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**LAND NORTH OF 4 FORDHAM ROAD, ISLEHAM,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 5QU**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER ECB 5969

Authors: Samuel Thomelius (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 6418 7358	Report No: 5928
District: East Cambs	Site Code: ECB 5969
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P8113
	Date: 14 October 2019

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Project details			
Project name	Land North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5QU		
<p>In October of 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5QU (NGR: TL 6418 7358). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of an outline planning approval condition for the proposed development (East Cambridgeshire Council Approval Ref. 18/01482/OUT), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).</p> <p>Features were present in Trenches 1 and 4 – 6, and they were most common in Trench 6.</p> <p>In Trench 5 post holes including the remains of square wooden posts were recorded. The post hole structure, F1018, was relatively recent and likely associated with the farm. It may have been the remains of an enclosure. Trench 7 contained a modern brick soakaway which served the buildings at No.4 Fordham Road. The topsoil and subsoil contained animal burials and the landowner reported that they were derived from the animals kept in the nearby former farm buildings.</p> <p>The majority of the remaining features were pits. Larger pits were recorded in Trenches 1 (F1021 and F1023) and 6 (1039 and F1041). A possible ditch, F1019, was recorded in Trench 4, and two ditch terminals, F1053 and F1055, were recorded in Trench 6. In reality the majority of the features were irregular in plan and profile, and were pits or natural features.</p> <p>The earliest find was the residual struck flint from Topsoil L1000. A Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age sherd was found in Pit F1039 (Trench 6), and two medieval sherds were found in Pit F1057 (Trench 6). Finds were sparse, and Pits F1025 and F1041 contained animal bone (144g and 2g, respectively).</p> <p>The modern features and Pit F1027 (Trench 1) cut the subsoil (L1002), but the other features were present below the subsoil and therefore of some antiquity.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	1 – 9 October 2019		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	P8113	Site code	ECB 5969
Type of project	Archaeological Evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Agricultural		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Pits		
Significant finds (+dates)	Prehistoric flint and pottery, medieval (mid 12th - 15 th C pottery		
	Cambridgeshire	East Cambs	Isleham
HER/ SMR for area	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)		
Post code (if known)	CB7 5QU		
Area of site	7300m2		
NGR	TL 6418 7358		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.11m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire County Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Mrs Jennifer Sargent		
Full title	Land North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5QU. An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Thomelius, S.		
Report no.	5928		
Date (of report)	October 2019		

**LAND NORTH OF 4 FORDHAM ROAD, ISLEHAM,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 5QU**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In October of 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5QU (NGR: TL 6418 7358). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of an outline planning approval condition for the proposed development (East Cambridgeshire Council Approval Ref. 18/01482/OUT), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

Features were present in Trenches 1 and 4 – 6, and they were most common in Trench 6.

In Trench 5 post holes including the remains of square wooden posts were recorded. The post hole structure, F1018, was relatively recent and likely associated with the farm. It may have been the remains of an enclosure. Trench 7 contained a modern brick soakaway which served the buildings at No.4 Fordham Road. The topsoil and subsoil contained animal burials and the landowner reported that they were derived from the animals kept in the nearby former farm buildings.

The majority of the remaining features were pits. Larger pits were recorded in Trenches 1 (F1021 and F1023) and 6 (F1039 and F1041). A possible ditch, F1019, was recorded in Trench 4, and two ditch terminals, F1053 and F1055, were recorded in Trench 6. In reality the majority of the features were irregular in plan and profile, and were pits or natural features.

The earliest find was the residual struck flint from Topsoil L1000. A Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age sherd was found in Pit F1039 (Trench 6), and two medieval sherds were found in Pit F1057 (Trench 6). Finds were sparse, and Pits F1025 and F1041 contained animal bone (144g and 2g, respectively).

The modern features and Pit F1027 (Trench 1) cut the subsoil (L1002), but the other features were present below the subsoil and therefore of some antiquity.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October of 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land north of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5QU (NGR: TL 6418 7358). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a condition attached to outline planning approval for the proposed residential development (East

Cambridgeshire Council Approval Ref. 18/01482/OUT). It was required based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET, Gemma Stewart; dated 4th July 2019), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 31st July 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 to the north of 4 Fordham Road on the south-western side of Isleham. It comprises an area of agricultural land and an area of buildings and trees to the north west of Fordham Road, and south east of the Hall Barn Road Industrial Estate. It extends to some 7300m².

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 Isleham is located in the south-eastern margins of the Cambridgeshire Fenland, with the modern village situated on a small fen island. The site is situated at c.10.70m AOD on the southern edge of the island, with the natural topography falling away at a gentle gradient to the south and west into Fordham Moor and Soham Fen respectively.

3.2 The site is underlain by a solid geology of the Zig Zag chalk formation, with no superficial deposits, and sealed by freely draining lime-rich loamy soils.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential. Prehistoric finds are fairly well-represented in the Isleham area; a Palaeolithic handaxe has been recovered from Soham Fen (CHER MCB19231) and the CHER records several instances of Mesolithic flint artefacts (CHER 10883; 10954) and Mesolithic antler axes (CHER 07622) recovered in the area. A Mesolithic pit has been recorded at Hall Barn Road (CHER MCB20930). The Neolithic is represented by flintwork (CHER 07590, 10862, 10883A, 10954A, 10966, 11280, MCB16205) and a possible long barrow near Rymanmoor Long Turning, identified from aerial photos (CHER 10957). A possible Bronze Age barrow has also been identified during an aerial photographic assessment west of Fordham Road (CHER MCB16798), while a possible Bronze Age ring ditch, evidenced by cropmarks, is present within the local landscape (CHER 11213). Bronze Age flintwork has also been recovered in the Isleham area (CHER 07537, 07623, 10883B, 10968) as has pottery (CHER 07557, 07590A) and this period is also represented by a bronze socketed axe (CHER 11711), early Bronze Age settlement evidence at Prickwillow Road (CHER 11896) and similarly dated features at Hall Farm (CHER MCB17270). Middle Bronze Age settlement has been recorded on a sand island in Isleham Fen (CHER 07536). Iron Age pottery was recovered during a test pit survey at Little London Lane (CHER MCB19744). Early Iron Age features have been recorded at Isleham Community Centre (CHER MCB22685). A late Prehistoric pit has been recorded at Hall Barn Road (CHER CB15282).

4.2 The Roman period is relatively less well-represented with finds of metalwork (CHER 07589, 07557, MCB16202), brooches (CHER 10863 and 11710), a saddle quern (CHER 10864) and pottery (CHER MCB19744,

16866, 11213a) recorded on the CHER. A possible Roman Villa has been recorded outside of Isleham, even though this information was produced through dowsing, roof tiles, pottery, coins, a ring and a red comelian were recovered (CHER 11661). Roman ditch systems have been recorded at 32-34 Church Lane (CHER MCB20915), Ellwoods Close (CHER MCB20917) and Hall Barn Road (CHER 11894), with evidence at Ellwoods Close of a possible high status Roman building (CHER ECB4634).

