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**LAND REAR OF 32 LISLE LANE, ELY,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE, CB7 4AS**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

CHER ECB 5904

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NGR: TL 5463 8019	Report No: 5873
District: East Cambs	Site Code: ECB 5904
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P7994
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<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	Land Rear of 32 Lisle Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4AS		
<p><i>In June and July 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land rear of 32 Lisle Lane, Ely Cambridgeshire, CB7 4AS (NGR: TL 5463 8019). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed development of seven new residential units (East Cambs Council Approval Ref. 15/00956/OUT), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.</i></p> <p><i>Within the four trenches investigated 18 archaeological features were recorded, and their distribution was largely concentrated in the south-eastern section of the site. The majority of features contained datable evidence from the medieval and post-medieval period, reflecting the substantial continuity between the medieval and post-medieval urban areas in the locality (CHER 08186 &amp; 08187).</i></p> <p><i>Many of the features contained CBM of medieval to early post-medieval origin which was likely locally produced in the 14th to 16th centuries. A substantial group of peg tiles of a possible 13th to 14th century date was recovered, and these tiles are likely directly related to a building with a tiled roof on, or adjacent, to the site. Additionally, an assemblage of uncommon medieval bricks was recovered in association with Structure F1021; the bricks are consistent with bricks produced in the 15th century and Tudor period and it seems likely that they formed part of a chimney breast or hearth of a nearby demolished or collapsed building.</i></p> <p><i>Medieval and late medieval transitional pottery sherds and post-medieval pottery sherds were also recovered; Ditch F1015 contained more than half the assemblage total with 74 sherds of early post-medieval pottery of a mid 16th to 17th century date. This evidence appears to concur with the documentary and archaeological evidence for houses and tenements on Lisle Lane in the 13th to 15th centuries (CHER 11858); occupation evidence is also present immediately opposite the site, where pottery sherds demonstrated that occupation continued in the area through the 14th to 16th centuries (CHER MCB17932 &amp; MCB19942).</i></p> <p><i>Numerous features contained animal bone which appears to represent industrial skinning waste. Ditch F1015, which has been dated to the mid 16th to 17th century, contained a large proportion of the skinning waste including goat remains. The latter is noteworthy due to the decline of the goat throughout the medieval period, so relatively high numbers in the 16th to 17th century would perhaps suggest a trade of goat skins.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	25 June – 9 July 2019		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	P7994	Site code	ECB 5904
Type of project	Archaeological Evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Vacant Plot		
Planned development	Dwellings		
Main features (+dates)	Pits, ditches, layers, a construction cut and a structure		
Significant finds (+dates)	Medieval and post-medieval pottery and CBM, and skinned animal remains		
	Cambridgeshire	East Cambs	Ely
HER/ SMR for area	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)		
Post code (if known)	CB7 4AS		
Area of site	c.0.26ha		
NGR	TL 5463 8019		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.4-5m		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire County Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Mr Roger Garrett		
Full title	Land Rear of 32 Lisle Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4AS; An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Thomelius, S & Podbury, L.		
Report no.	5873		
Date (of report)	August 2019; revised November 2019		

# LAND REAR OF 32 LISLE LANE, ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, CB7 4AS AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

## SUMMARY

*In June and July 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land rear of 32 Lisle Lane, Ely Cambridgeshire, CB7 4AS (NGR: TL 5463 8019). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed development of seven new residential units (East Cambs Council Approval Ref. 15/00956/OUT), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.*

*Within the four trenches investigated 18 archaeological features were recorded, and their distribution was largely concentrated in the south-eastern section of the site. The majority of features contained datable evidence from the medieval and post-medieval period, reflecting the substantial continuity between the medieval and post-medieval urban areas in the locality (CHER 08186 & 08187).*

*Many of the features contained CBM of medieval to early post-medieval origin which was likely locally produced in the 14th to 16th centuries. A substantial group of peg tiles of a possible 13th to 14th century date was recovered, and these tiles are likely directly related to a building with a tiled roof on, or adjacent, to the site. Additionally, an assemblage of uncommon medieval bricks was recovered in association with Structure F1021; the bricks are consistent with bricks produced in the 15th century and Tudor period and it seems likely that they formed part of a chimney breast or hearth of a nearby demolished or collapsed building.*

*Medieval and late medieval transitional pottery sherds and post-medieval pottery sherds were also recovered; Ditch F1015 contained more than half the assemblage total with 74 sherds of early post-medieval pottery of a mid 16th to 17th century date. This evidence appears to concur with the documentary and archaeological evidence for houses and tenements on Lisle Lane in the 13th to 15th centuries (CHER 11858); occupation evidence is also present immediately opposite the site, where pottery sherds demonstrated that occupation continued in the area through the 14th to 16th centuries (CHER MCB17932 & MCB19942).*

*Numerous features contained animal bone which appears to represent industrial skinning waste. Ditch F1015, which has been dated to the mid 16th to 17th century, contained a large proportion of the skinning waste including goat remains. The latter is noteworthy due to the decline of the goat throughout the medieval period, so relatively high numbers in the 16th to 17th century would perhaps suggest a trade of goat skins.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June and July 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land rear of 32 Lisle Lane, Ely Cambridgeshire, CB7 4AS (NGR: TL 5463 8019). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed development of seven residential units (East Cambs Council Approval Ref.

15/00956/OUT), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET, Gemma Stewart; dated 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

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

### *Planning Policy Context*

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

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

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site lies on the south-eastern side of Lisle Lane to the rear (south east) of No 32, in the eastern part of the historic core of Ely. It comprises a currently open plot of hardcore surfacing and rough ground, extending overall to some 0.26ha.

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

3.1 The site lies at c.4.6m AOD on the eastern edge of the Isle of Ely, sloping down gently to the south-east towards the River Great Ouse, whose course passes c.200m to the south-east. The land rises at a moderate gradient to the north-west to the slightly elevated area upon which the urban area is situated.

3.2 The solid geology of the site is comprised of mudstone belonging to the Kimmeridge Clay Formation, sealed by loamy and sandy soils with naturally high groundwater and a peaty surface.

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

4.1 The site is located within an area of archaeological interest on the eastern edge of the historic core, within a very high density distribution of remains recorded locally on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). Prehistoric remains in the local area are scarce but features incorporating ard marks, Neolithic and Bronze age flints were recorded c.300m to the north-east on Brays Lane (CHER 10475 & 10475A); while two early Bronze Age Beaker burials and a Bronze Age axe were recorded c.300m to the north in the 1910s-20s (CHER 07245 & 08043).

4.2 There is a paucity of evidence of Roman activity in the area of the site, largely limited to evidence for riverside activity adjacent to the River Great Ouse on the Old Tesco's site c.180m to the south-west (CHER CB15424), with very sparse finds of Roman pottery and metalwork also noted along or in the river (CHER 10170, CB15662 & MCB16082).

4.3 An early Saxon inhumation cemetery was recorded c.900m to the north, including spearheads, shield bosses and brooches (CHER 02074). A monastic foundation at Ely has its origins with St Etheldreda, reputedly in AD672, though its survival or continuity to a Benedictine foundation in the late 10th century remains unclear. However, there are limited middle Saxon and extensive late Saxon remains in the historic core to support a settlement here during that period. A middle Saxon beam-slot building and Ipswich ware were recorded c.700m to the west at St. Mary's Lodge (CHER CB15552), while middle to late Saxon pottery recorded on Ship Lane c.250m to the south-east (CHER MCB17660) supports the hypothesis that riverside activity may have its origins in this period. The bulk of the late Saxon remains are also in the vicinity of St. Mary's (i.e. CHER MCB17818); however late Saxon floor surfaces have been recorded in the Almonry c.300m to the east (CHER MCB20142), with further contemporary pottery sherds recorded in the same area at The Paddocks and Brays Lane (CHER 10170 & 10475B).

4.4 The historic landscape of the city of Ely is dominated by the medieval cathedral and the former monastic precinct of which it once formed a part (CHER 07322). The site is approximately 150m to the east of the north-east corner of the cathedral grounds and former monastic precinct. The former and current buildings of the monastery have been extensively examined and are relatively well-understood, including several chapels, halls, houses/dormitories, hostelrys, kitchens, gates and other institutions of monastic foundations. Closest to the site, the north range,



Almonry and Almonry gate, outer guest hall and monastic boundary ditches (CHER MCB 16882, MCB16883 & MCB17484) have all been well-defined in the north-eastern part of the complex. Beyond the precinct, cathedral records also indicate the monastery had a vineyard on Lisle Lane (CHER MCB16921).

4.5 A royal castle was constructed c.500m to the south-west in 1070 at Cherry Hill Castle Mound (CHER 01764), with a second temporary castle site further south possibly acting as a short-lived replacement in the early 13th century (CHER MCB24310). Holy Trinity and St. Mary's Church, to the west of the cathedral was established by the 13th century to serve parts of the urban parish (CHER CB14833). Archaeological remains relating to the medieval urban area of Ely have been extensively recorded, including in the area of the Market Place c.250m to the west (i.e. CHER 11924, CB14654) and along Broad Street extending to the south-west (i.e. CHER 11420, 11950, CB14597, CB14871, MCB16486, MCB18517). In addition to the cathedral, several medieval buildings survive in the urban area including hall houses on Forehill and Market Place (CHER MCB17329-30). Extensive medieval activity has been recorded in the riverside areas extending behind (south-east) Broad Street, including former channels, land reclamation, buildings and workshops (i.e. CHER MCB18145-6. MCB18197)

4.6 Archaeological investigations on Lisle Lane have demonstrated that extensive medieval domestic activity continued north-east from Broad Street into the area of the site. A 1 hectare plot, extending from the corner of Fore Hill to immediately opposite the site on Lisle Lane was demonstrated to preserve a relatively deep stratigraphic sequence, up to 1.2-1.5m deep with possible water-logging towards the base (CHER 11858). The sequence possibly begins in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, but includes at the north-end adjacent to Lisle Lane an intense concentration of inter-cutting pits and a pond/marsh that had been backfilled with domestic refuse in the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries, including high quantities of well-preserved pottery, animal bone, environmental remains and wood. This evidence appears to confirm documentary evidence for houses and tenements on Lisle Lane in the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, after which the site appears to have reverted to fields or orchards. The volume of pottery may also relate to a 15<sup>th</sup> century kiln recorded nearby, while an excavation adjacent to the north-east of the site recorded part of the street frontage with refuse in the back-plots, including 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> waster sherds and the base of a saggar that further indicate the presence of pottery production in the immediate vicinity (CHER 11858A), which would supplement the known industrial areas at Potters Lane and Babylon (i.e. CHER MCB26666 & 02076). Other plots investigated on Lisle Lane, also adjacent to the north-west of the site have recorded further evidence for medieval property boundaries, part of a building and rubbish pits containing large assemblages of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery and animal bone (CHER MCB17275). Investigations on the former Thurlow Nunn Standen site, immediately opposite the site across Lisle Lane also recorded stratigraphy up to 1.4m deep resulting from alleviation, refuse dumping and consolidation; including gullies and ponds containing significant pottery assemblages that demonstrated occupation continued through the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries (CHER MCB17932 & MCB19942). Further north on Lisle Lane, human bones were recorded in a ditch, and although they remain un-dated, the likelihood is that they are associated with medieval activity (CHER 07175).



4.7 There is substantial continuity between the medieval and post medieval urban areas, as demonstrated by investigations on the riverside (CHER 08186) and Broad Street (CHER 08187, MCB18198); although investigations off Lisle Lane and Cresswells Lane, close to the north-east of the site appear to confirm the previous suggestion that occupation had declined in this area by the 16th century, with only sparse post-medieval land drains and gullies recorded (CHER MCB19389 & MCB22288). Numerous buildings initially constructed in the 16th century remain extant along Forehill, the High Street and around the Market Place (i.e. CHER MCB20928, MCB20937-8).

4.8 The Ely to Peterborough branch of the Great Eastern Railway was opened in 1847, with a route that passes c.250m to the south-east of the site, where it crosses the River Great Ouse (CHER MCB24025). Situated between the site and the river/railway line is the site of a former sewage works, which was depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 and still exists today (CHER MCB22558). In the 19th century, and potentially earlier, former pig and cattle markets, and a brewery were located on Forehill a short distance to the west (CHER MCB23403-5); and numerous 18th to 19th century buildings remain extant in the core of the town.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The evaluation provided for a sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched. The brief required a c.5% sample of the development area to be investigated by trenching. Four trenches each 22m x 1.8m were excavated (Fig. 3).

5.2 The trenches were mechanically excavated to the first archaeological horizon. Trench 1 was mechanically excavated to the natural deposit and an archaeological feature cut the natural. Trenches 2 – 4 were mechanically excavated through made ground deposits and archaeological features were revealed which cut additional made ground deposits. Once excavated and recorded, and in agreement with CCC HET, the trenches were re-machined to the underlying natural deposit. In Trench 4, hand excavation of features F1038 and F1041 reached the maximum safe working depth of 1.2m without identifying their full depth. A hand auger was used to determine the nature of the deposits and their depth in the base of these features.

5.3 The archaeological investigation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. The excavated spoil was checked for finds.

