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THE GARDENS **Lynn Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire**

HN1061

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

[Revision B]

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

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Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

THE GARDENS **Lynn Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire**

Project ref.: HN1061
LPA ref.: 12/00867/FUM
Event Number: ECB3973

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Youngs Homes

by

James Snee, BSC (HONS) AIFA

Report no. 790

[Revision B]

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The front cover shows the proposed development site, looking northwest.

Acknowledgements

The evaluation fieldwork for this project was carried out by Greg Jones and James Snee. The report text and illustrations were compiled by James Snee and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Oliver Crocker of Youngs Homes, and Kasia Gdaniec, Historic Environment Team (HET) of Cambridgeshire County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	The Gardens, Lynn Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire		
County:	Cambridgeshire	District:	East Cambridgeshire
Village/town:	Ely	Parish:	Ely
Planning reference:	12/00867/FUM	NGR:	TL 5454 8187
Client name and address:	Youngs Homes, Eastern House, Eastern Court, Ernest Gage Avenue, New Costessey, Norfolk NR5 0JU.		
Nature of work:	Residential.	Current land use:	Gardens.
Site Status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Direction of LPA (NPPF)
Position in planning process:	Planning condition	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Size of affected area:	c. 4820m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.240m ²
Site code:	HN1061	Alternate reference:	ECB3973
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	Trial trench evaluation	Archive recipient:	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Start of work:	13/05/2013	Finish of work:	15/05/2013
Related HER nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Iron Age, Romano-British, post-medieval, modern
OASIS UID:	heritage1-151938	Significant finds:	Pot, Bone, Brick and Tile, Glass, Fe Obj.
Monument types:	Ditch		
Physical archive:	Pot, Bone, Brick and Tile, Glass, Fe Obj.		
Previous summaries/reports:	None		

Synopsis:

In order to characterise the archaeological potential of the site of a proposed new development at The Gardens, Lynn Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching. This work was a requirement of the planning consent granted by the local planning authority.

Six trial trenches were excavated revealing natural sandstone, overlain by natural silty clay. Across the majority of the site, the natural deposits were overlain by subsoil and topsoil. An undated ditch, which cut the subsoil, was

excavated in the northeast corner of the site. In addition, a soil layer and a probable root disturbance were investigated.

Finds dating from the late Iron Age / early Romano-British, Romano-British, post-medieval and modern periods were recovered from the overburden.

On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb remains of archaeological significance may be considered to be *Low* for all periods.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Youngs Homes Ltd as part of a programme of archaeological work to be carried out as part of a proposed development at The Gardens, Lynn Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire.

1.2 The planning consent for the proposed development (ref: 12/00867/FUM) was granted by East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) subject to a standard archaeological condition issued under the provisions set out in the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* and policy EN5 of the East Cambridgeshire Core Strategy 2009.

1.3 The scope of work required was defined in the *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* issued by the Historic Environment Team (HET) of Cambridgeshire County Council (ref: KG 26/03/2013) acting as archaeological adviser to ECDC. A full specification for the work is contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated May 2013.

1.4 The site is located close to the northern extent of the city of Ely, approximately 1.5km from its historic core. It lies on the west side of Lynn Road, approximately 75m north of its junction with Butt Drove, centred on NGR TL 5454 8187. The site is bounded to the east by Lynn Road, to the north by the dwelling known as The Gardens and by the Lily House Care Home, to the west by the gardens to nos.7 and 11 King Edgar Close, and to the south by no.5 King Edgar Close (Figure 1).

1.5 The site lies in an area of known archaeological sensitivity and is surrounded by settlement evidence that predates the town. Settlement evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date has been recorded along the line of the Ely by-pass and recent evaluation work to the immediate west and south-west of the site has demonstrated the presence of farmsteads and droveways of similar dates.

1.6 The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott and Brown 2008, Medlycott 2011), should they be discovered. It was considered that the site had the potential to provide evidence that would contribute to an understanding of settlement on the Isle of Ely in the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods.

1.7 The proposed development entails the construction of 19 new affordable homes with associated access and services.

2 Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site is located on the northern edge of Ely, approximately 1.5km north of the historic core, at a height of approximately 21m AOD.

2.2 Locally the soils belong to the Hanslope Association (411d), described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils (SSEW 1983).

2.3 Seven test pits had previously been excavated across the site (Warth 2012). These revealed that the stratigraphic sequence on the site consisted of surface layers, including made ground, measuring between 0.15m and 0.60m in depth. These overlay clayey sands and gravels of the Woburn Sand Formation, measuring between 1.80m and 2.50m in depth. Below this, at a minimum depth of 1.80m below present ground level, were clays of the Kimmeridge Clay Formation.

METHODOLOGY

2.4 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IfA and ALGAO guidance documents.

2.5 The overburden was removed, under close supervision, to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon as appropriate, using a JCB 3CX wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket.

2.6 Spoil from the machining was scanned visually, and with a metal detector, for archaeological artefacts. In addition 901 samples from the overburden layers at the centre and each end of each trench were hand-sorted for the retrieval of finds.

2.7 The exposed areas were cleaned by hand, and potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.8 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate proforma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10 and 1:20.

RESULTS

2.9 Six trial trenches were opened across the site. These were located within the footprint of the proposed new buildings and with reference to known constraints across the site (Figure 2).

