

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**THE WHEATSHEAF PUBLIC HOUSE,  
125 GREAT NORTH ROAD, EATON SOCON,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION**

CHER NO. ECB3718

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NGR: TL 1692 5877	Report No: 4034
District: Cambridge	Site Code: AS1469
Approved: C Halpin	Project No: 4726
Signed:	Date: March 2012

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<b>OASIS SUMMARY SHEET</b>			
Project name	<i>The Wheatsheaf Public House, 125 Great North Road, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Excavation.</i>		
<p><i>In March 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation on land at the Wheatsheaf Public House, 125 Great North Road, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1692 5877). The excavation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising three houses, a bungalow, landscaping and ancillary works (Planning Ref No. 1101645FUL). It following an archaeological evaluation of the site carried out in February 2012 (Pozorski et al 2012).</i></p> <p><i>The results of the excavation are comparable to the results of the evaluation. Features were recorded in both areas (labelled A and B). The majority of features were post-medieval or modern and likely associated with the former public house. Three medieval features (Pit F1037 Tr.1, Pit F1015 Tr.2 and Pit F1010 Tr.3) and a residual medieval sherd (from Pit F1045 Tr.1) were recorded during the evaluation. The other half of F1010 (Tr. 3) was revealed during the excavation (F1025 Area B). And two medieval features (F2013 Area A and F2023 Area B) were recorded. The majority of the medieval features were pits. F1023 Area A was a gully. The number of pottery sherds found were small (1, 2 and 8 sherds) and associated finds comprise small quantities of CBM and sparse oyster shell. The density of post-medieval and modern features was not such (except within evaluation Trench 3) to have removed the medieval archaeology had it been present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>March 2012</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4726</i>	Site code	<i>AS1469</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Excavation</i>		
Site status	<i>St. Neots Conservation Area</i>		
Current land use	<i>Hard standing and gravel, formerly occupied by a public house</i>		
Planned development	<i>3 houses, a bungalow, landscaping and ancillary works</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>pits</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Medieval pottery</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Cambridge</i>	<i>St Neots</i>
HER for area	<i>Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.1480m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 1692 5877</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.18m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Stephen Quinn</i>		
Funded by	<i>Whitebarn Properties Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land At Wheatsheaf Public House, 125 Great North Road, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Stephen Quinn &amp; Megan Stoakley</i>		
Report Number	<i>4034</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>March 2012</i>		

**THE WHEATSHEAF PUBLIC HOUSE,  
125 GREAT NORTH ROAD, EATON SOCON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION**

**SUMMARY**

*In March 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation on land at the Wheatsheaf Public House, 125 Great North Road, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1692 5877). The excavation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising three houses, a bungalow, landscaping and ancillary works (Planning Ref No. 1101645FUL). It following an archaeological evaluation of the site carried out in February 2012 (Pozorski et al 2012).*

*The site lies in an area of archaeological potential on the western side of the historic route of the Great North Road, within the historic core of the settlement of Eaton Socon. It comprises the former Wheatsheaf PH, car park and garden. The site lies on deposits of Till, above the terrace of the river Great Ouse to the east, at a height of c.18m AOD.*

*The results of the excavation are comparable to the results of the evaluation. Features were recorded in both areas (labelled A and B). The majority of features were post-medieval or modern and likely associated with the former public house. Three medieval features (Pit F1037 Tr.1, Pit F1015 Tr.2 and Pit F1010 Tr.3) and a residual medieval sherd (from Pit F1045 Tr.1) were recorded during the evaluation. The other half of F1010 (Tr. 3) was revealed during the excavation (F1025 Area B). And two medieval features (F2013 Area A and F2023 Area B) were recorded. The majority of the medieval features were pits. F1023 Area A was a gully. The number of pottery sherds found were small (1, 2 and 8 sherds) and associated finds comprise small quantities of CBM and sparse oyster shell. The density of post-medieval and modern features was not such (except within evaluation Trench 3) to have removed the medieval archaeology had it been present.*

*The site lies within the historic core of the settlement of Eaton Socon. The 14<sup>th</sup> century parish church of St Mary is located to the north east (HER MCB486), and the immediate area also contains late medieval and early post-medieval buildings associated with the village core. The majority of the archaeological remains are post-medieval and modern, and likely relate to the former public house. The small number of medieval pits relate to the medieval settlement of Eaton Socon.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In March 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation on land at the Wheatsheaf Public House, 125 Great North Road, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1692 5877; Figs.1 - 2). The excavation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising three houses, a bungalow, landscaping and ancillary works (Planning Ref No. 1101645FUL). It

followed an archaeological evaluation of the site carried out in February 2012 (Pozorski *et al* 2012).

1.3 The excavation was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Dan McConnell of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 24<sup>n</sup> February 2012), and approved by CCC HET. The project adhered to appropriate sections of Gurney (2003) 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*, and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The primary objective was to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

#### *Planning policy context*

1.4 Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5; 2010) 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 site is situated in Eaton Socon, a small village located c.25km directly west of Cambridge. Eaton Socon is located on the south-eastern outskirts of the historic town of St Neots. Staploe is c.3km to the north-west, Wyboston c.2km to the south, Eynesbury c.1.5km to the east and Eaton Ford c.1.5km to the north. The River Ouse is situated c.400m to the east.

2.2 The site is located in the central section of Eaton Socon along the Great North Road. The A1 road runs north-south c.500m to the west of the site whilst the Ouse Valley Way is parallel to the A1 c.500m to the east of the site. The site is an irregular plot of land (c.1480m<sup>2</sup>) and comprises an area of hard-standing and tarmac mixed with patches of gravel and with an area of grass. The Wheatsheaf public house formerly comprised a rectangular building in the north-eastern corner of the site, and was demolished after it was put up for sale by the Charles Wells brewery in December 2010.

### **3 THE EVIDENCE**

#### **3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils**

3.1.1 The site is located at the base of a river valley at a height of c.18m. The river Ouse is situated c.400m to the east of the site and the valley rises to c.35m AOD to the west of the village.

