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# 161 NEWMARKET ROAD, CAMBRIDGE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION



Report Number: R1229

January 2019

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**161 NEWMARKET ROAD, CAMBRIDGE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION**

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<b>Project No.</b>	P1221	<b>Museum ACC</b>	-
<b>Planning Ref.</b>	16/1514/FUL	<b>OASIS</b>	britanni1-328330
<b>Approved By:</b>		<b>Date</b>	January 2019



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## **Abstract**

*From 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological excavation on 161 Newmarket Road, Cambridge (NGR TL 4637 5893) in advance of the erection of 4 self-contained flats and ancillary works.*

*A previous evaluation carried out by Britannia Archaeology in April 2018 identified clear post medieval occupation of the site as well as earlier medieval activity in the vicinity of the former location of Barnwell Priory, (Brook, M. 2018).*

*The results of the excavation show four phases of activity, the first pre-dating the 15<sup>th</sup> century through to modern periods*

*The most significant phase is Phase II - 15<sup>th</sup> Century relating to an occupation layer. This is associated with domestic activity potentially relating to the former Barnwell Abbey. While the discovery of 18<sup>th</sup> century building remains on the site (Phase III) is significant in its own right this form of archaeology is unsurprising given the expansion of Cambridge in the post medieval period.*

*Despite the potential for finds and features associated with the abbey, no features relating to the medieval or post-medieval period were encountered in the excavation beyond Occupation Layer **2006**. It is highly likely that the small size of the excavation area accounted for this.*



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

From 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological excavation on 161 Newmarket Road, Cambridge (NGR TL 4637 5893) in advance of the erection of 4 self-contained flats and ancillary works (Planning Ref:16/1514/FUL).

The work was undertaken in response to a design brief issued by Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) (Thomas, A. 2018) requiring the controlled strip and excavation of an area outlined by CHET (Fig. 4). A previous evaluation carried out by Britannia Archaeology in April 2018 identified clear post medieval occupation of the site as well as earlier medieval activity in the vicinity of the former location of Barnwell Priory, (Brook, M. 2018).

The excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.



## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located in the Abbey ward of the historic City of Cambridge, close to the Abbey Church of St Andrew-the-Less dating from the early 13th century (HER 05001) and within the precinct of Barnwell Priory, dating from the early 12th century to dissolution in 1538 (HER MCB23337).

### 2.1 *Site Geology*

The natural bedrock geology is described as Gault Formation – Mudstone. This is a sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 101 to 113 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the local environment had been previously dominated by shallow seas (BSG, 2019).

No superficial geology has been recorded in the area of the site (BGS, 2019).



### **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 2019). The relevant local planning policy is Cambridge City Council Local Plan (to be adopted 2018).



#### **4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2, 3 & 4)**

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 & 4).

The most notable entries returned by the CHER are those relating to Barnwell Priory, the precinct of which this site resides in (MCB23337, ECB5134, ECB784, ECB2961). The priory was founded in 1092 in its original location near Cambridge Castle and later moved to the present site in 1112. By the end of the 13th century the priory was well established and had all the components of a large religious establishment. It was surrendered in the 1538 dissolution and much of the stone was used in Corpus Christi College. Substantial remains appeared to exist until the early 19th century when the site was subjected to gravel quarrying. Excavation in 1985 revealed traces of foundations most likely from the priory but it was reckoned that considerable portions of the structures had been quarried away, potentially over 50%. The only surviving structure from the priory is a Cellarer's Chequer, a single vaulted chamber of mid-13th century date, on the corner of Priory Road and Beche Road (DCB7290). Additionally stone coffins are noted on 1st edition OS maps as having been found in an area of gravel pits east of the priory (MCB19332).

Less than 100m west of the site is the Abbey Church of St Andrew-the-less (05001, DCB7330). It was originally built by the adjacent Barnwell Priory and was a simple early 13th century building of a nave and chancel under one roof. The rest of the church is 19th century and modern.

The prehistoric activity is represented by 4 entries in the CHER. A Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age crouched burial of an adult male was found c.60m south of the site as well as traces of a possible prehistoric field system and struck flints (ECB3941). A mid to late Iron Age ditch with 3 re-cuts was found c.300m to the east of the site (ECB3873). Further evidence of prehistoric activity was found c.400m west of the site represented by a group of early Neolithic pits with 200 flint working debitage pieces, and residual Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Early Bronze Age flints (ECB3402). In addition alluvial deposits with redeposited prehistoric artefactual material were found c.700m north of the site (ECB1208).





Romano-British activity is sparsely represented by the CHER search results. A Fragment of residual Roman pottery was found in a quarry pit of probable medieval date c. 200m south-west of the site (ECB3986). A plough tip of possible late Iron Age or Roman date was found during an excavation c.400m from the site indicating agricultural use (ECB3402).

The Saxon and medieval periods are represented extensively in the immediate area of the site by the previously mentioned Barnwell Priory and Abbey Church of St Andrew-the-less. Evidence of medieval plots fronting onto Newmarket Road was found c.60m south of the site (ECB3941). Buildings were represented by groups of post holes, clay floors, and remnants of stone walls. Evidence of ovens/kilns and wells were also found and an assemblage of stone architectural fragments interpreted as pieces of Barnwell Priory. Excavation c.80m south-west of the site revealed evidence of medieval agricultural activity and 2 possible structures; 1 building represented by a group of post-holes and possible hearth, the 2nd represented by a possible clunch wall, with a possible latrine, fragmentary clay floors and a hearth (ECB4268). Further evidence of medieval activity was found c.180m east of the site indicating agricultural land use until the 1200s and settlement from the 13th century which rapidly grew until its decline in the 15th century was found (ECB3733). In addition evidence of medieval settlement was found c.250m west of the site (ECB4585) and c.300m east of the site in the form of medieval quarry pits (ECB3986). Further evidence of medieval quarrying was found c.300m east of the site (ECB3873). A medieval occupation soil with a mix of 12th-13th century rubbish was found near the river c. 400m north of the site and is thought to be from middens associated with Barnwell Priory (ECB3333).

