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**PLUMBS DAIRY, 107 HIGH STREET,
BALSHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER ECB 5470

Authors: Rebecca Randall (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 5820 5078	Report No: 5657
District: South Cambs	Site Code: ECB 5470
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P7656
	Date: 28 September 2018

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Project details			
Project name	Plumbs Dairy, 107 High Street, Balsham, Cambridgeshire		
<p>In September 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Plumbs Dairy, 107 High Street, Balsham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5820 5078; 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 15 new dwellings with new access and infrastructure following demolition of existing dairy buildings (South Cambs Council Approval Ref. S/0460/17/FL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The principal archaeological remains in the vicinity relate to the historic medieval nucleus of Balsham. The Holy Trinity Church, incorporating components of 12th century construction is located c.550m to the east (CHER 06332), although a late Anglo-Saxon gravestone in the churchyard hints at earlier origins (CHER 06332a). Medieval house platforms (CHER 10837) and scatters of pottery (CHER 06266 & 06298) have been recorded on land adjacent to the church, while a possibly moated site is located further to the east (CHER 01203). However the site of the former medieval manor, first recorded in 1356 is located c.350m to the north-east (CHER 10835), suggesting the medieval village may have had a greater extent than that currently indicated by artefactual evidence.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed archaeological features in all trenches except Trench 4. Trenches 1, 5 and 6 contained the most features (ten, nine and nine) and these adjacent trenches were located on the northern and eastern side of the site. Sparse prehistoric struck flint was present, residual in feature fills and within the topsoil. The majority of features were dated and these dated features contained medieval (predominantly 12th – 14th century) pottery. The features comprised mostly ditches and also pits. Possible chalk and cobble surfaces were recorded in Trench 6 (F1085, F1086 and F1104). Associated finds comprise CBM, animal bone and shell. Ditch F1077 (Trench 1) and Pit F1093 (Trench 6) contained 19th – 20th and 18th – 19th century pottery.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	September 2018		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	P7656	Site code	ECB 5470
Type of project	Archaeological evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Former Dairy		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Ditches, pits, chalk and cobble surfaces		
Significant finds (+dates)	Sparse flint. Sizeable medieval assemblages		
	Cambridgeshire	South Cambs	Balsham
HER/ SMR for area	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	0.58ha.		
NGR	TL 5820 5078		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.100m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire County Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Dean and Dean Construction Ltd		
Full title	Plumbs Dairy, 107 High Street, Balsham, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation.		
Authors	Randall, R.		
Report no.	5657		
Date (of report)	September 2018		

PLUMBS DAIRY, 107 HIGH STREET, BALSHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In September 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Plumbs Dairy, 107 High Street, Balsham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5820 5078; 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 15 new dwellings with new access and infrastructure following demolition of existing dairy buildings (South Cambs Council Approval Ref. S/0460/17/FL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

The principal archaeological remains in the vicinity relate to the historic medieval nucleus of Balsham. The Holy Trinity Church, incorporating components of 12th century construction is located c.550m to the east (CHER 06332), although a late Anglo-Saxon gravestone in the churchyard hints at earlier origins (CHER 06332a). Medieval house platforms (CHER 10837) and scatters of pottery (CHER 06266 & 06298) have been recorded on land adjacent to the church, while a possibly moated site is located further to the east (CHER 01203). However the site of the former medieval manor, first recorded in 1356 is located c.350m to the north-east (CHER 10835), suggesting the medieval village may have had a greater extent than that currently indicated by artefactual evidence.

The evaluation revealed archaeological features in all trenches except Trench 4. Trenches 1, 5 and 6 contained the most features (ten, nine and nine) and these adjacent trenches were located on the northern and eastern side of the site. Sparse prehistoric struck flint was present, residual in feature fills and within the topsoil. The majority of features were dated and these dated features contained medieval (predominantly 12th – 14th century) pottery. The features comprised mostly ditches and also pits. Possible chalk and cobble surfaces were recorded in Trench 6 (F1085, F1086 and F1104). Associated finds comprise CBM, animal bone and shell. Ditch F1077 (Trench 1) and Pit F1093 (Trench 6) contained 19th – 20th and 18th – 19th century pottery.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Plumbs Dairy, 107 High Street, Balsham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5820 5078; 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 15 new dwellings with new access and infrastructure following demolition of existing dairy buildings (South Cambs Council Approval Ref. S/0460/17/FL), 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, Andy Thomas; dated 16th May 2018), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 6th August 2018) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

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

Planning Policy Context

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

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

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies on the southern side of the High Street in the western part of the historic village core of Balsham. It comprises the existing buildings, yards and grassed areas associated with the former Plumbs Dairy, extending to some 0.58ha.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at c.100m AD, within the higher ground of the rolling landscape of south-east Cambridgeshire. Minor watercourses pass outside the village, including one c.100m to the south of the sit; which ultimately feed into the systems of the River Granta, which passes 4.5km to the south, and the River Stour, which rises 4.5km to the east. Within the site, the natural topography slopes gently down to the west.

3.2 The site is situated on a solid geology of the Lewes and Seaford chalk formations, overlain by Lowestoft formation diamiction; sealed 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). Evidence for prehistoric activity is limited to rubbish pits indicative of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age occupation, including pits containing pottery c.600m to the east on Hay Close and High Street (CHER MCB17783 & MCB24001), and c.900m to the west (CHER 06293). Evidence for Roman activity is scarcer still with a scatter of Roman pottery sherds recovered from topsoil that was re-deposited from plots in Balsham c.850m to the east of the site (CHER MCB17834, 11774 & 11784), and isolated findspots of a Roman pin and brooch 1km to the north-west and west respectively (CHER 08667-8).

4.2 The principal archaeological remains in the vicinity relate to the historic medieval nucleus of Balsham. The Holy Trinity Church, incorporating components of 12th century construction is located c.550m to the east (CHER 06332), although a late Anglo-Saxon gravestone in the churchyard hints at earlier origins (CHER 06332a). Medieval house platforms (CHER 10837) and scatters of pottery (CHER 06266 & 06298) have been recorded on land adjacent to the church, while a possibly moated site is located further to the east (CHER 01203). However the site of the former medieval manor, first recorded in 1356 is located c.350m to the north-east (CHER 10835), suggesting the medieval village may have had a greater extent than that currently indicated by artefactual evidence.

4.3 In the post-medieval period the site of Balsham Manor was moved to 300m east of the site, fronting onto the High Street with extensive gardens to the rear (CHER 10836, MCB19294 & MCB18474); while Place Manor was built on the opposite side the High Street in 1598 (CHER 10838). By the late 19th century a malthouse and the Queens Head public house were situated a short distance to the west of the site (CHER MCB22677-8) and a blacksmith's workshop to the east (CHER MCB22679). The site appears to remain as an un-developed field until the 1970s-1980s.

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. Seven trenches were excavated (Fig. 2).

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 dated from the medieval (11th – 13th century) and included a struck flint and a fragment of a whetstone.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 Figs. 2 & 3

Sample Section 1A 0.00 = 106.38m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular flints
0.15 – 0.35m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid orange brown clayey silt with moderate small sub-angular flints and occasional small chalk flecks
0.35m +	L1002	Natural deposits. Firm, mid-pale yellow silty clay with frequent chalk.

Sample Section 1B 0.00 = 105.77m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.15 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.30m +	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained Pit F1063, possible Ditch Terminal F1067, and Ditches F1059, F1061, F1065, F1069, F1071, F1073, F1077 and F1079. Ditches F1059, F1065, F1073 and F1079 and Pit F1063 contained medieval pottery. Ditch F1077 contained 19th – 20th century pottery and residual medieval pottery.

Ditch F1059 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.70 x 0.50m), orientated east/west. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill (L1060) was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with moderate small rounded flint and chalk flecks. It contained medieval

(10th – 12th century) pottery (8; 196g), animal bone (50g), and CBM (12g). F1059 cut Ditches F1061, F1069 and F1071.

Ditch F1061 was linear (5.50+ x 0.45 x 0.05m), orientated northeast/southwest. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill (L1062) was a firm, mid brown grey clay silt with moderate small sub-angular flints and chalk. It contained no finds. F1061 was cut by Ditches F1059 and F1069.

Pit F1063 was sub circular (4.00+ x 2.00+ x 0.80m). It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill (L1064) was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with moderate medium and small rounded flint and occasional chalk flecks. It contained medieval (mid 12th – 13th century) pottery (59; 393g), CBM (36g), animal bone (65g), struck flint (20g) and an Fe fragment (27g).

Ditch F1065 was linear (2.00+ x 1.26 x 0.22m), orientated east/west. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1066) was a firm, mid grey brown clay silt with frequent small sub-rounded flints and chalk flecks. It contained 11th – 13th century pottery (1; 13g), CBM (26g), Fe nails (5; 24g), and oyster shell (16g).

F1067 was a possible ditch terminal (0.30+ x 0.51 x 0.15m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1068) was a firm, mid grey brown clay silt with occasional small sub-rounded flint and chalk flecks. It contained animal bone CBM (5g).

Ditch F1069 was linear in plan (5.50+ x 0.83 x 0.06m), orientated northeast/southwest. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill (L1070) was a firm, mottled mid red brown and brown grey silty clay with frequent medium and small sub-angular flints. It contained no finds. F1069 cut Ditches F1061 and F1071, and was cut by Ditch F1059.

Ditch F1071 was linear (5.50 x 0.27 x 0.12m), orientated northeast/southwest. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1072) was a firm, mottled mid brown red and orange brown silty clay with occasional large sub-rounded chalk. It contained no finds. F1071 was cut by Ditches F1059 and F1069.

Ditch F1073 was curvilinear (2.00+ x 2.40 x 1.54m). It had irregular steep sides and a flattish base. Its basal fill (L1074) was a firm, mid grey clay with occasional chalk. It contained medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery (12; 86g) and animal bone (1g). Its secondary fill (L1075) was a compact, mid grey, mottled with yellow, clay silt, with moderate flint and chalk. It contained medieval (mid 12th – 13th century) pottery (9; 96g). Its uppermost fill (L1076) was a compact, dark grey, mottled with yellow, clay silt, with moderate flint and chalk. It contained 12th – 14th century pottery (13; 83g), animal bone (82g), CBM (95g), and burnt bone (4g).

Ditch F1077 was linear (2.00+ x 1.20 x 0.45m), orientated east/west. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1078) was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with frequent medium and small angular, sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded flint and chalk. It contained residual (10th – 12th century) and 19th – 20th

century pottery (9; 32g), animal bone (137g), CBM (4g), glass (1g) and oyster shell (1g). F1077 cut Ditch F1079.

Ditch F1079 was linear (2.00+ x 1.50 x 0.66m), orientated east/west. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1080) was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with frequent medium and small angular, sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded flint and chalk. It contained medieval (10th – 12th century) pottery (3; 12g), CBM (25g), and shell (5g). F1079 was cut by Ditch F1077.

Trench 2 Figs. 2 & 3

Sample Section 2A		
0.00 = 105.77m AOD		
0.00 – 0.06m	L1003	Tarmac. Black Tarmac
0.06 – 0.34m	L1005	Hardcore layer. Friable, mid grey silty sand with frequent large CBM rubble.
0.34 – 0.40m	L1006	Made ground. Compact mid brown sandy silt with frequent red brick rubble.
0.40 – 0.50m	L1007	Made Ground. Firm, mid yellow brown silty clay with moderate chalk.
0.50m+	L1008	Made Ground. Firm, dark brown grey clay silt with occasional small sub-rounded flint.

