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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**LAND SOUTH WEST OF 83 THE BUTTS, SOHAM,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 5AW**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

CHER: ECB 5141

Authors: Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 5970 7218	Report No: 5451
District: East Cambs	Site Code: ECB 5141
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P7188
	Date: 19 October 2017 Revised: 07 June 2018

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## **CONTENTS**

### **OASIS SUMMARY**

#### **SUMMARY**

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

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

## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	Land South West of 83 The Butts, Soham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5AW		
<p><i>In October 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land south west of 83 The Butts, Soham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5AW (NGR TL 5970 7218; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the initial requirements of an outline planning approval condition for proposed construction of two new semi-detached dwellings with garages, access, parking and associated works (East Cambs Council Ref. 16/01303/OUT), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located within an area of archaeological potential with nearby archaeological remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). An extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery lies to the north east (CHER 07027) and its southern extent is unknown. Elsewhere along Fordham Road, investigations have revealed extensive evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval settlement/occupation and further significant Saxon inhumation burials (CHER ECB4586, ECB455, ECB3613 &amp; ECB4556). Prehistoric occupation has also been recorded to the north of The Butts (CHER MCB17961).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed sparse prehistoric struck flint and medieval pottery within the topsoil, subsoil and a post-medieval hollow. The latter contained post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> century) finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	October 2017		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	P7188	Site code	ECB 5141
Type of project	Archaeological evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Vacant		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Post-medieval Hollow		
Significant finds (+dates)	Prehistoric struck flint and medieval pottery, 18 <sup>th</sup> century assemblage		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Cambridgeshire	East Cambs	Soham
HER/ SMR for area	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)		
Post code (if known)	CB7 5AW		
Area of site	0.09ha.		
NGR	TL 5970 7218		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.4.80m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire County Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Mr & Mrs Pollard		
Full title	Land South West of 83 The Butts, Soham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5AW. Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Barlow, G.		
Report no.	5451		
Date (of report)	October 2017		

# LAND SOUTH WEST OF 83 THE BUTTS, SOHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 5AW

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### SUMMARY

*In October 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land south west of 83 The Butts, Soham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5AW (NGR TL 5970 7218; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the initial requirements of an outline planning approval condition for proposed construction of two new semi-detached dwellings with garages, access, parking and associated works (East Cambs Council Ref. 16/01303/OUT), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.*

*The site is located within an area of archaeological potential with nearby archaeological remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). An extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery lies to the north east (CHER 07027) and its southern extent is unknown. Elsewhere along Fordham Road, investigations have revealed extensive evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval settlement/occupation and further significant Saxon inhumation burials (CHER ECB4586, ECB455, ECB3613 & ECB4556). Prehistoric occupation has also been recorded to the north of The Butts (CHER MCB17961).*

*The evaluation revealed sparse prehistoric struck flint and medieval pottery within the topsoil, subsoil and a post-medieval hollow. The latter contained post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> century) finds.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land south west of 83 The Butts, Soham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5AW (NGR TL 5970 7218; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the initial requirements of an outline planning approval condition for proposed construction of two new semi-detached dwellings with garages, access, parking and associated works (East Cambs Council Ref. 16/01303/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 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

#### *Planning Policy Context*

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site is located on the south eastern side of The Butts to the south of the town centre of Soham. It comprises an open garden plot, extending to some 0.09ha.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The site lies in an area of chalk bedrock geology, with localised superficial river terrace deposits, at c.4.80m AOD on higher ground above the lower-lying former fen.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site is located within an area of archaeological potential with nearby archaeological remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). An extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery lies to the north east (CHER 07027) and its southern extent is unknown. Elsewhere along Fordham Road, investigations have revealed extensive evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval settlement/occupation and further significant Saxon inhumation burials (CHER ECB4586, ECB455, ECB3613 & ECB4556). Prehistoric occupation has also been recorded to the north of The Butts (CHER MCB17961).

