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**LAND BETWEEN 33 AND 43 MEADOW ROAD,
GREAT GRANSDEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE SG19 3BB**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER ECB 5932

Authors: John Haygreen (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 2646 5597	Report No: 5899
District: Huntingdon	Site Code: ECB 5932
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 8061
	Date: 16 September 2019

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Project details			
Project name	<i>Land between 33 and 43 Meadow Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire SG19 3BB</i>		
<i>In September 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land between 33 and 43 Meadow Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire SG19 3BB (NGR TL 2646 5597; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a dwelling (Huntingdon District Council Approval Ref. 18/0645/FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.</i>			
<i>The evaluation recorded several undated tree hollows and a pit, and most notably a medieval (11th-12th century) furrow containing domestic waste, including sparse quantities of pottery, animal bone and a possible copper alloy strap end. Several areas of ridge-and-furrow cultivation have previously been recorded surrounding the village, and this furrow likely forms part of that practice on the edge of the former medieval core of Great Gransden.</i>			
<i>There is extensive evidence for medieval activity at Great Gransden, notably a moated site and fishponds a short distance to the south of the site; while investigations slightly further east at Rectory Farm revealed contemporary gullies, pits and pottery. Therefore the presence of a furrow would suggest that the site was part of a cultivated plot, adjacent or very close to medieval occupation at Great Gransden, and that scatters of domestic debris may have been discarded or distributed on such fields as part of rubbish disposal or manure. A modern post hole was also recorded.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	4 – 9 September 2019		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	<i>Future work</i>	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>P8061</i>	<i>Site code</i>	<i>ECB 5932</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use			
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Furrow (medieval), Tree Hollows</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Pottery, animal bone, copper strap end (medieval)</i>		
Project location	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Huntingdon</i>	<i>Great Gransden</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG19 3BB</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.1970 m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 2646 5597</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.47m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Harjinder Singh Tiwana</i>		
Full title	<i>Land between 33 and 43 Meadow Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire SG19 3BB. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Haygreen, J. and Locke, J.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5899</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2019</i>		

**LAND BETWEEN 33 AND 43 MEADOW ROAD,
GREAT GRANSDEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE SG19 3BB**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In September 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land between 33 and 43 Meadow Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire SG19 3BB (NGR TL 2646 5597; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a dwelling (Huntingdon District Council Approval Ref. 18/0645/FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

The evaluation recorded several undated tree hollows and a pit, and most notably a medieval (11th-12th century) furrow containing domestic waste, including sparse quantities of pottery, animal bone and a possible copper alloy strap end. Several areas of ridge-and-furrow cultivation have previously been recorded surrounding the village, and this furrow likely forms part of that practice on the edge of the former medieval core of Great Gransden.

There is extensive evidence for medieval activity at Great Gransden, notably a moated site and fishponds a short distance to the south of the site; while investigations slightly further east at Rectory Farm revealed contemporary gullies, pits and pottery. Therefore the presence of a furrow would suggest that the site was part of a cultivated plot, adjacent or very close to medieval occupation at Great Gransden, and that scatters of domestic debris may have been discarded or distributed on such fields as part of rubbish disposal or manure. A modern post hole was also recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land between 33 and 43 Meadow Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire SG19 3BB (NGR TL 2646 5597; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a dwelling (Huntingdon District Council Approval Ref. 18/0645/FUL), 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 17th May 2019), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 9th August 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 western side of Meadow Road at the north west edge of Great Gransden village. It is an open grassed plot/field extending to some 1970m².

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies on West Walton formation / Ampthill Clay formation and superficial Oadby Member geological deposits, at c.47.4m AOD.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site is located within an area of archaeological potential, with nearby remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). Evidence of prehistoric activity in the area surrounding the development site is limited. Two late-Mesolithic to early-Neolithic blades were recovered from the multi-phased Rectory Farm site; late-Bronze Age to early-Iron Age flint flakes were also found (CHER 20236). A Bronze Age pottery sherd and a barbed and tanged flint arrowhead have been found within a charcoal deposit (CHER 02400).

4.2 Evidence of Romano-British activity in the area surrounding the development site is also relatively limited. The most substantial evidence of activity was recovered during investigations at Rectory Farm, where a series of ditches and pits which contained Roman pottery sherds were identified (CHER 20236). Fragments of different varieties of Roman pottery and a number of coins have also been recorded at Saffords Farm (CHER 02399A), in addition to a further single coin of Faustina that was located within the village of Great Gransden (CHER 02408).

