SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY

• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

Land to the rear of 32 and 34 Church Lane

Isleham, Cambridgeshire

Client:
K & J Carpenter and Sons Ltd

Date:
January 2016

ECB 4610
Archaeological Evaluation Report
SACIC Report No. 2015/090
Author: Michael Green

Land to the rear of 32 and 34 Church Lane Isleham, Cambridgeshire ECB 4610

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Author: Michael Green

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HER Information

Site Code:	**ECB 4610**
Site Name:	**Land to the rear of 32 and 34 Church Lane Isleham, Cambridgeshire**
Report Number	**2015/090**
Planning Application No:	**15/00600/FUL**
Date of Fieldwork:	**7th to the 9th of December 2015**
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Curatorial Officer:	**Gemma Stewart**
Project Officer:	**Michael Green**
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Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of Suffolk Archaeology CIC. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk Archaeology CIC cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Michael Green
Date: 15/01/2016

Approved By: John Craven
Position: Project Manager
Date: 18/01/2016

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by Suffolk Archaeology at land to the rear of 32 and 34 Church Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation assessed *c.*5% of a parcel of fallow agricultural land covering 0.7ha for archaeological evidence.

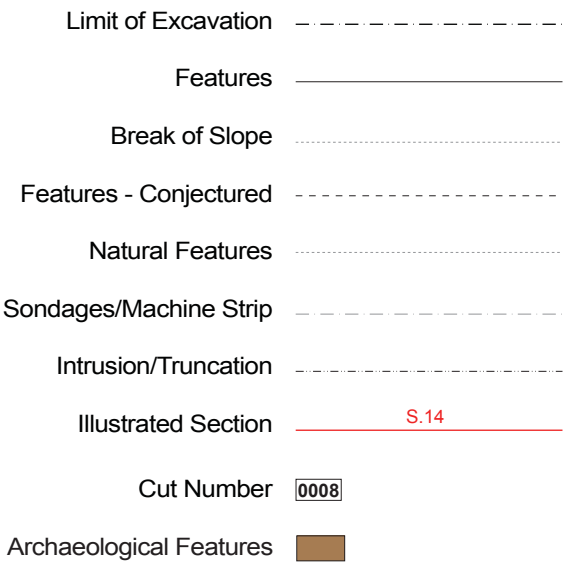
The evaluation of the site showed that a topsoil was present to a maximum depth of 0.65m, a subsoil was present with a maximum depth of 0.45m and a layer was also present in Trench 2 in the central area of the Trench to a depth of 0.15m. Either the subsoil deposits or layer were seen sealing the natural geology and archaeological features on site.

A total of nineteen linear features were seen within the trenches along with three pits and one hollow. Linear features were seen in all the trenches with various alignments with some showing cut relationships.

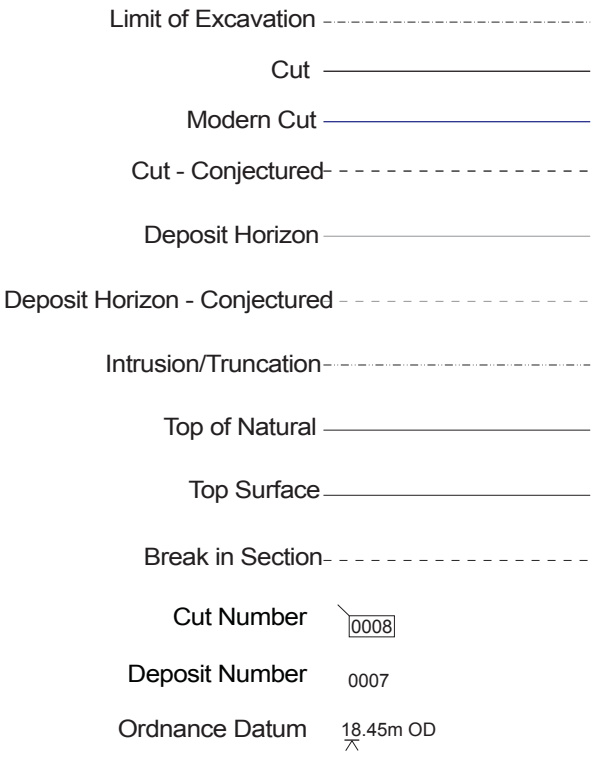
Dating evidence was recovered from most linear features spanning the Roman periods with two possible earlier prehistoric ditches. It is most likely that the ditches relate to field systems, with ditches cut for drainage. The earlier Roman field system which seems to be aligned north to south and east to west. This ditch system seems to go out of use, replaced by a possible later Roman field system aligned to Church Lane running north-east to south-west.

Drawing Conventions

Plans



Sections



1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation to assess the impact of proposed development on potential heritage assets on land to the rear of 32 and 34 Church Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, was carried out by Suffolk Archaeology CIC (SACIC) in December 2015.

The project was required by the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC/HET), the Archaeological Advisor to the Local Planning Authority, by a condition on planning application 15/00600/FUL, in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework. The scope of the project was originally detailed in a Brief (dated 03/11/2015), produced by the archaeological adviser to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC/HET) and then addressed by a SACIC Written Scheme of Investigation.

The project was commissioned by Sand Inglis (Architectural Solutions) on behalf of the client K & J Carpenter and Sons Ltd.

The proposed residential development of four properties and associated garages consists of part of a single grassland field (previously arable) east of properties fronting onto Church Lane and is accessed by an existing gravelled driveway. The site lies on the northern edge of modern Isleham and is bounded by Coates Drove to the north.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at a height of *c.*5m above Ordnance Datum, overlooking the low-lying Isleham Fen, *c.*500m to the north and then the River Lark valley.

The site geology consists of Zig Zag Chalk Formation bedrock (British Geological Survey website). No overlying superficial deposits are recorded.

The observed geology was a degraded chalk clunch natural that was solid in places with softer degraded chalk patches.

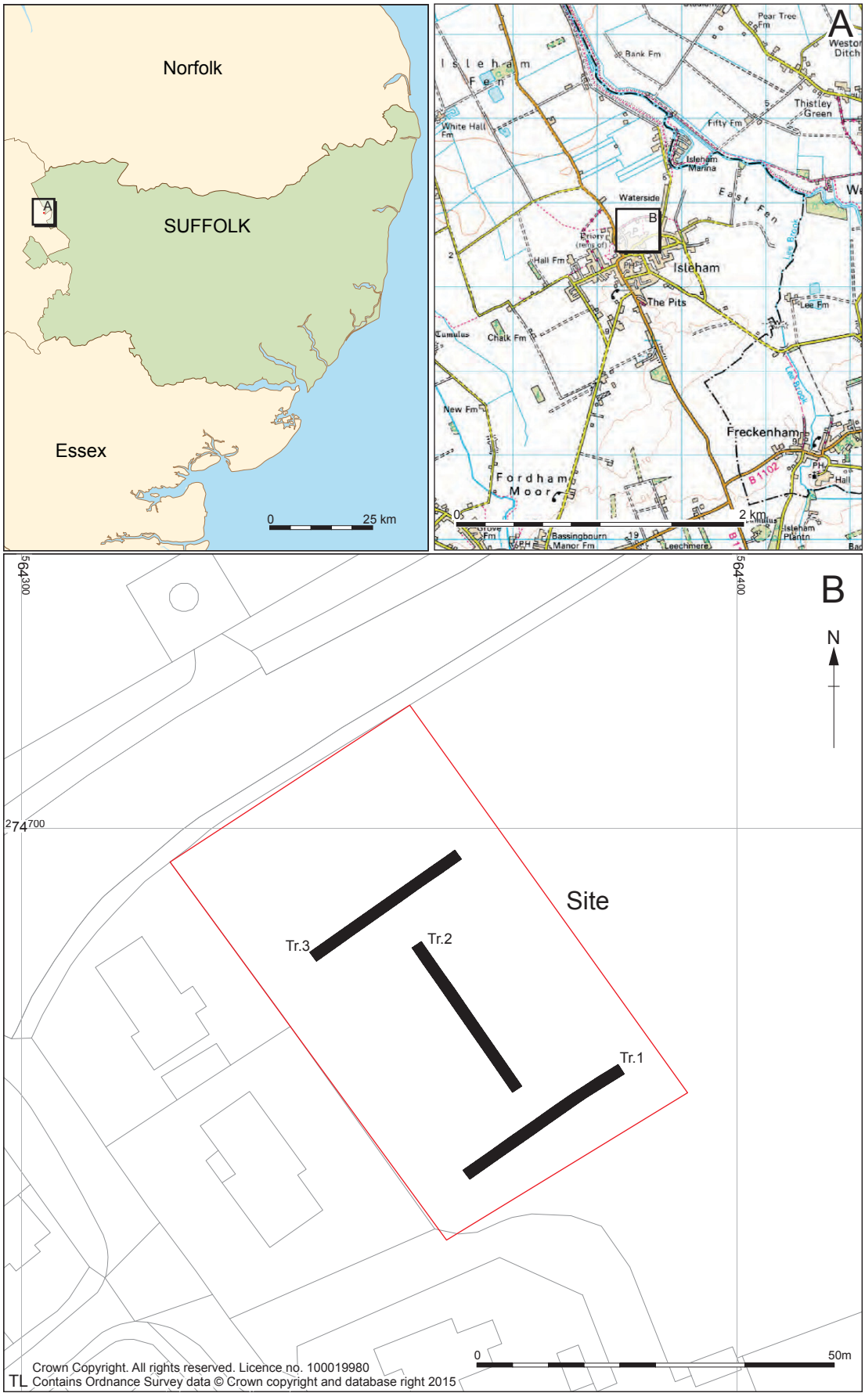


Figure 1. Location of site

3. Archaeology and historical background

A search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), for a 1km radius from the centre of the site, was supplied by Rose Karpinski (CCC/HET) as part of the project Brief. The table below summarises a selection of the results of the search (collating event, monument and building records), which are displayed in Figure 2, and are discussed further by period. The full HER search is included in the project archive.

Prehistoric

A moderate amount of prehistoric activity can be seen around the site with a possible Neolithic long barrow (MCB 12878) located 1km north-west of the site and a multitude of find spots recovering Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age artefacts. The Ely to Isleham pipeline (ECB 2288, MCB 14003) located 700m north-west of the site found Early Bronze Age settlement activity showing that prehistoric settlement activity was present within the local landscape.

Roman

Only small amounts of Roman evidence are recorded in the vicinity. MCB 19744 found stratified Roman finds off London Lane, located 500m south-west of the site, while finds scatters MCB 12764 and MCB 12763 (800m to the south-west) and MCB 9174 (1km to the north-west) shows that some Roman activity is present in the wider area.

Saxon

Only two entries are shown on the HER data suggesting Saxon activity. MCB 19749, a monitoring at St Andrews Close located 120m south-west of the site, produced some Saxon pottery and a Saxon disk brooch (MCB 13744) was found 950m west of the site.

Medieval, post-medieval and modern

The majority of the evidence from around the site dates to the medieval or post-medieval periods. The most important HER entry, the site of the Scheduled Monument Isleham Priory (HER No.DCB221) which dates to the 11th century and the Church of Saint Margaret of Antioch (MCB15280), lies c.200m to the north-east. The site also lies

c.250m to the north of the 14th century Saint Andrews church (MCB9178) which is thought to have replaced an earlier Norman Church and the site itself may have Anglo-Saxon origins.

The site lies to the north of the late medieval/post-medieval settlement core, which is represented by over 30 listed buildings, the nearest being c.120m to the south-west off of Pound Lane. Multiple find spots, evaluations, monitoring and excavations, particularly within the southern part of the settlement, have previously identified evidence of early medieval and medieval occupation, and programs of test pitting by Access Archaeology Cambridge's Higher Education Field Acadamies (HEFA) have frequently recovered medieval and post-medieval pottery at several locations within 150m to the south-west of the site (MCB19712, 19714, and 19750).

HER No.	Date	Nature of Evidence
MCB 19231	Palaeolithic	Find spot of a Palaeolithic hand axe
MCB 9223	Mesolithic	Find spot of two Mesolithic antler axes
MCB 12874 MCB 12875	Mesolithic and Neolithic	Find spot of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint
MCB 16201	Neolithic	Find spot of a Neolithic mace head
MCB 12878	Neolithic	Possible location of a Neolithic long barrow from crop marks
MCB 9224	Bronze Age	Find spot of a Bronze Age flint flake
MCB 12786 MCB 12787 MCB 12788	Mesolithic Neolithic Bronze Age	Flint finds dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age
ECB 230 MCB 15282	Prehistoric	An evaluation uncovered a possible prehistoric pit
MCB 9100	Prehistoric	Find spot of a Prehistoric finds scatter
MCB 12762 MCB 13744	Prehistoric Saxon	Find spot of a prehistoric flint scatter and a Saxon disk brooch
MCB 19744	Iron Age, Roman and medieval	Iron Age, Roman and medieval stratified finds found at little London lane
MCB 12764 MCB 12763	Roman	Find spot of a Roman saddle quern and brooch
MCB 9174	Roman	Roman finds scatter
MCB 19749	Saxon and medieval	Saxon and medieval pottery found at St Andrews Close
ECB 2288 MCB 17270 MCB 14002	Prehistoric Medieval Post-medieval	Evaluation and excavation on the Ely to Isleham pipeline found prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval features.
ECB 2288 MCB 14003	Bronze Age	Evaluation and excavation on the Ely to Isleham pipeline found Early Bronze Age settlement activity

Table 1. Summary of HER entries

ECB 3138 MCB 18441 MCB 18442	Prehistoric medieval Post-medieval	An evaluation revealed possible prehistoric feature along with medieval and post-medieval features and finds
DCB 221 MCB 14478 MCB 15280	Medieval	The site of the sheduled Islam Benedictine priory (DCB 221) with associated earthworks (MCB 14478) dating from the 12th century. Isleham Priory/Priory Church of St. Margaret of Antioch (MCB 15280) lays to the west and is still extant.
MCB 19713 MCB 19712 MCB 13014	Medieval	Find spots at multiple locations recovering medieval pottery and finds
ECB 3549 MCB 19827	Medieval	Medieval pits and postholes were found during monitoring works near to the priory
ECB 2282 ECB 2138 MCB 16866	Medieval	Evaluation and excavations revealed medieval activity
ECB 3762 MCB 20069	Medieval	Evaluation at the recreation ground revealed medieval features
ECB 940 ECB 229 MCB 15283	Medieval to post-medieval	Monitoring and evaluation works found medieval and post-medieval features and finds
MCB 19442	Post-medieval	Monitoring revealed post-medieval foundations
MCB 19745	Post-medieval	Finds of post-medieval pottery during monitoring works
MCB 9174	Medieval to modern	Location of the church of saint Andrew with 14th century origins
MCB 19750 MCB 19719 MCB 19752 MCB 18441	Medieval and post-medieval	Find spots at multiple locations recovering medieval and post-medieval pottery
MCB 9212	Post-medieval	Location of a post-medieval windmill
MCB 13197	Post-medieval	Location of post-medieval quarry pits
MCB 19748 MCB 19747 MCB 19714 MCB 19722 MCB 19721 MCB 19720 MCB 19718 MCB 19716 MCB 19751 MCB 19746 MCB 19745	Post-medieval	Find spots at multiple locations recovering post-medieval pottery
MCB 19362	Post-medieval to modern	Botanical gardens of isleham hall and the hall itsself (DCB 1409, not shown on the map but within the area shown). Dated from the 16th century to modern
DCB 396 MCB 9045	Post-medieval and modern	Location of the sheduled ancient monument of the 19th century lime kilns
MCB 17214	Post-medieval and modern	Location of the of the 19th century Baptist church
MCB 17085	Post-medieval and modern	Location of the of the 19th century High Street Chapel
MCB 19717 MCB 19715	Victorian	Find spots recovering Victorian pottery

Table 1. Summary of HER entries (cont)

Figure 2. Discussed HER entries (in green) around the development area (red)

4. Methodology

4.1. Management

- The project was managed by SACIC Project Officer John Craven in accordance with the principles of *Management of Research in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015).

