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38 COW LANE, RAMPTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB24 8QG

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Kerrie Bull (Fieldwork and report) Andrew Peachey (Research) Antony RR Mustchin (Editor)	
Illustrations: Thomas Light	
NGR: TL 4270 6824	Report No: 5460
District: South Cambs	Site Code: ECB 5199
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**PI House, 23 Clifton Road, Shefford,
Bedfordshire SG17 5AF
01462 850483**

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

**e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	38 Cow Lane, Rampton, Cambridgeshire CB24 8QG		
<p><i>In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 38 Cow Lane, Rampton, Cambridgeshire CB24 8QG (NGR TL 4270 6824; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 2no detached dwellings with associated access (South Cambs Council Planning Ref. S/0304/17/FL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.</i></p> <p><i>The site had a potential for remains of late Saxon/medieval occupation of the former village and castle site, and for evidence of earlier Saxon activity.</i></p> <p><i>Features were found in each trial trench but the posthole (F1007) in Trench 1 cut the topsoil and was modern. Furrows were recorded in Trenches 2 (F1003 and F1010) and 3 (F1014 and F1016), and they adhered to the same N/S directions. In addition to the furrows, a pit and a ditch were recorded in Trench 2 (F1005 and F1012), and a ditch in Trench 3 (F1018).</i></p> <p><i>The features and furrows in Trench 2, but not Trench 3, contained medieval pottery, principally 11th – 13th century. Ditch F1012 contained a slightly later medieval sherd of 13th – 14th / 15th century date. The pottery sherds are small and heavily abraded. They were found in association with later material; Pit F1005 (Trench 2) and Furrow F1014 (Trench 3) contained late 19th – 20th century CBM. However, the spacing of the encountered furrows was in keeping with medieval 'broad rig' ridge and furrow ploughing and the 19th – 20th century CBM may represent intrusive material.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	September 2017		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	P7304	Site code	ECB 5199
Type of project	Archaeological evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Garden / open land		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Furrows, ditches, pit		
Significant finds (+dates)	Medieval (11 th – 13 th C) pottery Medieval (13 th – 14 th / 15 th century) pottery		
	Cambridgeshire	South Cambs	Rampton
HER/ SMR for area	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)		
Post code (if known)	CB24 8QG		
Area of site	0.2ha.		
NGR	TL 4270 6824		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.6.60m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire County Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Mrs Margetts		
Full title	38 Cow Lane, Rampton, Cambridgeshire CB24 8QG. An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Kerrie Bull		
Report no.	5460		
Date (of report)	4 October 2017 (Revised 18/10/2017)		

38 COW LANE, RAMPTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB24 8QG

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 38 Cow Lane, Rampton, Cambridgeshire CB24 8QG (NGR TL 4270 6824; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 2no detached dwellings with associated access (South Cambs Council Planning Ref. S/0304/17/FL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

The site had a potential for remains of late Saxon/medieval occupation of the former village and castle site, and for evidence of earlier Saxon activity.

Features were found in each trial trench but the posthole (F1007) in Trench 1 cut the topsoil and was modern. Furrows were recorded in Trenches 2 (F1003 and F1010) and 3 (F1014 and F1016), and they adhered to the same N/S directions. In addition to the furrows, a pit and a ditch were recorded in Trench 2 (F1005 and F1012), and a ditch in Trench 3 (F1018).

The features and furrows in Trench 2, but not Trench 3, contained medieval pottery, principally 11th – 13th century. Ditch F1012 contained a slightly later medieval sherd of 13th – 14th / 15th century. The pottery sherds are small and heavily abraded. They were found in association with later material; Pit F1005 (Trench 2) and Furrow F1014 (Trench 3) contained late 19th – 20th century CBM. However, the spacing of the encountered furrows was in keeping with medieval 'broad rig' ridge and furrow ploughing and the 19th – 20th century CBM may represent intrusive material.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 38 Cow Lane, Rampton, Cambridgeshire CB24 8QG (NGR TL 4270 6824; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 2no detached dwellings with associated access (South Cambs Council Planning Ref. S/0304/17/FL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET, Gemma Stewart; dated 7th August 2017), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 16th August 2017) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition significance and quality of any 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 is located on the eastern side of Cow Lane in the north end of Rampton village. It comprises current garden/open land to the rear and north and south of No 38.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at c. 6.6m AOD. The local solid geology is Ampthill Clay. It extends to some 0.2ha overall.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER), in particular for the Saxon and

medieval periods. The only evidence for prehistoric activity around the village is two Neolithic polished axes recovered from the foundations of a house c.250m to the south (HER 05183). Sparse Roman pottery sherds were recovered from a test pit close to the east (HER MCB20163) and low quantities of metal-detected Roman coins and artefacts from a field to the north (HER MCB16662), suggesting Rampton was part of a marginal area of the fen edge in the Roman period.