3.1.2 The solid geology comprises River terrace deposits and marine gravels consisting of sand and gravel with subordinate silt and clays. These deposits are commonly shelly due to a marine origin. The soils of the surrounding area belong to the Efford 1 association, described as well-drained, fine, loamy soil associated with similar permeable soils affected by groundwater (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

#### **3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

##### *Medieval*

3.2.1 Archaeological remains of Saxon date comprise a series of pits (HER 18207) discovered during an archaeological evaluation at Alpha Park c.700m to the south of the site. The pits are possibly indicative of a sunken featured building. Twenty Saxon features (HER 19113) were recorded during excavations at Eynesbury located c.900m to the south-east of the site, including two sunken-featured buildings and pits, post-holes and gullies. Excavations to the north of the medieval hillfort The Hillings (HER 00374) c.420m to the north-east of the site revealed at least 40 Saxon burials and two substantial buildings (HER 00374a), possibly representing a Saxon settlement site of 9th century date (Addyman 1965). An archaeological evaluation carried out at River Mill c.400m to the east of the site revealed ditches containing St Neot's pottery of Saxo-Norman date (CB 15259).

3.2.2 There are two principal monuments within the environs of the site. The Hillings on Castle Hills (HER 00374, SAM 10009629) located c.420m to the north-east of the site is a large, defensive earthwork castle and ring ditch which overlies part of the late Saxon vill and deserted medieval village. A Norman castle was constructed in c.1180. Clay foundations and building material were discovered in the south ward. The complex is surrounded by two fosses encircled by an incomplete moat. St Marys Church (HER 00371, LB 1127971), located c.250m to the north-east of the site, and dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

3.2.3 Other medieval archaeological remains comprise an iron horse decoration (MCB 17754) discovered c.300m to the north of the site and an iron crucible (HER 09782) discovered c.250m to the north of the site. Ridge and furrow (HER 18772) is located c.240m to the east of the site.

##### *Cartographic Sources*

3.2.4 The 1799 Inclosure map depicts Eaton Socon as a ribbon development along the Great North Road with the village green and St. Mary's Church at its centre. On the western side of the village green and the road are several east-

west aligned plots of land, possibly the remnants of medieval land divisions. The site comprises the eastern end of one such plot (No.117), and is labelled as belonging to the Duke of Bedford.

3.2.5 The Ordnance Survey maps of 1892, 1927 and 1950 depict the development of the site and in Eaton Socon as relatively unchanged. The footprint of an L-shaped building recorded in 1799 has been reduced by 1892 to comprise a rectangular building. It corresponds with eastern end of the building the formed the modern Wheatsheaf Public House.

#### *Previous Investigation*

3.2.6 In February 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at the Wheatsheaf Public House (Pozorski *et al* 2012). It revealed three medieval features (Pit F1037 Tr.1, Pit F1015 Tr.2 and Pit F1010 Tr.3) and a residual medieval sherd (from Pit F1045 Tr.1) were recorded. The medieval features were all pits, and occurred within each trench. The number of pottery sherds found were small (2, 2 and 8 sherds) and associated finds comprise small quantities of CBM and sparse oyster shell. The majority of the archaeological remains are post-medieval and modern, and likely relate to the former public house. The small number of medieval pits relate to the medieval settlement of Eaton Socon.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

4.1 Two areas of proposed ground disturbance (the new dwelling footprints) were excavated according to the requirements of CCC HET, using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket 1.60m wide.

4.2 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a tracked mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a 1.60m 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

### Area A (Figs. 2 - 4)

#### Sample section:

<i>Sample Section A</i>		
<i>South facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 18.09m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.09m	L2002	Mid yellowish grey, firm, coarse gravel make-up layer with frequent CBM, tile and small angular stones.
0.09 – 0.15m	L2003	Mid greyish white, compact, fine gravel bedding layer with frequent small angular stones and flints.
0.15 – 0.55m	L2004	Greyish black, firm clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks and frequent CBM fragments.
0.55m+	L2018	Mid yellow orange, compact silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional small rounded stones.

*Description: Area A overlay the southern end of Trench 1 of the evaluation. The majority of excavated features were post-medieval / modern pits. Gully F2013 contained medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century) pottery.*

Pit F2006 was irregular in plan (0.96 x 0.69 x 0.15m). It had irregular sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L2007, was a mid grey brown, moderately compact, silty clay with occasional sub angular flints. It contained modern (19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (6g) and CBM (107g).

Pit F2008 was a large shallow pit, irregular in plan (1.90 x 1.40 x 0.06m). It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L2009, was a mid orange brown silty clay with occasional rounded gravel. It contained post-medieval / modern (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (107g), CBM (379g), iron fragments (151g) and glass (1g). It was cut by a modern drain.

Pit F2010 was irregular in plan (1.62 x 1.72 x 0.31m). It had gently sloping sides and an irregular concave base. Its fill, L2011, was a mid grey brown, moderately compact, silty clay with occasional sub angular flint. It contained post-medieval (15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (320g), CBM (264g), animal bone (397g), iron fragments (15g) and glass (18g).

Gully F2013 was linear (0.74 x 0.62 x 0.16m), orientated east/west. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L2014, was a mid orange, friable, clayey silt with moderate CBM flecks. It contained medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (1g) and CBM (4g). It was cut by Pit F2021.

Pit 2015 was oval (1.02 x 0.56 x 0.22m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L2016, was a dark brown, firm, silty clay with occasional rounded gravel. It contained residual medieval (14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (15g), post-medieval CBM (1303g) and animal bone (1g).



Ditch F2019 was linear (1.80+ x 0.60 x 0.40m), orientated north/south. It had irregular sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L2020, was a mid grey brown, moderately compact, silty clay with moderate CBM. It contained modern (19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (75g), CBM (435g) and a clay pipe fragment (2g).

Pit 2021 was oval (0.90 x 0.25 x 0.20m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L2012, was a dark orange brown, firm, clayey silt. It contained post-medieval finds.

Pit 2031 (= F1047 Tr.) was irregular in plan (0.90 x 0.34+ x 0.46m). It had steep sides and an irregular concave base. Its fill, L2032, was a mid grey brown, moderately compact, silty clay with occasional sub angular flint. It contained post-medieval/modern (mid 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (158g), CBM (965g) animal bone (265g) and iron fragments (29g).

## **Area B (Figs. 2 - 4)**

*Description: Area B overlay much of Trench 3 of the evaluation. The other half of Pit F1010 (Tr.3) was excavated and also another medieval pit (F1023).*

Pit F2023 was sub rectangular (1.56 x 0.76 x 0.14m). It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L2024, was a yellow brown, firm, silty clay with frequent small stones. It contained medieval (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (6g).

