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LAND TO THE SW OF WILLIAMS WAY, MANEA, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER NO.ECB3944

	in (Fieldwork & report) (Archaeological background)
NGR: TL 4757 8940	Report No: 4364
District: Fenland	Site Code: AS 1600
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 5269
Signed:	Date: 25 July 2013

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CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 SITE DESCRIPTION
- 3 THE EVIDENCE
 - 3.1 Topography, geology & soils
 - 3.2 Archaeological and historical background
 - 3.3 Cartographic information
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS
- 6 CONFIDENCE RATING
- 7 DEPOSIT MODEL
- 8 DISCUSSION

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BIBLIOGRAPHY WEB SITE

APPENDICES

- 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS
- 2 SPECIALIST REPORT

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details

Project name Williams Way, Manea, Cambridgeshire

In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological evaluation of land to the south west of Williams Way, Manea, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4757 8940). The evaluation was commissioned by Crestel Partnerships Ltd and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for a residential development (Fenland Planning Ref. F/YR12/0894/F).

Post-medieval and modern features (pits and ditches) were recorded in Trenches 1, 4, 5 and 7. Gully F1017 (Trench 5) was undated. Two pits in Trench 7, F1008 and F1010 contained very small quantities of medieval ($12^{th} - 13^{th} / 14^{th}$ century) pottery (3 and 1 sherd respectively). The pottery was insufficient to securely date the features.

It would seem that the site is some distant from the High Street and only peripheral medieval and post-medieval features are present.

Project dates (fieldwork)				
	July 2013	r	r	
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work		3C
P. number	5269	Site code	AS	S 1600
Type of project	Archaeolo	gical Evaluatio	n	
Site status	-			
Current land use	Vacant			
Planned development	Residentia	al		
Main features (+dates)	Pits			
Significant finds (+dates)	Sparse m	edieval (12 th – 1	3 th / 14 th ce	entury) pottery
Project location				
County/ District/ Parish		eshire Fenlan		Manea
HER/ SMR for area	Cambridg	eshire Historic E	Environment	t Record (CCC HER)
Post code (if known)	-			
Area of site	1.09ha			
NGR:	TL 4757 8	3940		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c.5m AOE)		
Project creators				
Brief issued by	Cambridg	eshire County	Council H	istoric Environment Team
	(Dan McC	Connell)		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Laszlo Lic	htenstein		
Funded by	Crestel Pa	artnerships Ltd		
Full title	Williams	Way, Manea,	Cambridg	eshire Archaeological
	Evaluatior	י		
Authors	Laszlo Lic	htenstein & Pet	er Thompso	n
Report no.	4364			
Date (of report)	July 2013			

LAND TO THE SW OF WILLIAMS WAY, MANEA, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

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SUMMARY

In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological evaluation of land to the south west of Williams Way, Manea, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4757 8940). The evaluation was commissioned by Crestel Partnerships Ltd and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for a residential development (Fenland Planning Ref. F/YR12/0894/F).

Post-medieval and modern features (pits and ditches) were recorded in Trenches 1, 4, 5 and 7. Gully F1017 (Trench 5) was undated. Two pits in Trench 7, F1008 and F1010 contained very small quantities of medieval $(12^{th} - 13^{th} / 14^{th} century)$ pottery (3 and 1 sherd respectively). The pottery was insufficient to securely date the features.

Manea is in the Cambridgeshire fens located 8km south-east of March. The site lies in an area of open ground to the north west of the High Street, off Williams Way to the east. A mound of unknown function, approximately 16m across and 2m high, is located 250m south of the site (CHER 05893). It is traditionally associated with Charles I who planned to build a new town at Manea called Charlemont following a fenland drainage scheme. The Church of St Nicholas is Grade II listed and was rebuilt entirely in the 19th century in a 13th century style (CHER 10565).

It would seem that the site is some distant from the High Street and only peripheral medieval and post-medieval features are present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological evaluation of land to the south west of Williams Way, Manea, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4757 8940; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Crestel Partnerships Ltd and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for a residential development (Fenland Planning Ref. F/YR12/0894/F).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Dan McConnell 29 May 2013), and a specification compiled by AS (30 May 2013), and approved by CCC HET. The documents *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney

2003) and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (1994, revised 2008) were used for guidance.