4.2 The core of the village appears to have origins in the Saxon period, probably centred on All Saints' Church c.200m to the south-east, where fragments of five Anglo-Saxon grave covers and part of a cross-shaft were recorded (HER 05457a). Immediately south of the church an archaeological evaluation recorded ditches dating to the Saxon and medieval period (HER MCB23427). Thus the early medieval village (HER 08163) appears to have been focused around All Saints' Church, whose current building incorporates 12th to 13th century elements (HER 05457), however the village may have relocated to a new focus around the extant village green, possibly following the construction of the motte castle at Giant's Hill in 1143-4, and certainly by the time a the grant of a weekly market was made in the 14th century. During the Civil War between King Stephen and Geoffrey de Mandeville the king ordered the construction of several temporary castles along the fen edge to protect the countryside, but de Mandeville was killed in 1144 and the castle was never completed. Nevertheless, the motte of Giant's Hill (HER 01771/Scheduled Monument DCB154) is situated c.400m to the east of the site, with areas of the earlier medieval settlement and field system extending to within c.150m to the east of the Cow Lane site. The area around the castle to the east of the site is delineated by a series of enclosures known as 'the Parks', potentially associated with the conversion of the castle into a moated manorial dwelling in the 15th century, but these enclosures contain many earthworks and house platforms associated with the medieval settlement (HER MCB17324). A series of test pits excavated in Rampton in 2014 recovered a consistent scatter of late Saxon to medieval pottery (10th-14th centuries), mainly on King Street and High Street (i.e. HER MCB20157), but also including on Cow Lane c.75m to the south of the site (HER MCB20162)

4.3 The post-medieval village appears to have been focussed on the village green to the south and remained very limited in size, with Manor Farm added in the 17th century (HER 05481), with later development in the late 19th to early 20th centuries focussed on the High Street and Church End, including the school, rectory, Black Horse public house and blacksmiths workshop (HER MCB23417-20). Historic editions of the Ordnance Survey map (1888-1902) show that the site, and generally land east of Cow Lane, remained as agricultural fields to the north of Manor Farm; with a single building equating to that fronting onto Cow Lane added to the site by 1938.

3.6 The site thus has a potential for remains of late Saxon/medieval occupation of the former village and castle site, and for evidence of earlier Saxon activity.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The evaluation provided for a sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched (overall site area c.0.2ha). The evaluation focused on the new houses.

5.2 The brief required a c. 5% sample of the site to be investigated by trenching. One trench of 18m x 1.8m, and two trenches of 22m x 1.8m were proposed. For practical reasons (the presence of trees and garden features) the location, widths and lengths of the trenches were altered slightly. The trenches were 10m (Trench 1); 16m (Trench 3) and 21m long (Trench 2), and 2.30m wide.

5.3 The archaeological investigation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

5.4 A one-metre square of topsoil and subsoil were bucket sampled and sorted by hand at each end of the trenches to characterise their artefact content. Soil from this sampling procedure was kept separate from the main spoil heaps. Site records were completed to reflect this exercise and an on-site record was made of the finds recovered. A metal detector was used to enhance finds recovery. The metal detector survey was conducted when the trenches were opened, and the detector was not set to discriminate against iron. The spoil tips were also surveyed. The finds recovered during the sampling of the topsoil and subsoil, and the metal detecting survey were all of late 19th and 20th century date comprising pottery, CBM, shale, plastic and metal fragments.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2-3)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 6.89m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1009	Ashphalt and gravel. It contained CBM
0.15 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown silty clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint
0.23 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. Compact, pale – mid grey brown silty clay with sparse sub-angular flints
0.55m +	L1002	Natural deposits. Firm, pale yellow grey silty clay

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 6.85m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.32 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.50m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 1 contained modern Posthole F1007.

Posthole F1007 was sub circular in plan (? x 0.37 x 0.35m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1008, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds. The posthole cut Topsoil L1000 and was modern.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 4)

Sample section 2A 0.00 6.80m AOD		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.18 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.48m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 6.77m AOD		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.21 – 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.44m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

Description: Trench 2 contained Furrows F1003 and F1010, Pit F1005 and Ditch F1012. All of the features contained heavily abraded medieval pottery.

Furrow F1003 was linear in plan (2.40+ x 2.05 x 0.18m), orientated N/S. It had gently sloping sides and a very shallow concave base. Its fill, L1004, was a firm, pale grey brown silty clay with very occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery (1; 1g).

Pit F1005 was sub circular in plan (1.65+ x 0.55+ x 0.22m). It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a firm, pale grey brown silty clay with very occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery (4; 11g) and late 19th – mid 20th century CBM (3g).

Furrow F1010 was linear in plan (2.40+ x 2.25 x 0.18m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a very shallow concave base. Its fill, L1011, was a firm, grey brown silty clay with occasional flints. It contained medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery (14; 16g), late 19th – 20th century CBM (1g), animal bone (11g) and Fe. Fragments (9g).

Ditch F1012 was linear in plan (2.40+ x 0.94 x 0.13m), orientated E/W. It had shallow gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1013, was a firm, pale grey brown silty clay. It contained medieval (13th – 14th/15th century) pottery (2; 41g).

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 & 5)

Sample section 3A 0.00 = 6.84m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.29 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.55m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 3B 0.00 = 6.75m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.23 – 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.46m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

Description: Trench 3 contained Furrows F1014 and F1016, and undated Ditch F1018. Furrow F1014 contained late 19th – mid 20th century CBM.

Furrow F1014 was linear in plan (2.40+ x 1.06 x 0.20m), orientated N/S. It had shallow gently sloping sides and a very shallow concave base. Its fill, L1015, was a firm, pale grey brown silty clay with occasional flints. It contained late 19th – mid 20th century CBM (1; 17g).

Furrow F1016 was linear in plan (2.40+ x 1.41 x 0.28m), orientated N/S. It had shallow gently sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1017, was a firm, grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds. F1016 cut Ditch F1018.

