LAND REAR OF 1 HEMPFIELD ROAD, LITTLEPORT, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Report Number: 1213

November 2018

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Abstract

On the 2nd and 3rd of July 2018, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation on behalf of Peter Audus as a condition of planning application reference 17/01914/FUL, in advance of the erection of 3 flats. (Fig. 1)

The evaluation successfully identified three phases of activity on the site.

The first phase relates to medieval backplot activity in the form of a large cess pit. Pit 1014 was dated to the late medieval period possibly continuing into the early post-medieval period. The material found within the pit was of a domestic nature and included two soles of late medieval/early post-medieval shoes as well as fragments of domestic ceramics and butchered animal bone. The material in the pit appears to be domestic waste which was likely being deposited here from a medieval settlement close by. Similar pits were identified on Victoria Street c.200m northeast of the site which were located along the street frontage and contained medieval domestic waste (MCB16277). The sharpened wooden stake which was found in the pit was possibly part of a wooden structure associated with providing access to the pit or covering it, or could have been placed to prevent slumping similar to a stake-lined pit found in Romney Marsh, Kent (Barber and Priestley-Bell, 2008). However, as this was the only surviving stake the nature and presence of a structure cannot be confirmed.

The second phase is post-medieval Fen reclamation represented by reclamation and made ground layers. Layers 1012, 1010, 1009, and 1008 represent Fenland reclamation activity, with 1012 being dated to the 16th-17th century. Layers 1007, 1006, and 1005 are 18th-19th century made ground layers located above the reclamation layers likely to prepare the reclaimed land for construction. A drainage ditch, 1003, is cut into the top layer of made ground from this phase to likely aid with draining surface water from the site.

The final phase is modern and relates to recent layers of made ground. Made ground layers 1001 and 1002 are most likely associated with creating the current yard surface which is present across the site.

Despite the moderate potential for Roman-British remains, no features or finds were recovered from this period. The evaluation did, however, successfully identify a phase of late medieval domestic activity in the form of a cess pit. It also identified a post-medieval phase of Fenland reclamation, and a modern phase of made ground preparing the site for its current use as a yard.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 2nd and 3rd of July 2018, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation on behalf of Peter Audus as a condition of planning application reference 17/01914/FUL, in advance of the erection of 3 flats. (Fig. 1)

The evaluation was undertaken in response to a design brief issued by Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Stewart, G. dated 26th March 2018) which required a programme of linear trial trenching to adequately sample 5% of the threatened available area which comprised of one 10.00m x 1.80m trench.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The development is located in the centre of the historic core of Littleport, a village with a history of occupation dating back to the Prehistoric period.

The natural bedrock geology is described as Kimmeridge Clay Formation – Mudstone, a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 152 to 157 million years ago in the Jurassic Period when the local environment was previously dominated by shallow seas (BGS, 2018).

Superficial geology has been recorded on the site and is described as Oadby Member – Diamicton, which are Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by ice age conditions (U) (BGS, 2018).

3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

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), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS) (Fig. 2, 3 & 4).

4.1 Significant Records

An evaluation was carried out on land directly adjacent to the site on the west side. Evidence of probable post-medieval boundary ditches were found along with two phases of rammed chalk surfaces with a later truncated brick wall were identified (ECB2699). The brick wall was found to correspond to a structure visible on 1893 and 1903 OS maps. On the opposite side of the road from the site (c.50m southwest) an evaluation found a buried sub soil of an uncertain date but which contained Roman and medieval pottery fragments (ECB4581). An undated ditch

and post hole were found cut into this layer. A similar buried soil layer was identified at another evaluation c.140m northeast of the site also containing Roman and medieval pottery (ECB1800).

4.2 Prehistoric

This most significant record referring to prehistoric activity within the CHER search area is that of CB1568, a large multi-period site c.750m southwest of the site which revealed late Neolithic and early Bronze Age pits and a rectilinear enclosure ditch, as well as a possible late Bronze Age - early Iron Age agricultural activity in the form of a post hole structure and field enclosure. Evidence of early prehistoric activity in the search area is also represented by spot finds of partial Palaeolithic flint blade, Neolithic flint scrapers and flint blade c.140m northeast of the site (MCB16792), and a curved flint sickle c.350m northeast of the site (07233). A number of Bronze Age flints were found c.800m west of the site indicating a possible site of flint working (07219). Excavations c.520m northwest of the site found evidence of a palaeochannel with a burnt mound at its edge both dated to the Bronze Age (MCB19320). Late prehistoric activity has also been identified c.850m northwest of the site represented by pit clusters, post-holes, enclosures and field systems along with evidence of periodic flooding (MCB17425).

4.3 Roman

Several records of Roman date within the CHER search area are located less than 500m from the site including that of an evaluation undertaken c.200m northeast of the site which identified a series of Roman ditches (ECB1800). A further 100m northeast are two sites with evidence of Roman salt production in the form of briquetage assemblages, patches of burning, and a possible post hole structure at one site (ECB4815, ECB521). Further evidence of Roman salt production has been found at a site c.600m northwest (ECB5178). Excavations c.480m north of the site revealed a high status (possible villa) Roman settlement which began as enclosures and drainage ditches, became an occupation area with periods of flooding, and then at the end of its use reverted back to enclosures and droveways (ECB139. ECB1357). Finds of glass vessels, tile, box flue, and imported pottery indicated the higher status of the settlement. Just 50m further north, an evaluation found a possible Roman canal which might have been cut from the Old Croft River to a dock and loading area possibly associated with the high status settlement (ECB140). Evidence of Roman agricultural activity was identified c.960m northwest of the site during excavations, represented by two phases of a field system with possible lazy beds (MCB18585). Further evidence of Roman agricultural activity was identified at a large multi-period site c.700m southwest of the site in the form of field systems, stock enclosures, possible post hole structures and butchery waste which indicated the site was catching the edge of a rural settlement (CB15682). Roman field boundaries or possible property boundaries were found c.720m west of the

site (11920) and further Roman rural activity was identified c.750m southeast of the site in the form of a field system (MCB23850, CB15007).

4.4 Saxon

The only Saxon activity within the CHER search area was identified at a large multi-period site c.800m southwest of the site. Excavations found a large Saxon cemetery which consisted of 97 graves including three horse burials and two probable barrows (MCB20848). Finds included shield bosses, brooches, silver bracelets and ring, glass vessels, and beads. Geophysical survey identified features likely relating to the continuation of the cemetery further southwest (MCB20833).

4.5 Medieval

Records referring to medieval activity within the CHER search area are limited and identify rural activity around Littleport. An evaluation 200m northeast of the site identified evidence of medieval activity along the street frontage in the form of intercutting pits used for domestic waste disposal (MCB16277). Medieval agricultural activity, in the form of field boundaries and ridge furrow, was identified at the large multi-period site 700m southwest of the site (CB15683). Further areas of ridge and furrow have been identified by aerial photography at the southwestern extent of the search area (ECB2971, ECB2027, ECB1853).

4.6 Post Medieval

The majority of the post-medieval records returned by the CHER search refer to the sites of post-medieval structures of business and industrial activity, and churches none of which were within 100m of the site. In addition the post-medieval features identified adjacent to the site (discussed above), during repair works c.80m northeast of the site, a well-shaft of late medieval/post-medieval date was revealed (11726). Further evidence of post-medieval activity was found c.200m northeast of the site in the form of a pit with butchery waste (MCB16277), and a further 300m northeast in the form of possible boundary ditches (MCB20347). An evaluation c.550m east of the site identified a large post-medieval ditch which was possibly related to the unlawful enclosure of land for pasture in or before 1548 (ECB2858). Further smaller ditches and gullies, with pits and post holes were also identified and were consistent with peripheral or back garden activity. Evidence of post-medieval agricultural activity has also been identified c.450m southwest of the site in the form of ridge and furrow (ECB4498), and c.920m northwest of the site in the form of marling pits and pipe trenches (ECB4245).

4.7 WW2

The east branch of the General Headquarters Line has been identified around Littleport (MCB19165). This section approached from Cambridge following the River Cam and the River Ouse via Ely, then followed around north of Littleport before heading west and then north. This section was also known as the 'Thorney Line'. The Line of the anti-tank trench can be seen now as a drain and is also surrounded by several gun emplacements and pillboxes located between c.500-700m north and northeast of the site (MCB16420, MCB16419, MCB19176, MCB19179, MCB19180).

Given the above records the site has a **low** to **moderate** potential for features and finds relating to the **prehistoric** period, a **moderate** potential for **Romano-British** archaeology and **medieval** activity, and a **high** potential for evidence from the **post-medieval** and **modern** periods particularly in the form of property boundaries and domestic waste pits.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

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

Both the WSI, fieldwork and resulting report/archiving will be 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 comprised of one 10.00m x 1.80m trench. With the agreement of CHET, the trench was extended 2.00m southeast, and it was also extended southwest by 3.00m x 1.80m close to the southeast end forming a rough T-shape

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

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

8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 5 - 7)

One 10.00m x 1.80m trench was excavated across the site. With the agreement of CHET, the trench was extended 2.00m southeast, and it was also extended southwest by 3.00m x 1.80m close to the southeast end forming a rough T-shape. Two archaeological features were encountered as were multiple layers of made ground.

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

Bucket sampling was carried out the full details of which can be viewed in appendix 2.

