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**THE ROYAL STANDARD, 292 MILL ROAD,
CAMBRIDGE CB1 3NL**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER NO. ECB 4163

Authors:	Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork & report) William Waring (Preparative research)	
Illustrations:	Rosanna Price	
NGR: TL 4702 5759	Report No: 4600	
District: Cambridge	Site Code: ECB 4163	
Approved: Claire Halpin MlfA	Project No: 5702	
Signed:	Date: 16 June 2014 Revised: 20/08/2014	

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		The Royal Standard, 292 Mill Road, Cambridge CB1 3NL	
<p>In June 2014 Archaeological Solution Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at The Royal Standard, 292 Mill Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB1 3NL (NGR TL 4702 5759). The site comprises the existing Royal Standard building fronting Mill Road, with outbuildings, grass and hardstanding to the rear. It extends to some 0.12ha. The evaluation was commissioned by DPA Architects Ltd in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the conversion and extension of existing buildings to provide student let accommodation and the erection of 5 terraced houses (13/0810/FUL).</p> <p>The site is located within an area of archaeological potential, fronting Mill Road, an important historical route into Cambridge from the east; named after a windmill that once stood at Covent Garden. This area comprised fields (historically) prior to the Enclosure Act of 1807 but witnessed large-scale development in the latter half of the 19th century. The arrival of the railway and the building of the nearby station in 1845 also had an impact on the character of the Mill Road Area. Various public amenities, places of worship and industries were also established at this time.</p> <p>In the event the evaluation revealed undated, putative quarry pits and one possible pit.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		June 2014	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		N	Future work TBC
P. number		5639	Site code ECB 4163
Type of project		Archaeological Evaluation	
Site status		Within an area of archaeological potential	
Current land use		Former public house	
Planned development		Residential	
Main features (+dates)		Undated, putative quarry pits	
Significant finds (+dates)		-	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		Cambridgeshire	Cambridge
HER/ SMR for area		Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CCC HER)	
Post code (if known)		CB1 3NL	
NGR		TL 4702 5759	
Area of site		c. 0.12ha.	
Height AOD (max/ min)		c. 12m AOD	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (Andy Thomas)	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		Gareth Barlow	
Funded by		Beechwood Estates	
Full title		The Royal Standard, 292 Mill Road, Cambridge CB1 3NL. Archaeological Evaluation	
Authors		Barlow, G.	
Report no.		4600	
Date (of report)		16 th June 2014 (Revised 20/08/2014)	

THE ROYAL STANDARD, 292 MILL ROAD, CAMBRIDGE CB1 3NL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In June 2014 Archaeological Solution Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at The Royal Standard, 292 Mill Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB1 3NL (NGR TL 4702 5759). The site comprises the existing Royal Standard building fronting Mill Road, with outbuildings, grass and hardstanding to the rear. It extends to some 0.12ha. The evaluation was commissioned by DPA Architects Ltd in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the conversion and extension of existing buildings to provide student let accommodation and the erection of 5 terraced houses (13/0810/FUL).

The site is located within an area of archaeological potential, fronting Mill Road, an important historical route into Cambridge from the east; named after a windmill that once stood at Covent Garden. This area comprised fields (historically) prior to the Enclosure Act of 1807 but witnessed large-scale development in the latter half of the 19th century. The arrival of the railway and the building of the nearby station in 1845 also had an impact on the character of the Mill Road Area. Various public amenities, places of worship and industries were also established at this time.

In the event the evaluation revealed undated, putative quarry pits and one possible pit.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2014 Archaeological Solution Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at The Royal Standard, 292 Mill Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB1 3NL (NGR TL 4702 5759; Figs. 1 and 2). The site comprises the existing Royal Standard building fronting Mill Road, with outbuildings, grass and hardstanding to the rear. It extends to some 0.12ha. The evaluation was commissioned by DPA Architects Ltd on behalf of the client Beechwood Estates in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the conversion and extension of existing buildings to provide student let accommodation and the erection of 5 terraced houses (13/0810/FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Andy Thomas 13/03/2014), and a specification compiled by AS (20/13/2014), 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 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 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The site lies on the southern side of Mill Road, at its junction with Malta Road, in the eastern part of the city of Cambridge. This part of Cambridge, formerly fields, was developed from the later 19th century.

