



***Mint Cottage, London Road, Norman Cross,
Yaxley, Cambridgeshire and the adjacent
site of the Norman Cross Depot for Prisoners
of War***

*Report on Archaeological Monitoring and Recording and
Archaeological Supervision and Recording*



*Acorn Archaeology Report Number 37.0
November 2018*

**MINT COTTAGE, LONDON ROAD, NORMAN CROSS, YAXLEY,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND THE ADJACENT SITE OF
THE NORMAN CROSS DEPOT FOR PRISONERS OF WAR**

REPORT ON

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND RECORDING**

Acorn Archaeology Report Number 37.0
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OASIS I.D. acornarc1-331742

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Contents	Page
SUMMARY.....	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	2
2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY	2
3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	3
4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES	5
5.0 METHODOLOGY	5
6.0 RESULTS (see Figures 3, 4 & 5)	7
7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION	10
8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	11
9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY	12
10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS	14
10.1 Project Information	14
10.2 Archive Details.....	14

Colour plates

Cover	General view of works on site, looking southeast
Plate 1	General view of stripped footprint of the new building, looking northwest
Plate 2	Representative Section 1 at the edge of the new building footprint, looking northeast, Scale 0.30m
Plate 3	Feature [006], Section 2, looking east, Scale 1m
Plate 4	General view of service trench excavations at south of plot, looking southeast
Plate 5	Working shot during excavation of soakaway at south of plot, looking northeast (includes Section 3)
Plate 6	General view showing route of drain trench into Scheduled area, looking northeast towards existing manhole
Plate 7	Completed drain trench crossing Scheduled area, looking northeast, Scale 1m
Plate 8	Route of drain trench across Scheduled area, looking south from existing manhole towards new office building
Plate 9	Completed drain trench crossing Scheduled area, looking southeast towards new building
Plate 10	View into manhole within Scheduled area
Plate 11	Drain trench, Section 5, backfill within manhole/inspection chamber cut [021], looking southeast, Scale 1m
Plate 12	Representative Section 6 along drain trench, looking southwest, Scale 1m
Plate 13	General view showing completed new drainage trench and new drains laid at northeast corner of new office building, looking south

Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Historic England List entry map
Figure 3	Site plan
Figure 4	Plan
Figure 5	Sections

Appendices

Appendix 1 Context descriptions

Appendix 2 The Ceramic Finds *by Dr Anne Irving*

Appendix 3 The Animal Bone *by Dr Matilda Holmes*

Appendix 4 The Other Finds *by Gary Taylor*

Appendix 5 OASIS data collection form summary page

MINT COTTAGE, LONDON ROAD, NORMAN CROSS, YAXLEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND THE ADJACENT SITE OF THE NORMAN CROSS DEPOT FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of archaeological investigations undertaken on land at Mint Cottage, Norman Cross, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire and the adjacent site of the Norman Cross Depot for Prisoners of War.

The project was commissioned by Thomas Mann of TMV Architects to fulfil a condition of planning permission (17/00436/FUL) granted by Huntingdon District Council for the demolition of a BT repeater station and the construction of a new office on the site. The condition required monitoring and recording during groundworks.

As part of the development, drainage works were required extending into an adjacent Scheduled Monument (SM CB 268, HA 1006782). A condition of Scheduled Monument Consent, granted by Historic England, required archaeological supervision and recording.

The site lay in an archaeologically sensitive area, adjacent to the Napoleonic prisoner of war camp, Norman Cross (DCB467), which is a Scheduled Monument (No: SM CB 268, HA 1006782). In addition, the course of the Roman road Ermine Street (CB15034) is located c.120m west of the site. Other archaeological remains in the vicinity include medieval ridge and furrow (eg. MCB15876).

The earliest evidence for activity at the site was represented by a single sherd of Roman greyware pottery, which was retrieved as unstratified material from the Scheduled area.

A probable pit was recorded within the footprint of the new building, from which three sherds of a mid 5th to mid 8th century AD jar were retrieved. These sherds could be residual but may indicate an Early to Middle Saxon date for this feature.

No features or deposits or finds were recorded during the investigations which could be securely identified as being contemporary with the Norman Cross camp. A brief examination of historical maps and plans indicated that in the early 19th century the site lay in an open area in the southwest corner of the camp. Some of the post-medieval pottery retrieved from topsoil, subsoil and as unstratified material during the investigation could perhaps be contemporary with the camp. However, these sherds were not sufficiently diagnostic to confirm whether they might be directly

contemporary with the camp which was only operational from 1797 to 1814.

Small quantities of further finds retrieved from topsoil, subsoil and as unstratified material included butchered animal bone, 19th and 20th century bottle and window glass, a rectangular-section iron nail and 19th to 20th century pottery. This may represent discarded domestic refuse from adjacent properties to the west of the site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of archaeological investigations undertaken during the construction of a new office at Mint Cottage, London Road, Norman Cross, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire.

The investigation was commissioned by Thomas Mann of TMV Architects to fulfil a condition of planning permission (17/00436/FUL), which required a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording. Scheduled Monument Consent was subsequently granted for drainage works extending into the adjacent Scheduled Monument, with a condition requiring a programme of archaeological supervision and recording.

The works were undertaken in accordance with two Written Schemes of Investigation produced by Acorn Archaeology and approved respectively by the Cambridgeshire Council Historic Environment Team and Historic England. Fieldwork was carried out between the 22nd October 2017 and 22nd June 2018.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY

The new office is in Norman Cross, approximately 1.7km southwest of Yaxley, and 900m northeast of Stilton. It lies on the north side of London Road, centred at National Grid Reference TL 16095 90939 (Figures 1 & 2).

The site now lies in Yaxley Civil Parish in the county of Cambridgeshire, although was historically part of the county of Huntingdonshire.

The new office site occupies a sub-rectangular area of approximately 170m². A new foul drainage pipe extended from the northeast corner of the office site, for a distance of approximately 10m to the northwest, into the adjacent Scheduled Monument (Figures 2 & 3).

The site lies at the east edge of higher ground at the edge of the fens, at levels of approximately 33-34m above Ordnance Datum.

Superficial deposits at the site are glaciofluvial, mid-pleistocene sand and gravel, with the southeast tip of the site being mapped as Oadby Member diamicton, a mixed

deposit of grey to brown clay and silty clay with rock fragments, lenses of sand and gravel, clay and silt. The solid geology of the site is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation – mudstone (BGS Online Viewer).

A borehole (TL19SE192) is recorded to the northwest of the site, on the route of the A1(M), in an area of similar geology to that of the site. There, a 0.30m thick topsoil overlay 3.2m thick deposits of clay with gravel and chalk (BGS Online Viewer).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

A search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) was undertaken covering a 1km radius centred on the investigation site.

Outside the CHER search area, Neolithic implements are recorded in the higher land of Yaxley Parish, and a bronze axe in Yaxley Fen (British History Online 2017b).

A possible ring-ditch, within the 1km search area and recorded in the CHER (01437A) is noted to be of probable modern origin.

