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**MOUNT PLEASANT HOUSE, CASTLE WARD, CAMBRIDGE,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER ECB 5082

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NGR: TL 44295 59370	Report No: 5381
District: Cambridge	Site Code: ECB 5082
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7094
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Mount Pleasant House, Castle Ward, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<p><i>In May and June 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Mount Pleasant House, Castle Ward, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 44295 59370; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), as advisors to the LPA, to provide for the initial requirements of a planning approval condition (Cambridge City Council Ref. 16/1389/FUL). The development comprises the proposed demolition of an existing office block, removal of car parking spaces and erection of new college accommodation (243 en-suite rooms and 34 studios), landscaping and access.</i></p> <p><i>Test Pits 3 – 5 each contained Roman features. The test pits are widely dispersed and evidently the site has not suffered wholesale significant truncation. The test pits were not large (2.50m x 2.50m) and the occurrence of a Roman feature within three test pits is suggestive of a significant density of archaeological features.</i></p> <p><i>The Roman features comprise a ditch (F1009 (Test Pit 3)) and pits (F1031 (Test Pit 4)) and F1017 (Test Pit 5)). The Roman pottery is highly fragmented but only slightly abraded condition. The assemblage is relatively homogenous, potentially spanning the mid 2nd to 3rd centuries and probably with a focus on the latter half of the 2nd century. Associated finds comprise animal bone and charred plant remains. A fragment of human bone, and a possible fragment of human bone were found (F1003, Test Pit 2) and Made Ground L1038, Test Pit 5).</i></p>			
<i>Project dates (fieldwork)</i>	<i>May 2017</i>		
<i>Previous work (Y/N/?)</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Future work (Y/N/?)</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>P. number</i>	<i>7094</i>	<i>Site code</i>	<i>ECB 5082</i>
<i>Type of project</i>	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
<i>Site status</i>			
<i>Current land use</i>	<i>Car park</i>		
<i>Planned development</i>	<i>College accommodation</i>		
<i>Main features (+dates)</i>	<i>Ditch, pits</i>		
<i>Significant finds (+dates)</i>	<i>Roman assemblages</i>		
Project location			
<i>County/ District/ Parish</i>	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Cambridge City</i>	<i>Cambridge</i>
<i>HER/ SMR for area</i>	<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>		
<i>Post code (if known)</i>	<i>CB3 0BL</i>		
<i>Area of site</i>	<i>5952m²</i>		
<i>NGR</i>	<i>TL 44295 59370</i>		
<i>Height AOD (min/max)</i>	<i>c.18.50m</i>		
Project creators			
<i>Brief issued by</i>	<i>CCC HET</i>		
<i>Project supervisor/s (PO)</i>	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
<i>Funded by</i>	<i>Howard Osborne</i>		
<i>Full title</i>	<i>Mount Pleasant House, Castle Ward, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
<i>Authors</i>	<i>Barlow, G.</i>		
<i>Report no.</i>	<i>5381</i>		
<i>Date (of report)</i>	<i>June 2017</i>		

MOUNT PLEASANT HOUSE, CASTLE WARD, CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In May and June 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Mount Pleasant House, Castle Ward, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 44295 59370; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), as advisors to the LPA, to provide for the initial requirements of a planning approval condition (Cambridge City Council Ref. 16/1389/FUL). The development comprises the proposed demolition of an existing office block, removal of car parking spaces and erection of new college accommodation (243 en-suite rooms and 34 studios), landscaping and access.

The site lies within an area that has revealed significant evidence of Iron Age and Roman activity, and it has a lesser potential for medieval settlement and post-medieval development. The site may have suffered significant truncation by the previous development of the site in the 1970s and/or coprolite quarrying in the 19th century.

Test Pits 3 – 5 each contained Roman features. The test pits are widely dispersed and evidently the site has not suffered wholesale significant truncation. The test pits were not large (2.50m x 2.50m) and the occurrence of a Roman feature within three test pits is suggestive of a significant density of archaeological features.

The Roman features comprise a ditch (F1009 (Test Pit 3)) and pits (F1031 (Test Pit 4)) and F1017 (Test Pit 5)). The Roman pottery is highly fragmented but only slightly abraded condition. The assemblage is relatively homogenous, potentially spanning the mid 2nd to 3rd centuries and probably with a focus on the latter half of the 2nd century. Associated finds comprise animal bone and charred plant remains. A fragment of human bone, and a possible fragment of human bone were found (F1003, Test Pit 2) and Made Ground L1038, Test Pit 5).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Mount Pleasant House, Castle Ward, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 44295 59370; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), as advisors to the LPA, to provide for the initial requirements of a planning approval condition (Cambridge City Council Ref. 16/1389/FUL). The development comprises the proposed demolition of an existing office block, removal of car parking spaces and erection of new college accommodation (243 en-suite rooms and 34 studios), landscaping and access.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of CCC HET (dated 21st March 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 11th May 2017) and approved by HET. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving 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 at the junction of Mount Pleasant and Huntingdon Road in the west edge of the core of Cambridge. The site fronts Mount Pleasant to the south east and extends to some 5700m². It comprises a large 1970s office block and extensive car park, which has been terraced down into the surrounding relief.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The current ground level is c.18.50m AOD. The local solid geology is chalky marl, capped by localised gravels.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site is located within the core of a landscape known for significant late Iron Age and Roman settlement, recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). Medieval and later settlement evidence, including Civil War defences, has also been excavated in this part of Cambridge.

4.2 The site lies at the western gateway to Roman fort and later town of *Durolipons/Duroliponte*, and within the core area of the preceding mid 1st century Iron Age oppida (HER MCB6364 and MCB10226 respectively). Huntingdon Road shadows the line of the major Roman road of the Via Devana between the contemporary settlements at Chester and Colchester. The road has been recorded recently at Murray Edwards College – HER MCB20374), south of Huntingdon Road further west, and it could extend into the Mount Pleasant House plot. The Roman town developed on Castle Hill, and investigations in the 1960s, 1970s and more recently have recorded extensive dense Roman occupation of the area, as well as medieval occupation in areas such as Mount Pleasant, Shelley Row, Haymarket Road, St Peter's Street and elsewhere (HER MCB 1297, 4926, 4940, 6367 etc). Evidence of Roman cemeteries just outside the town has also been found with inhumation burials south of Mount Pleasant House and the St Edmunds College grounds (HER MCB 6162 & 15881).

4.3 Evidence of activity of Iron Age, Roman, Norman activity and Civil War fortifications has also been found at depth in this area below cellar levels in 68 Castle Street and King's Keep – HER ECB1689 & 1934) and deep below basement levels in Shire Hall (HER ECB4415). Medieval occupation may also have taken place around the crossroads here (Ashwickestone/Ashwycke stone – HER MCB5690), and 19th century housing is shown in this area on maps of this period

4.4 The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record records a number of locations yielding prehistoric evidence within the vicinity of the site. The earliest evidence consists of flint of Mesolithic date found with flintwork of Neolithic to early Bronze Age date at a site which also yielded evidence for late Bronze Age and early Iron Age settlement (HER 11965). A Neolithic chert axe has been recovered at Histon Road (HER 04513). Bronze Age features have been recorded at Fitzwilliam College Library and Iron Age settlement evidence has been recorded at a variety of sites such as Ridgeons Gardens (HER 05239a), Phoenix Gardens (HER 05247A), Ridgeons Gardens South (HER 05248), Gloucester Terrace (HER 05251A), Shire Hall (HER 07868A), St Edmunds College (HER MCB17461), Comet Place (HER MCB22492), and Castle Street (HER CB15498, MCB22460, MCB22504). Pottery described only as being of late prehistoric date has also been recorded from a variety of locations in the vicinity (e.g. HER 05026, 05125, 05241A, 05249B, 05250A).

4.5 Due to the site's position adjacent to the Roman town of *Durolipons/Duroliponte*, and within the core area of the preceding mid 1st century Iron Age oppida (HER MCB6364/05239 and MCB10226 respectively), plentiful evidence of Roman occupation has been recorded. Structures have been recorded at Lady Margaret Road (HER 04690), the Lancastrian Free School (HER 05078), Drakes Spring (HER 05084), Merton Hall (HER MCB19559), Shire Hall (HER 08768), Kettle's Yard (HER 11521), and Castle Hill (CB15029). Enclosure ditches, settlement features, ramparts, and other features have been recorded throughout the surrounding area (HER 01778c, 04664, 05069, 05125, 05240, 05241, 05243, 05246, 05247, CB15492, MCB16304, MCB17830, MCB19822, MCB20377, MCB16299). Roman roads/streets and road surfaces have been recorded at locations including Madingley Road (HER 05123), Castle Street (HER 05253), and Shire Hall (HER 08768). Castle Court is the location of Roman features (HER MCB22505), a hypocausted building (HER MCB22506), and a gate and bastion (HER MCB22507). Inhumations and cemeteries of Roman date have been recorded at Gloucester Street (HER 05082), St Edmunds College (HER MCB 15881), and New Hall College (HER 11965C). A possible shrine has been recorded at Castle Street (HER 11503). Evidence for the Roman town defences/town wall has been recorded at Fulbourn Manor Nursery (HER 08765 & 08766). Evidence for iron working has been recorded in the area (HER 08770) and the site of the former Roman bridge over the Cam lies nearby (HER 09949). Finds of Roman artefacts are abundant in the area and include pottery, coins, jewellery, knives and other implements (e.g. HER 01499, 04598, 04810, 05027, 05030, 05075, 05079, 05081, 05085, 05086, 05125a).

4.6 Evidence for Saxon-period settlement has been recorded at Ridgeons Gardens South (HER MCB22489) and Castle Street (HER HER 05239b). Other features have been recorded at Castle Street (HER MCB17392) and elsewhere (HER 05241B). Saxo-Norman settlement evidence has also been recorded in the area (HER 08768). Saxon stone coffins (HER 01778a) and part of a stone cross (HER 04645) have been recovered from the area of the castle, which is also the site of a Saxon to medieval cemetery (HER 01778b). A mid Saxon execution cemetery is known from Chesterton Lane (HER CB15493).

4.7 Plentiful evidence exists for medieval activity in the vicinity of the site. This includes Cambridge castle (HER 01778) and associated elements such as the bailey ditch (HER 11503A, 11718, 11880, MCB16074, MCB22205), the great hall (HER MCB22207), a ditch, gatehouse, and inhumations (HER 05252A), the motte and motte construction layers (HER MCB19580), and stone coffins recovered from the castle area (HER 04645a). In addition, a stone structure has been recorded at Balliol Croft (HER 04599), an earthwork bank at Magdalene College (HER 04664a), inhumations at Castle Street (HER 05046), Kettle's Yard (HER11521a) and Shelley Row (HER 05679), lead toys at Castle Street (HER 05080), architectural fragments at Victoria Road, wells and earthworks at Mount Pleasant (HER 05240a) and Storey's Orchard (HER 05243c), structural features at Magdalene Street (HER 10473), a medieval barbican at St Peter's Street (08769), and ridge and furrow at Storey's Way (HER MCB15878). St Peter's Church (HER 04845), a listed hall house at Merton Hall (HER 04930), Merton Hall College (HER MCB21502), and the Benedictine Buckingham College, now St Mary Magdalene College (HER 04991) all have medieval origins. Evidence for medieval buildings and a coin hoard has been

noted at Chesterton Lane (HER CB15495) and medieval pottery has been recovered from locations such as Magdalene Street (HER 04810a) and Westminster College (HER 05045).

