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**COMMUNITY CENTRE & PHASE 4D, CEDARS PARK,
STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK.**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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NGR: TM 06211 58849	Report No. 3991
District: Mid Suffolk	Site Code: SKT 063
Approved: C Halpin	Project No. 986
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		<i>Community Centre & Phase 4D, Cedars Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk.</i>	
Project description			
<p><i>In December 2011 and January 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the Community Centre and Phase 4D, Cedars Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk (NGR TM 06211 58849). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of residential development by Crest Nicholson Residential (Eastern) Ltd.</i></p> <p><i>Two medieval (12th-14th century) ditches were excavated in the southern extent of the present area of evaluation (F1062 (Tr.16) & F1064 (Tr.18)). Ditches F1037 (Tr.5) and F1067 (Tr.1) may be contemporary. Three ponds (F1029 Tr.3; F1071 Tr.5; and F1052 Tr.7) are very tentatively assigned to the medieval period. In the north-eastern sector of the evaluation four parallel agricultural ditches was observed in Trenches 1 and 2, and these closely approximate Roman ditches excavated in Phase 4B. The evaluation also revealed a continuation of the Late Bronze Age – Early Iron activity recorded during the excavation of adjacent Phase 4B. Two ditches, F1050 and F1056 (Tr.16), were recorded. In summary the evaluation recorded prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeology broadly contemporary with that recorded during the excavation of Phase 4B, adjacent.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		<i>19/11/2011- 13/01/2012</i>	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?) <i>Y</i>
P. number		<i>986</i>	Site code <i>SKT 063</i>
Type of project		<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Site status			
Current land use		<i>Arable</i>	
Planned development		<i>Residential development</i>	
Main features (+dates)		<i>Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age ditches, Roman agricultural ditches, medieval (12th-14th C) ditches and ponds.</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)		<i>Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age and medieval pottery</i>	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		<i>Suffolk</i>	<i>Mid Suffolk</i> <i>Stowmarket</i>
HER/ SMR for area		<i>Suffolk HER</i>	
Post code (if known)		<i>IP14 5FX (nearest)</i>	
Area of site		<i>2.63ha</i>	
NGR		<i>TM 06211 58849</i>	
Height AOD (max/ min)		<i>53.85m-47.47m</i>	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		<i>Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service</i>	
Project supervisor/(PO)		<i>Tim Schofield, Chris Leonard</i>	
Funded by		<i>Crest Nicholson Residential (Eastern) Ltd.</i>	
Full title		<i>Community Centre & Phase 4D, Cedars Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Authors		<i>C. Leonard, T. Schofield</i>	
Report no.		<i>3991</i>	
Date (of report)		<i>January 2012</i>	

COMMUNITY CENTRE & PHASE 4D, CEDARS PARK, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In December 2011 and January 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the Community Centre and Phase 4D, Cedars Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk (NGR TM 06211 58849). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of residential development by Crest Nicholson Residential (Eastern) Ltd.

Previous phases of investigation at Cedars Park have revealed a small Late Bronze Age settlement, a middle to late Iron Age settlement, a late Iron Age and Roman farmstead with associated agricultural field systems, and several areas of dispersed medieval settlement.

Two medieval (12th-14th century) ditches were excavated in the southern extent of the present area of evaluation (F1062 (Tr.16) & F1064 (Tr.18). Ditches F1037 (Tr.5) and F1067 (Tr.1) may be contemporary. Three ponds (F1029 Tr.3; F1071 Tr.5; and F1052 Tr.7) are very tentatively assigned to the medieval period. In the north-eastern sector of the evaluation four parallel agricultural ditches was observed in Trenches 1 and 2, and these closely approximate Roman ditches excavated in Phase 4B. The evaluation also revealed a continuation of the Late Bronze Age – Early Iron activity recorded during the excavation of adjacent Phase 4B. Two ditches, F1050 and F1056 (Tr.16), were recorded. In summary the evaluation recorded prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeology broadly contemporary with that recorded during the excavation of Phase 4B, adjacent.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2011, Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the site of the Community Centre and Phase 4D, Cedars Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk (NGR TM 06211 58849). The evaluation was commissioned by Crest Nicholson Residential (Eastern) Ltd. prior to proposed residential development of the site.

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken according to a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS-CT) (dated 26/05/2004), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 21/11/2011) and approved by SCCAS-CT. The archaeological evaluation adhered to *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct* (revised 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

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

1.4 The specific aims of the evaluation were to evaluate past land uses and to determine the possible presence of masking colluvial or alluvial deposits on site. A further aim was to determine whether the Bronze Age activity encountered in Phase 4B continued into the evaluation area.

Planning policy context

1.5 The evaluation was undertaken in conjunction with the relevant planning policies, which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage. Of particular relevance was Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5, 2010), which is widely applied by local authorities. PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The Cedars Park development lies to the east and north-east of Stowmarket, on the uplands and valley sides above the river Gipping (Figs. 1 & 2). The previous excavation area of Phase 4B borders the site to the north east. On all other sides the site is enclosed by new residential development.

2.2 The site slopes down from a maximum height of 53.85m AOD in the northwest of the evaluation area, to 47.47m in the southeast. The underlying geology of the area is Upper Chalk (BGS 1985), overlain by boulder clay (BGS 1991) and clayey calcareous soils of the Hanslope association (SSEW 1983).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Much of the area surrounding Phase 4D has already been subject to archaeological investigations over the last decade prior to construction of the Cedars Park development. In summary:

Prehistoric (to AD 43)

3.2 The Neolithic and Bronze Age are sparsely represented on the clayland plateau, with sites concentrated mainly on the lighter soils of the river valleys and in the Breckland. The upland plateau was characterised by heavy woodland that was exploited for fuel, but there is very little evidence of occupation prior to the Iron Age (Martin 1999). There is little evidence for occupation before the Iron Age in the vicinity of the site, although a single Mesolithic flaked axe found at Stowmarket School and a Neolithic/Bronze Age retouched flint blade or chisel found adjacent to the river (SMR SKT013) attest to some activity. Excavations at Cedar's Field (SMR SKT011; Anderson 2004) found pits and small hollows thought to represent a long period of Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation. Precise dating of most of the features was not possible, although one small pit contained a near-complete pottery vessel dated to the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age on the basis of the charcoal it contained.

3.3 Excavation Phase 4B at Cedars Park revealed a small cluster of Late Bronze Age features including a cremation, several linear features and tree hollows utilised as waste pits (Schofield 2011). This Bronze Age activity is confined to an area of the site where the predominant boulder clay natural geology changed to a band of loose sand and gravel.

3.4 The Iron Age in general saw a notable increase in the number and size of settlements, indicating an expansion of the population of East Anglia (Davies 1996). It was not until this time that the heavier soils of the central Suffolk claylands saw significant occupation. Throughout the till margins, sites are concentrated along the watercourses (Martin 1988). This is perhaps due to the nature of the economic activity dictated by the landscape, as the heavy clay soils would have been difficult to cultivate (particularly until the arrival of improved ploughing technology with the Romans). Consequently, agriculture is likely to have been heavily reliant on stock rearing and the proximity of water for cattle would have been a critical factor in the choice of settlement locations. By the late Iron Age, Suffolk was controlled by two major British tribes, the Iceni in the north and Trinovantes in the south. The site of Cedars Park lies close to the line of the conjectured tribal boundary.

3.5 Evidence from the Stowmarket area accords well with this general picture, with good evidence for Iron Age occupation compared with the limited finds from earlier prehistory. Archaeological work associated with earlier phases of the Cedars Park development has revealed remains of a late Iron Age farmstead 200m south of the present site (Britchfield *et al.* 2004; Nicholson 2005). This comprised three roundhouses and four-post structures thought to have been used for storing plant-based foodstuffs, within a ditched rectangular enclosure (SMR SUP017). The site continued to be occupied into the Romano-British period (see below). To the north of this farmstead and a few hundred metres west of the present site, a further middle to late Iron Age sub-square enclosure, with at least one roundhouse, has been excavated (SMR SKT036; Marshall & Nicholson 2005). To the north-west of the present

site (SMR SKT037), excavation found a limited number of prehistoric features, although with little securely-datable material. Most of these were located in the northern area of Cedars Park Phases 6a and 6b, some 300m from the site.

Romano-British (AD 44 – 410)

3.6 The population increase noticeable throughout Suffolk's late prehistory intensified with the arrival of the Romans, leading to increased exploitation of once marginal areas. No major urban centre was established in Suffolk, the largest settlements being somewhat unplanned small towns (Plouviez 1999). The nearest of these to Cedars Park was at Coddenham c. 8.5km to the south-east. Much of the evidence for Romano-British activity in Suffolk consists of individual farmsteads, ranging from larger villas and their associated estates to very small crofts. The claylands are almost entirely dominated by small farmsteads, with the larger sites concentrated near the small urban centres and their markets. While it is clear that the Roman economy of Suffolk was dominated by agriculture, there is also some industrial evidence, particularly for the production of pottery. Kiln sites are relatively common in the till uplands where plentiful supplies of good clay and fuel could be found. A network of roads connected the small urban centres; some of these can still be traced in the modern landscape. Several Roman routes, the Pye Road and Margary routes 330 and 33a, pass close to the site, providing links with Chelmsford, Caistor-by-Norwich, Colchester and Scole. An earlier route following the Gipping Valley may also have been in use.

