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LAND SOUTH OF 36 NEWMARKET ROAD, FORDHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER ECB 5301

Authors: (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 6279 6988	Report No: 5505
District: East Cambs	Site Code: ECB 5301
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P7380
	Date: 17 January 2018 Revised 30 January 2018

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CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	*Land South of Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire*		
In December 2017 and January 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land south of 36 Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6279 6988; 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 two new detached dwellings, garages, parking, access and associated works (East Cambs Council Approval Ref. 16/00403/FUL) based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. *A few undated features were recorded across the site (Ditches F1016 (Trench 1), F1014 (Trench 2), F1011 (Trench 4) and Pit F1019 (Trench 4)). The principal recorded features were Pits F1005 (Trench 1) and F1006 (Trench 3). These substantial features occupied much of Trench 1, and all of Trench 3. It is possible that the features equate to one large pit i.e. F1005 equals F1006, and the features contained sparse finds of prehistoric pottery, animal bone and burnt flint. It is suggested that these features represent quarry pits, and that the finds of prehistoric pottery are residual. The pits may have served Fordham Abbey, which is located to the south of the site, and was a Gilbertine priory founded before 1227.*		
Project dates (fieldwork)	*December 2017 – January 2018*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	*Future work*	*TBC*
P. number	*P7380*	*Site code*	*ECB 5301*
Type of project	*Archaeological evaluation*		
Site status	-		
Current land use	*Agricultural*		
Planned development	*Residential*		
Main features (+dates)	*Large pits, sparse undated pits and ditches*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*Crumbs of prehistoric pottery, likely residual*		
	Cambridgeshire	*East Cambs*	*Fordham*
HER/ SMR for area	*Cambrigeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)*		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	*0.39ha.*		
NGR	*TL 6279 6988*		
Height AOD (min/max)	*c.12.50m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Cambridgeshire County Council*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*		
Funded by	*Mr M Boatwright*		
Full title	*Land South of36 Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation*		
Authors	*Barlow, G. Muir, T.*		
Report no.	*5505*		
Date (of report)	*January 2018*		

LAND SOUTH OF 36 NEWMARKET ROAD, FORDHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In December 2017 and January 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land south of 36 Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6279 6988; 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 two new detached dwellings, garages, parking, access and associated works (East Cambs Council Approval Ref. 16/00403/FUL) based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

The site is adjacent to the grounds of the medieval Fordham Abbey (CHER 12340), with the abbey itself located some 200m south east of the site (CHER 49041). An earlier settlement of Iron Age and Roman date is also recorded to the east of the abbey grounds (CHER 11287 & 11287A). Archaeological investigations to the north west have also recorded prehistoric occupation evidence and post-medieval occupation evidence (CHER MCB16950).

A few undated features were recorded across the site (Ditches F1016 (Trench 1), F1014 (Trench 2), F1011 (Trench 4) and Pit F1019 (Trench 4)). The principal recorded features were Pits F1005 (Trench 1) and F1006 (Trench 3). These substantial features occupied much of Trench 1, and all of Trench 3. It is possible that the features equate to one large pit i.e. F1005 equals F1006, and the features contained sparse finds of prehistoric pottery, animal bone and burnt flint. It is suggested that these features represent quarry pits, and that the finds of prehistoric pottery are residual. The pits may have served Fordham Abbey, which is located to the south of the site, and was a Gilbertine priory founded before 1227.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2017 and January 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land south of 36 Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6279 6988; 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 two detached dwellings, garages, parking, access and associated works (East Cambs Council Approval Ref. 16/00403/FUL), 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 22nd September 2017), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 23rd 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 located on the western side of Newmarket Road in the southern part of Fordham. It comprises land south of 36 Newmarket Road.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at *c.*12.5m AOD at the northern extent of a slight ridge of land, with a gentle slope down to the west into West Fen, and a gentle slope down to the east towards the River Snail, whose course passes *c.*400m to the east.

3.2 The underlying solid geology of the site is of Cretaceous Chalk, with the site situated on the interface of the Zig-Zag Chalk Formation and Totternhoe Stone Member within this classification. No drift deposits overlie the chalk; but the local

soils are freely draining, slightly acid but base-rich, becoming shallower and more lime-rich towards the western edge of the site.

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, three possibly Mesolithic blades recovered from close to Biggin Farm (CHER 07433A), Mesolithic and Bronze Age flint artefacts found at Fordham House (CHER 07442), a small Neolithic polished stone axe found in the grounds of Fordham Abbey (CHER 07548), a Neolithic axe found *c*. 1km to the south-west of the current site (CHER 07737), a Bronze Age barrow recorded 160m to the west of the A142 (CHER 07433) and a similar monument recorded 65m to the west of the A142 (CHER 09025), a late Bronze Age spearhead recovered from a location to the south-west of the site (CHER 07432) and late Bronze Age cremation cemetery at Fordham Road (CHER MCB19626). Fieldwalking has identified a concentration of flint flakes and burnt flint at a location south of Burwell Road (CHER CB14609). A Neolithic crouched inhumation and Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement features (CHER CB14997), a possible prehistoric post-built structure (CHER CB15000) and early Neolithic to early Iron Age features (CHER MCB16947; MCB16948; MCB16950) have been recorded during work undertaken ahead of the construction of the Fordham bypass

4.2 A scatter of Iron Age pottery recorded to the east of Fordham Abbey during the fenland survey is considered to represent settlement activity at this location (CHER 11287).

4.3 The Romano-British settlement has been recorded by the fenland survey to the east of Fordham Abbey (CHER 11287A) and coins of this date have been found within the grounds of Fordham Abbey (CHER 07579). A Romano-British artefact scatter has been recorded to the south of the abbey (CHER 11533). Romano-British and early Saxon features have been recorded at the site of Fordham bypass (CHER MCB16946). Possible Roman ditches have been recorded at Turner's Yard (CHER MCB20916).