Sample Section 2B		
0.00 = 105.75m AOD		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1003	Tarmac. As above.
0.04 – 0.14m	L1013	Levelling layer. Friable, mid brown yellow sand and gravel.
0.14 – 0.36m	L1005	Hardcore layer. As above.
0.36 – 0.57m	L1007	Made Ground. As above.
0.57m+	L1012	Mortar layer. Friable, mid yellow grey mortar.

Description: Trench 2 contained Wall 1039, Pit F1044 and Ditches F1040 and F1047. Ditch F1047 contained medieval pottery, and Ditch F1040 contained mid 18th – mid 20th century pottery and residual late medieval – early post-medieval pottery.

Wall M1039 was linear (2.00+ x 0.32 x 0.34m), orientated east/west. It was constructed from randomly coarsed, medium and large sub-angular and sub-rounded flints set with lime mortar. F1049 was the construction cut for Wall M1039 (2.00+ x 1.07 x 0.36+). Its fill (L1050) was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional small rounded flint. It contained no finds. F1039 cut Pit F1044 and was cut by Ditch F1040.

Pit F1044 was sub circular (1.00+ x 0.43+ x 0.60m). Its fill (L1045) was a firm, mid yellow brown silty clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional small rounded flints. It contained no finds. F1044 cut Ditch F1047 and was cut by Construction Cut F1049 and Ditch F1040.

Ditch F1047 was linear (2.00+ x 3.00+ x 1.40m), orientated east/west. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was cut by Pit F1044 and Ditch F1040. Its fills are tabulated below:

Context	Description	Finds
L1046 Upper	Firm, mid brown grey silty sand with frequent chalk and charcoal flecks and occasional small flints.	CBM (186g), shell (21g)
L1048	Firm, mid yellow brown silty clay with moderate small to large sub-rounded and rounded stones.	Late 15 th – 17 th C. pottery (1; 49g) CBM (112g)
L1057	Friable, dark blue grey silty clay with occasional large flint nodules, small rounded flints, and chalk flecks.	Animal bone (431g) CBM (1420g)
L1004	Friable, pale grey white chalk.	-
L1058 Basal	Firm, pale greenish yellow silty clay.	-

Ditch F1040 was linear (2.00+ x 3.00 x 0.95m). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its basal fill (L1043) was a friable, mid grey silty clay with moderate small to large rounded flints, and small to medium chalk. It contained no finds. Its secondary fill (L1042) was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with moderate small rounded flints and occasional chalk flecks. It contained no finds. Its uppermost fill (L1041) was a firm mid brown grey silty clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional small rounded flints. It contained mid 18th – mid 20th century and residual late medieval – early post-medieval pottery (9; 136g); animal bone (357g), CBM (7776), Fe nail, (15g) and shell (9g). F1040 cut Pit F1044, Ditch F1047 and Construction Cut F1049.

Trench 3 Figs. 2 & 4

Sample Section 3A 0.00 = 106.38m AOD		
0.00 – 0.06m	L1003	Tarmac. As above.
0.06 – 0.32m	L1009	Levelling layer. Friable, mid yellow sand and gravel.
0.32m +	L1011	Fill of Ditch F1010. Firm, very dark brown grey clay silt with occasional small sub-rounded flints.

Sample Section 3B 0.00 = 106.37m AOD		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1003	Tarmac. As above.
0.13 – 0.36m	L1005	Hardcore layer. As above.
0.36m +	L1008	Made Ground. As above.

Description: Trench 3 contained possible Ditch F1010 and possible Pit F1037. The latter contained medieval pottery.

F1010 was a possible ditch (1.80+ x 1.30+ x 0.16m), orientated east/west. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1011) was a firm, very dark

brown grey clay silt with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained animal bone (15g), CBM (53g), and an Fe nail (1; 4g).

F1037 was a possible pit not defined in plan (? x ? x 0.41m). It was examined by the excavation of a test pit. Its fill, L1038, was a firm, dark grey clayey silt with moderate sub angular flint. It contained medieval (13th – 15th century) pottery (5; 14g); animal bone (4g), CBM (85g), and shell (17g).

Trench 4 Figs. 2 & 4

Sample Section 4A(A) 0.00 = 106.32m AOD		
0.00 – 0.44m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.44 – 0.51m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.51m +	L1002	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 4B(A) 0.00 = 106.29m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.35 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.55m +	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trenches 4A and 4B contained no archaeological features or finds. A drain traversed Trench 4A

Trench 5 Figs. 2 & 4

Sample Section 5A 0.00 = 106.36m AOD		
0.00 – 0.51m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.51 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.55m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 5B 0.00 = 106.39m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.25 – 0.42m	L1017	Made Ground. Firm, mid grey brown clay silt.
0.42 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.55m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 5 contained Pits F1029 and F1031, Gully Terminal F1020, Ditch Terminal F1033, and Ditches F1014, F1018, F1022, F1025 and F1027. Ditches F1014, 1018, 1022, 1025 and F1027 contained medieval pottery,

Ditch F1022 was linear (2.00+ x ? x 1.16m), orientated east / west. Its fill (L1023) was a firm mid grey brown silty clay with moderate medium and small sub-rounded

and rounded flints. It contained medieval (11th - 12th century) pottery (6; 55g), animal bone (33g), and CBM (25g). It was cut by Ditch F1014.

Ditch F1014 was linear (2.00+ x 3.20 x 1.60m), orientated east/west. It had irregular sides and its base was unseen due to the depth of the feature. The base was augered. Its basal fill (L1024) was a firm, mid yellow brown silty clay. It contained no finds. Its upper and principal fill (L1015) was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with moderate medium small sub-rounded and rounded flints. It contained medieval (10th – 12th) century pottery (1; 11g), animal bone (270g) and an Fe fragment (1; 6g). It cut Ditch F1022.

Ditch F1018 was linear (2.00+ x 1.60 x 1.10m), orientated east/west. It moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1019) was a firm, mid brown grey silty clay with occasional sub-rounded and rounded flints. It contained medieval (12th – 13th century) pottery (6; 55g), animal bone (151g), and CBM (29g).

Gully Terminal F1020 was linear (1.00+ x 0.73 x 0.21m), orientated northwest/southeast. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1021) was a firm, mid brown grey clay silt with moderate flints. It contained no finds. F1020 cut Subsoil L1001.

Ditch F1025 was linear (2.00+ x 0.80 x 0.17m), orientated northeast/west southwest. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill (L1026) was a firm, mid grey brown clay silt with moderate flints. It contained medieval (10th – 12th century) pottery (5; 9g), animal bone (109g), CBM (6g) and struck flint (1; 1g). F1025 cut Subsoil L1001.

Ditch F1027 was linear (2.00+ x 0.60 x 0.70m), orientated west northwest/east southeast. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1028) was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small rounded flints. It contained medieval (mid 12th – 14th century) pottery (6; 11g), animal bone (52g), and CBM (80g). F1027 cut Subsoil L1001.

Pit F1029 was circular (0.30 x 0.30 x 0.15m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1030) was a firm, dark brown grey silty clay. It contained no finds. F1029 cut Pit F1031.

Pit F1031 was circular (0.25 x 0.25 x 0.10m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1032) was a firm, mid brown silty clay. It contained no finds. F1031 was cut by Pit F1029.

Ditch Terminal F1033 was sub-circular (1.00+ x 0.80 x 0.12m). It had gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill (L1034) was a firm, dark brown grey clay silt. It contained animal bone (24g), and CBM (14g).

Trench 6 Figs. 2 & 5

Sample Section 6A 0.00 = 106.37m AOD

0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.23 – 0.34m	L1012	Mortar layer. As above.
0.34 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.40m +	L1002	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 6B 0.00 = 106.42m AOD		
0.00 – 0.50m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.50 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.55m +	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 6 contained Chalk Surface F1085, Flint Cobble Surfaces F1086 and F1104, Ditch F1099 and Pits F1082, F1091, F1093, F1095 and F1097. Pits F1091, F1095 and F1097, Ditch F1099 and Flint Cobble Surface F1104 contained medieval pottery, and Pit F1093 contained 18th – 19th century pottery.

Pit F1082 was sub-circular (1.14 x 1.12 x 0.36m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its basal fill (L1083) was a firm dark brown silty clay with red flecks. It contained an Fe fragment (72g). L1103 was a firm, pale brown yellow clay lining against the sides. It contained no finds. The principal fill (L1102) was a firm, pale grey brown silty clay that contained no finds.

Pit F1091 was sub-circular (2.70 x 1.92 x 0.83m). It had steep - moderately sloping sides and a concave uneven base. Its basal fill (L1092) was a firm, grey brown silty clay. It contained a few sherds of intrusive post-medieval pottery and mid 13th – 14th / 15th century pottery (198; 1198g), CBM (587g), animal bone (298g), Fe fragments (31g), clinker (8g), burnt flint (11g) and shell (3g). Its upper fill (L1101) was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay that contained medieval (mid 12th – 13th century) pottery (38; 211g), animal bone (7g), CBM (17g) and struck flint (8g). F1091 was cut by Pit F1093.

Pit F1093 was sub-circular (1.66 x 1.32 x 0.46m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave uneven base. Its fill (L1094) was a firm, grey brown silty clay. It contained 18th – 19th century pottery (81; 588g), CBM (22g), animal bone (85g) and shell (6g). F1093 cut Pit F1091.

Pit F1095 was sub-circular (2.71+ x 1.92+ x 1.57m). It had steep - moderately sloping sides and its base was unseen. The feature was augered to establish its base. Its fill (L1096) was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay. It contained medieval (12th – 14th century) pottery (30; 215g), CBM (62g), and animal bone (56g). F1095 cut Ditch F1099.

Ditch F1099 was linear (4.00+ x 0.50+ x 0.41m), orientated east/west. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1100) was a firm, pale grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. It contained medieval (mid 12th – 13th

/14th century) pottery (2; 24g), animal bone (34g), shell (17g) and burnt flint (15g). F1099 was cut by Pits F1095 and F1097.

Pit F1097 was sub-circular (1.00+ x 1.10 x 0.52m). It had steep - moderately sloping sides and its base was flattish. Its fill (L1098) was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay. It contained medieval (13th – mid 15th century) pottery (11; 213g), CBM (42g), animal bone (344g), and whetstone (3544g). F1097 cut Ditch F1099.

L1085 was a thin (0.08m) compact grey / white chalk. Below L1085 was L1104, a thin (0.10m), friable, mid grey brown silt. It contained medieval (late 12th – 14th century) pottery (34; 321g), CBM (1748g), animal bone (64g), and shell (530g). And below L1104 was L1084, a compact layer of flint cobbles. Adjacent to L1085 was L1086, a flint cobble surface comprising compact cobbles. Below L1086, L1090 was a friable, mid grey brown silt. It contained medieval (13th – 15th century) pottery (270; 891g), CBM (16g) and shell (12g).

Trench 7 Figs. 2 & 5

Sample Section 7A		
0.00 = 106.36m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.26 – 0.45m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.45m +	L1002	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 7B		
0.00 = 106.38m AOD		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.22 - .44m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.44m +	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 7 contained undated Pits F1053 and F1055.

Pit F1053 was sub-circular (0.42+ x 0.40 x 0.16m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1054) was a firm mid grey brown silty clay with sparse flints. It contained no finds. F1053 was cut by Pit F1055.

