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**EASTERN PLOT,
BUILDERS YARD REAR OF 3-7 RIVER LANE,
FORDHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER ECB 5291

Authors: Niomi Edwards (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 6316 7025	Report No: 5503
District: East Cambs	Site Code: ECB 5291
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P7422
	Date: Revised 10 January 2018

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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

Project details			
Project name	<i>Eastern Plot, Builders Yard Rear of 3 – 7 River Lane, Fordham</i>		
<p><i>In December 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the Builders Yard to the rear of 3-7 River Lane, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6316 7025; 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 a new development of 2no four bed detached dwellings with car ports and associated works (phased as 2 no self-build properties) (East Cambs Council Approval Ref. 16/01436/FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. The evaluation relates to the eastern proposed house plot only.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located within an area of archaeological potential with nearby archaeological remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), and to the rear of a Grade II listed former inn (CHER DCB1445) and also adjacent to the Fordham Abbey gardens and park (CHER 12340). The medieval parish church of St Peter & St Mary Magdalene lies to the north (CHER 007574), and archaeological investigations in this area have found Saxon settlement and other occupation evidence (CHER CB14613, CB14611, CB15031 & CB15561).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed three ditches on the eastern side of the site. The ditches were located close together but not inter-cutting, and on a broadly parallel NW/SE alignment. One of the ditches (F1030) contained two sherds of medieval (late 12th- 14th / 15th century) Ely ware; and another (F1017) contained a post-medieval (16th -17th century) sherd. To the west of the ditches was a large pit (F1035) and smaller pits. The pits contained sparse animal and bird bone, oyster and mussel shell, and carbonised cereal grains. Pit F1028 contained a sherd of medieval (13th – 15th century) pottery.</i></p> <p><i>The ditches appear to extend south from the historic route of River Lane, approximately aligned with the junction of Mill Lane, albeit slightly to the west. They probably represent land divisions between the core of the village and the abbey. The sparse occurrence of finds in particular the pottery, animal bone and shell, suggest the scattering of domestic debris and peripheral activity located between the core areas to the north and south.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	December 2017		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	P7422	Site code	ECB 5291
Type of project	Archaeological evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use			
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Ditches & Pits (medieval)		
Significant finds (+dates)	Pottery, animal bone and marine shell (medieval)		
Project location	Cambridgeshire	East Cambs	Fordham
HER/ SMR for area	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	938m ²		
NGR	TL 6316 7025		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.11m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire County Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Mr Simon Edgley		
Full title	Eastern Plot, Builders Yard, Rear of 3 - 7 River Lane, Fordham, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Niomi Edwards		
Report no.	5460		
Date (of report)	January 2018		

**EASTERN PLOT,
BUILDERS YARD REAR OF 3-7 RIVER LANE,
FORDHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In December 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the Builders Yard to the rear of 3-7 River Lane, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6316 7025; 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 a new development of 2 no four bed detached dwellings with car ports and associated works (phased as 2 no self-build properties) (East Cambs Council Approval Ref. 16/01436/FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. The evaluation relates to the eastern proposed house plot only.

The site is located within an area of archaeological potential with nearby archaeological remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), and to the rear of a Grade II listed former inn (CHER DCB1445) and also adjacent to the Fordham Abbey gardens and park (CHER 12340). The medieval parish church of St Peter & St Mary Magdalene lies to the north (CHER 007574), and archaeological investigations in this area have found Saxon settlement and other occupation evidence (CHER CB14613, CB14611, CB15031 & CB15561).

The evaluation revealed three ditches on the eastern side of the site. The ditches were located close together but not inter-cutting, and on a broadly parallel NW/SE alignment. One of the ditches (F1030) contained two sherds of medieval (late 12th-14th / 15th century) Ely ware; and another (F1017) contained a post-medieval (16th - 17th century) sherd. To the west of the ditches was a large pit (F1035) and smaller pits. The pits contained sparse animal and bird bone, oyster and mussel shell, and carbonised cereal grains. Pit F1028 contained a sherd of medieval (13th - 15th century) pottery.

The ditches appear to extend south from the historic route of River Lane, approximately aligned with the junction of Mill Lane, albeit slightly to the west. They probably represent land divisions between the core of the village and the abbey. The sparse occurrence of finds in particular the pottery, animal bone and shell, suggest the scattering of domestic debris and peripheral activity located between the core areas to the north and south.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the Eastern Plot, Builders Yard to the rear of 3-7 River Lane, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6316 7025; 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 a new development of 2no four bed detached dwellings with car ports and associated works (phased as 2no self-build properties) (East Cambs Council Approval Ref. 16/01436/FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. The evaluation relates to the eastern proposed house plot only.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET, Gemma Stewart; dated 18th October 2017), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 10th November 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 set back to the south of properties fronting River Lane on the southern edge of Fordham. It comprises the eastern part of a former builders yard; the overall site extending to some 938m².

