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# LAND TO THE REAR 130 MIDDLEWATCH, SWAVESEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION





**LAND TO THE REAR 130 MIDDLEWATCH, SWAVESEY,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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## **Abstract**

*From 17th October to 17th November 2017 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at Land to the Rear of 130 Middlewatch, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire (TL 3617 6793). The archaeological background for the site suggested that there was a low potential for features and finds relating to the prehistoric period, a moderate potential for Romano-British archaeology, and a high potential for features and finds relating to the medieval period.*

*The evaluation only encountered archaeological features in trenches 6, 12, 13, and 14 which (with the exception of trench 6) were located on the eastern side of the site closest to the road. The archaeology can be separated into four main phases of activity.*

*The earliest and first phase of activity relates to the main period of activity on the site which is centres in the 11th and 12th centuries. A single pit contained dating evidence from the 11-12th century however it seems highly likely that this is residual and the pit is likely from a later phase, the pottery being the result of re-deposition after the extraction pit was excavated. The archaeology assigned to this phase mainly consists of ditches likely associated with back plots relating to medieval dwellings that would have likely been closer to and possibly lined the road (Middle Watch). This correlates well with the records returned by the CHER where the majority of records were of medieval date. The ditches are all similar in profile and appear to demarcate boundaries as well as being utilised for simple drainage, a point evidenced by the environmental analysis.*

*The majority of the finds recovered from the features associated with this phase relate to medieval domestic waste. Certainly the majority of the pottery recovered suggests that the assemblages represent domestic rubbish from medieval households that backed on to the east side of the site (Fawcett, 2018).*

*The second phase of activity at the site is based in the 12th – 14th century date range. Two of the pits are both large in profile and appear to represent clay extraction. The full extent of the pits were not found due to the overall size; the extent and number of these pits can only be tested through further excavation work. With the back plots still likely delineated from Phase I the clay extraction on site would have provided a ready building material for the local residents to use in building construction and repair.*

*The third phase relates to the post medieval period where the site likely underwent agricultural re-consolidation as the village increased in size, similar to large numbers of contemporary villages across the county. The post-mediaeval finds are confined to Topsoil 1000 and subsoil 1004 which suggests that the sub soil accumulated as an agricultural deposit the result of extensive plough and farming activity within this period.*

*The final phase of activity relates to the modern activity at the site. This is represented by the numerous modern field drains across the site and presence of geotechnical works across the area. There was also evidence on site of modern tree plantings.*

*Overall the evaluation was successful in location, extent, date, character of the archaeology at Land to the Rear 130 Middlewatch. The trenches revealed a concentration of medieval activity at the eastern end of the site which almost certainly extends all the*



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*way to the road (Middlewatch) while the works also identified further medieval, undefined activity across the area represented through her bucket sampling undertaken. Unfortunately the environmental data was sparse however the evidence that was recovered further reinforces the likelihood that the features relate to back plot activity associated with nearby medieval dwellings near the historic core of the village.*





## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

From 17<sup>th</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at Land to the Rear of 130 Middlewatch, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire (TL 3617 6793), on behalf of Swavesey ventures Ltd as a condition of planning application reference S/0053.17/OL, in advance of the erection of up to 70 dwellings with a public open space, children's play area, and associated landscaping and new access.

The evaluation was undertaken in response to a design brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Gdaniec, K. 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017) which required a programme of linear trial trenching to assess the nature and potential of the site, and to determine the need for any future site investigations. This comprised of 13, 50.00m x 1.80m trenches and 2, 25.00m x 1.80m trenches.

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The development is located south of the archaeological core of the village of Swavesey and approximately 1km south of Swavesey 'Castle Hill' earthworks (Historic Environment Record reference DCB 337).

The natural bedrock geology is described as West Walton Formation And Ampthill Clay Formation (undifferentiated) - Mudstone. This is a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 157 to 164 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. The Local environment was previously dominated by shallow seas (BGS, 2017).

No superficial geology had been recorded in the area of the site (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 *South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework Development Control Policies (2007)*.

## 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2 & 3)

The following archaeological background draws on the Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER) (1km search centred on the site), English Heritage PastScape ([www.pastscape.org.uk](http://www.pastscape.org.uk)), and the Archaeological Data Service ([www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)) (ADS) (Fig. 2 & 3).

Evidence of prehistoric settlement in Swavesey is limited. The CHER search returned 1 entries dating to the prehistoric period. An evaluation c.900m north of the site revealed features dating to the Late Iron Age including evidence of a possible kiln (ECB248).



Roman settlement is represented by 3 entries from the CHER search area. An evaluation c.400m north-west of the site revealed Roman features and fragments of Roman pottery (ECB4835). In addition there is a report of Roman coins found c.1km north of the site (MCB16700) as well as general record of Roman remains found within the town centre but with no specific location (08123).

The most substantial period represented by the CHER is Medieval. The most significant record from this period is the 'Castle Hill' earthworks a scheduled monument located just c.200m north of the search area (DCB337). A number of archaeological investigations in the northern area of Swavesey have revealed the nature of the medieval settlement in the area of the castle. A substantial ditch has been found in several evaluations which appears to be the medieval town ditch with a bank dated to the last quarter of the 13th century in line with the defences of the castle bailey (ECB248, ECB466). In addition substantial evidence of occupation has been found in the form of timber buildings, refuse and cess pits, finds suggestive of domestic activity, and agricultural activity including ridge and furrow (ECB248, ECB394, ECB943, ECB944, ECB1540, ECB1037, ECB247). Aerial photography has also identified a possible water management system for the castle in the form of cropmarks as well as evidence of ridge and furrow on all sides of the village (MCB17714, ECB2698, ECB1600). Further evidence of agricultural activity in the form of ridge and furrow has been identified as cropmarks in the fields c.100m south-west of the site (MCB21457) and c.700m north-west of the site (MCB21455, MCB21456). Evidence of medieval settlement and enclosures with field systems have been found c.400m north-west of the site in the form of ditches and pits (ECB4835). Near the south extent of the search area some cropmarks of medieval field boundaries and ridge and furrow have been identified (MCB21452, MCB21450).

The post-medieval period is represented by records relating to agricultural activities and post-medieval listed buildings. Post-medieval field drains and tree throws associated with a previous orchard were found c.350m north of the site (ECB4212) and c.400m north-west of the site cropmarks of post-medieval pits and field systems have been found (MCB21454). An evaluation c.1000m north of the site revealed a pit and post-hole of post-medieval date (ECB4244, ECB4870). Additionally 2 small 19<sup>th</sup> century burial grounds were in the search area, one located c.300m south of the site (MCB21470) and the other c.1000m north of the site (MCB21459).

A number of entries relating to Listed Buildings were returned from the CHER but none were within 100m of the site. Most of the buildings are post-medieval with a 19<sup>th</sup> century date and located along Boxworth End, Middle Watch, and the High Street with a concentration at the northern extent of the search area. One building was of an earlier date. A timber framed aisled hall house (with later alterations) dating from the 13th century to 16<sup>th</sup> century is located c.450m north-east of the site (ECB552).

Given the above records the site had a **low** potential for features and finds relating to the **prehistoric** period, a **moderate** potential for **Romano-British** archaeology, and a **high** potential for features and finds relating to the **medieval** period.





## 5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The CHET 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 (Gdaniec, K. Brief, Section 3.1).

Both the WSI, fieldwork and resulting report/archiving were undertaken in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, 2014.

## 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).

Particular study of the following should occur:

- presence/absence of palaeosols and old land surface soils/deposits,
- the character of deposits and their contents within negative features
- palaeochannels
- site formation processes generally.

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

The evaluation should also carefully consider the retrieval, characterisation and dating (including absolute dating) of artefact, burial or economic evidence to assist in the characterisation of the site's evidence and in the development of future mitigation strategies.

## 7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The CHET brief required a programme of linear trial trenching in advance of the construction of the houses and associated works. The trenching was to cover 4% of the site area with a 1% contingency. This comprised of 13 50.00m x 1.80m trenches and 2 25.00m x 1.80m.



A 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used to machine down to the first archaeological horizon, thereafter all excavation was undertaken by hand (Fig. 4).

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

Bucket sampling was conducted after the trenches were excavated, whereby 90 litres of spoil was hand sorted for each soil horizon encountered, the sampling points occurred at each end of each trench.

## **8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 4 - 6)**

A total of 13 trenches were excavated measuring 50.00m x 1.80m and 2 trenches measuring 25.00m x 1.80m. The description of each trench is as follows.

### **8.1 Trench 1**

Trench 1 was orientated north west-south east and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.30m. No archaeological features were present. The trench contained 4 field drains.

Bucket sampling recovered 4 sherds of pottery from Topsoil **1000**. Three of these sherds were post-medieval slip ware and 1 sherd was an early medieval ware giving a date range of 11<sup>th</sup>-late 19<sup>th</sup> century. A late post-medieval/early modern fragment of field drain was also found in Topsoil **1000**. Seven sherds of pottery were found in Subsoil **1004**, 2 of which were early medieval ware and the remaining 5 were medieval coarseware giving a date range of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, 2018).

At the south-east end of the trench Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.24m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.30m with a thickness of 0.06m. This overlay glacial Till **1002**.

### **8.2 Trench 2**

Trench 2 was orientated east-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.43m. No archaeological features were present.

Bucket sampling recovered 6 sherds of pottery from Topsoil **1000**. These consisted of 1 sherd of late medieval/early post-medieval transitional ware, 1 sherd of glazed red earthenware, 1 sherd of transfer printed ware, and 3 sherds of refined white earthenware. These sherds give a date range of 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century. A fragment of post-medieval brick was also found in Topsoil **1000**. Just a single sherd of medieval glazed ware was found in Subsoil **1004** dating from late 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, 2018).

At the eastern end of the trench Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.20m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.31m with a thickness of 0.11m. This overlay Glacial Till **1005** present to a depth of 0.43m with a thickness of 0.12m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001**.



### 8.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was orientated north-south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.28m. No archaeological features were present. The trench contained 3 modern land drains.

Bucket sampling recovered 2 sherds of pottery from Topsoil **1000**, 1 sherd of medieval coarseware, and 1 sherd of glazed red earthenware which provides a date range of mid 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century. Four fragments of CBM were also found in Topsoil **1000** which were red brick fragments dating from the late post-medieval period onwards (Fawcett, 2018). In addition, 7 fragments of animal bone were also found in Topsoil **1000**. No finds were found in Subsoil **1004**.

At the eastern end of the trench Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.19m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.28m with a thickness of 0.09m. This overlay Glacial Till **1005**.

### 8.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was orientated north-south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.29m. No archaeological features were present. The trench contained 3 modern land drains.

Bucket sampling recovered 8 sherds of pottery from Topsoil **1000** consisting of 1 sherd of early medieval ware, 2 sherds of medieval coarseware, 1 sherd of late medieval/early post-medieval transitional ware, 1 sherd of glazed red earthenware, and 3 sherds of refined white earthenware. This pottery give a date range of 11<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century. A fragment of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century field drain was also found in Topsoil **1000**, (Fawcett, 2018). In addition 1 Fe object (identified as a fragment of horseshoe) and 1 fragment of slate were also found in Topsoil **1000**.

At the eastern end of the trench Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.25m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.29m with a thickness of 0.07m. This overlay Glacial Till **1005**.

### 8.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was orientated east-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.37m. No archaeological features were present.

Bucket sampling recovered 4 sherds of pottery from Topsoil **1000** consisting of 1 sherd of early medieval ware, 2 sherds of medieval coarseware which included a large oxidised jug handle fragment, and 1 sherd of glazed red earthenware giving a date range of 11<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century, (Fawcett, 2018). A small fragment of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century field drain was also found in Topsoil **1000**. In addition 1 piece of glass and 1 fragment of clay pipe were also found in Topsoil **1000**. Two sherds of pottery were found in Subsoil **1004** consisting of 1 sherd of St Neots type ware, and 1 sherd of medieval coarseware giving a date range of mid 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century.



At the eastern end of the trench Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.25m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.37m with a thickness of 0.12m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001**.

### 8.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was orientated north-south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.30m. The trench contained 1 post-medieval ditch and a modern field drain.

Bucket sampling recovered 1 sherd of St Neots type ware, and 1 sherd of early medieval ware in Topsoil **1000** dating from 11<sup>th</sup>-mid 12<sup>th</sup> century, (Fawcett, 2018). No finds were present in Subsoil **1004**.

Ditch **1002** (1.80m+ x 1.13m+ x 0.40m+) was linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and an irregular concave base, on an east-west orientation. The feature was excavated in a 1.00m slot to a width of 1.13m and a depth of 0.40m. It contained a single fill, **1003**, a dark greyish-yellowish-brown, compact silty clay with occasional chalk and small flint inclusions. This ditch appears to align with an old field boundary visible on OS maps and is likely of post-medieval date.

At the eastern end of the trench Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.17m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.30m with a thickness of 0.13m. This overlay Glacial Till **1005** present to a depth of 0.40m with a thickness of 0.10m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001**.

### 8.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was orientated east-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.61m. No archaeological features were present. The trench contained 1 field drain.

Bucket sampling recovered 4 sherds of pottery from Topsoil **1000** consisting of 2 sherds of early medieval shelly ware, 1 sherd of medieval shelly ware, and 1 undiagnostic sherd giving a date range of 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century, (Fawcett, 2018). No finds were present in Subsoil **1004**.

At the eastern end of the trench Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.20m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.34m with a thickness of 0.14m. This overlay Glacial Till **1005** present to a depth of 0.52m with a thickness of 0.19m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001**.

### 8.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 was orientated north east-south west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.62m. No archaeological features were present. The trench contained 4 field drains.

Bucket sampling produced no finds in either Topsoil **1000** or Subsoil **1004**.

At the eastern end of the trench Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.16m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.33m with a thickness of 0.17m.



This overlay Glacial Till **1005** present to a depth of 0.52m with a thickness of 0.19m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001**.

### **8.9 Trench 9**

Trench 9 was orientated east-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.44m. No archaeological features were present. The trench contained 1 field drain.

Bucket sampling recovered no finds in either Topsoil **1000** or Subsoil **1004**.

At the eastern end of the trench Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.15m. This layer overlay subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.29m with a thickness of 0.14m. This overlay Glacial Till **1005** present to a depth of 0.42m with a thickness of 0.13m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001**.

### **8.10 Trench 10**

Trench 10 was orientated east-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.49m. No archaeological features were present.

Bucket sampling recovered 3 sherds of pottery from Topsoil **1000** consisting of medieval coarseware, late medieval/early post-medieval transitional ware, and Glazed red earthen ware giving a date range of mid/late 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century, (Fawcett, 2018). In addition a fragments of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century field drain was also found in Topsoil **1000**. In addition 3 pieces of glass were also found in Topsoil **1000**. One sherd of early medieval ware and 1 sherd of medieval coarseware were found in Subsoil **1004** dating from the 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century.

At the eastern end of the trench Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.15m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.32m with a thickness of 0.17m. This overlay Glacial Till **1005** present to a depth of 0.49m with a thickness of 0.17m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001**.

### **8.11 Trench 11**

Trench 11 was orientated north-south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m. No archaeological features were present.

Bucket sampling recovered a single sherd of medieval coarseware in Subsoil **1004** dated to mid/late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. In addition 4 pieces of shell were found in Subsoil **1004**. No finds were recovered from Topsoil **1000**.

At the eastern end of the trench Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.19m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.37m with a thickness of 0.18m. This overlay Glacial Till **1005** present to a depth of 0.50m with a thickness of 0.13m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001**.



## 8.12 Trench 12

Trench 12 was orientated north east-south west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m. The trench contained 2 linear ditches, 2 large extraction pits, and a rectilinear gully.

Bucket sampling produced no finds from the topsoil or subsoil.

Ditch **1006** was linear in plan with shallow to moderately sloping sides and a concave uneven base, on a north east – south west orientation. The feature was excavated in a 1.00m slot to a width of 1.40m and a depth of 0.29m and was cut by a modern land drain on the south west side. It contained a single fill, **1007**, a mid greyish-brown, very compact silty-clay with occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions. Two sherds of pottery were recovered, 1 sherd of early medieval shelly ware and 1 sherd of early medieval ware giving a date of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century, (Fawcett, 2018). The ditch was possibly a medieval back-plot boundary associated with ditch 1008 which runs parallel just southwest of this feature. The environmental sample taken for processing from the sample produced the partial shell of *Cornu aspersum* this is a non-native snail species, believed to have been introduced by the Romans, (Law, 2018).

Ditch **1008** was linear in plan with steep sloping sides and a concave base and on an east-west orientation. The feature was excavated in a 1.00m slot to a width of 1.00m and a depth of 0.20m. It contained a single fill, **1009**, a mid greyish-brown, very compact silty clay with no inclusions. Seven sherds of pottery were found dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> century which included 1 sherd of early medieval ware, 5 sherds of medieval coarseware, and 1 sherd of medieval shelly ware, (Fawcett, 2018). The ditch is possibly part of a medieval back-plot boundary associated with ditch 1006. The environmental sample taken for processing produced a small quantity of common mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) shells which is representative of food waste from a coastal source, (Law, 2018).

Pit **1010** was sub-circular in plan, with moderately to steep sloping sides and a step and a concave base. 50% of the feature present in the trench was excavated with a length of 4.50m+, a width of 1.46m+, and a depth of 0.93m. The pit contained 5 fills representing successive dumps of material over time, suggesting the pit was open for a longer period of time for the purpose of depositing waste. The primary fill, **1011**, was a very compact mid blue-grey (with yellow and orange patches) clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The secondary fill, **1012**, was a dark yellowish-grey, very compact clay with occasional small stone and iron-pan inclusions. The tertiary fill, **1013**, was a compact mid grey silty-clay-gravel with frequent small stone and moderate medium stone inclusions. This fill contained 4 sherds of pottery consisting of 1 sherd of Stamford ware, 1 sherd of medieval glazed ware, 1 sherd of medieval coarseware, and 1 sherd of late medieval/early post-medieval transitional ware giving a date of 15<sup>th</sup>-late 16<sup>th</sup> century with some residual sherds of early-high medieval date (Fawcett, 2018). A fragment of shell and fragments of cattle and mammal bone (35g) were also recovered. The quaternary fill, **1014**, was a dark brownish-grey, very compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions and a deposit of a large piece of burnt wood with charcoal flecks around it on the north east side. Six sherds of mid/late 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century pottery were found including 2 sherds of early medieval ware, and 4 sherds of medieval coarseware. Animal bone, which included fragments of pig/boar, sheep/goat and mammal (109g), shell (29g), a probable medieval





or early post-medieval jetton (SF1) and 3 Fe objects (SF2) were also found. The quinary fill, **1015**, was a dark yellowish-brownish-grey, very compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions. In total 28 sherds of pottery (242g) were found including 6 St Neots type ware, 4 early medieval ware, 10 medieval coarseware, 1 medieval glazed ware, 5 late medieval/early post-medieval transitional ware and 2 German stoneware. Using this assemblage the likely date is 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century with residual sherds of early to high medieval date (Fawcett, 2018), indicating that the pit was likely dug through earlier medieval activity. The fill also contained 6 pieces of CBM which included a fragment of medieval roof tile and a fragment of floor tile dating from the late medieval to post-medieval period. In addition animal bone which included cattle, mammal, equid, sheep/goat and pig/boar (1075g), 1 flint (dating from the late Mesolithic to mid Neolithic periods, McConnell, 2018), 3 Fe nails, shell (75g), whetstone (163g), and burnt stone (73g) were also found in this top fill. Of note from this final layer is the equid mandible which shows enamel hypoplasia, indicating an older or poorly fed animal with tooth wear and infection in the gums (Curl, 2018). The pit was likely a large clay extraction pit opened during the early post-medieval period and subsequently used for waste deposition, this pit likely truncated earlier medieval features/layers represented in the feature by the presence of residual early medieval and medieval pottery.

Gully **1017** (same feature as 1019) forms a corner of a rectilinear enclosure. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base and was excavated in a 1.00m slot to a width of 0.77m and a depth of 0.30m. The slot was on the east-west orientation. It contained a single fill, **1018**, a mid greyish-brown with yellow flecks, very compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions. One sherd of medieval green glazed pottery was found dating the gully to mid/late 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, 2018). 372g of animal bone (including cattle and mammal bones) were also found in this slot.

Gully **1019** is a continuation of gully 1017 and shares the same profile. This slot was excavated in a 1.00m slot to a width of 0.44m and a depth of 0.22m and was located on the north east-south west length of the gully. It contained a single fill, **1020**, a mid greyish-brown with yellow flecks, very compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions.

Pit **1027** was very large and sub-rectangular in plan, with steep sloping sides and a flat base. A slot 1.00m in length and 4.00m in width was excavated in the feature to a depth of 0.84m. The full extent of the pit is unknown but the portion that is visible in the trench had a maximum width of 6.30m and a length exceeding 1.80m. It contained a single fill, **1028**, a dark grey, very compact silty clay with occasional small flint and stone inclusions. In total 7 sherds of pottery were recovered which included 2 fragments of Stamford ware, 1 St Neots type ware, 2 fragments of an early medieval ware bowl, and 2 abraded sherds of medieval coarseware. The pottery gives a date range of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>C with a likely date of AD 1100-1150 (Fawcett, 2018). The pit was likely a very large clay extraction pit, similar to pit 1010 but perhaps indicating that clay extraction on this site began in the medieval period and continued into the early post-medieval period.

In sample section 12A, Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.20m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.41m with a thickness of 0.21m. This overlay Glacial Till **1005** present to a depth of 0.50m with a thickness of 0.11m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001**.



In sample section 12B, Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.25m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.48m with a thickness of 0.23m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001**.

In sample section 12C, Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.20m. This layer overlay former Compound Layer **1035** present to a depth of 0.24m with a thickness of 0.04m. This overlay Subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.44m with a thickness of 0.20m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001**.

### 8.13 Trench 13

Trench 13 was orientated north-south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.44m. The trench contained 3 ditches, 2 pits, and 2 gullies, as well as a series of modern field drains.

Ditch **1021** was linear in plan with moderately sloping sides, a concave base, on a north east-south west orientation and cut by Ditch 1024 and later recut by Ditch 1031. The feature was excavated in two 1.00m slots. Slot A consisted of a relationship slot with ditch 1024 to a width of 1.06m and a depth of 0.28m. It contained 2 fills. The primary fill, **1022**, was a mid yellowish-brown, very compact silty-clay with occasional small stone inclusions. Two sherds of St Neots type ware including a cooking pot base were recovered dating from mid 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, 2018). In addition equid and mammal bones (71g) were also recovered. This fill was likely a re-deposited natural that had accumulated along the base of the ditch whilst it was open. The secondary fill, **1023**, was a dark brownish-grey, compact silty clay with occasional small-medium stone inclusions. In total 14 sherds of pottery were found comprised of 12 St Neots type ware, 1 early medieval ware and an abraded sherd of medieval coarseware. The pottery provides a date of 11<sup>th</sup>-mid12<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, 2018). Animal bone recovered was made up of cattle and mammal remains (77g). Together with Ditch 1024 these ditches likely formed part of medieval back plot boundaries.

A further slot (1021B) was excavated in the same ditch, at the point where Ditch 1021 is cut by Recut Ditch 1031 and Pit 1029. There was no change to the shape or orientation but the surface was cut by modern field drain (one piece of this was found in the fill and dated to 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century). Slot B contained a single fill, **1034**, a dark brownish-grey, very compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions and a concentration of charcoal along the base. Animal bone (35g) and a copper alloy strip, likely a strap end of medieval date (SF3) were recovered.

Ditch **1024** was linear in plan, with moderately sloping sides, a concave base, on a north west-south east orientation, and cuts Ditch 1021A. The feature was excavated in a 1.00m relationship slot with Ditch 1021A to a width of 1.16m and a depth of 0.48m. It contained 2 fills. The primary fill, **1025**, was a mid yellowish-grey silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions. Six sherds of pottery were recovered which included 2 St Neots type ware and 4 medieval coarseware dating from mid 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, 2018). A piece of partially burnt daub (5g) was also found. This fill likely represents redeposited natural which had accumulated along the base whilst the ditch was still open. The secondary fill, **1026**, was a dark yellowish-brownish-grey, compact silty clay with occasional small-



medium stone inclusions. This fill contained the largest assemblage of pottery from Trench 13, a total of 23 sherds. A single sherd of Stamford ware, 8 sherds of early medieval ware, 11 sherds of St Neots type ware, and 3 sherds of medieval coarseware were found. This assemblage provided a date of 11<sup>th</sup>-mid 12<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, 2018). In addition 7 pieces of mostly part-burnt daub were recovered including a piece with a partial rod mark and another with a flat-irregular surface. Also present was a Fe nail, Shell (12g), and animal bone (963g) which included a dog mandible showing evidence of wear and chips on the teeth which are evidence of the animal eating bone (Curl, 2018).

