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**WARBOYS ROAD, LAND AT COPPER BEECHES,
PIDLEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER ECB 6089

Authors: Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork & Report)	
NGR: TL 3269 7823	Report No: 5971
District: Huntingdon	Site Code: ECB6089
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 8208
	Date: 30 December 2019; Revised 3 March 2020

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**PI House, 23 Clifton Road, Shefford,
Bedfordshire SG17 5AF
01462 850483**

**Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
01284 765210**

**e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk**



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Project details			
Project name	<i>Warboys Road, Land at Copper Beeches, Pidley, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<i>In December 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Warboys Road, Land at Copper Beeches, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 3DA (NGR TL 3269 7823; 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 two dwellings with garages (Hunts DC Approval Ref. 19/00117/OUT). It was required based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).</i>			
<i>The site is located within an area of archaeological potential, with remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). It is located in the northern (Church End) area of the village of Pidley. The Church of All Saints lies just 25m to the northeast (NHLE 1163582), and is a mid 19th century rebuild of a medieval church.</i>			
<i>Within evaluation Trench 1 Ditch F1005 and Ditch Terminal F1013 contained highly fragmented Late Iron Age pottery. The features also contained small quantities of animal bone. Ditches F1008 and F1010 contained no finds but like the dated features were below Subsoil L1003, and may have been broadly contemporary.</i>			
<i>Ditch F1023 contained modern (19th – 20th century) pottery was likely a continuation of Ditch F1019 (Trench 2). The latter contained 18th – 19th century CBM. Ditch F1017 cut Subsoil L1003 and was therefore also of relatively recent date.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>December 2019</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	<i>Future work</i>	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>8208</i>	<i>Site code</i>	<i>ECB6089</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Gardens</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Ditches, post hole</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Late Iron Age pottery</i>		
<i>Project Location</i>	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Huntingdon</i>	<i>Pidley</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>PE28 3DA</i>		
Area of site	<i>1803m2</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 3269 7823</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 30m AOD</i>		
<i>Project creators</i>			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>JPS Building Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Warboys Road, Land at Copper Beeches, Pidley, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Barlow, G.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5971</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>December 2019; revised March 2020</i>		

WARBOYS ROAD, LAND AT COPPER BEECHES, PIDLEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In December 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Warboys Road, Land at Copper Beeches, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 3DA (NGR TL 3269 7823; 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 two dwellings with garages (Hunts DC Approval Ref. 19/00117/OUT). It was required based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

The site is located within an area of archaeological potential, with remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). It is located in the northern (Church End) area of the village of Pidley. The Church of All Saints lies just 25m to the northeast (NHLE 1163582), and is a mid 19th century rebuild of a medieval church.

Within evaluation Trench 1 Ditch F1005 and Ditch Terminal F1013 contained highly fragmented Late Iron Age pottery. The features also contained small quantities of animal bone. Ditches F1008 and F1010 contained no finds but like the dated features were below Subsoil L1003, and may have been broadly contemporary.

Ditch F1023 contained modern (19th – 20th century) pottery was likely a continuation of Ditch F1019 (Trench 2). The latter contained 18th – 19th century CBM. Ditch F1017 cut Subsoil L1003 and was therefore also of relatively recent date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Warboys Road, Land at Copper Beeches, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 3DA (NGR TL 3269 7823; 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 two dwellings with garages (Hunts DC Approval Ref. 19/00117/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 (CCC HET, Kerry Hopper; dated 24th October 2019), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 29th November 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 western side of Warboys Road in the northern part of the historic core of Church End, Pidley. It lies to the immediate north of the residential plot of Copper Beeches, and the site comprises the part of the former garden. It extends to some 1803m².

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at c.30m AOD on the northern crest of a large raised spur of land upon which the villages of Pidley and Church end are located. To the north, east and south of these villages and the site, the landscape slopes down at a modest gradient, while to the west the spur expands into a wide and level plateau.

3.2 The solid geology of the site is comprised of West Walton/Amphill Clay mudstone deposits, overlain by superficial Oadby Member Diamicton, and sealed by lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the northern (Church End) area of the village of Pidley. The Church of All Saints lies just 25m to the northeast (NHLE 1163582), and is a mid 19th century rebuild of a medieval church. A 13th century coffin is located in the south-western corner of the churchyard (CHER 03560A). An early medieval findspot of pottery is also known in the area surrounding the site (CHER 03642).

