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**LAND SOUTH OF 35 POUND LANE,
ISLEHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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NGR: TL 6420 7452		Report No: 5375
District: East Cambs		Site Code: ECB 4672
Approved:		Project No: 6478
Claire Halpin MCIfA		Date: 16 May 2017

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		<i>Land South of Pound Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire</i>	
<p><i>In May 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land south of 35 Pound Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6420 7452). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the determination of a planning application for the proposed erection of a single new dwelling and garage (Planning Ref. TBC). The evaluation was required based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), and it represents the initial requirement.</i></p> <p><i>Numerous features were present in each relatively short (15m) trench (six features in Trench 1, and five features in Trench 2). The features were principally linears (ditches) but included three pits in Trench 2.</i></p> <p><i>The earliest find was an abraded residual fragment of Roman tegula roof tile in Ditch F1018 (Trench 1). The pottery from the fill of the features is consistently medieval (12th – 14th century). Residual pottery from the topsoil (L1000) includes medieval (12th – 14th century) and late medieval (15th century) sherds. A fragment of medieval peg tile, probably produced between the late 12th and 14th centuries, was also found within the topsoil. Most interesting are the lava fragments from medieval Ditch F1006 and the topsoil. The lava fragments are derived from quernstones associated with the milling of flour or small-scale brewing.</i></p> <p><i>The ditches were broadly aligned NW/SE and parallel with the surveyed earthworks recorded on site. Similarly the surveyed earthworks are broadly parallel with the large earthwork beyond the site boundary.</i></p> <p><i>The surveyed earthworks and excavated features recorded during the evaluation are directly associated with the medieval priory complex.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		<i>May 2017</i>	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		<i>N</i>	<i>Future work (Y/N/?) TBC</i>
P. number		<i>6478</i>	<i>Site code ECB 4672</i>
Type of project		<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Site status		<i>-</i>	
Current land use		<i>Vacant</i>	
Planned development		<i>Residential</i>	
Main features (+dates)		<i>Earthwork. Ditches and pits</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)		<i>Medieval assemblages including lava fragments.</i>	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>East Cambs Isleham</i>
HER/ SMR for area		<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>	
Post code (if known)			
Area of site		<i>c.840m²</i>	
NGR		<i>TL 6420 7452</i>	
Height AOD (min/max)		<i>c.5m</i>	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		<i>CCC HET</i>	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>	
Funded by		<i>Mr Chris Reed</i>	
Full title		<i>Land South of 35 Pound Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Authors		<i>Barlow, G.</i>	
Report no.		<i>5375</i>	
Date (of report)		<i>May 2017</i>	

LAND SOUTH OF 35 POUND LANE, ISLEHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In May 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land south of 35 Pound Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6420 7452). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the determination of a planning application for the proposed erection of a single new dwelling and garage (Planning Ref. TBC). The evaluation was required based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), and it represents the initial requirement.

The site had an archaeological potential in particular for medieval remains associated with the medieval priory complex. The scheduled earthwork remains of the priory fish ponds, hollow ways and building platforms lie immediately adjacent to the east of the site (NHLE 1013278).

Numerous features were present in each relatively short (15m) trench (six features in Trench 1, and five features in Trench 2). The features were principally linears (ditches) but included three pits in Trench 2.

The earliest find was an abraded residual fragment of Roman tegula roof tile in Ditch F1018 (Trench 1). The pottery from the fill of the features is consistently medieval (12th – 14th century). Residual pottery from the topsoil (L1000) includes medieval (12th – 14th century) and late medieval (15th century) sherds. A fragment of medieval peg tile, probably produced between the late 12th and 14th centuries, was also found within the topsoil. Most interesting are the lava fragments from medieval Ditch F1006 and the topsoil. The lava fragments are derived from quernstones associated with the milling of flour or small-scale brewing.

The ditches were broadly aligned NW/SE and parallel with the surveyed earthworks recorded on site. Similarly the surveyed earthworks are broadly parallel with the large earthwork (hollow way) beyond the site boundary.

The surveyed earthworks and excavated features recorded during the evaluation are directly associated with the medieval priory complex.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land south of 35 Pound Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6420 7452; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the determination of a planning application for the proposed erection of a single new dwelling and garage (Planning Ref. TBC). The evaluation was required based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), and it represents the initial requirement.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by CCC HET (Kasia Gdaniec, dated 20/02/2017) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 07/03/2017) 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).

1.3 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 The site lies on the western side of Pound Lane in the northern sector of the historic core of the village of Isleham. The Scheduled Ancient Monument of Isleham Priory lies immediately adjacent to the west and south.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 Isleham lies within a Fenland landscape on the northern side of a fairly broad fen island, around which numerous drainage ditches remain present. The southern edge of the fen island rises to c.17m AOD; however the village is located on the northern side between 5-10m AOD. The site lies at c.5m AOD on the northern edge of the village with the land rising slightly towards the nucleus of the settlement to the south-east. The River Lark runs on a north-west to south-east alignment c.1.6km to the north-east of the village; while the River Snail and Soham Lode run further to the south-west and the Lee Brook to the east.

3.2 The underlying geological formation is the Zig Zag Chalk formation; sedimentary bedrock formed in the Cretaceous period. This is overlain with a shallow, lime-rich soil which is freely draining and generally covered by arable or grassland.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistory

4.1 There are several finds of varying prehistoric date recorded in the archaeological record. The Palaeolithic period is represented by a single handaxe of black flint c.500m to the south (CHER MCB19231). Mesolithic finds in the area include two antler axes and a stone mace head located c.320m and c.750m to the east of the village (CHER 07622 & MCB16201). Mesolithic finds to the west include flint scatters, axeheads, scraper tools and an arrowhead (CHER 10954A, 10883). Prehistoric finds to the south-west include axes and lithic implements as well as arrowheads and picks (CHER 10862). Other Neolithic finds in the area include axes (CHER 10883A) and lithic implements (CHER 10966), located to the north-west of the village found in association with a Neolithic monument c.1km from the village. This monument was first identified on an aerial photograph, and was located between two previously excavated long barrows which were well preserved (CHER 10957).

4.2 Bronze Age finds comprise a flint flake was found c.830m to the north-east (CHER 07623). Trial trenching along the route of the Ely waterway pipeline c.650m to the north-west revealed a ditch, possible post holes, a pit with a cow burial and numerous flints (CHER 11896). Fieldwalking and excavations revealed evidence for a large early Bronze Age settlement which continued into the Middle Bronze Age.

4.3 Iron Age pottery was found during test pitting c.300m to the south-west but no evidence for settlement was uncovered (CHER MCB19744).

Romano-British

4.4 Various Roman metal artefacts such as a buckle, a thimble, rings and a spoon have been recovered from fields c.920m to the north-west (CHER 07589). Other isolated finds include brooches (CHER 11710; 11708), pottery (CHER

MCB19744), harness fittings and coins (CHER 11708), and a saddle quern (CHER 10864).

