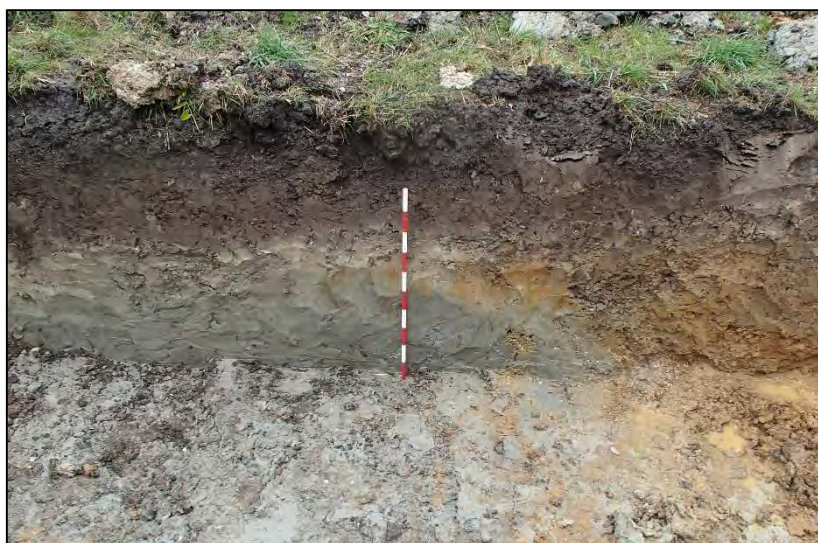


**Land at Bannold Road and Bannold Drove
Waterbeach
Cambridgeshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

**ASE Project No: 8402
Site Code: ECB4579**

ASE Report No: 2015398



November 2015

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NGR: TL 50250 65960

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Bovis Homes Ltd to conduct an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on Land at Bannold Road and Bannold Drove, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation was carried out in relation to a proposed housing development. Eleven evaluation trenches were excavated, covering an area of 690m² and representing 4% of the total area of the 1.7ha site.

The British Geological Survey records the underlying geology as Gault Formation Mudstone overlain for the most part with superficial deposits of River Terrace Sand and Gravel; no superficial deposits are recorded at the south end of the site.

The evaluation revealed a previously unknown palaeochannel running west–east at the south end of the site. This was probably a former tributary of the River Cam.

An undated pit at the north end of the site contained some charcoal but no finds. Other cut features are interpreted as probable tree throws or animal burrows.

Modern features included a line of postholes, two brick plinths and a probable cable trench, all of which might have been associated with the reputed use of the site by the military during the Second World War.

Given the limited results of the evaluation, it is unlikely that the proposed development will impact upon significant archaeological remains within the site area.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on Land at Bannold Road and Bannold Drove, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire (subsequently described as the Site; Figure 1).

1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in relation to a proposed residential development and was commissioned by Bovis Homes Limited.

1.1.3 The Site is a single field located on the north-eastern side of the village of Waterbeach at National Grid Reference TL 50250 65960. It has an area of approximately 1.7 hectares and is currently under grass. The Site is bounded by Bannold Road to the south, by properties fronting on Kirby Road to the north, by Bannold Drove to the east and by agricultural land to the west.

1.2 Topography and Geology

1.2.1 Ground level falls gradually from c. 3.2m OD at the north end of the Site to c. 2.3m OD close to the south end of the Site. It subsequently rises slightly towards the southern boundary of the Site and continues to rise to the south of Bannold Road. The Site is therefore located in what appears to be a dry valley.

1.2.2 The Site lies approximately 600m west of the River Cam.

1.2.3 The solid geology of the Site is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2015) as Gault Formation Mudstone of the Cretaceous Period. This is overlaid for the most part by superficial deposits of River Terrace Sand and Gravel (Quaternary Period). No superficial deposits are recorded by the BGS along the southern edge of the Site.

1.2.4 Fine loamy soils (probably of the Milton Soil Association) overlie the natural stratum.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in relation to a proposed residential development of fifty-seven houses and associated infrastructure.

1.3.2 An outline planning application for a housing development (Planning Application S/2896/14/OL) was withdrawn in February 2015. The present scheme of works represents a pre-application evaluation for the same plot of land.

1.3.3 The requirement for archaeological evaluation of the Site prior to development was detailed in a Brief for Archaeological Evaluation produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET) in their capacity as archaeological advisors to South Cambridgeshire District Council (CHET 2015).

- 1.3.4 The evaluation was commissioned by Bovis Homes Ltd and was conducted in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015a) that had been approved by CHET.

1.4 Scope of the Report

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on Land at Bannold Road and Bannold Drove, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire. The fieldwork was carried out from 19–21 October 2015.
- 1.4.2 This report describes and interprets the results of the trial trenching, and assesses the potential for the survival of archaeological remains on the Site. The significance of the results is discussed and the potential impact of the proposed development on any heritage assets present on the Site is considered.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological background to the site was summarised initially in the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation (CHET 2015) and was subsequently described in the WSI (ASE 2015a), from which the following account is taken.
- 2.1.2 A search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) of an area within 1 km of the Site revealed that no previous archaeological investigation is known to have taken place on the Site and that little is known from this part of the village. CHER entries mentioned in the following text are located on Figure 1.
- 2.1.3 Evidence of prehistoric activity in the area includes five Neolithic and one Bronze Age axe found c. 350m to the north-east of the Site (CHER CB15650) and a Bronze Age flint dagger from near Bottisham Lock, c. 300m to the east (CHER 06356). To the north of 12 Pieces Lane, 300m south-west of the Site (CHER MCB19562), Middle Iron Age pits have been recorded.
- 2.1.4 Although not recorded yet on the CHER, recent archaeological evaluation of the plot immediately west of the Site has revealed small groups of oval-shaped pits with Roman pottery and bone (Kasia Gdaniec, *pers comm*; CHER ECB4343; report in prep.). This forms part of a scatter of evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity. For example, remains of a Roman field system has been recorded c. 600m west of the Site at Levitt Lane (CHER MCB17241). 300m to the south-west of the Site, evaluation and excavation to the north of 12 Pieces Lane (CHER MCB19562) revealed multi-phase Romano-British activity including ditches, gullies and pits. Two 2nd-century pottery kilns were found on this site, producing Horningsea-type wares. Many of the products are likely to have been transported via the Car Dyke (CHER MCB6584), a 2nd-century Roman canal which formally ran north/south along the western edge of modern Waterbeach and survives to the south-west of the village.
- 2.1.5 At Denny End, early Anglo-Saxon domestic and craft activity included a

sunken-featured building, a post-built structure and accompanying artefacts (CHER CB14602, c. 475m west of the Site), whilst medieval activity is dominated by the short-lived Waterbeach Abbey (CHER 05039) founded in 1294, but removed to Denny in the mid-14th century. This is 450m south-south-west of the Site and is a Scheduled Monument.