8.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated northwest to southeast and measured 10.00m x 1.80m. It was extended 2.00m southeast, and it was also extended southwest by 3.00m x 1.80m close to the southeast end forming a rough T-shape. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.48m, with a step at 1.10m. The trench contained a modern drainage ditch and large medieval rubbish pit, as well as layers of made ground.

Drainage Ditch **1003** (1.80m+ x 1.52m+ x 0.62m) was located at the northwest end of the trench. The ditch was linear in plan with moderately sloping sides, a concave base, and on a N-S orientation. It contained a single fill, **1004**, a friable light brown grey silty sand with frequent gravel. A fragment of 18th-19th century CBM was found in the fill (Fawcett, 2018), as was a single iron object which was possibly a structural fragment of wrought iron from a railing or part of a fitting for a door or window (Sillwood, 2018). Fragments of animal bone were also found which showed evidence of butchering and skinning (Curl, 2018). The ditch was present within the upper made ground layers of the site.

Large rubbish pit **1014** (1.80m+ x 1.90m x 0.62m) was oblong in plan with steep sides and a concave base. It was located at the southeast end of the trench. It contained a single fill **1015** which comprised of a dark grey compact silty clay. Pottery sherds, animal bone, CBM fragments, leather shoes, and a timber stake were found in the fill. The pottery assemblage contained sherds from domestic vessels with a broad date of mid 12th century to 16th century, which was supported by late medieval-early post-medieval CBM (Fawcett, 2018). The pottery and CBM likely represent the remains of a late medieval/early post-medieval domestic settlement. The animal bone comprised of equid bone fragments and displayed signs of canid gnawing, and signs of butchering and skinning which suggests that it was fed to dogs (Curl, 2018). In addition to the animal bone, two common garden snail shells were found which likely found their way into the pit to eat the food waste and find moist shelter (Curl, 2018). The leather shoe remains were the soles from two shoes for the right foot and were both well-worn before being discarded (Mould, 2018). One sole is of a shape that became fashionable c.1490's and is considered a Tudor style which continued into the 16th century, and the other of a late medieval shape likely from the 15th century. Contemporary illustrations do show both sole shapes being worn together in the early 16th century (Mould, 2018). A single driven oak stake was also recovered from the fill which had been preserved by the waterlogged anaerobic conditions. Tool facets were clearly visible which had worked the bottom of the stake to a sharp point using an axe (Bamforth, 2018). A sample of the fill was found to contain abundant amounts of fish scales and fish bone, as well as shells and seeds, and overall was found to contain the greatest variety of material. The environmental evidence suggested that this deposit was from a nutrient rich, wet environment with open water bodies (Law, 2018).

9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 6)

The deposit model was broadly consistent across the site.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence was Yard Soil layer **1000**. This comprised of a firm, dark grey brown, silty clay with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.24m in sample section 1.

Beneath Yard Soil layer **1000** was Made Ground layer **1001**. This comprised of a mid yellow brown, firm sandy clay with frequent small to medium flint inclusions. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.28m in Sample Section 1, with a maximum thickness of 0.04m.

Beneath Made Ground **1001** was another Made Ground layer **1002**. This comprised of a mid grey brown, firm clayey silt with frequent small to medium sub-angular flints. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.60m in sample section 1, with a maximum thickness of 0.32m.

Beneath Made Ground **1002** was a post-medieval Made Ground layer **1005**. This comprised of a light grey brown, friable silty clay with frequent CBM rubble. It was present to a maximum depth of 0.90m, with a maximum thickness of 0.30m.

A further post-medieval Made Ground layer **1006** was present below **1005** in the northwest area of the trench. This comprised of a dark brown black, compact silty clay with sand and frequent CBM rubble. A single fragment of blue/white transfer printed ware of late 18th-20th century date was found in this layer, as well as a fragment of roof tile of 18th-19th century date (Fawcett, 2018). A fragment of cattle bone was also found (Curl, 2018). This layer was present to a maximum depth of 1.50m, with a maximum thickness of 0.16m.

Beneath Made Ground **1006** was another post-medieval Made Ground layer **1007**. This comprised of a dark grey brown, compact silty sand with frequent CBM rubble. It was present to a maximum depth of 1.22m, with a maximum thickness of 0.26m.

Below Made Ground **1007** was Reclamation layer **1008** which comprised of a dark brown orange, compact silty clay with infrequent flint gravel. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 1.70m, with a maximum thickness of 0.30m.

In the northwest are of the trench below Reclamation layer **1008** was Reclamation layer **1009**. This comprised of a dark brown black, compact silty clay with infrequent flint gravel. It was present to a maximum depth of 1.88m, with a maximum thickness of 0.20m.

A further Reclamation layer **1010** was present beneath Reclamation layer **1009** across the trench. This comprised of a light brown orange, compact silty clay, and was present to a maximum depth of 1.96m with a maximum thickness of 0.38m. A fragment of equid bone with evidence of skinning and canid gnawing was found in this layer (Curl, 2018).

Beneath Reclamation layer **1010** was Peat lens **1011** which comprised of a loose dark grey black peat and silt. Some fragments of cattle bone with chop and cut marks were found (Curl, 2018). This layer was present to a maximum depth of 2.00m, with a maximum thickness of 0.08m.

Beneath Peat lens **1011** was Reclamation layer **1012** which comprised of a mid blue grey, compact silty clay. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 2.26m, with a maximum thickness of 0.44m.

Inundation layer **1013** was present beneath Reclamation layer **1012** and comprised of dark blue black, compact silty clay. It was present to a maximum depth of 2.38m, with a maximum thickness of 0.18m.

Beneath Inundation layer **1013** was Peat layer **1016** which comprised of a dark black, friable peat. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 2.48m with a maximum thickness of 0.10m.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence was Natural Geology **1017**, comprising of a mid yellow brown, sandy clay with moderate flint inclusions.

10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background for the site suggested that there was a low to moderate potential for features and finds relating to the prehistoric period, a moderate potential for Romano-British archaeology and medieval activity, and a high potential for evidence from the post-medieval and modern periods particularly in the form of property boundaries and domestic waste pits.

The evaluation successfully identified three phases of activity on the site.

The first phase relates to medieval backplot activity in the form of a large cess pit. Pit **1014** was dated to the late medieval period possibly continuing into the early post-medieval period. The material found within the pit was of a domestic nature and included two soles of late medieval/early post-medieval shoes as well as fragments of domestic ceramics and butchered animal bone. The material in the pit appears to be domestic waste which was likely being deposited here from a medieval settlement close by. Similar pits were identified on Victoria Street c.200m

northeast of the site which were located along the street frontage and contained medieval domestic waste (MCB16277). The sharpened wooden stake which was found in the pit was possibly part of a wooden structure associated with providing access to the pit or covering it, or could have been placed to prevent slumping similar to a stake-lined pit found in Romney Marsh, Kent (Barber and Priestley-Bell, 2008). However, as this was the only surviving stake the nature and presence of a structure cannot be confirmed. The environmental evidence from this pit suggested a nutrient rich and wet environment with open water bodies.

The second phase is post-medieval Fen reclamation represented by reclamation and made ground layers. Layers **1012, 1010, 1009,** and **1008** represent Fenland reclamation activity, with **1012** being dated to the 16th-17th century. The environmental evidence from these layers indicated wet open habitats with indications of an environment of slow moving water near a nutrient rich, open environment. Layers **1007, 1006,** and **1005** are 18th-19th century made ground layers located above the reclamation layers likely to prepare the reclaimed land for construction. A drainage ditch, **1003**, is cut into the top layer of made ground from this phase to likely aid with draining surface water from the site.

The final phase is modern and relates to recent layers of made ground. Made ground layers **1001** and **1002** are most likely associated with creating the current yard surface which is present across the site.

Despite the moderate potential for Roman-British remains, no features or finds were recovered from this period. The evaluation did, however, successfully identify a phase of late medieval domestic activity in the form of a cess pit. It also identified a post-medieval phase of Fenland reclamation, and a modern phase of made ground preparing the site for its current use as a yard.

11.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The final archive will be deposited following the acquisition of the transfer of title. The deposition will be made with the Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (CHET). The digital archive will be stored with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

12.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank Peter Audus for commissioning and funding the project.

