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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**SHELFORD RFC, THE DAVEY FIELD, CAMBRIDGE ROAD,  
GREAT SHELFORD, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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NGR: TL 4526 5319	Report No: 5356	
District: South Cambs	Site Code: ECB 4856	
Approved:	Project No: 6823	
Claire Halpin MCIfA	Date: April 2017	
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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Shelford RFC, The Davey Field, Cambridge Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<p><i>In March 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Shelford Rugby Football Club, The Davey Field, Cambridge Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4526 5319). The evaluation was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval (South Cambs. Planning Ref. S/1144/16/FL). It is proposed to erect a new external artificial sports pitch with artificial grass pitch, perimeter and gated entrances, hard standing areas for maintenance, pedestrian and emergency access, flood lighting and outdoor maintenance equipment store. The new pitch, hardstanding and maintenance store area extends to some 10180m<sup>2</sup>.</i></p> <p><i>The majority of trenches contained no archaeological features or finds. Trench 2 contained a tree hollow (F1017) and it contained no finds. Trench 6 revealed a post-medieval posthole (F1015). The principal features were located in Trench 1 in the western corner of the site. It contained Pits F1005, F1007, F1009 and F1011, and Stakehole F1013. The only dated feature was Pit F1009 which contained four sherds of early Iron Age pottery, and the sherds appeared to be derived from different vessels. Pits F1005 and F1009 contained small quantities of animal bone, and Pit F1009 contained a residual struck flint.</i></p>			
<i>Project dates (fieldwork)</i>	<i>April 2017</i>		
<i>Previous work (Y/N/?)</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Future work (Y/N/?)</i>	<i>TBC</i>
<i>P. number</i>	<i>6823</i>	<i>Site code</i>	<i>ECB 4856</i>
<i>Type of project</i>	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
<i>Site status</i>	<i>-</i>		
<i>Current land use</i>	<i>Sports facility</i>		
<i>Planned development</i>	<i>Additional sports facilities</i>		
<i>Main features (+dates)</i>	<i>Early Iron Age: Pit</i> <i>Post-medieval: Posthole</i> <i>Undated: Pits; stakehole; tree hollow</i>		
<i>Significant finds (+dates)</i>	<i>Early Iron Age pottery</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
<i>County/ District/ Parish</i>	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>South Cambs.</i>	<i>Great Shelford</i>
<i>HER/ SMR for area</i>	<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>		
<i>Post code (if known)</i>	<i>-</i>		
<i>Area of site</i>	<i>10180m<sup>2</sup></i>		
<i>NGR</i>	<i>TL 4526 5319</i>		
<i>Height AOD (min/max)</i>	<i>c.21m</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
<i>Brief issued by</i>	<i>CCC HET</i>		
<i>Project supervisor/s (PO)</i>	<i>Vinny Monahan</i>		
<i>Funded by</i>	<i>McArdle Sport Tec</i>		
<i>Full title</i>	<i>Shelford RFC, The Davey Field, Cambridge Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
<i>Authors</i>	<i>Monahan, V.</i>		
<i>Report no.</i>	<i>5356</i>		
<i>Date (of report)</i>	<i>April 2017 (Revised: 25/04/2017)</i>		

# **SHELFORD RFC, THE DAVEY FIELD, CAMBRIDGE ROAD, GREAT SHELFORD, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

## **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

### **SUMMARY**

*In March 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Shelford Rugby Football Club, The Davey Field, Cambridge Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4526 5319). The evaluation was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval (South Cambs. Planning Ref. S/1144/16/FL). It is proposed to erect a new external artificial sports pitch with artificial grass pitch, perimeter and gated entrances, hard standing areas for maintenance, pedestrian and emergency access, flood lighting and outdoor maintenance equipment store. The new pitch, hardstanding and maintenance store area extends to some 10180m<sup>2</sup>.*

*The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record notes the archaeological potential of the site, situated in an area of archaeological importance, principally for the presence of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement. A number of these sites are designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments and thus of national significance (CHER DCB356, 04503a & 04661). Other sites in the vicinity recorded on the HER include a number of cropmark enclosures identified by aerial photography 180m to the south east and 550m to the north (HER 08337 & 09640). Ring ditches and linear features are also recorded as cropmarks around Stone Hill to the south east (CHER 08337), likely indicative of prehistoric or Romano-British settlement. The general area has also revealed a number of scatters of prehistoric flintwork that suggests associated activity (CHER 04744, 04880-1).*

*The site thus had a potential for further remains of prehistoric and Romano-British activity.*

*The majority of trenches contained no archaeological features or finds. Trench 2 contained a tree hollow (F1017) and it contained no finds. Trench 6 revealed a post-medieval posthole (F1015). The principal features were located in Trench 1 in the western corner of the site. It contained Pits F1005, F1007, F1009 and F1011, and Stakehole F1013. The only dated feature was Pit F1009 which contained four sherds of early Iron Age pottery, and the sherds appeared to be derived from different vessels. Pits F1005 and F1009 contained small quantities of animal bone, and Pit F1009 contained a residual struck flint.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In March 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Shelford Rugby Football Club, The Davey Field, Cambridge Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4526 5319; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic

Environment Team (CCC HET), as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval (South Cambs. Planning Ref. S/1144/16/FL). It is proposed to erect a new external artificial sports pitch with artificial grass pitch, perimeter and gated entrances, hard standing areas for maintenance, pedestrian and emergency access, flood lighting and outdoor maintenance equipment store. The new pitch, hardstanding and maintenance store area extends to some 10180m<sup>2</sup>

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by CCC HET (Gemma Stewart; dated 04/08/2016) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 08/11/2016) and approved by 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).

1.3 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**

1.4 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 Great Shelford is a large village situated 2km to the south of the urban extent of the city of Cambridge, notably Addenbrooke's Hospital. Cambridge Road comprises the A1301 as it extends north-west of the village towards Trumpington. The site is located off Cambridge Road c.1km to the north west of the core of the village, although the main road is fronted by residential properties along its length between Great Shelford and Trumpington. Shelford Rugby Club is set behind properties on the south-western side of the road, and is accessed by a straight drive to the clubhouse around which the pitches are laid out. The site comprises an existing grassed pitch for Shelford Rugby Club.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 A channel of the River cam (or Granta) passes to the south-west of Great Shelford, c.700m to the south of the site, which is situated on the wide floor of the river valley. The tributary of the Cam, Hobson's Brook rises c. 500m to the east, on the edge of the village and passes to the north-east of the site, also within the river valley. The site is relatively flat and even, rising very slightly for c. 19-20m AOD from east to west.

