

Wessex Archaeology

# Oak Street Fakenham, Norfolk

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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**OAK STREET  
FAKENHAM  
NORFOLK**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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## SUMMARY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a second phase of archaeological evaluation on a derelict site at Oak Street, Fakenham, Norfolk (centred on NGR TF 591740 329740) in June 2003, prior to redevelopment. The Site lies on the north-west edge of the historic core of the town, and an earlier evaluation (in 2002) by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) had indicated the presence of medieval levelling / reclamation deposits in the lower, western part of the Site. Pollen analysis tentatively concluded that the upper part of the underlying peat sequence should be dated to the later prehistoric (Iron Age) to Saxon periods. This evaluation, however, failed to confirm the presence of a moated residence, referred to as a rectory, which mid-17<sup>th</sup> century map evidence indicates lay within the Site. Further evidence for the former presence of this moated enclosure comes from a large, lozenge-shaped pond which remained extant until around 1939 and probably reflected the late survival of the western arm of the moat.

The evaluation reported on in this document demonstrated the existence of the moated enclosure, formerly the site of the medieval rectory, covering an area approximately 65m by 60m and sealed beneath a metre or more of more recent make-up / levelling deposits. The moated enclosure lay 75m from the Oak Street frontage, and was defined by a ditch approximately 12m wide and 1.5m deep with gently sloping sides, with a causeway in the north-west corner. The western terminus of the moat in this area contained a line of stakes, possibly a revetment, and two more substantial posts probably reflecting a later phase (or phases) of moat development. The central part of the moated area had been raised by at least 0.5m, although no trace of any, presumably timber-framed structure survived within the relatively small area of the interior investigated. Very few finds were recovered, but pottery from the medieval make-up / levelling deposits has been assigned to the 11<sup>th</sup> to early / mid 12<sup>th</sup> century. However, this perhaps reflects the date of make-up material imported from elsewhere rather than the use of the moated residence itself, which is more likely to have begun in the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The medieval rectory may have remained in use until the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century, and a building is depicted within the moated area on the map of 1650. However, it had certainly been rebuilt on the Oak Street frontage during or before the Georgian period where a (former) rectory and associated barn of this date survive today. In the eastern part of the Site, limited trenching 25m or more from the Oak Street frontage revealed one medieval pit and several features reflecting late post-medieval development along the street frontage.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting. Acknowledgements are due to Paul Chadwick for his assistance and advice throughout the course of the work, and to Andrew Hutcheson of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology for his collaborative role in the project. Other members of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology are also thanked, in particular Edwin Rose for examining and commenting on the barn associated with the existing (Georgian) rectory building, and Andrew Rogerson for further, background information relating to Fakenham.

The fieldwork was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Rob Armour Chelu. The fieldwork was directed Phil Andrews assisted by Mark Stewart. This report was compiled by Phil Andrews, with the finds section by Lorraine Mepham and environmental information provided by Chris Stephens and Michael J. Allen. The illustrations have been prepared by Kitty Brandon.

# OAK STREET FAKENHAM NORFOLK

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 During June 2003 Wessex Archaeology undertook the evaluation of approximately 1.7 hectares of derelict land off Oak Street, Fakenham, Norfolk. The evaluation trenching was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in advance of proposed development of the Site.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was carried out as part of a programme of archaeological work required in preparation for the submission of a planning application.
- 1.1.3 Previous evaluation within the Site by the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) in June 2002 demonstrated that some buried archaeological remains of medieval and later date were present (HAT 2002). The Wessex Archaeology evaluation in 2003 was undertaken following recommendations by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA) who advised the local planning authority that further archaeological evaluation was desirable to clarify the nature and extent of the remains prior to development of the Site.
- 1.1.4 A brief for evaluation of the Site was issued by NLA on 13 July 2001. The 2003 evaluation and preparation of this report have been undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2003, ref. 53479.01) and approved by NLA.

#### 1.2 Site Location and Description

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises an irregular area, some 1.7ha in extent, located on the north-western edge of the historic core of Fakenham (**Fig. 1**). The larger, western part of the Site is bounded to the east by a steel fence which constitutes the perimeter of a car park serving street front properties. To the north and west it is bounded by a drainage ditch, whilst the southern boundary is largely occupied by disused workshops and warehouses. The smaller, eastern part of the Site is partly bounded by a disused shop and warehouses, the rear of properties on Oak Street to the east, and an alleyway to the south. The Site is centred on National Grid Ref TF 591740 329720.
- 1.2.2 The western part of the Site is covered by concrete and tarmac hard standing, rough ground and gravelled areas, typical of disused light industrial and

commercial sites. The eastern part of the Site was formerly a car park, and is covered by tarmac overlying concrete.

- 1.2.3 The solid geology of the area comprises Upper Chalk with overlying glacial sands and gravels. These are in turn overlain by deposits of peat which have been shown to cover the western two-thirds of the Site (Harrison Environmental Consulting nd). The soils in the area are those of the Iselham 2 Association, described in SSEW 1983 as ‘...deep permeable sandy and peaty soils affected by groundwater’.
- 1.2.4 The Site lies on the northern edge of the shallow valley of the River Wensum which flows west to east approximately 350m to the south. The majority of the Site occupies roughly level ground within the valley bottom at a height of *c.* 35 – 35.50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), rising to *c.* 38m aOD within the car park to the east, and *c.* 41m aOD on the Oak Street frontage.

### **1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 1.3.1 The Site lies on the north-western edge of the historic core of Fakenham which is focussed around the church and market place approximately 150m to the east. The town is recorded in Domesday, the *-ham* suffix probably an indicator of its Saxon origins. The place name is thought to derive from the Saxon *fair place by the river*. Domesday details that Fakenham was the centre of a manor or estate owned by King Harold immediately prior to the Norman Conquest. At the time of Domesday (1086) 5 *Villeins*, 20 *Bordars* and 4 *Serfs* are recorded, probably representing a population of approximately 150 people. This reference indicates a large village rather than a town, although the settlement subsequently grew and the town was granted a market in 1250.
- 1.3.2 The oldest surviving building in Fakenham is the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, situated on higher ground to the east of the Site, parts of which date to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, although there was extensive rebuilding in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The existing nave and chancel both belong to this period, and it was also during the 14<sup>th</sup> century that the right of appointment to the living passed to King’s Hall, Cambridge (later Trinity College) which has retained patronage ever since. The tower was added in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, but by the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the church in a state of neglect. In 1597 the rector, Dr Robert West, recorded that *‘the chauncell is ruynowes and decayed for want of tyling, glasings and pavynge’* (PCC nd).
- 1.3.3 The apparent lack of secular buildings of medieval date within the town can be attributed to a series of catastrophic fires in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, which were followed by a building boom through the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, an early building, elements of which may date to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, is located directly opposite the Site on the east side of Oak Street. Oak Street is likely to have developed as an early route out of the town to the north, with the street frontage becoming fully built-up from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards.
- 1.3.4 A map of 1650 (held by Norfolk Record Office) shows a moated residence, referred to as a Rectory, on the Site. Part of the moat (the western arm)



appears to have survived until 1939 as a lozenge-shaped pond. The present rectory building is a later, Georgian townhouse on the Oak Street frontage, now in use as offices. To the rear of this, within the same property, is a barn of late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century date (Edwin Rose pers. comm.), now in use as a fitness centre. The Norfolk Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) also records the discovery in 1940 of the remains of a dug out boat, found (and reburied?) during the construction of two sewers across the western part of the Site. This boat is undated and it is unclear whether it was related to the moated residence.

