# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

# THE PRIORY GARAGE, 8 CHURCH STREET, ISLEHAM, ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 5RX

# AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER ECB 5041

Authors: Niomi Edwards & Ta	ansy Collins
(Fieldwork and repo	ort)
Kathren Henry (Gra	phics)
NGR: TL 64220 74320	Report No: 5411
District: East Cambs	Site Code: ECB 5041
Approved:	Project No: 6573
Claire Halpin MCIfA	Date: 13 September 2017 Revised 16 October 2017

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

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

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

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

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

P I House, Rear of 23 Clifton Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5AF Tel: 01462 850483

e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk





twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS



www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions













#### **CONTENTS**

#### **OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

#### SUMMARY

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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** 

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** 

#### **OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

Project details								
Project name	The	Priory	Garage,	8	Church	Street,	Isleham,	Ely,
	Cami	bridgesh	ire CB7 5I	RX				

In August 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the Priory Garage, 8 Church Street, Isleham, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RX (NGR TL 6423 7431; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of four new dwellings following demolition of existing garage buildings (East Cambs Council Ref. 16/01501/FUL). The evaluation was required based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

The site is located to the immediate south of the Grade I Listed (NHLE 1126476) late 11<sup>th</sup> century chapel of St Margaret of Antioch, to the north of which is the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the remains of Isleham Priory. These include the foundations of the conventual buildings below ground and the upstanding earthwork remains of a series of fishponds and the associated agricultural complex of the priory. The Chapel of St Margaret of Antioch was converted to a barn in the medieval period. Medieval and post-medieval occupation evidence has been recorded at Priory Gardens to the immediate west in the 1990s (CHER MCB15283). The earliest feature recorded during the trial trenching was Pit F1047 (Trench 1) which contained medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century) pottery, and residual medieval pottery was found in later features. Two late medieval / early post-medieval (15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century) pits, F1062 and F1068, were present in Trench 3. A small number of post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) features were recorded in Trenches 1 (Ditch F1041), and 4 (F1028, F1023, 1120). The intrinsically interesting features comprised the possible wells, F1056 and F1071 (Trench 3), ?Quarry Pit F1120 (Trench 4) and clunch wall M1098 (Trench 3). The latter may date from the medieval period but is more likely post-medieval.

Modern  $(19^{th} - 20^{th})$  century) activity is extensive and it may have obliterated most or all of the medieval evidence leaving only one or two fragments remaining, although the lack of residual finds perhaps suggests that activities directly associated with the priory did not extend into this area to the same extent as seen to the north.

		-	
Project dates (fieldwork)	August 2017	7	
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	TBC
P. number	7119	Site code	ECB 5041
Type of project	Archaeologi	cal Evaluation	
Site status	-		
Current land use	Garage		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Pits, ?wells,	?clunch quarry pit, cluncl	n wall, construction cuts
Significant finds (+dates)	Medieval an	d late medieval assembla	ges
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Cambridges	hire East Cambs	Isleham
HER/ SMR for area	Cambridges	hire HER	
Post code (if known)	CB7 5RX		
Area of site	c.1800m2		
NGR	TL 64220 74320		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.7m		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	CCC HET		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeologi	cal Solutions Ltd	
Funded by	Manchetts		
Full title		Garage, 8 Church	
	Cambridges	hire CB7 5RX. An Archa	neological Evaluation
Authors	-	, & Collins, T.	
Report no.	5411		
Date (of report)	September 2	2017; revised October 20	17

# THE PRIORY GARAGE, 8 CHURCH STREET, ISLEHAM, ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 5RX

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### **SUMMARY**

In August 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the Priory Garage, 8 Church Street, Isleham, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RX (NGR TL 6423 7431; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of four new dwellings following the demolition of the existing garage buildings (East Cambs Council Ref. 16/01501/FUL). The evaluation was required based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

The site is located to the immediate south of the Grade I Listed (NHLE 1126476) late 11<sup>th</sup> century chapel of St Margaret of Antioch, to the north of which is the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the remains of Isleham Priory. These include the foundations of the conventual buildings below ground and the upstanding earthwork remains of a series of fishponds and the associated agricultural complex of the priory. The Chapel of St Margaret of Antioch was converted to a barn in the medieval period. Medieval and post-medieval occupation evidence has been recorded at Priory Gardens to the immediate west in the 1990s (CHER MCB15283).

The earliest feature recorded during the trial trenching was Pit F1047 (Trench 1) which contained medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century) pottery, and residual medieval pottery was found in later features. Two late medieval / early post-medieval (15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century) pits, F1062 and F1068, were present in Trench 3. A small number of post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) features were recorded in Trenches 1 (Ditch F1041), and 4 (F1028, F1023, 1120). The intrinsically interesting features comprised the possible wells, F1056 and F1071 (Trench 3), ?Quarry Pit F1120 (Trench 4) and clunch wall M1098 (Trench 3). The latter may date from the medieval period but is more likely post-medieval.

Modern (19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century) activity is extensive and it may have obliterated most or all of the medieval evidence leaving only one or two fragments remaining, although the lack of residual finds perhaps suggests that activities directly associated with the priory did not extend into this area to the same extent as seen to the north.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the Priory Garage, 8 Church Street, Isleham, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RX (NGR TL 6423 7431; Figs. 1 & 2).

The evaluation was to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of four new dwellings following demolition of existing garage buildings (East Cambs Council Ref. 16/01501/FUL). It was required based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by CCC HET (Kasia Gdaniec, dated 14/03/2017) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 27/03/2017) and approved by CCC HET. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014), and the document Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).
- 1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving 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 Isleham is a village in the Cambridgeshire Fenland, situated *c*.8km south-east of the city of Ely, and c.4km to the east of Soham.
- 2.2 The site is located in the western area of the historic village core of Isleham, on the western side of Church Street, to the immediate south of the remains of Isleham Priory (Scheduled Ancient Monument; NHLE 1013278). It comprises a former garage business, recently demolished.

## 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 3.1 The village of Isleham is entirely situated on a small area or 'island' of raised ground in the eastern part of the Fenland, with the fen edge encountered c.3km to the east approaching Mildenhall. The topography of the village rises to 10m AOD, with the site situated at c.6m AOD on the northern slope of the island as it slopes toward the sea-level fenland. The course of the River Lark crosses the fen c.1.3km to the north of the site, with numerous land drains and dykes between it and northern edge of Isleham, none of which impact upon the site.
- 3.2 The fen island on which the village is located lies on a solid geology of varying chalk formation, with the site situated on the Zig-Zag Chalk formation. There are no superficial deposits overlying the chalk, but reflecting this geology the local soils are shallow and lime rich. As the fen island gives way to fenland *c*.600m to the north, peat deposits may be encountered, but are not expected closer to the site.

#### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric finds are fairly well-represented in the Isleham area; a Palaeolithic handaxe has been recovered from Soham Fen (CHER MCB19231) and the CHER records several instances of Mesolithic flint artefacts (CHER 10883; 10954) and Mesolithic antler axes (CHER 07622) recovered in the area. A Mesolithic pit is recorded at Hall Barn Road (CHER MCB20930). The Neolithic period is represented by flintwork (CHER 10862, 10883A, 10954A, 10966) and a possible long barrow near Rymanmoor Long Turning, identified from aerial photos (CHER 10957). Bronze Age flintwork has also been recovered in the Isleham area (CHER 07537, 07623, 10883, 10883B) and this period is also represented by a bronze socketed axe (CHER 11711), early Bronze Age settlement evidence at Prickwillow Road (CHER 11896) and Bronze Age features at Hall Farm (CHER MCB17270). Early Iron Age features were recorded at Isleham Community Centre during a 2012 evaluation (CHER MCB22685). Iron Age pottery was recovered during a test pit survey at Little London Lane (CHER MCB19744). Late prehistoric features have been recorded at Hall Barn Road (CHER CB15281, CB15282).

- 4.2 The Roman period is less well-represented with finds of metalwork (CHER 07589), brooches (CHER 10863 and 11710), a saddle quern (CHER 10864) and pottery recovered during a test pit survey at Little London Lane (CHER MCB19744). Roman ditch systems have been recorded to the rear of 32 and 34 Church Lane (CHER MCB20915) and additional Roman ditches have been recorded at Ellwoods Close (CHER MCB20917).
- 4.3 The Saxon period is represented only by a few spot finds, including a disc brooch (CHER 11691) and pottery at St Andrew's Close (CHER MCB19749). Features were recorded at Ellwoods Close (CHER MCB20918). Evidence for medieval occupation in Isleham is abundant. The scheduled earthwork remains of the Priory fish ponds, hollow ways and building platforms lie to the east of the site (NHLE 1013278). The Priory was a medieval Alien Benedictine institution (CHER DCB221), located some 100m to the west of the medieval Church of St Andrew (CHER 07591). The Chapel of St Margaret of Antioch (CHER 07529) survives as a standing structure, with the buried remains of the foundations of the conventual buildings and the earthworks remains of the associated agricultural and other elements of the complex to the north of the Grade I building (CHER MCB14478). Earthworks north of the Priory are recorded (CHER 07528). Medieval features have been recorded during drainage works at the priory (CHER MCB19827). Possible medieval field systems (CHER 11895), property boundaries (CHER CB15283), clunch-processing sites (CHER MCB16866 and MCB20069), and a variety of finds (CHER 11074, 11574, 11712, MCB19713, MCB19719, MCB19721, MCB19744, MCB19749, MCB19750, MCB19752) are amongst the other evidence for medieval activity within Isleham.
- 4.4 Archaeological investigations were carried out in 2015 very close by to the north of the current site, revealing significant Saxon, medieval and post-medieval occupation in addition to artefacts that also point to the location of a high status Roman building nearby (CHER ECB4634). Significant evidence of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation has also been found further north at Church Lane (CHER ECB4610). Medieval and post-medieval occupation evidence has also been recorded at Priory Gardens to the west (CHER CB15283) and Beck Road (CHER MCB18442). Medieval pottery has been recovered at Church Farm (CHER MCB19712) and medieval and post-medieval pottery has been recovered at Hall Barn Road (CHER MCB20930). A recent evaluation has also recorded Saxo-Norman to medieval remains including post holes, ditches and gullies aligned parallel to the line of Pound Lane (CHER ECB 4749).
- 4.5 The 16<sup>th</sup> century gardens of Isleham Hall are recorded (CHER 19362). Post-medieval wall foundations have been recorded at 12 West Street (CHER MCB19442). Post-medieval pottery has been recovered from a variety of locations (CHER MCB19745, MCB 19746, MCB19747, MCB 19748, MCB19751).

#### Summary of relevant medieval activity

- Medieval activity in Isleham is focused around the alien Benedictine 4.6 Priory church of St. Margaret of Antioch, lying immediately to the north of the site (CHER 07529) which is designated as a scheduled monument (National Heritage List Entry [NHLE] no. 1013278). It was founded around 1100AD and of that establishment only the priory chapel (St Margaret of Antioch) still stands, the rest surviving as buried remains of the foundations of conventual buildings and the earthwork remains of the associated agricultural and other elements of the complex. The Chapel of St Margaret of Antioch is Grade I listed (NHLE entry no. 1126476) and lies to the north of the angle between Church Street and Mill Street as well as immediately to the north of the site. Figure 5 depicts this arrangement and also shows the considerable extent of the earthworks remaining to the north of the chapel. The principal feature of this earthwork system, and well preserved, is a dry ditch (7-16m wide; 1.3m deep), most likely a hollow way leading to the priory. The hollow way is thought to have served as the main access to the priory fields around the southern edge of Isleham Fen and aligns exactly with the present course of Mill Street, probably linked by a track skirting the western edge of the chapel (NHLE 1013278). A series of rectangular enclosures and platforms to either side of the hollow way demonstrates the presence of buildings and fishponds and other contemporary features, while a recent archaeological evaluation undertaken by AS to the east of the hollow way found evidence of internal divisions and supported the hypothesis that activities associated with the priory extended towards Pound Lane (Barlow 2017). It is likely that such activity continued to the south of the chapel into the area of the site, although the later activity at the site has clearly had a substantial impact on buried archaeology (see below).
- 4.7 The lands were seized in 1414 and given to Pembroke College, Cambridge, and in the early post-medieval period the chapel was used as an agricultural barn. Pembroke College held the former chapel until 1944 when it was placed in the guardianship of the Ministry of Works. The Chapel is of note in being little altered and a rare example of Romanesque work with a rounded apse. The walls are principally of clunch laid in herringbone pattern with Barnack limestone plinth and dressings to door and window openings.
- 4.8 The main areas of settlement were the village of Great Isleham and a hamlet called Little Isleham to the south-west near the border with Fordham. Great Isleham extended from Temple Road to the eastern end of East Street, however the village had lost a third of houses by the 15<sup>th</sup> century (Wareham & Wright 2002, 424). The earliest house lies c.250m to the south along Mill Street and date from 1730 with early 19<sup>th</sup> century extensions to the rear (CHER DCB670).
- 4.9 Of note is the discovery and recording of extensive clunch quarrying pits to the south of the site along Fordham Road, which continued working until the end of the medieval period and into the beginning of the post-medieval period (Newton 2006) that were presumably the source of much of the stonework for the priory and later buildings.

