



GRAVEL FARM, NEWMARKET ROAD, STRETHAM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Abstract

On 14th to 16th May 2019 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at Gravel Farm, Newmarket Road, Stretham ahead of the erection of a dwelling and associated carport, proposed agricultural units and a retrospective application for proposed container storage unit yard, and proposed demolition of a dwelling. 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 potential for remains of the site relating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Iron Age and medieval periods. There was believed to have been a moderate to high potential for remains relating to the Bronze Age and post-medieval periods, and a high potential for finds and features from the Romano-British period.

Despite the potential for archaeological features, no features or finds were found relating to the Bronze Age and Romano-British periods. The features found in the evaluation were mostly undated, the only dated feature on the site dates from the late post-medieval to early modern period. The presence of desiccated fen deposit in the north west of the site might suggest that the site would have been fenland until being reclaimed during the post-medieval period and the land being turned over to agriculture.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 14th to 16th May 2019 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at Gravel Farm, Newmarket Road, Stretham (NGR; TL 5220 7360) on behalf of James Harvey ahead of the erection of a dwelling and associated carport (19/00134/FUL), proposed agricultural units (19/00135/FUL) and a retrospective application for proposed container storage unit yard, and proposed demolition of a dwelling (19/00136/FUL). All three planning applications are on adjacent plots and after agreement with the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET), the client and their agent are being dealt with under the same archaeological brief.

The evaluation was undertaken in response to a design brief issued by CHET (Stewart. G. 1st April 2019) required two phases of archaeological investigation: The first phase of the archaeological programme entailed the creation of a LEVEL 2 illustrated historic building recording (HBR) for planning application 19/00134/FUL. Phase 1 is covered by a separate report with the event code ECB5885 and is not covered by this report. The second phase required a programme of linear trial trenching to adequately sample the threatened available area.

The evaluation comprised seven trenches, spread over the three plots. The northern plot consisted of 2 trenches, Trench 1 measured 30.00m x 1.80m NW to SE and 10.00 x 1.80m NE-SW with a 4.00m x 1.80m extension orientated NE to SW. Trench 2 measured 18.00m x 1.80m and was orientated NE to SW. The south-eastern plot consisted of 3 trenches, Trench 3 was orientated NW to SE and measured 40.00m x 1.80m. Trench 4 measured 30.00m x 1.80m and was orientated NE to SW. Trench 5 measured 30.00m x 1.80m and was orientated NW to SE. The final plot will consist of 2 trenches, Trench 6 measured 27.00m x 1.80m and was orientated NW to SE and Trench 7 measured 15.00m x 1.80m and orientated NW to SE.



2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The site is located northern side of Newmarket Road, approximately 1.3km from the centre of Stretham. The site is bound by Newmarket Road in the south-west and c.20m west of the River Great Ouse. Agricultural fields surround the northern and eastern sides of the site.

2.1 Site Geology

The site is situated on the interface of two bedrock geology types. The bedrock geology in the north-west of the site is described as Kimmeridge Clay Formation – Mudstone. This Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 152 to 157 million years ago in the Jurassic Period, when the local environment had been previously dominated by shallow seas (BSG, 2019).

The south of the site is described as Woburn Sands formation – Sandstone. This is a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 101 to 126 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period, when the local environment had previously dominated by shallow seas (BGS, 2019).

No superficial deposits have been recorded on the site (BSG, 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 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 *East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 6.16.4 (2015)*

The local plan for East Cambridgeshire Local Plan deals with the development on archaeological sites in policy 6.16.4, this states the following:

- Where permission for development is granted that would harm assets of archaeological interest, a programme of conservation appropriate to their significance should be undertaken. Their in-situ preservation is preferred, but where this is not feasible, provision should be made for a programme of archaeological excavation, recording and public presentation (where appropriate) to take place before development commences. The analysis, reporting and publication of the evidence should take place thereafter. This will be secured by a planning condition, the discharge of which will be agreed in conjunction with the County Council Historic Environment Team. All works will be guided by national planning policy, government advice and that issued by English Heritage.



4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2-3)

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

4.1 Significant Records

The most significant record returned by the CHER search is the designated settlement site at Tiled House Farm (NHLE ID 1006795), located c.130m to the south-east of the site. The site is the location of a Roman Villa, with associated cropmarks. Finds on the site have included a worn brass of Hadrian, a bronze finger ring and large quantities of Roman pottery (06916, 06957). A geophysical survey (ECB2634), over a small area that had produced concentrations of Roman material, showed the results of the geophysics coincided with the recorded pattern of cropmarks.

The development site is surrounded by finds prehistoric and Roman artefacts, including a Late Bronze Age socketed axe hoard (11300), Neolithic and Late Bronze Age flint scatters (06957a; MCB16990; MCB16991; MCB17000; MCB17001 & MCB17015), Roman pottery finds and cropmarks (06905; 06906; 06928; 06928a; 06933; MCB16998; MCB16999; MCB17000; MCB17001; MCB17003 & MCB17015). These finds scatters and cropmarks suggest evidence of late Prehistoric and Roman occupation in the immediate area of the development site.

4.2 Prehistoric

The early prehistoric periods are represented in the CHER search by findspots predominantly. The earliest prehistoric records for this period are dated to the Neolithic, with a polished flint axe found c.1050m south of the site (06914). A collection of Neolithic flints, including one long knife blade and several scrapers were found c.230m south of the site (06957a). Mixed assemblages of Neolithic and Bronze Age flints are located c.930m (MCB17000) and c.750m (MCB17001) south west of the site.

Evidence related to the later prehistoric periods are concentrated in the southern half of the search area. The most significant of these are located within 300m of the site. A Late Bronze



Age socketed axe hoard has been identified c.200m south-east of the site (11300) which consists of 6-10 socketed axes, copper ingots and an Early Bronze Age flat Axe. Additionally, a Late Bronze Age socketed ribbed axe was located c.270m south-east from the site. Further from the site an Iron Age coin was found c.590 north-west (10394), and an Iron Age glass bead was found c.700m south-west of the site (MCB17008).

4.3 *Romano-British*

Evidence of Roman activity within the search area is well represented by the CHER search results. The most significant is the Roman Villa at tiled house farm (NHLE ID 1006795), located c.130m to the south-east of the site, south of Newmarket Road. The site is the location of a Roman building, with associated cropmarks. Finds on the site have included a worn brass of Hadrian, a bronze finger ring and large quantities of Roman pottery (06916, 06957). A geophysical survey (ECB2634) over a small area that had produced concentrations of Roman material showed the results of the geophysics coincided with the recorded pattern of cropmarks.

Cropmarks have been identified c.330m north-west of the site alongside finds of 2nd century samian and 4th century colour coated pottery. Further Roman cropmarks were identified c.430m north-west of the site at Starlock Hay fen.

A Roman coin hoard was found c.560m south of the site, consisting of 865 coins dated from the 4th century. Roman coins have been located c.590m north-west and c.940m south-west of the site.

4.4 *Medieval*

Records referring to medieval activity within the CHER search area are limited. An evaluation undertaken c.980 to the north-west of the site retrieved medieval pottery from the subsoil (ECB4295). A medieval sword dated from the 13th century was dredged from the river c.850 north-east of the site (00332).



4.5 *Post-medieval and Modern*

The majority of the post-medieval records returned by the CHER search refer to sites of post-medieval structures the two structures closest to the site. Located c.40m north of the site is Gravel Farm (MCB26770), and c.100m to the south-east is Tile House Farm (MCB26771). Both structures are present on the 1st edition OS map dated to 1885. The remaining structures returned by the CHER search are not within 200m of the site.

Archaeological monitoring and recording of a cable trench for a solar farm revealed features associated with drainage during the post-medieval and modern periods (ECB4052).

4.6 *Archaeological Potential*

Given the above, the predominant potential for archaeology at this site was likely to relate to the Romano-British period.

Therefore, there was a **low** potential for remains on the site relating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Iron Age and medieval periods. The potential for Bronze Age and post-medieval remains was **moderate - high**, and the potential for finds and features from the Romano-British period was **high**.



5.0 PROJECT AIMS

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

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

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).

All aspects of the trial trenching will be 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 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 land use 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 the erection of a dwelling and associated carport (19/00134/FUL), proposed agricultural units (19/00135/FUL) and a retrospective application for proposed container storage unit yard, and proposed demolition of a dwelling (19/00136/FUL). All three planning applications are on adjacent plots and after agreement with the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET), the client and their agent are being dealt with under the same archaeological brief.

The evaluation comprised of seven trenches, spread over the three plots. The northern plot consisted of 2 trenches, Trench 1 measured 30.00m x 1.80m NW to SE and 10.00 x 1.80m NE-SW with a 4.00m x 1.80m extension orientated NE to SW. Trench 2 measured 18.00m x 1.80m and was orientated NE to SW. The south-eastern plot consisted of 3 trenches, Trench 3 was orientated NW to SE and measured 40.00m x 1.80m. Trench 4 measured 30.00m x 1.80m and was orientated NE to SW. Trench 5 measured 30.00m x 1.80m and was orientated NW to SE. The final plot will consist of 2 trenches, Trench 6 measured 27.00m x 1.80m and was orientated NW to SE and Trench 7 measured 15.00m x 1.80m and orientated NW to SE.

A 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket will be used to machine down to the first archaeological horizon, thereafter all excavation work was undertaken by hand (Fig. 3).

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



8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig. 4 - 12)

A professional metal detector was used to scan the trenches locations prior and post excavation along with the spoil heaps. Only demonstrably modern finds were recovered and therefore were not retained.

Bucket sampling was undertaken at the end of each trench where 90L of each layer was hand sieved. Only demonstrably modern finds were recovered and therefore was not retained.

8.1 Trench 1 (Fig.4-6 & 12)

Trench 1 was located in the western side of the northern area of the site. The main body of the trench was orientated NW to SE, with a SW to NE trench at its SE end and a SW to NE extension on its NW end to make up for a skipped area in the centre of the trench to avoid active services.

The trench contained no archaeological features. However, it contained two natural tree boles, one of which, **1022**, was in the NW trench extension. Map regression and aerial photographs (Fig.12) show that this area of the site had trees present from the first edition OS dated to 1886 until 2007 where the trees have been removed and yard surface has been put down. Therefore, it is likely that natural feature **1022** relates to this line of trees. The second natural feature was a small root bole, **1028**, located in the SE trench extension and might relate to the vegetation visible in the 1999 aerial photograph (Fig.12).

8.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 4 & 7)

Trench 2 was located in the eastern end of the northern area of site, was orientated NE to SW. The contained one archaeological feature, Pit **1016**, and the postholes **1012** & **1014** from a modern fence.

