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**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, THE COTTAGE,
FEN ROAD, PIDLEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE28 3DD**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER ECB 5340

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NGR: TL 3280 7821	Report No: 5556
District: Huntingdonshire	Site Code: ECB 5340
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P7556
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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>The Cottage, Fen Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 3DD</i>		
<p><i>In March 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at The Cottage, Fen Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 2DD (NGR TL 3280 7821; 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 3no residential dwellings (Huntingdonshire District Council Approval Ref. 17/00358/OUT), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.</i></p> <p><i>Medieval settlement at Pidley was centred on two areas, one around the parish church and the other further south adjacent to High Street. The church of All Saints located 65m north-west of the site is Victorian, but incorporates much stonework from its medieval predecessor (CHER 03560). Fields to the north and south of the site contain medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow (CHER MCB24655, CHER MCB24656). The residence located on the site which fronts Fen Road, is the former Royal Oak beer house depicted on the 1st edition Huntingdonshire Ordnance Survey map (CHER MCB24653); other buildings in the vicinity are also shown on the map. An archaeological evaluation 80m to the west revealed a possible late medieval/early post-medieval cobbled surface/trackway and small rubbish pits (CHER CB14634).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed two ditches (F1003 and F1005) of post-medieval / modern origin. Despite the presence of medieval (12th-13th century) pottery, Ditch F1005 cut buried post-medieval topsoil L1001 and contained modern CBM, coal and clinker. The site has been sealed by a layer of imported fen soil (L1000) which now forms the modern topsoil.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>March 2018</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	<i>Future work</i>	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>P7556</i>	<i>Site code</i>	<i>ECB 5340</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Vacant</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Ditch and ditch terminus (post-medieval/ modern)</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Medieval (late 12th – 13th C) pottery</i>		
	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Huntingdonshire</i>	<i>Pidley-cum-Fenton</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>PE28 2DD</i>		
Area of site	<i>0.107ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 3280 7821</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.31m AOD</i>		
<i>Project creators</i>			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr & Mrs Deeth</i>		
Full title	<i>The Cottage, Fen Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 3DD. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Bull, K.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5556</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>March 2018</i>		

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, THE COTTAGE, FEN ROAD,
PIDLEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE28 3DD**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In March 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at The Cottage, Fen Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 2DD (NGR TL 3280 7821; 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 3no residential dwellings (Huntingdonshire District Council Approval Ref. 17/00358/OUT), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

Medieval settlement at Pidley was centred on two areas, one around the parish church and the other further south adjacent to High Street. The church of All Saints located 65m north-west of the site is Victorian, but incorporates much stonework from its medieval predecessor (CHER 03560). Fields to the north and south of the site contain medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow (CHER MCB24655, CHER MCB24656). The residence located on the site which fronts Fen Road, is the former Royal Oak beer house depicted on the 1st edition Huntingdonshire Ordnance Survey map (CHER MCB24653); other buildings in the vicinity are also shown on the map. An archaeological evaluation 80m to the west revealed a possible late medieval/early post-medieval cobbled surface/trackway and small rubbish pits (CHER CB14634).

The evaluation revealed two ditches (F1003 and F1005) of modern origin. Despite the presence of medieval (12th-13th century) pottery, Ditch F1005 cut buried post-medieval topsoil L1001 and contained modern CBM, coal and clinker. The site has been sealed by a layer of imported fen soil (L1000) which now forms the modern topsoil.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at The Cottage, Fen Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 2DD (NGR TL 3280 7821; 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 3no residential dwellings (Huntingdonshire District Council Approval Ref. 17/00358/OUT), 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 14th February 2018), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 20th February 2018) 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 Pidley is a small village located 9km north-east of Huntingdon on the fen edge. The site is at Church End at the north end of Pidley and is located on the north side of Fen Road close to where it joins Warboys Road. It comprises buildings and a large garden/cultivation plot to the rear. It extends to some 0.107ha.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at approximately 30m AOD with the fen located further to the north. The geology comprises West Walton formation and Ampthill Clay formation

(undifferentiated), with superficial deposits of Oadby Member chalky boulder clay. The local soil mainly consists of calcareous clayey, and fine loamy over clayey soils.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site of the later medieval All Saints Church lies some 85 to the south west, completely rebuilt in the Victorian period (CHER 03560). A medieval gravestone and part of a medieval coffin lid have been recorded within the churchyard (CHER 03560a). Limited archaeological investigations have been carried out in Pidley, though they have revealed evidence of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of the village. Early medieval pottery has been recovered from Aldhurst Road (CHER 03642). A late medieval or early post-medieval cobbled trackway has been investigated at Church End Farm (CHER ECB456). Post-medieval occupation has also been recorded at Sunnycroft Farm (CHER MCB20270). Medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation evidence lies to the east (CHER 11634) and to the south (CHER MCB24657) of Sunnycroft Farm and to the south of Croft House Farm (CHER 11635). Further ridge and furrow is recorded close to the north-west of the current site (CHER MCB24655) and a similar distance to the south-east (CHER MCB24656). A moated site is recorded at Hayden Hall to the south-east of the current site (CHER 01075) and Manor Farm, an early 17th century building, lies to the east (CHER 00607).

