# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

# 12 JOBS LANE, MARCH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

# AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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| NGR: TL 4154 9514        | Report No: 3185        |  |
| District: Cambridgeshire | Site Code: AS1166      |  |
| Approved: Claire Halpin  | Project No: 3230       |  |
| Signed:                  | Date: October 2008     |  |

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#### **OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

| Project details |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Project name    | 12 Jobs Lane, March, Cambridgeshire: An archaeological evaluation. |

In September and October 2008, Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at 12 Jobs Lane, March, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4154 9514). A residential development is proposed for the site comprising the construction of two residential dwellings with associated garages, access and services. The evaluation was required to comply with a planning condition (Planning ref:F/YR08/0224/F).

The desk-based assessment showed potential for numerous periods, predominantly the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods.

The evaluation revealed a broad range of features dating from the early Bronze Age (2100 – 1700BC) to the modern (1900+) period. An early Bronze Age pit a 'V' shaped Roman ditch, and a medieval pit and posthole were revealed. Several undated features including a curvilinear gully, two postholes and two pits were also excavated. The site had clearly undergone some extensive activity in the modern period as several modern rubbish pits and evidence of demolition of old buildings was revealed to the south-east area. Imported topsoil suggested landscaping of the site when the current building was constructed in the 1960s.

The presence of early Bronze Age activity broadens current understanding of prehistoric activity in the area, and the presence of Roman and medieval features contributes to the picture of these periods as provided by previous archaeological work to the north of the site.

|                            | 1  |                                     |            |          |                 |          |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Project dates (fieldwork)  | September an   | d October2008                       | 3          |          |                 |          |
| Previous work (Y/N/?)      | N  | Future work                         | (Y/N/?)    | ?        |                 |          |
| P. number                  | 3230   | Site code                           |            | AS1166   |                 |          |
| Type of project            | An Archaeola   | gical Evaluatio                     | on         |          |                 |          |
| Site status                | Possible arch  | aeological pot                      | ential     |          |                 |          |
| Current land use           | Former garde   | en of 12 Jobs L                     | ane        |          |                 |          |
| Planned development        |  | levelopment ind<br>grages, services | _          |          | on of two hou   | ses with |
| Main features (+dates)     |  | it, Romano-Bri                      |            |          | t and posthole, |          |
| Significant finds (+dates) | Sherds from t  | wo Bronze Age                       | 'beaker' p | ots      |                 |          |
| Project location           | - 1  |                                     |            |          |                 |          |
| County/ District/ Parish   | Cambridgesh  | ire Fenla                           | nd         | M        | <b>l</b> arch   |          |
| HER/ SMR for area          | Cambridgeshire   |                                     |            |          |                 |          |
| Post code (if known)       |  |                                     |            |          |                 |          |
| Area of site               | 3400m² approx.   |                                     |            |          |                 |          |
| NGR                        | TL 4154 9514   |                                     |            |          |                 |          |
| Height AOD (max/ min)      | c.5m AOD   |                                     |            |          |                 |          |
| Project creators           | •  |                                     |            |          |                 |          |
| Brief issued by            | Cambridgesh<br>(CAPCA)   | ire Archaeol                        | ogy Plann  | ning and | Countryside     | Advice   |
| Project supervisor/s (PO)  | Matthew Adams  |                                     |            |          |                 |          |
| Funded by                  | L Bevens Associates Ltd on behalf of Mr and Mrs Bester             |                                     |            |          |                 |          |
| · ·                        | •  |                                     |            |          |                 |          |
| Full title                 | 12 Jobs Lane, March,, Cambridgeshire: An archaeological evaluation |                                     |            |          |                 |          |
| Authors                    | Adams, M, Unger, S,  |                                     |            |          |                 |          |
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| Date (of report)           | October 2008   |                                     |            |          |                 |          |

# 12 JOBS LANE, MARCH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

#### AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### **SUMMARY**

In September and October 2008, Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at 12 Jobs Lane, March, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4154 9514). A residential development is proposed for the site comprising the construction of two residential dwellings with associated garages, access and services. The evaluation was required to comply with a planning condition (Planning ref:F/YR08/0224/F).

The desk-based assessment showed potential for numerous periods, predominately the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods.

The evaluation revealed a broad range of features dating from the early Bronze Age (2100 – 1700BC) to the modern (1900+) period. An early Bronze Age pit, a 'V' shaped Roman ditch, and two medieval pits were revealed. Several undated features including a curvilinear gully, two postholes and two pits were also excavated. The site had clearly witnessed extensive activity in the modern period as several modern rubbish pits and evidence of demolition of old buildings was revealed in the southeast area. Imported topsoil suggested landscaping of the site when the current building was constructed in the 1960s.

The presence of early Bronze Age activity broadens current understanding of prehistoric activity in the area, and the presence of Roman and medieval features contributes to the picture of these periods as provided by previous archaeological work to the north of the site.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September and October 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at 12 Jobs Lane, March, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL4154 9514; Figs 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by L Bevens Associates Ltd on behalf of their client Mr & Mrs Bester in order to comply with a planning condition attached to a proposed residential development (Planning ref: F/YR08/0224/F).
- 1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by CAPCA (dated 09/07/2008) and a specification prepared by AS (dated 15/07/2008). The archaeological evaluation followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (both revised 2001), as well as 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 areas 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.

# **DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE** (Figs. 1 - 2)

- 2.1 The site is located in the Town End area of March, c. 1km south of the historic core of the fenland town. March lies in north Cambridgeshire with the Isle of Ely located c.19km south-east of the town. The town is situated on a long fen'island' that lies immediately south of the silt fen (Hall 1997). The navigable River Nene flows through the centre of March (c. 1.75km north of the site) moving south-west towards the town of Ramsey.
- 2.2 The site comprises a plot fronting onto Jobs Lane, located to the north-west of the centre of Town End. St Wendreda's Church, the 14th century parish church of March, lies c. 50m north of the site. Numbers 24 and 28 Church Street border the site to the west with residential housing located along the east and west of the road. To the south of the site lies Number 8 Jobs Lane. Further residential housing is situated east beyond Jobs Lane. The site is the current garden to the property at 12 Jobs Lane.

## 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 Archive (CA), Cambridge. Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced in Figures 3-8.

## 3.3 Secondary sources

3.3.1 The principal sources of secondary material were the Cambridgeshire Archives as well as AS' 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 March island is formed from a bed of till (Boulder Clay) on the Kimmeridge Clay, overlain in places by March Gravels, a product of interglacial action. Away from the island, deposits of silt, peat and alluvium are found. Jobs Lane lies on March Gravels at an average height of *c* 5m AOD (representing a relatively high point occupied by the church). Soils surrounding Town End are of the Hanslope association (SSEW 1983), described as permeable calcareous clayey soils suitable for growing winter cereals. To the south of this lie soils of the Downholland 1 association consisting of deep stoneless humose clayey soils often found in the fenland landscape (SSEW 1983). Traditionally these soils support the cultivation of cereal and arable crops.

## 4.2 Archaeological and historical background

*Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)* 

- Little is known about specific prehistoric activity on the fen island of March and a majority of the evidence in the area is represented by lithic scatters indicative of occupation. Antiquarian and modern fieldwalking discoveries of early prehistoric flint scatters are concentrated to the northern and western fringes of the fen island particularly near to Gaul Road (c. 1km north-west of the site; Hall 1987, 39). These sites have also produced evidence of Neolithic activity indicating the possible continuation of small scale occupation in this area (CHER 05210, 08455). Bronze Age material is better represented with finds discovered at the fen edge of the island (CHER 08459) and at Estover (CHER 07936b). A Bronze Age settlement has been investigated at the neighbouring parish of Wimblington (Stonea Island) located on the edge of the Fen which further indicates that these areas were utilised as occupation sites. Bronze Age artefacts have been revealed close to St Wendreda's Church and subsequently near to the assessment site (Hall 1987, 40). During a watching brief for the church hall extension in 2006 (CHER MCB17446), a Bronze Age scraper tool was discovered. A discovery of a dolerite axe hammer during works at the churchyard in the 1960's indicated further activity (CHER 05917).
- 4.2.2 Towards the end of the Bronze Age, climate change and heavy flooding made the fens an increasingly inhospitable environment of peat marshes, sinuous tidal rivers and meres. Despite this change in environment, there has been an abundance of late Iron Age discoveries in March and some in particular proximity to the assessment site. An Iron Age coin hoard has been found within the parish of March although its precise location was not recorded (CHER 05919). A similar hoard of coins have also been discovered at Field Baulk Farm (c. 500m north-east of the site; CHER MCB16060). Further investigation at the farm revealed a long curving ditch interpreted as a possible ring ditch for a roundhouse. Only 250m south of the site on Wimblington Road, archaeological investigations discovered considerable settlement evidence dating to the Roman period with possible late Iron Age features (CHER CB15352). Similarly, an excavation at No. 9 Church Street (c. 250m north-west of the site) produced a wealth of Iron Age and Romano-British occupational evidence (CHER CB14807). Significantly, less than 125m north of the site, Iron Age pottery was discovered during a watching brief for the Church Hall extension (CHER MCB17446).

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

4.2.3 Excavations to the north of March have produced well preserved remains of extensive Romano-British settlement at Granford (CHER 10575, Potter & Potter 1980) and Flaggrass (CHER 08448, 06001). The Roman settlement at Stonea Grange (CHER 08448, 10575), located c. 3.5km south-east of the site, is thought to have been the administrative centre of a fenland imperial salt-making estate, established between AD130 and 150 close to the former Iceni stronghold of Stonea Camp (Potter & Jackson 1996). Southern March has yielded substantial quantities of Roman finds indicating that Roman occupation of the area was not confined to the northern part of the island. Wimblington Road (B1101), the route which passes through March from north to south, may be much older than previously thought. It may have linked

settlements on the southern and central parts of the island and possibly even areas further to the south-east, such as Stonea Grange, to settlements at Grandford and Flaggrass on the Fen Causeway to the north.

4.2.4 There have been several Roman finds in the area of Town End suggesting activity in close proximity to the site. Despite this, many of the discoveries were made in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries when their exact provenance was not recorded. These finds included a Roman coin hoard (CHER 05915), a Roman urn yielding numerous Roman coins (CHER 06053) and a silver vase (CHER 05920). However, several archaeological investigations in Town End have also produced Roman features. After the discovery of numerous Roman artefacts in a garden in the Avenue (CHER 03781), an evaluation in the same road (c. 500m north of the site) recorded the presence of a Roman gravel quarry (CHER CB14565). Significantly closer to the site, archaeological investigations at 23-33 Wimblington Road revealed considerable evidence of settlement spanning from the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to the 3rd century AD (CHER CB15352). An evaluation at No. 9 Church Street also yielded Roman discoveries less than 250m north-west of the site. The recorded features included a number of ditches and gullies as well as a large hollow dating from the Iron Age moving into the Roman period (CHER CB14807).