4.2. Project preparation

- An event number was obtained from the CHER (ECB4610) and is included on all project documentation.
- An OASIS online record was initiated and key fields in details, location and creator forms completed.
- A pre-site inspection and Risk Assessment was completed.

4.3. Fieldwork

Introduction

- Fieldwork standards were guided by 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', EAA Occasional Papers 14, and the Chartered Institute For Archaeologists (CIFA) paper 'Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation', (2014).
- The archaeological fieldwork was carried out by Tim Carter of SACIC and led by Project Officer Michael Green. The fieldwork began on the 7th of December 2015 and concluded on the 9th of December 2015.

Finds recovery and metal detecting

- The topsoil and subsoil from each trench was visually scanned during excavation of the trenches and any finds were recovered. Visual inspection was also carried out of the spoil once it had been excavated from the trenches.
- Metal detecting was carried out on all spoil removed from the trenches and

features by an experienced metal detectorist.

Trial trenching

- Approximately 5% of the .27ha application was evaluated by 1.8m wide trial trenches; this amounted to *c.*75m of trenching (three 25m long trenches). Trenches were positioned to sample all areas of the site.
- Trench locations were marked out using an RTK GPS system.
- The trenches were excavated using a machine equipped with a back-acting arm and toothless ditching bucket (measuring 1.8m wide), under the supervision of an archaeologist.
- Spoilheaps were created adjacent to each trench and topsoil and subsoil were kept separate.
- An overall site plan showing trench locations, feature positions, sections and levels was made using an RTK GPS. An individual detailed trench plan for Trench 2 was recorded by hand at 1:50. All excavated sections were recorded at a scale of 1:20.
- All trenches, archaeological features and deposits were recorded using standard pro forma SACIC registers and recording sheets and numbering systems.
- A photographic record, consisting of high resolution digital images and black and white film was made throughout the evaluation.
- Environmental sampling of archaeological contexts was carried out to assess the site for palaeoenvironmental remains and to find possible functions of the features recorded.
- Trenches were backfilled after approval of CCC/HET. Trenches were backfilled, subsoil first then topsoil, and compacted to ground-level.

4.4. Post-excavation

- The post-excavation finds work was managed by the SACIC Finds Team Manager, Richenda Goffin, with the overall post-excavation managed by John Craven.
- All finds were processed and marked (CHER event number and context number)

following ICON guidelines and the requirements of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team.

- All hand drawn site plans and sections were scanned.
- All raw data from GPS or TST surveys was uploaded to the project folder, suitably labelled and kept as part of the project archive.
- All plan drawings were digitised for combination with the results of digital site survey to produce a full site plan, compatible with MapInfo GIS software or export to .dxf format.
- All hand-drawn sections were digitised using autocad software.

4.5. Project archive

- On approval of this report a printed and bound hard copy will be lodged with CCC/HET. A hard copy and digital .pdf file will also be supplied to the Cambridgeshire HER, together with a digital and fully georeferenced vector plan showing the application area and trench locations, compatible with MapInfo software.
- The online OASIS form for the project has been completed and a .pdf version of the report uploaded to the OASIS website for online publication by the Archaeological Data Service. A copy of the form is included as Appendix 1.
- The project archive, consisting of the complete artefactual assemblage, and all paper and digital records, will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store and ownership transferred within 6 months of completion of fieldwork. If SACIC is engaged to carry out any subsequent stages of fieldwork then deposition of the evaluation archive may be delayed until the full archive is completed. The project archive will be consistent with MoRPHE (English Heritage 2015), and ICON guidelines. The project archive will also meet the requirements of CCC/HET as detailed in their ‘Deposition of archaeological archives in Cambridgeshire’ (2014).

5. Results

Michael Green

5.1. Introduction

Three trenches were excavated to the archaeological horizon or the natural geology of a white chalky marl. These identified moderately dense Roman and sparse prehistoric features including linear features, intercutting linear features, pits and a hollow. The site conditions were fair and access was reasonably good. A full context list is included in Appendix 2.

5.2. Trench results

The trenching showed a dark-grey brown silty clay topsoil of a varying depth from 0.3m to 0.65m depth across the site, 0001. This contained modern material including pottery and CBM (ceramic building material). Beneath the topsoil was a subsoil layer, 0002, of mid-brown grey silt which varied between 0.1m and 0.3m in depth and sealed the archaeological features. It contained no finds.

Trench 1 (Pl.1)

Trench 1 was located at the southern end of the site on a north-east to south-west alignment. It was 26.5m in length, 1.8m in width and was excavated through topsoil 0001 (0.6m to 0.65m) and 0.15-0.2m of subsoil (0002). The trench contained a series of seven ditches and ditch termini and one possible pit. The ditches were seen on two alignments, either north-west to south-east or east to west with the widths of the ditches varying within the trench.

Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north-west (2m and1m scales)

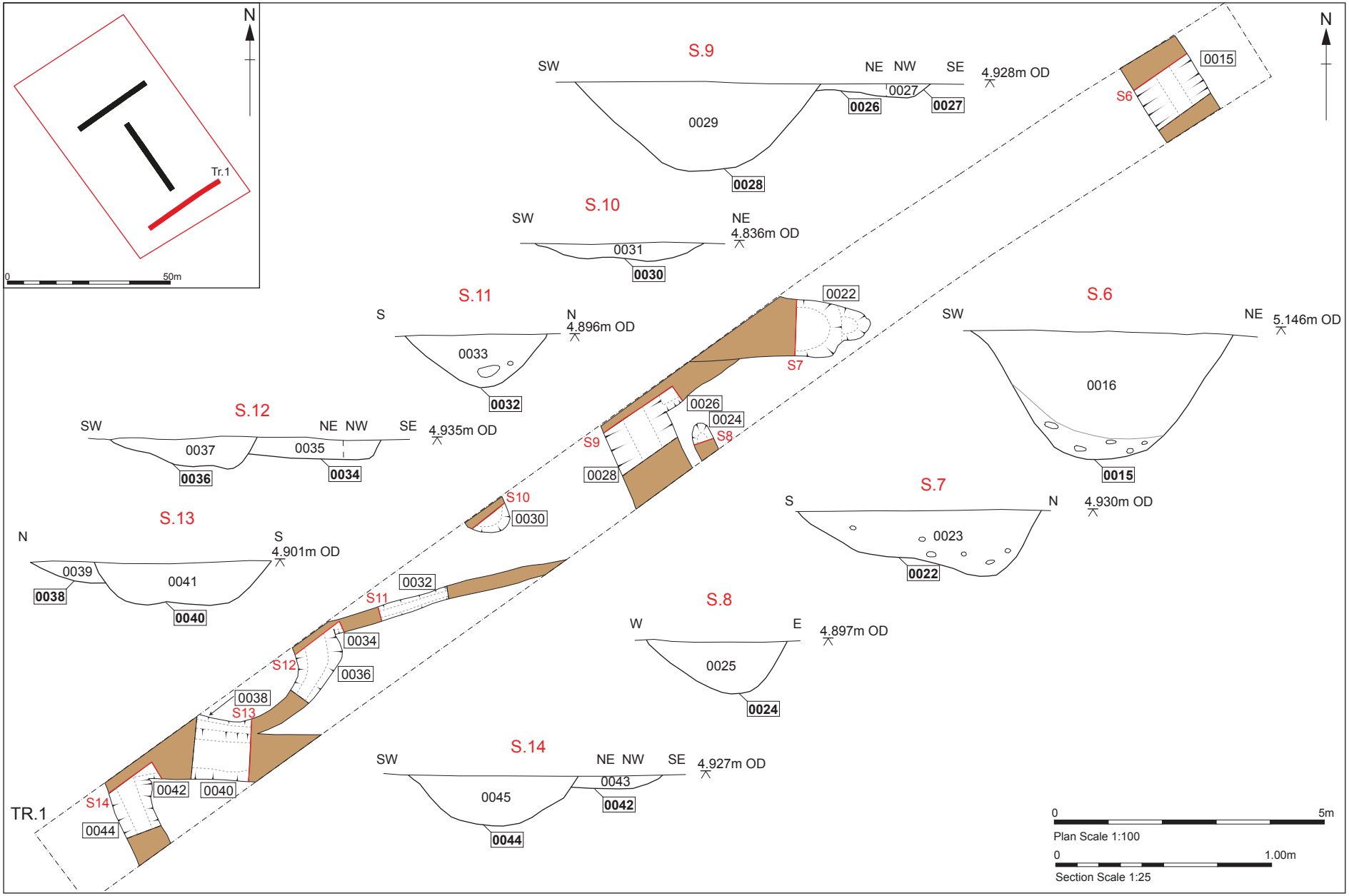


Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and sections

Ditch 0015 (Pl.2)

This ditch was located at the north-east end of the trench. It was linear in plan aligned north-west to south-east with an open U-shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base. It measured 1.24m in width, 0.61m in depth and ran the entire width of the trench, it contained two fills.

Fill 0021 was the basal fill with a maximum depth of 0.32m. The fill was a light-grey moderately compact chalky silt with moderate chalk lump inclusions. It contained pottery (five sherds) dating to the Roman period (1st to 2nd century AD), struck flint and animal bone.

Fill 0016 was the top fill and had a maximum depth of 0.51m. It was a mid-brown grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks. It contained pottery (thirty three sherds) dating to the Roman period (1st to 2nd century AD), animal bone and struck flint. Charred cereal remains have been recovered from bulk environmental sample 2.

Plate 2. Trench 1, ditch 0015, looking north-west (1m scale)

Ditch terminus 0022

This linear feature was seen in plan to cut ditch 0026 and was aligned east to west, terminating to the east within the trench, with a bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base. It measured 1.14m in width, 3.25m in length and had a maximum depth of 0.3m. It contained one fill 0023, which was a light-brown grey firm chalky silt with moderate chalk lump inclusions. The fill contained pottery (seven sherds) dating to the Roman period (1st to 2nd century AD).

Possible ditch terminus 0024

This small possible ditch terminus was seen in the central area of the trench and was aligned north-west to south-east, terminating to the north-west within the trench. It had a bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base and measured 0.33m in width, 0.13m in depth and ran for 0.6m in the trench. It contained one fill 0025, which was a dark grey brown soft clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks. The fill contained pottery (one sherd) dating to the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age.

Ditch 0026 (Pl.3)

This feature was partially seen on the north-western edge of the trench. It was cut by ditch 0022 (seen in plan) and ditch 0028 in section, and was linear in plan being aligned north-east to south-west. It was a shallow dish-shape in profile, with concave sides and a concave base, and measured 1.7m in length and 0.5m in width with a maximum depth of 0.07m.

It contained one fill 0027, which was a light grey moderately compact silt with occasional chalk flecks. No dating evidence was recovered.

Ditch 0028 (Pl.3)

This ditch was linear in plan, aligned north-west to south-east, with a bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base. It was seen cutting ditch 0026 in section and measured 1.2m in width, 0.42m in depth and ran for the entire width of the trench. It contained a single fill 0029, which was a mid-brown grey soft clayey silt with frequent medium sized chalk lump inclusions. It contained pottery (twenty sherds) dating to the

Roman period and struck flint.

Plate 3. Trench 1, ditches 0026 and 0028, looking north-west (1m scale)

Pit 0030

This feature was half circular in plan and had a shallow dish-shaped profile with shallow concave sides and an irregular concave base. It measured 0.85m in length, 0.5m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.07m. It contained one fill 0031, which was a light grey moderately compact silt with occasional chalk lump inclusions. The fill was devoid of dating evidence.

Gully 0032 (same as 0034)

This small gully was located in the middle of the trench. Two segments were excavated, one being a relationship slot where ditch 0036 was seen to cut this feature. It was linear in plan, aligned east to west, with an irregular bowl-shaped profile and an irregular concave base and sides. It measured 0.31m in width with varying depths from 0.05m to

0.12m and was seen running for 4.25m within the trench. It contained one fill, 0033 (same as 0035), which was a mid-brown grey soft clayey silt with occasional chalk lump inclusions. The fill contained pottery (one sherd) dating to the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age and a single struck flint.

Plate 4. Trench 1, ditch 0032, looking west (0.5m scale)

Curvilinear or ditch corner 0036 (same as 0038)

Two segments were excavated within this feature. The first segment was a relationship slot where it was seen to cut gully 0034. The second segment (0038) showed that it was cut by 0040. The ditch was curvilinear in plan, aligned east to west turning to align north-west to south-east, with an irregular profile, base and sides. It measured 0.85m in width, 0.14m in depth, and a 3.4m length was seen within the trench. It contained one fill, 0037 (same as 0039), which was a mid-brown grey moderately compact clayey silt

with occasional chalk lump inclusions. The fill (0037) contained a single iron nail that was not closely datable.

Ditch 0040 (same as 0042)

This feature was linear in plan, aligned east to west, with a bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a flat base. It measured 0.82m in width, 0.21m in depth and ran for the entire width of the trench. Two excavated segments showed that this ditch cuts curvilinear feature 0038 and is cut by ditch 0044. It contained one fill 0041 (same as 0043), which was a mid-grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional chalk lump inclusions. The fill (0041) contained pottery (four sherds) dating to the Roman period (1st to 2nd century AD).

Ditch 0044

This feature was seen cutting ditch 0042 and was located at the south-west end of the trench. It was linear in plan, aligned south-east to north-west, with a bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base. It measured 0.8m in width, 0.25m in depth and ran for the entire width of the trench. It contained one fill 0045, which was a mid-grey brown soft clayey silt with occasional small chalk lump inclusions. The fill contained pottery (one sherd) dating to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman periods.

Trench 2 (Pl.5)

Trench 2 was located in the centre of the site on a north-west to south-east alignment. It was 25m in length, 1.8m in width and was excavated through topsoil 0001 (0.3m to 0.4m) and 0.15-0.4m of subsoil (0002). The trench contained seven ditches, two pits, one hollow and one layer.