- 1.3.5 It is likely that the Oak Street frontage was historically built-up whilst the rear of the Site, apart from the moated residence, was undeveloped marshland with associated drainage ditches. The Site was developed as a garage servicing agricultural as well as commercial and private vehicles in the post-war period, and the western part raised and levelled to create hardstanding. Subsequently, a series of workshops (and later warehouses) were constructed along much of the southern and part of the northern edges.
- 1.3.6 Evaluation trenching undertaken in the western part of the site by HAT in 2002 (see **Fig. 2**) 'revealed little in the way of activity on the site prior to its development as a garage in the 20<sup>th</sup> century'. It did, however, identify part of the backfilled pond, although the moated residence was not found. Furthermore, a sequence of deposits in this area were interpreted as 'localised evidence of levelling / reclamation in the mediaeval period' and it was conjectured that the 'layers may derive from ancillary works associated with the moated site' (HAT 2002). Pottery from the levelling / reclamation deposits was assigned to the 11<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 12<sup>th</sup> century AD, with two mid-12<sup>th</sup> to mid-14<sup>th</sup> century sherds being recovered from other contexts. A pollen assessment (Scaife in HAT 2002) of a monolith taken from the upper part of the peat profile suggested, tentatively, that it is 'of very late-prehistoric to early historic date (Iron Age to ?Saxon)'.
- 1.3.7 Prior to the 2003 evaluation, a map regression exercise was undertaken by Paul Chadwick of CgMs, and the location of the moated residence shown on the 1650 map plotted as closely as possible on a modern map of the Site. This showed the moat to have been approximately 65m square and to lie towards the middle of the Site, approximately 75m west of the Oak Street frontage.

## **2. AIMS AND METHODS**

### **2.1 Aims**

- 2.1.1 The aim of the evaluation was to further establish the presence or absence, location, date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site. In particular, the evaluation was designed to clarify the existence and precise location of the moated residence which is indicated on the map of 1650.

- 2.1.2 This information will aid in the establishment of an archaeological mitigation strategy which takes into account both the quality of the archaeology and the engineering requirements of the proposed development.

## 2.2 Methods

- 2.2.1 The fieldwork strategy is described in detail in the Project Design (Wessex Archaeology 2003) approved by NLA. In summary, the Site was evaluated through trenching in two areas separated by disused workshops and warehouses. Trenches 1 and 2 in the western part of the Site were targeted on the predicted location of the moat, Trench 1 across the north and west arms, and Trench 2 across the east and west arms as well as the centre of the enclosed area. Both trenches were to incorporate and thereby require the re-excitation of two of the backfilled HAT evaluation trenches (Nos 5 and 7 respectively). Trenches 3 and 4 in the eastern part of the Site were laid out to evaluate the available area, which lay between 25m and 60m from the Oak Street frontage (see **Fig. 1**).
- 2.2.2 For a variety of reasons, none of the trenches could be excavated in precisely the locations or lengths proposed in the Project Design (see **Fig. 2**). Trench 1, approximately 50m long, was excavated in two parts (1A and 1B) leaving a 5m gap between the two in an area of very heavy hydrocarbon (diesel) contamination. The overall location of Trench 1 was also shifted approximately 14m to the west to avoid an existing warehouse and associated apron of concrete, and the south part (1B) slightly realigned to take in the actual location of HAT Trench 5. Trench 2, approximately 72m long, was moved 8m to the west to avoid a steel fence and 2.5m to the north to take in the actual location of HAT Trench 7. The west end (Trench 2A) was moved a further 4m to the north to avoid a large concrete ramp and associated vehicle inspection pit. Trench 3 had to be excavated in three lengths (3A, 3B and 3C), totalling 11.5m, because of the presence of numerous services crossing the area, and Trench 4 shortened for the same reason, although a short additional arm was excavated to the east to make a total length of 14m.
- 2.2.3 The trenches were excavated by 360° tracked excavator under constant archaeological supervision and, where necessary, were stepped to allow excavation to continue below a depth of 1.2m. The southern part of Trench 1A was widened to 5m to allow deeper excavation within the northern arm of the moat and the adjacent, earlier peat sequence. Part of Trench 2B was also widened to allow deeper excavation within the eastern arm of the moat.
- 2.2.4 Following completion of the archaeological work, a series of five geotechnic test-pits were dug within Trenches 1 and 2 by a soils investigation company to assess the ground conditions for engineering purposes (see **Fig. 2**). These test-pits were archaeologically monitored and the results incorporated in the results set out below.
- 2.2.5 The trenches were recorded and planned using Wessex Archaeology's *pro-forma* record sheets.

- 2.2.6 The excavation commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> June and was completed on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2003, and the trenches backfilled with the excavated arisings.
- 2.2.7 The excavation was monitored by Andrew Hutcheson of NLA on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2003.

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The results of the excavation trenches are presented below, with more detailed descriptions of the features and deposits contained in **Appendix 1**. Full cross-referenced site records are contained in the archive.
- 3.1.2 No archaeological features or deposits pre-dating the medieval moated residence were identified. The dating of the peat sequence has been mentioned above and is discussed further below. The archaeological sequence relating directly to the moated residence (recorded in Trenches 1 and 2) is described first, followed by the remaining features / deposits recorded elsewhere within the Site (Trenches 3 and 4).

#### 3.2 Soil Profile

- 3.2.1 Trenches 1 and 2 showed 0.8 – 1.5m (generally more than 1.2m) of modern make-up deposits to overly medieval and post-medieval levels. The upper *c.* 0.4m of these make-up deposits comprised largely flint gravel and crushed brick / concrete making up the hardstanding and base layer. The remainder comprised a mid to light greyish brown sandy silt loam containing some brick and other modern material. In some areas beyond the limits of the moat the modern make-up deposits are recorded as directly overlying a relatively compact, fibrous, dark reddish brown (sometimes very dark greyish brown / black) peat (HAT Trenches 1 – 4). However, closer to the moat (at the south-west end of Trench 1B and in HAT Trench 6) a light yellowish brown / brownish yellow sandy silt layer (**1021**), approximately 0.5m thick, overlay the peat and was sealed by the modern make-up deposits. A layer of silty peat (**1020**) above this layer produced stonewares of early 18<sup>th</sup> century date. (see **Fig. 5a**). A similar deposit (**1006**) at the northern end of Trench 1A overlay the infilled moat and has been interpreted as an alluvial deposit representing one or more flooding episodes post-dating the use of the moated residence. Within the area enclosed by the moat the modern make-up deposits overlay approximately 0.55m of medieval levelling / make-up deposits which themselves sealed the underlying peat (see **Fig. 5b**).
- 3.2.2 The current water table lies at approximately 34.00m aOD, with the surface of the peat recorded at between 33.00m and 34.50m aOD across the site. As well as increasing in thickness from east to west, the peat also appears to increase in thickness from south to north, from *c.* 1.3m in HAT Trench 3 to *c.* 2.5m at the north end of Trench 1A. This reflects a corresponding fall in the underlying natural deposits, from the sand and gravel at *c.* 32.45m aOD in HAT Trench 3 down to *c.* 31m aOD on the chalk marl in Trench 1A. For

comparison, natural sand lay at *c.* 33.50m aOD at the east end of Trench 2B, and here the peat thins to less than 1m thick as the underlying natural sand rises to the east.

- 3.2.3 Various modern intrusions were recorded in the western part of the Site, including several drains and a vehicle inspection pit, all relating to its use as a garage. The largest intrusion comprised a sub-circular, shallow pit with an estimated maximum diameter of 25m, sealed by the uppermost, modern make-up deposits and extending down *c.* 1.5m to the surface of the underlying peat. This pit lay towards the northern edge of the Site, between Trenches 1A/B and 2A, and was filled with a variety of automotive parts and other garage debris, and demonstrated a high level of hydrocarbon contamination (the ‘diesel pit’ shown on **Fig. 2**)
- 3.2.4 Trenches 3 and 4 in the higher, eastern part of the site demonstrated between 0.4m (Trench 3) and 0.6m (Trench 4) of modern deposits comprising variously make-up and demolition levels, crushed concrete and tarmac to overlie post-medieval and medieval garden soils 0.4 – 1m thick. These sealed medieval features (in Trench 3), and natural sand at *c.* 35.40m aOD in Trench 3 and *c.* 36.50m aOD at the eastern end of Trench 4 (see **Figs 5c** and **d**). The upper 0.2m or so of the sand had been disturbed by animal and root action, and peat was clearly absent in this part of the Site.

