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**LAND REAR OF 7B WILBURTON ROAD, STRETHAM,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER NO. ECB. 3928

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NGR: TL 5106 7450	Report No: 4271	
District: East Cambs	Site Code: AS	
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	<i>Land Rear of 7B Wilburton Road, Stretham, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation.</i>		
<p><i>In March 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of 7B Wilburton Road, Stretham, Cambridgeshire (TL 5106 7450). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a new residential development of eight dwellings. It was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, as a condition of planning permission (East Cambs. DC Ref. 12/00551/FUL).</i></p> <p><i>During the evaluation features were recorded in Trenches 1 and 3 but not in Trench 2 (the central area of the site). Trench 1 (the northern area of the site) and 3 (the southern area of the site) contained three features each. The majority of the features were pits (F1009 and F1011 (Tr.1) and F1005 and F1007 (Tr.3). A pit or ditch terminus (F1013 Tr.1) and a ditch terminus (F1003 Tr.3) were recorded. The dating evidence was sparse (between 1 and 3 sherds) and the features ranged in date from medieval (13th – 14th century; Pit F1009), to late medieval (late 14th – early 16th century; F1005 Trench 3) and modern (late 18th – early 20th century; F1007 Trench 3).</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>March 2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>No</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>5225</i>	Site code	<i>AS</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use			
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Pits, ditches</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Medieval (13th – 14th C), late medieval (late 14th – early 16th C)</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>East Cambs</i>	<i>Stretham</i>
HER for area	<i>Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 1800m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 5106 7450</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>5.71m - 6.84m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr John Lee</i>		
Full title	<i>Land Rear of 7B Wilburton Road, Stretham, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Gorniak, M. and Thompson, P.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4271</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>March 2013 (Revised 14/05/2013)</i>		

LAND REAR OF 7B WILBURTON ROAD, STRETHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In March 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of 7B Wilburton Road, Stretham, Cambridgeshire (TL 5106 7450). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a new residential development of eight dwellings. It was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, as a condition of planning permission (East Cambs. DC Ref. 12/00551/FUL).

The site lies within an area that has revealed medieval activity. Archaeological investigations to the immediate east at Stretham Rectory in the early 1990s revealed early to late medieval remains, likely associated with an early manorial site. The remains included structures, and it is possible that these extend into the current development site. The earlier investigations are recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER MCB11681, MCB17659, MCB12095 and MCB17658).

During the evaluation features were recorded in Trenches 1 and 3 but not in Trench 2 (the central area of the site). Trench 1 (the northern area of the site) and 3 (the southern area of the site) contained three features each. The majority of the features were pits (F1009 and F1011 (Tr.1) and F1005 and F1007 (Tr.3). A pit or ditch terminus (F1013 Tr.1) and a ditch terminus (F1003 Tr.3) were recorded. The dating evidence was sparse (between 1 and 3 sherds) and the features ranged in date from medieval (13th – 14th century; Pit F1009), to late medieval (late 14th – early 16th century; F1005 Trench 3) and modern (late 18th – early 20th century; F1007 Trench 3).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of 7B Wilburton Road, Stretham, Cambridgeshire (TL 5106 7450; Figs. 1 and 2). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a new residential development of eight dwellings. It was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, as a requirement of planning permission (East Cambs DC Ref. 12/00551/FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (26 February 2013), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 26 February 2013) 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 Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The 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. In addition it was hoped to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF 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. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 and 2)

2.1 The site is located in the western part of the village of Stretham, south of Ely, and lies to the rear of properties fronting the northern side of Wilburton Lane. It comprises a field of some 1800m².

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated on a boulder clay (middle Pleistocene till) ridge sitting on belt of mainly Jurassic Kimmeridge Clays, the site lies at c.6.50m AOD. The village area is surrounded by fen deposits.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 In 1086 Stretham was assessed at 5 hides; three of these comprising 4 ploughlands, were in demesne. Another 5 ploughlands were divided between 23 villeins, 12 of whom had 10 acres each while the remainder shared 1 hide. There were also 10 cottars and 2 serfs. Besides the usual meadows and pastures, there were fisheries producing 3,250 eels and 7s. 7d. in tribute. The estate, which had always been part of the demesne of the church of Ely, had been worth £6 when received pre-Conquest and was £9 by 1086. Stretham became a small episcopal manor in 1109 (Pugh et al 2002). It was a typical medieval village of the Isle of Ely but it may have had more affluence than some, as it possessed three guilds and a fine cross (CHER 07122), and its spire had the uncommon luxury of a being constructed in stone (Pugh et al 2002).

4.2 The Grade II* listed parish church of St James is located 75m north-east of the site (CHER 07114). It contains a 14th century west tower and north nave arcade, but was extensively rebuilt in 1868 (www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk). The inner wall of the South Porch includes a fragment of an Anglo-Saxon grave cover (CHER 07114a). The extant Grade II* Stretham Rectory (now redundant), located just to the south of the church, may also be of medieval origin although the existing building is mainly late 17th/ early 18th and later 18th century in date, built in coursed clunch and reused limestone (www.britishbuildings.co.uk).

