An archaeological evaluation of the former

Caribbean Resource Centre, 11-17 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, Suffolk

James Holman

Former Caribbean Resource Centre, 11-17 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, Suffolk

Archaeological evaluation report

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01	James Holman	Project Officer	10/10/12	

Canterbury Archaeological Trust Limited
92a Broad Street · Canterbury · Kent· CT1 2LU
Tel +44 (0)1227 462062 · Fax +44 (0)1227 784724 · email: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk
www.canterburytrust.co.uk

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) over the 26 and 27 September 2012 at 11–17 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich (NGR 616723 244719). The work was commissioned by Ipswich Borough Council who are currently making preparations for the development of the site. The former Caribbean Resource Centre has been demolished and it is planned to turn the area into a car park.

The results of the evaluation indicate that the PDA lay in a peripheral location on the margins of the late Saxon and medieval town. During this period the site seems to have initially been open land that was later given over to small scale, non-domestic activity. This was typified by the cutting of refuse pits though the presence of a small oven indicates that slightly more complex activity may also have been taken place. For much of the medieval period and the part of the post medieval period the site lay vacant perhaps again given over to agriculture. This is indicated on historic maps such as that of Speede (1610) or Pennington (1778). In the latter part of the eighteenth and the nineteenth century the site was levelled up by the deposition of soil and refuse dumps. Prior to this levelling event the site sloped gently down from north to south towards the River Orwell. The PDA was finally built over in the early part of the twentieth century.

1. Introduction

1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) over the 26 and 27 September 2012 at 11–17 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich (NGR 616723 244719). The work was supervised by James Holman (Project Officer) with the assistance of Jessica Twyman (Site Assistant). Thanks are extended to Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service), Andrew Beschizza and Stuart Oxborrow (Ipswich Borough Council).

1.2 The work was commissioned by Ipswich Borough Council (Grafton House, 15-17 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2DE) who are currently making preparations for the development of the site. The former Caribbean Resource Centre has been demolished and it is planned to turn the area into a car park. A planning application for the proposed development (IP/12/00213/FP13) has been submitted to Ipswich Borough Council and subsequently granted consent on 24/05/2012 with an attached condition (3) stating that:

No development shall take place within the area indicated until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording.
b. The programme for post investigation assessment.
c. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording.
d. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation.
e. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation.
f. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.
g. The site investigation shall be completed prior to development, or in such other phased arrangement, as agreed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

1.3 The proximity of the site to the Anglo-Saxon and medieval town necessitated evaluation by trial trench as set out in the brief and specification provided by Keith Wade (Wade 2012).

2. Site location, topography and geology (see fig 1)

2.1 The proposed development area (PDA) lies on the north-east side of the town some 600m to the north of the River Orwell. It is positioned immediately

adjacent to the Area of Archaeological Importance for the Anglo-Saxon and medieval town as defined in the *Ipswich Local Plan*. The site is bounded to the south by Woodbridge Road to the north and west by standing structures or gardens and to the east by a standing structure and car park.

2.2 The underlying surface in the area of the PDA is anticipated to be glaciofluvial deposits (Mid Pleistocene sand and gravel) over Thanet Sand and Lambeth Group (undifferentiated) (British Geological Survey 1:50,000 digital map, accessed 12 September 2012). The elevation of this part of Woodbridge Road lies at around 15m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

3. Archaeological and historical background

3.1 No archaeological sites are known to lie in the area of the PDA. Significant remains are though known within the nearby area suggesting that the site has significant potential. These include two excavations (HER no. 3601; 8804) and an evaluation on St Helen's Street (HER no. IPS 382), some 100m to the south of the PDA. Similarly to the west of the PDA, within the limits of the medieval town, several sites have been investigated adjacent to Great Colman Street. The location of previous investigations is shown in Figure 2 with further information held in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER).

3.2 *Prehistoric (c. 500 00 BC-AD 43)*

3.2.1 Relatively little evidence for prehistoric activity has been found in the vicinity of the PDA (Holman 2012, 4-5). This period is represented by a broadly prehistoric scatter of worked flint (HER no. IPS 238) to the north of the site in TM 45 17. More closely dateable was a partly ground, polished Neolithic axehead found on allotments near Northgate School (HER no. IPS 077).

3.3 *Roman (AD 43-410)*

3.3.1 Potential Roman burials representing perhaps as many as seventy individuals, together with fragments of a lead coffin (HER no. IPS 046), have been suggested to lie somewhere to the north of the site in TM 17 45. A watching brief in this area undertaken in 1990 however failed to find any evidence for such remains (ibid).

3.4 Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066)

3.4.1 The site lies outside the limits of the Anglo-Saxon settlement with the conjectured line of the town ditch lying some 100m to the west (Gardner 2005, Figure 2). Part of this feature was identified during a watching brief undertaken on the northern edge of Foundry Road. This was c. 4m wide and is thought to lie under the present day Old Foundry Road (Gardner 2005, 2).