4.2 Investigations at Church Farm to the south of Copper Beeches found a late medieval/post-medieval cobbled trackway (CHER CB14634; ECB456). Evidence of post-medieval occupation in the form of a series of pits and ditches has been found at Sunnycroft Farm to the south east (CHER MCB20270). Evidence of medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation of the open fields outside the village has also been identified to the north and east of the site, some of which was identified by Environment Agency LiDAR data (CHER 11634, 11635 & MCB24655-7).

4.3 Numerous post-medieval structures, extant and non-extant, are also known in the area surrounding the site, including: a 17th century farmhouse (CHER 00607); two 18th century barns (CHER 03551; 03551a); a 19th century Baptist church (CHER MCB17188); a 19th century windmill (CHER MCB24648); a 19th century blacksmiths workshop (CHER MCB24651); a 19th century school (CHER MCB24652) a 19th century public house (CHER MCB24653); and a 19th century farmhouse (CHER MCB24654)

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The evaluation provided for a sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched. Two trenches 25m x 1.80m were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The overburden was removed under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

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. The 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 bucket sampling and metal detecting surveys found no archaeological finds. Made Ground L1001 contained Late 18th – early 20th C pottery (2; 31g) and CBM (122g)

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 Figs. 2 - 3

Sample Section 1A 0.00 = 29.84m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, mid yellow brown clay silt with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint
0.10 – 0.45m	L1001	Made ground. Firm, pale green grey clay with small patches of pale brown yellow to pale blue grey clay and mid brown orange to dark brown grey sandy silt with occasional small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
0.45 – 0.68m	L1002	Buried former topsoil. Firm dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and sparse small rounded quartz
0.68 – 0.91m	L1003	Subsoil. Firm, pale to mid yellow brown silty clay with sparse small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint
0.91m +	L1004	Natural deposits. Pale yellow brown silty clay with sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded flint

Sample Section 1B 0.00 = 30.42m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil, as above
0.10 – 0.20m	L1007	Made ground. Firm, mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint
0.20 – 0.45m	L1002	Buried former topsoil, as above
0.45 – 0.71m	L1003	Subsoil, as above
0.71m +	L1004	Natural deposits, as above

Description: Trench 1 contained Ditches F1005 and F1023 and Ditch Terminal F1013. Both Ditch F1005 and Ditch Terminal F1013 contained highly fragmented Late Iron Age pottery. Ditch F1023 contained modern (19th – 20th century) pottery was likely a continuation of Ditch F1019 (Trench 2). The latter contained 18th – 19th century CBM.

Ditch F1005 and Ditch Terminal F1013 were overlain by Subsoil L1003, and Ditch F1023 was overlain by Buried Former Topsoil L1002.

Ditch F1005 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.05 x 0.09m), orientated E/W. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1006, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small to medium angular flint. It contained Late Iron Age pottery (4; 18g) and animal bone (1g).

Ditch Terminal F1013 was linear in plan (1.15+ x 0.64 x 0.15m), orientated NE/SW. It had irregular sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1014, was a firm, mid red brown clay with occasional small to medium angular flint. It contained Late Iron Age pottery (11; 79g) and animal bone (8g).

Ditch F1023 was linear in plan (5.00+ x 0.85 x 0.40m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1024, was a firm, dark brown grey clayey silt with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained residual Late Iron Age and modern pottery (19th – early 20th century) pottery (2; 80g) and animal bone (10g). Ditch F1023 was likely a continuation of Ditch F1019 (Trench 2).

Trench 2 Figs. 2 - 3

Sample Section 2A 0.00 = 30.96m AOD		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000	Topsoil, as above
0.08 – 0.18m	L1007	Made ground, as above
0.18 – 0.44m	L1002	Buried former topsoil, as above
0.44 – 0.54m	L1012	Subsoil. Very firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints (only present in the eastern end of Trench 2).
0.54m +	L1004	Natural deposits, as above

Sample Section 2B 0.00 = 30.53m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil, as above
0.10 – 0.20m	L1007	Made ground, as above
0.20 – 0.38m	L1002	Buried former topsoil, as above
0.38 – 0.50m	L1003	Subsoil, as above
0.50m +	L1004	Natural deposits, as above

Description: Trench 2 contained Ditches F1008, F1010, F1017 and F1019.

The ditches were paired: F1008 and F1010, F1017 and F1019, and may have been re-cut. Though the ditches were parallel and all orientated NE/SW, they were not broadly contemporary; F1008 and F1010 were overlain by Subsoil L1003, and F1017 and F1019 cut Subsoil L1003. Ditch F1019 contained 18th – 19th century CBM and was likely a continuation of Ditch F1023 (Trench 1). The latter contained modern (19th – 20th century) pottery. Undated Post Hole F1015 was also present within the trench.