4.2 Evidence of slightly later date includes an 18th century barn (CHER 03551) and broadly contemporary farmhouse (CHER 03551a) at Stanley Farm in the south-east of Pidley. Pidley Baptist Church lies to the north-west of the current site and is a listed building of 19th century date (CHER MCB17188). The locations of several 19th century or earlier features have been identified on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of Huntingdonshire which dates to 1885, these include: a windmill close to The Manor (CHER MCB24648), a blacksmith's workshop close to the junction of Warboys Road with the High Street (CHER MCB24651), a former school which is now in use as the village hall (CHER MCB24652), the former Royal Oak beer house which is now in use as a private residence and occupies part of the current site (CHER MCB24653), and Church End Farm, the original farmhouse of which remains extant (CHER MCB24654).

4.3 In the far south-east of Pidley is the approximate crash site of a Mosquito Mark IV, serial number DK300, from 1655 Mosquito Training Unit which crashed killing both crew members in July 1944 (CHER MCB18451).

4.4 An undated enclosure has been recorded from aerial photography to the north of Pidley (CHER MCB23585). Similarly, undated linear features have been recorded to the east (CHER MCB24658).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The evaluation provided for a sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched. The brief required a 5% sample of the development area (0.107ha.) to be investigated by trenching. Two trenches each 15m x 1.80m were

excavated (Fig. 3).

5.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the inspection of the soils 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. The 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 observed during the sampling of the topsoil and subsoil, 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 = 30.79m AOD		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small – large sub angular flints
0.24 – 0.57m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. Firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small – medium sub angular flints.
0.57m +	L1002	Natural deposits. Firm, mid orange brown sandy clay with frequent small sub angular flint nodules.

Sample Section 1B 0.00 = 30.84m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.31 – 0.70m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. As above.
0.70m +	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 2 Figs. 3 – 4

Sample Section 2A 0.00 = 30.79m AOD		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.08 – 0.56m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. As above.
0.56m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Sample Section 2B 0.00 = 31.08m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.23 – 0.55m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. As above
0.55m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 2 revealed Ditch Terminus F1003 and Ditch F1005. The former contained modern (19th – 20th century) pottery and two sherds of medieval (12th – 13th century) pottery. F1005 contained 13 sherds of medieval (12th – 13th century) pottery. The feature cut Buried Topsoil L1001 and the environmental sample contained fragments of coke and clinker, and therefore the pottery is interpreted as residual.

Ditch Terminus F1003 was linear or sub circular in plan (5.75m+ x 1.60m+ x 0.99m). It had moderately sloping sides and a narrow base. Its basal fill, L1007, was a friable, light grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub rounded flint. It contained no finds. Its secondary fill, L1008, was a friable, light grey brown silty sand with moderate small angular gravel. It contained no finds. Its upper and principal fill, L1004, was a friable - firm, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small – medium flint. It contained modern (19th – early 20th century) pottery (40; 1081g), residual medieval pottery (2; 39g), CBM (809g) and animal bone (83g). F1003 was overlain by Buried Topsoil L1001 and cut the natural.

Ditch F1005 was linear in plan (2.20m+ x 1.60m+ x 1.08m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1006, was a firm, dark brown silty clay with occasional small – large sub rounded flint. It contained medieval (12th – 13th century) pottery (13; 137g), CBM (60g) and animal bone (29g). F1005 cut Buried Topsoil L1001.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors significantly inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 It was reported on site that fenland soil had been imported to the site from a nearby farm (*pers comm.*). This material likely represents L1000 (labelled Topsoil) which overlay L1001 (labelled Buried Topsoil).

8.2 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000 a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small – large sub angular flints (0.08 – 0.31m thick). L1000 overlay Buried Topsoil L1001, a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small – medium sub angular flints. dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small – large sub angular flints (0.32 – 0.48m thick). At the base of the sequence were the natural deposits (L1002), a firm, mid orange brown sandy clay with frequent small sub angular flint nodules. L1002 was present 0.55 – 0.70m below the present day ground surface.

