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**7 & 7A TOWNSEND, SOHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

CHER ECB 5453

Authors: John Haygreen (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 5900 7424	Report No: 5637
District: East Cambs	Site Code: ECB 5453
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P7675
	Date: 5 September 2018 Revised 24 October 2018

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<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	7 & 7A Townsend, Soham, Cambridgeshire		
<p><i>In August 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 7 &amp; 7A Townsend, Soham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5900 7424; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 4no dwellings, garaging, parking, access road and associated works (East Cambs Council Approval Ref. 14/01231/OUT), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed two medieval ditches whose alignment broadly corresponds with that of the strip fields recorded on the 1656 plan of the manor (Fig.6). They may represent a medieval antecedent for a system of cultivation that was persevered until it was encroached upon by the post-medieval expansion of the town. The ditches contained low quantities of medieval Ely ware pottery, animal bone, oyster shell, and molluscan remains that suggest they were seasonally waterlogged. Other features on the site included a sparse distribution of late post-medieval to early modern field boundaries and pits located in Trenches 2 – 5. A pig burial in Trench 5 that was distinguished by a robust, short-muzzled skeleton with extensive evidence of being fattened is dated to c. 18<sup>th</sup> century (Animal Bone Report).</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	September 2018		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	P7675	Site code	ECB 5453
Type of project	Archaeological evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Hard-standing and garden		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Ditches (medieval, post-medieval); Pig Burial (c.18 <sup>th</sup> C)		
Significant finds (+dates)	Pottery, animal bone, oyster shell (medieval); Pig skeleton (c.18 <sup>th</sup> C)		
	Cambridgeshire	East Cambs	Soham
HER/ SMR for area	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	0.384ha.		
NGR	TL 5900 7424		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.6m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire County Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Mrs B Clements		
Full title	7 & 7A Townsend, Soham, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation		
Authors	Haygreen, J.		
Report no.	5637		
Date (of report)	October 2018		

# 7 & 7A TOWNSEND, SOHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### SUMMARY

*In August 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 7 & 7A Townsend, Soham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5900 7424; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 4no dwellings, garaging, parking, access road and associated works (East Cambs Council Approval Ref. 14/01231/OUT), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.*

*The site is located towards the north-western end of the fen island within an area of archaeological potential, in particular for medieval activity that may be detached from the principal nuclei of activity along a road that followed the eastern edge of Soham Mere. The local area also includes a relatively intense pattern of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and Roman remains, but the site appears to be on the fringes of this distribution. A 1656 plan of the manor of Soham identifies the site as within an area of strip like fields between a row of cottages that front on to Townsend, and the bank of Soham Mere, which included a slip way.*

*The evaluation revealed two medieval ditches whose alignment broadly corresponds with that of the strip fields recorded on the 1656 plan of the manor (Fig.6). They may represent a medieval antecedent for a system of cultivation that was persevered until it was encroached upon by the post-medieval expansion of the town. The ditches contained low quantities of medieval Ely ware pottery, animal bone, oyster shell, and molluscan remains that suggest they were seasonally waterlogged. Other features on the site included a sparse distribution of late post-medieval to early modern field boundaries and pits located in Trenches 2 – 5. A pig burial in Trench 5 that was distinguished by a robust, short-muzzled skeleton with extensive evidence of being fattened is dated to c. 18<sup>th</sup> century (Animal Bone Report).*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 7 & 7A Townsend, Soham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5900 7424; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 4no dwellings, garaging, parking, access road and associated works (East Cambs Council Approval Ref. 14/01231/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 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 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 is set back to the rear (south west) of 7 & 7A Townsend in the northern edge of the historic core of Soham. The northern area of the site is comprised of a yard with a loose asphalt surface and a number of outbuildings (to be demolished), while the southern area comprises a garden. Both areas are segregated from adjacent residential streets (Cloverfield Drive, Blackthorne Court and Martin Close) by a hedge/tree-line, while adjacent to the north-east residential properties beyond the proposed development area front on to Townsend. The site extends to some 0.384ha.

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

3.1 The site is situated at c.6m AOD towards the north-western end of the elongate ride (fen island) upon which the town of Soham is located. The residential area of the town that contains the site is situated on a relatively flat, even topography, but to the west descends into the drained fenland of the former Soham Mere, with further fenland to the north and east of the town's extent.

3.2 The solid geology of the site is mudstone of the Gault Formation, formed in shallow seas in the Cretaceous period; and overlain by lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage.

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

4.1 The site is located within an area of archaeological potential, with remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). A widespread distribution of flint axes, tools and flakes has been recorded in the East Fen area, slightly detached from the site, with the closest comprising a Neolithic axe and 'Beaker' flints c.1km to the south-east (CHER 11019 & 07101) and a flint scatter recovered by field walking c.1km to the east (CHER CB14568). The fen island on which Soham is located has demonstrated a relatively dense pattern of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age occupation and funerary activity; however the site appears to be on the fringe of this area, with limited late Bronze Age evidence including field boundaries, a waterhole and metalled surface recorded c.300-400m to the west, south and north respectively, on Cloverfield Drive, Gimbert Road and the Shade (CHER MCB16867, 19766 & MCB21800). An early Iron Age soil horizon was preserved on Market Street c.1km to the south (CHER MCB19683), close to an early Iron Age inhumation group c.800m to the south (CHER MCB18106).

4.2 The fen island Soham is situated on appears to have been conducive to Roman settlement, and although the bulk of evidence including Roman ditches on Fountain Lane and skeletons on White Hart Lane are c.900m distant (CHER MCB21799 & 06971) or further detached; a Roman well was recorded c.300m to the west on Cloverfield Drive (CHER MCB16867). Isolated Roman coins and pottery have also been recorded c.500m to the south-west of the site (CHER 07097 & 07100).

4.3 The historic core of Soham is associated with two early Saxon cemeteries and the postulated location of a monastery and subsequently a Saxon cathedral, but these are significantly removed from the site. A 6<sup>th</sup> century cruciform brooch was recorded 1km to the east (CHER 11019B). The postulated Saxon foundation appears to have formed the nucleus for the historic core of Soham, with a series of Saxo-Norman enclosures, wooden structures and rubbish pits recorded c.700m to the south-west, around Pratt Street, Market Street, Ten Bell Lane and Station Road (CHER 07099, 11932, 11985, MCB16279, MCB21801 & MCB16868), which appear to indicate the initial extent of medieval settlement, not extending any closer to the site.

4.4 The current St. Andrew's Church was built in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, possibly incorporating or on the site of an earlier Saxon building, and the adjacent historic core remains the focus for subsequent medieval evidence. Elements of a medieval field system have been recorded on Gimbert Road c.500m to the south, on Cloverfield Drive c.300m to the west, and c.700m to the south-east (CHER MCB19766, MCB16867 & MCB19459). It has been suggested that further medieval pits on Cloverfield Drive may be part of a detached linear development moving away from the village centre and possibly connected to Soham Mere (CHER MCB15835). The agricultural nature of the medieval landscape is further highlighted by the location of windmills a moderate distance to the north and south of the site (CHER 06945-6).

4.5 The medieval enclosures around the village appear to be respected and reinforced in the post-medieval period, such as drainage ditches c.300m to the north-west and east (CHER CB15241 & MCB21807). William Palmer's 1656 plan of Soham manor (Fig.6) indicates that the site is located on the western side of 'Townsend North Closes', which appears to have functioned much like a small 'green' or 'end' to the north of the core of Soham. The area included small detached properties, probably cottages, with small gardens to the rear that overlap within the eastern edge of the site. The properties were owned by Thomas Seamour, John Groplie, Mssrs. Cooper and Snell; with the former two occupants also owning the two fields to the rear, which form the majority of the site. It is clear that there was a system of strip-like fields extending to the west of Townsend, leading towards 'The Mere Bank Common' and a slipway into Soham Mere. Extant street frontage buildings in this part of the town include listed buildings of mid and late 17<sup>th</sup> century date and also 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages, notably those on Hall Street c.500m to the south (CHER MCB19874). Standing structures or the site of former structures marked on early edition Ordnance survey maps of 19<sup>th</sup> century date may provide evidence of extension/rebuilding of medieval settlement along Townsend.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The evaluation provided for a sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched. The brief required a 5% sample of the development area to be investigated by trenching. Four trenches of 22m x 1.8m (Trenches 1 – 3 and 5), and two trenches 11m x 1.80m (Trenches 4A and 4B) were excavated (Fig. 2). Trench 4 was divided into two because of the presence of an obstacle.