3.2 The site is situated on a solid geology of the West Melbury Marly Chalk formation, with may be overlain towards the north-eastern edge of the site by river terrace deposits of sand and gravel, but otherwise superficial deposits are absent. The soils of the area are typically lime rich; however close to the north and possibly encroaching on the site is a large extent of restored soils from quarries and opencast spoil.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 The site lies within an area that has revealed evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British activity in particular.

4.2 Evidence of earlier prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site is represented by finds of Neolithic flint artefacts, including an axe and scrapers, during a programme of fieldwalking (CHER 04462). Further such finds have been recorded elsewhere in the vicinity (CHER 04880; 04880A; 04881; 04882). Settlement of Neolithic date has been indicated at a multi-period site north of Hauxton (CHER 04503). Aerial photographs suggest a Neolithic causewayed enclosure nearby Great Shelford (CHER MCB20456). A Bronze Age arrowhead has been recovered in the area (CHER 04744) and contemporary settlement activity has been recorded at the multi-period site north of Hauxton (CHER 04503).

4.3 Fairly extensive evidence of Iron Age occupation has been recorded in the Great Shelford area. This includes a cropmark site west of White Hill Farm (CHER 04661), activity at the multi-period site north of Hauxton (CHER 04503) which is a Scheduled Monument (DCB357), further settlement evidence close to this location (CHER 04503A), settlement evidence at Granhams Farm (CHER CB15540), and



settlement at Cambridge Rectory Farm in Shelford (CHER MCB19163). This settlement activity appeared to continue into the Roman period, with direct continuation of settlement activity indicated at Cambridge Rectory Farm (CHER MCB19163), the cropmark site west of White Hill Farm (CHER 04661), and the multi-period site north of Hauxton (CHER 04503). Further evidence of Roman activity comprises a Roman pottery sherd recorded during fieldwalking in the 1960s (CHER 04503b), a further sherd from elsewhere in Great Shelford (CHER 04739), a field system at Granhams Farm (CHER CB15539), enclosures and settlement at Clay Farm, Trumpington (CHER MCB16976; MCB16977), and a ditch at the former Elms Garage on Cambridge Road (CHER MCB20181).

4.4 There is limited evidence for Saxon period occupation in the area but medieval evidence includes the 13<sup>th</sup> century Granhams Manor Chapel (CHER 01002B), and a pit at Cambridge Road (CHER MCB18090), pottery recovered from Stonehill Road (CHER MCB18290). The post-medieval period is represented by a milestone on Shelford Road, Trumpington (CHER MCB18036), and pottery recovered from Stonehill Road (CHER MCB18290), Four Mile House, Cambridge Road (CHER MCB18680), De Fraville Farm (CHER MCB19758). The early modern period is represented by part of Hobson's Conduit which runs nearby (CHER 04529a) and an 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century dovecote at Granhams Farm (CHER 10425).

4.5 In addition, there are a number of undated cropmark complexes in the area representing linear features, ring ditches, trackways and enclosures (CHER 04463; 08337; 08347; 08350; 09639; 09640)

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 The evaluation provided for a c. 5% sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched. Seven trenches each 40m x 1.8m were excavated, with a 360 tracked excavator under close archaeological supervision.

5.2 One-metre square of topsoil and subsoil was excavated by hand at each end of the trenches to characterise their artefact content. A metal detector was used to enhance finds recovery. The detector survey was conducted when the trenches were opened and the spoil tips will also be surveyed. No archaeological finds were present in the topsoil and subsoil.

5.3 Following a monitoring meeting with the planning archaeologist, the sections of Trenches 2 and 6 were cleaned and examined. Tree Hollow F1017 (Trench 2) and Posthole F1015 (Trench 6) were excavated and recorded, and additional sections drawn (Trench 2 Sections C and D, and Trench 6 Section C). Section 2D contained a narrow strip of glacial sand (L1019).



## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### Trench 1 (Figs. 3 - 4)

<i>Sample section 1A: south-west end, south-east facing</i> 0.00 = 22.13m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. Friable, dark greyish brown silty sand.
0.20 – 0.41m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. Friable, dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional, small, angular and sub-angular flints.
0.41 – 0.53m	L1002	Subsoil. Friable, mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional small to large angular and sub-angular flints.
0.53m +	L1004	Natural. Firm, pale greyish white mottled chalk with occasional small to large angular and sub-angular flints.

<i>Sample section 1B: north-east end, north-west facing</i> 0.00 = 21.95m AOD		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above.
0.24 – 0.47m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above.
0.47m+	L1004	Natural. As Above.

*Description: Trench 1 contained Pits F1005, F1007, F1009 and F1011, and Stakehole F1013. The only dated feature was Pit F1009 which contained early Iron Age pottery. Pits F1005 and F1009 contained small quantities of animal bone, and Pit F1009 contained a residual struck flint.*

Stakehole F1013 was sub circular in plan (0.35 x 0.30 x 0.13m). It has moderately sloping sides and a narrow concave base. Its fill, L1014, was a dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent small angular and sub-angular flint.

The pits are tabulated below:

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Plan/ Profile (Dimensions)</b>	<b>Fill</b>	<b>Relationships</b>	<b>Findings</b>
F1005	Sub circular in plan (0.30+ x 0.48 x 0.12m). Moderately sloping sides and a flattish base.	L1006. Friable, dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional, small, angular and sub-angular flints.	n/a	Animal bone (51g)
F1007	Sub circular in plan (0.30+ x 0.42 x 0.12m). Moderately sloping sides and a flattish base.	L1008. Friable, dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional, small, angular and sub-angular flints.	n/a	-
F1009	Sub circular in plan (0.40+ x 0.48 x 0.26m). Steep - moderately sloping sides and a flattish base.	L1010. Friable, dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional, small, angular and sub-angular flints.	n/a	EIA Pottery (3; 60g); animal bone (8g); struck flint (1; 10g)
F1011	Sub circular in plan (0.30+ x 0.48 x 0.12m). Moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	L1012. Friable, dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional, small, angular and sub-angular flints.	n/a	-

Pits F1005, F1007 and F1009 appeared to form a c. north-east to south-west alignment of similar features, some 13.5m in length (measured from feature centre to feature centre); the pits were spaced approximately 7m apart (Fig. 4). Stakehole F1013, some 10m further to the north-east may have been an outlier of this group, while Pit F1011 – set slightly to the north-west of the aligned features – may or may not have been associated. However, all five features contained similar fills and were cut from the same level, which strongly suggests their contemporaneity. Given the clear alignment of four of these features, it is possible that they represent an early Iron Age fenceline (or similar) of earth-fast construction. The date of this group is based on three sherds (60g) of pottery from Pit Fill L1010.

## Trench 2 (Figs. 3 & 5)

<i>Sample section 2A: north-west end, south-west facing</i> 0.00 = 22.09m AOD		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above Tr. 1.
0.21 – 0.45m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr. 1.
0.45m+	L1004	Natural. As Above Tr. 1.