8.3 The site has a natural slope from SW to NE, visible in Trench 2 (Section 2C Fig. 4). This is reflected in the natural deposits, which reduce from 30.71m AOD in the SW to 29.76m AOD in the NE. This is representative of the natural gradient, which reduces to the north of the site.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
2	F1003	Ditch Terminus	Modern (19 th – early 20 th C)
2	F1005	Ditch	Residual medieval (12 th – 13 th C)

9.2 The site location between the two areas of settlement at Pidley (the village to the south and Church End) highlighted a potential to provide further evidence as to the historic development of the village. It is not known whether there were two historic distinct medieval settlements which joined over time, or if this represents a single settlement which dispersed.

9.3 No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 1 which was located in the western and central sectors of the site.

9.4 Trench 2 contained a ditch terminus (F1003) and a ditch (F1005). The former contained modern (19th – early 20th century) pottery and CBM, and two residual sherds of medieval pottery.

9.5 Ditch F1005 contained relatively numerous (13) sherds of medieval (12th – 13th century) pottery. However the ditch cut Buried Topsoil L1001 and therefore post dates modern Ditch Terminus F1003. Ditch F1005 also contained Victorian to 20th-century brick fragment, and the environmental sample contained clinker and coal fragments. The medieval pottery is therefore residual.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The site is located between the two areas of settlement at Pidley and had a potential for medieval remains. A ditch and ditch terminus were recorded, both of modern date, but each feature contained residual medieval pottery.

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 & Mrs Deeth for funding the works and for their 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)
1003	1004		2	Fill of Ditch	19th-early 20th C	42	1120	809	83			
1005	1006		2	Fill of Ditch	12th-13th C	13	137	60	29			

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery Report

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 55 sherds weighing 1.257kg from two ditches, of which 15 sherds (137g) were medieval coarsewares, with the remaining pottery being post-medieval to early modern.

Methodology

The sherds were examined according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001). Fabric codes (in brackets) are those used for the Suffolk pottery type series, which are appropriate for Cambridgeshire.

The Pottery

Ditch F1005 (L1006) contained 13 medieval sherds weighing 137g of which all except one are Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware. The fabric, firing and forms, most notably an elaborately developed finger tip decorated jar rim, and a roulette decorated body sherd, are characteristic of this ware which is dated to the 12th to 13th centuries (Spoerry 2016, 159, 168 & 171). The remaining MCW1 sand and calcareous coarseware sherd is unsourced.

Ditch F1003 (L1004) contained two residual sherds of HFSW. This feature also contained porcelain, Transfer Printed ware and other factory made earthenwares indicating a 19th or possibly early 20th century date, but it also included other residual post-medieval material, including 17th-18th century glazed red earthenware and 18th century Staffordshire marbled slipware.

Key:

HFSW: Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware (3.63) 12th-13th

MCW1: Medieval coarse ware 2 (3.20) abundant fine to medium sub-rounded quartz
with rare to sparse mainly fine white calcareous, probably either shell or limestone
12th-14th

GRE: Glazed red earthenware (6.12) 16th- 18th

STAF: Staffordshire marbled slipware (6.41) late 17th-18th

PORC: English Porcelain (8.30) mid 18th+

RWE: Refined white earthenware (8.03) late 18th+

TPW: Transfer Printed Ware (8.00) late 18th+

YELL: Yellow ware (8.13) late 18th-19th

LGWE: Late colour glazed white earthenware (8.53) mid 18th-19th

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Ditch 1003	1004	2x39g HFSW 4x70g GRE 1x12g STAF 16x435g TPW 8x188g RWE 6x305g YELL 3x41g ENPO 2x30g LGWE	19 th – early 20 th	HFSW: x1 jar body/base with vertical applied clay strip; x1 small body sherd GRE: x1 internally green glazed bowl rim with single incised wavy line below inner lip
Ditch 1005	1006	12x123g HFSW 1x14g MCW1	12 th -13 th	HFSW: x1 beaded jar rim 22cm diam; x2 body sherds; x1 elaborate B3/E4 type everted jar rim approx 30cm diameter, with finger tip deco along the top; x1 flat top C1 beaded rim; x1 C3 rounded beaded rim; x1 body/rounded base angle with external sooting; x1 rounded base sherd; x4 body sherds MCW1: x1 body sherd with 2 widely dispersed horizontal single rouletted lines of decoration

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

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

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of seven fragments (869g) of Victorian to 20th century brick from two ditches, in a highly fragmented condition.