### 3.3 The Moated Residence

- 3.3.1 The moat was recorded in two places, at the south end of Trench 1A and towards the eastern end of Trench 2B. In addition to this, the pond known to have been extant until about 1939 was recorded at the junction of Trenches 1B and 2A (as revealed in HAT trench 7. HAT trench 6 was also thought to have revealed the south end of this pond, but may actually have exposed the south arm of the moat). These discoveries relate to the north, east and west arms respectively of the moat, and indicate that it is likely to have been approximately square in plan, measuring *c.* 65m by *c.* 60m (to the outer edges of the moat), and to have enclosed an area of *c.* 0.18 hectares.

#### *East arm of moat (Fig. 3)*

- 3.3.2 The high water table precluded a complete section through the moat being archaeologically excavated, but partial excavation combined with two judiciously placed geotechnic test-pits towards the eastern end of Trench 2B enabled a section to be recorded which is likely to be representative of the moat profile elsewhere. This showed the moat (**2001**) to have been approximately 12m wide, 1.5m deep with gently sloping sides (at *c.* 20 - 25°) and a flat bottom. There was no indication from the profile or sequence of fills for any recutting or cleaning out of the moat.
- 3.3.3 There was no evidence for any lining or revetment of the moat sides which had been cut directly in to the underlying peat (**2025**); the bottom at this point stopped at the (flat) top of a very large chalk ‘erratic’ (this rested on the underlying natural sand and was surrounded by peat). However, there was

some evidence for the interior make-up / levelling deposits having been revetted along the inner edge of the moat (see below), presumably to prevent material being eroded into the moat.

- 3.3.4 The lower moat fill (**2003**) comprised a dark greyish brown silty peat, approximately 0.2m thick, probably representing material eroded from the moat sides. No finds were recovered from this layer. On the east side of the moat in this area was a substantial deposit of flint cobbles (**2017**), apparently dumped in the moat, but whose source or function remains unclear.
- 3.3.5 The upper moat fill (**2004**) comprised approximately 0.65m of undifferentiated olive brown sandy silts representing a long period of natural silting. Occasional animal bone was noted in this layer and the base of a probable 18<sup>th</sup> century wine glass was recovered approximately half way down.
- 3.3.6 Sealing the upper fill of the moat was a thin layer, usually no more than 0.02m thick, of brown peaty soil (**2005**), best interpreted as an abandonment horizon which formed after the moat had largely silted up but still survived as a shallow hollow. This interpretation is reinforced by the exposure within the excavated area of the stump and roots of a substantial tree 'growing' on the surface of layer **2005**.
- 3.3.7 Abandonment layer **2005** was, in turn, sealed by a series of post-medieval make-up / levelling deposits up to 0.70m thick. These comprised a light grey silty clay (**2006**) perhaps representing a later episode of flooding / silting, a deposit of greenish yellow sand (**2007**), probably deliberately dumped and, finally, a spread of building debris including flints, occasional mortar, and fragments of brick and peg tile. These layers were covered by an extensive spread of very dark grey / black sandy silt with some flints and occasional brick fragments (**2009**), up to 0.2m thick, which completely obscured the last vestiges of the moat. Presumably this material was imported to the site to raise and level the ground, perhaps in the later 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and this remained the ground surface until buried by the make-up levels for the Site's use as a garage in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *North arm of moat (Fig. 4)*

- 3.3.8 Trench 1A revealed a rather different sequence to that recorded in the eastern arm of the moat and, more significantly, a rounded terminus at the western end indicating the location of a causeway at the north-west corner of the moat. Owing to the rapid inundation of hydrocarbon-contaminated water it was not possible to investigate by hand the lower fill(s) of the moat in this area, but a subsequent geotechnic test-pit allowed rapid recording of the sequence. The full width and profile of the moat (**1024**) could not be ascertained because of the disturbance caused by the diesel pit, but it was at least 10m wide and there is no evidence that it had a different profile to the eastern arm.
- 3.3.9 The lower fill (**1019**) comprised a pale yellow clayey silt / sandy silt overlain by a relatively thick deposit of peat (**1008**) which almost entirely filled the remainder of the moat in this area. At the interface of these two layers were

approximately a dozen, small (*c.* 0.05m diameter), roundwood stakes (**1015**) which had been driven in to layer **1019** and clearly did not form an original feature of the moat. Driven in to the (lower part of the) peat at the centre of the moat terminus and, therefore, post-dating the stakes were two fairly substantial, squared posts (**1012** and **1013**) lying next to each other. One and possibly both of these were re-used building timbers, each with one end later faceted to form a point. Both timbers were approximately 0.15m square, **1013** contained a mortice hole, and it is possible that the timbers were re-used elements of wall studding. It seems certain that the upper part of the peat (**1008**) had developed around these posts as well as the earlier group of stakes (**1015**).

- 3.3.10 The peat (**1008**) filling the moat was sealed by successive layers (**1007** and **1006**) of pale yellow and olive grey sandy silts, together up to 0.6m thick, which may reflect alluvial deposits laid down during repeated flooding episodes after the moated residence had been abandoned. Beyond the limit of the moat, layer **1006** sealed a spread or dump of black sandy silt (**1009**) containing brick, tile, pot and two glass wine bottles dated to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> / early 19<sup>th</sup> century. This may represent debris contemporary with the final phase of use of the moat, and indicates that the putative flooding episodes should be assigned to the later 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century. Above these was a peaty silt layer (**1005**) which perhaps represents a phase of late post-medieval soil development prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century make-up and levelling of the western part of the Site.

*Pond / West arm of moat*

- 3.3.11 The pond known to have been extant until *c.* 1939 was revealed at the junction of Trenches 1B and 2A (see **Fig. 2**). No hand excavation was undertaken, but limited machine trenching showed it to have been approximately 15m wide and the west side (at least) to have had a gently sloping profile similar to the moat. However, it was clear that what appeared to have been the bottom fill contained relatively modern debris including part of a ceramic sink.

*Interior of moat*

- 3.3.12 Little further information about the interior of the moated area was gained in 2003 to add to that recorded by HAT in 2002. This showed what have been interpreted as medieval reclamation / make-up layers (**2020**, **2023** and **2024**) up to 0.55m thick directly overlying pre-medieval peat **2025** (**Fig. 5b**). It is possible that layer **2022** may also represent one of this sequence of layers and, if so, then the ground level within the moated area would have been at or above *c.* 34.95m aOD, approximately 1m above the peat. These layers all comprised a variety of grey / greyish brown sandy silts / silty sands and, although only a very small volume was excavated, **2020** produced two small sherds of Romano-British greyware (from a soil sample). In contrast, the HAT evaluation in 2002 produced almost 30 sherds of pottery from these layers, and all of this assemblage has been assigned to the 11<sup>th</sup> – early / mid 12<sup>th</sup> century. What at present is unclear is whether this pottery represents earlier, medieval occupation on the site – pre-dating the moated residence, or whether

the material containing the pottery was imported from elsewhere later to raise the level of the interior of the moat. On balance, the latter interpretation seems the more probable.

- 3.3.13 No structural features were recorded within the interior of the moated area other than what appears to have been the remains of an insubstantial revetment along the inner edge of the east arm of the moat. This was marked by a very shallow slot (**2019**) which perhaps marked the location of planks which revetted the edge of the medieval make-up / reclamation layers and prevented material from being eroded in to the moat.
- 3.3.14 The apparent absence of structural remains, specifically the medieval rectory, in the western part of Trench 2B, which crossed the central part of the moated area, might be explained by two factors. Firstly, the narrow width of the trench may have resulted in post-holes of a timber-framed structure being missed. Secondly, there is the possibility that the ground surface in this area has been truncated during more recent levelling and make-up activities which have removed earlier structural remains.

