

**BECK ROAD
ISLEHAM
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

ECB 3138



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

JUNE 2009

**BECK ROAD
ISLEHAM
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

(Issue 1)

Prepared By: Trevor Ennis	Signature:
Position: Project Officer	Date:
Approved By: Patrick Allen	Signature:
Position: Project Manager	Date:

Document Ref.:	2018 Rep (Issue 1)
Report Issue Date:	June 2009
Circulation:	Bellway Homes Ltd
	CAPCA
	Cambridgeshire HER

As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report. Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager, at the

Field Archaeology Unit,
Fairfield Court, Fairfield Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 3YQ.
fieldarch@essexcc.gov.uk
Tel: 01376 331470
Fax: 01376 331428

© **Field Archaeology Unit**, Essex County Council, c/o County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH

CONTENTS

	Page No.
SUMMARY	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION	3
2.0 BACKGROUND	3
2.1 Location, Topography and Geology	
2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background	
3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	5
3.1 Aims	
3.2 Objectives	
4.0 METHOD	6
5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS	7
5.1 Trench 1	
5.2 Trench 2	
5.3 Trench 3	
5.4 Trench 4	
5.5 Trench 5	
6.0 FINDS	9
6.1 Pottery	
6.2 Slag	
6.3 Animal Bone	
6.4 Comments on the Assemblage	
7.0 DISCUSSION	10
8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS	11
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	12
BIBLIOGRAPHY	13
APPENDICES	
APPENDIX 1 Trench Data	
APPENDIX 2 Context Data	
APPENDIX 3 Finds Data	
APPENDIX 4 Medieval and later pottery	
APPENDIX 5 Contents of Archive	
APPENDIX 6 OASIS Summary	
FIGURES	
Fig. 1 Site Location	
Fig. 2 Trenches 1, 2 and 3	
Fig. 3 Sections	

**BECK ROAD
ISLEHAM
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Client: Bellway Homes Ltd
NGR: TL 6463 7432
Planning Application Ref: pre-application
Event Number: ECB 3138
Site Code: ISBR 09
OASIS No.: essexcou1- 56351
Dates of Fieldwork: 9-12 March 2009

SUMMARY

An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation was carried out on land east of Beck Road, Isleham, Cambridgeshire in support of a planning application for a housing development. Five trenches were excavated across the 6240 sq m development area.

Isleham is a historic village on the fen edge, referenced in the Domesday Book of 1086, with extensive evidence to the west of the village of earlier settlement in the prehistoric and Roman period. The proposed development site lies 200m south-east of the medieval core of the village, focused on a crossroads and the medieval parish church. Nothing is known, however, of the past character of the south-eastern quarter of the village.

The evaluation trenches identified only sparse and poorly dated archaeological features. These include single pits of possible prehistoric and medieval date, a shallow chalk pit, undated but most likely of 19th-century date, and post-pads for a structure related to the modern use of the site as a market garden. The archaeological features were sealed by thick layers of subsoil and topsoil, but had suffered some disturbance from horticulture.

The evaluation did not identify any significant archaeological remains within the development area.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching undertaken on land east of Beck Road, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, in advance of a proposed housing development, by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Bellway Homes Ltd. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to support a planning application for the construction of 18 houses and an access road, following advice from the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice office (CAPCA), as it was considered that the site lies within an area with potential to contain archaeological remains. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with an archaeological design brief produced by CAPCA (2008) in line with Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (DoE 1990), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by ECC FAU (2009). The results of the evaluation will inform the determination of the planning application, and will enable a decision to be made on whether archaeological mitigation (e.g. detailed excavation and publication) is required before development takes place.

Paper and digital copies of the report will be distributed to Bellway Homes (including a copy for East Cambridgeshire District planning department), CAPCA and the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record. A digital copy of the report will be submitted, along with a project summary, to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>). The site archive will be deposited in the Cambridgeshire Archive Repository.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, Topography and Geology

The proposed development site is located in the historic village of Isleham, 10km (6 miles) north of Newmarket, at the southern edge of the fens (Fig. 1). The site lies in the east of the village, 200m south-east of the parish church of St Andrew, and on the east side of Beck Road (TL 6463 7432).

The site area is almost square, measuring c. 78 x 80m, for an overall area of 6240 sq m. It was formerly a market garden with greenhouses and now consists of rough grassland. The

site is bordered by a cemetery and open space to the north and housing to the south and east.

The surface geology is Lower Chalk.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

This archaeological and historical background is based on information held in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) at County Hall, Cambridge and the Isleham entry in the Cambridgeshire Fenland Project archaeological survey (Hall 1996).

