

**ASPINALLS YARD, LAND AT STATION ROAD AND
DOVER ROAD, WILLINGHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

CHER ECB4722

Authors:	Mark Blagg-Newsome (Fieldwork & report) Lauren Wilson (Background Research)	
NGR: TL 4010 6998		Report No: 5130
District: South Cambridgeshire		Site Code: ECB 4722
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA		Project No: 6693
Signed:		Date: 26 May 2016

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Tel 01284 765210

P I House, Rear of 23 Clifton Road, Shefford,
Bedfordshire, SG17 5AF
Tel: 01462 850483

e-mail: info@ascontracts.co.uk
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CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
 - 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
 - 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**
 - 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
 - 5 METHODOLOGY**
 - 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
 - 7 CONFIDENCE RATING**
 - 8 DEPOSIT MODEL**
 - 9 DISCUSSION**
 - 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**
- BIBLIOGRAPHY**

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Aspinalls Yard, Land at Station Road and Over Road, Willingham, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<p><i>In May 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Aspinalls Yard, Station Road and Over Road, Willingham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4010 6998). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of up to 12 dwellings. It was required by CCC HET, as advisors to the LPA, to provide for a planning condition attached to the planning permission (S Cambs Ref. S/0524/14/FL).</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval settlement area of the village. A few archaeological investigations have taken place in the village. To the north, medieval property boundaries and a probable Iron Age ditch have been recorded (CHER ECB748), and investigations to the south of the site have revealed artefacts of medieval and post-medieval date (CHER18600-2).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed undated post holes and furrows. The features contained few finds; an early modern / modern (late 18th – early 20th century) sherd, CBM and a clay pipe stem fragment was present in Furrow F1019 (Trench 4). No residual finds were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	May 2016		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>6693</i>	Site code	<i>ECB 4722</i>
Type of project	<i>Trial trench evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Industrial use</i>		
Planned development	<i>12 new dwellings</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Post holes, furrows</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Early modern / modern</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>South Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Willingham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.2500m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 4010 6998</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>5-10m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mitcham Partnership 2 Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Aspinalls Yard, Land at Station Road and Over Road, Willingham, Cambridgeshire; A archaeological trial trench evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Blagg-Newson, M. & Wilson, L.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5130</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>May 2016</i>		

ASPINALLS YARD, LAND AT STATION ROAD AND OVER ROAD, WILLINGHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In May 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Aspinalls Yard, Station Road and Over Road, Willingham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4010 6998). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of up to 12 dwellings. It was required by CCC HET, as advisors to the LPA, to provide for a planning condition attached to the planning permission (S Cambs Ref. S/0524/14/FL).

The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval settlement area of the village. A few archaeological investigations have taken place in the village. To the north, medieval property boundaries and a probable Iron Age ditch have been recorded (CHER ECB748), and investigations to the south of the site have revealed artefacts of medieval and post-medieval date (CHER18600-2).

The evaluation revealed undated post holes and furrows. The features contained few finds; an early modern / modern (late 18th – early 20th century) sherd, CBM and a clay pipe stem fragment was present in Furrow F1019 (Trench 4). No residual finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Aspinalls Yard, Station Road and Over Road, Willingham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4010 6998; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of up to 12 dwellings. It was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval development (S Cambs Ref. S/0524/14/FL), based on the advice of CCC HET.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET, Andy Thomas dated 9th June 2015), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 21st April 2016) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal objectives of the evaluation were:

- To establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*
- To identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- To evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits, along with the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Planning Policy Context

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

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

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 Willingham comprises a ribbon development along the High Street; Church Street to the east and Green Street to the south. In recent times development has extended the settlement further to the east. The site lies to the south-west of the town centre.

2.2 The site is roughly rectangular with an elongated section to the north providing access to Over Road. It is currently a concreted yard with a semi-industrial use. Residential properties are adjacent to its eastern and north-eastern borders.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at approximately 5m AOD and the River Great Ouse flows 3km to the north east.