During the post-medieval period the 1km area around the site was quarried evidence of which has been found during excavations and evaluations (ECB4585, ECB4347, ECB4479, ECB4717, ECB3402, ECB3067, ECB3233). A medieval settlement c.60m south of the site continued in use into the 17th century in the form of a fire-damaged brick cellar, evidence of 12 buildings, and a probable manor house (ECB3941). The plots were represented by boundary ditches, pits, wells, ovens, floor surfaces, and dog burials. Post-medieval activity was also revealed c.80m south-west of the site represented by 2 clunch walls of a latrine in use until the 17th century, a possible post-hole structure, and ditches (ECB4268). Further evidence of post-medieval structures evidenced by wall footings and other remains of buildings have been found within the search area (ECB3873, ECB4347, ECB3357, ECB4183, ECB3233).



Modern features have also been encountered within the search area. Traces of previous modern terrace houses, a public house, and a bakers/grocers have been found c.80m south-west of the site (ECB4268). Some evidence of WWII activity has also been found within the search area in the form of a Nissen hut (ECB3392) and an air raid shelter (ECB3333).

A number of listed buildings were returned from the CHER search. The most significant is the previously discussed Abbey Church of St Andrew-the-less adjacent to the site (DCB7330). Additionally two extant structures relating to Barnwell Priory were found 100m from the site. DCB7290 refers to the Cellarer's Chequer (discussed above) and DCB7112 refers to a medieval stone wall which was part of the precinct wall of the priory.

### *Previous Work*

On the 12th and 13th of April 2018, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation (TL 4633 5892) at 161 Newmarket Road, Cambridge.

The evaluation was successful in revealing 3 phases of archaeology. The first phase relates to medieval activity at the site possibly associated with Barnwell Priory before its dissolution in 1548. Layers encountered near the base of the stratigraphic sequence are likely from a cut feature. Finds within these layers suggests that a structure of some type dating to this period may have been present, either on or within the immediate vicinity of the current site. Given the sites location within the probable extent of the former priory precinct a connection to possible ecclesiastical outbuildings cannot be discounted.

The second phase of activity is associated with the former 18th Century dwelling present in the excavated area. Although there are buildings present on the 1903 OS map the makeup and stratigraphic relationships of this structure place it as earlier. The courses of brick work likely denote the extent of a simple cellar. The building extended beyond the western and southern boundaries of the site but given its survival beneath the subsequent layers of urban activity it isn't unreasonable to conclude that it will have survived in the other areas of the plot.

The final phase of activity relates to the mostly modern build-up of the site to its current level. Successive phases of in filling were evidenced through made ground layers. These layers also contained demolition material associated with the structure that stood on the site prior to its use as a garage. This structure can be seen on the 1903 OS map.



Overall the evaluation was successful in assessing the survival of archaeological remains at the site. The project has identified clear post medieval occupation of the site as well as earlier medieval activity in the vicinity of the former location of Barnwell Priory.

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



## 5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The broad aims are to undertake the excavation of the site, with the primary objective to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

The aims will include, but not be limited to the following:

- Urban development – To investigate the character, extent and morphology of urban development and the utilisation and agricultural use of the landscape in the area. To examine enclosure size and shape to determine if agricultural regimes can be identified in conjunction with the potential environmental evidence.
- To contribute, where possible to the study of post medieval structures and ceramics in Cambridge, assemblage allowing.
- Settlement typology – new sites tested against established patterns and the overall hierarchy reviewed;
- To define the character and phasing of medieval and post medieval in the area and contribute to an understanding of the development of Barnwell Priory and its immediate local.

To achieve these aims the excavation will:

- excavate and provide a record of the archaeological remains on site in order to mitigate the impact of development;
- characterise the development, phasing, spatial organisation, character, function, and the nature of social, economic and industrial activities of the site;

Undertake a programme of post-excavation analysis leading to appropriate forms of public dissemination.



## **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).



## 7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The CHET brief required the excavation of the area to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits. The excavation area had been placed to target the areas of reduction on site (Fig.4).

Due to the onsite constraints, namely the standing building directly adjacent the excavation area, it was necessary for the building to be underpinned. This was undertaken by the excavation of a 2.00m wide strip adjacent to the building (undertaken by a small 360 machine and hand digging) to a safe working level. This depth was to the existing substructure of the adjacent building which was subsequently reinforced. Once completed the rest of the site strip then continued.

It became evident as the excavation proceeded that the eastern portion for the site had been subject to major intrusive works most likely associated with the construction of the garage that was formerly on the site. Multiple areas of modern disturbance were recorded. These included soakaways, service runs and reclamation actions for the construction of the buildings to the north of the site.

A 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket will be used to machine down to the first archaeological horizon (identified in the preceding evaluation), thereafter all excavation work was undertaken by hand (Fig. 4 - 6).

Previous ground investigations at the site (by Environmental Protection Strategies Ltd) included the excavation of three boreholes to a maximum depth of 5m. According to the report the ground conditions were found to comprise a significant thickness of made ground underlain by sand & gravel and chalk. Hydrocarbon odours were identified within the sand and gravel at one location, (Androsiuk 2016). Due to the possible depth of excavation and the presence of possible contaminants the monitoring CHET planning archaeologist was kept informed of any developments on site that require the alteration of the intended site methodology.

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





## 8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig. 4 - 6)

The results presented below are organised by phase. This is based on finds recovered and stratigraphic relationships to other contexts. A full context list and descriptions are presented at Appendix 1.

In this case, pottery spot dates and stratigraphic relationship form the primary means of dating.

### *Phasing*

The following phases were identified during the excavation and post excavation analysis to date:

- I. Undated
- II. 15<sup>th</sup> Century
- III. 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- IV. Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century / Modern

### *8.1 Phase I - Undated*

Deposits (**2010**, **2009**, **2008** and **2007**) were encountered at the base of the archaeological stratigraphic sequence. No dating evidence was found, but they were sealed by a 15<sup>th</sup> century occupation layer **2006**. They have been interpreted as former sub soils. Buried Soil **2007**, initially identified in the preceding evaluation as possibly been from the fill of a cut feature, proved not to be upon the excavation of the area around the evaluation trench. Buried soil **2007** is likely an earlier occupation layer, however no further dating evidence was recovered in this phase of works.

Buried Soil **2007** comprised mid-grey brown, compact, clayey silt. In the preceding evaluation only animal bone was recovered from this layer which was likely food preparation waste, evidenced by the presence of butchery marks on the bone (Curl. 2018).