Medieval

4.5 Very little is known about the village prior to Domesday but a *Grubenhau*; a sunken featured building, predates the medieval period (CHER MCB16866). Other Saxon finds from within the village include a disc brooch found c.700m to the west (CHER 11691) and a sherd of Late Saxon Thetford ware recorded c.80m to the north-east of the site (CHER MCB19749). A recent evaluation to the south of the proposed development site recorded Saxo-Norman to medieval remains including post holes, and ditches and gullies parallel to Pound Lane (CHER ECB 4749)

4.6 The medieval activity in Isleham is focused around the alien Benedictine Priory church of St. Margaret of Antioch, c.180m to the south of the site (CHER 07529) (Fig.3). It was founded in the 11th century and the church at Isleham was given to the Abbey between 1086-1163 by local landowners. The lands were seized in 1414 and given to Pembroke College, Cambridge, and the Romanesque church remains little altered or extended. The Chapel of St Margaret of Antioch 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, listed under CHER MCB14478). Extending to the north of the church are considerable earthworks relating to its previous agricultural and religious functions; with those directly to the west of the site generally associated with the presence of fish ponds and other agricultural activity (CHER 07528). The principal feature of this earthwork system, and well preserved, is a dry ditch (7-16m wide; 1.3m deep), most likely a hollow way leading to the priory, though previously it was considered a channel supplied water from the north (Fig. 3). This hollow way passes c.15m to the west of the site and there appears to have been a series of barns and agricultural buildings located on either side of the track, represented by rectangular enclosures and platforms. Three distinct enclosures are located on the eastern side of the track, with traces of two further platforms extending further to the north and east, potentially into the area of the site. Additional enclosures incorporating three largely in-filled fishponds are situated on the western side of the track. A bank, possibly a pillow mound, at the northern end may have been a rabbit warren located slightly west of the track and the site.

4.7 During the medieval period the main areas of settlement were the village of Great Isleham and a hamlet called Little Isleham to the south-west near the border with Fordham. Great Isleham extended from Temple Road to the eastern end of East Street, however the village had lost a third of houses by the 15th century (Wareham & Wright 2002, 424). The earliest house lies c.250m to the south along Mill Street and dates from 1730 with early 19th century extensions to the rear (CHER DCB670). Medieval finds close to the site include pottery uncovered c.80m to the east (CHER MCB19712; MCB19750), and post holes and pits to the south relating to occupation (CHER MCB19827; CB15283).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Two trenches each 15m in length, were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 3). The trenches respected slight linear earthworks that were identified during a site visit. The earthworks are broadly parallel with the large earthwork (hollow way) beyond the site boundary, and they were surveyed as part of the evaluation (Fig.3).

5.2 The topsoil was removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Exposed sections were cleaned 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 below the existing surface was bucket sampled and sorted by hand at each end of the trenches to characterise the artefact content of the topsoil. The latter contained residual medieval (12th - 15th century) pottery (4; 16g), a medieval (late 12th – 14th century) peg tile fragment (8g), and lava stone fragments (2; 14g).

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 3 - 4)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 5.57m AOD		
0.00 – 0.47m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable. Grey brown sandy silt with occasional sub rounded chalk and chalk flecks.
0.47m +	L1001	Natural. Firm, light grey chalk.

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 5.46m AOD		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1001	Topsoil. As above.
0.36m +	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained five ditches: F1002, F1004, F1006, F1018, F1020 and F1022. Ditches F1002 and F1006 contained medieval (12th – 14th century) pottery. Ditch F1018 contained an abraded residual fragment of Roman tegula roof tile.

Ditch F1002 was linear in plan (1.90m+ x 1.40m+ x 0.42m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1003, was a friable, dark grey brown sandy silt sand with moderate small and medium chalk lumps. It

contained medieval (12th – 14th century) pottery (5; 32g), animal bone (13g) and mussel shells (2; 2g)

Ditch F1004 was linear in plan (1.90m+ x 1.70m x 0.20m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1005, was a friable, pale brown sandy silt sand with moderate medium and large chalk lumps. It contained no finds. F1004 was cut by Ditch F1006.

Ditch F1006 was linear in plan (1.90m+ x 3.10m x 0.44m), orientated NW/SE. It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1007, was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt sand with occasional small and medium chalk lumps. It contained medieval (mid 12th – 14th century) pottery (4; 167g), animal bone (103g), and lava fragments (5; 18g). F1006 cut Ditch F1004.

Ditch F1018 was linear in plan (1.90m+ x 1.20m x 0.34m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1019, was a friable, pale grey brown sandy silt sand with occasional small and medium chalk lumps. It contained an abraded residual fragment of Roman *tegula* roof tile (28g) and animal bone (18g)

Ditch F1020 was linear in plan (1.90m+ x 1.00m x 0.31m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1021, was a friable, pale grey brown sandy silt sand with occasional small and medium chalk lumps. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1022 was linear in plan (1.90m+ x 1.20m x 0.32m), orientated NW/SE. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1023, was a friable, pale grey brown sandy silt sand with occasional small and medium chalk lumps. It contained no finds.

Trench 2 (Figs. 3 & 5)

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 5.47m AOD		
0.00 – 0.48m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.48m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 5.49m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.33m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

Sample section 2C 0.00 = 5.43m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.37m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

Sample section 2D 0.00 = 5.46m AOD		
0.0 – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.43m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 2 contained Pits F1008, F1010 and F1014, and Ditches F1012 and F1016. Pits F1008 and F1014 contained medieval (12th – 14th century) pottery. Some root disturbance was evident.

Pit F1008 was sub rectangular in plan (0.76m x 0.29m x 0.58m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1009, was a friable, pale mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium chalk lumps. It contained medieval (mid 12th – 14th century) pottery (2; 4g), mussel shell (1; 2g) and an Fe. nail fragment (1; 5g).

Pit F1010 was subcircular in plan (0.36m x 0.34m x 0.26m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1011, was a firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium flint. It contained mussel shells (2; 3g)

Ditch F1012 was linear in plan with a rounded terminal (15m+ x 0.38m x 0.21m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1013, was a friable, pale grey brown sandy silt sand with occasional small and medium flint. It contained no finds. F1012 was cut by Ditch F1016.

Pit F1014 was subcircular in plan (0.95m x 0.46m x 0.16m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1015, was a firm, pale grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium flint. It contained medieval (12th – 14th century) pottery (1; 3g).

Ditch F1016 was linear in plan (1.90+ x 0.43m x 0.20m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1017, was a firm, pale grey brown sandy silt sand with occasional small and medium flint. It contained no finds. F1016 cut Ditch F1012.

