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**LAND NORTH WEST OF 11 BRIDGE ROAD, MEPAL,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB6 2AR**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

ECB 6205

Authors: Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork & Report)	
NGR: TL 44123 81269	Report No: 6034
District: East Cambridgeshire	Site Code: ECB 6205
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 8341
	Date: 19 May 2020

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CONTENTS

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
- 5 METHODOLOGY**
- 6 RESULTS**
- 7 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 8 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 9 DISCUSSION**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| APPENDIX 1 | CONCORDANCE OF FINDS |
| APPENDIX 2 | SPECIALIST REPORTS |

Project details			
Project name	Northwest of 11 Bridge Road, Mepal, Cambridgeshire CB6 2AR		
<p><i>In April 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land north west of 11 Bridge Road, Mepal, Cambridgeshire CB6 2AR (NGR TL 44123 81269; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a bungalow, garage and new access (East Cambs District Council Approval Ref. S19/01005/OUT). It was required based on the advice of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).</i></p> <p><i>The site is located within an area of archaeological potential, with remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). It is within the area of the shrunken village settlement area of Mepal. Earthworks of the former extent of the larger settlement lie close by to the south (CHER 05831). The New Bedford River/Hundred Foot Drain is close by to the north west, and dates from the fen drainage in the 17th century (CHER MCB23934). Bridge Road which crosses the waterway dates to at least the 17th century and perhaps earlier.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed modern Modern (19th - 20th century) features and made ground layers likely relating to the former Grove Farm. An undated ditch was recorded and predated the modern features. It was not possible to determine whether this ditch was associated with the late Iron Age - early Roman activity known on the opposite side of the road.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	27 – 29 April 2020		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	8341	Site code	ECB 6205
Type of project	Archaeological evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Garden		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Modern (19 th - 20 th) century wall, ditches, pits. Undated ditch.		
Significant finds (+dates)	Modern (19 th - 20 th) pottery, CBM		
Project location	Cambridgeshire	East Cambs	Mepal
HER/ SMR for area	CCC HET		
Post code (if known)	CB6 2AR		
Area of site	c.1000m ²		
NGR	TL 44123 81269		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.5m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire County Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Alan Wood		
Full title	Land North West of 11 Bridge Road, Mepal, Cambridgeshire CB2 6AR. An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Barlow, G.		
Report no.	6034		
Date (of report)	May 2020		

**LAND NORTHWEST OF 11 BRIDGE ROAD, MEPAL,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB6 2AR**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In April 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land north west of 11 Bridge Road, Mepal, Cambridgeshire CB6 2AR (NGR TL 44123 81269; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a bungalow, garage and new access (East Cambs District Council Approval Ref. S19/01005/OUT). It was required based on the advice of the 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 within the area of the shrunken village settlement area of Mepal. Earthworks of the former extent of the larger settlement lie close by to the south (CHER 05831). The New Bedford River/Hundred Foot Drain is close by to the north west, and dates from the fen drainage in the 17th century (CHER MCB23934). Bridge Road which crosses the waterway dates to at least the 17th century and perhaps earlier.

The evaluation revealed modern (19th - 20th century) features and made ground layers likely relating to the former Grove Farm. An undated ditch was recorded and pre-dated the modern features. It was not possible to determine whether this ditch was associated with the late Iron Age - early Roman activity known on the opposite side of the road.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land north west of 11 Bridge Road, Mepal, Cambridgeshire CB6 2AR (NGR TL 44123 81269; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a bungalow, garage and new access (East Cambs District Council Approval Ref. S19/01005/OUT). It was required based on the advice of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Team of Cambridgeshire County Council. (Leanne Robinson-Zeki, dated 25th February 2020), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 13th March 2020) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014), and 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 southern edge of Bridge Road, on the northern periphery of the village of Mepal. It is adjacent to Bridge Road, east of Mepal Bridge and the Hundred Foot Drain (or New Bedford River). It is currently an open plot.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at c.5m AOD on Ampthill clay deposits, on the edge of the former low lying fen. Mepal is situated slightly up slope on the northern edge of a fen island, with Sutton on the southern slope of the same island.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site is located within an area of archaeological potential, with remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). It is within the area of the shrunken village settlement area of Mepal. Earthworks of the former extent of the larger settlement lie within the area between Bridge Road, School Lane, and River Close (CHER 05831). The medieval parish Church of St Mary is located within the village (CHER CB14893). Investigations to the south of the church have revealed medieval features that may relate to a medieval moated site (CHER ECB4797 & MCB20932). The Mean High Water or New Bedford River/Hundred Foot Drain lies close by to the north west, and dates from the fen drainage in the 17th century (CHER MCB23934). Bridge Road which crosses the waterway dates to at least the 17th century and perhaps earlier.

4.2 Recent investigations by AS at two sites on the opposite, north side of Bridge Road revealed a possible palaeochannel which may represent a former stream or tributary related to the prehistoric to early medieval course of the River Great Ouse (CHER ECB 5280; McDonald 2018). A significant late Iron Age/early Roman settlement was also identified (CHER ECB 5816; Locke 2019), with pits and ditches whose distribution was biased towards the north western half of the site. The ditches do not demonstrate any clear pattern or alignment but were consistently dated to the 1st century BC to the mid 1st century AD by the presence of 'Belgic' grog-tempered pottery. Although no enclosures, structures or primary rubbish pits were identified, the character of the features and artefactual evidence appears consistent with the presence of small scale pre-Roman late Iron Age domestic occupation, or activity, in a low lying fenland landscape; potentially forming part of a settlement pattern and population that was centred on focal points such as the contemporary hill fort at Wardy Hill to the east.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The CCC HET brief required a sample of the development area where the new groundworks are proposed to be investigated by trial trenching. One trench, 20m x 1.80m, was excavated across the area of the new house plot and parking/access (Fig. 2). The trench was mechanically excavated using a mechanical 360° excavator with a toothless ditching bucket.

5.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the inspection of the topsoil 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

No archaeological finds were present within the topsoil and made ground. Subsoil L1001 contained 19th – mid 20th century pottery (13; 217g).