3.7 Four hundred metres south of the site, the late Iron Age occupation site at SMR SUP017 (*Section 3.4* above) continued in use after the Roman conquest. In the 1st – 2nd centuries AD, the enclosure ditches were re-dug and six new roundhouses constructed, along with a rectangular post-built structure, two further possible buildings represented by cobbled surfaces and postholes and a small group of industrial features (Nicholson 2005). Later, in the 2nd to mid-3rd century, the enclosure was abandoned and activity shifted a short distance to the west (SMR SKT018). New buildings were constructed, including a three-room rubble-footed structure thought to have been the main domestic building. Further downhill, a system of co-axial field ditches was laid out and to the east, a system of droveways for stock-handling (SMR SUP020) (Nicholson 2005).

3.8 Further evidence of Roman agricultural activity was found during excavations at Cedars Field, approximately 1.5km south of the site, in the form of a field boundary on a north-east to south-west alignment (SMR SKT011; Anderson 2004). A Roman pottery kiln with a clay floor has been excavated just to the west of Cedars Park (SMR SKT008; Plouviez 1989). It yielded mainly 1st century wares, with signs of Belgic influence, perhaps suggestive of production for the local British population. One flagon base, however, could be indicative that a more 'Romanised' market was being supplied. A widespread Roman presence in the vicinity is further attested by spot finds of pottery and coins (e.g. SMR SKT002, SKT007 and SKT010).

3.9 Excavation of Phase 4B at Cedars Park recorded Roman agricultural features comprising a series of parallel field ditches. The exact purpose of these ditches is unclear, but they may represent a drainage system associated with the heavy clay soils, or possibly associated with the cultivation of crops such as vines or asparagus (Schofield 2011).

Anglo-Saxon and medieval (AD 410 – 1550)

3.10 In the early Anglo-Saxon period the claylands of Suffolk appear to have been abandoned, with no evidence of settlement (West 1999). The earliest Anglo-Saxon occupation was confined to more easily-cultivated soils, despite the managed landscapes that had emerged since the Iron Age. No evidence for occupation is known in the vicinity of Cedars Park until Stowmarket itself emerges into the historical record as *Thorna*, *Thornea* or *Stow Thorny* in the late Anglo-Saxon period. By the time of Domesday, it was a well-established urban centre with a market and a minster church and was part of the royal manor of Thorney, held directly by Edward the Confessor and subsequently by William I. The present site is located c. 2km north-east of the historic town.

3.11 Medieval occupation is archaeologically attested by the presence nearby of several moated sites. One of 12th – 14th century date, with some evidence of structures within the moated enclosure, has been excavated at Cedars Field, to the south of the present site (SMR SKT011; Anderson 2004). Excavations ahead of previous phases of the Cedars Park development have identified significant evidence of dispersed medieval settlement on the hillside to the north of the river Gipping. In Phase 5B (SMR SKT040) and 5C (SMR SKT038 & SKT043) (Mundin and Woolhouse 2006a & b; Woolhouse forthcoming), a series of regular rectangular plots flanking the Creting Road were excavated. Within the roadside plots were quarry and rubbish pits, cobbled surfaces and the remains of at least two buildings. The main phase of activity appears to have been in the 13th – 14th century. In Phase 4A North-East (SMR SKT036), just west of Phase 4C, a small enclosed farmstead, also of 13th – 14th century date, has been excavated (Hallybone & McConnell 2005; Woolhouse forthcoming).

3.12 Phases 4B and 4C revealed medieval activity, particularly in the area around Creting Road, where the presence of quarry and rubbish pits suggest a continuation of the activity observed in Phases 5B and 5C (Schofield 2011). Near the A14 evidence of medieval enclosures, possibly animal pens, was recorded on the higher land to the east of Phase 4B.

Post-medieval (c. 1550 – present)

3.13 Sheepcote Hall, to the south-east of the current site, seems to have been of some local significance, being shown on maps from the late 18th century. Stowmarket benefited from the opening of the Gipping Navigation to barges in 1793 and the arrival of the Ipswich to Bury railway in 1846. Industry in Stowmarket included ironworking and the production of fertiliser and explosives, but was dominated by malting. Agricultural features of uncertain date, but probably the remnants of post-medieval drainage channels, were

identified during the Cedars Park Phase 4A excavations, 200m west of the site (Marshall and Nicholson 2005). Mid-19th century ditches corresponding to field boundaries shown on the 1839 Tithe Map were also found.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Eighteen linear trial trenches each measuring 40 x 1.8m were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2).

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.80m toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions and sample sections are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample Section 1 (DP1) Centre of trench, southwest facing. 0.00= 53.85m AOD		
0.00- 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark yellowish brown, clay silt.
0.18- 0.35m	L1001	Subsoil. Compact, light brownish yellow, silty clay.
0.35m +	L1002	Natural. Compact, light brownish yellow, clay and chalk

Description: Trench 1 contained two undated ditches (F1010 and F1067) and an undated pit (F1069).

Ditch F1010 was linear in plan and orientated northwest-southeast. A total of 23m of the ditch was present within Trench 1 and had it terminated within the trench. Two slots were excavated through F1010, tabulated below:

Slot	Profile	Fill	Description	Finds
A	Moderately steep sides, flattish base. (1 x 0.78 x 0.20M)	L1011	Compact, mid orange brown, clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small, subrounded flint.	-
B	Moderately steep sides, flat base. (1 x 0.59 x 0.14m)	L1011	Compact, mid orange brown, clay silt with small, subrounded flint.	-

Ditch F1067 was linear in plan (1.8m+ x 0.64m x 0.22m), orientated northeast-southwest. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1068, was a compact, mid greyish brown, clay silt with occasional chalk flecks and occasional small, subrounded flints. It contained a small, heavily abraded sherd of medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery (<1g).

Pit F1069 was ovoid in plan (1.2m+ x 0.48m x 0.18m). It had irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1070, was a compact, mid orange brown, clay silt with occasional chalk flecks. No finds were present.

Trench 2 (Figs.2 & 3)

Sample Section 2 (DP5) Centre of trench, southeast facing. 0.00= 53.68m AOD		
0.00- 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil: as above, Tr.1.
0.26- 0.42	L1001	Subsoil: as above, Tr.1.
0.42m +	L1002	Natural: as above, Tr.1.

Description: Trench 2 contained three parallel undated ditches (F1031, F1033 and F1035).

Ditch F1031 was linear in plan (1.8m+ x 0.7m x 0.2m), orientated northwest-southeast. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1032, was a firm, mid yellowish brown, clay silt with occasional small, subrounded flints and occasional small chalk. No finds were present.

Ditch F1033 was linear in plan (1.8m+ x 0.76m x 0.16m), orientated northwest-southeast. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1034, was a firm, mid yellowish brown, clay silt with occasional small, subrounded flints and occasional chalk. No finds were present.

Ditch F1035 was linear in plan (1.8m+ x 0.84m x 0.24m), orientated northwest-southeast. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1036, was a firm, mid yellowish brown, clay silt with occasional small, subrounded flints and occasional chalk. No finds were present.

Trench 3 (Figs.2 & 3)

Sample Section 3 (DP8) Centre of trench, southeast facing. 0.00= 52.31m AOD		
0.00- 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.15- 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.36m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Description: Trench 3 contained F1029, a large feature, probably a pond.

?Pond F1029 was subcircular in plan (1.8m+ x 6.8m x 0.44m). It had irregular sides and the base of the feature was flat and irregular. Three test pits (A - C) were excavated. The fill, L1030, was a firm, mid orange grey, clay silt with occasional small and medium subrounded flints, charcoal flecks and chalk. One sherd of medieval (13th -14th century) pottery was recovered from Test Pit A (9g), and medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery (2g) and animal bone (103g) was recovered from Test Pit B.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 & 4)

Sample Section 4 Centre of trench, northeast facing. 0.00= 52.83m AOD		
0.00- 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.27- 0.39m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.39m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Description: Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 5 (Figs. 2 & 4)

Sample Section 5 Centre of trench, southwest facing. 0.00= 52.50m AOD		
0.00- 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.28- 0.47m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.47m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Description: Trench 5 contained an undated ditch (F1037), a modern pit (F1041), a modern ditch (F1073), and a pond (F1071).

Ditch F1037 was linear in plan (1.8m+ x 0.89m x 0.21m), orientated northeast-southwest. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1038, was a firm, mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small, rounded flints and chalk. No finds were present. It cut Pond F1071.

Pit F1041 was rectangular in plan (1.25m x 0.7m x 0.45m). Its sides were irregular. It cut Pond F1071. It contained three fills, tabulated below:

Fill	Description	Finds
Upper L1043	Firm, dark yellowish brown, silty clay.	-
L1042	Firm, mid brownish yellow, clay silt.	Clay pipe stem (2g)
Basal L1066	Firm, dark greyish brown, silty clay.	-

Pond F1071 was ovoid in plan (25.5m x 1.8m+ x 0.35m). It had irregular sides and an uneven flattish base. Three 1 x 1m test pits were excavated (A-C). Its

fill, L1072, was a firm, mid yellowish brown, clay silt with occasional small, rounded flint, charcoal flecks and chalk inclusion. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1073 was linear in plan (1.8m+ x 3.2m x 0.92m), orientated northeast-southwest. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It cut Pond F1071. It contained four fills, tabulated below:

Fill	Description	Finds
Upper L1077	Loose, light brownish grey, clay silt.	-
L1076	Compact, dark greyish black, silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks	Modern pottery (25g), animal bone (lg), iron fragment (6g).
L1075	Compact, dark brownish grey, clay silt.	Ceramic field drain pipe runs through layer.
Basal L1074	Compact, mid yellowish brown, silty clay.	-

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

Sample Section 6 (DP11) Centre of trench, southeast facing. 0.00= 52.31m AOD		
0.00- 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.30- 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.40m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Description: Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 7 (Figs.2 & 4)

Sample Section 7 (DP12) Centre of trench, north facing. 0.00= 50.91m AOD		
0.00- 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.36- 0.57m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.57m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Description: Trench 7 contained a pond (F1052), and an undated ditch (F1081).