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 Topsoil L1000 a friable, grey brown sandy silt with occasional sub rounded chalk lumps and chalk flecks (0.33 – 48m thick). L1000 overlay the natural, L1001, a firm, light grey chalk. The natural was present at 0.33 – 0.48m below the existing ground level.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Date
1	F1002	Ditch	Medieval (12 th – 14 th century)
	F1004	Ditch	-
	F1006	Ditch	Medieval (mid 12 th – 14 th century)
	F1018	Ditch	Residual Roman <i>tegula</i> roof tile fragment
	F1020	Ditch	-
	F1022	Ditch	-
2	F1008	Pit	Medieval (mid 12 th – 14 th century)
	F1010	Pit	-
	F1012	Ditch	-
	F1014	Pit	Medieval (12 th – 14 th century)
	F1016	Ditch	-

9.2 The site had a high archaeological potential in particular for medieval remains associated with the medieval priory complex. The scheduled earthwork remains of the priory fish ponds, hollow ways and building platforms lie immediately adjacent to the site (NHLE 1013278) (Fig. 3).

9.3 Numerous features were present in each relatively short (15m) trench (six features in Trench 1, and five features in Trench 2). The features were principally linears (ditches) but included three pits in Trench 2.

9.4 The earliest find was an abraded residual fragment of Roman *tegula* roof tile from Ditch F1018 (Trench 1). The Roman period is represented locally by isolated 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).

9.5 The pottery from the fill of the features recorded during the evaluation is consistently medieval (12th – 14th century). Between 1 and 5 sherds were present (F1014 (1); F1008 (2); F1006 (4) and F1002 (5)). The residual pottery from the topsoil (L1000) includes medieval (12th – 14th century) and late medieval (15th century) sherds. A fragment of medieval peg tile, probably produced between the late 12th and 14th centuries, was also found within the topsoil (CBM Report below).

9.6 Animal bone, an iron nail fragment and mussel shell fragments were found in association with the pottery. Most interesting are the lava fragments from Ditch F1006 and the topsoil. The lava fragments are derived from quernstones associated with the milling of flour or small-scale brewing (Lava Report below). The carbonised plant remains from the bulk samples are indicative of the use of cereals, specifically free-threshing type wheat, on or close to the site during the medieval period. The samples also demonstrate good preservation of small terrestrial and aquatic molluscs, which can be useful palaeoenvironmental indicators (Environmental Report below).

9.7 Though the ditches in Trench 1 (F1002, F1004, F1006, F1018, F1020 and F1022) varied in size, they were broadly aligned NW/SE and parallel with the surveyed earthworks on site (Fig.3). Ditch F1012 (Trench 2) may be a continuation of Ditch F1020 (Trench 1). Ditch F1016 (Trench 2) was perpendicular to the other recorded ditches.

9.8 Medieval (12th – 14th century) features were recorded, principally ditches but also pits. The ditches were broadly aligned with the earthworks which were recorded on site, and one ditch was perpendicular. The surveyed earthworks and ditches are broadly parallel with the dry ditch, understood to represent a hollow way leading to the medieval priory that passes c.15m to the west of the site (Fig. 3). Numerous enclosures and platforms associated with agricultural buildings and fishponds have been recorded either side of this hollow way, with further possible enclosures suggested by earthworks extending into the site. The ditches at the western end of Trench 1 may have flanked a linear earthwork parallel and to the east of the hollow way, while the remaining features in Trenches 1 and 2 may represent internal divisions or specific functions within an enclosed platform. The evidence supports the hypothesis that the earthwork system and activities of the priory extended to the site.

Research potential

9.9 The presence of residual Roman roof tile at the site is of note as previously identified evidence for Roman activity is concentrated to the west of the village. The identification of this material may extend the area in which Roman activity is known Isleham, although as residual material it could have arrived at this location through a variety of agencies. Some consideration must be given to the re-use of Roman material in later periods.

9.10 The main research potential of the site relates to the medieval ditches that were recorded and their spatial relationships with previously identified enclosures, platforms associated with agricultural buildings, fishponds, and other activity associated with the medieval Benedictine Priory complex, including those that form part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (NHLE 1013278). The archaeology revealed during the trial trench evaluation indicates that the site has the potential to contain further information about the layout and form of the Priory complex and its immediately surrounding infrastructure. Medlycott (2011, 70), specifically states that medieval cathedral complexes, monastic sites and churches require further study, including the synthesis of the results derived from building recording and excavations. The current site provides an excellent opportunity to further characterise this particular medieval monastic site

9.11 Wade (2000, 26) identifies the impact of Christianity as an important research subject for the East Anglian Region, highlighting in particular the role of the late Saxon (although of course Isleham Priory is slightly later than this) monasteries in craft production and trade. Ayers (2000, 31) highlights the economic influence of the church, the technological and artistic importance of the church to the local economy and culture, and the social role of the church as important research subjects. The site has the potential to contain information relating to these subjects. It can provide further detail about how the land under the ownership of the Priory was used and, if

suitable environmental and artefactual information is present, about the agricultural regimes with which this land was associated.

9.12 Developing a greater understanding of the form and layout of the Priory complex has the potential to provide further information about the layout of the settlement of Isleham itself in the medieval period. Understanding the shape and form of the Priory complex may provide context to previously recorded information regarding the lay settlement at Isleham. There is also potential for further work to yield information regarding the way in which the symbiotic relationship between the monastic and lay communities may have operated. The development of towns, changes in their internal layouts and housing densities, and their role as centres of supply and demand are identified as important areas of research (Medlycott 2011, 70).

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The site had a high archaeological potential in particular for medieval remains associated with the medieval priory complex.

10.2 Linear earthworks are preserved within the site and during the evaluation medieval (12th – 14th century) features were recorded, principally ditches but also pits. These features are directly associated with the medieval priory complex.

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 would like to thank Mr Chris Reed for funding the project and for his assistance.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1000		1	Layer	Residual Med 12th-15th C	4	16	8		Lava	2	14
			2	Layer		4	63	43				
1002	1003	1		Fill of Ditch	12th-14th C	5	32		13	Mussel Shells	2	2
1006	1007	1		Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-14th C	4	167		103	Lava	5	18
1008	1009	2		Fill of Pit	Mid 12th-14th C	2	4			Mussel Shell F.Nail	1 1	2 5
1010	1011	2		Fill of Pit						Mussel Shells	2	3
1014	1015	2		Fill of Pit	12th-14th C	1	3					
1018	1019	1		Fill of Ditch				28	18			

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 16 sherds weighing 278g from four features and the topsoil. The features contained 12 sherds of medieval coarse wares nine of which are Ely wares including a jug strap handle, the remaining three sherds are unprovenanced sandy wares.