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. The excavated spoil was checked for finds.

5.3 A one-metre square of topsoil and subsoil were bucket sampled and sorted by hand at each end of the trenches to characterise their artefact content. Soil from this sampling procedure was kept separate from the main spoil heaps. Site records were completed to reflect this exercise and an on-site record was made of the finds recovered. A metal detector was used to enhance finds recovery. The metal



detector survey was conducted when the trenches were opened, and the detector was not set to discriminate against iron. The spoil tips were also surveyed. The finds observed during the sampling of the topsoil and subsoil, and the metal detecting survey were all of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

### Trench 1 Figs. 2 & 3

Sample Section 1A 0.00 = 7.18m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional roots
0.34 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, orange brown clayey silt
0.55m +	L1003	Natural deposit. Firm, pale blue grey clay.

Sample Section 1B 0.00 = 7.41m AOD		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.13 – 0.34m	L1004	Made Ground. Friable, orange brown sand
0.34m +	L1012	Natural deposit. Firm, blue clay.

*Description: Trench 1 contained modern drains. A test pit (1.22 x 0.95 x 0.49m) was excavated through L1012, the natural blue clay, and it contained 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery in the upper (slightly sandier) part of the deposit (labelled L1048). The excavation of the test pit through L1012 and L1048 is described below (under Deposit Model, Paragraph 8.2).*

### Trench 2 Figs. 2 & 4

Sample Section 2A 0.00 = 7.14m AOD		
0.00 – 0.48m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.48 – 0.67m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.67m+	L1003	Natural deposit. Firm, blue clay. As above Tr.1

Sample Section 2B 0.00 = 7.34m AOD		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.09 – 0.24m	L1004	Made Ground
0.24 – 0.25m	L1005	Made Gound
0.25 – 0.48m	L1006	Made Ground
0.48m +	L1007	Natural deposit. Firm, grey clay

*Description: Trench 2 contained Ditches F1008 and F1034, Channel F1032, modern drains including F1020 and F1022, and Pit F1036. The latter was seen in*

section only. Ditch F1034 contained medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century) pottery, and Pit F1036 contained late 18<sup>th</sup> century + pottery.

Ditch F1008 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.73 x 0.12m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1009, was a firm mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds. F1008 cut Ditch F1034.

Ditch F1034 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 4.51 x 0.42m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping, slightly uneven sides and a flattish uneven base. Its fill, L1035, was a firm mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained a residual Roman sherd and medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (5; 22g) and oyster shell (15g). It was cut by Ditch F1008 and modern drains.

Pit F1036 was seen in section only (? x 0.72 x 0.71m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1037, was a friable dark grey brown clayey silt. It contained late 18<sup>th</sup> century + pottery (1; 3g). F1036 cut Subsoil L1002 and Channel F1032.

Channel F1032 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 6.00 x 1.24m), orientated E/W. It had irregular sides and an irregular flattish base. Its basal fill, L1033, was a firm pale brown sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds. Its upper fill, L1038, was a firm mid grey brown sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

### Trench 3 Figs. 2 & 3

Sample Section 3A		
0.00 = 6.94m AOD		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.42 – 0.76m	L1002	Subsoil. Firm, mid brown clayey silt
0.76m +	L1003	Natural deposit. As above Tr.1

Sample Section 3B		
0.00 = 7.02m AOD		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.41– 0.64m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.64m +	L1003	Natural deposit. As above Tr.1

*Description: Trench 3 contained Pit F1010, Ditch F1013 and Post Hole F1015. F1013 contained medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century) pottery.*

Pit F1010 was sub circular in plan (1.80+ x 0.71 x 0.69m). It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1011, was a firm pale grey silty clay with occasional sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds. It was cut by a modern drain

Ditch F1013 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.93 x 0.25m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1014, was a firm reddish brown sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained medieval

(late 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (4; 11g) and animal bone (15g). F1013 was cut by Post Hole F1015.

Shallow Post Hole F1015 was sub circular in plan (0.22 x 0.12 x 0.05m). It had steep sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a firm mid grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds. F1015 cut Ditch F1013.

#### **Trench 4A** Figs. 2 & 3

Sample Section 4A(A) 0.00 = 6.99m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.31 – 0.65m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.65m +	L1003	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1

Sample Section 4A (B) 0.00 = 7.13m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.29 – 0.49m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.49m +	L1003	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1

*Description: Trench 4A contained Ditch F1030 and it contained late 18<sup>th</sup> century + pottery.*

Ditch F1030 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.71 x 0.09m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1031, was a firm pale yellow brown clayey silt. It contained a residual medieval (12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century) sherd and a late 18<sup>th</sup> century+ pottery sherd (2; 8g) and CBM (35g).

#### **Trench 4B** Figs. 2 & 3

Sample Section 4B(A) 0.00 = 7.18m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.31 – 0.55m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.55m +	L1003	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1

Sample Section 4B(B) 0.00 = 7.05m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.39 – 0.55m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.55m +	L1003	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1

*Description: Trench 4B contained Ditch F1039 and Pit F1045. The latter was recorded in section only. Ditch F1039 contained 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.*

Ditch F1039 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 3.51 x 0.56m), orientated NW/SE. It had irregular moderately sloping sides and a flattish uneven base. Its fill, L1040, was a firm mid orange brown silty clay. It contained two residual medieval (12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century) sherds and a 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherd (3; 23g), CBM (12g) and animal bone (102g). F1039 was cut by Pit F1045.

Pit F1045 was seen in section only (? x 0.89 x 0.63m). It had irregular sides and a flattish uneven base. Its basal fill, L1047, was a friable dark grey brown clayey silt. It contained no finds. Its upper fill, L1046, was a firm light grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds. F1045 cut Ditch F1039.

## Trench 5 Figs. 2 & 5

Sample Section 5A		
0.00 = 7.18m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.31 – 0.55m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.55m +	L1003	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1

Sample Section 5B		
0.00 = 7.32m AOD		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1019	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.05 – 0.16m	L1004	Made Ground. A above Tr.1
0.16 – 0.21m	L1017	Made Ground. Gravel
0.21 – 0.29m	L1005	Made Ground. As above Tr.2
0.29 – 0.51m	L1006	Made Ground. CBM rubble
0.51m +	L1012	Natural deposit. Firm, blue clay. As above Tr.1

*Description: Trench 5 contained Pits F1024, F1026 and F1028. Pit F1026 contained a 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherd, and F1028 contained pig burials. Test Pit B (1.19 x 0.96 x 0.38m) was excavated through L1012, and within the test pit were natural gravel deposits, recorded as F1041 and F1043. L1012 contained 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery in the upper (sandier) part of the deposit (labelled L1048). The excavation of the test pit through L1012 and L1048 is described below (under Deposit Model, Paragraph 8.2).*

Pit F1024 was sub circular in plan (1.00+ x 0.91 x 0.32m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1025, was a firm dark grey silty clay. It contained CBM (109g) and a clay pipe stem fragment (3g).

Pit F1026 was sub circular in plan (1.00+ x 0.95 x 0.51m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1027, was a firm grey silty clay. It contained 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery (1; 12g).

Pit F1028 was sub rectangular in plan (1.46 x 0.81 x 0.39m). It had vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1029, was a firm dark grey silty clay with occasional sub angular flint. It contained pig burials (4020g). The latter comprises a young adult/sub-adult female pig, and a second pig comprising four prenatal limb bones. The main skeleton is that of a large and robust animal. The skull indicates a short-faced pig

with a high rounded head. Given the short face and robustness of the bone, as well as the excellent preservation, it may be possible that this is a relatively modern (c.18<sup>th</sup> century) breed of pig (Animal Bone Report, Appendix 2).

Two deposits of friable mid yellow brown silty gravel in Test Pit B were excavated as features (F1041 and F1043) but most likely represent small deposits of gravel within the natural clay formation.

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

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

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000 a firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional roots (0.09 - 0.48m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a firm, orange brown clayey silt (0.19 – 0.34m thick). Made ground deposits, below the topsoil were present in Trenches 2 and 5B.