4.3 Evidence of medieval activity in the area surrounding the development site is more substantial. Two medieval ecclesiastical structures are recorded in the area, the 13th century St Peter and Saint Paul's Church (CHER 10569) and the 14th century Saint Bartholomew Church (CHER 10345). A medieval moated site with fishponds lies c.150m to the south at Gransden Park (CHER 00938). Besides the medieval moated site at Gransden Park (CHER 00938), there are two further moated sites within the surrounding area, one at College Farm in Little Gransden (CHER 01141) and the other south of St Peter and Saint Paul's Church (CHER 19668). There is also evidence of agricultural activity in the form of ridge and furrow within the surrounding landscape (CHER 18929; 18930; 26883; 26884; 26885; 26886; 26887), in addition to a number of small pottery scatters (CHER 02409; 02401).

4.4 The most substantial evidence of medieval activity in the area was identified at the multi-phased Rectory Farm site. The preliminary trial-trench investigation (ECB 3835) revealed a sub-rectangular shallow pit interpreted as a sunken featured building, possibly dating to the Anglo-Saxon period which contained a worked pin beater of possible late Anglo-Saxon date, while in another section of the site two pits containing early-medieval pottery were located (CHER 19711). The subsequent full excavation (ECB 3898) identified medieval activity, mainly 12th-13th century, and comprised a possible SFB in addition to a number of ditches, gullies, pits and post holes (CHER 20236).

4.5 Evidence of post-medieval activity in the surrounding area is similarly substantial. A multitude of post-medieval NHLE listed buildings are present within the surrounding area, including the extant Elm Cottage to the immediate south east of the proposed new house plot, a late 16th century Grade II listed structure (NHLE 1211280). Further standing buildings of 15th-17th century date also lie nearby, indicating that settlement of this date extended to the junction of Meadow Road and Waresley Road (NHLE

1211314 & 1211193). A 19th century refuse disposal site with field drains has also been located within the village (CHER 11680), in addition to a number of former sand pits (CHER 22830; 22834; 22835), a clay pit (CHER 22829), and a brick and tile works (CHER 26882). The primary archaeological evidence of post-medieval activity in the area is recorded at the multi-phased Rectory Farm site, where investigations have revealed a number of features containing datable finds. The features were predominantly linear gullies and ditches, but a large quarry pit and a large brick lined well were also identified (CHER 20236). Archaeological investigations to the east on 1996 off Manor Lane recorded undated archaeological features (CHER ECB 1289).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The brief required a sample of the development area to be investigated by trenching. Two trenches each 20m x 1.8m, one trench of 25m x 1.8m and one trench of 10m x 1.8m were excavated across the areas of proposed new house plot, access/parking and landscape area (Fig. 2).

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

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

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

The finds recovered during the sampling of the topsoil and subsoil, and the metal detecting survey comprise medieval (11th – 12th century) pottery (1; 8g), and burnt (46g) and struck flint (1; 31g) from the subsoil.

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 & 3)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 46.99m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark brown grey clayey silt.
0.28 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, light brown grey clayey silt.
0.55m+	L1002	Natural Deposits. Firm, light brown clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks.

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 46.75m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.33 – 0.59m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.59m+	L1002	Natural Deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds. The natural was test pitted so as to confirm its definition.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 4)

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 46.22m AOD		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.27 – 0.45m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.45m+	L1002	Natural Deposits. As above.

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 45.06m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34 – 0.59m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.59m +	L1002	Natural Deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 2 contained Furrow F1011, Tree Hollow F1013, and Post Hole F1003. A modern service traversed the trench and cut F1011 and F1013. F1011 contained medieval (11th – 12th century) pottery, and F1003 contained concrete.

Furrow F1011 was linear in plan (2m+ x 1.6m+ x 0.22m), orientated N/S. It had irregular and moderately sloping sides and an uneven base. Its fill, L1012, was a very firm, mid brown grey clayey silt, with occasional chalk flecks. It contained medieval (11th – 12th century) pottery (14; 41g), animal bone (4g) and cu alloy fragments (2; 2g).

Tree Hollow F1013 was irregular in plan (? x 1.1m x 0.15m). It had moderately sloping sides with an irregular base. Its fill, L1014, was a very firm, mid brown grey clayey silt. F1013 and F1011 were truncated by a modern service trench which obscured the relationship between the two features.