2.2 The site comprises the existing Royal Standard building fronting Mill Road, with outbuildings, grass and hardstanding to the rear. It extends to some 0.12ha.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is located c. 1.5km east of the River Cam, on a flat plain at approximately 12m AOD. The soil formation of the site, like much of the Cambridge urban area, is currently unsurveyed. The solid geology of the site comprises Upper Cretaceous Lower Chalk.

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The history of Cambridge has been covered by a number of authors, e.g. Cam (1959), Lobel (1975), Bryan (1999) and Taylor (1999) (after Newman 2009), and will not be fully reviewed herein. This section is restricted to a summary of the 19th century development of the Mill Road area¹.

4.2 Mill Road is a major historic route leading eastwards from the centre of Cambridge and is named after a windmill that once stood at Covent Garden (Planning Services (Cambridge City Council) (CCC) 2011, 7; Gray and Stubbins 2000, 13). Although Cambridge has been subject to gradual expansion since the 10th century AD (Newman 2009, 5), the Mill Road area was (historically) agricultural land until the Enclosure Act of 1807 (CCC 2011, 7). Following enclosure, a shift of 'speculative building interest' to this area of the town occurred from the mid 19th century (Beacon Planning Ltd 2011, 10) when new residential roads were laid out perpendicular to Mill Road (CCC 2011, 7). Initial development of the area was slow, however, and did not witness an upsurge until the 1870's (CCC 2011, 8). The arrival of the first railway line to Cambridge and the building of the railway station (CHER 04906) in 1845 had a major impact on this area and a flourishing 'railway community' grew up in 'Sturton Town', to the north of Mill Road (Boyd 2005, 70).

4.3 Churches, including St Matthew's (CHER CB14825; est. 1866), St Barnabas' (CHER CB14820; est. 1869-88) and St Philip's (CHER CB14819; est. 1891) were built to serve the newly established communities (CCC 2011, 8). Mill Road Cemetery (CHER CB15751), formerly the site of the university's cricket ground, was opened in 1848, and a number of public amenities and industries, including a Kinema (CHER MCB19844), the Eagle Brewery (CCC 2011, 8) and a steam driven corn mill (CHER MCB16537) also developed in the area. Other points of interest within 1km of the current site include a 19th century well to the rear of No. 75 Norfolk Street (CHER CB15506; Dickens 2000) and a former warehouse to the north of Station Road (CHER MCB16538). A series of post-medieval clunch quarries relating to the development of the town (CHER MCB17719) are recorded some 1.5km to the south-east of the site, while gravel quarries of the same date have been excavated c. 1.3km to the south-west (Rees 2011, 12).

¹ All CHER numbers referenced in the text are plotted on Figure 1

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Three trial trenches were excavated (Fig. 2). Trenches 1 and 2 were 15m long, and Trench 3 was 10m long. All the trenches were 1.6m wide.

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. All subsequent 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 as necessary.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 and 3)

<i>Sample section 1</i> 0.00 = 11.97m AOD		
0.00 - 0.11m	L1028	Concrete surface
0.11 - 0.23m	L1029	Former tarmac layer
0.22 - 0.45m	L1005	Concrete rubble.
0.45 - 0.71m	L1030	Buried soil. Dark brownish black, compact, silty sand
0.71 – 1.12m	L1002	Buried soil.
1.12 – 1.42m	L1004	Buried soil. Mid orange brown, firm, sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub angular flint.
1.42m+	L1003	Natural. Pale grey brown, firm, clayey silt with sparse small angular flint

Description: Trench 1 contained pits, likely quarry pits, F1013, F1015 and F1017. F1021 was a possible pit. None contained finds.

