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ELLIOT ROAD, MARCH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

CHER NO. ECB 3894

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NGR: TL 4045 9715	Report No: 4354	
District: Fenland	Site Code: AS 1544	
Approved: C Halpin MlfA	Project No: 5087	
Signed:	Date: 14 July 2013	
	Revised: 30/09/2013	

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	<i>Elliot Road, March, Cambridgeshire.</i>		
<p><i>In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation on land at Elliot Road, March, Cambridgeshire (TL 4045 9715). The excavation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a residential development and ancillary works.</i></p> <p><i>The excavation followed an archaeological evaluation and the latter identified archaeological features principally on the western side of the site (Trs. 1-4). These features, mostly pits and ditches, were post-medieval or early modern. The ditches, broadly aligned N/S (F1003 (Tr.1), F1028 (Tr.2), F1020 (Tr.7) and F1030 (Tr.11), correlated with the boundary ditches recorded on the early maps. Discrete Early Bronze Age features (a pit and postholes) were recorded along the length of Trench 5, and an Early Bronze Age pottery sherd was found in Ditch F1010 (Tr.1). Two residual medieval (13th to 15th century) pottery sherds were found in Ditch F1020 (Tr.7) and Ditch F1028 (Tr.2).</i></p> <p><i>The excavation revealed no further early Bronze Age features, only features of 17th to 18th century and modern date comprising a boundary ditch (F2003), building remains and pits relating to the recently demolished piggery. Five residual sherds of medieval (13th to 14th) century pottery and one prehistoric sherd were found in Ditch F2003. The site was much disturbed by modern remains.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>July 2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>5087</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1544</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Excavation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Vacant</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Ditch, building remains</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Five residual sherds of medieval (13th – 14th) century pottery and one prehistoric (?late Bronze Age to Iron Age) sherd</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Fenland</i>	<i>March</i>
HER for area	<i>Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.1.25ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 4045 9715</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.2.6m 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>Crestel Partnerships Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Elliot Road, March, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Excavation</i>		
Authors	<i>Quinn, S.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4354</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2013 (Revised 30/09/2013)</i>		

ELLIOT ROAD, MARCH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation on land at Elliot Road, March, Cambridgeshire (TL 4045 9715). The excavation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a residential development and ancillary works.

The site is situated on the western edge of March, on the edge of the former fenland 'island' occupied by March. It lies at c.2.6m AOD on tidal flat deposits. Prehistoric activity in the area is evidenced by finds of Mesolithic and Neolithic flints (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record 05210 and 08455).

The excavation followed an archaeological evaluation and the latter identified archaeological features principally on the western side of the site (Trs. 1-4). These features, mostly pits and ditches, were post-medieval or early modern. The ditches, broadly aligned N/S (F1003 (Tr.1), F1028 (Tr.2), F1020 (Tr.7) and F1030 (Tr.11)), correlated with the boundary ditches recorded on the early maps. Discrete Early Bronze Age features (a pit and postholes) were recorded along the length of Trench 5, and an Early Bronze Age pottery sherd was found in Ditch F1010 (Tr.1). Two residual medieval (13th to 15th century) pottery sherds were found in Ditch F1020 (Tr.7) and Ditch F1028 (Tr.2).

The excavation revealed no further early Bronze Age features, only features of 17th to 18th century and modern date comprising a boundary ditch (F2003), building remains and pits relating to the recently demolished piggery. Five residual sherds of medieval (13th to 14th) century pottery and one prehistoric (?late Bronze Age to Iron Age) sherd were found in Ditch F2003. The site was much disturbed by modern remains.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological excavation on land at Elliot Road, March, Cambridgeshire (TL 4045 9715; Figs. 1-2). The excavation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a residential development and ancillary works. It was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, as a requirement of planning permission.

