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LAND AT ROCKMILL END, WILLINGHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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NGR: TL 4102 7065	Report No: 5052
District: South Cambs	Site Code: ECB 4590
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Project dates (fieldwork)	*01/02/2016 - 23/02/2016*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	*Future work*	*TBC*
P. number	*6442*	*Site code*	*ECB 4590*
Type of project	*Trial Trench Evaluation*		
Site status	-		
Current land use	*Agricultural*		
Planned development	*Residential development and relocation of allotments*		
Main features (+dates)	*Romano-British: Ditches; pit* *Undated: Pits; furrows*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*Roman (mid 1st to early 2nd century AD): Pottery*		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Cambridgeshire*	*South Cambridgeshire*	*Willingham*
HER/ SMR for area	*Cambridgeshire HER (CHER)*		
Post code (if known)	*CB24 5HY*		
Area of site	*c. 3.42ha*		
NGR	*TL 4102 7065*		
Height AOD (max/ min)	*c. 7m*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Cambridgeshire County Council*		
Project supervisor/s	*Mark Blagg-Newsome*		
Funded by	*Ingleton Wood LLC*		
Full title	*Land at Rockmill End, Willingham, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation*		
Authors	*Blagg-Newsome, M. and Baker, M.*		
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LAND AT ROCKMILL END, WILLINGHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In February 2016, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Rockmill End, Willingham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4102 7065). The evaluation followed a geophysical survey and was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of up to 70 new residential dwellings and relocation of allotments on land to the east of Rockmill End Road.

Numerous undated features were recorded during the trial trench evaluation, some of which were thought to be natural. A few modern features were present. Furrows were recorded – predominantly in the central and western areas of the site – and were likely of post-medieval date.

Of particular interest were Romano-British features encountered in the western ends of Trial Trenches 1 and 3, on the westernmost periphery of the site. These comprised two ditches, a re-cut ditch and a single pit. The features consistently yielded mid 1st to early 2nd century AD pottery. The undated features were most numerous in Trenches 1, 3 and 4; these were co-incident with the Romano-British archaeology and some may have been associated with this period of activity.

There was relatively good correlation between surveyed geophysical anomalies and features encountered by the trial trench evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2016, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Rockmill End, Willingham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4102 7065). The evaluation followed a geophysical survey and was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of up to 70 new residential dwellings and relocation of allotments on land to the east of Rockmill End Road.

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 21/10/2015) and approved by CCC HET. The evaluation was carried in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists', *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014) and relevant sections of Gurney's (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England.*

Project Aim

1.3 The aim of the evaluation (as set out in Section 3.7 off the specification) was to '…determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development'.

Planning Policy Context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

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

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The village of Willingham is located approximately 12km to the north-west of Cambridge and *c.* 17km to the east of Huntingdon. The Cathedral city of Ely is located some 17km to the north-east. The site at Rockmill end comprises a roughly square plot of agricultural land and allotments (totalling *c.* 3.42 ha) on the north-eastern edge of the village (Figs. 1-2). The site is bounded by Rockmill End and existing development to the west and by Meadow Road to the north. The southern site boundary is also partly delineated by existing buildings, while further agricultural fields are present to the east and south-east.

Topography, Geology and Soils

2.2 The site lies on Ampthill Clay deposits at *c.* 7m AOD, on the former fen edge. The south-west to north-east course of the River Great Ouse passes some 4.6km to the north-west. The site's soils are those of the Denchworth Association, described as 'Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils with similar fine loamy over clayey soils. Some fine loamy over clayey soils with only slight seasonal waterlogging and some slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils' (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983, 17). These soils are suitable for the cultivation of winter

cereals and short-term grazing in drier, lowland areas, with 'dairying on permanent grassland in most districts' (*ibid*.).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 There is abundant evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British settlement in the locality. Evidence for multi-period prehistoric settlement on the fen edge has been recorded in an area approximately 800m to 1km north and north-east of the site. This includes a small Bronze Age ring ditch or enclosure (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) 05781), cropmarks of possible enclosures, and three excavated late Iron Age ditches subsequently covered by flood deposits during the late Roman period (CHERs 05776 and 07951). An undated field system and a double ditched trackway also feature in that locality (CHERs 11151 and 11156), while Roman pottery and tile has been recovered from a location approximately 550m to the east of the site (CHER 05729).

3.2 Cropmarks of possible Iron Age square barrows are located near Woodhall Farm, 1.25km north of the site, adjacent to an area of probable Romano-British settlement indicated by Roman pottery, tile and a coin hoard (CHERs 05882 and 05883). Further evidence for Romano-British settlement is recorded further to the north-east (CHERs MCB11499 and 11576), and east (CHERs 10322 and 11324). Belsar's Hill, located 1.2km to the east is a Scheduled Monument and is thought to represent a much reduced Iron Age plateau hillfort with evidence of later reuse in the Norman period (CHER 01990a). Closer to the site, an archaeological evaluation at Brickhills (centred on a point *c.* 160m to the south-east) identified several ditches containing middle Iron Age pottery. However, the majority of the encountered ditches were dated to the late medieval and post-medieval periods (CHER MCB20375).

3.3 Excavations prior to residential development off High Street, some 650m to the south-east of the site, revealed an area of intensive occupation relating to a small settlement, possibly spanning the Anglo-Saxon period and including earth-fast 'halls' and pits (CHER MCB1788). Anglo-Saxon stonework has also been found re-used in a Norman doorway at Willingham church, located 430m south-west of the site (CHER 05794a). Belsar's hill fort is sited on the Aldreth Causeway; a medieval route leading to Ely, and it may have been the site of a Norman ringwork used by William I to attack the rebel Hereward at Ely (CHER 01770). The surrounding area contains medieval ridge and furrow. The Grade I listed Church of St Mary and All Saints in Willingham dates mainly from the 14th century and was restored in the 19th (CHER MCB7056).

3.4 Test pitting by the Higher Education Research Academy, approximately 100m south-west of the site, found multi-period pottery sherds. They comprised a large fragment of Roman pottery, medieval Grimston ware and sherds of post-medieval English stoneware (CHER MCB 18615). Another test pit located 220m north-west of the site recovered post-medieval German stoneware and glazed red earthenware, and factory made Victorian crockery (MCB19946). An archaeological excavation at Spong Drove, given a centre point 130m north of the site, identified a large quarry pit backfilled with 18th to 19th century rubbish, a small pit and two similarly dated drainage ditches (CHER MCB 17934).

3.5 The earlier Ordnance Survey maps for the area show no change to the agricultural nature of the site since *c.* 1886. Originally it comprised three fields whose boundaries are still visible on modern aerial photographs.

The Geophysical Survey

3.6 A geophysical survey was undertaken prior to the trial trench evaluation (Blagg-Newsome 2016). In summary:

The survey identified a single negative linear magnetic anomaly, situated in the south-eastern portion of the study area which may be of archaeological origin. In addition, a series of regular WNW-ESE aligned positive linear anomalies were identifiable throughout the survey area. These are likely to represent surviving medieval ridge and furrow. The geophysical survey also identified two positive anomalies that relate to an historic field boundary and a trackway, which are recorded on historic maps of the site.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Twenty trenches were excavated. Trench locations focussed on identified geophysical anomalies (see Section 3.6) and also 'blank' areas between the anomalies (Fig. 3).

4.2 The topsoil and subsoil was removed under close archaeological supervision and control using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Exposed sections were cleaned and examined for archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. The open trenches and excavated spoil were searched and scanned by metal detector to enhance finds recovery.

4.3 Following machine excavation (see above) any remaining topsoil and subsoil at the trench ends (1m^2) was excavated by hand in order to characterise their artefact content (as stated in the approved specification for archaeological evaluation (dated 21/10/2015)). All machine excavated spoil from these areas was also searched as stated above.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 3-5)

Sample section 1A *0.00m = 6.37m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular flint
0.37 – 0.85m	L1003	Subsoil. Compact, mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small angular flint
0.85m+	L1002	Natural. Compact, mid reddish orange clay with moderate small angular flint

Sample section 1B *0.00m = 6.30m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.37 – 0.85m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, dark grey silty clay with occasional small angular flint

Description: Trench 1 contained ?Pits F1019, F1068 and F1070. None of the pits contained finds and it is thought that they may have been natural features. Ditches F1066, F1072 and F1074 were also present and F1066 contained Roman pottery.

?Pit F1019 was irregular in plan (1.80+ x 0.70+ x 0.14m). It had shallow sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1020, was a firm, dark orange brown silty clay. It contained no finds. The irregularity of the feature and the lack of finds suggest that it may have been natural in origin. The fill of this feature was excavated on its eastern edge and also formed the basal context (drawn and photographed) in Sample Section 1B (Fig. 5).

Ditch F1066 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.26 x 0.27m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1067, was a firm, mid orange grey silty clay with moderate small sub-angular stones. It contained Roman (mid 1st – mid 3rd century) pottery (1; 335), animal bone (155g) and shell (1g). It was cut by a modern drain.

?Pit F1068 was sub-circular in plan (1.10 x 0.50+ x 0.22m). It had steep sides and a flattish, irregular base. Its fill, L1069, was a firm, light grey brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular gravel. It contained no finds. The colour of the fill suggests that the feature may have been natural. However, in section F1068 appeared to truncate the fill of earlier ?Pit F1070 (L1071). The boundary between these features was diffuse, however, owing to the similarity of their fills and it remains possible that they represented a single, larger ?pit or natural feature.

?Pit F1070 was sub-circular in plan (0.55+ x 0.50 x 0.22m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1071, was a firm, light grey brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular gravel. It contained no finds. The colour of its fill suggests that F1070 may have been natural. In section, the fill of F1070 was truncated by F1068 (see above). However, the boundary between these features was diffuse (owing to the similarity of their fills) and it remains possible that they represented a single, larger ?pit or natural feature.

Ditch F1072 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.47 x 0.18m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1073, was a firm, mid bluish grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1074 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.72 x 0.19m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1075, was a firm, mid bluish grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. It contained animal bone (23g).

Trench 2 (Figs. 3 - 5)

Sample section 2A *0.00m = 6.02m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.35m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 2B *0.00m = 6.29m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30 – 0.47m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.47m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 2 contained Furrows F1023, F1025 and F1091.

Furrow F1023 was linear in plan (1.00+ x 1.60 x 0.15m), aligned E/W. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish uneven base. Its fill, L1024, was a firm, dark greyish-brown silty clay. It contained 18th – 19th century pottery (3; 136g), CBM (10g) and a clay pipe fragment (2g).

Furrow F1025 was linear in plan (1.00+ x 2.20 x 0.15m), aligned E/W. It had moderately to steep sides and a flattish uneven base. Its fill, L1026, was a firm, dark greyish-brown silty clay. It contained late post-medieval (17th – 18th century) pottery (1; 19g), animal bone (43), shell (3g) and a clay pipe fragment (2g).

Trench 3 (Figs. 3 and 6)

Sample section 3A *0.00m = 6.43m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.21 -0.49m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.49 – 0.90m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.90m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 3B *0.00m = 5.91m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.29m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 3 contained Pits F1004, F1006, F1008, F1011 and F1013. It is thought that Pit F1011 may have been a natural feature. Ditch F1021 and its re-cut, Ditch F1015 were also present. The ditch, re-cut and Pit F1008 all contained Roman pottery. The majority of features within Trench 3 lay within areas defined as 'disturbed ground' by the forerunning geophysical survey (Fig. 3); none related to a discrete surveyed anomaly.

Pit F1004 was sub-circular in plan (1.00+ x 0.90+ x 0.31m). It had moderately to steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1005, was a firm, light yellowish grey sandy silt. It contained no finds.