Ditch F1018 was linear in plan (2.40+ x 0.71 x 0.33m), orientated N/S. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1019, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds. Ditch F1018 was cut by Furrow F1016.

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 Topsoil L1000, a firm, dark grey brown silty clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint (0.08 – 0.29m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a compact, pale – mid grey brown silty clay with sparse sub-angular flints

8.2 The natural geology, L1002, was a Firm, pale yellow grey silty clay (0.44 - 0.55m below the current day ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1007	Posthole	Modern
2	F1003	Furrow	Medieval (11 th – 13 th C.)
	F1005	Pit	Medieval (11 th – 13 th C.) Late 19 th – 20 th C. CBM
	F1010	Furrow	Medieval (11 th – 13 th C.)

	F1012	Ditch	Medieval (13 th – 14 th / 15 th C.)
3	F1014	Furrow	Late 19 th – 20 th C. CBM
	F1016	Furrow	-
	F1018	Ditch	-

9.2 Features were found in each trench but the posthole (F1007) in Trench 1 cut the topsoil and was modern. Furrows were recorded in Trenches 2 (F1003 and F1010) and 3 (F1014 and F1016), and they adhered to the same N/S directions. In addition to the furrows, a pit and a ditch were recorded in Trench 2 (F1005 and F1012), and a ditch in Trench 3 (F1018).

9.3 The features and furrows in Trench 2, but not Trench 3, contained medieval pottery, principally 11th – 13th century. Ditch F1012 contained a slightly later medieval sherd of 13th – 14th / 15th century date. The pottery sherds are small and heavily abraded. They were found in association with later material; Pit F1005 (Trench 2) and Furrow F1014 (Trench 3) contained late 19th – 20th century CBM. However, the spacing of the encountered furrows was in keeping with medieval 'broad rig' ridge and furrow ploughing (see below) and the 19th – 20th century CBM may represent intrusive material.

Research Potential

9.4 The character and the spacing of the furrows are consistent with that often observed in medieval 'broad rig' ridge and furrow ploughing (Adkins and Adkins 2003, 250). This suggests that the features recorded here represent agricultural activity; in slight contrast to the anticipated evidence for occupation or domestic activity. The character of the pottery assemblage recovered from these features is consistent with such activity. The small size and abraded appearance of the pottery sherds is consistent with them having made their way in to these features through the process of 'manuring', perhaps utilising night soil or midden material (Aston 1992, 17). Such features are notable as Cambridgeshire contains relatively few examples of ridge and furrow in comparison to counties to the west (Liddiard 1999, 1). The site, therefore, has the potential to provide information about the relationship between the size and form of fields in the East Anglian region and agricultural regimes, which is identified as an important research subject for the region (Medlycott 2011).

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The site had a potential for remains of late Saxon/medieval occupation of the former village and castle site, and for evidence of earlier Saxon activity.

10.2 A pit, ditches and furrows were recorded, and they contained small heavily abraded sherds of medieval pottery, principally 11th – 13th century in date.

10.3 The character and the spacing of the furrows are consistent with that often observed in medieval 'broad rig' ridge and furrow ploughing (Adkins and Adkins 2003, 250). This suggests that the features recorded here represent agricultural activity; in slight contrast to the anticipated evidence for occupation or domestic

activity. This suggestion accords with the environmental report which concludes that the archaeological features were not receiving debris from domestic or agricultural activity and are likely to have been peripheral to any medieval occupation in the area (Environmental Report below).

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) would like to thank Mr Colin George of CeGe Design for commissioning the project on behalf of Mrs Margetts.

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Gemma Stewart, Archaeological Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council.

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Website

www.old-maps.co.uk (consulted 04/10/2017)

APPENDIX 1

CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	(Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A. Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1000	U/S	Topsoil	Late 19th -20th C		18	424	122		Cu frag	1	80
		3								Fe frags	2	6
		2								Fe frags	4	40
										Cu frags	2	77
										Aluminium?	1	1
										Glass frags	3	284
		SS1A		Late 19th -20th C		55	829	385		Shale		13
										Fe frags	4	287
										Plastic	1	1
										Glass	3	639
		SS1B		Late 19th -20th C		17	424	189		Fe Frag	1	14
		SS3A		Late 19th -20th C		1	70					
		SS3B		Late 19th -20th C		4	34	61		Plastic	1	1
										Fe frag	1	1
		SS2A		Late 19th -20th C		3	47	82		Fe frags	4	18
		1				1	5			Fe frags	3	117
		1	Subsoil	Late 19th -20th C			17			Fe Frags	2	526
		2								Fe frags	2	148
										Cu frag	1	44
1003	1004	2	Fill of Furrow	11th-13th C		1	1					
1005	1006	2	Fill of Pit	12 th -13 th C		4	11	3				
	1009		Made Ground					278				
1010	1011	2	Fill of Furrow	11 th -13 th C		14	16	2	11	Fe frags	2	9
1012	1013	2	Fill of Ditch	13 th -14 th /15 th C		2	41					
1014	1015	3	Fill of Furrow					17				

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Medieval Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 21 medieval sherds weighing 68g from a pit, a ditch and two furrows (Table 1).

Methodology

The sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001). Fabric codes used in the Key are appropriate for Cambridgeshire.