Pit F2025 (= F1010 Tr.3) was circular (1.38 x 0.38 x 0.07m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L2026, was a mid orange brown, firm, silty clay. It contained CBM (646g) and iron fragments (3g).

F2027 was a large circular pit (3.30 x 0.94 x 0.12m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L2028, was a mid orange brown, firm, silty clay with occasional rounded gravel. It contained animal bone (2g) and oyster shell (16g).

Pit F2029 was an irregular oval in plan (0.90 x 0.22 x 0.13m). It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L2030, was a mid orange brown, firm, silty clay with occasional rounded gravel. It contained late post-medieval / modern (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>) pottery (106g) and CBM (152g).

## **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 The stratigraphy comprised made ground deposits (0.65 – 1.04m deep) overlying a light yellow, compact, natural clay (L1004).

## 8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The archaeological features recorded during the evaluation and excavation are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot date
1	F1019	Post Hole	Post medieval/modern
	F1021	Pit	Post medieval/modern
	F1029	Animal burial	Modern
	F1037	Pit	Medieval (11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1045	Pit	Post-medieval/modern
	F1047	Pit	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1049	Pit	Post-medieval/modern
	2	F1015	Pit
F1017		Pit	Undated
F1023		Pit	Modern
3	F1005	Pit	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1007	Ditch or pit	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1010	Pit	Medieval (11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> /13 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1012	Service trench	Modern
Area A	F2006	Pit	19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C
	F2008	Pit	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	F2010	Pit	15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> C
	F2013	Gully	11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> C
	F2015	Pit	Post medieval
	F2019	Ditch	19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C
	F2021	Pit	Post medieval
	F2031 = F1045 (Tr.1)	Pit	Mid 17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
Area B	F2023	Pit	10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> C
	F2025 = F010 (Tr.3)	Pit	Medieval
	F2027	Pit	Undated
	F2029	Pit	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C

8.2 The results of the excavation are comparable to the results of the evaluation. Features were recorded in both areas (labelled A and B). The majority of features were post-medieval or modern and likely associated with the former public house.

8.3 Three medieval features (Pit F1037 Tr.1, Pit F1015 Tr.2 and Pit F1010 Tr.3) and a residual medieval sherd (from Pit F1045 Tr.1) were recorded during the evaluation. The other half of F1010 (Tr. 3) was revealed during the excavation (F1025 Area B). And two medieval features (F2013 Area A and F2023 Area B) were recorded. The majority of the medieval features were pits. F1023 Area A was a gully. The number of pottery sherds found were small (1, 2 and 8 sherds) and associated finds comprise small quantities of CBM and sparse oyster shell.

8.4 The density of post-medieval and modern features was not such (except within evaluation Trench 3) to have removed the medieval archaeology had it been present.

8.5 The site lies within the historic core of the settlement of Eaton Socon. The 14<sup>th</sup> century parish church of St Mary is located to the north east (HER MCB486), and the immediate area also contains late medieval and early post-medieval buildings associated with the village core. The majority of the archaeological

remains are post-medieval and modern, and likely relate to the former public house. The small number of medieval pits relate to the medieval settlement of Eaton Socon.

## **9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at Cambridgeshire County 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.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

AS is grateful to Whitebarn Properties Ltd for funding of the excavation, and Modplan Building & Refurbishment Contractors Ltd for their assistance.

AS also would like to thank staff at the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Record, for their assistance.

AS gratefully acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Daniel McConnell of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team

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**AS1469, The Wheatsh Heath PH, Eaton Socon, Phase 2**

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
2004		Dark Black Layer	Mid 17th-19th	(4) 312g	76	16	
2006	2007	Pit	19th-20th	(3) 6g	107		
2008	2009	Pit	18th-19th	(2) 107g	379		Fe. Frags - (3) 151g Glass - (1) 1g
2010	2011	Pit	15th-17th	(8) 320g	264	397	Fe. Frag - (1) 15g Glass - (1) 18g
2013	2014	Gully	11th-13th	(1) 1g	4		
2015	2016	Pit	14th+ (prob residual)	(3) 15g	1303	1	
2017		Dark Layer (Area A)	19th-20th	(14) 74g	201	62	Large Fe. Frag - (1) 2162g Fe Frags. - (3) 38g Clay Pipe - 17g Oyster Shell - 13g
2018		Orange Layer (Area A)	16th-17th	(1) 31g	83		Oyster Shell - 12g Mortar - 49g Clay Pipe - 5g
2019	2020	Ditch	19th -20th	(5) 75g	435		Clay Pipe - 2g
2023	2024	Pit	10th- 12th	(2) 6g			
2025	2026	Pit			646		Fe. Frag - (1) 3g
2027	2028	Pit				2	Oyster Shell - 16g
2029	2030	Pit	18th-19th	(4) 106g	152		
2031	2032	Pit	Mid 17th-19th	(5) 158g	965	265	Fe. Frags - (2) 29g
2038		Mid Orange Spread (Area B)	Mid 17th – 19th	(3) 286g	1665		Slate - 11g

## **APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS**

### **The Pottery**

*by Peter Thompson*

The excavation recovered 54 sherds weighing 1.278kg recovered from 8 features and 4 layers. The overall assemblage can be characterised as moderately to heavily abraded. Fifteen of the sherds are medieval, although most of them can be demonstrated to be residual in later contexts, with the majority (9) comprising locally made St Neots ware. This would suggest that medieval features have been disturbed by late post-medieval excavations.

Two features contained only early medieval pottery. Pit F2023 (L2024) contained two sherds of St Neots ware, and Gully F2013 contained a tiny sherd of early medieval sandy ware in fill L2014. Pit F2010 (L2011) contained 5 thick sherds of late medieval transitional or early post-medieval red earthenware with a thin glossy internal and external green glaze. Two residual St Neots ware base sherds, and a medieval limestone tempered green glazed sherd possibly a Lyveden type ware, were also present in the feature. Orange Spread L2018 in Area A also contained a similar glazed early post-medieval red earthenware body sherd.

Pit F2015 (L2016) contained 2 sherds of St Neots ware including a base fragment, along with a small semi-vitrified sherd or proto-stoneware which could be late medieval or early post-medieval in date. All of the pottery however, is likely to be residual. Dark Spread L2017 in Area A contained 13 sherds with all three of the Saxo-Norman wares represented; St Neots ware (2), Thetford ware (2) and Stamford ware (3) although they were residual. The sherds were associated with 5 sherds of post-medieval glazed red earthenware and a sherd of early modern to modern porcelain. Pit F2031 (L2032) contained a residual sherd of St Neots ware associated with a sherd of glazed post-medieval red earthenware.