4.8 The post-medieval period is represented by such evidence as Civil War earthworks (HER 04831, 08434, MCB17393) at the Castle, elements of Mary Magdalene College (HER MCB22784-7, MCB22790, 04991a), features at Magrath Avenue (HER 04512), Magdalene College (HER 04664b), and an inhumation and coins and tokens at Lady Margarets Road (HER 04690a). A variety of buildings of significance exist in the area including Pond Hill School (HER 04778), Storey's Almshouses (HER HER 04779, 04863) and several other listed buildings (HER 04794, 04857, 04981, 04983, 04984, 04986, 05093).

4.9 The level of previous truncation of the Mount Pleasant House site is unknown, but the car park has clearly been terraced down into the local topography. Coprolite mining also took place in this area in the 19th century, and Babington notes references in 1871 to workmen finding interments and Roman pottery in the field between the 'angle of Akeman Street and the Via Devana' though this location is believed to be incorrect with coprolite quarries being recorded further south. Nineteenth century housing in this area may also have had cellars which may have truncated earlier remains. The previous desk-based assessment (AOC 2016) notes that 5no underground storage tanks were put in for a former engineering works/garage between 1938 and 1955, removed after 1969, though locations are not determined. Development of the 1970s office block and car park will also have clearly caused truncation, though the extent of this prior to the evaluation is not known.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Seven test pits, each c.2.50m x 2.50m, were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Figs. 3 – 5). These were sited in the car park and undercroft car park below the existing office block. To further define the archaeology, two trenches were excavated (Trenches 8 and 9A & 9B) in the north-western corner of the site (Figs. 3 – 5).

5.2 The overburden was mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using pro forma recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate.

5.3 The open test pits and excavated spoil were manually / visually searched and scanned by metal detector to enhance the recovery of archaeological finds.

5.4 The results of a recent geotechnical borehole investigation were supplied by the client (Harrison Group 2017) and the results of this broadly correlated the findings of the archaeological investigation.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Test Pit 1 (Figs. 3 - 5)

Sample section 0.00 = 18.27m AOD		
0.00 - 0.40 m	L1045	Garden soil. Compact, heavily rooted light to dark grey loam.
0.40 - 1.00 m	L1046	Made ground. Compact, re-deposited chalk marl with occasional modern CBM.
1.00 - 1.90 m	L1047	Made ground. Several lenses of modern demolition material including three modern cables.
1.90 - 2.90 m	L1048	Made ground. Very compact, very dark grey silty clay with occasional flecks of chalk and modern CBM including stamped engineering bricks.
2.90 m	L1002	Natural deposits. Compact, light grey chalk marl.

Description: Test Pit 1 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Test Pit 2 (Figs. 3 - 6)

Sample section 2 0.00 = 19.34m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Car park surface. Tarmac
0.10 – 0.40m	L1001	Made ground. Compact, medium and sub rounded gravel within dark grey silty sand.
0.40m +	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Test Pit 2 contained F1003 which was likely a natural feature

F1003 was an irregular linear in plan. It had irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1004, was a pale yellow grey chalk marl. It contained a fragment of animal bone (53g) but this 'feature' was likely natural.

Test Pit 3 (Figs. 3 - 6)

Sample section 3A 0.00 = 18.54m AOD		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1000	Car park surface. Tarmac
0.07 – 0.50m	L1005	Made Ground. Friable, pale yellow brown sandy silt with frequent limestone. It contained modern (19 th – 20 th century) pottery.
0.50 - 0.82m	L1006	Made Ground. Firm, mid grey brown silty clay with chalk flecks
0.82 – 0.97m	L1007	Layer. Firm, dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional small and medium angular flint and chalk
0.97 – 1.25m	L1008	?Buried soil. Firm, mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional small angular flint. It contained late post-medieval (18 th – 19 th century pottery) and residual Roman (mid 2 nd century) pottery.
1.25m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Sample section 3B 0.00 = 18.50m AOD		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Car park surface. Tarmac
0.05 – 0.49m	L1005	Made Ground. As above
0.49 - 0.99m	L1006	Made Ground. As above
0.99 – 1.11m	L1007	Layer. As above.
1.11 – 1.40m	L1008	?Buried soil. As above
1.40m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Test Pit 3 contained Ditch F1009 and Pit F1012. Ditch F1009 contained Roman (mid-late 2nd century) pottery, and Pit F1012 contained post-medieval CBM.

Ditch F1009 was linear in plan (1.55 x ? x 0.51m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its basal fill, L1011, was a firm light grey silty clay. It contained Roman (mid – late 2nd century) pottery (7; 136g), and animal bone (12g). Its upper fill, L1010, was a firm light - mid grey silty clay. It contained Roman (2; 3g) pottery and animal bone (75g).

Pit F1012 was subcircular in plan (0.55 x ? x 0.18m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1013, was a firm mid – dark grey silty clay with sparse flint. It contained post-medieval CBM (146g).

Test Pit 4 (Figs. 3 – 5 & 7)

Sample section 4A 0.00 = 18.59m AOD		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Car park surface. Tarmac
0.05 – 0.40m	L1005	Made Ground. As above
0.40+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above

Sample section 4B 0.00 = 18.62m AOD		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Car park surface. Tarmac
0.04 – 0.42m	L1005	Made Ground. As above
0.42 – 0.76m	L1027	Layer. Mid – dark greyish brown sandy silt with angular chalk and CBM. It contained residual Roman (mid 2 nd – 3 rd C) pottery, CBM (9g) and animal bone (122g).
0.76 – 0.85m	L1029	Layer. Light – mid grey brown sandy silt. It contained residual Roman (mid 2 nd – 4 th C) pottery (10. 53g) and an iron fragment (1; 26g).
0.85m+	L1030	Layer. Light grey brown sandy silt with angular chalk lumps. It contained residual Roman pottery (3; 26g) and animal bone (15g).

Sample section 4C 0.00 = 18.12m AOD		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1005	Made Ground. As above
0.14 – 0.30m	L1040	Made Ground. Mixed deposit of orange brown sandy silt and mid grey brown sandy silt.
0.30 – 0.38m	L1029	Layer. As above.
0.38m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above

Description: Test Pit 4 contained Wall Footing M1024, Pits F1031 and F1033, and limestone blocks (F1032). The Wall Footing and Pit F1033 were late post-medieval (18th – 19th century). Pit F1031 contained Roman pottery.

Wall Footing M1024 represented a corner (1.15 x 0.35 x 0.15m). It was constructed using modern pale yellow unfrosted bricks (200 x 110 x 70mm) bonded with a pale yellow brown sandy mortar. Two courses of brick remained. The brick is late 18th – 19th century (CBM report below). Its construction cut, F1025 (1.15+ x 0.35 x 0.15m) had vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1026, was a firm, dark grey brown silty sand. M1024 cut Pit F1031. L1027 abutted the wall footing and therefore the Roman pottery it contained is interpreted as residual. Layers L1029 and L1030 appeared to be part of the same deposition sequence as L1027, and therefore the Roman pottery is again interpreted as residual.

Pit F1031 was sub rectangular in plan (0.50 x 0.43 x 0.40m). It had vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1028, was a firm chalk marl and dark grey brown sandy silt. It contained Roman pottery (2; 16g). F1031 was cut by Wall Footing F1024.

F1032 comprised large irregular un-faced limestone blocks (1.05 x ? x 0.27m). Two of the blocks or slabs were directly beneath Wall Footing M1024, and adhered to the footprint of the wall such that they appeared to be directly associated with the wall. The blocks were possibly used to firm up the ground beneath Wall Footing M1024.

Pit F1033 was subcircular in plan (0.50 x ? x 0.50m). It had vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1034, was a loose dark grey brown sandy silt. It contained late post-medieval (18th – 19th century) pottery (1; 41g).

Test Pit 5 (Figs. 3 – 5 & 7)

Sample section 5A 0.00 = 19.01m AOD		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000	Car park surface. Tarmac
0.08 – 0.37m	L1001	Made Ground. As above
0.37 – 0.57m	L1039	Made Ground. Firm, dark reddish brown silty sand
0.57 – 1.01m	L1038	Made Ground. Firm, mid grey brown sandy silt. It contained late post-medieval (late 18 th – 19 th century) CBM (329g)
1.01m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Sample section 5B 0.00 = 19.01m AOD		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1000	Car park surface. Tarmac
0.07 – 0.34m	L1001	Made Ground. As above
0.34 - 0.42m	L1036	Made Ground. Firm, dark reddish brown silty sand
0.42 – 0.50m	L1037	Former surface. Concrete
0.50 – 0.93m	L1038	Made Ground. Firm, mid grey brown sandy silt
0.93m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Test Pit 5 contained Pits F1015 and F1017, and Wall Footing M1019. F1022 was possibly a natural feature. Pit F1015 and Wall Footing M1019 were late post-medieval (18th – 19th century). Pit F1017 was likely Roman with sparse intrusive CBM.

Pit F1015 was recorded in section (1.20+ x 0.10+ x 0.10m). It had shallow gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1016, was a firm dark grey brown sandy silt with small angular flint. It contained late post-medieval (18th – 19th century) pottery (1; 3g) and CBM (94g).

Pit F1022 was sub rectangular in plan (0.94 x 0.40 x 0.25m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1023, was a white chalk marl marbled with dark red brown sandy silt. This may be a natural feature. F1022 was cut by Pit F1017.

Pit F1017 was sub rectangular in plan (0.58 x 0.47+ x 0.35m). It had steep sides and a shallow concave base. Its basal fill, L1018, was a firm dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small angular flint and sub angular chalk. It contained Roman (5; 35g) pottery. Its upper fill, L1035, was re-deposited natural comprising a firm chalk marl. It contained CBM (37g), possibly intrusive. F1017 was cut by Wall Footing M1019, and F1017 cut Pit F1022.

Wall Footing M1019 was linear (0.22 x 0.15m). It was constructed using modern mass produced red frogged bricks (220 x 110 x 70mm) bonded with a pale grey cement mortar. Its construction cut, F1020 (0.20+ x 0.30 x 0.12m) had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1021, was a firm, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small angular flint.

Test Pit 6 (Figs. 3 – 5 & 8)

Sample section 0.00 = 18.23m AOD		
0.00-0.40m	L1049	Car park surface. Re-inforced concrete
0.40-0.41m	L1050	Damp proof membrane.
0.41-0.83m	L1051	Made ground. Compact, pale yellow sand with medium and sub rounded gravel, crushed stone, and modern CBM
0.83-1.43m	L1052	Fill of Pit F1053. Mid grey brown silty clay with sparse small rounded pebbles.
1.43m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above

Description: Test Pit 6 contained F1053, a probable pit recorded in section.

?Pit F1053 was recorded in section (2.53m x ? x 0.78m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1052, was a firm mid grey brown silty clay with sparse small rounded pebbles. It contained no finds.

Test Pit 7 (Figs. 3 – 5)

Sample section 0.00 =18.26m AOD		
0.00-0.40m	L1049	Car park surface. Re-inforced concrete
0.40-0.41m	L1050	Damp proof membrane.
0.41-0.82m	L1051	Made ground. As above
0.82-1.20m	L1053	Made ground. Compact, pale yellow - orange sand with moderate sub rounded gravel.
1.20m+	L1002	Natural deposits.

Description: Test Pit 7 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trial Trench 8 (Figs. 3 – 5)

Sample section 8A 0.00 =19.58m AOD		
0.00-0.10m	L1000	Car park surface.
0.10-0.40m	L1001	Made Ground. As above, Trench 2.
0.40m+	L1002	Natural deposits.

Sample section 8B 0.00 =19.47m AOD		
0.00-0.10m	L1000	Car park surface.
0.10-0.38m	L1001	Made Ground. As above, Trench 2.
0.38m+	L1002	Natural deposits.

