
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**26 SOUTH END, BASSINGBOURN-CUM-KNEESWORTH,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE SG8 5NJ**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER: ECB 5279

Authors: Katie Lee Smith (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 3313 4373	Report No: 5497
District: South Cambs	Site Code: ECB 5279
Approved: Claire Halpin MCifA	Project No: P7393
	Date: Revised 3 January 2018

This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Archaeological Solutions is an independent archaeological contractor providing the services which satisfy all archaeological requirements of planning applications, including:

Desk-based assessments and environmental impact assessments
Historic building recording and appraisals
Trial trench evaluations
Geophysical surveys
Archaeological monitoring and recording
Archaeological excavations
Post excavation analysis
Promotion and outreach
Specialist analysis

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
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk**



twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS



www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions



CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
 - 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
 - 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**
 - 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
 - 5 METHODOLOGY**
 - 6 RESULTS**
 - 7 CONFIDENCE RATING**
 - 8 DEPOSIT MODEL**
 - 9 DISCUSSION**
 - 10 CONCLUSION**
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**
BIBLIOGRAPHY

- APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**
APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>26 South End, Bassingbourn-cum-Kneeworth, Cambridgeshire SG8 5NJ</i>		
<p><i>In December 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 26 South End, Bassingbourn-cum-Kneeworth, Cambridgeshire SG8 5NJ (NGR TL 3313 4373; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed construction of ten dwellings and garages following demolition of existing dwelling and associated renovation of barn and removal of redundant outbuildings (South Cambs Council Approval Ref. S/0331/15/FL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located on the edge of the historic medieval village core. Archaeological works at Bassingbourn Village College revealed evidence of Iron Age occupation (CHER MCB17408) and Saxon settlement and occupation (CHER MCB18142). Cropmarks of enclosures, linear features and ring ditches (e.g. CHER MCB21153 & 09464) are known to the south west of the proposed development site, and Roman artefacts have been found to the north-west (CHER 03123). Standing late medieval/post-medieval buildings are located on the street frontage close to the site (CHER DCB5342, DCB5416, DCB534 & DCB6133), demonstrating that this part of the village was developed by the 17th century or earlier.</i></p> <p><i>The trial trench evaluation recorded a grid-like arrangement of ditches that may represent part of a field system laid out respecting the slope of the river valley. The ditches extended across the whole of the site and were recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8. The ditches contained small quantities (1 - 3 sherds) of medieval pottery, and the site is located close to the south-west of the historic core of the village. The locally recorded archaeological remains include a shrunken medieval settlement, ridge-and-furrow cultivation and ditches (e.g. CHER MCB22225 & CB15579), and therefore the ditches may represent field boundaries or similar land divisions such as paddocks or orchards associated with the development of the village and its environs.</i></p> <p><i>Two curvilinear features: Curvilinear ditches F1035 (Trench 3) and F1045 (Trench 5) may represent enclosure systems. The former contained a medieval (mid 12th – 15th century) sherd, while the latter contained a sherd of Roman pottery which may be residual.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>December 2017</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	<i>Future work</i>	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>P7393</i>	<i>Site code</i>	<i>ECB 5279</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use			
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Ditches</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Pottery (medieval & Roman), lava stone fragments, animal bone</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambs.</i>	<i>South Cambs</i>	<i>Bassingbourn-cum-Kneeworth</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG8 5NJ</i>		
Area of site	<i>0.84ha.</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 3313 4373</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 29m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Woodoak Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>26 South End, Bassingbourn-cum-Kneeworth, Cambridgeshire SG8 5NJ. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Katie Lee-Smith</i>		
Report no.	<i>5497</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>December 2017</i>		

**26 SOUTH END, BASSINGBOURN-CUM-KNEESWORTH,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE SG8 5NJ**

SUMMARY

In December 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 26 South End, Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth, Cambridgeshire SG8 5NJ (NGR TL 3313 4373; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed construction of ten dwellings and garages following demolition of existing dwelling and associated renovation of barn and removal of redundant outbuildings (South Cambs Council Approval Ref. S/0331/15/FL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

The site is located on the edge of the historic medieval village core. Archaeological works at Bassingbourn Village College revealed evidence of Iron Age occupation (CHER MCB17408) and Saxon settlement and occupation (CHER MCB18142). Cropmarks of enclosures, linear features and ring ditches (e.g. CHER MCB21153 & 09464) are known to the south west of the proposed development site, and Roman artefacts have been found to the north-west (CHER 03123). Standing late medieval/post-medieval buildings are located on the street frontage close to the site (CHER DCB5342, DCB5416, DCB534 & DCB6133), demonstrating that this part of the village was developed by the 17th century or earlier.

The trial trench evaluation recorded a grid-like arrangement of ditches that may represent part of a field system laid out respecting the slope of the river valley. The ditches extended across the whole of the site and were recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8. The ditches contained small quantities (1 - 3 sherds) of medieval pottery, and the site is located close to the south-west of the historic core of the village. The locally recorded archaeological remains include a shrunken medieval settlement, ridge-and-furrow cultivation and ditches (e.g. CHER MCB22225 & CB15579), and therefore the ditches may represent field boundaries or similar land divisions such as paddocks or orchards associated with the development of the village and its environs.

Two curvilinear features: Curvilinear ditches F1035 (Trench 3) and F1045 (Trench 5) may represent enclosure systems. The former contained a medieval (mid 12th – 15th century) sherd, while the latter contained a sherd of Roman pottery which may be residual.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 26 South End, Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth, Cambridgeshire SG8 5NJ (NGR TL 3313 4373; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed construction of

ten dwellings and garages following demolition of existing dwelling and associated renovation of barn and removal of redundant outbuildings (South Cambs Council Approval Ref. S/0331/15/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 13th October 2017), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 1st November 2017) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (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 western side of South End in the historic core of Bassingbourn. It comprises an existing house with outbuildings, a barn and numerous trees, extending to some 0.84ha.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at c.29m AOD on the mid-slope of the valley of the River Cam (or Rhee), with the slightly meandering course of the river passing c.5km to the north. The landscape slopes up from the river, rising to a peak of c.53m AOD towards the northern edge of Royston. A minor watercourse passes close to the west of the site and Bassingbourn, feeding into the Mill River, which is a tributary of the River Cam.

3.2 The site lies on a solid geology comprises the Zig-Zag Chalk Formation; possibly with an interface with the Totternhoe Stone Member and Melbury Marly Chalk Formations towards the northern and eastern edges; however all form part of the Cretaceous chalk sequence in the local landscape. There are no superficial (drift) deposits overlying the chalk, and unsurprisingly the local soils are freely-draining lime-rich and loamy.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 A Neolithic axe made from Langdale tuff is recorded (CHER 03090). Four ring ditches identified as cropmarks have been assigned a Bronze Age date; these are located to the south of the current settlement (CHER 09464). A further ring ditch has been recorded to the west of Swinnel Close in Kneesworth (CHER MCB21156). A Bronze Age rapier was found during metal detecting (CHER 11494A). Late Neolithic to Bronze Age pottery sherds have been found on land at The Causeway (CHER MCB18554).

