
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

SHIRE HALL, RAINGATE STREET, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND MONITORING
INTERIM REPORT**

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NGR: TL 858 639	Report No. 4160	
District: Bury St Edmunds	Site Code: BSE 365	
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No. P4241	
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	Shire Hall, Raingate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk		
<p><i>In September 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological excavation and monitoring at Shire Hall, Raingate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (NGR TL 858 639). The work was required to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the addition of a new wing onto the former Shire Hall Building (St Edmundsbury Ref. SE/11/0481).</i></p> <p><i>The site lies in an area of Archaeological Importance within the town's Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement core, adjacent to the precinct of the Abbey of St Edmund. Documentary work has shown that, although outside this precinct, the site is likely to lie within the area of the Sacrist's yard. This would have included a hall, domestic buildings, offices, stables and workshops. Previous test pitting also suggests that the area was generally within the early settlement core (Carr and Gill, 2007). An archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out by AS in March/ April 2011, revealing archaeological features and layers of medieval and post-medieval date.</i></p> <p><i>The excavation revealed principally pits and postholes, a continuation of the evidence recorded by the evaluation.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	September 2012		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Y	Futurework (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	P4241	Site code	BSE 365
Type of project	Archaeological Excavation		
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance		
Current land use	Grassed courtyard		
Planned development	New wing to Shire Hall		
Main features (+dates)	Pits, postholes		
Significant finds (+dates)	Medieval (12 th to 14 th century) assemblages		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Suffolk	St Edmundsbury	Bury St Edmunds
HER/ SMR for area	Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	300m ²		
NGR	TL 858 639		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c. 31m		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Gareth Barlow		
Funded by	M & D Developments		
Full title	Shire Hall, Raingate Street, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk. An Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring Interim Report		
Authors	Barlow, G.		
Report no.	4160		
Date (of report)	05 November 2012 (Revised 09/10/2014)		

SHIRE HALL, RAINGATE STREET, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND MONITORING INTERIM REPORT

SUMMARY

In September 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS), conducted an archaeological excavation and monitoring at Shire Hall, Raingate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (centred on NGR TL 858 639). The excavation and monitoring was required to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the addition of a new wing onto the former Shire Hall Building (St Edmundsbury Ref. SE/11/0481).

The site lies in an area of Archaeological Importance within the Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement core of Bury (BSE 242), adjacent to the precinct of the Abbey of St Edmund (BSE 010, SAM SF2). Documentary work has shown that, although outside this precinct, the site is likely to lie within the area of the Sacrist's yard. This would have included a hall, domestic buildings, offices, stables and workshops of his household. Previous test pitting also suggests that the area was generally within the early settlement core (Carr and Gill 2007). An archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out by AS in March/ April 2011 (Dyson and Adams 2011), revealing archaeological features and layers of medieval and post-medieval date.

The excavation revealed principally pits and postholes, a continuation of the evidence recorded during the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS), conducted an archaeological excavation and monitoring at Shire Hall, Raingate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (centred on NGR TL 858 639). The excavation and monitoring was required to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the addition of a new wing onto the former Shire Hall Building (St Edmundsbury Ref. SE/11/0481). The requirement followed a trial trench evaluation of the site carried out as part of a Heritage Statement in support of the planning application (Dyson and Adams 2011).

1.2 The project was undertaken in compliance with a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT) (dated 22nd May 2012), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 8th August 2012). It adhered to appropriate sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). The excavation was also conducted according to the Institute of for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The site lies within the early settlement core of Bury St Edmunds, in the approximate location of the Sacrist's Yard of the medieval Abbey of St Edmund. This would have contained a hall, domestic buildings, offices, stables and workshops. The trial trench evaluation of the site encountered archaeological

features of both post-medieval and medieval date. The medieval features were dateable, through artefactual evidence, to the 12th to 14th centuries AD and were thought to relate to the Abbey complex; comprising structural remains and domestic features. The post-medieval features were recorded cutting a possible leveling layer, considered to be of post-Dissolution date. In addition, struck flint was recovered from several features, indicating the possibility of prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

1.4 The primary objective was to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site. The research aims were principally:

- Place the medieval and post-medieval activity in context with the known activity of these dates in the surrounding area
- Characterise the activity present within the site
- Identify topographical/ geological/ geographical influences on the layout and development of the activity present within the current site and in the surrounding area
- Environmental reconstruction

Planning policy context

1.5 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.

1.6 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 THE SITE

2.1 The site comprises a sub-rectangular plot (measuring c. 300m²), within the Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement core of Bury St Edmunds (BSE 242; Carr and Gill 2007) (DP1). The site is adjacent to the precinct of the Abbey of St Edmund (BSE 010, SAM SF2).

Topography, Geology and Soils

2.2 The site lies at c. 35m OAD, on the western edge of the flood plain of the River Lark, on deposits of chalk/ chalky drift.

3 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Archaeological Evaluation

3.1 An archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out by AS in March/ April 2011 (Dyson and Adams 2011). The evaluation revealed archaeological features and layers of medieval and post-medieval date (Table 1). In summary:

The evaluation revealed features (12th to 14th century) which predominantly pits and postholes. At the northern end of the trench the remains of a structure may have been partially revealed (F1008, F1010, F1012, F1014, F1016, F1018, F1046, F1048 and F1050). The medieval features contained small quantities of pottery (between one and two sherds) and animal bone. Three features (1008, 1010 and 1018) contained struck flint suggestive of prehistoric activity.

Trench	Feature	Description	Spot Date
1	F1006	Cess Pit	Post-medieval
	F1008	Posthole	Undated
	F1010	Posthole	12 th to 14 th century
	F1012	Posthole	Undated
	F1014	Posthole	12 th to 14 th century
	F1016	Posthole	Undated
	F1018	Pit	12 th to 14 th century
	F1020	Ditch	Undated
	F1022	Pit	Undated
	F1024	Gully	Undated
	F1026	Pit	Undated
	F1028	Pit	Undated
	F1030	Pit	Undated
	F1032	Pit	Undated
	F1034	Posthole	Undated
	F1038	Pit	Undated
	F1040	Pit	Undated
	F1042	Pit	12 th to 14 th century
	F1044	Posthole	Undated
	F1046	Posthole	12 th to 14 th century
	F1048	Posthole	Undated
	F1050	Posthole	Undated
	F1052	Pit	Post-medieval
F1054	Pit	12 th to 14 th century	
F1056	Pit	Post-medieval	

Table 1: Summary of features encountered by the evaluation

3.2 The features divide into three broad phases: those which cut Levelling Layer L1002 (F1006, F1052 and F1056), those which cut the natural (L1004) and were

overlain by Subsoil L1003, and those which cut Subsoil L1003 and which could be medieval or post-medieval in date.

3.3 The medieval features were predominantly pits and postholes. At the northern end of the trench the remains of a structure may have been partially revealed (F1008, F1010, F1012, F1014, F1016, F1018, F1046, F1048 and F1050). The form and fills (mid to dark grey brown loose, silty sand with frequent small and medium flint) of the postholes were directly comparable.

3.4 The medieval features contained small quantities of pottery (between one and two sherds) and animal bone. Three features (F1008, F1010 and F1018) contained struck flint suggestive of prehistoric activity.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The brief required formal, single-context archaeological excavation of the area within the footprint of the foundations of the new building (an area of c. 300m²) and archaeological monitoring of any additional groundworks.

4.2 The mechanical stripping of the site was undertaken over three phases (plans of which are presented in Figures 3, 5 and 6):

- to the surface of L1002 a levelling layer (0.56 – 0.60m below the current ground level);
- to the surface of L1003 a subsoil (0.80 – 1.12m below the current ground level); and
- to the surface of L1004 the natural (1.00 – 1.47m below the current ground level).

4.3 The mechanical stripping was undertaken under close archaeological supervision using a tracked mechanical 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

PHASE 1: Post-Medieval/ Modern (Fig. 3 (Excavation Stage 1))

The first phase of machining was to the surface of Levelling Layer L1002 (0.56 to 0.60m below the current ground level), identified during the trial trench evaluation. The Excavation encountered a series of broadly contemporary layers (L2028, L2029 and L2034) at this level (Fig. 3).

The highest features were Pits F2008, F2024, F2047 and F2051 (Table 2; Fig. 3 (Excavation Stage 1)). Pits F2008 and F2047 contained medieval pottery that was either residual or which indicates that these were truncated medieval features (perhaps truncated by levelling prior to Layer L2002).

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Spot Date	Relationships
F2008	L2009	Sub-circular in plan, moderately steep then a break in slope to steep sides, moderately flat base (0.83 x 0.82 x 0.27m)	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt	19 th to 20 th C with ?residual medieval	Cut L2029
F2024	L2025	Sub-rectangular in plan, steep to vertical sides, base sloping to the West (1.50 x 1.12 x 0.30m)	Compact mid yellow and grey silty clay	20th C	Cut L2034
F2047	L2048	Sub-oval in plan, shallow to moderately steep sides with a concave base (0.96 x 0.56 x 0.16m)	Friable mid orange brown sandy clay and silt	?Residual medieval	Cut L2028
F2051	L2052	Circular in plan, steeply sloping sides with a flat base (2.15 x 1.10+ x 0.40m)	Firm dark grey and brown clay silt	-	Cut L2004

Table 2: Summary of the highest features

Pit F2051 cut Trackway F2033 (2.15 x 1.10+ x 0.40m; DP 2). The basal layer of the trackway, L2044, was a patchy, compact layer of cream/ white chalky clay with moderate gravel. It was overlain by L2004, a mottled mid yellow brown and mid brown, firm clayey silt with occasional gravel. The compacted nature of its fills was considered during excavation to indicate that F2033 represented a deliberately metallated surface or trackway. A slight camber, visible in section (Fig. 4) may, therefore, have been deliberate. Towards its eastern terminus the feature flared in width from c. 3.25m to c. 4.25m; this may indicate that space was allowed for the unloading or turning of vehicles. No finds were recovered from the fills of F2033, suggesting that it was unlikely to represent a floor surface or other 'habitation' layer. The projected western course of F2033 intersects with modern Raingate Street/ Honey Hill, which in turn provide access to central Bury.

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Spot Date	Relationships
F2010	L2011	Linear in plan, moderately steep sloping sides with a flat base	Firm pale/mid grey green silty clay	Residual 13 th -mid 14 th C	Cut L2005 and L2006
F2012	L2032 Upper	Linear in plan, very steep on northern slope and steep on southern slope with a shallow concave base (10.00+ x 0.96 x 0.30)	Friable dark brown grey sandy clay and silt	-	Cut F2013
	L2013 Basal	Linear in plan, very steep on northern slope and steep on southern slope with a shallow concave base (10.00+ x 1.05 x 0.18)	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt	18 th -19 th C	Cut F2014 and F2011
F2014	L2050 Upper	Linear in plan, steep sides with a flat base (10.00+ x 1.18 x 0.55)	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt	-	Cut F2010, L2029, L2005 and L2006
	L2016	Linear in plan, steep sides with a flat base (10.00+ x 1.18 x 0.55)	Friable mid orange yellow sandy mortar	17 th -19 th C	As above
	L2015 Basal	Linear in plan, steep sides with a flat base (1.00 x 0.63 x 0.08)	Firm dark green and brown sandy clay and silt	18 th - early 20 th C	As above
F2035	L2017	Linear in plan, moderately steep sides with a flat base (10.00+ x 1.23 x 0.36)	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt	17 th -19 th C with residual medieval	Re-cut of F2014

Table 3: Summary of Ditches F2010, F2012, F2014 and F2035

Pit F2045 was cut by F2033 (Fig. 3 (Excavation Stage 1); DP 2). It was sub-circular in plan (1.90 x 1.28 x 0.23m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1046, comprised dark grey brown, friable, sandy clay with occasional flint and gravel. It

contained CBM (36g), animal bone (20g), oyster shell (66g) and an amorphous metal fragment (27g).

A sequence of large ditches was excavated (Table 3; Fig. 3 (Excavation Stage 1)). The most recent ditch (F2012) cut Ditch F2014. F2035 was a re-cut of Ditch F2014, and F2014 cut Ditch F2010. Although Ditches F2035 and F2010 appeared to be in this latest phase, both yielded medieval pottery (no diagnostically later material was present), and while this may represent residual material, both features may be earlier in date.