Pit **1016** was sub-circular in plan, with moderate sloping sides on to a concave base, and measured 0.37m x 0.33m x 0.11m. The pit had a single fill which was a light grey brown, firm, silty clay with occasional inclusions of small sub-angular flints. The pit was 100% excavated for finds retrieval, however no finds were present.



8.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 4 & 10)

Trench 3 was located on the northern end of the south-eastern area of site, and was orientated NW to SE. The trench contained one archaeological feature, Hedge-line **1003**.

Hedge-line **1003** was an irregular linear feature and aligned E to W, the base and side were both irregular and the feature measured 0.37m x 6.37m x 0.06m. The hedge-line contained a single fill which was a mid yellow-grey brown, firm, silty clay, with frequent inclusions of small to medium sized flints. No finds were present. The feature was sealed by ploughsoil **1000**.

8.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 4 & 11)

Trench 4 was located in the centre of the south-eastern area of site, and was orientated NE to SW. The trench contained no archaeological features.

8.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 4 & 11)

Trench 5 was located along the southern boundary of the south-eastern area of site, and was orientated NW to SE. The trench contained no archaeological features.

8.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 4, 8 & 12)

Trench 6 was located in the centre of the south-western area of the site, and was orientated NW to SE. The trench contained two archaeological features; ditch **1018** & recut **1024**.

Ditch **1018** was linear in plan, aligned E to W, with steep sloping sides and a pointed base. It contained two fills. The Primary fill, **1019**, was a dark grey brown, firm, silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints. The fill contained a single refined white earthenware body sherd that was originally was part of a plate, which is dated from the late 18th to 20th century.

The secondary fill, **1020**, was a mid yellow brown, firm, silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular flint inclusions. The fill contained four sherds of pottery and a fragment of a clay pipe. The pottery included a refined white earthenware plate sherd dated from the



late 18th to 20th century, two further plate fragments of transfer printed ware dated from the mid/late 18th to 20th century, and finally an English stoneware body sherd generally dated from the 17th to 19th century, however the more refined style of this fragment suggests a date from the later 19th century. The clay tobacco pipe stem fragment was recovered, the stem fragment is from the area adjacent to the mouth-piece, fragment is very thin with a 2mm diameter bore it is likely to have been locally produced and is dated from the late 19th to early 20th century.

The recut **1024** of ditch **1018**, was linear in plan with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch had a single fill **1025**, which was a dark grey black, loose, silty clay with frequent inclusions of modern rubbish. The fill contained finds which were demonstrably modern in date, which included frogged bricks, glazed tiles, plastic shoes, batteries, scrap metal, drinks cans, crisp packets and sheet plastic.

Ditch **1018** can be seen in the first edition OS dated 1886 as a ditch next to a trackway, this fits with the 18th – 20th century date given by the pottery recovered from fills **1019** & **1020**. The recut of this ditch **1024** is still visible on aerial photographs from 1999 until 2015, when the garden for Willow Cottage is expanded, this is supported by the fill of the recut **1025** containing a large quantity of modern rubbish.

8.7 Trench 7 (Fig. 4, 9 & 12)

Trench 7 was located in the south-eastern corner of the south west area and was orientated NW to SE. The trench contained a single archaeological feature, hedge-line **1010**.

Hedge-line **1010** was an irregular linear feature and aligned NE to SW, the base and side were both irregular and the feature measured 1.00m+ x 1.09m x 0.58m. The hedge-line contained a single fill, **1011**, which was a mid yellow-grey brown, loose, silty clay, with frequent inclusions of small to medium sized flints. No finds were present. Aerial photographs show that trees present in this area from 1999 until 2015 when the garden area for Willow Cottage was expanded. It is likely as the feature cuts through the ploughsoil that **1010** relates to the removal of these trees before 2015. It is unknown if this feature relates to hedge-line **1003** present in trench 3.



9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 4)

The deposit model differed across the three areas of the site. The deposit model therefore will be discussed by individual trenches and groups of trenches where applicable.

Trench 1

The top of the stratigraphic sequence was yard surface **1008**, which was present to a depth of 0.41m in sample section 7. This comprised of a Mid orange yellow, compacted rubble with gravel. This layer overlay a desiccated fen deposit **1009**, which was present to a depth of 0.81m in sample section 7. This overlay the natural geology **1021**, which comprised a light grey green, very compact, silty clay

Trench 2

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence was turf layer **1007**, which was present to a depth 0.13m in sample section 8. This comprised dark grey brown, firm, silty clay. This layer overlay a layer of imported soil **1027**, which comprised a dark grey brown, firm, silty clay, and was present to a depth of 0.27m. This layer overlay yard surface **1008**, which comprised of a mid orange yellow, compacted rubble with gravel which was present to a depth of 0.38m. This layer overlay plough soil **1000**, which comprised a mid grey brown, firm, silty clay, and was present to a depth of 0.55m. This overlay natural geology **1002**, which comprised a light orange yellow, very compact, silty clay.

Trenches 3-5

The top of the stratigraphic sequence for these trenches was plough soil **1000**, which comprised a mid grey brown, firm, silty clay, and was present to a maximum depth of 0.44m in sample section 1. This layer represents the current agricultural plough soil across the field. This overlay natural geology **1002**.

Trenches 6-7

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence was turf layer **1007**, which was present to a depth 0.11m in sample section 4. This comprised dark grey brown, firm, silty clay. This overlay plough soil **1000**, which comprised a mid grey brown, firm, silty clay, and was present to a



depth of 0.56m in sample section 5. This overlay subsoil **1001**, which was a mid yellow grey, firm, silty clay and was only present in trench 6, and to a maximum depth of 0.68m. This overlay natural geology **1002**.



10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The site had a low potential for remains of the site relating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Iron Age and medieval periods. There was believed to have been a moderate to high potential for remains relating to the Bronze Age and post-medieval periods, and a high potential for finds and features from the Romano-British period.

The evaluation revealed three phases of activity on the site. A late post-medieval to early modern ditch was found in trench 6. Ditch **1018** was most likely associated with a trackway present on the 1st edition OS dated from 1886, pottery and a clay pipe stem found suggest a date from the late 18th to early 20th century for the ditch.

The second phase of activity relates to an undated phase with pit **1016**, and hedge line features **1003** & **1010**. The hedge line feature in trench 7 can be seen in aerial photographs from 1999 until 2015 when the garden for Willow Cottage was expanded. The other hedge type feature was in trench 3 and is not visible in the aerial photography or the 1st edition OS and therefore must predate 1886.

The third phase was the formation of subsoil **1001**, which was only present in trench 6, this most likely represents a previous agricultural soil.

The final phase relates to the formation of plough soil **1000** and the deposition of yard surface **1008** circa 2003. The presence of desiccated fen deposits in trench 1 might explain the relative recent date, suggesting that the land was turned over to agriculture after being reclaimed from the fen and in the post medieval period.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological features, no features or finds were found relating to the Bronze Age and Romano-British periods. The features found in the evaluation were mostly undated, the only dated feature on the site dates from the late post-medieval to early modern period. The presence of desiccated fen deposit in the north west of the site might suggest that the site would have been fenland until being reclaimed during the post-medieval period and the land being turned over to agriculture.



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

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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 Matthew Baker, Matt Selfe and Dan Hills 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

TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
1	SW-NE	2.15m	18
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
6	SW end, NW side	SE	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1008	0.00-0.25m	Yard Surface: Mid Orange Yellow, Compact, Gravely Rubble.	
1009	0.25m-0.36m	Desiccated Fen Deposit: Dark Grey Brown, Firm, Silty Clay.	
1002	0.36m+	Natural Geology: Light Orange Yellow, Very Compact, Silty Clay.	

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
1	NW-SE	1.94m	17
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
7	NW end, NE side	SE	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1008	0.00-0.47m	Yard Surface: Mid Orange Yellow, Compact, Gravely Rubble.	
1009	0.47m-0.79m	Desiccated Fen Deposit: Dark Grey Brown, Firm, Silty Clay.	
1021	0.79m +	Natural Superficial Geology: Light Grey Green, Very Compact, Silty Clay.	

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
1	NW-SE	2.02m	27
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
9	SE end, NE side	SW	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1008	0.00-0.28m	Yard Surface: Mid Orange Yellow, Compact, Gravely Rubble.	
1009	0.28m-0.52m	Desiccated Fen Deposit: Dark Grey Brown, Firm, Silty Clay.	
1002	0.52m-0.72m	Natural Superficial Geology: Light Orange Yellow, Very Compact, Silty Clay.	
1021	0.72m-1.05m	Natural Superficial Geology: Light Grey Green, Very Compact, Silty Clay.	
1026	1.05m+	Natural Geology: Mid Blueish Grey, Very Compact, Silty Clay.	



TRENCH 2

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
2	SW-NE	2.15m	22
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
8	SW end, NW side	SE	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1007	0.00-0.13m	Turf: Dark Grey Brown, Firm, Silty Clay.	
1027	0.13m-0.27m	Imported Soil: Dark Grey Brown, Firm, Silty Clay.	
1008	0.27m-0.38m	Yard Surface: Mid Orange Yellow, Compact, Gravely Rubble.	
1000	0.38m-0.55m	Plough Soil: Mid Grey Brown, Firm, Silty Clay.	
1002	0.55m+	Natural Superficial Geology: Light Orange Yellow, Very Compact, Silty Clay.	

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds (sherds or numbers) /g
1012	Modern Posthole (0.27m x 0.19m x 0.11m) Sub-circular in plan, with steep sloping sides and a flat base.	1013	Dark grey brown, loose, silty clay	-	-
1014	Modern Posthole (0.25m x 0.25m x 0.08m) Sub-circular in plan, with steep sloping sides and a flat base.	1015	Dark grey brown, loose, silty clay	-	-
1016	Pit (0.37m x 0.33m x 0.11m) Sub-circular in plan, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base.	1017	Light grey brown, firm, silty clay with occasional inclusions of small sub-angular flints.	-	-



TRENCH 3

Trench No 3	Orientation NW-SE	Height AOD 2.03m	Shot ID 3
Sample Section No 1	Location NW end, NE side	Facing SW	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.44m	Plough Soil: Mid Grey Brown, Firm, Silty Clay.	
1002	0.44m+	Natural Superficial Geology: Light Orange Yellow, Very Compact, Silty Clay.	

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Findings (sherds or numbers) /g
1003	Hedge line (1.00m+ x 0.37m x 0.06m) E-W orientation Irregular liner in plan, with irregular sides and an irregular base.	1004	Mid yellow-grey brown, firm, silty clay with frequent inclusions of small - medium sized flints	-	-

TRENCH 4

Trench No 4	Orientation NE-SW	Height AOD 2.00m	Shot ID 5
Sample Section No 2	Location NE end, NW side	Facing SE	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.36m	Plough Soil: Mid Grey Brown, Firm, Silty Clay.	
1002	0.36m+	Natural Superficial Geology: Light Orange Yellow, Very Compact, Silty Clay.	