Pit **1029** was sub-circular in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The feature was cut by Ditch 1021. The pit was excavated in a 1.00m slot to a width of 0.77m and a depth of 0.19m and cut Ditch 1031. The pit itself was largely truncated by a modern geotechnical pit so the true size and shape is not known. It contained a single fill, **1030**, a mid yellowish-greyish-brown, very compact silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions. One sherd of medieval coarseware was recovered giving a date of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, 2018). Animal bone (449g) including equid, cattle and mammal was also recovered.

Ditch **1031** was linear in plan, with steep sloping sides and a concave base and on a north east-south west orientation. It was cut by ditch 1021B and located adjacent to pit 1029. The feature was excavated in a 1.00m slot to a width of 0.97m and a depth of 0.54m. The primary fill, **1032**, was a dark blue-grey, very compact clay with occasional small-medium stone inclusions. One sherd of St Neots type ware was found giving a date range of mid 9<sup>th</sup>-mid 12<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, 2018). Also present were 15 pieces of daub, 10 of which had the remains of a flat/irregular surface. One piece was a thin, slightly curved, plate like fragment which is a typical piece of debris associated with kilns which might represent part of a raised kiln floor or be part of a setter or spacer. A sample was taken for environmental processing which produced charred cereal grains, evidence of food processing waste, (Law, 2018). The secondary fill, **1033**, was a dark greyish-brown, very compact clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions.

Pit **1036** was sub-circular in plan, with moderate to steep sloping sides and a flat base. The surface of the feature was cut by a field drain. A slot measuring 1.00m x 1.00m and to a depth of 0.60m was excavated however the feature was only partly visible within the trench and so the full size and shape is unknown. The pit contained 2 fills. The primary fill, **1037**, was a dark brownish-grey, very compact clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The environmental sample taken for processing produced a small quantity of common mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) and is representative of food waste from a coastal source, (Law, 2018). The secondary fill, **1038**, was a dark yellowish-brown, compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions.

Gully **1043** was linear in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base and was on a north-south orientation. This gully cuts gully 1045. The feature was excavated in two 1.00m slots. The first slot (**1043A**) 1.00m slot to a width of 0.31m with a depth of 0.14m. It contained a single fill, **1044A**, was a mid greyish-brown, compact silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions. Animal bone (159g) including mammal and cattle was recovered from this fill. This gully likely forms part of a boundary of medieval back plots with Gully 1045. A further slot was excavated of this gully, **1043B**, to establish a relationship with gully 1045. This slot it was excavated to a width of 0.14m+ and a depth



of 0.10m on the same orientation and with the same shape. It cuts Gully 1045. The single fill, **1044B**, was the same as 1044A.

Gully **1045** was linear in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base on an east-west orientation. It was cut by gully 1043. The feature was excavated in a 1.00m relationship slot with gully 1043B to a width of 0.16m+ and a depth of 0.11m. It contained a single fill, **1046**, a mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions. Six sherds of pottery were found including 1 sherd of medieval coarseware and part of a single early medieval ware vessel found in 6 fragments dating giving a date of c.12<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, 2018). One piece of burnt flint (a small core probably dating from the late Mesolithic through mid Neolithic period, McConnell, 2018), and animal bone (52g) including mammal and cattle was also recovered. A sample was taken for environmental processing which produced charred cereal grains, evidence of food processing waste, (Law, 2018).

Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.17m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.44m with a thickness of 0.27m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001**.

#### 8.14 Trench 14

Trench 14 was orientated north west-south east and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.33m. The trench contained 6 ditches, 1 pit, and 1 gully, as well as a series of modern field drains.

Ditch **1039** was linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base on a north west-south east orientation. This is a re-cut of Ditch 1041. The feature was excavated in a 1.00m slot to a width of 0.72m and a depth of 0.19m. It contained a single fill, **1040**, a mid greyish-brown, compact clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The environmental sample taken for processing produced a small quantity of common mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) in contexts representative of food waste from a coastal source, (Law, 2018).

Ditch **1041** was linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base on a north west-south east orientation. It was cut by ditch 1039, a re-cut of this ditch. The feature was excavated in a 1.00m slot to a width of 0.73m+ and a depth of 0.26m. It contained a single fill, **1042**, a dark yellowish-brown, compact clay with occasional small stone inclusions.

Pit **1047** was a sub circular in plan with steep sloping sides and a concave base and cut ditch 1057. 50% of the pit was excavated with a width of 0.80m+ and a depth of 0.55m. It contained 2 fills. The primary fill, **1048**, was a dark blue-grey, very compact clay with moderate chalk flecks and occasional small stone inclusions. The secondary fill, **1049**, was a dark brownish-grey, very compact clay with moderate small stone inclusions.

Gully **1050** was linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base and on a north west-south east orientation. The feature was excavated in a 1.00m slot with a width of 0.69m and a depth of 0.16m. It contained a single fill, **1051**, a dark brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions.



Pit **1054** was sub-circular in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base and cuts Ditch 1057. 50% of the feature was excavated with a width of 0.91m and a depth of 0.51m. The primary fill, **1055**, was a dark greyish-brown, very compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions. The secondary fill, **1056**, was a dark brownish-grey, very compact silty clay with frequent small-medium stone inclusions. Two sherds of medieval coarseware including a jug rim and body sherd were found dating from the mid/late 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, 2018); in addition animal bone (52g) including mammal and cattle was also recovered.

Ditch **1057** was linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base on a south east-north west orientation. The ditch was excavated in a 1.00m slot but was heavily truncated by pit 1054 and so the width is 0.21m+ and the depth is 0.18m+. It contained a single fill, **1058**, a dark grey, very compact silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions. 3 sherds of pottery were found including 1 sherd of early medieval ware, a medieval coarseware cooking pot rim, and a residual, very abraded sherd of early Anglo Saxon pottery with grog, which gave a date of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, 2018). 2 Fe objects, and 99g (mammal and cattle) of animal bone were also recovered.

Pit **1059** was sub rectangular in plan with moderate sloping sides and a flat base and was on a north-south orientation. Cut by Pit 1062 and Pit 1047. The pit was 2.48m+ in length, 1.40m+ in width, and 0.44m+ deep. The primary fill, **1060**, was a mid yellowish-brown, very compact silty clay with occasional small-medium stone inclusions. totalled 29 sherds. All were from the early medieval period and included Stamford ware (1), St Neots type ware (22) (including sherds of a cooking pot), early medieval ware (3) (including sherds of a bowl), and potential Thetford type ware (3) which also had applied strip decoration. The pottery provided a date of 11<sup>th</sup>-early 12<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, 2018). Also found were 128g of animal bone (mammal and cattle), and 10g of shell. The secondary fill, **1061**, was a mid greyish-brown, compact silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions.

Pit **1062** was linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It cut pit 1059. The pit was 1.20m+ in length, 0.40m in width, and 0.38m deep. Dark greyish-brown, compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions.

Topsoil layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.17m. This layer overlay subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.33m with a thickness of 0.17m. This overlay natural geology **1001**.

## 8.7 Trench 15

Trench 15 was orientated east-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.61m. No archaeological features were present.

Bucket sampling recovered no finds in either topsoil **1000** or subsoil **1004**.

At the eastern end of the trench Topsoil Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.20m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1004** present to a depth of 0.39m with a thickness of 0.19m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001**.





## 9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 5)

The deposit model was generally consistent across the site. The only exception was trench 12 where a former compound layer and a gravel layer were present across most of the trench.

In all trenches the top of the stratigraphic sequence was Topsoil Layer **1000**. This comprised of a dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.25m in sample section 12B. This layer was heavily rooted by the trees formerly on the site during its use as an orchard along the northern side of the site from at least 1926 when as indicated on the OS map.

Beneath topsoil 1000 in all trenches except trench 12 was Subsoil Layer **1004**, which comprised of a mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.48m in Sample Section 12B. This layer most likely represents a subsoil associated with medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity perhaps relating to the back plot activity on the east side of the site.

In trench 12 Gavel Layer **1035** was present beneath topsoil 1000 and above former compound layer 1035. It comprised of a mid greyish-brown, compact, gravel-clay with frequent small-medium stone inclusions. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.24m in sample section 12C. This layer most likely represents a gravel layer sealing and levelling the former compound layer below and was probably brought to the site in the post-medieval/modern period. This layer is present across trench 12 until c.5m from the south west end, roughly appearing only on the area where the archaeology is.

In trench 12 former Compound Layer **1016** was present beneath gravel layer 1035 and consisted of a dark blackish brown, compact gravelly silty clay with frequent small stone inclusions. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.44m in sample sections 12B and 12C. This layer most likely represents a former compound layer brought on to the site in relation to the construction of the houses off the road during the post-medieval or modern period. This layer is present across trench 12 until c.5m from the south west end, roughly appearing only on the area where the archaeology is.

Beneath subsoil 1004 in trenches 1-10 was Glacial Till **1005** which consisted of a mid greyish-blue, very compact silty clay with occasional small to large sub-angular flint inclusions. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.52m in sample section 8. This layer represents a glacial till which formed above natural 1001 but seems to have been removed in the eastern area of the site where features are present. Any features would have been cut into this layer but in trenches 2, and 7-10 this layer was removed down to the geological natural to ascertain its depth.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence was Natural Geology **1001** which was a Light brownish-yellow with light blue-grey patches, very compact sandy gravel clay with moderate small stone inclusions.





## 10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background for the site suggested that there was a low potential for features and finds relating to the prehistoric period, a moderate potential for Romano-British archaeology, and a high potential for features and finds relating to the medieval period.

The evaluation only encountered archaeological features in trenches 6, 12, 13, and 14 which (with the exception of trench 6) were located on the eastern side of the site closest to the road. The archaeology can be separated into four main phases of activity.

The earliest and first phase of activity relates to the main period of activity on the site which is centred in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. Ditches **1006**, **1008**, **1021**, **1024**, **1031**, **1057**, **1059** and Gully **1045** are all assigned to this phase. A single pit (Pit **1027**) contains dating evidence from the 11-12<sup>th</sup> century however it seems highly likely that this is residual and the pit is likely from a later phase, the pottery being the result of re-deposition after the extraction pit was excavated. The archaeology assigned to this phase mainly consists of ditches likely associated with back plots relating to medieval dwellings that would have likely been closer to and possibly lined the road (Middle Watch). This correlates well with the records returned by the CHER where the majority of records were of medieval date. The ditches are all similar in profile and appear to demarcate boundaries as well as being utilised for simple drainage, a point evidenced by the presence of ostracods, amphibian bones and the amphibious snail *Galba truncatula* in the environmental samples strongly suggest seasonal flooding, (Law 2018).

The majority of the finds recovered from the features associated with this phase relate to medieval domestic waste. Certainly the majority of the pottery recovered suggests that the assemblages represent domestic rubbish from medieval households that backed on to the east side of the site (Fawcett, 2018). Further domestic activity is evidenced from the presence of a Kiln plate within the fill of ditch 1031. While the function of these plates is not entirely clear it does suggest further domestic activity closer to the road beyond simple waste disposal.

The faunal evidence from the site is typical and broadly similar to other small assemblages of a medieval date range (Curl, 2018) however it reinforces the ceramic and environmental evidence that this is a phase dominated by the waste from domestic dwellings. Due to the lack of glazed wares in the assemblage it could be suggested that the dwellings may not have been of very high status however without further excavation at the site this is likely just conjecture. Certainly it appears as though the site as a whole was a centre of medieval activity in the area. The bucket sampling undertaken across the site recovered further sherds relating to this period suggesting further activity to the west.

The second phase of activity at the site is based in the 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century date range. Pits **1010**, **1029**, **1054** and Gully **1017** relate to the continued use for the site in this period. Pits 1010 and 1029 are both large in profile and appear to represent clay extraction. The earlier finds recovered from the features are most likely residual from Phase I. The full extent of the pits were not found due to the overall size; the extent and number of these pits can only be tested through further excavation work. With the back plots still likely delineated from Phase I the clay extraction on site would have provided a ready building



material for the local residents to use in building construction and repair. Gully 1017 was a rectilinear feature that appears to form a small enclosure possibly drainage for a small structure. It would not be unlikely to find small non-permanent structures in the back plots of medieval dwellings.

The third phase relates to the post medieval period where the site likely underwent agricultural re-consolidation as the village increased in size, similar to large numbers of contemporary villages across the county. The post-mediaeval finds are confined to Topsoil 1000 and subsoil 1004 which suggests that the sub soil accumulated as an agricultural deposit the result of extensive plough and farming activity within this period.

The final phase of activity relates to the modern activity at the site. This is represented by the numerous modern field drains across the site and presence of geotechnical works across the area. There was also evidence on site of modern tree plantings.

Overall the evaluation was successful in location, extent, date, character of the archaeology at Land to the Rear 130 Middlewatch. The trenches revealed a concentration of medieval activity at the eastern end of the site which almost certainly extends all the way to the road (Middlewatch) while the works also identified further medieval, undefined activity across the area represented through her bucket sampling undertaken. Unfortunately the environmental data was sparse however the evidence that was recovered further reinforces the likelihood that the features relate to back plot activity associated with nearby medieval dwellings near the historic core of the village.

## **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).

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Archaeological Data Service (ADS) [www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://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	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
1	NW-SE	7.24m	DP2
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
1	NE Side, SE End	SW Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.24m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1004	0.24 – 0.30m	Subsoil: Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions.	
1005	0.30m+ –	Glacial Till: Mid greyish-blue, very compact silty clay with occasional small to large sub-angular flint inclusions.	

### TRENCH 2

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
2	E-W	7.16m	DP4
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
2	N Side, E End	S Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.20m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1004	0.20 – 0.31m	Subsoil: Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions.	
1005	0.31 – 0.43m	Glacial Till: Mid greyish-blue, very compact silty clay with occasional small to large sub-angular flint inclusions.	
1001	0.43m+	Natural: Light brownish-yellow with light blue-grey patches, very compact sandy gravel clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	

### TRENCH 3

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
3	N-S	7.68m	DP6
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
3	E Side, Middle of trench	W Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.19m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1004	0.19 – 0.28m	Subsoil: Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions.	
1005	0.28m+	Glacial Till: Mid greyish-blue, very compact silty clay with occasional small to large sub-angular flint inclusions.	



#### TRENCH 4

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
4	N-S	7.23m	DP8
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
4	E Side, N End	W Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.22m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1004	0.22 – 0.29m	Subsoil: Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions.	
1005	0.29m+	Glacial Till: Mid greyish-blue, very compact silty clay with occasional small to large sub-angular flint inclusions.	

#### TRENCH 5

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
5	E-W	7.82m	DP10
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
5	S Side, W End	N Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.25m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1004	0.25 – 0.37m	Subsoil: Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions.	
1005	0.37m+	Glacial Till: Mid greyish-blue, very compact silty clay with occasional small to large sub-angular flint inclusions.	

#### TRENCH 6

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
6	N-S	7.75m	DP13
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
6	E Side, S End	W Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.17m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1004	0.17 – 0.30m	Subsoil: Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions.	
1005	0.30 – 0.40m	Glacial Till: Mid greyish-blue, very compact silty clay with occasional small to large sub-angular flint inclusions.	
1001	0.40m+	Natural: Light brownish-yellow with light blue-grey patches, very compact sandy gravel clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	

#### Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1002	Ditch (1.80m+ x 1.13m+ x 0.40m+) Linear in plan, moderately sloping sides with an irregular and concave base. On an E-W orientation.	1003	Dark greyish-yellowish-brown (in patches), very compact silty clay with occasional chalk and small flint inclusions.	Post-medieval?	





### TRENCH 7

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
7	E-W	7.39m	DP14
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
7	N Side, E End	S Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.20m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1004	0.20 – 0.34m	Subsoil: Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions.	
1005	0.34 – 0.52m	Glacial Till: Mid greyish-blue, very compact silty clay with occasional small to large sub-angular flint inclusions.	
1001	0.52m+	Natural: Light brownish-yellow with light blue-grey patches, very compact sandy gravel clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	

### TRENCH 8

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
8	NE-SW	7.49m	DP16
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
8	SE Side, SW End	NW Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.16m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1004	0.16 – 0.33m	Subsoil: Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions.	
1005	0.33 – 0.52m	Glacial Till: Mid greyish-blue, very compact silty clay with occasional small to large sub-angular flint inclusions.	
1001	0.52m+	Natural: Light brownish-yellow with light blue-grey patches, very compact sandy gravel clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	

### TRENCH 9

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
9	E-W	7.49m	DP18
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
9	S Side, E End	N Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.15m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1004	0.15 – 0.29m	Subsoil: Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions.	
1005	0.29 – 0.42m	Glacial Till: Mid greyish-blue, very compact silty clay with occasional small to large sub-angular flint inclusions.	
1001	0.42m+	Natural: Light brownish-yellow with light blue-grey patches, very compact sandy gravel clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	



### TRENCH 10

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
10	E-W	7.68m	DP20
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
10	N Side, W End	S Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.15m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1004	0.15 – 0.32m	Subsoil: Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions.	
1005	0.32 – 0.49m	Glacial Till: Mid greyish-blue, very compact silty clay with occasional small to large sub-angular flint inclusions.	
1001	0.49m+	Natural: Light brownish-yellow with light blue-grey patches, very compact sandy gravel clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	

### TRENCH 11

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
11	E-W	7.97m	DP20
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
11	N Side, W End	S Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.19m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1004	0.19 – 0.37m	Subsoil: Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions.	
1005	0.37 – 0.50m	Glacial Till: Mid greyish-blue, very compact silty clay with occasional small to large sub-angular flint inclusions.	
1001	0.50m+	Natural: Light brownish-yellow with light blue-grey patches, very compact sandy gravel clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	

### TRENCH 12

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
12	NE-SW	8.07m	DP33
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
12A	NW Side, SW End	SE Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.20m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1004	0.20 – 0.41m	Subsoil: Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions.	
1005	0.41 – 0.50m	Glacial Till: Mid greyish-blue, very compact silty clay with occasional small to large sub-angular flint inclusions.	
1001	0.50m+	Natural: Light brownish-yellow with light blue-grey patches, very compact sandy gravel clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	



Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
12	NE-SW	8.32m	DP35
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
12B	NW Side, NE End	SE Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.15m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1035	0.15 – 0.20m	Gravel layer: Mid greyish-brown, compact, gravel-clay with frequent small-medium stone inclusions.	
1016	0.20m – 0.44m	Former Compound Layer: Dark blackish brown, compact gravelly silty clay with frequent small stone inclusions.	
1001	0.44m+	Natural: Light brownish-yellow with light blue-grey patches, very compact sandy gravel clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
12	NE-SW	8.24m	DP36
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
12C	1m square extension on SE side	SW Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.20m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1035	0.20 – 0.24m	Gravel layer: Mid greyish-brown, compact, gravel-clay with frequent small-medium stone inclusions.	
1016	0.24 – 0.44m	Former Compound Layer: Dark blackish brown, compact gravelly silty clay with frequent small stone inclusions.	
1001	0.44m+	Natural: Light brownish-yellow with light blue-grey patches, very compact sandy gravel clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	

### Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1006	Ditch (1.80m+ x 1.40m+ x 0.29m+) Linear in plan, shallow to moderately sloping sides with a concave and uneven base. On a NE-SW orientation. Cut by a modern land drain.	1007	Mid greyish-brown, very compact silty-clay with occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions.	11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> century	Pot 44g (2), A bone 66g (2)
1008	Ditch (1.80m+ x 1.00m x 0.20m) Linear in plan, with steep sloping sides and a concave base. On an E-W orientation.	1009	Mid greyish-brown, very compact silty clay with no inclusions.	12 <sup>th</sup> century	Pot 58g (7)
1010	Pit (4.5m x 1.46m+ x 0.93m) Sub-circular in plan, with moderately to steep sloping sides with a step and a concave base.	1011	Primary fill. Mid blue-grey with yellow and orange patches, very compact clay with occasional small stone inclusions.		
		1012	Secondary fill. Dark yellowish-grey, very compact clay with occasional small stone and iron-pan inclusions.		



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		1013	Tertiary fill. Mid grey with yellowish-brown patches, compact silty-clay-gravel with frequent small stone and moderate medium stone inclusions.	15 <sup>th</sup> - late 16 <sup>th</sup> century	Pot 8g (4), shell 2g (1), A Bone 35g (8)
		1014	Quaternary fill. Dark brownish-grey, very compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions and a large piece of burnt wood with charcoal flecks around it.	Mid-late 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century	Pot 49g (6), A Bone 109g (16), SF1 Medieval token (Ely?) 2g (1), SF1 Fe objects 40g (3), Charcoal 43g (18), Shell 29g (7)
		1015	Quinary fill. Dark yellowish-brownish-grey, very compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions.	15th-16th century	Pot 242g (28), A Bone 1075g (47), Flint 11g (2), CBM 592g (6), Fe Nails 18g (1), Charcoal <1g (1), Shell 75g (10), Whet stone 163g (1), ?W. Stone 146g (1), B. Stone 73g (3)
1017	Gully (3m+ x 0.77m x 0.30m) Rectilinear in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. On an E-W orientation. Same as 1019.	1018	Mid greyish-brown with yellow flecks, very compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions.	Mid-late 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century	Pot 7g (1), A. Bone 372g (54)
1019	Gully (2m+ x 0.40m x 0.22m) Rectilinear in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. On a NE-SW orientation. Same as 1017.	1020	Mid greyish-brown with yellow flecks, very compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions.		
1027	Pit (1.8m+ x 6.3m x 0.84m) Sub-rectangular in plan, with steep sloping sides and a flat/uneven base. Full extent of shape not known.	1028	Dark grey with occasional light brown patches, very compact silty clay with occasional small flint and stone inclusions.	11 <sup>th</sup> -12thC (likely AD 1100-1150)	Pot 47g (7), A. Bone 1231g (28)



### TRENCH 13

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
13	N-S	7.95m	DP39
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
13	E Side, S End	W Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.17m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1004	0.17 – 0.44m	Subsoil: Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions.	
1001	0.44m+	Natural: Light brownish-yellow with light blue-grey patches, very compact sandy gravel clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	

### Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1021A	Ditch (2m+ x 1.06m+ x 0.28m) Linear in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. On an NE-SW orientation. Cut by ditch 1024.	1022	Primary fill. Mid yellowish-brown, very compact silty-clay with occasional small stone inclusions. Re-deposited natural?	Mid 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> century	Pot 14g (2), A bone 71g (8),
		1023	Secondary fill. Dark brownish-grey, compact silty clay with occasional small-medium stone inclusions.	11 <sup>th</sup> - mid 12 <sup>th</sup> century	Pot 67g (14), A bone 77g (2)
1021B	Ditch (1.80m x 1.06m x 0.28m) Linear in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. On a NE-SW orientation. Continuation of ditch 1021A. Cuts ditches 1031 and 1029 and is cut by a modern field drain.	1034	Dark brownish-grey, very compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions and a concentration of charcoal along the base.		CBM 15g (1 fragment of P-med field drain which cuts ditch), A bone 325g (9), SF3 Cu alloy object 1g (1)
1024	Pit (1.00m x 0.97m x 0.54m) Sub circular in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. On NE-SW orientation. Cut by ditch 1021B. True size and shape not known.	1025	Primary fill. Mid yellowish-grey silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions.	Mid 9 <sup>th</sup> - mid 12 <sup>th</sup> C (more likely 12 <sup>th</sup> ) century	Pot 16g (6), daub 5g (7)
		1026	Secondary fill. Dark yellowish-brownish-grey, compact silty clay with occasional small-medium stone inclusions.	11 <sup>th</sup> -mid 12 <sup>th</sup> century	Pot 42g (23), A bone 963g (40), daub 23g (7), Fe nail 7g (1), shell 12g (4)
1029	Ditch (1.8m+ x 1.16m x 0.48m) Linear in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. On a NW-SE orientation. Cuts ditch 1021A.	1030	Mid yellowish-greyish-brown, very compact silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions.	11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century	Pot 2g (1), A. Bone 449g (3)



1031	Ditch (1.00m x 1.00m x 0.60m) Linear in plan, with steep sloping sides and a concave base. On a NE-SW orientation. Cut by ditch 1021B.	1032	Primary fill. Dark blue-grey, very compact clay with occasional small-medium stone inclusions.	Mid 9 <sup>th</sup> -mid 12 <sup>th</sup> century	Pot 9g (1), daub 76g (15), A. Bone 8g (2)
		1033	Secondary fill. Dark greyish-brown, very compact clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions.		
1036	Pit (1.50m+ x 1.00m+ x 0.60m) Sub circular in plan, with moderate to steep sloping sides and flat base. Surface is cut by a field drain. Full size and shape is unknown.	1037	Primary fill. Dark brownish-grey, very compact clay with occasional small stone inclusions.		
		1038	Secondary fill. Dark yellowish-brown, compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions.		
1043A	Gully (1.8m+ x 0.31m x 0.14m) Linear in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. On a N-S orientation.	1044A	Mid greyish-brown, compact silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions.		A. Bone 159g (16)
1043B	Gully (1.8m+ x 0.14m+ x 0.10m) Linear in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. On a N-S orientation. Cuts gully 1045.	1044B	Mid greyish-brown, compact silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions.		
1045	Gully (1.8m+ x 0.16m+ x 0.11m) Linear in plan, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. On an E-W orientation. Cut by gully 1043.	1046	Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions.	c.12 <sup>th</sup> century	Pot 137g (1 vessel in 6 sherds), A. Bone 52g (5), B. Flint 14g (1)

#### TRENCH 14

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
14	NW-SE	7.37m	DP43
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
14	NE Side, SE End	SW Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.17m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1004	0.17 – 0.33m	Subsoil: Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions.	
1001	0.33m+	Natural: Light brownish-yellow with light blue-grey patches, very compact sandy gravel clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	





## Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1039	Ditch (1.80m+ x 0.72m x 0.19m) Linear in plan, moderately sloping sides with concave base. On an NW-SE orientation. Re-cut of ditch 1041.	1040	Mid greyish-brown, compact clay with occasional small stone inclusions.		
1041	Ditch (1.8m+ x 0.73m+ x 0.26m) Linear in plan, moderately sloping sides with a concave base. On a NW-SE orientation. Cut by ditch 1039 (re-cut of this ditch).	1042	Dark yellowish-brown, compact clay with occasional small stone inclusions.		
1047	Pit (1.00m x 0.80m+ x 0.55m) Sub circular in plan, steep sloping sides and a concave base. Cuts ditch 1057.	1048	Primary fill. Dark blue-grey, very compact clay with moderate chalk flecks and occasional small stone inclusions.		
		1049	Secondary fill. Dark brownish-grey, very compact clay with moderate small stone inclusions.		
1050	Gully (1.8m+ x 0.69m x 0.16m) Linear in plan, moderately sloping sides with a concave base. On a NW-SE orientation.	1051	Dark brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions.		
1054	Pit (1.00m x 0.91m x 0.51m) Sun circular in plan, moderately sloping sides with a concave base. Cuts ditch 1057.	1055	Primary fill. Dark greyish-brown, very compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions.	Mid/late 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century	Pot 21g (2), A. Bone 42g (3)
		1056	Secondary fill. Dark brownish-grey, very compact silty clay with frequent small-medium stone inclusions.	11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> century	Pot 41g (3), A. Bone 99g (12), Fe Objects 32g (2)
1057	Ditch (1.8m+ x 0.21m+ x 0.18m+) Linear in plan, moderately sloping sides with a concave base. On a SE-NW orientation. Cut by pit 1054.	1058	Dark grey, very compact silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	11 <sup>th</sup> -early 12 <sup>th</sup> century	Pot 290g (29), A. Bone 128g (16), Shell 10g (10)



1059	Pit (2.48m+ x 1.04m x 0.44m+) Linear in plan, ??? sloping sides with a ??? base. On a N- S orientation. Cut by pit 1062 and pit 1047.	1060	Primary fill. Mid yellowish-brown, very compact silty clay with occasional small-medium stone inclusions.		
		1061	Secondary fill. Mid greyish-brown, compact silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions.		
1062	Pit (1.20m+ x 0.40m x 0.38m+) in plan, moderately sloping with a concave base.	1063	Dark greyish-brown, compact silty clay with moderate small-medium stone inclusions.		