Test pits (labelled A – F) were excavated to better understand the site stratigraphy.

PHASE 2: Later Medieval/ Post-Medieval (Fig. 5 (Excavation Stage 2))

The second phase of machining was to the surface of L1003, a subsoil (0.80 to 1.12m) below the current ground level), identified during the evaluation. Numerous discrete features were recorded. They truncated L2005 and L2043 (=L1003). Phase 2 certainly represents a discrete phase from pre-subsoil medieval deposits and is post-medieval and/ or later medieval in date.

Two pits were excavated; one large (F2053) and one small (F2026) (Table 4). Each contained ?residual medieval pottery.

Whilst the material from Pits F2026 and F2053 may be residual, it is also possible that these features dated to the later medieval period. No diagnostically later material was recovered from the pits to confirm a post-medieval origin. The same is true for Postholes F2061 and F2066 and Trackway F2068 (below). Although these features cut the subsoil, finds from the latter date to the 12th to 14th centuries AD. It is possible that truncation associated with the levelling layers (described above) resulted in a stratigraphy where medieval and post-medieval features appear at the same level.

Feature	Context	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Spot Date	Relationships
2026	2027	Oval in plan, steep sided with moderately flat base (0.76 x 0.60 x 0.33)	Firm mid grey brown sand, clay and silt	?Residual mid 12 th to 14 th C	Cut by F2033
2053	2054	Circular in plan, gently sloping to steeply sloping with flat base (2.40+ x 1.45+ x 0.35)	Firm greyish mid brown silty sandy clay	?Residual 13 th to 15 th C	Cut L2005

Table 4: Summary of Pits F2026 and F2053

Several postholes were recorded (Table 5); no coherent plan was evident (Fig. 5 (Excavation Stage 2)).

Pit F2070 and Trackway were encountered in the northern half of the excavation (Fig. 5 (Excavation Stage 2); DP 3). Pit F2070 cut Trackway F2068. The pit was sub-circular in plan (1.35m x 1.05m x 0.16m). Its fill (L2071) comprised mid grey brown, compact sandy silt with frequent gravel and flint. It contained CBM (54g) and animal bone (46g).

Trackway F2068 was cut by Pit F2070 (DP 3). It was orientated E/W, like Trackway F2033 (above). Its fill (L2069) comprised mid yellow brown, compact silty clay with moderate flint and gravel. It contained ?residual, mid 12th to 14th century pottery (23g), CBM (88g), animal bone (4g) and oyster shell (9g). The ?residual pottery from L2069 might indicate a later medieval date for the trackway; no diagnostically later material was present.

Feature	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Spot Date	Relationships
F2030	L2031	Sub-circular in plan, steep sided with moderately flat base (0.37 x 0.36 x 0.17)	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt	-	Cut L2005
F2055	L2056	Sub-circular in plan, gently sloping with a concave base (0.25 x 0.20 x 0.60)	Firm greyish orangey brown silty sandy clay	-	Cut L2005
F2057	L2058	Sub-circular in plan, gentle sloping with a concave base (0.25 x 0.20 x 0.04)	Firm greyish orangey brown silty sandy clay	-	Cut L2005
F2059	L2060	Circular in plan, steep to vertical with a flat base (0.20 x 0.20 x 0.14)	Firm greyish orangey brown silty sand clay	-	Cut L2005
F2061	L2062 Post pipe fill	Sub-circular in plan, steep sloping with a flat base (0.40 x 0.30 x 0.15)	Firm orangey light brown silty sandy clay	?Residual mid 12 th to 14 th C	Cut L2005
	L2063	Sub-circular in plan, steep sloping with a flat base (0.40 x 0.30 x 0.15)	Firm greyish mid brown silty sandy clay	-	
F2064	L2065	Sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping with a flat base (0.17 x 0.17 x 0.15)	Firm greyish mid brown silty sandy clay	-	Cut L2005
F2066	L2067	Oval in plan, very steep with a flat base (0.35 x 0.28 x 0.11)	Compact mottled mid yellow brown and mid brown yellow silty clay	?Residual mid 12 th to 14 th C	Cut L2043

Table 5: Summary of Phase 2 postholes

F2036 was a pit/ well located towards the southern end of the excavated area (Fig. 5 (Excavation Stage 2); DP 4). It was sub-circular in plan (3.00 x 2.50 x 2.05m+) and contained four fills (Table 6). ?Residual medieval pottery was again recovered.

Feature	Fill	Fill description	Finds	Spot date
F2036	L2037	Soft, pale yellow brown silty clay	Pot (6 sherds, 78g); CBM (2350g); animal bone (286g); oyster shell (135g)	13 th to 14 th C
	L2038	Firm, pale yellow brown silty clay	CBM (278g); animal bone (94g); oyster shell (34g); mortar (54g)	
	L2039	Firm, mid orange brown sandy silt	Pot (3 sherds, 26g); CBM (978g); struck flint (3 pieces, 34g)	Mid 12 th to 14 th C
	L2040	Firm, dark grey brown sandy silt	Pot (5 sherds, 61g); CBM (646g); animal bone (548g); oyster shell (155g)	Mid 13 th to 14 th C

Table 6: Summary of Pit/ Well F2036

PHASE 3: Medieval (Fig. 6 (Excavation Stage 3))

The third phase of machining was to the surface of L1004, the natural (1.00 to 1.47m below the current ground level), identified during the trial trench evaluation. During the excavation the natural was recorded as L2007.

Pits and postholes dominated Phase 3.

Postholes (Table 7)

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Spot Date	Relationships
F1008	L1009	Sub-circular in plan, steep sides, concave base (0.45 x 0.45 x 0.20m)	Mid grey brown, loose, silty sand with frequent small and medium flint	-	-
F1010	L1011	Sub-circular in plan, steep sides, concave base (0.60 x 0.55 x 0.22m)	Mid to dark grey brown loose, silty sand with frequent small and medium flint	12 th to 14 th C	-
F1012	L1013	Sub-circular in plan, steep sides, concave base (0.45 x 0.45 x 0.18m)	Mid to dark grey brown loose, silty sand with frequent small and medium flint	-	-
F1014	L1015	Sub-circular in plan, steep sides, concave base (0.35 x 0.35 x 0.29m)	Mid to dark grey brown loose, silty sand with frequent small and medium flint	-	-
F1018	L1019	Circular in plan, steep near vertical sides, slightly concave base (0.70 x 0.60 x 0.42m)	Dark grey brown, loose, silty sand with frequent small flint	12 th to 14 th C	-
F1022	L1023	Sub-circular in plan, moderately steep sides, flattish base (0.31+ x 0.49 x 0.12m)	Mottled dark grey brown and red brown, friable, sand	-	-
F1024	L1025	Curvilinear in plan, steep sides, flattish base (0.70 x 0.30 x 0.23m)	Mottled light yellow red and dark grey brown, friable, sandy silt	-	-
F1026	L1027	Sub-circular in plan, steep sides, flattish base (0.30+ x 0.48 x 0.16m)	Mottled light yellow with light grey brown, loose, sandy silt	-	Cut by Pit F1028
F2074	L2075	Oval in plan steep sided with flat base (0.38+ x 0.46 x 0.23m)	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt	-	Cut Gully 2072
F2076	L2077 Basal	Sub-rectangular in plan very steep to vertical sides with a flat base (0.46 x 0.40 x 0.29m)	Firm mid orange brown silty sand	-	Cut L2007
	L2078 Upper	Sub-rectangular in plan very steep to vertical sides with a flat base (0.46 x 0.40 x 0.29m)	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt	-	= F2022 Test Pit D
F2079	L2080	Sub-rectangular in plan steep to vertical sided with a flat base (0.34 x 0.26 x 0.11m)	Firm mid grey brown silty sand	-	Cut L2007
F2081	L2082	Sub-rectangular in plan steep sides with a concave base (0.36 x 0.30 x 0.16m)	Friable mid green grey sandy silt	-	Cut by PH 2083
F2083	L2084	Sub-rectangular in plan, steep to vertical, flat base (0.50 x 0.34 x 0.24m)	Firm mid green grey sandy silt	-	Cut PH 2081
F2085	L2086	Roughly circular in plan, near vertical, flat base (0.46 x 0.36 x 0.25m)	Moderately loose dark greenish grey brown sandy silt	-	Cut L2007
F2101	L2102	Oval in plan, mid sloping sides, concave base (0.61 x 0.43 x 0.15m)	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	-	Cut L2007
F2103	L2104	Oval in plan, gradual moderately sloping sides, concave base (0.62 x 0.42 x 0.10m)	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	-	Cut L2007
F2105	L2106	Sub-oval in plan, gradual sloping sides, concave base (0.63 x 0.46 x 0.14m)	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	-	Cut L2007
F2107	L2108	Sub-oval in plan, steep almost vertical, concave base (0.45 x 0.30 x 0.24m)	Loose dark greyish brown silty sand	Mid 12 th to 14 th C	Cut L2007
F2109	L2110	Oval in plan, steep sloping sides, concave base (0.56 x 0.52 x 0.28m)	Loose dark greyish brown silty sand	-	= F1046 (TT)
F2113	L2114	Oval in plan, steep sloping sides, flat base (0.50 x 0.43 x 0.18m)	Loose mid brownish grey silty sand	-	Cut L2007
F2115	L2116	Oval in plan, moderately sloping sides, flat base (0.35 x 0.30 x 0.09m)	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	-	Cut L2007
F2117	L2118	Circular in plan, steep sloping sides, flat base (0.52 x 0.51 x 0.16m)	Loose mid greyish brown	-	Cut L2007
F2119	L2120	Sub-circular in plan, mid sloping sides, concave base (0.44 x 0.44 x 0.08m)	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	-	Cut L2007
F2121	L2122	Circular in plan, mid sloping sides, concave base (0.42 x 0.40 x 0.10m)	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	Cut L2007
F2123	L2124	Sub-oval in plan, steep to vertical side, flat base (0.44 x 0.40 x 0.21m)	Friable dark brown grey clay sand and silt	-	Cut L2007
F2135	L2136	Sub-circular in plan, very steep sides, flat base (0.42 x 0.42 x 0.17m)	Friable dark brown grey clay sand and silt	-	Cut L2007

F2141	L2142	Sub-oval , steep sloping, concave base (0.42 x 0.33 x 0.15m)	Loose mid brownish grey silty sand	-	Cut L2007
F2143	L2144	Rounded in plan, vertical sides, irregularly flat base (0.47+ x 0.83 x 0.59m)	Firm very dark brown sandy deposit	Mid 12 th to 14 th C	Cut L2007
F2153	L2154	Oval in plan, steep sloping sides (U-shaped), concave base (0.64 x 0.36 x 0.31m)	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	Cut L2007
F2164	L2165	Sub-circular in plan, steep sloping sides (U-shaped), concave base (0.42 x 0.41 x 0.29m)	Loose mid brownish grey sandy silt	-	Cut L2007

Table 7: Summary of Phase 3 postholes

Pits (Table 8)

