MIDLAND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SERVICES

In Partnership With

Contour Geophysics

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

Land Rear of 30 Church Lane
Isleham Cambridgeshire
CB7 5SQ

Grid ref: TL 6443 7463
Planning: 17/00851/FUL

Site Code: ECB5260
Oasia ID: Midlanda1-303328

Prepared For: Neil Legget

Neil Jefferson BSc (Hons)

December 2017

Specialist & Independent Buried &
Built Historic Environment Advisors to
the Construction & Property Industries

 MAS/482/17

LAND REAR OF 30 CHURCH LANE, ISLEHAM

Site Code: ECB5260
Planning Reference:17/00851/FUL
NGR: TL 6443 7463

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Contents ***Page***

Illustrations

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken on Land to the rear of 30 Church Lane, Isleham . The project was commissioned by N Leggett in order to provide information on the archaeological impact of proposed residential development at the site, in support of planning application 17/00851/FUL submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council.

The evaluation recorded 12 linear ditches and one possible quarry pit. The alignment of the features suggests at least two phases of archaeology, one dating to the Roman Period and one to the Medieval Period. The two excavations to the south and northeast of the site also contain archaeology of these periods suggesting that the site is part of a larger Roman and Medieval landscape.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken on Land rear of 30 Church Lane, Isleham . The fieldwork was carried out between the 13th and 16th of November 2017 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Midland Archaeological Services and approved by the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET).

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Midland Archaeological Services cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA: 2014).

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1, 2 and 3)

Isleham is located c.12k south east of Ely and 7km west of Mildenhall in the administrative district of East Cambridgeshire District Council. The site is located in the northern part of Isleham, 80m east of Church Lane and consists of a square piece of land c.0.22ha in size. The geology of the area is Zag Chalk formation which formed approximately 94 to 101 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period.

3.0 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The village and its surrounding environs has a diverse archaeological record spanning from the Palaeolithic to post-medieval period, much of which has been recorded over the years by chance discoveries, stray finds, research projects and during or ahead of development or re-development.

Prehistoric

Approximately 950m to the southwest of the site during an evaluation a single Mesolithic pit was recorded amongst a medieval boundary ditch and post-medieval features (MCB20930). Just north of this site a pond, post hole and gully were recorded dating to the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (MCB17270). A number of artefacts have been recovered from the search area, which include a Mesolithic Axe (07622), arrowhead, scraper (10883) and a Neolithic axe (10883A).

Bronze Age
Approximately 900m to the northwest of the site, trenching along a water pipeline recorded evidence of an early bronze age settlement. These included a post built structure, pit clusters and a number of post holes (11896). A few possible Bronze Age flakes and an Axe have also been found within the search area.

Iron Age
Just north of the site an evaluation carried out in 2015 recorded seven ditches and two pit (MCB20915). Two of the ditches date to the late Bronze age to early Iron Age and possibly form enclosure ditches close to a possible settlement. One of ditches and one of the pits contained Roman pottery and could form an enclosure ditch of field boundary. Approximately 750m south of the site an evaluation recorded pits, ditches and post holes all dating to the early Iron Age (MCB22685). Although no structures were visible on this site, the quantity of pottery recovered from this site and features suggest occupation would have been very close by.

Roman
Directly to the south of the site an evaluation in 2016 recorded two Roman ditches (MCB20917). Similar to the ditch found to the north of the site these also appear to form parts of an enclosure of field boundary. Findspots from the search area consist of a quern, brooch, spoon finger ring and other meatal object.

Saxon
Also found in the evaluation just south of the site was two Saxon ditches which could form parts of an enclosure or field boundary (MCB20918). Finds from the search area consist of pottery and a disc brooch.

Medieval
Approximately 400m to the southwest of the site is located the remains of the Iseham Priory (07529) and earthwork associated to the priory (07528). The priory was built in the 11th century, and was converted into a barn in 1914. The land to the north of the priory contains earthworks of possible fishponds, trackways, building platforms, pillow mounds and ditches (07528). An evaluation to the west of the priory and c.550m southwest of the site recorded boundary ditches, pits, cess pit, and a robber trench (CB15283).

Four evaluations between 500m and 900m to the south of the site recorded a number of ditches, pits and post holes (MCB16866, MCB18442, MCB20069, MCB23923). It is therefore likely that this area of the current village was part of a medieval settlement.

An evaluation 400m north of the site recorded medieval ditches and pits (MCB23922). Other finds form the search area consist of pottery and tiles.

Post medieval
Located c.400m to the south of the site are three post-medieval lime kilns (07489). Approximately 750m southwest of the site a windmill and pump can be seen on a 1844 map (07611). Also seen on the 1844 map and c.250 southwest of the site is a quarry (11214).

Land rear of 32-34 Church Lane (10m NW of the site) (Brook, 2017)

Five phases of archaeology were recorded in this excavation:

Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age; limited site activity associated with domestic waste disposal.

1st – 2nd Century AD; The majority of the features and finds on the site relate to an intensive phase of activity during this period. The site formed part of the agricultural field system at the edge of the former fen environment (potentially for damp grazing) associated with nearby settlement possibly located to the south. Two defined enclosures are evident dating to this phase.

3rd – 4th Century AD; This phase represents a redefinition of the site, showing a move from agriculture to potential strip quarrying. The paucity of features dating to this phase could also be explained through local environmental factors such as inundation events in the fen environment.

12th – 14th Century AD; The medieval period on the site is represented by limited activity. The expansion of the nearby Priory saw a rise in the number of buildings been constructed in the area which contemporary Quarry pit 2007 may represent in aggregate extraction.

