan McConnell |
| Project supervisor | Matt Baker |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Simon Howard |

Project archives

| Physical Archive Exists? | No |
|---------------------------|--|
| Digital Archive recipient | Cambridgeshire HER |
| Digital Archive ID | ECB 4963 |
| Digital Contents | "none" |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography", "Text" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Cambridgeshire HER |
| Paper Archive ID | ECB 4963 |
| Paper Contents | "none" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey " |

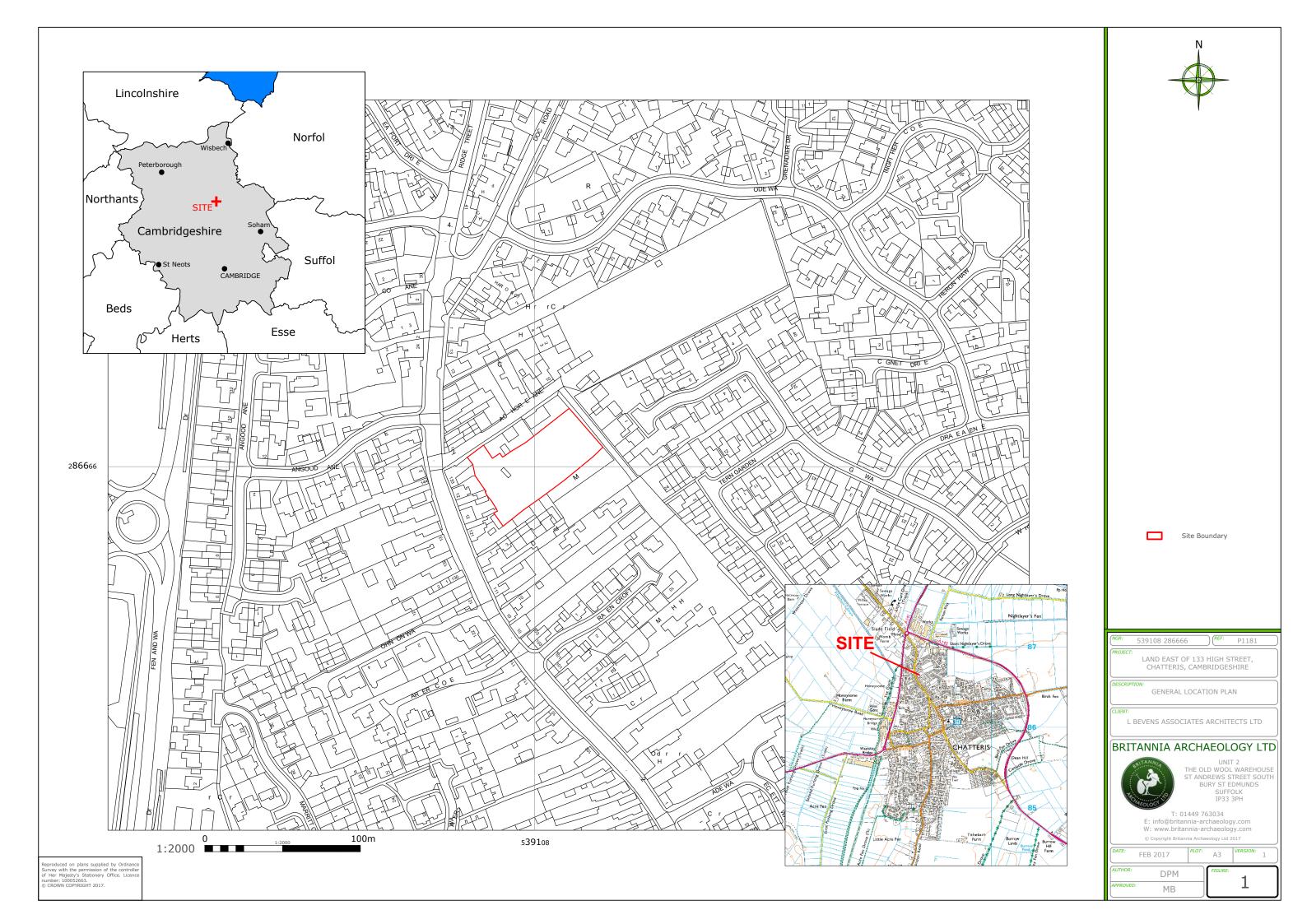