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Spot Date	Relationships
F2087	L2088	Oval in plan, shallow sides, concave base (0.48 x 0.42 x 0.13m)	Compact mid green grey sandy silt	-	Cut L2007
F2089	L2090	Oval in plan, steep sided, flat base (0.56 x 0.44 x 0.19m)	Firm dark green grey sandy silt	-	Possible PH
F2093	L2094	Oval in plan, steep sides, sloping base (0.50 x 0.38 x 0.18m)	Friable dark green brown sandy silt	-	Possible PH
F2095	L2096	Sub-oval in plan, shallow slopes, moderately flat (1.18 x 0.62 x 0.18m)	Loose mid brown grey silty sand	-	Cut L2007
F2097	L2098	Possibly sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping, concave base (1.15 x 0.70 x 0.52m)	Firm greyish dark brown clayey silty sand	Mid 12 th to 14 th C	Cut L2007
F2111	L2112	Sub-circular in plan, steep sloping sides, flat base (0.85 x 0.68+ x 0.49m)	Loose mid brownish grey silty sand	17 th to 18 th /19 th C	Cut L2007
F2125	L2126	Irregular in plan, irregularly sloping, concave base (0.70 x 0.60 x 0.65m)	Firm grey and mid brown silty clayey sand	Mid 12 th to mid 14 th C	Cut 2007
F2127	L2128	Circular in plan, vertical sided, unknown base (0.80 x 0.70 x ?m)	Soft greyish mid brown silty clayey sand	Late 17 th to 18 th C	?Well
F2129	L2130	Sub-oval in plan, steeply sloping, concave base (1.54 x 0.62 x 0.54m)	Firm orangey mid brown sandy silt	-	Cut by F2127B Cut F2131
F2131	L2132	Sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides, concave base (1.74 x 1.55 x 1.22m)	Firm greyish mid brown silty sand	Mid 12 th to mid 14 th C	Cut F2129 and F2127
F2133	L2134	Linear in plan, gently sloping, concave base (1.15 x 0.65 x 0.15m)	Firm greyish dark brown silty clayey sand	-	Cut L2007
F2137	L2138	Sub-circular in plan, shallow to steep sloping sided, moderately flat base (0.68 x 0.64 x 0.20m)	Compact mid orange grey sandy clay	-	Cut L2007
F2139	L2140	Sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping, concave base (0.95 x 0.95 x 0.53m)	Firm greyish dark brown silty sandy clay	-	Cut by F2127 =F1016 (TT)
F2149	L2150	Sub-circular in plan, steep sloping sides, flat base (1.00 x 1.00 x 0.27m)	Loose mid brownish grey sandy silt	-	Cut L2007
F2151	L2152	Sub-rectangular in plan, very steep, unknown base (1.10+ x 0.30+ x 0.43+m)	Firm mid grey brown clay, sand and silt	-	Cut L2007
F2155	L2156	Sub-rounded in plan, vertical sides, flat base (? X 0.55 x 0.54m)	Firm mid grey brown sandy clay	-	Cut L2007
F2157	L2158	Oval in plan, steep sided, rounded concave base (? X 0.71 x 0.56m)	Firm mid grey brown sandy clay	-	Cut L2007
F2160	L2161	Oval in plan, moderately steep sides, flat base (1.00 x 0.30 x 0.22m)	Friable mid grey brown clay, sand and silt	-	CutL2007 Cut by F2162
F2162	L2163	Sub-rectangular in plan, very steep, flat base (1.38 x 1.32 x 0.49m)	Friable mid brown grey sand, clay and silt	-	Cut F2160 and L2007
F2166	L2167	Irregular in plan, gentle to steep sloping, concave base (1.60 x 1.30 x 0.35m)	Firm greyish dark brown silty sand	Mid 12 th to 13 th /14 th C	Cut L2007

F2168	L2173 Upper	Unknown extends beyond to south and west, vertical sides, sloping base (7.00 x 3.25 x 1.50m)	Loose mid orange brown sandy gravel	10 th to 12 th C	=F2018 Test Pit A
	L2172		Friable mid brown silty sand	-	
	L2171		Friable mid brown orange silty sand	-	
	L2170		Loose orange and grey gravel	-	
	L2169 Basal		Firm mid orange brown sandy silt	-	

Table 8: Summary of Phase 3 pits

Pits F2111 and F2127 (Table 9; Fig. 6 (Excavation Stage 3)) yielded apparently intrusive pottery spanning the 17th to 18th/ 19th centuries (Table 8). The material from F2111 (L2112) may have derived from Phase 2 Trackway F2068, which overlay the northern edge of this feature. Similarly, Pit F2127 occupied an area of subsequent ditch cutting, a possible source of intrusive material.

F2168 (Table 8) was a substantial feature (7.00 x 3.25 x 1.50m) extending beyond the south-western edge of the excavated area (Fig. 6 (Excavation Stage 3)). Although the profile of this feature led to its interpretation as a pit during the excavation, it is possible that it represented a substantial ditch running c. NW/SE.

Ditches/ Gullies (Table 9)

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Spot Date	Relationships
F2072	L2073	Linear in plan, steep sided, flat base (1.00+ x 0.60+ x 0.25m)	Firm dark grey brown grey sandy silt	-	Cut by PH 2074 = F2020 Test Pit X
F2091	L2092	Linear in plan, gently to steeply sloping sides, concave base (1.60 x 0.70 x 0.18m)	Moderately firm greyish dark brown silty sand	-	Cut L2007
F2099	L2100	Linear in plan, symmetrical sided (1.10 x 0.80 x 0.40m)	Firm dark brown, sandy clay	Mid 12 th to 14 th C	Cut L2006

Table 9: Summary of Phase 3 ditches/ gullies

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or the recovery of finds during the excavation.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The first phase of machining was to the surface of L1002 a levelling layer (0.56 to 0.60m below the current ground level), identified during the trial trenching. During the excavation a series of layers, broadly contemporary, were recorded at this level (L2028, L2029 and L2034).

7.2 The second phase of machining was to the surface of L1003, a subsoil (0.80 to 1.12m) below the current ground level), identified during the evaluation. Numerous discrete features were recorded. They truncated L2005 and L2043 (=L1003).

7.3 The third phase of machining was to the surface of L1004, the natural (1.00 to 1.47m below the current ground level), identified during the trial trench evaluation. During the excavation the natural was labelled L2007.

7.4 Deeper post-medieval garden soils are a feature of many sites around Bury St Edmunds. Also, there was also potentially a time in the medieval period when subsoil built up, suggesting a more open use of the landscape (*Antrobus pers. comm.*).

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site lies within the early settlement core of Bury St Edmunds and it is considered that it is in the approximate location of the Sacrist's Yard of the medieval Abbey of St Edmund. This would have contained the hall, domestic buildings, offices, stables and workshops.

8.2 During the preceding archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site archaeological features of both post-medieval and medieval date were recorded. The medieval features were dateable, through artefactual evidence, to the 12th to 14th centuries and are considered to be related to the Abbey complex, comprising structural remains and domestic features. The post-medieval features were recorded cutting a possible leveling layer, considered to be of post-Dissolution date. In addition, struck flint was recovered from several features, indicating the possibility of prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

8.3 The excavation revealed principally pits and postholes, a continuation of the evidence recorded during the evaluation.

8.4 Research frameworks have been set out for the region in Glazebrook (1997) and Brown and Glazebrook (2000), and updated by Medlycott (2011).

8.5 The further study of medieval cathedral, monastic and church complexes has been identified as an important research aim for the eastern region (Medlycott and Brown 2008, 97). Further archaeological work at this site has the potential to provide further information relating to the form and layout of the Abbey complex, providing data to not only help further understanding of this particular Abbey complex but also contributing to the achievement of this research aim. Medlycott (2011, 70-71) notes the importance of gaining a greater understanding of the eastern region's medieval built environment. The identification of structural remains during the trial trench evaluation indicates that there is a potential for further archaeological work to reveal similar features, making a contribution to the understanding of building form, layout and construction techniques in this period. The domestic activity that was recorded indicates that information regarding the everyday lives of the people living and working in the Abbey complex may be present. Furthermore, the site has the potential to address questions beyond the form, layout and functioning of the Abbey complex, such as the role of the Abbey in society and its economic importance to the surrounding medieval town (Ayers 2000, 31).

8.6 The presence of post-medieval remains have the potential to reveal information regarding the development of the Abbey site following the Dissolution and to characterize the type of settlement and activities that were carried out in this area following the closure of the institution. This is likely to provide information regarding the development of not only this site but the wider urban area of Bury St

Edmunds; Medlycott (2011, 79), identifies the growth and impact of towns on the landscape in the post-medieval period as an important research subject.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at SCC County Store, Suffolk. 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.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Seg.	Test Pit	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Other	
2003		D		Made Ground/Levelling Layer	late 18 th to 19 th	(1) 17g	473	31	Fe. Frag (1) - 41g Clay Pipe Stem Frag (1) - 3g Slag (1) - <1g O. Shell - 5g Mortar - 17g Str. Flint (1) - 3g O. Shell - 27g	
					13 th to 15 th	(3) 12g				
		C			13 th to 15 th	(3) 409g	2554	38		
		F			18 th	(8) 56g	365	33	Clay Pipe Stem Frags (2) - 6g O. Shell - 9g	
					includes residual med					
2004		A B E		Layer (Trackway Surface)			38	14	O. Shell - 472g	
								3	O. Shell - 42g	
								45	Daub - 28g Fe. Frag (1) - 11g Str. Flint (1) - 5g O. Shell - 122g	
			C		late 12 th to 14 th	(1) 13g	764	28	O. Shell - 31g	
2005		A B D E		Layer (Occupation)	mid 12 th to 14 th	(3) 25g	842	23	Fe. Frag (1) - 24g	
					late 12 th to 13 th /14 th	(6) 85g			320	Daub - 7g O. Shell - 1318g
					mid 12 th to 14 th	(2) 17g				Whelk Shell - 5g
					13 th to 14 th	(1) 39g			48	O. Shell - 7g
									20	O. Shell - 7g
			C		13 th to early 14 th	(37) 151g	62	62	O. Shell - 33g	
			F			(1) 32g	1	208	O. Shell - 25g	
2006				Metalled Surface						
2008	2009	F		Fill of Pit	12 th to 14 th	(2) 77g	150	3	Clay Pipe Stem Frags (3) - 7g Clay Pipe Stem Frags (6) - 19g Charcoal - 3g O. Shell - 28g	
					19 th to mid 20 th (contains residual med)	(26) 219g				
2010	2011	B		Fill of Cess Pit	13 th to mid 14 th	(11) 139g	205	908	Fe. Frag (1) - 199g	
					13 th to 14 th	(4) 180g			175	201
2012	2013	A B		Fill of Ditch	18 th to 19 th	(1) 5g	994	9	Clay Pipe Stem Frags (2) - 9g	
2014	2015 2016	A A B		Fill of Ditch Fill of Ditch	late 18 th to early 20 th	(6) 98g	100	24	Slag (1) - 11g	
									90	13
					17 th to 19 th	(1) 3g			438	43
2018	2019			Fill of Ditch				1		
2024	2025			Fill of Modern Pit	20 th	(2) 43g		97	Plastic Comb Fragment Fe. Frags (3) - 7g Charcoal - 1g O. Shell - 52g	
2026	2027			Fill of Pit	mid 12 th to 14 th	(4) 48g	1432	26	O. Shell - 18g	

2028		D		Levelling Layer			104 17	16	Glass (1) - 568g O. Shell - 17g
2029				Levelling Layer	17 th to 19th	(1) 48g	373		Fe. Frag (1) - 32g Clay Pipe Stem Frags (6) - 13g O. Shell - 42g
2030	2031			Fill of Posthole			3	20	
2035	2017	A		Fill of Ditch Recut	18 th to 19th	(2) 11g		22	Clay Pipe Stem Frags (4) - 11g Glass (1) - 1g O. Shell - 29g
		B			17 th to 19th (includes residual medieval)	(10) 141g	318	52	Clay Pipe Stem Frags (2) - 5g Fe. Frag (1) - 285g Mortar - 5g O. Shell - 159g
2036	2037		C	Fill of Pit	13 th to 14th	(6) 78g	2214	264	O. Shell - 126g
	2038			Fill of Pit			136	22	O. Shell - 9g
	2039			Fill of Pit	mid 12 th to mid 14th	(3) 26g	278	94	O. Shell - 34g Mortar - 54g
	2040			Fill of Pit		(4) 56g	978	548	Str. Flint (3) - 34g B. Flint - 24g O. Shell - 152g O. Shell - 3g
			C		mid 13 th to 14th	(1) 5g	646		
2043				Made Ground	13 th to 14th	(7) 84g	64	309	Fe. Frag (1) - 56g O. Shell - 26g
2045	2046			Fill of Pit			36	20	O. Shell - 66g Metal Frag. (1) - 27g
2047	2048			Fill of Pit	mid 12 th to mid 14th	(4) 19g	5	1	O. Shell - 11g
2053	2054			Fill of Pit	13 th to 15th	(11) 58g		153	Fe. Frags (6) - 25g O. Shell - 1135g
2061	2062			Fill of Posthole	mid 12 th to 14th	(1) 3g			
2066	2067			Fill of Posthole	mid 12 th to 14th	(1) 3g		38	
2068	2069			Fill of Trackway	mid 12 th to 14th	(1) 23g	88	4	O. Shell - 9g
2070	2071			Fill of Pit			54	46	
2072	2073	A		Fill of Gully				1	
2074	2075			Fill of Posthole		(1) 3g			
2097	2098			Fill of Pit	mid 12 th to 14th	(5) 19g	114	86	Fe. Frag (1) - 17g O. Shell - 50g
2099	2100	B		Fill of Ditch	mid 12 th to 14th	(2) 5g	129	478	O. Shell - 211g
2107	2108			Fill of Posthole	mid 12 th to 14th	(2) 23g	9		O. Shell - 1g
2109	2110			Fill of Posthole			1		O. Shell - 1g
2111	2112			Fill of Pit	17 th to 18th/19th	(2) 11g	27	112	Glass (1) - 7g Charcoal - 3g Clay Pipe Stem Frag (1) - 1g Fe. Frags (2) - 21g
2119	2120			Fill of Posthole					O. Shell - 3g
2125	2126			Fill of Pit	mid 12 th to mid 14th	(2) 22g		18	
2127	2128	(Auger Hole) A		Fill of Pit	late 17 th to 18th	(12) 193g	24 1842	47	Glass (1) <1g Clay Pipe Stem Frags (9) - 40g Fe. Frags (23) - 356g Glass (37) - 142g O. Shell - 61g