Pit F1055 was sub-circular (1.32+ x 1.20 x 0.51m). It had steep and stepped sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1056) was a firm mid grey brown silty clay with moderated sub angular flints. It contained animal bone (295g) and a struck flint (3g). F1055 cut Pit F1053.

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, dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional small sub angular flints (c.0.15m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a firm, mid orange brown clayey silt with moderate small sub angular flints and occasional small chalk flecks (c.0.20m thick).

8.2 At the base of the sequence were the natural deposits (L1002), a firm, mid - pale yellow silty clay with frequent chalk L1002 was present 0.35 – 0.55m below the present day ground surface.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1059	Ditch	10 th – 12 th C
	F1061	Ditch	-
	F1063	Pit	Mid 12 th – 13 th C
	F1065	Ditch	11 th – 13 th C
	F1067	?Ditch Terminal	-
	F1069	Ditch	-
	F1071	Ditch	-
	F1073	Ditch	11 th – 14 th C
	F1077	Ditch	19 th – 20 th C
	F1079	Ditch	10 th – 12 th C
2	M1039	Wall	-
	F1040	Ditch	Mid 18 th – mid 20 th C
	F1044	Pit	-
	F1047	Ditch	Late 15 th -17 th C
3	F1010	?Ditch	-
	F1037	?Pit	13 th – 15 th C
5	F1014	Ditch	10 th – 12 th C
	F1018	Ditch	12 th – 13 th C
	F1020	Gully Terminal	-
	F1022	Ditch	11 th – 12 th C
	F1025	Ditch	10 th – 12 th C
	F1027	Ditch	Mid 12 th – 14 th C
	F1029	Pit	-
	F1031	Pit	-
F1033	Ditch Terminal	-	
6	F1082	Pit	-
	F1085	Chalk	-
	F1086	Cobble Surface	-
	F1091	Pit	Mid 13 th – mid 14 th / 15 th C

	F1093	Pit	18 th – 19 th C
	F1095	Pit	12 th – 14 th C
	F1097	Pit	13 th – mid 15 th C
	F1099	Ditch	Mid 12 th – 13 th / 14 th C
	F1104	Flint Cobbles	Late 12 th – 14 th C
7	1053	Pit	-
	1055	Pit	-

9.2 Features were contained in all trenches except Trench 4. Trenches 1, 5 and 6 contained the most features (ten, nine and nine) and these adjacent trenches were located on the northern and eastern side of the site.

9.3 Sparse struck flint was present, residual and within the topsoil, including blade-like flakes of potential late Mesolithic to early Neolithic date. Medieval Ditch F1073 also contained a residual sherd of Roman pottery, comprising Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware.

9.4 The majority of features were dated and these dated features contained medieval pottery. The features comprised mostly ditches, but also pits. Three ditches: F1079 (Trench 1), F1014 and F1025 (Trench 5) were notable for containing Saxo-Norman (10th-12th century) pottery that includes St.Neots and Thetford ware vessels in the form of jars, cooking pots and bowls. The majority of the medieval pottery dates to the 12th-14th century, and includes coarse wares produced locally and in the Fenland. The pottery is associated with regionally-produced wares from Colchester and Heddingham, Essex. Form types are almost entirely limited to jars and cooking pots with rare bowls also present. Glaze is uncommon and occasional decoration comprises rouletting or applied strips. The decoration is consistent with a suite of vessels associated with occupation of limited status within a rural settlement. Possible chalk and cobble surfaces were recorded in Trench 6 (F1085, F1086 and F1104), supporting the presence (and preservation) of former structures or associated working spaces that were within the nucleus of the medieval village.

9.5 Potential activities within the medieval village are indicated by the presence of a broken slate whetstone recovered from the topsoil, and a polished bone point (broken) from Pit F1093, which may have been used as a lucet for weaving or similar cloth work. A small animal bone assemblage was recovered. It includes evidence for sheep and pigs of relatively advanced age for the period; thus raised for wool and fleeces, and meat respectively. Horse bones are also present, and while the primary function of the animals would have been traction, butchery marks suggest they were also skinned. The medieval food chain also clearly included Common Oysters, and a range of mixed arable products, primarily bread wheat but also barley, oats, rye and pulses. Ditch F1014 (Trench 5) contained a high concentration of wheat grains that may result from an accident during the drying or storage of wheat within domestic food processing. The presence of great fen sedge in the assemblage indicates that plant material was also collected and processed for thatch or flooring.

9.6 Ditch F1077 (Trench 1) and Pit F1093 (Trench 6) contained 19th – 20th and 18th – 19th century pottery. The only notable group of CBM is post-medieval and was

associated with mid 18th century and later pottery in Ditch F1040 (Trench 2). The finds were probably deposited in a former field or enclosure boundary. Other CBM from the site is of comparable date but is very highly fragmented and abraded (rounded), suggesting it has been re-deposited through ploughing and scouring of ditches.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The site is located within the postulated historic core of the medieval village of Balsham, between the Holy Trinity Church and the location of the former medieval manor. The site had a high potential for archaeological remains relating to occupation and activities in the former medieval village core.

10.2 The evaluation revealed a substantive distribution of ditches, with some pits and possible cobble and chalk surfaces. The archaeological features are consistent with enclosures and property boundaries that may have been established and re-cut within the medieval village. The surfaces may represent the presence of simple building or possibly working areas. The features produced a modest array of domestic pottery, principally jars and cooking pots that indicate occupation spanning the Saxo-Norman period (10th-12th century) to the 14th century, with a diet that included pigs and sheep of relatively advanced age, and evidence for butchery that suggests both sheep and horses also produced skins as a by-product. Cereal remains support a mixed arable economy, possibly including the drying and storage of bread wheat on, or close, to the site. Great fen sedge appears to have been utilised for thatch roofing or flooring. The presence of a whetstone and bone lucet for weaving is also consistent with household activities, possibly relating to a subsistence or domestic industry. Medieval house platforms have previously been recorded close to the church, and this evidence clearly supports the theory that domestic occupation extended into the area of the site. In contrast the post-medieval activity is represented by sparse ditches containing low quantities of abraded pottery and CBM, consistent with drainage ditches or field boundaries. They suggest that the occupation area within the village may have contracted by the end of the medieval period.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Cambridge County Archaeological Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. The archive will be deposited following the gaining of the transfer of title.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Dean and Dean Construction Ltd for funding the works and for all their assistance.

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Andy Thomas, Archaeological Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council.

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Web resources

www.old-maps.co.uk

Concordance of Finds

ECB5470 - P7656, Plumbs Dairy, 107 High Street, Balsham

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1000		1	Topsoil - North	19th-mid 20th C	4	29			Whetstone	1	6
				South	17th-19th C	4	7			S.Flint	1	3
			4	East	18th-19th C	3	19					
			5	North	Mid 18th C+	5	61					
				South	Late 18th C+	25	131					
			6	East	19th C	6	53					
				West	19th-mid 20th C	2	8					
			7	East	Mid 12th-15th C	1	4					
	1001			Subsoil	Mid 12th-early 14th C	1	6			Shell		99
1010	1011		3	Fill of Ditch				53	15	Fe Nail	1	4
1014	1015		5	Fill of Ditch	10th-12th C	1	11		270	Fe Nail	1	6
1018	1019		5	Fill of Ditch	12th-13th C	6	55	29	151			
1022	1023		5	Fill of Ditch	11th-12th C	6	55	25	33			
1025	1026		5	Fill of Ditch	10th-12th C	5	9	6	109	S.Flint	1	1
1027	1028		5	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-14th C	6	11	80	52			
1033	1034		5	Fill of Pit				14	24			
1037	1038		3	Fill of ?Pit	13th-15th C	5	14	85	4	Shell		17
1040	1041		2	Fill of Ditch	Mid 18th-mid 20th C	9	136	7776	357	Fe Nail	1	15
										Shell		9
1047	1046		2	Fill of Ditch				186		Shell		21
	1048		2	Fill of Ditch	Late 15th-17th C	1	49	112				
	1057		2	Fill of Ditch				1420	431			
1055	1056		7	Fill of Pit					295	S.Flint	1	3
1059	1060		1	Fill of Ditch	10th-12th C	8	196	12	50			
1063	1064		1	Fill of Pit	Mid 12th-13th C	59	393	36	65	Fe Frag	1	27
1065	1066		1	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	1	13	26		Fe Nail	5	24
										Shell		16
1067	1068		1	Fill of Ditch				5				
1073	1074		1	Basal Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	12	86		1			
	1075		1	Middle Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-13th C	9	96					
	1076		1	Upper Fill of Ditch	12th-14th C	13	83	95	82	B.Bone		4
1077	1078		1	Fill of Ditch	19th-20th C	9	32	4	137	Shell		1
										Glass		1
1079	1080		1	Fill of Ditch	10th-12th C	3	12	25		Shell		5
1082	1083		6	Fill of Pit						Fe Frag	1	72
	1090		6	Layer	13th-15th C	270	891	16		Shell		12
1091	1092		6	Fill of Pit	Mid 13th-mid 14th/15th C	198	1198	587	298	Fe Frag	3	31
										Clinker		8
										B.Flint		11
										Shell		3
	1101		6	Fill of Pit	Mid 12th-13th C	38	211	17	7	S.Flint	1	8
1093	1094		6	Fill of Pit	18th-19th C	81	588	22	85	Shell		6
1095	1096		6	Fill of Pit	12th-14th C	30	215	62	56			
1097	1098		6	Fill of Pit	13th-mid 15th C	11	213	42	344	Worked Stone	1	3544
1099	1100		6	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-13th/14th C	2	24		34	Shell		17
										B.Flint		15
	1104		6	Layer	Late 12th-14th C	34	321	1748	64	Shell		530

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of four pieces (15g) of struck flint as residual material in an un-patinated but rolled condition. All four pieces comprised small un-corticated debitage flakes. The flakes in Topsoil L1000, Ditch F1025 and Pit F1055 exhibit blade-like proportions typical of late Mesolithic to early Neolithic flint work, with the former of these flakes exhibiting particularly regular parallel dorsal scars and a snapped distal end, suggesting a Mesolithic origin is perhaps more likely. The flake in Pit F1091 (L1101) is less regular and exhibits a faceted butt, suggesting it may have been the product of a late Neolithic to early Bronze Age flake core, but all conclusions based on such limited evidence remain tentative.

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 841 sherds weighing 5.276 kg from 20 features, two layers and the topsoil and subsoil. The majority of the assemblage is medieval with the earliest comprising St Neots ware and Thetford ware and the latest Colchester type and Essex wares. Ditches F1014, F1022, F1026, F1059, F1065, F1080, contained only Saxo-Norman sherds of 10th-12th centuries date. There are also a small number of early post-medieval sherds, for example, Ditch F1047 which contained a rim sherd of early post-medieval red earthenware, and residual in Ditch F1040. There is evidence therefore to suggest that there may have been continuous occupation in the area from the 10th/11th centuries to the 16th/17th centuries, although the late medieval and early post-medieval sherds are more sparsely represented. However, there is a degree of residuality to the medieval assemblage as groups of medieval sherds sometimes have a small number of post-medieval or early modern sherds mixed with them, for example Layer L1086 and Pit F1091. This therefore indicates that in some cases either the medieval deposits have been truncated by later building, or that the later sherds could be intrusive from the layers above.