#### **3.4 Oak Street Frontage**

- 3.4.1 Only a relatively small area of the natural sand was exposed in Trenches 3 and 4, but a medieval pit (**3003**) was found in Trench 3A, sealed beneath approximately 1.4m of medieval / post-medieval 'garden soil' and modern make-up (**Figs 2 and 5c**). Pit **3003** was not fully exposed, but may have been circular, at least 1m in diameter, 0.8m deep with vertical sides and a flat bottom. It was filled with a homogeneous greenish grey sandy silt (**3004**), perhaps indicative of a cess deposit, and produced five sherds of later 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery and one residual Roman sherd. The overlying medieval 'garden soil' (**3005**) produced a further sherd of medieval pottery, but there were also three sherds (including the complete base of a relatively large vessel) which have been provisionally assigned a Romano-British date.
- 3.4.2 The only other features present in Trench 3 were a (late) post-medieval barrel-lined well (not excavated) in the south-east corner of Trench 3A and a brick lined soakaway in the north-west corner of Trench 3B. Both features (not illustrated) cut post-medieval 'garden soil' **3006**, and were visible immediately following removal of the surface tarmac and crushed concrete.
- 3.4.3 Trench 4 revealed a large, oval pit (**4012**) at least 4.5m long and 4m wide which cut post-medieval 'garden soil' / make-up layer **4006** and underlying ?medieval, 'garden soils' **4008** and **4009** (**Fig. 5d**). Pit **4012** (not illustrated) was not excavated, but it appeared to contain much demolition debris (brick, tile, mortar and flint cobbles) and pottery from the upper fill indicates a 19<sup>th</sup> century date. In the north-west corner of the trench was a circular brick-lined feature, probably a relatively modern well. Brick wall **4011** (see **Fig. 2**) running north-south had been built over the top of pit **4012**, and at this point incorporated a relieving arch. It is clear from 20<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey maps that this was the rear wall of an extension to 15 Oak Street which was demolished in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 4. FINDS

4.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered, deriving from contexts in all four evaluation trenches. Finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and this information is summarised in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)**

CBM = ceramic building material

Context	Description	Animal Bone	CBM	Glass	?RB Pottery	Med Pottery	P-med Pottery	Other Finds
1009	Dump layer		2/1368	2/1037			1/19	1 clay pipe 2 CBM
1020	Build-up layer						2/30	
2004	Upper moat fill	1/334		1/55				
2020	reclamation / make-up layer	5/29			2/10			2 flint 2 shell
3004	Pit 3003	28/22			1/12	5/66		3 iron 2 flint 6 shell
3005	'garden soil'				3/820	1/9		1 flint
4009	'garden soil'	1/12						
4013	pit 4012						2/97	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35/397</b>	<b>2/1368</b>	<b>3/1092</b>	<b>6/842</b>	<b>6/75</b>	<b>5/146</b>	

### *Pottery*

- 4.2 Three sherds from a garden soil layer (**3005**) on the Oak Street frontage have been tentatively identified as Romano-British. These include two conjoining sherds from a thick-walled, handmade vessel with a relatively narrow, flat base, in a coarse, reduced sandy fabric. The third sherd is in a non-distinctive but finer sandy fabric and is wheelthrown.
- 4.3 Three further sherds, one from pit **3003** and two from medieval reclamation / make-up layer **2020**, are more positively identifiable as Romano-British coarse greywares.
- 4.4 A fourth sherd from the garden soil layer **3005**, and five sherds from pit **3003** in the same area, are Grimston-type sandy wares, five glazed, and broadly dated as later 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.5 Three sherds from Trench 1 and two from Trench 4 are of post-medieval date, comprising three coarse redwares and two stonewares (one white salt glazed). The stonewares serve to date build up layer **1020** to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century; the redwares are not closely datable.

### *Glass*

- 4.6 The base of a wine glass recovered from silting layer **2004** within the upper part of the eastern arm of the moat is of probable 18<sup>th</sup> century date.



- 4.7 Two wine bottle bases were recovered from dumped layer **1009** in Trench 1; these are of mid 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century type.

#### *Other finds*

- 4.8 Other finds recovered comprise a small quantity of animal bone (horse, sheep, amphibian and ?fish) and marine shell (cockle, mussel, bivalve); one unfrosted brick and a fragment of roof tile, both post-medieval; one clay pipe stem; three iron objects (one nail, one cleat, one unidentified); and five worked flints.

## **5. ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 Bulk samples were taken from medieval make-up / levelling layer **2020** and from medieval pit **3004**.
- 5.1.2 Three monolith samples were also taken (WA 1 – 3), one from the infill sequence in the eastern arm of the moat (see **Fig. 3**), and two from the medieval make-up layers within the area enclosed by the moat (see **Figs 3** and **5b**). The latter were sampled in order to clarify the nature and source of this material and determine whether there is any evidence for soil development on the surface of the uppermost deposit(s). The monolith samples have not been examined for the purposes of this assessment, but have been retained for future analysis, if required, along with further, detailed pollen analysis of the HAT monolith sample taken from the peat underlying the medieval moated residence (see **Fig. 5b**).

### **5.2 Results**

#### *Charred plant remains and charcoal*

- 5.2.1 Neither sample was seen to contain waterlogged material (but see below) and they were processed by standard flotation methods. The flot was retained on a 0.5 mm mesh for the sample from the moat make-up / levelling layer, while that from the pit was processed for mineralised remains using a 250 µm mesh. The residues were fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded.
- 5.2.2 The flots were scanned under a x10 - x30 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 2**). The flots were generally small (about 7 to 10 ml) and contained a degree of rooty material.
- 5.2.3 Both samples contained a great deal of charred plant material that was poorly preserved, particularly that from medieval pit 3003. The make-up / levelling material within the moat (context 2020) showed more variation in preservation with some smaller seeds being well-preserved. Both samples produced good evidence for both leguminous as well as cereal crops.

5.2.4 Relatively little charcoal was present, and this is recorded in **Table 2**. Some of the charcoal from context 2002 was highly vitrified, but less than 5.6mm.

Make-up / levelling layer 2002

5.2.5 Beans (*Vicia faba*), free-threshing wheat, and barley were present along with a single rye grain and rye rachis (*Secale cereale*).

5.2.6 Several weed seeds were also recovered; these were of common weed species such as red bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), vetch (*Vicia* sp.), cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), clover (*Trifolium* sp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.) and a possible fragment of corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*).

5.2.7 High numbers of crystals of the blue mineral vivianite were present. Vivianite is indicative of the presence of phosphates and, therefore, cess and/or animal dung. This sample also contained a notable quantity of homogenous charred material that could not be identified, some of which is likely to be distorted wood charcoal, although other lumps possibly come from charred dung.

Pit 3003

5.2.8 Remains of pea (*Pisium sativum*) were common in the sample from this pit. Cereal remains included grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum* sl), barley (*Hordeum vulgare* sl) and oats (*Avena* sp.). The relatively large size of the oat grains suggest that in this case the grains come from cultivated rather than wild oats. No remains of weed seeds were present in the flot. Some possible mineralisation of organic fragments was present, although no mineralised seeds were recovered or other identifiable remains.

**Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Feature type no	Context	Sample	size litres	Flot						Residue >5.6mm	
				flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	Charred	Other	Notes		Charcoal >5.6mm
Pit 3003	3004	4	20	100 <sup>0</sup>	A*	-	A*		Peas, oats, f-t wheat and barley. ?modern elder. Some possible mineralisation.	C	Moll t (C) Smb Fish (A)
Layer: Moat make-up	2020	5	20	60 <sup>0</sup>	A**	-	A*		Culms nodes, beans, charred much with vivianite in it. f-t threshing wheat grains, rye, barley, oats. vetch. <i>Centaurea</i> , <i>Odontites verna</i> . <i>Chenopodium</i> sp. cf. <i>Agrostemma</i> , rye rachis fragment, <i>Trifolium</i> sp. <i>Carex</i> sp.		Moll t (A) Smb Fish

KEY: A\*\* = exceptional, A\* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis, C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs

NOTE: <sup>1</sup>flot is total, but flot in superscript = ml of rooty material.

*Waterlogged plant remains*

5.2.9 While the sample from the make-up / levelling layer 2020 did not appear to have been waterlogged, a number of seeds of elder (*Sambucus nigra*), and a few stems, one of straw, and one possibly of goosegrass (*Galium* sp.) were

recovered. Remains of elder are commonplace in medieval deposits that may have been formerly waterlogged, and this seems likely in this case.