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.

The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner 1.5 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 nondesignated 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 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Manea is a village in the Cambridgeshire fens located 8km south-east of March. The site comprises an area of open ground to the north west of the High Street, off Williams Way to the east.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, Geology & Soils

3.1.1 Manea is located on a low fen island between the canalised Old Bedford River and the Sixteen Foot Drain. The site is at a height of c.5m AOD and has the Darcey Lode Drain 280m to the north. The local soil comprises chalky till of the Hanslope association which are usually slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils.

3.2 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.2.1 Prehistoric artefacts have been recovered in the area mainly from Manea Fen. Palaeolithic tools were recovered from Papworth's Pit at a not closely recorded location within 500m of the site (CHER 05981), along with a dozen polished Neolithic stone axe heads (CHER 05981a). In 1855, a Bronze Age halberd was found in Manea Fen within 500m of the site (CHER 05862), and a socketed axe was found 700m to the east (CHER 05861). A ploughed out round barrow is recorded at Rutland Farm 1km to the north (CHER 05969). The Iron Age hillfort of Stonea Camp is located 1.5km to the north.

3.2.2 An area of Roman settlement is known some 200m to the north of the site which was identified through an antiquarian field survey in the late 19th century where pottery and metalwork was recovered (CHER 06048, CHER 05981c, CHER MCB7359). A hoard of Roman pewter dishes was also found during ploughing and ditching work in the northern part of the same field (CHER 05867, CHER 05868, CHER MCB7140). The settlement extent is unknown, and it may continue into the current development area. It was not identified during a trial trench evaluation carried out in 2004 to the immediate east on Williams Way. Further Iron Age and Roman settlement is inferred from pottery and a dark occupation layer identified 250m to the north-west of the site (CHER 10899, CHER 10899A). In 1838 a skeleton associated with amber and glass beads was found in Manea Fen which was thought at the time to be Anglo-Saxon and deposited there through accident rather than intentional inhumation (CHER 05866).

3.2.3 A mound of unknown function, approximately 16m across and 2m high, is located 250m south of the site (CHER 05893). It is traditionally associated with Charles I who planned to build a new town at Manea called Charlemont following a fenland drainage scheme. The Church of St Nicholas is Grade II listed and was rebuilt entirely in the 19th century in a 13th century style (CHER 10565). Nineteenth century kiln furniture was identified in a field 750m to the east of the site (CHER 05964c). During the Cold War a Royal Observer Corps station was built on a pig farm 200m north of Fallow Corner Drove at the west end of Manea (MCB 16431). The building was in use between 1961 and 1991 but now no trace exists.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Seven trial trenches were excavated (Fig.2). The individual trenches varied in length between 13m and 40m; all measured in 1.80m width.

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 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.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Sample section: 0.00 = 4.22m A0		WW facing.
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Loose, dark grey black silty sand.
0.32 – 0.61m	L1000	Subsoil. Mid, brown orange sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular flints.
0.61m+	L1002	Natural deposits. Mixed patches of compact, yellowish orange sandy clay with occasional medium size angular flints, and compact, light greyish yellow clay with occasional medium angular flints.

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Description: Ditch F1003 and field drains were present in Trench 1. F1003 contained post-medieval pottery.

Ditch F1003 was linear (length>2m, width 1.50m, depth 0.13m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1004, was a mid brown grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained post-medieval pottery (8g). Ditch F1003 was also recorded in Trench 4.

Trench 2 (Fig	. 2)
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Sample section: Centre, NW facing. 0.00 = 4.35m AOD		
0.00 – 0.46m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.46 – 0.62m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.62m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

Sample section: NW end, SW facing. 0.00 = 4.26m AOD		
0.00 – 0.46m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.46 – 0.64m	L1003	Subsoil. As above.
0.64m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Sample section: SE end, SW facing 0.00 = 4.42m AOD		
0.00 – 0.48m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.48 – 0.61m	L1003	Subsoil. As above.
0.61m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 3 contained a field drain. No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2-3)

Sample section:	Sample section: Middle, SE facing.		
0.00 = 4.46m AOD			
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.	
0.33 – 0.67m	L1003	Subsoil. As above.	
0.67m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.	