Description: Trial Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trial Trench 9A (Figs. 3 – 5 & 9)

Sample section 9A 0.00 =19.29m AOD		
0.00-0.08m	L1000	Car park surface.
0.08-0.32m	L1001	Made Ground. As above, Trench 2.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural deposits.

Description: Trial Trench 9A contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trial Trench 9B (Figs. 3 – 5 & 9)

Sample section 9B 0.00 = 18.83m AOD		
0.00-0.10m	L1000	Car park surface.
0.10-0.32m	L1001	Made Ground. As above, Trench 2.
0.32-0.70m	L1038	Made Ground.
0.70-0.84m	L1041	Made Ground. Friable, pale yellow brown silty sand
0.84 – 0.88	L1042	Made Ground. Firm, dark grey brown clayey silt
0.88m+	L1002	Natural Deposits

Sample section 9C 0.00 =18.73m AOD		
0.00-0.10m	L1000	Car park surface.
0.10-0.21m	L1001	Made Ground. As above, Trench 2.
0.21-0.42m	L1043	Made Ground. Compact, pale yellow brown silty sand
0.42-0.51m	L1044	Made Ground. Compact, dark grey brown sandy clay
0.51 – 0.65m	L1045	Made Ground. Compact, mid orange brown silty sand
0.65m+	L1046	Made Ground. Compact, dark grey brown clayey silt

Sample section 9D 0.00 =18.85m AOD		
0.00-0.40m	L1000	Car park surface
0.40-0.41m	L1001	Made Ground. As above, Trench 2.
0.41- 0.91m	L1038	Made Ground. Firm, chalk marl and silty clay
0.91m+	L1002	Natural Deposits

Description: Trial Trench 9B contained two ditches, F1048 and F1050, both late post-medieval.

Ditch F1048 was linear in plan (3.50 x 1.50 x 0.31m), orientated E/W. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1049, was a compact, clay silt with mixed patches of dark grey brown clay and dark reddish brown clay. It contained no finds, and appeared to cut Ditch F1050.

Ditch F1050 was linear in plan (2.20 x 1.60 x 0.14m), orientated N/S. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1051, was a compact, clay silt with mixed patches of dark grey brown clay and dark reddish brown clay. It contained late post-medieval CBM, and appeared to be cut by Ditch F1048.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Excepting the confines of the test pits, it is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost within Test Pits 2 – 7 and Trial Trenches 8 and 9, was the car park surface of Tarmac, L1000 or Concrete, L1049. Within each test pit and trial trench were deposits of made ground (Test Pit 1: L1046 – L1048; Test Pit 2 L1001; Test Pit 3: L1005 and L1006; Test Pit 4: L1005 and L1040; Test Pit 5: L1001, and L1036 - L1039; Test Pit 6: L1051; and Test Pit 7: L1051 and L1053); and Trial Trench 8 (L1001), 9A (L1001), and 9B (L1038, 1041 – L1046). The made ground varied in depth from 0.30 – 0.40m (Test Pits 1, 2, 4 and 6, and Trial Trenches 8 & 9A) – 0.80 – 1.00m (Test Pits 1, 3, 5 and 7, and Trial Trench 9B). The made ground deposits were of late post-medieval (late 18th – 19th century) date.

8.2 The made ground frequently overlay the natural, L1002 (Test Pits 1, 2, 5 and 7, and Trenches 8 and 9). In Test Pit 3 the made ground overlay L1007, a firm, dark grey brown clayey silt. L1007 overlay L1008, a possible buried soil, comprising a firm, mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional small angular flint. It contained late post-medieval (18th – 19th century pottery) and residual Roman (mid 2nd century) pottery. L1008 overlay the natural, L1002.

8.3 In Test Pit 4 the made ground overlay L1027, a mid – dark greyish brown sandy silt with angular chalk and CBM. It contained residual Roman (mid 2nd – 3rd C) pottery, CBM (9g) and animal bone (122g). L1027 overlay L1029, a light – mid grey brown sandy silt. It contained Roman (mid 2nd – 4th C) pottery (10. 53g) and an iron fragment (1; 26g). L1029 overlay L1030, a light grey brown sandy silt with angular chalk lumps. It contained Roman pottery (3; 26g) and animal bone (15g). L1030 overlay the natural, L1002.

8.4 The natural, L1002, comprised a compact, pale yellow grey chalk marl, 0.40 – 1.25m below the present day ground surface.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:-

Test Pit / Trial Trench	Context	Description	Date
2	F1003	Likely natural	-
3	F1009	Ditch	Roman (mid – late 2 nd century)
	F1012	Pit	Post-medieval
4	M1024	Wall Footing	Late post-medieval (18 th – 19 th C)
	F1031	Pit	Roman
	F1032	Limestone blocks	-
	F1033	Pit	Late post-medieval (18 th – 19 th C)
5	F1015	Pit	Late post-medieval (18 th – 19 th C)
	F1017	Pit	Likely Roman with sparse intrusive CBM
	M1019	Wall Footing	Late post-medieval (18 th – 19 th C)
	F1022	Likely natural	-
6	F1053	?Pit	-
9B	F1048	Ditch	Late post-medieval (18 th – 19 th C)
	F1050	Ditch	Late post-medieval (18 th – 19 th C)

9.2 The site lies within an area that has revealed significant evidence of Iron Age and Roman activity, and it has a lesser potential for medieval settlement and post-medieval development. The site may have suffered significant truncation by the previous development of the site in the 1970s and/or coprolite quarrying in the 19th century.

9.3 Made ground deposits, post-medieval (18th – 19th century) and modern features were present within each test pit and trial trench. The features comprised wall footings (M1024 (Test Pit 4) and M1019 (Test Pit 5), and pits (F1012 (Test Pit 3), F1033 (Test Pit 4), F1015 (Test Pit 5) and ?F1053 (Test Pit 6), and ditches (Trial Trench 9B).

9.4 Test Pits 3 – 5 each contained Roman features. The test pits are widely dispersed and evidently the site has not suffered wholesale significant truncation. The test pits were not large (2.50m x 2.50m) and the occurrence of a Roman feature within three test pits is suggestive of a significant density of archaeological features.

9.5 The Roman features comprise a ditch (F1009 (Test Pit 3)) and pits (F1031 (Test Pit 4) and F1017 (Test Pit 5). The Roman pottery is highly fragmented but only slightly abraded condition. The assemblage is relatively homogenous, potentially spanning the mid 2nd to 3rd centuries and probably with a focus on the latter half of the 2nd century (Pottery Report below). Associated finds comprise animal bone and charred plant remains. A fragment of human bone, and a possible fragment of human bone were found (F1003, Test Pit 2) and Made Ground L1038, Test Pit 5) (Human Bone Report below).

Research potential

9.6 The identification of a significant density of Roman archaeology within the site is in keeping with what was previously known about the site. It lies at the western gateway to the Roman fort and later town of *Durolipons/Duroliponte*, and within the core area of the preceding mid 1st century Iron Age oppida (HER MCB6364 and MCB10226 respectively). The recorded archaeology therefore clearly relates to the Roman settlement and, as such, the site has the potential to contribute information

on a number of research subjects that have been identified as being of importance for the Roman period in the East Anglian region (Medlycott 2011, 47-48).

9.7 Medlycott (2011, 48) notes that the role of Roman towns as defensive centres, changes in their internal layouts through the Romano-British period, housing densities, and their roles as centres of supply and demand all require further study. Information relating to at least some of these research subjects is likely to be gained through further study of the site and through analysis of the artefactual material recovered from it. The processes of 'Romanisation' are identified as being an important research subject for the region (Medlycott 2011, 47); due to the position of the site in relation to both the Roman town and the Iron Age oppida, the possibility exists that further analysis will identify information to contribute to an understanding of the ways in which society adapted to the Roman conquest and how this presents itself in the archaeological record. Related research subjects identified by Medlycott (2011, 48) include the character of settlement at this location prior to the Roman conquest and how well the available evidence regarding the early part of the Roman period relates to the tradition 'Boudiccan narrative'.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The site had an archaeological potential, in particular for Iron and Roman activity, but it was thought that the site may have been significantly truncated during previous development in the 1970s.

10.2 A Roman feature (ditch or pit) was recorded within three test pits suggesting that a significant density of Roman archaeology is preserved within the site.

11 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

11.1 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.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1003	1004		2	Fill of Natural Feature					53			
	1005		3	Layer	19th-mid 20th C	7	55	37				
	1008		3	? Buried Soil	Mid 2nd C AD, residual Roman (3 sherds 18th-19th C)	24	252	76	2			
1009	1010		3	Fill of Ditch	Roman	2	3		75			
	1011		3	Fill of Ditch	Mid-Late 2nd C AD	7	136		12			
1012	1013		3	Fill of Pit				146				
1015	1016		5	Fill of Pit	18th-19th C	1	3	94				
1017	1018		5	Fill of Pit	Roman	5	35					
	1035							37				
	1024		4	Wall Footing				5216				
	1027		4	Layer	Mid 2nd-3rd C AD (residual)	2	9	9	122			
1031	1028		4	Fill of Pit	Roman	2	16					
	1029		4		Mid 2nd-4th C AD (residual)	10	153			Fe.Frag	1	26
	1030		4	Layer	Roman (residual)	3	26		15			
1033	1034		4	Fill of Pit	18th-19th C	1	41					
	1038		5	Made Ground				329	5			

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Roman Pottery

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of 52 sherds (616g) of Roman pottery in a highly fragmented but slightly abraded condition. The Roman pottery is dominated by reduced coarse wares produced by the Horningsea industry c.5km to the north-east of the site, and other local kilns around Cambridge; supplemented by white and fine wares from the major industry in the Lower Nene Valley c.50km to the north-west, and samian ware imported from Central Gaul. These fabrics include very limited diagnostic sherds, but a single mould-decorated samian ware bowl, and body sherds of colour-coated ware beakers from the Lower Nene Valley suggest that the assemblage is relatively homogenous, potentially spanning the mid 2nd to 3rd centuries AD, and probably with a focus on the latter half of the 2nd century AD. Small groups of sherds were contained in Ditch F1009, Layer L1029 and L1008, with the remaining sherds sparsely distributed in Pit F1017 and a further layer (L1030).

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE with fabrics examined at x20 magnification in accordance with 'A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology' (Barclay *et al* 2016), developed from the guidelines of the Study Group for Roman Pottery. Fabric codes and descriptions were cross-referenced, where possible, to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998) or regional kiln/type series, while local or indistinguishable coarse wares were assigned an alpha-numeric code and are fully described in the report. Samian ware forms reference Webster (1996), with decorative components referencing the figure types of Oswald (1936) and motifs of Rodgers (1978), abbreviated to *R.* and *O.* respectively. All data has been entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

Fabric Descriptions

LEZ SA2:	Lezoux samian ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 32).
LNV CC:	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware, white-bodied (Tomber & Dore 1998, 118).
LNV WH:	Lower Nene Valley white/parchment ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 119).
HOR RE:	Horningsea reduced ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 116; Evans 1991, 35; Evans <i>et al forthcoming</i>). Mid to dark grey surfaces with a reduced mid-grey core and sometimes oxidised margins. Inclusions comprise common quartz (0.1-0.5mm) with sparse limestone and grog/ironstone (generally <2mm) and occasional flint (0.5-5mm)
GRS1	Sandy grey ware 1. Mid to dark grey surfaces over a lighter/pale grey core. Inclusions comprise common quartz (0.1-0.25mm), sparse fine mica and sparse black iron rich grains (0.25-1.5mm). A hard fabric with a slightly abrasive to smooth feel.
ROB SH:	Romano-British shell-tempered ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 212), wheel-made with common, moderately sorted shell (0.5-7mm, occasionally larger).