Plate 5. Trench 2, looking south-west (1x2m and 1x1m scale)

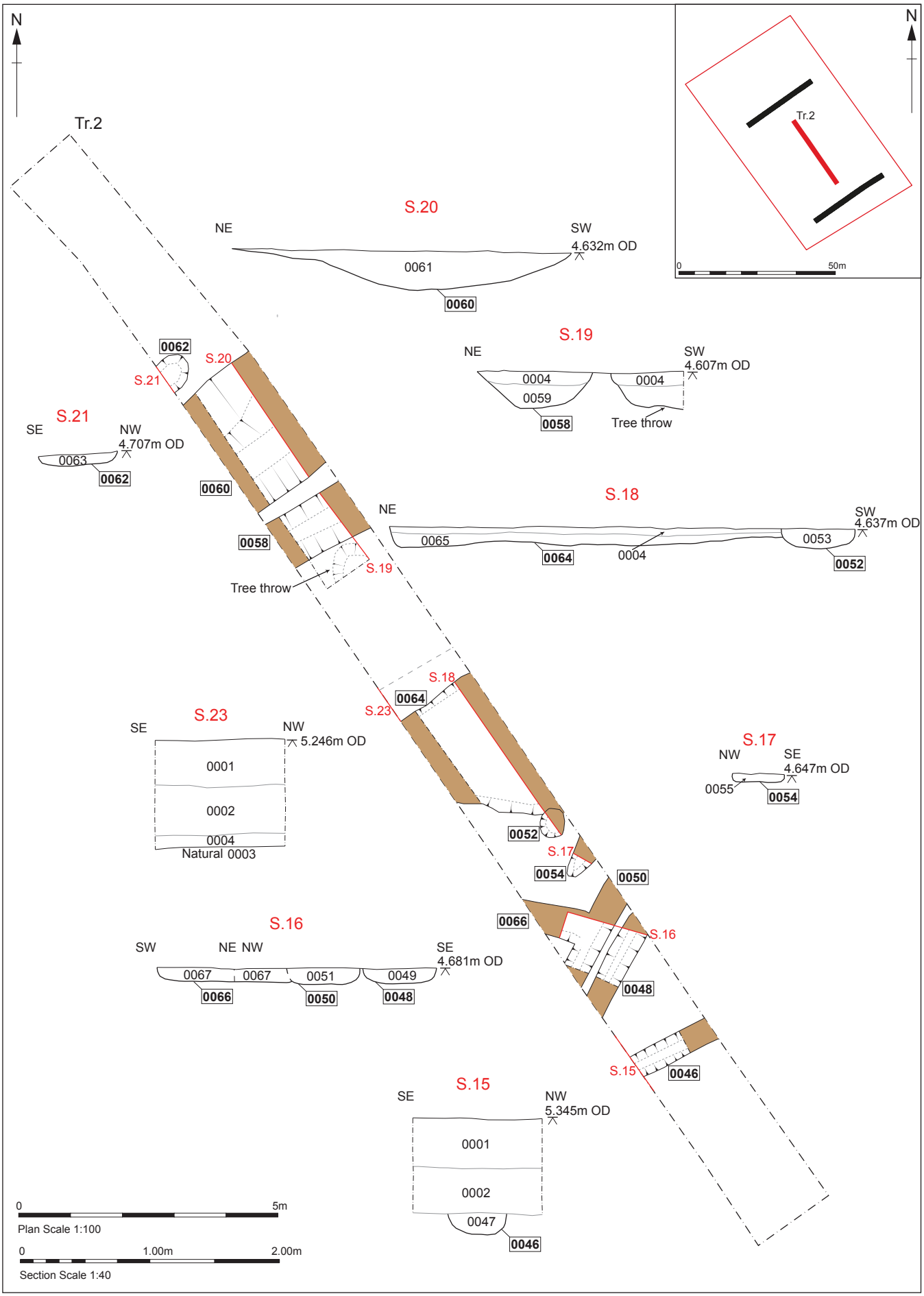


Figure 4. Trench 2, plan and sections

Layer 0004 (Pl.7 and Pl.8)

This layer was seen in the central area of the trench. It measured 7m in length seen in the trench section and 2.95m in length seen in hollow 0064, 0.15m in depth and ran for the entire width of the trench. This layer was seen in the top of hollow 0064 as well as in the top of ditch 0058 and is thought to be an inundation/ flooding layer from the partially filled ditches. This deposit was a dark brown soft humic silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. It had a diffuse clarity with the subsoil and was seen overlaying features. It contained pottery (one sherd) dating to the Roman period (1st to 2nd century AD), struck flint and iron which was not closely datable.

Ditch 0046

This small ditch was located at the south-east end of the trench. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, with a bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base. It measured 0.44m in width, 0.16m in depth and ran the entire width of the trench. It contained one fill, 0047, which was a mid-grey soft clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks. It contained pottery (one sherd) dating to the Roman period.

Ditch 0048 (Pl.6)

This ditch was located at the south-east end of the trench. It was linear in plan, aligned north to south, with a bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base. It measured 0.56m in width, 0.08m in depth and ran the entire width of the trench. It ran parallel to ditch 0050 but no clear cut relationship was seen and the features are most likely contemporary. It contained one fill, 0049, which was a mid-brown grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks. It contained no dating evidence.

Ditch 0050 (Pl.6)

This ditch was located at the south-east end of the trench. It was linear in plan, aligned north to south, with a bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base. It measured 0.55m in width, 0.09m in depth and ran the entire width of the trench. It ran parallel to ditch 0048 but no clear cut relationship was seen and the features are most likely contemporary. It contained one fill, 0051, which was mid-brown grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks. It contained pottery (one sherd) dating

to the Roman period.

Plate 6. Trench 2, ditches 0048, 0050 and 0066, looking north-west (1m and 0.5m scales)

Pit 0052

This feature was located at the south-east end of the trench. It was circular in plan with a bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base. It measured 0.56m in diameter and had a depth of 0.14m. It was seen cutting hollow 0064 and layer 0004. It contained one fill, 0053, which was a dark brown soft silt with moderate chalk lump inclusions. It contained no dating evidence.

Ditch terminus 0054

This feature was located at the south-east end of the trench. It was linear in plan, aligned north to south, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a flat base. It measured 0.45m in width, 0.06m in depth and ran for 0.8m of the trench from the north-eastern baulk. It contained one fill, 0055, which was a mid-grey soft clayey silt

with occasional small chalk lump inclusions. It contained no finds.

Ditch 0058

This ditch was in the central area of the trench. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, with a bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base. It measured 0.9m in width, 0.28m in depth and ran the entire width of the trench. It contained one fill, 0059, which was a mid-grey brown compact chalky silt with moderate chalk lump inclusions. It contained pottery (fourteen sherds) dating to Roman period (1st to 2nd century AD) and animal bone.

It was overlain by layer 0004 which also slumped into the top of this ditch.

Plate 7. Trench 2, ditch 0058 showing layer 0004, looking north-east (1m scale)

Ditch 0060

This ditch was located at the north-west end of the trench. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile, irregular concave sides and a concave base. It measured 2.65m in width, 0.3m in depth and ran the entire width

of the trench. It contained one fill 0061 which was a dark orange-brown compact humic silt with occasional small stone inclusions. It contained pottery (five sherds) dating to Roman period (2nd century AD) and animal bone.

Pit 0062

This feature was located at the north-west end of the trench. It was oval in plan with a bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base and was only partially visible within the trench. It measured 0.6m in diameter and had a depth of 0.08m.
It contained one fill, 0063, which was a mid-grey brown soft silt with occasional chalk fleck inclusions. It contained pottery (one sherd) dating to the Roman period (1st to 2nd century AD) and burnt stone.

Hollow 0064 (Pl.8)

This feature was located in the central area of the trench. It was irregular in plan and section with irregular sides and an irregular base. It measured 2.95m in width, 0.13m in depth and ran the entire width of the trench. It contained one fill, 0065, which was a mid-brown grey moderately compact silty chalk with moderate chalk lump inclusions. It contained no finds.

The feature was overlain by layer 0004 which also slumped into this feature.

Plate 8. Trench 2, hollow 0064 showing layer 0004, looking north-west (1m scale)

Ditch 0066 (Pl.6)

This ditch was located at the south-east end of the trench. It was linear in plan, aligned east to west, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a flat base. It measured 0.85m in width, 0.07m in depth and ran for 1m in length. This feature ran perpendicular to ditch 0050, possibly joining it, but no clear cut relationship was seen and the features are most likely contemporary. It contained one fill, 0067, which was a mid-brown grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks. It contained no finds.

Trench 3 (Pl.9)

Trench 3 was located at the north-western edge of the site on a north-east to south-west alignment. It was 25m in length, 1.8m in width and was excavated through topsoil 0001 (0.3m to 0.4m) and 0.15m of subsoil (0002). The trench contained five ditches.

Plate 9. Trench 3, looking north-east (1m and 0.5m scale)

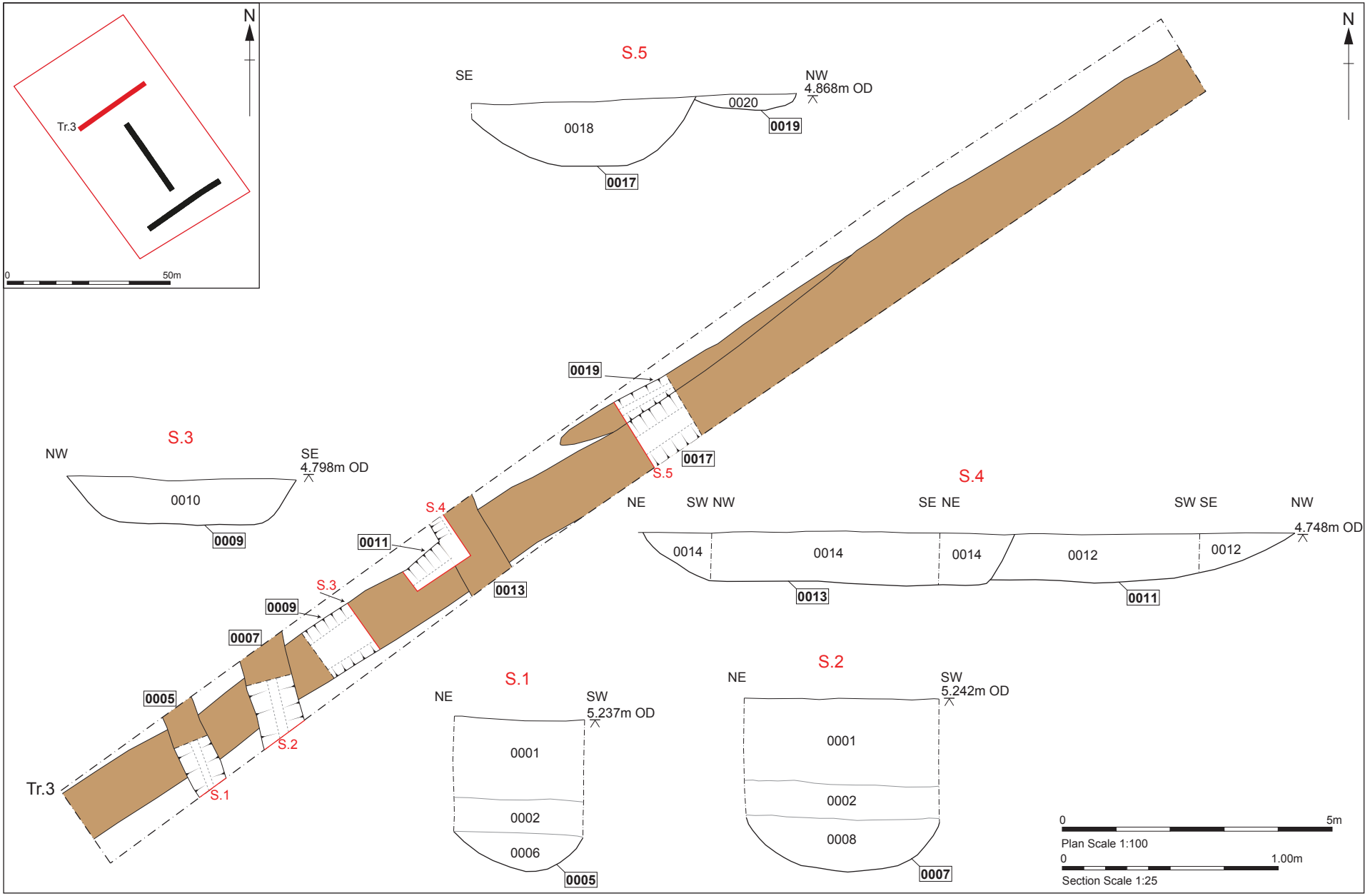


Figure 5. Trench 3, plan and sections

Ditch 0005 (Pl.10)

This ditch was located at the south-west end of the trench. It was linear in plan, aligned north-west to south-east, with a bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base. It measured 0.6m in width, 0.17m in depth and ran the entire width of the trench. It could be seen in plan cutting ditch 0009 (same as 0011 and 0017). It contained one fill, 0006, which was a mid-grey brown compact silty chalk with moderate chalk inclusions. It contained a single sherd of pottery dating to Roman period.

Ditch 0007 (Pl.10)

This ditch was located at the south-west end of the trench. It was linear in plan, aligned north-west to south-east, with a bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base. It measured 0.9m in width, 0.23m in depth and ran the entire width of the trench. It could be seen in plan cutting ditch 0009 (same as 0011 and 0017). It contained one fill, 0008, which was a mid-grey brown compact silty chalk with moderate chalk inclusions. It contained pottery (two sherds) dating to the Roman period (1st to 2nd century AD) and the Late Iron Age and animal bone.

Plate 10. Trench 3, ditches 0005, 0007 and soil profile, looking south-east (2m scale)

Ditch 0009, same as 0011 and 0017 (Pl.11)

This ditch was seen running the entire length of the trench and was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west. It had a shallow bowl-shaped profile, steep concave sides and a concave base. It measured 1.08m in width, 0.22m in depth and was seen in plan to be cut by ditches 0005, 0007 and 0013 and was seen in section to cut ditch 0019. It contained one fill, 0010 (same as 0012 and 0018), which was a light brown grey compact silty chalk with moderate chalk inclusions. Fill 0010 contained pottery (two sherds) dating to the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age periods, fill 0012 contained pottery (five sherds) dating to the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age periods and fill 0018 contained pottery (three sherds) dating to the Roman period (1st to 2nd century AD).

Ditch 0013

This ditch was located in the central area of the trench. It was linear in plan, aligned north-west to south-east, with a bowl-shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base. It measured 0.9m in width, 0.23m in depth and ran the entire width of the trench. It could be seen in plan cutting ditch 0009 (same as 0011 and 0017). It contained one fill, 0014, which was a mid-grey brown compact silty chalk with moderate chalk inclusions. It contained pottery (eight sherds) dating to the Roman period (mixed 1st to 2nd and possibly 4th century AD) and animal bone.

Ditch 0019 (Pl.11)

This ditch was located in the central area of the trench. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile, shallow concave sides and a concave base. It measured 0.5m in width, 0.07m in depth and ran for 6.5m in the trench. This feature was seen in plan and section to be cut by ditch 0017 (same as 0009 and 0011). It contained one fill, 0020, which was a dark grey-brown compact silty clay with occasional small chalk lump inclusions. The fill contained animal bone.

