

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>				
Project name	Archaeological Monitoring at Elm School, Elm, Cambridgeshire.			
Short description	<p>A 1x2m test pit was excavated, to a maximum depth of 1.2m, in order to determine whether the proposed development would interfere with the remains of St Giles Chapel, suspected to be in the immediate vicinity of the turbine's desired location.</p> <p>No archaeological features were revealed with the exception of a possible pit, which the test pit just cut into, in the SW corner. All datable artefacts were of Post-medieval date with the exception of a couple of residual Medieval sherds of pottery.</p>			
Project dates	Start	01/02/2007	End	01/02/2007
Previous work	No		Future work	No
Associated project reference codes	Site code: ELM PSC 07, CHER ECB2481.			
Type of project	Archaeological Monitoring / Test Pit			
Site status	None			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Primary School Playing Field			
Planned development	Small wind turbine			
Monument types / period (list all that apply)				
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply)				
<b>4 PROJECT LOCATION</b>				
County	Cambridgeshire	Parish	Elm (with Friday Bridge)	
HER for region	Cambridgeshire			
Site address (including postcode)	Elm C of E Primary School, Main Road, Elm, Cambridgeshire, PE14 0AG			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	49 sq.m			
National grid reference	TL 547181 306522			
Height OD	Min OD	2.32	Max OD	2.52
<b>PROJECT ORIGINATORS</b>				
Organisation	CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Andy Thomas			
Project design originator	Stephen Macaulay			
Director/supervisor	Helen Fowler & David Crawford-White			
Project manager	Stephen Macaulay			
Sponsor or funding body	Elm C of E Primary School			
<b>ARCHIVES</b>				
	Location and accession number		Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)	
Physical	Cambridgeshire County Store or Elm Primary School – to be decided		Bone, Pottery, Fired Clay, Clay Pipe, C.B.M., Cinder, Glass, Mortar, Shale, Shell, Stone, Coal, Charcoal.	
Paper	Cambridgeshire County Store		Report, Maps, Correspondence, Drawings, HER info.	
Digital	CAM ARC		Photos, Maps, drawings, report.	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>				
Full title	Archaeological Monitoring on land at Elm C of E Primary School, Elm, Cambridgeshire.			
Author(s)	Helen Fowler			
Report number	941			
Series title and volume				
Page numbers	Archaeological monitoring report, 5 pages, 1 table, 2 figures.			
Date	2007			

**Archaeological Monitoring  
on land at Elm C of E Primary School,  
Elm, Cambridgeshire.  
TL (547181 306522)**

**Parish:** Elm  
**Site Code:** ELM PSC 07  
**HER No.** ECB2481  
**Excavated:** February 2007  
**Excavator:** H Fowler & D Crawford-White  
**Client:** Mr C Child (Cambridgeshire County Council)

## **Summary**

Following a request from Mr Chris Child (Elm C of E Primary School, Elm), CAM ARC of Cambridgeshire County Council undertook monitoring work as part of the planning requirements for the erection of a small wind turbine. The work was carried out in response to the a CAPCA Brief issued December 2006 (A. Thomas) and a project specification issued by CAM ARC (Macaulay Jan 2007).

A small wind turbine is proposed at Elm C of E Primary School, the location of which is in close proximity to known archaeological remains which include the former site of St Giles Chapel (Cams HER 03951) and nearby inhumation (Cams HER 03951a).

The archaeological monitoring consisted of the excavation and recording of a single test pit which was excavated at the location of the foundations of the proposed wind turbine. The rectangular test pit measured 1m x 2m x max depth of 1.20m.

The excavation work took place on a single day (February 1st 2007).

The monitoring records did not uncover any in-situ archaeological remains of medieval date (i.e. relating to the nearby Chapel. A single feature of modern or post-medieval date was revealed, a probable pit which did not contain any artefacts but was cut through post-medieval deposits.