8.2 At the base of the sequence was natural gault clay, represented by L1003, L1007 and L1012. During excavation, it was noted that there was some variation in the colour and texture of this deposit over the site area, and the trenches were examined by Dr J Summers. The excavation of Test Pits A and B into the clay in Trenches 1 and 5, and the testing of the deposit by hand auger showed that the clay was consistent at depth across the site. A slightly sandier consistence in the upper portions of the deposit (labelled L1048 during the report writing process), as well as the occurrence of post-medieval / modern pottery, is likely the result of relatively recent disturbance, including the removal of topsoil deposits and the deposition of made ground layers in certain areas of the site. Variation in colour is also likely to result from the modern history of the site, including the covering of a portion of the site with a less permeable metalised surface, which would impact upon water retention and oxygenation. Two deposits of friable mid yellow brown silty gravel in Test Pit B (recorded as F1041 and F1043) are likely to represent small gravel deposits within the clay horizon, rather than features of archaeological origin.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
2	F1008	Ditch	-
	F1020	Drain	Modern
	F1022	Drain	Modern
	F1032	Channel	-
	F1034	Ditch	Late 12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1036	Pit	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> C +
3	F1010	Pit	-
	F1013	Ditch	Late 12 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1015	Post Hole	-
4A	F1030	Ditch	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> C +
4B	F1039	Ditch	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1045	Pit	-
5	F1024	Pit	CBM
	F1026	Pit	17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1028	Pit	-
	F1041	Natural Gravel Deposit	-
	F1043	Natural Gravel Deposit	-

9.2 A residual Roman sherd was present in medieval Ditch F1034 (Trench 2). The find is consistent with the pattern of consumption recorded for the relatively intensive Roman settlement and industrial activity further south-east on the fen island.

9.3 Ditches F1034 (Trench 2) and F1013 (Trench 3) each contained late 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery, in the form of small quantities (4 – 5 sherds) of moderately to heavily abraded Ely wares including glazed sherds and at least one bowl. The pottery was found in association with poorly-preserved bones of an unidentified mammal and oyster shell. The ditches appear to be aligned approximately NE / SW which correlates closely with the alignment of the strip-like fields located to the west of 'Townsend North Closes' on William Palmer's 1656 plan of Soham manor (Fig.6). Although the features do not quite correlate with the boundaries on the plan, they do suggest that the system of cultivation (and drainage) depicted between Townsend and the edge of Soham Mere is a continuation of medieval land use. The latter may have persisted until it was encroached upon by the post-medieval expansion of the town. The medieval ditches did not contain any carbonised cereal grains suggesting they were at a distance from occupation areas but did contain mollusc remains consistent with seasonal waterlogging. The presence of the Mere and the common land as shown on the 1656 plan, less than 350m to the east of the site, is also consistent with the presence of a natural blue-grey clay layer (L1003) on the site, which may have formed in early prehistory during an interval of elevated water levels when the mere had a greater extent or flooded. Ditches F1030 (Trench 4A) and F1039 (Trench 4B) also contained residual medieval sherds.

9.4 Post-medieval pottery was present in Pit F1026 (Trench 5). Additional ditches and pits in Trenches 2 - 5 contained low quantities of early modern CBM

including fragments of pantile and sewer pipe likely re-deposited in the ditches as rubble to improve drainage.

9.5 Pig burials were present in Pit F1028 (Trench 5) and based on the robust size of the skeleton and short-faced skull are interpreted as a relatively modern (c.18<sup>th</sup> century) breed, which exhibited extensive pathologies resulting from (over-) fattening. There was no evidence of butchery, but the presence of pre-natal piglet bones may be consistent with death during or shortly after birthing piglets (Animal Bone Report Appendix 2).

## **10 CONCLUSION**

10.1 The site is located towards the north-western end of the fen island within an area of archaeological potential, in particular for medieval activity that may be detached from the principal nuclei of activity along a road that followed the eastern edge of Soham Mere. The local area also includes a relatively intense pattern of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and Roman remains, but the site appears to be on the fringes of this distribution. A 1656 plan of the manor of Soham identifies the site as within an area of strip like fields between a row of cottages that front on to Townsend, and the bank of Soham Mere, which included a slip way.

10.2 The evaluation revealed two medieval ditches whose alignment broadly corresponds with that of the strip fields recorded on the 1656 plan of the manor (Fig.6). They may represent a medieval antecedent for a system of cultivation that was persevered until it was encroached upon by the post-medieval expansion of the town. The ditches contained low quantities of medieval Ely ware pottery, animal bone, oyster shell, and molluscan remains that suggest they were seasonally waterlogged. Other features on the site included a sparse distribution late post-medieval to early modern field boundaries and pits located in Trenches 2 – 5. A pig burial in Trench 5 that was distinguished by a robust, short-muzzled skeleton with extensive evidence of being fattened is dated to c. 18<sup>th</sup> century (Animal Bone Report).

## **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. The archive will be deposited following the gaining of the transfer of title.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mrs Bridget Clements for funding the works and for assistance. AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Andrew Fleet.

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

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### **Web resources**

[www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk)



Appendix 1 - Concordance of Finds

ECB5453 - P7675, 7&7a Townsend, Soham, Cambridgeshire

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1013	1014		3	Fill of Ditch	Late 12th-15th C	4	11		15			
1024	1025		5	Fill of Pit				109		Clay Pipe	1	3
1026	1027		5	Fill of Pit	17th-18th C	1	12					
1028	1029		5	Fill of Pit					4020			
1030	1031		4A	Fill of Ditch	Late 18th C+	2	8	35				
1034	1035		2	Fill of Ditch	Late 12th-15th C	5	22			O.Shell		15
1036	1037		2	Fill of Pit	Late 18th C+	1	3					
1039	1040		4B	Fill of Ditch	18th-19th C	3	23	12	102			
	1048		1+5	Layer in TT1 + TT5	19th-20th C	9	388	54		O.Shell Clay Pipe	1	7 4

## APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

### The Pottery Report

*Peter Thompson*

The archaeological evaluation recovered 25 sherds weighing 467g. With the exception of the modern pottery from L1048, the remainder of the assemblage was all moderately to heavily abraded. All of the medieval sherds comprised Ely type ware, of which four were glazed. In addition there was a single residual sherd of Roman Wattisfield ware from Ditch F1034. Ditches F1013 and F1034 contained Ely ware only, and so the pottery potentially dates these features, although the abraded nature of the pottery sherds also offers the possibility of them being residual.

### Methodology

The sherds were examined and recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001). Fabric codes used are appropriate for the Cambridgeshire County Council pottery type series (Spoerry 2016).

### KEY:

WAT I: Wattisfield ware Roman

MEL: Medieval Ely ware mid 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

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

ENGS: English stoneware 18<sup>th</sup>+

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

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Ditch 1013	1014	4x11g MEL	Late 12 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	MEL: heavily abraded; x2 sherds glazed (9g) including base/body angle with internal glaze
Pit 1026	1027	1x12g GRE	17 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup>	
Ditch 1030	1031	1x6g MEL 1x2g RWE	late 18 <sup>th</sup> +	MEL: glazed, heavily abraded
Ditch 1034	1035	1x1g WAT I 4x21g MEL	late 12 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	MEL: moderately to heavily abraded x1 glazed (1x6g); x1 ?bowl rim
Pit 1036	1037	1x3g RWE	late 18 <sup>th</sup> +	
Ditch 1039	1040	2x17g MEL 1x6g GRE	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	MEL: moderately to heavily abraded
Layer	1048	7x370g ENGS 2x18g RWE	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <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

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## **The Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey*

The evaluation recovered fragments (210g) of modern CBM. The CBM does not pre-date the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and may belong entirely to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Very low (isolated) quantities of engineering brick were contained in Pit F1024 and Ditch F1030, pantile in layer L1048 and sewer pipe in Ditch F1039.

## **The Faunal Remains and Molluscs**

*Julie Curl*

### **The Faunal Remains**

#### **Methodology**

The assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis, 1992) and Baker and Worley, 2014. All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. A record was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When possible ages were estimated along with any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were noted for each context and counts made for each species. Where bone could not be identified to species, they were grouped as, for example, 'large mammal', 'bird' or 'small mammal'. The results were input into an Excel database for quantification and analysis. A summary catalogue and a table of measurements is included with this report and a full catalogue (with additional counts) of the faunal remains is available in the digital archive.

#### **The bone assemblage**

*Quantification, provenance and preservation*

A total of 4137g of bone, consisting of 145 elements was produced from this excavation which is quantified in Tables 2 and 3. The remains were recovered from three deposits of a mixed date range. The largest quantity of bone, over 97% of the assemblage by weight, consists of a one animal skeleton that included the remains of a prenatal foetus.

