

**LAND AT 23 FEN END, OVER,
(FORMERLY CAMBRIDGE JOINERY LTD)
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>23 Fen End, Over, Cambridgeshire: An archaeological evaluation.</i>		
<p><i>In April 2008, Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at 23 Fen End, Over, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3785 7075). The evaluation was commissioned in compliance with an archaeological condition and in advance of the residential development of the site (Planning ref: S/2249/04/F). The proposed development comprises the construction of seven houses and garages on the former Joinery works plot</i></p> <p><i>All three trenches contained archaeological features. The majority of features were recorded in Trench 3, and the majority of features were ditches. Within Trench 3 the ditches followed a similar alignment (NW/SE). The features were largely undated. Only Ditch F1024 (Tr.3) contained pottery (17th – 18th / 19th century). The ditch also contained animal bone (63g) and iron nails (40g). Finds were sparse and Ditch F1030 (Tr.3) was the only other feature to contain artefacts (animal bone (516g) and iron nail (12g)</i></p> <p><i>F1018 (Tr.2), F1020 (Tr.3), F1022 (Tr.3), F1024 (Tr.3) and F1030 (Tr.3) were cut from relatively high up, and cut L1004. These features were the most recent, and F1024 contained 17th – 18th / 19th century pottery. F1030 was the only other feature on site to contain finds. All the earlier features are undated and contained no finds</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>9th – 18th April 2008</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3012</i>	Site code	<i>ASI124</i>
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Residential housing</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential development</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Undated or 19th century ditches and sparse undated pits</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>South Cambs Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Over</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 3785 7075</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>5-10m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Gary Brogan/ Richard Greene</i>		
Funded by	<i>Beaugrove</i>		
Full title	<i>23 Fen End, Over, Cambridgeshire: An archaeological evaluation.</i>		
Authors	<i>Greene, R, Unger, S, la,prey, C & Newton, A</i>		
Report no.	<i>3075</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>April 2008</i>		

**LAND AT 23 FEN END, OVER,
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

SUMMARY

In April 2008, Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at 23 Fen End, Over, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3785 7075). The evaluation was commissioned in compliance with an archaeological condition and in advance of the residential development of the site (Planning ref: S/2249/04/F). The proposed development comprises the construction of seven houses and garages on the former Joinery works plot

The desk-based assessment showed potential for archaeological remains from several periods. Numerous prehistoric barrows have been identified north of the village. The Roman period saw the encroachment of the Fens on the north western side of the village and numerous cropmarks are located in the vicinity of the site. There is little evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation although documentary sources suggest the Ramsey's manorial site originated from this period. Over did develop as a medieval settlement with the building of St Mary's church, a probable manorial house and a market place. The village was divided into several distinct districts including Fen End. The latter continued its expansion in the post-medieval period with several imposing houses built along the road, suggesting post-medieval activity may be encountered on the site.

All three trenches contained archaeological features. The majority of features were recorded in Trench 3, and the majority of features were ditches. Within Trench 3 the ditches followed a similar alignment (NW/SE). The features were largely undated. Only Ditch F1024 (Tr.3) contained pottery (17th – 18th / 19th century). The ditch also contained animal bone (63g) and iron nails (40g). Finds were sparse and Ditch F1030 (Tr.3) was the only other feature to contain artefacts (animal bone (516g) and iron nail (12g)

F1018 (Tr.2), F1020 (Tr.3), F1022 (Tr.3), F1024 (Tr.3) and F1030 (Tr.3) were cut from relatively high up, and cut L1004. These features were the most recent, and F1024 contained 17th – 18th / 19th century pottery. F1030 was the only other feature on site to contain finds. All the earlier features are undated and contained no finds

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trenching evaluation on land at 23 Fen End, Over, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3785 7075; Figs 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by Beaugrove in response to a planning condition related to a proposed residential development (Planning ref: S/2249/04/F).

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice (CAPCA, dated 20/09/07) and a specification prepared by AS (dated 26/09/07). The evaluation followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (both revised 1999), and those highlighted in the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2001) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The evaluation also aimed to identify area of previous ground disturbance on the site.

Planning policy context

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.5 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains in situ. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is at Fen End, on a road to the north east of the village of Over, Cambridgeshire (Figs 1 & 2). Over is located c.6.5km south east of the market town of St Ives and approximately 11.5km south east of the larger medieval town of

Huntingdon. The River Great Ouse meanders to the north west of the village of Over, continuing west towards St Ives.

2.2 The site lies to the west of the road Fen End with residential housing to the south towards the centre of the village and to the adjoining land both east and west. Bordering the north west of the site is agricultural land. The land was formerly occupied by Cambridge Joinery Ltd, and structures on the site have been recently demolished.

3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based assessment)

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the desk-based assessment.

3.1 Archaeological databases

3.1.1 The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot-finds within Huntingdon comes from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). In order to provide a representative sample, the HER database was searched for all known entries within a 1km radius of the site. Entries within an approximate 1km radius of the site are listed (Appendix 1) and plotted below (Figure 3). Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2. Significant HER entries from beyond the 1km radius have also been discussed where relevant.

3.2 Historical and cartographic sources

3.2.1 The principal source for these types of evidence was the Cambridgeshire Record Office (CRO), Cambridge. Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced in Figures 4-6.

3.3 Secondary sources

3.3.1 The principal sources of secondary material were the Cambridgeshire Record Office as well as AS's own reference library. All sources, including websites, are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Geological/geotechnical information

3.4.1 A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps based on the work of the Geological Survey of Great Britain.

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils

4.1.1 The site lies at a surface elevation of approximately 5-10m AOD, decreasing

north west towards the River Great Ouse. The site lies on the edge of former Fenland to the north east. The solid geology of Over is Ampthill Clay overlain by terrace sands and gravels of the River Great Ouse. The soils of the area are of the Hanslope association (SSEW 1983). This consists of slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils at slight risk of water erosion (SSEW 1983). Traditionally this type of soil supports winter cereals with some arable crops (SSEW 1983).

4.2 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)

4.2.1 The location of Over, placed on the immediate fen edge, was conducive to prehistoric settlement. Often, fenland can produce well preserved archaeology due to alluvial nature of the surrounding land. Evidence of early occupation has been discovered to the far north of the village including Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flints (Hall 1992, 148). In the Bronze Age, the significant rise of the water table resulted in the northern part of the village turning into marshland. Four clusters of barrows were identified in the parish by fieldwalking, many of which were only just visible above the later alluvium of the lowland (Hall 1992, 148). Iron Age remains have also been discovered to the north west of the parish and are thought to be part of the western extent of a larger settlement. This evidence attests to the long-term occupation of the village.

4.2.2 Closer to the site, there are only a small number of finds which may suggest prehistoric occupation. A Neolithic worked flint (CHER 11783) was discovered during an excavation in a residential garden (c. 625m north west of the site) found along with numerous multi-period finds. A Bronze Age arrowhead (CHER MCB16669; c. 875m south west of the site) was found during metal detecting whilst a gold Iron Age coin was also discovered approximately 1km south west of the site in the 19th century. There has been an intensive programme of fieldwalking in the centre of Over but with little results. Although the finds do not allow for comprehensive conclusions, it does indicate that the land was occupied in this period. The evidence from the Fenland survey does suggest that the barrows were concentrated closer to the north of the parish nearer the Fens, possibly as a ritual statement. If this was the case, Fen End (and the assessment site) may have been inside or just on the edge of the main settlement boundaries. Its name does suggest the area may have been on the edge of the fenland, perhaps indicating evidence of peripheral fen-edge activity.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

4.2.3 The majority of the village of Over was likely to have been agricultural in character in the Roman period, with cropmarks identified to the east of the village indicating numerous fields and droveways existed (Hall 1992, 150). Concentrated discoveries of Roman pottery also may suggest a farmstead may have resided within the fields (Taylor 1998, 68). Evidence of industrial activity has also been discovered at Coldharbour Farm, with numerous pottery kilns excavated with 1st to 2nd century pottery surrounding (Taylor 1998, 69). Occupation debris from one site in the south of the village indicated the presence of at least one structure some distance from the edge of the fen (Taylor 1998, 69).

