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**PLOT 3, 27 SUN STREET, ISLEHAM,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 5RU**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER ECB 5026

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NGR: TL 6444 7455	Report No: 5348	
District: East Cambs.	Site Code: ECB 5026	
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		Plot 3, 27 Sun Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RU	
<p><i>In March 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Plot 3, 27 Sun Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RU (NGR TL 6444 7455). The evaluation was to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a detached dwelling (East Cambs. Council Ref. 16/01471/FUL). The evaluation was required based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation was to represent the initial requirement but the groundworks for the development had commenced prior to the evaluation. The foundations for the new house had been constructed and consequently CCC HET advised that the trial trenching evaluation was the remedial work required as part of the breach of condition.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located within a landscape known for multi-period remains, including the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Isleham Priory. However, of particular significance to the archaeological potential of the site are remains including Roman ditches, Saxon features and evidence of later occupation recorded at nearby Church Lane and Ellwoods Close.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed two small, undated postholes and a large, post-medieval – early modern quarry pit (F1004). The latter contained post-medieval to modern (18th – 19th century) pottery. It appeared to have been deliberately backfilled with CBM and clunch and some of this material is of an early date: L1003 contained a late medieval (13th – 16th century) sherd; and late medieval and early post-medieval CBM including peg tile and brick of late 14th – 15th century date. It also contained a piece of tooled clunch stone and a glass bottle stamp.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		March 2017	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		N	Future work (Y/N/?)
P. number		7119	Site code
Type of project		Archaeological Evaluation	
Site status		-	
Current land use		Garden	
Planned development		Residential	
Main features (+dates)		Undated postholes, post-medieval – early modern quarry pit	
Significant finds (+dates)		Residual late medieval (13 th – 16 th century) sherd; late medieval and early post-medieval CBM including peg tile and brick of late 14 th – 15 th century date. A piece of tooled clunch stone and a glass bottle stamp.	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		Cambridgeshire	East Cambs. Isleham
HER/ SMR for area		Cambridgeshire HER	
Post code (if known)		CB7 5RU	
Area of site		763m2	
NGR		TL 6444 7455	
Height AOD (min/max)		c.7m	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		CCC HET	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		Mark S. Blagg-Newsome	
Funded by		Mr Jon Wilson	
Full title		Plot 3, 27 Sun Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RU. An Archaeological Evaluation	
Authors		Blagg-Newsome, M.S.	
Report no.		5348	
Date (of report)		31 March 2017 (Revised 24/04/2017)	

PLOT 3, 27 SUN STREET, ISLEHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 5RU

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In March 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Plot 3, 27 Sun Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RU (NGR TL 6444 7455). The evaluation was to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a detached dwelling (East Cambs. Council Ref. 16/01471/FUL). The evaluation was required based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

The evaluation was to represent the initial requirement but the groundworks for the development had commenced prior to the evaluation. The foundations for the new house had been constructed and consequently CCC HET advised that the trial trenching evaluation was the remedial work required as part of the breach of condition.

The site is located within a landscape known for multi-period remains, including the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Isleham Priory. However, of particular significance to the archaeological potential of the site are remains including Roman ditches, Saxon features and evidence of later occupation recorded at nearby Church Lane and Ellwoods Close.

The evaluation revealed two small, undated postholes and a large, post-medieval – early modern quarry pit (F1004). The latter contained post-medieval to modern (18th – 19th century) pottery. It appeared to have been deliberately backfilled with CBM and clunch and some of this material is of an early date: L1003 contained a late medieval (13th – 16th century) sherd; and late medieval and early post-medieval CBM including peg tile and brick of late 14th – 15th century date. It also contained a piece of tooled clunch stone and a glass bottle stamp.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Plot 3, 27 Sun Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RU (NGR TL 6444 7455; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a detached dwelling (East Cambs. Council Ref. 16/01471/FUL). The evaluation was required based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

1.2 The evaluation was to represent the initial requirement but the groundworks for the development had commenced prior to the evaluation. The foundations for the new house had been constructed and consequently CCC HET advised that the trial

trenching evaluation was the remedial work required as part of the breach of condition.

1.3 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by CCC HET (Gemma Stewart; dated 09/03/2017) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 16/03/2017) and approved by CCC HET. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.4 The evaluation aimed 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

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

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

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 Isleham is a village in the Cambridgeshire Fenland, situated c.8km south-east of the city of Ely, and c.4km to the east of Soham. Sun Street forms the northern edge of the historic core of the village, extending to the north-east of the church, close to which it converges with The Causeway, prior to the junction with Prickwillow

Road, whose route extends into the fen to the north. The site at 27 Sun Street is on the northern side of the road, c.140m to the north-east of the church, and comprises former allotments situated behind a house and elongate brick outbuilding that front the road.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The village of Isleham is entirely situated on a small area or 'island' of raised ground in the eastern part of the Fenland, with the Fen-Edge encountered c.3km to the east approaching Mildenhall. The topography of the village rises to 10m AOD, with the site situated at 5m AOD on the northern slope of the island as it slopes toward the sea-level Fenland. The course of the River Lark crosses the fen c.1.3km to the north of the site, with numerous land drains and dykes between it and northern edge of Isleham, none of which impact upon the site.