4.3 Although the Saxon period is represented only by a few spot finds, including a disc brooch (CHER 11691), coins (CHER 07612), pottery at St Andrew's Close (CHER MCB19749), and ditches at Ellwoods Close (CHER MCB20918), evidence for medieval occupation in Isleham is abundant. The scheduled earthwork remains of the priory fish ponds, hollow ways and building platforms lie to the west of the current proposed development site (NHLE 1013278). The Priory was a medieval Alien Benedictine institution (CHER DCB221), located some 100m to the west of the medieval Church of St Andrew (CHER 07591). The Chapel of St Margaret of Antioch (CHER 07529) survives as a standing structure, with the buried remains of the foundations of the conventual buildings and the earthworks remains of the associated agricultural and other elements of the complex to the north of the Grade I building, listed under CHER MCB14478). Possible medieval field systems (CHER 11895), property boundaries (CHER CB15283, MCB20930), clunch-processing sites (CHER MCB16866 and MCB20069), settlement activity (CHER 07528, MCB18442, MCB19827), pits and ditches (CHER MCB23922) and a variety of finds (CHER 07559a, 11074, 11574, 11712, MCB19712, MCB19713, MCB19719, MCB19721, MCB19744, MCB19749, MCB19750, MCB19752) are amongst the other evidence for medieval activity within Isleham. Cropmarks of a possible medieval moated site called The Temple are also present within the local landscape (CHER 05704a). A recent excavation by Archaeological Solutions on the north side of Houghton Lane recorded shallow medieval pits, gullies and ditches containing relatively low quantities of domestic detritus including pottery, butchered bone and shell, as well as low concentrations of carbonised cereal remains that may relate to peripheral roadside and agricultural activity on the margins of the village, or may indicate a low level of occupation (CHER ECB 5560).

4.4 Post-medieval activity is represented by a windmill (CHER 07611), a quarry (CHER11214) shown on early maps. Other sites of this date include the gardens of Isleham Hall (CHER MCB19362), wall foundations at 12 West Street (CHER MCB19442), post-medieval pottery from the church social centre grounds (CHER MCB19714), pottery from Waterside (CHER MCB19716), 20 East Road (CHER MCB19718), 6 Bowers Lane (CHER MCB19720), 94 The Causeway (CHER MCB19722), West Street (CHER MCB19745), Mill Street (CHER MCB19746), Church Street (CHER MCB19747, MCB19748), East Road (CHER MCB19751)

4.5 Isleham's chalk and lime industry is represented by 19th century kilns at High Street (CHER 07489), and several quarries (e.g. CHER MCB22016, MCB22017, MCB22018, MCB22019). Modern sites recorded on the Cambridgeshire HER include High Street Chapel (CHER MCB17085),

Isleham Baptist Church (CHER MCB17214), allotments (CHER MCB22014, MCB22015), former blacksmith's shops (CHER MCB22020, MCB22021, MCB22022), a former Malthouse (CHER MCB22023), a former windmill (CHER MCB22027), Peyton's Almshouses (CHER MCB22029), the site of St Bernard's wagon works (CHER MCB22030), the site of the former Methodist chapel (CHER MCB22031)

4.6 A geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation were carried out to the immediate north of the current proposed development area (CHER ECB5321). The investigations revealed an undated circular enclosure with two internal posts, and pits and post holes of Iron Age and medieval date in the south eastern part of the site.

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. Seven trenches were excavated. Trenches 2, 4 and 6 were 41m x 2m; Trench 1 was 35m x 2m; Trench 5 was 27m x 2m; Trench 7 was 21m x 2m and Trench 3 was 7m x 2m (Fig. 2). The location of Trench 7 was altered due to the presence of several large trees close to the farm buildings.

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 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 topsoil contained a struck flint (1; 4g), and Subsoil L1001 contained CBM (3g) and clinker (5g).

The individual trench descriptions are presented below.

Trench 1 Figs. 2 - 4

Sample Section 1A 0.00 = 10.13m AOD		
L1000	0.0 – 0.33m	Topsoil. Friable, dark grey brown, clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular gravel and occasional small sub-rounded chalk.
L1001	0.33 – 0.38m	Subsoil. Firm, pale yellow grey chalky silt with occasional small sub-rounded gravel and moderate small sub-rounded chalk.
L1002	0.38m+	Natural. Compact, pale yellow white to white chalk with occasional small to medium rounded flint and gravel.

Sample Section 1B 0.00 = 10.45m AOD		
L1000	0.0 – 0.32m	Topsoil. As Above.
L1001	0.32m – 0.41m	Subsoil. As Above.
L1002	0.41m+	Natural. As Above.

Description: Trench 1 contained Pits F1021, F1023, F1025 and F1027.

Pit F1021 was sub rectangular in plan (3.50+ x 1.10+ x 0.40m). It had steep irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1022, was a firm, pale brown grey chalky silt with moderate small to medium rounded chalk and occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel. It contained no finds. Pit F1021 cut Pit F1023.

Pit F1023 was possibly sub rectangular in plan (4.20+ x 1.30+ x 0.41m). It had steep irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1024, was a firm, mid brown grey chalky silt with moderate small to medium sub-rounded chalk and occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel. It contained no finds. Pit F1023 was cut by Pit F1021.

Pit F1025 was sub-circular in plan and slightly irregular (0.90 x 0.98 x 0.27m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1026, was a firm, pale brown grey chalky silt with moderate small to medium rounded chalk and occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel. It contained animal bone (144g).

Pit F1027 was irregular in plan (0.80+ x 0.76 x 0.30m). It had steep sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1028, was a friable, mid brown grey chalky silt with moderate small to medium rounded chalk, occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular flint and gravel. It contained no finds. F1027 cut the subsoil.

Trench 2 Figs. 2 - 3

Sample Section 2A 0.00 = 10.82m AOD		
L1000	0.0 – 0.36m	Topsoil. As Above.
L1001	0.36 – 0.41m	Subsoil. As Above.
L1002	0.41m+	Natural. As Above.

Sample Section 2B 0.00 = 9.97m AOD		
L1000	0.0 – 0.30m	Topsoil. As Above.
L1001	0.30 – 0.36m	Subsoil. As Above.
L1002	0.36m+	Natural. As Above.

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 3 Figs. 2 – 3

Sample Section 3A 0.00 = 10.25m AOD		
L1000	0.0 – 0.34m	Topsoil. As Above.
L1002	0.34m+	Natural. As Above.

Sample Section 3B 0.00 = 10.10m AOD		
L1000	0.0 – 0.31m	Topsoil. As Above.
L1002	0.31m+	Natural. As Above.

Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 4 Figs. 2 – 3 & 5

Sample Section 4A 0.00 = 10.03m AOD		
L1000	0.0 – 0.25m	Topsoil. As Above.
L1001	0.25 – 0.29m	Subsoil. As Above.
L1002	0.29m+	Natural. As Above.

Sample Section 4B 0.00 = 9.83m AOD		
L1000	0.0 – 0.32m	Topsoil. As Above.
L1002	0.32m+	Natural. As Above.

Description: Trench 4 contained ?Ditch F1019 and Pit F1029.

?Ditch F1019 was linear in plan (2.60+ x 1.95+ x 0.12m), orientated N/S. It had irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1020, was a firm, pale grey brown silt with occasional small sub-angular flint and moderate chalk fragments. It contained a musket ball.

Pit F1029 was sub-rectangular in plan (3.20 x 0.84 x 0.08m). It had gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1030, was a firm, mid grey brown silt with occasional small sub-angular flint and moderate small sub-rounded chalk. It contained no finds.

Trench 5 Figs. 2 – 3 & 5

Sample Section 5A 0.00 = 10.07m AOD		
L1000	0.0 – 0.22m	Topsoil. As Above.
L1002	0.22m+	Natural. As Above.

Sample Section 5B 0.00 = 9.84m AOD		
L1000	0.0 – 0.18m	Topsoil. As Above.
L1001	0.18 – 0.50m	Subsoil. As Above.
L1002	0.50m+	Natural. As Above.

Description: Trench 5 contained Post Hole F1014. It also contained a modern Structure, F1018, comprising Post Holes F1016, F1012, F1010, F1008 and F1006. The post holes each contained the remains of a square wooden post. A modern service, F1004, traversed the trench.

Post Hole F1014 was sub circular in plan (0.35 x 0.37 x 0.12m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1015, was a firm, pale grey brown clayey silt with occasional chalk fragments. It contained no finds.