Prehistoric finds dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age have all been found in the Isleham area and form part of a regional complex of intense prehistoric activity that is of national significance (Hall 1996, 82). Finds comprise scatters of pottery, bone and flint, the majority of this material having been found close to the fen edge and predominantly to the north of the village. A notable find 1.5km to the south-west of the village was 'The Isleham Hoard' a collection of around 6,500 pieces of Late Bronze Age scrap metal buried in a large ceramic pot (CHER 07592).

Few remains of Iron Age date are known other than a number of pits recorded during fieldwork on the Isleham to Ely Water Pipeline which passed to the west of the village (Gdaniec *et al.* 2007). Roman remains are more numerous and include spot finds (e.g. CHER 10863, 10864) and the site of a probable Roman villa (CHER 05704, 11661) and associated buildings (CHER10326), all located to the west of the village.

The medieval village of Isleham is situated on the fen edge and may have Saxon origins, although no Saxon finds are known in the village and only a few have been found in the surrounding area (e.g. coin CHER 07612). Isleham is referenced in the Domesday Book as *Gyselham*, part of the king's land around Soham (Reaney 1943). The village is focused on a crossroads and the medieval parish church of St Andrew (CHER 07591). The church dates to the 14th century and replaced an earlier Saxo-Norman building, and possibly a timber precursor

Located 100m west of the church are the remains of a Benedictine Priory founded in the 11th century, protected as a scheduled monument (SM 27101). The priory was comparatively short-lived, surviving until 1254 when the monks were moved to a sister house in Linton. However, taxation records suggest the property continued in use after this date, probably

operated by lay brothers or tenants. The priory remains consist of a series of earthworks (CHER 07528) and the standing Romanesque church of St. Margaret of Antioch (CHER 07529), used as a barn from the Reformation until the early 20th century.

Chalk extraction was clearly an important industry in the area from the medieval period into the early 20th century. Archaeological investigations in Fordham Road (CHER MCB 16866) found evidence of domestic occupation and clunch (hard chalk) extraction dating from at least as early as the 12th to 15th centuries. A variety of features were excavated, including quarry pits, rubbish pits, a post-built structure and two sunken-featured buildings. One sunken-featured building was of probable medieval date and the other belonged to an undated early phase. A group of three post-medieval lime kilns dating to c. 1860 survive to the east of the High Street; these also are a scheduled monument (SM 83, CHER 07489). Chalk for use in the kilns was quarried from a surrounding pit. Numerous other quarry pits are shown on 19th and 20th century editions of the Ordnance Survey.

Nothing is known archaeologically or historically in the Beck Road area, although the site probably lies at the fringe of the historic settlement. This is supported by an interrogation of the CHER for sites within 1km of Beck Road which revealed no known sites in the south east quadrant of the village, with the majority of known sites located to the west or north. The 1854 Enclosure Award map shows the site as one rectangular plot of land extending north to The Causeway (Fig. 1). On later maps, such as the 1903 Land Value Duties Map, this area is depicted with trees and was perhaps used as an orchard. By the end of the 20th century the plot of land had been divided, with the northern part used as an annexe to the cemetery on the west side of Beck Road, and the southern part (the site) in use as a market garden.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

The general aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

3.2 Objectives

In the event that significant archaeological remains were discovered, research objectives for the project would be based on the regional framework and agenda set out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties*, 1. *resource assessment* (Glazebrook 1997) and 2. *research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

The specific objectives of the evaluation were to:

- Establish the date and character of any activity at the south-eastern edge of the medieval and post-medieval village.
- Establish the date and character of any earlier activity of prehistoric, Roman or Saxon date that predates the known medieval and post-medieval village.
- Assess the significance of any archaeological remains relative to their local and regional setting.
- Assess the likely impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains.

4.0 METHOD

Five evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket. Initially, trenches 1 and 4 were 40m long and trenches 2, 3 and 5 were 30m long; all were 1.5m wide. Later, at the request of the CAPCA monitoring officer, trench 1 was enlarged in two directions to gauge the extent of pit 5 and trenches 2 and 3 were enlarged to fully expose features 16 and 7 respectively. The second phase of machining was undertaken by a machine fitted with a 1.8m wide bucket. The trenches represent a 5% sample of the overall site area.

The trenches were cleaned and potential features were hand-excavated. Standard ECC FAU excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout. ECC FAU is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute of Field of Archaeologists (IFA) and all work was carried out in accordance with IFA by-laws and guidelines (IFA 1997; 2001) and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Figs 2 and 3)

A few poorly dated archaeological features were identified in trenches 1-3 (Figs 2 and 3); trenches 4-5 contained only natural or modern features and are not illustrated in detail (see Fig. 1). Details of trench locations are given in Appendix 1, and detailed context information is presented in Appendix 2.