5.4 A one-metre square of topsoil (L1000), subsoil (L1054) and relic soil (L1001) were bucket sampled and sorted by hand at each end of the trenches to characterise their artefact content. Soil from this sampling procedure was kept separate from the main spoil heaps. Site records were completed to reflect this exercise and an on-site record was made of the finds recovered. A metal detector was used to enhance finds recovery. The metal detector survey was conducted when the trenches were opened, and the detector was not set to discriminate against iron. The spoil tips were also surveyed.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

The finds recovered during the sampling of the topsoil, subsoil and relic soil, and the metal detecting survey consisted of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (1; 5g), CBM (212g), animal bone (238g) and shell (3g).

### Trench 1 Figs. 3 - 4

Sample Section 1A 0.00 = 5.47m AOD		
0.0 – 0.15m	L1003	Hardcore Layer. Compact, mid grey silty sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint and gravel.
0.15 – 0.32m	L1004	Hardcore Layer. Compact, mid red brown silty sand.
0.32m	-	Terram Sheet.
0.32 – 0.55m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark grey sandy clay with small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel.
0.55 – 1.10m	L1054	Subsoil. Firm, mid yellow grey sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel. Contained modern plastic.
1.10m+	L1002	Natural Deposit. Mixed friable, mid brown yellow clayey sand and firm pale blue grey clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded gavel and sub-rounded medium to large flint.

Sample Section 1B 0.00 = 5.27m AOD		
0.0 – 0.09m	L1003	Hardcore Layer. As above.
0.09 – 0.18m	L1004	Hardcore Layer. As above.
0.18m	-	Terram Sheet.
0.18 – 0.56m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.56 – 0.98m	L1054	Subsoil. As above.
0.98m+	L1002	Natural Deposits. As above.

*Description: Trench 1 contained Ditch F1005 and it contained a medieval (mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) sherd.*

Ditch F1005 was linear in plan (3.00+ x 0.55 x 0.26m), orientated SE/NW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a friable, mid brown grey sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel. It contained mid 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery (1; 2g), CBM (144g), animal bone (10g) and shell (26g).

Subsoil L1054 was a firm, mid yellow grey sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel. It was observed to contain modern plastic and is likely to be modern in origin or have been subject to modern disturbance.

## Trench 2 Figs. 3 & 5 - 6

Sample Section 2A 0.00 = 4.93m AOD		
0.0 – 0.10m	L1003	Hardcore Layer. As Above.
0.10 – 0.44m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.44 – 1.20m	L1001	Relic Soil. Firm, mid yellow grey sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel.
1.20m +	L1002	Natural Deposit. As above.

Sample Section 2B 0.00 = 4.33m AOD		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.41 – 0.90m	L1001	Relic Soil. As above.
0.90m +	L1002	Natural Deposit. As above.

Sample Section 2C 0.00 = 5.09m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1003	Hardcore. Compact, mid grey silty sand with frequent flint and gravel
0.10- 0.18m	L1004	Hardcore. Compact, mid red brown silty sand with frequent CBM
-	-	Plastic Webbing
0.18 – 0.54m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.54 – 1.17m	L1001	Relic Soil. As above.
1.17 – 1.22m	L1053	Layer. Loose, organic dark black grey silt with small gravel. It contained 13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> century pottery (2; 24g), CBM (9g), animal bone (4g) and shell (186g).
1.22 – 1.67m	L1018	Fill of Ditch F1017.
1.67m+	L1002	Natural Deposit. As above.

*Description: Trench 2 contained Ditches F1007, F1011, F1015, F1017 and F1051. F1011, F1017 and F1051 contained medieval pottery, and F1015 contained post-medieval (mid 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. All of the features were below Relic Soil L1001.*

Ditch F1007 was curvilinear in plan (5.00 x 0.80 x 0.26m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a firm, mid grey brown sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel. It contained no finds. The field recording of Ditch F1007 resulted in an impossible stratigraphic sequence with Ditches F1011 and F1015. Using the context sheets and photographic record, its accurate position in the sequence could not be confidently determined. However, based on the late date of artefactual remains in L1015, it has been judged that this was the latest feature prior to the formation of Relic Soil L1001. As such, the proposed sequence is that Ditch F1007 cut Ditch F1017 and was cut by Ditches F1011 and F1015. The dashed lines in the section drawing (Fig. 5) reflects this uncertainty. This sequence is applied throughout the following feature descriptions.

Ditch F1011 was curvilinear in plan (9.00 x 1.40 x 0.58m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its basal fill, L1012, was a loose dark grey silt with frequent very small sub-rounded gravel and sand. It contained mid 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery (3; 24g), animal bone (13g) and shell (11g). Its secondary fill, L1013, was a firm, mid brown grey sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular gravel. It contained mid 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery (7; 141g), animal bone (114g) and shell (132g). Its upper fill, L1014, was a firm, mid orange grey sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular gravel. It contained 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery (5; 46g), animal bone (272g) and shell (56g). Ditch F1011 cut Ditches F1007 and F1017, and was cut by Ditch F1015.

Ditch F1015 was curvilinear in plan (10.50+ x 1.20 x 1.07m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a friable, dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate medium sub-angular gravel. It contained mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century (78; 2687g), CBM (8941g), animal bone (17520g) and shell (826g). Ditch F1015 cut Ditches F1017, F1007 and F1011.

Ditch F1017 was linear in plan (22.00+ x 1.30+ x 0.46m+), orientated SE/NW. It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1018, was a firm, dark blue grey clay with occasional small sub-rounded gravel. It contained 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery (16; 303g), CBM (62g), animal bone (891g), shell (35g), a Pb or pewter ladle (1; 20g) and fired clay (11g). Ditch F1017 cut Ditch F1051, and was cut by Ditches F1007, F1011 and F1015.

Ditch F1051 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.10+ x 0.28m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1052, was a friable, dark grey sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular flint and gravel. It contained mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery (10; 77g), animal bone (322g) and shell (24g). Ditch F1051 was cut by Ditch F1017.

**Trench 3** Figs. 3 & 7

Sample Section 3A		
0.00 = 3.88m AOD		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.38 – 0.45m	L1037	Demolition Layer. Friable, light grey brown sandy clay with frequent medium angular CBM.
0.45 – 0.93m	L1001	Relic Soil. As above.
0.93m +	L1002	Natural Deposit. As above.

Sample Section 3B		
0.00 = 3.77m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.39 – 0.89m	L1001	Relic Soil. As above.
0.89m +	L1002	Natural. As above.

*Description: Trench 3 contained Ditches F1019 and F1031, Brick Wall M1024, and Pit F1045. F1019 contained late 18<sup>th</sup> century + pottery, and F1031 contained mid 17<sup>th</sup> – mid 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Pit F1045 was below Relic Soil L1001, and Ditches F1019 and F1031 cut into L1001.*

Ditch F1019 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 2.50 x 0.48m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and an uneven flattish base. Its fill, L1020 was a friable, dark brown grey silty sand with frequent CBM. It contained late 18<sup>th</sup> century or later pottery (1; 1g), CBM (4912g), animal bone (72g), shell (3g), clinker (2g) and burnt flint (5g). Ditch F1019 was cut into Relic Soil L1001.

Ditch F1031 was linear in plan (5m+ x 1.50+ x 0.86m), orientated NNE/SSW. It had moderately sloping to steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1032, was a friable, dark brown grey clayey silt. It contained mid 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery (15; 207g), CBM (6700g), animal bone (1962g), shell (152g), glass (1; 10g) and clay pipe (3; 11g). Ditch F1031 was cut into Relic Soil L1001.

Pit F1045 was sub-circular in plan (0.90+ x 1.80 x 0.24m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1046, was a friable, mid blue grey sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel. It contained no finds. Pit F1045 underlay Relic Soil L1001.

Structure M1021 comprised Construction Cut F1022 and Brick Wall M1024. Demolition layers abutted the former structure. Construction Cut F1022 was rectangular in plan (0.90+ x 0.55+ x 0.40m). It had vertical sides and a flat base. It contained Brick Wall M1024, which was constructed of a soft red brick bonded with a sandy lime mortar. Construction Cut Fill, L1023, was a firm, light grey brown silty clay. Construction Cut F1022 cut Relic Soil L1001. The topsoil and demolition layers are tabulated below:

Layers	Depth (from surface)	Description
L1000	0.0 – 0.38m	Topsoil
L1025	0.38 – 0.58m	Friable, mid red brown silty sand. It contained CBM (7947g),
L1026	0.58 – 0.68m	Firm, light red brown silty sand. It contained animal bone (3g).
L1027	0.68 – 0.84m	Friable, light yellow red sand.
L1028	0.84 – 0.92m	Friable, mid red brown sand.
L1029	0.92 – 1.02m	Friable, dark brown red sand.
L1030	1.02 – 1.18m	Friable, pale red yellow sand.
L1002	1.18m+	Natural Deposit

#### Trench 4 Figs. 3 & 8

Sample Section 4A 0.00 = 3.63m AOD		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.36 – 0.65m	L1001	Relic Soil. As above. Contained 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery (5g), 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century CBM (212g), animal bone (238g) and shell (26g)
0.65m +	L1002	Natural Deposit. As above.

Sample Section 4B 0.00 = 4.11m AOD		
0.00 – 0.58m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.58 – 0.82m	L1039	Upper Fill of Ditch F1038. Friable, light brown grey clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular gravel. Contained CBM (921g), shell (11g) and an iron nail (1; 17g)
0.82 – 1.20m (augered to 1.68m)	L1040	Lower Fill of Ditch F1038. Firm, mid green grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular gravel. Contained mid 16 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> century pottery (8; 93g), CBM (751g), animal bone (275g) and shell (17g)
1.68m +	L1002	Natural Deposit. As above.

*Description: Trench 4 contained Feature F1043, Ditches F1033, F1038, F1041 and Pits F1035, F1047 and F1049. F1038 contained mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery; F1041 contained 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery; and F1043 contained late 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Relic Soil L1001 was only present in the SE portion of Trench 4, where it overlay Pits F1047 and F1049, and was cut by Ditches F1041 and F1033.*

Ditch F1033 was linear in plan (1.80 x 1.30 x 0.38m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and an uneven concave base. Its fill, L1034, was a firm, light grey brown clay. It contained CBM (4412g) and animal bone (51g). Ditch F1033 cut Pit F1035 and was cut into Relic Soil L1001.

Pit F1035 was sub-circular in plan (0.80 x 0.60 x 0.26m). It had irregular moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1036, was a firm, mid grey brown sandy clay. It contained CBM (282g) and an iron ?knife tang (1; 20g). Pit F1035 was cut by Ditch F1033.

Ditch F1038 was linear in plan (1.80 x 6.50+ x 1.68m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides. Its base was unseen and was augured. Its basal fill, L1040, was a firm, mid green grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular gravel. It contained mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery (8; 93g), CBM (751g), animal bone (275g) and shell (17g). Its upper fill, L1039, was a friable, light brown grey clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular gravel. It contained CBM (921g), shell (11g) and an iron nail (1; 17g).

Ditch F1041 was linear in plan (1.80 x 5.54 x 1.3m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides. Its base was unseen and it was augured. Its fill, L1042, was a firm, dark blue/green grey silty clay. It contained 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery (5; 146g), CBM (4106g), animal bone (1620g), clay pipe (1; 2g) and shell (37g). Ditch F1041 was cut by Ditch F1043 and was cut into Relic Soil L1001.

Feature F1043 was linear in plan (1.80 x 2.50 x 0.19m), orientated NE/SW. It had shallow gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1044, was a friable, mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional stone and gravel. It contained late 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery (10; 62g), CBM (1014g), animal bone (138g), shell (6g), iron nails (3; 14g), coal (10g) and glass (1; 10g). Ditch F1043 cut Ditch F1041.



Pit F1047 was sub-circular in plan (0.30+ x 1.47 x 0.19m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1048, was a firm, dark brown sandy clay. It contained no finds. Pit F1047 cut Pit F1049.

Pit F1049 was sub-circular in plan (0.70+ x 1.40 x 0.23m). It had moderately sloping sides and concave base. Its fill, L1050, was a firm, dark brown grey silty clay. It contained animal bone (9g). Pit F1049 was cut by Pit F1047. Both F1047 and F1049 were sealed by Relic Soil L1001.

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 Due to high groundwater level and flooding of trenches it was challenging to identify features in plan.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 Within the north-western section of the site (Trench 1 & 2) the uppermost deposits comprised layers of hardcore (L1003 & L1004), and Terram or plastic webbing. Underlying the hardcore layers within the north-western section of the site, and present across the whole site, was Topsoil L1000, a friable dark grey sandy clay with small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel (0.24m – 0.41m thick). In Trench 3 Topsoil L1000 overlay demolition layers associated with Structure M1021 and described above. In the NW portion of the site in Trench 1, Topsoil L1000 overlay a subsoil layer L1054; a firm, mid yellow grey sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel. This layer was observed to contain modern plastic and is likely to be modern in origin or have been subject to modern disturbance.