These have been assigned to Phase I due to the stratigraphic relationship with Buried Soil **2006**, and likely represent earlier accumulation and layers.



## 8.2 Phase II – 15<sup>th</sup> Century

Phase II has been assigned to the 15<sup>th</sup> century and is represented by Buried Soil **2006**. This layer comprised light grey brown, compact, clayey silt. It was initially thought in the preceding evaluation that this layer could be from a cut feature but on the excavation of the area around the trial trench it proved to be a layer. No dating evidence was recovered during the excavation stage, however the evaluation recovered five sherds of pottery that were collectively dated to the 15<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, 2018). The pottery dated to the pre dissolution period indicating that this layer accumulated whilst the abbey precinct was occupied.

## 8.3 Phase III – 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Phase III has been assigned to the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Century and is represented by the structure (**2003**) and the associated Levelling and Demolition layers.

Structure **2003** likely represents the remains of a cellar. The structure (which measured 3.85m east to west x 3.54m north to south) was made up of two courses of bricks forming the outer wall of the dwelling basement. The wall was truncated to the south by a modern service. The course of the wall did not continue following the interruption of the service. The walls were formed of laid bricks and mortar. Average brick dimensions were 230 x 110 x 60mm and all were un-frogged. No further types of brick were identified differing from those already observed during the prior evaluation. The bricks were arranged in a simple English bond and the two courses were on an east to west alignment and a north to south alignment. The bricks sat on a bedding layer (**2012**) of fine, light yellow orange sand. Two bricks were taken from the wall for analysis in the preceding evaluation. The bricks were both in white fired fabrics which were medium sanded and contained common fine red iron ore as their main obvious inclusion. An analysis of their dimensions showed that they correspond to Drury's LB9 (1993, 168) and this alongside the fabric style, dates them from the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century, (Fawcett, 2018).

Interior Structure fill (**2012**) was a bedding layer used to fill the construction cut (**2013**) for the structure foundations. No additional finds were recovered during this stage of works, however the preceding evaluation finds included pottery (19g) the majority of which was dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, 2018).



#### 8.4 Phase IV – Early 20th Century / Modern

The final phase of activity, Phase IV has been assigned to Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century / Modern period and relates to the mostly modern build-up of the site to its current level. Successive phases of in filling were evidenced through made ground layers **2001** and **2002**. These layers also contained demolition material associated with the structure that previously stood on the site.

Multiple modern services, soakaways and reclamation work were evident within the excavation area.



## 9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 6)

The deposit model was consistent in the excavated area.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence was the current yard surface for the plot Levelling Layer **2000**. This comprised mid yellow brown, friable sandy gravel and was present to a thickness of 0.50m in Sample Section 1.

Below Levelling Layer 2000 was Undifferentiated Made Ground Layer **2001** which comprised black grey friable sandy silt with frequent modern CBM rubble inclusions. The layer was present to a depth of 0.99m. This layer was the result of persistent redevelopment in the 1900s.

Similarly the next layer in the stratigraphic sequence was Undifferentiated Made Ground Layer **2002** which comprised a dark brown grey friable sandy silt with frequent modern CBM inclusions. The layer was present to a depth of 1.31m.

The next layer in the sequence was Occupation Layer **2006** which comprised a light grey brown, compact, clayey silt. The layer was 0.33m thick to a depth of 1.64m

Below Occupation Layer 2006 was Buried Soil **2007**. This layer comprised mid-grey brown, compact, clayey silt which was present to a depth of 1.87m. This layer likely represents a former agricultural soil before the land was encapsulated as part of the Abbey precinct.

The next layer in the stratigraphic sequence was Sub soil **2008**. This layer comprised was comprised of mid-grey brown, compact, silty sand with frequent flint gravel inclusions. This layer was 0.64m thick and present to a depth of 2.51m.

Below Sub soil 2008 was Sub soil **2009** which was comprised of mid brown orange, silty clay with infrequent moderate flint inclusions. The layer was present to a depth of 2.80m.

The penultimate layer in the stratigraphic sequence was Sub soil **2010**. This layer comprised a light grey silty clay with infrequent flint gravel inclusions. This layer was 0.20m thick and was present to a depth of 3.00m.



The final layer in the sequence was natural geology **2011**, comprising of a light yellow-orange and grey-white, compact sandy clay.



## 10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The results of the excavation show four phases of activity, the first pre-dating the 15<sup>th</sup> century through to modern periods

The most significant phase is Phase II - 15<sup>th</sup> Century relating to an occupation layer associated with domestic activity in that period potentially relating to the former Barnwell Abbey. While the discovery of 18<sup>th</sup> century building remains on the site (Phase III) is significant in its own right this form of archaeology is unsurprising given the expansion of Cambridge in the post medieval period.

The first phase of activity on the site is associated with its use before the development of Barnwell Abbey. This is represented by sub soils **2010, 2009, 2008** and **2007**.

The second phase of activity was represented by Occupation Layer **2008**. The presence of medieval courseware's, reduced wares and white wares (Fawcett, 2018) recovered in the evaluation securely dates this layer to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. This medieval activity at the site possibly associated with Barnwell Priory before its dissolution in 1548 and can be used to potentially map the developing extent of the Abbey grounds along Newmarket Road in this period. This layer extended beyond the confines of the site to the west and south.

The third phase of activity associated with the 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century is associated with the former 18<sup>th</sup> Century dwelling present in the excavated area. Although there are buildings present on the 1903 OS map, the makeup and stratigraphic relationships of this structure place it as earlier (Brook, 2018). The courses of brick work likely denote the extent of a simple cellaring. The building extends beyond the western boundaries of the site and was truncated to the south by a service. It is evident that the structure has survived and therefore survives in the adjacent plot to the west.

The final phase of activity relates to the mostly modern build-up of the site to its current level. Successive phases of in filling were evidenced through made ground layers which also contained demolition material from the structure previously standing on the site.

### *Conclusion*





Despite the potential for finds and features associated with the abbey, no features relating to the medieval or post-medieval period were encountered in the excavation beyond Occupation Layer **2006**. It is highly likely that the small size of the excavation area accounted for this.

The site has the potential to help inform settlement distribution as highlighted in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England; East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 Medlycott. 2011*. However the confines on the excavation area and lack of scope for expansion in the immediate local of the site severely limit this potential.

