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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**LAND NORTH OF 37-45 KING STREET,  
WIMBLINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

CHER ECB 5432

Authors: Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 4176 9268	Report No: 5628
District: Fenland	Site Code: ECB 5432
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P7574
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<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Land North of 37 – 45 King Street, Wimblington, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<p><i>In July and August 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land north of 37-45 King Street, Wimblington, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4176 9268; 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 37no new residential dwellings, garages and access, following demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings (Fenland District Council Approval Ref. F/YR17/0682/F), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation recorded two ditches which were perpendicular and may represent former field boundaries. One (F1026) contained abraded medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century) pottery, but this was likely washed into a post-medieval drainage ditch. Parallel ditches, aligned east/west, were present in Trenches 2, 5 and 6 and represent a second phase of field boundaries, almost certainly more recent. F1022 contained an 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century sherd, and the parallel ditches are aligned with the northern boundary of the site, suggesting they represent late post-medieval or early modern fields that were infilled following improvements in agricultural practices and drainage.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>July and August 2018</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	<i>Future work</i>	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>P7556</i>	<i>Site code</i>	<i>ECB 5432</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Garden plots</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Ditches, undated pits</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Abraded medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> C) pottery</i>		
	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Fenland</i>	<i>Wimblington</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>PE15 0QF</i>		
Area of site	<i>1.7ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 4176 9268</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.6m AOD</i>		
<i>Project creators</i>			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Construct Reason Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land North of 37 – 45 King Street, Wimblington, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Barlow, G.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5628</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>August 2018; revised September 2018</i>		

# LAND NORTH OF 37-45 KING STREET, WIMBLINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### SUMMARY

*In July and August 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land north of 37-45 King Street, Wimblington, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4176 9268; 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 37no new residential dwellings, garages and access, following demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings (Fenland District Council Approval Ref. F/YR17/0682/F), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.*

*Multi-period archaeological remains are known from the area of Wimblington, and Roman features have been found on the northern boundary of the proposed development site (CHER MCB17554). Prehistoric occupation has been recorded to the north and east when the March-Chatteris pipeline was laid (CHER MCB17553, 17555 & 17556). Investigations north-west of the site at March Road have recorded Iron Age/Roman occupation (CHER ECB4197) and further evidence of Roman and medieval occupation is known to the east of the site at Eastwood End (CHER MCB18530). Prehistoric, medieval and Roman features have been recorded during investigations to the south of the site (CHER MCB16492, MCB17215 & MC17779).*

*The evaluation recorded two ditches which were perpendicular and may represent former field boundaries. One (F1026) contained abraded medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century) pottery, but this was likely washed into a post-medieval drainage ditch. Parallel ditches, aligned east/west, were present in Trenches 2, 5 and 6 and represent a second phase of field boundaries, almost certainly more recent. F1022 contained an 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century sherd, and the parallel ditches are aligned with the northern boundary of the site, suggesting they represent late post-medieval or early modern fields that were infilled following improvements in agricultural practices and drainage.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July and August 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land north of 37-45 King Street, Wimblington, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4176 9268; 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 37no new residential dwellings, garages and access, following demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings (Fenland District Council Approval Ref. F/YR17/0682/F), 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 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 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 located on the northern edge of Wimblington, on land set back to the north of King Street. It comprises rear former garden plots behind 37-45 King Street, a number of areas of which are occupied by existing polytunnels in use for horticulture. A deep drainage ditch traverses the western part of the site. The new access will be via the demolition of 41a King Street.

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

3.1 The site extends to some 1.7ha on the northern edge of the village of Wimblington. The latter is situated in the fenland between the small market towns of March and Chatteris. The site is situated at c.6m AOD at the northern tip of an elongated raised area on which the villages of Wimblington and Doddington are located. The fenland descends to sea level in all directions beyond this. A small fen drainage ditch is located adjacent to the eastern edge of the site, and ultimately feeds into the Latchesfen Drain further to the north-east.

3.2 The site lies on a solid geology of mudstone that forms part of the Ampthill Clay Formation, overlain by lime-rich loamy and clayey soils.

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

4.1 Prehistoric features have been found during archaeological investigation at Norfolk Street (CHER MCB16492), Eastwood End (CHER MCB17556, MCB17557), and Isle of Ely Way/Nixhill Road (CHER MCB17558). A Bronze Age rapier, now in Wisbech museum, was found in the Wimblington area to the south-west of the current site (CHER 05912).

4.2 A hoard of 300-350 Iron Age coins, including several of the Iceni, was found in the Wimblington area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (CHER 06064). A spread of early Iron Age and Roman pottery has been recorded in the vicinity of a network of undated ditches to the north-east of Wimblington (CHER 08984) and Iron Age quernstones have been found in the area (CHER MCB02011). Iron Age occupation activity was recorded to the north-east of the current site during the Fenland Survey (CHER 10006A). Iron Age features have been recorded at Bridge Lane (CHER 11416). Iron Age and Roman ditches and pits were recorded during a trial trench evaluation conducted in 2014 on land adjacent to 38 March Road (CHER MCB20356).

4.3 A spread of Roman pottery and a 'dark occupation area' were recorded during the Fenland Survey (CHER 10006). An almost complete Roman flagon was found by workmen in the early 2000s at a site to the west of the King Street site (CHER CB15647). A Roman brooch and pottery scatter has been found just to the south of the junction of March Road with the A141 (CHER MCB16741). Possible Roman ditches have been recorded at March Road/Bridge Lane, and Roman and undated features at Isle of Ely Way and Eastwood End, during work conducted along the route of the March to Chatteris water pipeline (CHER MCB17553, MCB17554, MCB17555). Roman and medieval features have been recorded to the south-west of 3 Eastwood End (CHER MCB18530). A Roman ditch and quarry pits have been recorded at 24 March Road (CHER MCB20018).

4.4 Traces of the lost medieval hamlet (DMV) of Eastwood End were found during archaeological investigation at Bridge Lane in 1993 (CHER 11416B). The clay head, foot, and hand of a possibly medieval puppet were found at the Carpenters Arms in Wimblington in the 1960s (CHER 01525). An evaluation at 5-7 March Road recorded medieval features and a possible pre-medieval roadside ditch (CHER MCB17215). A medieval ditch and furrows have been recorded during archaeological work at 3 Eastwood End (CHER MCB20073).

4.5 The site of a post-medieval windmill is recorded to the west of the current site from 18<sup>th</sup> century cartographic sources (CHER 05913). The Old Toll House is situated on March Road to the north-west of the current site (CHER 05914). Documentary evidence for post-medieval gardens associated with Wimblington Rectory is recorded as CHER 12253. Post-medieval features have been found during archaeological investigation at Norfolk Street (CHER MCB16492). Plough furrows and boundary ditches of post-medieval date have been recorded during an evaluation at Bridge Lane (CHER MCB16926). Post-medieval and modern features have been recorded at 7 Norfolk Street (CHER MCB17779). A 2015 evaluation recorded post-medieval ditches, pits and pond at 14 Eastwood End (CHER MCB20633).