4.2.4 There has been a wealth of finds in the village which suggests that a reasonably sized, probably agricultural, settlement did form in Over. Spot finds of Roman coins have been recorded (CHER 03725a, 03693) with a variety of Roman artefacts including pottery discovered in fields to the south west of the village (CHER MCB16698, MCB16670). A probable Roman inhumation was discovered to the west of Over (c. 600m west of the site; CHER 03597) which may suggest a small cemetery may be located close to the church. Occupational debris (CHER 11783) including Roman hypocaust tiles and pottery were also found within 100m of the inhumation, c. 500m west of the site. Importantly, numerous cropmarks (including a double ditched enclosure) have been identified c. 250m north west of the site which may be of Roman date (CHER 08893; Fig 7). The exact location of the probable settlement is yet to be found, although there is one factor would have affected the choice of location. The fen is likely to have moved covering a larger area in the west of the village than in the prehistoric period. The eastern side would have been the highest land and is the likely reason for finding numerous cropmarks in the east. Roman finds, including the inhumation close to the church, and the probable Roman cropmarks to the east of the village does suggest a settlement may have been located near Fen End, close to the assessment site.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (AD 411 – 1539)

4.2.5 Little is known about the early Anglo-Saxon period in Over, no finds of this date have been discovered within 1km of the site. Although this is rare, there could be several reasons for this. Over may not have been occupied at this time, possibly due to seasonal flooding or it may have been sparsely populated by small farming communities. By the later Saxon period, the manor of Over, probably named Berry or Ramsey's Manor, was mentioned in a will of 986 AD suggesting the settlement may have originated at this time. The Domesday Survey also lists a rather moderate settlement by 1086 which does imply that the area was occupied beforehand (William and Martin 2003).

4.2.6 Domesday Book records the holder of land at Over as the Abbot of Ramsey Abbey in Huntingdon (William and Martin 2003). It documents ten hides and three virgates with land enough for ten ploughs although no church or manor was recorded (William and Martin 2003). The earliest known building in the village was St Mary's Church with 13th century origins (CHER 03559). It was rebuilt in the 14th century which makes it distinct from many churches in the region. The nave is the only surviving 13th century feature with the aisles, chancel and tower all added in the 1300's. The location of the church in the west of the village was significant, Ramsey Abbey imposed 'regular' shaped settlements to surround the church and encompass market squares (Taylor 1998, 69). However, Over's development was also affected by the routes which passed the village. The routes to the markets in both Cambridge and St Ives passed Over and as a natural result smaller settlements grew adjacent to the road junctions, including Church End, Over End and Fen End (Taylor 1998, 69). The village as a whole was separated into two areas of settlement, one surrounding the church and the other, Over End, surrounding the green. The area of Church End encompassed the Church, Manor house and market place with a probable guildhall, almost to the size of a small town (Taylor 1998, 69). By 1279, Over could boast 140 tenants within its boundaries which could have equated up to 700 people living in the parish (Taylor 1998, 69).

4.2.7 The medieval manorial site within the village was likely to be in association with Ramsey Abbey (CHER 10291) and was probably located in Church End, *c.* 1km south west of the site. Another manorial site identified in Over (Berry Manor CHER 11264) was also likely to be part of this manor estate. The earthworks in both these locations indicate remains may survive. An interesting medieval discovery in the village was an architectural fragment (CHER 10527) found within a wall at a 17th century house on Station road which may have come from the rebuilding of St Mary's Church. Other find spots have been located in the parish including 14th century glazed pottery (CHER CB16670; approximately 1km south west of the site) with further medieval pottery discovered closer to the site (CHER 11783; *c.* 500m west). Importantly an excavation at The Lane in Over, thought to be in the medieval centre of the village (*c.* 500m south west of the site), revealed evidence of medieval horticultural activity demonstrating that the village was still rather rural in character (Edwards and Wilson 1999, 5). Although the assessment site is not in close proximity to either the church or manorial site (which are likely to have been in the medieval centre), Fen End is thought to have been populated surrounding the road junction in this period suggesting possible occupational remains could have been present.

Post-medieval (AD 1540 – 1900)

4.2.8 The village generally prospered in the post-medieval period with both agriculture and industry contributing to the wealth of the village. The Fens had a large role to play in the history of Over. The ineffective attempt to drain the fens in the 18th century did affect agricultural production, which lowered the population in the village (Taylor 1998, 70). It was only when steam power was invented that drainage was a success and agriculture could again thrive (Taylor 1998, 70). The industrial nature of the village was demonstrated by the use of two windmills, depicted on the inclosure map of 1837, producing further commodities for the community (CHER 00824, 11578). It is apparent that building was at a premium in the 17th century with over fifteen surviving listed buildings dating to this period. Fen End was certainly occupied in the 17th century with two contemporary structures, Ivy House and Furtherwick House, located adjacent to the site. The style of these buildings was Dutch influenced due to the Dutch prisoners of war who were brought to Over to build the New Bedford River, many of whom settled in the village. An excavation 3-5 Long Furlong revealed that this area was not within the main area of settlement and found evidence of the post-medieval agricultural activity (Hatton & Roberts 2000, 7). This indicates that isolated areas in the village were still unoccupied at this time and remained agricultural. However, it is likely that the site at Fen End was developed, particularly due to the 17th century buildings adjacent to the site. This suggested a potential for remains of this date, possibly both agricultural as well as occupational.

Undated

4.2.9 Several cropmarks have been located around the village which have not been assigned a definite date. Some of these cropmarks (CHER 08331, 11265, 08896) may be natural features but it is possible that some may relate to further settlement evidence, possibly from the prehistoric, Roman or medieval periods (Fig. 7). The cropmarks adjacent to the site (CHER 08893; *c.* 250m north west) may represent significant occupational evidence.

4.3 The assessment site

Inclosure map 1837 (Figure 4)

4.3.1 The inclosure map of 1837 depicts a rural settlement with the village split into several definitive areas, largely dictated by the church and the road system. The site was located on Fen End and appeared to be on land dedicated to agriculture or a garden plot with no structures depicted on the site. The site had three land boundaries running through the site. The accompanying inclosure award listed Richard Hobson of Hobsons charity as the occupier of both plots 220 and 224.

1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1889 (Figure 5)

4.3.2 By 1889, no changes had occurred on the site and the land was depicted as an orchard.

2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1902 (Figure 6)

4.3.3 This map depicted little change to the site by 1902. The land saw no development at this time, although the orchard moved closer to the western part of the site. The site remained undeveloped throughout the 19th centuries and into the early part of the 20th century. The orchard may have truncated the land by root or tree removal damage although this will only be slight damage. The potential for well preserved remains is high due to the lack of development on the site.

5 METHODOLOGY (Trial Trenching)

5.1 Three trenches were excavated in locations approved by the Planning Archaeologist for Cambridgeshire County Council (Fig. 2). Trench 1 measured 17.0m x 1.80m; Trench 2 measured 23.0m x 1.80m; and Trench 3 was 28.70m x 1.80m.