3.2 The underlying geological formation is that of the West Walton Formation and Ampthill Clay Formation; a mudstone formed in the Jurassic period. There is the possibility of a mixture of soil types in the area, the most likely is described as slowly permeable seasonally wet, slightly acidic, but base-rich loamy and clayey soil. The adjoining type to the west is a lime-rich, loamy and clayey soil with impeded drainage.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The area is likely to have been exploited since the Mesolithic period, with abundant hunting potential close to the fen margins, though finds of this date are sparse in the immediate vicinity of the site. Similarly little evidence dating to the Neolithic period is known within Willingham. An archaeological investigation to the east of the High Street revealed evidence of a possible late Bronze Age/early Iron Age post structure, Iron Age pottery, and a Roman burial (CHER 11973).

4.2 The area north and east of the village is recorded as being densely settled from the Roman period. Cropmarks (CHER0577b & c) to the north-east of the village are indicative of dense settlement activity. Close to the site, on the north side of Over Road, an archaeological evaluation identified a late Iron Age possible boundary ditch (ECB748, ECB2924).

4.3 Roman features have been recorded at Church Street (MCB14621). On the High Street residual Roman pottery, an inhumation and Anglo-Saxon features were recorded (HER1193a). To the south-east a Roman coin and pottery are known (CHER 05564, MCB18607).

4.4 Excavations prior to a residential development off High Street, located approximately 380m north-east of the site, revealed an area of intensive occupation associated with a small settlement possibly spanning the Anglo-

Saxon period which included earth fast post-built ‘halls’ and pits (CHER MCB1788). Anglo-Saxon stonework has also been found re-used in a Norman doorway in Willingham church which is located c.620m north of the site (CHER 05794a). To the rear of the High Street a phase of Saxon occupation revealed at least eight complete (and two partial) post-built halls (Connor & Robinson 1997).

4.5 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). Medieval archaeology recorded in the area includes pits and ditches (MCB14092) and features along Green Street, High Street (CHER11973c) and Church Street (MCB16302). A few 12th century sherds have been recovered south east of Aspinalls Yard (CHER 18607).

4.6 An evaluation to the north-east of the site recorded a 19th century extraction pit (CHER MCB18259) and to the south-east is the location of a post-medieval smock mill known as Cattels Mill (HER 05238).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Four trenches were excavated (Fig. 3). The topsoil was removed under close archaeological supervision and control using a 180° 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

The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 3 - 4)

<i>Sample section 1A:</i>		
<i>Northeast end, Southeast Facing</i>		
<i>0.00m = 5.74m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.03m	L1003	Tarmac.
0.03 – 0.12m	L1004	Concrete.
0.12 – 0.25m	L1005	Made Ground. Firm, mid grey brown silt clay with occasional small angular stones.
0.25 – 0.34m	L1006	Made Ground. Firm, dark grey brown silt clay with occasional small sub-angular stones.
0.34 – 0.45m	L1007	Made Ground. Friable, mid grey yellow gravel and rubble.

0.45 – 0.49m	L1008	Made Ground. Firm, mid yellow orange clay and gravel.
0.49 – 0.53m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, light green grey sandy clay with occasional small angular stone.
0.53m+	L1002	Natural. Compact, mid orange grey silty clay with occasional small angular stones.

Description: Trench 1 contained undated Post Holes F1011 and F1013. A modern service and modern brickwork were also present.

Post Hole F1011 was oval in plan (0.30 x 0.26 x 0.15m) with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1012, was a friable, light orange brown sand clay. No finds were present.

Post Hole F1013 was oval in plan (0.12 x 0.25 x 0.08m) with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1014, was a friable, light orange brown sand clay. No finds were present.

Trench 2 (Figs. 3 - 4)

<i>Sample section 2A: Southeast End, Northeast facing 0.00m = 5.66m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1004	Concrete. As above, Trench 1.
0.07 – 0.12m	L1009	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.12 – 0.19m	L1005	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.19 – 0.49m	L1006	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.49 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.58m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 2B: 0.00m = 5.72m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.012m	L1004	Concrete Layer: As above, Trench 1.
0.12 – 0.23m	L1009	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.23 – 0.47m	L1006	Made Ground: As above, Trench 1.
0.47 – 0.59m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.59m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 2C: Southwest end, Southeast facing 0.00m = 5.75m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.03m	L1003	Tarmac. As above, Trench 1.
0.03 – 0.13m	L1004	Concrete. As above, Trench 1.
0.13 – 0.18m	L1009	Made Ground. Friable, mid red orange sand.
0.18 – 0.22m	L1010	Made Ground. Friable, light brown yellow sand.
0.22 – 0.28m	L1005	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1.