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

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). A medieval coin has been recovered from the grounds of Fordham Abbey (CHER 07579A). 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). Medieval features have been recorded at the site of Fordham bypass (CHER MCB16946; MCB16950)

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). A post-medieval enclosure was recorded during work undertaken ahead of the construction of the Fordham bypass (CHER CB14998)

4.7 The modern period is represented in the vicinity of the site by the disused line of the Barnwell Junction to Mildenhall railway (CHER 07633), Fordham Congregational Church (CHER MCB17176), Fordham Methodist Church (CHER MCB17245), the gardens of Shrubland House (CHER MCB19367), the dismantled line of the Ely and Newmarket railway (CHER MCB19610), boundary ditches and rubbish pits at 27 Mill Lane (CHER 19640), Fordham War Memorial (CHER MCB21564), Fordham Station (CHER MCB23224). The locations of the Chequers Inn (CHER MCB21542), a fire engine house (CHER MCB21543), a Primitive Methodist Chapel (CHER MCB21544), a former school (CHER MCB21547), the Green Dragon Inn (CHER MCB21548), nursery gardens (CHER MCB21552), Fordham Sunday School (CHER MCB21562), almshouses (CHER MCB21563), a burial ground (CHER MCB21565) and a corn mill and Island House (CHER MCB21566) all of which have been identified from early edition Ordnance Survey maps are also recorded on the Cambridgeshire HER.

4.8 The Cambridgeshire HER records several undated sites in the surrounding area, including sub-eliptical enclosures visible as cropmarks (CHER 09026), features and drainage ditches at the Fordham bypass site (CHER CB14999), cropmark enclosures (CHER MCB23367), a gully and alluvial deposits (CHER MCB23368), linear features (CHER MCB23914), and a location within the grounds of Fordham Abbey where a lead weight was found (CHER 07579C).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The evaluation provided for a 5% sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched (overall site area 0.39ha.). The evaluation focused on the new house plots. Two trenches each 40m x 1.80m and two trenches each 15m x 1.80m were excavated. Trench 3 was widened and stepped to facilitate access to a deep feature revealed within.

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. 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 present 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. 2 - 4)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 11.13m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints.
0.33 - 1.00m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints
1.00 - 1.30m	L1025	Fill of Pit F1005. Firm, mid yellow brown sandy silt
1.30 -1.41m	L1004	Fill of Pit F1005. Firm, mid red brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint
1.41m +	L1024	Fill of Pit F1005. Firm, dark red brown sandy silt.

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 11.81m AOD		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.27 – 0.42m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.42m +	L1002	Natural deposits. Firm, pale brown yellow, chalky sandy silt with frequent medium and large sub round chalk.

Description: Trench 1 contained undated ?Ditch F1016, and large Pit F1005. The latter contained prehistoric pottery.

?Ditch F1016 appeared linear in plan but was not wholly revealed within the trench (2.00+ x 2.50+ x 0.28m). It was orientated NE/SW. It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1017, was a firm, mid red brown silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds. F1016 was disturbed by an animal burrow.

Pit F1005 was possibly sub-circular in plan but was not fully revealed (25.00+ x 2.00+ x 1.50m). It had gently sloping sides and a flattish, uneven base. Its basal fill, L1023, was a firm, pale yellow brown, chalky clay silt with occasional small sub angular flint. It contained no finds. Above L1023, L1024, was a firm, dark red brown sandy silt. It contained prehistoric pottery (4; 16g) and animal bone (47g). Above L1024, L1004, was a firm, mid red brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Above L1004, L1025, was a firm, mid yellow brown sandy silt. It contained prehistoric pottery (2; 13g) and animal bone (4g).

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 4)

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 13.72m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.30 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.50m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 13.64m AOD		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.24 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.41m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 2 contained undated Ditch F1014, and some root disturbance was also apparent within the trench.

Ditch F1014 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.94 x 0.19m), oriented E/W. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, F1015, was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular flints. It contained no finds.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 - 5)

Sample section 3A 0.00 = 12.67m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.30 – 1.26m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
1.26m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 3B 0.00 = 12.18m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.20 - 1.17m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
1.17 - 1.58m	L1009	Fill of Pit F1006. Firm, mid yellow brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint and chalk.

Description: Trench 3 revealed large Pit F1006, and it contained prehistoric pottery.

Pit F1006 was unseen in plan (15.00+ x 3.60+ x 2.50m). It had steep sides and a flattish, uneven base. Its basal fill, L1021, was a firm, pale yellow grey, sandy silt with frequent small sub-rounded chalk. It contained no finds. Above L1021, L1007, was a firm, pale yellow brown chalky clay silt. It contained burnt flint (11g). Above L1007, L1008 was a firm, dark red brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint. It contained prehistoric pottery (11; 13g) and animal bone (143g). Above L1008, L1022, was a firm, mid yellow brown sandy silt. It contained no finds. Above L1022, L1009 was a mid yellow brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub angular flint and chalk.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 & 6)

Sample section 4A 0.00 = 14.61m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.33 – 0.72m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.72m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 4B 0.00 = 14.67m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.20 – 0.31m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.31m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 4 contained undated Ditch F1011 and undated ?Pit F1019.

Ditch F1011 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 2.00+ x 0.46m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and an irregular flattish base. Its basal fill, L1012, was a firm, mid red brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded flint. Its upper fill, L1013, was a firm, pale yellow grey chalky sand with occasional small sub-rounded flint and chalk. The fills contained no finds.

Pit F1019 was possibly sub-circular in plan (2.00+ x 2.80+ x 0.35m). It had shallow sides and an irregular flattish base. Its fill, L1020, was a firm, light grey brown clay silt with moderate small sub-rounded chalk. It contained no finds.

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 Topsoil L1000, a firm, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints. (0.20 – 0.33m thick). L1000 overlay subsoil L1001, a firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints (0.11 – 0.97m thick).

8.2 Below L1001 was natural deposits L1002, a firm, pale brown yellow, chalky sandy silt with frequent medium and large sub round chalk (0.31 – 1.26m below the current day ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1005	Pit	Prehistoric
	F1016	?Ditch	-
2	F1014	Ditch	-
3	F1006	Pit	Prehistoric
4	F1011	Ditch	-
	F1019	?Pit	-

9.2 The undated features comprise Ditches F1016 (Trench 1), F1014 (Trench 2), F1011 (Trench 4) and Pit F1019 (Trench 4). F1016 and F1019 were poorly defined as only fragments of the features were revealed within the trenches. The undated features extend across the site (Trenches 1, 2 and 4)

9.3 The principal recorded features were Pits F1005 (Trench 1) and F1006 (Trench 3). These substantial features occupied much of Trench 1, and all of Trench 3. It is possible that the features equate to one large pit i.e. F1005 equals F1006, and the features contained sparse finds of prehistoric pottery, animal bone and burnt flint.

