



THE
HERITAGE NETWORK
LTD



**LAND AT BELL ROAD
Bottisham, Cambs.**

(HN310)

Archaeological Evaluation Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

LAND OFF BELL ROAD, Bottisham, Cambs.

HN310

Evaluation Report

Prepared on behalf of Hastoe Housing Association Ltd

by

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and

Simon Bray

Report No. 124

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The desk-based research for this project was undertaken by Helen Ashworth. The fieldwork was carried out by Geoff Saunders and David Kaye under the supervision of Simon Bray.

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Summary

Site name and address:	Land at Bell Road, Bottisham, Cambridgeshire		
County:	Cambridgeshire	District:	East Cambs DC
Village/town:	Bottisham	Parish:	Bottisham
Planning reference:	E/00/0690	NGR (to 8 figures):	TL 5401 6040
Client name and address:	Hastoe Housing Association Ltd, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 7SA		
Nature of work:	Evaluation	Present land use:	Arable
Size of affected area:	0.8 hectares	Size of area investigated:	400m ²
Site Code:	HN310	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	The Heritage Network	Site Director:	Simon Bray
Type of work:	Evaluation	Finds location/Museum:	Cambs Co. Council
Start of fieldwork	23 July 2001	Finish of fieldwork	26 July 2001
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	undated
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Summary of fieldwork results: As the result of an archaeological condition on the planning permission for the construction of fourteen houses on land off Bell Road, Bottisham, Cambridgeshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site.

Following desk-based research, eight trial trenches were located across the proposed development area. Shallow linears were found in five of the trenches. All were sealed by the subsoil, and all were undated.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of *Hastoe Housing Association Ltd*, as part of the archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site at Bell Road, Bottisham, Cambridgeshire. The planning permission for the development (E/00/0690), controlled by East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC), was subject to a standard archaeological condition. This has been met by following the provisions set out in the *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* dated 04/04/01 prepared by the *County Archaeology Office* (CAO) of Cambridgeshire County Council, acting as advisors to ECDC.

1.2 The site is currently part of a cultivated field to the south-west of the village centred on grid reference TL 5401 6040. The site is bounded on the north by a field drain and beyond by no.69 Bell Road, and on the west by Bell Road. The remainder of the field to the south and east will remain under cultivation (see 1).

1.3 The site lies close to the medieval settlement of Bottisham, in an area of recorded archaeological finds dating specifically to the prehistoric and Roman periods. The planning authority wished, in particular, to clarify the nature of Roman agricultural activity in consideration of recent discoveries to its north.

1.4 The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide an archaeological and historical context for such remains should they be discovered.

1.5 The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and thus to determine what further, if any, mitigation measures may be required to allow the development to proceed.

2 Geology and Topography

2.1 Bottisham parish lies on the southern edge of the Cambridgeshire fenland. The present site lies on the south-western edge of the modern village, between the 5m and 10m contour lines.

2.2 The parish covers approximately 2,800 acres, from the Chesterford to Newmarket road to the edge of the fenland. It lies almost entirely on chalk, between 5 and 10m above Ordnance Datum. The ground slopes gently to the north-west.

3 Historical and Archaeological Background

1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL

1.1 The County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME, 1972) list several sites of archaeological interest within the vicinity of the present site.

1 Prehistoric

SMR no 6583	TL 54 60, within 1km of the present site. Mesolithic (c.10,000bc - 3,500bc) stone implements consisting of two tranchet axes and a number of flint flakes.
SMR no 6595	TL 545 605, approximately 600m N of the present site. Mesolithic flint implements, including blades and flakes and two tranchet axes.
SMR no 6580	TL 54 60, within 1km of the present site. Seven Neolithic (c.3,500bc - 2,000bc) stone axes, made from tuff, from Great Langdale in Cumbria.
SMR no 6531	TL 541 609, approximately 450m NW of the present site. Neolithic/Bronze Age scatter, comprising mostly waste flakes.
SMR no 6591	TL 544 608, approximately 500m N of the present site. Barbed and tanged Bronze Age (c.2,000bc - 700bc) arrowhead found in a garden.
SMR no 6598	TL 546 605, approximately 500m E of the present site. Prehistoric flint implements, including a barbed and tanged arrowhead and other worked flints.

The Hare Park barrow cemetery, centred at NGR TL58 58, consists of the remains of twenty-four burial mounds and ring ditches on the summit and slope of a westward projecting spur of chalk, which rises to approximately 50m above OD. The cemetery was originally larger, but no traces remain of the other burial mounds. At least thirteen barrows have been excavated, mostly in 19th century, but the records are poor.

1 Romano-British

SMR no 6586	TL 543 609, approximately 550m N of the present site. Romano-British pottery found on a building site.
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Evaluation by the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust on land off Tunbridge Lane, approximately 700m north-east of the study area, revealed a number of Romano-British ditches, interpreted as agricultural enclosures. Most of these features appeared to follow the same alignment as the modern field boundaries,

suggesting that the landscape may have changed little in layout since the Roman period. The pottery recovered from the evaluation suggests a second century date for these features. The amount of pottery and other finds recovered from the ditch fills indicates the presence of occupation in the vicinity (Seddon, 2000).

1 Medieval

- SMR no 1120** TL 5443 6032, approximately 350m SE of the present site.
The site of Bendish Hall, a medieval moated manor, which dates to the 13th century is situated immediately south of Bendyshe Farm in a wide open valley approximately 12m above OD. Thomas de Bendish is first recorded as holding the estate in 1288. The site originally consisted of a rectangular enclosure, orientated north - south, which measured approximately 1 acre, and was bounded on all sides by a wet ditch. A smaller enclosure attached to the western side of the main enclosure was also surrounded by a wet ditch. The northern side and northern half of the western side have been destroyed, with the remaining ditch measuring between 7m - 10m wide and up to 2.5m deep. The southern quarter of the interior is raised approximately 0.75m above the rest. The adjacent enclosure is bounded on the south by a ditch approximately 10m wide and 1.50m deep, which has been widened to form a pond. Deeply cut modern drains lie on the other three sides. The interior is featureless. A red brick house and chapel, the post-medieval successor to the medieval manor house, stood within the main enclosure until their demolition in the early nineteenth century.
- SMR no 6550** TL 536 603, approximately 500m SW of the present site.
Medieval mile stone.
- SMR no 6592** TL 545 604, approximately 400m E of the present site.
Medieval pottery sherds.
- SMR no 6730** TL 5456 6049, approximately 500m E of the present site.
Parish church of Holy Trinity, which dates from the 12th century, stands on rising ground in the centre of the village. It was altered and added to in the 13th to 15th centuries and restored in the 19th century.