The results of the excavation offer some contribution to the overall body of information regarding the development of Barnwell Abbey and Cambridge in its wider historic setting during the medieval and post medieval periods.



## **11.0 POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER WORK**

Based on the results already presented from the excavations at 161 Newmarket Road, Cambridge (both Evaluation and Excavation) it is unlikely that any further post excavation work would significantly add to the conclusions already drawn from the project. This is supported by the specialist reports from the evaluation where no further work is recommended on the pottery and the animal bone assemblage has revealed as much information as it is likely to.



## **12.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

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



### **13.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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



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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

### Deposit Tables

#### Sample Section 1

Test Pit No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
1	n/a	13.05m	DP9
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
1	W side	E Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
2000	0.00 – 0.50m	Levelling Layer: mid yellow brown, friable sandy gravel.	
2001	0.50 – 0.99m	Undifferentiated made ground: black grey friable sandy silt with frequent modern CBM rubble inclusions.	
2002	0.99 – 1.31m	Undifferentiated Made Ground Layer: Dark brown grey friable sandy silt with frequent modern CBM inclusions.	
2006	1.31 – 1.64m	Occupation Layer: light grey brown, compact, clayey silt.	
2007	1.64 – 1.87m	Buried Soil: mid-grey brown, compact, clayey silt.	
2008	1.87 – 2.51m	Sub Soil: mid-grey brown, compact, silty sand with frequent flint gravel inclusions.	
2009	2.51 – 2.80m	Sub Soil: mid brown orange, silty clay with infrequent moderate flint inclusions.	
2010	2.80 – 3.00m	Sub Soil: light grey silty clay with infrequent flint gravel inclusions.	
2011	3.00m+	Natural Geology: light yellow-orange and grey-white, compact sandy clay.	

### Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
2003	Structure (N-S 3.85m x 0.34m x 0.55m/ E-W 2.32m x 0.33m x 0.69m) Two courses bricks forming the outer wall of dwelling basement. Brick dimensions were 230 x 110 x 60mm and all were unforded. Arranged in a simple English bond and the two courses.	1005	Levelling layer: mid-grey, very compact silty clay.		
		2004	Demolition Layer: light yellow brown compact sandy clay with infrequent CBM inclusions.	Mid-late 18 <sup>th</sup> C	None
2013	Construction Cut (0.93m x 1.42m x 0.25m) Full shape was not visible in plan. Gently sloping sides, and a concave base. Construction cut for structure 2003.	2012	Bedding layer: light yellowish orange, fine, sand.	Mid-late 18 <sup>th</sup> C	None



## **APPENDIX 2 – SPECIALIST REPORTS FROM EVALUATION PHASE**

### **The medieval/post-medieval pottery and CBM (ceramic building material) from 161 Newmarket Road, Cambridge (ECB5380): An Assessment Report**

*Andy Fawcett*

#### **Introduction**

A total of twenty-three sherds of pottery (225g) and twenty-three fragments of CBM (10429g) were recovered from the trial trenching at 161 Newmarket Road, Cambridge. This report firstly sets out a methodology of work and then describes both the pottery and CBM assemblages that were retrieved from a total of five contexts. The last two sections of the report contain an overall discussion of the assemblages, and recommendations for any further work on the materials.

#### **Methodology**

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

#### **Wall 1003**

Two bricks were taken as samples from Wall 1003, one of which is complete and the other partially so. The bricks are both in white fired fabrics which are medium sanded and contain common fine red iron ore as their main obvious inclusion. An analysis of their dimensions (see Appendix 2) shows that they correspond to Drury's LB9 (1993, 168) and this alongside the fabric style, dates them from the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Wall Interior (1004)**

Seven sherds of slightly abraded pottery, dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, were retrieved from this wall interior fill (92g). The majority of these sherds (six) all belong to the remains of



a 19<sup>th</sup> century English brown glazed stoneware pitcher (ESW) which displays the remains of a face below the spout. The final fabric within this group is a single body sherd of refined white earthenware (REFW) dated from the late 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century.

This top fill of the interior wall area contained three fragments of roof tile (219g). The pieces are fairly small but display only slight abrasion. The group is made up of one residual medieval fragment (95g) that has a buff/reduced surface and thick grey core with slight traces of mortar on one surface. It contains abundant calcite alongside sand and is dated from around the mid 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The remaining two fragments (124g) are both in white sandy fabrics one of which also contains calcite (Wsgc) as well as iron rich streaked grog. Both examples are dated from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Wall Interior (1005)**

The second interior wall fill contained an assemblage of eleven pottery sherds (103g) and is dated from the early-mid/?late? 18<sup>th</sup> century. The group is made up of three post-medieval fabrics, slipware (PMSW) glazed red earthenware (GRE) and refined white earthenware (REFW). The assemblage is dominated by GRE sherds (seven) whose condition is variable, being between abraded and slightly abraded; this fabric group contains a single platter rim and handle. With the exception of a base fragment in fabric REFW, the remainder of the pottery assemblage is composed of body sherds.

Sixteen pieces of roof tile (455g) were recovered from this second interior fill, all of which are roof tile fragments. As noted in the previous fill, the fragments are small although in this case the pieces exhibit variable abrasion, as was also noted within the pottery assemblage from the context. Four residual fragments are dated to the late medieval period (57g). These all have a thick grey core, two of which have reduced surfaces whilst the remainder are oxidised. The fabrics mostly contain abundant or common calcite (Msc) whereas a single example contains grog as its main notable inclusion (Msg).

A total of five fully oxidised CBM fragments (156g) in simple medium sandy fabrics (Ms) or with ferrous inclusions (Msfe) are broadly dated to the post-medieval period. Finally, seven white sanded fabrics were noted (242g) most of which contained streaky iron rich grog alongside calcite; some displayed an orange/pinkish core. This last group is dated from the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Buried soil layer (1006)**

Five body sherds of pottery were noted in soil layer 1006 (30g) which collectively are dated to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Although the sherds are fragmentary, they exhibit only slight abrasion



and four different fabric types are represented in the group, medieval coarseware (MCW), late medieval reduced ware (LMR), Surrey white ware (SURREY) and late medieval/early post-medieval transitional ware (LMT). With the exception of MCW the remaining fabrics are all wheel thrown; fabric LMT displays a clear glaze on top of its rather rough textured oxidised surface.