Post Hole F1003 was sub-circular in plan (0.32m x 0.28m x 0.15m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1004, was a firm, dark brown grey silty clay. It contained concrete (67g).

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 & 5)

Sample section 3A 0.00 = 43.98m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.32 – 0.63m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.63m +	L1002	Natural deposits. As above

Sample section 3B 0.00 = 44.36m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.33 – 0.61m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.61m +	L1002	Natural deposits. As above

Description: Trench 3 contained Tree Hollow F1009.

Tree Hollow F1009 was sub-circular in plan (3m+ x 2m+ x 0.25m). It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a very firm, dark brown clayey silt. It contained no finds.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 & 5)

Sample section 4A 0.00 = 44.03m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.34 – 0.56m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.56m +	L1002	Natural deposits. As above

Sample section 4B 0.00 = 45.34m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.31 – 0.54m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.54m +	L1002	Natural deposits. As above

Description: Trench 4 contained Tree Hollows F1005 and F1007, and Pit F1015. F1007 contained animal bone.

Tree Hollow F1005 was irregular in plan (1.6m x 1m x 0.18m). It had moderately sloping sides with a concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a compact, mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional small and medium angular flints. It contained no finds.

Tree Hollow F1007 was irregular in plan (1.7m x 1.55m x 0.25m). It had gradual to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a compact, mid brownish grey silty clay, with occasional small and medium angular flints. It contained animal bone (10g).

Pit F1015 was sub-circular in plan (1.2m x 0.75m x 0.26m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a compact mid greyish and reddish brown silty clay with occasional small angular gravels and flints. It contained no finds.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a Firm, dark brown grey clayey silt. It overlay, Subsoil L1001, a Firm, light brown grey clayey silt. At the base of the sequence the natural deposits comprised L1002, a firm, light brown clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
2	F1003	Post Hole	Modern
	F1011	Furrow	Medieval (11 th – 12 th century)
	F1013	Tree Hollow	-
3	F1009	Tree Hollow	-
4	F1005	Tree Hollow	-
	F1007	Tree Hollow	-
	F1015	Pit	-

9.2 The most common features were tree hollows. Pit F1015 was undated and Post Hole F1003 contained concrete.

9.3 The earliest find was from Subsoil L1001 which contained an exhausted flint core in a heavily patinated condition that is characteristic of early Neolithic technology.

9.4 The most interesting feature was Furrow F1011 as it contained numerous (14) sherds of medieval (11th – 12th century) pottery. The latter is principally from locally-produced coarse jars or cooking pots. The feature also contained a piece of butchered animal bone, a possible badly-damaged copper alloy strap end, and isolated carbonised cereal grains and charcoal.

This small group of artefacts appears consistent with the dispersal of domestic debris on to land outside the occupation area. It may derive from manuring a cultivated area. Several areas of ridge-and-furrow cultivation have previously been recorded surrounding the village, and this furrow likely forms part of that practice on the edge of the former medieval core of Great Gransden.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The site had a modest potential for Roman archaeological remains, and a high potential for evidence relating to the development and activities within the medieval and post-medieval village core. The evaluation recorded tree hollows and a pit, and most notably a furrow containing 11-12th century domestic waste. The latter includes sparse quantities of pottery, animal bone, a possible copper alloy strap end, and carbonised grain. There is extensive evidence for medieval activity at Great Gransden, notably a moated site and fishponds a short distance to the south of the site. Investigations slightly further east at Rectory Farm revealed contemporary gullies, pits and pottery. Therefore the presence of a furrow would suggest that the site was part of a cultivated plot, adjacent or very close to medieval occupation at Great Gransden, and that scatters of domestic debris may have been discarded or distributed on such fields.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Harjinder Singh Tiwana for funding the work and for assistance and Mr Sam Hicks of PIP Architecture for assistance.

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Kasia Gdaniec and ms Gemma Stewart, Archaeological Officers, Cambridgeshire County Council.

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

Appendix 1 - Concordance of Finds

ECB5932 - P8061, Land between 33 & 43 Meadow Road, Great Gransden

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		1,2,3,4	Subsoil	11th-12th C	1	8			B.Flint S.Flint	1	46 31
1003	1004		2	Fill of Post Hole						Concrete		67
1007	1008		4	Fill of Tree Hollow					10			
1011	1012		2	Fill of Furrow	11th-12th C	14	41		4	Cu Alloy Frags	2	2

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey

Subsoil L1001 contained a single exhausted flint core in a heavily patinated condition that is characteristic of early Neolithic technology. The core of good quality dark grey flint was heavily reduced in order to produce blades. At the penultimate stage it was reduced to a squat sub-pyramidal shape with blades removed all around the platform, before it was rotated so further final blades were removed perpendicular to one edge of the platform, leaving the platform with faceted scars. This represents a very well-maintained, systematic and extensively exploited core; reflecting the skill of much early Neolithic flint work, although blades continued to be produced throughout the Neolithic.