3.2 The fen island on which the village is located lies on a solid geology of varying chalk formation, with the site situated on the Zig-Zag Chalk formation. There are no superficial deposits overlying the chalk, but reflecting this geology the local soils are shallow and lime rich. As the fen island gives way to fenland c.600m to the north, peat deposits may be encountered, but are not expected closer to the site.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Prehistoric finds are fairly well-represented in the Isleham area; a Palaeolithic handaxe has been recovered from Soham Fen (CHER MCB19231) and the CHER records several instances of Mesolithic flint artefacts (CHER 10883; 10954) and Mesolithic antler axes (CHER 07622) recovered in the area. A Mesolithic pit is recorded at Hall Barn Road (CHER MCB20930). The Neolithic period is represented by flintwork (CHER 10862, 10883A, 10954A, 10966) and a possible long barrow near Rymanmoor Long Turning, identified from aerial photos (CHER 10957). Bronze Age flintwork has also been recovered in the Isleham area (CHER 07537, 07623, 10883, 10883B) and this period is also represented by a bronze socketed axe (CHER 11711), early Bronze Age settlement evidence at Prickwillow Road (CHER 11896) and Bronze Age features at Hall Farm (CHER MCB17270). Early Iron Age features were recorded at Isleham Community Centre during a 2012 evaluation (CHER MCB22685). Iron Age pottery was recovered during a test pit survey at Little London Lane (CHER MCB19744). Late prehistoric features have been recorded at Hall Barn Road (CHER CB15281, CB15282). The Roman period is less well-represented with finds of metalwork (CHER 07589), brooches (CHER 10863 and 11710), a saddle quern (CHER 10864) and pottery recovered during a test pit survey at Little London Lane (CHER MCB19744). Roman ditch systems have been recorded to the rear of 32 and 34 Church Lane (CHER MCB20915) and additional Roman ditches have been recorded at Ellwoods Close (CHER MCB20917).

4.2 The Saxon period is represented only by a few spot finds, including a disc brooch (CHER 11691) and pottery at St Andrew's Close (CHER MCB19749). Features were recorded at Ellwoods Close (CHER MCB20918). Evidence for medieval occupation in Isleham is abundant. The scheduled earthwork remains of

the Priory fish ponds, hollow ways and building platforms lie to the east of the site (NHLE 1013278). The Priory was a medieval Alien Benedictine institution (CHER DCB221), located some 100m to the west of the medieval Church of St Andrew (CHER 07591). The Chapel of St Margaret of Antioch (CHER 07529) survives as a standing structure, with the buried remains of the foundations of the conventual buildings and the earthworks remains of the associated agricultural and other elements of the complex to the north of the Grade I building (CHER MCB14478). Earthworks north of the Priory are recorded (CHER 07528). Medieval features have been recorded during drainage works at the priory (CHER MCB19827). Possible medieval field systems (CHER 11895), property boundaries (CHER CB15283), clunch-processing sites (CHER MCB16866 and MCB20069), and a variety of finds (CHER 11074, 11574, 11712, MCB19713, MCB19719, MCB19721, MCB19744, MCB19749, MCB19750, MCB19752) are amongst the other evidence for medieval activity within Isleham.

4.3 Archaeological investigations were carried out in 2015 very close by to the north of the current site, revealing significant Saxon, medieval and post-medieval occupation in addition to artefacts that also point to the location of a high status Roman building nearby (CHER ECB4634). Significant evidence of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation has also been found further to the north-west at Church Lane (CHER ECB4610). Medieval and post-medieval occupation evidence has also been recorded at Priory Gardens to the west (CHER CB15283) and Beck Road (CHER MCB18442). Medieval pottery has been recovered at Church Farm (CHER MCB19712) and medieval and post-medieval pottery has been recovered at Hall Barn Road (CHER MCB20930). A recent evaluation has also recorded Saxo-Norman to medieval remains including postholes, ditches and gullies aligned parallel to the line of Pound Lane (CHER ECB 4749).

4.4 The 16th century gardens of Isleham Hall are recorded (CHER 19362). Post-medieval wall foundations have been recorded at 12 West Street (CHER MCB19442). Post-medieval pottery has been recovered from a variety of locations (CHER MCB19745, MCB 19746, MCB19747, MCB 19748, MCB19751).

4.5 The HER records a variety of 19th century buildings and industrial sites in Isleham including limekilns on the High Street (CHER 07489), limestone quarries (CHER MCB22017-22019), 19th century blacksmith's premises (CHER MCB22020-22022), a former malthouse (CHER MCB22023), school (CHER MCB22024), windmills (CHER MCB22027, 07611), almshouses (CHER MCB22029), St Bernard's Wagon works (CHER MCB22030), Isleham Baptist Chapel (CHER MCB17214), the High Street Baptist Chapel (CHER MCB17085), and allotments (CHER MCB22014, MCB22015). Victorian pottery has been found at a variety of locations (CHER MCB19715-19718, 19720).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The evaluation was to provide for up to a c. 5% sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched. As the foundations for the new house had been constructed, the evaluation was focussed on the accessible part of the site to the immediate rear (north) of the new house footprint. A single trench of 13m x

1.6m was excavated. Following a site meeting, the trench was widened to better reveal the archaeology which was encountered (Figs. 2 – 4), on advice from CCC HET.

5.2 The topsoil and overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate.

5.3 Open trenches and excavated spoil were manually/ visually searched and scanned by metal detector to enhance the recovery of archaeological finds.

5.4 A one-metre square of the topsoil and subsoil was bucket sampled and sorted by hand at each end of the trenches to characterise their artefact content. Late post-medieval – early modern (late 18th – 19th century) pottery was found within the topsoil and subsoil.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 4)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 7.48m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1009	Re-deposited topsoil from area of new dwelling. Friable, light grey brown, silty clay with frequent chalk patches.
0.15 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark grey brown, sandy clay-silt, with very occasional chalk flecks.
0.40m – 0.92m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, mid grey brown, silty clay-sand, with occasional chalk flecks.
0.92m +	L1002	Natural. Firm, greyish white chalk bedrock.

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 7.33m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1009	Re-deposited Topsoil. As above
0.10 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.42 – 0.74m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.74m +	L1002	Natural. As above.

Sample section 1C 0.00 = 7.41m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1009	Re-deposited Topsoil. As above
0.20 – 0.60m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.60 – 0.87m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.87m +	L1002	Natural. As above.

Sample section 1D 0.00 = 7.38m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1009	Re-deposited Topsoil. As above
0.29 – 0.55m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.55 – 0.89m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.89m +	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1 revealed two undated postholes (F1005 and F1007), and a large, post-medieval – early modern quarry pit (F1004).

Posthole F1005 was a circular (0.30 x 0.30 x 0.06m). It had gently sloping sides and a shallow, concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a friable, dark black brown, sandy clay-silt, with occasional small sub-angular chalk. It contained no finds. F1005 cut Posthole F1007.

Posthole F1007 was sub-circular (0.36 x 0.25 x 0.20m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a friable, light grey sandy silt with moderate small to medium, sub-angular chalk throughout. It contained no finds. F1007 was cut by Posthole F1005.

