



NORTH OF GAS ROAD, MARCH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Abstract

On 19th and 20th of February 2019 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at North of Gas Road, March, Cambridgeshire ahead of the proposed erection of five dwellings and ancillary works. The evaluation was undertaken in response to a design brief issued by Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) which required a programme of linear trial trenching to adequately sample the threatened available area.

The site had a low - moderate potential for finds and features from the early prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. There was a moderate to high potential for remains on the site relating to the post-medieval and modern periods.

Despite the potential for archaeological features from the prehistoric, Roman and medieval, none were encountered. Post-medieval and modern archaeology was encountered in both trial trenches, with two parallel 17th - 18th century ditches (Ditches 1006 and 1009) within the southern bounds of Trench 2, and a 19th century ditch encountered in both Trench 1 and 2 (Ditch 1004). All three ditches ran on a north - south alignment, and probably marked a shifting rear boundary ditch for properties located to the east of the current site along the High Street. All archaeological features were overlain a modern topsoil/garden soil (1002) possibly related to existing properties to the east or the demolition and levelling of buildings still extant in the mid-20th century, and a modern yard surface (1001) dating to the latter half of the 20th century which extended across the whole site, a result of the recent land use of the plot. Modern garden soil (1000) was present across the extent of Trench 1, a result of re-use as a garden from the adjoining dwellings to the east.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 19th and 20th February 2019 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at North of Gas Road, March, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 4161 9619) on behalf of Solar Savings 4U Ltd ahead of the proposed erection of five dwellings and ancillary works.

The evaluation was undertaken in response to a design brief issued by Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Stewart. G. 11th December 2018) which required a programme of linear trial trenching to adequately sample the threatened available area.

Two trenches measuring 20.00m x 2.00m were located over the new building footprints and were excavated using a 360° tracked, mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located north of Gas Road, in the west of the village of March (Fig. 1). Residential properties are located, east and west of the site. The site lies just south of Trinity Church.

2.1 Site Geology

The natural bedrock geology is described as Ampthill Clay Formation – Mudstone, a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 157 to 164 million years ago in the Jurassic Period when the local environment was previously dominated by shallow seas (BGS, 2019).

The superficial geology is described as Oadby Member - Diamicton. These superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by ice age conditions, (BGS, 2019).

3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The archaeological investigation was carried out on the recommendation of the local planning authority, following guidance laid down by the *National Planning and Policy Framework* (NPPF, DCLD 2018). The relevant local planning policy is the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework – Development Control Policies (2007).



3.1 *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLG July 2018)*

The NPPF recognises that 'heritage assets' are an irreplaceable resource and planning authorities should conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance when considering development. It requires developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. The key areas for consideration are:

- The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- The wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- Opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

The NPPF asks that in determining planning applications the local planning authorities should take account of:

- The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- The positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
- The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

3.2 *Fenland Local Plan (1993; 2005 Edition)*

The relevant portion of the local plan for Fenland states:

E6 - Planning permission will not normally be granted for a development which would adversely affect the preservation or setting of an ancient monument or other important archaeological site. The local planning authority will normally require all planning applications for development on sites of recognised or suspected archaeological importance to be accompanied by an archaeological evaluation.

E7 - Where there is no over-riding case for the preservation of an archaeological site and planning permission is granted for its development, that development will be conditional upon the developer making satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of remains. Such excavation and recording will be carried out before development commences in accordance with a project brief prepared by the local planning authority with advice from County Archaeologists. Where appropriate provision shall be made for the sealing and preservation of archaeologically significant layers prior to construction.



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

4.1 *Prehistoric and Roman*

Neolithic records have been encountered 900m west of the site (MCB19567) where an archaeological evaluation revealed a number of pits which were clustered into three main group areas. One of the pits contained a large assemblage of Early Neolithic artefacts including Early Neolithic Mildenhall pottery, worked flint and animal bone.

A single Bronze Age record (MCB17893) is located on the periphery of the search area to the north of the site an evaluation revealed numerous archaeological features, earliest activity on the site was characterised by a single pit containing late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery.

Iron Age records located to the south of the site include an Iceni coin hoard (MCB16060) that was discovered during tree planting at Field Baulk Farm. Following the discovery a small excavation was carried out by the British Museum. A length of curving ditch was found which may have served as a drainage gully, possibly surrounding a round house.

4.2 *Medieval*

Medieval records are limited throughout the search area except in the south where a collection of medieval records are located on the periphery of the search area. Medieval features including ridge and furrow (11643), Churchyard of St Wendreda's Church, March (MCB16846).

4.3 *Post-medieval and Modern*

March expanded in the post-medieval period with a key feature of this expansion being an increase in the number of dwellings represented by the number of listed buildings located in the village core dating to this period. The closest associated record (MCB14927) Methodist Chapel originally built 1829, rebuilt in 1889. Originally for the Wesleyan Methodists, it now serves the wider Methodist community. With further listed buildings on all sides of the site there is a high possibility of finding foundations and/or backyard activity associated with these plots.



4.4 Archaeological Potential

Given the above, there was a **low - moderate** potential for finds and features from the early prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. There was a **moderate to high** potential for remains on the site relating to the post-medieval and modern periods.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

A linear trenched evaluation of the development area was undertaken to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. The evaluation aimed 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 were studied in accordance with the brief provided by CHET (Stewart, G. Brief, Section 3.1).

All aspects of the trial trenching were undertaken in accordance with the *CIFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, 2014 and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, 2003.

6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Research objectives for the project were identified 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 areas for study were:

- The 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 was arranged with a suitably qualified specialist. Attention was paid:

- to the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dryland palaeosols and cut features, and to soil pollen analysis;
- to the retrieval of plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits located.
- provision for the absolute dating of critical contacts should be made: eg the basal contacts of peats over former dryland surfaces; distinct land use or landmark change in urban contexts

The evaluation also carefully considered 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 two 20.00m x 2.00m trenches (Fig. 5).

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.

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

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

Bucket sampling for artefact characterisation was carried out on all trenches but recovered only pieces of modern bricks, mortar, concrete and other demonstrably modern finds.

8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig. 5 - 8)

8.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located at the northern end of the site, was orientated west to east and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.84m. Trench 1 contained a single archaeological feature.

Ditch **1004** (2.00m+ x 1.12m x 0.36m) was linear in plan with 45° sloping concave sides and a concave base (Fig. 6). The ditch was oriented north to south, and contained a single fill **1005** which comprised a mid-grey green brown, compact silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint pebble inclusions. Fill **1005** contained a single large fragment of a yellow ware pie dish dating to the early/mid 19th to early 20th century (Fawcett, 2019).

A modern garden topsoil layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.32m. Beneath this was a modern made ground/yard surface subsoil **1001** containing modern brick, concrete and tile fragments (not retained) which was present to a depth of 0.44m. This overlay a post-medieval/modern buried topsoil **1002** containing brick fragments (not retained) which in turn overlay natural subsoil **1003**.



8.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located within the southern portion of the site. The trench was orientated north west to south east. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m. Trench 2 contained three archaeological features, all ditches and a large east to west aligned modern foul sewer. Ditch **1009** was located towards the south eastern portion of the trench, with ditch **1006** directly adjacent and running parallel to its north west. Ditch **1004** was located just north west of mid-trench, again parallel to ditched **1006** and **1009**.

Ditch **1006** (2.00m+ x 1.15m x 0.58m) was linear in plan with a 45° sloping concave north eastern side and a stepped 45° concave south western side. Its base was concave (Fig. 7). The ditch was oriented north to south, and contained a two fills; primary fill **1008** which comprised a mid-brown grey, compact silty sandy clay with occasional sub-angular flint pebble inclusions, and secondary fill **1007** which comprised a mid-brown grey, compact silty sandy clay with occasional sub-angular flint pebble inclusions.