5.2 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under the close supervision of an archaeologist. Undifferentiated overburden was mechanically excavated; thereafter all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded by means of *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

6.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 9; DP 1)

<i>Sample Section: East end, North facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 6.42m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.03m	1000	Topsoil. Dark grey black-brown silty clay with building debris and gravel.
0.03 – 0.10m	1001	Made ground. Medium red orange brown silty sandy clay with gravel.
0.10 – 0.14m	1002	Demolition debris. Dark grey black-brown silty clay with building debris and gravel. Present in this section only.
0.14 – 0.35m	1003	Made ground. Dark grey black-brown silty clay with building debris and gravel.
0.35 – 0.42m	1012	Made ground. Mid orange grey brown silty sandy clay with gravel. Present in this section only.
0.42 – 0.62m	1004	Make-up. Dark grey orange brown silty clay with gravel.
0.62 – 0.85m	1005	Subsoil. Medium orange brown silty clay.
0.85m +	1006	Natural. Medium orange brown silty sandy clay with gravel.

<i>Sample Section : West end, North facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 6.22m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.10 – 0.30m	1003	Made ground. As above.
0.30 – 0.50m	1004	Made ground. As above.
0.50 – 0.75m	1005	Subsoil. As above.
0.75m +	1006	Natural. As above.

Description: One pit (F1007) was present within Trench 1. The excavation of Trench 1 also exposed two services, and the edge of a modern rubbish pit that contained clay sewer pipe, CBM, and bricks.

F1007 was located at the eastern end of Trench 1 (DP 1, Fig. 9). It was oval in shape. It had moderately sloping sides, and a concave base. It measured 0.73m in section, extended 0.70m into the trench, and was 0.20m deep. It contained a single fill (L1008) of medium grey brown silty clay with gravel. It contained no finds.

Trench 1 appeared to have been heavily truncated by modern utilities and the construction of buildings that formerly occupied the eastern end of the site. It likely that archaeological features, if present, would have been disturbed within this area.

6.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 9; DP 2)

<i>Sample Section Dwg.5: East end, North facing</i> <i>0.00 = 6.22m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	1009	Compact gravel. Light yellow grey silt with gravel.
0.12 – 0.20m	1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.20 – 0.60m	1003	Made ground. As above Tr.1
0.60 – 0.90m	1004	Made ground. As above Tr.1.
0.90 – 1.35m	1005	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1, but with gravel.
1.35m +	1006	Natural. As above, Tr.1, but loose and sandy.

<i>Sample Section: West end, North facing</i> <i>0.00 = 91.00m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	1009	Compact gravel. As above.
0.12 – 0.20m	1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.28m	1001	Made ground. As above Tr.1.
0.28 – 0.55m	1003	Made ground. As above Tr.1 .
0.55 – 0.90m	1004	Made ground. As above Tr.1.
0.90 – 1.15m	1005	Subsoil. As above Tr.1 but with gravel.
1.15m +	1006	Natural. As above, Tr.1, but loose and sandy.

Description: Two ditches, F1010 and F1018, orientated N/S, were identified within Trench 2.

Ditch F1010 (length 1.80m+, width 0.55m, depth 0.19m) was orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1011, was a dark grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds

Ditch F1018 (length unknown, width 1.95m, depth 0.45m) was orientated ?N/S. It was recorded in section only. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1019, was a dark grey brown silty sandy clay. It contained no finds. It cut Made Ground L1004, and was overlain by L1003

6.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 9; DPs 3-6)

<i>Sample Section: South end, West facing</i> <i>0.00 = 5.08m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	1009	Compact gravel. As above.
0.25 – 0.30m	1001	Made ground. As above.
0.30 – 0.70m	1003	Made ground. As above.
0.70 – 0.85m	1004	Made ground. As above.
0.85 – 1.0m	1005	Subsoil. As above but with gravel.
1.0m +	1006	Natural. As above but loose and sandy.

<i>Sample section: North end, West facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 5.70m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.20 – 0.40m	1001	Make-up. As above.
0.40 – 1.0m	1003	Make-up. As above.
1.0 – 1.20m	1004	Make-up. As above.
1.20 – 1.30m	1005	Subsoil. As above but with gravel.
1.30m +	1006	Natural. As above but loose and sandy.

Description: Six features and two modern rubbish pits were identified within Trench 3.

Ditch F1013 (length unknown, width 2.20m, depth 0.45m) was orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a narrow base. It contained two fills. The basal fill, L1014, was a dark grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds. The upper fill, L1015, was a dark grey orange brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1020 (length unknown, width 1.05m, depth 0.65m) was orientated NW/SE. It had relatively steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1021, was a dark orange greyish brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1022 (length unknown, width 2.20m, depth unknown) was orientated E/W. It was recorded in section only. Its profile was ill-defined because the feature was cut by Ditch F1024. Its fill, L1023, was a dark grey orange brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1024 (length unknown, width 1.72m, depth unknown) was orientated NW/SE. It had steep vertical sides. The feature was not bottomed. It contained three fills. Its lower fill, L1025, was a dark grey brown silty clay. L1025 contained 17th - 18th century pottery (1g). Above L1025, L1026, was a very dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate gravel. L1026 contained 17th – 18th / 19th century pottery, animal bone (38g) and an iron nail (14g). The upper fill, L1027, was a dark grey orange brown silty clay. It contained animal bone (42g) and iron nails (26g).

F1028 was a pit or the terminus of a ditch (length 1.85m, width 0.42m, depth 0.46m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1029, was a dark grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1030 was orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping, irregular sides and a flattish base. It contained three fills. The basal fill, L1031, was a dark grey brown silty clay. It contained animal bone (516g) and a nail (12g). Overlying L1031, L1032, was a dark grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds. The upper fill, L1033, was a dark orange brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Irregular feature, F1016, cut L1005 and was overlain by L1005. It contained no finds.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors hindered the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the trial trench evaluation, excepting the area of Trench 1 was disturbed by modern services and a modern pit.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The deposit model across the site varied from east to west.

8.2 In the area of Trench 1 the natural (L1006, a medium orange brown silty clay) was capped by subsoil and made ground. The latter appeared to consist primarily of imported fill material or demolition debris. All of these layers were capped by topsoil (L1000).

8.3 The natural, L1006, appeared to be more compact and clayey within Trench 1, and very sandy and loose within Trench 2 and 3. L1006 was encountered at a depth of 0.85m within Trench 1, and between 1.0m and 1.30m below the surface within Trenches 2 and 3.

8.4 Subsoil L1005 directly overlay L1006, and was not unlike L1006 in appearance other than comprising mostly of pea-sized gravel. L1005 was recorded at a depth of 0.50m to 0.85m within Trench 1, and 0.90m to 1.35m within Trenches 2 and 3.

8.5 The made ground layers L1003 and L1004 were very similar in composition; silty clay with very little gravel, but L1003 was a dark grey blackish brown colour and contained an occasional fragment of brick or CBM, and L1004 was a dark grey orange brown with rare fragment of building debris.

8.6 Located within Trench 1 was made ground L1012, located between L1003 and L1004. This gravely medium orange brown sandy silty clay was observed a depth of 0.35m to 0.42m only in Section 1 (east end of Trench 1).

8.7 L1002 was also only observed within Section 1. This layer comprised dark blackish-brown silty clay with a large amount of building debris. Located between 0.10m and 0.14m deep, it was interpreted as a demolition layer.

8.8 Made ground, L1001, was observed above L1002 or L1003 in all three trenches, except the west end of Trench 1 and the east end of Trench 2. It was observed at a depth of 0.03m to 0.10m within Trench 1, 0.20m to 0.38m in Trench 2, and 0.20m to 0.40m in Trench 3.