1.2 The excavation was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (dated 12 June 2013), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 14 June 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 Excavation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The aim of the archaeological excavation 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 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. 1-2)

2.1 The site is an irregularly-shaped parcel of land of 1.25ha located to the northwest of the town's medieval core. It is situated between Elliot Road to the north, the buildings of Elliot Lodge to the east, Fisherman's Drive to the west, with buildings and gardens to the south with the River Nene beyond. It largely comprises waste ground covered in a dense mixture of grass, trees and bushes which is cut by large north-south running open drains.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 March is located on an 'island' rising above the Cambridgeshire fenland which was formed from Pleistocene Tills overlying Kimmeridge Clay (British Geological Survey 1991; SSEW 1983). The site lies at approximately 2.6m AOD on tidal flat deposits just to the north of river Nene.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site is located on the fen edge which was a location favourable to prehistoric occupation. A Palaeolithic handaxe (CHER 870031) and two other unprovenanced contemporary handaxes have been found in the general area. A Mesolithic flint scatter was identified some 250m south of the site, across the Nene (CHER 8455). A larger Mesolithic scatter was recovered 450-500m to the south comprising 336 blades and flakes, 68 cores, 8 graters and 27 other flints (CHER 5210). A probable Neolithic stone shaft-hole axe was also found around 500m south-west of the site (CHER 5904). Bronze Age flint scatters and barrow monuments are known along the fringes of the Cambridgeshire fens and on the gravel fen islands, suggesting settlement along the fen edges at this time (Hogan & Hallybone 2007). At the Northern Council Offices, in the north of March, excavations have revealed a number of features dating between the late Bronze Age and middle Iron Age (CHER CB15266).

4.2 March is located just to the south of the Fen Causeway, a Roman Road running between Denver in Norfolk, to near Peterborough, and Roman settlements have been found in the area at a time when the fen became quite extensively exploited. Several Romano-British sites have been identified in the local area including a salt production site at Cedar's Close to the north (ECB 1394 and 2605), and occupation evidence south of the Nene comprising a stone platform and gravel track, coins, pottery and oyster shell (CHER 05927).

4.3 The town probably has its origins as a ford over the old river Nene on the Ely to Wisbech road and the name *Merche* or *mearc* means place by the boundary.

4.4 In 1086 the Berewick of March contained 12 villeins each with 12 acres of land as part of Doddington manor. The Abbot of Bury St Edmunds also held 16 acres, land for half a plough, 3 bordars and woodland for 4 pigs. The Abbot of Ely held the soke (jurisdiction). The medieval town is thought to have been mainly located around the church at Town End. During the medieval period the river Nene was diverted through March to improve drainage and the village became a port, medieval occupation evidence has been identified on either side of the river. An evaluation at Grays Lane revealed a medieval roadside drainage ditch which went out of use by the 16th century (CHER CB15693), and two more late medieval or post-medieval ditches representing drains and/or boundaries were found further north (CHER MCB15694).

4.5 The site has been subject to an archaeological evaluation by AS (Lichtenstein & Thompson 2012). In summary:

Some 400-500mm of topsoil and subsoil commonly over lie the natural sandy clay. The majority of features were present on the western side of the site (Trs. 1-4). These features, principally pits and ditches, were post-medieval or early modern. The ditches broadly aligned N/S correlate with the boundary ditches recorded on early maps. The c. 1842 tithe map shows two contiguous houses or buildings in Plot No.1898. The entire site is classed as grass covered closes and has houses and gardens to the south. The 1889 first edition OS map shows some changes to land boundaries on the site, with more houses and buildings appearing to the south

and east. The 1902 OS map shows two more buildings have appeared bordering the east side of the site on Plot No.1416.

Discrete Early Bronze Age features (a pit and postholes) were recorded along the length of Trench 5, and an Early Bronze Age pottery sherd was found in Ditch F1010 (Tr.1). The postholes contained pottery and organic material. Two residual medieval (13th to 15th century) pottery sherds were found in Ditch F1020 (Tr.7) and Ditch F1028 (Tr.2). The latter also contained a medieval (14th to 15th century) brick fragment.

5 RESEARCH POTENTIAL

5.1 The features identified in Trench 5 indicate early Bronze Age activity at the site but provide limited information regarding the nature of this activity. The distances between the postholes (c. 2m in each case) suggest that they are unlikely to have combined to form a single structure but their apparent alignment suggests a spatial/functional relationship. Their presence, however, does suggest that the site has the potential to contain further information relating to the early Bronze Age utilisation of the fenland 'island' on which March is located. The identification of these features adds to the known corpus of information relating to Bronze Age activity in the Cambridgeshire fenlands.

5.2 The possibility that this evidence relates to occupation or settlement during the early Bronze Age in this area suggests that the site has the potential to contain evidence which may contribute to an understanding of the character and form that occupation and settlement took locally. The identification of a settlement site is likely to contribute to studies examining the inter-relationship of settlements in this period and the variation and changes in settlement type in the local area, the county as a whole and the wider eastern region; these are considered to be important research subject for Eastern England (Medlycott 2011, 20). Dependant on the nature of any further evidence that may be present, the site may also be considered to have the potential to contribute to palaeoenvironmental studies intended to recreate past landscapes and economies (*ibid.*).