Post-medieval; The post medieval phase on the site is characterised by the shift in the land divisions seen in previous phases, again possibly dictated by changes in the fen levels.

Site to the Northeast of 1 Ellwoods Close, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (5m south of the site) (Schofield, 2016)

Four phases of archaeology were recorded in this excavation:

Residual Romano-British finds, comprising re-used ceramic building material including floor tile, roof tile, box tile and tesserae, located in the fills of Mid-Saxon to medieval features, collectively suggest a substantial Roman structure is located in the vicinity. Intensive occupation of the site probably began in the Middle Saxon period with pottery recovered in fairly high quantities from the fills of ditches and pits. Occupation continued and increased into the Late Saxon period with a series of substantial parallel and perpendicular enclosures, some of which were recut on similar alignments. These enclosures were likely to bound areas designed for animal husbandry and crop cultivation. A series of pits were later backfilled with domestic rubbish including small finds comprising buckles, whittle-knives and fragments of antler comb.

Agricultural activity continued into the medieval period with new ditches being cut along similar alignments to the earlier field boundary arrangements and evidence of ploughing was further witnessed. Boundary ditch re-arrangement is also apparent in the medieval period with evidence of intercutting ditches. Large intercutting storage pits located inside the central enclosure ditch were later reused as receptacles for rubbish, some with multiple fills, including a tip layer of mussel shell and an articulated dog skeleton. Evidence for post-medieval and modern activity was scarce, with a series of postholes orientated on a similar alignment to the current boundary configuration and a single curvilinear gully present.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aim of this programme of work (trial trenching) was to gather information on the archaeology of the site, so that an informed recommendation could be made to the local

planning authority regarding the potential impact of development upon any archaeology within the development area.

- To evaluate the impact of past land uses and to determine the amount of truncation across the site area.
- To evaluate the impact that the proposed development, or future development will have on any remains which are present.
- To determine the presence of palaeosols and 'B' horizons and initiate a programme of environmental sampling should suitable deposits be identified.
- To establish the potential for any surviving geoarchaeological and palaeo-environmental evidence.
- To preserve any archaeological remains by record.
- To provide sufficient information to create a conservation strategy dealing with the preservation, recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost should anything be found.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

The project specification provided for the excavation of three trenches, 20m x 1.6m (Fig. 3).

All topsoil and overburden removal from trenches was carried out by mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. Trench bases and sides were then cleaned by hand to allow characterisation and where possible dating of the stratigraphic sequence.

A record of the site was compiled through plans drawn at scale 1:20 or 1:50 and sections at 1:10 or 1:20, colour digital and monochrome (35mm) photographs and individual written context records on *pro forma* recording sheets. Trenches were located by a survey grade GPS.

6.0 RESULTS

Full context descriptions are provided in Appendix A. The metal detector search across the trenches and features found no metal objects. Within the artefact characterisation only modern pottery was seen. The Natural across the entire site was a light white Chalk (001). Overlaying all the features is c.0.35m of light greyish brownish clayey silt Subsoil (102) (203) (302). Sealing the subsoil is between 0.15m and 0.35m of Dark greyish brownish clayey silt topsoil (103) (204) (303)

6.1 Trench 1 (Figs 3, 4 and 5)

Cutting the natural in this trench was 5 ditches, 2 of which were aligned NW to SE, 2 aligned E to W and one N to S. The western most of the NW to SE aligned ditches was 1.1m wide x 0.3m deep and had a sharp break of slope at top, gradual towards a concave base [100]. This contained a single mid greyish brown clayey silt (101). It is possible that this is the same as ditch [2047] in the Ellwoods excavation by Suffolk (EES), if so, then it may date to the Medieval period. The second of the ditch on the same alignment was 1.02m wide x 0.46m deep and had a sharp break of slope at top and base to a concave base [106], This contained

two fills each containing a lot of angular stones (107) and (108). It is possible that this is the same as ditch [2132] (EES), if so, then it may date to the Late Anglo-Saxon period. This ditch was covered by 0.19m of mid greyish brown clayey silt (109) possibly a result of waste material from a later ditch or nearby quarry pit.

Between ditches [100] and [106] was the only north to south aligned ditch. This was 0.7m wide x 0.2m deep with a sharp break of slope at top, gradual at base to concave base [104], and contained a single mid greyish brown clayey silt (105). Cutting this ditch and layer (109) was the western most of the east to west aligned ditches. This feature was 0.88m wide x 0.13m deep with a sharp break of slope at top and base to concave base [110] and contained a single dark greyish brown clayey silt fill (111). One piece of cow bone and two pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from this feature dating it to the Roman period. The last feature in this trench was seen in the eastern end. Only the southern half of this feature was seen within the evaluation, but its shape and fill suggest it will also form a ditch similar to [110]. From the half that was seen it appeared to have a sharp break of slope at top and base [112] and contained dark greyish brown clayey silt (113).

6.2 Trench 2 (Figs 3, 4 and 5)

Cutting the natural in the trench was 5 linear ditches, 4 of which west aligned NE to SW and 1 was aligned NW-SE. Only the terminal end of the single NW-SE aligned feature was seen within the evaluation. It was 0.56m wide x 0.1m deep with a gradual break of slope at top and base to concave base [207] and contained a single mid greyish brown clayey silt (208).

The southern most of the NW-SE aligned ditches was 3.1m wide x 0.77m deep with a sharp break of slope at top and base to concave base [200] and contained two fills (201) and (202). The upper fill contained pottery dating it to the mid 12th century and a single piece of sheep bone.