Trench 1

2.10 Trench 1 was located in the north-western corner of the site, and was oriented north - south. It measured 25m long by 1.6m wide (Figure 2).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25.0	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.8	Orientation	N-S
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)		Top	21.15	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)		Top	21.23
		Base	20.37			Base	20.57
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	10YR 3/2 dark greyish brown sandy silty clay with frequent roots and occasional angular gravel.	25.0	1.6	up to 0.20		
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 pale brown sandy silty clay.	25.0	1.6	0.35		
-	Layer	10 YR 5/8 yellowish brown sandy silty clay.	25.0	1.6	> 0.25		

2.11 The stratigraphy of Trench 1 comprised a layer of dark greyish brown topsoil between 0.10m and 0.20m thick, above a 0.35m thick layer of pale brown subsoil. The yellowish brown natural sandy silty clay was encountered below the subsoil.

2.12 The natural clay had been cut by two land drains. The lower one was constructed of brick and tile and ran along the trench on an approximate north-south alignment. This was crossed at a higher level in the centre of the trench by a ceramic pipe drain, aligned northwest-southeast (Plate 1). Both drains had been breached by a narrow geotechnical test pit, aligned northeast to southwest.

2.13 A number of finds were recovered from the overburden within the trench. These were predominantly post-medieval in date, and included pottery sherds of 18th/19th century date, fragments of post-medieval peg tile, an iron nail and a piece of modern glass. One abraded sherd of late Iron Age / early Roman grog-tempered pottery was recovered from the subsoil at the northern end of the trench.

2.14 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were present in the trench.

Trench 2

2.15 Trench 2 was located in the northeastern corner of the site, and was aligned approximately east-west. It measured 25m long by 1.6m wide (Figure 2).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	25.0	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	1.05	Orientation	E-W
Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	21.39	Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	21.40
		Base	21.33			Base	20.80
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	10YR 3/2 dark greyish brown sandy silty clay with frequent roots and occasional angular gravel.	25.0	1.6	0.30		
-	Layer	10 YR 5/8 yellowish brown sandy silty clay.	25.0	1.6	> 0.85		

2.16 The stratigraphy in Trench 2 comprised a layer of dark greyish brown topsoil, 0.30m thick, overlying yellowish brown sandy silty clay natural.

2.17 No subsoil was observed in this trench, although it was noted that the top of the natural was more compacted than observed in other areas of the site (Plate 2).

2.18 Sampling of the overburden within the trench revealed a number of finds. Four tile fragments, two of which were Roman in date and two post-medieval, were recovered from the western end, while a single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the centre.

2.19 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were present in the trench.

Trench 3

2.20 Trench 3 was located in the centre of the northern half of the site, to the southwest of Trench 2, and was aligned northeast-southwest. It measured 25m long by 1.6m wide, (Figures 2).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	25.0	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	0.90	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	21.41	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	21.40
		Base	20.75			Base	20.50
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	10YR 3/2 dark greyish brown sandy silty clay with frequent roots and occasional angular gravel.	25.0	1.6	0.30		
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 pale brown sandy silty clay.	25.0	1.6	0.30		
-	Layer	10 YR 5/8 yellowish brown sandy silty clay.	25.0	1.6	> 0.30		

2.21 The stratigraphy in Trench 3 consisted of dark greyish brown sandy silty clay topsoil, 0.30m thick, overlying pale brown sandy silty clay subsoil, 0.30m thick. Below this was the yellowish brown natural sandy silty clay (Plate 3).

2.22 A number of finds were recovered from the overburden, all of post-medieval date, including two small fragments of tile from the topsoil at the northeast end of the trench and two further tile fragments and a piece of bone from the subsoil at the southwest end.

2.23 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were present in the trench.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located on the eastern side of the site, to the east of Trench 3 and was orientated northeast-southwest. It measured 30m long by 1.6m wide (Figure 2).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	30.0	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	1.0	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	21.69	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	21.49
		Base	20.77			Base	20.79
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	10YR 3/2 dark greyish brown sandy silty clay with frequent roots and occasional angular gravel.	30.0	1.6	0.35		
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 pale brown sandy silty clay.	30.0	1.6	0.25		
-	Layer	10 YR 5/8 yellowish brown sandy silty clay.	30.0	1.6	> 0.40		

Length (m):	30.0	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	1.0	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	21.69	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	21.49
		Base	20.77			Base	20.79
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
401	Cut	Linear cut with sloping sides and a concave base, oriented northwest-southeast.	> 1.6	0.80	0.45		
402	Fill	10YR 6/8 brownish yellow sandy silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and very occasional flecks of burnt silt.	> 1.6	0.80	0.45		

2.24 The stratigraphy in Trench 4 comprised of dark greyish brown sandy silty clay topsoil, 0.30m thick, overlying pale brown silty clay subsoil, 0.25m thick. Below this was the yellowish brown sandy silty clay natural (Plate 4).

2.25 Cutting the subsoil, towards the northern end of the trench (Figure 3), was a northwest-southeast oriented ditch, cut [401], with sloping sides and a concave base (Figure 4, Plate 5). This was filled with brownish yellow sandy silty clay (402). Although no datable finds were recovered from the fill, a quantity of animal bone was found in the base of the feature.

2.26 Five sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the subsoil at the southwestern end of Trench 4.

2.27 No other features or deposits of archaeological significance were present in the trench.

Trench 5

2.28 Trench 5 was located in the southeastern corner of the site and was orientated NNW-SSE. It measured 20m long by 1.6m wide (Figure 2).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	20	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	0.61	Orientation	N-S
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)		Top	21.50	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)		Top	21.73
		Base	21.11			Base	21.12
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	10YR 3/2 dark greyish brown sandy silty clay with frequent roots and occasional angular gravel.	20	1.6	0.30		
-	Layer	10YR 5/4 yellowish brown sandy clayey silt.	20	1.6	0.30		
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silt, sand and sandstone.	20	1.6	> 0.01		

2.29 The stratigraphy in Trench 5 comprised dark greyish brown sandy silty clay topsoil, 0.30m thick, overlying yellowish brown sandy clayey silt subsoil, 0.30m thick. Below this was the yellowish brown sandy silty clay natural, with outcrops of sandstone (Plate 6).