Putative Quarry Pit F1013 was sub-circular in plan (2.50+ x 0.65+ x 0.45m), with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1014) was a mid orange brown, compact, clay with occasional chalk. It contained no finds.

F1015 was a ditch or putative quarry pit (4.50+ x 0.35 + x 0.50m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a dark greyish brown, compact, clay with occasional stones. It contained no finds. It cut F1017.

Putative Quarry Pit F1017 was sub rectangular (8.05+ x 1.55+ x 0.85). It had steep, near vertical sides and its base was uneven. Its basal fill, L1020, was a dark orange blue, compact, clay with occasional stones. It contained no finds. The middle fill, L1019, was a mid - dark yellowish orange, compact, clay with occasional chalk. It contained no finds. The upper fill, L1018, was a dark grey brown, compact, clay. It contained a 16th century sherd of pottery, and also two cross-joining fragments (162g) of late post-medieval (18th or 19th century) peg tile. F1017 cut F1021.

Putative Pit F1021 was sub-circular (1.10+ x 0.30+ x 0.12m). It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1022, was a light bluish grey, compact, clay with moderate chalk. It contained no finds. It was cut by Quarry Pit F1017.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 and 3)

<i>Sample section 2A</i> 0.00 = 11.89m AOD		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey brown, friable, silty sand with occasional small angular and sub angular flint
0.22 – 0.33m	L1001	Re-deposited natural. Pale grey brown, firm, clayey silt with sparse small angular flint
0.33 – 0.55m	L1002	Buried soil. Mid grey brown, firm, sandy silt with moderate small angular and sub angular flint
0.55m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

<i>Sample section 2B</i> 0.00 = 11.87m AOD		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.16 – 0.27m	L1005	Concrete rubble. As above
0.27 – 0.33m	L1002	Buried soil. As above
0.33 – 0.43m	L1004	Buried soil. As above
0.43m+	L1003	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 2 contained three quarry pits, F1006, F1023 and F1025. None contained finds.

Putative Quarry Pit F1006 was ill defined because it extended beyond the trench (3.90+ x 1.60m x 0.52). Its plan was uncertain; possibly rectangular. Its sides were steep or vertical, and its base was flat. F1006 contained six fills tabulated below:

Fill	Description	Finds
1012 uppermost	Mid grey brown, firm, clayey silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint	-
1011	Mid orange brown, firm, clay silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint	-
1010	Mid orange grey, firm, sandy silt with moderate small and medium angular and sub-angular flint	-
1009	Pale orange grey, firm, clayey silt with occasional small angular flint	-
1008	Pale orange grey, firm, clayey silt with occasional small angular flint	-
1007 primary	Pale blue grey, firm, clayey silt with occasional, moderate rounded flints and chalk	-

Putative Quarry Pit F1023 was sub circular (1.60+ x 1.10+ x 0.45). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1024, was a pale greyish brown, compact, silty clay with occasional chalk. It contained no finds. It was cut by F1025.

Putative Quarry Pit F1025 was sub circular (1.60+ x 1.90+ x 0.80). It had steep and a flattish base. Its basal fill, L1026, was a pale greyish brown, compact, silty clay with

occasional chalk. It contained no finds. The upper fill, L1027, was a pale greyish brown, compact, silty clay. It contained no finds. F1025 cut F1023.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 and 4)

<i>Sample section 3</i>		
<i>0.00 = 11.84m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.16 – 0.27m	L1005	Concrete rubble layer. As above
0.27 – 0.33m	L1002	Buried soil. As above
0.33 – 0.43m	L1004	Buried soil. As above
0.43m+	L1003	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 3 contained Quarry Pit F1031. It contained no finds.