8.2 Across the rest of the site, with the exception of the NW end of Trench 4 was Relic Soil L1001, a firm, mid yellow grey sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel. Relic Soil L1001 contained a single sherd of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and 6 fragments of peg tile, along with animal bone and shell, in Trench 4. It was cut by features F1019, F1031, F1033 and F1041/ re-cut F1043 in Trenches 3 and 4. Where dating evidence was available, the majority of these features dated to between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. Although Ditch F1041 contained medieval Ely Ware, it also contained clay pipe, peg tile and 15<sup>th</sup> century to Tudor era brick, which would be consistent with a post-medieval date.

8.3 Below L1001 were features F1007, F1011, F1015, F1017, F1045, F1047, F1049 and F1051, across Trenches 2-4. Where dating evidence was available, they were largely dated to the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century. Feature F1015 below L1001 contained a mixed assemblage of pottery, the latest of which was of mid 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century date. It also contained peg tile and 15<sup>th</sup> century to Tudor era brick. This was the stratigraphically latest feature in Trench 2, with the infilling likely to have immediately predated the formation of Relic Soil L1001. The best date for Relic Soil L1001 is that it developed during the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century, although formation could have begun earlier (Section 9.6).

8.4 At the base of the sequence, Natural Deposit L1002 was a mixed friable, mid brown yellow clayey sand and firm pale blue grey clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded gavel and sub-rounded medium to large flint (0.24m - 1.20m below the present day ground surface).

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1005	Ditch	Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
2	F1007	Ditch	-
	F1011	Ditch	Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> century
	F1015	Ditch	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> century
	F1017	Ditch	14 <sup>th</sup> century
	F1051	Ditch	Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
	L1053	Layer	13 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> century
3	F1019	Ditch	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> century +
	M1021 (F1022 & M1024)	Structure	-
	F1022	Construction Cut	-
	M1024	Brick Wall	-
	L1025	Layer	13 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> century (CBM)
	L1026	Layer	-
	F1031	Ditch	Mid 17 <sup>th</sup> - mid 18 <sup>th</sup> century
	F1045	Pit	-
4	F1033	Ditch	13 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> century (CBM)
	F1035	Pit	?Medieval (Fe Tang)
	F1038	Ditch	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> century
	F1041	Ditch	13 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> century
	F1043	Feature	Late 16 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> century
	F1047	Pit	-
	F1049	Pit	-

9.2 Within the four trenches investigated 18 archaeological features were recorded, and their distribution was largely concentrated in the south-eastern section of the site, with Trench 1 only containing a ditch. The range of features comprised pits, ditches, layers, a construction cut and a structure. The majority of features contained datable evidence from the medieval and post-medieval period, reflecting the substantial continuity between the medieval and post-medieval urban areas in the locality (CHER 08186 & 08187, & MCB18198); although investigations off Lisle Lane and Cresswells Lane appear to confirm the previous suggestion that occupation had declined in this area by the 16th century (CHER MCB19389 & MCB22288).

9.3 The CBM recovered during the evaluation, primarily from a series of ditches and Layer L1025, is predominantly of medieval to early post-medieval origin and was likely locally produced in the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries (see *The Ceramic Building Materials Report*). A substantial group of peg tiles was also present in Layer L1025 and Ditches F1015, F1019, F1031, F1033 and F1041. These tiles are likely directly related to a building with a tiled roof on, or adjacent to, the site, and probably representing the dispersal of material after a building had collapsed or been demolished. This evidence appears to concur with the documentary and archaeological evidence for houses and tenements on Lisle Lane in the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (CHER 11858); occupation evidence is also present immediately opposite the site, where pottery sherds demonstrated that occupation continued in the area through the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries (CHER MCB17932 & MCB19942). An assemblage of uncommon medieval bricks, which had been introduced in Ely by the early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century were also recovered. Notably, three bricks were associated with Structure M1021 (L1025). The bricks are consistent with bricks produced in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and Tudor period, and it seems likely that they formed part of a chimney breast or hearth of a substantial building.

9.4 Medieval and late medieval transitional pottery sherds and post-medieval pottery sherds were recovered in association with the CBM (see *The Pottery Report*). Features F1005, F1011, F1017, F1041, F1051, and Layer L1053 contained only medieval sherds; Features F1015 and F1038 contained early post-medieval sherds of mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries date, along with residual medieval pottery. Ditch F1015 in Trench 2 contained more than half of the assemblage sherd total with 74 sherds of early post-medieval pottery indicating a mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries date. The presence of a white slipped sherd with clear and green glaze suggests a likely 17<sup>th</sup> century date for the context.

9.5 In addition to the CBM and pottery evidence, numerous features contained animal bone which appears to represent industrial skinning waste (see *The Faunal Remains and Mollusc Report*). Ditch F1015 (Trench 2), which contained datable evidence from the mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century, contained a large proportion of the skinning waste. The bone evidence includes a substantial assemblage of goat remains. There is evidence for the decline of the goat throughout the medieval period, so relatively high numbers in the 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century would perhaps suggest a trade of goat skins, brought in for specific uses such as parchment or gloves. Alongside the skinning waste a smaller amount of meat bone waste from mammals and birds was present, which could be consistent with meat consumed at the site by those employed at the site during their days work.

9.6 A post-medieval soil appears to have formed on the site, apparently following the infilling of Ditch F1015. The probable date for the formation of this layer was the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century, although it could have begun to form earlier within cuts of contemporary features, such as L1015, obscured by natural soil processes or disturbance.

9.7 Excepting Layer L1053, the presence of carbonised material was generally limited (see *The Environmental Samples Report*). Layer L1053, which contained a small assemblage of 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery, contained a relatively high number of carbonised cereal grains. The carbonised material recovered is likely to have been

generated in domestic hearths but the deposition of debris from such sources appears to have been limited at the site.

## **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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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)
	1001		4	Subsoil	18th-19th C	1	5	212	238	Shell		3
1005	1006		1	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-14th C	1	2	144	10	Shell		26
1011	1012		2	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-14th C	3	24		13	Shell		11
	1013		2	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-14th C	7	141		114	Shell		132
	1014		2	Fill of Ditch	13th-15th C	5	46		272	Shell		56
1015	1016		2	Fill of Ditch	Mid 16th-17th C	78	2687	8941	17520	Shell		826
1017	1018	C E	2	Fill of Ditch	14th C	16	303	62	576	Shell ?Pb Ladle F.Clay	1	35 20 11
										164 151		
1019	1020		3	Fill of Ditch	Late 18th C+	1	1	4912	72	Shell Clinker B.Flint		3 2 5
	1025		3	Layer				7947				
	1026		3	Layer					3			
1031	1032		3	Fill of Ditch	Mid 17th-Mid 18th C	15	207	6700	1962	Shell  Glass Clay Pipe	1  3	152  10 11
1033	1034		4	Fill of Ditch				4412	51			
1035	1036		4	Fill of Pit				282		Fe Tang	1	20
1038	1039		4	Fill of Ditch				921		Shell Fe Nail	1	11 17
	1040		4	Fill of Ditch	Mid 16th-17th C	8	93	751	275	Shell		17
1041	1042		4	Fill of Ditch	13th-15th C	5	146	4106	1620	Clay Pipe	1	2

										Shell		37
1043	1044		4	Fill of Feature	Late 16th-18th C	10	62	1014	138	Shell		6
										Fe Nail	3	14
										Coal		10
										Glass	1	10
1049	1050		4	Fill of Pit					9			
1051	1052		2	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-14th C	10	77		322	Shell		24
	1053		2	Layer	13th-15th C	2	24	9	4	Shell		186



## APPENDIX 2      SPECIALIST REPORTS

### **The Pottery**

*Peter Thompson*

The archaeological evaluation recovered 162 sherds weighing 3.818kg from features and layers. The assemblage is fairly evenly divided between medieval and Late Medieval Transitional Wares (90) and post-medieval wares (72).

Features F1005, F1011, F1017, F1041 and F1051, and Layer L1053 contained only medieval sherds. Features F1015 and F1038 contained early post-medieval sherds of mid 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries date, and residual medieval pottery.

### **Methodology**

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

### **The Pottery**

The commonest medieval fabric present, as might be expected is Ely Ware. Two white ware sherds from Ditch F1011 are foreign imports. One is similar in appearance to Stamford Ware, but the fabric is a little too coarse. The other sherd is highly decorated having yellow glaze and with a roulette decorated applied clay strip, along with another line of trailed brown slip. These sherds match the description of Beauvais ware and, along with the associated medieval coarsewares wares, fit a mid 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> centuries date for the feature. Two sherds of glazed Grimston ware sherds were also present in the medieval assemblage.

Ditch F1015 contained more than half the assemblage sherd total with 74 sherds of mainly glazed and unglazed early post-medieval red earthenwares indicating a mid 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries date (three fragments of fibreglass were also present, but these are judged intrusive). The assemblage includes a reduced shallow dish profile with dissolved internal glaze, which is reminiscent of a Broad Street Gritty Red Earthenware in fabric and form, except for the lack of calcareous inclusions (Cessford *et al* 2006, 47). The presence of a white slipped sherd with clear and green glaze suggests a likely 17<sup>th</sup> century date for the context (Spoerry 2016, 265). Raeren and Frechen stoneware were also present in the feature.

### **Fabric Key:**

SHW: Medieval shelly ware 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

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

MEL(g): Medieval glazed ware late 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

GRIM: Grimston Ware (glazed) late 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

MCW1: Medieval Coarse Ware1 – common fine and medium sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz, rare red iron mineral but few other inclusions. Poorly fired with grey fabric mottled with oxidised areas 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

MCW2: Medieval Coarse Ware 2 – abundant fine and medium sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz; grey throughout. Probably an Ely ware but lacking calcareous and iron ore mid 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

LMEL: Late Medieval Ware 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>  
 UPLM: Unprovenanced Late Medieval Ware 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>  
 LMELTR: Late Medieval/Post-medieval Transitional Ely ware  
 mid 15<sup>th</sup>-mid 16<sup>th</sup>  
 ELF: Ely Fine Ware? late 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>  
 EARSG: Sgraffito ware mid 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>  
 RAER: Raeren stoneware 15<sup>th</sup>-early 17<sup>th</sup>  
 FRECH: Frechen stoneware mid 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>  
 PMR: Post-medieval red ware 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>  
 BELRP: Broad Street, Ely Plain Ware – 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>  
 GRE: Glazed Red Earthenware mid 16<sup>th</sup>+  
 LONDS: London type stoneware late 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>  
 STEM: Staffordshire embossed flat ware mid 17<sup>th</sup>-mid 18<sup>th</sup>  
 ENGS: English stoneware 18<sup>th</sup>+  
 TPW: Transfer Printed Ware late 18<sup>th</sup>+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Subsoil	1001	1x5g GRE	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	
Ditch 1005	1006	1x2g MCW2	mid 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	
Ditch 1011	1012	1x4g MEL 2x20g MCW2	mid 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	
	1013	7x141g MEL	mid 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	
	1014	3x36g MEL 2x10g UPLM	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	UPLM: x1 highly decorated yellow glaze with applied rouletted clay strip and vertical line of brown slip; x1 thin pale yellow glaze similar to Stamford ware, but fabric too coarse
Ditch 1015	1016	3x69g MEL 2x162g MEL(g) 16x350g LMELTR 4x199g MCW1 3x200g RAER 1x17g FRECH 1x9g GRIM 4x64g LMELTR 5x317g BELRP 4x216g PMR 34x1074g GRE 1x10g EARSG	mid 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>  (N.B. fibreglass assumed intrusive)	MEL: glazed both surfaces, may be a late medieval sherd MCW1: x2 base/body sherds, one with finger deco at the join LMELTR: x1 curvilinear incised deco RAER: frilled drinking jug base FRECH: rim of drinking jug GRE: includes large fragments of a shallow wide dish with faded internal glaze 3x80g fibreglass? 1x59g CBM
Ditch 1017	1018	12x203g MEL 2x69g MEL(g) 1x8g GRIM  1x23g LMEL	14 <sup>th</sup>	MEL: Flared bowl Type D rim with stab decorated rim and incised wavy lines on the outer surface; x3 body and base sherds with abundant white chalk and shell inclusions; x1 body sherd with faint rilling. LMEL: frilled jug base

Ditch 1019	1020	1x1g TPW	late 18 <sup>th</sup> +	
Ditch 1031	1032	1x14g LMELTR 7x122g GRE 2x19g LONS 4x40g ENGS 1x12g STEM	mid 17 <sup>th</sup> -mid 18 <sup>th</sup>	LMELTR: dispersed horizontal lines around girth
Ditch 1038	1040	5x26g MEL 2x5g GRE 1x62g LMELTR	mid 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	MEL: x1 sherd with applied thumb impressed clay strip LMELTR: base/body angle
Ditch 1041	1042	2x114g MEL 3x32g MEL(g)	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	MEL(g): x1 base/body angle with finger nail deco.
Feature 1043	1044	7x43g GRE 1x4g TGE 1x4g FRECH 1x11g ELF	late 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	ELF: thin sherd, dark grey core with off white surfaces and glossy yellow-green glaze both sides
Ditch 1051	1052	9x63g MEL 1x14g SHW	mid 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	MEL: x1 simple everted cooking pot rim with an external bevel
Layer	1053	1x7g MEL 1x17g MCW1	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	

**Table 1:** Quantification of pottery by context

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## The Ceramic Building Materials

*Andrew Peachey*

The evaluation recovered a total of 528 fragments (40,413g) of CBM, generally in a moderately-fragmented but relatively un-abraded condition. The majority of the assemblage was recovered from a series of ditches and Layer L1025. The CBM is of medieval to early post-medieval origin, likely produced in the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries in local kilns, but could include peg tile from the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards that is technologically identical and maintained a currency through the post-medieval period. The assemblage includes a single fragment of ridge tile, which may have been crested, and modest quantities of peg tile and brick that present a homogenous group and are consistent with building materials recorded across medieval Ely

(Table 2).