Roman Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
LEZ SA2	3	57	-
LNV CC	4	12	-
LNV WH	4	29	-
HOR RE	29	453	0.10
GRS1	9	47	-
ROB SH	3	18	-
<i>Total</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>616</i>	<i>0.10</i>

Table 1: Quantification of Roman fabric types

The Roman Pottery

Two fragments of central Gaulish Samian ware (LEZ SA2) from a Dr.37 mould-decorated bowl were contained in L1008, with a further non-diagnostic flake contained in Ditch F1009. The decorative scheme of the Dr.37 bowl incorporates a double-bordered ovolo with tongue to left, with hollow circle tip also to left (possibly R.B233), above a wavy line border (R.A23). Below this is a free-style design including the figure of a dancer (O.346), with the arm of an unknown figure to the left, and the space in-between in-filled with a trifid (R.G170/1). The figure of the dancer and the style of the decorative scheme appear consistent with bowls produced by Aventinus I at Lezoux (Stanfield & Simpson 1958, 261 & pl.156); furthermore some stamps of Avitus iv of Lezoux may belong to this potter, and it may be telling that the ovolo has been identified on some bowls also assigned to the latter. Nonetheless, both potters operated in the Hadrianic to early Antonine periods at Lezoux, probably within c.AD115-160, and although no decorated bowls assigned to them were recorded in previous assemblages from Castle Hill, Cambridge, plain ware with maker's stamps of both potters was present (Dickinson 1999, 134). The Dr.37 bowl is an excellent chronological marker, though it associated with body sherds of a Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (LNV CC) beaker that does not pre-date the mid 2nd century AD, therefore if the L1008 group is homogenous, it probably dates to c.AD140-150, or shortly thereafter.

Small sherds of Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (LNV CC), entirely derived from beakers, were contained in Layers L1008, L1027 & L1029. The body sherd in L1008 exhibited the edge of a line of applied scale decoration (under-slip), while that from L1027 was from a folded beaker, with variations of beakers with these traits produced between the mid 2nd and late 3rd centuries AD. Small fragments of white/parchment ware also from the Lower Nene Valley (LNV WH) were also present in the assemblage but could not be assigned a form type.

The most common fabric type is reduced coarse wares produced by the industry at Horningsea (HOR RE). Sherds in this fabric are present in every context that contained Roman pottery, but despite this the only diagnostic sherd comprises an everted bead rim from a large jar contained in L1008. The rim sherd is of insufficient extent to better define the form of the jar, though many such large jars were produced over a long duration as utilitarian vessels, including cooking pots. In addition to the HOR RE, body sherds of other reduced coarse wares (GRS1) are likely to represent the products of other local kilns, possibly domestic production, while Layer L1029 also contained sherds from a small jar in shell-tempered ware (ROB SH). Large quantities of ROB SH jars were produced at Harrold, Bedfordshire

(Brown 1994), but more limited production occurred in the fenland south of the River Ouse, notably at Earith (Vince 2013, 329) and in a poorly-understood kiln in the Lower Nene Valley from the mid 2nd century AD (Perrin 1996, 117), with all representing viable suppliers to Cambridge.

Previous archaeological excavations in the Castle Hill area of Cambridge have produced a highly significant assemblage of Roman pottery (Hull & Pullinger 1999). This small assemblage appears broadly consistent with the fabric and form types common in groups dated to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, notably from the Shrine (*ibid*, 144), though unfortunately watching briefs on parts of the modern site at Mount Pleasant House in 1974 (MPH) and St. Edmund's House in 1964 (EH) did not produce any pottery that was quantified or illustrated in the synthetic report. Thus this limited group of pottery including a central Gaulish mould-decorated bowl, beakers and white wares from the Lower Nene Valley, and under-pinned by Horningsea reduced ware, provides an addition to the understanding of consumption and deposition in the mid 2nd to 3rd centuries AD, if not representing a small episode of disposal in the mid/late 2nd century AD. This assemblage may be the product of domestic consumption within a small urban environment, with a plethora of local utilitarian wares probably imported via the Car Dyke and other rivers, a seeming demand for colour-coated ware beakers, and sufficient consumer power to purchase decorated samian ware. However; the limited quantities, concentration and relatively high fragmentation are suggestive of the dispersal of rubbish, rather than primary deposition, which may be consistent with the postulated location of the site immediately outside of the northern extent (and later Roman gate and wall) of the town (Alexander & Pullinger 1999, 36)

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The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of 27 sherds (5907g) of CBM in a highly-fragmented and poorly-preserved condition, with the exception of two complete bricks sampled from an extant wall. The CBM includes sparse small fragments of peg tile that are potentially of late medieval/early post-medieval date, but the bulk of the assemblage is of late post-medieval date, probably within the late 18th to 19th centuries (Table 2).

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight, with fabrics examined at x20 magnification, extant dimensions measured and further technological/decorative traits recorded as free text; with all data entered in a Microsoft Excel spread sheet that forms part of the site archive.

CBM type	Date	Frequency	Weight (g)
Peg Tile	Late medieval/early post-medieval	9	113
Peg Tile	Post-medieval	15	569
Red Brick	Late 18 th -19 th century	2	5216
Brick rubble		1	9
<i>Total</i>		27	5907

Table 2: Quantification of CBM

The earliest CBM comprised 9 fragments (113g) of peg tile contained in Layers L1005 and L1008. This red-orange peg tile was manufactured in a medium-coarse fabric tempered with common quartz sand (<0.5mm), with occasional flint also present (<5mm), resulting in a fairly abrasive finish. The peg tile was 12mm thick with lengthways striations, but the fragments were of insufficient size to allow any other technological traits to be identified. Nonetheless; the fabric of the tile and their apparent thickness suggests this peg tile was manufactured after legislation was passed to standardise quality in 1477 (Drury 1981, 131), with this peg tile potentially produced in the late 15th to 16th centuries. In contrast, slightly larger fragments of 12mm thick peg tile contained in Pits F1012 and F1015 were manufactured in a calcareous, streaky fabric typical of mass-produced tiles produced locally throughout the post-medieval period.

Two complete bricks of the same type were sampled from Wall M1024, comprising red (sand-tempered) bricks with dimensions of 220x105x60mm, a smooth base, and fairly regular arrises and faces; characteristic of red bricks produced in the late 18th to 19th centuries, possibly in south Cambridgeshire, or adjacent areas of Hertfordshire or Essex. A small fragment of rubble from Layer L1027 appears to be from comparable red brick.

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The Animal and Human Bone

Dr Julia E. M. Cussans

A small assemblage of bone was recovered during trial trench excavations at Mount Pleasant house. A total of 23 bone fragments were recovered from nine contexts (Table 3). Preservation was largely recorded as OK on a five point scale ranging from very poor through to excellent. The bones showed low levels of abrasion and a small number of fresh breaks. Canid gnawing was observed on two elements, one each from Ditch F1009 L1010 and Layer L1030.

Very few bones were identifiable to species. The majority of bones were recorded as large (cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal. Identifiable animal elements were a fragment of cattle premolar, a fragment of cattle sacrum and a fragment of pig humerus. None of these yielded any signs of butchery or pathology; no ageable or measurable elements were present.

Two bone fragments were identified as human or probable human. One is a piece of femur or humerus, with a fresh break across one end (L1004) and the other is a possible fragment of human clavicle. No butchery or other modifications were noted on either of these bones.

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Preservation	Cattle	Pig	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Human	Total
1003	1004	Fill of Natural Feature		good					1	1
	1005	Layer	19th -mid 20th C	ok				1		1
	1008	Layer	Mid 2nd C AD, (3 sherds 18th-19th C)	ok			1			1
1009	1010	Fill of Ditch	Roman	ok			2	3		5
1009	1011	Fill of Ditch	Mid-Late 2nd C AD	ok			1	1		2
	1027	Layer	Mid 2nd-3rd C AD	ok	2		3			5
	1030	Layer	Roman	ok		1				1
	1035	Layer		good			6			6
	1038	Made Ground		ok					1	1
				Total	2	1	13	5	2	23

Table 3. Quantification of animal and human bone from Mount Pleasant House.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the evaluation at Mount Pleasant, Castle Ward, Cambridgeshire, a single bulk soil sample for environmental archaeological assessment was taken and processed from Roman ditch fill L1010 (F1009). This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fraction, and discusses the significance and potential of any remains recovered.

Methods

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

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fraction are presented in Table 4.

Two carbonised cereal grains were recorded in the sample, one of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and one of barley (*Hordeum* sp.). The low density of such remains most likely represents background scatters of debris which became incorporated into the ditch fill. At the very least, this implies the contemporary use of cereals in the vicinity of the sampled deposit.

More numerous were the remains of terrestrial and freshwater aquatic molluscs. The terrestrial molluscs include grassland taxa (*Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia* sp.), as well as taxa with a requirement for ground litter (*Trichia hispida* group). It is likely that these reflect grassy habitats on the ditch sides. The presence of aquatic types, such as *Anisus leucostoma* and *Lymnaea truncatula*, and the semi-aquatic *Succinea putris*/*Oxyloma pfeifferi* most likely indicates standing water within the base of the ditch. All taxa can tolerate desiccation, which may indicate seasonal cycles of waterlogging.

There were also uncharred remains of moss within the sample. This may indicate a degree of anaerobic preservation through waterlogging within the sampled deposit and should be considered when planning for any further work at the site, as such

conditions could be more widespread and lead to preservation of other material of palaeoenvironmental significance.

Conclusions

The small number of carbonised cereal grains recovered from L1010 cannot be used as the basis for any detailed comment regarding Romano-British diet and economy at the site. However, the remains do suggest the use of cereals in the vicinity. It is difficult to say whether this implies the likelihood of other, richer deposits yet to be investigated on the site but this is certainly a possibility that should be considered where any further investigations may be planned. Any further sampling undertaken would allow a more detailed characterisation of carbonised cereal preservation and distribution, as well as any inferences that can be drawn in relation to the Romano-British diet and economy.

In light of the good preservation of terrestrial and freshwater aquatic molluscs, it would be valuable to consider specific sampling for these remains should suitable deposits be encountered during any future work at the site. Such organisms have the potential to provide important information regarding contemporary ground cover and the nature of hydrological conditions where standing and flowing water was present.