0.28 – 0.56m	L1006	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.56m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 2 contained Furrow F1017. A small modern pit and land drains were also present.

Furrow F1017 was linear in plan (1.90+ x 0.75 x 0.14m), orientated southeast / northwest. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1017, was a firm, mottled mid grey brown silt clay and light orange brown sand clay with occasional small and medium-sized flint and gravel. No finds were present.

Trench 3 (Figs. 3 & 5)

<i>Sample section 3A: Northeast end, Southeast facing 0.00m = 5.61m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.03m	L1003	Tarmac. As above, Trench 1.
0.03 – 0.013m	L1004	Concrete. As above, Trench 1.
0.13 – 0.22m	L1009	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.22 – 0.41m	L1006	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.41m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 3B: Southwest end, Northwest facing 0.00m = 5.70m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark grey brown sand clay with moderate small and medium sized angular stones.
0.23 – 0.34m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.34m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 3 contained undated Post Hole F1015. Contaminated ground was present at the northern end of the trench.

Post Hole F1015 was circular in plan (0.35 x 0.30 x 0.07m) with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a firm, mid orange grey sand clay. No finds were present.

Trench 4 (Figs. 3 & 5)

<i>Sample section 4A:</i>		
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<i>Southeast end, Southwest facing.</i>		
<i>0.00m = 5.54m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 3.
0.24 – 0.39m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.39m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 3B:</i>		
<i>Northwest end, Northeast facing</i>		
<i>0.00m = 5.96m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 3.
0.35m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 4 contained Furrow F1019. A land drain and root hollows were also present.

Furrow F1019 was linear in plan (2.50+ x 2.36 x 0.18m), orientated north-northeast / south- southwest. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1020, was a firm, mid brown grey silt clay with occasional small, angular stones. An early modern / modern (late 18th – early 20th century) pottery sherd (1; 54g), brick fragments (202g) and clay pipe stem fragments (2; 9g) were recovered.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Some modern features and roots were present but it is not felt that these factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Topsoil L1000, a friable, dark grey brown sandy clay, was uppermost in Trenches 3 and 4 (c.0.20m thick). Made ground deposits were present (0.47 – 0.56m thick). The deposits overlay Subsoil L1001, a friable, light green grey sandy clay (c.0.10m thick). At the base of the sequence was the natural, L1002, a compact, mid orange grey silty clay (0.53m – 0.59m below the present day ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot date
1	1011	Post Hole	-
	1013	Post Hole	-
2	1017	Furrow	-
3	1015	Post Hole	-

4	1019	Furrow	An early modern / modern (late 18 th – early 20 th century) sherd was present
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9.2 The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval settlement area of the village. A few archaeological investigations have taken place in the village. To the north, medieval property boundaries and a probable Iron Age ditch have been recorded (CHER ECB748), and investigations to the south of the site have revealed artefacts of medieval and post-medieval date (CHER18600-2).

9.3 The evaluation revealed undated post holes and furrows. The features contained few finds; an early modern / modern (late 18th – early 20th century) sherd, CBM and a clay pipe stem fragment was present in Furrow F1019 (Trench 4). No residual finds were present.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The site had the potential to reveal medieval and post-medieval remains associated with the settlement of Willingham. The evaluation revealed undated post holes and furrows.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mitcham Partnership 2 Ltd for funding the project and for their assistance (in particular Mr Howard Lavers for assistance).