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (AD 411 – 1539)

- 4.2.5 Anglo-Saxon documentary sources indicate that in approximately 600 AD the March area encompassed a series of 'impassable swaps and extensive meres' which made the island increasingly difficult to occupy (Bevis, 1980, 1). However, some local histories date the foundation of the town (known as Merc) to between 650 and 675 AD although there is little archaeological evidence to support this statement (Bevis 1980, 1). It is thought the town was founded in its location due to the old course of the River Nene crossing the main road between Ely and Wisbech, the two main towns of the Isle (Pugh 1953, 117). In Saxon times, March was a hamlet dependent on Doddington, which may have been an ecclesiastical centre with a Minster church (Haigh 1988, 19). Documentary references to March suggest that it was an important fishing centre with valuable land, of financial interest to the abbeys of Ely and Bury St Edmunds. Various charters dating to AD 955 to 1010 refer to exchanges and leases of fisheries at Wimblington and Stonea. The medieval cross base and the Church of Wendreda are commonly thought to represent the centre of the Saxon settlement although neither sites have produced Saxon remains (Cooper 2003, 4). However, there has only been one Saxon find in the area. This comprised a Saxon brooch discovered in a garden at the Avenue, c. 500m north of the site (CHER 03781a).
- 4.2.6 Domesday Book mentions the settlement of March, recording that the Abbot of Ely held the manor of Doddington including March, where 'there are twelve villiens with twelve acres each' (Pugh 1967, 118). The Doddington estate was given to the Bishop of Ely in 1191 (Haigh 1988, 19). The manor of March was at Hatchwood (CHER 08442), just south-west of Town End, and was first mentioned in 1328 (Pugh 1967, 118). Stock raising was important, and specialised cattle farms were recorded at Stonea, Dereford (now Dartford Road, March) and Westrae to the north-west of the March (Haigh 1988, 19). Traces of medieval ridge and furrow strip cultivation survive to the north-west of the present site, and to the south-west of Town

End, at Knight's End (see figure 8; CHER 11543, 11643, 11644). It is thought that the centre of the settlement was based at Town End surrounding the medieval Church of St Wendreda (adjacent to the site; see Figure 8) and the medieval wayside cross (CHER 05918; c. 500m north-west of the site). The parish church (CHER 06013) dedicated to the Saxon Saint Wendreda was mostly constructed in the 14<sup>th</sup> century although 12<sup>th</sup> century features do survive as well as a Norman font. It is possible that the church had a Saxon predecessor although no remains of this have been discovered. Knight's End is thought to have been settled in the medieval period (c. 750m southwest of the site) although archaeological fieldwork has indicated that the settlement decreased in size in later years (CHER 08442). Other medieval finds in the area include a long cross silver penny of Edward I or II and an iron ring and bronze belt buckle all discovered in Knight's End (CHER 11994 & MCB16261). Significantly, archaeological investigations in the area have also yielded medieval features. In 1999, an evaluation at The Avenue revealed medieval gravel quarries and two probable ditches dating to the medieval period (CHER CB14565). A watching brief undertaken during works to extend the Church Hall yielded evidence of considerable medieval activity including cess pits and occupation horizons, located immediately adjacent to the assessment site (CHER MCB17447).

#### *Post-medieval (AD 1540 – 1900)*

4.2.7 During the post-medieval period, the focus of the town appears to have moved from the nucleus around the church of St Wendreda at Town End to the bridge crossing the River Nene. Archaeological investigations to the North of March at Gray's Lane have confirmed this later post-medieval development. This excavation revealed 17<sup>th</sup> century artefacts as well as a thick built up layer thought to have been constructed to prevent flooding. Excavations at Creek Road, between Town End and the Nene, also revealed post-medieval made ground, suggesting later medieval and post-medieval settlement of this area (Jones 1996, CHER 11891). March was located in a strategic position in the Civil War and earthworks thought to be the remains of fortifications have been discovered cutting through medieval ridge and furrow, c. 2km north-east of the site (CHER 01997). This fen-edge fort commanded eastern approaches to March from Stonea and Upwell, as well as the main road between Ely and Wisbech (Creton's Way) as it ran through March (Malim 1991, 2). Other postmedieval features and finds have been found to the south of March including pottery (CHER 08442a) and post-medieval field ditches (CHER CB14565). Closer to the site, two archaeological investigations have produced post-medieval evidence. An evaluation on Wimblington Road (CHER CB15352) yielded remains of industrial activity whilst a watching brief close to the church revealed a wealth of activity including occupation horizons and a single burial related to the churchyard (CHER MCB17447). Whilst the assessment site probably did not lie in an area of significant post-medieval activity with post-medieval town focused to the north, it appears occupation around the site did continue in this period. Cartographic sources suggest that the land on the site was arable in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century until the turn of the century when further development began in this area.

#### **Undated**

4.2.8 Several enclosures and cropmarks have been identified to the south of March near to the assessment site (CHER 01062, 09009, 11645; see Figure 8). These may be

related to the prehistoric or Roman occupation of the area although none of the earthworks have been archaeological investigated to confirm their function or date.

# 4.3 Cartographic Evidence

Tithe map of March (rural) 1840 (Figure 4)

4.3.1 The 1840 tithe map is in two parts with March town tithe map showing the church of St Wendreda and an area just north of the church and the core of the village of Town End. The tithe map for the rural area shows outlying parts of the village which included the site. The assessment area lay on a fold of the map and as a result was indistinct. From what can be seen, the site was situated on undeveloped land. The exact plot number was illegible and therefore the land use could not be ascertained. The tithe apportionment confirmed the presence of the church on the above plot of land (Plot 1790). The character of the surrounding land was predominately arable or grassland (Plots 1791-1799).

1st Edition Ordnance Survey map 1888 (Figure 5)

4.3.2 By 1888, the site had only seen a small amount of development in the form of a small rectangular structure at the eastern end, which fronted onto Jobs Lane. The remainder of the site was undeveloped.

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map 1900 (Figure 6)

4.3.3 Little had changed within the assessment site by 1900 although there were two new structures focused in the eastern part of the site. A small square building was shown adjacent to the building present on the previous map. Another structure was shown abbuting the original building. A new plantation of trees was present in the north-western part of the site.

Ordnance Survey map 1925 (Figure 7)

4.3.4 There was no further development on the site by 1925 with only one small field boundary shown in the eastern part of the site, possibly dividing the land into two plots.

# 5 METHODOLOGY (Trial trenching)

- 5.1 Three trial trenches were excavated (Fig.2). The individual trenches varied in length between 12m and 20m; all were 1.6m in width. All of the trenches were linear in plan, with Trenches 1 and 2 forming a 'T' shape.
- 5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed.

Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

#### 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

# **6.1** Trench 1 (Fig. 9)

Orientation: NNE to SSW Dimensions: 19.7m x 1.6m

| Sample section: SW end, SE facing |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 0.00 = 4.07m  AOD                 |  |  |
| 0.00 - 0.52m                      | L1000. Topsoil. Mid-dark grey brown. Humic/organic sandy silt. |  |
|                                   | Imported topsoil from 1960's bungalow construction phase       |  |
| 0.52 - 0.80m                      | L1001. Subsoil. Mid-light brown grey silty sand.               |  |
| 0.80m +                           | L1002. Natural. Light yellow orange sandy gravel.              |  |

| Sample section: NE end, SE facing 0.00 = 4.52m AOD |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 0.00 - 0.48m                                       | L1000. Topsoil. As above |
| 0.48 - 0.80m                                       | L1001. Subsoil. As above |
| 0.80m +  | L1002. Natural. As above |

Description: Trenches 1 and 2 formed a 'T' shape. Trench 1 contained a pit (F1004), a large ditch (F1007), a curvilinear gully (F1010), two pits (F1017 and F1021) and a natural feature caused by tree rooting. The curvilinear gully, F1010, was also present in Trench 2.

- 6.1.1 Pit F1004, was an oval pit (0.97m long x 0.85m wide x 0.40m deep). It had steep sides and a convex base. It contained two fills: the primary fill, L1005, was a mid yellow/grey brown silty sand of friable consistency. It contained several sherds of early Bronze Age 'beaker' pottery (400g), CBM (2g) and struck flint (8g). The upper fill, L1006, was a mid to dark grey brown silty sand. It contained several sherds of early Bronze Age 'beaker' pottery (19g).
- 6.1.2 Ditch F1007, was a large linear ditch (1.60m+ long x 1.90m wide x 1.50m deep), orientated north-west to south-east. It had steep vertical sides and a concave base. It contained two fills: the primary fill, L1009, was a dark grey brown sandy silt. Finds comprised post-medieval pottery (253g), CBM (91g) and animal bone (45g). L1009 contained residual medieval pottery. The upper fill, L1008, was a mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel. It contained 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery (125g), CBM (487g), an iron rod (49g), animal bone (273g) and oyster shell (16g). The ditch may represent a boundary feature
- 6.1.3 Gully F1010, was a shallow curvilinear gully (8.00m+ long x 0.64m wide x 0.15m deep) which extended into Trench 2. Initially the feature was thought to be a possible ring ditch for a barrow. It was cut by Posthole F1019. Three slots were

excavated through the gully (labelled A, B and C) tabulated below, and was 100% excavated for finds recovery after recording (in addition to the finds detailed in the table CBM (53g) was found distributed throughout the feature. On excavation, the gully appeared to meander rather than form a ring ditch and it may be associated with plot boundaries rather than a ring ditch as initially thought.

| Segment | Description  | Fill  | Date/Finds                | Comments                                    |
|---------|--|---|---------------------------|---|
| A       | Gradually sloping sides, concave base                          | L1011 Mid grey brown<br>silty sand with sparse<br>charcoal flecks |                           |   |
| В       | Gradually sloping sides, concave base                          | L1011 Mid grey brown silty sand with sparse charcoal flecks       |                           | Heavily rooted on the northeast side.       |
| С       | Gradual to<br>moderate<br>sloping<br>sides,<br>concave<br>base | L1011 Mid grey brown<br>silty sand with sparse<br>charcoal flecks | Slag (964g), A. Bone (6g) | Minor rooting damage on the northeast side. |

Table 1: Segments of Gully F1010.

- 6.1.4 F1017 was a pit (1.60m+ long x 0.40m wide x 2.20m deep) which extended beyond the trench wall. It had moderately steep, irregular sides and an irregular concave base. Its fill, L1018, was a mid grey brown sandy silt. Finds comprised Roman pottery (8g), slag (17g) and an iron nail (6g) and animal bone (108g).
- 6.1.5 Pit F1021 was a large sub-circular pit (1.6m+ long x 1.20m+ wide x 0.5m+ deep) located at the northern end of Trench 1 and extended beyond the trench wall, limiting excavation. It cut subsoil L1001 and was sealed by topsoil L1000. It had steep sides and a concave base, not fully revealed. It contained a single fill, L1022, a dark grey brown sandy silt. Finds comprised a single piece struck flint (4g), mid 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (67g), CBM (394g), slag (6g), window glass (1g) and two Fe nails (15g) and animal bone (86g). This composition of the finds assemblage suggested that this was a modern rubbish pit.

## **6.2** Trench 2 (Fig. 9)

Orientation: ESE to WNW Dimensions: 12m x 1.6m

| Sample section: NW end, SW facing |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 0.00 = 4.30m  AOD                 | 0.00 = 4.56m  AOD  |  |  |
| 0.00 - 0.29m                      | L1000. Topsoil. Mid-dark grey brown. Humic/organic sandy silt. |  |  |
|                                   | imported topsoil from 1960's bungalow construction phase       |  |  |
| 0.29 - 0.78m                      | L1001. Mid-light brown grey silty sand.                        |  |  |
| 0.78m +                           | L1002. Natural. Light yellow orange sandy gravel.              |  |  |

| Sample section: SE end, SW facing 0.00 = 4.67m AOD |                          |  |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| 0.00 - 4.07m  AOD<br>0.00 - 0.52m                  | L1000. Topsoil. As above |  |
| 0.52 - 0.98m                                       | L1001. Subsoil. As above |  |
| 0.98m +  | L1002. Natural. As above |  |

Description: Trench 2 contained a continuation of Gully F1010, a posthole (F1019) and two pits (F1012, F1014).

- 6.2.1 Curvilinear Gully F1010 (8.00m+ long x 0.64m wide x 0.15m deep), initially recorded within Trench 1 was identified again within Trench 2.
- 6.2.2 F1019 was a small circular posthole (0.15m long x 0.16m wide x 0.20m deep) cut into Gully F1010. It had steep vertical sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill, L1020, a mid to dark grey brown silty sand with sparse flint gravel. It also contained a single sherd of Roman pottery (4g).
- 6.2.3 F1012 was an irregular oval pit (1.20m long x 0.80m+ wide x 0.20m deep). It had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1013, was a mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel. Finds comprised CBM (5g) and animal bone (39g).
- 6.2.4 F1014 was a circular pit (1.40m long x 0.07m+ wide x 0.70m deep). It had steep vertical sides and an irregular base. It contained two fills. The primary fill, L1016, was a mid brown grey sandy silt. The uppermost fill, L1015, was a mid to light grey brown silt of friable consistency with occasional flint. Artefactual evidence from F1014 comprised CBM (619g), slag (118g), animal bone (38g) and oyster shell (14g).

