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**WINDMILL ROW, ST NEOTS,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE19 1JF**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

CHER ECB 4786

Authors: Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 1840 6017	Report No: 5228
District: Huntingdonshire	Site Code: ECB 4786
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 6792
	October 2016

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SUMMARY

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Project details			
Project name	<i>Windmill Row, St Neots, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<p><i>In October 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench on land at Windmill Row, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1JF (NGR TL 1840 6017). The evaluation was undertaken to provide information in advance of the determination of a planning application for the proposed erection of nine dwellings following the demolition of an existing garage workshop. It was undertaken based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), advisors to Huntingdon District Council.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core area of St Neots, to the rear of the plots fronting the High Street to the north. St Neots dates to the late Saxon period and the town developed in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The medieval pattern of properties fronting the market place can be seen to the west, and the medieval parish church of St Mary lies to the immediate east (CHER14932). The Benedictine Priory at St Ives, Scheduled as an Ancient Monument, lies 150m to the north west (SM 101).</i></p> <p><i>Archaeological investigations have been carried out by AS to the immediate east of the site in advance of development, revealing occupation spanning the early medieval to the post-medieval periods (CHER ECB3281; Pozorski & Smith 2009).</i></p> <p><i>The earliest pottery recovered during the evaluation was a residual Early – Middle Saxon sherd from Ditch F1010 (Trench 1). The other sherd from the feature is Saxon (10th – 12th century) pottery. No early features were present in Trench 2, but Trench 3 contained a medieval (late 12th – 13th century) pit (F1059), and a medieval (11th – 13th century) ditch (F1061).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation has demonstrated that below 19th and 20th century building remains, medieval and potentially Saxon features survive, particularly in Trenches 1 and 3.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	October 2016		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	<i>Future work</i>	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>P6792</i>	<i>Site code</i>	<i>ECB 4786</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological trial trench evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Garage and hard standing</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Building remains dating from 19th C, pits, ditches</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Saxon, medieval and 19th – 20th assemblages</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Huntingdonshire</i>	<i>St Neots</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>PE19 1JF</i>		
Area of site	<i>1400m2</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 1840 6017</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.15m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Amber Developments (St Ives) Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Barlow, G.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5228</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>October 2016</i>		

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SUMMARY

In October 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench on land at Windmill Row, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1JF (NGR TL 1840 6017). The evaluation was undertaken to provide information in advance of the determination of a planning application for the proposed erection of nine dwellings following the demolition of an existing garage workshop. It was undertaken based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), advisors to Huntingdon District Council.

The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core area of St Neots, to the rear of the plots fronting the High Street to the north. St Neots dates to the late Saxon period and the town developed in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The medieval pattern of properties fronting the market place can be seen to the west, and the medieval parish church of St Mary lies to the immediate east (CHER14932). The Benedictine Priory at St Ives, Scheduled as an Ancient Monument, lies 150m to the north west (SM 101).

Archaeological investigations have been carried out by AS to the immediate east of the site in advance of development, revealing occupation spanning the early medieval to the post-medieval periods (CHER ECB3281; Pozorski & Smith 2009).

The earliest pottery recovered during the evaluation was a residual Early – Middle Saxon sherd from Ditch F1010 (Trench 1). The other sherd from the feature is Saxon (10th – 12th century). No early features were present in Trench 2, but Trench 3 contained a medieval (late 12th – 13th century) pit (F1059), and a medieval (11th – 13th century) ditch (F1061).

The evaluation has demonstrated that below 19th and 20th building remains medieval and potentially Saxon features survive, particularly in Trenches 1 and 3.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench on land at Windmill Row, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1JF (NGR TL 1840 6017; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide information in advance of the determination of a planning application for the proposed erection of nine dwellings following the

demolition of an existing garage workshop. It was undertaken based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), advisors to Huntingdon District Council.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by the CCC HET (Andy Thomas, dated 6th May 2016), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 30th August 2016) and approved by CCC HET. It adhered to the *CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014)* and the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003)*.

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 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 It is proposed to erect nine dwellings following the demolition of an existing garage workshop at Windmill Row, St Neots. The site lies within the

historic core of St Neots on the northern side of Windmill Row, south of the High Street.

2.2 St Neots lies in the area that formerly comprised the historic county of Huntingdonshire, at its border with neighbouring Bedfordshire. It lies on the east bank of the river Great Ouse approximately 25km west of Cambridge and 18km north-east of Bedford. The central commercial area of the town comprises the Market Square adjoining the bridge, with the High Street extending eastwards.

2.3 The site is situated to the south of the High Street directly adjacent to the parish church of St Mary's. It is bordered by semi-industrial units and commercial units to the west, including Brook House. The church hall associated with St Mary's church borders the site.

2.4 An area to the north-west was subject to an evaluation by AS in 2009 (Pozorski 2009) following proposals to convert this area for residential use.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY & SOILS

3.1 The site lies within a large town at c.15m AOD. The land slopes very gently to the south towards the Hen brook, a tributary of the River Great Ouse which lies 270m to the west and once formed the historically boundary of the town.

3.2 St Neots is on the flood plain of the river Great Ouse at approximately 15m AOD, surrounded by gently undulating land to the east and west. The underlying geology of the area is Oxford Clay, while the river has given rise to gravel terraces with episodes of alluvial deposition occasioned by periodic inundation. The gravels have been characterised as a 'mixture of fine sand and gravel with a striking red colour' (Horton and Wait 1991, 65) with chalk pebbles, flint and quartzite fragments. The overlying soil type is a freely draining, slightly acidic, loamy soil.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic remains comprising a disc scraper, Mousterian flint axe and Mesolithic tranchet axe represent the earliest archaeological evidence. The finds (CHER 567c, 619) were made to the east of the site with additional Palaeolithic finds discovered only 100m north at 22A High Street. An excavation, c.340m south-west of the site, recorded Mesolithic flint work, Neolithic occupation layers and Bronze Age features including a ring ditch (CHER 8405). Approximately 1km south of the town, a major group of prehistoric cropmarks have been recorded near to Barford Road (Last, 1998). The cropmarks may represent a Neolithic monument

complex. There have also been several finds of Iron Age date (CHER 550 395) just over c.270m south-west of the site.

Romano-British

4.2 An excavation in the parish of Eynesbury (c.700m south-west of the site) confirmed Roman occupation with 3rd and 4th century remains of a hypocaust heating system and a tesserae scatter indicating the possible presence of a villa (CHER 396a-c). Despite a concentration of finds at Eynesbury, the town itself has produced some evidence of Roman presence. On the site of an Anglo-Saxon settlement, Roman pottery has been noted (Addyman 1973, 58-60), whilst sherds of Greyware have been recovered at Tan Yard, to the north of the town centre (CHER 11935). Only c.100m south-east of the site, Roman pottery was also found beneath the foundations of the Woolpack Inn (CHER 560) and Roman features have also been found on an evaluation at Church Lane, c.200 south-east of the site (CB15258). Other spot finds, including numerous Roman coins, have been recorded in the parish (CHER 539; 396d).

Saxon

4.3 The route of the River Great Ouse through the centre of St Neots has been key to the history of the town with it being the primary route for invasion in the 5th century (Stafford 1985). There have been suggestions that the early settlement may lie beneath the modern day St Neots (Addyman 1973, 49). The discovery of the 7th-8th century *sceatta* coin close to the priory (c.220m north-west of the site) suggests the early settlement may have been focused in that part of the town (CHER 548a: Tebbutt 1966).

4.4 The late Anglo-Saxon town was most likely situated within the modern town of St Neots but was named as Eynesbury, derived from the Old English *Eanulfesbyrig* or 'Eanulf's fortification' (Mawer & Stenton 1926). Historical sources suggest the original Priory of St Neots was founded by the house of Ely between 975 and 984 AD as a resting place for the bones of St Neot brought from a shrine in Cornwall (Hart 1966, 27). Earlier settlement activity (CHER 548) has been noted in the priory's precinct and other evidence is derived from the Market Square and Church Lane. The indications are that the settlement extended from the market to the east of St Mary's Church.

4.5 Excavation has produced a wealth of evidence for the later Anglo-Saxon settlement focused around the site of the 13th century parish church of St Mary's, directly to the east of the site (Addyman 1973, 49). *Grübenhauser* or sunken floored buildings were discovered as well other large buildings (CHER 567). This settlement evidence was surrounded by a large ditch extending along Church Street and Cambridge Street (CHER 565).

Medieval

4.6 The priory was re-founded in the 11th century by St Anslem (Abbot of Bec Abbey in Normandy) and 18 Benedictine monks took over the religious

house. The priory moved its location, close to Market Square and immediately east of the river, c.200m north-west of the site. Archaeological investigations to the north of the Market Square have revealed the south wall of the priory and closer to the Priory numerous skeletons related to the religious house have been revealed (CHER 551).

4.7 There is an extensive listing for the town (under Eynesbury) in Domesday Book (Harvey 1975). A large amount of woodland and agricultural land was noted with the mention of a church and priest, although the priory was not listed (Harvey 1975). It mentions no form of commercial activity, though a proportion of the manor's revenue was reserved 'to St Neot', suggesting the power of the priory (Harvey 1975). The granting of a market to the priory in 1113 AD contributed further to the town's development with more commercial activities occurring in addition to the pilgrims visiting the Priory.

4.8 The 13th and 14th centuries saw the town develop and prosper with the central Market Square, c.190m west of the site, playing a large role in the commercial life of the town. It is unlikely that there were permanent market stalls on the market place because of the seasonal flooding occurring due to the proximity of the river. However, despite the floods, trade continued to thrive and almost 100 traders returned the tax documents from the town in 1307 and 1327 including two smiths, a skinner, taverner, tailors, porter, carpenter and many others (Raftis 1976, 106). The pressure for growth may be seen in encroachment on the market square by new properties, which were probably sanctioned by the priory itself. Excavations on the north side of Market Square in the 1960s revealed 13th century skeletons within decorated stone coffins beneath 15th and 16th century shops, indicating that this land had previously formed part of the priory's cemetery (CHER 548a, 551).

4.9 St Mary's church dates from the 13th century and was extended in the 15th century (CHER 401). Several evaluations (CB14643) have recorded medieval archaeology, such as pits and ditches, within 100m of the site. Directly to the west of the site an evaluation revealed medieval pits and other features containing 13th-14th century pottery and some residual Saxo-Norman pottery (Pozorski 2009, 14) (Fig.2).

Post-medieval

4.10 With the dissolution of the priory in 1539, the economy of St Neots likely declined, if only temporarily. The abandoned priory buildings were in ruins by the 1580s, and were probably plundered for the rebuilding of the stone bridge in 1616. The gatehouse survived until 1814 (CHER 548c).

4.11 In the 17th century the town became a depot for the corn and coal trade after the Ouse was made navigable from St Ives. Riverside structures possibly associated with the trade were discovered to the rear of Market Square dating to the 18th century (CHER CB14644). Through the 20th century, and indeed until the recent past, many of St Neots traditional small industries continued to sustain the town.

5 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map depicts several buildings within the site's boundaries, perhaps up to 15 with various yards and smaller outbuildings (Fig. 3). In the northern sector of the site the buildings are terraced and lie on either side of Windmill Row which extended much further south. In the southern sector of the site the buildings are arranged more centrally with various yards on both side, and trees marking the boundary with the churchyard. The map depicts Market Square to the west, St Mary's Church to the east, and a school to the north-east of the site. St Neots Brewery, Vulcan Engineering Works (Iron) and land liable to floods are depicted to the south west of the site.

5.2 The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map records the site with more clarity (Fig. 4). The site remains similar to the previous source with a minor difference being some clearance of small outbuildings to the south.

5.3 The Ordnance Survey Edition of 1924 (Fig. 5) shows the church hall has been constructed along the eastern border of the site, with access provided from the church.

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 Three trenches were excavated in accordance with a plan prepared by the client and approved by CCC HET (Fig.6). Only 20th century deposits were removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand.

6.2 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.