- 2.1.6 Immediately north of the Site is housing associated with the Second World War bomber airfield of RAF Waterbeach (CHER CB15155), which remains a military base. Other contemporary activity included a number of pillboxes, one of which was located to cover the level crossing on Bannold Road. This pillbox was located to the south of the junction of Bannold Road and Bannold Drove, but has since been demolished (CHER MCB16405).
- 2.1.7 During the evaluation fieldwork, further information on the possible history of the Site was obtained from a long-time local resident (name withheld) who explained that during the Second World War a searchlight battery and pillbox were constructed in the southern half of the site. Also, during the 1940s the northern half of the site was used as a football pitch by the village team; a timber fence reportedly separated the sports field from the military installation.
- 2.1.8 The Site can be seen in the lower right corner of an aerial photograph from 1945 (www.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF_Waterbeach accessed on 23 October 2015) and some structures, including a circular feature that might be the searchlight battery, can be seen in the southern half of the Site.

2.2 Aims and objectives of the project

- 2.2.1 The aims of the evaluation, as set out in the WSI in accordance with the CHET Brief, were to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains that may be threatened by the proposed development.
- 2.2.2 Initial research objectives were to establish whether Iron Age and Roman settlement and activity known in the immediate vicinity extended into the Site and if so to assess their nature and extent. More generally the evaluation was designed to determine the following:
- Presence/absence of palaeosols and old land surface soils/deposits
 - The character of deposits, particularly where occurring as the contents of negative features
 - Site formation processes.
- 2.2.3 The WSI also highlighted the potential of the project in relation to the Regional Research Framework (Brown & Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott 2011).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was conducted broadly in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015a) and Method Statement (ASE 2015b).
- 3.1.2 The only notable variation to the trench layout proposed in the WSI was that Trench 11 was moved a few metres west in order not to disturb the root systems of nearby trees.
- 3.1.3 Eleven evaluation trenches (Figure 2) were excavated under direct archaeological supervision using a 20-tonne 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 2.1m-wide ditching bucket. The trenches measured 30m long and were generally no more than 0.50m deep. A machine-excavated sondage in Trench 11 was up to 1.25m deep.
- 3.1.4 The eleven trenches covered an area of 690m², representing 4% of the total area of the 1.7 hectare site.
- 3.1.5 Mechanical excavation was generally undertaken to the surface of archaeological deposits or to the top of the geological stratum, which in most trenches occurred at the same level.
- 3.1.6 Buried features, soil horizons and the natural stratum were recorded using a unique sequence of context numbers for each trench and are shown in this report thus: [1/001], whereby the first number is the trench reference and the second number is the context. Hand-drawn plans were made at 1:20 and sections were drawn at scales of 1:10 or 1:20 (as appropriate); all drawings were made on archival standard drawing film. Written records (trench and context descriptions) were made on *pro forma* trench recording sheets and context sheets, or on the drawing sheets.
- 3.1.7 A photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution digital (JPEG) images taken with both a DSLR and a compact camera.
- 3.1.8 One deposit was sampled for environmental analysis.
- 3.1.9 Approximately 90 litres of machine-excavated topsoil at the ends of every trench were hand-sorted for finds recovery, with limited results.
- 3.1.10 A metal-detecting survey was carried out on areas of unexcavated topsoil adjacent to Trenches 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. A subsoil deposit in Trench 11 was also metal-detected. The metal detector was used in All Metal mode; only modern material was found.
- 3.1.11 The CHER Event Number ECB4579 was allocated by CHET and this number was used as the site code for this project.

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 The fieldwork archive is currently held at the Witham office of ASE and will be deposited with CHET in due course. The nature and contents of the archive are described in Table 1.

Description	Number	Type
Trench recording sheets	11	A4 paper
Context sheets	9	A4 paper
Plan and sections sheets	5	290mm x 320mm permatrace
Bulk sample sheets	1	A4 paper
Digital images	48	High-resolution JPGs

Table 1: Quantification of the fieldwork archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Buried remains, including archaeological and modern features, were recorded in five evaluation trenches (see 4.3 to 4.7). Otherwise, the evaluation revealed a straightforward sequence of topsoil/ploughsoil over natural strata (see 4.2). The results from the archaeologically negative trenches (Trenches 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 & 9) are tabulated in Appendix 1.

4.2 General soil descriptions

4.2.1 The superficial geology was River Terrace Sand and Gravel, in accordance with the data published by the BGS (2015). However, there was some variation across the site, as follows:

4.2.2 In Trenches 9, 10 and 11 the natural stratum was loose, orangey brown or yellowish brown sand and (mostly rounded) gravel, with occasional patches of firm, light grey clay/silt.

4.2.3 In Trench 7 the natural stratum was more compact, mid orangey brown or yellowish brown silty sand and fine to medium sub angular gravel with occasional patches of light brown sandy silt.

4.2.4 All other trenches revealed a natural stratum of compact, light to mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional fine pebbles and some irregular patches of very light greyish brown silt.

4.2.5 Topsoil/ploughsoil deposits were generally compacted mid to dark brownish grey sandy or silty loams, about 0.30m thick. These supported a thin turf layer forming the current ground surface.

4.3 Trench 1

Dimensions: 30m x 2.10m x up to 0.68m deep

Location: North end of site

Ground level: 3.20m OD (W), 2.92m OD (E)

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
1/002	Deposit	Natural silty sand	0.30m	Trench-wide
1/003	Fill	Upper fill of pit 1/005	0.30m–0.40m	Centre of trench
1/004	Fill	Lower fill of pit 1/005	0.30m–0.58m	Centre of trench
1/005	Cut	Undated pit	0.30m–0.58m	Centre of trench

Table 2: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 1

4.3.1 Pit [1/005] was oval or sub-circular, measuring 2.50m east–west x at least 0.82m north–south x up to 0.54m deep with moderately steep sides and an undulating base (Figure 3, section and photograph). The pit was sealed by topsoil [1/001] and extended beyond the edge of the trench to the north so that its full extent is not known.

4.3.2 The pit contained two distinct fills. Lower fill [1/004] was soft, mid brownish grey silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks but no finds. Environmental sampling of the fill (Sample 1) produced oak charcoal but no plant macrofossils or cultural material. Upper fill [1/003] was compact, light greyish brown silty sand with very occasional charcoal flecks but no finds.

4.4 Trench 5

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.40m deep

Location: Centre of site

Ground level: 3.00m OD (W), 2.87m OD (E)

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
5/002	Deposit	Natural silty sand	0.30m	Trench-wide
5/003	Fill(s)	Fills of postholes 5/004	0.30m	E end of trench
5/004	Cut(s)	Row of four postholes	0.30m	E end of trench
5/005	Fill(s)	Fills of cuts 5/006	0.30m	Centre of trench
5/006	Cut(s)	Two structural cuts	0.30m	Centre of trench

Table 3: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 5

4.4.1 [5/004] was a row of four postholes, oriented approximately west north-west to east south-east (Figure 4). They were recorded (but not excavated) at the east end of the trench immediately below topsoil [5/001]. One of the postholes was sub rectangular, measuring 0.35m x 0.25m, and the others were oval with a maximum width of 0.28m. They were irregularly spaced at intervals of between 2.2m and 3.2m (centres).

4.4.2 The postholes were filled with deposits of brownish grey loam (similar to the topsoil) mixed with redeposited natural. There were no signs of decayed posts or post pipes, suggesting that the posts had been pulled out.