Primary fill **1008** contained no finds, secondary fill **1007** contained 67 sherds of pottery (comprised of glazed red earthenware, glazed red earthenware with yellow slip, iron glazed earthenware, manganese mottled ware, German and English stoneware drinking vessel fragments and tin glazed ware) and two brick fragments giving a likely date range of the mid/late 17th to mid 18th centuries (Fawcett, 2019). A residual sherd of late medieval reduced ware dating to the mid 14th to early 16th century was also present (Fawcett, 2019). 15 clay pipe stem fragments were recovered from fill **1007** giving a modal date range of late 17th to early 18th centuries (McConnell, 2019).

Ditch **1009** (2.00m+ x 1.20m x 0.42m) was linear in plan with a 45° sloping concave sides. Its base was flat concave (Fig. 7). The ditch was oriented north to south, and contained a two fills; primary fill **1011** which comprised a mid-brown grey, compact silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint pebble inclusions, and secondary fill **1010** which comprised a mid-brown grey, compact silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint pebble inclusions.

Primary fill **1011** contained no finds. Secondary fill **1010** contained 19 pottery fragments (comprised of glazed red earthenware and late medieval – early post-medieval transition ware - LMT). Two sherds of the LMT ware dating to the 15th to 16th centuries came from the interface of fills **1010** and **1011**, were abraded and are likely residual. The pottery assemblage dates **1010** to the 16th to 18th centuries (Fawcett, 2019). Fill **1010** also contained 6 clay pipe stem fragments, two pipe bowl fragments and two near complete pipe bowl fragments. The stem fragments give a modal date range of 1680 to 1710, with the bowls dating fill **1010** to 1660 to 1680 (McConnell, 2019).

Ditch **1004** was observed in plan just north west of the centre of trench 2. This lined up with its course in trench 1, and had an identical fill. Due to this and the dating of ditch **1004** in trench1, it was not deemed necessary to investigate further, and record in plan only.



A modern made ground/yard surface subsoil **1001** containing modern brick, concrete and tile fragments (not retained) which was present across the trench to a depth of 0.49m. This overlay a post-medieval/modern buried topsoil **1002** containing brick fragments (not retained) to a depth of 0.90m which in turn overlay natural subsoil **1003**.

9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 6)

The deposit model was slightly inconsistent across the site, the northern portion (containing trench 1) having had modern garden/topsoil layer **1000**, possibly being utilised by the adjacent two cottages to the east as part of their rear gardens or for the dumping of organic waste. This layer overlay modern yard surface **1001** only in trench 1 and was present to a depth of 0.32m.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence at the southern portion of the site (trench 2) and directly below garden soil **1000** in trench 1, was modern yard surface **1001**, which was present to a depth of 0.44m in sample section 1 and 0.49m in sample section 2. This comprised a mid yellow brown, compact silty sand, with frequent concrete, brick, tile, sand and pebble lenses. This layer represents part of the surfaces and demolition of the former builders yard present on the site until recently.

Beneath yard surface **1001**, was buried topsoil layer **1002**, which was present to a depth of 0.84m in sample section 1 and 0.90m in sample section 2. This comprised a mid grey brown, compact silty sand with occasional sub-angular flint pebbles and modern brick fragments. This layer may represent either material spread or a deliberate landscaping and levelling of the area post-demolition of buildings present on the site until the latter half of the 20th century (Fig. 9) prior to its use as a builder's yard.

Natural superficial geology **1003**, a light grey yellow brown, compact sandy clay with occasional sub-angular flint pebbles, was present below buried soil layer **1002**.

10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The site had a low - moderate potential for finds and features from the early prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. There was a moderate to high potential for remains on the site relating to the post-medieval and modern periods. Three features were recorded, all ditches (**1004**, **1006** and **1009**).

Ditch (**1004**) dated to the early 19th to early/mid 20th century, and was present in both trenches 1 and 2. This ditch ran north to south bisecting the site, and is present as a modern boundary on current OS maps. It seems to form the rear of a land plot in its northern extent on both the 1887 and 1952 OS 6" maps of England and Wales (Fig. 9), with buildings present over the southern portion on the 1887 OS map. These buildings overlaying ditch **1004** within the southern portion of the site may represent expansion west from building plots to the east along the High Street during March's expansion in the latter half of the 19th century, with the sites northern portion remaining undeveloped.



The two ditches located within the south eastern bounds of trench 2 (**1006** and **1009**) run parallel to ditch **1004**, again on north to south orientation. Both these ditches appear to have been in use within a relatively small timeframe, within the mid/late 17th to early 18th century. It is likely that these ditches represent the rear of property plots running along the High Street to the east of the site, with domestic waste being dumped within them on disuse, and expansion of these plots into the western portion of the site.

It is likely that all three ditches present within the site served as rear property boundary ditches during the post-medieval/modern periods for plots directly adjacent to the High Street to the east. March (and other towns in the region) expand during the latter half of the post-medieval period onwards, and these ditches were likely backfilled during this period as the properties bounding the High Street expand out to the west reclaiming unused land.

Buried topsoil **1002** dates from the 20th century, and is likely associated with the formation and re-use of the site post-demolition of the buildings appearing on the 1952 OS map (Fig. 9), and prior to the construction of the modern builders yard surface **1001**. No footings were visible within trench 2 of the buildings present on the 1952 OS map, and therefore it is assumed that the area was landscaped heavily post-demolition of the site, with **1002** being imported to the site in order to form a levelling layer. Modern topsoil **1000** only appears in the area covered by trench 1, and was likely a result of the properties directly to the east of the site re-using this northern portion for gardening/dumping of organic waste.

Conclusion

The evaluation at North of Gas Road, March was successful in identifying evidence of outlying archaeological remains related to the post-medieval and modern expansion of March, in particular reclamation of land to the rear of plots facing the High Street. Severe truncation has occurred across the site due to modern demolition and construction of a builders yard in the latter half of the 20th century.

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 (CCC HET). The digital archive will be stored with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

12.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank Lee Brownlow of Solar Savings 4U Ltd for commissioning and funding the project.



We would also like to thank Gemma Stewart of CCC HET for all her help and advice throughout the project.

The site was excavated by Dan McConnell and Matthew Selfe of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



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

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

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



APPENDIX 1 – DEPOSIT TABLES

Deposit Tables

TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
1	W-E	3.66m AOD	1
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
1	West side, middle of trench	N Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 - 0.32m	Topsoil: Dark black brown, compact silty clay.	
1001	0.32 - 0.44m	Yard Surface/Subsoil: Mid yellow brown, compact silty sand, frequent concrete, brick and tile sand and pebble lenses.	
1002	0.44 - 0.84m	Buried Topsoil: Mid grey brown, compact silty sand with occasional sub-angular flint pebbles and modern brick fragments.	
1003	0.84+	Natural: Light grey yellow brown, compact sandy clay with occasional sub-angular flint pebbles.	

Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1004	Ditch (1.00m+ x 1.12m x 0.36m) Linear in plan with 45° concave sides with a concave base, on a N-S orientation.	1005	Mid grey green brown, compact silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint pebbles.	-	-

TRENCH 2

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
2	NW-SE	3.72m AOD	5
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
2	NE side, SE end	SW Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1001	0.00 - 0.49m	Yard Surface/Subsoil: Mid yellow brown, compact silty sand, frequent concrete, brick and tile sand and pebble lenses.	
1002	0.49 - 0.90m	Buried Topsoil: Mid grey brown, compact silty sand with occasional sub-angular flint pebbles and modern brick fragments.	
1003	0.90m+	Natural: Light grey yellow brown, compact sandy clay with occasional sub-angular flint pebbles.	

Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1006	Ditch (1.00m+ x 1.15m x 0.58m) Linear in plan with 45° concave NE side and a	1008	Primary fill. Mid brown grey, compact silty sandy clay with occasional sub-angular flint pebbles.	-	-



	stepped 45° SW side, and a flat base, on a N-S orientation.	1007	Secondary fill. Mid brown grey, compact silty sandy clay with occasional sub-angular flint pebbles.	L17th-M18th	Pot 2046g (67), CBM 582 (15), Pipe 72g (15).
1009	Ditch (1.00m x 1.20m x 0.42m) Linear in plan, concave 45° sloping sides with a flat base. On a N-S orientation.	1011	Primary fill. Mid brown grey, compact silty clay.	-	-
		1010	Secondary fill. Mid brown grey, compact silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint pebbles.	16 th -18th	Pot 796g (19), clay pipe 77g (11).