TRENCH 5

Trench No 5	Orientation NW-SE	Height AOD 2.25m	Shot ID 7
Sample Section No 3	Location NE end, NW side	Facing SE	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.36m	Plough Soil: Mid Grey Brown, Firm, Silty Clay.	
1002	0.36m+	Natural Superficial Geology: Light Orange Yellow, Very Compact, Silty Clay.	



TRENCH 6

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
6	NW-SE	1.94m	12
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
5	SW end, NW side	SW	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1007	0.00-0.11m	Turf: Dark Grey Brown, Firm, Silty Clay.	
1000	0.11m-0.56m	Plough Soil: Mid Grey Brown, Firm, Silty Clay.	
1001	0.56m-0.68m	Subsoil: Mid Yellow Grey, Firm, Silty Clay.	
1002	0.68m+	Natural Superficial Geology: Light Orange Yellow, Very Compact, Silty Clay.	

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds (sherds or numbers) /g
1018	Ditch (1.00m+ x 1.57m x 0.96m) E-W orientation Linear in plan, with steep sloping sides and a pointed base.	1019 Primary	Dark grey brown, firm, silty clay, with occasional small sub-angular flints.	Late 18 th – 20 th century	Pottery 1/2g
		1020 Secondary	Mid yellow brown, firm, silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular flints.	Late 19 th – 20 th century	Pottery 4/39g Clay Pipe 1/<1g
1024	Ditch (1.00m+ x 1.32m x 0.40m) E-W orientation Linear in plan, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base.	1025	Dark grey black, loose, silty clay with frequent inclusions of modern rubbish	-	-

TRENCH 7

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
2	NW-SE	1.83m	9
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
4	SE end, NE side	SW	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1007	0.00-0.11m	Turf: Dark Grey Brown, Firm, Silty Clay.	
1000	0.11m-0.32m	Plough Soil: Mid Grey Brown, Firm, Silty Clay.	
1002	0.32m+	Natural Superficial Geology: Light Orange Yellow, Very Compact, Silty Clay.	

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds (sherds or numbers) /g
1010	Hedge line (1.00m+ x 1.09m x 0.58m) NE-SW orientation Irregular liner in plan, with irregular sides and an irregular base.	1011	Mid yellow-grey brown, loose, silty clay with frequent inclusions of small – medium sized flints	-	-



APPENDIX – 2 SPECIALIST REPORT

The post-medieval pottery and clay pipe from Gravel Farm, Newmarket Road, Stretham, Cambridgeshire (ECB 5884): An assessment report (30/05/19)

Andy Fawcett

The two fills from Ditch 1018 (1019 and 1020) contained a small quantity of pottery and a single clay tobacco pipe stem.

The primary fill (1019) has a single refined white earthenware body sherd (REFW) that originally was part of a plate (2g). The sherd is dated from the late 18th to 20th century. A total of four sherds of pottery were present within fill 1020 (39g). These include one refined white earthenware plate sherd (REFW) dated from the late 18th to 20th century (3g), two further plate fragments of transfer printed ware (TPW) dated from the mid/late 18th to 20th century (20g), and finally an English stoneware body sherd (ESW). This latter fabric is generally dated from the 17th to 19th century (16g), however the general more refined style of this fragment suggests a date somewhere around the later 19th century.

Finally, the clay tobacco pipe stem fragment is very thin with a 2mm diameter bore and is likely to have been fairly locally produced. It is from the area adjacent to the mouth-piece (<1g) and is dated from the late 19th to early 20th century (D. McConnell. pers com).

The combination of the English stoneware sherd and clay tobacco pipe stem indicates that this context is dated to the late 19th century.

The pottery and clay tobacco pipe stem have been fully recorded and no further work on these materials will be required.



APPENDIX – 3 OASIS FORM

OASIS FORM - Print view

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

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

OASIS ID: britanni1-349889

Project details

Project name	Gravel Farm, Newmarket Road, Stretham
Short description of the project	On 14th to 16th May 2019 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at Gravel Farm, Newmarket Road, Stretham ahead of the erection of a dwelling and associated carport, proposed agricultural units and a retrospective application for proposed container storage unit yard, and proposed demolition of a dwelling. 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 potential for remains of the site relating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Iron Age and medieval periods. There was believed to have been a moderate to high potential for remains relating to the Bronze Age and post-medieval periods, and a high potential for finds and features from the Romano-British period. Despite the potential for archaeological features, no features or finds were found relating to the Bronze Age and Romano-British periods. The features found in the evaluation were mostly undated, the only dated feature on the site dates from the late post-medieval to early modern period. The presence of desiccated fen deposit in the north west of the site might suggest that the site would have been fenland until being reclaimed during the post-medieval period and the land being turned over to agriculture.
Project dates	Start: 14-05-2019 End: 16-05-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5884 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	BOUNDARY DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	BOUNDARY DITCH Modern
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLE Modern
Monument type	POSTHOLE Modern
Monument type	HEDGE Uncertain
Monument type	HEDGE Uncertain
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval



OASIS FORM - Print view

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

Methods & techniques "Targeted Trenches"
Development type Rural residential
Development type Rural commercial
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 EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE STRETHAM Gravel Farm, Newmarket Road, Stretham
Postcode CB6 3LJ
Study area 0.72 Hectares
Site coordinates TL 5220 7360 52.33891712965 0.234295417397 52 20 20 N 000 14 03 E Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 1.16m Max: 2.25m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator Matthew Baker
Project director/manager Matthew Baker
Project supervisor Matthew Baker
Type of sponsor/funding body developer
Name of sponsor/funding body Mr James Harvey

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Cambridgeshire HER
Digital Archive ID ECB5884
Digital Contents "Survey"
Digital Media available "GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient Cambridgeshire HER
Paper Archive ID ECB5884
Paper Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey"



OASIS FORM - Print view

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

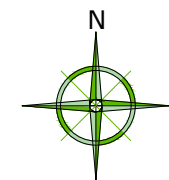
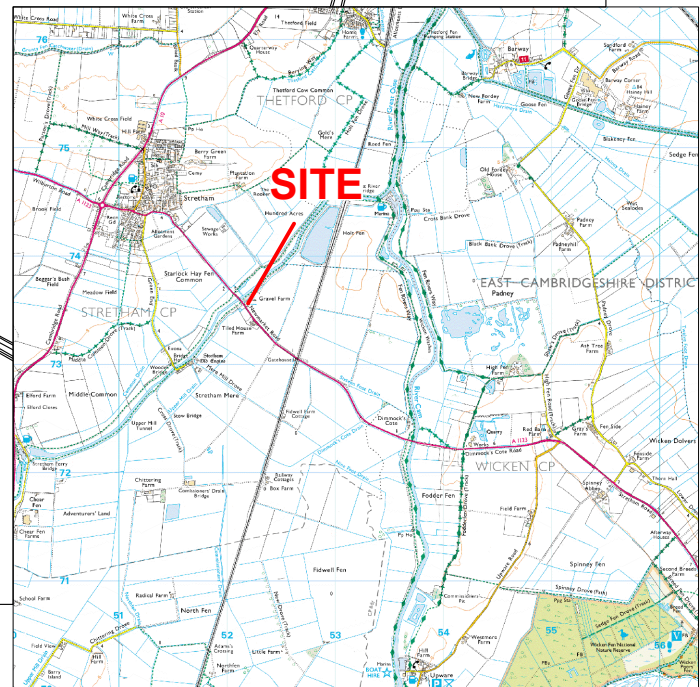
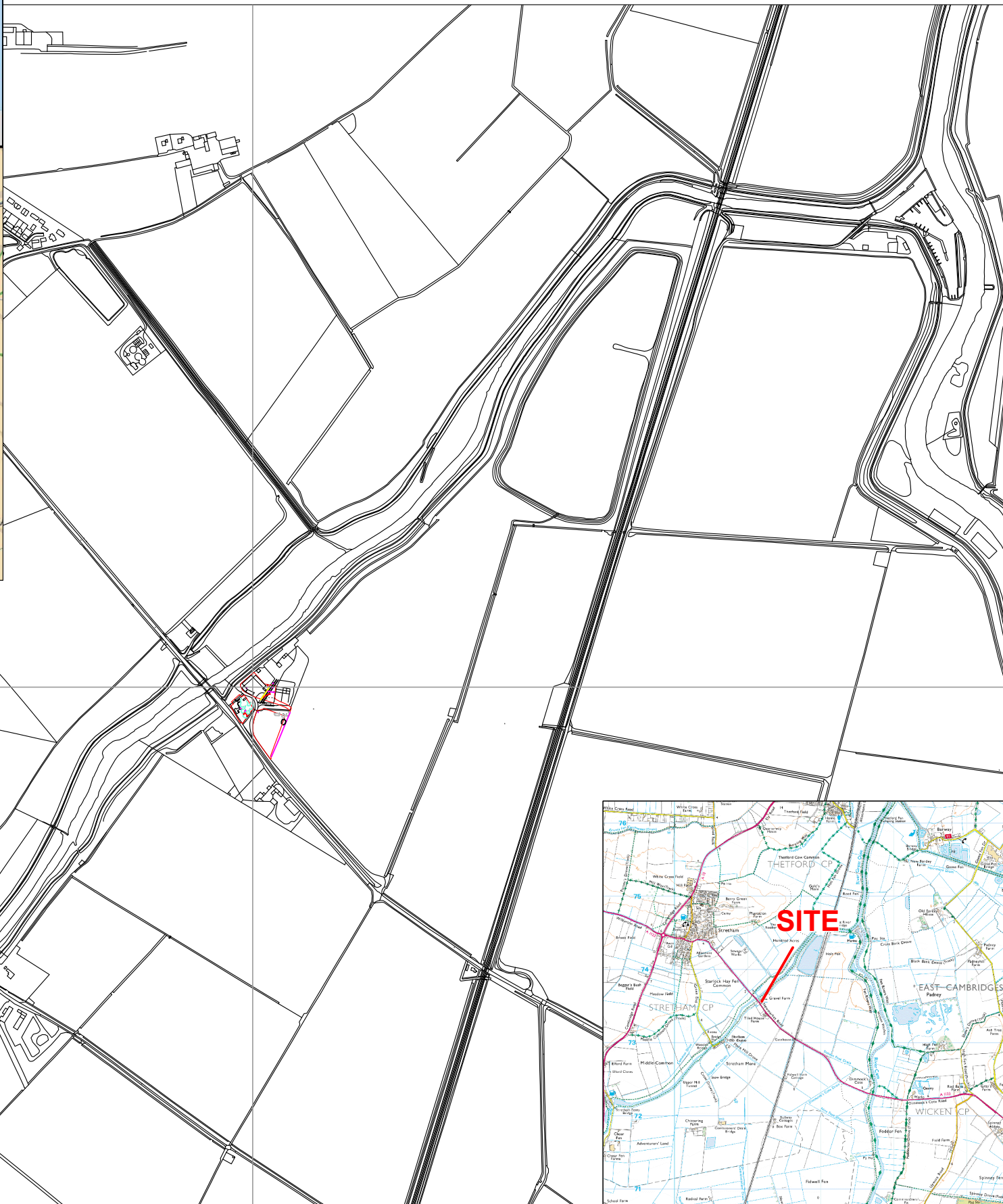
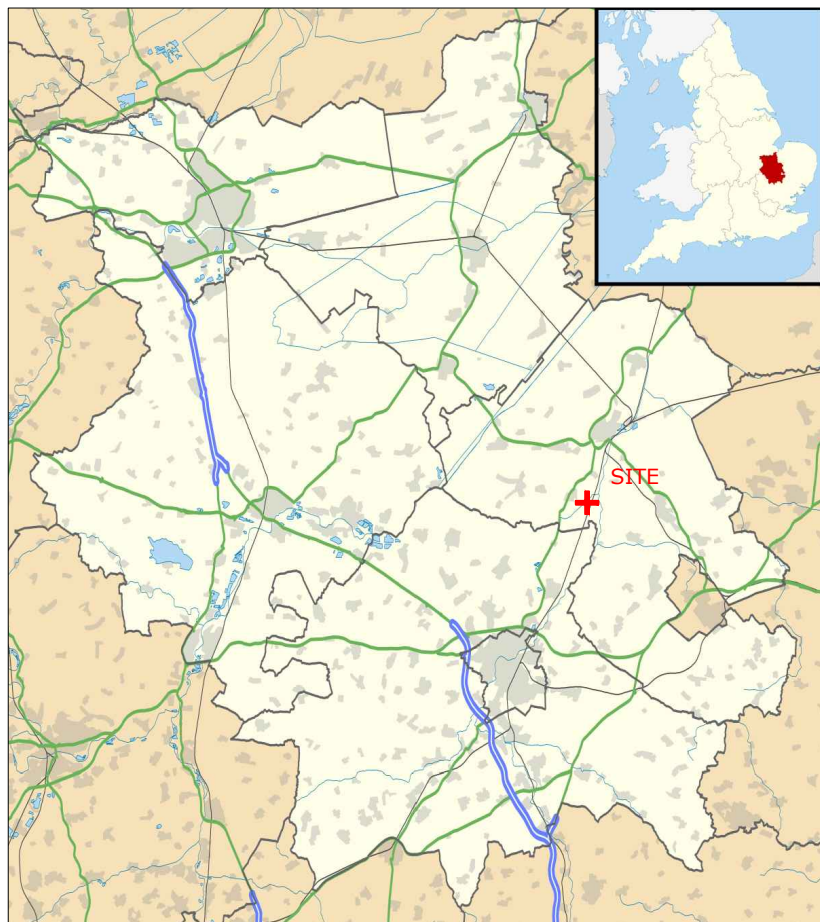
**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Gravel Farm, Newmarket Road, Stretham
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Baker, M. J.
Other bibliographic details	R1233
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Britannia Archaeology Ltd
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	30 May 2019


