

**LAND EAST OF TINDALL MILL,
KIRKGATE,
TYDD St GILES,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

NGR REF: TF 4319 1659



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
(OASIS ID: independ1-199575)
(EVENT NR: ECB4340)

DECEMBER 2014

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants for the construction of two dwellings and garages with access and new services at Tindall Mill, Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire. No archaeological features are known from within the development area and no such remains were encountered during the investigation. An east-west orientated drainage ditch was, however, located in the central part of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site was located at Tindall Mill, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TF 4319 1659) (Figure 1-2). A 52m long and 2m wide T-shaped trench was opened up in the southern part of the proposed development, covering ca. 5% of the site. The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001), as well as discussions with Kasia Gdaniec, Archaeological Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council. The project was based on a WSI, which complies with the principles of NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2012).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning Permission has been granted (F/YR11/0831) for a new development on land east of Tindall Mill, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire. The development comprised the construction of two new dwellings and garages with access and new services.
- 2.2 The development site was located in the central parts of the village of Tydd St Giles. It enclosed an area of some 2100m² at an average height of 3m AOD. To the west of the site there is the Tindall Mill, in the south is the road Kirkgate, in the east there is an existing dwelling and in the north there is a green field. The geology of the site comprises tidal flat deposits over Ampthill Clay and Mudstone Formations (British Geological Survey).
- 2.3 The site was situated within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by Cambridgeshire HER. Therefore, an archaeological evaluation was required prior to any construction on the site. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission granted by Fenland District Council, and was in line with policy set out in *NPPF* (National Planning Policy Framework 2012).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Although there were no known archaeological remains within the proposed development area a number of archaeological deposits and artefacts have been found in the vicinity.
- 3.2 Tydd St Giles, located in the Cambridgeshire Fenland, lies at the northern boundary of the county, where it is separated from Lincolnshire by the Shire Drain (formerly Lady Nunn's Old Eau - named after the wife of a 14th century Tydd land owner (VCH IV: 224). As well as separating counties, this historic winding drain also separated two dioceses and is the perceived boundary between two Anglo-Saxon sub kingdoms recorded in the 7th century Mercian Tribal Hidage, possibly the Northern and Southern Gyrwe - or the Southern Gyrwe and the Wixna.
- 3.3 The development area was located to the west of a Grade II 16th century manor house (CHER ref MCB18467/LB48142) and its park and garden (MCB18508). To the north was a known Saxon settlement area (north and west of Tretton Bridge: MCB11774 and MCB10803), while medieval and later remains have been found along Kirkgate ("Church Road") during the laying of new sewage pipes in 2002 (MCB1264).
- 3.4 Medieval finds and features have also been found in recent development areas on land to the north of Potential House (MCB19892), while a major roadside ditch, now infilled, at the former Bowling Green ("The Wirrals") was found to be of 19th century date (MCB19929).
- 3.5 The proposed development site therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits predominately relating to the Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. This did not, however, prejudice the investigation against features and finds relating to other periods.



Figure 1. The location of Tydd St Giles in England.