Plate 11. Trench 3, ditches 0017 and 0019, ooking south-west (1m scale)

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Compiled and edited by Richenda Goffin

6.1 Introduction

Finds, including animal bone and shell were recovered from all three trenches of the evaluation as seen in the table below and Appendix 5. There were no small finds.

Finds Type	No	Wt (g)
Pottery	116	956
CBM	3	33
Nails	2	9
Stone	1	509
Worked flint	5	44
Animal bone	54	809
Shell	3	6

Table 2. Finds quantities

6.2 The Pottery

Andy Fawcett

Introduction

A total of 116 sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 956g was recorded from the archaeological evaluation. The larger part of the assemblage is dated to the Roman period, but a small quantity of prehistoric pottery is also present (Table 3).

Period	Sherd No	Weight/g
Prehistoric	11	36
Roman	105	920
Total	**116**	**956**

Table 3. Pottery by period

The pottery assemblage was recovered chiefly from ditch fills, as is shown in Table 4, with the remainder recorded from features such as pits, gullies and layers.

Context type	Sherd No	Weight/g
Ditch	113	943
Pit	1	8
Gully	1	2
Layer	1	3
Total	**116**	**956**

Table 4. Pottery by context type

Methodology

The pottery was recorded by sherd count and weight. The principle fabrics in each context have been rapidly scanned and where required, occasional fabric examination at x20 vision has also been undertaken. Fabric codes have been assigned using simple letter combinations based upon codes developed by Tomber and Dore (1998) as part of a national system; these have been supplemented by those used at Chelmsford by Going (1987).

Where present, form types dated to the Roman period have followed the system of codes used at Chelmsford by Going (1987). A catalogue of the pottery assemblage can be seen in Appendix 3, and a full breakdown of reference codes in also in Appendix 3. Pottery recovered through the environmental samples has not been included in the catalogue.

Pottery by trench

Introduction

The largest quantity of pottery was recovered from Trench 1 (Table 5). Most of the assemblage is Roman, and only two of the trenches contained prehistoric sherds (Tr.1: 2 sherds weighing 3g, Tr.3: 8 sherds weighing 4g), the remaining fragment being retrieved from the subsoil (11g).

Evaluation trench	Sherd No	Weight/g
Trench 1	72	523
Trench 2	23	279
Trench 3	20	143
Subsoil	1	11
Totals	**116**	**956**

Table 5. Pottery by trench

The overall condition of the pottery is abraded or slightly abraded, with the majority of sherds displaying only slight abrasion. However, as the average weight figures in Table 5 suggest, the sherds show quite a high level of fragmentation (Tr.1: 7.26g, Tr. 2: 12.13g and Tr. 3: 7.15g).

The date ranges for individual contexts is generally wide, due to the complete absence of finewares and the presence only of long-lived (mostly unsourced) coarsewares.

Furthermore, only a very few number of identifiable form types were present within the assemblage, and of these, only two could be identified with accuracy, as the remainder had little surviving body left below their rims.

Trench 1

This trench contained the largest number of sherds (Table 5). The two identified body sherds of prehistoric pottery were noted in fill 0025 of ditch 0024 and fill 0033 of gully 0032. Both sherds are flint-tempered and date from the late Bronze to early Iron Age.

The Roman assemblage is principally made up of fabrics BSW and UNS OX, with smaller quantities of GRS and HOR RE related wares also being noted. All of these wares are long-lived, but the BSW fabric is particularly associated with the mid 1st to 2nd century. The presence of a ring-necked flagon (fill 0023 of ditch 0022) dated to around the early/mid-late 2nd century as well as a small number of potential Horningsea fabrics appears to demonstrate that the majority of fills are likely to date to no later than the 2nd century. Three jar rims were also recorded (fills 0016, 0021 and 0041 of ditches 0015 and 0040) but these were too small to identify beyond their general class of vessel.

Trench 2

There were no prehistoric sherds present within Trench 2. The recorded Roman fabrics follow a similar pattern to those noted in Trench 1, the only exception being a large storage jar sherd in fabric SOB GT which has a combed surface. This fabric was at its most popular during the 1st and 2nd centuries. Two unidentifiable jar rims were noted in fill 0059 of ditch 0058 and a J3 flagon in fill 0061 of ditch 0060. The flagon is virtually identical in style, and therefore of a similar date, to the one recovered from Trench 1.

Trench 3

Three ditch fills in Trench 3 contained eight prehistoric body sherds (0008, 0010 and 0012). Although few in number, all were in black sand-based fabrics with sparse organics, calcite and chalk, fabrics associated with the early/mid-later Iron Age. Ditch

fill 0008 contained a very small unidentifiable fragment of Roman CBM (2g) alongside the single prehistoric sherd, indicating a mixed deposit but dated to the Roman period.

The remaining sherds within this trench are also Roman, and the recorded fabric range follows a similar pattern to that noted in Trenches 1 and 2. Only a single jar rim was identified in fill 0014 of ditch 0013; although small, it is similar to Evan's No 11 everted rim/narrow-necked type (1991). This same fill contained a single body sherd of SOB GT, which is earlier (1st century), suggesting that this ditch context contains at least one fragment of residual pottery, although its condition in terms of abrasion is no different to the rest of the assemblage. A late 1st century date therefore cannot be ruled out entirely for this context, particularly as the dating is based upon so few (as well as undiagnostic) sherds; the everted rimmed narrow neck jar may conceivably be earlier too.

Conclusions

The prehistoric assemblage is quite small, fragmented and non-diagnostic. The identified sherds are divided between Trenches 1 and 3, with Trench 1 containing sherds dated solely to the late Bronze/early Iron Age, whereas Trench 3 contained sherds that were dated to the early-mid/later Iron Age.

The sherds represent some form of minimal prehistoric rural activity on the site, which fits into what is known about the wider use of the landscape around Isleham during this period. For example, Bronze and Iron Age activity has previously been detected between 1km and 700m of the current site area (ECB 230, 2288, MCB 9100, 9224, 12762, 12788, 15282 and 19744).

The Roman assemblage recovered from Trenches 1-3 is of some importance as very little evidence for activity in Isleham has previously been recorded during this period. For instance, HER entries for the area lists three Roman find spots 500-800m south-west of the current site (MCB 12763, 12764 and 19744) and one a kilometre to the north-west (MCB 9174). None of the entries however provide any detailed dating evidence with regard to the Roman activity in the area.

Despite the limitations of this current Roman assemblage (see above) the presence of

mostly Romanising fabrics and the two flagon rims, indicates that the ceramics from across all contexts and trenches are of a similar date (2nd century); there is no direct ceramic evidence for any Roman activity on the site extending into the 3rd and 4th centuries.

The sherds, although being occasionally fragmentary, are only slightly abraded, indicating that they are in their original place of deposition. The Roman ceramics from this stage of the archaeological investigation therefore appear to be fairly cohesive in both fabric and date, and represent some form of early Roman rural/domestic activity. If a further stage of archaeological investigation is undertaken, it will be interesting to see how the results from that will match up with the current assemblage.

Further away, (2.5 kilometres to the west at Soham) consistent 2nd century Roman activity has been recorded (Fawcett 2001) and so this current assemblage from Isleham on the face of it, fits well into the broader local Roman landscape.

6.3 Ceramic building materials (CBM)

Andy Fawcett

The only stratified fragment of CBM was recovered from fill 0008 of ditch 0007 (Tr.3). The fabric is Roman and it was classified as miscellaneous Roman brick/tile.

Two further pieces were recorded in topsoil 0001 (31g), one being a modern wall tile fragment, the other a post-medieval roof tile, dated from the 16th-18th century.

6.4 Struck flint

Michael Green

Introduction

A total of five struck flints was recovered during the evaluation from four separate features, as seen in the table below.

Context Number	Type	Patination	Cortex %	Number	Weight (g)
0004	Flake	Heavy	0	1	8
0016	Flake	Heavy	40	1	2
0021	Flake	Moderate	3	1	4
0029	Shatter	Moderate	5	1	26
0033	Burnt broken flake	Heavy	0	1	4
	Total			**5**	**44**

Table 6. Flint summarised by type

The flint was mainly struck from a light blue grey glassy flint with light grey chert patches; a single flake was also heat-altered. Moderate signs of antiquated edge damage was present with no retouch noted.

Methodology

Each piece of flint was examined and recorded in the table above. The material was classified by type with numbers of pieces with corticated and patinated fragments recorded. The condition of the flint was commented on in the discussion.

Discussion

The struck flint is briefly described below by trench and feature.

Trench 1

Ditch 0015 fill 0016

A small primary squat flake was present in the basal fill of ditch 0015. It is moderately patinated and has a pronounced bulb of percussion. This flint shows slight signs of edge damage and is most likely to be residual as it was found with later pottery. It is probably Iron Age in date.

Ditch 0015 fill 0021

A small tertiary squat flake was present in the upper fill of ditch 0015. It is moderately patinated and has a pronounced bulb of percussion with signs of flake scars on the dorsal surface. This flint shows slight signs of edge damage and is most likely to be residual as it was found with later pottery; it is also likely to be Iron Age in date.

Ditch 0028 fill 0029

The single shatter fragment was present in this ditch. It shows signs of flake removal from two edges forming a crude core. It is moderately patinated and shows signs of edge damage. It is most likely to be residual and is probably Iron Age.

Gully 0032 fill 0033

A small thick burnt flake fragment was present in this gully. It is heavily heat-altered, which has discoloured the flint to a light grey colour. The fragment is too small and fragmented for further description.

Trench 2

Layer 0004

A large irregular heavily patinated flake was found within this layer. It is white in colour showing two parallel flake scares on the dorsal surface. The flake is relatively thin in cross-section and shows signs of moderate edge damage. This flint is most likely to be residual in this layer as it was found with later pottery; it may date to the Bronze Age period due to the knapping techniques used.

Conclusions

Single pieces of struck flint came from four separate features with two flakes recovered from separate fills in ditch 0015. The chalk natural in the area means that the patination on the flint is heavier than normal, creating a pale blue and white colour to most of the flints. As only small single pieces of struck flint were recorded from the fills and due to the edge damage present all of the flints from site are most likely to be residual, being found within later features. The presence of the struck flint from these later features does however suggest some sparse later prehistoric activity in the area.

6.5 Burnt stone

A single broken fragment of burnt quartzite weighing 509g was recovered from fill 0063 of pit 0062 in Trench 2. A fragment of Roman pottery was also found in the fill, but it is

possible that the stone is residual and that it may be a remnant of earlier prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

6.6 Iron nails

Two iron nails were found during the evaluation. A small squat nail with an irregular-shaped head measuring 30mm in length was found in deposit 0004 in Trench 2, along with a single fragment of Roman pottery. Another small fragment, possible part of the shaft of another nail was found in fill 0037 of a curvilinear feature 0036 in Trench 1.

6.7 Faunal remains

Laszlo Lichtenstein

Introduction

The zooarchaeological remains from the recent work were evaluated to establish the nature of the assemblage, the presence of ecofacts and the level of preservation. A rapid evaluation scan was undertaken to provide details to inform the current report, to aid post-excavation assessment and to include recommendations for recovery, recording and analytical methods.

Methodology

All fragments of animal bones from the site were analysed using standard zooarchaeological methods following guidelines set out by English Heritage (2014).

The animal remains from each context were recorded to provide primary data. The excel spreadsheet comprises data on the level of preservation; the taphonomical description; the identification of species; anatomical element; the quantification of ageable, measurable elements and any butchery and pathological signs. This information is presented in Appendix 4.

Results

A total of fifty-four fragments was collected from the evaluation, weighing 809g (Table 7). The faunal assemblage was recovered from Roman features. Some 83.4% of the specimens had been hand-collected during the evaluation and the remaining 16.6% (nine pieces) were recovered from the processed environmental samples.

The state of preservation of the bone from the site is generally good; the fragmentation is moderate and only a small number of fresh breaks are present. Some of the bones show signs of weathering.

Employing standard zooarchaeological procedures, 40 specimens (74.1% of the total NISP) were identified to taxa and parts of anatomy.

The remaining elements could only be categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (Large Terrestrial Mammal (LTM): cow, horse, large deer; Medium Terrestrial Mammal (MTM): sheep/goat, pig, small deer; Small Terrestrial Mammal (STM): dog, fox, hare).

Context	Feature	Trench	Type	Weight (g)	Count	Species present	Spot date
0008	0007	3	Ditch	4	1	Sheep/goat	Roman
0012	0011	3	Ditch	2	1	LTM	1st-2nd
0014	0013	3	Ditch	26	8	Sheep/goat, pig, red deer, MTM	1st-2nd
0016	0015	1	Ditch	42	13	Cattle, sheep/goat, pig, STM, uni	M1st-2nd
0018	0017	3	Ditch	255	5	Cattle	M1st-2nd
0023	0022	1	Ditch	99	2	Horse	M1st-2nd
0029	0028	1	Ditch	97	1	Cattle	Roman
0041	0040	1	Ditch	2	6	LTM	M1st-2nd
0059	0058	2	Ditch	271	16	Cattle, sheep/goat	1st-2nd
0061	0060	2	Ditch	11	1	Roe deer	1st-2nd
Total				**809**	**54**		

Table 7. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by feature, type, weight and fragment account

The assemblage includes six mammalian types of animal species: Equus/horse; Bos/cattle; Sus/pig; Ovicaprid/sheep or goat; Cervus elaphus/Red deer; Capreolus capreolus/Roe deer; and also includes two terrestrial and one marine mollusc species (Table 8).

Species	Count	Percentage
Cattle	25	46.3%
Sheep/goat	7	12.9%
Pig	4	7.4%
Horse	2	3.8%
Red deer	1	1.9%
Roe deer	1	1.9%
LTM	7	12.9%
MTM	1	1.9%
STM	3	5.5%
Uni	3	5.5%
Total	**54**	**100%**

Table 8. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by species and fragment count (including teeth)

Cattle are the most numerous taxon, being represented by twenty-five bones followed by a lower number of sheep/goat, pig and horse. Butchery marks, and heavy chopping was noted on cattle leg bones. There are anatomical similarities between sheep and goat bones, however the ovicaprid remains from this site almost certainly came from sheep. All of the pig teeth were part of a mature animal. The horse teeth were part of an adult animal; it seems this individual was a working animal that reached maturity.

Red deer *(Cervus elaphus)* and roe deer *(Capreolus caprelous)* are the only wild species to be identified. Both species are only represented by antler fragments which were commonly used for tool-making in the Roman period. The roe deer beam is thin and small, belonged to a very young animal. No evidence of sawing signs, toolmarks or bone working was observed on the antler fragments. The deer antlers are not indicative of deer hunting or utilisation of venison. These antler pieces may have been found near the site and collected for later use.

Ageable or measurable elements are not present in the assemblage. No evidence of animal teeth marks, pathological signs, bone working, burning or other bone modifications was noted.

Potential

The species present and their relative proportions appear to be typical for the Roman period. The bones were found to be in good condition. The identified bones belong to domestic and wild mammal species. The bone assemblage was recognised as probably

the result of domestic waste disposal. The species present and their relative proportions appear to be typical of this period.