<i>Sample section 2B: South-east end, north-east facing.</i> 0.00 = 22.28m AOD		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above Tr. 1
0.22 – 0.48m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr. 1.
0.48m+	L1004	Natural. As Above Tr. 1.

<i>Sample section 2C: north-west end, north –east facing</i> 0.00 = 22.18m AOD		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above Tr. 1
0.22 – 0.48m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.48 – 0.72m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr. 1.
0.72m+	L1004	Natural. As Above Tr. 1.

<i>Sample section 2D: north-west end, south-west facing</i> 0.00 = 22.22m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above Tr. 1.
0.20 – 0.36m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.36 – 0.88m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr. 1.
0.48 – 0.88m	L1019	Glacial Sand. Friable dark yellow brown sand.
0.88m+	L1004	Natural. As Above Tr. 1.

*Description: Trench 2 contained Tree hollow F1017.*

Tree hollow F1017 was irregular in plan (0.6+ x 0.41 x 0.16m). It had moderately sloping sides and an uneven base. Its fill, L1018, was a friable, mid reddish brown silty sand. It contained no finds.

The machine excavation of Trench 2 encountered a band of glacial sand (L1019) towards the north-western end of the trench. L1019 rose towards the south-west (Sample Section 2D; DP 10), resulting in the overcutting of the trench at this location. The boundaries of L1019 with Natural L1004 were diffuse.

A possible feature was identified during a site visit by CCC HET, located in the north-western part of Sample Section 2D (north-east facing) (Plate 1; DP 10). However, cleaning and investigation of this area of the section revealed only an undulating stratigraphy, characteristic of deposits in this part of the trench (Fig. 5).

### Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 3A: north-west end, south-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 21.81m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above Tr. 1.
0.27m+	L1004	Natural. As Above Tr. 1.

<i>Sample section 3B: south-east end, north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 21.97m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above Tr. 1
0.28 – 0.58m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr. 1.
0.58m+	L1004	Natural. As Above Tr. 1.

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.*

### Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 4A: north-east end, north-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 22.17m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above Tr. 1.
0.31 – 0.63m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr. 1
0.63m+	L1003	Natural. Firm, pale reddish brown sandy clay with occasional small to large angular and sub-angular flints.

<i>Sample section 4B: north-east end, north-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 21.81m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above Tr. 1
0.34 – 0.65m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr. 1.
0.65m+	L1003	Natural. As Above.

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.*

### Trench 5 (Figs. 2 - 5, DP 2-3)

<i>Sample section 5A: north-west end, south-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 21.62m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above Tr. 1.
0.34 – 0.63m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr. 1
0.63m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Tr. 4

<i>Sample section 5B: south-east end, north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 21.73m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above Tr. 1
0.29 – 0.57m	L1001	Buried topsoil. As Above Tr. 1.
0.57 – 0.85m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr. 1.
0.85m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Tr. 4.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

### Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 6A: south-west end, south-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 21.75m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above Tr. 1.
0.32m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Tr. 4.

<i>Sample section 6B: north-east end, north-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 21.58m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above Tr. 1
0.26 – 0.65m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr. 1.
0.65m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Tr. 4.

<i>Test Pit</i> <i>Sample section 6C: South- west end, south-east facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 21.74m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above Tr. 1
0.24– 0.36m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. As Above Tr. 1.
0.36 – 0.57m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr. 1.
0.57m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Tr. 4.

*Trench 6 contained a post-medieval posthole, F1015. Some modern cabling was also present.*

Posthole F1015 was sub circular in plan (0.2+ x 0.36 x 0.48m). It had near vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a friable, dark greyish brown silty sand with no inclusions. It contained post-medieval CBM (8g).

### Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 7A: north-west end, north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 21.51m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above Tr. 1.
0.21 – 0.56m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. As Above Tr. 1
0.56 – 0.89m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr. 1.
0.89m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Tr. 4.

<i>Sample section 7B: north-east end, north-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 21.64m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Modern pitch surface. As Above Tr. 1
0.22 – 0.53m	L1001	Buried topsoil. Tr. 1.
0.53 – 0.92m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr. 1.
0.92m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Tr. 4.

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.*

## **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 commonly overlain by a modern pitch surface L1000. It comprised a layer of friable, silty sand ranging in depth from 0.20 – 0.40m. Below L1000 was Buried Topsoil L1001 which was patchy across the site (present in Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7). It comprised a dark greyish brown silty sand. Below L1001 was Subsoil L1002, a mid reddish brown silty sand.

8.2 At the southern end of the site (Trenches 1 - 2 and 4), the natural sand, L1003, was a light brownish red, firm, silty and chalky sand, 0.27 – 53m below the present day ground surface. Elsewhere the natural comprised chalk, L1004, a pale greyish white, mottled sandy chalk 32 – 92m below the present day ground surface. A narrow band of glacial sand (L1019) was encountered towards the north-western end of Trench 2. The boundaries of L1019 with Natural L1004 were diffuse (Fig. 5).

8.3 The stratigraphy recorded in Sample Sections 2C and 2D (Fig. 5) was markedly different to that in Sample Sections 2A and 2B, and sections recorded across the remainder of the site. Anecdotal evidence suggests that prior to the levelling of the site in the 1950s, a natural depression – aligned c. north-east to south-west – traversed this area. It is thought that the undulating nature of layers within Sample Sections 2C and 2D result from the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century introduction of material and levelling (by machine) of this depression.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site lies in an area containing extensive evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British settlement. A number of these sites are designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments and are therefore of national significance (CHERs DCB356, 04503a and 04661). It was anticipated, on this basis, that the site had the potential to contain evidence relating to Iron Age and Romano-British settlement.

9.2 The majority of trenches contained no archaeological features or finds. Trench 2 contained an undated tree hollow (F1017), the fill of which contained no finds. Trench 6 revealed a post-medieval posthole (F1015). The principal features were located in Trench 1 in the western corner of the site. Trench 1 contained Pits F1005, F1007, F1009 and F1011, and Stakehole F1013. The only dated feature was Pit F1009 which contained four sherds of early Iron Age pottery, and the sherds appeared to be derived from different vessels (Pottery Report Appendix 2). Pits F1005 and F1009 contained small quantities of animal bone, and Pit F1009 contained a residual struck flint. The alignment displayed by Pits F1005, F1007 and F1009, and Stakehole F1013 strongly suggests that they formed an earth-fast fenceline or similar of early Iron Age date (based on the pottery from L1010). Fenced stock enclosures of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date, represented by similar postholes/ stakeholes, were excavated at Littleport, some 36km to the north-

east of Great Shelford (Woolhouse 2012, 26). Twenty two pits and 37 postholes, 14 of which were associated with post-built structures were also excavated at the early to middle Iron Age settlement at Glebe Farm (CHER MCB16972), within 1km of the current site.