		B			mid 12 th to 14th	(1) 11g	104		Fe. Frags (4) - 44g
2129	2130			Fill of Pit					O. Shell - 30g
2131	2132			Fill of Pit	mid 12 th to mid 14th	(6) 32g	3	278	O. Shell - 74g
2135	2136			Fill of Posthole				12	
2143	2144			Fill of Posthole	mid 12 th to mid 14th	(1) 3g			
2145	2148			Fill of Pit	mid 12 th to 14th	(5) 131g		46	
2149	2150			Fill of Pit				15	O. Shell - 13g
2151	2152			Fill of Pit	mid 12 th to 14th	(1) 2g			
2153	2154			Fill of Posthole					O. Shell - 5g
2162	2163			Fill of Pit				22	
2164	2165			Fill of Posthole					O. Shell - 3g
2166	2167			Fill of Pit	mid 12 th to 13th/14th	(1) 3g		<1	
2168	2169 2173			Fill of Pit Fill of Pit	10 th to 12th	(1) 3g	2		O. Shell - 46g

2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The environmental samples

Dr. John Summers

Introduction

A total of 31 bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological analysis were taken during excavations at Shire Hall, Bury St. Edmunds. The sampled features included pits, ditches and postholes, many of which are spot dated to the medieval period (c.12th to 14th century). Although a number are un-dated, it is likely that most also relate to the medieval occupation of the site. This report presents the results from the analysis of bulk sample light fractions

Methods

All samples greater than 10 litres were 50% sub-sampled; all samples with the potential to produce 30 or more items were 100% processed. The bulk samples were processed by water flotation using a Siraf-type flotation tank at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds. The light fractions were captured on a 250µm mesh, while the heavy fractions were retained in a 500µm mesh. Once dry, the light fractions were sorted under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification) and any carbonised plant macrofossils, charcoal and terrestrial molluscs were identified and recorded. Where necessary, reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979) and a reference collection of modern plant tissues were consulted to refine identifications. Modern contaminants, such as rootlets, seeds and invertebrate fauna were recorded using a semi-quantitative scale in order to assess the potential biological disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The data from the analysis of the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 10. As noted above, most of the features are likely to relate to the medieval occupation of the site, with the exception of L2112, which is spot dated to the 17th-19th century. As such, the results and discussion will treat the remains as a single assemblage (excluding L2112).

Charred plant macrofossils

The majority of the remains recovered from the samples were in the form of carbonised macrofossils, with cereal grains being the most commonly encountered. The cereals present were free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ compactum* type), hulled barley, probably of a six-row type (*Hordeum vulgare var. vulgare*) based on the presence of asymmetric grains in L2163 and L2150, oat (*Avena* sp.) and rye (*Secale cereale*). Wheat grains were most numerous overall, followed by oats, barley and rye.

A small number of non-cereal taxa were also present, the majority of which could be considered arable weeds. These included goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), dock

(*Rumex* sp.), vetch/ wild pea (*Vicia/ Lathyrus* sp.), medium legumes (Fabaceae), plantain (*Plantago* sp.), knapweed (*Centaurea* sp.), stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) and other large grasses (Poaceae). The large seeded nature of many of these plants and the fact that non-cereal taxa account for only 13% of the assemblage suggests that predominantly processed grain is present. These seeds could have remained with the crop when used (cf. Kenward and Hall, 758; Bakels 2012, 26) or been removed by hand sorting prior to food preparation.

Pit F2149 (L2150)

The sample from L2150 was the richest from the entire site. All four cereal types were represented. Wheat was the dominant cereal (62%), followed by oats (26%), with barley and rye making a minimal contribution (7.5% and 4.5% respectively). One of the oat grains had germinated, which may indicate spoilage whilst in store. Arable weeds made a minimal contribution, with stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), vetch/ wild pea (*Vicia/ Lathyrus* sp.) and wild grasses (Poaceae) present. Stinking chamomile is characteristic of heavy, fertile soils. A single bramble seed (*Rubus* sp.) could reflect gathered fruits or fruits burned with gathered fuel resources. Non-cereal taxa accounted for only 10% of the sample, indicating that the cereals are likely to have been present as fully processed grain.

Cess pit deposit L2011 (F2010)

Both the light and heavy fractions from this deposit were analysed with the hope of recovering dietary indicators, such as mineralised plant remains. Unfortunately no such material was present, indicating that the conditions in the deposit were not favourable towards this kind of preservation. A few small bone fragments and fish bones were the only material present which could have entered the deposit with human or animal waste. Small amounts of heather charcoal, fuel ash slag and a single wheat grain are likely to represent small amounts of hearth waste which entered the feature.

Charcoal

The concentration of charcoal was not sufficient to merit further analysis. However, some fragments were fractured during the assessment and all were found to be of oak (*Quercus* sp.). This indicates the use of oak as fuel but it is not possible to comment further about fuel wood selection.

Terrestrial molluscs

Only a small number of mollusc shells were encountered in the samples. Most taxa are either catholic (*Oxychilus* sp. and *Trichia hispida* group) or characteristic of open habitats (*Helicella itala*, *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia* sp.). The shade-loving taxon *Discus rotundatus* was also present. It is difficult to make further comment about this assemblage due to the generally low numbers of shells present.

Contaminants

Biological disturbance of the deposits appears to have been limited. Modern rootlets and burrowing molluscs (*Cecilioides acicula*) were recognised but only in very small numbers.

Discussion

The cereal assemblage from the Shire Hall excavations was dominated by the grains of free-threshing type wheat. This was the principle food crop of medieval England and widely cultivated (e.g. Ballantyne 2005; Straker *et al.* 2007; Fryer and Summers forthcoming). It seems likely that wheat was used as the main cereal food by the occupants of the site.

The status of the other crops is less clear. Oats and rye are often considered to represent fodder crops although their presence in these mixed deposits makes this issue difficult to pursue further. Oats occurred in numerous samples and outnumbered barley overall. This could imply some use for human food or that oats grew as weeds and were picked from the wheat crop and discarded prior to use. During the medieval period, rye was also often used as cheap grain for farm servants (Campbell and Overton 1993). The status of the site and the likely presence of stables in the Sacrists Yard (Carr and Gill 2007) suggests that some of the oats and/ or rye could very well have been used to feed horses kept on the site.

The density of material was generally quite low and most likely the remains represent mixed debris from numerous activities. This probably includes daily processing and food preparation. None of the deposits represent discrete dumps of material from specific activities.

In general, the weed assemblage was limited and the majority of the taxa present were large seeded types, predominantly medium legumes (Fabaceae) and large grasses (Poaceae), including brome grass (*Bromus* sp.). Large seeded weeds often stay with the crop during processing due to their similarity in size to the cereal grains. This means that the grain from the samples probably represents a fully processed crop with low-level weed contamination. There is no evidence of cereal processing from the site, although some final hand sorting may have taken place before food preparation.

Although grain is likely to have been grown locally, it is unlikely that the site itself was agricultural in nature. The presence of stinking chamomile in L2132 and L2150 indicates cultivation on rich heavy soils, which raises the possibility that at least some of the grain may have been imported from the claylands east of Bury St Edmunds. If associated with the cereals, Cyperaceae seeds may also represent grain from heavy soils prone to waterlogging.

Conclusions

The material from the bulk sample light fractions indicates that the cereal remains represent general refuse from the day-to-day use of cereals. Wheat was the principal cereal, probably used for food, with some other cereals, such as oats and

rye, perhaps representing grain kept for animal feed. It seems likely that the grain was brought to the site in a processed state and that some may have come from farms set on the claylands east of Bury St Edmunds.

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	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	X	XX	-	XX	X	XX	X	-	-	-
	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-
	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	X	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	-	-
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	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	X
	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
	X	X	X	X	X	X	XX	X	X	-	X
	-	X	X	X	X	-	XX	X	-	-	-
	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-

12 samples from Shire Hall, Bury St. Edmunds. X=Present; XX=Common; XXX=Abundant

	BSE365	BSE365	BSE365	BSE365	BSE365	BSE365	BSE365	BSE365	BSE365
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	2150	2134	2165	2152	2163	2100B	2132	2126A	2169
	2149	2133	2164	2151	2162	2099B	2131	2125A	2168
	Pit	Pit	Posthole	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Pit	Pit	Pit
	-	-	-	-	-	12th-14th	12th-14th	12th-14th	10th-12th
	40	20	10	10	20	20	20	10	10
	31	1	-	6	2	4	2	2	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	(1)	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	-
	16	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
t type	25	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
	6	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-
	11	-	-	3	2	-	2	-	-
	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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	X	X	-	X	XX	X	X	X	X
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	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-

The Animal Bone

Julie Curl

Introduction

A total of 5399g of bone was recovered. A range of mammal and bird species were present, including the relatively rare Great Bustard, which suggests high status waste. Remains of a small dog were also identified.

Methodology

The assessment was carried out following a modified version of English Heritage guidelines (Davis 1992). The assemblage was scanned to determine the range of species and elements present. Any evidence of butchering/ skinning, horn-working and other modifications was noted. When possible, ages, pathological traits and any other relevant information were recorded. Counts and weights were noted for each context with additional counts for each species identified; counts were also taken of 'countable' (Davis 1992) and measureable bone. All information was recorded directly into an Excel spreadsheet for quantification and assessment. A basic catalogue is included in the written report and full data are available in the digital archive.

The bone assemblage

Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of 5399g of animal bone, comprising 481 elements, was recovered. Over 70% of the assemblage was from pit fills, with 21% deriving from a single cess pit. The remaining assemblage was produced from ditches/ gullies, levelling layers, a trackway and postholes. Quantification (by weight) of the animal bone by feature type and spot date is presented in Table 11 and quantification by species and species NISP is presented in Table 12.

The remains were generally in good condition, although a good deal of fragmentation had occurred as a result of butchering. A small amount of canid gnawing was noted on fragments from pit fills, suggesting some scavenger activity or the disposal of 'dog food' with other household waste.

Spot date	Feature type and fragment count										Spot date Total
	Cess Pit	Ditch	Gully	Levelling	Made ground	Occupation layer	Pit	Posthole	Test Pit	Trackway	
12 th to 14th							428g				428g
L12th to 14th						347				90g	437g
M12th to 14th		478g					133g	38g		4g	653g
M12th to M14th							297g				297g
M13th to 14th							1002g				1002g
13 th to 14th	1109g				309g		380g				1798g
13 th to 15th							153g				153g
13 th to 18th									102g		102g
17 th to 18th/19th							112g				112g
17 th to 19th				16g							16g
18 th to 19th		83g									83g
L17th to 18th							47g				47g
L18th to E20th		24g									24g
20th							97g				97g
Undated		14g	1g				103g	32g			150g
Feature Total	1109g	599g	1g	16g	309g	347g	2752g	70g	102g	94g	5399g

Table 11: Quantification of the animal bone by feature type, spot date and fragment count

Species range, modifications and other observations

Remains of medium to large mammals and birds were seen throughout, with sparse numbers of small mammals, herpetofauna and fish also recorded; at least twelve species were noted during the assessment scan. Overall, the assemblage appears to be dominated by the main domestic food mammals, along with a good deal of bird bone. Several bones from a small, bow-legged dog were recovered from a cess pit.