1 Post-medieval

- SMR no 6552** TL 539 608, approximately 350m NW of the present site.
Post-medieval monogrammed button
- SMR no 6589** TL 5445 6045, approximately 400m E of the present site.
Post-medieval pottery sherds from the site of a Tudor house.
- SMR no 6586A** TL 543 609, approximately 550m N of the present site.
Post-medieval finds, including fragments of animal bone and metal objects, found by metal detector on a building site.

1 Undated

- SMR no 6585** TL 542 606, approximately 250m N of the present site.
An undated hammerstone, found whilst field walking
- SMR no 6551** TL 539 608, approximately 350m NW of the present site.
Undated bronze fitting with iron 'tang'.

1 HISTORICAL

2 General

1.2 At the time of the Domesday Survey, Bottisham was known as *Bodichessha*. The manor lay in Staine Hundred. It was held by Walter Giffard, who also held land in Swaffham Bulbeck, and answered for ten hides (approximately 1200 acres). Fifty one people were recorded as living on the manor, comprising 25 villagers, 12 smallholders and 14 slaves, giving an estimated total population of between 200 and 250. Four mills and meadowland were also recorded.

1.3 Prior to 1066 eight hides of the manor were held by King Harold. The remaining two hides by Alric, a monk of Ramsey Abbey.

1 Site Specific

1.4 The study area lies in the north-western corner of a larger field, just beyond the ribbon development along Bell Road (see Figure 1). It is bounded on the western side by Bell Road, formerly Cambridge Road; on the northern side by a field drain and the southern boundary of no. 69 Bell Road; on the eastern and southern sides by the open field.

1.5 The four common fields in Bottisham were enclosed in 1808. They were North field to the west of the village; Whitelands field to the east; Stone Field to the south and south-east; Little Field in the extreme south-east. The fields were already in existence by c.1450 (RCHME, 1972). The study area lay within Stone Field.

1.6 The Inclosure Award, dated 1808 (CRO P13/26/1) records the site as part of the holdings belonging to St Peters College, Cambridge. Peterhouse is the oldest of the Cambridge colleges. It was founded in 1284 by Hugh de Balsham, Bishop of Ely. During the succeeding centuries it acquired large land holdings in and around Cambridge.

1 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

1.7 Very few maps were available for the present site. The earliest map consulted was a plan of the parishes adjacent to Newmarket Heath, dated 1768 (CRO TR 274/P3). This shows the village as ribbon development along the road. Smaller outlying settlements are recorded to the north around the Grange and Tunbridge Farm (see Figure 2). It was surrounded by large open fields and the map shows the direction of the furlongs. Bell Road did not exist at this time. The study area lies across a hedged strip of unploughed land between two ploughed fields, which appears to represent an area of water meadow or wetland.

1.8 The Inclosure plan, dated 1808 (CRO Q/RDc 12) shows the line of the present Bell Road, which was then called Cambridge Road, running south to join the Turnpike (see Figure 3). The present site lay in the northern corner of an open field belonging to St Peter's College. The entire field measured 21 acres, 1 rood and 24 perches and was worth £35 10s 8d. A stream ran along the northern boundary of the field, from the fields on the western side of the road to the site of Bendish Hall (SMR no 1120).

1.9 The field boundaries remained the same during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as shown by Ordnance Survey maps dated between 1886 and 1926 (see Figure 4). During the

mid to late twentieth century a number of dwellings were built along Bell Road, between the village and the northern boundary of the present site.

1 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

1.10 A number of aerial photographs from the Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography (CUCAP) collections were examined (see Section 6). They show no detail of crop or soilmarks crossing the present site.

1.11 Relict field boundaries and watercourses appear to the south and east of the study area on RC8-EA, 151 and RC8-EG, 231. Soilmarks, representing possible ring ditches, are visible in the field immediately south of the Turnpike road on RC8-EG 231, taken April 1982. This area has been developed since then. Other possible ring ditches are visible on RC8-EA, 151, taken in March 1982, lying in fields to the south of the A14(T) road.

1.12 Adequate aerial photographic coverage was considered to be available at CUCAP to preclude the need to consult the National Monuments Record (NMR) collections at Swindon.

1 DISCUSSION

2 Prehistoric

1.13 Archaeological survey suggests that prehistoric activity in Bottisham was concentrated either on the sandy uplands on the boundary between Bottisham and Swaffham Bulbeck, such as the Hare Park barrow group which lies approximately 4km to the south-east of the present site, or in the fen (RCHME, 1972 and Hall, 1998).

1.14 Aerial photographic evidence may indicate the presence of prehistoric activity, in the form of ring ditches or ploughed out barrows, to the south of the study area.

1.15 A number of stray finds of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age stone and flint implements have been recorded within 1km to the north and east of the present site (SMR nos 6531, 6591, 6595 and 6598). No evidence of settlements of these dates has been recovered from the vicinity of the study area.

1 Roman

1.16 Evidence for Roman activity in the immediate vicinity of the study area is relatively sparse. No settlement of this period has yet been identified nearby, but an archaeological evaluation on land at Tunbridge Lane, approximately 700m to the north-east, revealed a number of ditched enclosures, possibly agricultural in purpose (Seddon, 2000). The fact that modern field boundaries follow the alignment of the Roman enclosure ditches suggests that the basic layout of the landscape may have changed very little since then. The quantity of pottery sherds and other finds recovered from the ditches suggest occupation in the vicinity. Pottery sherds were also recovered by a metal detectorist on a building site, approximately 550m to the north of the study area (SMR no 6586).

1.17 The remains of a large building were discovered in Swaffham Bulbeck at NGR TL 559 613, approximately 2.5km to the north-east of the present site. The evidence included ceramic roofing tile and *opus signinum*.

1.18 The lodes, or canals, running south-east from the river Cam to Swaffham Bulbeck and Lode were originally thought to date to the Roman period. The lack of major Roman occupation sites close to the lodes makes this unlikely. David Hall (Hall, 1996, p112) has demonstrated that they are much more likely to be Saxon or early medieval in date. The southern end of the canal into Lode is approximately 3km north-west of the present site.

1 Anglo-Saxon

1.19 Although no finds of Saxon date have been recovered from the vicinity of the present site, the Domesday Survey apparently records a sizeable and well-established village, which undoubtedly existed by the late Saxon period. It is possible that the Saxon settlement lies beneath the modern village.

1 Medieval

1.20 Evidence of medieval activity has been identified in the vicinity of the present site, which lies to the south-west of the medieval village core, approximately 500m west of the 12th century parish church (SMR no 6730). The site lies within Stone Field, one of the Bottisham's open fields. These were apparently established by the late 15th century (RCHME, 1972). Chapman's survey of 1768 (CRO TR 274/P3) shows the direction of the individual furlongs.

