

25 ROYSTON ROAD, HARSTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Report Number: 1244 October 2019



25 ROYSTON ROAD, HARSTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Version 1.1

Site Code	ECB5963	NGR	TL 4224 5068
Project No.	P1275	Museum Acc.	-
Planning Ref.	S/1952/18/OL	OASIS	britanni1-360686
Approved By:	III—	Date	October 2019



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Abstract

From 13th-16th August 2019 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at 25 Royston Road, Harston, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 4224 5068) on behalf of Carter Jonas ahead of the proposed erection of two dwellings and associated works.

There was a moderate - high potential for finds and features from the prehistoric period, and a moderate potential for remains on the site relating to the Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods.

The evaluation was successful in identifying evidence of Bronze Age activity on the site which is perhaps peripheral activity to the previously identified substantial prehistoric settlement at Harston Mill. A possible boundary ditch of medieval date might be a continuation of previously recorded cropmarks in the field immediately south of the site. The evaluation also encountered evidence relating to the use of the site as a dump for food waste from The White Swan Inn which occupied the roadside plots on the north edge of the site from the 17th century to 1928.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

From 13th-16th August 2019 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at 25 Royston Road, Harston, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 4224 5068) on behalf of Carter Jonas ahead of the proposed erection of two dwellings and associated works.

The evaluation was undertaken in response to a design brief issued by Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Stewart, G. 10th July 2019) which required a programme of linear trial trenching to adequately sample the threatened available area.

Two trenches measuring $30.00 \, \text{m} \times 1.80 \, \text{m}$ were to be located over the new building footprints. However, once on site it became apparent that the fenced northern boundary of the site was located c.5.00m further south than it was indicated on the site plans. As a result of this trench 2 was shortened to 22.00m but widened to 2.40m to make up for the length lost. The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked, mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.



2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The site was located to the south of Royston Road, Harston, south west of the junction with Station Road in the southern bounds of the village of Harston. Residential properties were located east and west of the site, with open fields to the south.

2.1 Site Geology

The natural bedrock geology was described as West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation – a buff, grey and off-white, soft, marly chalk and hard grey limestone arranged in couplets formed approximately 93 to 100 million years ago in the Cenomanian Age (BGS, 2019).

The superficial deposits were described as River Terrace Deposits 1 – sand and gravel, locally with lenses of silt, clay or peat formed during the Quarternary Period some 2.5 million to 11,700 years ago (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, DCLG February 2019*). The relevant local development framework was the *South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework – Development Control Policies* (2007).

3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLG February 2019)

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 significance of the heritage asset and its setting in relation to the proposed development;
- The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance;
- Significance (of the heritage asset) can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction, or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification;
- Local planning authorities should not permit loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred;
- Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.

3.2 South Cambs LDFDC Policies 2007

South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework Development Control Policies (2007)



The local development framework for South Cambridgeshire deals with the development on archaeological sites in Chapter 8. Policies CH1 and CH2 are relevant to archaeology and state the following:

- Policy CH/1 Historic Landscapes Planning permission will not be granted for development which would adversely affect or lead to the loss of important areas and features of the historic landscape whether or not they are statutorily protected.
- Policy CH/2 Archaeological Sites Archaeological sites will be protected in accordance with national policy. Where it is deemed that there is archaeological potential, the developer will be required to commission an archaeological evaluation to define the character and condition of any remains. This will include the character and depth of remains together with the impact of development upon the remains together with any mitigation measures to avoid unnecessary damage.



4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figs. 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).

4.1 Prehistoric

Several sites focussed mainly to the south and the west of the current investigation area date to the prehistoric period.

Some 180m to the sites west (CB15256), originally observed forming part of an undated cropmark complex (MCB08944), investigation at the Harston Mill site revealed a multiphased site. The ring ditch of a Neolithic or Bronze Age round barrow was identified and was found to have been augmented during the early Iron Age with two concentric timber circles. Associated with the circles was a crouched burial. Alongside the circles, several contemporary pits and postholes were uncovered, with large amounts of domestic material culture (such as pottery and bone; including disarticulated human remains) suggestive of numerous round houses and four-post granaries, all within an enclosure complex. During the later Iron Age within the north of the investigation area, a large ditched rectilinear enclosure was constructed with long, linear ditches present suggestive of a N/S – E/W orientated field system.

600m to the south of the current investigation area is a large scheduled area of cropmarked enclosures and linear systems (MCB1006809). Investigations during 1991 (ECB1313) revealed Bronze Age ring ditches likely barrow remnants (including a cremated inhumation) and an associated field system comprised of large field boundary ditches. Iron Age field systems were also discovered within the bounds of the site, containing pottery assemblage indicating use within the $1^{\rm st}$ century A.D.

4.2 Roman

ECB1313 (600m to the south of the current investigation area) showed a continuity of use from the prehistoric period into the Roman period. The extensive field system was utilised throughout the 1^{st} and 2^{nd} centuries A.D., with the pottery assemblages recovered hinting



at a reasonably wealthy community living within the immediate vicinity. During the 3rd century this community appears to have abandoned the site, with a return to land use here in the 4th century. This 4th century use was markedly different from the earlier utilisation of this land; the pottery assemblage was mainly imported with a lack of localised wares suggestive of a decrease in associated infrastructure in the area.

The Harston Mill investigations some 180m to the west of the current site (CB15256) also contained enclosure and linear ditching dating to the Roman period, showing a continuity of land use both south and west of the current site throughout this period.

4.3 Saxon & Medieval

Harston, like many settlements throughout the British Isles, has its main recognisable origins resting within the Saxon and later medieval periods. Its place name probably originates from the Old English for 'Herel'; Hars and 'farm/settlement'; Tun/Ton (Brown, 2003). Domesday records Harston as forming part of the Thriplow Hundred; a fairly large Hundred with a population of 29 households, and a very large tax assessment of 11.6 geld units. Harston itself comprised 3 small holders, 1 cottager, 1.3 ploughlands and meadow 1 plough, worth 1.3 geld units. Originally lorded by a freeman, the lord in 1086 changed to one Ranulf.

Saxon activity within the proximity of the current investigation area can be seen in the investigations within the scheduled cropmarked area some 600m to the south of the site (ECB1313). Domestic activity was uncovered, including a possible *grubenhaus* situated within an earlier prehistoric ring ditch.

250m to the sites west lay a sequence of cropmarks (MCB08944). During evaluation works at the site (ECB204) several ditches, pits and postholes were uncovered forming enclosures of a probable domestic origin, alongside settlement activity.

Some 480m to the west of the site is All Saints church (MCB14880). The church has its origins in the 13th century, with later 15th century additions. Adjacent to the church are medieval fish ponds (MCB12286). This may suggest the focus of settlement during the later medieval period shifts from south of the current site to nucleate around the domestic activity to the west.



4.4 Post-medieval and Modern

The main settlement of Harston developed and expanded in this period with an increase in the number of dwellings represented by the number of buildings located in the village core dating to this period. Worthy of mention due to the proximity to the current investigation area is the post-medieval Baggots Hall, some 300m to the east of the site was constructed during the 18th century (MCB24045), with ridge and furrow directly to the halls east (MCB24064). Directly to the sites north-west is the 19th century Swan public house (MCB24052). This expansion seems to show the shift in village core to the west into the north and east of the area.

4.5 Undated

Notable due to the proximity to the site, and likely a continuation of the cropmarks to the west (MCB08944) and south (MCB09602 and MCB09224) forming a large prehistoric through medieval landscape of enclosures, parallel linear arrangements, pit alignments and ring ditches, is MCB08963. This area directly to the sites south of undated cropmarks seems to form enclosures and parallel linear formations that resemble similar formations mentioned in the above investigated sites.

4.6 Archaeological Potential

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



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 were potentially threatened was 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.

One 30.00m x 1.80m trench, and one 22.00m x 2.40m trench were excavated to achieve these aims (Fig.4). 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 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 of the construction of 2 dwellings and associated works. Two trenches measuring $30.00m \times 1.80m$ were to be located over the new building footprints. However, once on site it became apparent that the fenced northern boundary of the site was located c.5.00m further south than it was indicated on the site plans. As a result of this trench 2 was shortened to 22.00m but widened to 2.40m to make up for the length lost.

