ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

LAND AT THE FORMER ROSEMARY BRANCH, 503 COLDHAMS LANE, CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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NGR: TL 4848 5751	Report No: 5066
District: Cambridge City	Site Code: ECB4658
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CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY

SUMMARY

1 INTRODUCTION
2 SITE DESCRIPTION
3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
5 METHODOLOGY
6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS
7 CONFIDENCE RATING
8 DEPOSIT MODEL
9 DISCUSSION
10 CONCLUSION

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES
1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS
2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project details			
Project name	*Land at the Former Rosemary Branch, 503 Coldhams Lane, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*		
In March 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the former Rosemary Branch, 503 Coldhams Lane, Cambridge (NGR TL 4848 5751). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the proposed construction of 8 dwellings and 2 flats, car/cycle parking and landscaping with associated infrastructure (Cambridge City Planning Ref. 14/1970/FUL). The evaluation was undertaken based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) requiring a programme of archaeological work. The site is immediately adjacent to areas to the north and north east where archaeological excavations have revealed significant late Saxon/medieval remains. The site was the location of the former public house 'The Rosemary Branch', now demolished. Despite this, truncation of the site appeared to be minimal; the area of the garden on the north-eastern side of the site being least disturbed. The evaluation recorded undated features (two pits and a ditch) and an early Iron Age pit, F1026 (Trench 3).			
Project dates (fieldwork)	*March 2016*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	*Future work*	*TBC*
P. number	*6508*	*Site code*	*ECB*
Type of project	*Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*		
Site status			
Current land use	*Former public house and car park*		
Planned development	*Residential*		
Main features (+dates)	*Pits, ditch*		
Significant finds (+dates)	Early Iron Age pottery		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Cambridgeshire*	*Cambridge City*	*Cambridge*
HER/ SMR for area	*Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CCC HER)*		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	*1575 m 2*		
NGR	*TL 4848 5751*		
Height AOD (max/ min)	*c.19m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*		
Funded by	*Cams Construction*		
Full title	*Land at the Former Rosemary Branch, 503 Coldhams Lane, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*		
Authors	*Barlow, G.*		
Report no.	*5066*		
Date (of report)	*March 2016*		

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SUMMARY

In March 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the former Rosemary Branch, 503 Coldhams Lane, Cambridge (NGR TL 4848 5751). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the proposed construction of 8 dwellings and 2 flats, car/cycle parking and landscaping with associated infrastructure (Cambridge City Planning Ref. 14/1970/FUL). The evaluation was undertaken based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) requiring a programme of archaeological work.

The site is immediately adjacent to areas to the north and north east where archaeological excavations have revealed significant late Saxon/medieval remains.

The site was the location of the former public house 'The Rosemary Branch', now demolished. Despite this, truncation of the site appeared to be minimal; the area of the garden on the north-eastern side of the site being least disturbed. The evaluation recorded undated features (two pits and a ditch) and an early Iron Age pit, F1026 (Trench 3).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the former Rosemary Branch, 503 Coldhams Lane, Cambridge (NGR TL 4848 5751; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the proposed construction of 8 dwellings and 2 flats, car/cycle parking and landscaping with associated infrastructure (Cambridge City Planning Ref. 14/1970/FUL). The evaluation was undertaken based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) requiring a programme of archaeological work.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by CCC HET (Gemma Stewart; dated 11th February 2016) and a specification compiled by AS (16th February 2016) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of*

Conduct and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to relevant sections of Gurney's (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*.

1.3 The aim of the evaluation 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 site lies on the northern side of Coldhams Lane at its junction with Rosemary Lane, west of the centre of Cambridge at Cherry Hinton. It comprises a former public house, tarmac car park and rear grassed area.

3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1 The site lies on chalk bedrock at a height of *c.*19m AOD. It is situated on the northern edge of the Cherry Hinton peninsular overlooking the wide valley of the Little Wilbraham River and Quy Water. The soils of the area are unsurveyed, but may belong to the Wantage 2 Association, which are described as shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over argillaceous chalk associated with similar soils affected by groundwater (SSEW 1983). The underlying geology comprises Cambridge Greensand (BGS, Sheet 205).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 A pit containing three sherds of Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery, flint flakes, a scraper and a core are recorded within the parish (HER 04900). Two prehistoric flint flakes were discovered at Cherry Hinton Infant School, which lies to the south of the site (HER MCB19393). A prehistoric bronze object, found 1903, is also recorded (HER 04635), while undated bone objects and skeleton (HER 04629A) and an undated human skeleton (HER 04767) were also found in antiquity.

4.2 An archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2007 along Coldhams Lane and only 50m to the north-west of the site (Mortimer 2007) revealed a flat crouched burial of probable Bronze Age date. To the east of the crouched burial, a large pit was partially excavated, revealing two human skulls along its eastern edge. Both skulls had been crushed deliberately prior to backfilling. No dating evidence was recovered from the pit, but its proximity to an early Roman feature has been interpreted as being indicative of a late Iron Age date (Mortimer 2007, HER17617). An Iron Age was also ditch observed at Cambridge airfield (HER MCB16501).

Romano-British

4.3 The investigations in Coldhams Lane only 50m to the north-west of the site have also revealed extensive evidence for activity during the Roman period. An enclosed rectangular area has been interpreted as the core of the funerary activity during this period, with pottery recovered from the enclosure dating it to the late 1st century AD. Both inhumation and cremation burials were recorded within the enclosure, as well as ritual deposits of horse bones and hearthstones with in the enclosure ditch (Mortimer 2007, HER 17618).

4.4 Contemporary with the funerary enclosure was a field system, from which a small assemblage of finds was recovered, indicating that the field system was in use up until the early 2nd century. The quantity of finds also suggests that the field system was set out at the edge of an area of settlement, probably located to the south and east, after the conquest, and was abandoned shortly afterwards

(ibid, HER17618). Another evaluation carried out on Coldhams Lane and just east of the site revealed gullies, ditches and a pit (HER 15329). The pit contained Roman pottery and, in the upper fill, a single sherd of medieval pot - possibly a sealing deposit.