4.2 Mesolithic and Neolithic settlement and activity appears to be focused to the north of Soham in the Broad Hill area, and is represented by extensive flint scatters. Flint artefacts of this date in the vicinity of Fordham Road are limited to sparsely distributed or isolated finds including a hammer stone, axe and blades to the north (HER 02097 and 07498) and scrapers and a whetstone to the south-east (HER04456). The bulk of Bronze Age activity that has been recorded in the Soham area comprises funerary activity that appears to have been situated away from the peninsula on which the historic town was situated and on the mainland overlooking the fen. This evidence comprises funerary mounds at Wicken and Fordham, while a burial has been recorded at Clipsall Field to the south-east (HER 07518). A spearhead (HER 07605a) and Beaker pottery (HER 07493) have also been recorded in the Clipsall Field and Down Field areas to the east and west and a thumbnail scraper has also been identified as an unstratified find (HER 07107A). However archaeological investigations closer to the current area have indicated the presence of Bronze Age settlement on the peninsula. Late Bronze Age to early Iron Age enclosures and settlement activity have been recorded at the former Fordham Road allotments site (HER CB14631). Struck flint of Bronze Age date has been recovered at The Butts (HER MCB17961)

4.3 The Iron Age landscape around Soham is dominated by the hilltop settlement at Henney. However, part of an early Iron Age settlement, represented by pits, ditches and a few possible postholes, has been investigated during two phases of evaluation and small-scale excavation work at Clay Street/St Andrew's House (HER CB15776). Late Bronze Age to later Iron Age and Roman pottery, a preserved Iron Age soil horizon, and a handful of features has been recorded at 8 Market Street and Cyril Fox records the discovery in Soham of an early Iron Age male warrior burial accompanied by a spear and two dogs (HER 07086), although its precise location is not known and an Anglo-Saxon date may be more likely.

4.4 During the Roman period, Soham formed part of a complex and intensively settled landscape on the edge of the supposed Imperial estate of the fens. A significant component of this local landscape was a villa at East Fen Drove (HER 07688 and 07578) to the north-east as well as a settlement at Fordey Farm to the north-west of Soham. A substantial building has also been recorded to the south of the town (HER 02087). Archaeological investigations in the vicinity of Fordham Road (e.g. HER CB14630, CB14632) have recorded significant evidence for Roman activity and settlement, while the Clipsall Field and Down Field areas to the east and north have produced high quantities of Roman finds. Some evidence for Roman occupation has also been found in the vicinity of the modern town centre but the

character and status of this activity is not yet well understood although. Pottery, including castor ware and a cordoned jar of 1<sup>st</sup> - to 2<sup>nd</sup>-century date, has been found in association with a human skull at Weatheralls Close. A Roman burial ground in the vicinity of White Hart Lane, just north of the High Street, may be indicated by seven skeletons found in building trenches (HER 06971) and an additional inhumation uncovered nearby during other construction work (HER MCB17746). However, in both cases only one or two sherds of Roman pottery were present with which to date the graves and this could have been residual in later burials. A late Iron Age to early Roman (c. 50 BC – AD 70/80) ditched enclosure with associated rubbish pits, possible structural features and evidence of high-status occupation including imported Gallo-Belgic pottery has been recorded at the former Church Hall site on the High Street (HER MCB18184). Evidence for late Roman settlement (4<sup>th</sup> to possibly early 5<sup>th</sup> centuries) was also present. An archaeological investigation further north west along Fordham Road (HER CB14630) recorded a continuation of enclosure ditches with associated pits, containing low to moderate quantities of finds including 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD pottery and a spindle whorl. Roman features have also been recorded at Paddock Street (HER MCB18200). In addition, several finds of unstratified artefacts have been recovered from the surrounding area, including pottery, coins and other items (HER 07104, 07107, 07119, 07120, 07121, 07603a, 11518, MCB16684, MCB18080).

4.5 Excavations by AS in 2012-13 further NW on Fordham Road revealed dense archaeological activity; two phases of prehistoric (late Bronze Age to Iron Age) settlement followed by three phases of Romano-British activity (HER MCB19583). The prehistoric activity comprised a series of enclosures which appear to have been appended to a settlement. No domestic buildings were present but the character of the artefactual assemblages suggested settlement in the immediate vicinity. The enclosures appear to have been multi-functional, possibly having some agricultural purpose but also possibly used for other activities. The Roman site comprised a series of enclosures, very similar in layout to the prehistoric site despite a possibly very long hiatus in activity, that were used for agricultural processing. Within the enclosures were a well, corn-drying ovens, a kiln, and ovens constructed from re-used storage jars. A pair of Romano-British graves was also identified. As in the prehistoric phases, there were no domestic structures and it is suggested that the site formed part of a larger farming estate. Certain aspects of the artefactual assemblage are considered to suggest that the site formed part of a villa estate which would correlate with the presence of villas and other high status sites in the Soham area.