Context	Trench	Feature	Type	Date	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)
1014	3	1013	Ditch	L12th-15th	10	15
1029	5	1028	Pit	Undated	127	4020
1040	4B	1039	Ditch	18th-19th	8	102

**Table 2.** Quantification of the faunal remains by feature, date and weight.

The skeleton from Trench 5, pit fill F1028 L1029, is in excellent condition and very well preserved; the bone is stained a very dark brown and has a characteristic smell that indicates it had been in an organic (and probably woody) and waterlogged deposit for a time. Other bone is paler in colour and more fragmented from butchering and wear. Slight canid gnawing was evident on a cattle metatarsal from the ditch fill F1039 L1040 from Trench 4B, gnawing is common on these elements, which are often disposed of from skinning waste; such bones may be kept for giving to domestic or working dogs, but scavenger activity is possible.

### **Species range and modifications and other observations**

Two species were identified, along with several fragments of bone too fragmented to identify to species and recorded as 'mammal', these are quantified by context in Table 3.

Context	Trench	Feature	Type	Date	Species	NISP
1040	4B	1039	Ditch	18th-19th	Cattle	1
1014	3	1013	Ditch	L12th-15 <sup>th</sup>	Mammal	10
1040	4B	1039	Ditch	18th-19th	Mammal	7
1029	5	1028	Pit	Undated	Pig	127

**Table 3.** Quantification of the faunal remains by feature, species and NISP.

**Cattle** were represented by a single butchered metatarsal from the ditch fill F1039 L1040. This cattle bone had also been gnawed, suggesting that the skinning waste might be available for feeding domestic or working dogs.

**Mammal** bone was recorded with seventeen fragments that bore no diagnostic features that would allow species identification. Generally these fragments were more fragile and less well preserved. Most fragments were from the medieval ditch fill F1013 L1014.

### **Pig Skeleton, Pit F1028, Fill L1029, Undated**

The majority of bones in this assemblage were from one young adult/sub-adult female pig, this pig was buried whole and no butchering was observed on any of the bones. However, a second pig was recorded with four prenatal limb bones. The main skeleton consisted of most of the limb bones, some foot bones, vertebrae, sacrum, ribs, scapulae, pelvic bones, the skull and mandible.

The main skeleton is that of a large and robust animal. The largely intact skull indicates a short-faced pig with a high rounded head. Given the short face

and robustness of the bone, as well as the excellent preservation, it may be possible that this is a relatively modern breed of pig, breeds suggested are Middle White, a short-faced version of the old Berkshire, Neapolitan or even the Chatto Murciano, with these breeds being present in Britain from around the 18<sup>th</sup> century, cross-breeds and derivatives of these breeds are possible.

Numerous pathologies were seen on the main pig skeleton from pit fill F1028 L1029. The teeth suggest an adult, but wear of the third molar indicates a young adult/sub-adult. The animal was still of breeding age, which is indicated by the presence of four prenatal bones, which suggest an unborn piglet that would have led to a womb infection and potentially blood poisoning that could have been fatal. The pig is likely to have given birth to most of the piglets normally and it may have been possibly at least a couple of weeks before an infection would arise and affect the mother.

During life, the pig suffered with numerous arthritic problems. The distal ends of both humeri were affected by exostoses and distortion (Plates 1 and 2). Corresponding with this, both proximal ulnas and both proximal radii were affected, meaning the whole joint would have been inflamed and painful. The femurs showed small numbers of exostoses. Exostoses were seen on two metapodials. Two carpals were also fused.



**Plate 1.** A distal humerus and proximal radius and ulna all affected by arthritic growth. Both front legs were affected. Pig skeleton from Pit fill F1028 L1029.

The sacrum showed some abnormal growth and exostoses. Lumbar vertebrae 2 and 3 are fused together, this was also the case with lumbar vertebrae 4 and 5 (Plate 3). Both groups of fused vertebrae and been joined by growths that are similar to the condition DISH (Diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis) where the osteophytes produced are large and 'flow like candle wax' joining the vertebrae. Lumbar vertebrae 2 and 3 are particularly badly affected and show severe pitting of one vertebrae and distortion and

remodelling of the bone. The similarity of the fused vertebrae to the human condition DISH is interesting. Dish in people is associated with obesity and diabetes and often seen with what were likely to be obese monks. Given the short face and robustness of the bone, this may be one of the very heavy breeds of pig and if fattened for meat or even over-fed as a spoilt pet, this and a possible lack of exercise could have resulted in these skeletal problems.

One rib was also seen with a probable healed fracture. The animal may have received rough management, an injury during mating or a kick from an animal such as a horse which could fracture a rib.

#### *Butchering*

Only one bone in this assemblage showed any butchering, this was the cattle metatarsal from ditch fill 1040 in Trench 4B, which had been chopped.

#### *Pathologies*

Numerous pathologies were seen on the main pig skeleton from pit fill 1029, which are discussed with the species discussion.



**Plate 2.** A distal humerus and proximal radius and ulna all affected by arthritic growth, showing individual bones. Both front legs were affected. Pig skeleton from Pit fill F1028 L1029.



**Plate 3.** Fused lumbar vertebrae, with one vertebrae on the right also showing remodelling. Pig skeleton from Pit fill F1028 L1029.

### **Discussion**

The main feature of this assemblage is the pig skeleton and one that suffered with a range of health issues, some of which resulted in considerable pain and some evident lameness in life. The robustness and skull shape suggest one of the more rotund, short-faced and weighty breeds. The excellent preservation might also suggest a more modern breed of pig, especially as other bone in this assemblage is less well preserved. The pathologies noted on this pig skeleton suggested excess weight and perhaps a lack of exercise. The pig had clearly recently had the chance to breed, with pigs usually producing numerous young. The presence of prenatal bones with the skeleton suggest one piglet had been retained after others were born, which would have led initially to a womb infection and then a more general infection and death if not treated. If the infection was the cause of death the pig would have displayed ill-health and this may have resulted in the pig being avoided for meat use. It is of course possible that this animal may have been a 'pet'.

The single cattle bone represents skinning waste and the gnawing shows this was available for a dog. The Medieval remains in this assemblage were poorly preserved and heavily fragmented and not identifiable to species.

## The Mollusc Assemblage

### Methodology

The molluscs were identified to species using a variety of reference material. Shells were catalogued by species and where appropriate, counts were made of the number of individual species present (NISP), counts of top and base shells and an estimate of the minimum number of individuals (MNI). Bivalve shells are known to be used as painter's palettes and the remains are examined for any traces of pigments. Shells are also examined for any cut marks that would confirm their use for food from the prising apart of the shells or removal of meat with a knife.

### Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of 22g of shell, consisting of two elements, was recovered from this site. Shell was produced from two fills and quantified in Table 4 with full counts in Appendix 2. The remains are in good condition, with almost complete shells.

Context	Feature	Ctxt Qty	Weight	F	M	L	Species	NISP
1048		1	7		1		Oyster	1
1035	1034	1	15		1		Oyster	1

**Table 4.** Quantification of the mollusc assemblage.

### The mollusc assemblage

All of the shells in this assemblage were identified as the Common Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*). One top shell was found in the layer L1048. The base shell from ditch fill L1035 is of a medieval date, the shell shows sponge and worm activity attesting to its collection from a marine environment.

### Conclusions

This is a small assemblage of the most common marine mollusc found on archaeological sites. It is most likely that these were collected for food use to supplement the diet.

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## Appendixes 1 and 2.

1. Summary catalogue of the faunal remains.
2. Catalogue of the mollusc assemblage.

## Appendix 1

Catalogue of the animal bone recovered from ECB5453

Listed in context order.

A full catalogue (with additional counts) is available as an Excel file.