A range of bird bone was noted throughout the assemblage, with remains including wild and domestic species such as goose, fowl, partridge, swan/ crane. One bone in particular was of note, the tarsometatarsus of a Great Bustard from L2003. Other fragments of a large bird from this context may also be from Bustard, but require further comparison with reference material. Great Bustard is relatively rare in archaeological assemblages and is therefore of particular interest; such remains are usually an indication of high status waste.

Butchering was noted throughout, with a range of process indicated, including skinning and meat procurement. Two bird bones have cut marks suggestive of fletching waste.

Species	Feature type and NISP										Species Total
	Cess Pit	Ditch	Gully	Levelling	Made ground	Occupation layer	Pit	Posthole	Test Pit	Trackway	
Bird							1				1
Bird - Goose							4				4
Bird - Needs ID		1					23		8	2	34
Bird - Partridge							1				1
Bird - Swan/Crane							7				7
Cattle	8	5			1	4	22			1	41
Dog	23										23
Fish						1					1
Herpetofauna							3				3
Mammal	49	25	1	3	22	31	122	7	16	13	289
Pig		3			5	7	20		1		36
Sheep/goat	6	9			3	4	17			1	40
Small Mammal							1				1
Feature Total	86	43	1	3	31	47	221	7	25	17	481

Table 12: Quantification of the animal bone by feature type, species and species count (NISP)

Although butchering has resulted in a good deal of fragmentation, many elements are sufficiently complete to allow measurement (for the further identification of species, breeds, stature and ages).

Initially, pathologies appear to be few, perhaps indicating younger animals and a primary use for good quality meat.

Initial conclusions and recommendations for further work

Initial observations suggest this assemblage is dominated by the disposal of butchering and meat waste. Despite being a relatively small assemblage, it contains a large range of species, including a variety of birds that might include some high status waste. It is recommended that this assemblage is fully recorded, with full identification of the range of species wherever possible. Measurements should be taken where possible to allow full species identification and estimation of stature and breeds.

References

Davis, S. 1992, *A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites*. English Heritage AML report 71/92

Hilson, S. 1992, *Mammal bones and teeth*. The Institute of Archaeology, University College, London

von den Driesch, A. 1976, *A guide to the measurements of animal bones from archaeological sites*. Peabody Museum Bulletin 1, Cambridge Mass., Harvard University

The Molluscs

Julie Curl

Introduction

A total of 4402g of shell was recovered. Three species were identified; Common Oyster was the most frequent. The assemblage appears to represent food waste.

Methodology

The shell was identified to species where possible using a variety of comparative reference material. The molluscs were recorded by group (bivalve or univalve), general habitat (land, freshwater or marine) and by species; counts were taken for all. Bivalves were also counted and recorded according to the half present (recording top and base shells), thus allowing an estimation of the number of individuals present. Counts were made of the number of pieces with the apex present and of the number of body fragments. All molluscs in the assemblage were briefly scanned for any modifications such as drilling (for use in decoration), burning or for traces of pigments (where they have been used as painters palettes). A basic catalogue is included in the written report (below) and the full assessment data are included in the digital archive.

The mollusc assemblage

Spot Date	Feature Type								Spot date Total
	Cess Pit	Ditch	Levelling	Made Ground	Occupation Layer	Pit	Posthole	Trackway	
10 th to 12th						46g			46g
M12th to 14th		211g				153g	1g	9g	374g
L12th to 14th								545g	545g
12 th to 14th					1355g	335g			1690g
12 th to 20th						56g			56g
13 th to 14th	126g			26g					152g
13 th to 15th						1135g			1135g
13 th to 19th			41g						41g
17 th to 18th						61g			61g
17 th to 19th		188g	42g						230g
Undated			17g			43g	12g		72g
<i>Feature Total</i>	<i>126g</i>	<i>399g</i>	<i>100g</i>	<i>26g</i>	<i>1355g</i>	<i>1829g</i>	<i>13g</i>	<i>554gg</i>	<i>4402g</i>

Table 13: Quantification of the mollusc assemblage by feature type, spot date and weight

A total of 4402g of mollusc remains, comprising 388 pieces, was recovered presented for analysis. Most of the remains are in good condition, with many complete shells; some fragmentation has occurred, probably as a result of disturbance. Almost 42% of the mollusc assemblage (by weight) is from pit fills, with

a further 31% from the Layer L2005. The remaining 27% of the assemblage was distributed amongst ditch fills, a cess pit, a posthole and a trackway. Quantification of the mollusc assemblage by feature type, spot date and weight is presented in Table 13 and by fragment count in Table 14.

Date	Feature Type								Spot date Total
	Cess Pit	Ditch	Levelling	Made Ground	Occupation Layer	Pit	Posthole	Trackway	
10 th to 12 th						7			7
M12 th to 14 th		11				28	2	5	46
L12 th -14 th								51	51
12 th to 14 th					85	49			134
12 th to 20 th						23			23
13 th to 14 th	9			5					14
13 th to 15 th						62			62
13 th to 19 th			9						9
17 th to 18 th						3			3
17 th to 19 th		14	14						28
Undated			2			3	6		11
<i>Feature Total</i>	9	25	25	5	85	175	8	56	388

Table 14: Quantification of the mollusc assemblage by feature type, spot date and count of pieces

Three species of mollusc were identified, all of which are of marine origin. Quantification of species, by fragment count, is presented in Table 15. Oyster shells (*Ostrea edulis*) amounted to 94% of the assemblage. Six per cent of the remains are Whelk (*Buccinum undatum*), while less than 1% are Cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*).

Species	Type								Species Total
	Cess Pit	Ditch	Levelling	Made Ground	Occupation Layer	Pit	Posthole	Trackway	
Cockle		1							1
Oyster	9	24	23	5	83	157	7	56	364
Whelk			2		2	18	1		23
<i>Feature Total</i>	9	25	25	5	85	175	8	56	388

Table 15: Quantification of the mollusc assemblage by feature type, species and species count

The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was calculated based on apexes or reasonably complete columella for whelk, and counts of top and base shells for oyster. The largest deposits of individual molluscs are from pits, with a MNI of 79

oysters and 18 whelks. At least 48 individual oysters are from Layer L2005. Counts of MNI for all species and feature types are presented in Table 16.

Species	Type and minimum number of individuals (MNI)								Species MNI Total
	Cess Pit	Ditch	Levelling	Made Ground	Occupation at Layer	Pit	Posthole	Trackway	
Cockle		1							1
Oyster	5	12	8	3	46	79	4	26	183
Whelk			2		2	18	1		23
Feature Total	5	13	10	3	48	97	5	26	207

Table 16: Minimum number of individuals counts for the mollusc assemblage

The oyster shells were examined for traces of pigments, which would indicate their use as palettes, but no pigments were present.

Conclusions

All of the molluscs in this assemblage are common food species. The remains from the pit fills and the Layer L2005, including a large number of oysters, certainly suggest food waste and a clear dietary preference. Other remains are relatively sparse but probably also represent food debris, some perhaps disturbed from its original depositional context(s).

All of the species in this assemblage would be readily available around the East Anglian coastline. Although Bury St Edmunds is some distance from the sea, such foods would have been readily available at market in the medieval and later periods. Large numbers of such shells are not surprising, given the relatively close proximity of this site to the monastic core of Bury St Edmunds and the popularity of these foods in the fasting diet.

Recommendations for further work

The mollusc assemblage holds little potential for further analysis. Some further consideration of the mollusc remains may, however, be useful following the full analysis of the animal bone assemblage, depending on the species identified and any possible indication of species commonly included in the fasting diet.

References

Bar-Yosef, Daniella (ed.) 2005, *Archaeomalacology: Molluscs in Former Environments of Human Behaviour*, Proceedings of the 9th ICAZ Conference, Durham 2002. Oxbow Books, Oxford

Graham, A. 1988, *Molluscs: Prosobranch and Pyramidellid Gastropods*. Synopses of the British Fauna, No. 2 (2nd edition), The Linnean Society of London/ The Estuarine Brackish-Water Sciences Association

APPENDIX 3

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol7-192531

Project details

Project name	Shire Hall, Raingate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
Short description of the project	In September 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological excavation and monitoring at Shire Hall, Raingate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (NGR TL 858 639). The work was required to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the addition of a new wing onto the former Shire Hall Building (St Edmundsbury Ref. SE/11/0481). The site lies in an area of Archaeological Importance within the town's Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement core, adjacent to the precinct of the Abbey of St Edmund. Documentary work has shown that, although outside this precinct, the site is likely to lie within the area of the Sacrist's yard. This would have included a hall, domestic buildings, offices, stables and workshops. Previous test pitting also suggests that the area was generally within the early settlement core (Carr and Gill, 2007). An archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out by AS in March/ April 2011, revealing archaeological features and layers of medieval and post-medieval date. The excavation revealed principally pits and postholes, a continuation of the evidence recorded by the evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 01-09-2012 End: 30-09-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	P4241 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BSE 365 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLES Medieval
Significant Finds	ASSEMBLAGES Medieval
Investigation type	"Full survey"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY BURY ST EDMUNDS Shire Hall, Raingate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Study area 300.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 858 639 52.2414133168 0.721645273131 52 14 29 N 000 43 17 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 31.00m Max: 31.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Project brief originator SCC AS Conservation Team

Project design originator Jon Murray

Project director/manager Jon Murray

Project supervisor Gareth Barlow

Type of sponsor/funding body M and D Developments

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Suffolk County Archaeological Store

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Suffolk County Archaeological Store

Digital Contents "Survey"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County Archaeological Store

Paper Contents "Survey"

Paper Media available "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Shire Hall, Raingate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Author(s)/Editor(s) Barlow, G