2.30 At the base of the trench, the interface of the irregular stone natural and the subsoil resulted in the appearance of a linear feature. However, hand cleaning of the possible feature quickly demonstrated that it was natural, rather than archaeological in origin (Plate 7).

2.31 The subsoil within Trench 5 contained a relative concentration of pottery, comprising fourteen sherds, of which seven were Romano-British, two were post-medieval and two were modern.

2.32 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were present in the trench.

Trench 6

2.33 Trench 6 was located in the southwestern corner of the site and was orientated approximately north-south. It measured 30m long by 1.6m wide (Figure 2).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	30	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	0.70	Orientation	N-S
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)		Top	21.47	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)		Top	21.73
		Base	20.91			Base	21.01
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	10YR 3/2 dark greyish brown sandy silty clay with frequent roots and occasional angular gravel.	30	1.6	0.30		
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 pale brown sandy silty clay.	30	1.6	0.30		
-	Layer	10 YR 5/8 yellowish brown sandy silty clay.	18	1.6	> 0.10		
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silt, sand and sandstone.	12	1.6	> 0.10		
601	Layer	10YR 4/1 dark grey sandy silty clay with occasional manganese flecks.	> 1.0	1.6	0.30		
602	Cut	Irregular linear with concave sides and base, oriented east-west.	> 1.6	1.22	0.48		
603	Fill	10YR 4/3 dark grey sandy silty clay with occasional manganese.	> 1.6	1.22	0.48		

2.34 The stratigraphy in Trench 6 comprised of dark greyish brown sandy silty clay topsoil, 0.30m thick, overlying pale brown sandy silty clay subsoil, 0.30m thick. Below the subsoil, at the southern end of the trench, was yellowish brown silt, sand and sandstone natural, which dipped below the yellowish brown sandy silty clay natural (Plate 8).

2.35 Weathering of the interface between the subsoil and the natural horizons revealed two possible features. At the southern end was what appeared on the surface to be a linear feature, running east - west across the trench. On investigation it became apparent that this was a natural layer (601) which disappeared beneath the natural yellowish brown sandy silty clay. A sondage, measuring 1m x 1m, was excavated to confirm this (Figure 5, Plate 9).

2.36 A linear feature, cut [602], was encountered towards the northern end of the trench. This was aligned east – west and measured over 1m in length, approximately 1m in width and 0.50m in depth. It had irregular sides and base, indicative of a natural origin, and contained fill (603), a dark grey sandy silty clay (Figure 5, Plate 10). No finds were recovered from this fill.

2.37 A number of finds were recovered from the subsoil along the whole length of Trench 6, including three sherds from the same Romano-British jar from the northern end, and nine sherds of Romano-British pottery from the southern end.

FINDS ASSESSMENT**Finds Concordance**

Context	Pottery		CBM		Fe Obj		Glass		Bone	
	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)
401									7	85
Tr1 Sub N	3	23	2	32	1	30				
Tr1 Sub M	3	40	1	10						
Tr1 Sub S	1	5	4	25						
Tr1 Top M					1	25	1	3		
Tr1 Top S	2	5	1	20						
Tr2 Top M	1	5								
Tr2 Top W			4	23						
Tr3 Top NE			2	3						
Tr3 Sub SW			2	90					1	10
Tr4 Sub S	5	215								
Tr5 Sub M	14	120								
Tr6 Sub M			2	70					2	70
Tr6 Sub N	3	140								
Tr6 Sub S	9	240	2	25						
Totals	41	793	20	298	2	55	1	3	10	165

POTTERY**Summary**

Context	Comments
Tr1 Sub N	2 x p-med; 1 x LIA/ERB grog-tempered
Tr1 Sub M	2 x p-med; 1 x? RB shelly
Tr1 Sub S	Post-med
Tr1 Top S	Post-med
Tr2 Top M	Post-med
Tr4 Sub S	RB: ?2nd century
Tr5 Sub M	7 x RB; 2 x modern; 2 x p-m; 3 x unid
Tr6 Sub N	1 vessel, RB jar
Tr6 Sub S	RB: late 1st – late 2nd C

2.38 A total of 41 sherds of pottery, weighing 793g, was recovered as a result of hand sorting a sample of the overburden in all 6 trenches. The bulk of the assemblage comprised abraded bodysherds of Roman-British or post-medieval date.

Methodology

2.39 The recording of the pottery used standard pro forma, which record by fabric, weight (g), number and sherd type (e.g. rim, plain body etc.), and vessel form, where identified. Individual sherds were examined through a binocular microscope at x10 magnification to determine the nature of the inclusions, any surface treatment or decoration and any other significant characteristics, which were noted on the pottery recording form. The overall condition of the sherds from each context and the estimated date range, based on the forms and fabrics present, were also noted.

Romano-British pottery (see Appendix 2)

2.40 Romano-British coarsewares formed the most significant group within the assemblage (19 sherds, weighing 540g). These were chiefly concentrated on the eastern side of the site, in Trenches 4 – 6, although a small number of sherds (2 sherds) were collected from Trench 1.

