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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD****LAND WEST OF 17-37 WOOD STREET, DODDINGTON,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE, PE15 0SA****AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION****CHER ECB 5320**

Authors: Thomas Muir (Fieldwork and report) Kate Higgs MA (Oxon.) (Research)	
NGR: TL 4008 9107	Report No: 5547
District: Fenland	Site Code: ECB 5320
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7472
	Date: 2 February 2018

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**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](mailto:info@ascontracts.co.uk)  
[www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk](http://www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk)**



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## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Project name</b>	<i>Land west of 17 - 37 Wood Street, Doddington, Cambs, PE15 0SA</i>		
<p><i>In February 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on Land West of Nos. 17 - 37 Wood Street, Doddington, Cambridgeshire, PE15 0SA (NGR TL 4008 9107; Figs. 1 &amp; 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed construction of a residential development of 28 dwellings with garages/parking, landscaping and surface water drainage reservoir within the site (Fenland DC Approval Ref. F/YR17/0406/F). It was undertaken based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed a series of ditches from which a very small quantity of abraded Roman pottery was recovered. This pottery adds to the limited evidence for Romano-British activity in the immediate vicinity, which is mainly limited to spot finds of metal items but which also includes the identification of Roman features at Wimblington Road. The pottery appears to be residual within the ditches and not indicative of their date. The positions and alignments of the ditches recorded at this site suggest spatial relationships with the existing boundaries of the current site (or at least an adherence to the same system of land division) which suggests that they are likely to date from the post-medieval period.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>February 2018</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>7472</i>	Site code	<i>ECB 5320</i>
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>agricultural</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Ditches, gullies, pit</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Roman pottery</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Fenland</i>	<i>Doddington</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>CHER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>PE15 0SA</i>		
Area of site	<i>1.8 ha.</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 4008 9107</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 8m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Construct Reason Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land west of 17 - 37 Wood Street, Doddington, Cambs, PE15 0SA. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Muir, T, Higgs, K.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5547</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>February 2018</i>		

# LAND WEST OF 17-37 WOOD STREET, DODDINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, PE15 0SA AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

## SUMMARY

*In February 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on Land West of Nos. 17 - 37 Wood Street, Doddington, Cambridgeshire, PE15 0SA (NGR TL 4008 9107; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed construction of a residential development of 28 dwellings with garages/parking, landscaping and surface water drainage reservoir within the site (Fenland DC Approval Ref. F/YR17/0406/F). It was undertaken based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).*

*The site had a potential for remains of medieval and post-medieval date associated with historic core of Doddington village which lies to the south and medieval activity associated with the ridge and furrow cultivation which has been observed on LiDAR imagery within the site itself (CHER MCB24264).*

*In the event, the evaluation revealed a series of ditches from which a very small quantity of abraded Roman pottery was recovered. This pottery adds to the limited evidence for Romano-British activity in the immediate vicinity, which is mainly limited to spot finds of metal items but which also includes the identification of Roman features at Wimblington Road. The pottery appears to be residual within the ditches and not indicative of their date. The positions and alignments of the ditches recorded at this site suggest spatial relationships with the existing boundaries of the current site (or at least an adherence to the same system of land division) which suggests that they are likely to date from the post-medieval period.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on Land West of Nos. 17 - 37 Wood Street, Doddington, Cambridgeshire, PE15 0SA (NGR TL 4008 9107; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed construction of a residential development of 28 dwellings with garages/parking, landscaping and surface water drainage reservoir within the site (Fenland DC Approval Ref. F/YR17/0406/F). It was undertaken based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by CCC HET (Gemma Stewart; dated 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017), and a

written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018), and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

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

### *Planning policy context*

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

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

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site lies within the village and parish of Doddington, which lies within the Fenland district and the county of Cambridgeshire. Doddington is located on a fen island which contained several dispersed communities and became one of the largest parishes in the country until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

2.2 The site lies towards the northern extent of Doddington, and on the western frontage of Wood Street (Fig. 2). To the immediate east of the site are residential properties comprising Nos. 17-37 Wood Street. The site comprises a former agricultural field and extends to an area of 1.8 hectares.

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

3.1 Doddington is located on a fen island on the eastern edge of the Cambridgeshire Fens, with Nightlayer's Fen to the south and Coneywood Fen to the north. The low-lying fenland to the east has been drained by the Cambridgeshire lode waterways (Hall 1987; Hall 1996), notably the New Bedford River. The site lies at c. 9m AOD at one of the highest parts of the village, with the surrounding relief remaining low-lying and declining in height on all sides

3.2 The site lies on soils of the Denchworth Association which are described as clayey seasonally waterlogged slowly permeable soils (SSEW 1983). These overlie Amphill Clay formed between 250 - 67 million years ago, although much of the Doddington fen island also contains March Gravel deposits, which overlie the Amphill Clay or West Walton Clay (BGS 2015). By the medieval period the peat fen had encroached close to the village before the fen drainage schemes commencing in the 17<sup>th</sup> century reclaimed most of the land.