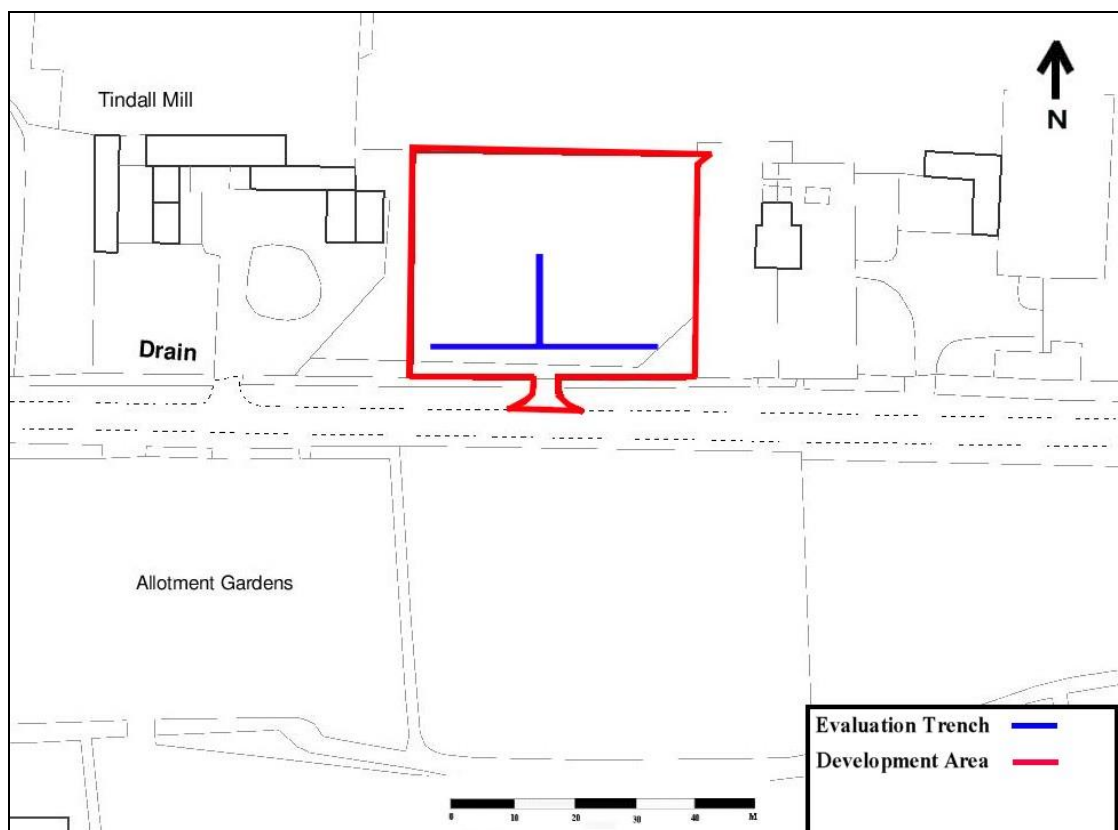


Figure 2. Site Outline and Trench Location.

4 AIMS

4.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

- i) to gain information about the heritage assets within the proposed development area;
- ii) to provide detailed information regarding the date, character, extent, integrity and degree of preservation of the identified heritage assets,
- iii) to inform a strategy for the recording, preservation and/or management of the identified assets;
- iv) to mitigate potential threats,
- v) to inform proposals for further archaeological investigations (namely targeted area excavations) within the ongoing programme of research;
- vi) to define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains;
- vii) to interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national archaeological context.

4.2 The evaluation also considered the general investigative themes outlined by: Medlycott, M. 2011 (ed.) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24; *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000), *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997); *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005 - 2010* (English Heritage 2005).

4.3 Specifically, the following investigative aims were accommodated in the programme of archaeological work:

- *characterisation of the site in the broader landscape;
- *characterisation of the activities identified on the site;
- *characterisation of changes affecting land-use through time

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Trial Trenching

Based on the results of a fieldwalking across the site, which was carried out in October 2014, as well as discussions with Kasia Gdaniec, Archaeological Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council, it was proposed that a T-shaped evaluation trench was laid out across the southern part of the site. It was suggested that the 52m long machine cut trench, with a width of 2m, was opened up under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The total length of trenching was therefore 52m, totalling 104m², or ca. 5% of the proposed development area of 2100m².

The location of the trench targeted areas of proposed ground disturbance and provided representative sample coverage. The location of the trench was, however, slightly flexible and took into consideration potential above- and below-ground constraints and/or hazards, such as trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance. The investigation area was searched for live cables and other potential threats before the evaluation began, and the management of spoil heaps was planned carefully.

The trench was excavated to the upper interface of the water table. Thereafter, hand-excavation was required to sample any features exposed. The field evaluation was not carried out at the expenses of the heritage assets and was minimally intrusive to archaeological remains.

5.2 Metal Detecting

Metal detector sweeps of exposed features and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process.

5.3 Hand Excavation

All man-made features were investigated. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws) were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity. Hand excavation and feature sampling was sufficient to establish the date and character, and to allow appropriate levels of recording.

Deposits and layers (including buried horizons of top- and subsoils) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationships with other features. Thereafter, mechanical removal and visual scanning for artefacts was acceptable. All exposed features were subject to excavation in order to achieve information on the character, function and dating.

5.4 Recording

A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used to record the stratigraphy and archaeological remains at the site.