### Key:

NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present

Age – ad = adult, juv = juvenile (older than 1 month), Neo = less than one month old

Ctxt	Trench	FNo	Type	Sdate	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Ad	Juv	Neo	MNI	Element range	Butchering	Comments
1014	3	1013	Ditch	L12th-15th	10	15	Mammal	10					Fragments		
1029	5	1028	Pit	Undated	127	4020	Pig	3		3			skull, mandible, hyoid	none	short-snouted skull, modern breed of pig, high frontal, M3 in low-mid wear, M1 =H, quite dark staining to bone
1029	5	1028	Pit	Undated			Pig	124		120	4	2	skeleton and prenatal remains	none	Pig skeleton and remains of neonatal. Four limb bones of robust prenatal - perhaps unaborting? Skeleton riddled with arthritic problems. Severe arthritic growth on distal humeri, proximal ulnas, proximal radii, two sets of two fused lumbar vertebrae, some arthritic growth on calcaneus and metapodials, growth on proximal femurs, thoracic vertebrae some wear. Some of the older pig skeleton has unfused bones (such as proximal tibia and vertebrae), probably as result of over-feeding and over-breeding. Burial had been whole, not even skinned. Pig had lain in organic waterlogged deposit for sometime, bones dark stained and waterlogged organic smell. One broken and healed rib (kicked?).
1040	4B	1039	Ditch	18th-19th	8	102	Cattle	1					metatarsal shaft	chopped	metatarsal shaft with light gnawing
1040	4B	1039	Ditch	18th-19th			Mammal	7					Fragments		



## The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

### Introduction

During the archaeological evaluation at 7 & 7a Townsend, nine bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. The samples included deposits of likely medieval date (Ditches F1013 L1014 and F1034 L1035); post-medieval date; and the fill of channel F1032 (L1033). This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions, and discusses the significance and potential of any remains recovered.

### Methods

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

### Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 5.

Few remains of environmental archaeological significance were recovered from the samples. A single carbonised grain of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and another of free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type) were recovered from layer L1048, which was associated with modern (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century) material.

Multiple fragments of wood were recovered from undated ditch fill L1009 (F1008) but few other remains resulting from waterlogging were encountered. Identified seeds were of bramble (*Rubus* sp.) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), but it was not possible to determine whether they were of modern origin.

Mollusc shells were recovered from all of the deposits, with grassland and ground litter taxa predominating. Occasional shells of aquatic species *Lymnaea truncatula* and *Anisus leucostoma* were identified in L1014 and L1040. Both deposits were the fills of ditch features and the shells are likely to reflect seasonal waterlogging of the ditches.

## *Conclusions*

The assessment of the bulk sample light fractions revealed very few remains of environmental archaeological significance and no carbonised remains from the two sampled medieval deposits (L1014 and L1035). The site may have been peripheral to core areas of activity during the medieval period and not receiving significant quantities of domestic refuse in later periods.

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Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Trench	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains
										Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal >2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
ECB5453	1	1014	1013	Fill of Ditch	3	Late 12th-15th C	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Lymnaea truncatula</i> , <i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Vallonia</i> sp., <i>Vertigo</i> sp., <i>Trichia hispida</i> group	X	-	X	-	-	-	-
ECB5453	2	1009	1008	Fill of Ditch	2	-	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Vallonia</i> sp., <i>Vertigo</i> sp.	XXX	-	XX	-	-	-	Wood (XXX)
ECB5453	3	1035	1034	Fill of Ditch	2	Late 12th-15th C	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Vallonia</i> sp., <i>Vertigo</i> sp.	XX	X	-	-	-	-	Coal (X), Plastic (X)
ECB5453	4	1033	1032	Fill of Channel	2	-	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vertigo</i> sp.	XXX	-	X	-	-	-	Coal (X), Wood (X)
ECB5453	5	1025	1024	Fill of Pit	5	-	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	X	X	-	-	-	Coal (X)
ECB5453	6	1027	1026	Fill of Pit	5	17th-18th C	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	-	XX	-	-	-	-

ECB5453	7	1040	1039	Fill of Ditch	4B	18th-19th C	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Anisus leucostoma</i> , <i>Carychium</i> sp., <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Lymnaea truncatula</i> , <i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Trichia hispida</i> group	XX	-	X	-	-	-
ECB5453	8	1048	-	Layer	1	19th-20th C	40	20	50%	X	-	Hord (1), FTW (1)	-	-	-	X	-	-	XX	<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	-	X	-	X	-
ECB5453	9	1029	1028	Fill of Pit	5	-	80	40	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	-	X	-	X	-

Table 5: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Townsend, Soham. Abbreviations: Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*).

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### Project details

Project name	7 and 7a Townsend, Soham, Cambs, TT
Short description of the project	In August 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 7 and 7A Townsend, Soham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5900 7424; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 4no dwellings, garaging, parking, access road and associated works (East Cambs Council Approval Ref. 14/01231/OUT), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. The evaluation revealed two medieval ditches whose alignment broadly corresponds with that of the strip fields recorded on the 1656 plan of the manor (Fig.6). They may represent a medieval antecedent for a system of cultivation that was persevered until it was encroached upon by the post-medieval expansion of the town. The ditches contained low quantities of medieval Ely ware pottery, animal bone, oyster shell, and molluscan remains that suggest they were seasonally waterlogged. Other features on the site included a sparse distribution of late post-medieval to early modern field boundaries and pits located in Trenches 2 - 5. A pig burial in Trench 5 that was distinguished by a robust, short-muzzled skeleton with extensive evidence of being fattened is dated to c. 18th century (Animal Bone Report).
Project dates	Start: 06-08-2018 End: 30-09-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7675 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 5453 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Monument type	PIG BURRIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded



**Project location**

Country England  
 Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOHAM 7 and 7a Townsend, Soham, Cambs  
 Postcode CB7 5DD  
 Study area 0.38 Hectares  
 Site coordinates TL 5900 7424 52.342731910058 0.33433444127 52 20 33 N 000 20 03 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 6m Max: 6m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
 Project brief originator Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeology Office  
 Project design originator Jon Murray  
 Project director/manager Jon Murray  
 Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Mrs B Clements  
 Name of sponsor/funding body Mrs B Clements

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store  
 Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Wood","other"  
 Digital Archive recipient Cambirdge County Archaeological Store  
 Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Wood","other"  
 Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Cambridge County Archaeological Store  
 Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Wood","other"  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title 7 and 7A TOWNSEND, SOHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Haygreen, J

Other bibliographic details	R5637
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Entered by	Hollie Wesson (admin@ascontract.co.uk)
Entered on	25 September 2018