Other bibliographic details Archaeological Solutions Report No. 4160

Date 2014

Issuer or publisher Archaeological Solutions Ltd

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PHOTO INDEX



DP 1: General site shot (excavation commencing), looking SE



DP 2: Section through Pit F2045 and Trackway F2033, looking E



DP 3: Section through Pit F2070 and Trackway F2068, looking E



DP 4: Section through Pit/ Well F2036, looking W

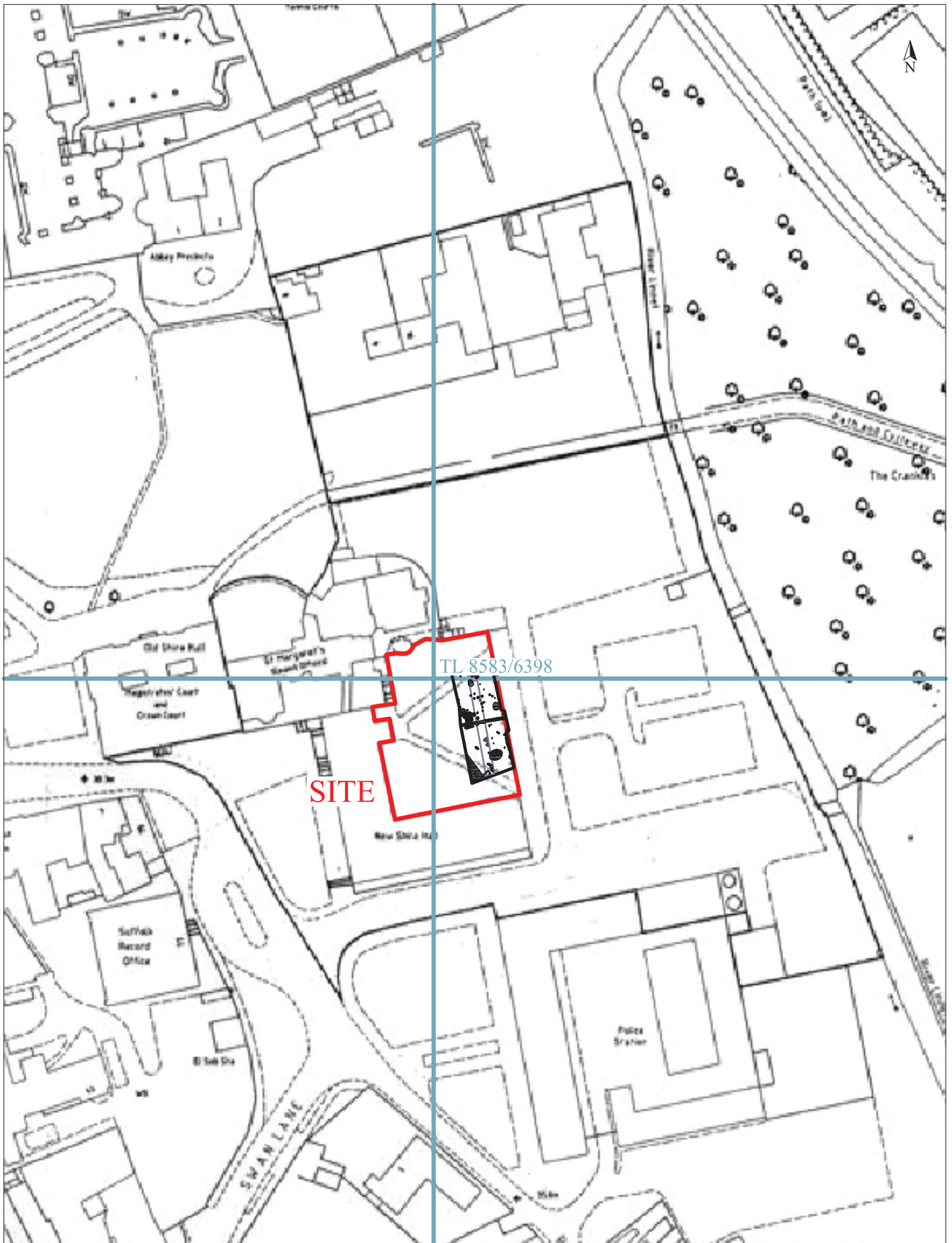


DP 5: Stepped section through Pit F2168, looking S



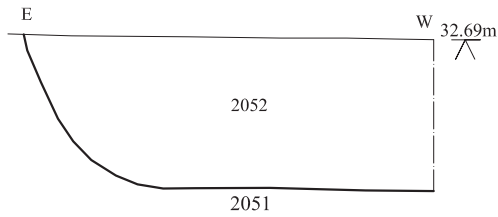
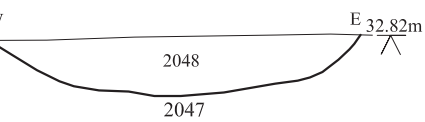
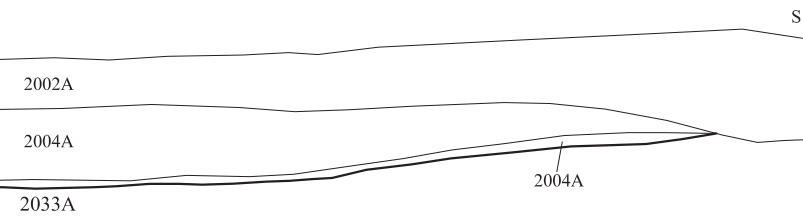
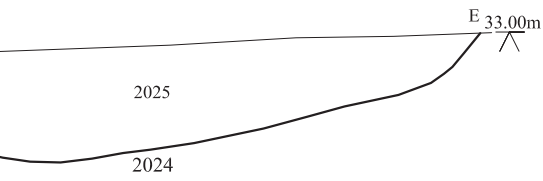
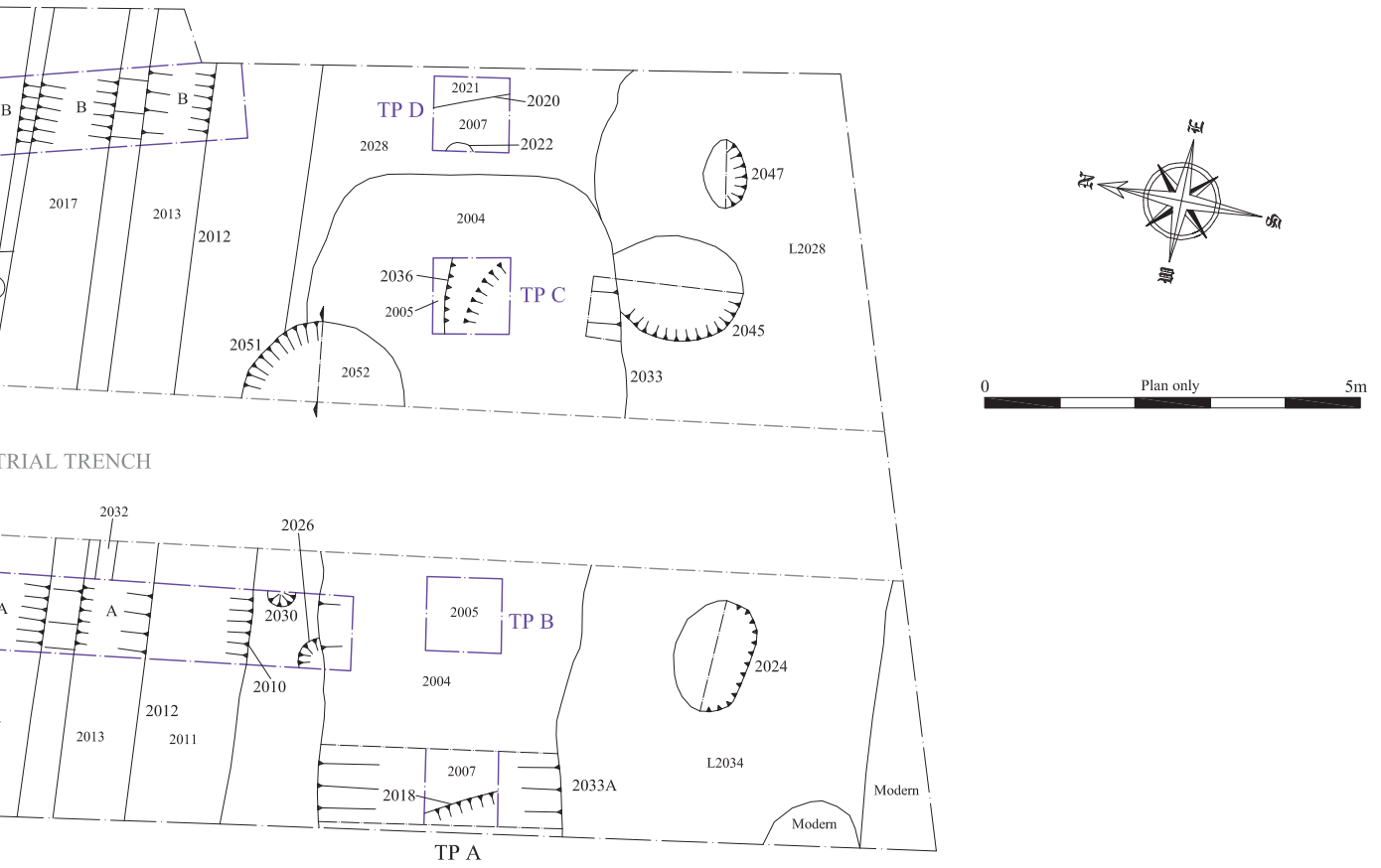
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



0 100m

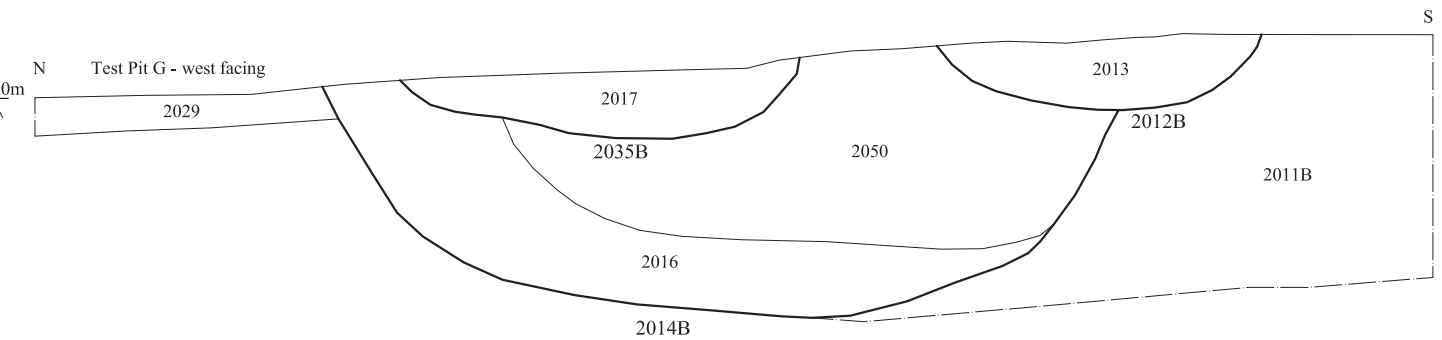
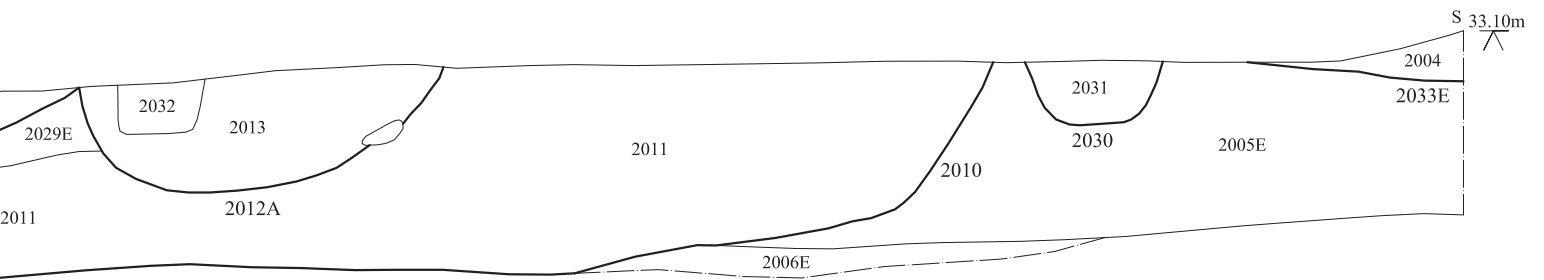
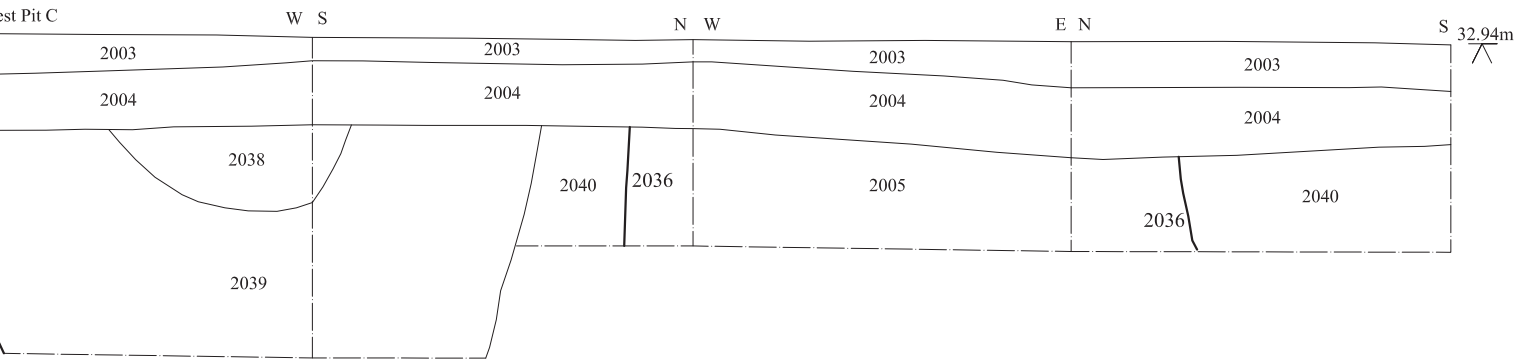
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1250 at A4