Measured plans were produced that show all exposed features (including natural features, modern features, etc.) and excavated areas. Individual measured plans and sections in the scales 1:20 and 1:200 were produced for all excavated features and deposits. These were accurately tied into trench plans/trench location plans that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably local features (boundaries, buildings, roads, etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum.

A photographic record comprising monochrome and digital photos formed part of the excavation record. The photographic record followed IfA standards for site photographic guidance.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 Underlying all other deposits in the T-shaped evaluation trench were the natural deposits consisting of Ampthill Clay and Mudstone Formations (British Geological Survey). However, as the site was situated in the Fenland this level of natural deposits was not reached, as they were expected to lie several meters below the present ground level. The reason for this considerable depth is the natural processes behind the creation of the Fenland, where thick layers of silt, peat and clay deposits have built up over the centuries.
- 6.2 As no archaeological features were discovered in the upper parts of the T-shaped trench the excavation depth was slightly increased down to about 1m below the present ground level in order to investigate if archaeological features and/or artefacts could be found on lower levels. This decision was made on site, as no features of archaeological interest had been identified higher up in the trench.
- 6.3 The increased excavation depth created, however, problems with flooding as the natural water table was hit at about 1m below the present ground level. The flooding deteriorated as a result of a broken land drain, which was not marked on any of the maps consulted prior to the excavation works. At the end of the investigation this land drain was mended.
- 6.4 The lowest deposit encountered consisted of dark brown, plastic clayey silt with occasional small stones (104). The depth of this layer is unknown, as the excavation could not reach the bottom of the deposit due to the flooding. Overlaying (104) was an up to 0.30m thick layer of yellow-beige, plastic clayey silt with occasional small stones and roots (103). Both (104) and (103)

had probably been built up over a long period of time considering the relative thicknesses of the two layers and the small particles included.

- 6.5 Overlaying (103) was an up to 0.30m thick subsoil of light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots (102). Overlaying all other deposits in the T-shaped trench was the 0.40m thick topsoil of dark brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots (101) (See Figure 3).
- 6.6 Once the T-shaped trench had been excavated down to a depth of about 1m below the present ground level all exposed sections were cleaned and checked for potential features and finds. During this inspection a modern ditch [106] [108] was found in the north-south running part of the T-shaped trench. This ditch was not visible what so ever in the upper part of the trench, as it had exactly the same colour as the topsoil, and contained a similar fill. The ditch was east-west orientated and had unfortunately been cut by the machine during the excavation process.
- 6.7 The ditch was 1.37m wide and up to 0.80m deep and had vertical sides and a rounded bottom. The ditch contained the fill (105) (107) of dark brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones, roots brick and broken china. The inclusions of modern material in this fill indicate that it is a fairly recent ditch. The recent date is also supported by the fact that the cut of the ditch could be followed in sections 003 and 004 all the way up to the top of the topsoil, as if no modern farming activities had destroyed the upper part of the ditch (Figure 4).



Figure 3. Section 001. North facing photo.