## 6.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 10)

Orientation: ESE to WNW Dimensions: 16m x 1.6m

| Sample section: NW end, NE facing |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 0.00 = 4.53m  AOD                 | 0.00 = 4.53m  AOD  |  |  |
| 0.00 - 0.41m                      | L1000. Topsoil. Mid-dark grey brown. Humic/organic sandy silt. |  |  |
|                                   | imported topsoil from 1960's bungalow construction phase       |  |  |
| 0.41 - 0.70m                      | L1001. Mid-light brown grey silty sand.                        |  |  |
| 0.70 - 1.20m                      | L1024. Ditch Fill. Orange/grey brown silty sand.               |  |  |
| 1.20m+                            | L1002. Natural. Light yellow orange sandy gravel.              |  |  |

| Sample section: SE end, NE facing 0.00 = 4.55m AOD  |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 0.00 - 0.32m  | L1000. Topsoil. As above |
| 0.32 – 0.59m L1003. Modern rubbish/demolition layer |                          |
| 0.59m +   | L1002. Natural. As above |

Description: Trench 3 contained a ditch (F1023), two postholes (F1025 and F1027), Three pits (F1029, F1031 and (F1041), two modern pits (F1033 and F1035) and two natural features (F1037 and F1039).

- 6.3.1 F1023 was a linear ditch (1.60m+ long x 1.60m wide x 0.60m deep), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides tapering to a narrow base giving a 'V' shaped profile. Its fill, L1024, was an orange/grey brown silty sand. Finds recovered from L1024 comprised burnt flint (37g), pottery (173g), an Fe nail (3g) animal bone (2g).
- 6.3.2 F1025, was a small sub-circular posthole (0.34m long x 0.32m wide x 0.32m deep). It was adjacent to Posthole, F1027 and Pit, F1029. It had steep, vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1026, was a mid grey brown sandy silt. No finds were present
- 6.3.3 F1027 was a small circular posthole (0.29m long x 0.29m wide x 0.32m deep), close to Posthole, F1025 and Pit F1029. It had steep, vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1028, was a mid grey brown sandy silt. No finds were present
- 6.3.4 F1029 was a small circular pit (0.56m long x 0.56m wide x 0.36m deep). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1030, was a mid grey brown silty sand of friable consistency. Animal bone (19g) was recovered from this feature.
- 6.3.5 F1031 was a small circular pit (0.57m long x 0.52m wide x 0.33m deep). It was cut by a modern pit, F1033. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It was very similar to pit F1029 in dimensions and fill. Its fill, L1030, was a mid grey brown silty sand with occasional flint gravel. No finds were present.
- 6.3.6 F1033 was a rectangular pit (1.90m+ long x 0.89m+ wide x 0.48m deep), extending beyond the trench wall to the south. It had steep vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1034, was a dark grey brown sandy/ashy silt. Finds comprise large

quantities of pottery (1883g), CBM (1072g), large Fe Nails (238g), an Fe sheet (21g), mortar (254g), slate (64g) glass fragments (105g) and animal bone (70g).

- 6.3.7 F1035 was rectangular pit (2.00m long x 0.15m+ wide x 0.20m+ deep). Only a small percentage of the feature was exposed, limiting excavation. It had steep vertical sides. The base was not reached due to the feature's location at the trench edge. It contained a single fill, F1036, a dark grey brown sandy silt. No finds were present. It appeared to be very similar to Pit F1033.
- 6.3.8 Pit/Tree Hollow F1037 was a circular pit or natural feature (0.40m long x 0.40m wide x 0.10m deep). It was cut by rectangular Pit F1035, to the north, and Pit F1039 to the south. It had shallow sides and a flattish irregular base. Its fill, L1038, was a mid to light orange/brown grey silty sand with occasional flint gravel. No finds were present.
- 6.3.9 Pit/Tree Hollow F1039 was an oval pit (1.00m long x 0.60m wide x 0.30m deep). It cut another Pit/Tree Hollow F1037, to the north. It had irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1040, was a mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel. No finds were present.
- 6.3.10 F1041 was a circular pit (0.80m long x 0.80m wide x 0.50m deep). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1042, was a mid brown grey sandy silt with occasional, flint and chalk. Finds comprised pottery (29g), CBM (193g), glass (1g) and animal bone (27g)

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

#### 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

- 8.1 Deposits of topsoil, L1000, and subsoil, L1001, were recorded in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 and a modern demolition/rubbish layer, L1003, was recorded in Trench 3. The topsoil, L1000, was an imported layer deposited when the current building was constructed in the 1960's. The client indicated that this was brought in from nearby fields and used to landscape the garden.
- 8.2 L1001, was overlain by the topsoil. Before the bungalow was constructed the land was used as an orchard and considerable rooting action was observed throughout. It is possible that the area was levelled before the topsoil was imported. L1001 was completely absent in the south-eastern end of Trench 3 where a demolition/rubbish layer, L1003, replaced it entirely. Finds from L1001 are medieval to modern.
- 8.3 The demolition/rubbish layer, L1003, was located to the south-east of the site in Trench 3, and contained large quantities of modern CBM, china, glass and metal work. It completely replaced the subsoil, L1001, found on the rest of the site and was sealed by the topsoil. It may be the remains of a large rubbish dump associated with,

and/or the demolition of, a structure in the south-east of the site which appeared on the OS maps from 1888 (Fig.5).

## 9 DISCUSSION

## 9.1 Summary of the archaeology

A summary of the archaeological features recorded is tabulated:

| Trench | Features           | Context                           |
|--------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1      | 1 Ditch            | F1007                             |
|        | 1 Gully            | F1010                             |
|        | 3 Pits             | F1004, F1017, F1021               |
| 2      | 1 Gully            | F1010                             |
|        | 2 Pits             | F1012, F1014                      |
|        | 1 Posthole         | F1019                             |
| 3      | 1 Ditch            | F1023                             |
|        | 5 Pits             | F1029, F1031, F1033, F1035, F1041 |
|        | 2 Postholes        | F1025, F1027                      |
|        | 2 Natural Features | F1037, F1039                      |

*Table 2: Summary of the recorded archaeological features* 

- 9.1.1 The features predominantly comprised sealed pits, ditches and a gully. Several natural features, mainly tree hollows and rooting from trees were also recorded. Trench 1 revealed a substantial ditch, F1007, and a pit, F1004, which contained beaker pottery dating to the early Bronze Age. A curvilinear gully F1010, was recorded in both Trenches 1 and 2. A medium sized V shaped ditch, F1023, was recorded in the north-west of Trench 3 and substantial modern activity in the form of large rectangular pits, F1029 and F1035, was recorded to the south-east of the trench. Shallow pits of varying size were recorded in all trenches.
- 9.1.2 Many of the features contained finds offering a broad range of dates, predominantly early Bronze Age, Roman, medieval and modern. Several features remain undated including the curvilinear Gully F1010, although it contained Roman CBM, probably in a secondary depositional context, and was cut by Posthole F1019, which contained medieval pottery.

# 9.2 Interpretation of the site: archaeology and history

- 9.2.1 Desk-based assessment noted evidence for numerous periods in the March area, specifically Iron Age/Romano-British and medieval settlement. Saxon activity was also suggested, but little archaeological evidence has been encountered in the past, despite the Church having a Saxon name. Possible burial activity was also suggested given the close proximity of the Church. It was thought that evidence of similar activity would be encountered during the evaluation.
- 9.2.2 The evaluation revealed evidence of early Bronze Age (2100-1700BC) activity to the south of the site in the form of a Pit F1004 which contained two distinct types of beaker pottery and worked flint. Although some Bronze Age artefacts, namely a

scraper and a dolerite hammer, have been found in the vicinity of the church, this represents evidence of more substantial activity than previously suggested, with the closest known Bronze Age settlement lying several miles to the south of the site in the parish of Wimblington (Stonea Island). The finds assemblage location within the fills suggests that this was a rubbish pit rather than as a result of structured deposition and may therefore indicate some sort of domestic activity close to the site.

- 9.2.3 The desk based assessment suggested that there was substantial late Iron Age activity close to the Church, however the evaluation did not reveal any evidence of Iron Age activity on the site.
- 9.2.4 The evaluation did reveal evidence for Roman-British (43-410AD) activity in the form of a ditch, containing Roman pottery, which ran roughly north to south across the site (Tr.3 F1023). It had a 'V' shaped profile and may represent the extent of a field or plot boundary. This is similar to, and may directly relate to, the ditches and gullies excavated at the nearby site of 9 Church Street to the north. Further evidence of a Roman presence in the area was represented by the single sherd of Roman pottery in Pit F1017 and the redeposited Roman fragments of Roman bessalis bricks in Gully F1010.
- 9.2.5 The site had a high potential for medieval (1150-1500AD) remains and the evaluation uncovered two features that fall within this period. Pit F1041 in Trench 3 contained fragments of medieval pottery and Posthole F1019 in Trench 2 cut an earlier curvilinear gully. The evidence shows limited activity rather than an abundance as was expected. Excavations just to the north of the site revealed considerable medieval activity and this evaluation perhaps picks up the periphery of this activity.
- 9.2.6 The evaluation revealed numerous early modern (1750-1900AD) and modern (1900AD+) features. A large ditch, Tr. 1 F1007, was orientated east to west. It may also have originally been associated with some sort of boundary for the church, however its exact purpose is unclear. Several rectangular modern rubbish pits were excavated in the south-east of the site (Tr. 3 F1033 and possibly F1035) close to the location of a building which first appeared on the 1888 OS Map (Fig. 5). Several other waste pits were found across the site (eg. Tr.1 F1021) containing early modern and modern finds showing continual activity on the site for the last 150 years.
- 9.2.7 Several natural features were excavated (Tr. 3 F1037 & F1039) and these occurred as a direct result of tree hollows from the orchard. Much of the site had suffered from rooting action associated with the pre-1960 orchard.
- 9.2.8 Five undated features were excavated. Several pits and postholes were uncovered in Trench 3, but contained no datable finds (F1025, F1027, F1029 and F1031). F1037 was cut by the early modern rubbish pits indicating it predated this period and may be associated with the medieval pit located close by. The pits were all very similar to the medieval pit and the postholes contained similar fills to all of the pits. It is reasonable to suggest that this cluster of undated features may be associated with medieval or post-medieval activity on the site and this would fit in well with the broader archaeological evidence for this area of March.

- 9.2.9 The curvilinear gully (Tr. 1 & 2 F1010) contained redeposited Roman CBM and was cut by a medieval posthole indicating the gully pre-dated the late medieval period at least. It was initially thought that the gully might form part of a ring ditch, however on excavation it appeared to meander rather than curve in a regular circle. It is possible that the gully formed part of plot boundary associated with the Roman or medieval sites located just to the north
- 9.2.10 In conclusion, the excavation revealed a broad range of features dating from the early Bronze Age (2100-1700AD) to the modern (1900AD+) period. It is notable that although a broad period of occupation was revealed, some phases are conspicuous by their absence, namely that no Iron Age or Saxon features were uncovered despite the potential being high for both.

# 9.3 Interpretation of the site: geology and topography

9.3.1 The site is located on the southern slope of the hill that forms the fen island on which Town End, March stands. The Church currently stands on the apex of the hill some 30 - 50m to the north of the site. The older ditch and gully ran down the hill, possibly assisting with drainage and the density of features tends to increase the further away from the church, especially medieval and modern features. This corresponds with the siting of the Church and the build up of settlement around it. There is no obvious focus for the older features, other than existing on high ground away from the fen edge

## 9.4 Finds and environmental evidence

- 9.4.1 Artefactual evidence recovered during the trial trench evaluation ranged in date from early Bronze Age to modern. The finds recovered from all periods indicated residential or domestic activity in the vicinity and the composition of the assemblages from various features suggests that these artefacts are most likely to have entered the burial environment as refuse deposits.
- 9.4.2 Fifteen bulk soil samples were extracted, with the aim of recovering plant macrofossils that may shed light on the past environment and economy of the site.