3.4.2 Middle Saxon pottery sherds were recovered to the immediate south of the conjectured line of the ditch during building works undertaken in the 1920s on the site of the Free Library (Gardner 2005, 1-2; IAS 1001-4). Similar remains, including a Middle Saxon pit together with three phases of late Saxon/early

medieval occupation (that included a Late Saxon cellared building) lay immediately to the north-west (ibid).

3.4.3 A small quantity of Thetford type wares was recorded to the north of the site in 1990 (HER no. IPS 238). Similarly small quantities of Middle Saxon material have been recovered from the southern part of Ipswich Old Cemetery.

3.5 Medieval (AD 1066-1500)

3.5.1 The PDA is positioned outside the limits of the medieval town with the conjectured line of the twelfth century town ditch lying some 115m to the west (Garner 2005, Figure 5). The ditch itself had survived to such a degree that it is visible on the north side of Old Foundry Road on the First Edition Ordnance Survey (1884).

3.5.2 John Speede's map of 1610 suggests that what is now Woodbridge Road did not form a major part of the medieval street system, with the main route out of the north-west part of the town formed by St Helen's Road. This is indicated by the presence of a series of medieval sites that were located less than 100m to the south of the site. Principally these consist of medieval pottery kilns (HER no. 3601; 8804) together with settlement activity (HER no. 8804) and an early medieval ditch, pit and road (HER no. IPS 382).

3.5.3 Elsewhere the evidence presented in the HER suggests that medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the PDA was relatively sparse. Isolated scatters of medieval pottery have been recorded to the north of the site suggesting low intensity activity (HER nos. IPS 237, IPS 238). Medieval activity has though been found to the east of the PDA in the vicinity of Old Foundry Road (Gardner 2005, 1-2, IAS 1001-4).

3.6 Post-medieval (AD 1500-1899)

3.6.1 Our understanding of the site in the post-medieval period is greatly aided by the survival of many historic maps. These can be found in the desk-based assessment of the site (Holman 2012, figs 3–6)The earliest would appear to be that of Speede (1610), which appears to suggest the PDA at this point lay within an open field. The line of Woodbridge Road is not clearly marked on this map, though there is some suggestion that a route may have by this period been extant. Later maps of 1674 (Ogilby) and 1778 (Pennington) clearly show the line of the road though in each case the PDA again lies within open fields. That of Pennington indicates that in 1778 the field in question was the property of Richard Norton.

3.6.2 By 1848 it is clear from the map of Monson that some development has taken place to the immediate east, though the PDA itself remains open ground. Far more development had taken place by the latter part of the nineteenth century with the with the 1884 Ordnance Survey indicating development on all side, the PDA itself though remains open. It was not until the early part of the twentieth century that the PDA appears to have been built on with the construction of a building that is visible on both the 1905 and 1927 Ordnance

Survey maps. The building is thought to have formed a drill hall, constructed by the brewer Cobbold between 1904-5. It was subsequently donated to the Territorial Army.

3.6.3 Archaeologically post-medieval finds within this area are rare, formed mainly by a scatter of tile fragments within TM 17 45 (HER no. 046).

4. Aims

4.1 The principal objective of the archaeological evaluation is to determine whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area. Particular regard will be given to any that are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.

4.2 The evaluation will therefore determine the date, approximate form and purpose of such surviving deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

4.3 More specific objectives include:

- an evaluation of the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes and the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits;
- the definition of or potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, any impact they may have and the potential of such deposits masking other archaeological deposits:
- an assessment of the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit;
- an assessment of the potential for waterlogged remains; their location and vulnerability to damage by development;
- the provision of sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

5. Methodology

5.1 The development site was subjected to evaluation by the machine excavation of a single trench across the site, the position of which was agreed with a representative of the Conservation Team of the Suffolk Archaeology Service (see Figure 2). All mechanical excavation was undertaken by an 8 tonne 360º tracked excavator, under constant archaeological supervision, using a 1.5m wide flat-bladed bucket

5.2 The trench was excavated to the top of the uppermost significant archaeological deposit. Following machining, the base of each trench and the sections were hand-cleaned.

5.3 The trenches were recorded in accordance with the *Institute for Archaeologists 2008 Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*. Trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 with any sections drawn at 1:20.

5.4 All features were surveyed using a total station and located to the national Ordnance Survey (reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO © Crown Copyright 2001. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL100021009).

5.5 Trenches were levelled in respect to Ordnance Datum from a temporary benchmark, the value of which was 13.19m OD. This was transferred from a benchmark located on the south-west face of St Margaret's Church the value of which was 18.79m OD.