A single sherd of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery was retrieved during investigations immediately east of the site, at Norman Cross camp (Wessex Archaeology 2010). Iron Age settlement features have also been noted in the vicinity of the camp (B. Robinson, *pers. comm.* as cited *ibid.* 5).

Roman

The course of the Roman road Ermine Street (CB15034) lies around 120m west of the site. In addition to Roman features and deposits along the course of the Roman road (11925 & 11797), finds and earthworks are recorded approximately 1km northeast of the site (01636). An undated, unexcavated pit was located during investigations at Norman Cross Depot, a short distance to the east of the site, and it was thought that Roman pottery recovered from the same trench might suggest a date for the pit (Wessex Archaeology 2010).

Early medieval and medieval

Norman Cross gave its name to a Hundred in Huntingdonshire. The place-name contains the Old English element *Norðman*, meaning 'a Northman' or 'a Norwegian', and *Cros*, meaning 'a cross' or 'the cross' in Middle English and late Old English (English Place-Name Society). The name may derive from a cross that formerly stood on Ermine Street, where it crossed the road from Yaxley to Folksworth (British History Online 2017a). In the 10th century it is recorded as *Northmannescros*, *Normannescros*, and as *Normancros* in the 13th century (British History Online 2017b).

An Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building is recorded in the vicinity (B. Robinson, pers. comm. cited in Wessex Archaeology 2010, 5).

The Domesday Book (1086 AD) records lands in Norman Cross belonging to the King and Eustace the Sheriff, with Eustace's lands having previously been the property of Aelfric. Ploughs and oxen are also recorded (Harvey 1975).

Ridge and furrow is recorded at several sites in the vicinity, including within the Scheduled area to the east of the site (MCB15876).

Post-medieval

The development site lies immediately west of a Scheduled Monument (HE List entry 1006782), the site of the Napoleonic Prisoners of War Depot at Norman Cross (02803, DCB467). The depot was constructed in 1796-7 to house Dutch and French prisoners of war. The Depot is one of only three purpose-built prisons, the others being at Dartmoor and Perth (Chamberlain 2008, 81), and Norman Cross was probable the first purpose-built prisoner of war camp. The site was chosen as it was in easy reach of a port yet not too close to an unfortified port, had a good water supply and nearby markets and was located close to the Great North Road (*ibid.* 91).

The camp contained four quadrangular enclosures, each with four 2-storeyed barracks and each fenced by a stockade between roadways, with a blockhouse in the centre. The perimeter was also stockaded with four recessed gateways at each end of the intersecting roads. In 1805 part of the perimeter stockade was strengthened in brick and in 1809 a ditch was dug along the inside to heighten it. The camp also contained wells, a close confinement prison, a hospital and houses for the barrack master and garrison. The surviving earthworks are substantial and cover most of the Scheduled area.

Investigations by Channel 4's Time Team in 2009 confirmed that the outer perimeter of the camp appears to have been a double ditch, and a number of graves were identified to the north. A large number of items relating to bone-working were retrieved during the investigations, reflecting craft activities undertaken by prisoners (Wessex Archaeology 2010).

The Depot closed in 1814, and the majority of the buildings were demolished or sold at auction in 1816. Buildings associated with the camp survive as standing buildings just east of the Scheduled area, and are themselves Grade II Listed Buildings. These comprise the Superintendent's House now 'The Old Governor's House' and attached house (DCB3082, HE List entry 1238145) and 'Norman House' (DCB3103, HE List entry 1274365) (O'Brien and Pevsner 2014, 572).

Early 20th century

A monument comprising a bronze eagle on a column was erected in 1914 to the

memory of those who died at the Depot, and this Grade II Listed Building was positioned north of Norman Cross (05709, DCB 3049, HE List entry 122028). The memorial was vandalised in 1990 and the eagle stolen. The column was subsequently erected on a new site, immediately south of the present development site, and a replacement eagle was unveiled in 2005.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The general aims and objectives of the investigation were to:

- Preserve by record, and where appropriate recover, any surviving archaeological remains exposed by the development groundworks, within the constraints of the contractor's working methods, programme and development design.
- To ensure that the results and artefacts were appropriately analysed and interpreted. This would include consideration of the type, likely extent, date, function and spatial arrangement of archaeological activity that may be present within the site, and how any remains fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.
- Produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report and to provide information for accession to the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER).
- To provide archaeological supervision during the works to mitigate against potentially detrimental effects on the Scheduled Monument.

The specific aim of the investigation was to establish whether any remains associated with the Napoleonic prisoner of war camp might extend into the development site.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

Groundworks below the existing ground surface were monitored during mechanical and hand-excavation, including soil stripping, landscaping and excavations for services.

Within the development site itself, monitoring was carried out during the stripping of a rectangular area of approximately 11m x 6m and c. 0.15-0.35m deep, across the footprint of the new building (Figure 4, Plate 1). Monitoring was also undertaken during deeper excavations which were required to remove loose material near the centre of this stripped area (Figure 4, Plate 1). The excavation of a new soakaway pit

and associated service trenches were monitored at the frontage of the new building (Figure 4, Plate 4 & Plate 5).

Archaeological supervision was undertaken during hand-excavation to connect drains at the north of the new office building to a manhole within the adjacent Scheduled Monument (Figures 3 & 4, Plate 6, Plate 7, Plate 8, Plate 9 & Plate 13 General view showing completed new drainage trench and new drains laid at northeast corner of new office building, looking south).

All exposed surfaces were examined for archaeological features and deposits.

All features and deposits were hand cleaned and/or excavated in order to characterise them.

Spoil and exposed surfaces were regularly examined to maximise artefact retrieval and scanned with a metal detector, set to no discrimination, which was used to aid the recovery of all categories of metallic artefacts. Finds collected during the fieldwork were bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered.

An archaeological record was made of any remains revealed by the groundworks comprising:

- Notes detailing the circumstances at the time of each visit.
- Plans and notes recording the extent of groundworks.
- Individual records of each context made on pro-forma record sheets, using a single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and described.
- Section drawings, on gridded drafting film, showing specific archaeological contexts as well as general stratigraphic sequences at a scale of 1:10.
- Plans, on gridded drafting film, of archaeological features at a scale of 1:20.
- Colour digital photographs showing overall site circumstances, the setting of the site and individual features and deposits, including photographic scales and shot details when appropriate.
- The location of groundworks, drawing reference points and any archaeological features and deposits within the site were established through reference to development plans and known points such as the site boundary, and subsequently tied to Ordnance Survey mapping.

All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014), in addition to regional guidelines (Gurney 2003).

6.0 RESULTS (see Figures 3, 4 & 5)

For full descriptions of contexts mentioned in the following account please refer to Appendix 1. Figures 3 & 4 show plans of the site and archaeological features, and Figure 5 shows recorded sections. In the following text, bracketed numbers refer to deposits and numbers with square brackets denote cut features.

Monitoring and recording within site

Natural

The earliest deposit encountered within the building footprint was natural layer (009), a loose, light yellowish-brown sand and gravel (Section 2, Plate 3). In the soakaway pit natural deposits were at least 0.55m thick and comprised mid brown stony clay and silt (014) and mid brown and yellowish-white silt and clay with stone (015), (Section 3, Plate 5).