Pit F1006 was sub-circular in plan (0.67 x 0.59 x 0.10m). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1007, was a firm, light yellowish grey sandy silt. It contained no finds.

Pit F1008 was sub-circular in plan (0.60+ x 0.52 x 0.13m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its upper fill, L1010, was a firm, mid blue grey with orange flecks sandy silt. It contained Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd century) pottery (3; 4g). Its basal fill, L1009, was a firm, mid yellowish grey sandy silt. It contained no finds.

Pit F1011 was sub-circular in plan (1.55 x 1.25+ x 0.16m). It had gently sloping sides and an uneven base. Its fill, L1012, was a firm, mid yellowish grey sandy silt. It contained no finds. The uneven base suggests that the feature may have been natural.

Pit F1013 was sub-circular in plan (1.10 x 0.85 x 0.64m). It had steep sides and its base was unseen due to the high water table. Using an auger the depth of the fill was 0.64m. Its fill, L1014, was a firm, light – mid yellowish grey sandy silt. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1021 was linear in plan (2.40+ x 3.29 x 1.07m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its upper fill, L1018, was a firm, light orange blue silty clay with occasional small angular stones. It contained Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd century) pottery (10; 47g), animal bone (303g) and shell (<1g). Its basal fill, L1022, was a firm, mid bluish grey silty with occasional small angular stones. It contained no finds. Ditch F1021 was re-cut by Ditch F1015.

Re-cut Ditch F1015 was linear in plan (2.40+ x 2.38 x 0.59m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its upper fill, L1016, was a firm, light yellowish grey sandy silt with occasional small angular stones. It contained Roman pottery (2; 3g) and animal bone (14g). Its basal fill, L1017, was a compact, dark bluish grey sandy silt with occasional small angular stones. It contained Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd century) pottery (7; 114g) and animal bone (148g). F1015 was a re-cut of Ditch F1021.

Trench 4 (Figs. 3 and 6)

Sample section 4A *0.00m = 6.09m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.58m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 4B *0.00m = 6.04m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.20 – 0.49m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.49m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 4 contained Pits F1054, F1058 and F1064, Ditch Terminus F1060, Ditch F1062 and Gully F1056. Pit F1058 a single sherd (32g) of 18th – 19th century pottery. Furrows F1093, F1095, F1097, F1099 and F1101 were also present.

Pit F1054 was circular in plan (1.10 x 0.10m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1055, was a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Gully F1056 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.42 x 0.08m), orientated E/W. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1057, was a firm, light - mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. It contained no finds. F1056 was cut by Pit F1058.

Pit F1058 was sub-circular in plan (0.45+ x 0.85 x 0.12m). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1059, was a firm, grey brown silty clay with moderate sub-angular stones. It contained 18th – 19th century pottery (1; 32g). F1058 cut Gully F1056.

Ditch Terminus F1060 was linear in plan (1.20+ x 0.52 x 0.07m), orientated NE/SW. It had shallow moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1061, was a firm, light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. It contained no finds. F1060 was cut by Furrow F1095

Ditch F1062 was curvilinear in plan (1.00+ x 0.80 x 0.13m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1063, was a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. It contained no finds.

Pit F1064 was sub-circular in plan (0.95 x 0.74 x 0.15m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1065, was a firm, light – mid orange brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Trench 5 (Figs. 3 and 7)

Sample section 5A *0.00m = 5.99m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.25 – 0.29m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.29m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 5B *0.00m = 6.06m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.37 – 0.50m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.50m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 5 contained Furrows F1044, F1048 and F1105, and ?Gully L1103. Two modern drains traversed the trench.

Furrow F1044 was linear in plan (18.00+ x 1.80+ x 0.12m), aligned E/W. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1045, was a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. It contained no finds.

Furrow F1048 was linear in plan (20.00+ x 1.80+ x 0.20m), aligned E/W. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1049, was a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. It contained no finds. F1048 was cut by a modern land drain.

Although unexcavated, ?Gully F1103 appears to have corresponded to the northern edge of '…a line of enhanced magnetic responses…[corresponding] to a trackway visible on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map' identified by the forerunning geophysical survey (Blagg-Newsome 2016, section 5.4; Figs. 3-4). However, no corresponding feature was present relating to the northern edge of this anomaly in Trench 17 (see below; Fig. 3). It is possible that this feature delineated the trackway's northern extent; further fieldwork, if undertaken, may provide conclusive evidence.

Trench 6 (Figs. 3 and 7)

Sample section 6A *0.00m = 5.99m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.36 – 0.57m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.57m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 6B *0.00m = 6.06m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.38m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 6 contained Ditch Terminus F1076 and Ditch F1078, and these features were parallel. Furrows F1107, F1109, F1111 and F1113 were also present and recorded in plan.

Ditch Terminus F1076 was linear in plan (2.30+ x 0.79 x 0.17m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1077, was a firm, mid orange grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. It contained animal bone (1g).

Ditch F1078 was linear in plan (1.00+ x 0.50 x 0.18m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1079, was a firm, light grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. It contained no finds.

Trench 7 (Figs. 3 and 7)

Sample section 7A *0.00m = 5.91m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.50m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 7B *0.00m = 5.73m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.21 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.37m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 7 contained Ditch F1035, and Furrows F1038, F1040, F1115 and F1117. Furrow F1038 contained a residual sherd (1g) of medieval (late 12th – 14th century) pottery and one 18th – 19th century sherd (19g). Ditch F1035 is visible on OS Map 1887 (Fig. 4), and is a continuation of Ditch F1141 (Trench 13).

Ditch F1035 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.14 x 0.45m), orientated WNW/ESE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its upper fill, L1037, was a firm, dark grey silty clay with small angular stones. Its basal fill, L1036, was a firm, mid grey silty clay with occasional small angular stones. This feature corresponded to a '…high amplitude positive trending linear anomaly…' thought to relate to a boundary marked on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map, recorded by the forerunning geophysical survey (Blagg-Newsome 2016, section 5.4; Figs. 3-4). Although the anomaly was thought to possibly relate to buried ferrous fencing components, no finds were present within F1035.

Furrow F1038 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 2.04 x 0.19m), aligned WNW/ESE. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1039, was a firm, greyish-brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones. It contained a residual sherd of medieval (late 12th – 14th century) pottery, a sherd of 18th – 19th century pottery (19g) and CBM (24g).

Furrow F1040 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.30 x 0.16m), aligned WNW/ESE. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1041, was a firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones. It contained CBM (20g).

Trench 8 (Figs. 3 and 8)

Sample section 8A *0.00m = 5.75m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.43 – 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.46m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 8B *West end, North facing* *0.00m = 5.60m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.32 -0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.41m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 8 contained undated Pit F1042 and a modern drain traversed the trench.

Pit F1042 was sub-circular in plan (1.00+ x 1.10 x 0.15m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1043, was a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

The line of the modern drain ran parallel to a linear anomaly (thought to relate to the ploughed-out remnants of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation) identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 3). Their positions did not intersect at any point, however.

Trench 9 (Figs. 3 and 8)

Sample section 9A *0.00m = 5.74m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.33m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 9B *0.00m = 5.65m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.31m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 9 contained Pit F1033 which was possibly a modern feature.

Pit F1033 was sub-circular in plan (1.00+ x 1.00+ x 0.10m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1034, was a firm, dark bluish grey clayey silt with occasional small stones. It contained no finds. The looseness of the fill and its dark colour suggested the feature may have been modern. It lay in an area of 'magnetic disturbance' as characterised by the geophysical survey (Fig. 3).

Trench 10 (Figs. 3 and 8)

Sample section 10A *0.00m = 5.42m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.26 – 0.40m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.40m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 10B *0.00m = 5.43m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0-.31 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.37m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 10 contained Furrows F1119, F1121, F1123, F1125 and F1127.

Trench 11 (Figs. 3 and 9)

Sample section 11A *0.00m = 5.55m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.20 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 11B *0.00m = 5.60m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.29m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 11 contained Furrows F1129 and F1131, and ?Gully F1133.

?Gully F1133 fell within the southern part of a line of enhanced magnetic responses identified by the geophysical survey (Blagg-Newsome 2016, section 5.4; Fig. 3). This anomaly was thought to be associated with a trackway marked on the 1887 Ordnance Survey Map (*ibid.*). The ?gully may have delineated the trackway's southern edge. A similar interpretation has been offered for ?Gully F1103 (Trench 5). Further fieldwork, if undertaken, may provide conclusive evidence regarding the nature of these features and their relationship to the trackway.

Trench 12 (Figs. 3 - 9)

Sample section 12A *0.00m = 5.66m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.44m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.44 – 0.49m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.49m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 12B *0.00m = 5.54m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.34 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.40m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 12 contained ?Furrow F1046 and a modern drain that traversed the trench.

?Furrow F1046 was linear in plan (20.00+ x 0.42+ x 0.11m), aligned E/W. It had irregular, moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1047, was a firm, dark

greyish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. Segment A through this context yielded post-medieval (late 15th – 17th century) pottery (9g), while Segment B contained a single sherd (68g) of 18th – 19th century pottery and a single clay pipe fragment (2g).

The modern drain ran parallel to the line of a geophysical anomaly, thought to be associated with the ploughed-out remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation (Fig. 3). The drain and linear anomaly did not intersect at any point, however.

Trench 13 (Figs. 3 and 9)

Sample section 13A *0.00m = 5.97m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 13B *0.00m = 5.75m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.35m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 13 contained Furrows F1135, F1137, F1139, and F1143. It also contained Ditch F1141. The latter was a continuation of Ditch F1035 (Trench 7) and, like F1035, intersected with to a '…high amplitude positive trending linear anomaly…' thought to relate to a boundary marked on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map, recorded by the forerunning geophysical survey (Blagg-Newsome 2016, section 5.4; Figs. 3-4).

Trench 14 (Figs. 3 and 10)

Sample section 14A *0.00m = 5.89m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.37m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 14B *0.00m = 6.21m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.20 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.41m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 14 contained two modern land drains. An area of modern disturbance was present at the easternmost end of the trench (Fig. 10) and was confirmed (by auger) to extend to a depth of between 0.3m and 0.5m below the exposed surface.

Trench 15 (Figs. 3 and 10)

Sample section 15A *0.00m = 5.87m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.29 – 0.45m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.45m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 15B *0.00m = 5.80m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 15 contained Ditch Terminus F1050 and Pit F1052. A single sherd (9g) of medieval (late 12th – 14th century) pottery was present in F1050 (L1051). A modern drain also traversed the trench.

Ditch Terminus F1050 was linear in plan (1.20+ x 1.06 x 0.07m), aligned NE/SW. It had shallow gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1051, was a firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small angular stones. It contained a single sherd (9g) of medieval (late 12th – 14th century) pottery (9g).

Pit F1052 was circular in plan (1.05 x 0.13m). It had irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1053, was a firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. It contained animal bone (9g) and shell (7g).

The modern drain corresponded to a '…narrow, weak negative anomaly…' identified by the forerunning geophysical survey (Blagg-Newsome 2016, section 5.2; Fig. 3).

Trench 16 (Figs. 3 and 10)

Sample section 16A *0.00m = 5.47m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.29 – 0.38m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.38m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 16B *0.00m = 5.39m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.18 – 0.54m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.54m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 16 contained Posthole F1027, Ditch F1029 and Gully F1031. None of the features contained finds.

Posthole F1027 was sub-circular in plan (0.54 x 0.33 x 0.05m). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1028, was a firm, dark grey brown clayey silt. It contained no finds. F1027 was cut by Ditch F1029.

Ditch F1029 was linear in plan (1.80 x 1.12 x 0.13m). It had irregular gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1030, was a firm, dark grey brown clayey silt. It contained no finds. F1029 cut Posthole F1027.