Subsoil L1001 also produced a single piece of burnt flint (46g), with crazed shattered white surfaces; but this shows no evidence of being worked before or after burning.

The Pottery Report

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 15 sherds weighing 49g of early medieval coarseware pottery from a furrow and the subsoil. The pottery was heavily abraded and included two fragments of rim sherd.

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.

KEY:

EMSW: Early medieval Sandy ware 11th-13th

EMSHW: Early Medieval Shelly ware 11th-12th

EMEMS: Early Essex type Micaceous Sandy ware 11th-12th

EMEMS: Early Medieval Micaceous ware 11th-12th

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Subsoil	1001	1x8g EMSW1	11 th -12 th	EMSW1: abundant fine with some medium sub-rounded to rounded quartz, rare other inclusions such as calcareous and red iron ore, grey with oxidised outer margin
Furrow 1011	1012	1x13g EMSW1 4x6g EMSHW 4x4g EMEMS (low iron) 2x9g EMEMS 3x9g EMSW2	11 th -12 th	EMWS1: flat topped hooked/undercut jar? rim; fabric similar to SEFEN but a little finer EMEMS: flat topped everted rim, oxidised with grey core with milky fine and medium rounded quartz EMSW2: brownish-orange, iron rich with rare to sparse voids prob from dissolved calcareous

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

Bibliography

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

Spoerry, P. 2016 The Production and Distribution of Medieval Pottery in Cambridgeshire *East Anglian Archaeology* 159

The Small Finds

Andrew Peachey

Furrow F1011 contained two small fragments of copper alloy that once formed part of a strap end or similar fitting. One piece is a small rectangular sheet (23x16x<1mm) with a central perforation at one end and two small rivets at the opposing end. The other piece appear to be a small rivet (<7mm in length) that may once have fitted through the perforation on the sheet. Both pieces have significantly damaged edges. They are likely of medieval or post-medieval manufacture.

The Animal Bone

Julie Curl

The bone assemblage

A total of 14g of bone, consisting of 4 pieces, was recovered from this site. The assemblage is quantified in Table 2. Bone was recovered from two features and found with medieval pottery of an 11th to 12th century date range. The identifiable remains in this assemblage were from the Tree Hollow Fill L1008, with three pieces of a sheep/goat tibia, which has been chopped.

The bone from the Furrow Fill L1012 consists of a large mammal shaft fragment.

Ctxt	Trench	Feature	Type	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP
1008	4	1007	Tree hollow	3	10	Sheep/goat	3
1012	2	1011	Furrow	1	4	Mammal	1

Table 2. Quantification of the bone assemblage.

Discussion

This is a very small assemblage that appears to be derived from meat waste from common meat animals. The butchering clearly demonstrates food use, with the tibia coming from a good quality joint of meat.

Bibliography

Baker, P. and Worley, F. 2014. *Animal Bones and Archaeology, Guidelines for best practice*. English Heritage.

Davis, S. 1992. *A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites*. English Heritage AML report 71/92

Table 3 Catalogue of the bone from ECB5932

Ctxt	Trench	Feature	Type	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Age	Element range	Butchering	Comments
1008	4	1007	Feature	3	10	Sheep/ goat	3	adult	Tibia frags	chopped	3 pieces of one bone
1012	2	1011	Furrow	1	4	Mammal	1		Shaft frag		

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the archaeological evaluation of land between 33 and 43 Meadow Road, Great Gransden, a 40 litre bulk sample for environmental archaeological assessment was taken and processed from 11th-12th century furrow F1011 (L1012).

Methods

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

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fraction are presented in Table 4. A small number of carbonised remains were identified in the form of a single grain of free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type) and a further indeterminate cereal grain. Charcoal was also present in low density and small range of terrestrial mollusc shells was identified.

Conclusions

The low density of carbonised remains from the sample is consistent with the type of deposit (i.e. cultivation furrow). It is likely that the remains were introduced with midden material used as fertiliser.