Putative Quarry Pit F1031 was sub circular (1.60+ x 2.70+ x 0.50). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1032, was a pale greyish brown, compact, silty clay with occasional chalk. It contained no finds.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost were hard surfaces (L1028, L1029 and L1005), Topsoil L1000 and re-deposited natural (L1001) to a depth of 0.27 - 0.45m. Below were buried soils (L1002, L1004 and L1030), 0.16 to 0.97m deep. The latter overlay the natural geology (L1003), which was present 0.43 to 1.42m below present surface level.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Date
1	F1013	Quarry pit	undated
	F1015	Quarry pit	undated
	F1017	Quarry pit	undated
	F1021	?Pit	undated
2	F1006	Quarry pit	undated
	F1023	Quarry pit	undated
	F1025	Quarry pit	undated
3	F1031	Quarry pit	undated

9.2 The site is located within an area of archaeological potential, fronting Mill Road, an important historical route into Cambridge from the east. This area underwent considerable development during the latter half of the 19th century.

9.3 In the event the evaluation revealed undated, putative quarry pits and one possible pit, also undated. Bar a single sherd of 16th century pottery and 18th/ 19th century peg tile from Pit F1017 (L1018), these features were devoid of finds. However, based on their position in relation to Mill Road, it is likely that these features post-dated the mid 19th century. Various other instances of post-medieval quarrying have been recorded in the Cambridge area. Clunch (chalk) quarries are known around the eastern edge of the town (CHER MCB17719; Fig. 1); the county's chalk geology can be used for lime-making and provides clunch and flint for building (Page 2013, 157). Gravel extraction, thought to be associated with the 19th century expansion of Cambridge has also been recorded to the south-west of the current site (Rees 2011, 12).

9.4 The encountered natural geology (L1003) comprised clay-rich silt with sparse, small angular flint. It is possible, therefore, that the putative quarry pits resulted from clay extraction, perhaps for local construction. Certainly, the small fragments of flint within L1003 would not have warranted extraction and none of the recorded features was dug into the underlying Cretaceous Chalk.

9.5 The features contained snail shell and had the appearance of having been left open to fill with water.

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 Ltd (AS) would like to thank the client, Mr James Arnold, of Bennell Farm, Beechwood Estates for his co-operation and for funding the project, and Mr Ray Burch of Marstan BDB LLP and Mr Dale Robinson of DPA Architects Ltd for their assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

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APPENDIX 1 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered one moderately abraded sherd of late medieval to early post-medieval red earthen ware weighing 14g, from Pit F1017 (L1018). The sherd has a fine sandy grey core and orange surfaces, and has traces of mortar on the inner surface suggesting a secondary function. A date centred on the 16th century is suggested.

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Pit F1017 (L1018) contained two cross-joining fragments (162g) of late post-medieval peg tile. The calcareous clay fabric is typical of tiles mass-produced in the north Cambridgeshire region, in this instance probably in the 18th or 19th century.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
View across the site, facing northeast