The archaeological features were sealed beneath overburden consisting of topsoil and subsoil, and were cut into natural strata comprising decayed chalk with irregular patches of brown silt and occasional smaller patches of yellow brown sand. Overburden was thickest in trench 1, where it was between 0.7 and 0.8m deep, and elsewhere (trenches 2-5) it was 0.40 to 0.50m thick. The overburden usually consisted of 0.20 to 0.25m of dark brownish grey clay-silt topsoil (1) above a similar depth of mid greyish brown clay-silt subsoil (3). In trench 1 the subsoil was thicker (0.50m) and in the west end of the trench was separated from the overlying topsoil by a 0.08m thick band of mid brown clay-silt (2).

5.1 Trench 1

Several brown silt patches were investigated in the eastern half of the trench; all were shallow and appeared to be of natural origin. At the west end of the trench was a large, shallow, flat-bottomed pit (5), over 5.2m north-south by 4.2m east-west and 0.3m deep (Fig. 3, Section 1). It was filled with greyish brown silt (4) that was slightly browner than the overlying subsoil (3). Three pieces of animal bone and a small lump of slag were recovered, but no dating evidence. A single sherd of 17th to 19th century pottery was recovered from the overlying subsoil 3.

Also present in Trench 1 was a machine-cut test pit in the east of the trench and a modern, north-east/south-west aligned gully in the west that crossed the top of pit 5 directly below the topsoil (not illustrated).

5.2 Trench 2

Three probable archaeological features (11, 14 and 16) were excavated in Trench 2. All were slightly darker in colour than the more irregular patches of natural brown silt. Post-hole 14 was the best defined of the three. This was oval in plan with steep sides and a flat bottom (Fig. 3, Section 4). It contained a central mid to dark brownish grey clay silt fill (12)

surrounded by a packing deposit of flint and chalk lumps (13). No dating evidence was recovered.

Possible post-hole 11 was less convincing. This was also oval in plan but with a concave base and slightly irregular sides that were angled towards the south (Fig. 3, Section 3). No finds were recovered from its fill (10) which was slightly root-disturbed. Pit 16 was very shallow with an irregular base and also appeared to be root-disturbed (Fig. 3, Section 5). It was located in an area of decayed chalk with natural brown silt patches. Following a localised extension to the trench its mid brownish grey clay silt-fill (15) was completely excavated and produced one sherd of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery.

5.3 Trench 3

One large sub-circular pit (7) was excavated at the east end of Trench 3. This was 1.3m wide by 0.33m deep with steep sides and an irregular, but broadly flat base (Fig. 3, Section 2). It contained a mid greyish brown clay silt fill (6) that produced five pieces of animal bone and a single sherd of medieval pottery dating to the 12th to 14th centuries.

A line of six modern rectangular pits were recorded running for some 24m along the length of the trench. They were cut from directly below the topsoil and measured 0.8m by 0.7m by 0.35m deep and extended for a distance of 24m. They were filled with brownish grey silt and chalk rubble and contained small fragments of post-medieval tile (not retained). One sherd of modern willow-pattern china was recovered from the fill of the easternmost feature (9).

5.4 Trench 4

No archaeological features were observed in Trench 4 (Fig. 1). Common irregular brown silty patches were present but all appeared to be of natural origin.

5.5 Trench 5

Further brown silty patches were present in Trench 5 (Fig. 1). One possible post-hole proved to be of natural origin upon investigation. Two modern disturbances, one containing mortar lumps and the other gravel and tar, were noted at the west end of the trench (not illustrated).

6.0 FINDS by Joyce Compton

Finds were recovered from five contexts across three of the excavated trenches. All of the finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context; full quantification details can be found in Appendix 3. The finds are described by category below.

6.1 Pottery

Four contexts produced single sherds of pottery, amounting to a total weight of 81g. All are body sherds and, as such, only provide tentative dating evidence in most cases.

6.1.1 Prehistoric pottery by N. J. Lavender

A single sherd (32g) of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the fill of pit 16 (Trench 2). This is in a flint- and grog-tempered fabric with a smoothed external surface and little sign of abrasion. It is, however, undatable within the prehistoric period.

6.1.2 Medieval and later pottery by Helen Walker

Three sherds of pottery, weighing 51g, were excavated from three contexts. The earliest is a body sherd of grey-firing medieval coarse ware, spanning the 12th to 14th centuries from pit 7 (Trench 3). Later finds comprise a thick-walled sherd of post-medieval red earthenware, perhaps from a storage jar, dating between the 17th and 19th centuries from subsoil 3 (Trench 1), and a small sherd of modern china exhibiting a transfer-printed willow-pattern design from modern post-hole 9 (Trench 3). Few conclusions can be drawn from such a small amount of pottery; the single sherd of medieval coarse ware could easily be residual, but does indicate medieval activity in the area.