Two very small and slightly abraded fragments of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century roof tile (34g) were noted within this buried soil layer. The pieces are clearly of a later date by comparison to the pottery assemblage recovered from the same fill. The reason for this discrepancy is that the fragments were retrieved from the inter-action zone between this context and the one above (1005).

### **Discussion**

The pottery and CBM assemblages from 161 Newmarket Road represent the debris of domestic settlement for at least two time periods, the 19<sup>th</sup> and the early-mid/?late?18<sup>th</sup> century. Given the fact that evidence has previously been noted for post-medieval settlement in the area (c 80m south-west of the site, for instance ECB4183, 4268 and 4347), in the form of wall footings and other building remains, it is of no surprise to find more materials to substantiate this activity.

Unlike the material from contexts 1004 and 1005, the evidence from the buried soil layer 1006 is dated to the late medieval period. It is highly likely too that the pottery, as well as the residual tile noted in the post-medieval layers above, also hint at some form of domestic activity. Indeed, the previously recorded medieval plots fronting Newmarket Road 60m south of the site (ECB3941) would seem to confirm this conclusion. However, the pottery assemblage (being composed of undecorated body sherds) does not contain enough evidence within it to prove beyond doubt that they are representative of medieval domestic activity. The attendance of residual medieval tile suggests that a structure of some type dating to this period was present, either on or within the immediate vicinity of the current site, which may be either of a domestic nature or perhaps related to some form of 'industrial' activity.

### **Recommendations for further work**

The pottery assemblage from 161 Newmarket Road has been fully recorded and no further examination of the group will be required.



The CBM assemblage has also been fully recorded and no further analysis of the material will be needed.

It is recommended however, that the results of this current analysis should be taken into account in the event of any subsequent archaeological fieldwork undertaken at the location.

### **Bibliography**

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Drury, P., 1993, 'Ceramic building materials' in Margeson, S., *Norwich Households*, EAA 58, Norwich Survey pp163-8

McCarthy, M. R & Brooks, C. M., 1988, *Medieval pottery in Britain AD900-1600*, Leicester University Press

Spoerry, P., 2016, *The production and distribution of medieval pottery in Cambridgeshire*, East Anglian Report No 159

### **Appendix 3: Fabric and form codes**

#### **Pottery**

##### *Medieval*

MCW	Medieval coarseware
SURR	Surrey white ware
LMR	Late medieval reduced ware
LMT	Late medieval/early post-medieval transitional ware

##### *Post-medieval*

GRE	Glazed red earthenware
PMSW	Post-medieval slipware
ESW	English stoneware
REFW	Refined white earthenware

#### **CBM**

MS	Oxidised and medium sandy
MSC	Oxidised and medium sandy with calcite



MSG	Oxidised medium sandy with grog
MSF	Oxidised medium sandy with flint
WS	White/off white and medium sandy
WSGC	White/off white and medium sandy with grog and calcite
WSC	White/off white and medium sandy with calcite

**Abrasion**

Very = very abraded, Abr = abraded, Sli = slightly abraded, Gd = good condition



## APPENDIX 2 – CONCORDANCE OF FINDS FROM EVALUATION PHASE

CONCORDANCE OF FINDS												
SITE NAME: 161 Newmarket Road, Cambridge SITE CODE: ECB5380 P. NUMBER: 1221												
FEATURE CONTEXT	LAYER/FILL CONTEXT	TYPE	SPOT DATE	POTTERY No	Wgt/g	CBM No	Wgt/g	ANIMAL No	BONE Wgt/g	Fe No	Objects Wgt/g	OTHER
1003	NONE	P.Med Wall	18th-19th C			2	9713					
1003	1004	P.Med Wall Interior	19th C	7	92	3	218	2	25	1	7	Clay pipe 1@2g
	1005	P.Med Wall Interior	E-M/?L?18th C	11	103	16	464	13	258	2	66	Clay pipe 6@16g Glass 2@27g
	1006	Layer	15th C	5	30	2	34	9	103	1	15	Slag 2@302g
	1007	Layer						5	47	1	10	
		<b>Totals</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>98</b>	Clay pipe <b>7@18g</b> , Slag <b>2@302g</b> , Glass <b>2@27g</b>





## APPENDIX 3 – SITE ARCHIVE DESCRIPTION

Paper Archive:

TYPE	NUMBER OF SHEETS
Context record	14
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Drawing sheet register	1
Sample register	0
Finds register	0
Photo register	1
Photographs	8
Permatrace	3

Finds from evaluation phase:

TYPE	NUMBER OF SHEETS	WEIGHT (g)
Pottery	23	225
CBM	21	716
Animal bone	29	433
Fe	5	98
Clay pipe	7	18
Glass	2	27
Slag	2	302





## APPENDIX 4 – OASIS SHEET

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: **britannia1-328330**

### Project details

Project name	161 Newmarket Road, Cambridge
Short description of the project	From 18th September 2018 to the 5th November 2018 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological excavation on 161 Newmarket Road, Cambridge (NGR TL 4637 5893) in advance of the erection of 4 self-contained flats and ancillary works. A previous evaluation carried out by Britannia Archaeology in April 2018 identified clear post medieval occupation of the site as well as earlier medieval activity in the vicinity of the former location of Barnwell Priory, (Brook, M. 2018). The results of the excavation show four phases of activity, the first pre-dating the 15th century through to modern periods The most significant phase is Phase II - 15th Century relating to an occupation layer associated with domestic activity in that period potentially relating to the former Barnell Abbey. While the discovery of 18th century building remains on the site (Phase III) is significant in its own right this form of archaeology is unsurprising given the expansion of Cambridge in the post medieval period. Despite the potential for finds and features associated with the abbey, no features relating to the medieval or post-medieval period were encountered in the excavation beyond Occupation Layer 2006. It is highly likely that the small size of the excavation area accounted for this.
Project dates	Start: 18-09-2018 End: 05-11-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5536 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	STRUCTURE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Full excavation""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location



Country England  
Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE 161 Newmarket Road,  
Cambridge  
Postcode CB58HA  
Study area 0 Hectares  
Site coordinates TL 4637 5893 52.208698610599 0.142410014179 52 12 31 N 000 08 32 E  
Point  
Height OD /  
Depth Min: 0m Max: 0m