5.3 Although only recovered in small quantities, the early Bronze Age pottery present at the site has the potential to contribute to the understanding of the chronological development of pottery in the region (Brown & Murphy 2000, 10). The possibility that further such material exists at the site indicates that there is a potential for further archaeological work here to contribute to an understanding of the cultural value of ceramics and the associated patterns of use and discard (Brown & Murphy 2000, 10).

5.4 The previous identification of later Bronze Age activity elsewhere in March may indicate that there is a potential for comparisons to be drawn between the two sites, contributing to an understanding of the development of local Bronze Age society and settlement over the course of the period.

Research Priorities

The Early Development/floral environment of March

The required excavation will allow a rare opportunity to understand the formation of this part of the March 'island' in the Bronze Age and has a potential to inform on the early fenland landscape.

Environmental reconstruction

Using the spectrum of environmental techniques appropriate for this aspect of the investigation, an attempt will be made to model the landscape and its transformation brought about by the settlement's inhabitants and due to natural events.

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 The Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team required a small area around part of Evaluation Trench 5 (20 x 30m) to be stripped of soil and subject to formal archaeological excavation (Fig. 2).

6.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 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.

7 RESULTS (Fig. 3)

A large area in the centre of the site was taken up by a very large pit which contained animal bones associated with the recent piggery. Additional features associated with the piggery were also present. Only three features were excavated: a ditch (F2003) along the western edge, Pit F2006 and Posthole F2010.

Ditch F2003 was linear (30.62+ x 1.24 x 0.28m), orientated north/south and located on the western side of the site. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its basal fill (L2004) was a compact, very dark reddish grey clay silt which contained five sherds of residual medieval (13th to 14th century) pottery and one residual prehistoric (?late Bronze Age to Iron Age) sherd, post-medieval (17th to 18th century) pottery (135g), animal bone (36g), struck flint (12g), cockle shell (3g) and oyster shell (19g). Overlying L2004, L2009 (only present in Slot B) was a compact, dark reddish brown clay silt that contained no finds. The upper fill (L2005) (again only present in Slot B) was a compact, mid orange brown, mottled with grey, sandy silty-clay with occasional medium and large angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained post-medieval (17th to 18th century) pottery (114g), CBM (52g), animal bone (124g), an fe fragment (47g), and glass (1g).

F2006 was a large rectangular pit (7.60 x 4.00+ x 0.34m) located at the northern edge of the site and extended beyond the baulk. It had moderately sloping sides and

a flat base. Its lower fill (L2007) was a friable, very dark grey clay silt with moderate small shell and occasional medium brick fragments. It contained post-medieval (17th to 18th century) pottery (11g), CBM (3000g), animal bone (609g), clay pipe stem fragments (18g), and shell (25g). The upper fill (L2008) was a friable, mid greyish yellow silty sand with moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular flints. It contained post-medieval (17th to 18th century) pottery (11g).

F2010 was a sub-rectangular posthole (0.41 x 0.38 x 0.31m). It had vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill (L2011) was a firm, dark reddish brown clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints. It contained Fe fragments (69g).

8 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

9 DEPOSIT MODEL

9.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L2000, a dark greyish black, friable, sandy silt (0.22 – 0.37m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L2001, a mid brownish grey, friable, clayey silt (0.47 – 0.50m thick). Subsoil L1001 overlay the natural, L2002, a pale brownish orange, firm, clayey sand (0.47 – 0.50m below the current ground surface).

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 Evaluation Trenches 1 and 5 revealed features/ finds of early Bronze Age date (Lichtenstein & Thompson 2012; Fig. 2). Trench 1 yielded a single Bronze Age sherd from Ditch F1010 (*ibid.*), described as being tempered with poorly-sorted medium quartz and grog (Peachey 2012), while three postholes in Trench 5 (F1014, F1016 and F1018; Fig. 2) yielded similar sherds (Lichtenstein & Thompson 2012). Other material from these features included animal bone and burnt flint (*ibid.*). A single prehistoric sherd was also found in Ditch F2003. These findings are in keeping with previously identified Bronze Age sites on the Cambridgeshire fen edge and fen 'islands' (Hogan & Hallybone 2007). However, no further Bronze Age evidence was revealed by the excavation. It is likely that modern disturbance, recorded as being extensive across the excavated area, had resulted in the loss of such evidence.