6.2 Slag

A single piece of iron slag was recovered from pit 5 (Trench 1). The feature is undated.

6.3 Animal Bone

A small amount of animal bone, eight pieces, weighing 154g, was recovered from two contexts, one in Trench 1, the second in Trench 3. Although this is a very small amount of animal bone, it is likely to represent domestic food remains.

6.4 Comments on the Assemblage

No further work is required on any of the material. The overall assemblage is too small for further comment, although it is worth noting that the identifiable material is medieval, post-medieval or modern. The finds should be retained, at least in the short term, and occupy less than one box.

7.0 DISCUSSION

A small number of archaeological features were present in the evaluation area. Only two features contained pottery of any antiquity whilst other features remain undated or were clearly of modern origin. As only one sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from pit 16 and one sherd of medieval pottery from pit 7, dating can only be tentative at best. It is possible that the pottery accurately reflects the date of each respective pit but one or both sherds may just as easily be residual. The prehistoric sherd was the larger of the two and was unabraded and as such may be more convincing in reflecting the date of its pit. The sherds indicate activity in the vicinity in the prehistoric and the medieval period, which is perhaps not unsurprising given that both periods are well represented in the Isleham area.

The shallow pit 16 and the other two undated post-holes (11 and 14) in trench 2 appear to form an alignment, but this is most likely coincidental given that each feature was different from the rest and that they were widely spaced.

In trench 1 the exact function and date of pit 5 is uncertain. Although sealed beneath unusually thick overburden the feature itself was comparatively shallow at only 0.3m deep. Additional machining revealed the south-western and south-eastern limits of the pit, which was 4.2m wide and over 5m long. The pit is most probably associated with chalk extraction given the prevalence of this industry in and around Isleham, although it can only have been a very shallow chalk pit at best. Medieval or earlier sunken-featured buildings are known in the west of the village, but the similarity of the pit fill to the overlying subsoil and the lack of occupational material make this an unlikely interpretation. No dateable finds were recovered from the fill but the overlying subsoil (3) did produce one sherd of 17th- to 19th-century pottery and was cut by a modern feature suggesting that the pit may have been of post-medieval or earlier date.

The line of six sub-rectangular modern pits in trench 3 may represent the former positions of pads and uprights representing one side of a structure, perhaps a greenhouse or shed associated with the later horticultural use of the site.

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

Survival of archaeological deposits is relatively good, with features cut into the degraded surface of the natural chalk and sealed by thick layers of subsoil and topsoil, with limited modern disturbance. However, in all the trenches patches of subsoil in the top of the chalk indicate disturbance from the site's recent use as a market garden, and the archaeological features have undoubtedly suffered truncation from horticulture.

The archaeological evidence is sparse and poorly dated, with single examples of possible prehistoric and medieval pits, although the single sherds of pottery in either feature could easily be residual. The pit in the north-west of the site interpreted as a shallow chalk quarry is undated, although by comparison with other chalk pits in the area it is most likely 19th-century in date.

The evaluation trenches have not identified any evidence of significant activity of any period within the site area. Although Isleham is known to be rich in medieval and post-medieval remains relating to the present village, and in prehistoric and Roman remains predating it, most of this information has been recorded in the north and west of the village, with nothing known in its south-eastern quarter. The evaluation results do not provide any new evidence for settlement in this part of Isleham. Historic maps suggest that in 1904 the site was an orchard, and before that a field, so the site area may always have lain outside the historic core of the village. Maps also show that the cemetery to the immediate north of the site is a modern annexe to an older cemetery on the west side of Beck Road, while trench 1 in the north-west of the site confirms that the cemetery did not extend into the site area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit would like to thank Bellway Homes Ltd for commissioning and funding the archaeological evaluation. The fieldwork was undertaken by Trevor Ennis, Andy Letch and Andrew Lewsey of the ECC FAU. The report was prepared by Trevor Ennis, with illustrations prepared by Andrew Lewsey, and finds reports by Joyce Compton, Nick Lavender and Helen Walker. Finds were processed by Phil McMichael. The project was managed by Patrick Allen, and monitored on behalf of the local planning authority by Andy Thomas of CAPCA.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | | |
|--|------|---|
| Brown N. & Glazebrook J. | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy</i> , E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 8 |
| CAPCA | 2008 | <i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation. Beck Road, Isleham.</i> Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice design brief |
| DoE | 1990 | <i>Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning.</i> HMSO, London |
| ECC FAU | 2009 | <i>Written scheme of investigation for archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Beck Road, Isleham, Cambridgeshire.</i> ECC FAU |
| Gdaniec, K., Edmonds, M. & Wiltshire, P. | 2007 | <i>A Line Across Land: Fieldwork on the Isleham-Ely Pipeline, 1993-4.</i> E. Anglian Archaeol. 121 . Cambridge Archaeological Unit |
| Glazebrook, J. | 1997 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment.</i> E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 3 |
| Gurney D. | 2003 | <i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 14 |
| Hall, D | 1996 | <i>The Fenland Project No. 10: Cambridgeshire Survey, the Isle of Ely and Wisbech.</i> E. Anglian Archaeol. Rep. 79 |
| IFA | 1997 | <i>Code of Conduct.</i> Institute of Field Archaeologists |
| IFA | 2001 | <i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (revised).</i> Institute of Field Archaeologists |
| Reaney, P. H. | 1943 | <i>The Place-Names of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely</i> |