At first, F1004 appeared to comprise a clunch wall foundation. Trench 1 was widened to more fully investigate this feature (Fig. 1). Further exposure of F1004 revealed it to be a large, sub-rectangular quarry pit (4.70 x 1.60 + x 0.80m+) which extended beyond the northern limit of the trench. It had very steep to vertical sides and its base was unseen due to its depth. The exposed corner was rounded in plan which may be indicative of hand digging. The lowest fill revealed, L1011, comprised friable, light brown yellow, sandy silt with occasional small and large sub-angular clunch. It contained no finds. L1011 was present in Segment A but not Segment B. Overlying L1011 was L1003, a friable, mid yellow brown sandy clay-silt with frequent large angular clunch throughout. Tip lines of clunch and CBM were visible in Segment A of L1003 (Section G) and appeared to represent evidence of deliberate backfilling. L1003 contained late post-medieval to early modern (18th – 19th century) pottery (16; 481g), CBM (7910g), animal bone (979g), glass fragments including a bottle stamp with the initials 'EF' (5; 50g) (DP 13), and a clay pipe stem fragment (1; 13g). A single piece of partially worked clunch, including tool marks, was recovered from L1003 (DPs 14 – 16). Similar tooling is known from buildings in the region and the piece is thought to derive from a building of 18th/ 19th century or possibly earlier date (see *The Stonework*, Appendix 2). The uppermost fill of F1004, L1010, was a friable, mid grey brown, silty clay-sand with moderate small sub-angular chalk. It contained no finds. F1004 cut Subsoil L1001; the latter contained 18th – 19th century pottery (5; 279g) and CBM (251g).

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was overlain by re-deposited topsoil, L1009, a friable, light grey brown, silty clay with frequent chalk patches (0.10 - 0.29m thick). It overlay Topsoil L1000, a friable, dark grey brown, sandy clayey silt, with very occasional chalk flecks (0.25m - 0.40m thick).

8.2 Below Topsoil L1000 was Subsoil L1001, a friable, mid grey brown, silty clay-sand, with occasional chalk flecks (0.27m - 0.52m thick).

8.3 The natural geology, L1002, was below the subsoil and comprised a firm, greyish white chalk (0.74 – 0.92m below the present day ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The evaluation trench revealed two small undated postholes (F1005 and F1007) and a large late post-medieval – early modern quarry pit (F1004).

9.2 Pit F1004 contained post-medieval to modern (18th – 19th century) pottery. It appeared to have been deliberately backfilled with CBM and clunch, and some of this material is of an early date: L1003 contained a residual late medieval (13th – 16th century) pot sherd (see *The Post-Medieval Pottery*, Appendix 2); and late medieval and early post-medieval CBM, including peg tile and brick of late 14th – 15th century date (see *The Ceramic Building Materials*, Report Appendix 2). It also contained a piece of tooled clunch stone from a building (see *The Stonework*, Appendix 2; DPs 14 – 16) and a glass bottle stamp with the initials 'EF' (DP 13).

9.3 Quarry Pit F1004 is representative of an industrial practice for which Isleham became well-known. Isleham lies close to the foot of the Lower Cretaceous Chalk ridge, which runs along the south of Cambridgeshire before sweeping northwards into Norfolk (Hall 1996). Chalk and clunch were quarried. Clunch is a type of chalk from the lower beds of the local deposits which hardens as it dries, making it suitable for use as a building material, and clunch quarrying became an important local industry. The Victoria County History indicates that clunch quarrying was carried out in Isleham from the medieval period onwards stating that “in the 1460s five crofts east of the south end of Up, later Mill, Street...already contained stonepits at their street ends” (Wareham and Wright 2002, 443). The Cambridgeshire HER records several sites of medieval and post-medieval date associated with this industry in the vicinity of the current site. These include limekilns on the High Street (HER 07489), post-medieval quarries at Beck Road (HER MCB18442), Hall Barn Road (HER MCB 20930), and elsewhere (HER 11214) and the medieval quarry pits and clunch soaking tanks at Fordham Road (HER MCB16866; Newton 2010). Furthermore, several 19th century limestone quarries are recorded in the vicinity (HER MCB22016, MCB22017, MCB22018 and MCB22019). Four limekilns located on Limestone Close are Grade II listed structures, which were built in c.1860 for the manufacture of limestone mortar. These four kilns remain mostly intact with their associated ramp and coarse clunch walling. From 1828 to the 1920s the products of Isleham’s clunch quarries and limekilns were distributed to Wisbech, Peterborough and Ipswich by barges operating on the River Lark and the Isleham Navigation, an artificial channel which ran from the river to East End (Wareham and Wright 2002, 444).

9.4 The cutting of any feature of any depth in Isleham would have produced chalky material, but not necessarily architectural-quality clunch. The depth of Pit F1004 is uncertain (0.80m+). If relatively shallow the primary aim of this feature may have been to extract chalk from the upper beds, perhaps for use in the local limekilns or possibly for other purposes such as making builder's putty (by mixing with linseed oil), for medicinal uses (as an antacid), or a variety of other uses. This demonstrates the variety of uses to which the local geology could be put, and the importance of it to the local economy. The feature appears to have been backfilled with CBM and large, angular blocks of clunch. The latter may represent waste material from one of the local quarries but which could equally derive from a dismantled or demolished building in the vicinity. Isleham clunch was used locally as a building material with some notable local buildings such as St. Margaret's Chapel, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 28) and the only remaining part of Isleham Priory, being constructed from this material (see *The Stonework*, Appendix 2). A piece of worked clunch from Fill L1003 (DPs 14 – 16) is thought to derive from a building of 18th/ 19th or possibly earlier date (*ibid.*).

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The evaluation revealed two small, undated postholes and a large, post-medieval – early modern quarry pit (F1004). The latter contained post-medieval to modern (18th – 19th century) pottery. It appeared to have been deliberately backfilled with CBM and clunch and some of this material is of an early date: L1003 contained a late medieval (13th – 16th century) sherd; and late medieval and early post-medieval CBM including peg tile and brick of late 14th – 15th century date. It also contained a piece of tooled clunch stone, apparently from a building, and a glass bottle stamp.