4.3 In 1988 a trial excavation was carried out in the garden of Stretham Rectory, centred on a point some 45m east of the current site (CHER 09833). Work revealed two substantial parallel wall foundations with features in between including pits, a well and a possible floor. Medieval pottery was recovered from a sealed context. A second excavation in 1990 identified the building as measuring 9 x 11m with 1m thick walls; a second, rectangular building overlay these earlier elements. Fourteenth century stonework in the existing rectory and its rockery probably came from one of these buildings. The first building is thought to be an ecclesiastical tower house for the incumbent from Ely at a time of insecurity in the Fens. By the 14th century it was replaced by a rectangular ashlar faced parsonage, portions of which survive in the present rectory. Most of the pottery recovered was of Saxo-Norman date and nearly all of it was pre-13th century. A number of medieval dressed limestone fragments, including columns and window tracery have been identified in the rectory grounds including between the excavations and the site (CHER MCB17659). A book clasp was also found in the grounds during metal detecting (CHER MCB 17658).

4.4 In 1991 another excavation was carried out bordering the site in the orchard area of Stretham Rectory in advance of possible re-development of the land (CHER 10199). The central part of the orchard contained early medieval ditches, postholes and other features relating to a domestic complex. No late medieval finds were present, but some prehistoric, Roman and Saxo-Norman pottery was also recovered.

4.5 The first edition (1886) OS map shows the site open as it is today. The rectory and its grounds, including orchard and tree lined field plots, is present to the east, and there are buildings to the south (Fig. 3). The 1901 OS map shows no change to the site (Fig. 4). However, an earlier building bordering the south of the site had been removed by this and the field boundaries to the east are no longer present (or are not shown). The 1925 OS map shows a small sub-elliptical enclosure on the site (Fig. 5), which is missing from the 1950 OS map (Fig. 6). Otherwise there is no change to the site.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Three trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trench locations were approved by CCC HET.

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 180° back acting mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.60m wide 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.

6 RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 and 7)

<i>Sample section: west end, south facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 6.47m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. Very dark brownish grey, sandy clay with moderate flint nodules and sparse chalk fragments.
0.33 – 0.50m	L1016	Subsoil. Dark brownish grey, sandy clay with sparse moderate flint nodules and sparse chalk fragments.
0.50m+	L1015	Natural. Light yellowish brown clayey sand with sparse flint nodules.

<i>Sample section: east end, north facing</i> 0.00 = 6.55m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.33 – 0.40m	L1016	Subsoil. As above.
0.40m+	L1015	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained two pits (F1009 and F1011) and a ?ditch terminus (1013). F1009 contained medieval (13th – 14th century pottery. Two natural features were investigated.

Pit F1009 was sub circular in plan (1.05+ x 0.90 x 0.30m). It had steep sides and a slightly undulating base. Its fill, L1010, was a very dark brownish grey, firm, sandy clay with sparse flint gravel. It contained medieval (13th – 14th century) pottery (22g).

Pit F1011 was rectangular in plan (1.50+ x 1.14+ x 0.26m). It had vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1012, was a very dark brownish grey, firm, sandy clay with sparse flint gravel and charcoal. It contained no finds.

Pit/ ditch terminus F1013 was oval (2.00 x 0.98+ x 0.20m). It had gently sloping sides and a slightly irregularly flattish base. Its fill, L1012, was a very dark brownish grey, firm, sandy clay with sparse flint gravel and charcoal. It contained no finds.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section: east end, north facing</i> 0.00 = 5.81m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1001	Made Ground. Dark greyish brown sandy clay with patches of grey clay with frequent modern CBM, wood fragments, angular flint nodules.
0.28 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.40 – 0.47m	L1016	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.47m+	L1002	Natural. Grey clay with chalk fragments.

<i>Sample section: east end, north facing</i> 0.00 = 5.84m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1001	As above.
0.23 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.40 – 0.57m	L1016	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.57m+	L1002	As above.

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds..

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 and 7)

<i>Sample section: east end, north facing</i> <i>0.00 = 5.71m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1001	Made Ground. As above Tr.2.
0.31 – 0.47m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.47 – 0.53m	L1016	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.53m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.2.

<i>Sample section: west end, south facing</i> <i>0.00 = 5.79m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1001	Made Ground. As above Tr.2.
0.29 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.41 – 0.45m	L1016	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.45m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.2.

Description: Trench 3 contained two pits (F1005, and F 1007). F1003 was a ditch terminus. F1005 contained late medieval (late 14th – early 16th century) pottery and F1007 contained modern (late 18th – early 20th century) pottery.

Ditch terminus F1003 was linear in plan (1.30+ x 0.50 x 0.16m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Its fill, L1004, was a dark yellowish brown, firm, sandy clay with very sparse flint gravel and occasional flecks of charcoal. It no finds.

Pit F1005 was sub-circular (1.50+ x 1.14+ x 0.26m). It had a steep side and a concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a dark yellowish brow, firm, sandy clay with occasional charcoal fragments. It contained two sherds of late medieval (late 14th – early 16th century) pottery (126g).

Pit F1007 was oval in plan (0.800 x 0.60+ x 0.14m). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a very dark grey brownish grey, firm, slightly sandy clay with sparse flint gravel and chalk fragments. It contained modern (late 18th – early 20th century) pottery (4g), modern CBM and animal bone (7g).