To the north of this feature is the second NE to SW aligned ditch which was 0.96m wide x 0.08m deep with gradual break of slope at top and base to concave base [205] and contained a Mid greyish brown clayey silt (206).

The two final ditches are located at the northern end of the trench, the earliest of these is 0.52m wide x 0.23m deep with gradual break of slope at top and base to concave base [210] and contained a light greyish brown clayey silt (211]. Cutting this feature was a 0.86m wide x 0.33m deep ditch with a sharp break of slope at top and base to concave base [212] and contained a mid greyish brown clayey silt (213).

6.3 Trench 3 (Figs 3, 4 and 5)

This trench contained two NW to SE aligned ditches and a possible quarry pit. Only part of the possibly quarry pit was seen within the trench but it is over 2.65m wide by 0.49m deep and had a sharp break of slope at top, gradual at base to irregular base [300]. It was filled by a mid greyish brown clayey silt (301) and containing CBM dating it to the Roman Period.

The eastern most of the two ditches was 1.6m wide x 0.3m deep with a sharp break of slope at top and base to concave base [304]. This ditch (305) contained a mid greyish brown clayey silt, along with fragments of horse bone and pottery dating it to the middle 12th century and also CBM dating to the Roman period. It is likely that the feature date to the Medieval period, the Roman CBM may possibly represent re-use of the Roman material from a nearby building.

The final feature in this trench was a 1.47m wide x 0.26m deep ditch with sharp break of slope at top and base to concave base [306]. This also contained a mid greyish brown clayey silt (307), pottery dating it to the middle 12th century, CBM dating to the roman period and also a horn core. As with the CBM found in (305), it is likely to represent the re-use of the Roman material in the Medieval period.

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The evaluation recorded 12 linear ditches and one possible quarry pit. The alignment of the features suggests at least two phases of archaeology, one dating to the Roman Period and one to the Medieval Period. The two excavations to the south and northeast of the site also contain archaeology of these periods and may suggest that the site is part of a larger Roman and Medieval landscape.

The samples taken from 4 of the medieval features suggest they form ditches surrounding pasture or paddocks. The animal found in the medieval feature; appear to back up this theory, with the majority of the bone being horse. With scant pottery evidence being recovered from the majority of the features, it suggests that occupation wasn't located on the site. It is therefore possible that not only in the Medieval period but also in the Roman period the site could have been used as pastures or paddocks, possibly on the edge of the settlement. The Roman tile found in the features could also suggest a building within the general location, possibly to the northeast of the site.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank N Leggett for commissioning this project and Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team for their support in ensuring that the project was brought to a successful conclusion.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

ALGAO (east) 2002: Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, EAA Occasional Paper 14.

Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Land rear of 30 Church Lane, Isleham , issued by CHET (Stewart 2017).

APP (2007) Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation: Archaeological Archive Forum (2007)

BGS 2017, http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html accessed October 2017

CCC 2014: Deposition of archaeological archives in Cambridgeshire.

CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists), code of conduct 2014

CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) 2014: Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists).

English Heritage (2015) Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment

Environmental Archaeology A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (Second Edition), English Heritage 2011

Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990).

Health and safety at work Act 1974.

10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: ECB5260

PLANNING APPLICATION No.:17/00851/FUL

PROJECT MANAGER: S.Williams

FIELD OFFICER: N. Jefferson

NGR: TL 6443 7463

CIVIL PARISH: Isleham

DATES OF INTERVENTION: 13th and 16th of November 2017

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: N Leggett

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION:
Midland Archaeological Services,
Old House,
59 Church Street,
Digby,
Lincolnshire,
LN4 3LZ

FINAL LOCATION:

Cambridgeshire Archives
Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: ECB5260
ACCESSION DATE: TBC

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	36
Plans at Scale 1:50	1 sheet
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	2 sheets
Black and White photographs	28 frames
Digital Photographs	28
Set of Site Notes	4