References

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

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

Kerney, M.P. 1999, *Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland*, Harley Books, Colchester

Kerney, M.P. and Cameron, R.A.D. 1979, *A Field Guide to Land Snails of Britain and North-West Europe*, Collins, London

Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Spot date	Volume (litres)	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants				
							Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal > 2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules
ECB5932	1	1012	1011	Fill of Furrow	11th-12th C	40	X	-	FTW (1), NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	-	XX	<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp., <i>Vertigo</i> sp.	XX	X	-	-	-

Table 4: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fraction from Meadow Road, Great Gransden. Abbreviations: FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-367574

Project details

Project name	Land between 33 and 43 Meadow Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire SG19 3BB (TT)
Short description of the project	In September 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land between 33 and 43 Meadow Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire SG19 3BB (NGR TL 2646 5597; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a dwelling (Huntingdon District Council Approval Ref. 18/0645/FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. The evaluation recorded several undated tree hollows and a pit, and most notably a medieval (11th-12th century) furrow containing domestic waste, including sparse quantities of pottery, animal bone and a possible copper alloy strap end. Several areas of ridge-and-furrow cultivation have previously been recorded surrounding the village, and this furrow likely forms part of that practice on the edge of the former medieval core of Great Gransden. There is extensive evidence for medieval activity at Great Gransden, notably a moated site and fishponds a short distance to the south of the site; while investigations slightly further east at Rectory Farm revealed contemporary gullies, pits and pottery. Therefore the presence of a furrow would suggest that the site was part of a cultivated plot, adjacent or very close to medieval occupation at Great Gransden, and that scatters of domestic debris may have been discarded or distributed on such fields as part of rubbish disposal or manure. A modern post hole was also recorded.
Project dates	Start: 04-09-2019 End: 09-09-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P8061 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5932 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	FURROWS Medieval
Monument type	TREE HOLLOW Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	COPPER STRAP END 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 HUNTINGDONSHIRE GREAT GRANSDEN Land between 33 and 43 Meadow Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire SG19 3BB
 Postcode SG19 3BB
 Study area 1970 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 2646 5597 52.187038645562 -0.149939272522 52 11 13 N 000 08 59 W Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 47m Max: 47m

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

Project archives

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Land between 33 and 43 Meadow Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire SG19 3BB. An Archaeological Evaluation
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Locke, J
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Haygreen,J
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 Date 2019

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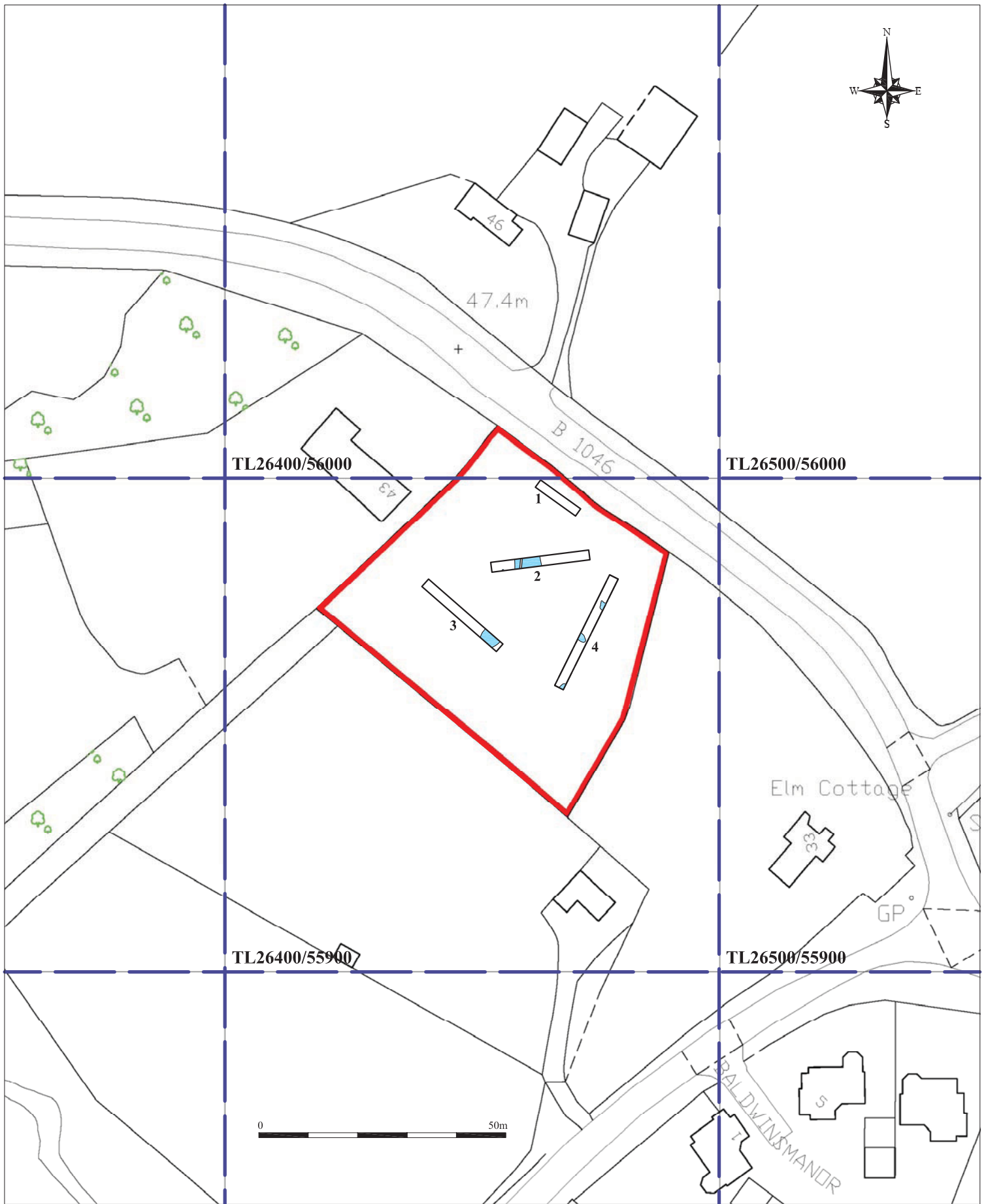