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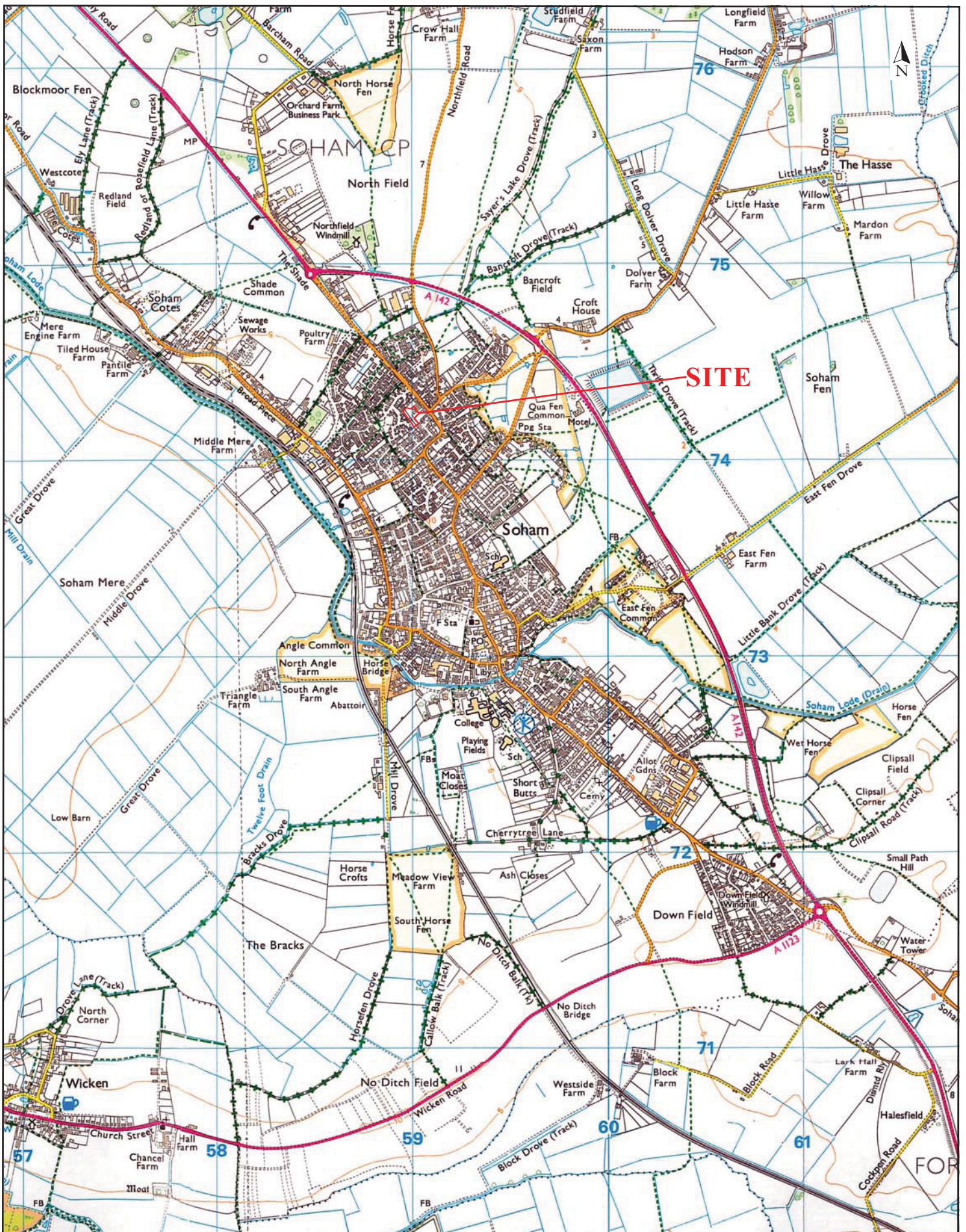
34  
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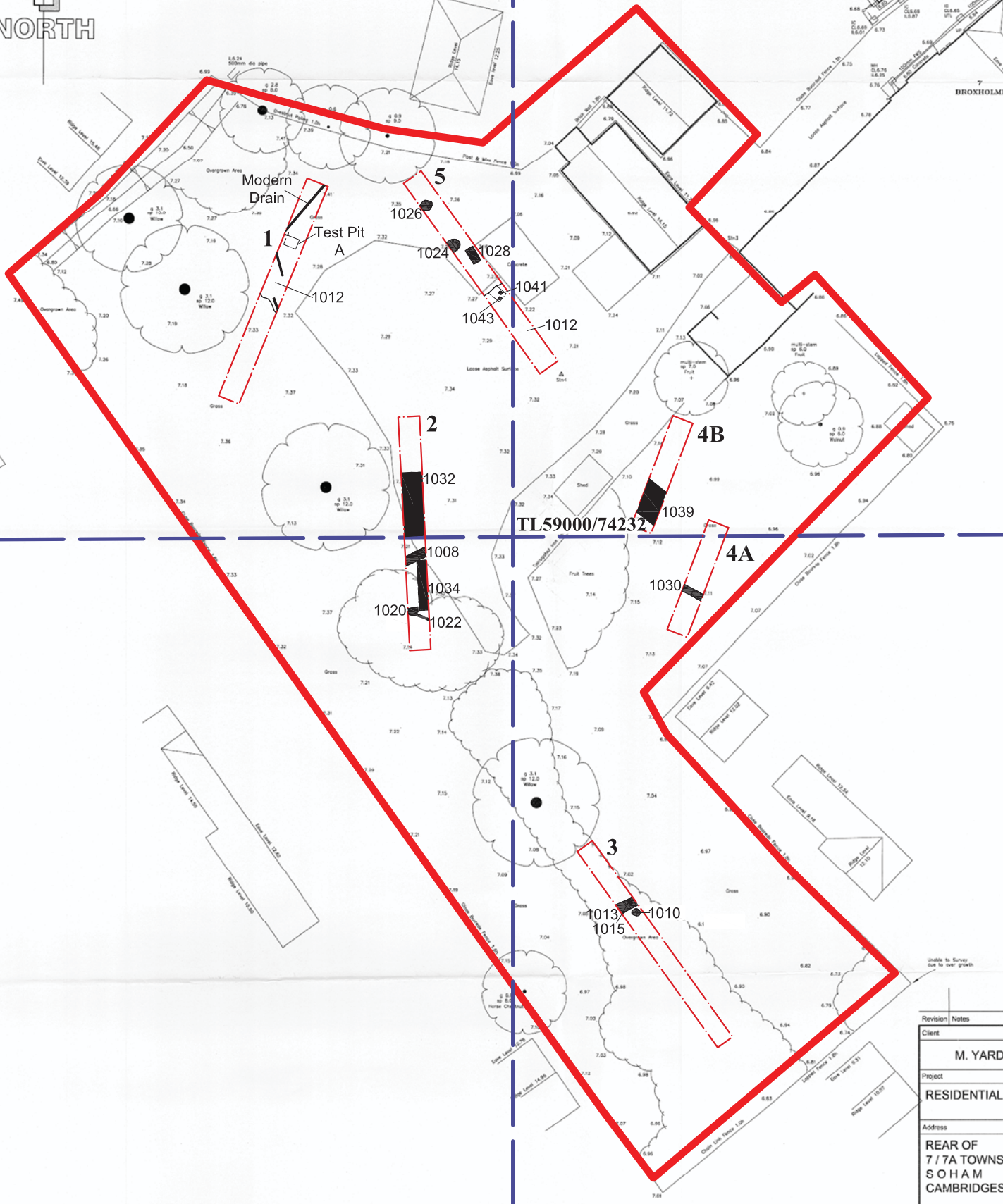
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### Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

7 & 7a Townsend, Soham, Cambridgeshire (P7675)



Revision	Notes
Client	M. YARD
Project	RESIDENTIAL
Address	REAR OF 7 / 7A TOWNS SOHAM CAMBRIDGES
Drawn	

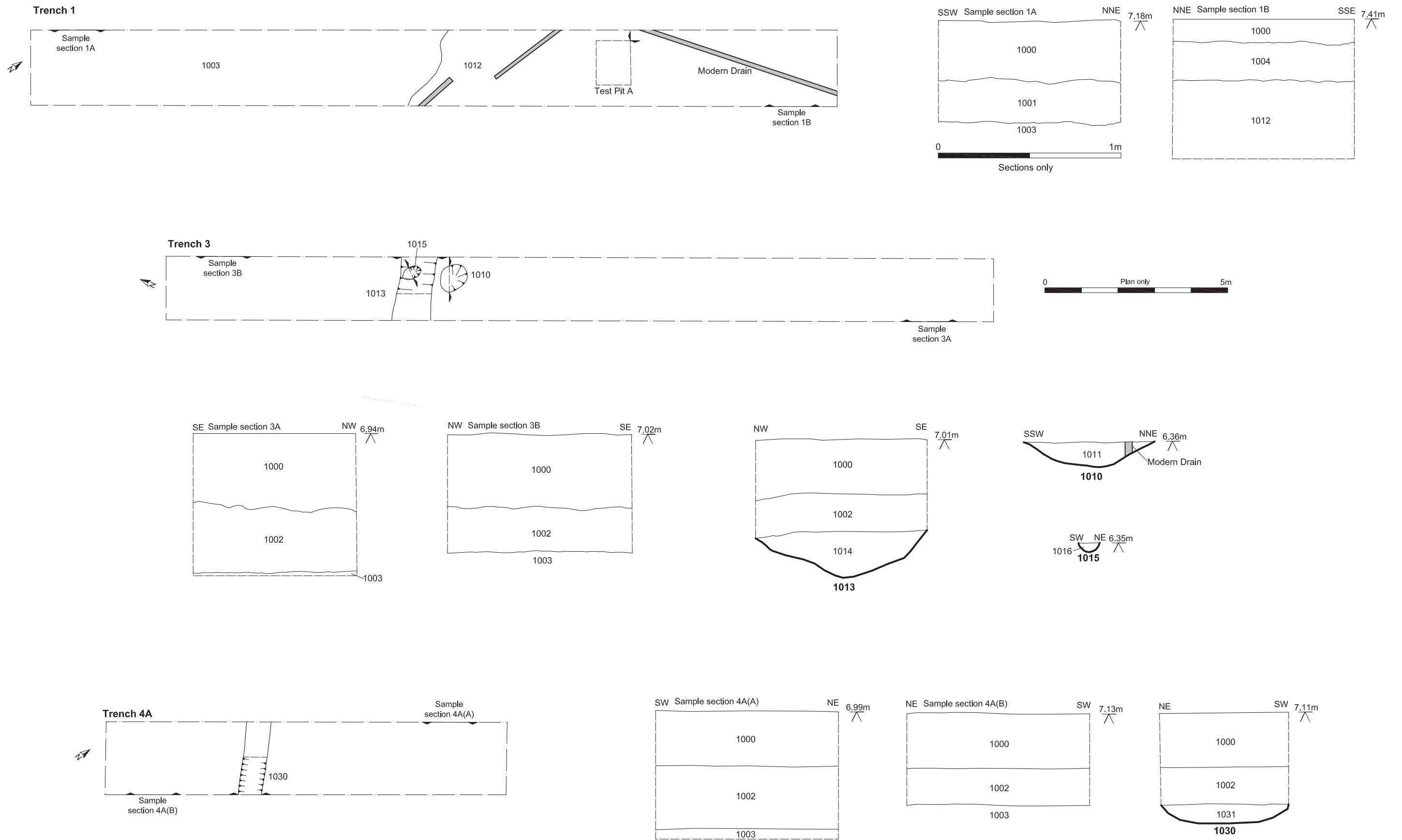
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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**

