SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY

• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

Site to the Northeast of 1 Ellwoods Close
Isleham, Cambridgeshire

Client:
Cocksedge Building Contractors Limited

Date:
February 2016

ECB 4634
Archaeological Evaluation Report
SACIC Report No. 2016/006
Author: Timothy Schofield

Site to the Northeast of 1 Ellwoods Close Isleham, Cambridgeshire ECB 4634

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Report Date: February 2016

HER Information

Site Code:	**ECB 4634**
Site Name:	**Site to the Northeast of 1 Ellwoods Close Isleham, Cambridgeshire**
Report Number	**2016/006**
Planning Application No:	**15/01017/FUL**
Date of Fieldwork:	**18th to the 19th of January 2016**
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Prepared By: Timothy Schofield
Date: 11/02/2016

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Position: Project Manager
Date: 15/02/2016

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Summary

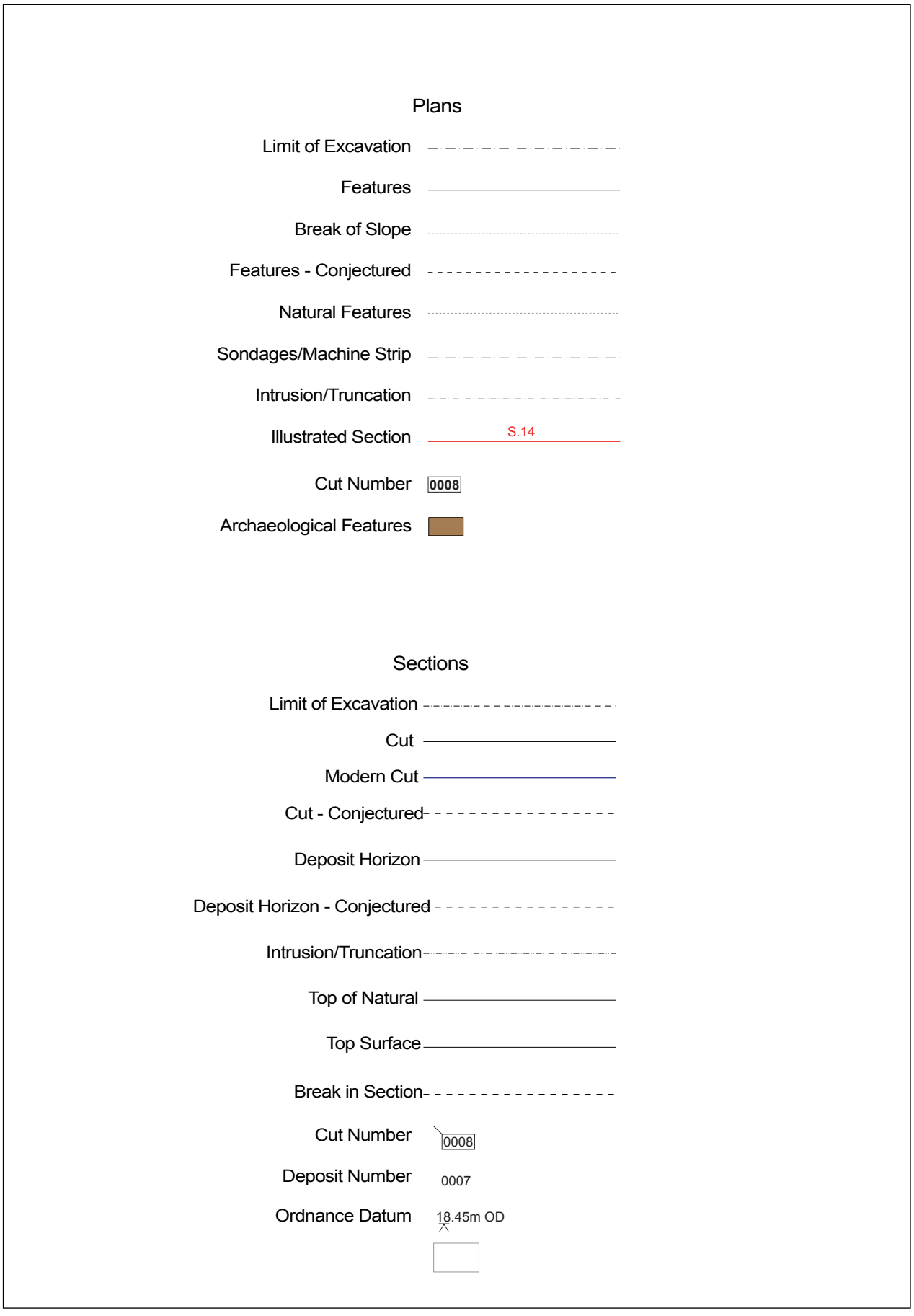
On the 18th and 19th January 2016 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Suffolk Archaeology CIC on land to the northeast of 1 Ellwoods Close, Isleham, Cambridgeshire. A total area of 54m² (*c*.5% of the total 0.11ha site) was evaluated to assess the quantity, quality and extent of any surviving archaeological deposits within a field currently lying fallow.

The evaluation revealed a former ploughsoil present to a maximum thickness of 0.33m at the top of the stratigraphic sequence, which overlay a subsoil to a maximum thickness of 0.34m which in turn sealed all of the archaeological features.

Seven linear features aligned north-north-east to south-south-west and perpendicular, one posthole and one natural tree throw were present within the two 15m trenches. Dating evidence was sparse but the features appear to represent two main phases of archaeological activity, the first broadly dating to the Roman period and the second the early to mid Anglo-Saxon period. A single sherd of potential Iron Age date was also recovered that may broaden this date range to the prehistoric period. Agricultural activity dominates both phases of activity with small enclosure ditches employed for either arable farming or animal husbandry and there is evidence of butchery, grain processing and storage and light industrial metalworking.

The evidence of Roman features on this site adds to the relatively scarce evidence for activity from this period in Isleham, indicating that the Roman activity recently identified at ECB 4610 to the north-west extends over a broader area, and is therefore of potential local and regional significance. The relative quantity of the pottery assemblages between this site and ECB 4610 perhaps suggests that any focus for domestic occupation lies to the north-west.

Drawing Conventions



1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Suffolk Archaeology CIC (SACIC) in January 2016 to assess the impact of the proposed development on land to the northeast of 1 Ellwoods Close, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, to any surviving heritage assets.

The project was undertaken as a requirement of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC/HET) the Archaeological Advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), by a condition on planning application 15/01017/FUL, in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework. The scope of the project was detailed in a Brief (dated 03/11/2015) produced by the archaeological adviser to the LPA, Gemma Stewart of CCC/HET (Appendix 6) and subsequently addressed within a SACIC Written Scheme of Investigation.

Suffolk Archaeology CIC were commissioned by Cocksedge Building Contractors Limited ahead of the proposed development of two residential properties with associated garages and access, located on a former arable field that is currently lying fallow. The site lies on the northern edge of modern Isleham and is bounded by a mix of hedges, stone walls and fencing. Access was gained from the end of Ellwoods Close.

2. Geology and topography

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

Bedrock geology is described as Zig Zag Chalk Formation bedrock (British Geological Survey website, 2015). No overlying superficial deposits are currently recorded.

The geology observed was a degraded chalk clunch natural, cohesive in places but with patches of softer degraded chalk.