#### Post-medieval activity

- 4.10 The former chapel was altered in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries for agricultural use and it is perhaps likely that a number of associated buildings were constructed nearby at this time and throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The HER includes a variety of 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings and industrial sites in Isleham including limekilns on the High Street (CHER 07489), limestone quarries (CHER MCB22017-22019), 19<sup>th</sup> century blacksmith's premises (CHER MCB22020-22022), a former malthouse (CHER MCB22023), school (CHER MCB22024), windmills (CHER MCB22027, 07611), almshouses (CHER MCB22029), St Bernard's Wagon works (CHER MCB22030), Isleham Baptist Chapel (CHER MCB17214), the High Street Baptist Chapel (CHER MCB17085), and allotments (CHER MCB22014. MCB22015). Victorian pottery has been found at a variety of locations (CHER MCB19715-19718, 19720).
- 4.11 Activity within the site throughout this later period can be discerned from historic mapping. Figures 6 and 7 show the site in 1886 and 1902 where the remains of the priory are labelled as well as the remains of 'stews' (medieval fishponds). The priory chapel is visible to the immediate north of the site. The site itself has been subdivided into a number of small plots and contains a series of buildings as well as two wells (discussed below). In the eastern area narrow ranges extend along the boundary of the site and a single well is depicted in the southern subdivision, while the western arm contains a rectangular range with a well immediately to the south.
- 4.12 This arrangement of buildings remains until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when most of the buildings appear to have been swept away to make way for the larger garage building (Website: <a href="https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/Map/564137/274256/12/100490">https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/Map/564137/274256/12/100490</a>) though a section of wall appeared to survive incorporated within the garage ranges along the southern boundary.

#### 5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The evaluation provided for up to a c.5% sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched, following the demolition of the existing structures on the site to ground level. Four trenches were excavated to examine the footprints of the proposed house plots and new drive, and avoided known areas of previous underground tanks (Figs. 3-4).
- 5.2 The overburden was mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Open trenches and excavated spoil were manually / visually searched and scanned by metal detector to enhance the recovery of archaeological finds.

5.3 The overburden was bucket sampled and sorted by hand at each end of the trenches to characterise its artefact content. Late post-medieval, early modern and modern (late  $18^{th} - 20^{th}$  century) pottery was found.

#### 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

**Trench 1** (Figs. 3 - 4 & 8)

Sample section 0.00 = 5.89m A		
0.00 = 0.20m	L1003	Layer. Friable, pale yellow brown, silty sand with frequent building rubble.
0.20 - 0.32m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, dark grey brown, silty sand.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural. Compact white chalk.

Sample section 1B				
0.00 = 6.38 m A	0.00 = 6.38m AOD			
0.00 – 0.51m L1000 Topsoil. Friable, dark grey brown silty sand.				
		Concrete block.		
0.51 – 0.92m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.		
0.92m+	L1002	Natural. As above.		

Description: Trench 1 revealed Ditch F1041, Construction Cut M1043, F1049 and F1161,,and Pits F1045, F1047 and F1087. The features were undated or relatively recent in date except Pit F1047 which contained medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. Ditch F1041 contained residual medieval pottery. Pit F1045 and Feature F1049 contained modern finds and was unexcavated.

Ditch F1041 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 2.40+ x 0.36m+). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its upper fill, L1090, was a firm, pale grey chalk. It contained no finds. Its basal fill, L1042, was a friable, mid greyish brown silty sand. It contained mid  $18^{th} - 19^{th}$  century pottery (10; 98g), CBM (1624g), animal bone (86g), oyster shell (96g), clay pipe stem fragment (2g), porcelain doll's head fragment (4g).

Construction Cut M1043 was ?rectangular in plan (3.00+ x 1.40+ x ?). It had vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1044, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand. It contained no finds. M1043 cut Topsoil L1000 and Subsoil L1001. It appeared to be a construction cut with remnants of a brick wall visible in the trench section.

F1049 was ill-defined in plan (2.00 x 1.00+ x 0.50m). It contained modern finds and was not excavated. Its fill, L1050, was a friable dark grey brown silty sand with frequent modern demolition debris including CBM and plastic.

F1161 was recorded in section (1.84 x ? x 0.59m). It contained frequent modern debris.

Three pits were recorded and are tabulated below:-

F No.	Fill	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Finds
F1045	L1046	Sub-circular. Not excavated (1.80+ x 2.00 x ?m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with large chalk fragments	-
F1047	L1048	Sub-circular. Steep sides concave base (1.21+ x 0.79 x 0.24m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent medium-sized chalk fragments	11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> C. pottery (2; 1g)
F1087	L1088	Sub-circular. Irregular sides irregular base (0.82+ x 0.71 x 0.38m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with moderate chalk fragments	

# **Trench 2** (Figs. 3 - 4 & 9)

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 6.27m AOD		
0.00 - 0.08m	-	Concrete
0.08 – 0.15m	-	Hardcore
0.15 – 0.68m	L1147	Made Ground. Friable, dark grey brown, silty sand with moderate sub-angular stones. It contained modern (19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> century) pottery
0.68m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Sample section 2B	Sample section 2B			
0.00 = 6.30 m AOD				
0.00 – 0.10m	-	Concrete		
0.10 - 0.29m	-	Hardcore		
0.29 - 0.65m	L1147	Made Ground. As above.		
0.65m+	L1002	Natural. As above.		

Description: Trench 2 revealed Construction Cut F1013, Pits F1007 and F1019, and Post Holes F1009, F1011, F1015 and F1017. The features were modern  $(19^{th} - 20^{th}$  century) or undated.

Construction Cut F1013 was rectangular in plan (1.20+ x 1.01 x 0.56m). Its fill, L1014, was a friable mid grey brown silty sand with frequent brick and large chalk fragments. The associated brick wall visible in section appeared to be a drainage sump with ceramic pipework.

Two pits were recorded and are tabulated below:-

F No.	Fill	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Finds
F1007	L1008	Elongated. Steep sides, flattish irregular base (1.23 x 0.78 x 0.55m)	Friable, mid reddish brown silty sand	Modern (Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
F1019	L1020	Sub-circular. Moderately sloping sides concave base (0.86+ x 0.15+ x 0.24m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent chalk fragments	-

# Four post holes were recorded and are tabulated below:-

F No.	Fill	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Finds
F1009	L1010	Sub-circular. Steep sides, concave base (0.45 x 0.43 x 27m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with medium - large chalk fragments	CBM (7g); glass 91g), Fe. Frag (173g)
F1011	L1012	Square. Steep sides flattish base (0.40+ x 0.40 x 0.08m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent medium - large chalk fragments	-
F1015	L1016	Sub-circular. Steep/vertical sides, concave base (0.33 x 0.31 x 0.26m)	Firm, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent chalk fragments	Modern (19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
F1017	L1018	Square. Vertical sides flat base (0.45 x 0.45 x 0.11m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with medium chalk fragments	-

# **Trench 3** (Figs. 3 – 4 & 10 - 11)

Sample section 3	Sample section 3A			
0.00 = 6.31 m AO	D			
0.00 - 0.03m	L1003	Layer. Friable, pale yellow brown, silty sand with frequent building		
		rubble. As above, Trench 1.		
0.03 - 0.10m	L1142	Layer. Friable, dark grey brown, silty sand		
0.10 – 0.35m	L1141	Layer. Mid grey brown sand with building debris		
0.35 – 0.50m	L1143	Layer. Friable, light mid grey brown, silty sand with chalk and occasional small stones.		
0.50 – 0.67m	L1053	Layer. Light grey / white chalk		
0.67m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.		

Sample section 3B 0.00 = 6.53m AOD			
0.00 - 0.25m	L1141	Layer. As above	
0.25 - 0.53m	L1143	Layer. As above.	
0.53 - 0.68m	L1053	Layer. As above.	
0.68m	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.	

Sample section Tes	st Pit 4	
0.00 – 0.03m	L1107	Layer. Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular stones.
0.03 – 0.05m	L1125	Surface. Chalk
0.05 – 0.10m	L1126	Layer. Friable, mid orange brown silty sand with moderate sub-angular stones
0.10 – 0.16m	L1127	Layer. Friable, mid orange brown silty sand with moderate sub-angular stones
0.16 – 0.32m	L1128	Layer. Compact, pale grey white chalk
0.32 – 0.41m	L1129	Layer. Compact, mid grey brown sandy silt. It contained 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> century pottery (3; 17g), CBM (39g), animal bone (168g) and Fe. Fragments (14g).
0.41 – 0.45m	L1130	Layer. Compact, pale grey white chalk.
0.45m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 3 revealed numerous features including a construction cut (F1097) containing a section of a clunch wall (M1098), two post holes (F1062 and F1075) including one containing 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery, two wells (F1056 and F1071), a further two construction cuts containing brickwork (F1099 and F1011) of post-medieval date, eleven pits (F1051, F1060, F1066, F1068, F1073, F1077, F1079, F1091, F1093, F1095, F1160) and a modern ditch F1118. Pit F1068 contained 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Five events of modern disturbance were also recorded (F1054, F1058, F1081, F1083 and F1085). The possible wells, F1056 and F1071, were undated. The upper fill, L1057, contained late 18<sup>th</sup> – mid 20<sup>th</sup> and residual medieval pottery but this may represent the final backfilling of an earlier feature.

Two possible wells were recorded and are tabulated below:-

F No.	Fill	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Relationship	Finds
F1056	L1057	Sub-circular. Steep sides, base unseen (1.19 x 1.09 x 1.00m+)	Friable, mid reddish brown silty sand with frequent chalk fragments	Augered to depth of 0.56m below depth of excavation	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – mid 20 <sup>th</sup> and medieval pottery (11; 69g), animal bone (45g), shell (6g)
F1071	L1072 Upper	Sub-circular. Vertical sides, base unseen (1.10+ x 0.38+ x 1.00m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	Cut by F1073  Augered to depth of 0.67m below depth of excavation	Clay pipe stem fragment (4g)
-	L1089	-	Friable pale yellow brown sandy silt	-	-

#### A ditch was recorded and is tabulated below:-

F No.	Fill	Plan/ profile	Fill description	Relationship	Finds
		(dimensions)			
F1118	L1119	Linear. Moderately sloping sides irregular base, orientated N/S (1.80 x 1.39 x 0.37m)	Friable, pale grey brown silty sand with frequent chalk fragments	-	Modern (19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
-	L1140 Upper	-	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with moderate chalk fragments	-	-

#### Two post holes were recorded and are tabulated below:-

F No.	Fill	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Relationship	Finds
F1062	L1063	Sub-rectangular. Steep sides, narrow concave base (0.56 x 0.52 x 0.45m)	Friable, pale grey brown silty sand with frequent chalk	Cut by F1060	15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> C pottery (2; 2g), CBM (406g), animal bone (3g)
F1075	L1076	Circular. Steep sides, flattish base (0.15 x 0.25m)	Friable, dark reddish brown silty sand	Cut F1073	-

Five modern disturbances were recorded and are tabulated below:-

F No.	Fill	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Relationship	Finds
F1054	L1055	Irregular in plan. Not excavated (3.95 x 1.80 x 1.00m)	CBM debris	i	Modern (19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C).
F1058	L1059	Irregular in plan. Not excavated (3.05 x 1.33 x 0.71m)	CBM debris	1	Modern (19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C).
F1081	L1082	Irregular in plan. Modern, not excavated	CBM debris	-	Modern (19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C).
F1083	L1084	Irregular in plan. Modern, not excavated	CBM debris	Cut by F1095	Modern (19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C).
F1085	L1086	Irregular in plan. Modern, not excavated	CBM debris	-	Modern (19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C).

Five construction cuts with associated structural remains were recorded:-

F1097 contained stone wall M1098. The wall was linear in plan and aligned east-west though with an irregular profile due to the level of degradation of the upper structure. It was 0.46m wide and 3.5m long (the width of the trench) but clearly extended beyond the extent of the trench to either side. appeared to be cut or abutted following truncation at the east end by F1099. The wall was formed of roughly hewn pieces of clunch of varying sizes from 40mm x 60mm to 220mm x 320mm bonded with a compact dark buff / yelloworange mortar. The volume of mortar was fairly extensive, so that upper course of clunch pieces with any coherence only extended some 1.5m. These were laid in a single course all set at an angle, possibly part of a herringbone pattern. It is possible that this replicated the pattern visible on the nearby Priory Chapel (National Heritage List Entry 1126476) and it is thought that medieval activity associated with the priory complex continued into the area of the site. Wall M1098 was fairly wide (0.46m) which later walls in the vicinity tend not to be and comparison with those structures reflect a different character, which may indicate the wall was contemporary with an early phase of activity. Conversely, clunch is a commonly seen building material in the area used into the 20th century, and indeed to the south the remains of a clunch work wall stood until recently. Furthermore, the layer (L1129) over which Wall M1098 was built extended across the entire trench and contained a single 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century piece of pottery, which unless intrusive into this layer suggests the wall may have been post-medieval.