Methodology

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

Key:

LNV CC: Lower Nene Valley colour coat Roman

STNE: St Neots ware late 9th-12th

THET: Thetford type ware late 9th-mid 12th

MSHW: Medieval shelly ware 12th-13th / 14th

MSSHW: Medieval sand and shelly ware 12th-13th / 14th

MCW: Medieval coarse ware 11th-15th

MCWG: Medieval coarse ware (gritty) 11th-13th/14th
 SEFEN: South-East fenland calcareous ware mid 12th-mid 15th
 DSTAM: Developed Stamford ware mid 12th-13th
 HFW: Hedingham fine ware mid 12th-early 14th
 COLS: Colchester type ware mid 13th-mid 16th
 UPG: Unprovenanced glazed ware 13th-mid 16th
 EPMRE: Early Post-medieval red earthenware mid 15th-17th
 PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware 16th+
 WEST: Westerwald stoneware 17th-19th
 GRE: Glazed red earthenware late 16th+
 PMBL: Post-medieval black glazed earthenware
 TPW: Transfer Printed ware mid 18th+
 RWE: Factory made white earthenware late 18th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Topsoil	1000 N	1x1g MSHW 1x2g TPW 1x15g ENGS 1x11g RWE	19 th – mid 20 th	
	1000 S	2x5g MCW 2x2g GRE	17 th -19 th	
	1000 E	1x2g MCW 2x16g GRE	18 th - 19 th	
	1000 Tr5	9x72g STNE 1x3g MSHW 7x25g MCW 2x10g GRE 1x4g PMRE 1x1g PMBL 2x10g RWE 1x3g WEST 1x3g TPW	late 18 th +	STNE: x2 simple outurned jar rims
	1000 Tr5 N	1x22g STNE 2x5g MCWG 2x34g PMRE	late 18 th +	
	1000 Tr 6	1x8g MCW 4x15g PMRE 1x30g GRE	19 th	
	1000 Tr6 W	1x5g THET 1x3g ENGS	19 th – mid 20 th	
	1000 Tr7 E	1x4g UPG	mid 12 th -15 th	UPG: fine sandy fabric, grey core mid brown surfaces with sparse fine mica, olive green glaze
Subsoil	1001	1x6g HFW	mid 12 th -early 14 th	
Ditch 1014	1015	1x11g STNE	10 th – 12 th	STNE: strap handle
Ditch 1018	1019	1x1g STNE 1x8g THET	12 th -13 th	THET: x1 expanded/bevelled jar rim

		1x18g MSSHW 2x27g MCW 1x1g MCW		MSSHW: large round beaded jar rim
Ditch 1022	1023	1x3g STNE 4x44g THET 1x8g MCW	11 th – 12 th	THET: x1 strap handle
Ditch 1025	1026	5x9g STNE	10 th – 12 th	
Ditch 1027	1028	4x8g MCW 2x3g UPG	mid 12 th -14 th	MCW: large beaded rim UPG: visually similar to Hedingham ware but fabric a little coarser and less micaceous
Pit 1037	1038	5x14g MCW	13 th – 15 th	
Ditch 1040	1041	2x48g EPMRE 6x85g GRE 1x3g PMRE	mid 18 th -mid 20 th	
Ditch 1047	1048	1x49g EPMRE	late 15 th -17 th	EPMRE: wide flange bowl rim, brownish-red throughout with thin internal glaze
Ditch 1059	1060	5x158g STNE 1x21g THET 2x17g MCW	10 th -12 th	STNE: x1 large shallow bowl
Pit 1063	1064	5x31g STNE 1x10g DSTAM 48x324g MCW 5x28g SEFEN	mid 12 th -13 th	STNE: two pink coarser sherds may be 'Developed' STNE MCW: x1 hammerhead jar rim, x2 beaded rims, x1 'hammerhead' bowl rim, x2 beaded everted jar rims
Ditch 1065	1066	1x13g STNE	11 th -13 th	STNE: strap handle, coarse fabric
Ditch 1073	1074	1x14g LNV CC 7x48g STNE 4x24g MCW	11 th -13 th	STNE: x1 everted cooking pot rim
	1075	9x96g MCW	mid 12 th -13 th	MCW: x1 square beaded developed rim, x1 square beaded rim
Ditch 1077	1076	1x10g MSHW 12x63g MCW	12 th -14 th (residual?)	x2 fragments of fibreglass
	1078	8x31g STNE 1x1g TPW	19 th – mid 20 th	STNE: x2 simple jar rims
Ditch 1079	1080	2x9g STNE 1x3g THET	10 th -12 th	
Layer 1086	1090	1x4g STNE 267x878g MCW 2x9g GRE	13 th -15 th (GRE presumed intrusive)	MCW: mainly from one vessel with everted slightly hollow rim and external groove between join of rim and neck
Pit 1091	1092	9x40g STNE	mid 13 th -mid	MCW: x2 squared beaded jar rims (flat topped and

		1x24g THET 177x1054g MCW 1x3g MCWC 7x18g HFW 1x36g COLS 2x23g GRE	14 th /15 th	expanded), x1 beaded jar rim, x1 squared developed bowl rim, x1 flat topped jar rim, x1 everted jar rim, x1 finger deco applied deco COLS: x1 jug rim with white slip and glaze; x1 slipped rod handle, x 1 glazed and slipped
Pit 1091	1101	6x53g STNE 1x5g MSHW 30x150g MCW 1x3g UPG	mid 12 th -13 th	STNE: x1 simple outurned jar rim, x1 outurned beaded jar rim, MCW: x1 thickened, everted slightly hollowed jar rim, x1 outurned beaded jar rim UPG: visually similar to Hedingham ware with splashes of clear glaze, but fabric coarser and not micaceous
Pit 1093	1094	3x13g STNE 68x404g 1x12g MSSHW 2x9g HFW 7X150g GRE	18 th -19 th	MCW: large square beaded developed rim, flat topped everted neckless rim, x1 jug rim, x1 applied horizontal finfer dec cordonx1 wavy line deco MSSHW: beaded rim
Pit 1095	1096	1x3g STNE 2x16g THET 27x196g MCW	12 th -14 th	THET: x1 curvilinear decoration MCW: x1 large beaded jar rim, x1 small beaded jar rim, x1 small square beaded rim
Pit 1097	1098	7x68g STNE 2x32g MSSHW 2x113g SEFEN	13 th -mid 15 th	MCW: x3 simple but bevelled jar rims, x1 flat topped everted jar rim, x2 slightly thickened jar rims, x1 flanged bowl rim x2 thumb impressed clay strips, x1 wavy line deco MSSHW: x2 ?beaded bowl rims SEFEN: conjoining jug rim and stab deco strap handle
Ditch 1099	1100	2x24g STNE	mid 12 th -13 th /14 th	STNE: everted jar rim with bead on top MCW: flat topped/slightly hollow bowl rim
Layer 1081	1104	3x50g STNE 26x209g MCW 5x62g UPG	late 12 th -14 th	MCW: large beaded/everted jar rim, x1 everted almost hooked rim, x1 large round beaded rim, x1 everted beaded jar rim, x 1 outurned slightly beaded rim, x1 rouletted body sgerd UPG: similar to Hedingham ware but not micaceous

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

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The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of 226 fragments (12483g) of 18th to 19th century CBM (Table 2), generally in a highly fragmented and abraded condition. The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight, with all extant dimensions and technological traits measured or characterized; and all data entered into a MS Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the archive.

CBM type	Fragment count	Weight (g)
Peg tile	137	8213
Ridge tile	2	510
Floor brick	15	2451
Soft red (wall) brick	3	948
Miscellaneous	69	361
<i>Total</i>	<i>226</i>	<i>12483</i>

Table 2: quantification of post-medieval CBM

The CBM contained only one substantive group: 89 fragments (7776g) in Ditch F1040, which included fragments of all types of CBM in the assemblage, while small groups in Ditch F1047, Pit F1091 and Layer L1104 were predominantly comprised of peg tile with occasional floor or soft red brick fragments. All the form types were manufactured in a homogenous orange-red fabric with inclusions of common quartz (<0.25mm), sparse flint and red ferrous grains (0.5-2.5mm). The peg tile, ridge tile and floor brick were also notable for having sanded bases, while the soft red brick appears to have had a smooth base but is limited to small, rounded fragments. Numerous small fragments, frequently of indeterminate form with rounded edges/fractures occur in association with medieval pottery, but there is no indication that any of the CBM is of medieval origin, and the deposits may either have been mixed as ditches were scoured or re-cut, or the pottery may be residual in the backfill of pits and ditches.

The Stone

Andrew Peachey

The whetstone from the topsoil (L1000) is a slate pendant whetstone with highly polished surfaces, and probably broken in use shortly below the perforation at one end. They are typically medieval in date, but can span the Roman to post-medieval periods.

The stone from Pit F1097 L1098 is clunch or limestone and may have formed part of a rough masonry wall, but does not have any evidence of being dressed, with the surfaces probably fractured by weathering/frost.

The Bone Working Waste

Julie Curl

A single fragment of worked bone was recovered from the animal bone assemblage. The fragment, recovered from the pit fill L1094 (F1093) and found with 18th to 19th century pottery. The worked bone fragment is 43.5mm in length and made from a sheep metatarsal shaft, which retains part of its original shape. The bone was whittled slightly and at one end it has been sharpened like a pencil into a point, the other end is broken. There is a high degree of polishing around the point, which indicates use, although the broken end of the shaft shows little polishing, suggesting the point was perhaps used as a tool for weaving or similar activity. While there is one point surviving, this is on one side of the bone with polishing on the central carved end, the other side of the bone is missing and it is reasonable to assume that the other side of the shaft had a similar point, producing a simple fork-shaped tool.

MacGregor *et al* (1999) discuss a number of similar bone objects as points, often of uncertain use. Such points have been seen on larger metapodial shafts where they have been used as Lucets (MacGregor *et al*, 1999) in the Late Saxon to Early Medieval period for producing chain-like woven pieces for use as braids, ties or handles; in modern times a cotton reel with nails in one end is used for the same purpose. Modern Lucets that have been made of wood or bone do achieve a high polish and wear around the points from the repeated rubbing of the thread or wool. The use of a smaller metatarsal from a sheep might suggest this tool could have been for a child or for weaving for very fine work.

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The Faunal Remains, Bone Working Waste and Molluscs

Julie Curl

THE ANIMAL BONE

Methodology

The summary 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. Measurements were taken where appropriate following Von Den Driesch, 1976. 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 3028g of animal and bird bone, consisting of 203 elements, was recovered from this work, which is quantified in Table 3. Bone was recovered from twenty-four deposits, consisting of a variety of pit and ditch fills, a layer and subsoil. Associated artefacts produced dates of Late Saxon to medieval and post-medieval to modern, with the possibility of re-deposited finds in some features.

Period	Feature Type, count and weight					Totals
	?Pit	Ditch	Layer	Pit	Subsoil	
Late Saxon/Medieval		20/379g				20/379g
Medieval	3/4g	68/468g	12/64g	17/407g	1/64g	101/1007g
Mixed/Modern		15/357g				15/357g
Modern		13/137g		11/85g		24/222g
Post-Med/Med				29/298g		29/298g
Undated		12/470g		2/295g		14/765g
Totals	3/4g	128/1811g	12/64g	59/1085	1/64g	203/3028g

Table 3. Quantification of the faunal remains by feature type, date range, count of elements and weights.

The remains are in good condition, although fragmented, heavily at times, from butchering. Overall, there is little weathering or invertebrate damage, so it is likely that the bone waste was buried quickly.