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

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



8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 4 - 11)

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 could not be undertaken due to site constraints which did not allow for the separation of the topsoil and subsoil, however the spoil was checked as it was removed and the trench was scanned visually before each pull. Any demonstrably modern finds were not retained.

8.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the south area of the site. It was orientated east to west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.88m in sample section 1. The trench contained four archaeological features.

Topsoil **1000** contained one fragment of pottery (3g) of 18th-20th century date, and subsoil **1001** contained two pieces of cattle bone with evidence of canid gnawing and chop marks (Curl, 2019).

Linear ditch **1005** was located at the west end of the trench on a north to south orientation continuing beyond the trench in both directions. The single fill contained fragments of pottery dated AD1050-1225/1250 which represented the remains of four different dish forms showing little abrasion (Fawcett, 2019). Fragments of animal bone were also present in the fill comprised of cattle and pig bone (Curl, 2019). To reach the total depth it was necessary to step the slot from the south side of the trench. The substantial width and depth suggest this might have been a previous field boundary. Environmental sampling produced snail shells, a small amount of bone, and a small amount of charcoal (Law, 2019).

The remaining features are pits or possibly silted-up depressions. Pit **1007** was located just east of ditch 1005. It was sub-circular in shape with shallow sides and an irregular base. No finds were present. The irregular shape and shallow profile combined with the lack of finds suggest this is likely a silted-up depression in the natural.



Pit **1015** was located towards the east end of the trench close to pit 1025. No finds were recovered from the single fill. The presence of rooting disturbance and the shallow profile of the feature are suggestive of it being a natural feature such as a small tree throw.

Pit **1025** was located at the east end of the trench, just east of pit 1015. Fragments of early-middle Bronze Age pottery were found which are from the same vessel which was likely a large jar (Fawcett, 2019). Fragments of cattle bone were also present in the fill (Curl, 2019). This feature is most likely a pit or a large in-filled tree throw. Environmental sampling produced snail shells, and a small amount of bone (Law, 2019).

8.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the centre of the site and orientated northeast to southeast. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m in sample section 2. The trench contained seven archaeological features and one natural feature.

Topsoil **1000** contained one fragment of pottery (8g) dated late 19th-20th century. A total of 29 fragments of animal bone (1273g) were found, including cattle bone, pig bone, duck bone, and a femur of a polecat/ferret (Curl, 2019). A late post-medieval/modern small glass jar was also found (49g), and one fragment of clay pipe stem (3g) of mid 17th- early 18th century date (McConnell, 2019). No finds were recovered from subsoil **1001**.

At the northeast end of the trench were three intercutting ditches which were on an east to west orientation. The north edge of the ditches is located beyond the extent of the trench and possibly beyond the site itself as the trench end was only c.1m south of the northern site boundary. The lowest ditch in the stratigraphic sequence was ditch 1009. It was cut by ditch 1011 which was subsequently cut by ditch 1013. Only a small fragment of ditch 1009 was visible in the section and on the base of the slot. It is likely that 1011 and 1013 are later re-cuts of the original ditch 1009. No finds were present.

Post-hole **1021** was located near the northeast end of the trench on the southeast side. It was of a sub-square shape with rounded corners and contained no finds. No other post holes were identified to suggest a possible function. Natural feature **1023** was located just southwest of post hole 1021 and was originally thought to be two further post-holes but excavation revealed it to be an irregular patch of rooting disturbance.



Pit **1003** was located roughly in the middle of the trench and was oval in plan. The only finds present were fragments of cattle bone with chop marks located on the base of the feature in the middle (Curl, 2019).

Just c.0.40m south of pit 1003 were two parallel linear gullies on an east to west orientation. Gully **1017** was the northernmost of the two, and slightly smaller than gully **1019**. Gully **1019** was possibly slightly curvilinear, but it is difficult to be certain from the portion present in the trench.



9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 5)

The deposit model was consistent across the site.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence was topsoil **1000**, which was present to a maximum depth of 0.32m in sample section 1. It comprised of a dark greyish brown, soft, sandy silt.

Below topsoil 1000 was subsoil **1001**, present to a depth of 0.84m in sample section 1. It comprised of a mid greyish brown, firm sandy silt. This layer represents an agricultural subsoil.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence was Natural superficial geology **1002**, which comprised of a mottled brownish orange, soft gravely sand with patches of yellowish white chalk.



10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

There was a **moderate - high** potential for finds and features from the prehistoric period, and a **moderate** potential for remains on the site relating to the Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods.

The evaluation identified three phases of activity on the site. The first phase relates to prehistoric activity and is represented by pit **1025** in trench 1 which contained fragments of early-middle Bronze Age pottery and animal bone. The pottery fragments are from the same vessel, likely a large jar, and represents some form of rural activity during this period adding to our knowledge of Bronze Age settlement in this area (Fawcett, 2019). Evidence of significant Bronze Age and Iron Age activity was identified at Harston Mill (MCB 08944), c.180m west of the site. This pit perhaps indicates peripheral activity to that settlement as there does not seem to be the same density of activity present at this site within the evaluation. Environmental sampling identified a small assemblage of snail shells present in the fill which broadly reflected an open environment with evidence of marshy conditions and taller vegetation (Law, 2019).

The second phase of activity is medieval and is represented by ditch **1005** in trench 1. This north to south aligned ditch, given its size was likely a boundary ditch. It is possible this ditch is the continuation of one of the linear cropmarks visible in the field immediately south of the site. Fragments of pottery representing four different dish forms were found and were of locally produced fabrics (Fawcett, 2019). Combined with the finds of animal bone the finds assemblage is likely a result of deliberate dumping of domestic waste. Although ditches **1009**, **1011**, **1013** at the northeast end of trench 2 are undated its is possible that they may relate to the medieval ditch forming a field system on the edge of Harston's historic core. Environmental sampling identified a larger assemblage of snails than pit **1025**, which reflected a slow infilling of the ditch allowing more shells to be incorporated into the fill in an open environment with evidence of marshy conditions and taller vegetation (Law, 2019).

The third phase of activity relates to post-medieval activity which is represented by Topsoil **1000**. OS maps indicate that a public house named The White Swan Inn stood on the south side of Royston Road adjacent to the north side of the site. The site appears to have been an open field at the rear of the public house and it seems likely that food waste from the inn would have been deposited on the field. This could explain the presence of the butchered animal bone in the subsoil representing the disposal of food and butchery waste. The cattle bone from this layer in trench 2 had been cleanly sawn into small section, a practice which



is generally seen on bones from the late Medieval to post-medieval periods to prepare bones for roasting for the marrow. One cattle tibia additionally displayed a clean round hole which resembled holes for meat to be pushed onto a spit for roasting (Curl, 2019). Fragments of pig and duck bone also displayed evidence of butchery. Evidence of canid gnawing was noted on cattle bone from subsoil **1001** in trench 1, and likely indicates dogs scavenging waste, or even waste being given to domestic or working dogs (Curl, 2019).

The remaining undated features, particularly those in trench 2, are not dissimilar to those identified at Harston Mill. It could tentatively be suggested that gully **1019**, which is possibly curvilinear in shape, is comparable to the ring gullies identified at Harston Mill associated with round barrows. In the absence of dating evidence and due to the limitations of archaeological evaluation this is only speculation.

Conclusion

The evaluation was successful in identifying evidence of Bronze Age activity on the site which is perhaps peripheral activity to the previously identified substantial prehistoric settlement at Harston Mill. A possible boundary ditch of medieval date might be a continuation of previously recorded cropmarks in the field immediately south of the site. The evaluation also encountered evidence relating to the use of the site as a dump for food waste from The White Swan Inn which occupied the roadside plots on the north edge of the site from the 17th century to 1928.



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 site digital archive will be deposited with The Archaeological Data Service (ADS).