Maps in Cambridgeshire Archives

The 1854 Enclosure Award Map

The 1903 Land Value Duties Map

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DATA

Trench	Measurements	Co-ordinates (end, centre)
1	45.5m x 1.5m - 5.5m x 0.8m deep, orientated NE/SW	W - 564584.84, 274339.50 E - 564626.22, 274358.65
2	30m x 1.5m - 3.2m x 0.5m deep, orientated NW/SE	N - 564635.93, 274352.25 S - 564649.28, 274325.08
3	32m x 1.5m - 3.3m x 0.4m deep, orientated NE/SW	W - 564601.72, 274312.43 E - 564630.95, 274325.53
4	40m x 1.5m x 0.45m deep, orientated NW/SE	N - 564591.32, 274317.38 S - 564609.28, 274280.88
5	30m x 1.5m x 0.5m deep, orientated NE/SW	W - 564627.17, 274298.67 E - 564655.23, 274311.62

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Context	Trench	Type	Description	Period
01	1-5	Layer	Topsoil – dark brownish grey clay silt	Modern
02	1	Layer	Mid brown clay silt (below topsoil in Trench 1 only)	Modern
03	1-5	Layer	Subsoil – mid greyish brown clay silt	Post-medieval
04	1	Fill of 5	Mid greyish brown clay silt (slightly browner than 3)	Undated
05	1	Pit	5.2m+ x 4.2m x 0.3m deep	Undated
06	3	Fill of 7	Mid greyish brown clay silt	Medieval
07	3	Pit	Sub-circular, 1.3m x 1.28m x 0.33m deep	Medieval
08	3	Fill of 9	Mid grey silt	Modern
09	3	Mod feat.	Rectangular, 0.44m+ x 0.7m (not excavated)	Modern
10	2	Fill of 11	Mid brownish grey clay silt	Undated
11	2	Post-hole	Oval, 0.4m x 0.33m+ x 0.36m deep	Undated
12	2	Fill of 14	Mid-dark brownish grey clay silt	Undated
13	2	Fill of 14	Mid brownish grey clay silt, flint & chalk (packing)	Undated
14	2	Post-hole	Oval, 0.45m x 0.29m+ x 0.42m deep	Undated
15	2	Fill of 16	Mid brownish grey clay silt	Prehistoric
16	2	Pit	Oval, 0.6m x 0.36m x 0.12m deep	Prehistoric

APPENDIX 3: FINDS DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
3	Subsoil	1	42	Pottery; body sherd	Post med.
4	5	3	124	Animal bone; cattle metapodial, distal end; pelvis fragment, large mammal; bird scapula, proximal end	-
		1	110	Slag	-
6	7	5	30	Animal bone; long bone shaft fragments, poor condition	-
		1	8	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval
8	9	1	1	Pottery; body sherd	Modern
15	16	1	30	Pottery; body sherd	Prehistoric

APPENDIX 4: MEDIEVAL AND LATER POTTERY

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
3	Subsoil	1	42	Post-Medieval Red Earthenware, thick-walled sherd with internal glaze, perhaps from a storage jar	17th to 19th C
6	7	1	8	Medieval coarse ware body sherd	12th to 14th C
8	9	1	1	Modern white earthenware, transfer-printed willow pattern	19th to 20th C
		3	51		

APPENDIX 5: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

SITE NAME: Beck Road, Isleham, Cambs

EVENT NUMBER: ECB 3138

SITE CODE: ISBR 09

Index to Archive:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 CAPCA Brief
- 1.2 ECC FAU WSI

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Finds Reports

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Context Records (1 to 16)
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Section Register
- 3.5 2 x A4 plan/section sheets
- 3.6 Levels Register
- 3.7 Trench location plan
- 3.8 Photographic Registers
- 3.9 Site Photographic Record (1 set of Black & White prints, 1 Set of digital images on disk)
- 3.10 Miscellaneous notes/plans

Not in File

3 large plan sheets, 1 large section sheet

Finds

The retained finds occupy less than one box.