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

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Historic England PastScape www.pastscape.org.uk

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

Historic England National List for England

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

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

APPENDIX 1 – DEPOSIT TABLES

TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
1	NW-SE		DP3

Sample Section No	Location	Facing
1	NE Side	SW Facing

Context No	Depth	Deposit Description
1000	0.00 – 0.24m	Yard Soil: Dark grey brown, firm silty clay with frequent small sub-angular flints
1001	0.24 – 0.28m	Made Ground: Mid yellow brown, firm sandy clay with frequent small to medium flint inclusions
1002	0.28m – 0.60m	Made Ground: Mid grey brown, firm clayey silt with frequent small to medium sub-angular flints
1005	0.40 – 0.90m	Made Ground (Post-Medieval): Light grey brown, friable silty clay with frequent CBM rubble
1006	0.86 – 1.50m	Made Ground (Post-Medieval): Dark brown black, compact silty clay with sand and frequent CBM rubble
1007	0.64 – 1.22m	Made Ground (Post-Medieval): Dark grey brown, compact silty sand with frequent CBM rubble
1008	1.10 – 1.70m	Reclamation Layer: Dark brown orange, compact silty clay with infrequent flint gravel
1009	1.22 – 1.88m	Reclamation Layer: Dark brown black, compact silty clay with infrequent flint gravel
1010	1.04 – 1.96m	Reclamation Layer: Light brown orange, compact silty clay
1011	1.22 – 2.00m	Peat Lens: Dark grey black, loose peat and silt
1012	1.20 – 2.24m	Reclamation Layer: Mid blue grey, compact silty clay
1013	1.64 – 2.38m	Inundation Layer: Dark blue black, compact silty clay
1016	2.34 – 2.48m	Peat Layer: Dark black, friable peat
1017	1.64m+	Natural: Mid yellow brown, sandy clay with moderate flint

Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1003	Modern Drainage Ditch (1.80m+ x 1.52m x 0.62m) Linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. On N-S orientation.	1004	Light brown grey, friable silty sand with frequent gravel	Late 18th-19th century	CBM 1496g (1), A. Bone 415g (7), Fe object 266g (1)
1014	Rubbish Pit (1.80m+ x 1.90m x 0.62m) Oblong in plan, with steep sides and a concave base. On a NE-SW orientation	1015	Dark grey, compact silty clay	Late Med/Early P.Med	Pot 170g (4), A. Bone 175g (2), CBM 4874g (4), Leather (2), wood (1)

APPENDIX 2 - FINDS CONCORDANCE

FEATURE CONTEXT	LAYER/FILL CONTEXT	Type	Trial Trench	SPOT DATE	Pot No	Wgt/g	CBM No	Wgt/g	Animal No	Bone Wgt/g	Other
1003	1004	Ditch	1	Late 18th-19th			1	1496	7	415	Fe Object 1@266g
None	1005	Layer	1	18th-19th/?20th	1	20	1	29	1	21	
None	1010	Layer	1						1	44	
None	1011	Peat Lense	1						5	599	
None	1012	Layer	1	16th-?17th			2	968			
1014	1015	Pit	1	L.ate Med/?Early P.Med	4	170	4	4874	2	175	Shell 2@8g, Leather 2@???g, Wood 1@???g
Totals					**5**	**190**	**8**	**7367**	**16**	**1254**	**Fe Object** 1@266g, **Shell** 2@8g, **Leather** 2@?g, **Wood** 1@?g

APPENDIX 3 – SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery and Ceramic building materials (CBM) from Land Rear of 1 Hempfield Road, Littleport, Ely, Cambridgeshire (ECB 5387): An Assessment Report

Andy Fawcett

Introduction

A total of five sherds of pottery (182g) and eight pieces of CBM (7329g) were recovered from a total of four different contexts.

This report firstly sets out a methodology of work which is then followed by a description of the two finds categories, a general conclusion and finally any recommendations that might be required for further work on the materials.

Methodology

The pottery and CBM assemblages 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 2-3 and a breakdown of fabric reference and abrasion codes can be observed in Appendix 1.

Pottery

Layer 1005 contained a single plate fragment of blue/white transfer printed ware (20g). The sherd displays little abrasion and is dated from the late 18th to 20th century.

The majority of the pottery assemblage was retrieved from Pit fill 1015 and consisted of three different fabric types (4 sherds @ 162g). These date from the late medieval to possibly, the very early post-medieval period.

They consist of two joining sherds of Ely Ware (MEL/LMEL) that belong to the remains of a jug (112g). The surfaces are brown and on the partial handle, faint traces of glaze can be detected. The actual fabric is black and contains organics, abundant quartz with sparse chalk, flint and red iron ore. This appears to be a finer fabric than the earlier coarse version, as described by Spoerry (2016, 189 & 258). However as is explained by this author, it is not known exactly when the transition from Ely medieval fabrics and forms occurs (to become true Ely post-medieval types), therefore an end date for these sherds has been given as *c* AD1500. As a whole the fabric has been given a date range of mid 12th to AD1500, although in reality the overall look of the form and fabric suggest a range of 14th to 15th century.

A single body sherd of late medieval/early post-medieval transitional ware (LMT) was noted (14g). This example displays little abrasion and is wheel thrown in a light grey and fine fabric with a black sooted surface. It is likely dated from the 15th to 16th century.

Finally, a single base sherd of un-provenanced glazed ware (UPG), dated from the late 12th to c AD1500 was recorded (36g). This piece shows only slight abrasion and contains solely ill-sorted quartz sand. Traces of glaze as well as thumbed decoration can be seen on the division line of the wall and base.

CBM

A single white fired brick fragment (WS) was noted in Ditch fill 1004 (1496g), which contains quartz alongside sparse red streaked grog and some calcite. It has a depth of 65mm and a width of 110 and is dated from the 18th to 19th century.

Layer 1005 contained a small fragment of white fired roof tile (WS) which is shattered with incomplete surfaces (29g). The fragment contains no obvious inclusions apart from fine quartz and is of a similar date to the previous brick example.

Two brick fragments were noted in Layer 1012 (1 @ 569g & 1 @ 384g) both of which are in fabric Msg. Although the smaller piece is heat affected the fabrics of the two bricks are very similar, both are patchy pink and white in places and are streaked (sometimes heavily) with abundant red/pink grog and calcite, as well as irregular ferrous inclusions. This fabric is comparable to that identified at a post-mill in Isleham (Fawcett 2017) which was listed as Brick fabric 2. Both of the brick depths measured 45mm, however only a single width measurement was possible which stands at 105/110mm. These figures are similar to Dury's LB2 type that is dated from the 16th to possibly the 17th century (1993, 163-168).

Pit fill 1015 contained three further examples of brick as well as an unidentifiable fragment (4 @ 4851g). The first of these is complete and measures 45mm/105-110mm/240-245mm and is comparable to Drury's EB8/LB2 (1993, 163-168) which dates it from the late medieval/early post-medieval period. Its fabric (Msg) is orange and contains abundant ill-sorted quartz and grog alongside sparse large chalk. The second brick is almost complete and measures 40mm/105mm/240mm which equates to Drury's EB8 (1993, 163-168) which attracts a similar date range as the previous example, but is more likely of a late medieval date. Its fabric is orange but the inclusion suite is the same as the preceding brick (Msg).

The final brick is incomplete and only the measurements of depth (40mm) as well width (110mm) were possible. Nevertheless these two figures suggest that this is another EB8 type (Drury 1993, 163-168) which is dated from at least the late medieval period and possibly into the early post-medieval era. This brick is coloured pink/orange and contains common calcite and grog (Msc). Unlike the previously discussed bricks from the context, this fragment exhibits mortar over the breaks indicating that it has been reused at some point.

Conclusion

A small quantity of late post-medieval material has been identified within Ditch fill 1004 and Layer 1005, however the main focus of this report are the pottery and CBM assemblages from Pit fill 1015.

The pottery and CBM fragments retrieved from Pit fill 1015 are few in number, however they represent the remains of late medieval/?early post-medieval domestic settlement. Despite the fact that some ambiguity remains about the true end of the medieval Ely pottery industry (see above), the presence of brick types EB8/LB2 (Drury 1993, 163-168) provides at the earliest a later medieval date range for this context. There is no reason to suspect that the fill of this pit is not cohesive (M. Baker pers.comm) and therefore that any of the pottery or brick components might be intrusive or residual; none of the pottery or brick fragments show a significant difference in terms of abrasion.

The presence of medieval activity within Littleport is a little thin on the ground however an evaluation 200m to the north-east of the current site (MCB 16277) revealed activity dating to this period along the street frontage. Interestingly about 80m north-east of the site (11726) a well shaft dated from the late medieval/early post-medieval period was identified whose date is comparable to the current group of finds.

While this is only a small collection of pottery and CBM, it nevertheless still represents important new information about the pattern of late medieval/early post-medieval settlement in Littleport.

Recommendations for further work

The pottery and CBM groups have both been fully recorded and no further work on the materials will be required.

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Appendix 1: Fabric, form and abrasion codes

Pottery

MEL/LMEL	Medieval/late medieval Ely Ware
MCW	Unsourced medieval coaresware
LMT	Late medieval transitional ware
TPW	Transfer printed ware

CBM

Ws	White with medium sand
Ms	Medium sandy
Msg	Medium sandy with grog
Msc	Medium sandy with calcite

Abrasion

Abr = Abraded, Abr/sli = Variably abraded, Sli = Slightly abraded, Gd = Good

ECB 5387

Littleport, Cambs.
The FAUNAL REMAINS and SHELL assessment and catalogue
by Julie Curl –Sylvanus – Archaeological, Natural History & Illustration Services for Britannia Archaeology.

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 recording of metrical data on such a small assemblage was considered not worthwhile, but measurements of a couple of bones were taken for an estimate of stature following Von Den Driesch, 1976. Information was input to an Excel spreadsheet for analysis and this is available in the digital archive.

The faunal assemblage

Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of 1204g of bone, consisting of sixteen elements, was recovered from this excavation which is quantified in Table 1. Remains were yielded from five deposits, with artefacts of a medieval date range. The remains are in good condition and show little wear or abrasion, suggesting that most of the bone is in its original deposit. Butchering has occurred throughout, leading to some fragmentation.