The level of preservation and identifiability suggests that the animal bone could provide information on animal husbandry and the economy of the site. If further animal remains were collected during the course of any subsequent excavation, the animal husbandry of the site could be characterised and compared with this previous work, both on a regional and national level.

6.8 Terrestrial and marine molluscs

Laszlo Lichtenstein

The evaluation produced two terrestrial and one marine mollusc species (Table 9).

Context	Common mussel	Garden snail	Heat snail	Weight (g)
0008		1		1
0016	1			1
0018			1	1
Total	**1**	**1**	**1**	**3**

Table 9. Quantification of the terrestrial and marine mollusc by feature, species, weight and fragment account

A total of 3g of terrestrial and marine shells was recovered from three contexts during the evaluation. The assemblage was analysed to provide information on preservation and taxa present.

The abrasion was moderate. The mussel shell was in fragmentary condition, however it did not appear to have been deliberately broken or crushed. Although adult, the shell is relatively thin and small. The presence of this marine species can be interpreted as evidence of diet, as the mussel indicates trade with the coast and represent food items. This shellfish was consumed in the Roman period but possibly not as commonly as oyster.

A small assemblage of terrestrial gastropods was recovered. One garden snail (*Helix aspersa*) and one heath snail (*Helicella itala*) derived from fill 0008 of ditch 0007 and fill 0018 of ditch 0017. The former is commonly found around human habitations such as

hedgerows and gardens; the later is more prevalent in calcareous grassy and sandy places. Evidence of modification was not observed on these fragments. These species are common in most western areas, especially around human habitation and an additional environmental evidence for the site and the surrounding environment.

6.9 Plant macrofossils and other remains

Anna West

Introduction and methods

Three bulk samples, of 20 litres each, were taken from features from this evaluation. The samples were processed in full in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

The samples were processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or artefacts are noted on Table 10. Identification of plant remains is with reference to *New Flora of the British Isles,* (Stace 1997).

The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for inclusion in the finds total.

Quantification

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded quantitatively according to the following categories:

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance:

+ = *rare,* ++ = *moderate,* +++ = *abundant*

Results

Table 10 shows the presence of the plant macrofossils, charcoal and snails that were recovered from the three samples.

SS no	Context no	Feature/ cut no	Feature type	Approx date of deposit	Flot contents
1	0018	0017	Ditch	Roman	charred cereal grains #, charred legumes #, snails+++ charcoal +, rootlets +
2	0016	0015	Ditch	Roman	charred cereal grains #, weed seeds #, charcoal +, coal +, rootlets +
3	0061	0060	Ditch	Roman	charred cereal grains #, weed seeds #, charcoal +, snails +++, rootlets +

Table 10. Plant macrofossils and other remains

Discussion

All the flots were relatively small between 50-100ml. The majority of this volume consisted of terrestrial snail shells which have not been identified for the purposes of this report. Rootlet fragments were also present in all the flots and are considered modern contaminants.

The preservation of the plant macrofossil remains was through charring and was fair to poor. Many of the cereal grains, which were present in small numbers, were puffed and fragmented, as though they had been exposed to high temperatures. Wood charcoal was present within all of the samples in small numbers but was highly comminuted and of little use for species identification or radiocarbon dating.

All three samples contained small numbers of Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) caryopses as well as a number of cereal grain fragments which were too abraded or fragmented to identify to species. A single Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grain was also observed within Sample 1, fill 0018 of ditch 0017. Cereals often had to be processed by exposing them to heat, or parching, and then pounded to remove them from their spikelet. However no chaff, glume bases, spikelet forks or rachis fragments were observed within any of the flots.

A single charred legume cotyledon along with a second possible legume fragment were observed within Sample 1 and may represent the production and consumption of pulses within the vicinity. Pulses provided an important source of protein both for humans and

as animal fodder during the Roman period; however as they do not require processing with heat in the way cereals do they are less likely to be exposed to chance preservation through charring and are often under-represented in the archaeological record.

Uncharred weed, and tree/shrub seeds were also present in Samples 2 and 3 in small numbers. Fumitory (*Fumaria* sp.) was most common with a single Goosefoot family (*Chenopodium* sp.) in Sample 2 and a single Holly (*Ilex aquifolium* L.) endocarp was present in Sample 3, fill 0061 of ditch 0060. Fumitory and Goosefoots are common weeds of arable or rough ground and could represent species accidentally harvested along with a cereal crop and removed during processing. However as the seeds are uncharred and relatively unabraded it is also possible that they are intrusive within the archaeological deposits.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

All three samples are poor in terms of identifiable material. Charcoal fragments were only present in very small numbers and were too fragmented to be useful for species identification or radiocarbon dating; charred cereal grains could however be used for this if any contexts remain undated.

The charred cereals and legumes could represent either processing, storage or domestic waste. As the remains were so sparse though it is difficult to say anything conclusive beyond the fact that agricultural and domestic activities were taking place in the vicinity. It is possible that the waste material was deliberately deposited within the features sampled, however, material of a fragmentary nature could have been moved through the action of wind or water before becoming incorporated into the archaeological deposits.

It is not recommended that any further work is carried out on the flot material at this stage as it would offer little extra information to the results of the evaluation; however if further interventions are planned on this site, it is recommended that further sampling should be carried out with a view to investigation of the nature of the possible cereal waste. Any further accompanying weed assemblage could possibly also provide useful insight into the utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic

evidence for this site. Although no further work is required on the flots from these samples it is recommended that they are retained as part of the site archive.

6.10 Discussion of material evidence

Small quantities of prehistoric pottery and struck flints were recovered from all three of the evaluation trenches, providing some evidence of background prehistoric activity. The largest quantity of artefactual material however is Roman, with a medium-sized assemblage of pottery dating mostly to the second century. Small quantities of wheat and other grains as well as pulses were identified in the environmental samples. These finds, deposited mostly into the fills of ditches and pits, provide significant evidence that there was some kind of settlement in the vicinity on the fen edge at this period.

7. Discussion by phase

Introduction

The evaluation has identified an intact archaeological horizon, at a depth of 0.5m to 0.8m, sealed below a thick modern topsoil and underlying subsoils. The archaeological features were seen in a moderately dense spread throughout the trenching and appear to represent two main phases of past activity in the prehistoric and Roman periods. Due to the location of the site on the fen edge the activity seen suggests some utilisation of the area for possible arable uses with ditched enclosures taking advantage of the fertile soils in the area.

Prehistoric

Three main features seem to relate to the prehistoric phase of activity. Ditch 0032 and possible ditch terminus 0024 in Trench 1 and ditch 0009 (same as 0011 and 0017) in Trench 3. These features contained pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age with the exclusion of material found in fill 0018 which is most likely intrusive and Roman in date. The ditches found most likely show an early agricultural use of the fen edge in this area and these features may link to the settlement activity seen 700m north-west found on the Isleham to Ely pipeline (ECB 2288, MCB 14003).

Roman

The majority of the features found within the evaluation dated to the Roman period. The majority of the pottery found within the features dates to the Early Roman period (1st to 2nd century AD). The cut relationships seen on site suggest that features were re-cut and ditch alignments were changed in the Roman period which may point to more than one phase of Roman activity on site, or ditches silting up rapidly. The finds associated with the features suggest that rural and possibly domestic activity were taking place on site or in the near vicinity with both domestic and wild mammal species present with some butchery seen within the animal bone assemblage. Charred cereal grain was also found within the soil samples suggesting possible food storage or processing on site or in the near vicinity.

Medieval

The lack of medieval finds and features is of note and indicates that, despite the sites close proximity (*c*.200m) to the Scheduled Monument of Isleham Priory and the medieval settlement core, it lies outside of the area of occupation.

Post-medieval and modern

Small amounts of modern CBM was found within the topsoil layers on site. This ties in with the area being open farmland as shown on the 1st and 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey maps.

8. Conclusions

The evaluation has identified a widespread archaeological horizon across the site, with evidence of activity in the prehistoric and Roman periods. The small amounts of Prehistoric activity on site shows this area to be a favourable location with possible small ditched enclosures for arable use. The area was then more heavily utilised in the Early Roman period with a moderately dense series of ditches most likely forming enclosures for agricultural use, either arable or for livestock. Evidence of domestic activity including butchery and possible grain storage and processing has been identified and this suggests habitation within the site or nearby vicinity.

The evidence for Roman activity in this area is of local and possibly regional significance as very little evidence for Isleham has previously been recorded during this period. Only three Roman find spots 500-800m south-west of the current site (MCB 12763, 12764 and 19744) and one a kilometre to the north-west (MCB 9174) show Roman activity in the surrounding area.

The features seen on site dating to the Early Roman Period may have the potential to answer regional research framework questions (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000, Medlycott 2011). Specific questions that could be addressed by this site include:

- **Regional variation' or 'Tribal distinction'?** Due to the presence of Prehistoric activity as well as Early Roman activity on site can local variation be seen in the ceramic culture in the area suggesting continued 'tribal distinctions'.
- **Rural settlement and landscapes.** The field size, presence of re-cutting and alterations to the field systems seen on site may relate to different agricultural regimes. Future work may help identify the form, function and size of the associated farmstead in the area.
- **Romanisation-** The presence of Prehistoric and Early Roman finds and feature may help understand the Romanisation of the area in the transitional period between the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods.

Any further or future work in the area will help to add to the understanding of the features found within this evaluation and will help add information to possibly address the regional research framework questions noted above.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SACIC, Needham Market, Suffolk
Digital archive: R:\Current Recording Projects\Cambridgeshire\ECB 4610 Isleham Evaluation
Digital photographic archive: R:\Current Recording Projects\Cambridgeshire\ECB 4610 Isleham Evaluation\Photographs
Finds and environmental archive: SACIC Store Needham Market

The full project archive is to be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, in accordance with their guidance document *Deposition of archaeological archives in Cambridgeshire* (CCC/HET 2014).

A digital copy of this report will be uploaded to OASIS.

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Tim Schofield and Michael Green and directed by Michael Green.

Project management was undertaken by John Craven who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan Van Jennians, and the initial finds catalogue was prepared by Ruth Beveridge.

The finds report was assembled and edited by Richenda Goffin. The individual specialist finds reports were produced by Andy Fawcett (freelance), Anna West, Michael Green, and Laszlo Lichtenstein.

The report illustrations were created by Michael Green and Ellie Cox and the report was edited by John Craven.

Consultation, advice and site monitoring was undertaken by Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

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Appendix 1. Oasis form

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: suffolka1-230210

Project details

Project name	Land to the Rear of 32 and 34 Church Lane, Isleham
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by Suffolk Archaeology at land to the rear of 32 and 34 Church Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation assessed c.5% of a parcel of fallow agricultural land covering 0.7ha for archaeological evidence. The evaluation of the site showed that a topsoil was present to a maximum depth of 0.65m, a subsoil was present with a maximum depth of 0.45m and a layer was also present in Trench 2 in the central area of the Trench to a depth of 0.15m. Either the subsoil deposits or layer were seen sealing the natural geology and archaeological features on site. A total of nineteen linear features were seen within the trenches along with three pits and one hollow. Linear features were seen in all the trenches with various alignments with some showing cut relationships. Dating evidence was recovered from most linear features spanning the Roman periods with two possible earlier prehistoric ditches. It is most likely that the ditches relate to field systems, with ditches cut for drainage. The earlier Roman field system which seems to be aligned north to south and east to west. This ditch system seems to go out of use, replaced by a possible later Roman field system aligned to Church Lane running north-east to south-west.
Project dates	Start: 07-12-2015 End: 09-12-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	FE Roman
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric

Methods & techniques	'"Environmental Sampling"',"'Metal Detectors'","'Sample Trenches"'
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE ISLEHAM Land to the Rear of 32 and 34 Church Lane, Isleham
Study area	0.7 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 6435 7467 52.345012442077 0.413015794808 52 20 42 N 000 24 46 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 4m Max: 5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Gemma Stewart
Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	Michael Green
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	K & J Carpenter and Sons Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Database","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Paper Contents	"other"

Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to the rear of 32 and 34 Church Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Green, M
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Suffolk Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Unpublished

Entered by	Michael Green (michael.green@suffolkarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	25 January 2016

Appendix 2. Context List

Context Number	Trench	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation
0001			Topsoil	Layer	Dark grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk and flint inclusions			0.40	Topsoil over the entire site
0002			Subsoil	Layer	Mid brown grey compact silt with frequent chalk lumps			0.35	Subsoil seen at varying depths across the area
0003			Natural	Layer	Light white grey concrete chalk lumps				Natural geology
0004	2	0064	deposit	Layer	Dark brown soft humic silty clay with occasional chalk fleck	2.95m 7m seen in section	1.6	0.15	Layer of humic soil probably from flooding in a natural hollow in trench 2
0005	3	0005	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned NW-SE with moderate steep sides and a concave base	1.6	0.6	0.17	Cut of possible medieval ditch
0006	3	0005	Ditch	Fill	Mid grey brown compact silty chalk with frequent chalk flecks, clear clarity. Single fill	1.6	0.6	0.17	Single fill of ditch
0007	3	0007	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned nw-se with moderate steep sides and a concave base. Cuts ditch 0009=0011=0017	1.6	0.9	0.23	cut of ditch, possibly medieval
0008	3	0007	Ditch	Fill	Mid grey brown compact silty chalk with frequent chalk flecks, clear clarity. Single fill	1.6	0.9	0.23	single fill of ditch
0009	3	0009	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned ne-sw with steep sides and a concave base	1m ex	1.08	0.22	Cut of ditch running along the trench
0010	3	0009	Ditch	Fill	Light brown grey compact silty chalk. Good clarity. Single fill	1m ex	1.08	0.22	single fill of ditch
0011	3	0011	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned ne-sw with steep sides and a concave base	1	0.42	0.18	Same as 0009
0012	3	0011	Ditch	Fill	Light brown grey compact silty chalk. Good clarity. Single fill	1	0.42	0.18	single fill of ditch
0013	3	0013	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned nw-se with moderate steep sides and a concave base	1.06	0.34	0.23	Ditch, medieval in date