Pond F1052 was ovoid in plan (1.8m+ x 7.85m x 0.33m). It had irregular sides and an uneven flattish base. Its fill, L1053, was a compact, mid yellowish brown, silty clay with occasional small, subrounded flint stone and chalk. No finds were present.

Ditch F1081 was linear in plan (1.4m+ x 0.80 x 0.31m), orientated northwest-southeast. It terminated within the trench. It had moderately steep sides and

a concave base. Its fill, L1082, was a compact, mid orange grey, silty clay with occasional small, angular flints. No finds were present.

Trench 8 (Figs.2 & 5)

Sample Section 8 (DP15) Centre of trench, northeast facing. 0.00= 51.58m AOD		
0.00- 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.26- 0.35m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.35m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Description: Trench 8 contained an undated pit, F1005.

Pit F1005 was circular in plan (0.45m x 0.42m x 0.15m). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a loose, mid greyish brown, sandy silt with moderately frequent small and medium subrounded flints. No finds were present within the fill, however small degraded CBM flecks were noted.

Trench 9 (Figs.2 & 5)

Sample Section 9 (DP16) Centre of trench, northwest facing. 0.00= 52.31m AOD		
0.00- 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.27- 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.37m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Description: Trench 9 contained modern boundary ditch, F1008, and undated Pit F1039.

Ditch F1008 was linear in plan (1.82m+ x 1.4m x 0.79m), orientated northwest-southeast. It had steep sides and a flattish base. The ditch contained two fill layers. Basal fill, L1083, was a compact, dark orange brown, silty clay with occasional small and medium flints and occasional chinks. CBM (670g) was recovered from the base of the layer. Upper fill, L1009, was a compact, mid orange brown, clay silt with occasional small and medium, rounded flint and moderately frequent chalk. 17th – 19th century pottery (7g), CBM (34g) and an iron fragment (1g) were recovered from the fill.

Pit F1039 was rectangular in plan (1.4m x 0.85m x 0.09m). It had irregular sides and an uneven base. Its fill, L1040, was a firm, dark yellowish brown, clay silt. No finds were present within the fill.

Trench 10 (Figs.2 & 5)

Sample Section 10 (DP17) Centre of trench, southwest facing. 0.00= 50.94m AOD		
0.00- 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.36- 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.48m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Description: Trench 10 contained two undated intercutting pits, F1046 and F1048.

Pit F1046 was subrectangular in plan (1.28m x 0.72m x 0.15m). It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1047, was a loose, light greyish orange, clay silt with moderately frequent small, subrounded flints and charcoal flecks. No finds were present within the fill. Pit F1046 was cut by Pit F1048.

Pit F1048 was subcircular in plan (0.58m x 0.5m x 0.3m). It had almost vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1049, was a loose, mid orange grey, clay silt with occasional small, subangular flints. It contained struck flint (3g). Pit F1048 cut Pit F1046.

Trench 11 (Fig.2)

Sample Section 11 (DP19) Centre of trench, northwest facing. 0.00= 50.81m AOD		
0.00- 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.28- 0.34m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.34m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Description: Trench 11 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 12 (Figs.2 & 6)

Sample Section 12 (DP20) Centre of trench, southwest facing. 0.00= 50.55m AOD		
0.00- 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.30- 0.42m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.42m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Description: Trench 12 contained a modern boundary ditch, F1078. It contained a continuation of Ditch F1008 excavated in Trench 9. The trench also contained a cluster of shallow, undated post holes (F1012, F1014, F1016, F1018, F1020, F1022, F1024 and F1026). There was no discernable pattern to the cluster.

Post Hole F1012 was subcircular in plan (0.3m x 0.19m x 0.1m). It had irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1013, was a compact, dark yellowish brown, clay silt with occasional chalk, charcoal and CBM flecks. No finds were present.

Post Hole F1014 was subrectangular in plan (0.36m x 0.13m x 0.09m). It had irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1015, was a compact, dark yellowish brown, clay silt with occasional chalk, charcoal and CBM flecks. No finds were present.

Post Hole F1016 was ovoid in plan (0.26m x 0.13m x 0.05m). It had moderately steep sides and an uneven flattish base. Its fill, L1017, was a compact, dark yellowish brown, clay silt, with occasional chalk, charcoal and CBM flecks. No finds were present.

Post Hole F1018 was circular in plan (0.22m x 0.2m x 0.05m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, 1019, was a compact, dark yellowish brown, clay silt with occasional chalk, charcoal and CBM flecks. No finds were present.

Post Hole F1020 was subrectangular in plan (0.14m x 0.21m x 0.09m). It had irregular sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1021, was a compact, dark yellowish brown, clay silt with occasional chalk, charcoal and CBM flecks. No finds were present.

Post Hole F1022 was subrectangular in plan (0.28m x 0.2m x 0.06m). It had moderately steep sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1023, was a compact, dark yellowish brown, clay silt with occasional chalk, charcoal and CBM flecks. No finds were present.

Post Hole F1024 was square in plan (0.2m x 0.2m x 0.07m). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1025, was a compact, dark yellowish brown, clay silt with occasional chalk, charcoal and CBM flecks. No finds were present.

Post Hole F1026 was rectangular in plan (0.3m x 0.17m x 0.07m). It had irregular sides and an uneven base. Its fill, L1027, was a compact, dark yellowish brown, clay silt with occasional chalk, charcoal and CBM flecks. No finds were present.

Ditch F1078 was linear in plan (20m+ x 1.35m x 0.74m), orientated northwest-southeast. It exhibited steep sides and a concave base. The basal fill, L1079, was a firm, dark orange brown, silty clay with occasional small, angular flint and occasional chalk. It contained no finds. Upper fill L1080 was a firm, mid orange brown, clay silt with occasional small, angular flint and occasional chalk. Animal bone (3g), CBM (209g), plaster (85g), slag (385g), struck flint (2g) and coal (3g) were recovered from the fill.

Trench 13 (Figs.2 & 6)

Sample Section 13 Centre of trench, south facing. 0.00= 48.85m AOD		
0.00- 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.34- 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.46m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Description: Trench 13 contained a small undated pit, F1044, with a dark, charcoal-rich fill.

Pit F1044 was circular in plan (0.45m+ x 1.1m x 0.11m). It had gently sloping sides and an uneven concave base. Its fill, L1045, was a firm, dark yellowish brown, clay silt with frequent charcoal and CBM flecks. No finds were present.

Trench 14 (Fig. 2)

Sample Section 14 (DP22) Centre of trench, southwest facing. 0.00= 50.05m AOD		
0.00- 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.32- 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.48m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Description: Trench 14 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 15 (Fig. 2)

Sample Section 15 Centre of trench, northwest facing. 0.00= 50.24m AOD		
0.00- 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.38- 0.43m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.43m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Description: Trench 15 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 16 (Figs.2 & 6)

Sample Section 16A (DP29) Northwest end, northeast facing. 0.00= 48.79m AOD		
0.00- 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.38- 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.48- 0.52m	L1007	Colluvium. Compact, mid yellowish brown, clay silt.
0.52m +	L1002	Natural. Firm, mid yellowish orange, sand and gravel.

Sample Section 16B (DP28) Southeast end, northeast facing. 0.00= 47.47m AOD		
0.00- 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.46- 0.78m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.78- 0.84m	L1007	Colluvium. As above.
0.84m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 16 contains four ditches. F1056 contained Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery likely derived from a single vessel. Ditch F1062 contained a sherd of medieval (12th/13th – 14th C) pottery. Ditches F1050 and F1060 were undated. None of the ditches continued into the nearby trenches (Trs 17 and 18).

Ditch F1050 was linear in plan (1.8m+ x 1.14m x 0.25m), orientated northeast-southwest. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1051, was a loose, mid brownish grey, clay silt with occasional small, subangular flints. A struck flint waste flake (1g) was recovered from the fill.

Ditch F1056 was linear, or slightly curvilinear in plan (3.5m+ x 0.94m x 0.32m), orientated east-west. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. The base of the feature was heavily disturbed by rooting from the nearby hedgerow. The fill, L1057, was a loose, mid brownish grey, clay silt with occasional small, subangular flints. Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery (104g) (likely derived from a single vessel) and struck flint flakes (3g) were recovered from the fill.

Ditch F1060 was linear in plan (1.8m+ x 0.7m x 0.25m), orientated northeast-southwest. It had moderately steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1061, was a compact, mid orange brown, silty clay with moderately frequent small, subangular flints and occasional charcoal and degraded CBM flecks. No finds were present.

Ditch F1062 was linear in plan (1.8m+ x 0.74m x 0.14m), orientated northeast-southwest. It had gently sloping, shallow sides and a gradual break of slope to a flattish base. Its fill, L1063, was a compact, dark brownish grey, clay silt with moderately frequent small, subangular flint stones. Medieval (12th/13th -14th century) pottery (4g) was recovered from the fill.