1.21 The site of the former moated manor of Bendish Hall lies approximately 350m to the east (SMR no 1120). Thomas de Bendish first held the manor in 1288, so the original manor house may date from the late 13th century. This was replaced by a red brick house and chapel, shown on the Inclosure map of 1808 (see Figure 3) which was demolished in the early 19th century.

4Fieldwork

1 METHODOLOGY

1.1 The proposed development covers an area of 0.8ha (2 acres). Eight trial trenches measuring 25 metres in length, and representing a 5% sample of the area, were excavated on a regular grid (see Figure 5) using a 360° tracked excavator with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.

1.2 Spoil from the various stages of groundworks was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

1.3 The trenches were cleaned by hand, and all exposed archaeological features were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

1.4 Preliminary plans were drawn of each trench at a scale of 1:50 on polyester draughting film together with a longitudinal profiles at the same scale. Plans of excavated features were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and sections at a scale of 1:10.

1 RESULTS

1.5 The topsoil and subsoil were removed down to the natural chalk geology. The topsoil, context (100), consisted of a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) firm clayey silt 0.22m in depth. This overlay a subsoil, context (101) which comprised an light yellowish brown (2.5Y 6/4) firm sandy silt. In all the trenches apart from Trench 1 and Trench 2 the subsoil was found to be between 0.2 and 0.3m in depth. In Trenches 1 and 2 the subsoil was found to be 0.5m deep. This may represent the area of wetland shown on Chapman's plan of 1768, which was later drained by the watercourse to the north. Archaeological features were found in all trenches apart from Trenches 2 and 4, and consisted of five shallow linears, and a modern rectangular pit. All of the linears were sealed by the subsoil.

1 Trench 1

1.6 Trench 1 was located in the north-western corner of the study area at right-angles to Bell Road. It was aligned approximately north-north-west to south-south-east and measured 25 x 2m (see Figure 5).

1.7 The ploughsoil (100) was a firm dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) , clayey silt containing rare small angular stones and moderate fine roots. It was a constant depth of 0.22m and sealed the subsoil (101). The subsoil (101) consisted of a firm light yellowish brown (2.5Y 6/4) firm sandy silt. It was 0.5m in depth and was cut by a machine cut pit [103].

1.8 Pit [103], was cut through the subsoil at the southern end of the trench. This feature measured 2.5m in length and 0.6m in width. The cut contained fill (102), which consisted of a light grey (2.5Y 7/2) firm clayey chalk. The location, shape and fill of the feature suggests a modern date, and it has been interpreted as a machine cut test pit. The feature was recorded but left unexcavated (see Figure 6).

1 Trench 2

1.9 Trench 2 was located in the north-eastern corner of the site parallel to, and approximately 40m from Bell Road. It measured 25 x 2m and was aligned approximately north-east to south-west (see Figure 5). The topsoil (200) was 0.22m deep and sealed the subsoil (201) which was 0.5m in depth. No archaeology was found in the trench.

1.10 The ploughsoil (200) was a firm dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) , clayey silt containing rare small angular stones and moderate fine roots. It was a constant depth of 0.22m and sealed the subsoil (201). The subsoil (201) consisted of a firm light yellowish brown (2.5 6/4) firm sandy silt. It was 0.5m in depth and overlay the natural geology.

1 Trench 3

1.11 Trench 3 was located 20m from, and parallel to Bell Road, in the centre of the study area. It measured 25 x 2m and was aligned approximately north-east to south-west (see Figure 5). The topsoil (300) was 0.22m deep and sealed the subsoil (301) which was 0.4m deep at the southern end and 0.20m at the northern. A single linear [303] was found.

1.12 The ploughsoil (300) was a firm dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2), clayey silt containing rare small angular stones and moderate fine roots. It was a constant depth of 0.22m and sealed the subsoil (301). The subsoil (301) consisted of a firm light yellowish brown (2.5 6/4) firm sandy silt. It was 0.4m deep at the southern end and 0.2m at the northern end. The subsoil sealed a single linear [303].

1.13 Feature [303] was linear in plan aligned north-west to south-east (see Figure 6). It was over 1m long, 0.85m wide and 0.15m deep. The cut had steep sides, a flat base, and contained a single fill (302) (see Figure 8). The fill (302) was sealed by the subsoil (301) and was a light yellowish brown (2.5Y 6/3) friable chalky clayey silt with occasional small angular stones and rare fine roots. No artefacts were found.

1 Trench 4

1.14 Trench 4 was located on the eastern side of the site at right-angles to Bell Road at a distance of approximately 30m. It measured 25 x 2m and was aligned approximately north-west to south-east (see Figure 5). The topsoil (400) was 0.22m deep and sealed the subsoil (401) which was 0.3m in depth. No archaeology was found in the trench.

1.15 The ploughsoil (400) was a firm dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2), clayey silt containing rare small angular stones and moderate fine roots. It was a constant depth of 0.22m and sealed the subsoil (401). The subsoil (401) consisted of a firm light yellowish brown (2.5 6/4) firm sandy silt. It was 0.3m in depth and overlay the natural geology.

1 Trench 5

1.16 Trench 5 was located on the eastern perimeter of the site, parallel to Bell Road. It measured 25 x 2m and was aligned approximately north-east to south-west (see Figure 5). The topsoil (500) was 0.22m deep and sealed the subsoil (501) which was 0.2m in depth. A single linear was found in the trench.

1.17 The ploughsoil (500) was a firm dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2), clayey silt containing rare small angular stones and moderate fine roots. It was a constant depth of 0.22m and sealed the subsoil (501). The subsoil (501) consisted of a firm light yellowish brown (2.5 6/4) firm sandy silt. It was 0.2m in depth and overlay a single linear [503].

1.18 Feature [503] was linear in plan aligned approximately north-west to south-east (see Figure 6). It measured over 1m long, 0.9m wide and 0.2m in depth, and had steep sides and a flat base (see Figure 8). It contained a single fill (502). The fill (502) sealed by the subsoil (501) was a light yellowish brown (2.5Y 6/3) friable slightly sandy chalky silt with occasional small angular stones, and rare fine roots. No artefacts were found.

1 Trench 6

1.19 Trench 6 was located at right-angles to Bell Road, on the western edge of the study area. measured 25 x 2m and was aligned approximately north-west to south-east (see Figure 5). The topsoil (600) was 0.22m deep and sealed the subsoil (601) which was 0.3m in depth at the western end and 0.2m at the eastern end. A single linear [603] was found in the trench.