Pit F2008 (L2009) contained a sherd of post-medieval red earthenware and a piece of early modern stoneware. Ditch F2019 (L2020) contained glazed post-medieval earthenware and early modern Yellow ware. Pit F2006 (L2007) contained 3 small fragments of early modern to modern factory made white earthenware. Pit F2029, Black Band L2004 and mid orange band L2038 from Area B contained only post-medieval glazed earthenwares.

### **KEY:**

SNEOT: St Neots ware 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

MSW: Medieval Sandy ware - 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

MLW: Unidentified medieval limestone tempered ware 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

PSTON: Proto-stoneware 14<sup>th</sup>+

EPMRE: Early post-medieval red earthenware late 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>

PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware late 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

PMBL: Post-medieval black earthenware 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

REFW: Refined factory made white earthenware late 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

YELL: Yellow ware 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

Feat.	Cont.	Type	Quantity	Date	Comment
2004		Black band	1x36g PMRE 2x75g PMBL	Mid 17 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>	
2006	2007	Pit	3x6g REFW	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	
2008	2009	Pit	1x90g PMRE 1x14g ENGS	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	
2010	2011	Pit	2x70g SNEOT 1x14g MLW 5x230g EPMRE	15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	SNEOT: x 2 bases MLW: Thick external green glaze with applied decorative clay lines
2013	2014	Gully	1x1g MSW	11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>	
2015	2016	Pit	2x13g SNEOT 1x2g PSTON	14 <sup>th</sup> + (prob residual)	SNEOT: x 1 base
2017		Dark spread	2x22g SNEOT 3x13g STAM 2x4g THET 4x25g PMRE 1x4g PMBL 1x1g ENPO	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	NEOT: thickened rim STAM: x1 glazed
2018		Orange spread	1x30g EPMRE	16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	
2019	2020	Ditch	3x13g YELL 1x46g PMRE 1x13g PMBL	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	
2023	2024	Pit	2x6g SNEOT	10 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	
2029	2030	Pit	4x103g PMRE	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	
2031	2032	Pit	1x15g SNEOT 5x153g PMRE	Mid 17 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>	PMRE: thickened, rounded dish rim
2038		Mid orange spread	3x279g PMRE	Mid 17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	PMRE: base to large vessel with internal glaze

## The Ceramic Building Materials

*Andrew Peachey*

The excavation recovered a total 86 fragments (6263g) of post-medieval CBM from discrete archaeological features or layers, with a further three complete bricks (8892g) sampled from an extant masonry structure. The CBM is generally contained in a fragmentary, slightly abraded condition in pit features and layers, and does not include any significant concentrations. It is dominated by peg tile and wall brick (Table 1), but also includes flooring brick, ridge tile and a single fragment of glazed floor tile. The form types present suggest that the CBM was manufactured between the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, probably to form part of structures that previously occupied the site. A single fragment (646g) of modern brick was also contained in Pit F2025 (L2026).

CBM type	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Peg Tile	43	1435
Ridge Tile	1	22
Post-medieval Wall Brick	37	11588
Flooring Brick	6	1421
Floor Tile	1	43
Modern Brick	1	646
<i>Total</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>15155</i>

Table 1: Quantification of CBM form types in the assemblage.

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight (g) with fabric types and any extant dimensions or characteristics also recorded. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

### *The CBM Fabrics*

The CBM occurred in three fabrics, all of which would have been produced locally in the Eaton Socon and St. Neots region, exploiting local clay resources.

- Fabric 1: Oxidised red-orange throughout with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.25mm), common calcareous grains/voids (0.1-3mm, occasionally larger) and occasional red iron rich grains (0.5-3mm, occasionally larger). Accounts for 43.2% of the assemblage by fragment count (16.5% by weight), with the fragment count heavily biased by the presence of common small peg tile fragments.
- Fabric 2: Pale yellow-brown to cream throughout with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.25mm), common calcareous grains/voids (0.1-3mm, occasionally larger) and occasional red/black iron rich grains (0.5-3mm, occasionally larger). Accounts for 11.4% of the assemblage by fragment count (11.6% by weight).
- Fabric 3: Oxidised red-orange throughout with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.5mm), sparse flint and iron rich grains (0.25-3mm, occasionally larger). Accounts for 45.5% of the assemblage by fragment count (71.9% by weight), with the weight heavily biased by the presence of complete (sampled) bricks.

### *The CBM Forms*

The most common CBM form type by fragment count in the assemblage is peg tile in Fabrics 1, 2 and 3 used in the construction of post-medieval roofs. Peg tile is near ubiquitous in the excavated features, but is limited to low quantities of relatively small fragments. Peg tile fragments were included in the CBM contained in Pits F2006, F2008, F2010, F2031, Layers L2004, L2017, L2038, Ditch F2019 and Gully F2013. Previous evaluation excavations on this site also recorded common fragments of peg tile, notably including concentrations contained in Pits F1023 and Layer L1003 (Peachey 2012). These concentrations demonstrated that the peg tile on the site had complete dimensions of 270x155-160x12-14mm with a sanded base and two circular or diamond shaped holes (10mm wide) located at one end of the tile. If the peg holes were circular then they were often counter-sunk on one side and exhibited a radial impression (30mm wide) where a tool was used to pierce the tile as it was drying. Diamond shaped peg holes were less regular and appear to have been cut with a knife as the tiles were drying. In addition to the peg roof tile, a single small fragment of Fabric 1 ridge tile, used to cap the crest of a peg tile roof, was contained in Pit F2031.

Excluding the modern brick contained in Pit F2025, the wall brick was limited to a single type of post-medieval red brick, including three samples taken from extant Wall S2033. The three sampled bricks from Wall S2033 have complete dimensions of 220x100x60mm (weight: c.2965g) with a slightly rough flat base, sharp slightly irregular arrises, and smooth to slightly irregular faces. The remaining fragments in the assemblage are consistent with this type, where extant dimensions or characteristics could be recorded. The three samples from Wall S2033 are all in Fabric 3 with further Fabric 3 brick fragments contained in Pits F2006, F2008, 2029, F2031 and Layer L2018. However fragments from this type of brick in Fabric 1 also occurred contained in Pits F2010 and F2015. Although no concentrations of brick were recorded in the excavation, the previous evaluation of the site recorded a small concentration of 13 fragments (4146g) of comparable Fabric 3 brick (Peachey 2012).