4.5 During 1951, quarrying at Norman Cement Works of Coldhams Lane and to the south of the site revealed Roman pottery (HER 04852a), while further pottery was found *c.*1906 in the vicinity (HER 04629). A well containing seven coarse-ware pots, which were dated to the 1st - 2nd century, were found at 30ft depth in a well-shaft at the Norman Cement Works (HER 05168). Roman activity has further been identified in the form of Roman coins (HER 04890) and Romano-British and later phases at Neath Farm (HER MCB19635).

Anglo-Saxon

4.6 Cherry Hinton was an area of considerable activity during the Anglo-Saxon period. The archaeological evidence uncovered indicates that the focus of activity was at Church End and Coldhams Lane, to both the west and east of the site. Six possible early Saxon inhumations oriented southwest / northeast were recorded during the 2007 evaluation 50m to the north-west of the site (HER MCB17621). Both adults and infants were represented, and at least four of the six contained grave goods. Further early Saxon inhumations were recorded during quarrying at Norman Cement Works before 1939 "with daggers at the waist" (HER 04628), suggesting that all these burials belong to a large, early cemetery (Mortimer 2007, HER 17621). Further Saxon remains from the vicinity comprise a bronze strap end on Cherry Hinton High Street, though to be near the Baptist Church (HER 04897) and finds from Fulbourn Old Drift (HER MCB16703).

4.7 Investigations by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (now AS) in 1999 and 350m to the east of the site revealed Saxo-Norman field systems and enclosure ditches, and the remains of an extensive cemetery comprising 664+ inhumations, devoid of grave goods and aligned east/west (HER 13013). Within the cemetery ephemeral features suggest the presence of a structure, interpreted to be a small chapel or church. Fragments of a possible pre-Conquest carved cross were recovered. Excavations by CAU revealed further evidence of late Saxon/medieval associated with a probable manorial centre (HERs 13014, ECB1318 & ECB1485).

4.8 At 63 Church End, an excavation in 2002-2003, revealed evidence for a major early medieval settlement, founded in the late 9th century AD and continuing in use until the early 12th century (HER ECB149; Mortimer 2003; Cessford & Mortimer 2004). The main phase of activity is considered to represent activity associated with a manorial complex. Although the importance of the site appears to have diminished after the 12th century, much reduced occupation was evident indicating that the site remained in use up until the 14th

century. Small amounts of prehistoric, Roman and middle Saxon material indicate intermittent use of the site prior to the 9th century AD.

Medieval

4.9 The Grade I listed parish church of St Andrew's, which consists of chancel built in the 13th century and nave arcades of the same date, is situated 200m to the east of the site (HER 05104). The distinctive nature of the settlement at Church End combined with the presence of the church and cemetery suggest that this was a manorial centre (HER13014), and is likely to represent the manor of *Hintone*, which is recorded in the Domesday Survey (Cessford & Dickens 2005). The presence of earthworks and a defensive dyke that may have become a hollow way almost 500m to the east of the site is also suggestive of the possible Mallet's Manor site (HER 13015). Further medieval remains comprise ridge and furrow (HER 08906), a small quantity of ditches and pits, dated by scarce medieval pottery in their fills (HER MCB20303), and Coldhams Common, which is an area of common land extending to 39.6 hectares and dating from at least the 14th century (HER MCB19521).

4.10 To the south of Coldhams Lane, at the Norman Cement Works, a series of well shafts were uncovered during quarrying. To the south and east of the wells, various ditches and pits were also uncovered, and have been interpreted as rubbish pits probably associated with medieval cottages contemporary with the well. In addition, 13th - 14th century pottery was discovered at the bottom of the largest well (HER 04852), whilst an earthwork is also recorded at the cement works (HER 05168a). To the west of these features, at Neath Business Park, further medieval ditches dating to the 12th century were identified, further supporting the theory that this area was heavily settled during the Saxon and medieval periods (HERs 17153 & MCB19550).

Post-medieval and later

4.11 The archaeological evidence suggests that the focus of settlement shifted during the later medieval and post-medieval periods in a south-westerly direction, towards the modern centre of Cherry Hinton. The post-medieval period in the vicinity of the site is thus characterised by ridge and furrow, aligned south-west / north-east across the field, recorded during the evaluation 50m to the west of the site (HER MCB17620). Of greater focus in the post-medieval period was the Grade II listed and 16th century timber framed hall of Uphall (HER 04975), which stands 300m to the east of the site. Post-medieval and later clunch quarries were situated on the east side of Cambridge and 500m to the south (HER MCB17719).

4.12 Post-medieval features recorded at Cherry Hinton Hall, some distance to the south, comprised chalk floor surfaces, thought to relate to buildings shown on the 1806 enclosure map, a clunch capped culvert and associated finds (HER MCB16332). The early modern grounds of Cherry Hinton Hall, which was built in

1834 for John Oakes, a surgeon at Addenbrooke's Hospital, are also recorded (HER 12266). The early modern period is also represented by the Grade II listed Mafeking Cottage (HER 04974), Cherry Hinton Baptist Church (HER MCB17240) and the former railway station at Cherry Hinton (HER MCB19920).

The Site

4.13 The cartographic and documentary evidence relating specifically to the site reveals that in 1810, at the time of enclosure, the site comprised a larger plot of land consisting of old enclosures and agricultural land (Fig. 3). The course of Rosemary Lane has not been established at the time of enclosure and the site lay on the northern frontage of Coldhams Lane. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888, depicts the site at the junction of both Coldhams Lane and Rosemary Lane (Fig. 3). In the late 19th century, the site was occupied by two buildings, clearly labelled as *Brington Cottage* and *Grove Cottage*, as well as associated gardens in its eastern section. In 1888, the Rosemary Branch Public House was depicted further eastwards along Rosemary Lane, not associated with the site.