4.4.3 Two structural cut features [5/006] in the centre of the trench were also recognised immediately below the topsoil. They were sub rectangular,

measuring 0.86m x 0.60m (western cut) and 0.62m x 0.56m (eastern cut). Although the fills were not excavated the cuts are thought to have been at least 0.20m deep (Figure 4, photograph).

- 4.4.4 Both cuts contained a lower fill of degraded asphalt [5/005], which was the bedding material for at least one course of bricks. The bricks survived only in the western cut, and were dislodged during machining of the trench. They were machine-made, yellow *Fletton* type bricks measuring 222mm x 106mm x 70mm and stamp-marked in the frog LBC / PHORPRES / 17 (photograph in site archive). The bricks were laid as a single course 'on bed' and were not obviously bonded.

4.5 Trench 8

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.30m deep

Location: Centre of site

Ground level: 2.93m OD (W), 2.84m OD (E)

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
8/002	Deposit	Natural silty sand	0.30m	Trench-wide
8/003	Fill	Fill of linear cut 8/004	0.30m–0.50m	W end of trench
8/004	Cut	Linear cut	0.30m–0.50m	W end of trench
8/005	Fill	Fill of cut 8/006	0.30m–0.53m	E half of trench
8/006	Cut	Unspecified cut feature	0.30m–0.53m	E half of trench
8/007	Fill	Fill of cut 8/008	0.30m–0.60m	E half of trench
8/008	Cut	Unspecified cut feature	0.30m–0.60m	E half of trench
8/009	Find	Find from topsoil	0.00m	W end of trench

Table 4: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 8

- 4.5.1 Linear feature [8/004] measured at least 4.5m long x 0.80m wide x 0.20m deep with a rounded terminus to the south-west and a saucer-shaped profile (Figure 5, section and photograph). It extended beyond the edge of the trench to the north-east and its full extent is therefore unknown. Its single fill [8/003] was indistinguishable from the topsoil and produced only post-medieval or modern material, including a sherd of 19th- or early 20th-century stoneware and some 20th-century brick fragments.
- 4.5.2 Cut feature [8/006] was irregular in plan, measuring up to 0.80m wide x 0.23m deep with an irregular and partially under-cut profile (Figure 5, section and photograph). Its fill [8/005] was soft, light greyish brown silty sand containing moderate flecks and small fragments of charcoal but no finds.
- 4.5.3 Cut feature [8/008] was generally pear-shaped in plan, measuring 1.20m x 1.04m x 0.30m deep with an asymmetrical profile (Figure 5, section and photograph); a possible animal burrow or root stain extended from the northern edge of the cut. The single fill [8/006] was soft, light greyish brown silty sand containing moderate flecks and small fragments of charcoal but no finds. The same material filled an unexcavated animal burrow/root stain to the north of the cut.
- 4.5.4 A fragment of 20th-century brick was found in topsoil [8/009] at the west end of the trench.

4.6 Trench 10

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.70m deep

Location: South end of site

Ground level: 2.71m OD (N), 2.53m OD (S)

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
10/002	Deposit(s)	Alluvium	0.30m	S and centre of trench
10/003	Deposit	Natural sand and gravel	0.30m	N end of trench

Table 5: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 10

4.6.1 Natural sands and gravels [10/003] at the north end of the trench were removed to the south by a large cut feature, interpreted as a west–east oriented palaeochannel (not numbered or excavated in this trench).

4.6.2 The palaeochannel was filled with banded deposits of firm light grey clay/silt, mid grey clay/silt with ferruginous root staining and frequent small angular pebbles, angular pebbles in a clay/silt matrix (approximately 60:40) and mid brownish grey silty sand with frequent pebbles (Figure 6, photograph).

4.7 Trench 11

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x up to 1.25m deep

Location: South end of site

Ground level: 2.48m OD (NE), 2.61m OD (SW), 2.30m OD (centre)

Context	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Location
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
11/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.20m–0.30m	Trench-wide
11/003	Deposit	Alluvium in palaeochannel 11/009	0.55m	SW half of trench
11/004	Find	Find from topsoil	0.00m	SW end of trench
11/005	Fill	Fill of animal burrow 11/006	0.30m–1.10m	SW end of trench
11/006	Cut	Animal burrow	0.30m–1.10m	SW end of trench
11/007	Deposit	Alluvium in palaeochannel 11/009	0.40m–>1.25m	Centre of trench
11/008	Deposit	Alluvium in palaeochannel 11/009	0.55m–>1.25m	Centre & SW end
11/009	Cut	Palaeochannel	0.50m–>1.25m	Centre & SW end
11/010	Deposit	Natural sand and gravel	0.35m–0.50m	N half of trench

Table 6: Summary of deposits and features in Trench 11

4.7.1 Natural sand and gravel [11/010] in the northern part of the trench was removed to the south by a large cut feature [11/009], interpreted as the continuation of a west–east palaeochannel that was recorded also in Trench 10 (Figure 7, section and photograph; cover image).

4.7.2 The palaeochannel [11/009] was at least 18m wide x 0.80m deep, with a moderately steep eastern bank. It extended beyond the southern end of the trench and its full depth was not seen.

4.7.3 The palaeochannel contained at least three fills, as shown on Figure 7:

[11/008] was firm, light grey clay/silt with orangey brown mottling and was recorded in the central and south-western parts of the trench. This was the earliest recorded fill of the palaeochannel and its full depth was not seen.

Such fine material would have been deposited during a period of low-energy water flow.

[11/003] was firm, mid orangey brown sandy silt speckled with ferruginous root staining; this deposit was recorded in the south-western half of the trench, and was probably filling a minor channel cutting earlier sediment [11/008]. The deposit was not excavated and was only seen in plan.

[11/007] consisted of mixed deposits of grey sand and gravel, orangey brown sand and gravel and mottled orangey brown and greyish brown sandy silt, representing a period of high-energy water flow; these deposits were not well sorted or stratified. They were filling a U-shaped minor channel cutting earlier sediment [11/008] against the north bank of the palaeochannel.

4.7.4 [11/006] was an oval feature cutting channel fill [11/008] at the south end of the trench; it was sealed by topsoil [11/001]. It was up to 1.60m long x 0.90m wide x 0.80m deep; the top of the cut was much narrower, giving an overall bell-shaped profile to the cut that is not apparent on the drawn section (Figure 7, section and photograph). It was filled with soft, light greyish brown silty sand containing occasional charcoal flecks but no finds. The shape of the cut and the nature of its fill suggest that this was an animal burrow.

4.7.5 Subsoil [11/002] was up to 0.30m thick but became progressively thinner towards the north-eastern end of the trench. It was soft, mottled mid grey or mid reddish brown sandy silt with much decayed organic content and a slightly 'peaty' texture. It contained no obvious cultural material. It was cut by probable animal burrow [11/006] and sealed the various alluvial fills of palaeochannel [11/009].

4.8 Negative trenches

4.8.1 Trenches 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9 revealed only topsoil over natural strata, and these deposits are summarised in Appendix 1.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 7). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014). No further conservation is required.