10.2 Medieval finds from the site, comprising a fragment of 14th to 15th century brick from the evaluation and five residual sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery from the excavation (Ditch F2003), reflect the position of the site on the periphery of the medieval town. However, the earliest features revealed during the excavation were post-medieval (17th to 18th century) in date, comprising Boundary Ditch F2003 which ran parallel to the modern field boundary, and large Pit F2006. It is uncertain whether Posthole F2010 was associated with this period of activity or with the later piggery.

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 Ltd (AS) would like to thank Crestel Partnerships for funding the archaeological excavation and for their assistance (in particular Ms Shenaz Virji and Mr Paul Richards).

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

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A. Bone (g)	Other
2003	2004	A	First Fill of Ditch	13 th -14 th	(2) 13g		7	Str. Flint (2) - 10g
		B		17 th -18 th	(6) 135g		29	Cockle Shell - 3g O. Shell - 19g
	2005	B	Third Fill of Ditch	17 th -18 th	(9) 114g	52	124	Str. Flint (1) - 2g Fe. Frag (1) - 47g Glass (1) - 1g
2006	2007		Bottom Fill of Pit	17 th -18 th	(1) 11g	3000	609	Clay Pipe Stem (2) - 18g Shell - 25g
	2008		Top Fill of Pit	17 th -18 th	(1) 11g			
2010	2011		Fill of Posthole					Fe. Frags (2) - 69g

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The excavation recovered 19 sherds weighing 279g from two features (Ditch F2003 and Pit F2006). The assemblage is mainly of post-medieval date, but also contains five residual medieval and one prehistoric sherd (Table 1). The entire assemblage can be characterised as abraded to heavily abraded, sometimes with outer surfaces removed.

Fill L2004 A of Ditch F2003 contained a small sandy sherd with grey core and oxidised surfaces which also contained vesicles from burnt out organics and sparse medium to very coarse flint, which is probably of later prehistoric date. The same context also contained a medieval sherd with splashes of external clear glaze. The fabric comprises quartz sand with rare coarse flint and some burnt organics. Context L2004 B contained a further three sherds of medieval pot. Two of these containing sparse to moderate vesicles probably resulting from leached oolites, have pale grey cores and pale brown or orange surfaces, one with splashes of external green glaze, are probably Lyveden 'B' type wares. The third sherd is a medieval grey ware with an abundant quartz sand and burnt organics fabric. The context also contained three fragments of 17th-18th century glazed post-medieval red earthenware including two wide dish or shallow bowl rims. L2005 B in Ditch F2003 contained a further 9 sherds of post-medieval red earthenware, one with trailed white slip decoration indicating a 17th-18th centuries date.

Fills L2007 and L2008 in Pit F2006 also contained a sherd each of glazed post-medieval red earthenware.

Key:

PSO: Prehistoric sand and organic ware ?late Bronze Age to Iron Age

MSW: Medieval sandy ware 12th-14th

LVE 'B': Lyveden B type ware 13th-14th

MGW: Medieval glazed ware 13th-15th century

PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware late 16th-18th

PMRST: Post-medieval slip trailed red earthenware 17th-18th

Feature	Context	Type	Quantity	Date	Comment
2003	2004 A	Ditch	1x1g PSO 1x11g MGW	13 th -14 th	PSO: Heavily abraded MGW; abraded with splashes of glaze
	2004 B		2x32g LYVE 'B' type 1x1g MSW 3x93g PMRE	17 th -18 th	LYVE 'B' heavily abraded, x1 patchy green external glaze MSW: abraded PMRE: heavily abraded; x1 flanged dish or shallow bowl c.50cm diameter; x1 shallow bowl with internal glaze c.50cm diameter
	2005 B		8x96g PMRE 1x17g PMRST	17 th -18 th	PMRE: abraded PMRST: abraded
2006	2007	Pit	1x11g PMRE	17 th -18 th	PMRE: abraded
	208		1x11g PMRE	17 th -18 th	PMRE: abraded

Table 1: Quantification of sherds by context

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey MifA

The excavation recovered seven fragments (3052g) of CBM, entirely comprised of bricks dating between the Tudor period (late 15th century) and early 17th century. The bulk of the fragments (3000g) including two approximately half-brick fragments were contained in Pit F2006 (L2007), with further small fragments (52g) contained in Ditch F2003 (L2005). The red-orange occurred in a sandy fabric with dimensions of ?x120x60mm, a fairly smooth base, slightly irregular to fairly smooth faces and arrises.