Structure F1018 comprised five modern post holes each containing the remains of squared of wooden posts. The structure likely represented an enclosure associated with the former farm buildings to the south of Trench 5. The soft loose fills of Post Holes F1006, F1008 and F1012 suggested they had relatively recently been backfilled.

The post holes are tabulated below.

Feature	Context	Dimensions (m)	Fill	Notes
F1016	L1017	Sub circular in plan, steep sides, concave base 0.15+ x 0.14 x 0.27m	Friable, mid dark grey brown clayey silt with moderate small sub-round chalk.	Fragments of squared wooden post.
F1012	L1013	Sub circular in plan, steep sides, concave base 0.15+ x 0.26 x 0.28+m	Friable, mid grey brown clayey silt with moderate small sub-round chalk.	Ditto
F1010	L1011	Circular in plan, moderately sloping sides, concave base. 0.34 x 0.34 x 0.17m	Friable, mid grey brown clayey silt with frequent medium sub-rounded chalk.	Ditto
F1008	L1009	Sub circular in plan, moderately sloping sides, concave base. 0.32 x 0.31 x 0.19m	Friable, mid grey brown clayey silt with moderate small sub-rounded chalk.	Ditto CBM (12g)
F1006	L1007	Sub-circular, steep sided, concave base. 0.30 x 0.26 x 0.21m	Friable, mid grey brown clayey silt with moderate small to medium sub-rounded chalk and occasional sub-angular flint.	Ditto

Service Trench F1004 was linear in plan (2.10+ x 0.48 x 0.13m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and its base was unseen. Its fill, L1005, was a firm, pale grey re-deposit natural with frequent chalk fragments. It contained CBM (21g).

Trench 6 Figs. 2 – 3 & 6

Sample Section 6A 0.00 = 10.18m AOD		
L1000	0.0 – 0.13m	Topsoil. As Above.
L1001	0.13 – 0.39m	Subsoil. As Above.
L1002	0.39m+	Natural. As Above.

Sample Section 6B 0.00 = 10.23m AOD		
L1000	0.0 – 0.41m	Topsoil. As Above.
L1001	0.41m – 0.73m	Subsoil. As Above.
L1002	0.73m+	Natural. As Above.

Description: Trench 6 contained Ditch Terminals F1053 and F1055; and Pits F1031, F1033, F1037, F1039, F1041, F1045, F1047, F1049, F1051 and F1057.

Pit F1031 was elongated in plan (1.95+ x 2.40+ x 0.29m). It had moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1032, was a firm, mid brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular sub-rounded flint and

gravel. It contained 18th – 19th century pottery (1; 28g). Pit F1031 was cut by Pit F1033.

Pit F1033 was sub-circular in plan (0.70+ x 1.0 x 0.16m). It had irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1034, was a firm, mid brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel. It contained no finds. Pit F1033 cut Pit F1031.

Pit F1037 was sub-circular in plan (1.45+ x 0.60+ x 0.23m). It had moderately sloping sides and an undulating base. Its fill, L1038, was a friable, pale brown grey silt with occasional small sub-rounded chalk. It contained no finds.

Pit F1039 was elongated in plan (2.00+ x 7.00 x 0.55m). It had moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1040, was a friable, pale yellow silt with moderate small to medium chalk fragments. It contained Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery (1; 1g)

Pit F1041 was irregular in plan (2.00+ x 5.20 x 0.39m). It had irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1042, was a friable, pale brown grey silt with occasional small to medium rounded and sub-rounded flint. It contained animal bone (2g).

Pit F1045 was irregular in plan (1.10+ x 3.0+ x 0.33m). It had irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1045, was a friable, light brown silt with occasional small flint. It contained pottery. Pit F1045 cut Pits F1047 and F1049.

Pit F1047 was elongated in plan (0.42+ x 1.50+ x 0.26m). Its sides were unseen due to it being cut by F1045 and F1051. It had an irregular base. Its fill, L1048, was a friable, light brown silt with occasional small flint. It contained no finds. Pit F1047 was cut by Pits F1045 and F1051 and cut Pit F1049.

Pit F1049 was sub-rectangular in plan (0.70+ x 0.80 x 0.16m). It had gently sloping sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1050, was a friable, light brown silt with occasional small flint. Pit F1049 was cut by Pits F1047 and F1045.

Pit F1051 was sub-circular in plan (0.60+ x 2.12 x 0.28m). It had moderately sloping sides and an undulating base. Its fill, L1052, was a friable, light brown silt with occasional small flint. It contained no finds. Pit F1051 cut Pit F1047.

Ditch Terminal F1053 was linear in plan (1.00+ x 0.68 x 0.16m), oriented SW/NE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1054, was a friable, pale yellow grey silt with occasional small sub-rounded chalk. It contained no finds.

Ditch Terminal F1055 was linear in plan (1.00+ x 0.58 x 0.15m), orientated SW/NE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1056, was a friable, pale yellow grey silt with occasional small sub-angular chalk. It contained no finds.

Pit F1057 was irregular in plan (1.02+ x 1.20 x 0.07m). It had gently sloping sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1058, was a friable, light brown silt with occasional small flint. It contained medieval (mid 12th – 15th century) pottery (2; 12g).

Trench 7 Figs. 2 – 3 & 7

Sample Section 7A 0.00 = 9.79m AOD		
L1000	0.0 – 0.20m	Topsoil. As Above.
L1001	0.20 – 0.55m	Subsoil. As Above.
L1002	0.55m+	Natural. As Above.

Sample Section 7B 0.00 = 9.64m AOD		
L1000	0.0 – 0.28m	Topsoil. As Above.
L1001	0.28 – 0.57m	Subsoil. As Above.
L1002	0.57m+	Natural. As Above.

Description: Trench 7 contained a modern brick soak away which served the buildings at No.4 Fordham Road. The topsoil and subsoil contained animal burials and the landowner reported that they were derived from the animals kept in the nearby former farm buildings.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000, was a friable, dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular gravel and small sub-rounded chalk. It overlay Subsoil L1001, a firm, pale yellow grey chalky silt with occasional small sub-rounded gravel and chalk. L1001 overlay the natural chalk, L1002, a compact pale yellow / white chalk.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1021	Pit	-
	F1023	Pit	-
	F1025	Pit	-
	F1027	Pit	-
4	F1019	?Ditch	-
	F1029	Pit	-
5	F1004	Service Trench	Modern
	F1006	Post Hole	Modern. Structure 1018
	F1008	Post Hole	Modern. Structure 1018
	F1010	Post Hole	Modern. Structure 1018
	F1012	Post Hole	Modern. Structure 1018
	F1014	Post Hole	-
	F1016	Post Hole	Modern. Structure 1018
6	F1031	Pit	-
	F1033	Pit	-
	F1037	Pit	-
	F1039	Pit	-
	F1041	Pit	-
	F1045	Pit	-
	F1047	Pit	-
	F1049	Pit	-
	F1051	Pit	-
	F1053	Ditch Terminal	-
	F1055	Ditch Terminal	-
	F1057	Pit	-

9.2 Features were present in Trenches 1 and 4 – 6, and they were most common in Trench 6.

9.3 In Trench 5 post holes including the remains of square wooden posts were recorded. The post hole structure, F1018, was relatively recent and likely associated with the farm. It may have been the remains of an enclosure. Trench 7 contained a modern brick soakaway which served the buildings at No.4 Fordham Road. The topsoil and subsoil contained animal burials and the landowner reported that they were derived from the animals kept in the nearby former farm buildings.

9.4 The majority of the remaining features were pits. Larger pits were recorded in Trenches 1 (F1021 and F1023) and 6 (F1039 and F1041). A possible ditch, F1019, was recorded in Trench 4, and two ditch terminals,

F1053 and F1055, were recorded in Trench 6. In reality the majority of the features were irregular in plan and profile, and were pits or natural features.