15
Pit F1015 in Trench 4

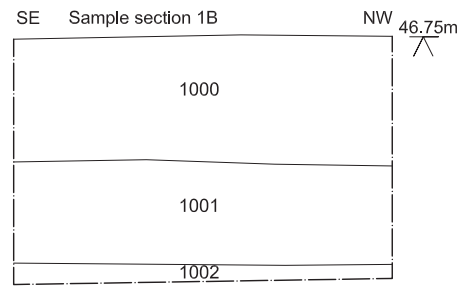
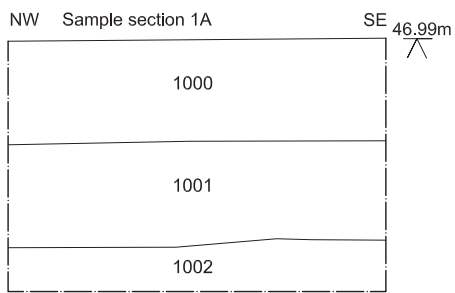
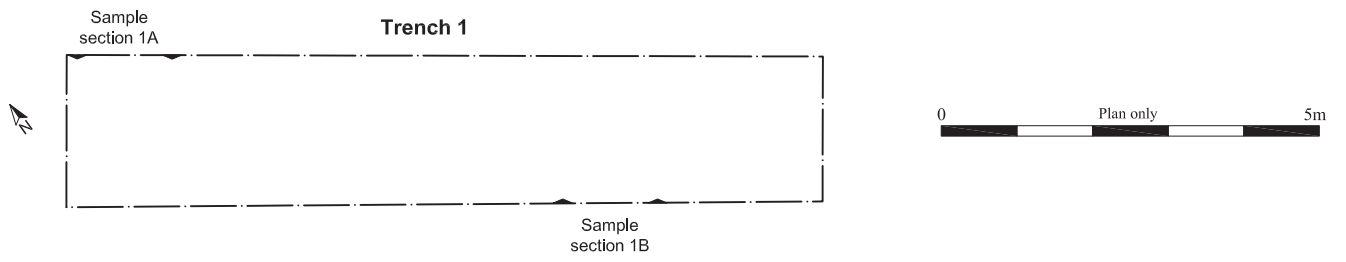


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Meadow Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire (P8061)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4
Meadow Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire (P8061)