Ditch F1003 contained seven fragments (809g) of brick, incorporating both red and gault types, but entirely with a thickness of 70mm and sharp arrises that suggest these bricks were not made prior to the late 19th century, and more likely in the early/mid 20th century. A further single fragment (60g) of comparable red brick was contained in Ditch F1005, and it is highly likely these fragments were re-distributed in agricultural soils or ditches in order to improve drainage.

The Animal Bone

Julia E M Cussans

A very small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from the trial trench evaluation. Bone was recovered from two contexts, both ditch fills; further details, spot dates and bone preservation ratings are detailed in Table 2. Preservation was rated as ok or good (Table 2) on a five point scale ranging from very poor through to excellent. Some bones were noted as being fairly abraded and fresh breaks were present; canid gnawing was noted in L1004.

In total four bone were recovered, only one of which could be identified to a specific taxa, the others could only be identified as large (cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal. The identifiable bone was a sheep/goat pelvis fragment which had fine cut marks along the ischium indicating removal of meat from the bone. Butchery was also noted on a large mammal rib (L1006) which had been sawn through. No other butchery marks were present and no pathological lesions were noted.

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Preservation	Sheep/Goat	Large Mammal	Medium mammal	Total
1003	1004	2	Fill of Ditch	19th-early 20th C	Ok	1	1	1	3
1005	1006	2	Fill of Ditch	Residual Late 12th-13th C	Good		1		1
					Total	1	2	1	4

Table 2. Quantification of animal bone from Fen Road, Pidley

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the evaluation at The Cottage, Pidley, four bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. The samples were from Ditches F1003 and F1005. 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.

All samples >10 litres were 50% sub-sampled for the purpose of assessment. Any containing significant archaeobotanical remains (>30 identifiable specimens or abundant charcoal) will be fully processed and retained with the site archive.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 3. Archaeobotanical remains were infrequent, being represented by a medium legume (Fabaceae) and sedge (*Carex* sp.) seed in L1004 and a fragment of indeterminate cereal grain in L1006. Small concentrations of charcoal were also present but in insufficient density to be of value for detailed comment. These remains are likely the remnants of scattered carbonised debris.

Modern activity on the site is reflected by the presence of coal and clinker in the majority of deposits, in particular L1004. This raises the potential that the identified remains are also of relatively recent origin, including L1006 (F1005), despite the presence of medieval pottery.

In addition to the wood fragments in Sample 1 of L1004, four pieces of wood were also hand collected. These were of pieces of round wood, between

30mm and 40mm in diameter. The pieces were up to 110mm in length. A diffuse-porous vessel pattern was identified, although a full identification to genus/ species was not attempted. The pieces showed no signs of wood working and had bark remaining in place. It is likely that this material is of natural origin, which became incorporated into L1004.

Mollusc remains were best represented in L1004. These included aquatic taxa *Anisus leucostoma* and *Gyraulus* sp., reflecting the wet conditions that are likely to have prevailed within features on the site.

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Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Trench	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants				Other remains		
										Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes	Hazelnut shell	Charcoal >2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds		Insects	Earthworm capsules
ECB5340	1	1004	1003	Fill of Ditch	2	19th-early 20th C	20	10	50%	-	-	-	X	Medium Fabaceae (1), Carex sp. (1)	-	-	-	XX	<i>Anisus leucostoma</i> , <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Gyraulus</i> sp., <i>Oxychilus</i> sp.	XXX	X	X	-	-	Wood fragments (XX), Clinker (XX), Coal (XX)
ECB5340	2	1006	1005	Fill of Ditch	2	Late 12th-13th C	30	20	67%	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	XX	-	X	X	-	Coal (X), Clinker (X)
ECB5340	3	1007	1003	Fill of Ditch	2	-	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	<i>Trichia hispida</i> group	XX	-	X	-	-	Coal (X)
ECB5340	4	1008	1003	Fill of Ditch	2	-	10	10	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	<i>Trichia hispida</i> group	XX	-	X	-	-	Coal (X)

Table 3: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from The Cottage, Fen Road, Pidley. Abbreviations: NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-315606