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

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SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Soils of South East England (sheet 4)*. Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales* Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

Web resources

www.old-maps.co.uk

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Concordance of Finds

ECB4722, P6693, Aspinall's Yard, Land at Station Road, Willingham

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1000			Topsoil	Early 19th-Early 20th C	2	11	152	3	Slate Fe. Frags	1 2	16 30
	1001			Subsoil	19th-early 20th	2	18	216		Glass Slate Fe. Frags	3 2 3	58 31 20
1019	1020		4	Fill of Furrow	Late 18th- Early 20th C	1	54	202		Clay Pipe	2	9
			1	Unstratified						Fe.Frags		402
			2	Unstratified						Fe.Frags		154
			3	Unstratified						Fe.Frags	4	33
			4	Unstratified						Cu.Frag Fe. Frags	1	4 519

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Post-medieval Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 5 sherds weighing 85g from Furrow F1019 L1020, Topsoil L1000 and Subsoil L1001. The assemblage is of early modern to modern date.

Methodology

The pottery was examined in keeping with the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001 & MPRG 1998),

KEY:

ENGS: English stoneware 18th+ century

LGRE: late post-medieval glazed red earthenware mid 18th+

TPW: Transfer Printed Ware mid 18th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Topsoil	1000	1x9g TPW 1x4g ENGS	Early 19 th - early 20 th	TPW: dish rim
Subsoil	1001	1x11g LGRE 1x7g TPW	19 th -early 20 th	LGRE: black glaze
Ditch 1019	1020	1x54g LGRE	Late 18 th - early 20 th	LGRE: bowl rim

Table 1: quantification of pot by context

Methodology

Slowikowski, A., Nenck, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics, *Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2*.

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of 10 fragments (570g) of very highly abraded and fragmented late post-medieval to modern CBM. 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.

The CBM was predominantly comprised of sand-tempered red brick, potentially manufactured between the late 18th to mid 20th centuries, but poorly-preserved to the extent that no dimensions or diagnostic traits remained extant, with the brick best regarded as 'rubble'. A single fragment (202g) was contained in Furrow F1019 L1020, with the remaining brick very sparsely distributed in Topsoil L1000 and Subsoil L1001. Other CBM comprised three fragments (105g) of refined earthenware tiles with a tin glaze,

which were recovered from Topsoil L1000, but probably once adorned a 20th century bathroom.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Post-excavation view of Trench 1 looking south-west