## **1 Geology and Topography**

The site lies in the Terrington Beds (Flandrian deposits) which overly the Ampthill Clay and West Walton deposits. The site was located in the school playing fields (add height???) and is currently under grass.

## **2 Archaeological Background**

Elm is first written of as *Eolum* and *Elm*, perhaps meaning 'at the elm' c. 973 (Reaney 1943), but is not mentioned in the Domesday Book.

The site of St Giles Chapel lies to the immediate north of the proposed development area. This site (CHER 03951) appears to have been

surrounded by a moat and there is the remains of a wall and arched gateway to the northwest, which may have marked the approach to the chapel from the present day Church of All Saints (some ¼ mile away). Human remains (CHER 03951a) were recorded in 1875 to the east of the proposed wind turbine site.

Earlier archaeological remains do not occur in the immediate vicinity, although a Roman coin hoard (CHER 04031) was found c150m to the north of the site in 1713. The coins were found in an Urn, not far from a tumulus and is likely to be date to the later Empire (380-390 AD). A possible Roman 'altar' has been recorded 500m to the southwest, although perhaps this is a temple. Indeed the surrounding land at Elm, Friday bridge etc. is rich in Roman remains utilising the roddons in the fens.

### **3 Methodology**

The test pit was de-turfed, excavated and recorded by hand. The pit was 1m x 2m and reached a maximum depth of 1.20m. Its position was located by tape 4m north along the boundary fence and 4m out west from the fence. The location of the pit was confirmed and agreed, before excavation began by Mr C Child, Head Teacher at the school, and one of the board of governors.

Artefacts were recovered and once excavated the test pit section was cleaned and recorded and the spoil scanned with a metal detector.

### **5 Results**

With the exception of a probable pit no archaeological features were identified. Use of the metal detector did not reveal any metallic artefacts in the spoil heap. The deposits within the test pit produced a range of artefactual material which included animal bone (medium/large ungulate) a fragment of which, from **101**, exhibited butchery marks, a range of post-medieval pottery (English Stone ware, bone china, refined white earthen ware, Porcelain, Black Glazed Ware), Fe objects included nails, possible smithing slag, coal. Charcoal cinder, shale and glass all of which was retrieved from post-medieval layers.

#### **4.1 Test Pit 1**

The northern half of the test pit (1m<sup>2</sup>) was excavated to a depth of 1.20m but the southern half (1m<sup>2</sup>) was only excavated to a depth of c 0.70m for access.

The basal context (106), reached in both halves of the test pit but excavated to differing depths, was a sterile alluvially deposited layer of mid to light orangey grey silty clay containing a large number of mollusc shells indicating the fluvial nature of this deposit. This is

interpreted as either being the natural geology or representing an episode of alluvial flooding to be expected in this location.

Above this was context (105), a layer of orangey brown clayey silt c 0.23m deep. This was partly truncated by possible pit **103**, it produced post-medieval artefacts (see table 1), and is likely to be an agricultural layer with the finds the result of manuring.

Above this was context (104), a layer of light orangey brown c 0.18m deep. It contained moderate flecking of charcoal 10x5mm<sup>2</sup>. This was partly truncated by possible pit **103**, it produced some artefacts (see table 1), and is likely to be an agricultural layer.

The possible pit **103** was cut through post-medieval layers **105** and **104**, but was only partly revealed within the test pit, in the southwestern corner. It was seen clearly in the north facing section but was very diffuse, practically invisible, in the east facing section. In plan it was clearly visible near to the north facing section becoming unclear as it curved around to disappear into the east facing section. The extent seen in section appeared to indicate an abrupt top and gradual base with a curving to flat base.

The pit was filled with, context **102** a sterile mid grey brown clayey silt which contained no artefacts but must date to the c18th C or later.

Above contexts **102** and **104** was **101** a mid grey brown sub-soil layer of a maximum c 0.16m depth. It produced some artefacts (see table 1). It differed from **104** due to the rare presence of small Charcoal flecks. This is the 'subsoil' layer.