12.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank Carter Jonas 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 Louisa Cunningham 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

TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orienta		Height AOD			Shot ID		
1		E-W		14.02m		4		
Sample Section No		Locatio	n		Facing			
1		Middle of trench, N side				S		
Context No	Depth		Deposi	t Description	cription			
1000	0.00-0.3	32m	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown, soft, sandy silt with occasional					
			small sub-angular and sub-rounded stone inclusions.					
1001	0.32-0.8	34m				sandy silt, with moderate		
			inclusio	ns of small sub-ang	gular and	sub-rounded stones.		
1002	0.84m+		Natural Superficial Geology: Mottled brownish orange,					
			gravely	sand with patch	es of ye	ellowish white chalk, and		
			frequen	t inclusions of sn	nall sub-	angular and sub-rounded		
			stones.					

Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1005	Ditch (2.10m+ x 1.70m x 0.69m) Linear in plan with steep sides and a flattish base. On a N-S orientation.	1006	Primary fill. Dark greyish brown, firm, silty sand, with occasional small angular flint inclusions.	AD1050- 1225/1250	Pot 69g (4), A.bone 80g (4)
1007	Pit/silted depression (1.28m x 1.84m x 0.13m) Sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and an irregular base.	1008	Primary fill. Mid orangish brown, soft, silty sand.	-	-
1015	Pit (1.28m x 0.62m+ x 0.18m) Sub-circular in plan, with gently sloping sides and a flattish base.	1016	Primary fill. Mid brownish orange, soft silty sand.	-	-
1025	Pit (1.80m x 1.55m+ x 0.37m+) Sub-circular in plan with stepped moderately sloping sides, and a concave base.	1026	Primary fill. Mid greyish brown, firm, sandy silt with moderate inclusions of small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.	EBA-MBA	Pot 41g (8), A.bone 78g (6)



TRENCH 2

Trench No	Orienta			Height AOD		Shot ID	
2		NE-SW		13.71m		13	
Sample Section No		Locatio	n		Facing		
2			SW end,	SE side		NW facing	
Context No	Depth		Deposit Description				
1000	0.00-0.3	80m	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown, soft, sandy silt with occasional				
			small su	ıb-angular and sub	-rounded	stone inclusions.	
1001	0.30-0.6	i1m	Subsoil: Mid greyish brown, firm, sandy silt, with modera				
			inclusio	ns of small sub-ang	gular and	sub-rounded stones.	
1002	0.61m+		Natural Superficial Geology: Mottled brownish orange, soft				
			gravely	sand with patch	es of ye	ellowish white chalk, and	
			frequen	t inclusions of sn	nall sub-	angular and sub-rounded	
			stones.				

Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1003	Pit (0.72m x 1.19m x 0.50m) Sub-circular in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	1004	Primary fill. Mid brownish grey, firm, clayey silt, with frequent inclusions of small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.	-	A.bone 293g (4)
1009	Ditch (2.20m+x 0.60m+ x 0.30m+) Presumed linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. On an E-W orientation. Cut by ditches 1011 and 1013 which have obscured true shape and profile.	1010	Primary fill. Mid greyish brown, soft, sandy silt with occasional small inclusions of sub-angular and sub-rounded stones	-	-
1011	Ditch (2.20m+x 1.30m+ x 0.44m+) Linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. On an E-W orientation. Cuts ditch 1009. Cut by ditch 1013.	1012	Primary fill. Mid orangish brown, soft, sandy silt, with occasional inclusions of small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.	-	-
1013	Ditch (2.20m+x1.64m+ x 0.52m+) Linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. On an E-W orientation. Cuts ditches 1009 and 1011.	1014	Primary fill. Mid yellowish brown, firm, gravely silty-sand, with frequent inclusions of small sub- angular and sub-rounded stones.	-	-
1017	Gully (2.34m+ 0.44m x 0.22m) Linear in shape with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. On an E-W orientation. Parallel with gully 1019.	1018	Primary fill. Mottled brownish grey and yellow, friable, gravely silty-sand, with moderate inclusions of small subangular and sub-rounded stones.	-	-



1019	Gully (1.35m+ x 0.60m x 0.28m) Linear in plan (slight curve) with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Parallel wit gully 1017.	1020	Primary fill. Mid greyish brown, firm, sandy silt, with moderate inclusions of small sub-angular and sub-rounded stone inclusions.	-	-
1021	Post-hole (0.45m x 0.45m x 0.19m) Sub-square in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	1022	Primary fill. Mid greyish brown, soft, sandy silt, with occasional small inclusions of sub-angular stones.	-	-
1023	Rooting (0.56m x 1.28m x 0.20m) Irregular in plan with shallow irregular sloping sides and an irregular base.	1024	Primary fill. Mottled mid greyish/yellowish brown soft sandy silt with orange patches, and occasional inclusions of small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.	-	-



APPENDIX - 2 FINDS CONCORDANCE

Layer/fill Context	Feature Context	Туре	Trial Trench	Spot Date	Pot No	Wgt/g	Animal No	Bone Wgt/g	Other
1000	None	Top-soil		18th-20th	1	3	140	11999	
1000	None	Top-soil	2	L19th-20th	1	8	29	1273	Glass 1@49g, Clay tobacco pipe 1@3g
1001	None	Sub-soil	1				2	246	
1004	1003	Pit	2				4	293	
1006	1005	Ditch	1	AD1050- 1225/1250	4	69	4	80	
1026	1025	Pit	1	EBA-MBA	8	41	6	78	
Totals					14	121	45	1970	



APPENDIX – 3 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval pottery from 25 Royston Road, Harston (ECB 5963): An assessment report (06/09/19 – 14.43)

Andy Fawcett

Introduction

A total of fourteen sherds of pottery with a weight of 121g was recovered from the trial trenching at Royston Road, Harston. This report firstly sets out a methodology of work and then describes the pottery assemblage, which was retrieved from a total of four contexts. The last two sections of the report contain an overall discussion of the assemblage, and recommendations for any further work on the material.

Methodology

The pottery has 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 bowl, cooking pot or dish and so on.

A breakdown of fabric reference and abrasion codes can be observed in Appendix 1.

Topsoil (Trenches 1 and 2)

The top-soil contexts from trenches one and two contained single sherds of late post-medieval red earthenware (LMPE). Both of the sherds are fully oxidised and contain solely well sorted quartz, with occasional black iron ore. The example from Trench 1 represents a partial rim fragment from a flower pot (5g), whereas the piece in Trench 2 is a body sherd (8g). This latter fragment exhibits incomplete lettering on its outer surface (..ANK..). Although this fabric is dated from the 18th to 20th century, the



surfaces of these sherds, as well as the refined nature of their fabrics, suggests that they are more likely dated from the late 19th to 20th century.

Ditch fill 1006 (Trench 1)

A total of four sherds with a weight of 69g were retrieved from Ditch fill 1006. The fragments represent the remains of four different dish forms, all of which display only slight abrasion.

Three of these sherds exhibit brown/oranges surfaces with a thick grey core. They contain abundant very ill-sorted quartz (with an occasional large pebble) alongside iron rich grog, some mica, as well as sporadic flint flakes (particularly noticeable on the surfaces). However, distinctively too, all of these sherds exhibit a partial dusting of shell or shelly limestone on or below the rim. The fabric is very similar to Spoerry's Southwest Cambridgeshire sandy ware (SCAMSW) which is dated from AD1050-1250 (2016, 117-123). The location of this current site, lays within the area where this fabric has been most intensively recorded (Spoerry 2016, 118).

The fourth sherd from this fill, although finer by comparison to the previous examples, displays a similar surface and core in terms of colour, yet still contains ill-sorted quartz, as well as sparse brown and lighter grog. This fabric shares a number of attributes with Spoerry's south Cambridgeshire smooth sandy ware (SCASS), which is dated from AD1050 to 1225 (2016, 123-129), and has thus been tentatively placed within this group.

All four of the dishes represented by the two fabrics are different, although in the same style. They are shallow walled, straight sided with a beaded rim (two of which are internally thickened) and a sagging base. Their style is comparable to Spoerry's EM32 and 58-59 (2016, 122 & 128).

Pit fill 1023 (Trench 1)

This context contained eight sherds of pottery (41g) which are all part of the same vessel. Although some of the sherds are fairly fragmentary, none of the pieces display anything more than minor abrasion.