Fabric Type	Form type	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
'Calcareous' Ely ware-type	Peg tile	483	29768
	Ridge tile	1	495
Local sand-and grass	15 <sup>th</sup> C to Tudor Brick	44	10150
	<i>Total</i>	<i>528</i>	<i>40413</i>

**Table 2:** Quantification of CBM form types

### *Methodology*

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with any extant dimensions, decoration or typological features also recorded and used to define form types. Fabrics were examined at x20 magnification and are described below. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive.

### *The Fabrics*

Two fabric groups could be defined for the CBM, described below. The calcareous *MEL fabric B*, utilised for the peg and ridge tile (Table 2), clearly represents the same fabric used to produce a wide-range of pottery vessels by the medieval industry associated with the town, with potentially later kilns continuing to exploit the same natural clays. *LOC1* may represent an alternative local clay source or the import of bricks along the river system that extends from the Wash to the Fens.

MEL Fabric B Medieval Ely Ware - 'calcareous' fabric B (Spoerry 2008, 13).

LOC1 Local. Red-orange silty fabric with inclusions of sparse quartz and calcareous grains (both <0.5mm, occasionally to 2mm), and red and/or white argillaceous pellets/grog, often streaky (both 0.5-3mm). Straw/grass impressions are common the faces of brick, with sparse linear voids suggest some of that material was incorporated in the fabric.

### *Commentary on the Form Types*

The peg tile was entirely manufactured in the calcareous fabric (MEL fabric B), with a fairly uniform thickness of 12mm, albeit with fairly irregular surfaces and often a slightly lip on edges that typically exhibit finger-impressions (from handling before they were fired). A single fragment in Feature F1043 preserves an extant width of 165mm with lengthways striation on the upper surface and two circular (pre-firing peg holes) that are closely spaced but only roughly centred at one end of the tile. Substantial groups of peg tile were also associated with Structure M1021 (L1025), and Ditches F1015, F1019, F1031, F1033 and F1041. Each context may only account for the equivalent of 1 - 4 tiles, but are sufficient to say they are directly related to the presence of a building with a tiled roof on, or adjacent, to the site, probably representing the dispersal of material after a building had collapsed or been demolished. Where buildings had ceramic tile roofs, the use of peg tile had become near universal by the 14<sup>th</sup> century and was common thereafter (Drury 1981, 131), but was probably introduced in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Tiled roofs could be confirmed on late 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century buildings at Forehill, Ely, where it was observed that the most common roofing material was great fen sedge, which was cheaper and more readily available (Alexander 2003, 147); although peg tile may have been utilised for chimney breasts, hearths and ovens due to a much reduced propensity to catch fire.

Pertinently, in 1477 legislation was passed to standardise the dimensions and quality of peg tile following consistent problems with tiles of insufficient size or with an easily breakable fabric (Drury 1981, 131). This set the minimum width/breadth of a peg tile at 160mm (6 ¼ inches), and with the tile from Feature F1043 slightly exceeding this by an acceptable margin, it is highly likely they were produced in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century or later, although some standardisation may have been achieved at a local level prior to this.

A single fragment of ridge tile in the same fabric as the peg tile was contained in Ditch F1031. Generally is of equal thickness to the peg tile, but appears to expand to 16mm towards the bottom edges. The ridge tile would have stood approximately 160mm high with a strongly curved apex and a laminate scar on the upper surface suggests it may have been crested, although there is no extant evidence for any decoration or glaze. The study of crested ridge tiles at the Austin Friars in Leicester had demonstrated that they were produced from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century until the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, typically with wholly or partly glazed upper surfaces, after which they develop further (Allin 1981, 52-3). Crested ridge tile of comparable size and type has also previously been recorded in medieval deposits at Orchard Lane, Huntingdon (Garside-Neville 1994) and further supports the presence of a substantive building with origins in the (late) medieval period.

The final component of the assemblage comprises medieval bricks, which are generally not common but had been introduced in Ely by the early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century, primarily through river transport and in association with cathedral buildings, notably for use in ovens and bake houses (Lucas 1993, 157). A similar function has been identified in late medieval domestic ovens recorded at Forehill, Ely (Alexander 2003, 147), although the fragmentary remnants of bricks in this assemblage do not preserve any evidence of heating or burning. One type of medieval brick could be identified in the locally-produced fabric LOC1, notably including at least three near complete bricks associated with Structure M1021 (L1025), with further fragments in Ditches F1015, F1031 and F1041. The bricks have dimensions of 230x110x45mm with a rough base, irregular arrises and faces that frequently exhibit sunken margins and straw impressions; traits that are consistent with bricks produced in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and Tudor periods. These may have been imported by river but brick production around Ely certainly commenced in this period (Lucas 1993). It seems unlikely these bricks formed part of a wall, but were likely part of a chimney breast, hearth or similar structure, possibly including a decorative panel on a substantial building.

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## The Small Finds

Andrew Peachey

Feature/ Context	Material	Weight (g)	Description
Ditch F1017 (L1018)	Pb. or Pewter (heavily encrusted)	20	Ladle. Hemispherical bowl (25mm wide, 15mm deep); slightly squashed but possible with a slightly pushed out lip/spout. A 4mm wide, circular stem rises at a steep angle opposite the probable lip (but is broken so the length is unknown). Closely comparable to a medieval to post-medieval ladle recorded at Ewerby and Evedon, Lincolnshire (Portable Antiquities Scheme: LIN-A713D3). Seems very small for a domestic ladle and while this remains a likely function, it cannot be discounted it was used in smelting or other industry.
Ditch F1031 (L1032)	Glass	10	Colourless (clear) glass, probably from a 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century bottle. Partially burnt and opaque.
Pit F1035 (L1036)	Fe	20	Tang of knife or similar implement? (heavily corroded). 70mm long, 20mm wide, 5mm thick. The complete end narrows and thins slightly before an expanded butt, while the item is broken (snapped) at the transition to the 'blade'. Possibly a medieval scale-tang knife but the technological traits are not clear.
Ditch F1038 (L1039)	Fe	17	Nail. Circular head (10mm wide, heavily corroded); tapering square shank (100mm long).
Feature F1043 (L1044)	Fe	6	Nail. Square head (7mm wide.); tapering square shank (55mm long).
		4	Nail. Square head (7mm wide.); tapering square shank (broken).
		4	Rivet. Circular, slightly domed head (15mm wide); circular shank (broken). Modern
	Glass	10	Colourless (clear) glass from a modern small jar (condiment/food-stuff)



## The Faunal Remains and Mollusc

Julie Curl

The assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis, 1992) and Baker and Worley, 2014. All of the bone was briefly scanned to determine range of species and elements present. A note was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When possible ages were estimated along with any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Measurements were considered following Von Den Driesch, 1976, with an estimate of totals for one larger context, similar counts were made for countable bones following Davis, 1992. Weights were noted for each context. Where bone could not be identified to species, they were grouped as, for example, 'large mammal', 'bird' or 'small mammal'. Attempts were made, where possible, to refit possible fragments in the same bag and these were included in NISP counts.

The results were input into an Excel database for quantification and assessment. A summary catalogue is included with this report and a copy is available in the digital archive.

This assemblage consists of hand-collected material.

### The bone assemblage

A total of 24,330g of bone was recovered from this site. The assemblage is quantified in Table 3 and a summary catalogue of scanned contexts appears in the appendix.

Feature Type	Date (from pottery) and Animal bone weight					Totals
	Late Med/ Early Post-Med	Late Med/PM	Medieval	Post- Medieval	Undated	
Ditches (F1005, F1017, F1019, F1031, F1033, F1041 & F1052)			2,655g	72g	3144g	5,871g
Ditch F1015 (L1016)	17,520g					17,520g
Feature F1043 (L1044)		138g				138g
Pit F1049 (L1050)					9g	9g
Layer L1026					3g	3g
Layer L1053			4g			4g
Ditch F1038 (L1040)	275g					275g
Ditch F1011 (L1014)			272g			272g
Subsoil L1001				238g		238g
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17,795g</b>	<b>138g</b>	<b>2,931g</b>	<b>310g</b>	<b>3,156g</b>	<b>24,330g</b>

**Table 3.** Quantification of the bone assemblage by feature type and weight

**Sheep/goat** appears to form the bulk of this assemblage. There is a particular dominance of this group from Ditch F1015, Fill L2016. Sheep/goat can be distinguished where following guidelines by Albarella & Salvagno (2017), Halstead, *et al*, 2002 and Payne (1969) and there is potential to distinguish and quantify these different animals, initial observations suggest a higher number of sheep, but goat are present. Most of the ovicaprid bones were metapodials, with occasional mandibles, jaw fragments, phalanges, one sheep horncore and meat limb bones, pelvic bones and scapulae. Ages vary considerably, with small unfused elements to mature animals that may have been kept for a supply of fleeces before their use for meat and skins. Butchering includes many small knife cuts on metapodials and foot bones from skinning as well and butchering from meat preparation and consumption. Numerous pathologies were seen, including 'buttresses' on metapodials that should provide information on sex, husbandry and life habitat (Thomas and Grimm, 2011).

**Cattle** were seen in much lower numbers than the sheep/goat, but again largely with metapodials, head elements (including horncores) and foot bones, suggesting skinning waste.

**Pig/boar** were seen in fairly small numbers, mainly with head and foot bones, but also some meat elements, some initial butchering observations suggest meat and skin waste.

**Equid** were also recorded in low numbers, with metapodial and lower limb elements, with cuts suggesting skinning waste.

Remains of a few **dogs** were seen in this assemblage, particularly from the Ditch F1015 Fill L1016, with mostly head, lower limbs and foot bones. The initial scan suggests at least three large dogs and one small dog, with brief measurements for a couple of bones indicating a large Wolfhound sized animal. Cut marks were seen on some of the canid remains, suggesting that these animals were also used for their skins.

**Small mammal** bone was seen with possible cat and rabbit bones, the latter also skinned. A small amount for bird bone was noted, with goose and fowl meat bones.

## **Discussion**

This is a medium sized and interesting assemblage that appears to be derived from a variety of skinning waste and with some meat waste. The ovicaprid remains clearly include goats and it is possible goats were kept locally for a supply of milk, which is easier to digest than cattle milk, and this would involve removal of a juvenile to allow milking of the mother. It is perhaps more likely that the goat metapodials arrived at site on a skin for processing, with some pathologies that might suggest signs of strain that would be expected on animals living on much rougher ground than in the fenland area. There is evidence for the decline of the goat throughout the medieval period (Serjeantson, 1989; Albarella, 2003; Dyer, 2004; Salvagno, 2014; Curl, 2019), so relatively high numbers in the 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century would perhaps suggest a trade of goat skins, brought in for specific uses such as parchment or gloves. The other species of mammal also suggest skinning waste. The smaller amount of meat bone waste from the mammals and birds could be consistent with meat consumed at the site by those employed at the site during their days work.



1050											
1052		24g									24g
1053						186g					186g
Totals	826g	383g	6g			186g	17g	56g	3g	11g	1525g

**Table 4.** Quantification of the mollusc assemblage by context number, feature type and weight.

The assessment of the species present suggests the mollusc assemblage comprises of the following: oyster (75%), Mussel (15%) other shell, including land molluscs (5%). The shell is in good condition, with surface detail such as marine sponges and worm damage present. Some cut marks were also seen in the assessment scan, showing the larger shells were used for food.

### Discussion and conclusions

This is a fairly small shell assemblage that contains the remains of the most frequent food species on archaeological sites and other species, with preservation of smaller land molluscs. There is evidence of the origin of the molluscs and butchering marks that show the use for food.

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**Table 5**

Catalogue of selected animal bone contexts recorded during scan and weights for all contexts producing bone. With counts of measurable bone following Von Den Driesch (1976) and countable bones following Davis (1992).