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is at c.11m AOD on the floor of the shallow valley of the River Snail, whose approximately north-south course passes adjacent to the west of the site. The natural slope rises very gently to the east of the site and comprises fields under arable cultivation. To the west around the river it is wooded, and residential properties of River Lane and Mill Lane extend to the north.

3.2 The site is located on a solid geology of chalk bedrock (Totternhoe Stone Member). Alluvial silt, sand and gravel may extend into the western edge of the site, closest to the river. These deposits are overlain by freely-draining, lime-rich, loamy soils.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The prehistoric period is represented in the surrounding area by the recovery of a possible Palaeolithic blade (CHER 11758) from a location to the west of Fordham. A Mesolithic 'Thames pick' has been recovered as an unstratified find (CHER 07511). A Mesolithic tranchet axe has also been found to the north of Fordham (CHER 07551). A small Neolithic polished stone axe has been found in the grounds of Fordham Abbey (CHER 07548), and a similar axe has been found to the east of the river Snail (CHER 07552). A Neolithic polished flint sickle has been found to the north of Fordham (CHER 07553), and flint chisel was found at the same location (CHER 07555). A Neolithic Adze was recovered from Isleham Road (CHER 10213). A Neolithic black flint chisel (CHER 11758) is recorded from a location to the west of Fordham. A socketed and looped Bronze Age axe has been found at 44 Mildenhall Road (CHER 07441).

4.2 Three early Iron Age inhumations are recorded at Fordham Moor (CHER 07549). A scatter of Iron Age pottery was recorded to the east of Fordham Abbey during the fenland survey (CHER 11287).

4.3 The Romano-British period is represented by an artefact scatter recorded by the fenland survey to the east of Fordham Abbey (CHER 11287A), and coins found within the grounds of Fordham Abbey (CHER 07579).

4.4 An Anglo-Saxon post-built structure and associated featured have been recorded Fordham Primary School (CHER CB14610). Sunken featured buildings,

boundary ditches and other features have been identified at Hillside Meadow (CHER CB14611; CB14613; CB15031; CB15561). Saxon artefacts have been recovered as unstratified finds from the grounds of Fordham Abbey (CHER 07546).

4.5 Fordham Abbey, located to the south of the current site, was a Gilbertine priory founded before 1227 and dissolved in 1538 (CHER 07449). Documentary evidence suggests that part of the abbey was fortified during the rebellion of the Earl of Essex in 1143 – 1144 (CHER 07545). The earliest fabric within Saint Peter and Saint Mary Magdalene Church dates to the 12th century (CHER 07574). Medieval furlong boundaries have been recorded to the south-west of Fordham (CHER 10309). A medieval coin has been recovered from the grounds of Fordham Abbey (CHER 07579A).

4.6 The current Fordham Abbey is a large, listed, 18th century house with a 17th century dovecote (CHER 07449a). It was built as a private residence for William Metcalfe. The associated park and gardens are recorded as CHER 12340. Thimbles and other metalwork of post-medieval date have been found in the grounds of Fordham Abbey (CHER 07579B).

4.7 The 19th century onwards is represented by Fordham Congregational Church (CHER MCB17176); Fordham Methodist Church (CHER MCB17245); the gardens of Shrubland House (CHER MCB19367); ditches and pits at 27 Mill Lane (CHER 19640); the site of the former Chequers Inn (CHER MCB21542); the site of the former fire engine house (CHER MCB21543); the primitive Methodist chapel (CHER MCB21544); the site of a former school (CHER MCB21547); the site of the former Green Dragon Inn (CHER MCB21548); nursery gardens noted on the 1901 Ordnance Survey map (CHER MCB21552); Lords Barn which is noted on the 1901 Ordnance Survey map (CHER MCB21555); the former Waterside Lodge (CHER MCB21557); the former Bassingbourne Manor Farm (CHER MCB21558); a former gravel pit (CHER MCB21559); the listed church hall (CHER MCB21562); almshouses marked on the 1926 Ordnance Survey map (CHER MCB21563); the Fordham war memorial (CHER MCB21564); the burial ground (CHER MCB21565); Corn Mill and Island House sluice noted on the 1926 Ordnance Survey map (CHER MCB21566); and a graveyard noted on the 1926 Ordnance Survey map (CHER MCB21567).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The evaluation provided for a sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched. The evaluation focused on the new eastern house plot. Due to the small size of the site an L-shaped trench, rather than two separate trenches of 12m x 1.80m, was excavated.

5.2 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.