Context Number	Trench	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation
0014	3	0013	Ditch	Fill	Mid grey brown compact silty chalk with frequent chalk flecks, clear clarity. Single fill	1.06	0.34	0.23	single fill of ditch
0015	1	0015	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned nw-se with an open U shape profile, concave sides and a concave base	1.6	1.24	0.61	medieval ditch with 2 fills
0016	1	0015	Ditch	Fill	Mid brown grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional chalk fleck. Clear clarity, top fill of 2	1.6	1.24	0.51	top fill of ditch
0017	3	0017	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned ne-sw with steep sides and a concave base	1	1	0.3	same as 0011 and 0009
0018	3	0017	Ditch	Fill	Light brown grey compact silty chalk. Good clarity. Single fill	1	1	0.3	same as 0012
0019	3	0019	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned sw-ne, shallow sides and a concave base. Cut by ditch 0017	6.5	0.5	0.07	small ditch cut by ditch 0017, terminates within the trench
0020	3	0019	Ditch	Fill	Dark grey brown compact silty clay with occasional small stone inclusion. Clear clarity, single fill	6.5	0.5	0.07	single fill of ditch
0021	1	0015	Ditch	Fill	Light grey moderately compact chalky silt with moderate chalk lump inclusions. Clear clarity, basal fill	1m ex	0.7	0.32	basal fill in med ditch
0022	1	0022	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned e-w with an irregular bowl profile, concave base and sides.	3.25	1.14	0.3	Medieval ditch terminus
0023	1	0022	Ditch	Fill	Light brown grey chalky silt with a firm compaction. Moderate chalk lump inclusions, single fill, clear clarity	3.25	1.14	0.3	fill of ditch terminus
0024	1	0024	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned nw-se with a bowl shape profile concave sides and concave base	0.6	0.33	0.13	small ditch terminus
0025	1	0024	Ditch	Fill	Dark grey brown soft clayey silt with occasional chalk fleck. Clear clarity, single fill	0.6	0.33	0.13	single fill of ditch terminus
0026	1	0026	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned ne-sw with a shallow dish profile concave sides and concave base. Cut by ditch 0028 in section and 0022 in plan	1.7	0.5	0.07	Possible edge of ditch, unclear in plan

Context Number	Trench	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation
0027	1	0026	Ditch	Fill	Light grey moderately compact silt with occasional chalk flecks. Clear clarity, single fill	1.7	0.5	0.07	single fill of possible ditch
0028	1	0028	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned nw-se with a bowl shape profile concave sides and a concave base. Cuts possible ditch 0026	1m ex	1.2	0.42	cut of ditch, cutting ditch 0026
0029	1	0028	Ditch	Fill	Mid brown grey soft clayey silt with frequent chalk lumps. Single fill, clear clarity	1m ex	1.2	0.42	single fill of ditch
0030	1	0030	Pit	Cut	Half circular in plan with a shallow dish shape profile, shallow concave sides and an irregular base.	0.85	0.5	0.07	shallow pit or tree throw
0031	1	0030	Pit	Fill	Light grey moderately compact silt with occasional chalk lump. Clear clarity, single fill	0.85	0.5	0.07	single fill of pit or tree throw
0032	1	0032	Gully	Cut	Linear in plan aligned e-w with a bowl shape profile, concave sides and a concave base.	4.25	0.31	0.12	Cut by curvi linear 0036 in section 12. Possible pre-historic gully. Very shallow in places, less than 0.05m depth
0033	1	0032	Gully	Fill	Mid brown grey soft clayey silt with moderate chalk lumps.	4.25	0.31	0.12	single fill of gully
0034	1	0034	Gully	Cut	Linear in plan aligned e-w with a bowl shape profile, concave sides and a concave base.	4.25	0.31	0.08	Same as 0032
0035	1	0034	Gully	Fill	Mid brown grey soft clayey silt with moderate chalk lumps.	4.25	0.31	0.08	gully fill, same as 0033
0036	1	0036	curvi-linear	Cut	Curvi-linear in plan aligned e-w curving to nw-se with an irregular profile irregular sides and base. Cuts gully 0034 and is cut by ditch 0040 in section 13	3.4	0.85	0.14	Irregular curvi-linear. Most likely the corner of a ditched enclosure
0037	1	0036	curvi-linear	Fill	Mid brown grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional chalk lumps. Clear clarity, single fill	3.4	0.85	0.14	single fill of ditch corner
0038	1	0038	curvi-linear	Cut	Curvi-linear in plan aligned e-w curving to nw-se with an irregular profile irregular sides and base.	1m ex	0.33	0.09	same as 0036

Context Number	Trench	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation
					Cut by ditch 0040 and cuts gully 0038 in section 12				
0039	1	0038	curvi-linear	Fill	Mid brown grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional chalk lumps. Clear clarity, single fill	1m ex	0.33	0.09	same as 0037
0040	1	0040	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned e-w with a bowl shape profile, concave sides and a flat base. Cuts curvi-linear 0038	1m ex	0.82	0.21	med ditch
0041	1	0040	Ditch	Fill	Mid grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional chalk lump. Clear clarity, single fill	1m ex	0.82	0.21	fill of ditch
0042	1	0042	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned e-w with a bowl shape profile, concave sides and a flat base. Cuts curvi-linear 0038	0.5m ex		0.06	same as 0040, cut by ditch 0044
0043	1	0042	Ditch	Fill	Mid grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional chalk lump. Clear clarity, single fill	0.5m ex		0.06	same as 0041
0044	1	0044	Ditch	Cut	linear in plan aligned nw-se with a bowl shape profile, concave sides and a concave base	1m ex	0.8	0.25	med ditch
0045	1	0044	Ditch	Fill	Mid grey brown soft clayey silt with occasional chalk lumps.	1m ex	0.8	0.25	single fill of ditch
0046	2	0046	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned ne-sw with a bowl shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base.	1m ex	0.44	0.16	small med ditch
0047	2	0046	Ditch	Fill	Mid grey soft clayey silt with occasional chalk lumps. Clear clarity, single fill	1m ex	0.44	0.16	single fill of small ditch
0048	2	0048	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned n-s with a bowl shape profile, concave sides and a concave base.	1m ex	0.56	0.08	Relationship with ditches 0050 and 0066 was unclear
0049	2	0048	Ditch	Fill	Mid brown grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional chalk fleck. Single fill, clear clarity	1m ex	0.56	0.08	single fill of ditch
0050	2	0050	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned n-s with a bowl shape profile, concave sides and a concave base.	1m ex	0.55	0.09	Relationship with ditches 0048 and 0066 was unclear
0051	2	0050	Ditch	Fill	Mid brown grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional chalk fleck. Single fill, clear clarity	1m ex	0.55	0.09	single fill of ditch

Context Number	Trench	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation
0052	2	0052	Pit	Cut	Circular in plan with a bowl shaped profile, concave sides and a concave base. Cuts hollow 0064 and layer 0004	0.56	0.56	0.14	possible bit or rooting on edge of hollow 0064
0053	2	0052	Pit	Fill	Dark brown soft silt with moderate chalk lumps. Clear clarity, single fill	0.56	0.56	0.14	fill of pit or rooting
0054	2	0054	Ditch	Cut	linear in plan aligned n-s with a shallow dish shaped profile, concave sides and a flat base	0.8	0.45	0.06	possible ditch terminus, unclear relationship with ditch 0048
0055	2	0054	Ditch	Fill	Mid brown grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional chalk fleck. Single fill, clear clarity	0.8	0.45	0.06	single fill
0056	2				Not used				
0057	2				Not used				
0058	2	0058	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned ne-sw with moderately steep sides and a concave base	1.6	0.9	0.28	ditch containing fill 0059 with layer 0004 present as a top fill
0059	2	0058	Ditch	Fill	Mid grey brown compact chalky silt. Good clarity, basal fill of two	1.6	0.9	0.18	basal fill of ditch
0060	2	0060	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned ne-sw with moderately steep sides and a concave base.	1.6	2.65	0.3	ditch containing one humic fill
0061	2	0060	Ditch	Fill	Dark orange brown humic silt with occasional chalk lump and small stone inclusion. Good clarity, single fill	1.6	2.65	0.3	single organic fill of ditch
0062	2	0062	Pit	Cut	oval in plan with a shallow bowl shaped profile, steep sides and a concave base	0.6	0.6	0.08	cut of pit
0063	2	0062	Pit	Fill	Mid grey brown compact chalky silt. Good clarity, single fill	0.6	0.6	0.08	single fill of pit
0064	2	0064	hollow	Cut	irregular in plan and profile with irregular shallow sides and an irregular base	2.95	1.6	0.13	natural hollow in the geology which was filled with re-deposited natural and overlain by layer 0004
0065	2	0064	hollow	Fill	Mid brown grey compact silty chalk. Basal fill of 2, overlain by layer 0004	2.95	1.6	0.11	re-deposited natural fill
0066	2	0066	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned e-w with a shallow dish profile, concave sides and a flat base. Unclear	1m seen	0.85	0.07	ditch joining n-s ditch 0050

Context Number	Trench	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation
					relationship with ditch 0050, probably contemporary				
0067	2	0066	Ditch	Fill	Mid brown grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional chalk fleck. Single fill, clear clarity	1m seen	0.85	0.07	fill of ditch

Appendix 3. Catalogue of pottery

Trench	Fill	Cut	Fabric	Forms	No	Weight/g	Condition	Comments	Fabric date	Context date
1	0016	Ditch 0015	UNS OX	Body	3	26	Abr/sli		Roman	M/L1st-2nd?+
1	0016	Ditch 0015	UNS WH	Body	1	2	Sli		Roman	(likely 2nd)
1	0016	Ditch 0015	GRS	G x1 tsm + body	5	9	Sli	One very over-fired with rilling	Roman	
1	0016	Ditch 0015	?HOR RE	Body	1	27	Sli	Not a classic version of fabric	2nd-E/?	
1	0016	Ditch 0015	BSW	Base x1 + body	23	166	Sli	Most contain sparse grog or calcite	M1st-2nd?+	
1	0021	Ditch 0015	?HOR RE	Body	1	28	Sli		2nd-E/?	M/L1st-2nd?+
1	0021	Ditch 0015	BSW	G x 1 tsm + body	4	35	Abr/sli		M1st-2nd?+	(likely 2nd)
1	0023	Ditch 0022	BSW	Body	1	6	Abr		M1st-2nd?+	E/M-L2nd
1	0023	Ditch 0022	UNS WH	J 3/Ver1936-43 style	6	28	Sli	All same vessel, join	E/M-L2nd	
1	0025	Ditch 0024	UNS FT	Body	1	1	Sli		LBA-EIA	LBA-EIA
1	0029	Ditch 0028	GRS	Body	1	2	Abr	Romanising fabric, ?early	Roman	Roman
1	0029	Ditch 0028	UNS OX	Base x1 + body	19	159	Sli	All same vessel, join, no rim	Roman	(?early)
1	0033	Gully 0032	UNS FT	Body	1	2	Sli	Abundant coarse flint	LBA-EIA	LBA-EIA
1	0041	Ditch 0040	HOR RE	Body	1	14	Sli		2nd-E/?M4th	2nd?+
1	0041	Ditch 0040	BSW	Body	2	8	Sli		M1st-2nd?+	
1	0041	Ditch 0040	UNS OX	G x1 tsm	1	7	Sli	Style looks 2nd+	2nd?+	
1	0045	Ditch 0044	?BSW	Body	1	3	Sli	Too small for certain ID could be HM	IA/Early Roman	IA/Early Roman
2	0004	Deposit layer 0064	BSW	Body	1	3	Sli		M1st-2nd?+	M1st-2nd?+
2	0047	Ditch 0046	UNS OX	Body	1	1	Abr		Roman	Roman
2	0051	Ditch 0050	?HOR OX	Body	1	1	Abr	Too small for accurate ID	?2nd-E/	?2nd-E/?
2	0059	Ditch 0058	HOR OX	Body	2	30	Sli		2nd-E/?	2nd?+
2	0059	Ditch 0058	GRS	G x 1 tsm + body	7	26	Sli	All same vessel, surfaces degraded	Roman (to ?2nd)	
2	0059	Ditch 0058	SOB GT St	Body	1	124	Sli	Sherd displays combing	M1st-2nd?+	
2	0059	Ditch 0058	BSW	Body	1	2	Sli		M1st-2nd?+	
2	0059	Ditch 0058	?HOR RE	G x 1 tsm + body	3	72	Sli	G is too small for ID, rim looks to 2nd	2nd	
2	0061	Ditch 0060	UNS WH	J 3/Ver 1936-43 style	5	12	Sli	All same vessel, join. Same style as fill 23 Tr.1	E/M-L2nd	E-M/L2nd
2	0063	Pit 0062	BSW	Body	1	8	Sli		M1st-2nd?+	M1st-2nd?+
3	0006	Ditch 0005	GRS	Base	1	14	Sli		Roman	Roman

Trench	Fill	Cut	Fabric	Forms	No	Weight/g	Condition	Comments	Fabric date	Context date
3	0008	Ditch 0007	UNS GL	Body	1	8	Sli	Hand-made contains sparse oraganics too	E/M-LIA	E/M-LIA &
3	0008	Ditch 0007	UNS OX	Tile fragment	1	2	Sli	Clay pellets in fabric, ?intrusive or mixed fill	Roman	Roman
3	0010	Ditch 0009	UNS ST	Base + body	2	6	Sli	Looks hand-made with sparse organics	E/M-LIA	E/M-LIA
3	0012	Ditch 0011	UNS ST	Body	5	8	Sli	With sparse lime/calcite and organics	E/M-LIA	E/M-LIA
3	0014	Ditch 0013	GRS	Body	3	12	Sli	Looks like HOR RE or related fabric	?2nd+	2nd?+
3	0014	Ditch 0013	BSW	Body	2	8	Sli		M1st-2nd?+	(?mixed
3	0014	Ditch 0013	HOR RE	G nn Evans 11 style + body	2	56	Sli	Thin everted rim, cordon below	2nd-E/?M4th	deposit?)
3	0014	Ditch 0013	SOB GT		1	3	Sli		1st C	
3	0018	Ditch 0017	BSW	Body	3	28	Sli		?M1st-2nd?+	?M1st-2nd?+
-	0001	Topsoil 0001	REFW	Wall tile	1	17	Sli	Refined white clay very high fired	L19th/20th	P/Med & Modern
-	0001	Topsoil 0001	MSC	Tile	1	14	Sli	With abundant calcite	LMed/PMed	
-	0002	Subsoil 0002	UNS GC	Body	1	11	Abr	Hand-made with common grog, sparse flint/calcite	E-M/LIA	E-M/LIA

Pottery fabric, form and abrasion codes

Fabrics

UNS WH	Unsourced white wares
HOR OX	Horningsea oxidised ware
UNS OX	Unsourced oxidised wares
BSW	Black surfaced/Romanising grey wares
GRS	Unsourced sandy grey wares
HOR RE	Horningsea reduced ware
SOB GT	Southern British grog-tempered ware
UNS ST	Unsourced sand-tempered ware (hand-made)
UNS GS	Unsourced grog and sand-tempered ware (hand-made)
UNS GL	Unsourced grog and lime-tempered ware (hand-made)
UNS FT	Unsourced flint-tempered ware (hand-made)