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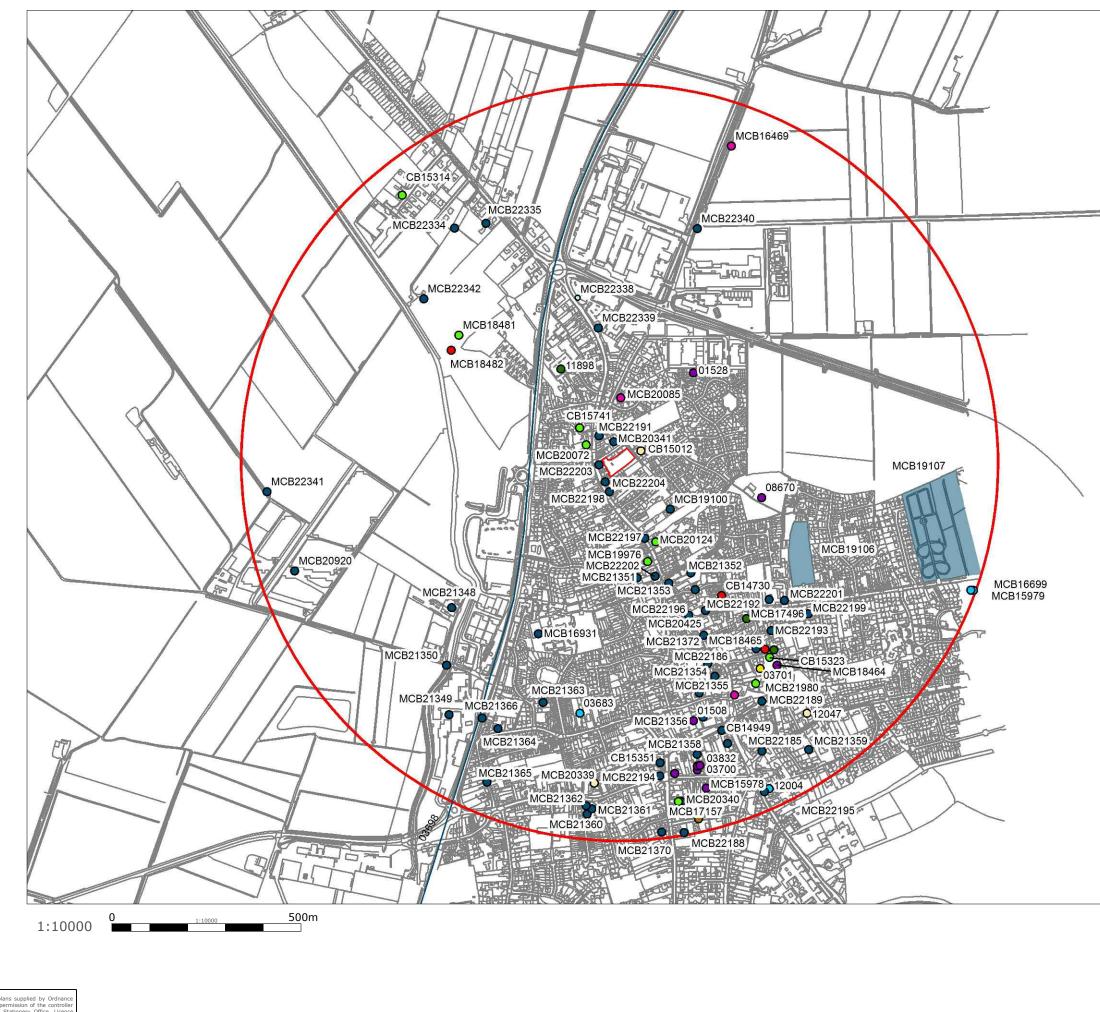
| | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Publication type | |
| Title | Land East of 133 High Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Baker, M. J. |
| Other bibliographic details | R1155 |
| Date | 2017 |
| Issuer or publisher | Britannia Archaeology Ltd |
| Place of issue or publication | Bury St Edmunds |
| Description | A4 bound report with pull out A3 figures |
| URL | http://www.britannia-archaeology.com/ |
| | |
| Entered by | Matthew Baker (m.baker@brit-arch.com) |
| Entered on | 24 February 2017 |