APPENDIX 2 – CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

SITE

NAME: North Of 9 Gas Road, March, Cambridgeshire
SITE: ECB
CODE: 5788
P.
NUMBER: 1262

FEATURE CONTEXT	LAYER/FILL CONTEXT	Type	SPOT DATE	Pot No	Wgt/g	CBM No	Wgt/g	Clay No	Pipe Wgt/g
1004 (TT1)	1005	Ditch	E/M19th- E20th	1	144				
1006 (TT2)	1007	Ditch	?M?/L17th- M18th	67	2046	14	582	15	72
1009 (TT2)	1010	Ditch	16th-18th	19	796			11	77
Totals				87	2986	14	582	26	149

APPENDIX 3 – SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Post-medieval pottery and ceramic building materials from north of 9 Gas Road, March, Cambridgeshire (ECB 5788): An assessment report (28/02/19: 11.09)

Andy Fawcett

Introduction

A total of eighty-seven sherds of pottery (2986g) and fourteen fragments of CBM (582g) were recovered as a result of the trial trenching at north of 9 Gas Road, March. The materials were retrieved from three separate ditch fills, one within Trial Trench 1 and the remainder in Trial Trench 2.

This report firstly sets out the methodology used in the identification of the pottery and CBM and then goes on to describe the individual assemblages from the two trial trenches. This is then followed by a general conclusion and finally recommendations for any further analysis of the materials that might be required.



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 platter, jar, dish and so on. Simple descriptions for CBM form types have also been utilised for instance brick or roof tile. A breakdown of fabric reference codes can be observed in Appendix 1.

Ditch fill 1005 (TT1)

A single large fragment of a yellow ware pie dish (YELL) with a crimped rim was noted in this ditch fill (144g). This fabric and form type is dated from around the early/mid 19th to early 20th century.

Ditch fill 1007 (TT2)

This fill contained a considerable assemblage of pottery (67 @ 2046g) in good state of preservation; the average sherd weight stands at 30.50g and the sherds display virtually no abrasion with many joining pieces.

The largest group within the context consists of fifty-one sherds (1872g) of glazed red earthenware (GRE) dated from the 16th to 18th century. Apart from body sherds, the assemblage is composed of nine platters, three dishes, three jars and a single cup. Many of the sherds are large (the average sherd weight for this group is 36.70g), and have good profiles. The majority exhibit clear glazes but also present are several green glazed versions, as well some which are more speckled in appearance. At least four of the vessels display burning in the form of sooting.

Three body sherds (from bowls or dishes) of glazed red earthenware with yellow trailed slip decoration on the internal surface (GRETSL) were noted (58g). This fabric style is dated from the 17th to 18th century.

Two body and a single base sherd (23g) in iron glazed black fabrics were present within the assemblage (IGBW). These appear to be the remains of drinking vessels and are dated from around the late 17th to 18th century.

A further drinking vessel is represented by two joining body sherds (24g) of manganese mottled ware (MOTT). This distinctive pale fabric with its mottled brown glazed surfaces is dated from the mid/late 17th to mid 18th century.



Both German (GSW: 4@46g) and English (ESW: 2@5g) stoneware drinking vessel fragments were recorded. These are respectively dated from the late 15th to 18th and 17th to 19th century.

A single plate sherd (3g) of tin glazed ware (TGW) was identified, dating from the 17th to mid 19th century. The final sherd is residual within the group, it is a late medieval reduced ware (LMR) handle fragment, dated from around the mid 14th to AD1500 (14g).

All of the CBM fragments recovered from the site were retrieved from this ditch fill. These represent the remains of two bricks. The first of these is a hard sandy fabric which has a creamy/pink surface and core; overall it has a very heavily streaked appearance. It contains abundant quartz and grog; the latter is streaked in varying bands as well as being in smaller non-streaked pieces. It has depth of 40mm and is similar in fabric style to Drury's LB9 types which he dates from the early 16th to at least the 17th century (1993, 165). Although the source of these brick fabrics is unknown, it is certainly found on many Cambridgeshire sites for instance, within the demolition fills of a post-mill in Isleham which are dated no later than the 17th century (Fawcett 2018). The second brick fragment has a depth of 50mm and is in a comparable to the previous example, the only difference being, the presence of sparse large pebbles and the addition of abundant small ill-sorted calcite. None of the brick fragments exhibited mortar over the breaks, suggesting the possibility that they had not been reused.

The combination of pottery and CBM fabrics within this context indicates a date range that spans the mid/late 17th to mid 18th century.

Ditch fill 1010 (TT2)

A total of nineteen sherds of pottery with a weight of 796g were retrieved from this ditch fill. The overall condition of the pottery from this context is comparable with the previous Ditch fill except for the fact that the average sherd weight is higher, standing at just under 42g.

Two joining dish sherds of an LMT dish were recorded (30g). This is in a brown silty fabric that contains sparse small irregular calcite and rare small clay pellets. They are decorated with a patchy white slip which has been topped with a sporadic very light green glaze. They are dated from the 15th to 16th century. These are the only two



sherds which display some abrasion within the context and must be considered as residual.

Nine joining sherds (589g), that form the lower portion of a wheel-thrown jar or jug, are in a possible GRE fabric. These fragments, despite being broken can only be described as being in a good state of preservation. The fabric is hard and sandy with reduced surfaces which around the base, display the negligible remains of splashed green glaze (the slight remains of an applied strip can also be seen on the highest standing sherd). In general this looks more like a post-medieval fabric with one or two medieval type traits, it contains abundant dense quartz alongside, common black iron ore, sparse clay pellets and rare calcite. When compared to the true GRE fabrics there is very little difference, however it is unlikely to be later than the 16th century. The vessel remains were taken from the bottom part of fill 1010 (D. McConnell pers.com), and therefore may well have been part of the interaction zone between this and the lower ditch context (1011), this would explain its presence.

The remaining eight sherds within this fill (237g) are all in fabric GRE (glazed red earthenware) dated from the 16th-18th century. These consist of body sherds as well as two joining jar sherds.

The context is dated from the 16th to 18th century.

Conclusion

The pottery groups recovered from the two main ditch fills are in a good state of preservation. These assemblages are predominantly made up of platters and dishes as well as jars and a variety of drinking vessels, indicating they represent the waste from either some form of domestic household or perhaps an Inn.

Recommendations for further work

The pottery and CBM fragments from the three ditch fills have been fully recorded and described, therefore no further work on these materials will be required.

Bibliography

Drury, P., 1993, 'Ceramic building materials' in Margeson, S., *Norwich Households*, EAA 58, Norwich Survey, 163-168

Fawcett, A. R., 2018, 'The medieval and post-medieval building materials' in Brook, M. *Excavations at land adjacent to the west of 52-56 West Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire* (ECB 4999), Britannia Archaeological Report No xxx (P1182)



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

Appendix 2: Fabric Codes

LMR	Late medieval reduced ware
LMT	Late medieval/early post-medieval transitional ware
GRE	Glazed red earthenware
GRETS	Glazed red earthenware (trailed slip)
IGBW	Iron glazed blackware
MOTT	Manganese mottled ware
YELL	Yellow glazed ware
GSW	Miscellaneous German stoneware
ESW	English brown stoneware
TGW	English tin glazed ware



The Post-medieval Clay Pipe at North of Gas Road, March, Cambridgeshire (ECB5788): An Assessment Report.

Dan McConnell

1. THE FINDS

Introduction

Two ditches; **1006** and **1009** within Trench 2 provided several clay pipe fragments.

A total of fifteen clay pipe stem fragments were recovered from fill **1007** within Ditch **1006**.

A total of six clay pipe stem fragments and four bowl fragments were recovered from fill **1010** within Ditch **1009**.