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds present.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Made Ground L1001 was the uppermost material in the southern part of the site – it did not extend across Trench 1 – comprising a dark greyish brown

sandy clay with patches of grey clay, containing frequent fragments of modern building materials, wood fragments, and angular flint modules (0.23-0.31 m thick). In the southern part of the site L1001 overlay Topsoil L1000. In the northern part of the site Topsoil L1000 was the uppermost layer. It comprised a very dark brownish grey, sandy clay with moderate flint nodules and sparse chalk fragments (0.28 – 33m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1016, a dark brownish grey, sandy clay with sparse - moderate flint nodules (0.04 – 0.17m thick). Subsoil L1016 sealed the natural layers: L1002 and L1015. L1002 was a grey, compact clay with chalk fragments. It was present in Trenches 3 and 1. L1015 was a light yellowish brown, firm, clayey sand with sparse flint nodules. It was present in Trench 1 and in the easternmost part of Trench 3.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The excavated features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	1009	Pit	Medieval (13 th – 14 th century)
	1011	Pit	Undated
	1013	Pit/Ditch terminus	Undated
3	1003	Ditch terminus	Undated
	1005	Pit	Late medieval (late 14 th – early 16 th century)
	1007	Pit	Modern (late 18 th – early 20 th century)

9.2 The site lies within an area of known medieval activity. Archaeological investigations to the immediate east at Stretham Rectory in the early 1990s revealed early to late medieval remains, likely associated with an early manorial site. The remains included structures, and it is possible that associated remains extend into the current development site. The earlier investigations are recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER MCB11681, MCB17659, MCB12095 and MCB17658).

9.3 Features were recorded in Trenches 1 and 3 but not in Trench 2 (the central area of the site). Trench 1 (the northern area of the site) and 3 (the southern area of the site) contained three features each.

9.4 The majority of the features were pits (F1009 and F1011 (Tr.1) and F1005 and F1007 (Tr.3). A pit or ditch terminus (F1013 Tr.1) and a ditch terminus (F1003 Tr.3) were recorded. The dating evidence was sparse (between 1 and 3 sherds) and the features ranged in date from medieval (13th – 14th century; Pit F1009), to late medieval (late 14th – early 16th century; F1005 Trench 3) and modern (late 18th – early 20th century; F1007 Trench 3)

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 Unlike earlier archaeological investigations to the immediate east of the site (at Stretham Rectory; CHER 09833) this evaluation did not reveal medieval structural remains. However, sparse datable material recovered from two of the six identified features does attest to activity on the site between the 13th and 16th centuries. It is possible that these features were related, either directly or indirectly, to concurrent medieval activity at the Rectory site.

10.2 The modern transfer-printed sherd from Pit F1007 (Tr. 3) is most probably the result of discard from nearby buildings depicted on the early cartographic sources (Figs. 3-6). However, the close proximity of F1007 to medieval Pit F1005 (Fig. 7) raises the possibility that the later sherd represents intrusive material.

11 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

11.1 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

Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) would like to thank Mr John Lee of Hurst Farm for funding the archaeological evaluation and for his kind assistance.

AS would also like to thank Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for providing the HER information.

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

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Websites

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

<http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk>

APPENDIX 1 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Fig.	Map	Date	Scale	Reference
3	OS map first edition	1886	1:2,500	30.9
4	OS map second edition	1901	1:2,500	30.9
5	OS map	1925	1:2,500	30.9
6	OS map	1950	1:10,560	30.S.W

APPENDIX 2 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

AS1567, P5225, Wilburton Rd, Stretham, Cambs

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1005	1006		3	Fill of Pit	Late 14 th -early 16 th	(2) 126g			
1007	1008		3	Fill of Pit	Late 18 th -early 20 th	(1) 4g	1190	7	Fe. Frag (1) - 12g Claypipe (1) - 5g Slag - 10g
1009	1010		2	Fill of Pit	13 th - 14 th	(3) 22g			

APPENDIX 3 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson MA

The evaluation recovered five sherds weighing 135g from three pits which are quantified in Table 1. Pit F1009 (L1010) yielded a sherd of medieval Ely ware containing quartz and rounded chalk with external splashed green glaze. It was accompanied by a medieval sandy ware neck and body sherd from a small round shouldered jar with black surfaces and a red-brown core. These sherds would fit a late 12th -14th century date.

The two sherds from Pit F1005 (L1006) look to be later in date. A large fragment of narrow base, almost a pedestal type, with cheese wire marks beneath is a medieval sandy orange ware with pale orange surfaces and pale grey core. The inner surface contains girth grooves and the vessel was probably a drinking jug or similar vessel. Medieval sandy orange wares were present at Denny Abbey to the south and The White Hart, Ely to the north appearing in contexts of early 14th to mid 16th centuries dates (Coppack 1980; Ratkai 1993). The base was accompanied by a thick sandwich fired body sherd with grey surfaces, pale grey core and orange-brown margins between. The fabric is similar to the sandy orange ware but coarser with more medium to coarse quartz and other mineral inclusions.

The remaining pit F1007 (L1008) contained a sherd of early modern 'willow pattern' Transfer Printed Ware.