Canid gnawing was noted on a single proximal metatarsal of a cow from the medieval pit fill L1064 (F1063). This gnawed bone may be from bone given to domestic dogs, but may represent scavenger activity. One tiny sheep/goat metacarpal from a newborn lamb/kid was found in the pit fill L1101 (F1091), this bone shows light gnawing from small teeth, which suggests a cat, small dog or even a mustelid such as a ferret, the disposal in a pit fill suggests food for a domestic animal rather than scavenging.

A single burnt bone was seen, which is a fragment of pig mandible that has been quite heavily burnt, leaving it a grey colour.

Species range and modifications and other observations

Six species were identified in this assemblage, which are quantified in Table 4. The most frequent species in this assemblage is sheep/goat, with the remains suggesting all sheep. One bird species is present.

Species	Feature Type and NISP					Totals
	?Pit	Ditch	Layer	Pit	Subsoil	
Bird - Fowl			1			1
Cattle		10		5	1	16
Dog		1				1
Equid		2		2		4
Mammal	3	89	10	44		146
Pig		7	1	1		9
Sheep/goat		19		7		26
Totals	3	128	12	59	1	203

Table 4. Quantification of the faunal remains by feature number, species and NISP.

Cattle were seen in lower numbers than the ovicaprid remains. A range of cattle bones were seen, with mandibles, scapulas, metapodials and main limb bones, suggesting a range of meats. The remains were adults, suggesting working animals prior to use for meat and by-products.

Sheep/goat, which appear to be predominately or entirely sheep, were the most frequent species at this site and found in eleven fills. Given the medieval date range for many fills, this is not surprising. During the medieval period there were great demands on sheep for the production of fleeces for the increasing wool trade. A humerus from the Late Saxon/Early Medieval ditch fill L1015 (F1014) produced a sheep humerus showing arthritic growth that indicates the maturity of the sheep kept here. A range of elements were seen with these animals, including head and foot bones and main meat-bearing bones.

A neonatal or prenatal lamb metacarpal was found in the medieval pit fill L1101 (F1091), the bone showed light gnawing from a small dog or cat (possibly a mustelid), which might suggest this lamb was a consumed natural loss. Such a young lamb suggests on site breeding.

Pig/boar were found in five deposits. The porcine remains largely consisted of mandibles and isolated teeth, with just one main meat bone and a couple of fragments of foot bone. One mandible from ditch fill L1057 (F1047) showed cut marks that indicate the tongue was removed for meat; this mandible also showed worn teeth and signs of infection under the area of the first molar, which would have caused great discomfort.

Two fills produced **equid** remains, which included butchered bone. These equids may have been used for meat at times of shortage or the meat may have been used for feeding domestic and working dogs. Skins of equids would also have been used.

A single deposit, ditch fill L1078 (F1077), produced part of the skull and upper teeth of a small to medium sized **dog**.

A single **bird** bone was found and identified as **fowl**, the bone is a proximal humerus and has been cut, showing use for meat.

Butchering and elements present

Skinning of cattle, sheep and pig was evident from small cuts on extremities. Main meat elements were mainly seen with the cattle and sheep, with heavy chops from preparation of cuts of meat. Tongues of cattle and pig were clearly removed, leaving knife cuts on inner mandibles. Frequent examples of heavy butchering were seen, such as a metatarsal with numerous cuts from skinning that were excessive for the purpose, similarly, excessive cuts on meat bearing bones. This excessive butchering might suggest some meat preparation was carried out by less experienced butchers.

Pathologies

Arthritic growth was noted on a distal humerus from a robust sheep from the medieval ditch fill L1015 (F1014). Given the pressures on the sheep in the medieval period with the increasing demands of the wool trade, sheep were kept into maturity for breeding and production of fleeces and such age-related pathologies are frequently seen.

A pig mandible from the ditch fill L1057 (F1047) had lost the 1st right molar due to an infection in the jaw. Pigs consume a mixed and rough diet and will consume bones, which might injure the gums and allow infection. The second right molar was heavily worn, so tooth wear may have also resulted in an infection in this jaw.

Discussion and conclusions

This is a relatively small assemblage of mixed date that is dominated by butchering and food waste from the main domestic food mammals. The frequency of sheep suggests the demands of the increasing wool trade and the need for fleeces; these animals also provided breeding at this site, as is shown by the neonatal or prenatal lamb. The sheep were also a favoured animal in the medieval period for a supply of dung for crops, lanolin, skins and other by-products. Pigs at this site are older than many in archaeological

assemblage, which are generally very young, this might suggest animals kept by individuals for a supply of meat. Equids clearly contributed to traction, but also provided meat and probably skins. The bird bones are surprisingly low, but would be expected to be kept on most sites for a supply of meat and eggs. The dog remains are likely to be a pet or working animal.

The assemblage is difficult to fully interpret as it is small and of a mixed date range, but broadly similar to others of a similar range both locally and nationally by showing a standard range of species and a dominance of the main domestic stock and meat waste.

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 736g of shell, consisting of 114 pieces, was recovered from four trenches at this site, which is quantified in Table 5. The shell was recovered from a variety of ditch and pit fills, a layer and the subsoil. Most of the shell is of a medieval date range, with a few contexts producing 18th to 20th century pottery.

Context	Type	Trench	Feature	Ctxt Qty	Weight	Species	NISP
1038	?Pit	3	1037	2	17g	Oyster	1
1038	?Pit	3	1037			Portuguese Oyster	1
1041	Ditch	2	1040	1	9g	Oyster	1
1046	Ditch	2	1047	3	21g	Oyster	3
1066	Ditch	1	1065	2	16g	Fossil Oyster	2
1078	Ditch	1	1077	1	1g	Mussel	1
1080	Ditch	1	1079	4	5g	Mussel	4
1090	Layer	6	1090	1	12g	Oyster	1
1092	Pit	6	1091	1	3g	Oyster	1
1094	Pit	6	1093	1	6g	Oyster	1
1100	Ditch	6	1100	1	17g	Oyster	1
1101	Subsoil	0	1001	10	99g	Oyster	10
1104	Layer	6	1104	87	530g	Oyster	87
Totals				114	736g	Total	114

Table 5. Quantification of the mollusc assemblage.

The shell is in good condition with mostly complete or reasonably complete shells, although some fragmentation has occurred.

The marine shells in this assemblage show some damage to surfaces from worms, barnacles and sponges, which indicates that these are from a natural marine environment and not farmed shells. A few shells show clear cut marks that show these molluscs had been collected for food. Two fragments of shell are fossilised, representing residual fossils in the soil.

The mollusc assemblage

Three species of contemporary marine molluscs were identified and one fill produced pieces of fossilised shells.

The most frequent species were the **Common Oyster** (*Ostrea edulis*) which was seen in nine fills, with a large group of a minimum number of 29 individuals in the layer L1104. Some of these oysters showed clear knife cuts showing that they had been used for food.

One small **Portuguese Oyster** (*Crassostrea angulata*) was found in the medieval pit fill L1038 (F1037). This species of oyster is a southern Europe species that was introduced into Britain in the post-medieval period for farming for food, but earlier trade in this potentially large species may be possible. This oyster shell may have been collected as a shell that had drifted from Europe and gathered with other marine shells. The attachments of sponge suggest the Portuguese Oyster in this assemblage was a naturally growing marine specimen and not farmed and the shell has a faint cut mark indicating food use, so trade or a later intrusive shell may be possible.

Common Mussel fragments were seen in the ditch fills L1078 (1077) and L1080 (F1079), which are likely to be from food waste, but seemingly less favoured than oysters.

The ditch fill I1066 (f1065) produced two pieces of the top shell of a **fossil oyster**. These shells are common in Cretaceous (at least 100 million years old) to recent fossil sediments and occasionally disturbed and redeposited during quarrying and movement of building materials.

Discussion and conclusions

The bulk of the mollusc assemblage is Common Oyster, which is one of the most common food species and widely found on archaeological sites. Mussel contributed to the diet, but clearly not as popular. The Portuguese Oyster is more interesting as this is known to have been introduced in the Post-medieval period for farming for food, but not known to be farmed in earlier periods. This European oyster may have been brought in via containers for sale in this country or perhaps farmed on a small scale; an accidentally collected shell while trawling for Common Oysters might be a plausible explanation. The fossil shell may have been a collected curiosity piece, but these fossils are regularly disturbed in local soils during quarrying and movement of building material and perhaps most likely to be a naturally occurring piece.

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Appendices 1 and 2.

1. Summary catalogue of the animal bone.
2. Catalogue of the mollusc assemblage.

Appendix 1

Catalogue of the animal bone recovered from ECB5470

Listed in context order.

A full catalogue (with additional counts) is available as an Excel file in the digital archive.

Key:

NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present

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

Ctxt	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Ad	Juv	Neo	Element range	Butchering	Comments
1001	1	64	Cattle	1	1			proximal ulna	chopped	
1011	6	15	Sheep/goat	6				metapodial fragments	butchered	
1015	8	270	Cattle	1	1			proximal tibia	chopped	
1015			Sheep/goat	4	2	2		humerus, tibia, proximal phalange, metatarsal (UF)	cut, chopped	arthritic growth on distal humerus, heavily cut tibia, UF MT, cut pph
1015			Mammal	3				Butchered	butchered	
1019	6	151	Cattle	1		1		unfused metatarsal	cuts	several knife cuts
1019			Mammal	5						
1023	3	33	Sheep/goat	1	1			distal humerus	chopped, cut	boiled appearance
1023			Mammal	2						
1026	12	109	Equid	2	2			ulna, intermediate phalange	cut, chopped	chopped phlange and ulna
1026			Sheep/goat	2	2			mandible, isolated molar		

1026			Mammal	8						
1028	12	52	Mammal	12			fragments	butchered		
1034	1	24	Cattle	1	1		mandible	cut, chopped		
1038	3	4	Mammal	3						
1041	15	357	Cattle	2	2		scapula, tibia	chopped		
1041			Pig	3		3	mandibles, radius	cut, chopped	one M3 not fully erupted, other M3 TWS A, robust pig	
1041			Mammal	10			fragments	butchered		
1056	2	295	Cattle	2	2		scapula, proximal tibia	chopped, cut	articular end , chopped on neck, proximal tibia chopped prox-mid shaft	
1057	5	431	Cattle	2	2		scapula, humerus shaft	cut, chopped	heavily chopped and cut humerus	
1057			Pig	1	1		mandible with worn M3	cut, chopped	heavily worn M2, infected area under M1, tongue removed	
1057			Sheep/goat	1	1		distal tibia	cut, chopped		
1057			Mammal	1			fragments	butchered		
1060	16	50	Sheep/goat	3	3		isolated teeth, lower molars			
1060			Mammal	13			fragments	butchered		
1064	8	65	Cattle	1	1		metatarsal, proximal end	chopped	split MT, gnawed by dog at proximal end	
1064			Mammal	7						
1074	1	1	Mammal	1						
1076	15	82	Pig	3		3	mandible fragment, metapodial frags		burnt grey/brown	
1076			Mammal	12						
1078	13	137	Cattle	2	2		skull, tooth	chopped		
1078			Dog	1			upper jaw frag, PM1		damaged tooth, rough diet	
1078			Mammal	10			fragments			
1092	29	298	Equid	2	2		upper molar, humerus fragment	chopped, cut	very worn large upper molar	