Pit [006]

A probable pit [006] was recorded cutting into natural (009) (Section 2, Plate 3), and was hand-excavated. The exposed portion of this feature was sub-circular to oval and greater than 0.80m by at least 1.74m wide and 0.67m deep, with moderately to gently sloping concave sides and a flattish to gently concave base. The earliest excavated fill of [006] was (008), a mid to dark brown slightly gritty and clayey sandy silt with c.20% pebbles and cobbles. This fill was 0.18m thick and contained much gravel deriving from the underlying natural, possibly representing trample during pit-digging or slumping in from the sides soon after it was opened. Sealing this was fill (007), a 0.52m thick mid to dark brown slightly clayey silt with occasional cobbles and pebbles. Fragments of Early to Middle Saxon pottery were retrieved from fill (007) and comprised three small sherds of a jar of mid 5th to mid 8th century AD date.

Overburden

Fill (007) was sealed by a 0.29m thick layer of mid to dark brown slightly clayey silt with frequent pebbles (005), forming a subsoil or buried soil (Section 2, Plate 3). This may have been the same as subsoil (003) which was recorded at the north edge of the building footprint (Section 1, Plate 2). Layer (003) comprised a mid to dark slightly orangey-brown slightly clayey silt with frequent pebbles and was at least 0.20m thick.

In the soakaway pit natural deposits were sealed by (013), a compact mid brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and possible mortar fragments and flecks,

which was 0.10m thick (Section 3, Plate 5). This layer may represent buried and compacted soil resulting from previous construction works or use of the site, possibly pre-dating or during the construction of the BT station.

This layer was overlain by a 0.36m thick subsoil (012) of slightly orangey mid to dark brown clayey silt with frequent pebbles (Section 3, Plate 5).

Topsoil within the site (001) comprised a 0.30m thick dark blackish-brown slightly clayey and fine sandy silt with frequent pebbles and occasional copper wire associated with the BT building (Sections 1 & 3, Plate 2, Plate 5). Two sherds of Pearlware pottery were retrieved from the topsoil, along with a Codd bottle neck, of late 19th century date (Appendices 2 & 4 respectively).

Modern pit [010] and demolition layers

An area of deeper machining which was monitored near the centre of the stripped area was a re-excavation of a modern machine-dug pit [010] (Figure 4, Plate 1 & Plate 3). This rectangular feature was 3.30m long by 1.70m wide at the top and 0.90m by 1.70m at its base. It was 0.90m deep with steep to sloping sides at the northwest and southeast and vertical sides to the northeast and southwest. The backfill of this pit (011) comprised a loose, mixed deposit including wood fragments, redeposited topsoil and subsoil, brick, slate and other building materials.

The pit fill (011) was sealed by a 0.14m thick dark brown slightly clayey silt with frequent pebbles (004), probably representing material redeposited during the demolition of the BT building (Section 2, Plate 3). A mixed deposit (002) was recorded intermittently across much of the footprint of the demolished BT building, and may also represent a demolition deposit. This comprised a 0.10m thick mid to dark reddish-brown silt with at least 10% modern frogged brick fragments, some of which were stamped "LBC", along with frequent pebbles, occasional wood fragments, roof slate, plaster board, modern mortar fragments, polystyrene and copper wire. Three fragments of Pearlware were retrieved from this deposit (Appendix 2).

Unstratified material

A further sherd of Pearlware was retrieved from the site as unstratified material, along with two fragments of handmade gault brick (Appendix 2).

Services

Ceramic drains and a plastic water pipe were noted in the soakaway pit (Plate 5, Figure 4).

Supervision and recording, drainage trench

Natural and subsoil

The earliest observed deposit identified during works to connect drainage at the north of the new building was a mid to dark slightly greenish-brown silty sandy clay with frequent pebbles (024), which was at least 0.50m thick (Section 4). As only a small area of this deposit was exposed in the narrow drainage trench it was uncertain whether it represented natural geology or a subsoil layer.

Layer (024) was sealed by subsoil (023), a 0.25m thick deposit of mid to dark slightly reddish-brown clayey silt containing frequent pebbles (Sections 4 & 6, Plate 12).

Manhole [021]

The new drainage trench was to allow connection to an existing manhole (Plate 6, Plate 7, Plate 8, Plate 9 & Plate 10). This was a brick and concrete structure within a substantial cut [021] (Plate 11, Figure 5 Sections 4 & 5). This cut was not fully exposed in plan and its base was not reached in the base of the new drainage trench, but was greater than 1.36m deep and 3m wide. Four fills recorded within it (018, 019, 020 & 022).

Topsoil

Backfill of the manhole cut was sealed by topsoil and turf (017), a moderately firm dark brown slightly clayey silt with moderately frequent pebbles including flint nodule fragments and frequent roots (Sections 4, 5 & 6, Plate 7, Plate 11 & Plate 12). Ten sherds of Pearlware and a single sherd of 19th century Buff ware were retrieved from the topsoil (017), along with a fragment of 20th century bottle glass (Appendices 2 & 4). Four pieces of animal bone were also retrieved from this topsoil; a complete sheep or goat radius which was in two fragments and had cut and gnaw marks, a further fragmented sheep or goat radius and an unidentified long bone fragment from a similarly-sized animal (Appendix 3). The size of the complete radius was consistent with post-medieval animals and the butchery marks imply domestic refuse. Gnaw marks suggested that the bone was not immediately buried but left out for dogs to chew.

Modern dog burial [026]

A recent animal burial was revealed during drainage works close to the northern boundary of the site, just outside the area of the Scheduled Monument (Figure 4). This comprised what were apparently the complete skeletal remains of a dog in a plastic woven sack. Given its obviously modern origin, and associated potential health and safety concerns, this was not investigated further and reburied close to its original position.

Unstratified material

Unstratified finds retrieved during supervision of the drain trench included two fragments of fired clay or abraded brick and a fragment of pantile. A single sherd of 19th century Buff ware was retrieved along with a single sherd of Roman greyware (Appendix 2). A rectangular-section iron nail was recovered addition to three fragments of late 19th and 20th century bottle and window glass (Appendix 4).

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Natural deposits of sand, gravel, silt and clay were revealed within the site, and a similar deposit of natural or subsoil was identified in the drain trench to the north of the site.

The earliest evidence for activity at the site was represented by a single sherd of Roman greyware pottery, which was retrieved as unstratified material from the Scheduled area. The Roman road Ermine Street (CB15034) lies just 120m west of the site, and other Roman remains in the vicinity include 21 sherds of Roman pottery retrieved during previous investigations centred on the earthworks of the Norman Cross Depot (Wessex Archaeology 2010, 16).

A probable pit was recorded within the footprint of the new building, and three sherds of a mid 5th to mid 8th century jar were retrieved from one of its fills. These sherds could be residual but may indicate an Early to Middle Saxon date for this feature. Saxon remains are known in the vicinity, a sunken-featured building having been recorded nearby (B. Robinson, pers. comm. cited in Wessex Archaeology 2010, 5).