4.14 A sketch map of the Church End area dating from the 1940s is the earliest cartographic source to associate the site with the Rosemary Branch Public House (Fig. 4). The sketch map, which was undertaken during WWII, labels the site as the '*Rosemary new Branch Public House*', whilst the premises further eastwards was described as '*Rosemary Old Branch*'. In the 1940s the site appeared occupied by a single building on a similar footprint to the former *Brington Cottage* and *Grove Cottage*. The sketch map also reveals that a WWII bomb fell to the south of the site in 1941. Subsequent Ordnance Survey map editions depict only very limited changes to the site in the early and mid 20th century, with both *Brington Cottage* and *Grove Cottage* clearly depicted within the site on the 1904 and 1927 editions. The 1952 Ordnance Survey map depicts a building within the western section of the site (Fig. 4). To its east lay an area of hardstanding consistent with the tarmac present today.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Three trenches, each measuring up to 17m x 1.60m were excavated (Fig. 2). The over burden 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

5.2 Exposed sections were cleaned and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Open trenches and excavated spoil were manually/ visually searched and scanned by metal detector to enhance the recovery of archaeological finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 & 5)

Sample section 1A *0.00m = 18.58 AOD*		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1000	Tarmac car park surface. Black Tarmac.
0.09 - 0.11m	L1001	Made ground. Firm, dark orange brown silty coarse sand with frequent small angular flints.
0.11 - 0.16m	L1002	Tarmac layer.
0.16 - 0.35m	L1003	Made ground. Modern brick rubble in a matrix of friable pale yellow brown silty coarse sand.
0.35 - 0.56m	L1004	Made ground. Firm, mid blue grey clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded chalk and CBM fragments.
0.56 - 0.73m	L1005	Buried subsoil. Firm, mid orange brown clay silt.
0.73m+	L1006	Natural deposits. Firm, very pale yellow brown and white chalky clay silt.

Sample section 1B: *Northeast end, northwest facing* *0.00m = 18.52 AOD*		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Tarmac car park surface. As above.
0.10 - 0.62m	L1003	Made ground. As above.
0.62 - 0.76m	L1007	Made ground. Firm, dark-mid brown grey clay silt with occasional small and medium angular and rounded flint, and chalk and charcoal flecks.
0.76 - 0.93m	L1004	Made ground. As above.
0.93 - 1.08m	L1005	Buried subsoil. As above.
1.08m+	L1006	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained Ditch F1018 and Pit F1033, both undated. Two modern pits were present and two natural features (F1022 and F1035).

Ditch F1018 (=F1037 Trench 3) was linear (17.00+ x 0.45 x 0.19m), orientated northeast / southwest. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1019, was a firm, mid orange grey brown clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds.

F1022 was an irregular linear (1.00+ x 0.80 x 0.56), orientated northwest / southeast. It had irregular sides, and a concave base. Its fill, L1023, was a mid orange brown sandy clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds and was likely a natural feature.

Pit F1033 was sub-circular (0.90 x 0.65 x 0.27m). It had slightly stepped moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1034, was a pale-mid brown grey clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds.

Pit F1035 was irregular in plan (1.25 x 0.64 x 0.40m). It had steep sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1036, was a mid orange brown sandy clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds and was likely a natural feature.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 5)

Sample section 2A: *Southwest end, northwest facing* *0.00m = 18.38m AOD*		
0.00–0.43m	L1011	Made ground. Firm, dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent very small sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded flint, and occasional medium and large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and chalk.
0.43 - 0.54m	L1012	Made ground. Firm, pale-mid orange grey silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
0.54 - 0.75m	L1013	Layer. Firm, mid orange brown orange brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
0.75m+	L1006	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 2B: *Northeast end, southeast facing* *0.00m = 17.92m AOD*		
0.00–0.12m	L1014	Topsoil. Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flint.
0.12 - 0.28m	L1015	**Made ground. Firm, pale-mid brown grey clay silt with frequent** small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint, and occasional medium and large angular chalk.
0.28 - 0.45m	L1016	Made ground. Firm, pale-mid brown grey clay silt with bands of pale brown grey chalky clay silt.
0.45 - 0.72m	L1017	Subsoil. Firm, mid brown grey sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
0.72m+	L1006	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 2 contained undated Pit F1028, modern Pit F1030, three modern service trenches, and a square modern pillar base.

Pit F1028 was sub-circular (1.10+ x 1.30 x 0.08m). It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1029, was a firm, mid brown grey clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained slag (4g).

Pit F1030 was sub-rectangular (2.70+ x 1.30+ x 0.40+m). It had vertical sides and its base was unseen. The lowest fill, L1031, was a firm, pale-mid brown grey clay silt, with tips and slumps of very pale brown grey chalky clay silt, and occasional medium and large angular chalk and occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained modern (19th/20th century) pottery (2; 24g), Modern (19th/20th) century CBM (816g), glass, shale and a clay pipe fragment.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 & 5)

Sample section 3A: *0.00m = 17.97m AOD*		
0.00–0.43m	L1008	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
0.43 - 0.72m	L1009	Subsoil. Firm, mid brown grey clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
0.72m+	L1006	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 3B: *0.00m = 17.81m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1008	Topsoil. As above.
0.37 - 0.51m	L1010	Subsoil. Firm, dark-mid brown grey sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
0.51 - 0.81m	L1009	Subsoil. As above.
0.81m+	L1006	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 3 contained an early Iron Age Pit F1026 and an undated ditch, F1037. F1020 and F1024 were natural features.

F1020 was irregular and linear in plan (1.90+ x 2.00 x 0.10m), orientated northeast / southwest. It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1021, was a firm, pale brown grey clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds and was likely a natural feature.

F1024 was irregular in plan (1.90+ x 0.60 x 0.34m), orientated northeast / southwest. It had irregular steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1025, was a

firm, pale-mid grey brown clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds and was likely a natural feature.

Pit F1026 was sub-circular (1.00+ x 0.60+ x 0.30m). It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1027, was a firm, mid grey brown clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained early Iron Age pottery (11; 70g), animal bone (54g) and struck flint (5g).

Ditch F1037 (= F1018 Trench 1) was linear in plan (1.90+ x 0.70 x 0.30m), orientated northeast / southwest. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1038, was a firm, mid orangey grey brown clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained oyster shell (15g).

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The least disturbed area of the site was a north eastern end (Trench 3). Here the topsoil (L1008), comprising a 0.43m thick layer of firm, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint overlay a 0.29m thick subsoil layer of firm, mid brown grey clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. The natural deposits (L1006) of firm, very pale yellow brown and white chalky clay silt were encountered at a depth of 0.72m.