Feature	Context	Seg	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	A.Bone (g)	A.Bone Elements	Species	Measure	Count	Path	Gnaw	Comments
	1001		4	Subsoil	18th-19th C	238							
1005	1006		1	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-14th C	10							
1011	1012		2	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-14th C	13							
	1013		2	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-14th C	114							
	1014		2	Fill of Ditch	13th-15th C	272							
1015	1016		2	Ditch	Mid 16th-17th C	17520	Metapodials, jaws, horn, foot bones, some meat waste with scap, limb	S/G, Cattle, Equid, Dogs, Pig/boar, Goose, Fowl	150+	250+	35	10	Most is skinning waste from sheep and goat, skinning waste from cattle, equid and dogs too, some meat waste elements. Some very large dogs Several pathologies on sheep/goat and dogs.
1017	1018		2	Fill of Ditch	14th C	576	MPs, limb	cattle, S/G, Small mammal	8	10			
		164 151											



1019	1020		3	Fill of Ditch	Late 18th C+	72							
1021	10-		3	Layer									
	1026		3	Layer		3							
1031	1032		3	Fill of Ditch	Mid 17th- Mid 18th C	1962	Mps, pelvis, vertebrae	S/G, Cattle,	12	16	2		Includes worked bone?
1033	1034		4	Fill of Ditch		51							
1035	1036		4	Fill of Pit									
1038	1039		4	Fill of Ditch			Mps, limb		5	8		2	
	1040		4	Fill of Ditch	Mid 16th- 17th C	275							
1041	1042		4	Fill of Ditch	13th-15th C	1620	Mps, phalanges, meat bones	S/G, Cattle, Rabbit	10	12			
1043	1044		4	Fill of Feature	Late 16th-18th C	138	Mps, jaw	S/G, pig/boar	3	4		1	
1049	1050		4	Fill of Pit		9							
1051	1052		2	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th- 14th C	322							
	1053		2	Layer	13th-15th C	4							

## The Environmental Samples

*Dr John Summers*

### *Introduction*

During the archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of 32 Lisle Lane, Ely, 15 bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. The intention of the bulk sample programme was to determine the presence, nature of preservation and distribution of ecofactual macrofossils in deposits on the site.

### *Methods*

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

### *Results*

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 6. Preservation was mostly by carbonisation but two samples (L1006 and L1025) also showed evidence of anaerobic preservation by waterlogging. However, the range of evidence preserved by waterlogging was limited (see below).

Carbonised macrofossil remains were present in three of the 15 samples (20%). These were primarily in the form of cereal caryopses, with free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type) and oat (*Avena* sp.) represented. Few associated non-cereal taxa likely to represent arable weed taxa were represented, with a single medium Fabaceae (vetch/ tare type) in L1053. This deposit also contained a cherry/ plum (*Prunus* sp.) stone, which could represent fruit that was consumed. Stones from fruit could potentially have been discarded in domestic hearths. The dominance of cereal grain and the apparent absence of processing by-products indicate that the remains are likely to be fully processed grain intended for consumption and carbonised in domestic hearths. Charcoal was recorded as common in four of the samples and is likely to represent fuel debris from hearths.

Waterlogged plant remains were identified in L1006 and L1025 but the range of taxa was limited to elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and bramble (*Rubus* sp.); common scrub plants and prolific seed producers.

Mollusc shells were well represented. Many of the species were characteristic of taller damp vegetation or ground litter (e.g. *Carychium* sp., *Cochlicopa* sp., *Discus rotundatus*, *Oxychilus* sp. and *Trichia hispida* group). This may indicate predominantly scrub habitats over the site, supported by the identification of waterlogged seeds from elder and bramble. Other shells were from aquatic taxa (*Anisus leucostoma*, *Hippeutis complanatus*, *Lymnaea truncatula* and *Planorbis planorbis*), with *Hippeutis complanatus* characteristic of permanently waterlogged drainage ditches.

### *Conclusions*

Although the deposit from L1053 contained a reasonably high number of carbonised cereal grains, most likely deposited with other domestic debris, the presence of carbonised material was generally quite limited at the site. The carbonised material recovered is likely to have been generated in domestic hearths but the deposition of debris from such sources appears to have been limited at the site.

The waterlogged plant remains and mollusc shells interestingly indicate scrub conditions, at least on the margins of excavated features. A number of these also show evidence for standing water, which may indicate the use of some of the ditch features for drainage. This could indicate a relatively marginal area.

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Site code	Sample number	Context	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs	Molluscs					Contaminants					Other remains	
						Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal>2mm	Notes		Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules						
ECB5904	1	1006	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	<i>Carychium</i> sp., <i>Ena obscura</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp.					X	-	-	-	-	X	Coal (X), Fish scale (X), Waterlogged: <i>Sambucus nigra</i> (XXX), <i>Rubus</i> sp. (XX), Indet. (XXX)
ECB5904	2	1016	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	Diffuse porous	XX	<i>Carychium</i> sp., <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Discus rotundatus</i> , <i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp.					XX	-	X	-	-	Fish scale (X), Coal (X)	
ECB5904	3	1008	40	20	50%	X	-	FTW (2), Trit (1), Oat (1)	-	-	-	X	-	XX	<i>Anisus leucostoma</i> , <i>Carychium</i> sp., <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Hippeutis complanatus</i> , <i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Planorbis planorbis</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group					XX	-	-	-	-	Fish scale (X)	

ECB5904	5	1013	40	20	50%	X	-	FTW (2), Trit (1), NFI (1)	-	-	-	XX	Ring porous, Diffuse porous	XX	<i>Anisus leucostoma</i> , <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Hippeutis</i> <i>complanatus</i> , <i>Planorbis</i> <i>planorbis</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group	XX	X	X	-	-	Fish scale (XX)
ECB5904	6	1018	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	XX	-	-	-	-	Coal (XX)
ECB5904	8	1025	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	<i>Anisus leucostoma</i> , <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Discus</i> <i>rotundatus</i> , <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	X	XX	-	-	Waterlogged: <i>Sambucus nigra</i> (XX), <i>Rubus</i> sp. (XX)
ECB5904	10	1034	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Trichia</i> <i>hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	X	-	-	-	-
ECB5904	11	1036	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	Diffuse porous	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	Root/ tuber (X)
ECB5904	12	1040	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	<i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Planorbis</i> <i>planorbis</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group	X	-	X	-	-	Coal (X)
ECB5904	13	1042	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	Diffuse porous	XX	<i>Anisus leucostoma</i> , <i>Oxychilus</i> sp.	XX	-	-	-	-	-
ECB5904	15	1050	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	<i>Trichia hispida</i> group	X	-	-	-	-	-

ECB5904	16	1032	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	<i>Anisus leucostoma</i> , Clausilidae, <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Planorbis planorbis</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group	XX	-	X	-	-	-
ECB5904	17	1046	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	XX	-	-	-	-	-
ECB5904	18	1018	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	<i>Anisus leucostoma</i> , <i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Trichia</i> <i>hispida</i> group	X	-	-	-	-	-
ECB5904	19	1053	40	20	50%	XX	-	FTW (14), Trit (3), Oat (1), NFI (2)	X	Medium Fabaceae (1), <i>Prunus</i> sp. stone (1)	-	X	-	XX	<i>Hippeutis complanatus</i> , <i>Lymnaea truncatula</i> , <i>Planorbis planorbis</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	-	X	-	-	-

**Table 6:** Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from land to the rear of Lisle Lane, Ely. Abbreviations: FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Oat (*Avena* sp.); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain)







# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: archaeol7-363618**

### Project details

Project name	Land Rear of 32 Lisle Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4AS
Short description of the project	In June and July 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land rear of 32 Lisle Lane, Ely Cambridgeshire. The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed development of seven new residential units. Within the four trenches investigated 18 archaeological features were recorded, and their distribution was largely concentrated in the south-eastern section of the site. The majority of features contained datable evidence from the medieval and post-medieval period. Medieval and late medieval transitional pottery sherds and post-medieval pottery sherds were also recovered; Ditch F1015 contained more than half the assemblage total with 74 sherds of early post-medieval pottery of a mid 16th to 17th century date. This evidence appears to concur with the documentary and archaeological evidence for houses and tenements on Lisle Lane in the 13th to 15th centuries (CHER 11858); occupation evidence is also present immediately opposite the site, where pottery sherds demonstrated that occupation continued in the area through the 14th to 16th centuries. Numerous features contained animal bone which appears to represent industrial skinning waste. Ditch F1015, which has been dated to the mid 16th to 17th century, contained a large proportion of the skinning waste including goat remains.
Project dates	Start: 25-06-2019 End: 09-07-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7994 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5904 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PITS Uncertain
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Monument type	LAYERS, A CONSTRUCTION CUT AND A STRUCTURE Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY AND CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY AND CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SKINNED ANIMAL REMIANS Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition  
 Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country England  
 Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE ELY Land Rear of 32 Lisle Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4AS  
 Postcode CB7 4AS  
 Study area 0.26 Hectares  
 Site coordinates TL 5463 8019 52.397440531307 0.272976009893 52 23 50 N 000 16 22 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 4m Max: 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 Ltd  
 Name of sponsor/funding body Mr Roger Garrett

### Project archives

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

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Land Rear of 32 Lisle Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4AS; An Archaeological Evaluation  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Thomelius, S  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Podbury, L  
 Other bibliographic 5873

details

Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Solutions
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Entered by	Claire Halpin-McDonald (hollie.wesson@ascontracts.co.uk)
Entered on	14 August 2019

## OASIS:

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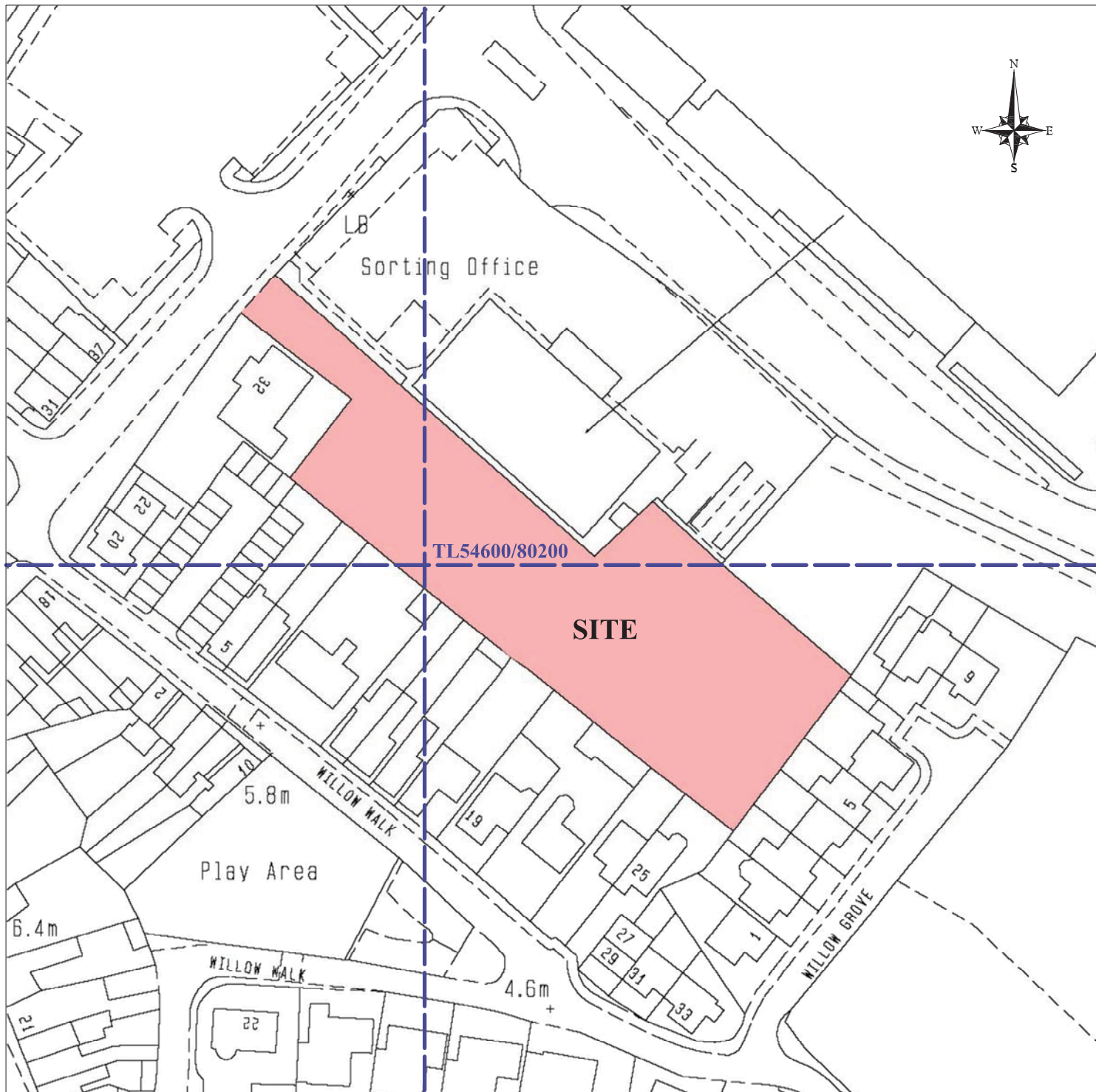




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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Lisle Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire (P7994)





<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan</b>
Scale 1:1000 at A4
Lisle Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire (P7994)