Canid gnawing was seen on equid bones from layer 1010 and pit fill 1015. Sometimes equid meat, which is not favoured by people, can be used for feeding domestic and working dogs, which may be an explanation for gnawing on the equid, but not cattle in this assemblage.

Context	Feature	Feature Type	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)
1004	1003	Ditch	7	415
1005	1005	layer	1	21
1010	1010	Layer	1	44
1011	1011	Layer	5	549
1015	1014	Pit	2	175
TOTALS			**16**	**1204**

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

Species, observations and discussion

Two species were identified in this assemblage, which are quantified by context and NISP in Table 2.

Ctxt	FNo	Type	Species	NISP
1004	1003	Ditch	Equid	7
1005	1005	layer	Cattle	1
1010	1010	Layer	Equid	1
1011	1011	Layer	Cattle	5
1015	1014	Pit	Equid	2

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

Equid remains were recorded from three features,

Ditch 1003, fill 1004, produced a metatarsal, radius, pelvic bone, 4th metatarsal (a small bone that is a remnant of what were originally other metapodials in primitive equid feet) and fragments of limb bones. Knife cuts were seen on the equid metatarsal from 1004, attesting to the use for skin and possibly meat.

Further equid bone was found in layer 1010 with a small proximal phalange which had been cut, again showing the skinning of equid. Canid gnawing was present on this phalange.

An equid scapula and pelvic fragment were recovered from pit 1014, fill 1015, the scapula neck had also been gnawed by a canid.

Interesting with the equid bones in this assemblage is the size, all from very small and light individuals. Metrical information from the metatarsal from ditch fill 1004 suggest an animal of approximately 10 to 11 hands high and of slender build, perhaps suggesting mule. The butchering of the equid bones at this site would suggest these were probably not small domestic pets, but utilised animals. However, culling of even domestic (non-food) animals can occur in times of food shortage and this may be possible. In later period in particular, some animals not normally used for human consumption might be collected by hunting staff to feed hunting dogs (Wilson & Edwards, 1983) and it is possible that these equids were used for feeding dogs, particularly as gnawing was only seen on the equid bones in this assemblage.

Cattle were recorded from two fills. A chopped radius was seen in layer 1005. Layer 1011 produced a cattle radius, humerus and ulna which had been chopped and cut; these bones were dark stained, suggesting they had lain in an organic, dark clay or waterlogged deposit for sometime. .

Conclusions

The bulk of this assemblage is from butchering and food waste from cattle and equid. While both species show butchering, it is possible that the cattle was for human consumption and the equid may be for the feeding of dogs, which is supported by gnawing observed on equid bones but not cattle.
The equid in this assemblage was very small and of slight build and none of the bones showed any pathologies that suggested the normal activities of equids in

most periods, which is for traction and load-bearing. It may be possible that this was an unusually small individual that was deemed ineffective for traction and it may have been seen as more suitable for feeding dogs.

Recommendations for further work

Preservation at this site is good for bone survival with small elements recovered. Any future work should include sieving of features producing bone to maximise the potential to recover small elements and smaller species.

There is scope for further study of the small equid if it is of an early date as it would be unusually small.

Overall, this is a small assemblage with limited potential. The assemblage has been recorded to sufficient standard and no further work is required.

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). Shells are also examined for any cut marks that could confirm their use for food.

The assemblage and discussion
Two shells were recovered, weighing a total of 8g, which are quantified in Table 3.

Context	Ctxt Qty	Weight	F	M	L	Species	NISP	Apex
1015	2	8g			2	*Helix aspersa*	2	2

Table 3. Quantification of the molluscs by species, NISP and context.

Both shells from pit 1014, fill 1015, are complete and identified as *Helix aspersa* or the common Garden Snail. Both snails were in the size range for mature adults. These snails are abundant across Britain in a range of habitats, often occurring in groups in suitable areas and often hibernating in harsh periods (cold or too hot and dry) in groups in sheltered areas. While these snails can be eaten, they were never a popular dietary supplement in this country. It is most likely that these snails were attracted to rubbish, particular food waste, and to shelter and moisture in pit 1014, where they will consume both vegetable matter and meat and even consuming some bone waste for calcium for their growing shells.

Recommendations for further work

Survival of shell is good at this site and if further work was carried out here then there is potential to recover mollusc remains which can indicate both the environment and dietary use.

This is a small assemblage with limited potential. The assemblage has been recorded fully and no further work is recommended.

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Appendixes 1 (Animal bone), 2 (Molluscs)

Appendix 1. Summary catalogue of the faunal remains recovered from ECB5387.

Key:
NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present
Ch = chopped
C = Cut

Ctxt	FNo	Type	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Ad	Juv	Neo	MNI	Element range	Butchering	Ch	C	Comments
1004	1003	Ditch	7	415	Equid	7	7			1	Metatarsal, radius, pelvis, 4th MT, frags of same	knife cuts		2	VERY small and slender metatarsal with cuts on mid shaft at rear of bone, estimated GL = 210-211 mm, proximal BD = 36.5. Small radius and pelvis and other fragments included in fill . Cut on radius.
1005	1005	layer	1	21	Cattle	1			1		radius	chopped	1		
1010	1010	Layer	1	44	Equid	1	1				proximal phalange	cut		1	small proximal phalange, canid gnawing at distal end
1011	1011	Layer	5	549	Cattle	5	5			1	radius, humerus, ulna, frags of same bones	cut, chopped	2	2	Radius GL = 295, dark stained bones
1015	1014	Pit	2	175	Equid	2	2			1	scapula and pelvic frag				slight gnawing on articular end of scapula, small equid

Appendix 2. Catalogue of the mollusc remains from ECB5387

Context	Ctxt Qty	Weight	Freshwat	Marine	Land	Species	NISP	Top	Base	MNI	Apex	Frag	Distort	Worms	Sponge	Barnacles	Attached	Cuts	Burnt	Gnaw	Condition	Pigment?	Comments
1015	2	8			2	Helix aspersa	2				2										good		larger snail probably a more recent specimen

Assessment of leather from land to the rear of 1 Hempfield Road, Littleport, Ely, Cambridgeshire (ECB 5387), P. 1233.

1 Methodology

The following assessment is based on examination of the leather on 6th August 2018. The leather has been catalogued and measurements of relevant dimensions provided (7). Working drawings have been made and a scan accompanies this document. The information gathered was then correlated with the available contextual information. The assessment (2-6), includes a summary (3) to inform those writing the site narrative, along with recommendations for conservation (4).

The terms employed are those in common use in the archaeological literature, the seams, constructions and drawing conventions are fully described by Goubitz (Goubitz 1984; Goubitz et al. 2001).

All measurements are in millimetres (mm), + indicates an incomplete measurement. No allowance has been made for any shrinkage. Leather species were identified by hair follicle pattern using a low-powered magnification. Where the grain surface of the leather was heavily worn identification was not always possible. Shoe bottom unit components and repairs are assumed to be of cattle hide unless stated otherwise.

2 Condition of the material

The leather was wet and washed when examined, a limited amount of further washing was necessary. It is robust and in good condition. The material is currently packed wet in double, self-sealing polythene bags within an air-tight storage box. It should be kept cool and the light excluded until conservation or air-drying under controlled conditions is undertaken.

3 Summary and dating

Two soles (cat no 1 and 2) from shoes of turnshoe construction were recovered from the only fill (1015) of pit [1014]. The soles are both for the right foot and had been well worn before they had been discarded; one (cat no 1) had been repaired with patches to the tread and seat (heel area). Neither shoe has any upper leather remaining so that the shoe styles that would allow accurate dating are unknown, however, a broad date range is possible. The compete sole (cat no 1), with its generally wide shape, blunt, rounded toe and no distinct waist, is of a shape that became fashionable at the very end of the fifteenth century (c. 1490's) and can be considered a Tudor style, that continued throughout the sixteenth century (Swann 1975: 21). The surviving lower tread, waist and seat of the second shoe sole (cat no 2) is of late medieval shape, likely to date to the fifteenth century. The toe and upper tread that would allow more accurate dating are missing. The two soles, being found in the same fill, appear to have been deposited during the same action of pit infilling. While the incomplete sole (cat no 2), is broken, which may suggest that it is slightly residual in the fill, contemporary illustrations show both sole shapes being worn together for a period in the first half of the sixteenth century, though this could be an artistic device for denoting differing sections of the population (see for example *The Netherlandish Proverbs* painted in 1559 by Pieter Brueghel, now in the Staatliche Museum, Berlin-Dahlem, Roberts 1982: 39). Shoes of turnshoe construction were found alongside

those of welted construction, both in the broad-toed Tudor style, on the wreck of the *Mary Rose* which sank in 1545, though in very limited numbers (estimated c. 7%, Evans and Mould X: 61 and 79). This being the case, the two soles are likely to date to the first quarter of the sixteenth century (Goubitz 2001: 79).

4 Conservation requirements

The leather cannot be stored wet indefinitely. Without conservation the leather will deteriorate and is potentially hazardous to health being liable to fungal and bacterial infection. Wet leather presents difficulties with short-term storage, transportation, study and illustration (English Heritage Guidelines 4, 6; English Heritage 2012: 19). The eventual repository of the leather should be consulted regarding their discard and retention policy for wet organic material. It is usual for this to follow that recommended in the SMA Guidelines and unlikely that they will accept wet leather. It is recommended that assemblage be conserved. Once conserved the material can be safely stored and handled. Should conservation by freeze-drying not be viable due to limited funding air drying under controlled conditions might be considered as the most cost-effective way of allowing long term storage (English Heritage 2012: 20).