4.6 The 19<sup>th</sup> century and onwards is represented in the vicinity of the site by the March to St Ives branch of the Great Northern and Great Eastern Railway which opened in 1848 and closed in 1967 (CHER 03698). St Peter's Church is of 19<sup>th</sup> century date and was built by Thomas Henry Wyatt (CHER CB14827). Wimblington Methodist Church is also of 19<sup>th</sup> century date (CHER MCB17250). Several historic sites in the area have been recorded on the basis of their identification on 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey mapping. These include: Fendike Farm (CHER MCB24752), the former site of Eaton's School (CHER MCB24753), the site of a blacksmith's workshop, now demolished (CHER MCB24755), the site of Hill House (CHER MCB24756), the still extant Anchor Inn (CHER MCB24757), the similarly still used Bell Inn (CHER MCB24758), the site of the now demolished Toll Farm (CHER MCB24759), the site of the former Mill Farm (CHER MCB24760), and Clayhill Farm (CHER MCB24761).

## 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 4% sample of the development area (1.7ha.) to be investigated by trenching. Seven trenches each 40m x 1.80m (Trenches 1- 7) and one trench 22m x 1.80m (Trench 8) were excavated (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. 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. 3 & 4

Sample Section 1A 0.00 = 4.30m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub rounded flints.
0.30 – 0.42m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small sub rounded flints.
0.42m +	L1002	Natural deposits. Firm, mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small to mid sub angular flint.

Sample Section 1B 0.00 = 4.25m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.41m +	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

*Description: Trench 1 contained Ditches F1016 and F1022, and Pit F1020. Ditch F1022 contained 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and CBM. The other features contained no finds.*

Ditch F1016 was linear in plan (>1.80 x 1.71 x 0.53m) with a N/S orientation. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1017, was a firm, mid grey clay silt and contained no finds.

Ditch F1022 was linear in plan (>1.80 x 1.01 x 0.51m) with a NW/SE orientation. It had steep to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1023, was a firm mid grey silty clay. It contained 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (1; 9g) and CBM (13g).

Pit F1020 was sub-circular in plan (1.09 x 0.61 x 0.63m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1021, was a firm mid grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

### Trench 2 Figs. 3 & 4

Sample Section 2A 0.00 = 4.22m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.29 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.41m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Sample Section 2B 0.00 = 4.33m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30 – 0.42m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.42m +	L1002	Natural. As above

*Description: Trench 2 revealed Ditches F1003 and F1005, and Pit F1008. Drainage Ditch F1010 traversed the trench.*

Ditch F1003 was irregular in plan (>1.80 x 0.85 x 0.64m) with an E/W orientation. It had steep sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1004, was a firm, mid brown grey silty clay. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1005 was linear in plan (>1.80 x 1.01 x 0.54m) with an E/W orientation. It had steep sides and a narrow concave base. Its upper and principal fill, L1006, was a firm, mid grey silty clay containing no finds. Its basal fill, L1007, was a firm mid brown grey silty clay. It also contained no finds.

Pit F1008 was sub-circular in plan (0.56 x 0.95 x 0.29m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1009, was a firm, mid brown grey silty clay. It contained no finds.

Drainage Ditch F1010 was linear in plan (>1.80 x 0.34 x 0.72m) with an E/W orientation. It had vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1011 was a firm, mid brownish grey to mid yellow brown silty clay, and it contained clay pipe fragments.

**Trench 3** Figs. 3 & 5

Sample Section 3A 0.00 = 4.49m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.31 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.40m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Sample Section 3B 0.00 = 4.45m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30 – 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.46m +	L1002	Natural. As above

*Description: Trench 3 revealed undated Pits F1012, F1014 and F1024, and a Drainage Ditch F1018. Additional drainage ditches traversed the trench*

Pit F1012 was sub-circular in plan (0.63 x 0.51 x 0.15m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1013, was a firm grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds. F1012 cut Pit F1014.

Pit F1014 was sub-circular in plan (0.51 x >0.12 x 0.09m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1015, was a firm, brown silty clay. It contained no finds. F1014 was cut by Pit F1012

Pit F1024 was sub-circular in plan (0.39 x 0.22 x 0.11m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1025, was a firm dark brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds.

Drainage Ditch F1018 was linear in plan (>1.80 x 0.25 x 0.34m) with a N/S orientation. It had vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1019, was a firm, mid bluish grey silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds.

#### Trench 4 Figs. 3 & 5

Sample Section 4A		
0.00 = 4.45m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.31 – 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.44m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Sample Section 4B		
0.00 = 4.57m AOD		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.21 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.30m +	L1002	Natural. As above

*Description: Trench 4 revealed Ditch F1026 and it contained three sherds of medieval (11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> century) pottery and two residual struck flint. Drainage Ditch F1028 also traversed the trench.*

Ditch F1026 was linear in plan (>5.00 x 0.91 x 0.44m) with a N/S orientation. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1027, was a firm, mid brown grey silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flint. It contained 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery (3; 50g). F1026 was cut by Drainage Ditch F1028.

Drainage Ditch F1028 was linear in plan (>1.80 x 0.22 x 0.15m). It had vertical sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1029, was a loose mid grey silt. No finds were present. F1028 cut Ditch F1026.

## Trench 5 Figs. 3 & 6

Sample Section 5A 0.00 = 4.33m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.23 – 0.29m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.29m +	L1002	Natural. As above
Sample Section 5B 0.44 = 4.44m AOD		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.08 – 0.20m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.20m +	L1002	Natural. As above

*Description: Trench 5 contained undated parallel Ditches F1034 and F1036.*

Ditch F1034 was linear in plan (>1.0 x 1.05 x 0.33m), orientated E/W. It had steep to moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1035, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1036 was linear in plan (>1.0 x 1.5 x 0.66m), orientated E/W. It had irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1037, was a firm mid brown grey silty clay. It contained no finds.

## Trench 6 Figs. 3 & 6

Sample Section 6A 0.00 = 4.48m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.23 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.30m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Sample Section 6B 0.00 = 4.67m AOD		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.22 – 0.29m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.29m +	L1002	Natural. As above

*Description: Trench 6 contained undated parallel Ditches F1030 and F1032.*

Ditch F1030 was linear in plan (>1.0 x 0.9 x 0.35m) with an E/W orientation. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1031, was a firm, mid grey silty clay. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1032 was linear in plan (>1.0 x 0.9 x 0.35m) with an E/W orientation. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1033, was a mid grey silty clay. It contained no finds.

