

**ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHURCH LANE,  
COMBERTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHURCH LANE,  
COMBERTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

**CHER: ECB2626**

Authors: Phil Weston	
NGR: TL 3837 5554	Report No. 2212
District: South Cambs	Site Code: AS 1046
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 2752
Signed:	Date: May 2007

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Comberton, Cambridgeshire</i>		
Project description (250 words)	<p><i>In March and May 2007, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the mechanical excavation of a foundation trench adjacent to the northern aisle of St Mary's Church, Comberton, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 3837 5554), and the excavation of a service trench. The work was carried out prior to the construction of a porch/toilet block adjacent to the northern aisle door of the church. The nave, chancel and southern aisle of St Mary's date to the 13th century, the bell tower was added during the 14th century and the northern aisle was constructed in the 15th century.</i></p> <p><i>The excavation of the footing trench exposed the clunch stone foundations of the northern aisle, its associated construction cut, the buried graveyard soil and subsoil, seven east-west burials, a made ground deposit and a Victorian/modern storm drain.</i></p> <p><i>Human bone from five of the burials was retained at the church for re-interment at a later date. Four of the individuals were adult, but the fifth was a child. The foundation trench had disturbed the lower legs of the deceased and an un-fused tibia measured 145mm, giving an approximate age of 2 - 3½ years.</i></p> <p><i>The remaining two burials were located within the construction cut of the northern aisle suggesting they were intentionally placed under the church foundations..</i></p>		
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March &amp; 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May 2007</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>2752</i>	Site code	<i>ASI046</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring</i>		
Site status	<i>Parish church</i>		
Current land use	<i>Church graveyard</i>		
Planned development	<i>Porch/toilet block and service trench</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>15<sup>th</sup> century wall footings, 7 undated burials, 2 beneath wall footings.</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>South Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Comberton</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridge HER</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 3837 5554</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c. 30m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>CCC CAPCA</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Phil Weston</i>		
Funded by	<i>St Mary's Church</i>		
Full title	<i>St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Comberton, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording of the Excavation of a Foundation Trench.</i>		
Authors	<i>Phil Weston</i>		
Report no.	<i>2212</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>May 2007</i>		

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***SUMMARY***

*In March and May 2007, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the mechanical excavation of a foundation trench adjacent to the northern aisle of St Mary's Church, Comberton, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 3837 5554), and during the excavation of a service trench. The monitoring was carried out prior to the construction of a porch/toilet block adjacent to the northern aisle door of the church. The nave, chancel and southern aisle of St Mary's date to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the bell tower was added during the 14<sup>th</sup> century and the northern aisle was constructed in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.*

*The excavation of the foundation trench exposed the clunch stone foundations of the northern aisle, its associated construction cut, a buried graveyard soil and subsoil, seven east-west burials, a made ground deposit and a Victorian/modern storm drain.*

*Human bone from five of the burials was retained at the church for re-interment. Four of the individuals were adult, and the fifth was a child. The foundation trench had disturbed the lower legs of the deceased and an un-fused tibia measured 145mm, giving an approximate age of 2 - 3½ years.*

*The remaining two burials were located within the construction cut of the northern aisle suggesting they were intentionally placed under the church foundations.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In March and May 2007, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the mechanical excavation of a foundation trench adjacent to the northern aisle of St Mary's Church, Comberton, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 3837 5554) (Figs. 1 & 2), and the excavation of a service trench. The monitoring programme was commissioned by Archimage Architects on behalf of St Mary's Church, Comberton. The foundation trench was the first phase of work concerned with the construction of a porch built to house toilets. AS also monitored the machine excavation of a service trench, which will connect the toilet block to the main sewer running along Royston Lane.

1.2 The monitoring and recording was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA) (dated 31<sup>st</sup> June 2006) and a specification prepared by AS (dated 27<sup>th</sup> June 2006).

1.3 The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording complied with the *Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists, Guidance Note 1: Archaeological requirements for works on churches and churchyards* (ADCA 2004) and the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney, D. 2003, EAA Occasional Paper 14). It was also conducted according to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2001) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (revised 1999). All stages of the project were also undertaken according to the guidelines of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

1.4 The principal elements of the project comprised:

- The archaeological monitoring of the footing excavation and drain trench;
- Excavation and recording of any revealed archaeological remains or deposits, as necessary;
- The recording and characterisation of the fabric of the church foundations revealed during the excavation of the footings trench.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 St Mary's Church is located outside and to the south of the village of Comberton. Comberton is situated within the district of South Cambridgeshire, in the county of Cambridgeshire. Comberton is located on the B1046, midway between Toft to the west and Barton to the east. The city of Cambridge lays c. 6.50km to the west north west of the village. Bourn Brook, to the south of the village, forms the southern boundary of Comberton parish.

2.2 The site of St Mary's Church is situated 750m directly southwards of Comberton village centre (Fig. 1) and is separated from the village by the course of Tit Brook. The Church stands on a raised area of ground, consisting of glacial till overlying gault clay, at approximately 30m AOD.

2.3 St Mary's Church fronts onto Church Lane to the south and is bounded by Royston Lane to the west and by The Causeway to the north and east. Church Lane partially follows the path of Lot Way, a known Roman route.