#### *Land snails*

- 5.2.10 The sample from make-up / levelling layer 2020 contained shells of predominately *Trichia* sp. with a few of *Cochlicopa* sp. No water snails were identified. Pit 3003 contained few shells, with only one of *Cepea/Helix apsera* and a few of *Trichia* sp.

#### *Small mammal and fish bones*

- 5.2.11 Some small mammal bones and fish bones were recorded in the flots. Fish bones were relatively scarce in make-up / levelling layer 2020, but were quite common in pit 3003.

### **5.3 Discussion**

- 5.3.1 The monolith sample from the moat sediments has the potential to provide information about the vegetation and local land-use contemporary with the moated residence from pollen likely to be preserved in these deposits (see Scaife in HAT 2002). Sediment descriptions of the moat sequence will also help interpret the moat infill history.
- 5.3.2 Make-up / levelling layer 2020 within the moated enclosure represents one of several similar, earlier deposits imported to the site to raise the ground level. Charred plant remains survive and have the potential to characterise the nature of the earlier occupation from which the deposits were obtained. The fairly high presence of weed seeds also means that there is some potential to investigate crop husbandry practices. For example, the presence of seeds of sedge (*Carex* sp.) probably indicates the cultivation of poorly drained fields, while those of cornflower and corn cockle are typical of medieval fields where broadcast sowing of relatively unclean seed corn was practised.
- 5.3.3 The presence of vivianite in the make-up / levelling layer indicates an association with the accumulation of phosphates, in particular cess, typical of occupation deposits. An alternative possibility is that it originated from the anaerobic environment created by the sealing of this deposit. This can be investigated by examination of the monolith sample(s) taken from the sequence of deposits.
- 5.3.4 The description of the undisturbed sediment sequences contained in two monolith samples taken from the make-up / levelling layers can be used to characterise these deposits, as well as determining any evidence for the presence and nature of a buried soil within the area enclosed by the moat.
- 5.3.5 Waterlogged material appears to survive in small quantities in the make-up / levelling deposits, as well as within the moat itself although the monolith taken from the fill has not been examined as part of this assessment.

- 5.3.6 The presence and diversity of charred remains in medieval pit 3003 indicates the potential to provide information about the activities and economy associated with the moated residence and / or properties on the Oak Street frontage.
- 5.3.7 Fish bone has been shown to be present in the samples and can provide important information about diet and economy, of particular interest given that the moat could have been used for fish rearing. The potential of the (land) snail evidence, however, appears to be low.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The 2003 archaeological evaluation has accurately determined the location of the moated residence depicted on the map of 1650, and shown it to have been constructed on the low-lying peat in the western part of the Site. The water table is close to the surface here and would have ensured that the moat remained filled with water. Although the precise position of the south arm of the moat has not certainly been established, the moat appears to have been approximately square in plan and relatively small in size, enclosing an area of c. 0.18 hectares.
- 6.2 There was a causeway in the north-west corner of the moat and it is possible that others existed (none are depicted on the 1650 map), though to prevent the water stagnating any such obstructions would need to have been avoided. There is a strong likelihood that the existing drain along the northern edge of the Site (see **Fig. 2**) was part of an inlet channel providing a slow, but constant supply of fresh water to 'flush out' the system. If so, then there is also likely to have been an outlet channel somewhere in the south or west sides of the moat.
- 6.3 The moat itself was relatively broad and shallow with no evidence for recutting or cleaning out, and no lining or revetment other than the stakes and posts in the west terminus of the northern arm of the moat. These represent a secondary phase of the moat's development, but their function is uncertain. Although possibly part of a revetment, they do not obviously appear to have stabilised the moat sides, and may have been associated with some other activity, for example fish rearing, for which the moat could have been utilised.
- 6.4 The date of construction of the moated residence remains to be established with certainty, largely because of the paucity of finds so far recovered. Pottery from the medieval make-up / reclamation deposits from within the moated area have been assigned to the 11<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 12<sup>th</sup> century, a date which seems too early for the construction of the moat which would more comfortably belong to the 13<sup>th</sup> or possibly 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The presence of this early pottery might be explained by the material having been imported from elsewhere in the town, perhaps from the river nearby (on the basis of its sandy / silty character), and this indirectly provides the first archaeological evidence for early, post-Conquest settlement in Fakenham. Certainly, it did not come from digging the moat as this material would have comprised entirely peat and been unsuitable for raising the central moat platform.

- 6.5 In other parts of the country, for example Surrey, moats such as that at Oak Street which were created for reasons of status, not defence, have almost all been assigned to the late 12<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century. They tend to pre-date the climatic deterioration of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and following the introduction of the Black Death to Britain in 1348 the fashion for moat-building declined (Turner 1987, 230-2). Possibly the establishment of a moated residence, specifically a rectory, at Fakenham corresponded either with the rebuilding of the church chancel and nave, or with the right of appointment passing to King's Hall, Cambridge, both of which occurred in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. As yet, however, only two sherds of mid-12<sup>th</sup> – mid-14<sup>th</sup> century pottery have been recovered from the immediate vicinity of the moat (both from the HAT evaluation in 2002) which are likely to reflect the early use of the moated residence.
- 6.6 No remains of any structure within the moated area has been found, although a building is depicted (at very small scale) on the map of 1650. No further reliable information can be gleaned from this map about either the orientation or the nature of the building. The failure to find any structural remains has been attributed to either the small area exposed in the evaluation and / or the possibility that there has been some later truncation of deposits in this area which was raised at least 0.5m above the moat and surrounding ground surface. It is possible that the re-used building timber(s) in the north arm of the moat was derived from a medieval timber-framed rectory, but this and any structural sequence must at present remain conjectural. The building debris in the top of the east arm of the moat is probably too late in date to relate to any structure within the moat and is thought likely to have been brought to the site to complete the final infilling of the moat.
- 6.7 The apparent lack of rubbish deposits within the moat has been noted above. However, any such deposits may have been very localised, as was the case at Baconsthorpe Castle, another (later) moated site in Norfolk, but of higher status (Sherlock and Dallas 2002, 86), or the moat may have been kept clean and most rubbish disposed of elsewhere. In Norfolk there is evidence for more domestic rubbish having been used in manuring on surrounding fields than is generally the case elsewhere in the country (pers. comm. Andrew Rogerson).
- 6.8 The moated residence was clearly set towards the middle of an extensive property occupying the entire area of the current Site as well as additional areas on the street frontage outside the current Site boundary. It is probable that ancillary buildings such as barns lay within a 'service court' on the higher ground to the east, closer to Oak Street, whereas the ground to the west within the floodplain of the river remained as marginal land and subject to flooding. The principal approach to the moated residence is most likely to have been across the east arm of the moat, via a bridge, but it could have been from the south. Only a single medieval pit was recorded in the limited area investigated in the area closer to Oak Street, and it is impossible to adduce more about the layout and use of this postulated service area on the basis of such meagre archaeological evidence. The few sherds of possible Romano-British pottery recovered as residual finds in this area are of some interest, however, and indicate activity in the immediate vicinity, most probably on the higher ground to the east.

- 6.9 It seems likely that the medieval moated residence was abandoned towards the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> or at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. From about 1500 increasing political stability and rising standards of comfort brought about the abandonment of large numbers of moated homesteads throughout the country. In Fakenham, this may also have been occasioned by an increasing vulnerability to flooding and / or a deterioration of the existing rectory building coupled with a building boom in the town following a series of catastrophic fires in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A new rectory was built on the Oak Street frontage, but whether this was the existing Georgian building or a precursor is at present uncertain. However, the late 18<sup>th</sup> / early 19<sup>th</sup> barn to the rear of this building clearly belonged to a rectory which succeeded the medieval building. The old moated residence appears to have been completely abandoned and the moat allowed to become overgrown, perhaps forming a picturesque garden feature. Certainly, the western arm of the moat did remain open (until *c.* 1939) and its lozenge-shape suggests that it may have been retained as an ornamental pool, perhaps a fish pond.
- 6.10 Neither of the evaluations has shed any further light on the remains of a dug out boat discovered in 1940 during the construction of a (deep) sewer trench. If it was found on or near the top of the peat then it is likely to have been of medieval or Saxon date (but probably pre-dated the moated residence), but if found at or near the bottom of the peat then an Iron Age or earlier date would be indicated.