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-334161

Project details

Project name	MOUNT PLEASANT HOUSE, CASTLE WARD, CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE (TT)
Short description of the project	In May and June 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Mount Pleasant House, Castle Ward, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 44295 59370; Figs. 1 and 2). The evaluation was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET), as advisors to the LPA, to provide for the initial requirements of a planning approval condition (Cambridge City Council Ref. 16/1389/FUL). The development comprises the proposed demolition of an existing office block, removal of car parking spaces and erection of new college accommodation (243 en-suite rooms and 34 studios), landscaping and access. Test Pits 3 - 5 each contained Roman features. The test pits are widely dispersed and evidently the site has not suffered wholesale significant truncation. The test pits were not large (2.50m x 2.50m) and the occurrence of a Roman feature within three test pits is suggestive of a significant density of archaeological features. The Roman features comprise a ditch (F1009 (Test Pit 3)) and pits (F1031 (Test Pit 4)) and F1017 (Test Pit 5)). The Roman pottery is highly fragmented but only slightly abraded condition. The assemblage is relatively homogenous, potentially spanning the mid 2nd to 3rd centuries and probably with a focus on the latter half of the 2nd century. Associated finds comprise animal bone and charred plant remains. A fragment of human bone, and a possible fragment of human bone were found (F1003, Test Pit 2) and Made Ground L1038, Test Pit 5).
Project dates	Start: 01-05-2017 End: 30-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	P7094 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 5082 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PITS AND DITCHES Roman
Significant Finds	ASSEMBLAGES Roman
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England
 Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE Mount Pleasant House, Castle Ward, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
 Postcode CB3 0BL
 Study area 5952 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 44295 59370 52.213200821422 0.112248425415 52 12 47 N 000 06 44 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 18.5m Max: 18.5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Project brief originator CCC HET
 Project design originator Jon Murray
 Project director/manager Jon Murray
 Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions
 Type of sponsor/funding body Howard Osborne
 Name of sponsor/funding body Howard Osborne

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Cambridgeshire Council Archaeological Store
 Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"
 Digital Archive recipient Cambridge County Archaeological Store
 Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"
 Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Cambridge County Archaeological Store
 Paper Contents "Animal Bones","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 Mount Pleasant House, Castle Ward, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Barlow, G

Other bibliographic details	5381
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F1053 in Test Pit 6



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View of Trench 8 looking north-east



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Sample Section 8A looking south-east



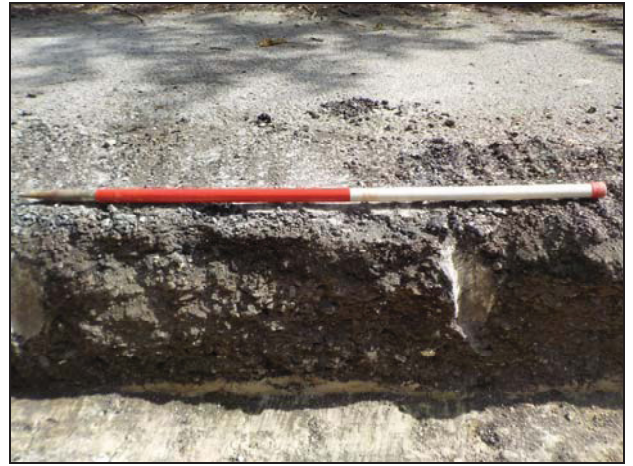
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View of Trench 9A looking south-east



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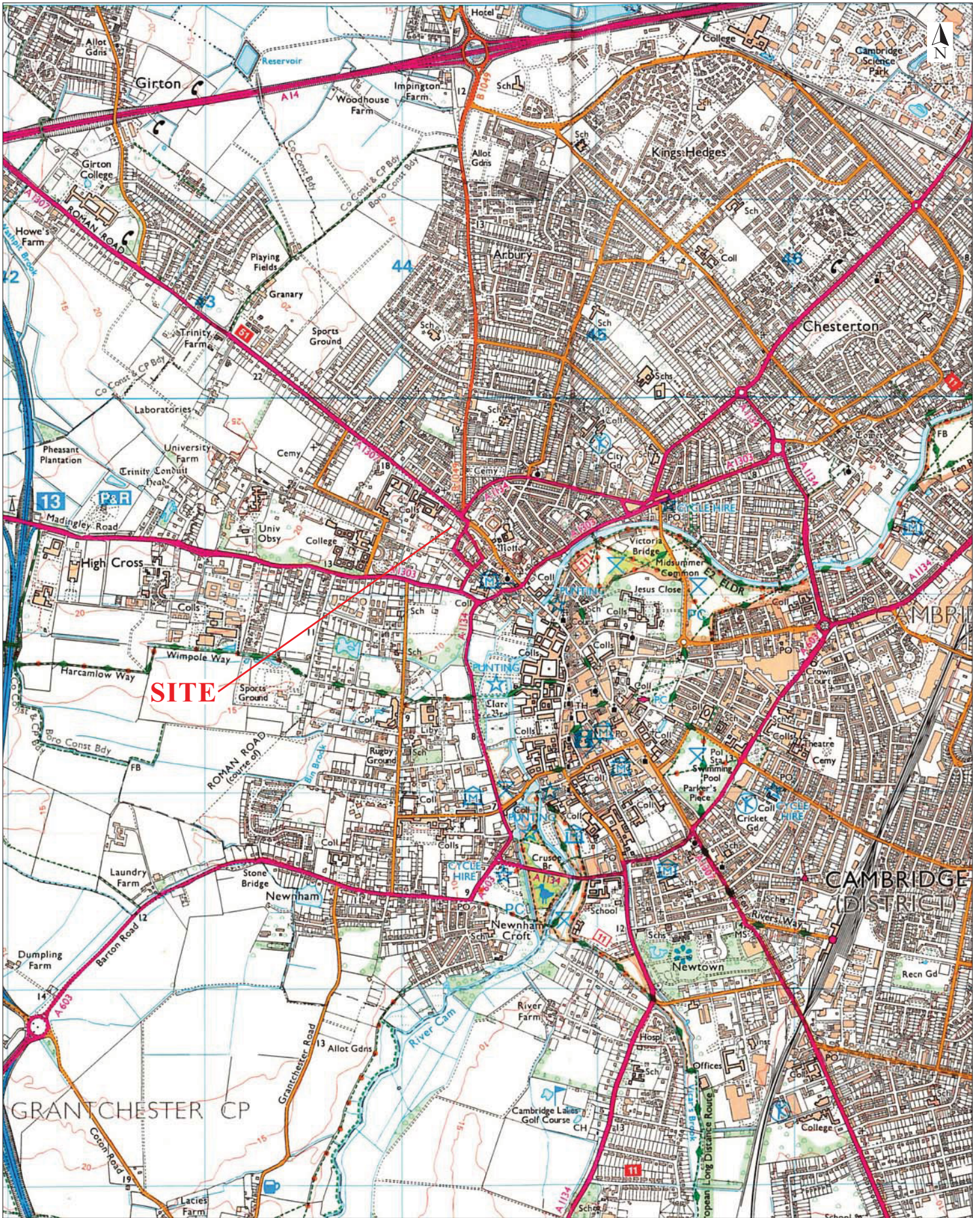
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Sample Section 9B looking north-east



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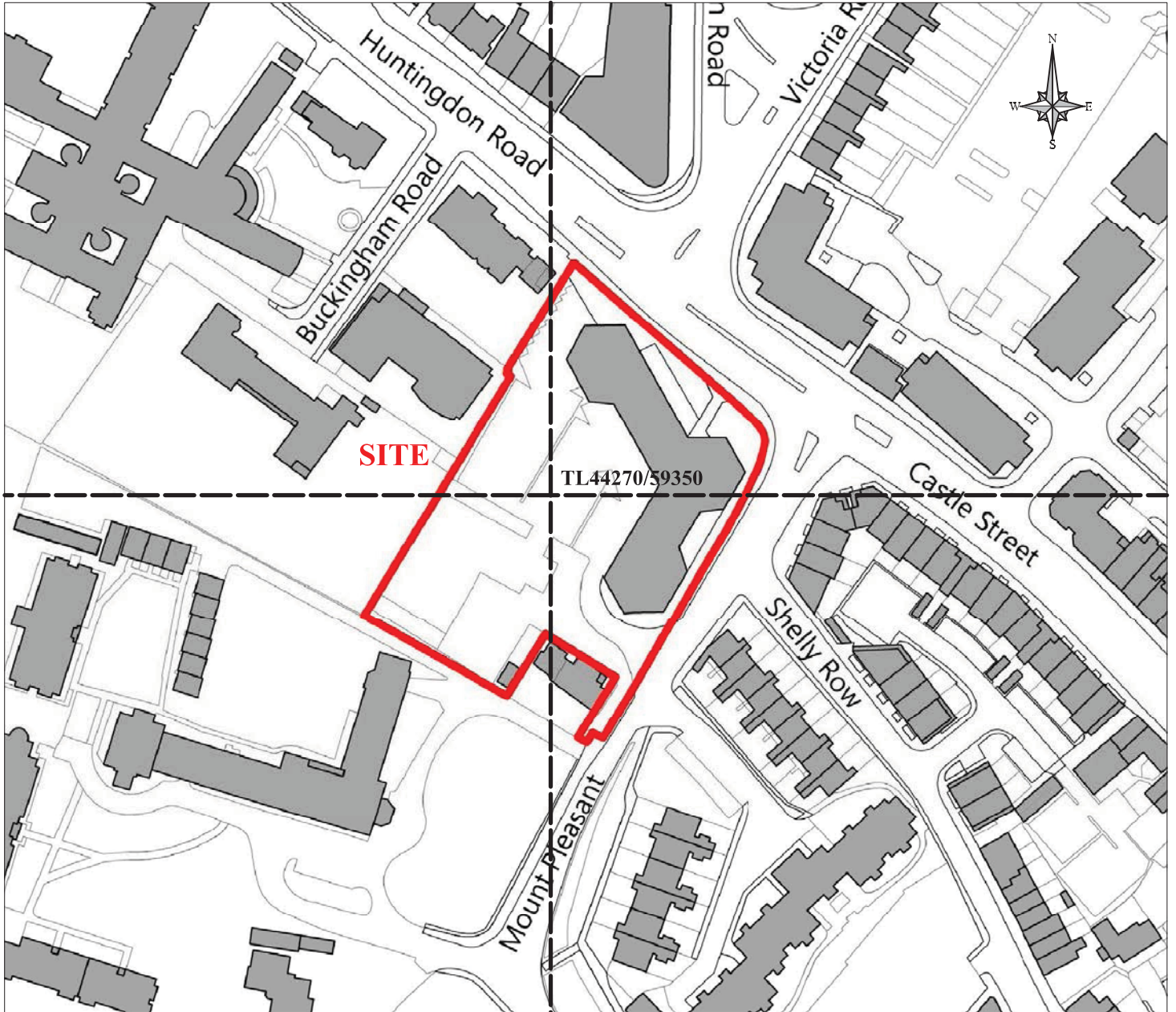


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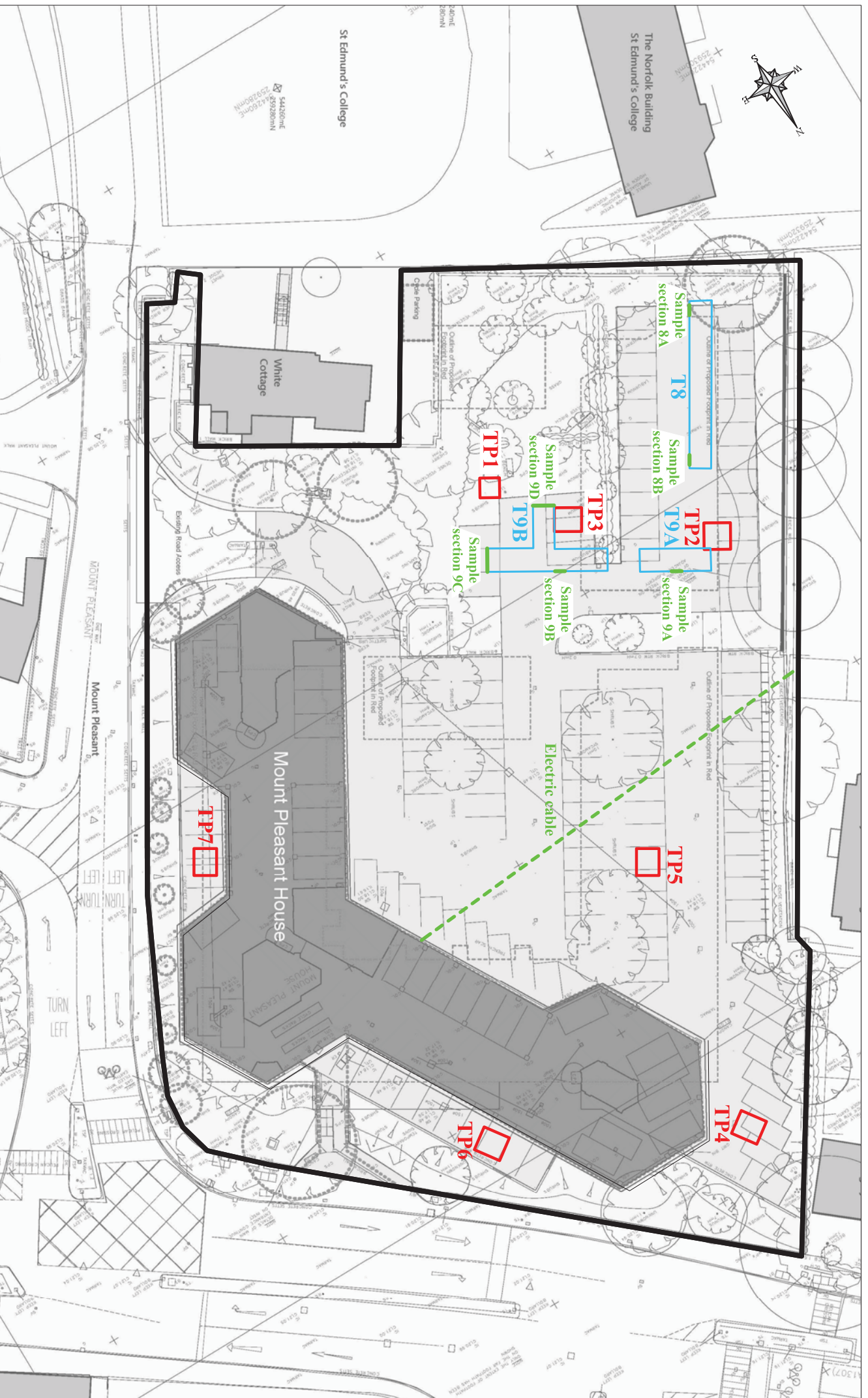