1.20 The ploughsoil (600) was a firm dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) , clayey silt containing rare small angular stones and moderate fine roots. It was a constant depth of 0.22m and sealed the subsoil (601). The subsoil (601) consisted of a firm light yellowish brown (2.5 6/4) firm sandy silt. It was 0.2m deep at the eastern end and 0.3m at the western end and overlay a single linear feature [603].

1.21 Feature [603] was linear in plan aligned approximately north-east to south-west (see Figure 7). It measured over 1m long, 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep, and had steep sides and a flat base (see Figure 8). The cut contained a single fill (602). The fill (602) sealed by the subsoil (601) was a light yellowish brown (2.5Y 6/4) friable sandy silt with rare small angular stones, and fine roots. No artefacts were found. This linear may be a continuation of feature [803] in Trench 8 (see Figure 9).

1 Trench 7

1.22 Trench 7 was located in the south-east corner of the study area, parallel to Bell Road. It measured 25 x 2m and was aligned approximately north-east to south-west (see Figure 5). The topsoil (700) was 0.22m deep and sealed the subsoil (701) which was 0.2m deep. A single linear [703] was found in the trench.

1.23 The ploughsoil (700) was a firm dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2), clayey silt containing rare small angular stones and moderate fine roots. It was a constant depth of 0.22m and sealed the subsoil (701). The subsoil (701) consisted of a firm light yellowish brown (2.5 6/4) firm sandy silt. It was 0.2m in depth and overlay a single linear feature [703].

1.24 Feature [703] was linear in plan aligned approximately east to west (see Figure 7). It measured over 1m long, 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. The cut contained a single fill (702) (see Figure 8). The fill (702) sealed by the subsoil (701) was a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) friable sandy silt with occasional small angular stones and rare small charcoal flecks and rare fine roots. No artefacts were found.

1 Trench 8

1.25 Trench 8 was located in the south-west corner of the survey area, parallel to Bell Road. measured 25 x 2m and was aligned approximately north-north-east to south-south-west (see Figure 5). The topsoil (800) was 0.22m deep and sealed the subsoil (801) which was 0.22m in depth. A single linear [803] was found in the trench.

1.26 The ploughsoil (800) was a firm dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) , clayey silt containing rare small angular stones and moderate fine roots. It was a constant depth of 0.22m and sealed the subsoil (801). The subsoil (801) consisted of a firm light yellowish brown (2.5 6/4) firm sandy silt. It was 0.22m in depth and overlay a single linear feature [803].

1.27 Feature [803] was linear in plan aligned approximately east to west (see Figure 7). It measured over 1m long, 0.4m wide, and 0.1m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. The cut contained a single fill (803) (see Figure 8). The fill (802) sealed by the subsoil (801) was a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) friable slightly chalky sandy silt with occasional small angular stones, few small charcoal flecks, and rare fine roots. No artefacts were found. This linear may be a continuation of feature [603] in Trench 6 (see Figure 9).

5Risk Assessment

1 General

1.1 The archaeological evaluation of the present site has been carried out in two stages. Desk-based research has provided a broad overview of land use, find spots, and neighbouring sites. This was followed by an evaluation which assessed a 5% sample of the study area.

1.2 No archaeological evidence has previously been recovered from the site itself, which lies to the south of the medieval core of the village. The study area has been recorded as open land since at least the mid eighteenth century. Aerial photographs show the field under crop, suggesting that it has been subject to ploughing, which may have damaged any underlying archaeology.

1.3 The area of the present site has not been the subject of any previous archaeological investigation, nor was it surveyed as part of the fieldwork for the Fenland Project, which concentrated on the fen edge. The study area lies over 1km south of the furthest limit of the medieval fen (Hall, 1996, figure 58). No archaeological features or artefacts were apparently recorded during the construction of the houses along Bell Road, which are post WWII in date.

1.4 The field evaluation of the site has revealed a low density of undated linear features sealed by a largely uniform subsoil which deepens to the north.

1 Prehistoric

1.5 No evidence for prehistoric activity has been recovered from the present site, which lies on a low chalk slope over 3km south-east of the limits of the prehistoric fen (Hall, 1996, figure 57). The Fenland Project demonstrated that prehistoric activity in Bottisham and the nearby parishes of Lode and Swaffham Bulbeck was concentrated on either the sandy uplands or on the fen edge (Hall, 1996, p108).

1.6 A number of stray finds of stone implements (SMR nos 6580, 6591 and 6598) and flint scatters (SMR nos 6531 and 6595) have been recorded within a kilometre of the site, but no

occupation site has been identified within the parish. Concentrations of earthwork remains indicate the presence of ring ditches and barrows at Hare Park to the east of the present site, with others possibly indicated by soilmarks to the south.

1.7 The numbers of stray finds and scatters of stone and flint implements recorded in the vicinity of the study area, would suggest that there is a moderate risk of finding artefacts of this date in the plough soil. The field evaluation has, however, revealed no securely dated features of prehistoric date and no artefacts of this period, suggesting an overall low risk that such features and artefacts would be disturbed in the development of the site.

1 Roman

1.8 Although there is no definite evidence for Roman settlement within a kilometre of the present site a number of ditched enclosures, probably associated with agricultural activity, were revealed during archaeological evaluation approximately 700m to the north-east. Most of the ditches followed the line of the modern field boundaries, suggesting that the present landscape pattern has changed little since the second century AD. The number of pottery sherds, and other finds from the ditch fills, indicate the presence of Romano-British occupation nearby. Pottery sherds have also been found on a building site to the north of the study area (SMR no 6586). The field evaluation has, however, revealed no securely dated features of Roman date and no artefacts of this period, suggesting an overall low risk that such features and artefacts would be disturbed in the development of the site.

1 Saxon

1.9 There is no recorded evidence of Saxon occupation within a kilometre of the site. Evidence of an earlier settlement may lie beneath the modern village. No securely dated features of Saxon date and no artefacts of this period were revealed during the field evaluation of the present site. There is considered, therefore, to be only a low risk that such features and artefacts would be disturbed in the development of the site.

1 Medieval

1.10 The present site lies on the south-western edge of the modern village, approximately 300m south of the medieval core of the village. It also lies over 100m beyond the southern limit of the burghage plots, which stretch south from the main street.

1.11 The site of Bendish Hall, a former moated manor, lies approximately 350m to the east. The post-medieval maps consulted show no evidence of outlying buildings or a hamlet associated with the manor and it appears that the manorial complex is focused on the village, rather than towards the area of the present site.