The upper fill, context **100** was a 'topsoil' (garden soil) layer of maximum depth c. 0.20m and described as mid grey brown clayey silt. The lower horizon boundary was seen be occasional sprinkles of patchy gravel. It produced some artefacts (see table 1) of post-medieval and modern date with one medieval residual sherd.

There was a significant absence of stones in all deposits, with absolutely none within the topsoil, and extensive worm activity throughout the full depth of the test pit.

All artefactual material (pottery, brick, tile, glass) was post-medieval in date with the exception of a couple of residual medieval sherds.

## **5 Discussion and Conclusion**

The excavation was carried out in good conditions and on a single day.

The records show that the site of the test pit has not been disturbed by modern activity and contains post-medieval deposits that overlie the alluvial fen layers.

This investigation appears to suggest that the archaeology identified, both to the north (St Giles Chapel) and the human skeletal remains known to exist southeast, do not extend within the proposed development area.

### **Pottery dating**

(by C. Fletcher, written by H. Fowler)

#### **Context 100 contained:**

Two sherds (one fragment of cup handle and one body sherd) of bone china – 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

Two sherds (one fragment of saucer and one body sherd) of refined white earthen ware – 1780AD onwards.

One sherd of Post-medieval plant pot.

One sherd of developed Stamford ware – 1150 to 1250.

This is a post-medieval context with one residual medieval sherd.

#### **Context 101 contained:**

One porcelain body sherd – early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

One body sherd of bone china, which X fits with the handle in **100** - 18th century onwards.

One body sherd from an English Stone ware jar/bottle – 1670 to 1900.

One transfer printed refined white earthenware body sherd from a bowl/plate - 1780AD onwards.

One abraded Post-medieval red ware bowl sherd – 1500 to 1800.

This is a post-medieval context.

#### **Context 104 contained:**

Two post-medieval plant pot rims.

One post-medieval Black glazed ware, pierced – 1600 to 1800.

One base sherd of a miscellaneous post-medieval ware.

One late medieval unknown fine sandy ware – 1200 to 1500.

Twelve refined white earthen ware sherds, one with a bright green glaze (possibly a tile fragment), two with transfer printed annular decoration (one brown, one blue), one sherd with green transfer printed decoration and four with blue - 1780AD onwards.

This is a post-medieval context with one residual medieval sherd.

**Table 1**

Context	Material	Object Name	Weight in kg	Comments
100			0.00	Coal
			0.00	Charcoal
	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.00	
	Ceramic	Vessel	0.02	
	Cinder		0.00	Less than 1g
	Glass	Vessel	0.00	
	Glass	Window glass	0.01	
	Shell		0.00	
101	Bone	Bone	0.01	
	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.05	
	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.01	
	Ceramic	Vessel	0.02	
	Cinder		0.01	
	Glass	Vessel	0.01	
	Mortar		0.00	
	Shale		0.01	Burnt oil shale
	Shell		0.00	
	Slag		78.00	
104			0.00	Charcoal
			0.01	Coal
	Bone	Bone	0.01	
	Bone	Button	0.00	SF 2.
	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.02	
	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.05	
	Ceramic	Tobacco pipe	0.00	
	Ceramic	Vessel	0.11	
	Cinder		0.02	
	Glass	Vessel	0.05	
	Glass	Window glass	0.00	
	Mortar		0.01	
	Shale		0.02	Burnt oil shale
	Slag		0.85	
Stone		0.02		
105	Bone	Bone	0.01	
	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.03	
	Ceramic	Tobacco pipe	0.01	
	Shell		0.00	Less than 1g.
	Stone		2.27	



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Figure 1 Location of trench (red)