No features or deposits recorded during the investigations could be securely identified as being contemporary with the Norman Cross camp. An examination of selected historical maps and plans of the site indicate that in the early 19th century the site lay in an open area in the southwest corner of the camp (Chamberlain 2018). It appears that the west site boundary was extant by that time, and the south site boundary appears to be fenced from the adjacent road. A small building is depicted immediately beyond the southwest corner of the site, apparently occupying what is now the front garden of the adjacent modern property Mole End. Some of the post-medieval pottery retrieved during the investigation could perhaps be contemporary with the camp, with a few sherds from topsoil (001) and subsoil (002) along with unstratified material (016) potentially falling within this date range. However, these sherds were not sufficiently diagnostic to confirm whether they were directly contemporary with the 1797-1814 date range for the operation of the camp (A. Irving pers. comm.).

The first edition Ordnance Survey 6" map, published in 1887, shows trees within the investigation site, along the south and west boundaries of a single large field. A building is shown just to the southwest of the site, possibly representing the building shown on the early 19th century plans of the Norman Cross camp. This arrangement is

repeated on various Ordnance Survey maps dating to the early 20th century.

Small quantities of further finds were retrieved during monitoring from topsoil, subsoil and as unstratified material across the site. These included butchered animal bone, 19th and 20th century bottle and window glass, a rectangular-section iron nail and 19th to 20th century pottery. This material is likely to largely represent discarded domestic refuse from adjacent properties to the west of the site.

By the mid-20th century Ordnance Survey mapping shows the modern site boundary extant as a rectangular area sub-divided into three smaller parcels. These appear to be unshaded so presumably represent small enclosures, although it is not entirely clear if these boundaries may have included small structures. No traces of these boundaries or structures were identified during the investigations. By 1973 Ordnance Survey maps show the Telephone Exchange within the site itself and the adjacent property Mole End, whilst the building to the southwest of the site is no longer extant.

A modern manhole and associated deposits were recorded within the Scheduled area, and ceramic drains and a plastic water pipe were noted in a soakaway pit at the south of the investigation site.

A plastic sack apparently containing the skeletal remains of a pet dog were retrieved just north of the new building and were subsequently re-buried close to their original position.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Thomas Mann and Marcus Vanner of TMV Architects who commissioned the work and the staff of Silver Heron Developments who assisted in the successful completion of the project. Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council and Sarah Poppy of Historic England provided advice on the project, and Ben Donnelly-Symes provided information contained within the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record. Thanks are also due to Matilda Holmes, Anne Irving and Gary Taylor for their contributions to this report.

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10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: YXNC17

CAMBRIDGESHIRE EVENT NUMBER: ECB 5196

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: 17/00436/FUL

FIELD OFFICER: V Mellor

NGR: TL 16095 90939

CIVIL PARISH: Yaxley

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 22nd October 2017 - 22nd June 2018

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Monitoring and Recording/Supervision and Recording

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Thomas Mann, TMV Architects

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION:

Acorn Archaeology, 9 New Street, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. NG34 7HG

FINAL LOCATION: County Archive Facility, Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team

ACCESSION DATE: TBC

The Site Archive Comprises:

Daily record sheets	6
Photographic record sheets	3
Plan register sheets	1
Section register sheets	1
Context records	25
Context register sheets	1
Sheets containing scale drawings	5
Digital Photographs	149
Bags of finds	10

It is intended that the archive will be deposited following the gaining of transfer of title, and in accordance with requirements set out in the document *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Cambridgeshire* for archaeological archive preparation.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1 General view of stripped footprint of the new building, looking northwest



Plate 2 Representative Section 1 at the edge of the new building footprint, looking northeast, Scale 0.30m



Plate 3 Feature [006], Section 2, looking east, Scale 1m



Plate 4 General view of service trench excavations at south of plot, looking southeast



Plate 5 Working shot during excavation of soakaway at south of plot, looking northeast (includes Section 3)



Plate 6 General view showing route of drain trench into Scheduled area, looking northeast towards existing manhole



Plate 7 Completed drain trench crossing Scheduled area, looking northeast, Scale 1m



Plate 8 Route of drain trench across Scheduled area, looking south from existing manhole towards new office building



Plate 9 Completed drain trench crossing Scheduled area, looking southeast towards new building



Plate 10 View into manhole within Scheduled area



Plate 11 Drain trench, Section 5, backfill within manhole/inspection chamber cut [021], looking southeast, Scale 1m



Plate 12 Representative Section 6 along drain trench, looking southwest, Scale 1m



Plate 13 General view showing completed new drainage trench and new drains laid at northeast corner of new office building, looking south