F1099 was a construction cut for brick Wall M1100 and was only seen in profile being aligned east-west. The cut was linear in plan with vertical sides and a flat base. The wall was constructed using variable pink yellow bricks bonded with an orange / yellow mortar. F1099 appeared to truncate Wall M1098 and the bricks appeared consistent with a post-medieval date perhaps relating to buildings visible on late 19<sup>th</sup> century maps in this position. It is possible that the post-medieval walling utilised the foundation remains of earlier structures in this position.

F1101 was a construction cut for brick Wall M1102. The cut was linear in plan with irregular sides and an irregular base. Wall M1102 was constructed using variable bricks, seemingly much degraded but probably typical of Cambridgeshire gault bricks with occasional more orange examples seen in post-medieval buildings in the area. They measured 250mm x 110mm x 60mm and were bonded with an orange / yellow mortar. This was stratigraphically above Wall M1098 but appeared to abut or respect M1098 and follow the same alignment. It is possible that this post-medieval walling utilised the foundation remains of an earlier structure in this position, as is suggested for walling around the chapel to the north which is thought to retain below ground evidence for an earlier boundary (NHLE no. 1013278).

F1103 was a construction cut for Concrete M1104. The cut was observed in section and its profile was not fully apparent. Its fill was L1108, a mid grey brown silty sand overlain by Concrete M1104.

F1105 was a construction cut for Concrete M1106. The cut was observed in section and it had vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill was L1107, a mid grey brown silty sand overlain by Concrete M1106. L1107 contained modern (19<sup>th</sup> – mid 20<sup>th</sup> century) finds.

Eleven pits were recorded and are tabulated below:-

F No.	Fill	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Relationship	Finds
F1051	L1052	Sub-circular. Irregular sides, concave base (0.95 x 0.62 x 0.11m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with chalk	-	Modern (19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
F1060	L1061	Sub-circular. Moderately sloping irregular sides, flattish base. (0.77 x 1.20 x 0.40m)	Friable, dark brown silty sand with frequent chalk	Cut F1062	Modern (19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
F1066	L1067	Sub-circular. Moderately sloping irregular sides, concave base. (0.88 x 0.52 x 0.40m)	Friable, grey brown silty sand with frequent chalk	Cut by F1068	-
F1068	L1069	Sub-circular. Moderately sloping sides, concave base. (0.78 x 0.59 x 0.20m)	Friable, mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional chalk	Cut F1066	15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> C Pottery (1; 15g), animal bone (18g) 13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> C
-	L1070	-	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	-	13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> C Pottery (1; 10g), animal bone (5g), oyster shell (914g)
F1073	L1074	Sub-rectangular. Steep sides, flattish base (0.96+ x 0.39 x 0.14m)	Friable, mid red brown silty sand with chalk	Cut F1071 Cut by F1075	Modern (19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
F1077	L1078	Elongated. Moderately sloping sides, base unseen (0.95 x 0.62 x 0.11m)	CBM debris	-	Modern (19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C). CBM debris
F1079	L1080	Sub-rectangular. Vertical / irregular sides, flattish base (0.81 x 0.73 x 0.44m)	Firm, light grey brown silty sand with frequent chalk	-	-
F1091	L1092	Sub-circular. Moderately sloping sides, concave base (0.54 x 0.44 x 0.09m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular stones	-	-

F1093	L1094	Sub-circular. Moderately	Friable, light grey brown	-	-
		sloping sides, concave base	silty sand with occasional		
		(0.66 x 0.60 x 0.10m)	sub-angular stones		
F1095	L1096	Sub-rectangular. Moderately	Friable, dark red brown silty	-	Modern (19 <sup>th</sup> –
		sloping sides, concave base	sand with occasional sub-		20 <sup>th</sup> C)
		(1.12 x 1.02+ x 0.51m)	angular stones		
F1160	L1144	Observed in section. Steep	CBM debris	-	Modern
		irregular sides, flattish base			$(19^{th} - 20^{th} C)$
		0.96 x ? x 0.89m)			

# **Trench 4** (Figs. 3 – 4 & 12 - 13)

Sample section 4A 0.0 = 6.39m AOD		
0.00 = 0.17m		
0.17 – 0.31m	L1147	Layer. As above, Trench 2.
0.31 – 0.36m	L1155	Layer. Friable, mottled grey chalky clay.
0.36 - 0.50m	L1156	Layer. Pale grey clayey chalk.
0.50m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 4	В	
0.0 = 6.39 m AOI	D	
0.00 - 0.07m	-	Gravel.
0.07 – 0.35m	L1003	Layer. As above, Trench 1.
0.35 – 0.41m	L1150	Brick Floor.
0.41 – 0.45m	L1158	Levelling Layer for Brick Floor M1150. Friable, yellow orange mortar with occasional chalk flecks
0.45 – 0.55m	L1159	Levelling Layer for Floor. Friable, grey sandy silt.
0.55 – 0.83m	L1006	Layer. Loose, pale grey brown silty sand with chalk. It contained $16^{th} - 17^{th}$ C pottery (7; 54g), CBM (64g), animal bone (102g), Fe fragment (28g), shell (2g)
0.83 – 0.90m	L1033	Layer. Loose, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent chalk
0.90m+	L1002	Natural. As above Trench 1.

Test Pit 1		
0.0 = 5.83 m AC	)D	
0.00 = 0.08m	L1036	Layer. Loose, orange silty sand with gravel. It contained modern (19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C) finds
0.08 – 0.20m	L1037	Layer. Firm, pale grey brown silty sand with chalk. It contained modern (19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C) finds.
0.20 – 0.22m	L1038	Layer. Friable, mid reddish brown sandy silt. It contained 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C pottery (2; 16g), CBM (49g), animal bone (337g), clay pipe stems (48g), glass (3g)
0.22 – 0.30m	L1039	Layer. Loose, pale grey brown silty sand. It contained pottery (1g), animal bone (42g), slag (67g), shell (3g)
0.30 – 0.37m	L1040	Layer. Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent chalk.
0.37m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Test Pit 2		
0.0 = 5.77 m AC	)D	
0.00 – 0.18m	L1006	Layer. As above
0.18 – 0.23m	L1033	Layer. Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent chalk
0.23m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Test Pit 3 0.00 = 5.99m AO	Test Pit 3 0.00 = 5.99m AOD		
0.00 = 0.03m	L1137	Layer. Friable, mid orange brown silty sand	
0.03 - 0.15m	L1136	Layer. It contained modern (19 <sup>th</sup> – mid 20 <sup>th</sup> ) finds	
0.15 – 0.20m	L1135	Layer. Firm, mid yellow brown clayey silt	
0.20 - 0.31m	L1134	Layer. Firm, very pale grey clayey silt	
0.31 – 0.36m	L1132	Layer. Firm, pale grey clayey silt	
0.36 - 0.91m	L1121	Fill of Pit F1120. Firm, grey brown clayey silt	
0.91m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.	

Description: Trench 4 revealed Construction Cuts F1021 and F1034, Post Holes F1025 and F1122, Pits F1023, F1028 and F1064, and ?Quarry Pit F1120.

Brick Floor M1150 was recorded. It was only visible in section and consisted of a single course of variable pink yellow bricks typical of Cambridgeshire gault bricks. This was laid directly onto L1151, a compressed levelling layer of clayey chalk which was itself laid over L1152, a further levelling layer consisting of grey clay. Above this was a number of modern layers including L1149, a thin layer of screed cement below rubble/demolition later L1003. L1148 was a levelling layer and comprised a friable, orange sand which overlay Brick Floor M1150, and was below the floor surface of the former garage. Brick floor M1150 is located in the position of a range visible on historic maps (Figs. 6 and 7) and comprised the internal floor surface of this building.

M1157 was part of a clunch wall visible in section at the eastern end of the trench. Little coherent fabric remained *in situ* but what was present comprised large roughly squared clunch blocks, which may have formed the southern wall of a former building in this position.

Construction Cut F1021 was visible in section (1.80+ x 0.25m x 0.76m+). Its fill, L1022, was a mid grey brown friable silty sand with frequent yellow brick and medium-sized chalk fragments. It is aligned north-west to south-east and may have corresponded with boundaries or divisions visible on historic maps and consisted of a former wall demolished with the establishment of the garage.

Construction Cut F1034 was visible in section (1.00+ x 1.00+ x 0.16m). It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1035, was a firm white chalk thought to be related to a floor surface. It contained no finds.

Two post holes were recorded and are tabulated below:-

F No.	Fill	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Relationship	Finds
F1025	L1026	Sub-circular. Steep sides, irregular base	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	-	-
		(0.17 x 0.17 x 0.16m)			
F1122	L1123	Sub-circular. Steep sides, concave base (0.16 x 0.16 x 0.27m)	Firm, mid grey brown clayey silt	-	Mussel shell (3g)

Four pits were recorded and are tabulated below:-

F No.	Fill	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Relationship	Finds
F1023	L1024	Sub-circular. Steep sides, irregular base (0.92 x 0.63 x 0.21m)	Friable, mid reddish brown silty sand with frequent chalk	-	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> C + pottery (11; 65g), CBM (55g), animal bone (3g), glass (<1g)
F1028	L1029 Basal	Sub-circular. Steep sides, concave base (0.71 x 0.68 x 0.16m)	Friable, mid reddish brown silty sand with chalk	-	Clay pipe stem fragments (51g)
-	L1030 Upper	-	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with chalk	-	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C pottery (2; 22g), clay pipe stem fragments (58g), oyster shell (5g)
F1064	L1065	Sub-circular Modern. Not excavated	Modern CBM debris	-	-
F1160	L1153 Upper	Recorded in section only Moderately sloping sides, flattish base (0.69 x 0.? x 0.14m)	Friable, yellow clay	-	-
-	L1154 Basal	-	Charcoal	-	-

Pit F1120 L1121 was irregular plan (1.80+ x 1.00+ x 0.56). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1121, was a mixed grey brown / pale grey clayey silt with frequent small and medium sub angular chalk. It contained  $18^{th} - 19^{th}$  century pottery (6; 192g), CBM (7g), animal bone (25g) and shell (1g). Pit F1120 may represent a clunch quarry pit

#### 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Despite the presence of modern features it is not felt that any factors significantly inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

#### 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

- 8.1 The site was overlain by a succession of layers of which some e.g. L1036, L1037 and L1136 (Trench 3) contained modern  $(19^{th} 20^{th}$  century) pottery. L1038 and L1139 were potentially earlier and contained post-medieval/early modern  $(18^{th} 19^{th}$  century) pottery.
- 8.2 The layers which suggested that the site was not wholly disturbed are Subsoil L1001 (Trench 1) and L1006 (Trench 3) which contained  $16^{th}-17^{th}$  century pottery.
- 8.3 At the base of the sequence the natural geology, L1002, was a compact, white chalk (0.32 0.92m below the present day ground surface).

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site at The Priory Garage had the potential to retain archaeological evidence for activity associated with the adjacent medieval Isleham Priory. The Grade I priory chapel (essentially unaltered since its construction in c.1100) lies immediately adjacent to the north of the site and the hollow way to the north is thought to have continued as a track way around the west end of the chapel.