4.6 Significant Prehistoric and Roman activity has recently been recorded at Fordham Road and Cherrytree Lane (HER MCB20523)

4.7 The first evidence for Anglo-Saxon period settlement and associated activity within Soham includes four pagan cemeteries. One of these cemeteries is located to the north east of the site on Newmarket Road (HER 07027). Saxon and medieval settlement features have been recorded at the former Church Hall site on the High Street (HER MCB18185). A Saxon spearhead has been recovered from a location in Down Field (HER 07585). Other finds of Saxon date include a pin and girdle hanger (HER 07121a), a strap fitting (HER 07603), and a brooch (HER 07604).



4.8 A key component of the medieval agricultural landscape would have been windmills, one of which was situated on the other side of Fordham Road on Mill Croft (HER 07497) others are also known from later cartographic sources (HER 07105). During this period, or possibly the Saxon period, it is presumed the river Snail was canalized and the Soham Lode created but there is no dating evidence to confirm this. Saxon and medieval settlement features have been recorded at the former Church Hall site on the High Street (HER MCB18185). The Cambridgeshire HER records a medieval moated site near Soham Mills (HER 01068). Medieval activity has been recorded at Brook Dam Lane (HER MCB16314). A retting pit and other medieval features have been recorded at Paddock Street (HER MCB18201). Medieval features have been recorded at land north of 10 and 23 The Oaks (HER MCB19936). Evidence of medieval settlement and quarrying has been recorded at Brook Street (HER MCB21804). Netherall Manor (HER MCB19369) originated in the medieval period.

4.9 "The Moat" is recorded on the Cambridgeshire HER as a post-medieval garden (HER 12188). Post-medieval features have been recorded at Brook Dam Lane (HER CB15264, MCB16314). Post-medieval quarrying activity has been identified at Soham High Street (HER MCB17349). Post-medieval features have been recorded at land north of 10 and 23 The Oaks (HER MCB19936). Post-medieval pits have been recorded at The Butts (HER MCB17961). Finds of post-medieval metalwork and similar items have been recorded from a number of locations in Soham (HER 07119b, 071212b, 07603b, 11518B).

4.10 The early modern period is represented on the Cambridgeshire HER in the vicinity of the site in the form of the 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century cemetery (HER 12186), the 19<sup>th</sup> century (with an earlier precursor) Baptist Church north of Clay Lane (HER MCB17131), a 19<sup>th</sup> century Anglican burial chapel (HER MCB17213) and a non-conformist cemetery chapel (HER MCB17233) which are both listed buildings, the dismantled route of the Ely and Newmarket railway (HER MCB19610), a clunch pit (HER MCB21390), schools (HER MCB21386 & MCB21387) and 19<sup>th</sup> century almshouses (HER MCB21388) and by the locations of several former buildings known from documentary evidence (HER MCB21758-MCB21765, MCB21771, MCB21773, MCB22993-MCB22995) including several blacksmiths workshops (HER MCB21768-MCB21770). 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century features have been recorded at Alfreda Court, Red Lion Square (HER MCB20642).

4.11 The walled garden associated with Netherall Manor is recorded as being of 20<sup>th</sup> century date (HER MCB19370).

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 The evaluation provided for a sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched (overall site area c.0.09ha). The brief required a c.5% sample of the site to be investigated by trenching. The evaluation focused on the new house footprint. Two trenches of 15m x 1.6m were excavated (Fig.2)

5.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by

hand and recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.

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

5.4 A one-metre square of the topsoil and subsoil was bucket sampled and sorted by hand at each end of the trenches to characterise their artefact content. Sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery was found within the Topsoil L1000 and Subsoil L1001. A sherd of St Neots ware (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century) and a sherd of Early medieval shelly ware (11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century) were found within the topsoil in Trench 1. Also the topsoil and subsoil contained sparse struck flint (3; 99g).

5.5 The initial excavation of the trenches ceased at the base of the topsoil (L1000) as features appeared to be present, in particular Hollow F1003 (Trench 2), and this feature was excavated by hand. The excavation of test pits through L1001 revealed that it contained finds and that it was a subsoil. A site monitoring meeting agreed that each trench should subsequently be re-excavated to the base of the subsoil, L1001, and this was done.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The individual trench description is presented below:

### Trench 1 Figs. 2 - 3

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 4.95m AOD		
0.00-0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub rounded flint and gravel
0.31-0.82m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, pale yellow brown clayey silty sand with sparse sub rounded flint and gravel
0.82m+	L1002	Natural. Firm, pale grey yellow clayey sand with sparse sub angular flint and gravel

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 4.97m AOD		
0.00-0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.28 – 0.82m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.82m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

*Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

## Trench 2 Figs. 2 - 3

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 4.92m AOD		
0.00-0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.27-0.51m	L1004	Fill of F1003
0.51 – 0.69m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.69m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 4.92m AOD		
0.00-0.26m	L1000	Topsoil
0.36-0.96m	L1001	Subsoil.
0.96m+	L1002	Natural.