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

#### *Prehistoric*

4.1 Few prehistoric finds have been made in the village and parish of Doddington although during the prehistoric period the Chatteris-Doddington-March ridge was one of the few land routes into the region (Hall 1987; Hall 1996). The site is located within an area of archaeological potential on the former fenland 'island' of higher ground above the surrounding lower-lying fen. A Bronze Age socketed axe was found at Stitches Farm (CHER 08261), and a late Bronze Age rapier was recovered further to the south-west near Primrose Hill. A multi-period pottery assemblage dating from the Iron Age through to the post-medieval period was found to the east of Askham House (CHER MCB20540). An undated cropmark enclosure is also recorded to the east of Doddington (CHER 01063a).

#### *Romano-British*

4.2 Roman settlement evidence has been identified at Primrose Hill to the south-west. In the vicinity of the site a Romano-British brooch was found at the Old Brickmaker's Arms (CHER 01424) and 19<sup>th</sup> century antiquarian finds comprise three Roman coins (CHER 05896). Further investigations on Wimblington Road found evidence of Roman occupation in the form of ditches (CHER MCB20333).



### *Anglo-Saxon*

4.3 The village of Doddington is first mentioned in documentary records in c. AD 975 and the settlement, which was the largest on the island, may have been of sufficient status to support a minister, although no Anglo-Saxon remains have been found. During the late 10<sup>th</sup> century Brithnoth, the first abbot of Ely, obtained 60 acres in Doddington and Wimblington from Wine, son of Osmund. He gave this land to the monastery along with a weir producing 1,000 eels annually. Bishop Aethlwald later bought a hide of land at Doddington from the abbot of Ramsay with a half of 'Weremere' with the marsh belonging to it, which was let to farm for 2000 eels. In 1086 the Ely property was assessed at 5 hides with 8 ploughs and was also an important fishing centre providing 27,150 eels annually.

### *Medieval*

4.4 The historic core of Doddington village lies to the south, and evidence of ridge and furrow ploughing associated with the medieval village lies to the west and south (CHER 09676). A small area of ridge and furrow is also visible as earthworks on LiDAR imagery within the southern section of the site (CHER MCB24264). The ridge and furrow covers an area measuring 60m north / south and 40m east / west, with its northern section within the site. Further areas of ploughed out ridge and furrow are also known to the south-east (CHERs CB14519 & ECB1247).

4.5 The Grade II\* listed medieval Church of St Mary lies in the historic core to the south and dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> century (CHERs MCB17088 & DCB1608). A Grade II listed, 14<sup>th</sup> century village cross stands to the north of the churchyard (CHERs 06009 & DCB1607). The scheduled earthworks of a medieval moated bishops' palace survive at the Manor House to the south-east of the site (CHERs 01063 & DCB272) and is associated with the bishops assigned to Ely when it became an Episcopal see in 1109. The medieval period is also represented by the 13<sup>th</sup> century deer park at Great Park (CHER MCB17507), and medieval occupation evidence excavated along Benwick Road (CHER MCB19304).

### *Post-medieval*

4.6 Doddington remained the principal settlement on March island until the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. After this date it was superseded by March, which grew largely as a result of its better communication links. The village of Doddington incorporates a large number of post-medieval and early modern standing structures, many of which are Grade II listed. Doddington Windmill is a Grade II listed 19<sup>th</sup> century tower mill located only 50m to the south-south-west of the site (CHERs 05897 & DCB1610). Archaeological investigations have been carried out to the north-west of the church (CHER CB15242), and revealed evidence of post-medieval occupation. The early modern development was also enhanced by the arrival of the Great Northern and Great Eastern Joint Railway, which opened in 1848 (CHER 03698).



## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The evaluation provided for a 3% sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched (overall site area 1.8ha). Six 40m x 1.8m trenches, and three 20m x 1.8m trenches were excavated. Due to the presence of a service run on the eastern side of the site, and the need to maintain the site access, the proposed trial trench plan was modified (Fig.3)

5.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

5.3 A one-metre square of topsoil and subsoil were bucket sampled and sorted by hand at each end of the trenches to characterise their artefact content. Soil from this sampling procedure was kept separate from the main spoil heaps. Site records were completed to reflect this exercise and an on-site record was made of the finds recovered. A metal detector was used to enhance finds recovery. The metal detector survey was conducted when the trenches were opened, and the detector was not set to discriminate against iron. The spoil tips were also surveyed. Three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered during the sampling of the topsoil.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

### Trench 1 (Figs. 3 - 5)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 7.36m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, light grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded flints.
0.32 – 0.52m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, light grey orange silty gravel with moderate small sub-rounded flint.
0.52m +	L1002	Natural deposits. Friable, mid yellow orange with light grey brown patches, silty gravel with occasional clay patches and frequent small sub-rounded flints.