## **Research Potential**

9.3 The archaeology that was recorded contained only limited evidence to date it to the early Iron Age. The character of the recorded archaeology suggests that it represents peripheral activity located outside of, or on the margins of, the settlement activity recorded elsewhere in the surrounding area. The lack of evidence at this site contributes to an understanding of the distribution and extent of Iron Age settlement in the Great Shelford area. Medlycott (2011, 31) indicates that the interaction of settlements with their surrounding hinterland is an important research subject for the Iron Age in East Anglia. The archaeology recorded here has the potential to provide information regarding the way in which the areas surrounding the foci of Iron Age settlement were arranged and utilised at this time.

9.4 The limited pottery assemblages from the site have the potential to contribute to finds studies while the animal bone may provide information about local agricultural practices and/or food procurement strategies, both of which are identified as important research subjects (Medlycott 2011, 30-31).

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 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 McArdle Sport Tec for funding the works and for their assistance (in particular Mr David Darnell for 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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Woolhouse, T. 2012, 'Late Bronze Age and Iron Age activity on the Littleport Fen Edge', *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 101, 23-30



## 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)
1005	1006		1	Fill of Pit					51			
1009	1010		1	Fill of Pit	Early Iron Age	4	71		8			
1015	1016		6	Fill of Posthole				8		S.Flint	1	10

## APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

### **The Struck Flint**

*Andrew Peachey MCIfA*

Pit F1009 L1010 contained a single flake (10g) of struck flint in an un-patinated condition. The flake is a primary debitage flake, probably removed as part of cortex trimming of a nodule to prepare a core, and exhibits no modification. It is comprised of a red-orange raw flint with a heavily chipped cream cortex, suggesting it was sourced from local slope gravels. Insufficient technological traits are present to allow reliable dating, and the flake may have originated in the Neolithic or Bronze Age.

### **The Pottery**

*Andrew Peachey*

Pit F1009 L1010 contained four sherds (71g) of prehistoric pottery in a slightly abraded condition. The fine flint and sand temper of the fabric, and the angular carination in the body of one sherd indicate that the sherds were manufactured in the early Iron Age; however they appear to be derived from at least two vessels.

#### *Methodology*

The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight, with fabrics examined at x20 magnification, in accordance with the guidelines developed by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1995).

#### *Discussion*

The four body sherds were manufactured in a fabric with dark red-brown surfaces that fade to a dark grey core; with a relative softness that suggests the vessels were fired at a very low temperature on a bonfire kiln. Inclusions comprise poorly-sorted common quartz and quartzite (0.25-1mm) with sparse white flint and iron oxides (both 0.5-2mm, occasionally to 5mm). There are no rim sherds or complete profiles present, however one body sherd exhibits an angular shoulder or girth carination and appears to have an external surface smoothed by grass-wiping. These traits suggest that the vessel comprised an early Iron Age coarse bowl, comparable to types characterised at the early Iron Age settlement site at Linton c.10km to the east (Fell 1953, 35-6), while comparable vessels have also been recorded in late Bronze Age to early Iron Age groups at Addenbrooke's, Cambridge (Brudenell 2008, 36) although earlier vessels in this sequence tend to have a higher incidence of flint temper.

#### *References*

Brudenell, M. 2008 'Late Bronze Age Pottery' in Evans, C., with Mackay, D. & Webley, L. *Borderlands: the Archaeology of the Addenbrooke's Environs, South Cambridge*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Cambridge, 35-39

Fell, C. 1953 'An Early Iron Age Settlement at Linton, Cambridgeshire,' *Proceedings of the Cambridgeshire Antiquarian society* 46, 31-42

Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG) 1995 *The study of later prehistoric pottery: general policies for analysis and publication, Occasional Paper 1-2*

## The Ceramic Building Materials

*Andrew Peachey MCIfA*

Posthole F1015 (L1016) contained two fragments (8g) of post-medieval CBM. The small, abraded fragments are derived from orange peg tile manufactured in a medium sandy fabric, probably in the 17-18<sup>th</sup> centuries, but amount to little more than 'crumbs'.

## The Animal Bone

*Mark S. Blagg-Newsome*

A very small assemblage of animal bone (2 fragments) was recovered from trial trench evaluations at Shelford R. F. C., all of which came from pits (F1005 (L1006) and F1009 (L1010)). A single cattle mandible fragment was recovered from undated pit F1005 L1006, while a single sheep/goat radius was recovered from a pit dated to the Iron Age, F1009 L1010. Bone preservation was generally good with some fresh breaks and some abrasion caused by root damage. No gnawing or pathology was noted. No further comment is possible.

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Total
1005	1006	1	Fill of Pit	Undated	1		1
1009	1010	1	Fill of Pit	Iron Age		1	1
<i>Total</i>					<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>

*Table 1: Quantification of animal bone*

## The Environmental Samples

*Dr John Summers*

### *Introduction*

A bulk soil sample for environmental archaeological assessment was taken and processed from Iron Age pit fill L1010 (F1009) during the trial trench evaluation at Shelford Rugby Football Club, Great Shelford. This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fraction, and discusses the significance and potential of any remains recovered.

### *Methods*

The sample was processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fraction was washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fraction was sieved to 1mm. The dried light fraction was scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

## *Results*

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 2. The sampled material represents 50% of the feature's fill, taken during half sectioning. Little material of environmental archaeological significance was recovered from the sample, being represented by small, indeterminate charcoal fragments and two shells of *Helicella itala*, a snail of short calcareous grassland.

## *Conclusions and Statement of Potential*

The material recovered to date most likely represents small quantities of charcoal that became incorporated into the fill of F1009 from background scatters of probably wind-blown debris. There was no evidence for the use or processing of cereals or other economically significant plant resources in the immediate vicinity of the sampled feature. However, it must be noted that material from a single feature is unlikely to be representative of wider patterns of Iron Age occupation and activity at the site.