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **3.1 Prehistoric**

3.1.1 Evidence of prehistoric activity in and around the village is scant; a Neolithic axe and three worked flints have been recovered from gravel soils near to Bourn Brook to the south of the village (Taylor 1997, 30) and the National Monuments Record (NMR) records the site of a round barrow (TL 3766 5552) to the south-west (Walker 1910, 171).

Cropmarks delineating an enclosure system, close to where the flint axe was recovered, have been dated to the Iron Age on morphological grounds (Taylor 1997, 30) and an Iron Age pin has been found close to Bakers Farm in the village (Walker 1910, 10).

## **3.2 Roman**

3.2.1 The Roman road between Cambridge and St Neots lay immediately to the south of Comberton parish's short northern boundary and the east-west routes now known as Lot Way and Portway have Roman origins (Taylor 1997, 31).

3.2.2 The Bourn Brook Valley attracted Roman settlement and two major sites lie close to Comberton. Both were probably villas and the first was discovered February 1842 by workmen digging gravel on the low ground between Comberton Church and the Bourn Brook. The walls were built of Ketton stone and the site was strewn with tile and painted plaster. Fragments of glass, coarse pottery, coins from Vespasian to Gratian and finer pale yellow pottery were also found. A hexagonal room was discovered along with many fragments of glass, Samian pottery and painted plaster (Scott 1993, 36).

3.2.3 The second villa is known only from a series of cropmark located on the line of the Lot Way. The cropmarks consist of enclosures, boundary ditches and rectangular buildings.

## **3.3 Anglo-Saxon**

3.3.1 The name Comberton dates from the Anglo-Saxon period and means, "*Farmstead of a man called Cumbria*" (Mills 1998, 94). The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book (Williams & Martin 1992, 520) but no archaeological evidence of occupation during the period has been identified. It has been suggested (Taylor 1997, 32), that the lack of Anglo-Saxon remains, so common in close by villages such as Haslingfield and Barrington, indicates that the Roman estate system already in place survived into the later period, forcing the Anglo-Saxons to settle elsewhere.

## **3.4 Medieval**

3.4.1 After the Norman Conquest, the village was divided into separate manors, the largest of which at Green End, remained part of the Royal estates until 1177, when Henry II gave it to Esveillard de Seissum. He held it until 1195. Nicholas Mucenbote occupied it from 1196 until 1200, when King John granted it to John Merk. It is thought that the Merk family was responsible for the construction of the moated site adjacent to Manor Farm (Taylor 1997, 31).

3.4.2 The Merk family held the manor until 1364, when it passed to Sir Henry Green, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, after whom the manor became known. The manor stayed in the family until 1505 when it was divided between three surviving sisters. Each share then passed through various owners until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when it was again re-united (Elrington 1973).

3.4.3 The Berdlines manor was granted to Picot, the Sheriff of Bourn Castle. After his death, it passed to his son Robert, who was accused of plotting against Henry I and had to flee the country. The lands were confiscated and later granted to Pain Peverel (Elrington 1973).

3.4.4 By 1300 the Manor was held by the Burdeley's family until passing by marriage to the Chamber's of Epping. In 1514, Burdeley's manor was sold to the Bishop of Winchester, as part of an endowment for St Thomas Hospital, whose governors are still lords of the manor (Taylor 1997, 31). Its moated site, adjacent to Birdlines Manor Farm, was recorded as ruinous in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and the last surviving ditch was backfilled in 1960 (*ibid.*).

3.4.5 The third, and smallest manor, was given to Erchenger, the baker. The manor became known as Heved's after Robert Head of Hardwick, a later owner. By 1250, the lands passed to Barnwell Priory of Cambridge, who added them to their other holdings to form the Rectory Manor. At the Dissolution, it was claimed by the Crown and finally granted to the Bishops of Ely, who held it until 1964 (Elrington 1973).

### **3.5 Post-medieval and modern**

3.5.1 The crossroads at the middle of the village holds some significance as up until the early seventeenth century it was the main Cambridge to Oxford route. Its use did not decline until 1772 when the present A428 (St Neot's Road) was turnpiked, making a more direct route for through traffic (Elrington 1973). The north-south road ran from the St Neot's Road to Harlton and the Cambridge-Arrington Bridge road (Taylor 1997, 32). The village that developed around the crossroads from the medieval onwards was ideally placed to take advantage of these lines of communication.

3.5.2 In the early modern period, Comberton saw a Coprolite mining industry expand then decline. Coprolites were found in considerable abundance around the town, lying near the surface of the soil. Two medieval earthworks just east of Comberton village were systematically destroyed by the coprolite mining. The first was on Jaggard's Farm, just south of Bin Brook, where the work took place in 1864. The second was in the field north-east of the crossroads where mining took place between 1868 and 1878 (Elrington 1973).

### **3.6 St Mary's Church**

3.6.1 The Parish Church of Comberton stands on the highest ground in the village (30m AOD). It consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, and a tower at the west end, with a south porch forming the main entrance to the church. The chancel and nave of the extant church and one narrow aisle on the south side were constructed in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It is probable that the structure replaced an earlier church and it was thought possible that its foundations or contemporary interments may be encountered during the monitoring.