Gully F1031 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.36 x 0.12m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1032, was a firm, dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. It contained no finds.

Trench 17 (Figs. 3 and 11)

Sample section 17A *0.00m = 5.11m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.31 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.40m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 17B *0.00m = 5.35m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.35 - 0.57m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.57m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 17 contained Trackway F1082, Gullies F1084 and F1086, and Furrows F1089 and F1145. Two modern drains traversed the trench. A thin layer of colluvium (L1088) was recorded sealing Natural L1002 in the central part of the trench; this material was devoid of finds and was cut by F1082 and F1089. F1082 and F1089 contained post-medieval and/ or early modern/ modern finds.

Trackway F1082 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 2.90 x 0.11m), orientated E/W. It had shallow sides and an uneven base. Its fill, L1083, was a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. It contained a single sherd (16g) of 18th – 19th century pottery, one sherd (24g) of 19th century pottery, CBM (31g), animal bone (10g), an iron fragment (10g) and a clay pipe fragment (3g). F1082 was cut by Gullies F1084 and F1086. Trackway F1082 corresponded to the south-easternmost section of a '…line of enhanced magnetic responses…[corresponding] to a trackway visible on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map' identified by the forerunning geophysical survey (Blagg-Newsome 2016, section 5.4; Figs. 3-4).

Gully F1084 was linear in plan (1.00+ x 0.41 x 0.21m), orientated E/W. It had moderately sloping sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1085, was a firm, dark grey brown clayey silt with frequent small stones. It contained no finds. F1084 cut F1082.

Gully F1086 was linear in plan (1.00+ x 0.35 x 0.15m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1087, was a firm, dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. It contained no finds.

Furrow F1089 was linear in plan (1.00+ x 0.57 x 0.28m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1090, was a firm, mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. It contained modern (19th – 20th century) pottery (3g), CBM (2g) and a clay pipe fragment (7g).

Trench 18 (Figs. 3 and 11)

Sample section 18A *0.00m = 5.13m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.25 – 0.46m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.46m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 18B *0.00m = 5.27m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.55m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 18 contained no archaeological features or finds. A modern drain traversed the trench. An area of shallow (depth not recorded) modern disturbance and an additional, truncated section of modern pipe (N/S aligned) were present at the southernmost end of the trench (Fig. 11).

Trench 19 (Figs. 3 and 12)

Sample section 19A *0.00m = 5.32m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.34 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 19B *0.00m = 5.11m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.27 – 0.38m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.38m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 19 contained Ditch F1080. An area of modern disturbance was present at the easternmost end of the trench (Fig. 12) and was confirmed (by auger) to extend to a depth of between 0.3m and 0.6m below the exposed surface.

Ditch F1080 was linear in plan (1.00+ x 0.65 x 0.15m), orientated N/S. It had shallow sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1081, was a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. It contained CBM (7g) and animal bone (7g).

Trench 20 (Figs. 3 and 12)

Sample section 20A *0.00m = 4.95m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.27 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 20B *West end, North facing* *0.00m = 5.00m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.18 – 0.32	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 20 contained no archaeological features or finds. A modern drain traversed the trench. An area of modern disturbance was present in the southern half of the trench (Fig. 12) and was confirmed (by auger) to extend to a depth of between 0.50m and 0.55m below the exposed surface.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 The site had a high water table and many of the trenches needed to be pumped out before they could be excavated. However, it is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a firm, dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular flint (*c*.0.35m thick). Below L1000 was Subsoil L1003, a compact, mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small angular flint (*c*.0.40m thick), or Subsoil L1001, a firm, dark grey silty clay with occasional small angular flint (up to 0.48m thick). Below L1001/ L1003 was the natural (L1002), a compact, mid reddish orange clay with moderate small angular flint (c.0.85m below the present day ground surface).

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Feature/ Context	Description	Spot date
1	F1019	?Pit	-
	F1066	Ditch	Roman (mid 1st – mid 3rd C)
	F1068	?Pit	-
	F1070	?Pit	-
	F1072	Ditch	-
	F1074	Ditch	-
2	F1023	Furrow	18th – 19th C
	F1025	Furrow	Late post-medieval (17th – 18th C)
	F1091	Furrow	-
3	F1004	Pit	-
	F1006	Pit	-
	F1008	Pit	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C)
	F1011	?Pit	-
	F1013	Pit	-
	F1015	Ditch; re-cut of F1021	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C)
	F1021	Ditch	Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd C)
4	F1054	Pit	-
	F1056	Gully	-
	F1058	Pit	18th – 19th C
	F1060	Ditch Terminus	-
	F1062	Ditch	-

	F1064	Pit	-
	F1093	Furrow	-
	F1095	Furrow	-
	F1097	Furrow	-
	F1099	Furrow	-
	F1101	Furrow	-
5	F1044	Furrow	-
	F1048	Furrow	-
	F1103	?Gully	-
	F1105	Furrow	-
6	F1076	Ditch Terminus	-
	F1078	Ditch	-
	F1107	Furrow	-
	F1109	Furrow	-
	F1111	Furrow	-
	F1113	Furrow	-
7	F1035	Boundary Ditch = F1141 Tr.13	Visible on OS Map 1887
	F1038	Furrow	Residual sherd of medieval (late 12th – 14th C) 18th – 19th C
	F1040	Furrow	-
	F1115	Furrow	-
	F1117	Furrow	-
8	F1042	Pit	-
9	F1033	Pit	?Modern
10	F1119	Furrow	-
	F1121	Furrow	-
	F1123	Furrow	-
	F1125	Furrow	-
	F1127	Furrow	-
11	F1129	Furrow	-
	F1131	Furrow	-
	F1133	?Gully	-
12	F1046	?Furrow	18th – 19th C ?Residual sherd of post-medieval pottery
13	F1135	Furrow	-
	F1137	Furrow	-
	F1139	Furrow	-
	F1141	Boundary Ditch = F1035 Trench 7	Visible OS Map 1887
	F1143	Furrow	
15	F1050	Ditch Terminus	Sherd of medieval (late 12th – 14th century) pottery
	F1052	Pit	-
16	F1027	Posthole	-
	F1029	Ditch	-
	F1031	Gully	-
17	F1082	Trackway	18th – 19th C
	F1084	Gully	-
	F1086	Gully	-
	L1088	Colluvium	-
	F1089	Furrow	Modern (19th – 20th C)
	F1145	Furrow	-
19	F1080	Ditch	-

8.2 Numerous undated features were recorded, some of which were thought to be natural, for example, F1068 and F1070 (Trench 1). Undated features were recorded in Trenches 1 (5), 3 (4), 4 (5), 6 (2), 8 (1), 13 (1), 15, (2), 16 (3), 17 (2) and 19 (1). The features comprised ditch terminals, ditches and gullies (16), pits (9) and postholes (1).

8.3 A few post-medieval to early modern/ modern features were present: Pits F1058 (Trench 4), F1033 (Trench 9), and Furrow F1089 and Trackway F1082 (Trench 17). These features did not inhibit the recognition of earlier features.

8.4 Furrows were recorded predominantly on the western side of the site (Trenches 2, 4 – 7, 10 – 13 and 17). They were consistently orientated E/W, and contained late post-medieval (17th – 18th century) and modern (19th – 20th century)

finds. Furrow F1038 (Trench 7) contained a residual sherd of medieval (late 12th – 14th century) pottery a single sherd (19g) of 18th – 19th century pottery. Ditch Terminus F1050 (Trench 15) also contained a single sherd (9g) of medieval (late 12th – 14th century) pottery. ?Furrow F1046 (L1047 (Seg.A)) yielded a single sherd (9g) of ?residual post-medieval pottery, while Segment B of this feature contained 18th – 19th century pottery (1:68g) and a clay pipe fragment (2g).

8.5 Roman features were present on the westernmost periphery of the site (the western ends of Trenches 1 and 3). The features comprised Ditch F1066 (Trench 1), Ditch F1021 and its re-cut, Ditch F1015, and Pit F1008 (Trench 3). The features consistently contained mid 1st – early 2nd century pottery. The Roman pottery is in a highly fragmented and highly abraded condition. It was sparsely distributed, predominantly in ditches, with crumbs in Pit F1008, and sparse sherds in the subsoil (Roman Pottery Report below). The associated finds comprise animal bone and sparse shell. The undated features (Section 8.2 above) were most numerous in Trenches 1, 3 and 4 i.e. co-incident with the Roman archaeology and some may have been associated.

Research Design

8.6 Romano-British occupation of the Willigham area is well attested locally and the Roman features recorded during this evaluation add to the body of evidence regarding this period. They indicate that the site may have the potential to contain further evidence of this period. The character of the Roman archaeology previously identified in Willingham indicates that any further information that this site may yield is likely to relate to research subjects associated with the landscape and rural settlement, in particular the form of and character of Romano-British farms and the relationships between size/shape of fields and agricultural regimes (Medlycott 2011, 47).

8.7 The minimal medieval evidence recorded must also be considered to relate to rural settlement, an area of research identified as being of importance for the eastern region (Medlycott 2011, 70). Although of small scale, this adds to what is known of Willingham in the medieval period. Work by Thomas (2006) in Leicestershire has demonstrated the way in which a synthesis of small scale evidence of this kind can contribute greatly to the study of medieval rural settlement.

8.8 It is possible that the ridge and furrow cultivation present across the site is of medieval date but dating evidence and other indicators would suggest that it is of post-medieval date. Medlycott (2011, 79) identifies the post-medieval landscape and the effect of social changes on it as an important research subject. The evidence from this site may make a contribution to understanding agricultural regimes and practices from this period.

Review of the Geophysical Survey Data

8.9 The geophysical survey identified the furrows as '…a series of close set, parallel anomalies of varying amplitudes…' most likely representing '…the ploughed-out remnants of medieval ridge and furrow' (Blagg-Newsome 2016, section 5.3; Fig. 3). The trial trenching encountered furrows predominantly in the central and western

areas of the site, although good correlation between geophysical anomalies and identified furrows was also noted in parts of the northern site area, e.g. Trial Trench 10 (Fig. 3).

8.10 The survey also identified a '…high amplitude positive trending linear anomaly [with a wider negative trending component]…' interpreted as representing a boundary marked on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map (Blagg-Newsome 2016, section 5.4). The response was thought to possibly relate to buried ferrous fencing material (*ibid*.). Ditches (F1035 (Trench 7) and F1141 (Trench 13)) were found to exactly match the line of the surveyed anomaly.

8.11 In addition to the above, the survey identified a line of '…enhanced magnetic responses…[corresponding] to a trackway visible on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map' (Blagg-Newsome 2016, section 5.4; Figs. 3-4). The trackway was most clearly identified in Trench 17 (F1082) of the evaluation. Discrepancies between the surveyed trackway anomaly and the encountered archaeology elsewhere – notably in Trench 11 (Fig. 3) – may be a product of the site's clay geology. Some clays give generally poor survey responses, particularly in parts East Anglia and northern England (English Heritage 2008, 15, table 4). Alternatively, the material used in the construction of the trackway (if particularly magnetic) and/ or disturbance along its length may have resulted in the surveyed anomaly appearing broader than the feature it represented. Indeed, the minimally processed gradiometer data from the survey (Blagg-Newsome 2016, fig. 5) displays responses consistent with magnetic disturbance along the whole length of the trackway.

8.12 A 'narrow, weak negative anomaly', situated in the south-eastern portion of the site, equates to a modern drain recorded in Trench 15; it was not readily discernible in Trench 16, however. Once again, this discrepancy may be a product of the site's geology (see above).

Artefact Characterisation

8.13 Hand excavation of remaining topsoil and subsoil at the trench ends produced only a modest quantity of archaeological finds. Overall, L1000, L1001 and L1003 yielded Roman pottery (7 sherds (52g)), 12th to 14th century pottery (1 sherd (15g)), 19th to 20th century pottery (2 sherds (17g)) and 53g of animal bone.