2
F1011 and F1013 in Trench 1 looking south



3
Sample Section 1A in Trench 1 looking north-west



4
Post-excavation view of Trench 2 looking south-east



5
Post-excitation view of Trench 2 looking south-west



6
F1017 in Trench 2 looking south-west



7
Sample Section 2A in Trench 2 looking south-west



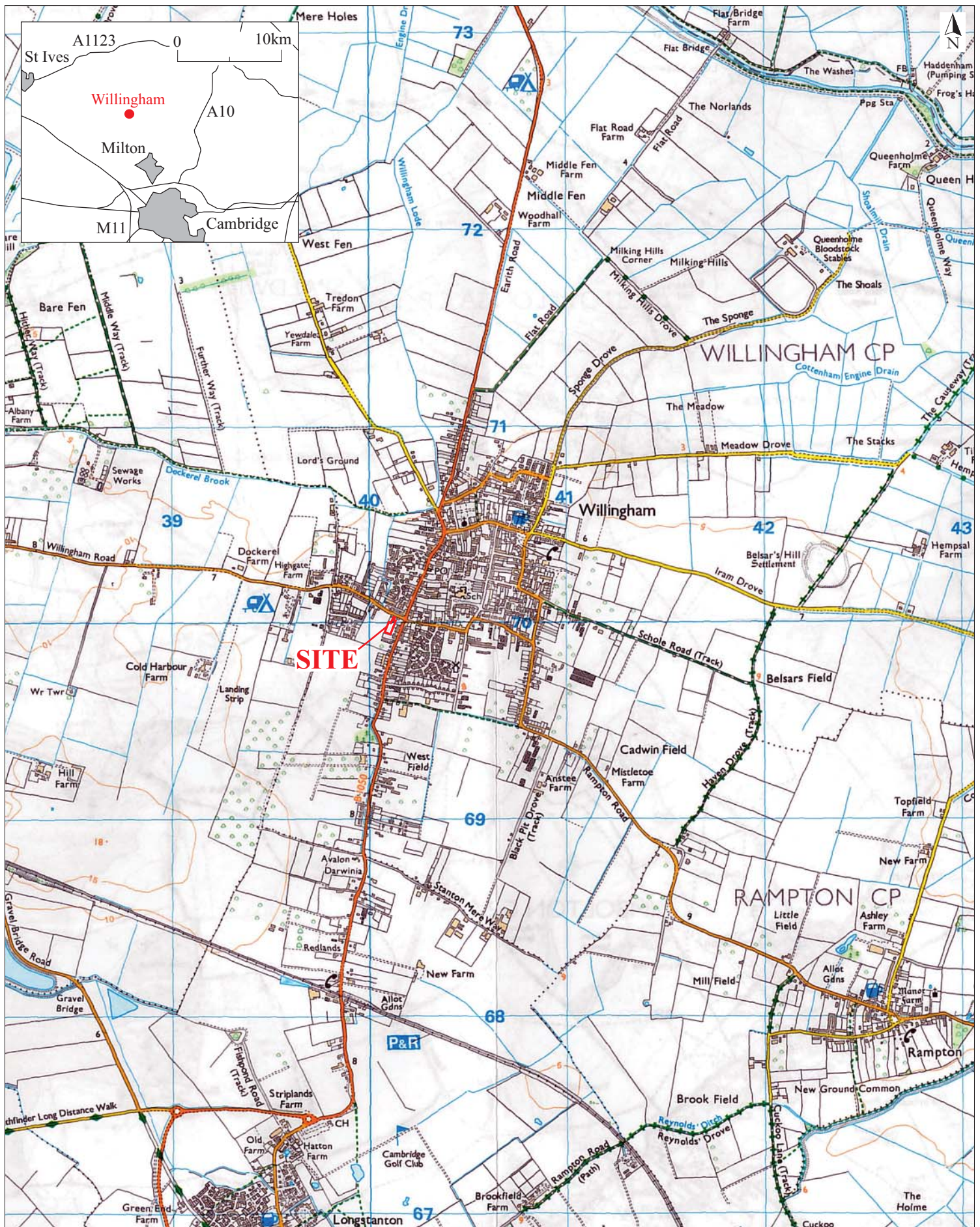
8
Post-excitation view of Trench 3 looking south-west