5.6 A full photographic record comprising black and white negative and digital images was produced and is currently held by Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

6. Results (Figures 3 and 4; Plates 2 and 3)

6.1 Natural deposits, consisting of mottled brown-yellow sand containing relatively large quantities or rounded flint were identified at 11.95m OD toward the south end of the trench. These sloped away gently to the south, with a substantial cut removing the top of the deposit in this area. A small test pit cut in this area and subsequent hand-augering indicate that the natural sand in this part of the trench lay at 11.23m OD.

6.2 The natural had been sealed by a layer of mixed light brown silty sand (58) that extended for approximately 19.7m across the trench. It had been removed by cut [41] at the south end and contained a moderate quantity of rounded flints. While no finds were retrieved the stratigraphic position of this suggests a potential late Anglo-Saxon date.

6.3 Layer (59) had been cut by five features [57], [51], [49] and [47]. The first of these, [57] was positioned at the south end of the trench. This consisted of a sub-circular cut with a minimum diameter of approximately 1.4m (Plate 4). Only part of the feature was visible within the trench, with the remainder sealed by the eastern limit of excavation with the southern edge removed by cut [41]. It appeared to be lined by a deposit of intensively burnt brown-red clay (56). An unburnt though probably identical deposit (55) adhered to the western part of the feature. In its unburnt state the material consisted of light brown yellow silty clay. The interior of the feature had been filled by dark brown sandy silt (54) from which sherds of Thetford Ware were retrieved. The feature was not excavated as it would have caused significant damage to the remains.

6.4 The remaining features [51], [49] and [47] lay at the north end of the trench. Each appeared to be sub-circular or circular all were sealed by the western limit of excavation with only a small part of each exposed. Due to this the features were not excavated though late Saxon to medieval pottery was recovered from each. Feature [51] had a diameter of approximately 2.5m, the part of the feature that was visible within the section did though suggest a very gentle slope indicating that the feature was unlikely to be very deep. It contained a single fill of light brown sandy silt (50) that contained small

quantities of rounded flints. This was very similar to the surrounding deposit (58) with only textural differences suggesting that the feature cut through this layer.

6.5 Feature [49] was similar, though at only in 1.2m diameter, smaller than feature [51]. It was filled by a virtually identical fill (48) from which a rim sherd from a Thetford Ware vessel was retrieved. The fill was again very difficult to distinguish from the surrounding deposit (58). The remaining feature, [47], was smaller than both [51] and [49] with a diameter of approximately 0.78. The fill, (46) was virtually identical to deposits (48) and (50) though a small quantity of daub was noted.

6.6 The final feature that appeared to directly cut layer (58) which was [45] was linear, cutting across the trench on an approximate east-west axis. It was sample excavated and had steeply sloping sides that broke to a concave base. The primary fill, a deposit of yellow brown silty sand (44) measured some 0.13m in thickness. This was sealed by a deposit of light brown sandy silt (43) some 0.17m thick. Upon excavation this seemed generally sterile though trace quantities of fishbone, pottery, glass and plant remains were recovered from an environmental sample (see 8.3 and 8.4, below). The nature of these remains suggests that the deposit had suffered some degree of contamination with the glass and some of the seeds likely to be intrusive. Alternatively, though less likely it cut from higher up in the stratigraphic sequence and was therefore of post-medieval date.

6.7 Clay deposit (55), within [57] had been cut by a final sub-circular feature [53] that was again largely sealed by the western limit of excavation. This possessed a minimum diameter of some 1.2m. It was filled by a single deposit of medium to dark brown clay silt (52) that contained small quantities of rounded flint. A rim sherd from a Thetford Ware vessel was recovered from this feature.

6.8 Sealing features [53], [51], [49], [47] and [45] was a layer of moderate grey-brown sandy silt (42). This had a maximum thickness of some 0.63m at the south-end of the trench though this shallowed out to 0.39m at the north and was in places shallower at approximately 0.2m. As with the level of the natural the surface of this layer sloped gently down from north to south. No finds were retrieved from this deposit though its stratigraphic position and the nature of overlying deposits suggest a medieval or early post-medieval date.

6.9 Cutting the south end of layer (42) was a substantial feature [41] that was at least 5.15m wide by 0.95m deep. As this feature was sealed to the south, east and west by the limit of excavation its true size and shape remains unknown. Excavation within the feature was limited to a 0.5m² test-pit cut in order to locate the top of the natural sand in this area. The fill of the feature, (40) consisted of moderate grey-brown sandy silt from which a small quantity of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) and animal bone was retrieved. A post-medieval date was suggested by the nature of the inclusions.

6.10 Also cutting layer (42) were three small features, two [35] and [37] were square with [39] sub-circular. Each had near vertical sides and measured no more than 0.18m wide, they were at least 0.48m deep. The fills (34), (36) and (38) consisted of dark silty sands from which small quantities of post-medieval CBM and coal were recorded.