### TRENCH 15

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
15	NW-SE	7.37m	DP43
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
15	NE Side, SE End	SW Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.20m	Topsoil: Dark blackish-brown, compact sandy silt and clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusions.	
1004	0.20 – 0.39m	Subsoil: Mid brownish-grey, compact silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular stone and flint inclusions.	
1001	0.39m+	Natural: Light brownish-yellow with light blue-grey patches, very compact sandy gravel clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	



## APPENDIX 2 – FINDS CONCORDANCE

CONCORDANCE OF FINDS															
SITE NAME:		130 Middle Watch, Swavesey													
SITE CODE:		ECB 5232													
P. NUMBER:		1209													
FEATURE CONTEXT	FEATURE TYPE	LAYER/FILL CONTEXT	TRIAL TRENCH No	SPOT DATE	POTTERY No	Wgt/g	CBM No	Wgt/g	Daub No	Wgt/g	A. Bone No	Wgt/g	Flint No	Wgt/g	OTHER /g(number)
None	Topsoil	1000	TT1	11th-L19th	4	39	1	64							
None	Topsoil	1000	TT2	15th-20th	6	43	1	21							
None	Topsoil	1000	TT3	M12th-18th/19th	2	14	4	73			7	21			
None	Topsoil	1000	TT4	11th-20th	8	63	1	49							Fe Object 1@25g, Slate 1@9g
None	Topsoil	1000	TT5	11th-18th/20th	4	108	1	39							Glass 1@2g/Clay pipe 1@2g
None	Topsoil	1000	TT7	11th-13th	4	31									
None	Topsoil	1000	TT10	M12th-18th/20th	3	9	1	6							Glass 3@20g
None	Sub-soil	1004	TT1	11th-14th	7	41									
None	Sub-soil	1004	TT2	L12th-14th	1	5									
None	Sub-soil	1004	TT5	M9th-14th	2	15									
None	Sub-soil	1004	TT6	11th-M12th	2	12									
None	Sub-soil	1004	TT10	11th-14th	2	8									
None	Sub-soil	1004	TT11	M12th-14th	1	8									Shell 4@13g
1006	Ditch	1007	TT12	11th-12th	2	44					2	66			
1008	Ditch	1009	TT12	c 12th	7	58									
1010	Pit	1013	TT12	15th-L16th	4	8					8	35			Shell 1@2g
1010	Pit	1014	TT12	M12th-14th	6	49					16	109			SF1 Token 1@2g, SF2 Fe Objects 3@40g, Charcoal 18@43g, Shell 7@29g
1010	Pit	1015	TT12	15th-L16th	28	242	6	592			47	1075	2	11	Fe Nails 3@18g, Charcoal 1@<1g, Shell 10@75g, Whet stone 1@163g, ?W. Stone 1@146g, B. Stone 3@73g
1017	Gully	1018	TT12	M12th-14th	1	7					54	372			
1021	Ditch	1022	TT13	M9th-M12th	2	14					8	71			
1021	Ditch	1023	TT13	11th-M12th	14	67					2	77			
1021	Ditch	1034	TT13				1	15			9	325			SF3 Cu Alloy object 1@1g
1024	Ditch	1025	TT13	c M12th	6	16			1	5					
1024	Ditch	1026	TT13	11th-M12th	23	42			7	23	40	963			Fe Nail 1@7g, Shell 4@12g
1027	Pit	1028	TT12	11th-12th	4	36					28	1231			
1029	Pit	1030	TT13	11th/12th-14th	1	2					3	449			
1031	Ditch	1032	TT13	M9th-M12th	1	9			13	67	2	8			
1043	Gully	1044	TT13								16	159			
1045	Gully	1046	TT13	c 12th	6	137					5	52			B.flint 1@14g
1054	Pit	1056	TT14	M12th-14th	2	21					3	42			
1057	Ditch	1058	TT14	11th-12th	3	41					12	99			Fe Objects 2@32g
1059	Ditch	1060	TT14	11th/E12th	16	188					16	128			Shell 10@10g
<b>Totals</b>					<b>172</b>	<b>1377</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>5282</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	



## APPENDIX 3 – SPECIALIST REPORTS

### **The pottery, ceramic building materials (CBM) and daub from Land to the Rear of 130 Middle Watch, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire (ECB 5232): An Assessment Report**

*Andy Fawcett*

#### **Introduction**

A total of 188 sherds of pottery (1489g), sixteen fragments of CBM (859g) and twenty-three pieces of daub (104g) were retrieved from twelve trial trenches at Middle Watch. This report firstly sets out the methodology used in the analysis of the three find groups. Thereafter, the materials are examined together by trench number which is then followed by an overall conclusion and finally recommendations for any further work to be undertaken on the assemblages.

#### **Methodology**

The pottery, CBM and daub have been recorded by fragment count and weight. The principle fabrics of these in each context have been rapidly scanned at x20 vision. Fabric codes have been assigned using simple letter combinations based upon codes developed by Suffolk/Norfolk County Council Archaeological Services which have been subsequently used within East Anglia as a whole.

Where present, pottery form types have been allocated plain form descriptions such as jug, cooking pot or dish and so on. Simple descriptions for CBM form types have also been utilised for instance brick or roof tile.

A full catalogue of the assemblages recovered from the site can be seen in Appendices 1-3 and a breakdown of fabric reference codes can be observed in Appendix 4.

#### **Trial Trench 1** (*Pottery: 11 sherds @ 80g, CBM: 1 fragment @ 64g*)

The pottery and CBM fragments were all retrieved from either the spoil-heap (unstratified) or the sub-soil (1004).

The pottery group contained a small number of body sherds (EMW & MCW) dated from the early to high medieval period (11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century). A single body sherd of post-medieval slipware (PMSW) dated from the 17<sup>th</sup> to late 19<sup>th</sup> century was recorded as unstratified, alongside a late post-medieval/early modern fragment of field drain.



**Trial Trench 2** (*Pottery: 7 sherds @ 48g, CBM: 1 fragment @ 21g*)

The pottery and CBM pieces from this trench were all recovered from the spoil-heap or the sub-soil. (1004).

The pottery assemblage was mainly collected from the spoil-heap and consisted of late medieval and post-medieval wares (LMT, GRE, TPW and REFW) with a date range of 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century. A single body sherd of glazed medieval pottery (UPG) was noted in the subsoil (late 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century). A fragment of post-medieval brick was retrieved from the spoil-heap.

**Trial Trench 3** (*Pottery: 2 sherds @ 14g, CBM: 4 fragments @ 73g*)

Both of the pottery sherds within this trench were retrieved from the spoil-heap. One is dated from the mid/late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century (an MCW cooking pot base) whilst the other, a body sherd in fabric GRE is dated from the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century.

The CBM pieces were also recovered from the spoil-heap and are mostly red brick fragments dated from the later post-medieval period onwards.

**Trial Trench 4** (*Pottery: 8 sherds @ 63g, CBM: 1 fragment @ 49g*)

Both groups of finds recovered from this trench were taken from the spoil-heap. The pottery assemblage contains a mixture of medieval and post-medieval body sherds (EMW, MCW, LMT GRE and REFW) which are dated from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century. A single fragment of field drain was also noted which is dated from the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Trial Trench 5** (*Pottery: 6 sherds @ 123g, CBM: 1 fragment @ 39g*)

The pottery assemblage in Trench 5 was recovered from both the spoil-heap and sub-soil context 1004. The spoil-heap contained sherds dated from 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century (EMW, MCW and GRE). A single large oxidised jug handle fragment was noted in fabric MCW (mid/late 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century) which was scored on its upper surface. Context 1004 contained two body sherds (STNE and MCW) with a date range of mid 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. The single instance of CBM was recovered from the spoil-heap and is a small fragment of field drain dated from the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Trial Trench 6** (*Pottery: 2 sherds @ 12g*)

Two small body sherds were retrieved from the sub-soil context 1004 (STNE and EMW). Both are dated to the early medieval period (11<sup>th</sup> to mid 12<sup>th</sup> century).



**Trial Trench 7** (*Pottery: 4 sherds @ 31g*)

All of the sherds recorded in this trench were recovered from the spoil-heap. They are dated from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century, consisting of fabrics EMSHW and MSHW; a cooking pot base and rim fragment were noted from two different vessels.

**Trial Trench 10** (*Pottery: 5 sherds @ 17g, CBM: 1 @ 6g*)

The pottery from Trench 10 was retrieved from the spoil-heap and the sub-soil context 1004. The spoil-heap group contained body sherds of fabrics MCW, LMT and GRE giving a date range of mid/late 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century. Two medieval body sherds were recorded in context 1004 (EMW and MCW) which are dated from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The single example of CBM was taken from the spoil-heap and is a fragment of field drain dated from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Trial Trench 11** (*Pottery: 1 sherd @ 8g*)

A single body sherd of MCW was noted in the sub-soil context 1004 which is dated from the mid/late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century.

**Trial Trench 12** (*Pottery: 55 sherds @ 455g, CBM: 6 fragments @ 592g*)

The larger part of the pottery assemblage from this trench was recovered from Pit 1010 (38 sherds @ 299g) and thereafter in smaller quantities from Ditches 1006, 1008, Pit 1028 and Gully 1017.

The three fills of Pit 1010 (1015, 1014 and 1013) contained a range of fabrics dating from the mid 9<sup>th</sup> to late 16<sup>th</sup> century. The vast majority of sherds however had a date range spanning the mid 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century (STAM, STNE, EMW, MCW and UPG). The top fill of the feature (1015) contained five sherds of LMT and two of GS3 dated from 15<sup>th</sup> to late 16<sup>th</sup> century and a further LMT sherd was identified in the third fill (1013). In terms of condition there was little consistency in the scale of abrasion or sherd size, nevertheless the presence of late medieval/early post-medieval transitional fabrics indicates that the pit has more likely been dug through earlier medieval activity during this period. There were few recorded form types from the feature all of which were noted in context 1015. These included one cooking pot and two bowls.

With the exception of Gully fill 1018 (dated from the mid/late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century) the remaining contexts (Ditch fills 1007 and 1008 as well as Pit fill 1028) are dated from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century. The range of fabrics recorded within these fills STAM, STNE, EMW, EMSHW and MCW are typical of the period. A small number of forms were noted, a jug





and cooking pot base (Ditch fill 1009), as well as a cooking pot and bowl (with a typically early in-turned rim) in Pit fill 1028.

The CBM assemblage was recorded in the top fill of Pit 1010 (1015). Four of the pieces retrieved from the fill are unidentifiable fragments however the remains of one roof and one floor tile fragment were also recorded.

The roof tile fragment is dated to the medieval period and is in fabric MSC. It has purple/pink surfaces with a thick grey core and is quite high-fired. The fabric consists of abundant ill-sorted coarse quartz and calcite alongside sparse grog; traces of lime mortar can be seen on one surface and it has a depth of 15mm.

The floor tile is oxidised (no traces of glaze could be observed on its surfaces) with a reduced surface and displays chamfered edges. The fabric is dense (high-fired) containing abundant but mostly fairly well-sorted quartz, the only exception being sparse calcite. The style of fabric indicates that the tile is dated from the late medieval to early post-medieval period.

**Trial Trench 13** (*Pottery: 53 sherds @ 287g, CBM: 1 fragment @ 15g, 23 pieces @ 104g*)

The largest assemblage of pottery in Trench 13 was recorded in Ditch 1024 (29 sherds @ 58g) thereafter lesser quantities were noted in Ditches 1021 and 1031 as well as Pit 1029 and Gully 1045. All of the fills associated with these features are dated to the medieval period and in particular the 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Ditch 1024 contained two contexts with pottery (1025 and 1026). The top fill was tentatively dated around the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century as it held sherds of fabrics STNE and MCW. However this context may possibly be as late as the 14<sup>th</sup> century if the ceramic evidence is mixed, the variable amount of abrasion displayed by the sherds made it impossible to be certain which fragments were residual if any; a single cooking pot was recorded in this context.

The evidence from the second fill appears much less confusing with a range of early medieval fabrics being identified (STAM, STNE, EMW and MCW) providing a date range of 11<sup>th</sup> to mid 12<sup>th</sup> century. As with the previous fill a single fragment of a cooking pot rim was the only form type present.



The range of fabrics recorded in the remaining feature fills are comparable to those noted in Ditch fill 1026. Fragments of cooking pot rim were observed in Ditch fills 1023, 1032 as well as a bowl in Gully fill 1046.

A single fragment of field drain was noted in context 1034 (Ditch 1021). It is light orange and in fabric MSG with a depth of 13mm and is dated from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century.

All of the daub recovered from the site was extracted from Trench 13 from two features, Ditch 1024 and 1031. The first of these contained daub in two fills (1025 and 1026) which was quite fragmentary and displayed some abrasion. Some of the pieces were partially burnt although the majority were variably oxidised. Two fabrics were identified (MSC and MSO) however sparse large flint fragments were particularly prominent within the calcitic group. A single partial rod mark was noted and one fragment exhibited the remains of a flat/irregular surface.

Ditch fill 1032 contained fifteen fragments (76g) which were in a better state of preservation, being of a larger size than the previous collection and displaying only slight abrasion. All of these fragments were in a medium sandy fabric with common organic voids (MSO) alongside sparse to common large grey clay pellets as well as red grog. Ten of the pieces had the remains of a light grey flat/irregular surface however no other marks or impressions were noted.

Of particular interest in Ditch fill 1032 is a thin plate like fragment (6mm deep) in fabric MSO. This contained abundant organic voids and the remains of a single piercing could also be observed. The platelet is slightly curved and is a typical piece of debris that is associated with kilns. These types of fragments have been noted for instance at Wherstead (Plouviez 2001, 26) and in large numbers by the author at both Ipswich (Fawcett 2012a) and Flixton (Fawcett 2012b). The function of these plates is not entirely clear however they may represent part of the raised kiln floor (Swan 1984, 29-31/64-65) or more likely to have been used higher up in the kiln as setters or spacers.

#### **Trial Trench 14** (*Pottery: 34 sherds @ 352g*)

The best preserved assemblage (in terms of sherd size and condition) recovered from the site was recorded in this trench. The group was retrieved from context 1060 (Pit 1059) and amounted to twenty-nine sherds (290g) which as whole displayed only slight abrasion. The context is dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> century (possibly into the very early 12<sup>th</sup> century). All of the identified fabrics within the fill are typical products of the early medieval period (STAM, ?THET, STNE and EMW). Unfortunately only fragments of a single STNE cooking pot and



an EMW bowl were identified; of note too is the presence of applied strip decoration on the potential Thetford type ware sherds (THET).

A very small number of sherds were recovered from the fills of two other features, Pit fill 1056 (2 sherds @ 21g) and Ditch fill 1058 (3 sherds @ 41g).

The first of these contained a jug rim and body sherd in fabric MCW which is dated from the mid/late 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century. The second context held a fragment of cooking pot rim in fabric MCW, a body sherd of EMW and a residual very abraded early Saxon ware (ESG). The context is likely to be dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Conclusion**

The pottery, CBM and daub assemblages clearly show that the main area of activity within the trial trenched area is principally concentrated to the far east of site in Trenches 12, 13 and 14. This activity is mainly dated to the early medieval period, extending, perhaps to a lesser extent, into the high medieval period. Pit 1010, which possibly relates to clay extraction, although cut through previous medieval activity, is the latest feature on the site, dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> to late 16<sup>th</sup> century. Despite the fact that Trenches 1-10 lack features, assemblages recovered from the spoil-heaps and sub-soil clearly reveal a further consistent presence of medieval ceramics, which along with the post-medieval materials have probably arrived as a result of manuring for instance.

The medieval assemblages from Trenches 12-14, although occasionally fragmentary, in general mostly display only minor abrasion, indicating that they are predominantly in their original place of deposition. The close proximity of the road suggests that the assemblages represent domestic rubbish from medieval households that backed on to the east side of the site. Although not many form types were recovered from the excavated features those that were, clearly reflect waste from domestic households (cooking pots, bowls and jugs). The assemblages contain very few glazed sherds, indicating that these potential dwellings were not of a particularly high status. However, the presence of a medieval roof, as well as a late medieval/early post-medieval floor tile in Pit 1010, may provide evidence that a more substantial building was located around the vicinity of the site.

It is interesting to note that all of the daub was recovered from Trench 13 in contexts associated with the mid 9<sup>th</sup> to mid 12<sup>th</sup> century period. Most of these pieces are too small to ascertain whether they are fragments of walling, oven or kiln. However, the presence of a kiln related fragment within this group, in one of these early medieval contexts is intriguing. The CHER has listed the possibility of a late Iron Age kiln c 900 metres to the north of the site, it is unlikely however that this fragment originated from that location.



This therefore tentatively points towards the possibility of ceramic production either within the sampled area, or at close proximity to the site.

The pottery, CBM and daub assemblages provide important new evidence to support the extent of medieval activity in Swavesey. The assemblages recovered so far appear to represent domestic settlement of some type, however the true nature and intensity of this occupation will only be resolved after a targeted full excavation has been completed.

### **Recommendations for further work**

No further work on the current pottery, CBM and daub assemblages will be required. However, it is recommended that the assemblages retrieved from Trenches 12-14 be included within any future detailed analysis of subsequent groups that may be recovered as a result further archaeological intervention.

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### **Appendix 4: Fabric codes**

#### **Pottery**

ESG	Early Saxon with grog
THET	Thetford type ware
STNE	St Neots type ware
STAM	Stamford ware
EMW	Early medieval ware
EMWC	Early medieval ware with calcite
EMSHW	Early medieval shelly ware
MCW	Medieval coarseware
MSHW	Medieval shelly ware



UPG	Medieval glazed ware
LMT	Late medieval/early post-medieval transitional ware
GS3	German stoneware (category three)
GRE	Glazed red earthenware
PMSW	Post-medieval slip ware
TPW	Transfer printed ware
REFW	Refined white earthenware

**CBM**

Ms	Medium sand
Msc	Medium sand with calcite
Msg	Medium sand with grog
Wsc	White medium sand with calcite

**Daub**

Msc	Medium sand with calcite
Mso	Medium sand with organics



## Flint Report

Dan McConnell BSc (Hons).

### Introduction

The assemblage submitted for Land to the rear of 130 Middlewatch, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire comprised 2 struck lithics. This report describes the assessment of the assemblage and appraises its chronological and technological traits.

The flint recovered from the site was in varying degrees of patination, with a single piece being lightly patinated, and a single piece with heavy patination on a single face. The flint (where observable) was dark orange/brown/grey, with chert inclusions and where present on one of the pieces, had a distinct thick cortex (light grey); suggestive of the flint source being that of nodules from mined flint.

### Methodology

The flint was quantified by weight and count and included in the concordance of finds table as part of the site report.

The flint was categorised in accordance with Andrefsky (2005) and Healy (1988); patination, colour and flake/implement type are recorded below. Cortex is categorised throughout the report after Andrefsky (2005), with primary flake referring to 100% dorsal cortex, secondary to 50-99% dorsal cortex and tertiary to 1-49% dorsal cortex. Non-corticated refers to flint without no dorsal cortex. Blades are defined as an elongated flake with a length at least twice that of its width. Measurements are taken as length x width x thickness.

### Discussion

- Pit 1010

Pit fill 1015 (quinary fill of pit 1010) produced a single piece of flint. The flint is an entirely lightly patinated corticated tertiary flake (10.0g: max dimensions 56x22x10mm). The flake is triangular in shape and profile, tapering to its distal end with a moderate step termination and a large prepared flat striking platform at its proximal end. The ventral side has indistinct ripple marks and a large bulb of force with a robust erillure flake. The direction of prior flake removal on the dorsal face is suggestive of been removed from a bidirectional centripetal reduced core. The lower half of the flake is chert, the upper flint. There is no reworking present, and therefore it is likely a reduction flake. This flake probably dates from the late Mesolithic through mid Neolithic periods.

- Gully 1045

Gully fill 1046 produced a single piece of flint. This is heavily patinated on a single face and heavily heat affected, light grey non-corticated core fragment (14.0g: max dimensions 25x34x18mm). The fragment is likely that of an informal multi-directional core. The flake removal MLD is 22mm, with a mixture of feathered and hinged flake removal from a minimum of five striking platforms. This small core probably dates from the late Mesolithic through mid Neolithic periods.





## Conclusion

The flint recovered from Land to the rear of 130 Middlewatch, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire dates from the late Mesolithic through mid Neolithic periods. All are residual in nature, likely re-deposited from an existing topsoil/subsoil during later land use. It is possible these flints represent a sample of early pre-historic localised land use, with the core reduction flake and the presence of a small core being indicative of flint tool preparation. No further work is recommended.

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## Clay Pipe Report

Dan McConnell BSc (Hons).

### Introduction

A single clay pipe fragment was recovered from Topsoil 1000, Trial Trench 5.

### Methodology

The pipe stem fragment was analysed using the techniques recommended in *Dating Stem Fragments of Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Clay Tobacco Pipes* (Harrington, J.C., 1978) and *London Clay Tobacco Pipes* (Atkinson, D. & Oswald, A., 1969).

### Results

The stem fragment appears to be broken just back from the spur/heel of the bowl although no part of the spur/heel (if it were present) survives on the fragment. The fragment is slightly abraded. It is made from typical local non-glaze plain earthenware.

This stem fragment measures 3.8cm in length and 0.8cm in diameter, with a 0.2cm, 1/16" bore diameter and weighs 2g. It is oval in section.

### Discussion

The stem fragment from Topsoil 1000 can be dated tentatively from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century (1840-1920).

Dating pipe stem by hole bore is not exhaustive, ideally pipe bowl fragments should be used to accurately date clay pipes. No further work is recommended.

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## Land to the Rear 130 Middlewatch, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire

### The faunal remains and shell analysis and catalogues

by Julie Curl –Sylvanus – Archaeological, Natural History & Illustration Services

#### ANIMAL BONE

Appendix 1.

#### Methodology

This summary assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis, 1992). All of the bone was scanned to determine range of species and elements present. A note was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When possible a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights taken and additional counts were made for each species identified, Counts were also taken of bone classed as 'countable' (Davis, 1992) remains. Very few measureable bones were seen and retrieval of metrical data on such a small assemblage was considered not worthwhile. As this is a small assemblage, information was recorded directly into a table for the appendix.