Sample section: NE end, SE facing 0.00 = 4.57m AOD		
0.00 – 0.47m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.47 – 0.67m	L1003	Subsoil. As above.
0.67m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Ditch F1003, previously recorded in Trench 1, was present in Trench 4. It contained post-medieval (31g) pottery. A field drain (F1005) and two services were also recorded in plan.

Trench 5 (Fig. 7)

Sample section: Centre, SE facing.		
0.00 = 4.39m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.40 – 0.62m	L1000	Subsoil. As above.
0.62m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Pit F1014, Gully F1017 and Ditch F1019 were recorded in Trench 5. Two field drains were present. Pit F1014 and Ditch F1019 contained postmedieval / modern pottery and Gully F1017 was undated..

Pit F1014 was subcircular (length>2m, width 1.25m, depth 0.58m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its basal fill, L1015, was dark orange grey silty clay which contained no finds. The upper fill, L1016, was a dark grey brown silty clay. It contained $17^{\text{th}} - 18^{\text{th}} / 19^{\text{th}}$ century pottery (115g), ceramic building material (246g) and animal bone (5g).

Gully F1017 was linear (length>2m, width 0.33m, depth 0.37m), aligned NW/SE. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1018, was a dark brown grey silty clay. No finds were present. It cut by Ditch F1019.

Ditch F1019 was linear (length>2m, width 0.93m, depth 0.21m), aligned NW/SE. It had moderately steep sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1020, was dark grey brown silty clay. It contained $18^{th} - 19^{th}$ century pottery (53g), ceramic building material (69g) and animal bone (108g). It cut Gully F1017.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

Sample section: Centre, SE facing. 0.00 = 4.43m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.29 – 0.43m	L1000	Subsoil. As above.
0.43m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 7 (Figs. 7)

Sample section: SW end, NW facing. 0.00 = 4.72m AOD		
0.00 – 0.58m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.58 – 0.70m	L1003	Subsoil. As above.
0.70m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Sample section: 0.00 = 4.61m A0	-	NW facing		
0.00 – 0.44m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.		
0.44 – 0.60m	.44 – 0.60m L1003 Subsoil. As above.			
0.60m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.		

Description: Three pits (F1008, F1010 & F1012), four field drains and a modern rubbish pit (F1021) were present in Trench 7. Pits F1008 and F1010 contained medieval $(12^{th} - 13^{th} / 14^{th}$ century) pottery. Pit F1012 contained $18^{th} - 19^{th}$ century pottery.

Pit F1008 was subcircular and shallow (length>0.5m, width 0.84m, depth 0.13m). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1009, was a dark brown grey silty clay. It contained medieval $(12^{th} - 13^{th} / 14^{th} \text{ century})$ pottery (28g).

Pit F1010 was oval and shallow (length 0.94m, width 0.64m, depth 0.20m). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1011, was a dark brown grey silty clay. It contained medieval ($12^{th} - 13^{th}$ / 14^{th} century) pottery (5g) and shell.

Pit F1012 was subcircular in plan and shallow (length>0.74m, width>0.23m, depth 0.20m). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1013, was a dark brown grey silty clay. It contained $18^{th} - 19^{th}$ century pottery (5g).

Pit F1021 was elongated (length>2m, width>3.2m). It was not excavated because of the many modern surface finds. It contained modern (late 19^{th} – early 20^{th} century) pottery, glass, slates, bricks, iron wire, iron nails etc.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Across the site and uppermost was Topsoil, L1000, a mid yellowish brown silty sand (0.29 - 0.58m thick). It was thicker towards the SE part of the site. Below L1000 was Subsoil L1001, a mid brownish orange sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular flints (0.29 - 70m thick). Below L1001, the natural L1002, was a mid yellowish orange sandy clay which slightly mixed towards the SE part of the site with light greyish yellow clay patches with angular, medium size flints. L1002 was between 0.43 - 0.70m below the ground surface).