8.9 Above L1001 was L1000 which was very similar to L1003. L1000 did not exceed a depth of 0.20m. It was capped by a layer of compacted light yellow grey gravel and mortar, L1009, that appeared to be a base for concrete floors of structures that were once located within certain areas of the site.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 All three trenches contained archaeological features:

Context	Trench	Feature	Date
F1007	1	?Pit	Undated
F1010	2	Ditch	Undated
F1018	2	Ditch	Undated
F1013	3	Ditch	Undated
F1020	3	Ditch	Undated
F1022	3	Ditch	Undated
F1024	3	Ditch	17 th – 18 th / 19 th C
F1028	3	Pit	Undated
F1030	3	?Ditch	Undated

9.2 The area of Trench 1 disturbed by modern services and a modern pit.

9.3 Ditch F1018 (Tr.2) was recorded in section only.

9.4 The majority of features were recorded in Trench 3, and the majority of features were ditches. Within Trench 3 the ditches followed a similar alignment (NW/SE).

9.4 The features were largely undated. Only Ditch F1024 (Tr.3) contained pottery (17th – 18th / 19th century). The ditch also contained animal bone (63g) and iron nails (40g). Finds were sparse and Ditch F1030 (Tr.3) was the only other feature to contain artefacts (animal bone (516g) and iron nail (12g).

9.5 F1018 (Tr.2), F1020 (Tr.3), F1022 (Tr.3), F1024 (Tr.3) and F1030 (Tr.3) were cut from relatively high up, and cut L1004. These features were the most recent, and F1024 contained 17th – 18th / 19th century pottery. F1030 was the only other feature on site to contain finds. All the earlier features are undated and contained no finds.

9.6 Irregular feature, F1016, cut L1005 and was overlain by L1005.

9.7 Pit F1007 (Tr.1), and Ditches F1010 (Tr.2), F1013 (Tr.3), and F1028 (Tr.3) were overlain by L1005

9.8 Evidence from the evaluation has confirmed development of the site from the late post medieval / early modern period onwards, as identified by the preceding desk-based research. It would appear that archaeological features identified during trial trenching are relatively modern or undated. Further excavation at the site is unlikely to reveal more evidence than the evaluation has already demonstrated.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Cambridge County Archaeological Store (CCAS). The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Beaugrove for commissioning this evaluation and funding the project (in particular Mr Rick Cave and Mr Ray Barton for their assistance).

AS also gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Ms Sarah Poppy at the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record and of staff at the Cambridgeshire Record Office.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Ms Kasia Gdaniec of CAPCA

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APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a *c.* 1km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). The locations of the sites are shown in Fig. 3. Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2.

HER No.	NGR TL	Description
<i>Prehistoric (700,000 BC – AD 43)</i>		
03725	37 70	An Iron Age gold coin was found in the parish of Over in 1862.
11783	373 708	An early Neolithic worked flint and numerous other multi-period finds were discovered on an excavation in Over.
MCB16669	371 702	A Bronze Age arrowhead was found whilst metal detecting in Church End.
<i>Roman (AD 43 – 410)</i>		
03597	371 708	A Roman inhumation and pottery found. Pottery was found close to the church and a woman inhumation near by orientated north to south.
03693	3856 7024	Roman coins were found at this location, deposited in <i>c.</i> 285 AD.
03725a	37 70	Roman coins found in Over in 1862, possibly connected with the finding of an Iron Age coin.
07716	3828 1756	A Roman site. A few sherds of Roman pottery were found but a watching brief on a pipeline failed to show any archaeological remains. It is thought any remains were severely plough damaged.
09836A	3731 7081	Seven sherds of Roman pottery were discovered in excavations at Church Farm House.
11783	373 708	A roman hypocaust tile and two roman pottery sherds and numerous other multi-period finds were discovered on an excavation in Over.
MCB16670	3685 6980	Roman tile, pottery and coins have been found as stray finds.
MCB16698	366 698	Roman coins found at this location.
<i>Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (AD 410 – 1550)</i>		
03559	3730 7082	St Mary's Church, Over. The church retains work of the 13 th century but also saw re-building in the 14 th century and later. The nave dates to the 12 th century with the chancel, tower and aisle all of 14 th century date. The clerestory and arcade are 15 th century additions.
10287	3670 7045	A track way from Station road to Swavesey Drain – VCH suggest it is post 1600 although this cannot be confirmed.
10291	3690 7040	Ramsty's Manor, Over. The possible site of a medieval manorial estate with some earthworks/ undulating land on the site indicating possible remains.
10292	3760 6970	Two fields of earthworks either side of Mustill Lane which is thought to be a ridge and furrow dating to the medieval period.
10293	372 710	Remains of narrow fields and tofts by hedgeline preserving line

		of Back Lane thought to date to the medieval period.
10294	374 702	North west to south east aligned ridge and furrow in moderate condition with other earthworks at the Doles, Over.
10295	3735 7125	Chain House. The modern hoist by the bridge across chain ditch could be the successor to a medieval building.
10527	3716 7065	An architectural fragment was found underpinning part of the timber frame at 20 Station Road, it is unlikely to have come from the original 17 th century building and may have come from a church.
11263	382 710	A medieval hollow way preserved at junction of Long Lane and Dockrel Brook Lane, part of the medieval route from Erith to Over.
11264	368 705	A mound on Station road, possible site of Berry's Manor.
11268	3745 6999	A pond, south of west street, may be of medieval date.
11783	373 708	Medieval pottery sherds and numerous other multi-period finds were discovered on an excavation in Over.
MCB16670	3685 6980	Medieval 14 th century green glazed ware has been found with shell-tempered wares as stray finds.
<i>Post-medieval (AD 1550 – 1900)</i>		
00824	381 703	This is the site of Over windmill depicted on the 1830's inclosure map.
02420	3674 7018	This is a mound of a previous windmill shown as Mill pits on the 1830's inclosure map.
10447	3787 7062	Late 17 th or 18 th century dovecote situated close to Ivy House. It is grade II listed.
10895	377 697	Earthworks of possible quarrying may have been identified.
11262	374 708	Post-medieval field boundaries are preserved in field ditches of Overcote Road.
11578	3805 7035	The site of a windmill shown on the inclosure map.
11783	373 708	Post-medieval pottery sherds and numerous other multi-period finds were discovered on an excavation in Over.
CB14898	3742 7060	Methodist chapel built in 1848 off of the High Street and remained open until 1982.
CB14899	3743 6999	Baptist church dating from 1810 built on West Street/New Road.
CB15291	37726 70364	An excavation at Long Furlong revealed two, likely agricultural, ditches, possibly dating to the medieval and post-medieval period.
<i>Undated</i>		
08331	3687 7096	A ring ditch and enclosure cropmarks were located in Swavesey.
08334	385 702	A cropmark enclosure was identified from aerial photographs from Longstanton to Bluntisham although no archaeological evidence found during a watching brief on a pipeline.
08893	377 709	Double ditched enclosure with track ways and ditches identified by aerial photographs.

08894	366 710	Earthworks including enclosures, large linear features and banks.
08896	381 714	Enclosures identified from aerial photos.
09836	3731 7081	Undated human remains were discovered during pipe-laying at Church Farm House, Over. Residual roman pottery was found with the skeletons and it is thought burials date to a time when the churchyard extended into this area (known as ECB1387).
10289	3745 6999	A depression which might be a filled in pond associated with a 17 th century house.
11265	374 707	Irregular earthworks were recorded in a garden opposite the church at Church End.
13045	37485 70539	An excavation at the Lanes revealed parallel linear features which may be the remains of horticultural activity in this area, possibly late medieval.
ECB1493	38554 69753	Watching brief on the Swavesey to Over pipeline observed no features.
ECB3	38565 69140	Watching brief on the Longstanton to Bluntisham pipeline observed no features (area B-C).
ECB4	38336 71131	Watching brief on the Longstanton to Bluntisham pipeline observed no features (area C-D).

APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Date	Map	Scale	Location
1837/8	Inclosure map and award Q/RDC 55	-	CRO
1889	1 st Edition OS map XXXIII.3	1:2500	CRO
1902	2 nd Edition OS map XXXIII.3	1:2500	CRO

APPENDIX 3 LISTED BUILDING DATA

The following listed buildings are those that lie within *c.* 1km of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2.

Her no.	NGR TL	Name	Grade	Description
DCB6683	37281 70824	The Vicarage	II	An 18 th century house with 19 th century additions, probably built for Dr Bentley of Cambridge University.
DCB6026	37232 70734	No. 13 Church End	II	A late 17 th or early 18 th century cottage, timber framed with a reed thatched roof. Said to be the curate's house.
DCB6845	37834 70657	Ivy House	II	A late 17 th century house with some 19 th century alterations. It is said to have a connection with No. 14 Fen End and No. 22 High Street over Dutch prisoners of war in the 17 th century.
DCB6196	37886 70663	Furtherwick House (No. 14 and 16 Fen End)	II	A late 17 th century house with 20 th century alterations. It is said to have a connection with Ivy House and No. 22 High Street over Dutch prisoners of war in the 17 th century.
DCB6352	38017 70824	No. 48 Fen End	II	A mid 17 th century cottage restored in the mid 20 th century.
DCB6197	37933 70773	No. 37 & 39 Fen End	II	An early 17 th century cottage now split into two dwellings which probably took place in the 19 th century.
DCB6645	37468 70067	No. 30 Glover Street	II	A mid 17 th century two storey house.
DCB6353	37723 70586	No. 4 High Street	II	An early 17 th century two storey house with 20 th century additions.
DCB5872	37606 70642	No. 22 High Street	II	A mid 17 th century house restored in 198. It is said to have a connection with No. 14 Fen End and Ivy House over Dutch prisoners of war in the 17 th century.
DCB6995	37445 70664	The Thatched Cottage (No. 50 and 52 High Street).	II	A late 17 th to early 18 th century cottage restored in the mid 20 th century.
DCB6892	37332 70810	Swan House	II	A late 17 th century house formerly the White Swan public house with additions in the 20 th century.

DCB5704	37669 70598	No. 13 High Street	II	An early 18 th century house with a kitchen wing dating to 1771.
DCB6198	37631 70612	No. 17 High Street	II	A house built in the 1700's with some 19 th century alterations.
DCB4475	37460 70617	Berry House (no. 41 High Street	II	A house built in 1723 but possibly of earlier origin with 20 th century alterations. It is thought this house lies on the site of the manorial estate and house.
DCB6573	37714 70086	No. 28 Hilton Street	II	A mid 19 th century villa with two storeys.
DCB5623	37315 70805	Church Farmhouse	II	An 18 th century farm house with earlier stack. Later 18 th and 19 th century extensions have been noted.
DCB6201	37760 70042	No. 1 King Street	II	An 18 th century cottage but restored mid 20 th century.
DCB4476	37560 70275	Poplar Farm Inn	II	A 17 th century house, now a pubic house and restaurant. Timber framed with 20 th century alterations.
DCB5282	37379 70006	Sycamore House	II	An 18 th century house with 19 th century additions. Some 18 th and 19 th century panelled decoration is preserved in the attic.
DCB5705	37158 70659	No. 20 Station Road	II	A 17 th century timber framed cottage with a 20 th century extension to rear.
DCB6520	37146 70618	No. 30 Station Road	II	A late 17 th century timber framed cottage with thatched roof.
DCB6646	37696 70085	No. 28 Hilton Street	II	An 18 th century / 19 th century barn which is now a garage and store.
DCB6851	37475 69992	No. 41 Glover Street	II	A pair of houses, of 17 th century origin with 19 th century alterations.
DCB4478	37539 69952	Popular Cottage (No. 13 and 15 West Street)	II	An early 17 th century house, partly rebuilt in the 18 th century.
DCB6996	37442 69982	No. 2 West Street	II	Late 18 th century house with 19 th century additions.
DCB651	37527 69938	No. 20 & 22 West Street	II	A possibly 17 th century cottage with 18 th century alterations.
DCB6354	37578 69899	No. 30 West Street	II	A 19 th century house with two storeys.
DCB4458	37591 69893	No. 32 West Street	II	A mid 17 th century timber framed one storey cottage.
DCB5639	37598 69884	No. 34 West Street	II	A probably 18 th century house, timber framed and two storeys.
DCB4459	37617 69859	No. 36 West Street	II	A probably 18 th century house with 20 th century alterations.

DCB6642	37159 70774	Equestrian statue of Viscount Hardinge	II	Heroic bronze figure in military uniform built in 1858. It is now in the grounds of Albion Villa.
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APPENDIX 4 OVER INCLOSURE AWARD 1838

Plot no.	Owner	Occupier	Plot name	Land type	Area (a.r.p)
205	Joseph Wayman	-	Tenement and orchards.	Freehold	0.1.3
206	Joseph Gifford	-	House/ homestead	Freehold	0.3.19
207	Joseph Gifford	-	Orchard	Freehold	0.3.0
208	James Balfour	-	House/ homestead and close	-	1.2.38
219	Joseph Shaw	-	Tenement and Yards	-	0.0.14
220	Hobsons Charity	Richard Hobson	Garden	-	0.1.10
223	Hobsons Charity	Richard Hobson	House and Orchard	Freehold	0.0.34
224	Hobsons Charity	Richard Hobson	Garden	-	0.1.29
225	James Norman	-	Tenements and garden	Freehold	0..32
226	James Cork	-	Tenements/homestead and close	-	1.2.20

APPENDIX 5
CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

APPENDIX 6 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 3 sherds weighing 62g from ditch F1024. L1026 contained a small abraded fragment weighing less than 1 gram in a dissolved shelly fabric which is probably residual prehistoric, but is too small to be sure. The remaining two sherds are abraded post-medieval wares indicating a 17th to 18th century date.

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Date</i>
1024	1025	Ditch	1x1g Tin Glazed Earthenware	17 th -18 th
1024	1026	“	1x60g PMRE 1x<1g Prehistoric?	17 th - 18 th /19 th

The Animal Bone

Carina Phillips

Only six fragments of animal bone were hand excavated from two features at Fen End. The bone is of good condition. Domestic species cattle (*Bos* sp.), sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra* sp.), horse (*Equus* sp.) and dog (*Canis familiaris*) were each represented by a single bone fragment. Two other bone fragments were unidentifiable to species. Cut marks on a cattle humerus are the only evidence of butchery present in the assemblage.

The animal bone assemblage is too small for further comment. Further excavation may also produce an animal bone assemblage of a small size which may restrict analysis of the bone beyond identification to species.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1 Trench 1, F1007 looking SW