7 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 6 - 7)

<i>Sample section 1A:</i> 0.00m = 15.37m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1005	Concrete yard surface.
0.10 – 0.25m	L1003	Made ground. Firm, dark brown grey sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and CBM flecks.
0.25 – 0.35m	L1004	Former yard surface. Single layer of pale grey yellow bricks (230 x 110 x 70mm) bonded with pale grey sandy mortar.
0.35 – 0.38m	L1002	Made ground. Compact, mid orange brown silty sand with frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and CBM flecks.
0.38 – 0.70m	L1001	Buried soil. Firm, dark-mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded flints and CBM flecks.
0.70m+	L1000	Natural deposits. Compact, mid red/orange brown, mottled with mid grey brown, silty sand with moderate – frequent small and medium sub-angular flints

<i>Sample section 1B:</i> 0.00m = 15.45m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1006	Made ground. Very compact, mid-dark red/orange brown sand with very frequent sub-angular gravel.
0.15 – 0.24m	L1002	Made ground. Compact, mid orange brown silty sand with frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and CBM flecks.
0.24 – 0.52m	L1009	Made ground. Firm, mid-dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and CBM flecks.
0.52 – 0.72m	L1001	Buried soil. As above
0.72m+	L1000	Natural deposits. As above

Description: Trench 1 contained Ditch F1010, Pit F1023, Well F1018 and two modern service trenches (F1012 and F1021). The ditch contained Saxon (10th – 12th century) pottery and the other features were modern (19th – 20th century).

Ditch F1010 was linear (2.40+ x 0.67 x 0.25m), orientated north north west / south south east. It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill (L1011) was a friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained Saxon (10th – 12th century) pottery (2; 20g) and animal bone (34g). The Saxon pottery includes a residual sherd of Early – Middle Saxon date.

Well F1018 was circular (1.20 x 0.60+ x 0.58+m). It was constructed and lined with a mixture of pale yellow and pale pink frogged bricks (240 x 110 x 70mm). The brick is of 19th century date (CBM Report below). Its backfill (L1020) was a friable, mottled mid brown grey and mid red brown sandy silt

with frequent small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint, and occasional CBM and charcoal flecks. It contained animal bone (8g).

Pit F1023 was a sub-circular pit (0.65+ x 0.85m x 0.38m) with steep sides and a flat base. Its fill (L1024) was a friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained modern (19th – mid 20th century) (2; 12g).

F1012 was a service trench (1.30+ x 0.36 x 0.54m), orientated east / west. It had near vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1013) was a dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular flint and CBM flecks. It contained two glazes ceramic pipes.

F1021 was a service trench (1.30+ x 0.40 x 0.52m), orientated east / west. It had near vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1022) was a friable dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular flint. It contained a glazed ceramic pipe.

Trench 2 (Figs. 6 & 8)

<i>Sample section 2A</i>		
<i>0.00m = 15.92m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1025	Current yard surface. Black asphalt.
0.05 – 0.10m	L1026	Made ground. Friable Very dark grey small rounded gravel in sandy matrix.
0.10 – 0.22m	L1027	Made ground. Firm pale yellow orange sand with moderate gravel, and concrete and mortar fragments.
0.22 – 0.40m	L1035	Made ground. Firm, pale grey brown silty sand with occasional gravel, charcoal flecks, and small rounded chalk. It contained modern (19 th – mid 20 th century) pottery (1; 1g)
0.40 – 0.51m	L1036	Made ground. Firm, dark grey brown clay sand with occasional small rounded chalk and gravel. It contained modern (19 th – mid 20 th century) pottery (1; 8g)
0.51 – 0.92m	L1040	Made ground. Firm, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-rounded chalk. It contained CBM (179g)
0.92m+	L1000	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

<i>Sample section 2B</i>		
<i>0.00m = 15.96 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1025	Current yard surface. As above.
0.05 – 0.26m	L1044	Former yard surface. Solid, pale grey concrete.
0.26 – 0.87m	L1043	Made ground. Friable, pale-mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small rounded flint and chalk, and charcoal flecks. It contained modern (19 th – mid 20 th century) pottery (3; 37g)
0.87m+	L1000	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 2 contained an undated possible unlined well (F1057), four modern (19th - 20th century) walls (M1051, M1052, M1053 and M1055), a modern (20th century) pit (F1028), a modern (19th – mid 20th century) post hole (F1031), and two undated pits (F1045 and F1049)

F1057 was a sub-circular possible unlined well (2.26 x 0.54+ x 0.70+m) with near vertical sides. Due to safety concerns this feature was not bottomed. Its fill (L1058) was a dark grey brown silty clay with occasional angular flint and sub-rounded chalk. It contained CBM (118g), animal bone (76g), and shell (1g).

Large Pit F1028 was sub circular (2.85 x 1.6+ x 0.40m). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1029) was a friable dark grey sandy gravel and it contained modern (20th century) finds.

Post Hole F1031 was circular (0.40 x 0.26m) with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1032) was a firm, dark grey brown silty sand. It contained modern (19th – mid 20th century) pottery (1; 1g). Also evident within the fill was a post pipe (F1034) with vertical sides and a flat base. The fill of this pipe (L1034) was a firm black sand. It contained CBM (20g), slate (7g), and a clay pipe stem fragment (1g).

Pit F1045 was sub-circular (0.74 x 0.74 x 0.60m) with near vertical sides and a concave base. Its lower fill (L1047) was a firm, dark grey brown sand with frequent gravel and occasional small rounded chalk. It contained CBM (23g), and a Fe fragment (1g). Its upper fill (L1046) was a firm, pale orange brown sand with frequent gravel. It contained no finds.

Pit F1049 was sub-circular (0.80+ x 0.70 x 0.30m) with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1050) was a firm, dark red brown silty sand with occasional angular and rounded flints. It contained CBM (68g).

Wall M1051 was linear (1.90+ x 0.24 x 0.11+m), orientated east / west. It was constructed with a mix of pale yellow and pale pink unfrogged bricks (240 x 110 x 70mm) bonded with a pale brown yellow silty sand. Only one course was visible. The brick is of 18th – early 19th century date (CBM Report below). It was abutted by Wall M1052.

Wall M1052 was linear (2.35+ x 0.24 x 0.11+m), orientated north / south. It was perpendicular to Wall M1051. It was constructed with a mix of pale yellow and pale pink frogged and unfrogged bricks (240 x 110 x 70mm) bonded with a pale brown grey silty sand. Only one course was visible. The brick is of 20th century date (CBM Report below).

Wall M1053 was linear (3.85 x 0.24 x 0.07m), orientated east / west. It was constructed with pale pink frogged bricks (240 x 110 x 70mm) bonded with a pale grey sandy lime mortar. Only one course was visible. The brick is of 20th century date (CBM Report below).

Wall M1055 was linear (2.00+ x 0.48 x 0.11m), orientated north / south. It was constructed with a mix of pale yellow and pale pink unfrosted bricks (240 x 110 x 70mm) bonded with pale yellow grey sandy lime mortar. Only one course was visible.

Trench 3 (Figs. 6 & 9)

<i>Sample section 3A</i>		
<i>0.00m = 15.38 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.03m	L1025	Current yard surface. As above, Trench 2.
0.03 – 0.07m	L1076	Made ground. Loose, small pale grey gravel.
0.07 – 0.13m	L1077	Made ground. Compact black Tarmac and gravel,
0.13 – 0.25m	L1084	Demolition layer. Friable, pale brown yellow silty sand with frequent pale yellow brick rubble.
0.25 – 0.33m	L1081	Possible buried garden soil. Firm, dark-mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained post-medieval (16 th – 18 th century) pottery (3; 13g).
0.33 – 0.59m	L1082	Firm, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent small sub-rounded flint, and occasional small sub-rounded chalk. It contained modern (19 th – mid 20 th century) pottery (22; 142g) and residual medieval sherds.
0.59 – 0.71m	L1083	Possible alluvial deposit. Firm, dark-mid grey brown sandy silt.
0.71m+	L1000	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 3B:</i>		
<i>0.00m = 15.57m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1025	Current yard surface. As above, Trench 2.
0.05 – 0.08m	L1076	Made ground. As above, Trench 3.
0.08 – 0.11m	L1078	Made ground. Friable, pale-mid silty sand with frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and modern building rubble.
0.11 – 0.22m	L1079	Demolition layer. Friable, very pale yellow brown silty coarse sand with frequent pale yellow brick rubble.
0.22 – 0.39m	L1085	Made ground. Compact, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint, and small, medium and large red brick rubble. It 18 th – 19 th century) pottery (3; 24g) and residual medieval pottery.
0.39 – 0.57m	L1082	Buried soil. As above.
0.57m+	L1000	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 3 contained a medieval (late 12th – 13th century) pit (F1059), a medieval (11th – 13th century) ditch (F1061) and the footings for two 19th century cottages (M1064, M1065, M1067, M1068, M1070, M1072, and M1074).

Pit F1059 was sub-circular (0.63+ x 0.35+ x 0.43+m) with steep sides. It was not bottomed due to restricted access. Its fill (L1060) was a firm, dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small and medium angular and sub-angular flint. It contained medieval (late 12th – 13th century) pottery (19; 191g) and animal bone (43g).

Ditch F1061 was linear (2.00+ x 0.45+ x 0.33m), orientated east / west. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1062) was a firm, dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small and medium angular and sub-angular flint. It contained medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery (6; 36g) and animal bone (64g).

8 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

9 DEPOSIT MODEL

9.1 Modern surfaces, modern made ground and post-medieval layers are present to a depth of 0.38 – 0.92m and directly overlie the natural in Trenches 2 and 3. Below these deposits and overlying the natural, Buried Soil L1001 was recorded in Trench 1, and comprised a firm, dark-mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub rounded flints and CBM flecks (0.20 – 0.35m thick). A possible alluvial deposit, L1083, a firm, dark-mid grey brown sandy silt (0.12m thick) was recorded in Trench 3.

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 The recorded features are tabulated:-

Trench	Context	Description	Date	
1	F1010	Ditch	Saxon (10 th – 12 th C)	
	F1012	Service	Modern	
	F1018	Brick-lined Well	19 th C	
	F1021	Service	Modern	
	F1023	Pit	19 th – mid 20 th C	
	2	F1028	Pit	Modern
		F1031	Post Hole	19 th – mid 20 th C
F1045		Pit	-	
F1049		Pit	-	
M1051		Brick Wall	18 th – Early 19 th C	
M1052		Brick Wall	20 th C	
M1053		Brick Wall	20 th	
3	M1055	Brick Wall	19 th – 20 th	
	F1057	?Well	-	
	F1059	Pit	Medieval (late 12 th – 13 th C)	
	F1061	Ditch	Medieval (11 th – 13 th C)	
	M1064	Brick Wall	Modern	
	M1065	Brick Wall	Modern	

	M1067	Brick Wall	Modern
	M1068	Brick Wall	Modern
	M1070	Brick Wall	Modern
	M1072	Brick Wall	Modern
	M1074	Brick Wall	Modern
	M1075	Brick Floor	Early 20 th C

10.2 Trench 3 contained the footings of two cottages dating from the 19th century (M1064, M1065, M1067, M1068, M1070, M1072, and M1074). Trench 2 also contained building remains dating from the 19th century (M1051, M1052, M1053 and M1055). A modern (20th century) pit (F1028), and a modern (19th – mid 20th century) post hole (F1031) were also recorded in Trench 2. Towards the back of the site modern features were also recorded in Trench 1 comprising Pit F1023, Brick-lined Well F1018 and modern service trenches (F1012 and F1021).

10.3 Trench 2 contained an undated possible unlined well (F1057) and two undated pits (F1045 and F1049).

10.4 The earliest recovered pottery was a residual Early – Middle Saxon sherd from Ditch F1010 (Trench 1). The other sherd from the feature is Saxon (10th – 12th century) pottery. No early features were present in Trench 2, but Trench 3 contained a medieval (late 12th – 13th century) pit (F1059), and a medieval (11th – 13th century) ditch (F1061).

Research Design

10.5 The identification of medieval and possibly Saxon features within the core of the medieval settlement of St Neots is not unexpected but is potentially significant. For both the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods Medlycott (2011, 58, 70) identifies towns as important areas of research for the East Anglian region, with particular focus on their development, changes in their internal layouts, housing densities, their roles as defensive centres, and their roles as centres of supply and demand. The recorded archaeology has the potential to contribute information to the achievement of these research aims and to add to the corpus of information regarding these periods in St Neots, developing the existing picture of the layout and character of the town.