2.41 Four distinct fabric groups were identified:

Fabric 1 – Late pre-Roman Iron Age / early Roman grog-tempered wares. Burnished black surfaces survive on some examples. Occasional fossilised shell & organic tempering present.

Fabric 2 – a hard grey ware, tempered with fine sand. Reduced core, oxidised surfaces, some examples have combed decoration on exterior surface. Unsourced, but probably local.

Fabric 3 – a hard grey ware, coarser than 2 - tempered with larger crushed quartz grits. No surface treatment surviving. Unsourced, but probably local.

Fabric 4 – a hard reddish orange ware, heavily tempered with fine translucent brown quartz sand. Paler pinkish buff core where the vessel wall is thickest. Traces of a thin cream slip survive. Possibly from the Verulamium region.

2.42 The assemblage consisted mainly of reduced unsourced sandy wares of presumably local origin (Fabrics 2 & 3), which have been dated to the mid 1st – late 2nd century AD. Five sherds of late Iron Age / early Roman grog-tempered ware (Fabric 1) were also collected, including two from the subsoil within Trench 1. One rim, possibly from the Verulamium region (Fabric 4), was recovered from the subsoil at the southern end of Trench 6. No late Roman wares were present.

2.43 The only fineware recovered from the site consisted of a small piece of decorated samian, recovered from the subsoil in the centre of Trench 5.

2.44 Few identifiable forms were present. Part of a small carinated bowl or large cup was recovered from the subsoil at the southern end of Trench 6. Three sherds from a single jar with an everted rim, in Fabric 2, were collected from the subsoil at the northern end of Trench 6. This vessel had been pierced below the neck after firing, with possible evidence for rubbing above the hole, suggesting that it may have been suspended by twine or leather thronging. Smoke discolouration was also noted on the exterior, though much of the surface has spalled.

The rim, previously noted as possibly coming from the Verulamium region, may represent part of a tazza of probable 2nd century date. The rim is decorated with a finger-moulded frill.

Post-medieval pottery

2.45 The post-medieval assemblage, 21 sherds, weighing 250g, consisted wholly of glazed and unglazed sherds of oxidised earthenware of 18th or 19th century date. Two modern flowerpot rims were also present.

2.46 Three unidentifiable scraps were also recovered from the site.

Conclusions

2.47 The Roman pottery from the site was collected from the overburden, rather than cut features. The generally abraded condition of the sherds indicates that they are not in their place of primary deposition.

2.48 The Roman assemblage indicates that the pottery originated from a fairly low status domestic site, which flourished between the mid 1st century and early 3rd century AD. Only one scrap of samian was recovered, and no late Roman wares were present.

2.49 The post-medieval assemblage consists of small and abraded sherds and is likely to have been imported on to the site, possibly for use as manuring.

Recommendations

2.50 On the basis that the Roman pottery assemblage was not associated with cut features, and is likely to have been imported on to the present site, no further work is recommended on this material, which will be retained for deposition with the site archive.

2.51 On the basis that the post-medieval pottery assemblage was not associated with cut features, and is likely to have been imported on to the present site, no further work is recommended on this material and it is proposed that it should be discarded.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

2.52 A total of 20 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 298g, was recovered from the overburden in Trenches 1-3 and 6. The bulk of the assemblage comprised abraded fragments of post-medieval peg tile, probably imported on to the site for use in manuring. Two scraps of Romano-British tile were recovered from the overburden on the western side of Trench 2, but these were too small to identify their fabric or form.

2.53 One piece of daub was recovered from the subsoil at the southern end of Trench 6. This was formed of red clay, tempered with sand and calcite grits. The piece, which had been smoothed on one face, also had possible wattle impressions.

Recommendations

2.54 On the basis that the ceramic building assemblage was not associated with cut features, and is likely to have been imported on to the present site, no further work is recommended on this material and it is proposed that it should be discarded.

IRON OBJECTS

2.55 Two iron objects, weighing 55g, were recovered from the overburden in Trench 1.

2.56 A length of iron, broken at one end and slightly pointed at the other, was collected from the northern end of the trench. This measured 48mm in length, 20mm in width and 6mm thick. It curved upwards on one side to a depth of approximately 4mm. No form or function could be assigned to this artefact, though it is likely to be relatively modern in date.

2.57 The second object comprised a large, heavily concreted, nail which was recovered from the centre of the trench. This measured 70mm in length and varied between 2mm and 20mm in diameter.

Recommendations

2.58 On the basis that these iron objects were not associated with cut features, and are likely to be relatively modern in date no further work is recommended on this material and it is proposed that it should be discarded.

GLASS

2.59 One fragment of modern window glass, weighing 3g, was recovered from the overburden in the centre of Trench 1.

Recommendations

2.60 On the basis that this item is of no archaeological significance no further work is recommended on this material and it is proposed that it should be discarded.

BONE

2.61 A total of 10 bone fragments, weighing 165g, was recovered from the overburden in Trenches 3 and 6 and from ditch fill (401). The overall condition of the bone was fair, but the fragments were small and the majority could not be identified to species.

2.62 The exception was a single cow astralagus from ditch fill (401). The other bone fragments in this deposit were all from a large mammal and could also be cow bones. Although no butchery marks are present on the bones, the small size of the fragments would suggest that they are the remains of butchered material.

Recommendations

2.63 On the basis that this is a small assemblage of undated and unidentifiable fragments, no further work is recommended on this material and it is proposed that it should be discarded.