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 7.31m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.33 - 0.43m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.43m +	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

*Description: Trench 1 contained undated Ditch F1013*

Ditch F1013 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.80 x 0.16m), oriented N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1014, was a firm, light orange grey gravelly silt with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

## **Trench 2** (Figs. 3 - 5)

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 7.51m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.39 – 0.52m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.52m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 7.43m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.32 – 0.51m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.51m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 2 contained Ditches F1009 and F1021, and Gully F1007. F1009 and F1007 contained Roman pottery.*

Ditch F1009 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.74 x 0.35m), orientated E/W. It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1010, was friable, mid yellow brown silty sand with frequent small sub-angular flint. It contained Roman pottery (2; 7g) and animal bone (17g).

Ditch F1021 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 2.33 x 0.15m), orientated E/W. It had steep sides and a flattish base. It cut Gully F1007. Its fill, L1022, was friable, mid yellow brown sandy silt with frequent small sub-angular flint. It contained no finds.

Gully F1007 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.28 x 0.20m), orientated E/W. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was cut by Ditch F1021. Its fill, L1008, was friable, mid yellow brown silty sand with frequent small sub-angular flint. It contained Roman pottery (2; 14g).

## **Trench 3** (Figs. 3 - 5)

Sample section 3A 0.00 = 7.53m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.33 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.50m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 3B 0.00 = 7.46m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.31 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.41m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 3 contained Ditches F1011 and F1015. Neither feature contained finds.*

Ditch F1015 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.70 x 0.26m), orientated N/S. It had steep to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1016, was firm, light orange grey gravelly silt with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1011 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.40 x 0.11m), orientated N/S. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1012, was friable, light brown grey silty gravel with occasional small sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds.

#### **Trench 4** (Figs. 3 – 4 & 6)

Sample section 4A 0.00 = 7.61m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.33 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.50m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 4B 0.00 = 7.76m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.34 – 0.52m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.52m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 4 contained Ditch F1005 and Pit F1003. Each feature contained Roman pottery.*

Ditch F1005 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.64 x 0.30m), orientated E/W. It had steep sides and a concave base. It was cut by Pit F1003. Its fill, L1006, was firm, dark brown grey silty gravel with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained late Roman pottery (4; 36g).

Pit F1003 was sub-circular in plan (3.50 x 0.99+ x 0.30m). It had irregular moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. It cut Ditch F1005. Its fill, F1004, was firm, dark brown grey silty gravel with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained late Roman pottery (5; 117g).

**Trench 5** (Figs. 3 – 4 & 6)

Sample section 5A 0.00 = 7.69m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.32 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.41m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 5B 0.00 = 7.51m AOD		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.36m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 5 contained undated Ditch F1019.*

Ditch F1019, which was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.60 x 0.12m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1020, was firm, light orange grey gravelly silt with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

**Trench 6** (Figs. 3 - 4)

Sample section 6A 0.00 = 7.12m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.31 – 0.39m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.39m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 6B 0.00 = 7.69m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.31 – 0.43m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.43m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or finds*

**Trench 7** (Figs. 3 - 4)

Sample section 7A 0.00 = 7.63m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.33 – 0.47m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.47m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 7B 0.00 = 7.51m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.29 – 0.39m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.39m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 7 contained no archaeological features or finds*

### **Trench 8** (Figs. 3 - 4)

Sample section 8A 0.00 = 7.62m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.30 – 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.46m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 8B 0.00 = 7.76m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.29 – 0.38m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.38m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or finds*

### **Trench 9** (Figs. 3 – 4 & 6)

Sample section 9A 0.00 = 7.54m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.33 – 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.44m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 9B 0.00 = 7.57m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.29 – 0.38m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.38m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 9 contained undated Ditch F1017.*

Ditch F1017 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.65 x 0.15m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1018, was firm, light orange grey gravelly silt with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Though the water table was high, it is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a firm, light grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded flints (0.29 – 0.39m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a friable, light grey orange silty gravel with moderate small sub-rounded flint (0.08 – 0.20m thick).

8.2 The subsoil overlay the natural, L1002, a friable, mid yellow orange with light grey brown patches, silty gravel with occasional clay patches and frequent small sub-rounded flints (0.36 - 0.52m below the present day ground surface).