11 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

11.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Cambridge County Archaeological Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) would like to thank Mr Jon Wilson for funding the project and for all his assistance.

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

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Seg.	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pottery Only)	Pottery (Qty)	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Other Material	Other (Qty)	Other (g)
-	1000			Topsoil	Late 18th-19th C	8	774	1219	104	Glass	4	63
-	1001		1	Subsoil	18th-19th C	5	279	251	262	Clay Pipe Oyster Shell	1	10 15
1004	1003	A	1	Fill of Quarry Pit	18th-19th C	14	465	1425	101	Glass	1	9
		B	1		Late 18th-19th C	1	4	6485	878	Clay Pipe Glass	1 3	13 28
		C	1		18th C	1	12			Glass	1	13

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Post-Medieval Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 29 sherds weighing 1.549kg from Pit F1004 L1003, the subsoil and topsoil. All of the pottery except one late medieval residual sandy coarseware sherd, is of late post-medieval to early modern date. The pottery mainly comprises glazed red earthenware, but there is also a sherd each of English stoneware, Transfer Printed ware, factory made white earthenware, and a bowl rim from a Staffordshire manganese streaked brown glazed ware.

Methodology

The sherds were examined in keeping with the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001). Fabric codes in brackets in the key are those taken from the Suffolk series which are also applicable to pottery from Cambridgeshire.

KEY:

- MCW1 (3.20): Medieval Coarse ware1 fine sandy matrix with moderate medium rounded quartz. Surfaces are 'sparkly' caused by quartz in the sand (rather than mica). Grey core and outer surface, Orange brown inner surface and margins mid; 13th-16th
- STMO (6.21): Staffordshire mottled slipware mid 17th-18th
- LGRE (8.50): Late glazed red earthenware 18th-19th
- LPMRE (8.01): Late post-medieval red earthenware 18th+
- ENGS (8.20): English stoneware 18th+
- TPW (8.00): Transfer Printed Ware late 18th+
- RWE (8.03): Refined white earthenware late 18th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Topsoil	1000	7x771g GRE 1x4g TPW	Late 18 th -19 th	LGRE: MNV 5
Subsoil	1001	4x273g GRE 1x4g MCW1	18 th -19 th	LGRE: MNV 2
F1004	1003	5x244g GRE 1x17g LPMRE 1x47g ENGS	18 th -19 th	LGRE: MNV 4
F1004	1003 B	6x164g LGRE 1x9g LPMBL 1x4g RWE	Late 18 th -19 th	LGRE: MNV 5
F1004	1003 C	1x12g STMO	18 th	

Table 1: Quantification of sherds by context

References

Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) 1998 *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*, MPRG 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*, MPRG Occasional Paper No. 2

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of 25 fragments (5376g) of late medieval to Tudor (early post-medieval) CBM, in a moderately fragmented condition. The CBM included single types of peg tile and brick (Table 2) manufactured in two locally-produced fabrics, with technological traits that indicate they were probably manufactured in the late 14th to 15th centuries.

CBM Type	Date	Fabric 1		Fabric 2	
		Fragment Count	Weight (g)	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Peg Tile	Late medieval-Tudor	15	1320	4	368
Wall Brick		2	1068	4	2620
<i>Total</i>		<i>17</i>	<i>2388</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>2988</i>

Table 2: Quantification of CBM

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight, with fabrics examined at x20 magnification, and all extant dimensions and technological traits recorded. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Two, locally-produced CBM fabrics could be defined at x20 magnification and are described below.

Fabric Descriptions

- Fabric 1: Cream-yellow to pale brown. A finely calcareous matrix with sparse inclusions of chalk, red clay pellets rock fragments, typically with a banded appearance, probably mudstone (all 0.75-4mm). Utilises local Gault Clay
- Fabric 2: A pale red-orange with common streaks of cream and orange, indicative of poorly-leigated clay. A finely calcareous matrix with inclusions of sparse quartz (0.1-0.5mm), red and cream clay pellets/grog (0.5-2mm), shell or voids (0.5-3mm) and black iron-rich grains (0.1-0.5mm). Utilises local Oxford 'brick' clay.

Discussion

The bulk of the assemblage, albeit a relatively limited quantity of CBM was contained in Pit F1004 (L1003) and included fragments of both types of wall brick and peg tile, in both the locally produced fabric types; while further isolated fragments were also recovered from Topsoil L1000 and Subsoil L1001 (e.g. DP 17).

The peg tile (DP 18) comprises 15mm thick flat tile of relatively crude manufacture, with slightly irregular faces and edges, including faint length-ways striations in the slightly lumpy upper surface, and a rough base (not sanded). Two peg holes have been pierced (stabbed) through one end, tapering from c.15-7mm, from top to bottom and distorting the adjacent clay (DP 18). Early peg tiles came into general use in East Anglia in the mid 13th century and had become almost universal by the beginning of the 14th century; however until 1477 when legislation standardised dimensions and quality they exhibited considerable variation (Drury 1981, 131), and these peg tile appear to pre-date that standardisation.

No complete or reconstructable bricks were recovered but partial dimensions of ?x110x47-50mm were evident. The bricks had a slightly rough base, fairly regular

faces with some squodge marks and slightly irregular faces, suggesting they were manufactured in the 15th to 16th centuries. The precise dating of CBM must be tentative but the fabrics and forms such as those recorded in this assemblage were in common use at Forehill, Ely, to the north-west of Isleham from the late 14th/early 15th century, but do occur in small quantities slightly earlier (Alexander 2003, 147). Therefore it is likely this assemblage had origins in the late 14th to late 15th centuries, if not slightly earlier, close to the commencement of industrial production at Ely (Lucas 1993, 157-8) with large quantities of CBM distributed by river transport. However; it has been well-demonstrated that comparable CBM may have continued to form part of extant structures into the modern period so may not have been deposited until considerably later.