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The excavated features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Date
1	F1003	Ditch	Post-medieval
4	F1003	Ditch	Post-medieval
5	F1014	Pit	Post-medieval / modern pottery.
	F1017	Gully	Undated
	F1019	Ditch	Post-medieval / modern pottery.
7	F1008	Pit	medieval (12 th – 13 th / 14 th century)
	F1010	Pit	medieval (12 th – 13 th / 14 th century)
	F1012	Pit	Post-medieval / modern pottery

8.2 Post-medieval and modern features (pits and ditches) were recorded in Trenches 1, 4, 5 and 7. Gully F1017 (Trench 5) was undated. Two pits in Trench 7, F1008 and F1010 contained very small quantities of medieval ($12^{th} - 13^{th}$ / 14^{th} century) pottery (3 and 1 sherd respectively). The pottery was insufficient to securely date the features.

8.3 Manea is in the Cambridgeshire fens located 8km south-east of March. The site lies in an area of open ground to the north west of the High Street, off Williams Way to the east. A mound of unknown function, approximately 16m across and 2m high, is located 250m south of the site (CHER 05893). It is traditionally associated with Charles I who planned to build a new town at Manea called Charlemont following a fenland drainage scheme. The Church of St Nicholas is Grade II listed and was rebuilt entirely in the 19th century in a 13th century style (CHER 10565).

8.4 It would seem that the site is some distant from the High Street and only peripheral medieval and post-medieval features are present.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Cambridgeshire County Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Crestel Partnerships Ltd for funding the project, in particular Mr Paul Richards for his assistance.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey (BGS) 1978 Legend for the 1:625,000 Geological map of the United Kingdom (solid geology); London. BGS, Mansfield

Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments.* IFA, Reading

Soil Survey of England & Wales (SSEW) 1983 Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales

WEB SITE

Heritage Gateway

CONCORDANCE OF FINDS **APPENDIX 1**

AS1600, Williams Way, Manea Concordance of finds by feature

								A.Bone	
Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Feature Context Segment Trench Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	(g)	Other
1003	1004	A	1	Fill of Ditch	Post-med	(1) 8g			
		В	4		Post-med	(1) 31g		32	32 O. Shell - 4g
1008	1009		7	Fill of Pit	12th-13th/14th	(3) 28g			
1010	1011		7	Fill of Pit	12th-13th/14th	(1) 5g			Mussel Shells - 11g
1012	1013		7	Fill of Pit	18th-19th	(1) 5g			
1014	1016		5	Upper Fill of Pit	17th-18th/19th	(2) 115g	246	5	
1019	1020		5	Fill of Ditch	18th-19th	(1) 53g	69	108	108 Charcoal - 1g
					Late 19th-early				
1021	1022		7	Fill of Modern Pit	20th	(2) 287g			Glass Vessel (1) - 390g
						Ceramic Vessel			
						(1) - 1207g			

APPENDIIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 13 sherds of pottery weighing 1,788g from 8 contexts (Table 1). The assemblage was mainly post-medieval to early modern in date, but four sherds of medieval pottery were also present in two contexts.

L1009 contained two body sherds of medieval Ely-type ware and a sherd of medieval shelly ware which were moderately abraded. L1011 contained a single abraded grey sherd of medieval sandy ware containing burnt organics and occasional coarse mineral inclusions.

The most interesting context was L1022 which contained a cylindrical stoneware bottle with the neck broken off but otherwise in fairly good condition. It bears the stamp Ober Selters Nass around a griffin, and is an imported Westerwald stone ware bottle from the Rhineland that contained carbonated mineral water from Selters in Hesse. They commonly date to the nineteenth and early 20th centuries and particularly between c.1880-1900. The bottle was accompanied by a Patersons of Glasgow Camp Coffee and Chicory glass bottle whose production began in 1876. Therefore the context probably dates between c.1877 to 1900/1920.