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1013	Ditch	-
2	F1007	Gully	Roman
	F1009	Ditch	Roman
	F1021	Ditch	-
3	F1011	Ditch	-
	F1015	Ditch	-
4	F1003	Pit	Late Roman
	F1005	Ditch	Late Roman
5	F1019	Ditch	-
9	F1017	Ditch	-

9.2 Archaeological features were present in the majority of the trenches, but were absent in the southern sector of the site (Trenches 6 – 8). In the central and northern sector of the site between one and three features were present in each trench

9.3 Most the features were ditches. A gully (F1007, Trench 2) and a pit (F1003, Trench 4) were also present.

9.4 Just under half the features contained Roman pottery and the remaining features were undated. The Roman pottery is highly fragmented and in a poorly-preserved condition. It probably dates to the late 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries, and may relate to late Roman domestic occupation in the near vicinity (Roman Pottery report below). However, the small size of the pottery assemblage (16 sherds) and the condition in which it was found, suggests that

this material may not have been in its primary depositional context. The presence of Roman pottery in the topsoil (L1000) as well as in the various features suggests that this material may be residual, representing low level activity in the vicinity, rather than being representative of activity at this location. Sparse associated finds comprise animal bone in Ditch F1009 (Trench 2). Like the pottery, the bone fragments were in poor condition, with almost all of the original surface lost to the effects of erosion or weathering.

9.5 Limited evidence for Roman occupation has been recorded in the surrounding area. This comprises for the most part small finds of a brooch (CHER 01424) and three coins (CHER 05896). However, more substantial evidence has been recorded at Wimblington Road where ditches of Roman date were identified (CHER MCB20333).

9.6 The ditches that were recorded at the current site were observed to run parallel or perpendicular to the current site boundaries. This suggests that they are unlikely to represent a Roman field system or group of enclosures. It is more likely that represent earlier division or subdivision of the existing site. Any such boundaries are much more likely to have their origins in the period of parliamentary enclosure, which gathered pace during the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (English Heritage 2011, 6). However, the increasing specialisation and commercialisation of agriculture which occurred in East Anglia during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, in part due to increased demand from London, encouraged the process of enclosure earlier than in other places and informal, piecemeal enclosure had long been apparent in this region (Postgate 1973, 287). This suggests that the ditches recorded here, despite the Roman pottery recovered from them, are potentially of late medieval to late post-medieval date. It is possible that these ditches served to enclose and partition the open field represented by the small area of ridge and furrow which is also visible as earthworks on LiDAR imagery within the southern section of the site (CHER MCB24264).

## 10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The site had a potential for remains of medieval and post-medieval date associated with historic core of Doddington village which lies to the south and medieval activity associated with the ridge and furrow cultivation which has been observed on LiDAR imagery within the site itself (CHER MCB24264).

10.2 In the event, the evaluation revealed a series of ditches from which a very small quantity of abraded Roman pottery was recovered. This pottery adds to the limited evidence for Romano-British activity in the immediate vicinity, which is mainly limited to spot finds of metal items but which also includes the identification of Roman features at Wimblington Road. The pottery appears to be residual within the ditches and not indicative of their date. The positions and alignments of the ditches recorded at this site suggest spatial relationships with the existing boundaries of the current site (or at least



an adherence to the same system of land division) which suggests that they are likely to date from the post-medieval period.

## **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 Construct Reason Ltd for funding the archaeological evaluation, in particular Mr David C Wyatt.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms. Gemma Stewart and Mr Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

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## Concordance of Finds

### ECB5320 - P7472, Wood Street, Doddington

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		4	Topsoil	Roman	3	36					
1003	1004		4	Fill of Pit	Late Roman	5	117					
1005	1006		4	Fill of Ditch	Late Roman	4	36					
1007	1008		2	Fill of Ditch	Roman	2	14					
1009	1010		2	Fill of Ditch	Roman	2	7		17			

## APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

### The Roman Pottery

*Andrew Peachey*

The evaluation recovered a total of 16 sherds (210g) of Roman pottery in a highly fragmented and poorly-preserved condition, seemingly the result of adverse soil conditions (i.e. vesiculated shell-tempered pottery). The predominance of shell-tempered Roman pottery, probably from the Harrold kilns in Bedfordshire, and the presence of a single jar with an everted, drooping bead rim suggest a late Roman date, probably in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

#### *Methodology*

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE with fabrics examined at x20 magnification in accordance with 'A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology' (Barclay *et al* 2016), developed from the guidelines of the Study Group for Roman Pottery. Fabric codes and descriptions were cross-referenced, where possible, to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998) or regional kiln/type series, while local or indistinguishable coarse wares were assigned an alpha-numeric code and are fully described in the report. All data has been entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