9 CONCLUSION

9.1 Numerous undated features were recorded, some of which were thought to be natural. A few modern features were present. Furrows were recorded predominantly in the central core of the site and on the western side, and are likely of post-medieval date.

9.2 The principal interest of the evaluation is the Roman features present on the westernmost periphery of the site (the western ends of Trenches 1 and 3). The features comprised two ditches, a re-cut and a pit. The features consistently contained mid 1st – early 2nd century pottery. The undated features were most

numerous in Trenches 1, 3 and 4 i.e. co-incident with the Roman archaeology and some may have been associated.

9.3 There was relatively good correlation between the geophysical survey data and features identified by the trial trench evaluation. Any discrepancies, notably along the line of the trackway, may have been due (at least in part) to the site's clay geology (see Section 8.11) and/ or later disturbance.

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.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Seg.	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pottery)	Pot (Qty)	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other	Other (Qty)	Other (g)
-	1000			Topsoil					37			
-	1001			Subsoil	12th-14th C AD 19th-20th C AD	1 2	15 17		3			
-	1003			Subsoil	 Roman	 7	 52		3 10			
1008	1010		3	Pit fill	Mid 1st-early 2nd C AD	3	4					
1015	1016		3	Ditch fill	Roman	2	3		14			
1015	1017		3	Ditch fill	Mid 1st-early 2nd C AD	7	114		148			
1021	1018		3	Ditch fill	Mid 1st-early 2nd C AD	10	47		303	Shell	1	<1
1023	1024		2	Furrow fill	18th-19th C AD	3	136	10		Clay pipe	1	2
1025	1026		2	Furrow fill	17th-18th C AD	1	19		43	Shell Clay pipe	1 1	3 2
1038	1039		7	Furrow fill	Late 12th-14th C AD 18th-19th C AD	2	12	24				
1040	1041		7	Furrow fill				20				
1046	1047	A B	12	Ditch fill	Late 15th-17th C AD 18th-19th C AD	9 1	 69			 Clay pipe	 1	 2
1050	1051		15	Ditch fill	Late 12th-14th C AD	1	10					
1052	1053		15	Pit fill					9	Shell	1	7
1058	1059		4	Pit fill	18th-19th C AD	1	32					
1066	1067		1	Ditch fill	Mid 1st-mid 3rd C AD	1	335		155	Shell	1	1
1074	1075		1	Ditch fill					23			
1076	1077		6	Ditch fill					1			
1080	1081		19	Ditch fill				7	7			
1082	1083		17	Trackway fill	19th C AD	2	39	31	10	Fe	1	10
										Clay pipe	1	3
1089	1090		17	Furrow fill	19th-mid 20th C AD	1	2	2		Clay pipe	2	7

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Roman Pottery

Andrew Peachey CMIfA

The evaluation recovered a total of 30 sherds (555g) of Roman pottery in a very highly fragmented and highly abraded condition. Diagnostic rim or decorative sherds were absent, although the fabric types present appear consistent with an early Roman date, spanning the mid 1st to early 2nd centuries AD. The Roman sherds were sparsely distributed, predominantly in ditch features, with crumbs in a single pit, and sparse sherds in the subsoil.

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE with fabrics examined at x20 magnification in accordance with the guidelines of the Study Group for Roman Pottery. Fabric codes and descriptions (Roman) were cross-referenced, where possible, to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) or regional kiln/type series, while local or indistinguishable coarse wares were assigned an alpha-numeric code and are fully described in the report. All data has been entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

Fabric Descriptions

BSW1	Black-surfaced/Romanising reduced ware 1. Black/dark grey surfaces, thin red margins and a dark grey core. Inclusions comprise common quartz and sparse iron ore (0.1-0.25mm), sparse clay pellets/grog (0.25-1.5mm) and occasional flint (0.5-3mm).
OXS1	Oxidised sandy ware 1. Orange surfaces over a dark grey core. Inclusions comprise common quartz (<0.5mm) common fine-medium shell (0.5-2mm).
GRS1	Sandy grey ware 1. A mid to pale grey fabric, often with slightly contrasting margins and core. Inclusions comprise common, well-sorted quartz (generally <0.25mm), occasional iron rich grains (<0.5mm) and sparse fine mica.
BAT AM2	Baetican (Late) amphorae 2 (Tomber and Dore 1998, 85)

Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
BSW1	26	213	-
OXS1	2	6	-
GRS1	1	2	-
BAT AM2	1	335	-
Total	*30*	*555*	-

Table 1: Quantification of fabric types

Commentary

The most common fabric group (Table 1) is the black-surfaced/Romanising grey wares (BSW), including large body sherds contained in re-cut Ditch F1015 that exhibit slightly wavy combed lines on their exterior, consistent with storage jars produced in the early Roman period. The remaining sherds of BSW in Pit F1008, Ditch F1021 and Subsoil L1003 are very highly fragmented small non-diagnostic body sherds. In association with the BSW in Ditch F1015, two cross joining body sherds of OXS1 were present in L1017, probably derived from the plain shoulder

cordon of a Belgic-type bowl, while a single body sherd of GRS1 was also present in L1016. The only Roman pottery in the assemblage that does not comprise a locally-produced coarse ware is a single body sherd (335g) of BAT AM2, from close to the base of the vessel, and almost certainly part of a Dressel 20 amphorae used to import olive oil from Baetica in the south of Spain. The prevalence of BSW and the sparse sherds of other coarse wares and amphora are consistent with an early Roman date, probably within the latter half of the 1st century AD, but possibly extending into the early 2nd century AD; however due to the limited distribution and absence of diagnostic form types, this remains a tentative conclusion.

Reference

Tomber, R. and Dore, J., 1998
The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (London, Museum of London)

The Pottery
Peter Thompson

Introduction

The archaeological evaluation recovered 16 sherds weighing 365g from five contexts: three furrows, a trackway and the subsoil. Most of the assemblage is of late post-medieval to modern date, but four sherds (34g) are medieval.

Methodology

The sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and quantified in Table 2. The recording was carried out in keeping with the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) 1998; Slowikowski *et al.* 2001). Dating is in accordance with the London medieval and post-medieval range (MoLAS), and other local published material. Form terminologies are based on the MPRG descriptions.

The Pottery

Ditch Terminus F1050 (L1051) contained a body sherd of Hunts Fen Sandy ware with highly abraded patchy glaze and decoration comprising incised wavy lines and incised or combed horizontal lines. ?Furrow F1046 (L1047 (Seg.A)) contained a late medieval sherd containing sparse oolitic inclusions that is probably a Lyveden or Glapthorn product from Northamptonshire. Although in quite good condition, this sherd is likely to be residual as Ditch L1047 (Seg.B) contained a sherd of post-medieval glazed earthenware. Furrow F1038 (L1039) contained a residual small grey medieval coarseware sherd of late 12th – 14th century date (1g). Subsoil L1001 contained a medieval coarseware base sherd that would match the Grimston ware fabric range (dated 12th – 14th century); two sherds (17g) of modern pottery were also present within L1001.

The following features: Furrows F1023, F1026, F1039, ?Furrow F1046 (L1047 (Seg.B)), Pit F1058, and Trackway F1082 all contained abraded post-medieval and later red earthenware sherds of 18th – 19th century date. Trackway F1082 also

contained the upper profile of an English stoneware cream jug, in fairly good condition, which dates to the second half of the 19th century. Furrow F1089 contained a single small sherd of factory made early modern to modern (19th – mid 20th century) white earthenware.

KEY:

MCW1: Medieval coarse ware – fine quartz sandy matrix with occasional medium to coarse sub-angular to rounded clear or grey quartz. Rare red iron rich clay pellet inclusions. Pale brown surfaces, grey core. Fabric similar to Grimston ware 12th-14th

MCW2: Medieval coarse ware – abundant well-sorted fine to medium grey quartz with occasional black rounded iron mineral. Pale grey throughout 12th-14th

HUNSFW: Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware late 12th-14th

LYVE-t: Lyveden type ware c.15th century

PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware late 16th+

ENGS: English stoneware 18th+

RWE: Refined factory made white earthenware late 18th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
-	Subsoil 1001	1x15g MCW1 2x17g RWE	(12th-14th) 19th-20th	MCW1: Slightly rounded base sherd
Furrow 1023	1024	3x136g PMRE	18th-19th	PMRE: x2 brown glaze body sherds
Furrow 1025	1026	1x19g PMRE	17th- 18th	PMRE: brown glazed jar rim with groove probably for lid seating
Furrow 1038	1039	1x1g MCW2 1x19g PMRE	(late 12th-14th) 18th – 19th	MCW2: body sherd PMRE: brown glaze both surfaces
?Furrow 1046	1047 A	1x9g LYVE-t	Late 15th-17th	LYVE-t: upper shoulder sherd
?Furrow 1046	1047 B	1x68g PMRE	18th – 19th	PMRE: internal brown glazed base
Ditch Terminus 1050	1051	1x9g HUNSFW	Late 12th-14th	HUNSFW: body sherd, highly abraded external glaze, horizontal and wavy line incised decoration
Pit 1058	1059	1x32g PMRE	18th – 19th	PMRE: jar body, brown glaze both sides, external horizontal ridges
Trackway 1082	1083	1x16g PMRE 1x24g ENGS	18th – 19th 19th	PMRE: body, brown glaze both sides ENGS: brown glazed outside, small jug upper profile possibly a cream jug
Furrow 1089	1090	1x3g RWE	19th-mid 20th	

Table 2: Quantification of pottery by context

References

Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 1998
A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper No. 1

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J., 2001
Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper No. 2

The Ceramic Building Materials
Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The evaluation recovered a total of ten fragments (137g) of CBM, entirely comprised of very small and highly fragmented post-medieval fragments, most-likely re-distributed as part of manuring. The fragments were recorded by fragment count and weight per context, with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will form part of the site archive.

A single fragment (7g) of Victorian white earthen ware water pipe was recovered from Ditch F1080; while the remaining fragments were comprised of post-medieval red brick rubble of insufficient size to preserve any dimensions or diagnostic traits. These fragments were scattered in very low quantity in the fills of Furrows F1023, F1025, F1038, F1040 and F1089, and Trackway F1082.

The Shell
Dr Julia E.M. Cussans

A very small assemblage of marine shell was recovered from trial trench excavations at Rockmill End, Willingham. Two pieces of oyster shell were recovered. Both were lower valves. That from L1026 (Furrow F1025) was slightly abraded and showed signs of parasitic attack. The shell from L1053 (Pit F1052) was in much better condition and had possible opening notches on its ventral edge.

The Animal Bone
Dr Julia E.M. Cussans

A small assemblage of animal bones was recovered from trial trench excavations at Rockmill End, Willingham. Preservation of the bone was variable with bones being rated from very poor through to good (Table 3) on a five point scale from very poor to excellent. The majority of contexts were rated as having poor or ok preservation. Abraded bones were present throughout the assemblage and fresh breakages were fairly common. Gnawed bones were only noted in a single context (L1003). Several of the contexts were noted as having bones with a weathered appearance and deposit concretions were fairly common. The presence of abraded, weathered and concreted bones may have negative consequences for the recognition of bone surface modifications (such as butchery and pathology) and in some cases for the accurate identification of element and taxa; this should be borne in mind when examining the animal bone data.

Overall 74 bone fragments were recorded, but of these only 18 could be identified to a specific taxa; the remainder could only be identified as large (cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal (Table 3). Of the identified taxa cattle were the most abundant, followed by sheep/ goat, pig and then horse. Cattle were largely represented by head and foot elements although a scapula fragment was also present. Sheep/ goat and pig were represented by teeth and mandible fragments and horse was represented by a foot bone, indicating that the identifiable assemblage was largely made up of head and foot elements, possibly indicating that other meatier parts of the animals had been removed from the site. Bones recorded

as large or medium mammal were largely noted as mandible, vertebrae or long bone fragments, indicating that some meatier parts may have been present.