The remaining four sherds came from Topsoil L1000. They are residual medieval sherds including Late Medieval Oxidised Sandy Ware and a jar rim with a triangular bead, which may be a Late Ely Ware but lacked any visible chalky inclusions.

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 Post-Roman fabric series which are also applicable to pottery from Cambridgeshire.

Key:

MCW 1 (3.20): Medieval Coarseware 1 (sandy) - moderate fine to medium sub-rounded to rounded grey, clear and occasionally white and pink quartz. Occasional white limestone inclusions and rounded red/black iron mineral. Pale grey cores, pale brown or grey surfaces (12th-14th)

MCW2 (3.20): Medieval Coarseware 2 (sandy) – sandy matrix with moderate to common sub-angular to rounded mainly grey quartz, Few other inclusions. Grey core, reduced or oxidised surfaces (12th-14th)

MCW3 (3.21): Medieval Coarseware 3 (sandy) – fine sandy matrix, sparse coarse to very coarse rounded quartz/quartzite and sparse voids from dissolved ?calcareous (13th-15th)

MCW4 (3.20): quartz tempered fabric similar to BRILL but a little coarser and also containing abundant black inclusions, probably iron oxide. Pale orange/pink throughout (12th-14th)

MEL (3.61): Medieval Ely Ware (Spoerry 2016; mid 12th-mid 14th)

OSW (5.00): Late medieval Oxidised Sandy Ware: (Spoerry 2016; mid 14th-mid 15th)

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Topsoil	100o	1x15g MCW1 2x39g OSW 1x20g MCW3	Residual medieval sherds (12 th – 15 th C)	1x4g flaked off fragment of CBM MCW3: jar rim with triangular bead 22cm diam
Ditch 1002	1003	4x23g MEL 1x8g MCW4	12 th -14 th	MEL: x1 tip of ?jar rim
Ditch 1006	1007	4x167g MEL	Mid 12 th -14 th	MEL: x1 jug strap handle, double grooved with raised bordering ridges; x1 rounded base/body angle

Pit 1008	1009	1x1g MEL 1x1g MCW2	Mid 12 th -14 th	
Pit 1014	1015	1x4g MCW2	12 th -14 th	

Table 1: Quantification of wares 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.

Spoerry P. 2016 The Production and Distribution of Medieval Pottery in
 Cambridgeshire *East Anglian Archaeology* Vol 159

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The trial trench evaluation recovered two small fragments of CBM (71g) in a highly fragmented and abraded condition. The fragments were examined at x20 magnification with all extant technological traits measured or characterised.

Ditch F1018 (L1019) contained a single fragment (28g) of 20mm thick flat tile with relatively smooth surfaces. It was manufactured in a fabric with orange surfaces fading to a slightly redder core; with inclusions of common quartz (<0.5mm), sparse fine mica and red iron rich pellets (<0.5mm). It is likely a fragment of Roman tegulae roof tile.

Topsoil L1000 contained a single fragment (43g) 14mm thick flat tile with a rough base and slightly abrasive upper surface. It was manufactured in a fabric with red-brown surfaces fading to an orange core; with inclusions of abundant fine quartz (<0.1mm), occasional chalk (<0.5mm) and mica. It is likely a fragment of medieval peg tile, probably produced between the late 12th and 14th centuries.

The Lava

By Rebecca Sillwood

Seven fragments of grey vesicular lava, weighing 32g, were recovered from two contexts. Two fragments were recovered from Topsoil L1000 (Trench 2), and five pieces came from a probable medieval ditch F1006 (Trench 1).

Lava was generally imported from quarries in the Rhineland region of Germany during the medieval period (Smith & Margeson, 1993, 202), although it can occur in Roman and some Anglo-Saxon contexts as well. After c.1500 lava went out of use as a quern material, being replaced by the more local millstone grit.

Although all pieces from this trial trench evaluation are formless fragments, with no grinding surfaces, it seems likely that they once formed part of a quernstone(s). The use of quernstones for the production of flour alone is by no means certain, as, certainly in Norwich, the milling of flour was tightly controlled in the medieval period, and many quernstones from domestic sites could represent small-scale brewing, used for the grinding of malt for the purpose. This could especially be the case on more rural manorial sites, with more need for brewing and providing its own beer for the use of the estate.

Bibliography

Smith, D & Margeson, S. 1993. 'Querns' in Margeson, S. *Norwich Households*. East Anglian Archaeology No. 58, p. 202

The Animal Bone

Mark S. Blagg-Newsome

A small assemblage (134) was recovered during the trial trench evaluation, totalling 11 fragments. The majority of the bones came from 12th to 14th century ditch fill deposits (F1002 L1003 and F1006 L1007), with the exception of those from ditch fill L1019 (F1018), which were undated. Bone preservation was generally poor on a five point scale from very poor through to excellent. There was some bone abrasion, whilst fragmentation was quite high with some incidences of fresh breaks. In many cases, the compact bone of many of the remains was mineralised, while the periosteum and endosteum were unaffected. This may have weakened the bone, which may go some way to explaining the higher than expected incidence of fragmentation at the site.

Just under half of the assemblage (45%) was identifiable to a specific taxa, with dog the dominant species (three bones), followed by cattle (two bones). Five fragments were attributable to a large mammal (cattle or horse sized) size category. Based on other remains found at the site, it is probable that these are mostly derived from cattle remains.

The cattle remains are probably representative of animal killed for food, whilst the dog remains may have represented a working animal. One of the dog

mandibles had considerably worn teeth, with ante-mortem tooth loss of the premolar 1 and premolar 2 teeth, with the alveolar bone completely remodelled.

No incidences of butchery, canid or rodent gnawing were noted from the assemblage, nor any incidences of burning. No further comment is possible.

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Cattle	Dog	Large Mammal	Unidentifiable	Total (Not inc. Unid)
1002	1003	2	Fill of Ditch	12th-14th C			3		3
1006	1007	2	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-14th C	1	3		1	4
1018	1019	2	Fill of Ditch		1		2		3
Total					2	3	5	1	10

Table 2: Quantification of animal bone

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the evaluation two bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken from medieval deposits L1007 (F1006) and L1009 (F1008). This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions, and discusses the significance and potential of any remains recovered.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999), and a reference collection of modern seeds and molluscs. 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 3. Both deposits yielded evidence of plant exploitation in the form of carbonised cereal grains. Wheat was the only positively identified taxon, including grains of free-threshing type wheat (*T. aestivum/ turgidum* type) in L1009. Free-threshing type wheat, particularly bread wheat, was the dominant crop of the medieval economy, although it is likely that the low density of remains from the present site is not representative of what was probably a more diverse medieval arable economy. The density of remains was not sufficient to indicate the remains of a particular process, instead most likely representing mixed debris incorporated into the features from background scatters of carbonised material or as part of general refuse disposal.