Context	Pottery	wt g	CBM	wt g	Fe	wt g	Cu alloy	wt g	Glass	wt g
1/001					1	132				
8/001					1	6	2	20		
8/003	1	10	3	302	1	8				
8/009			1	66						
9/001					2	40				
10/001					5	60				
11/004									1	8
TOTAL	1	10	4	368	10	246	2	20	1	8

Table 7: Quantification of the finds by context and material

5.2 Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

5.2.1 A single sherd of pottery weighing 9g occurred in fill [8/003] of linear feature [8/004]. It is a fragment of English Stoneware from the body of a rum jar or similar, and is of 19th- or early 20th-century date (Blacker 1922). Such pottery is a very common find nationally.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.3.1 Four brick fragments weighing a total of 362g were recovered. Three fragments were retrieved from fill [8/003] of linear feature [8/004], mostly likely pieces of the same 20th-century brick as they were all in the same cream-beige compressed fabric that was tinged green in places. One fragment revealed the original form to have been frogged. A single piece of brick - also in a 20th-century compressed fabric but of a pink colour with common and very hard cream coloured inclusions - was recovered from topsoil [8/009]. This fragment had no characteristic marks. All the brick fragments had very smooth exterior surfaces as is typical of compressed (and thus mechanically produced) brick types.

5.4 Bulk metalwork by Trista Clifford

5.4.1 The site produced ten iron objects weighing a total of 246g, from five separate contexts. Most of them were recovered during metal-detecting of the topsoil.

5.4.2 Nails were recovered from two contexts. A complete machine made nail of 40mm length came from topsoil [8/001], while topsoil [10/001] produced a complete horseshoe nail of modern type.

5.4.3 Other objects, of late 19th- to 20th-century date, include a rectangular plate with large iron stud *in situ* from topsoil [1/001] and a barbed wire fragment and possible scale tanged knife handle fragment from topsoil [10/001]. A wire spring clip and possible tine from a tool were recovered from topsoil [9/001].

5.4.4 A curved fragment from fill [8/003] appears to an iron rich concretion rather than an object.

5.5 Bullets by Justin Russell

- 5.5.1 Two Second World War bullets were recovered from topsoil [8/001] during metal detecting.
- 5.5.2 The first is the tip of a .303 tracer bullet with a copper alloy jacket and a lead core, (weight 5.5g; 85gn); it was fired from a Lee-Enfield rifle.
- 5.5.3 The second was also fired. It is a .45 ACP bullet with a copper alloy jacket and lead core, (weight 14.4g; 222gn); it was most likely used in a Thompson sub-machine gun.

5.6 Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.6.1 One fragment (8g) of glass was recovered. It is a melted piece of probable wine bottle glass, found in topsoil [11/004]. It is likely to date to the 19th- or early 20th century.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Lucy Allott

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 One bulk soil sample was taken to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. The sample, <1> [1/004], was taken from the fill of a charcoal-rich pit [1/005] in which no finds were evident and the feature is therefore undated. The following report summarises the contents of the sample, discussing local vegetation and fuel use as well as establishing whether there is suitable material for dating.

6.2 Methodology

- 6.2.1 The sample was processed by flotation in its entirety. The flot and residue were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried. The dried residue was passed through graded sieves of 8mm, 4mm and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 8). The flot was scanned under a stereo zoom microscope at 7–45x magnifications and its contents recorded (Table 9).
- 6.2.2 Charcoal fragments were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereo zoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000; Schoch *et al.* 2004; Schweingruber 1990). Taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 9.

6.3 Results

- 6.3.1 The flot contained a large amount of uncharred roots and rootlets. No charred

macro plant remains were noted and the remaining flot consisted almost entirely of charcoal fragments. Many of the charcoal fragments were either very small (<2mm) or measured >4mm in size and these larger fragments were subjected to further taxonomic identification work revealing the presence of oak (*Quercus* sp.) only. There is very little evidence for ring curvature within these fragments suggesting they derive from large wood specimens. It is likely that the oak originates from slow growing, mature wood as evidenced by the close spacing of the growth rings.

6.3.2 No finds were recovered from the sample and only a small amount of magnetic material was collected from the residue. This equates to a few fragments of natural iron-rich stone and does not provide any evidence for industrial activities associated with the charcoal.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	1/004	Pit	40	40	**	4	**	2	Magnetised Material **/2

(* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Table 8: Environmental residue quantification

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	notes
1	1/004	12	160	100	85	<5		**	***	****	<i>Quercus</i> sp. (10) charcoal from slow grown mature wood. No roundwood evident

(* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Table 9: Environmental flot quantification

6.4 Discussion of the environmental evidence

6.4.1 Charcoal was moderately common in this sample although much of the 'charcoal-rich' nature of the feature that was noted on site is probably a result of charcoal staining and the presence of small flecks of charcoal rather than a

large charcoal assemblage. Much of the larger charcoal fragments may have broken down as a result of post depositional processes, during burning or were not present at all.

- 6.4.2 No *in situ* burning was noted and it is therefore likely that the deposit represents a secondary deposition of fuel waste from an unknown source. As such this small assemblage cannot provide detailed information regarding the fuel types used although an initial investigation has revealed oak from large, mature specimens. Oak provides both excellent fuel and timber (Taylor 1981) and may have been used for either or both purposes at the site. Unfortunately this sample provides no potential to obtain an accurate date as mature oak wood is considered unsuitable for dating and the deposit does not represent *in situ* burning.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of the stratigraphic evidence

- 7.1.1 Buried remains were recorded in five of the eleven evaluation trenches. They included a palaeochannel, an undated pit, three undated features that are likely to have been animal burrows or tree throw hollows and some 20th-century structural features.
- 7.1.2 The other evaluation trenches revealed only topsoil/ploughsoil over natural River Terrace Sands and Gravels.
- 7.1.3 In addition to the buried remains, a few finds were retrieved from the topsoil during metal detecting or sampling of machine-excavated soil.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 The buried remains were recognised immediately below the topsoil/ploughsoil, cutting the underlying natural strata at an average depth of 0.30m below ground level.
- 7.2.2 There was a sharp boundary between the topsoil and the underlying natural strata making it clear that modern agriculture would generally have removed any evidence that existed for natural soil profiles or former land surfaces. By the same token ploughing would have truncated any archaeological remains present on the Site.
- 7.2.3 Subsoil layer [11/002] at the south end of the Site might have been part of a buried soil horizon surviving in the hollow of an infilled palaeochannel.

7.3 Discussion of the buried remains

The palaeochannel

- 7.3.1 The presence of a west–east palaeochannel at the south end of the Site was previously unknown, although with hindsight it might have been predicted given the local topography. It was presumably a former tributary of the River Cam.

- 7.3.2 Only part of the palaeochannel was seen and its full extent and depth are unknown; it was at least 18m wide x 0.80m deep. Its southern bank was probably located below the current Site boundary.
- 7.3.3 The palaeochannel contained a complex sequence of fills indicating periods of re-cutting and changing rates of water flow.
- 7.3.4 No dating evidence was recovered from the channel deposits and it is not known when the palaeochannel became infilled.
- 7.3.5 Subsoil [11/002] had a high organic content and was presumably a buried soil horizon (palaeosol) that accumulated in relatively recent times in the boggy hollow of the mostly infilled palaeochannel.

The cut features

- 7.3.6 Pit [1/005], at the north end of the site, produced no finds and therefore is undated. It did contain fragments of oak charcoal but this material is considered unsuitable for radiocarbon dating (6.4.2).
- 7.3.7 Three other undated features ([8/006], [8/008] and [11/006]) were irregular in plan and section and contained no cultural material, suggesting that they were animal burrows or tree throw hollows.