APPENDIX 6: OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: essexcou1-56351

Project details

Project name	Beck Road, Isleham, Cambs: Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation was carried out on land east of Beck Road, Isleham, Cambridgeshire in support of a planning application for a housing development. Five trenches were excavated across the 6240 sq m development area. Isleham is a historic village on the fen edge, documented in the Domesday Book of 1086, with extensive evidence to the west of the village of earlier settlement in the prehistoric and Roman period. The proposed development site lies 200m south-east of the medieval core of the village, focused on a crossroads and the medieval parish church. Nothing is known, however, of the past character of the south-eastern quarter of the village. The evaluation trenches identified only sparse and poorly dated archaeological features. These include single pits of possible prehistoric and medieval date, a shallow chalk pit, undated but most likely of 19th-century date, and post-pads for a structure related to the modern use of the site as a market garden. The archaeological features were sealed by thick layers of subsoil and topsoil, but had suffered some disturbance from horticulture. The evaluation did not identify any significant archaeological remains within the development area.
Project dates	Start: 09-03-2009 End: 12-03-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	2018 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	POST-HOLES Uncertain
Monument type	CHALK PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE ISLEHAM Beck Road, Isleham
Study area	6240.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 6463 7432 52.3417840640 0.416951290499 52 20 30 N 000 25 01 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office
Project design originator	Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Project director/manager	Patrick Allen
Project supervisor	Trevor Ennis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Bellway Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire Archive Repository
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire Archive Repository
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire Archive Repository
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Metal', 'Stratigraphic', 'Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Miscellaneous Material', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Beck Road, Isleham, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ennis, T.
Other bibliographic details	Event ECB 3138, Report 2018
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Place of issue or publication	Braintree
Description	A4, blue spine, approx. 20 pages

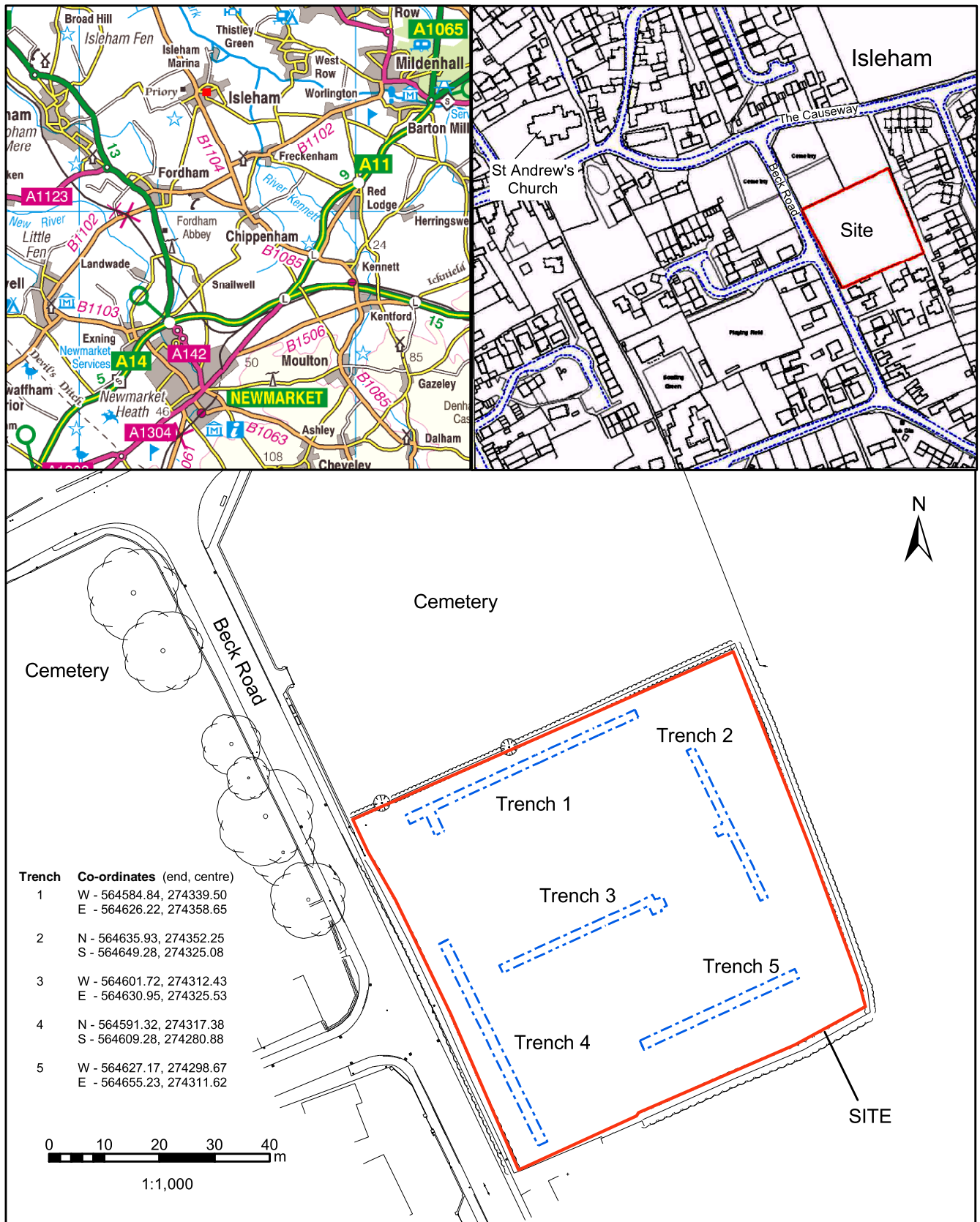
Entered by	Trevor Ennis (Trevor.Ennis@essex.gov.uk)
Entered on	11 May 2009