The remaining pottery from contexts L1004 A & L1004 B, L1013, L1016, L1020 and L1022 all contained, mainly abraded, post-medieval red earthenwares of 17^{th} – 19^{th} centuries date.

KEY:

MSW: medieval sandy ware $12^{th}-4^{th}$ MShW: medieval shelly ware $12^{th}-14^{th}$ MEL: Medieval Ely-type ware $12^{th}-14^{th}$ PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware $17^{th}-19^{th}$ WEST: Westerwald stone ware $18^{th}-20^{th}$

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
	1004 A	1x7g PMRE		Highly abraded.
				Glaze almost all
				gone
	1004 B	1x30g PMRE		Very abraded, flat base/body angle to open vessel, internal glaze
	1009	1x14g MShW 2x12g MEL	12 th -13 th /14 th	Moderately abraded MEL: x1 area of faint external combing

1	1011	1x4g MSW	12 th -13 th /14 th	abraded Abundant quartz sand with occasional coarse to v. coarse quartz and fine voids from burnt organics
1	1013	1x4g PMRE	18 th -19 th	Abraded, glazed both sides
1	1016	2x114g PMRE	17 th -18 th /19 th	Abraded X1 glazed both sides, upper body sherd of bowl with external cordon X1 heavy flanged bowl rim c.32cm diam, internal glaze
1	1020	1x27g PMRE	18 th -19 th	Abraded internal glaze
		1x1,218g WEST 2x288g PMRE	Late 19 th -early 20 th	WEST: stoneware bottle with stamp Ober Selters Nass. Neck broken off otherwise quite good condition PMRE: x1 abraded jar base, glazed both sides X1 lightly abraded flanged open bowl rim c.46cm diam, internal glaze

Table 1.Quantification of sherds by context

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey MIfA

Two abraded fragments (315g) of late post-medieval CBM were recovered from Pit F1014 (L1016) and Ditch F1019 (L1020). Both fragments comprised 40mm thick red flooring bricks, manufactured in calcareous clay, probably in the 19th century although production began in the late 17th century.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