Methodology

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

Results

Ditch 1006

Fill **1007** (Ditch **1006**) produced fifteen pipe stem fragments.

Thirteen stem fragments are broken medially from the pipe stems, and have no attached flare or fine tapering associated with being adjacent to a bowl or mouthpiece. They are made from typical local non-glaze plain earthenware.

Two of the stem fragments are broken directly adjacent to the bowl, with slight attached bowl flare. Both are made from typical local non-glaze plain earthenware.

The stem fragments can be summarised in the table below:

Length (cm)	Diameter (cm)	Bore Diameter		Weight (g)
		Centimetres	Inches	
3.7	0.8	0.3	7/64	2
6.2	1.0	0.25	6/64	8
7.5	0.9	0.3	7/64	7
8.3	0.9	0.3	7/64	8
4.2	0.9	0.3	7/64	4
2.6	0.9	0.3	7/64	2
5.3	0.9	0.3	7/64	4
4.4	0.8	0.2	5/64	3
3.0	0.9	0.3	7/64	5



4.0	0.9	0.2	5/64	2
3.0	0.8	0.2	5/64	2
4.3	0.8	0.3	7/64	2
3.9	0.8	0.2	5/64	2
10.4	1.0	0.3	7/64	12
4.6	0.9	0.3	7/64	5

Of the two stem fragments with slight bowl flare, the smaller (4.6 Length, 0.9 Diam) shows signs of overfiring, with severe core oxidation.

Ditch 1009

Fill **1010** (Ditch **1009**) produced six pipe stem fragments, and four bowl fragments.

Five stem fragments are broken medially from the pipe stems, and have no attached flare or fine tapering associated with being adjacent to a bowl or mouthpiece. They are made from typical local non-glaze plain earthenware.

A single stem fragment is broken directly adjacent to the bowl, with slight attached bowl flare. This is also made from typical local non-glaze plain earthenware.

The stem fragments can be summarised in the table below:

Length (cm)	Diameter (cm)	Bore Diameter		Weight (g)
		Centimetres	Inches	
6.2	1.1	0.3	7/64	8
6.0	0.8	0.2	5/64	5
3.7	0.7	0.3	7/64	2
3.5	1.0	2.5	6/64	5
4.8	0.9	0.3	7/64	3
3.6	0.7	0.3	7/64	3

A near complete pipe bowl (missing half of the foot on the stem side) found in fill **1010** is made from the same earthenware as the stem fragments. The bowls profile is that of an elongated bulbous form, of Type 13 variant (Atkinson and Oswald, 1969), with cog decoration 0.4cm below the bowl rim, and a rounded foot with no makers stamp. The bowl is 3.7cm in height with a 2.2cm diameter, and weighs 13g. Its bowl bore is 1.3cm in diameter.

Similar to the prior bowl found in fill **1010**, is another near complete bowl, this time with partial stem attached, and made from a typical non-glazed plain earthenware. Again, the bowls profile is that of an elongated bulbous form, of Type 13 variant, with cog decoration 0.3cm below the bowl rim, and an ovoid plain foot. The bowl is 4.0cm in height with a 2.2cm diameter, and weighs 18g. Its bowl bore (poorly wired) 1.5cm in diameter. Its attached stem measures 2.5cm in length and 1.0cm in diameter with a 0.3cm, 7/64" bore diameter.



The third and fourth bowl fragments are only partial, both are of the typical local non-glazed earthenware. The first fragment comprises a third of the near stem bowl with a rounded ovoid plain foot, and appears to match the complete bowls in partial profile; its attached stem measures 6.6cm in length and 1.0cm in diameter with a 0.3cm, 7/64" bore diameter. The fragment weighs 13g. The smaller fragment of bowl is heavily oxidised through overfiring, and is the anterior half of the bowl with only a small amount of the foot remaining. It weighs 7g, has a small amount of cog decoration 0.3cm below the rim. Not enough of either bowls are remaining to typologically categorise them.

Discussion

The stem fragments from fill **1007** (Ditch **1006**) can be dated tentatively to the mid 17th century through to mid 18th century (1650-1750), however the modal date is suggestive of a smaller range of 1680 - 1710.

The stem fragments from fill **1010** (Ditch **1009**) are similar in profile to that of Ditch 1006, dated tentatively to the mid 17th century through to mid 18th century (1650-1750), however the modal date is suggestive of a smaller range of 1680 - 1710.

The bowls recovered from fill **1010** (Ditch **1009**) give a more firm date; both complete bowls are Type 13 in form (Atkinson and Oswald, 1969), with the bowl fragments likely to be of the same type. This dates them to 1660 – 1680, although this date range may extend further towards the turn of the 18th century due to provincial pipe styles.

Dating pipe stem by hole bore is not exhaustive, ideally pipe bowl fragments should be used to accurately date clay pipes. The bowls and fragments are unlikely to be able to be tied to a single local maker due to lack of decoration/makers mark. No further work is recommended.

Bibliography

Atkinson, D. & Oswald, A., 1969. *London Clay Tobacco Pipes*. In *Journal of the Archaeological Association*. Third Series vol. XXXII.

Harrington, J.C., 1978. *Dating Stem Fragments of Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Clay Tobacco Pipes*. In Schuyler, R. (ed.). *Historical Archaeology: A Guide to Substantive and Theoretical Contributions*. Farmingdale, New York: Baywood, pp. 63-5.



APPENDIX – 4 OASIS SHEET

OASIS FORM - Print view

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

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OASIS ID: **britannia1-340274**

Project details

Project name	North of 9 Gas Road, March
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation
Project dates	Start: 19-02-2019 End: 20-02-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	BOUNDARY DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	BOUNDARY DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	BOUNDARY DITCH Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND MARCH North of 9 Gas Road, March
Postcode	PE15 9LH
Study area	1456 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 4160 9620 52.544826960269 0.088386991101 52 32 41 N 000 05 18 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 2.8m Max: 2.81m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Martin Brook



OASIS FORM - Print view

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

Project director/manager	Dan McConnell
Project supervisor	Dan McConnell
Type of sponsor/funding body	developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Solar Savings 4U Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Physical Archive ID	ECB5788
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Digital Archive ID	ECB5788
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Paper Archive ID	ECB5788
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Map", "Plan", "Report"
Entered by	Dan McConnell (dan@brit-arch.com)
Entered on	9 April 2019