5.3 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 the metal detecting survey were all of 19th and 20th century date.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 3 - 4)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 13.71m AOD		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1010 =L1000 =L1005	Yard Surface. Compact, pale – yellow brown sandy silt clay with frequent moderate – large sub angular limestone
0.13 – 0.48m	L1011 = L1003 =L1009	Buried soil. Firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint
0.48m +	L1012 =L1004	Natural deposits. Firm, white chalky clay silt with frequent sub angular and sub round chalk, and large flint nodules

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 13.80m AOD		
0.00 – 0.11m	L1005 =L1000 =L1010	Yard Surface. As above
0.11 - 0.15m	L1008	Made Ground. Compact, very dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small pale yellow brown clay lumps
0.15 - 0.18m	L1007	Made Ground. Compact, very pale yellow brown silty sand with frequent medium – large sub angular limestone
0.18 – 0.61m	L1009 = L1003 =L1011	Buried soil. As above
0.61m +	L1012 = L1004	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 1 contained Ditches F1013, F1015, F1017, F1023 and F1030; and Pits F1019, F1021, F1032, F1035 and F1037. Ditch F1030 contained medieval (late 12th-14th/15th century) pottery, and Ditch F1017 contained a post-medieval (16th – 17th century) pottery sherd. Pit F1035 extended into Trench 2.

Ditch F1013 was linear in plan (12m+ x 0.31 x 0.09m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1014, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1015 was linear in plan (12m+ x 0.32 x 0.09m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand with small – moderate sub angular chalk. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1017 was linear in plan (12m+ x 0.42 x 0.15m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderate – steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1018, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand with small – moderate sub angular chalk. It contained a 16th – 17th century pottery (1; 5g) and animal bone (132g).

Pit F1019 was sub circular in plan (0.61 x 0.20 x 0.08m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1020, was a firm, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub angular stones and chalk. It contained no finds.

Pit F1021 was sub circular in plan (0.30+ x 2.25 x 0.24m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1022, was a firm, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub angular flint and chalk. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1023 was linear in plan (5m+ x 0.65+ x 0.33m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1024, was a firm, mid yellow brown silty sand with small – moderate sub angular chalk. It contained no finds. F1023 was cut by Ditch F1030, Pits F1032 and F1035.

Ditch F1030 was linear in plan (5m+ x 0.65+ x 0.25m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1031, was a firm, mid yellow grey brown silty sand. It contained medieval (late 12th – 14th / 15th century) pottery (2; 18g) and animal bone (12g). It cut Ditch F1023 and was cut by Pit F1035.

Pit F1032 was sub circular in plan (0.60 x 0.15 x 0.31m). It had steep - moderate sides and a flattish base. Its basal fill, L1033, was a friable, mid reddish brown silty sand with moderate small sub angular and sub rounded chalk. It contained no finds. Its upper fill, L1033, was a friable, white chalk. It contained no finds. F1032 cut Ditch F1023 and was cut by Pit F1035.

Pit F1035 was sub rectangular in plan (1.80+ x 6.80 x 0.91). It had moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1036, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with moderate chalk. It contained CBM (2g), animal bone (270g), an Fe. fragment(1; 6g) and shell (9g). F1035 extended across both Trenches 1 and 2, and it cut Ditches F1023 and F1030, and Pit F1032.

Pit F1037 was sub circular in plan (0.60 x 0.10 x 0.15m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1038, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand. It contained no finds.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 4)

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 13.62m AOD		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000 = L1005 = L1010	Yard Surface. As above
0.08 – 0.18m	L1001	Made Ground. Compact, pale yellow brown silty sand frequent medium – large sub angular limestone
0.18 – 0.26m	L1002	Made Ground. Compact, dark grey brown silty sand with moderate small and medium angular and sub angular rounded flints with occasional large sub angular limestone
0.26 – 0.43m	L1003 = L1009 = L1011	Buried soil. As above
0.43m +	L1004 = L1012	Natural. As above

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 13.76m AOD		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1005 = L1000 = L1010	Yard Surface. As above
0.13 – 0.29m	L1006	Made Ground. Compact, very dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small angular and sub angular flint
0.29 – 0.36m	L1007	Made Ground. As above
0.36 – 0.56m	L1003 = L1009 = L1011	Buried soil. As above
0.56m +	L1004 = L1012	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 2 contained ?Pits F1026 and F1028, and Feature F1035 extended into Trench 2. F1028 contained a sherd of medieval (13th – 15th century) pottery.

?Pit F1026 was irregular in plan (1.10 x 0.66 x 0.14m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1027, was a firm, pale grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub angular flint and chalk. It contained animal bone (3g).

?Pit F1028 was irregular in plan (0.65 x 1.40 x 0.24m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1029, was a firm, pale grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub angular flint and chalk. It contained a sherd of medieval (13th – 15th century) pottery (1; 6g); CBM (8g), animal bone (2g), fired clay (6g) and shell (12g).

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 Uppermost was Yard Surface L1000 (= L1005 and L1010) (0.08 – 0.13m thick). L1000 overlay made ground deposits L1001 – L1002, and L1006 – L1008) (0.07 – 0.23m thick).