<b>Other remains</b>		.
<b>Contaminants</b>	Earthworm capsules	.
	Insects	.
	Modern seeds	X
	Molluscs	XXX
	Roots	XX
<b>Molluscs</b>	Notes	<i>Helicella itala</i>
	Molluscs	X
<b>Charcoal</b>	Notes	.
	Charcoal>2mm	X
<b>Hazelnut shell</b>		.
<b>Non-cereal taxa</b>	Notes	.
	Seeds	.
<b>Cereals</b>	Notes	.
	Cereal chaff	.
	Cereal grains	.
<b>% processed</b>		100%
<b>Volume processed (litres)</b>		5
<b>Volume taken (litres)</b>		5
<b>Spot date</b>		Iron Age
<b>Trench</b>		1
<b>Description</b>		Fill of Pit
<b>Feature</b>		1009
<b>Context</b>		1010
<b>Sample number</b>		1

Table 2: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: archaeol7-284139**

### Project details

Project name	Shelford RFC, The Davey Field, Cambridge Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	In March 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Shelford Rugby Football Club, The Davey Field, Cambridge Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4526 5319). The evaluation was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval (South Cambs. Planning Ref. S/1144/16/FL). It is proposed to erect a new external artificial sports pitch with artificial grass pitch, perimeter and gated entrances, hard standing areas for maintenance, pedestrian and emergency access, flood lighting and outdoor maintenance equipment store. The new pitch, hardstanding and maintenance store area extends to some 10180m2. The majority of trenches contained no archaeological features or finds. Trench 2 contained a tree hollow (F1017) and it contained no finds. Trench 6 revealed a post-medieval posthole (F1015). The principal features were located in Trench 1 in the western corner of the site. It contained Pits F1005, F1007, F1009 and F1011, and Stakehole F1013. The only dated feature was Pit F1009 which contained four sherds of early Iron Age pottery, and the sherds appeared to be derived from different vessels. Pits F1005 and F1009 contained small quantities of animal bone, and Pit F1009 contained a residual struck flint.
Project dates	Start: 01-04-2017 End: 30-04-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P6823 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4856 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	PIT Early Iron Age
Monument type	POSTHOLE Post Medieval
Monument type	PITS Uncertain
Monument type	STAKEHOLE Uncertain
Monument type	TREE HOLLOW Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age

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 SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE GREAT SHELFORD Shelford RFC, The Davey Field, Cambridge Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire
Study area	10180 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 4526 5319 52.157417782061 0.123715762048 52 09 26 N 000 07 25 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 21m Max: 21m

### 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	Vincent Monahan

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
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	Shelford RFC, The Davey Field, Cambridge Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Monahan, V



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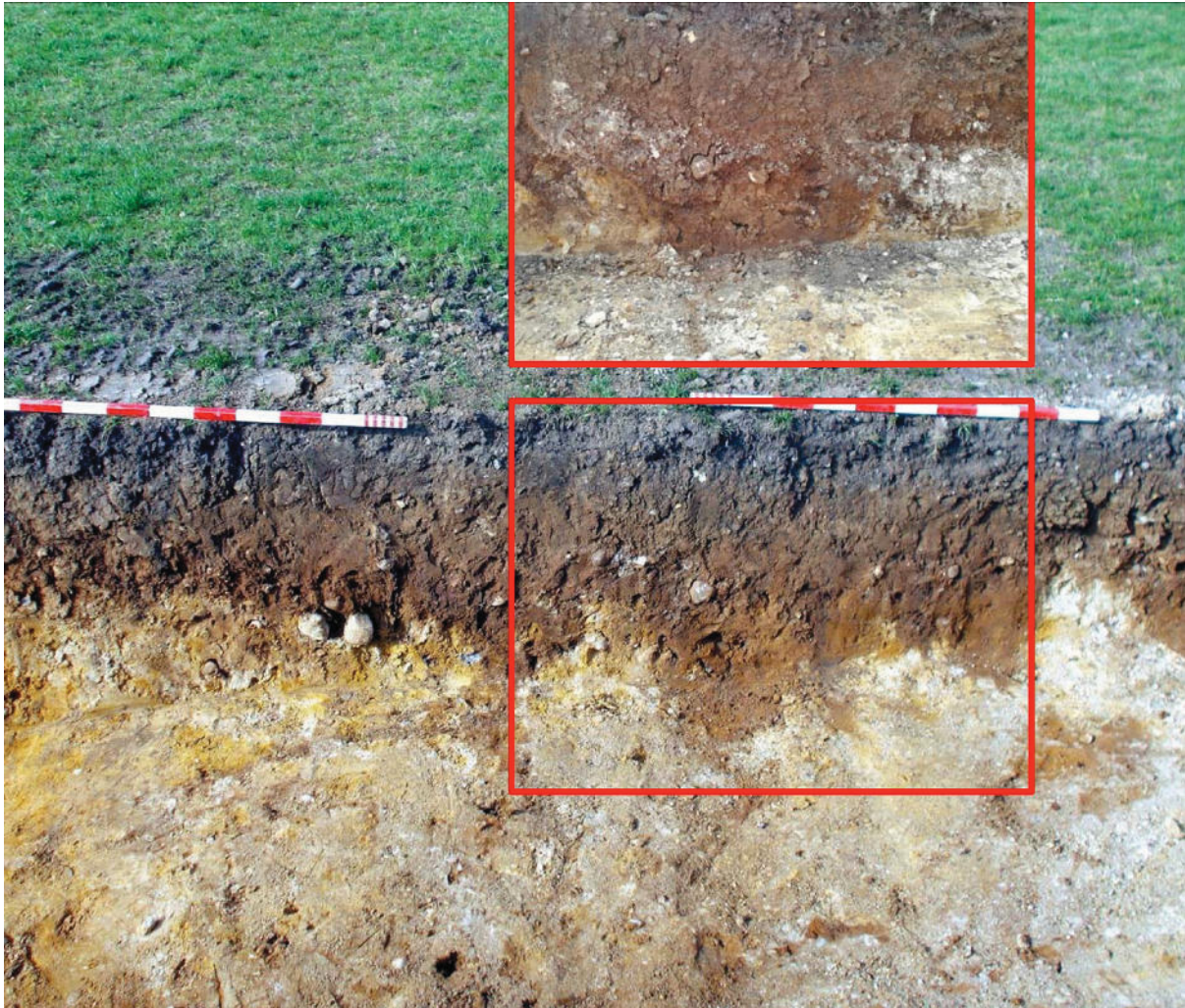
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## PLATES



1: Possible feature identified during site visit by CCC HET (insert; top) and location on cleaned sample section (2D); Insert photograph was provided by CCC HET



PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
Trench 1, looking south-west