The 20th-century remains

- 7.3.8 Some modern remains were probably associated with the use of the site by the military during the Second World War, or with the subsequent agricultural use of the site.
- 7.3.9 A narrow and shallow linear trench [8/004] had no obvious function although it was clearly not a ditch or drainage feature. It might therefore have been the trench for a buried electricity cable.
- 7.3.10 An east–west row of postholes [5/004] is likely to have represented part of the timber fence that reportedly separated the wartime searchlight battery from the adjacent sports field (2.1.7).
- 7.3.11 The function of the two brick plinths [5/006] is not clear, but it is noted that they were to the south of the postulated fence-line and were therefore probably associated with the military installation. Alternatively they could have been part of a lightweight structure constructed when the Site was returned to agricultural use in the post-War period.

7.4 Finds from the topsoil

- 7.4.1 Very few finds were retrieved by sampling of the topsoil and these were of post-medieval or modern date. This supports a general impression that the topsoil contained little cultural material.
- 7.4.2 The metal-detecting survey produced mostly modern material, much of which (barbed wire, bullets etc.) probably related to the use of the site by the military in the Second World War.

7.5 Potential impact of the development on archaeological remains

- 7.5.1 The evaluation has produced little evidence for pre-modern activity on the Site. However, Roman features have previously been found nearby and it remains possible therefore that significant heritage assets could be present elsewhere on the Site.
- 7.5.2 If such evidence exists it will be found immediately below the topsoil at a relatively shallow depth of 0.30m below current ground level.
- 7.5.3 Due to their relatively shallow burial, development activity (including topsoil stripping and the movement of vehicles and plant) is likely to have an adverse impact on archaeological remains present within the development area.

7.6 Consideration of project aims

- 7.6.1 The fieldwork has had limited archaeological results but has effectively fulfilled the general aims of the evaluation (2.2.1) by characterising the archaeological resource on the Site.
- 7.6.2 If the obviously modern features are disregarded, only one potential archaeological feature was identified – an undated pit in Trench 1, at the north end of the Site.
- 7.6.3 Specifically, no evidence was found to suggest that the Roman settlement activity recorded on the neighbouring site to the west extended into this Site.
- 7.6.4 The discovery of a previously unknown palaeochannel provides some information on the local topography and this feature would have influenced settlement patterns and land use during archaeological periods.
- 7.6.5 Subsoil [11/002] was a buried soil horizon (palaeosol) that formed in the boggy hollow of the mostly infilled palaeochannel and has therefore survived recent truncation. However, on the rising ground to the north of the palaeochannel modern agriculture has removed any evidence that might have existed for palaeosols or former land surfaces.

7.7 Conclusions

- 7.7.1 Given the limited results of the evaluation, it is unlikely that the proposed development will impact upon significant archaeological remains within the site area.

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ASE would like to thank Bovis Homes Ltd for commissioning the project. Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team provided advice and monitored the project.

Niall Oakey managed the fieldwork and Jim Stevenson managed the post-excavation process. Kieron Heard directed the fieldwork and Lukasz Miciak was responsible for the site survey.

Appendix 1: Summary of archaeologically negative trenches

Trench	Height m OD	Context	Description	Depth BGL
2	2.99 N / 2.87 S	2/001	Topsoil	0.00m
2		2/002	Natural silty sand	0.30m
3	2.93 N / 2.84 S	3/001	Topsoil	0.00m
3		3/002	Natural silty sand	0.30m
4	2.79 W / 2.74 E	4/001	Topsoil	0.00m
4		4/002	Natural silty sand	0.35m
6	2.79 N / 2.88 S	6/001	Topsoil	0.00m
6		6/002	Natural silty sand	0.30m
7	2.90 N / 2.94 S	7/001	Topsoil	0.00m
7		7/002	Natural silty sand and gravel	0.30m
9	2.77 W / 2.75 E	9/001	Topsoil	0.00m
9		9/002	Natural sand and gravel	0.30m

Appendix 2: Digital image catalogue

Number	Trench	Facing	Scale	Contexts	Description
8402_001	TR 11	NE	1m		General view of trench
8402_002	TR 11	N	0.5m		S facing section at SW end of trench
8402_003	TR 11	W	0.5m	11/006	Pit 11/006 unexcavated
8402_004	TR 10	N	1m		General view of trench
8402_005	TR 9	W	1m		General view of trench
8402_006	TR 7	N	1m		General view of trench
8402_007	TR 6	N	1m		General view of trench
8402_008	TR 2	N	1m		General view of trench
8402_009	TR 1	N	0.5m	1/005	Pit 1/005, half excavated
8402_010	TR 1	N	0.5m	1/005	Pit 1/005, fully excavated
8402_011	TR 3	N	1m		General view of trench
8402_012	TR 4	E	1m		General view of trench
8402_013	TR 8	W	1m		General view of trench
8402_014	TR 8	SW	0.5m	8/008	Feature 8/008, half sectioned
8402_015	TR 8	W	0.5m	8/006	Feature 8/006, mostly excavated
8402_016	TR 11	NE	1m		General view of trench
8402_017	TR 11	N	0.5m		S facing section at SW end of trench
8402_018	TR 11	W	0.5m	11/006	Pit 11/006 unexcavated
8402_019	TR 10	N	1m		General view of trench
8402_020	TR 10	W	0.5m		E facing section at S end of trench
8402_021	TR 11	NW	0.5m	11/006	Pit 11/006, half sectioned
8402_022	TR 11	NW	0.5m	11/006	Pit 11/006, half sectioned (closer view)
8402_023	TR 9	W	1m		General view of trench
8402_024	TR 7	N	1m		General view of trench
8402_025	TR 6	N	1m		General view of trench
8402_026		SW			View of site from S end of Trench 6
8402_027	TR 2	N	1m		General view of trench
8402_028	TR 1	N	0.5m		Pit 1/005, half excavated
8402_029	TR 1	N	0.5m		Pit 1/005, fully excavated
8402_030	TR 3	N	1m		General view of trench
8402_031	TR 4	E	1m		General view of trench
8402_032	TR 8	W	1m		General view of trench
8402_033	TR 8	SW	0.5m		Feature 8/008, half sectioned
8402_034	TR 8	W	0.5m		Feature 8/006, mostly excavated
8402_035	TR 1	W	1m		General view of trench
8402_036	TR 1	W			Working shot, drawing pit 1/005
8402_037	TR 8	E	0.4m	8/004	Linear feature, partially excavated
8402_038	TR 5	W	1m		General view of trench
8402_039	TR 5	SSW	1m	5/006	Two pits, unexcavated
8402_040	TR 5	N+B48W	1m	5/006	Two pits, unexcavated
8402_041	TR 5	Vertical		5/005	Example brick from 8/005
8402_042	TR 5	Vertical		5/005	Example brick from 8/005, wider view
8402_043	TR 11	NW	1m	11/009	Channel cut, see section 5.1
8402_044	TR 11	W	1m	11/009	Channel cut, see section 5.1
8402_045	TR 11	NW		11/009	Channel cut, see section 5.1
8402_046	TR 11	E			Trench 11 backfilled
8402_047	TR 10	NW			Trench 10 backfilled
8402_048		N			General view of site after backfilling

Appendix 3: HER Summary

Site Code	ECB4579
Name and Address	Land at Bannold Road and Bannold Drove, Waterbeach
County, District and/or Borough	Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire
OS Grid Reference	TL 50250 65960
Geology	River Terrace Sands and Gravels
ASE Project Number	8402
Type of Fieldwork	Evaluation
Type of Site	Green field
Dates of Fieldwork	19–21 October 2015
Sponsor/Client	Bovis Homes Ltd
Project Manager	Niall Oakey
Project Supervisors	Kieron Heard
Period Summary	UNDATED/MODERN

Summary

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Bovis Homes Ltd to conduct an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on Land at Bannold Road and Bannold Drove, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation was carried out in relation to a proposed housing development. Eleven evaluation trenches were excavated, covering an area of 690m² and representing 4% of the total area of the 1.7ha site.

