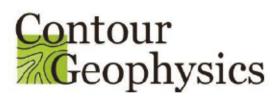


MIDLAND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

In Partnership With



AT LAND TO REAR OF 1-7 SUTTON ROAD WITCHFORD CB6 2HX

Grid ref: TL 4910 7872 Planning: 16/00849/FUM

Site Code: ECB5152 Oasia ID: Midlanda1-308189

Prepared For: A.J.Lee Developments Ltd

Neil Jefferson BSc (Hons)

January 2018

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

LAND TO THE REAR OF 1 TO 7 SUTTON ROAD, WITCHFORD

Site Code: ECB5152 Planning Reference: 16/00849/FUM NGR: TL 4910 7872

Archaeological Excavation

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SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an Archaeological Excavation undertaken on land to the rear of 1 to 7 Sutton Road, Witchford. The project was commissioned by AJ Lee Developments Ltd, in support of planning application 16/00849/FUM submitted to the Local Planning Authority,

The excavation recorded one linear ditch 3 pits/post holes all of which date to the post-medieval and modern periods

Although no dating was recovered from the furrows, their size and form may suggest that they date to the later medieval/post-medieval period.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an Archaeological Excavation undertaken on land to the rear of 1 to 7 Sutton Road, Witchford. The project was commissioned by AJ Lee Developments Ltd, in support of planning application 16/00849/FUM submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council. Fieldwork was carried out between the 11th and 14th December 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).

This initial phase of trenched evaluation (ECB 5152) recorded five linear ditches which included two sets of 'droveway' ditches of Roman date and eight medieval/post-medieval furrows.

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)

Witchford is located c. 4km southwest of Ely in the administrative district of East Cambridgeshire District Council. The development area is situated to the rear of 1 to 7 Sutton Road and comprises a sub-rectangular piece of land and trackway to the road, measuring approximately 5425sqm. The site is centred on TL 4910 7872 at c. 13m AOD on Kimmeridge Clay formation and Oadby Member geology (figs. 1, 2).

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

An 18 trench archaeological evaluation was undertaken approximately 800m to the northeast of the site, which recorded evidence of an Iron Age cemetery, and possible occupation (MCB20482). The site also yielded two lithic implements, dating to the late Mesolithic to early Neolithic period.

Roman

Fieldwalking was completed on a field just north of Sutton Road, c.250m to the north of the site during which a few sherds of Roman pottery were recovered (ECB442).

Saxon

Opposite the church in Wentworth, c.900m east of the site, an early Saxon brooch was recovered within the building rubble during construction of the foundations for a new house (05610).

Medieval

Within the same area as the Iron Age activity (MCB20482), Medieval ridge and furrow was also recorded (MCB20498). Ridge and furrow cultivation was also seen in aerial photos surrounding the village of Wentworth c.500m to the west of the site (ECB425).

Post medieval

A C16 to C17 timber framed barn can be seen c.900m to the west of the site in the village of Wentworth (DCB1259). Also within this village is Manor Farmhouse which was built in the mid C17 to C18 (DCB775).

Undated

Approximately 400m to the north of the site, a curved linear feature is visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs taken in 2013 (MCB23243). The feature possibly forms part of a large enclosure although no further cropmarks were seen.

It is possible that any significantly deep excavations throughout the site area will impact on further remains of the above periods, or possibly reveal older archaeological features, artefacts or deposits.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Midland Archaeological Services specification were to:

- To contribute to an understanding of the Romanisation of the area and examine the results in relation to the wider Roman settlement pattern in the Witchford area. To try and highlight relevant research issues within a national and/or regional research framework.
- To consider the location of the site with reference to the Roman communications network and how the trackways on the site may have linked to surrounding Roman settlements. To understand the trackways recorded within the evaluation phase within local landscape, it may be possible to use aerial photographic interpretation and/or LiDAR imagery to ascertain any alignments and/or associations with other such trackways and sites in the broader archaeological landscape. Comparison of the trackways with others in the broader landscape may perhaps show similarities in both dates and construction types. This may shed light on possible trade/infrastructure routes, both locally and on a regional/national level.
- To examine the ceramic traditions and contribute to an understanding of local and regional ceramic developments. It may be possible to compare the ceramic traditions on site with others in the locality of the site. This may allow for a comparison to be made and to ascertain to if the pottery found throughout this site is atypical of this particular site or shares a tradition with sites close to and/or further afield.

- To examine the faunal remains and the contribution the assemblage can make to our understanding of animal husbandry practices for this area. To understand the contribution of animal husbandry across the site and the wider landscape, it is doubtful that a large enough assemblage could be retrieved from the anticipated features on-site. That being said, it may be possible to quantify the most prominent animal on the site.
- To examine the available evidence for settlement and occupation, including character, extent, morphology, diet, economy and environment and place the results within their local and broader landscape context. It may be possible to compare the site with others both close and further afield, by comparing the morphology of the features encountered and the artefacts retrievd.
- The aim of this programme of work (excavation) is to gather information on the likely extent
 of the archaeology throughout the site area, to gather information so that an informed
 recommendation can be made to the local planning authority regarding the potential impact
 of development upon any archaeology within the development area.
- 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 significant archaeological features, working practices, timetables and orders of cost should anything be found.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

The site area was located to target two intersecting Roman trackways recorded during the initial evaluation phase and believed to intersect to the north of the development area and the recorded medieval/post-medieval plough furrows. The area to be investigated 21 x 27m (220m cubed) was determined by CHET (fig.3)

All topsoil and overburden removal from the area which 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. Fig. 3 depicts an overall plan of the site so that features can be easily related to each other. The metal detector search across the trenches and features found no metal objects. Within the artefact characterisation only modern pottery was seen.