5 Recommendations for further work

The leather has been fully catalogued (7) and working drawings made for the site archive, the material has been summarised and a date suggested (3). In line with accepted guidance (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group 1993) no further work is considered necessary.

6 References

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7 Catalogue of leather from land to the rear of 1 Hempfiled Road, Littleport, Ely, Cambs (ECB 5387)

1 Turnshoe sole, right foot

Complete turnshoe sole with blunt, round toe, medium tread tapering to a medium/wide seat with no distinct waist. The edge of the seam is worn away at the great toe joint and the exterior (lateral) seat area. A hole is worn through at the toe. Edge/flesh seam, stitch length 7mm. Worn tunnel stitching present on the grain side from the attachment of repair patches (clumps) to the tread and seat. Leather cattle hide. Condition: wet. Length 232mm; width toe c. 60mm, tread 84mm, 'waist area' 50mm, seat 51mm. ECB 5387 (1015).

2 Turnshoe sole fragment, right foot

Part of a turnshoe sole with the toe and upper tread areas broken off and missing. Lower tread area tapers to a distinct, medium, waist and expands slightly to a long medium seat. A hole is broken in the edge of the waist area (medial side) and heavily worn away at the outer seat area (lateral side). Edge'flesh seam, stitch length 7mm. No stitching from former repairs visible. Leather cattle hide. Incomplete. Condition: wet. Surviving length 173+mm; width tread 80+mm (max surviving), waist 44mm, seat 58+mm. ECB 5387 (1015).

P1233 ECB5387 Land to the rear of 1 Hempfield Road, Littleport

Metalwork

By Rebecca Sillwood

Summary

A single iron object was submitted for assessment from excavations on this site; it was recovered from ditch F1003, which is likely to date to between the 18th and 19th centuries.

The piece of iron weighed 266g and measured 248mm in length by 25mm in maximum width. It consisted of a tapering bar which was triangular in profile. No identifying features can be seen on this object.

Statement of Potential

This piece of iron came from a later post-medieval context and cannot be fully identified. It is likely to be a structural fragment of wrought iron and could feasibly be part of railings or fittings for doors or windows in a building.

Recommendations for further work

This object has been fully recorded, and it is not believed necessary for any further work to be carried out on the piece. The late date and structural quality of the iron object will not add anything further to the dating and story of the site.

Waterlogged Wood Assessment Report
Littleport, Cambridgeshire
Michael Bamforth BSc MA MCIfA

Introduction

A single driven wooden stake was recovered from a domestic waste or cess pit provisionally assigned a Late Medieval / Early Post Medieval date (pers comm. Matt Adams). Two leather shoes were also recovered from the feature. The wood was recovered during an archaeological evaluation carried out by Britannia Archaeology Ltd during summer 2018 under Site Code ECB5687 at Littleport, Cambridgeshire and was recorded off site by M. Bamforth in August 2018. The stake was situated in waterlogged deposits which created the anaerobic conditions necessary for organic preservation.

Methodology

This document has been produced in accordance with Historic England guidelines for the treatment of waterlogged wood (Brunning and Watson 2010) and recommendations made by the Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993) for the retention of waterlogged wood. The system of categorisation and interrogation developed by Taylor (1998, 2001) and the condition scale developed by the Humber Wetlands project (Van de Noort et. al. 1995: Table 15.1) have been adopted within this report. The stake was identified as oak via anatomical characteristics visible with a hand lens.

Range and Variation

Formed of medium diameter oak (*Quercus* sp.) roundwood, the lower end of the stake is in good condition with a series of tool facets clearly visible. Where visible, the growth rings describe a moderate rate of growth (3-4 mm per year). The bark edge has not survived, precluding an estimation of the season of felling. The stake has been worked to a pencil point from all directions and the facets describe a relatively broad axe, as is commensurate with the suggested period. Sapwood survives towards the base of the stake, with condition becoming poorer higher up. At the top of the stake only the relatively tough heartwood survives, and the item terminates where it has passed through the preservation horizon for waterlogged wood. The stake measures 1635 mm long with a maximum diameter of 105 mm.

Statement of Potential and Recommendations

The woodworking, although relatively basic, is typical of an axe sharpened stake. Oak occurs ubiquitously throughout the prehistoric and historic period as an excellent hard wearing structural timber that has incredibly wide-ranging uses, including in wet

environments, such as the item considered herein. Oak is an easily worked timber that can be split readily in both planes (Wilson and White 1986; Gale and Cutler 2000). Oak grows in stands and mixed woodland and will also tolerate damp soils. As such, it is likely to have been growing in the vicinity of the site.

The item has no further analytical potential and no further work is advised. It is suggested that the material is discarded.

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Sample Assessment

LITTLEPORT
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Client:	Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Author:	M Law
Doc Ref:	LP2255E-EAR-v18.1
Site Code:	ECB5387
Date:	September 18

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1. Introduction

1.1. This report presents an assessment of samples from land rear of 1 Hempfield Road, Littleport, Cambridgeshire. 1 monolith sample was submitted along with five 10 litre bulk samples from the contexts within the monolith, and one 30 litre sample from a pit.

2. Methodology

2.1. The monolith sample was unwrapped, rewetted and cleaned. Detailed lithostratigraphic recording was carried out following standard prompts (SASSA N.D.). The monolith was rewrapped after recording.

2.2. The samples were processed in a Siraf-style flotation tank by Sandra Gallego Prieto of L - P : Archaeology. The washover (flot) of each sample was caught on a 250µm mesh. The residue was caught on a 1mm mesh.

2.3. The residues were then air dried and sorted under a low power microscope.

2.4. The flots were scanned while wet, and then air dried before being sorted under a low power microscope.

3. Results

3.1. The lithostratigraphic sequence is described in TABLE 1.

3.2. Numbers of materials in samples, with weights rounded to the nearest whole gram, are presented in TABLE 2.

3.3. Preservation of organic material was good. The samples did not contain modern root material.

Context Number	Level above Ordnance Datum (OD) (m)	Description
1008	5.58	Dark reddish brown with distinct mid brownish yellow mottles. Organo-mineral (amorphous peat). Clay/ Peat. Stone free. No inclusions. Clear boundary onto
1010	5.44	Dark greyish brown-black with faint mid brownish yellow and distinct dark brownish red mottles. Organic. Amorphous peat. Slightly stony - small sub-rounded flint pebbles. No inclusions. Abrupt boundary onto
1011	5.33	Dark greyish brown-black. Uniform. Amorphous peat. Few horizontal beds of mid greyish yellow silty clay. Stone free. No inclusions. Clear boundary onto
1012	5.23	Mid brownish grey with distinct black mottles. Clay. Stone free. Rare wood inclusions. Clear boundary onto
1013	4.81	Mid brownish grey with distinct dark grey brown and black mottles. Silty clay. Stone free. Rare wood inclusions.

Table 1 – Lithostratigraphy of sample 1

Context Number	1003		1010		1011		1012		1013		1015	
Sample Number	2		3		4		5		6		7	
Context Description	Peaty clay		Peat		Peat		Clay		Clay		Pit fill	
	Flot	Residue	Flot	Residue	Flot	Residue	Flot	Residue	Flot	Residue	Flot	Residue
Weight after processing (g)	24 (wet)	233 (dry)	46 (wet)	110 (dry) (wet)	244	160 (dry)	24 (wet)	100 (dry)	38 (wet)	16 (dry)	217 (wet)	955 (dry)
% modern roots	0		0		0		0		0		0	
CHARCOAL						8 (2g)		1 (1g)				
WOOD										5 (1g)		14 (43g)
SEEDS (10g)	14 (1g)		56 (1g)		>500		15 (1g)		29(1g)	22 (1g)		43 (2g)
SHELL (2g)	7 (1g)	1 (1g)		1 (1g)					3 (1g)	23 (2g)	5 (1g)	78
OSTRACODA									2 (1g)	4 (1g)		
	22 (1g) BONE								7 (31g)			
	1 (1g) FISH BONE											
	22 (1g) FISH SCALE											2
(1g)	34 (1g) CLADOCERA									3 (1g)	20 (1g)	
	4 (1g)											
FIRED CLAY		1 (1g)										

Table 2 – Biological remains and artefacts from samples

4. Discussion

4.1. LITHOSTRATIGRAPHY

4.1.1. The earliest deposit is a stone free silty clay, context 1013, with distinct dark grey brown mottles, likely derived from humified organics, and black mottles, which are likely to be manganese dioxide. It is interpreted as an alluvial deposit, probably formed under mudflat conditions. The presence of manganese dioxide reflects waterlogging, and the absence of reddish-brown ferrous oxides suggests that it has remained a waterlogged deposit and is not subject to seasonal fluctuation in the water table.

4.1.2. This deposit is overlain by thick clay deposit, 1012. This is also an alluvial deposit, with frequent manganese dioxide mottles. There are faint traces of horizontal bedding within this clay, which are likely to represent successive flooding episodes.