9
Sample Section 3A in Trench 3 looking north-west

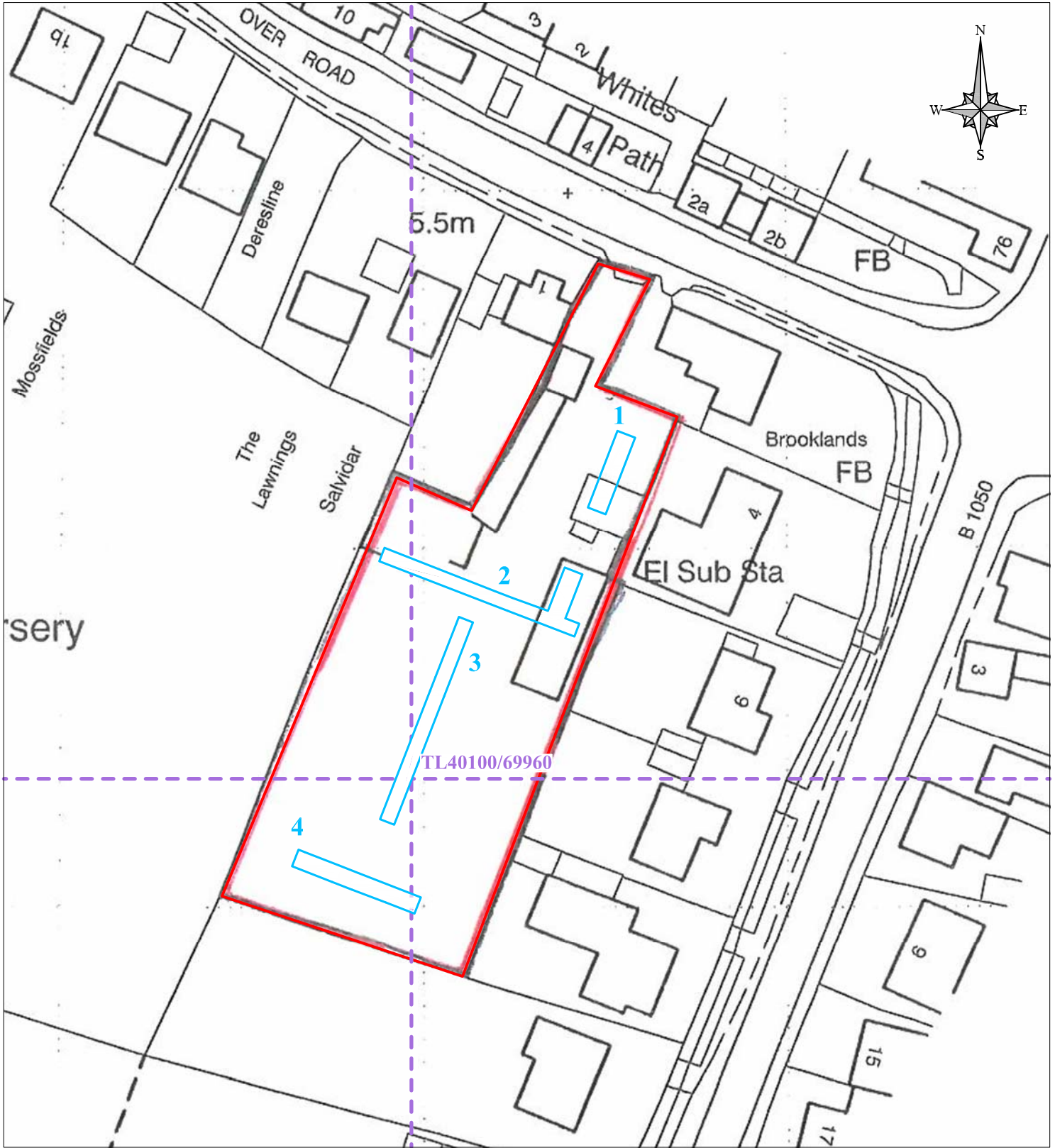


10
Post-excavation view of Trench 4 looking south-east



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Aspinals Yard, Willingham, Cambridgeshire (P6693)