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Fig. 3 Excavation stage 1 with feature sections

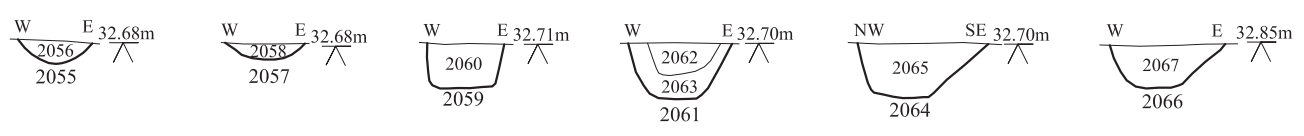
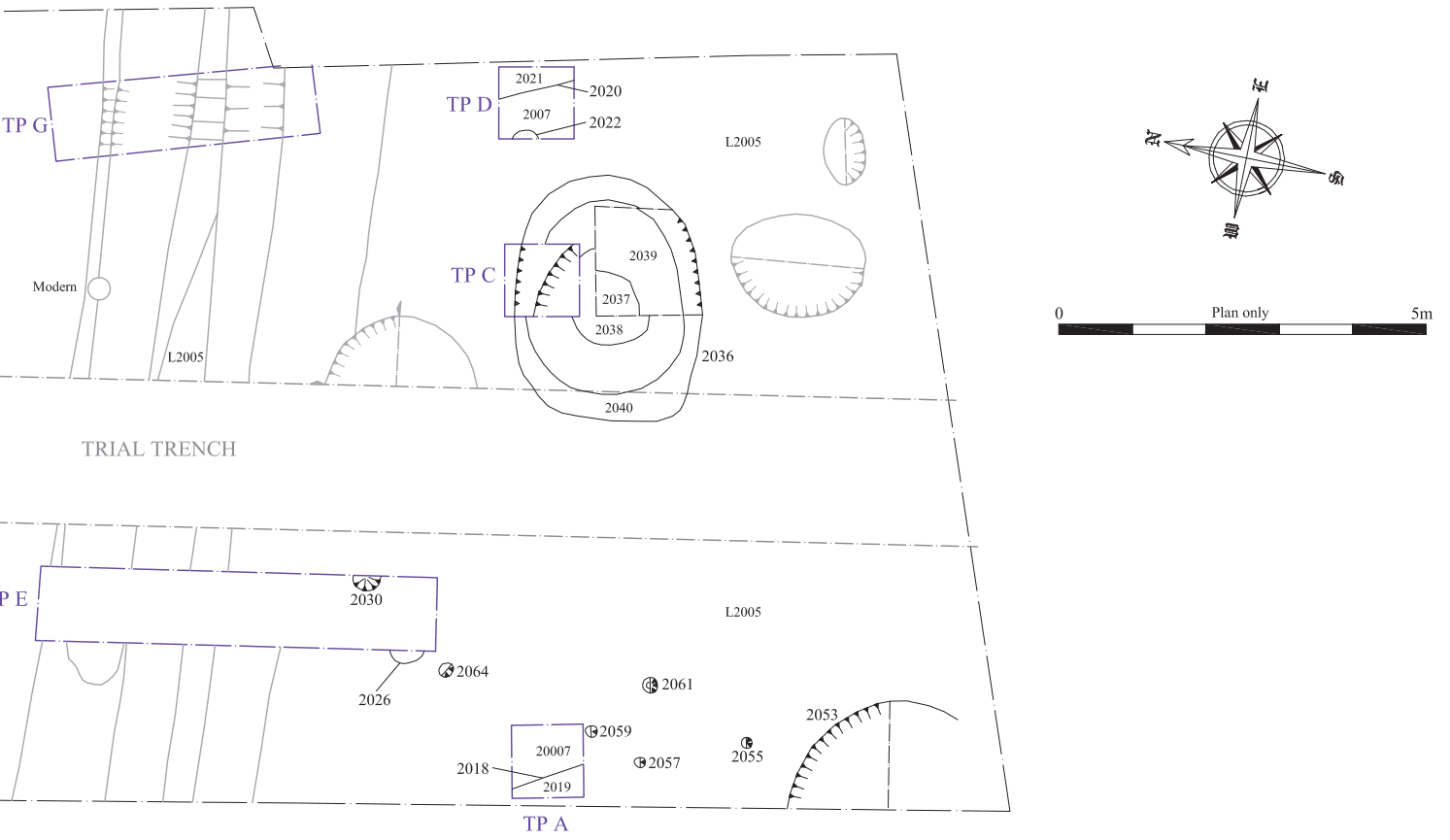
Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3



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Fig. 4 Test pit sections

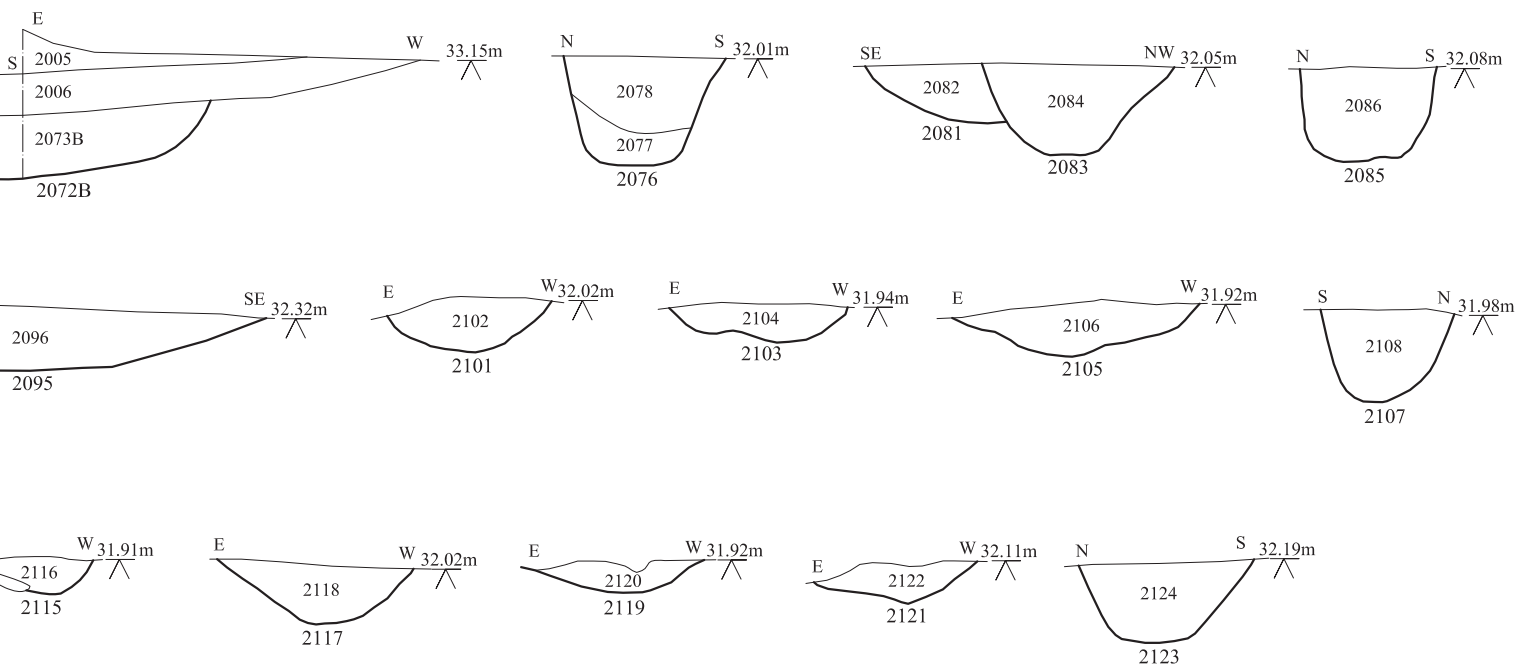
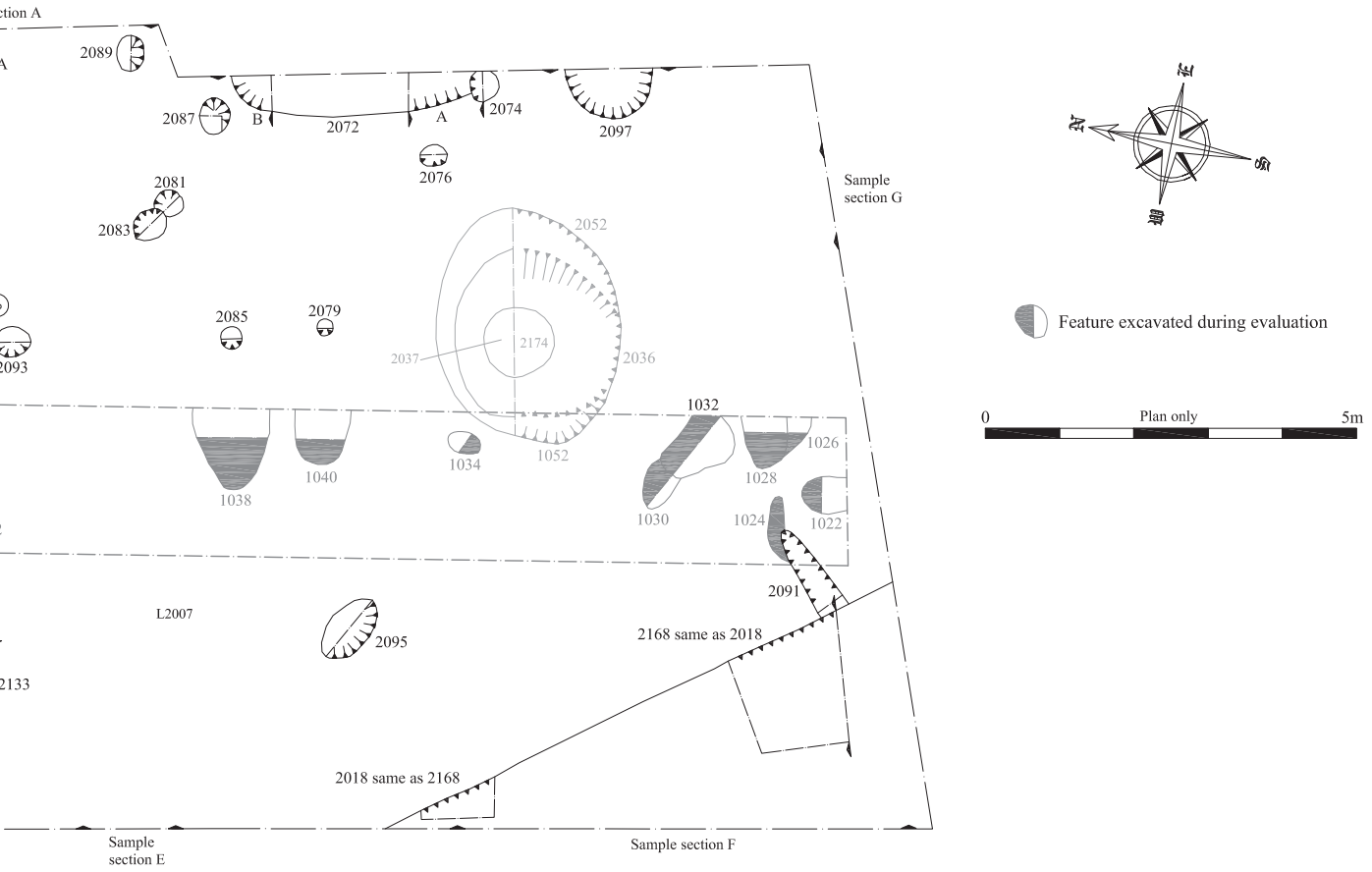
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Fig. 5 Excavation stage 2 with feature sections