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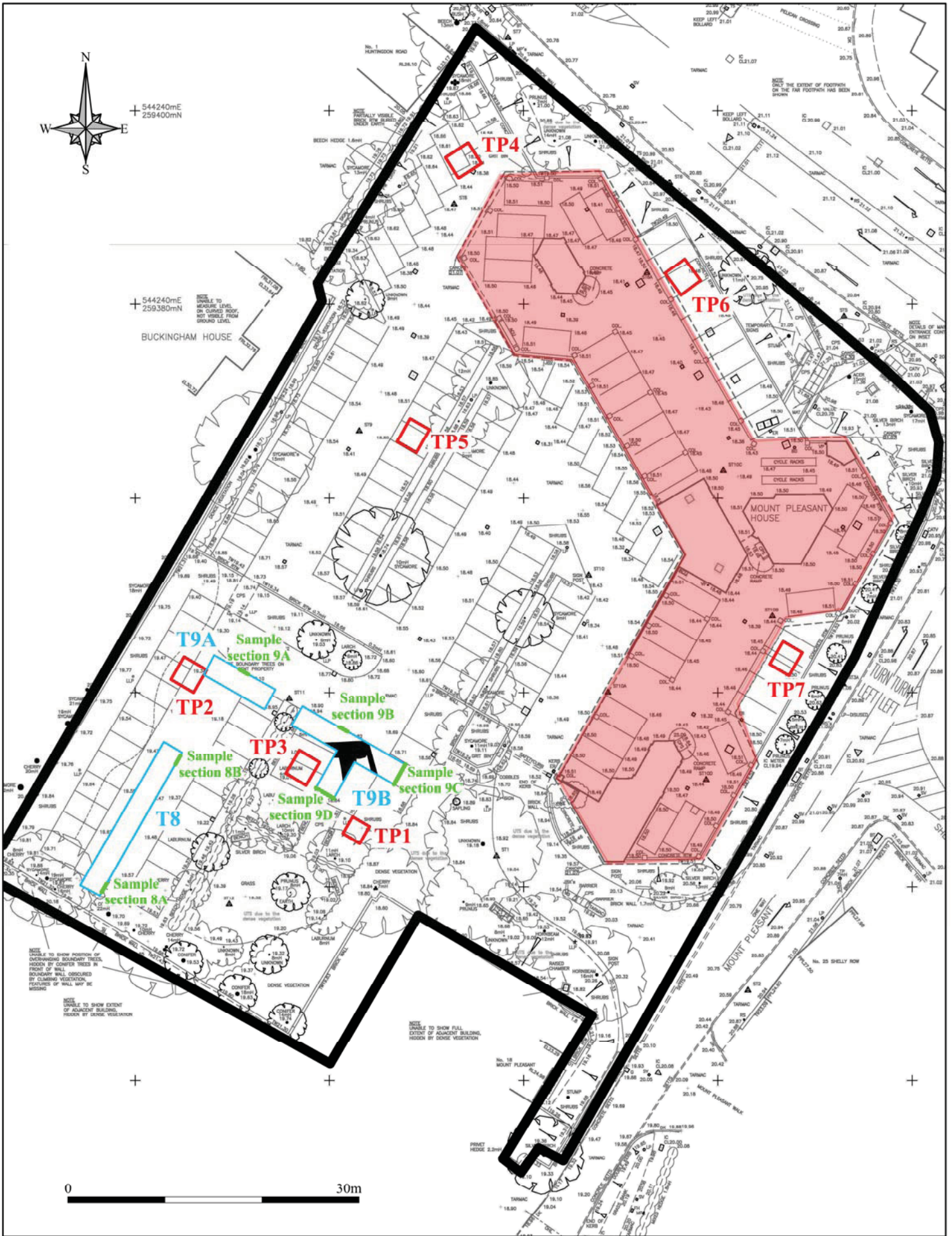
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Mount Pleasant House, Cambridge (P7094)



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4
Mount Pleasant House, Cambridge (P7094)



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Fig. 3 Test pit location plan
 Scale 1:500 at A4
 Mount Pleasant House, Cambridge (P7094)

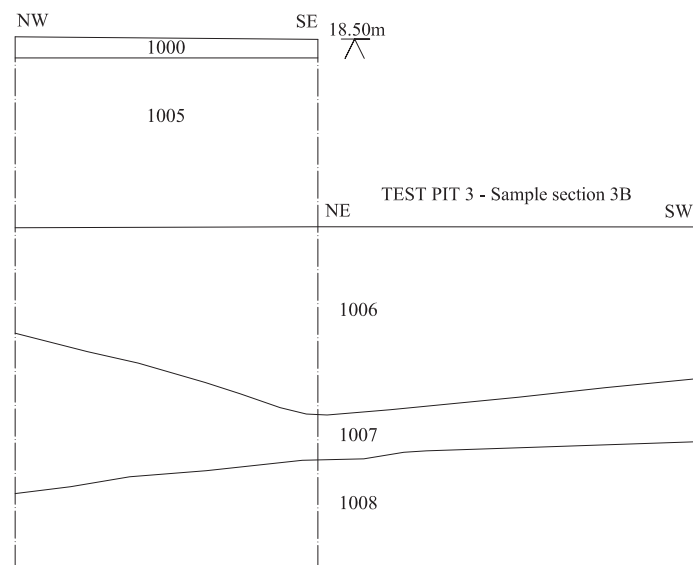
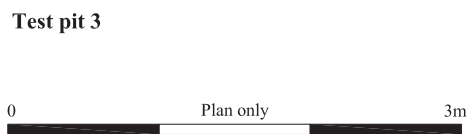
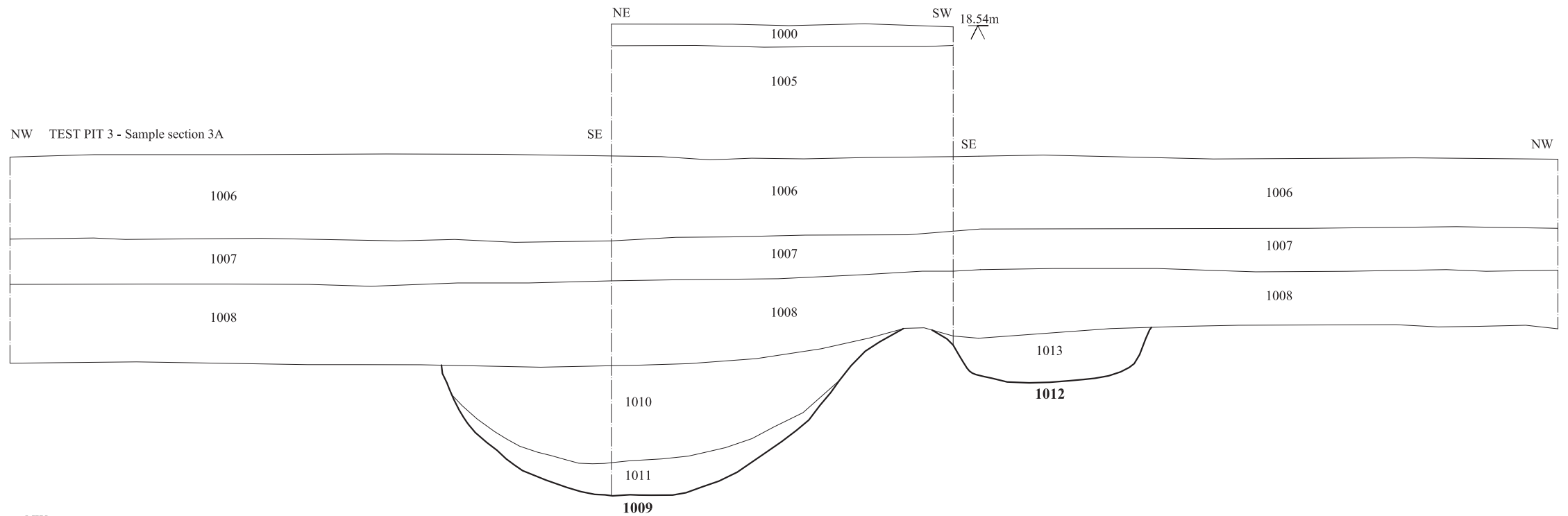
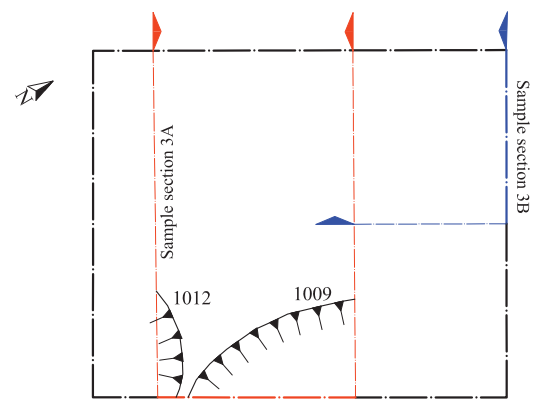
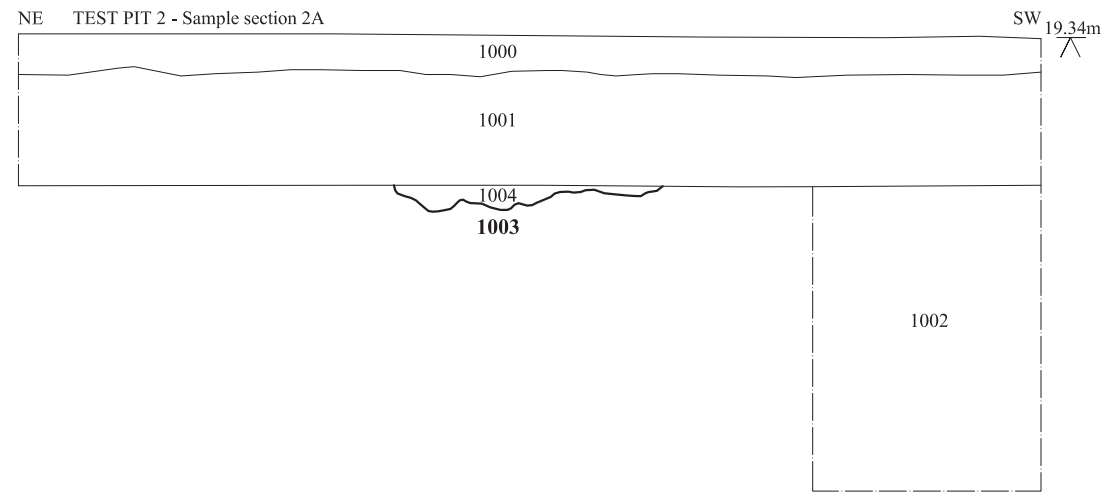
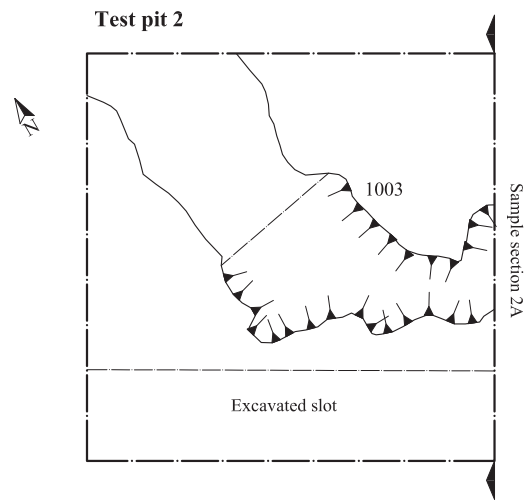