2 Trench 2, F1018 looking NE



3 Trench 3, F1010 looking SW



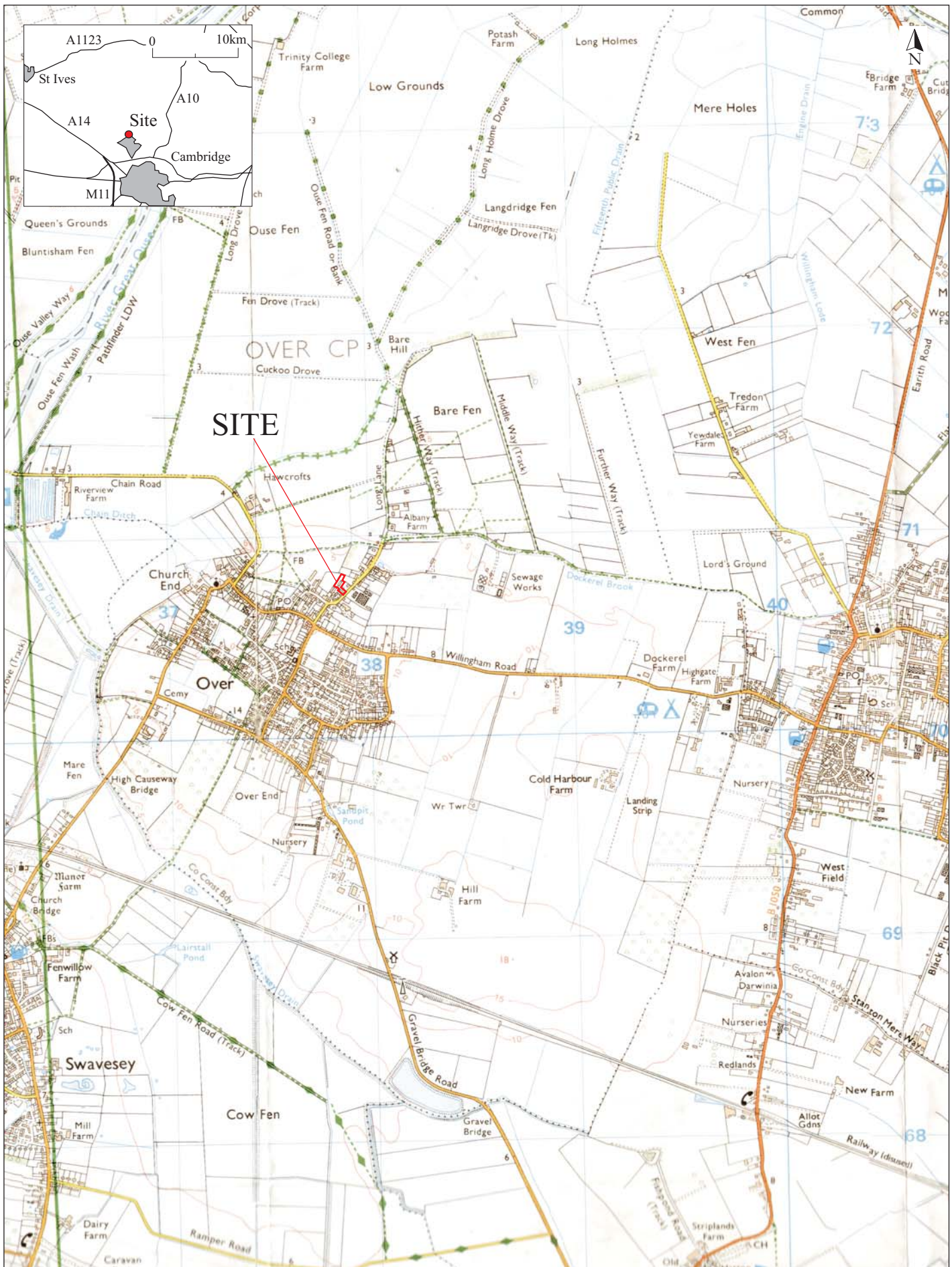
4 Trench 3, F1020 looking SE



5 Trench 3, F1024 looking SE

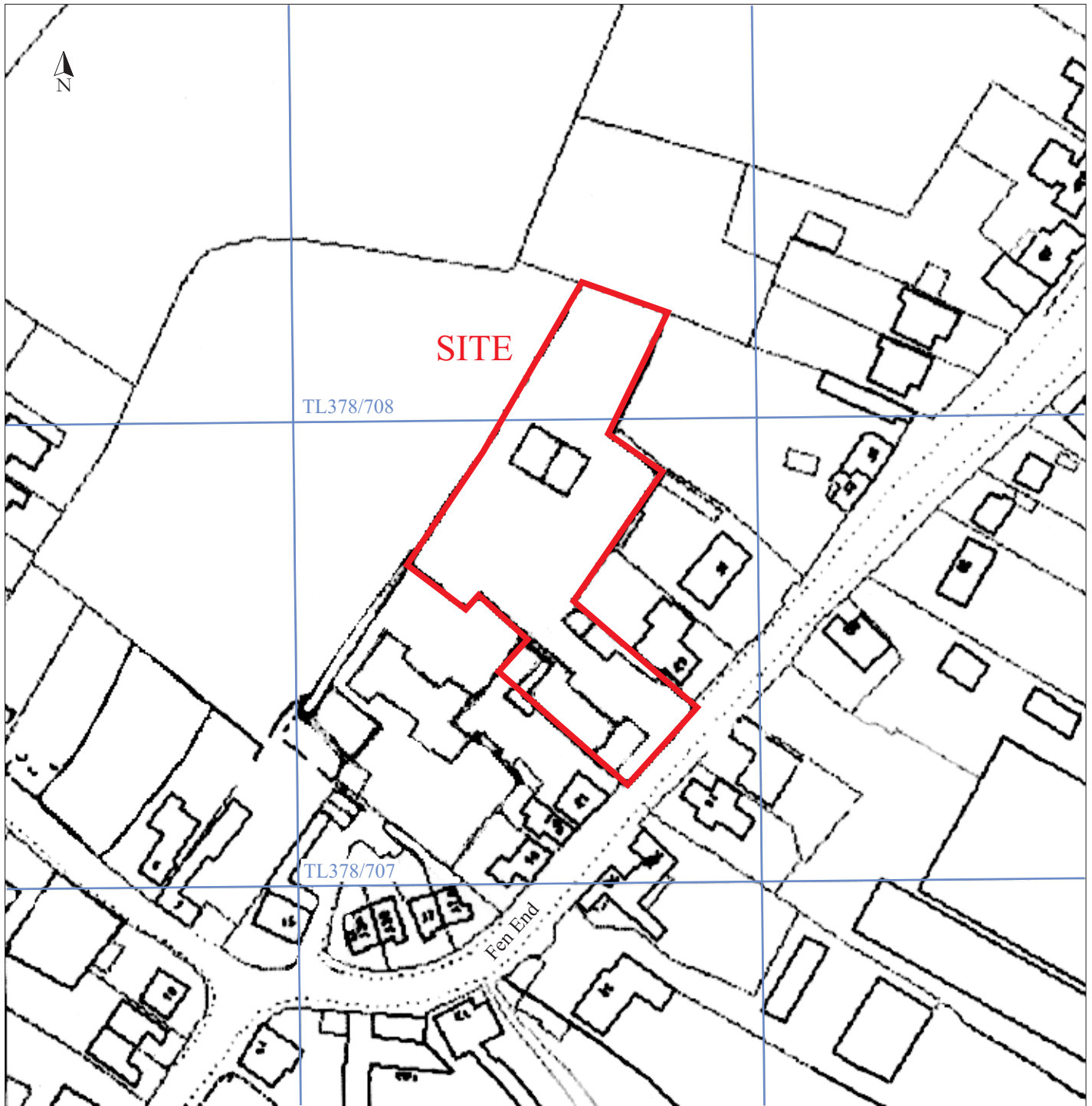


6 Trench 3, F1028 looking NW



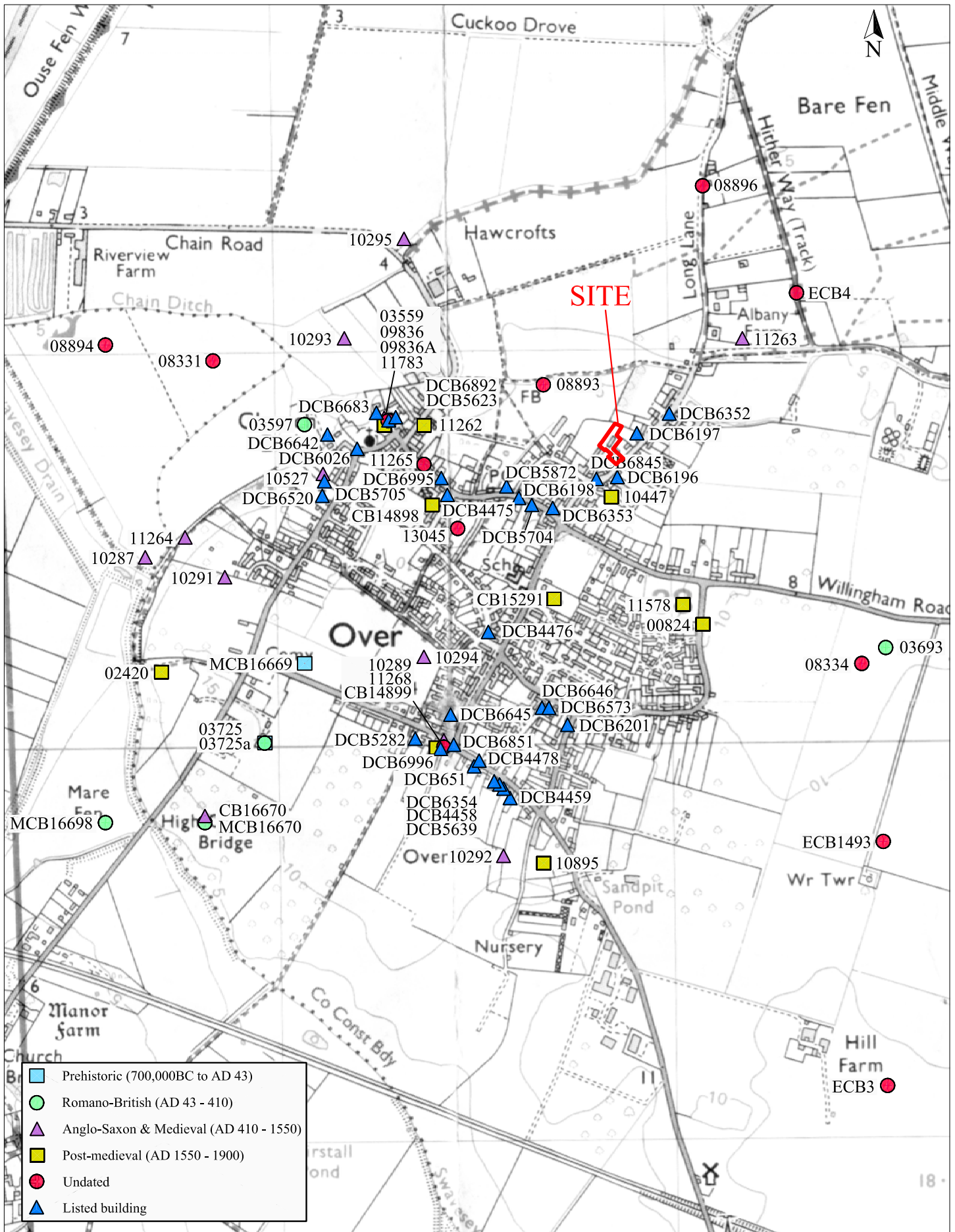
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Fig. 1 Site location
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1250 at A4