8.2 The made ground overlay Buried Soil L1003 (= L1009 and L1011) , a firm, pale – medium grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub angular flint and chalk becoming larger towards the base (0.17 – 0.43m thick). L1003 is a relict, historic soil layer, representing the land surface directly predating the construction of the yard surface and made ground deposits.

8.3 At the base of the geology, L1004 (= L1012) was a firm, white chalky clay silt with frequent sub angular and sub round chalk, and large flint nodules (0.44 - 0.61m below the current day ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1013	Ditch	-
	F1015	Ditch	-
	F1017	Ditch	16 th – 17 th C sherd
	F1019	Pit	-
	F1021	Pit	-
	F1023	Ditch	-
	F1030	Ditch	Two Late 12 th – 14 th /15 th C sherds
	F1032	Pit	-
	F1035	Pit	CBM
2	F1037	Pit	-
	F1026	?Pit	-
	F1028	?Pit	13 th – 15 th C sherd

9.2 The site is located to the rear of a Grade II listed former inn (CHER DCB1445) and also adjacent to the Fordham Abbey gardens and park (CHER 12340). The medieval parish church of St Peter & St Mary Magdalene lies to the north (CHER 007574), and archaeological investigations in this area have found Saxon settlement and other occupation evidence (CHER CB14613, CB14611, CB15031 & CB15561). Earlier activity is also known to the east with scatters of material indicating Iron Age and Roman settlement and other activity (CHER 11287 & 11287A).

9.3 The features were located towards the eastern side of the site (Trench 1). Three ditches, F1013, F1015 and F1017, were adjacent, broadly parallel and aligned NW/SE. Ditches F1023 and F1030 were less exposed but also appeared to be aligned NW/SE. Dating evidence was sparse. F1030 contained two sherds of medieval Ely ware (Late 12th – 14th/15th century), and F1017 contained a post-medieval (16th – 17th century) sherd.

9.4 The remaining features were pits of various sizes. Pit F1028 contained a sherd of locally-produced medieval coarse ware (13th – 15th century) associated with an oyster shell and bird bone. Large Pit F1035 contained sparse finds notably mussel shell. It also contained a fragment (2g) of very highly abraded CBM, possibly of Roman date, but this suggestion is very tentative conclusion.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The site had a potential for remains of medieval and post-medieval occupation associated with a former inn and Fordham Abbey which are close by. The medieval church lies to the north and archaeological investigations in this area have found Saxon settlement and other occupation evidence.

10.2 Ditches and pits were recorded, and they contained sparse sherds of medieval (late 12th – 14th / 15th century; and 13th – 15th century), and post-medieval (16th – 17th century) pottery, associated with small quantities of animal and bird bone, oyster and mussel shell, and carbonised cereal grains.

10.3 The ditches on the eastern side of the site appear to extend south from the historic route of River Lane, approximately aligned with the junction of Mill Lane, albeit slightly to the west. They likely represent land divisions between the core of the village and the abbey. The sparse occurrence of finds in particular pottery, bone and shell, suggest this material represents the scattering of domestic debris and peripheral activity located between the core areas of the village and abbey, to the north and south respectively.

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 Simon Edgley for funding the work and for his assistance.

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

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Web resources

www.old-maps.co.uk

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)
1017	1018		1	Fill of Ditch	16th-17th C	1	5		132			
1026	1027		2	Fill of Pit					3			
1028	1029		2	Fill of Pit	13th-15th C	1	6		2	F.Clay Shell		6 12
1030	1031		1	Fill of Ditch	Late 12th-14th / 15th C	2	18		12			
1035	1036		1	Fill of Pit				2	270	Fe Frag Shell	1	6 9

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery Report

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered four sherds of medieval to early post-medieval date weighing 21g from three features.

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 are those used for the Suffolk County Council pottery type series, which are appropriate for Cambs.

The Pottery

Ditch F1030 (L1031) contained two sherds of medieval Ely ware, one with a splash of green glaze on its outer surface. Pit F1028 (L1029) contained a body sherd of unidentified late medieval sandy coarse ware in fairly good condition. Ditch F1017 (L1018) contained a body sherd of early post-medieval red earthenware.

Fabric Key:

MEL (4.81): Medieval Ely ware 12th-15th

MCW (3.20): Medieval Coarseware – Common fine to medium sub-rounded to rounded quartz, rare red iron ore. Wheel-made smooth surfaces. Pale red-brown core, pale brown surfaces with orange mottling on outer surface; small splashes of green glaze on outer surface 13th-15th / 16th

PMRE (6.10): Post-medieval red earthenware 16th-19th

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Ditch 1017	1018	1x4g PMRE	16 th -17 th	Lightly abraded
Pit 1028	1029	1x4g MCW	13 th -15 th	Lightly abraded
Ditch 1030	1031	2x21g MEL	Late 12 th -14 th / 15 th	Moderately abraded, splash of green glaze, inner surfaces have charcoal residue

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

Bibliography

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, 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

Pit F1035 contained a single fragment (2g) of CBM in a very highly abraded, rounded condition. The fragment was fired to a pale orange colour with inclusions of common sub-rounded quartz and sparse red iron-rich grains (both (<0.5mm)); a fabric that suggests a Roman origin, but based on the extremely limited character of the evidence this remains a very tentative conclusion.