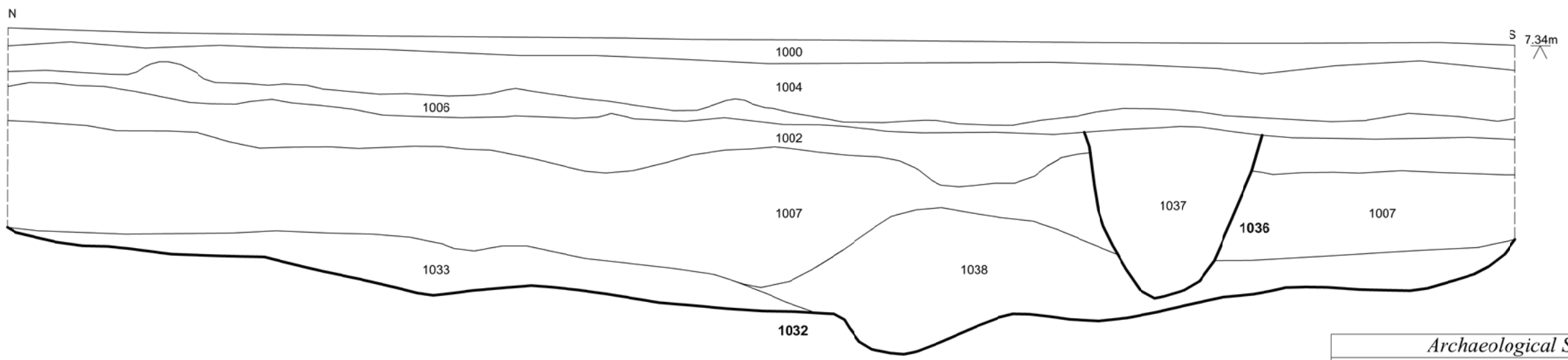
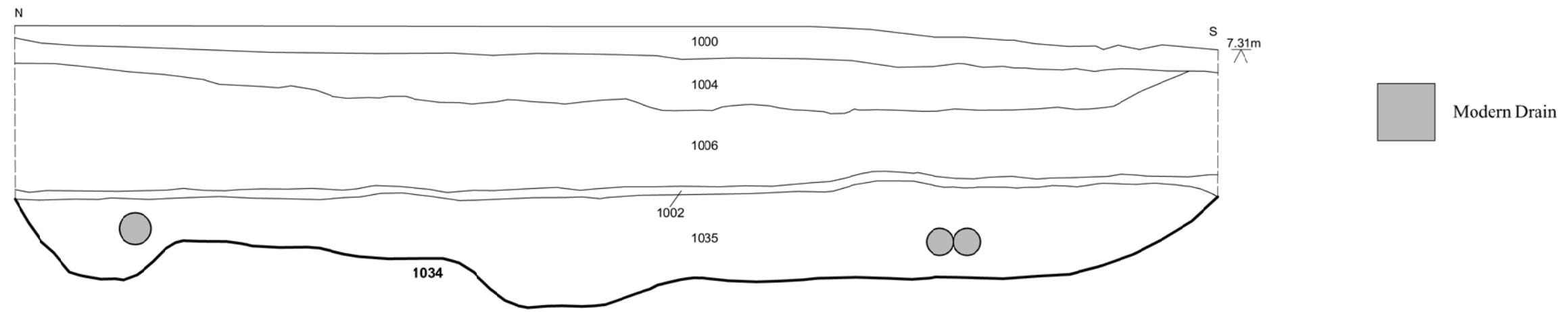
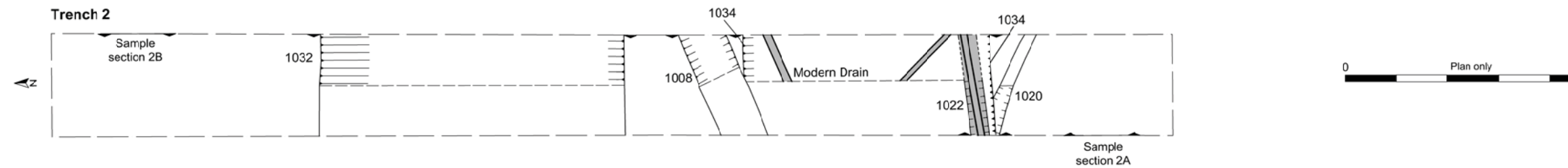
Scale 1:500 at A4

7 & 7a Townsend, Soham, Cambridgeshire (P7675)

0 25m



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**Fig. 3 Plans and sections**  
 Scale Plans at 1:100, sections at 1:20 at A3  
 7 & 7a Townsend, Soham, Cambridgeshire (P7675)