Individual trench description is presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 4.32m AOD		
0.00 – 4.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark grey brown clay silt with sparse it csmall, medium, and large sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.
0.30 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid brown grey clay silt with very occasional small, medium, and large sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained modern (19 th – mid 20 th century) pottery (13; 217g).
0.58m+	L1002	Natural deposits. Firm, pale brown yellow clay with areas of pale brown yellow clay silt. Sparse small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 4.28m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.30 – 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.46m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Sample Section 1A.

Sample section 1C 0.00 = 4.37m AOD		
0.00 – 0.44m	L1000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.44 – 0.71m	L1020	Made ground. Firm, dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, and CBM fragments. It contained modern (mid 19 th – mid 20 th century) pottery (1; 14g) and CBM (1979g).
0.71 – 0.88m	L1018	Fill of Ditch F1017.
0.88m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Sample Section 1A.

Sample section 1D 0.00 = 4.34m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.33 – 0.52m	L1021	Made ground. Friable, dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small, medium, and large sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.
0.52 – 0.65m	L1001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.65m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Sample Section 1A.

Description: Trench 1 contained a modern (19th - 20th century) brick wall (M1019); two modern (19th - 20th century) ditches (F1005 and F1007); four modern (19th - 20th

century) pits (F1009, F1012, F1015 and F1017); and an undated ditch (F1003) which pre-dated Ditch F1005. A remnant of Subsoil L1001 or a plough scar traversed the trench obliquely and was visible at the base of Sample Section 1A.

Ditch F1003 was linear in plan (2.10+ x 0.50 x 0.13m), orientated north east / south west. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was cut by Ditch F1005. Its fill (L1004) was a firm, pale brown grey silty clay with sparse small and medium subangular flints. It was fully excavated in an endeavour to date the feature but it contained no finds.

Ditch F1005 was linear in plan (6.70+ x 0.50 x 0.20m), orientated northwest / southeast. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It cut Ditches F1003 and F1007, and Pit F1015; and was cut by Pits F1009 and F1012, and Wall M1019. Its fill (L1006) was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints. It contained modern (mid 19th - mid 20th century) pottery (15; 324g) and CBM (1821g).

Ditch F1007 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.30 x 0.10m), orientated northeast / southwest. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was cut by Ditch F1005. Its fill (L1008) was a firm, pale-mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints. It contained modern (19th - mid 20th century) pottery (1; 5g) and CBM (131g).

Pit F1009 was a sub-circular in plan (0.60 x 0.50 x 0.23m). It had steep sides and a flat base. Its basal fill (L1010) was a firm dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small sub-angular flints. It contained modern (19th - 20th century) pottery (3; 46g). Its upper fill (L1011) was a pale yellow grey clay that contained no finds.

Pit F1012 was sub-circular in plan (1.00 x 0.50+ x 0.87m). It had steep sides and a flat base. Its basal fill (L1013) comprised mixed patches of firm, pale yellow brown and pale blue grey clay, and dark grey brown clay silt. It contained modern (19th - mid 20th century) pottery (2; 9g) and CBM (200g). Its upper fill (L1014) was a firm, dark grey brown clay silt with patches of pale yellow brown clay, and occasional small and medium sub-angular flints. It contained modern (19th - mid 20th century) century pottery (4; 51g) and CBM (108g). It cut Ditch F1005 and was cut by Wall M1019.

Pit F1015 was sub-rectangular in plan (0.35 x 0.25 x 0.07m). It had steep sides and a flat base. It was cut by Ditch F1005 and Wall M1019. Its fill (L1016) was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints. It contained modern (19th - mid 20th century) pottery (1; 7g) and CBM (34g).

Pit F1017 was sub-circular in plan (3.50+ x 0.60+ x 0.19m). It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill (L1018) was a firm, mid brown grey clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained modern (19th - mid 20th century) pottery (3; 56g), and CBM (1531g).

Brick Wall M1019 was linear in plan (1.65+ x 0.22 x 0.39m), orientated north east / south west. It was constructed using mid orange red unfrosted bricks set within a pale yellow brown mortar. Five courses remained. It cut Pits F1012 and F1015, and Ditch F1005.

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 The site was overlain by a 0.30m thick topsoil layer (L1000) of friable, dark grey brown organic clay silt with sparse small, medium, and large sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. Below L1000 was a 0.16m – 0.28m thick subsoil layer (L1001) of firm, mid brown grey clay silt with sparse small, medium, and large sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. The natural deposits (L1002) of firm, pale brown yellow clay with areas of pale brown yellow clay silt, and sparse small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints were encountered at a depth of between 0.46m and 0.58m below the current ground surface.

8.2 L1020 was a layer of made ground layer (c.0.25m thick), comprising a firm, dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, and CBM fragments. It overlay the features in the south-eastern end of the trench, on the south western side only.

8.3 L1021 was a layer of made ground (c.0.20m thick), comprising a friable, dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small, medium, and large sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It was similar to Topsoil L1000 but with more stones. It was present only on the north-eastern side of the trench, butting Wall M1019.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site is located within an area of archaeological potential, with remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). It is within the area of the shrunken village settlement area of Mepal. Earthworks of the former extent of the larger settlement lie within the area between Bridge Road, School Lane, and River Close (CHER 05831). The Mean High Water or New Bedford River/Hundred Foot Drain lies close by to the northwest, and dates from the fen drainage in the 17th century (CHER MCB23934). Bridge Road which crosses the waterway dates to at least the 17th century and perhaps earlier.

9.2 Recent investigations by AS at two sites on the opposite north side of Bridge Road revealed a possible palaeochannel which may represent a former stream or tributary related to the prehistoric to early medieval course of the River Great Ouse (CHER ECB 5280). A significant late Iron Age/early Roman settlement was also identified (CHER ECB 5816), consistent with the presence of small scale pre-Roman late Iron Age domestic occupation, or activity, in a low lying fenland landscape; potentially forming part of a settlement pattern and population that was centred on focal points such as the contemporary hill fort at Wardy Hill to the east.