Appendix A: Context Descriptions

Context	*Interpretation*	*Description*
(001)	Natural Chalk	light white Chalk natural
[100]	Cut of ditch	Tr 1. Cut of NW-SE Linear ditch. Sharp break of slope at top and gradual at base to concave base. 1.1m wide x 0.3m deep.
(101)	Fill of ditch [100]	Mid greyish brown clayey silt 1.1m wide x 0.3m deep
(102)	Subsoil	Light greyish brownish clayey silt with few angular and rounded stone inclusions c. 0.3m deep
(103)	Topsoil	Dark greyish brownish clayey silt with common angular and rounded stone inclusions c. 0.35m deep
[104]	Cut of ditch	Tr 1. Cut of N-S Linear ditch. Sharp break of slope at top and gradual at base to concave base. 0.7m wide x 0.2m deep.
(105)	Fill of ditch [104]	Mid greyish brown clayey silt 1.1m wide x 0.3m deep
[106]	Cut of ditch	Tr 1. Cut of NW-SE Linear ditch. Sharp break of slope at top and base to concave base. 1.02m wide x 0.46m deep.
(107)	Fill of ditch [106]	Light greyish brown clayey silt with many angular stone inclusions 0.65m wide x 0.3m deep
(108)	Fill of ditch [106]	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, with few angular stone inclusions 1.02m wide x 0.16m deep
(109)	Layer	Mid greyish brown clayey silt 2.39m wide x 0.19m deep
[110]	Cut of ditch	Tr 1. Cut of W-E Linear ditch. Sharp break of slope at top and base to concave base. 0.88m wide x 0.13m deep.
(111)	Fill of ditch [110]	Dark greyish brown clayey silt 0.88m wide x 0.13m deep
[112]	Cut of ditch	Tr 1. Cut of W-E Linear ditch. Sharp break of slope at top and base to concave base. +0.57m wide x 0.13m deep.
(113)	Fill of ditch [112]	Dark greyish brown clayey silt +0.57m wide x 0.13m deep
[200]	Cut of ditch	Tr 2. Cut of SW-NE Linear ditch. Sharp break of slope at top and base to concave base. 3.1m wide x 0.77m deep.
(201)	Fill of ditch [200]	Light greyish brown clayey silt, with common angular stone inclusions 2.81m wide x 0.56m deep.
(202)	Fill of ditch [200]	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, with common angular stone inclusions 3.1m wide x 0.22m deep.
(203)	Subsoil	Light greyish brownish clayey silt with few angular and rounded stone inclusions c. 0.35m deep, Same as (102)
(204)	Topsoil	Dark greyish brownish clayey silt with common angular and rounded stone inclusions c. 0.15m deep, Same as (103)
[205]	Cut of ditch	Tr 2. Cut of SW-NE Linear ditch. gradual break of slope at top and base to concave base. 0.96m wide x 0.08m deep.
(206)	Fill of ditch [206]	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, with few angular stone inclusions 0.96m wide x 0.08m deep.
[207]	Terminal end of possible ditch	Tr 2. Cut of NW-SE Linear ditch. gradual break of slope at top and base to concave base. 0.56m wide x 0.1m deep.
(208)	Fill of [207]	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, with few angular stone inclusions 0.56m wide x 0.1m deep.
[210]	Cut of ditch	Tr 2. Cut of NW-SE Linear ditch. gradual break of slope at top and base to concave base. 0.52m wide x 0.23m deep.
(211)	Fill of [210]	Light greyish brown clayey silt, with few angular stone inclusions 0.52m wide x 0.23m deep.
[212]	Cut of ditch	Tr 2. Cut of NW-SE Linear ditch. Sharp break of slope at top and base to concave base. 0.86m wide x 0.33m deep.
(213)	Fill of [212]	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, with few angular stone inclusions . 0.86m

		wide x 0.33m deep.
[300]	Cut of pit	Tr 3. Cut of pit. Sharp break of slope at top and gradual at base to irregular base. +2.65m wide x 0.49m deep.
(301)	Fill of [300]	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, with common angular stone inclusions +2.65m wide x 0.49m deep.
(302)	Subsoil	Light greyish brownish clayey silt with few angular and rounded stone inclusions c. 0.33m deep, same as (102)
(303)	Topsoil	Dark greyish brownish clayey silt with common angular and rounded stone inclusions c. 0.15m deep, same as (103)
[304]	Cut of ditch	Tr 3. Cut of NW-SE Linear ditch. sharp break of slope at top and base to concave base. 1.6m wide x 0.3m deep.
(305)	Fill of ditch [304]	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, with common angular stone inclusions 1.6m wide x 0.3m deep.
[306]	Cut of ditch	Tr 3. Cut of NW-SE Linear ditch. sharp break of slope at top and base to concave base. 1.47m wide x 0.26m deep.
(307)	Fill of ditch [306]	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, with common angular stone inclusions 1.47m wide x 0.26m deep.

Appendix B: Colour Plates

Plate 1: Site looking east.

Plate 2: Site looking northeast.

Plate 3: Site looking east.

Plate 4: Trench 1 looking northeast.

Plate 5: Trench Two looking north.

Plate 6: Trench Three looking east.

Plate 7: [100] looking north.

Plate 8: [100] Section 8 looking north.

Plate 9: [104] looking north.

Plate 10: [104] Section 9 looking north.

Plate 11: [106[looking west.

Plate 12: [106] Section 11 looking northwest.

Plate 13: [110] looking west.

Plate 14: [110] Section 12 looking west.

Plate 15: [112] looking north.

Plate 16: [112] Section 13 looking east.

Plate 17: [200] looking northeast.

Plate 18: [200] Section 7 looking east.

Plate 19: [205] looking northeast.

Plate 20: [205] looking southwest Section 2.

Plate 21: [207] looking northwest.

Plate 22: [207] Section 3 looking northwest.

Plate 23: [210, 212] looking southwest.

Plate 24: [210, 212] Section 14 looking southwest.

Plate 25: [300] looking northwest.

Plate 26: [300] Section 5 looking north.

Plate 27: [304] looking northwest.

Plate 28: [306] looking northwest.

Plate 29: [306] Section 7 looking northwest.

APPENDIX C: The Ceramic Building Material

I.M. Rowlandson

Six fragments of ceramic building material, 381g, were presented for study. The material all appeared to be of Roman date with a fragment of a tegula tile from context 111 and an imbrex from 304. Other undiagnostic fragments were retrieved from contexts 111, 305 and 307. All material was stable and ready for museum deposition. A quantified archive has been presented below.

The ceramic building material was found in association with post Roman pottery (Blinkhorn, this volume) and no Roman pottery was recorded. Re-used Roman building material was found on the site investigated to the south of this evaluation (Williams 2017). It is highly likely that the Roman ceramic building materials from this site also represent the re-use of material taken from a Roman building somewhere nearby rather than definite evidence of a Roman activity on this site.