The flooring brick in the assemblage only occurs in Fabric 2 and typically occurs as modest to large fragments, though none are complete. Fragments contained in Pit F2031, Ditch F2019 and Layer L2038 exhibit a thickness of 40mm. The previous evaluation of the site recorded flooring brick fragments with partial dimensions of ?x100-110x30-40mm and upper surfaces that had been worn smooth, including a small concentration of 4 flooring brick fragments (3067g) contained in Pit F1005 (L1006) (Peachey 2012).

The remaining type of CBM in the assemblage comprises glazed floor tile, represented by a single fragment (43g) contained in Layer L2004. The floor tile occurs in Fabric 3 and is 16mm thick with a dark green lead glaze over a cream slip on the upper surface. Plain glazed floor tiles such as this were in use throughout the post-medieval period and are difficult to date.



## *Conclusion*

The CBM in this assemblage represents a homogenous group that is consistent with material recorded during a previous archaeological evaluation on the site (Peachey 2012). The CBM is almost certainly derived from structures that previously occupied the site, notably represented by the bricks samples from Wall S2033. The predominance of peg tile and brick suggest this was a structure that incorporated significant ceramic roof and wall components, with the form CBM types present suggesting the building was constructed between the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The presence of cream flooring bricks and a single glazed floor tile also suggests the CBM formed part a degree of aesthetic decoration incorporated into the interior of the building. However the lack of any significant demolition deposits in the assemblage suggests that either the CBM from the structure was recycled or removed, that the structure was only partially constructed using CBM, or that the CBM represents only the debris from post-medieval renovation and the bulk of the building remained until modern demolition.

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## **Animal Bone**

*Dr Julia E. M. Cussans*

A very small assemblage of 44 animal bones was recovered from six contexts during the Phase II stage of excavation. The contexts included four pit fills (L2011, L2016, L2028 & L2032) and two dark spreads or layers (F2004 & F2017). The bone preservation was mostly rated as ok to good, with one context (L2032, Pit F2031) being rated as excellent. A few of the bones had been subject to dog gnawing, abrasion and fresh breaks.

Species present, in order of abundance were sheep/goat, cattle, dog, horse and pig. A number of the bones were only identified as large (LTM - cattle or horse sized) or medium (MTM - sheep, pig, dog sized) terrestrial mammal. The largest group of these was 14 MTM bones from L2032 all of which were ribs and vertebrae and most likely belonged with the dog bones from within this context. The identified dog bones included femur, pelvis and sacrum, and together with the ribs and vertebrae may have been partially articulated remains when deposited. These dog remains were from a separate deposit to the two partially articulated dogs recovered from the Phase I trial trenches (Cussans 2012). Butchery marks were fairly common and were noted on sheep/goat, pig, dog and LTM bones, and included both chop and cut marks.

Very few ageable bones or teeth were present with the exception of a single neonate sheep/goat scapula. A small number of measurable bones were

present; no pathologies were noted. Overall this assemblage was not dissimilar to that recovered during the trial trenching (Cussans 2012).

Feature	Context	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	LTM	MTM	Total
2004	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
2010	2011	1	3	1	2	-	5	3	15
2015	2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
2027	2028	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
2031	2032	1	3	-	-	4	1	14	23
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>44</b>

Table 2. Species presence and abundance.

#### *Reference*

Cussans, J. E. 2012, 'The Animal Bone Report', in Pozorski, Z. and Stoakley, M. *Land at Wheatsheaf Public House, 125 Great North Road, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire: An archaeological evaluation*, Archaeological Solutions Report No. 4016.

## **Environmental Samples**

*Dr John Summers*

### **Introduction**

During the excavation seven bulk soil samples were taken for environmental archaeological assessment and processed by water flotation. Samples ranged from 10 to 20 litres, in line with AS sampling guidelines for trial trench excavations. This report details the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions.

### **Methodology**

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 scanned under a low power stereo microscope (x10-x30 magnification). Due to the low density of charred plant macrofossils, these remains were fully quantified during the assessment. Other plant and molluscan remains were recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant).

Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979) and a reference collection of modern seeds was 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 results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions are detailed in Table 3. Nomenclature for cereals follows Zohary and Hopf (2000) and that of other herbaceous taxa follows Stace (1997). Nomenclature for mollusca is based on Kerney and Cameron (1979). Table 3 displays the results from the assessment of all seven samples but only deposits spot-dated to the medieval period (L2011, L2014, L2016 and L2024) are discussed below.

### *Carbonised plant macrofossils*

The range of cereals in the medieval deposits is restricted to free-threshing type wheat (*T. aestivum/ compactum* type) and hulled barley (*H. vulgare*). Although no asymmetric barley grains were recorded, the absence of rachis segments and the small size of the assemblage makes it impossible to determine whether a two- or six-row variety was used. Two pea/ bean (large Fabaceae indet.) seeds were present in sample 3 (L2011), which probably represent celtic/ field bean (*Vicia faba*) or common pea (*Pisum sativum*) (e.g. Straker *et al.* 2007).

Wild plant taxa were limited to sample 3 (L2011) and were composed of likely arable weeds. The three taxa present were vetch/ wild pea (*Vicia/ Lathyrus* sp.), stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and wild grasses (Poaceae indet.). Stinking chamomile is characteristic of heavier soils (Stace 1997, 733) and may be associated with free-threshing wheat, which is well suited to such conditions (Moffett 2006).

### *Charcoal*

Very small amounts of charcoal were present in sample 5 of L2016 (F2015). This was insufficient for further investigation. As in the samples from the first phase of excavation at the Wheatsheaf, fragments of coal and fuel ash slag show that more than just wood was burnt as fuel.

### *Mollusca*

The range of mollusc shells was limited, with the majority only identified to family level as Helicidae. These and *Vallonia pulchella* are predominantly open-country taxa and probably reflect the open nature of the site. A small number of shade-loving taxa (Zonitidae indet.) were also present.

### *Modern contaminants*

Modern contamination in the form of modern roots, seeds and burrowing molluscs (*Cecilioides acicula*) was noted in the majority of samples. However, the concentrations were low and are unlikely to reflect extensive disturbance of the deposits through bioturbation.