10.6 Towns are also identified as an important research subject for the post-medieval and early modern periods (Medlycott 2011, 80). The identification of the footings of 19th century cottages indicates that the site has the potential to provide information regarding the layout and character of this part of St Neots and the way in which it has developed since. Furthermore, the development of 19th and 20th century housing (Medlycott 2011, 80) and housing for workers (Medlycott 2011, 78) are identified as specific aspects of this period which require further study.

11 CONCLUSION

11.1 The evaluation has demonstrated that below 19th and 20th building remains medieval, and potentially Saxon features survive, particularly in Trenches 1 and 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.

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APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a 1km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER).

HER	NGR	Description
Prehistoric		
00397	TL 183 595	Two polished stone axes and fragments of BA beaker found in 1889 by Mr. Harvey while gravel digging immediately S of Montague Square. Area now occupied by a housing estate. Present location of finds not determined.
00550	TL 182 600	Iron Age 'A' and late AS pottery found at junior school playing field, presented by CF Tebbutt to Norris Museum, St Ives; deer horn and bones were also found.
00403a	TL 188 593	Belgic platters, beakers and bowls.
00395	TL 182 599	Pagan Saxon sunken hut recorded by CF Tebbutt in 1963 during building. No report was published. (1969) Now thought to be IA.
Romano-British		
00391	TL 181 596	Slight traces on the right bank of Ouse, in a place known as Conygeare, a quarter of a mile SW of the church, are all that is left of the earth mark which has been ascribed to the Roman period. The only evidence of the date is that afforded by finds of Roman coins and pottery within the area (Gorham GC, The History and Antiquities of Eynesbury and St Neots). In the absence of excavation it is impossible to determine the date or character of the earth mark. CF Tebbutt cut a trench across the line of the earth marks in 1934. The ditch was 4 feet deep and 7 feet wide at the old surface line and seemed to be rounded in section. It contained a foot of peat with potsherds in it and below that on the undisturbed gravel at the bottom, two cooking pots and a Castor ware beaker, thus confirming the Roman date of this earth mark. Roman potsherds were also found in the slope of the rampart, which survives on the W side. Towards the top of it a small steep sided trench full of packed gravel had probably been made for a timber revetment.
00394	TL 182 595	Roman remains.
00396	TL 180 595	There is evidence of Roman occupation in and around Eynesbury which comprises: 00396a: building, settlement, burial, pottery, glass, coin, bracelet, 00396b: pottery, tesserae 00396c: enclosure, coin, pottery, 00396d: coin. See also RN 00403 and RN 00391 for associated sites.
00396a	TL 180 595	In 1967 a Roman building was discovered by accident while sectioning circular mound near site of two superimposed Roman camps at Conygeare. A large room heated by hypocaust was found with stake holes of two periods, and in the foundations of the 1st period stake hole was an infant burial. Finds included both Castor ware and coarse native wares of the C3 and C4, glass, Roman coins and 2 bronze bracelets. Excavation by CF Tebbutt to continue. The indicated site falls on arable land which has been cultivated for many years and there are no surface remains of archaeological interest; no finds were made. See RN 00396 for associated sites. The Interpretation of the circular mound as a barrow is probably incorrect. No archaeological remains are visible on the site and it

		is unlikely that the remains of a barrow are preserved on the site. No recommendations for scheduling are made.
00396b	TL 181 593	A scatter of Roman pottery, building stone and tesserae was turned up by the plough in 1964. The indicated site falls on arable land which has been cultivated for many years, and there are no surface finds of archaeological interest. No finds were made. See RN 00396 for associated sites.
00396c	TL 1830 5955	Centred at above ref are remains of earthworks which appear as a perfectly rectangular enclosure. Remains scanty, hardly appearing rectangular, and are confused by gravel digging and natural slopes. Many Roman coins. A section dug across a remaining bank in 1934 by Tebbutt produced Roman pottery. Indicated site falls on arable land which has been cultivated for many years, and there are no surface remains of archaeological interest. No finds were made. See RN 00396 for associated sites.
00396d	TL 184 598	A Roman coin was found in the churchyard (at above ref) NE of Conygeare in 1797, and another of Vespasian in Buckley Rd (TIJ1843/5975). See RN 00396 for associated sites.
00403	TL 188 593	On Brickhills Estate, In 1966 and 1967, a late IA, Roman site was found during building work. Pits, ditches and possible hut sites were cut by foundation trenches. Much pottery from Belgic to Samian and Castor wares found together with C1 AD cremation in a 'White ware pot, with two glass vessels, a bone needle and a bronze fibula. Indicated site occupied by Mod houses and housing development, no archaeological features seen during investigation. Roman finds in Longsands Museum: cremation group consisting of an urn with calcined bone, glass flask, glass unguentarium (said to have been found containing a ligula, which is not now present, and a blue-grey powder), sample of the aforesaid blue-grey powder, iron lock fragment (requires stabilizing), red-painted plaster fragments. Also a bronze fibula brooch from a second Roman cremation on the same site (brooch is almost complete, but requires conservation treatment).
00539	TL 183 606	Roman coin found at St Neots by CF Tebbutt, presented to Norris Museum, St Ives, 1st brass Trajan (364 - 378); Present location the Museum, but have no history of the find. Tebbutt is now resident in Sussex.
00560	TL 1848 6010	RB pottery found in excavations for foundations of Wool Pack PH. CF Tebbutt is now resident in Sussex; the Wool Pack appears to be 20 years old and local enquiries were negative.
Saxon		
00392	TL 181 597	A more or less globular vessel with flattish base and tall neck, slightly reverted at the rim, in fabric of medium fineness and medium hardness, being slightly sandy and micaceous. The fabric is burnished internally and externally above the shoulder, and the surface is brownish red, with a medium grey core. The lower part of the pot, apparently smoothed and not burnished or finished, is slightly degraded, the sand is more apparent, and there is some spalling. The vessel is decorated with two pairs of horizontal grooves, at top and bottom of the shoulder, the area between which is divided into trapeziums by groups of three vertical lines. Within the spaces so defined are five or six vertical lines of small stab marks with, below them, a cross formed of pairs of incised lines. All the decoration is applied to the vessel when in the leather hard state, presumably immediately after the

		<p>burnish. Dr Myres says of this vessel in a letter to Mr. Tebbutt 'I think it is probably related to the Kentish bottle-vase type of the C7, though as far as I know it is not exactly paralleled there. It seems to be an extreme example of the C7 tendency to produce vessels with a low centre of gravity and tall conical neck, as shown e.g. in the Leighton Buzzard so called 'Christian' cemeteries published by Mrs. Hyslop. The type of decoration is also reminiscent of her examples. Although the parallels are not at all close I feel that a date not earlier than C7 is much nearer the mark than the AD 500 suggested by RA Smith as quoted by Fox.' The vessel is of some interest in providing an indication of local ceramic preferences in a period for which there has been little enough evidence in the area.</p> <p>Gorham's account indicates that other vessels were not preserved. 'Fragments of Roman pottery are frequently found up on Eynesbury Conygeare. They consist chiefly of an unbaked black or dark blue clay, with very little ornament. Urns, of inferior workmanship, have also been found on the same spot: they have probably been sepulchral; although the fact of their having contained bones has not been ascertained. Of these antiquities a single specimen found in 1816 has hitherto been preserved' (the vessel discussed here). The site was thus presumably a late pagan cemetery, still practising cremation.</p>
00393	TL 1812 5983	<p>Willow Bank House.</p> <p>Probable site of find of pagan Saxon rings. 5 Saxon pot-rings, one bun shaped; presumably loom weights.</p> <p>The owner of the property on which the site falls, at the time of report, Mr. H Pope, knows nothing of the finds. Mr. Tebbutt was not contacted. The indicated site falls in a private garden.</p>
00548	TL 1818 6031	<p>Site of St Neots Benedictine Priory, traditionally said to have been founded AD 972- 975; destroyed 1010; refounded 1082 and dissolved 1539 when annual income was over £200.</p> <p>Excavation and investigations by CF Tebbutt showed site of priory.</p> <p>Rescue work was carried out in 1985- 1986 during construction work. No detailed records were kept. However two burials were discovered, one male, one female, both in stone coffins with decorated lids, which would date them to the C13. It has been suggested these were benefactors of the Priory buried in the cloister. The interpretation is probably correct, though it now seems more likely that they were buried in a building to the E of the transept/chapter house.</p> <p>A watching brief was carried out in 1989. Human remains recovered consisted of three complete males, one female; in addition there were fragmentary remains of three males, one female and a child. Full skeletal analysis of the bones is included in the report. One piece of St Neots shell-tempered ware was found in association with one of the burials. A surface consisting of grey brown silt with small pebbles up to 4cm across, probably a floor make-up level was seen, also a possible wall trench. A floor, consisting of small red tiles approximately 10cm by 10cm and 1,5cm thick with traces of a brown monochrome glaze was found. It was not possible to determine the siting of Priory buildings as a result of this watching brief as had been hoped. The floors and wall trench should all belong to the Priory, but must represent a new building.</p> <p>No extant remains, site now being mostly covered by modern building. Nothing remains above ground, part excavated 1958. Site now under car parks, back gardens, derelict buildings and storehouses. Threatened by ring road. Road has now cut</p>

		<p>through site N - S from Priory Lane. Only remaining part of scheduled area is small part of garden in Priory House that is as yet not built over or under roads & car parks.</p> <p>Fourteen survey transects were placed across the site during a ground penetrating radar survey. Responses identified as buried walls were noted in all locations but none could be precisely related to excavated features.</p> <p>It is suggested that the Black Death caused certain lands of the St Neots Priory to be put permanently out of cultivation due to a decline in population.</p>
00548a	TL 1810 6030	Numerous finds of burials have been made under properties on N side of Market Square (presumably priory graveyard).
00548b	TL 1810 6030	<p>Found at St Neots Priory; neck of black shelly ware jug with smooth, soapy, light brown surfaces, strap handle apparently plain. No rouletting on neck of vessel.</p> <p>Finds of AS pottery and a sceatta of C7- C8 in a ditch under monastic foundations.</p>
00551	TL 182 602	<p>Many skeletons found during construction of Barclays Bank, Boots, and Woolworths. Trench containing stone chips thought to be foundation trench of S wall of St Neots priory. Fragment of C15 stained glass. Burials very common along N side of Market Square & many are well outside line of priory wall. Excavations on Priory site produced cobbles (1ft thick set in clay), of large wooden building aligned E- W almost certainly C10- C11. AS 'MIOd church, of Greenstead type; had been destroyed by C12. C7- CB sceatta and contemporary AS pot in ditch under foundations.</p> <p>Skeletons found under Cross Keys Hotel, Barclays, Woolworths, Boots, and 35, High St. Burials found on both sides of Priory wall line, and represented both sexes. No grave goods or other objects, burials situated E- W; no coffins. Possible that Priory wall was initially farther S; then later -withdrawn due to growth of trading area.</p>
00565	TL 1854 6031	Demolition of houses forming these corner of the cross roads at St Neots allowed excavation by Tebbutt and Rudd in 1964. Traces of a deep defensive ditch were found running parallel with Cambridge Street, sweeping round the corner to follow Church Street, it probably enclosed the pre-conquest village site. After the ditch was filled in during the C13 buildings were erected on the present street alignment. The site was used during Medieval times for the smelting and working of iron, and copper alloys.
00567	TL 1859 6012	<p>The site of a late Anglo-Saxon settlement 200 yards E of St Neots parish church was exposed by gravel digging in 1929 and excavated by C.F. Tebbutt between 1929 and 1932 (CHER 17661 and 17662).</p> <p>In the light of excavation ahead of development in 1961 by P.V. Addyman revealed a Late Saxon timber building of some complexity and parts of perhaps five or six more, as well as a number of ditches, postholes and pits. Background evidence for Romano-British occupation in the area was also revealed.</p> <p>The main building was 'boat shaped' in that is bowed outwards along its long sides. Measuring 38ft by 20ft, it was built on timber sill beams and had a planked floor supported by a number of lateral joists. Postholes were discovered at the corners and in the centre of the gable ends. Two other smaller and less complete buildings were discovered that also used sill beams, while a further two buildings were constructed from posts set into individual postholes. One building had a mixture of sill beams and posts. These buildings demonstrate the variety of timber</p>