2  
Pit F1005 in Trench 1, looking south-east



3  
Pit F1007 in Trench 1, looking south-east

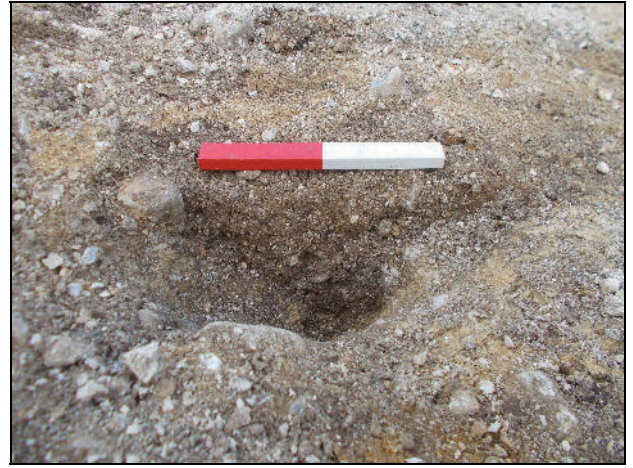


4  
Pit F1009 in Trench 1, looking south-east





5  
Pit F1011 in Trench 1, looking north-west



6  
Stakehole F1013 in Trench 1, looking north-west



7  
Trench 2, looking north-west



8  
Trench 3, looking south-east



9  
Tree Hollow F1017 in Trench 2, looking north-east



10  
Edge of Trench 2 including L1019 (far left), looking south-west





11  
Edge of Trench 2, looking north-east