#### Project creators

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

#### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive recipient Cambridgeshire HER  
Digital Archive ID ECB 5536  
Digital Contents "none"  
Digital Media available "Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Cambridgeshire HER  
Paper Archive ID ECB 5536  
Paper Contents "none"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title 161 Newmarket Road, Cambridge



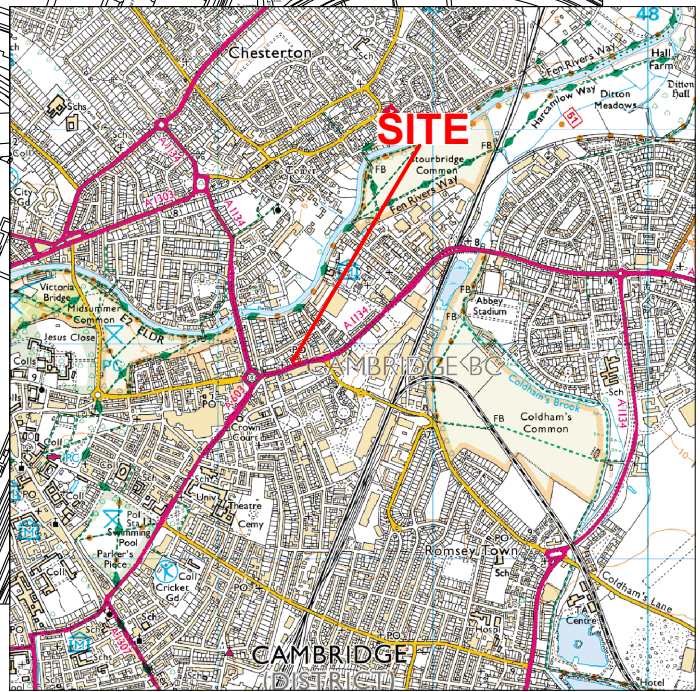
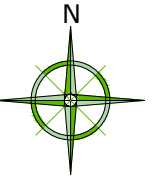
Author(s)/Editor (s)	M. Brook
Other bibliographic details	R1229
Date	2019
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Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
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Entered by	Martin Brook ( <a href="mailto:martin@brit-arch.com">martin@brit-arch.com</a> )
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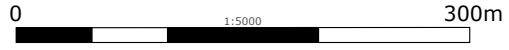




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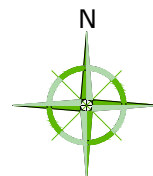


546370

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

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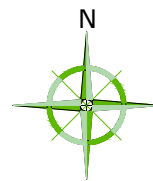
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FIGURE: 2

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- Scheduled Monuments
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VERSION:	2		
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APPROVED:	DPM		



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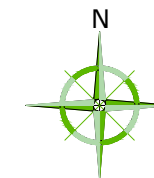
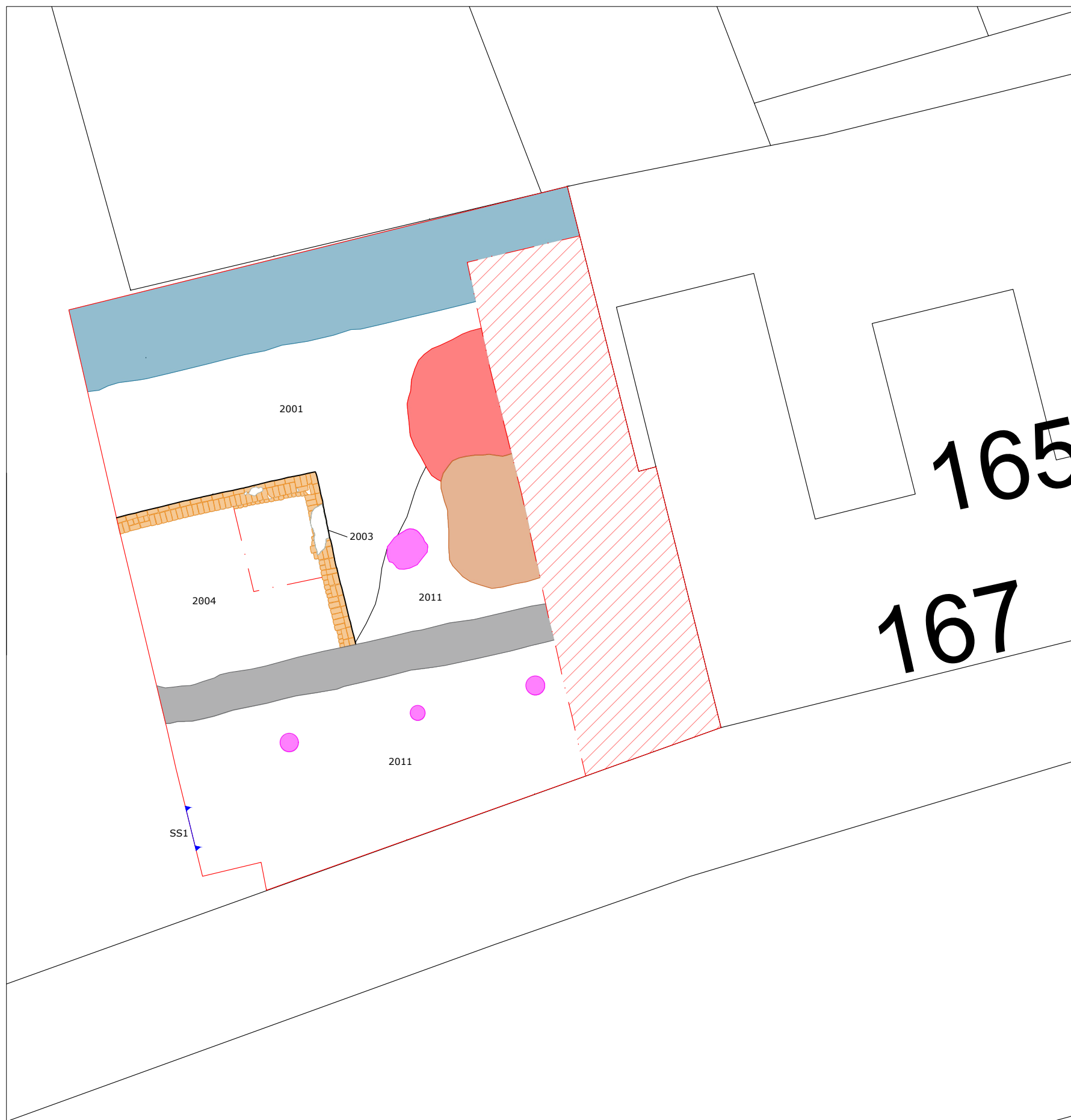