		<p>architecture, but all fall within the normal range of Middle to Late Saxon buildings excavated elsewhere.</p> <p>A series of small ditches ran between the buildings, perhaps marking boundaries between plots, and a number of pits were also discovered. Most of these pits were rubbish pits, but some were fire pits and showed signs of scorching. The latter may have been kilns.</p> <p>The regularity of the building alignments suggests that this part of the settlement was at least partially planned, although it proved impossible to ascertain more detailed phasing. It is suggested that the settlement may have extended some way to the west and was bounded by a ditch running along the east side of Church Street and the south side of Cambridge Street. The settlement also extended east of the nearby tributary to Hen Brook. The settlement therefore covered a considerable area, perhaps approaching 20 hectares, and extensive archaeological work in St Neots</p>
Medieval		
00398	TL 1830 5966	<p>Remains of early C12 building 11 feet x 6 feet found 2.5 feet below the floor when old factory buildings were being demolished. 1960 excavations revealed clay walls and successive clay floors yielded C12 St Neots ware.</p> <p>The site is now occupied by modern buildings.</p>
00401	TL 1839 5984	<p>The parish church of St Mary has walls of stone, ironstone and pebble rubble with dressings of Barnack, Weldon stone and clunch. The earliest part of the church is the N wall of the chancel with an early C13 window, the S wall being possibly of the same date. The vestry was added in the C14, with a general rebuilding being started in the C15. The W tower is of the C16. The carved roofs throughout the church are remarkable with figures of angels? Apostles, monsters and other beasts as well as foliage.</p> <p>Fittings: Brass Indents: In S aisle of a half or possibly kneeling figure or figures, inscription and one other plate, marginal inscription with symbols of evangelists at angles, C15; of man and his wives and inscription-plate, late C15 or early C16; of man, wife, and inscription-plate, C15.</p> <p>Chests: In nave, small of hutch-type, with panelled front, ends and lid late C16. In S aisle, of hutch-type, panelled front with carved designs in panels, one lock, early C17. In tower, small, iron-bound, with one lock and four hasps, C17 or earlier.</p> <p>Communion Table: In S. aisle, round legs with composite capitals and acanthus enrichment, legs joined by wide shaped and pierced stretcher, moulded top rails, inlaid top, early C18.</p> <p>Monuments: In tower, on S wall, to John Turner S.T.B., 1705, minister of this church, stone tablet with scrolled sides, cherub-heads, books and shield-of-arms; to Edward Turner, rector of the parish, stone tablet with scrolled sides, festoons of fruit, cherub-heads and cartouche-of -arms.</p> <p>Painting: On W. capital of tower-arch, faint traces of small foliated enrichment on bell of capital.</p> <p>Piscina: In chancel, recess with hollow-chamfered jambs and cinquefoil arch in a square head, with foliated spandrels, quatrefoil drain, C15.</p> <p>Plate: Includes pewter flagon, probably late C17.</p> <p>Pulpit: Hexagonal, with inlaid and enriched in each face, moulded base and enriched capping; at angles, cherub-heads and festoons of flowers, etc, coved under-side with carved foliage relief, c.1700, base modern.</p> <p>Seating: In N aisle, two blocks of pews of four and ten pews</p>

		<p>respectively with front enclosures, all with moulded rails fronts and backs panelled with cusped-heads to panels, some foliated spandrels and flower enrichments to rail-mouldings, moulded bench-ends with carved leaves, paterae and popey-heads.</p> <p>Weather-vane: In S aisle, in case, of brass with fleur-de-lis enrichment and the pierced initials and date H.A. 1688.</p> <p>Mise: In same case as vane, iron padlock of barrel-fonn, C17.</p> <p>The church has an unusual plan with the tower on the south side of the nave. This tower was rebuilt in 1688 in a bare, simple and rather bleak style.</p>
00402	TL 186 592	<p>Small building 11 feet by 6 feet, found 2,5 feet below demolished factory. Marks of fallen gable timbering suggested the correct angle for thatch. Succeeding clay floors yielded C12 developed St Neots ware, including 3 unrecorded types of large bowl, and a round twist-top box lid of carved bone.</p>
00515	TL 1765 5998	<p>Mid - late C15 altered large hall and cross wing house with solar wing at N end. 2 storeys. 1 window wings centre with 3 window bays (blind end bays). Old tile roofs with original truss in N 1Aing with braces to collar purlin and post; Swing with original common rafters but replaced trusses. Box framed with close studding; colour-washed brick nogging and plaster; central block refaced in brick and hall roof raised, stair turret and brick chimneys added C17. N wing with original stone chimney with moulded plinth.</p>
00545	TL 180 602	<p>William deFerrers, Earl of Derby, thrown out of his chariot and over the parapet of St Neots bridge, died directly afterwards; Bridge in a very ruinous state, toll for two years granted. Inquisition held before the Bishop of Lincoln and other commissioners to enquire touching the state of the bridge. It was apparently almost entirely of timber. An estimate given for rebuilding it, still largely of timber. It was however, probably at this period that the present stone bridge was built.</p> <p>A stone bridge of three arches, spanning the River Ouse partly in the parish of St Neots, Hunts and partly in the parish of Eaton Socon, Beds. The central arch is the largest and that on the St Neots side is the smallest and probably of a later date than the others. The roadway was widened some years ago by throwing out cantilevers just below the road level; and further alterations to the approach on the Beds side were made last year.</p> <p>The bridge crosses the Ouse at the W end of town, from the W end of Market Square and connects to the adjoining county of Bedfordshire. The bridge, over the river itself, is in three spans with semi-circular arches, but is continued westward in a series of eight smaller semi-circular arches and a causeway, over the low-lying ground on the Bedfordshire side. It was built of Ketton and Bamack ashlar, stone rubble, brick and modern material. According to Leland, the bridge was of timber in 1538, but this may only refer to the main span and not to the piers. The lower stones of the second arch from the E and the whole of the third arch, are possibly of C14, but the upper part of the former was rebuilt probably in the latter part of the C16. An inquisition of 1588, relating mainly to the causeway, may indicate the approximate date of this rebuilding. The easternmost arch and the first four arches on the Beds. bank were built probably in C17. The four arches still further W were built in 1647 and the causeway is old but so much refaced as to make it impossible to assign it to a definite date. The bridge has been repaired at various times and modern mark includes a considerable rebuilding of the large pier on the Beds bank between the third and fourth arches from the E, the widening of the whole structure</p>

		<p>on the N side by corbelling out a parapet- wall on the cantilevers above the arches, and the widening of the S side of the arches over the river itself in a similar manner. The piers between the arches have pointed cutwaters on both sides except those to the three western-most arches, which, on the N side, have fat pedestal buttresses with moulded caps and bases; on the middle one of these buttresses is a panel carved with the date 1647 and the letters ANNO in the spandrels. On the N side of the easternmost pier is a stone inscribed Edward Ashcroft. The first pier on the Bedfordshire side of the river is very massive and the pier between the work of 1647 and the arch on the E side is some 30 feet in height and without cutwaters. The first arch from the E is narrow and was probably rebuilt in the C17. It has plain voussoirs and a flat soffit. The second, or central arch over the river is of chamfered ribs with coursed rubble filling between them; a break in the masonry about one third up the height of the arch indicates the junction of the later with the original mark, and the soffit of the upper part is divided into panels by cross ribs. The upper orders of the second and third arches have been cut into by the modern cantilevers causing the widening above and the E haunch of the third arch has been partly rebuilt. The next four spans have plain semi-circular arches of ashlar; about one and a half feet above the arches the walling for about one and a half feet is of C17 brickwork, above which it is modern brick. On the S side above the arch vaults is a moulded string which however has been, in places, destroyed by modern work; between the buttresses practically the whole of this side of these arches has been covered with modern stucco. Condition: Good 6. It is quite certain that an important road from East Anglia to the Midlands crossed the river at this spot, and that the St Neots monks built a bridge and causeway of which the earliest existing mention is in 1180. This was undoubtedly a modern bridge probably resting on stone piers.</p> <p>The necessary recurring repairs to modern bridges are recorded for the years 1293, 1388 and 1588. In 1542 there was an enquiry as to who should pay for repairs now that the priory had been dissolved and the inhabitants of the town disclaimed responsibility.</p>
00546	TL 1810 6025	Built on the riverside, near the gatehouse, immediately N of the old horse-watering place, now a public access to the river adjoining the 'Bridge Hotel'.
00547	TL 1814 6022	C16- C17 leather shoes, wood and nails, probably the remains of the original bridge over the River Ouse.
00548c	TL 1812 6027	Site of priory gatehouse, near to present day Bridge Hotel. Pulled down in 1814
00552	TL 1815 6022	Cobbled Medieval roadway. Old St Neots Road, High St; found on cutting a trench parallel to W side of Market Square. Embedded in its cobbled surface was a late C16 shoe sole and a C17 horseshoe.
00553	TL 1817 6029	An extract taken from Excavations at St Neots by CF Tebbutt, see piece in inverted commas. The trench was continued up Priory Lane as far as Messrs Jordan and Addington's mill gateway, and nothing of interest was found in this section. Being in the centre of the road it probably followed the line of the old road and passed through the Priory gateway, thus missing the foundations of the gatehouse. From the line above described at the bus shelter near Barclay's Bank, a short length of trench was dug S across the present main road to about half-way across the W side of the Square. This uncovered a section at right angles across the old road, a ditch was found at this point to

		be 4ft below the present surface and 24ft wide. Imbedded in its cobbled surface was a late C16 shoe sole and a C17 horse-shoe. "Twenty ft S of this road and running parallel to it, was a large ditch 12ft wide and at least 5ft deep running towards the river. It contained the usual pottery of the C16 and C17 and shoes of the C15 and C16- one with a bronze buckle in the shape of a figure eight. Finds of equal interest were sea mussel and oyster shells, proving river navigation to the coast".
00554	TL 1819 6025	Medieval well found opposite E end of Cross Keys Hotel; well was 25 feet deep; top 4 feet made of brick, remainder of Medieval stonework.
00556	TL 182 602	'Original parish church was flanking the Market Square. Removed C13.'
00558	TL 1835 6061	Pound. site only, no remains.
00561	TL 184 603	House, 150 yards E of South Street, was built in the C15. Awing was built at the W end of the house projecting towards the S about 1700, and modern alterations include additions at the back of both the original house and the later extension. The front to the street has been refaced with modern brick and the upper floor which originally overhung has been under built. Inside the building both the front rooms have the moulded bressummer exposed which supported the original projecting upper storey, and below it one curved bracket remains with a carved foliated spandrel. In the ceiling of the westernmost front room are some moulded beams. One room on the first floor has an old battened door.
00564	TL 1849 6018	Site of stocks and whipping post in churchyard N of Church Path, W of Church Street. No further information regarding the site of the above was obtained through local enquiry.
00566	TL 185 604	Medieval ditches; trial trenches revealed the corner of a large and deep ditch, bordering Huntingdon Street and East Street, which had been filled in the C12 or C13 and wooden buildings with stone sub-walls built over it; also over part of it were two small iron-smelting furnaces of the same date.
Post-medieval		
00382	TL 1845 5980	Manor house, on the NE side of the road, 60 yards E of the church, was apparently rebuilt in the first half of the C18. In the attic is some reset early C17 panelling. Farther down Berkeley Street from the Nag's Head Inn, on the opposite side, is the C18 half timber manor house Eynesbury Manor. The house, previously Eynesbury Manor, is now Number 7, Berkely Street. It is of late C18 and is of little architectural interest. The half timbering is not visible externally.
00399	TL 1830 5993	Tudor house formerly listed as a rectory. Grade 2 timber framed and plastered house with tiled roofs. Probably early C17 with main block and cross wings at N and Sends. The house was much altered in the C18 and there is a modern addition at the Send. The Rectory, 120 yards N W of the church. Is of two storeys, timber framed and plastered; the roofs are tiled. It was built, probably early in the C17 with a main block and cross wings at the N and Wends. The house was much altered in the C18 and there is a modern addition at the Send. Inside the building the N room is lined with early C17 panelling said to be brought from elsewhere and made up with modern work; behind the panelling there is said to be a carved beam with the date 1617. Refixed in the hall is a late C16 or early C17 carved panel with the arms of the Poulterers' Company. Some of the original chamfered ceiling