8.2 In the area of the car park (Trench 1) a 0.10m thick layer (L1000) of Tarmac overlay a 0.52m thick layer (L1003) of modern brick rubble in friable pale yellow brown silty coarse sand. Below this was a 0.14m thick made ground layer (1007) of firm, dark-mid brown grey clay silt with occasional small and medium angular and rounded flint, and chalk and charcoal flecks. This in turn overlay made ground layer (L1004), 0.16m thick, of firm, mid blue grey clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded chalk, and CBM and charcoal fragments. Below this was a buried subsoil (L1005), 0.15m thick) of firm, mid orange brown clay silt. The natural deposits (L1006) were encountered at a depth of 1.08m.

8.3 The north-western side of the site (Trench 2) varied again. The topmost layer (L1011) was a 0.43m thick layer of firm, dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent very small sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded flint, and occasional

medium and large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and chalk. This overlay a 0.11m thick made ground layer (L1012) of firm, pale-mid orange grey silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. Below this was a 0.21m thick layer (L1013) of firm, mid orange brown orange brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. The natural deposits (L1006) were encountered at a depth of 0.75m.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot date
1	F1018 (=F1037)	Ditch	-
	F1022	Natural	-
	F1033	Pit	-
	F1035	Natural	-
2	F1028	Pit	-
	F1030	Pit	Modern
3	F1020	Natural	-
	F1024	Natural	-
	F1026	Pit	Early Iron Age
	F1037 (=F1018)	Ditch	-

9.2 The site is in an area of archaeological significance. Excavations to the north east have revealed a large Saxon cemetery containing 664+ east/west aligned inhumations, as well as Saxo-Norman field system and boundary ditches. Other excavations to the north east have revealed the presence of a probable late Saxon/medieval manorial centre. Further evidence of activity associated with this manorial complex has been recorded nearby in Rosemary Lane. Evidence for a 9th - 12th century settlement has been revealed at 63 Church End.

9.3 The features revealed during the current evaluation comprised an undated ditch (F1018 (Trench 1) (= F1037 (Trench 3)), undated pits (F1033 (Trench 1) and F1028 (Trench 2)), and an early Iron Age pit, F1026 (Trench 3). The latter contained 11 sherds of prehistoric pottery in a well-preserved, slightly abraded condition. The sherds were derived from a single vessel, an early Iron Age bowl, and the bulk were cross-joining (Pottery Report below). The pit also contained a residual struck flint and animal bone.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The site was the location of the former public house 'The Rosemary Branch', now demolished. Despite this, truncation of the site appeared to be minimal; the area of the garden on the north-eastern side of the site being least disturbed.

10.2 The evaluation recorded undated features (two pits and a ditch) and an early Iron Age pit, F1026 (Trench 3).

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Concordance of Finds

ECB4658, P6508, 503 Coldhams Lane, Cambridge

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1007			Made Ground	Modern	11	49			Glass	2	62
										Gin Trap		193
										Slate	1	8
	1008			Topsoil	Modern	6	224			Glass	1	14
										Plastic	1	<1
										Tin	1	<1
										Slate	1	14
										Fe.Frags		36
1026	1027		3	Fill of Pit	Early Iron Age	11	70		54	S.Flint	1	5
1028	1029		2	Fill of Pit						Slag	1	4
1030	1031		2	Fill of Pit	Modern	2	24	816		Glass	1	77
										Clay Pipe	1	2
										Shale	1	1
1037	1038		3	Fill of Ditch						O.Shell	2	15

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

Pit F1026 (L1027) contained a single flake (5g) of struck flint in a heavily patinated condition. The flake comprises debitage removed from a single platform blade core, with parallel dorsal scars consistent with the blade-based reduction techniques employed in the early Neolithic; however the preservation of the flake suggests a significant degree of weathering and re-deposition.

The Prehistoric Pottery

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

Pit F1026 (L1070) contained 11 sherds (70g) of prehistoric pottery in a well-preserved, slightly abraded condition. The sherds were derived from a single vessel, and the bulk were cross-joining. The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) with fabrics examined at x20 magnification, in accordance with the guidelines developed by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1995).

The vessel comprised a fine early Iron Age bowl, manufactured in a bonfire-fired fabric with an orange-brown exterior over a dark grey core and interior, and inclusions of common, moderately-sorted calcined flint temper (0.25-2mm). The bowl has a plain rim and shallow neck, above a slightly angled shoulder. The walls are consistently 5mm thick, and a zone just above and below the carination of the shoulder is decorated with a series of seven shallow incised grooves/bands. Such vessels are consistent with Class IV fine bowls as defined by Barrett (1980) and the West Harling-Fengate group as defined by Cunliffe (2005, 616); with bowls of comparable profile with horizontal groove decoration well-paralleled in early Iron Age deposits at Fengate (i.e. Hawkes 1943, 206: vessel J1).

Bibliography

Barrett, J. 1980 'The pottery of the later Bronze Age in lowland England', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 46, 297-320

Cunliffe, B. 2005 *Iron Age Communities in Britain* (4th edition), Routledge, London

Hawkes, C. 1943 'Early Iron Age Settlement at Fengate, Peterborough', *Archaeological Journal* 100, 189-223

The Animal Bone

Dr Julia E M Cussans

A small amount of animal bone was recovered from a single context during trial trench excavations at Coldhams Lane. The bone derived from L1027 (Pit F1026) and was rated as having ok preservation on a five point scale from very poor through to excellent. Three bone fragments and one antler fragment were present. The bones were a fragment of cattle radius, a large (cattle or horse sized) mammal rib fragment and a large mammal long bone fragment. No butchery marks or pathological lesions were observed. The antler was a tine fragment, probably of red deer based on its size and form. The outer surface was fairly smooth, possibly resulting from the natural activity of the deer or from human handling, and the inside had been somewhat hollowed out, presenting a roughly diamond shaped hole through the core of the antler. It is possible that this piece of antler was used as a handle for a knife or other tool. However there are no further signs of working around the broken end of the antler as one may expect if this had been used a handle; this part may have broken off pre or post deposition or the hole may have been made for some other reason.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During trial excavations at Coldham's Lane, Cambridge, two bulk samples were taken and processed for environmental archaeological assessment. One sample was from pit fill L1027 (F1026), spot dated to the early Iron Age and the other was from undated ditch fill L1019 (F1018). 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 a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al*. 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 1. The sample from L1027 contained a range of carbonised cereal grains, including barley (*Hordeum* sp.), oat (*Avena* sp.) and free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*). Considering the early Iron Age date, the recovery of free-threshing type wheat is unusual. Although this variety is present in British archaeobotanical assemblages from the middle Bronze Age onwards (e.g. Campbell and Straker 2003), it is not generally seen as a deliberately cultivated crop until the later Roman or Anglo-Saxon periods. This suggests that the material may not be of early Iron Age origin and could be intrusive in the deposit, perhaps carried down into the deposits by the action of roots and burrowing molluscs (*Cecilioides acicula*), both of which were common to abundant in the samples. A single seed of annual meadow-grass (*Poa annua*) is likely to represent an arable weed associated with the cereal remains.