4.1.3. Overlying this clay is an amorphous peat, context 1011, containing three thin beds of mid greyish yellow silty clay. This deposit represents a succession of the mudflat environment with vegetation, most likely reedbed, although no discernable plant structures are preserved. The clay beds are likely to represent flooding episodes which were substantial enough to cover the reedbed environment.

4.1.4. This is overlain by context 1010, a thicker amorphous peat, which represents a sustained period of peat accretion under reedbed conditions.

4.1.5. The highest deposit in the sequence, 1008, is a peaty clay with a noticeably redder hue than the underlying peats. This is likely derived from ferrous oxides and suggests the onset of terrestrial soil formation linked to drainage and subsequent drying of the reedbed environment.

4.2.BIOLOGICAL REMAINS

4.2.1. Organic and calcareous remains are well-preserved within the entire sequence, with snails such as Gyraulus crista and Radix balthica, found in freshwater

environments, present in most samples. Ephippia (resting cases) of Cladocera (water fleas) are present in contexts 1013 and 1012, suggesting the sediments were deposited in a water body. There is no suggestion from the samples that the sediments were laid down in brackish water/ saltmarsh conditions. Some marine mollusc shells are present in 1010 and 1008, however these are fragments of edible taxa (oyster and mussel) and likely to be food waste.

4.2.2. The pit fill, context 1015, contains abundant organic and calcareous remains, including numerous fish scales. The fill of this pit would appear to bewaterlain.

5. Statement of Potential and Recommendations

5.1. The samples show excellent preservation, and can be expected to reveal detailed insights into the stratigraphy of the site, and the nature of pit fill 1015.

5.2. Analysis is recommended of the following classes of remains from the samples: plant macrofossils from all samples (including the wood from context 1015), as well as molluscs, and fish bone and scale from context 1015.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Six processed flots/washover samples have been analysed for this report. The material consisted of dessicated plant remains (macroplant seeds, grains, caryopsis and charcoal), and well as very limited amount of charcoal and wood material. The soil samples were processed by L-P: Archaeology, initially sorted, and then supplied to the author.

1.2. The material was examined at x60 magnification for charred and uncharred botanical remains. Identification of these was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material held by the author, and by reference to relevant literature (CAPPERS ET AL. 2006; JACOMET 2006). Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace (2010). No cereal remains were identified. The results of the analysis have been summarised on the Excel table accompanying this document.

1.3. The charcoal remains were sieved to 2mm and 4mm and an assessment made of the +4mm material. Charcoal/wood was assessed at x100-500 magnification. Identification was aided by reference texts (HATHER 2000; SCHWEINGRUBER 1990).

1.4. In the cases of samples <2> (1008), <3> (1010), <5> (1012), <6> (1013) and <7> (1015) the total number of individual items is presented on the Excel table; however, due to the abundance of material in sample <4> (1011) this material was only approximately assessed as possibly producing 10s, 100s, or 1000s of material should the whole flot be sorted.

1.5. For the purposes of clarity the references to 'seeds' identified here refer to the seed or fruit structures unless otherwise stated; that is to say the propagule or disseminule structures. Where fruits, seeds pods or other material was identified these are mentioned in the Excel document as such.

2. Discussion

2.1. The first notable element of the assemblage is the lack of charred plant remains which might indicate past agricultural activity. The assemblage as a whole is dominated by the waterlogged (now desiccated) remains of seeds indicative of slow moving water near a nutrient rich, open environment.

2.2. Samples <2> (1008) and <5> (1012) produced few remains. The infrequent elder and buttercup seeds in both of these samples could equally be indicative of poor preservation as a specific environment.

2.3. Moderate numbers were identified from samples <3> (1010) and <6> (1013). In particular sample <3> (1010) produced c.30 seeds of Thalictrum flavum (Common Meadow rue), a plant indicative of wet open habitats. Other species recovered in smaller numbers such as the Ranunculus sceleratus (Celery leaved buttercup) would also support this interpretation. The presence of a number of willow fruiting cases in sample <6> (1013) points to some tree/scrub cover (in addition to the occasional elder seeds), but in such low number this material could also have been washed in from nearby.

2.4. In terms of abundant remains the highest numbers of individual seeds were observed in sample <4> (1011). This sample was dominated by seeds of Ranunculus sceleratus. In such large numbers this is indicative of pool of shallow water in open environments. In addition to this the eggs of the water flea Daphnia were also observed, which again is indicative of still, open water. The frequent presence of seeds of common meadow-rue, Sinapis species (Wild mustard species), and Hyoscyamus niger (Henbane), and Carex species (sedges) also suggest wetter environments; and possibly nutrient rich environments in the case of the henbane.

2.5. Sample <7> (1015) produced the greatest variety of material, thought these were largely present in low individual frequencies (mainly less than 2 or fewer examples). The presence of Atropa belladonna (Deadly Nightshade) and Solanum dulcamera (Bittersweet) might suggest relatively nutrient rich, wet environments. The fruiting bodies of Zannichellia palustris (Horned pondweed; fruits) can only be indicative of

open water bodies. As with other samples the abundance of Ranunculus sceleratus (Celery leaved buttercup) suggests that over all this is indicative of a wet environment.

2.6. The charcoal remains were only present in sample <4> (1011). After sieving the charcoal remains greater than 4mm amounted to 28 fragments, all weighing between 0.5-2grams. There was a comparable amounted of woody waterlogged material in addition to the charred material.

2.7. The material appears to be mainly small twig fragments; except in one case where the material was a fragment of charred reed. That this was mainly roundwood is concluded due to the strong curvature seen on all of the fragments examined. Two of the fragments examined consisted of wood from an Acer species (presumably Acer campestre; field maple – identified via diffuse porous vessels, indistinct ring boundary, thin ray width, and simple perforation plates). Another examined fragment could not be identified (the main characteristics were vessels in tangential bands, scalariform perforation plates (less than 10 bars), simple ground tissue fibres). In general the material appeared to be well preserved and suitable for future identification if needed.

2.8. The waterlogged wood fragments (now dried) also mainly consisted of small twig/roundwood fragments, though some bark fragments, and two larger fragments (12.9grams and 4.2 grams) were also present. These could not be identified due the shrinkage and distortion of the wood cells.

Sample	2	3	4	5	6	7
Context	1008	1010	1011	1012	1013	1015
Feature Type						
Volume processed (litres)						
Weight of flot (grams)	24	43	244	24	38	217
Radiocarbon material						
Non–plant remains						
Daphinia eggs			100+			
Sclerotia	1					
Total charred cereal remains						
Other plant remains (relative abundance)						
Atropa belladonna (Deadly Nightshade)						2
Callitriche species (water starwort)						1
Carex species (trigonous species nutlets)		7	100+			
Chenopodium species (Goosefoot species)				2	2	8
Cirsium arvense (Creeping thistle)						2
Cirsium species (Thistle genus)						1
Fallopia convolvulus (Black bindweed)						1
Geranium species (Cranesbills)						1
Hyoscyamus niger (Henbane)			10s		2	
Ilex aquifolium (Holly)	2					2
Lamium species (Deadnettle)		2			1	
Onobrychis viciifolia (Common sainfoin)		2	10s			
Persicaria species (Knotweed species)						2
Pinus species (Pine; seed)					2	
Ranunculus bulbosus (Bulbous buttercup)		5				
Ranunculus peltatus (Pond water-crowfoot)					1	5
Ranunculus repens (Creeping buttercup)	7					
Ranunculus sceleratus (Celery leaved buttercup)		3	1000+	10	21	70+
Raphanus raphanustrum (Wild Radish; seed pod)						2
Rubus cf. *idaeus* (Brambleberry; raspberry)		1	10s			
Salix alba (White willow; fruit)					2	
Sambucus species (Elder)	2	4		1	1	
Sinapis species (Wild mustard species)			10s			2
Solanum dulcamera (Bittersweet)						1
Stachys species (Woundwort species)						2
Thalictrum flavum (Common Meadow rue)		30+	100+			1
Vicia species (Vetch species)						1
Zannichellia palustris (Horned pondweed; fruits)					2	1
Unid	1		2			

Table 1 – Plant macrofossils

3. Dating Potential

3.1. All sample produced material which would be suitable for AMS radiocarbon dating. However, material from <4> (1011) and <7> (1015) would probably be most suitable due to the volume of individual seeds of Ranunculus sceleratus (Celery leaved buttercup) that could be dated. In terms of charcoal the material from <4> (1011) produced ample charred roundwood for an AMS date.

4. Primary Conclusions

4.1. The absence of charred cereal grains, even as a background to the soil seeds bank suggests limited presence of nearby domestic activity when the contexts were being formed.

4.2. The presence of charcoal suggests at least some human activity nearby, though the small volume, and the size of the material suggests it might have been washed into the site.

4.3. The presence of water flea eggs, and the presence of plants such as Zannichellia palustris (Horned pondweed; fruits) and Ranunculus sceleratus (Celery leaved buttercup) suggest some of these contexts (particularly 1011, and 1015), formed underwater.

4.4. The charcoal remains were low in frequency, but dominated by small wood fragments. Further charcoal identification is possible if needed, though the identification of the non-charred wood may be problematical.