A small number of ageable teeth were available for cattle and pig and butchered elements were also present for these taxa. Most of these information rich elements came from Ditch Fill L1018 (F1021) which is the largest context present in terms of animal bone. No other ageable elements, measurable or pathological bones were present in the assemblage. A larger assemblage would likely provide fruitful results in terms of investigating site economy, although the issues of weathering and concretion would have to be taken account of.

Feature	Context	Segment	Description	Spot Date	Preservation	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Horse	Large Mammal	Medium Mammal	Total
-	1000	A	Topsoil	\	ok	1						1
-	1001	B	Subsoil	1 sherd 12-14 C AD, 2 Sherds 19-20 C AD	very poor						1	1
-	1003	A	Subsoil	\	good	1						1
-	1003	B	Subsoil	Roman	ok	1					1	2
1015	1016		Fill of Ditch	Roman	very poor					5		5
1015	1017		Fill of Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	poor	2			1	15	1	19
1021	1018		Fill of Ditch	Mid 1st-Early 2nd C AD	ok	3	3	2		20	8	36
1052	1053		Fill of Pit	\	good	1						1
1066	1067		Fill of Ditch	Mid 1st-Mid 3rd C AD	ok	2				1		3
1074	1075		Fill of Ditch	\	ok	1						1
1076	1077		Fill of Ditch Terminus	\	poor						1	1
1080	1081		Fill of Ditch	\	poor					1		1
1082	1083		Fill of Trackway	18th - 19th C AD	poor					2		2
					Total	*12*	*3*	*2*	*1*	*44*	*12*	*74*

Table 3: Quantification of animal bones from Willingham

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During trial excavations on land at Rockmill End, Willingham, ten bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. The samples were taken from a range of deposits spot dated to the Roman period, as well as post medieval and undated deposits. This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions and discusses the significance and potential of any remains recovered.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

All samples >10 litres were 50% sub-sampled for the purpose of assessment. Full processing and analysis are conditional on the recovery of significant archaeobotanical remains and the potential for a single sample to produce >30 identifiable specimens.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 4. Overall, carbonised plant remains were sparse.

Romano-British

Four samples were present from deposits spot dated to the Roman period. The only material recovered were indeterminate cereal grains in L1010 (Pit F1008) and L1016 (Ditch F1015), along with a single emmer/ spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/ spelta*) glume base in L1016.

Post-medieval and later

From the post-medieval deposits was a single free-threshing type wheat grain (*T. aestivum/ turgidum* type) in L1047 (F1046 (Seg.A)) and a single cotyledon of a legume seed (Fabaceae) in L1039 (F1038).

Contaminants

Modern rootlets were common to abundant in all of the samples. These could have caused disturbance and the movement of small remains, such as carbonised cereal grains, within the stratigraphic profile. In addition, the large volume of rootlets could have trapped some remains, inhibiting sorting and identification. However, the density of material was so low, it is unlikely that this will have had a significant impact on the assemblage as a whole.

Conclusions and Statement of Potential

The low density of carbonised plant remains from all deposits at Rockmill End, Willingham, indicates that the use and processing of cereals was not an important activity at the site, either during the Roman or post-medieval periods. The presence of ridge and furrow on the site indicates that it was an area of cultivation rather than domestic occupation during later periods. The evidence from the Roman period also indicates that the site was situated away from areas of intensive domestic occupation or agricultural processing activities during this time.

References

Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker R.M. and Jans J.E.A., 2006
Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands. Groningen Archaeological Studies Volume 4 (Eelde, Barkhuis Publishing)

Jacomet, S., 2006
Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites (2nd edition, Laboratory of Palinology and Palaeoecology, Basel University)

Kerney, M.P., 1999
Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland (Colchester, Harley Books)

Kerney, M.P. and Cameron, R.A.D., 1979
A Field Guide to Land Snails of Britain and North-West Europe (London, Collins)

Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains
								Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
1	1010	1008	Fill of Pit	Mid1st-Early 2nd C AD	20	10	50%	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	Indet. Carbonised vitreous material (X)
2	1016	1015	Fill of Ditch	Roman	20	10	50%	X	X	NFI (2), E/S GB (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-
3	1017	1015	Fill of Ditch	Mid1st-Early 2nd C AD	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	-
4	1018	1021	Fill of Ditch	Mid1st-Early 2nd C AD	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	*Vallonia* sp.	XX	-	X	-	-	-
5	1032	1031	Fill of Gully	-	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	-	XX	-	-	Indet. Carbonised vitreous material (X)
6	1039	1038	Fill of Ridge and Furrow	18th-19th C AD	20	10	50%	-	-	-	X	Medium Fabaceae (1)	-	-	-	X	*Vallonia* sp.	XXX	-	XX	-	-	Indet. Carbonised vitreous material (X)
7	1047A	1046	Fill of ?Furrow	Late 15th-17th C AD	40	20	50%	X	-	FTW (1)	-	-	-	-	-	X	*Vallonia* sp.	XXX	-	X	-	-	Indet. Carbonised vitreous material (X)

8	1047B	1046	Fill of ?Furrow	18th-19th C AD	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	XXX	X	X	-	-	Indet. Carbonised vitreous material (X)
9	1055	1054	Fill of Pit	-	20	20	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	XX	X	X	-	-	Indet. Carbonised vitreous material (X)
10	1077	1076	Fill of Ditch Terminus	-	10	10	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	-	X	-	-	-

Table 4: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Rockmill End, Willingham. Abbreviations: E/S = emmer/ spelt wheat (Triticum dicoccum/ spelta); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (Triticum aestivum/ turgidum); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain); GB = glume base

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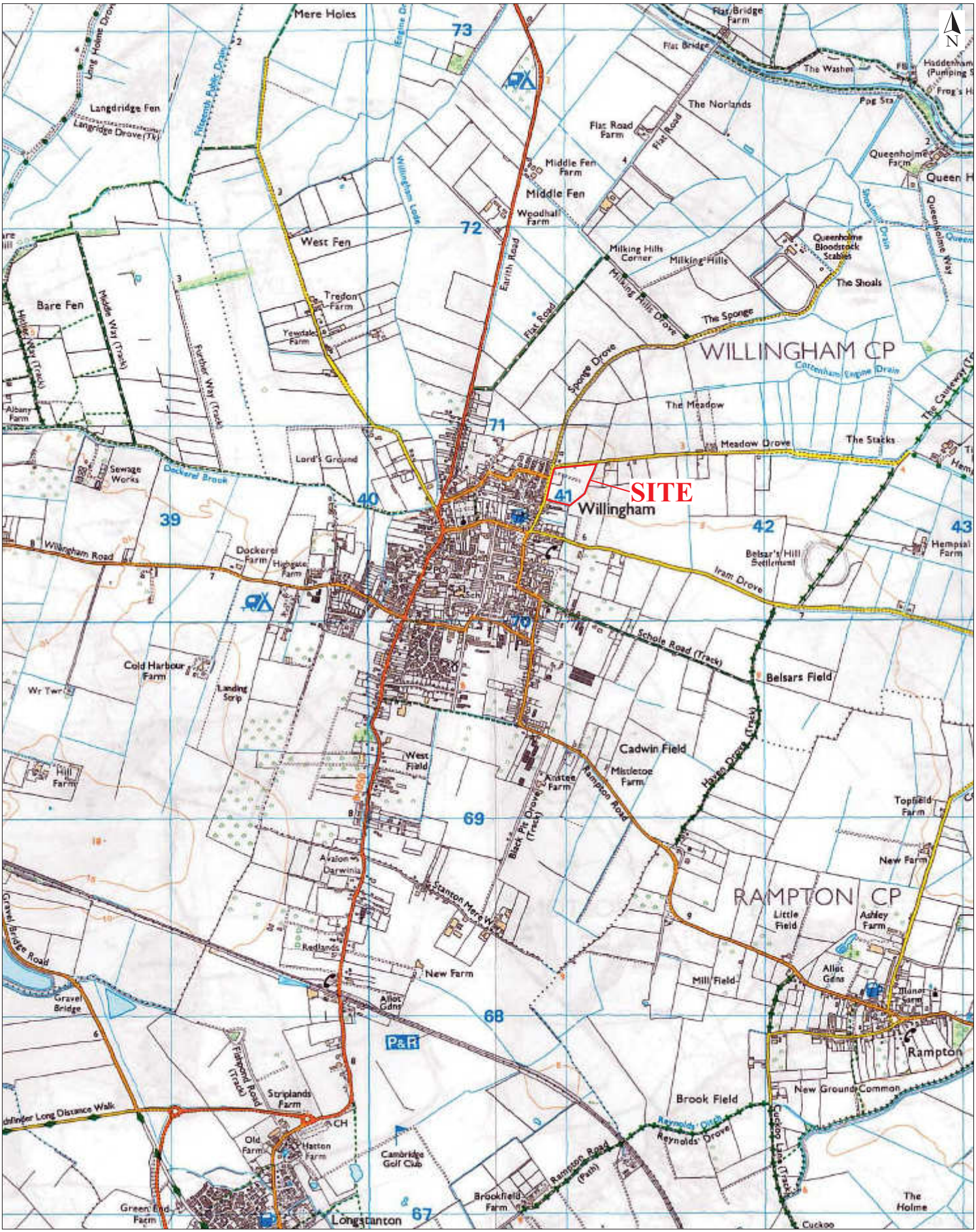

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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Rockmill End, Willingham, Cambridgeshire (P6442)