The fabric is hand-made, reasonably hard and has a soapy feel with a slightly lumpy surface; its body is reduced (dark grey), and exhibits a thin buff outer surface. A



detailed analysis of the fabric demonstrates that it contains abundant very ill-sorted grog, which colours light-grey, buff with occasional brown fragments. A proportion of the grog may described as large and often quite angular (blocky) in places, however also present are pieces too which are irregular, sub-rounded as well as rounded.

Also recorded within the paste are shell inclusions, which are irregular in shape and reasonably fine, and their frequency may be described as being common. Occasional single grains of quartz can be seen, as well as rare organic voids all set against some fine silver mica; this latter inclusion cannot be used as a defining trait of the fabric.

The sherds are thick walled (the deepest measures 15mm) and are likely to represent the remains of a large jar.

In the absence of rim sherds and decorative schemes, the dating of these sherds is based upon the content of their fabric. This style of fabric dates from the early to middle Bronze Age. Indeed, fabrics of a similar nature and date (No's 6, 8, 11 and possibly 13) were noted at Clay Farm, Trumpington (Phillips and Mortimer 2012, 78), the presence of some calcitic/shell element within these sherds, as well as the absence of flint, suggests that they are no later than the earliest part of the middle Bronze Age.

Conclusion

The small number of early to middle Bronze Age sherds recovered from the single Pit fill in Trench 1, are undoubtedly in their original place of deposition. They represent some form of rural activity during this period, however they are undiagnostic and too few in number to ascertain what form of activity it was that they represent. Certainly their presence within the excavated area adds to our knowledge of the area as a whole, as settled Bronze Age activity area has previously been recorded 600m to the south of the site (ECB 1313), and 180m to the west (MCB 08944).

The four locally produced early medieval coarseware dish fragments recovered from Ditch fill 1006, display little abrasion and their presence within this context (alongside a small quantity of animal bone), is likely as a result of the deliberate dumping of domestic waste. As the trial trenched area is on the edge of Harston's historic core, the incidence of a small quantity of medieval pottery should not be seen as a surprise.



Recommendations for further work

The small pottery assemblage has been recorded in full, therefore no further work on these sherds will be required.

However, if a further stage of archaeological investigation is undertaken on the site, and subsequent ceramic assemblages are recovered as a result of this intervention, then reference should be made to the two dated ceramic groups.



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

Appendix 1: Fabric and abrasion codes

Fabrics

HMG Hand-made grog tempered ware

SCAMSW South-west Cambridgeshire sandy ware

SCASS South Cambridgeshire smooth sandy ware

LPME Late post-medieval earthenwares

Abrasion

Very = very abraded, Abr = abraded, Abr/sli = variably abraded, Sli = slightly abraded, Gd = good condition



P1275

ECB5963, 25, Royston Road, HARSTON, Cambridgeshire The FAUNAL REMAINS analysis and catalogue

by Julie Curl –Sylvanus – Archaeological, Natural History & Illustration Services for Britannia Archaeology. Sept 2019

ANIMAL BONE

Appendix 1.

Methodology

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

The faunal assemblage

Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of 1970g of bone, consisting of 45 elements, was recovered from this excavation and this is quantified in Table 1. The bone is in good condition, although the remains have been heavily fragmented from butchering and wear. Canid gnawing was seen on the cattle radius from subsoil 1001, which would suggest waste given to domestic or working dogs, but scavenging from waste is possible. None of the remains were burnt. Little or no invertebrate (insect/isopod/molluscs) damage was seen on the bone, which would suggest the waste was buried rapidly.

The bulk of the bone in this assemblage was recovered from Topsoil (65%), with lesser amounts from the subsoil, two pits and a ditch.

	F	Feature Type and weight								
Date	Ditch	Ditch Pits Subsoil Topsoil								
	1005	1005 1025								
		1003	1001	1000						



Early Medieval	80g				80g
Post-Medieval				1273g	1273g
Undated		371g	246g		617g
Totals	80g	371g	246g	1273g	1970g

Table 1. Quantification of the bone by weight, date and feature type

Species range and modifications and other observations

Four species were identified in this assemblage, which are quantified in Table 2 by feature type, species and NISP.

Cattle were the most frequently seen , most from the Topsoil 1000, with cattle remains also seen in the Subsoil 1001, Pit fills 1004 and 1026 and one tooth from the Ditch fill 1006. Most cattle remains were from adult animals, including a particularly robust animal from the Topsoil, suggesting a bull. One neonatal cattle metatarsal was seen in the Topsoil 1000. One feature of the cattle bone from 1000 was the number of cattle bones that had been cleanly sawn into small sections, which was seen on a humerus, radius and tibia. Sawing of bones in this manner is generally seen on Late Medieval to Post Medieval bones for preparing them for roasting for the marrow. One cattle tibia from the Topsoil also showed a clean round hole in the proximal end, which resembles holes created when bones and joints of meat are pushed onto a spit for roasting.

Pig remains were seen from the Topsoil 1000 with a juvenile femur, a juvenile porcine mandible and isolated tooth were seen in the Ditch fill 1006, the mandible had been chopped and cut, showing use for meat.

The Topsoil 1000 also produced a femur and coracoid from a **duck**, with butchering evident on the femur from meat removal. A **Polecat/Ferret** femur was also seen from Topsoil 1000, which may have been a feral animal or one kept for hunting rabbits.

	Feature Type and NISP								
Species	Ditch	Pit	Subsoil	Topsoil	Totals				
Bird - Duck				2	2				
Cattle	1	10	2	9	22				
Large mammal				8	8				
Mammal	1			8	9				
Pig	2			1	3				
SM - Ferret/Polecat				1	1				
Totals	4	10	2	29	45				

Table 2. Quantification of the bone by species, NISP and feature type



Discussion

This is a fairly small assemblage that largely consists mostly of the main meat mammal of cattle, along with small amounts of pig, with primary and secondary butchering and meat waste from both. The duck in the assemblage had clearly been eaten. The polecat/Ferret is likely to have been kept either as a pet or for hunting rabbits, although a feral animal is possible.

Recommendations for further work

This is a small assemblage of mixed or uncertain date and possibly with some residual bone, and with limited potential. The assemblage has been recorded fully and no further work is recommended.

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Davis, S. 1992. A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites. English Heritage AML report 71/92

Hillson, S. 1992. *Mammal bones and teeth.* The Institute of Archaeology, University College, London.



Appendixes 1 Animal bone

Appendix 1. Summary catalogue of the faunal remains recovered from ECB5748, listed in context order.

Key: NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present

	_	_	_	_		_	_		_	_	_	_		_		_			_		_				_	_	
Somments	Tibia shaft chopped and SAWN and a spit hole into the	proximal end		humerus SAWN close to distal end, tibia SAWN close to	proximal end		juvenile or neonatal			paddoyo	femur cut		polecat or ferret		radius chopped and gnawed, femur shaft SAWN at both ends	tibia chopped and split				incisor							
fuO	2		3	1							1				н	1									1	1	
Chopped	2		2	1			1			1					1	2					1				1	3	
Butchering																											
Count	1			2						1	2		1		1	2					1					1	
Measure																											
Element range	radius,	tibia, ribs	fragments	tibia and	humerus	fragments	metatarsal	proximal	end	femur	femur,	coracoid	femur	fragments	radius, femur	radius	prox and	distal ,	tibia	tooth	mandible	and	isolated	tooth	fragment	pelvis and	vertebrae frags
əlinəvuL							1			1			1								2						
flubA	4			4							2				2	4				1						78	
dSIN	4		8	4			1			1	2		1	8	2	4				1	2				1	9	
Species	Cattle		Mammal	Cattle			Cattle			Pig	Bird - Duck		SM - Ferret/Polecat	Large mammal	Cattle	Cattle				Cattle	Pig				Mammal	Cattle	
(g) tW	343			753			177								246	293				80						78	
Ctxt Qty	12			4			13								2	4				4						9	
Date	Post-Medieval		Post-Medieval	Post-Medieval			Post-Medieval			Post-Medieval	Post-Medieval		Post-Medieval	Post-Medieval	Undated	Undated				Early Medieval	Early Medieval				Early Medieval	Undated	
Feature Type	Topsoil		Topsoil	Topsoil			Topsoil			Topsoil	Topsoil		Topsoil	Topsoil	Subsoil	Pit				Ditch	Ditch				Ditch	Pit	
11	2		2	2			2			7	2		7	7	1	2				1	1				1	1	
Feature No	1000		1000	1000			1000			1000	1000		1000	1000	1001	1003				1005	1005				1005	1025	
Ctxt	1000		1000	1000			1000			1000	1000		1000	1000	1001	1004				1006	1006				1006	1026	



Clay Pipe

By Dan McConnell - Britannia Archaeology Ltd

Introduction

A single clay pipe stem fragment was recovered from top soil 1000, within Trial Trench 2.