### **Discussion**

The carbonised plant remains from the 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century deposits (L2014 and L2024) are sparse and indicate only the use of free-threshing type wheat (*T. aestivum/ compactum*). This material is supplemented by remains from the evaluation (Summers 2012), from which the 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century context L1011 contained specimens of free-threshing type wheat, hulled barley, oat and possible pea. This sample was richer than those of comparable age from the second phase of excavation and is likely to indicate the use of a range of cereal and pulse crops at the site during this time. This range of crops is comparable to other medieval charred macrofossil assemblages (e.g. Ballantyne 2005; Straker *et al.* 2007). The samples are too small to evaluate whether the inhabitants of the site at this time were engaged in crop husbandry and processing.

The remains in sample 3 from 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century pit fill L2011 (F2010) represent a similar range of cereal and pulse crops. The inclusion of some arable weeds may indicate the presence of semi-cleaned grain product or some processing debris. However, the assemblage is too small to investigate this issue further. Stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) was a problematic weed in the medieval period, which could cause blistering to the skin during harvesting (Straker *et al.* 2007, 885).

### **Conclusion**

The density of material within the bulk sample light fractions was generally low. The carbonised cereals, pulses and associated weeds most likely represent small amounts of carbonised debris from nearby occupation scattered across the site, which became incorporated into the sampled deposits. The slightly higher diversity and concentration of remains in 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century pit fill L2011 (F2010) may reflect the use of the feature for refuse disposal.

In combination with the material from the evaluation, it is possible to hypothesise local cultivation of free-threshing type wheat, hulled barley and pulses (possibly common pea). However, it is not possible to determine whether the people using the site excavated at the Wheatsheaf were actively engaged in such practices.

Due to the low densities of carbonised plant macrofossils from the excavated features, no further analysis of the archaeobotanical assemblage is recommended.

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Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Feature type	Spot date	Volume (litres)	Cereals		Non-cereal taxa		Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants		Other remains
							Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Grain preservation	Seeds	Notes	Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	
AS1469	1	2008	2009	Pit	18th-19th century	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	XX	X	X	Coal
AS1469	3	2011	2010	Pit	15th-17th century	20	XX	HB (1), FTW (2), Trit (6), NFI (7)	5	X	-	-	X	XX	X	X	Coal, fuel ash slag, indet. vitrified bubbled material
AS1469	4	2014	2013	Gully	11th-13th century	10	X	FTW (1), Trit (1)	5	-	-	-	X	XXX	X	X	
AS1469	5	2016	2015	Pit	14th century +	10	X	HB (1), NFI (1)	5	-	X	-	XX	XX	X	X	
AS1469	6	2017	-	Spread	19th-20th century	20	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	X	X	-	Coal
AS1469	7	2022	2021	Pit	Undated	10	X	cf. Rye (1), NFI (1), Frag (X)	5	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	Coal
AS1469	8	2024	2023	Pit	10th-12th century	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	Coal

Table 3: Data from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Phase 2 of excavations on land at the Wheatsheaf public house, Eaton Socon. Abbreviations: HB (hulled barley – *H. vulgare*); FTW (free-threshing type wheat – *T. aestivum* type); Rye (*Secale cereale*)