The British Geological Survey records the underlying geology as Gault Formation Mudstone overlain for the most part with superficial deposits of River Terrace Sand and Gravel; no superficial deposits are recorded at the south end of the site.

The evaluation revealed a previously unknown palaeochannel running west–east at the south end of the site. This was probably a former tributary of the River Cam.

An undated pit at the north end of the site contained some charcoal but no finds. Other cut features are interpreted as probable tree throws or animal burrows.

Modern features included a line of postholes, two brick plinths and a probable cable trench, all of which might have been associated with the use of the site by the military during the Second World War.

Appendix 4: OASIS Form

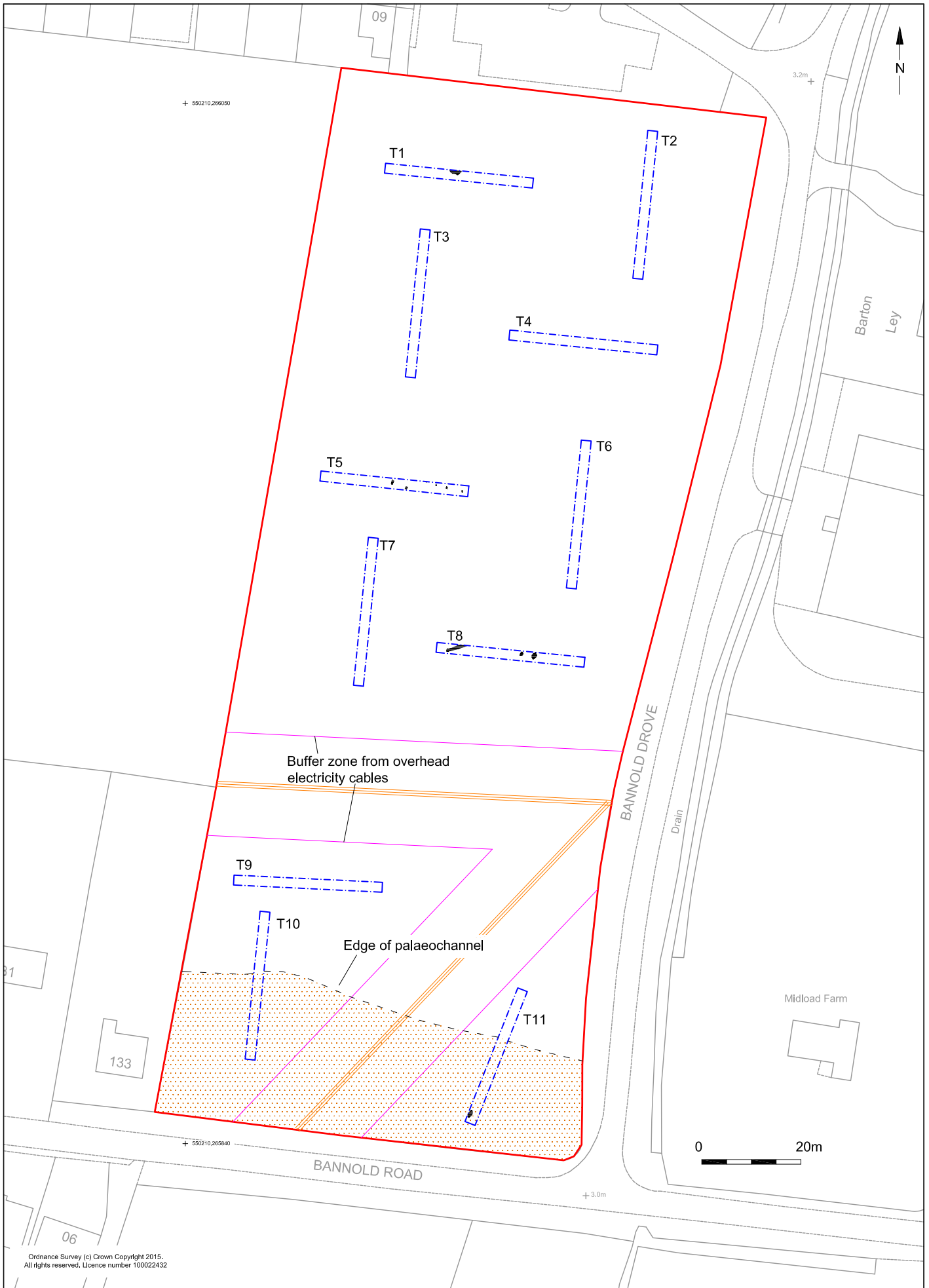
OASIS ID: archaeol6-227527	
Project details	
Project name	Land at Bannold Road and Bannold Drove, Waterbeach
Short description of the project	The natural stratum was River Terrace Sand and Gravel. At the south end of the site this was truncated by an east-west palaeochannel, thought to have been a former tributary of the River Cam. An undated pit at the north end of the site contained some charcoal but no finds. Other cut features are interpreted as probable tree throws or animal burrows. Modern features included a line of postholes, two brick plinths and a probable cable trench, all of which might have been associated with the use of the site by the military during the Second World War.
Project dates	Start: 19-10-2015 End: 21-10-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4579 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	PIT None
Monument type	FENCE Modern
Monument type	STRUCTURE Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE WATERBEACH Land at Bannold Road and Bannold Drove, Waterbeach
Study area	1.7 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 50250 65960 52.270814042464 0.202282443794 52 16 14 N

	000 12 08 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Niall Oakey
Project supervisor	Kieron Heard
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Bovis Homes Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archive Facility
Physical Archive ID	ECB4579
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archive Facility
Digital Archive ID	ECB4579
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archive Facility
Paper Archive ID	ECB4579
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Bannold Road and Bannold Drove, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Heard, K
Other bibliographic details	ASE report number 2015398
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Witham
Description	A4, 24 pages
Entered by	Kieron Heard (k.heard@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	13 November 2015