6.1 Excavation Area

The earliest deposits comprised of a mid orange clay natural (002). Cutting the natural was three round pits/post holes located between two furrows in the northern part of the area. The most northern of theses is 0.48m wide x c. 0.05m deep, with a sharp break of slope at top, gradual at base with a concave base [102]. This was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay (103) and contained a single piece of modern pottery. Directly to the south of this was the second pit/post hole which was 0.32m wide x 0.10m deep with a sharp break of slope at top, gradual at base with a concave base [100], and contained mid greyish brown silty clay (101). To the west of this was the final pit/post hole which was 0.43m wide x c. 0.11m deep with a sharp break of slope at top, gradual at base with a concave base [104]. This was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay (105) and contained a single piece of L16th century pottery. To the west of this feature is a 0.71m wide x c. 0.10m deep north to south aligned linear ditch with a sharp break of slope at top, gradual at base with a concave base [106]. This contained a mid greyish brown silty clay (107)/(108) and two pieces of 18th century pottery. Cutting the ditch is a 2.08m wide x 0.28m deep north to south aligned furrow with a gradual break of slope at top and at base to a concave base [109] and contained a dark grevish brown silty clay (110). This and all the features were overlain by c.0.3m of dark greyish-brown silty clay topsoil (001).

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The excavation recorded one linear ditch 3 pits/post holes all of which date to the post-medieval and modern periods. It is likely that all the pits/post holes date to the same period, possibly with the later modern pottery introduced by animal action. There location between the furrows could suggest that they date to a similar period and with the L16th century pottery being found in one of the pits they could form a small shelter or pen on the edge of the post-medieval field.

The trackways found in the evaluation were not visible in the excavation, therefore, the initial research priorities for this programme of excavation are no longer valid. This being said, a geophysical survey was undertaken on the site after the excavation area was opened up and could suggests an alternate route for the trackway (Appendix C). Results in the survey, although faint, suggest that the trackway may cut across the site below the excavation area. Therefore, forming the north-western and parts of the north-eastern and western boundaries of a field boundary with the trackway along its boundary. Its shape is not characteristics of the roman period possibly suggesting landscape features or other reasons for its shape, e.g. to avoid a wooded area.

Although no dating was recovered from the furrows, their size and form may suggest that they date to the later medieval/post-medieval period.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: ECB5152

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 16/00849/FUM

PROJECT MANAGER: S. Williams

FIELD OFFICER: N. Jefferson

NGR: TL 4910 7872

CIVIL PARISH: Witchford

DATES OF INTERVENTION: 11th and 14th December 2017

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Excavation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: AJ Lee Developments Ltd

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.: ECB5152

ACCESSION DATE: TBC

Set of Site Notes

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	13
Plans at Scale 1:50	1 sheet
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	2 sheets
Black and White photographs	14 frames
Digital Photographs	14

4

Appendix A: Context Descriptions

Context	Interpretation	Description
(001)	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay 0.2m-0.3m deep
(002)	Natural Clay	Mid orange clay >0.3m deep
[100]	Cut of pit/post hole	Cut of round pit/ post hole. Sharp break of slope at top, gradual at base
		to concave base. 0.32m wide x c. 0.10m deep.
(101)	Fill of [100]	Mid greyish brown silty clay with some rounded stones and flint
		inclusions 0.32m wide x 0.10m deep
[102]	Cut of pit/post hole	Cut of round pit/ post hole. Sharp break of slope at top, gradual at base
		to concave base. 0.48m wide x c. 0.05m deep.
(103)	Fill of [102]	Mid greyish brown silty clay with some rounded stones and flint
		inclusions 0.48m wide x c. 0.05m deep.
[104]	Cut of pit/post hole	Cut of round pit/ post hole. Sharp break of slope at top, gradual at base
		to concave base. 0.43m wide x c. 0.11m deep.
(105)	Fill of [104]	Mid greyish brown silty clay with some rounded stones and flint
		inclusions 0.43m wide x c. 0.11m deep.
[106]	Cut of ditch	Cut of North-south Linear ditch. Sharp break of slope at top, gradual at
		base to concave base. 0.71m wide x c. 0.10m deep
(107)	Fill of [106]	Mid greyish brown silty clay with some rounded stones and flint
		inclusions 0.71m wide x 0.10m deep
(108)	Fill of [106]	Mid greyish brown silty clay with some rounded stones and flint
		inclusions 0.68m wide x 0.10m deep
[109]	Cut of Furrow	Cut of north to south furrow. gradual break of slope at top and at base
		to concave base. 2.08m wide x 0.28m deep
[014]	Cut of ditch	Dark greyish brown silty clay with some rounded stones and flint
	Feature 6 (F.6)	inclusions 2.08m wide x 0.28m deep



Appendix B: Colour Plates

Plate 1: General site vie looking north.



Plate 2: Working Shot looking southwest.



Plate 3: [100] looking south.



Plate 4: [102] looking south.



Plate 5: [104] looking south.



Plate 6: [106] looking south.



Plate 7: [106] looking south.



Plate 8: [108] looking north.



Plate 9: [106] vertical shot.

Appendix C: Pottery

Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 4 sherds with a total weight of 80g. It is all post-medieval or modern. The following wares were noted:

- MB: Midland Blackware, AD 1580-1700. (Brears 1969) 1 sherd, 29g.
- ND: Nottingham/Derby Stoneware, 18th 19th century. 1sherd, 21g.
- MOD: Miscellaneous 19th and 20th century wares. 1 sherd, 5g.

TGE: Anglo-Dutch Tin-glazed Earthenware, 17th – 18th century (Orton 1988). 1 sherd, 25g.

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 range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. Most of the sherds are fairly large and in good condition, and appear to be reliably stratified

	N	1B	т	GE	N	D	M	OD	
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
103							1	5	MOD
105	1	29							L16thC
107			1	25	1	21			18thC
Total	1	29	1	25	1	21	1	5	

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

Bibliography

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Orton, C, 1988 Post-Roman Pottery in P Hinton (ed.) *Excavations in Southwark 1973-76 and Lambeth !973-79.* MoLAS and DGLA Joint Publication 3, 295-364

Appendix D: Geophysical Survey

Neil Jefferson

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1. SUMMARY

A detailed magnetic gradiometer survey was undertaken for AJ Lee Developments Ltd, in connection with a proposed development on Land to the rear of 1 to 7 Sutton Road, Witchford, Cambridgeshire. The survey totalled c. 0.65ha.