9.5 The earliest find is the residual struck flint from Topsoil L1000, possibly of Neolithic origin. A very small Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery sherd was found in Pit F1039 (Trench 6), and two medieval sherds were found in Pit F1057 (Trench 6). The latter comprise sherds derived from a mid 12th-15th century coarse ware jug produced locally in the fenland. Finds were sparse, and Pits F1025 and F1041 contained animal bone (144g and 2g, respectively), and a background scatter of carbonised cereal grains is consistent with limited windblown debris.

9.6 The modern features and Pit F1027 (Trench 1) cut the subsoil (L1002), but the other features were present below the subsoil and therefore of some antiquity. Evidence for Bronze Age and Early Iron Age settlement has previously been recorded on the Isleham fen island (i.e. CHER MCB22685). Evidence for medieval occupation of the same area is abundant, and includes a Benedictine priory. Thus, the pits recorded beneath the subsoil are consistent with the character of the archaeology in the local area, including the results of an evaluation to the immediate north of the site (CHER ECB5321). The latter recorded more substantial Iron Age and medieval features, including pits and post holes, and an undated circular enclosure. Together the archaeology suggests an extensive pattern of landscape exploitation across the southern area of the fen island.

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 Mrs Jennifer Sargent for funding the works and Ms Amy Richardson of Ashtons for all her 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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Appendix 1 - Concordance of Finds

ECB5969 - P81113, Site North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1000		2	Topsoil						S.Flnt	1	4
	1001		7	Subsoil								
				Subsoil - NW End				3		Clinker		5
1004	1005		5	Fill of Service Trench				21				
1008	1009		5	Fill of Post Hole				12				
1025	1026		1	Fill of Pit					144			
1031	1032		6	Fill of Pit	18th-19th C	1	28					
1039	1040		6	Fill of Pit	Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age	1	1					
1041	1042		6	Fill of Pit					2			
1057	1058		6	Fill of Pit	Mid 12th-15th C	2	12					

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a small un-corticated flake (4g) of dark grey, un-patinated flint from Topsoil L1000. The thin flake has a hinged termination and evidence of platform abrasion on one edge adjacent to the small bulb of percussion, suggesting it might have been produced by platform trimming, preparation or maintenance of a Neolithic blade core, but this remains a very tentative conclusion.

The Pottery Report

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 4 sherds weighing 40g from three features. Pit F1039 contained a small abraded residual sherd of Prehistoric Flint Tempered Ware the fine crushed flint indicates a likely date of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date. Pit F1057 contained two conjoining sherds of South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware. Pit F1031 contained a fragment of rim sherd of late post-medieval red earthenware.

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 appropriate for the Cambridgeshire County Council pottery type series.

KEY:

PFT: Prehistoric flint tempered Ware

SEFEN: South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware mid 12th-15th

PMR: Post-medieval 16th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Pit 1031	1032	1x28g PMR	18 th -19 th	
Pit 1039	1040	1x1g PFT	Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age	PFT highly abraded, fine flint fabric
Pit 1057	1058	2x11g SEFEN	mid 12 th -15 th	SEFN: conjoining jug neck sherds

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 Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered three small fragments (36g) of abraded CBM. Post Hole F1009 and Subsoil L1001 contained isolated fragment of peg tile in a locally-produced, pale orange calcareous fabric that could potentially be of late medieval to post-medieval date, but are or insufficient size to allow for further conclusions. Service Trench F1005 also included a small fragment of modern Fletton brick.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the archaeological evaluation of land north of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham, seven bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. Samples were taken from a representative range of features in order to recover remains of potential palaeoenvironmental or palaeoeconomic interest. The aim was to assess the nature of preservation and distribution of ecofactual remains within archaeological 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 a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 2. Preservation of plant remains was by carbonisation only. These were present in only low concentrations, in the form of scattered cereal grains and non-cereal taxa. This material is likely to represent scattered debris from nearby domestic activity. Such low concentrations make it impossible to draw any meaningful conclusions about the plant-based diet and economy of the site. Charcoal remains were also only recorded as occasional small fragments.

Shells of terrestrial molluscs were more common and recovered from all samples. This reflects the favourable alkaline sediments. The range of taxa was limited and reflected primarily grassland habitats (*Helicella itala*, *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallnia* sp.). Some taxa characteristic of more sheltered conditions (*Cochlicopa* sp. and *Trichia hispida* group) were also identified. A single shell of *Planorbis planorbis* from L1046 probably reflects wet conditions in the vicinity, although not necessarily directly on the present site.

Conclusions

The bulk sample light fractions have indicated the presence of carbonised plant macrofossils and charcoal in limited concentrations. These are likely to represent background scatters of windblown carbonised debris. Such limited concentrations of remains suggests limited potential for the recovery of a more analytically viable assemblage through further excavation and sampling at the site.

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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	Feature type	Trench	Volume (litres)	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs	Molluscs Notes	Contaminants					Other remains	
							Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal >2mm	Notes			Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules		
ECB5969	1	1020	1019	Fill of Ditch	4	40	X	-	HB (1)	-	-	-	X	-	XX	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XXX	XXX	X	-	-	-	-
ECB5969	2	1026	1025	Fill of Pit	1	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group	XXX	XXX	-	-	-	-	-
ECB5969	3	1028	1027	Fill of Pit	1	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XXX	XX	-	-	-	-	-
ECB5969	4	1032	1031	Fill of Pit	6	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XXX	XXX	-	X	-	-	-

ECB5969	5	1040	1039	Fill of Pit	6	40	X	-	Trit (1)	-	-	-	X	-	XX	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	XXX	-	-	-	-
ECB5969	6	1042	1041	Fill of Pit	6	40	-	-	-	X	Medium Fabaceae (1)	-	X	-	XX	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Planorbis planorbis</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	XXX	-	-	-	-
ECB5969	7	1046	1045	Fill of Pit	6	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	XXX	-	-	-	-

Table 2: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.).

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-371069

Project details

Project name	Land North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5QU (TT)
Short description of the project	In October of 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5QU (NGR: TL 6418 7358). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of an outline planning approval condition for the proposed development (East Cambridgeshire Council Approval Ref. 18/01482/OUT), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET). Features were present in Trenches 1 and 4 - 6, and they were most common in Trench 6. In Trench 5 post holes including the remains of square wooden posts were recorded. The post hole structure, F1018, was relatively recent and likely associated with the farm. It may have been the remains of an enclosure. Trench 7 contained a modern brick soakaway which served the buildings at No.4 Fordham Road. The topsoil and subsoil contained animal burials and the landowner reported that they were derived from the animals kept in the nearby former farm buildings. The majority of the remaining features were pits. Larger pits were recorded in Trenches 1 (F1021 and F1023) and 6 (1039 and F1041). A possible ditch, F1019, was recorded in Trench 4, and two ditch terminals, F1053 and F1055, were recorded in Trench 6. In reality the majority of the features were irregular in plan and profile, and were pits or natural features. The earliest find was the residual struck flint from Topsoil L1000. A Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age sherd was found in Pit F1039 (Trench 6), and two medieval sherds were found in Pit F1057 (Trench 6). Finds were sparse, and Pits F1025 and F1041 contained animal bone (144g and 2g, respectively). The modern features and Pit F1027 (Trench 1) cut the subsoil (L1002), but the other features were present below the subsoil and therefore of some antiquity.
Project dates	Start: 01-10-2019 End: 09-10-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5969 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	P8113 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PITS Late Bronze Age
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY 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 ISLEHAM Land North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5QU
Postcode	CB7 5QU
Study area	7300 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 6418 7358 52.335271826037 0.409989518307 52 20 06 N 000 24 35 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 11m Max: 11m

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5QU. An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Thomelius, S
Other bibliographic	5928