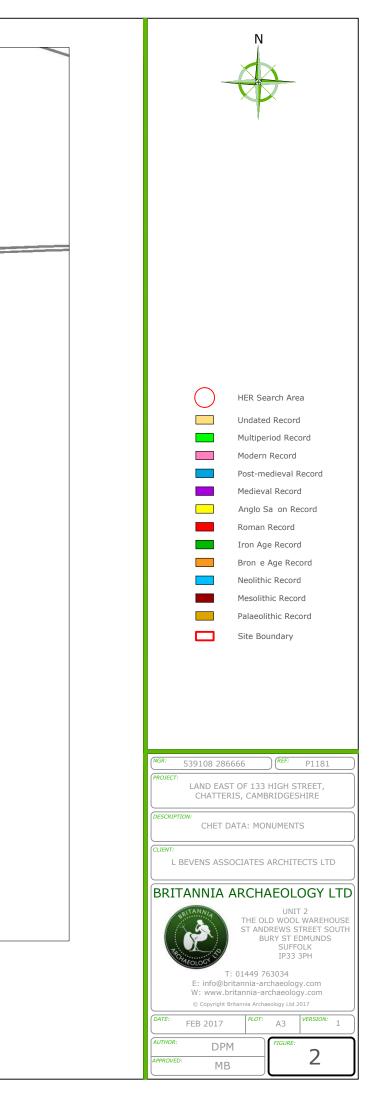
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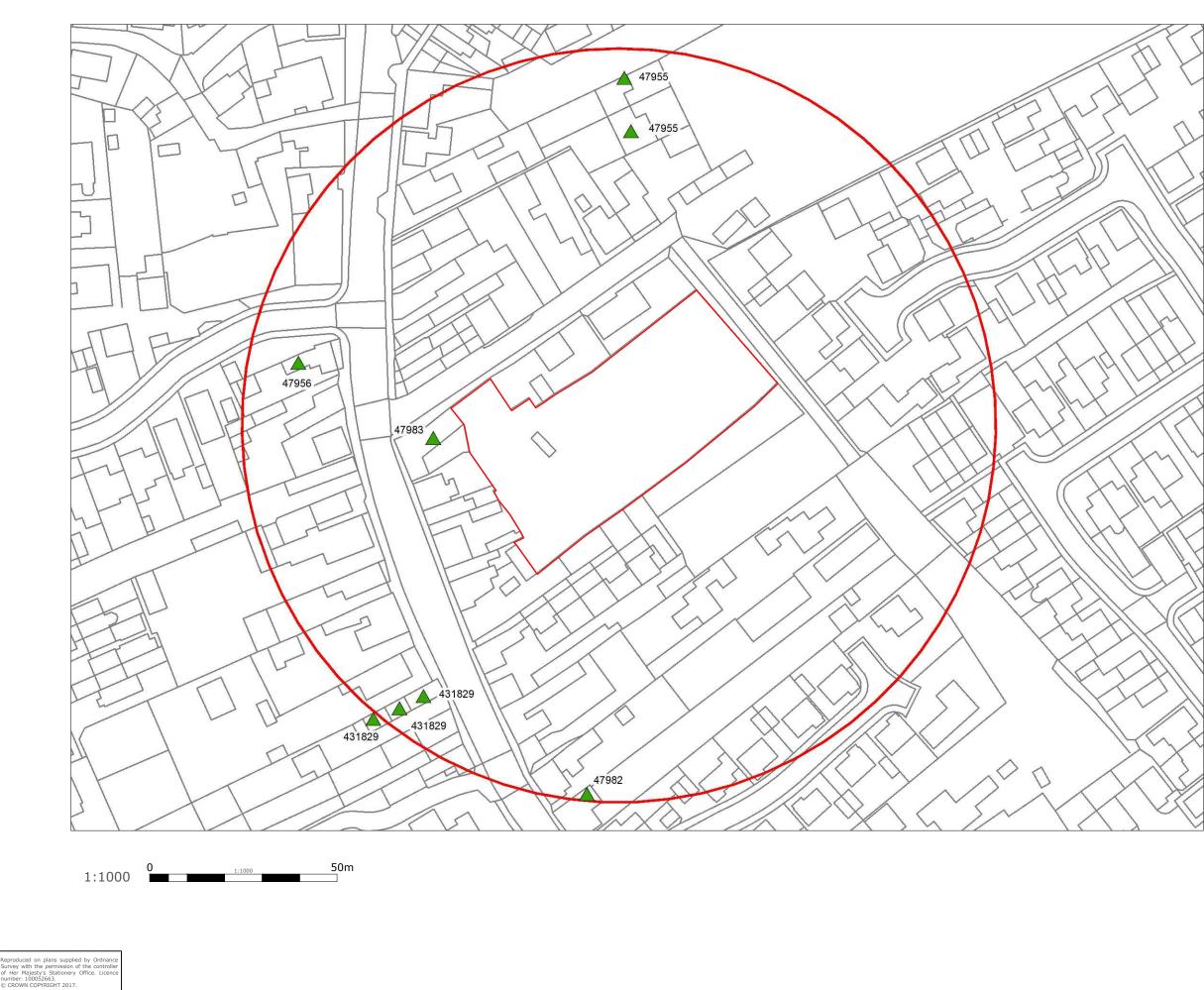
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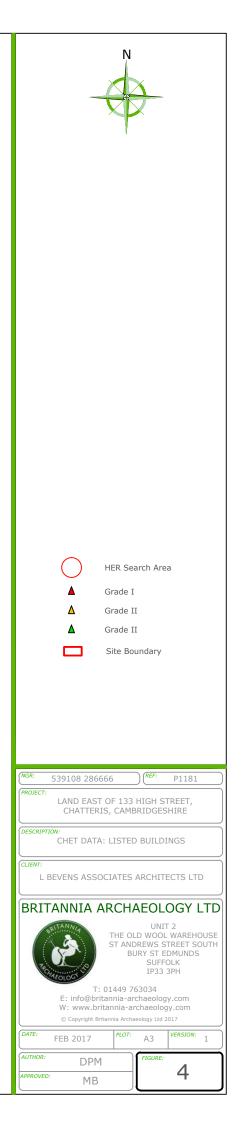