SOURCES CONSULTED

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for Forest,
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STACE, C., 2010. New Flora of the British Isles. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

APPENDIX 2 – OASIS SHEET

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: britanni1-320391

Project details

Project name	Land Rear of 1 Hempfield Road, Littleport
Short description of the project	On the 2nd and 3rd of July 2018, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation. The evaluation successfully identified three phases of activity on the site. The first phase relates to medieval backplot activity in the form of a large cess pit. Pit 1014 was dated to the late medieval period possibly continuing into the early post-medieval period. The material found within the pit was of a domestic nature and included two soles of late medieval/early post-medieval shoes as well as fragments of domestic ceramics and butchered animal bone. The material in the pit was likely being deposited here from a medieval settlement close by. The sharpened wooden stake which was found in the pit was possibly part of a wooden structure associated with providing access to the pit or covering it, or could have been placed to prevent slumping. However, the nature and presence of a structure cannot be confirmed. The second phase is post-medieval Fen reclamation represented by reclamation and made ground layers, dated to the 16th-17th century. Made ground layers located above the reclamation layers likely to prepare the reclaimed land for construction date from the 18th-19th century. A drainage ditch cut into the top layer of made ground from this phase to likely aid with draining surface water from the site. The final phase is modern and relates to recent layers of made ground most likely associated with creating the current yard surface which is present across the site.
Project dates	Start: 02-07-2018 End: 03-07-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P1233 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	CESS PIT Medieval
Monument type	DRAINAGE DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SHOE Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POST Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Test Pits"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition

Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE LITTLEPORT Land Rear of 1 Hempfield Road
Postcode	CB6 1NW
Study area	514.27 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 5676 8675 52.455766344132 0.307335217558 52 27 20 N 000 18 26 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	WGS 84 Datum
Height OD / Depth	Min: 3.91m Max: 6.33m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Lousia Cunningham
Project director/manager	Martin Brook
Project supervisor	Matthew Baker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Peter Audus

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Physical Archive ID	ECB5387
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Leather","Metal","Wood"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Digital Archive ID	ECB5387
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Leather","Metal","Wood"
Digital Media available	"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Paper Archive ID	ECB5387
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Leather","Metal","Survey","Wood"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land Rear of 1 Hempfield Road, Littleport, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cunningham, L.
Other bibliographic details	R1213
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Britannia Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Description	A4 Bound Report with Fold-out A3 Figures
URL	http://www.britannia-archaeology.com/
Entered by	Matthew J. Baker (m.baker@brit-arch.com)
Entered on	12 November 2018

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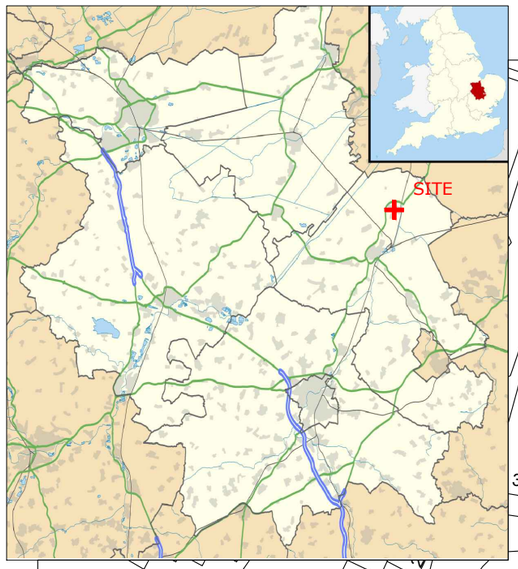

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Site Boundary

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REF:	P1233
PROJECT:	1 HEMPFIELD ROAD, LITTLEPORT, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DESCRIPTION:	GENERAL LOCATION PLAN
CLIENT:	PETER AUDUS

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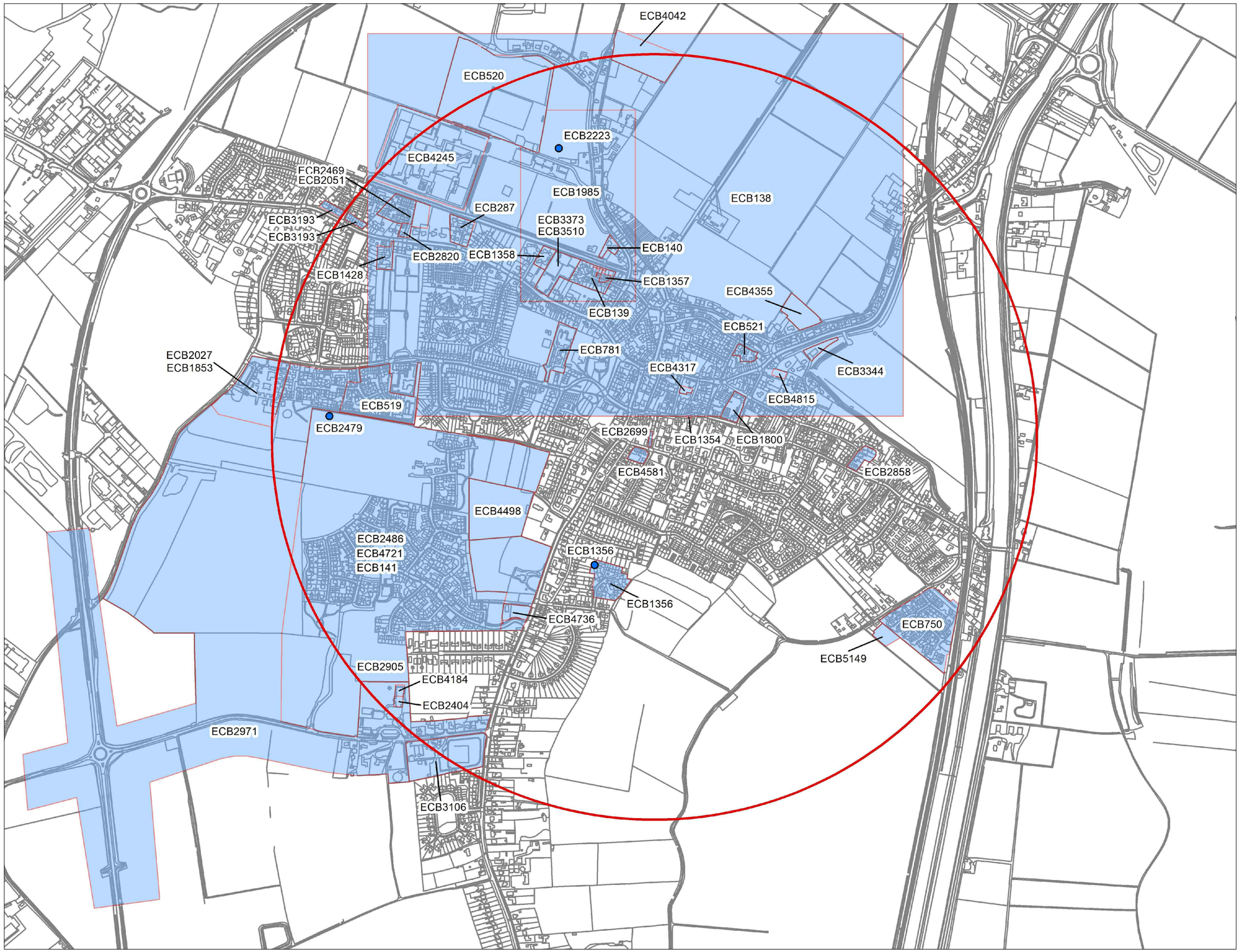
DATE: NOV 2018	PLOT: A3	VERSION: 1.2
AUTHOR: DPM		FIGURE: 1
APPROVED: MB		



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HER Search Area
Archaeological Event
Conservation Area
Scheduled Monuments
Registered Parks & Gardens
Site Boundary

NGR: 556766 286755 | REF: P1233

PROJECT: 1 HEMPFIELD ROAD, LITTLEPORT, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

DESCRIPTION: CHER DATA: EVENTS

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DATE: NOV 2018 | PLOT: A3 | VERSION: 1.2

AUTHOR: DPM | APPROVED: MB

FIGURE: 2

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HER Search Area

Site Boundary

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AUTHOR: DPM | APPROVED: MB

FIGURE: 3

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N

HER Search Area
Grade I
Grade II*
Grade II
Site Boundary

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DESCRIPTION: CHER DATA: LISTED BUILDINGS