The Animal Bone

Dr Julia E. M. Cussans

A total of 25 animal bones were recovered from excavations at Elliot Road. These came from four contexts or context segments, deriving from two features (Table 1). Bone preservation was rated as poor, ok or good on a scale of very poor to excellent; some bones showed signs of weathering and a small number were dog gnawed. Cattle was the most commonly identified species; the bones of horse, dog and sheep/goat were also present. Some of the bones, such as fragments of rib, could only be identified as large (cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or dog sized) mammal; such bones made up over half of the assemblage. Two butchered bones were noted. One was a horse metapodial from L2007 which had an area of bone 'shaved' off near the proximal end and the other was a large mammal rib which had two cuts below the articulation into the inner curve of the bone. Other than this there was little else of note about this small assemblage and it would not warrant any further analysis.

Feature	Description	Context/ Segment	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Horse	Dog	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Total
2003	Ditch	2004 A					1		1
		2004 B	2	1		1		10	14
		2005 B	1				2	1	4
2006	Pit	2007	2		2		2		6
		Total	5	1	2	1	5	11	25

Table 2: Presence and abundance of animal taxa

The Shell

Dr Julia E. M. Cussans

A small quantity of marine shell was recovered from excavations at Elliot Road. From L2004 B (Ditch F2003) one common cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*) valve and one fragment of mineralised or fossilised oyster (*Ostrea* sp.) shell were recovered. From L2007 (Pit F2006) ten fragments of a large bivalve (possibly horse mussel - *Modiolus modiolus*) were recovered. There were no modifications or other points of interest noted.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

Two bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken during excavations at Elliot Road, March. Both were from post-medieval features. This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions and discusses the significance and potential of any remains present.

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; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) 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 3.

Plant macrofossils

Carbonised cereal grains were present in ditch fill L2004B (F2003B). Free-threshing type wheat grains (*Triticum aestivum/ compactum* type) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) were present, with wheat grains being more numerous. The grains were large and

plump, consistent with the post-medieval date of the deposit. The concentration of cereal grains was too low for any detailed analysis and there were no accompanying weeds or chaff remains.

Molluscs

Numerous snail shells were present in the samples, with water snails and bivalves (*Anisus* sp., *Lymnaea truncatula*, *Pisidium* sp. and *Planorbis* sp.) predominating. These indicate wet conditions and standing water within the features. Grassland snails such as *Cochlicopa* sp. and *Trichia hispida* group in the deposits are more likely to reflect habitats on the sides of the pit and ditch features.

Contaminants

Modern roots, seeds and earthworm egg capsules were present in the deposits, but not in such large concentrations as to suggest significant disturbance by bioturbation.

Conclusions and statement of potential

The carbonised remains from L2004B are consistent with the low-level wastage of cereals during day-to-day activities, such as food preparation. The assemblage is small and does not offer significant potential for further analysis and interpretation.

The molluscan remains are likely to reflect the very local conditions within the features from which they were sampled, demonstrating the presence of standing water. They are unlikely to provide further information regarding the wider environmental setting of the site and, as such, there is no need for further analysis.

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Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Feature type	Spot date	Volume (litres)	% processed	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
AS1544	1	2008	2006	Pit	Post-med	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	-	-		
AS1544	2	2004B	2003B	Ditch	Post-med	10	50%	X	-	5	-	-	-	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	X

Table 3: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Elliot Road, March. Abbreviations: Hord = (Hordeum sp.); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (Triticum aestivum/ compactum); Trit = wheat (Triticum sp.)

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1

General view of site post excavation. Looking north.



2

general view of site post excavation. Looking west.



3

Sample section 1. Looking west.



4

Sample section 2. Looking south.



5

View of ditch F2003 post excavation. Looking south.



6

Ditch F2003A. Looking north.