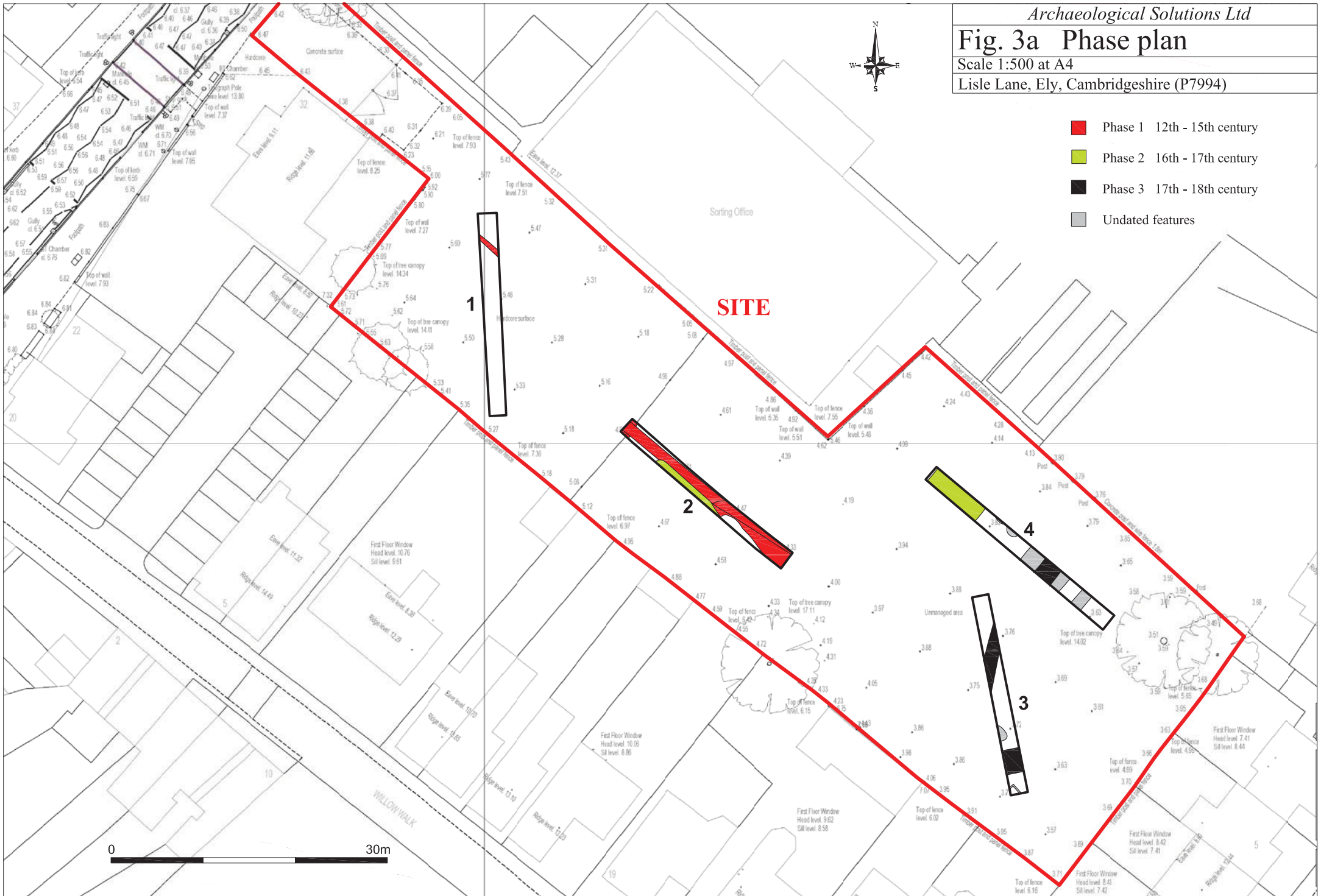
# Fig. 3a Phase plan

Scale 1:500 at A4

Lisle Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire (P7994)



- Phase 1 12th - 15th century
- Phase 2 16th - 17th century
- Phase 3 17th - 18th century
- Undated features





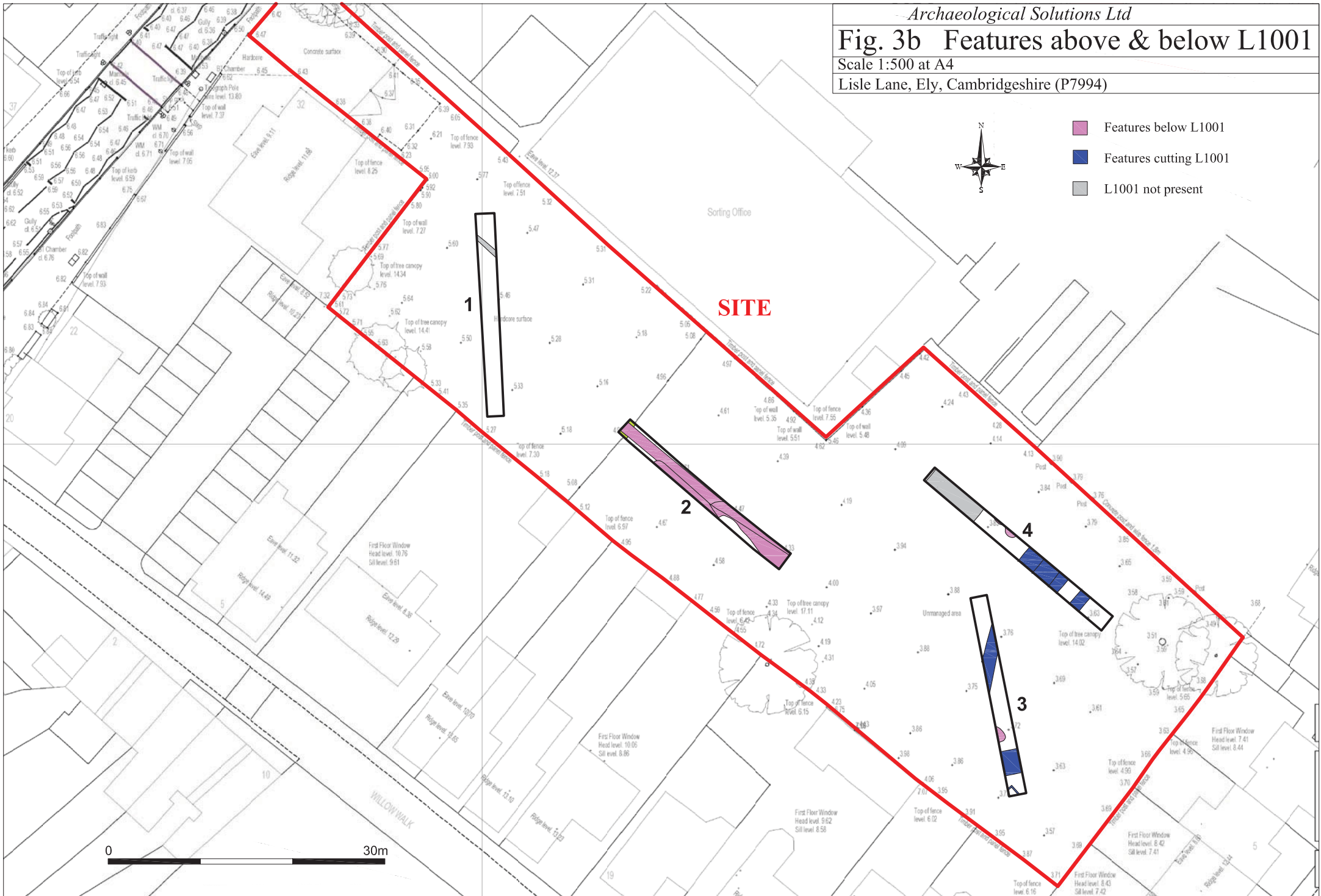
# Fig. 3b Features above & below L1001

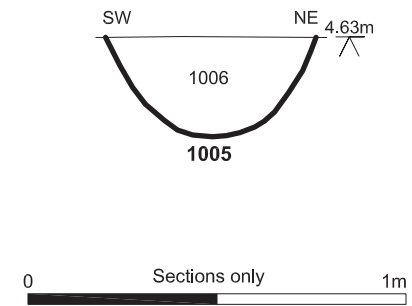
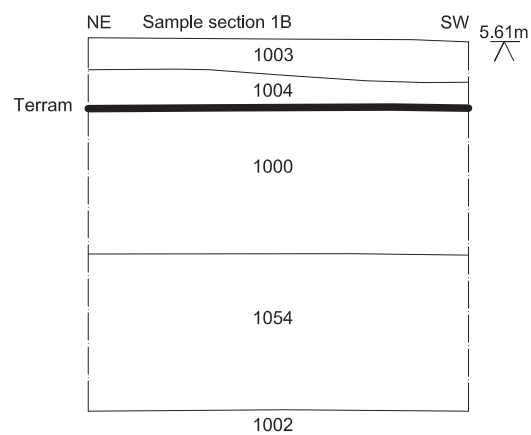
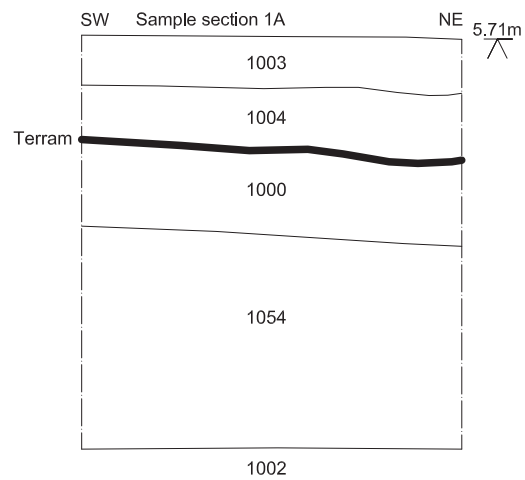
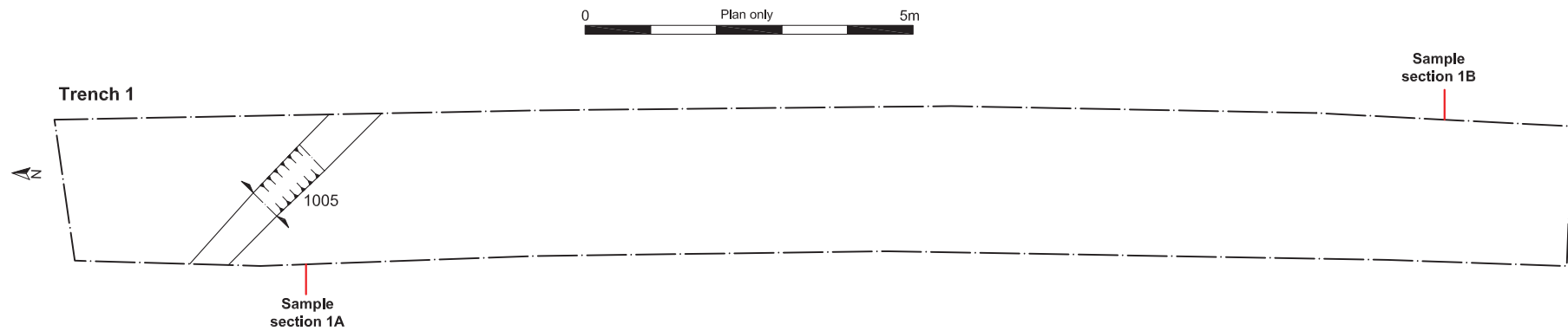
Scale 1:500 at A4

Lisle Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire (P7994)



- Features below L1001
- Features cutting L1001
- L1001 not present



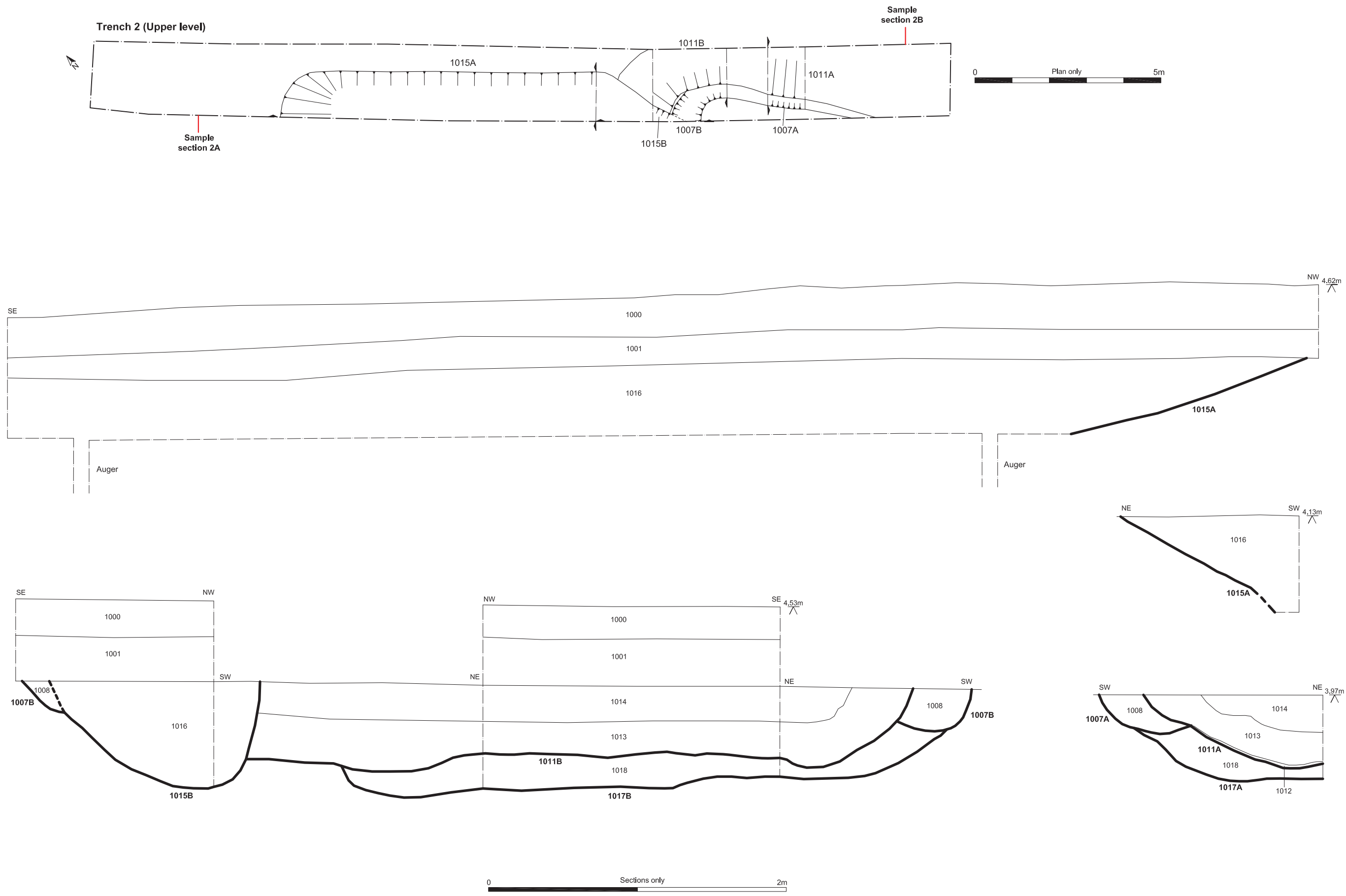


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**Fig. 4 Trench 1 plan and section**

Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4

Lisle Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire (P7994)

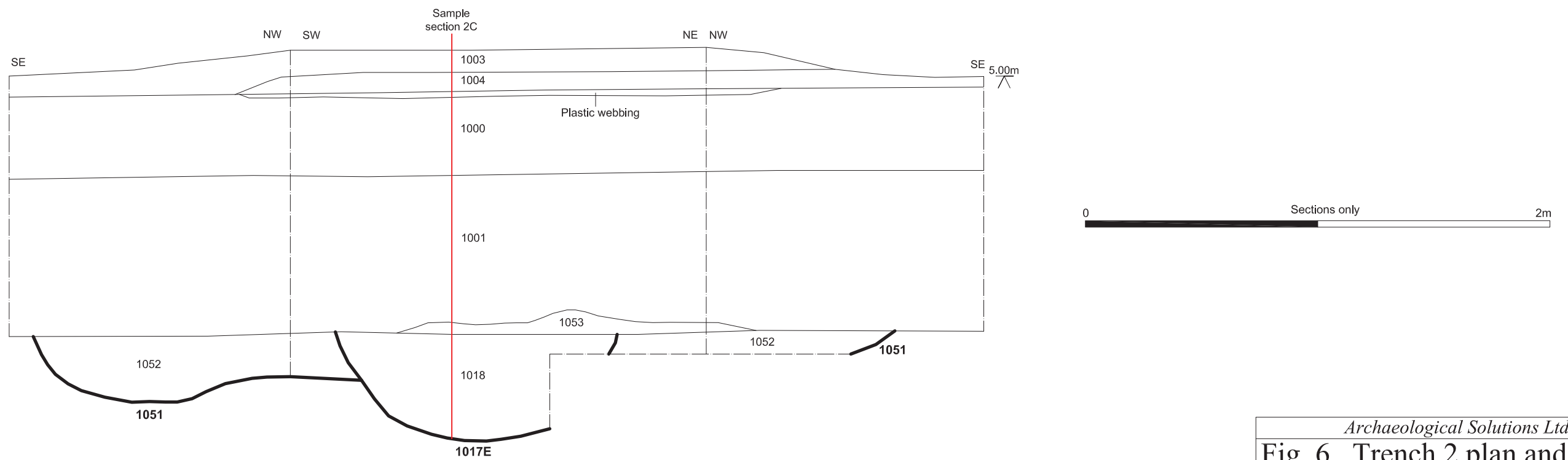
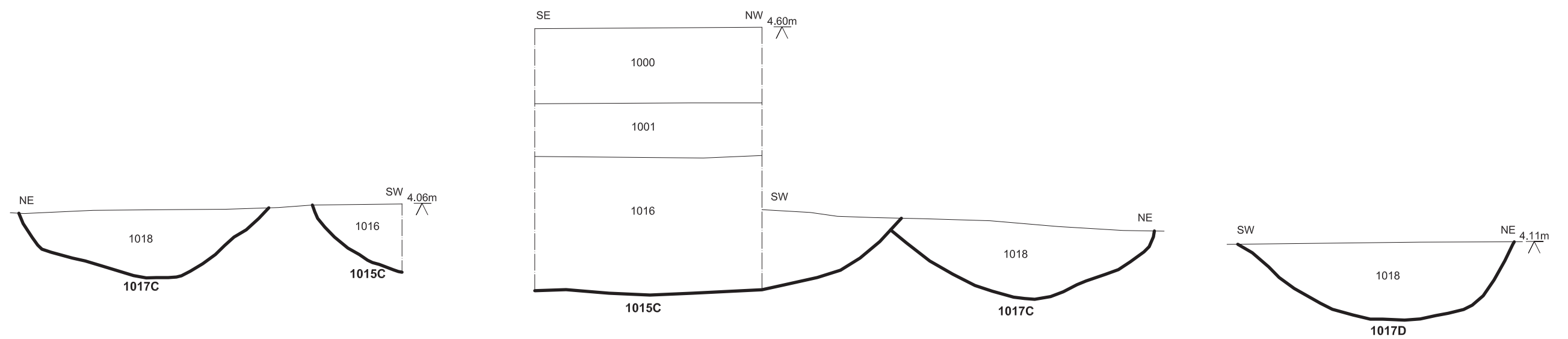
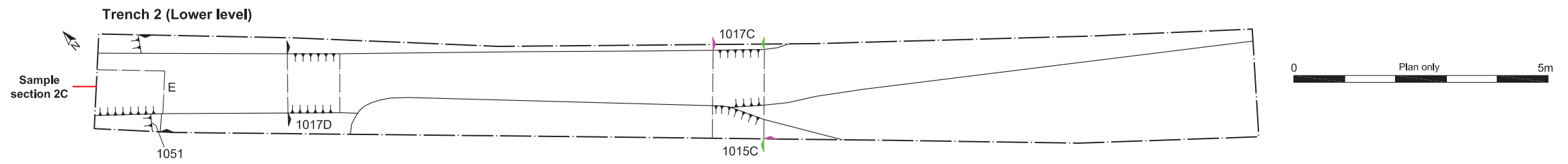


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**Fig. 5 Trench 2 plan and sections**

Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:25 at A3

Lisle Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire (P7994)

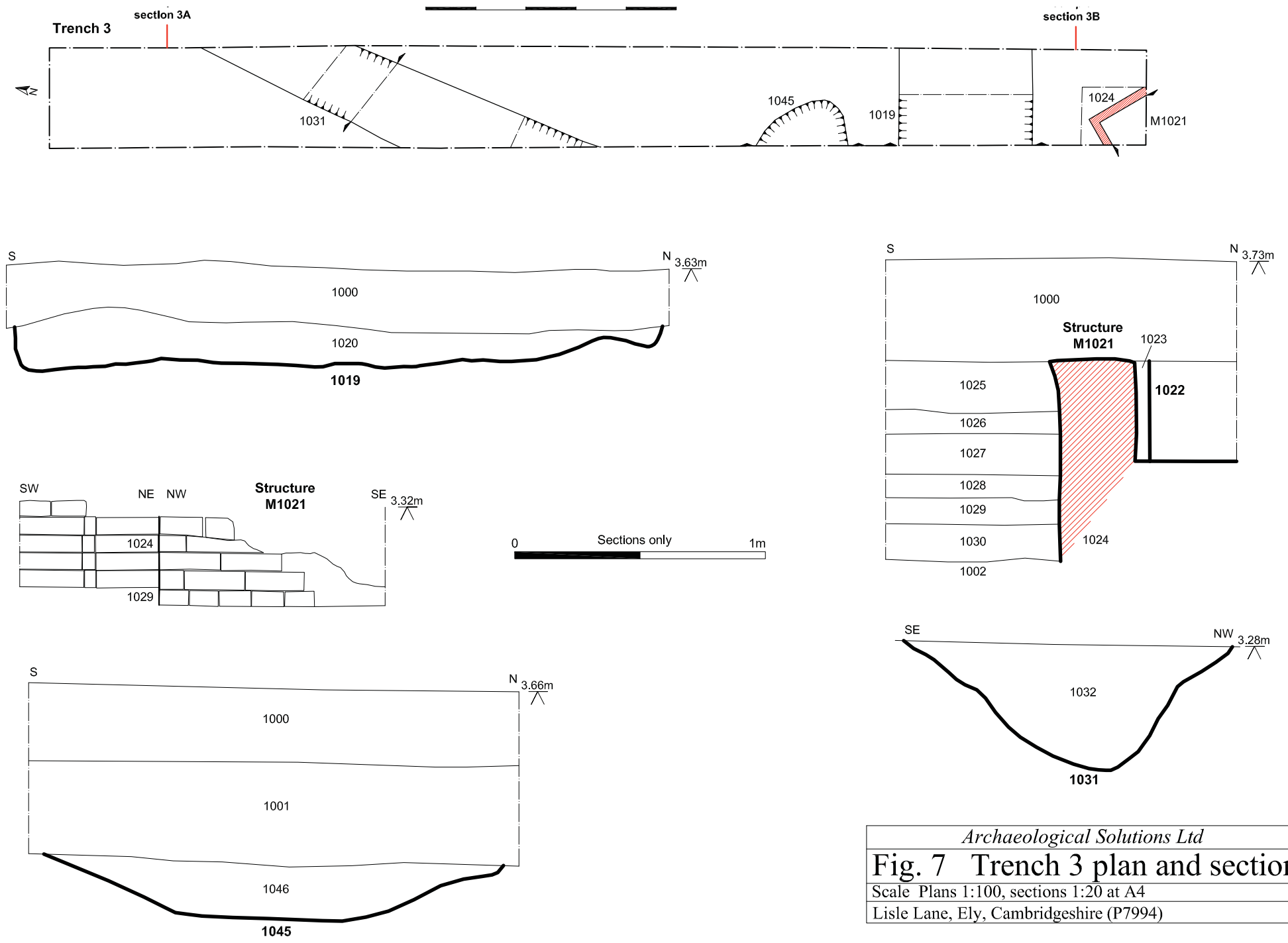


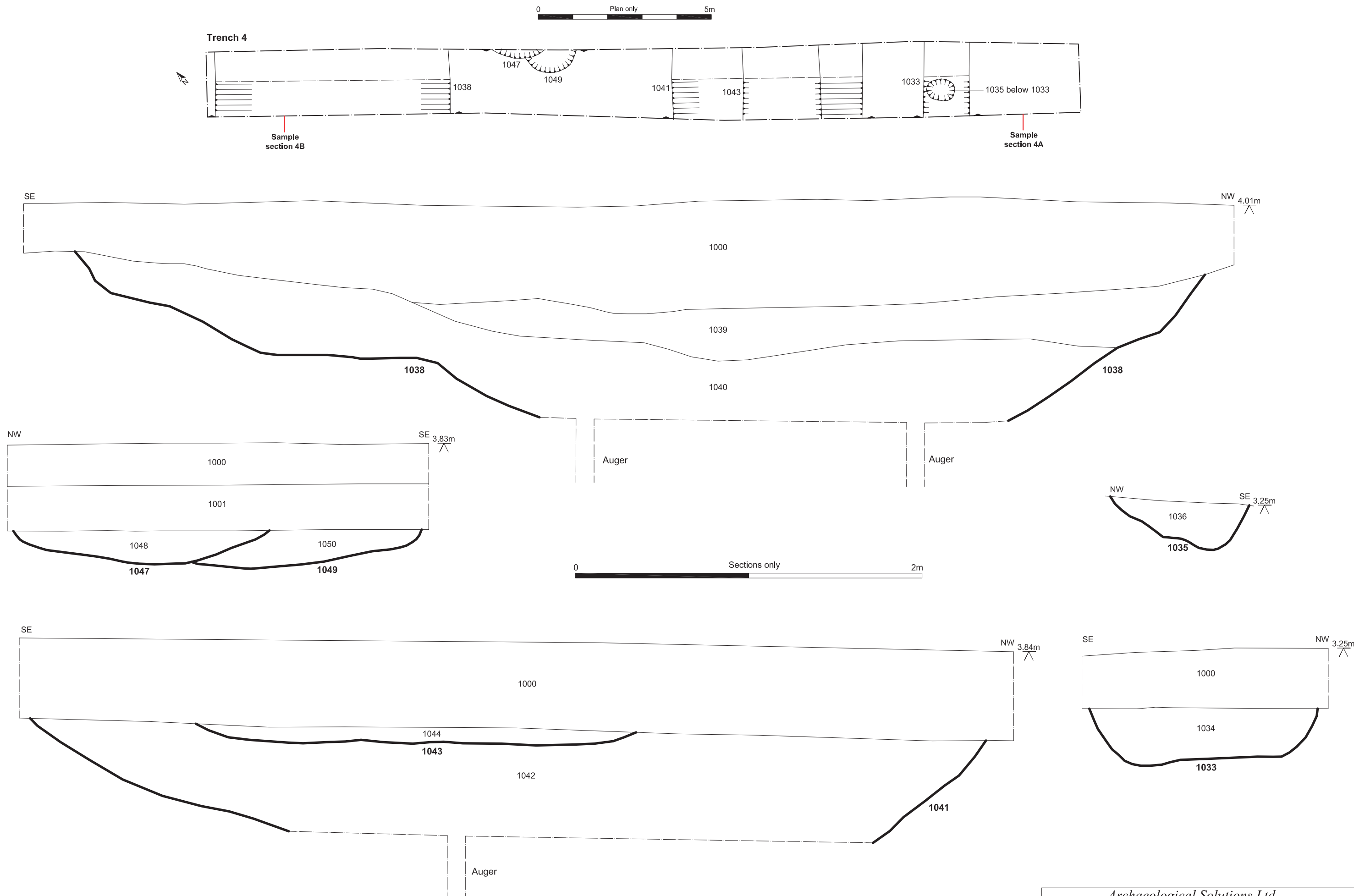
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**Fig. 6 Trench 2 plan and sections**