#### The faunal assemblage

##### *Quantification, provenance and preservation*

A total of 5282g of bone, amounting to 280 elements, was found during the excavations. The bone was recovered from pit, ditch and gully fills of a broad medieval date range, with some remains undated. Additional bone was from unstratified soils and associated with medieval to modern artefacts. Quantification by feature type, weight and counts can be seen in Table 1.

Quantifications	Feature Type				Totals
	Ditch	Gully	Pit	Spoil heap	
Total weights	1737g	583g	2941g	21g	5282g
Total Counts	93	75	105	7	280

**Table 1.** Quantification of the assemblage by feature type, weights and counts.

The bone is in good condition, although fragmented from butchering and wear. Five contexts produced single bones that showed some canid gnawing. Gnawed primary waste (such as skinning) bones were gnawed from ditch fill 1023 and pit fill 1028, while secondary butchering (meat waste) bones were found in pit fill 1014, ditch fill 1034 and ditch fill 1060. Such remains would suggest perhaps some scavenging, but also provision of meat waste for domestic or working dogs.

##### *Species range and modifications and other observations*

Five species were identified from the bone assemblage, which are quantified by number of elements for each species (NISP) and feature type in Table 2.



Species	Feature Type and NISP				Species Totals
	Ditch	Gully	Pit	Spoil heap	
Cattle	19	9	11		39
Dog/wolf	2				2
Equid	4		11		15
Mammal	65	66	71	7	209
Pig/boar			4		4
Sheep/goat	3		8		11
Feature Total	93	75	105	7	280

**Table 2.** Quantification of the faunal assemblage by species, NISP and feature type.

Cattle are the most frequent and seen in eleven fills. The majority of cattle bones are from adults, one juvenile bone was seen from 1046. The cattle elements include a range of primary and secondary butchering waste, some of which was available for dogs to consume. Some arthritic cattle vertebrae from 1018 show arthritic changes, which would suggest a traction animal. Bones are generally quite robust, perhaps indicating some selection of larger animals for working.

Sheep/goat were recorded from four fills, all from adults and including primary and secondary waste. The robustness of some fragments might suggest some selection or improvement, or perhaps presence of males. The sheep/goat skinning waste was available for dogs to gnaw.

Equid bones were found in five pit or ditch fills. Remains are all suggesting large ponies, with metrical data from 1015 indicating an animal of 14.2 hands high. Most remains were from adult animals, with the exception of the remains in the later Medieval pit fill 1015 which has an adult and some neonatal bones, which may suggest a mother and foal. The mandible from the adult equid in 1015 shows enamel hypoplasia, indicating an older or poorly fed animal with tooth wear and infection in the gums.

Pig/boar were seen in three pit deposits. All of the porcine bone was from adults and butchered. It was not possible to distinguish between pig and wild boar and the latter is a possibility.

A dog mandible in two pieces was found in the ditch fill 1026. The dog is quite robust and mature and shows many chips on the teeth that suggests regular access to bones to gnaw.

### *Discussion*

The bulk of the bone assemblage consists of primary and secondary butchering waste from the main three food mammals, with cattle the most frequent. The cattle pathologies suggest an animal used for traction, these animals were commonly used for ploughing and cart pulling, with equids kept for people to ride.

Equids were unbutchered, suggesting no need or interest for food or skins. The presence of a mature pony and neonatal foal bones rather suggests a mother and foal, perhaps with a shared infection? The dog bone in the assemblage indicates a mature animal, with tooth damage that indicates bone consumption and might suggest responsibility for the gnawed bones in the assemblage.



The assemblage is unremarkable and broadly similar to other small assemblages of a medieval date range. The lack of bird bone is interesting, but this may be due to soil preservation, a recovery bias or simply dietary preferences.

## MOLLUSC REMAINS

### Appendix 2.

#### *Methodology*

The molluscs were identified to species using a variety of reference material. Shells were catalogued by species and where appropriate, counts were made of the number of individual species present (NISP), counts of top and base shells and an estimate of the minimum number of individuals (MNI). Bivalve shells are known to be used as painter's palettes and the remains are examined for any traces of pigments. Shells are also examined for any cut marks that would confirm their use for food from the prising apart of the shells or removal of meat with a knife and examined for parasites and other information following Winder (2011).

#### *The assemblage and discussion*

A total of 35 pieces of shell, amounting to 141g was recovered, which are quantified by species and feature type in Table 3. Most remains are from pit and ditch fills of a medieval date range, with some from subsoil and associated with medieval finds.

Species	Feature Type and NISP			Species Total
	Ditch	Pit	Subsoil	
Cockle	2			2
Mussel	12	3	3	18
Oyster		13		13
Snail		1	1	2
Feature Total	14	17	4	35

**Table 3.** Quantification of the molluscs by species, NISP and feature type.

Most of the shell is of marine origin and includes a small amount of cockle, with the majority of marine shell from oyster and mussel.

The shell from the pit fill 1015 included a top shell from a Common Oyster which has a knife cut from opening. Also in 1015 and in 1014, both fills of pit 1010 were fragments of a partly fossilised oyster shell, with such remains occasionally redeposited in some soils.

Two land molluscs were recorded. The subsoil remains produced a shell from *Helix aspersa* (the Common Snail or garden snail). A single specimen of *Helix pomatia* (the Roman Snail) was found in the pit fill 1015. The Roman Snail was introduced as a food species by the Romans and many escaped, with small populations surviving to the present day.

The shell assemblage is broadly typical of medieval shell assemblages that largely consist of marine shells collected for food, with a knife cut attesting to the removal of meat. The *Helix* species are most likely to be resident snails in the area, including the Roman Snail. Not associated with diet are the fragments of partly fossilised oyster shell, with fossil remains occasionally recovered.



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## **P1209 ECB5232 Middle Watch, Swavesey, Cambs.**

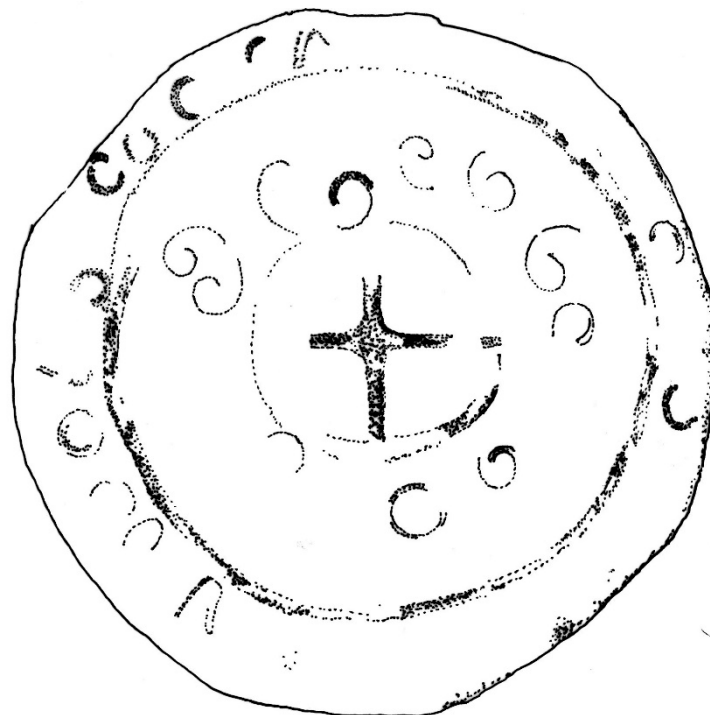
### *Metal Finds*

By Rebecca Sillwood

A total of ten metal finds were recovered during trial trenching on this site; almost all pieces were of iron, with only two copper alloy finds.

The iron assemblage contained four nails; these came from pit fill 1015 and ditch fill 1026 (from trenches 12 and 13 respectively). Iron nails are a difficult find to date, due to their ubiquitous nature over many periods, and continuing use today. The single nail from ditch fill 1026 is almost certainly medieval, as the context has been spotdated by pottery to that period. The remaining three nails came from a late medieval to early post-medieval context, and as such could be medieval or later. The nails were likely to have been used for a variety of purposes, in furniture or buildings, it is not possible to be certain of their exact use.

Finds of note include a probable medieval or early post-medieval jetton (SF1), which was recovered from pit fill 1014 (trench 12). This type of reckoning counter was used in the medieval period and into the post-medieval period. This particular example is mainly illegible, which has meant that closer identification is not possible. Also recovered from this context was a probable iron knife (SF2), in three pieces. Two pieces certainly appear to join, and it is possible that all pieces once did, but are now worn and distorted. Only the tip is fully visible, the body of the piece is much encrusted, and the tang appears to be missing. A copper alloy strip, which may have formed part of a simple tapering rectangular strap end of medieval date (SF3), was recovered from ditch fill 1034 (trench 13).



*Illustration 1: SF1 probable medieval or early post-medieval jetton – by Julie Curl*



Other finds include an iron tool or fitting of some kind, now in two pieces. This object was found in ditch fill 1057 (trench 14), and consists of a circular sectioned shaft, blunt ended, with a flattened rounded head or handle. Similar types of objects are used in textile and leather working (Dallas, 1993, 100-101), and also in buildings (Margeson, 1993, 147). An iron horseshoe fragment was also recovered unstratified from the site. This piece is part of a post-medieval horseshoe and came from the spoil heap of trench 4.

### *Bibliography*

Dallas, C. 1993. *Excavations in Thetford by B.K. Davison between 1964 and 1970*. East Anglian Archaeology No. 62

Margeson, S. 1993. *Norwich Households: The Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds from Norwich Survey Excavations 1971-1978*. East Anglian Archaeology No. 58

### *Glass*

By Rebeca Sillwood

Four pieces of post-medieval to modern glass were found on the site.

A single curving aqua coloured bottle fragment was found in the bucket sampling of Topsoil 1000 of trench 5 (2g).

A flat, clear, thick, window glass fragment was recovered from the spoil heap of trench 10. This was found along with a clear curving piece of bottle glass and a slightly curving aqua coloured bottle fragment. These pieces weighed 20g in total.

All pieces are body fragments and are undiagnostic as to use or exact date.

### *Stone*

A sherd of grey slate, weighing 9g, was found on the spoil heap of trench 4. The piece is likely a fragment of roofing slate and is smoothed and flat on each side. The roofing of houses in Welsh slate is mainly a 19th century innovation, and therefore it is likely that this fragment is 19th century to modern in date.



## **Environmental Sample Assessment 130 MIDDLE WATCH SWAVESEY**

**Author:** M Law  
**Doc Ref:** LP2255E-EAR-v13.1  
**Site Code** ECB5232  
**A trading name of L – P : Heritage LLP**

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#### **Table of Appendices**

1. Introduction
2. Methodology
3. Results
4. Discussion
5. Statement of Potential and Recommendations

Sources Consulted

### **TABLE OF APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Biological Remains from Samples

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1. This report presents an assessment of biological remains from bulk sediment samples taken during the course of archaeological investigations by Britannia Archaeology at land to the rear of 130 Middle Watch, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire.

1.2. A total of 15 samples were processed and assessed.



## 2. Methodology

2.1. The samples were processed in a Siraf-style flotation tank. The washover or flots were caught on a 250µm mesh sieve. The residue was retained on a 1mm mesh sieve.

2.2. Flots and residues were air dried and examined under a low-power binocular microscope at 10x magnification.

2.3. Biological remains were extracted and stored in labelled glass tubes.

2.4. Molluscan shell was identified using a reference collection. Nomenclature for non-marine molluscs follows (ANDERSON 2008).

## 3. Results

3.1. Estimated abundance of biological remains in the samples are recorded in APPENDIX 1. The preserved materials were shells, small animal bones, charred plant remains and ostracod carapaces. Sample 15 did not contain any biological remains.

3.2. The flots contained approximately 90% modern root material. This is very likely to have resulted in some recent intrusive material entering the contexts sampled.

3.3. Overall, the samples contained few biological remains. None of the deposits were waterlogged, nor had any organic remains preserved through mineralisation. Preservation in the samples was through charring, or the survival of calcium-rich remains in calcareous sediment.

## 4. Discussion

4.1. Charred cereal remains are present in two of the samples, from contexts (1032) and (1046). These represent food processing waste.

4.2. A very low number of snails are present throughout the samples. Generally these are snails of open, grassy habitats (*Helicella itala*, *Vallonia excentrica*; *Vertigo pygmaea*) or tolerant of a broad range of environments (*Cepaea* sp., *Cornu aspersum*, *Trochulus* sp.). A single specimen of *Galba truncatula* in context in pit fill (1014) may suggest seasonal flooding. The partial shell of *Cornu aspersum* (formerly known as *Helix aspersa*) from ditch fill (1007) is of some note as this is a non-native species, believed to have been introduced by the Romans (DAVIES 2010).

4.3. There were a small number of shells of common mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) in contexts (1009), (1037) and (1040). This is food waste from a coastal source.

4.4. There are a small number of bones in the samples. These include a possible bird bone in (1037); small carnivore (perhaps fox) teeth in (1049), a vole molar in (1040), an amphibian pelvis, femur and vertebra in (1014), and another amphibian bone in (1053).



In all cases, except perhaps the possible bird bone, these are likely to be the remains of wild animals which died in the vicinity of the features in which they were found.

4.5. Pit fill (1014) contained a complete carapace and two disarticulated valves of ostracods. These are tiny aquatic crustacea, whose presence here reinforces the idea that the pit held water, at least seasonally.

## **5. Statement of Potential and Recommendations**

5.1. The charred cereal remains and mussel shells represent human dietary evidence.

5.2. In general, there are too few biological remains to allow interpretation of the site environment. The few snails generally suggest an open environment. The presence of ostracods, amphibian bones and the amphibious snail *Galba truncatula* in pit fill (1014) strongly suggest that it held water, or at least flooded seasonally.

5.3. The assemblage of charred plant remains should be identified by an archaeobotanist to contribute to a fuller understanding of life at the site. No further work is judged necessary on the rest of the assemblage, which is too small to carry much interpretative potential

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

ANDERSON, R., 2008. An annotated list of the non-marine molluscs of Britain and Ireland. London:

Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Available at:  
<http://www.conchsoc.org/resources/n-m-list.php>.

DAVIES, P., 2010. Land and freshwater molluscs. In T. O'Connor & N. Sykes, eds. Extinctions and invasions: a social history of British fauna. Oxford: Windgather, pp. 175–180.



## APPENDIX 4 – 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:** britanni1-297647

### Project details

Project name	land to the rear of 130 miffle watch, swavesey, cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	From 17th October to 17th November 2017 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at Land to the Rear of 130 Middlewatch, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire (TL 3617 6793). The archaeological background for the site suggested that there was a low potential for features and finds relating to the prehistoric period, a moderate potential for Romano-British archaeology, and a high potential for features and finds relating to the medieval period. The evaluation only encountered archaeological features in trenches 6, 12, 13, and 14 which (with the exception of trench 6) were located on the eastern side of the site closest to the road. The archaeology can be separated into four main phases of activity. Overall the evaluation was successful in location, extent, date, character of the archaeology at Land to the Rear 130 Middlewatch. The trenches revealed a concentration of medieval activity at the eastern end of the site which almost certainly extends all the way to the road (Middlewatch) while the works also identified further medieval, undefined activity across the area represented through her bucket sampling undertaken. Unfortunately the environmental data was sparse however the evidence that was recovered further reinforces the likelihood that the features relate to back plot activity associated with nearby medieval dwellings near the historic core of the village.
Project dates	Start: 17-10-2017 End: 17-11-2017
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	P1209 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5232 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
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Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Early Medieval
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	GULLY Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain



Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	TOKEN Medieval
Significant Finds	FE OBJECTS Medieval
Significant Finds	FE OBJECTS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
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Significant Finds	CU ALLOY OBJECT Uncertain
Significant Finds	SHELL Medieval
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Medieval
Significant Finds	WHETSTONE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
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 SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE SWAVESEY Land to rear of 130 middle watch, swavesey
Postcode	CB24 4RP
Study area	2.8 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 3617 6793 52.292193073986 -0.003155923327 52 17 31 N 000 00 11 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.73m Max: 8.24m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Martin Brook
Project director/manager	Martin Brook
Project supervisor	Louisa Cunningham
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Swevesey Ventures Limited





#### Project archives

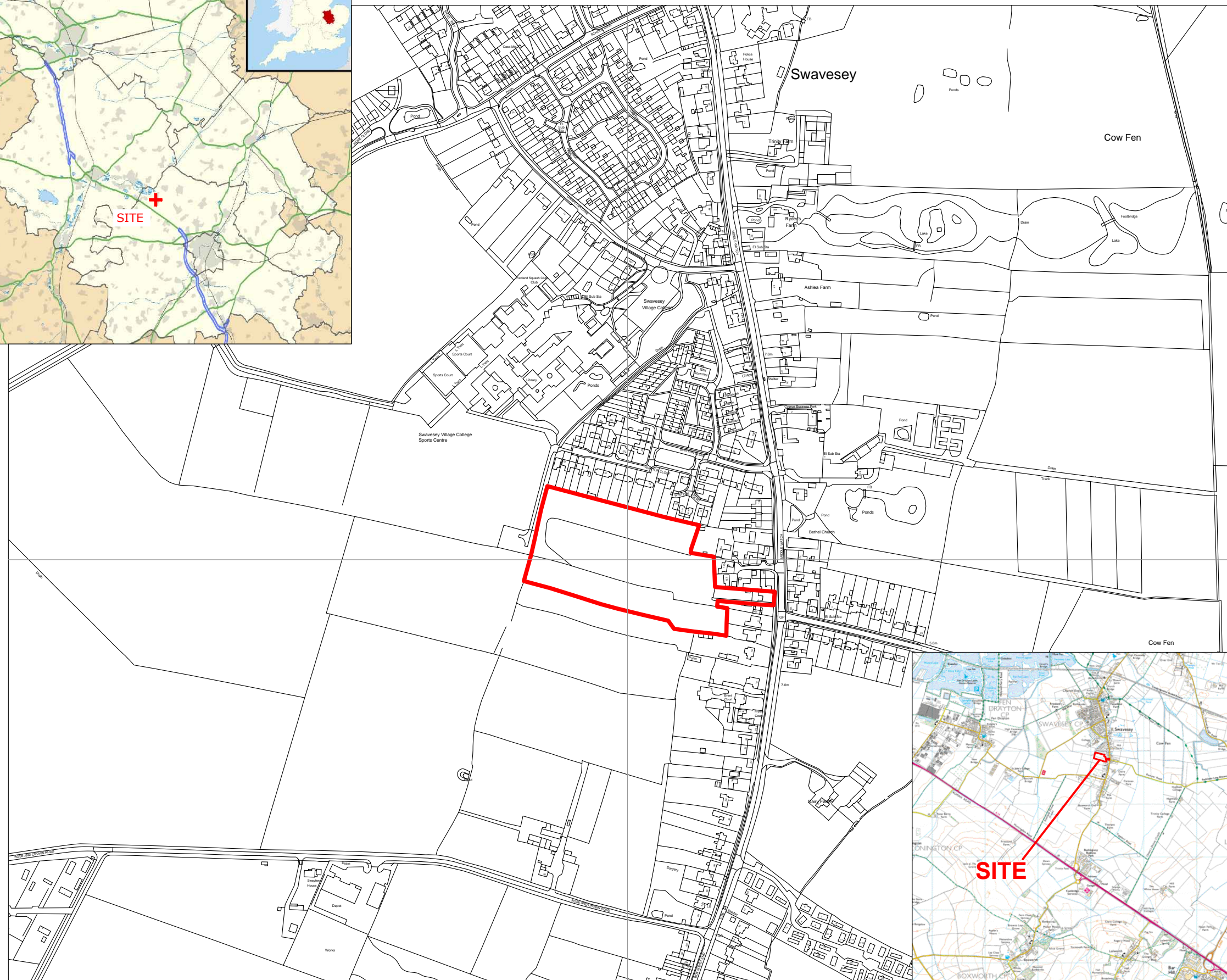
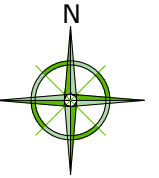
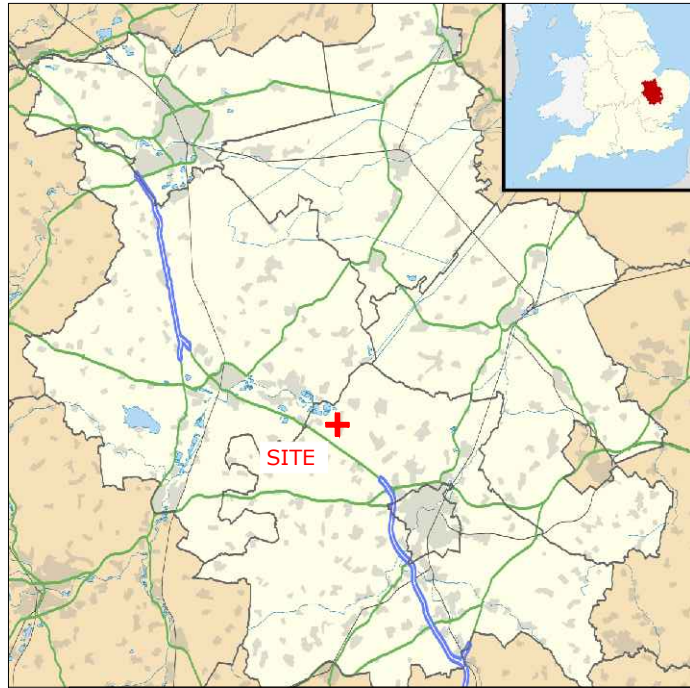
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#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	R1181; Land to the rear 130 Middlewatch, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire - Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cunningham, L
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brook, M
Other bibliographic details	R1181
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Description	A4 bound report with pull out A3 figures
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Entered on	5 October 2018

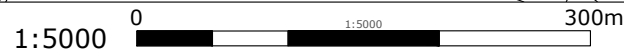
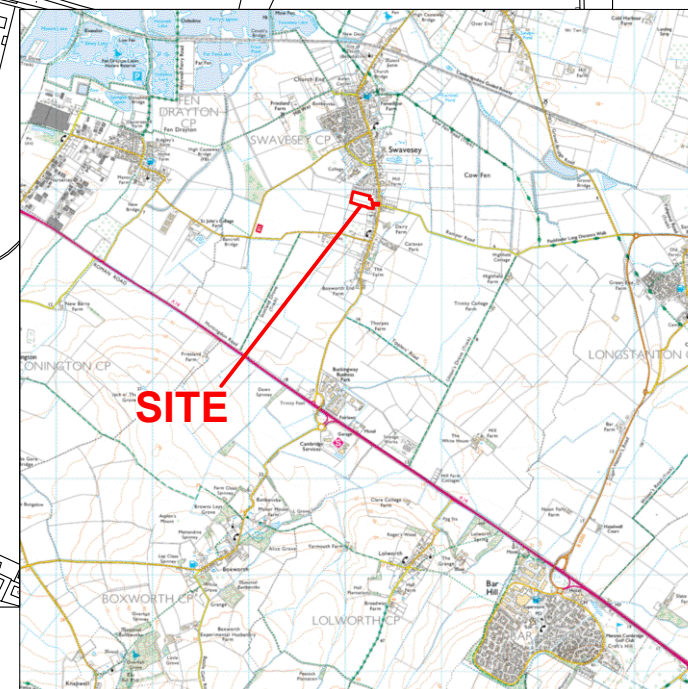
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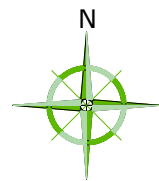


