

LAND SOUTH WEST OF 41 PERRY ROAD, LEVERINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Report Number: 1174 September 2017



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Project No.	P1203	NGR	TF 44247 11748
Planning Ref.	F/YR16/0623/F	OASIS	britanni1-292838
Approved By:		Date	September 2017



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Abstract

On the 6^{th} September 2017, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at land south-west of 41 Perry Road, Leverington, Cambridgeshire (TF 44247 11748), in advance of the residential development of the site.

A total of two trenches were cut, Trench 1 measured $15.00m \times 1.80m$ and trench 2 measured $6.00m \times 2.00m$. The original staggered T trench configuration was altered due to the presence of extant services and with the agreement of CCC HET Trench 2 was moved to extend from the north east side of trench 1 (beginning c.4.25m from the south east end of trench 1) on an east to west alignment measuring $6.00m \times 2.00m$.

The archaeological background for the site suggested that there was a potential for Anglo-Saxon, medieval, and post medieval evidence on the site, as well as a fairly high potential to identify local flooding events via the stratigraphic sequence.

The evaluation revealed no archaeological features, but revealed two phases of activity.

The first phase related to an early local flooding event represented by alluvial layer 1002 in trench 1 which predates modern subsoil 1001.

The second phase of activity related to the extant modern road on the site represented by tarmac surface layer 1004 and hardcore and rubble bedding layer 1005.

Despite the high potential for Anglo-Saxon, medieval, and post-medieval activity on the site, no archaeological features were encountered. The evaluation did successfully identify evidence of an early local flooding event represented by alluvial layer 1002.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 6th September 2017, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at land south-west of 41 Perry Road, Leverington, Cambridgeshire (TF 44247 11748), in advance of the residential development of the site. (Fig. 1).

The evaluation was undertaken in response to a design brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Stewart, G. 20th July 2017) which required a programme of linear trial trenching to sample the threatened available area, with the potential for contingency. One $15.00 \, \mathrm{m} \times 1.80 \, \mathrm{m}$ trench and one $10.00 \, \mathrm{m} \times 1.80 \, \mathrm{m}$ trench covering the building foot print and access road were considered suitable to achieve the sample (Fig. 4). However during excavation it became apparent that it would not be possible to place trench 2 in its anticipated position due to the presence of extant services. With the agreement of CCC HET the trench was moved to extend from the NE side of trench 1 (beginning c.4.25m from the south east end of trench 1) on an east to west alignment measuring $6.00 \, \mathrm{m} \times 2.00 \, \mathrm{m}$.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The site is located to the north of the historic village core of Leverington, Cambridgeshire, which is located approximately 2.5km north-west of Wisbech, 30km north-east of Peterborough and 20km south-west of Kings Lynn. The site lies south-west of Perry Road on a roughly rectangular, undeveloped parcel of land to the rear of 41 Perry Road (Fig. 1).

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

The superficial deposits are recorded Tidal Flat Deposits - Clay and Silt. These superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was 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 development framework is the *Fenland Local Plan (Policy LP18; 2014)*.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2 & 3)

The following archaeological background draws on 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). There are 20 monument entries, 8 events records and 12 listed building entries within the 1km search area. Two Scheduled Monuments (SM) also fall within the



search radius. Where possible, the Cambridgeshire HER preferred reference has been provided.

No designated heritage assets were present on the site and the nearest monument record lies 270m to the south-west.

No records relating to pre-historic activity are noted within the search area.

Two records related to Roman activity (MCB20237 and 04003), both of which lie 460 and 820m to the south-east of the site respectively. A layer thought to date to the Roman period (MCB20237) was identified during an evaluation (ECB4176) to the east of 'Roman Bank'. Cherry Tree Hill Mound (04003) is a Scheduled Monument (1006781) and Roman pottery was recovered during excavation in 1878. Its usage has not been formally identified, but may be related to salt production or a signal mound.

A single Anglo-Saxon record was returned in the search area (03960) and relates to salt production.

Medieval activity is better represented in the search are. The most significant is the long linear earthwork known as 'Roman Bank' (04448) which is partly scheduled (1006887) along its southern extent and where it is still relatively well preserved. It is likely that the origins for this earth work extend back to the 7th century AD and it was designed to enclose the river estuary north of Wisbech and prevent flooding of the area by the sea. Evidence for flooding events is often identified in the area through layers of marine sediment deposition.

The medieval records tend to focus around the historic core of the village to the southeast of the site and around the 13^{th} century Church of St Leonards (CB148860) which is a Grade I listed building (48100). The site of the medieval mill (03974) is noted to the north of the Church and is the nearesy monument record to the site.