The survey recorded eight possible linear features, which could form evidence of trackways and/or field boundaries, and ridge and furrow cultivation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

Geophysical survey is a non-intrusive method of archaeological evaluation. Evaluation is defined as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (CIfA 2014a).

2.2 Background

Contour Geophysics was commissioned by AJ Lee Developments Ltd to undertake a detailed magnetometer survey totalling some c. 0.65ha on Land to the rear of 1 to 7 Sutton Road, Witchford, Cambridgeshire. The development area comprises a rectangular area approximately 0.65ha in size, centred on TL 4910 7872. The survey was carried out on the 13th December 2017.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Witchford is located c. 4km southwest of Ely in the administrative district of East Cambridgeshire District Council. The development area is situated to the rear of 1 to 7 Sutton Road and comprises a sub-rectangular piece of land and trackway to the road, measuring approximately 5425sqm. The site is centred on TL 4910 7872 at c. 13m AOD on Kimmeridge Clay formation and Oadby Member geology.

3. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

3.1 Methods

The site at the time of the survey was under cultivation and appeared to have been untouched after the last harvest. The weather was overcast and the overall conditions for the survey were good.

The survey was undertaken in accordance with English Heritage (2008) and CIfA (2014b) guidelines and codes of conduct.

The magnetic survey was carried out using a dual sensor Grad601-2 Magnetic Gradiometer manufactured by Bartington Instruments Ltd. This records subtle changes in the magnetic field resulting from differing features in the soil. Changes as small as 0.2 nanoTesla (nT) in an overall field strength of c. 49,000nT can be accurately detected using this instrumentation, although in practice instrument interference and soil noise can limit sensitivity.

The mapping of anomalies in a systematic manner allows interpretation of the type of material present beneath the surface. Strong magnetic anomalies are generated by buried iron-based objects or by kilns or hearths, usually resulting in a bipolar (positive/negative) response. More subtle positive anomalies representing pits and ditches can be seen where these contain more topsoil which is normally richer in magnetic iron oxides and provides a contrast with the natural subsoil (but this can vary depending on the nature of the underlying deposits). A negative anomaly may result from upcast bank material. Wall foundations can also show as negative anomalies where the stone is less magnetic than the surrounding soil, or as stronger positive and negative anomalies if of brick, but are not always responsive to the technique. It should be noted that not all features will be responsive and absence of anomalies does not necessarily indicate absence of archaeological features (Clark 1996).

Magnetometers measure changes in the Earth's magnetic field. With two sensors configured as a gradiometer the recorded values indicate the difference between two magnetic measurements separated by a fixed distance. The Grad601-2 consists of two high stability fluxgate gradiometers suspended on a single frame with a 1m separation between the sensing elements giving a strong response to deep anomalies.

Sampling interval and data capture

Readings were taken at 0.25m centres along traverses 1m apart. This equates to 3600 sampling points in a full 30m x 30m grid. The Grad 601 has a typical depth of penetration of 0.5m to 1.0m although a greater range is possible where strongly magnetic objects have been buried in the site.

Readings are logged consecutively into the data logger which is downloaded daily either into a portable computer whilst on site or directly to the office computer. At the end of each survey, data is transferred to the office for processing and presentation.

Processing and presentation of results

Processing is performed using specialist TerraSurveyor software. This can emphasise various aspects contained within the data but which are often not easily seen in the raw data. Basic processing of the magnetic data involves flattening the background levels with respect to adjacent traverses and adjacent grids (Destripe or zero mean traverse). Despiking is also performed to reduce the effect of the anomalies resulting from small iron objects often found on agricultural land. Further processing can then be carried out if necessary.

The following are the processing techniques carried out on the processed gradiometer data used in this report:

1. DeStripe (sets the background mean of each traverse within a grid to zero and is useful for removing striping effects)

2. Despike (useful for display and allows further processing functions to be carried out more effectively by removing extreme data values)

Parameters: X radius = 1; Y radius = 1; Threshold = 3SD; Spike replacement = mean

3. Clip (excludes extreme values allowing better representation of detail in the midrange): -2 to 2nT.

3.2 Results

The presentation of the data for the site includes a print-out of the raw or minimally processed data as greyscale plots (Fig. 4; clipped for display but otherwise unprocessed), together with greyscale plots of the processed data (Fig. 5). Magnetic anomalies have been identified and plotted onto an interpretative drawing (Fig. 6) and are described below.

Positive linear anomalies (Pink Lines)

Eight positive anomalies of possible archaeological origin have been identified, three of which gave very weak readings and are dashed on the plan (Fig 6). Six of these linear anomalies could form a trackway or shifting field boundry which was seen in a trenched evaluation which dates to the Roman period. The final two anomalies may form a single northwest to southeast ditch which was also seen in the evaluation and dates to the Roman period.

Furrows: Agricultural features (Green Lines)

A series of parallel linear responses, aligned northeast to southwest, occurs across the site. These are likely to form evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation dating to the post medieval periods.

4. DISCUSSION

The survey recorded eight possible linear features, which could form evidence of trackway and/or field boundaries dating to the Roman period. It is likely the proposed trackway is the same as the ones found in the trenched evaluation, if so they appear to turn and also possibly form the north-western and parts of the north-eastern and western boundary's of a field. Field systems and trackway dating to the Roman period normally are more regular in shape with rectangular field system. It is difficult to suggest why these are more irregular, but they could be avoiding wooded area of a problem area in the field.