References

Alexander, M 2003 'A medieval and post-medieval street frontage: Investigations at Forehill, Ely' *PCAS XCII*, 135-182

Drury, P. 1981 'The production of brick and tile in medieval England' in Crossley, D. (ed.) *Medieval Industry*. Council of British Archaeology Research report 40, 126-142

Lucas, R. 1993 'Ely Bricks and Roof-Tiles and their Distribution in Norfolk and Elsewhere in the Sixteenth to Eighteenth Centuries' *PCAS XCII*, 157-162

The Stonework

Tansy Collins

A single piece of tooled clunch stone was recovered from F1004 L1003 (DPs 14 – 16). Clunch is a traditional building material used extensively in the east of England from the medieval period to the 20th century.

The piece measures 230mm x 120mm x 140mm and has been partially worked. The tooling is not extensive, forming parallel tooling marks in a small area on one side (DPs 15 – 16). Similar tooling marks can be seen in barns in the region (DP 19, Burwell) on clunch stonework that had been protected from weathering.

While it may represent an unfinished piece, it is more likely that this stone was simply reshaped to be accommodated within a structure, perhaps inner walling or part of a boundary wall. Numerous 18th and 19th century buildings, outbuildings in particular, utilised clunch and it may be suggested that this piece is of this date, though does not preclude an earlier date.

The Glass Find

Rebecca Sillwood

A single glass find was submitted for analysis, from Quarry Pit F1004 (L1003) (13g). The piece is an incomplete glass bottle seal, embossed with the initials EF, measuring 33mm in diameter (DP 13). The glass is green, with some patination, and missing a small part of the top of the seal. A small amount of the body of the bottle remained attached to the seal.

This type of seal, circular in shape, would have been applied to the body or shoulder of a wine bottle to signify the owner. The owner may have been a tavern or a private individual who was wealthy enough to have commissioned their own sealed bottles.

The particular owner of this seal is uncertain, though Isleham was certainly well provided for inns and public houses in the post-medieval period. According to the Victoria County History for the village, there were seventeen by 1851 (Wareham and Wright, 2002). The street on which this site lies, Sun Street, was apparently only named as such in the early 19th century (it was previously East Street), and it is thought that this was in honour of an inn. The Rising Sun is a public house found on Sun Street, located within a 17th century building, and it was likely only an inn from the early 1900s onwards so this could feasibly be where the name of the street originated.

The seal itself likely dates to the 17th-18th century, but with no further information on the seal it is difficult to be certain.

Reference

Wareham, A.F. and Wright, A.P.M. 2002 'Isleham', in *A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 10, Cheveley, Flendish, Staine and Staploe Hundreds (North-Eastern Cambridgeshire)*, 420-7. British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol10/pp420-427> (accessed 7 April 2017)

The Animal Bone

Mark S. Blagg-Newsome

A small animal bone assemblage (1345g) was recovered from the trial trench evaluation at Sun Street, Isleham, totalling 7 fragments. Some unstratified animal bone (366g) was recovered from Topsoil L1000 and Subsoil L1001 and are not included here.

All the animal bone was derived from Quarry Pit F1004, L1003. Bone preservation was generally good on a five point scale from very poor through to excellent. There were few incidents of bone abrasion from the analysed assemblage, whilst fragmentation was generally low with only some fresh breaks. The majority of the assemblage was identifiable to a specific taxa (71%) with cattle the dominant species (3 bones), followed by horse (2 bones). One fragment was only identifiable to large mammal (cattle or horse sized) size category.

The cattle remains probably represent animal killed for food, a supposition supported by the incidence of chop marks and saw marks on the bones. The chop marks on the two mandible fragments probably represent butchery for procuring cheek meat, whilst the distally sawn juvenile femur could be representative of jointing. Two parallel knife slice marks were present on the proximal anterior portion of the horse femur, just below the head. These probably represent butchery related to the disarticulation of the joint, possibly for easier disposal of the horse carcass. It is very unlikely that the horse remains are representative of food waste. No canid or rodent gnawing was noted on any of the bone, nor any evidence of burning. No further comment is possible.

Feature	Context	Seg.	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Cattle	Horse	Large Mammal	Unid.	Total (Not inc. Unid.)
1004	1003	A	1	Fill of Quarry Pit	18th-19th C	1		1		2
	1003	B	1	Fill of Quarry Pit	Late 18th-19th C	2	2		1	4
<i>Total</i>						3	2	1	1	6

Table 3: Quantification of animal bone

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-283926

Project details

Project name	Plot 3, 27 Sun Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RU
Short description of the project	In March 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Plot 3, 27 Sun Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RU (NGR TL 6444 7455). The evaluation was to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a detached dwelling (East Cambs. Council Ref. 16/01471/FUL). The evaluation was required based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET). The evaluation was to represent the initial requirement but the groundworks for the development had commenced prior to the evaluation. The foundations for the new house had been constructed and consequently CCC HET advised that the trial trenching evaluation was the remedial work required as part of the breach of condition. The site is located within a landscape known for multi-period remains, including the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Isleham Priory. However, of particular significance to the archaeological potential of the site are remains including Roman ditches, Saxon features and evidence of later occupation recorded at nearby Church Lane and Ellwoods Close. The evaluation revealed two small, undated postholes and a large, post-medieval - early modern quarry pit (F1004). The latter contained post-medieval to modern (18th - 19th century) pottery. It appeared to have been deliberately backfilled with CBM and clunch and some of this material is of an early date: L1003 contained a late medieval (13th - 16th century) sherd; and late medieval and early post-medieval CBM including peg tile and brick of late 14th - 15th century date. It also contained a piece of tooled clunch stone and a glass bottle stamp.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2017 End: 31-03-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7119 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5026 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Monument type	QUARRY PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SHERD Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval

Significant Finds	TOOLED CLUNCH STONE Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS BOTTLE STAMP 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 EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE ISLEHAM Plot 3, 27 Sun Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RU
Postcode	CB7 5RU
Study area	763 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 6444 7455 52.343907389087 0.414277165757 52 20 38 N 000 24 51 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 7m Max: 7m

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	Mark Blagg - Newsome

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
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	Plot 3, 27 Sun Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RU
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Blagg-Newsome, M
Other bibliographic details	Archaeological Solutions Report No. 5348
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Entered by	Sarah Powell (info@ascontracts.co.uk)
Entered on	28 April 2017