*Description: Trench 2 contained Hollow F1003.*

Hollow F1003 was ill defined in plan as it largely extended beyond the confines of the trench (1.80+ x 1.00+ x 0.35m). Where seen it had moderately sloping sides and its base was flattish. Its fill, L1003, was a firm, mid orange brown sandy clay. It contained 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery (6; 37g), CBM (363g), animal bone (62g), struck flint (3g), Fe fragment (29g), shell (25g), shale (9g) and a clay pipe stem fragment (8g)

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Topsoil L1000 comprised a friable, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub rounded flint and gravel, and was present across the whole site (0.27 – 0.31m thick). B

8.2 L1000 overlay Subsoil, L1001, a friable, pale yellow brown, clayey silty sand with sparse sub rounded flint and gravel. Subsoil L1001 was present in all of the trenches.

8.3 Subsoil L1001 overlay the natural, L1002, a firm, pale grey yellow clayey sand with sparse sub angular flint and gravel. It was present 0.63 – 0.82m below the present day ground surface.

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 An extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery lies to the north east (CHER 07027) and its southern extent is unknown. Elsewhere along Fordham Road, investigations have revealed extensive evidence of prehistoric, Roman and

medieval settlement/occupation and further significant Saxon inhumation burials (CHER ECB4586, ECB455, ECB3613 & ECB4556). Prehistoric occupation has also been recorded to the north of The Butts (CHER MCB17961).

9.2 The earliest finds were sparse (four) finds of struck flint contained within Topsoil L1000, Subsoil L1001 and a post-medieval pit, F1003 (Trench 2). Topsoil L1000 (Trench1) produced a flake core with reduction strategies which were most common in the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age periods. The struck flint suggests a background of prehistoric activity in the area, but is not consistent with *in situ* knapping waste or domestic activity on the site (Struck Flint Report below).

9.3 Similarly four residual sherds of pottery was recovered from within Topsoil L1000, Subsoil L1001 and a post-medieval hollow, F1003 (Trench 2). A sherd of St Neots ware (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century) and a sherd of Early medieval shelly ware (11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century) were found within the topsoil in Trench 1. A residual medieval (mid 12<sup>th</sup>-mid 14<sup>th</sup>) sherd was found within Hollow F1003 (Trench 2).

9.4 An 18<sup>th</sup> – century hollow, F1003, was recorded in Trench 2. It was located below Topsoil L1000 and truncated Subsoil L1001.

## **10 CONCLUSION**

10.1 The site had a potential for multi-period archaeological remains. Sparse prehistoric struck flint and medieval pottery was found within the topsoil, subsoil and a post-medieval hollow. The latter contained post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> century) finds.

## **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 Pollard for funding the works and for their assistance.

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

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### Project details

Project name	LAND SOUTH WEST OF 83 THE BUTTS, SOHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 5AW AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Short description of the project	In October 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land south west of 83 The Butts, Soham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5AW (NGR TL 5970 7218; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the initial requirements of an outline planning approval condition for proposed construction of two new semi-detached dwellings with garages, access, parking and associated works (East Cambs Council Ref. 16/01303/OUT), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. The site is located within an area of archaeological potential with nearby archaeological remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). An extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery lies to the north east (CHER 07027) and its southern extent is unknown. Elsewhere along Fordham Road, investigations have revealed extensive evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval settlement/occupation and further significant Saxon inhumation burials (CHER ECB4586, ECB455, ECB3613 and ECB4556). Prehistoric occupation has also been recorded to the north of The Butts (CHER MCB17961). The evaluation revealed sparse prehistoric struck flint and medieval pottery within the topsoil, subsoil and a post-medieval hollow. The latter contained post-medieval (18th century) finds.
Project dates	Start: 01-10-2017 End: 31-10-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7188 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 5141 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	POST-MEDIEVAL HOLLOW Post Medieval
Significant Finds	PREHISTORIC STRUCK FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	MEDIEVAL POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	18TH CENTURY ASSEMBLAGE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"

Development type Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)  
 Prompt Planning condition  
 Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country England  
 Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOHAM LAND SOUTH WEST OF 83 THE BUTTS, SOHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 5AW  
 Postcode CB7 5AW  
 Study area 0.09 Hectares  
 Site coordinates TL 5970 7218 52.324021527797 0.343623176287 52 19 26 N 000 20 37 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 4.8m Max: 4.8m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
 Project brief originator Archaeological Solutions  
 Project design originator Jon Murray  
 Project director/manager Jon Murray  
 Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
 Name of sponsor/funding body Mr & Mrs Pollard

### Project archives

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

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Land South West of 83 The Butts, Soham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5AW. Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Barlow, G.