9.3 A large range of farm buildings relating to Grove Farm are shown on the 1886 OS map beyond the western edge of the site (Fig. 5). The buildings were still present on the 1959 map (Fig.6), but had gone by the time of the 1979 map leaving only a single building; the barn still standing today (Fig. 7).

9.4 The site had particular potential for evidence of late Iron Age/early Roman and post medieval activity. Previous investigations nearby suggest that the potential for medieval archaeology on this side of the medieval settlement was low.

9.5 The evaluation revealed modern (19th - 20th century) features and made ground layers likely relating to the former Grove Farm. An undated ditch was revealed and it pre-dated the modern features. It is not possible to say whether this ditch is associated with the late Iron Age/early Roman activity known on the opposite side of the road.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) would like to thank Alan Wood for funding the evaluation and for his assistance.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the advice of Kasia Gdaniec and Leanne Robinson Zeki, Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

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APPENDIX 1

CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

**Concordance of Finds
ECB6205 - P8341, Site North West of 11 Bridge Road, Mepal**

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	A		Subsoil	19th-mid 20th C	8	149					
		B			19th-mid 20th C	5	68					
1005	1006	A		Fill of Ditch	19th-early 20th C	11	202					
		C			19th-mid 20th C	3	35	768				
		D			Mid 19th-mid 20th C	11	87	1053				
1007	1008	A		Fill of Ditch	1	5	131					
1009	1010			Basal Fill of Pit	3	46						
1012	1013			Basal Fill of Pit	2	9	200					
	1014			Upper Fill of Pit	4	51	108					
1015	1016			Fill of Pit	1	7	34					
1017	1018			Fill of Pit	3	56	1531					
	1019			Wall			3062					
	1020			Made Ground	1	14	1979					

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 53 late post-medieval to modern sherds weighing 729g from six features, made ground and the subsoil. The entire assemblage comprised factory made earthenwares and glazed post-medieval red earthenware, and it is unlikely that any of it dates much earlier than the mid 19th century (Table 1).

Methodology

The sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Barclay et al 2016). Fabric codes used derive from the Museum of London and are appropriate for Cambridgeshire.

KEY:

GRE: Glazed red earthenware late 17th+

TPW: Transfer Printed Ware late 18th+

RWE: Refined white earthenware mid 18th+

MOCH: Mocha type ware late 18th+

Feature		Context		Quantity	Date	Comment
Subsoil		1001	A	6x35g RWE 1x87g GRE 1x27g TPW	19 th -mid 20 th	GRE: large flanged dish or bowl rim TPW: willow pattern
			B	4x55g RWE 1x13g GRE	19 th -mid 20 th	
Ditch	1005	1006	A	10x100g RWE 1x102 GRE	19 th – early 20 th	RWE: shallow dish/plate GRE: jar base
			C	3x35g RWE	19 th -mid 20 th	
			D	11x87g RWE	Mid 19 th - mid 20 th	RWE: preserve jar? fragments
Ditch	1007	1008	A	1x5g RWE	19 th -mid 20 th	RWE: cup fragment
Pit	1009	1010		1x2g RWE 2x44g GRE	19 th – early 20 th	
Pit	1012	1013		1x7g MOCH 1x2g RWE	19 th -mid 20 th	
		1014		3x48g TPW 1x3g RWE	19 th -mid 20 th	TPW: Willow pattern
Pit	1015	1016		1x7g RWE	19 th -mid 20 th	
Pit	1017	1018		3x56g RWE		RWE: shallow dish/plate

Made Ground		1020		1x14g MOCH	19 th -mid 20 th	

Table 1. Quantification of sherds by context

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The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Archaeological investigations recovered a total of 26 fragments (8866g) of CBM (Table 2), generally in a highly fragmented condition with the exception of a complete brick sampled from a wall; and entirely of 19th to mid 20th century date.

CBM type	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Red brick	5	5413
Gault brick	12	1749
Pantile	7	1304
Malting tile	2	410
<i>Total</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>8866</i>

Table 2: Quantification of CBM

The complete red brick was sampled from Wall S1019 and has a brickearth fabric with occasional calcareous inclusions; and dimension of 200x100x65mm with a flat base and sharp arrises; typical of mass-produced moulded types in the 19th century. Further fragments of this type of brick were contained in Ditch F1005 and Made Ground L1020. The remaining brick in the assemblage was in a gault fabric with a thickness of 70mm, suggesting it was not produced prior to the late 19th century, and included relatively small fragments in Ditches F1005, F1007, Pits F1012, F1015 and F1017. Similarly the fragments of orange-red pantile contained in Ditch F1005, Pits F1012 and F1017 are unlikely to pre-date the late 19th century, if not the early 20th century.

The most intriguing component of the assemblage comprised two fragments (410g) of malting tile contained in Ditch F1005 (L1006 Seg.D). Manufactured in a gault fabric, this tile was hand-made/pressed, not machine-pressed/moulded, and has slightly conical circular cells arranged in a grid, with each cell having four perforations in a square pattern. These traits suggest they are a relatively early variant of a malting tile, possibly produced in the late 18th to mid 19th centuries. The fabric is typical of the region, notably Fisons who had works at Burwell and Stowmarket, although this pattern is not associated with the mass-produced tiles that were widely exported from the latter centre. Malting tile production is not attested at

Burwell, but many small local producers may have existed, while similar tile have occasionally been recorded in Gloucestershire (i.e. Wightfield Manor, Deerhurst), therefore small quantities may have been to local maltsters, inns or estates via salesman or mail order. The 1st edition (1887) Ordnance Survey map does not label any maltings in Mepal; however adjacent to the bridge over the river were two public houses (the Red Lion and the Three Fishes) and it is quite conceivable these may have malted their own grain for brewing.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the archaeological evaluation of land NW of 11 Bridge Road, Mepal, a 20 litre bulk sample for environmental archaeological assessment was taken from undated ditch fill L1004 (F1003).

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).

Results

The sample contained no carbonised plant macrofossils, nor any plant macrofossil remains preserved by anaerobic waterlogging or mineralisation. A small number of charcoal fragments were present, accompanied by coal and clinker (coal ash) fragments. These are likely to represent fuel debris. The low concentration of remains is likely to represent scattered background debris, while the evidence of coal burning is likely to indicate a relatively late date for the deposit.