1  
Area A. Sample section A. Looking north.



2  
Area A. Pit F2010. Looking south.



3  
Area A. Gully F2013 and Pit F2015. Looking southeast.



4  
Area A. Gully F2013 and Pit F202. Looking northwest.



5  
Area A. Ditch F2019. Looking south.



6  
Area A. Pit F2031 (=F1045 Tr.1). Looking south.



7  
Area B. Sample section. Looking west.



8  
Area B. Pit F2023. Looking east.

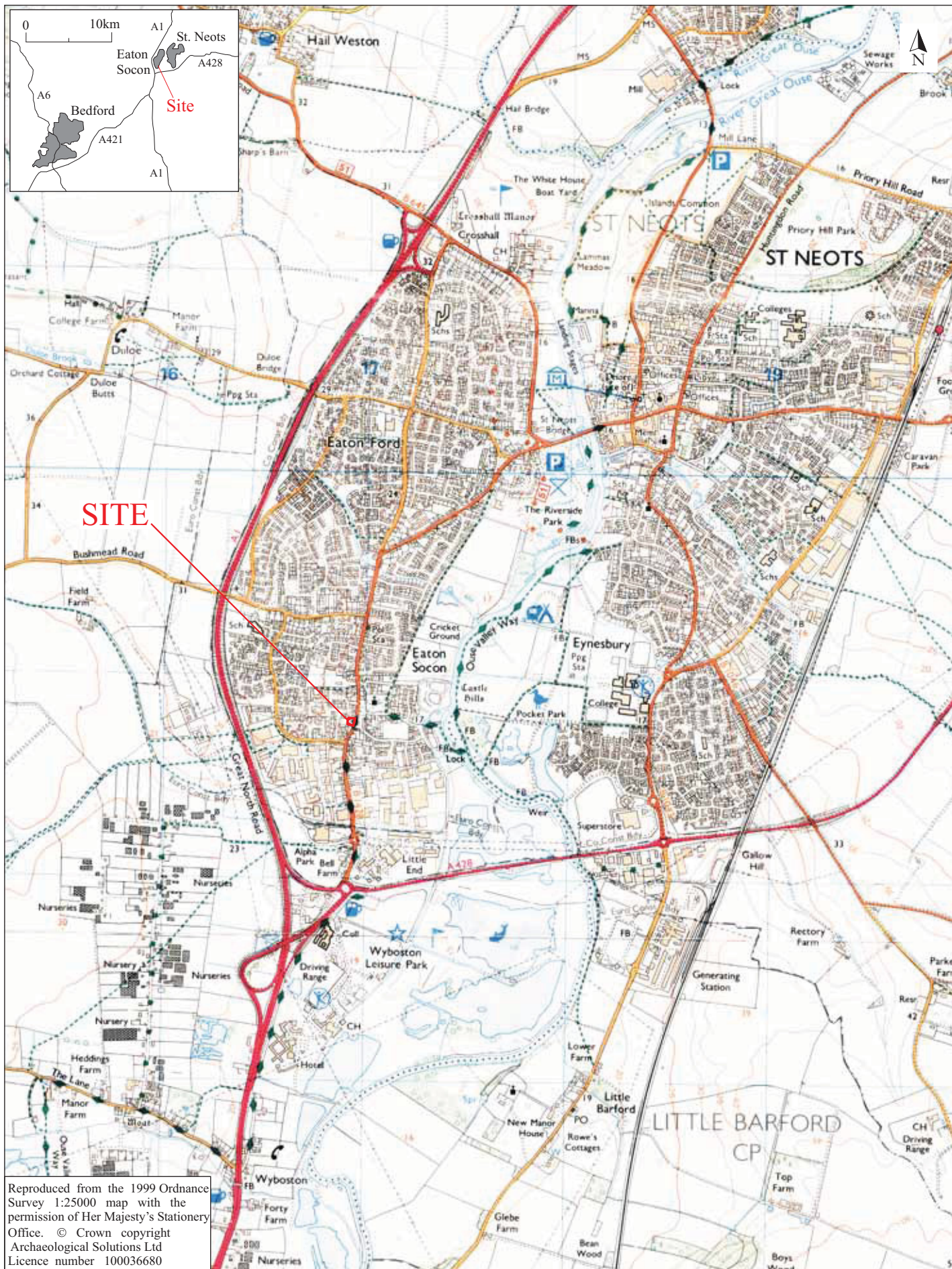


9  
Area B. Pit F2025. Looking north.



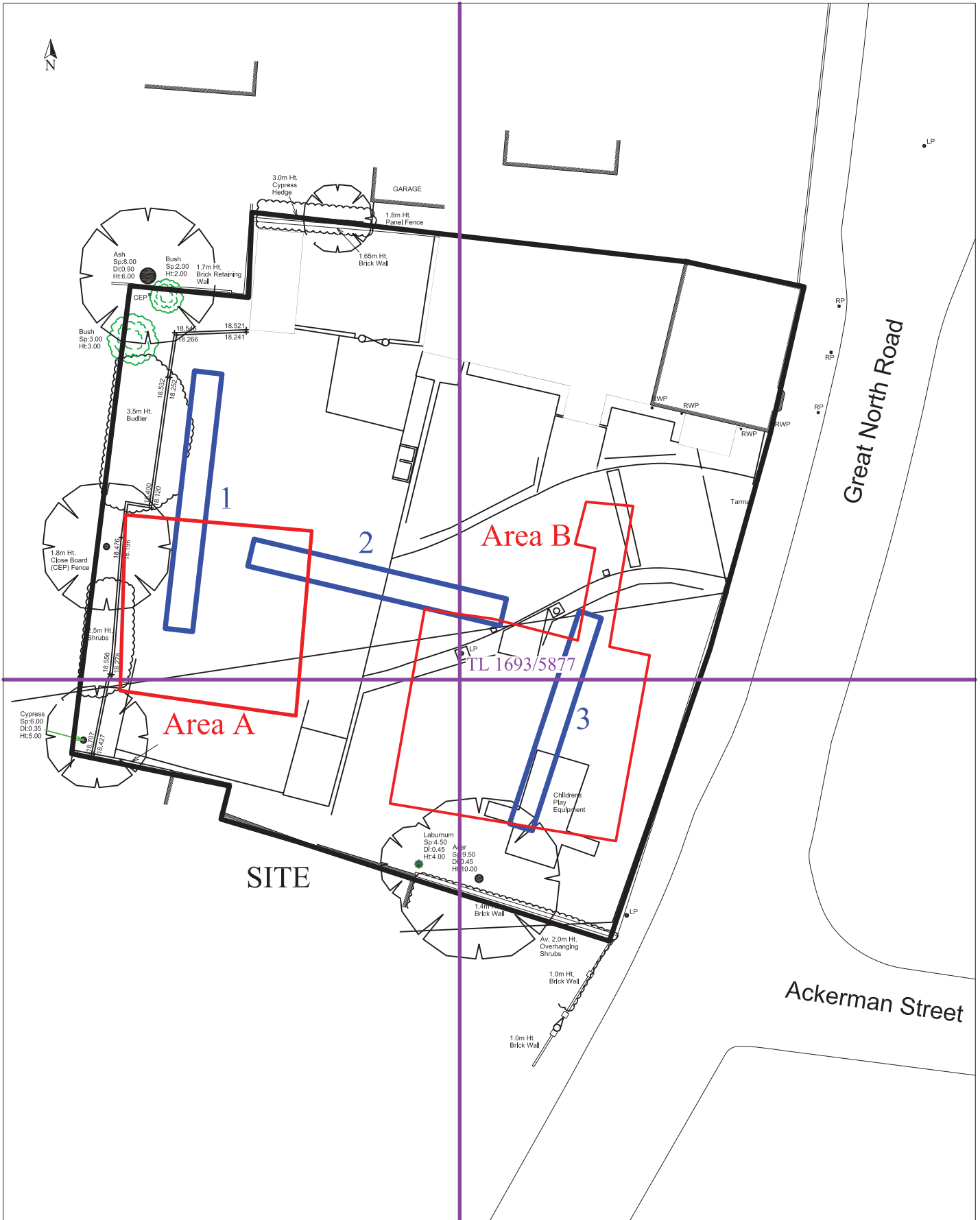
10  
Area B. Pit F2027. Looking east.