Trench 17 (Figs.2 & 7)

Sample Section 17 Centre of trench, northwest facing. 0.00= 48.54m AOD		
0.00- 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.28- 0.47m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.47- 0.54m	L1007	Colluvium. As above, Tr.16.
0.0.54m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr.16.

Description: Trench 17 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 18 (Figs. 2 & 7)

Sample Section 18A (DP30) Northwest end, northeast facing. 0.00= 50.34m AOD		
0.00- 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.32- 0.54m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.54- 0.61m	L1007	Colluvium. As above, Tr. 16.
0.61m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr.16

Sample Section 18B Southeast end, northeast facing. 0.00= 49.24m AOD		
0.00- 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.24- 0.41m	L1028	Made ground. Mixed rubble hardcore and loose, reddish brown, clay silt.
0.41- 0.53m	L1007	Colluvium. As above, Tr. 16.

Description: Trench 18 contained two undated ditches (F1054 and F1058) which formed a possible enclosure entrance. It also contained Ditch F1064 which contained medieval (12th-13th century) pottery, and an unexcavated modern pit.

Ditch F1054 was linear in plan (1.8m+ x 0.45m x 0.15m), orientated north-south. It had steep sides and a concave base. It terminated within Trench 18. Its fill, L1055, was a firm, dark yellowish brown, clay silt with occasional small, rounded flints and charcoal flecks. No finds were present.

Ditch F1058 was linear in plan (2.8m+ x 0.6m x 0.09m), orientated north-south. It had irregular sides and a flat base. It terminated within the trench. Its fill, L1059, was a firm, dark yellowish brown, clay silt with frequent small, rounded flint and chalk and occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were present.

Ditch F1064 was linear in plan (1.8m+ x 2.08m x 0.75m), orientated northeast-southwest. It had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1065, was a compact, dark brownish grey, clay silt with moderately frequent small, subangular flints and occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. Medieval (12th-13th century) pottery (158g), CBM (193g), daub (2g) and struck flint flakes (21g) were recovered from the fill.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the evaluation.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 In all trenches the uppermost layer was Topsoil L1000, a firm, dark yellowish brown, clay silt (0.15-0.38m thick). In Trenches 1-15 it overlay Subsoil L1001, a compact, light brownish yellow silty clay (0.05-0.22m). L1001 was noticeably shallower in Trenches 6, 8, 9, 11 - 12 and 15, on the western side of the site.

7.2 In Trenches 16-18 there was a colluvial deposit, L1007 (0.1-0.32m thick). It occurred between Topsoil L1000 and Subsoil L1001, and was a compact, mid yellow brown, clay silt layer.

7.3 At the southeast end of Trench 18 Topsoil L1001 overlay Made Ground L1028, a mixed rubble hardcore and reddish brown clay silt. L1028 overlay colluvial layer L1007, which in turn overlay colluvial layer, L1084 (0.4m thick), a compact, dark orange grey, clay silt cut by medieval Ditch F1064.

7.4 In Trenches 1-15 Subsoil L1001 directly overlay the natural drift geology, L1002, a compact, light brownish yellow, clay and chalk. At the north-eastern end of Trench 17, and throughout Trenches 16 and 18, the natural changed to a mid yellowish orange, sand and gravel. This equated to a similar change in the natural observed in the north-western corner of the adjacent excavation (Phase 4C).

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The excavated features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1010	Ditch	?Roman
	F1067	Ditch	?Medieval
	F1069	Pit	?Roman
2	F1031	Ditch	?Roman
	F1033	Ditch	?Roman
	F1035	Ditch	?Roman
3	F1029	Pond	?Medieval
5	F1037	Ditch	?Medieval
	F1041	Pit	-
	F1071	Pond	Medieval
	F1073	Ditch	Modern
7	F1052	Pond	-
	F1081	Ditch	-
8	F1005	Pit	?Modern
9	F1008 = Tr. 12 F1078	Ditch	Modern
	F1039	Pit	?Modern
10	F1046	Pit	-
	F1048	Pit	-
12	F1012	Post Hole	?Modern
	F1014	Post Hole	?Modern
	F1016	Post Hole	?Modern

	F1018	Post Hole	?Modern
	F1020	Post Hole	?Modern
	F1022	Post Hole	?Modern
	F1024	Post Hole	?Modern
	F1026	Post Hole	?Modern
	F1078 = Tr. 9 F1008	Ditch	Modern
13	F1044	Pit	-
16	F1050	Ditch	-
	F1056	Ditch	LBA – EIA
	F1060	Ditch	-
	F1062	Ditch	?Medieval
18	F1054	Ditch	-
	F1058	Ditch	-
	F1064	Ditch	Medieval

8.2 The most recent features recorded during the evaluation were Ditches F1008 (Tr.9; = F1078 (Tr.12)) and F1073 (Tr.5), which followed projected course of the existing hedge lines. The eastern field is known to have been divided into two separate meadows along the line of Ditch F1073 within living memory. The remainder of the features in the western field, Pits F1005 (Tr. 8) and F1039 (Tr.9) and Post Holes F1012, F1014, F1016, F1018, F1020, F1022, F1024 and F1026 (Tr.12) are undated, but were likely modern due to their darker, looser fills and the presence of CBM flecks in their fills. The post holes clustered in Trench 12 do not appear to form any discernable pattern, and they did not appear deep enough to support any meaningful structure.

8.3 In the south-western sector of the site, Trenches 16 and 18, both contained broadly contemporary medieval ditches. Ditch F1064 (Tr.18) was aligned northeast/southwest ditch, and Ditch F1062 (Tr.16) was smaller but similarly aligned. F1064 contained 17 sherds of medieval pottery (12th – 13th century), and F1062 just one sherd (12th/13th – 14th century). F1064 may have served as a boundary ditch given its profile and position close to existing property boundaries. It was also parallel to modern boundary Ditch F1073 (Tr.5), and perpendicular to F1008 (Tr.9; = F1078 (Tr.12)), possibly suggesting a long term continuity of field boundaries. Ditches F1067 (Tr.1) and F1037 (Tr. 5) were parallel to Ditch F1064 (Tr.18) and F1062 (Tr.16) and may have formed part of the same field system. F1037 was undated, and F1067 contained a sherd of medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery.

8.4 In the central part of the site were three ?ponds: F1029 (Tr.3), F1071 (Tr.5) and F1052 (Tr.7). The size of the features was variable, and difficult to define within the limits of the evaluation trenches. F1071 and F1052, appear to have formed naturally with uneven gently sloping sides gradually breaking to flattish bases. Their depths were 0.33m and 0.35m respectively below the surface of the natural geology. It is probable that these were natural depressions that seasonally filled with water. F1029 (Tr.3) appeared to be the smallest, and also appeared to have been hand dug. Its profile was much more regular with steeper sides and a defined step or lip at the top. Dating evidence is sparse; Pond F1029 (Tr.3) contained three sherds of medieval (11th-14th century) pottery.

8.5 The north-eastern sector of the site, Trenches 1 and 2, potentially revealed evidence for Roman activity in the form of a series of parallel northwest/southeast aligned ditches: F1010 (Tr.1), F1031 (Tr.2), F1033 (Tr.2) and F1035 (Tr.2). Although these ditches contained no dating evidence, they were very similar in shape and character to Roman agricultural strip field ditches excavated in Phase 4B. The ditches recorded during the evaluation were perpendicular to those excavated within Phase 4B. There are no ditches to the southwest of Ditch F1035 (Tr. 2), possibly indicating that this ditch demarcated the south-western limit of the field system. Ditch F1010 terminated within Trench 1 and none of the ditches in Trench 2 were recorded in Trench 3. The presence of these agricultural strip field ditches within the evaluation area increases the area of land known to have been cropped in the Roman period. It now appears that the strip fields covered a considerable area of the landscape. The precise nature of the crops grown in these strip field systems remains unclear.

8.6 Trench 16 contained the only two recorded prehistoric features (Ditches F1050 and F1056). Ditch F1050, which was aligned NE/SW, was undated (it contained a struck flint) but it appeared to be a continuation of Ditch F2227 which was excavated during Phase 4B and contained Late Bronze Age pottery. Ditch F1056 contained Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery sherds, likely derived from a single vessel (Pottery Report below), and struck flint (3g). F1056 appeared slightly curvilinear but this is uncertain. As observed during the excavation of Phase 4B the prehistoric features are closely associated with a very localised area where the natural changes in character from a yellow boulder clay to an orange sand and gravel. The prehistoric features in Trench 16, combined with the associated features excavated in Phase 4B, represent an increasingly important evidence of prehistoric activity in the Gipping Valley, for which there is scant information.

8.7 The presence of colluvial layer L1007 in Trenches 16, 17 and 18 may mask some additional features in this area as it appeared to overlie all of the features in these trenches with the exception of the modern pit in Trench 18. Medieval Ditch F1064, which was sealed by L1007, cut an earlier colluvial layer L1084, which overlay the natural in the south-eastern sector (5.5m) of this trench.

8.8 In summary the evaluation recorded prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeology broadly contemporary with that recorded during the excavation of Phase 4B, adjacent.