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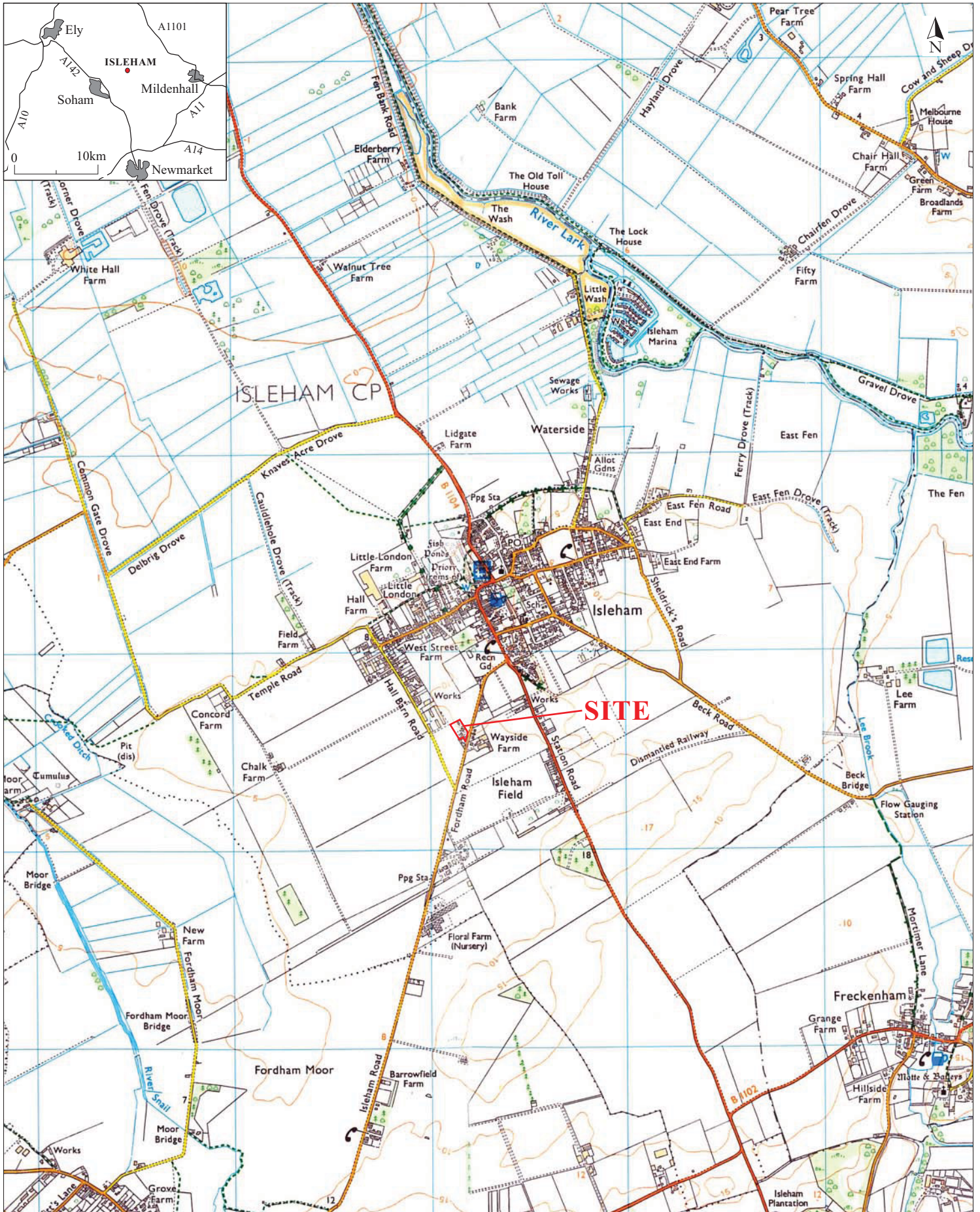
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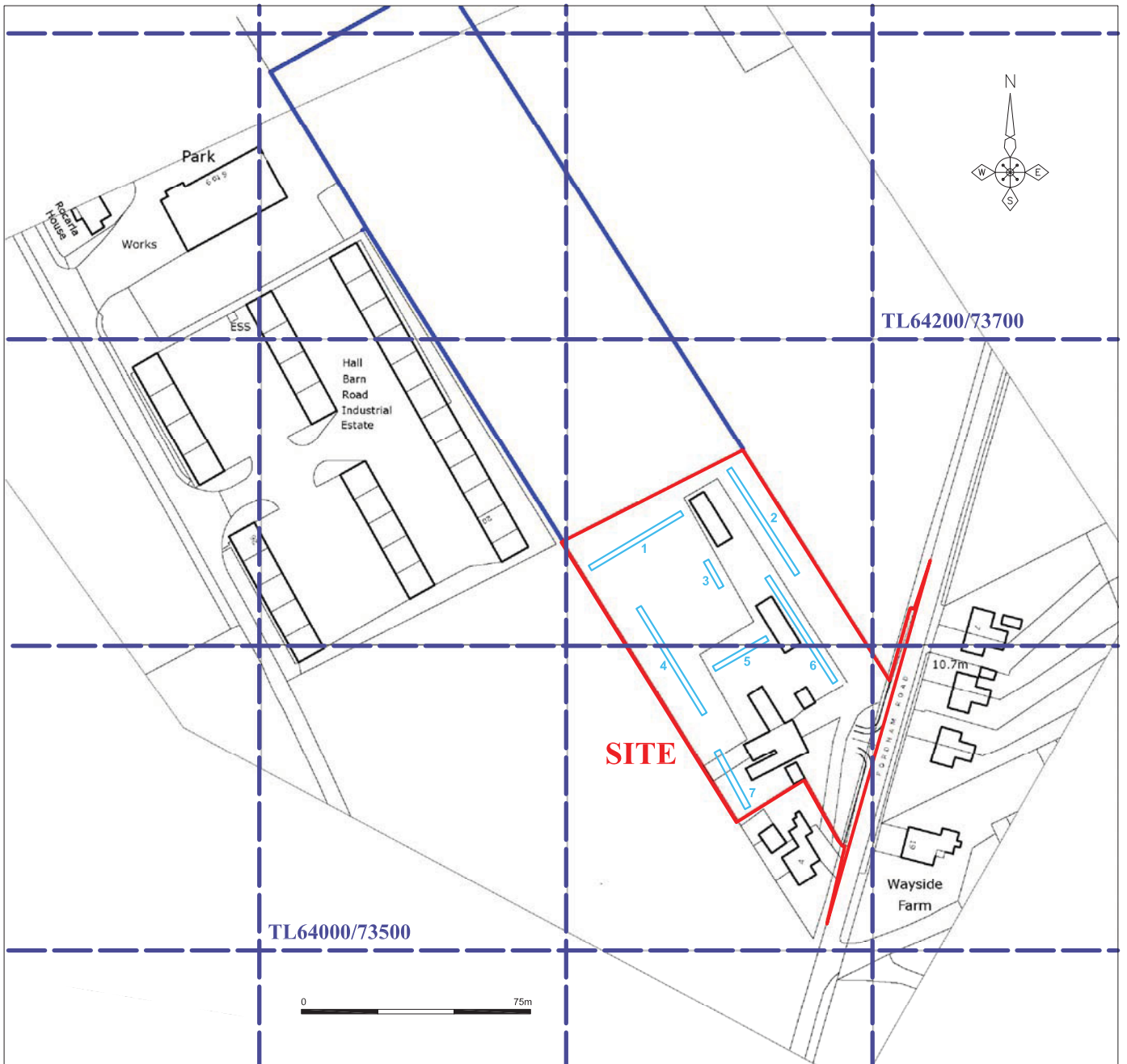