Trench 1 showing sample section 1, [1003] and [1005]. Facing south-east



Trial trench 5, facing north-east



Trench 4 showing sample section 4a, [1003] and [1005]. Facing north-west



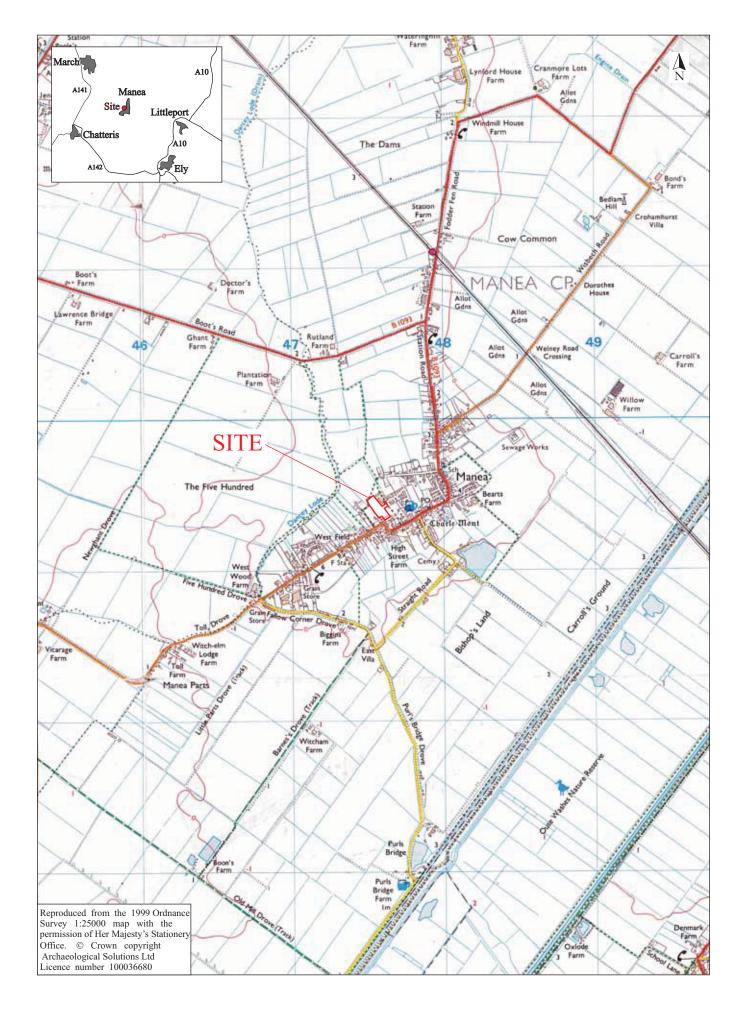
Trial trench 7, facing north-east



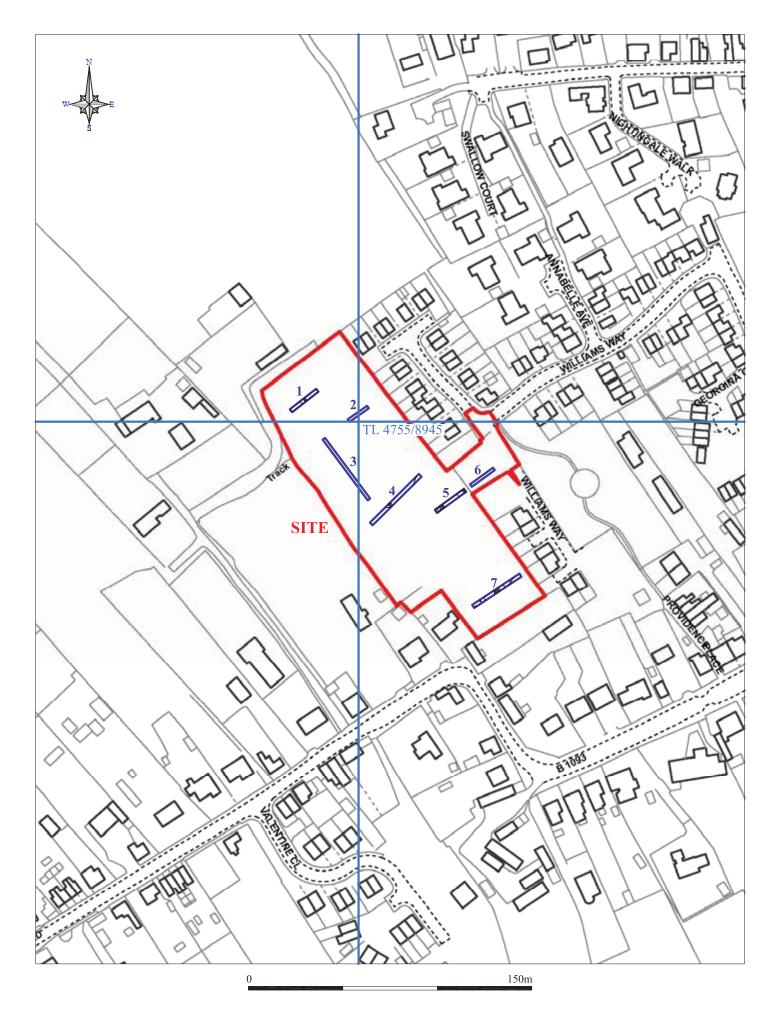




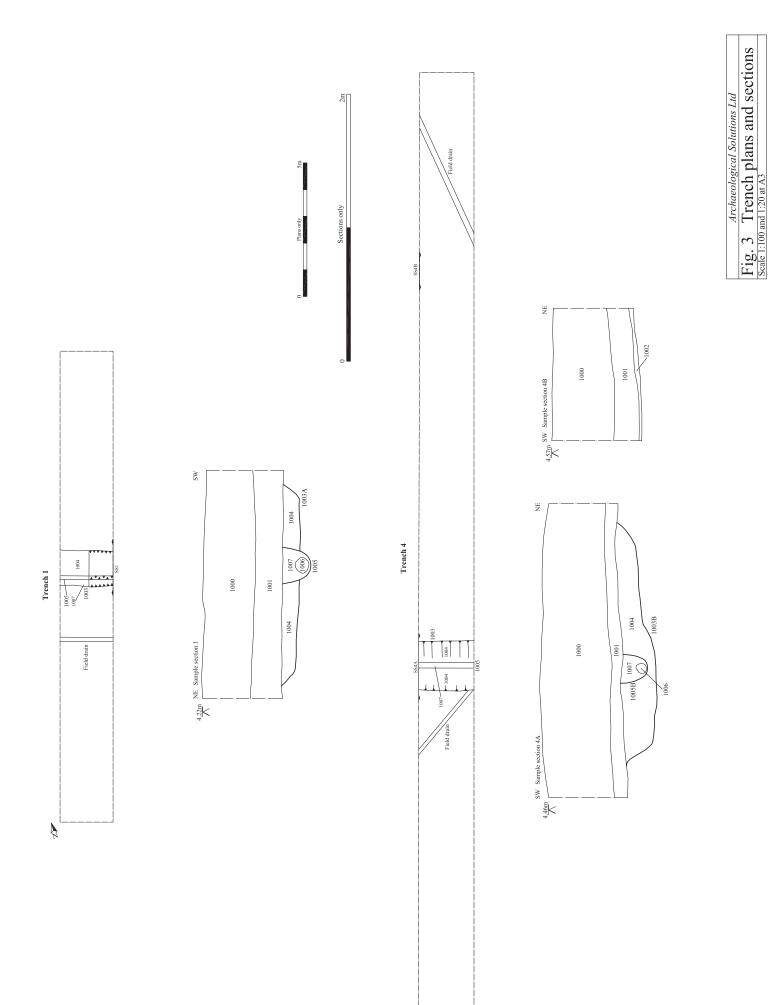
6 Trial trench 7, [1010], facing east