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-394843

Project details

Project name	Site North West of 11 Bridge Road, Mepal - Trial Trench Evaluation
Short description of the project	In April 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land north west of 11 Bridge Road, Mepal, Cambridgeshire CB6 2AR (NGR TL 44123 81269; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a bungalow, garage and new access (East Cambs District Council Approval Ref. S19/01005/OUT). It was required based on the advice of the 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 within the area of the shrunken village settlement area of Mepal. Earthworks of the former extent of the larger settlement lie close by to the south (CHER 05831). The New Bedford River/Hundred Foot Drain is close by to the north west, and dates from the fen drainage in the 17th century (CHER MCB23934). Bridge Road which crosses the waterway dates to at least the 17th century and perhaps earlier. The evaluation revealed modern Modern (19th - 20th century) features and made ground layers likely relating to the former Grove Farm. An undated ditch was recorded and predated the modern features. It was not possible to determine whether this ditch was associated with the late Iron Age - early Roman activity known on the opposite side of the road.
Project dates	Start: 27-04-2020 End: 29-04-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB6205 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	P8341 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PITS Modern
Monument type	DITCHES Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the	Pre-application

planning process

Project location

Country England
 Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE MEPAL 11 Bridge Road, Mepal, Cambridgeshire
 Postcode CB6 2AR
 Study area 1000 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 44123 81269 52.410010953746 0.119112274952 52 24 36 N 000 07 08 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Project brief originator Cambridgeshire County Council
 Project design originator Jon Murray
 Project director/manager Jon Murray
 Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Name of sponsor/funding body Mr Alan Wood

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Store
 Physical Contents "Ceramics"
 Digital Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Store
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Store
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "
 Entered by Danielle Helen Hall (danielle.hall@ascontracts.co.uk)
 Entered on 1 June 2020

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P8341)