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**APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A. Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1000		1	Topsoil / Turf	11th-12th C	2	7	86		S. Flint Clay Pipe Shale		93 9 49
	1000		2		Late 18th-19th C	9	110		171	Fe Frag  Rubber S. Flint Clay Pipe Shale	1	5  6 3 13 3
	1001		1	Subsoil				2	19	S. Flint B. Bone	1	3 6
1003	1004			Fill of Pit	13th C	2	6		9	S. Flint Fe Frag	1	3 29
	1004	A			17th-18th C	2	12	360	46	Shell Shale Clay Pipe		9 9 8
	1004	B			18th C	4	25	3	7	Shell		16

## APPENDIX 2      SPECIALIST REPORTS

### **The Struck Flint**

*Andrew Peachey*

The evaluation recovered a total of four pieces (102g) of struck flint in a slightly patinated condition, with technological traits that indicate they may have origins in the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age periods.

#### Methodology & Terminology

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Flake type (see 'Dorsal cortex,' below) or implement type, patination, colour and condition were also recorded as part of this data set, along with free-text comments. Terms used to describe implement and core types follow the system adopted by Healy (1988, 48-9). The term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint, and the term 'patination' to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. Dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005, 104 & 115) with 'primary flake' referring to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face; 'secondary flake' with 50-99%; 'tertiary' with 1-49% and 'uncorticated' to those with no dorsal cortex.

#### Discussion

The struck flint was manufactured using high quality dark grey, near black raw material with, where extant, an off-white chalky cortex of medium thickness. Topsoil L1000 (Trench1) contained a single unsystematic flake core (93g), rotated to use expedient platforms created by previous removals in order to produce small flakes by hard-hammer percussion. The core appears exhausted, thus may have produced larger flakes during earlier stages of production, and is consistent with reduction strategies most common in the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age periods. Small, slightly irregular tertiary debitage flakes that could have been produced by this type of core were contained Topsoil L1000 (Trench 2), Subsoil L1001 (Trench 1) and Hollow F1003 L1004 (Segment A) suggesting a background of prehistoric activity in the area, but not consistent with *in situ* knapping waste or domestic activity on the site.

#### Bibliography

Andrefsky, W. 2005 *Lithics: Macroscopic Approaches to Analysis* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge  
Healy, F. 1988 *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elmham, Part VI: Occupation during the Seventh to Second Millennium BC*. East Anglian Archaeology No. 39

## The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 19 sherds weighing 158g from a pit and the topsoil (Table 1). Pit F1003 contained mainly sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware and one of Tin Glazed Earthenware indicating a date centred on the 18<sup>th</sup> century, while a residual sherd of 13<sup>th</sup> century Hedingham fine ware was also present. The Topsoil contained two small highly abraded shelly wares. One in a St Neots ware fabric, and the other with vesicles indicating dissolved shell, representing an Early Medieval shelly ware. The remaining sherds recovered from the spoil heap were all of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries date, including a sherd of Westerwald stoneware.

### 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 appropriate for pottery in Cambridgeshire.

### KEY:

STNE: St Neots ware 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

EMSHW: Early medieval shelly ware 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>

HFW: Hedingham fine ware mid 12<sup>th</sup>-mid 14<sup>th</sup>

GRE: Glazed red earthenware late 16<sup>th</sup> +

TGE: Tin glazed earthenware late 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

WEST: Westerwald stoneware late 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

LONS: late 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

RWE: Factory made white earthenware late 18<sup>th</sup>+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Topsoil	1000	5x101g GRE 1x2g WEST 1x2g RWE 1x4g LONS 1x1g TGE	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	
Topsoil	1000	1x4g STNE 1x3g EMSHW	11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	
Pit 1003	1004	1x3g GRE 1x1g HFW		HFW: green glaze with line of red strip (13 <sup>th</sup> century, prob 1st half of 13 <sup>th</sup> C.)
	1004A	2x12g GRE	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	
	1004B	3x17g GRE 1x8g TGE	18 <sup>th</sup>	

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* Vol. 159

## **The Animal Bone**

Julia E M Cussans

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from trial trench excavations at The Butts, Soham. Details of context type, spot date and preservation are given in Table 1. One bone from L1001 had been charred.