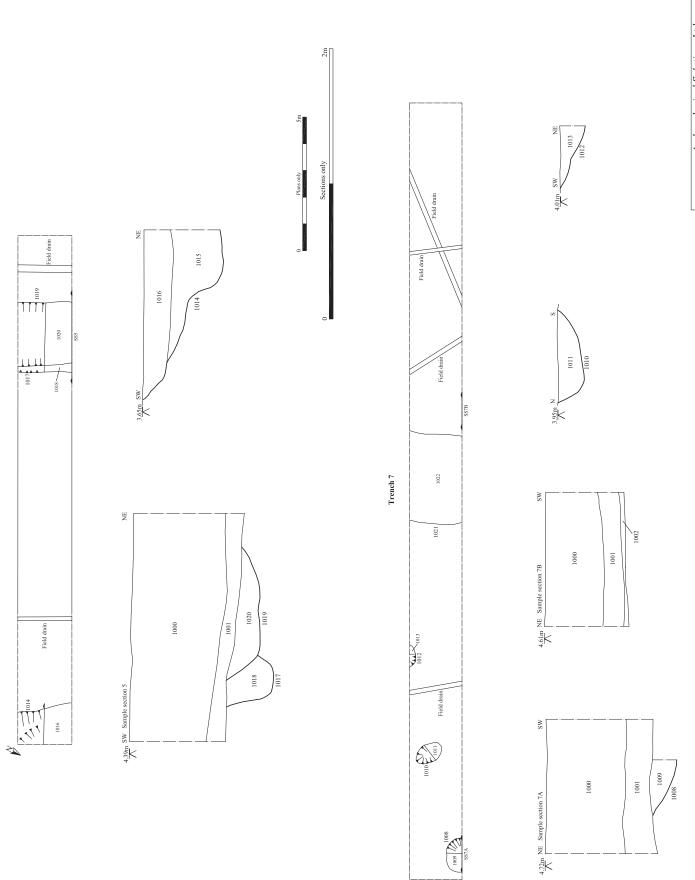
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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	Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:2,00	0 at A4



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Trench 5

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 Fig. 4
 Trench plans and sections

 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3