1
View of site looking south-east



2
View of site looking south



3
Trench 1 looking north-west



4
Trench 1 looking south-east



5
Sample section 1A



6
Sample section 1B



7
Excavated features in south-east end of Trench 1



8
Ditch F1003 fully excavated



9
Ditch F1005 (segment D)



10
Ditch F1005 (segment C), Ditch F1007 and Pit F1015 with Wall F1019 at the rear



11
Pit F1009



12
Pit F1017



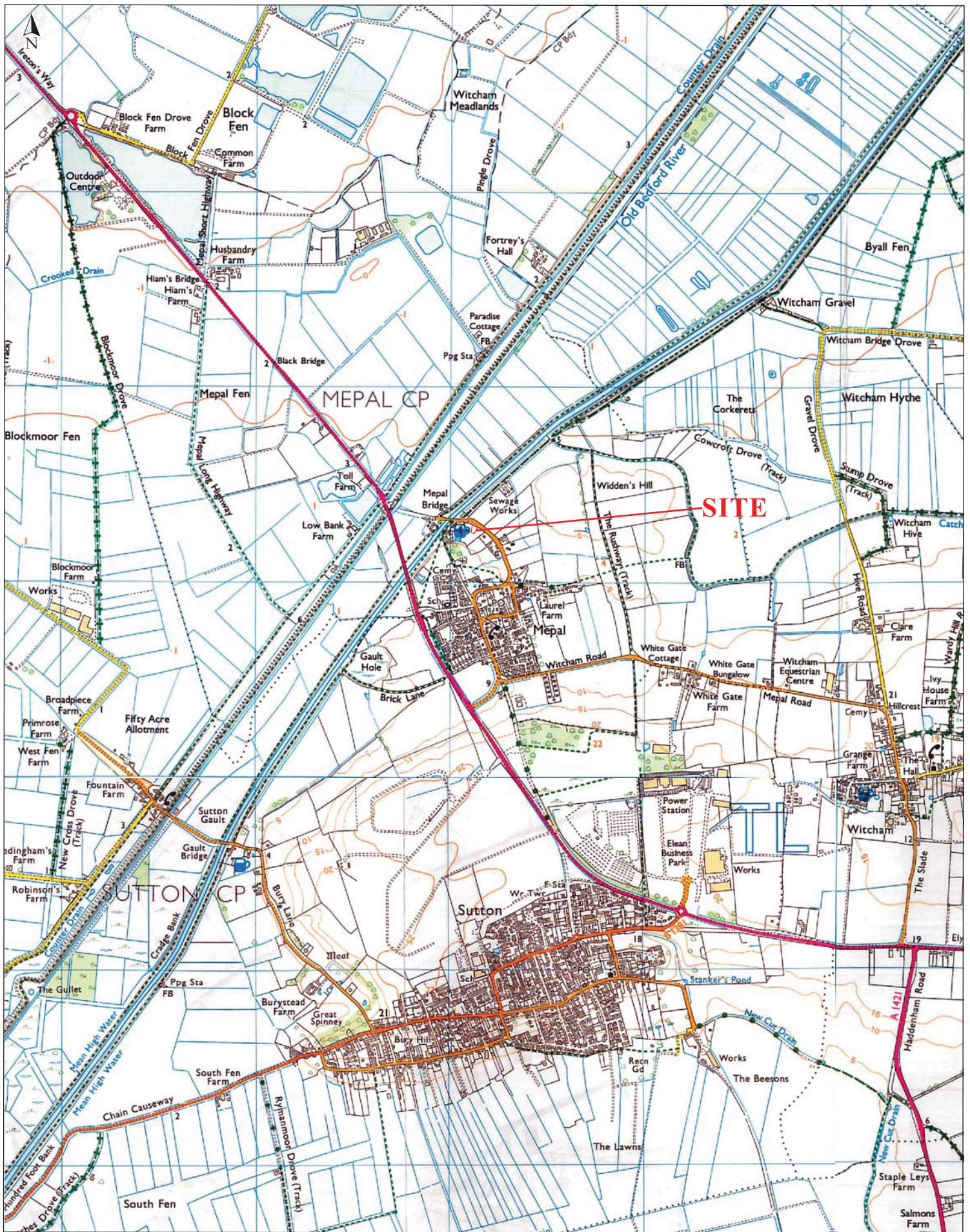
13
Wall F1019 and Pit F1012



14
Wall F1019 and Pit F1012

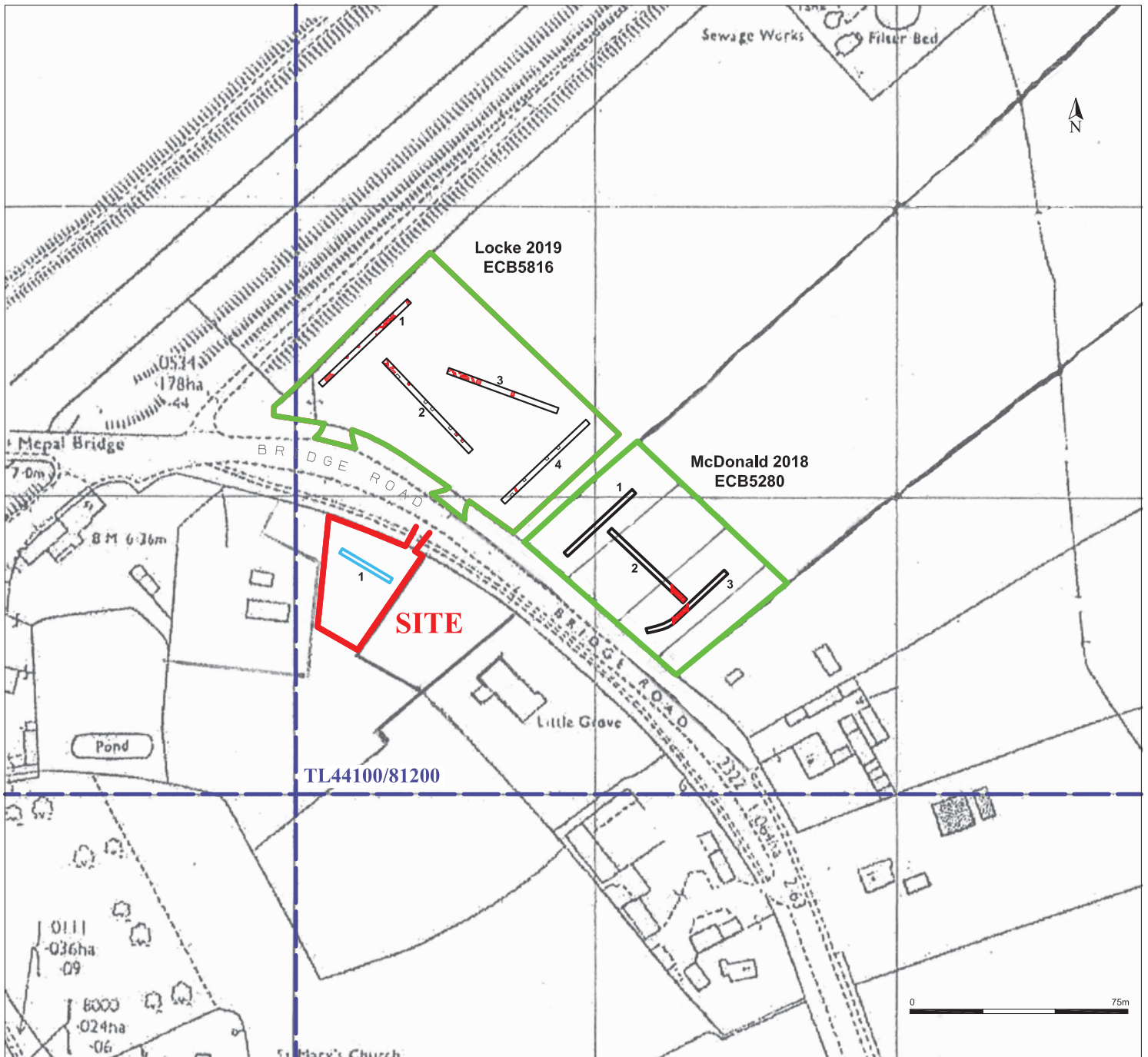