3 Discussion

Archaeological Background

3.1 The Gardens site lies in an area of known archaeology dating from the prehistoric period onwards. A search of the records held by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) for a radius of 500m around the site produced the following results:

- Fieldwalking on the route of the Ely by-pass produced a number of undated lithic implements (CHER 07168), approximately 500m north-west of the present site.
- Fieldwalking for the Fenland Survey (Hall 1996) produced a Bronze Age flint scatter (CHER 06137), approximately 400m north-west of the present site.
- A Bronze Age Barrow and Beaker burial (CHER 06136) has been recorded from a number of sources approximately 400m north-west of the present site.
- The Fenland Survey (Hall 1996) records an Iron Age settlement site (CHER 06137A), associated with the Bronze Age flint scatter recorded above, approximately 400m north-west of the present site.
- Two undated cropmark enclosures (CHER 01645) have been recorded, possibly Iron Age in date, approximately 400m north-west of the present site.
- An evaluation at High Barns in 1991 recorded unstratified Iron Age and Roman pottery (CHER 10259), approximately 500m to the south-east of the present site.
- Fieldwalking on the route of the Ely by-pass produced a number of Roman settlement remains (CHER 07167), approximately 400m west north-west of the present site.
- Fieldwalking on the route of the Ely by-pass produced a number of sherds of medieval pottery (CHER 07168A), associated with the undated lithic implements recorded above, approximately 500m north-west of the present site.
- Recent evaluation fieldwork in advance of urban expansion to the south and west of the present site, including geophysics and trial trenching, has demonstrated the presence of farmsteads and droveways of Bronze Age to Romano-British date (Oxford Archaeology East, forthcoming).

Research Design

3.2 The aims of the evaluation have been:

- to establish the likely presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, and characterise them in terms of location, depth, extent, date, character and condition should they be present;
- to consider the local and regional archaeological and historical context of such remains, and their significance and quality, in relation to the current published regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott and Brown 2008, Medlycott 2011);
- to provide sufficient information to ensure that an appropriate strategy for the mitigation of damage or destruction of such remains by the development is adopted.

3.3 It was considered that the site had the potential to provide evidence that would contribute to an understanding of settlement on the Isle of Ely in the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods. Of particular interest would be evidence that clarified:

- settlement patterns and funerary practices in the Bronze Age;
- economy and settlement during the Bronze Age to Iron Age transition;
- economy and settlement during the Iron Age to Roman transition.

Collected Data

3.4 Six trenches were excavated across the site. The recorded stratigraphy was basically similar in all trenches, comprising a layer of topsoil above a layer of subsoil, apart from in Trench 2, where the topsoil lay directly above the natural. The underlying natural varied slightly across the site, with outcrops of sandstone encountered below the subsoil in Trenches 5 and 6 in the southern half of the site. The sandstone fell away to the north, disappearing under the sandy silty clay.

3.5 The absence of the subsoil layer in Trench 2 suggests that the site has been subject to some landscaping to create the currently approximately level ground surface.

3.6 A linear ditch [401] was encountered in Trench 4, and although it contained no datable finds, it cut through the subsoil layer that contained Romano-British pottery and therefore should be considered later than 2nd century and is likely to be post-Roman.

3.7 Two features were investigated in Trench 6, one (601) was a natural soil layer and the other was an irregular cut [602], the fill of which (603) did not contain any finds. It is considered probably that this feature was of natural origin, possibly representing a tree root.

3.8 The finds recovered from the subsoil, particularly in the southern half of the site, contained a high proportion of Roman pottery. This pottery was not associated with any cut features, and unlikely to indicate settlement on the site itself. However, there are a number of small Romano-British sites known within the vicinity of the present development, and it is possible that the pottery originates from one of these.

3.9 No finds relating to the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods were recovered during the evaluation, suggesting that the site was unoccupied during those periods. A small quantity of post-medieval material, consistent with a manuring scatter, was recovered, suggesting that the site was agricultural land during this period.

3.10 Cartographic evidence shows that the site was used agricultural land and then became orchards in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Conclusion

3.11 Six trial trenches were excavated revealing natural sandstone, overlain by natural silty clay. Across most of the site, the natural deposits were overlain by subsoil and topsoil.

3.12 A single archaeological feature was encountered in Trench 4. This was an undated ditch which probably post-dated the Roman period and was cut through the subsoil. In addition, a soil layer and a probable root disturbance were investigated in Trench 6.

3.13 Pottery sherds dating from the late Iron Age to the modern period were recovered from the overburden. It is possible that the earlier material was imported on to the site. The later finds are likely to represent manuring scatters.

3.14 On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb further archaeological remains may be considered to be *Low* for all periods.

Confidence Rating

3.15 During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. There were no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than *High*.

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5 Illustrations

Figure 1 Site location
 Figure 2 Trench Location
 Figure 3 Trenches 4 and 6
 Figure 4 Section 1
 Figure 5 Sections 2 and 3