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1: Trench 1 (pre-widening), looking south-west



2: Pit F1004 (L1003) in Trench 1 (pre-widening), looking north-east



3: Detail of Pit F1004 (L1003) in Trench 1 (pre-widening), looking south-west



4: Trench 1 (post-widening) showing Pit 1004 looking south-west



5: Postholes F1005 and F1007, looking south



6: Section A, looking north-west



7: Section B, looking south-east



8: Section C (pre-widening), looking south-west



9: Section D, looking south-west



10: Section E, looking north-east



11: Section F looking north-west



12: Section G (pre-widening) looking south-west



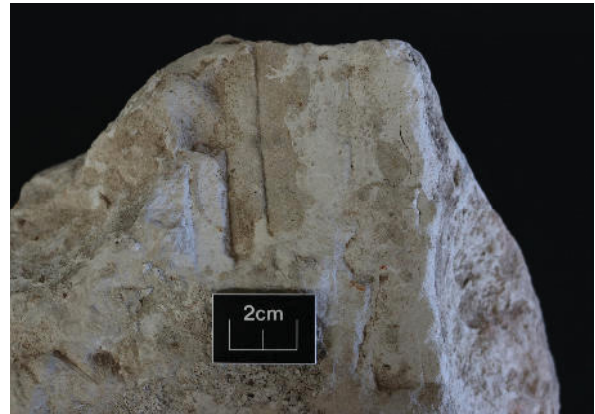
13: Stamp from the body or shoulder of a bottle found in Pit F1004



14: Upper face of clunch piece from Pit F1004



15: Base of clunch piece with tooling marks from Pit F1004



16: Detail showing tooling marks on the base of clunch piece from Pit F1004



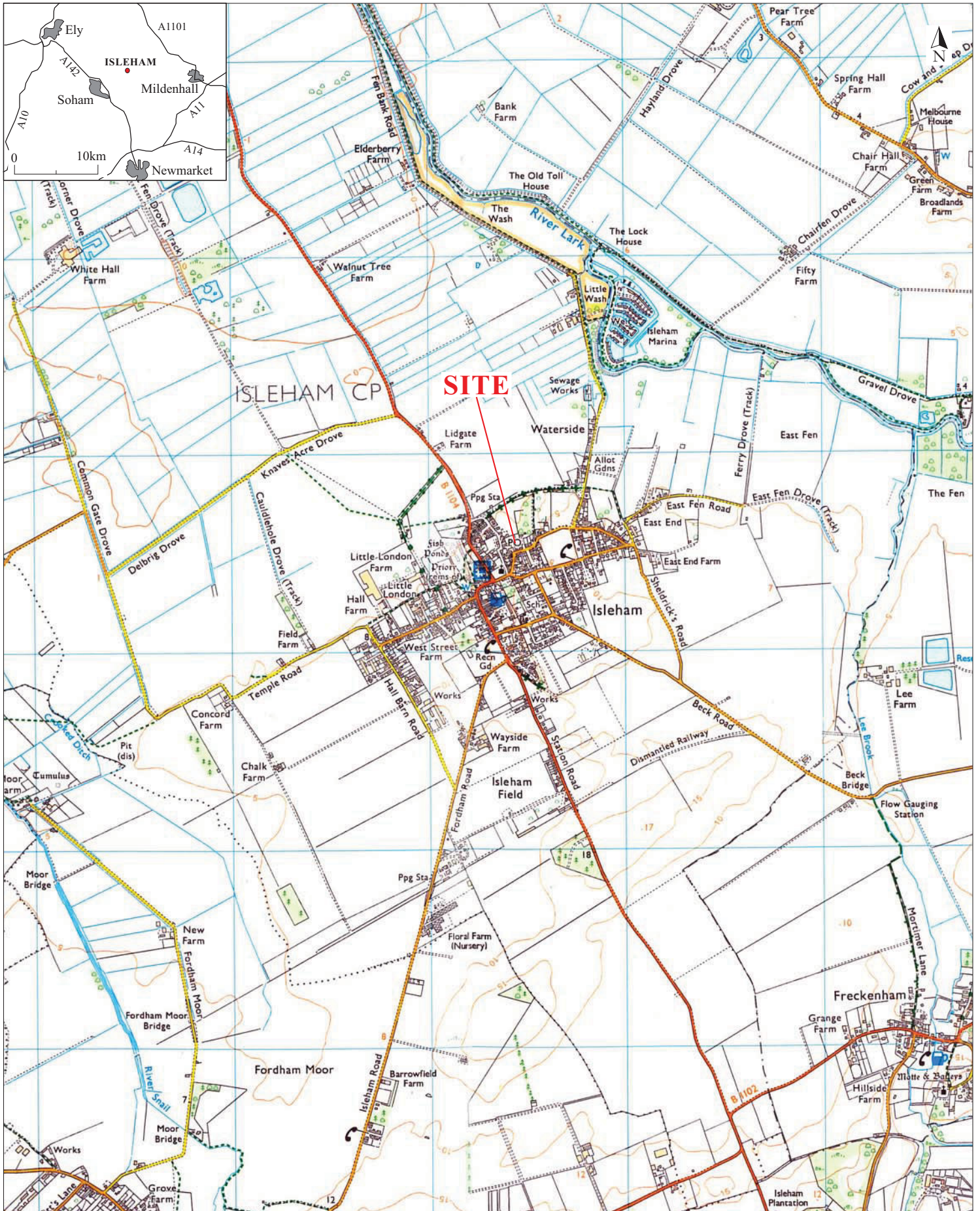
17: Example of brick found in Layer L1000