## **7. IMPACT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

- 7.1 No detailed development plan for the Site is currently available, nor any information concerning the type of foundations which may be required. However, it is understood that the principal new structure is to be constructed in the central northern part of the Site covering much of the area occupied by the medieval moated residence. The archaeological deposits in this area are generally well-preserved and covered by approximately 1m (or more) of post-medieval and modern make-up deposits. Archaeological deposits lie closest to the existing ground surface within the area enclosed by the moat, where evidence for the (?timber-framed) medieval rectory is expected to be found, if not truncated by later make-up / levelling operations. Of this area comprising *c.* 0.18 hectares, approximately 25% in the north-west corner has been destroyed or contaminated by the modern 'diesel pit' which lies in this area.
- 7.2 Deposits within the moat as well as the surrounding, earlier peat (of ?later prehistoric – Saxon date) are waterlogged and have a high potential to provide environmental data. The proposed development may adversely affect the water table in the immediate vicinity and thereby cause some deterioration in the condition of the waterlogged remains within these deposits.
- 7.3 Within the area evaluated closer to Oak Street archaeological deposits lie in excess of 1m below the existing ground surface, though probably closer adjacent to Oak Street itself, and the only cut feature (a pit) was recorded 1.35m below the surface.

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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context number	Description	Interpretation
<b>TRENCH 1A / 1B</b>		
1001	Concrete.	Modern surface
1002	Brick and concrete rubble	Modern make-up
1003	Fill of pipe trench 1004	Fill of modern pipe trench
1004	Pipe trench. Contains 1003	Modern pipe trench
1005	Greyish brown peaty silt	?Late post-medieval build-up
1006	Pale yellowish brown sandy silt	Post-medieval ?alluvial deposit
1007	Pale yellowish grey sandy silt	Post-medieval alluvial deposit
1008	Mid / dark brown peat	Upper fill of moat
1009	Very dark greyish brown silty loam with some flints	Post-medieval ?rubbish deposit outside of moat to north
1010	Mid greyish brown silty peat. Fill of moat 1024	Pre-moat (upper) peat deposit
1011	Mid / dark brown peat. Fill of moat 1024	Pre-moat (lower) peat deposit
1012	Timber post, with mortice hole – re-used building timber. Fill of moat 1024	Part of ‘late structure’ within moat
1013	Timber post - ?re-used building timber. Fill of moat 1024	Part of ‘late structure’ within moat
1014	Stake – one of approximately a dozen (see 1015) . Fill of moat 1024	See 1015
1015	Group No. allocated to semi-circular arrangement of stakes in moat terminus. Fill of moat 1024	? (later) revetment in moat terminus
1016	Brick and concrete rubble	Modern make-up
1017	Olive grey sandy silt and occasional brick/concrete rubble. Fill of pond 1018	Upper fill of pond
1018	Lozenge- shaped pond <i>c.</i> 60m x 13m. Contains 1017 and 1023	Pond ( former west arm of moat) – infilled <i>c.</i> 1939
1019	Pale yellow clayey silt / sandy silt	Lower fill of moat
1020	Greyish brown peaty silt	?late post-medieval build-up
1021	Pale yellowish grey sandy silt	Post-medieval alluvial deposit
1022	Mid / dark brown peat	Pre-moat peat deposit
1023	Brownish grey sandy silt with some brick / concrete rubble. Fill of pond 1018	Lower fill of pond
1024	No. assigned to northern arm of moat. Contains 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015	Northern arm of moat



Context number	Description	Interpretation
<b>TRENCH 2A / 2B</b>		
2001	No. assigned to eastern arm of moat. Contains 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015	Eastern arm of moat
2002	Chalk 'natural'	'Natural' – a glacial erratic
2003	Dark greyish brown silty peat. Fill of moat 2001	Lower fill of moat
2004	Olive brown sandy silt. Fill of moat 2001	Upper fill of moat
2005	Thin layer of mid / dark brown peat. Fill of moat 2001	Upper fill of moat – post-medieval abandonment horizon
2006	Light grey silty clay. Fill of moat 2001	Upper fill of moat - ?alluvial deposit
2007	Greyish yellow sand. Fill of moat 2001	Post-medieval make-up / levelling deposit in top of moat
2008	Brick, mortar, flint and (peg) tile rubble. Fill of moat 2001	Post-medieval make-up / levelling deposit in top of moat
2009	Dark grey sandy silt. Fill of moat 2001	Post-medieval make-up / levelling deposit over top of infilled moat
2010	Brick and concrete rubble	Modern make-up
2011	Flint hogging	Modern make-up
2012	Tarmac	Modern surface
2013	Dark grey sandy silt with reddish (Fe) mottling. Fill of moat 2001	Upper fill of moat - ?alluvial deposit
2014	Light – dark grey sandy silt. Fill of moat 2001	Upper fill of moat - ?alluvial deposit
2015	Yellowish brown sandy silt	Post-med. ?alluvial deposit to east of moat
2016	Dark grey sandy silt	Pre-moat ?alluvial deposit
2017	Flint cobbles in a dark grey sandy silt matrix. Fill of moat 2001	Fill / dump in east side of moat
2018	Yellow compact sand	Fill / dump in west side of moat
2019	Narrow slot / plank impression along inner, west edge of moat. Filled with dark grey sandy silt	Revetment to retain medieval make-up / levelling deposits within moated area
2020	Light olive grey sandy silt	Medieval make-up / levelling deposit within moated area (=HAT Tr 7, 1002)
2021	Dark olive grey sandy silt with some mortar frags	? make-up / levelling deposit or demolition deposit within moated area
2022	Mid – dark grey sandy silt	Medieval make-up / levelling deposit within moated area (=HAT Tr 7, 1002)
2023	Mid – dark greyish brown silty sand	Medieval make-up / levelling deposit within moated area (=HAT Tr 7, 1003)
2024	Dark greenish brown silty sand	Medieval make-up / levelling deposit within moated area (=HAT Tr 7, 1004)
2025	Dark reddish brown – black peat	Pre-moat peat (=HAT Tr 7, 1005)

Context number	Description	Interpretation
<b>TRENCH 3A / 3B / 3C</b>		
3001	Orange sand	Natural
3002	Orange / greyish brown sandy silt	Re-worked natural sand
3003	Pit - ?circular, dimensions unknown, c. 0.8m deep. Contains 3004	Medieval pit
3004	Mid greenish grey sandy silt. Fill of pit 3003	?cess deposit
3005	Mid greenish brown sandy silt	? medieval 'garden soil'
3006	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with some chalk flecking	?post-medieval 'garden soil'
3007	Brick and concrete rubble	Modern make-up
3008	Tarmac	Modern surface

Context number	Description	Interpretation
<b>TRENCH 4</b>		
4001	Tarmac	Modern surface
4002	Concrete	Base for tarmac
4003	Brick and concrete rubble	Modern make-up
4004	Very dark greyish brown silty loam with occ. brick, tile and flint	Modern make-up
4005	Yellow sand with occ brick, tile and flint	Modern make-up
4006	Very dark greyish brown silty loam with occ. flint, brick and tile	Post-medieval make-up / 'garden soil'
4007	Greyish brown sandy silt loam with some sandy mottling	?medieval 'garden soil'
4008	As 4007, but with some chalk flecking	?medieval (or earlier) 'garden soil'
4009	Greyish brown sandy silt with orange sandy mottling	Re-worked natural sand
4010	Orange sand	Natural
4011	Brick wall running N/S, incorporating relieving arch across pit 4012	Rear wall of (demolished) extension to 15 Oak Street
4012	Large, ?oval pit 4.5+m by 4m. Not exc. Contains 4013	Pit dug for demolition debris – pre-dates wall 4011
4013	Late post-med / early mod demolition debris. Fill of pit 4012	Fill of pit
4014	Circular brick-lined feature which extends beyond limit of exc. c. 2.5 / 3m diameter	? late post-medieval / early mod well