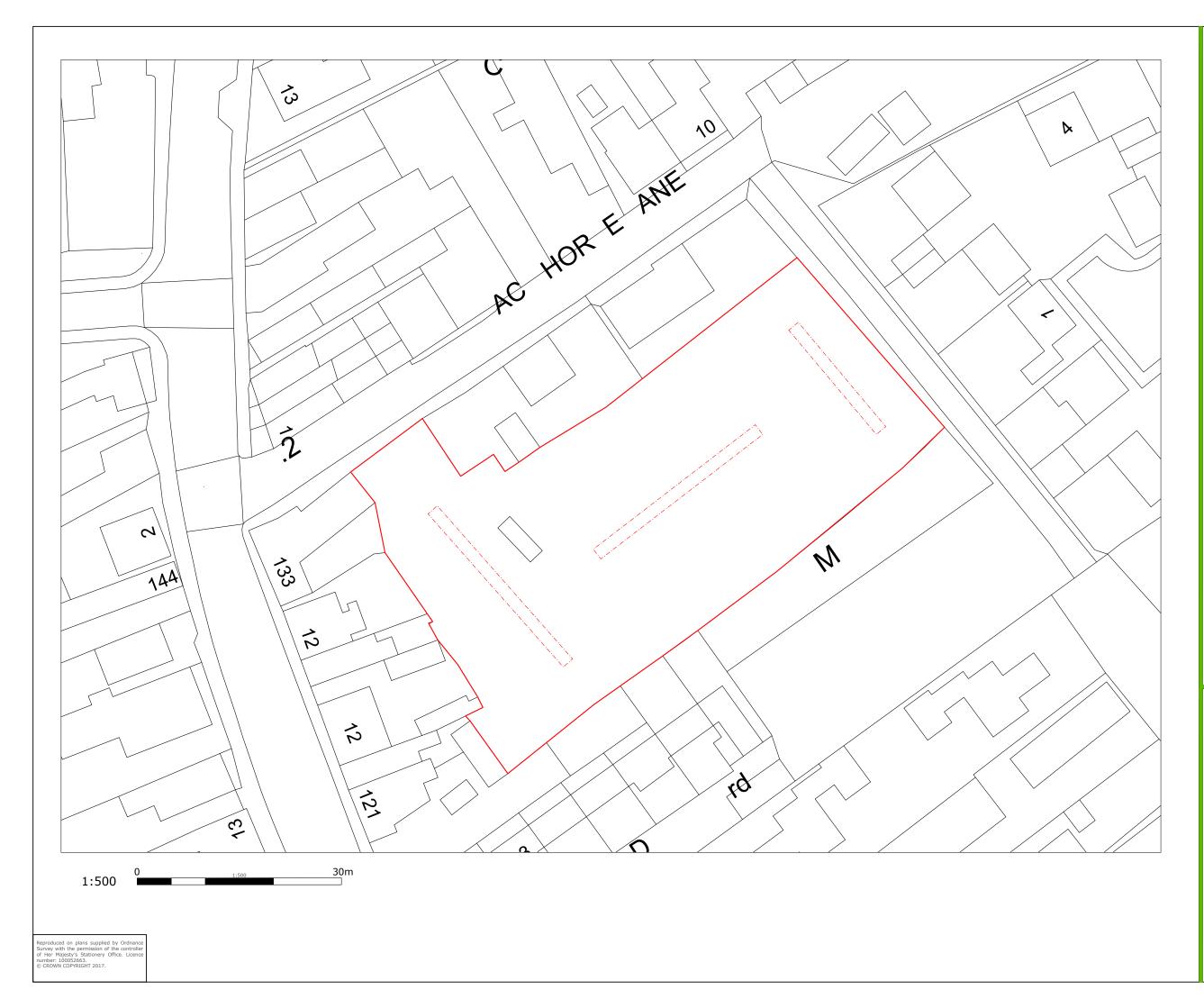


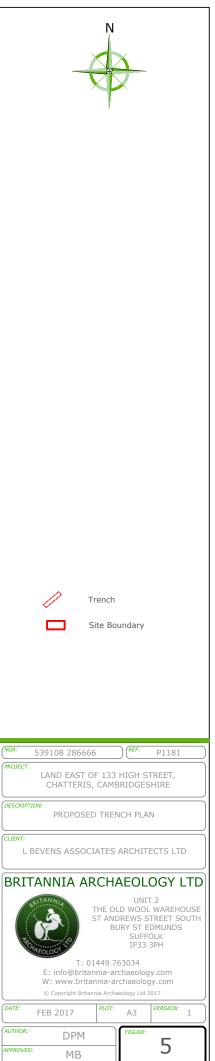


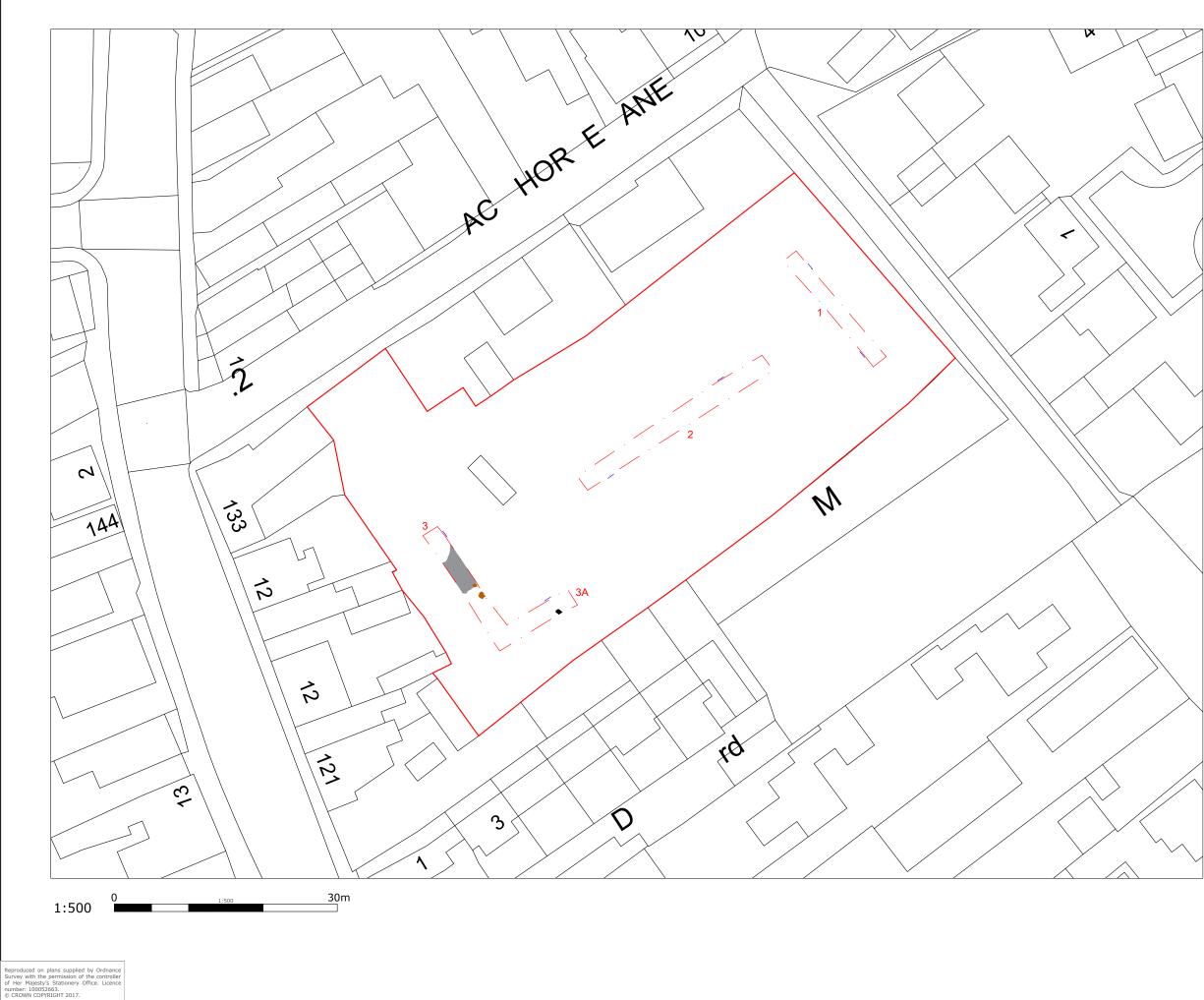


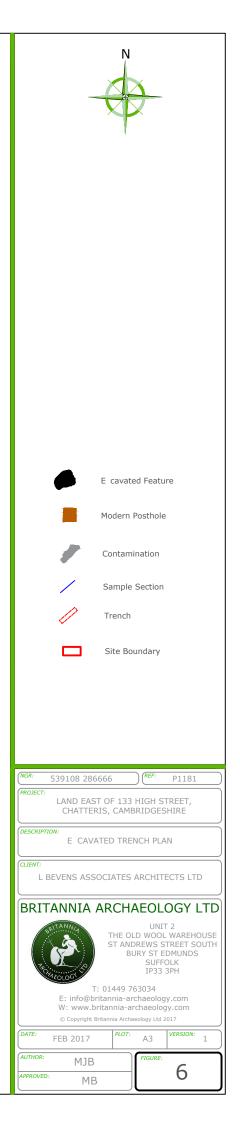