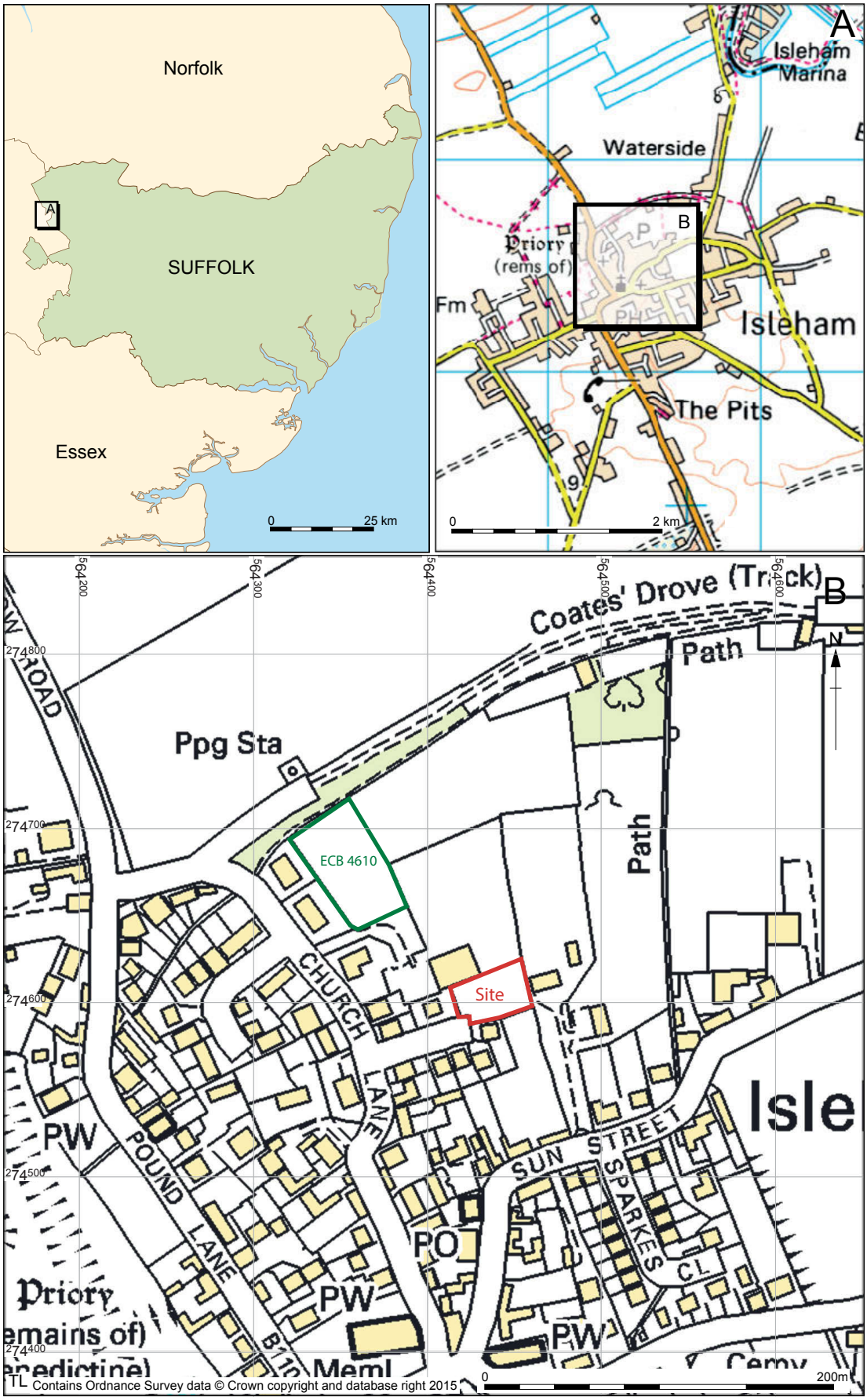


Figure 1. Location of site

3. Archaeology and historical background

A 1km radius search (site centred) of data held within the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) and supplied by Rose Karpinski (CCC/HET) was completed as part of the project Brief. The search results are summarised within their periods and in the table below (collating event, monument and building records) and are mapped in Appendix 6. The full HER search results are included in the project archive.

3.1. Prehistoric

A moderate amount of prehistoric activity was returned around the site with a possible Neolithic long barrow (MCB 12878) located 1km to the north-west, a multitude of find spots record Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age artefacts. The Ely to Isleham pipeline (ECB 2288, MCB 14003) located 700m north-west of the site revealed the presence of Early Bronze Age settlement activity within the local landscape. Two prehistoric ditches (ECB 4610) were recorded recently during a trial trench evaluation by Suffolk Archaeology, *c*.75m to the northwest.

3.2. Roman

Relatively small amounts of Roman evidence are recorded within the search radius, 500m to the south-west are the stratified Roman finds from London Lane (MCB 19744). Finds scatters at MCB 12764 and MCB 12763 (800m to the south-west) and MCB 9174 (1km to the north-west) reveal that sparse Roman activity is present in the wider area. Roman pottery of predominantly 1st to 2nd century AD date was recently recovered from the ditches of the Suffolk Archaeology trial trench evaluation 100m to the northeast (ECB 4610).

3.3. Saxon

Only two potential Saxon entries were returned within the vicinity. The first record relates to archaeological monitoring at St Andrews Close (MCB 19749), 120m to the south-west that recovered Saxon pottery sherds. The second entry comprises the find spot of a Saxon disk brooch (MCB 13744) located 950m to the west of the site.

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
ECB 4610	Prehistoric and Roman	An evaluation revealed prehistoric and Roman ditches.
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 scheduled 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

Table 1. Summary of HER entries

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 scheduled 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

3.4. Medieval, post-medieval and modern

The majority of the records returned within the search data originate from the medieval or post-medieval periods. Isleham Priory (HER No.DCB221) a Scheduled Monument dates to the 11th century and the Church of Saint Margaret of Antioch (MCB15280) both lie *c.*200m to the north-east. The 14th century Saint Andrews Church (MCB9178) located *c.*250m to the south is believed to have replaced an earlier Norman Church that may have had Anglo-Saxon origins.

The site lies to the north of the late medieval/post-medieval settlement core, represented by over 30 listed buildings, the nearest being *c.*120m to the south-west off 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. 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 (MCB19712, 19714, and 19750).

4. Methodology

4.1. Management

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

4.2. Project preparation

- An event number was obtained from the CHER (ECB 4634) and is included on all project documentation.
- An OASIS online record (236216) was initiated and key fields in details, location and creator forms completed.
- A pre-site inspection and Risk Assessment was completed.

4.3. Fieldwork

4.3.1. 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 Sam Thomas of SACIC and led by Project Officer Tim Schofield. The fieldwork began on the 18th of January 2016 and concluded on the 19th of January 2016.

4.3.2. 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.

4.3.3. Trial trenching

- Approximately 5% of the 0.11ha application was evaluated by 1.8m wide trial trenches; this amounted to *c*.30m in total (two 15m x 1.80m 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 a suitably qualified 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 1 and 2 was recorded by hand at 1:50. All excavated sections were recorded at a scale of 1:10 or 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, in order of excavation, 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 5.
- 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 (Historic England 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

5.1. Introduction

The site was easily accessible allowing the prompt excavation of the two evaluation trenches, excavated during a dry spell, to either the top of the archaeological horizon or the white chalky marl natural geology. The results have identified a series of parallel and perpendicular field sub-divisions, those with dating evidence originate from either the Roman or Anglo-Saxon period (Fig. 3). Figure 2 shows the trenches in relation to the recent program of evaluation to the north-west (ECB 4610). One posthole and a natural tree hollow were also present, a full list of contexts can be found at Appendix 1.

5.2. Trench results

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence was a dark grey brown, compact silty clay ploughsoil (1000) that was fairly uniform across site at a maximum thickness of 0.33m. This contained modern material including pottery, CBM (ceramic building material) and barbed wire. Beneath the ploughsoil was subsoil layer 1001, comprising light grey brown, compact silt and clunch that varied between 0.2m to 0.34m thick and sealed the archaeological features, no finds were present in this layer.