9.4 The fills of F1005 and F1006 were deep deposits of sandy silt. The mid to upper layers were mid yellow brown sandy silts with some chalk flecks, flint, charcoal and prehistoric pottery (L1008, L1009 and L1022 (F1006); L1024 and L1025 (F1005)). The lower layers were mid to dark red brown sandy silts with occasional chalk, flint and mollusc shells but no finds. Small numbers of carbonised cereal grains and charcoal fragments are likely to represent incidental inclusions from surrounding surfaces (Environmental Report below), and the small prehistoric pottery sherds could also be residual.

9.5 The extent of the features is not certain from the trial trench evaluation. The profiles show a relatively steep initial slope, leading to a more gentle slope to a depth of *c.*1.60m. The fills, although containing small amounts of anthropogenic debris, appear natural in origin. The darker basal layers (L1007 and L1021 (F1006); L1004, L1024 and L1023 (F1005)) appear to indicate a higher organic component and may reflect a period during which a soil formed in the bottom of the features and vegetation developed. The upper fills were largely inorganic. Otherwise, the lower deposits may simply have escaped earthworm action and retained their original formation. No evidence of alluvial silts were recorded in the profiles and mollusc remains only show dry, grassland conditions; no aquatic species. This indicates that these features were not water filled, for example, ponds.

9.6 Interpretation of the features is uncertain. Although the fills are of natural origin, the morphology of the features themselves is inconclusive. Due to the scale of the area covered by F1005 and F1006, one possible explanation is the quarrying of chalk marl which underlies the site. This is unlikely to have been carried out in the prehistoric period, suggesting that the highly fragmented and abraded pottery of this

date recovered from these features is indeed residual, although clunch extraction in Cambridgeshire had probably started by the Roman period (Page 1967, 366). Chalk extraction on this scale is likely to have been carried out at a much later date. The nearby villages of Isleham, Reach and Burwell, formed one of two main groups of medieval chalk or 'clunch' (a hard variety of chalk often used in building) quarries in Cambridgeshire. The other group, located to the south-east of Cambridge, included Eversden, Haslingfield and Barrington (Purcell 1967, 26). The best clunch for use as a building material is considered to be that from the Burwell clunch beds (Purcell 1967, 25). The outcrop of this material which occurs in Burwell runs on a north-easterly alignment in the direction of Fordham and Isleham, beyond which it is largely hidden beneath the fens before becoming prominent again in Norfolk (Reed 1897, 128). This suggests that chalk from Fordham may have been of similarly high quality. Several of the older buildings within Fordham, such as the Grade II listed 17th century barn to the west of Fordham House, the Grade II former coaching inn known as The Chequers, and the Grade II listed 16th century Crown public house, display the use of clunch in their construction. It is likely that this material was locally sourced; certainly in the medieval period, any community that had access to a supply of passable building stone would have a local quarry as the cost of transporting stone was often restrictive (Muir 2004, 216). Clunch extraction in nearby Isleham is likely to have been, at least partially, controlled by Isleham Priory, and certainly the establishment of this religious house may have provided the financial impetus for the clunch industry to grow in Isleham (Newton 2010, 111). It is possible, therefore, that there were also links between Fordham's chalk or clunch extraction industries and the Gilbertine Priory which was established here in the 13th century. Little mention is made of chalk or clunch digging in Fordham, despite its proximity to settlements well known for this and its location on an outcrop of chalky geology. However, by the 1930s, the Euston Lime Co. was producing lime in Fordham (Wright 2002, 409), suggesting that the extraction of chalk and related materials was well established by this time, but perhaps on a smaller scale to nearby settlements better known for this type of industry. There are a number of settlements in this area with vastly similar resources and few of these appear to have been able to rise above the others economically; it is likely that similar activities were carried out in Fordham, including the extraction of chalk, without it becoming particularly noted for this.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The site is adjacent to the grounds of the medieval Fordham Abbey (CHER 12340), with the abbey itself located some 200m south east of the site (CHER 49041). An earlier settlement of Iron Age and Roman date is also recorded to the east of the abbey grounds (CHER 11287 & 11287A). Archaeological investigations to the north west have also recorded prehistoric occupation evidence and post-medieval occupation evidence (CHER MCB16950).

10.2 A few undated features were recorded across the site (Ditches F1016 (Trench 1), F1014 (Trench 2), F1011 (Trench 4) and Pit F1019 (Trench 4)). The principal recorded features were Pits F1005 (Trench 1) and F1006 (Trench 3). These substantial features occupied much of Trench 1, and all of Trench 3. It is possible that the features equate to one large pit i.e. F1005 equals F1006, and the features contained sparse finds of prehistoric pottery, animal bone and burnt flint. It is

suggested that these features represent quarry pits, and that the finds of prehistoric pottery are residual. The pits may have served Fordham Abbey, which is located to the south of the site, and was a Gilbertine priory founded before 1227.

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 Martin Boatwright for funding the project and for all 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)
1006	1007	D	3	Fill of Pit						B.Flint	1	11
	1008	A	3	Fill of Pit						B.Flint	1	60
		B	3		Prehistoric	7	10		65			
		C	3						11			
		D	3		Prehistoric	4	3		67			
	1009	C	3	Fill of Pit					55	B.Flint	6	80
1005	1024	D	1	Fill of Pit	Prehistoric	4	16		47			
	1025	E	1	Fill of Pit	Prehistoric	2	13		4			

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Prehistoric Pottery
Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered 17 sherds (42g) of prehistoric pottery in a very highly fragmented and abraded condition from two pits.

Methodology

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

Discussion

The pottery was manufactured in a homogenous, hand-made and bonfire-fired fabric with mid orange to orange-brown external surfaces over a dark grey to black core and interior. Inclusions are limited to common calcined flint (0.5-2.5mm). The pottery is limited to small body sherds approximately 10mm thick; best-regarded as 'crumbs' distributed in low quantities in Pits F1005 (L1024 Segment D and L1025 Segment E) and F1006 (L1008 Segments B and D). The sherds appear plain, with no evidence of surface treatment or decoration, though this may not be an accurate representation due to their very limited extent and poor preservation. Flint-tempered pottery of this type was utilized in the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age, although in the Fordham region it is perhaps most frequently encountered in groups of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date such as at Fordham Road, Soham (Peachey 2015), but in this instance is inconclusive beyond a general prehistoric date.

Bibliography

PCRG 1995 *The Study of Later Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies And Guidelines For Analysis And Publication*. Occasional Papers No.s 1 & 2

Peachey, A. 2015 'The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery in Newton, A. & Quinn, S. *Land North East of Fordham Road, Soham, Cambridgeshire: Research Archive Report*. Archaeological Solutions Report No. 4816, 69-119.