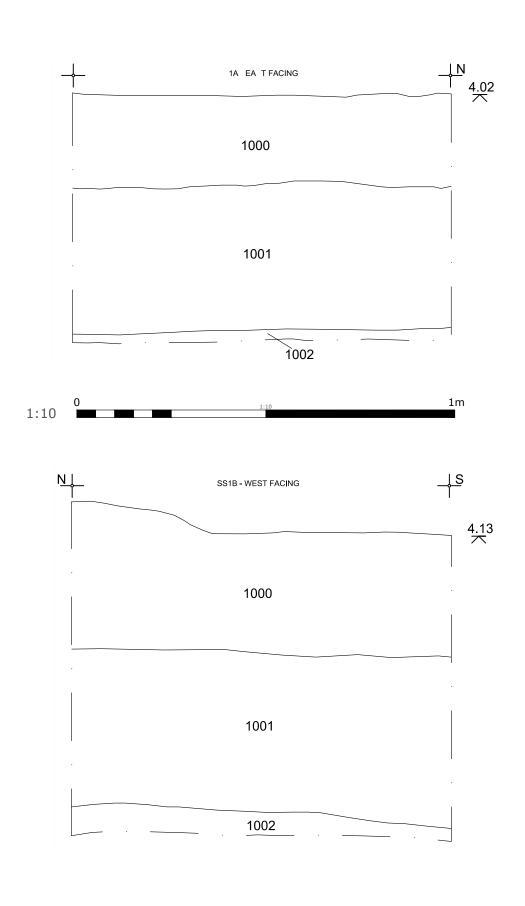














DP 01 - TRENCH 1

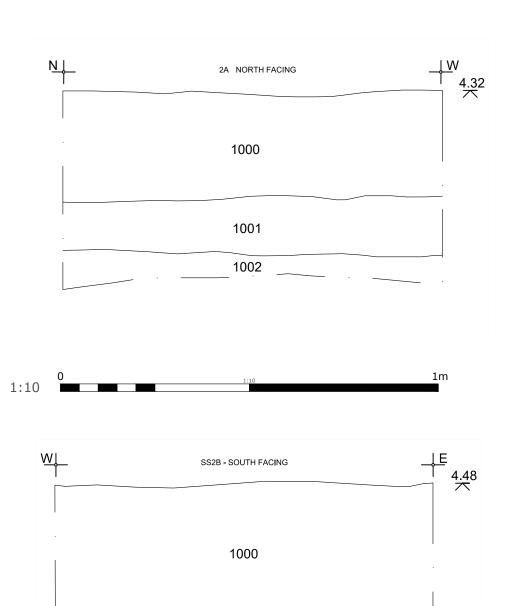


DP 02 - SAMPLE SECTION 1A



DP 03 - SAMPLE SECTION 1B