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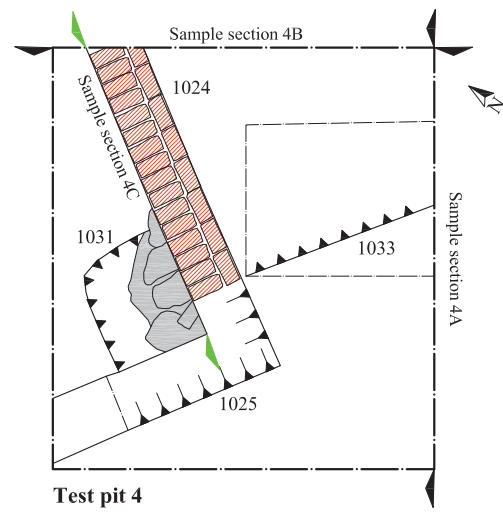
Fig. 4 Test pits on topographic plan
 Scale 1:500 at A4
 Mount Pleasant House, Cambridge (P7094)



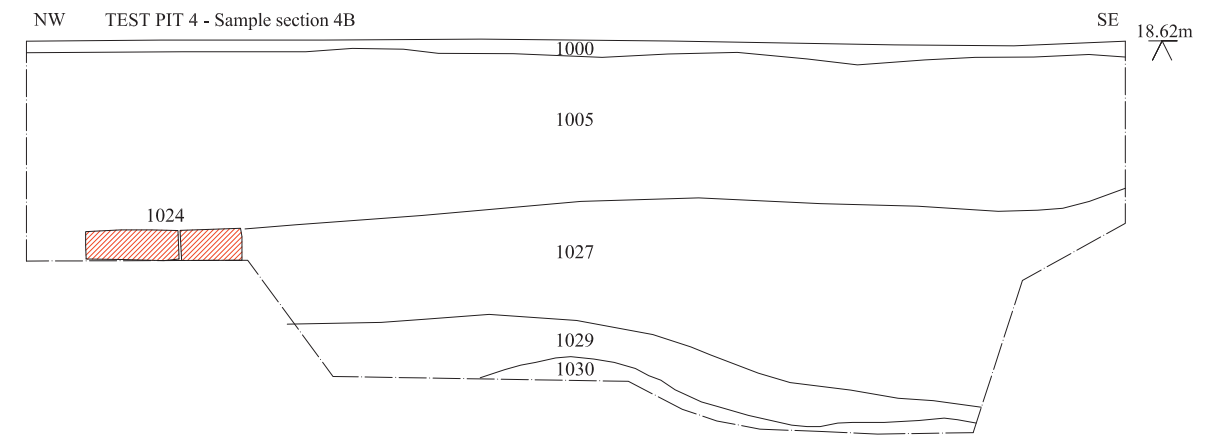
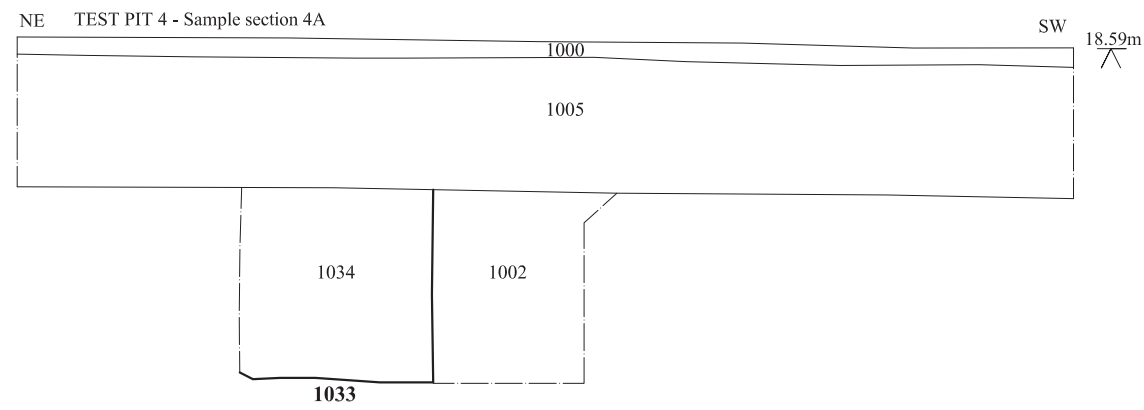
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Fig. 5 Proposed development
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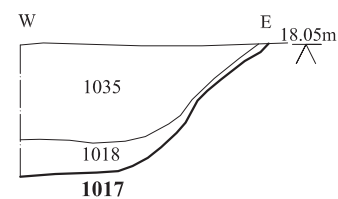
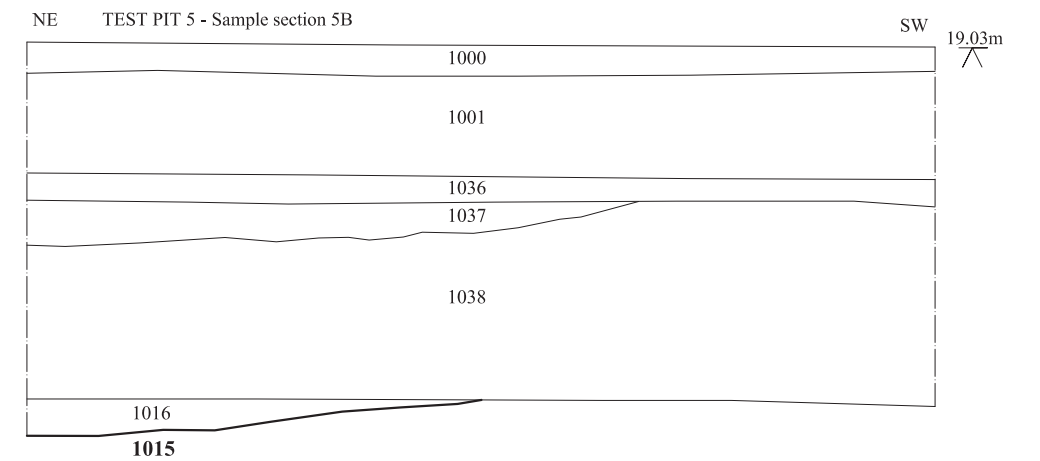
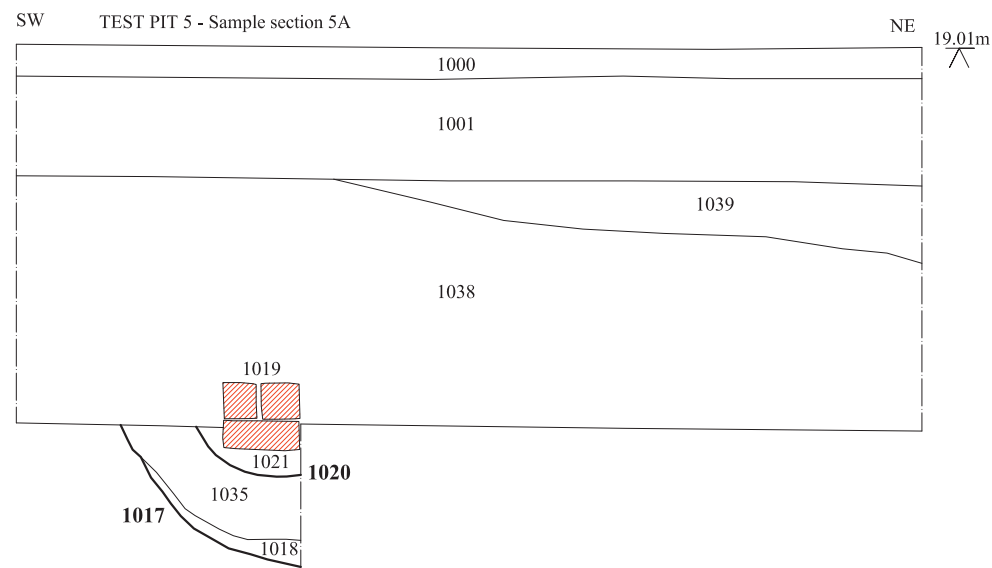
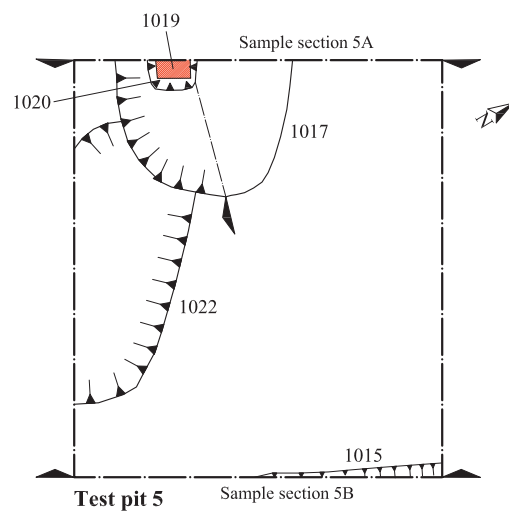
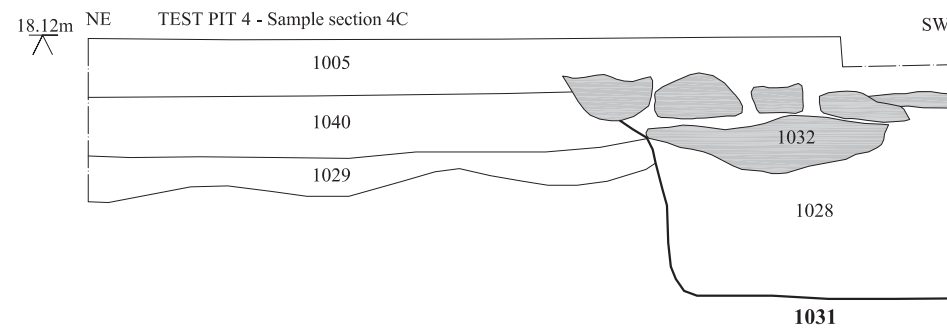
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Fig. 6 Test pits 2 and 3
 Plans 1:50, sections 1:20 at A3
 Mount Pleasant House, Cambridge (P7094)