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DP: 6 - SITE VIEW S



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-  Bricks and Mortar
-  Underpin Trench
-  Modern Leveling for Building
-  Site Investigation Pit
-  Soak Away
-  Geo-Technical Test
-  Modern Service (Abandoned)
-  Site Boundary

NGR: 546330 258920 REF: P1250

PROJECT: LOGIC HOUSE, NEWMARKET ROAD, CAMBRIDGE

DESCRIPTION: SITE PLAN & PHOTOGRAPHS

CLIENT: CARTER JONAS

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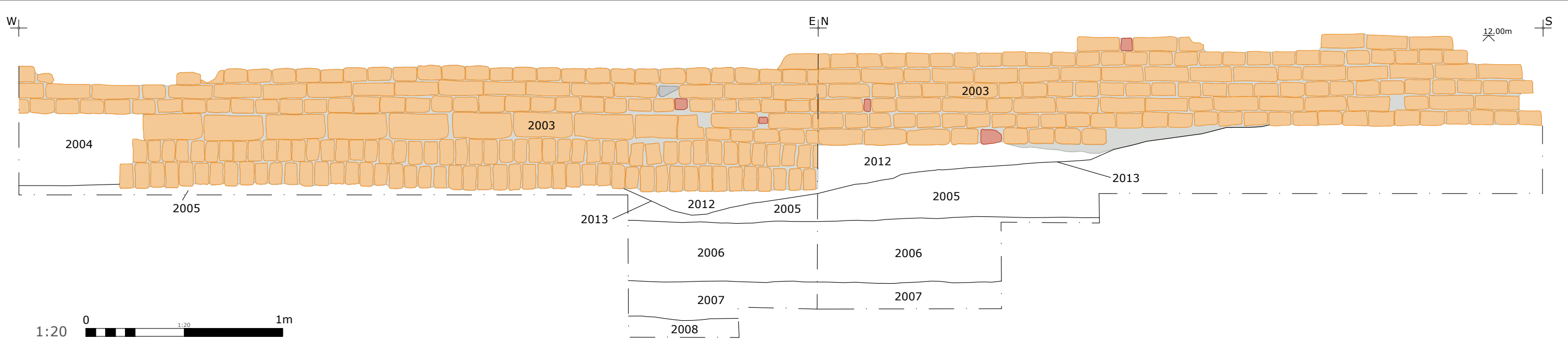
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FIGURE: 4

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DP:9 - STRUCTURE 2003, VIEW E



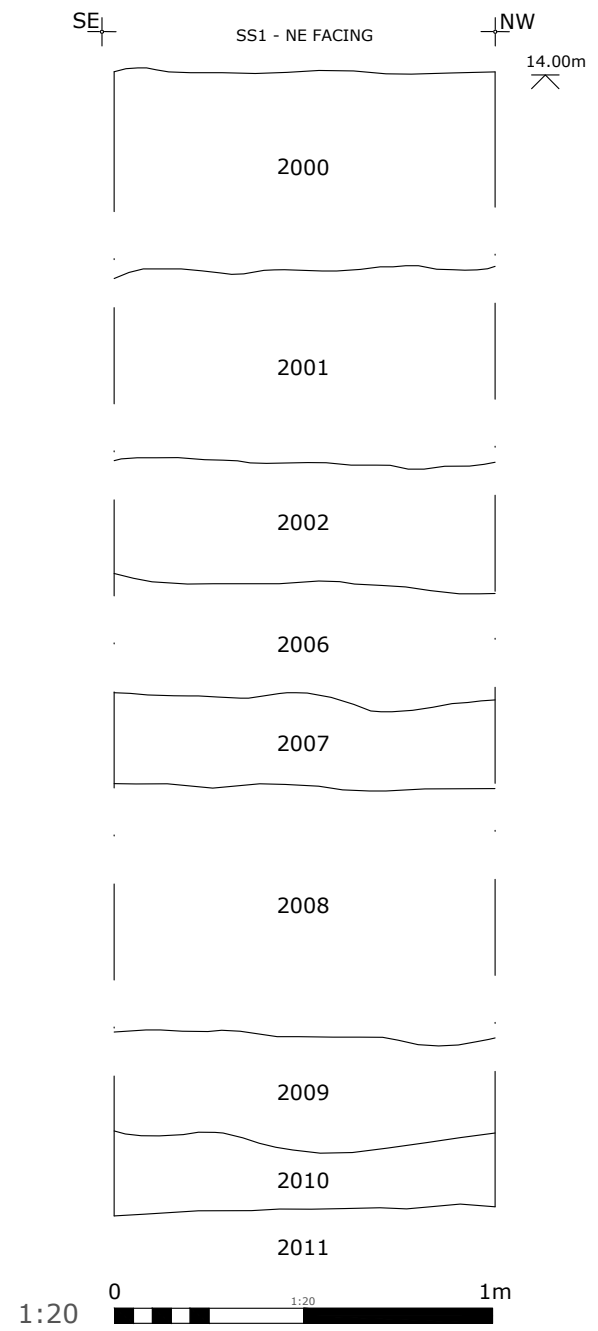
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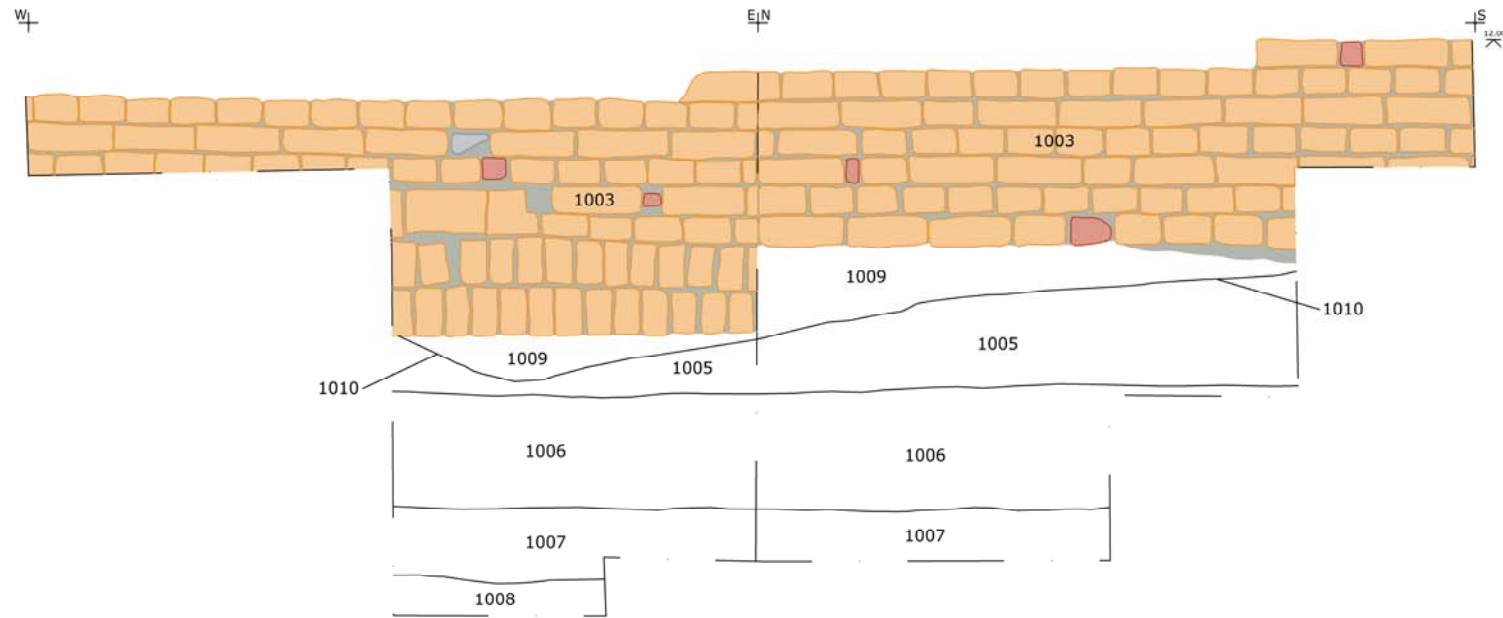