The Pottery

The assemblage comprises small heavily abraded sherds with few diagnostic elements, one exception being the slightly unusual heavy well-fired flat base sherd in EMW1 fabric from Ditch F1012 (L1013). Fabric EMW1 may be an early Ely ware as it is very similar except for the sparsity of calcareous inclusions. One Ely type ware was present along with an East Anglian type red ware. The remaining sherds are unprovenanced coarse wares. Most of the pottery from the assemblage fits into an 11th/12th-13th centuries date range, the possible exception is the East Anglian red ware sherd containing vestiges of white slip, which equates with Fabric 21 from Essex, and this would fit a 13th-15th centuries date.

Key:

EMW1: Early medieval ware with common fine to medium quartz and occasional other inclusions including coarse quartz, flint, white calcareous and rounded iron mineral Dark grey cores, oxidised surfaces 11th-13th

EMW2: Early medieval ware similar to EMW1 and possibly the same, well-sorted fine to medium quartz with few other inclusions. Dark grey to black cores, oxidised surfaces 11th-13th

EMW3: Early medieval ware fine sandy grey ware with occasional coarser quartz and few other inclusions 11th-13th

EMW4: Early medieval ware with medium to coarse rounded quartz. Other inclusions and firing as EMW1 may be a coarser example of it 11th-12th

EMW5: Early medieval ware moderate to common medium grey sub-rounded quartz, sparse mica and rare red iron mineral. Grey with oxidised margins. 11th -13th

EMSHW: Early medieval shelly ware 11th-13th

MEL: Medieval Ely-type ware 12th-14th (Spoerry 2016)

EAR: East Anglian type red ware 13th-14th/15th (Spoerry 2016)

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Furrow 1003	1004	1x1g EMW1	11 th -13 th	
Pit 1005	1006	2x6g EMW1 1x3g EMW5 1x1g MEL	12 th -13 th	All sherds heavily abraded EMW1x1 oxidised
Furrow 1010	1011	3x7g EMW1 4x4g EMW2 4x3g EMW3 1x1g EMW4 2x1g EMWSH	11 th -13 th	All sherds small and highly abraded
Ditch 1012	1013	1x37g EMW1 1x4g EAR	13 th -14 th /15 th	EMW1: heavy flat base sherd EAR: faint trace of white slip

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

References

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The Later Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 99 sherds weighing 1.849 kg which came from the topsoil or were unstratified (Table 2). Most of the pottery is modern and includes a large amount of flower pot. There was one unstratified unprovenanced medieval coarse ware sherd. The sherd of most interest from the late post-medieval/modern assemblage is a fragment of Wedgwood black basalt ware platter which is mid 19th-mid 20th century in date

Methodology

The sherds were examined according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001). Fabric codes used are appropriate to Cambridgeshire.

Key:

MCW1: Medieval coarse ware 1 – sandy/gritty sherd. Common fine and medium with some coarse sub-angular to rounded grey, clear and white quartz, moderate mica, sparse white angular flint, sparse lumps of red grog, pale orange-buff throughout mid 12th-15th

BBAS: Black basalt ware late 18th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
	1000	1x9g BBAS 75x1,412g other early modern to modern sherds	20 th C	BBW: Neo-classic platter Modern – mainly glazed red earthenware and particularly flower pot. Also some white Transfer Printed stoneware, factory made white earthenware. The assemblage also includes 1x1g of very heavily abraded white earthenware which might be Border ware fabric (17 th C) minus its glaze, but this is uncertain
U/S		1x3g MCW1 17x425g modern	20 th C	MCW1: abraded body sherd Modern: Includes stoneware, flower pot, glazed red earthenware

Table 2: Quantification of pottery by context

Reference

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

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The trial trench evaluation recovered 24 fragments (1139g) of modern CBM. The low quantities in discrete features comprised seven fragments of pantile and glazed red earthenware water/sewer pipe contained in Made Ground L1009, with further single fragments of pantile contained in Pit F1005 and Furrow F1014. The remainder of the assemblage comprised pantile recovered from Topsoil L1000, Subsoil L1001 and as un-stratified material. The CBM likely dates between the late 19th and mid 20th centuries, if not later.

The Animal Bone

Dr Julia E M Cussans

A tiny assemblage of animal bone was recovered during the trial trenching. Two bone fragments both derived from L1011 (Furrow F1010, spot date 11th - 13th century). Both bone fragments were fairly abraded and preservation was rated as OK on a five point scale from very poor to excellent.

One bone was a medium (sheep, pig, dog sized) mammal rib fragment which aside from general abrasion showed no signs of modification. The second bone was a large (cattle or horse sized) mammal long bone fragment. This piece had been butchered with a chop through one end. No further signs of modification were noted.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the trial trench evaluation at 38 Cow Lane, Rampton, three bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. Two of the sampled deposits (L1006 and L1013) have been spot dated to the medieval period. 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 a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. 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. From the medieval features (F1005 and F1012), only a small amount of charcoal was present, most likely representing scattered and wind-blown charcoal fragments originating from nearby activity. A number of snail shells were identified in undated ditch fill L1019 (F1018), and included ground litter (*Trichia hispida* group) and slum aquatic (*Lymnaea truncatula*) species. These most likely reflect habitats within the ditch and on its banks, with the latter indicating standing water, at least on a seasonal basis.

Conclusions

The bulk sample light fractions from the evaluation indicate little deposition of carbonised plant material in the sampled features. This indicates that they were not receiving debris from domestic or agricultural activity and are likely to have been peripheral to any medieval occupation in the area.