# 9.5 Research potential

- 9.5.1 The site adds to a growing picture of multi-period archaeology in the immediate area, which taken as a whole contributes in determining village development, morphology and economy. The presence of a well preserved early Bronze Age pit is interesting and suggestive of domestic activity in the vicinity.
- 9.5.2 The presence of Roman features adds to a burgeoning picture of activity in the area at this time. In isolation these features do not reveal much beyond the presence of Roman activity on the site, but do contribute to a better understanding of the general area.

- 9.5.3 The presence of only limited medieval features is somewhat surprising as the site sits close to the heart of the former medieval village.
- 9.5.4 The absence of Iron Age features is also a little surprising given the wealth of material surrounding the site.

#### 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.

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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   |  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|
| Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43) |                 |   |  |
| 05917                               | 415 952         | Bronze Age dolerite axe hammer found in churchyard.   |  |
| 05919                               | 41 96           | An Iron Age coin hoard found in a small earthen vessel.   |  |
| CB14807                             | 41488 95316     | An evaluation at 9 Church Street revealed a number of ditches and gullies as well as a pit and a large hollow which dated to from the Iron Age to the Roman period.   |  |
| CB15352                             | 41586 94940     | An evaluation and subsequent excavation carried out at 23-33 Wimblington Road revealed a considerable amount of settlement evidence spanning from the 1 <sup>st</sup> century BC to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD. |  |
| MCB16060                            | 417 955         | Iceni coin hoard found at Field Baulk Farm. British museum did a small excavation and discovered a long curving ditch possibly a drainage gully surrounding a roundhouse.   |  |
| MCB17446                            | 41525 95245     | A watching brief took place during the extension to the church hall and discovered prehistoric activity including Bronze Age scraper tool and Iron Age pottery.   |  |
| Roman (AD                           |                 |   |  |
| 03781                               | 416 956         | A group of Roman objects discovered in a garden of a bungalow at the Avenue including pottery and several bronze objects and coins.   |  |
| 05915                               | 41 95           | Roman coin hoard discovered in a large pot including coins of Hadrian, Valentinian and Pertinax.  |  |
| 05920                               | 41 96           | Coins of Gallienus and a silver vase found in 1820.   |  |
| 06053                               | 41 96           | A Roman urn was found full of coins many years ago.   |  |
| CB14565                             | 41665 95769     | Trial trenching at the Avenue revealed a Roman gravel quarry as well as medieval and later finds.   |  |
| CB14807                             | 41488 95316     | An evaluation at 9 Church Street revealed a number of ditches and gullies as well as a pit and a large hollow which dated to from the Iron Age to the Roman period.   |  |
| CB15352                             | 41586 94940     | An evaluation and subsequent excavation carried out at 23-33 Wimblington Road revealed a considerable amount of settlement evidence spanning from the 1 <sup>st</sup> century BC to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD. |  |
|                                     | and Medieval (A | AD 410– 1550)   |  |
| 03781a                              | 416 956         | Group of objects found in a garden in The Avenue included a Saxon brooch.   |  |

| 06013        | 4151 9521        | St Wendreda's Church, a medieval church dating to mainly the 14 <sup>th</sup> century but with some 12 <sup>th</sup> century elements including the font. The 17 <sup>th</sup> century double hammerbeam roof is regarded as one of the finest in the country |
|--------------|------------------|---|
| MCB16846     | 41504 95231      | Churchyard associated with medieval church has medieval to modern remains with numerous 18 <sup>th</sup> century burial vaults and tombs.   |
| 08442        | 4085 9502        | A possible shrunken medieval village (including ponds and a moat) in March close to Knights End or part of Hatchwood Manor.   |
| 11643        | 4137 9535        | An east to west aligned ridge and furrow earthworks to the west of Town End.  |
| 11644        | 4090 9460        | Ridge and furrow earthworks in fields on the outskirts of March.  |
| 11994        | 4135 9501        | Long cross silver penny of Edward I or II found in back garden of Knights End.  |
| CB14565      | 41665 95769      | Trial trenching at the Avenue revealed medieval gravel quarries and two probable medieval ditches as well as later finds.   |
| MCB16261     | 408 947          | Medieval Iron ring and bronze belt buckle found by metal detectorists.  |
| MCB17447     | 41525 95245      | A watching brief took place during the extension to the church hall and discovered medieval activity including a pit, cess pit and occupation horizons.   |
| Post-medieva | al and modern (A | D 1550 – present)   |
| 01997        | 42045 95736      | An earthen fort or sconce built in the English Civil War with possibly medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, a holloway, house platform and civil war bastion.  |
| 08442A       | 4085 9502        | Two 16 <sup>th</sup> century sherds of pottery found.   |
| 12161        | 415 950          | Rectory Park in March.  |
| 12162        | 414 954          | Eastwood House park in March.   |
| 12164        | 412 949          | Norwood House park in March.  |
| CB14565      | 41665 95769      | Trial trenching at the Avenue revealed some post-<br>medieval finds including field ditches.  |
| ECB1712      | 42129 96133      | March Evangelical Christian Centre dating to the modern period.   |
| CB15352      | 41586 94940      | An evaluation carried out at 23-33 Wimblington Road revealed some post-medieval industrial activity.  |
| ECB2398      | 42199 95966      | The Eastwood civic cemetery opened in 1938.   |
| MCB17447     | 41525 95245      | A watching brief took place during the extension to the church hall and discovered post-medieval activity   |

|         |           | including occupation horizons and a single burial.   |
|---------|-----------|--|
| Undated | •         |  |
| 01062   | 4080 9515 | Earthworks in March may be possible moat, enclosure with linear features.  |
| 09009   | 415 948   | Small rectilinear enclosure, field system with clustered group of small enclosures with a probable building at west end. Possible Iron Age settlement or Roman villa site. |
| 11645   | 4180 9460 | Cropmark of uneven sided sexagonal shape with possible entrance to south east.   |

# APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

| Date | Map   | Scale   | Location |
|------|---|---------|----------|
| 1840 | March rural tithe map                               | -       | CA       |
| 1888 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map (XVI.5) | 1:25000 | CA       |
| 1900 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map (XVI.5) | 1:25000 | CA       |
| 1925 | Ordnance Survey map (XVI.5)                         | 1:25000 | CA       |

# 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). The locations of the buildings are shown in Fig. 3 Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2.

| Her no.     | NGR TL       | Name             | Grade | Description   |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|-------|---|
| Post-mediev | ral (AD 1550 | <i>– 1900)</i>   |       | •   |
| DCB1765     | 41527        | Wayside Cross    | II    | A medieval cross restored c. 1980.                            |
|             | 95796        |                  |       |   |
| DCB1766     | 41520        | Jenyn's House    | II    | Almshouses dating to 1851.                                    |
|             | 95484        |                  |       |   |
| DCB1768     | 41544        | Two chest        | II    | Late 18 <sup>th</sup> to early 19 <sup>th</sup> century chest |
|             | 95218        | tombs            |       | tombs $c$ . 25 yards eats of the church.                      |
| DCB2011     | 41500        | Chest tomb       | II    | Tomb dating to approximately 1758,                            |
|             | 95193        |                  |       | 20 yards east of church.                                      |
| DCB1773     | 41515        | Chest tomb       | II    | Late 18 <sup>th</sup> century tomb about 10                   |
|             | 95196        |                  |       | yards south of church.  |
| DCB1769     | 41506        | Chest tomb       | II    | Late 18 <sup>th</sup> century tomb about 15                   |
|             | 95223        |                  |       | yards south of church.  |
|             |              |                  |       |   |
| DCB2002     | 41524        | Chest tomb       | II    | Early 19 <sup>th</sup> century tomb about 20                  |
|             | 95230        |                  |       | yards north of church.  |
|             |              |                  |       |   |
| DCB1770     | 41509        | No 11 Church     | II    | Mid to late 18 <sup>th</sup> century gault brick              |
|             | 95258        | Street           |       | house with later additions.                                   |
| DCB1781     | 41089        | 50 Knights End   | II    | Late 18 <sup>th</sup> century gault brick house               |
|             | 94962        | Road             |       | with 20 <sup>th</sup> century additions.                      |
| DCB1782     | 41218        | Barn, at rear of | II    | Barn of 1700 date and early 19 <sup>th</sup>                  |
|             | 94849        | No. 29 and 30    |       | century alterations. Cartway is still                         |
|             |              | Knights End      |       | original and the roof was originally                          |
|             |              | road             |       | thatched.   |

# APPENDIX 4 MARCH TITHE APPORTIONMENT 1840

| Plot | Owner             | Occupier        | Plot name  | Land   | Area    |
|------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|--------|---------|
| no.  |                   |                 |            | use    | (a.r.p) |
| 1790 | -                 | -               | Churchyard | -      | 1.2.15  |
| 1791 | John Roberts      | Himself         | Garden     | Garden | 1.3.4   |
| 1792 | William Walker    | Himself         | Close      | Grass  | 7.1.2   |
| 1793 | William Brigstock | William Saggers | Close      | Arable | 2.1.12  |
| 1794 | John Fox          | Himself         | Garden     | Arable | 4.2.32  |
| 1796 | Robert Vauser     | Himself         | Close      | Grass  | 1.1.1   |
| 1797 | Sir Henry Peyton  | Robert Vauser   | Close      | Arable | 7.1.12  |
| 1798 | John Goodman      | James Roberts   | Close      | Grass  | 3.1.9   |
| 1799 | Samuel Golden     | Himself         | Close      | Grass  | 4.3.12  |

# APPENDIX 5 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

| Feature | Context | Segment | Trench | Description       | Spot Date                          | Pottery     | CBM (g) | A.Bone (g) | Other                          |
|---------|---------|---------|--------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|---------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1000    |         |         | 1      | Top Soil          | 19th - 20th                        | (7), 143g   | 179     |            | Glass Bottle Fragment (1), 33g |
| 1001    |         |         | 1      | Subsoil           | 12th - 14th                        | (4), 53g    |         | 46         |                                |
|         |         |         | 3      |                   | 12th - 14th                        | (1), 4g     |         |            |                                |
| 1004    | 1005    |         | 1      | Pit Fill          | Late 3rd - Early 2nd Millennium BC | (18), 400g  | 2       |            | Struck Flint (5), 8g           |
|         | 1006    |         | 1      |                   | Late 3rd - Early 2nd Millennium BC | (4), 24g    |         |            |                                |
| 1007    | 1008    |         | 1      | Ditch Fill        | 17th - 18th                        | (10), 125g  | 487     | 273        | Oyster Shell (6), 126g         |
|         |         |         |        |                   |                                    |             |         |            | Fe Rod (1), 49g                |
|         |         |         |        |                   |                                    |             |         |            | Daub (3), 118g                 |
|         | 1009    |         |        |                   | 17th - 18th/19th                   | (2), 253g   | 91      |            | Oyster Shell (1), 16g          |
| 1010    | 1011    |         | 1      | Gully Fill        |                                    |             | 53      |            |                                |
|         |         | С       | 2      |                   |                                    |             |         |            | Slag (1), 964g                 |
| 1012    | 1013    |         | 2      | Treebole/Pit Fill |                                    |             | 5       |            |                                |
| 1014    | 1015    |         | 2      | Pit Fill          |                                    |             | 619     | 38         | Oyster Shell (1), 14g          |
|         |         |         |        |                   |                                    |             |         |            | Slag (2), 118g                 |
| 1017    | 1018    |         | 1      | Pit Fill          | Roman                              | (1), 8g     | 21      | 108        | Fe Nail (1), 6g                |
|         |         |         |        |                   |                                    |             |         |            | Slag (1), 17g                  |
| 1019    | 1020    |         | 2      | Posthole Fill     | Roman                              | (1), 4g     |         |            |                                |
| 1021    | 1022    |         | 1      | Pit Fill          | Mid 18th - 19th                    | (14), 67g   | 394     |            | Struck Flint (1), 4g           |
|         |         |         |        |                   |                                    |             |         |            | Oyster Shell (2), 2g           |
|         |         |         |        |                   |                                    |             |         |            | Fe Nails (2), 15g              |
|         |         |         |        |                   |                                    |             |         |            | Window Glass Fragment (1), 3g  |
|         |         |         |        |                   |                                    |             |         |            | Slag (1), 6g                   |
| 1023    | 1024    |         | 3      | Ditch Fill        | Roman                              | (30), 173g  |         | 2          | Fe Nail (1), 3g                |
|         |         |         |        |                   |                                    |             |         |            | Burnt Flint (3), 37g           |
| 1029    | 1030    |         | 3      | Pit Fill          |                                    |             |         | 19         |                                |
| 1033    | 1034    |         | 3      | Pit Fill          | 18th - 19th/20th                   | (46), 1883g | 1072    | 70         | Glass Fragments (4), 105g      |

|      |      |   |          |                  |          |     |    | Slate (1), 64g<br>Fe Nails (4), 238g |
|------|------|---|----------|------------------|----------|-----|----|--------------------------------------|
|      |      |   |          |                  |          |     |    | Fe Sheet (1), 21g                    |
|      |      |   |          |                  |          |     |    | Mortar (12), 254g                    |
| 1041 | 1042 | 3 | Pit Fill | Late 12th - 13th | (6), 29g | 193 | 27 | Glass Bottle Fragment (1), 1g        |