KEY:

MSW: Medieval sandy ware late 12th-14th

MEL: Medieval Ely ware late 12th-14th

LMR: Late medieval reduced ware mid 14th-early 16th

MSO: Medieval sandy orange ware 14th-16th

TPW: Transfer Printed Ware late 18th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Pit 1005	1006	1x19g LMR 1x99g MSO	Late 14 th - early 16 th	MSO: pedestal base to drinking vessel
Pit 1007	1008	1x4g TPW	Late 18 th - early 20 th	TPW: willow pattern
Pit 1009	1010	1x10g MEL 1x3g MSW	13 th -14 th	MSW: neck and shoulder to a small jar 1x4g daub/fired clay

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

References

Coppack, G. 1980, 'Medieval and post-medieval Pottery' in Christie, P. M. and Coad, J. G. (eds.) 'Excavations at Denny Abbey', *Archaeological Journal* 137, 138-279

Ratkai, S. 1993, 'The Pottery', in Jones, A. (ed.) 'Archaeological Investigations at the White Hart, Ely 1991-2', *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 82, 113-37

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

Four bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken during trial excavations at 7B Wilburton Road, Stretham. The sampled deposits are of likely medieval date. This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions and discusses the significance and potential of any remains recovered.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities 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. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006) 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 assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 2.

Plant macrofossils

Identifiable plant macrofossils were present in 13th-14th century pit fill L1010 (F1009) in the form of carbonised cereal grains and seeds from non-cereal taxa. Only wheat (*Triticum* sp.) was identified in the cereal assemblage, with numerous grains of free-threshing type wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) indicating that this was the primary cultivar present. Free-threshing wheat is frequently the dominant cereal in many archaeobotanical assemblages from medieval sites (e.g. Ballantyne 2005; Carruthers 2008; Straker *et. al* 2007).

The non-cereal taxa included dock (*Rumex* sp.) and wild grasses (Poaceae), which may have been present as weeds among the cereal crop. Plants of wetter habitats were also present in the form of common spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) and sedge family (Cyperaceae). These could represent weeds growing

in wetter areas of arable fields or plants gathered with other wetland taxa for roofing or flooring. The presence of arable weeds may indicate local processing of cereals, although no chaff remains were recovered. At present, the dataset is insufficient to prove whether the medieval inhabitants of the site were engaged in the production and processing of wheat or other crops. Overall, the remains appear to represent domestic midden material, probably derived from hearth waste, deposited within the feature.

Contaminants

There were few modern contaminants in the samples, indicating that little biological disturbance of the deposits has occurred.

Conclusions and statement of potential

The good recovery of carbonised plant macrofossils from L1010 indicates that there is the potential for a more extensive assemblage to be generated through more detailed environmental archaeological sampling should full excavation be undertaken at the Wilburton Road site. It is likely that this would enable further information about the breadth of the medieval plant based economy to be gathered and a more accurate view of whether cereals were locally grown and processed at the site. No further work is recommended for the present samples.

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Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Feature type	Spot date	Volume (litres)	Cereals		Non-cereal taxa		Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants															
							Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Grain preservation	Seeds	Notes	Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules									
AS1567	1	1004	1003	Ditch	-	10	X	-	NFI (1)	6	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
AS1567	2	1006	1005	Pit	14th-16th C	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
AS1567	3	1010	1009	Pit	13th-14th C	20	XX	-	FTW (4), Trit (3), NFI (4)	5	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	
AS1567	4	1014	1013	Ditch	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from 7B Wilburton Road, Stretham. Abbreviations: FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/compactum*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum sp.*)