Approximately half of the bone fragments could only be identified as large or medium mammal. Identified taxa (Table 2) were cattle, sheep/goat and pig. A number of the cattle, sheep/goat and large mammal bones displayed butchery marks. No pathologies or other features of interest were present.

Feature	Context	Segment	Description	Spot Date	Preservation	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Total
	1000		Topsoil / Turf	Late 18th-19th C	g	2		1	2		5
	1001		Subsoil		ok				2		2
1003	1004		Fill of Pit	13th C	ok	1				1	2
1003	1004	A	Fill of Pit	18th C	g		1		2		3
1003	1004	B	Fill of Pit	18th C	ok		1				1
					<b>Total</b>	3	2	1	6	1	13

Table 2. Quantification of animal bone from *The Butts, Soham*

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
View of Trench 1 looking north-west



2  
View of Trench 2 looking north-west



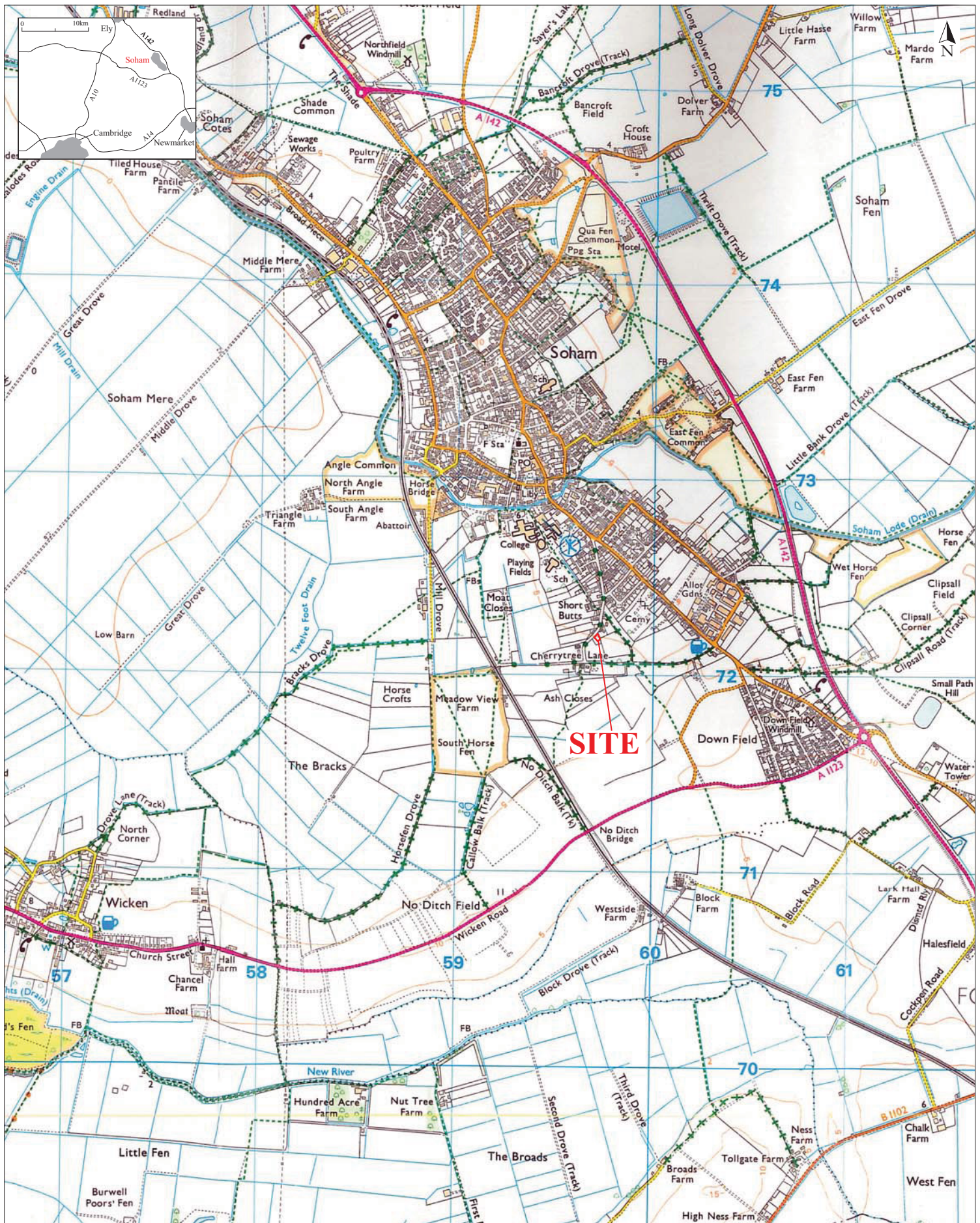
3  
F1003A in Trench 2 looking south-west