15
Ditches F1003, F1005 and F1007, Pits F1012 and
F1015 and Wall F1019



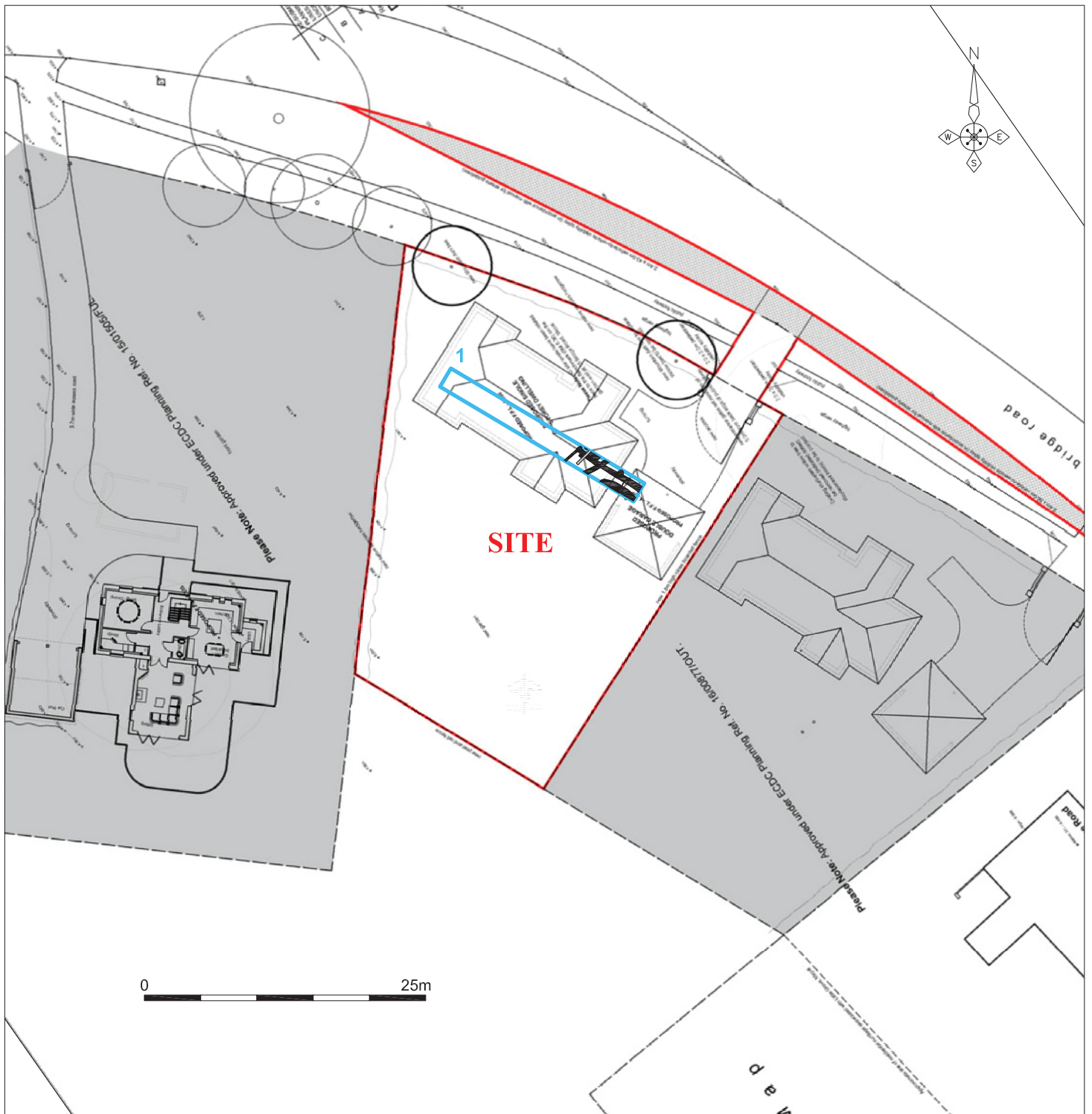
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Bridge Road, Mepal, Cambridgeshire (P8341)

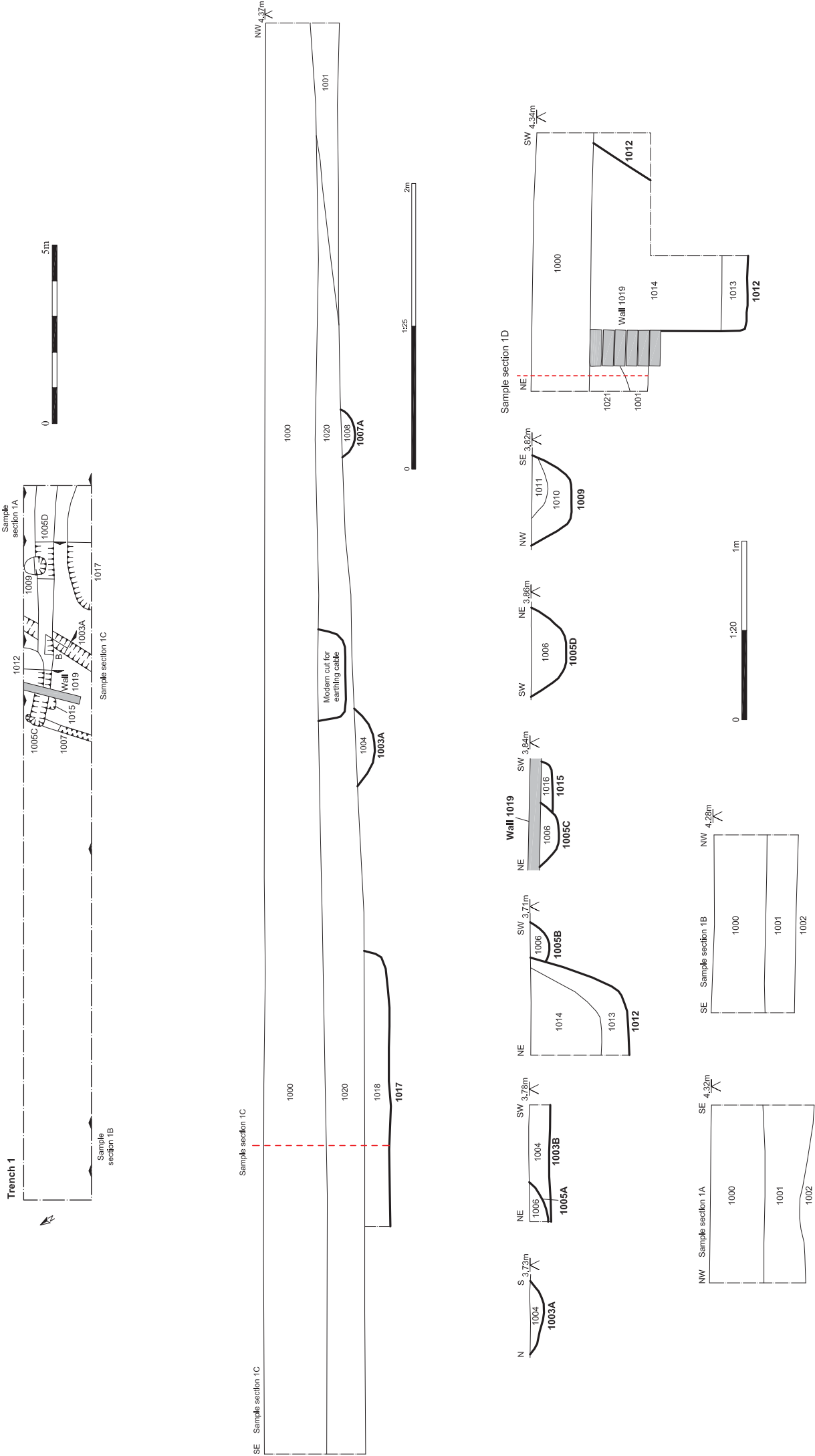


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1500 at A4
 Bridge Road, Mepal, Cambridgeshire (P8341)



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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
Scale 1:500 at A4
Bridge Road, Mepal, Cambridgeshire (P8341)