Glass was rare in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and the only windows in the structure were narrow slits known as lancets, two of which still remain in the north wall of the chancel.

3.6.2 In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, glass was more readily available, so it was possible to enlarge the windows and admit more light. Two windows in the south aisle of the chancel were added during this period, as was the window at the east end of the south aisle. It is possible other windows were inserted during the 14<sup>th</sup> century but if so they were again replaced in the following century by the perpendicular windows still extant.

3.6.3 The bell tower was also added during the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The belfry arch exhibits continuous moldings down to the ground and the west window is a good example of decorated work. Corbels at the side of this window represent a monk and the other a grinning devil. Male and female corbels stand out from the walls of the belfry; the female appears to be wearing a crown, and it is possible that these are portraits of Edward I and Queen Eleanor suggesting that the tower was built in Edward's reign, 1272 - 1307. The finely carved corbel heads on the west wall of the nave represent a man and a woman in the headdress of the period. Internal to the church, just above the doorway leading to the tower staircase, four examples of the ball-flower ornament common in fourteenth century buildings are present.

3.6.4 In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, a northern aisle was built to match the one to the south. To enable the work, the north wall of the nave was removed and replaced by perpendicular arches popular during the period. Four clerestory windows were added to the upper portion of the nave, also during the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

3.6.6 St Mary's appears then to have remained as it was until the 17<sup>th</sup> century when it, and many other churches in East Anglia, was subjected to the prejudices of the Puritans. In 1643 Parliament appointed a commission under William Dowsing to destroy everything in the parish churches of East Anglia which offended Puritan ideology. On March 9<sup>th</sup> Dowsing came to Comberton, and his account reads:

‘We brake downe a crucifix and 69 superstitious pictures we brake downe, and gave order to take downe 36 cherubims, and the steps to be taken down by March 25.’

3.6.7 Following the attentions of the Puritans, it appears that St Mary's fell from being a focal point for the village. It is recorded that in 1665, the village plough was kept in the church along with stones, lime and rubbish. However, the church is recorded as restored in 1877-8 by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and was again restored in 1884-5. Further restoration and renovation has taken place, with the tower and the bells most recently.

## **4 METHOD OF WORK**

4.1 The project comprised the archaeological monitoring of the excavation of a square, u-shaped foundation trench and a service trench (Figs 2 & 3). The open end of the foundation trench abutted the wall of the north-facing church aisle, straddling the external door of the church. The trench measured 4.80m north to south and 4.3m east to west. It

was up to 0.95m wide and 1.30m deep. The ground level internal to the rectangle was mechanically reduced by 0.60m. The service trench was 0.50m wide and 18m long, aligned east – west and running from the foundation trench to the east.

4.2 Where appropriate, exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features and finds. The sections of the footings trench were observed, photographed and recorded, and the spoil heaps were examined for any archaeological material.

## 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

5.1 Three sections were recorded in detail (Fig. 4). Section 1 (DP 2, 3 & 4) was aligned E/W, 4.35m in length and located against the north-facing wall of the church aisle. Section 2 (DP 6) was aligned N/S, 4.80m in length and faced west. Section 3 was also aligned N/S, 4.80m in length and faced east.

5.2 At the base of the stratigraphic sequence was L1033, the natural glacial till deposits, consisting of dark orange-brown clay with flint and chalk fragments. Overlying L1033 was a friable, mid to dark yellow-brown silty/sandy subsoil, (L1015), (0.17m thick). Above this was L1014, a friable, very dark grey silty/sandy buried graveyard soil (0.46m thick) from which a sherd of modern flower pot was recovered.

5.3 Five graves were recorded cutting L1015 and L1033. With the exception of one (F1024), the graves were backfilled with topsoil making the identification of the cuts in L1014 impossible. F1024 was backfilled with the disturbed natural and was plainly visible in L1014. The graves and their fills are tabulated below.

Grave	Context	Dimensions	Plan/Profile	fill
F1016	L1017	? x 0.45 x 0.75m	Rectangular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base	Friable, very dark grey silty/sandy graveyard soil
F1018	L1019	? x 0.58 x 0.66m	Rectangular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base	Friable, very dark grey silty/sandy graveyard soil
F1024	SK1025	? x 0.45 x 1.11m+	Rectangular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base	Two truncated femur shafts identified in Section 2
	L1026			Firm, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with flint and chalk fragments
F1027	L1028	? x 0.47 x 1.11m	Rectangular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base	Friable, very dark grey silty/sandy graveyard soil
F1029	SK1030	? x 0.47 x 1.05m	Rectangular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base	Two truncated child's tibia and fibula identified in Section 3
	L1031			Friable, very dark grey

				silty/sandy graveyard soil
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*Table 1: Graves cutting L1033*

*Note: dimensions are given length x breadth x depth.*

5.4 L1033, L1015 and L1014 were also cut by F1020, the construction cut for the wall footings of the north facing aisle of the church. F1020 likely extends the full length of the northern aisle (c.20.00m) and was 1.20m+ wide and 0.93m deep. Its visible side was moderately steep and broke into a flat base. F1020 contained two fills (L1021 and L1022); two articulated human skeletons (SK1009 and SK1023) and the clunch stone (F1008) and sandstone (F1007) footing of the church aisle wall.