#### APPENDIX 6 SPECIALIST REPORTS

#### The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey

Trial trench excavations produced a total of 6 fragments (11g) of struck flint from two features. Pit F1004 (L1005) contained a five fragments (7g) and Pit F1021 (L1022) a single fragment (4g). All of the fragments are small tertiary or uncorticated flakes of debitage struck from brown-grey flint sourced from local surface gravels. Of the flakes, only a squat flake from Pit F1004 appears neatly struck, possibly from a prepared core. Such technology and relatively poor technique may indicate a date in the Bronze Age however the evidence is too limited for a firm conclusion, and these flakes are highly unlikely to represent evidence for any sustained flint reduction in the vicinity. Three small pieces (38g) of burnt flint were also recovered from Ditch F1023 (L1024).

## **Pottery**

Peter Thompson with Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered 144 sherds weighing 3.011 kg. It is a multi-period site with the pottery listed below by chronological stage (Table 1). The assemblage is in mixed condition but mainly abraded, particularly so in the case of the earlier wares. The exceptions to this are described below.

| Period                 | Sherd Number | Fabric Weight |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Early Bronze Age       | 23           | 419           |
| Bronze Age/Iron Age    | 1            | 1             |
| Late Iron Age/ Belgic  | 25           | 41            |
| Roman                  | 7            | 141           |
| Medieval               | 19           | 133           |
| Post-medieval          | 14           | 389           |
| Early modern to modern | 55           | 1887          |
|                        | 144          | 3011          |

Table 1 The pottery by period

The earliest pottery came from Pit F1004 which contained 23 Beaker sherds weighing 419g. A minimum of five vessels are represented, with most sherds coming from one or two coarser rusticated Beakers in crushed flint fabrics and in quite good condition. The finger tip decoration on the body is spaced at fairly regular intervals and has created small cordons. Several finer Beaker sherds in grog and sand temper have comb decoration, and one has incised, or possibly cord-impressed decoration. Examples of these can be found on the fen edge at Hockwald-cum-Wilton. One sherd contained circular perforations, possibly for suspension, but this is something sometimes found on Neolithic bowls.

Ditch F1023 contained 25 small sherds weighing 41g of late Iron Age quartz and grass tempered ware, including a small fragment of black burnished late Iron Age rim. These sherds would suit a date centred in the First centuries BC/AD.

Ditch F1023 also included five sherds weighing 129g of Romano-British sandy grey ware that are slightly abraded and originate from a single vessel. This vessel would have been a wide-mouthed jar with a roulette decorated cordon (Perrin 1999, 83: vessel 45), probably manufactured in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD. A further Romano-British sherd in Pit F1017 is in Lower Nene Valley grey-slipped ware and comprises the rim of a burnished jar with a tall grooved neck (Perrin 1999, 83: Vessel 40) dating to the same period. The final sherd of Romano-British sherd comprises a small body sherd of Lower Nene Valley white/cream ware in Posthole F1019.

Pit F1041 was dated by a sherd of glazed Ely-type ware and another fragment of green glazed ware together with a St Neots-type sherd. This suggests a late 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century date, but a tiny glass bottle fragment indicates the medieval pottery is residual, unless the glass itself is intrusive. Ditch F1007 contained four residual medieval sherds within a post-medieval feature, these comprise three greywares and a thick body sherd in a coarse, buff fabric with girth grooves and is reminiscent of Ipswich ware. A residual sherd of imported Raeren stoneware (*c*.1480-1600) was also present. The subsoil L1001 contained 5 sherds of late Saxon or early medieval pottery including a grey simple Saxon jar rim 12 cm in diameter. A sherd in fine white fabric with vestiges of clear glaze is probably a Stamford ware, but the latest sherd is a fine grey ware with internal clear glaze indicating an open vessel and suggesting a 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date.

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#### **The Ceramic Building Materials**

Andrew Peachey

Trial trench excavations produced a total of 46 fragments (2813g) of CBM, of which 32 fragments (1548g) were Romano-British and 14 fragments (1265g) were post-medieval. The post medieval fragments were recovered from two features in Trench 3, while the Romano-British fragments were present in Trenches 1 and 2. The CBM from both periods was moderately fragmented and abraded.

## Methodology

The CBM was recorded by fragment count and weight (g). Fabrics were examined at x20 magnification and are described in the report. Romano-British forms were assigned according to Brodribb (1987). All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive.

#### Fabric Descriptions

#### Romano-British

Fabric 1: Generally red-orange (2.5YR 4/8-5/8) throughout although reduced cores may occur. Inclusions comprise common quartz (0.1-0.25), sparse black/red iron rich grains (0.2-3mm) and occasional flint (<10mm). The fabric is hard with an abrasive feel.

Fabric 2: Oxidised reddish-yellow (5YR 6/6) with a slightly darker oxidised core. Inclusions comprise sparse quartz (0.1-0.25), sparse red iron rich grains (0.1-0.5mm) and occasional flint (<10mm). A very hard and dense fabric with a slightly abrasive to powdery feel.

Fabric 3: Surfaces may vary between yellow-brown to pale red. Inclusions comprise common quartz 0.1-0.25) and sparse to common calcined flint (generally 0.5-4mm, occasionally larger. The fabric has a moderate hardness and a highly abrasive feel.

## Post-medieval

Fabric 4: Red (4.5YR 4/6) throughout. Inclusions comprise common fine quartz (<0.1) and sparse quartz (0.1-0.5mm). The fabric is very hard with a slightly abrasive feel.

Fabric 5: Cream surfaces with a core that may be cream throughout or in mottled pale oxidised and cream tones (often appearing 'streaky'). The fabric is of a calcareous clay (0.2-3mm) often partially vesiculated with sparse-occasional iron rich inclusions (<0.5mm). The fabric is hard with a slightly powdery feel.

#### **Commentary**

The most common form of Romano-British CBM in the assemblage is tegula roof tile, accounting for a total of 24 fragments (999g), predominantly in Fabric 1 but also in Fabric 2. However the bulk of the tegula is defined solely by fragments of flat tile and the only flanged fragment is present in Pit F1014 (L1015). The remaining fragments were contained in Pits F1004 (L1005), F1012 (L1013), F1017 (L1018), F1021 (L1022) and Ditch F1007 (L1008 and L1009). In addition to the only flanged fragment of tegula Pit F1014 (L1015) also contain the only fragment of box flue tile (in Fabric 2) and is the highest concentration of Romano-British CBM in the assemblage, although this is still of limited quantity. Evidence for other Romano-British CBM form types is limited to a single fragment of Fabric 1 imbrex recovered from the topsoil (L1000) and fragments of tentatively identified Fabric 3 bessalis brick in Ditch F1007 (L1008) and Gully F1010 (L1011). None of these fragments exhibit any extant dimensions beyond a thickness of c.40mm, which suggests they were bessalis bricks, and Fabric 3 was fires at a relatively low temperature but this is not uncommon for cruder example of Romano-British brick. However it cannot be ruled out that these fragments may have formed part of some type of kiln or oven furniture that cannot be defined by the fragments present. The Romano-British CBM appears too limited in quantity to have a direct association with a nearby structure, but is of sufficient quantity, quality and type to suggest it may represent secondary deposition of material from occupation in the vicinity.

The post-medieval CBM is almost entirely present in Pit F1033 (L1034) (15 fragments, 1072g) although a single fragment (193g) is also present in Pit F1041 (L1042). The fragments in Pit F1033 include Fabric 4 pantile, Fabric 5 peg tile and brick, while the fragment in Pit F1041 is from a Fabric 5 brick. The post-medieval CBM probably dates between the mid 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

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#### **Animal bone**

James Morris

Introduction

In total 68 fragments of animal bone were recovered from 11 contexts. Spot dates indicate that the faunal material comes from a number of periods including; late 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to late 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD, Romano-British, the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, the 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries AD and the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The bone was relatively well preserved with little sign of erosion, although a number of elements had been fragmented by modern damage.

#### Methodology

Taxonomic identifications were checked utilising available reference collections. Where fragments could be assigned to a particular size of mammal but not to species, the categories 'SAR' (small ungulate size) for indistinguishable fragments from sheep/goat, pig (*Sus scrofa*) size mammals, and 'LAR' (large ungulate size) for indistinguishable fragments from cattle (*Bos taurus*) size mammals. Bird remains that could not be assigned to species were recorded as 'BIRD'. Measurements follow von den Driesch (1976) and are included in the site archive. Evidence of gnawing, burning, butchery (knife cuts, chopping, deliberate smashing, sawing) pathology and any taphonomic effects was also recorded.

All data was entered into a Microsoft access database which will be included in the site archive.

## Results

Overall the majority of the assemblage with a known date (36 fragments) were recovered from post-medieval features. Only one element was recovered from the late Iron Age Ditch F1023, it consisted of a fragment from a large ungulate long bone shaft. Seven fragments were recovered from the Romano-British Pit F1017, the majority of which are from large ungulates, probably cattle. Also present within the pit was the proximal end of a bird humerus, from the Gruiform family, possibly a juvenile crane (*Grus grus*). Five fragments, four from Pit F1041 and one from Subsoil

L1001 date to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The elements are from either cattle or sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*).

The post-medieval assemblage contains elements from cattle, sheep/goat and pig. Domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) and goose (*Branta bernicla*) were also present. Three of the domestic fowl elements from Ditch F1007 were complete and their measurements are present within the animal bone database for this site. Butchery was noted on the cattle pelvis from Ditch F1007. It consisted of repeated knife marks (5) at an oblique angle on the medial aspect of the ischium. These marks were most probably associated with the cutting of muscular tissue during the dismemberment process.

#### Discussion

The size of the assemblage, although not large, has indicated that a variety of species were deposited on the site. However, detailed understanding of the uses and husbandry of these species is not possible due to the small size of the assemblage. The preservation of the assemblage was good and any further work on the site will be likely to produce a faunal assemblage.

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#### Shell

James Morris

A small amount of marine shell was recovered from the site. In total 10 oyster shells were recovered from the following contexts, 6 from L1008, 1 from L1009 and L1015 and 2 from L1022. The shells were relatively fragmented and no upper and lower bivalve pairs were identified. There was no evidence of opening on any of the shells. Oysters were commonly consumed in the medieval period, and are a common occurrence on archaeological sites (Wilson, 1991, 42). It is likely that further excavation will produce a moderate sized shell assemblage of a similar composition.