Building Materials & Fired Clay						
Context	Cname	Count	Weight	Action	Comments/Date	Draw?
111	TEG	1	97		TEGULA; MID RED FINE QUARTZ FABRIC; BROKEN FLANGE; TYPE UNCERTAIN; WHITE DEPOSIT WATERLOGGED?; ABRADED	No
111	RTMISC	1	51		FORM UNCERTAIN; OX/R/OX; ORANGE SANDY T=17MM	No
305	IMB	1	161		IMBREX; MID RED-BROWN; FINE RED QUARTZ; WHITE DEPOSIT WATERLOGGED?; ABRADED	No
305	RTMISC	1	15		FORM UNCERTAIN; PALE YELLOW SURFACE; VAB; ?DATE	No
305	RTMISC	1	45		FORM UNCERTAIN; SANDY HARD-FIRED ORANGE ABRADED T=22MM	No
307	RTMISC	1	12		FORM UNCERTAIN; SANDY HARD-FIRED ORANGE ABRADED	No

References

Jefferson, N., 2017, Written Scheme of Investigation: Land rear of 30 Church Lane Isleham, Cambs., Unpublished document

Appendix D: Medieval Pottery

Paul Blinkhorn

The medieval pottery assemblage comprised 5 sherds with a total weight of 87g. It was recorded using the codes and chronologies suggested by Spoerry (2016), as follows:

MEL: Medieval Ely Ware, 1150-1350. 4 sherds, 76g.
MSGW: Medieval Sandy Greyware, 1150-1500. 1 sherd, 11g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The material is mostly in good condition and appears reliably stratified.

The fabrics are typical of the region. The sherd of MEL from context (305) is from the rim of an unglazed jar, while one of those from context (307) is a large fragment of a rod handle from a jug. They are typical of the earlier products of the industry.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	MSGW		MEL		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
202	1	11			M12th C
305			1	19	M12th C
307			3	57	M12th C
Total	1	11	4	76	

Bibliography

Spoerry, P, 2016 *The Production and Distribution of Medieval Pottery in Cambridgeshire* East Anglian Archaeology **159**

Appendix E: Animal Bones

Julie Walker

Introduction

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from trial trench excavations at Isleham. The animal bones derived from linear features of Romano-British date and represented the limbs and skull elements of several taxons.

Methodology

Following a visual examination and comparison with reference texts (Schmid 1972, Hillson 1992), the **bones were assessed on a context by context basis. This took into account the species present, noting the presence of ageable, butchered, measureable and pathological elements as well as taphonomic condition of the bone.**

Results

Bone preservation was rated as good on a five point scale from very poor through to excellent. All bones exhibited minor rooting damage, and no butchery or pathology was noted on any of the bones.

The assemblage consisted mainly of horse bone; although cow and sheep were also represented. The range of bones represent the limbs and skull elements (mandibles and horncore) of the different species, although with such a low sample little firm evidence can be gathered.

Due to the fragmentation the specie of horncore could not be identified. The only agreeable bone was a fusing horse radius at c. 2 – 2.5 years.

Context	Element	Taxon	Number	Weight (g)	Comments
111	Mandible (right)	Cow	1	58g	
202	Metacarpal (left)	Sheep	1	82g	
305	Mandible (left)	Horse	1	68g	
305	Metatarsal (right)	Horse	1	116g	
305	Radius (Right)	Horse	1	441g	Distal fusing
305	Humerus	Large Mammal	1	23g	Mid Shaft only
307	Horn Core		Fragments	90g	

Table 1. Quantification of animal bone from Isleham

Hillson, S. 1992, *Mammal Bones and Teeth: an introductory guide to methods of identification*, Institute of Archaeology, London

Schmid, E. 1972, *Atlas of Animal Bones for Prehistorians, Archaeologists, and Quaternary Geologists*, Elsevier Publishing, London

Appendix F: Environmental

Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Evaluation excavations at Isleham, undertaken by Midland Archaeological Services, recorded a number of ditches of probable Medieval date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken, with five being submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed using manual water flotation/washover, with the flots being collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010) for the plant macrofossils and Kerney and Cameron (1979) and Macan (1977) for the mollusc shells. Most plant remains were charred, but a single indeterminate mineral replaced seed was noted within the assemblage from sample 1. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Cereal grains (including individual specimens of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.)) are present within all five assemblages, but most are severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of exposure to high temperatures during combustion. Only four weed seeds (namely a single specimen of corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*), small legumes (Fabaceae) and a large grass (Poaceae) fruit) are recorded within the assemblages from samples 1, 2 and 5. Samples 1 and 2 also include small pieces of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell and an elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) seed. Comminuted charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout.

Black porous and tarry residues, all of which are probably derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains), are present within all five assemblages. Other remains include fish bones/scales, mineralised faecal material, small mammal/amphibian bones and grey/white mineral concretions, with the latter being particularly abundant within the assemblage from sample 5.

Shells of terrestrial, marsh/freshwater slum and freshwater obligate snails are also present within all five samples. However, whilst some are bleached, abraded and fragmented (possibly suggesting that they are of some antiquity), others retain a high surface gloss and delicate features, which may indicate that they are intrusive within the features from which the samples were taken. Notwithstanding these issues, it would appear that all five ditches were situated within a predominantly open, grassland habitat, with the individual features possibly being slightly overgrown or partially filled with loose stones or leaf litter. The ditches may have been seasonally damp, with the composition of the assemblages from samples 3 and 5 possibly suggesting that these features were at least semi-permanently water-filled.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the paucity of anthropogenic detritus within these five assemblages may indicate that the ditches surrounded pasture or paddocks. The few remains which are recorded are probably derived from scattered or wind-dispersed refuse, all of which was accidentally incorporated within the ditch fills. The mollusc assemblage is, potentially, of note although a better understanding of the processes leading to the infilling of the ditches will be required before any analysis is recommended.