1.12 Although relatively close to Bendish Hall, there is no evidence in the form of earthworks or soil and cropmarks to suggest that the present site was occupied during the medieval period. Furthermore, no securely dated features of medieval date and no artefacts of this period were revealed during the field evaluation of the present site. There is considered,

therefore, to be only a low risk that such features and artefacts would be disturbed in the development of the site.

1

2 *Post-medieval*

1.13 Chapman's map of 1768 (CRO TR 274/P3) shows a division across the site between ploughed field to the south and wetland to the north (see Figure 2). By the time of the Inclosure Map of 1808 (CRO P13/26/1), the drain to the north of the site appears to have become established or formalised, and the two halves of the present site joined (see Figure 3). It is possible that the linear feature located in Trench 3 of the field evaluation equates to the boundary between these two areas shown on the 1768 map.

1.14 The site lies within Stone Field, one of the common fields of Bottisham and the 1768 map shows the direction of the post-medieval furlongs. The maps consulted show no evidence for buildings on the site, though they reveal that Bell Road was constructed between 1768 and 1808. Furthermore, no securely dated features of post-medieval date and no artefacts of this period were revealed during the field evaluation of the present site. There is considered, therefore, to be only a low risk that such features and artefacts would be disturbed in the development of the site.

1 *Confidence Rating*

1.15 The general availability of material for the desk-based research was good although the cartographic evidence was limited for the period between 1926 and the present. It has been possible to provide a comprehensive overview of the development of land use in the area and the confidence rating for this stage of the work is considered to be high.

1.16 The eight evaluation trenches were evenly located across the study area in a pattern designed to maximise the opportunities for locating features, in particular linears. The sample ratio of 5% was higher than average for an evaluation exercise. The weather conditions were dry and sunny, providing good conditions for the identification and recording of features and deposits. Water was available to prevent the ground surface from drying out and obscuring potential features. On this basis, the confidence rating for this stage of the work is considered to be high.

1 *Conclusion*

1.17 Despite the level of archaeological and historic activity in the surrounding area demonstrated in the desk-based research, it is clear from the field evaluation that the present development presents a low risk to the archaeological landscape.

6 Sources Consulted

Cambridgeshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

Cambridgeshire County Record Office (CRO)

Q/RDc 12	1808	Inclosure map (duplicate)
P13/26/1	1808	Inclosure Award
TR 274/P3	1768	Plan of Parishes adjacent to Newmarket Heath, surv. by John Chapman (photostat)
OS 25" scale	1886	1st edition Cambridgeshire Sheet XLI..14
OS 25" scale	1901	2nd edition Cambridgeshire Sheet XLI..14
OS 25" scale	1926	3rd edition Cambridgeshire Sheet XLI.14

Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography (CUCAP)

Photo no	Type	Date taken	Detail
35K-CH 22	oblique colour slide	10/6/81	Shows site as open field. No detail visible
RC8-I,88	vertical b/w	5/5/69	Just misses site, shows village
RC8-I,203	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	as above
RC8-J,208	vertical b/w	7/6/69	Misses site - shows fields to E of village.
RC8-J,209	as above	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>
RC8-DW,218	vertical b/w	14/8/81	Shows site as part of field under crop. Poss ring ditch visible to S, on other side of A14 (T). Nothing visible in immediate vicinity of site
RC8-DW,219	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	site as field under crop. Doesn't go as far south as 218
RC8-EA, 151	<i>ditto</i>	23/3/82	site as part field under crop. ?relict watercourses to SW&NW. Poss ring ditch to S, other side of A14 road
RC8-EA, 152	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	site just on AP
RC8-EA, 145	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	too far east - shows relict watercourse & poss ring ditch
RC8-EA, 156	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>
RC8-EG, 231- 232	<i>ditto</i>	5/4/82	shows site as part of field under crop. Field immediately S may have ring ditches-shows relict field boundaries
RC8-HS, 110-111	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	too far north
RC8-HV, 165-66	<i>ditto</i>	4/7/85	<i>ditto</i>
RC8-JM, 45-46	<i>ditto</i>	?	field under crop. no cropmarks visible in vicinity
RC8-KnBG, 20	colour vertical	?	field under crop
BOU 92-93	b/w oblique	20/9/73	ring ditch - not on site & too small to identify exact location
BSJ 74-76	b/w oblique	13/5/75	ring ditch - as above

1 Bibliography

Hall, D., 1996	<i>The Fenland Project, Number 10: Cambridgeshire Survey, The Isle of Ely and Wisbech.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Report No.79.
RCHME, 1972	<i>County of Cambridge, Vol 2, North-East Cambridgeshire.</i> HMSO
Rumble, A., 1981	<i>Domesday Book, Cambridgeshire.</i> Phillimore, Chichester

Seddon, G.R, 2000 *Tunbridge Lane, Bottisham, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation.*
Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust Report no.693.