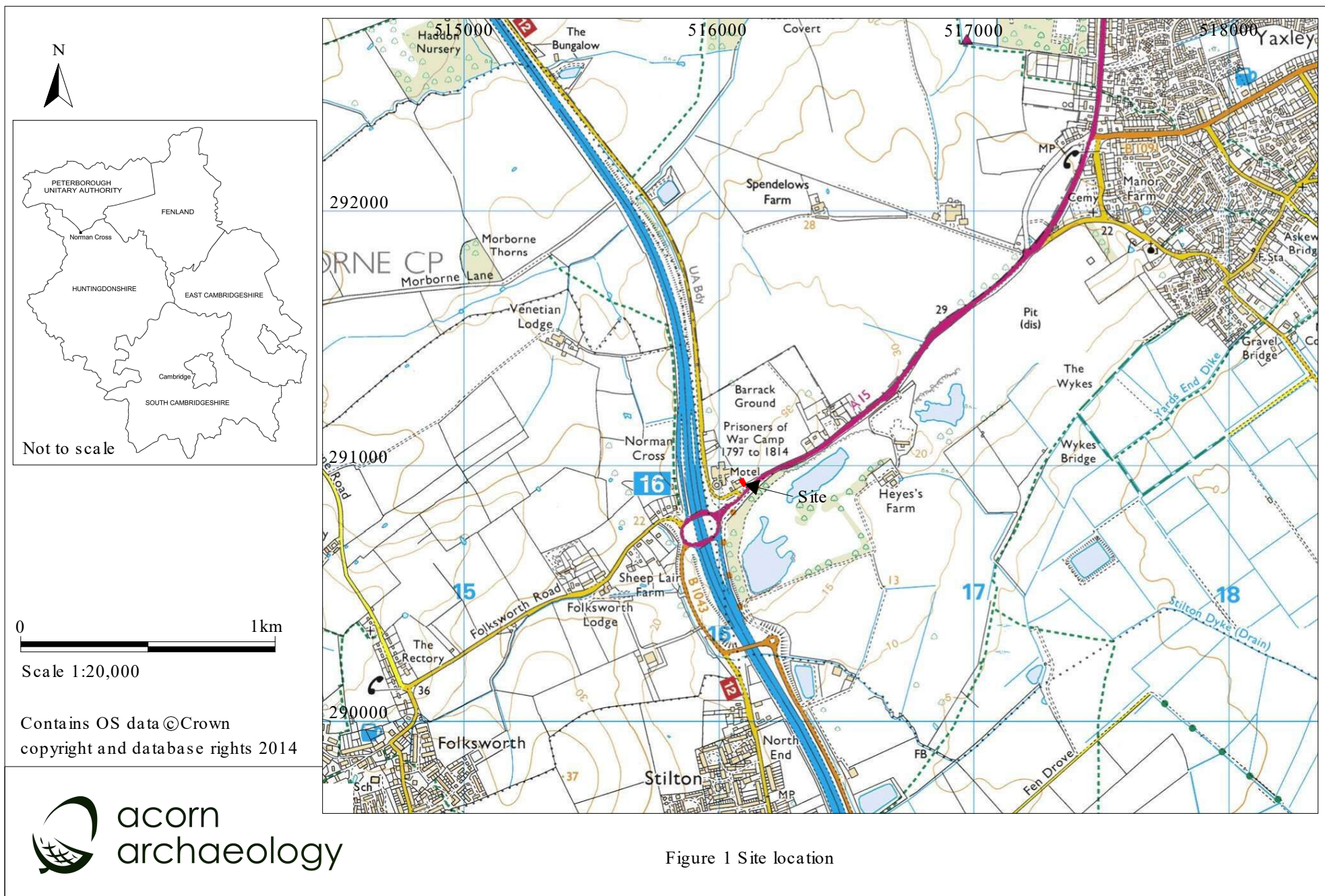
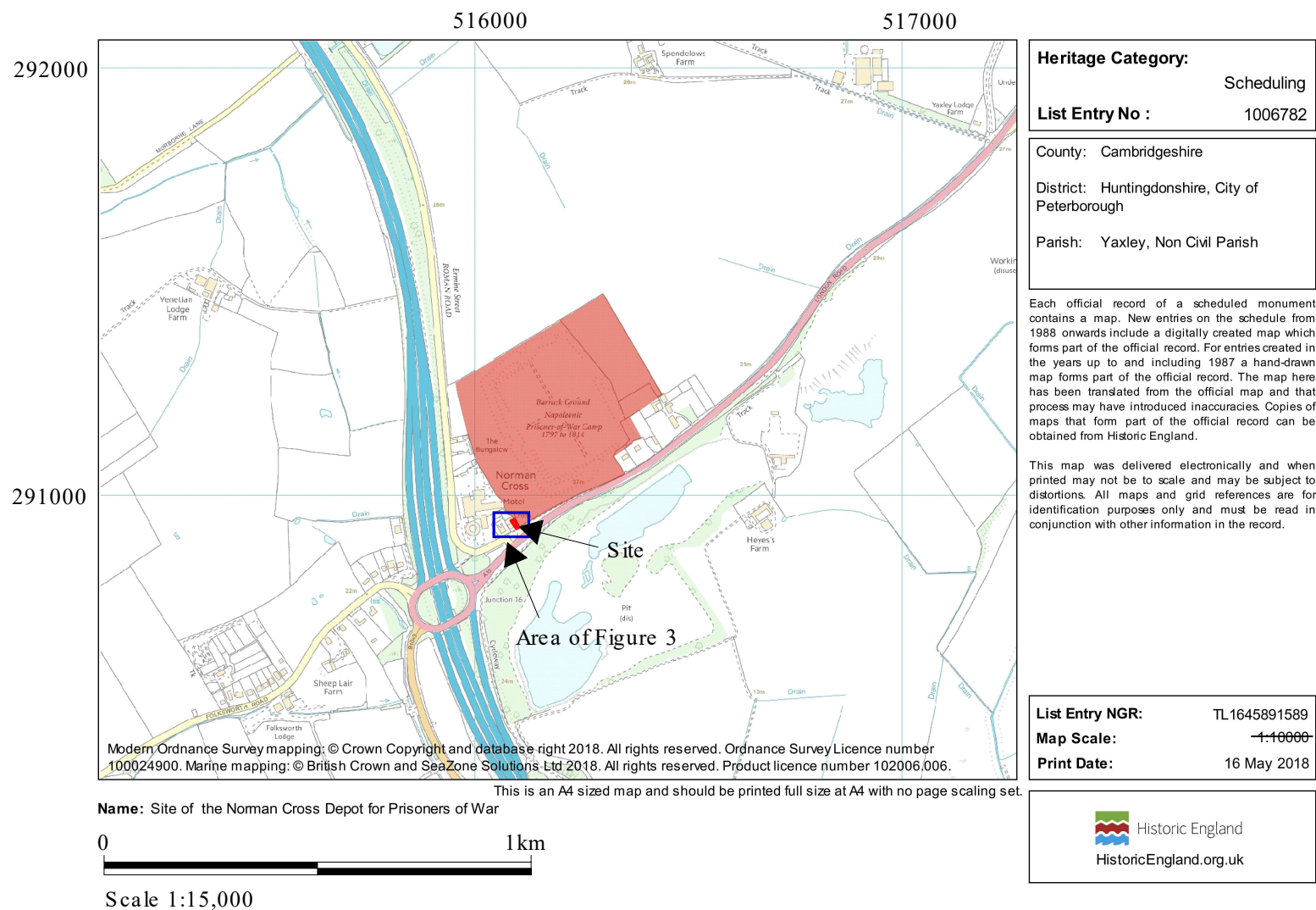
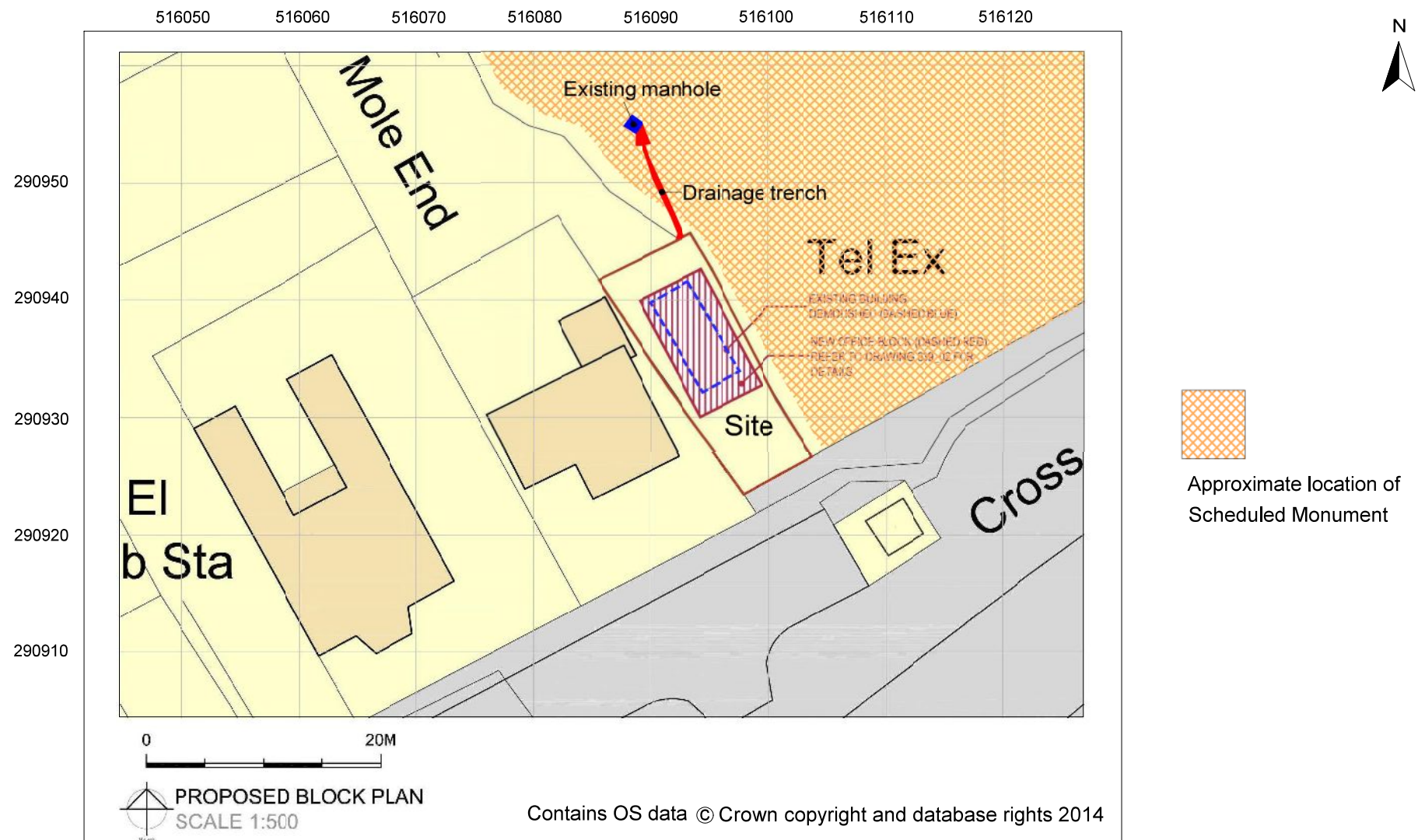