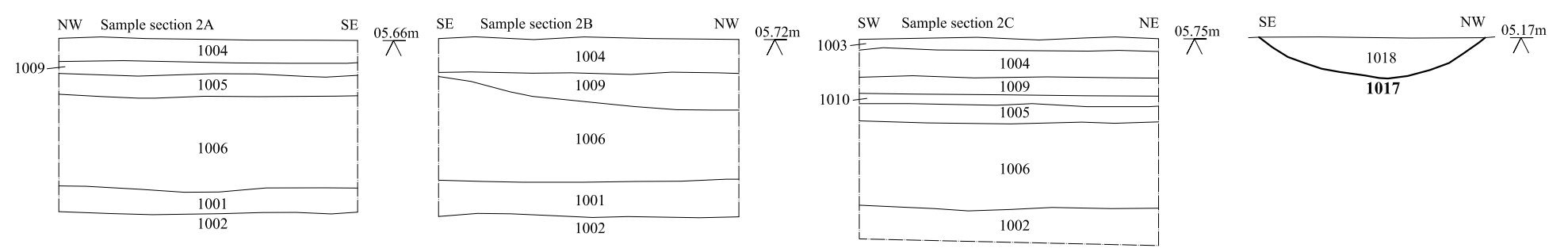
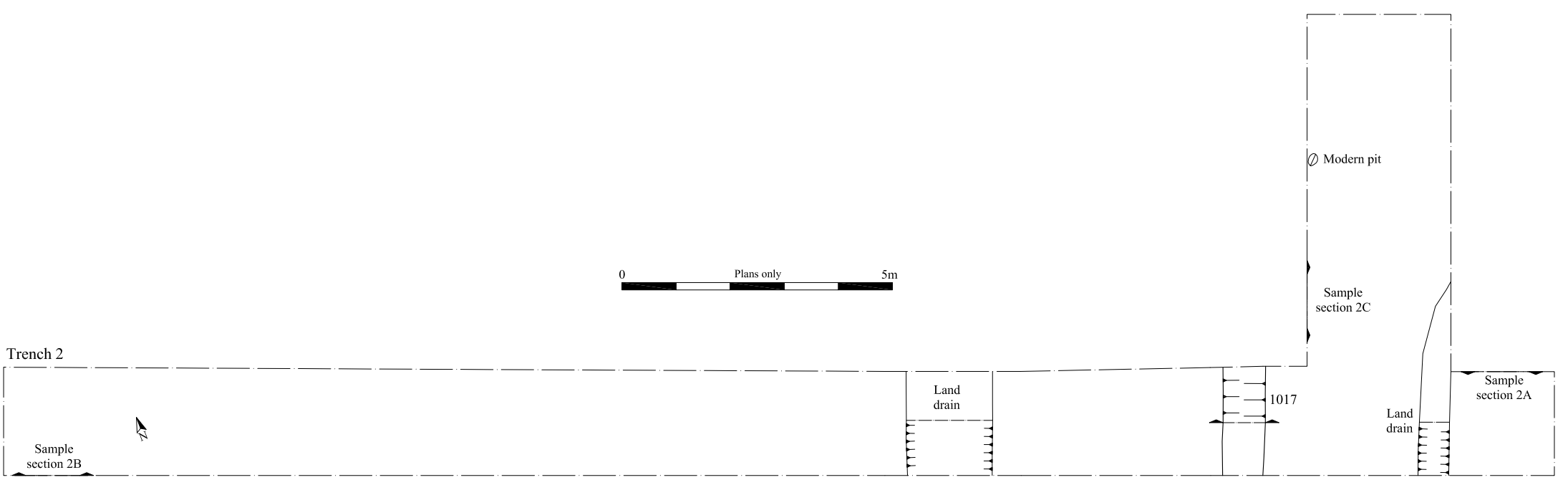
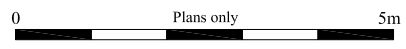
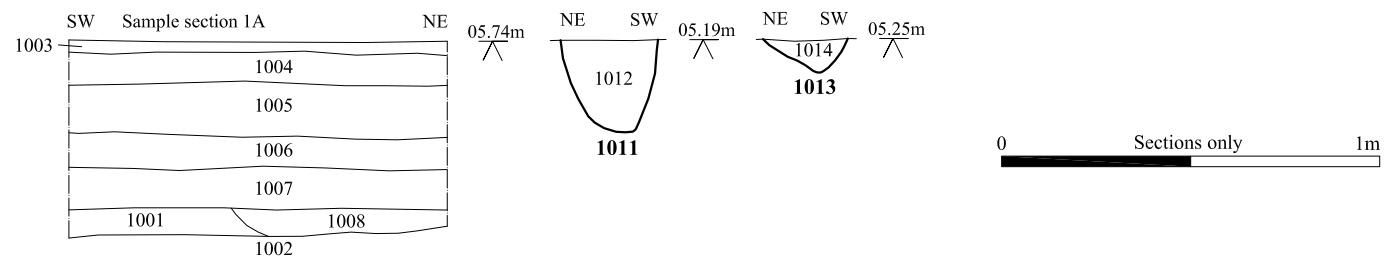
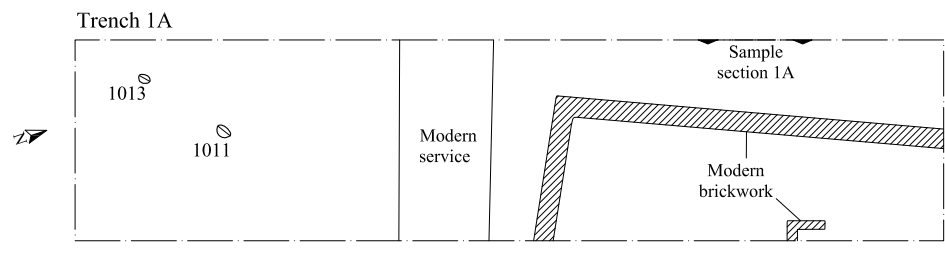