7
Ditch F2003B. Looking north.



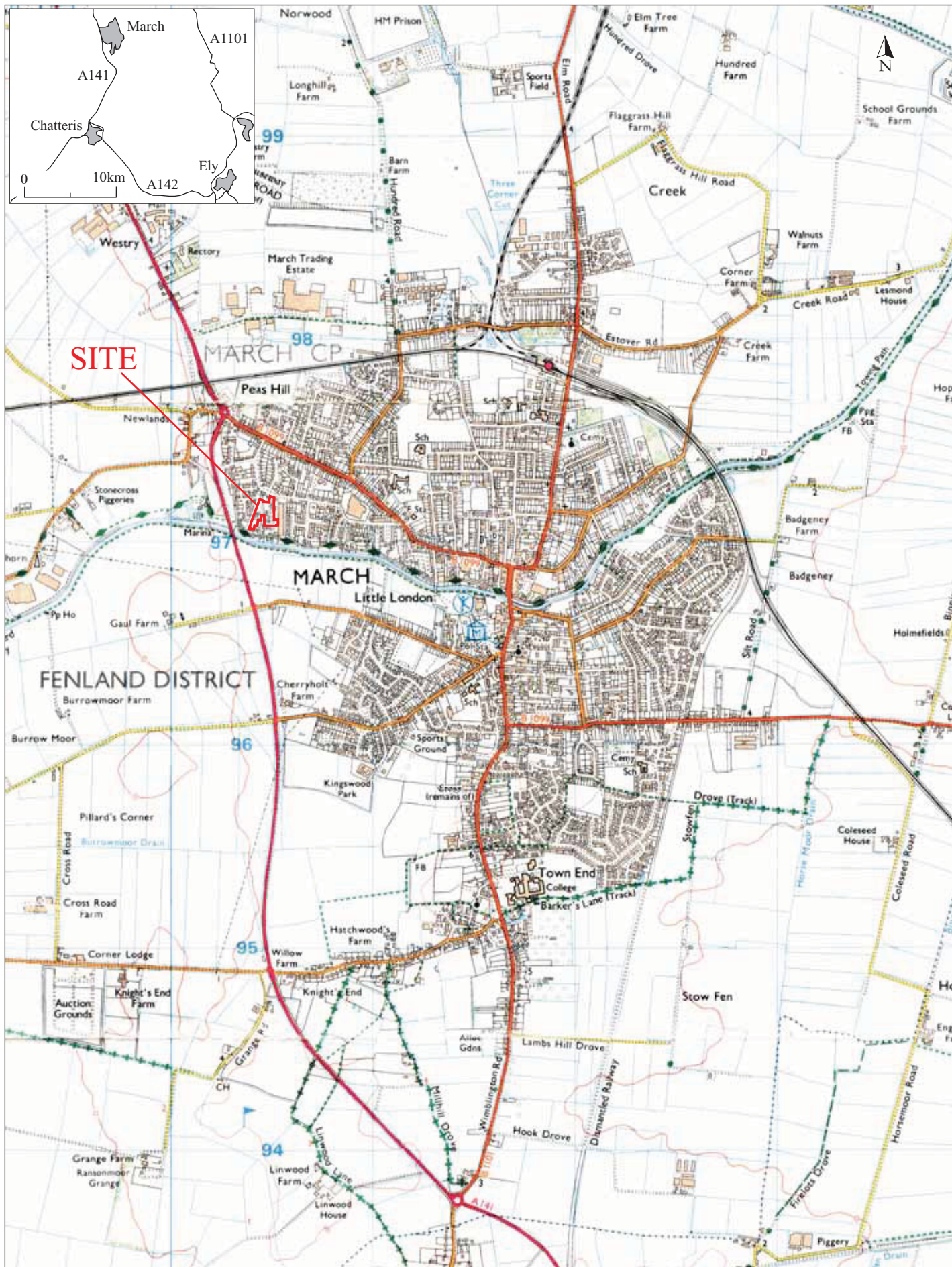
8
View of pit F2006 post excavation. Looking east.