4  
Test Pit and Sample Section 2A through 1003B in Trench 2 looking south-west

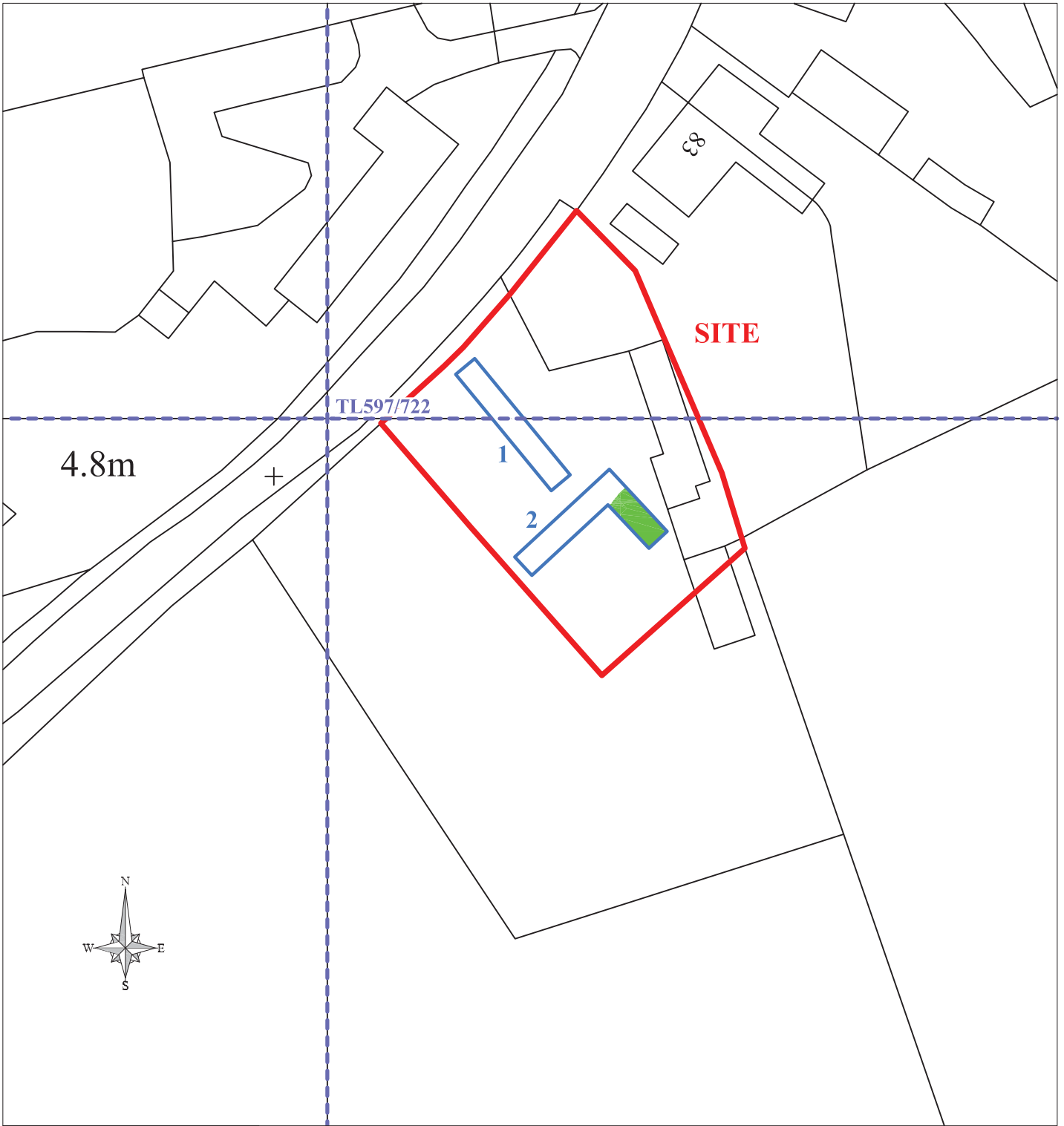


4  
Test pit and Sample Section 2B in Trench 2 looking south-east



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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 The Butts, Soham, Cambridgeshire (P7188)