## Trench 7 Fig. 3

Sample Section 7B 0.00 = 4.15m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.41m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Sample Section 7B 0.00 = 4.19m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.23 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.30m +	L1002	Natural. As above

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

## Trench 8 Fig. 3

Sample Section 8B 0.00 = 4.36m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.40m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Sample Section 8B 0.00 = 4.61m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.10 – 0.20m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.20m +	L1002	Natural. As above

*Description: Trench 8 contained no archaeological features.*

## 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 silty clay with occasional small sub rounded flints (0.08 – 0.32m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, Firm, mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small sub rounded flints (0.09 – 0.16m thick). At the base of the sequence were the natural deposits (L1002), Firm, mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small to mid sub angular flint. L1002 was present 0.20 – 0.46m below the present day ground surface.

## 9 DISCUSSION

### 9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1016	Ditch	-
	F1020	Pit	-
	F1022	Ditch	18 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> Century
2	F1003	Ditch	-
	F1005	Ditch	-
	F1008	Pit	-
	F1010	Drainage ditch	-
3	F1012	Pit	-
	F1014	Pit	-
	F1018	Drainage ditch	-
	F1024	Pit	-
4	F1026	Ditch	11 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> Century
	F1028	Drainage ditch	-
5	F1034	Ditch	-
	F1036	Ditch	-
6	F1030	Ditch	-
	F1032	Ditch	-

### 9.2 Undated pits were recorded in Trenches 1 – 3.

9.3 Ditch F1026 (Trench 4) contained three sherds of abraded medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. The latter includes locally-produced sand- and shell-tempered coarse wares, likely derived from jars or cooking pots. Ditch F1026 was aligned north-south, which contrasts with the majority of the recorded ditches, and with most of extant adjacent boundaries. One drain to the west is notably also aligned north-south, so while it is possible the ditch formed part of an earlier, medieval field system, it is perhaps more likely related to endeavours in the post-medieval period to maintain drainage. The medieval sherds, which are abraded, may have washed into the ditch and probably derive from village activity to the south. Ditch F1022 (Trench 1) was perpendicular to Ditch F1026 and may represent a similar former field boundary or drain; however it contained 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and small fragments of Victorian to modern sewer or water pipe, suggestive of a later origin, or that it was re-cut and remained open.

9.4 Ditches F1003 and F1005 (Trench 2), F1034 and F1036 (Trench 5) and F1030 and F1032 (Trench 6) were parallel ditches, aligned east / west, and again may represent former field boundaries. Ditches F1003 and F1030 are likely a continuation of the same ditch. Similarly Ditches F1005, F1036 and F1032 also represent a single ditch. The alignment of these ditches corresponds closely with extant field boundaries, notably the northern boundary of the site, which is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Ordnance Survey map of 1886 (Fig.7). It is therefore probable that they represent the boundary divisions of late post-medieval or early

modern fields that were in-filled as larger fields were introduced following improvements in agricultural practices and drainage.

## **10 CONCLUSION**

10.1 Multi-period archaeological remains are known from the area of Wimblington, and Roman features have been found on the northern boundary of the proposed development site (CHER MCB17554). Prehistoric occupation has been recorded to the north and east when the March-Chatteris pipeline was laid (CHER MCB17553, 17555 & 17556). Investigations north-west of the site at March Road have recorded Iron Age/Roman occupation (CHER ECB4197) and further evidence of Roman and medieval occupation is known to the east of the site at Eastwood End (CHER MCB18530). Prehistoric, medieval and Roman features have been recorded during investigations to the south of the site (CHER MCB16492, MCB17215 & MC17779).

10.2 The evaluation recorded two ditches which were perpendicular and may represent former field boundaries. One (F1026) contained abraded medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century) pottery, but this was likely washed into a post-medieval drainage ditch. Parallel ditches, aligned east/west, were present in Trenches 2, 5 and 6 and represent a second phase of field boundaries, almost certainly more recent. F1022 contained an 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century sherd, and the parallel ditches are aligned with the northern boundary of the site, suggesting they represent late post-medieval or early modern fields that were infilled following improvements in agricultural practices and drainage.

## **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 Mr David Wyatt of Construct Reason Ltd for funding the works and for assistance.

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

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SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales* Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

### **Web resources**

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



Concordance of Finds

APPENDIX 1 - ECB5432 - P7574, Land North of 37-45 King Street, Wimblington

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1022	1023		1	Fill of Ditch	18th-19th C	1	9	13				
1026	1027	A	4	Fill of Ditch	11th-12th C	1	5					
		B	4		11th-12th C	2	45					

## APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

### Pottery Report

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 4 sherds weighing 59g from two ditches. All of the sherds were heavily abraded. Ditch F1026 contained three Early Medieval sand tempered sherds in two fills; two sherds were Early Medieval sand tempered wares containing small amounts of flint, the remaining sherd was an Early Medieval shelly ware containing common fine sand with the shell. The EMW2 sherd comprised a body/sagging base angle from a jar; and the ditch assemblage would fit an 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries date. Ditch F1022 (L1023) contained a single sherd of Early Modern glazed red earthenware.

### Methodology

The sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001). Medieval fabric codes are those used for Cambridge County Council pottery type series (Spoerry 2016).

### KEY:

EMW1: Early medieval ware1 (common fine and medium sub-rounded and rounded quartz, sparse medium angular white flint, and occasional black inclusions, either iron ore or iron coated quartz. Dark grey core and brown surfaces) 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>

EMW2: Early medieval ware2 (abundant fine sand with rare very coarse white sub-angular to angular flint) 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>

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

LGRE: Late glazed red earthenware 18<sup>th</sup>+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Ditch 1022	1023	1x9g LGRE	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	
Ditch 1026	1027 A	1x5g EMW1	11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	
	1027 B	1x40g EMW2 1x5g EMSHW	11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	EMW2: rounded jar base

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

### Bibliography

Slowikowski, A., Nenck, B. and Pearce, J. 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Spoerry, P. 2016 *The Production and Distribution of Medieval Pottery in Cambridgeshire* East Anglian Archaeology No. 159.

## **The Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey*

Ditch F1022 contained two small, highly abraded fragments (13g) of salt-glazed white earthen ware sewer/water pipe.

## **The Environmental Samples**

*Dr John Summers*

### *Introduction*

During the archaeological evaluation of land to the north of 37-45 King Street, Wimblington, three bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed from 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century ditch fill L1027A, and undated pit fills L1012 and L1025. 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 remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Samples >10 litres were 50% sub-sampled for the purpose of assessment. Any samples containing significant concentrations of carbonised plant macrofossils (>30 items in a whole sample) or abundant charcoal will be fully processed and the resulting light fractions stored with the site archive.