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## **Environmental Sampling**

Fifteen bulk soil samples were extracted, with the aim of recovering plant macrofossils that may shed light on the past environment and economy of the site. All samples are tabulated below:

| Context | Feature type   | Sample no. | Volume   | Spot date                                  |
|---------|----------------|------------|----------|--|
|         |                | _          | (litres) |  |
| L1005   | Pit            | 1          | 30.00    | Late 3rd - Early                           |
|         |                |            |          | 2nd Millenium BC                           |
| L1006   | Pit            | 2          | 10.00    | Late 3rd - Early                           |
|         |                |            |          | 2nd Millenium BC                           |
| L1008   | Ditch          | 3          | 40.00    | 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century |
| L1009   | Ditch          | 4          | 40.00    | 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century |
| L1011a  | Gully – spit 1 | 5          | 10.00    | -  |
| L1011a  | Gully – spit 2 | 6          | 10.00    | -  |
| L1011a  | Gully – spit 3 | 7          | 10.00    | -  |
| L1011b  | Gully – spit 1 | 8          | 10.00    | -  |
| L1011b  | Gully – spit 2 | 9          | 10.00    | -  |
| L1011b  | Gully – spit 3 | 10         | 10.00    | -  |
| L1011c  | Gully – spit 1 | 11         | 10.00    | -  |
| L1011c  | Gully – spit 2 | 12         | 10.00    | -  |
| L1020   | Posthole       | 13         | 0.50     | Roman                                      |
| L1024   | Ditch          | 14         | 40.00    | Roman                                      |
| L1042   | Pit            | 15         | 40.00    | Late 12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>    |
|         |                |            |          | century                                    |

*Table 3: Bulk environmental samples* 

#### **Charred Plant Remains**

Alexandra Livarda

#### Introduction

Excavations were carried out at 12 Job's Lane, March by Archaeological Solutions Ltd. The excavation revealed a series of occupation phases from the late Iron Age to the early modern period. Environmental samples were taken from all occupation periods for the recovery of organic remains. The archaeobotanical material from these samples is assessed here for its potential to illuminate aspects of and/or possible changes in the diet, economy, and the physical and social environment of the site.

## Sampling and processing methods

Six features were sampled for charred plant remains based on a judgemental sampling strategy. A total of fifteen samples were wet-sieved by staff at Archaeological Solutions, using a mesh of 1mm aperture for the retention of the heavy residue with flotation onto a 0.5mm mesh. All samples were air-dried and the lighter fractions or

flots were packed in self-seal polythene bags. The residues were kept at Archaeological Solutions. Fourteen of the flots were submitted for this assessment.

All flots were fully scanned using a stereoscope with magnifications ranging from x7 to x45. The plant remains were separated from the flots and recorded by category (cereal grain and other seeds). Morphological criteria together with modern reference material and seed identification manuals (e.g. Berggren 1981; Anderberg 1994; Cappers *et al.* 2006) were used for the identification of the archaeobotanical remains. Plant names follow Stace (1997). The abundance of the plant material was estimated (+ scarce <10; ++ = moderate 10-50; +++ = frequent >50) based on the minimum number of characteristic plant parts. Charcoal fragments, shell/snails, fish and small mammal bones were also noted, estimating their abundance, but these were not removed from the flots.

#### Results

## Species representation

Charred plant remains were present in all samples in moderate amounts. The most common cereal was barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.), followed by wheat (*Triticum* sp.) some specimens of which were identified as free-threshing (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*). In addition, a few grains of another cereal, namely rye (*Secale cereale* L.), were present in the assemblage.

Pulses were represented by a few seeds of vetch or vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and some more indeterminate seeds. Other food plants include a few fruit stone or nut shells, which were, however, broken into small and undiagnostic fragments, and some tuber parts. Significant is the presence of asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis* L.), a vegetable only rarely found in archaeobotanical assemblages.

A variety of wild species occurred in the samples, albeit in relatively low numbers. These include great fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus* (L.) Pohl), stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula* L.), brome grass (*Bromus* sp.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp.), docks (*Rumex* spp.) and various other grasses (Poaceae), sedges (Cyperaceae), seeds of the daisy (Asteraceae), the mint (Lamiaceae) and the legume (Fabaceae) family, and other unidentified wild species.

Charcoal fragments were present in substantial numbers in almost all samples, whereas shells/snails, fish and small mammal bones were only occasional finds in many samples. Uncharred, modern seeds of plants were also present, represented mainly by elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.), black bindweed (*Fallopia concolvulus* (L.) Á. Löve), bramble (*Rubus* sp.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp.) and nettle (*Urtica* sp.). Finally, a couple of uncharred wild plum stones (*Prunus domestica* (L.) ssp. insititia Bonnier & Layens) and a grape pip (*Vitis vinifera* L.) were identified in the archaeobotanical assemblage.

## Sample composition by phase

Most samples were taken from the same gully fill (Feature 1010/Context 1011), which provided no dating evidence. Only one or two samples were taken from the dated

contexts of the trial trenches, resulting in one Late Iron Age sample, one Late Iron Age to Roman, one Roman, one medieval, and two early modern samples (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Distribution of samples by chronological phase

| Phase  | Sample number      | Total no. of samples |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|
| Late $3^{rd} - 2^{nd}$ c. BC                       | 1                  | 1                    |
| Late $1^{st}$ c. BC $-1^{st}$ c. AD                | 14                 | 1                    |
| Roman  | 13                 | 1                    |
| Late 12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> c. AD     | 15                 | 1                    |
| Early modern (17 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> | 3,4                | 2                    |
| or 19 <sup>th</sup> c. AD)                         |                    |                      |
| Unphased   | 5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 | 8                    |

# <u>Late $3^{rd} - 2^{nd} c$ . BC</u>

Sample 1, although retrieved from a context dated to the Late Iron Age, had a composition very atypical for the period, resembling assemblages that are found much later in time. The sample had a rather large variety of plant remains with its main component being cereals, mostly barley but also wheat. Those wheat grains that were better preserved were identified as free-threshing wheat, a variety that becomes common in Britain after the establishment of the Roman Empire. The presence of a possible rye grain is another possible indication towards that direction. Although present in the Iron Age, rye is found usually in Roman, but most commonly, in medieval contexts. The occurrence of only a single rye grain may suggest that this was growing as a contaminant in cereal fields.

A variety of other species was also present in the sample, including some unidentified pulses, tuber fragments and an array of wild species. The wild species found are stinking chamomile, which can be an arable weed, great fen-sedge, various grasses, goosefoot seeds, and seeds of the daisy and legume family, some of which are also commonly associated with arable or disturbed ground.

The most significant find, however, was a small number of asparagus seeds. A native variety of asparagus exists in Britain on coastal dunes and cliff tops (King and Edwards 2007), but its cultivated form is thought to have become popular during the Roman period (Robinson 2002: 169). This is the period of horticultural development and the introduction of a greater variety of cultivated herbs and vegetables that enriched the diet (Van der Veen et al. 2008: 11). Its significance lies in the fact that, so far, asparagus seeds have been encountered in archaeobotanical assemblages from British sites only on two occasions to my current knowledge, both in a carbonised state. The earliest instance is from the Roman town of Alcester, in a context dated to the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (Moffett 1989). The second occurrence of asparagus is in various samples dated to the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD from Barking Abbey, Essex, which also contained free-threshing wheat, goosefoot and stinking chamomile (Robinson 2002), resembling the assemblage from Job's Lane. The asparagus from the Job's Lane assemblage may be the cultivated variety, given that the site is not on a coastal area. Robinson (ibid: 169) suggests that the charring of the asparagus seeds could be the result of the practice of burning the dead stems off asparagus beds during winter.

Occasional fish and small mammal bones were also present, together with numerous charcoal fragments. Overall, the evidence strongly indicates a possible mixing and/or re-deposition of the assemblage in earlier layers. It represents a mixture of food and wild species that could be part of a refuse from various activities.

# Late $1^{\underline{st}}$ c. BC – $1^{\underline{st}}$ c. AD

This assemblage, like sample 1, seems to indicate intrusive material to earlier layers. Barley, some poorly preserved wheat and a single rye grain were the cereals in sample 14, which constitute the bulk of the assemblage. Other food plants include a few pulses and a fruit stone or nut shell fragment. There was also a moderate number of various wild species, the preservation state of half of which did not allow their identification. Of the remaining wild species the majority were grasses, including bromes, and a few seeds of the daisy and the legume families, goosefoot and docks. Charcoal fragments are abundant, while shells, fish and small mammal bones were occasional finds. The general character of the sample is that of a mixture of material from different activities, such as refuse from burnt food spillages, crop cleaning and/or accidentally burnt local vegetation.

#### Roman

The Roman sample (number 13) derives from a posthole. It was particularly poor, including only a few cereals, represented by both barley and wheat, and a single wild species. No other bio-archaeological material was present apart from charcoal fragments. The seeds could have been scattered on an occupation surface and were later deposited/pushed into the posthole.

Late 
$$12^{\frac{th}{}} - 13^{\frac{th}{}}$$
 c. AD

The medieval assemblage (sample 15) was also poor. Here, the only cereal present was barley and some indeterminate cereal fragments. Wild species included a single small grass, a dock and a few other poorly preserved species. Charcoal fragments occurred in moderate numbers. Other bio-archaeological material includes a few small mammal bones.

# Early modern (17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> c. AD)

The two samples were quite different in both their composition and preservation state. The archaeobotanical material in sample 3 was very poorly preserved and consisted of a few barley and wheat grains, a couple of fruit stone or nut shell fragments, some grasses, docks, sedges, seeds of the mint family and a moderate number of other indeterminate wild species. There were a lot of charcoal fragments in the assemblage and a few snails and small mammal bones.

Sample 4 was better preserved and had a combination of cereals, including barley and free-threshing wheat, and pulses, while in terms of wild species only a small grass formed part of the assemblage. Furthermore, this sample had uncharred elder and bramble seeds and wild plum stones that in combination with the presence of some

snails may indicate some degree of bioturbation. Again, the charcoal component was abundant.

## **Unphased**

All eight samples from the gully fill had abundant charcoal fragments and a moderate number of archaeobotanical material. Barley and wheat grains were the main components of the samples. Free-threshing wheat was identified in all samples except 5 and 7, the few wheat grains in which were distorted, possibly due to carbonisation and other post-depositional taphonomic factors, and thus, could not be identified to species level. No chaff material was present to further help determine the wheat species. Sample 11 had, in addition, a possible rye seed. Pulses were found in samples 8, 9 and 10, albeit in a poor preservation state, and a tuber fragment in sample 5. Wild species were rare in all unphased samples. Modern, uncharred seeds, snails, fish and small mammal bones were present in various amounts in all these samples.

## Potential for further analysis

Despite the distinct dated contexts, all samples showed a similar overall character, including a variety of species that are usually found in the late Roman and/or medieval or later periods in Britain. It seems, therefore, that mixing of the soils and re-deposition of material in earlier layers is a strong possibility. The archaeobotanical assemblage is rather poor but it does include a substantial array of species, both food plants and wild species, representing refuse from various, mostly food processing related, activities. The presence of asparagus is remarkable and worth investigating further if a refinement in stratigraphy and dating evidence becomes possible.

A summary of the assessment results by sample can be found in Table 2.