References

Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker R.M. and Jans J.E.A. 2006, *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands. Groningen Archaeological Studies Volume 4*, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde

Jacomet, S. 2006, *Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites* (2nd edn), Laboratory of Palinology and Palaeoecology, Basel University

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

Kerney, M.P. and Cameron, R.A.D. 1979, *A Field Guide to Land Snails of Britain and North-West Europe*, Collins, London

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	Molluscs	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules		
1	1006	1005	Fill of Pit	12th-13th C	40	20	50%		Notes												
2	1013	1012	Fill of Ditch	13th-14th/15th C	40	20	50%					X				XX	XX	X	X	X	
3	1019	1018	Fill of Ditch	-	40	20	50%														

Table 3: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from 38 Cow Lane, Rampton

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
View of site looking south-east



2
View of Trench 2 looking south-east



3
F1005 in Trench 2 looking north-east



4
F1010 and F1012 in Trench 2 looking north-east



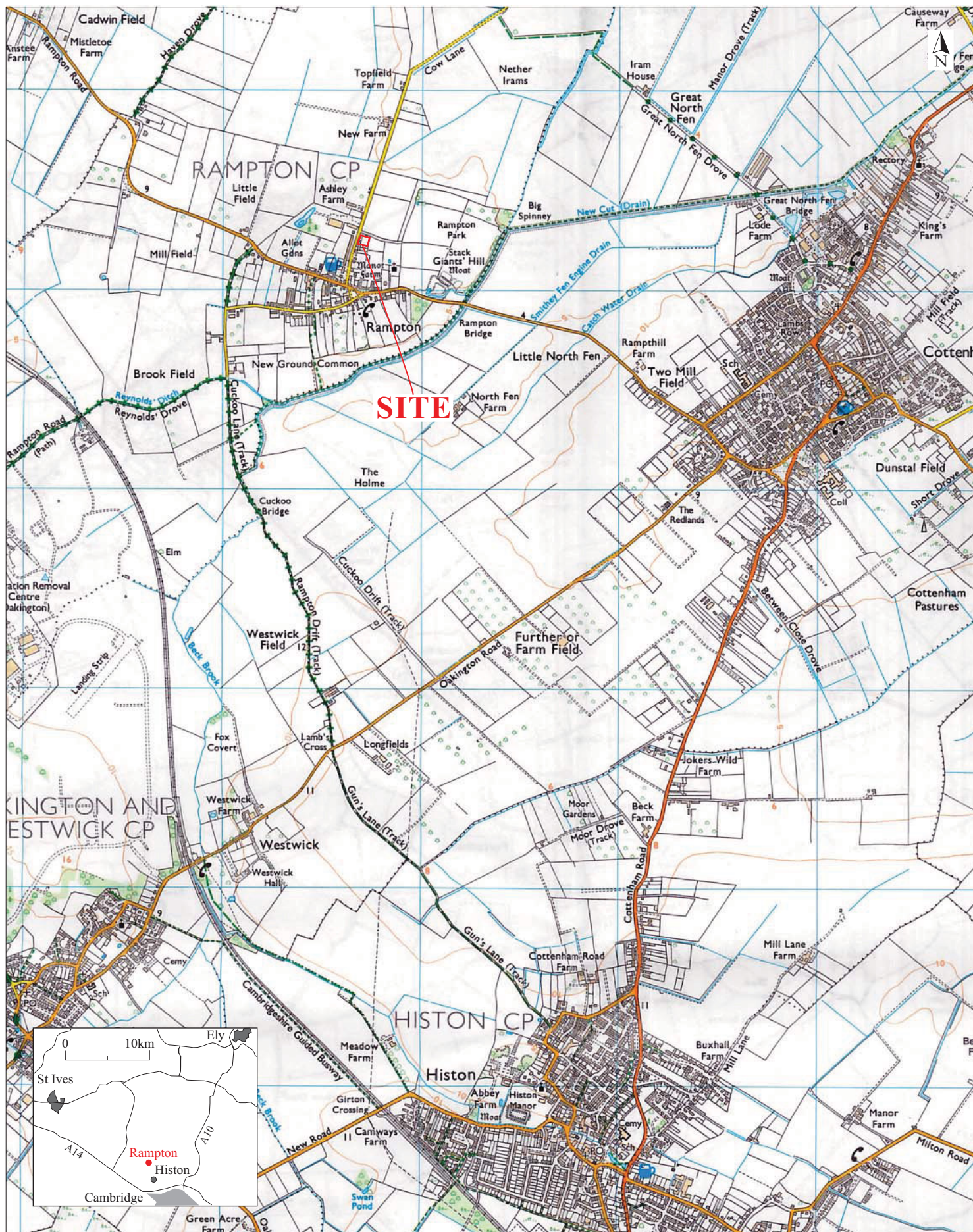
5
View of Trench 3 looking north-west



6
F1014 in Trench 3 looking north-east



7
F1016 in Trench 3 looking north-east



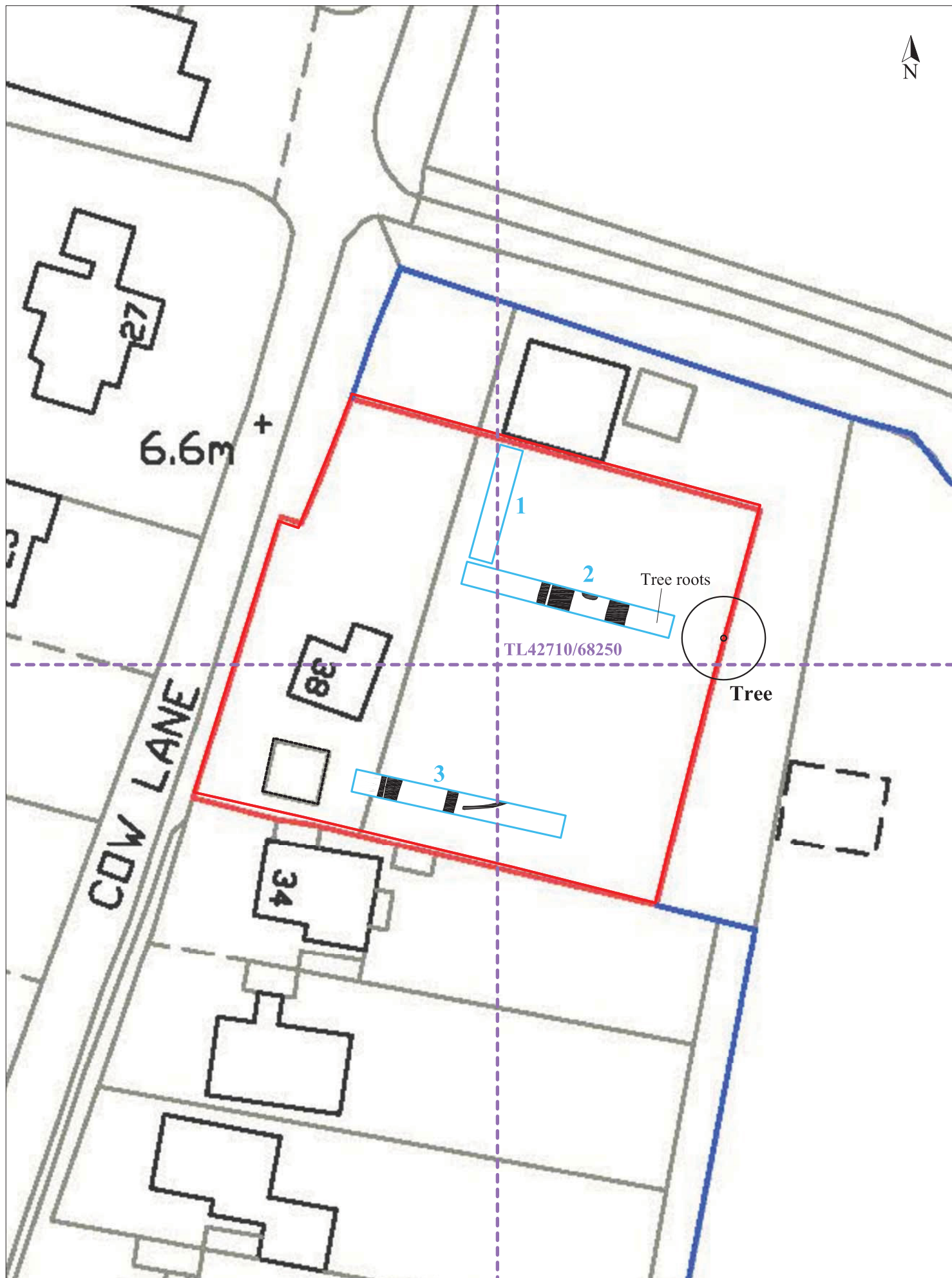
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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Cow Lane, Rampton, Cambridge (P7304)



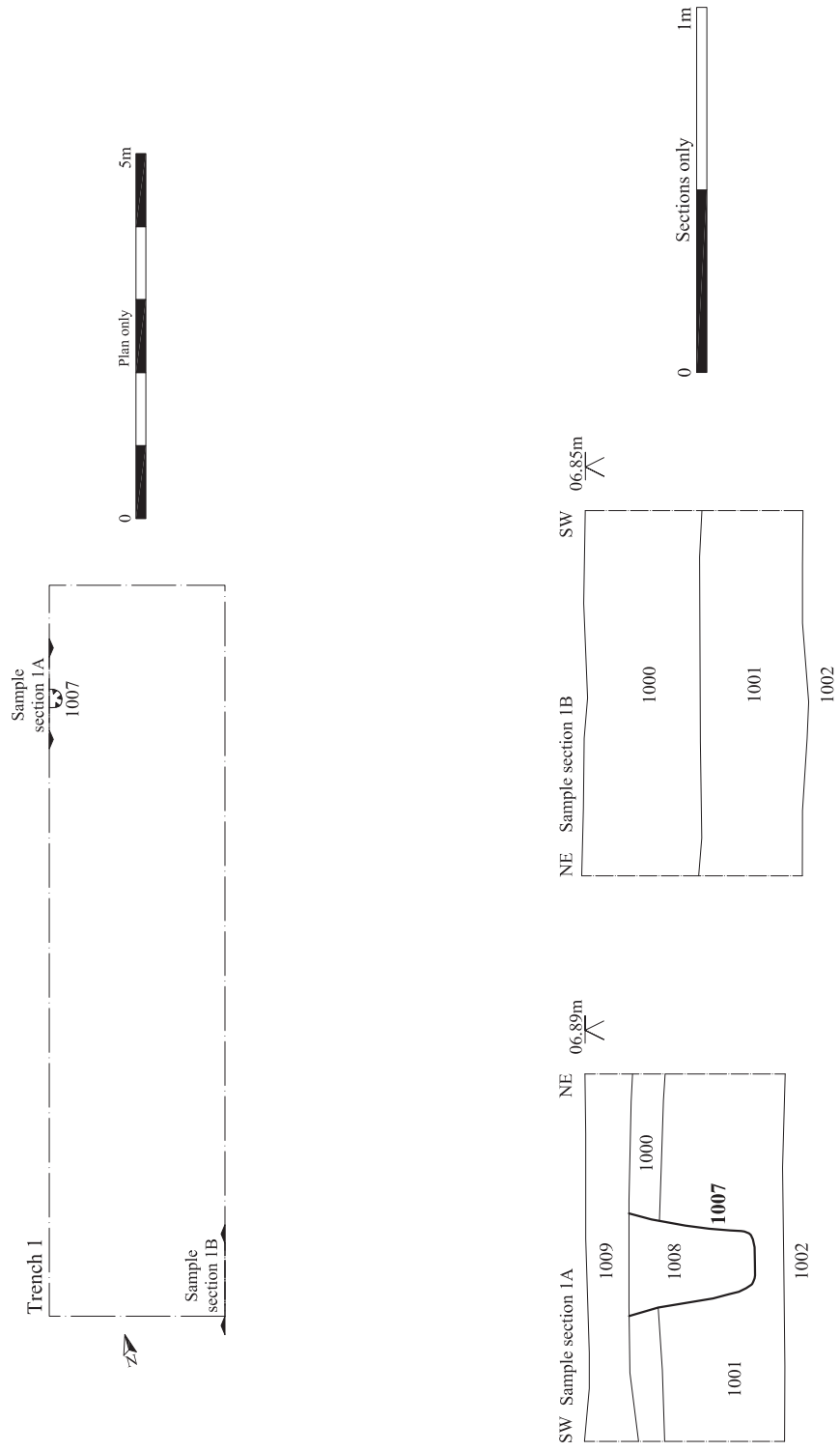
0 25m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:500 at A4