Project details

Project name	The Cottage, Fen Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 3DD
Short description of the project	In March 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at The Cottage, Fen Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 2DD (NGR TL 3280 7821; 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 3no residential dwellings (Huntingdonshire District Council Approval Ref. 17/00358/OUT), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. Medieval settlement at Pidley was centred on two areas, one around the parish church and the other further south adjacent to High Street. The church of All Saints located 65m north-west of the site is Victorian, but incorporates much stonework from its medieval predecessor (CHER 03560). Fields to the north and south of the site contain medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow (CHER MCB24655, CHER MCB24656). The residence located on the site which fronts Fen Road, is the former Royal Oak beer house depicted on the 1st edition Huntingdonshire Ordnance Survey map (CHER MCB24653); other buildings in the vicinity are also shown on the map. An archaeological evaluation 80m to the west revealed a possible late medieval/early post-medieval cobbled surface/trackway and small rubbish pits (CHER CB14634). The evaluation revealed two ditches (F1003 and F1005) of post-medieval / modern origin. Despite the presence of medieval (12th-13th century) pottery, Ditch F1005 cut buried post-medieval topsoil L1001 and contained modern CBM, coal and clinker. The site has been sealed by a layer of imported fen soil (L1000) which now forms the modern topsoil.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2018 End: 30-03-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7556 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5340 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH TERMINUS Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY 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 HUNTINGDONSHIRE PIDLEY CUM FENTON The Cottage, Fen Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 3DD
Postcode	PE28 3DD
Study area	0.11 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 3280 7821 52.385395924893 -0.048479603889 52 23 07 N 000 02 54 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 31m Max: 31m

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The Cottage, Fen Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 3DD

Author(s)/Editor(s) Bull, K

Other bibliographic details Archaeological Solutions Report No. 5556

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Trench 1 looking north-west



2
Sample section 1A



3
Trench 2 looking north-east



4
Ditch Terminus 1003 in Trench 2 looking south-east



5
Ditch Terminus 1003 in Trench 2 looking north-east



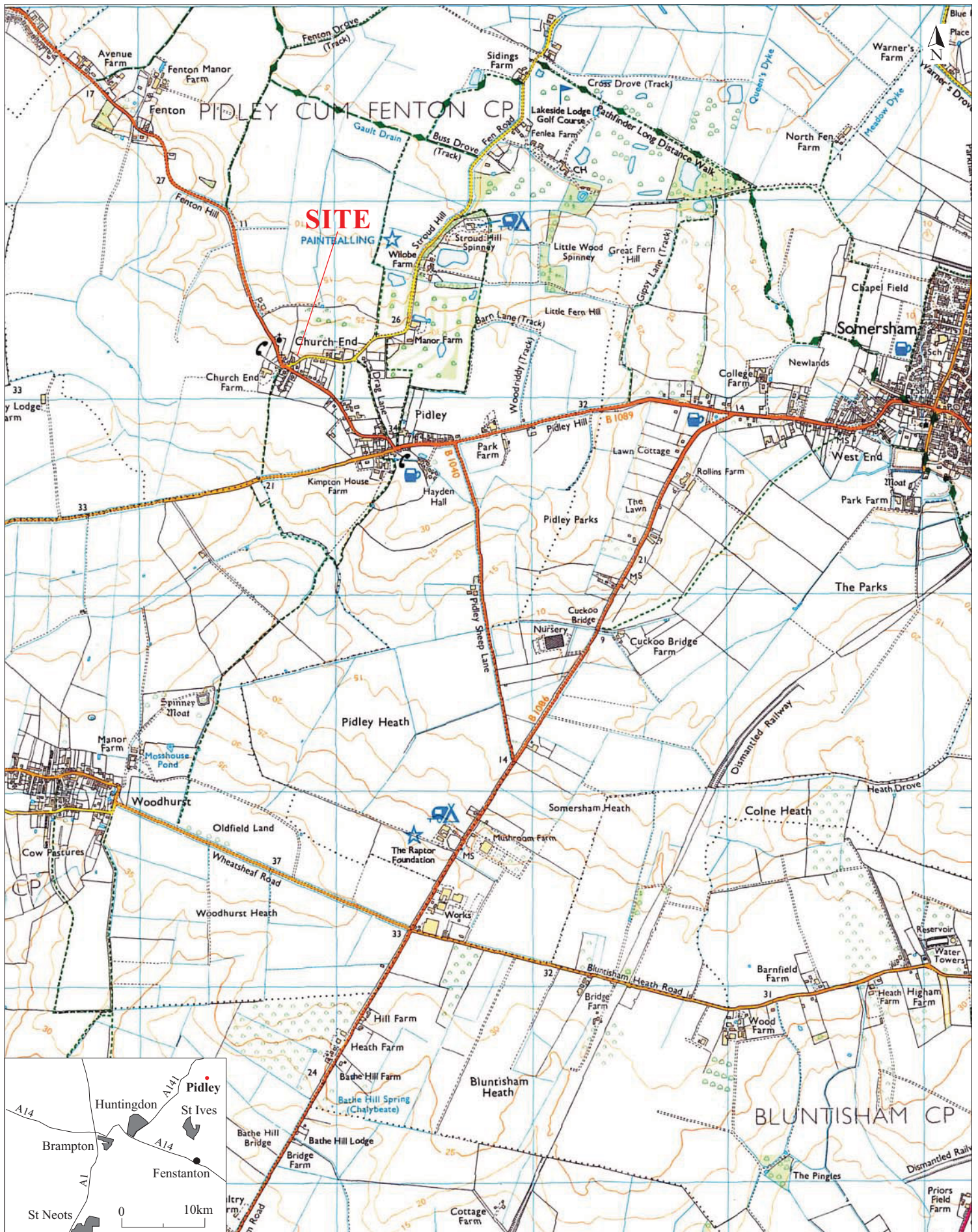
6
Ditch 1005 in Trench 2 looking south-east