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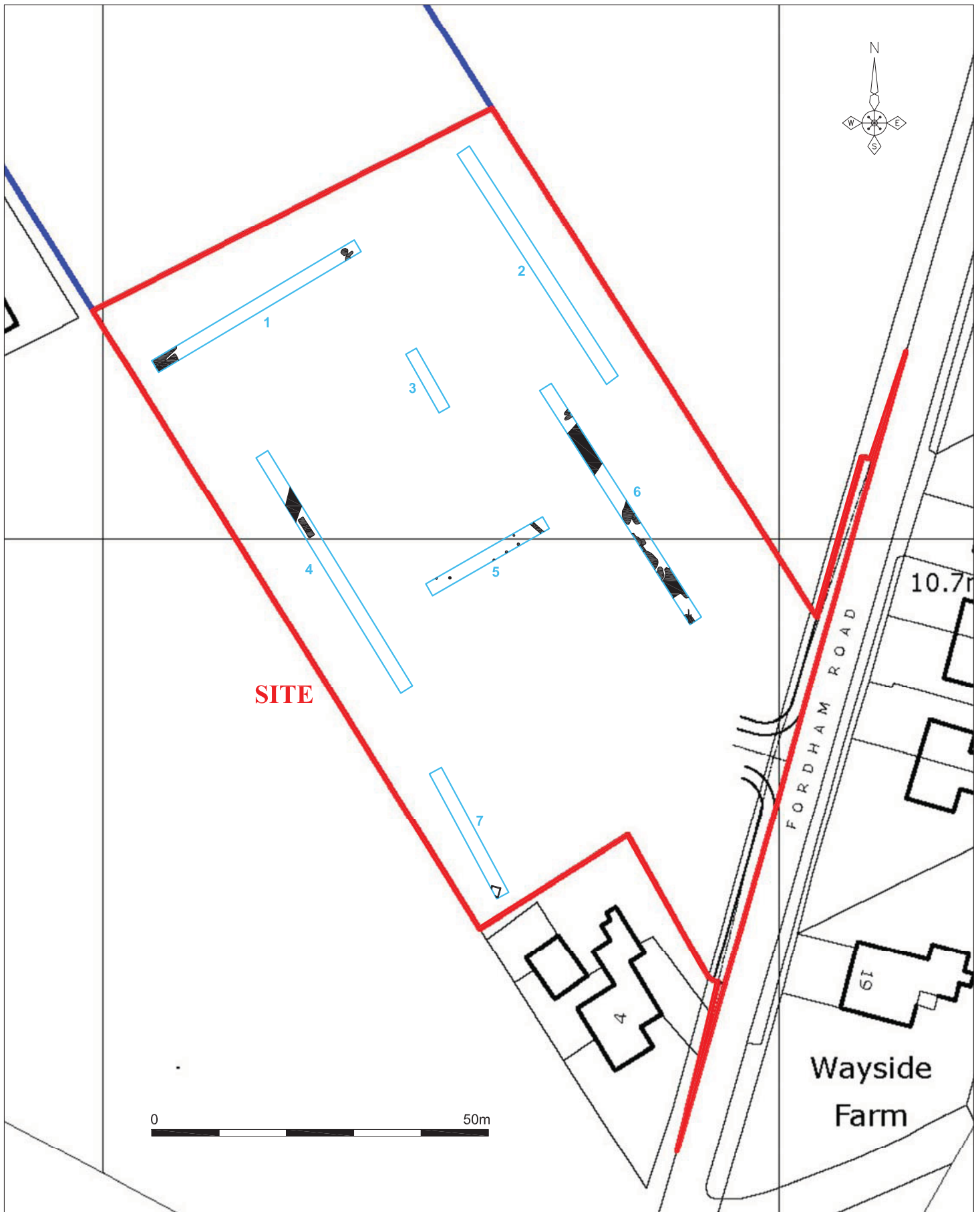
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Site North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham, Cambs (P8113)



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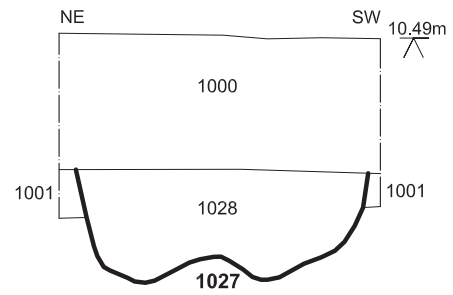
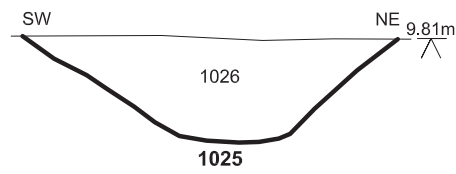
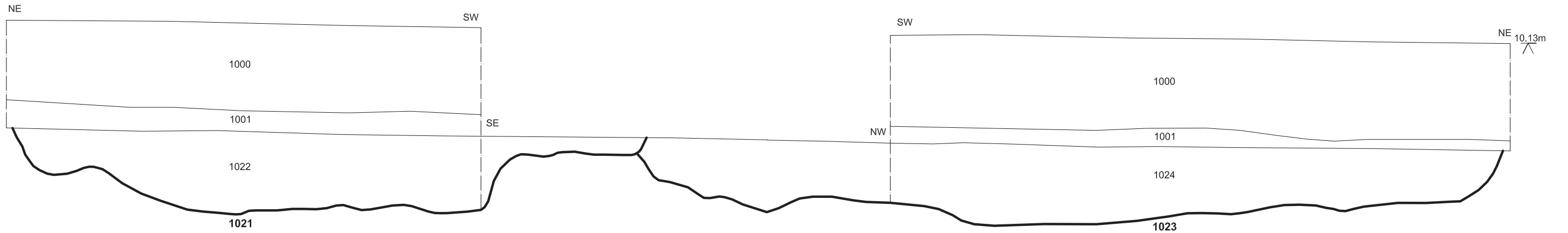
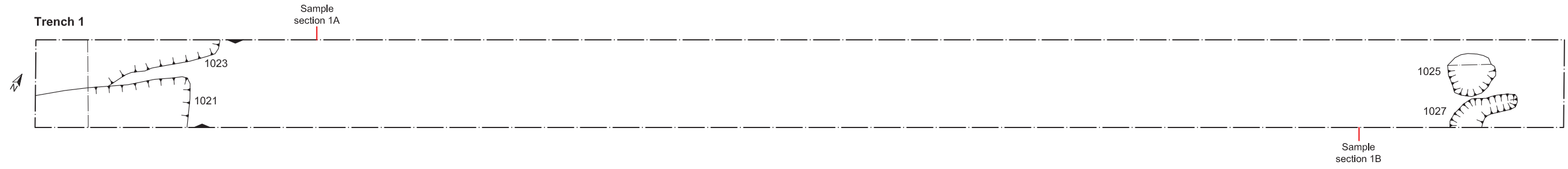
<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:2000 at A4
Site North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham (P8113)