## 9.2 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot date
1	F1041	Ditch	Mid 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
			Residual medieval pottery
	F1043	Construction Cut	-
	F1045	Pit	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1047	Pit	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)  Medieval (11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> century)  Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1049	Feature	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	L1087	Pit	-
	F1161	Feature	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
2	F1007	Pit	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C) Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1009	Post Hole	-
	F1011	Post Hole	-
	F1013	Construction Cut	-
	F1015	Post Hole	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1017	Post Hole	-
	F1019	Pit	-
3	F1051	Pit	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C) Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1054	Disturbance	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1056	?Well	-
	F1058	Disturbance	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C) Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1060	Pit	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1062	Post Hole	15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1066	Pit	-
	F1068	Pit	15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> C
			Residual 13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1071	?Well	-
	F1073	Pit	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1075	Post Hole	-
	F1077	Pit	-
	F1079	Pit	-
	F1081	Disturbance	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1083	Disturbance	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1085	Disturbance	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1091	Pit	-
	F1093	Pit	-
	F1095	Pit	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1097	Construction Cut	-
	F1099	Construction Cut	-
	F1101	Construction Cut	-
	F1103	Construction Cut	-
	F1105	Construction Cut	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1118	Ditch	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1160	Pit	Modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> C)
4	F1021	Construction Cut	-

F1023	Pit	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> C +
F1025	Post Hole	-
F1028	Pit	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
F1034	Construction Cut	-
F1064	Pit	-
F1120	?Quarry Pit	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
F1122	Post Hole	-
F1160	Pit	-

- 9.3 Features were present in all four trenches. The modern (mid  $19^{th} 20^{th}$  C) features, many associated with the former garage, were present in Trenches 2 and 3. The features were most often discretes (pits and post holes) as opposed to linear features (ditches and gullies).
- 9.4 The earliest feature was Pit F1047 (Trench 1) which contained just two sherds of (1g) medieval (11<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. A chalk layer within Test Pit 1 of Trench 4 contained an 11<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherd. This chronology encompasses the period in which the Priory was founded and occupied, therefore the deposits may relate to monastic activity in the immediate vicinity. A similar, albeit more extensive, pattern of contemporary medieval pits and pottery was previously recorded during excavtions close to the north in 2015, and also during investigations on Church Lane. Residual medieval pottery was present in Ditch F1041 (Trench 1), Pit F1068 and ?Well F1056 (Trench 3), likely re-deposited as post-medieval modification and modern re-development truncated medieval features either on, or adjacent, to the site.
- 9.5 Two late medieval / early post-medieval (15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> century) pits, F1062 and F1068, were present in Trench 3. Associated finds comprise CBM, animal bone and oyster shell. Pit F1068 contained a layer of oyster shell and a reddened/fired clay rich fill. It cut undated Pit F1066. Environmental Sample 12 from 15th-16th century pit fill F1062 L1063 contained grains of hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), and Sample 16 from Pit F1068 L1069 of the same date contained hulled barley, free-threshing type wheat and rye (*Secale cereale*). The latter sample was rich and cereal remains were abundant. This activity appears consistent with the re-use of the chapel by Pembroke College after the Priory's lands were seized in 1414, when the former chapel was altered for agricultural use, and supplementary buildings constructed nearby.
- 9.6 Below Brick Floor M1150 earlier horizons were preserved: L1006 and L1033 and Layer L1006 contained  $16^{th}-17^{th}$  century pottery. A small number of post-medieval features ( $18^{th}-19^{th}$  century) were recorded in Trenches 1 (Ditch F1041), 4 (F1028, F1023, 1120), and were likely associated with the continuing development of agricultural buildings and activity throughout the  $18^{th}-19^{th}$  centuries.
- 9.7 The intrinsically interesting features comprised the possible wells, F1056 and F1071 (Trench 3), ?Quarry Pit F1120 and clunch wall M1098. Though the historic maps do not depict wells in the exact positions of F1056 and F1071 (Trench 3), there are numerous examples in the area (a well or

pump is visible in every surrounding plot). This might suggest the wells had gone out of use by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century but had clearly fulfilled a need in the vicinity. The upper fill, L1057, contained late 18<sup>th</sup> – mid 20<sup>th</sup> and residual medieval pottery this may represent the final backfilling of an earlier feature.

- The feature of most interest was clunch wall M1098 (Trench 3) which 9.8 may have been part of a building associated with the priory, perhaps as part of a complex extending to the south along Mill Street. The small section of wall is fairly thick and preserves one course of clunch laid in what might have been a herringbone pattern. No dating evidence was found for the wall though these small clues may be indicative of a medieval date (associated with the chapel and its herringbone patterned clunchwork) with the clunch material being from a local source; extensive clunch quarrying pits are known to the south of the site along Fordham Road, which continued working until the end of the medieval period and into the beginning of the post-medieval period (Newton 2006). Wall M1100 was recorded and consisted of postmedieval brickwork extending along the same alignment as Wall M1098 and inline with a small projecting range visible on historic Ordnance Survey maps. which may represent the incorporation of an earlier foundation into a later building, much as is thought to have occurred with walls enclosing the chapel to the north. Conversely, clunch is a commonly seen building material in the area used into the 20th century, and indeed to the south the remains of a clunch work wall stood until recently. Furthermore, the layer (L1129) over which Wall M1098 was built extended across the entire trench and contained a single 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century piece of pottery, which unless intrusive into this layer suggests the wall may have been post-medieval.
- 9.9 The mid-20<sup>th</sup> century saw many of the pre-existing buildings swept away to make way for the garage buildings, and this is clearly linked to the later evidence found at the site, such as demolition layers, levelling layers and concrete which has truncated much of the earlier evidence. Two ditches, F1041 (Trench 1) and F1118 (Trench 3), may represent post-medieval to early modern activity but they do not correlate with any boundaries shown on the historic maps.

#### 10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The site had the potential to retain archaeological evidence for activity associated with the adjacent medieval Isleham Priory.
- 10.2 The earliest feature was Pit F1047 (Trench 1) which contained medieval ( $11^{th}-13^{th}$  century) pottery, and residual medieval pottery was found in later features. This material is contemporary with the period when the priory was active. Two late medieval / early post-medieval ( $15^{th}-16^{th}$  century) pits, F1062 and F1068, were present in Trench 3. A small number of post-medieval ( $18^{th}-19^{th}$  century) features were recorded in Trenches 1 (Ditch F1041), and 4 (F1028, F1023, 1120). The intrinsically interesting features comprised the possible wells, F1056 and F1071 (Trench 3), ?Quarry Pit F1120 and clunch wall M1098. The latter may date from the medieval

period but is more likely post-medieval. It may be associated with the extensive period of agricultural activity on the site which re-used the former priory buildings and grounds.

10.3 Modern  $(19^{th} - 20^{th}$  century) activity is extensive, and the majority was associated with the mid  $20^{th}$  century development of a large garage building. The latter may have removed most, or all, of the medieval evidence. Low quantities of medieval finds were recovered; a lesser number than might be anticipated on a site associated with the former priory and, with the lack of residual finds, this may suggest that activities directly associated with the priory did not extend into this area to the same extent as seen to the north.

#### 11 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

11.1 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 Robert Manchett of Manchetts for on Wilson for funding the project and for assistance. AS would also like to thank Mr Craig Farrow of TAB Architecture for assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Barlow, G. 2017 Land South of 35 Pound Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation Archaeological Solutions Unpublished report no. 5375

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1978, Legend for the 1:625,000 Geological map of the United Kingdom (solid geology); London. Mansfield

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA), 2014, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation. IfA, Reading

Gurney, D., 2003, Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14/ALGAO

Newton, A. 2006 Archaeological excavations at Fordham Road, Isleham, Cambridgeshire Archaeological Solutions Ltd Unpublished Report no. 2090

Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW), 1983, Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales. SSEW, Harpenden

Wareham, A.F. and Wright, A.P.M. 2002 A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 10, Cheveley, Flendish, Staine and Staploe Hundreds (North-Eastern Cambridgeshire) London

# 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		4	Layer	16th-17th	7	54	64	102	Fe.Frag	1	28
										Shell	1	2
1007	1008		2	Fill of Pit	mid 19th-20th	17	569	57	22	Fe.Frags	4	169
										Coal	3	11
										Glass + bottle	4	231
										Clay Pipe	1	6
										M.Shell		131
1009	1010		2	Fill of Post Hole				7		Glass	1	1
										Fe.Frag	1	173
1015	1016		2	Fill of Post Hole	19th-20th	2	10					
1021	1022		4	Fill of Construction Wall					2	Fe.Frags	3	20
1023	1024		4	Fill of Pit	late 18th+	11	65	55	3	Glass	1	<1
1028	1029		4	Fill of Pit						Clay Pipes	6	51
	1030		4	Fill of Pit	18th-19th	2	22			Clay Pipes	12	58
										Oyster Shell	1	5
	1036		4	Layer	19th-20th	23	160		10			
	1037		4	Layer	mid 19th-20th	56	620	7079		Mill/Quern Stone	1	346
										Slag	3	30
										Fe.Frag	1	4
	1038		4	Layer	18th-19th	2	16	49	337	Clay Pipes	10	48
										Glass	2	3
	1039		4	Chalk Layer	11th-13th C	1	1		42	Slag	4	67
										Mussel Shell	1	3
1041	1042		1	Fill of Ditch	mid 18th-19th	10	98	1624	86	O.Shell	10	96
					(residual med)					Clay Pipe	1	2
										porcelin doll head	1	4
1047	1048		1	Fill of Pit	11th-13th	2	1					

1051	1052	3	Fill of Modern Feature	mid 19th-20th	3	44	99				
1056	1057	3	Fill of ?Well	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – mid 20 <sup>th</sup> C and residual med	12	91		45	Shell	4	6
1060	1061	3	Fill of Pit	mid 19th-20th	2	2	40		Fe.Frags	3	35
1062	1063	3	Fill of Pit	15th-16th	2	2	406	3			
1068	1069	3	Fill of Pit	15th-16th	1	10		5	Oyster Shell Mussel Shell	5	914 15
Ī	1070		Fill of Pit	13th-15th	1	15		18			
1071	1072	3	Fill of ?Well						Clay Pipe	1	4
1073	1074	3	Fill of Pit	19th-20th	2	23					
1095	1096	3	Fill of Pit	19th-early 20th	5	65	36		Fe.Frags	5	68
									Glass	1	1
1098							1538	2			
1105	1107	3	Fill of Construction Cut	19th-mid 20th	20	220	210	7	Fe.Frags	7	122
									Glass	18	105
1118	1119	3	Fill of Ditch	19th-20th	4	27		215	Slag	7	79
									Glass	1	<1
									Fe.Frags	3	33
1120	1121	4	Fill of ?Quarry Pit	18th-19th	6	192	7	25	Shell	3	1
1122	1123		Fill of Post Hole						Mussel Shell		3
	1127		Layer	19th-mid 20th	2	28	6649		Fe.Frags	7	68
	1129	3	Layer	17th-18th	3	17	39	168	Fe.Frags	2	14
	1132		Layer	Late 18th-19th C	12	145	1081	56			
	1134		Layer	19th-20th	8	298	1516				
	1136	4	Layer	19th-mid 20th	18	375	545				
	1137	•	Layer			0.0	785				
	1139		Layer	17th-19th	1	27		8	Clay Pipes	3	9
1150			•				1644		, ,		

#### APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

## The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 243 sherds weighing 2.543kg. The majority of the pottery is late post-medieval to modern, and most of the earlier medieval to post-medieval sherds that were recovered are residual having been truncated by the later development/occupation. There are 21 medieval sherds including Grimston and Ely ware present, and 9 late medieval and transitional wares including Raeren stoneware. The fabrics present on the site are all listed in the key.

There were four features that contained medieval or transitional pottery only, which therefore had the potential to date those features. Pit F1047 (L1048) contained two tiny fragments of sandy greyware (MCW2) that resembles Thetford ware, and may be contemporary or a little later. Layer L1039 also contained a small sherd of MCW2 of 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries date. Pit F1060 (L1063) contained a medieval Ely ware sherd and a late medieval and transitional sherd (LMT) the latter indicative of a 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries date. Pit F1068 (L1069) contained an LMT, and L1070 a flat topped rim sherd in southeast Fenland Medieval Calcareous Ware. Pit/well F1056 (L1057) contained 10 medieval sherds and an early modern to modern sherd, suggesting the medieval pottery was residual, unless the modern sherd was intrusive.