5.5 The basal fill, L1021, was a compact, dark grey very clayey silt, which included charcoal and approximately 30% flint nodules. The two human skeletons were within L1021. SK1009 was located at the western end of Section 1, directly below wall footing F1008. Remains visible in section consisted of the skull, the left sided clavicle, scapula and rib cage, much of the spinal column and the pelvis. The left arm was missing and had presumably been previously disturbed. 124g of 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from L1021, directly beneath SK1009.

5.6 SK1023 was located at the southern end of section 2. Only the left femur was visible in section but further excavation revealed the pelvis, indicating the skeleton was articulated. The lower leg had again been machined away. Both skeletons were interred within L1021 suggesting they were deliberately placed into the wall footing rather than being disturbed older graves.

5.7 Following the interment of the deceased, the construction of the northern aisle wall footing commenced. The basal construction, F1008, consisted of roughly hewn clunch stone bonded with a pinkish-grey lime mortar.

5.8 Above F1008 was F1007, which consisted of two courses of regularly hewn sandstone blocks bonded with a mixed grey lime mortar. The upper course was visible above ground and supported the flint wall of the northern aisle.

5.9 The upper fill of F1020 (L1022) was a firm, mid to dark grey-brown very clayey silt. Partially worked flint nodules and lumps of lime mortar were observed within L1022, suggesting the deposit formed as construction of the aisle wall continued.

5.10 At some point in the past, the church records do not state when; all grave markers were removed from the north side of the church. At this time, it is likely that the made ground/ levelling layer L1011 was deposited directly on top of the graveyard soil L1014. As can be seen in Sections 1 and 2, L1011 and the above turf layer (L1010) produced a slight downward slope away from the church aisle, thus aiding the runoff of water and drainage. L1011 and L1010 were cut by the graveyard path (F1032) and a drain (F1003).

5.11 The footpath led from the church door to the entrance of the graveyard (Section 2). The footpath consisted of a construction cut (F1032) (c.20.00 x 1.10 x 0.20m), a

0.13m thick bedding layer of sand and pea gravel (L1013) and the footpath surface, which consisted of 0.08m thick concrete slabs.

5.12 Drain cut F1003 (c.20.00+ x 0.50 x 0.39) was located up against the base of the northern aisle wall. It was cut through L1010, L1011 and into L1022, the upper fill of construction cut F1020. F1003 contained two fills. Its basal fill, L1002, consisted of roughly crushed flint nodules packed around a red ceramic drainpipe. The upper fill, L1001, was a decorative pea-gravel. A single course of decorative black ceramic tiles (L1000) were located at ground level, overlying the pea-gravel (L1001) and placed up against the external wall of the Church.

5.13 The final elements of the stratigraphic sequence consisted of Layers L1004, L1005 and L1006. L1004 was a layer of decorative ceramic tiles in the doorway of the Church. The tiles were set into a layer of fine sandy cement (L1005), which in turn overlaid a levelling deposit of sandy gravel (L1006). L1006 overlaid F1007 and F1008. The doorway tiles and their associated layers were laid in approximately 1999 (*pers comm.* The Church Treasurer).

5.14 A similar stratigraphic sequence was present in the service trench with the subsoil, (L1015) overlain by graveyard soil L1014. Within the graveyard soil was Stone S1034, (0.22 x 0.22 x 0.50m), a rectangular worked stone placed end in and thought to be still in situ, later sealed by Turf Layer L1010. The top of the stone was chamfered and had a broken socket for a stone pommel.

5.15 No articulated human remains were recorded within the service trench, though a number of disarticulated human bones were returned to the church for reinterment, derived from L1014.

## **6 CONFIDENCE RATING**

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features, finds or the early fabric of the church during the archaeological monitoring and recording.

## **7 DEPOSIT MODEL**

7.1 At the top of the stratigraphic sequence was turf and root mat layer L1010. It had an average thickness of 0.15m and overlaid L1011. L1011 was a layer of made ground, which tapered from 0.16m at the south, near to the north aisle wall, to 0.00m at 3.95m northwards. It consisted of a friable, sand-pea-gravel-topsoil mix. L1011 overlaid the graveyard soil L1014.

7.2 L1014 was a friable, very dark grey-brown silty/sandy graveyard soil. It had an average thickness of 0.40m and overlay subsoil L1015. L1015 was a friable, mid-to-dark yellowish brown silty/sandy subsoil.

7.3 Beneath L1015 was the natural glacial till deposits, consisting of dark orange-brown clay with flint and chalk fragments. It was encountered at a depth of 0.75m below ground level.

## **8 DISCUSSION**

### **8.1 Summary of the Archaeology**

8.1.1 The programme of archaeological monitoring undertaken at St Mary's Church, Comberton comprised the inspection and recording of a foundation and drain trench associated with the construction of a porch/toilet block adjacent to the northern aisle of the church. No structural remains older than the 13<sup>th</sup> century building were present.