Ditch F1008 was linear in plan (1.00+ x 0.40 x 0.17m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1009, was a firm, grey brown clay. It contained no finds. Ditch F1008 was cut by Ditch F1010.

Ditch F1010 was linear in plan (1.00+ x 0.97 x 0.19m), orientated NE/SW. It had gently to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1011, was a firm, light to mid brown grey clay. It contained no finds. Ditch F1010 cut Ditch F1008.

Post Hole F1015 was circular in plan (0.30 x 0.30 x 0.07m). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a firm, dark brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1017 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.75+ x 0.40m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and its base was truncated by Ditch F1019. Its fill, L1018, was a firm, dark orange brown clay silt with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained animal bone (14g), and cut Subsoil L1003.

Ditch F1019 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.47 x 0.65m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and a narrow concave base. Its fill, L1020, was a friable, dark grey brown clay silt. It contained 18th – 19th century CBM (170g) and animal bone (16g). Ditch F1019 cut Ditch F1017 and Subsoil L1003. Ditch F1019 is likely a continuation of Ditch F1023 (Trench 1).

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a firm, mid yellow brown clay silt with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. Below L1000 was Made Ground L1007, a firm, mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. At the northern end of Trench 1, Made Ground L1001 was below Topsoil L1000, and it was a firm, pale green grey clay with small patches of pale brown yellow and pale blue grey clay and mid brown orange to dark brown grey sandy silt with occasional small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.

8.2 Beneath Made Ground L1001 and L1007, was Buried Former Topsoil L1002, a firm dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and sparse small rounded quartz. This is likely to represent the land surface prior to the deposition of made ground layers. Below L1002 was Subsoil L1003, a firm, pale to mid yellow brown silty clay with sparse small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. The subsoil varied at the eastern end of Trench 2, L1012, and was a very firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.

8.3 At the base of the sequence was Natural Deposits L1004, a pale yellow brown silty clay with sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description		Spot Date
1	F1005	Ditch	Below Subsoil L1003	Late Iron Age
	F1013	Ditch	Below Subsoil L1003	Late Iron Age
	F1023 = F1019	Ditch	Below Buried Former Topsoil L1002	Modern (19 th – 20 th C)
2	F1008	Ditch	Below Subsoil L1003	-
	F1010	Ditch	Below Subsoil L1003	-
	F1015	Post Hole	-	-
	F1017	Ditch	Below Buried Former Topsoil L1002 Cut Subsoil L1003	Modern (19 th – 20 th C)
	F1019 = F1023	Ditch	Below Buried Former Topsoil L1002 Cut Subsoil L1003	Modern (19 th – 20 th C)

9.2 Within evaluation Trench 1 Ditch F1005 and Ditch Terminal F1013 contained highly fragmented Late Iron Age pottery comprising sherds from at least three 'Belgic' grog-tempered bowls. The features also contained small quantities of animal bone that were too fragmented to be identified beyond being 'mammal'. Carbonised material was conspicuously absent albeit reliant on a single sample. Ditches F1008 and F1010 contained no finds but, like the dated features, were below Subsoil L1003, and may have been broadly contemporary. Cropmarks of a probable Iron Age or Roman settlement

enclosure complex (CHER TL37NW41) and several probable later prehistoric enclosures attached at intervals along a long sinuous ditch (CHER TL37NW42), visible on aerial photographs, have been identified some 905m north-east of the site. Considering this, the presence of 1st century BC/AD pottery is of potential significance, even in limited quantity, as the two ditches may represent peripheral activity associated with the aforementioned sites. This evidence would support the presence of a wide distribution of late Iron Age boundaries and occupation within the surrounding landscape; even though there is an absence of contemporary material recorded in close vicinity of Pidley, it is well-attested within the wider landscape such as at Swavesey, Over and Earith.

9.3 Ditch F1023 contained modern (19th – 20th century) pottery was likely a continuation of Ditch F1019 (Trench 2). The latter contained 18th – 19th century CBM. Ditch F1017 cut Subsoil L1003 and was therefore also of relatively recent date. The ditches are not clearly visible on aerial photography dating between 1999 and 2006 (Fig. 4-6).

9.4 The site was landscaped relatively recently, largely through the deposition of made ground layers (L1001 and L1007), which overlay the former topsoil. This activity was related to the landscaping scheme and erection of the property at Cooper Beeches, between 2002 and 2003 (Hunts DC Approval Ref. 02/00066/REM). The effects of the landscaping scheme are clearly visible upon comparison of aerial photography dating to 1999 (Fig. 4) and 2003 (Fig.5).