# 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.

- MCW1: Medieval coarse ware; fine sandy fabric with sparse sub-rounded to rounded medium quartz and rare red iron mineral mid. Grey, can have red-brown core 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>
- MCW2: Medieval coarse ware; abundant fine to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz, rare coarse flint or quartz can present. Grey 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>
- MCW3: Medieval coarse ware; fine powdery matrix. Sparse to moderate subrounded to rounded quartz. Pale grey 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>
- MCW4: Medieval coarse ware; moderate fine to medium sub-rounded quartz, rare coarse rounded quartz. Fine buffware with grey core, visually similar to SEFEN but finer and harder fired 14<sup>th</sup>-mid 15<sup>th</sup>

MEL: Medieval Ely Ware mid 12th-15th

GRIM: Grimston ware 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

SEFEN: South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Ware mid 12<sup>th</sup>-mid 15<sup>th</sup>

UPG: Unprovenanced glazed ware; common fine to medium sub-rounded quartz with moderate white ooliths. Red-brown vore, grey surfaces with pimply green glaze 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

LMEL: Late medieval Ely Ware mid 15th-mid 16th

CONC: Late medieval Colne C 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> LMT: Late medieval Transitional 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>
RAER: Raeren stoneware late 15<sup>th</sup>-early 17<sup>th</sup>
PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware mid 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

PMRE: Post-medieval calcareous red earthenware 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>
GRE: Glazed red earthenware mid 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>
LONS: London stoneware late 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>
TPW: Transfer Printed ware late 18<sup>th</sup>+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Feature 1006	1005	1x12g PMCRE	16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	PMCRE: strap
		2x3g GRE		handle
		4x16g RAER		RAER: jug rim
Deposit 1007	1008	17x278g	Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> -20th	Factory made white
		modern		wares, yellow ware, glazed and unglazed
				red earthenware
Post-hole	1016	2x6g modern	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	PMRE
1015			_	
Pit 1023	1024	12x34g modern	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> -early	TPW, stoneware,
			19 <sup>th</sup>	yellow ware
Pit 1029	1030	2x11g GRE	18 <sup>th-</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup>	
Layer	1036	23x76g modern	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	Modern red and
Occupation	1037	56x765 modern	Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>	white earthenware  Modern pottery:
Layer	1007	OOX7 OO IIIOGCIII	Wild 15 20	glazed and unglazed
Layor				red earthenware, factory made white
				earthenware, yellow
			th th	ware
Layer	1038	3x24g ENGS	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	ENGS: Mug/jug bas
			th th	
Layer	1039	1x1g MCW1	11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>	1100 "
Ditch 1041	1042	1x6g UPG	Mid 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	UPG: dispersed horizontal incised
		1x9g MCW4		lines
		2x31g GRIM		GRIM: both green
		2x7g LMEL		glazed, x1 trailed brown slip
		2x9g GRE		GRE: white slip line
		1x10g PMRE		
		1x8g 7g modern	l th th	
Pit 1047	1048	2x1g MCW2	11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>	Fabric like Thetford type ware
Feature 1051	1052	3x44g modern	Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	Factory made
		- 19	2 . 2 = 2	earthenwares

?Well 1056	1057	3x21g MCW1 2x8g MCW2 2x22g MEL 1x6g SEFEN 2x9g GRIM 1x3g modern	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> -mid 20 <sup>th</sup>	MCW1: rounded cooking pot base with charcoal residue outside, limescale inside MEL: x1 rounded base/body aherd; x1cooking pot sherd with charcoal residue GRIM: x1 rounded base, splashes of glossy dark green glaze on angle of base/body, x1 glossy dark green glaze
Pit 1060	1061	2x1g modern	Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	Post-medieval red earthenware and TPW
Pit 1062	1063	1x1g MEL 1x1g LMT	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	
Pit 1068	1069	1x10g LMT	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	LMT: copper speckled clear external glaze
	1070	1x8g SEFEN	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	SEFEN: flat topped jar rim
Feature 1073	1074	2x14g modern	Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	je
Pit 1087	1088	4x68g modern 2x8g GRIM	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup>	Modern: yellow ware. red earthenware, white earthenware GRIM: x2 green glazed body sherds, one with vertical line of brown slip
Pit 1095	1096	5x36g modern	19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup>	Red earthenware, white earthenware including pearlware
Construction trench 1105	1107	20x116g modern	19 <sup>th</sup> -mid 20 <sup>th</sup>	unglazed red earthenware, factory made white wares
Ditch 1118	1119	1x9g CONC 3x8g modern	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	unglazed red earthenware, factory made white wares
Pit 1120	1121	5x82g GRE 2x8g PMRE	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	GRE strap handle to open dish, possibly a dripping tray; rod handle
	1127	2x32g modern	19 <sup>th</sup> -mid 20 <sup>th</sup>	White earthenware and GRE
Layer	1129	2x8g GRE	17 <sup>th-</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup>	Jar body, glossy glaze prob 18 <sup>th</sup>
	1132	4x117g modern	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	GRE, TPW, LONS
	1134	8x329g modern	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	Mainly GRE, also factory made white earthenware
Made ground	1136	18x202g modern	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	unglazed red earthenware, factory made white wares, stonewares
	1137	9x45g modern	19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>	GRE, mocha ware, factory made white wares
Buried soil	1139	1x20g LONS	17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	Jug shoulder and strap handle scar

## **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

The evaluation recovered a total of 77 fragments (10299g) of early modern (mid 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century) CBM. The CBM was recovered in a very poor condition, best-regarded as rubble, from a series of pits, layers and construction cuts, with the most notable diagnostic fragments recovered from Layer L1037 and Ditch F1041. The fragments were recorded by fragment count and weight per context, with all quantities entered into the concordance that will form part of the site archive.

The bulk of the assemblage comprises brick fragments, both in a sandy red fabric and a yellow gault fabric, with two types represented. The most common has dimensions of 210x110x65mm with a slightly rough base and slightly creased faces, typical of standards 'red' or 'white' bricks produced in the period; whilst the second types is comparable in length and breath but only 40mm thick, characteristic of flooring bricks, most common in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Very occasional and small fragments of peg tile were also present and appear to be of similar early modern date. As a whole, the assemblage is in exceptionally poor condition and appears to represent a scatter of rubble, with only a single small group present, comprising 43 fragments (7079g) in Layer L1037, associated with mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and later pottery.

#### The Animal Bone

Dr Julia E M Cussans

Approximately 100 fragments of animal bone were recovered during the trial trench evaluation at Isleham, about two thirds of which derived from contexts dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; these bones are quantified in Table 2, but are not discussed further here. The remainder of the bones derived from contexts dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods and are detailed in Table 3. Bone preservation for these contexts was largely rated as ok on a five point scale ranging from very poor through to excellent; one context was rated as poor. A small number of scorched bones were present.

Identified taxa present in order of abundance were cattle, pig, cat and sheep/goat. A large proportion of the bone could only be identified as large

(cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal. A small mammal bone was thought to belong to either rabbit or hare.

Cattle were mainly represented by teeth and limb bones. A femur head showed signs of eburnation (polishing of the joint surface) and had been chopped through. No other butchery marks or pathologies were noted. One ageable mandible was present. Pig was mostly represented by limb bones, some of which were unfused showing the presence of young animals; no butchery marks were noted. Cat was represented by an unfused skull and humerus fragment, indicating an animal which had died before reaching maturity; no butchery marks or pathologies were present. Sheep/goat was represented by a single humerus fragment. Both the large and medium mammal bone assemblages included vertebrae which were both chopped and scorched. There was little else of note about this small assemblage.

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Pres.	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Large mammal	Medium Mammal	Small Mammal	Bird	Total
1007	1008	Fill of Pit	mid 19th-20th	Ok			2	3	1		1	7
1023	1024	Fill of Pit	late 18th+	Ok				1	1			2
1	1036	Layer	19th-20th	р				2	5			7
1	1038	Layer	18th-19th	Ok	1			18				19
1041	1042	Fill of Ditch	mid 18th-19th	Ok	1	1	1	11	1	1		16
1087	1088	Fill of Pit	late 18th-early 20th	Ok				1				1
1105	1107	Fill of Construction Cut	19th-mid 20 <sup>th</sup>	Ok				1	1			2
1118	1119	Fill of Ditch	19th-20th	Ok	2	2		6				10
1120	1121	Fill of Pit	18th-19th	Ok	1			1				2
		th th		Total	5	3	3	44	9	1	1	66

Table 2. Quantification of bone from 19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> century contexts.

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Pres.	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Cat	Large mammal	Medium Mammal	Small Mammal	Total	
1005	1006	Fill of ?Pir	16th-17 <sup>th</sup>	Ok	3	Cour		Jul	6	mamma	mamma	9	
1021	1022	Fill of Construction Cut		Ok						1		1	
1	1039	Layer		Ok	1	1			2			4	
1056	1057	Fill of Pit	(mainly residual med)	Ok	1		1		1	3		6	
1062	1063	Fill of Pit	15th-16th	Ok			1	2				3	
1068	1069	Fill of Pit	15th-16th	Ok						3		3	
1068	1070	Fill of Pit	13th-15 <sup>th</sup>	Р					1			1	
1098	\	Wall		Ok							1	1	
\	1129	Layer	17th-18 <sup>th</sup>	Ok	4		1		2			7	
\	1139	Layer	17th-19 <sup>th</sup>	Ok			1					1	
				Total	9	1	4	2	12	7	1	36	

Table 3. Quantification of animal bone from late medieval, post medieval and undated contexts.

#### The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

#### Introduction

During the trial trench evaluation at 8 Church Street, Isleham, a number of medieval and post-medieval features were excavated and sampled. Many of the post-medieval features date to the 19th-20th century and assessment of the bulk samples has been restricted to those with a secure medieval/ earlier post-medieval spot date. This report presents the results from the assessment of these 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 processed samples >10 litres were 50% sub-sampled for the purpose of the assessment. Any with the potential to produce an assemblage >30 identifiable plant macrofossil specimens or abundant charcoal will be fully processed and the resulting flot retained with the site archive.

#### Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 4. Carbonised cereal remains were well represented in the samples. Sample 2 of Pit F1047 L1048, dated to the 11th-13th century contained only free-threshing type wheat grains (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type). Sample 12 of 15th-16th century pit fill F1062 L1063 contained grains of hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), while Sample 16 of Pit F1068 L1069 of the same date contained hulled barley, free-threshing type wheat and rye (*Secale cereale*). The latter sample was rich and cereal remains were abundant. Pulses (large Fabaceae) were also identified in L1048 and L1063, indicating their presence in both periods.

Non-cereal taxa were represented by a relatively small range of plants. In L1048, buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.) and small wild grasses (Poaceae) could have grown as arable weeds but could equally represent grassland habitats.

The samples from L1063 and L1069 contained common weeds of cultivated ground, including field gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), common chickweed (*Stellaria media*) and knotgrass (*Persicaria* sp.). These may be present as by-products of cereal processing, although chaff remains were absent from the samples.

Great fen sedge (*Cladium mariscus*), which was recorded in all samples, was an economically important resource in the region for thatch, kindling, fuel and floor covering throughout the post-medieval period, and probably earlier. It was managed in many areas of the Cambridgeshire fens and is still cut at Wicken Fen (e.g. Rowell 1986). It is likely that its presence in all three sampled deposits is a result of these uses on the site.

Mollusc shells in L1048 and L1063 were characteristic of grassland and ground litter habitats, most likely reflecting conditions on the site. Shells from L1069 contained a range of freshwater aquatic taxa, such as *Lymnaea truncatula*, *Planorbis* sp. and *Gyraulus* sp. Interestingly, a number of the snail shells in L1069 have been burnt, perhaps entering the site with gathered vegetation, such as fen sedge, which was subsequently burnt.

Most of the charcoal was from diffuse porous wood types, although a small amount of coniferous wood was noted in L1063.

#### Contaminants

Modern rootlets, seeds and burrowing molluscs (*Cecilioides acicula*) were present in the samples. However, the concentration of these remains was low and they are unlikely to reflect significant biological disturbance of the sampled deposits.

#### Conclusions

The bulk samples from Priory Garage have demonstrated the preservation of carbonised cereal remains within medieval and earlier post-medieval deposits. Cereal remains were well represented and reflect the common use and processing of cereals at the site. Other economic plants include pulses, which would have made an important dietary contribution, and great fen sedge, which was a significant fenland resource used primarily for thatching.

#### 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* (2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Rowell, T.A. 'Sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) in Cambridgeshire: Its use and production since the 17th century', *The Agricultural History Review*, 34, 140-148

										C	ereals	No	n-cereal taxa		С	harcoal	Molluscs			Contaminants				
Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes	Hazelnut shell	Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	Other remains
ECB5041	2	1048	1046	Fill of Pit	11th-12th/13th C	40	20	50%	XX	-	FTW (XX)	xx	Large Fabaceae (X), Ranunculus sp. (X), Cladium mariscus (X), Small Poaceae (X)	-	xx	Diffuse porous	XX	Cochlicopa sp., Helicella itala, Pupilla muscorum, Trichia hispida group	X	xx	X	_	-	-
ECB5041	12	1063	1062	Fill of Pit	15th-16th C	40	20	50%	XX	-	НВ (Х)	xx	Large Fabaceae (X), Stellaria media (X), Persicaria sp. (X), Cladium mariscus (X)	-	XX	Conifer; Diffuse porous	XX	Oxychilus sp., Vallonia sp.	X	xx	X	-	-	Small mammal bone (X), Carbonised insect egg clusters (X)
ECB5041	16			Fill of Pit	15th-16th C	20					HB (X), FTW (XX), Rye (XX)	XX	Lithospermum arvense (X), Cladium mariscus (X), Carex sp. (X)	_		Diffuse porous	xx	Gyraulus sp., Lymnaea truncatula, Planorbis sp., Succinea/ Oxyloma sp., Trichia hispida group, Vallonia sp., Vertigo sp.	X	X	X	-	_	Small mammal bone (X)

Table 4: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from 8 Church Street, Isleham. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*); Rye (*Secale cereale*).