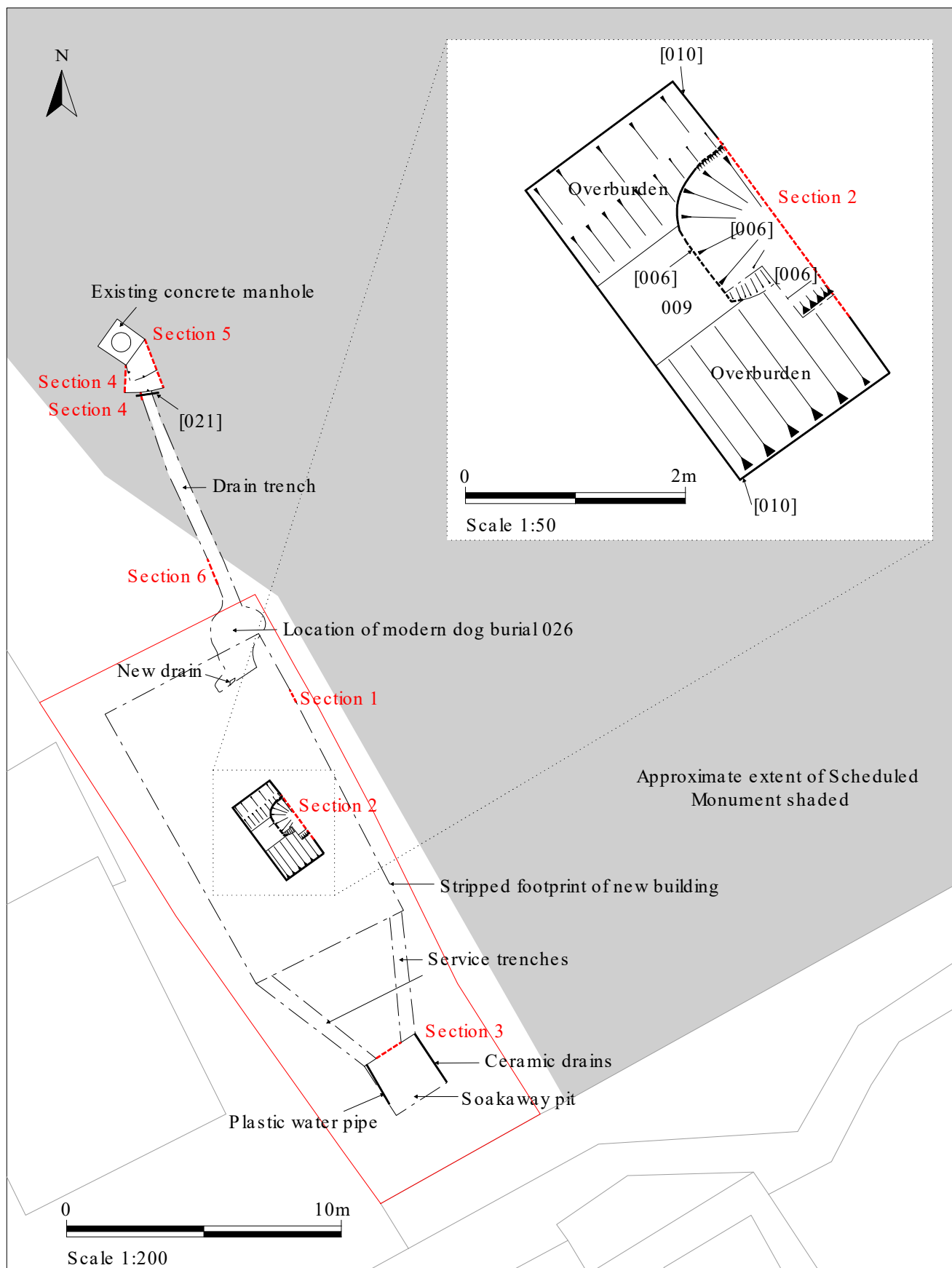
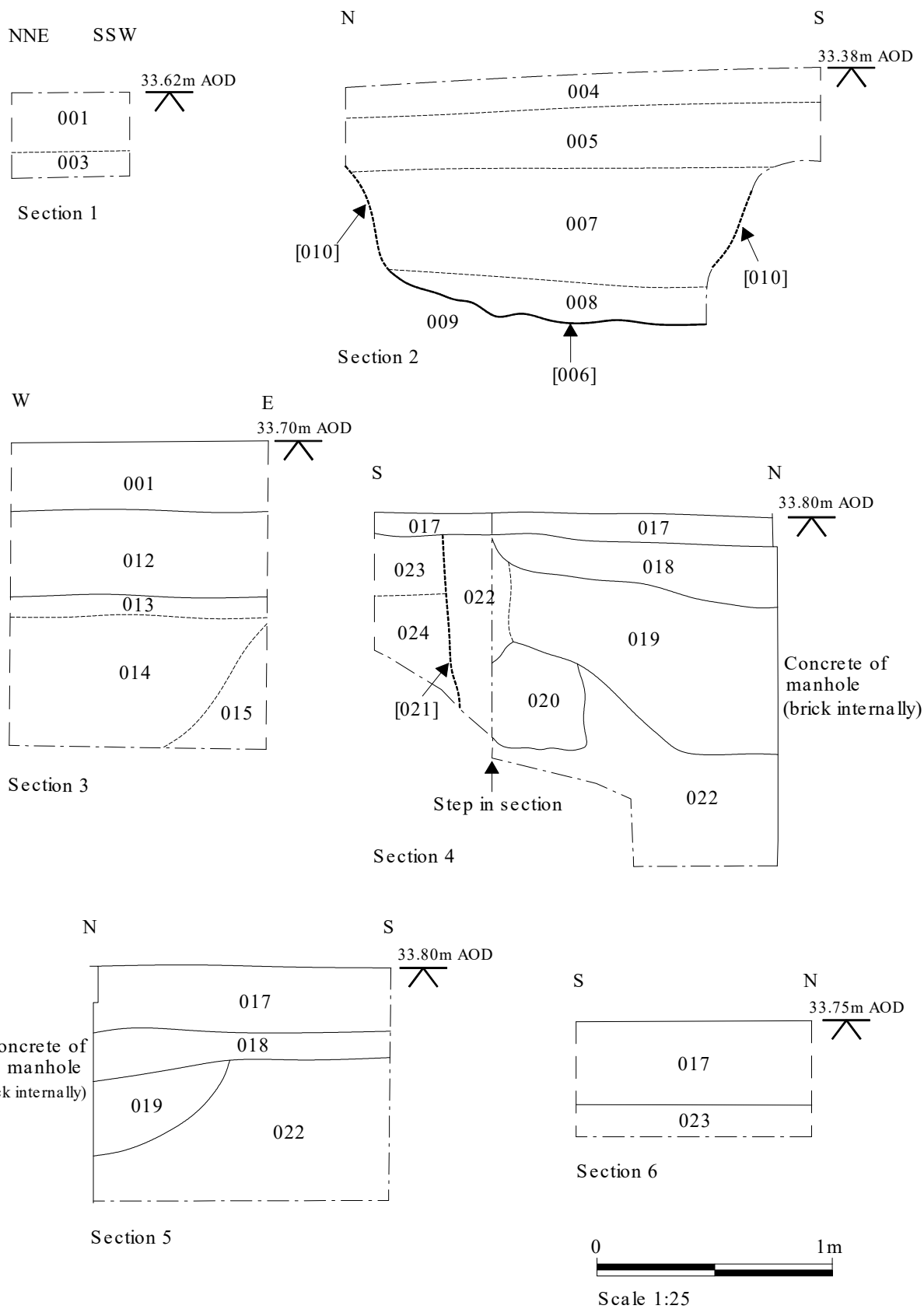