9
Pit F2006. Looking east.

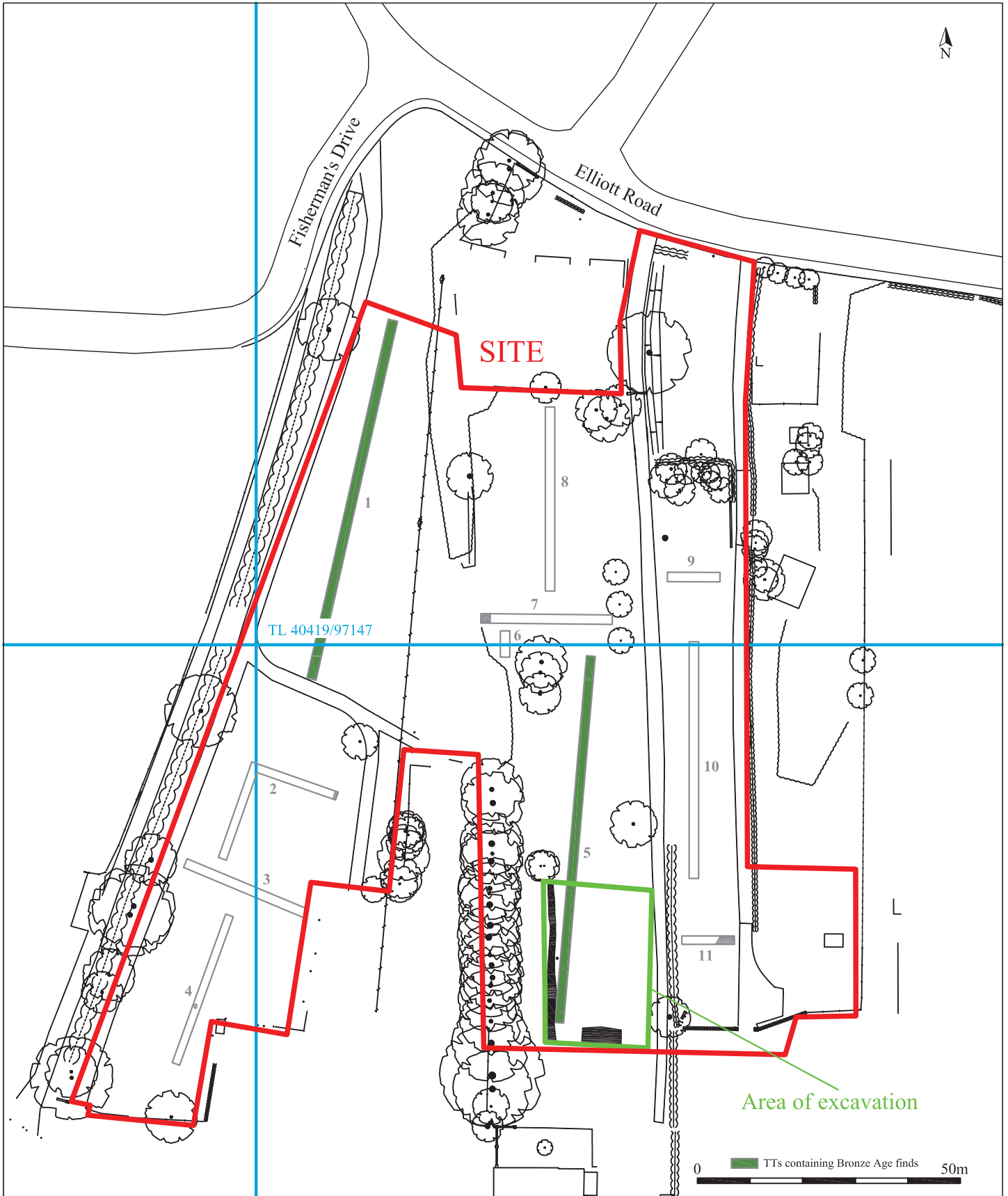


10
Post hole F2010. Looking south.



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



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

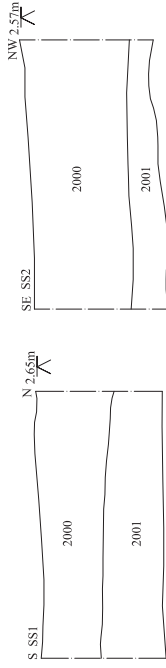