12  
Edge of Trench 2, looking north-east



13  
Trench 4, looking south-west



14  
Trench 5, looking north-west





15  
Trench 6, looking south-east



16  
Trench 7, looking north-west

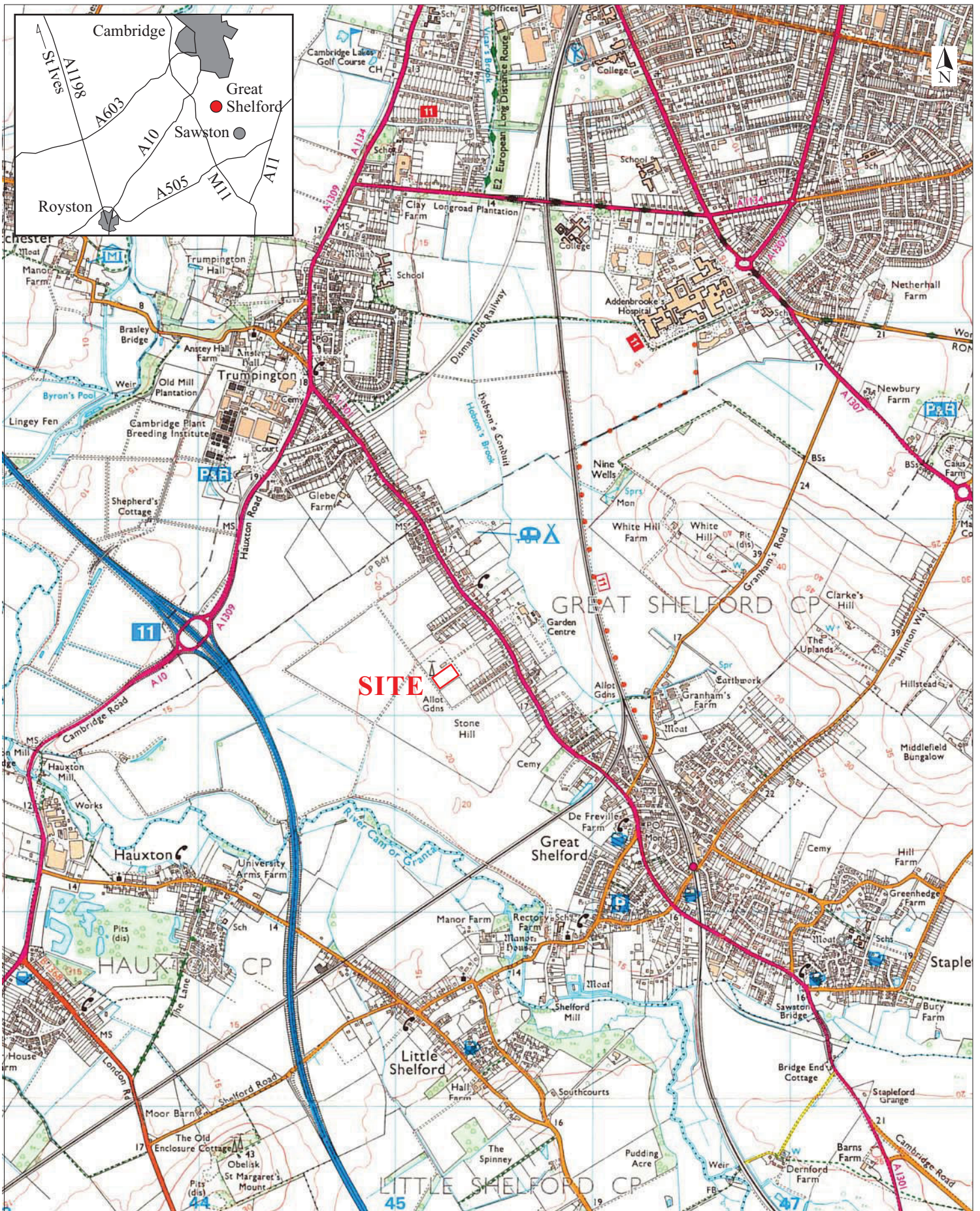


17  
Posthole F1015 in Trench 6, looking north-west



18  
Test pit in Trench 6, looking north-west

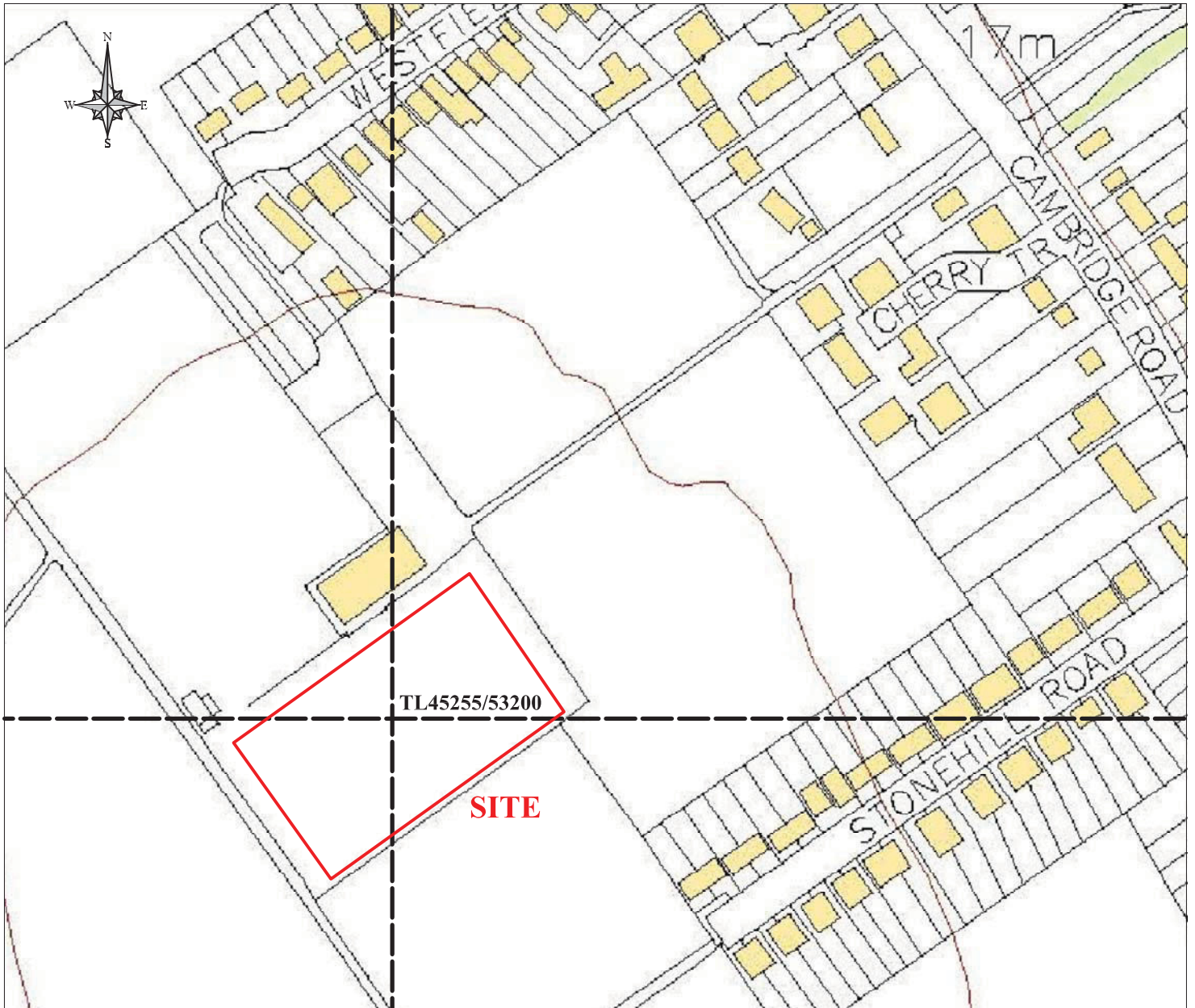




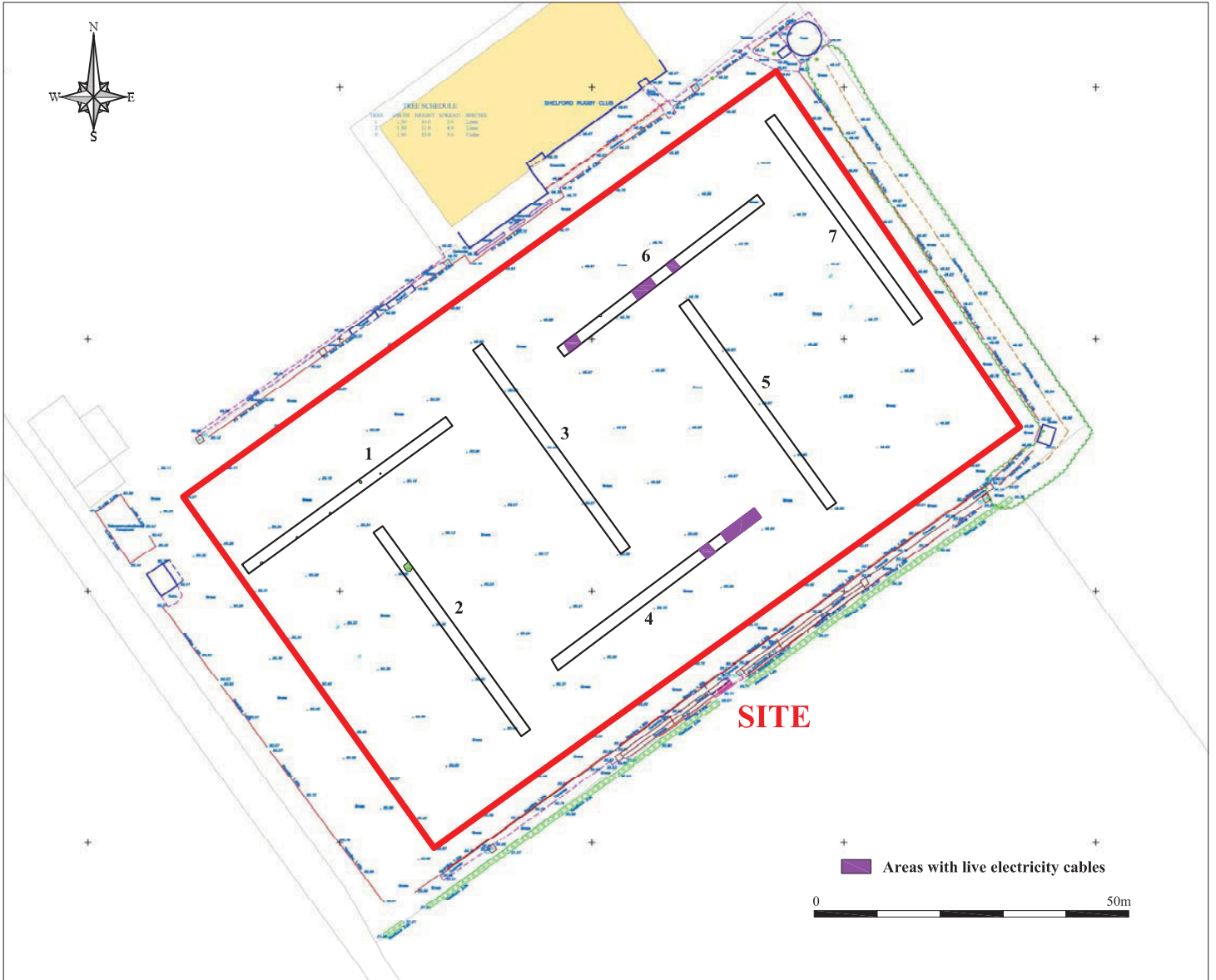
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Shelford Rugby Union Club, Shelford, Cambs (P6615)