1092			Sheep/goat	3	3			mandible, femur, tibia	chopped, cut	numerous cuts around distal tibia shaft, worn M3
1092			Pig	1	1			tooth		
1092			Mammal	23				fragments	butchered	
1094	11	85	Sheep/goat	1	1			MT	butchered	
1094			Mammal	10					butchered	One fragment of broken worked bone point/tool/Lucet fragment? Polishing from use
1096	4	56	Cattle	1	1			lower molar		
1096			Mammal	3				fragments	butchered	
1098	10	344	Cattle	2				mandible, metacarpal	cut, chopped	skinning and tongue cuts on jaw, numerous small cuts along the lower mandible
1098			Sheep/goat	2				tooth, tibia	chopped, cut	proximal tibia chopped mid shaft, upper molar 2
1098			Mammal	6				fragments		
1100	7	34	Sheep/goat	2				tibia shaft, upper molar	chopped	
1100			Mammal	5				inc rib fragments	butchered	
1101	3	7	Sheep/goat	1			1	tiny metacarpal		neonatal or prenatal lamb with light gnawing from small dog/cat/mustelid
1101			Mammal	2						
1104	12	64	Pig	1	1			isolated tooth		
1104			Bird - Fowl	1	1			proximal humerus	cut	large fowl, ?male
1104			Mammal	10				fragments	butchered	

Appendix 2. Catalogue of the mollusc remains from ECB5470

Context	Type	Trench	Feature	Ctxt Qty	Weight	Marine	Fossil	Species	NISP	Top	Base	MNI	Apex	Fragments	Distort	Worms	Sponge	Barnacles	Attached	Cuts	Burnt	Gnaw	Condition	Pigment?	Comments
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The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the archaeological evaluation ten bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. The majority of the samples were from deposits dated to the 10th to 14th centuries and have the potential to provide information about the medieval diet and economy associated with the site. 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 using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

All samples >10 litres were 50% sub-sampled for the purpose of the assessment. Any with the potential to produce >30 identifiable specimens or abundant charcoal will be fully processed, with the resulting light fractions retained with the site archive.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 6.

Seven of the sampled deposits were dateable to the medieval period, one was post-medieval and the remaining two were undated. Carbonised plant macrofossils were identified in six of the samples from medieval deposits, mostly in the form of carbonised cereal grains. Such remains were recorded as abundant in ditch fill L1015 (F1014), and common in Ditch Fills F1025 L1026 and F1059 L1060. Identified cereal grains were dominated by free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type), which was the prime bread grain of the period (e.g. Stone 2006; Ballantyne 2006). Barley (*Hordeum* sp.), including hulled grains, were also well represented, although not in such concentrations as wheat. Oat (*Avena* sp.) and rye (*Secale*

cereale) were represented by occasional specimens. Chaff remains were represented by a single cereal culm node in L1026 and a cereal/ large grass rachis fragment in undated pit fill F1033 L1034. This is insufficient to indicate the presence of crop processing by-products. Pea/ bean (large Fabaceae) was present in medieval deposits F1014 L1015 and F1025 L1026, as well as undated ditch fill L1066 (F1065). Pulses were an important, if lower status, element of the diet, as well as having a role in nitrogen fixation within a crop rotation system.

Non-cereal taxa were represented by a small range of plants. Medium Fabaceae (vetch/ tare), narrow-fruited cornsalad (*Valerianella dentata*), stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and probable spurge (*Euphorbia* sp.) were identified from medieval deposits, and could have grown as arable weeds. Stinking chamomile, which was recorded in F1018 L1019, is generally considered characteristic of heavy loam and clay soils, although it may have been more widespread in medieval fields (de Moulins 2007, 395). The small number of probable arable weed seeds does not indicate the presence of crop processing by-products in the sampled deposits. Also present was great fen sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) in F1014 L1015. In later periods, this was an important managed resource, used for thatching, floor coverings and fuel (e.g. Rowell 1986). It is likely that it was also exploited during the medieval period from local wetlands.

Charcoal was present throughout but in relatively limited quantities. The material appeared mixed, including oak (*Quercus* sp.), and non-oak ring- and diffuse-porous vessel patterns. This is likely to represent the remains of spent fuel debris from domestic hearths. Mollusc shells included grassland (e.g. *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia* sp.) and ground litter (e.g. *Discus rotundatus* and *Trichia hispida* group) taxa. This probably indicates areas of overgrown vegetation within a grassland environment.

Conclusions

Assessment of the bulk samples from medieval deposits at 107 High Street, Balsham, demonstrates that carbonised remains of cereal and pulse crops are well represented within numerous pit and ditch fills on the site. The remains were dominated by wheat grains, which was the primary bread grain of the period, but also included elements of a wider mixed arable economy incorporating barley, oat, rye and pulses. The low proportions of chaff and weed seeds in the samples indicate that the cereals and pulses identified were present as fully cleaned crops. This could have been as debris from domestic activities, such as food preparation. The higher density of wheat grains in Ditch F1014 L1015 could also represent a drying or storage accident. The presence of great fen sedge is an indication of the exploitation of wild resources.

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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	
ECB5470	1	1015	1014	Fill of Ditch	5	10th-12th C	40	20	50%	XXX	-	FTW (XXX), Oat (X)	XX	Large Fabaceae (XX), <i>Cladium mariscus</i> (X)	X	X	-	XX	<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp., <i>Vitrea</i> sp.	X	X	-	-	-	Small mammal bone (X)
ECB5470	2	1023	1022	Fill of Ditch	5	12th-14th C	10	10	100%	X	-	FTW (X)	-	-	-	X	-	X	<i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	X	X	-	-	-	-
ECB5470	3	1026	1025	Fill of Ditch	5	10th-12th C	20	10	50%	XX	X	FTW (XX), Rye (X), Culm (X)	X	Large Fabaceae (X)	-	X	-	XX	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Discus rotundatus</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp., <i>Vitrea</i> sp.	XX	X	-	-	-	-
ECB5470	4	1019	1018	Fill of Ditch	5	12th-13th C	20	10	50%	X	-	Hord (X), FTW (X), Oat (X)	X	Medium Fabaceae (X), <i>Anthemis cotula</i> (X)	-	XX	<i>Quercus</i> sp., Diffuse porous	XX	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia</i> sp., <i>Vitrea</i> sp.	X	X	-	-	-	-
ECB5470	5	1034	1033	Fill of Pit	5	-	20	10	50%	XXX	X	HB (XX), FTW (XX), Oat (X), Rye (X), Cereal/ large grass rachis (X)	X	<i>Valerianella dentata</i> (X)	-	XX	Diffuse porous, incl. RW	XX	<i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XXX	X	-	X	-	Thorn (X), Small mammal bone (X)

ECB5470	6	1028	1027	Fill of Ditch	5	Mid 12th-14th C	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	-	-	-	-	-
ECB5470	7	1041	1040	Fill of Ditch	2	Mid 18th-mid 20th C	40	20	50%	XX	-	HB (X), FTW (XX)	X	Medium Fabaceae (X)	-	XXX	Diffuse porous, Ring porous	X	<i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	X	X	-	-	-	-
ECB5470	8	1066	1065	Fill of Ditch	1	-	20	10	50%	X	-	Hord (X), FTW (X)	X	Large Fabaceae (X), <i>Galium aparine</i> (X)	X	X	-	-	-	XXX	-	-	-	-	-
ECB5470	9	1060	1059	Fill of Ditch	1	11th-13th C	20	10	50%	XX	-	HB (X), FTW (XX), Oat (X)	X	Medium Fabaceae (X), <i>Euphorbia</i> sp. fruit (X)	-	XX	Diffuse porous	-	-	XXX	-	-	-	-	-
ECB5470	10	1064	1063	Fill of Pit	1	Mid 12th-13th C	20	10	50%	X	-	Hord (X), Trit (X)	-	-	-	X	-	X	<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	XXX	-	-	-	-	-

Table 6: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Plumbs Dairy, 107 High Street, Balsham. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Oat (*Avena* sp.); Rye (*Secale cereale*); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-331770

Project details

Project name	PLUMBS DAIRY, 107 HIGH STREET, BALSHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE (TT)
Short description of the project	In September 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Plumbs Dairy, Balsham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5820 5078; 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 15 new dwellings. The principal archaeological remains in the vicinity relate to the historic medieval nucleus of Balsham. The Holy Trinity Church, incorporating components of 12th century construction is located c.550m to the east (CHER 06332), although a late Anglo-Saxon gravestone in the churchyard hints at earlier origins (CHER 06332a). Medieval house platforms (CHER 10837) and scatters of pottery (CHER 06266 and 06298) have been recorded on land adjacent to the church, while a possibly moated site is located further to the east (CHER 01203). However the site of the former medieval manor, first recorded in 1356 is located c.350m to the north-east (CHER 10835), suggesting the medieval village may have had a greater extent than that currently indicated by artefactual evidence. The evaluation revealed archaeological features in all trenches except Trench 4. Trenches 1, 5 and 6 contained the most features (ten, nine and nine) and these adjacent trenches were located on the northern and eastern side of the site. Sparse prehistoric struck flint was present, residual in feature fills and within the topsoil. The majority of features were dated and these dated features contained medieval (predominantly 12th - 14th century) pottery. The features comprised mostly ditches and also pits. Possible chalk and cobble surfaces were recorded in Trench 6 (F1085, F1086 and F1104). Associated finds comprise CBM, animal bone and shell. Ditch F1077 (Trench 1) and Pit F1093 (Trench 6) contained 19th - 20th and 18th - 19th century pottery.
Project dates	Start: 01-09-2018 End: 30-09-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7656 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5470 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PITS AND DITCHES Medieval
Monument type	CHALK AND COBBLED SURFACES Medieval
Significant Finds	SPARSE FLINT Medieval
Significant Finds	ASSEMBLAGES Medieval

Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE BALSHAM Plumbs Dairy, 107 High Street, Balsham, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	CB214EP
Study area	0.58 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 5820 5078 52.132199700126 0.31161801406 52 07 55 N 000 18 41 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 100m Max: 100m

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	Dean and Dean Construction Ltd
Name of sponsor/funding body	Dean and Dean Construction Ltd

Project archives

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Plumbs Dairy, 107 High Street, Balsham, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Randall, R.
Other bibliographic details	5657
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	24 October 2018