## **OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England**

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol7-316866

#### **Project details**

The Priory Garage, 8 Church Street, Isleham, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RX Project name

Short description of the project

In August 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the Priory Garage, 8 Church Street, Isleham, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RX (NGR TL 6423 7431; Figs. 1 and 2). The evaluation was to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of four new dwellings following demolition of existing garage buildings (East Cambs Council Ref. 16/01501/FUL). The evaluation was required based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET). The site is located to the immediate south of the Grade I Listed (NHLE 1126476) late 11th century chapel of St Margaret of Antioch, to the north of which is the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the remains of Isleham Priory. These include the foundations of the conventual buildings below ground and the upstanding earthwork remains of a series of fishponds and the associated agricultural complex of the priory. The Chapel of St Margaret of Antioch was converted to a barn in the medieval period. Medieval and post-medieval occupation evidence has been recorded at Priory Gardens to the immediate west in the 1990s (CHER MCB15283). The earliest feature recorded during the trial trenching was Pit F1047 (Trench 1) which contained medieval (11th - 13th century) pottery, and residual medieval pottery was found in later features. Two late medieval / early post-medieval (15th - 16th century) pits, F1062 and F1068, were present in Trench 3. A small number of post-medieval (18th - 19th century) features were recorded in Trenches 1 (Ditch F1041), and 4 (F1028, F1023, 1120). The intrinsically interesting features comprised the possible wells, F1056 and F1071 (Trench 3), ?Quarry Pit F1120 (Trench 4) and clunch wall M1098 (Trench 3). The latter may date from the medieval period but is more likely post-medieval.

Start: 01-08-2017 End: 31-08-2017 Project dates

Previous/future

work

codes

No / Not known

P6573 - Contracting Unit No. Any associated project reference

Any associated project reference codes

ECB5041 - Sitecode

Field evaluation Type of project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 3 - Built over

Monument type **DITCH Medieval** Monument type PIT Medieval

PITS Modern Monument type

1 of 3 10/05/2018, 12:16 Monument type FEATURES Modern

Monument type POSTHOLE Modern

Monument type DISTURBANCE Modern

Monument type CONSTRUCTION CUT Modern

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Significant Finds CBM Modern

Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Modern

Methods & techniques

"Sample Trenches", "Targeted Trenches"

Development type Rural residential

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the Pre-application

planning process

#### **Project location**

Country England

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE ISLEHAM The Priory Garage, 8

Church Street, Isleham, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RX

Postcode CB7 5RX

Study area 1800 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 64220 74320 52.341907394753 0.410937818479 52 20 30 N 000 24 39 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 7m Max: 7m

#### **Project creators**

Name of Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Organisation

Project brief originator

Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeology Office

Project design

Jon Murray

originator

Project Jon Murray

director/manager

Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions Ltd

#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Cambr

recipient

Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal", "other"

Digital Archive

recipient

Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store

Digital Contents "Survey"

Digital Media available

"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient

Cambridge County Archaeological Store

2 of 3 10/05/2018, 12:16

Paper Contents "Survey"

Paper Media available

"Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title The Priory Garage, 8 Church Street, Isleham, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RX

Author(s)/Editor(s) Edwards, N

Author(s)/Editor(s) Collins, T

Other

Archaeological Solutions Report No. 5411

bibliographic details

Date 2017

Issuer or publisher Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Place of issue or

publication

Bury St Edmunds

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

Entered on 10 May 2018

### **OASIS:**

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012 Cite only: http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm for this page