7
Sample section 2A in Trench 2

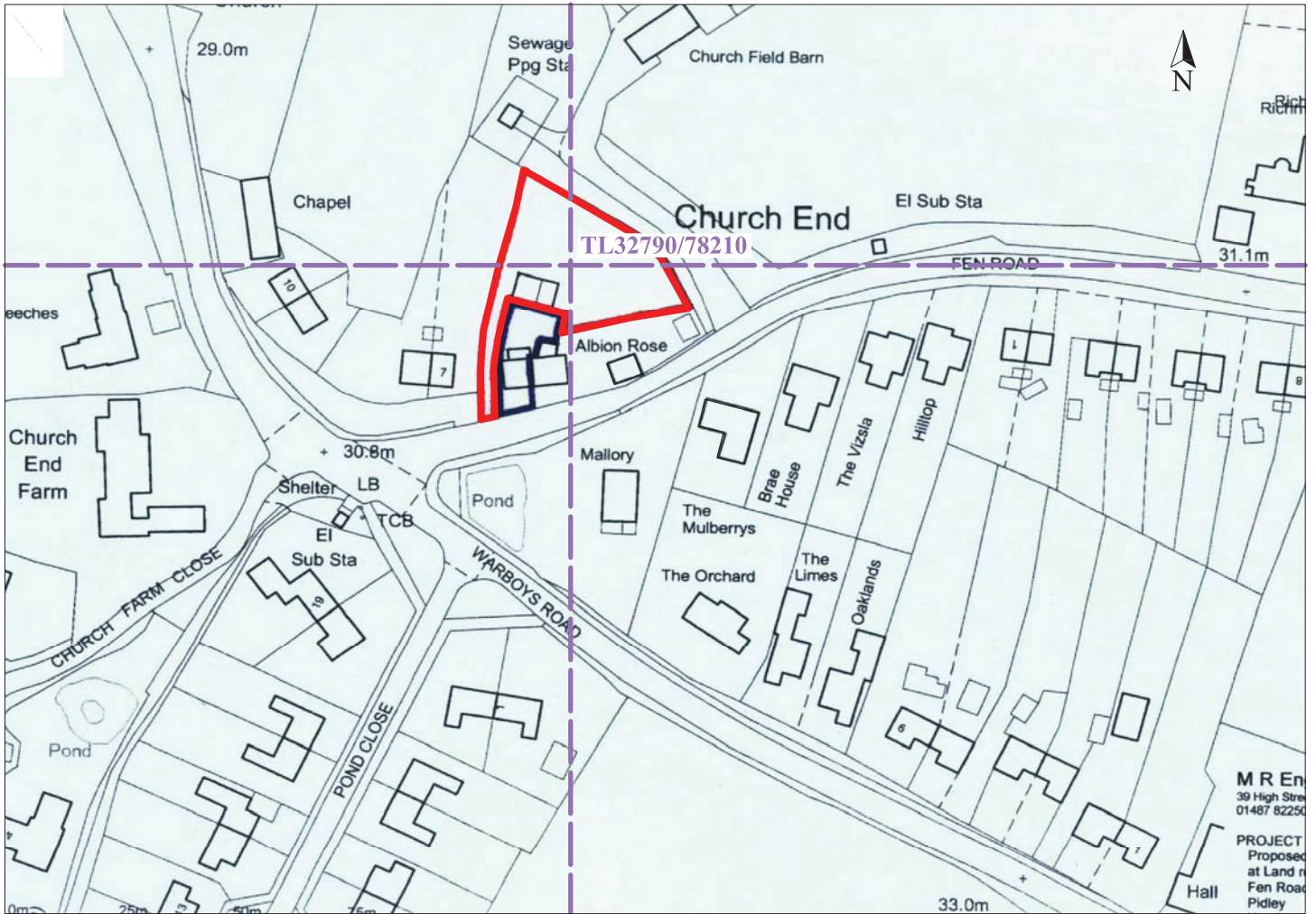


8
Sample section 2B in Trench 2

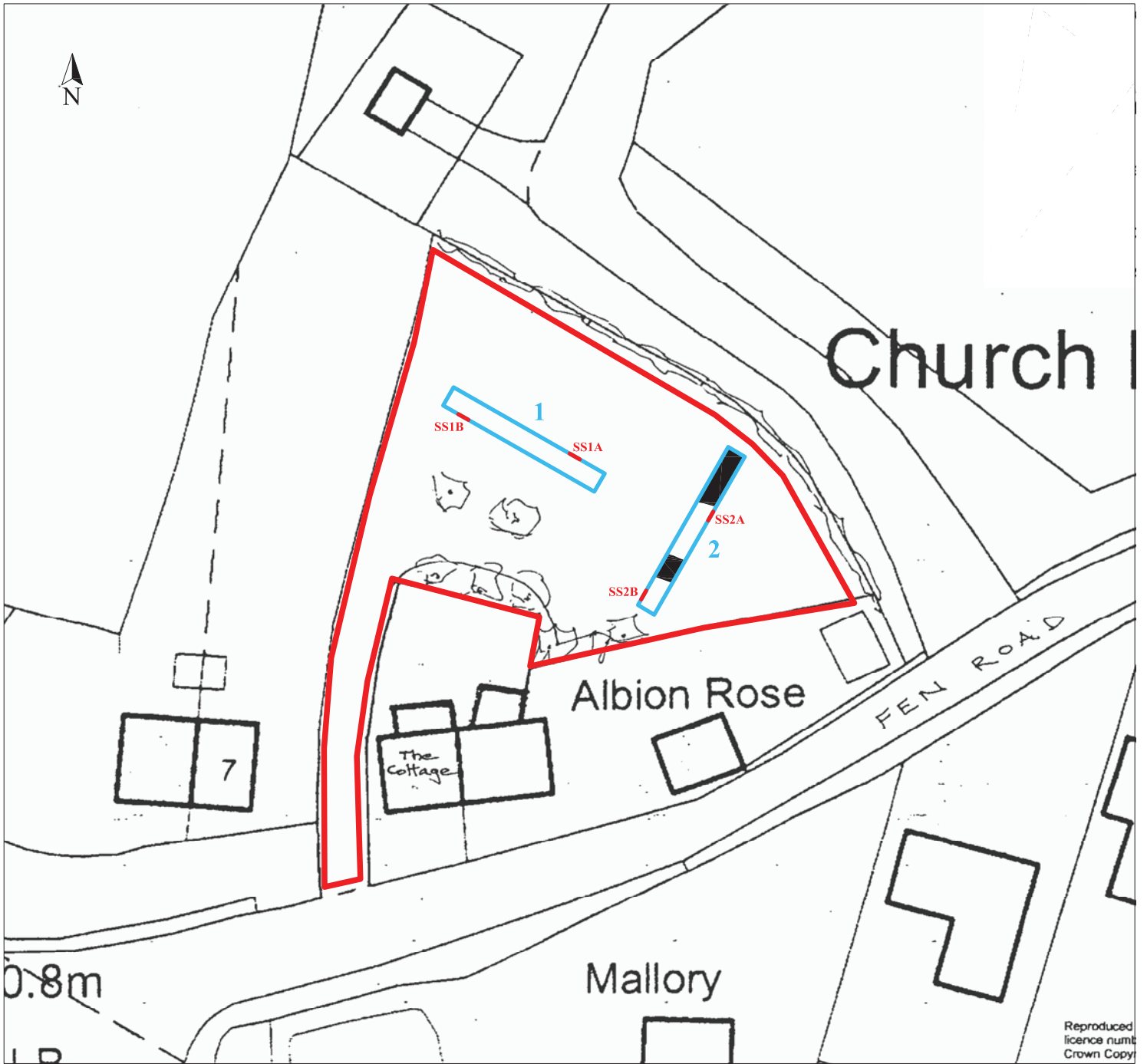


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 The Cottage, Fen Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire (P7556)