		beams are exposed. Condition- Good.
00400	TL 1843 5981	Nag's Head Inn, probably C15- extended in the C17. Nag's Head Inn and tenement, on the SW side of the road, E of the churchyard, was built probably in the C15 with a central hall and cross wings at the NW and SE ends. The NW wing was extended, probably in C17, and this part has the timber framing exposed. Inside the building, the hall-block has a massive original tie beam and there is an early C17 door in the attic and elsewhere there are two panelled doors of later date. An inn called the Nag's Head adjoining the churchyard in Berkley Street is an interesting half timber house, possibly of the C15. It consists of a hall with a wing at each end.
00549	TL 1811 6039	Malt house, Grade 2. C18 barns, formerly of L-shaped plan with flash kiln in N wing; central part of Ewing has been destroyed for erection of Community Centre. Built of red brick with tiled roofs. There is the conical oven of a gault brick kiln with the interior arrangement preserved; the old malt house is as described but the name is not in general use and the building is used as a store; C18 or early C19 brick malting kiln, c 25ft diameter, c 55ft high. Short cylindrical base with buttresses. Top louvers of modern material. Kiln is structurally independent, so practicable to propose scheduling of circular kiln alone. Immediate surroundings of kiln radically changed; mill at SW and buildings to Sand W have gone. End of malt house truncated. (For fuller description see source.) Former drying kiln for maltings. Part of the Priory Brewery c.1780, 1920s Jordan and Addingtons, closed c. 1970. Now converted for use as a sports centre.
00555	TL 18304 60212	Sewers running N - S along South Street, from corner of Brook Street to Market Square- High Street entrance; from the brickwork- narrow, red-yellow - date probably C17.
00559	TL 184 600	Chequers Inn, about 180 yards N of the church maybe of early C16 but has been much altered in C18 and later. The plan is T shaped with the cross wings at the W end.
00562	TL 1855 6004	Old ford across the Hen Brook; wing wall found, made of red brick (C17?). Close to the Eynesbury Bridge on the S side just opposite the door of Eynesbury Post Office, the foundations of a red brick wall were found 2 feet down. This appeared to be the wing wall of a ford over the brook, and the cobbled approach to such a ford was found in previous road excavations.

APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Date	Description	Fig No.	Scale	Location
1882	First Edition Ordnance Survey map	3	25": 1 mile	CALS
1900	Second Edition Ordnance Survey map	4	25": 1 mile	CALS
1924	Ordnance Survey map	5	25": 1 mile	CALS

Concordance of Finds

ECB4786, P6792, Land off Windmill Row, St Neots

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1010	1011		1	Fill of Ditch	10th-12th C	2	20		34			
1018			1	Brick Well				3232				
	1020		1	Fill of Well					8			
1023	1024		1	Fill of Pit	19th-mid 20th C	2	12	106		Slag Glass Clay Pipe F.Clay	1 1 1	27 57 1 8
1028	1029		2	Fill of Pit				165		Slate Metal bath plug Slag Glass	1 1 1 2	3 94 105 10
1031	1032		2	Fill of Post Hole	19th-mid 20th C	1	1	6	15			
1033	1034			Fill of Post Pipe				20		Slate Clay Pipe	1 1	7 1
	1035		2	Layer	19th-mid 20th C	1	1	1				
	1036		2	Layer	19th-mid 20th C	1	8	134		Glass Clay Pipe Oyster Shell	1 1 3	1 1 18
	1038		2	Layer				17				
	1040		2	Layer				179	285	Fe.Frag Glass	1 2	14 3
	1043		2	Layer	19th-mid 20th C	3	37	407	69	Shell Fe.Frag	1 1	4 6
1045	1047		2	Fill of Pit				23		Fe.Frag	1	1
1049	1050		2	Fill of Pit				68				
1051			2	Brick Wall				2658				
1052			2	Brick Wall				2738				
1053			2	Brick Wall				2705				
	1054		2	Layer						Fe.nail Glass	1 3	21 18
1057	1058		2	Fill of Well				118	76	Shell	1	1
1059	1060		3	Fill of Pit	Late 12th-13th C	19	191		43			
1061	1062		3	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	6	36		64			
	1068		3	Wall				2667				
1075			3	Remnant Brick Floor				2596				
	1079			Layer						Glass	1	6

	1081		3	Layer	16th-18th C	3	13			Glass Clay Pipes	1 2	8 3
	1082		3	Layer	Late 18th -19th + Medieval	131	1811	138	263	Fe.Frags Oyster Shell Clay Pipe Fired Clay		140
		A			13th-15th C	13	88					
		B			10th-14th C	7	61					
					12th-14th C with some 19th-mid							
		C			20th C	22	142	126	5	Fe.Frag Shell	1 1	56 <1
		D			Late 12th-14th C	9	45		8			
		E				18	36	36	21			
	1085	A	3	Layer	18th-19th C	3	24	140	10	Clay Pipes	4	11
		C			13th-15th C	35	253	62	44	Shell Clay Pipes	1 3	5 10

APPENDIX 4 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery Report

Peter Thompson

Introduction

The archaeological evaluation recovered 275 sherds weighing 2558g. The majority of the sherds date between the 11th and 14th centuries, but most of this is residual as medieval occupation layers were disturbed by later building activity. The majority of the pottery came from L1082 which is of early modern date

Methodology

The sherds were examined in keeping with the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Table 1: Slowikowski et al 2001 & MPRG 1998). Dating is in accordance with the London medieval and post-medieval range (MoLAS). Fabric codes applicable to Cambridgeshire are assigned in brackets in the key.

The Medieval Pottery

Only three features (Ditch F1010, Pit F1059 and Pit F1061) contained medieval pottery only, and these are summarised below. A single residual quartz tempered sherd is of Early to Middle Saxon date. The remainder are late Saxon and medieval fabrics typical of the region comprising St Neots ware and later shelly wares, oolitic limestone fabrics and medieval sandy wares. The latter include several sherds in a fine fabric with dark grey/black surfaces and usually reddish surfaces, which resembles Potterspury ware from Northants. Other sandy sherds with brown surfaces look very similar to Grimston ware from Norfolk, and probably originate from there. Many sherds contain sooting on the surfaces indicating domestic use as cooking pots. The glazed wares representing a finer ware component are mainly Lyveden B wares imported from near Corby, and Brill wares from Buckinghamshire. There are also several unsourced glazed sherds probably produced more locally

The Medieval Contexts

Ditch F1010 (L1011) contained a sherd of Early to Middle Saxon medium to coarse quartz tempered pot, and a sherd of St Neots ware

Pit F1059 (L1060) contained 15 sherds of St Neots ware including a developed bowl rim, and medieval shelly wares, and 3 Early Medieval sandy wares including a fragment of strap handle. The latest sherd is a tiny glazed sherd containing medium to coarse rounded quartz and rare calcareous inclusions.

Pit F1061 (L1062) contained seven body sherds in St Neots ware, medieval shelly wares and Early Medieval sandy coarse ware. The latter is in a fabric very similar to Grimston coarse ware and may be from there.

In addition L1082 containing 200 sherds is early modern in date and includes a sherd each of Pearlware and Creamware, but nearly all the pottery from it is residual medieval material. The majority of the medieval sherds comprise sandy, shelly and other calcareous coarseware fabrics, but the assemblage also includes glazed Lyveden B and Brill ware indicating a 13th-14th century date.

Pottery from Medieval contexts Fabric Key:

ESCQ (2.03): Early to Middle Saxon quartz temper

SNEOT (2.70): St Neots ware mid 9th-mid 12th

EMWS (3.14) : Early Medieval Shelly Ware (similar to St Neots but a little coarser with a small amount of sand) 11th-13th

MSHW (3.50): Medieval Shelly Ware 12th-14th

EMW1 (3.1.0): Early Medieval sandy ware (fabric similar to Grimston ware (11th/12th-13th

UPG1 (4.00): Unprovenanced glazed ware in sandy fabric late 12th-14th

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Ditch 1010	1011	1x15g ESCQ 1x7g STNEOT	10 th -12 th	
Pit 1023	1024	2x14g early modern	19 th -mid 20 th	
Post Hole 1031	1032	1x3g early modern	19 th -mid 20 th	
Layer	1035	1x3g early modern	19 th -mid 20 th	
Layer	1036	1x8g early modern	19 th -mid 20 th	
Layer	1040	3x39g early modern 1x12g medieval	19 th -mid 20 th	
Layer	1043	1x1g early modern 2x31g medieval	19 th -mid 20 th	
Pit 1061	1062	1x2g SNEOT 1x9g EMWS 3x6g MSHW 2x22g EMW1	11 th -13 th	
Pit 1057	1058	1x16g early modern 3x24g medieval	18 th -19 th	
Pit 1059	1060	11x142g SNEOT 2x10g EMWS 4x57g EMW1 1x2g UPG1	Late 12 th -13 th	SNEOT: x1 large bowl rim, x1 jar rim, x1 sherd with roulette deco. EMW1: strap handle

Layer	1081	2x6g medieval 1x10g post-medieval	16 th -18 th	
Layer	1082	131x1811g	Late 18 th -19 th	All residual medieval bar several sherds including pearlware and creamware. Med sherds include glazed Lyveden B and Bill wares
Layer	1082 A	13x98g medieval		All coarse wares, includes pie crust decorated jar rim
Layer	1082 B	7x68g medieval		
Layer	1082 C	1x3g early modern 21x139g medieval		
Layer	1082 D	8x26g medieval coarse wares	Residual medieval	One glazed sherd in unprovenanced beige/gabric with pimply green glaze All body sherds, sooting /charcoal residue on some of the surfaces.
Layer	1082 E	17x74g	Residual medieval	All medieval coarswares, includes upright cooking pot rim
Layer	1085 A	26x247g 2x20g early modern	18 th -19 th	A glazed sherd each of Bill and Lyveden B ware, remainder St Neots ware and medieval coarse wares
Layer	1085 C	3x28g medieval		Includes sherd of glazed Brill ware

Table 1: Quantification of sherds by context

Bibliography

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

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 MCIfA

The evaluation recovered a total of six complete sampled bricks (16596g) from extant structural remains, and a further 35 fragments (2839g) of CBM. The bulk of the CBM was manufactured between the 18th to early 20th centuries (Table 2); however a small component including occasional brick fragments and a single glazed tile may have origins in the Tudor period, if not slightly earlier in the 15th century. With the exception of the well-preserved sampled bricks, the CBM is generally in a highly fragmented condition, predominantly recovered from layers and made ground. The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight, with fabrics examined at x20 magnification, extant dimensions measured and further technological/decorative traits recorded as free text; with all data entered in a Microsoft Excel spread sheet that forms part of the site archive.

CBM type	Date	Frequency	Weight (g)
Plain (glazed) floor tile	15 th C/Tudor	1	709
Brick		2	612
Peg tile	? 15 th C/Tudor	4	111
Peg tile	Post-medieval (& later)	23	712
Brick (sampled complete)	18-19 th C	3	8557
Brick (sampled complete)	Early 20 th C	3	8039
Brick (fragments)		4	516
Sewer pipe		1	179
<i>Total</i>		<i>41</i>	<i>19435</i>

Table 2: Quantification of CBM

The 15th century/Tudor CBM

Layer L1085 contained the only fragment of Tudor glazed floor tile in the assemblage, in association with seeming contemporary fragments of brick and peg tile. The incomplete corner of tile (>140mm per side) was 20mm thick, with a sanded base and a thick dark green lead glaze on the upper surface. It was manufactured in a finely calcareous, oxidised red fabric, probably in the 16th century (Tudor period), as earlier tiles tend to be slightly smaller and thinner, though a 15th century date cannot be discounted.

The fragment of brick associated with the floor tile, and a further fragment in Layer L1036, were manufactured in a dark red fabric with inclusions of common quartz and calcareous grains (both <1mm). These bricks were handmade with a thickness of 50mm, a rough base and sunken margins on the upper surface, probably resulting from where clay was pressed into a mould. Comparable bricks emerge in the 15th century, but become more common 'place' bricks in the Tudor period. In addition to the floor tile and brick, Layer L1085 contained a small fragment of peg tile, manufactured in a fine cream gault fabric, comparable to further small fragments in Layers L1035, Pit F1045 and Layer L1082, however the fragments are of insufficient size to preserve any technological traits that may define them as Tudor or post-medieval.