7Illustrations

Figure 1 Site location plan

Figure 2 Plan of Parishes Adjacent to Newmarket Heath, 1768

Figure 3 Tracing from Inclosure Map, 1808

Figure 4 Extract from OS 25" series, 1926

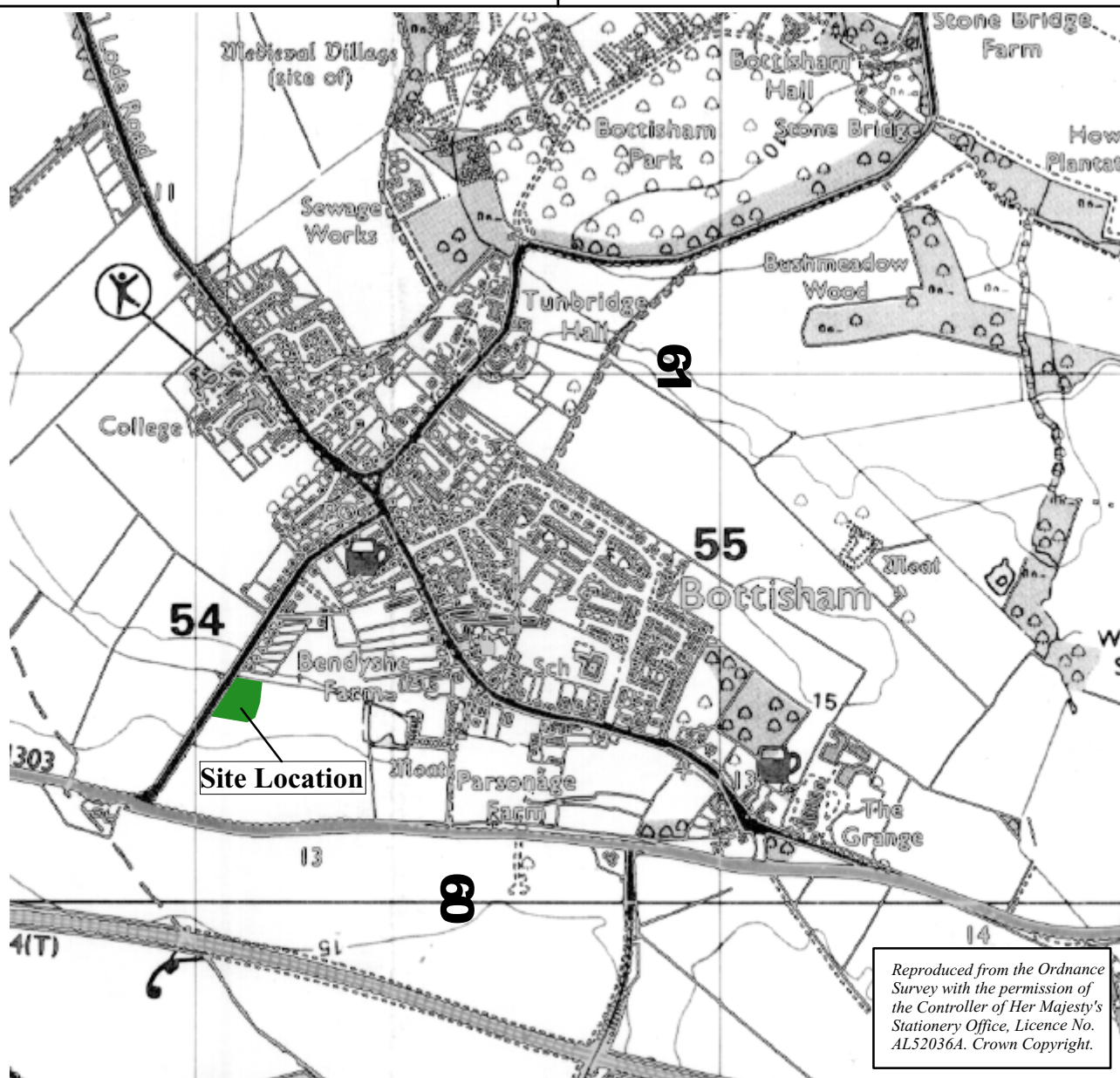
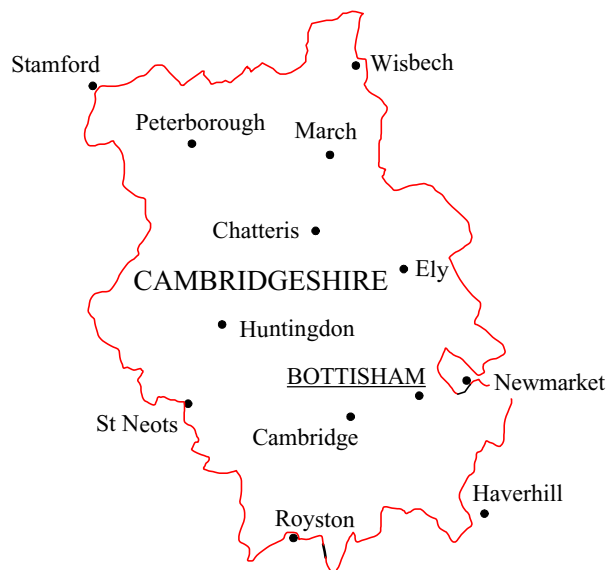
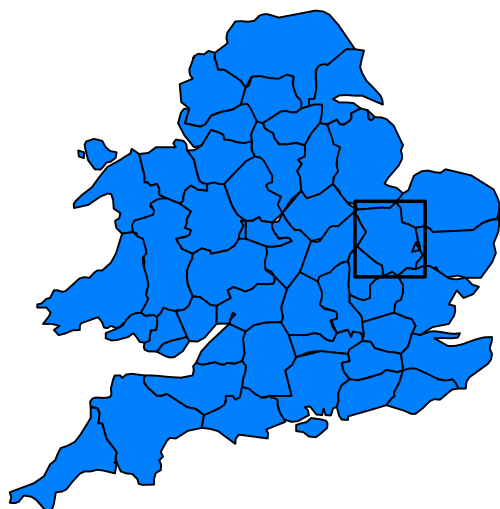
Figure 5 Site layout