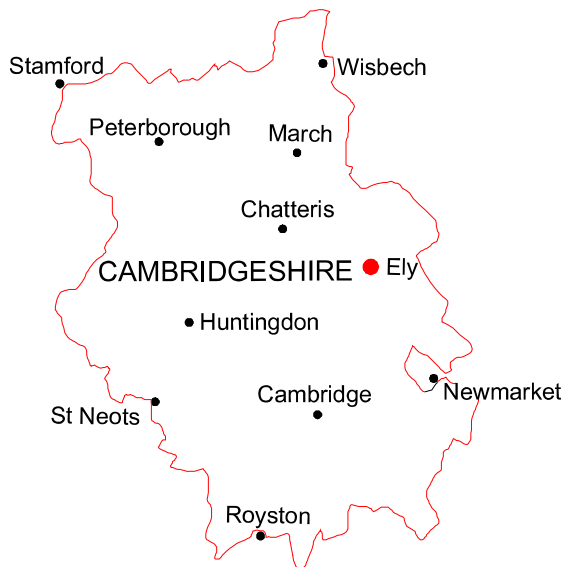
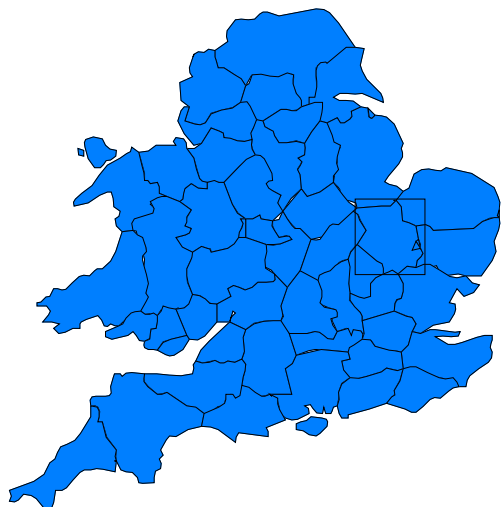
Plate 1 Trench 1, looking north
 Plate 2 Trench 2, looking southeast
 Plate 3 Trench 3, looking southwest
 Plate 4 Trench 4, looking southwest
 Plate 5 Ditch [401], looking southeast
 Plate 6 Trench 5, looking northwest
 Plate 7 Trench 5 sandstone outcrop, looking northeast
 Plate 8 Trench 6, looking north
 Plate 9 Sondage showing soil layer (601), looking west.
 Plate 10 Irregular linear [602], looking west.

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THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

The Gardens, Lynn Road, Ely

HN1061



Site Location

Scale 1:12500

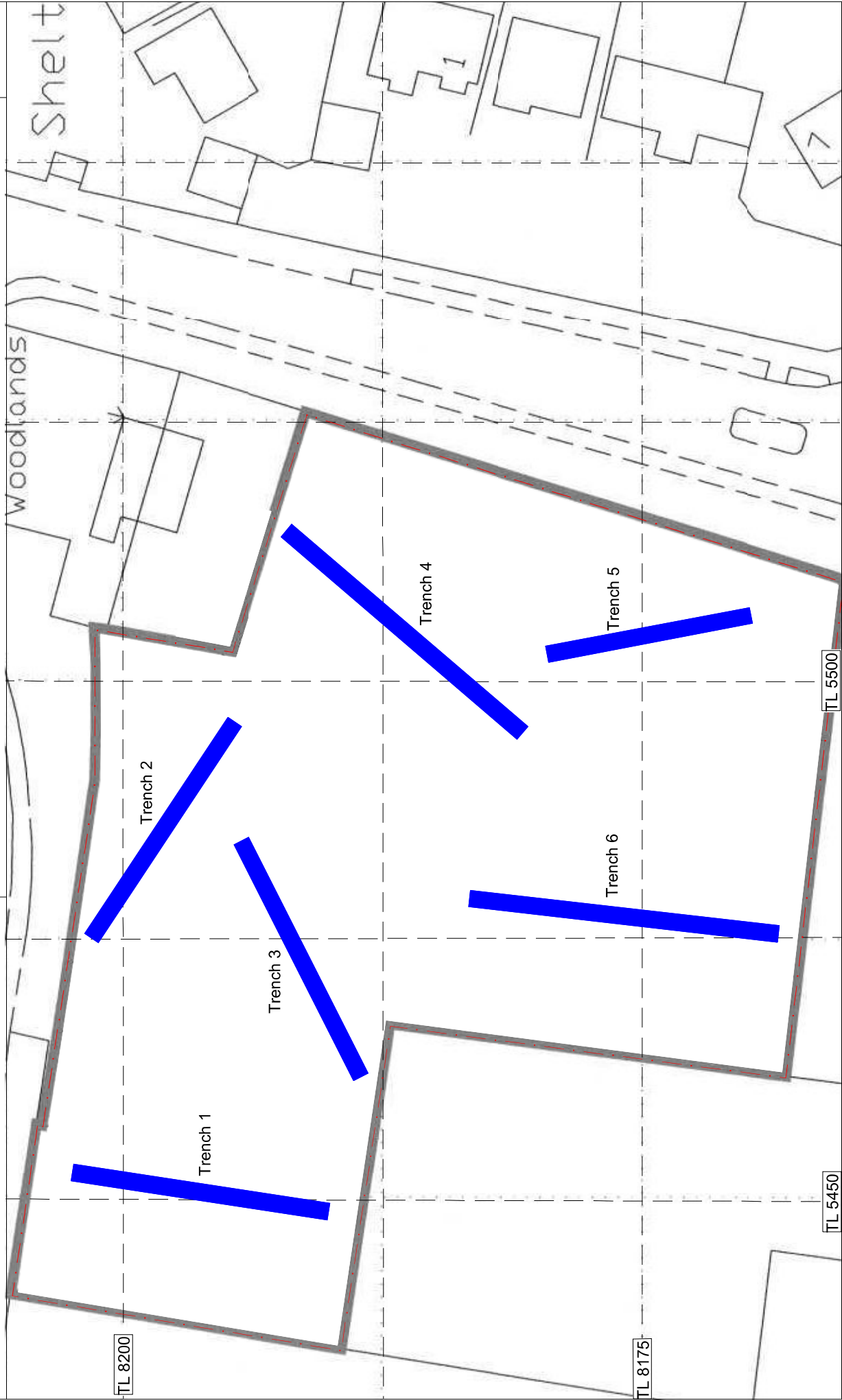
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Figure 1