The Shell

Julia E M Cussans

A very small assemblage of marine shell was recovered from trial trenching. Shell derived from two contexts. Pit Fill L1029 (F1028) contained a single upper oyster valve (umbo present), the preservation of which was described as good, and which bore an opening notch on its ventral edge. Pit Fill L1036 (F1035) contained two right hand mussel valves (umbo present) and two mussel shell fragments. The preservation was described as ok and the presence of fresh breaks was noted. No human modifications were noted on these shells and no parasitic infestations were noted in any of the assemblage; no measurable shells were present.

The Animal Bone

Julia E M Cussans

A very small quantity of animal bone was recovered from trial trenching. Bone derived from both pit and ditch fills (Table 2) and preservation was rated as either ok or very poor on five point scale ranging from very poor through to excellent. Bone abrasion was variable with some contexts displaying high levels of abrasion and others almost none. Fresh breakages were present in some but not all contexts. No dog gnawing or burning was noted.

Identified mammal taxa present were cattle, sheep/ goat and horse, of which the latter was most abundant (Table 2). Two bird bones were present one identified as chicken ulna and the other as an indeterminate long bone fragment. Other bone fragments present could only be identified as large (cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal.

Horse was represented by two molar teeth and a distal humerus. Cattle was represented by a single incisor tooth and sheep/ goat by a metatarsal (foot bone). No butchered ageable or pathological bones were present.

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Preservation	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Horse	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Bird	Total
1017	1018	Fill of Ditch	16th-17th C	ok	1		2	1			4
1026	1027	Fill of ?Pit		Very poor					1		1
1028	1029	Fill of ?Pit	13th-15th C	ok						2	2
1030	1031	Fill of Ditch	Late 12th-14th/15th C	ok		1					1
1035	1036	Fill of Pit		ok			1	1	1		3
				Total	1	1	3	2	2	2	11

Table 2. Quantification of animal bone from River Lane, Fordham

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the trial trench evaluation, five bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. 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 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 3. Small numbers of carbonised cereal grains were recovered from Pit F1028 L1029, Ditch F1015 L1016 and Pit F1035 L1036, including barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type). A single legume (Fabaceae), most likely of a non-cultivated taxon, was also present in F1028 L1029. In all cases, the density of remains was low, and included abraded and fragmentary grains, suggesting that the remains may have been present on surrounding surfaces for some time before final deposition within the sampled features.

Charcoal fragments were mostly present in low concentrations. In F1035 L1036 where charcoal was recorded as common, diffuse-porous vessel patterns were identified.

The majority of the mollusc shells indicate grassland habitats, including short grassland (*Pupilla muscorum*, *Ena obscura* and *Vallonia* sp.) and ground litter habitats (*Cochlicopa* sp. and *Trichia hispida* sp.). A single shell of *Planorbis* sp. in L1016 indicates freshwater conditions, potentially as standing water in the ditch itself.

Conclusions

The bulk sample light fractions from River Lane, Fordham, contained only low densities of carbonised plant material, indicating that they were only receiving small

amounts of material, most likely as scattered and wind-blown debris from nearby activity. This suggests that the sampled features may have been peripheral to main areas of domestic and agricultural activity during the medieval period.

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 Palynology 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

ECB5291	5	1036	1035	Fill of Large Feature	-	40	20	50%	X	-	Hord (1), FTW (1), NFI (2)	-	-	-	XX	Diffuse porous	XXX	Vertigo sp.	XX	XX	X	-	-	Fish scale (X)	
																			Cochlicopa sp., Oxychilus sp., Pupilla muscorum, Trichia hispida group, Vallonia sp.						

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

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-307347

Project details

Project name	Eastern Plot, Builders Yard Rear of 3 - 7 River Lane, Fordham
Short description of the project	In December 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the Builders Yard to the rear of 3-7 River Lane, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6316 7025; Figs. 1 - 2). The site is located within an area of archaeological potential with nearby archaeological remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), and to the rear of a Grade II listed former inn (CHER DCB1445) and also adjacent to the Fordham Abbey gardens and park (CHER 12340). The medieval parish church of St Peter and St Mary Magdalene lies to the north (CHER 007574), and archaeological investigations in this area have found Saxon settlement and other occupation evidence (CHER CB14613, CB14611, CB15031 and CB15561). The evaluation revealed three ditches on the eastern side of the site. The ditches were located close together but not inter-cutting, and on a broadly parallel NW/SE alignment. One of the ditches (F1030) contained two sherds of medieval (late 12th- 14th / 15th century) Ely ware; and another (F1017) contained a post-medieval (16th -17th century) sherd. To the west of the ditches was a large pit (F1035) and smaller pits. The pits contained sparse animal and bird bone, oyster and mussel shell, and carbonised cereal grains. Pit F1028 contained a sherd of medieval (13th - 15th century) pottery. The ditches appear to extend south from the historic route of River Lane, approximately aligned with the junction of Mill Lane, albeit slightly to the west. They probably represent land divisions between the core of the village and the abbey. The sparse occurrence of finds in particular the pottery, animal bone and shell, suggest the scattering of domestic debris and peripheral activity located between the core areas to the north and south.
Project dates	Start: 01-12-2017 End: 31-12-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7422 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5291 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval

Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	MARINE SHELL Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE FORDHAM Eastern Plot, Builders Yard Rear of 3 – 7 River Lane, Fordham
Study area	938 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 6316 7025 52.305662586123 0.393415742453 52 18 20 N 000 23 36 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 11m Max: 11m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Project brief originator	CCC HET
Project design originator	Jon Murray
Project director/manager	Jon Murray
Project supervisor	Niomi Edwards

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Survey"
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 Eastern Plot, Builders Yard Rear of 3 - 7 River Lane, Fordham

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
View of Trench 1 looking north



2
Sample Section 1A in Trench 1 looking west



3
F1013A, F1015A and F1017A in Trench 1 looking south



4
F1013B, F1015B and F1017B in Trench 1 looking North



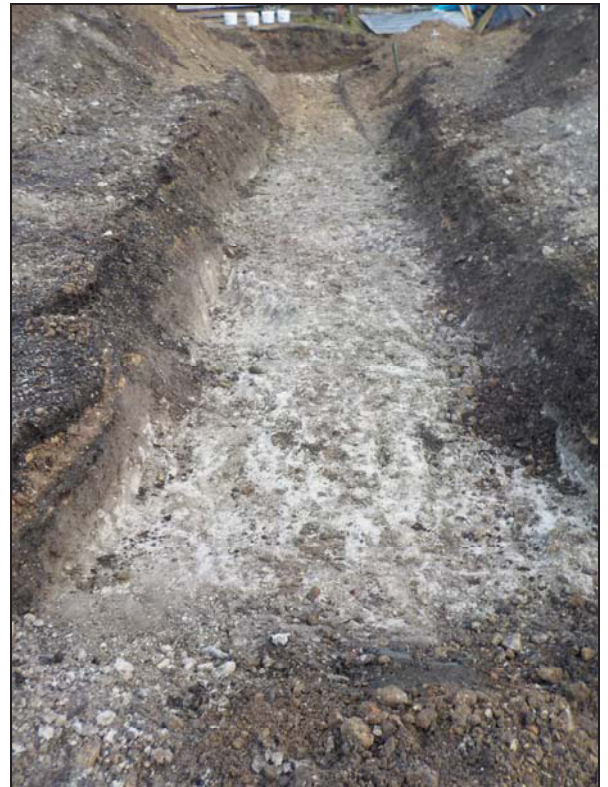
5
F1021 in Trench 1 looking west



6
F1037 in Trench 1 looking west



7
F1037 in Trench 1 looking west



8
View of Trench 2 looking east



9
F1023B, F1030B and F1035 in Trench 2 looking north

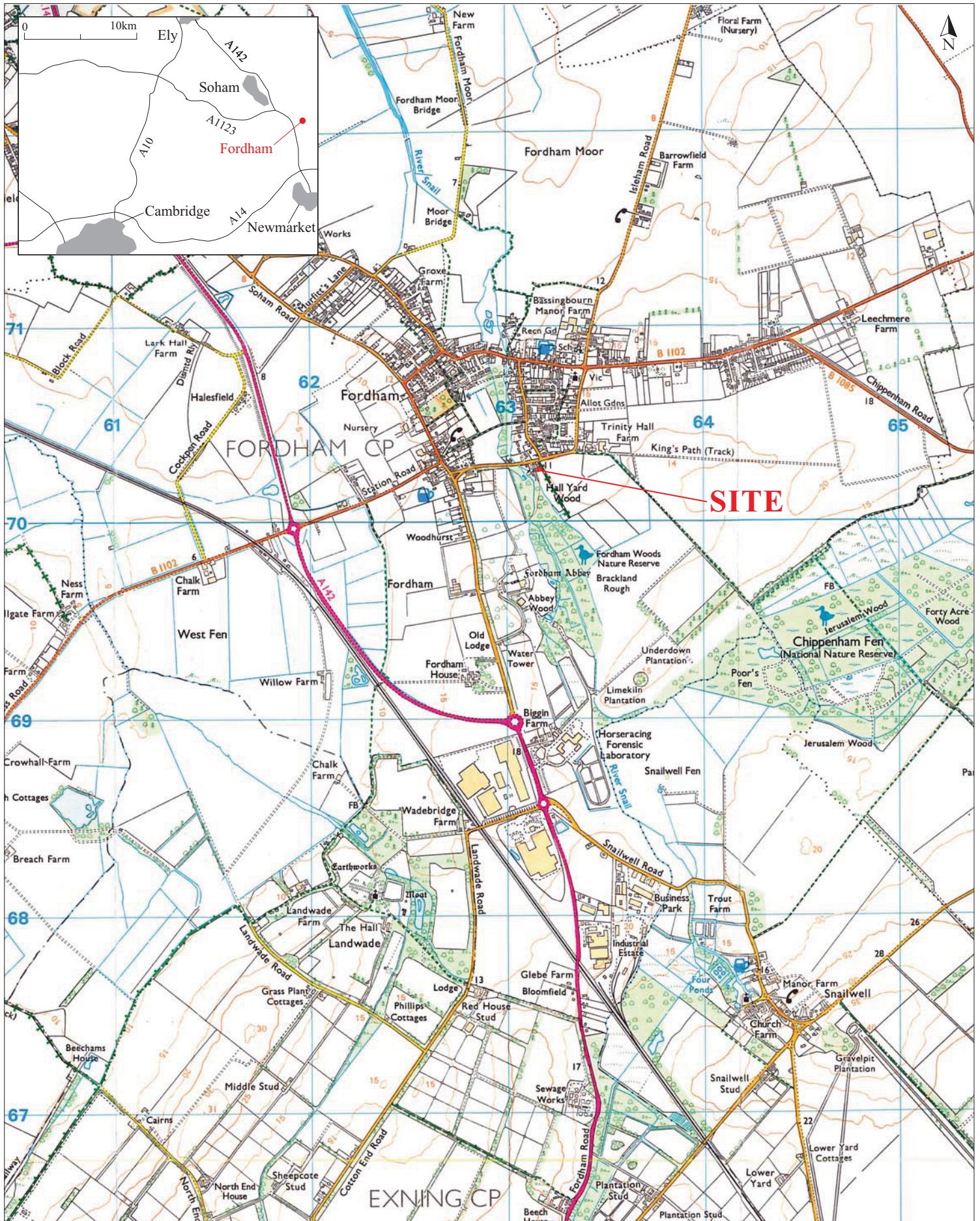


10
F1026 in Trench 2 looking south-west



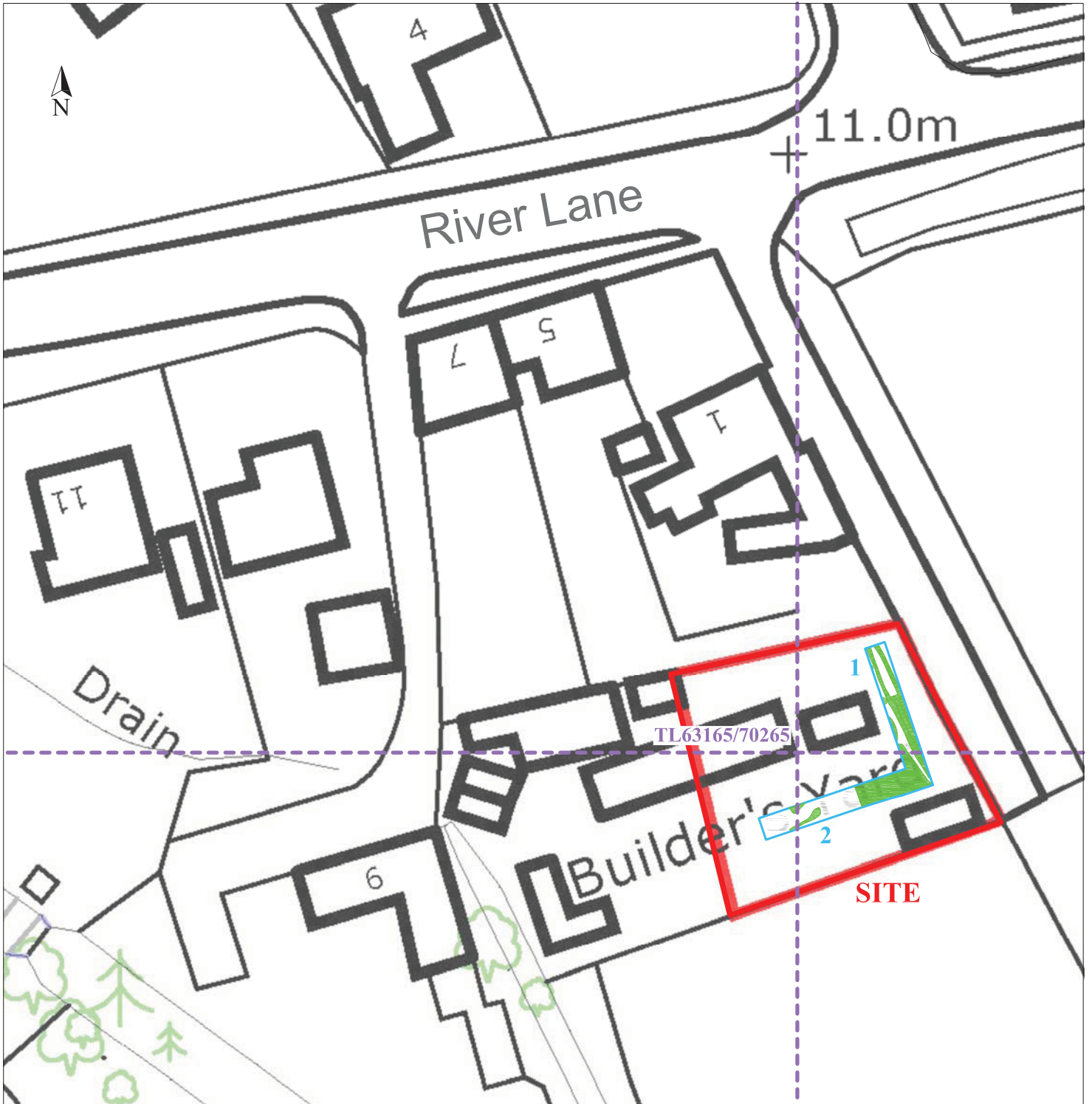
11