9 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site at the Suffolk County Archaeology Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

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SKT063, Cedars, Stowmarket, Community Centre and Phase 4D

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Seg.	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A. Bone (g)	Other
1000				Topsoil		(1) 7g			
1008	1009		9	Ditch	17 th -19 th Century	(3) 7g	34		Fe. Frag: 1g
	1083		9		19 th Century		670		
1029	1030	A	3	Pond	13 th -14 th	(1) 9g		103	
		B	3		11 th -13 th	(2) 4g			
1041	1043		5	Pit			1		Clay pipe: 2g
1048	1049		10	Pit					Str. Flint: (1) 3g
1050	1051		16	Ditch					Str. Flint: (1) 1g
1056	1057		16	Ditch	Late BA - Early IA	(5) 104g			Str. Flint: (5) 3g
1062	1063		16	Ditch	12 th /13 th -14 th C	(1) 4g			
						(17)			
1064	1065		18	Ditch	12 th -13 th Century	158g	193		Daub: 2g, Str. Flint: (2) 21g
1067	1068		1	Ditch	11 th -13 th Century	(1) <1g			
1073	1076		5	Ditch	Modern	(1) 25g		1	Fe. Frag: 6g
1078	1079		12	Ditch	Modern		112		
	1080		12				97	3	Plaster: 85g, Str. Flint: (2) 10g, Slag: 385g, Coal: 3g, Fe. Frag: <1g

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey

The trial trench evaluation recovered 11 flakes (38g) of struck flint including a single scraper and blade-like debitage. The raw flint used to manufacture the scraper and debitage is entirely dark grey with, where extant, a slightly pitted, white cortex that reflects the availability of high quality flint in local chalk and boulder clay deposits.

Ditch F1064 (L1065) contained a side-end scraper and an un-corticated flake of debitage, possibly a snapped blade. The side-end scraper was manufactured by the application of abrupt retouch around the distal end and one lateral edge of an ovoid, hard-hammer struck un-corticated flake, which suggests the scraper was produced on the later Neolithic to early Bronze Age period. In contrast the debitage flake or snapped blade from the same context and the remaining small, blade-like tertiary or un-corticated flakes contained in Ditches F1050 (L1051), F1056 (L1057), F1078 (L1080) and Pit F1048 (L1049) are characteristic of the blade reduction technology utilised in the earlier Neolithic period.

The Prehistoric Pottery

Andrew Peachey

The trial trench evaluation recovered five sherds (104g) of prehistoric pottery in a moderately well-preserved condition but limited to non-diagnostic body sherds. The prehistoric pottery sherds were entirely contained in Ditch F1056 (L1057) and may be derived from a single vessel, although the body sherds do not cross-join. The body sherds occur in a coarse flint-tempered fabric with exterior surfaces that are typically oxidised mid red-orange fading to dark grey interior surfaces, and with inclusions of common-abundant, poorly sorted, calcined flint (generally 0.5-5mm, occasionally larger). Comparable coarse flint-tempered fabrics have been recorded during previous excavations at Cedars Park (SKT048), where they had been used to manufacture late Bronze Age to early Iron Age vessels.

The Post Roman Pottery

Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 24 sherds, weighing 197g, from six features plus one sherd from the topsoil. A heavily abraded sherd of residual Roman samian ware came from F1008, and a sherd of early modern to modern stoneware was present in Ditch F1073. The remaining pottery comprises small abraded fragments of medieval coarse ware, with the exception of a large piece of a body wall and angle of a rounded base. An expanded rim sherd from Ditch F1064 is probably a Melton ware and the greyware from

Ditch F1062 with sub-rounded opaque quartz and occasional larger white angular pieces may be a Heddingham coarse ware. The pottery would fit a 12th-13th or possibly 14th centuries range.

Fabric Key:

LEZ SA2 - Central Gaulish samian ware: 2nd century

EMSH - Early Medieval Shelly ware: Grey core with mottled grey to pale brown surfaces. Fine sandy fabric with sparse platy shell and medium to coarse quartz 11th-13th centuries

HEDC – Heddingham coarse ware: 12th-13th/14th

MCW1 – Medieval coarse ware 1: Dark grey core with grey-brown surfaces which can

contain sparse mica. Abundant fine to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz with rare very coarse mineral. Rare other inclusions such as voids from burnt organics 11th/12th-14th

MCW2 –Medieval coarse ware 2: Pale grey to buff throughout. Moderate fine to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz. Occasional voids from burnt grass 11th/12th-14th

MCW3 – Medieval coarse ware 3: Red-brown throughout. Poorly sorted fine to coarse sub-angular to sub-rounded grey and clear quartz 11th/12th-14th

MCW4 – Medieval coarse ware 4: Black core brown to red-brown surfaces. Moderate to common fine to medium sub-rounded grey, clear and occasionally pink quartz 11th/12th-14th

ENGS - English Stoneware: 19th-20th

Feature	Context	Type	Quantity	Date	Comment
1000		Topsoil	1x6g MCW1	12 th - 14 th	
1008	1009		1x1g LEZ SA2 1x1g PMRE	17 th -19 th	
1029	1030 A	Pond	1x10g MCW	13 th -14 th	MCW 1 B3/E4 rim
	1030 B		1x3g EMSH	11 th - 13 th	
1062	1063	Ditch	1x3g HEDC?	12 th - 13 th /14 th	
1064	1065	Ditch	8x125g MCW1 3x10g MCW2 1x5g MCW3 1x1g MCW4 3x6g EMSH	12 th -13 th	MCW1: x1 F1 flanged rim, x1 rounded base EMSh: x1 B2 thickened rim Melton type?
1067	1068	Ditch	1x<1g EMSH?	11 th -13 th ?	
1073	1076	Ditch	1x25g ENGS	19 th -20 th	

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered 14 fragments (1107g) of CBM (Table 1) predominantly comprising post-medieval peg tile and a flooring brick, with low quantities of Roman CBM also present. Comparable types of CBM are associated with structures recorded during previous phases of excavation at Cedars Park, Stowmarket.

CBM type	Frequency	Weight (g)
Roman CBM	3	194
Post-Medieval peg tile	10	243
Post-Medieval flooring brick	1	670
<i>Total</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>1107</i>

Table 1: Quantification of CBM types

Methodology

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with fabrics classified at x20 magnification and Roman form types classified according to Brodrigg (1987). All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive

Commentary

The Roman CBM

The three fragments (194g) of Roman CBM occur in a single fabric that is oxidised red-orange with inclusions of common medium sand (<0.5mm, occasionally to 1mm), sparse red clay pellets and flint (up to 5mm). Ditch F1064 (L1065) contained two fragments (193g) of Roman tegula roof tile with fractured flanges, while a further small miscellaneous fragment was contained in Pit F1041 (L1043). The fabric and forms are consistent with the CBM recovered from the Roman farmstead and associated buildings, including a bath house, previously recorded at Cedars Park, Stowmarket.

The Post-Medieval CBM

The single fragment of post-medieval flooring brick (670g) was contained in Ditch F1008 (L1083) and was manufactured in a dense, hard, off-white fabric with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.5mm) and flint (generally <3mm, occasionally <10mm) with sparse red iron rich grains (0.5-5mm). The flooring brick was 50mm thick with an upper surface worn smooth by wear and is typical of tiles laid in the 19th century. The small fragments of peg (roof) tile contained in Ditches F1008 (L1009) and F1078 (L1079 and L1080) probably also have similar origins in the late post-medieval period. The peg tile was manufactured in an oxidised red fabric with inclusions of common to abundant, poorly-sorted sand temper (0.2-1.0mm) with occasional flint and iron rich grains (<5mm), but exhibits a greater degree of regularity and smoother finish than types produced before the 18th century.

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The Animal Bone

Julia E. Cussans

A very small quantity of animal bone fragments were recovered from trial trench evaluation at SKT063. Seventeen fragments were recovered from three contexts. The majority of the fragments (n=15) came from L1030B, the fill of Pond F1029. Four of these fragments were identified as belonging to a horse scapula, the remainder could only be identified as large terrestrial mammal (cattle/horse sized) but also appeared to be scapula fragments and likely belonged to the same scapula as identified above. A single bone was recovered from Ditch F1073, L1076; this was the unfused, distal portion of a pig ulna. Finally an adult cat mandible was recovered from L1080, the fill of Ditch F1078.

The bones were variable in their preservation, those from L1030B being more abraded than the others. No butchery marks, gnawing or pathology was noted on any of the bones; the cat mandible was somewhat root-etched. There was little else of note about this extremely small assemblage.

Environmental Samples

John Summers

Introduction

During the trial evaluation 13 bulk samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken. Each sample was 20 litres in size.

This report outlines the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions. The results are used to make judgements about the potential of the site for environmental archaeological analyses and provide recommendations for any further work.

Methodology

The samples were processed at Archaeological Solutions Ltd offices in Bury St. Edmunds using a Siraf style flotation tank. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 250µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 500µm.

Once dry, the light fractions were rapidly scanned under a low power stereo microscope (x20 magnification). Remains encountered were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006) and a reference collection of modern seeds were consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The contents of the bulk sample light fractions are detailed in Table 2.

In general, the quantity of archaeobotanical remains was low. Two samples (Sample 3 of L1045 and Sample 4 of L1049) produced charcoal >2mm in size and a third (sample 10 of L1065) contained grains of free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum* type). The remaining ten samples were devoid of any environmental archaeological evidence.

Modern contaminants

A large number of modern roots were present in most samples. This indicates significant root action in the deposits and the potential for disturbance and contamination. A small number of modern molluscs were also present but the effect of these is likely to have been limited.

Discussion

L1045 and L1049, which produced charcoal fragments, represent undated features. The quantities of charcoal of an identifiable size (>2mm) were limited and do not represent analytically viable assemblages.