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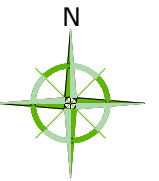
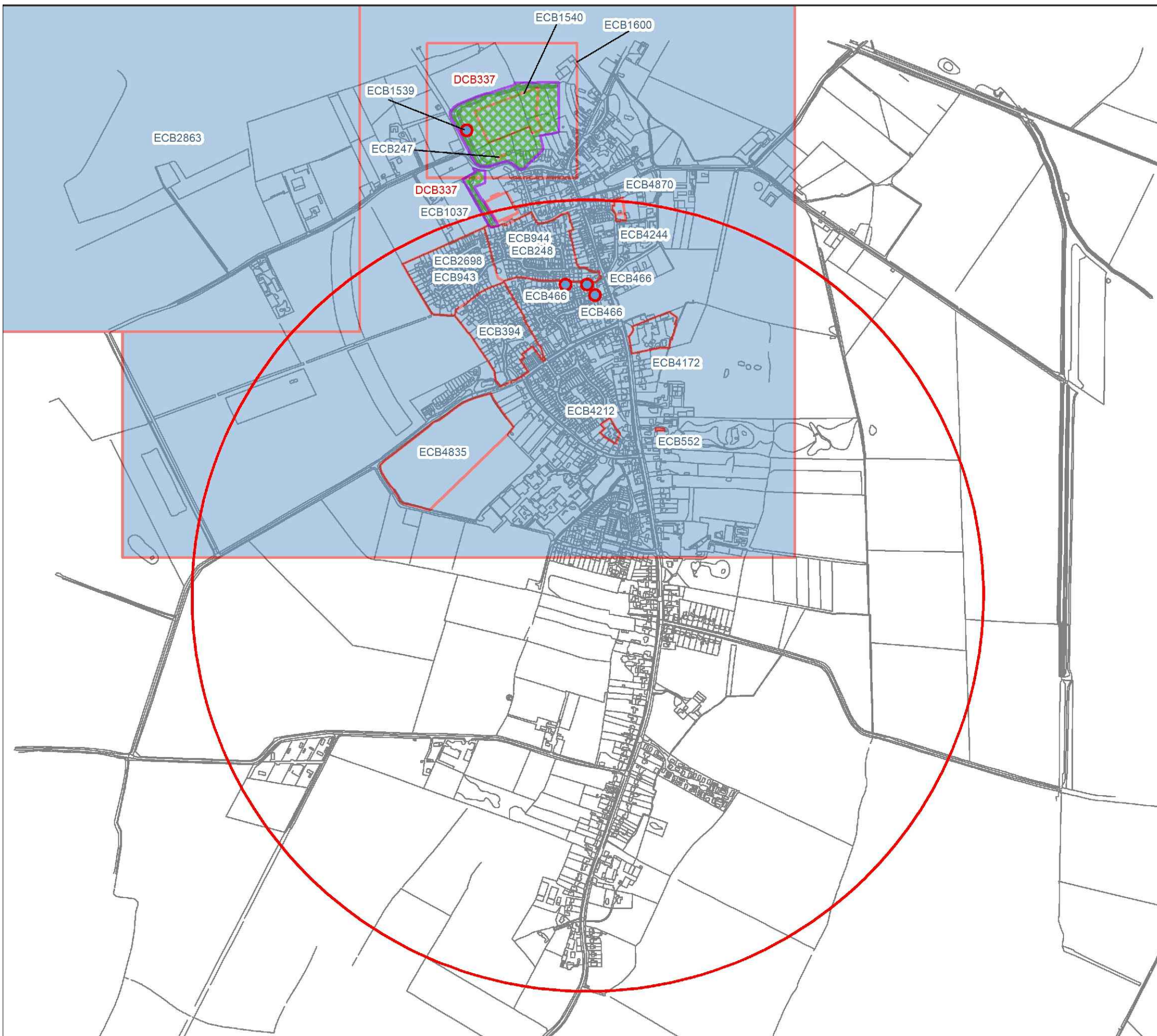
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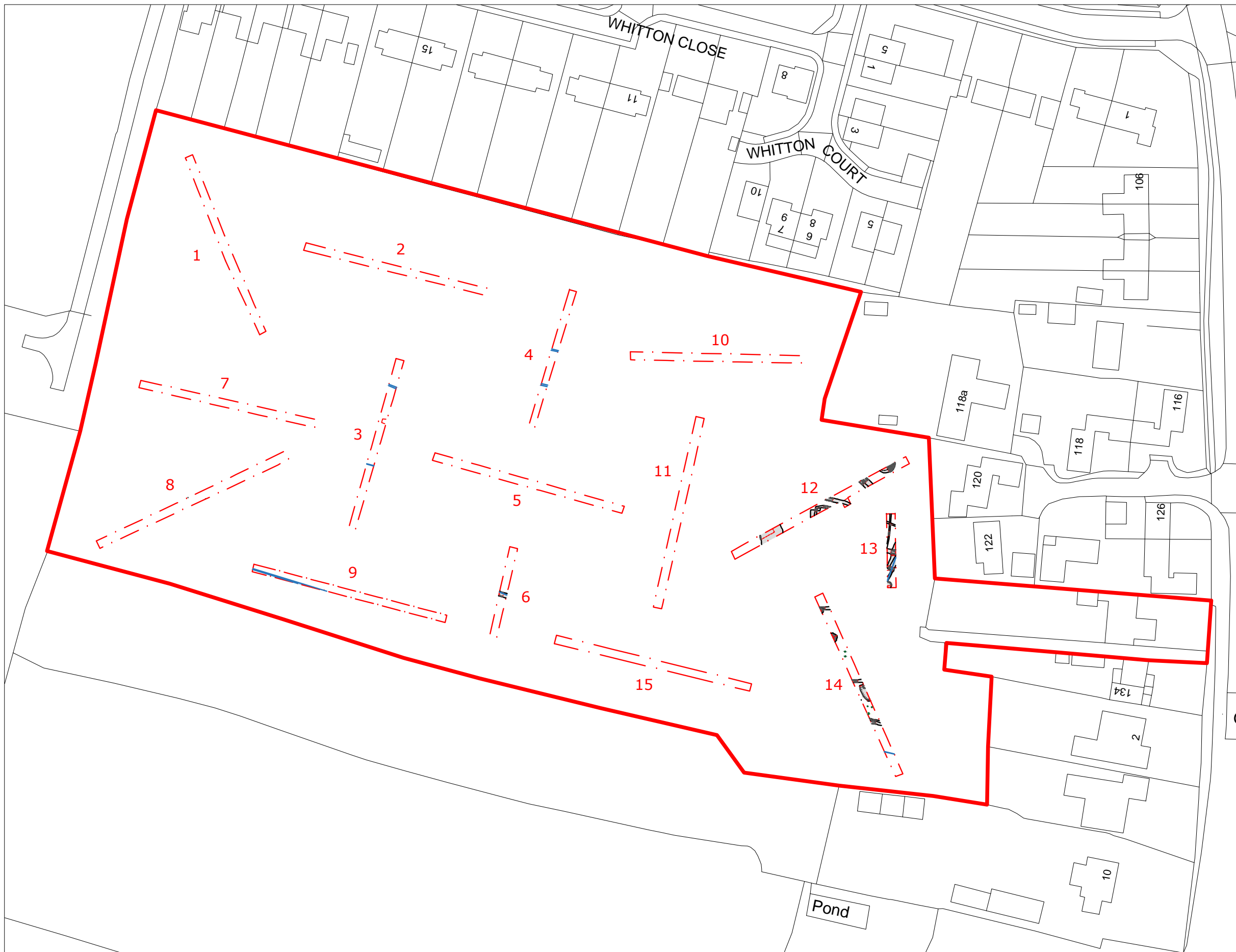
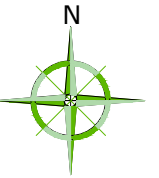
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- Natural Feature
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- Site Boundary

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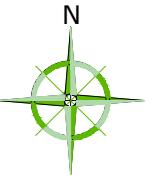
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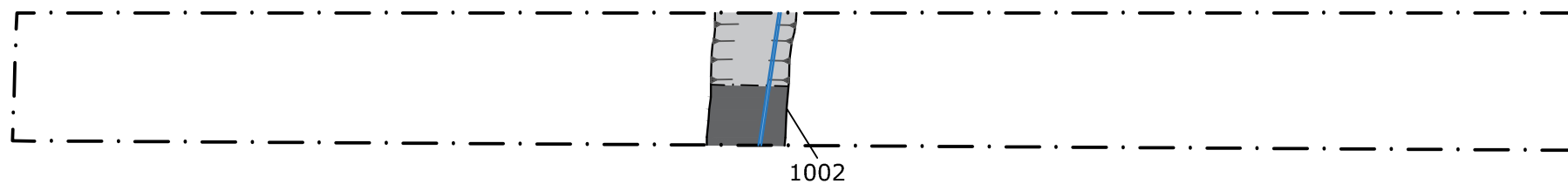
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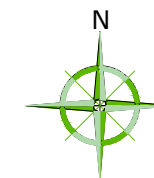
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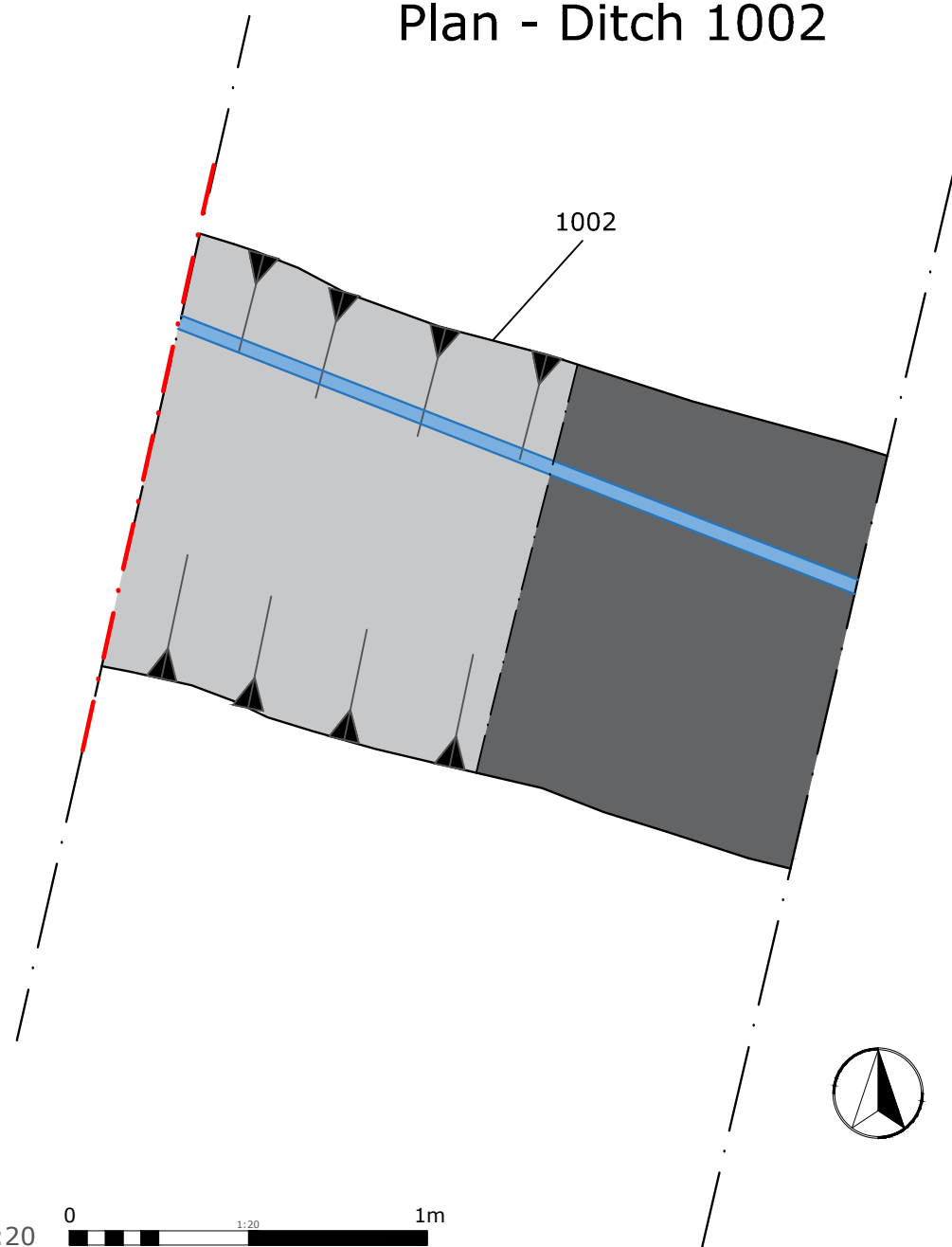
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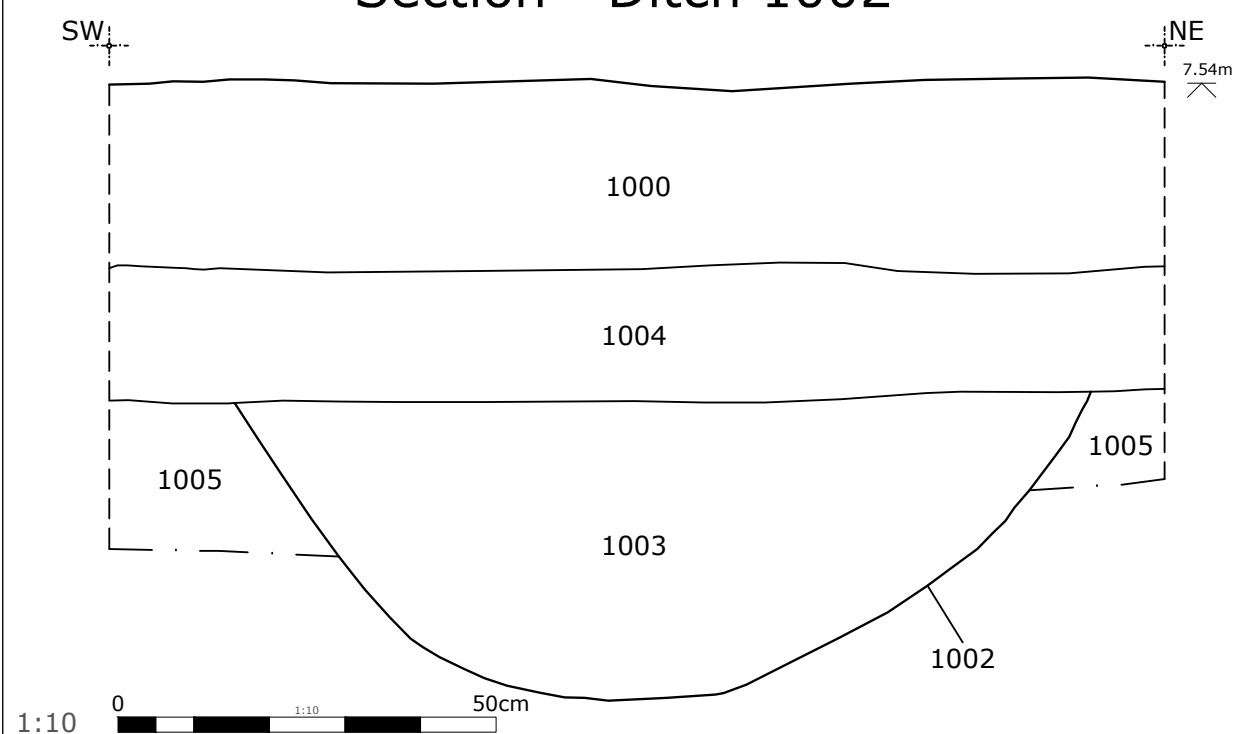
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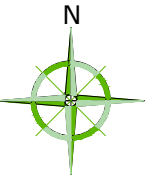
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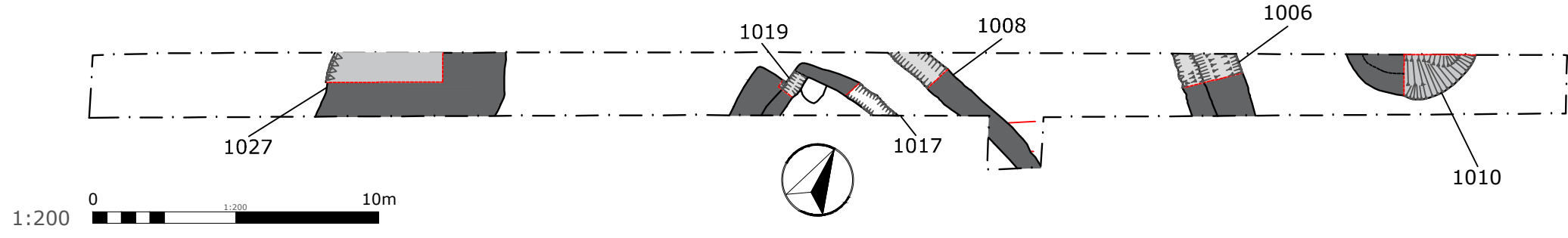
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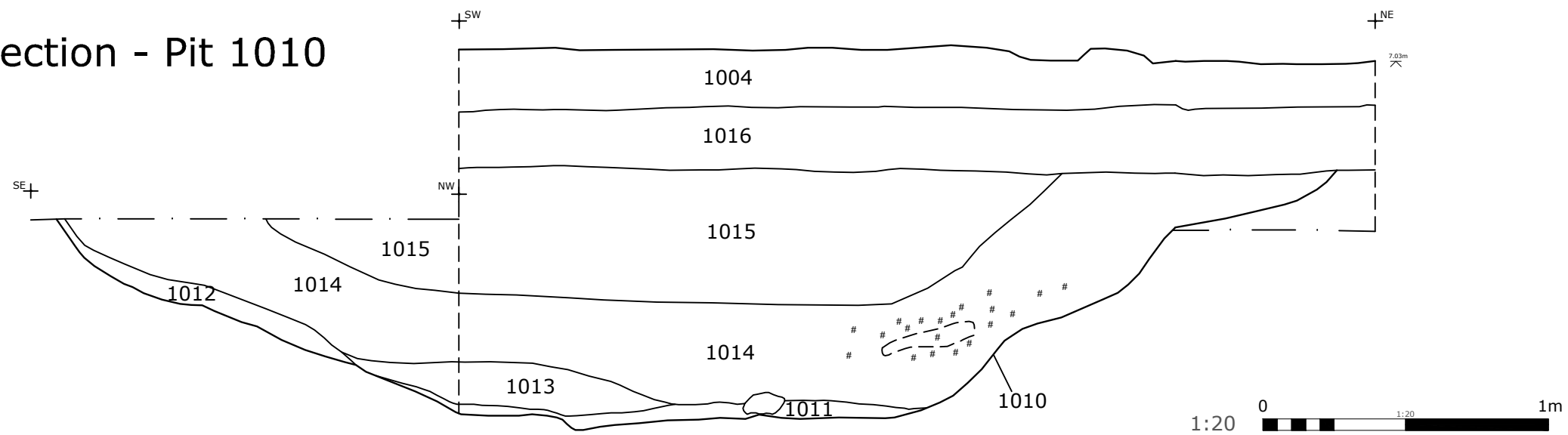




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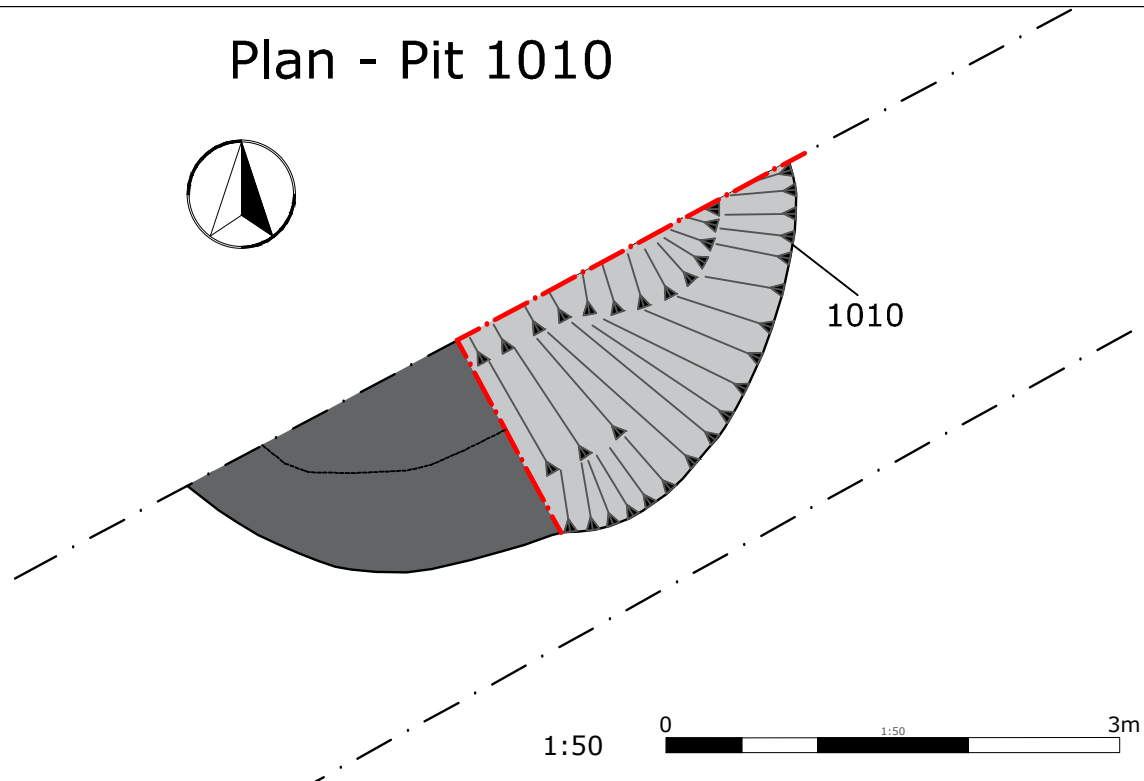


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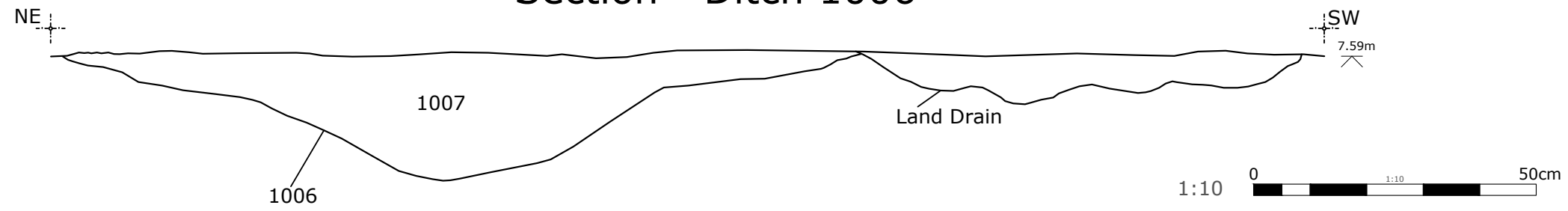


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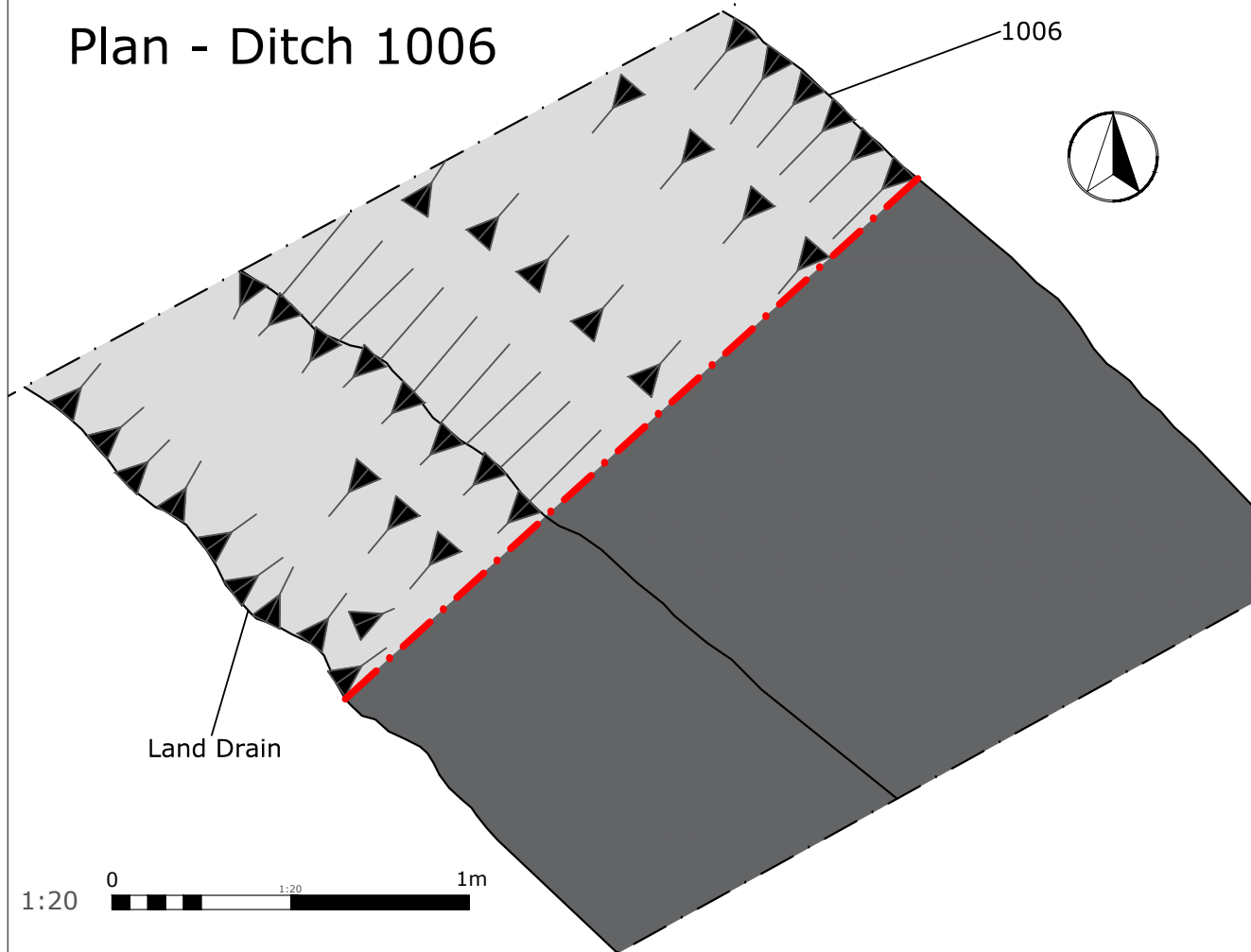
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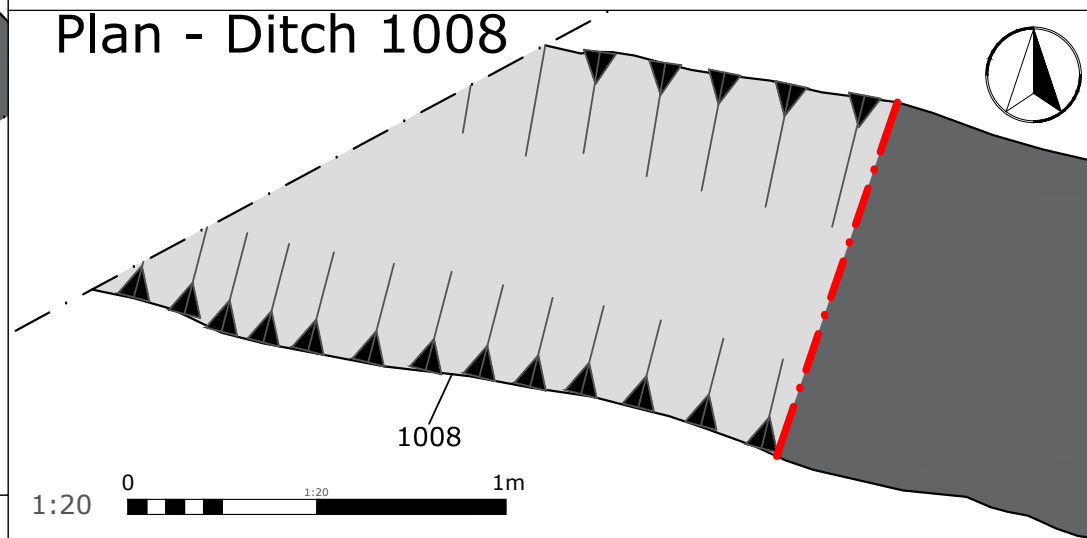