Methodology

The pipe stem 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

Top soil 1000 within Trial Trench 2 produced a single pipe stem fragment.

The stem fragment appears to be broken medially along the stem, with no observable flaring or tapering to indicate it originating nearer the mouth piece or bowl. It is made from typical local non-glaze plain earthernware.

This stem fragment measures 3.5cm in length and 1.0cm in diameter, with a 0.3cm, 7/64" bore diameter and weighs 3g.

Discussion

The stem fragments from top soil 1000 can be dated to the mid 17th to early 18th century, with a likely modal date of 1650 to 1680.

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



Bibliography

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

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Sample Assessment

25 ROYSTON ROAD HARSTON

Client:	Britannia Archaeology Ltd	
Author:	M Law	
Doc Ref:	LP2255E-EAR-v32.0	
Site Code:	ECB5963	
Date:	October 19	

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

A trading name of L-P : Heritage LLP

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1. Introduction and Methods

- 1.1.Two samples, each of ten litres volume, were presented for assessment from archaeological fieldwork at 25 Royston Road, Harston, Cambridgeshire.
- 1.2. Processing of the soil samples was undertaken by L-P: Archaeology using a modified Siraf-style flotation tank. The washover (flot) was caught on a 250 µm sieve, and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. Residues were air dried before being weighed then passed through a nest of sieves (10mm, 4mm, 2mm and 1mm) and sorted. Flots were weighed whilst wet and then air dried and scanned under a low power microscope at 10x magnification.
- 1.3.Information on land snail ecology is derived from Evans (1972), Kerney and Cameron (1979), and Davies (2008). Nomenclature follows Anderson (2008).

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2. Results and Discussion

Context Number		1026	1006						
Sample Number		1	2						
Sample Volume (L.)		10	10						
Context Description		Pit fill		Ditch fill					
¥.	Flot	Residue	Flot	Residue					
Weight after processing (g)	38	2503	66	2021					
Estimated % modern roots	90		90						
Geological Component		Chalk and flint pebbles		Chalk and flint pebbles					
CHARCOAL			+						
BONE		+		+					
SNAILS									
Oxychilus cellarius	*		1	+					
Vitrea contracta	+								
Cepaea nemoralis			. 						
Cochlicopa lubrica			+	#					
Trochulus spp.	+		++	++					
Helicella itala	+		++	++					
Pupilla muscorum	+		+	+					
Vallonia costata			+	+					
Vallonia cf. excentrica	+		+	+					
Vertigo pygmaea			+						
Carychium minimum	+								
Galba truncatula	+			*					
Cecilioides acicula	+		+						

Table 1 – Estimated abundance of biological remains. Abundance scale: + = 1-10, ++ = 11-50

2.1.Estimated abundance of biological remains, and a brief description of the geological component of the residues, are presented in TABLE 1. Preservation of shell was good. There was no preservation of organic remains through waterlogging. There is a very high abundance of modern root material within the fills, which creates a risk that some smaller biological remains such as snail shells may be intrusive. Indeed, some

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- of the shells in these samples have a 'fresh' appearance, being fairly translucent or retaining the protein layer (periostracum) that surrounds many shells in life.
- 2.2.Mollusc shell is present in all samples. The pit fill (1026) contains a small assemblage reflecting a broadly open environment (Helicella itala, Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia spp.), with some indications of marshy conditions, perhaps seasonal flooding or waterlogging (Carychium minimum, Galba truncatula). The presence of Oxychilus cellarius and Vitrea contracta would suggest some taller vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the pit. The assemblage of shells largely appear old (shells have lost their periostracum and translucence), although a small number of the Trochulus sp. shells appear relatively fresh, and may be intrusive. Cecilioides acicula is a subterranean species, which is likely to be intrusive.
- 2.3.Ditch fill (1006) contains a considerably higher number of shells than (1026). This may reflect relatively slow infilling of the ditch, allowing more shells to become incorporated into the fill. Again, the fauna reflects relatively open conditions, dominated by *Helicella itala* and *Trochulus* spp. The presence of *Galba truncatula* again suggests at least seasonally wet conditions, although there are no species present that would imply that the ditch held water permanently.
- 2.4. There is a small amount of charcoal in context (1006), and bone in both samples, although too little of either to carry any interpretative potential.

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3. Statement of Potential and Recommendations

- 3.1.A small assemblage of biological remains is present in the samples, dominated by snail shells. The snail shell assemblage in pit fill (1026) is too small for secure interpretation, but broadly reflects an open environment with some evidence of marshy conditions (interpreted as flooding) and taller vegetation. The snail shell assemblage in ditch fill (1006) is larger, and likely reflects slow deposition in a similar environment to (1026).
- **3.2.**Due to the low numbers of shells recovered overall, no further work is recommended for these samples.

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APPENDIX – 4OASIS FORM - Print view

OASIS SHEET

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: britanni1-360686

Project details

Project name 25 Royston Road, Harston, Cambridgeshire

Short description of the project

From 13th-16th August 2019 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at 25 Royston Road, Harston, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 4224 5068) on behalf of Carter Jonas ahead of the proposed erection of two dwellings and associated works. There was a moderate - high potential for finds and features from the prehistoric period, and a moderate potential for remains on the site relating to the Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. The evaluation was successful in identifying evidence of Bronze Age activity on the site which is perhaps peripheral activity to the previously identified substantial prehistoric settlement at Harston Mill. A possible boundary ditch of medieval date might be a continuation of previously recorded cropmarks in the field immediately south of the site. The evaluation also encountered evidence relating to the use of the site as a dump for food waste from The White Swan Inn which occupied the roadside plots on the north edge of the site from the 17th

century to 1928

Project dates Start: 13-08-2019 End: 16-08-2019

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes

P1275 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference

ECB5963 - HER event no.

codes

Type of project

Monument type

Field evaluation

Site status No

Current Land use Other 15 - Other Monument type **DITCH Medieval** Monument type PIT Bronze Age Monument type PIT Uncertain Monument type PIT Uncertain Monument type **DITCH Uncertain** Monument type **DITCH Uncertain** Monument type DITCH Uncertain Monument type **GULLY Uncertain** Monument type **GULLY Uncertain** Monument type POST HOLE Uncertain

PIT Uncertain

1 of 3



OASIS FORM - Print view

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

TREE THROW Uncertain Monument type Significant Finds POTTERY Bronze Age Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Medieval Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Bronze Age Methods & "Sample Trenches"

techniques

Development type Rural residential

National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF Prompt Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition) planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HARSTON 25 Royston Road,

Harston, Cambridgeshire

Postcode CB22 7PU

Study area 2234 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 4224 5068 52.13565238563 0.078543988465 52 08 08 N 000 04 42 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 13.18m Max: 13.72m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Britannia Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator

Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator

Dan McConnell

Project

Dan McConnell

director/manager

Project supervisor Louisa Cunningham

Type of sponsor/funding

body

developer

Name of sponsor/funding body

Carter Jonas

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient

Cambridgeshire HER

Physical Archive

ECB5963

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental"

Digital Archive

recipient

Cambridgeshire HER

Digital Archive ID ECB5963

2 of 3 03/10/2019, 15:18



OASIS FORM - Print view

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

"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Stratigraphic", "Survey" Digital Contents

Digital Media available

"Database", "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive

Cambridgeshire HER

recipient

Paper Archive ID ECB5963

Paper Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"

Paper Media

available

sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey ", "Unpublished Text"

Project

bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title 25 Royston Road, Harston, Cambridgeshire - Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Cunningham, L