Form codes

G = Jar, J = flagon

Abrasion codes

Abr = Abraded, Sli = slightly abraded

Appendix 4. Catalogue of faunal remains

				Cattle					Sheep/Goat					Pig					Horse					Red deer			Roe deer	LT M	MT M	ST M	Uni d.	Element	Comments
Feature	Spot Date	Weight/g	Taphonomy	Teeth	Bones	Age T	Age B	Meas	Teeth	Bones	Age T	Age B	Meas	Teeth	Bones	Age T	Age B	Meas	Teeth	Bones	Age T	Age B	Meas	Antler	Teeth	Bones	Antler	All	All	All	All		Butch Path Gnaw Sex etc.
Ditch 0007	Rom	4	g						1																							incisor	
Ditch 0011	1st-2nd	2	g																									1				long bone shaft	
Ditch 0013	1st-2nd	26	p						1	1				1										4					1			molar	fragments
Ditch 0015	M1st-2nd	39	p		2									3																		molar, calcaneus	
Ditch 0015	M1st-2nd	3	p							3																				3	3		environmental sample 2.
Ditch 0017	M1st-2nd	255	p		5																											mand, tibia	
Ditch 0022	M1st-2nd	99	m																2													P2-P3	maxillaris sinister
Ditch 0028	Rom	97	m		1																											pelvis	
Ditch 0040	M1st-2nd	2	p																									6				costa frags	
Ditch 0058	1st-2nd	271	g		15					1																						Scap, tibia, rad	cut marks, heavy chopping marks on cattle radius
Ditch 0060	1st-2nd	11	m																								1					antler, beam	juvenile

Appendix 5. ECB 4610 Catalogue of bulk finds

Context No.	Sample No.	Pottery		CBM		Iron Nails		Worked Flint		Stone		Animal Bone		Shell		Ceramic period
		No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	
0001		1	15	2	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Pmed
0002		1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Pre
0004		1	4	0	0	1	7	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	Rom
0006		1	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Rom
0008		1	9	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	4	Pre/Rom
0010		2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Pre
0012		6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	Pre
0014		8	83	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	26	0	0	Rom
0016		30	207	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	4	39	1	1	Rom
0016	2	5	36	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	9	3	0	0	Rom
0018		3	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	255	1	1	Rom
0021		5	64	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	Rom
0023		7	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	99	0	0	Rom
0025		1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Pre
0029		20	163	0	0	0	0	1	26	0	0	1	97	0	0	Rom
0033		1	3	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	Pre
0037		0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0041		4	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	0	Rom
0045		1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Rom
0047		1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Rom
0051		1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Rom
0059		13	259	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	271	0	0	Rom
0061		5	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	11	0	0	Rom
0063		1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	509	0	0	0	0	Rom
Totals		**118**	**1011**	**3**	**33**	**2**	**9**	**7**	**47**	**1**	**509**	**54**	**809**	**3**	**6**	

Appendix 6. Project brief

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team

Site: Land to the rear of 32 and 34 Church Lane, Isleham

Planning Application: 15/00600/FUL

Company: K and J Carpenter and Son Ltd

Location: NGR TL 6435 7467

This design brief is only valid for six months after the date of issue. After this period the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) should be contacted. Any specifications resulting from this brief will only be considered for the same period. Please note that this document is written for archaeological project managers to facilitate the production of an archaeological specification of work; the term project manager is used to denote the archaeological project manager only.

The project manager is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their specification, as there may be implications for accurately costing the project. Historic environment data from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) is attached to this brief, but further contact with the CHER for specific information is recommended. Any response to this brief should follow CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, 2014.

NO FIELDWORK MAY COMMENCE UNTIL WRITTEN APPROVAL OF A SPECIFICATION HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT TEAM

1.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

1.1 This development is located in the historic village of Isleham on Zag Chalk formation geology at roughly 5m AOD.

1.2 Our records indicate that the site lies in an area of high archaeological potential, situated 200m to the east of designated 11th century Isleham Priory (Historic Environment Record reference DCB221) and church of Saint Margaret of Antioch (MCB15280). While to the south is 14th century Saint Andrews church (MCB9178). It is thought that Saint Andrews church has earlier Anglo-Saxon origins and replaces a Norman church with some of the stones incorporated into the present building.

1.3 The results of a CHER search are attached in map and pdf report format. Due to the large amount of data included in the area, we would advise you that we can also supply this information in a GIS format (MapInfo TAB. or ESRI ArcGIS shapefile SHP.) at no further cost. If you would like to receive this data, please complete and return the attached GIS licence form (stating the responsible officer and which GIS format you require) to the CHER either by email or post; email and address details are included on the form.
Reproduction of spatial data by any other means is not recommended.

2.0 DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

2.1 The development is for the erection of 4 detached dwellings with ancillary carports and associated access.

2.2 Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, a condition has been placed on planning consent requiring a scheme of archaeological work to be undertaken at the site. The first phase of this work will be an archaeological evaluation to assess the nature and potential of the site. This brief deals solely with the evaluation phase.

2.3 The evaluation should include a suitable level of documentary research, including further consultation with information held in the CHER as necessary, to set the results in their geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context.

2.4 The required scheme shall include a field evaluation of the application area.

Non-intrusive methods

2.5 Aerial photographic assessment is not required for this site.

2.6 Geophysical survey is not required for this site.

Intrusive methods

2.7 The evaluation should include a programme of linear trial trenching, or test-pitting to adequately sample the development area. Archaeological features within the trenches/test pits will be sufficiently excavated to conform to section 3.0 below.

2.8 The artefact contents of the ploughsoil and any lower soil horizons should be examined as part of the evaluation and the field data quantified and spatially illustrated within the report. If the field conditions are not conducive for fieldwalking, a bucket sampling or test pit programme should be conducted, whereby 90 litres of spoil is hand sorted for each soil horizon encountered. Bucket sampling points should occur at each end of trenches that are less that 50m in length, or at trench ends and mid-point of 50m and longer trenches. Unstratified artefacts should be sought and recovered from trench spoil heaps.

2.9 The use of metal detectors on site to aid the recovery of artefacts is required. The detector should not be set to discriminate against iron.

2.10 **All** features must be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with CHET. Investigation slots through all linear features must be at least **1m in width**. Discrete features must be half-sectioned or excavated in quadrants where they are large or found to be deep. The use of a hand held auger, or a power auger where appropriate, is recommended to gain information from very deep deposits.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

Character and Significance

3.1 The evaluation should aim to determine, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied.

3.2 The evaluation results will be used to:
a) determine the significance of the archaeological resource,
b) define the nature and extent of any mitigation works that may be required.

3.3 The mitigation of construction impacts to archaeological remains identified during this evaluation will be outlined in a further design brief for archaeological investigation.

Environment, Economy and Industry

3.4 Particular study of the following should occur:

i. presence/absence of palaeosols and old land surface soils/deposits,
ii. the character of deposits and their contents within negative features
iii. site formation processes generally.

3.5 Buried soils and associated deposits should be inspected on site by a suitably qualified geoarchaeologist whose advice should be sought as to whether soil micromorphology or other analytical techniques will enhance understanding of depositional processes and transformations at the site. If so, suitable samples should be taken from relevant deposits or features for assessment and inclusion in the report.

3.6 The assessment of the potential to inform on the general environmental and dietary evidence of the inhabitants of the site through examination of suitable deposits must also be arranged with a suitably qualified specialist. Attention should be paid to:

i. the retrieval of charred plant macro & microfossils, faunal remains and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features,
ii. the retrieval of plant macro & microfossils, insect, faunal remains, molluscs, pollen and other biological remains from waterlogged deposits located;
iii. provision for the absolute dating of critical contacts should be made: *eg* the basal contacts of peats over former dryland surfaces; distinct landuse or landmark change in urban contexts.

3.7 The evaluation should also carefully consider the retrieval, characterisation and dating (including absolute dating where necessary) of artefact or economic evidence to assist in the characterisation of the site's evidence and in the development of future mitigation strategies.

3.8 The assessment of environmental & economic potential should follow advice in these and other guidance documents:

- Historic England, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition).*
- Association for Environmental Archaeology, 1995*, Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations. Recommendations concerning the environmental archaeology component of archaeological evaluations in England.* Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology 2, 8 ff. York: Association for Environmental Archaeology;
- Dobney, K., Hall, A., Kenward, H. and Milles, A., 1992*, A working classification of sample types for environmental archaeology.* Circaea 9.1 (1992 for 1991), pg. 24-26;
- Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*.

3.9 The Project Manager & field team are also advised to consult the following guidance documents in order to provide an adequate strategy for the excavation, field treatment and conservation of any delicate organic materials*:*

Historic England, 2012, *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on Their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation*;
Historic England, 2008, *Investigative Conservation: Guidance on How the Detailed Examination of Artefacts from Archaeological Sites Can Shed Light on Their Manufacture and Use*;
Historic England, 2010, *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recovery, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood.*

Reference to other specialist investigation and assessment methodologies should also occur.

3.10 The project manager must ensure that the results of palaeoenvironmental investigation, industrial residue assessments/analyses & scientific analyses are included in a full evaluation report and sent to the Historic England Science Advisor.

4.0 Requirements

4.1 The evaluation must be undertaken by an archaeological team of recognised competence, fully experienced in work of this character and formally acknowledged by the CHET officers, advisors to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Inclusion in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Register of Archaeological Organisations is recommended. Details, including the name, qualifications and experience, of the site director and all other key project personnel (including specialist staff) will be communicated to CHET within a specification of works, or Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), which must be prepared by the archaeological contractor undertaking the programme. The specification must conform to the guidance in Historic England's MoRPHE publication (*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide.* EH 2006). This specification must:

i. be supported by a research design which sets out the site specific objectives of the archaeological works.

ii. detail the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, indicating clearly on plan their location and extent.

iii. provide a timetable for the proposed works including a "safety" margin in the event of bad weather or any other unforeseen circumstances that may effect this timetabling.

4.2 All aspects of the evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (CIfA 2014),
- *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Paper 14).
- *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (EAA Occ. Paper No 24, 2011), to define research objectives.

4.3 Care must be taken in dealing with **human remains** and the appropriate guidance issued by the Ministry of Justice should be followed. Environmental health regulations must also be followed. The CHET and the local Coroner **must be informed immediately** upon discovery of human remains. If found during an evaluation, the human remains can be left *in situ*, covered and protected when discovered, depending on the site circumstances and depths of cover soils. Any further investigation, where permitted, should establish the date, condition and character of the burial. If removal is essential an exhumation licence should be requested from the MoJ.

4.4 Project Managers are reminded of the need to comply with the requirements of the **Treasure Act 1996** (with subsequent amendments). Advice and guidance on compliance with Treasure Act issues can be obtained from the Finds Liaison Office of the Portable Antiquities Scheme at the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team office. Any finds that could be considered treasure under the terms of the Act made during the process of fieldwork **should be immediately reported** to the Finds Liaison Officer, so that it is properly reported to the appropriate Coroner within 14 days of discovery in line with the Treasure Act[1].

4.5 Care must be taken in the siting of offices and other support structures in order to minimise impact on the environment. Extreme care must also be taken in the structure and maintenance of spoil heaps for the same reasons and to facilitate a high quality reinstatement. This is particularly important in relation to pastureland.

4.6 The archaeological project manager must satisfy themselves that all constraints to groundworks have been identified, including the siting of live services, Tree Preservation Orders and public footpaths. The CHET officers bear no responsibility for the inclusion or exclusion of such information within this brief.

[1] Please see http://finds.org.uk/treasure for further information.

4.7 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and CHET in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised. A copy of this must be given to CHET before the commencement of works.

5.0 Reports

5.1 The evaluation report should include a comprehensive assessment of the regional context and present well described, illustrated (including site and artefact/deposit photos) and tabulated archaeological evidence. It should highlight any relevant research objectives published in themed national and regional research frameworks.

5.2 The evaluation report should refer to the CHER evidence submitted with the brief.

5.3 The evaluation should provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals. Constraints to the evaluation should be clearly shown and explained. An impact assessment should also be provided.

5.4 If any areas of analysis from Section 3 (above) are not considered appropriate for inclusion the report will detail justification for their exclusion.

5.5 One hard or digital copy of the report, clearly marked **DRAFT**, should be prepared and presented to CHET within four weeks of the completion of site works unless there are reasonable grounds for more time. This report should conform to the format contained within the document **HET Eval rev 06** dealing with the production of archaeological evaluation reports. Copies can be obtained from the address below. CIfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014) Annex 2.

5.6 CHET supports the national project: Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS III) project and requires archaeological contractors working in Cambridgeshire to support this initiative. In order that a record is made of all archaeological events within the county occurring through the planning system, the archaeological contractor is required to input details of this project online at the OASIS website[2]: The OASIS reference ID and completed Data Collection Form should be clearly presented in the relevant report. **Any report that does not contain this information will not be approved**.

5.7 Following acceptance, **one hard copy** of the approved evaluation report should be submitted to the **CHER**. The approved report in digital form should also be uploaded to the **OASIS** database within **two weeks** of approval.
Note: Project Managers must ensure that sub-contracted specialist reports are uploaded at this time (e.g. geophysics and AP reports, geoarchaeological assessment reports).

6.0 Archive

6.1 The site archive specification should conform to the guidelines in MoRPHE (EH 2006), eg section 2.5.3 and be deposited within the County's archaeological archive storage facility (see 6.3) on completion of site analysis and any ensuing publication.

6.2 To assist with the creation and curation of the project's archive, the Project Manager must contact the CHER office to obtain an **Event number (ECB)** at the outset of the project. CHER use this number as a unique identifier linking all physical and digital components of the archive. **The unique event number must be clearly indicated on any specification received for this project. It should be shown on all paperwork created on site (context forms and plans etc), on relevant ensuing reports and on the OASIS data collection form.**

6.3 Arrangements for the long term storage and deposition of all artefacts must be agreed with the landowner and CHER before or during the reporting stage. Transfer of title and the transfer of the ownership of the archive to the County Archive Facility or another local registered

[2] http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis

depository need to be arranged at this time, and the arrangements indicated in the evaluation report. The Project Manager should consult ***Deposition of archaeological archives in Cambridgeshire*** regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive into the County Archive Facility at this web link: http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20011/archives_archaeology_and_museums/318/archaeology/2 .

6.4 The current archive deposition cost is £75 per box (or minimum £50 per archive). This combined charge covers accessioning and uplift (£15) together with a fee to provide for the long term storage (£60). Further details of charges for the use of the County Archive Facility can be found in Section 5 of the guidelines.

7.0 Monitoring & Communicating Changes

7.1 CHET officers are responsible for monitoring all archaeological work within Cambridgeshire and will need to inspect site works at an appropriate time during the fieldwork, and review the progress of excavation reports and/or archive preparation.

7.2 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of CHET. Further trenching or deposit testing may be a requirement of the site monitoring visit if unclear archaeological remains or geomorphological features present difficulties of interpretation, or to assist with the formulation of a mitigation strategy. Appropriate provision should be made for this eventuality. The project manager must inform CHET in writing **at least one week in advance** of the proposed start date for the project.

7.3 Any changes to the specifications that the project manager may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to CHET for approval.

7.4 CHET should be kept regularly informed about developments both during the site works and subsequent post-excavation work.

7.5 The involvement of CHET should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

As part of our desire to provide a quality service to all our clients we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this design brief. Please address them to the author at the address below.