6.11 Features [36], [38], [40] and [42] were sealed by a layer of dark brown-grey sandy clay silt (33). This contained small quantities of post-medieval CBM and animal bone. The layer covered approximately 12m of the south end of the trench with a maximum thickness of approximately 0.15m. At the far south end of the trench fill (40) had been sealed by a layer of dark brown sandy silt (32). With a maximum thickness of 0.37m only 0.41m of this deposit was visible, sloping down steeply from south to north. Lying above this was a layer of brown-yellow clay-sand silt (31) that contained rare flints. This had a maximum thickness of 0.27m and extended 1.33m from the south end of the trench.

6.12 Sealing context (33) was a layer of moderate grey clay sand silt (30) that contained common flint pebbles and rare fragments of post-medieval CBM. The deposit varied in thickness between 0.05m and 0.19m extending approximately 6.9m from the south end of the trench. Deposit (30) was sealed by deposit (29), a layer of red-brown clay silt sand that covered the length of the trench. This became browner toward north end and contained common post-medieval CBM, rare mortar fragments and rounded flints. The thickness of the deposit was variable, around only 0.1m or less at the south end of the trench but becoming thicker towards the centre at 0.63m. It then shallowed out to the north where it was approximately 0.1m thick.

6.13 Lying above deposit (29) were layers (28) and (26). Context (26) consisted of a layer of light brown sandy silt that contained a large quantity (90%+) of oyster shell. The deposit was small, only 0.58m long and 0.1m thick. It had been cut on both sides by later features [09] and [22]. Deposit (28) was more substantial covering an area of some 3.66m. It consisted of moderate brown-grey sandy clay silt that contained small quantities of rounded flint and post-medieval CBM.

6.14 Deposit (27) was located at the south end of the trench filling a depression in the surface of layer (28). It consisted of grey-brown clay sand that contained small quantities of rounded flint and post-medieval CBM. The deposit had a maximum thickness of 0.52m and appeared to form a slight mound.

6.15 The northern edge of layer (28) had been removed by an irregular shaped cut [25], 0.97m across by 0.32m deep with slightly irregularly sloping sides and a concave base. The feature contained two fills, the lower (23) consisted of brown-yellow sandy silt with a maximum thickness of 0.16m. The upper fill, (22) was formed by a deposit of oyster shells, virtually identical to (26).

6.16 Lying 1.3m to the north of feature [25] and cutting layer (24) was roughly sub-circular feature [22]. This was approximately 1.17m in diameter by 1.05m

deep with steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It contained a single fill of moderate very gravelly brown clay silt (21).

6.17 Positioned only 0.3m further north, feature [20] also cut into the top of layer (29), running on an approximate east–west axis across the trench. It had moderate to steep sides with a roughly flat base and contained two fills. The lowermost consisted of sterile light brown-yellow sand (19) that adhered largely to the north side and base of the feature. This was sealed by a deposit of dark grey-brown sandy clay silt that contained large quantities of rounded flint with smaller amounts of CBM and coal (18).

6.18 A more substantial feature 2.46m wide by 0.95 deep, [17] cut through deposit (29) in the central part of the trench. It was filled by a single deposit (16) of mixed grey-brown clay sand silt that contained large quantities of rounded flints, CBM (mostly brick) and a smaller amount of coal.

6.19 The final features to cut into layer (29) were [15] and [13]. Both were sub-circular and approximately 0.85m in diameter by 0.8m deep. They were filled by identical deposits of grey-brown sandy silt, (14) and (12), that contained medium quantities of CBM and rounded flints.

6.20 Lying above feature [22] was layer (11) that had a maximum thickness of 0.24m and covered some 1.9m of the trench. This was formed by brown clay silt that contained moderate quantities of rounded flint and post-medieval CBM.

6.21 Sealing deposit (27) and feature (25) was layer (10), a deposit of mixed brown sandy clay silt, similar to (27), that contained large quantities of rounded flint with small amounts of CBM and nineteenth/twentieth century glass. The deposit covered an area of some 3.36m at the southern end of the trench and was up to 0.22m thick.

6.22 Deposit (11) had been cut by a sub-circular cut [09] with near vertical sides and a concave base. This measured approximately 0.66m wide by 1.08m deep and was filled by a single deposit (08) of dark brown clay silt containing a small quantity of rounded flint.

6.23 Layer (10) was cut by a feature (07) with near vertical sides and a flat base, recorded only in section. It was approximately 0.75m wide by 0.96m deep and filled by a single deposit of brown silty sand that contained rare rounded flints and oyster shells.

6.24 Cutting into the top of feature [09] was linear trench [05], 0.5m wide by 0.3m deep that ran across the trench on an approximate north-west to south-east axis. This contained a single deposit of dark brown grey clay silt (04) and a redundant ceramic pipe.

6.25 A similar feature, [03] lay 2.35m to the north, this again measured 0.5m wide by approximately 0.35m deep with an identical fill (02) to (04).