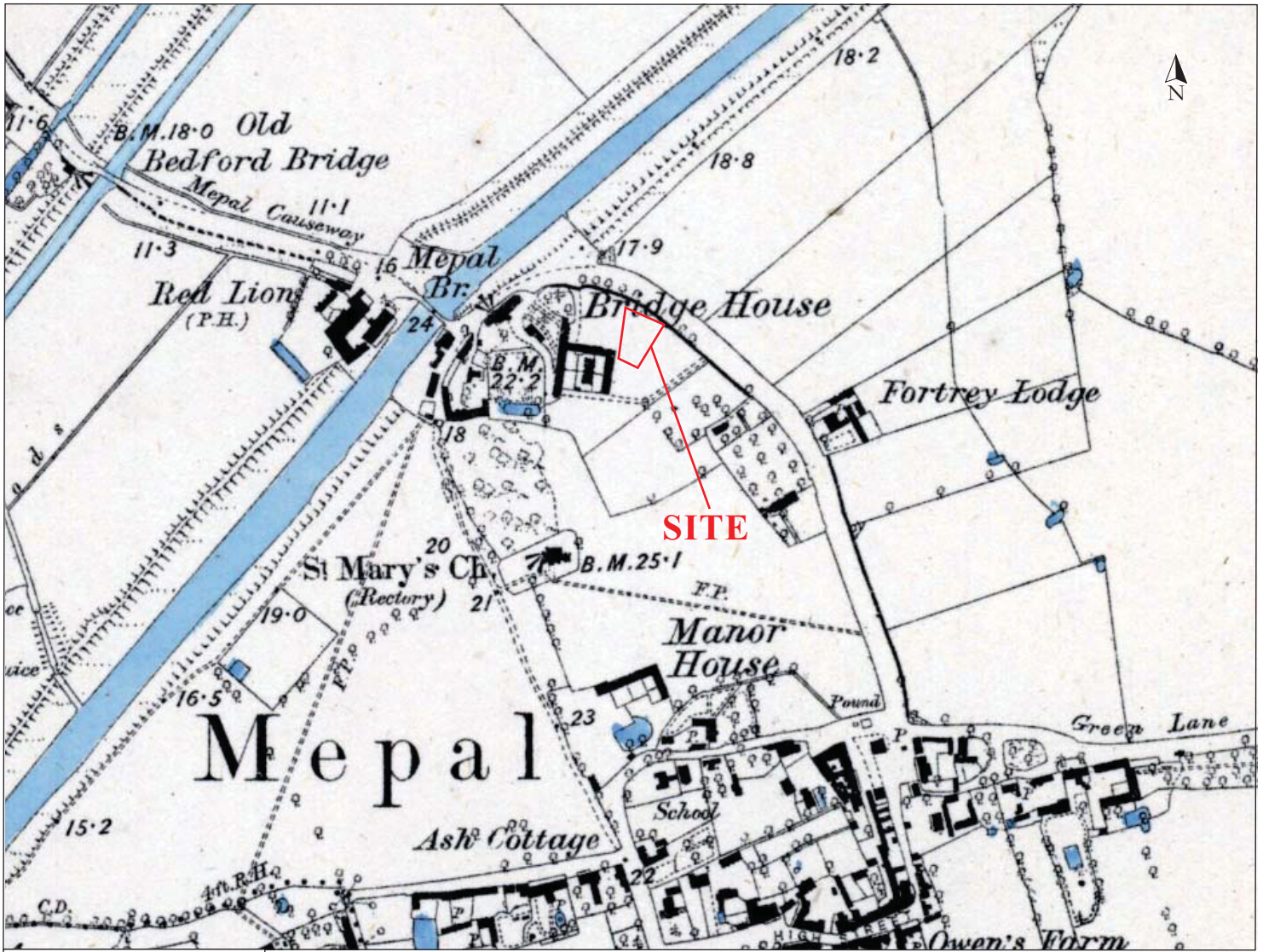


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Fig. 4 Trench plan & sections

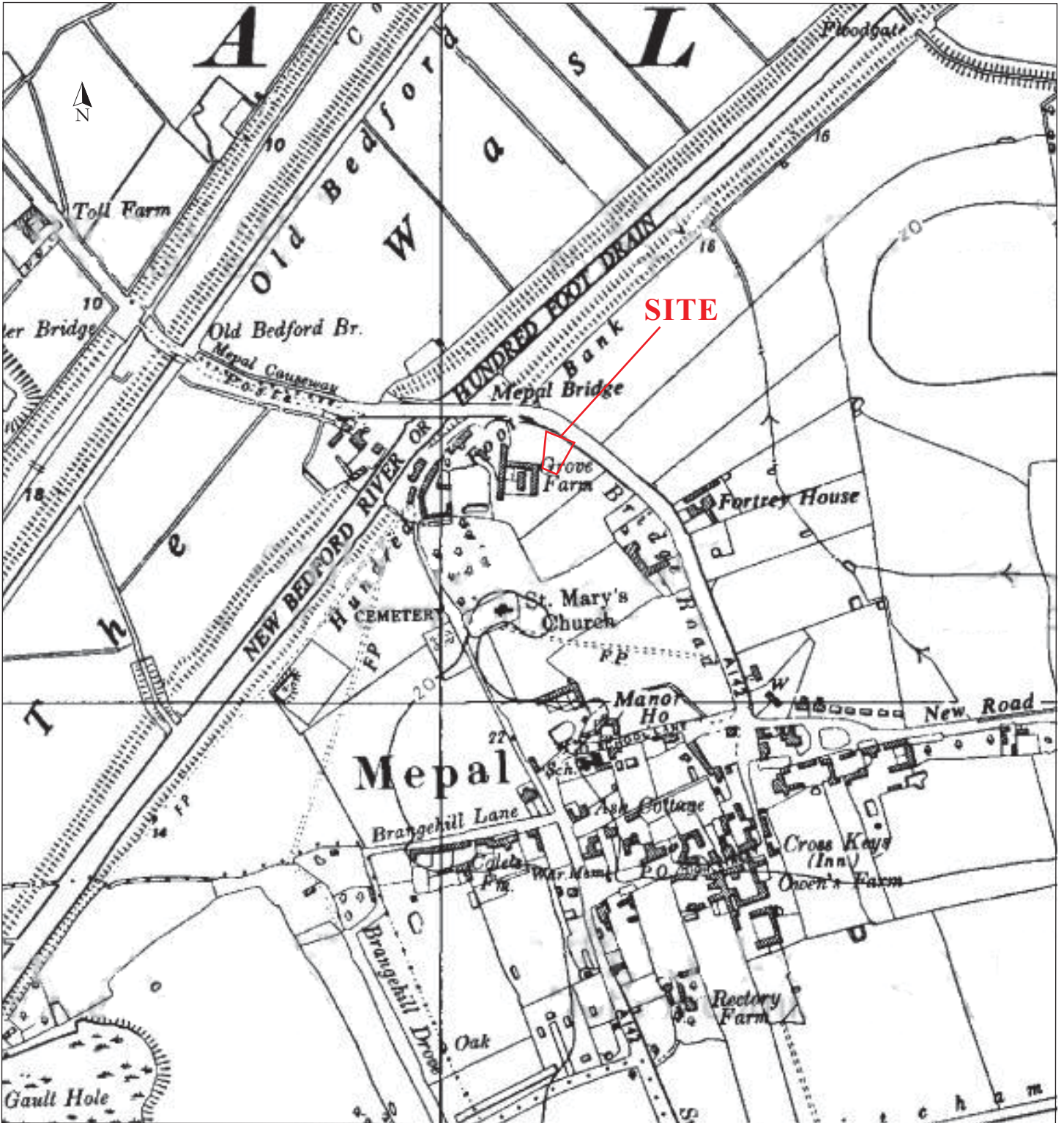
Scale - Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 & 1:25 at A3