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Fig. 3 HER data
 Scale: 1: 12,500 at A4



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 Fig. 4 Inclosure map, 1837
 Not to scale



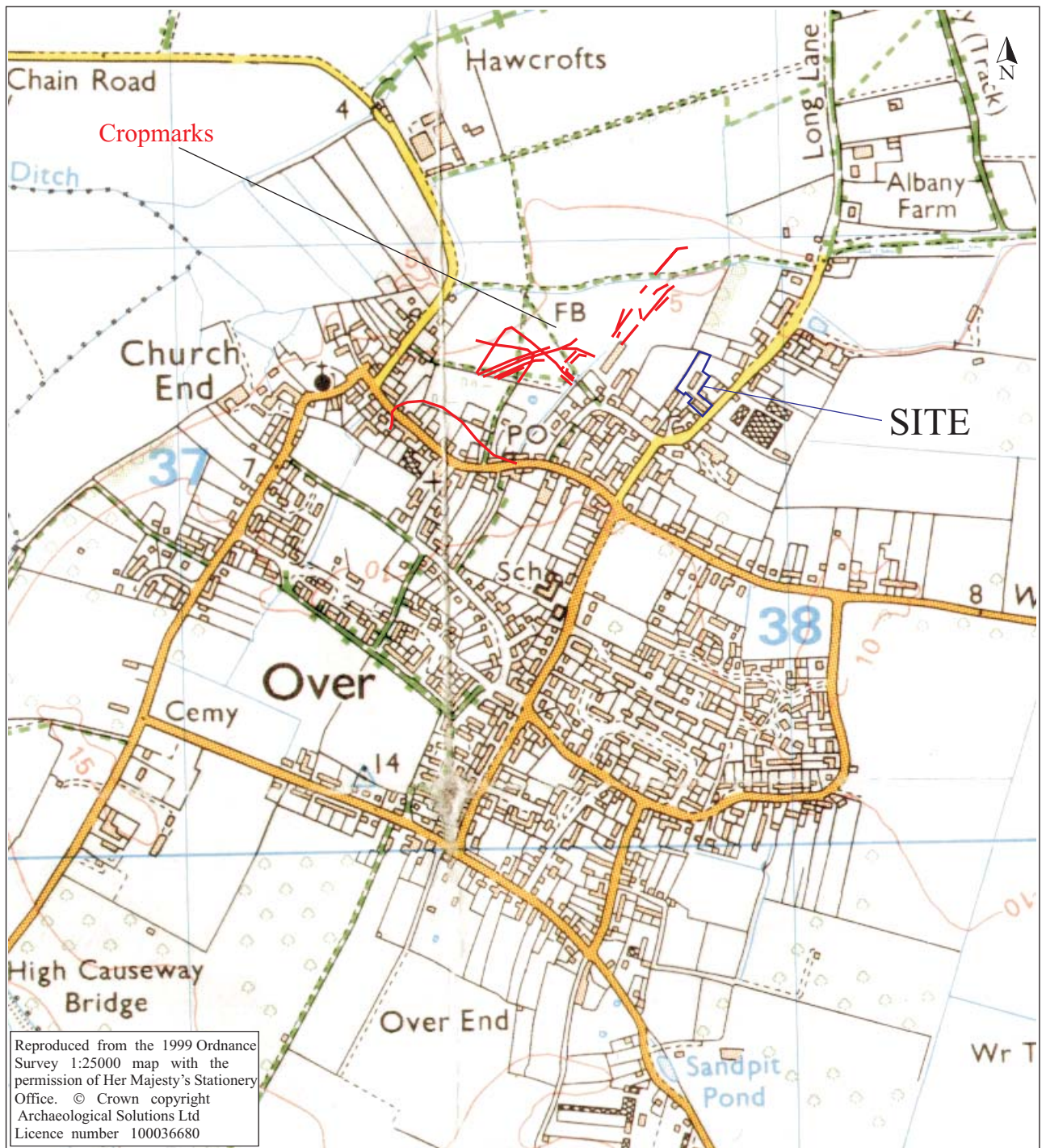
Reproduced from the 1889 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

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Fig. 5 First edition OS map, 1889
 Not to scale, reproduced from the 25" to 1 mile map