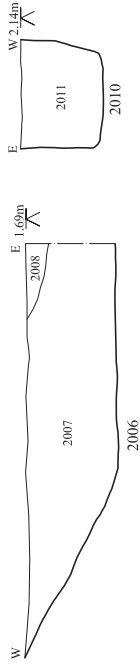
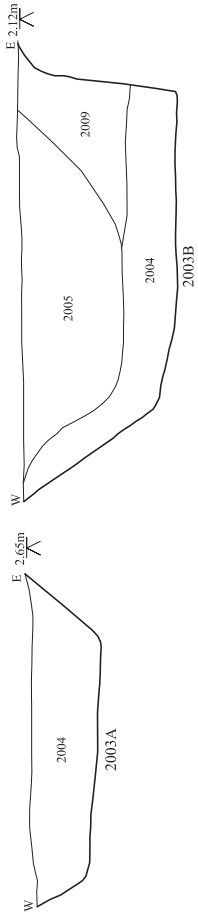
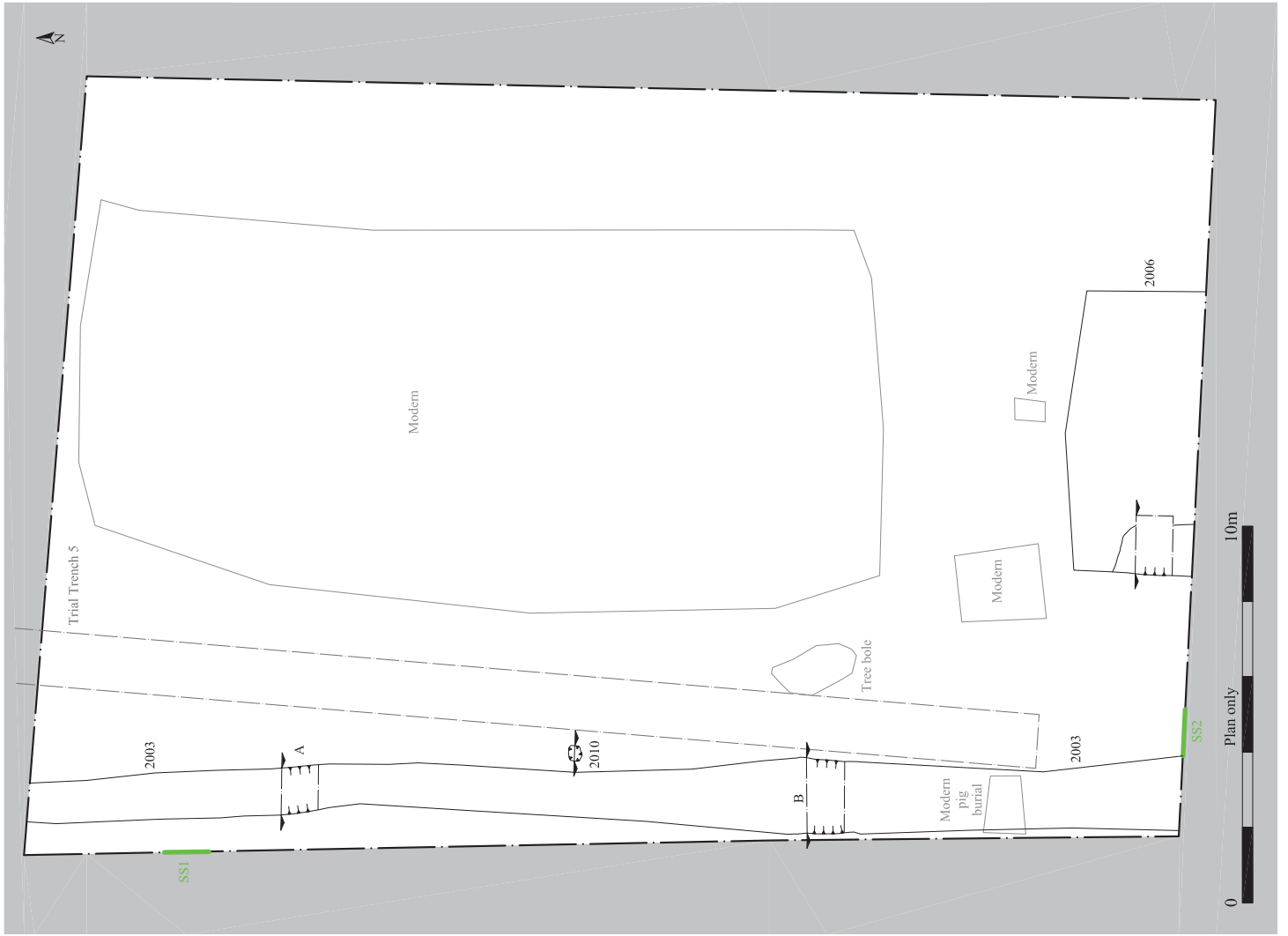


Fig. 3 Area of excavation & sections
 Scale plan at 1:125 and sections at 1:20 at A3

0 10m
 Plan only