Medieval

The only sample from a dated context to produce charred plant remains was Sample 10 from ditch fill L1065. The identifiable grains were of a free-threshing wheat (*T. aestivum* type). This is the dominant cereal in southern Britain during the medieval period, often accompanied by other cereal and pulse crops (e.g. Ballantyne 2005, 103-104; Straker *et al.* 2007, 872-880). No other charred remains of cereals or wild taxa were present in this sample, preventing any further comments about the medieval economy or crop husbandry practices at the site.

Statement of potential

Based on the 13 samples from these trial excavations, the potential for the site to produce significant assemblages of carbonised plant macrofossils, charcoal or terrestrial molluscs appears limited. The medieval deposits have the greatest potential for palaeoeconomic investigations should further work be undertaken.

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Straker, V, Campbell, G. and Smith, W. 2007, 'The charred plant macrofossils', in Gerrard, C. and Aston, M. *The Shapwick Project, Somerset. A Rural Landscape Explored*, The Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph 25, Leeds, 869-889

Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Feature type	Spot date	Volume (litres)	Cereals				Wild taxa		Charcoal		Contaminants					Comments								
							Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Grain preservation	Seeds	Notes	Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules									
SKT063	1	1009	1008	Ditch	17th-19th century	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	XX	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SKT063	2	1011	1010	Ditch	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SKT063	3	1045	1044	Pit	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	Diffuse porous	XXX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Abundant small charcoal fragments
SKT063	4	1049	1048	Pit	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	XXX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SKT063	5	1051	1050	Ditch	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SKT063	6	1057	1056	Ditch	Late BA - early IA	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SKT063	7	1055	1054	Ditch	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SKT063	8	1059	1058	Ditch	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SKT063	9	1063	1062	Ditch	12th/13th-14th century	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SKT063	10	1065	1064	Ditch	12th-13th century	20	XX	-	BW (4), Trit (4)	5	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SKT063	11	1082	1081	Ditch	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SKT063	12	1068	1067	Ditch	11th-13th century	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SKT063	13	1036	1035	Ditch	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2: Data from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Cedars Park, Stowmarket TT. (Key: BW = Bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* type), Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.))

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Trench 1. Sample Section 1. Looking northeast.



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4
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5
Trench 2. Sample Section 2. Looking northeast.



6
Trench 2. Ditch F1031. Looking southeast.



7
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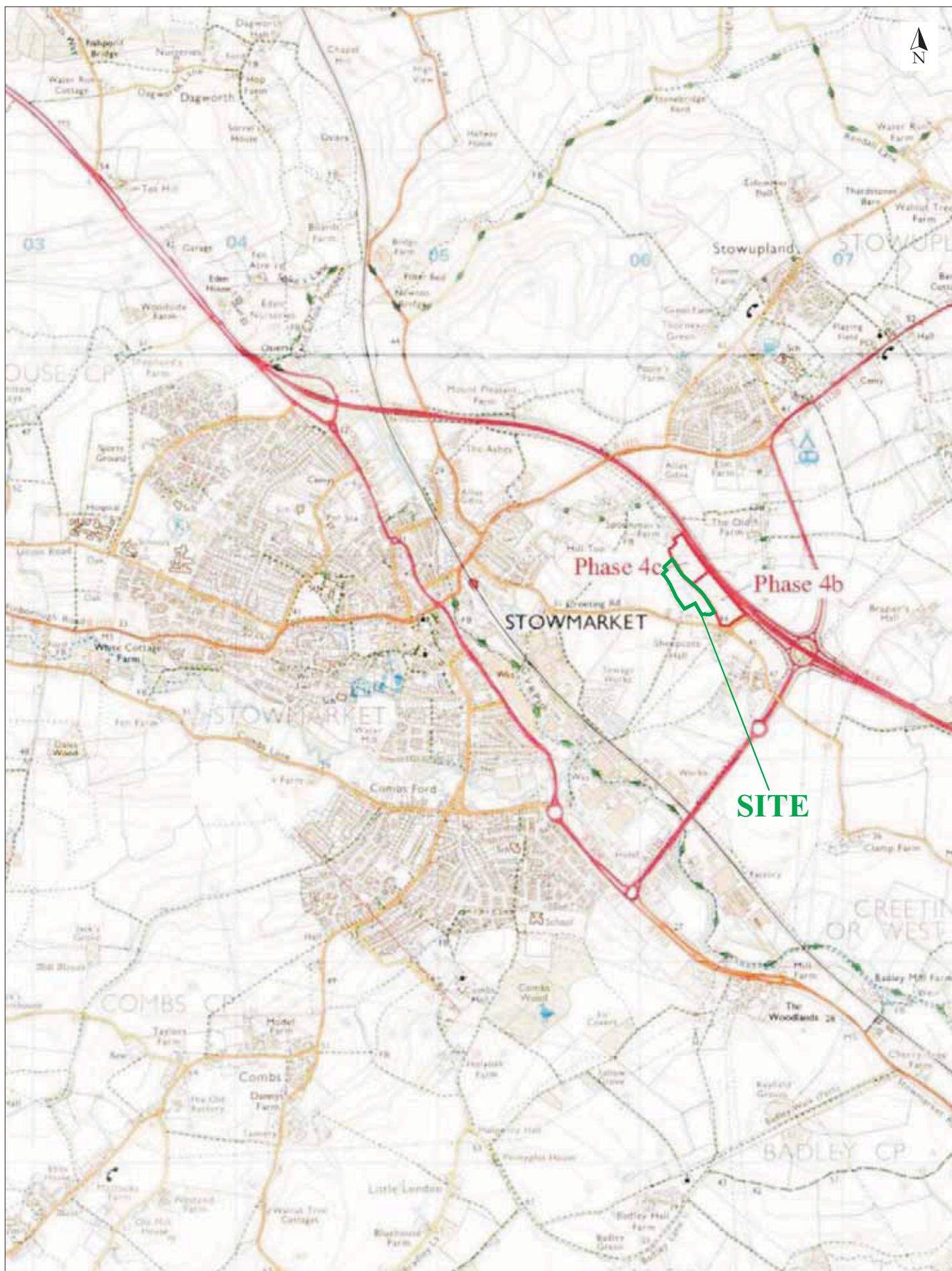
30
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31
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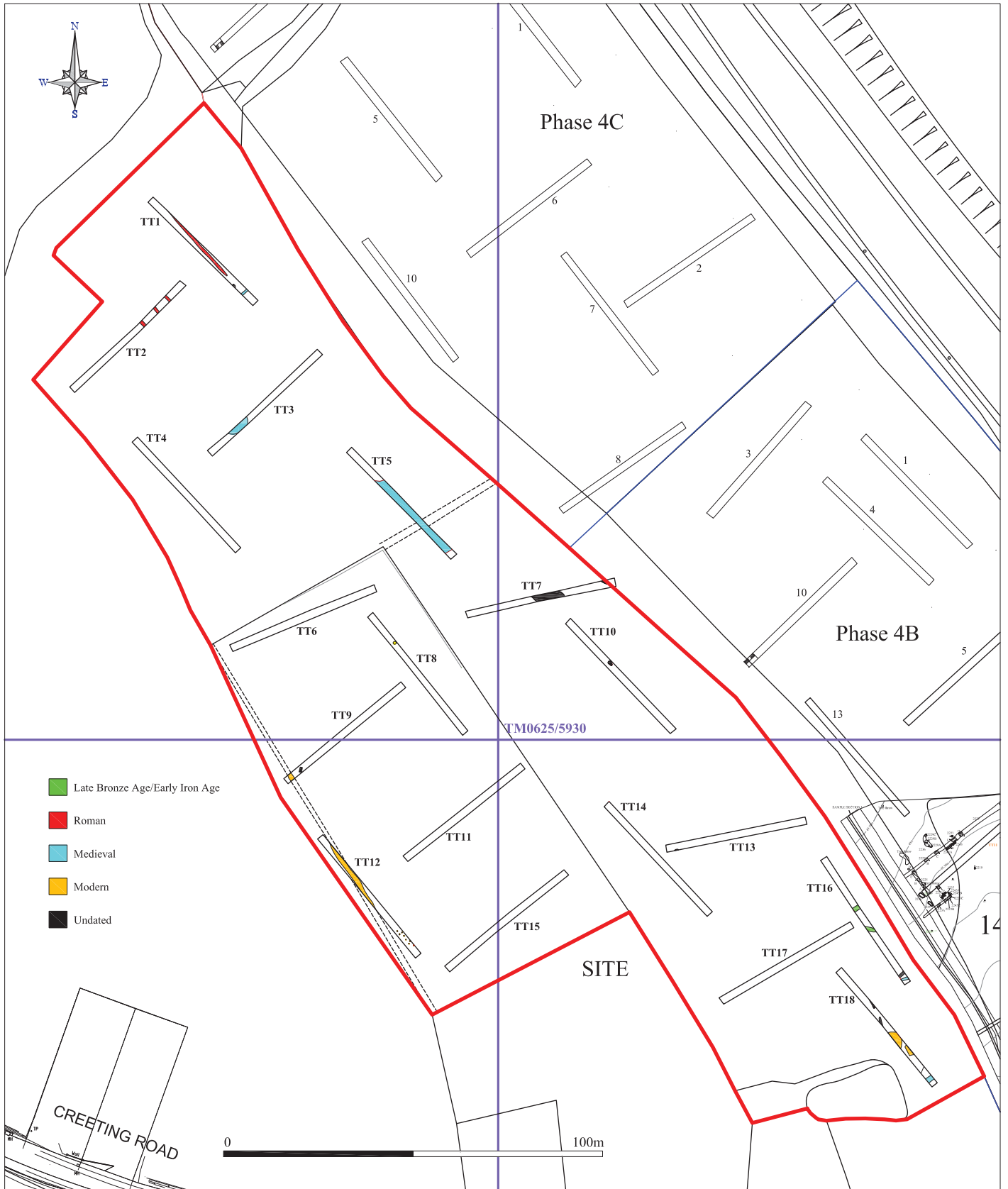