Other features seen on the survey possibly form agricultural features such as ridge and furrow cultivatio.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Contour Geophysics wishes to acknowledge AJ Lee Developments Ltd who allowed this programme of geophysical survey to be undertaken and also Midland Archaeological Services for provision of archaeological data relating to the site.

6. PERSONNEL

Project coordinator: Neil Jefferson Geophysical Survey: Neil Jefferson Survey processing and reporting: Neil Jefferson

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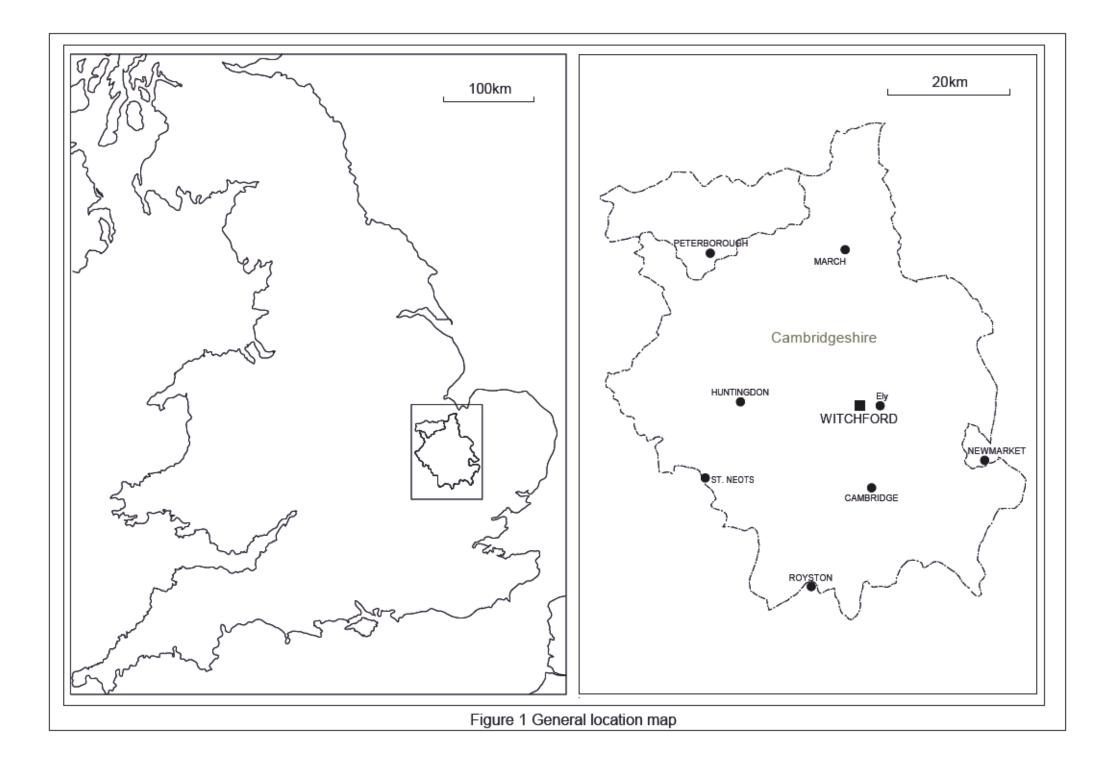
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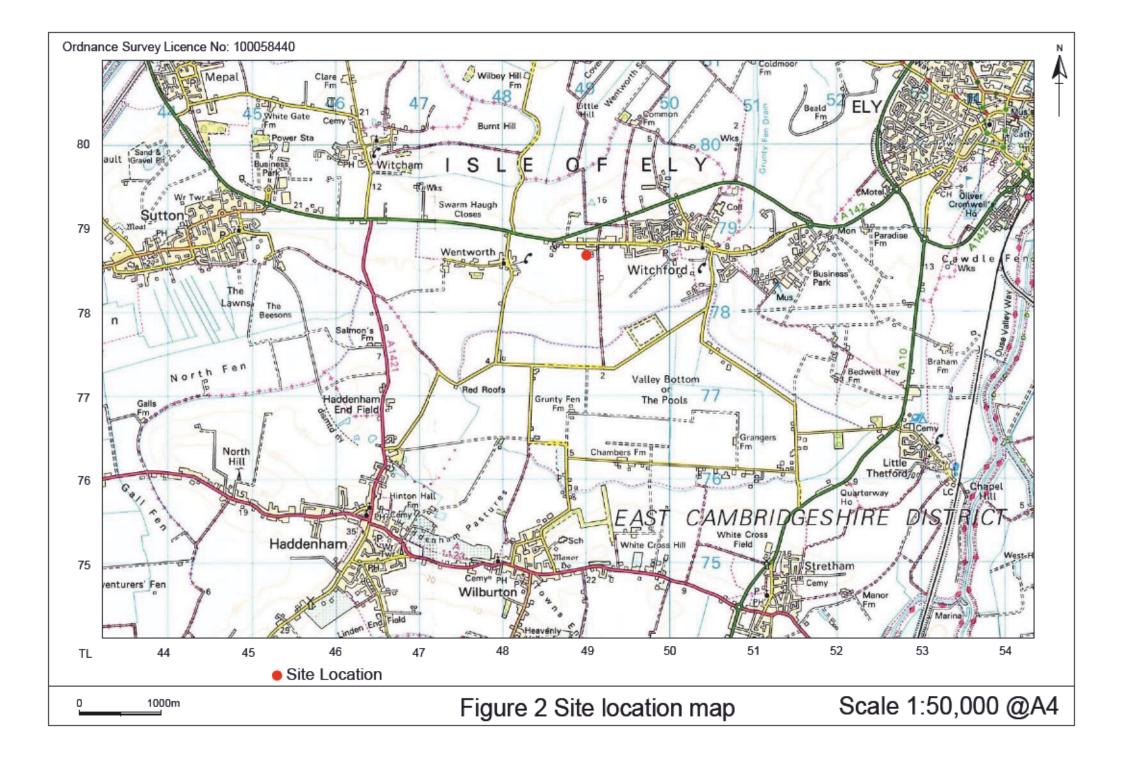