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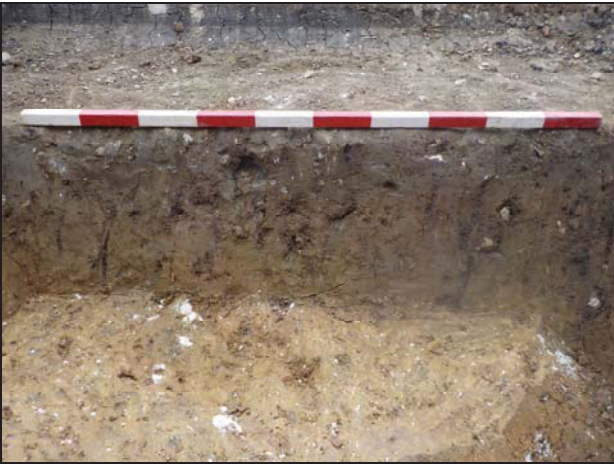
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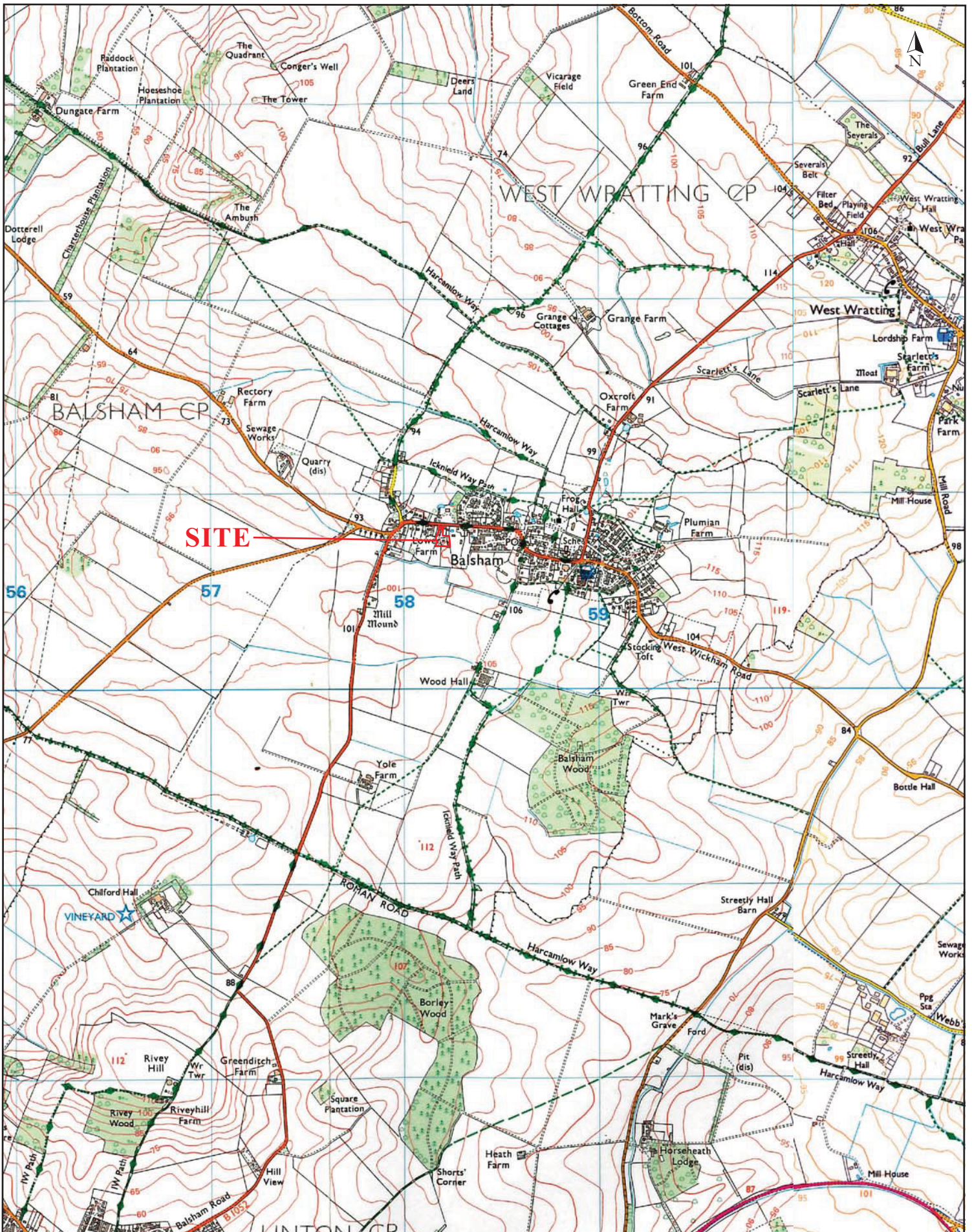
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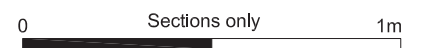
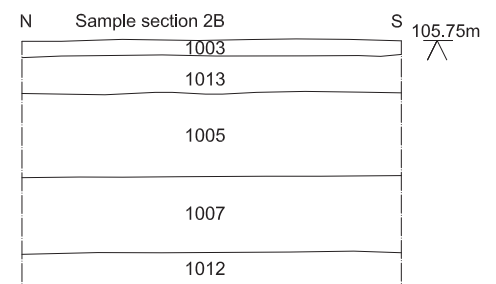
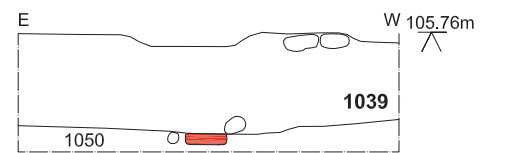
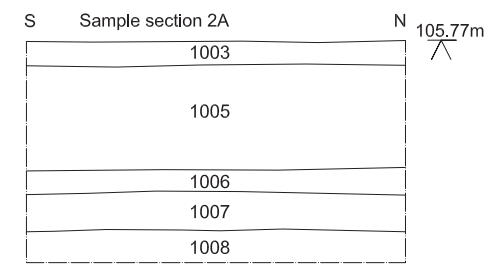
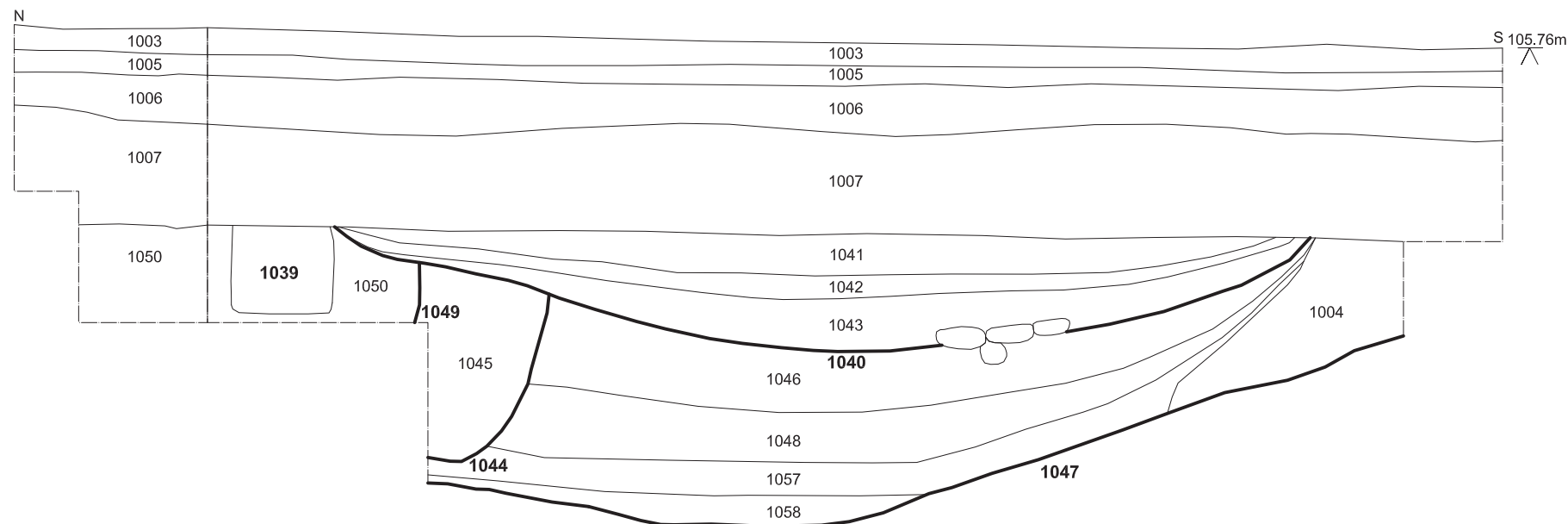
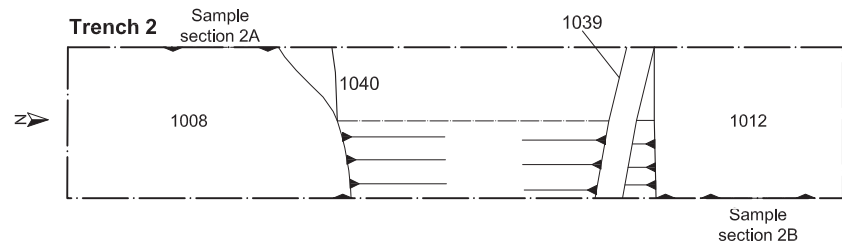
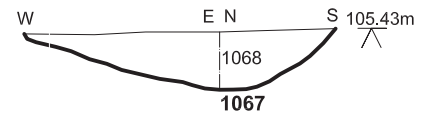
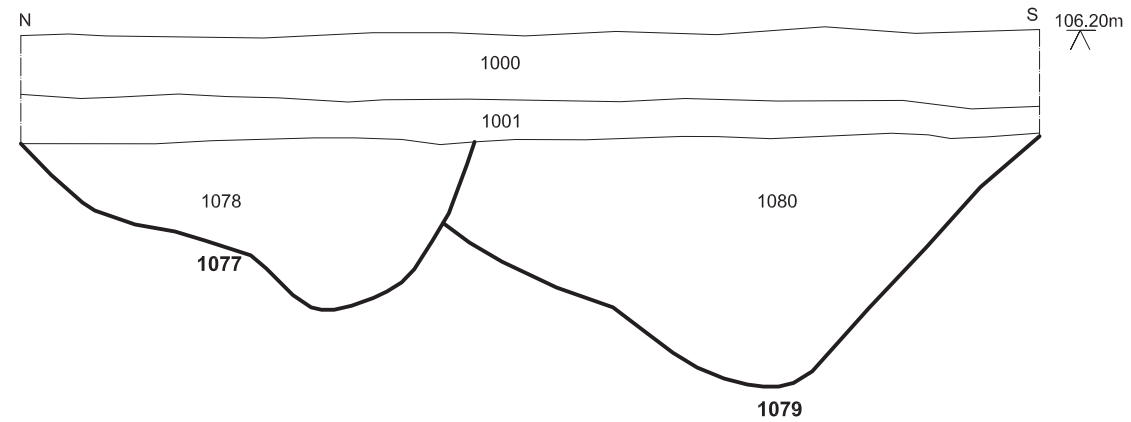
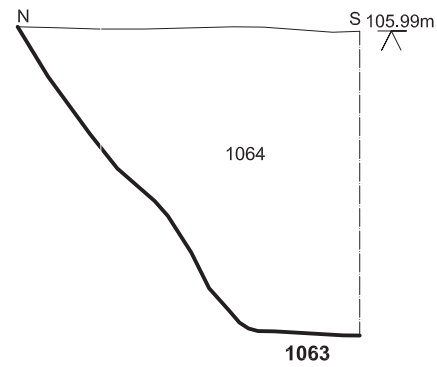
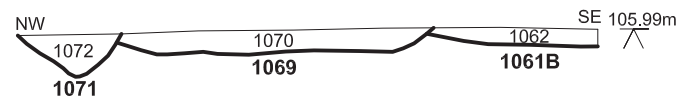
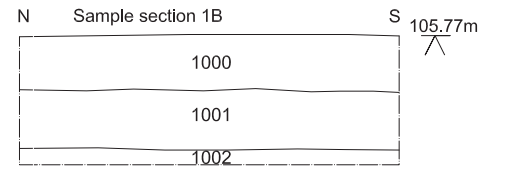
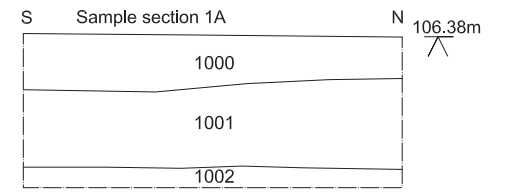
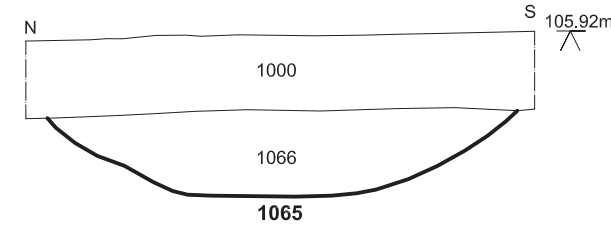
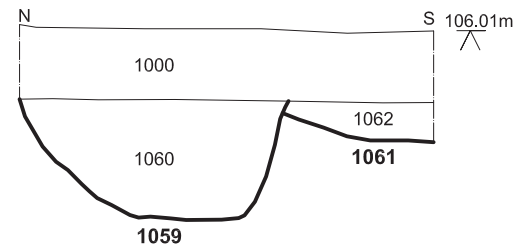
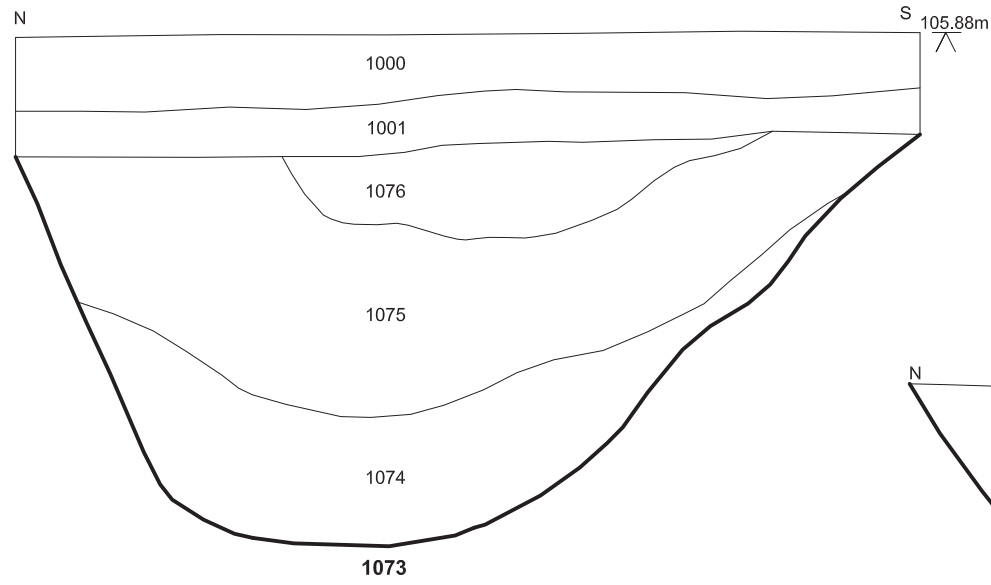
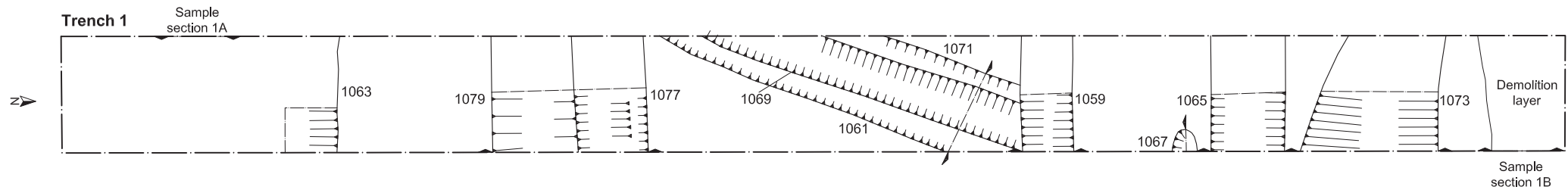