CBM from extant structural remains

A total of six complete bricks were sampled from extant sections of wall and floor, and are presented in Table 3 in chronological order, with their technological traits and dating evidence.

Context (sample)	Date	Dimensions (mm)	Weight (g)	Brick type and technological traits
Wall S1051	18- E19th C	220x110x65	2658	Cambridgeshire gault brick. Cream/buff fabric; handmade with a rough finger marked base and moderately irregular arrises/faces.
Wall S1068			2667	
Wall S1018	19 th C	245x110x70	3232	Cambridgeshire gault brick. Cream/buff fabric; pressed/moulded with a narrow angular frog
Floor S1075	c.1911- 1929	220x110x65	2596	Fletton brick. Red-orange; machine-pressed, broad angular frog impressed with HICKS & CO FLETTON. Henry Hicks founded a brick works at Fletton in the mid/late 19th C; which became Hicks and Gardener Co. in 1891, and Hicks & Co. Ltd. in 1911. In 1927 the company went public as Hicks & Co. Ltd and was soon controlled by the London Brick Co. (LBC by 1929)
Wall S1052	c.1920- 1960s	225x110x70	2738	Fletton brick. Red-pink; machine-pressed, broad angular frog impressed with PHORPRES LBC 3. The London Brick Company (LBC) produced billions of bricks At Fletton, the largest manufacturer of bricks in the UK in the early/mid 20 th century. The early brick presses only applied two presses to the powdered clay in the brick moulds. The trade-name Phorpres came about because Fletton Bricks are pressed twice in each direction so that they are literally 'four pressed', if the phrase is pronounced quickly it becomes Phorpres.
Wall S1053			2705	

Table 3: Complete sampled bricks

Other post-medieval to early modern CBM

In addition to the complete bricks outlined above, further fragments of early-mid 20th century Fletton brick were contained in Pit F1028 and Layer L1043; while contemporary salt-glazed white earthenware sewer pipe was present in Layer L1085.

The remaining CBM comprises of small fragments of peg tile, potentially ranging between the 17th to 19th centuries in date. This peg tile occurs in two fabrics, either with common calcareous inclusions or with medium sand temper; both likely locally-produced. The post-medieval peg tile has a uniform thickness of 12mm with a finely sanded base. The peg tile is not present in any high concentrations, and is limited to very sparsely distributed small sherds, probably re-deposited in Pits F1023, F1031, F1049, F1057, Layers L1082, L1085, L1038 and L1043.

The Animal Bone

Dr Julia E.M. Cussans

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered during trial trench evaluation of land off Windmill row, St Neots. Bone was recovered from a variety of contexts (Table 1) including pit and ditch fills, and layers. Overall the bone preservation was largely rated as ok on a five point scale from very poor through to excellent, three contexts were rated as having good preservation (Table 4). Bone abrasion, in most cases, was only slight, however fresh breakages were present in the majority of contexts. Canid gnawed bone was also fairly common. A small quantity of scorched bones was noted in L1060.

In total 89 fragments of bone and teeth were recorded. Of these slightly more than half could only be identified as large or medium mammal, these were largely rib and long bones fragments, some of which showed signs of butchery.

Identified mammalian taxa, in order of abundance, were sheep/goat, cattle, pig and horse (Table 1). A small quantity of bird bone was also present. The majority of bird bones were thought likely to belong to chicken. A single goose-sized carpo-metacarpus was present in L1082 Segment E and bore a cut mark on the proximal end.

The sheep/goat assemblage was dominated by foot bones, but head and limb elements were also present. Butchery marks were fairly common, particularly on the foot bones and may be indicative of the removal of skins. Two relatively complete mandibles were present, both including the third molar (M3) which in both cases was in wear, indicating the presence of adult animals. No pathological bones were noted.

Cattle were represented by a mix of elements including head, feet and limbs. Some butchered bones were present and included large blade chops as well as cut marks. Two pathological elements were present. One was a second phalange displaying lipping on the proximal articulation (L1082) and the other was a mandible with a spayed mesial end (L1043) and apparent closing up of the incisor alveoli indicating the incisors may have been lost ante-mortem.

Pig was represented by a number of teeth, including a male lower canine, and a mandible and femur fragment. The mandible had been divided with a chop at the mesial end. The femur was an unfused distal end indicating the presence of an immature individual.

Horse was represented by an incisor tooth and a third phalange, no evidence of butchery or pathology was noted. No further observations were made on this small assemblage.

Feature	Context	Segment	Description	Spot Date	Preservation	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Horse	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Bird	Total
1010	1011		Fill of Ditch	10th-12th C	ok	1				1			2
	1020		Backfill		ok						1		1
1031	1032		Fill of Pit	19th-mid 20th C	ok	1							1
	1040		Layer		ok	2	1			2			5
	1043		Layer	19th-mid 20th C	ok	1	1			1	2		5
1057	1058		Fill of Pit		good		2			3	2		7
1059	1060		Fill of Pit	11th-13th C	ok	1	1				13	3	18
1061	1062		Fill of Pit	11th-14th C	ok		3				1	1	5
	1082		Buried Soil	late 18th-19th +medieval	ok	4	5	2	1	1	2		15
	1082	C	Buried Soil	12th-14th C + 19th-mid 20th C	ok		1						1
	1082	D	Buried Soil	late 12th-14th C	good						3		3
	1082	E	Buried Soil		ok	2	2	1			2	1	8
	1085		Layer		ok		2	2		2	10		16
	1085	A	Layer	18th-19th C	ok					1			1
	1085	C	Layer	13th-15th C	good				1				1
					Total	12	18	5	2	11	36	5	89

Table 4. Quantification of animal bone from land off Windmill Row, St Neots.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During trial excavations at land off Windmill Row, St Neots, six bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. Three of the sampled deposits were assigned medieval spot dates (10th-12th century and 11th-13th century), while the remaining three are either undated or post-medieval.

This report examines the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions in terms of understanding the preservation of carbonised plant remains and other material of environmental archaeological significance within the sampled deposits. Any inferences that can be made regarding past diet and economy will also be presented.

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) 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.

Results

The data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 5.

Within the deposits spot dated to the medieval period (Ditch F1010 L1011, Pit F1059 L1060 and Pit F1061 L1062), hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type) and oat (*Avena* sp.) were recorded in the form of carbonised caryopses. Other plants of potential economic significance were pea/ bean (Fabaceae) and probable common vetch (cf. *Vicia sativa*), which could have been grown as a fodder crop as part of a crop rotation system. This was a common range of cultivated taxa during most of the medieval period in the East of England (e.g. Ballantyne 2005; Mustchin forthcoming).

Other non-cereal taxa that may have grown as arable weeds were also encountered, including eyebright/ bartsia (*Euphrasia/ Odontites* sp.), brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) and other wild grasses (Poaceae). The small number of non-cereal taxa and the absence of other crop processing by-products (chaff),

suggests that the sampled deposits did not contain significant proportions of crop processing waste, instead being more likely to represent processed cereal and leguminous crops. These may have become carbonised in domestic hearths as part of food preparation and consumption activities, being deposited with hearth rake-out and other refuse material. Charcoal fragments were assessed and only oak (*Quercus* sp.) was identified, suggesting that this was the primary fuel wood used. The density of carbonised plant remains was relatively high, indicating that cereals were in common usage and were frequently carbonised in activities on the site.

The two post-medieval/modern deposits (L1043 and L1082) contained a similar range of cereal and non-cereal crop taxa, with the addition of rye (*Secale cereale*) in L1086.

Conclusions

The carbonised remains of cereal and non-cereal crops, along with a small number of likely arable weeds, in medieval deposits demonstrate that cereals were in common usage on the site, although it is difficult to determine whether they were cultivated and processed by the site's inhabitants. Chaff was absent and likely weed taxa were limited but the number of samples was low, making it uncertain whether these results are representative. The location of the site within St Neots town may imply a non-agricultural site making use of imported, fully processed cereals. The present material is likely to have been carbonised in domestic hearths as part of food preparation and consumption activities, being deposited with hearth rake-out and other refuse material.

Should further excavation be undertaken at the site, more samples should be collected and analysed with the intention of gaining a more detailed understanding of the diet and economy of the site's inhabitants. The collection of large sample volumes (40-60 litres) provides the greatest opportunity of recovering arable weed communities, and a better chance of understanding the source of the carbonised crop remains recovered.

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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		
ECB4786	1	1011	1010	Fill of Ditch	10th-12th C	40	20	50%	XX	-	HB (1), Hord (2), FTW (1), Trit (4), NFI (7)	X	Asteraceae (1), <i>Bromus</i> sp. (1), Large Poaceae (2), Small Poaceae (1)	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	-	-
ECB4786	2	1043	-	Layer	19th-20th C	30	20	67%	XX	-	HB (1), Hord (2), FTW (1), Trit (4), Oat germ (1), NFI (9)	X	Large Fabaceae (1), <i>Anthemis cotula</i> (1)	-	XX	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-	Root/tuber (1), Clinker/fuel ash slag (X)
ECB4786	3	1058	1057	Fill of Pit	-	40	20	50%	XX	-	Trit (2), NFI (3)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	-	-
ECB4786	4	1060	1059	Fill of Pit	11th-13thC	40	20	50%	XX	X	Hord (3), FTW (2), Trit (5), Oat (3), cf. Oat (4), NFI (6), Culm (1)	X	cf. <i>Vicia sativa</i> (1), <i>Euphrasia/Odontites</i> sp. (1)	-	XX	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	-	-
ECB4786	5	1062	1061	Fill of Pit	11th-13th C	20	20	100%	XX	-	FTW (4), Trit (14), Oat (1), cf. Oat (3), NFI (20)	X	Large Fabaceae (1), Small Poaceae (1)	-	XX	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	-	-

ECB4786	6	1082	-	Layer	Post- medieval / modern	40	20	50%	XX	-	HB (2), Hord (3), FTW (3), Trit (9), Oat (1), Rye (1), cf. Rye (2), NFI (8)	X	Large Fabceae (1), Large Poaceae (2), Small Poaceae (1)	-	XX	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	-
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Table 5: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from land off Windmill Row, St Neots. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Oat (*Avena* sp.); Rye (*Secale cereale*); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-282544

Project details

Project name	Windmill Row, St Neots, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	In October 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench on land at Windmill Row, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1JF (NGR TL 1840 6017). The evaluation was undertaken to provide information in advance of the determination of a planning application for the proposed erection of nine dwellings following the demolition of an existing garage workshop. It was undertaken based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), advisors to Huntingdon District Council. The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core area of St Neots, to the rear of the plots fronting the High Street to the north. St Neots dates to the late Saxon period and the town developed in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The medieval pattern of properties fronting the market place can be seen to the west, and the medieval parish church of St Mary lies to the immediate east (CHER14932). The Benedictine Priory at St Ives, Scheduled as an Ancient Monument, lies 150m to the north west (SM 101). Archaeological investigations have been carried out by AS to the immediate east of the site in advance of development, revealing occupation spanning the early medieval to the post-medieval periods (CHER ECB3281; Pozorski and Smith 2009). The earliest pottery recovered during the evaluation was a residual Early - Middle Saxon sherd from Ditch F1010 (Trench 1). The other sherd from the feature is Saxon (10th - 12th century) pottery. No early features were present in Trench 2, but Trench 3 contained a medieval (late 12th - 13th century) pit (F1059), and a medieval (11th - 13th century) ditch (F1061). The evaluation has demonstrated that below 19th and 20th century building remains, medieval and potentially Saxon features survive, particularly in Trenches 1 and 3.
Project dates	Start: 01-10-2016 End: 30-10-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P6792 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4786 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	PIT Medieval

Monument type	BRICK WALL Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	FLOOR TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE ST NEOTS Windmill Row, St Neots, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	PE19 1JF
Study area	1400 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 1840 6017 52.226578105349 -0.266324653464 52 13 35 N 000 15 58 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 15m Max: 15m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Project brief originator	CCC HET
Project design originator	Jon Murray
Project director/manager	Jon Murray
Project supervisor	Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	"Survey"

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Windmill Row, St Neots, Cambridgeshire