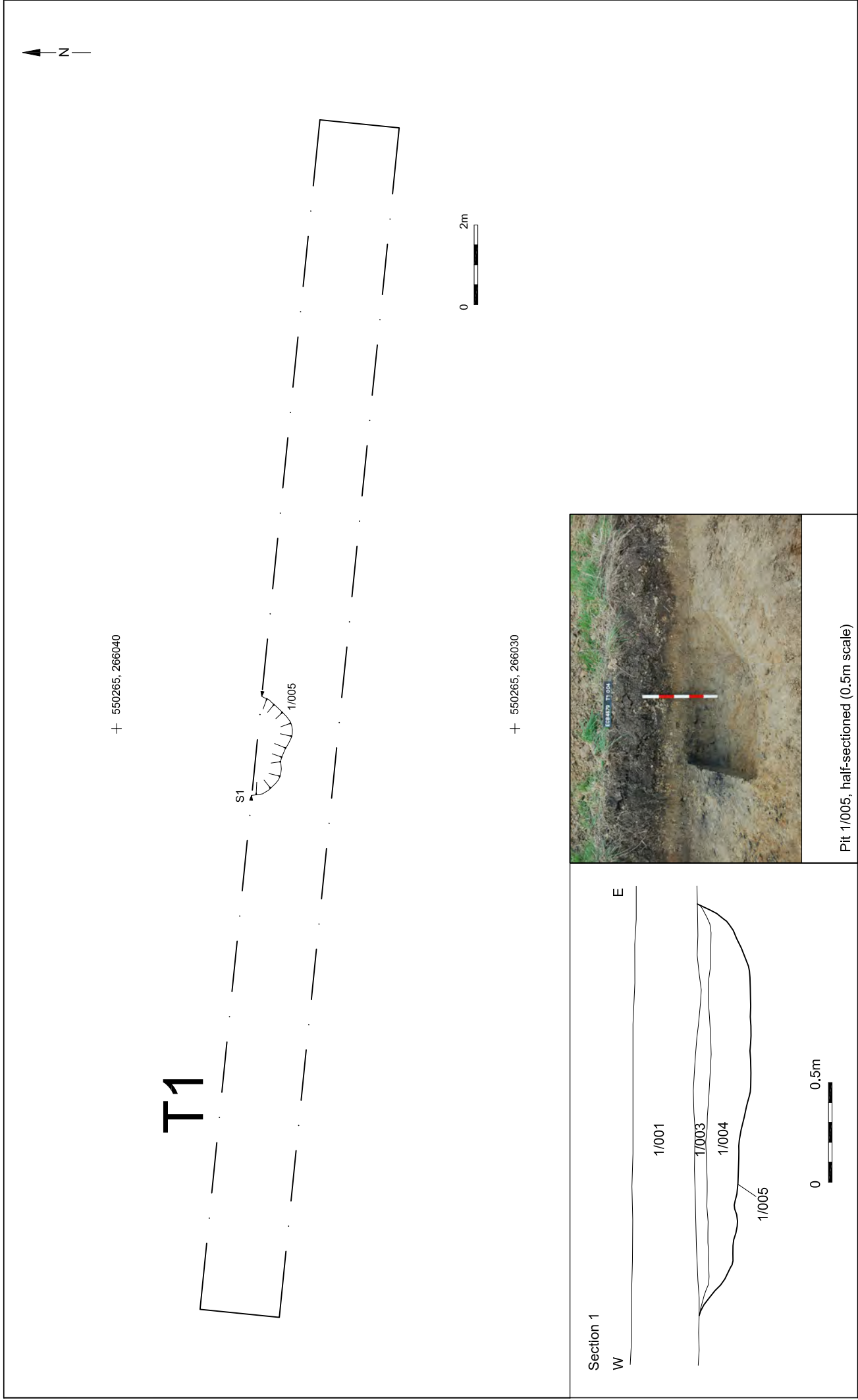


© Archaeology South-East		Land at Bannold Road and Bannold Drive, Waterbeach	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8402	Oct 2015	Site location and CHER entries mentioned in the text	
Report No: 2015398	Drawn by: APL		



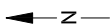
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Project Ref: 8402	Oct 2015	Trench locations	
Report Ref: 2015398	Drawn by: APL		

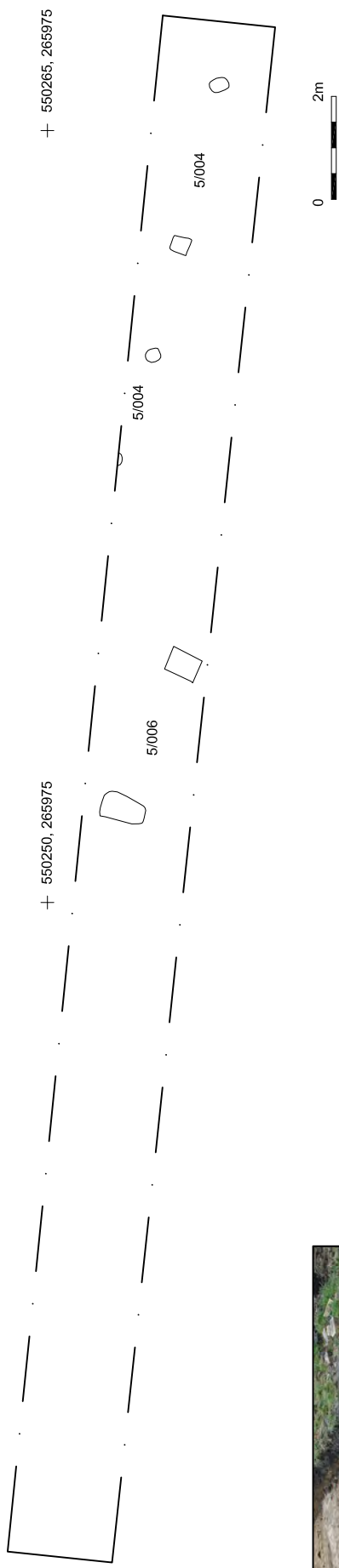


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Project Ref: 8402	Oct 2015	Trench 1 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2015398	Drawn by: APL		

Fig. 3



T5



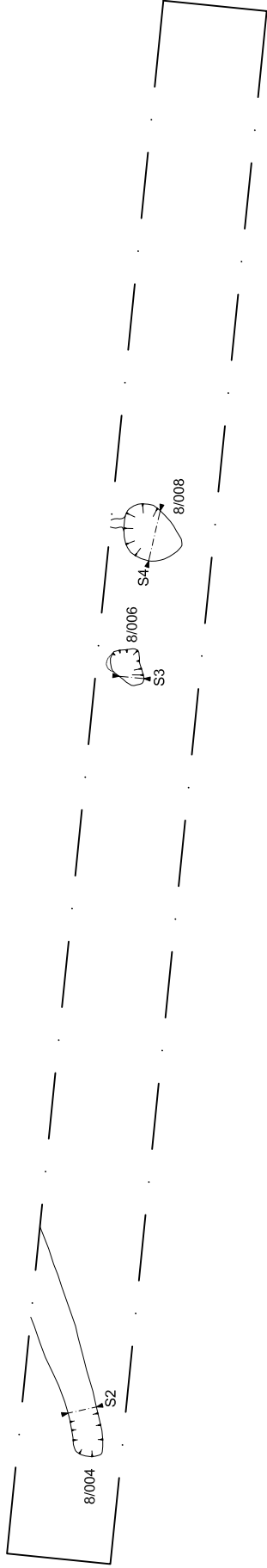
Asphalt bedding for brick plinths 5/005, looking north-west
(1m scale)