The terrestrial molluscs in the sample reflect grassland conditions. *Helicella itala*, *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia* sp. indicate relatively short, dry grassland, while *Trichia hispida* group and *Cochlicopa* sp. may indicate ground litter and more sheltered areas.

The sample from undated pit fill contained only a small amount of charcoal, along with numerous shells of terrestrial molluscs.

Conclusions and statement of potential

Although carbonised remains were recovered from early Iron Age pit fill L1027 (F1026), there is doubt as to the security of the deposit and the possibility exists that the carbonised material is intrusive. This is based on the record of free-threshing type wheat, which is an unusual prehistoric cultivar but routinely grown throughout the post-Roman period to the present day. Although a prehistoric origin is possible (cf. Campbell and Straker 2003), the post-medieval and modern activity on the site could represent the origin of these remains.

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*, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde

Campbell, G. and Straker, V. 2003, 'Prehistoric crop husbandy and plant use in southern England: development and regionality', in Brown, K.A.R. (ed) *Archaeological Sciences 1999: Proceedings of the Archaeological Sciences Conference, University of Bristol, 1999*, BAR International Series 1111, Oxford, 14-30

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

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

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

Site code	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	
ECB6508	1	1019	1018	Fill of Pit	-	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XXX	*Helicella itala*, *Pupilla muscorum*, *Trichia hispida* group, *Vallonia* sp., *Vertigo* sp.	XX	XXX	X	-	-	-
ECB6508	2	1027	1026	Fill of Pit	EIA	40	20	50%	XX	-	Hord (1), FTW (3), Trit (1), Oat (1), NFI (4)	X	*Poa annua* (1)	-	X	-	XX	*Cochlicopa* sp., *Helicella itala*, *Pupilla muscorum*, *Trichia hispida* group, *Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	X	-	-	-

Table 1: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Coldham's Lane, Cambridge. Abbreviations: Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Oat (*Avena* sp.); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

PHOTO INDEX

1. Ditch F1018A, looking southwest.

2. Ditch F1018B cutting linear F1022, looking northeast.

3. Possible pit F1033, looking southeast.

4. Trench 2 post exc, looking southwest.

5. Sample Section 2B, looking northwest.

6. Pit F1030, looking northeast.

7. *Pit F1028, looking southwest.*

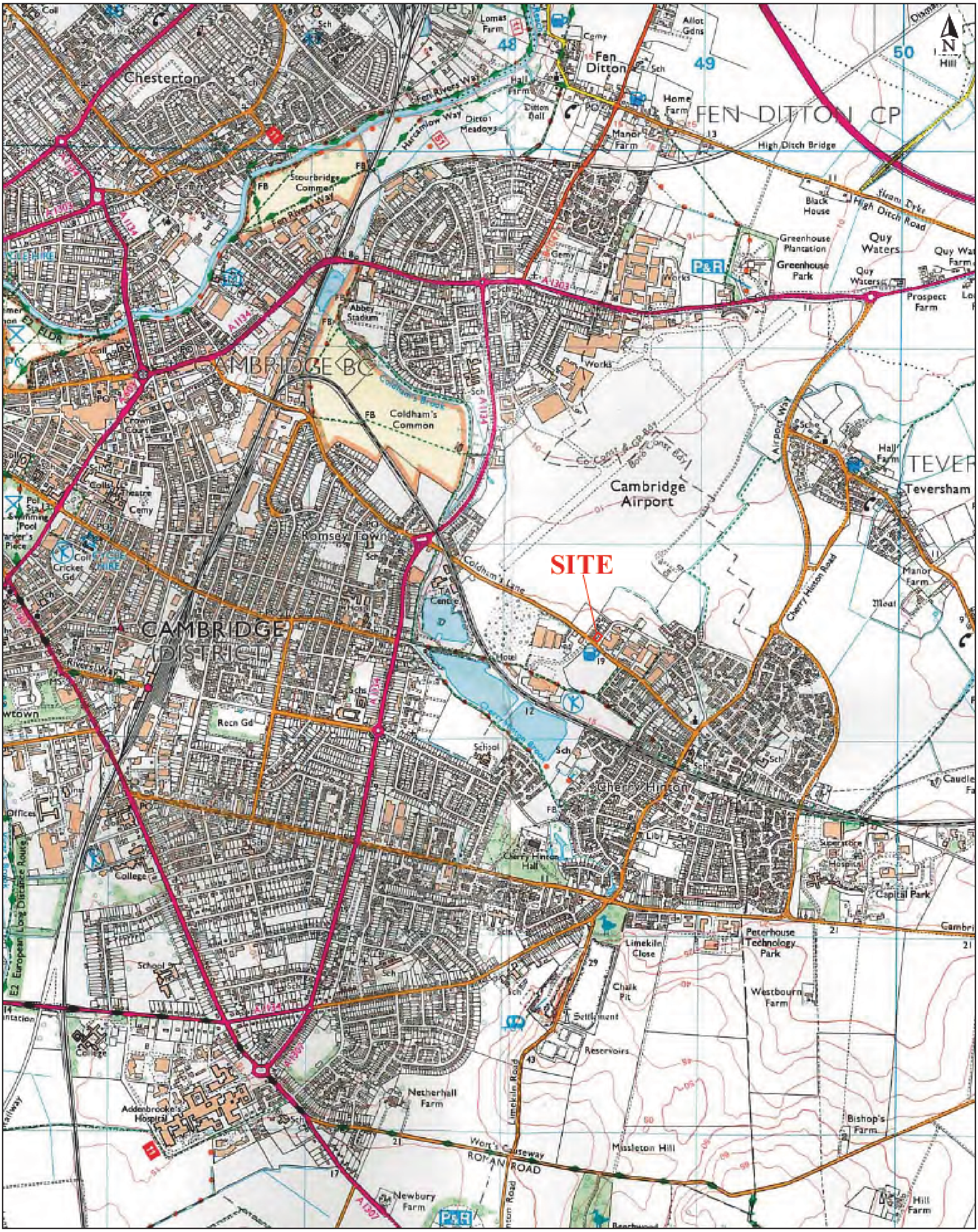
8. *Trench 3 post exc, looking northwest.*