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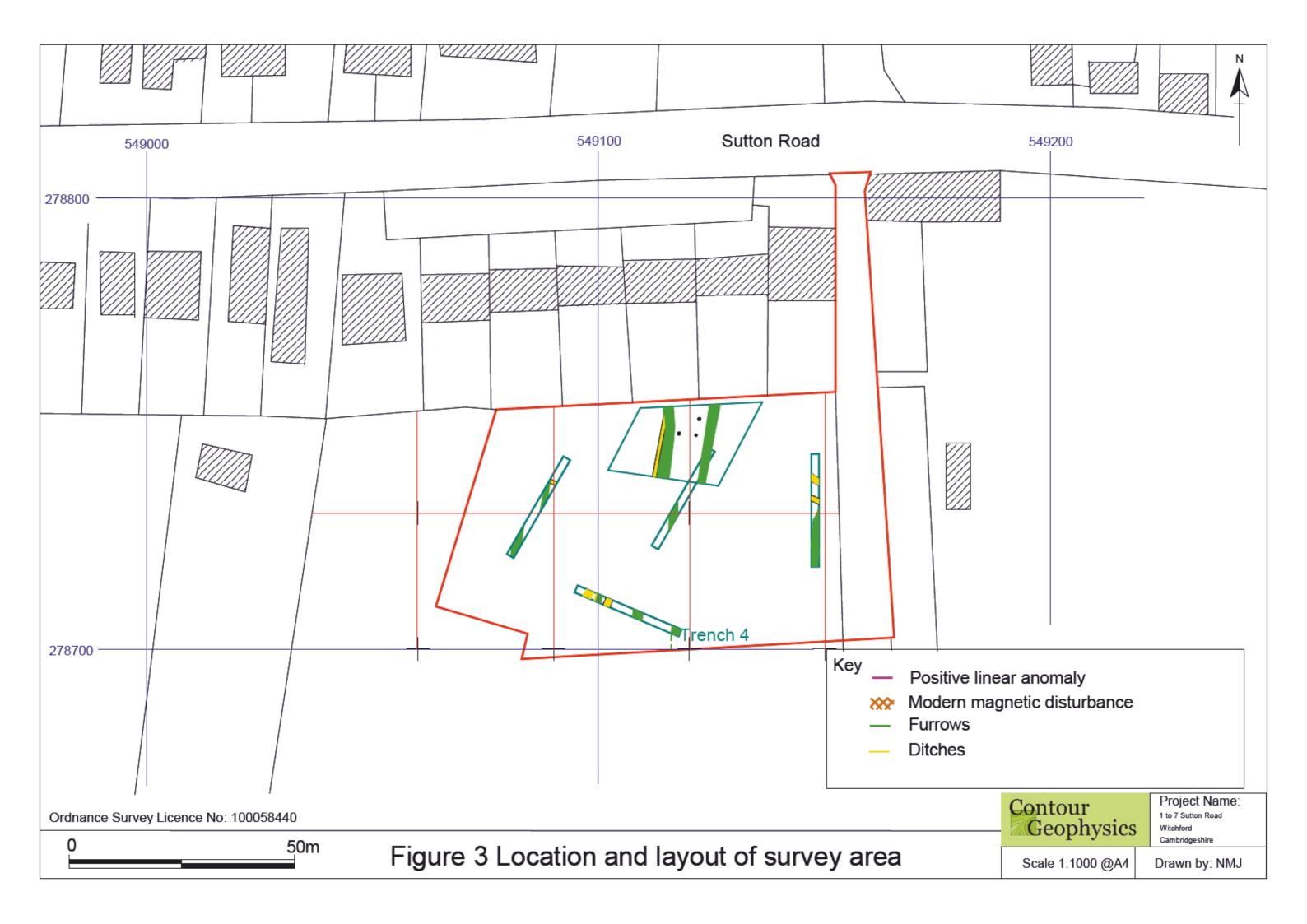
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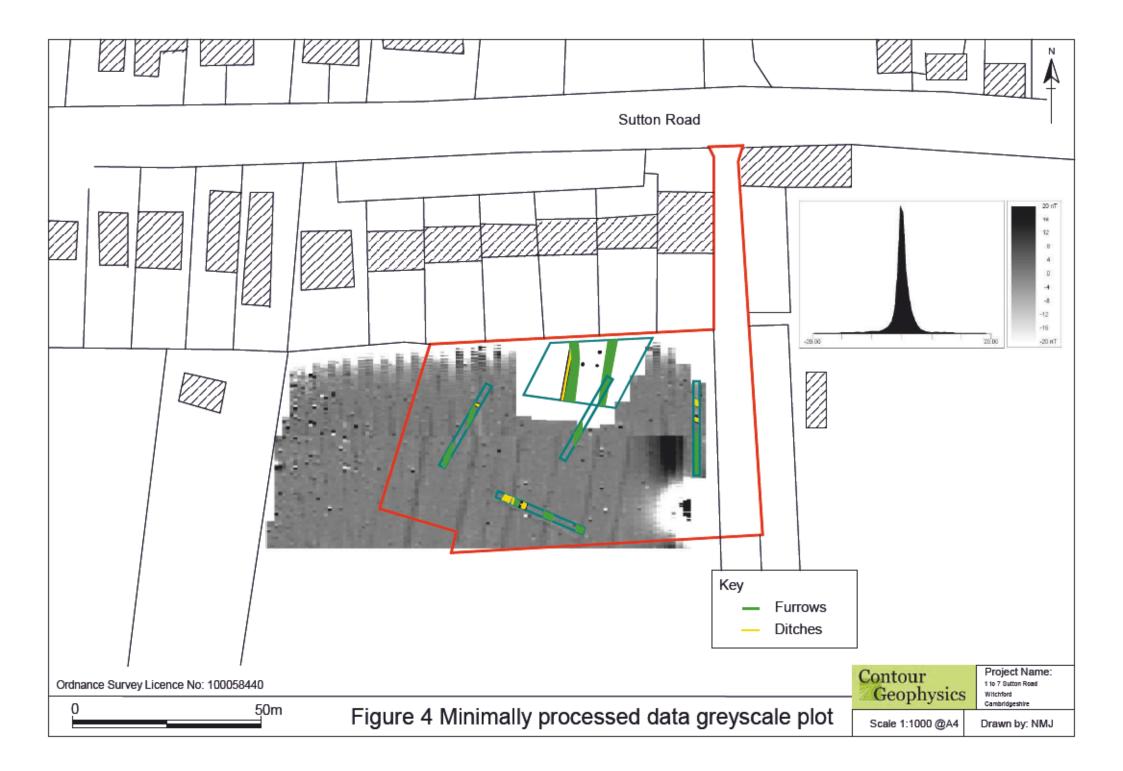
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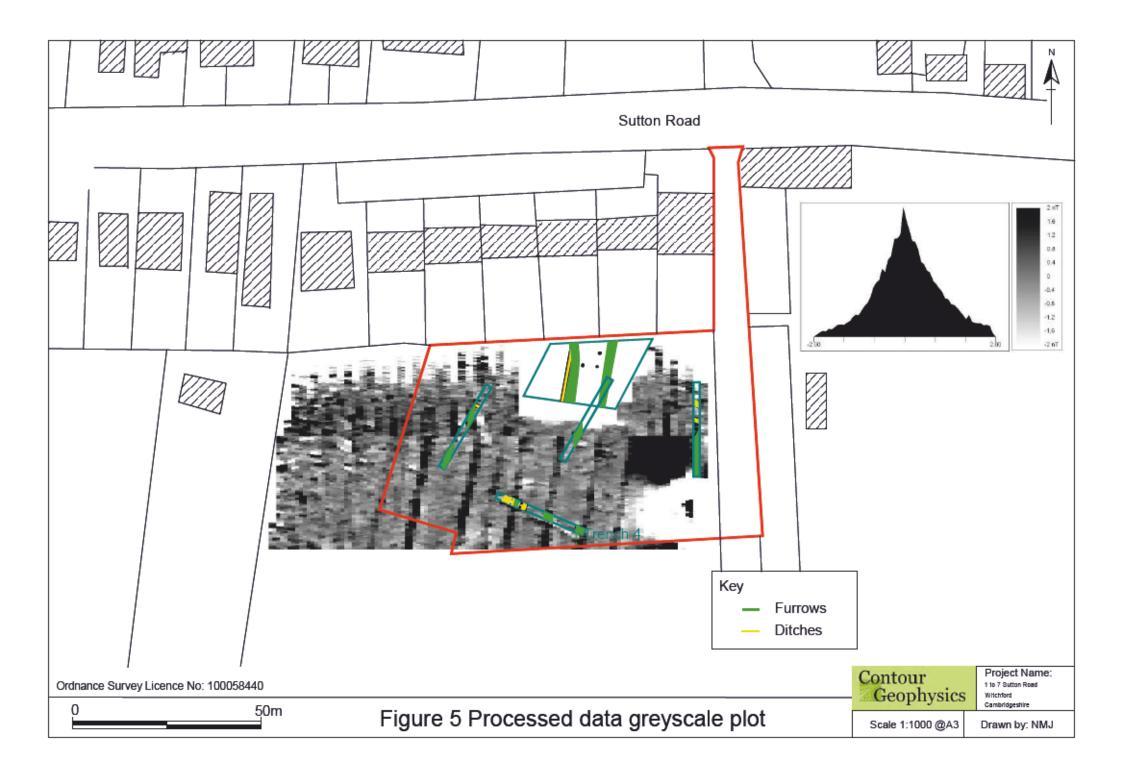
CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