0 Plan only 3m

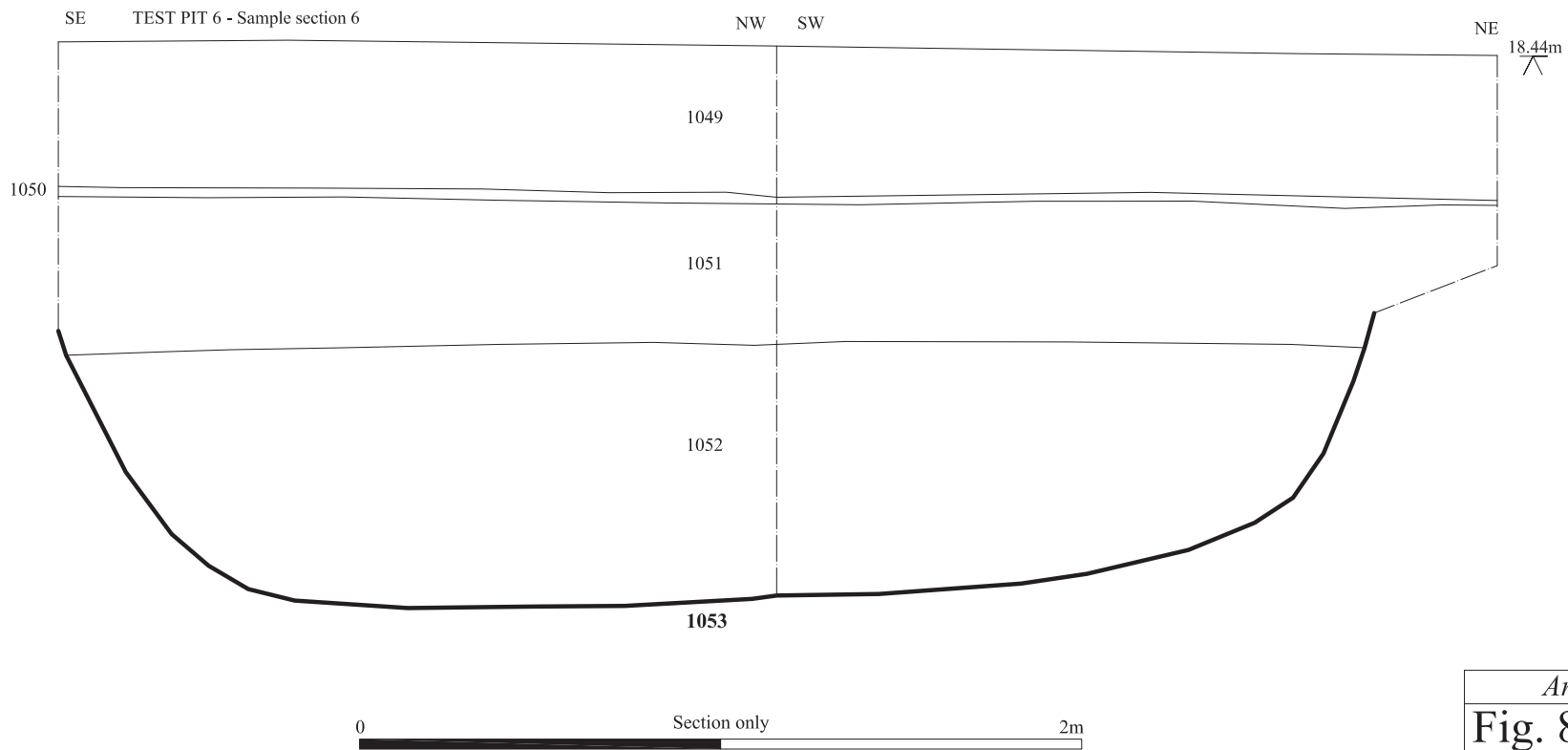
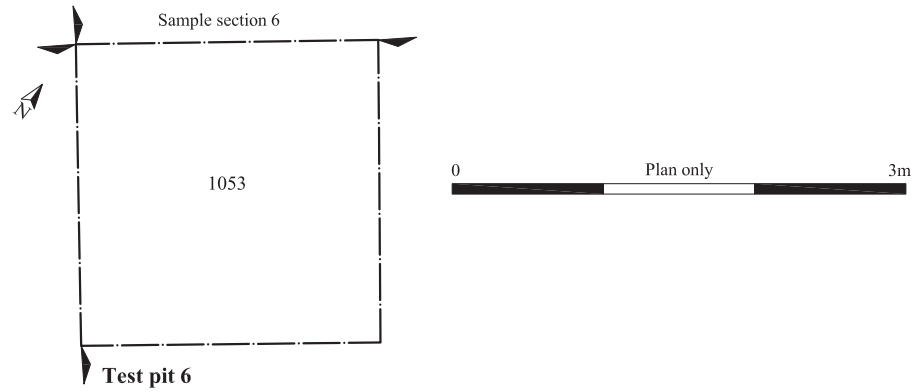


0 Sections only 2m

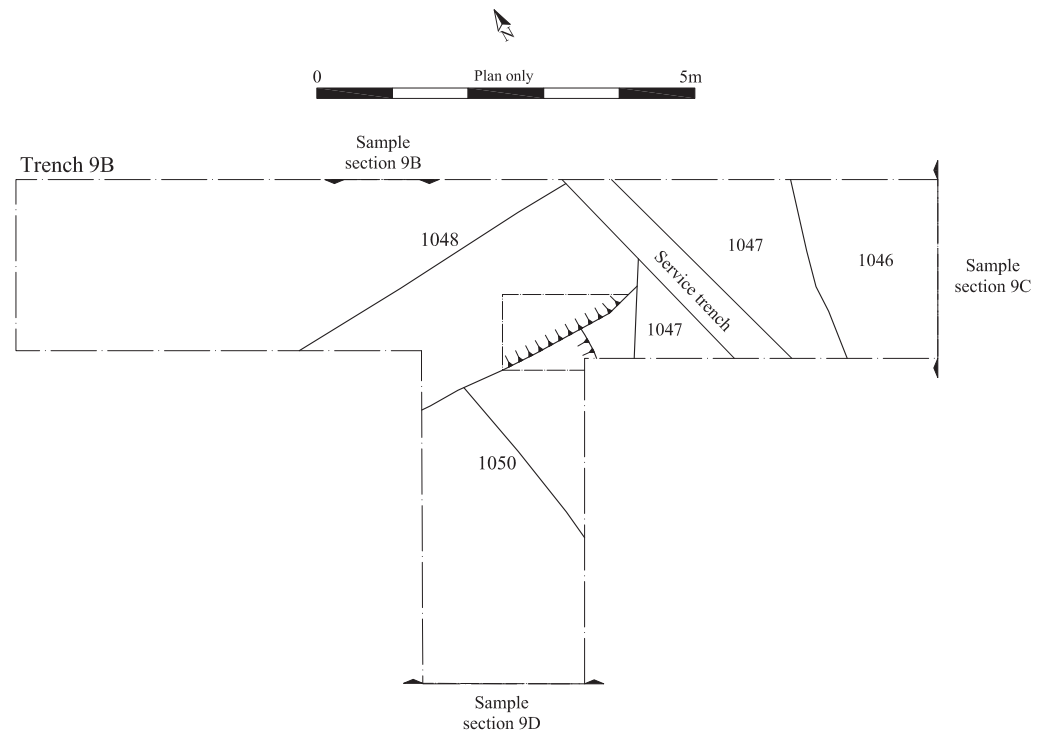
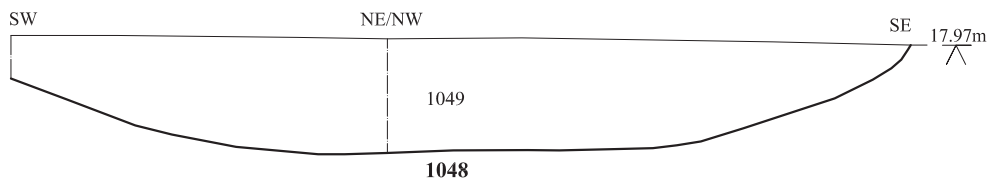
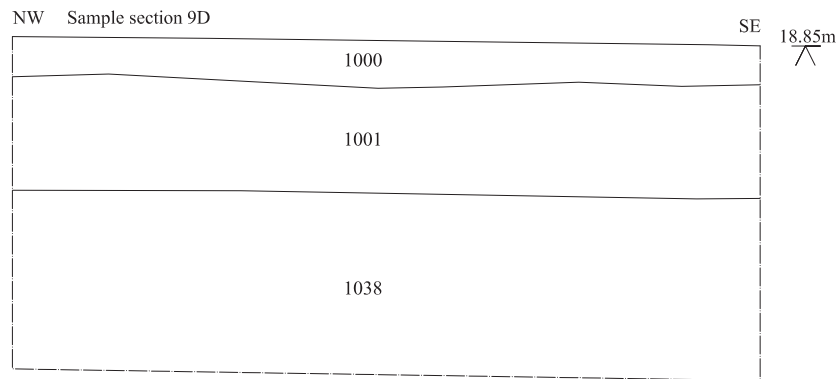
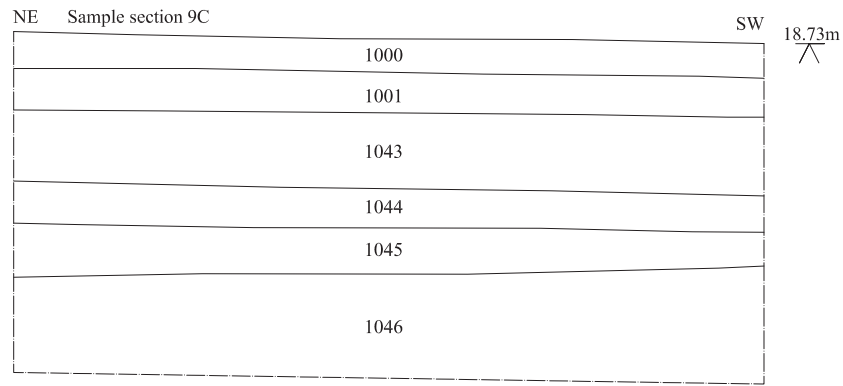
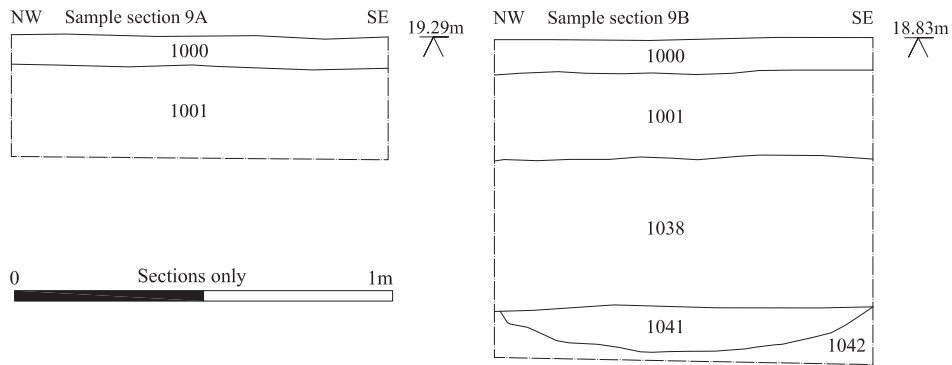


Brick Stone

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Fig. 7 Test pits 4 and 5
Plans 1:50, sections 1:20 at A3
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Fig. 8 Test pit 6
Plans 1:50, sections 1:20 at A4
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Fig. 9 Trench 9
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Mount Pleasant House, Cambridge (P7094)