### *Results*

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 2.

The samples contained very low concentrations of identifiable remains. A single medium legume seed (Fabaceae) was identified in L1027A and common oak (*Quercus* sp.) charcoal was present in L1012. The samples contained common to abundant modern rootlets and occasional earthworm egg capsules that could reflect limited biological disturbance of the sampled deposits.

### *Conclusions*

The assessment of the bulk sample light fractions from 37-45 King Street, Wimblington, have demonstrated that few items of environmental archaeological significance were present. The very low concentrations of carbonised remains in the samples from the evaluation indicate that the sampled deposits were not commonly receiving carbonised debris from domestic or agricultural activity.

### *References*

Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker R.M. and Jans J.E.A. 2006, *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands. Groningen Archaeological Studies Volume 4*, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde

Jacomet, S. 2006, *Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn), Laboratory of Palynology and Palaeoecology, Basel University

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					
										Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal > 2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	Other remains
ECB543 2	1	1027 A	102 6	Fill of Ditch	1	11th- 12th C	4 0	2 0	50 %	-	-	-	X	Medium Fabacea e (1)	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-
ECB543 2	2	1013	101 2	Fill of Pit	3	-	2 0	1 0	50 %	-	-	-	-	-	X X	<i>Quercu</i> <i>s sp.</i>	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-
ECB543 2	3	1025	102 4	Fill of Pit	3	-	2 0	1 0	50 %	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	XX X	-	-	-	X	-

Table 2: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from land to the north of 37-45 King St, Wimblington.

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: archaeol7-328991**

### Project details

Project name	LAND NORTH OF 37-45 KING STREET, WIMBLINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE (TT)
Short description of the project	In July and August 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land north of 37-45 King Street, Wimblington, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4176 9268; 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 37no new residential dwellings, garages and access, following demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings (Fenland District Council Approval Ref. F/YR17/0682/F), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. The evaluation recorded two ditches which were perpendicular and may represent former field boundaries. One (F1026) contained abraded medieval (11th - 12th century) pottery, but this was likely washed into a post-medieval drainage ditch. Parallel ditches, aligned east/west, were present in Trenches 2, 5 and 6 and represent a second phase of field boundaries, almost certainly more recent. F1022 contained an 18th - 19th century sherd, and the parallel ditches are aligned with the northern boundary of the site, suggesting they represent late post-medieval or early modern fields that were infilled following improvements in agricultural practices and drainage.
Project dates	Start: 01-07-2018 End: 30-08-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7574 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 5432 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Monument type	UNDATED PITS Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND WIMBLINGTON LAND NORTH OF 37-45 KING STREET, WIMBLINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Postcode	PE150QF
Study area	1.7 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4176 9268 52.51315828513 0.089243042523 52 30 47 N 000 05 21 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	Construct Reason Ltd
Name of sponsor/funding body	Construct Reason Ltd

### Project archives

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

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	LAND NORTH OF 37-45 KING STREET, WIMBLINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Barlow, G
Other bibliographic details	R5628
Date	2018

Issuer or publisher Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
Place of issue or publication Bury St Edmunds

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# PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P7574)



1  
Trench 1 looking east



2  
Ditch F1016 in Trench 1



3  
Pit F1020 in Trench 1



4  
Ditch F1022A in Trench 1



5  
Ditch F1022B in Trench 1



6  
Trench 2 looking south



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Ditch F1003 in Trench 2



8  
Ditch F1005 in Trench 2



9  
Pit F1008 in Trench 2



10  
Drain F1010 in Trench 2



11  
Trench 3 looking east



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Pits F1012 and F1014 in Trench 3