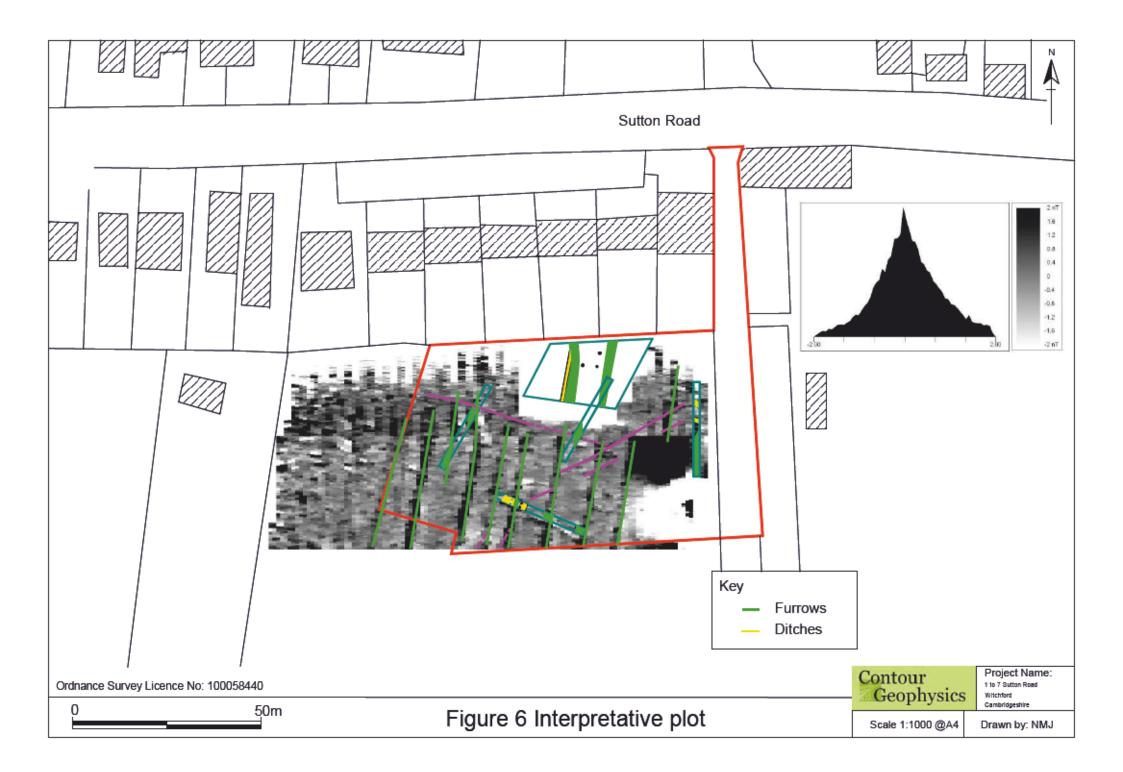


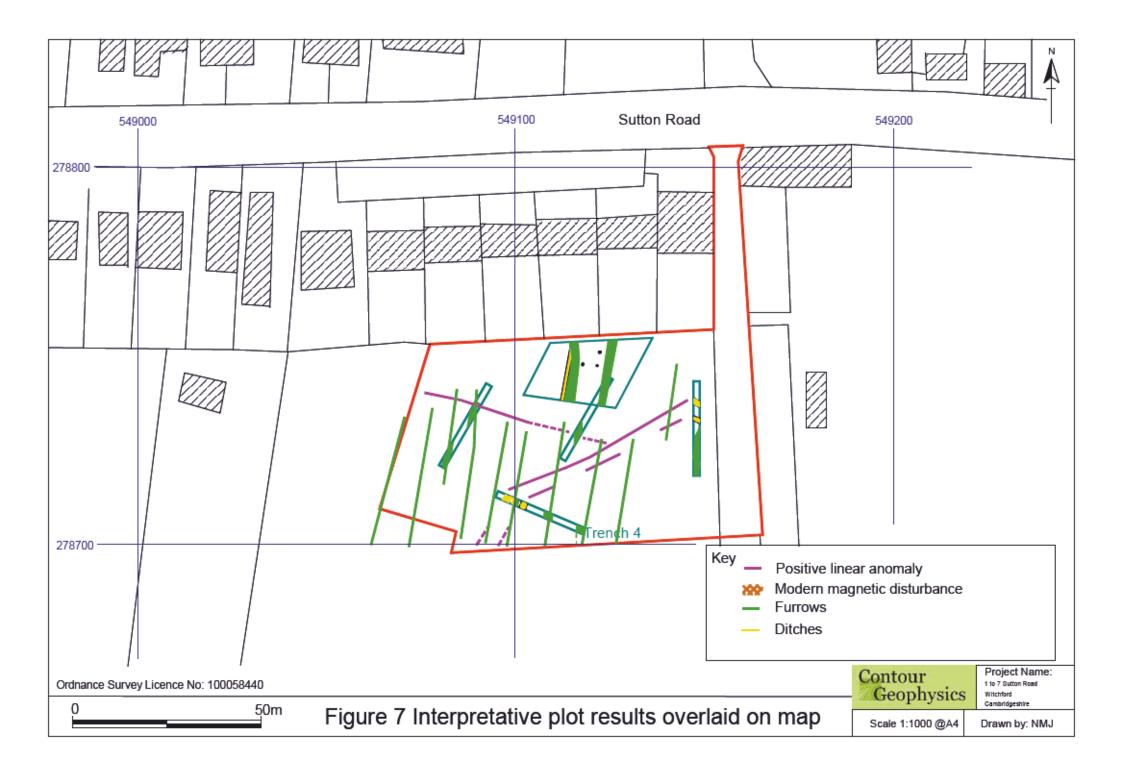












Appendix E: Oasis

OASIS ID: midlanda1-308189

Project details

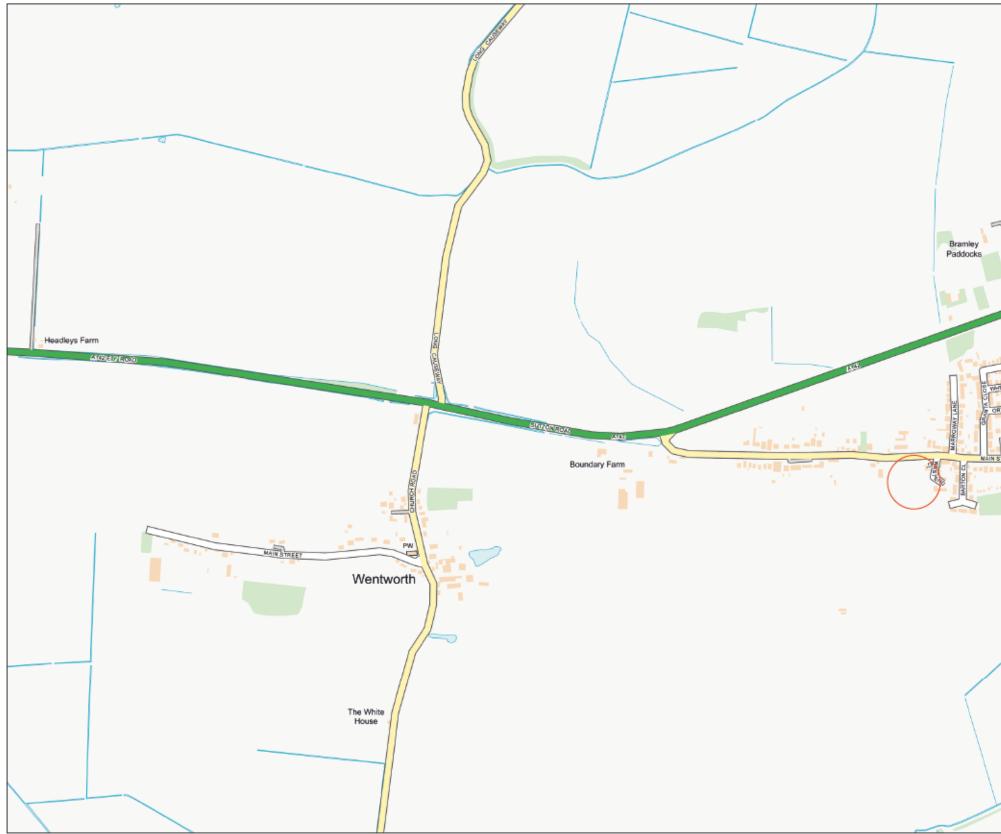
Project name	Land to the Rear of 1-7 Sutton Rd, Witchford.
Short description of the project	Open area excavation prior to residential development.
Project dates	Start: 11-12-2017 End: 14-12-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5152 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	16/00849/FUM - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	LINEAR Post Medieval
Monument type	POST HOLES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE WITCHFORD Land to the Rear of 1-7 Sutton Rd, Witchford
Postcode	CB6 2HX
Study area	200 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 4910 7872 52.385772084923 0.191099298573 52 23 08 N 000 11 27 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.4m Max: 0.6m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Midland Archaeological Services