9. *Sample Section 3A, looking southwest.*

10. *Linear F1020, looking northeast.*

11. *Pit F1026, looking northeast.*

12. *Ditch F1037, looking southwest.*



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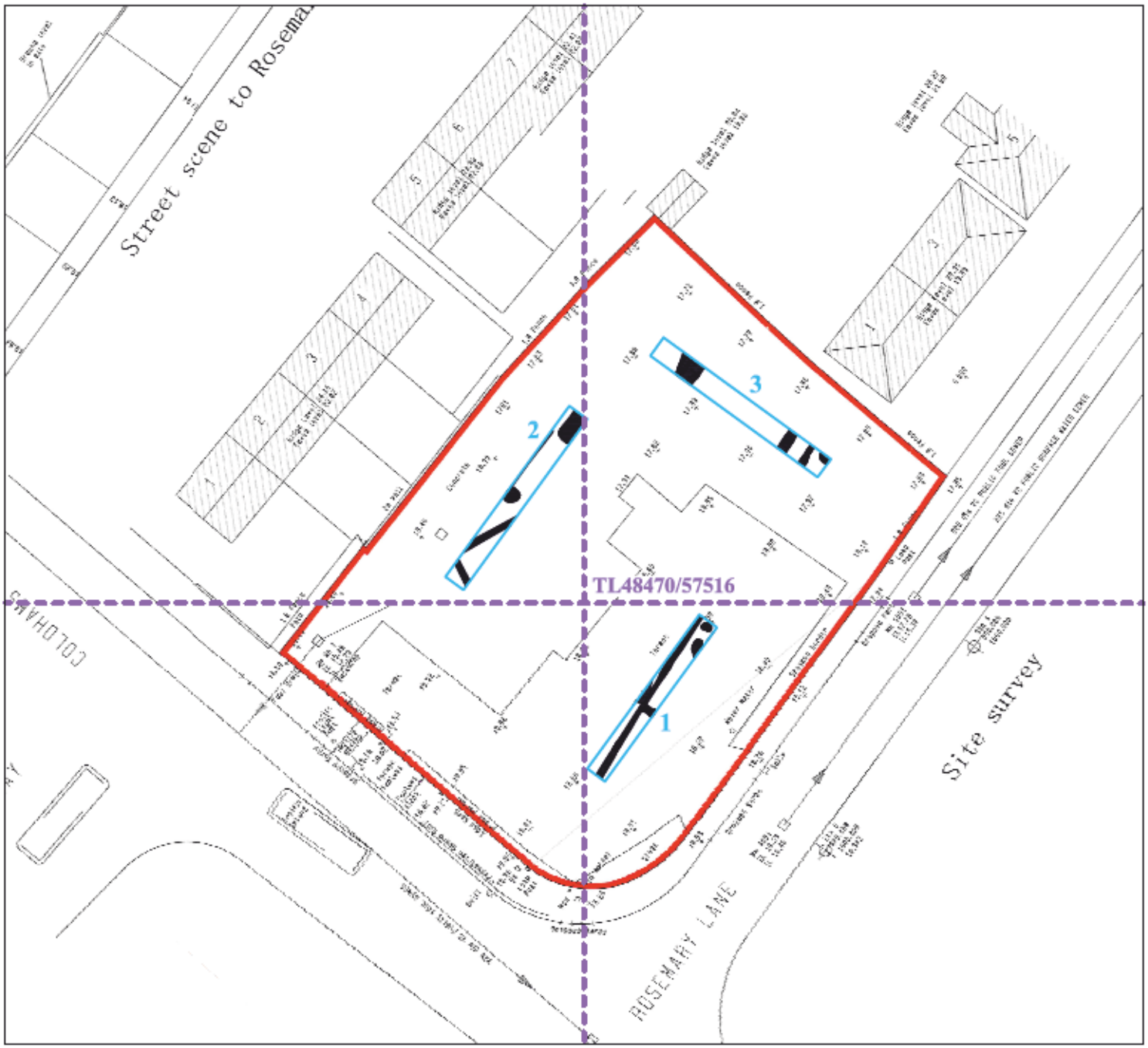