32
Trench 18. Ditch F1064. Looking southwest.



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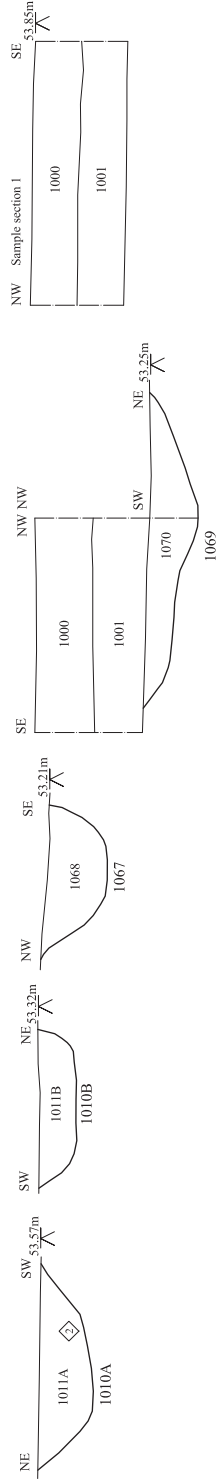
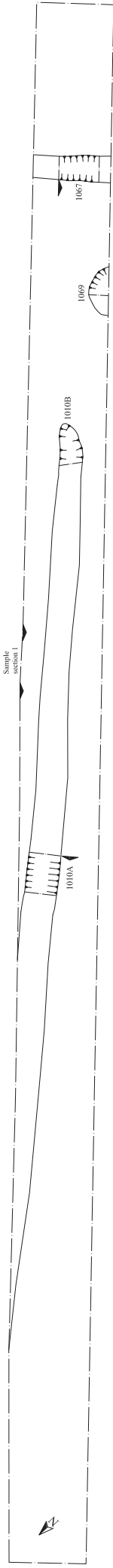
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



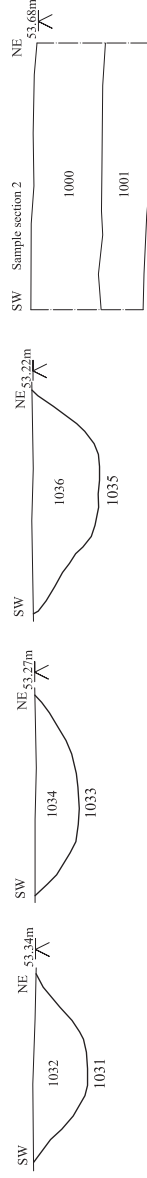
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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
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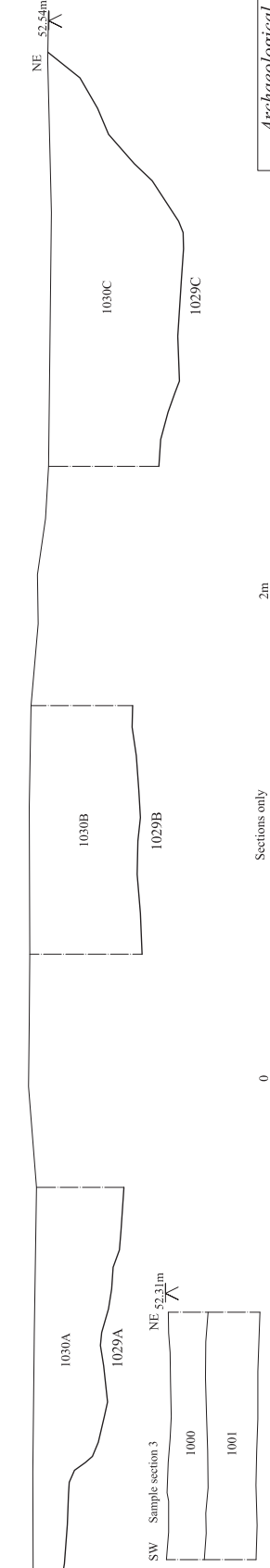
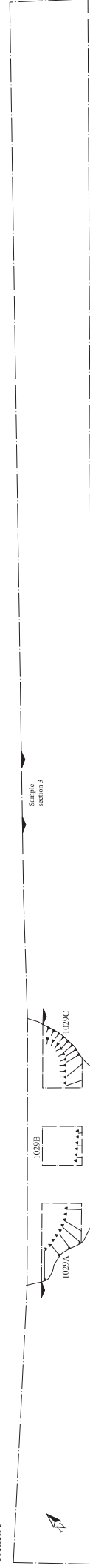
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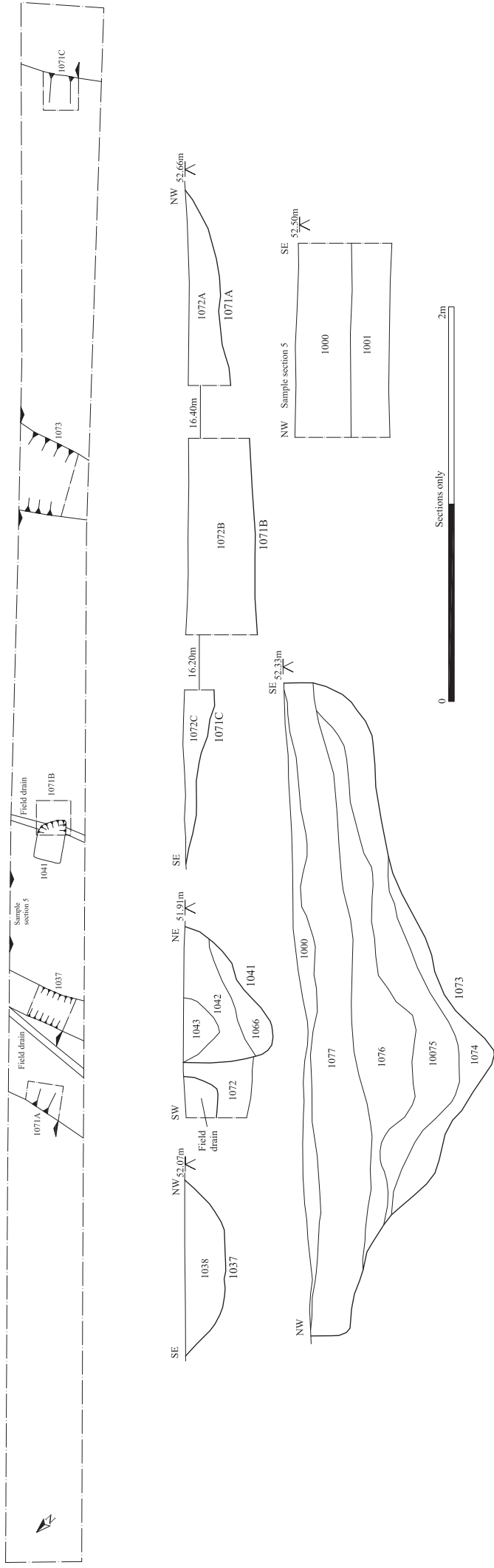
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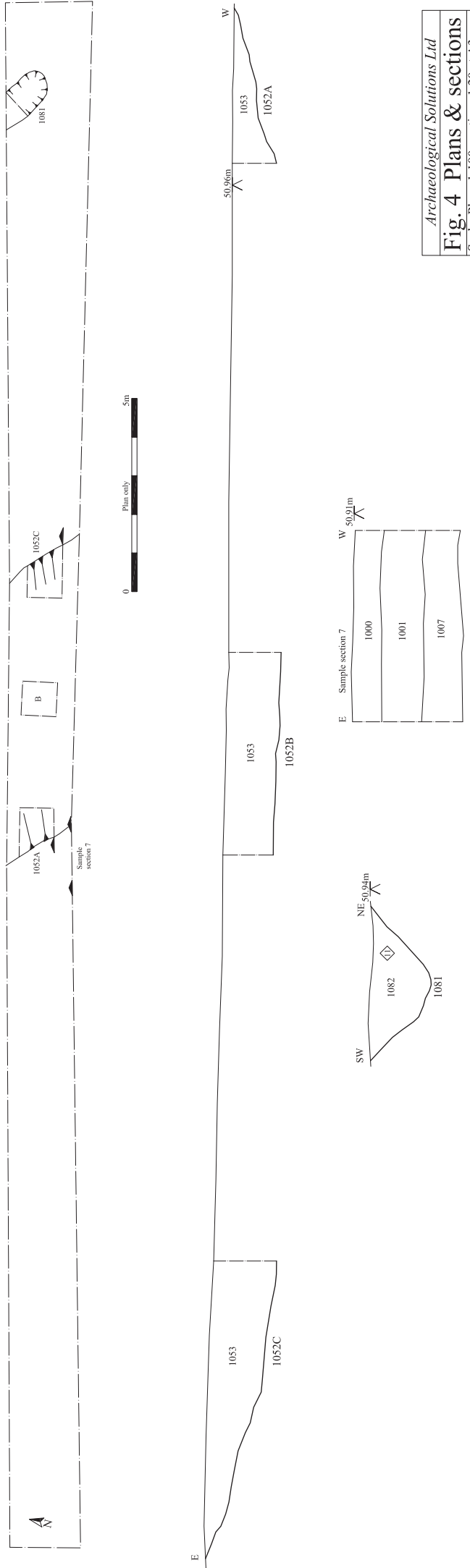
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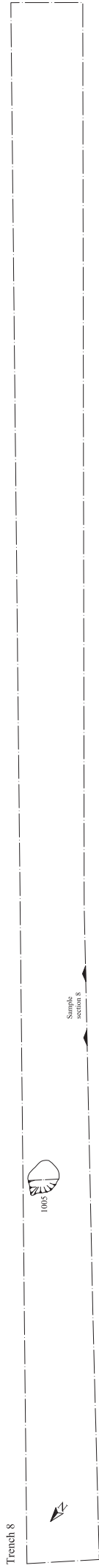
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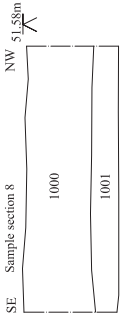
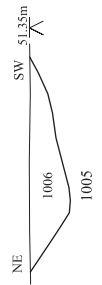
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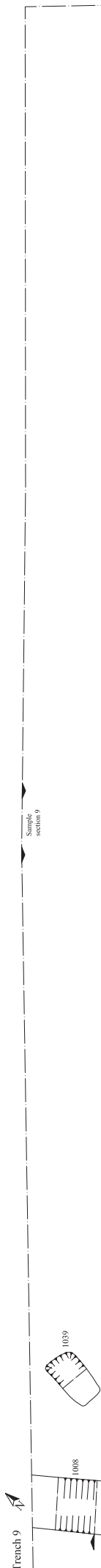
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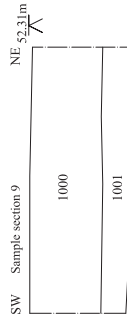
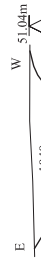
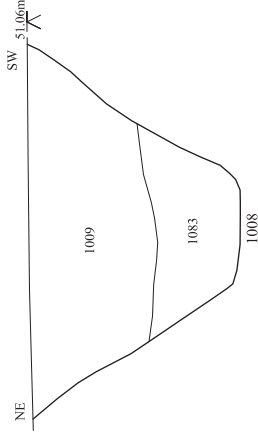
Sample section 8