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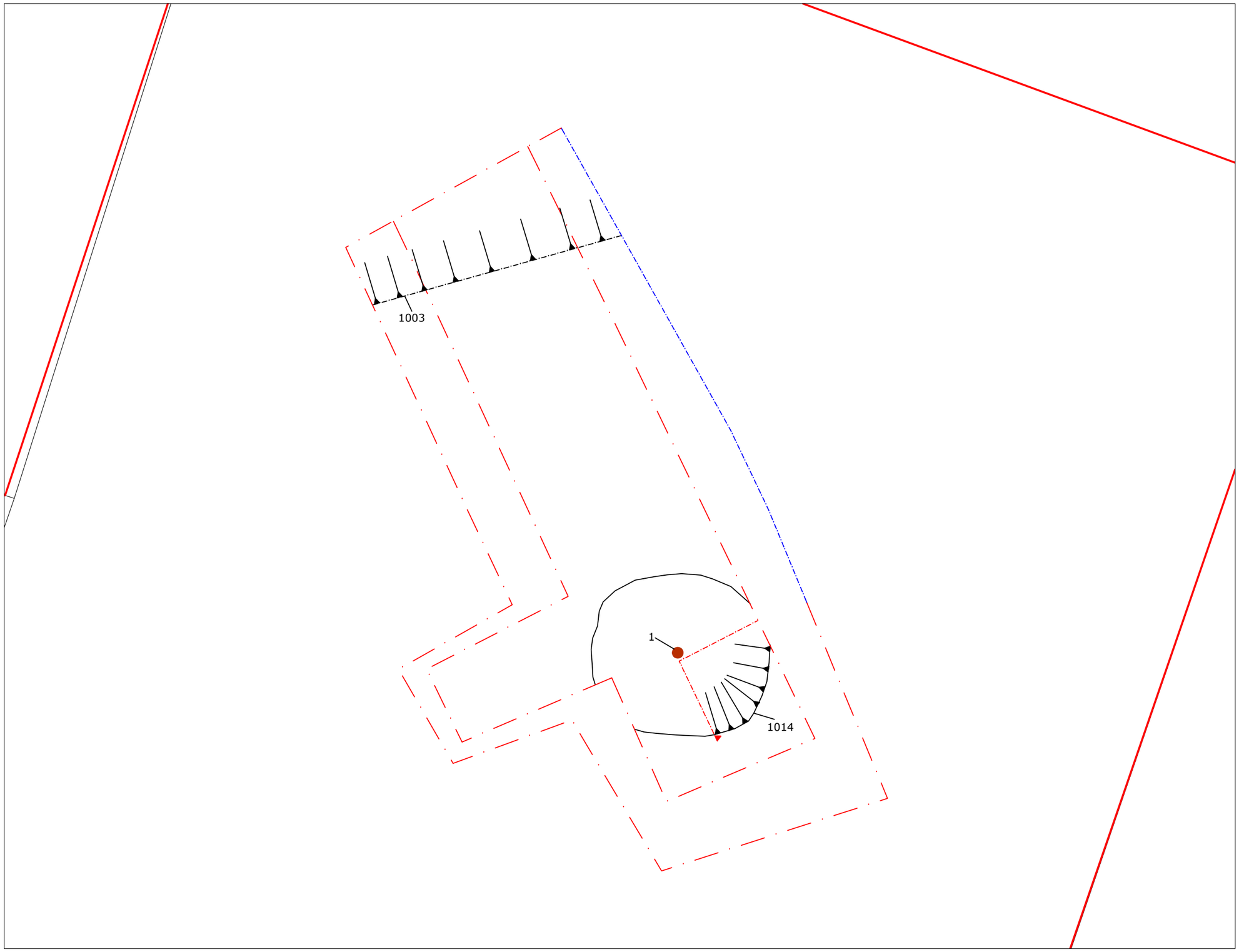
AUTHOR: DPM
APPROVED: MB

FIGURE: 4



N

Timber

Sample Section

Section Line

Excavated Feature

Trench

Site Boundary

NGR: 556766 286755

REF: P1233

PROJECT: 1 HEMPFIELD ROAD, LITTLEPORT, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

DESCRIPTION: TRENCH PLAN

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DATE: NOV 2018

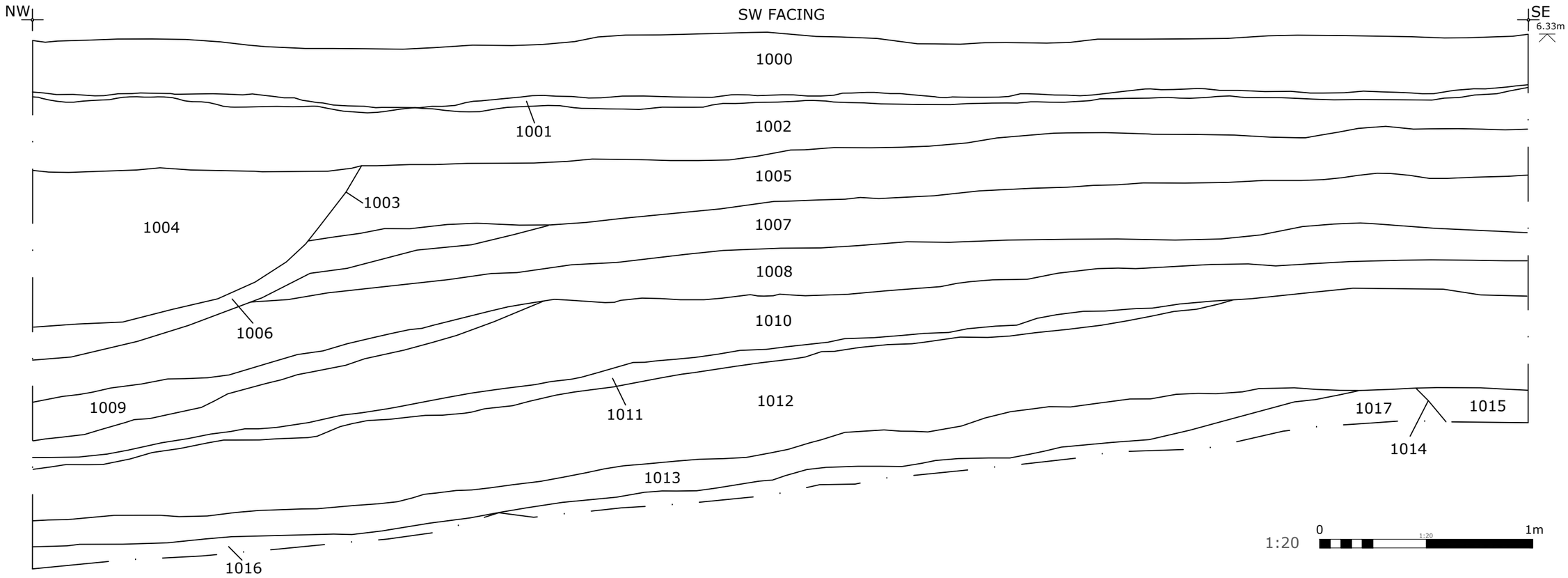
PLOT: A3

VERSION: 1

AUTHOR: MJB

APPROVED: MB

FIGURE: 5



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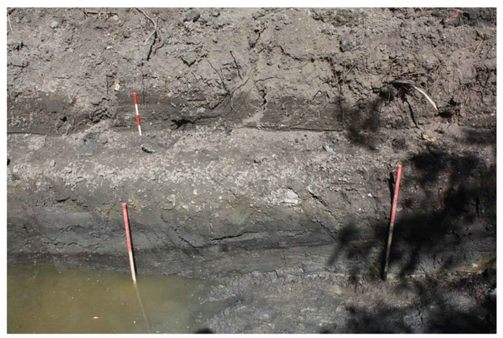

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DP 4 - SAMPLE SECTION 3, VIEW NE

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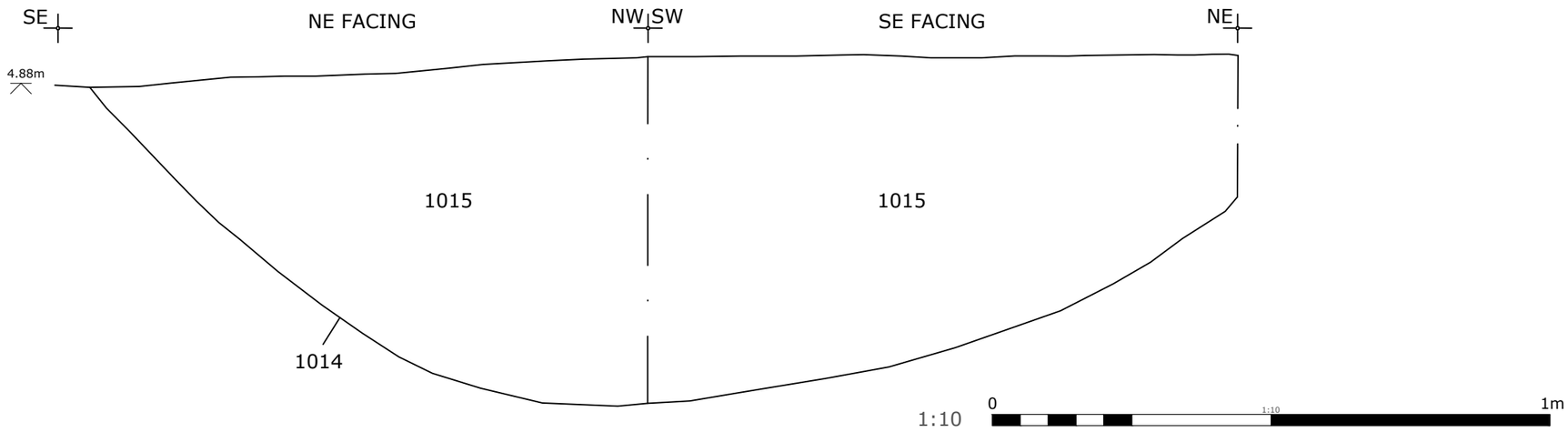
AUTHOR: MJB

APPROVED: MB

FIGURE: 6



DP 5 - TRENCH SHOT INCLUDING PIT 1014, VIEW NW

DP 2 - TRENCH SHOT, VIEW NW

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DESCRIPTION: FEATURE SECTION & PHOTOGRAPHS

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FIGURE: 7