4.2 Early Iron Age to Roman enclosures have been interpreted from cropmarks located to the south-west of South Cottage (CHER MCB21153); to the south of Brook Orchard Piggery (CHER MCB21155); and to the north-east of Bassingbourn (CHER MCB22224). Aerial photographs also show a trackway thought to be of this date 500m south-west Swinnel Close, Kneesworth (CHER MCB21157). Another trackway has been recorded to the north-east of Bassingbourn and south-west of Rectory Farm (CHER MCB22229). Possible Roman enclosures have been recorded at Well Head Field (CHER MCB19213). In addition, several spot finds of Roman date, including pottery (CHER 03089); a bronze statuette of Diana (CHER 03123); a coin (CHER MCB15964); and various unspecified metal objects and metal detecting finds (CHER 10530, 11494, MCB15965) have been recorded in the area.

4.3 In addition to the Saxon occupation recorded during archaeological work at Bassingbourn Village College (CHER MCB18142), Anglo-Saxon archaeology has been recorded at Church Close (CHER CB15039).

4.4 The medieval period is represented by several moated sites. The Bury Yard moated site is a roughly D-shaped outer ditched enclosure within which is a rectangular moat (CHER 01237). The surviving remains of a second moat, surrounding the church, churchyard and the site of the rectory is also recorded (CHER 01238). Another possible moated site, now built over, lies to the east of the site on Spring Lane (CHER 01239). In addition earthworks representing shrunken medieval settlement, and ridge and furrow cultivation are present in the area (CHER 09912). To the north-east of the current site are earthworks identified as representing medieval and post-medieval settlement remains (CHER MCB22225). The church of St Peter and St Paul dates to the 13th century (CHER 03191, MCB19392). The site of the medieval manor of Rouses is located to the south-east (CHER MCB 23333). Medieval ditches have been recorded during an evaluation at Back Orchard (CHER CB15579), and a possible trackway (CHER MCB19213) and circular enclosure (CHER MCB19214) have been recorded at Well Head Field. Medieval agricultural activity has been recorded at Clear Farm (CHER MCB23459). The Cambridgeshire HER also records the location of a former windmill (CHER 03082); a cropmark representative of a trackway (CHER 10007); a pond (CHER 11217); metal detecting finds (CHER MCB15965); coins from 90 North End (CHER MCB17648) and the locations of ridge and furrow earthworks (CHER MCB22226, MCB22227 & MCB22228).

4.5 The post-medieval period is represented in the vicinity of the site by Old Mount, the remains of an ice house (CHER 03132); Gaunts Tower, a post-medieval folly (CHER 03132); the former location of a windmill (CHER 03084); a Dovecote at Clear Farm (CHER 10400); a group of industrial buildings (CHER MCB16559); and metal detecting finds (CHER MCB15965).

4.6 Nineteenth century building remains have been recorded at Clear Farm (CHER MCB23459) and Bassingbourn Village College (CHER MCB17407). The Cambridgeshire HER records a number of historical features identified from 19th century cartographic sources. This includes The Cedars, possibly a building or an area of managed trees, immediately adjacent to the western end of the current site (CHER MCB20674); the locations of mills and windmills (CHER MCB20653, MCB 20654); the site of former allotments at Rectory Farm (CHER MCB20656); the former Manor and Poplar Farms (CHER MCB20660, MCB20661); Brook Bridge (MCB200665); the Red Lion Public House (CHER MCB20667); the Black Bull Public House (CHER MCB20668); three blacksmith's premises (CHER MCB20669, MCB20670, MCB20671); a vicarage on Mill Lane (CHER MCB20672); the former gasworks (CHER MCB20677); and a school at Limes Close (CHER MCB20678). Other modern sites are the 19th century cemetery (CHER 12023) and cemetery chapels (CHER MCB17221) and the WWII RAF Bassingbourn.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The evaluation provided for a sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched (the site extends to some 0.84ha). The brief required a c.5% sample of the development area to be investigated by trenching, with a contingency for further judgemental trench use. Existing Tree Preservation Orders and Root Protection Areas limited the available parts of the site. One trench of 30m x 1.8m (Trench 8), one trench of 22m x 1.8m (Trench 1), two trenches of 20m x 1.8m (Trench 2 and 7), three trenches of 18 x 1.8m (Trenches 4 – 6) and one trench of 15m x 1.8m (Trench 3) were excavated (Fig. 2). The location of the trenches was altered slightly to take account of on-site practicalities, principally the presence of trees.

5.2 The archaeological evaluation 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.

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

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

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The individual trench description is presented below:

Trench 1 Figs. 2 - 3

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 28.79m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown sandy silt with very occasional medium and large sub-rounded and rounded flints.
0.30 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, pale brownish grey sandy silt with very occasional medium and large sub-rounded and rounded flints.
0.58m +	L1002	Natural deposits. Firm, pale brown yellow sandy silt very occasional medium and large sub-rounded and rounded flints.

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 28.90m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.31 – 0.63m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.63m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained undated Ditches F1007, F1011 and F1024, and undated Post Hole F1009.

Ditch F1007 was linear in plan (2.30+ x 1.15 x 0.15m), orientated north / south. It had gently sloping sides and a slightly irregular concave base. Its fill (L1008) was a friable, mid grey brown, mottled with pale orange grey, sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints. It contained no finds.

Post Hole F1009 was sub-circular in plan (0.36 x 0.35 x 0.13m). It had steep - moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1010) was a friable, mid brown grey sandy silt. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1011 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 1.25+ x 0.74m), orientated north / south. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1012) was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1024 was linear (1.80+ x 0.61 x 0.18m), orientated north / south. It had steep slightly irregular sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill (L1025) was a friable, mid grey brown clay silt with occasional small angular chalk. It contained an iron nail fragment (1; 20g).

Trench 2 Figs. 2 - 3

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 28.95m AOD		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.27 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.58m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 29.04m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.28 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.60m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above

Description: Trench 2 contained two undated, re-cut ditches (F1003 / F1005 and F1013 / F1015), and an undated tree hollow (F1026).

Ditch F1003 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.46 x 0.19m), orientated east / west. It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill (L1004) was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with very occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds. F1003 was a re-cut of Ditch F1005.

Ditch F1005 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.74 x 0.71m), orientated east / west. It had steep sides and a narrow concave base. Its fill (L1006) was a friable, pale-mid grey brown sandy silt with very occasional small, medium, and large sub-angular flints, and chalk flecks. It contained lava stone fragments (62g) and a Fe. nail fragment (8g). It was re-cut by Ditch F1003.

Ditch F1013 was linear in plan (2.60+ x 0.94 x 0.41m), orientated north east / south west. It had steep – moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base.

Its fill (L1014) was a friable, mid brown grey clay silt with moderate chalk flecks and occasional small and medium sub-angular flints. It contained no finds. F1013 was a re-cut of Ditch F1015.

Ditch F1015 was linear in plan (2.60+ x 0.40 x 0.26m), orientated north east / south west. It had steep – moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1016) was a friable, mid brown grey clay silt with moderate chalk flecks and occasional small sub-angular flints. It contained no finds. F1015 was re-cut by Ditch F1013.

Tree Hollow F1026 was irregular in plan (1.43+ x 0.77+ x 0.27). It had shallow irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill (L1027) was a friable, mid yellow brown clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints and chalk flecks. It contained no finds.

Trench 3 Figs. 2 & 4

Sample section 3A 0.00 = 29.10m AOD		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.27 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.58m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 3B 0.00 = 29.15m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.32 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.58m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 3 contained a large, late post-medieval / modern (mid 18th – early 20th century) pit, F1028, and a slightly curvilinear ditch, F1035. The latter contained a medieval (mid 12th – 15th century) pottery sherd.