8.1.2 The excavation of the foundation trench exposed the clunch stone foundations of the northern aisle, its associated construction cut, the buried graveyard soil and subsoil, seven east-west burials, a made ground deposit and a Victorian/modern storm drain.

8.1.3 Human bone from five of the burials was retained at the church for re-interment at a later date. Four of the individuals were adult, but the fifth was a child. The footings trench had disturbed the lower legs of the deceased and an un-fused tibia measured 145mm, giving an approximate age of 2 - 3½ years.

8.1.4 The remaining two burials (SK1009 and SK1023) were located within the construction cut of the northern aisle suggesting they were intentionally placed under the church foundations.

8.1.5 The excavation of the drain trench revealed several human rib and arm bones, however, these were not recovered from their original context which remains unknown. These were retained at the church for re-interment at a later date.

8.1.6 Stone S1034 present within the drain trench was the corner stone of a grave surround. There were several examples of very similar corner stones within the graveyard, and it is likely that this stone was left in situ, due to its size, when the grave markers on the south of the church were removed.

### **8.2 Interpretation of the Site: Archaeology and History**

8.2.1 The findings of the monitoring programme are consistent with what is known of the 15<sup>th</sup> century development of St Mary's Church. The brief highlighted the possibility that remnants of an earlier structure might be encountered as well as contemporary interments. Whilst no earlier structural elements were encountered, it is possible that the

five burials outside the wall of the northern aisle date to the earlier phase but no dating evidence was recovered.

8.2.2 The burials identified beneath the wall footings of the northern aisle were likely to have been deliberately placed in the construction trench. The burials were placed either side of the north-facing church doorway, suggesting the interred were perhaps churchmen or maybe prominent members of the parish.

8.2.3 The 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery recovered from L1021 has affinities with early St Neots pottery and probably is of a pre-Conquest date. This indicates the pottery is residual as the construction cut dates to the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

## **DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE**

A full archive has been prepared for all work undertaken at the site, as required in the brief. The deposition of the archive, to the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store, was agreed prior to the commencement of the fieldwork. An event number (1930) was obtained from the CHER office prior to works commencing at the site. Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited, as well as any donated finds, with the finds from the evaluation site at the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store (CCAS). The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall evaluation site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Archimage Architects who commissioned the work on behalf of St Mary's Church.

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**APPENDIX 1  
CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Spot Date</b>	<b>Pottery</b>
1014		Buried Graveyard Soil	Modern	(1), 17g
1020	1021	Basal Fill of Construction Cut	9th-12th	(8), 124g



## APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

### The Pottery Report

By Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 9 sherds weighing 138g.

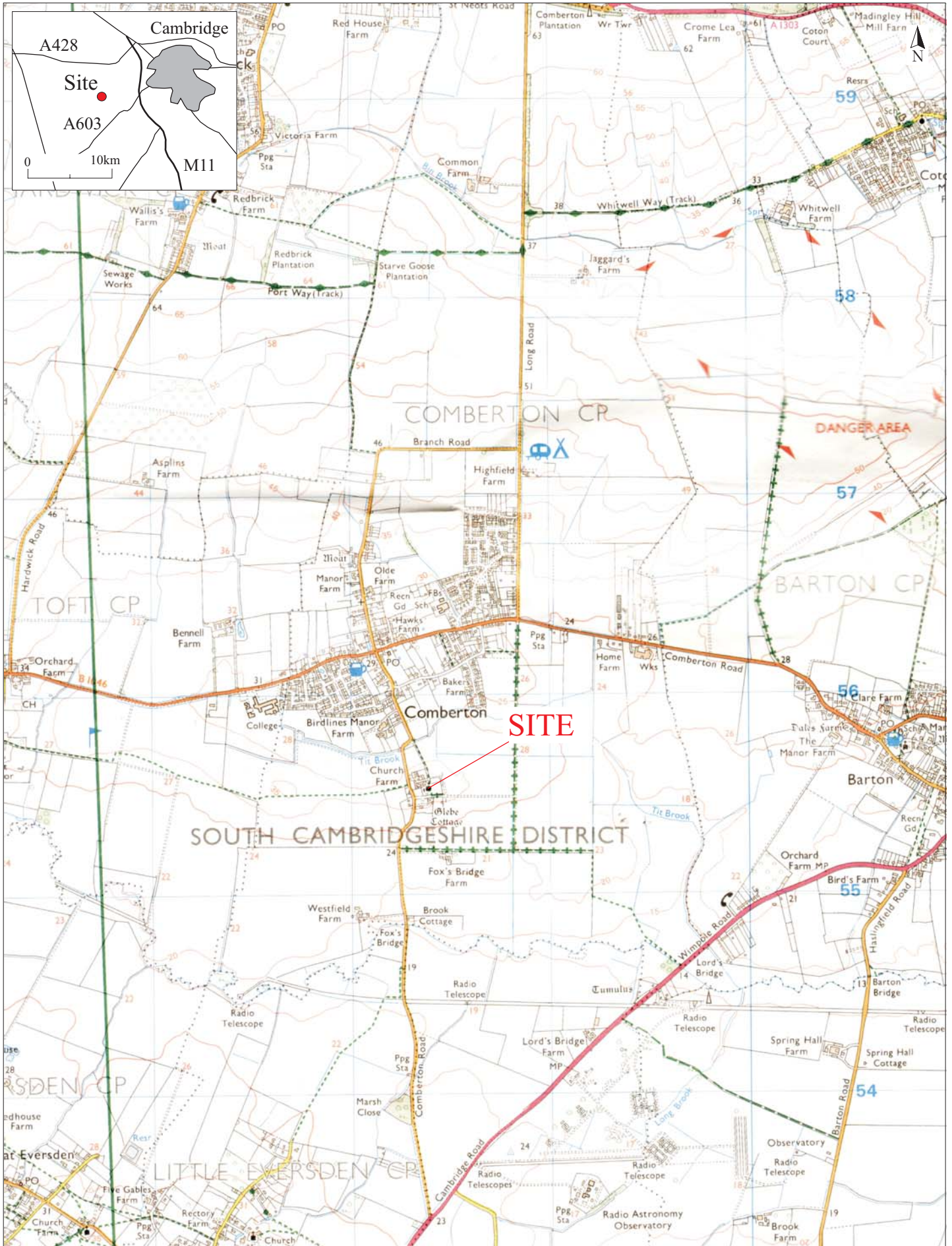
Feature	Context	Type	Quantity	Date	Comment
1014		Graveyard soil	1x17g PMRE	Modern	Flower pot
1020	1021	Trench cut	1x12g EMSW 7x109g Sneots-T	9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	