#### *Fabric Descriptions*

ROB SH	Romano-British shell-tempered ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 212), wheel-made with common, moderately sorted shell (0.5-7mm, occasionally larger).
HOR RE	Horningsea reduced ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 116; Evans 1991, 35; Evans <i>et al</i> 2017, 52). Mid to dark grey surfaces with a reduced mid-grey core and sometimes oxidised margins. Inclusions comprise common quartz (0.1-0.5mm) with sparse limestone and grog/ironstone (generally <2mm) and occasional flint (0.5-5mm)
GRS	Sandy grey ware. Mid to dark grey surfaces over a lighter/pale grey core. Inclusions comprise common quartz (0.1-0.25mm), sparse fine mica and sparse black iron rich grains (0.25-1.5mm). A hard fabric with a slightly abrasive to smooth feel.

Roman Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
ROB SH	7	122	0.10
HOR RE	2	31	-
GRS	7	57	-
<i>Total</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>0.10</i>

Table 1: Quantification of Roman fabric types

#### *The Roman Pottery*

Pit F1003 contained sherds of ROB SH and HOR RE derived from medium-size jars; with the ROB SH jar exhibiting an everted, slightly drooping triangular bead rim (diameter: 22cm). This jar evolves to become a common type in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD (Brown 1994, 62), and was exported in

vast quantities from the Harrold kilns across East Anglia during this period, although similar jar types foreshadow this trend throughout the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, but do not achieve the same market share. Vessels from the Horningsea kilns also achieve a significant distribution throughout the Fenland region, and sherds of both ROB SH and HOR RE were also contained in Ditch F1005, while small body sherds of locally-produced coarse wares (GRS) were contained in Ditches F1007, F1009 and Topsoil L1000. Although, these sherds comprise limited evidence, they may relate to late Roman domestic occupation in the near vicinity.

### *Bibliography*

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### **The Animal Bone**

*Dr Julia E M Cussans*

A very small quantity of animal bone was recovered from the trial trench excavations at Wood Street, Doddington. Bone was recovered from a single context L1010 (Ditch F1009), spot dated to the Roman period. Bone preservation was rated as very poor on a five point scale ranging from very poor through to excellent. Bone fragments were extremely eroded/ weathered, with almost all of the original surface lost.

A total of seven bone fragments was present, all of which could only be identified as large (cattle or horse sized) mammal; the majority were thought likely to be long bone fragments. No butchery marks or pathological lesions could be identified, but it should be noted that any such marks that had originally been present would have been obliterated by the very poor surface condition of the bone. There are no further points of interest about this very small assemblage.



## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
Trench 1 looking west



2  
Ditch 1013 in Trench 1



3  
Trench 2 looking north



4  
Gully 1007 and Ditch 1021 in Trench 2





5  
Ditch 1009 in Trench 2



6  
Trench 3 looking west



7  
Ditch 1011 in Trench 3



8  
Ditch 1015 in Trench 3





9  
Trench 4 looking north



10  
Pit 1003 in Trench 4



11  
Ditch 1005 in Trench 4



12  
Trench 5 looking west





13  
Ditch 1019 in Trench 5



14  
Trench 6 looking west



15  
Trench 7 looking north



16  
Trench 8 looking west



18  
Trench 9 looking west



19  
Ditch 1017 in Trench 9





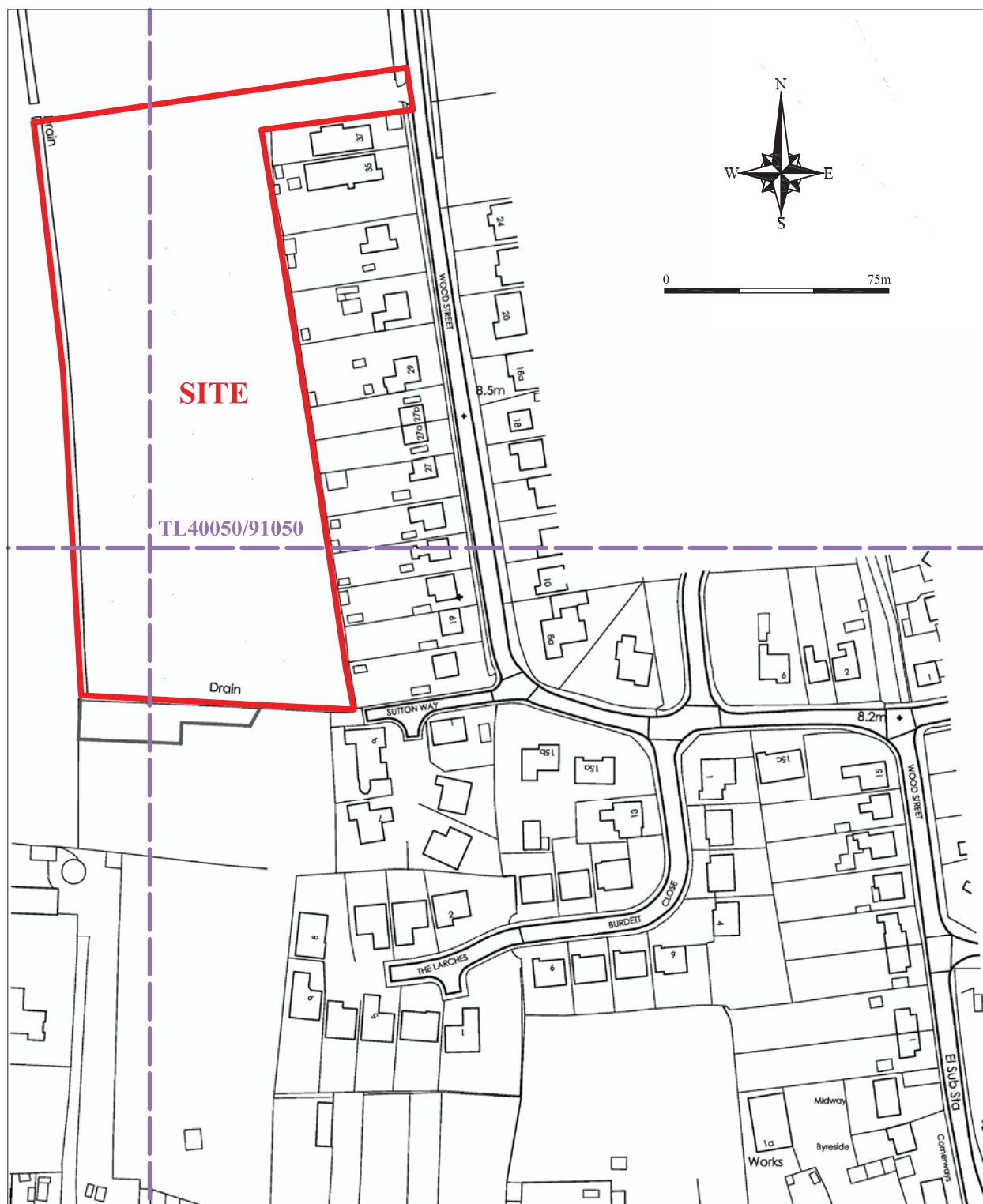
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## Fig. 1 Site location plan

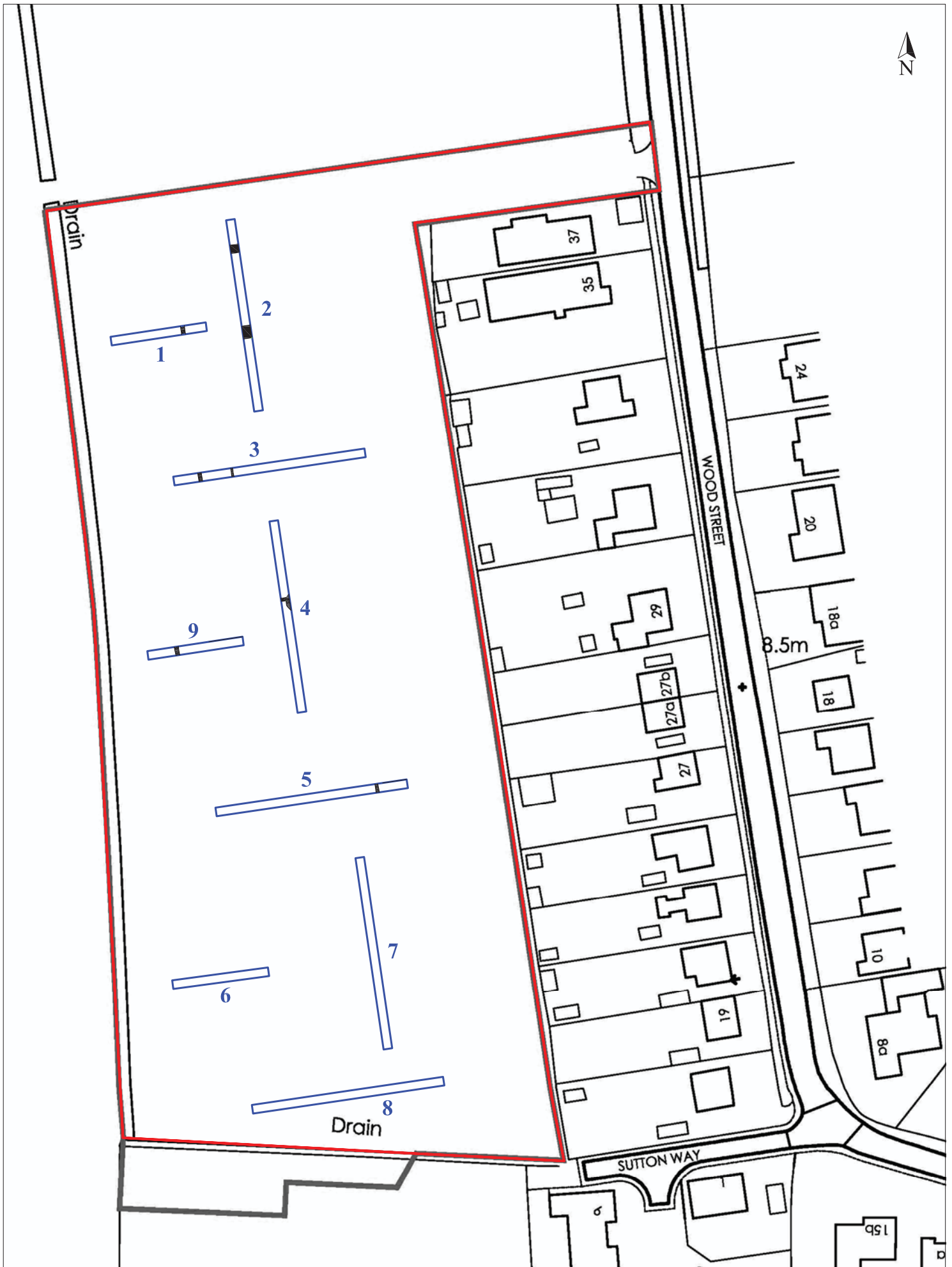
Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Wood Street, Doddingdon, Cambs (P7472)