R1244

Other

bibliographic details

Date 2019

Issuer or publisher

Britannia Archaeology Ltd

Place of issue or

publication

Bury St Edmunds

Description A4 bound report with pull out A3 figures

URL www.britannia-archaeology.com

Entered by Louisa Cunningham (louisa@brit-arch.com)

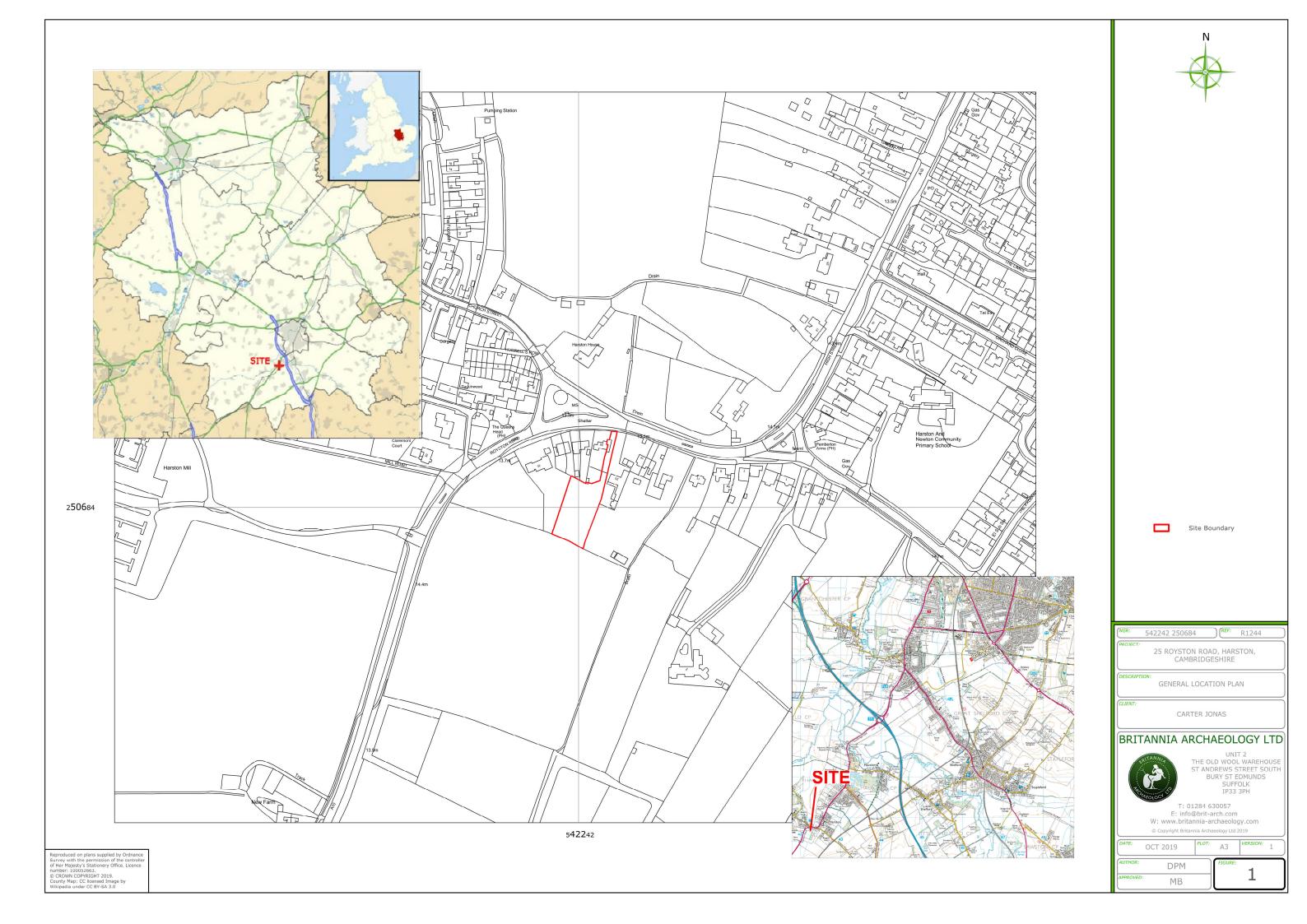
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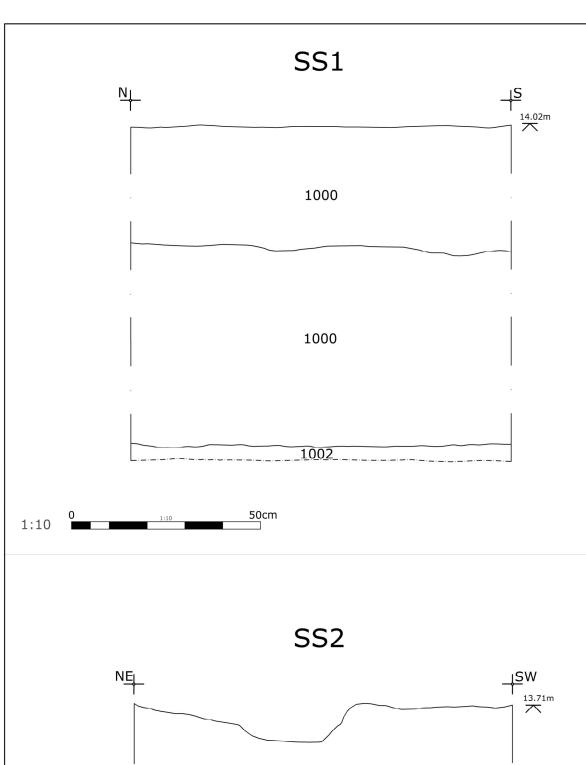
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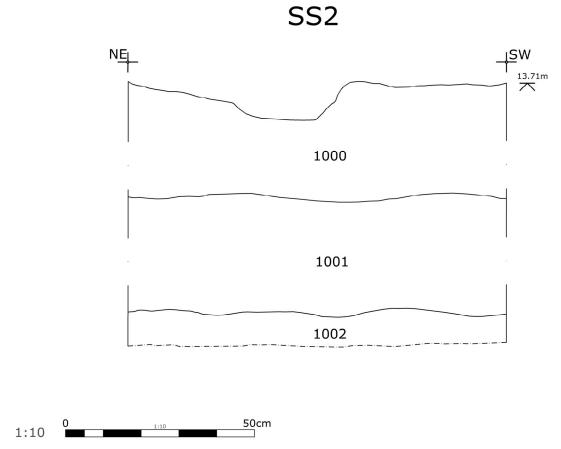