F1028 was a large sub-rectangular pit (4.00+ x 2.00+ x 0.96m). It had moderately sloping sides and its base was unseen. It cut Subsoil L1001, and it cut Ditch F1035. Its fills are tabulated below:

Context	Description	Finds
L1029	Friable, mid-pale grey brown clay silt	-
L1030	Friable, pale greyish blue clay.	19 th C pottery (1; 2g)
L1031	Friable, mid-pale grey brown clay silt with occasional small rounded chalk	Mid 18 th – early 20 th C pottery (1; 8g)
L1032	Friable, sandy silt with frequent building rubble	Late 18 th C + pottery (1; 8g), CBM (91g), slate (12g), Fe. Frags (3;143g)
L1033	Friable, pale brown grey sandy silt with occasional small rounded chalk.	-
L1034	Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt.	-

Ditch F1035 was slightly curvilinear (13.00+ x 1.08 x 0.31m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1036) was a friable, mid yellow brown clay silt with occasional chalk flecks. It contained a medieval (mid 12th – 15th century) pottery sherd (1; 6g), and it was cut by Pit F1028.

Trench 4 Figs. 2 & 4

Sample section 4A 0.00 = 29.21m AOD		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.27 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.55m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 4B 0.00 = 29.25m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.35 – 0.65m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.65m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 4 contained an undated re-cut ditch (F1017 / F1020), Undated Ditch F1039, and Tree Hollows F1022 and F1041.

Ditch F1017 was linear in plan (2.30+ x 1.23 x 0.62m), orientated north east – south west. It had steep sides and a shallow concave base. Its basal fill (L1018) was a friable, mottled, mid brown grey and mid yellow grey sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded flints and chalk flecks. Its upper and principal fill (L1019) was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. Neither fills contained finds. F1017 was a re-cut of Ditch F1020.

Ditch F1020 was linear in plan (2.30+ x 0.65 x 0.22m), orientated north east / south west. It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill (L1021) was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds. F1020 was re-cut by Ditch F1017.

Tree Hollow F1022 was an irregular in plan (2.50 x 0.70+ x 0.40m). It had steep irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill (L1023) was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1039 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.40 x 0.13m), orientated north / south. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1040) was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt. It contained no finds, and it cut Tree Hollow F1041.

Tree Hollow F1041 was irregular in plan (1.90+ x 1.35 x 0.32m). It had irregular moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. Its fill (L1042) was a friable mid grey brown sandy silt with chalk patches and occasional medium sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds. F1041 was cut by Ditch F1039.

Trench 5 Figs. 2 & 5

Sample section 5A 0.00 = 29.03m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.20 – 0.68m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.68m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 5B 0.00 = 28.97m AOD		
0.00 –	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 5 revealed a curvilinear ditch, F1045, which contained a Roman pottery sherd. A tree hollow was also present.

Ditch F1045 was curvilinear in plan (12.00+ x 0.65+ x 0.32m), orientated north / south. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1046) was a friable, mid grey brown clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints. It contained a sherd of Roman pottery (1; 14g).

Trench 6 Figs. 2 & 5

Sample section 6A 0.00 = 29.46m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.25 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.58m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 6B 0.00 = 29.55m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.26 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.60m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 6 contained modern Pit F1043, and a tree hollow.

Pit F1043 was sub-circular in plan (1.03 x 0.87 x 0.35m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1044) was a friable, mid red brown sandy silt with moderate small sub-rounded flints. It contained modern finds including plastic and glass. F1043 cut Subsoil L1001.

Trench 7 Figs. 2 & 6

Sample section 7A 0.00 – 29.49m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.26 – 0.56m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.56m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 7B 29.40m AOD		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.21 – 0.56m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.56m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 7 contained undated Ditch F1051.

Ditch F1051 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.94 x 0.26m), orientated north / south. It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill (L1052) was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional medium sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Trench 8 Figs. 2 & 6

Sample section 8A 0.00 = 29.22m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.30 – 0.78m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.78m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 8B 0.00 = 28.98m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.23 – 0.70m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.70m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 8 contained four ditches (F1049, F1053, F1055 and F1059) each of which contained medieval (10th – 12th and 11th – 13th century) pottery. Ditch F1053 was a re-cut of Ditch F1055. Ditch F1057 and Pit F1047 were undated. The features were cut by a modern service.

Pit F1047 was sub circular in plan (0.95 x 0.90 x 0.12m). It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1048) was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt. It contained no finds, and it was cut by a modern service.

Ditch F1049 was linear in plan (2.20+ x 0.50 x 0.27), orientated north west / south east. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1050) was a friable, mid-pale sandy silt with occasional small rounded chalk. It contained medieval (10th – 12th century) pottery (1; 3g), and it was cut by a modern service.

Ditch F1053 was linear in plan (2.40+ x 1.02 x 0.43m), orientated north west / south east. It had steep sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill (L1054) was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, and chalk. It contained medieval (10th – 12th century) pottery (3; 9g), animal bone (186g) and lava stone fragments (143g). It was a re-cut of Ditch F1055, and was cut by a modern service.

Ditch F1055 was linear in plan (2.40+ x 0.37 x 0.30m), orientated north west / south east. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1056) was a friable, mid brownish grey sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints. It contained medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery (3; 5g). It was re-cut by Ditch F1053, and cut by a modern service.

Ditch F1057 was linear in plan (2.00 x 1.07 x 0.30m), orientated north west / south east. It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill (L1058) was a friable, mid brownish grey clay silt with small and medium sub-angular flints. It contained no finds, and was cut by a modern service.

Ditch F1059 was linear in plan (5.00+ x 1.10 x 0.31m), orientated east / west. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1060) was a firm, pale grey brown sandy silt. It contained medieval (10th – 12th century) pottery (2; 3g), and was cut by a modern service.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a firm, dark grey brown sandy silt with very occasional medium and large sub-rounded and rounded flints (0.20 – 0.32m thick).

8.2 L1000 overlay Subsoil (L1001), a firm, pale brownish grey sandy silt with very occasional medium and large sub-rounded and rounded flints (0.22 – 0.48m thick).

8.3 At the base of the sequence the natural deposits (L1002) comprised a firm, pale brown yellow sandy silt very occasional medium and large sub-rounded and rounded flints. It was between 0.45m and 0.78m below the present day ground surface.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Date
1	F1007	Ditch	-
	F1009	Post hole	-
	F1011	Ditch	-
	F1024	Ditch	-
2	F1003	Re-cut of Ditch F1005	-
	F1005	Ditch	-
	F1013	Re-cut of Ditch F1015	-
	F1015	Ditch	-
	F1026	Tree hollow	-
3	F1028	Pit	Modern
	F1035	Curvilinear Ditch	Medieval (mid 12 th – 15 th C) sherd
4	F1017	Re-cut of Ditch F1020	-
	F1020	Ditch	-
	F1022	Tree hollow	-
	F1039	Ditch	-
	F1041	Tree hollow	-
5	F1045	Ditch	Roman sherd
6	F1043	Pit	Modern
7	F1051	Ditch	-
8	F1047	Pit	-
	F1049	Ditch	Medieval (10 th – 12 th C)
	F1053	Re-cut of Ditch F1055	Medieval (10 th – 12 th C)
	F1055	Ditch	Medieval (11 th – 13 th C)
	F1057	Ditch	-
	F1059	Ditch	Medieval (10 th – 12 th C)

9.2 The site is located on the edge of the medieval core of the village of Bassingbourn-Cum-Kneesworth. Late medieval and early post-medieval buildings are extant along the street frontage and either side of the site. Investigations at the adjacent Bassingbourn Village College revealed evidence of Iron Age and Saxon occupation. Crop mark evidence of enclosures, linears, and ring ditches are present to the south west. Roman artefacts have been discovered to the northwest.