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# Table 2: AS1166 12 Job's Lane, March (P. 3230)

Assessment of flots for archaeobotanical material.  $Cgr = cereal\ grain$ ,  $Se = other\ seeds$ ,  $Oth = other\ plant\ parts$  and uncharred seeds, Cha = charcoal, Sh = shell/snails,  $Fsh = fish\ bone$ ,  $SmB = small\ mammal\ bone$ ,  $FTW = free-threshing\ wheat$ , + = scarce, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent.

| Sample | Size (1) | Feature | Context | Segment | Trench | Spit | Description | Flot (ml) | Cgr | Se | Oth | Cha | Sh | Fsh | SmB | Comments   |
|--------|----------|---------|---------|---------|--------|------|-------------|-----------|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|--|
| 1      | 30       | 1004    | 1005    |         |        |      | Pit Fill    | 300       | ++  | ++ | +   | +++ |    | +   | +   | FTW, barley, possibly rye, tuber fragments, pulses, vegetables, wild species incl. stinking chamomile, goosefoot seeds and grasses. Modern seeds of brambles and black bindweed. |
| 2      | 10       | 1004    | 1006    |         |        |      | Pit Fill    | -         |     |    |     |     |    |     |     | Sample not submitted for assessment.   |
| 3      | 40       | 1007    | 1008    |         |        |      | Ditch Fill  | 200       | ++  | ++ | +   | +++ | +  |     | +   | Barley, wheat, nut/fruit shell fragments and wild seeds incl. docks, grasses and seeds from the mint family.   |
| 4      | 40       | 1007    | 1009    |         | 1      |      | Ditch Fill  | 250       | ++  | +  | ++  | +++ | +  |     |     | FTW, barley, pulses and small grasses. Modern stones of wild plum, elder and brambles.   |
| 5      | 10       | 1010    | 1011    |         | 1      | 1    | Gully Fill  | 20        | ++  | +  | +   | +++ |    |     |     | Barley, wheat, a tuber fragment<br>and wild species incl. seeds from<br>the daisy family. Uncharred elder<br>seeds.  |
| 6      | 10       | 1010    | 1011    |         | 1      | 2    | Gully Fill  | 50        | ++  | +  | +   | +++ |    | +   |     | FTW, barley and wild species. Uncharred elder seeds.   |
| 7      | 10       | 1010    | 1011    |         | 1      | 3    | Gully Fill  | 15        | +   | +  | +   | +++ | +  |     | +   | Wheat, barley, grasses and great fen-sedge. Uncharred elder seeds.   |
| 8      | 10       | 1010    | 1011    | В       | 1      | 1    | Gully Fill  | 80        | ++  | +  | +   | +++ |    | +   |     | FTW, barley, legume, nut/fruit shell fragments and wild species incl. small legume, grasses and seeds of the daisy family.   |

Table 2: AS1166 12 Job's Lane, March (P. 3230): (continued).

| Sample | Size (l) | Feature | Context | Segment | Trench | Spit | Description      | Flot (ml) | Cgr | Se | Oth | Cha | Sh | Fsh | SmB | Comments  |
|--------|----------|---------|---------|---------|--------|------|------------------|-----------|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|---|
| 9      | 10       | 1010    | 1011    | В       | 1      | 2    | Gully Fill       | 25        | ++  | +  | +   | +++ |    | +   | +   | FTW, barley, a legume, wild seeds incl. great fen-sedge. Uncharred elder seeds.   |
| 10     | 10       | 1010    | 1011    | В       | 1      | 3    | Gully Fill       | 10        | ++  | +  | +   | +++ |    |     |     | FTW, barley, a legume and wild species. Uncharred elder seeds.  |
| 11     | 10       | 1010    | 1011    | С       | 2      | 1    | Gully Fill       | 50        | ++  | +  | +   | +++ |    | +   | +   | FTW, barley, a possible rye seed, wild species incl. brome grass and goosefoot seeds. A modern grape pip and brambles.                |
| 12     | 10       | 1010    | 1011    | С       | 2      | 2    | Gully Fill       | 40        | ++  | +  | +   | +++ | +  | +   | +   | Barley, wheat and a few wild species incl. small grasses.  Modern seeds present.  |
| 13     | 10       | 1019    | 1020    |         | 2      |      | Posthole<br>Fill | 15        | +   | +  |     | +++ |    |     |     | Barley, wheat and a single wild species.  |
| 14     | 40       | 1023    | 1024    |         |        |      | Ditch Fill       | 100       | ++  | ++ | +   | +++ | +  | +   | +   | Barley, wheat, rye, a fruit/nut shell fragment, pulses and wild species incl. brome grass, docks, small legumes and a goosefoot seed. |
| 15     | 40       | 1041    | 1042    |         |        |      | Pit Fill         | 85        | ++  | +  |     | ++  |    |     | +   | Barley and wild species incl. docks and small grasses.  |

# PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1: Pit F1004. View SW



3: Gully F1010, Trench 1. View N



5: Gully F1010 & Posthole F1019. View N



2: Large Ditch F1007. View NE



4: Trench 1- post excavation. View SW



6: Trench 2- post-excavation. View SE



7: Ditch F1023. View N



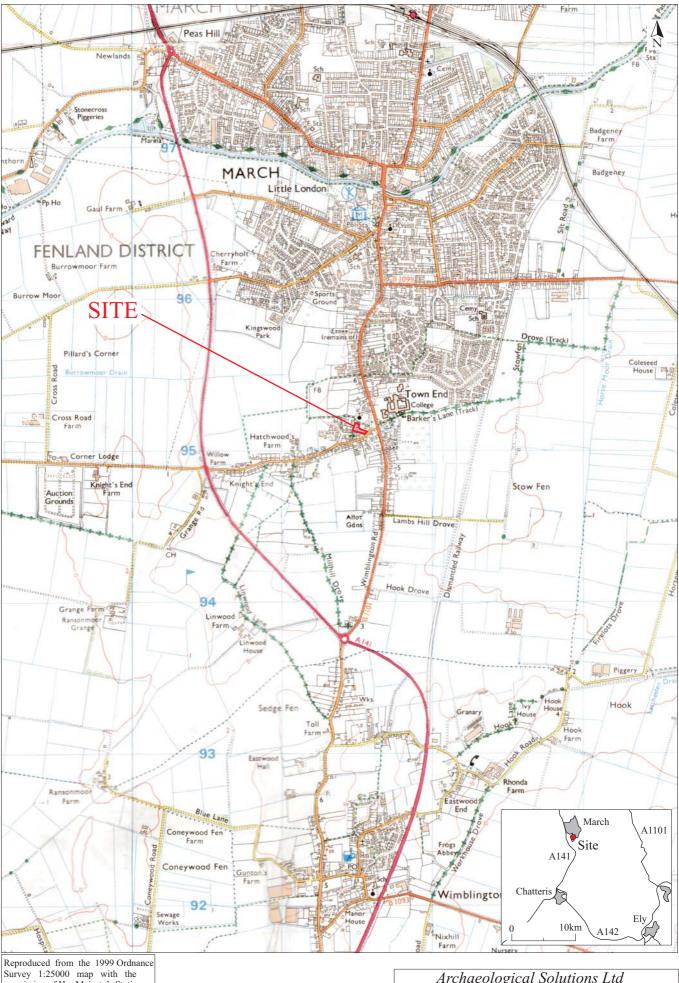
9: Intercutting Pits F1031 and F1033- Trench 3. View SE



8: F1025, F1027, F1029- Trench 3. View SE



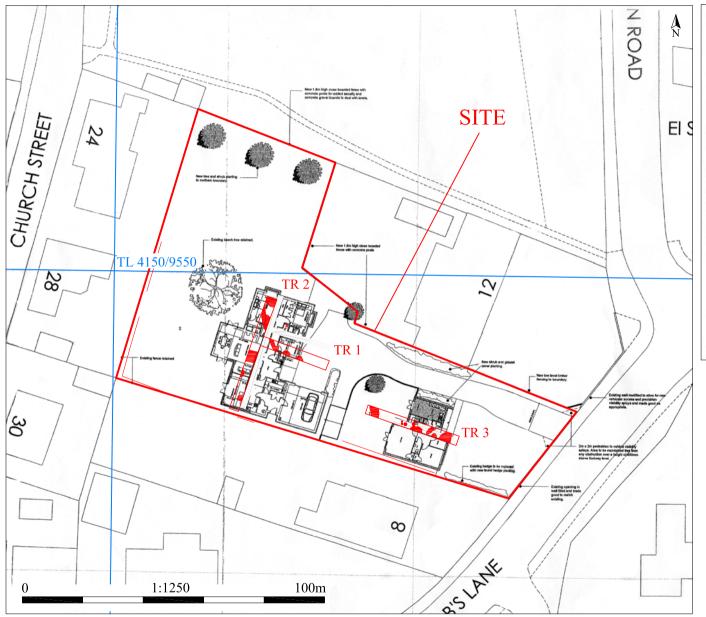
10: Trench 3- post-excavation. View SW

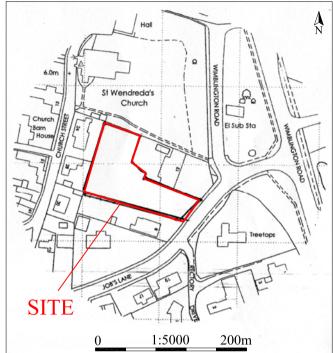


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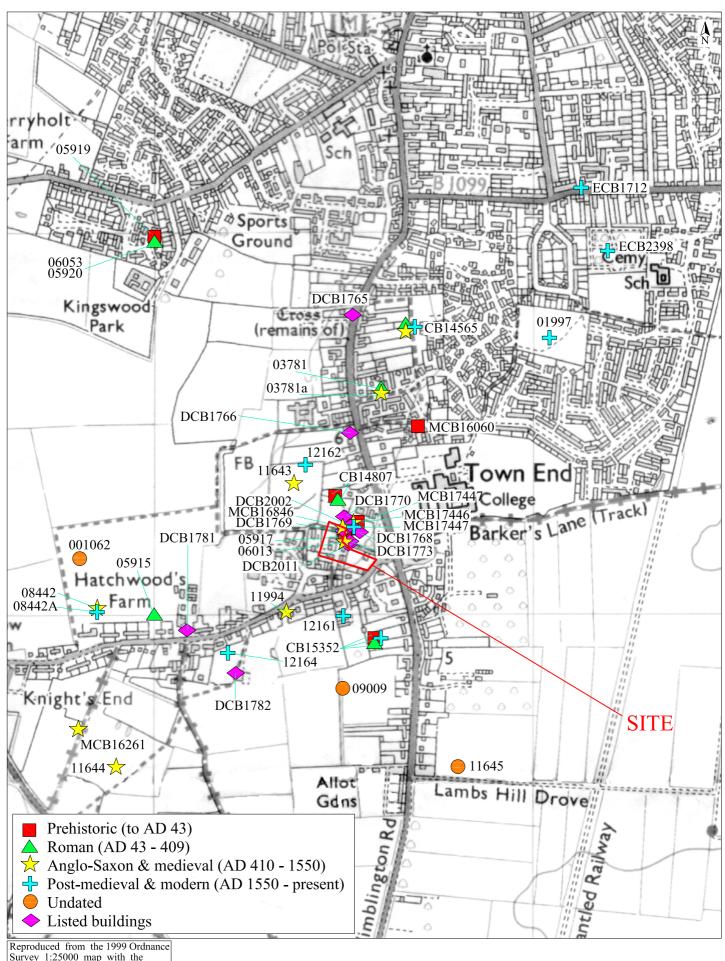
Site location plan Scale 1:25,000 at A4





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Fig. 2 Trench lo Scale 1:1250 & 1:5000 at A4 Trench location plan