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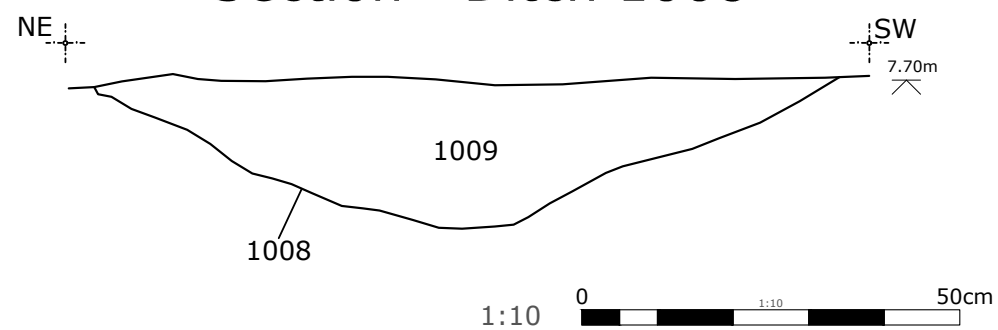


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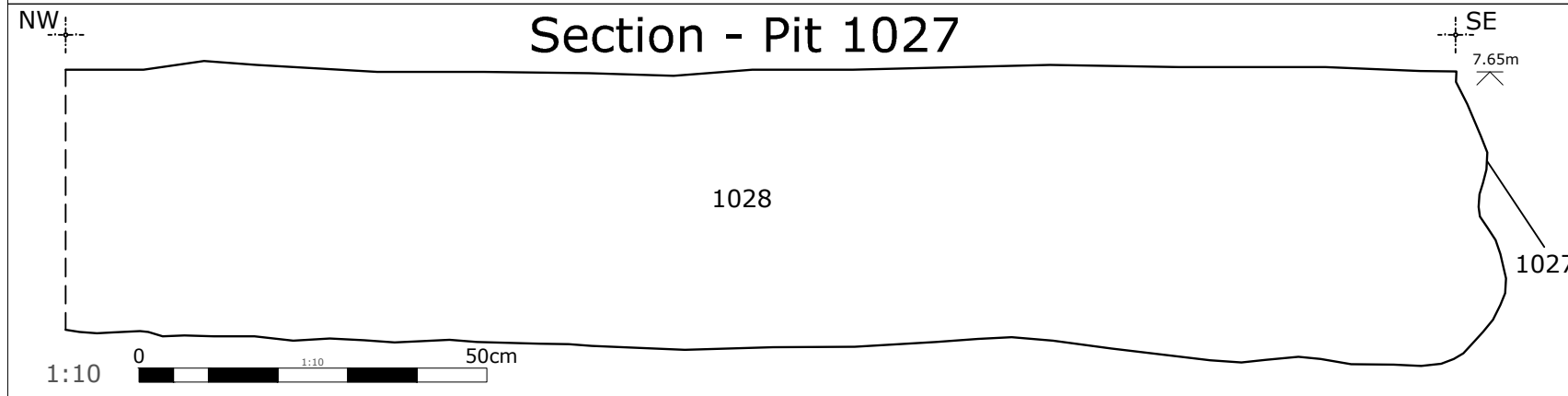
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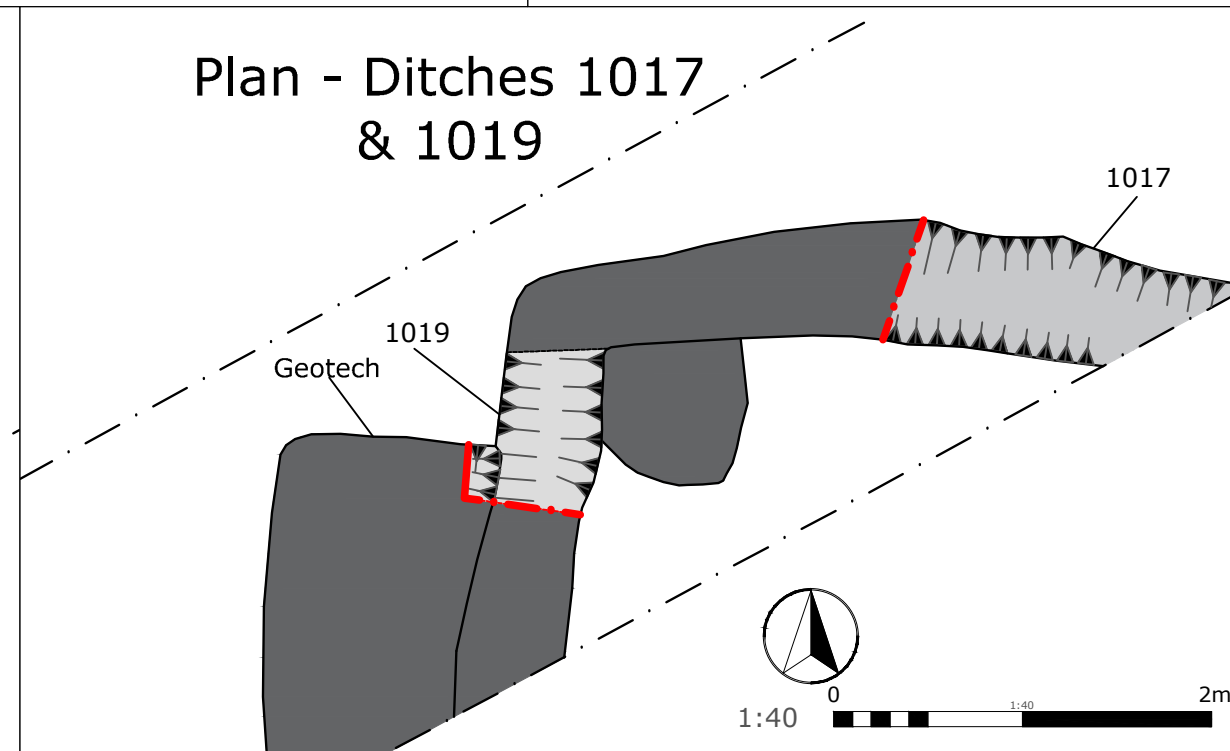
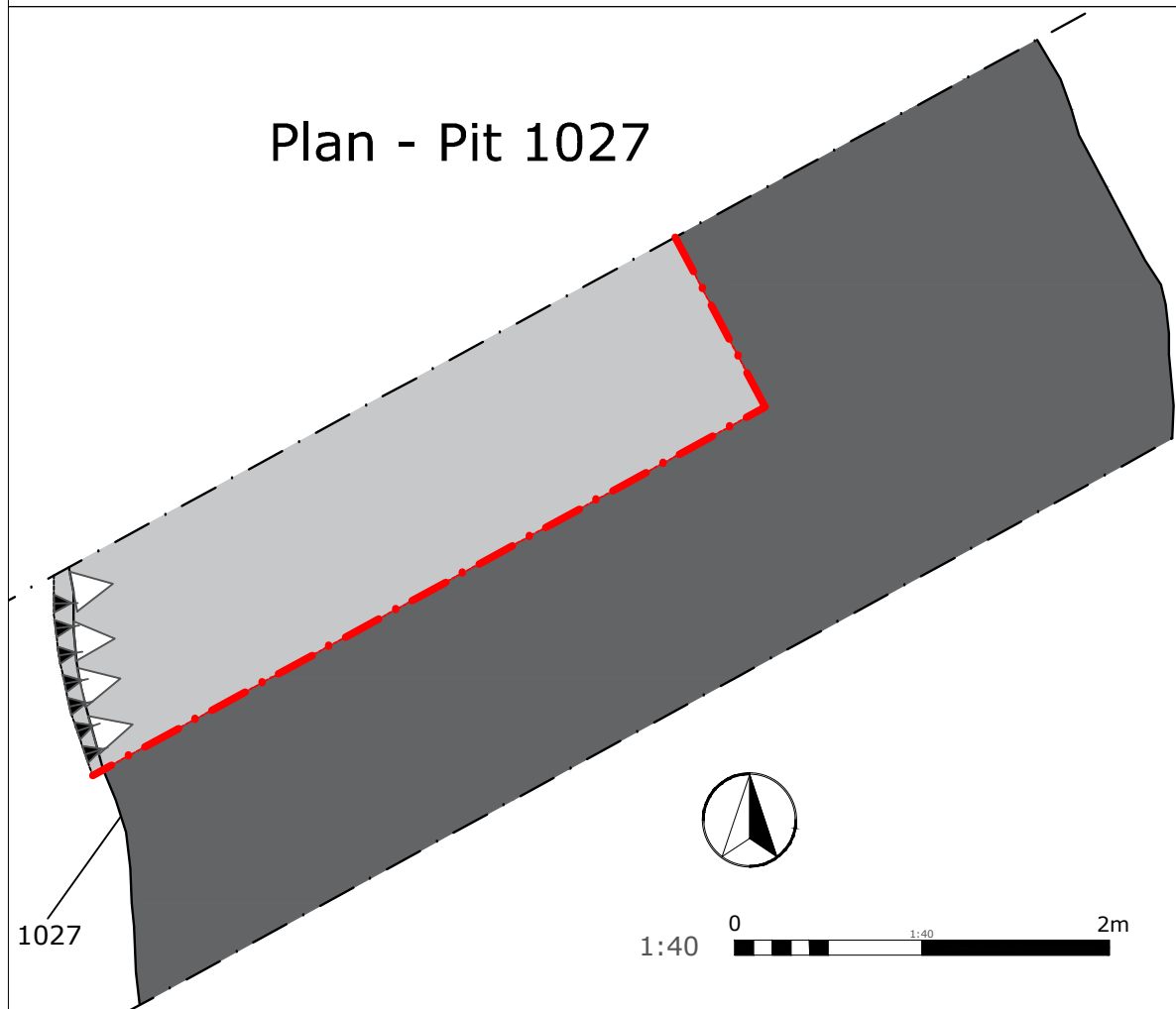
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PROJECT: LAND TO THE REAR OF 130 MIDDLE WATCH, SWAVESEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE		
DESCRIPTION: TRENCH 12 - PLANS, SECTIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS - CONTINUED		
CLIENT:  DERNFORD		
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AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: 8	
APPROVED: MB		



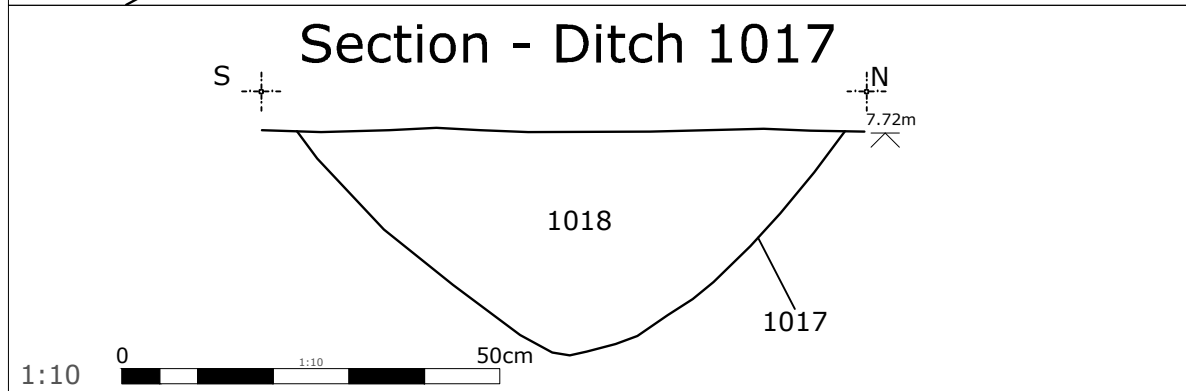
# TRENCH 12 - CONTINUED



DP31 - Pit 1027 - View SW

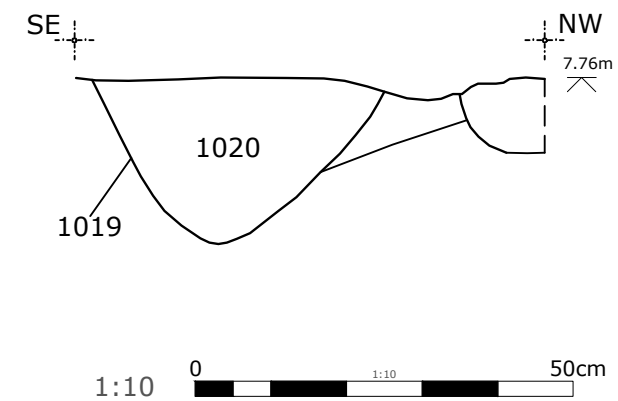


- Charcoal
- Section Line
- Excavated Feature
- Trench
- Modern Feature/Field Drain
- Natural Feature
- Archaeological Feature

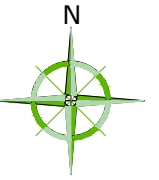


DP27 - Ditch 1017 - View W

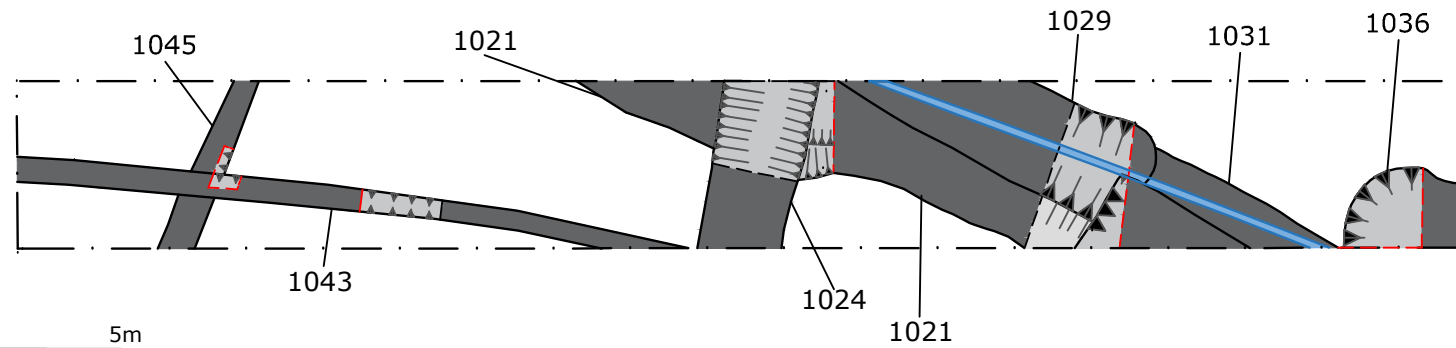
## Section - Ditch 1019



WGR:	543200 267584	REF:	R1181
PROJECT:	LAND TO THE REAR OF 130 MIDDLE WATCH, SWAVESEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE		
DESCRIPTION:	TRENCH 12 - PLANS, SECTIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS - CONTINUED		
CLIENT:			
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DATE:	MAR 2018	PLOT:	A3
AUTHOR:	MCA	VERSION:	1
APPROVED:	MB	FIGURE:	9

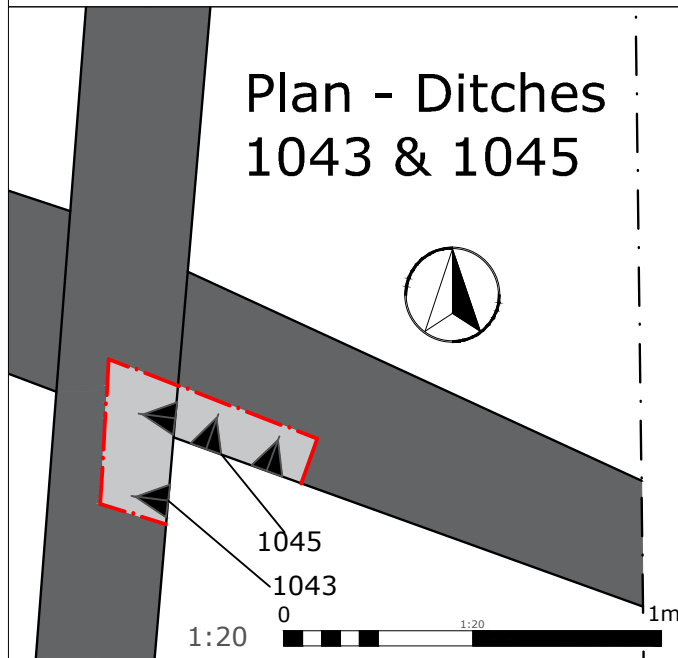


# TRENCH 13



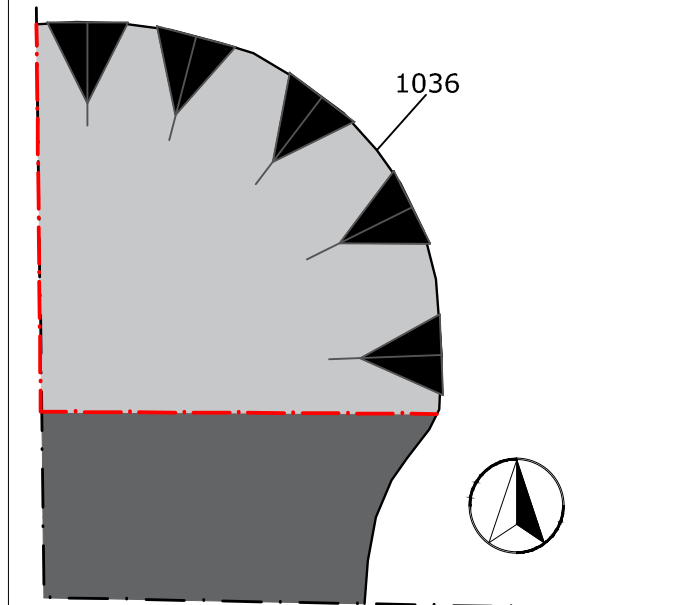
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## Plan - Ditches 1043 & 1045



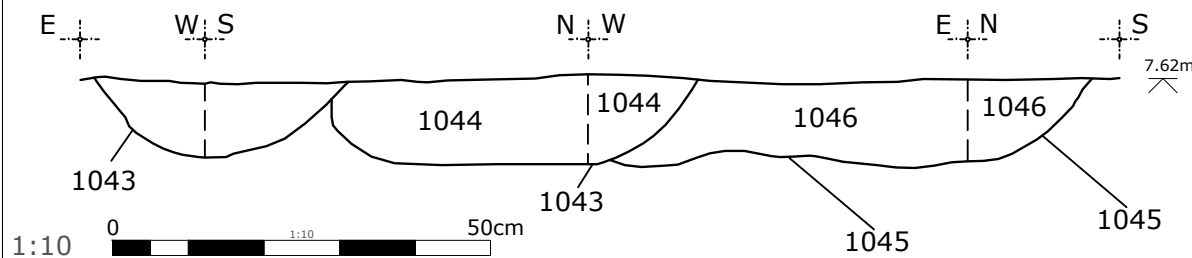
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## Plan - Pit 1036

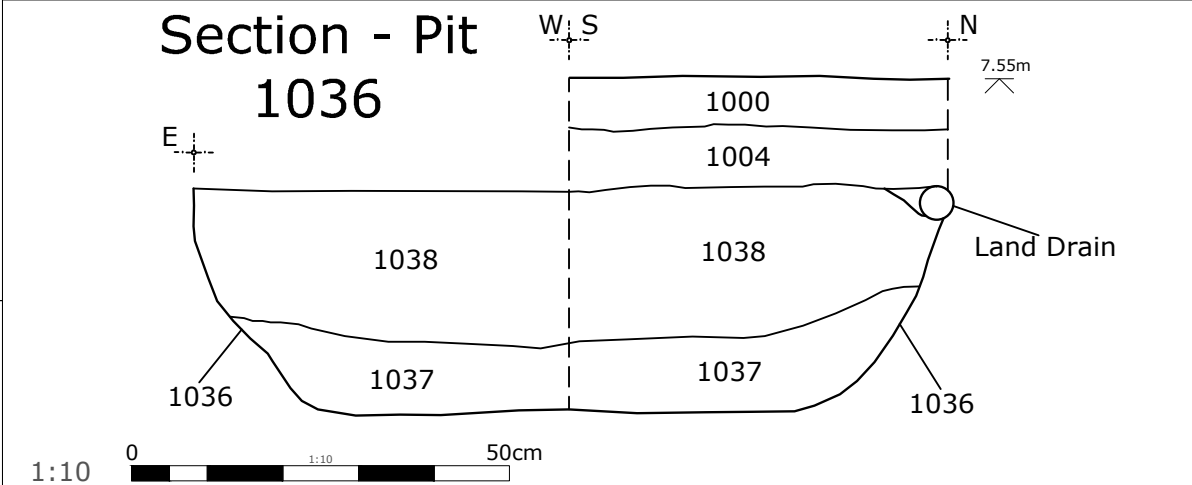


1:20 0 1:20 1m

## Section - Ditches 1043, 1045



## Section - Pit 1036



DP54 - Gullies 1043 & 1045 - View N



DP41 - Pit 1036 - View W



DP42 - Trench 14 Post Exc - View NW

- Charcoal
- Section Line
- Excavated Feature
- Trench
- Modern Feature/Field Drain
- Natural Feature
- Archaeological Feature

NGR: 543200 267584 REF: R1181

PROJECT: LAND TO THE REAR OF 130 MIDDLE WATCH, SWAVESEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

DESCRIPTION: TRENCH 13 - PLANS, SECTIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS