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 JPS Building Ltd for funding the project, in particular Mr John Simons for all his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Kerry Hopper of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

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Appendix 1 - Concordance of Finds

ECB6089 - P8208, Warboys Road, Land at Copper Beaches, Pidley

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	Made Ground	Late 18th-early 20th C	2	31	122				
1005	1006		1	Fill of Ditch	Late Iron Age	4	18		1			
1013	1014		1	Fill of Ditch Terminal	Late Iron Age	11	79		8			
1017	1018		2	Fill of Ditch					14			
1019	1020		2	Fill of Ditch				170	16			
1023	1024		1	Fill of Ditch	19th-early 20th C Residual Late Iron Age	2	80		10			

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of 16 sherds (122g) of pre-Roman Late Iron Age pottery in a highly fragmented condition, entirely comprising slow wheel-made 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares (Tomber & Dore 1998, 214) that were likely manufactured relatively locally in the 1st centuries BC/AD.

Ditch Terminal F1013 (L1014) contained a total of 11 sherds (79g) derived from a minimum of three bowls (or possibly jars). Two of these vessels were necked with bead rims, while a third is represented by a plain cordon from the rounded mid body or shoulder of a vessel. The fragments from all three vessels have an insufficient profile to allow a more specific form type to be classified, but it is notable that the site is on the northern periphery of the zone in south-eastern England in which grog-temper was commonly adopted (Thompson 1982), thus these sherds are perhaps less likely to date towards the earlier decades of their currency. Small quantities of further non-diagnostic body sherds of comparable Belgic pottery were contained in Ditches F1005 and F1023.

Bibliography

Thompson, I. 1982 Grog-tempered 'Belgic' Pottery of South-eastern England. BAR British Series 108 (i-iii)

Tomber, R. & Dore, J. 1998 The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection. Museum of London, London.

The Post-Medieval Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered three sherds (86g) of late glazed post-medieval red earthenware from Ditch F1023 and Made Ground L1001.

Methodology

The sherds were examined and recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski *et al* 2001).

KEY:

GRE: Post-medieval glazed red earthenware 16th+

PMBL: Black glazed post-medieval re earthenware 17th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Made Ground	1001	2x31g GRE	late 18 th -early 20 th	
Ditch 1023	1024	1x55g PMBL	19 th -early 20 th	

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.

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of three fragments (292g) of highly abraded late post-medieval to early modern CBM. They comprise a single fragment (122g) of soft red brick in Made Ground L1001, and two fragments (170g) of pale orange calcareous peg tile with very regular flat surfaces from Ditch F1019. Based on the very limited technological traits that remain extant it is highly likely that both types were produced in the 18th-19th centuries.

The Animal Bone

Julie Curl

Methodology

The summary 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 examined to determine range of species and elements present. A record 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 taken where appropriate following Von Den Driesch, 1976 and a tooth record following Hillson, 1996. Counts and weights were noted for each context and counts made for each species. 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. As this is a small assemblage, the information was recorded directly into an appendix in this report.

The bone assemblage

Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of 49g of bone, consisting of 10 elements, was recovered from this site, with the assemblage quantified by weight, feature type and trench in Table 2. Remains were mostly produced from ditch fills and from one feature. The pottery dating demonstrates activity from the Late Iron Age to modern times.

The remains are in fairly condition, but the majority of the remains are fragmented from butchering and wear. No gnawing or burning was observed. Some invertebrate (insect, isopod, mollusc) damage was seen, which suggests some exposure for a time allowing invertebrate scavenging prior to burial.

Species range and modifications and other observations

Three species were positively identified in the assemblage. The assemblage is quantified by species, feature and date in Table 2.

A **pig/boar** scapula from a juvenile was found in Ditch fill 1020. A **cattle** proximal metatarsal shaft was produced from Ditch Fill F1023 L1024 and found with modern (19th – 20th century) pottery; the cattle bone is quite worn on the surfaces, suggesting redeposited bone. A tibia shaft from a **sheep/goat** was seen in the Ditch Fill F1017 L1018. Two deposits, Ditch Fills F1005 L1006 and F1013 L1014 produced small fragments of bone that could only be identified as '**mammal**'.

Ctxt	Trench	Type	Date	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP
1006	1	Ditch	Late Iron-Age	1	1	Mammal	1
1014	1	Ditch	Late Iron-Age	6	8	Mammal	6
1018	2	Feature	Undated	1	14	Sheep/goat	1
1020	2	Ditch	Undated	1	16	Pig	1
1024	1	Ditch	19 th to 20 th C	1	10	Cattle	1

Table 2. Quantification of the faunal remains by feature type, date, species and NISP.