Most prominent in the bulk sample light fractions were the shells of terrestrial and freshwater aquatic molluscs, which were well preserved and present in significant concentrations. The shells from L1009 included those of short grassland (*Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia* sp.), as well as ground litter species (*Cochlicopa* sp., *Discus rotundatus*, *Oxychilus* sp. and *Trichia hispida* group). These suggest grassland habitats of various lengths and perhaps other areas of taller vegetation. *Carychium* sp. is more indicative of wetter habitats.

The shells from L1007 were similar but also included freshwater molluscs, such as *Planorbis planorbis*, *Anisus vortex*, *Bathyomphalus contortus* and *Gyraulus* sp. These reflect a range of potential freshwater habitats, although all can occupy drainage ditches and flooded ditches.

Contaminants

Both samples contained a significant volume of modern roots, along with low concentrations of other modern contaminants, such as seeds, insect remains, burrowing molluscs (*Cecilioides acicula*) and earthworm egg capsules. These remains, particularly the high density of roots and presence of burrowing invertebrates could reflect some biological disturbance of the sampled deposits.

Conclusions

The carbonised plant remains from the bulk sample light fractions are indicative of the use of cereals, specifically free-threshing type wheat, on or close to the site during the medieval period. The low concentration of remains and limited number of samples makes it unreliable to determine whether the present site was located close to areas of arable production and processing. The samples also demonstrate good preservation of small terrestrial and aquatic molluscs, which can be useful palaeoenvironmental indicators. Such remains could provide useful information regarding vegetation conditions and

habitats on the site, should suitable deposits be identified and sampled during any future excavations at the site.

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

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Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals		Non-cereal taxa		Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains		
									Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes	Hazelnut shell	Charcoal >2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds		Insects	Earthworm capsules
ECB4672	1	1009	1008	Fill of Pit	Mid 12th-14th C	10	10	100%	XX	-	FTW (3), Trit (2), NFI (10)	-	-	-	X	-	XX	Carychium sp., Cochlicopa sp., D. rotundatus, Oxychilus sp., P. muscorum, T. hispida gp., Vallonia sp., Vertigo sp.	XXX	X	X	X	X	-
ECB4672	2	1007	1006	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-14th C	40	20	50%	XX	-	Trit (5), NFI (4)	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	A. vortex, B. contortus, Carychium sp., Cochlicopa sp., D. rotundatus, Gyraulus sp., Oxychilus sp., P. planorbis, P. muscorum, T. hispida gp., Vallonia sp., Vertigo sp.	XXX	X	X	-	-	-

Table 3: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Isleham. Abbreviations: FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-288311

Project details

Project name	Land South of Pound Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	In May 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land south of 35 Pound Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6420 7452). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the determination of a planning application for the proposed erection of a single new dwelling and garage (Planning Ref. TBC). The evaluation was required based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), and it represents the initial requirement. Numerous features were present in each relatively short (15m) trench (six features in Trench 1, and five features in Trench 2). The features were principally linears (ditches) but included three pits in Trench 2. The earliest find was an abraded residual fragment of Roman tegula roof tile in Ditch F1018 (Trench 1). The pottery from the fill of the features is consistently medieval (12th - 14th century). Residual pottery from the topsoil (L1000) includes medieval (12th - 14th century) and late medieval (15th century) sherds. A fragment of medieval peg tile, probably produced between the late 12th and 14th centuries, was also found within the topsoil. Most interesting are the lava fragments from medieval Ditch F1006 and the topsoil. The lava fragments are derived from quernstones associated with the milling of flour or small-scale brewing. The ditches were broadly aligned NW/SE and parallel with the surveyed earthworks recorded on site. Similarly the surveyed earthworks are broadly parallel with the large earthwork beyond the site boundary. The surveyed earthworks and excavated features recorded during the evaluation are directly associated with the medieval priory complex.
Project dates	Start: 01-05-2017 End: 31-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P6478 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4672 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	TEGULA ROOF TILE FRAGMENT Roman

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 Land South of Pound Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire
Study area	840 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 6420 7452 52.343710045444 0.410742247823 52 20 37 N 000 24 38 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5m Max: 5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team
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"
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	Land South of Pound Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Barlow, G

Other bibliographic details	Archaeological Solutions Report No. 5375
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Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Entered by	Sarah Powell (info@ascontracts.co.uk)
Entered on	23 June 2017

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



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Trench 2 looking south-east



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Pit 1008 in Trench 2 looking south-east



8
Pit 1010 in Trench 2 looking south-east

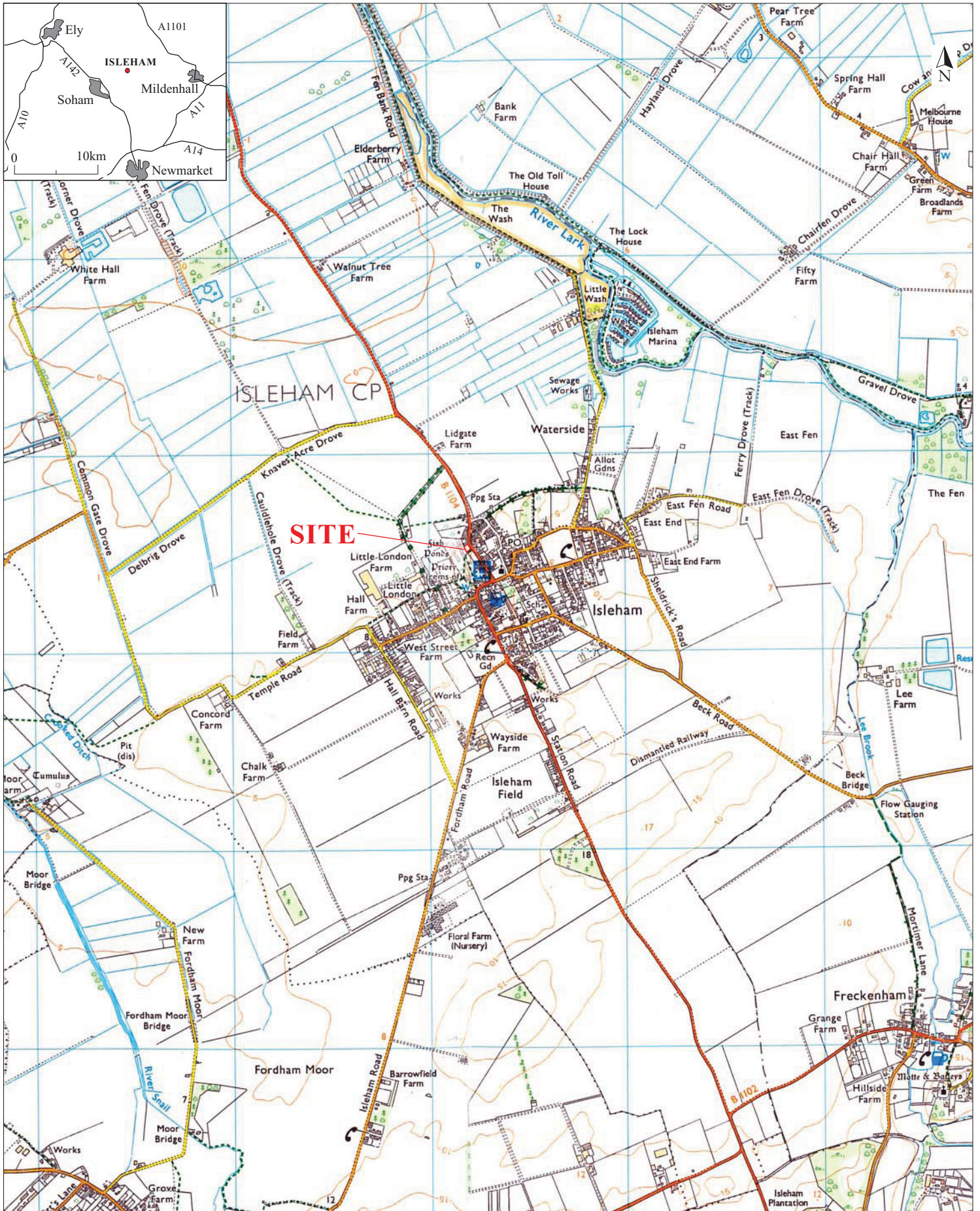
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Ditch 1012C in Trench 2 looking south-west