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Ditch 1003 looking south



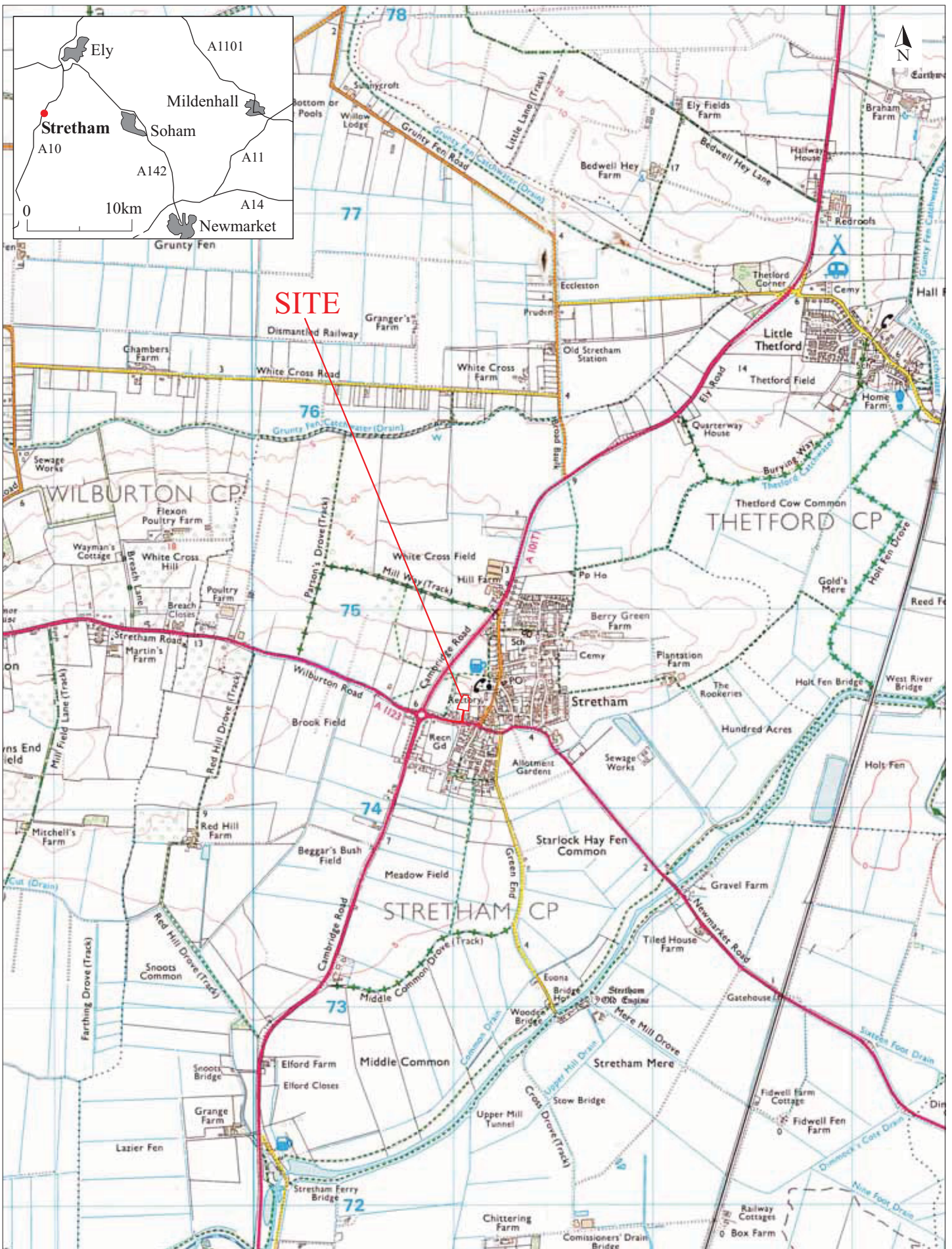
2
Ditch 1005 looking north-east



3
F1009 looking north-west

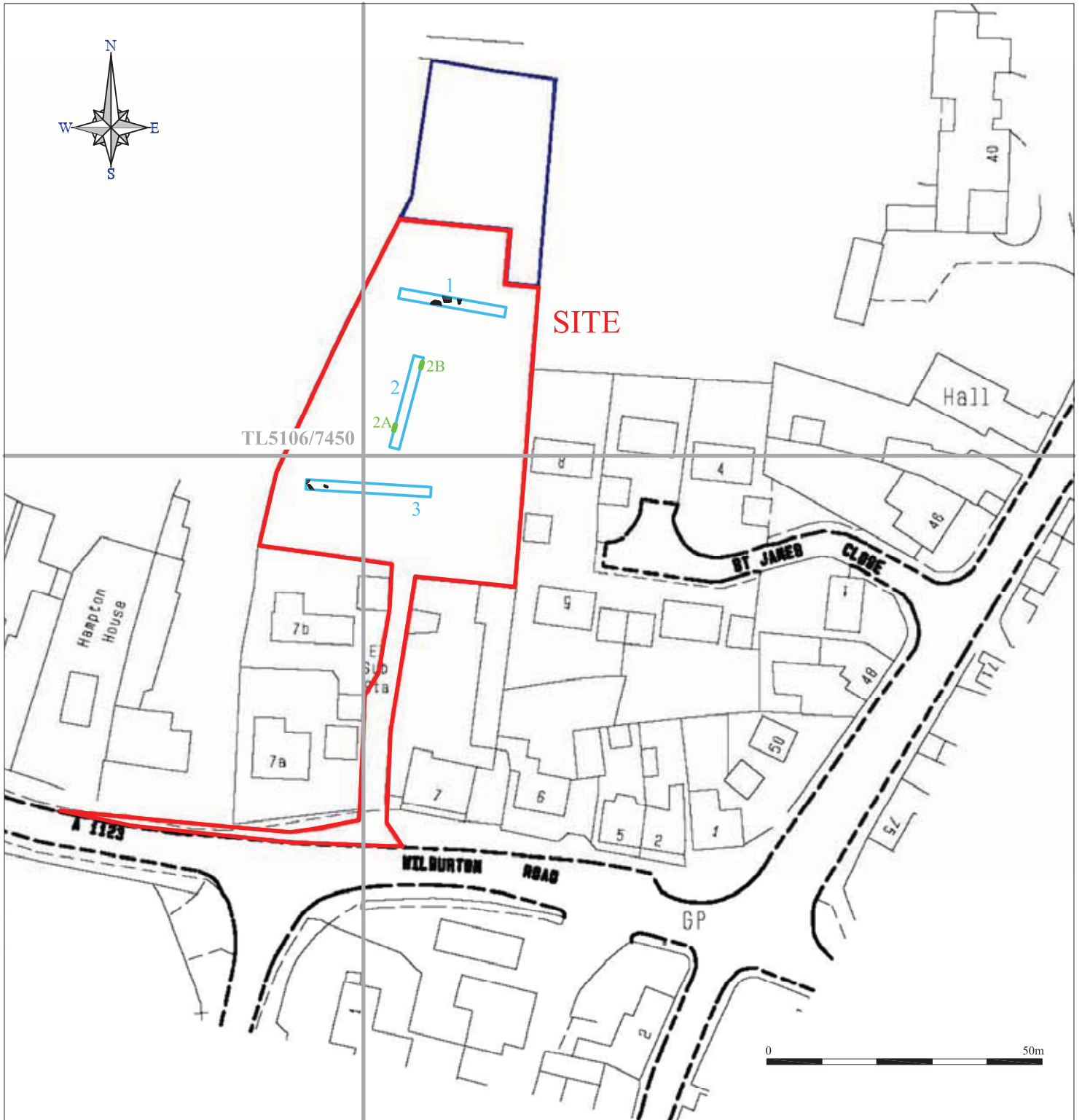


4
F1013 looking south-west