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 Site Boundary

NGR:	552200 273600	REF:	P1270
PROJECT:	GRAVEL FARM, NEWMARKET ROAD, STRETHAM		
DESCRIPTION:	SITE LOCATION PLAN		
CLIENT:	JAMES HARVEY		
BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD			
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DATE:	MAY 2019	PLOT:	A3	VERSION:	1
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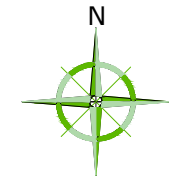
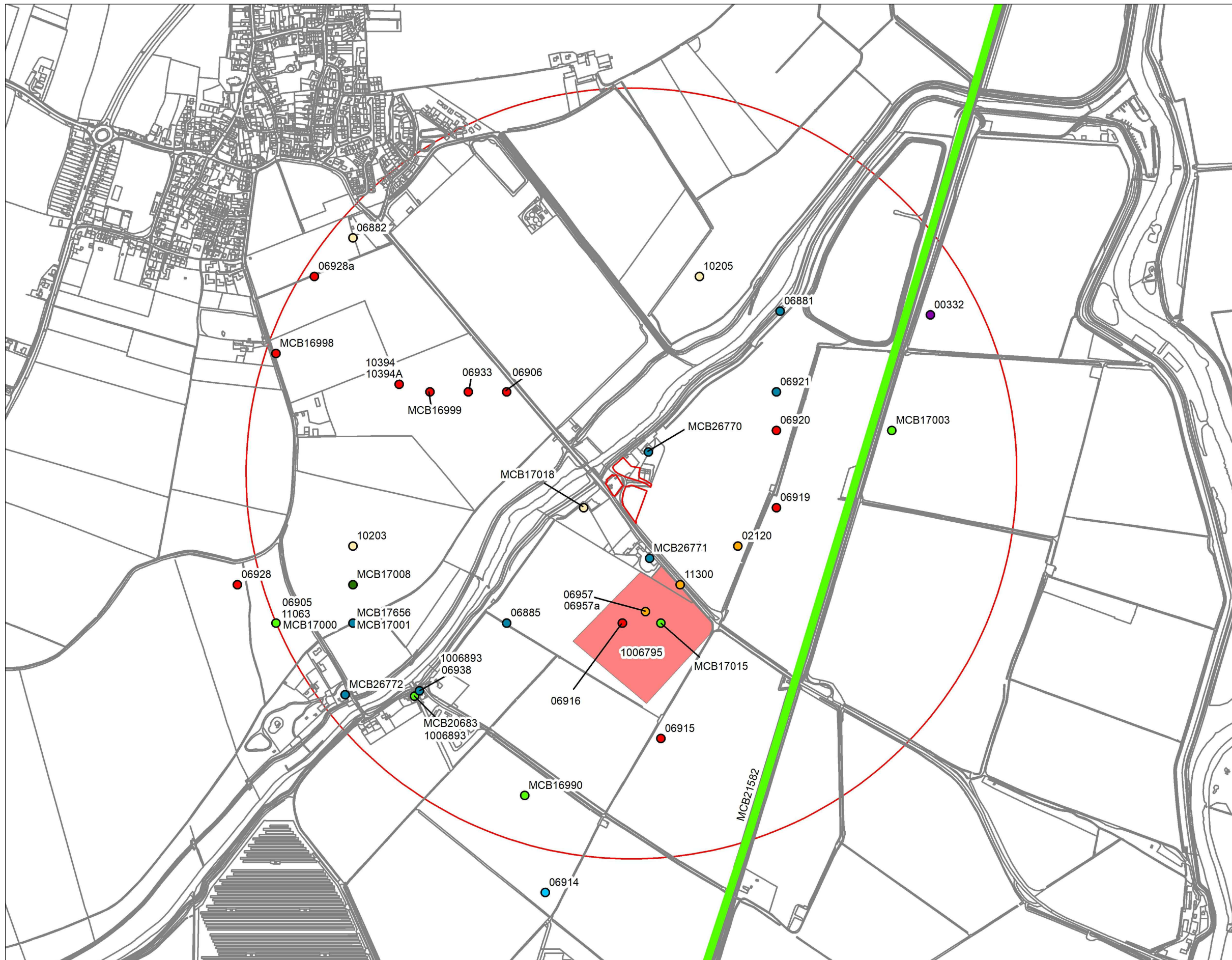
AUTHOR:	MJB	FIGURE:	1
APPROVED:	DPM		

552200


275600

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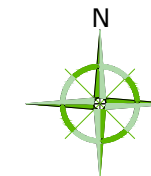
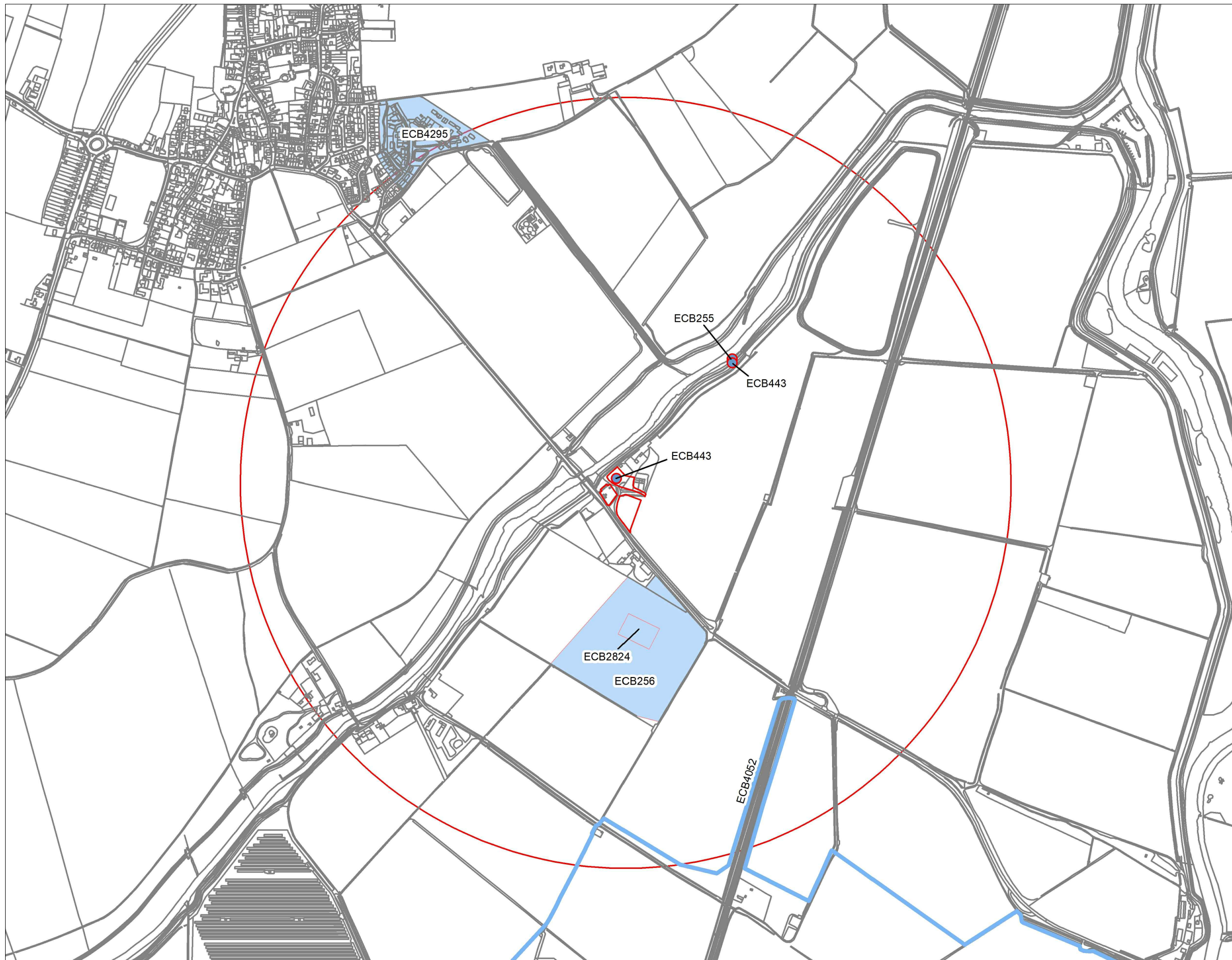
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- Modern Record
- Post-medieval Record
- Medieval Record
- Anglo Saxon Record
- Roman Record
- Iron Age Record
- Bronze Age Record
- Neolithic Record
- Mesolithic Record
- Palaeolithic Record
- Scheduled Monuments
- Site Boundary