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Plumbs Dairy, Balsham, Cambridgeshire (P7656)



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:500 at A4
 Plumbs Dairy, Balsham, Cambridgeshire (P7656)

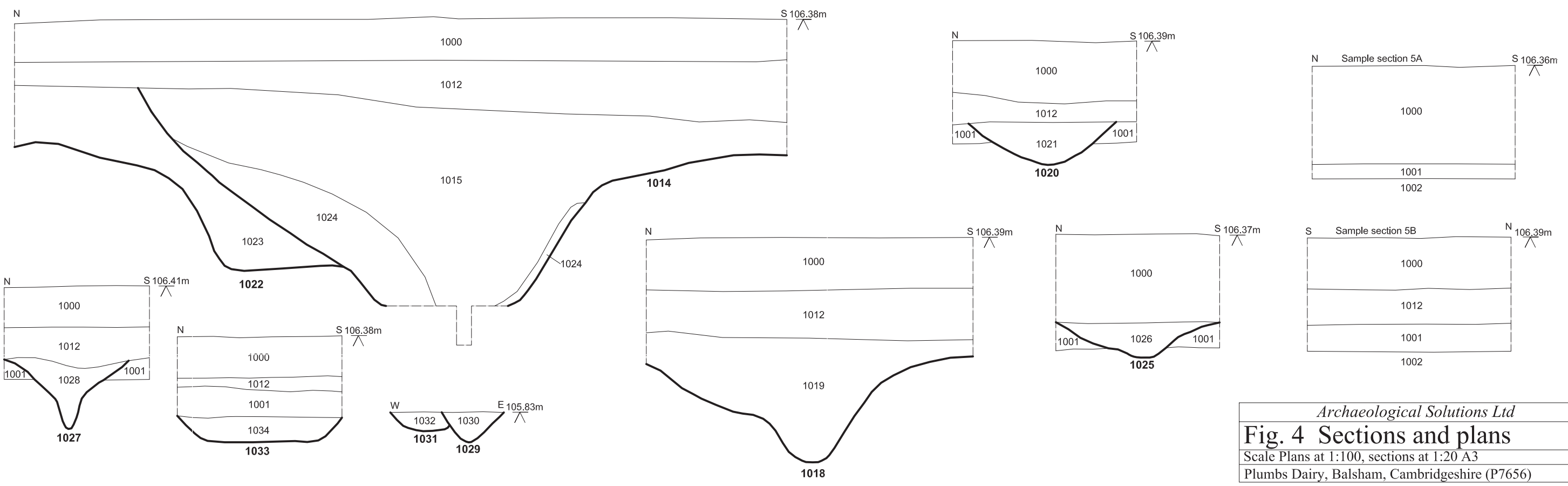
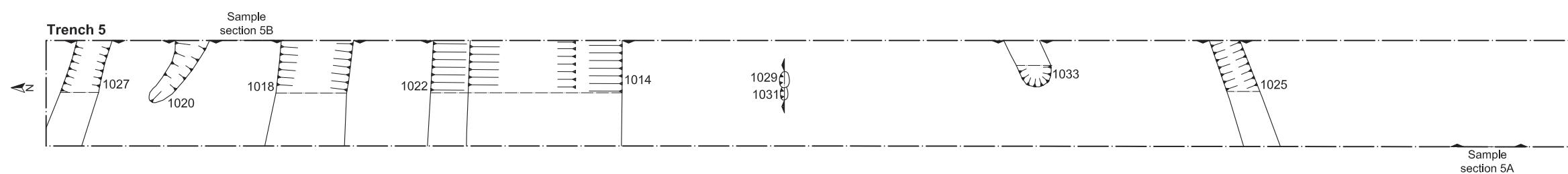
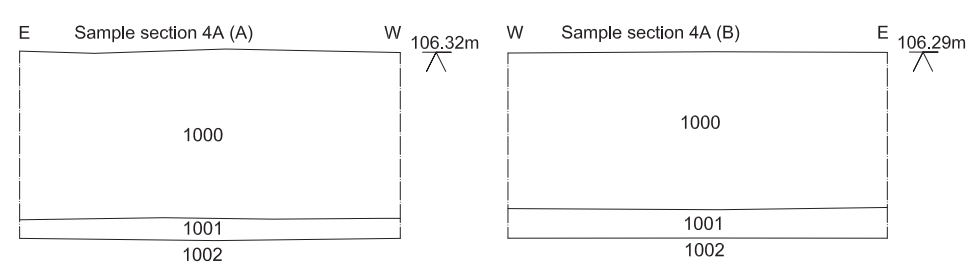
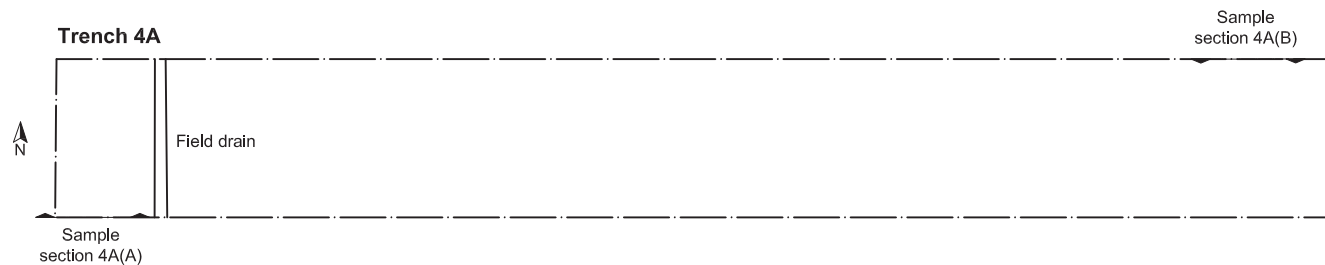
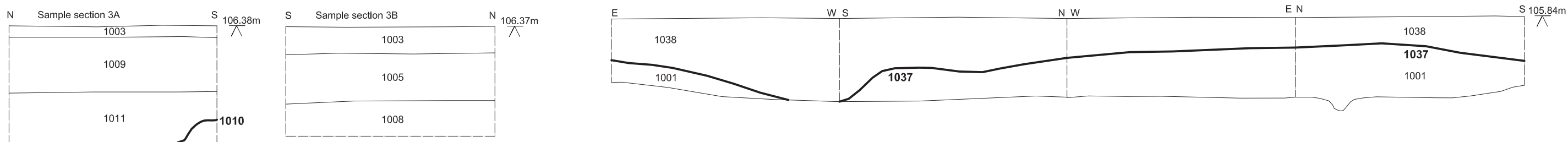
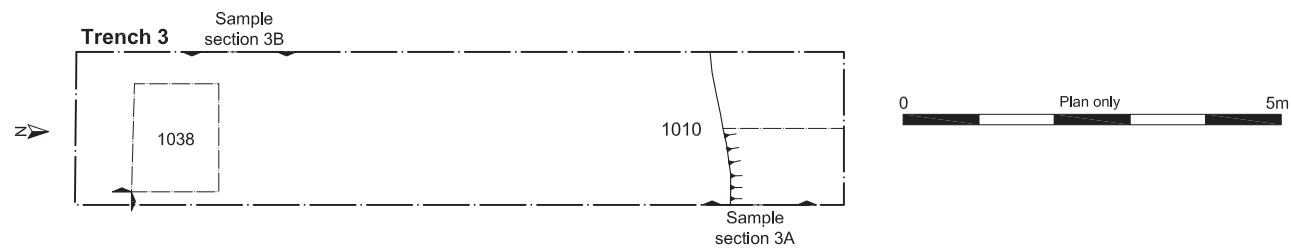


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Fig. 3 Sections and plans

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

Plumbs Dairy, Balsham, Cambridgeshire (P7656)



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Fig. 4 Sections and plans
Scale Plans at 1:100, sections at 1:20 A3
Plumbs Dairy, Balsham, Cambridgeshire (P7656)