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Ditch 1012A and Pit 1014 in Trench 2 looking north-west



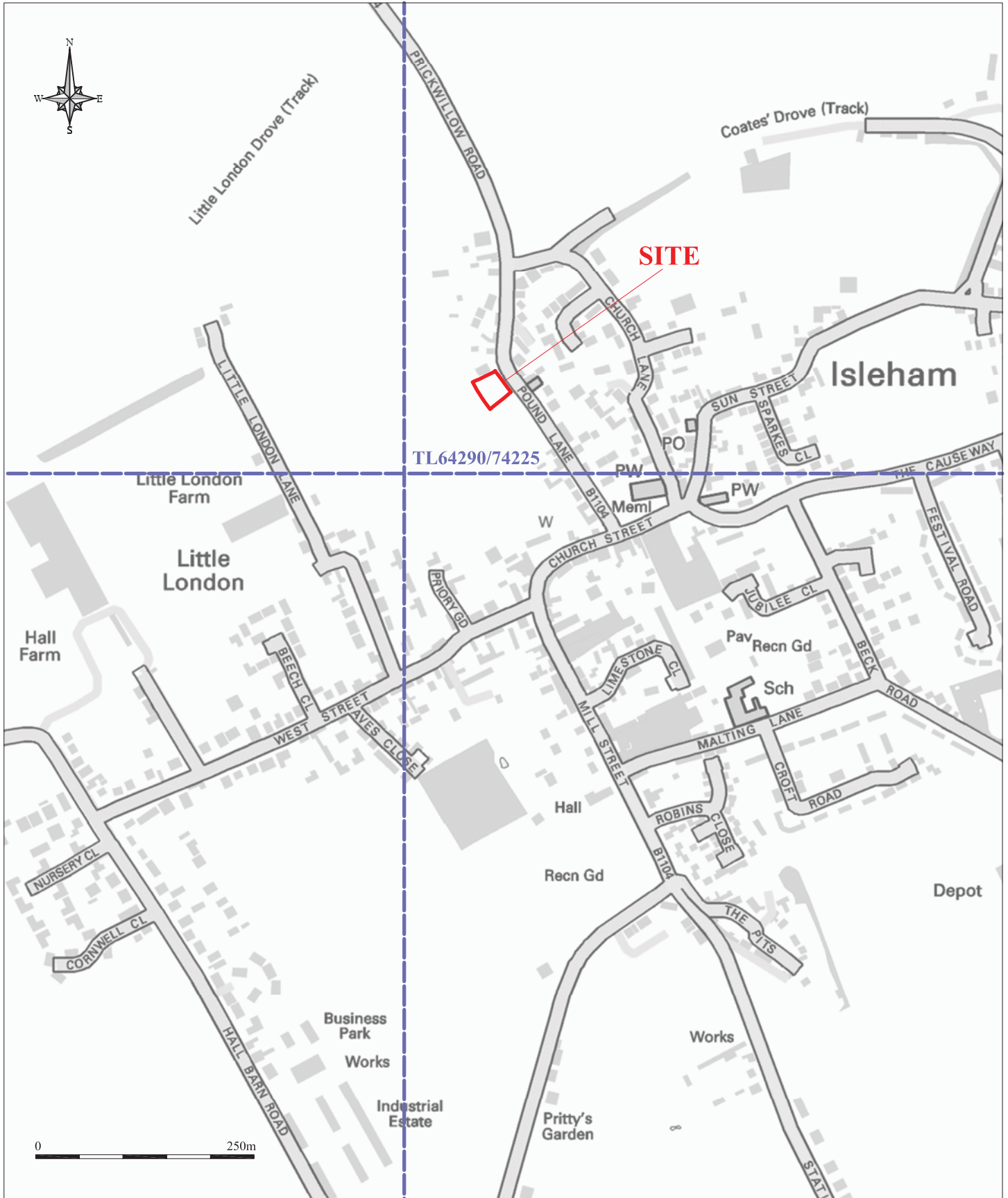
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Fig. 1 Site location plan