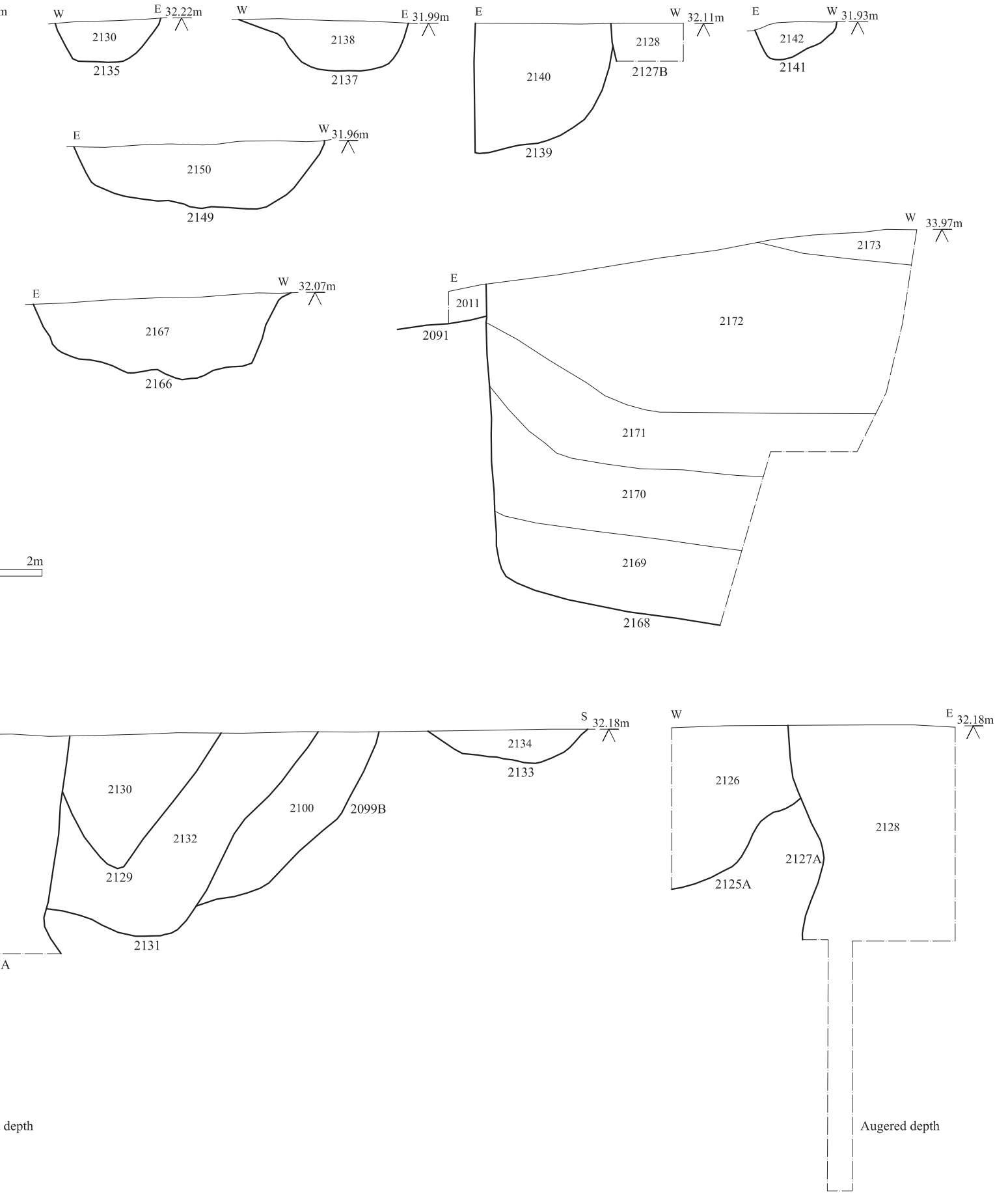
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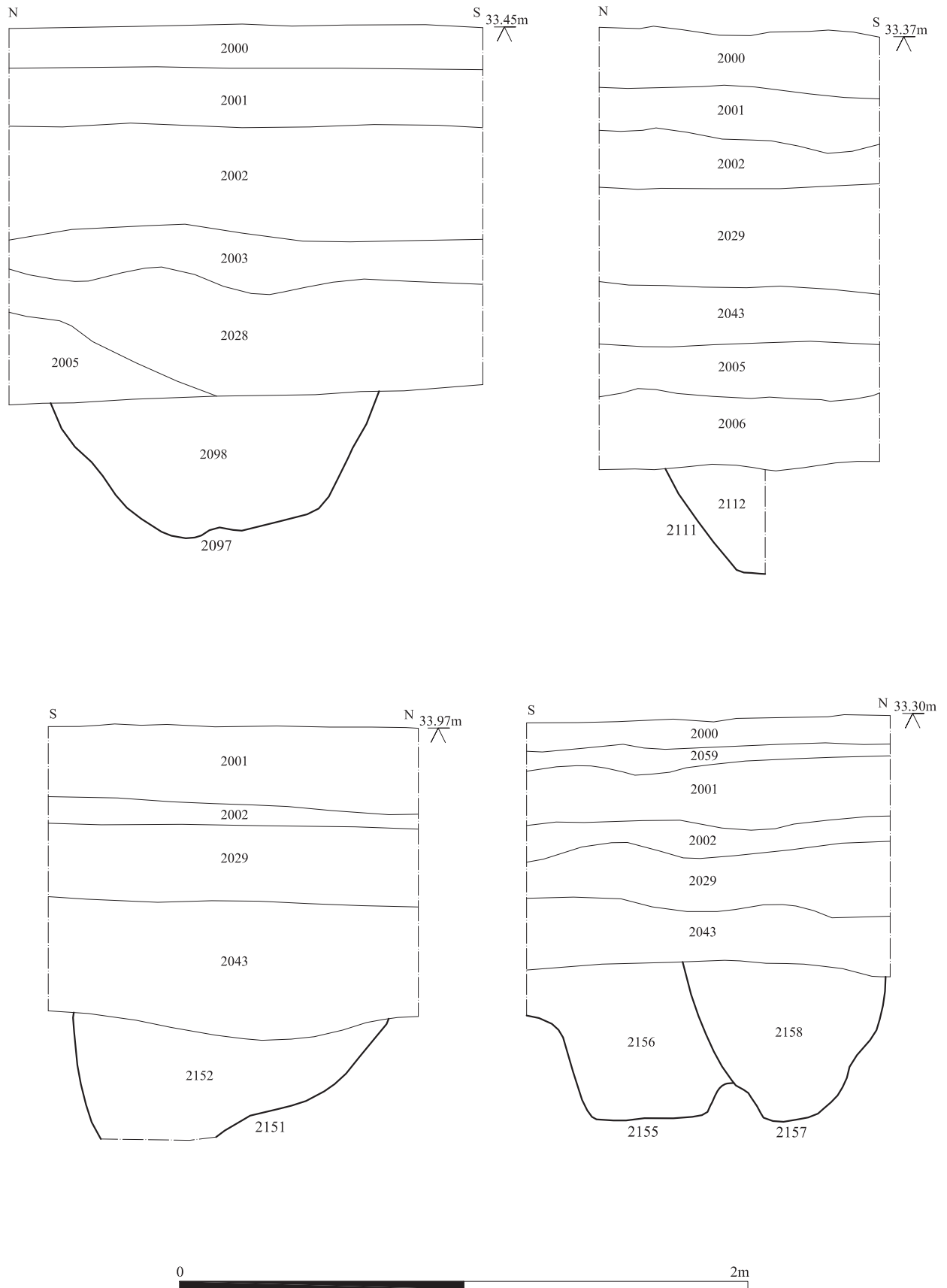
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Fig. 6 Excavation stage 3 with feature sections

Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3



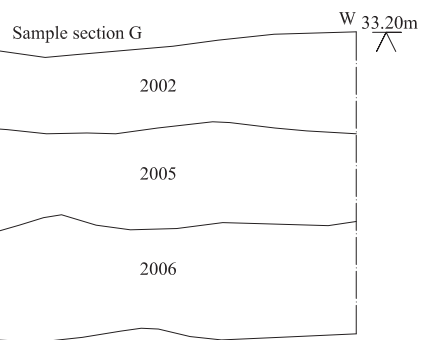
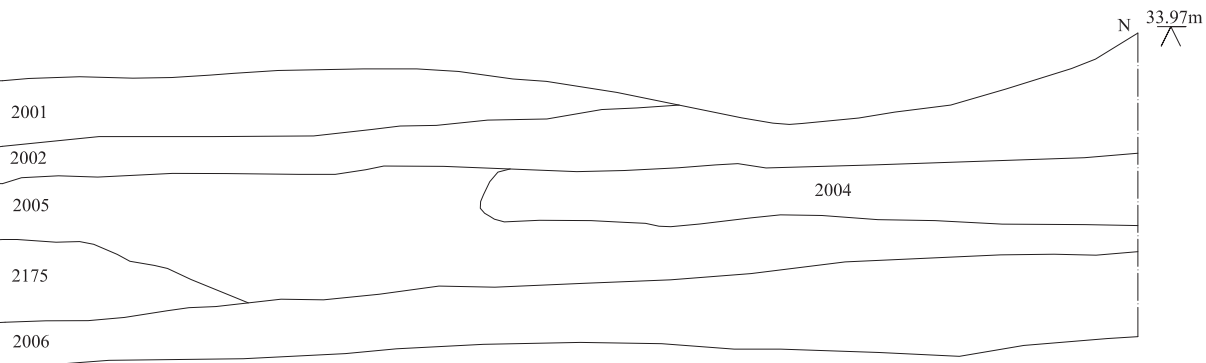
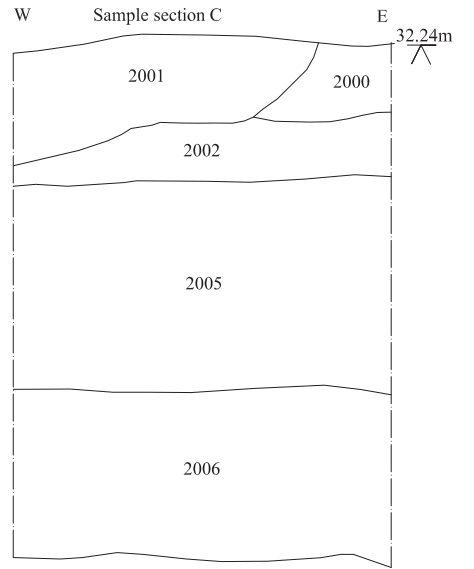
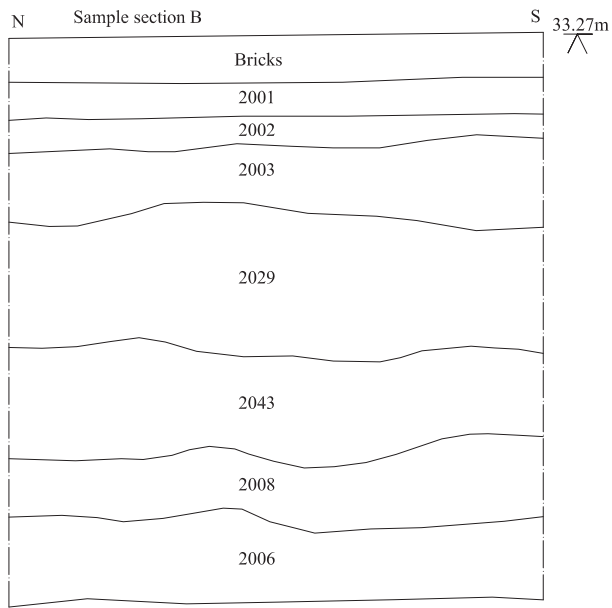
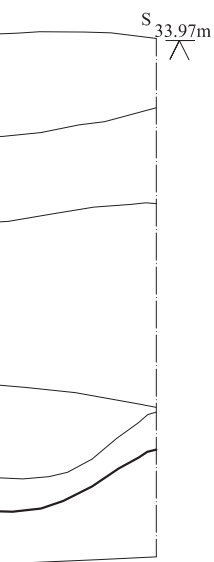
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Fig. 7 Feature sections from Plan 3
 Scale 1:20 at A3



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Fig. 8 Trench edge sections from Plan 3

Scale 1:20 at A4



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Fig. 9 Sample sections
 Scale 1:20 at A3