9.3 Each trench contained a feature, although that within Trench 6 in the south-western sector of the site was modern. The largest number of features were contained in Trenches 1 (four features); 2 (four); 4 (three) and 8 (six). Tree hollows were recorded in Trenches 2, 4 - 6 and 8, and numerous trees are present within the site. Discrete features were uncommon. Two modern pits were present: F1028 (Trench 3) and F1043 (Trench 6), and the remaining discrete features were undated Post Hole F1009 (Trench 1), and Pit F1047 (Trench 8).

9.4 The remaining features were ditches, and at least one ditch was present in each trench, except Trench 6. The majority of these ditches likely represented field boundaries. Several of the ditches had been re-cut, comprising Ditches

F1003/ F1005 and F1013/F1015 (Trench 2); F1017/F1020 (Trench 4); and F1053/ F1055 (Trench 8).

9.5 Some of the ditches formed an approximate grid pattern that extended in-line or perpendicular to the natural valley slope. Ditches in Trenches 1 (F1024), 4 (F1039), 7 (F1051) and 8 (F1057) were aligned N/S with slight variation, while ditches in Trenches 2 (F1003 and F1005) and 8 (F1059) were aligned east-west, creating a grid system of field boundaries or similar land divisions such as paddocks or orchards.

9.6 Dating evidence for the postulated field systems is sparse. The ditches in Trenches 3 and 8 contained very small quantities (1 - 3 sherds) of medieval local coarse ware pottery, with 10th-12th century sherds in Ditches F1049, F1053 and F1059; and 11th-13th century sherds in Ditch F1055. However it is uncertain if these sherds date the ditches as the dispersal of such material, for example during manuring, on the periphery of a medieval village is not unusual. In addition small, highly fragmented pieces of lava stone were present in Ditches F1005 (Trench 2) and F1053 (Trench 8) are likely derived from mill or quern stones associated with domestic industry in the village. Ditch F1053 also contained abraded fragments of animal bone derived from cattle, and Ditches F1005 and F1024 contained iron nails. The range of charred cereal remains is in keeping with the general pattern of a medieval and post-medieval arable economy. The site is close to the south-western of the extent of the medieval village of Bassingbourn, and medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation has been previously recorded in the area (CHER 09912). The presence of a medieval field system would be consistent with the known settlement pattern.

9.7 The exception to the field ditches were Ditches F1035 (Trench 3) and F1045 (Trench 5) which were curvilinear in plan, and potentially enclosed relatively large areas. The former contained a medieval (mid 12th – 15th century) sherd, while the latter contained a sherd of Roman pottery which may be residual. It may be postulated that these curvilinear ditches represented paddocks or stock enclosures, and although any identification remains tentative they do not appear to relate directly to any structures in the vicinity.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The trial trench evaluation recorded a grid-like arrangement of ditches that may represent part of a field system laid out respecting the slope of the river valley. The ditches extended across the whole of the site and were recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8. The ditches contained small quantities (1 - 3 sherds) of medieval pottery, and the site is located close to the south-west of the historic core of the village. The locally recorded archaeological remains include a shrunken medieval settlement, ridge-and-furrow cultivation and ditches (e.g. CHER MCB22225 & CB15579), and therefore the ditches may represent field boundaries or similar land divisions such as paddocks or orchards associated with the development of the village and its environs. Two curvilinear features: Curvilinear ditches F1035 (Trench 3) and F1045 (Trench 5) may represent enclosure systems. The former contained a medieval (mid 12th – 15th century)

sherd, while the latter contained a sherd of Roman pottery which may be residual.

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 would like to thank Mr Tim Joyce of Woodoak Limited for funding the works and for all his assistance.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey 1991 *East Anglia Sheet 52°N-00° 1:250,000 Series Quaternary Geology*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*, Reading, ClfA

Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 14

SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Soils of South East England (sheet 4)*. Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales* Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

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	Topsoil	Mid 19th C+	2	4	15	4			
			1	E.End								
			1	W.End								
			2	S.End								
			2	N.End								
			3	S.End								
6	E.End											
	1001		6	W.End	Modern	10	71	161	3	Coin 10p	1	11
			3	Sample								
			5	Sample								
			8	Sample								
			2	S.End								
			4	E.End								
			4	W.End								
			3	Sample								
			5	NW. End								
			7	W.End								
1005	1006		2	Fill of Ditch								
1024	1025		1	Fill of Ditch								
1028	1030		3	Fill of Pit	19th C+	1	1					
			3	Fill of Pit								
	1031		3	Fill of Pit	Mid 18th-early 20th C	1	8					
			3	Fill of Pit								
	1032		3	Fill of Pit	Late 18th C+	1	8	91		Slate		12

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery Report

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 44 sherds weighing 297g. The sherds were derived from features, the topsoil and subsoil. In total there was one Roman and 10 medieval stratified sherds, with the remainder all late post-medieval to modern in date and residual.

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 in brackets are those used for the Suffolk County Council pottery type series, which are appropriate for Cambridgeshire.

The Pottery

Ditch F1045 (L1046 Segment A) contained a single beaded jar rim in a not closely datable Roman sandy greyware, and it was the only find from the feature. There were ten sherds datable between the Late Saxon to Early to High Medieval periods, which were all small and abraded, but with no association to any finds of a later date. Ditches F1053 (L1054) and F1055 (L1056) contained one and three body sherds respectively, of St Neots ware dated between the 10th-12th centuries. Ditch F1059 (L1060) contained two fragments of what superficially looked like St Neots ware, but besides shell also contained soft round inclusions that appear to be grog. This is probably also the same date as the St Neots ware proper. Ditch F1055 (L1056) also contained two sherds of St Neots ware together with an early medieval coarseware sherd in quartz and fine limestone temper, which combined would fit a date of c.11th-12th centuries. Ditch F1037 (L1038) also contained a single sherd of medieval quartz and limestone coarseware.

The Fabrics:

- GRS (1.11): Roman grey sandy ware
- STNE (2.70): St Neots ware: 10th-12th
- STNE2 (2.80): St Neots type ware: shell as St Neots ware but also with soft red and brown inclusions, probably grog 10th-12th
- MCW1 (3.20): Medieval coarseware 1 Fine sandy matrix with sparse medium quartz and occasional other inclusions. Red-brown core and pale grey surfaces late 14th-mid 16th
- MCW2 (3.20): Medieval coarseware 2: Common medium and occasionally coarse sub-rounded to rounded quartz. Includes occasional red quartz and rare rounded black ironstone. Also moderate mainly fine white rounded calcareous, probably limestone. Pale grey throughout 12th-14th /15th
- MCW2a (3.20): Medieval coarseware 2a: as for MCW2 but finer 11th-13th
- ENGS (8.20): English stoneware 18th+
- LPMRE (8.01): Late post-medieval red earthenware mid 18th+
- LGRE (8.50): Late glazed red earthenware mid 18th+
- SWSG (8.41): white salt glazed earthenware mid 18th+
- TPW (8.00): Transfer Printed ware mid 18th+
- ENPO (8.30): English porcelain mid 18th+
- MOCH (8.13): Mocha ware late 18th+
- RWE (8.03): Refined white earthenware late 18th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
TT1	1000	2x4g RWE	Mid 19 th +	
TT2 N end	1000	1x5g RWE 1x4g ENPO	Mid 19 th +	
TT3 Sample	1000	1x45g TPW	Mid 19 th +	TPW: plate with black printing
TT3 S end	1000	1x22g ENGS 2x47g RWE 1x1g ENPO	Mid 19 th +	
TT6 W end Sample	1000	5x58g LPMRE 5x13g	Modern	LPMRE: flower pot RWE: coloured blue and pink
TT6 E end Sample	1000	1x8g ENGS 1x5g ENPO 2x10g LPMRE 1x3g MCW1	Mid 19 th +	ENGS: rouletting MCW1: ?jug neck cordon
TT8	1000	1x<1g RWE	19 th +	
TT2 S end	1001	1x3g RWE	19 th +	RWE: plate or dish rim
TT3	1001	1x5g ENGS	19 th +	
TT4 E end	1001	1x1g SWSG	Late 18 th +	
TT7 W end Sample	1001	2x5g LPMRE	19 th +	
Pit 1028	1030	1x1g RWE	19 th +	
	1031	1x8g LGRE	Mid 18 th -early 20 th	
	1032	1x8g MOCH	Late 18 th +	
Ditch 1037	1038	1x6g MCW2	Mid 12 th -15 th	Abraded
Ditch 1045	1046 Segment A	1x14g GRS	Roman	GRS: Everted beaded jar rim
Ditch 1049	1050	1x3g STNE	10 th - 12 th	
Ditch 1053	1054	3x9g STNE	10 th -12 th	
Ditch 1055	1056	1x4g MCW2a 2x1g STNE	11 th -13 th	Abraded
Ditch 1059	1060	2x3g STNE2	10 th -12 th	Abraded

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

Bibliography

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 evaluation recovered a total of 16 fragments (693g) of Victorian to modern CBM in a highly fragmented condition, contained in modern Pit F1028 and the topsoil and subsoil. The CBM includes red-orange peg tile, yellow stock brick and salt-glazed, white earthen ware sewer pipe; probably not pre-dating the late 19th century, although the peg tile could feasibly be slightly earlier. Modern Pit F1028 (L1032) only contained four small fragments of red-orange peg tile with a very smooth and regular appearance; while the remaining fragments were found in Topsoil L1000 and Subsoil L1001 (notably in Trenches 5 and 6).

Metalwork and Lava

By Rebecca Sillwood

Introduction

Five iron objects and sixteen fragments of lava were submitted for assessment from trial trenching at South End, Bassingbourn in Cambridgeshire.

A catalogue including weights and dimensions is presented (Table 2)

Iron

The iron assemblage included four iron nails of various shapes and sizes. These were recovered from Ditches F1005 and F1024, plus Pit F1028. The nails cannot be closely dated, being a ubiquitous find throughout multiple periods.

A large iron hook was also recovered from Pit F1028. This is of unknown purpose, but is large and industrially built, and clearly of a fairly recent date.

Lava

The lava assemblage was divided between Ditches F1005 and F1053, and is mostly comprised of formless fragments of grey vesicular lava. There is only one fragment with a remaining flat surface, and that was found in F1053. The piece is pitted and degraded, and has no grinding surfaces remaining, though a quernstone is the most likely previous form of all of these fragments. Lava quernstones tend to be medieval in date, and this is the possible period of use for these pieces.

Context	Trench	Material	Qty	Wt (g)	Object Type	Period	Description	Dimensions (mm)	Spotdate	Feature
1006	2	Iron	1	8.3	Nail	Unknown	tapering pointed shaft; L-shaped head	L57		Ditch
1025	1	Iron	1	19.1	Nail	Unknown	circular sectioned shank; missing head	L>64.5		Ditch
1032	3	Iron	2	8	Nail	Unknown	in two pieces; circular sectioned shank; rounded head	L48	Late 18th century+	Pit
1032	3	Iron	1	132	Hook	Modern	flat sectioned pointed hook; square sectioned tang	L155	Late 18th century+	Pit
			5	167.4						
1006	2	Lava	9	59.6	Quern		formless fragments	-		Ditch
1054	8	Lava	7	137.5	Quern		largest piece has worn flat edge, rest are formless	-	10th-12th century	Ditch

Table 2

The Animal Bone

Julia E M Cussans

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from trial trench evaluation. Bone fragments were recovered from topsoil (L1000) and subsoil (L1001) deposits and Ditch Fill L1054 (F1053), which was spot dated to the 10th-12th Century (Table 3). Bone preservation was rated from poor through to good on a five point scale ranging from very poor through to excellent. The bone from the topsoil and subsoil deposits was found in a much better condition than that from L1054. The latter was found to be heavily abraded and root etched with a high occurrence of fresh breakages indicating the friable nature of the bone. Bone from L1000 and L1001 had a much fresher appearance and showed little sign of abrasion or fresh breakages; there was however a number of instances of dog gnawing. No burnt bone was present.

The majority of the bone fragments present could only be identified as large (cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal (Table 3) and included rib, long bone and mandible fragments. The only identified taxa present were cattle and sheep/goat (Table 3). Sheep/ goat were represented by a single fragment of pelvis; no signs of butchery or pathology were present. Cattle were represented by a fragmentary mandible and a number of loose teeth all of which likely came from the same individual (L1054). The teeth included the third molar (M3) which was in wear, indicating an adult animal. No signs of butchery or pathology were noted but, given the poor state of the surface of the bone, it is likely that any such marks present would have been masked.

There were no further features of interest in this small assemblage.

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Preservation	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Total
	1000		1	Topsoil	Mid 19th C+	Ok				1	1
	1000	S.End	2	Topsoil		Good			1		1
	1000	W.End Sample	6	Topsoil	Modern	Good				1	1
	1001	S.End	2	Subsoil	19th C+	Good		1			1
	1001	W.End	4	Subsoil		Ok			1		1
1053	1054		8	Fill of Ditch	10th-12th C	poor	4		20		24
						Total	4	1	22	2	29

Table 3. Quantification of animal bone from Bassingbourn

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the trial trench evaluation at South End, Bassingbourn, four bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. The assessment of the bulk sample light fractions was carried out to determine the preservation and representation of plant and small faunal remains. 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. 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 4. All four samples contained carbonised plant macrofossils, primarily in the form of cereal grains. Free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) were the primary cereal crops identified. A single oat (*Avena* sp.) grain was identified in ditch fill L1054 (F1053). The only chaff element identified was a single culm node (straw) in ditch fill L1006 (F1005) and the samples more likely represent processed cereal crops rather than processing by-products. This is also supported by the presence of only one seed from a non-cereal, arable weed taxon.

Charcoal was only present in low concentrations and is likely to represent scattered fuel debris from domestic hearths.

Molluscs were well represented in all four samples. Short calcareous grassland (*Pupilla muscorum*, *Helicella itala* and most *Vallonia* sp.) and ground litter (*Trichia hispida* group) habitats were represented, suggesting prevailing grassland habitats. Also present were slum aquatic taxa *Anisus leucostoma* and *Lymnaea truncatula*, which indicate standing water within the features, at least on a seasonal basis.

Contaminants

Modern rootlets, seeds and burrowing molluscs (*Cecilioides acicula*) were all present in the samples but not in such concentrations as to suggest significant biological disturbance of the sampled deposits.