Discussion and conclusions

This is a very small assemblage that is in quite poor condition and heavily fragmented. The remains are of mixed date and with some residual bone indicated from the wear. The remains suggest meat waste from the main domestic food mammals. Adverse conditions for bone survival may have resulted in the loss of smaller elements and species.

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Table 3
Catalogue of the animal bone recovered from ECB6089

Listed in context order.

A full catalogue (with additional information) is available as an Excel file in the digital archive.

Key:

NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present

Ctxt	Trench	Type	Date	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Ad	Juv	Neo	Element range	Count	Butchering	Comments
1006	1	Ditch	Late Iron-Age	1	1	Mammal	1							
1014	1	Ditch	Late Iron-Age	6	8	Mammal	6							
1018	2	Feature	Undated	1	14	Sheep/goat	1							
1020	2	Ditch	Undated	1	16	Pig	1		1		scapula	1	chopped	Included articular end
1024	1	Ditch	19 th to 20 th C	1	10	Cattle	1	1			Metatarsal shaft			Worn surfaces

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the archaeological evaluation at Copper Beaches, Pidley, a single bulk sample for environmental archaeological assessment was taken and processed from Late Iron Age ditch Fill L1014 (F1013).

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 a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). 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. No plant macrofossil remains were present and only a low concentration of small charcoal fragments was recorded. This was accompanied by a small concentration of modern rootlets and burrowing snails (*Cecilioides acicula*).

Conclusions

The sample from ditch Fill L1014 (F1013) contained no carbonised macrofossils and negligible charcoal. This indicates that it was not routinely receiving debris from contemporary domestic, industrial or agricultural processing activities. This may indicate that the feature was a boundary located away from core areas of occupation, although one should be cautious with the evidence of a single deposit.

Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Trench	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)		% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants				Other remains		
									Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal > 2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects		Earthworm capsules	
1	1014	1013	Fill of Ditch Terminus	1	Late Iron Age	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-

Table 4: Results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fraction from Copper Beaches, Pidley.

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-379278

Project details

Project name	Warboys Road, Land at Copper Beeches, Pidley, Cambridgeshire (TT)
Short description of the project	In December 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Warboys Road, Land at Copper Beeches, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 3DA (NGR TL 3269 7823; 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 two dwellings with garages (Hunts DC Approval Ref. 19/00117/OUT). It was required based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET). The site is located within an area of archaeological potential, with remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). It is located in the northern (Church End) area of the village of Pidley. The Church of All Saints lies just 25m to the northeast (NHLE 1163582), and is a mid 19th century rebuild of a medieval church. Within evaluation Trench 1 Ditch F1005 and Ditch Terminal F1013 contained highly fragmented Late Iron Age pottery. The features also contained small quantities of animal bone. Ditches F1008 and F1010 contained no finds but like the dated features were below Subsoil L1003, and may have been broadly contemporary. Ditch F1023 contained modern (19th - 20th century) pottery was likely a continuation of Ditch F1019 (Trench 2). The latter contained 18th - 19th century CBM. Ditch F1017 cut Made Ground L1007 and was therefore also of relatively modern date.
Project dates	Start: 01-12-2019 End: 20-12-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P8208 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB6089 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCHES Late Iron Age
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Monument type	POST HOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England
 Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE PIDLEY CUM FENTON Warboys Road, Land at Copper Beeches, Pidley, Cambridgeshire
 Postcode PE28 3DA
 Study area 1803 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 3269 7823 52.385602369747 -0.050087137278 52 23 08 N 000 03 00 W Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 30m Max: 30m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Project brief originator Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeology Office
 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"
 Digital Archive recipient Cambridge County Archaeological Store
 Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"
 Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Cambridge County Archaeological Store
 Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Warboys Road, Land at Copper Beeches, Pidley, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Barlow, G
 Other bibliographic details 5971
 Date 2019
 Issuer or publisher Archaeological Solutions
 Place of issue or publication Bury St Edmunds

Entered by Hollie Wesson (info@ascontracts.co.uk)

Entered on 8 January 2020

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P8208)



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General site overview



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Trench 1 looking south



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Sample section 1A looking west



5
Sample section 1B looking west



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Ditch F1005 in Trench 1 looking west