NGR:	552200 273600	REF:	P1270
PROJECT:	GRAVEL FARM, NEWMARKET ROAD, STRETHAM		
DESCRIPTION:	CHER DATA - MONUMENTS & SCHEDULED MONUMENTS		
CLIENT:	JAMES HARVEY		
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AUTHOR:	MJB	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> FIGURE: 2 </div>			
APPROVED:	DPM				



- HER Search Area
- Archaeological Event
- Site Boundary

NGR: 552200 273600 REF: P1270

PROJECT: GRAVEL FARM, NEWMARKET ROAD, STRETHAM

DESCRIPTION: CHER DATA - EVENTS

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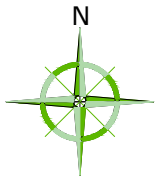
DATE: MAY 2019 PLOT: A3 VERSION: 1










AUTHOR: MJB

APPROVED: DPM

FIGURE: 3

1:10000 0 1:10000 500m



-  Area of Power Cable
-  Storage Containers
-  Septic Tank
-  Sample Section
-  Section Line
-  Excavated Feature
-  Service
-  Trial Trench
-  Site Boundary

NGR: 552221 273600 REF: P1270

PROJECT: GRAVEL FARM, NEWMARKET ROAD, STRETHAM

DESCRIPTION: TRENCH LOCATION PLAN

CLIENT: JAMES HARVEY

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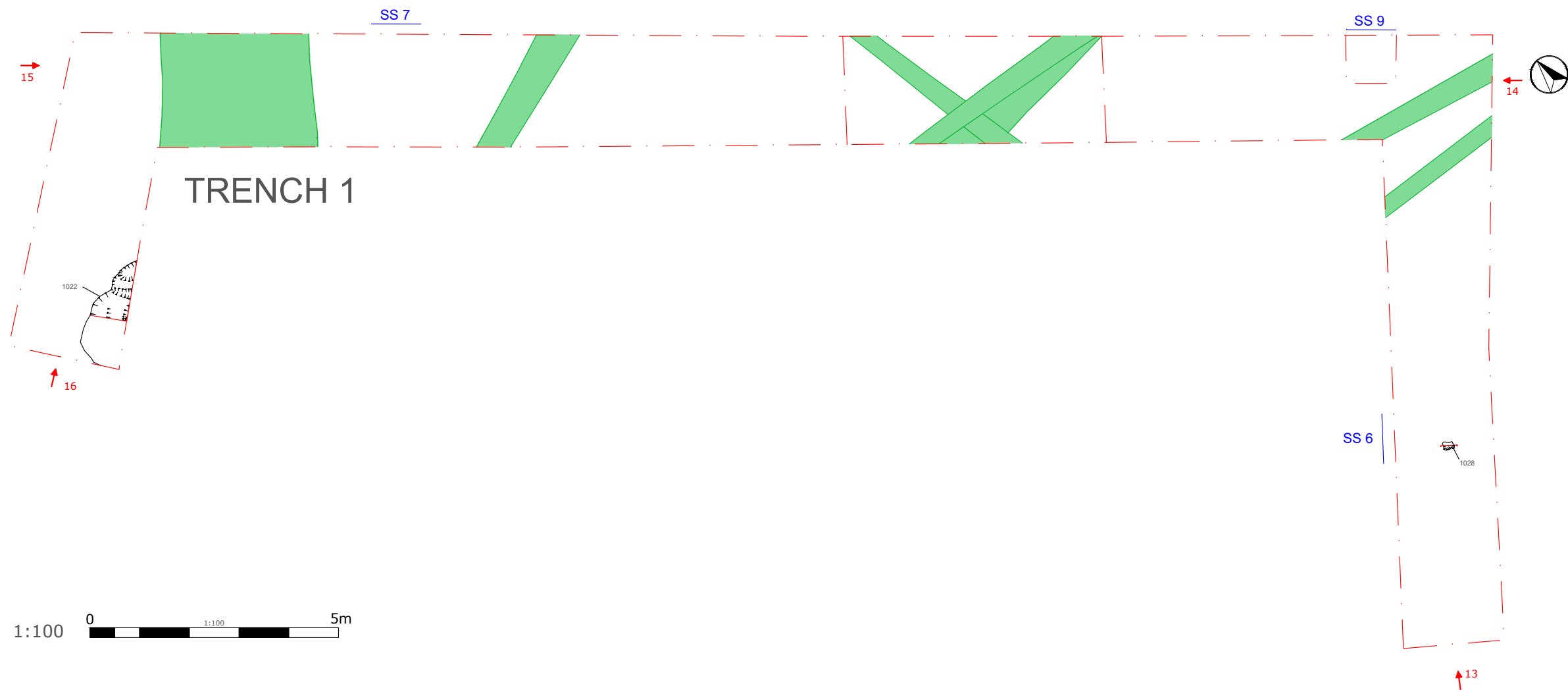
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FIGURE: 4



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DP 16 - Trench 1, view NE




DP 15 - Trench 1, view SE




DP 14 - Trench 1, view NW

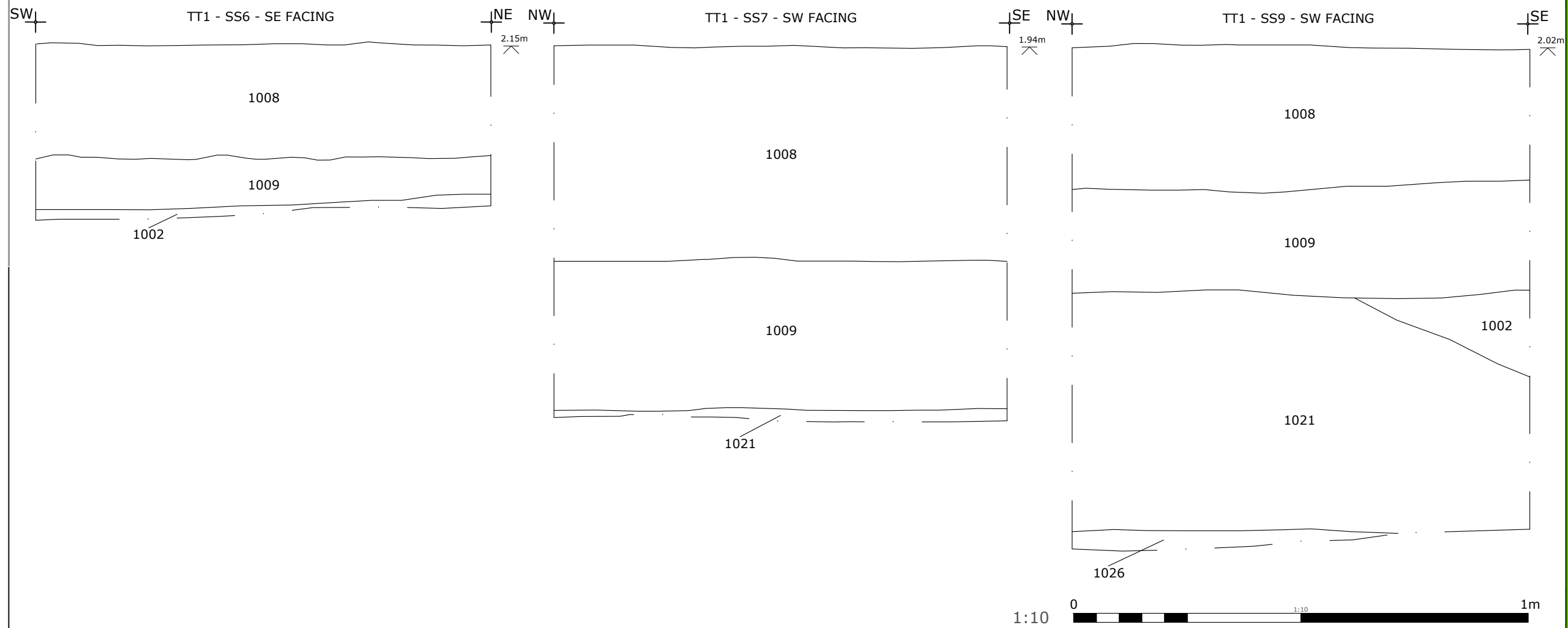


DP 13 - Trench 1, view NE

-  Photo Direction & Number
-  Sample Section
-  Section Line
-  Excavated Feature
-  Trench

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AUTHOR:	MJB	FIGURE: 5			
APPROVED:	DPM				