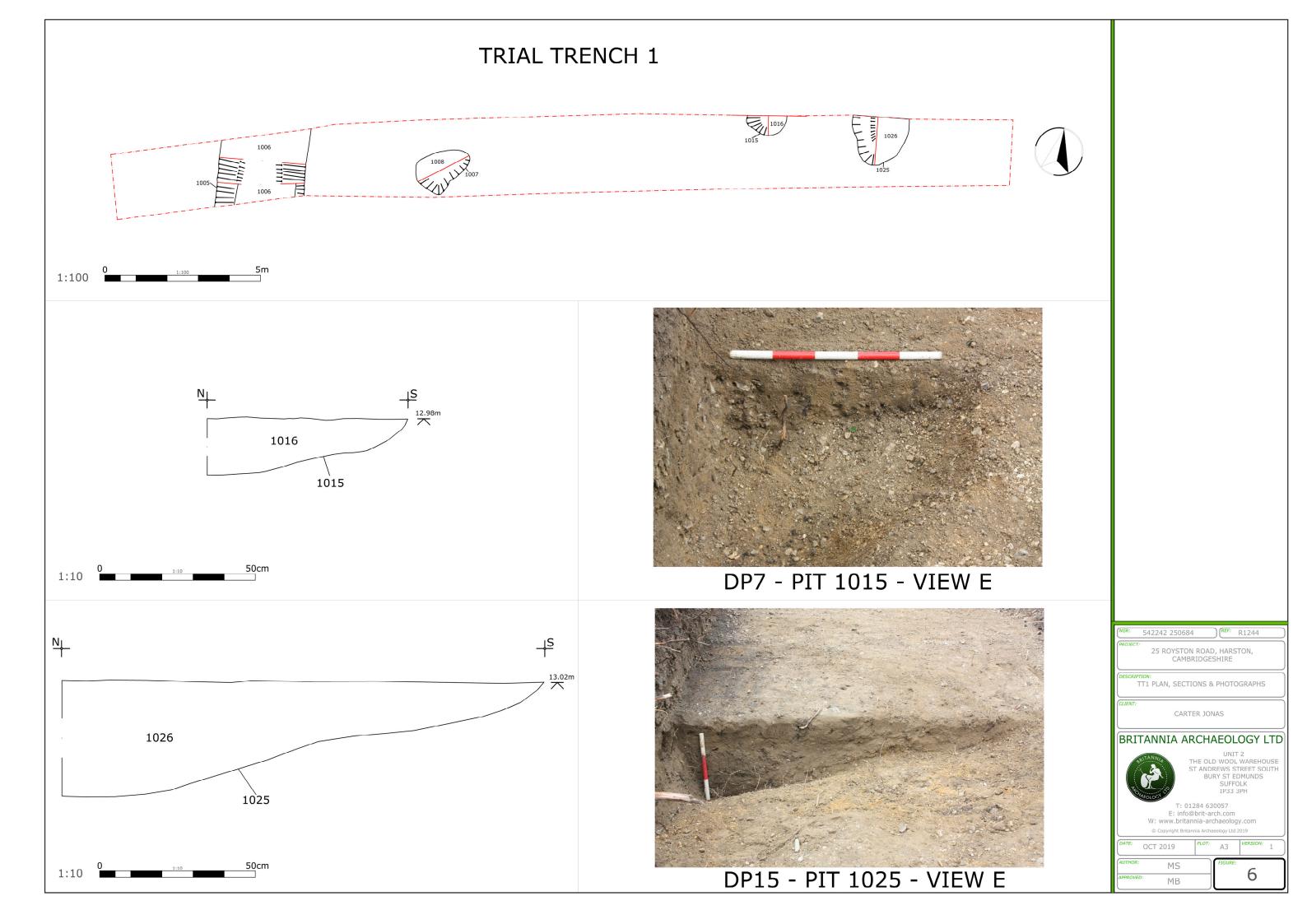
DP4 - SS1 - VIEW NW

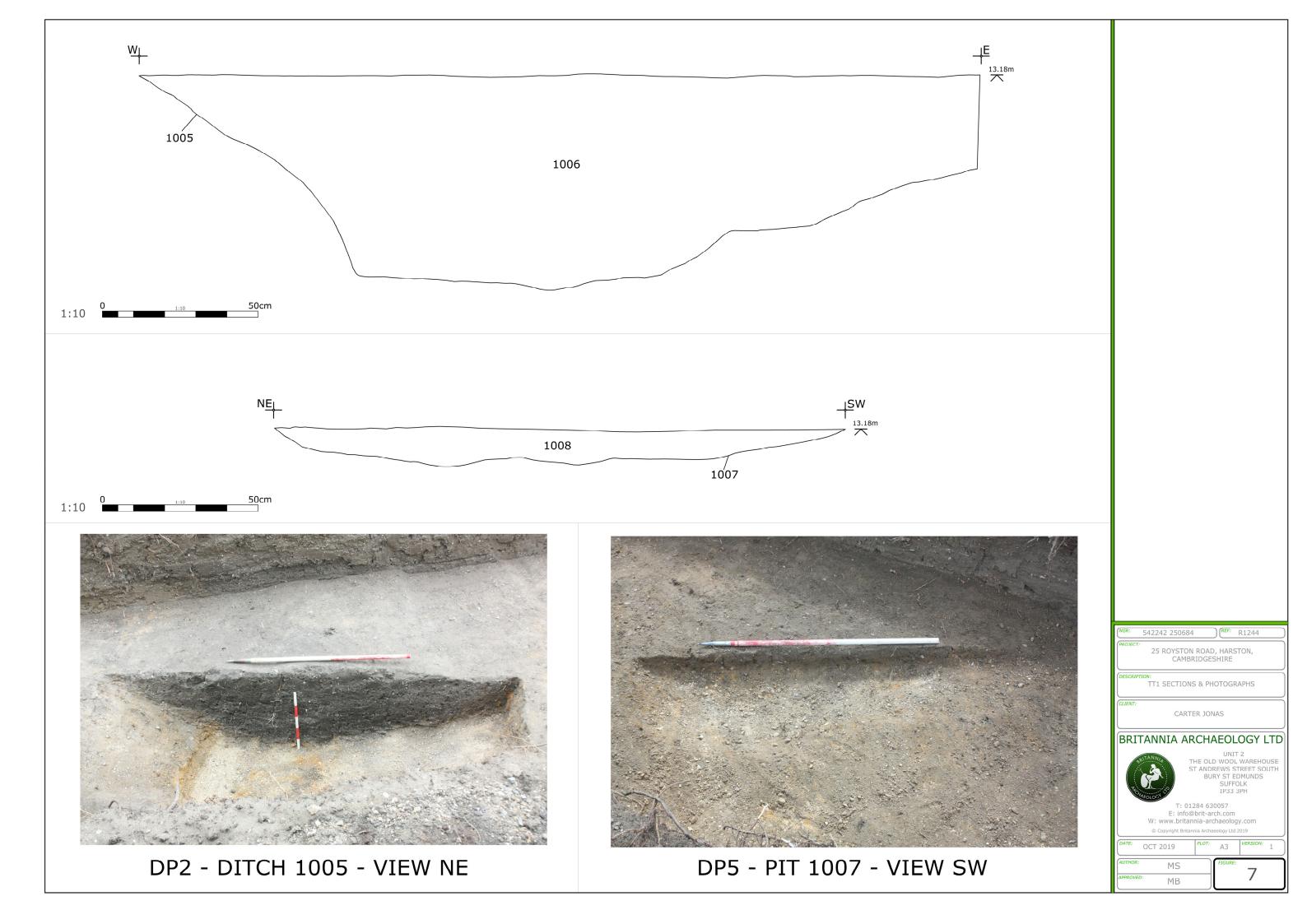


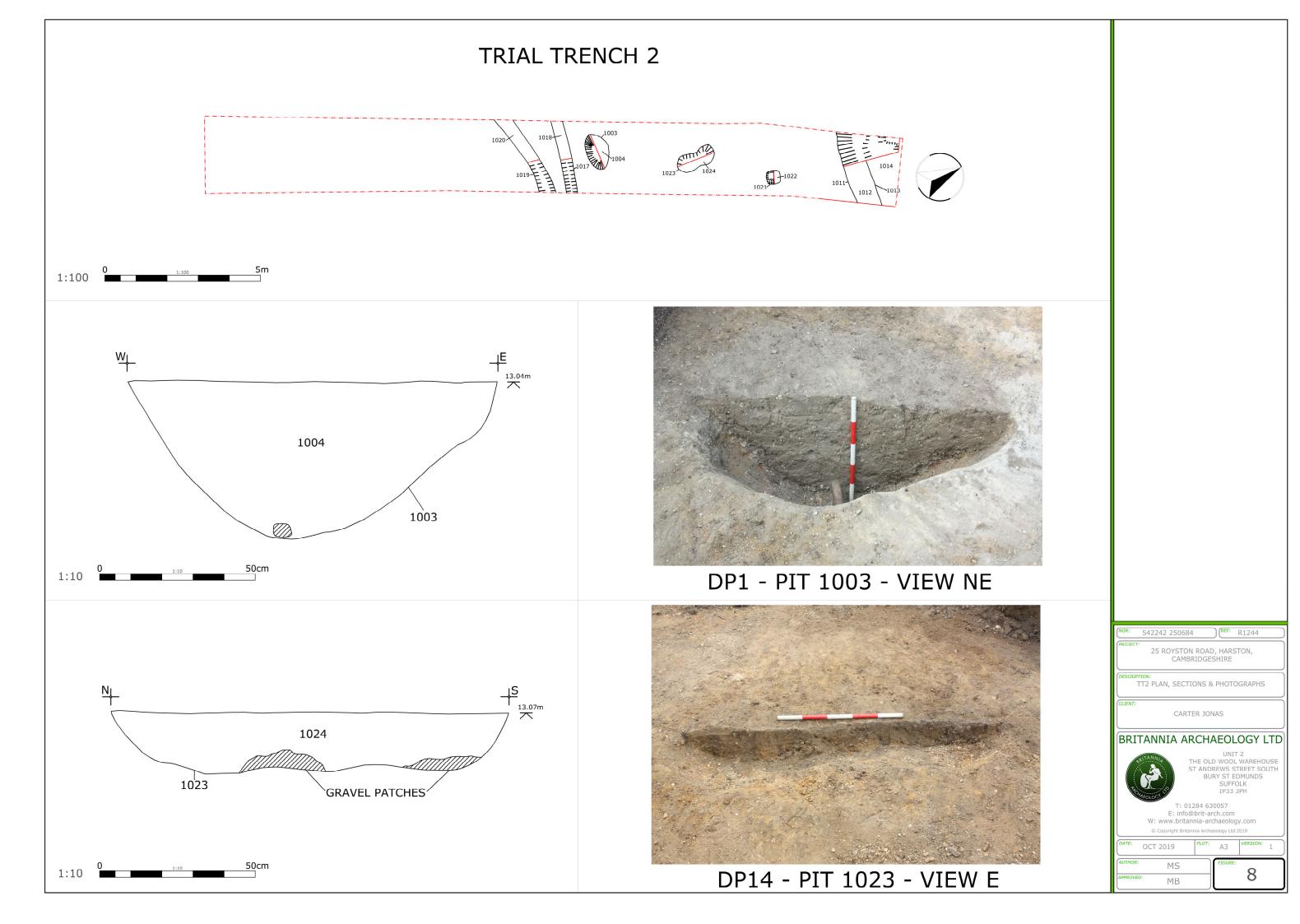


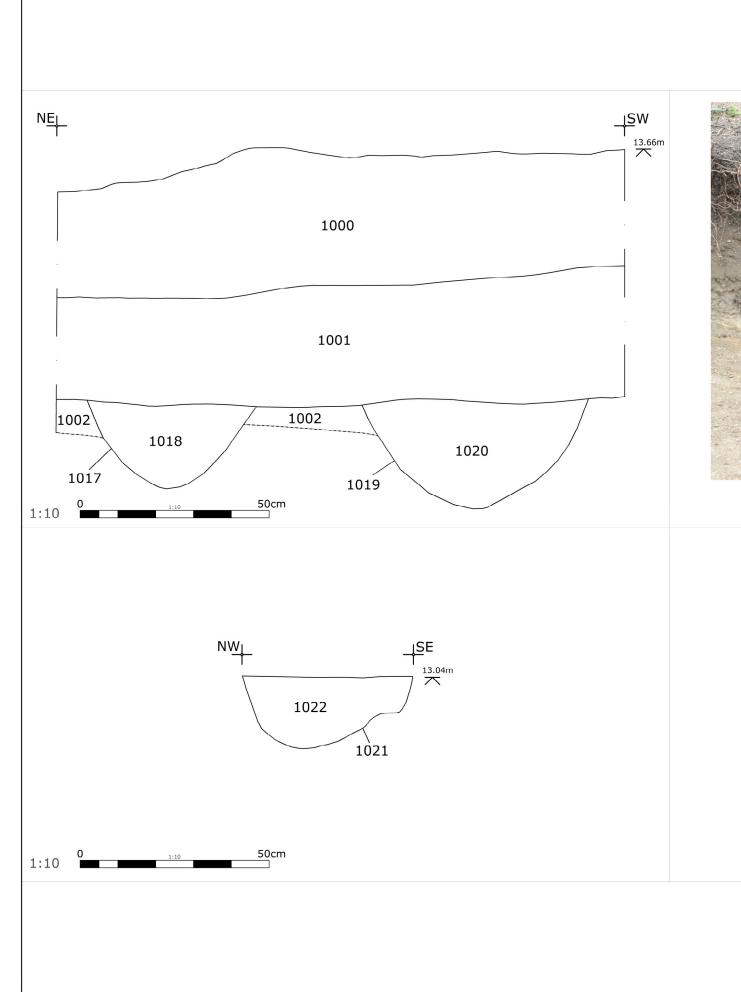