6.2.3 Sealing features [07], [05] and [03] was a deposit of heavily disturbed dark grey brown sandy clay silt (01) that contained modern glass, CBM and concrete. This layer varied in thickness between 0.1 to 0.22m across the length of the trench.

7. Finds (Andrew Richardson)

7.1 A small assemblage of post-medieval and late Anglo-Saxon/medieval finds was recovered during the evaluation. Later post-medieval (late eighteenth and nineteenth century) finds and modern finds, mostly CBM, coal and glass from deposits and features (33) to (01) were recorded on context sheets and discarded on site.

7.2 *Pottery*

7.2.1 Eleven sherds of pottery were recovered, from four contexts. All of the contexts are of late Saxon or early medieval date as is the pottery (John Cotter pers comm). Generally, the sherds are small to large-sized and are unabraided formed from a medium grey or blue-grey sandy fabric.

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description	Fabric	Spot-date
46	1	30	1 body sherd	Thetford-type Ware	AD 850-1150
49	1	8	1 rim sherd	Thetford-type Ware	AD 850-1150
52	1	54	1 rim sherd	Thetford-type Ware	AD 850-1150
54	8	319	1 rim sherd, 3 base fragments, 4 body sherds	Thetford-type Ware	AD 850-1150

Table 1: Pottery quantification

7.2.2 All of the material is considered to be late Anglo-Saxon to early medieval Thetford Ware produced at several sites in East Anglia between AD 850–1150. Pottery of this type was probably first produced in Ipswich, with kilns excavated at Carr Street (John Cotter pers comm.; Jennings 1983, 74). Several of the sherds, particularly those with everted rims from contexts (54), (52) and (49) appear to be from plain jars. The remaining pottery consists of base fragments and body sherds.

7.3 *Other finds*

7.3.1 Remaining finds consisted of post-medieval CBM and an undiagnostic fragment of animal bone recovered from feature [41].

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description	Date
40	2	239	2 fragments of tile	Post-medieval
40	1	40	1 fragment of brick	Post-medieval
40	1	7	1 fragment of animal bone	Post-medieval

Table 2: Quantification of remaining finds

7.4 The finds recovered during the evaluation provide useful dating for the late-Saxon to early post-medieval activity on the site.

7.5 No further work is recommended on this material.

8. Environmental sampling (Enid Allison and Hazel Mosley)

8.1 A single bulk sediment sample (BS/GBA samples *sensu* Dobney *et al*. 1992) was taken from the fill of a ditch (44). The soils on the site were relatively dry. The sample was taken with the aim of assessing the survival of biological remains and, if present, their potential to provide data on human activity and/or environmental conditions on the site.

8.2 The bulk sample was soaked in water containing washing soda (sodium carbonate) before carrying out wet-sieving with flotation using standard techniques for recovery of biological and cultural material. A flot was produced onto 0.5mm mesh, and the residue washed onto nested 2mm and 1mm meshes. All fractions recovered were air-dried. The >2mm residue was sorted in its entirety for biological and cultural material. A magnet was used to remove hammerscale and other magnetic material from the >1mm fraction of the residue. The >1mm was sub-sampled (~25%), and both the sub-sample and the sample flot were scanned briefly to record the contents using a low-power stereoscopic microscope (x10). Scanning the >1mm residue also provided a check on the efficiency of the flotation process.

8.3 The sample had a volume of 8 litres. The residue had a total weight of 4.87kg (>2mm fraction 3.15kg; >1mm fraction 0.28kg). Traces of pot, ceramic building material (CBM), glass, slag, coal and clinker, and eroded fragments of large mammal bone were recovered from the >2mm residue. Traces of hammerscale were recovered from the >1mm residue, together with a small quantity of magnetic naturally occurring mineral fragments. Scanning of this fraction revealed the presence of traces of a similar range of material to that found in the >2mm residue but with the addition of indeterminate fragments of fish bone and an eroded bird claw phalanx.

8.4 The sample flot had a volume of 15ml and contained small amounts of charcoal, clinker and coal, traces of slag, a single charred seed (possibly from a leguminous plant), several uncharred seeds, and the head of a beetle (*Sitona*). The beetle head was obviously recent, and at least some of the uncharred seeds are likely to be intrusive. One of the seeds was of elderberry (*Sambucus*)

however, which is very resistant to decay, often surviving in soils where other uncharred remains have long since disappeared.

8.5 Very little cultural or biological material was present in the sample. None of the few bone fragments are identifiable. A beetle head and at least some of the few uncharred seeds noted are certainly or likely to be of recent origin. It is also possible that some of the cultural material noted is intrusive due to bioturbation, including coal and clinker fragments and at least some of the slag. Some of the latter recovered in the flot was very 'silvery' in appearance and generally unlike more ancient metalworking slag.