Figure 1 Site location









APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft, dark blackish-brown slightly clayey and fine sandy silt with frequent pebbles including natural flints and occasional copper wire associated with BT building, at least 0.30m thick	Topsoil formerly surrounding BT building
002	Loose to compact mid to dark reddish-brown sandy silt with >10% brick fragments (modern, frogged bricks, some with "LBC" stamped, with frequent pebbles, occasional wood fragments, roof slate, plaster board, modern mortar fragments, polystyrene and copper wire, at least 0.10m thick	Mixed deposit over footprint of demolished BT building containing demolition debris
003	Soft mid to dark slightly orangey-brown slightly clayey silt with frequent natural flint and pebbles, at least 0.20m thick	Subsoil
004	Firm mid to darkish brown slightly clayey silt with frequent pebbles, 0.14m thick	Layer, probably material deposited during demolition of BT building
005	Moderately firm mid to dark brown slightly clayey silt with frequent pebbles including flint/chert pebbles and pieces and occasional fine roots, 0.29m thick	Layer, possibly buried soil or subsoil
006	Sub-circular to oval feature where seen, at least 0.80m by at least 1.74m wide and 0.67m deep with moderately to gently sloping concave sides where seen and a flattish to gently concave base	Pit or ditch terminus
007	Moderately firm mid to dark brown slightly clayey silt with occasional flint/chert cobbles and pebbles and occasional fine roots, 0.52m thick	Main fill of feature [006], possibly backfill or gradual silting, unclear
008	Moderately firm mid to dark brown slightly gritty and clayey sandy silt with c.20% pebbles and cobbles, 0.18m thick	Earliest excavated fill of pit [006] containing much gravel deriving from underlying natural. Possibly trample during pit digging and slumping from sides soon after opening
009	Loose light yellowish-brown mixed sand, much coarse sand, and gravel comprising pebbles and cobbles, very poorly sorted, not fully excavated	Natural sand and gravel
010	Rectangular feature with sharp corners, 3.30m by 1.70m wide at top, 1.70m by 0.90m at base and 0.90m deep with steep to sloping sides at northwest and southeast and vertical sides at northeast and southwest	Machine-dug hole

Number	Description	Interpretation
011	Loose mixed deposit including wood fragments up to 1m long with some redeposited topsoil, subsoil, brick, slate and other building materials, 0.90m thick	Backfill of machine-dug pit [010] containing demolition refuse
012	Soft slightly orangey mid to dark brown clayey silt with frequent natural flint and pebbles, 0.36m thick	Subsoil
013	Compact mid brown clayey silt with occasional possible mortar fragments and flecks and charcoal flecks, 100mm thick	Layer, possibly a soil buried pre-dating or during construction of BT building
014	Compact to firm mid brown stony clay and silt, at least 0.55m thick	Natural geology
015	Compact to firm mid brown and yellowish-white silt and clay with much stone, at least 0.55m thick	Natural geology
016	Unstratified finds from development site	
017	Moderately firm dark brown slightly clayey silt with moderately frequent pebbles including flint nodule fragments and frequent roots, 0.36m thick	Topsoil and turf of pasture field, partially in Scheduled area
018	Firm mid to dark brown sandy clayey silt with c.30% yellowish pebbles, 0.25m thick	Stoney fill within [021], cut for manhole/inspection chamber
019	Firm dark brown with mid orange-brown mottles mixed sand, clay and silt with frequent pebbles, 0.67m thick	Backfill within [021], cut for manhole/inspection chamber
020	Moderately firm mid reddish-brown sandy silty clay with occasional pebbles, at least 0.45m thick	Redeposited natural within [021], cut for manhole/inspection chamber
021	Feature not fully exposed in plan, at least 1.36m deep and 3m wide	Cut for manhole/inspection chamber of drain
022	Firm mid to light greyish-brown mottled clay with occasional pebbles, frequent blue brick and holed red brick at base of excavated trench (not retained), both identical to those used in adjacent manhole construction, deposit at least 0.68m thick	Redeposited natural flinty clay within [021], cut for manhole/inspection chamber
023	Firm mid to dark slightly reddish-brown clayey silt with frequent pebbles including flint, frequent roots, 0.25m thick	Subsoil layer
024	Firm mid to dark slightly greenish-brown silty sandy clay with frequent flint pebbles, at least 0.50m thick	Layer, possibly natural or could be further subsoil layer
025	Unstratified finds from site – Scheduled area	
026	Dog skeleton of recent burial within plastic woven sack. Not retained.	Recent dog burial

APPENDIX 2 THE CERAMIC FINDS

Excavation at Site of the Norman Cross Depot for Prisoners of War adjacent to Mint Cottage, London Road, Norman Cross, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire (ECB5196)

THE CERAMIC FINDS

Dr Anne Irving

POTTERY

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). A total of 22 sherds from a maximum 20 vessels, weighing 117g was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive of the pottery is included in Table 1. The pottery dates in from the Early/Middle Saxon to Early Modern period.