The majority of records date to the post-medieval period and are also generally clustered around the Church. These also tend to identify buildings of local interest that have not been listed (MCB22570, MCB22569, MCB22571 and MCB22552) and chart the post-medieval development of the settlement.

Leverington The grounds are also recorded as a monument record (MCB18549) as are the rectory garden to the west (MCB14263).

Given the above records, and the site's proximity to the earthworks of Roman Bank to the east and its enclosure within the sea defences would suggest a potential for Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. The site also had a fairly high potential to identify local flooding events via the stratigraphic sequence.



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 (Stewart, G. 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 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 were potentially threatened. One $15.00 \, \mathrm{m} \times 1.80 \, \mathrm{m}$ trench and one $10.00 \, \mathrm{m} \times 1.80 \, \mathrm{m}$ arranged in a staggered T configuration are considered suitable to achieve the sample. Due to the presence of extant services trench 2 was moved, with the agreement of CCC HET, to extend from the NE side of trench 1 on an east to west alignment measuring $6.00 \, \mathrm{m} \times 2.00 \, \mathrm{m}$.

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 unless agreed with CCC HET (Fig. 3).

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



8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 4 - 6)

A total of two trenches were cut, trench 1 measured $15.00m \times 1.80m$ and trench 2 measured $6.00m \times 2.00m$.

No archaeological features were encountered. An extant modern tarmac road was present across the site on a north east to south west alignment and was in both trenches.

A metal detector was used to scan the site both prior and post excavation of the trenches along with the spoil heaps. Only demonstrably modern finds, which included modern nails, fencing pins and rubbish were encountered and were not retained.

Bucket sampling took place at both ends of the trench. 90L of soil was sieved for each of the soil horizons encountered however the only artefacts recovered were from subsoil **1001** and were modern in date consisting of scattered modern brick, galvanized nails and food wrappers.

8.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated north west to south east and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.84m. The trench was excavated through a modern access road and contained no archaeological features. A live extant service (drain) was present bisecting the centre of the trench. To avoid damage to the service a baulk was left in over the top of the drain. The road was present c.3.50m from the south east end of the trench to c.11m from the south east end.

Topsoil **1000** was present to a depth of 0.23m, and overlay subsoil **1001** present to a depth of 0.47m with a thickness of 0.24m. Below 1001 was **1002** an alluvial clay with silty deposits possibly representing an inundation event present to a depth of 0.47m with a thickness of 0.16m. This overlay natural alluvial clay **1003**.

8.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was orientated east to west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.83m. The trench was excavated through a modern road and contained no archaeological features. The road was present throughout the trench.

Tarmac road surface **1004** was present to a depth of 0.15m. Beneath 1004 was **1005** a layer of hardcore and rubble forming a bedding for the road present to a depth of 0.80m with a thickness of 0.65m. This overlay natural alluvial clay **1003**.

9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 5)

The deposit model was inconsistent across the site due to the presence of an extant modern road.



In trench 1 the top of the stratigraphic sequence was topsoil layer **1000.** This comprised a dark grey-black compact sand, silt, and clay, with infrequent modern CBM inclusions. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.23m in Sample Section 1.

Beneath topsoil 1000 in trench 1 was subsoil layer **1001**, which comprised a mid greybrown compact clayey silt with infrequent modern CBM inclusions. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.47m in Sample Section 1.

In trench 1 Subsoil 1001 overlay **1002** a layer of alluvial clay with silty deposits representing a possible inundation event. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.63m in Sample Section 1.

In trench 2 the top of the stratigraphic sequence was tarmac road surface **1004** a black compact tarmac present to a maximum depth of 0.15m in Sample Section 2.

Beneath tarmac 1004 in trench 2 was hardcore and rubble bedding layer for the road **1005**, a pale yellow-orange friable sand with frequent hardcore and rubble inclusions. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.80m in Sample Section 2.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence in both trenches was natural alluvial clay **1003** comprising a mottled brown greyish-blue very compact silty clay.

10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background for the site suggested that there was a potential for Anglo-Saxon, medieval, and post medieval evidence on the site, as well as a fairly high potential to identify local flooding events via the stratigraphic sequence.

The evaluation revealed no archaeological features, but revealed two phases of activity.

The first phase relates to an early local flooding event represented by alluvial layer **1002** in trench 1 which predates modern subsoil **1001**.

The second phase of activity related to the extant modern road on the site represented by tarmac surface layer **1004** and hardcore and rubble bedding layer **1005**.

Despite the high potential for Anglo-Saxon, medieval, and post-medieval activity on the site, no archaeological features were encountered. The evaluation did successfully identify evidence of an early local flooding event represented by alluvial layer **1002**.