Conclusions

The assessment of the bulk sample light fractions has demonstrated the widespread preservation of cereal remains within archaeological deposits on the site. The primary crops of free-threshing type wheat and barley are in keeping with the medieval date of the site (e.g. Ballantyne 2005; Moffett 2006; Fryer and Summers 2016). Although Ditch F1005 L1006 was undated and Ditch F1045 L1046 contained a Roman pottery sherd, the range of cereals is more in keeping with the general pattern of the medieval and post-medieval arable economy. The material is predominantly in the form of relatively low density deposits of clean grain, most likely representing domestic debris from routine food processing / preparation and consumption activities.

References

Ballantyne, R. 2005, 'Plants and seeds', in Mortimer, R., Regan, R. and Lucy, S. *The Saxon and Medieval Settlement at West Fen Road, Ely: The Ashwell Site*, East Anglian Archaeology 110, Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Cambridge, 100-112

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

Fryer, V. and Summers, J.R. 2016, 'Charred plant macrofossils and other remains, in Woolhouse, T. *Medieval Dispersed Settlement on the Mid Suffolk Clay at Cedars Park, Stowmarket*. East Anglian Archaeology 161, Archaeological Solutions Ltd, Bury St. Edmunds, 101-105

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

Moffett, L. 2006, 'The archaeology of medieval food plants', in Woolgar, C.M., Serjeantson, D. and Waldron, T. (eds), *Food in Medieval England: Diet and Nutrition*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 41-55

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol7-305167

Project details

Project name	26 South End, Bassingbourn-cum-Kneeworth, Cambridgeshire SG8 5NJ
Short description of the project	In December 2017 AS carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 26 South End, Bassingbourn-cum-Kneeworth. Archaeological works at Bassingbourn Village College revealed evidence of Iron Age occupation (CHER MCB17408) and Saxon settlement and occupation (CHER MCB18142). Cropmarks of enclosures, linear features and ring ditches (e.g. CHER MCB21153 and 09464) are known to the south west of the proposed development site, and Roman artefacts have been found to the north-west (CHER 03123). Standing late medieval/post-medieval buildings are located on the street frontage close to the site (CHER DCB5342, DCB5416, DCB534 and DCB6133), demonstrating that this part of the village was developed by the 17th century or earlier. The trial trench evaluation recorded a grid-like arrangement of ditches that may represent part of a field system laid out respecting the slope of the river valley. The ditches extended across the whole of the site and were recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8. The ditches contained small quantities (1 - 3 sherds) of medieval pottery, and the site is located close to the south-west of the historic core of the village. The locally recorded archaeological remains include a shrunken medieval settlement, ridge-and-furrow cultivation and ditches (e.g. CHER MCB22225 and CB15579), and therefore the ditches may represent field boundaries or similar land divisions such as paddocks or orchards associated with the development of the village and its environs. Two curvilinear features: Curvilinear ditches F1035 (Trench 3) and F1045 (Trench 5) may represent enclosure systems. The former contained a medieval (mid 12th - 15th century) sherd, while the latter contained a sherd of Roman pottery which may be residual.
Project dates	Start: 01-12-2017 End: 31-12-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7393 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5279 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	CURVILINEAR DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval

Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	IRON NAILS Uncertain
Significant Finds	LAVA QUERNSTONES Uncertain
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 BASSINGBOURN CUM KNEESWORTH 26 South End, Bassingbourn-cum-Kneeworth, Cambridgeshire SG8 5NJ
Postcode	SG8 5NJ
Study area	0.84 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 3313 4373 52.075472748276 -0.057211094353 52 04 31 N 000 03 25 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 29m Max: 29m

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","Metal","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"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 26 South End, Bassingbourn-cum-Kneeworth, Cambridgeshire SG8 5NJ

Author(s)/Editor(s) Lee-Smith, K

Other bibliographic details Archaeological Solutions Report No. 5497

Date 2017

Issuer or publisher Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Place of issue or publication Bury St Edmunds

Entered by Sarah Powell (info@ascontracts.co.uk)

Entered on 4 January 2018

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham](#) and [Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
View of Trench 1 looking west