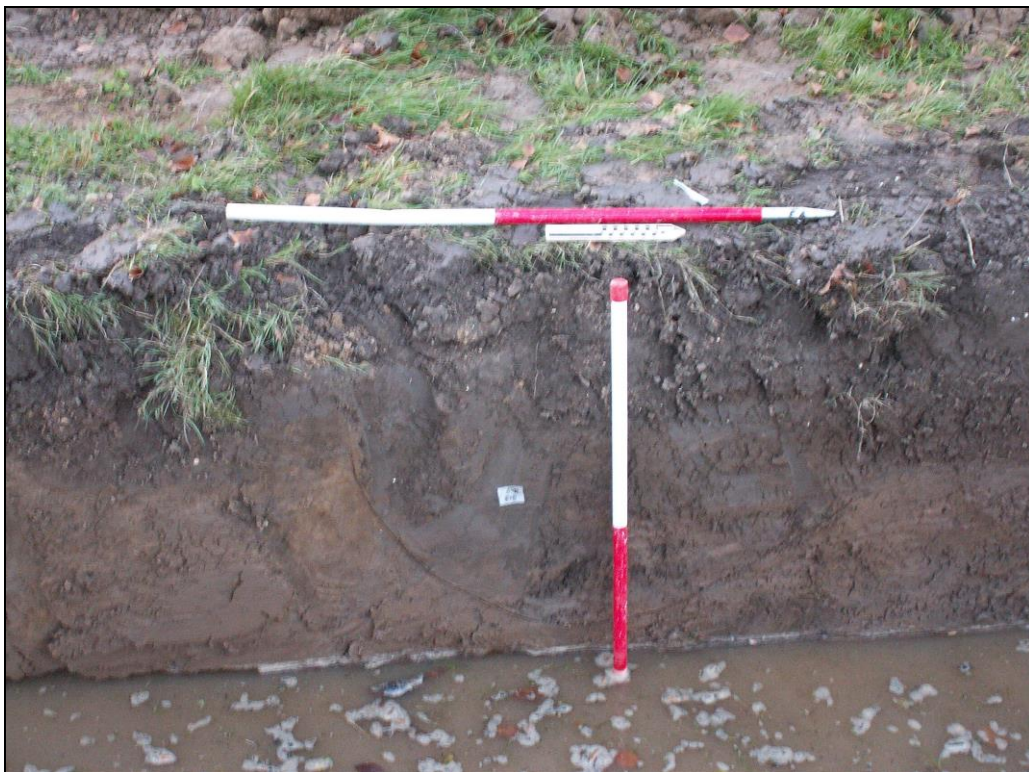


Figure 4. Section 004. Ditch [108] with its fill (107). West facing photo.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The archaeological evaluation described in this report was carried out on land east of Tindall Mill, Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire, a village situated in the Cambridgeshire Fenland. Because of this the stratigraphy within the site turned out to be very deep, with several meters of various clay- and silt-deposits covering the natural bedrock. The various silts and clays recorded in the trench are sediments associated with early phases of marine and freshwater inundation. Any potential archaeological remains should therefore have been found on slightly higher levels.
- 7.2 As no remains or artefacts of archaeological interest were present in the T-shaped investigation trench the results of the evaluation were scarce. The only feature present was a modern ditch [106] [108], which was running east-west across the site. This ditch had a fill (105) (107) containing modern material, such as small pieces of brick and china.
- 7.3 As this ditch seems to be fairly recent it is not likely that it is a continuation of the medieval linear feature which was found during an evaluation in 2012, some 100m to the east of the present site (Jefferson 2012). The feature from 2012 was interpreted as a medieval drainage ditch, and it is very likely that the younger ditch [106] [108] filled a similar purpose.
- 7.4 There must have been a need for many such drainage ditches in the Fenland over the centuries, and similar constructions have indeed been found all over the Fenland during archaeological excavations in the last 50 years. Older archaeological features can, of course, still be present within the proposed development site, even if nothing turned up during the limited evaluation covered by this report.

8 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief	The project report
Written Scheme of Investigation	The primary site records
The photographic and drawn records	Finds

The archive is currently maintained by Independent Archaeology Consultants.
The archive will be transferred to:

The Archaeological Collections for Cambridgeshire County Council.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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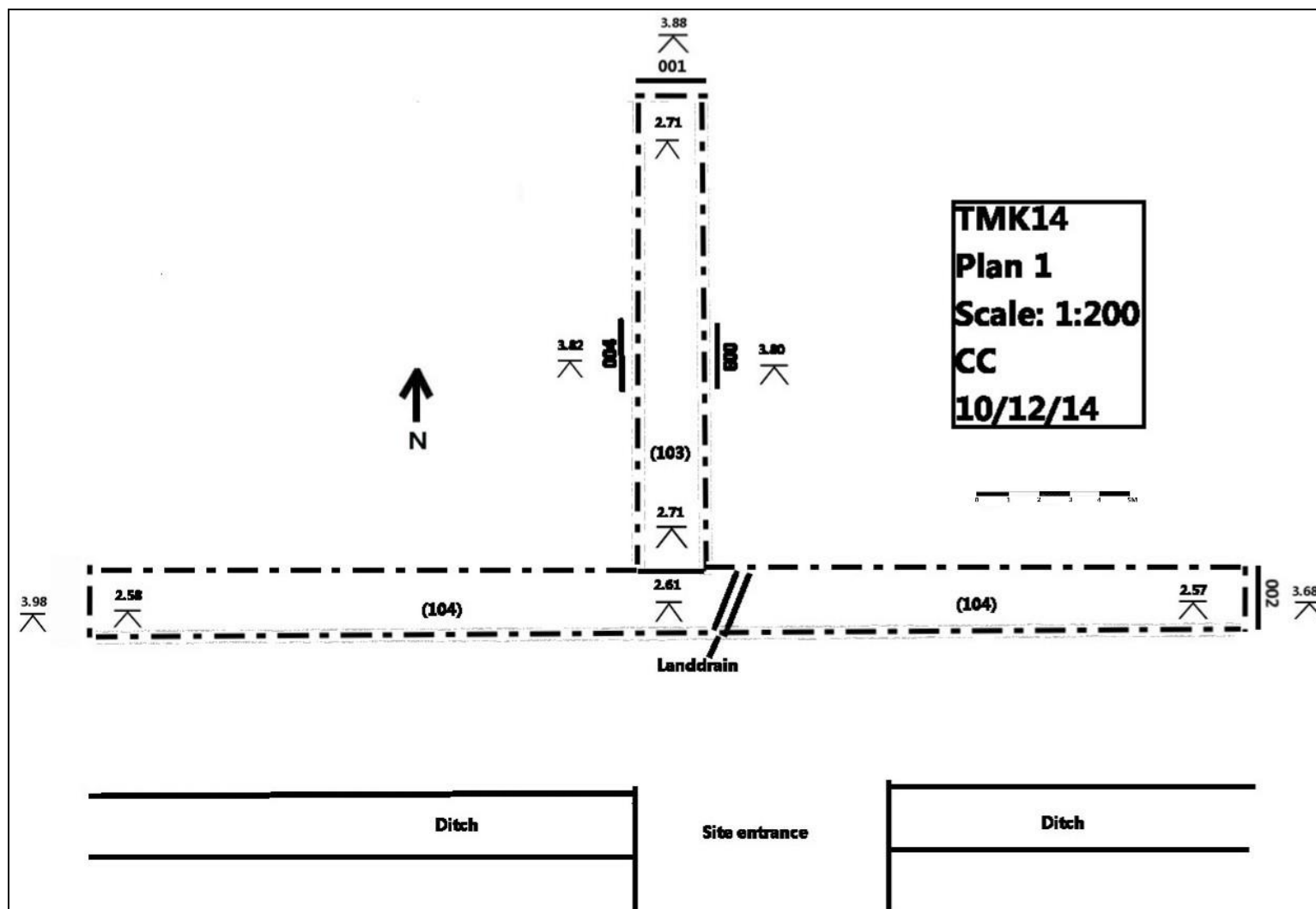
Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000)