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Trench 4 looking south



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Ditch F1026A in Trench 4



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Ditch F1026B in Trench 4



18  
Ditch F1026B cut by Drain F1028



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Trench 5 looking north



20  
Ditch F1034 in Trench 5



21  
Ditch F1036 in Trench 5



22  
Trench 6 looking south



23  
Ditch F1030 in Trench 6



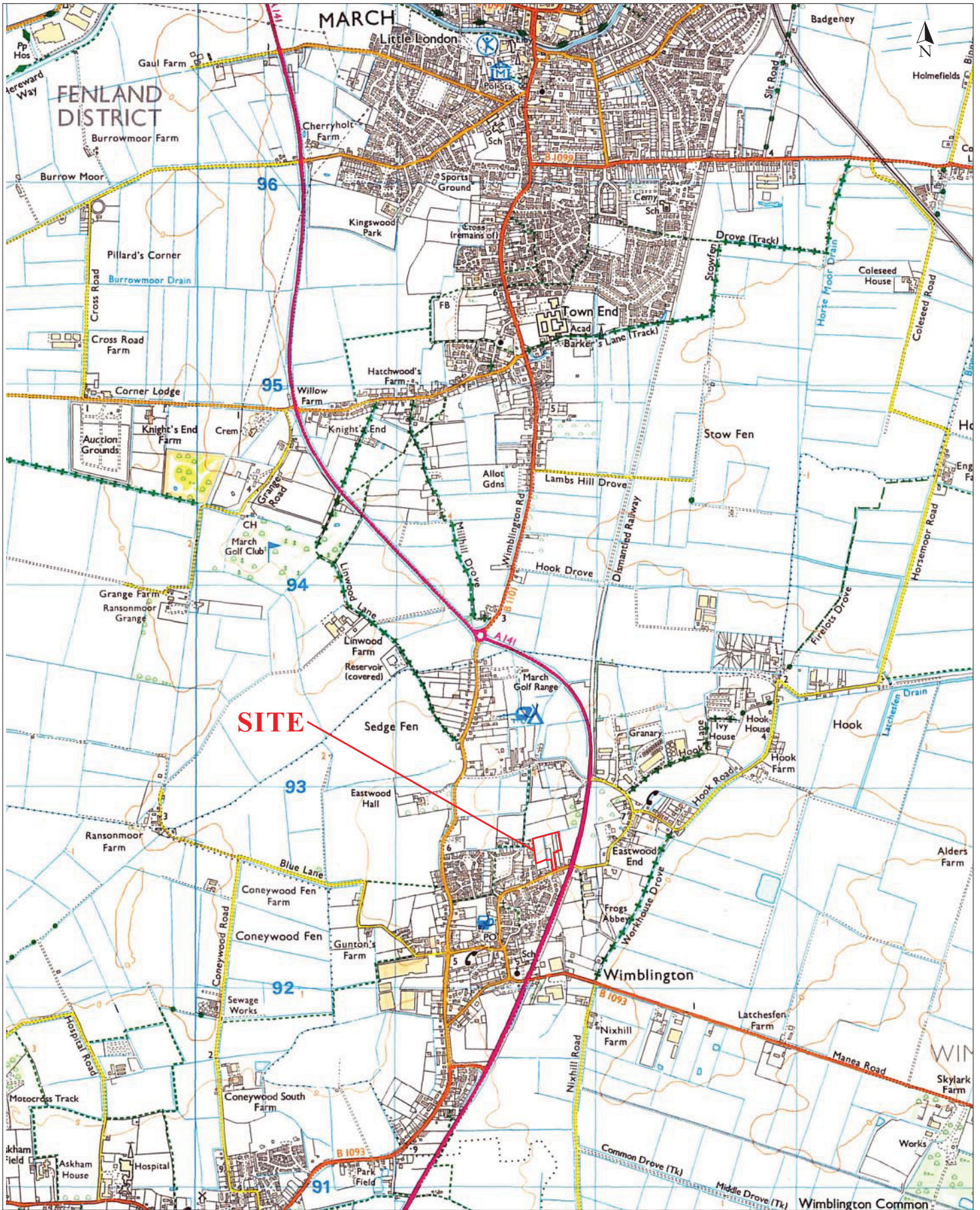
24  
Ditch F1032 in Trench 6



25  
Trench 7 looking south

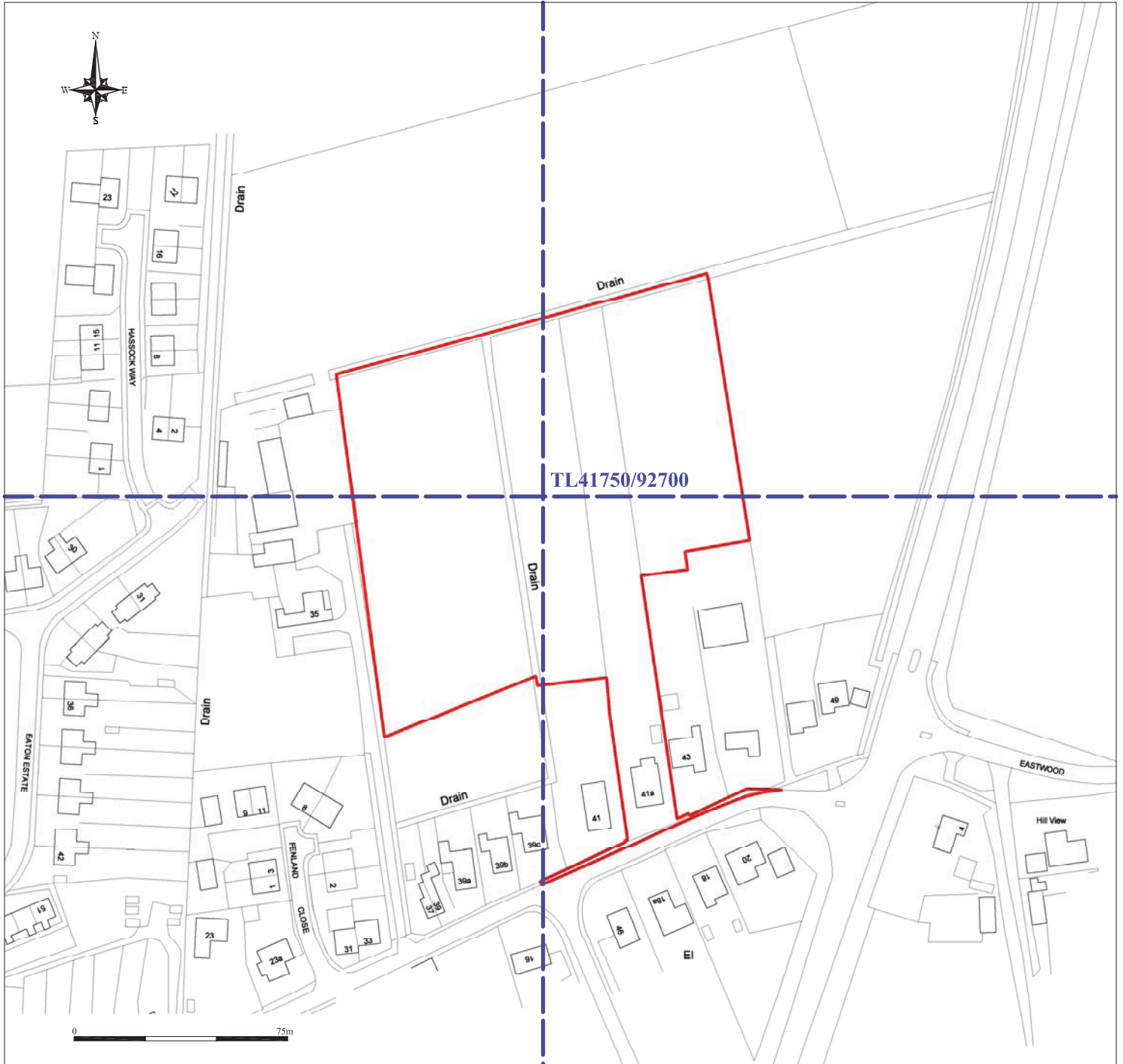


26  
Trench 8 looking south

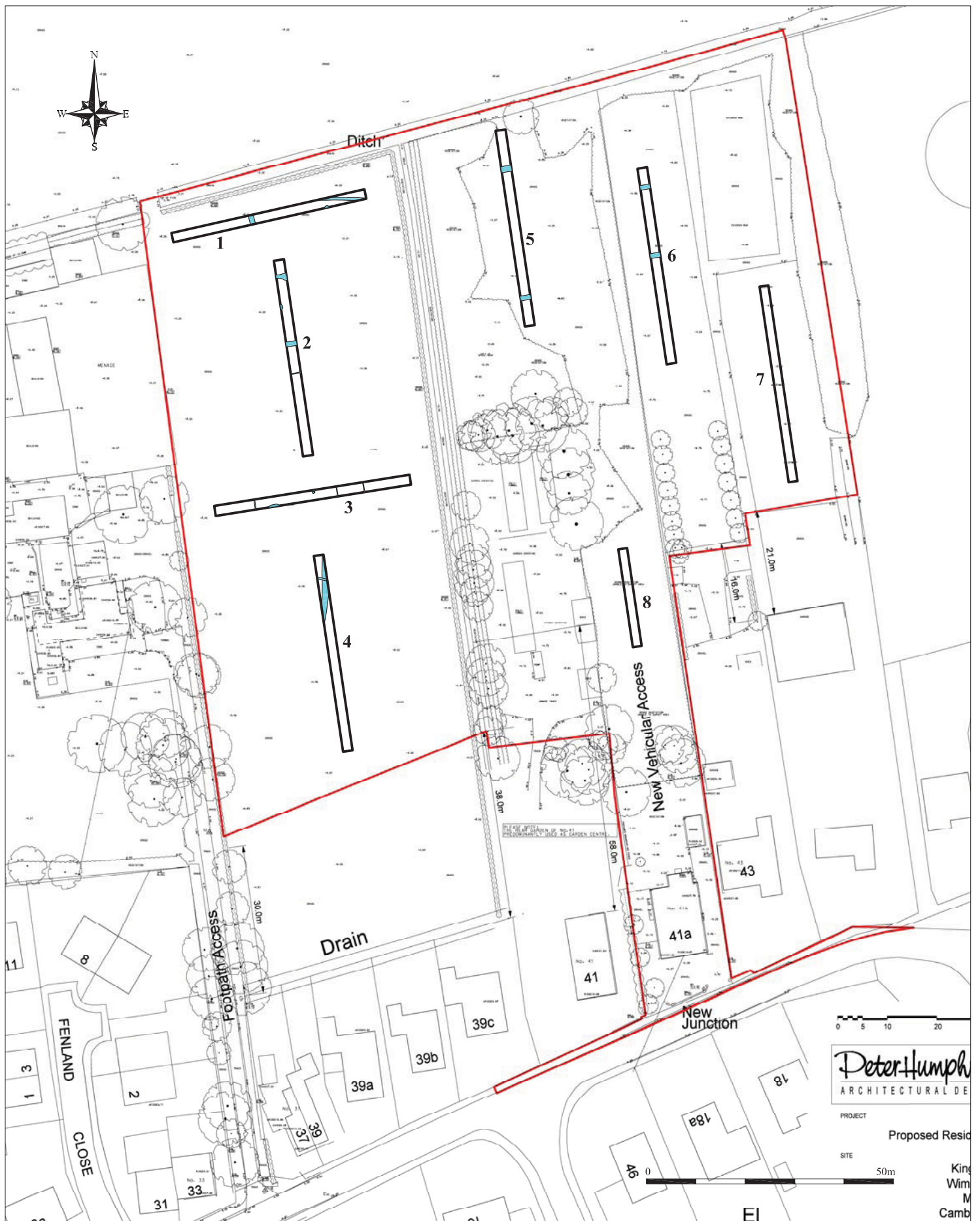