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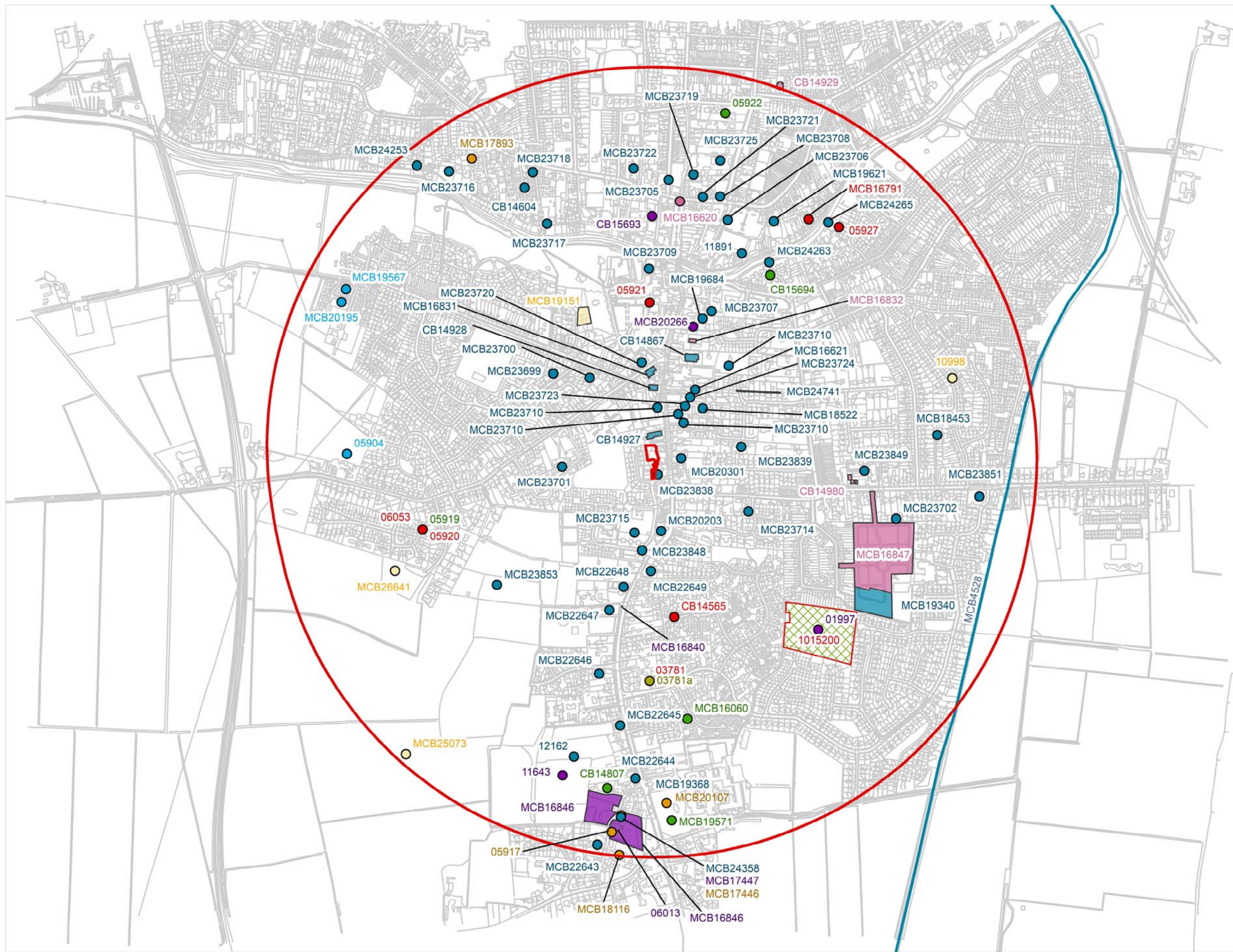
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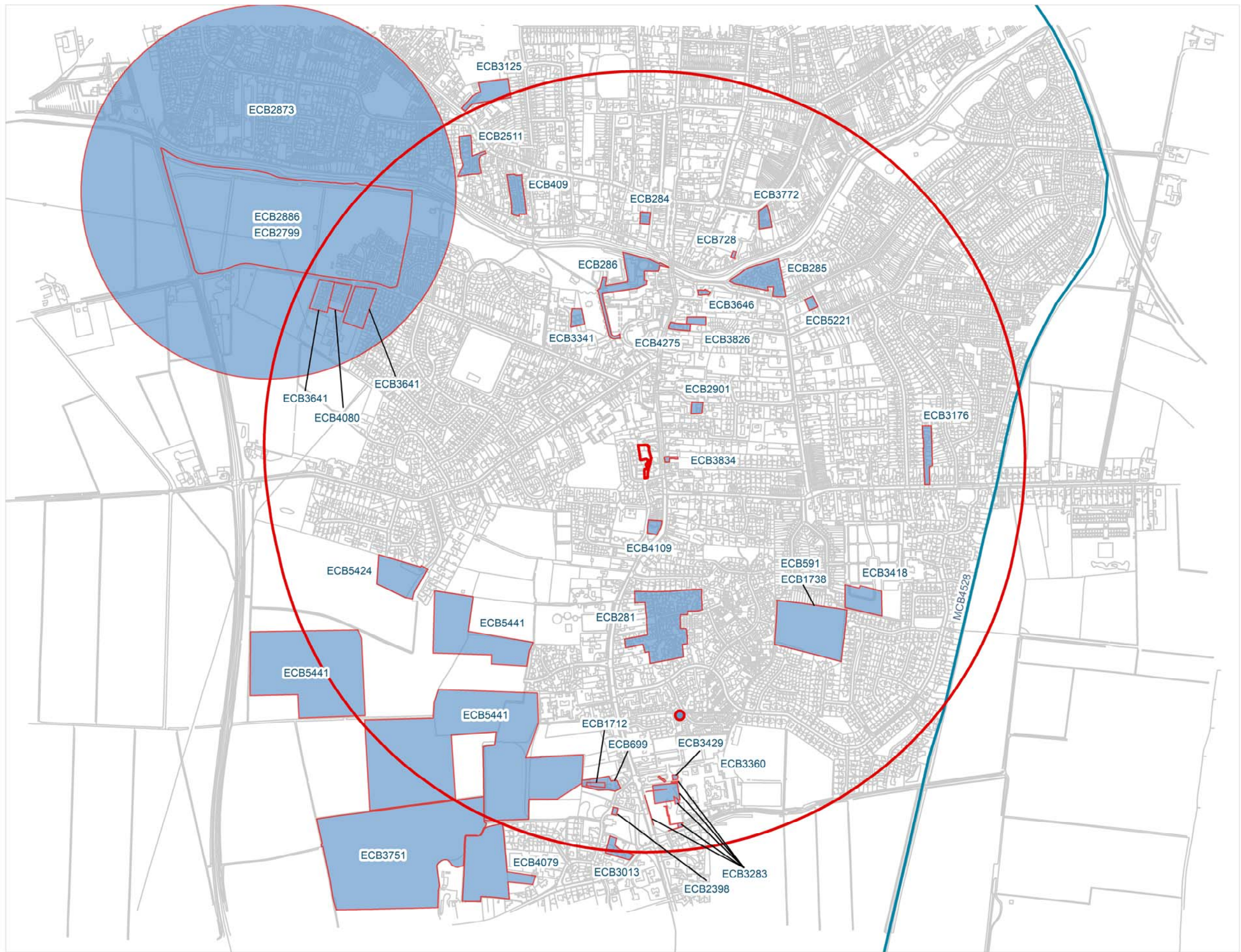








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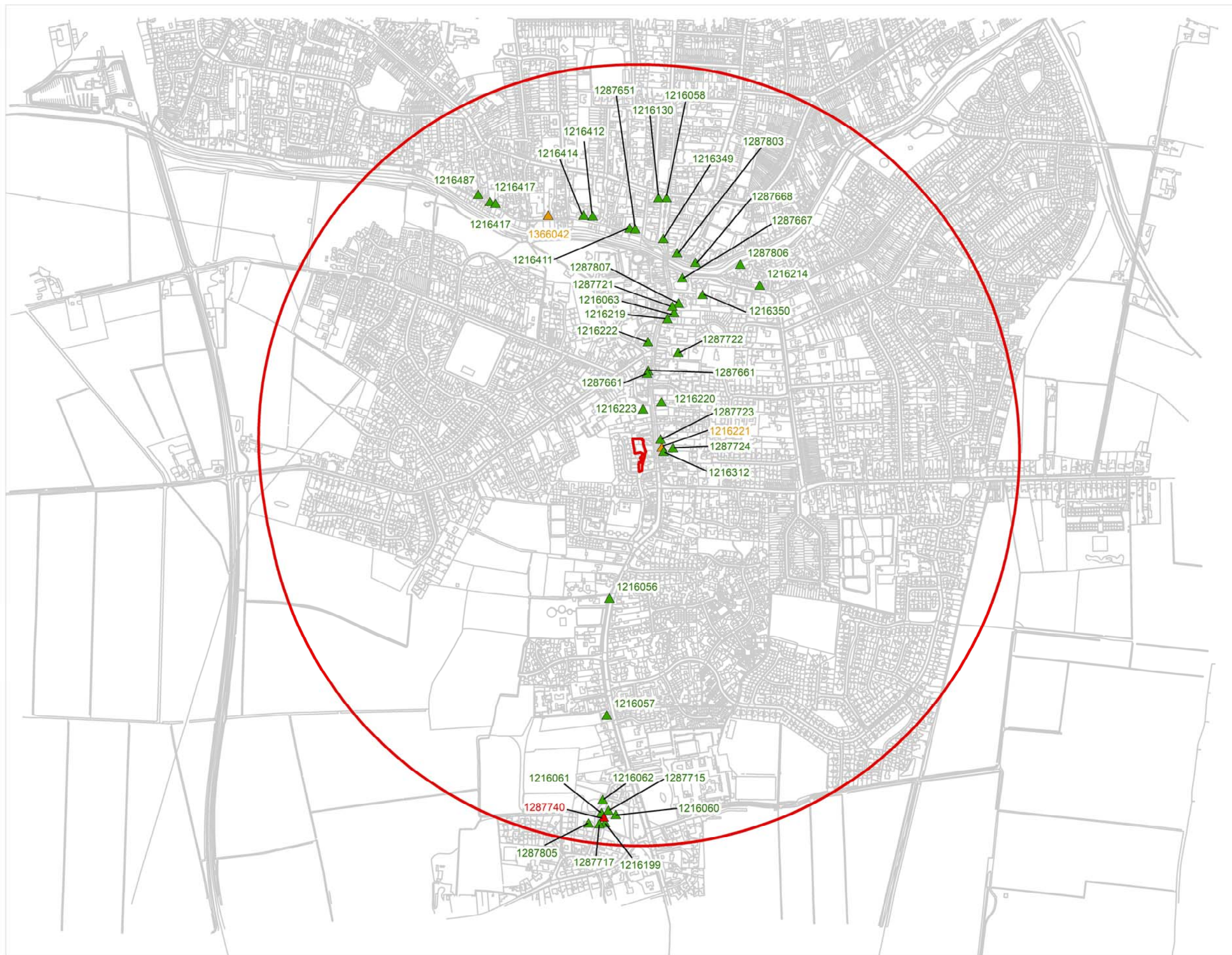