DP 18 - Trench 1, Sample Section 6, view NW

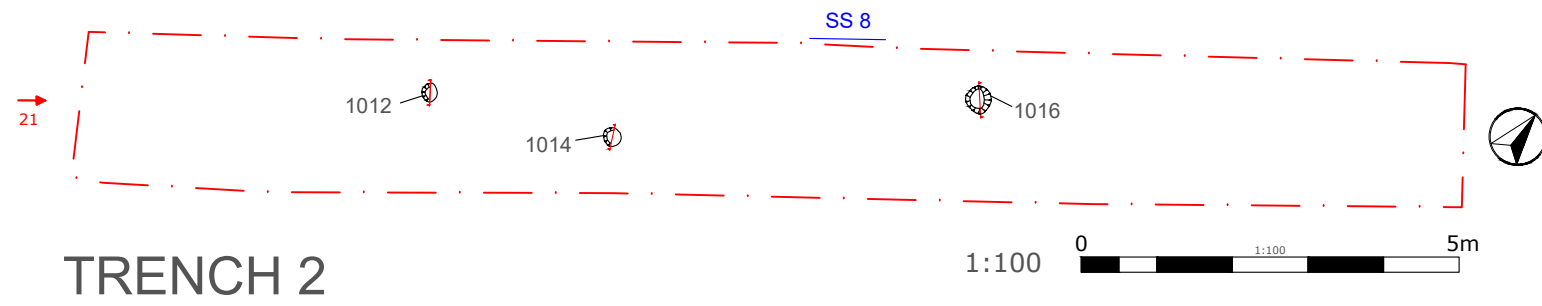


DP 17 - Trench 1, Sample Section 7, view NE



DP 27 - Trench 1, Sample Section 9, view NE

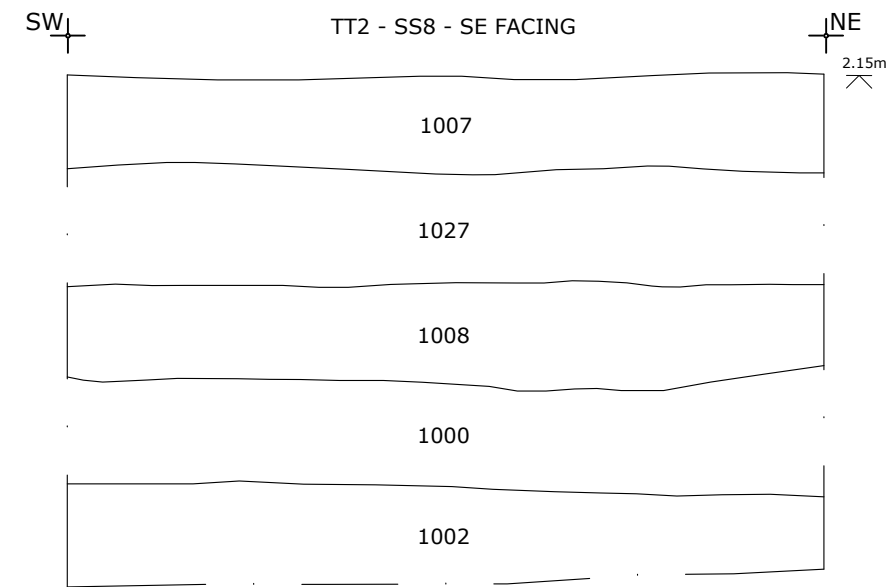
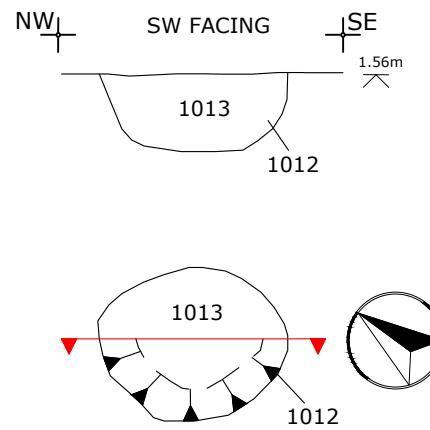
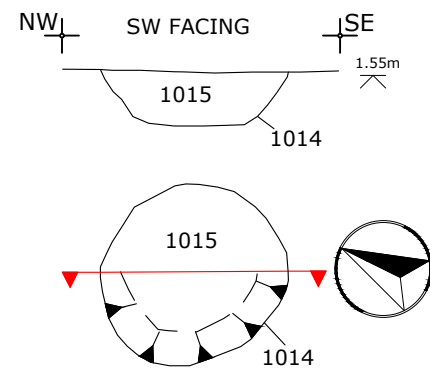
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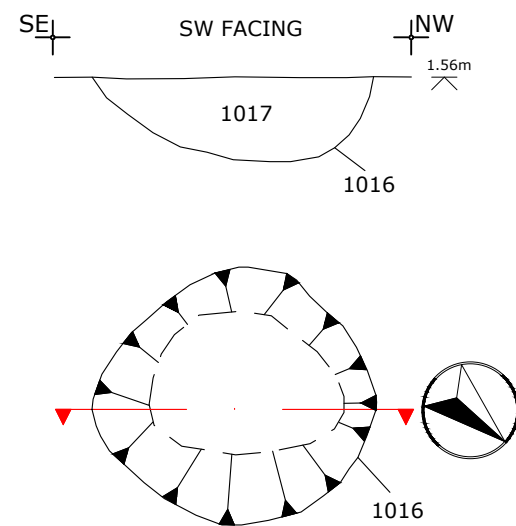
TRENCH 2








DP 21 - Trench 2, view NE



DP 22 - SS8, view NW



DP 32 - Pit 1016, view SW

-  Photo Direction & Number
-  Sample Section
-  Section Line
-  Excavated Feature
-  Trench

NGR: 55221 273600 REF: P1270

PROJECT: GRAVEL FARM, NEWMARKET ROAD, STRETHAM

DESCRIPTION: TRENCH 2

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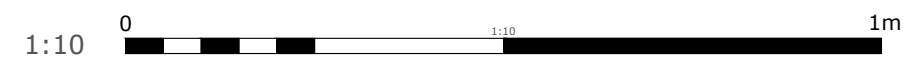
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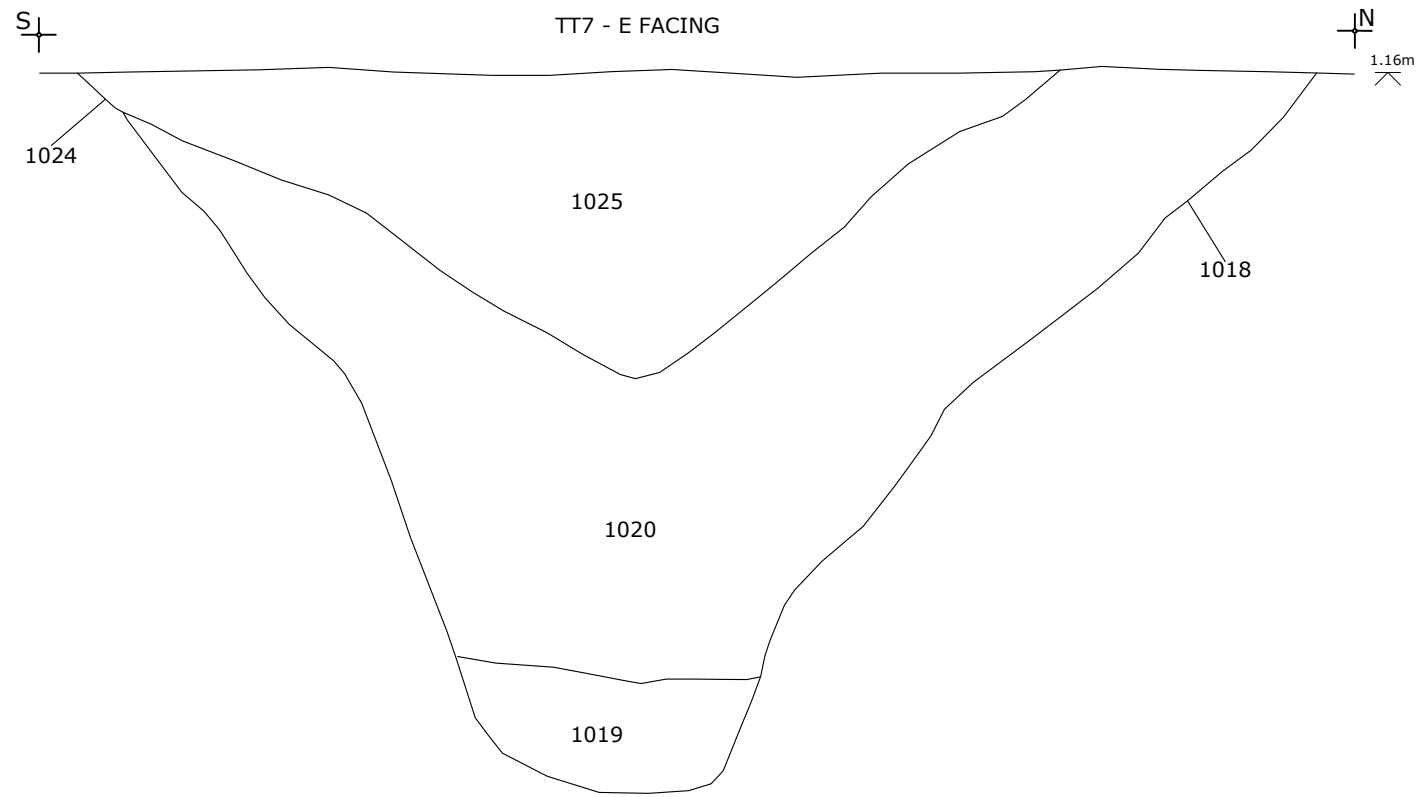
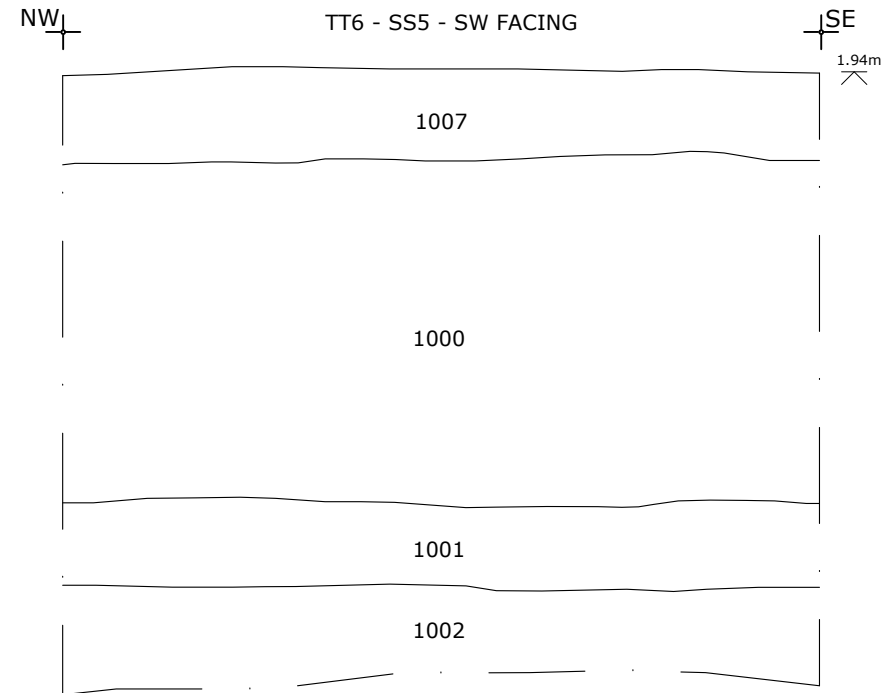
FIGURE: 7



SS 5



TRENCH 6



DP 12 - SS5, view NE



DP 30 - Trench 6, view NW



DP 32 - Pit 1016, view SW

- Photo Direction & Number
- Sample Section
- Section Line
- Excavated Feature
- Trench