The Burnt Flint
Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered 8 fragments (151g) of burnt flint contained in F1006 (L1007 Segment D, L1008 Segment A and L1009 Segment C). The burnt flint does not exhibit any evidence of being struck, worked or modified before or after firing. The small fragments have not been heavily or extensively burnt and retain areas of natural dark grey colour and iron-stained cortex behind areas with the white, crackled appearance that results from exposure to fire/heat. These fragments appear to be derived from small pebbles; subject to a relatively low degree of

shattering and likely the result of the inclusion of incidental material in fires or hearths, rather than the systematic production or utilization of burnt/calcined flint or pot boilers.

The Animal Bone

Julia E M Cussans

A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from trial trench excavations at Fordham. All of the bone present derived from two pits and details of specific contexts are given in Table 1. Bone preservation was rated as very poor or poor on a five point scale ranging from very poor through to excellent. High levels of bone abrasion were noted in all of the contexts with much of the bone surface lost in the majority of cases. Fresh breakages were also common indicating the friable nature of the bone. Such degradation of the outer surface of the bone is likely to hinder the identification of bone fragments and also the recognition of bone surface modifications such as butchery marks and pathological lesions.

Overall 58 bone fragments were recorded and of these the vast majority could only be identified as large or medium mammal. Only three bones were identified to specific taxa. Cattle were represented by a mandible fragment and a single molar tooth (first or second lower molar) which was only slightly worn and sheep/ goat was represented by a fragment of distal metapodial (foot bone, epiphysis fused). No butchery marks or pathological lesions were noted on any of the bones; no measurable elements were present. There were no other features of interest in this small poorly preserved assemblage.

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Preservation	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Total
1006	1008	B	3	Fill of Pit	Prehistoric	very poor			20	10	30
1006	1008	C	3	Fill of Pit		poor		1	2	2	5
1006	1008	D	3	Fill of Pit	Prehistoric	poor	1		3		4
1006	1009	C	3	Fill of Pit		poor	1		1	2	4
1005	1024	D	1	Fill of Pit	Prehistoric	very poor			12		12
1005	1025	E	1	Fill of Pit	Prehistoric	very poor			2	1	3
						Total	2	1	40	15	58

Table 1. Quantification of animal bone from Land South of Newmarket Road, Fordham

The Environmental Samples
Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the trial trench evaluation at Newmarket Road, Fordham, eight bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. The samples came from sequential fills from Pits F1005 and F1006. The latter contained prehistoric pottery but their true date and origin are unclear.

This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions, and discusses the significance and potential of any remains recovered.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 2.

Bulk samples

A small number of indeterminate cereal grains and a single barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grain were identified from three deposits (L1009C, L1022D and L1025). The grains were poorly preserved and abraded, suggesting that they had been rolled on the surface for some time prior to deposition. Charcoal was present but only in very low concentrations. Together the cereal and charcoal remains were characteristic of scattered and wind blown debris that may have been on the surface for some time prior to deposition within F1005 and F1006.

Mollusc shells were well represented, with shells of short calcareous grassland taxa (*Helicella itala, Pupilla muscorum, Pomatias elegans* and *Vallonia* sp.) and ground litter habitats (*Discus rotundatus, Carychium* sp. and *Cochlicopa* sp.). This indicates prevailing grassland habitats on the site during the silting of F1005 and F1006, comparable to present day vegetation. The absence of any aquatic mollusc shells in the sampled deposits supports the observations of the sediments, indicating that there was no alluvial deposition from standing water in the features.

Conclusions

The bulk sample light fractions from F1005 and F1006 have demonstrated a limited contribution of carbonised cereal remains and charcoal to the sampled deposits. It is likely that these represent scattered carbonised debris incorporated during the natural silting of the feature. Mollusc shells indicate deposition under dry conditions, with grassland habitats prevailing. Although the fills of F1005 and F1006 appear to have accumulated through natural processes, the origin of the features remains uncertain.

References

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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

Context	Feature	Description	Trench	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains
								Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
1007D	1006	Fill of Feature	3	Prehistoric?	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	*Carychium* sp., *Discus rotundatus, Helicella itala, Oxychilus* sp., *Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
1008D	1006	Fill of Feature	3	Prehistoric?	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	*Carychium* sp., *Discus rotundatus, Oxychilus* sp., *Pomatias elegans, Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
1009C	1006	Fill of Feature	3	Prehistoric?	20	10	50%	X	-	NFI (2)	-	-	-	X	-	XXX	*Cochlicopa* sp., *Discus rotundatus, Helicella itala, Oxychilus* sp., *Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-

1021C	1006	Fill of Feature	3	Prehistoric?	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XXX	*Carychium* sp., Clausilidae, *Discus rotundatus, Helicella itala, Oxychilus* sp., *Pomatias elegans, Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
1022D	1006	Fill of Feature	3	Prehistoric?	20	10	50%	X	-	NFI (2)	-	-	-	X	-	XXX	*Carychium* sp., *Discus rotundatus, Helicella itala, Pomatias elegans*, *Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
1023	1005	Fill of Feature	1	Prehistoric?	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XXX	*Carychium* sp., *Cochlicopa* sp. *Discus rotundatus, Helicella itala, Pomatias elegans, Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	X	-	-

1024	1005	Fill of Feature	1	Prehistoric?	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XXX	*Carychium* sp., *Cochlicopa* sp., Clausilidae, *Discus rotundatus, Helicella itala, Oxychilus* sp., *Pomatias elegans, Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
1025	1005	Fill of Feature	1	Prehistoric?	40	20	50%	X	-	Hord (1), NFI (2)	-	-	-	X	-	XXX	*Cochlicopa* sp., *Helicella itala, Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-

Table 2 Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Newmarket Road, Fordham. Abbreviations: Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol7-308106