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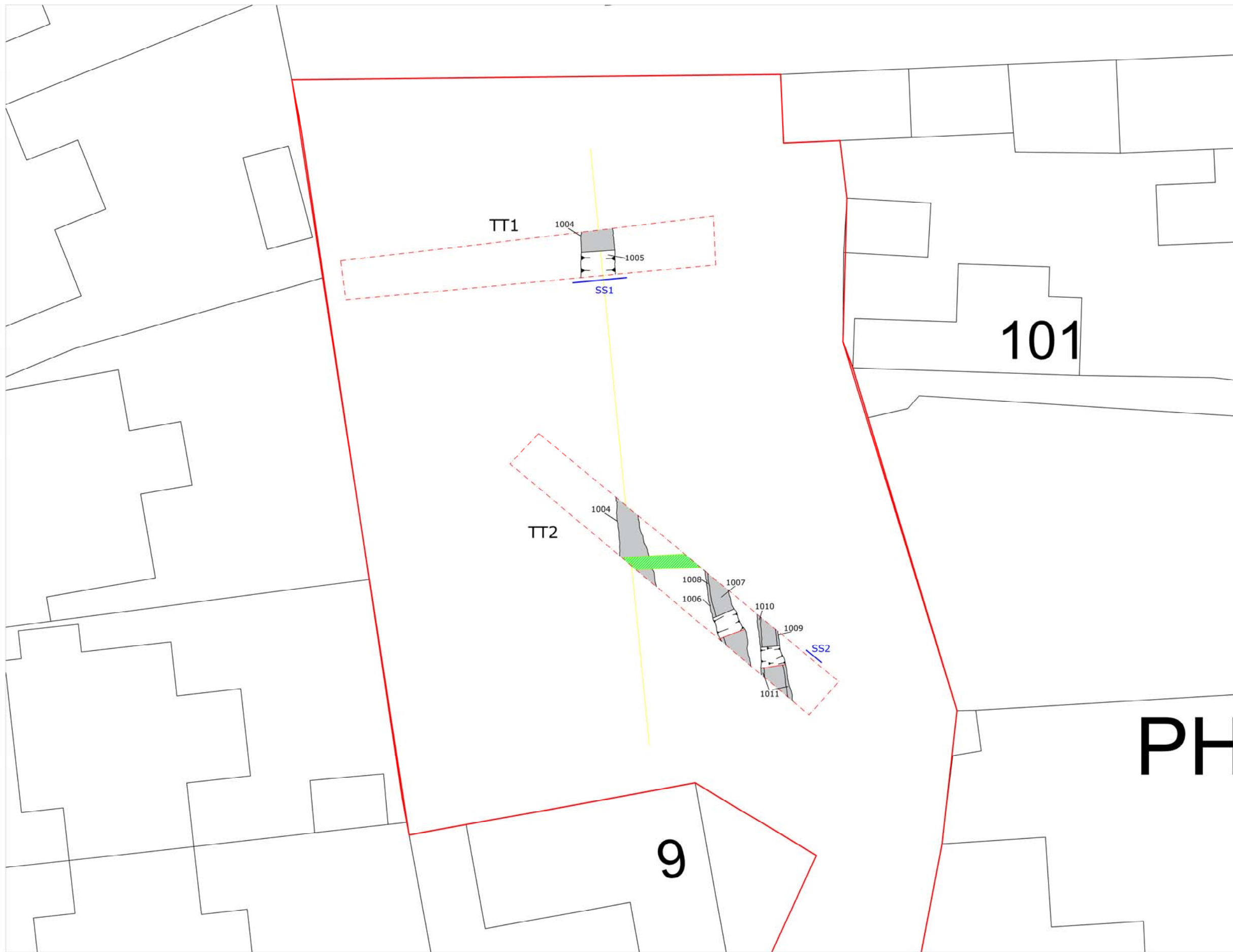
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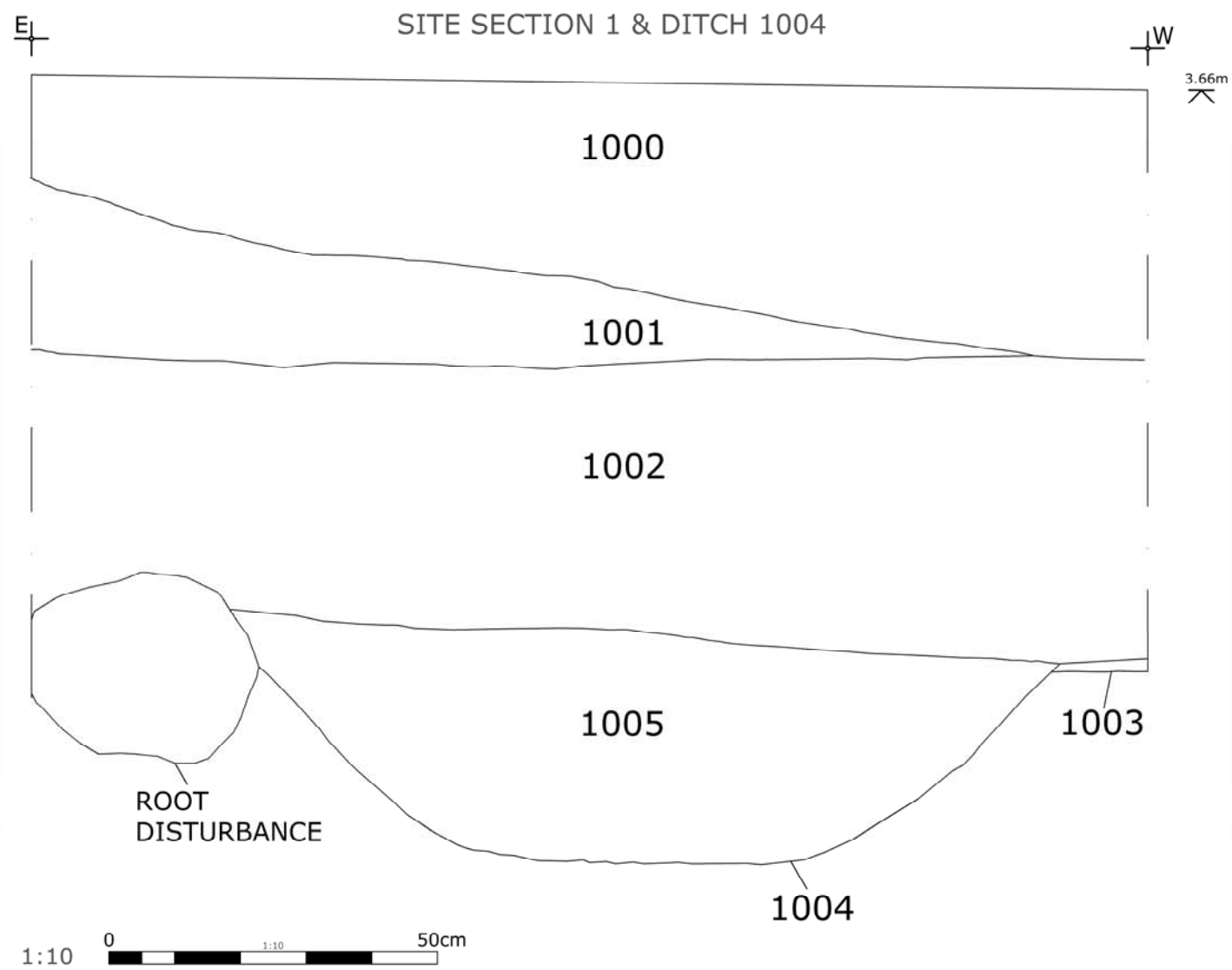