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DP 04 - TRENCH 2

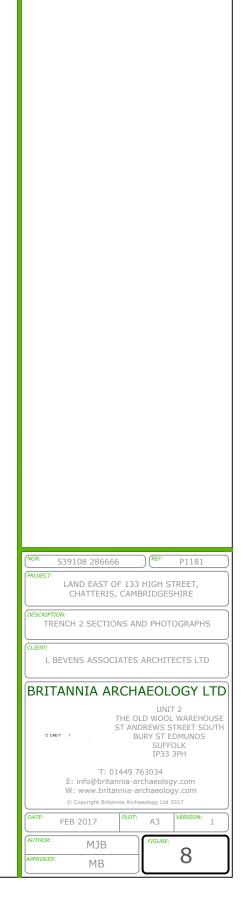


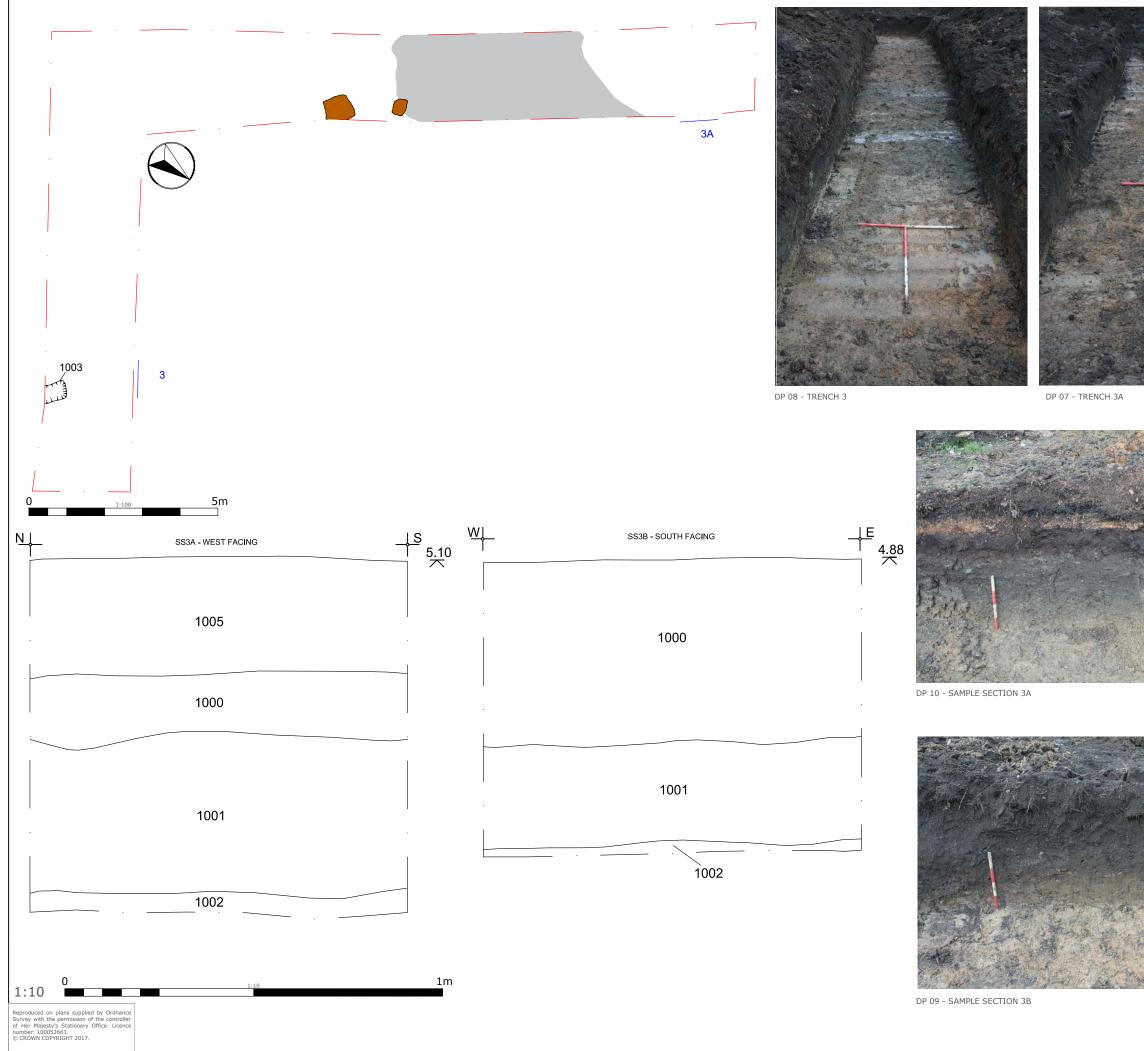
DP 05 - SAMPLE SECTION 2A



DP 06 - SAMPLE SECTION 2B

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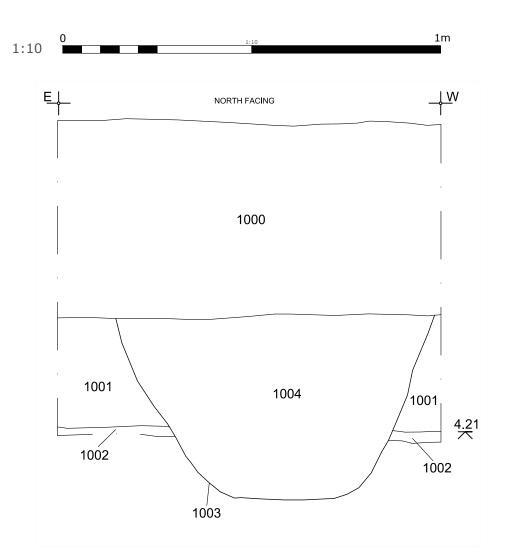














DP 11 - FEATURE 1003

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