As none of the current assemblages contain sufficient material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further work is required at this stage. However, although poor, these samples do clearly illustrate that potentially important material is preserved within the archaeological horizon at Isleham. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is suggested that a comprehensive sampling strategy is discussed before the work commences.

References

Kerney, M.P. and Cameron, R.A.D., 1979 *A Field Guide to the Land Snails of Britain and North-west Europe*. Collins. London

Macan, T.T., 1977 British Fresh- and Brackish-water Gastropods: A Key *Freshwater Biological Association Special Scientific* Paper No. **13**

Stace, C., 2010 *New Flora of the British Isles*. 3rd edition. Cambridge University Press

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
cf = compare m = mineral replaced ss = sub-sample

Table 1

Sample No	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Context No.	**201**	**111**	**301**	**305**	**307**
Cereals					
Hordeum sp. (grains)	xcf	x	xcf		
Triticum sp. (grains)	xcf	xcf	x	x	
Cereal indet. (grains)	xx	x	x	x	x
Herbs					
Agrostemma githago L.		x			
Small Fabaceae indet.	x				x
Large Poaceae indet.		x			
Tree/shrub macrofossils					

Corylus avellana L.	x	x			
Sambucus nigra L.	x				
Other plant macrofossils					
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	x	x	x
Charcoal >2mm	xxx	xx	x	xx	x
Charcoal >5mm	xx	x	x		
Charcoal >10mm	x	x			
Indet. fruit stone/nutshell frag.				x	
Indet. seed	xm				
Other remains					
Black porous/tarry material	xx	x	x	x	x
Bone	x	x	x	x	x
Burnt/fired clay	x				
Fish bones/scales	xx	xx	x	x	x
Marine mollusc shell frag.		x			
Mineralised concretions	x	x		x	xxxx
Mineralised faecal material	x		x		
Small coal frags.		x	x	x	x
Small mammal/amphibian bones	x	x	x		x
Vitreous material	x	x	x		
Mollusc shells					
Woodland/shade loving species					
Aegopinella sp.		x			
Discus rotundatus			x	x	
Oxychilus sp.	x	x	x	x	x
Trichia striolata			x		
Vitrea sp.		x	x		
Open country species					
Helicella itala	xx	x		x	x
Pupilla muscorum	x	x	x	x	x
	xx	xxx	xx	xx	xx

Vallonia sp.					
V. costata	x	x	x	x	x
V. pulchella		x	x		
Vertigo pygmaea			x		
Catholic species					
Cepaea sp.					x
Cochlicopa sp.	x	x	x	x	x
Nesovitrea hammonis		x		x	
Trichia hispida group	xxx	x	xxxx	xxx	xxxx
Marsh/slum species					
Anisus leucostoma			x		x
Lymnaea sp.		x	x		x
L. glabra			xcf		
Succinea sp.			x		x
Freshwater species					
Bathyomphalus contortus			x		x
Bithynia sp.			x		
Hippeutis sp.			x		x
H. nitida		xcf	x		
H. complanata					x
Hydrobia ventrosa			x		
Pisidium sp.			x		x
Planorbis sp.					xx
P. carinatus			xcf		
P. planorbis			x	x	xx
Valvata cristata		x	x	x	x
Sample volume (litres)	**10**	**20**	**20**	**10ss**	**30**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Appendix G: Oasis

OASIS ID: midlanda1-303328

Project details

Project name	Land Rear of 30 Church Lane Isleham
Short description of the project	Trenched field evaluation prior to development.
Project dates	Start: 15-11-2017 End: 16-11-2017
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5260 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	17/00851/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE ISLEHAM Land Rear of 30 Church Lane Isleham
Postcode	CB7 5SQ
Study area	96 Hectares

Site coordinates	TL 6443 7463 52.344629052521 0.414169655231 52 20 40 N 000 24 51 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 39m Max: 40m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Midland Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Midland Archaeological Services
Project director/manager	S.L.W Williams
Project supervisor	Neil Jefferson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire Historic environment Record
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire Historic environment Record
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire Historic environment Record
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Programme of Trenched Field Evaluation at Land Rear of

	30 Church Lane Isleham
Author(s)/Editor(s)	N.Jefferson
Other bibliographic details	MAS/482/17
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	MAS
Place of issue or publication	MAS Lincolnshire
Description	Trenched field evaluation. Settlement activity represented by linear ditches, some of which contained pottery and animal bones. The site is likely to be associated with two other excavated sites to the immediate northwest and south of the site.
Entered by	Steve Williams (info@midarch.co.uk)
Entered on	10 December 2017