NGR: 55221 273600 REF: P1270

PROJECT: GRAVEL FARM, NEWMARKET ROAD, STRETHAM

DESCRIPTION: TRENCH 6

CLIENT: JAMES HARVEY

BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

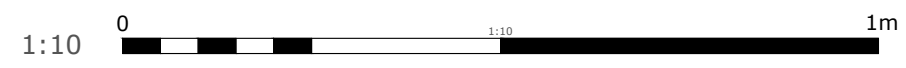
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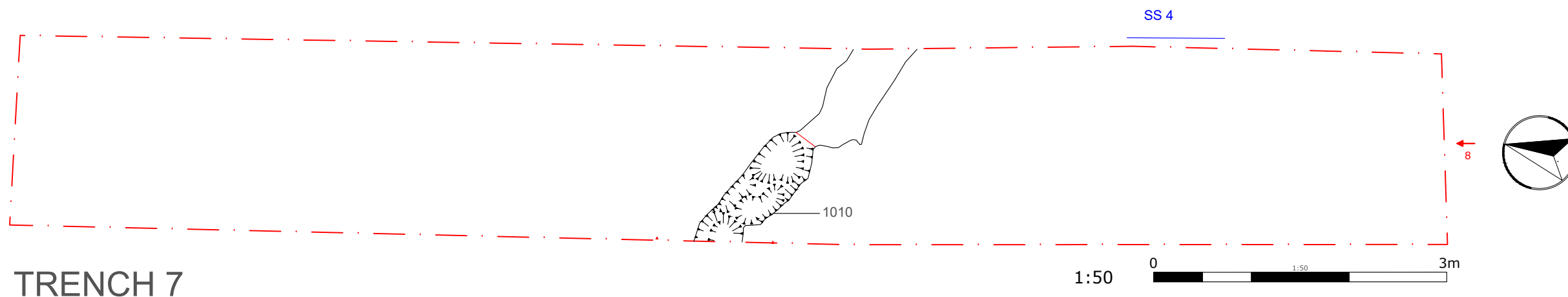
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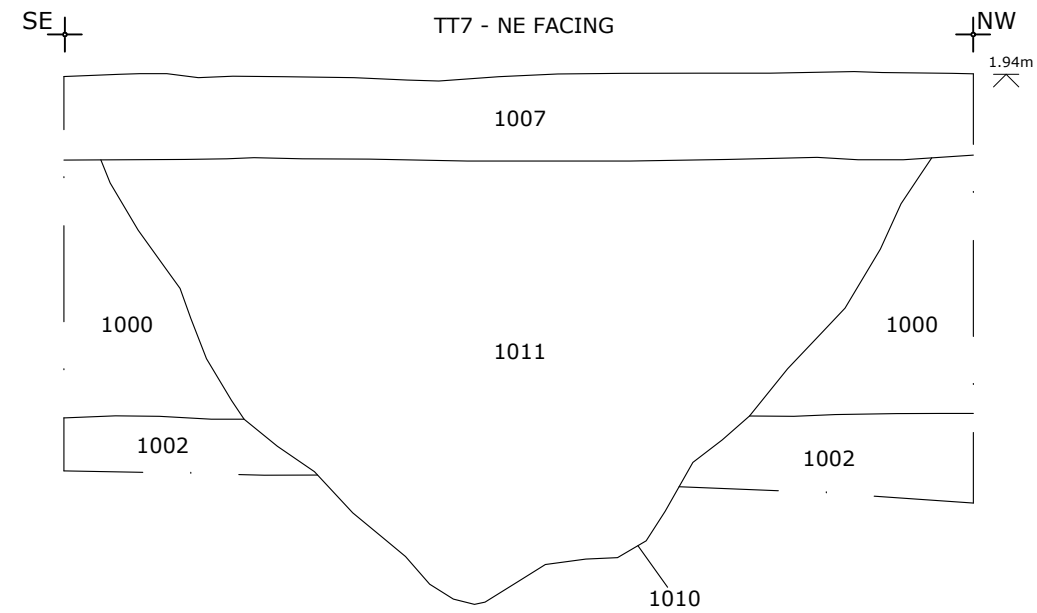
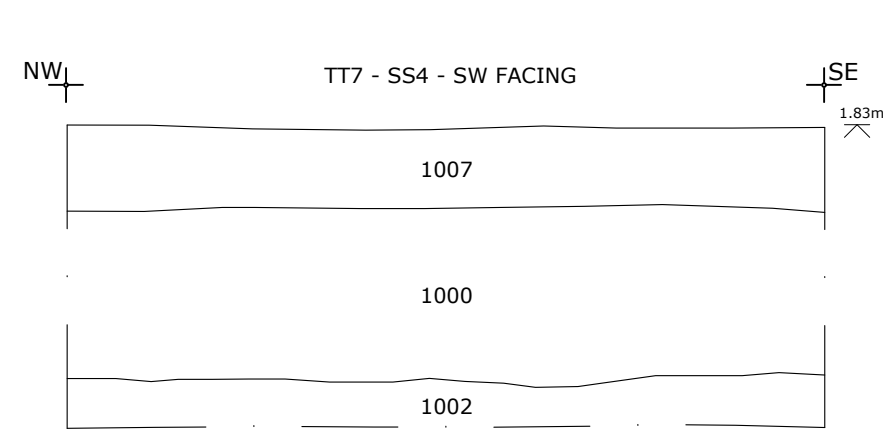
AUTHOR: MJB
APPROVED: DPM

FIGURE: 8





TRENCH 7



DP 9 - Trench 7, Sample Section 4, view NE



DP 8 - Trench 7, view NW



DP 20 - Hedgeline 1010, view SW

-  Photo Direction & Number
-  Sample Section
-  Section Line
-  Excavated Feature
-  Trench

NGR: 55221 273600 REF: P1270

PROJECT: GRAVEL FARM, NEWMARKET ROAD, STRETHAM

DESCRIPTION: TRENCH 7

CLIENT: JAMES HARVEY

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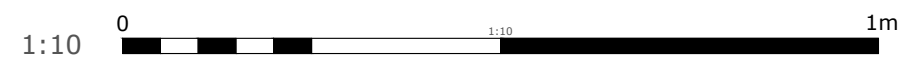
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THE OLD WOOL WAREHOUSE
ST ANDREWS STREET SOUTH
BURY ST EDMUNDS
SUFFOLK
IP33 3PH

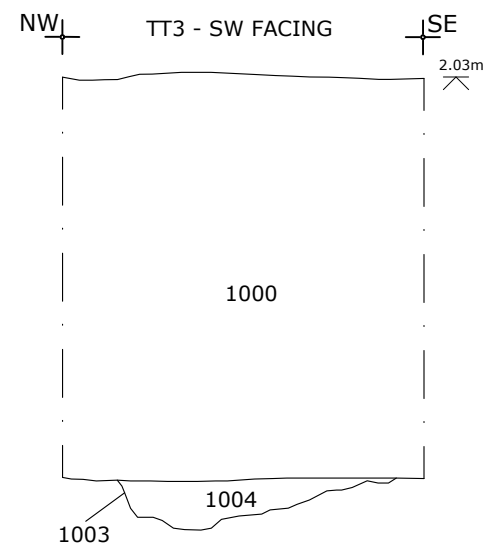
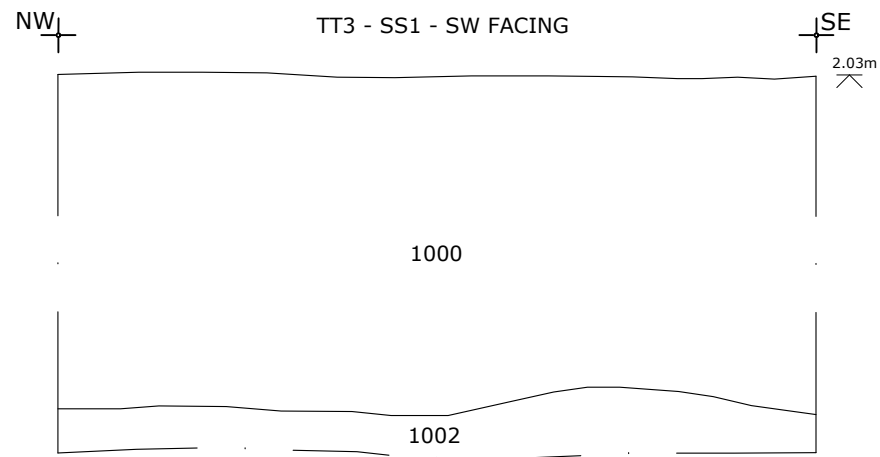
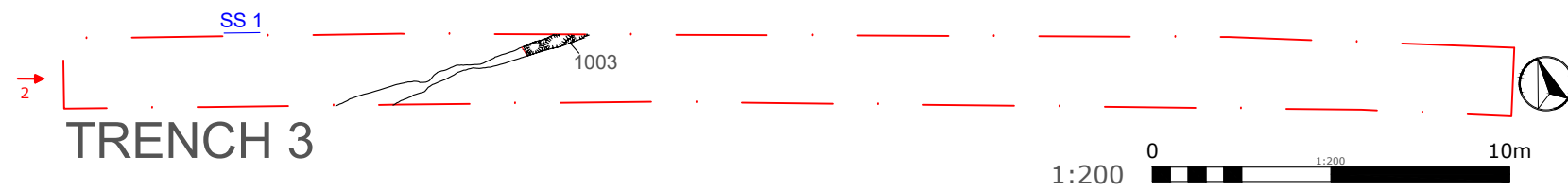
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FIGURE: 9





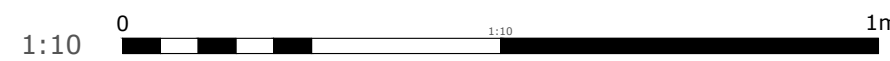
DP 3 - Trench 3, Sample Section 1, view NE