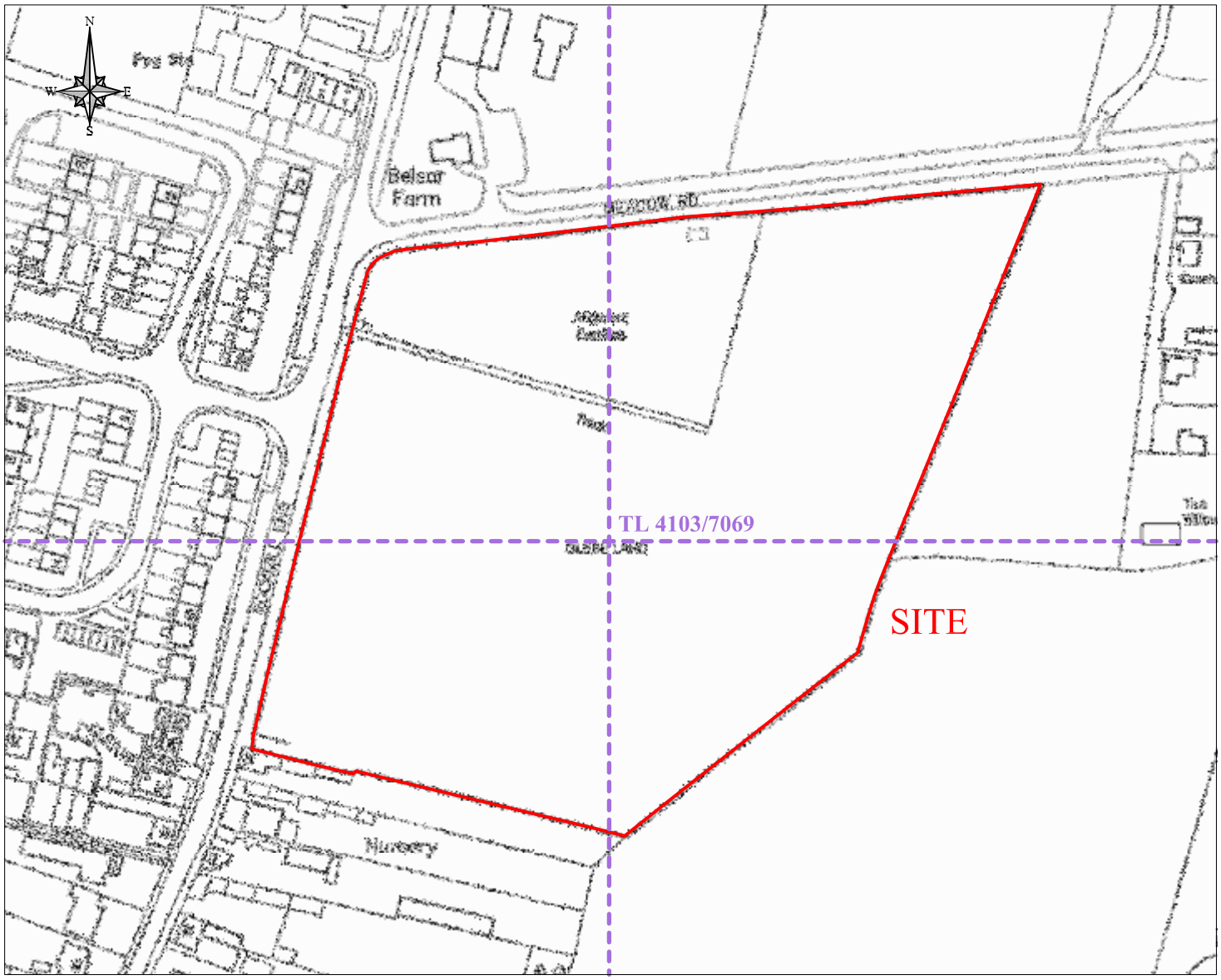

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:2000 at A4
Rockmill End, Willingham, Cambridgeshire (P6442)

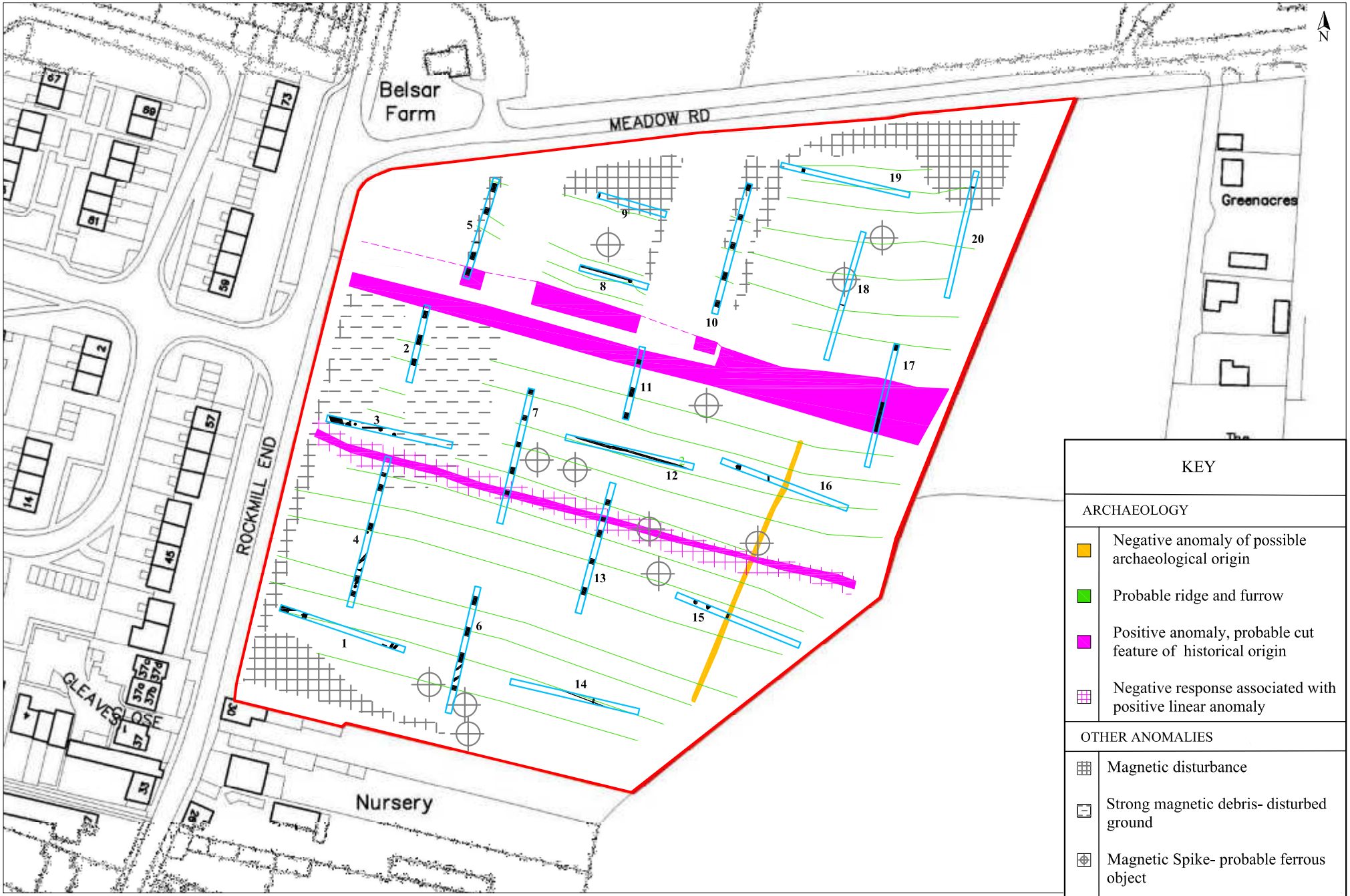

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Fig. 3 Trench location plan

Scale 1:1500 at A4

Willingham Glebe Land, Cambridgeshire (P6442)

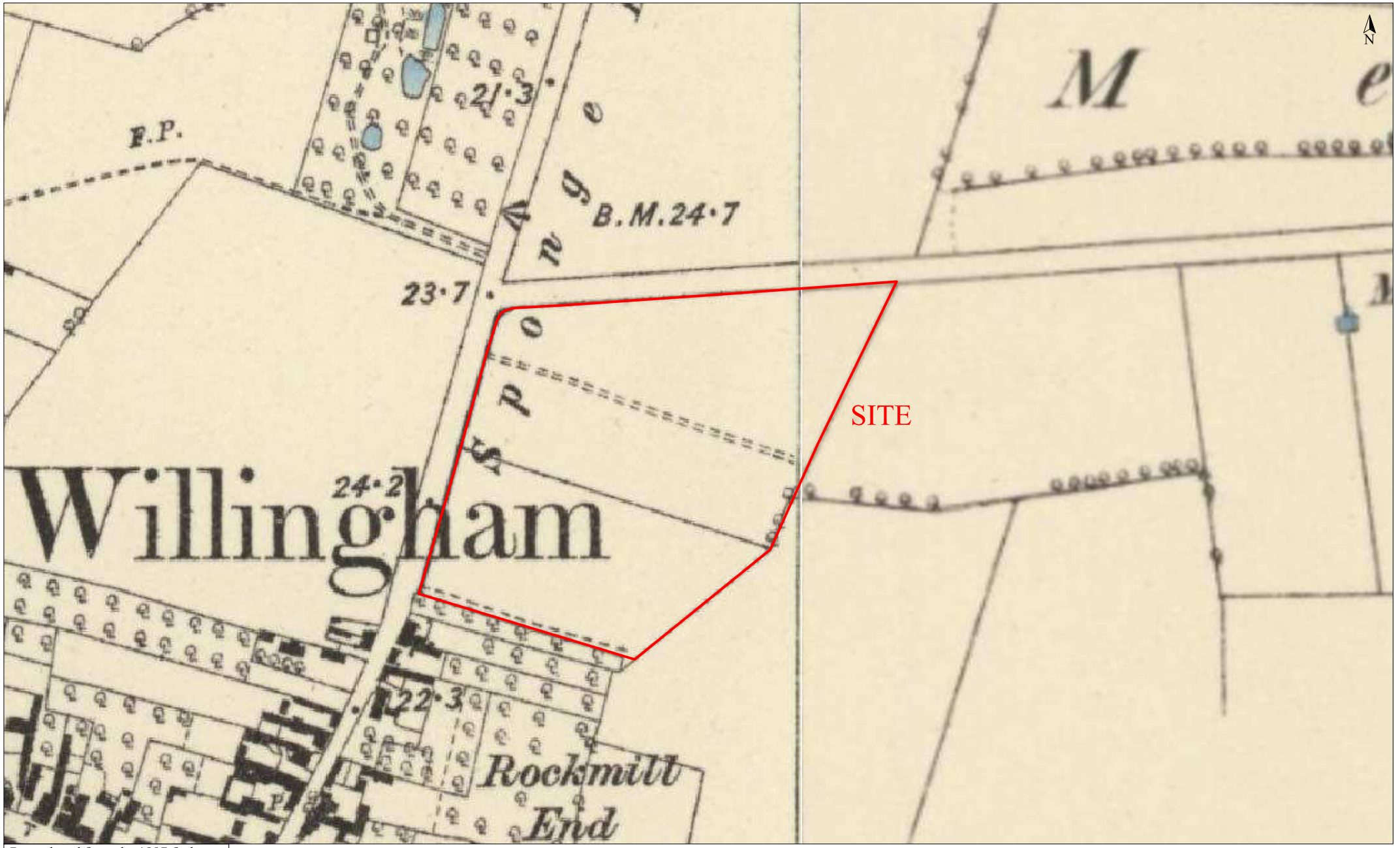

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Fig. 4 OS Map, 1887

Not to scale

Willingham Glebe Land, Cambridgeshire (P6442)