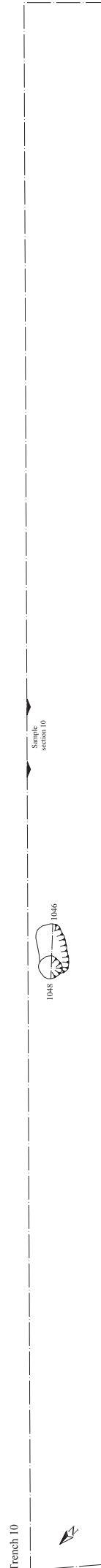
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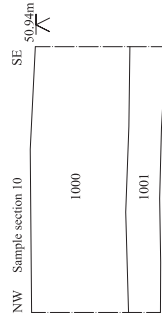
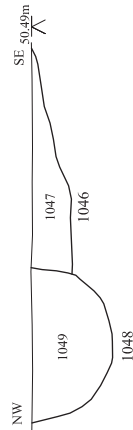
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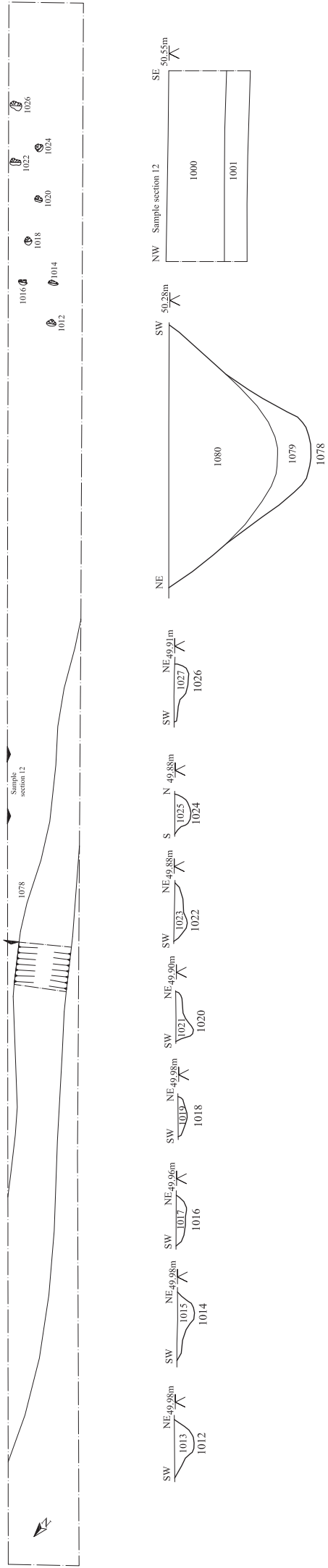
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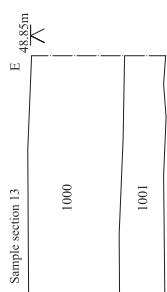
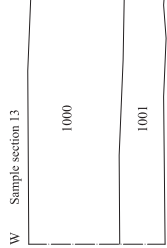
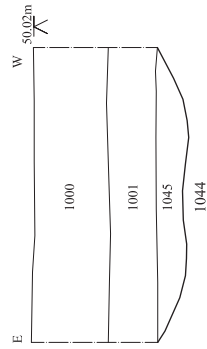
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Trench 12



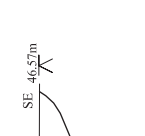
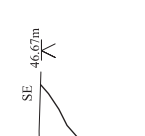
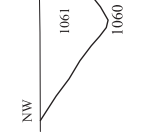
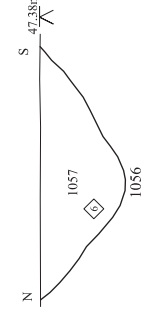
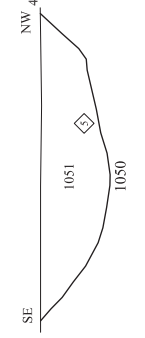
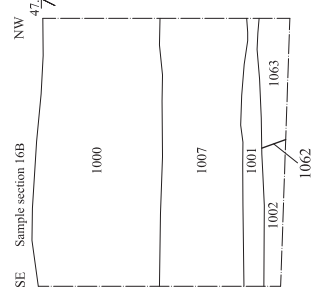
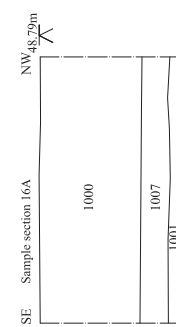
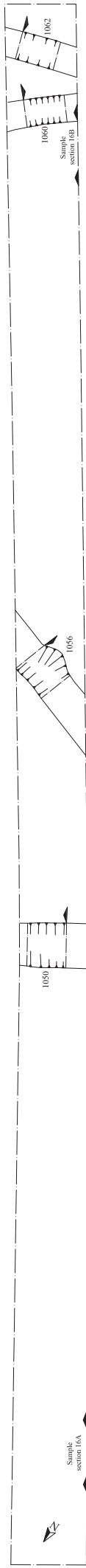
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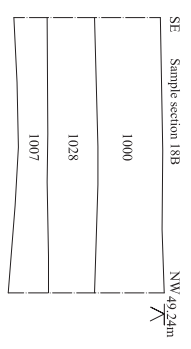
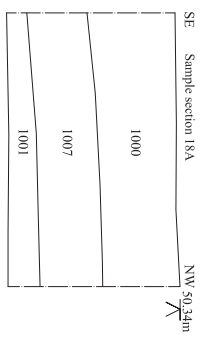
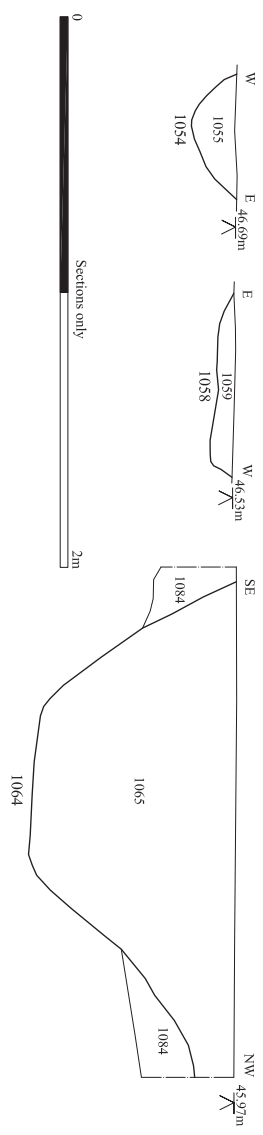
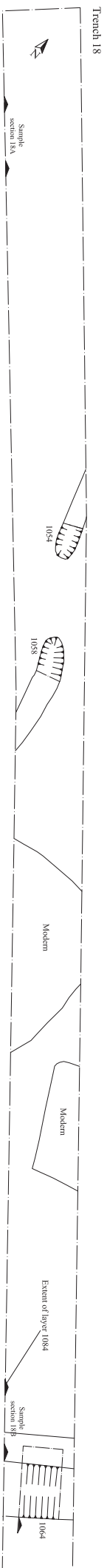


Sample section 13



Trench 16





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Fig. 7 Plan & sections
 Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3