3 of 3 10/05/2018, 12:16

#### **PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX**



View of Trench 1 looking north-east



3 F1041 in Trench 1 looking north



2 F1047 in Trench 1 looking south-east



F1041 in Trench 1 looking north-west



F1087 in Trench 1 looking north-east



F1009 in Trench 2 looking east



View of Trench 3 looking north



6 View of Trench 2 looking south-east



8 Modern brick structure 1013 in Trench 2 looking east



10 View of Trench 3 looking south



11 View of Trench 3 looking west



13 F1066 and F1068in Trench 3 looking north



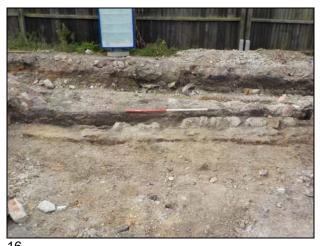
15 Wall 1098 in Trench 3 looking east



12 F1056 in Trench 3 looking south-west



14 F1093 in Trench 3 looking east



16 Wall 1098 in Trench 3 looking south



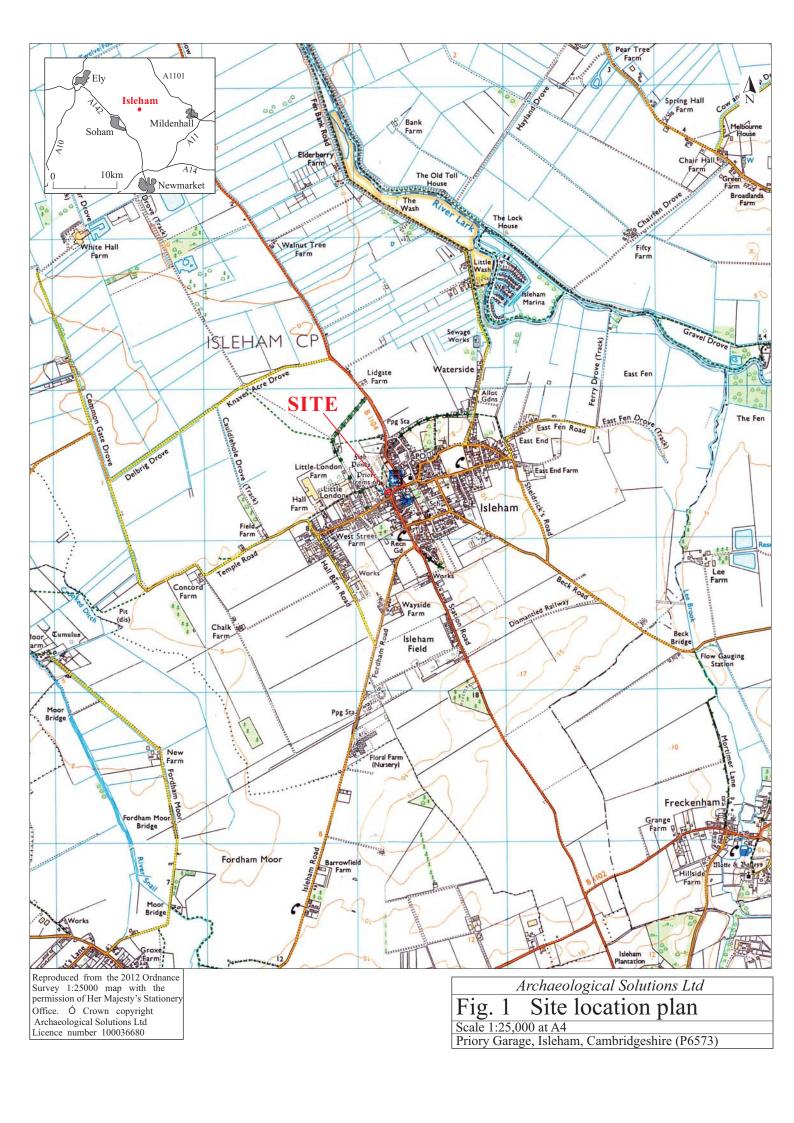
17 View of Trench 4 looking west

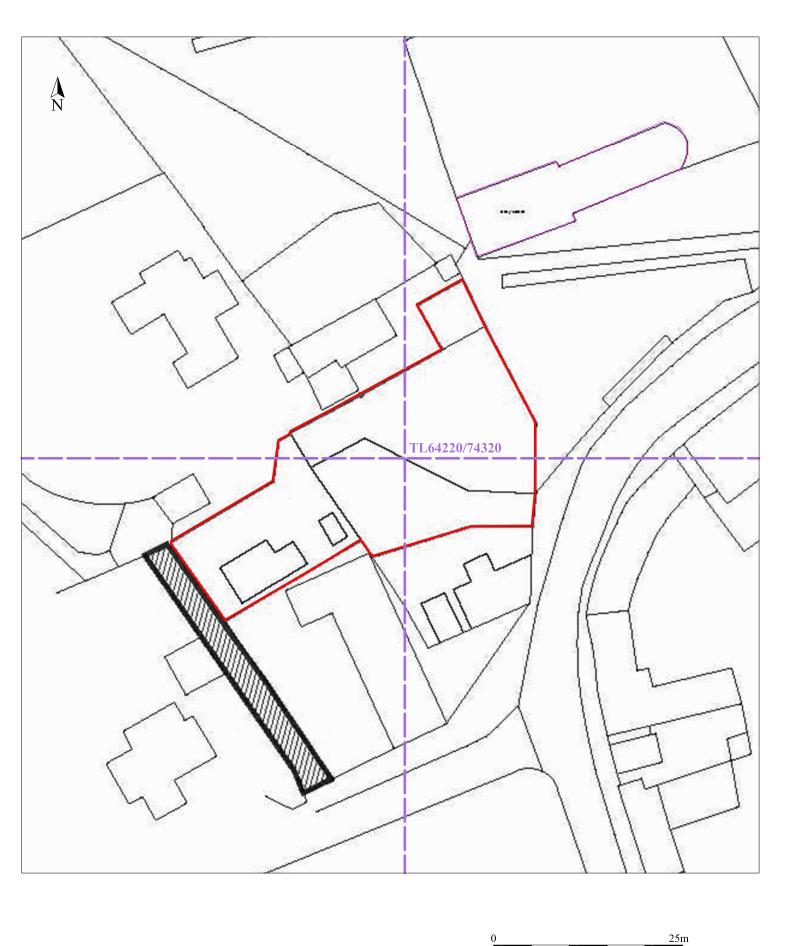


19 F1120 and F1122 in Trench 4 looking south

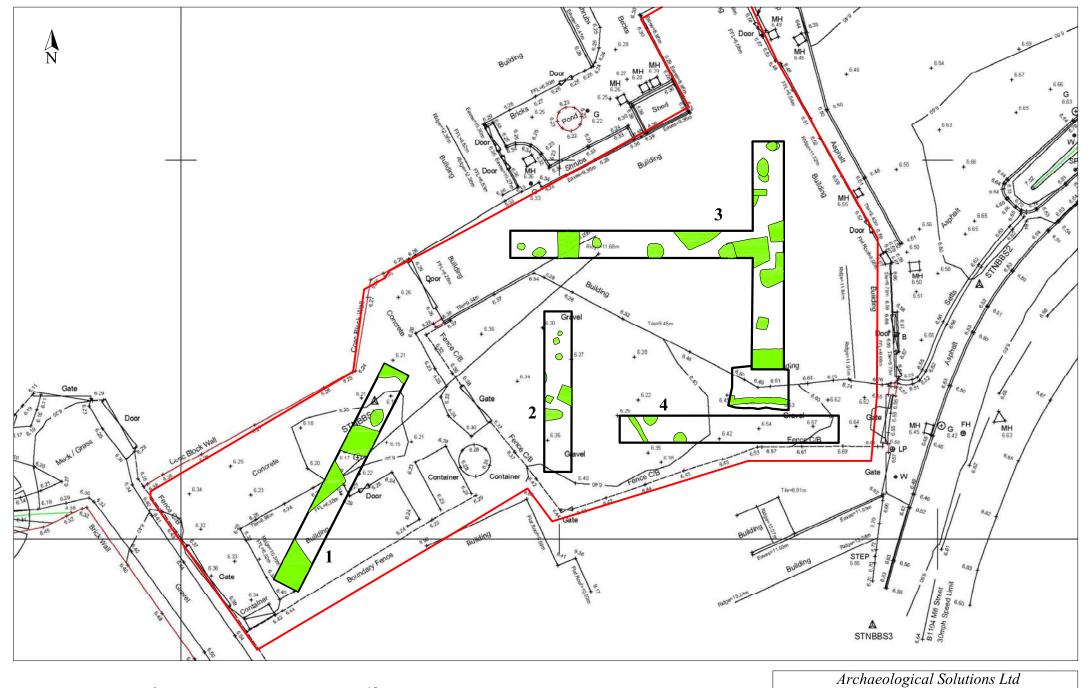


18 Eastern end of Trench 4 with possible clunch wall 1157



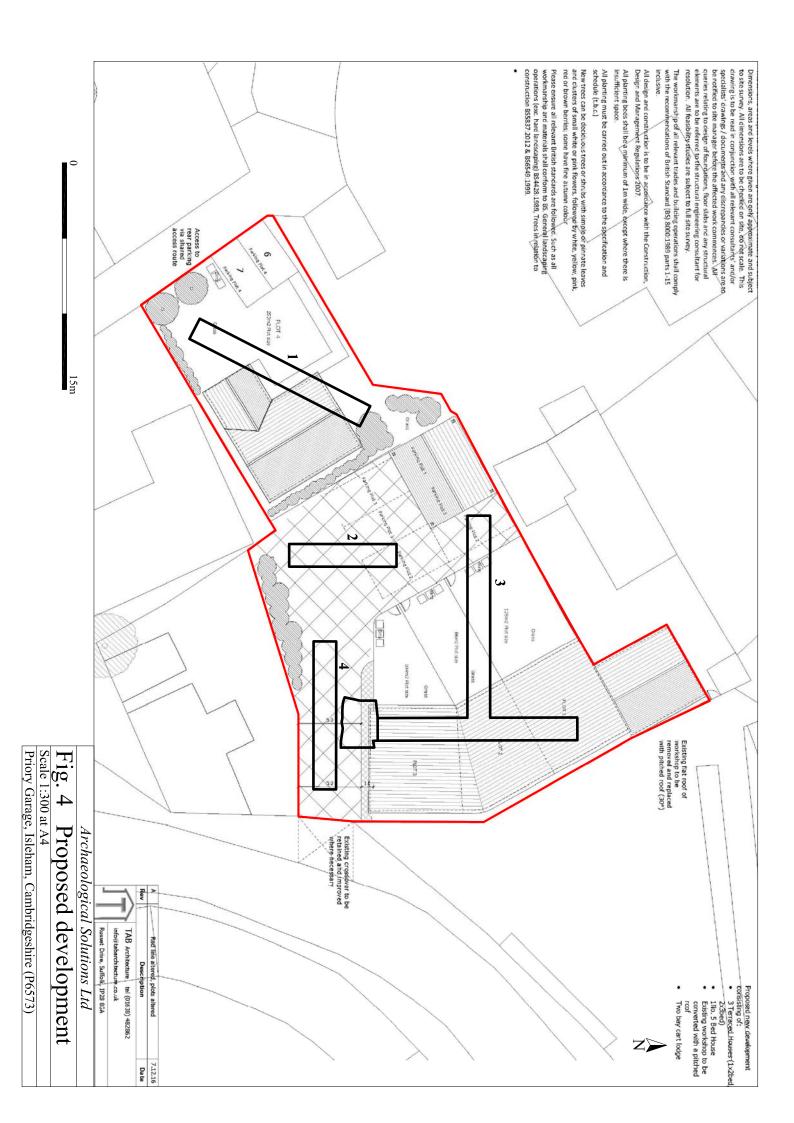


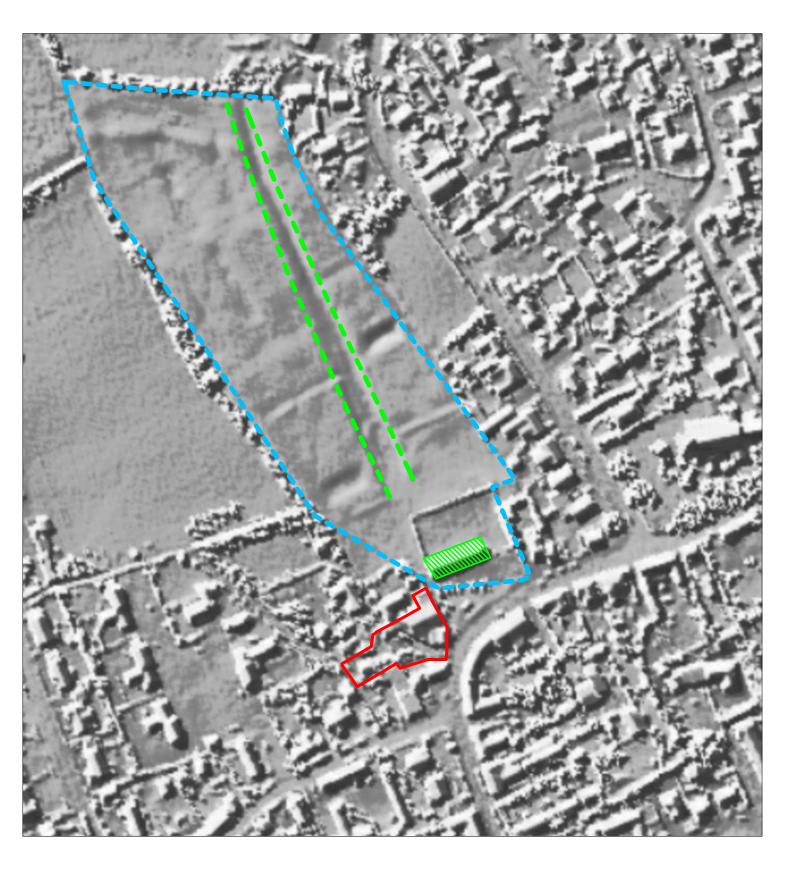
# Archaeological Solutions Ltd Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan Scale 1:500 at A4 Priory Garage, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P6573)

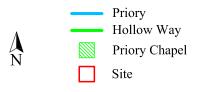


15m

Fig. 3 Trench location plan
Scale 1:250 at A4
Priory Garage, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P6573)







Archaeological Solutions Ltd

# Fig. 5 Earthworks survey Not to scale Pound Lane, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P6478)



Fig. 6 OS map, 1886 (6 income Not to scale Priory Garage, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P6573) OS map, 1886 (6 inch)

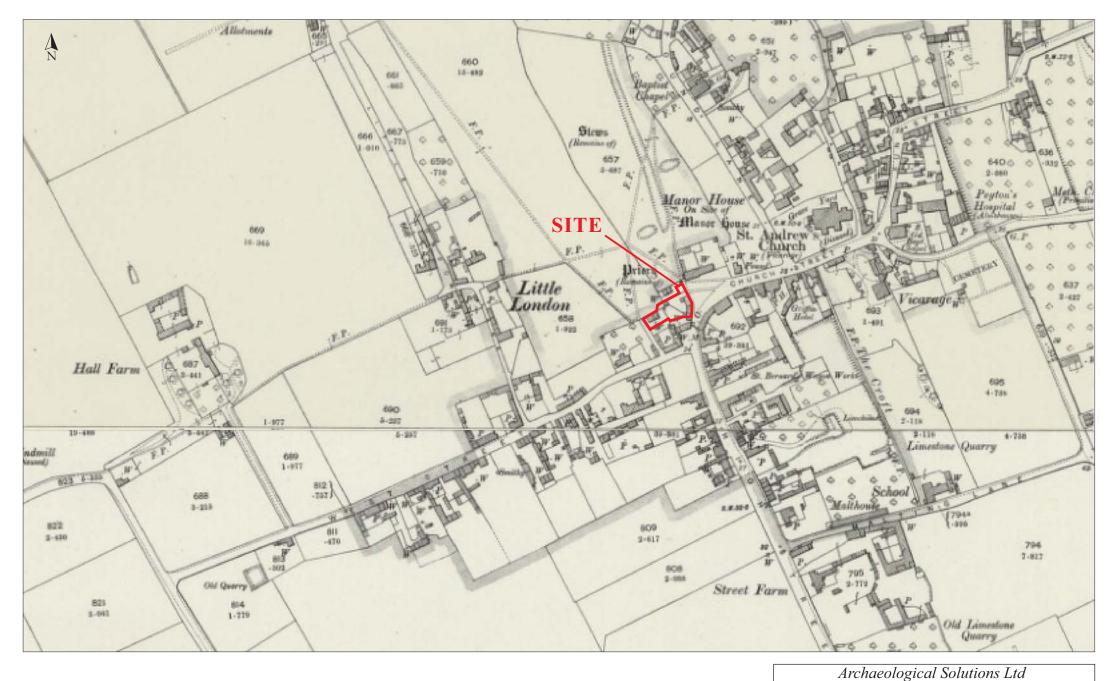
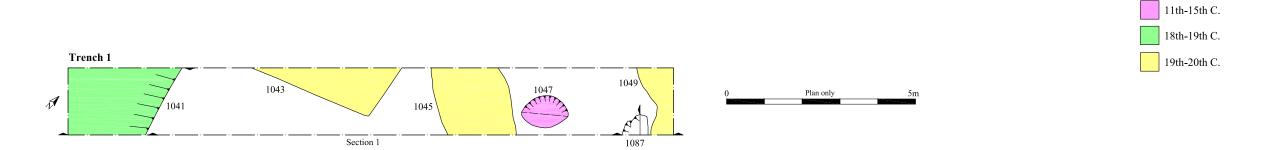
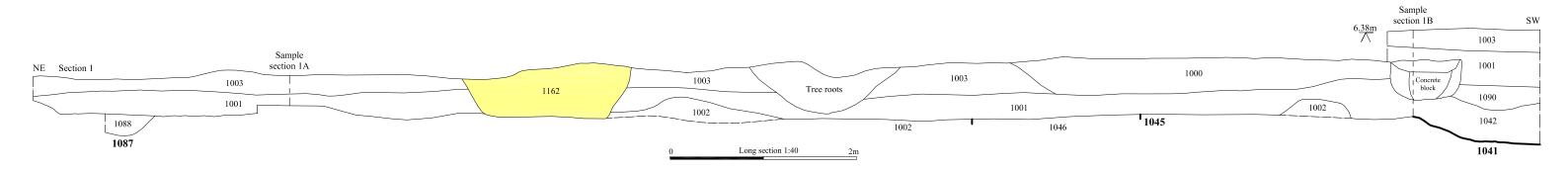
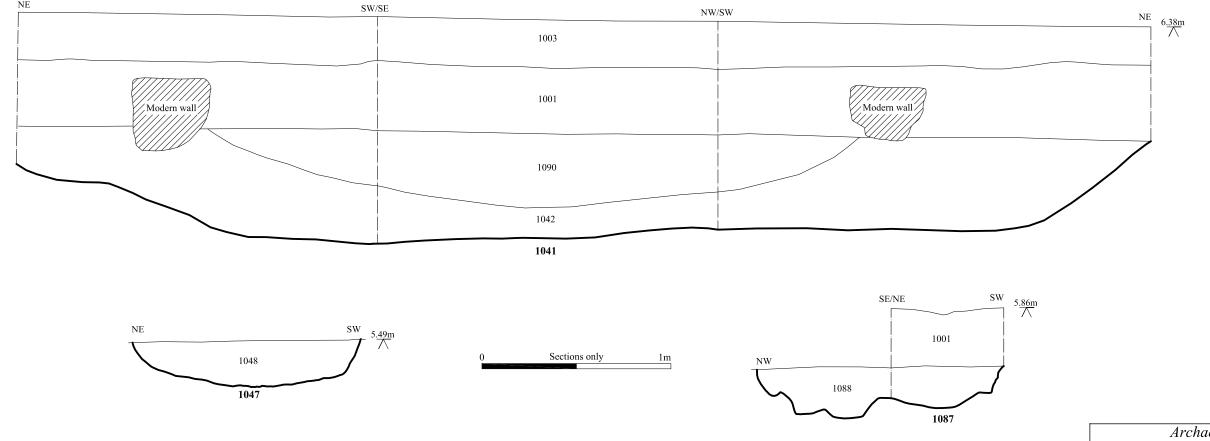


Fig. 7 OS map, 1902 (25 inch)
Not to scale

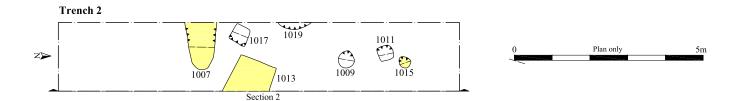
Priory Garage, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P6573)

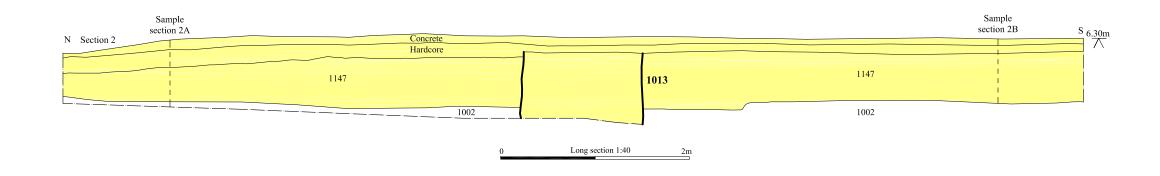


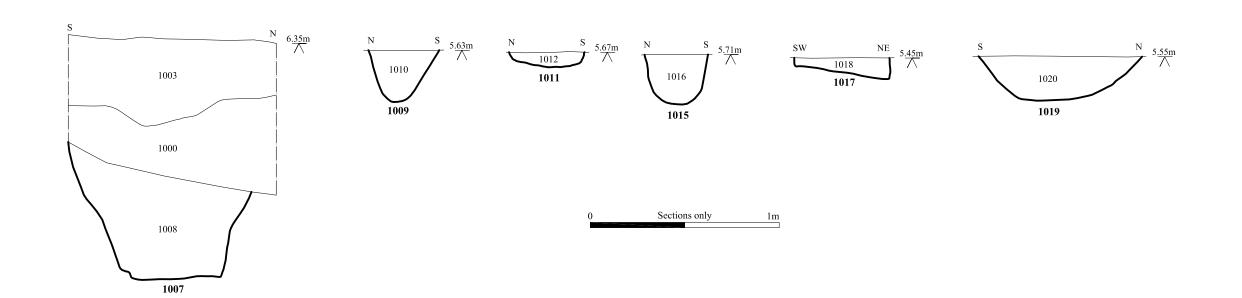




Archaeological Solutions Ltd Fig. 8 Trench 1 plans & sections
Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:40 & 1:20 at A3
Priory Garage, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P6573)