2
F1009 in Trench 1 looking north



3
F1011 in Trench 1 looking south-east



4
F1003 and F1005 in Trench 2 looking north-east



5
F1013 and F1015 in Trench 2 looking south-east



6
View of Trench 3 looking south



7
F1035 in trench 3 looking north-west



8
F1017 and F1020 in Trench 4 looking north-east



9
F1022 in Trench 4 looking east



10
F1039 and F1041 in Trench 4 looking north



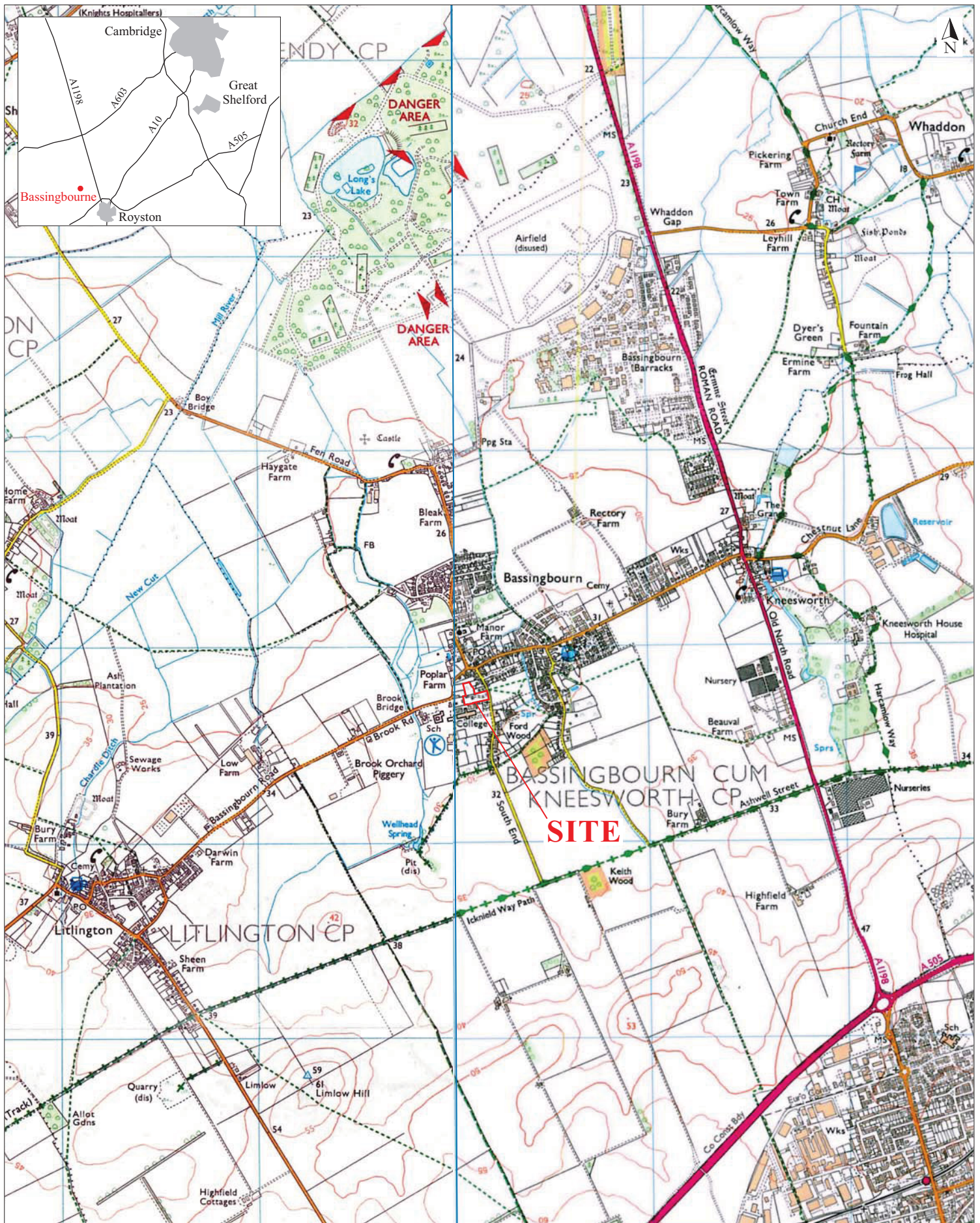
11
F1045 in Trench 5 looking north



12
F1047 and modern service in Trench 8 looking west



13
F1049, F1053 and F1055 in Trench 8 looking north



Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

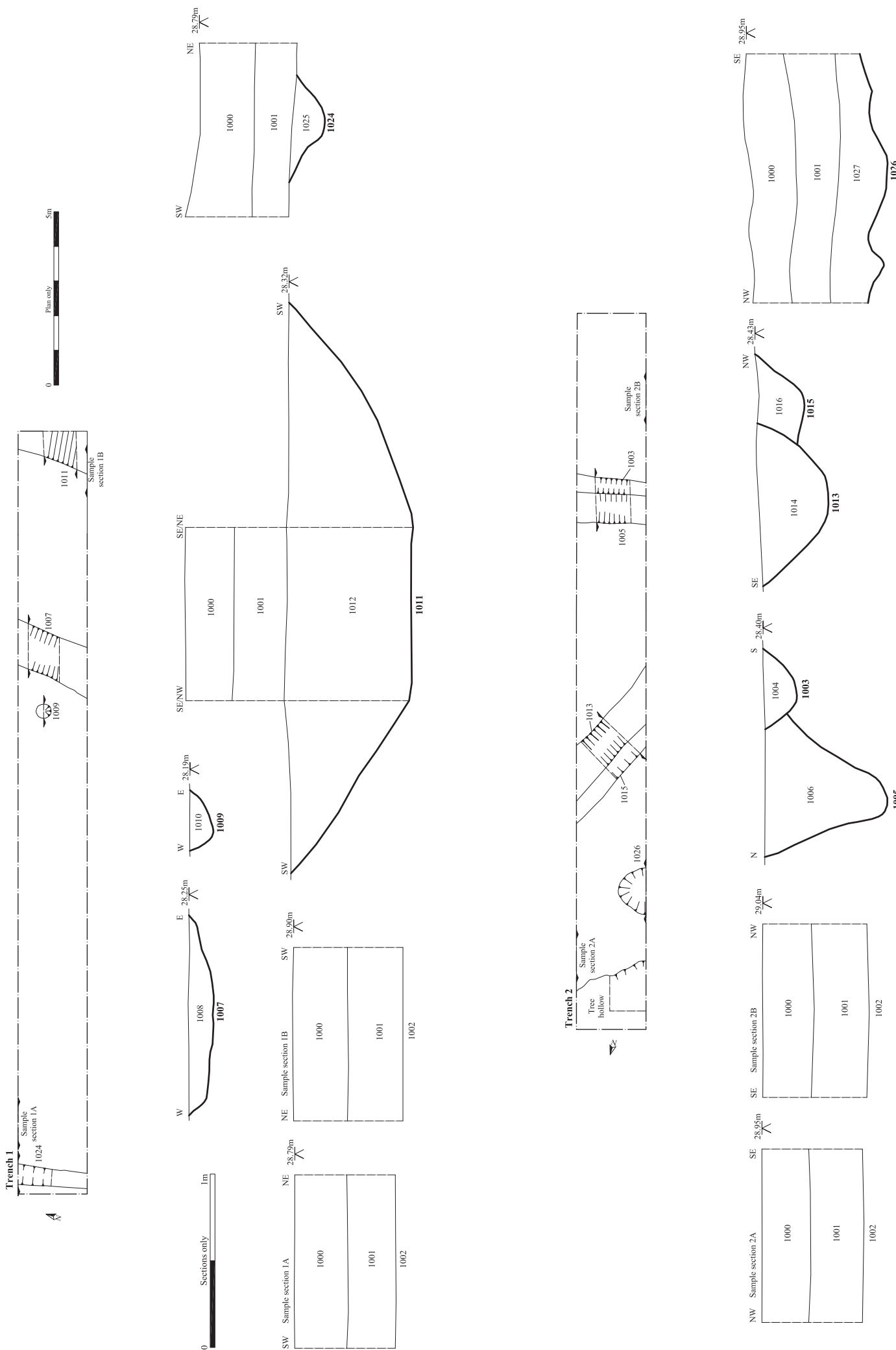
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 South End, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire (P7393)



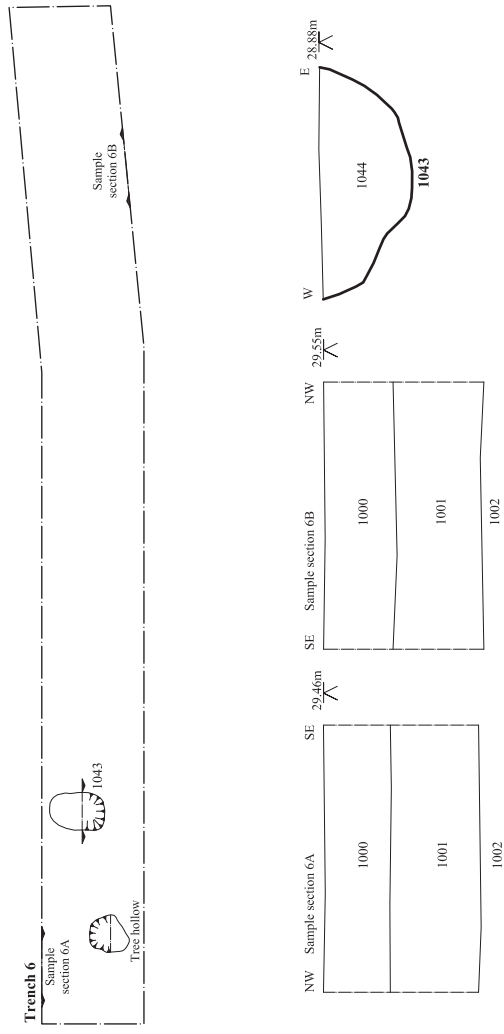
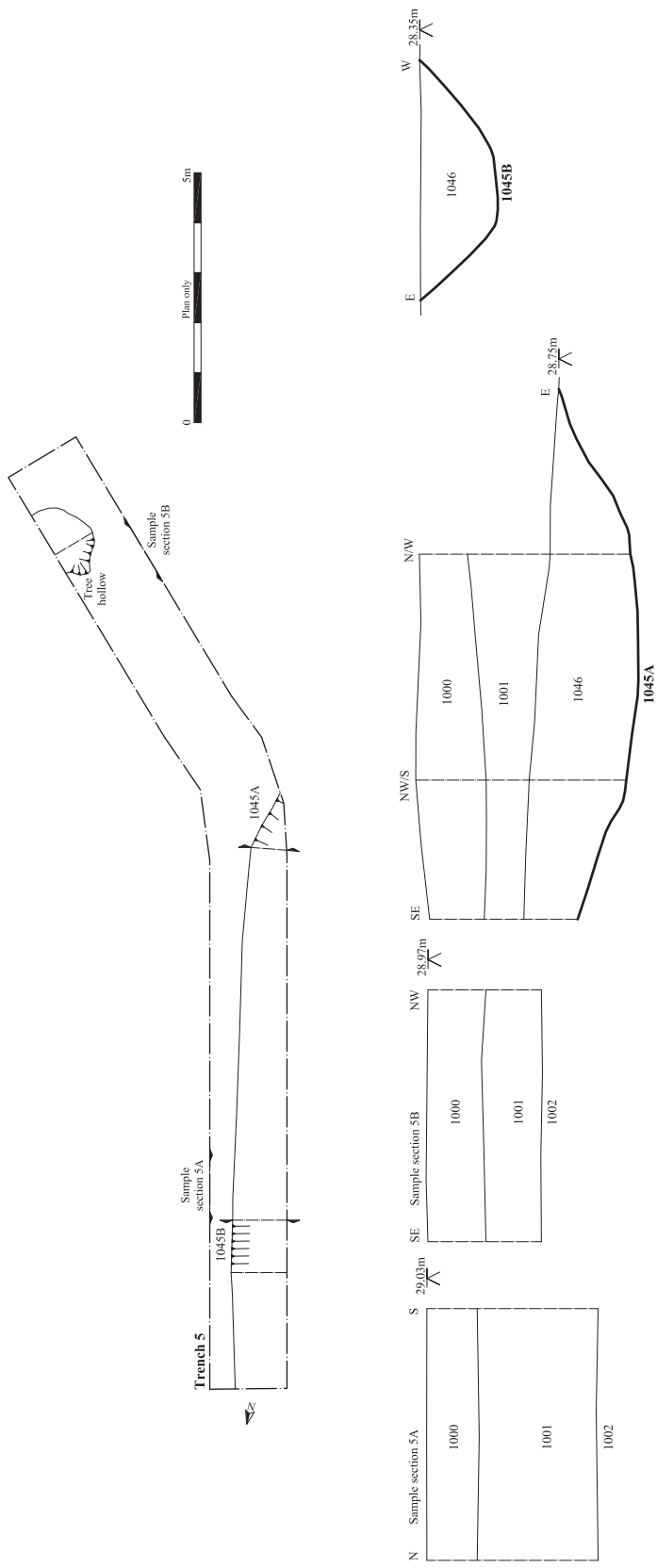
- - - - - Grid pattern of ditches
- - - - - Re-cut ditches