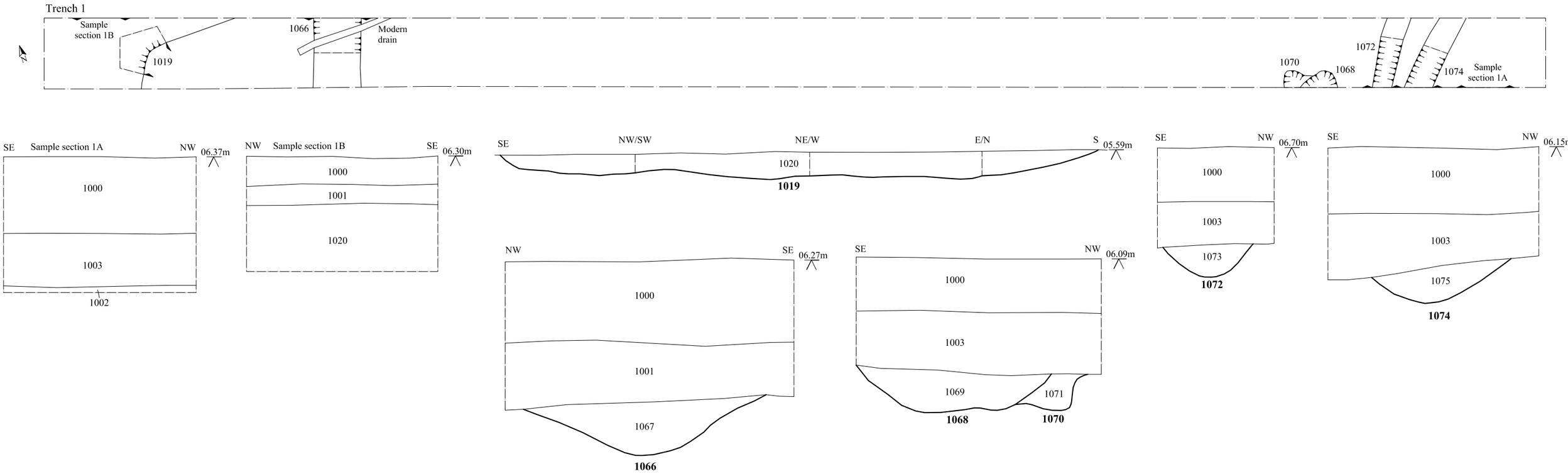

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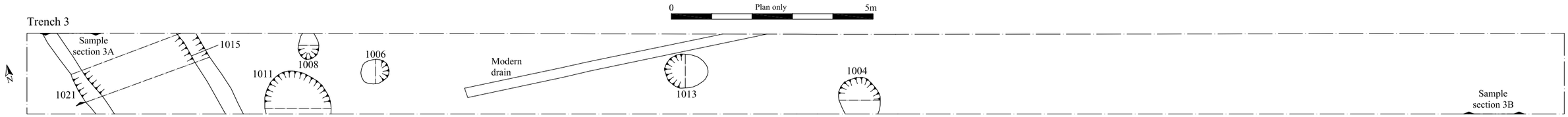
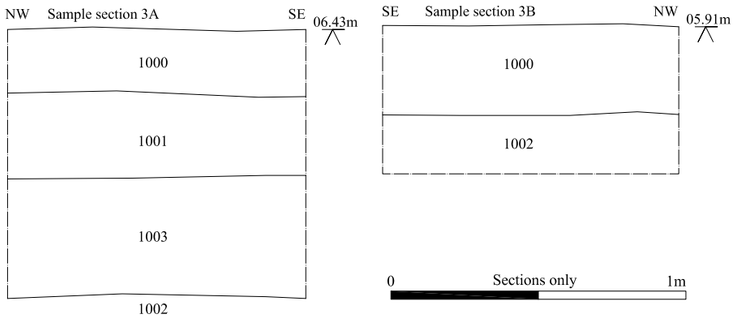
Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections

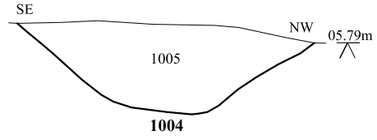
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

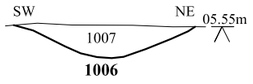
Willingham Glebe Land, Cambridgeshire (P6442)

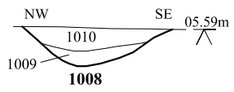
Trench 3

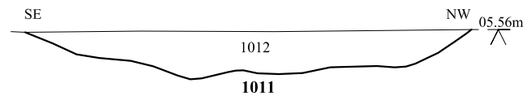


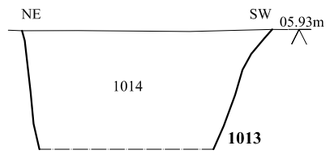


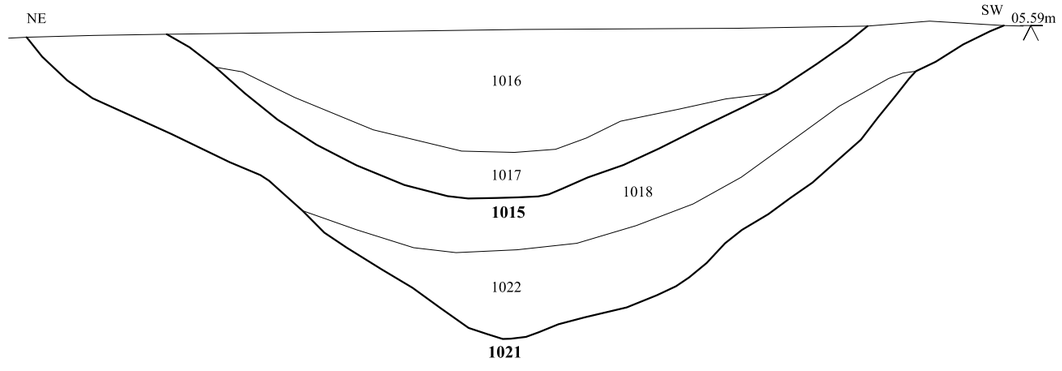




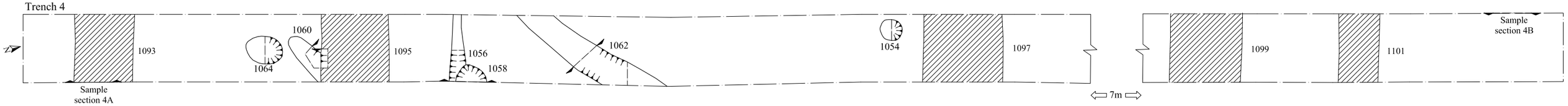


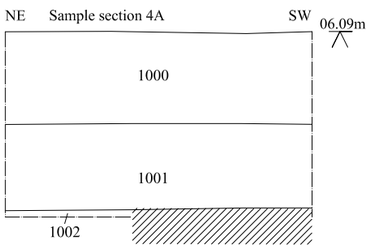


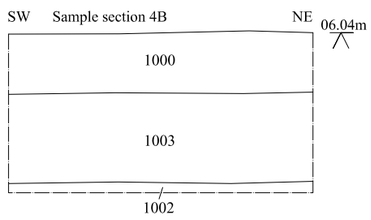


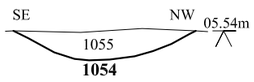


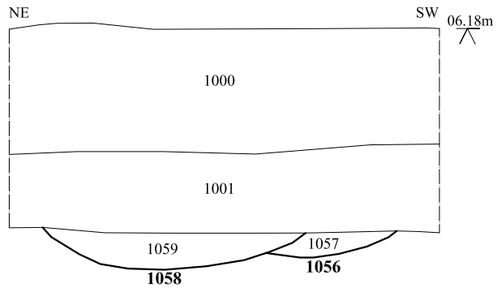
Trench 4

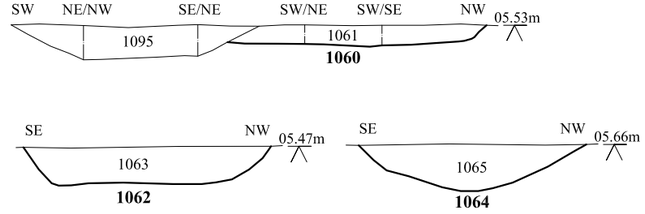












Unexcavated ridge and furrow

Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 6 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Willingham Glebe Land, Cambridgeshire (P6442)

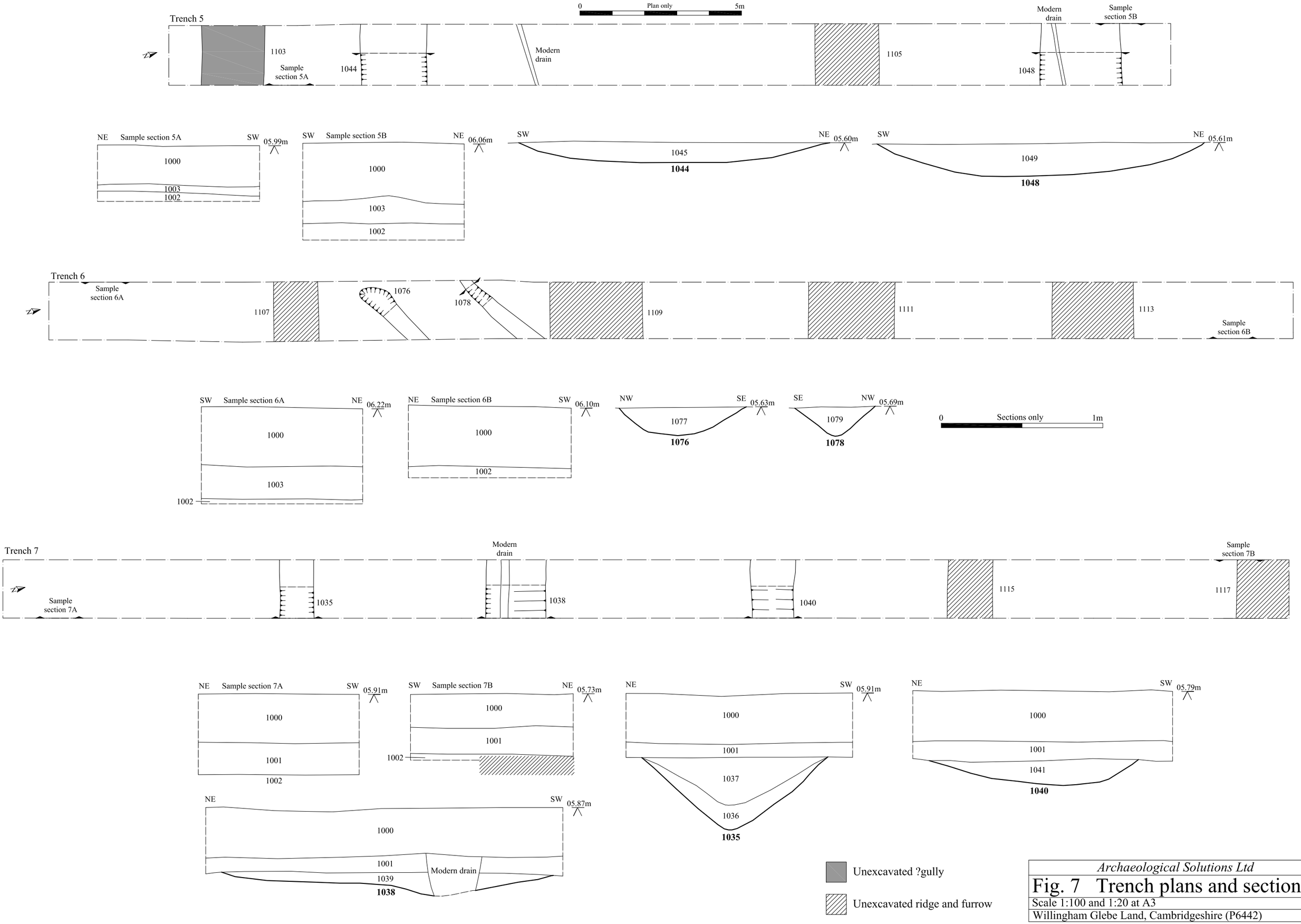


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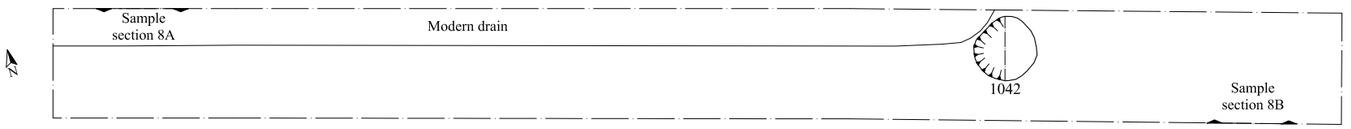
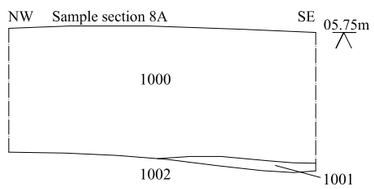
Fig. 7 Trench plans and sections

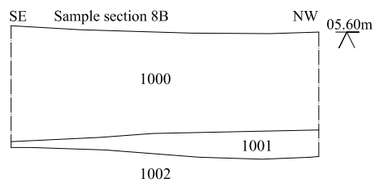
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

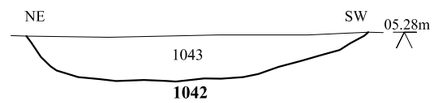
Willingham Glebe Land, Cambridgeshire (P6442)