2
View across the site, facing southwest



3
Trial trench 1, facing southwest



4
Sample section 1A, facing southeast



5
F1015 & F1017A, trial trench 1, facing east



6
Trial trench 2, facing southeast



7
Sample section 2A, facing south



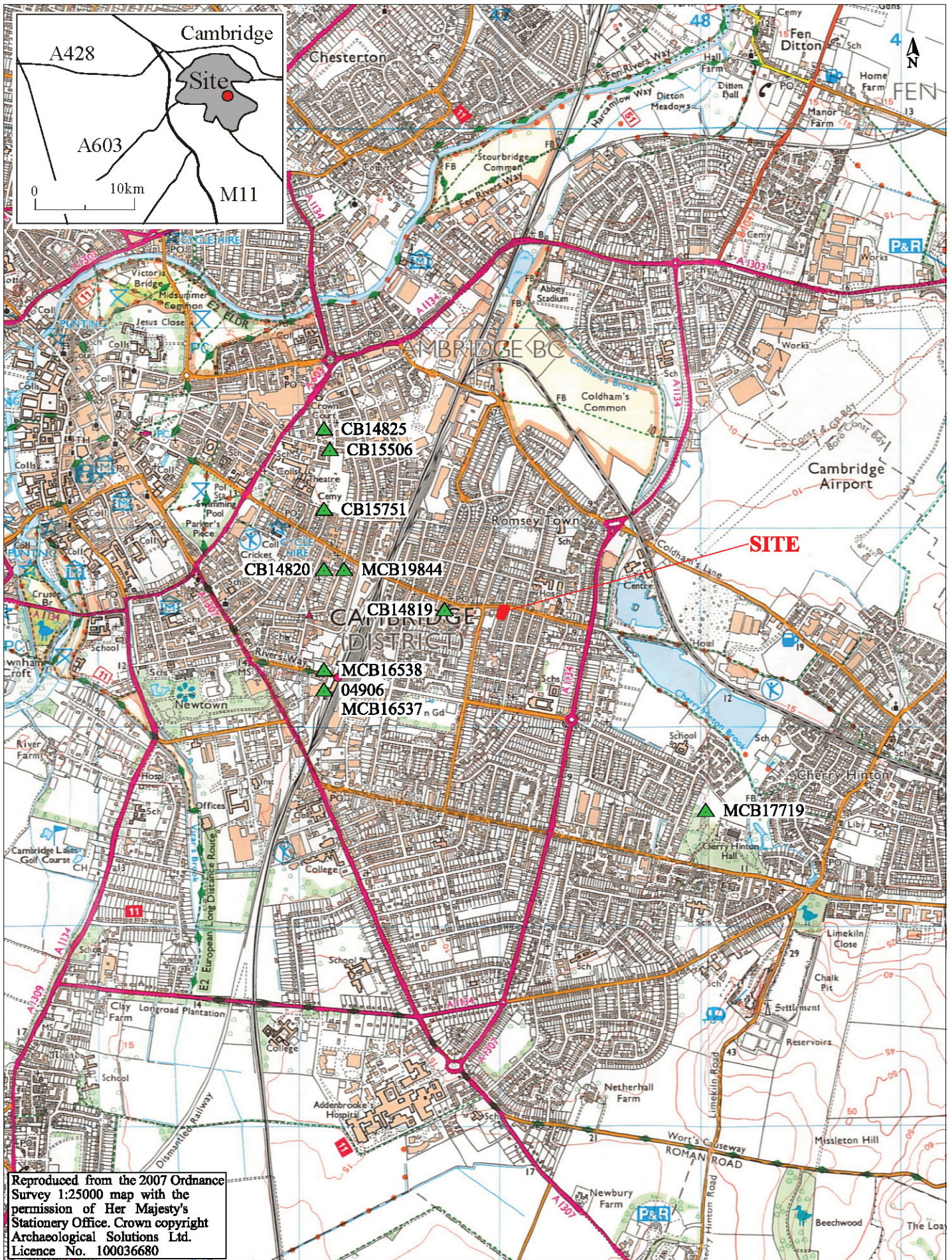
8
F1023 & F1025, trial trench 2, facing north