Figure 6 Feature plans -1

Figure 7 Feature plans - 2

Figure 8 Feature sections


Figure 9 Relationship of features

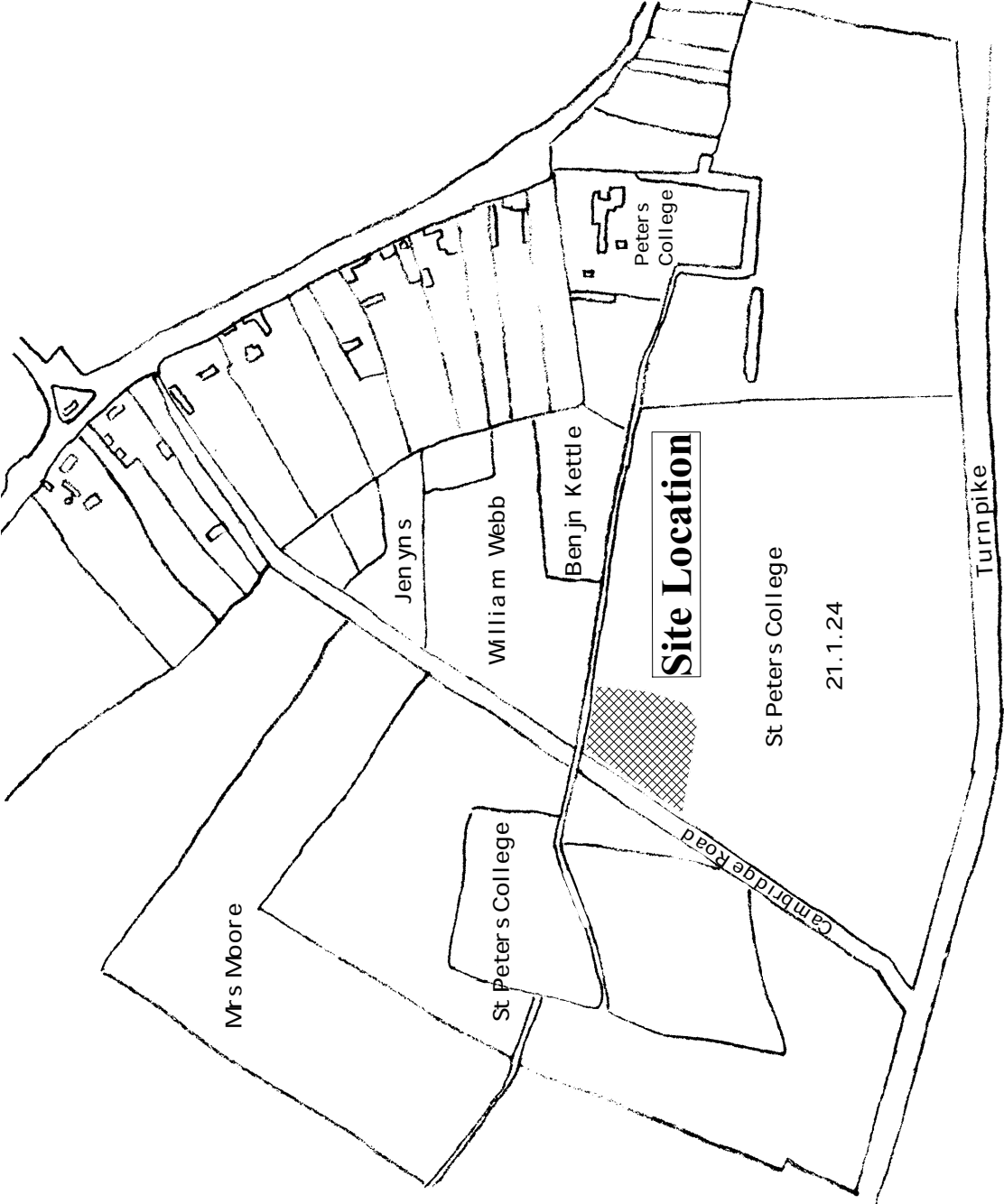


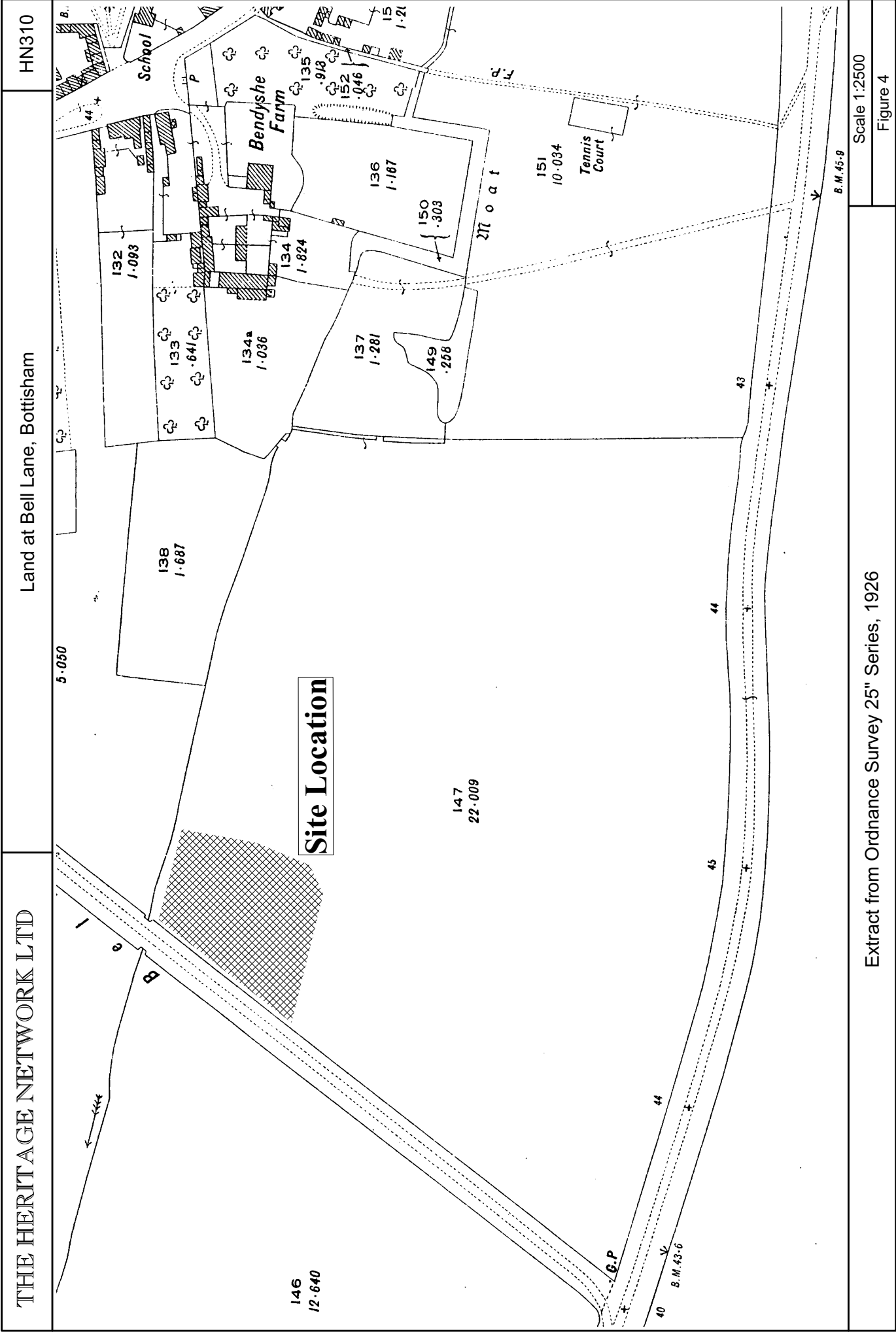
Site location plan

Scale 1:12500

Figure 1

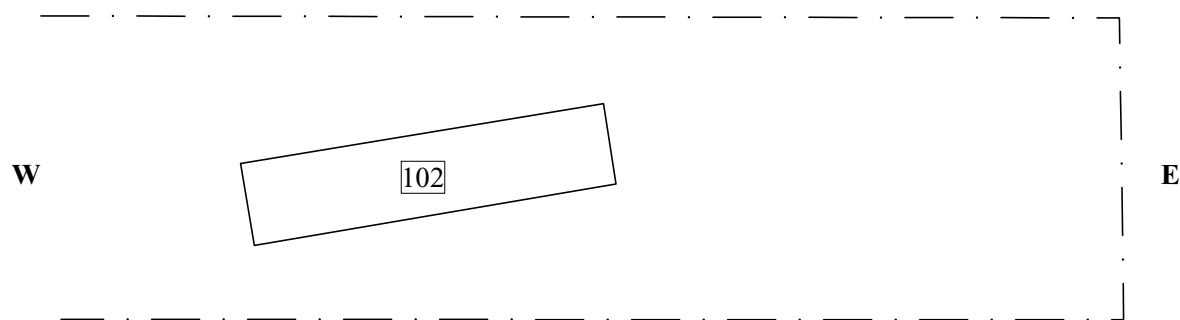
THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land at Bell Lane, Bottisham	HN310
 <p>The map is a historical plan of Bottisham, dated 1768. It shows a network of roads and fields. A label '6 Miles from Cambridge' is in the top left. 'The Grange' is labeled in the top right. 'BOTTISHAM' is written across the center. 'The Grange' is also labeled in the bottom right. A white arrow points to a specific location, labeled 'Site Location' in a white box. The map is oriented with North at the top.</p>		
Extract from Plan of Parishes Adjacent to Newmarket Heath, 1768		Scale 1:10,000 Figure 2