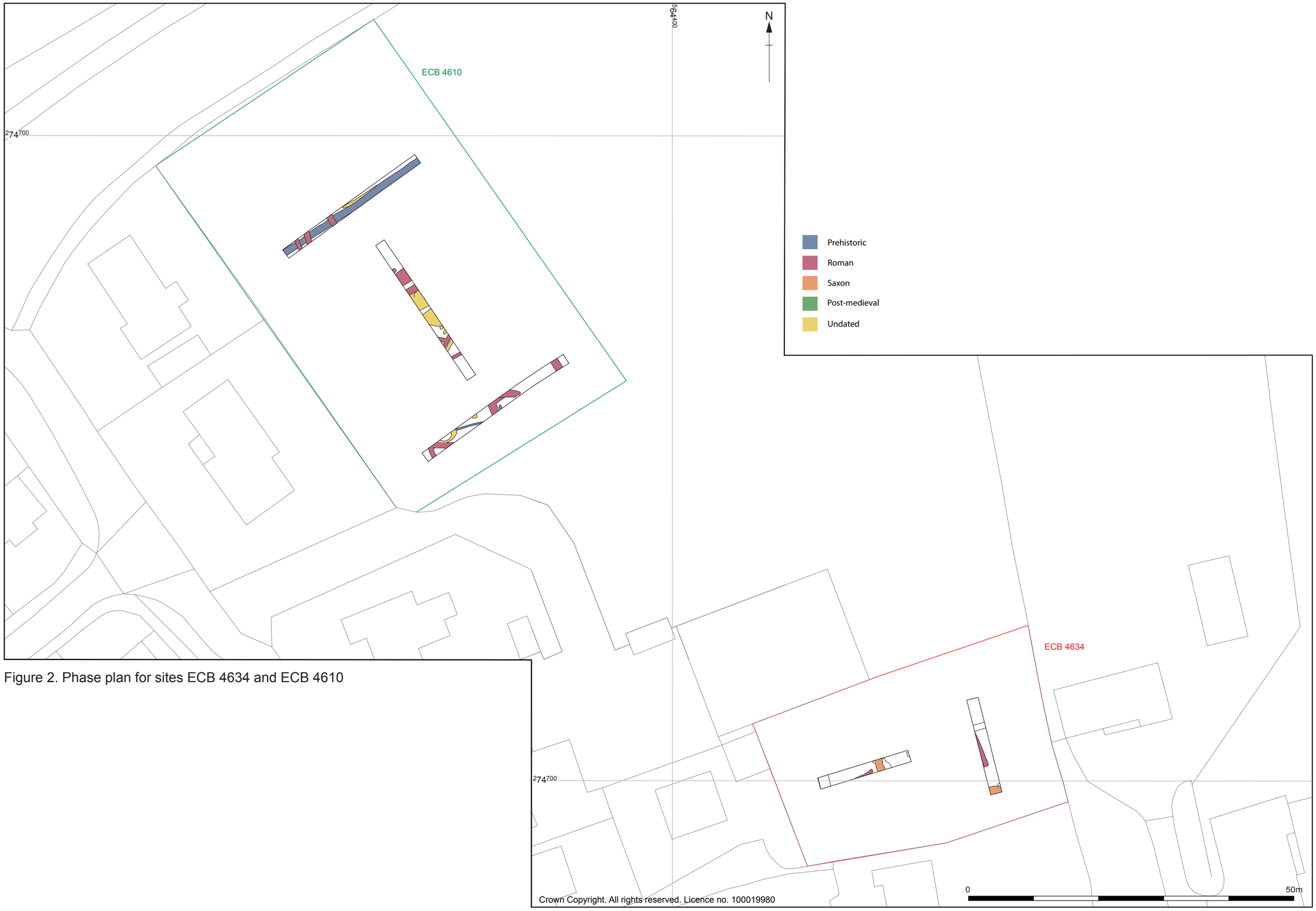


Figure 2. Phase plan for sites ECB 4634 and ECB 4610

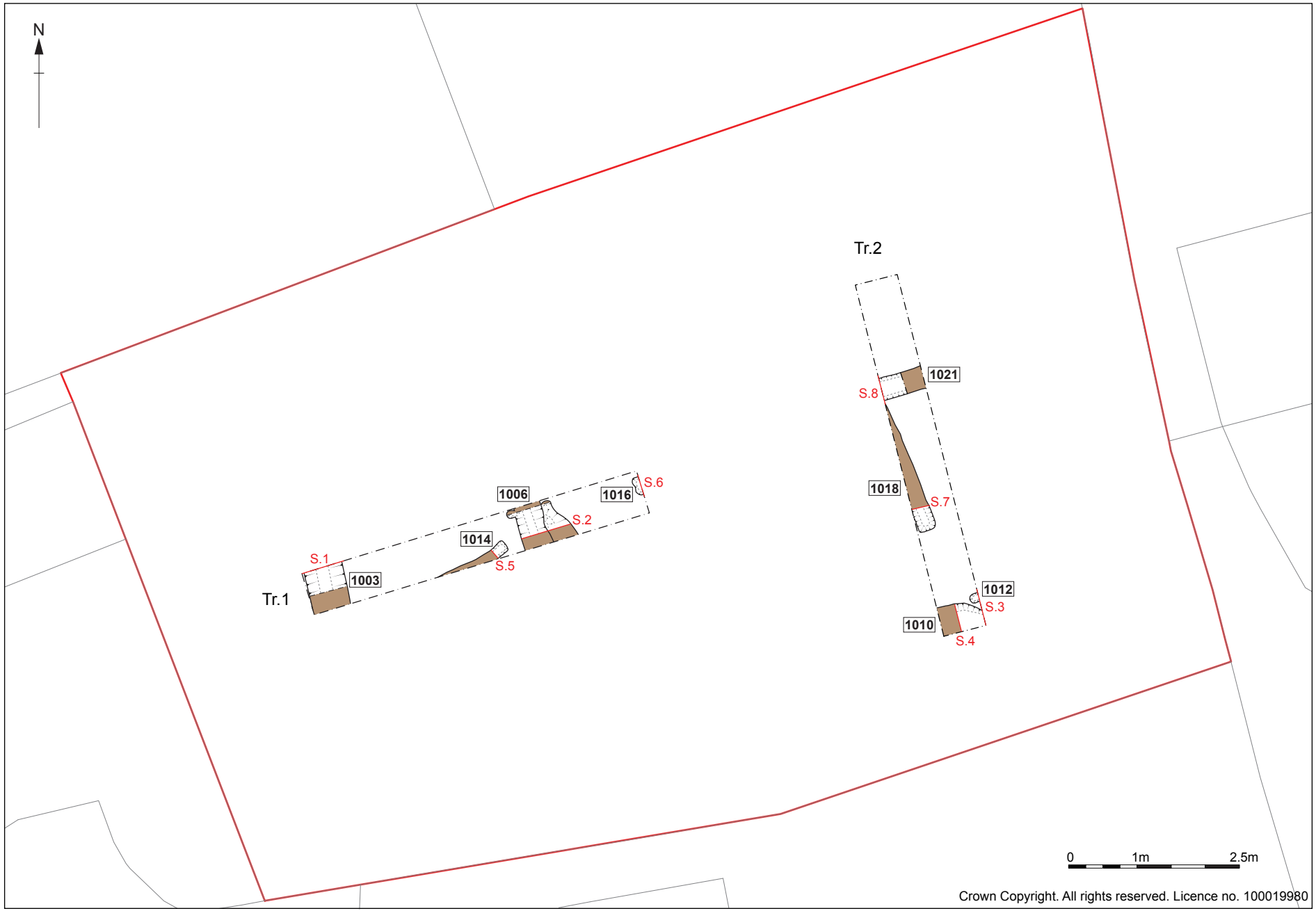


Figure 3.Trench plan

5.2.1. Trench 1

Trench 1 (Pl.1) was located at the western end of site and was orientated west-south-west to east-north-east. It was 15m in length and 1.80m wide. Ploughsoil 1000 was 0.32m thick, overlying subsoil 1001 that was observed between 0.20 and 0.25m thick. It contained three ditches, one gully and a tree hollow, the linears were aligned west-south-west to east-north-east and perpendicular.

Plate 1. Trench 1, looking northeast (2 x 1m scales)

Ditch 1003

Ditch 1003 (Pl.2) was present at the western end of Trench 1, aligned north-north-west to east-south-east, it had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It was 0.54m deep and ran beyond the bounds of the trench, two fills were contained within it.

Basal fill 1004 comprised light brown grey, firm silty sand and chalk that was present to a maximum thickness of 0.54m. Animal bone was present.

Upper fill 1005 was a light grey brown, friable sandy silt with occasional small chalk stone inclusions that was 0.28m thick in which animal bone was recovered.

Plate 2. Trench 1, ditch 1003, looking northwest (1m scale)

Gully terminus 1014

Gully terminus 1014 (Pl.3) was present in the western half of the trench aligned east-north-east to west-south-west, its 3m length ran beyond the baulk to the west-south-west, it had moderately steep sides and a flat base. It measured 0.39m in width and was recorded to a depth of 0.17m. Its Fill 1015 was a mid grey brown, friable sandy silt with occasional small chalk stone inclusions, animal bone, one sherd of possible Iron Age pottery (3g), fired clay fragments (36g) and one sherd of probable Roman tile (99g) and a smaller fragment of Imbrex (1g) were present.

Plate 3. Trench 1, gully terminus 1014, looking south (0.40m and 1m scale)

Ditch 1006

Ditch 1006 (Pl.4) is located in the western half of Trench 1, orientated north-north-west to south-south-east it was 1.18m wide and 0.61m deep and ran beyond the confines of the trench. It had moderately steep sides and a flat base and contained two fills. Ditch 1006 cut natural tree hollow 1009.

Basal fill 1007 was light brown grey, firm silty sand with frequent small chalk stone inclusions, animal bone, one sherd of Roman grey ware (3g), one unidentified sherd (1g) and a single 6th – 7th century (Anglo-Saxon) rim sherd (2g) were recovered from this context.

Upper fill 1008 light grey brown, friable silty sand with moderate chalk stone inclusions, animal bone was present.

Plate 4. Trench 1, tree hollow 1009 and ditch 1006, looking southeast (1m scale)

Tree hollow 1009

Tree hollow 1009 (Pl.4) had irregular sides and base and comprised light grey brown, firm silty clunch, containing finds of animal bone.

Ditch terminus 1016 (same as 1021)

Ditch 1016 was sub-rectangular in plan with moderately steep sides and a flat base, present to a length of 0.30m before running underneath the baulk to the north-east. Orientated east-north-east to west-south-west, it is likely to form the terminus of ditch 1021 located within Trench 2. It is also of a similar width to ditch 1021 at 0.92m and survives to a depth of 0.20m.

Its fill 1017 comprised mid grey brown, friable sandy silt and clunch, animal bone was contained within it.

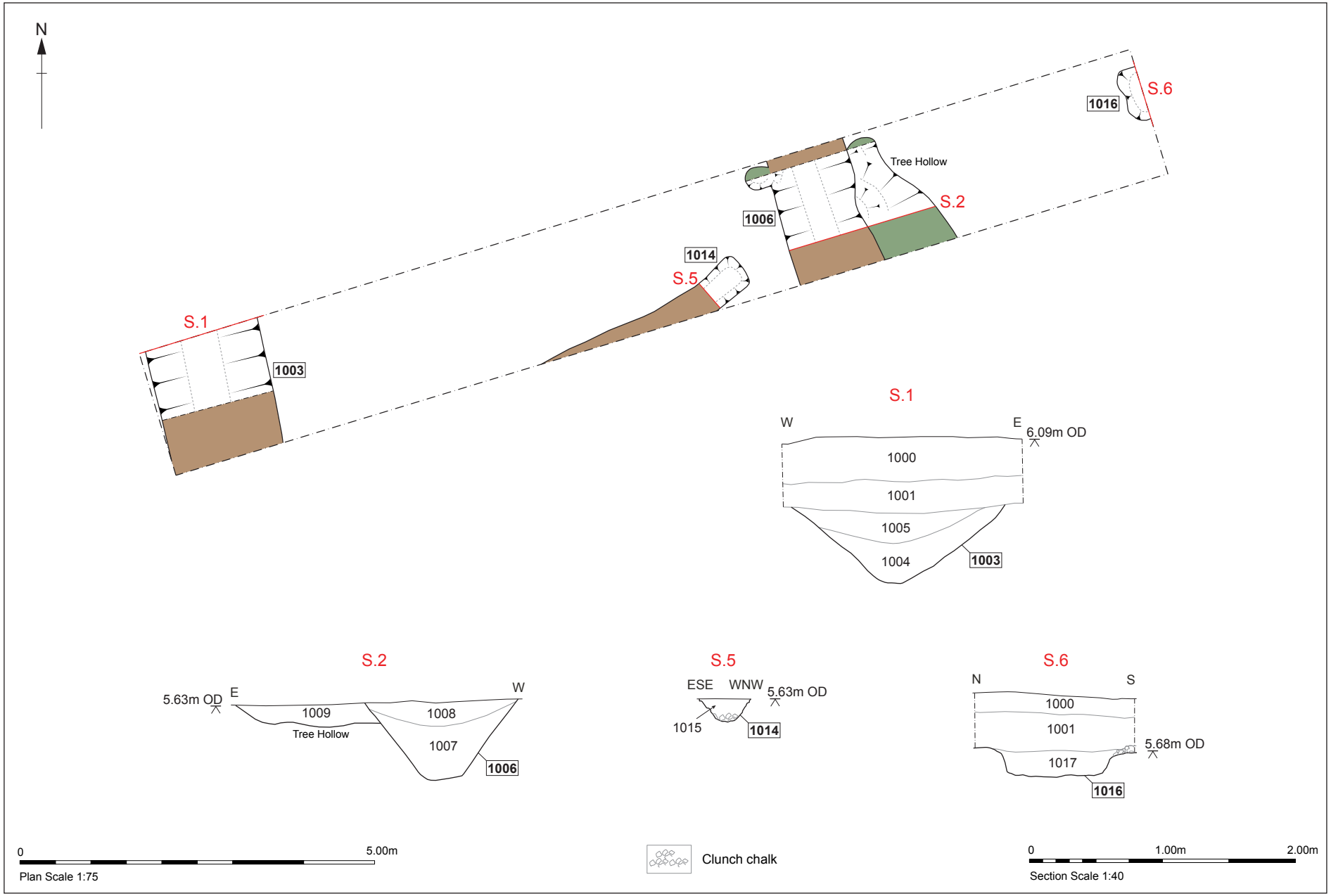


Figure 4. Trench 1, plan and sections

5.2.2. Trench 2

Trench 2 (Pl.5) was located at the eastern end of site, orientated north-north-west to east-south-east. It was 15m in length and 1.80m wide. Ploughsoil 1000 was a maximum of 0.33m thick, overlying subsoil 1001 that was present to a thickness between 0.27 and 0.36m. It contained a posthole and three ditches that were aligned west-south-west to east-north-east and perpendicular.