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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 King St, Wimblington, March, Cambridgeshire (P7574)

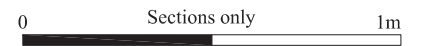
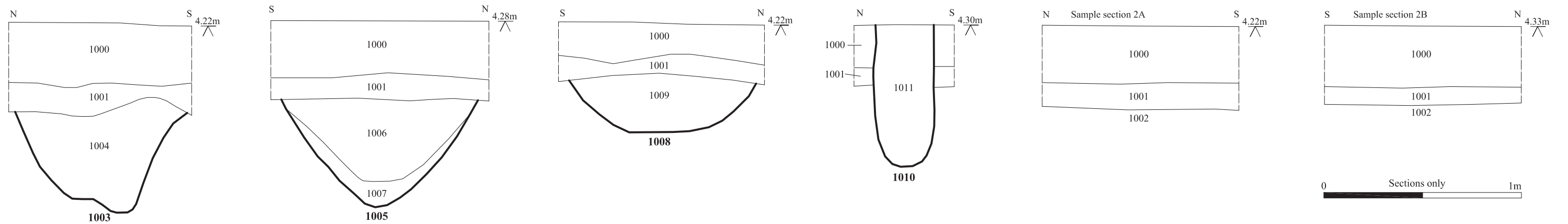
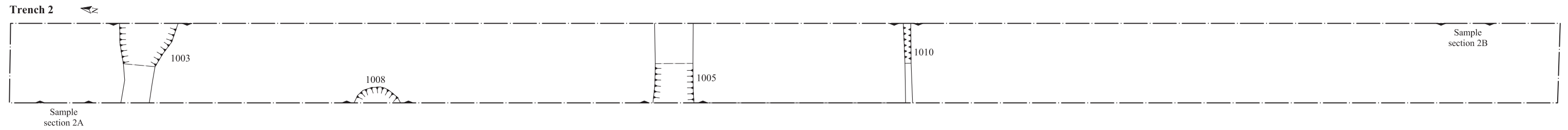
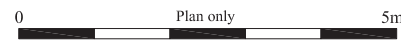
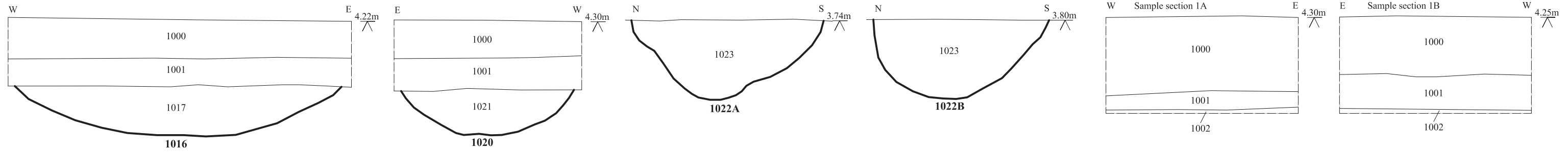
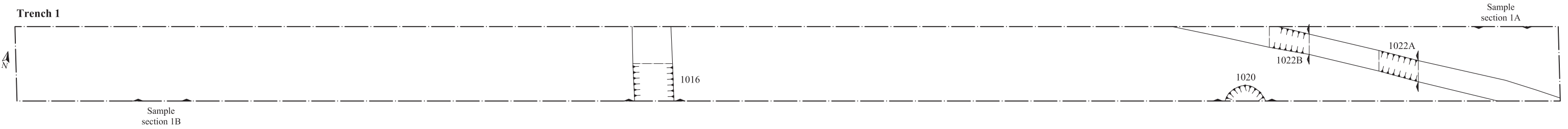


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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:2000 at A4  
 King Street, Wimblington, March, Cambridgeshire (P7574)



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**Fig. 3 Trench location plan**  
 Scale 1:1000 at A4  
 King Street, Wimblington, March, Cambridgeshire (P7574)