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2006 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email](#) Last modified Friday 3 February 2006

Cite only: /dl/export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm for this page



Mapping reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of HMSO. Crown copyright. Licence no.LA100019602.

Fig.1. Site location

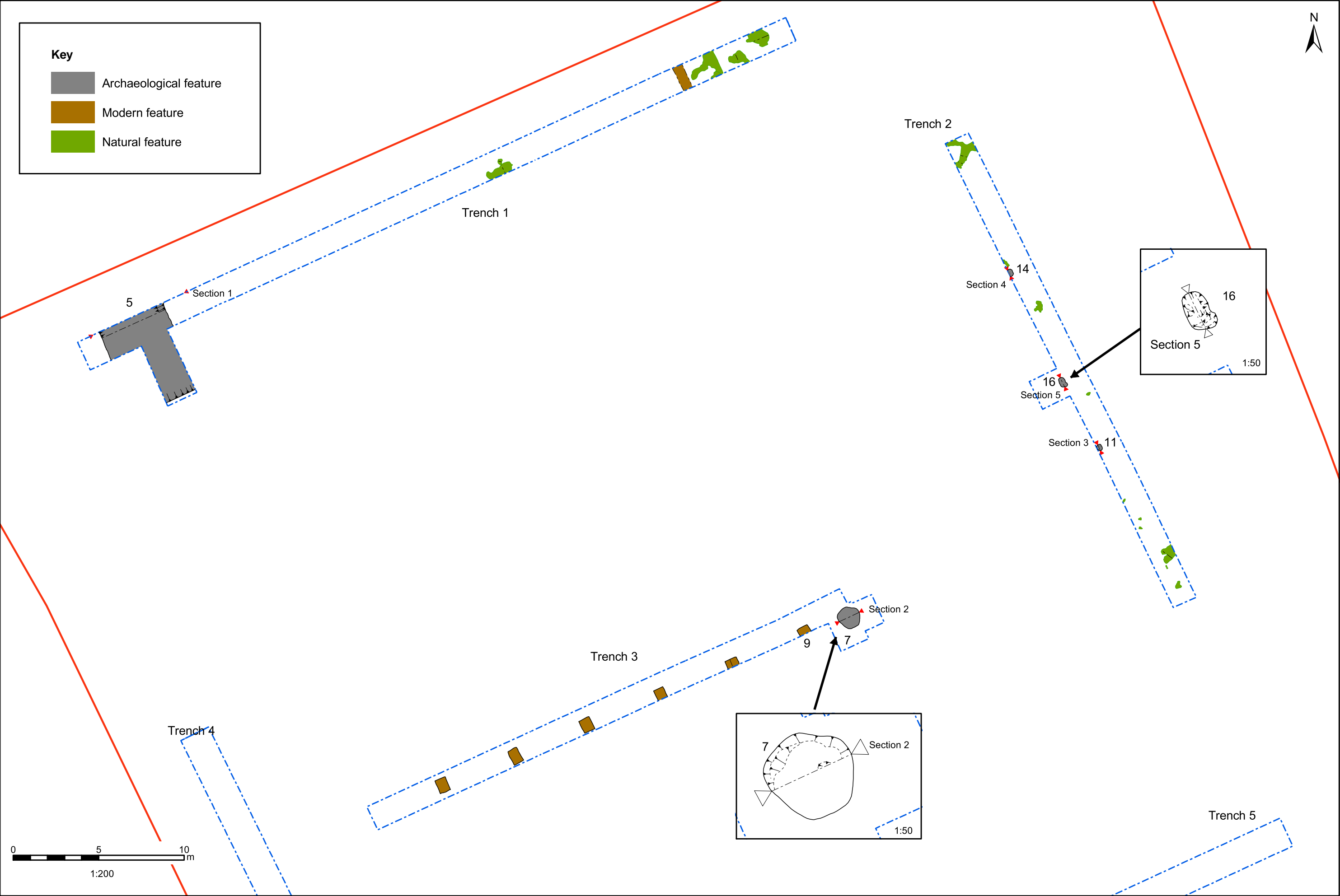


Fig.2. Trenches 1, 2 & 3

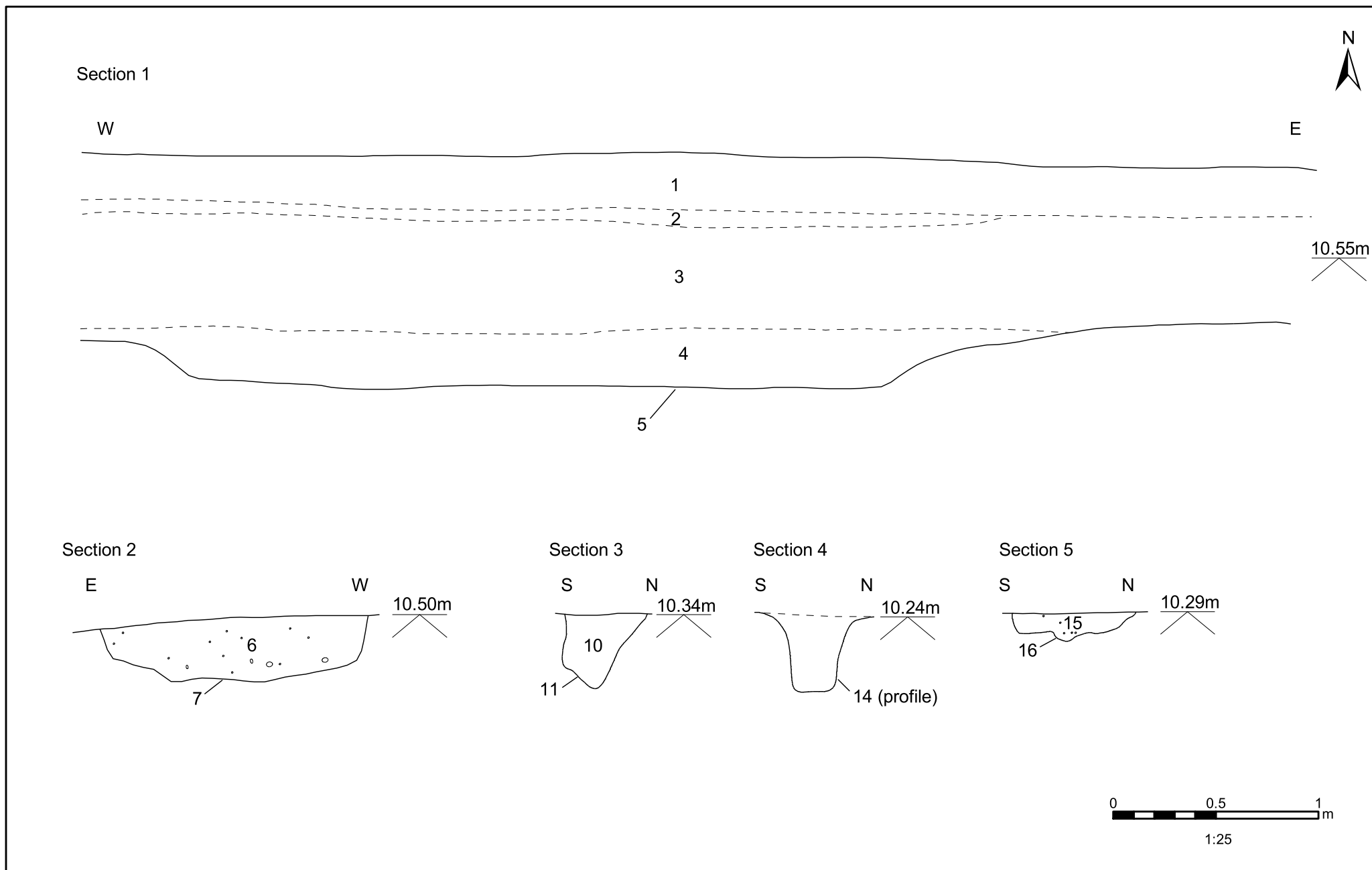


Fig.3. Sections