7
Ditch Terminal F1013 in Trench 1 looking east



8
Ditch F1023 in Trench looking east



9
Trench 2 looking west



10
Sample section 2A looking south



11
Sample section 2B looking north



12
Ditches F1008 and F1010 in Trench 2 looking south



13
Post Hole F1015 in Trench 2 looking east

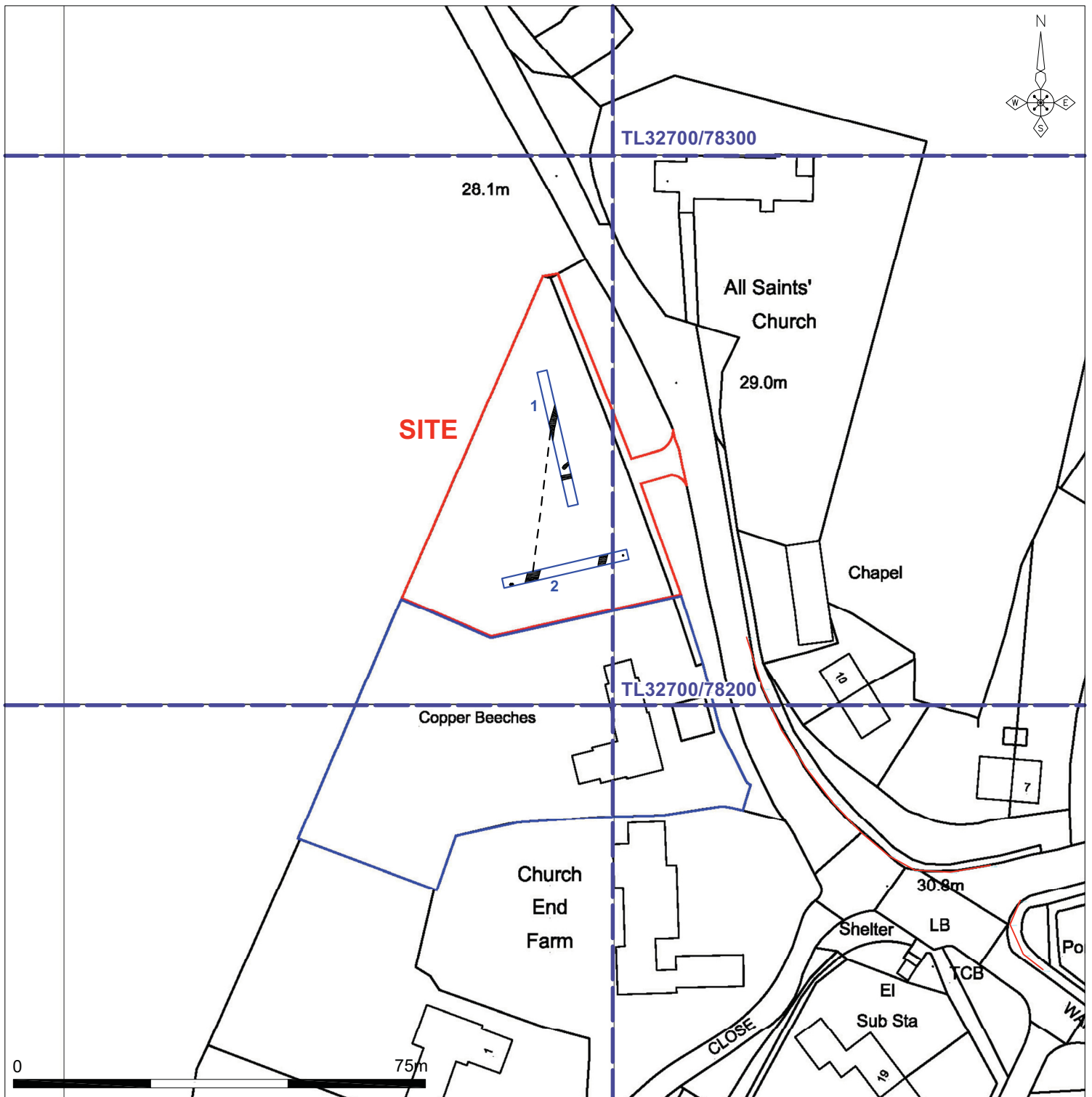


14
Ditches F1017 and F1019 in Trench 2 looking south

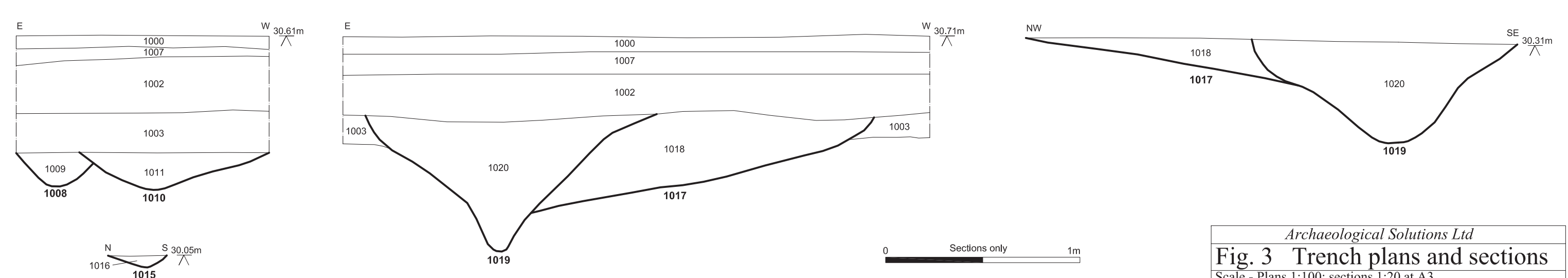
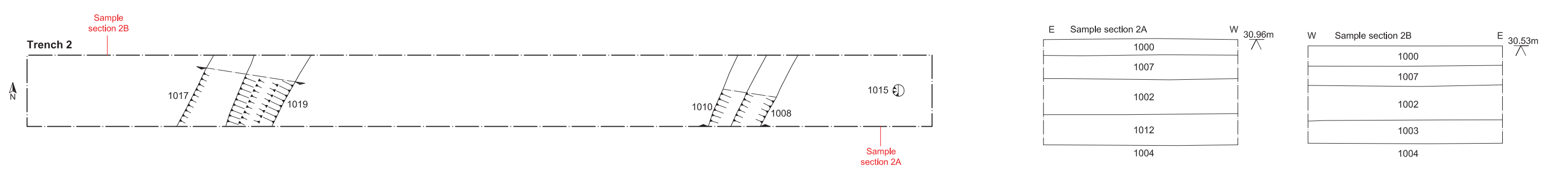
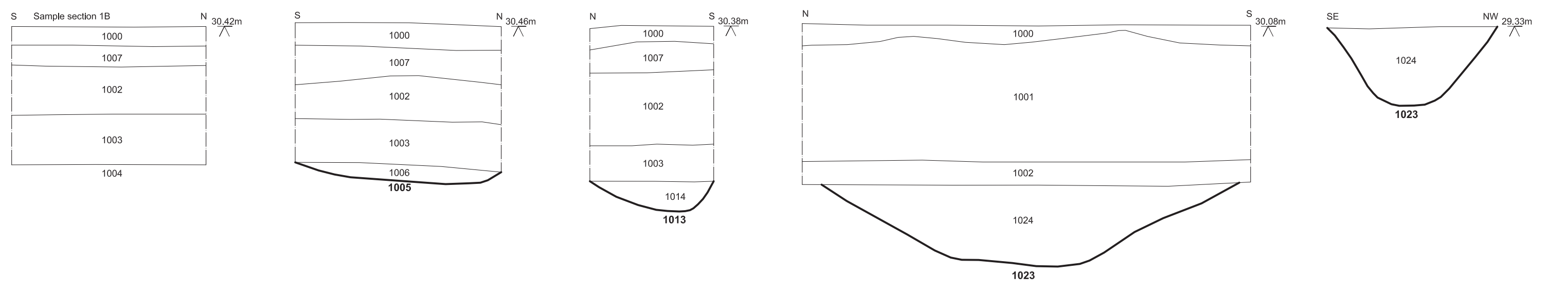
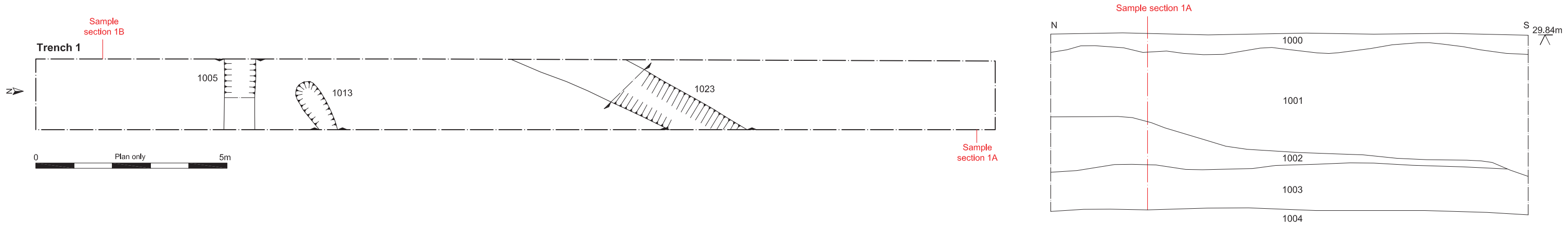