Project details

Project name	Land South of Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	In December 2017 and January 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land south of 36 Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6279 6988; 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 two new detached dwellings, garages, parking, access and associated works (East Cambs Council Approval Ref. 16/00403/FUL) based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. A few undated features were recorded across the site (Ditches F1016 (Trench 1), F1014 (Trench 2), F1011 (Trench 4) and Pit F1019 (Trench 4)). The principal recorded features were Pits F1005 (Trench 1) and F1006 (Trench 3). These substantial features occupied much of Trench 1, and all of Trench 3. It is possible that the features equate to one large pit i.e. F1005 equals F1006, and the features contained sparse finds of prehistoric pottery, animal bone and burnt flint. It is suggested that these features represent quarry pits, and that the finds of prehistoric pottery are residual. The pits may have served Fordham Abbey, which is located to the south of the site, and was a Gilbertine priory founded before 1227.
Project dates	Start: 01-12-2017 End: 31-01-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7380 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5301 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PITS Early Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Prehistoric
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Early Prehistoric
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Early Prehistoric
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 Land South of Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire
Study area	0.39 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 6279 6988 52.302448886928 0.387814359954 52 18 08 N 000 23 16 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 12.5m Max: 12.5m

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	Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land South of Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Barlow, G
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Muir, T
Other bibliographic details	Archaeological Solutions Report No. 5505
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Entered on	2 February 2018

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

1
View of Trench 1 looking north-east

2
F1005B in Trench 1 looking south

3
F1005A in Trench 1 looking north

4
F1005C in Trench 1 looking east

5
F1005E in Trench 1 looking north

6
F1016 in Trench 1 looking south

7
View of Trench 2 looking north-west

8
F1014 in Trench 2 looking west

9
View of Trench 3 looking south-east

10
F1006A in Trench 3 looking north-east

11
F1006B in Trench 3 looking north-east

12
F1006C in Trench 3 looking north-east

13
F1006D in Trench 3 looking north-east

14
View of Trench 4 looking south-west

15
F1011 in Trench 4 looking south

16
F1019 in Trench 4 looking south

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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (P7380)