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-  Sample Section
-  Trench
-  Site Boundary

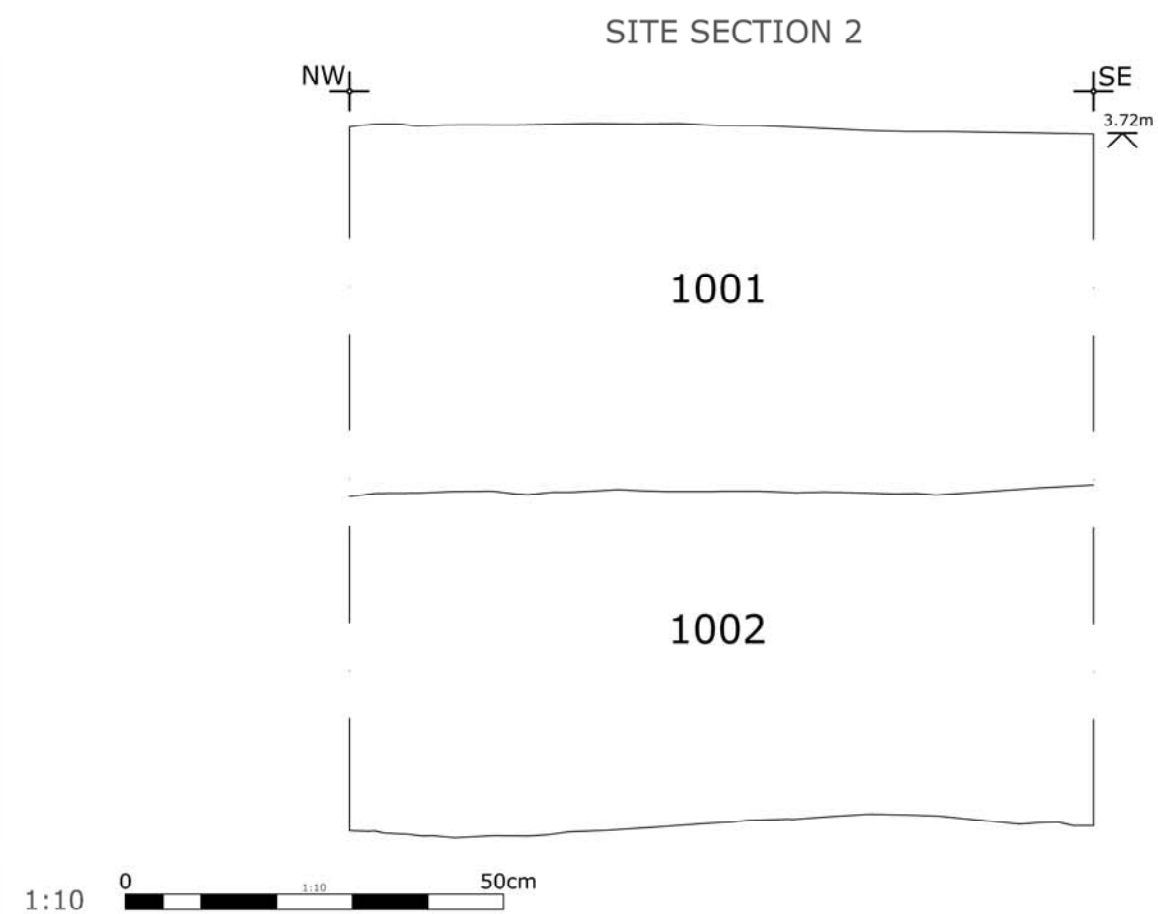
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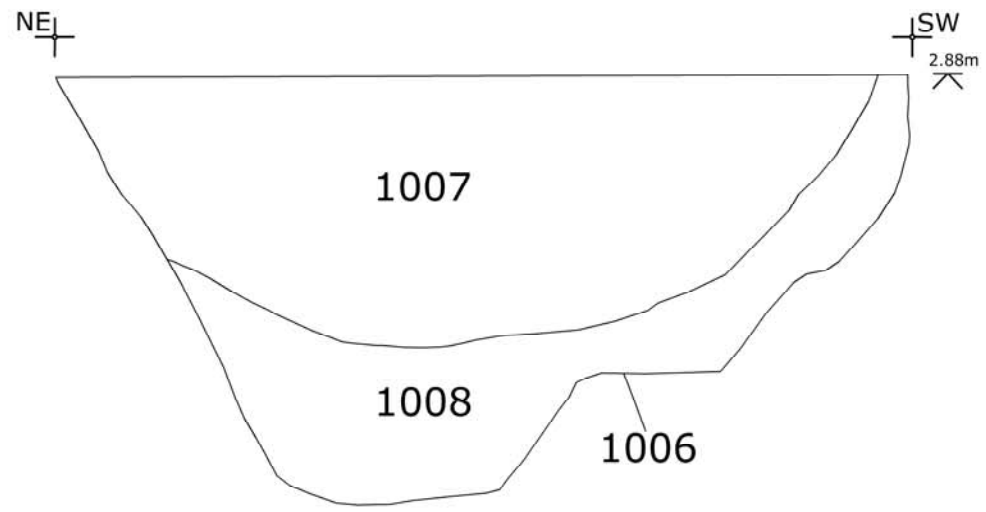
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DP5 - SS2 - VIEW NE