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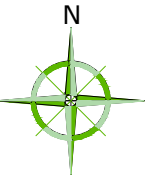
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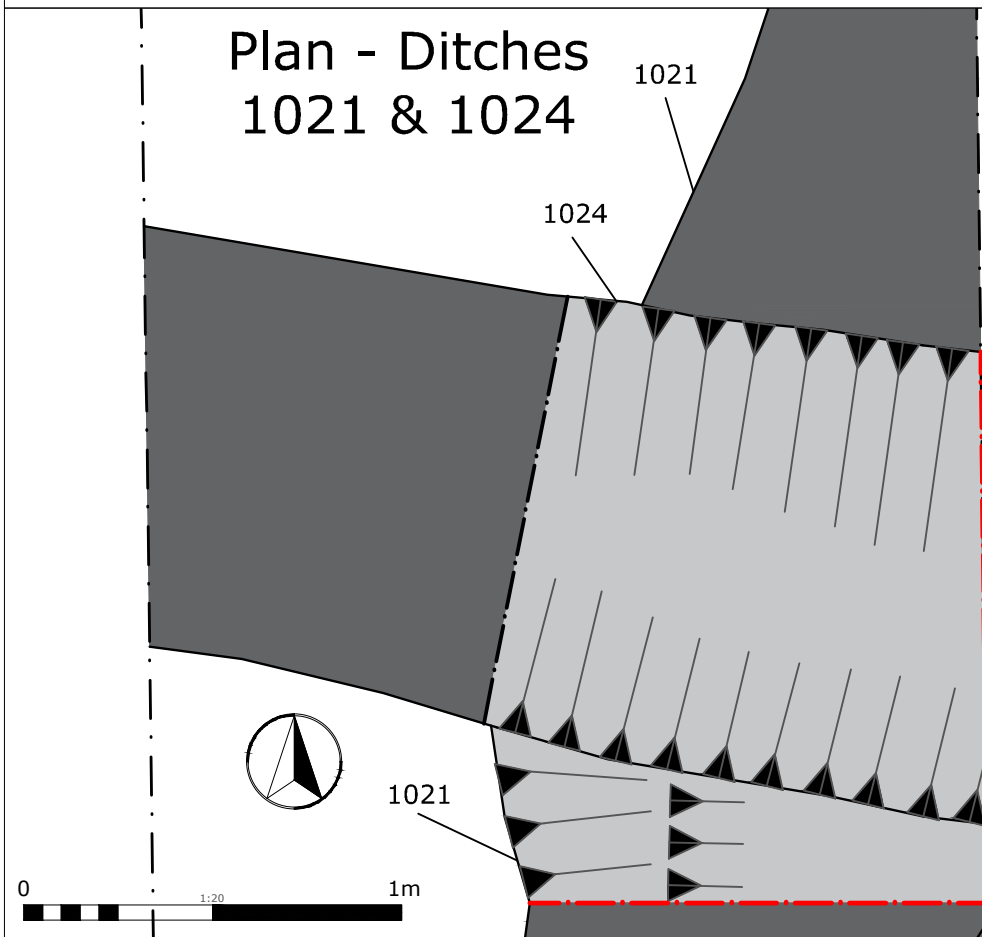
AUTHOR: MCA APPROVED: MB FIGURE: 10





TRENCH

### Plan - Ditches 1021 & 1024

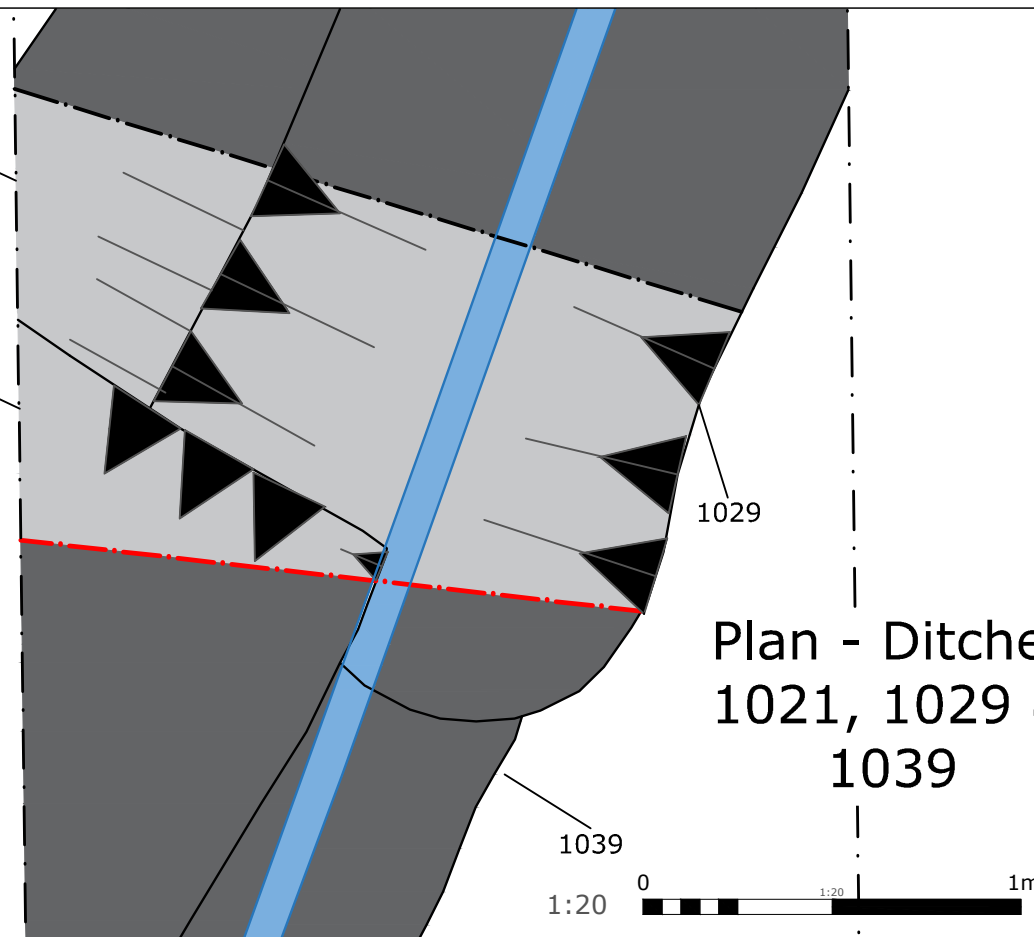


1021

MOD



### Plan - Ditches 1021, 1029 & 1039



1029

1039

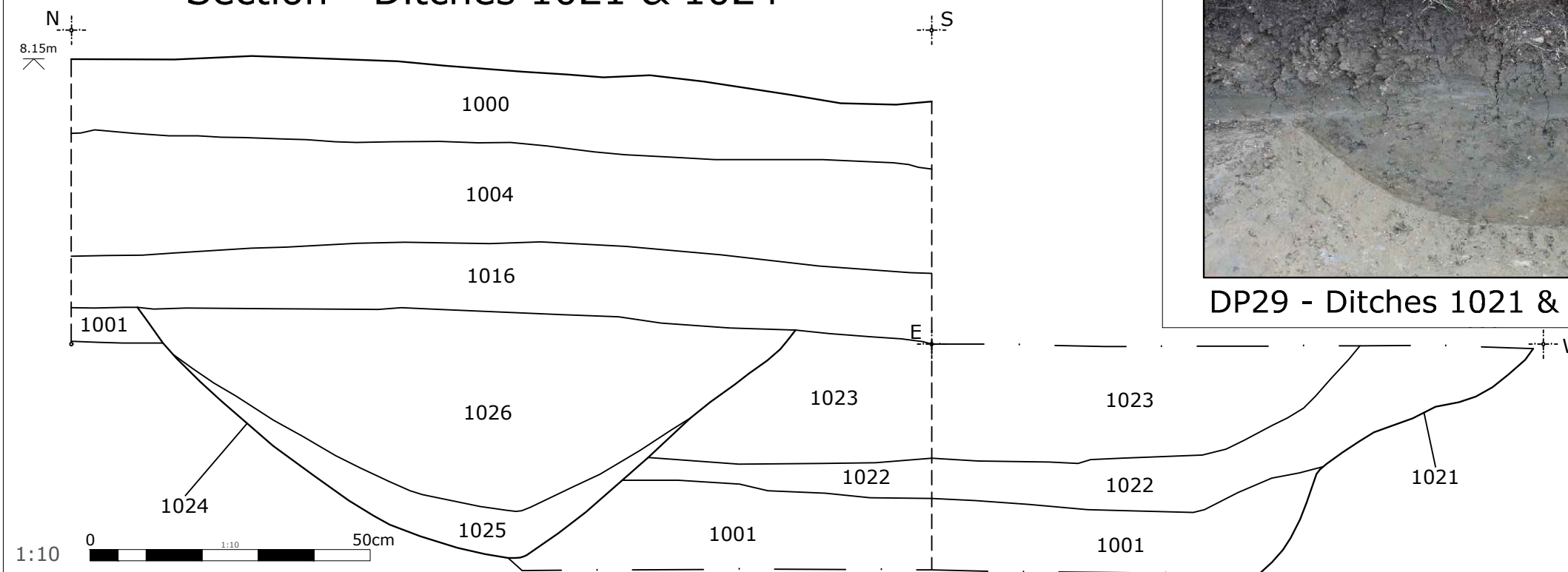
1:20

0

1:20

1m

### Section - Ditches 1021 & 1024



DP29 - Ditches 1021 & 1024 - View

- Charcoal
- Section Line
- Excavated Feature
- Trench
- Modern Feature/Field Drain
- Natural Feature
- Archaeological Feature

(NGR): 543200 267584 (REF): R1181

PROJECT: LAND TO THE REAR OF 130 MIDDLE WATCH, SWAVESEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

DESCRIPTION: TRENCH 13 - PLANS, SECTIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS - CONTINUED

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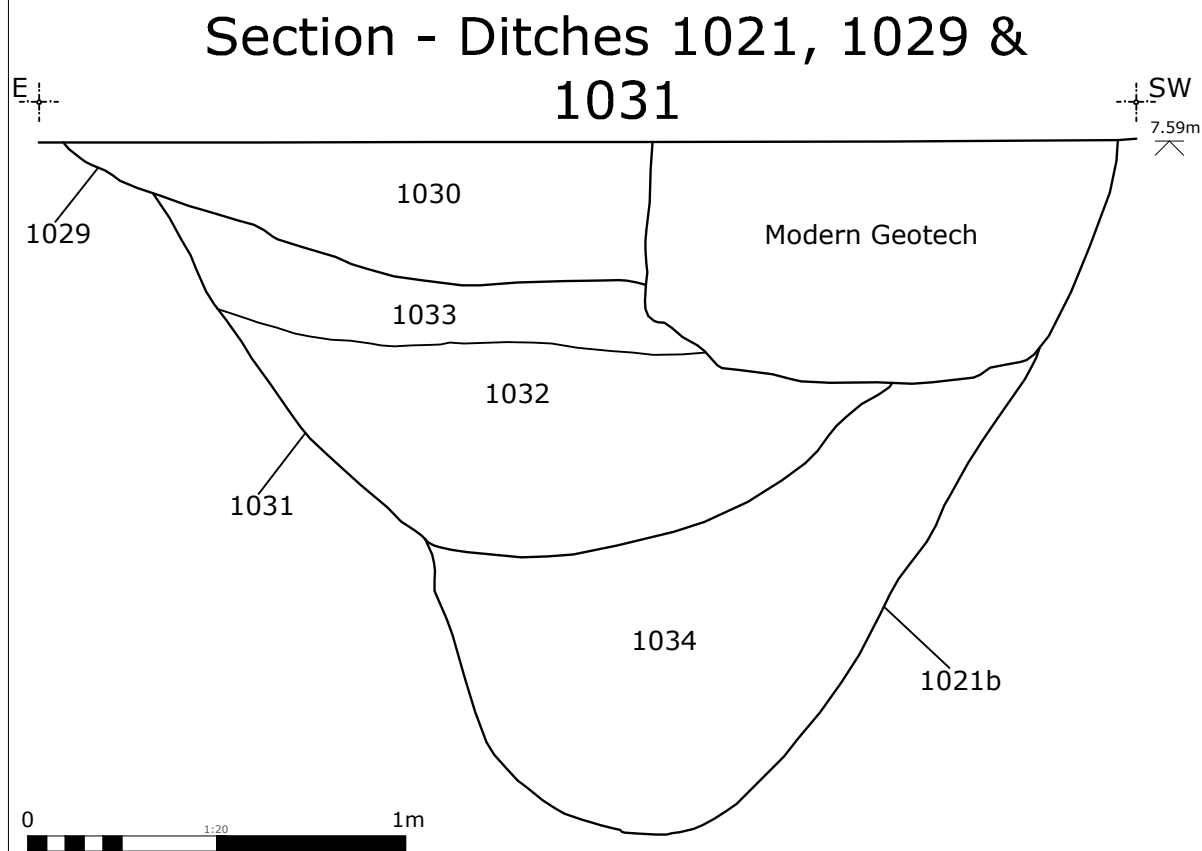
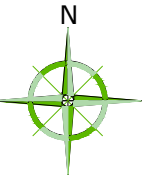
DATE: MAR 2018 PLOT: A3 VERSION: 1

AUTHOR: MCA  
APPROVED: MB

FIGURE: 11



# TRENCH










**DP32 - Ditches 1021, 1029 & 1031 - View S**



**DP30 - Ditch 1021 - View W**



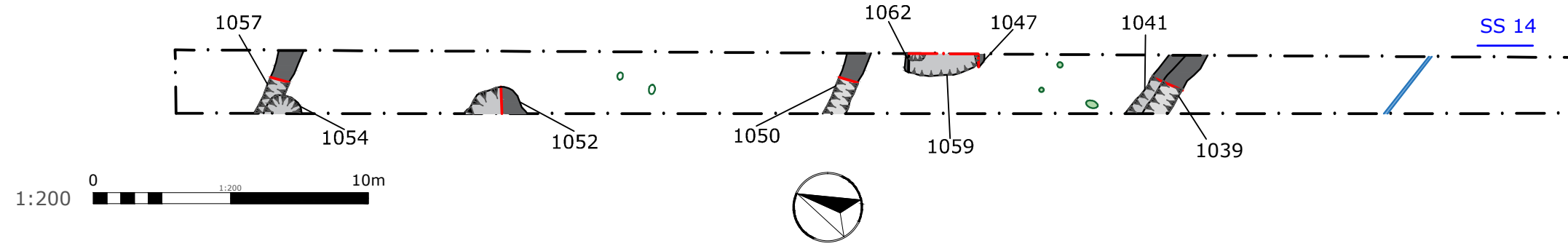
**DP38 - Trench 13 - View N**

-  Charcoal
-  Section Line
-  Excavated Feature
-  Trench
-  Modern Feature/Field Drain
-  Natural Feature
-  Archaeological Feature

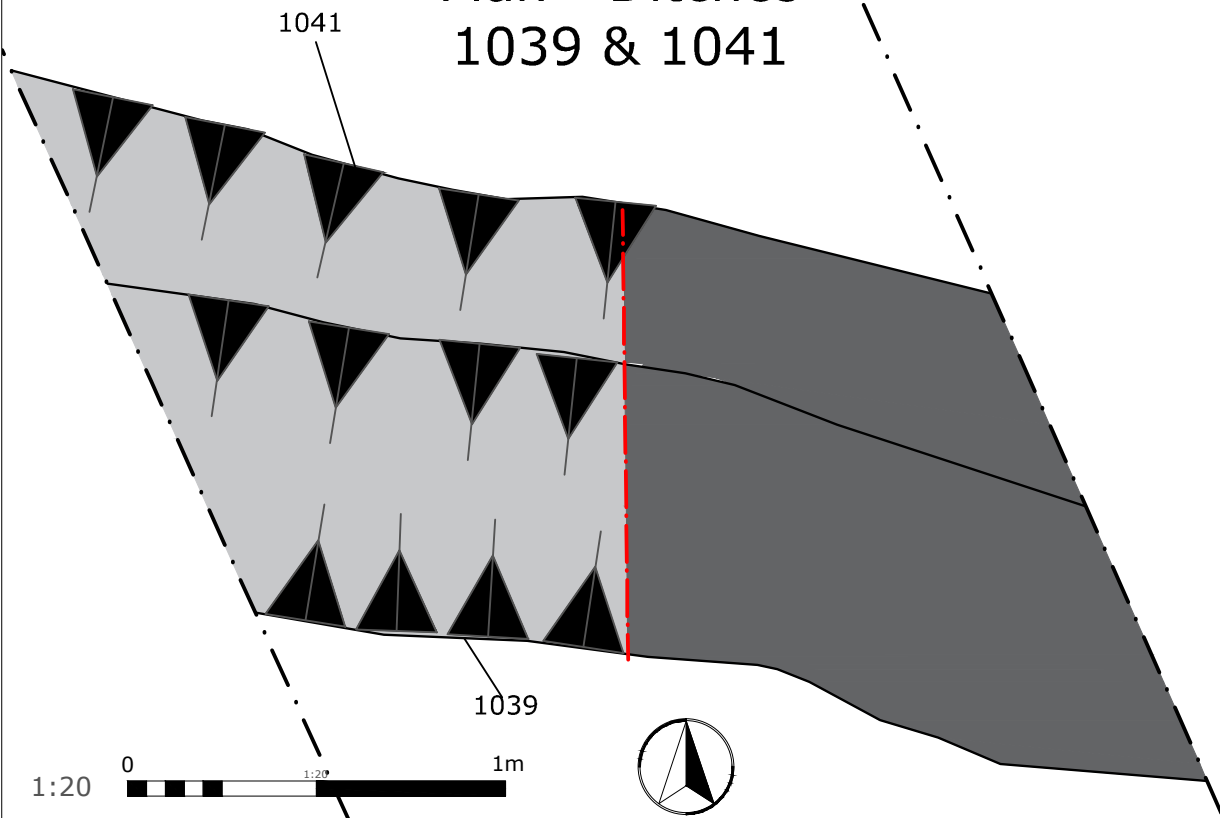
(NGR):	543200 267584	(REF):	R1181
PROJECT:	LAND TO THE REAR OF 130 MIDDLE WATCH, SWAVESEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE		
DESCRIPTION:	TRENCH 13 - PLANS, SECTIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS - CONTINUED		
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VERSION:	1	AUTHOR:	MCA
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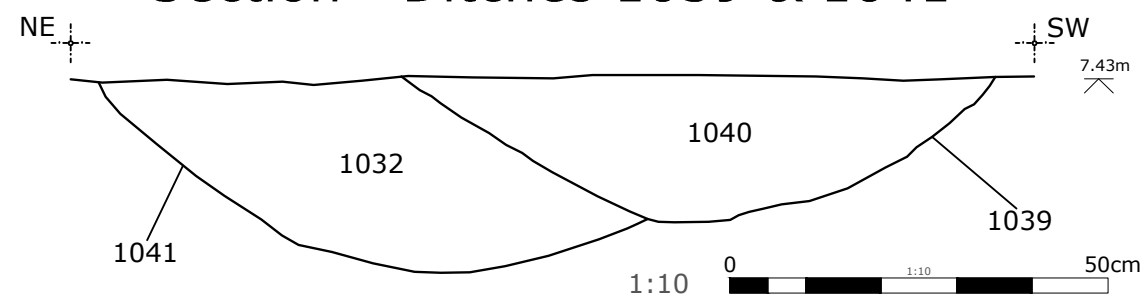
# TRENCH 14



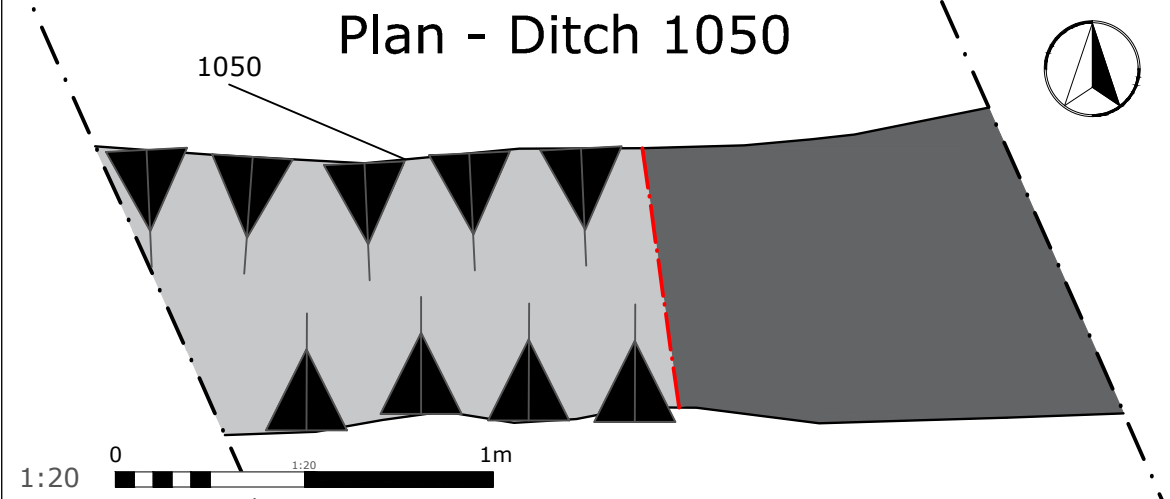
## Plan - Ditches 1039 & 1041



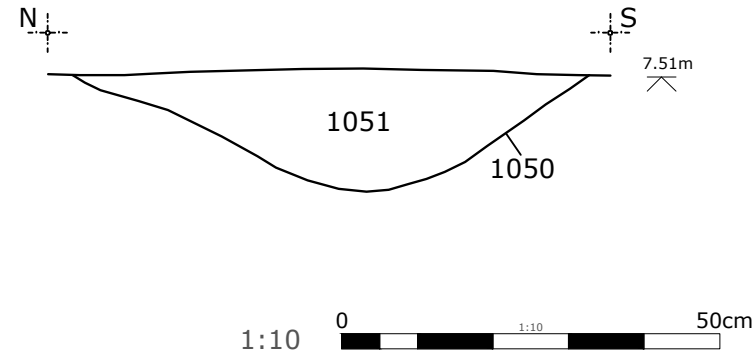
## Section - Ditches 1039 & 1041



## Plan - Ditch 1050



## Section - Ditch 1050



DP44 - Ditches 1039 & 1041 - View SE



DP47 - Ditch 1050- View E

- Charcoal
- Section Line
- Excavated Feature
- Trench
- Modern Feature/Field Drain
- Natural Feature
- Archaeological Feature

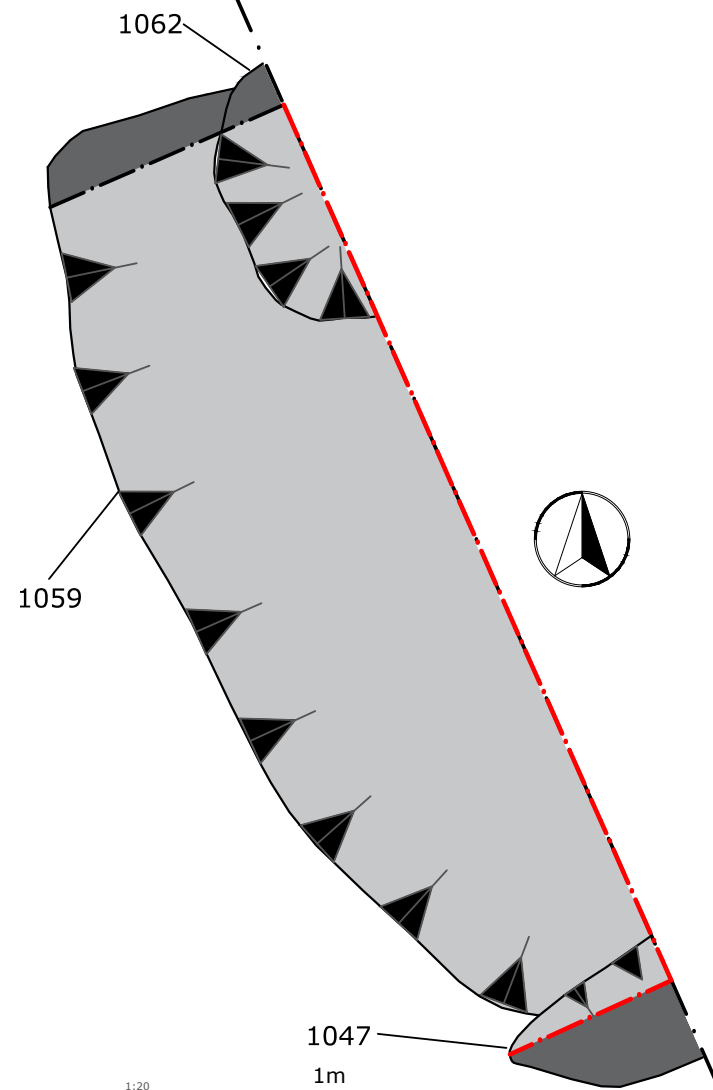
(NGR): 543200 267584    (REF): R1181  
**PROJECT:** LAND TO THE REAR OF 130 MIDDLE WATCH, SWAVESEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
**DESCRIPTION:** TRENCH 14 - PLANS, SECTIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS  
**CLIENT:** DERNFORD  
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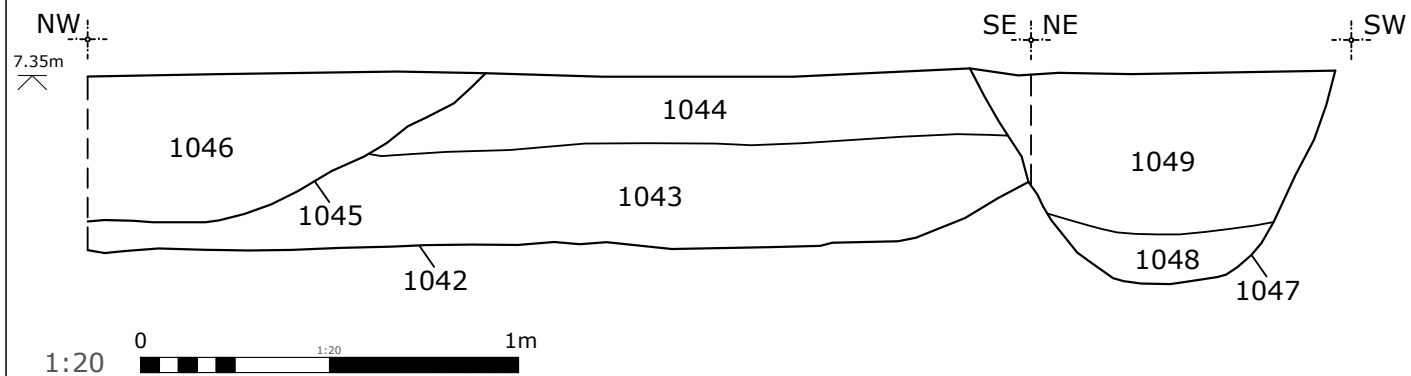