Cow Lane, Rampton, Cambridge (P7304)

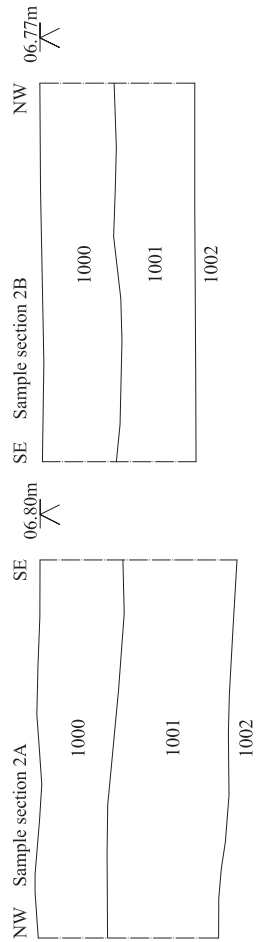
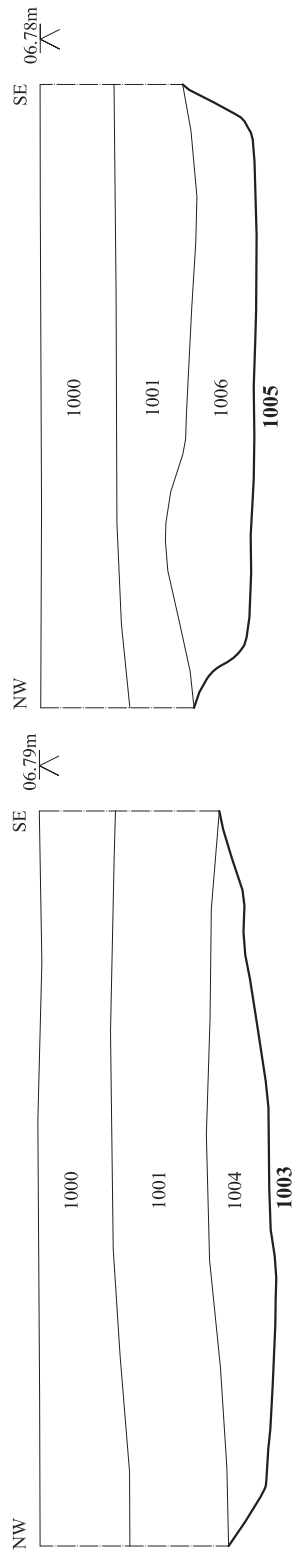
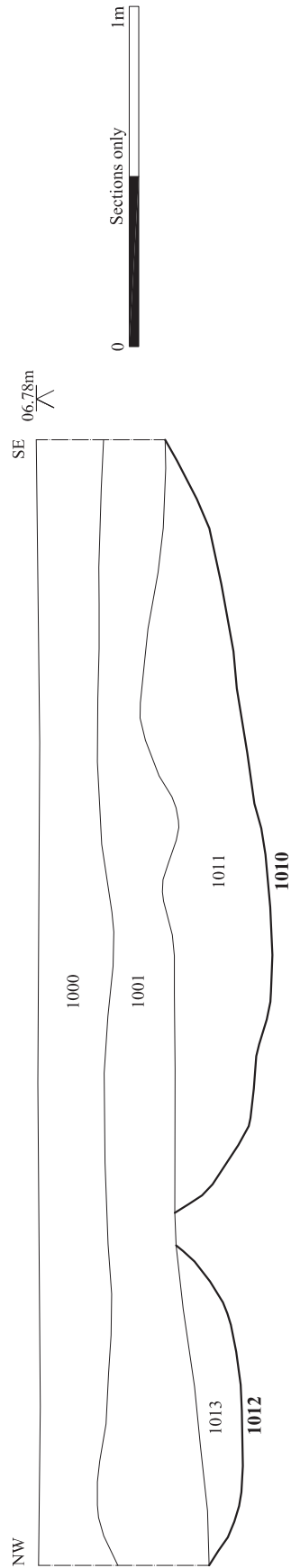
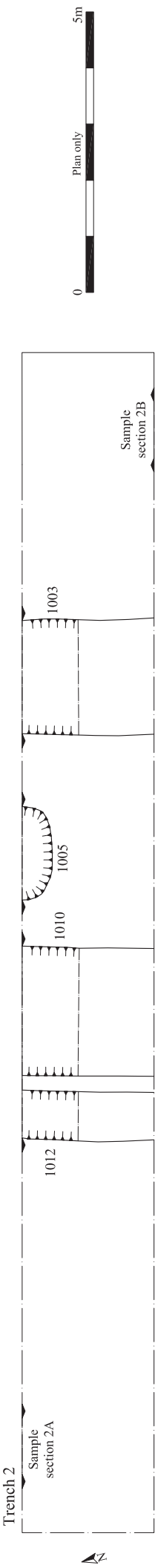