8.6 No further work is required on any of the remains recovered.

9. Interpretation

9.1 The natural sand, identified as glaciofluvial deposits (Mid Pleistocene sand and gravel) appeared to slope gently down from north to south. A distinct rise was noted at the north end of the trench. This would appear to reflect the natural slope of the area that gradually drops away towards the Orwell.

9.2 Layer (58) that sealed the natural would appear to perhaps represent a degraded agricultural topsoil suggesting that the site was under cultivation prior to later occupation. This would appear to have banked up against the slope in the natural that was visible toward the north end of the trench.

9.3 This had been cut by four features [53], [51], [49] and [47] each of which on the basis of their fills would appear to have been cut as refuse pits. Also identified cutting this deposit was a feature [57] that by the highly burnt nature of thee clay lining is suggested to have formed a small oven. Linear feature [45], perhaps a small boundary ditch would also appear to belong to this phase of activity. Pottery retrieved from several of these features with the exception of the ditch, identified as Thetford-type ware (see appendix 1), suggests a late Saxon date.

9.4 That this period of activity did not last long is evidenced by the development of a substantial soil horizon (42), again probably agricultural in origin. While no finds were retrieved its stratigraphic suggests a medieval to early post-medieval date. It seems likely that ploughing or associated activity during this period disturbed the top of the underlying features perhaps explaining why they were so difficult to identify in the surrounding layers. Features [39], [37] and [35], a group of post-holes, are suggested by the nature of their fills to be rather later in date than this horizon – probably of the eighteenth century. The same date is suggested for feature [41] that by its size and the relatively sterile nature of its fill is suggestive of a quarry pit.

9.5 Deposits (33) – (26), all of which contained post-medieval finds appeared to represent a thick sequence of soil and refuse dumps deposited alongside Woodbridge Road, They largely levelled out the natural slope of the site that was visible in earlier periods. Based on the nature of the deposits and inclusions it is likely that most were eighteenth or nineteenth century in date.

9.6 Cutting through layer (26) features [24], [22], [20], [13] and [11] probably formed refuse pits cut in what was still at this point an area of open ground. All are suggested by the nature of their inclusions to be of nineteenth century date. Features and deposits [25] – (08) formed a continuation of the levelling sequence with further pits cut while this process was underway.

9.7 Features [07]–(02) are considered to be modern with linear trenches [05] and [03] consisting of redundant drain runs. Layer (01) was formed during the demolition of the former community centre.

10. Impact assessment

10.1 The archaeological features, lying at a maximum height of 12.32m OD are sealed by between 1.3m to 0.95m of overburden across the length of the trench. The present ground surfaces lies at around 13.28m OD to the north and 13.00m OD to the south. Given that the formation level of the new car park is likely to be no more than 300mm beneath existing ground this should have no impact on the late Saxon/early medieval remains.

10.2 Similarly, the formation level of any new service runs is to lie 650mm beneath the finished level of the new car park. Again these will have no impact on the buried archaeology.

11. Conclusion

11.1 The results of the evaluation indicate that the PDA lay in a peripheral location on the margins of the late Saxon and medieval town. During this period the site seems to have initially been open land that was later given over to small scale, non-domestic activity. This was typified by the cutting of refuse pits though the presence of a small oven indicates that slightly more complex activity may also have been taken place. For much of the medieval period and the part of the post medieval period the site lay vacant, perhaps again given over to agriculture. This is indicated on historic maps such as that of Speede (1610) or Pennington (1778. In the latter part of the eighteenth and the nineteenth century the site was levelled up by the deposition of soil and refuse dumps. Prior to this levelling event the site sloped gently down from north to south towards the River Orwell. The PDA was finally built over in the early part of the twentieth century (Holman 2012, 8).

11.2 The depth of overburden sealing the buried late Saxon to early medieval features indicate that the archaeology will not be disturbed during the re-development of the site as a car park.