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

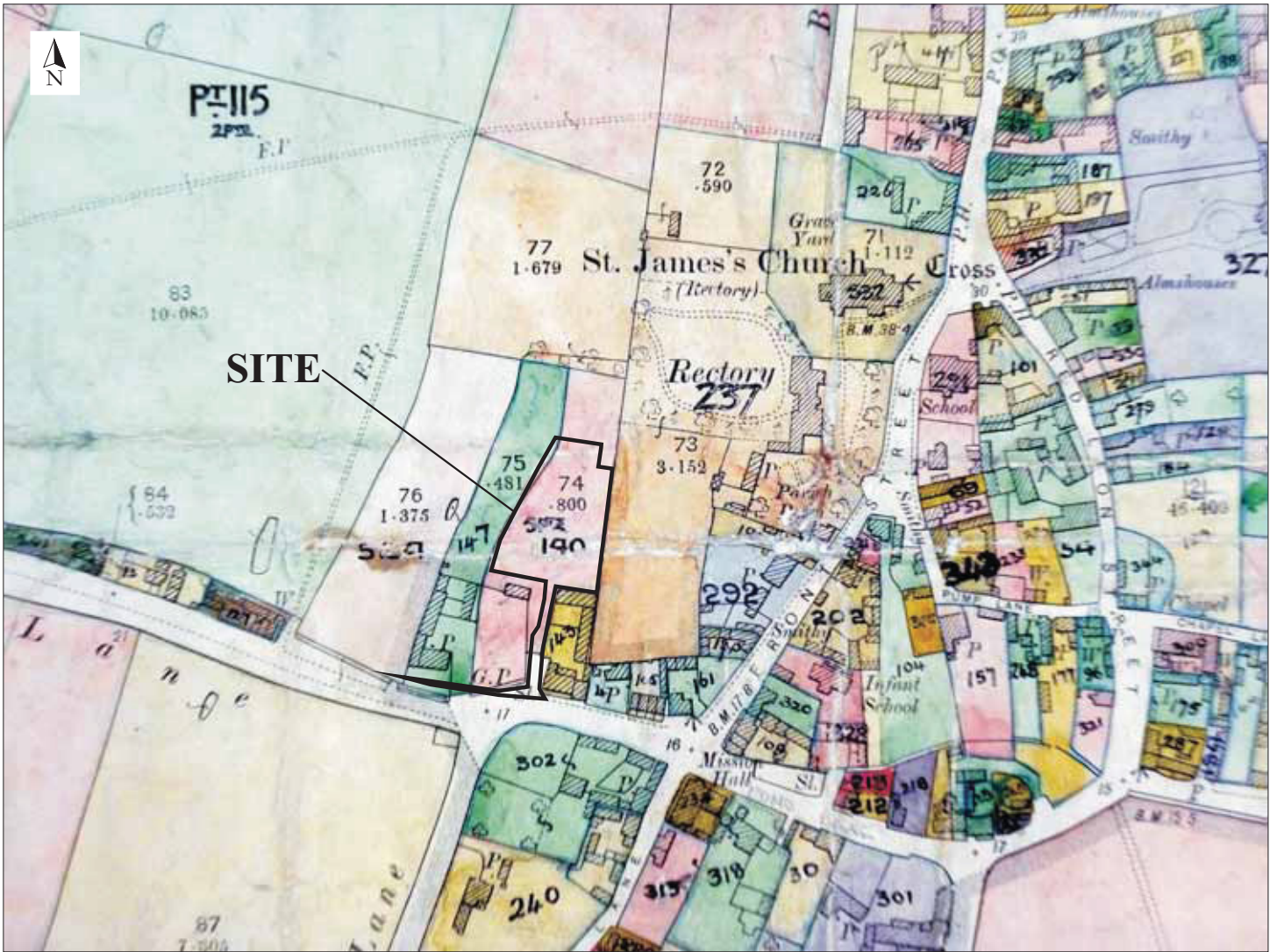


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



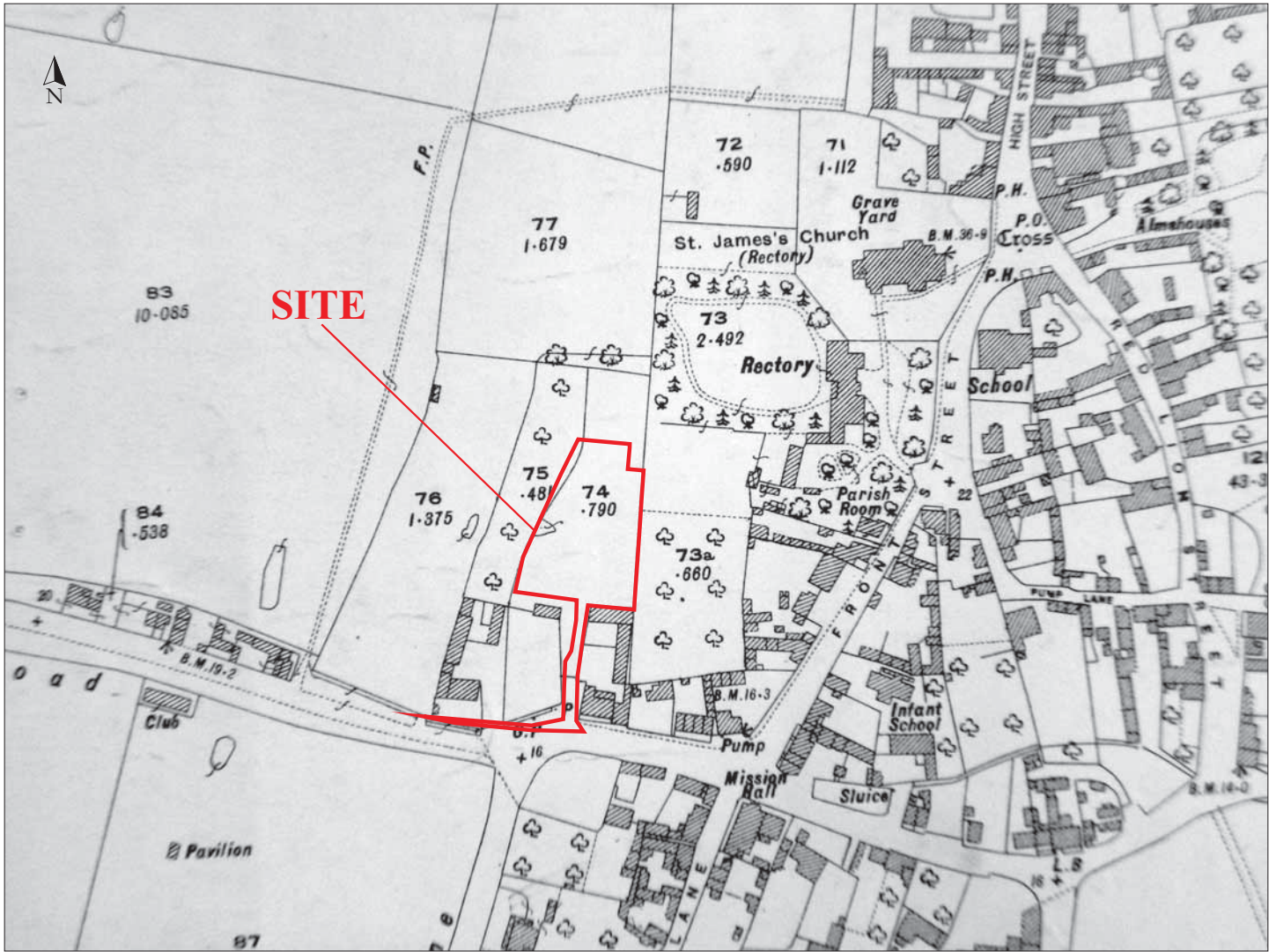
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Fig. 3 OS map, 1886