Results

Table 1, Archive of the Pottery

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description
001	PEARL	Pearlware	Hollow	1	1	7	BS	Blue transfer print
001	PEARL	Pearlware	Hollow	1	1	4	BS	Blue transfer print
002	PEARL	Pearlware	?	3	3	3	BS	Flakes; Blue transfer print
007	SSTMG	Early to mid Saxon sandstone-tempered (carboniferous sandstone)	Jar	3	1	9	BS	
016	PEARL	Pearlware	Cup/ mug	1	1	2	Rim	Green handpainted design
017	NCBW	19th-century Buff ware	Bowl	1	1	10	BS	Mocha blue design
017	PEARL	Pearlware	Bowl/Dish/Plate	5	5	26	BS	Blue transfer print
017	PEARL	Pearlware	Jar	1	1	5	Base	
017	PEARL	Pearlware	Bowl	1	1	5	BS	Blue transfer print
017	PEARL	Pearlware	Bowl/Dish/Plate	2	2	9	Rim	Blue transfer print
017	PEARL	Pearlware	Bowl/Dish/Plate	1	1	13	Rim	Purple transfer print
025	GREY	Miscellaneous Grey ware	Jar/ bowl	1	1	2	BS	Abraded
025	NCBW	19th-century Buff ware	Bowl	1	1	22	BS	
			TOTAL	22	20	117		

Summary

All the pottery recovered from the site is typical for assemblages from this area. Most of the pottery came from unstratified, topsoil or subsoil contexts and is likely to be residual. Pit [006] produced three small sherds of early to middle Saxon pottery, though these are also likely to be redeposited.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). Five fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 151 grams, was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2.

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Description
016	BRK	Brick	Gault; oxidised	1	34	Handmade; flake
016	BRK	Brick	Gault	1	38	Corner; handmade; sand moulded
025	FIRED CLAY	Fired Clay	Gault; oxidised	2	45	?ID or very abraded brick; rounded profile
025	PANT	Pantile		1	34	
			TOTAL	5	151	

Summary

The brick and pantile are unstratified and date to the early modern era. The fired clay cannot be dated and therefore could be earlier.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comment
001	Late 18th to 19th	
002	Late 18th 19th	
007	Mid 5th to Mid 8th	Date on a single vessel
016	Late 18th to 19th	
017	19th	
025	19th to early 20th	

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

~ 2001, *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from <http://www.geocities.com/acbm1/CBMGDE3.htm>

Slowikowski, A. M., Nenck, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2.

APPENDIX 3 THE ANIMAL BONE

The Site of the Norman Cross Depot for Prisoners of War, adjacent to Mint Cottage, London Road, Norman Cross, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire (YXNC17). The animal bone

By Matilda Holmes. July 2018

Four fragments of animal bone were recovered from post medieval context 017. They comprised a complete sheep/ goat radius with cut and gnaw marks that could be conjoined from two fragments, another fragmented sheep/ goat radius and an unidentified long bone fragment from a similar sized animal. The size of the complete radius is consistent with post medieval animals, the butchery marks imply that it was domestic refuse and the gnaw marks that it was not buried immediately but was left out for dogs to chew. The sample size is too small to warrant further analysis.

APPENDIX 4 THE OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Artefacts recovered during investigations at Yaxley, Cambridgeshire are reported, below.

The finds were examined and reported in accordance with ClfA guidelines (2008).

The Glass

Introduction

A total of 5 pieces of glass weighing 106g were recovered.

Condition

Although naturally fragile the glass is in good condition, though a few pieces exhibit iridescent decay or abrasion.

Results

Table 1 Glass archive

Context	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context date
001	Pale green Codd bottle neck, moderate iridescence, abraded	1	85	later 19 th century
017	Colourless bottle	1	1	20 th century
025	Colourless bottle, 20 th century	1	9	20 th century
	Pale green bottle, slightly abraded, mid-late 19 th century	1	6	
	Very pale green/colourless window, slight iridescence, late 19 th century	1	5	
TOTALS		5	106	

Provenance

The glass was recovered from topsoil (001, 017), and as unstratified material (025).

Discussion

Most of the small assemblage of glass is provided by bottle fragments. Two colourless fragments are 20th century. Two pale green pieces are from 19th century bottles. One of these is identifiable as a Codd bottle. Containers of this type were patented by Hiram Codd in 1872, thus indicating the earliest date for the piece (Van den Bossche 2001, 60). This particular fragment, which is the earliest item recovered, probably dates from the later 19th century.

A single piece of window glass of probable late 19th century date was also retrieved.

Potential

Other than providing dating evidence the glass is of limited potential. It could be discarded.

The Metal

Introduction

A single item weighing 17g was recovered.

Condition

The metal item is in moderate condition, though corroded and laminating.

Results

Table 2 Metal archive

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context date
025	iron	Nail, rectangular-sectioned shaft, corroded and laminating	1	17	

Provenance

The item was recovered as unstratified material (025).

Discussion

A single nail, a smithed form, was recovered.

Potential and Recommendations

As an isolated and unstratified find, the nail is of negligible significance. It can be discarded.

Context Date Summary

The dating in the following table is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3 Spot dates

Cxt	Date AD)	(Century	Comments
001	later 19th		Based on 1 glass
017	20th		Based on 1 glass
025	20th		Based on glass

References

ClfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Van den Bossche, W, 2001 *Antique Glass Bottles Their History and Evolution (1500-1850)*, Antique Collectors' Club

Abbreviations

CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

No. Number

Wt(g) Weight (grams)

APPENDIX 5 OASIS data collection form summary page

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: acornarc1-331742

Project details

Project name	London Road, Norman Cross, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire and Norman Cross Depot for Prisoners of War
Short description of the project	Mint Cottage, London Road, Norman Cross, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire and the adjacent site of the Norman Cross Depot for prisoners of War. Archaeological monitoring and recording and supervision and recording.
Project dates	Start: 22-10-2017 End: 22-06-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 5196 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	17/00436/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SM CB 268, HA 1006782 - SM No.
Any associated project reference codes	YXNC17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	PIT Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE YAXLEY Mint Cottage, London Road, Norman Cross, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire and the adjacent site of the Norman Cross Depot for Prisoners of War
Postcode	PE7 3TB

Study area 170 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 16095 90939 52.503596482366 -0.289409230258 52 30 12 N 000 17 21 W Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Acorn Archaeology
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
 Project design originator Vicky Mellor
 Project director/manager Vicky Mellor
 Project supervisor Vicky Mellor
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body Thomas Mann

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient County Archive Facility Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team
 Physical Archive ID ECB 5196
 Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics"
 Digital Archive recipient County Archive Facility Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team
 Digital Archive ID ECB 5196
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
 Paper Archive recipient County Archive Facility Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team
 Paper Archive ID ECB 5196
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Mint Cottage, London Road, Norman Cross, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire and the adjacent site of the Norman Cross Depot for Prisoners of War. Arch. monitoring and recording and Arch. supervision and recording
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Entered on 23 October 2018

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

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