18: Fragments of peg tile from Pit F1004

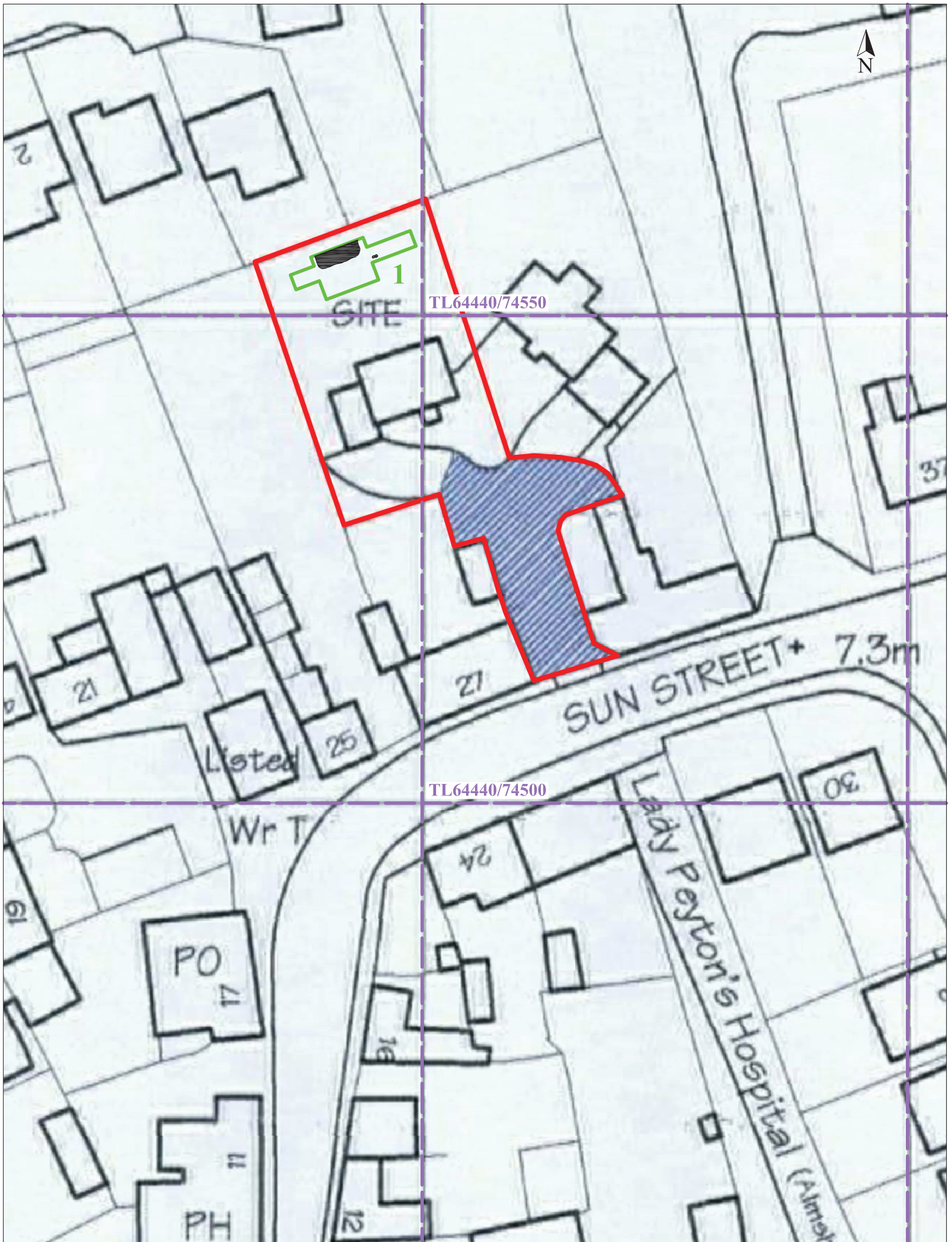


19: Example of tooling marks found on clunch stonework in Burwell



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Plot 3, 27 Sun Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P7119)



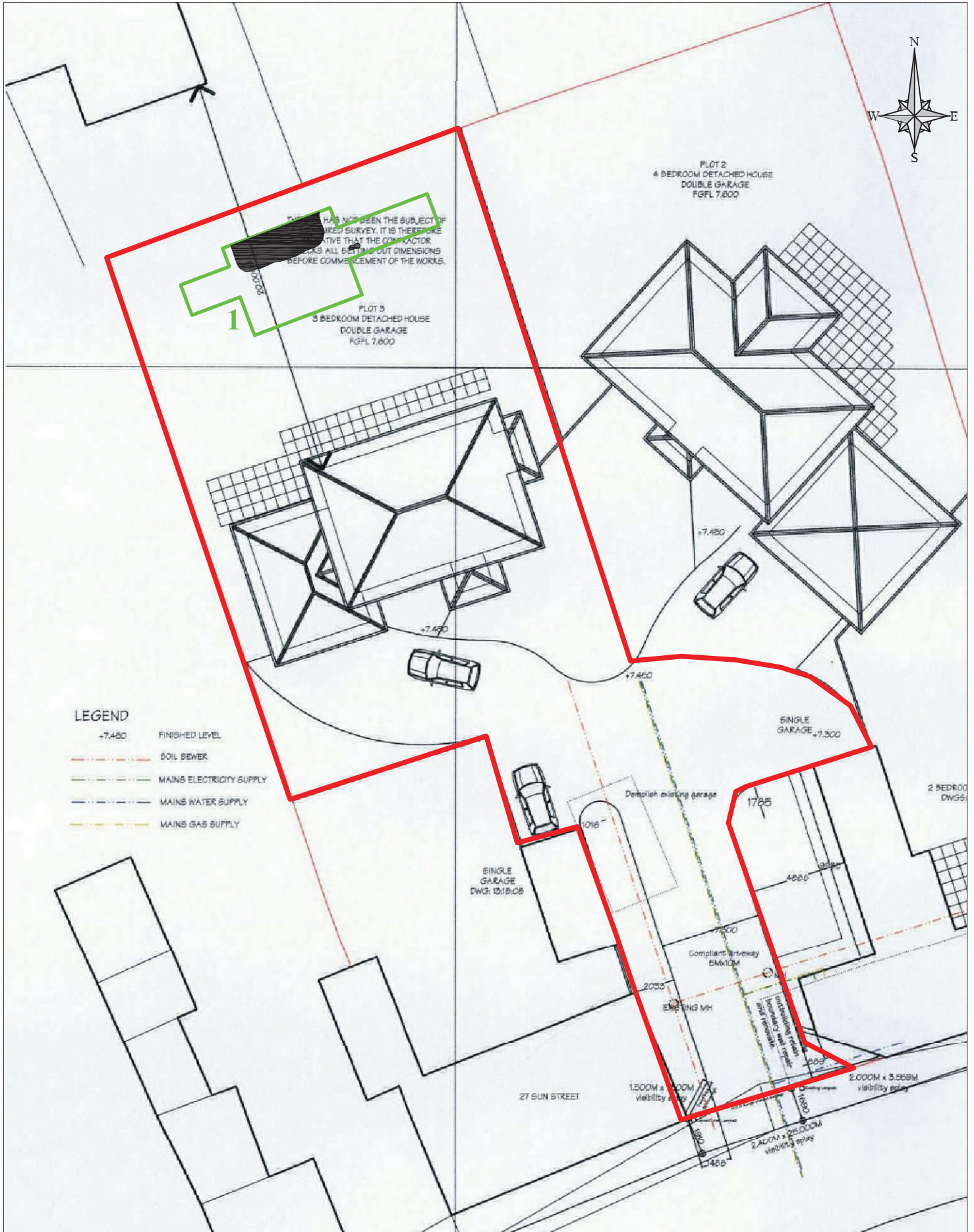
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:500 at A4