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<b>Fig. 2 Site location plan</b>
Scale 1:2000 at A4
Wood Street, Doddington, Cambs (P7472)



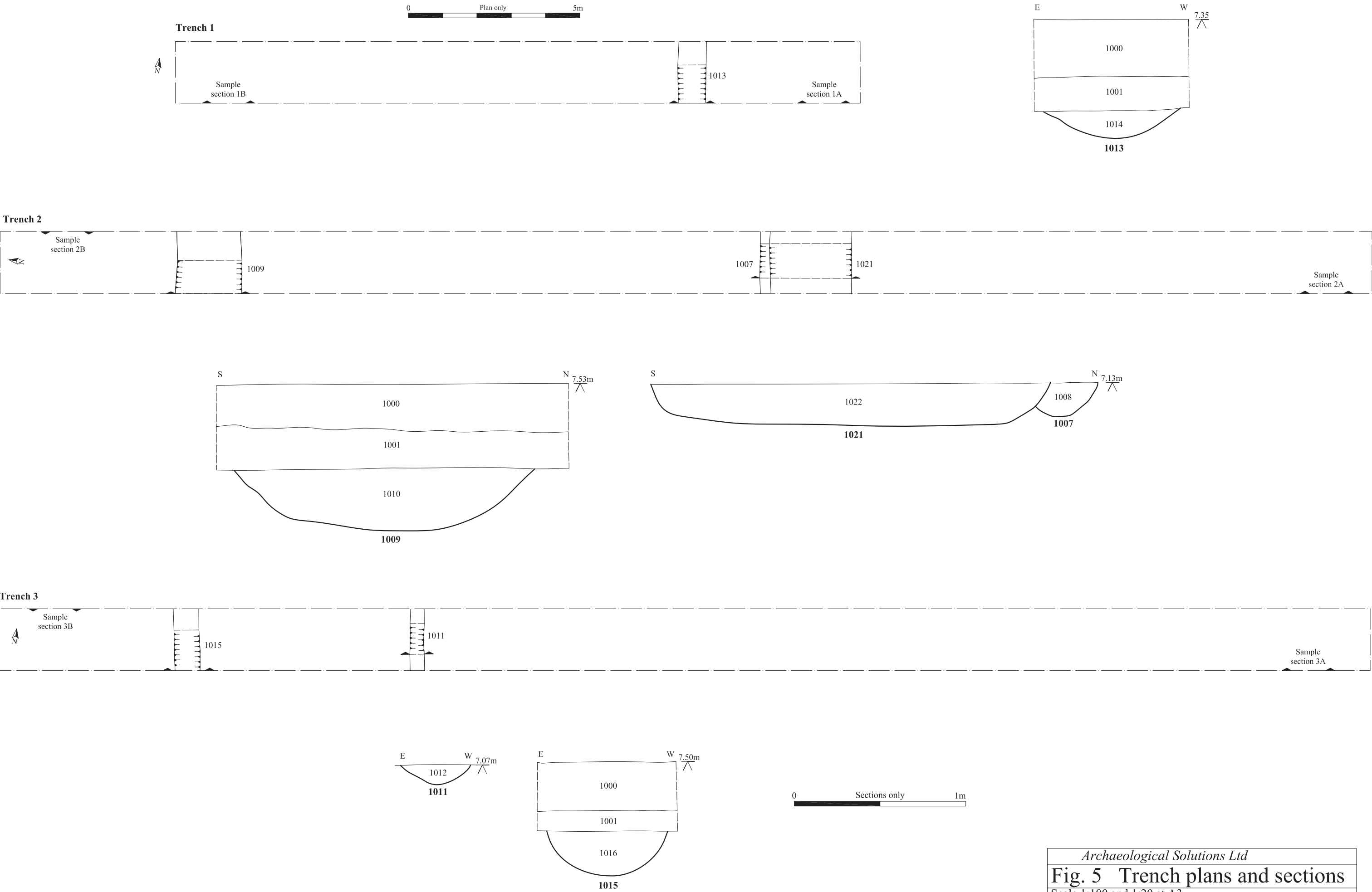


0 75m

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**Fig. 3 Trench location plan**  
 Scale 1:1000 at A4  
 Wood Street, Doddington, Cambs (P7472)





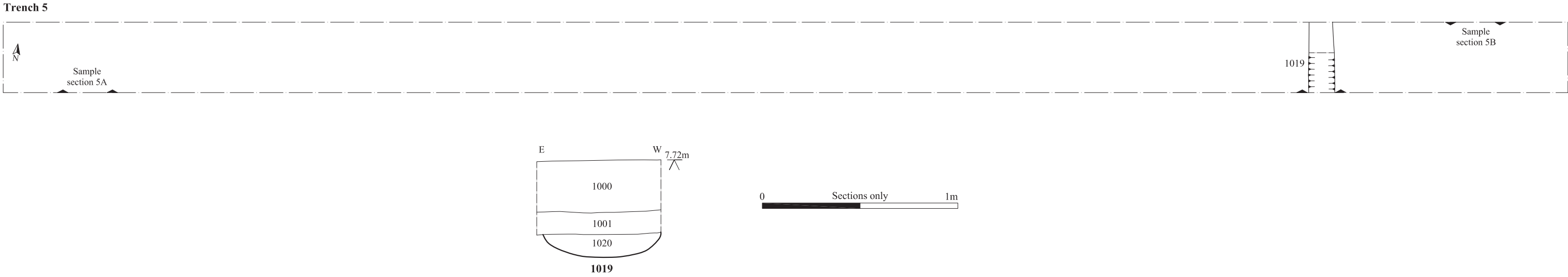
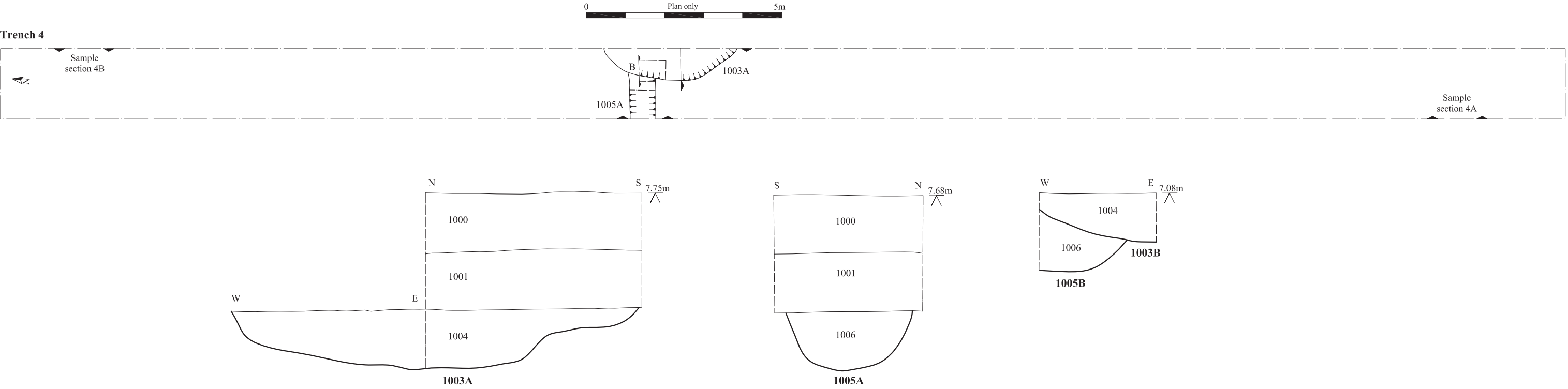


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**Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections**

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Wood Street, Doddington, Cambs (P7472)



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**Fig. 6 Trench plans and sections**

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Wood Street, Doddington, Cambs (P7472)