F1028 in Trench 2 looking north



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 River Lane, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (P7188)



0 250m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:4000 at A4
River Lane, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (P7422)



0 10m

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Fig. 3 Trench location on proposed development plan
 Scale 1:150 at A4
 River Lane, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (P7422)

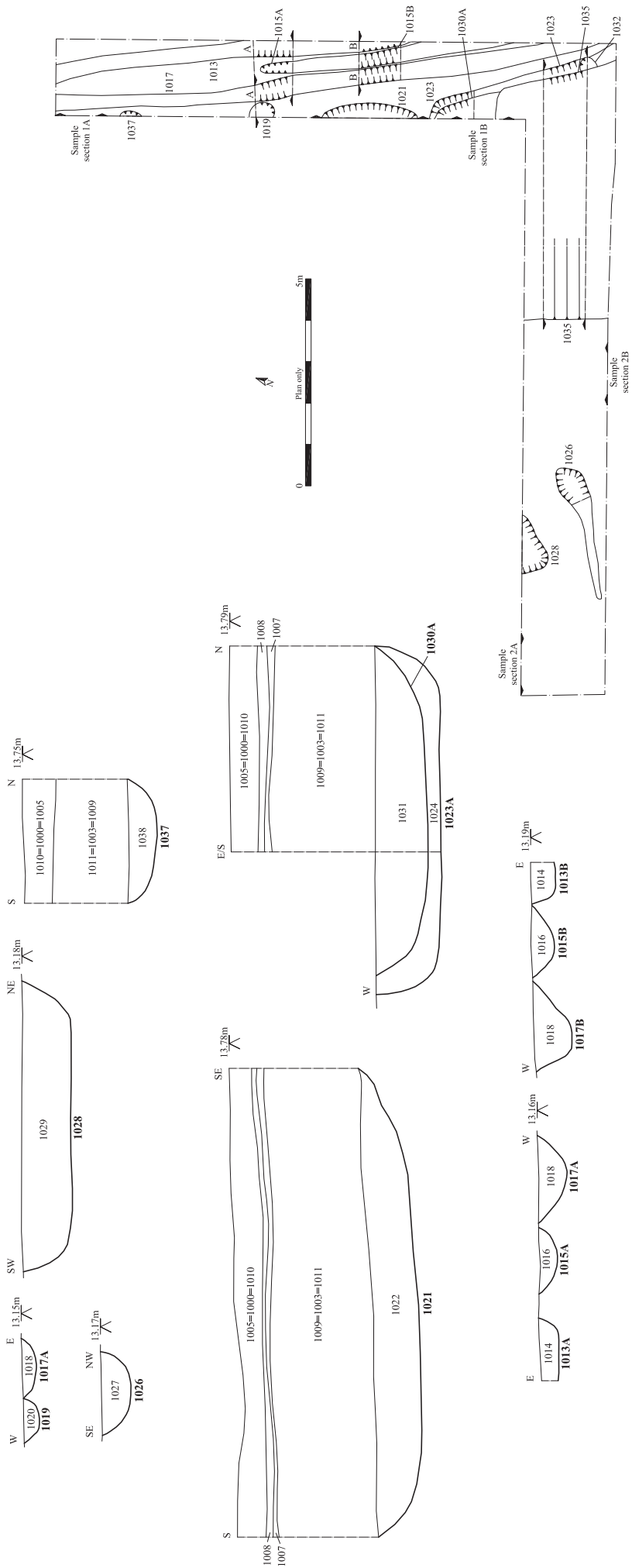


Fig. 4 Trench plan and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
 River Lane, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (P7422)