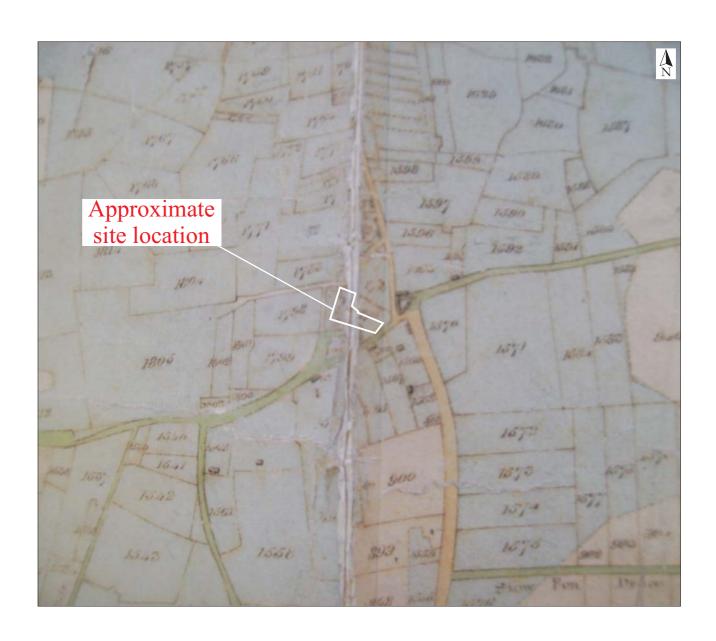


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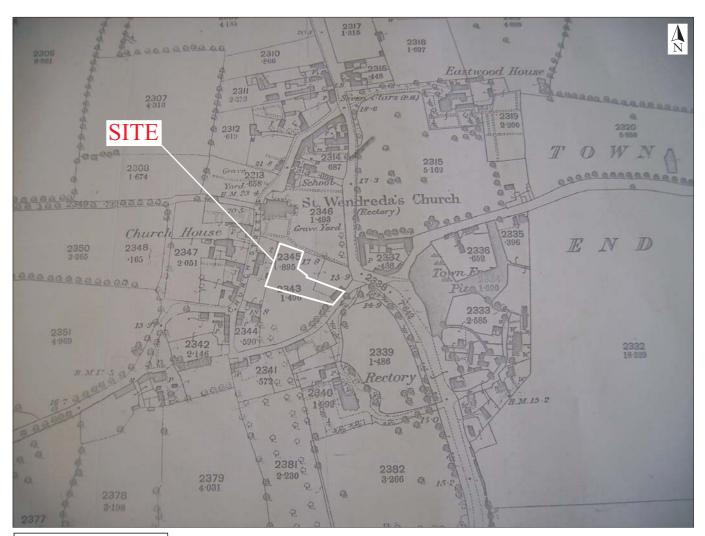
Fig. 3 HER Data

Scale 1:10,000 at A4



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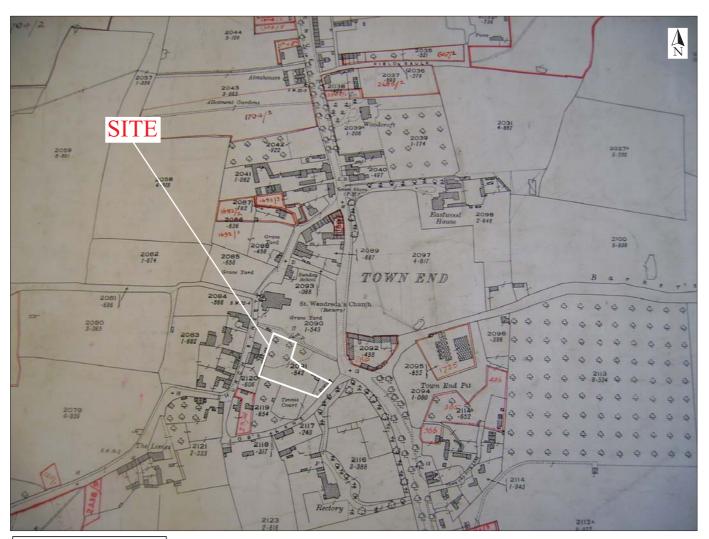
Fig. 4
Not to scale March rural tithe map, 1840



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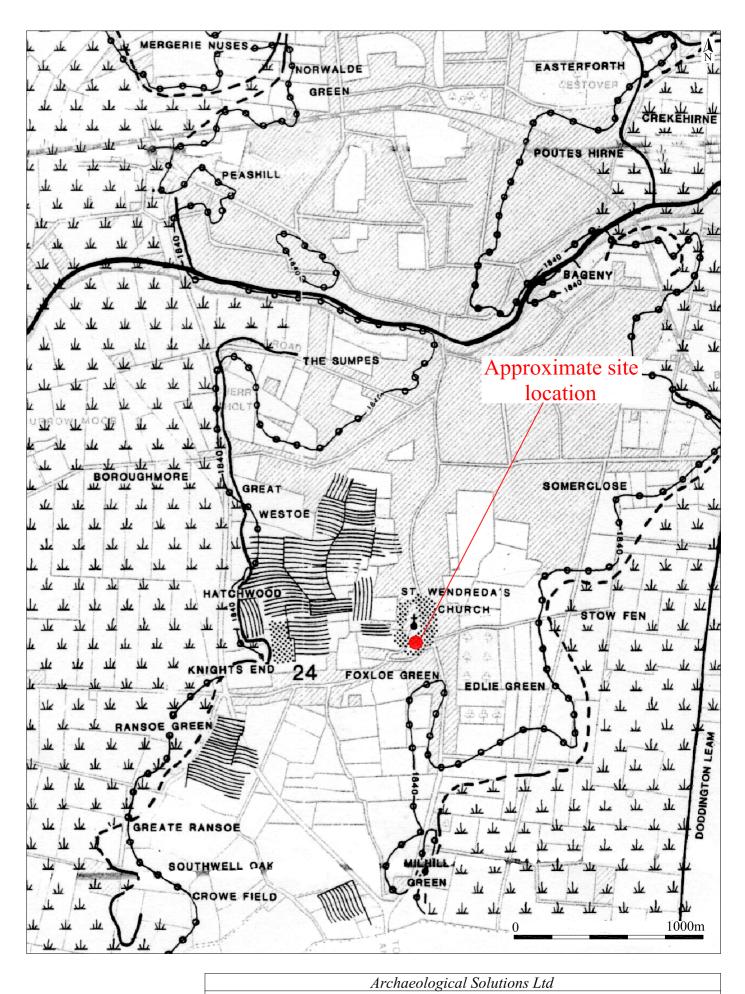
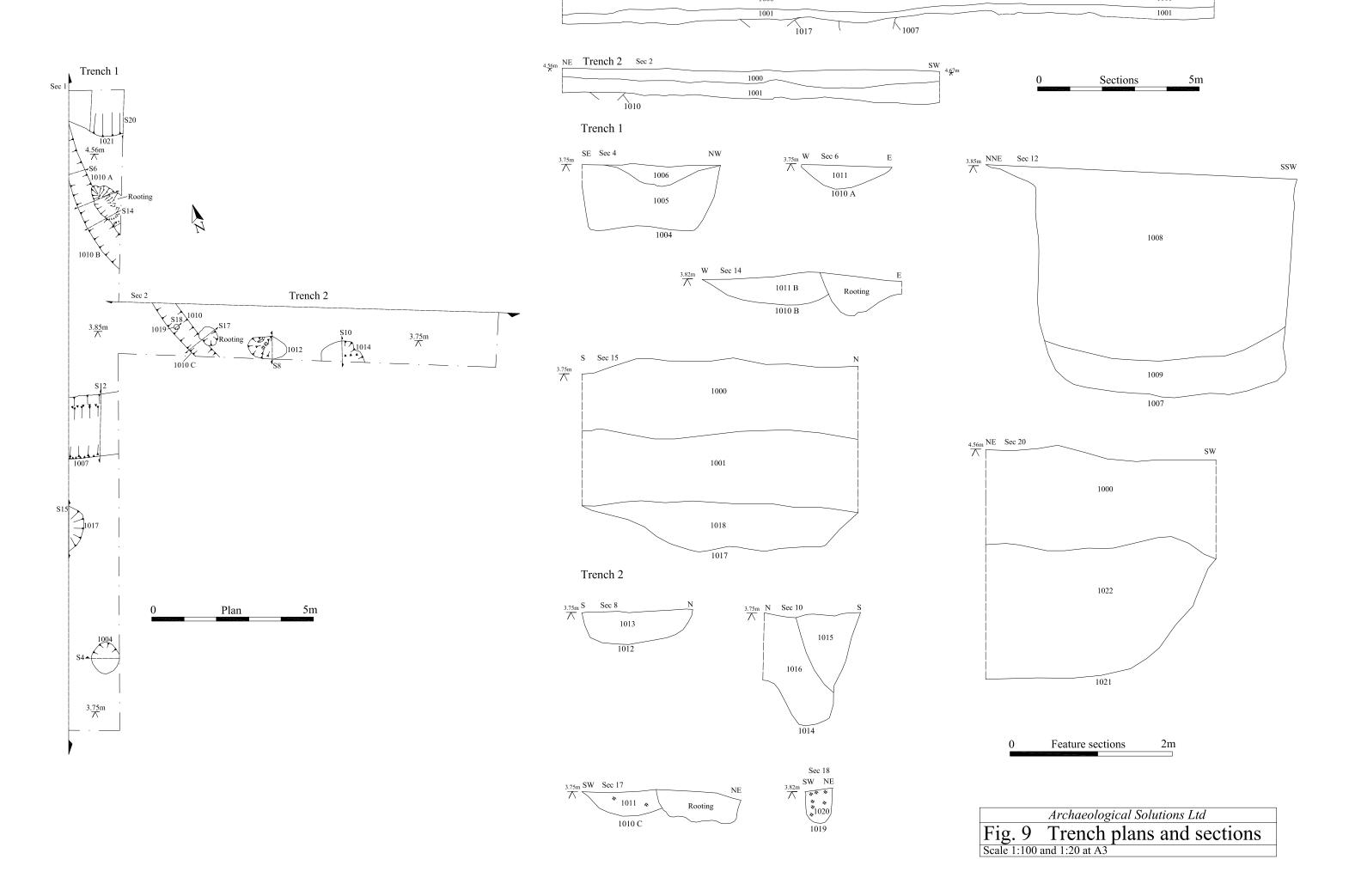
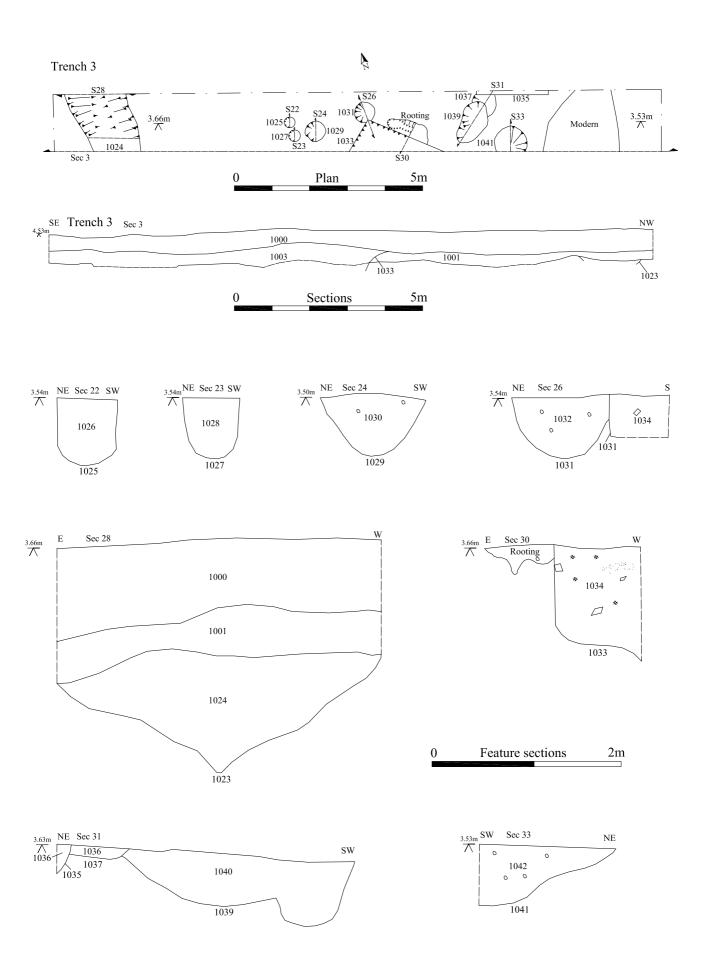


Fig. 8 March medieval landscape (after Hall, 1987)
Scale 1:20000 at A4



sw Trench 1 Sec 1



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Fig. 10 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20