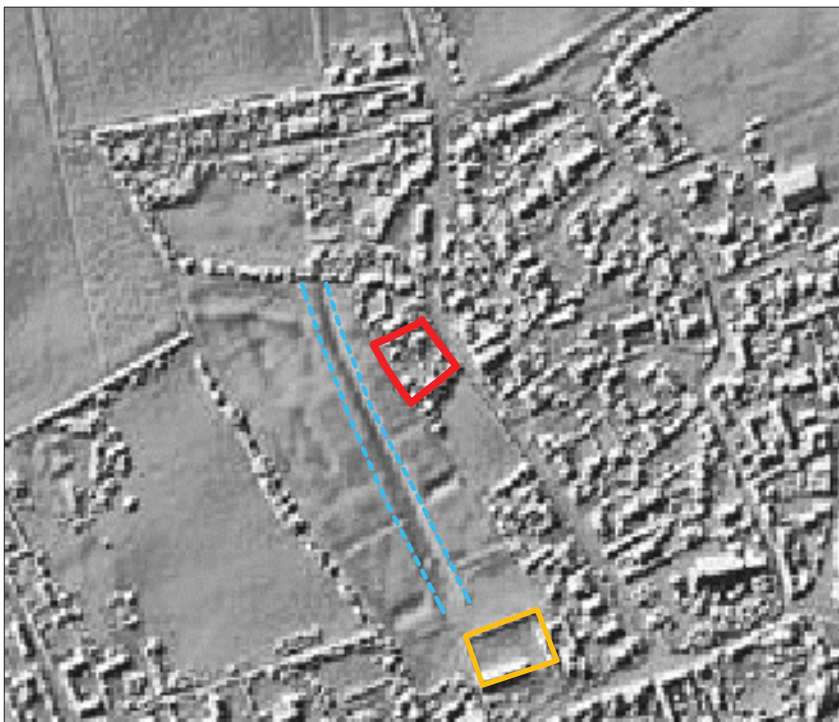
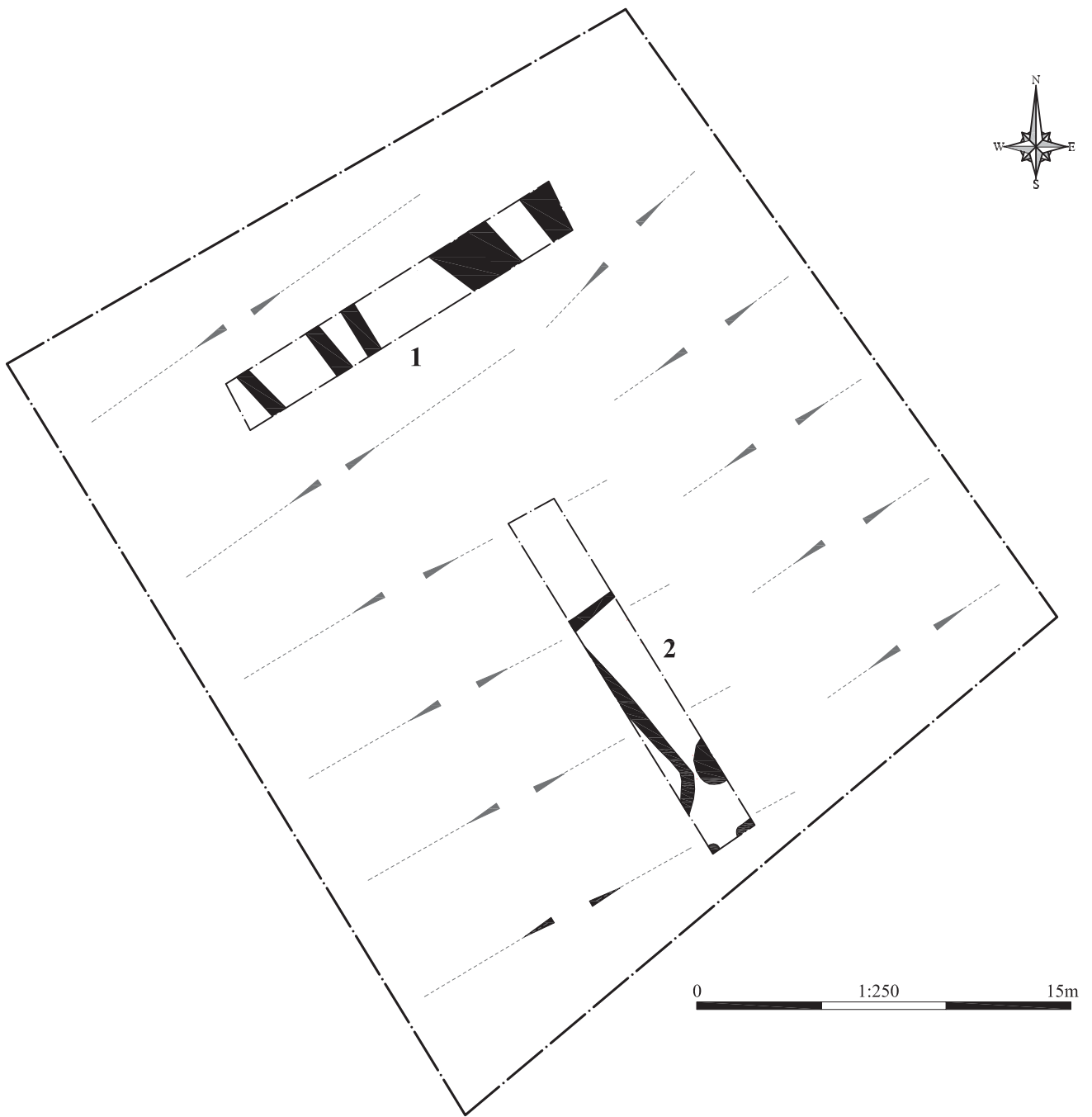
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Pound Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P6478)



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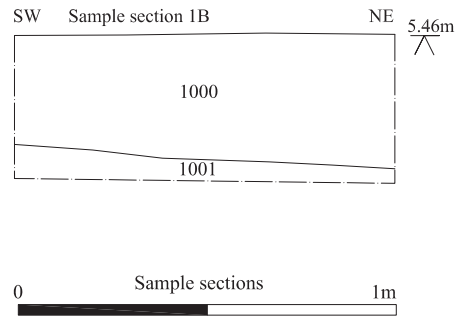
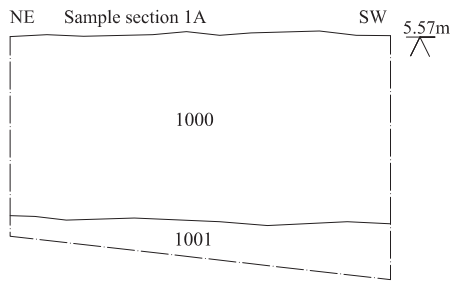
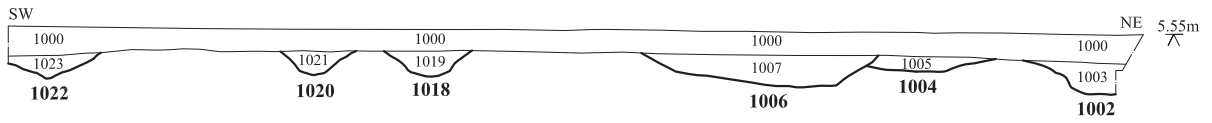
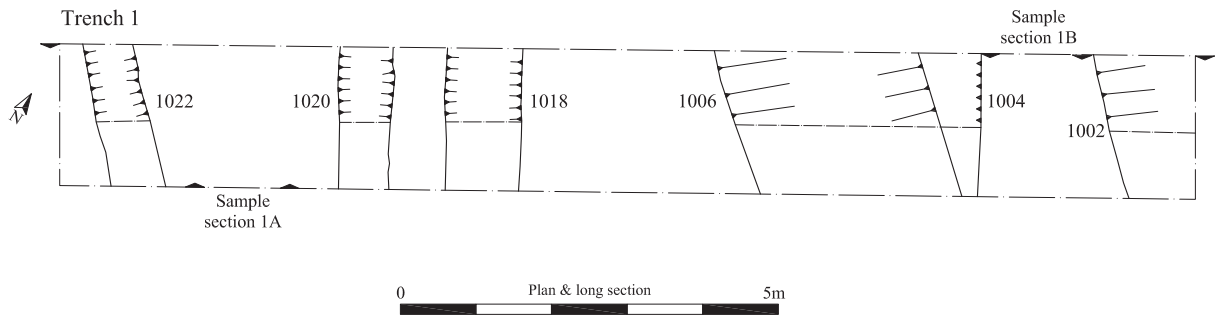
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:6000 at A4
Pound Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P6478)