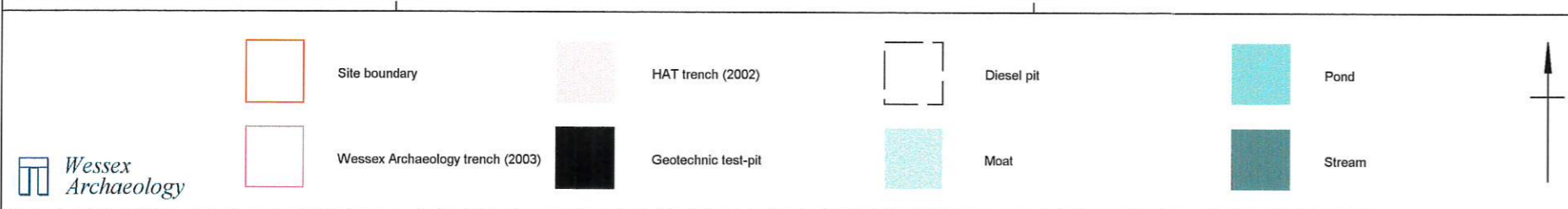
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Site and proposed trench location plan

Figure 1

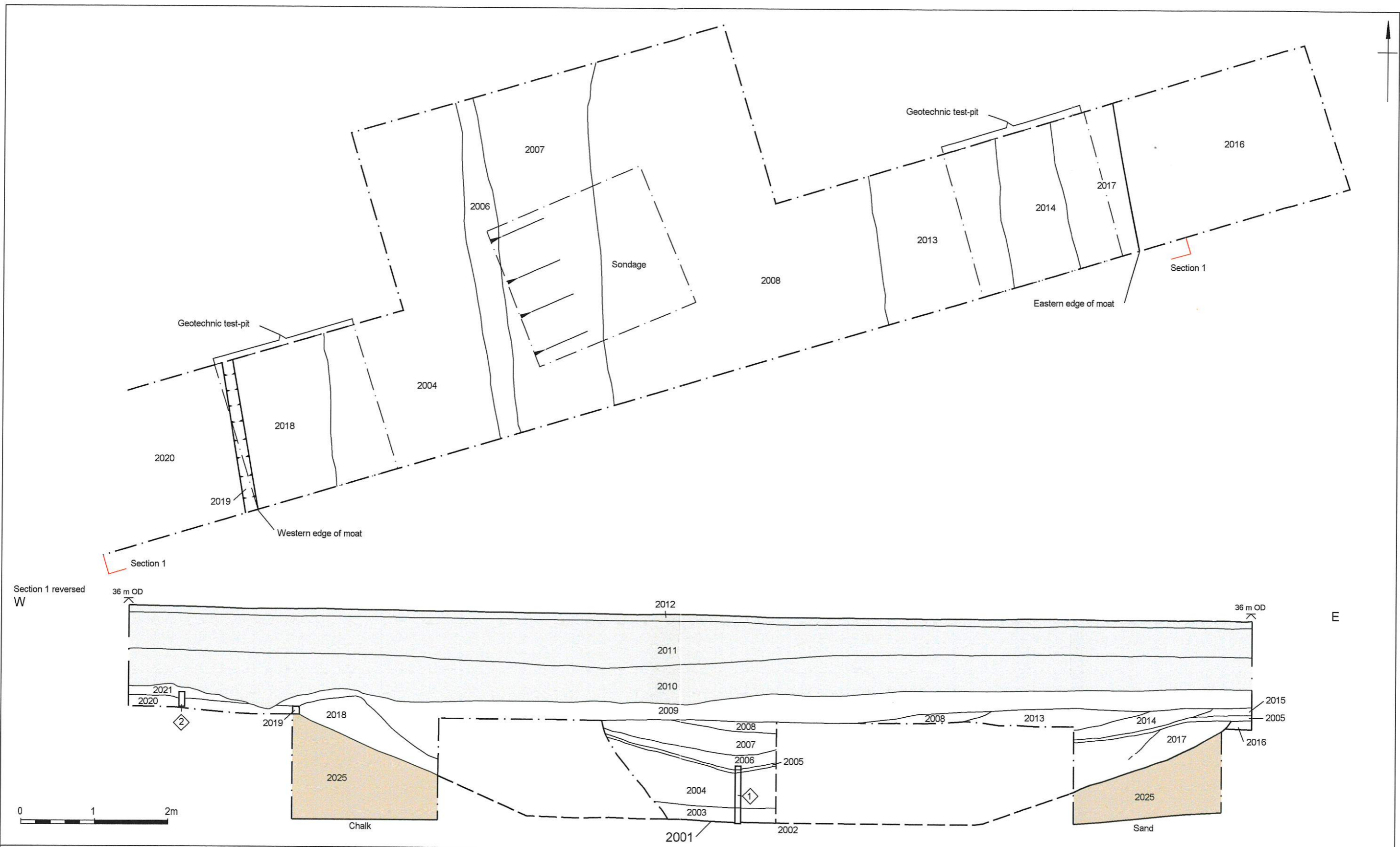


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Scale:	1:1000	Illustrator:	KJB
Path:	X:\projects\53479\Drawing Office\Report figures\03_06\Fig2.dwg		

Site plan showing actual trench locations with layout of moated residence superimposed

Figure 2



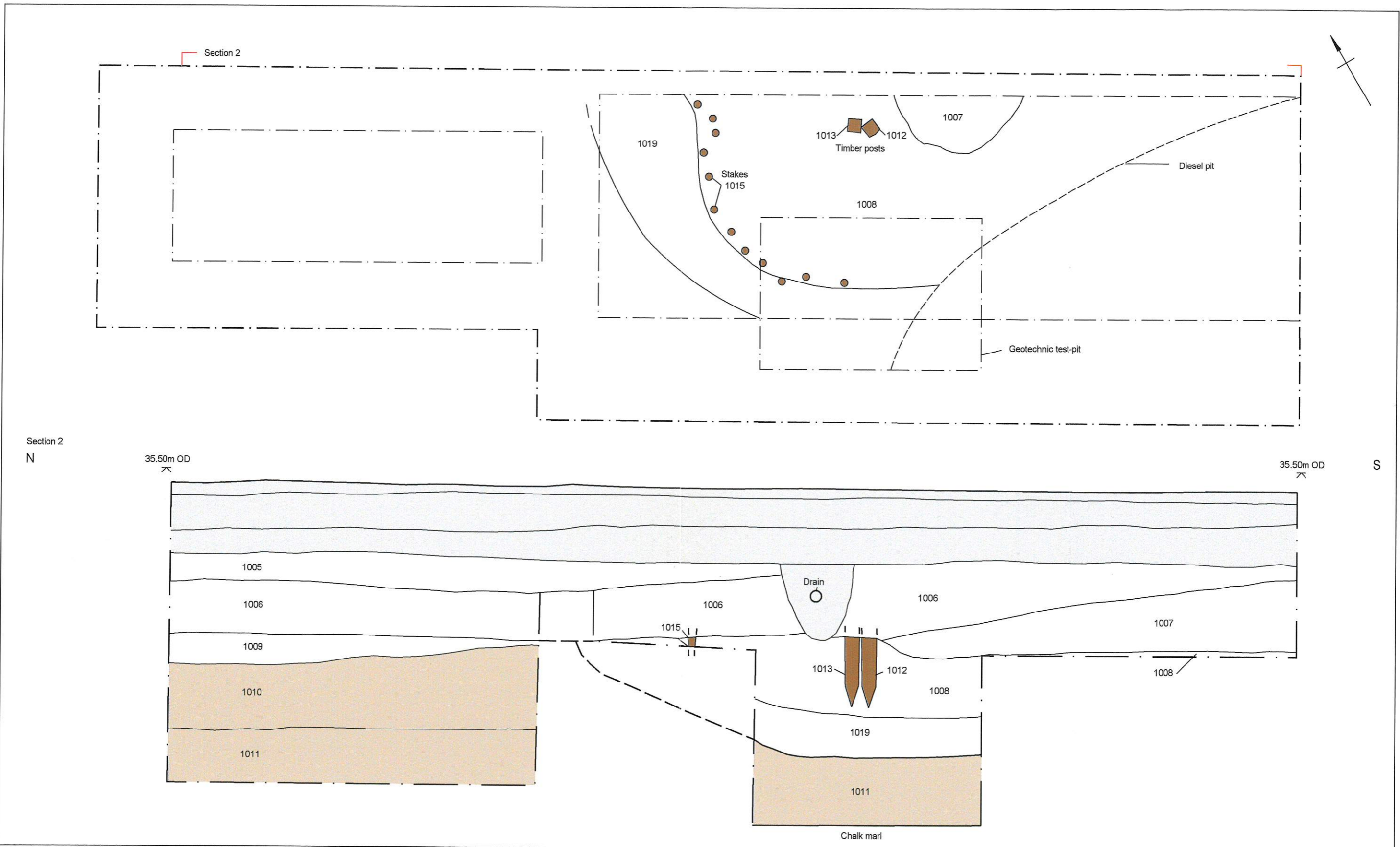
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Modern      Monolith sample      Projected line of moat      Pre-moat peat