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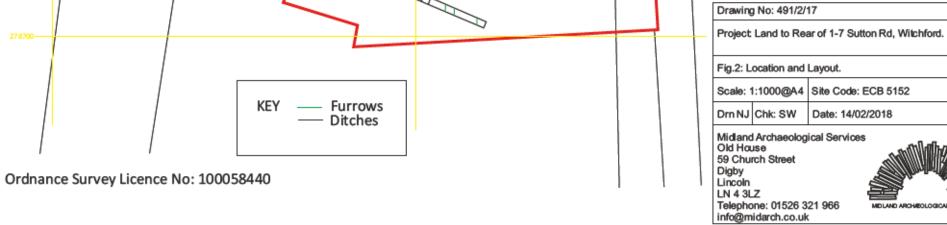
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Midland Archaeological Services
Project director/manager	S.L.W Williams
Project supervisor	S.L.W.Williams
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire Historic environment Record
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire Historic environment Record
Digital Contents	"none"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire Historic environment Record
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"
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available Project bibliography	
available Project bibliography 1 Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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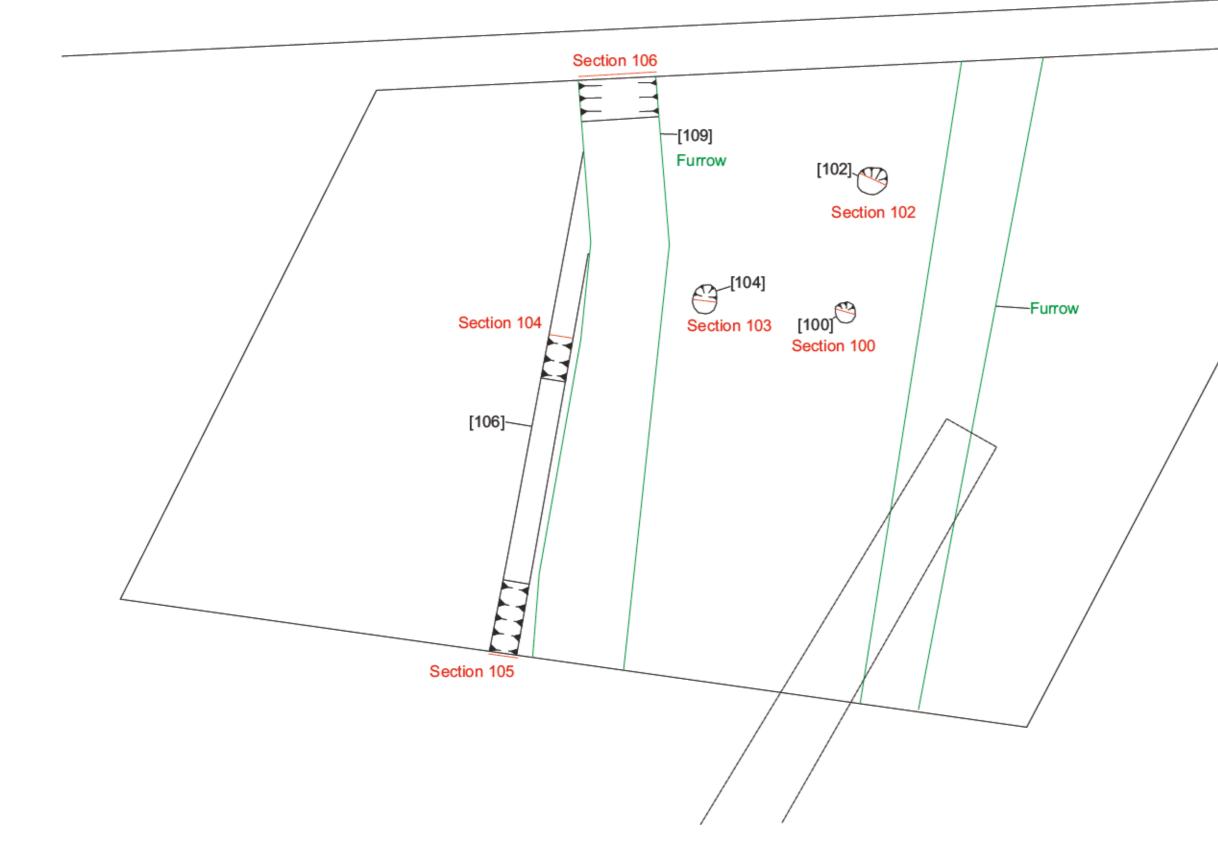
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	Fig.1: Location M	Лар.	
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Newham Park





MIDLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES





Drawing	g No: 491/3/	17
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Fig.3: E	xcavation A	rea.
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