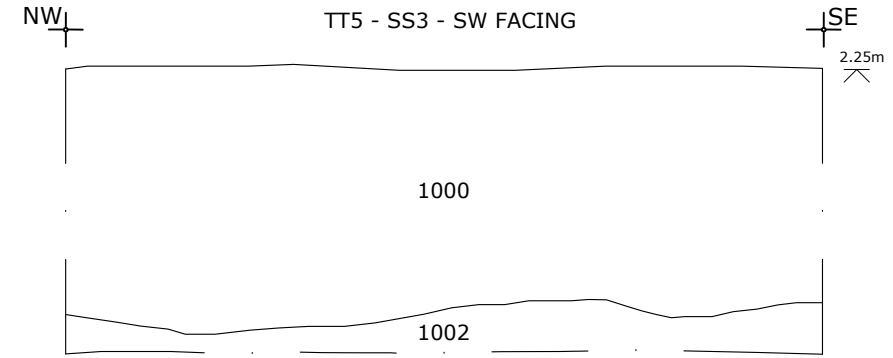
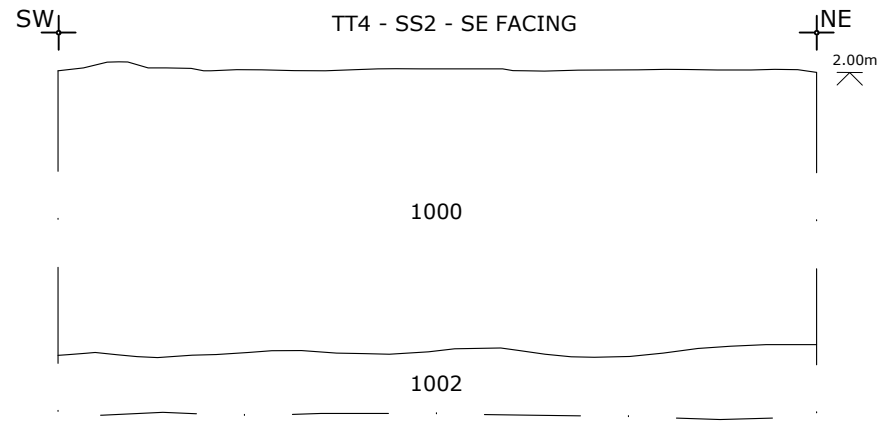
DP 2 - Trench 3, view SE



DP 1 - Hedgeline 1003, view NE



NGR:	55221 273600	REF:	P1270
PROJECT:	GRAVEL FARM, NEWMARKET ROAD, STRETHAM		
DESCRIPTION:	TRENCH 3		
CLIENT:	JAMES HARVEY		
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APPROVED:	DPM	FIGURE:	10



DP 5 - Trench 4, Sample Section 2, view NW



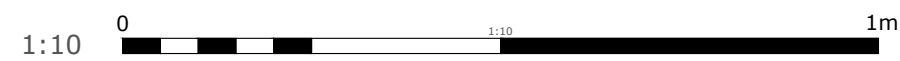
DP 7 - Trench 5, Sample Section 3, view SW



DP 4 - Trench 4, view SW

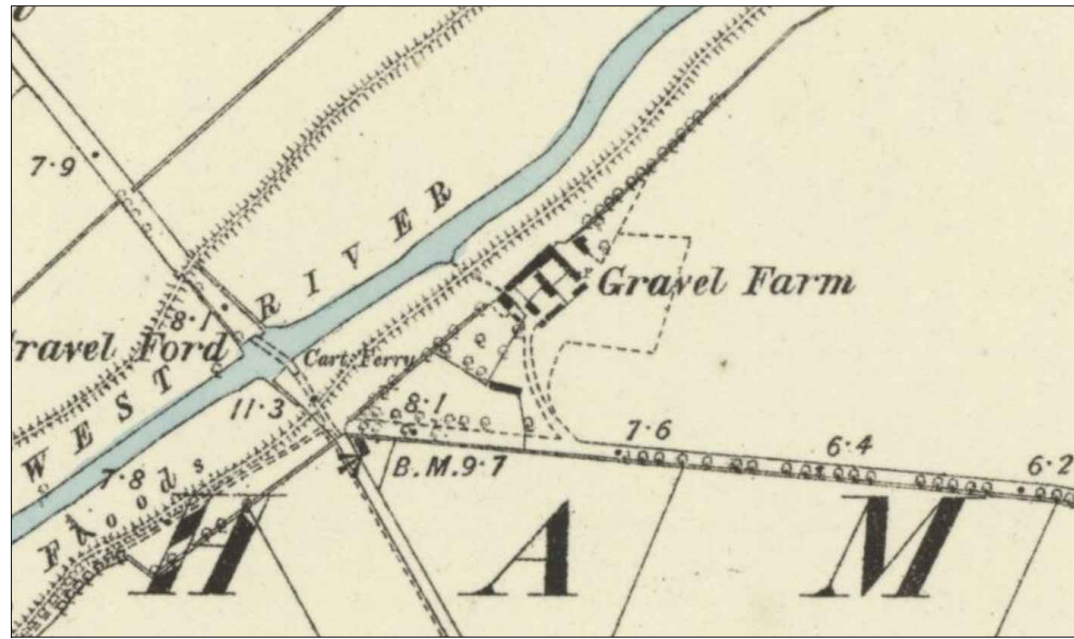


DP 6 - Trench 5, view SE



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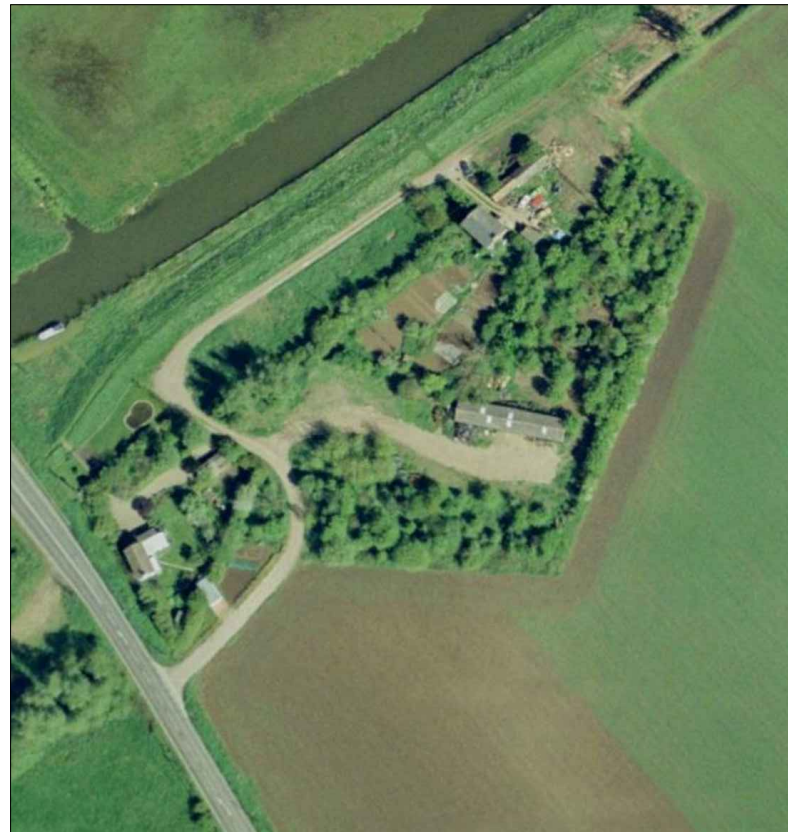
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AUTHOR:	MJB	FIGURE:			
APPROVED:	DPM	11			



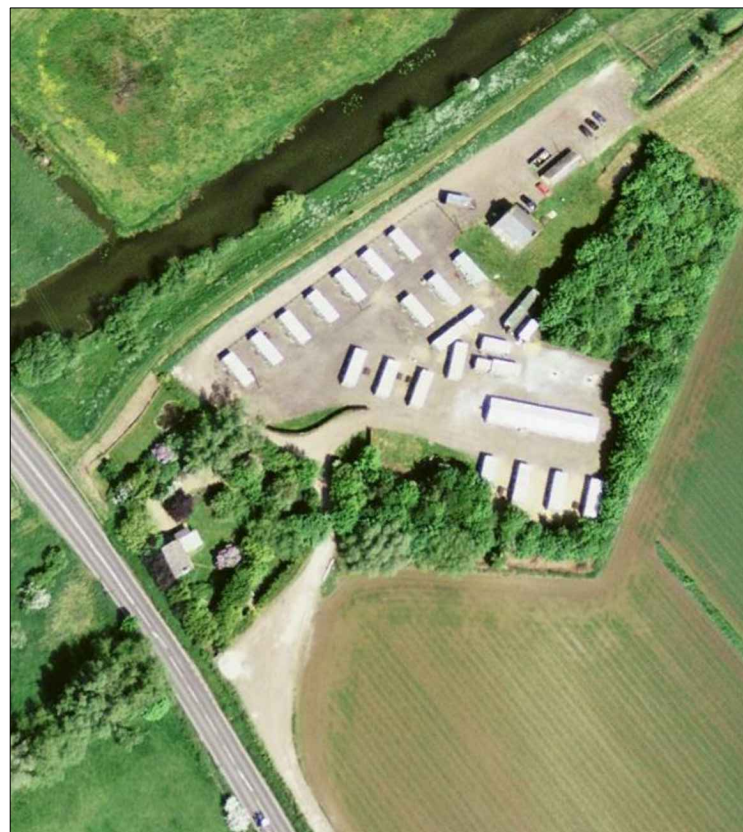
1st edition OS 1886



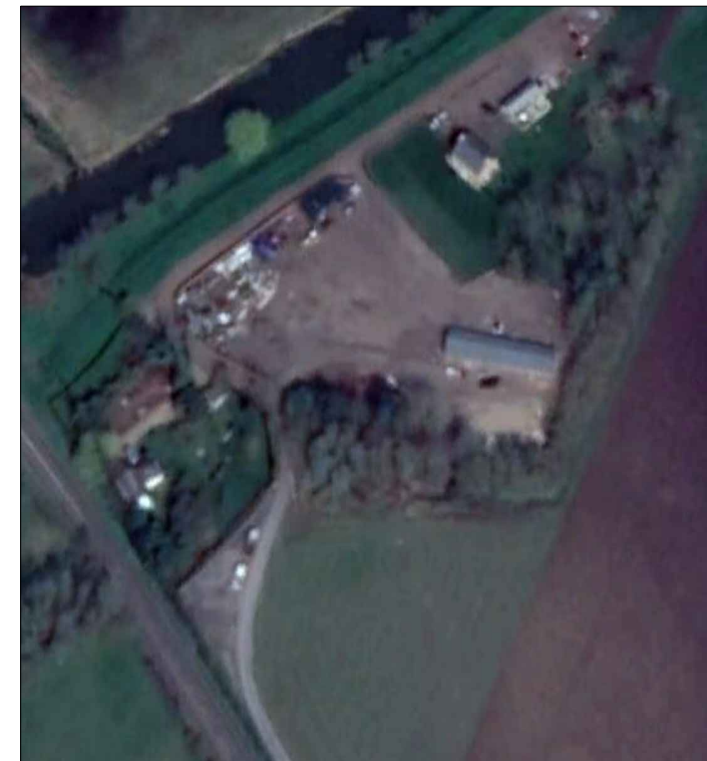
OS 1903



Aerial Photograph dated 1999



Aerial Photograph dated 2007



Aerial Photograph dated 2015

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PROJECT:	GRAVEL FARM, NEWMARKET ROAD, STRETHAM		
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VERSION:	1		
AUTHOR:	MJB	FIGURE:	12
APPROVED:	DPM		