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

Other bibliographic details Archaeological Solutions Report No. 5228

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Trench 1 looking north



2
Ditch 1010 in Trench 1 looking south-east



3
F1018 in Trench 1 looking west



4
Pit 1023 in Trench 1 looking west



5
Trench 2 looking east



6
Pit 1049 in Trench 2 looking north



7
Pit 1057 in Trench 2 looking south



8
Trench 3 pre-excitation looking south



9
Trench 3 post-excavation looking south



10
Pit 1059 in Trench 3 looking west



11
Ditch 1061 in Trench 3 looking west



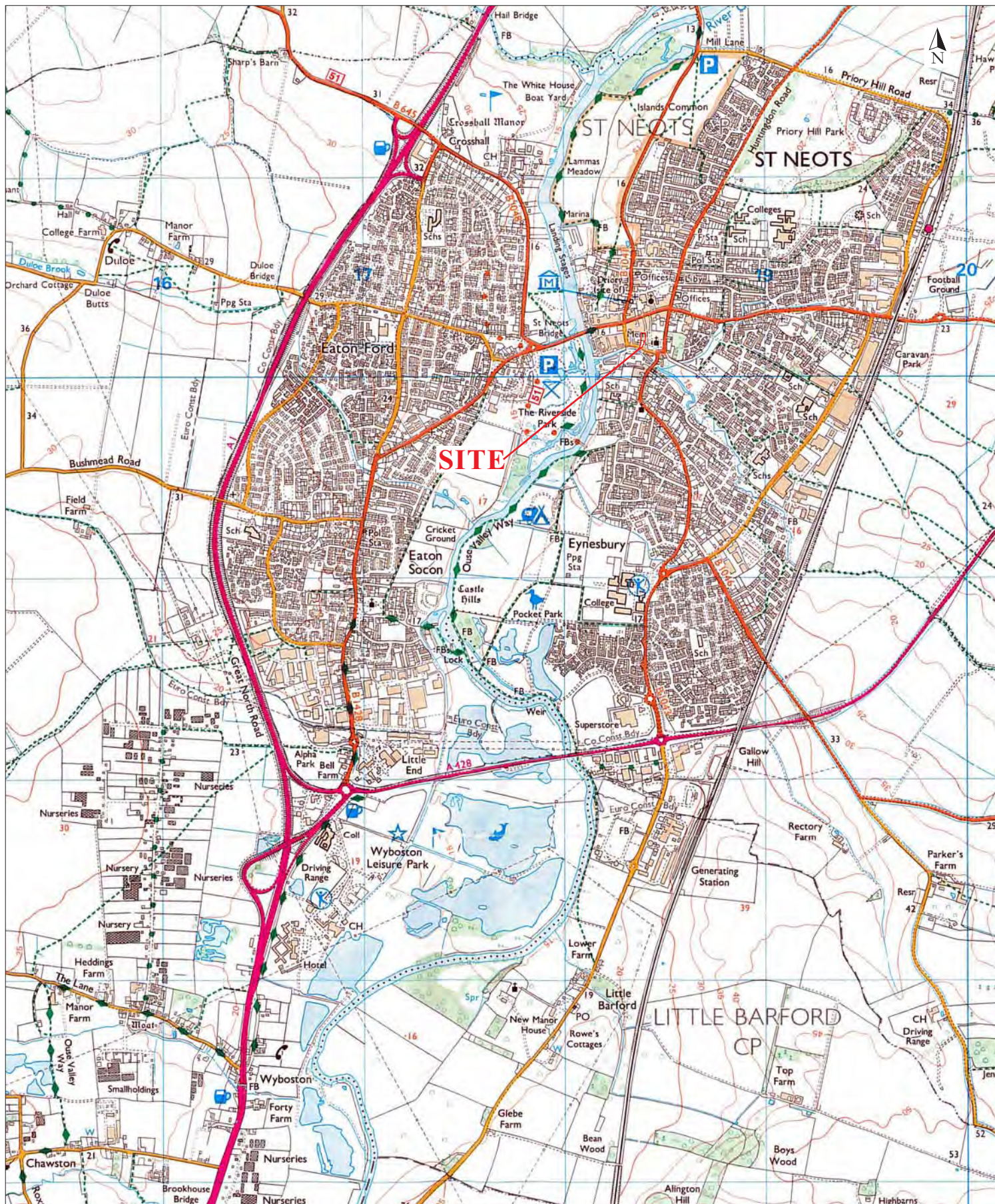
12
Walls in Trench 3 looking west



13
Trench 3 post-excavation looking north



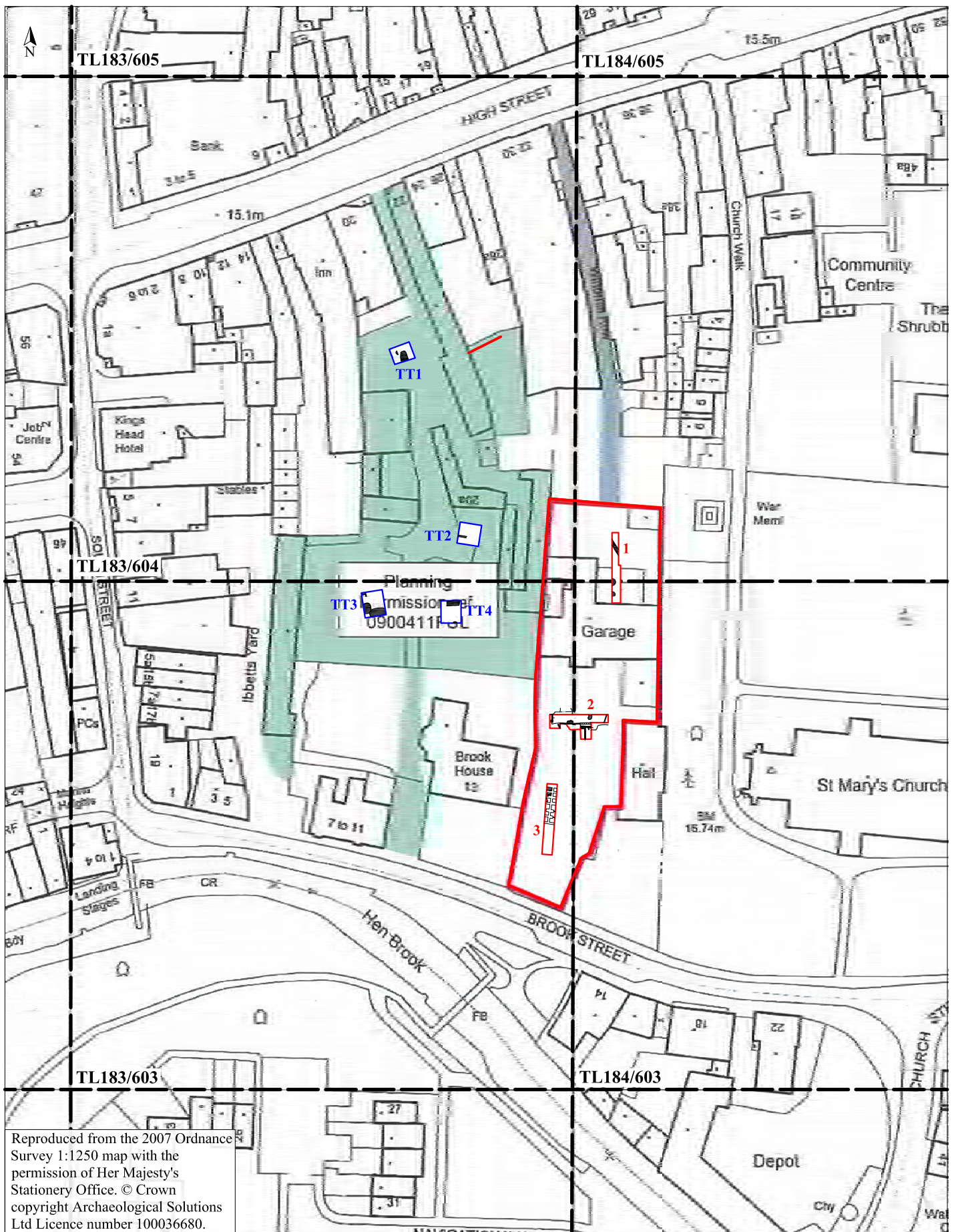
14
Wall 1065 in Trench 3 looking north



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Trenches excavated in 2009

0 50m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A4
 Windmill Row, St Neots, Cambridgeshire (P6792)

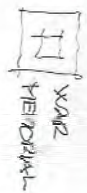
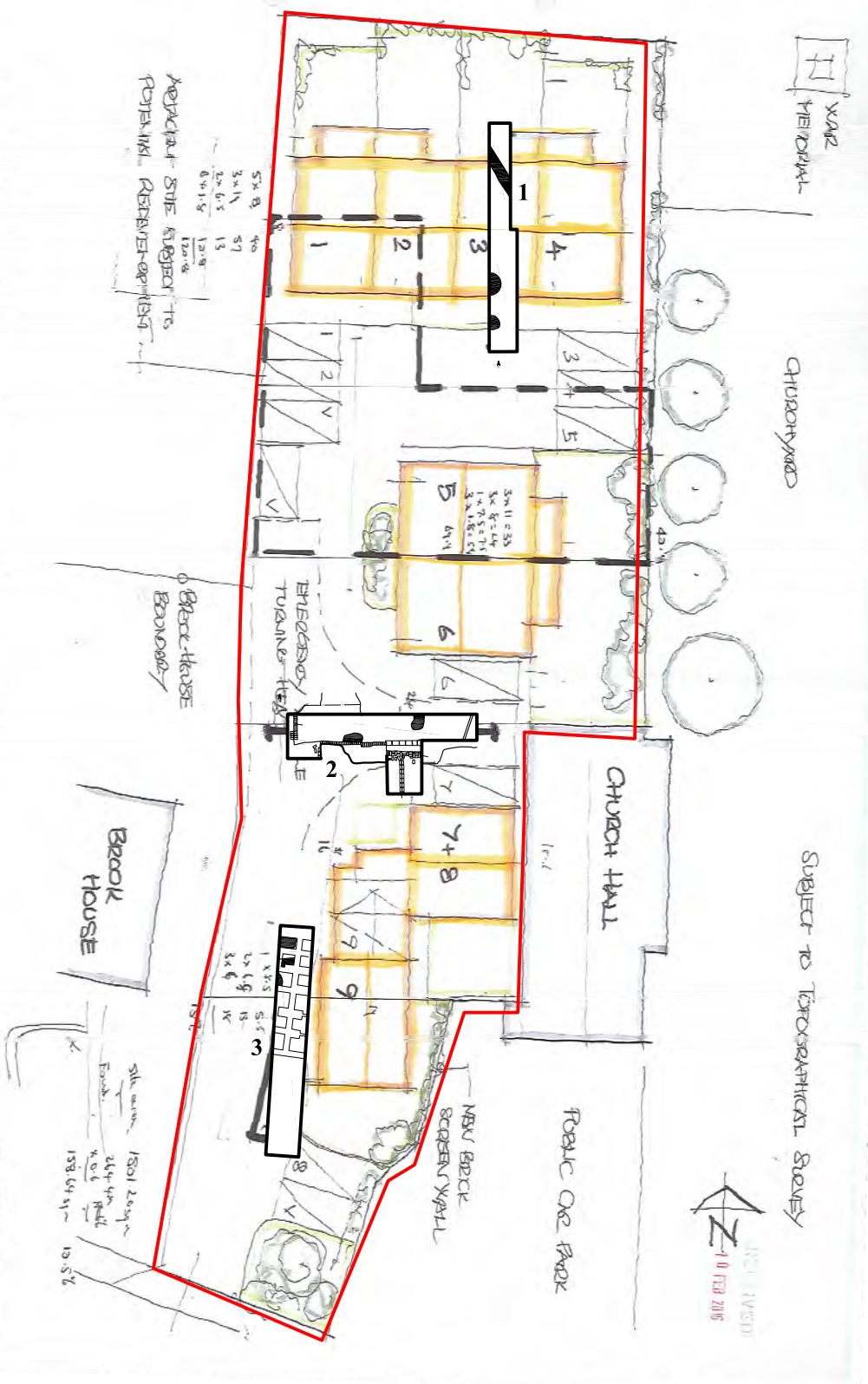