 Not to scale



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Fig. 4 OS map, 1901
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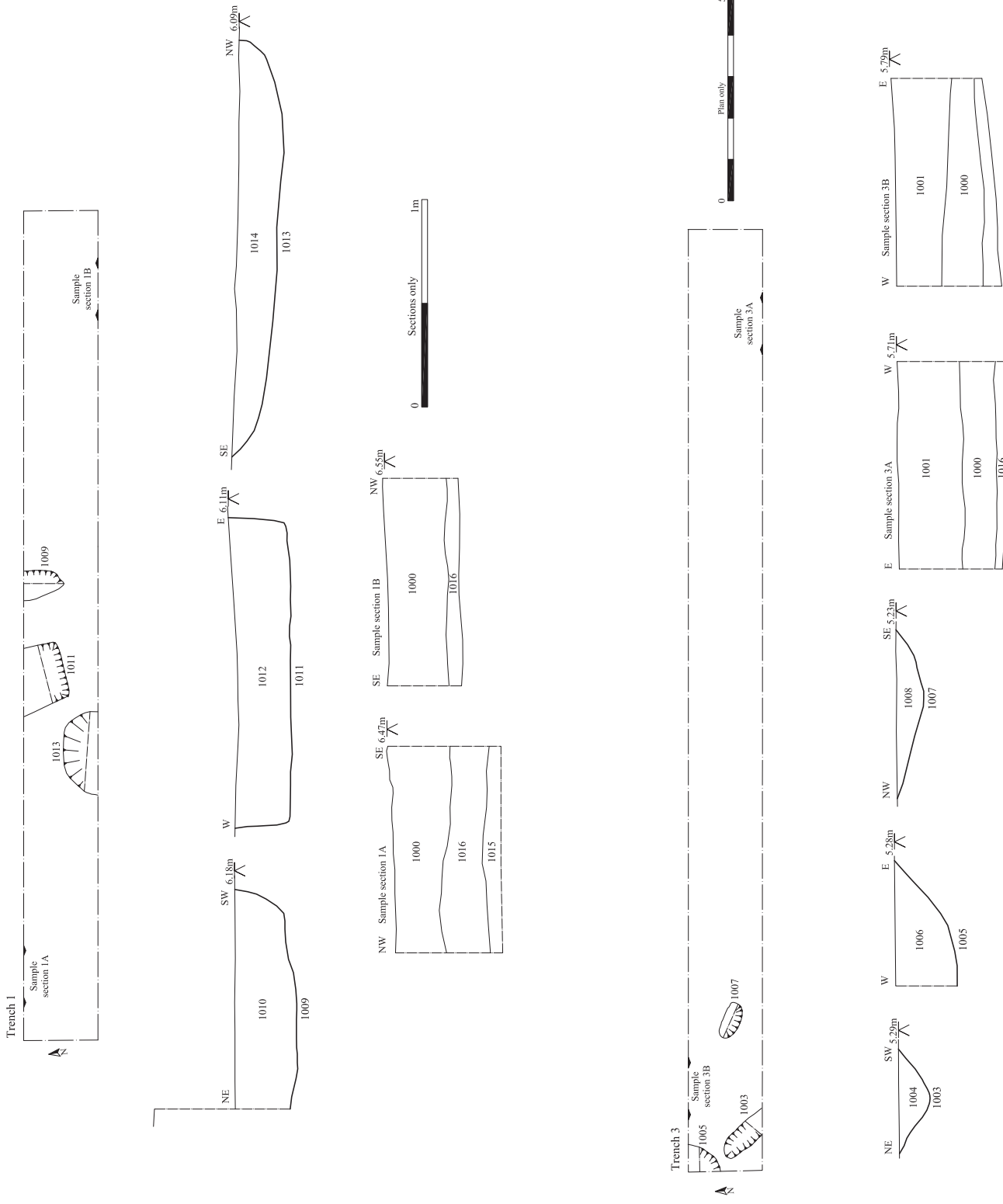
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Fig. 5 OS map, 1925
Not to scale