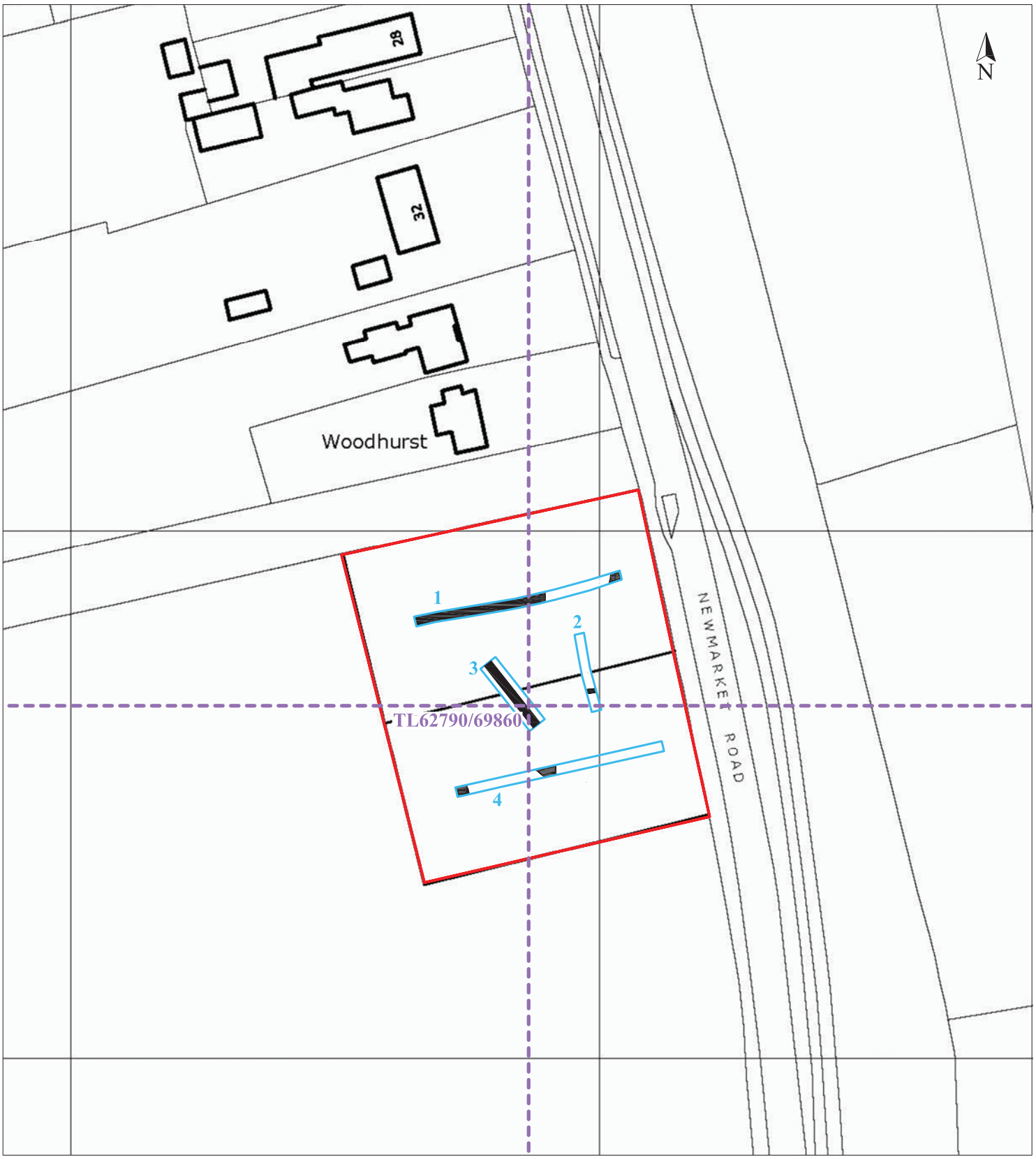

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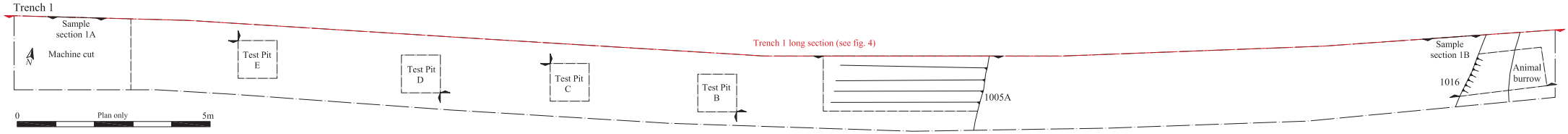
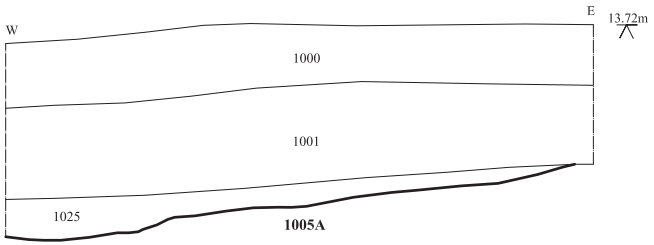
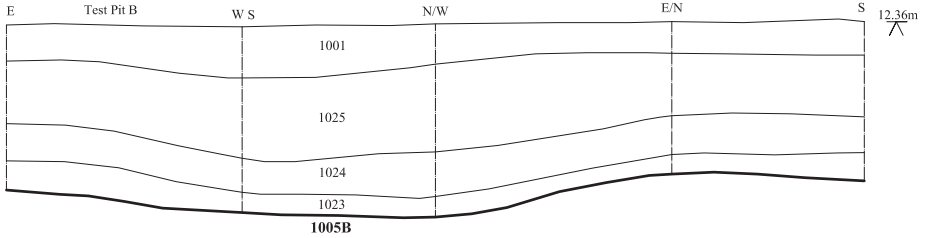
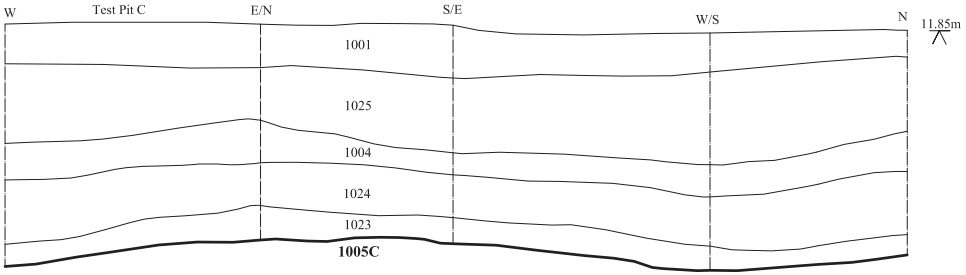
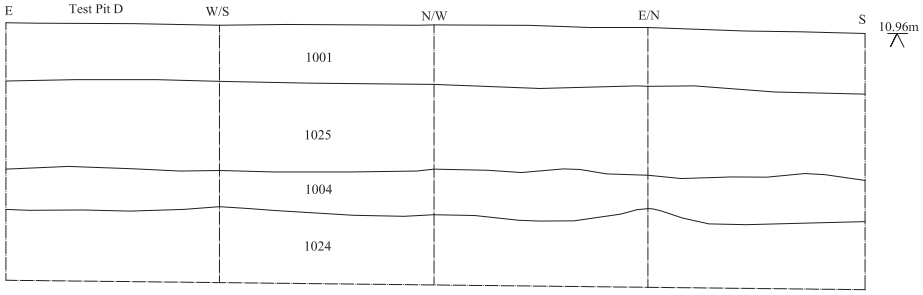
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4
Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (P7380)











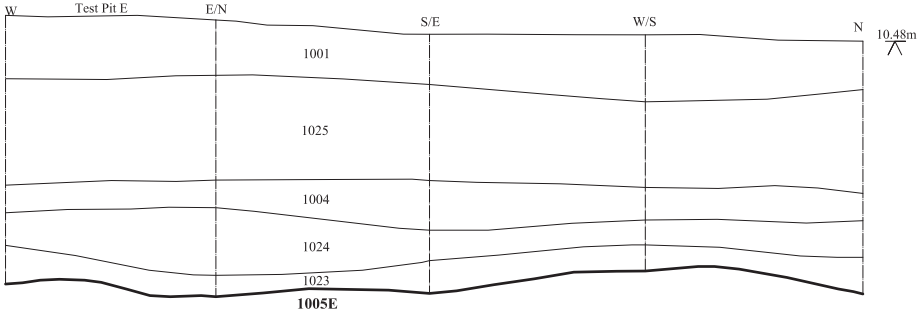


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Fig. 3 Trench 1 plan and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:25 at A3

Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (P7380)