DP13 - SS2 - VIEW SE











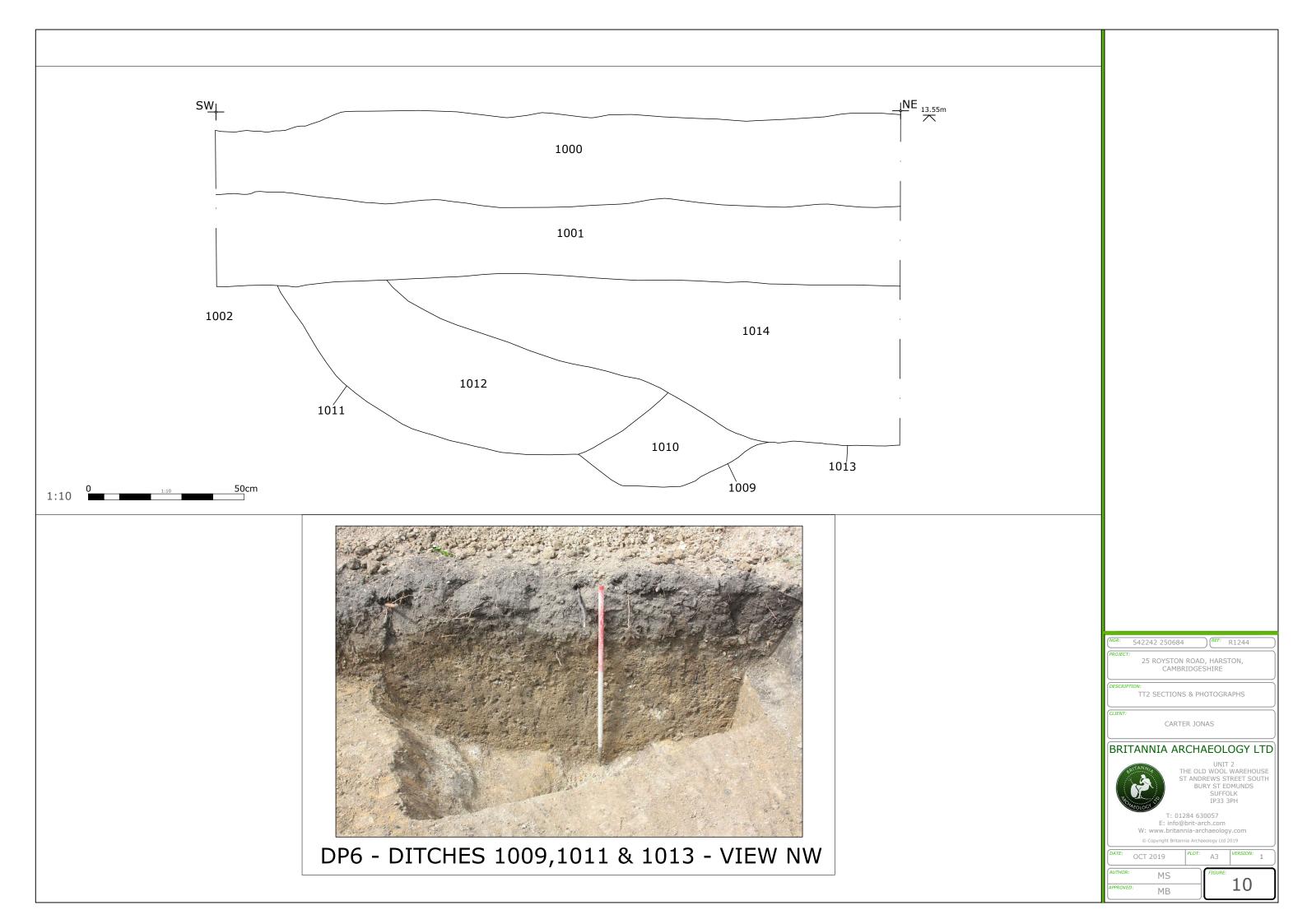


DP8 - GULLIES 1017 & 1019 - VIEW SE



DP10 - PIT 1021 - VIEW NE







DP9 - TT1 - VIEW E



DP11 - TT2 - VIEW NE