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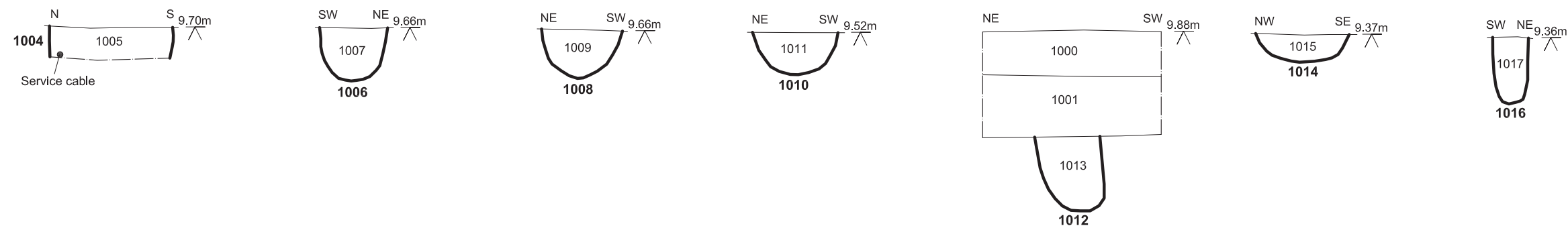
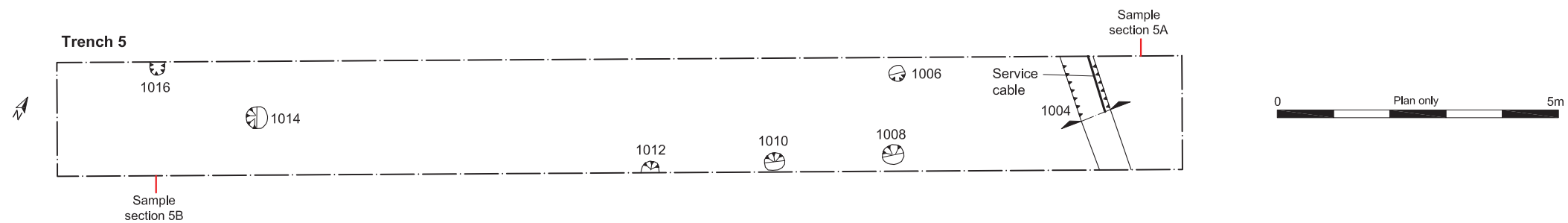
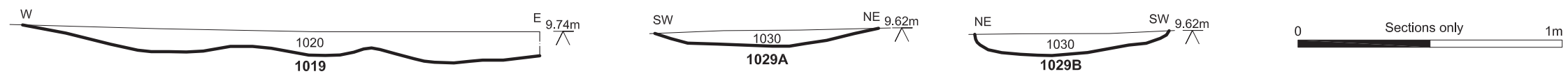
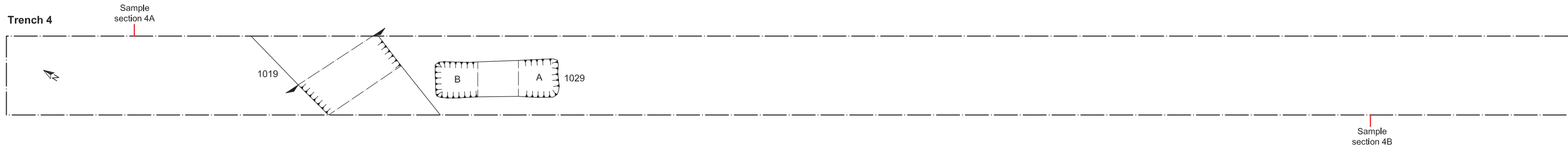
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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:750 at A4
 Site North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham (P8113)

0 Plan only 5m



0 Sections only 2m

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Fig. 4 Trench plan & sections
Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:50 at A3
Site North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham (P8113)



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Fig. 5 Trench plan & sections

Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:50 at A3

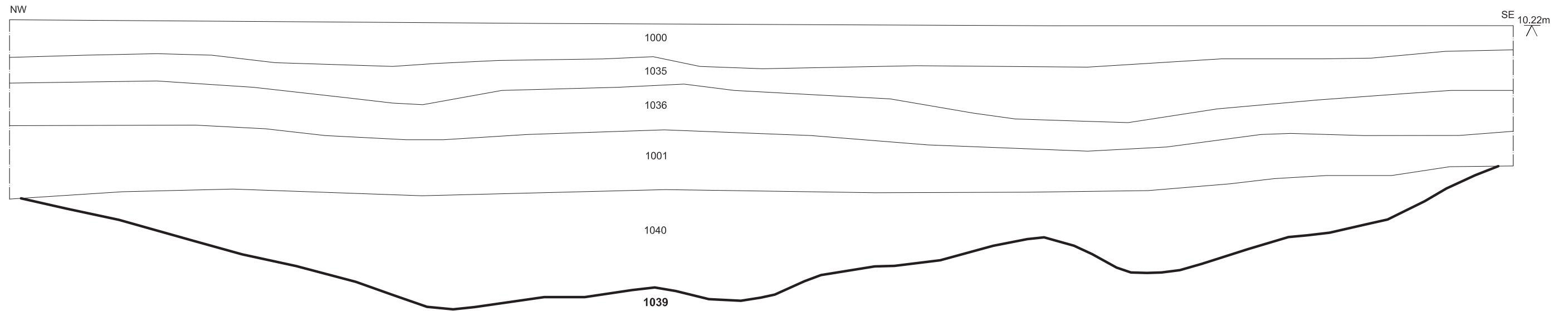
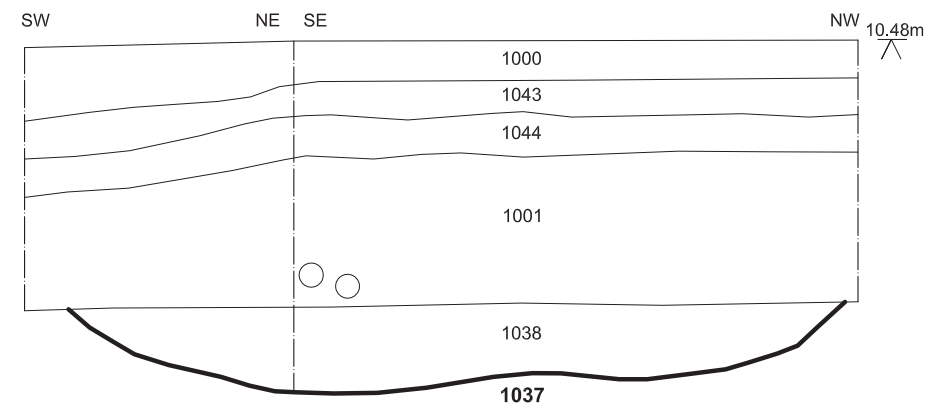
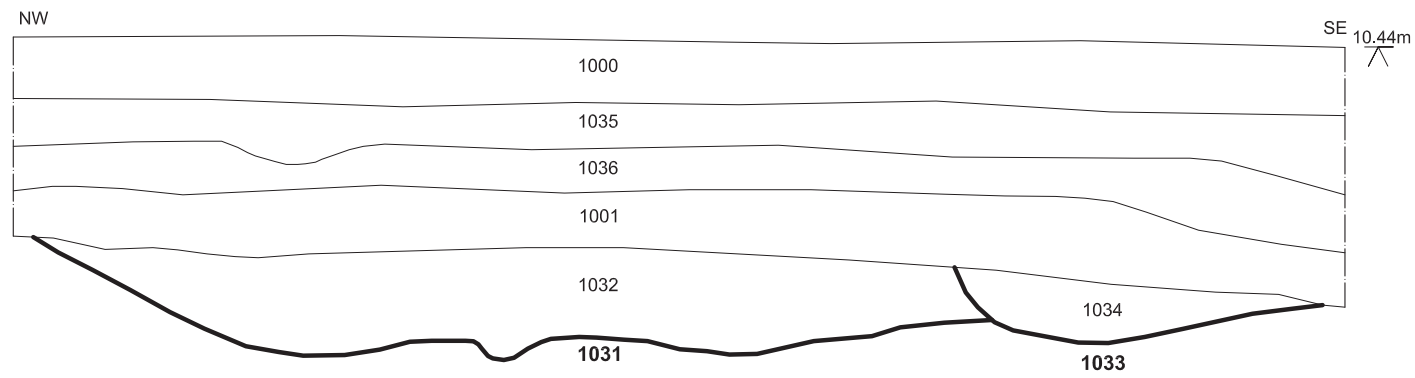
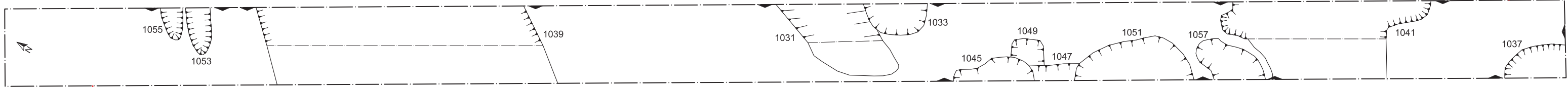
Site North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham (P8113)