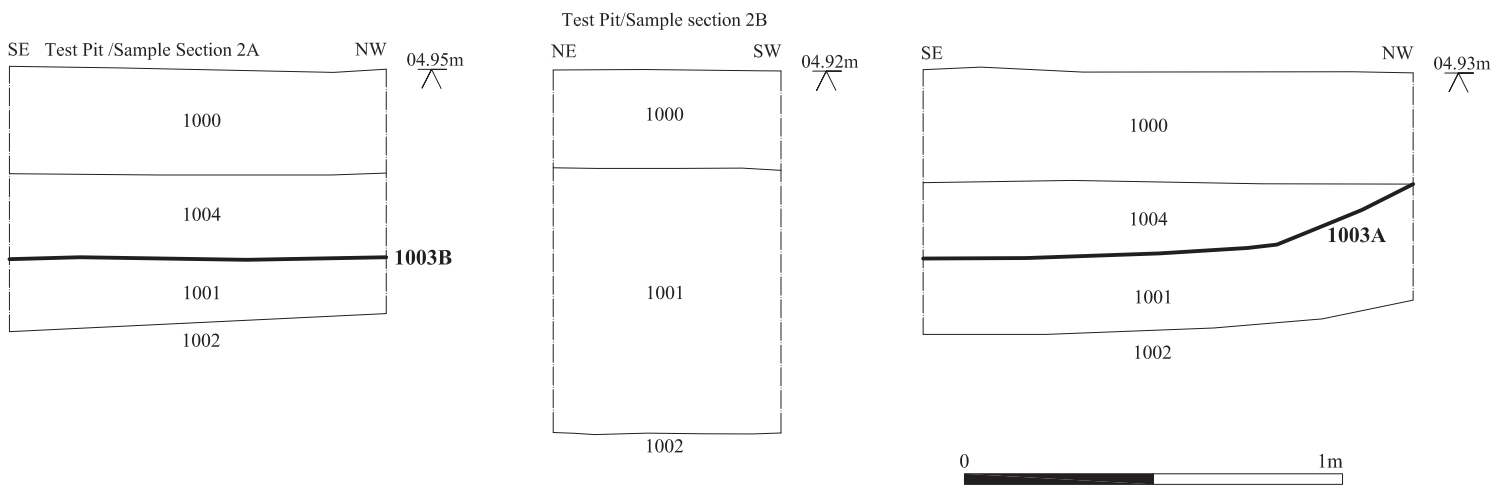
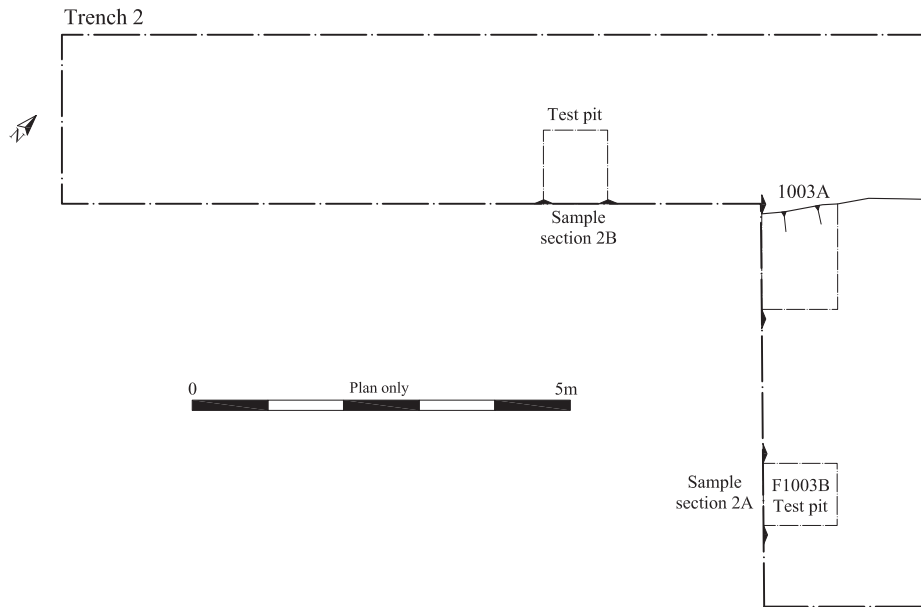


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<b>Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan</b>
Scale 1:500 at A4
83 The Butts, Soham, Cambridgeshire (P7188)





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**Fig. 3 Trench 2 plans and sections**

Scale 1:100 ad 1:20 at A4

83 The Butts, Soham, Cambridgeshire (P7188)