11.3 The confidence rating of this evaluation is considered to be good.

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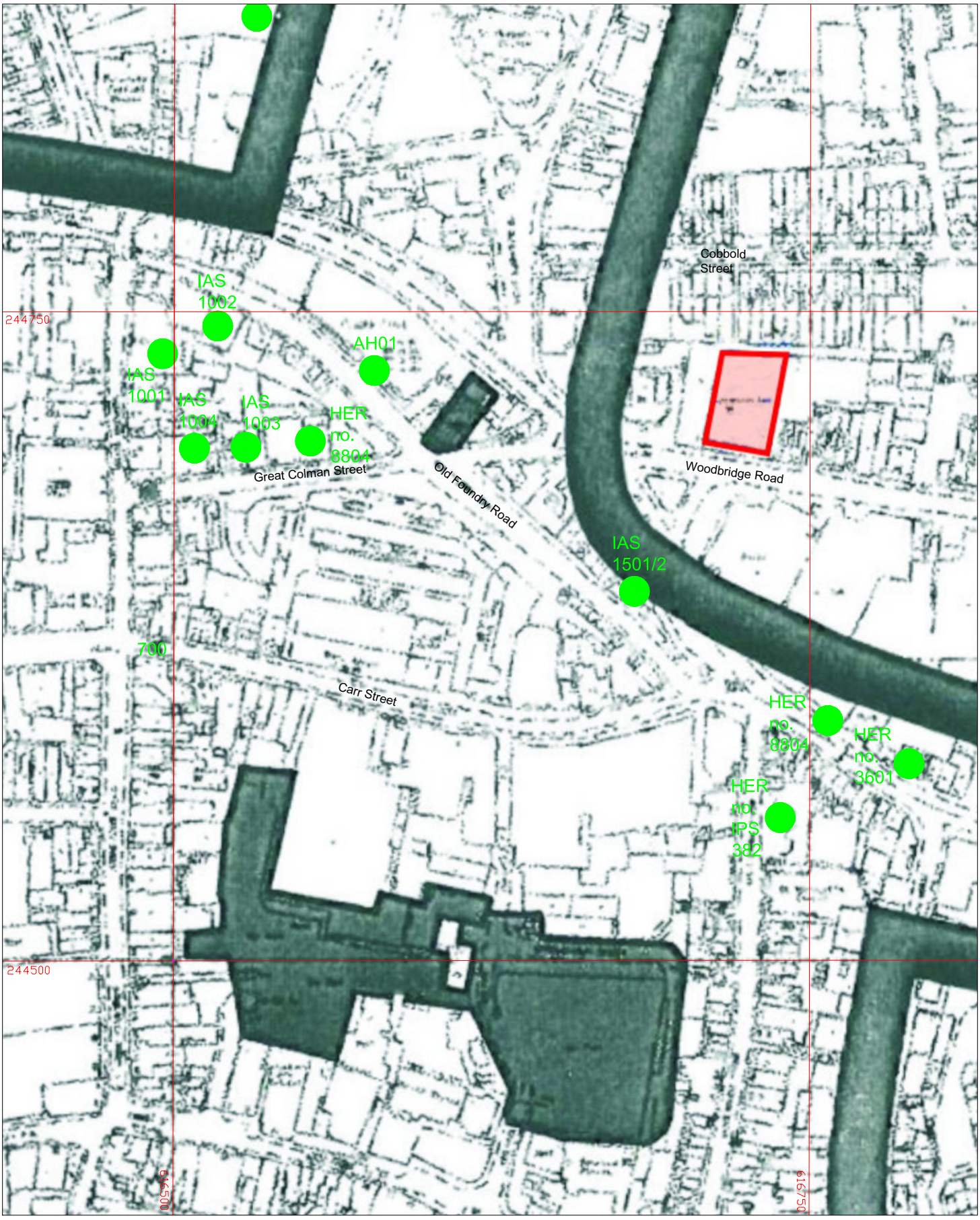

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		REF/DRG NO. L:/CRCI-DB-12/Figs/Fig 1	