0 50m

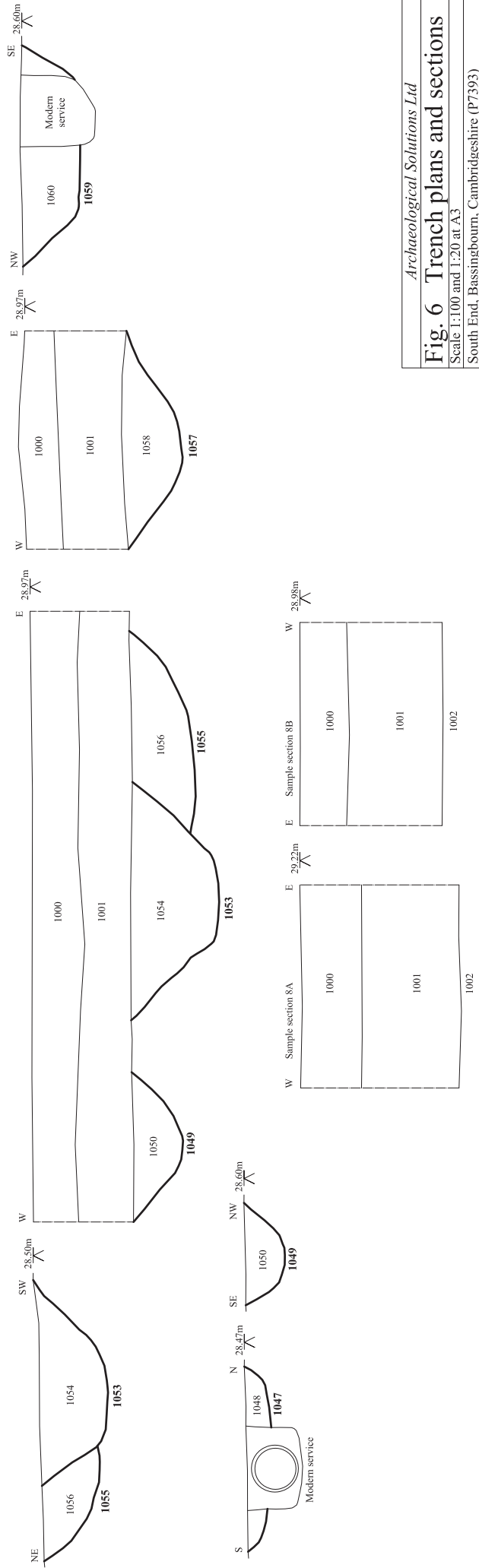
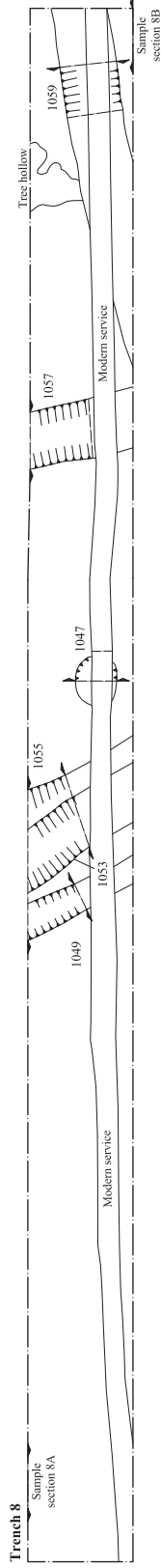
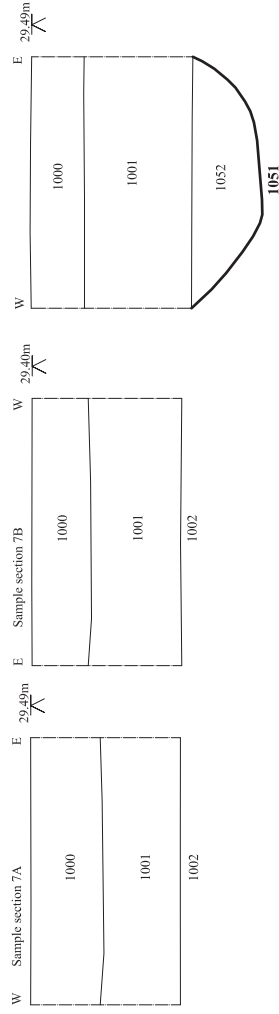
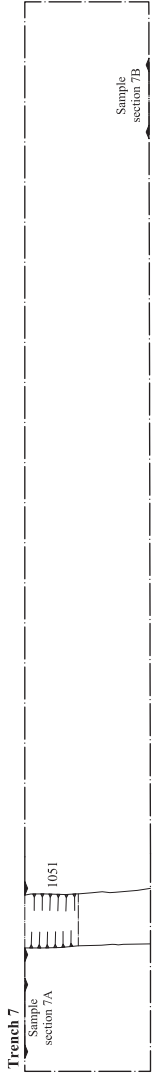
<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:750 at A4
South End, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire (P7393)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
 South End, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire (P7393)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
 South End, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire (P7393)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 6 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
 South End, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire (P7393)