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

The Gardens, Lynn Road, Ely

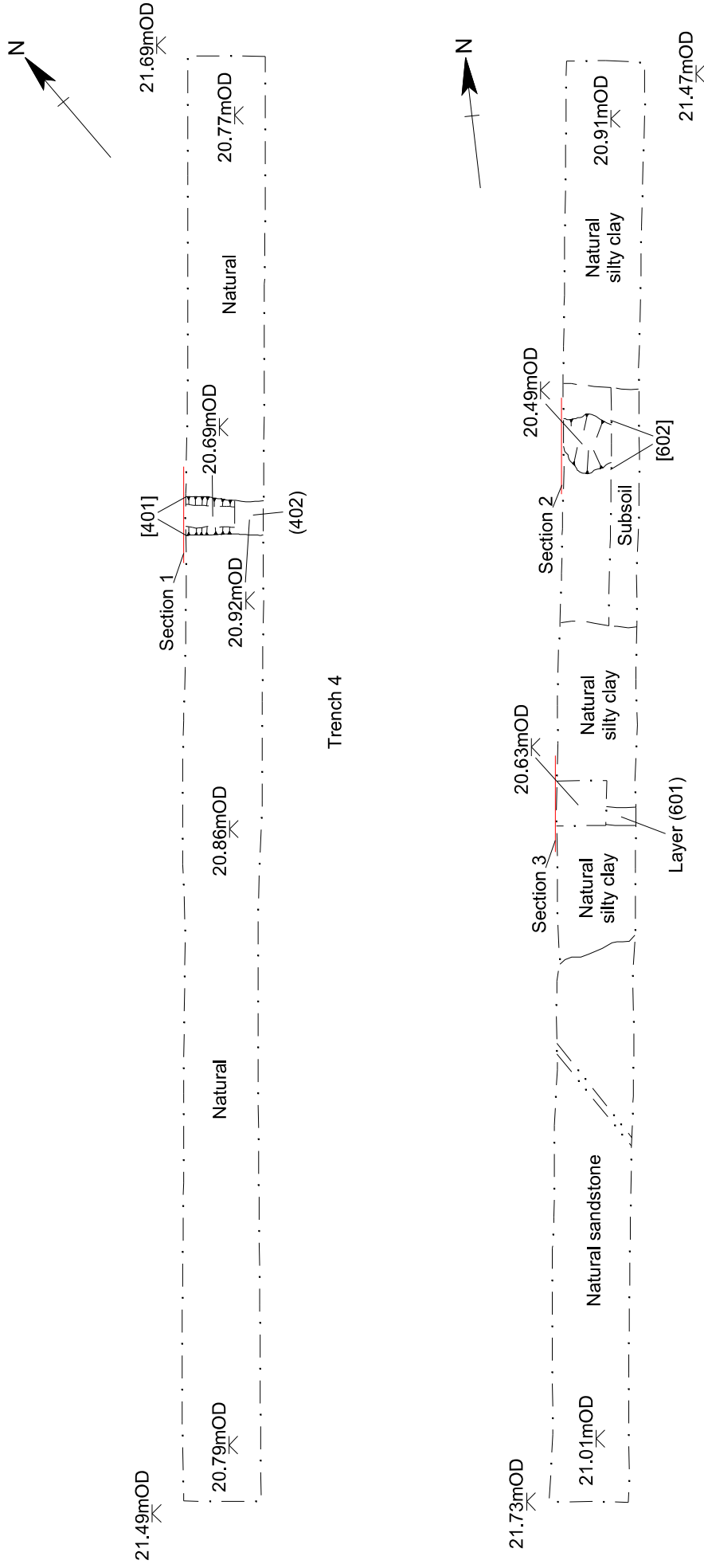
HN1061



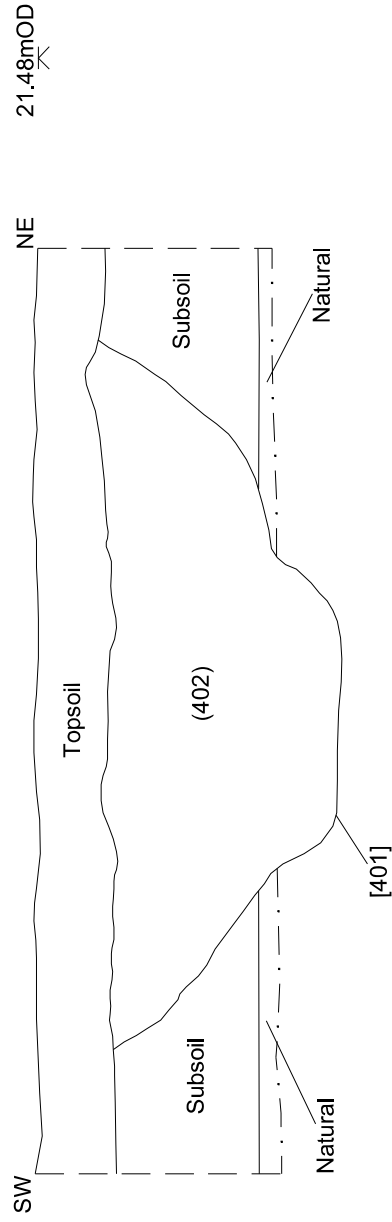
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Figure 2