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Fig.2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:750 at A4
 Aspinal's Yard, Willingham, Cambridgeshire (P6693)



0 25m

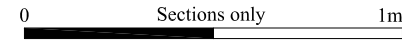
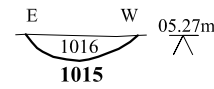
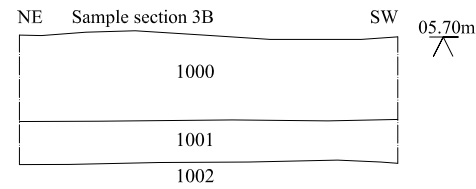
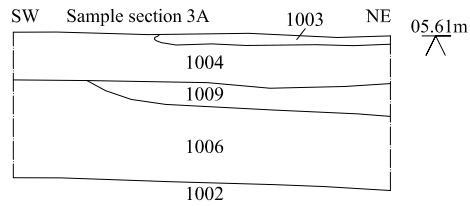
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Fig. 3 Trench locations on proposed plan
 Scale 1:500 at A4
 Aspinal's Yard, Willingham, Cambridgeshire (P6693)



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Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4
 Aspinnalls Yard, Willingham, Cambridgeshire (P6693)

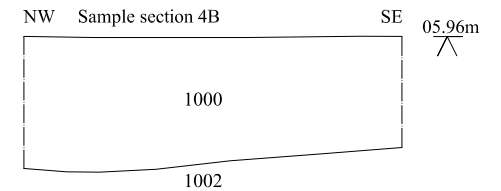
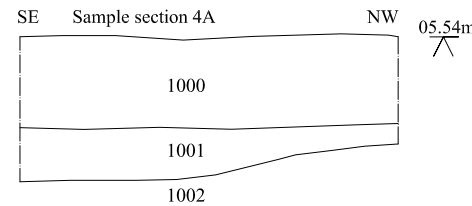
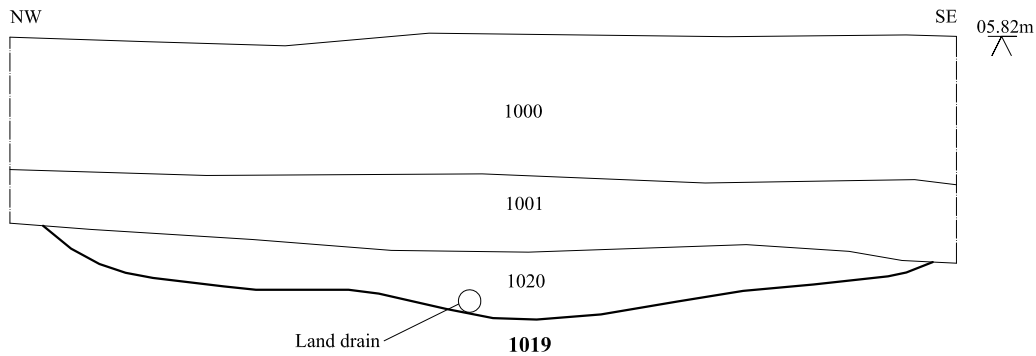
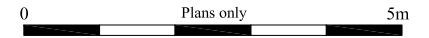
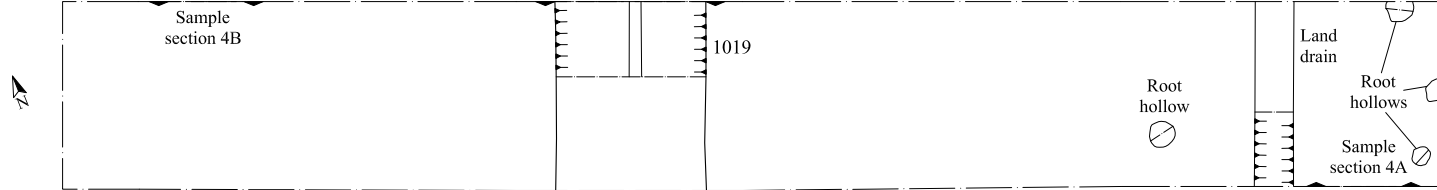
Trench 3

Sample section 3A



Trench 4

Land drain



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Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4
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