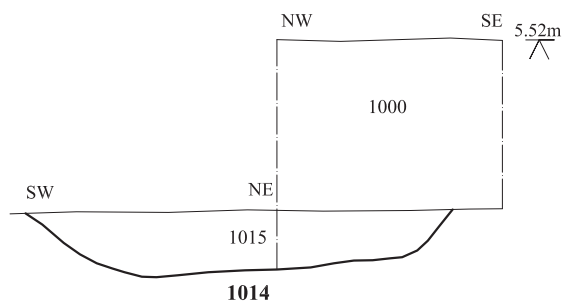
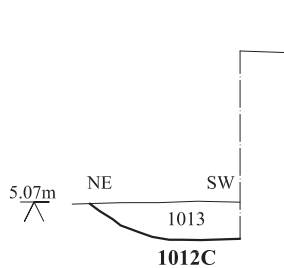
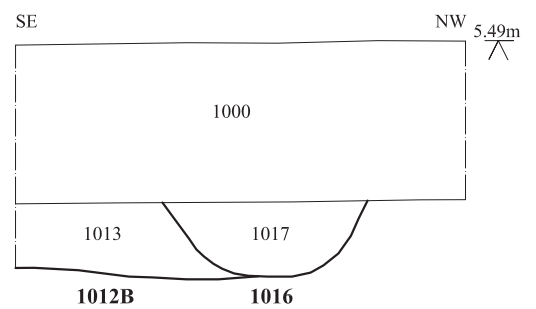
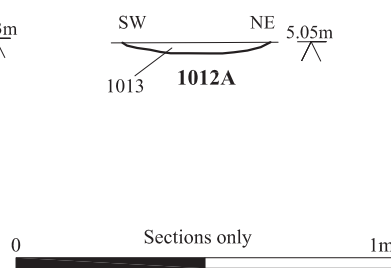
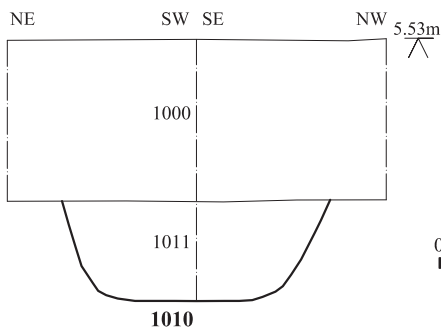
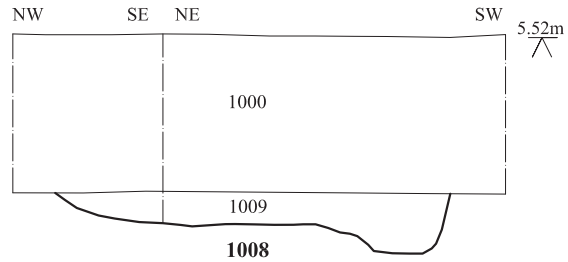
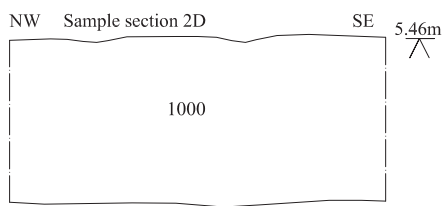
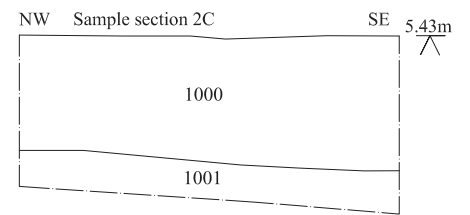
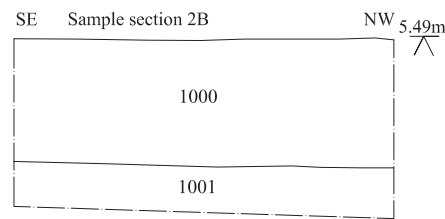
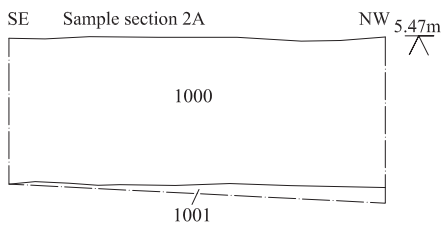
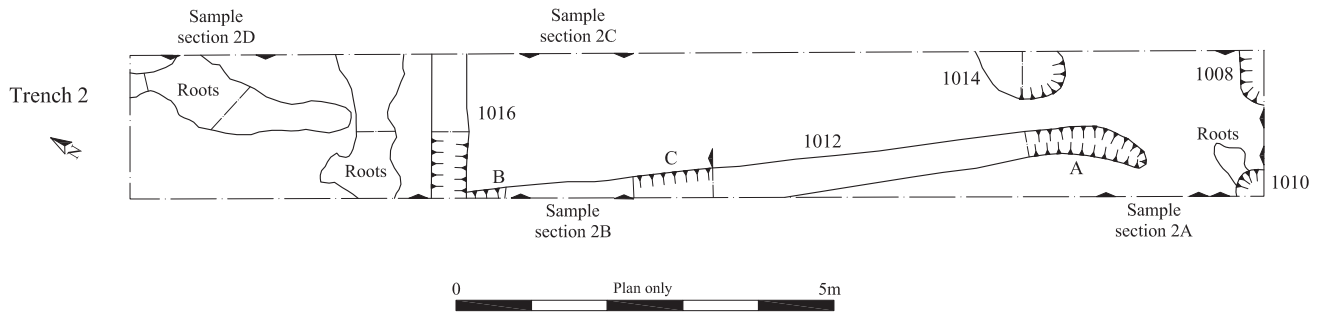
Earthworks plan (1:4000)

- Hollow way
- Priory
- Site

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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
Scale 1:250 & 1:4000 at A4
Pound Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P6478)



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Fig. 4 Trench 1
Scale 1:100 & 1:20 at A4
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Fig. 5 Trench 2
Scale 1:100 & 1:20 at A4
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