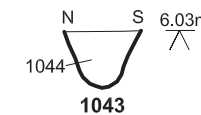
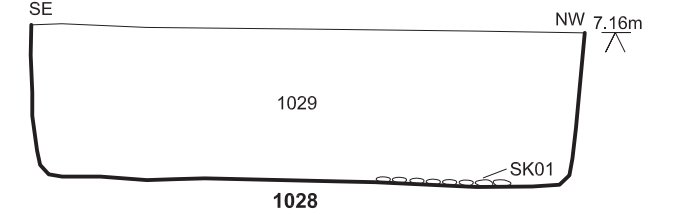
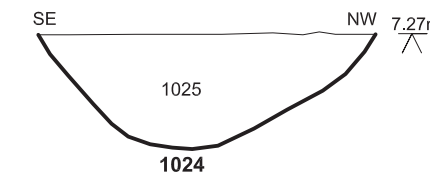
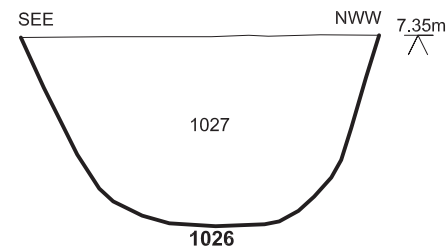
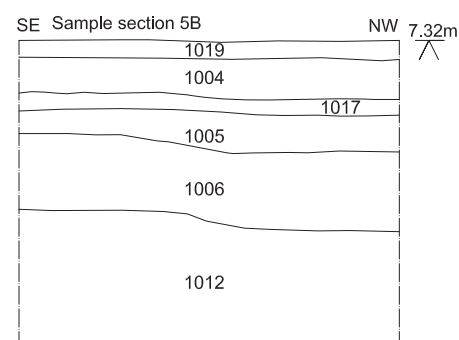
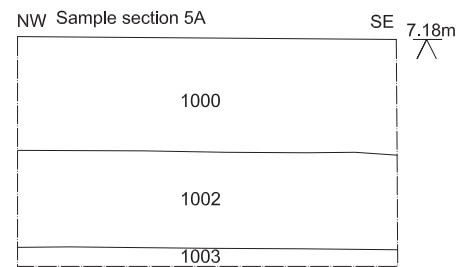
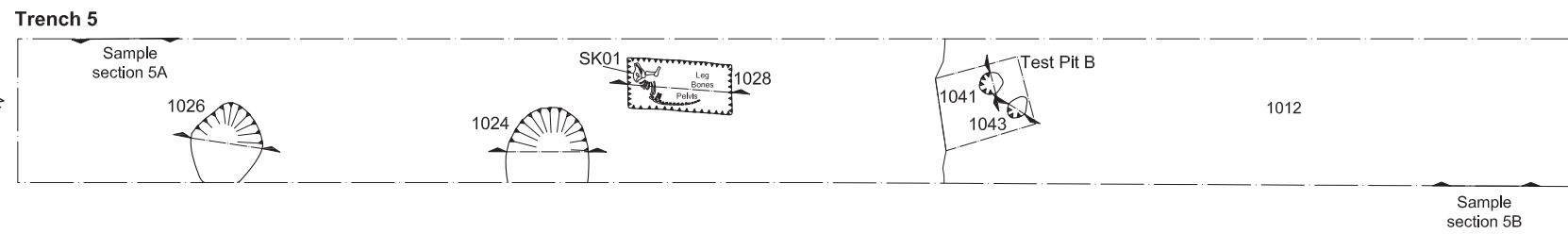
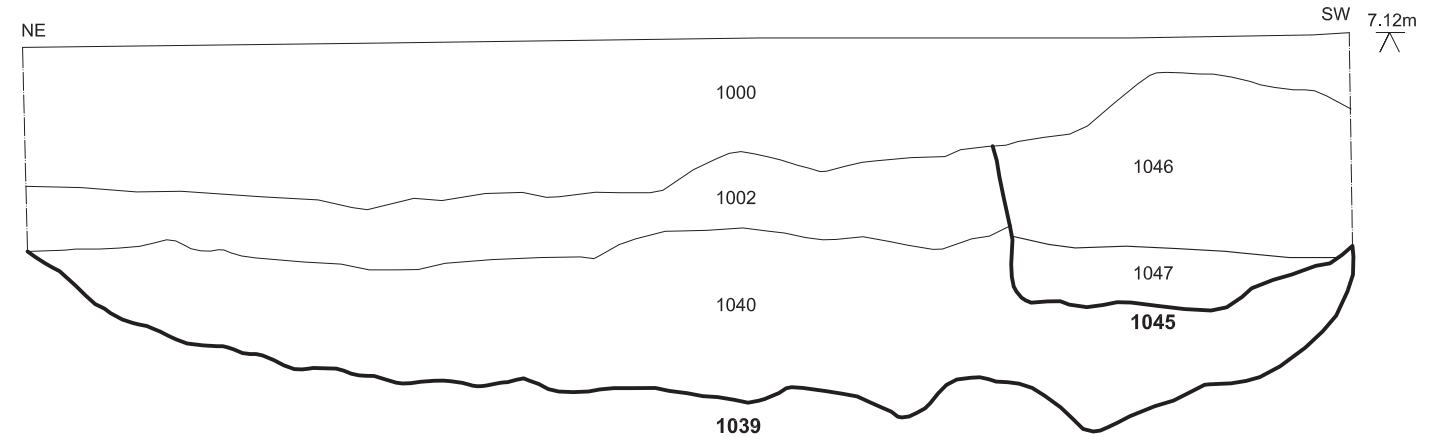
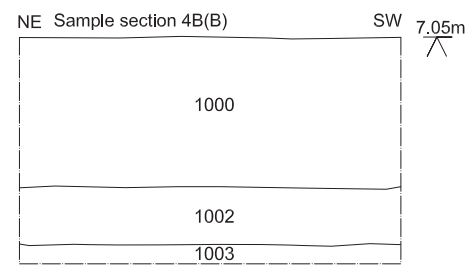
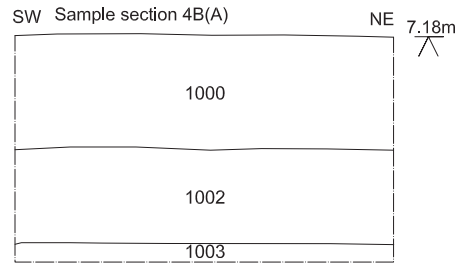
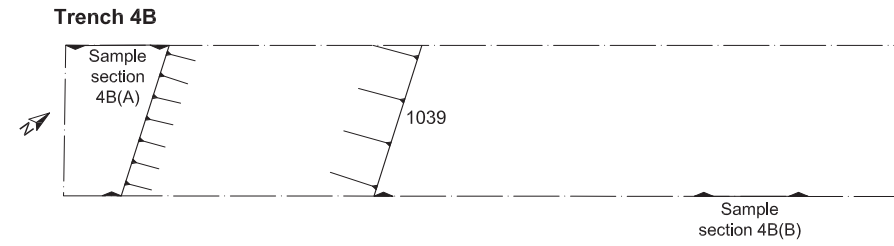


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**Fig. 4 Plans and sections**

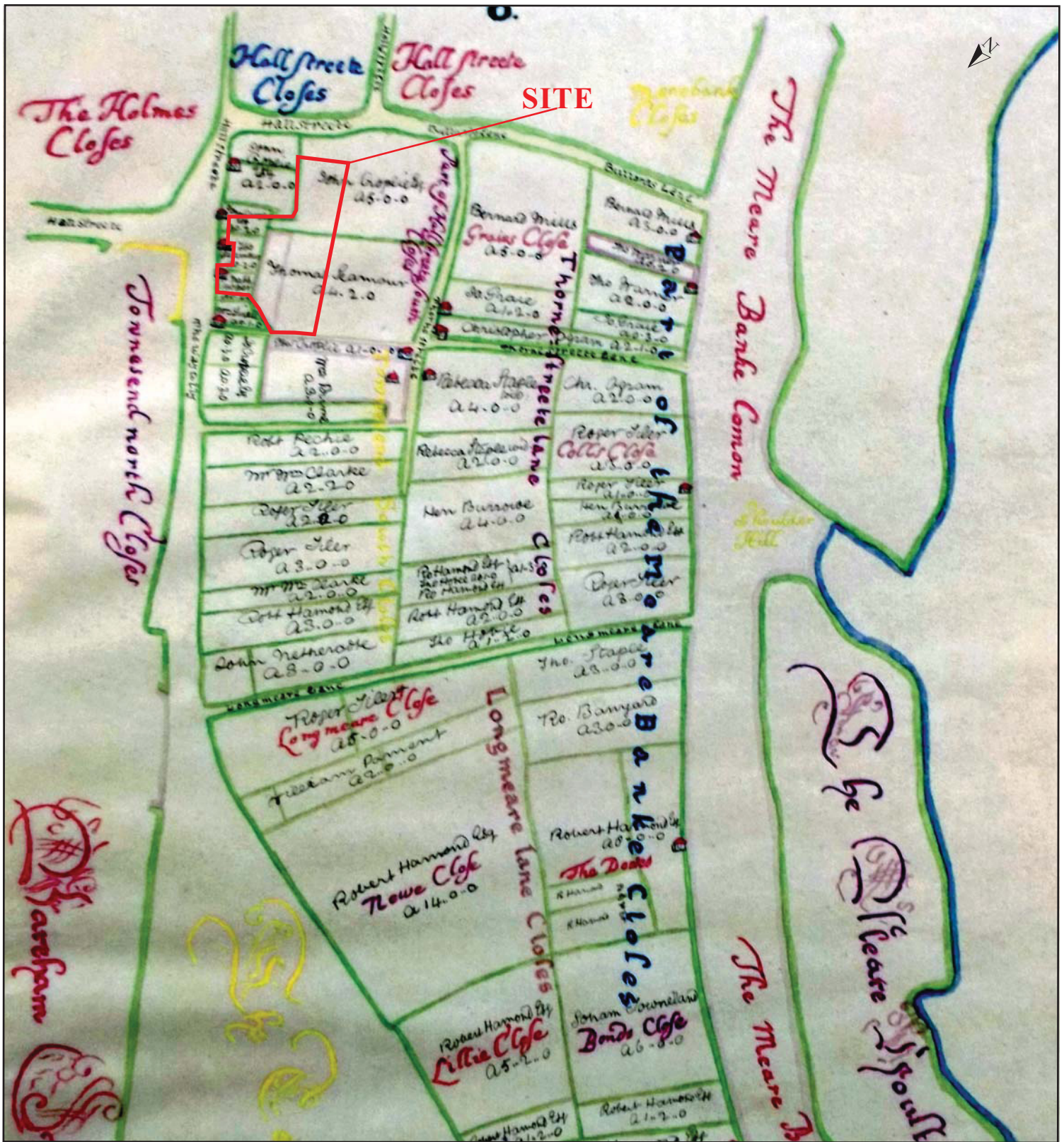
Scale Plans at 1:100, sections at 1:20 at A3

7 & 7a Townsend, Soham, Cambridgeshire (P7675)



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**Fig. 5 Plans and sections**  
 Scale Plans at 1:100, sections at 1:20 at A3  
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 Fig. 6 Parker's 1656 Soham Manor Plan  
 Not to scale  
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