Plate 5. Trench 2, looking northwest (2 x 1m scale)

Ditch terminus 1010 (Pl.6)

Ditch terminus 1010 was located on the south-western end of the trench and its extent ran beyond the baulk sections (Figure 4). It was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west, had steep sloping sides and a concave base and survived to a maximum depth of 0.38m. Posthole 1012 is located within very close proximity to the north-east of the ditch terminus and therefore may be associated.

Its fill 1011 was light white grey, compact silty clunch with occasional flint stone and root inclusions. A single early to mid-Saxon sherd of pottery (32g), one potential sherd of Iron Age pottery (1g), animal bone and sixteen fragments of lavastone (48g) were present within it.

Plate 6. Trench 2, ditch terminus 1010, posthole 1012, looking northeast (1m and 0.40m scales)

Posthole 1012

This small posthole (Pl.6) was located just to the north-east of ditch terminus 1010, it is therefore potentially associated with it. It was sub-rectangular in plan and its full extent ran into the baulk to the north-east. It had vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 0.34m in length, and 0.22m in depth. Its fill 1013 comprised a mid white grey, compact silty clunch, no finds were present.

Ditch 1018

Ditch 1018 (Pl.7) terminated close to the centre of the trench before running on a north-north-westerly course beneath the baulk to the west of Trench 2. It had steep sides and a flat base (orientated north-north-west to south-south-east) was 0.72m in width and 0.36m in depth, it contained two fills.

Basal Fill 1019 was mid white grey compact silty clunch with occasional charcoal flecks and roots. A single cow tooth was present within it.

Upper Fill 1020 was mid orange grey, compact silty clay with chalk stone inclusions, a possibly burnt Roman tile (439g) medieval tile and animal bone was recovered from this context.

Plate 7. Trench 2, ditch terminus 1018, looking northwest (0.40m scale)

Ditch 1021

Ditch 1021 (Pl.8) was linear in plan, orientated east-north-east to west-south-west, it had steep sides and a flat base that ran beyond the bounds of the trench. It was 0.90m wide and 0.24m deep and is likely to be the same as ditch 1016 that terminates in Trench 1. Its Fill 1022, was a mid white grey, compact silty clunch with occasional root inclusions containing animal bone.

Plate 8. Trench 2, ditch 1021, looking southeast (0.40m scale)

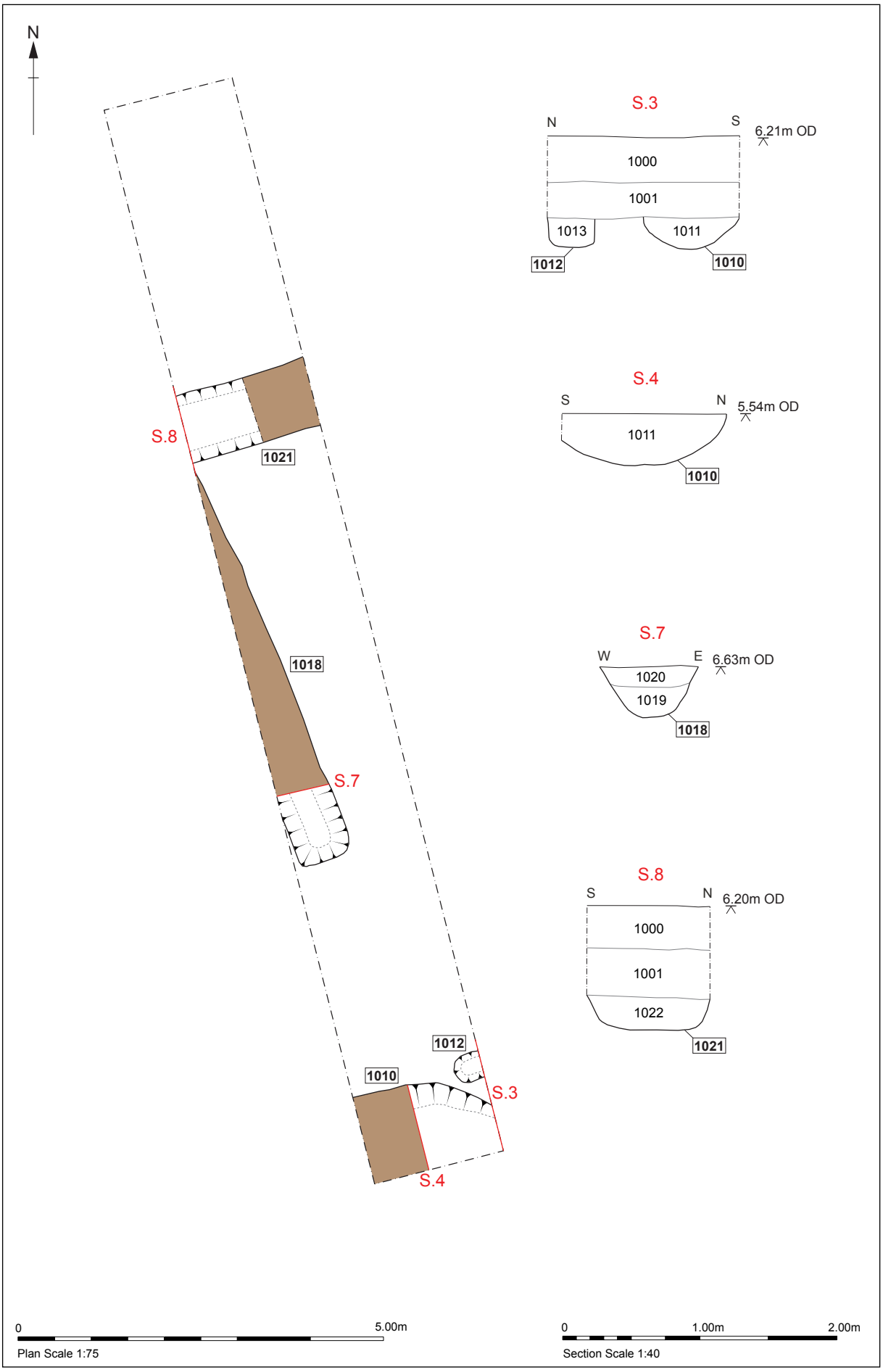


Figure 5. Trench 2, plan and sections

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin

6.1 Introduction

Bulk finds were recovered from ten contexts in two trenches. Additional material was collected through bulk samples. A summary by material type is shown below, and a full catalogue by context is shown in Appendix 2.

Finds Type	No	Wt (g)
Pottery	6	42
CBM	3	539
Fired clay	42	36
Lava quern	16	48
Heat-altered flint	1	2
Animal bone	413	793
Shell	-	5

Table 2. Finds quantities

6.2 The Pottery

Six sherds of pottery weighing 42g were collected from three contexts from Trenches 1 and 2. Table 3 shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix 3.

Description	Fabric	No	Wt/g	MNV
Unidentified handmade	UNHM	1	3	1
Unidentified flint-tempered	UNFT	1	<1	1
Roman greyware	RBGW	1	3	1
?Early Anglo-Saxon organic tempered	ESO1?	1	2	1
?Early Anglo-Saxon fine sandy	ESFS?	1	32	1
Unidentified	UNID	1	1	1
Totals		**6**	**42**	**6**

Table 3. Pottery quantification by fabric

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve), although in this group no rim was measurable. The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded. A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series. Form terminology for medieval pottery is based on MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes and the data were input directly onto an Access database.

Three sherds were recovered from ditch fill 1007, two of them from Sample <1>. They comprise an abraded body sherd of sandy greyware, a rim fragment of a jar in a black organic-tempered fabric, and a tiny sand-tempered oxidised sherd. None of the sherds is particularly diagnostic, but on balance it seems likely that the greyware is of Roman date and the organic-tempered sherd is Early Anglo-Saxon, whilst the tiny oxidised fragment remains unidentified.

Ditch fill 1011 contained a tiny sherd from Sample <2> and a larger body fragment. The small abraded sherd is in a burnt flint-tempered fabric with sparse chalk and is of prehistoric date, most likely Iron Age. The larger sherd is in a hard, fine sandy fabric and appears to have visible coils, or possibly throwing lines, on the inner surface. It appears to be burnt and is partially oxidised. It is similar to Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware, although not as smooth or compact as the typical ware, and seems more likely to be of Early Anglo-Saxon or possibly earlier date.

A single body sherd was recovered from gully fill 1015. It is in a soft, medium sandy handmade fabric with occasional ferrous inclusions, oxidised surfaces and a black core. Again it is undiagnostic but more likely to be Iron Age than Early Anglo-Saxon.

6.3 Ceramic building material

Three fragments (539g) of CBM were recovered from two contexts (Appendix 2).