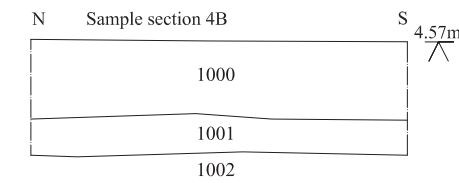
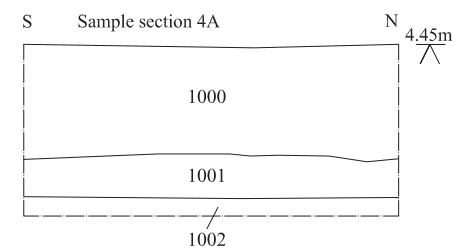
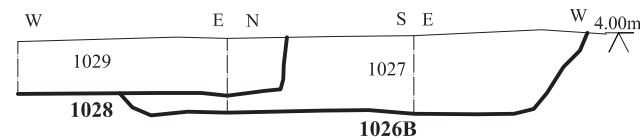
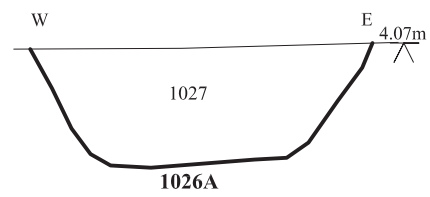
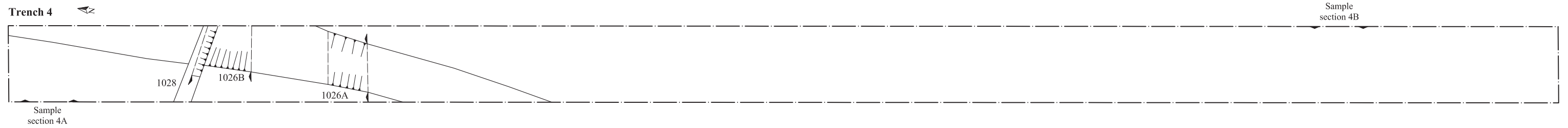
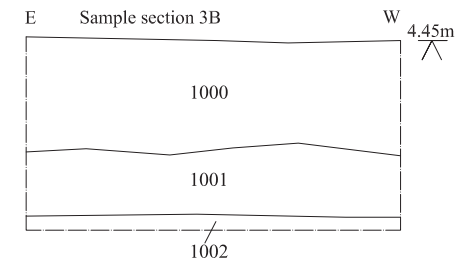
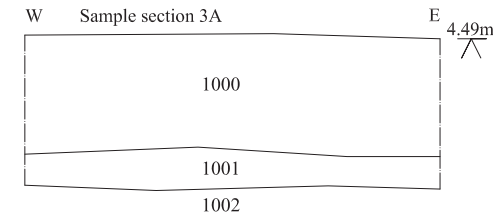
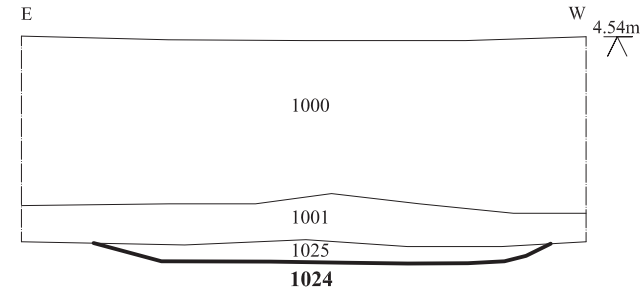
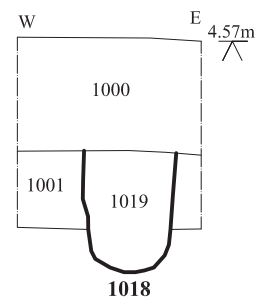
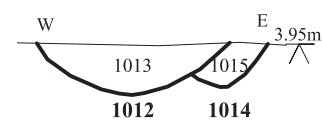
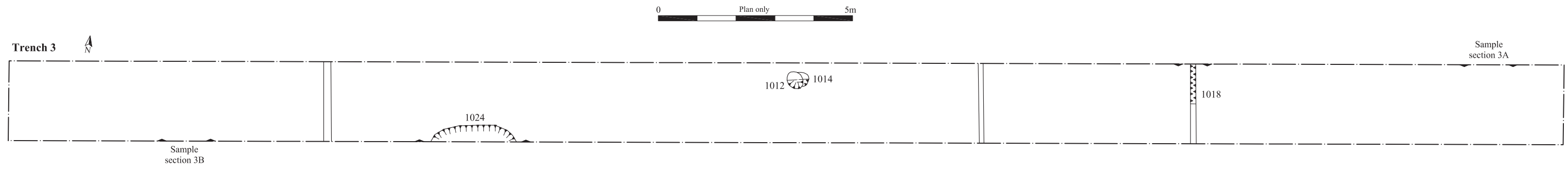


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**Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections**

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

King Street, Wimblington, March, Cambridgeshire (P7574)



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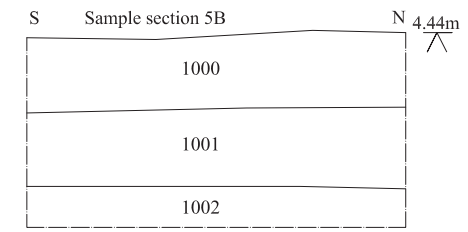
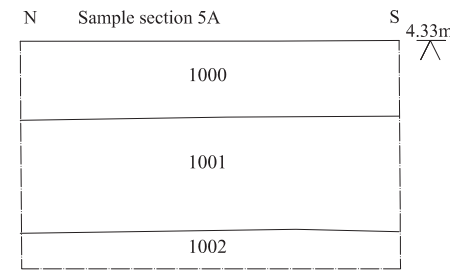
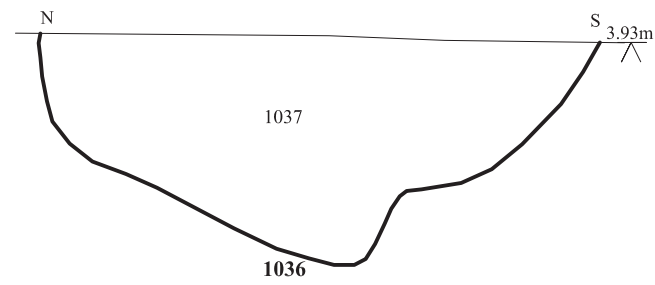
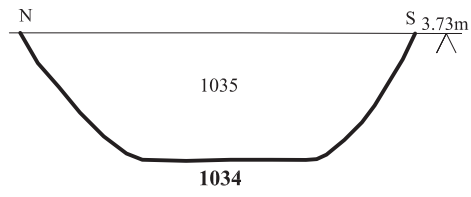
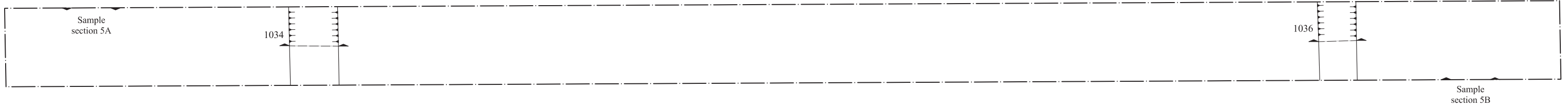
**Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections**