NW of Bridge Road, Mepal, Cambridgeshire (P8341)



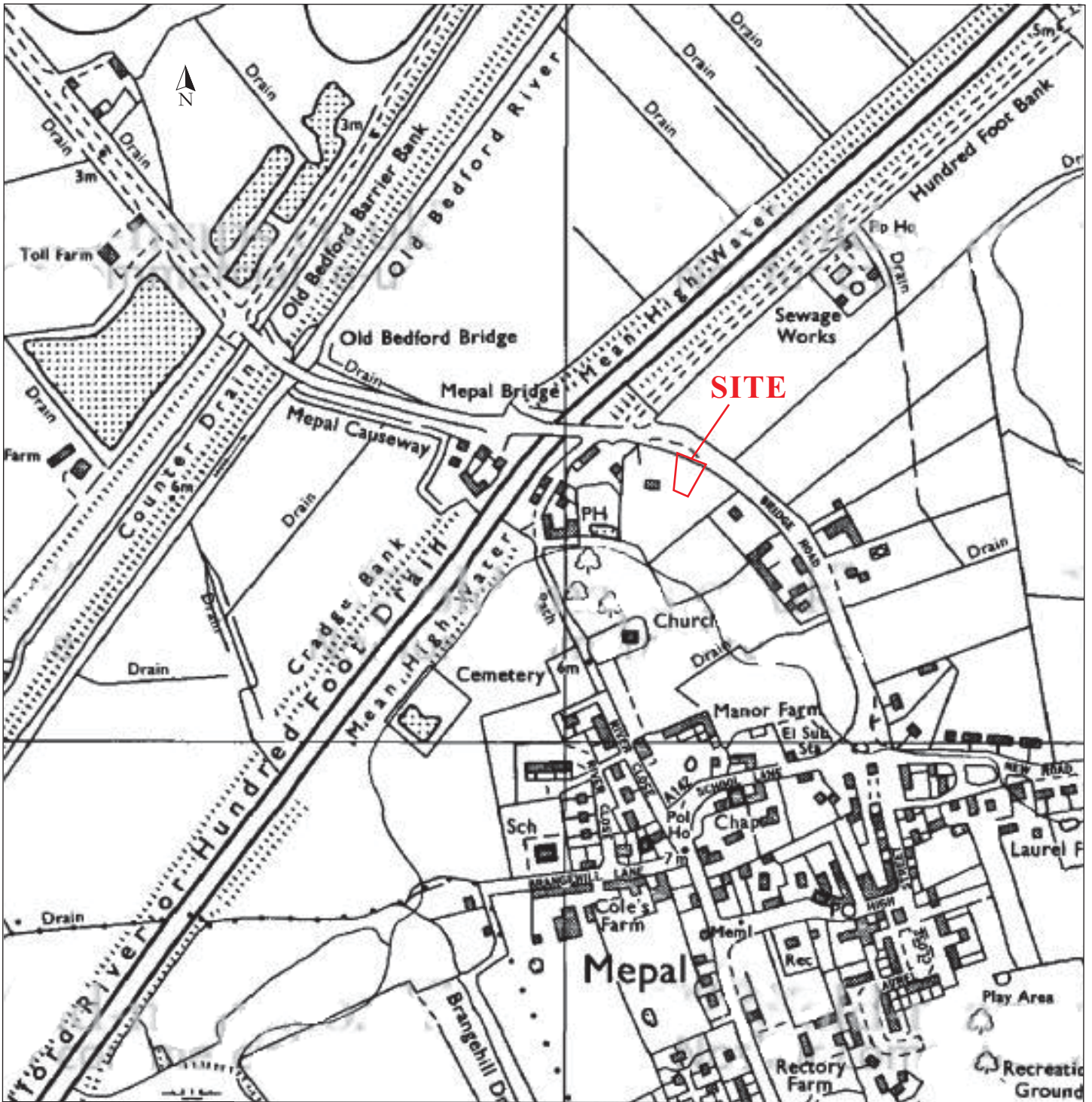
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Fig. 5 OS map, 1886
Not to scale
Bridge Road, Mepal, Cambridgeshire (P8341)



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Fig. 6 OS map, 1959
Not to scale
Bridge Road, Mepal, Cambridgeshire (P8341)



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Fig. 7 OS map, 1979
Not to scale
Bridge Road, Mepal, Cambridgeshire (P8341)