A fragment of tile or brick from gully fill 1015 is in a hard medium sandy fabric with occasional flint inclusions. The base is sanded, but the upper surface has been lost and the rough upper part is covered in a thin deposit of lime mortar. It may be a fragment of Roman tile or possibly a post-medieval brick, although the latter would not normally have a reduced core. A small fine sandy flake with a smoothed surface, possibly from an imbrex, pantile or field drain, was also found.

Upper ditch fill 1020 produced a large corner fragment of a Roman tile. It is 30mm thick and in a medium sandy fabric with sparse flint, similar to the fragment from 1015. This

piece is partly reduced and may have been used to line a hearth, perhaps in the Saxon period.

6.4 Fired clay

Forty-two fragments (36g) of fired clay were found in gully fill 1015 (Appendix 2). All pieces are in a medium sandy pink fabric with coarse chalk and red clay pellet inclusions. All pieces are abraded and many small pieces were recovered from Sample <3>. Two larger, hand-collected, pieces include a lump 30+mm thick which has no wattle impressions, suggesting that the material was not used as daub. One surface shows signs of rough smoothing. The function of these fragments is unknown.

6.5 Lavastone

Sixteen fragments of lavastone weighing 48g were recovered from fill 1011 of ditch 1010. The stone is grey and vesicular, and is almost certainly from the Mayen area of the Rhineland. Some of the fragments have slight evidence of a possible surface, but no diagnostic features had survived to enable a further description or a date to be given to this material. It is probable that the fragments are from a hand-turned domestic quern.

6.6 Heat-affected flint

A single fragment of burnt flint was collected from fill 1015 of gully 1014 in Trench 1. It was found with a fragment of sandy hand-made pottery which may belong to the Iron Age and two abraded pieces of possible Roman tile. The fragment is likely to reflect general prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

6.7 Faunal remains

Laszlo Lichtenstein

6.7.1. 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. An evaluation scan was undertaken to provide details to inform the current report, to provide information for post-excavation assessment and analysis potential.

6.7.2. Methodology

All fragments of animal bone from the site were analysed using standard zooarchaeological methods, following guidelines set out by Baker and Worley (2014). Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972) and reference material from the author's vertebrate collection. Where possible, measurements were taken following Driesch (1976).

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

6.7.3. The assemblage

A total of 413 fragments was collected from the evaluation, weighing 793g (Table 3). The faunal assemblage recovered was associated with prehistoric, Roman and possible Saxon finds in small quantities. Only 9.3% of the specimens had been hand-collected during excavation and the remaining 90.7% (375 pieces) were recovered from processed environmental samples.

The state of preservation of the bone from site is generally poor; the fragmentation is high. Most of the bones show signs of fresh breaks and weathering.

Employing standard zooarchaeological procedures, 102 specimens (NISP) were identified to taxa and parts of anatomy.

The remaining elements (311 fragments) could only be categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented as follows: Large Terrestrial Mammal (LTM): cow, horse, large deer; Medium Terrestrial Mammal (MTM): sheep/goat, pig, small deer; Small Terrestrial Mammal (STM): dog, fox, hare; Very Small Terrestrial Mammal (VSTM): mouse, vole.

Context	Feature	Sample No.	Type	Weight (g)	Count	Species present	Spot date
1004	1003		Ditch	73	5	Cattle, Sheep/goat	-
1007	1006		Ditch	7	1	Sheep/goat	Sax?
1007	1006	1	Ditch	4	52	Fish, Amphibian, MTM	
1008	1006		Ditch	15	6	Cattle, Sheep/goat,	-
1009	-		Tree throw	122	1	Cattle	-
1011	1010		Ditch	148	8	Cattle, Sheep/goat, LTM	IA? Saxon?
1011	1010	2	Ditch	5	86	Chicken, Eel, Fish, Amphibian, MTM,	
1015	1014		Gully	18	2	Sheep/goat	IA? Roman
1015	1014	3	Gully	9	150	Eel, Herring, Fish, Amphibian, MTM, VSTM	
1017	1016		Ditch	8	1	LTM	-
1019	1018		Ditch	20	1	Cattle	-
1020	1018		Ditch	160	8	Cattle, Stm	Roman?
1020	1018	4	Ditch	7	87	Eel, Fish, Amphibian, LTM, MTM, STM, VSTM	-
1022	1021		Ditch	197	5	Cattle, Pig, MTM	-
Total				**793**	**413**		

Table 4. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by context, feature, type, weight and fragment count

The assemblage includes three mammals: *Bos*/cattle; Ovicaprid/sheep or goat; *Sus*/pig; one avian: *Gallus*/chicken; at least two fish: *Anguilla Anguilla*/Eel, *clupeid* (herring?) and amphibian species (Table 5).

Species	Count	Percentage
Cattle	21	20.2
Sheep/goat	7	6.7
Pig	1	1
Chicken	1	1
Eel	7	6.7
Herring	1	1
Fish	17	16.3
Amphibian	49	47.1
Sub-total	**102**	**100**
LTM	10	
MTM	32	
STM	9	
VSTM	260	
Total	**413**	

Table 5. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by species (NISP) and fragment count (including teeth)

Cattle are the most numerous taxon, being represented by twenty-one bones, followed by a lower number of sheep/goat and a single specimen of pig and chicken complete the domestic range. There are anatomical similarities between sheep and goat bones, however, the ovicaprid remains from this assemblage almost certainly came from sheep. The pig tooth was part of a mature animal.

Butchery marks were evident on some of the cattle and sheep/goat bones. Heavy chopping, associated with dismemberment, was noted on a cattle metatarsus and on sheep/goat tibia from ditch 1010, fill 1011. Most of the bone fragments from the features have been partially blackened or calcined from burning, which may have been from cooking or, in this case most possibly, from fire waste.

Canid gnawing was of low frequency, only being noted on one cattle leg bone. The presence of multiple tooth marks on this bone is an indicator that dogs were present on the site, despite none of their bones being recorded in the faunal assemblage.

No evidence of pathological signs, bone-working or other bone modification was noted.

Due to a high percentage of bone retrieval from sieved samples, the body part concentrations of very small mammal (rat, mouse), amphibian and fish remains is very high. A relatively high proportion of rodent and frog bones acts as an indicator of the general environmental background. These species would have been living on and around the site.

Ditches 1006, 1010, 1018 and gully 1015 produced twenty-three elements of fish bones which indicate at least two different species. Seven of these fragments have been identified securely amongst the remains as Eel vertebrae (*Anguilla anguilla*). At least one vertebra came from a member of the family *Clupeidae*, probably from herring. The remaining fish bones could not be identified specifically.

Fish played an important role in the diet throughout all periods and the eel bones indicate some fishing, probably at a nearby river with the use of traps. Herring was a popular fish during all ages, being the cheapest consumed in large quantities. The presence of this sea fish species indicates potential trade with the coast.

6.7.4. Discussion

The bulk of the assemblage derives primarily from domestic mammals and bird with additional freshwater and sea fish species. This gives us an insight into aspects of meat preparation and consumption, although the dating of most of the features is slightly uncertain.

The size and the nature (90.7% recovered from sieved samples) of this assemblage is not enough for conclusive analysis, but it is clear that the bone assemblage is the result of domestic and kitchen waste disposal throughout the phases.

The level of preservation and identifiability suggests that the animal bone could provide information on animal husbandry and the economy of this 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. This investigation of the animal bone assemblage has demonstrated that sampling on the site has the potential to aid the understanding of the local environment.

6.8 Shell

Very small fragments of shell were found in the environmental samples (Nos 1-4). Mussel shells were present in fill 1011, 1015 and 1020, together with very small land snails.

6.9 Plant macrofossils and other remains

Anna West

6.9.1. Introduction and methods

Four bulk samples, of 20 litres each, were taken from ditches and a gully during this evaluation. The samples were all 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 6. 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.

6.9.2. 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*

6.9.3. Results

All the flots were relatively small between 10 - 50ml. The majority of this volume consists of terrestrial snail shells; these have not been identified for the purposes of this report. Rootlet and stem fragments were also present in all the flots and are considered modern contaminants.

SS no	Context	Feature/ cut no	Feature type	Approx date of deposit	Flot contents
1	1007	1006	Ditch	Roman-Sax?	charred cereal grains ##, uncharred seeds #, charcoal +, snails +++, bone fragments +, insects #, rootlets ++
2	1011	1010	Ditch terminus	Iron Age? Saxon?	charred cereal grains ##, , uncharred seeds ###, charcoal +, snails +++, small animal/amphibian bones +, rootlets ++
3	1015	1014	Gully	Iron Age-Roman?	charred cereal grains ##, charred legumes #, un-charred seeds #, charcoal +, snails +++, small animal/amphibian bones +, insects #, rootlets +++
4	1020	1018	Ditch	Roman?	charred cereal grains ##, uncharred seeds #, snails +++, small animal/amphibian bones +, charcoal +, rootlets ++, ferrous spheroid #

Table 6. Plant macrofossils and other remains

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, are puffed, distorted and fragmented which may be the result of being exposed to high temperatures; this made identification beyond broad species difficult. Wood charcoal fragments were present within all the samples in small quantities but are generally highly comminuted and of little use for species identification or radiocarbon dating, although a small number of the larger fragments could be identified as being from ring porous species.

All four samples contain Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) caryopses in small quantities, with Barley possibly being dominant. A large number of cereal grain fragments were too distorted, abraded or fragmented to identify to species. A single Rye (*Secale cereale* L.) grain was tentatively identified within Sample 3, fill 1015 of ditch 1014. 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 pea (*Pisium sativum* L.) and a possible legume cotyledon were observed within Sample 3 from gully 1014 which 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; 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 seeds were also present in all four samples. Cleavers (*Galium aparine* L.), Fumitory (*Fumaria* sp.) and Goosefoot family (*Chenopodium* sp.) were present in small numbers within the samples with the robust seeds of Elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.) and Brambles (*Rubus* sp.) being present in larger amounts in Samples 2 to 4. Cleavers, 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. Brambles and Elder are common on rough ground and amongst hedgerows. However as all of these seeds are neither charred nor mineralised and are relatively unabraded, it is also possible that they may be intrusive within the archaeological deposits.