The sherd from Layer 1014 is modern flower pot. The remaining sherds from Trench 1020, layer 1021 comprises a single wheel-made grey sandy ware sherd and six shelly St Neots-type cooking pot body sherds with external sooting.

The sandy sherd is a little unusual in that it is a pale grey fabric with slightly micaceous surfaces. The fabric and girth grooves, and to some degree firing, bear similarities with Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware although the sherd with a width of 0.5cm is not chunky as Ipswich wares usually are. The shelly sherds averaging 0.6 cm across are a little thicker than usual St Neots sherds and have a rougher feel. Surfaces are orange-brown and fabrics can include a little coarse sand and burnt straw or grass. The walls are coil built and generally handmade, one sherd might be wheel-made but this could also be a result of wiping. The smallest and thinnest body sherd has a diameter of approximately 12 cm. These wares have affinities with early St Neots pottery from Eaton Socon, described by Addyman, and are thought to be 9<sup>th</sup> century (Addyman 1965, 53-4). However, the small number of sherds and lack of rims means the pottery could still span the St Neots range c.850-1150 although a pre-conquest date is likely.

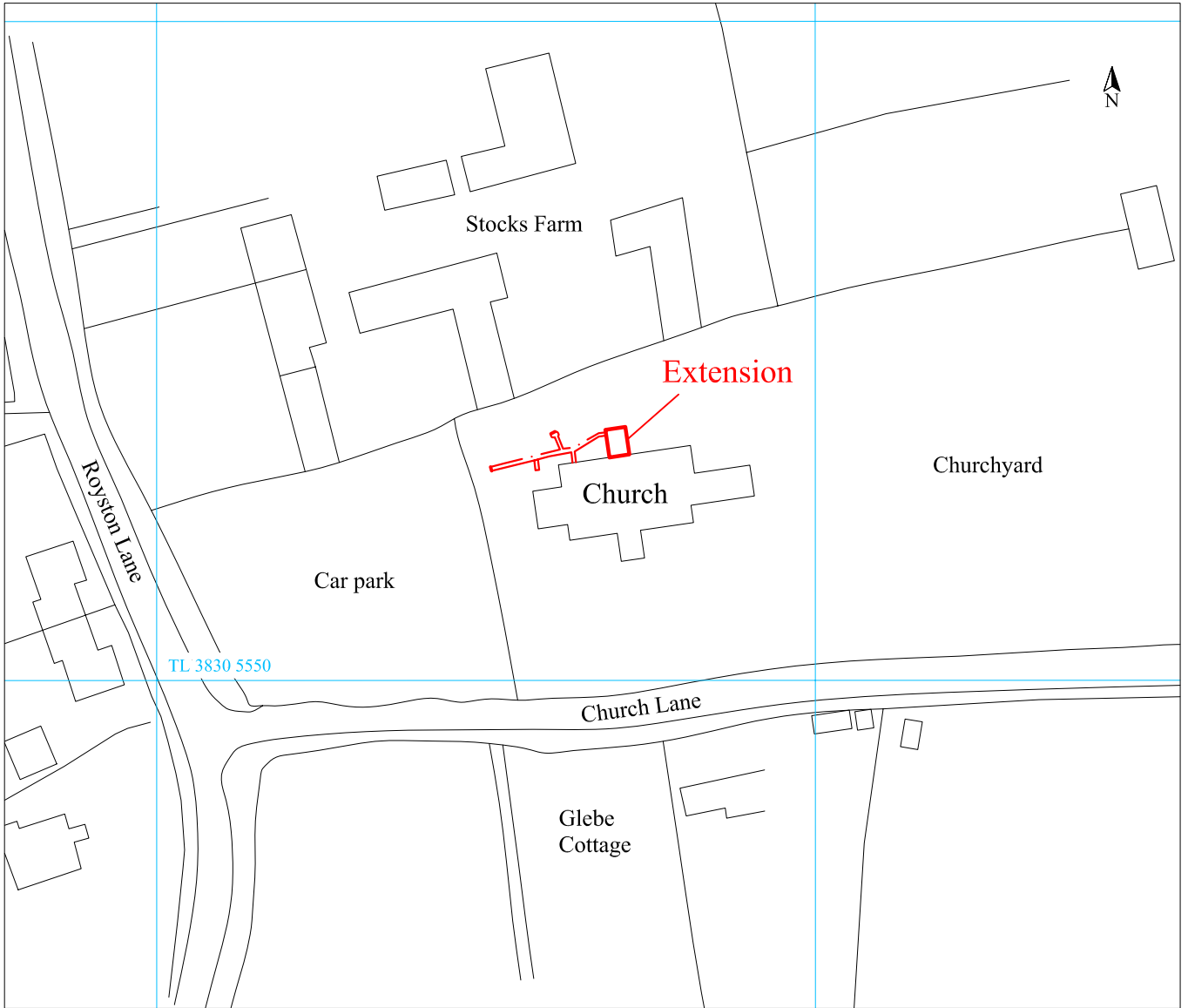
#### *Bibliography*

Addyman P. V. 1965 'Late Saxon Settlement in the St Neots area' *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society Vol LVIII*

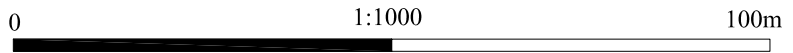


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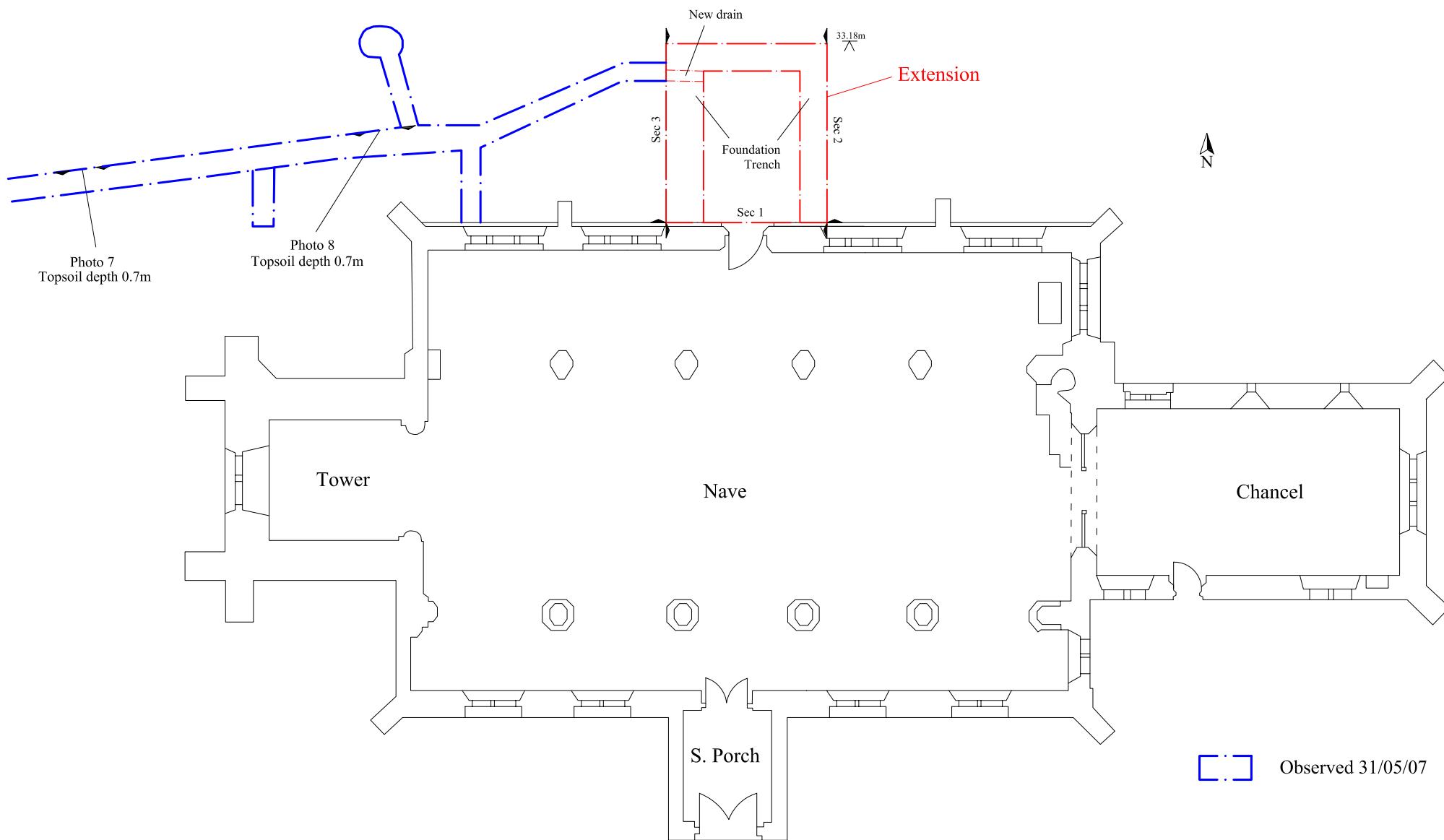
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000