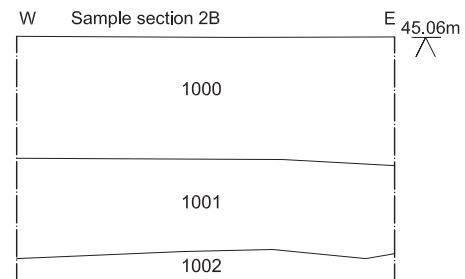
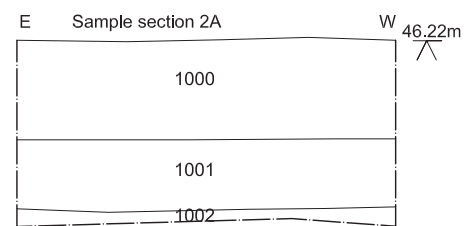
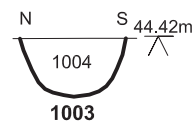
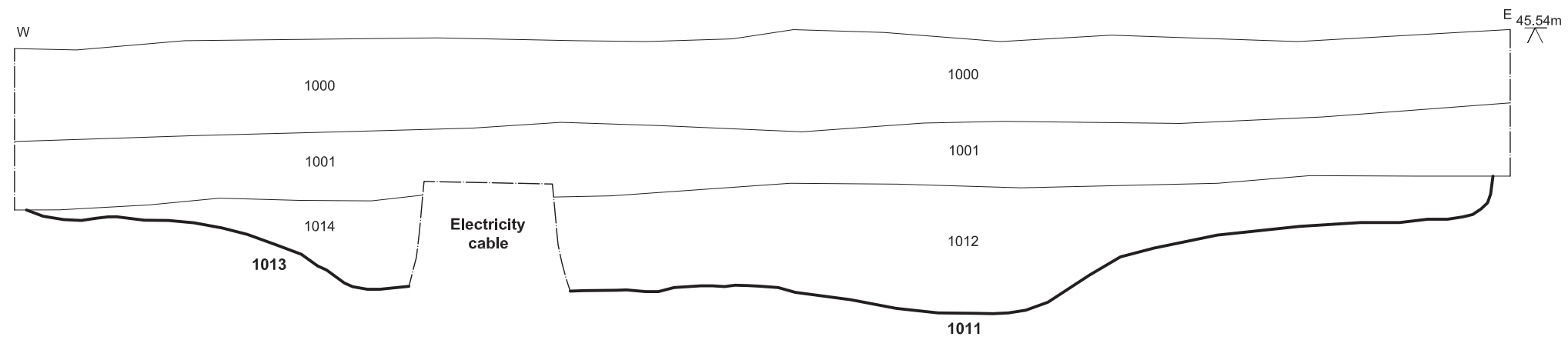
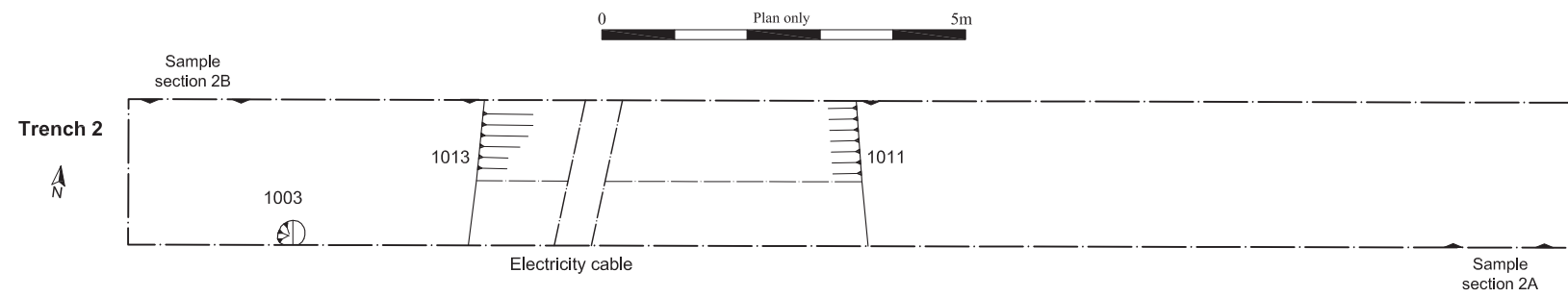