# TRENCH 14 - CONTINUED

## Plan - Pits 1047, 1059 & 1062

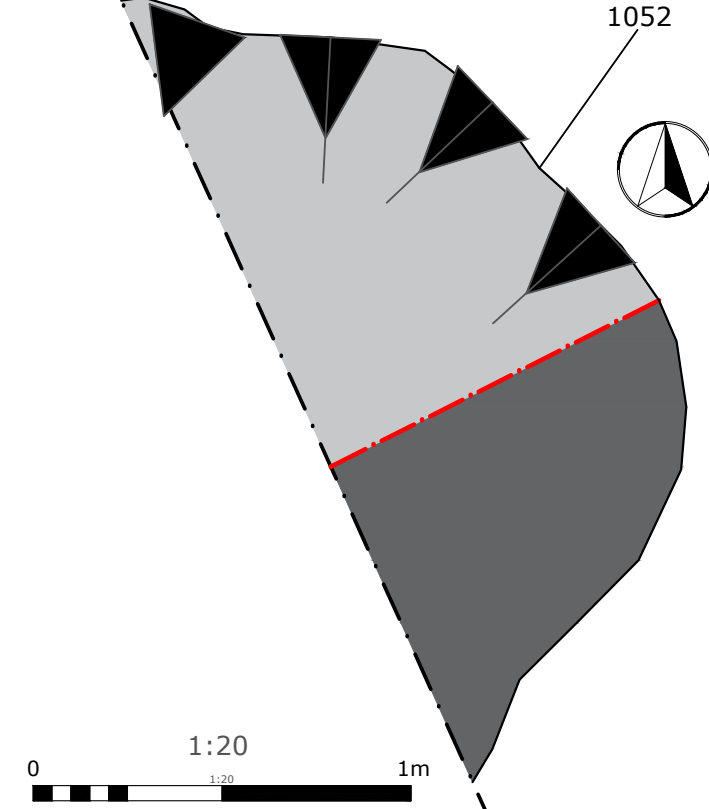


## Section - Pits 1047, 1059 & 1062

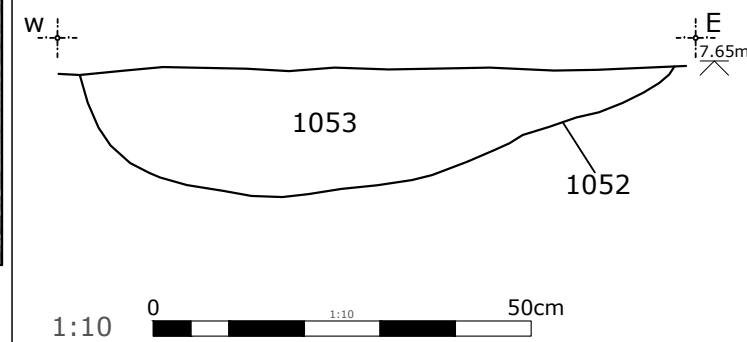


DP45 - Pit 1047, 1059 & 1062 - View NE

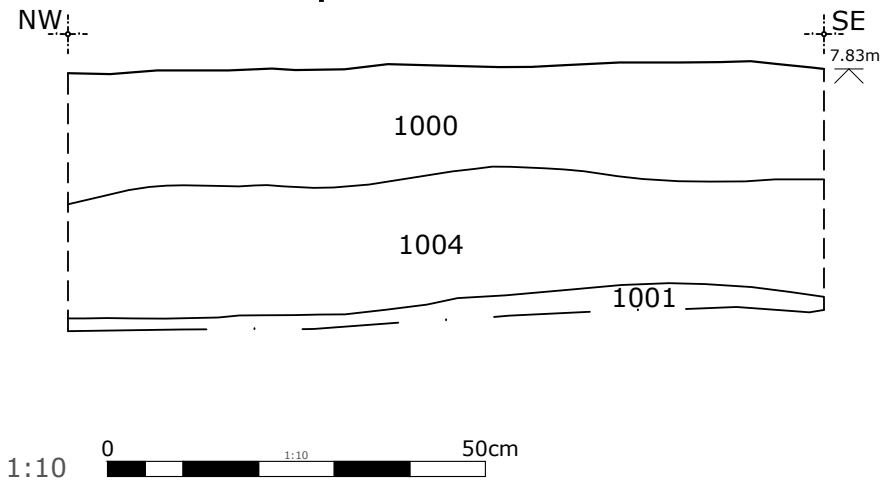
## Plan - Pit 1052



## Section - Pit 1052



## Sample Section 14



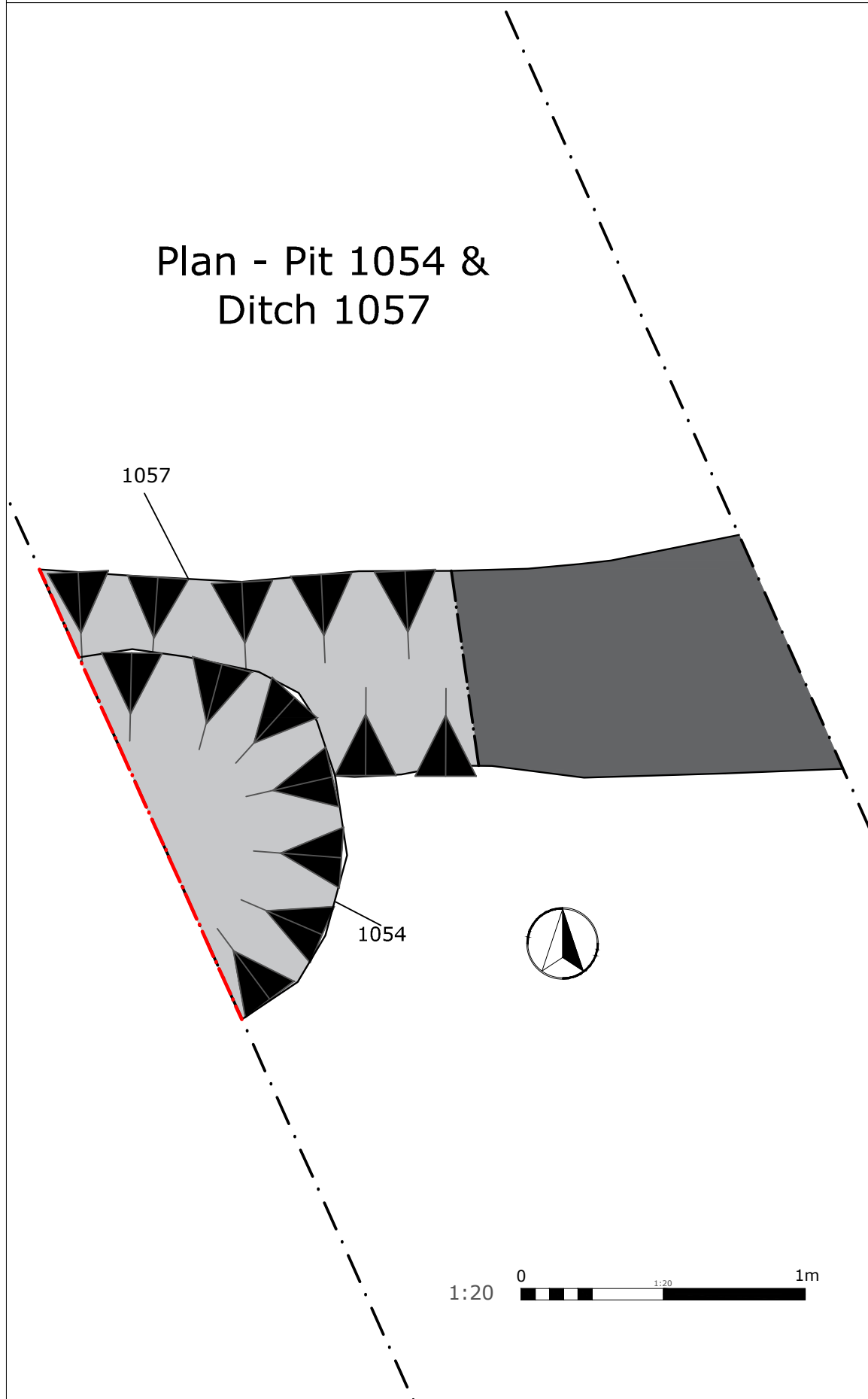
DP43 - Sample Section 14

- Charcoal
- Section Line
- Excavated Feature
- Trench
- Modern Feature/Field Drain
- Natural Feature
- Archaeological Feature

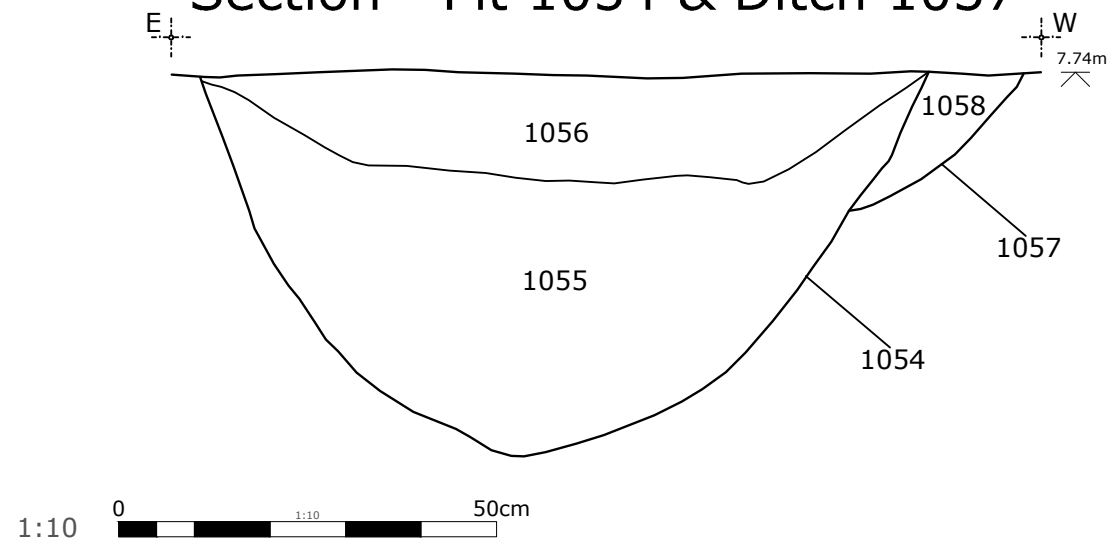
NGR: 543200 267584	REF: R1181	
PROJECT: LAND TO THE REAR OF 130 MIDDLE WATCH, SWAVESEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE		
DESCRIPTION: TRENCH 14 - PLANS, SECTIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS - CONTINUED		
CLIENT:  DERNFORD		
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AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: 14	
APPROVED: MB		

# TRENCH 14 - CONTINUED

Plan - Pit 1054 & Ditch 1057



Section - Pit 1054 & Ditch 1057



DP48 - Pit 1054 & Ditch 1057- View NW

- Charcoal
- Section Line
- Excavated Feature
- Trench
- Modern Feature/Field Drain
- Natural Feature
- Archaeological Feature

WGR: 543200 267584 REF: R1181

PROJECT: LAND TO THE REAR OF 130 MIDDLE WATCH, SWAVESEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

DESCRIPTION: TRENCH 14 - PLANS, SECTIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS - CONTINUED

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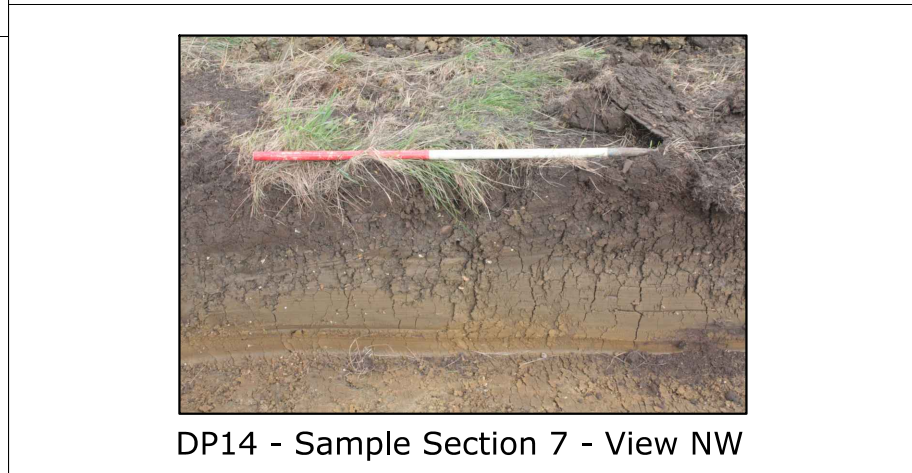
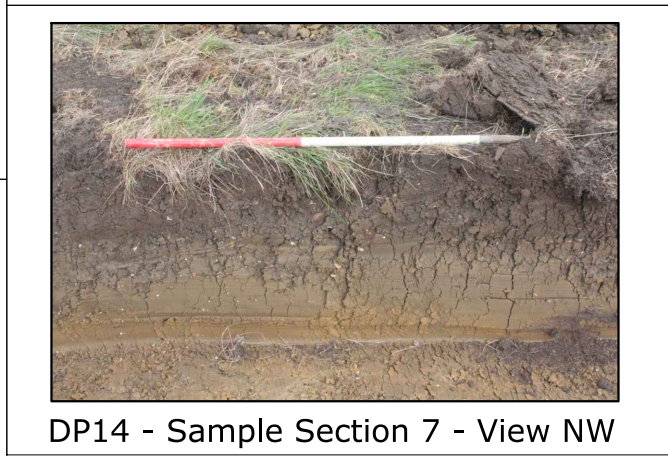
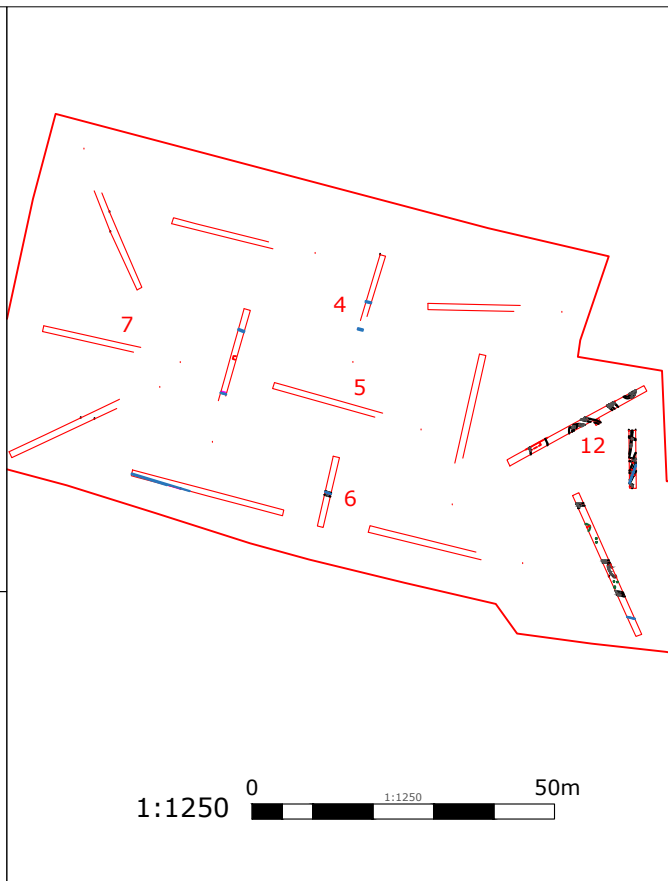
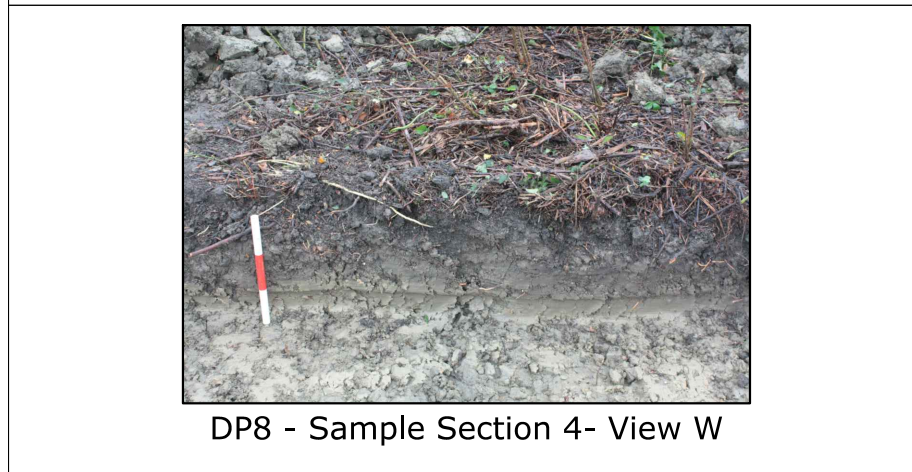
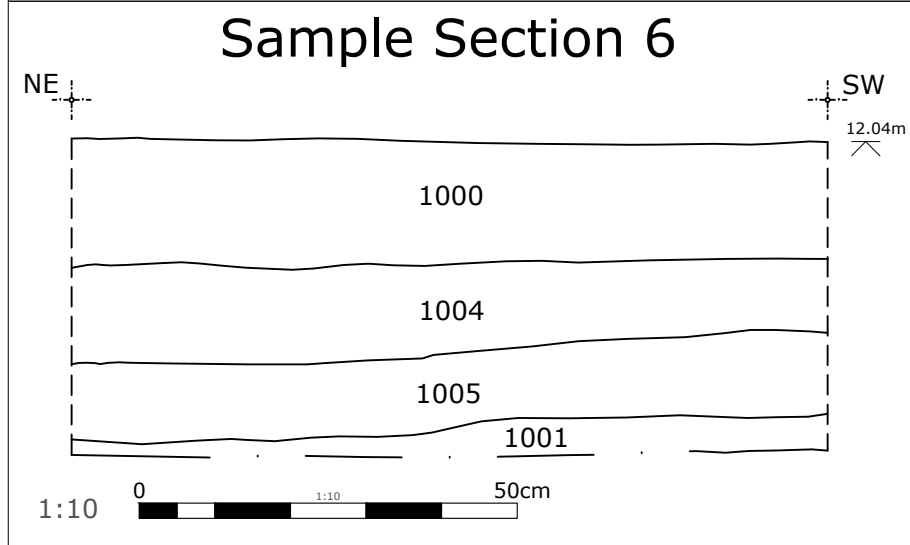
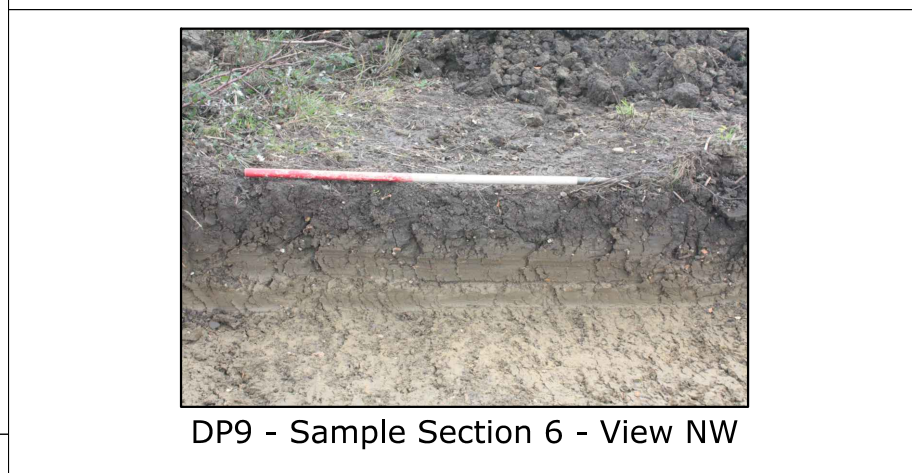
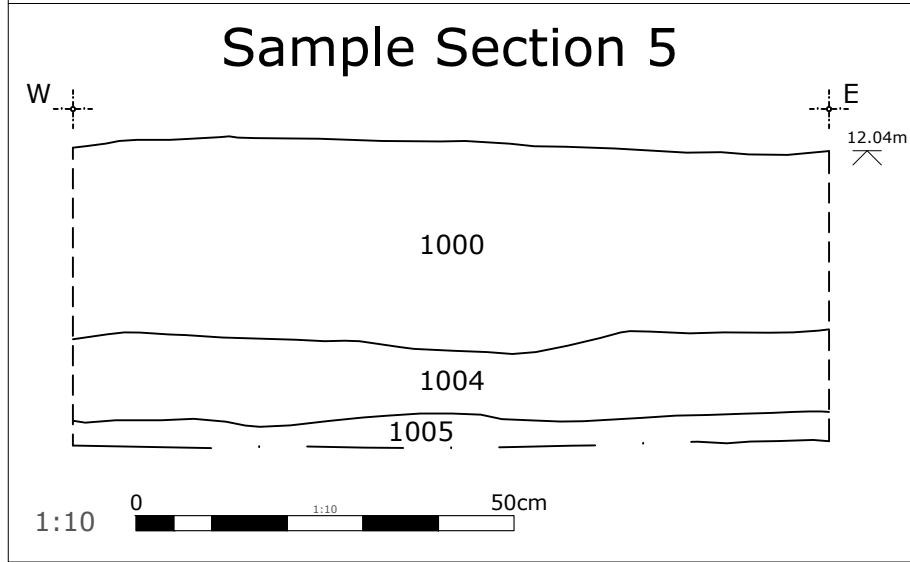
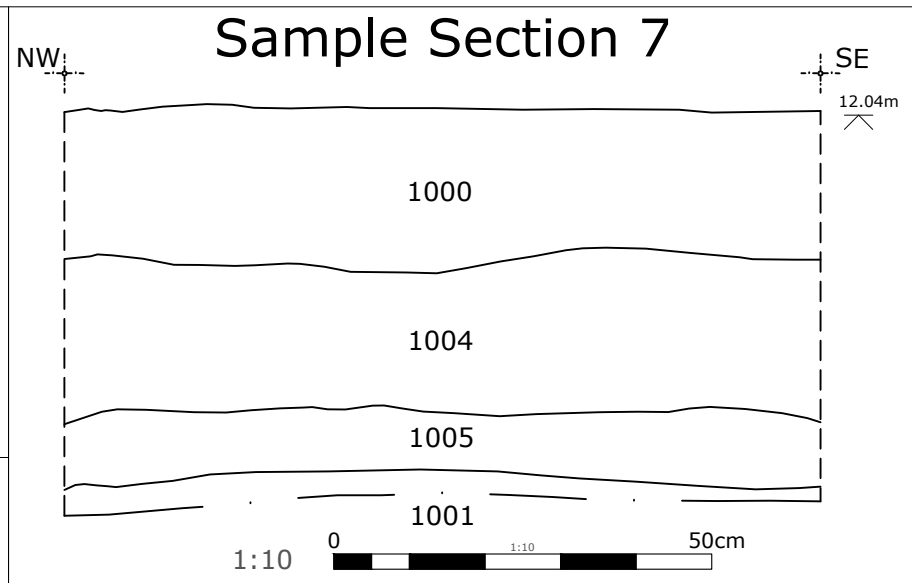
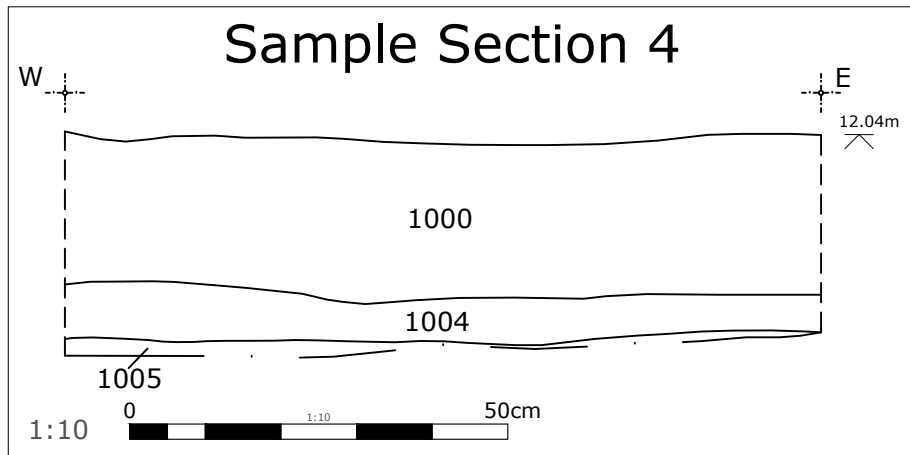
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Trench & Section Location

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APPROVED:	MB	FIGURE:	16