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Warboys Road, Copper Beaches, Pidley (P8208)



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4
Warboys Road, Copper Beaches, Pidley (P8208)

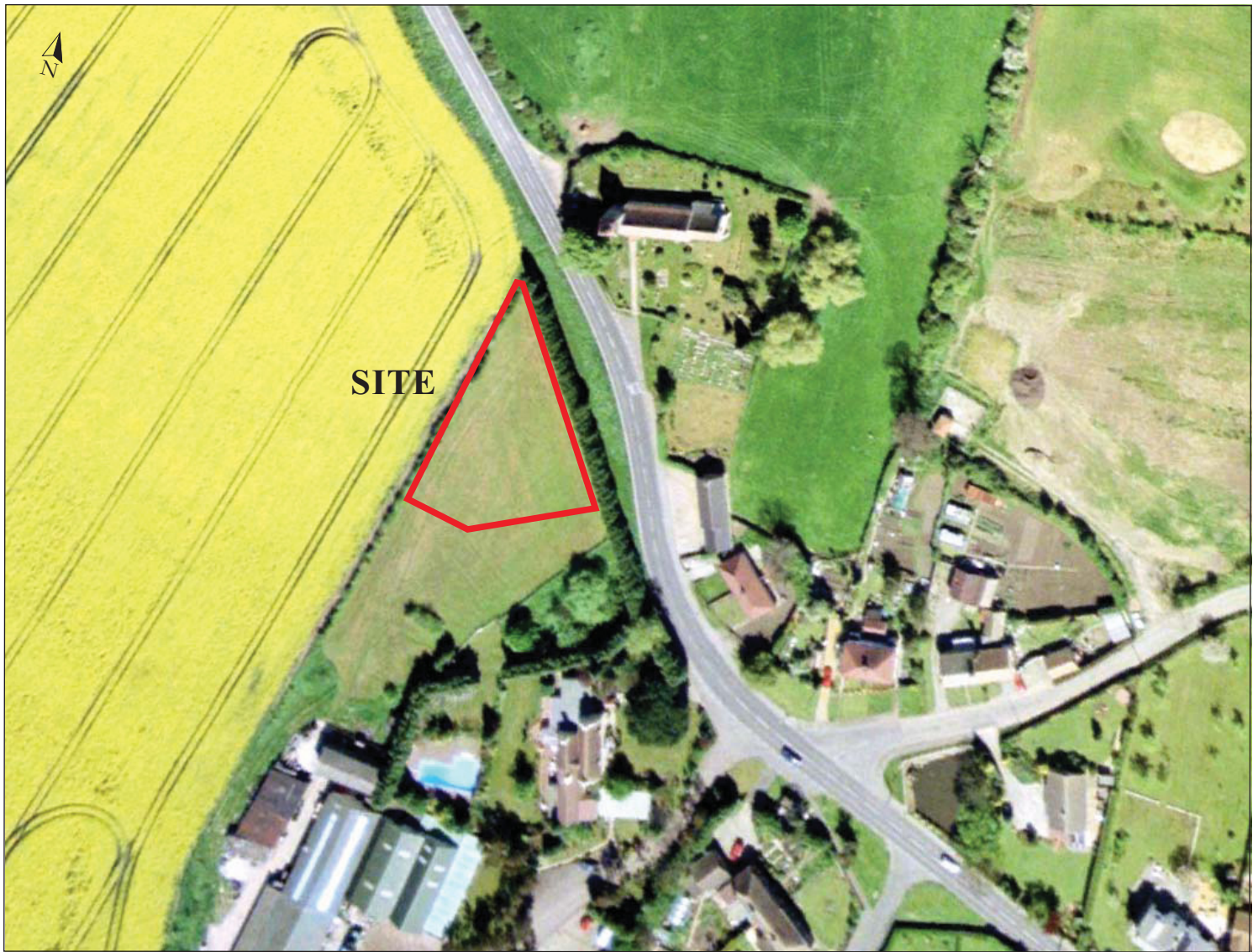


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Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections

Scale - Plans 1:100; sections 1:20 at A3

Warboys Road, Copper Beaches, Pidley (P8208)



Photograph taken from Google Earth

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Fig. 4 Aerial photograph, 1999
Not to scale
Warboys Road, Copper Beaches, Pidley (P8208)



Photograph taken from Google Earth

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Fig. 5 Aerial photograph, 2003
Not to scale
Warboys Road, Copper Beaches, Pidley (P8208)



Photograph taken from Google Earth

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Fig. 6 Aerial photograph, 2006
Not to scale
Warboys Road, Copper Beaches, Pidley (P8208)