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	<div data-bbox="165 640 197 1008">Land at Bell Lane, Bottisham</div> <div data-bbox="165 125 197 219">HN310</div> 
<div data-bbox="1465 1061 1497 1491">Tracing from Inclosure Map, 1808</div> <div data-bbox="1449 188 1474 322">Scale 1:5000</div> <div data-bbox="1487 219 1513 309">Figure 3</div>	

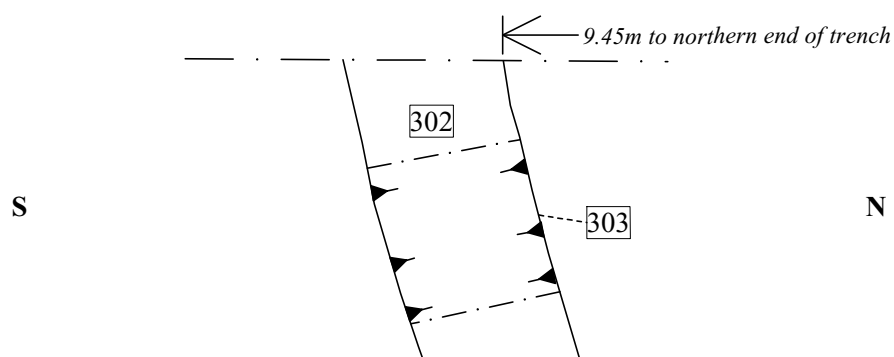




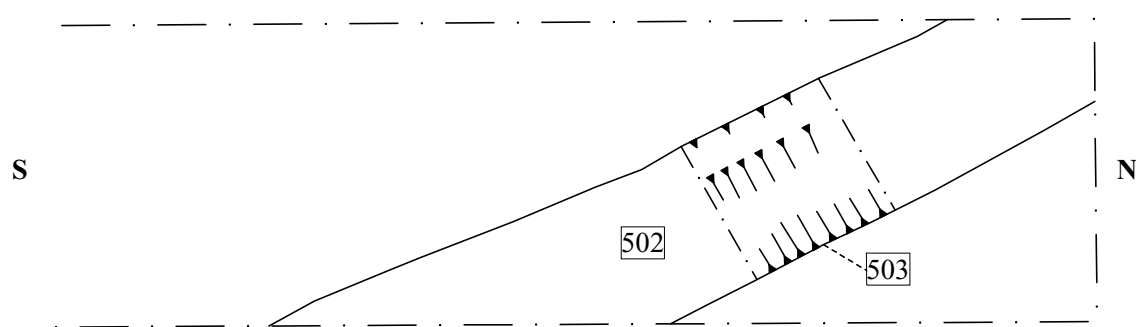
Site layout



Trench 1

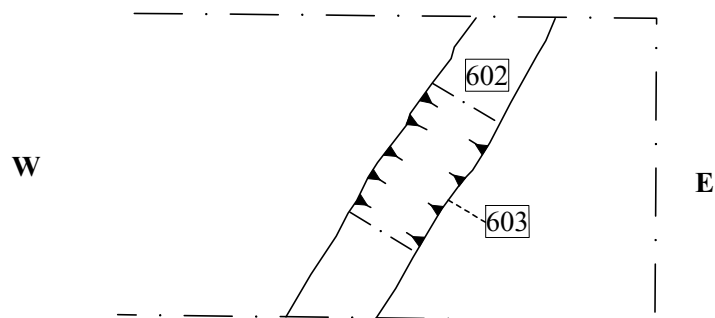


Trench 3

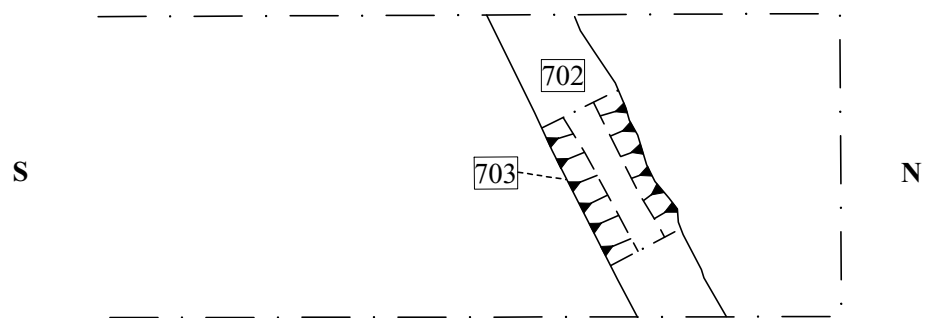


Trench 5

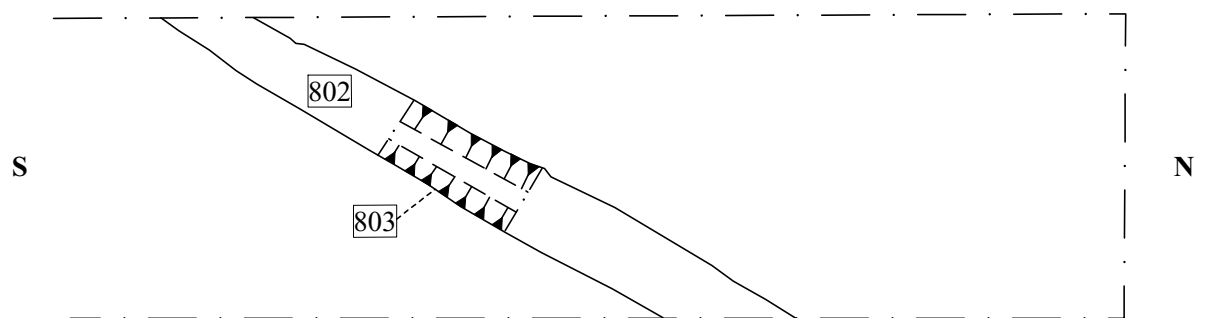




Trench 6



Trench 7



Trench 8