Plot 3, 27 Sun Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P7119)

0 25m

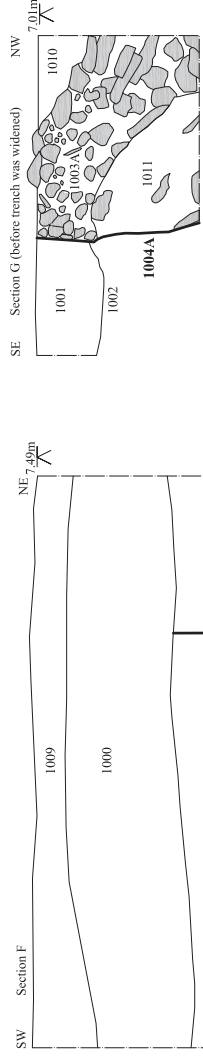
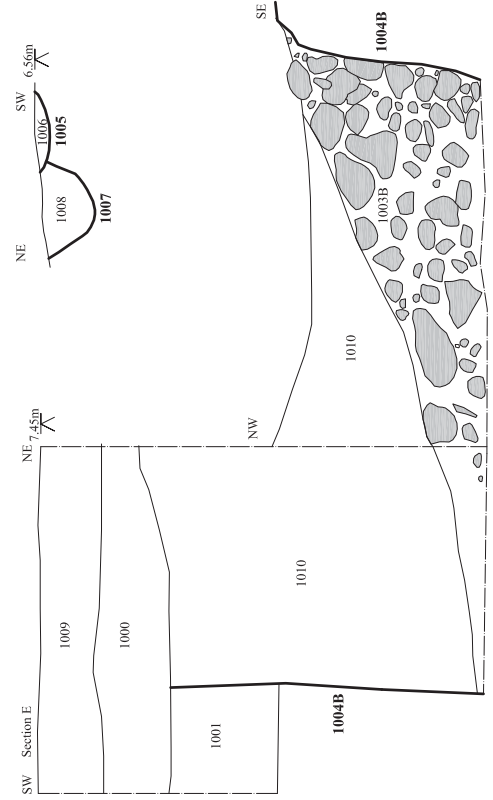
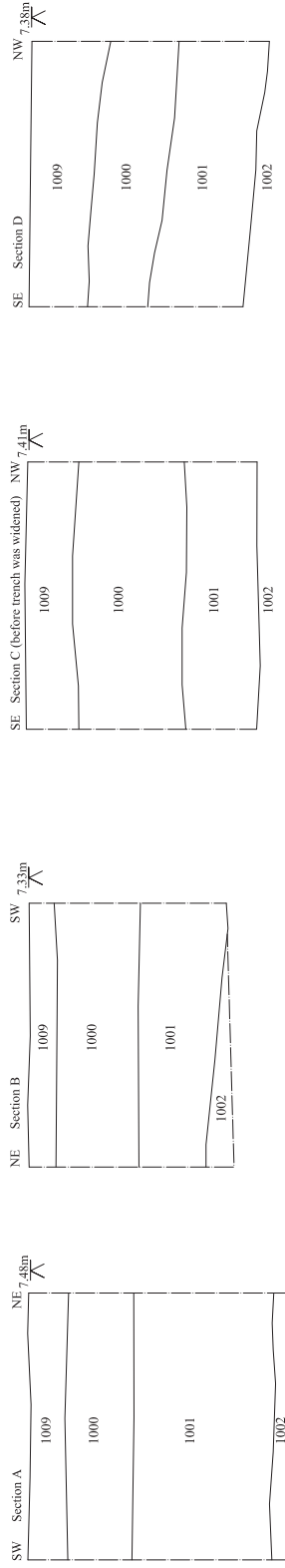
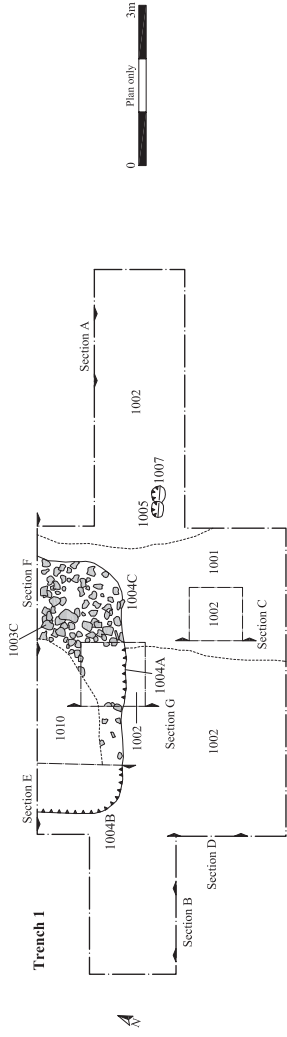


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Fig. 3 Proposed development

Scale 1:250 at A4

Plot 3, 27 Sun Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P7119)



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Fig. 4 Trench plan and sections
 Scale: Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3
 Plot 3, 27 Sun Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P7119)