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

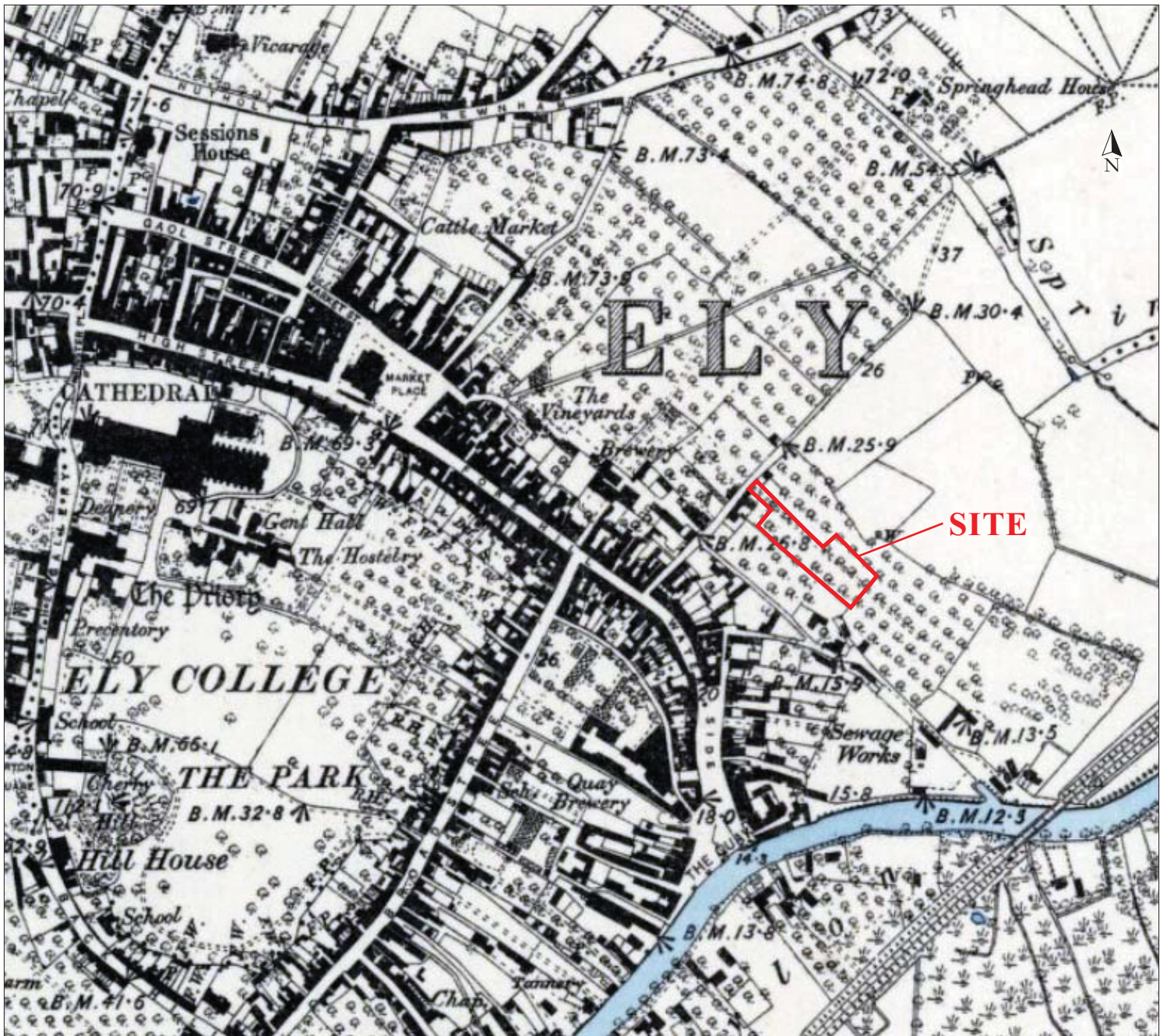
Lisle Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire (P7994)





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<b>Fig. 8 Trench 4 plan and sections</b>
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<b>Fig. 9 OS map, 1886</b>
Not to scale
Lisle Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire (P7994)

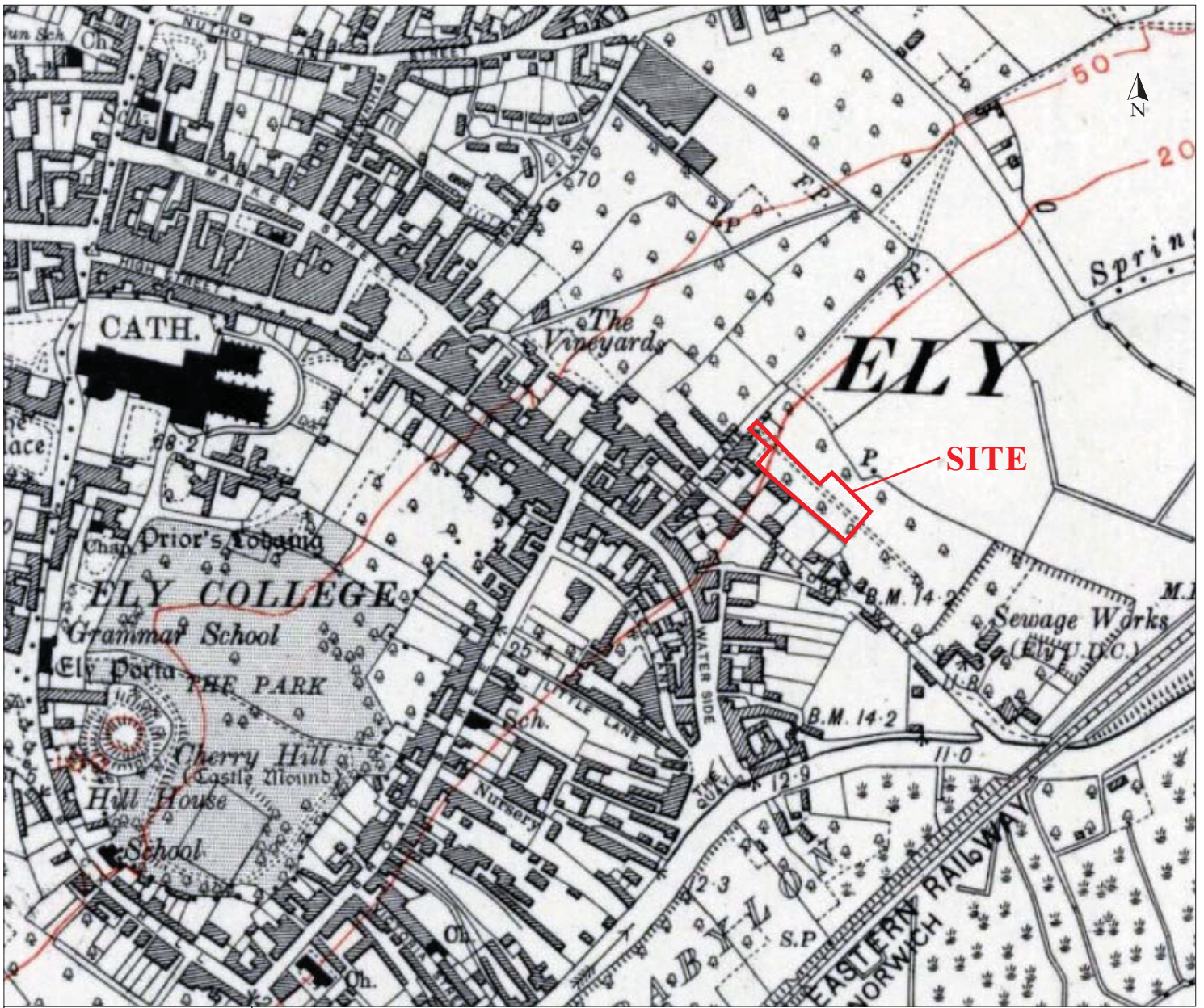




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<p><i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>  <b>Fig. 10 OS map, 1903</b>          Not to scale          Lisle Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire (P7994)</p>
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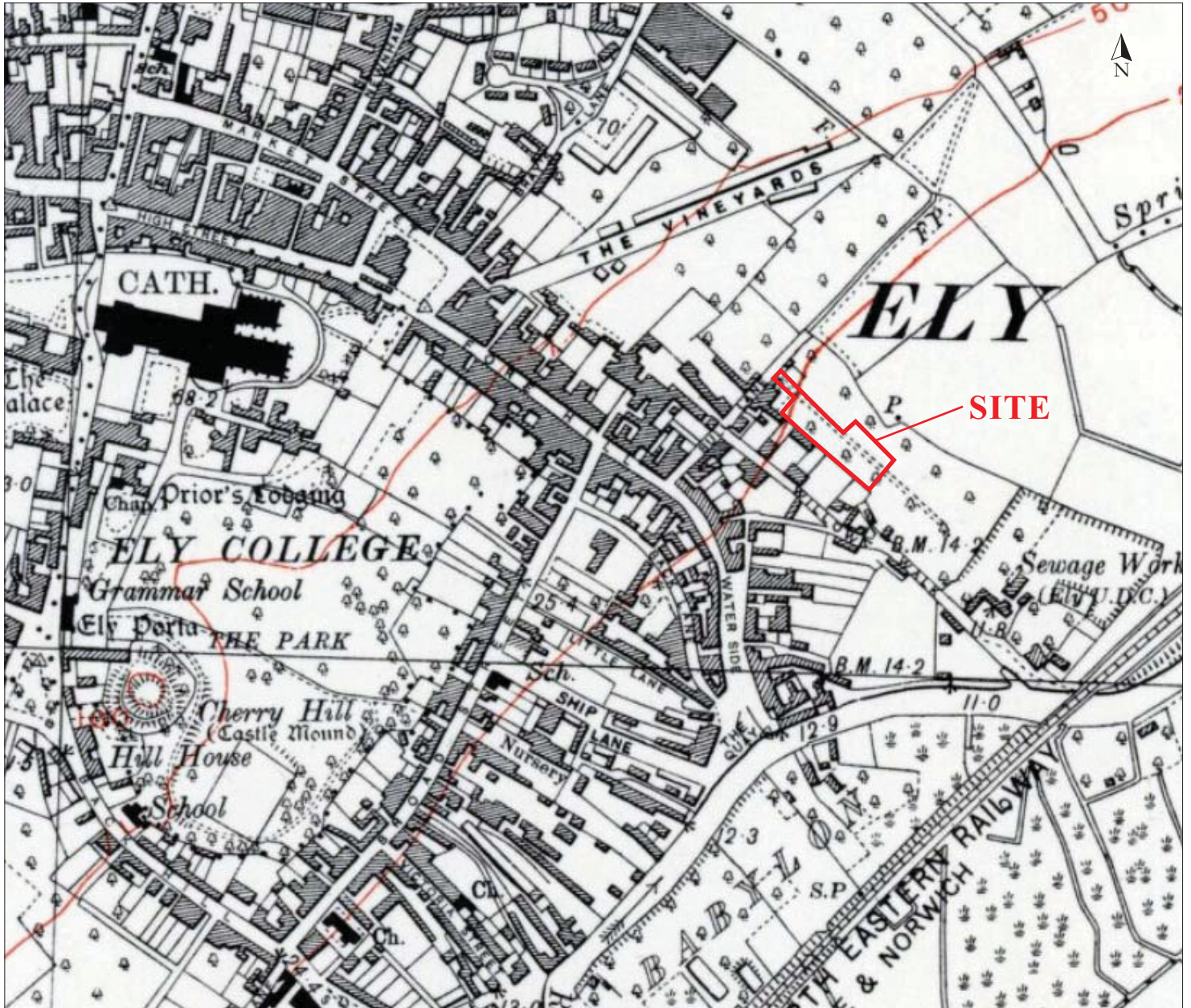




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<b>Fig. 11 OS map, 1927</b>
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<b>Fig. 12 OS map, 1945</b>
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