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Bannold Road and Bannold Drove, Waterbeach	
Project Ref: 8402	Oct 2015	Trench 5 plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2015398	Drawn by: APL		

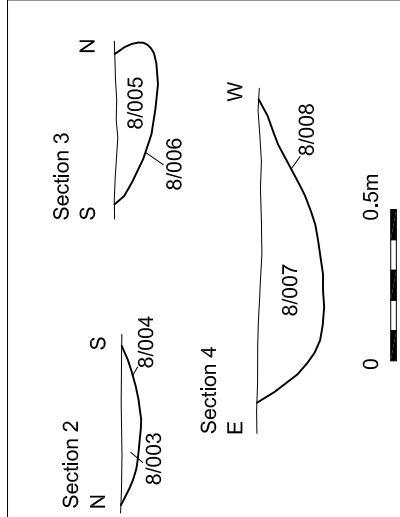
Fig. 4

+ 550265, 265945

T8

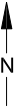


+ 550285, 265935



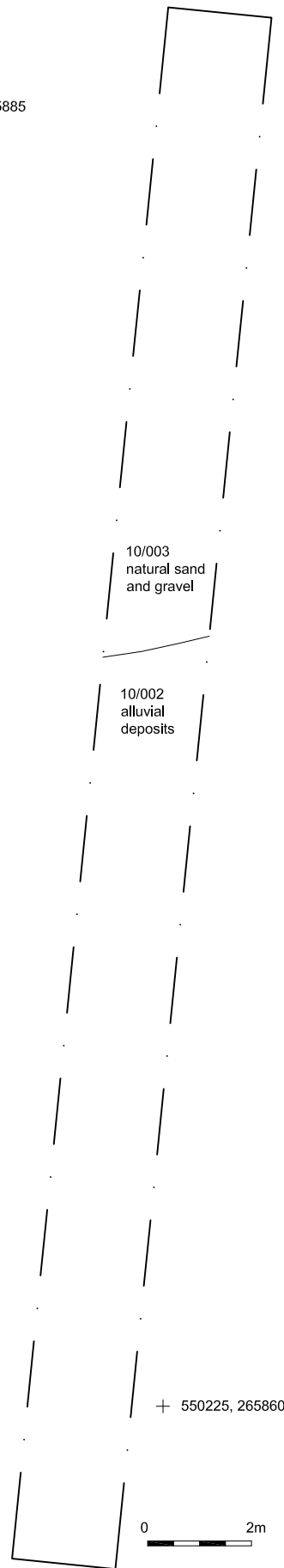
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Bannold Road and Bannold Drive, Waterbeach	
Project Ref: 8402	Oct 2015	Trench 8 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2015398	Drawn by: APL		

Fig. 5



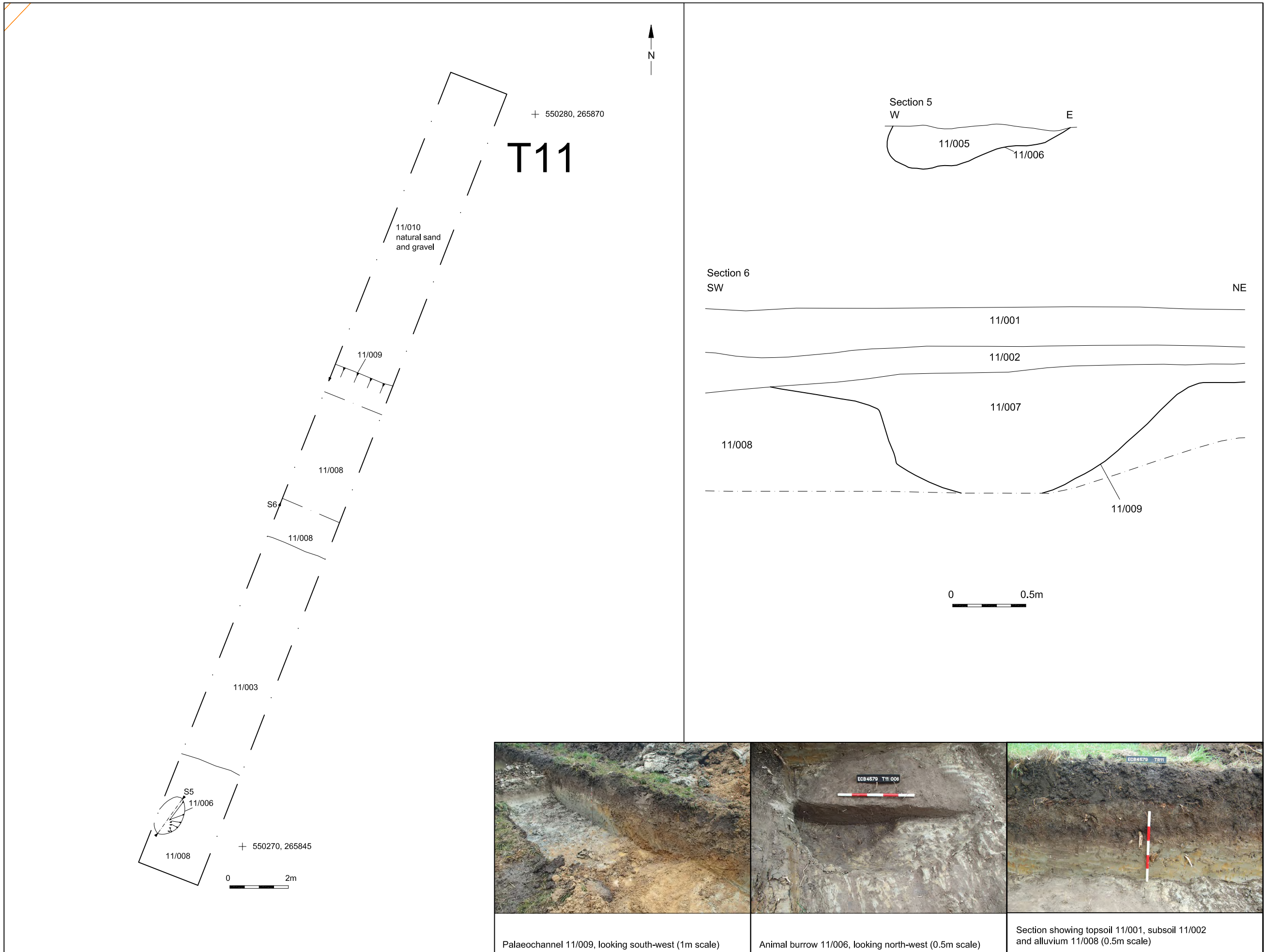
+ 550220, 265885

T10



General view of Trench 10, looking north (1m scale)

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Project Ref: 8402	Oct 2015	Trench 10 plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2015398	Drawn by: APL		



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Project Ref: 8402	Oct 2015	Trench 11 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2015398	Drawn by: APL		



General view of Trench 2, looking north (1m scale)

General view of Trench 3, looking north (1m scale)



General view of Trench 4, looking east (1m scale)



General view of Trench 6, looking north (1m scale)



General view of Trench 7, looking north (1m scale)



General view of Trench 9, looking east (1m scale)

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Bannold Road and Bannold Drove, Waterbeach	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 8402	Oct 2015	Photographs of trenches 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9	
Report Ref: 2015398	Drawn by: APL		

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