0 25m

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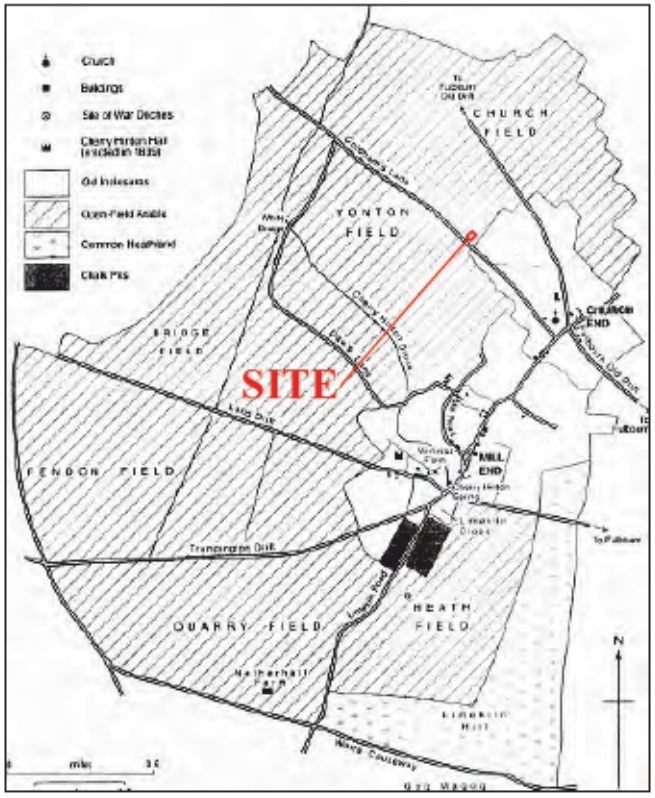
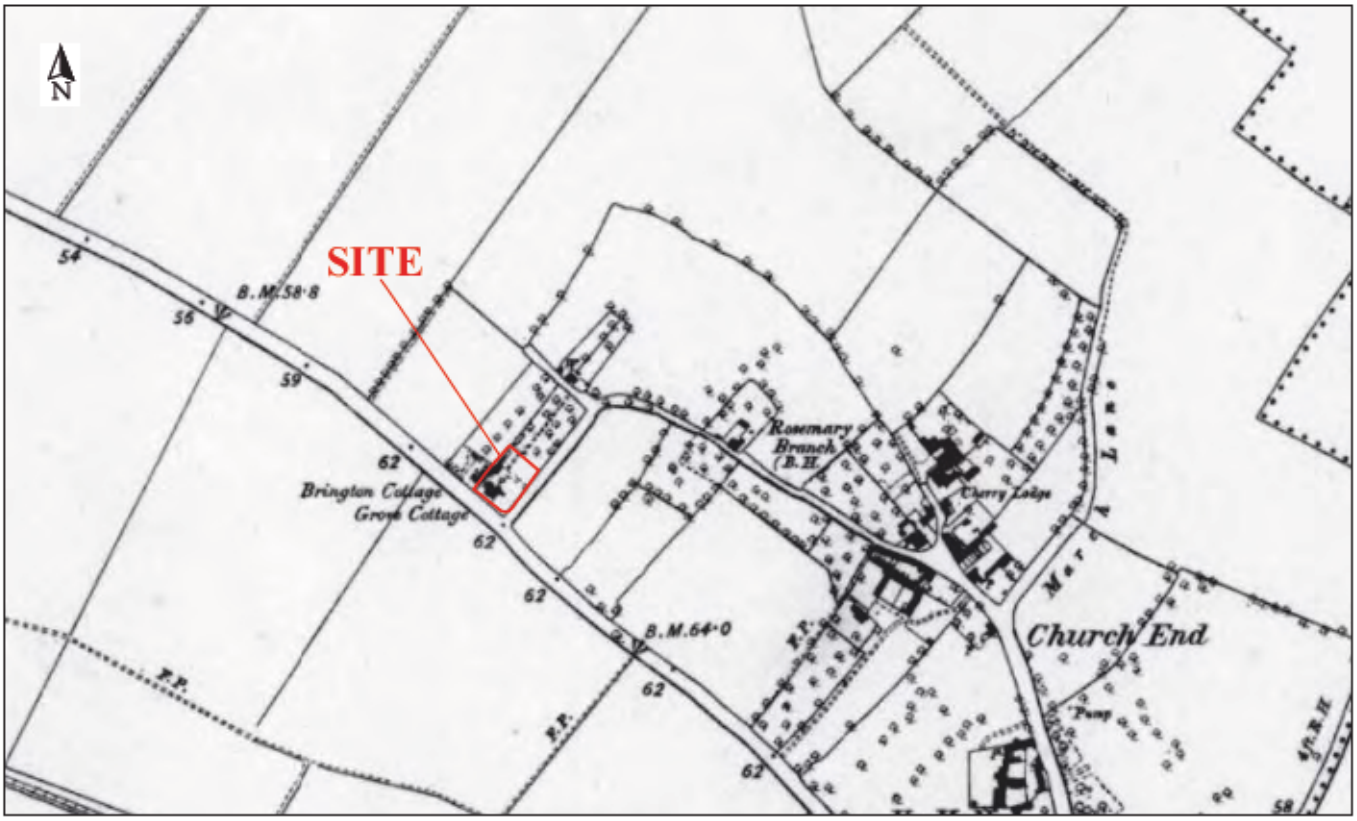
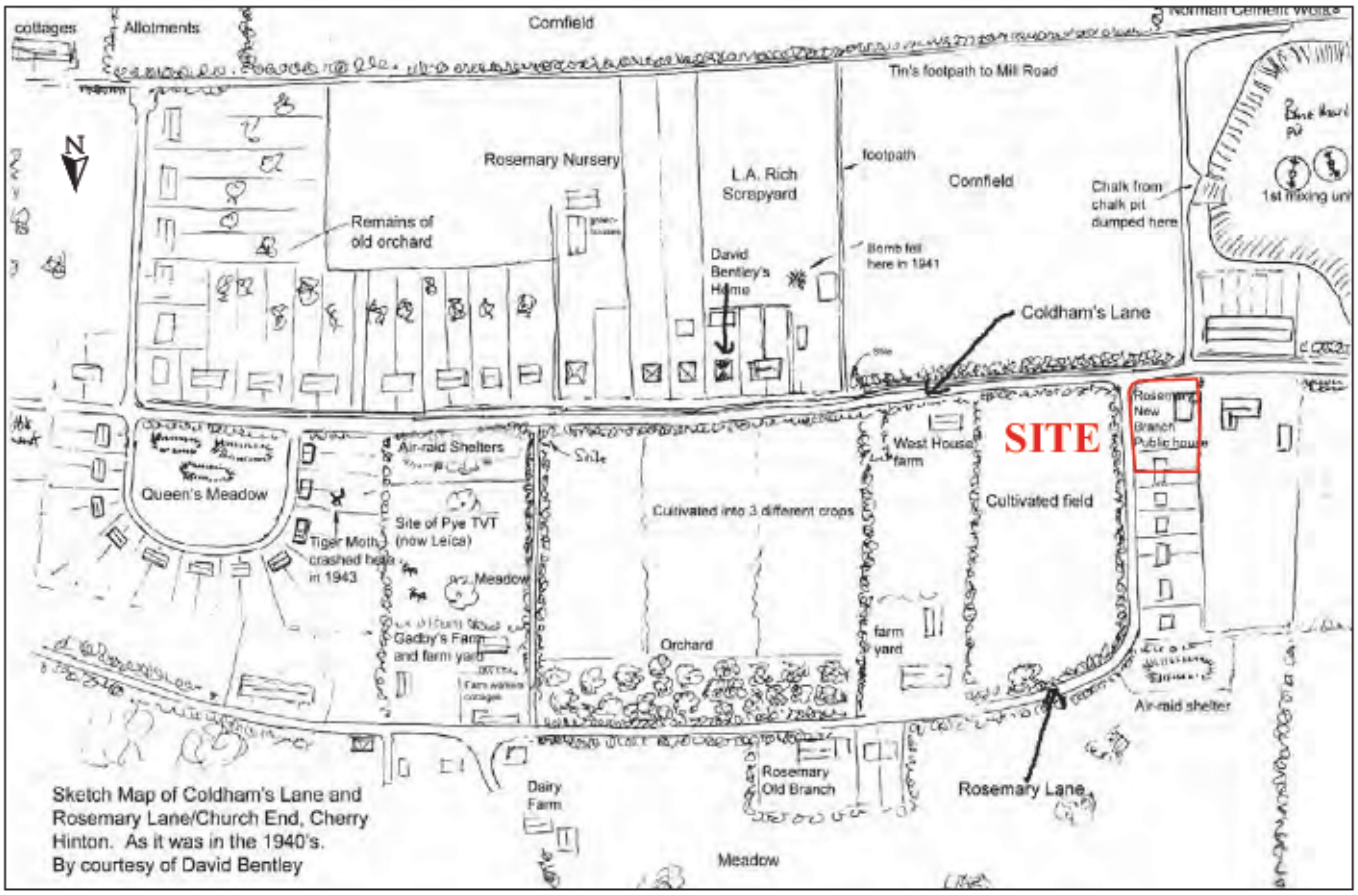
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:500 at A4