Figure 1: Site location

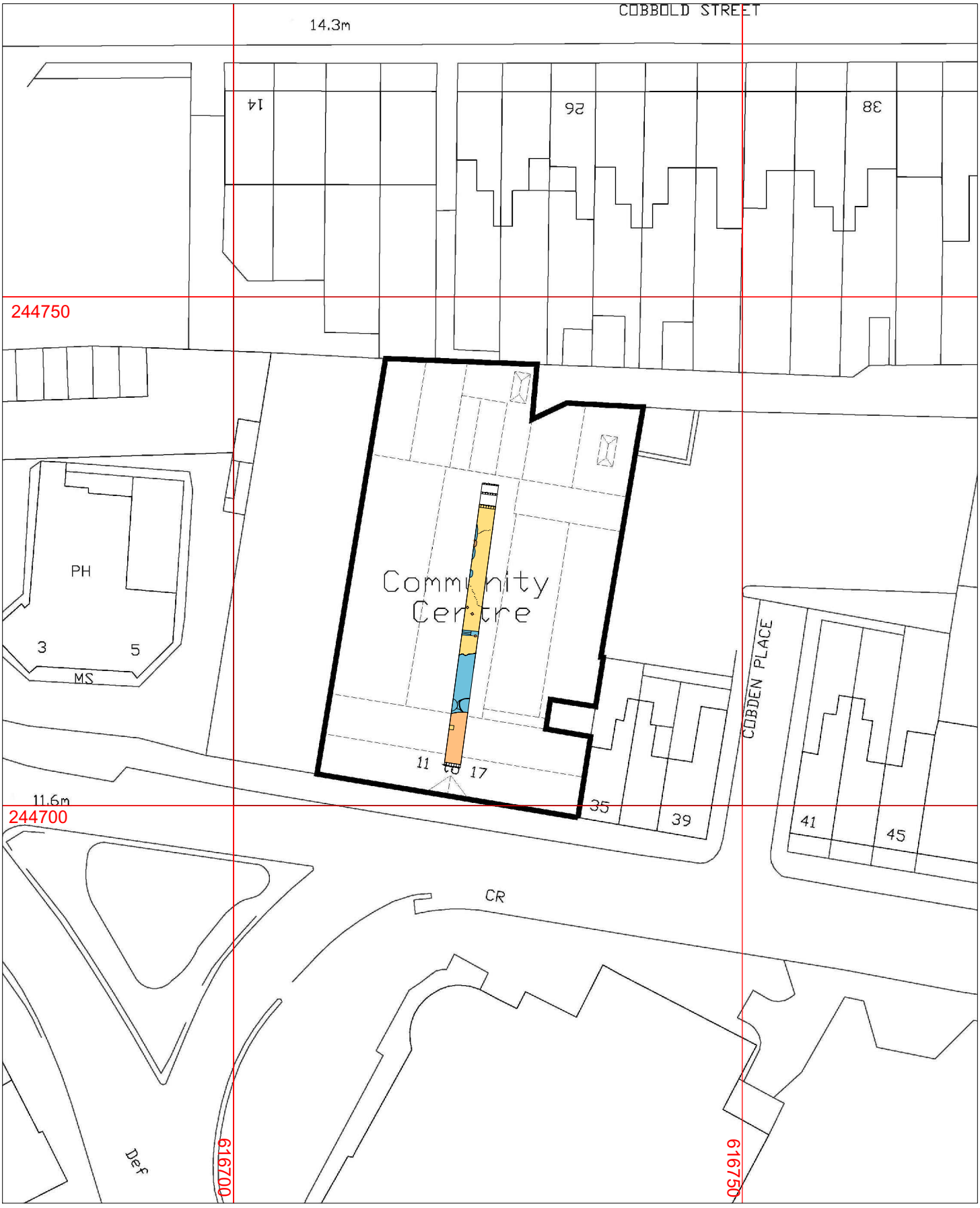

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Figure 2: Trench location

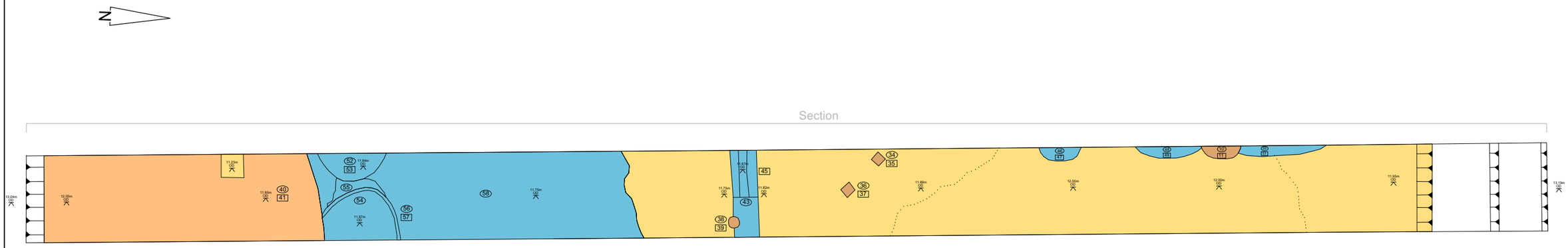

Figure 3: Plan of evaluation trench

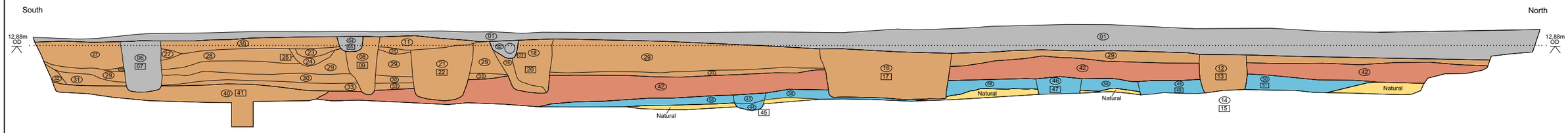

Figure 4: East facing section through evaluation trench

Key:

- Natural
- Late Anglo-Saxon
- Medieval/early post-medieval
- Eighteenth/nineteenth century
- Modern

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92a Broad Street , Canterbury
Kent . CT1 2LU
Tel 01227 462062 Fax 01227 784724
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Plate 1: Pre-excavation shot of site

Plate 2: Evaluation trench, looking north (scale 1m)

Plate 3: Evaluation trench, looking south (scale 1m)

Plate 4: Oven/kiln feature [57] and clay layer (55), looking east (scale 0.5m)

Plate 5: Pits (49) and (13), looking west (scale 0.5m)

Plate 6: Pit (45), looking west (scale 0.5m)

Plate 7: Pre-excavation shot of ditch (40) looking south (scale 0.5m)

Plate 8: Post-excavation shot of ditch (40), looking west (scale 0.5m)