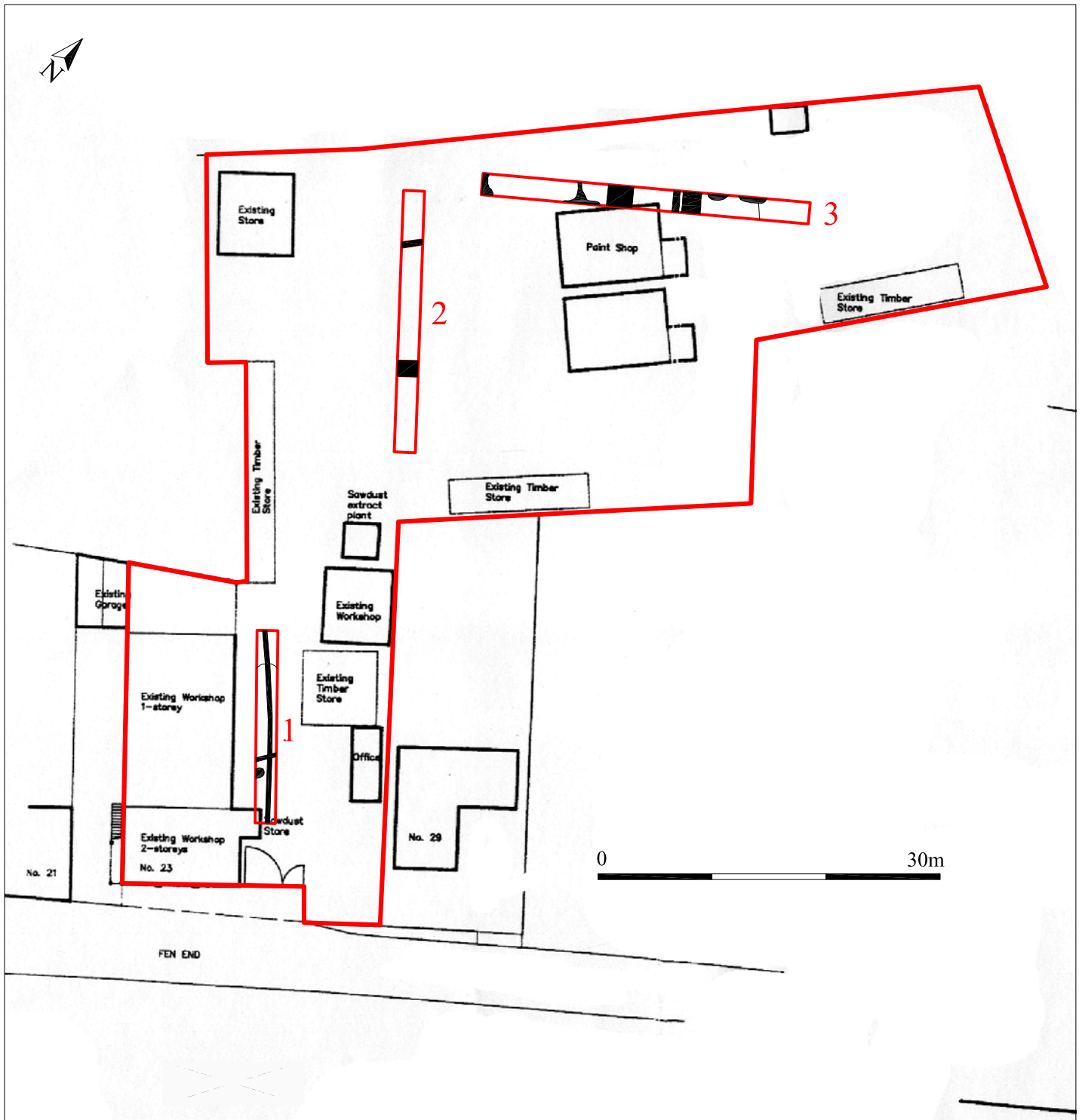


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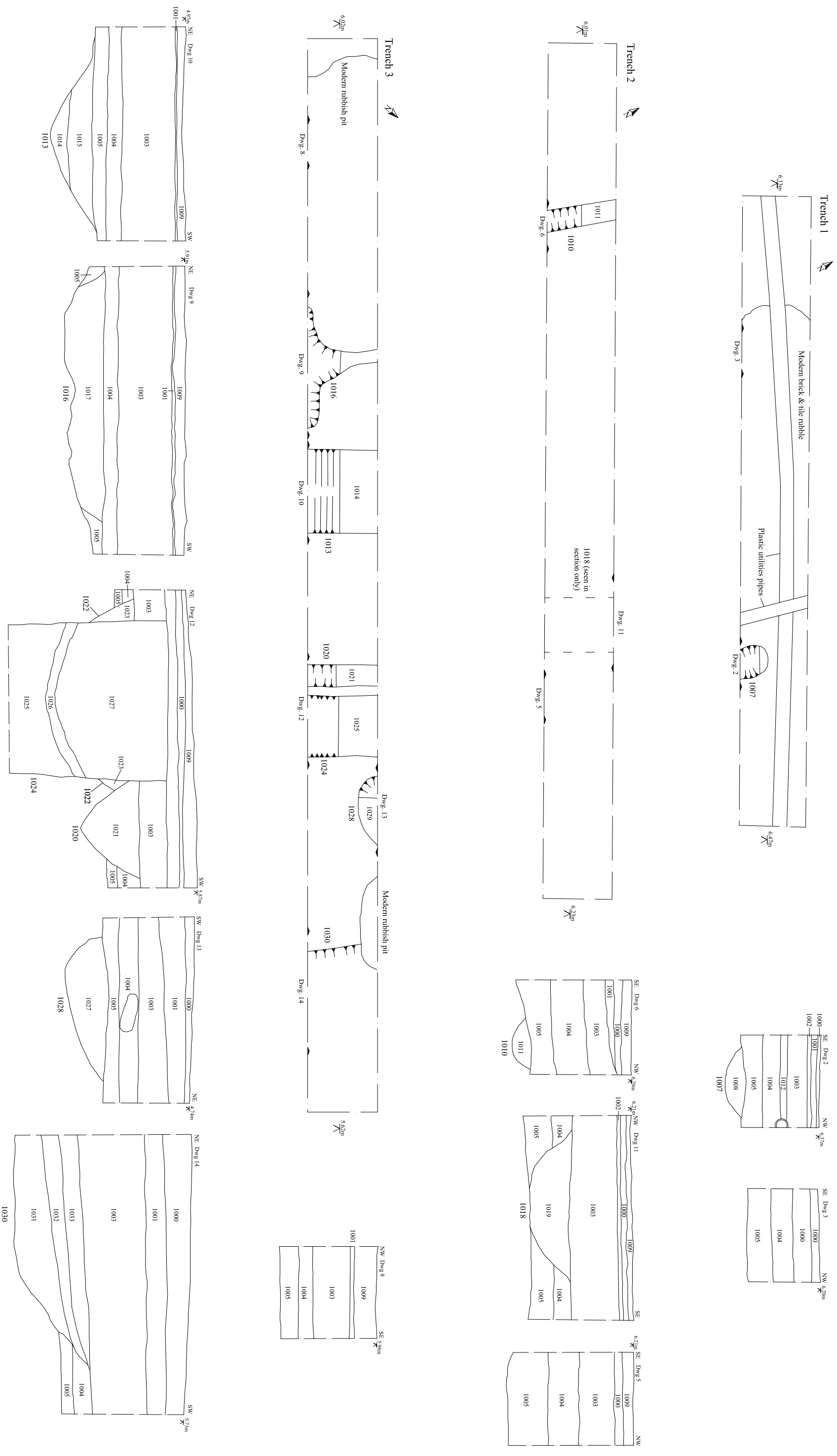
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Fig. 6 Second edition OS map, 1902
 Not to scale, reproduced from the 25" to 1 mile map



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Fig. 7 Cropmark locations
 Scale 1:10,000 at A4



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Fig. 8 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:500 at A4



0 5m
Plans

0 2m
Sections

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Fig. 9 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:40 at A3