THE OLD LAUNDRY/ SITE . BROOK STREET, ST. NEOTS
 PRELIMINARY SITE LAYOUT

1:200 AT A3

9.2.16
 16.11.05. SK02

Ground Webber Architects
 The Workshop, Bankfield Corner
 Dawsonham Common
 Little Downham
 Ely, CB6 2TY
 Tel: 01338 699738



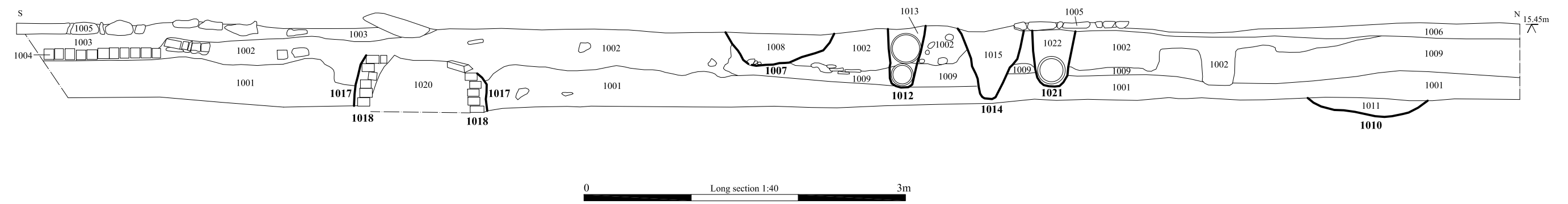
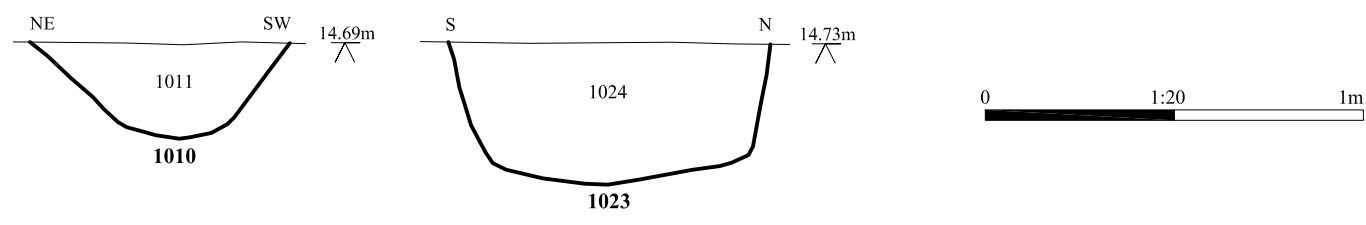
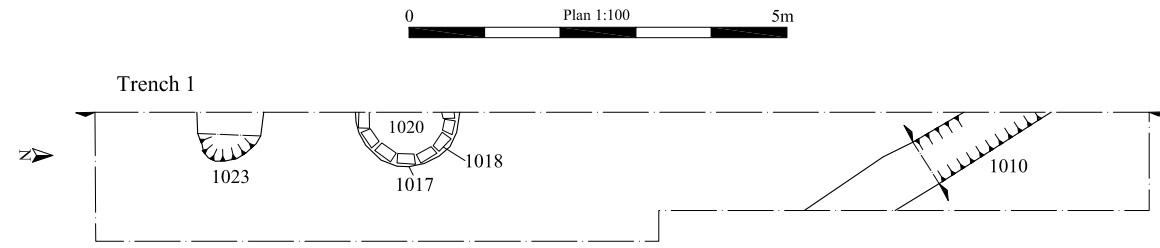
CHURCHYARD

SUBJECT TO TOPOGRAFICAL SURVEY

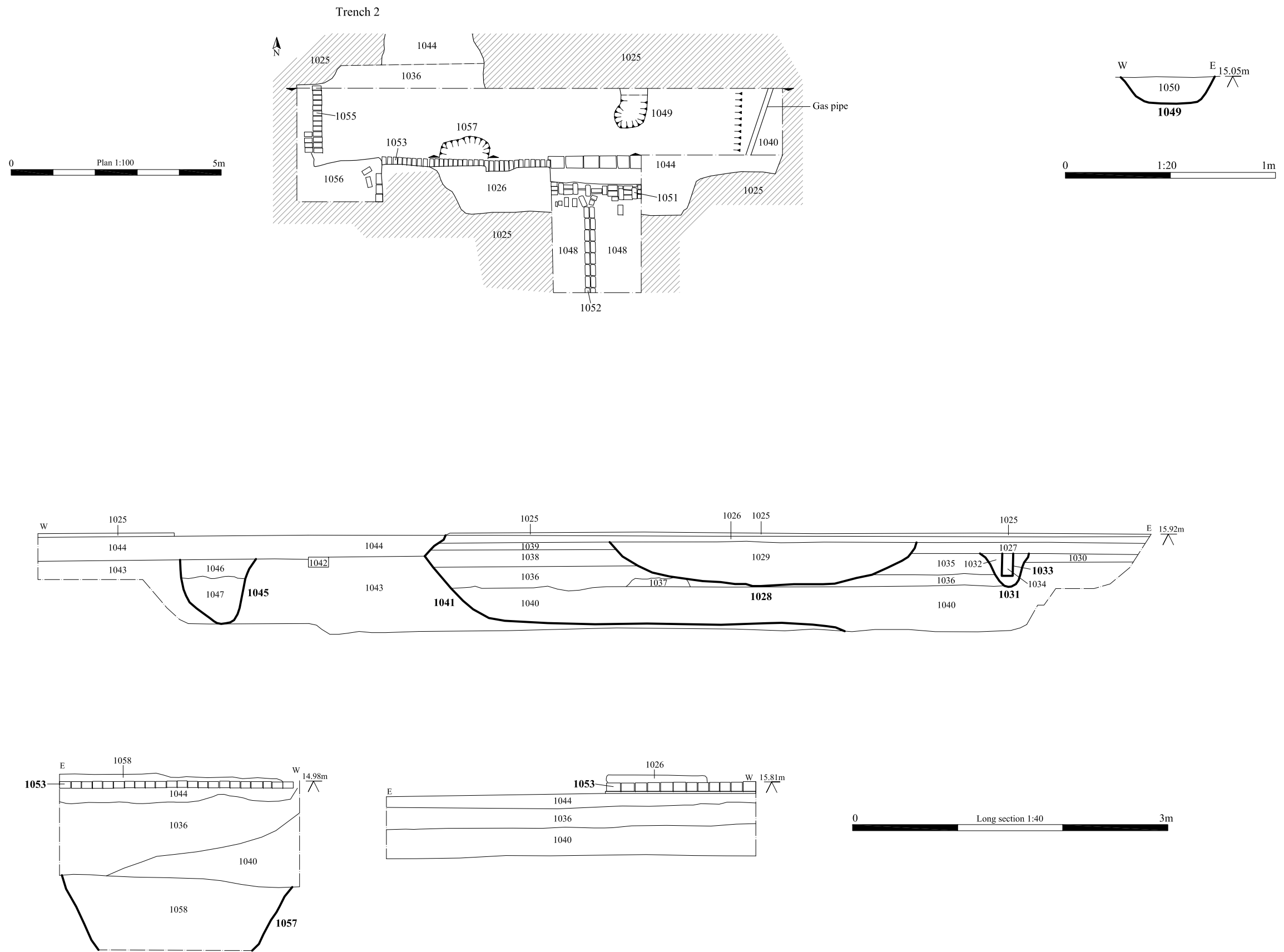


0 25m

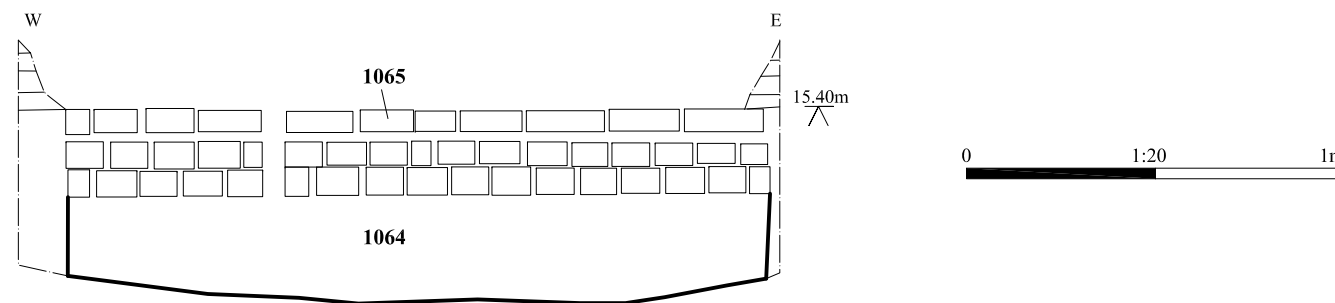
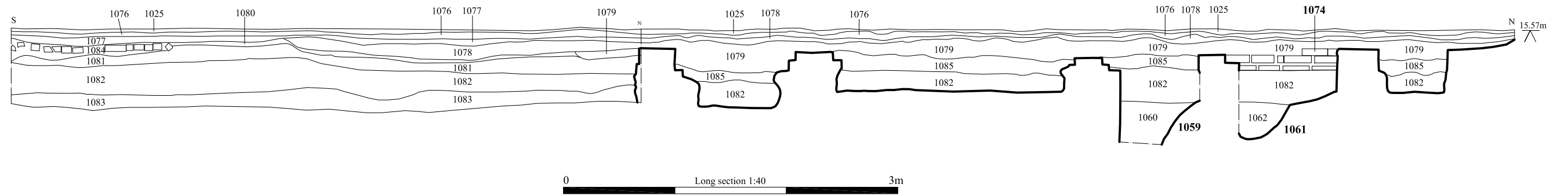
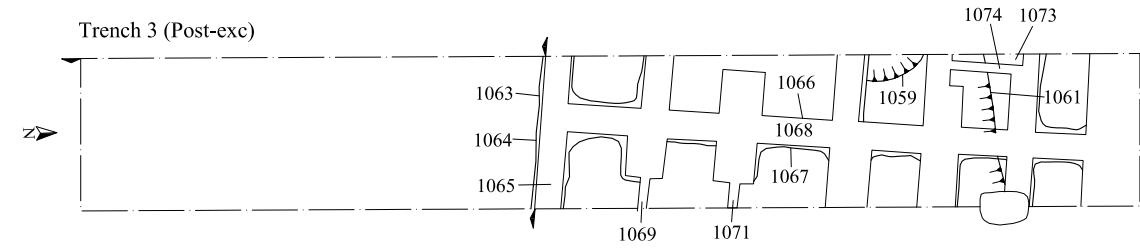
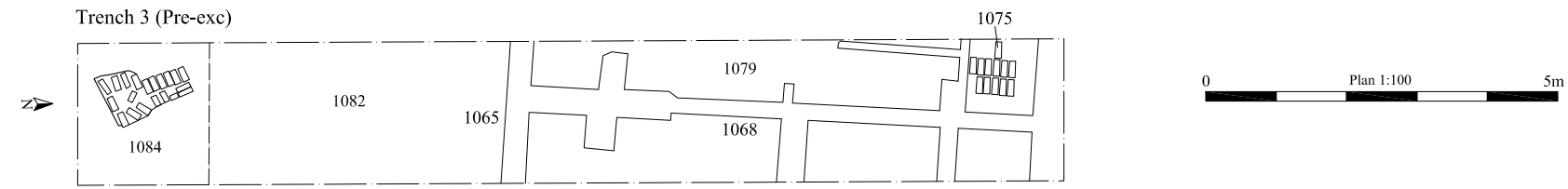
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Fig. 6 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:400 at A4
 Windmill Row, St Neots, Cambridgeshire (P6792)



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Fig. 7 Trench 1 plan and sections
 Scale Plan 1:100, long section 1:40, sections 1:20 at A3
 Windmill Row, St Neots, Cambridgeshire (P6792)



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Fig. 8 Trench 2 plan and sections
 Scale Plan 1:100, long section 1:40, sections 1:20 at A3
 Windmill Row, St Neots, Cambridgeshire (P6792)



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Fig. 9 Trench 3 plans and sections
 Scale Plan 1:100, long section 1:40, sections 1:20 at A3
 Windmill Row, St Neots, Cambridgeshire (P6792)