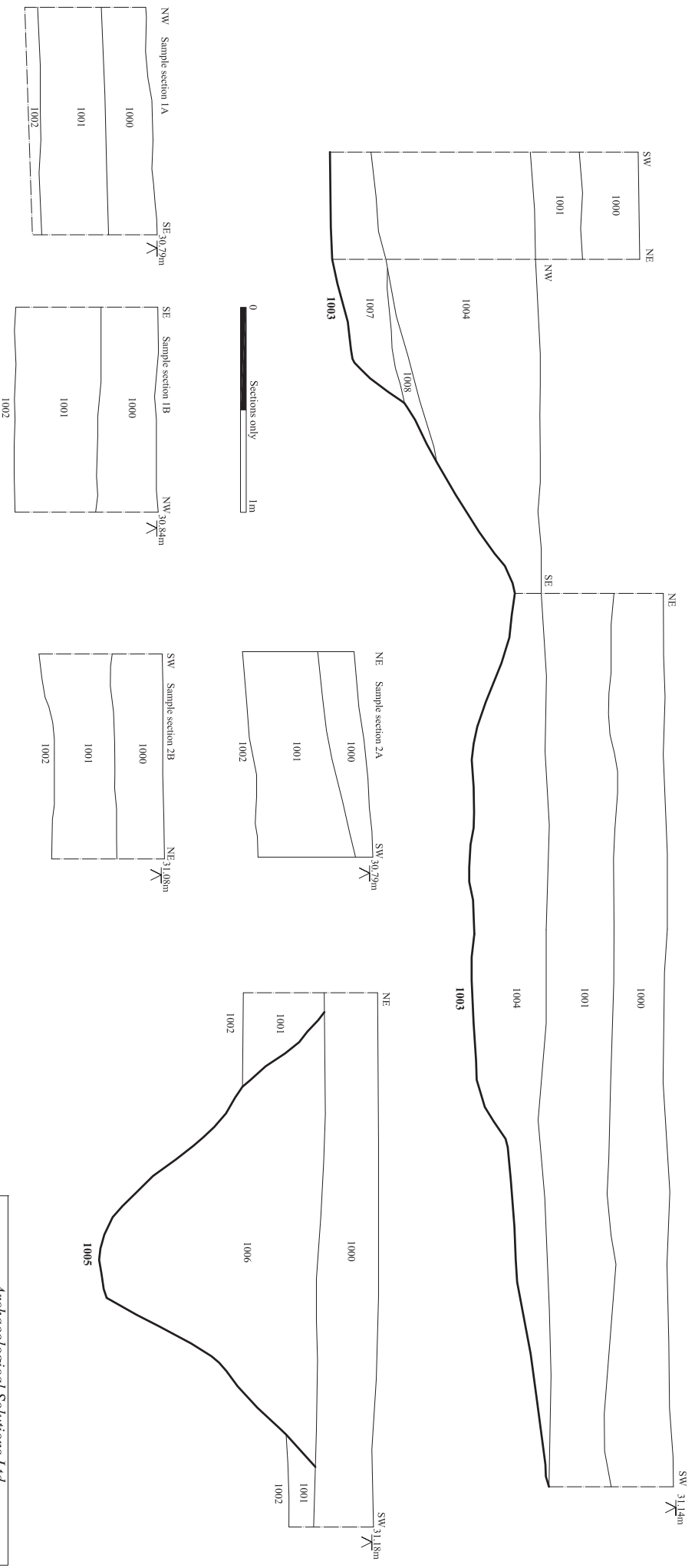
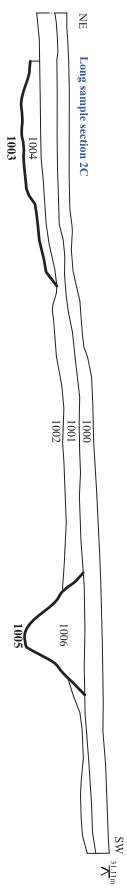
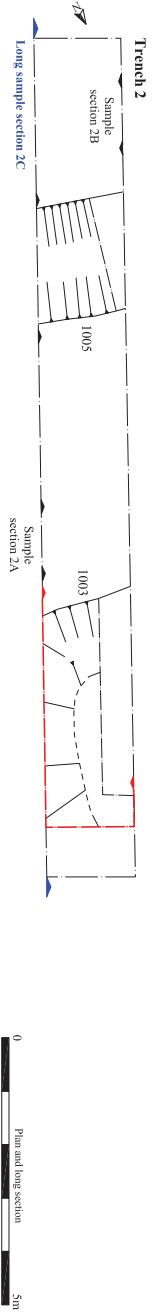


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1500 at A4
The Cottage, Fen Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire (P7556)



0 25m

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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
Scale 1:500 at A4
The Cottage, Fen Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire (P7556)



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Fig. 4 Trench plan and sections

Scale: Plan & long section 1:100, other sections 1:20 at A3

The Cottage, Fen Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire (P7556)