Plan and section of east arm of moat (Trench 2B)

Figure 3

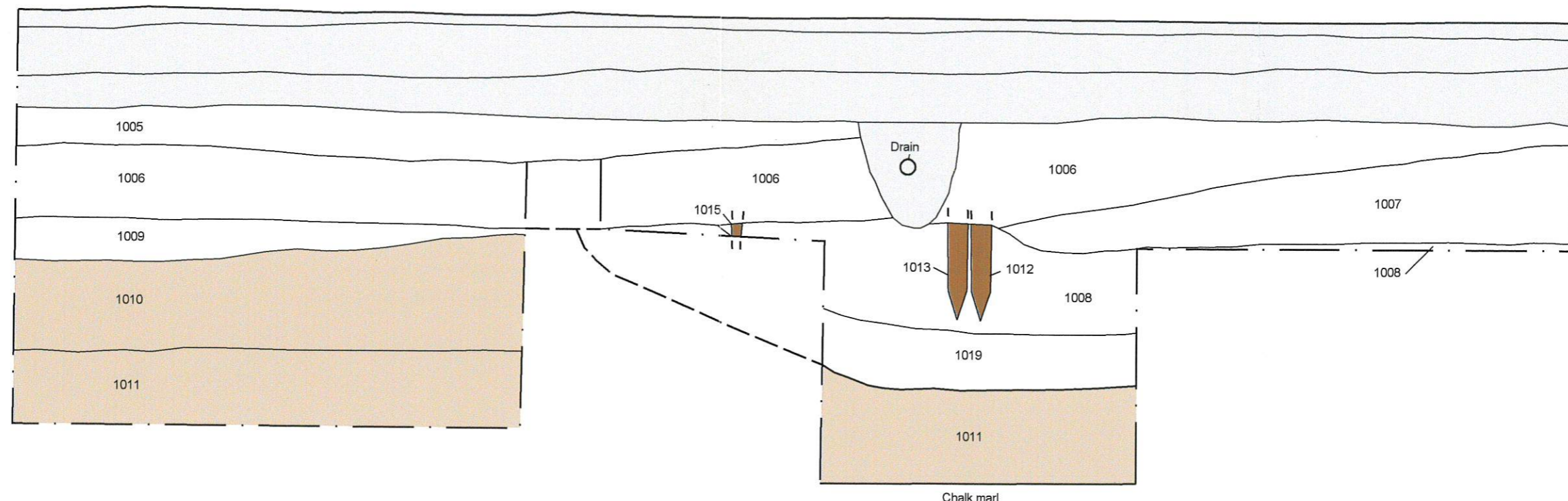


Section 2  
N

35.50m OD

35.50m OD

S



Modern      - - - - - Projected line of moat      Pre-moat peat

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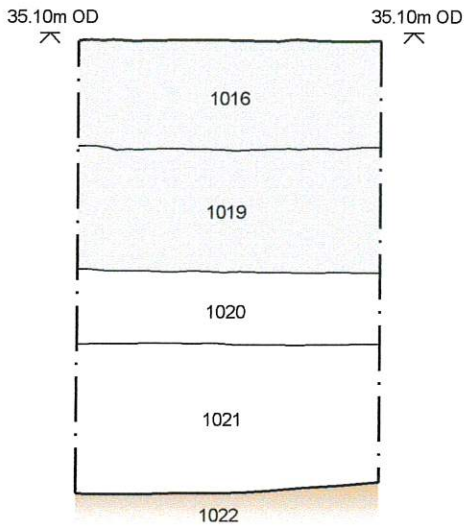
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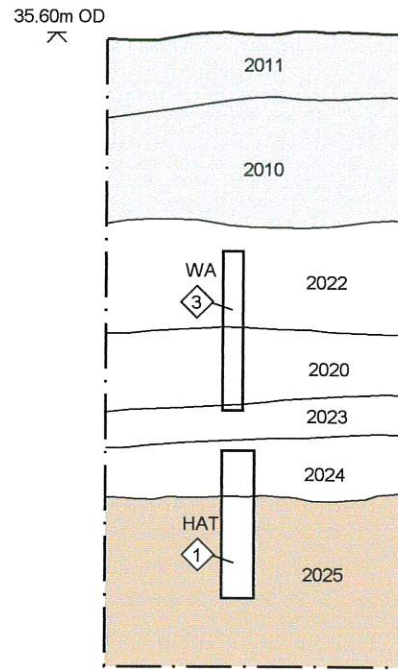
Plan and section of north arm of moat (Trench 1A)

Figure 4

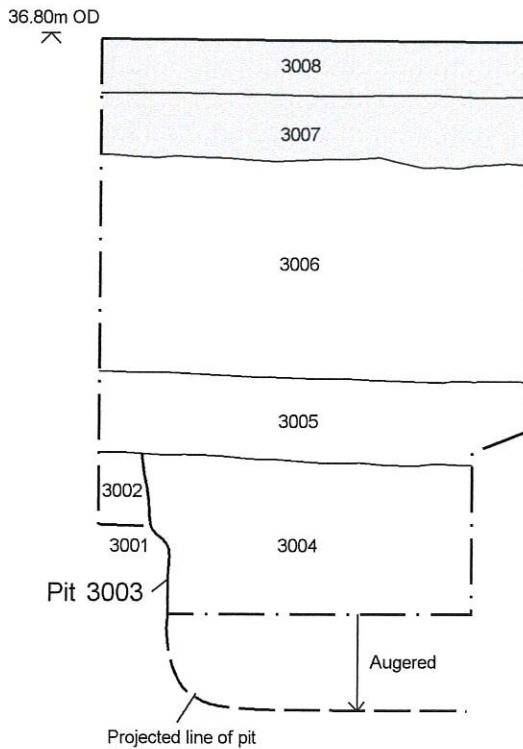
a) Representative section of south-west end of Trench 1B



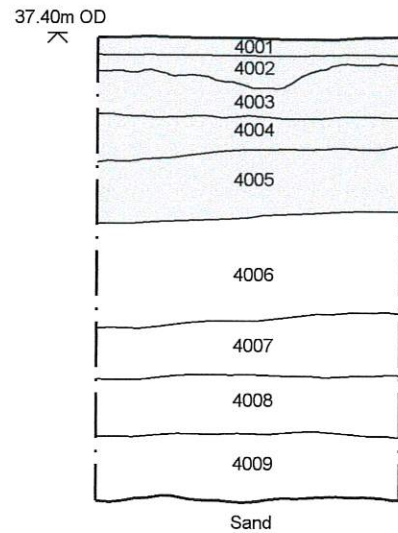
b) Representative section of interior of moated area - west end of Trench 2B



c) Representative section of Trench 3A



d) Representative section of west end of Trench 4



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Representative sections (see Fig.2 for locations)

Figure 5