A single ferrous spheroid was observed within the flot material from Sample 4 from ditch

1018. All the sample residues were scanned with a magnet to recover any ferrous material but only this single specimen was recovered. Ferrous spherules are produced when molten material is expelled during hot welding and the presence of this spheroid could suggest the presence of metalworking in the vicinity, although like the organic material these small remains can easily be subject to movement through the soil by bioturbation or other processes.

Insect remains were observed within Sample 1 from ditch 1006 and Sample 3 from ditch 1014 in the form of millipede fragments and what appears to be a Click beetle. Sample 1 also contained some uncharred cereal remains, some stem fragments and a single Barley rachis fragment but like the insects these are considered modern contaminants within the archaeological deposits.

6.9.4. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

All four samples were fair to poor in terms of identifiable material. Charcoal fragments were only present in very small numbers and are 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. The ferrous spheroid suggests metalworking may have happened nearby. As the remains were so sparse though it is difficult to say anything conclusive beyond the fact that agricultural, light industrial 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 fragmented 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 and metalworking waste. Any further accompanying weed assemblage could possibly also provide useful insight into to 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

Only small quantities of datable artefacts were recovered from the evaluation, consisting of six fragments of pottery and three pieces of ceramic building material. Both the faunal remains and the plant macrofossil assemblages are, by contrast, more plentiful, but their value is restricted by the slightly equivocal dating evidence which accompanied them. However, there is positive evidence of the survival of grains, peas and pulses as well as possible metalworking activity, and the range of animal bones show evidence of butchery suggesting that they represent food waste.

Ditch 1014 in Trench 1 had a single fill 1015 which contained a sherd of possible Iron Age date and two fragments of probable Roman ceramic building material. A fragment of Roman greyware and a possible sherd of Early Anglo-Saxon ware were recovered from the basal fill 1007 of ditch 1006 in the same trench.

Fill 1011 of ditch 1010 in Trench 2 contained a tiny sherd which may belong to the Iron Age and a more substantial body sherd of Early to Middle Saxon date. An abraded and possibly burnt fragment of Roman brick/tile was found in the upper fill 1020 of ditch 1018.

Finds of prehistoric, Roman and Saxon date were recovered from this evaluation, which although present in small quantities, provide valuable evidence for the dating of the ditches and other features identified during the excavation.

7. Discussion by phase

7.1. Introduction

An intact archaeological horizon has been recorded at a depth of between 0.42 to 0.65m below the ground surface, sealed below a modern ploughsoil and an underlying subsoil layer. Archaeological features are fairly densely located within both trenches with the prehistoric (a single potential Iron Age sherd), Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods represented. The features represent a landscape previously subdivided by ditched enclosures either for keeping livestock or for arable crop cultivation, the fertile fen edge soils being suitable for both regimes. Four of the seven features contained dating evidence, but in lower concentrations than those recovered from the contexts of the recent evaluation (ECB 4610) to the north-west.

7.2. Roman

The first phase on site comprises two ditch features containing pottery and CBM that can be broadly dated to the Roman period. The environmental evidence and animal bone assemblages from these features reveal that both agricultural, light industrial and domestic activity had taken place within the vicinity. Slightly charred and butchered cattle and sheep/goat remains recovered from the Roman contexts reveal that domesticated animals were cooked and eaten along with wild species of herring and eel. The processing or storage of cereal grains, peas and pulses is also evident within the remains collected from the soil samples. Evidence of light industry from this period in the form of metalworking was also recovered from ditch 1018 in Trench 2.

7.3. Anglo-Saxon

The second phase consists of early medieval activity from two ditches containing early to mid Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds, a subsequent phase of field sub-division activity creating new boundaries after the Roman ditches had fallen out of use or silted up. These features are likely to form boundaries on the edge of the medieval settlement core which lies just to the south-west. Charred cereal grains recovered from the fills indicate that processing and storage of agricultural foodstuffs was undertaken on site. Butchered and

charred remains of domesticated animals including cattle, sheep/goat and chicken along with wild species of eel and other unidentified fish bones provide evidence of the food types consumed in the Anglo-Saxon period.

8. Conclusions

Archaeological features are fairly densely located within both trenches with the prehistoric (a single potential Iron Age sherd), Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods represented. Two main phases of archaeological activity have been identified, the first is broadly dated to the Roman period and the second is from the early to mid Anglo-Saxon period. Agricultural activity dominates both phases of activity with small enclosure ditches employed for either arable farming or animal husbandry and there is evidence of butchery, grain processing and storage and light industrial metalworking. The presence of an undiagnostic lava quern indicates that domestic activity was also undertaken on site during either the Roman or Medieval periods.

The evidence of Roman features on this site adds to the relatively scarce evidence for activity from this period in Isleham, indicating that the Roman activity recently identified at ECB 4610 to the north-west extends over a broader area, and is therefore of potential local and regional significance. The relative quantity of the pottery assemblages between this site and ECB 4610 perhaps suggests that any focus for domestic occupation lies to the north-west.

The Roman features may have the potential to answer the following regional research framework questions (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000, Medlycott 2011):

- **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.

Regional research framework questions that could be answered from further investigation of the Anglo-Saxon period include:

- **Rural Agricultural Economy.** Does the early Anglo-Saxon period show a continuity with the preceding Roman pattern of cereal production and animal husbandry.

9. Archive deposition

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 Sam Thomas and Timothy Schofield and directed by Timothy Schofield.

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 Sue Anderson (freelance), Anna West and Laszlo Lichtenstein.

The report illustrations were created by Tim Schofield and Gemma Bowen 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. Context list

Context Number	Trench	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation
1000			Ploughsoil	Layer	Dark grey brown compact silty clay with occasional angular and rounded chalk inclusions			0.40	Ploughsoil present over the entire site
1001			Subsoil	Layer	Light grey brown compact silt and clunch			0.35	Subsoil seen at varying depths across the area
1002			Natural	Layer	Light white compacted grey concrete chalk lumps				Natural geology
1003	1	1003	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan, aligned NE-SW, steep sides, flat base		1.60	0.54	Cut of undated ditch, two fills
1004	1	1003	Ditch	Basal Fill	Light brown grey, firm sandy silt and clunch, clear clarity.	1.00+	1.40	0.28	Basal fill of undated ditch
1005	1	1003	Ditch	Upper Fill	Light grey brown, friable silty sand with occasional small chalk stone inclusions, clear clarity		1.43	0.26	Upper fill of undated ditch
1006	1	1006	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan, aligned NW-SE with moderately steep sides and a flat base. Cuts tree hollow 1009		1.18	0.61	Cut of ditch, two fills, possibly Anglo-Saxon, cuts tree hollow 1009
1007	1	1006	Ditch	Basal Fill	Light brown grey, firm silty sand clunch, with frequent chalk stones, clear clarity	1m ex	1.11	0.40	Basal fill of possible Anglo-Saxon ditch
1008	1	1006	Ditch	Upper Fill	Light grey brown, friable silty sand, moderate chalk stone inclusions, clear clarity	1m ex	1.18	0.21	Upper fill of possible Anglo-Saxon ditch
1009	1	1009	Tree Hollow	Natural Hollow	Light grey brown, firm silt and clunch, clear clarity, single deposit	1.60+	0.98+	0.14	Tree hollow containing single deposit
1010	2	1010	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan aligned NE-SW with steep sides and a concave base		1.20	0.38	Cut of ?post-medieval ditch
1011	2	1010	Ditch	Only Fill	Light white grey, compact silty clunch with occasional flint stones and roots, good clarity		1.20	0.38	Single fill of ?post-medieval ditch

Context Number	Trench	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation
1012	2	1012	Posthole	Cut	Sub-rectangular in plan, vertical sides and a flat base	0.34	0.32	0.22	Posthole, undated
1013	2	1012	Posthole	Fill	Mid white grey, compact silty clunch, good clarity. Single fill	0.34	0.32	0.22	Single fill of posthole
1014	1	1014	Gully	Cut	Linear in plan, aligned NE-SW with moderately steep sides and a flat base	3.00+	0.39	0.17	Undated gully terminus
1015	1	0015	Gully	Fill	Mid grey brown, friable silty sand and chalk, with occasional charcoal flecks, clear clarity, Single fill	3.00+	0.39	0.17	Single fill of gully
1016	1	1016	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan, aligned NE-SW with moderately steep sides and a flat base	0.30+	0.92	0.20	Undated ditch terminus
1017	1	1016	Ditch	Fill	Mid grey brown, friable sandy silt and clunch, good clarity. Single fill	0.30+	0.92	0.20	Single fill of ditch
1018	2	1018	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan, aligned NE-SW, steep sides and a flat base, same as ditch 1016		0.72	0.36	Cut of undated ditch, two fills
1019	2	1018	Ditch	Basal Fill	Mid white grey, compact silty clunch with occasional charcoal flecks and roots, good clarity	1m ex	0.59	0.23	Basal fill of undated ditch
1020	2	1018	Ditch	Upper Fill	Mid orange grey, compact silt with clunch stone inclusions, good clarity		0.72	0.14	Upper fill of undated ditch
1021	2	1021	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan, aligned NE-SW with steep sides and a flat base		0.90	0.24	Medieval ditch terminus
1022	2	1021	Ditch	Fill	Mid white grey, compact silty clunch with occasional root inclusions, good clarity, single fill	1m ex	0.90	0.24	Fill of ditch terminus