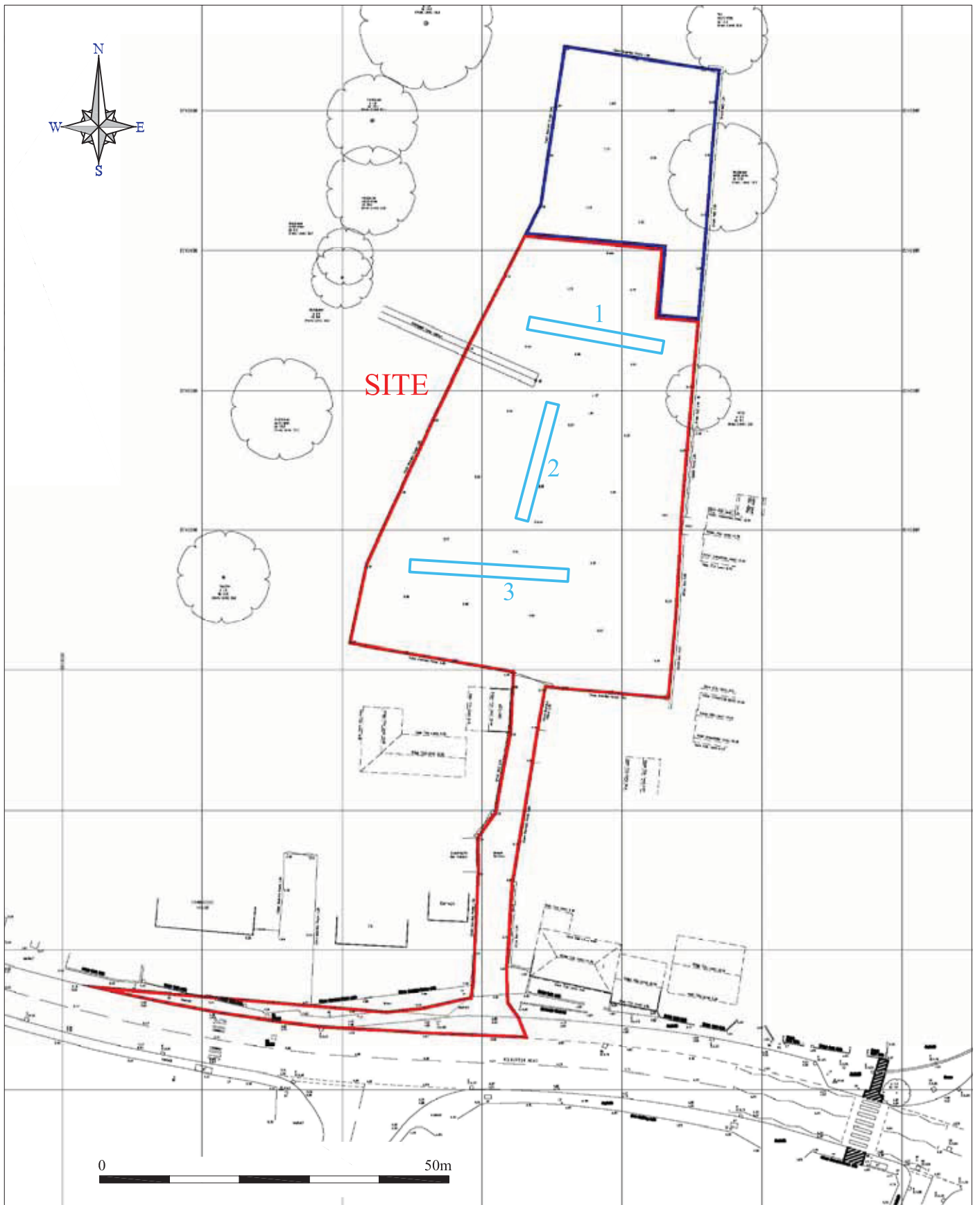


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Fig. 6 OS map, 1950
Not to scale



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Fig. 7 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3



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Fig. 8 Proposed development plan
Scale 1:750 at A4