Figure 1 General location map

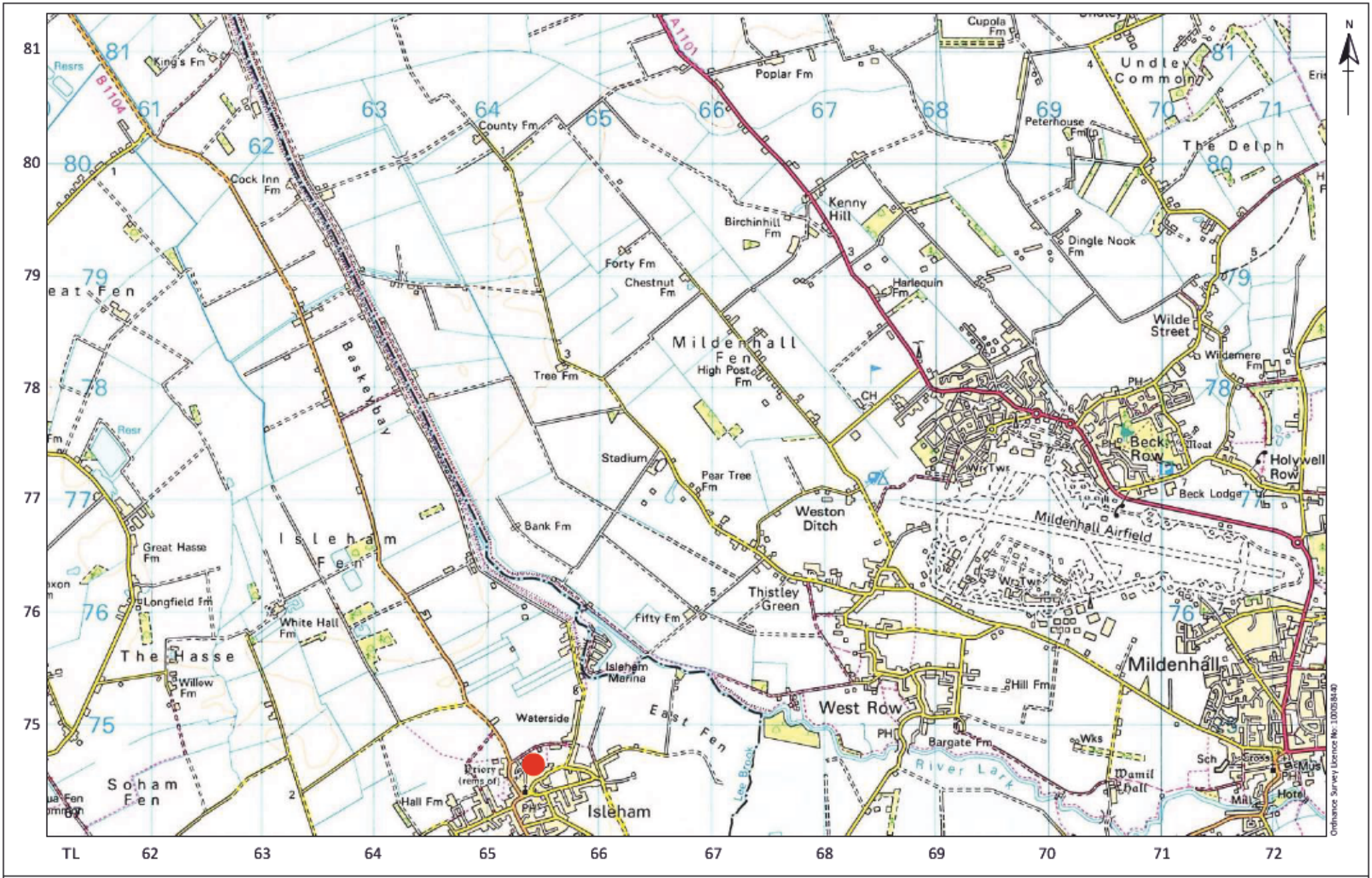

Figure 2 Site location map

Scale 1:50,000 @A4

Figure 3 Trench location plan

Scale 1:250@A3