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-  Red Brick
-  Flint



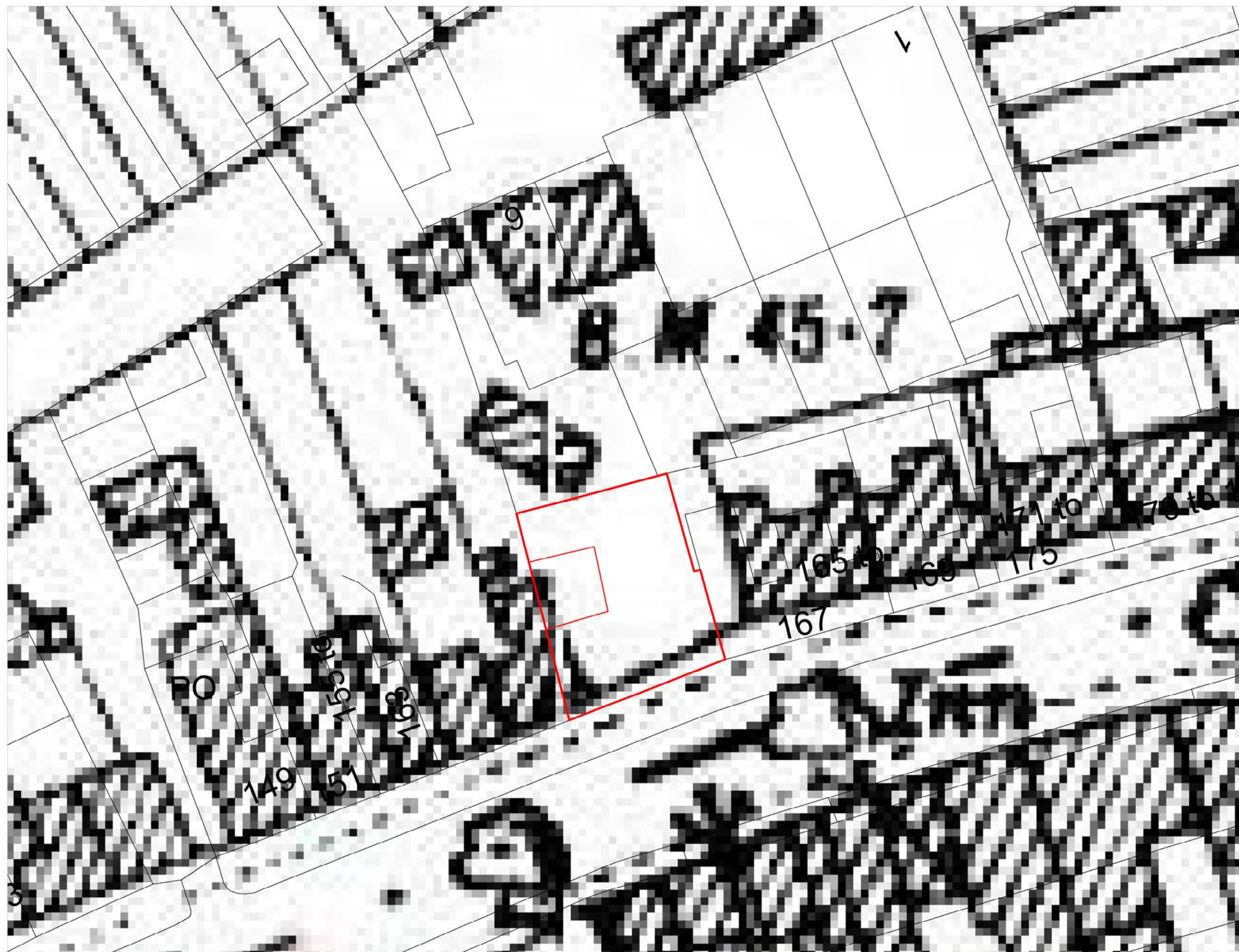
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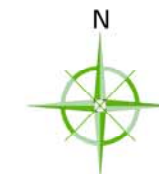
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