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Fig. 3 Trench 1 plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4

Cow Lane, Rampton, Cambridge (P7304)

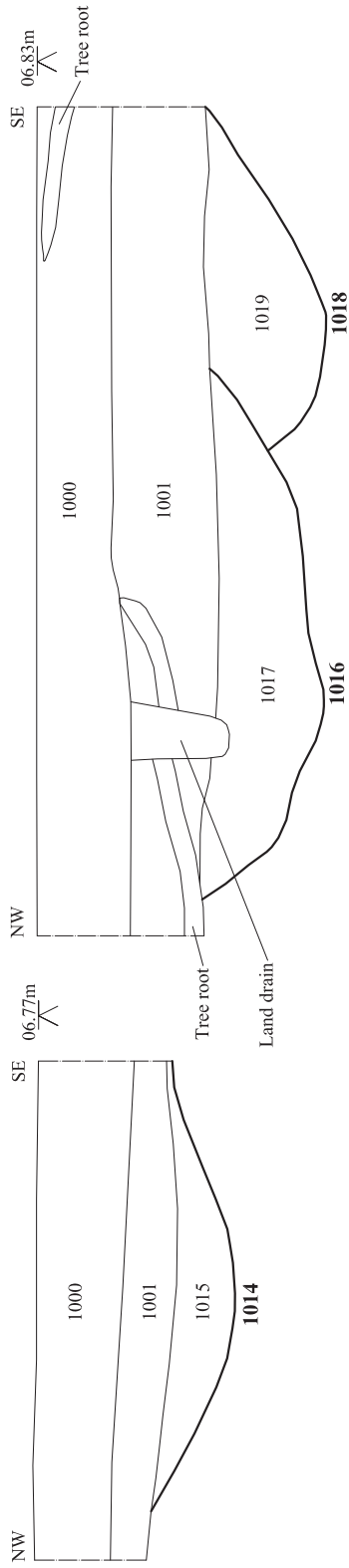
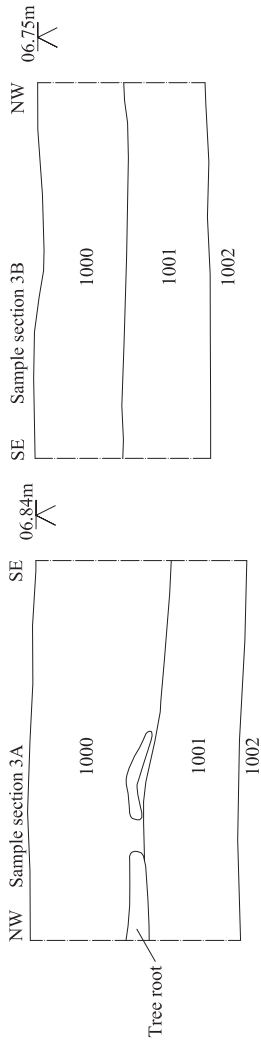
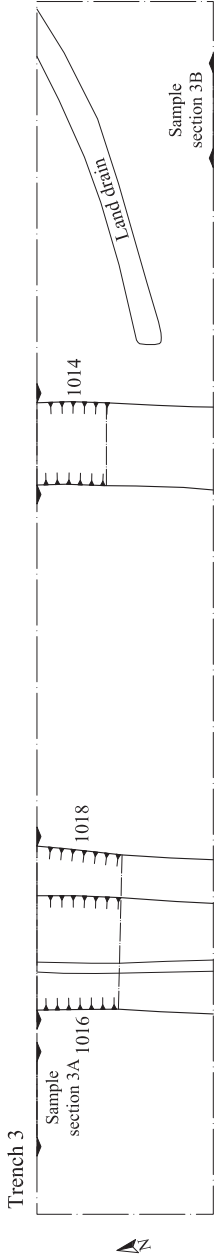


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Fig. 4 Trench 2 plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4

Cow Lane, Rampton, Cambridge (P7304)



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Fig. 5 Trench 3 plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4

Cow Lane, Rampton, Cambridge (P7304)