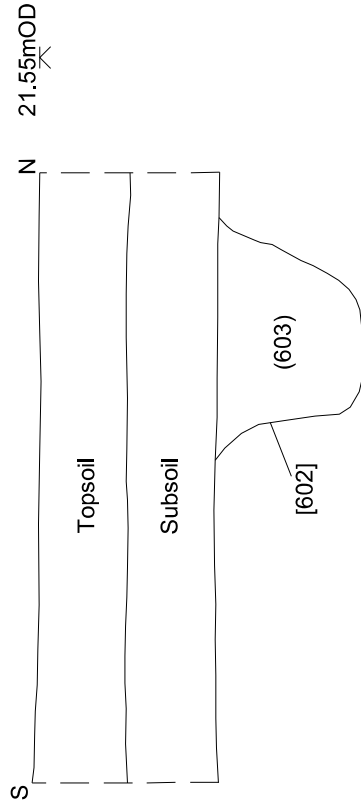
Trench Location



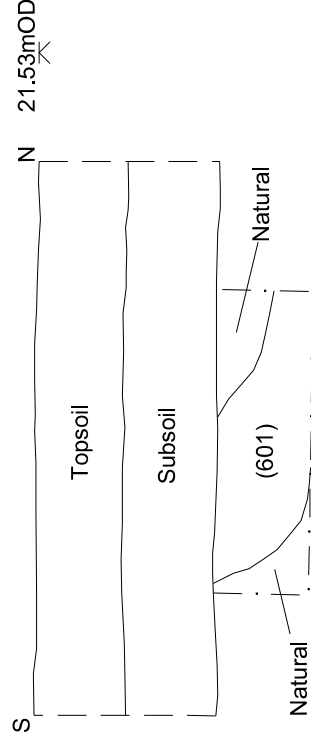
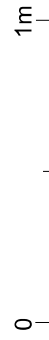
Trenches 4 and 6



Section 1, southeast facing.



Section 2, east facing.



Section 3, east facing.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north.



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking southeast.



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking southwest.



Plate 4: Trench 4, looking southwest.



Plate 5: Ditch [401], looking southeast.



Plate 6: Trench 5, looking northwest.



Plate 7: Trench 5 sandstone outcrop, looking northeast.



Plate 8: Trench 6, looking north.



Plate 9: Sondage showing soil layer (601), looking west.



Plate 10: Irregular linear [602], looking west.

Appendix 1

Oasis Summary Sheet

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

<i>OASIS ID: heritage1-151938</i>	
Project details	
Project name	The Gardens, Lynn Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	In order to characterise the archaeological potential of the site of a proposed new development at The Gardens, Lynn Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching. This work was a requirement of the planning consent granted by the local planning authority. Six trial trenches were excavated revealing natural sandstone, overlain by natural silty clay. Across most of the site the natural deposits were overlain by subsoil and topsoil. A single archaeological feature was encountered in Trench 4. This was an undated ditch, which probably post-dated the Roman period and was cut through the subsoil. In addition, a soil layer and a probable root disturbance were investigated in Trench 6. Pottery sherds dating from the late Iron Age to the modern period were recovered from the overburden. It is probable that the earlier material was imported on to the site, either through plough action or in topsoil.
Project dates	Start: 13-05-2013 End: 15-05-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB3973 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	HN1061 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	TILE Roman
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	NAIL Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE ELY The Gardens, Lynn

	Road
Postcode	CB6 15D
Study area	4820 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 5454 8187 52 0 52 24 45 N 000 16 20 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heritage Network
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	James Snee
Type of sponsor/funding body	Development Corporation
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Physical Archive ID	ECB3973 – Event No
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Digital Archive ID	ECB3973 – Event No
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Paper Archive ID	ECB3973 – Event No
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	THE GARDENS Lynn Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Snee, J.
Other bibliographic details	Report no.790
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth Garden City
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 18 pages, 5 figures, 10 plates

Appendix 2

Pottery recording sheet

Context	Fabric	No. of Sherds	Vessel Type	Vessel Form	Rim Type	Decoration	Diameter	% Rim	Weight	Ill. ?	Comments	Date
Tr 1 Sub N	1	1	nk	nk	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10g	N	Very abraded	Early-mid 1 st AD
Tr 1 Sub M	1	1	nk	nk	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5g	N	Very abraded	Early –mid 1 st AD
Tr 4 Sub S	2	1	nk	nk	n/a	combed	n/a	n/a	15g	N	Very abraded	Mid-late 1 st AD
Tr 4 Sub S	3	1	Jar?	footring?	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	50g	N	abraded	Mid-late 1 st AD
Tr 4 Sub S	4	1	Tazza?	Tazza?	Everted with frill	slipped	16cm	10	115g	N	Abraded. Ver Reg?	2 nd C AD
Tr 5 Sub M	2	2	n/k	nk	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	40g	N	abraded	RB
Tr 5 Sub M	1	2	n/k	nk	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5g	N	Very abraded	Early –mid 1 st AD
Tr 5 Sub M	Samian	1	bowl	Dr 29/30/37	n/a	moulded	n/a	n/a	3g	N	Very abraded; plant motif	Mid-late 1 st AD
TR 6 Sub N	2	3	Jar	See Thompson B1-1	Plain everted	n/a	13cm	10	140g	N	Abraded; drilled	Mid-late 1 st AD
Tr 6 Sub S	1	1	Bowl / jar	n/k	dished	n/a	18cm	2	20g	N	Very abraded	Early –mid 1 st AD
Tr 6 Sub S	3	6	Bowl / cup	earinated	everted	n/a	6cm	20	140g	N	5 bodysherds; 1 rim. Abraded	Late 1 st -early 2 nd AD