Appendix 2. Bulk finds catalogue

Context No.	Sample No.	Pottery		CBM		Fired clay		Animal bone		Shell		Ceramic period	Notes
		No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
1004		0	0	0	0	0	0	5	73	0	0		
1007		1	3	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	0	6th-7th C?	
1007	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	52	4	30	1	Roman	
1008		0	0	0	0	0	0	6	15	0	0		
1009		0	0	1	18	0	0	1	122	0	0		
1011		1	31	0	0	0	0	8	148	0	0	Early to Mid Saxon?	Lava quern 16 - 48g
1011	2	1	1	46	2	0	0	86	5	82	2	?Iron Age	
1015		0	0	0	0	2	27	2	18	0	0		
1015	3	1	3	44	109	0	0	150	9	55	1	?Iron Age/Roman	Heat altered flint 1 – 2g
1017		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	0		Clinker 1 - 1g
1019		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	20	0	0		
1020		0	0	1	440	0	0	8	160	0	0		
1020	4	0	0	10	1	0	0	87	7	20	1		
1022		0	0	0	0	0	0	5	197	0	0		
Totals		**7**	**41**	**102**	**570**	**2**	**27**	**413**	**793**	**187**	**5**		

Appendix 3. Pottery, CBM and fired clay catalogues

Pottery catalogue

Context	Sample	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	Form	Rim	Abr.	Notes	Spot date
1007	1	RBGW	U	1	3			+		Rom
1007	1	UNID	U	1	1			++	tiny	?
1007		ESO1	R	1	2	JR?	EV		edge of rim lost	6th-7th c.?
1011	2	UNFT	U	1	1			++	tiny, burnt flint & chalk temp	IA?
1011		ESFS	U	1	32			+	ID uncertain, hard, fine sandy, partly oxidised - burnt? Poss throwing lines so could be Ipswich Ware?	ESax/MSax?
1015	3	UNHM	U	1	3			++	fairly soft medium sandy, sparse Fe	IA?

Ceramic building material catalogue

context	fabric	form	no	wt/g	abr	length	width	height	peg	mortar	glaze	comments	date
1015	fs	IMB?	1	1	+							thin flake, smoothed ext, could be pantile or poss pot?	Rom??
1015	msf	RBT?	1	99	+					thin on upper		burnt? upper surface lost, reduced core	Rom?
1020	msf	RBT	1	439	+			30				crater in upper surface, corner frag, patchy reduction, poss burnt	Rom

Fabrics: fs – fine sandy; msf – medium sandy with flint. Forms: IMB – imbrex; RBT – Roman tile

Fired clay catalogue

Context	Sample	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	Colour	Surface	Impressions	Abrasion	Notes
1015		msccp		2	27	pink	roughly smoothed?		+	1 lump 30+mm thick
1015	3	msccp		40	9	pink			++	

Fabric: msccp – medium sandy with chalk and clay pellets

Appendix 4. Animal bone catalogue

Context	Feature	Sample No.	No.	Wt/g	Taph-onomy	Cattle			Sheep/Goat		Pig	Bird	Fish	Herpetof	LTM	MTM	STM	VSTM		Comments
						Teeth	Bones	Age T	Teeth	Bones	Bones	Bones	All	All	All	All	All	All	Element	Butchery, Pathology, Gnawing, Sex etc.
1004	Ditch 1003		5	73	g		4												mt	
									1										m1	
1007	Ditch 1006		1	7	g				1										molar	
1007	Ditch 1006	1	52	4	p								2						ver	
														2					tb	
																4			mt-mc	
																		44	ubf	
1008	Ditch 1006		6	15			4												hco, rib	
									1	1									m1, rib	
1009	Tree throw		1	122	g		1												hum	
1011	Ditch 1010		8	148	g		1												mt	heavy cut marks on distal end, dismemberment, atm
										1									tib	heavy cut marks on shaft
															6				cev	
1011	Ditch 1010	2	86	5	p											1			ubf	
													5						ver	two vertebra eel
																2			lbf	
												1							ph4	chicken
																		62	hum,rib, tib	
														15					rib,tib, hum	
																			ubf	
1015	Gully 1014		2	18	g					2									trv, rib	
1015	Gully 1014	3	150	9	p											15			lbf,rib	
													10						ver	one eel, one herring
														12					ver,sac, hum,tib	

Context	Feature	Sample No.	No.	Wt/g	Taph-onomy	Cattle			Sheep/Goat		Pig	Bird	Fish	Herpetof	LTM	MTM	STM	VSTM		Comments
						Teeth	Bones	Age T	Teeth	Bones	Bones	Bones	All	All	All	All	All	All	Element	Butchery, Pathology, Gnawing, Sex etc.
																		113	inc,ver ,hum,sac	mouse size
																			uni	
1017	Ditch 1016		1	8	g										1				lbf	
1019	Ditch 1018		1	20	g	1													molar	
1020	Ditch 1018		8	160	g		7												cvt,rib, tib,lbf	
																	1			
1020	Ditch 1018	4	87	7	p										3				lbf	
																9			bf	
																	8		bf	
													6						cvt	four eel vertebra
														20					mol,ver, lbf	
																		41	lbf,pel	
																			uni	
1022	Ditch 1021		5	197			3												man,sca	
											1								mand+ molar	
																1			rib	

Appendix 5. OASIS Form

OASIS ID: suffolka1-236216

Project details	
Project name	Site to the north-east of 1 Ellwoods Close, Isleham
Short description of the project	On the 18th and 19th January 2016 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Suffolk Archaeology CIC on land to the northeast of 1 Ellwoods Close, Isleham, Cambridgeshire. A total area of 54m² (c.5% of the total 0.11ha site) was evaluated to assess the quantity, quality and extent of any surviving archaeological deposits within a field currently lying fallow. The evaluation revealed a former ploughsoil present to a maximum depth of 0.34m at the top of the stratigraphic sequence, which overlay a subsoil to a maximum depth of 0.52m which in turn sealed all of the archaeological features. Seven linear features aligned north-north-east to south-south-west and perpendicular, one posthole and one natural tree throw were present within the two 15m trenches. Dating evidence was sparse but the features appear to represent two phases of archaeological activity, the first broadly dating to the Roman period and the second the early to mid Anglo-Saxon period. Agricultural activity dominates both phases of activity with small enclosure ditches employed for either arable farming or animal husbandry and there is evidence of butchery, grain processing and storage and light industrial metalworking. The evidence of Roman features on this site adds to the relatively scarce evidence for activity from this period in Isleham, indicating that the Roman activity recently identified at ECB 4610 to the north-west extends over a broader area, and is therefore of potential local and regional significance. The relative quantity of the pottery assemblages between this site and ECB 4610 perhaps suggests that any focus for domestic occupation lies to the north-west.
Project dates	Start: 18-01-2016 End: 19-01-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4634 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	15/1017/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE ISLEHAM Site to the north-east of 1 Ellwoods Close, Isleham

Study area	0.11 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 6443 7460 52.344359556924 0.414154967667 52 20 39 N 000 24 50 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 4m Max: 6m

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	Timothy Schofield
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Cocksedge Building Contractors Limited

Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Physical Contents	"Environmental","Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Site to the Northeast of 1 Ellwoods Close Isleham, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Schofield, T.
Other bibliographic details	Suffolk Archaeology CIC Report No. 2016/006
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Place of issue or publication	Needham Market, Suffolk
Description	Suffolk Archaeology evaluation report

Appendix 6. Project brief

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team

Site: Site to the North East of 1 Ellwoods Close, Isleham

Planning Application: 15/01017/FUL

Company: TLC Groundworks and Construction Ltd

Location: NGR TL 6443 7460

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 The site is located in the historic village of Isleham on Zag Chalk formation geology at roughly 7m AOD.

1.2 The development area is situated 250m 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. In addition there is further evidence of Medieval and Post Medieval occupation in the vicinity (MCB18442, MCB15283).

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 two, 2 storey dwellings following the demolition of the barn.

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 in confined areas) to adequately sample the threatened available area and will excavate sufficient archaeological features 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

Historic Environment Team
Growth & Economy
Cambridgeshire County Council
SH1011 Shire Hall
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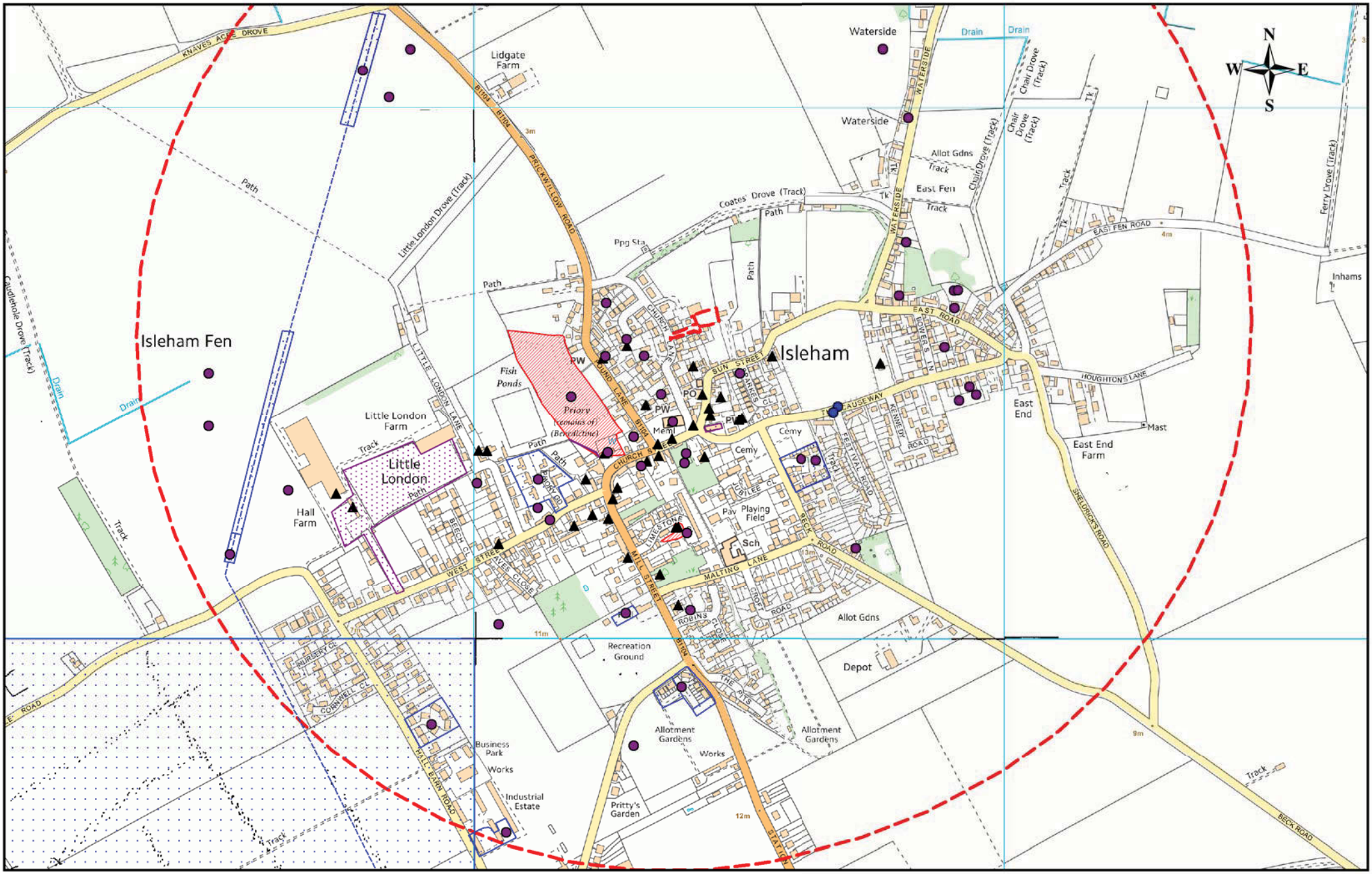
Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record