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DITCH 1006

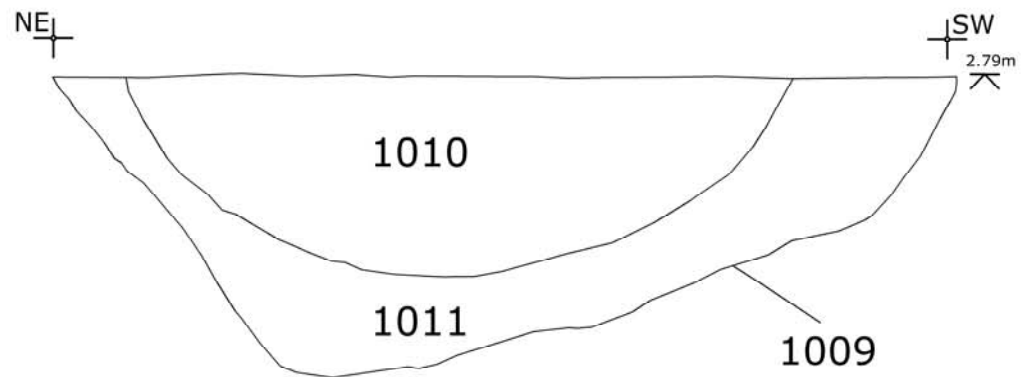


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DP3 - DITCH 1006 - VIEW SE

DITCH 1009



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DP4 - DITCH 1009 - VIEW SE

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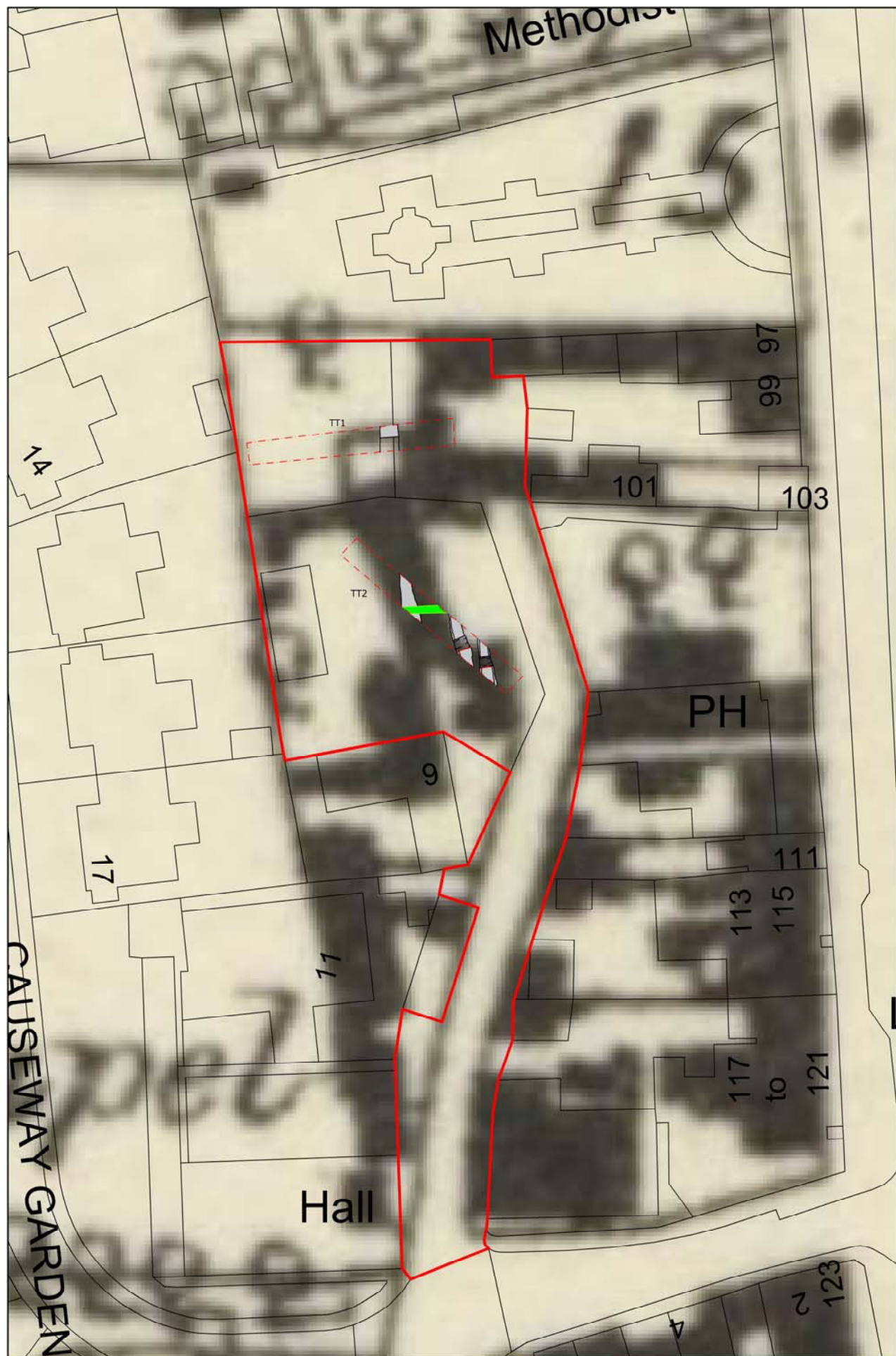


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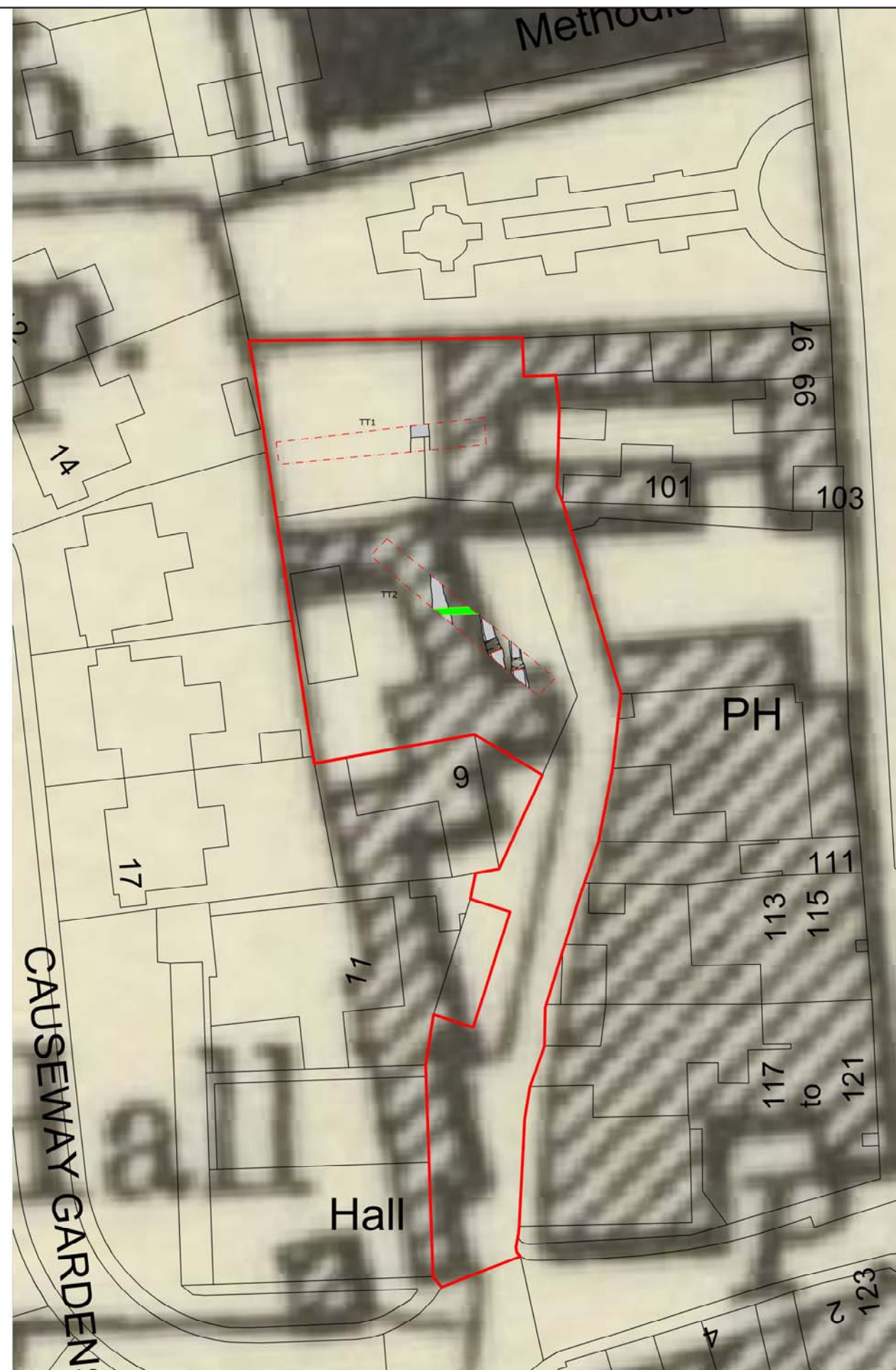


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OS 6" ENGLAND & WALES 1887



OS 6" ENGLAND & WALES 1952



-  Excavated Feature
-  Trench
-  Site Boundary

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