Coldhams Lane, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (P6508)


Church
Buildings
Site of War Circles
Old Inclosures
Open-Field Arable
Common Heathland
Chalk Pits
CHURCH FIELD
YONTON FIELD
BRIDGE FIELD
FENDON FIELD
QUARRY FIELD
HEATH FIELD
SITE
CHURCH END
MILL END
N


N
SITE
B.M.58·8
B.M.64·0
Brington Cottage
Grove Cottage
Rosemary Branch (B.H.)
Cherry Lodge
Church End
P.P.



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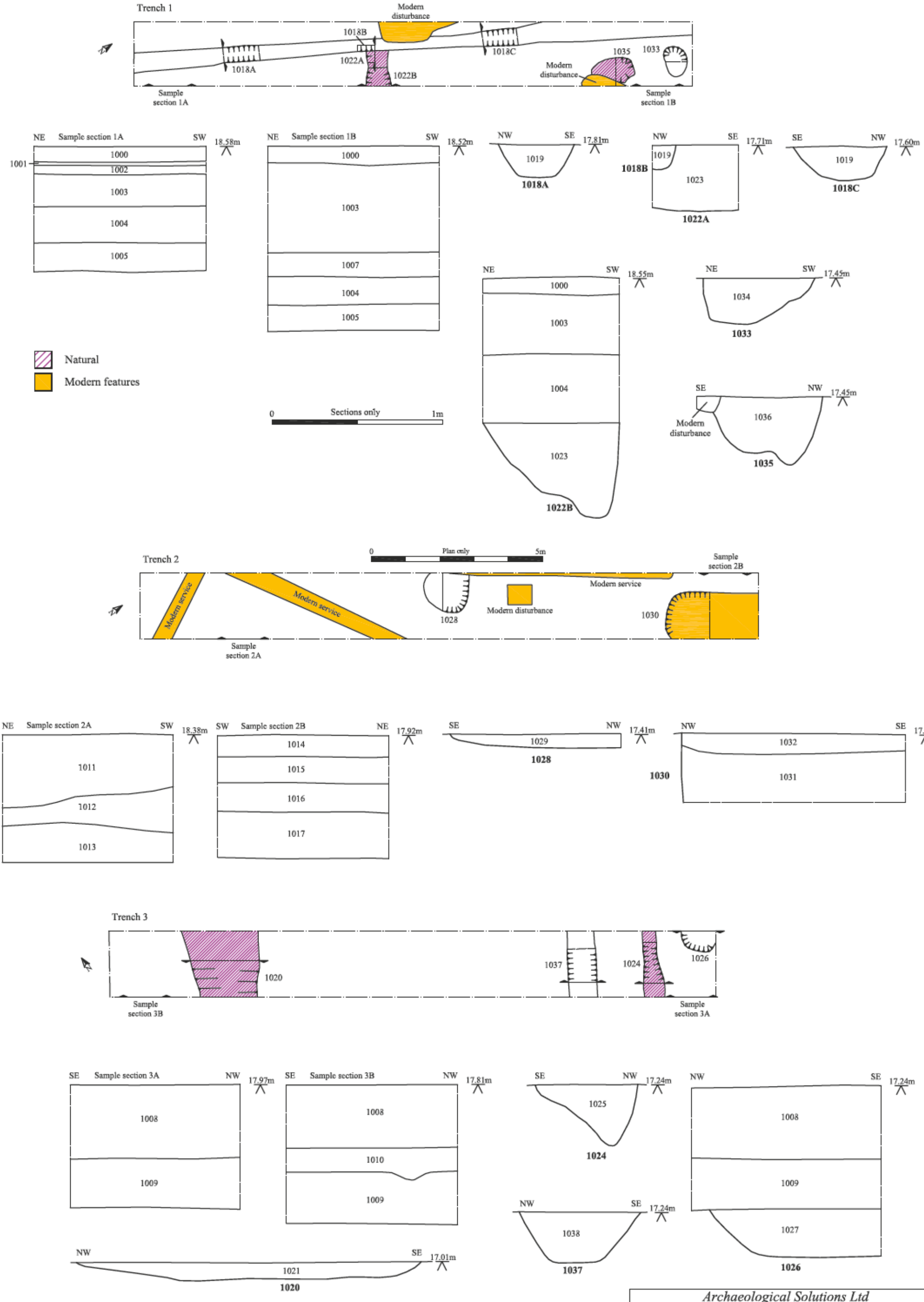

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Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Coldhams Lane, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (P6508)