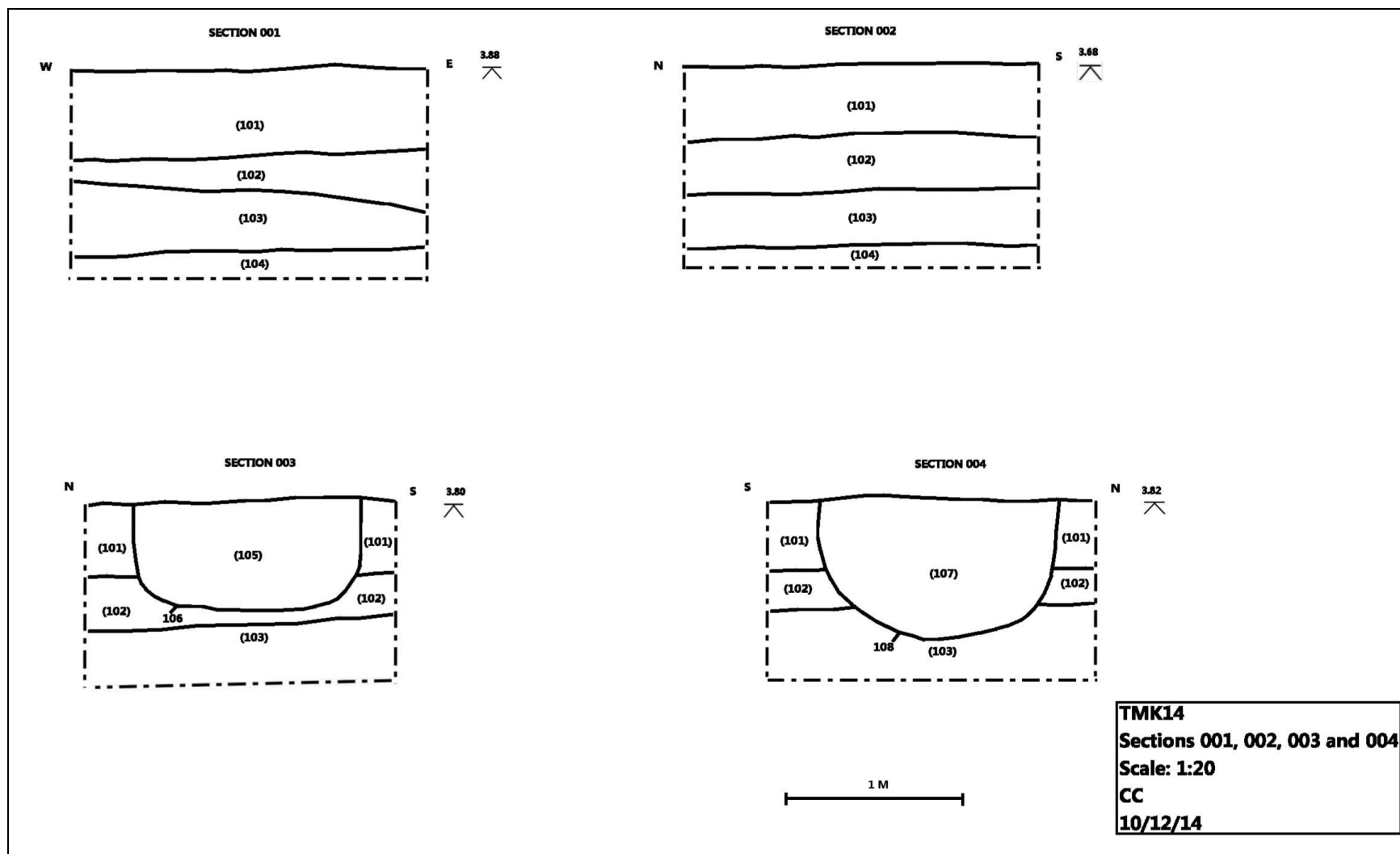
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APPENDICES

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
		T-shaped Evaluation Trench (52m by 2m)		
(101)	0.40	Topsoil of dark brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots	(102)	-
(102)	0.30	Subsoil of light-brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots	(103)	(101)
(103)	0.30	Yellow-beige, plastic clayey silt with occasional small stones and roots	(104)	(102)
(104)	<0.1	Dark brown, plastic clayey silt with occasional small stones	?	(103)
(105)	0.60	Fill of ditch [106]. Dark brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones, roots brick and broken china	[106]	-
[106]	0.73	Cut of ditch [106]. Vertical sides and a rounded bottom	(101) (102) (103)	(105)
(107)	0.80	Fill of ditch [108]. Dark brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones, roots brick and broken china	[108]	-
[108]	0.80	Cut of ditch [108]. Vertical sides and a rounded bottom	(101) (102) (103)	(107)





OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: independ1-199575

Project details

Project name	Land adjacent to Tindall Mill, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation for the construction of two new houses and garages with access and new services.
Project dates	Start: 10-12-2014 End: 12-12-2014
Previous/future work	No
Any associated project reference codes	F/YR11/0831 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	TMK14 – Sitecode, ECB4340 (Cambridgeshire Event ref no)
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed

Land East of Tindall Mill, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles: Archaeological Evaluation

Monument type	BT Modern
Monument type	CL Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK, CHINA Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK, CHINA Modern
Methods & techniques	"Documentary Search","Fieldwalking","Metal Detectors","Photographic Survey","Sample Trenches","Topographic Survey","Visual Inspection"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND TYDD ST GILES Land adjacent to Tindall Mill

Land East of Tindall Mill, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles: Archaeological Evaluation

Postcode	PE13 5NE
Study area	2100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 4319 1659 52.7276062178 0.120663754009 52 43 39 N 000 07 14 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 3.00m Max: 4.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project director/manager	Christer Carlsson
Project supervisor	Christer Carlsson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Map", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey ", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land East of Tindall Mill, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire

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