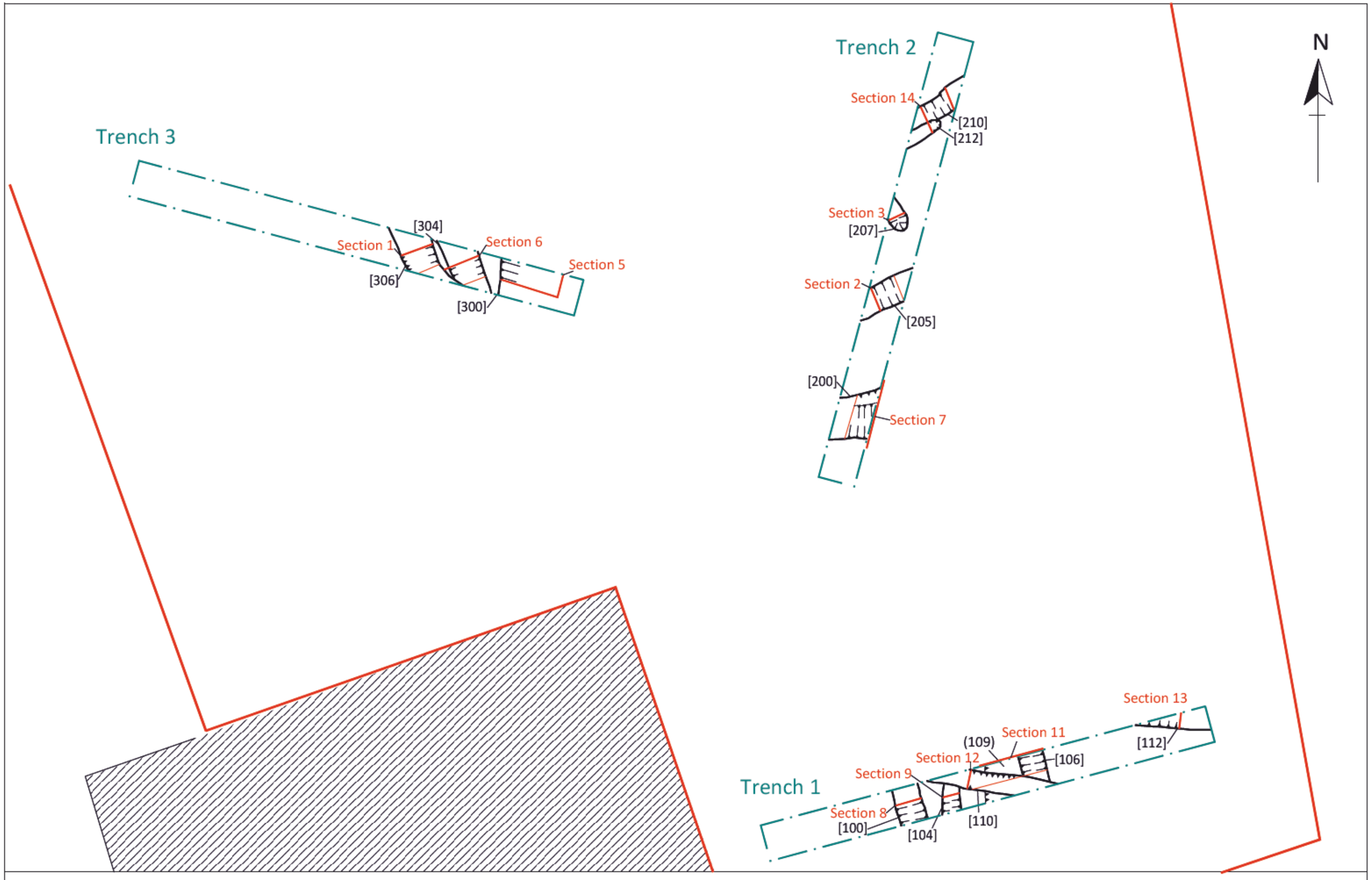

Figure 4 Trench plans

Scale 1:150@A3

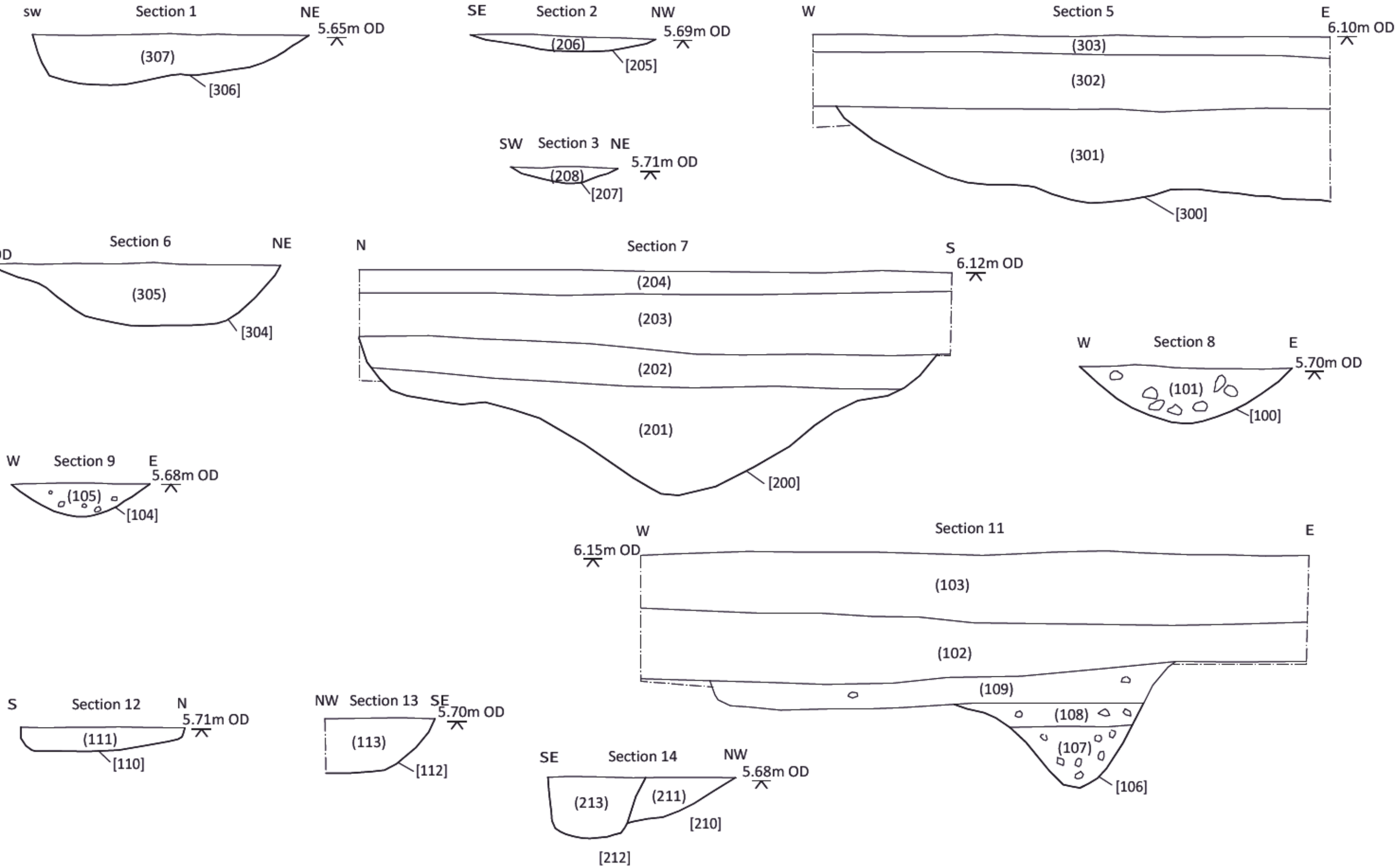

Figure 5 Section drawings

Scale: 1:20 @A3