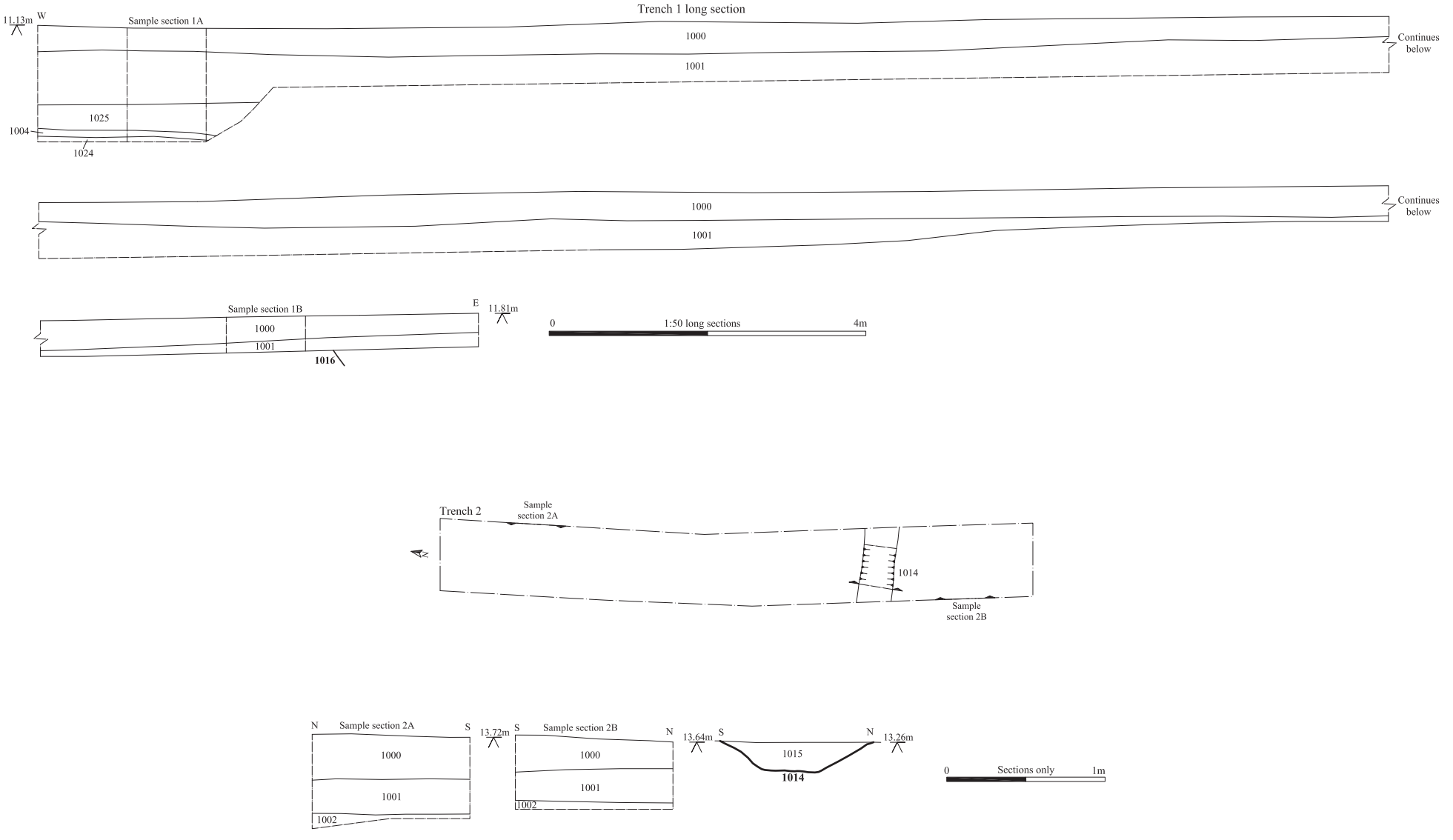

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Fig. 4 Trench plan and sections
Scale 1:100, 1:50 and 1:25 at A3
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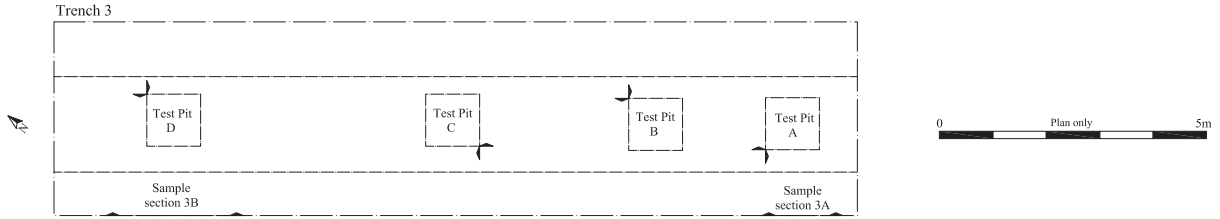