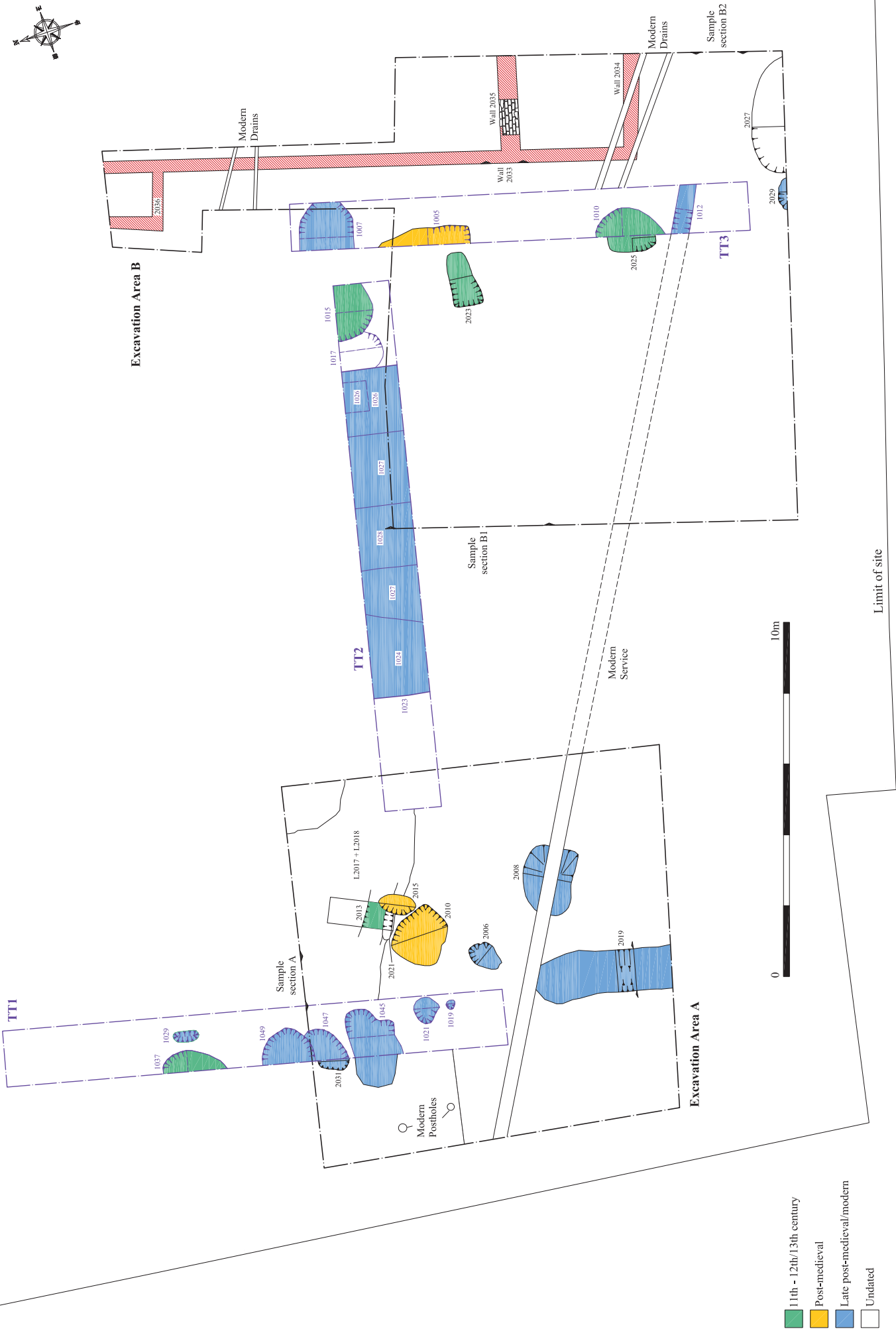


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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

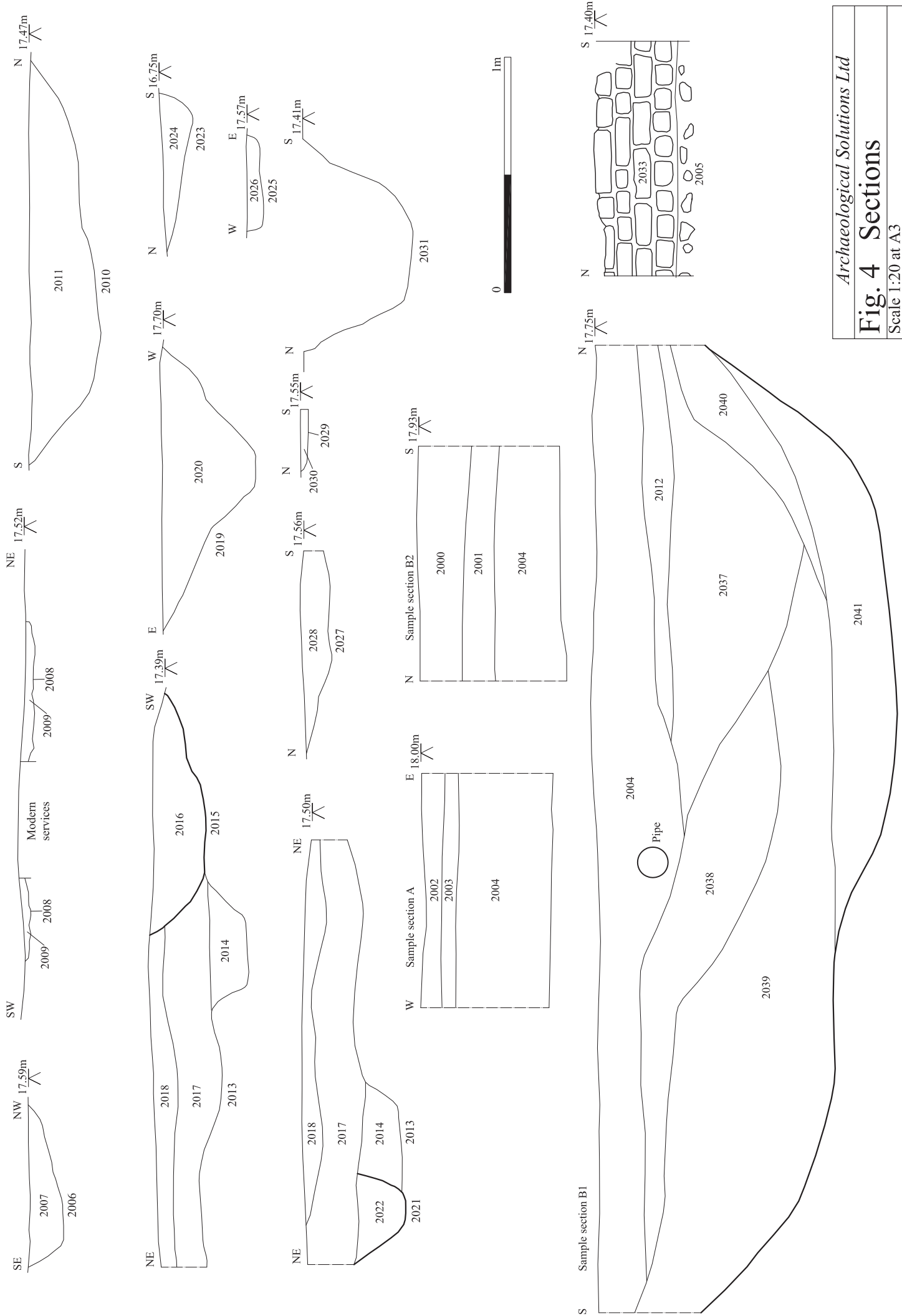


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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:300 at A4



- 11th - 12th/13th century
- Post-medieval
- Late post-medieval/modern
- Undated

Limit of site



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**Fig. 4 Sections**  
 Scale 1:20 at A3