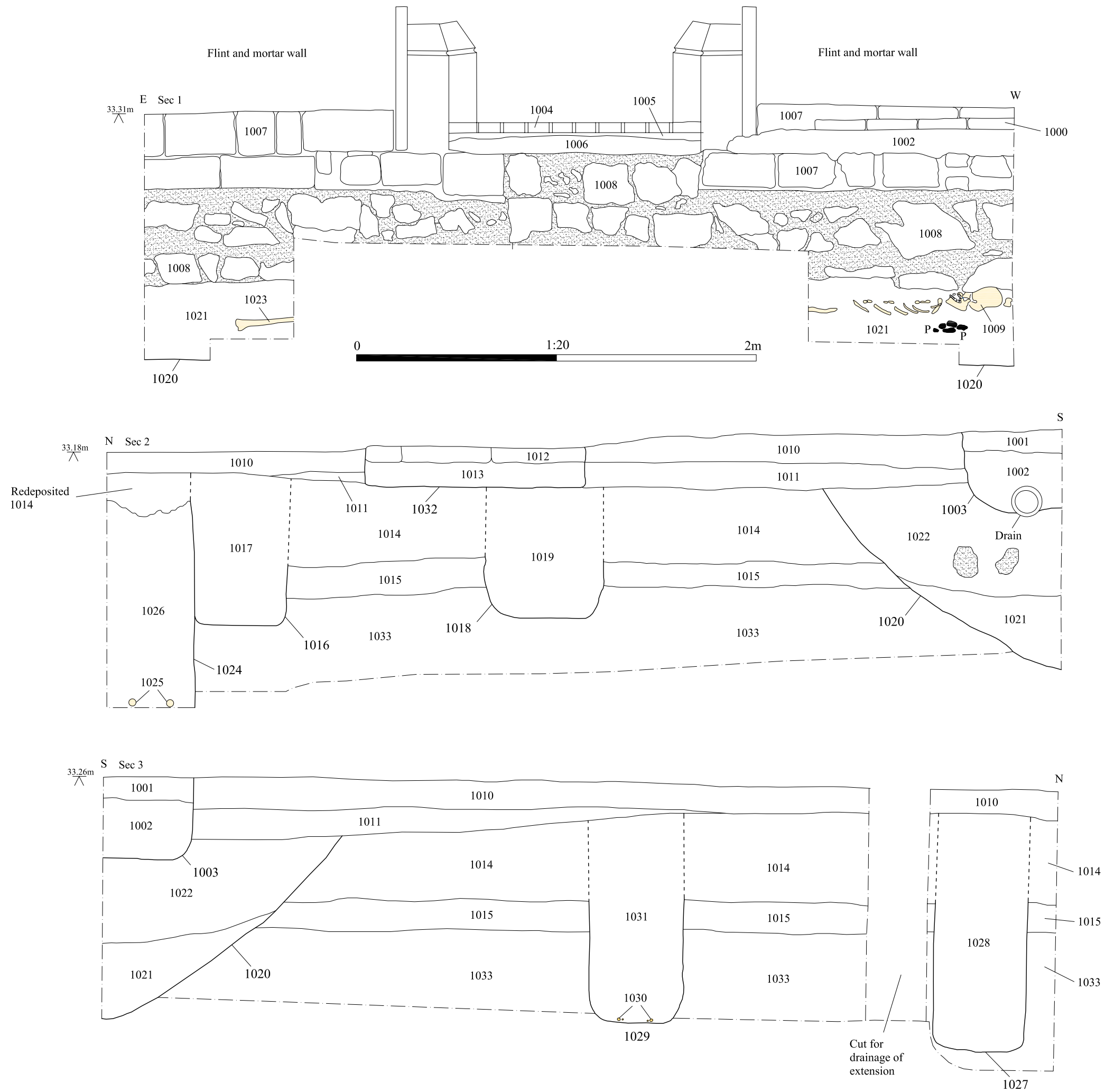
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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale - 1:1000 @A4



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**Fig. 3 Plan of extension**  
 Scale - 1:150 @A4



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**Fig. 4 Sections**  
 Scale - 1:20 @A3



## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



*DP 1. General shot of excavation area and northern aisle, view SE*



*DP 2. Section 1, view S*



*DP 3. Eastern end of Section 1, view S*



*DP 4. Western end of Section 1, view S*



*DP 5. Detail of Skeleton SK1009, view S*



*DP 6. Oblique shot of Section 2. Timber shuttering negated a square on photo, view SE*



*DP 7. Trench observed in watching  
brief, view NW*



*DP 8. Trench observed in watching  
brief, view W*