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

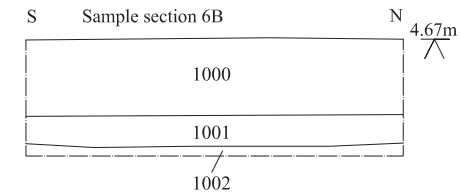
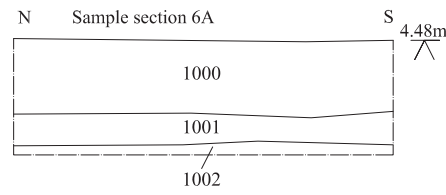
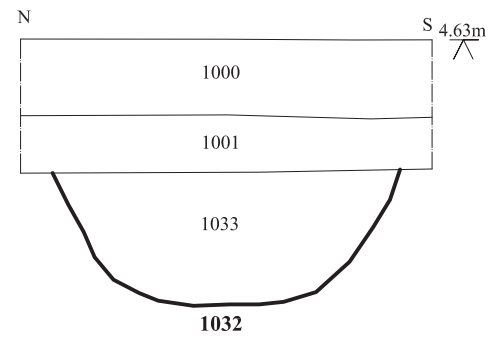
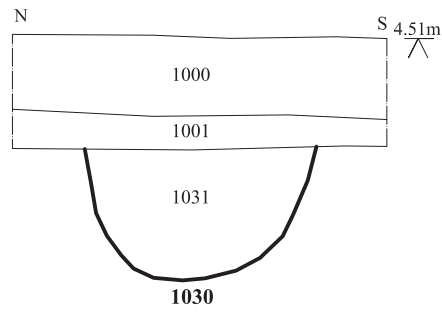
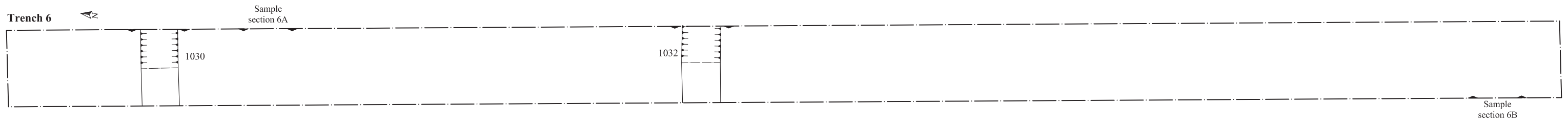
King Street, Wimblington, March, Cambridgeshire (P7574)

0 Plan only 5m

Trench 5

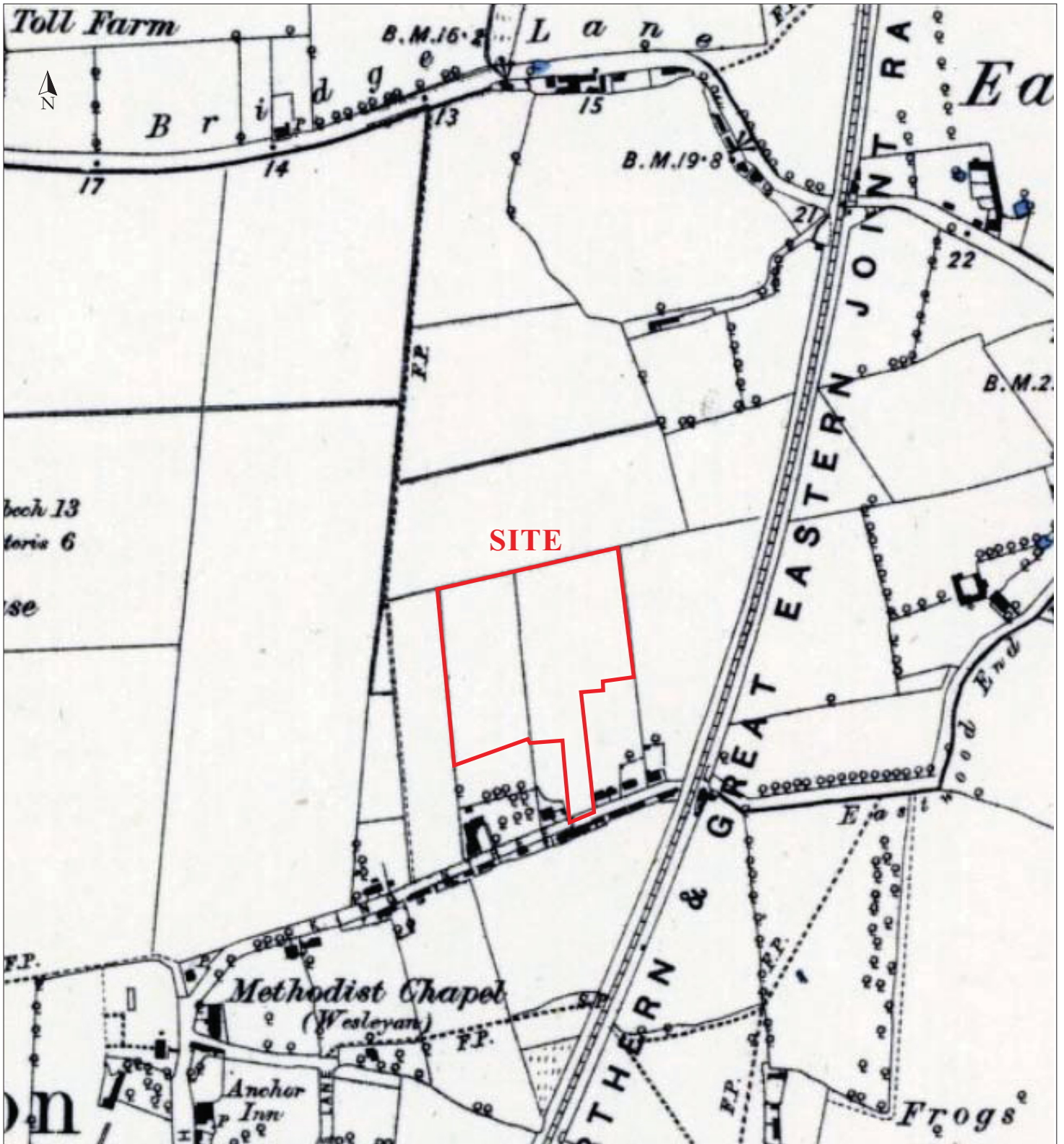


Trench 6



0 Sections only 1m

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Fig. 6 Trench plans and sections
Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3
King Street, Wimblington, March, Cambridgeshire (P7574)



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Fig. 7 OS map, 1886  
Not to scale  
King St, Wimblington, March, Cambridgeshire (P7574)