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 P Petrov and L Bevens Associates Architects Ltd for commissioning and funding the project.

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

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



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Historic England PastScape <u>www.pastscape.org.uk</u>



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

TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orienta	tion SE-NW		Height AOD 2.60		Shot ID
Sample Section No		Locatio	on		Facing	
1			SW side	, SE end		NE Facing
Context No	Depth		Deposi	t Description		
1000	0.00 - 0	.23m	Topsoil: dark grey-black compact sandy silt and clay wit infrequent modern CBM inclusions			
1001	0.23 - 0	.47m	Subsoil: mid grey-brown compact clayey silt with infrequent CBM inclusions			
1002	0.47 - 0	.63m	Alluvial and silty layer: light brown-yellow compact silty clay.			
1003	0.63 - 0	.84m	Natural silty cla	,	tled brow	n-grey blue very compact

TRENCH 2

Trench No	Orientation		Height AOD		Shot ID	
2	E-W			2.62		4
Sample Section No		Location		Facing		
2			N Side,	S End		S Facing
Context No	Depth		Deposit Description			
1004	0.00 - 0).15m	Tarmac surface: black compact tarmac			nac
1005	0.15 - 0).80m	Bedding layer for road: pale yellow-orange friable sand with			
			frequen	t hardcore and rub	ble	
1003	0.80 - 0).83m	Natural alluvial clay: mottled brown-grey blue very compac			n-grey blue very compact
			silty clay.			

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: britanni1-292838

Project details

Project name Land South West of 41 Perry Road, Leverington, Cambs

Short description of the project

On the 6th September 2017, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at land south-west of 41 Perry Road, Leverington, Cambridgeshire (TF 44247 11748), in advance of the residential development of the site. A total of two trenches were cut, Trench 1 measured 15.00m x 1.80m and trench 2 measured 6.00m x 2.00m. The original staggered T trench configuration was altered due to the presence of extant services and with the agreement of CCC HET Trench 2 was moved to extend from the north east side of trench 1 (beginning c.4.25m from the south east end of trench 1) on an east to west alignment measuring 6.00m x 2.00m. The archaeological background for the site suggested that there was a potential for Anglo-Saxon, medieval, and post medieval evidence on the site, as well as a fairly high potential to identify local flooding events via the stratigraphic sequence. The evaluation revealed no archaeological features, but revealed two phases of activity. The first phase related to an early local flooding event represented by alluvial layer 1002 in trench 1 which predates modern subsoil 1001. The second phase of activity related to the extant modern road on the site represented by tarmac surface layer 1004 and hardcore and rubble bedding layer 1005. Despite the high potential for Anglo-Saxon, medieval, and post-medieval activity on the site, no archaeological features were encountered. The evaluation did successfully identify evidence of an early local flooding event represented by alluvial layer 1002.

Project dates Start: 06-09-2017 End: 06-09-2017

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Any associated project reference

P1203 - Contracting Unit No.

codes

Type of project Field

Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type NONE None
Monument type NONE None
Significant Finds NONE None
Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques

""Sample Trenches""

1 of 3 26/09/2017. 13:55



OASIS FORM - Print view https://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm

Development type Rural residential

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

planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND LEVERINGTON Land South West of 41 Perry Road

PE13 5AE Postcode

Study area 883 Square metres

Site coordinates TF 44247 11748 52.683822192556 0.134181944344 52 41 01 N 000 08 03 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 3m Max: 4m

Project creators

Name of Britannia Archaeology Ltd

Organisation

Project brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body originator

Project design

Matthew Adams

originator

Project Martin Brook

director/manager

Project supervisor Martin Brook Type of Developer

sponsor/funding

body

Name of P Petrov c/o L Bevens Associates Architects Ltd

sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Physical Archive No

Exists?

Cambridgeshire HER

Digital Archive recipient

Digital Archive ID ECB5187 Digital Contents

Digital Media

"none"

available

"GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive

Cambridgeshire HER

recipient

Paper Archive ID ECB5187 Paper Contents "none"

2 of 3 26/09/2017, 13:55



OASIS FORM - Print view https://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm

Paper Media available

"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

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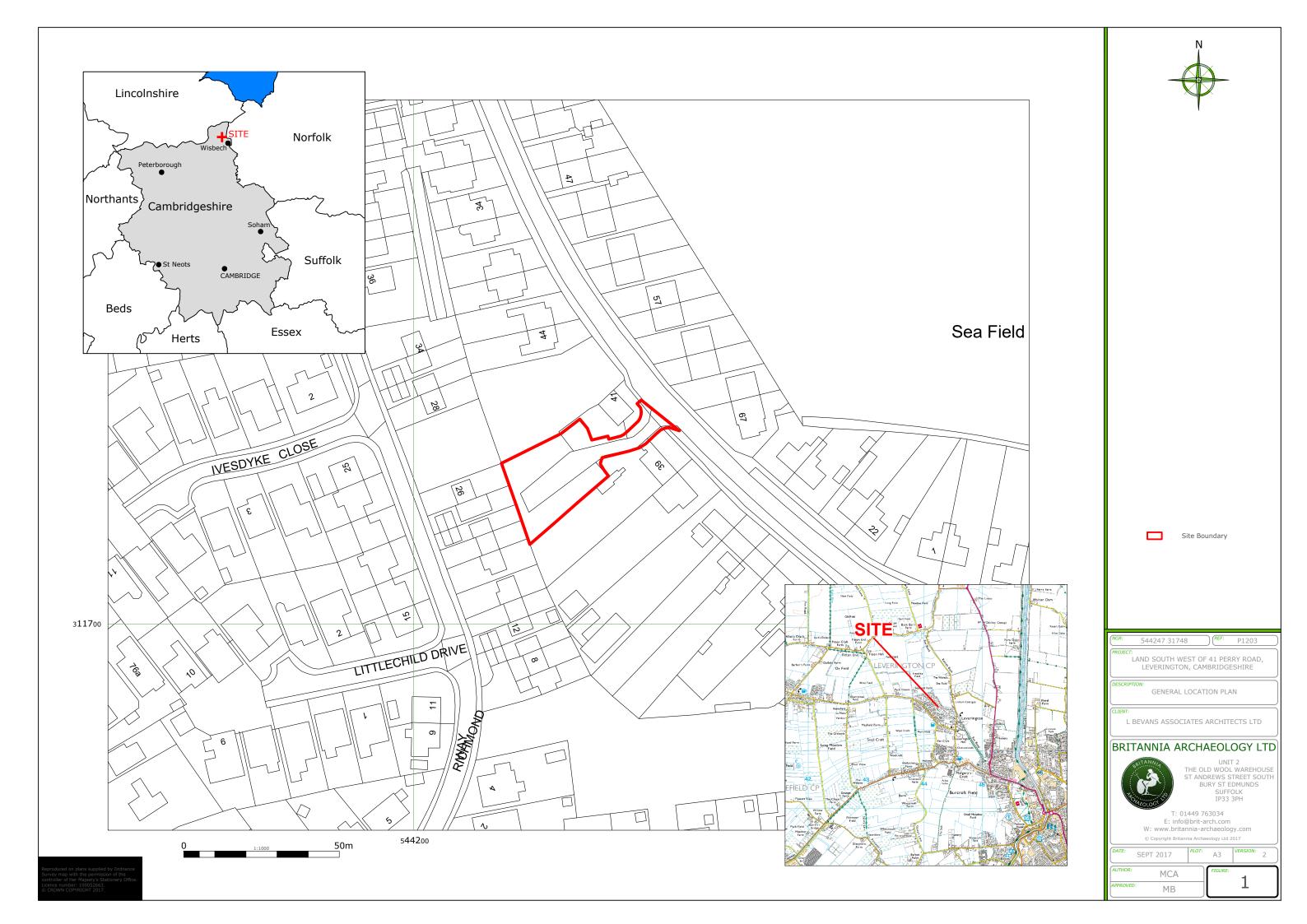
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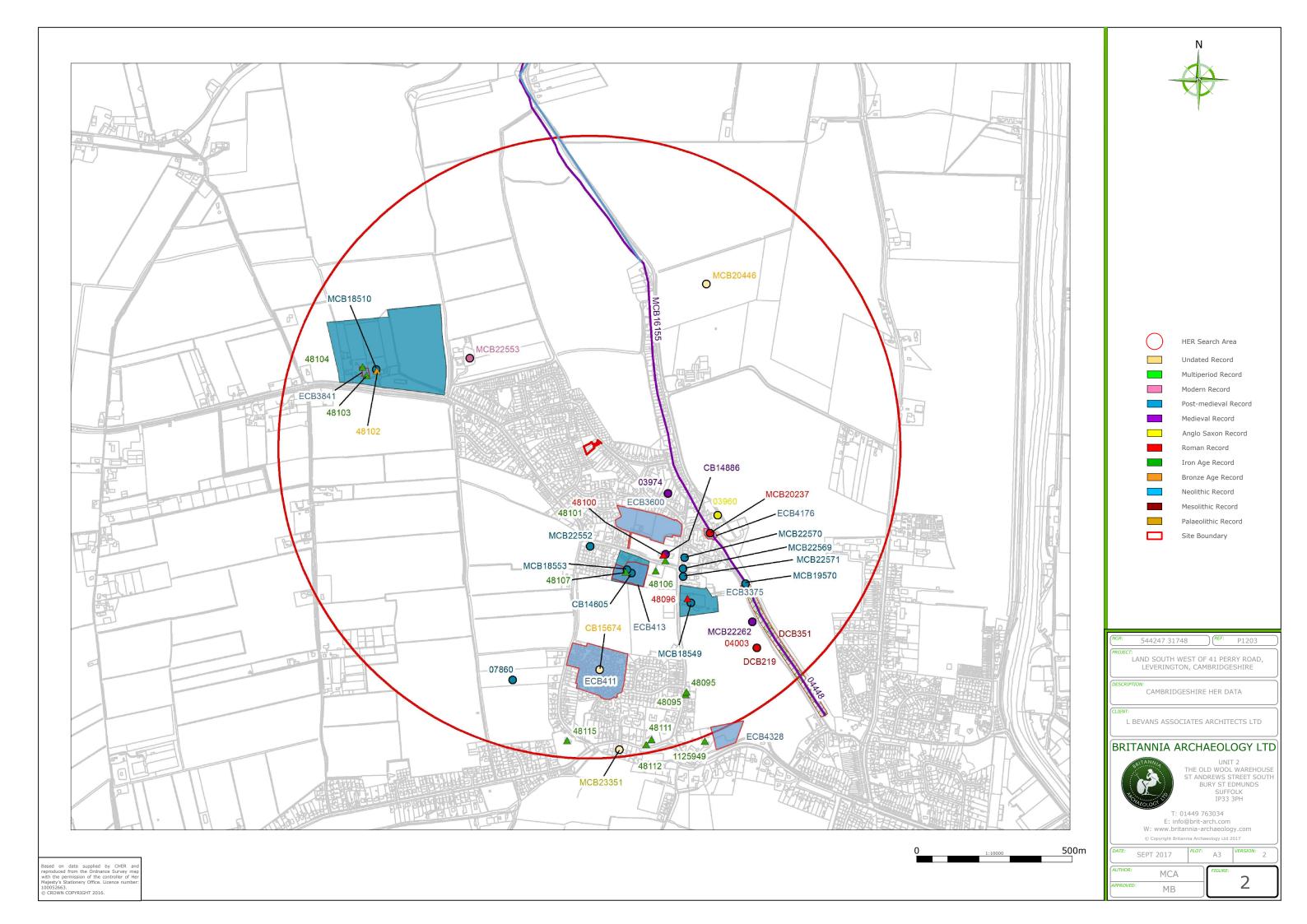
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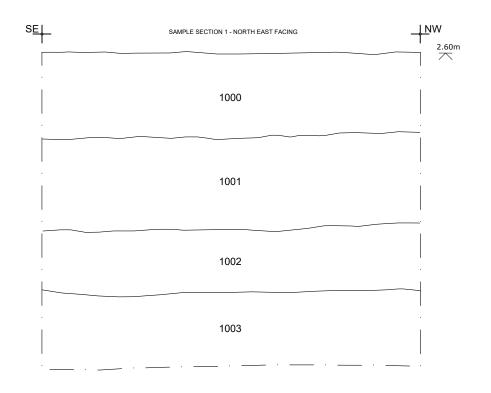
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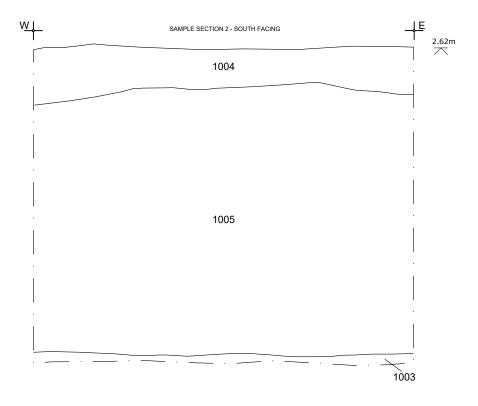






DP:1 - SAMPLE SECTION 1







DP:4 - SAMPLE SECTION 2



PTION:
SAMPLE SECTIONS, DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

L BEVANS ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS LTD

BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD



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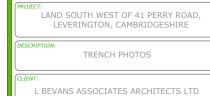
DP:2 - TRENCH VIEW NORTH



DP:3 - TRENCH VIEW NORTH



DP:5 - TRENCH VIEW EAST



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