Gemma Stewart

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Growth & Economy
Cambridgeshire County Council
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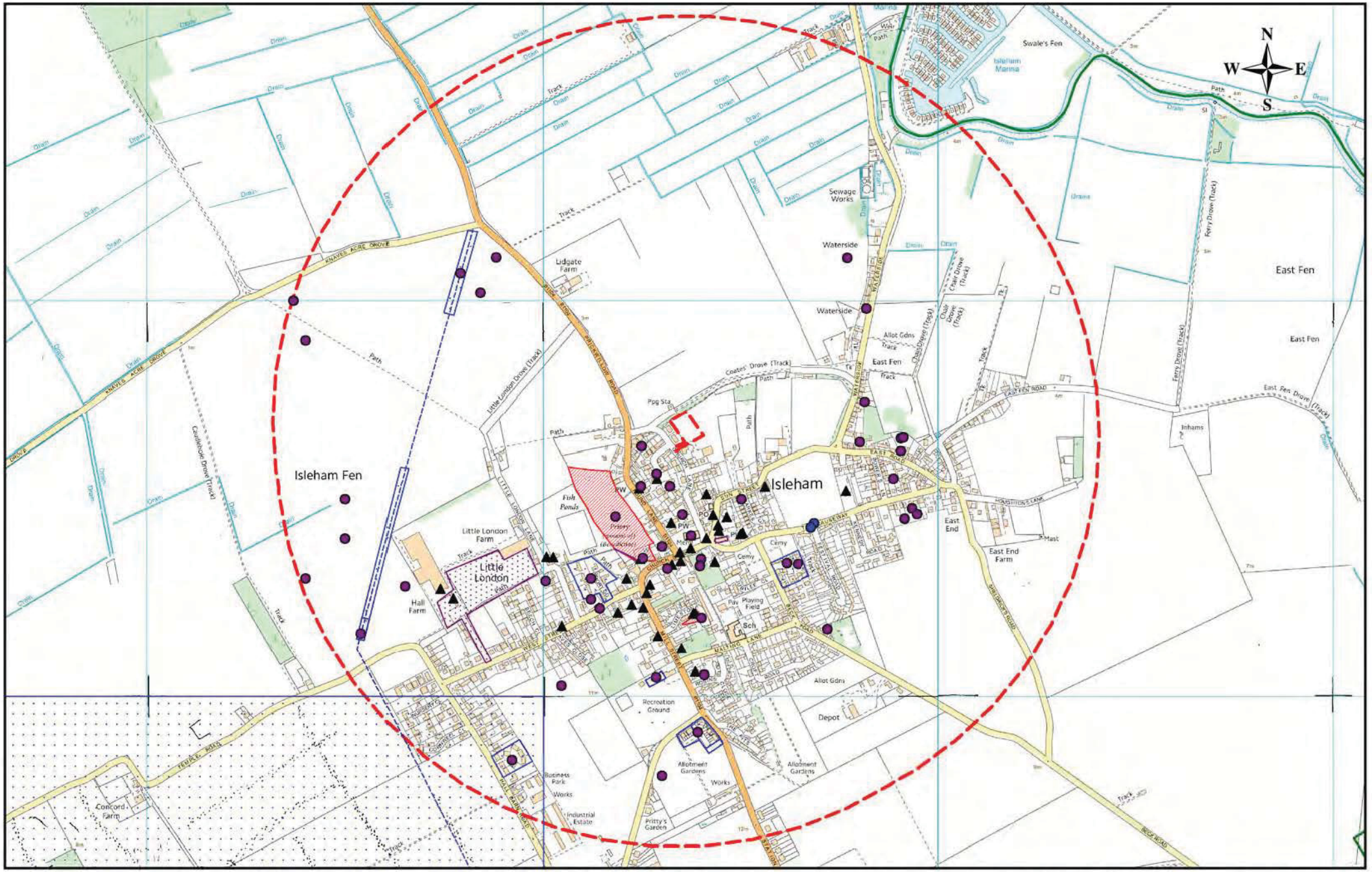
Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record

Cambridgeshire County Council



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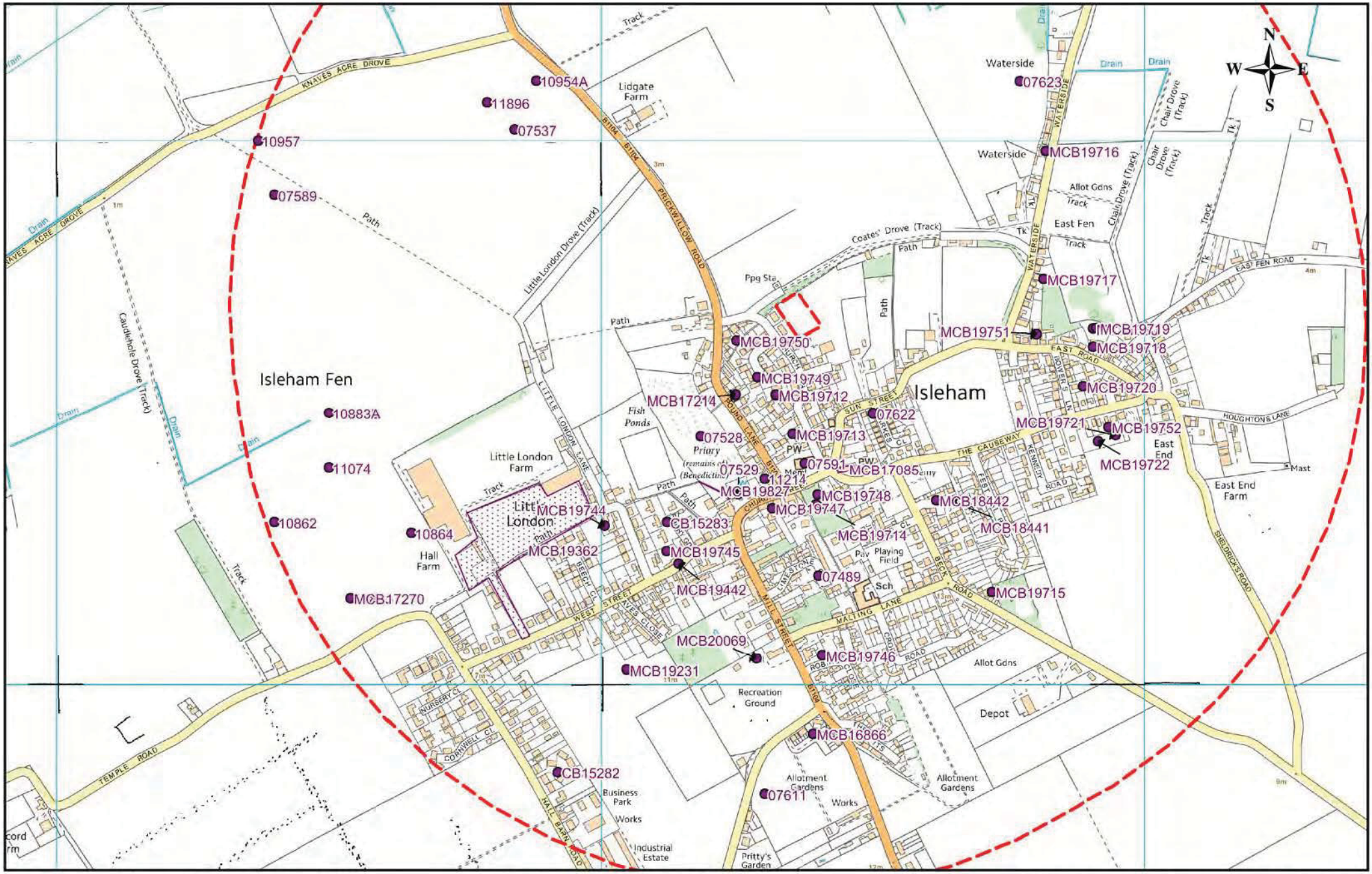
Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record

Cambridgeshire County Council



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Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record

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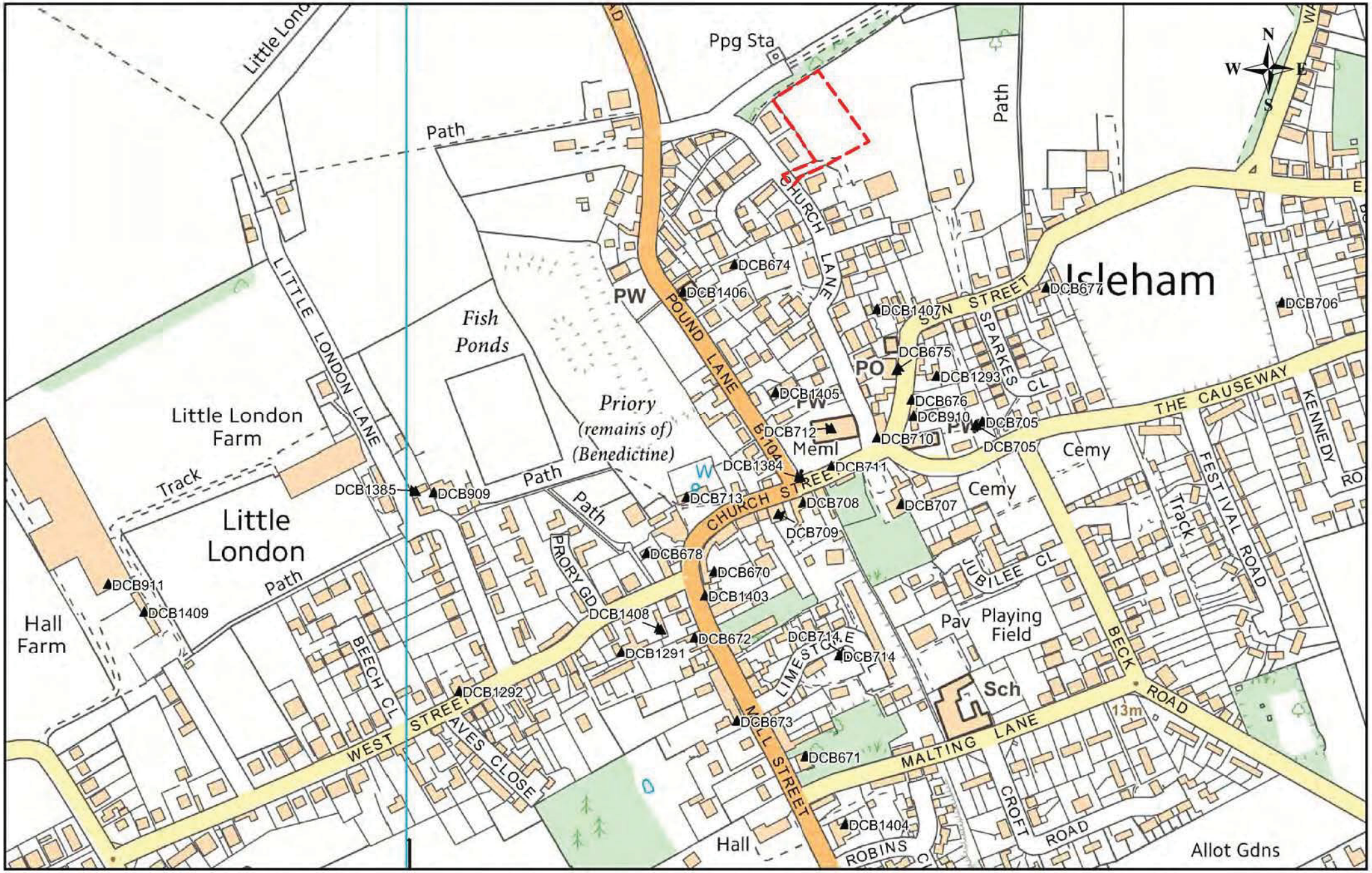
Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record

Cambridgeshire County Council



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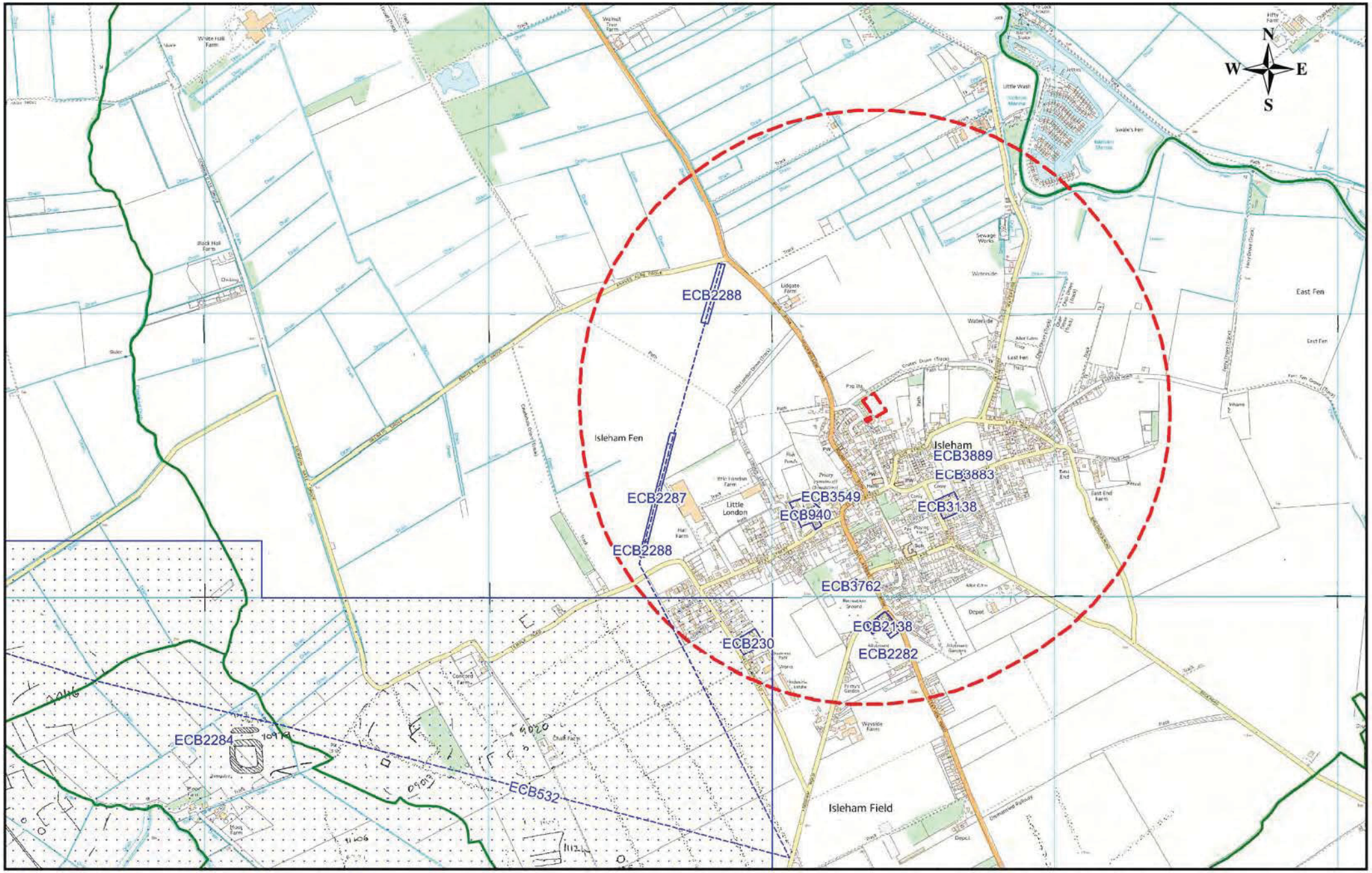

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