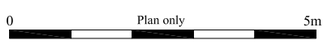
Trench 8



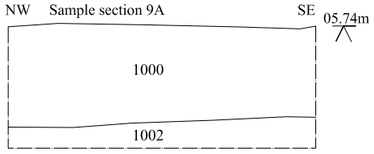


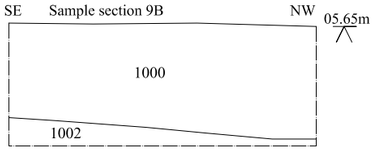


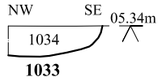




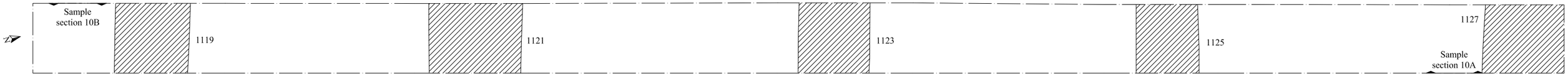
Trench 9

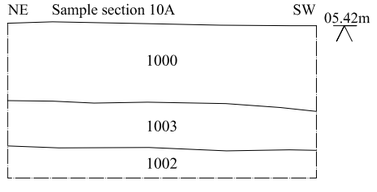


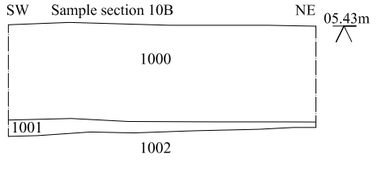


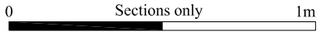


Trench 10









Unexcavated ridge and furrow

Archaeological Solutions Ltd

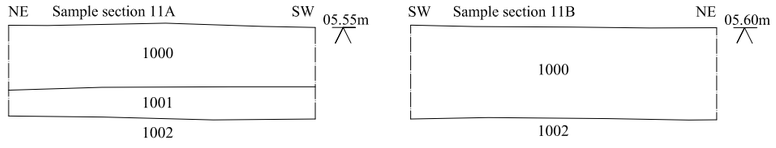
Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

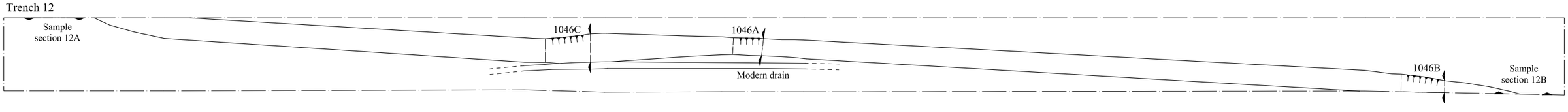
Willingham Glebe Land, Cambridgeshire (P6442)

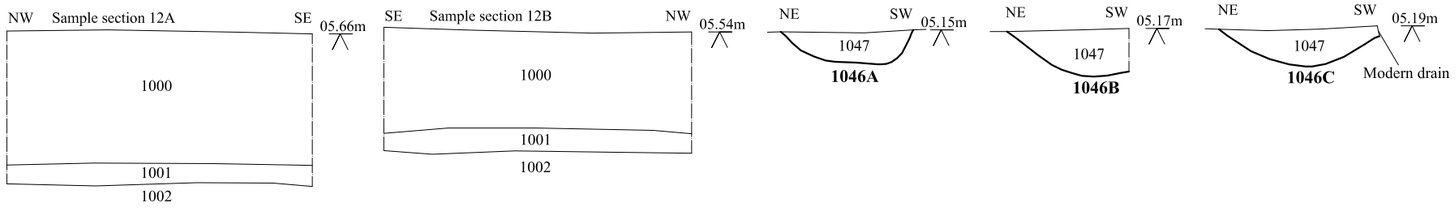
Trench 11

0 Plan only 5m

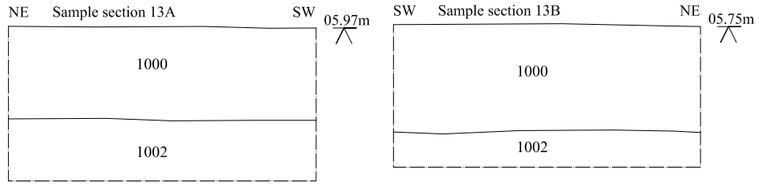


Trench 12





Trench 13



0 Sections only 1m

Unexcavated ?gully

Unexcavated ridge and furrow

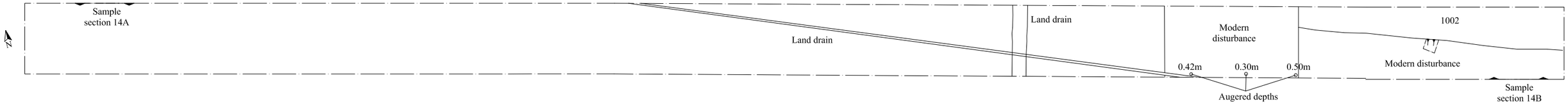
Archaeological Solutions Ltd

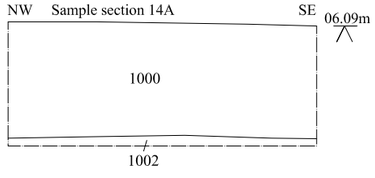
Fig. 9 Trench plans and sections

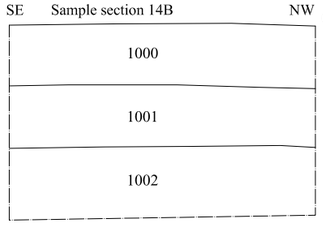
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

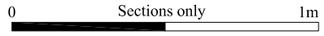
Willingham Glebe Land, Cambridgeshire (P6442)

Trench 14



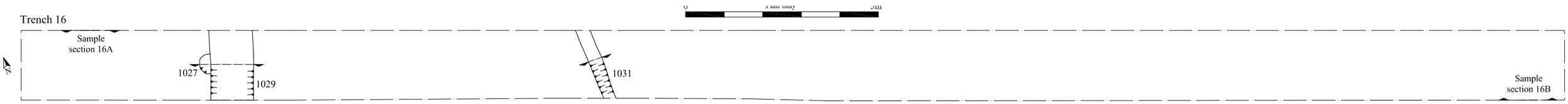


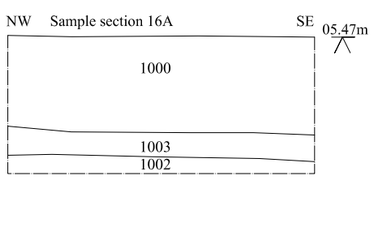


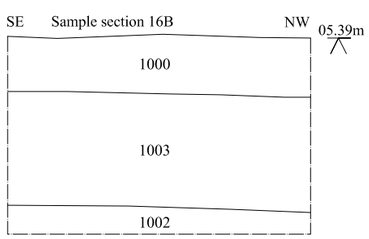


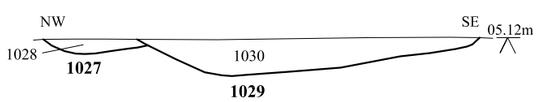
Trench 15

Trench 16









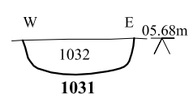


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Fig. 10 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Willingham Glebe Land, Cambridgeshire (P6442)

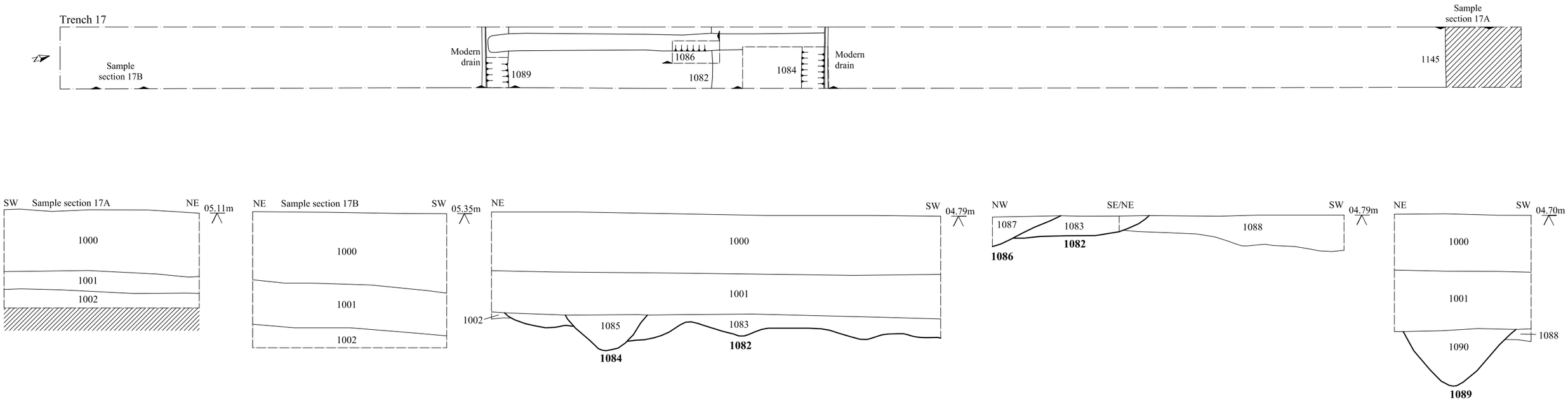

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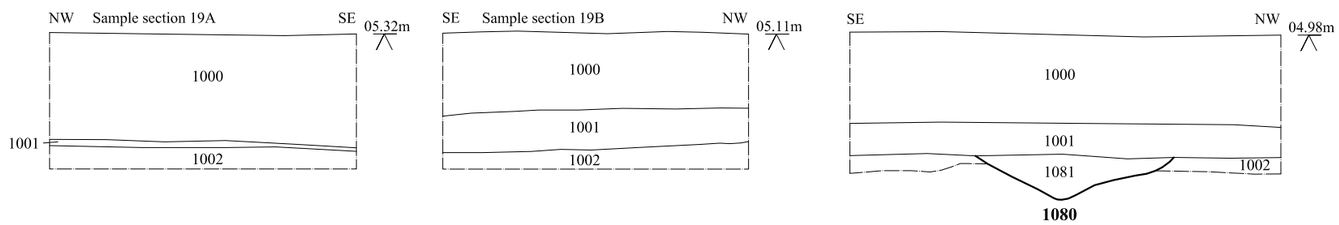
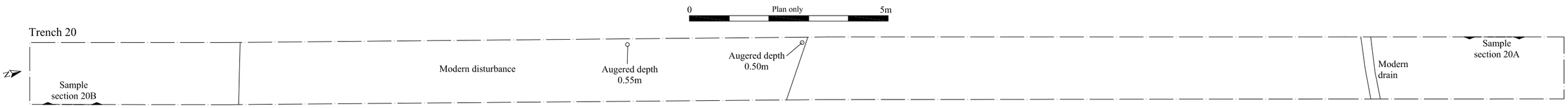
Fig. 11 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Willingham Glebe Land, Cambridgeshire (P6442)

Trench 19





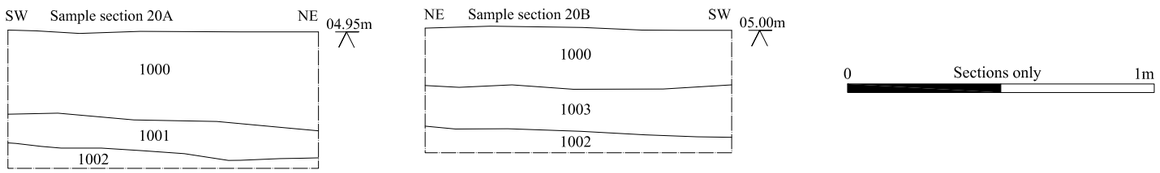


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Fig. 12 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Willingham Glebe Land, Cambridgeshire (P6442)