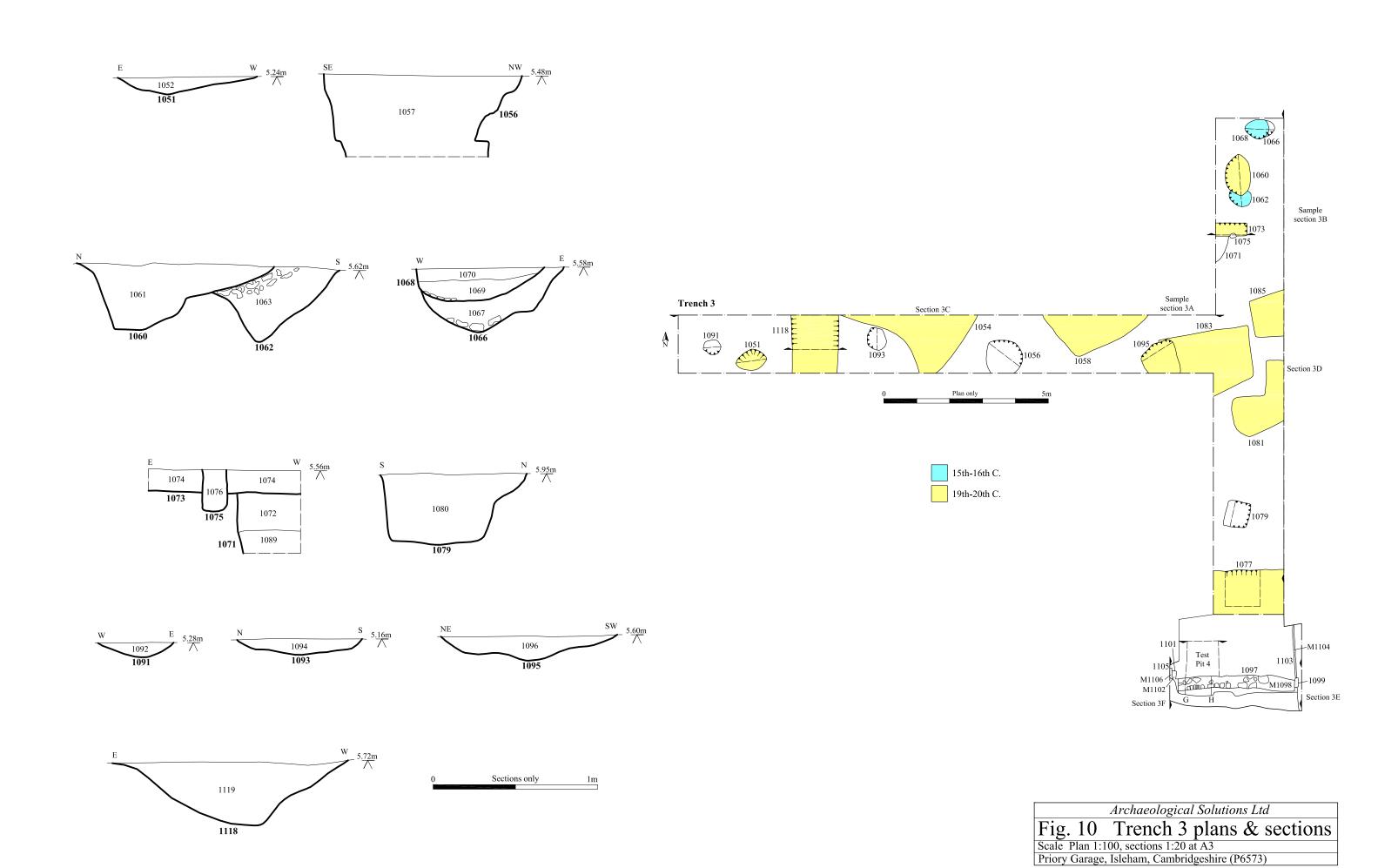


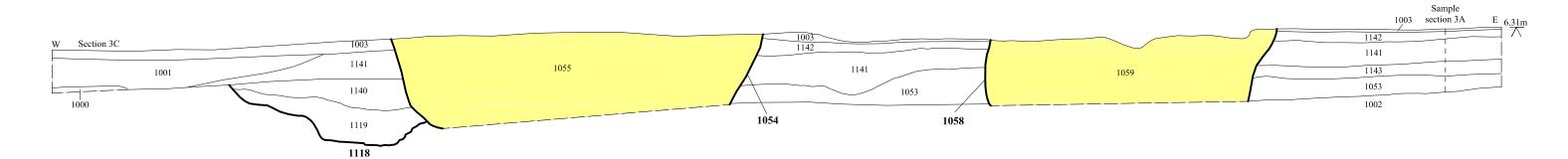




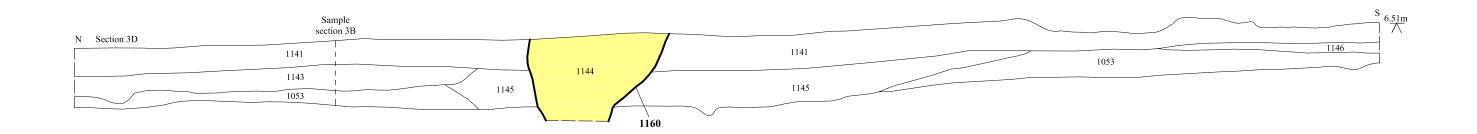
Archaeological Solutions Ltd

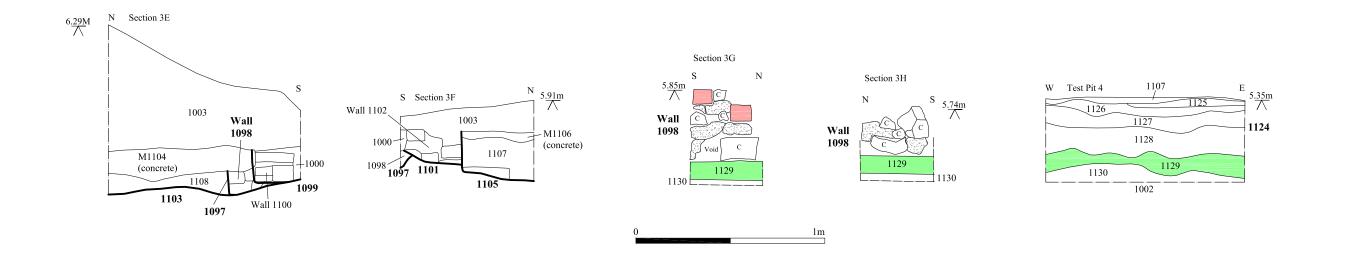
Fig. 9 Trench 2 plans & sections
Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:40 & 1:20 at A3
Priory Garage, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P6573)





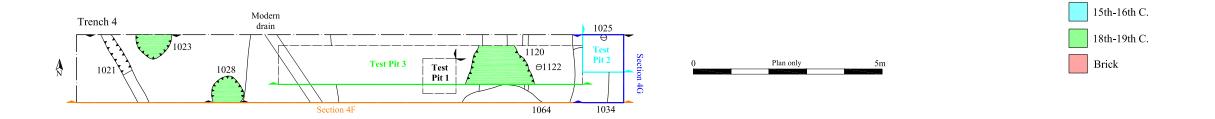


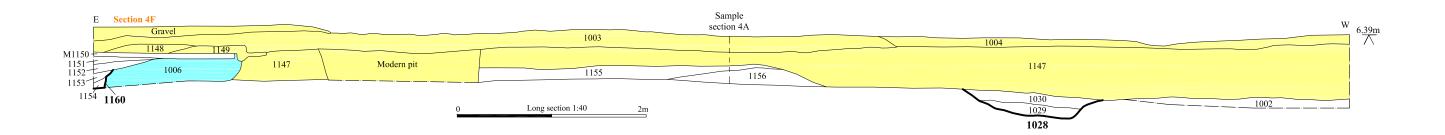


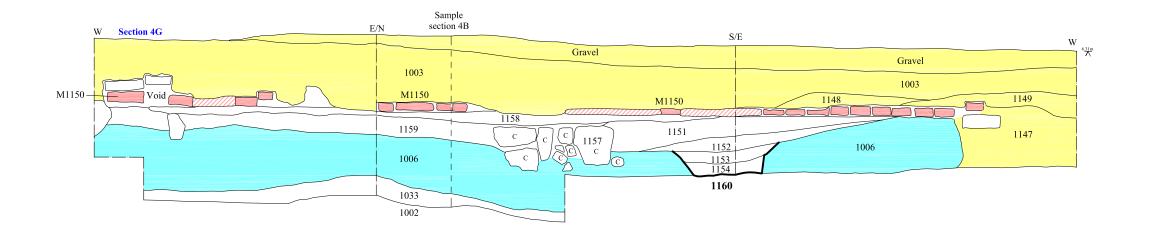


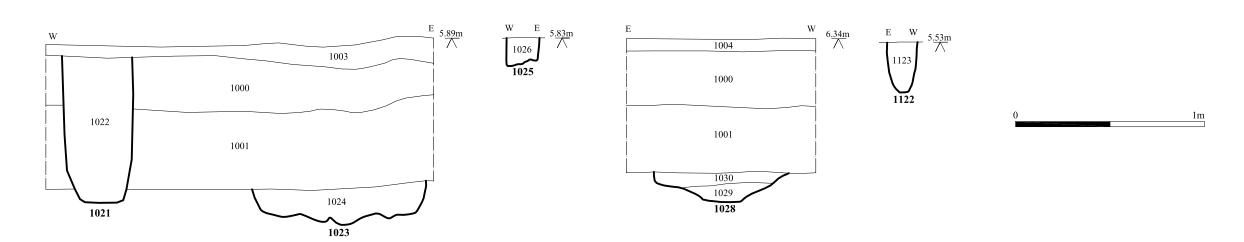
Brick

18th-19th C. 19th-20th C. C Clunch



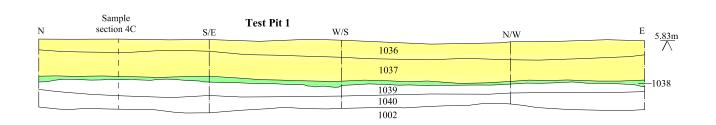


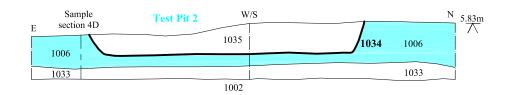


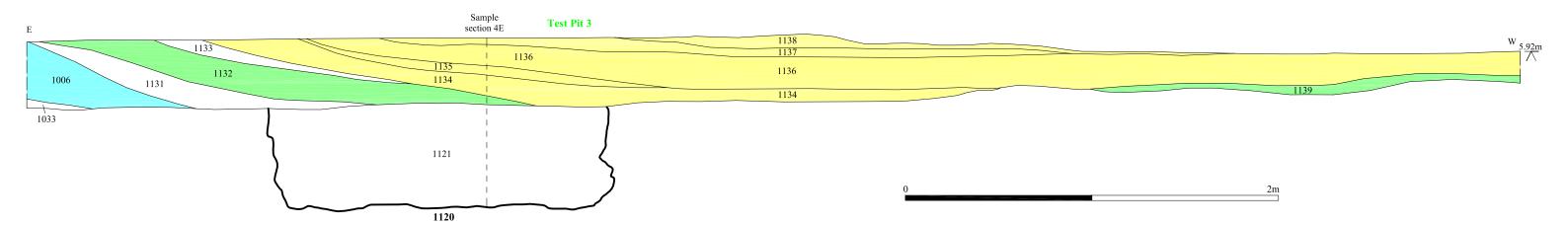


Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 12 Trench 4 plan & sections
Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:40 & 1:20 at A3
Priory Garage, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P6573)







Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 13 Test pit sections

Scale Sections 1:20 at A3

Priory Garage, Isleham, Cambridgeshire (P6573)

15th-16th C.

18th-19th C.

19th-20th C.