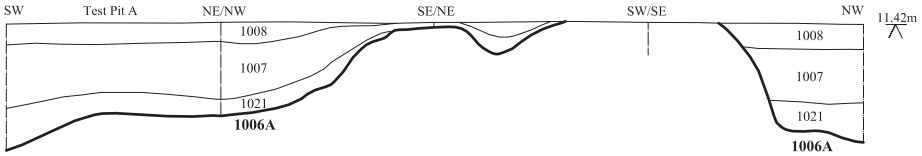

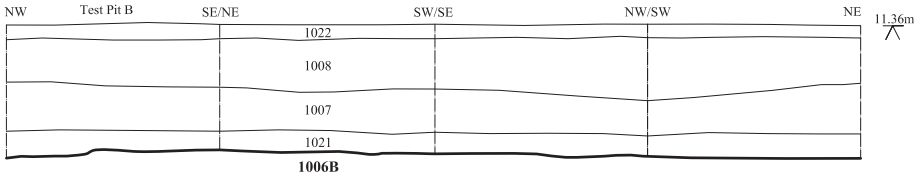

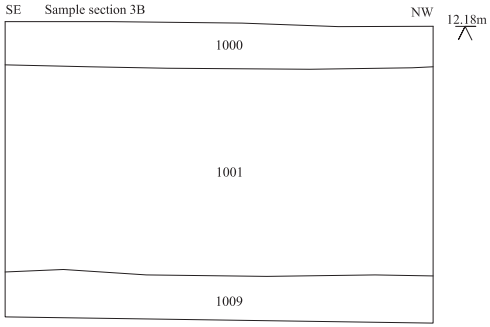

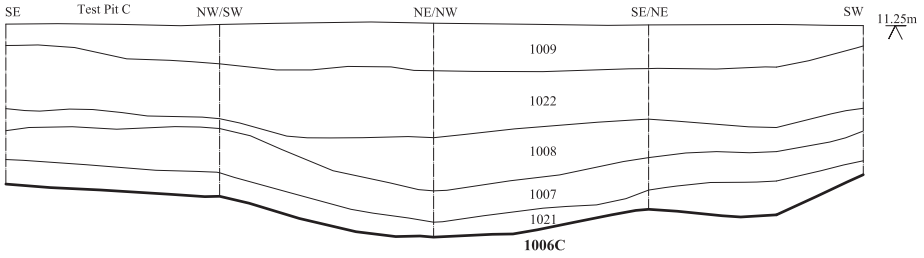

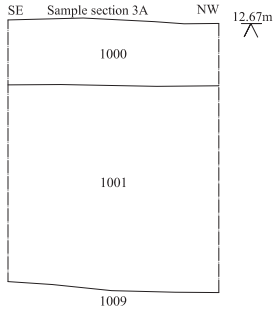

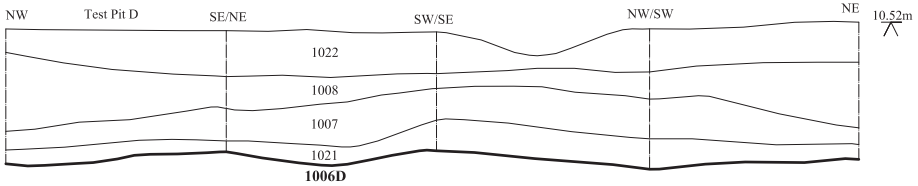

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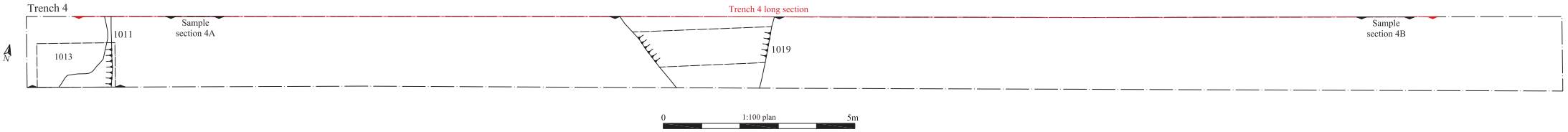
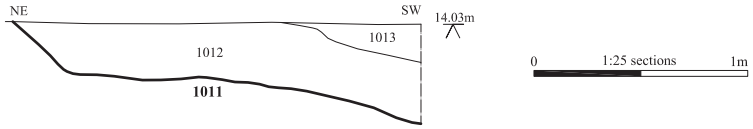
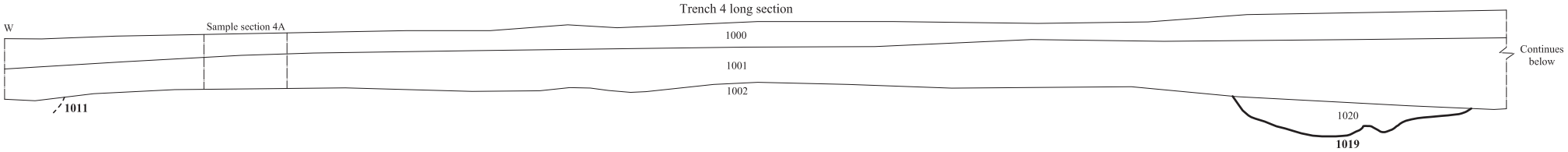
Fig. 5 Trench 3 plan and sections
Scale 1:100, 1:50 and 1:25 at A3
Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (P7380)







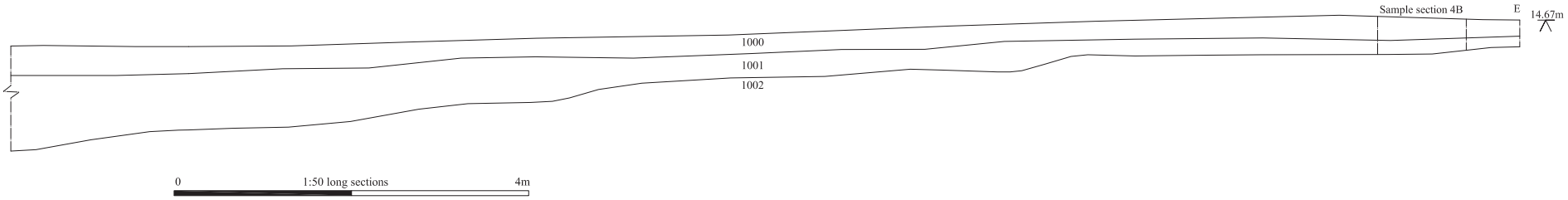


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Fig. 6 Trench 4 plan and sections
Scale 1:100, 1:50 and 1:25 at A3
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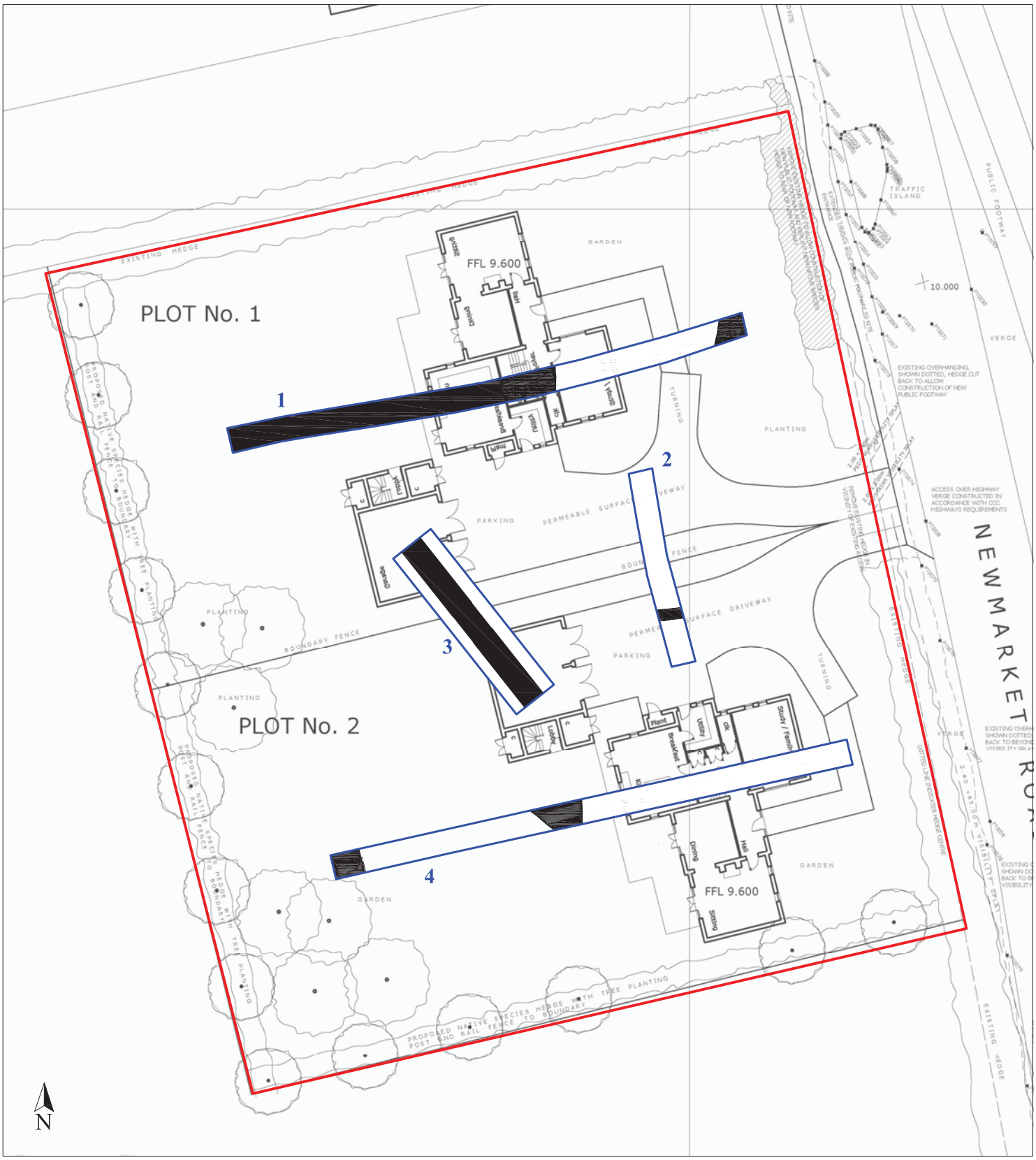

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Fig. 7 Trench locations on proposed plan
Scale 1:400 at A4
Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (P7380)