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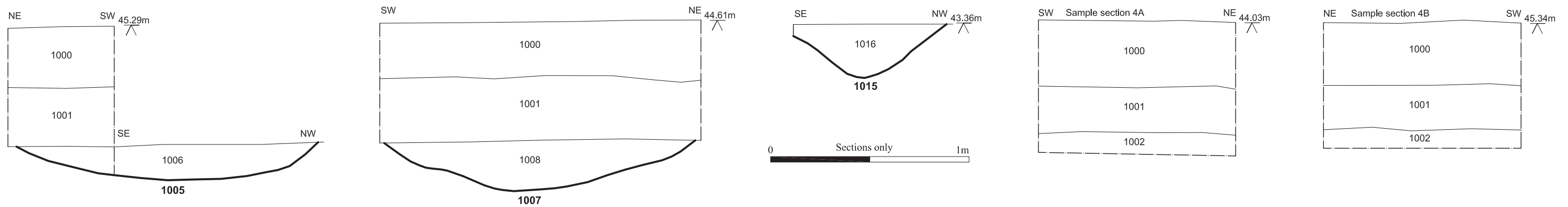
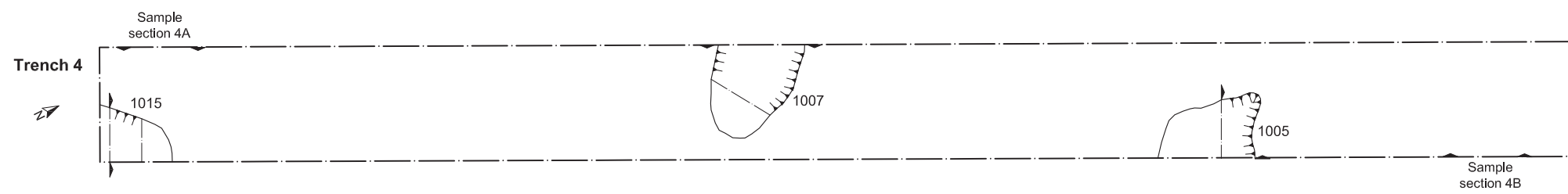
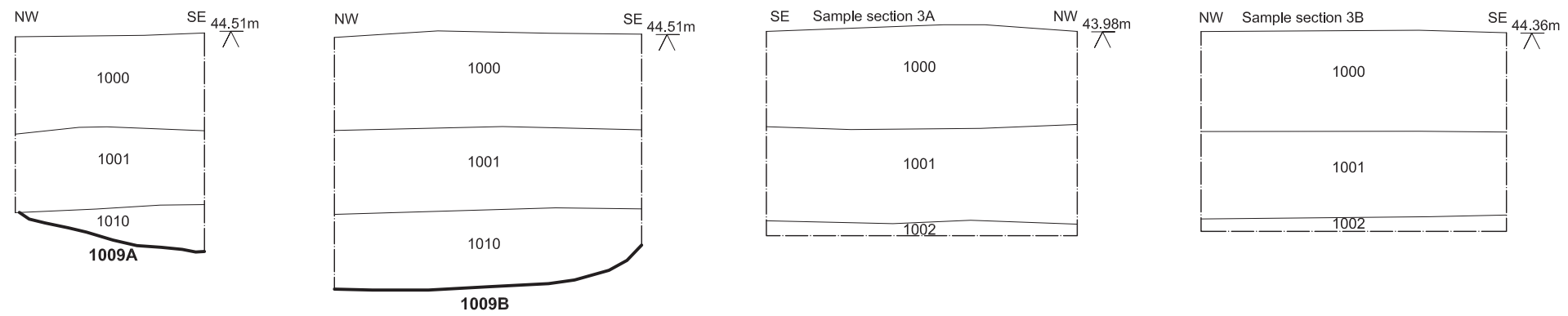
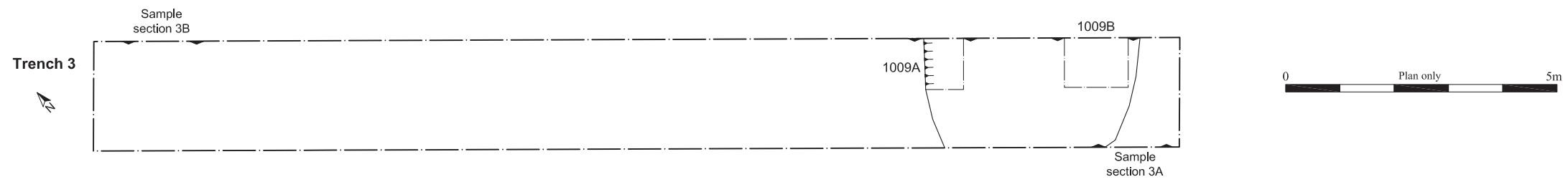
Fig. 3 Trench 1 plan and sections

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

Meadow Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire (P8061)



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Fig. 4 Trench 2 plan and sections
 Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4
 Meadow Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire (P8061)



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Fig. 5 Trenches 3 and 4

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

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