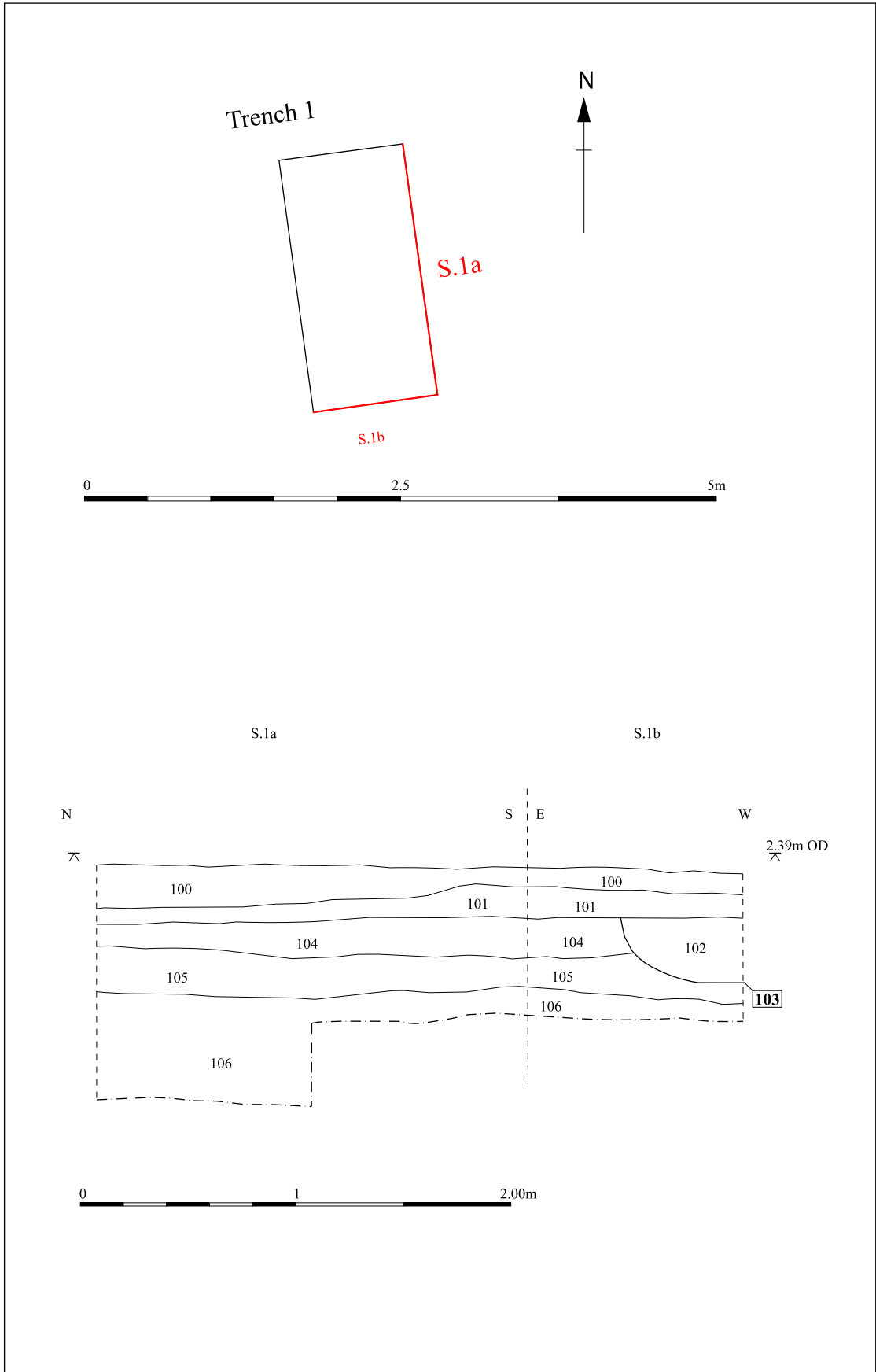


Figure 2: Trench plan and section drawing