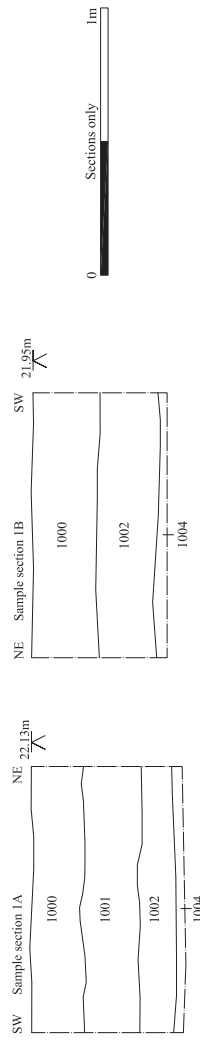
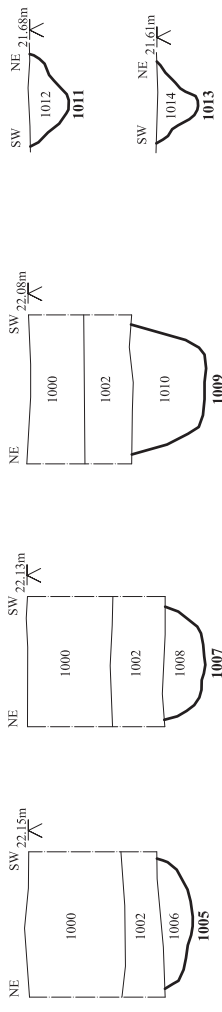


<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan</b>
Scale 1:2500 at A4
Shelford Rugby Union Club, Shelford, Cambs (P6823)



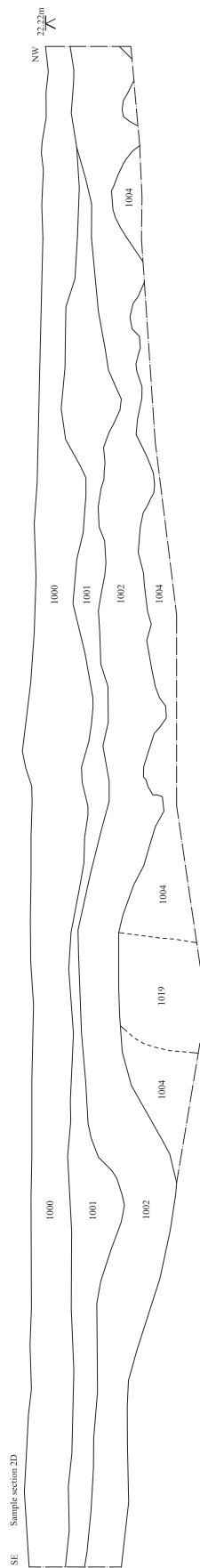
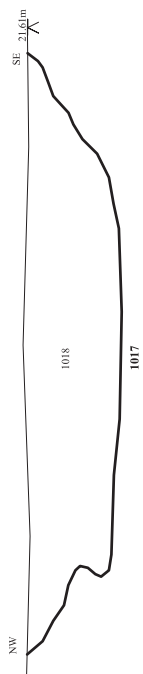
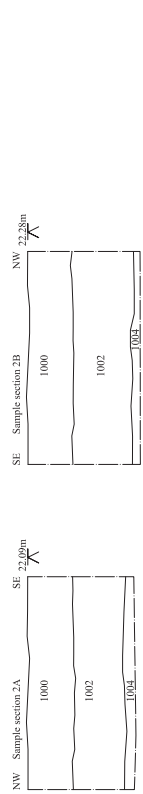
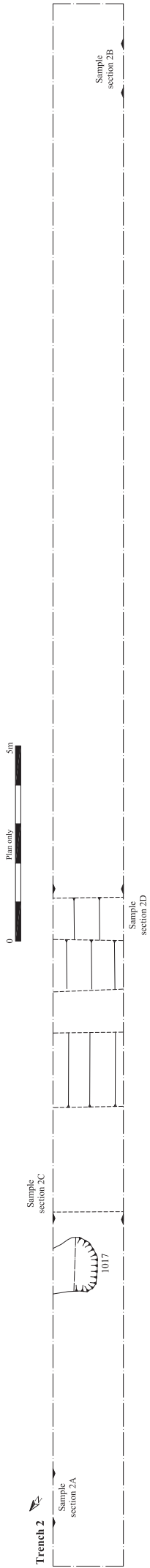
<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 3 Trench location plan</b>
Scale 1:1000 at A4
Sheffield Rugby Union Club, Sheffield, Cambs (P6823)

0 5m  
Plan only



0 1m  
Sections only

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**Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections**  
 Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3  
 Shelford Rugby Union Club, Shelford, Cambs (P6823)

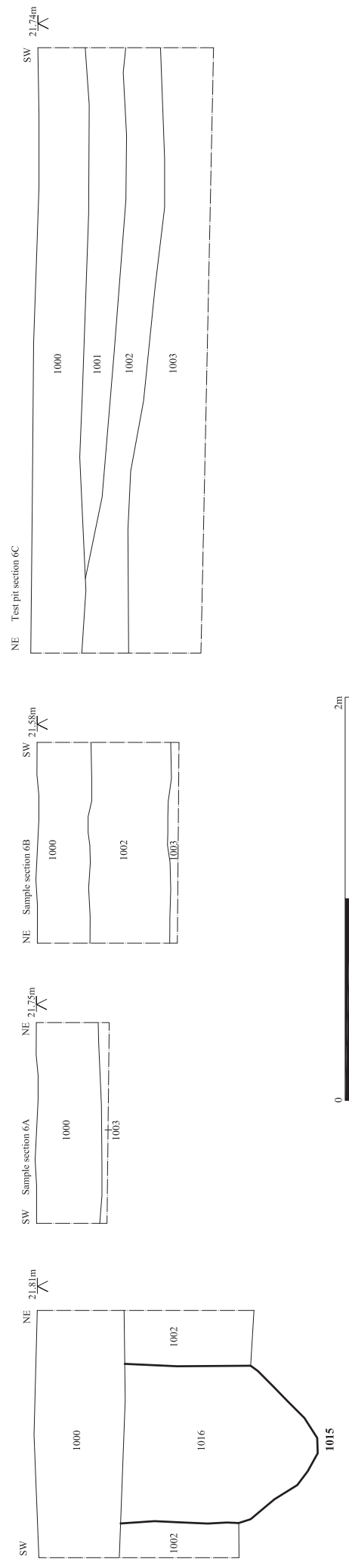
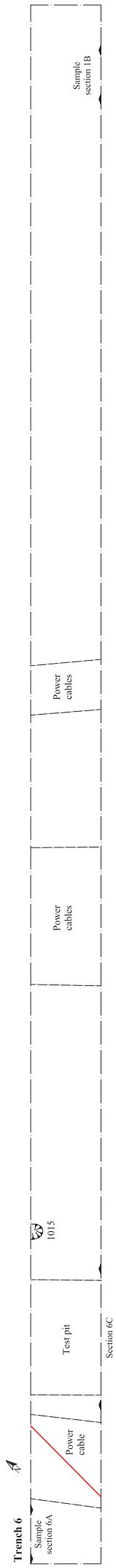


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**Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections**

Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:25 at A3

Shelford Rugby Union Club, Shelford, Cambs (P6823)



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**Fig. 6 Trench plans and sections**

Scale: Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3

Shelford Rugby Union Club, Shelford, Cambs (P6823)