9
Trial trench 3, facing northwest



10
F1031, trial trench 3, facing north-northeast



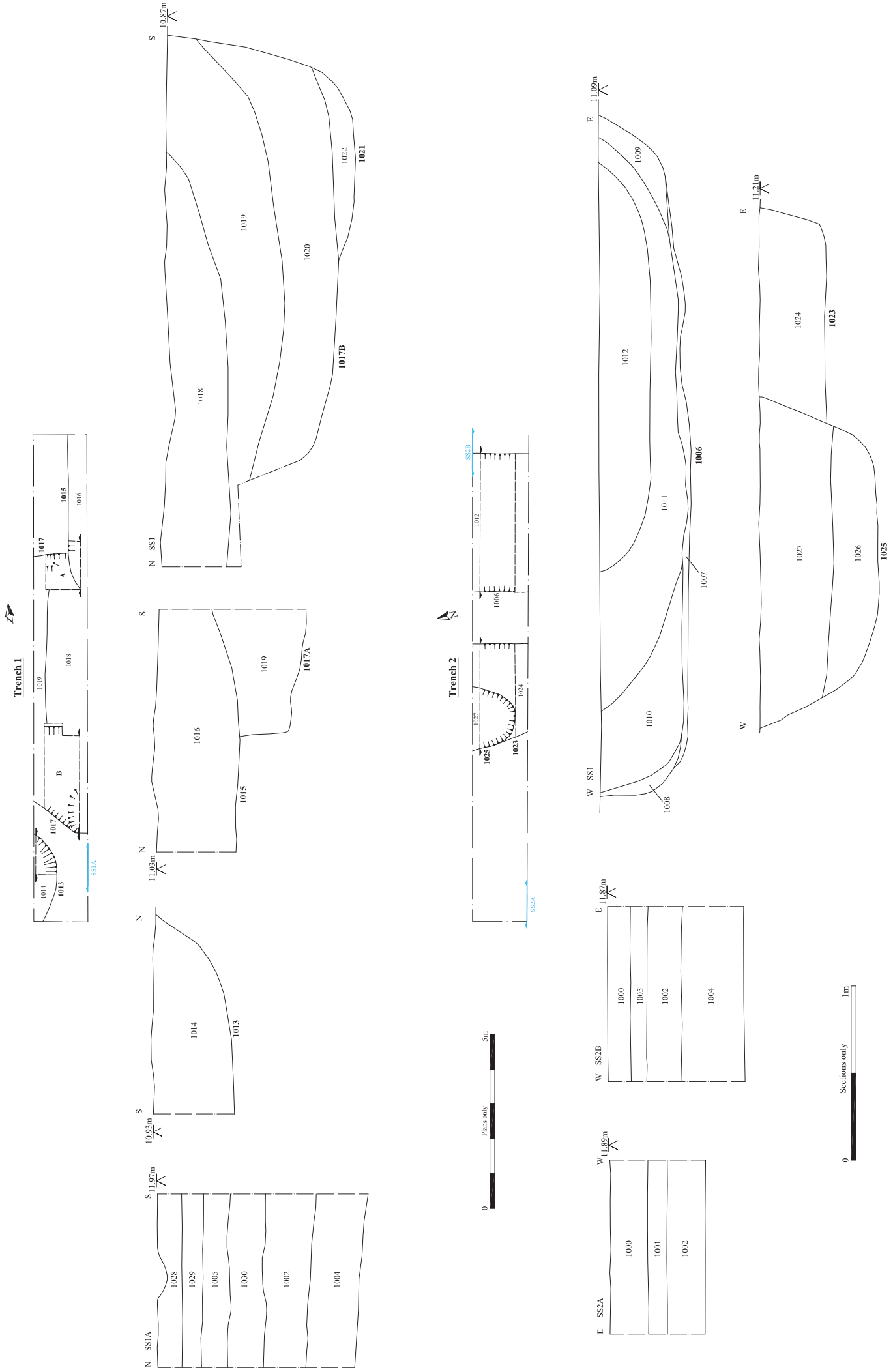
▲ CHER plots

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

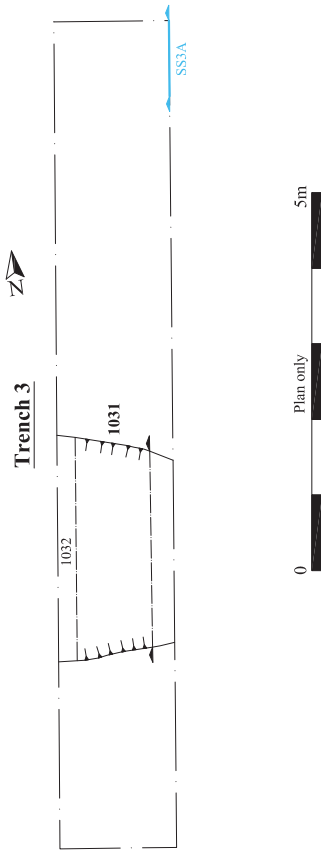


0 50m

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



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Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3



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Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4