0 Plan only 5m

Trench 6

Sample section 6B

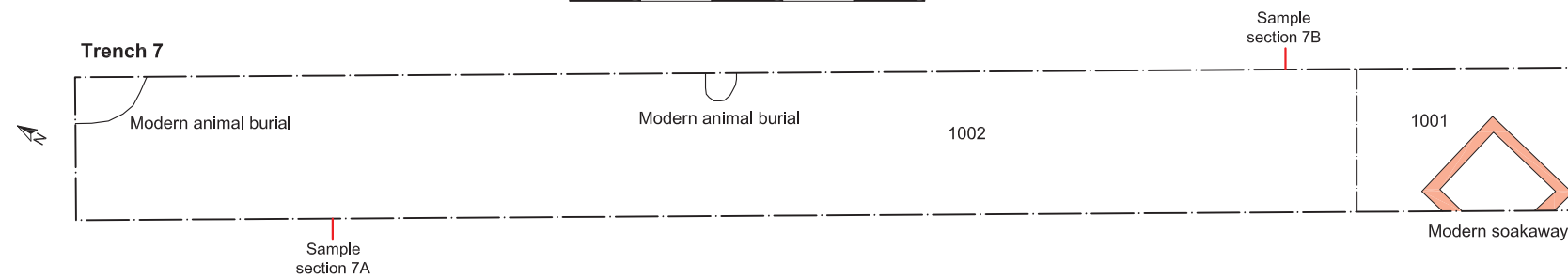
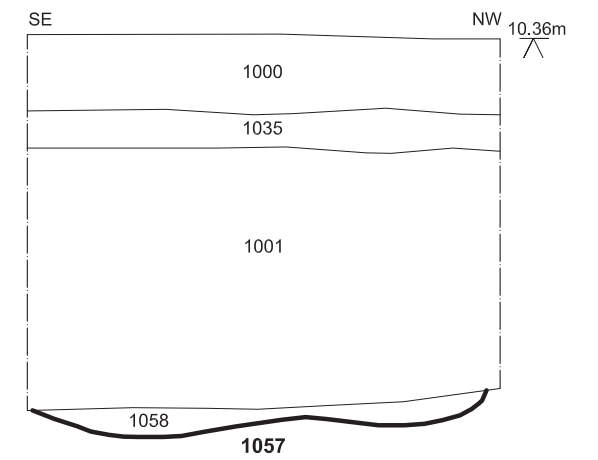
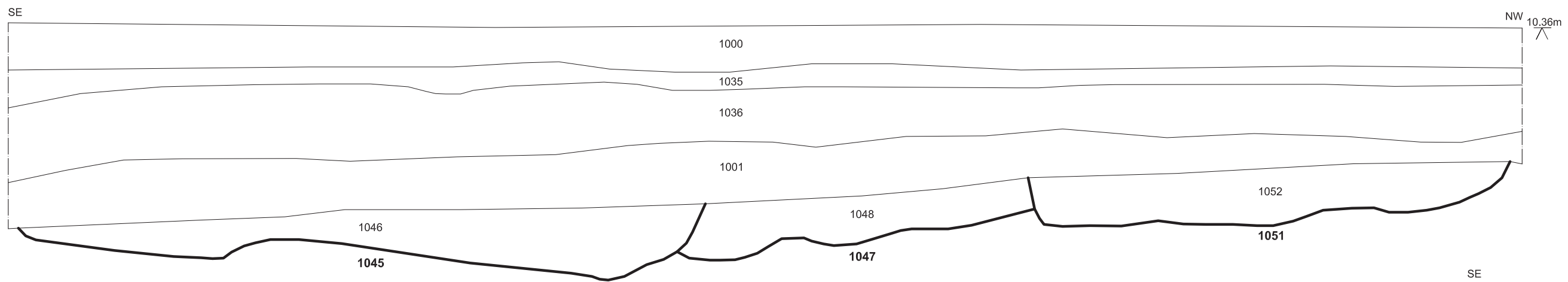
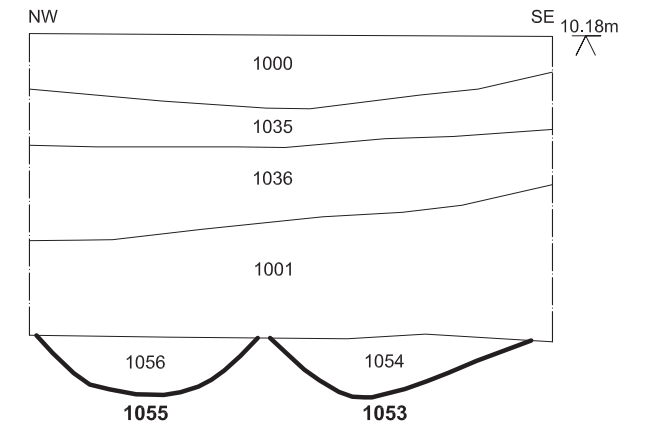
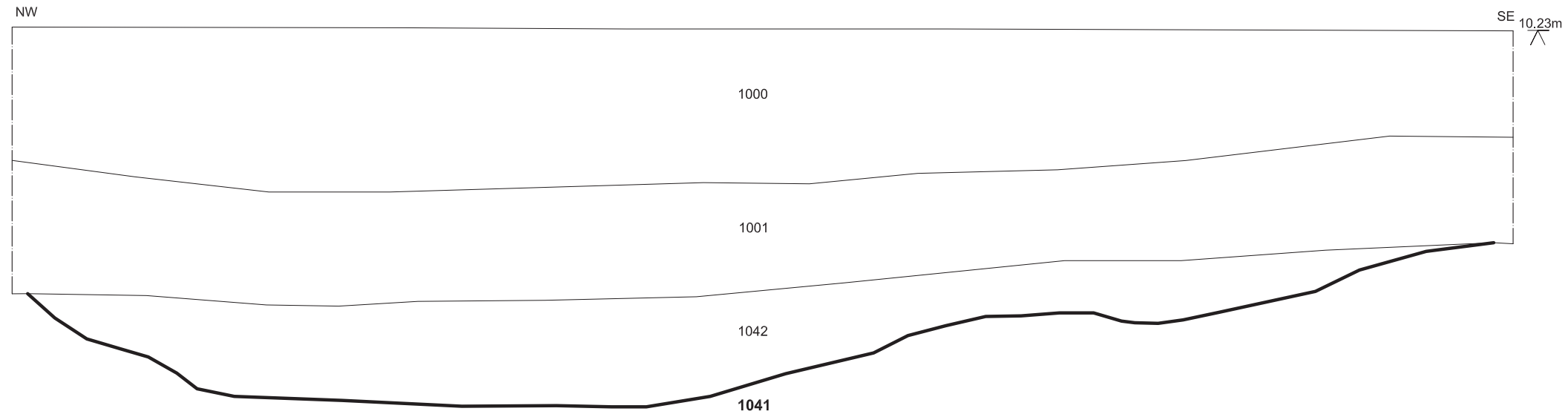
Sample section 6A



0 Sections only 2m

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Fig. 6 Trench plan & sections
 Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:50 at A3
 Site North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham (P8113)

Sections continued from Trench 6



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Fig. 7 Trench plan & sections
 Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:50 at A3
 Site North of 4 Fordham Road, Isleham (P8113)