Cambridgeshire County Council



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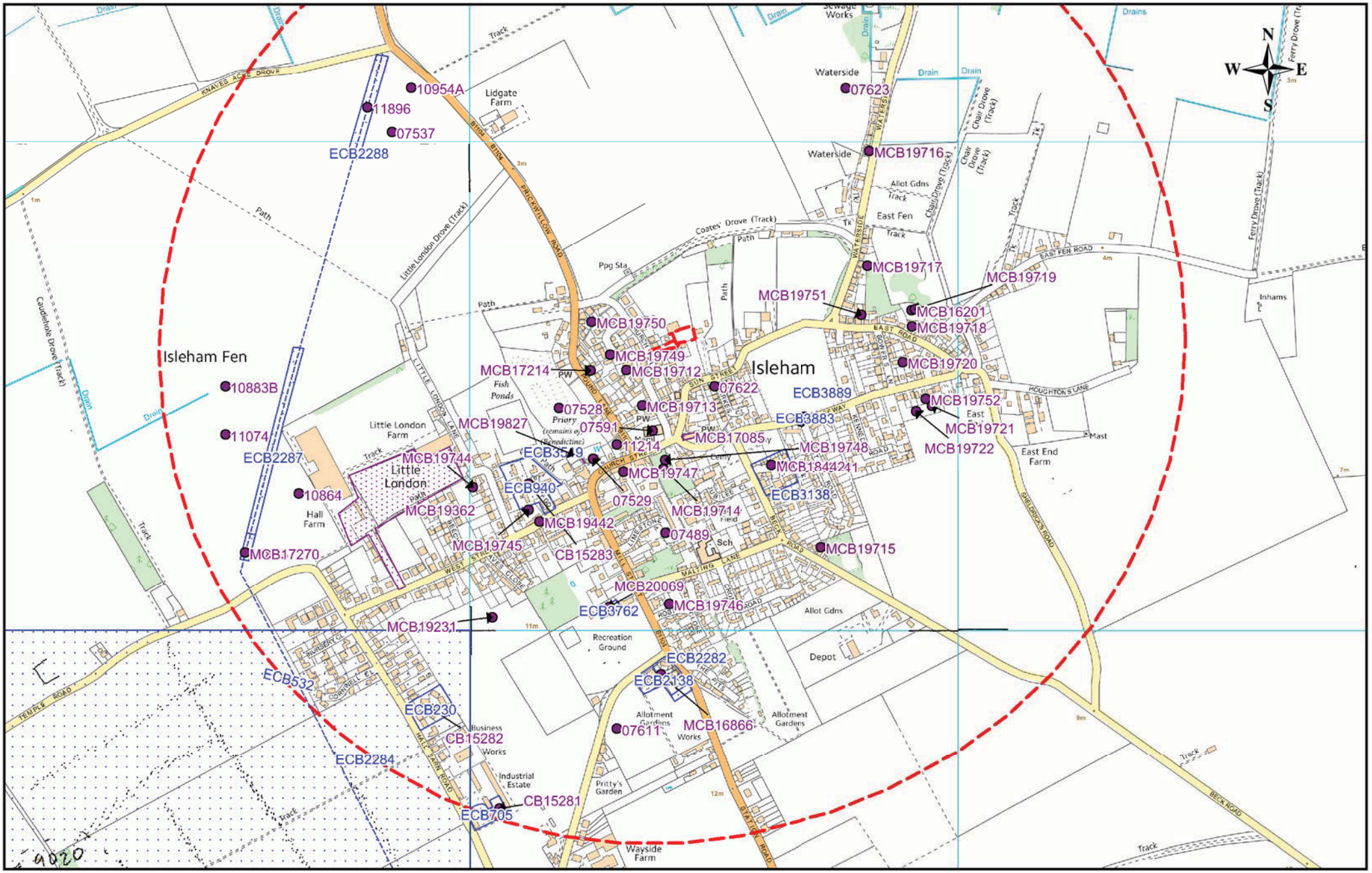
Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record

Cambridgeshire County Council



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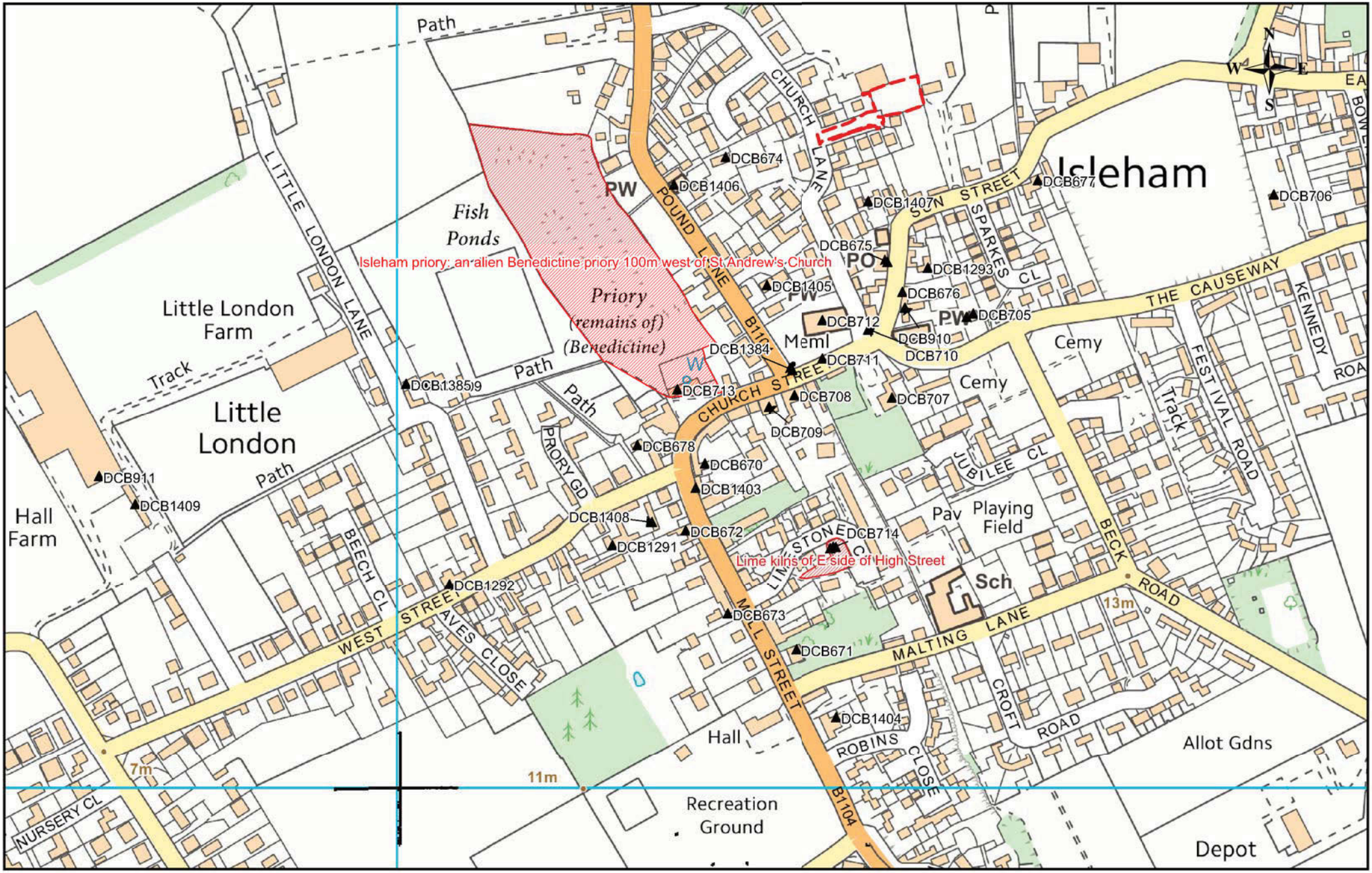
Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record

Cambridgeshire County Council



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