

**101 FORDHAM ROAD, SNAILWELL,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**101 FORDHAM ROAD, SNAILWELL,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER no. ECB2938

Authors: Walter McCall MA PhD MIFA (Archaeology and discussion) Sophie Unger MA (Desk-based assessment) Andrew A. S. Newton MPhil PIFA (Editor) Caroline Lamprey MA (Graphics)	
NGR: TL 6359 6823	Report No: 3104
District: Cambridgeshire	Site Code: AS1143
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 3173
Signed:	Date: June 2008

This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Archaeological Solutions Ltd, 98-100 Fore Street, Hertford, SG14 1AB.
Tel: 01992 558170 Fax: 01992 553359 E-mail: info@ascontracts.co.uk
Web: www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk
Registered Number: 4702122

CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based assessment)**
- 4 THE EVIDENCE**
- 5 METHODOLOGY (Trial trenching)**
- 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 7 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 8 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 9 DISCUSSION**
- 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**
- 11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**
- 12 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

APPENDICES

- 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA**
- 2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES**
- 3 LISTED BUILDING DATA**
- 4 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**
- 5 SPECIALISTS REPORTS**

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>101 Fordham Road, Snailwell, Cambridgeshire: An archaeological evaluation.</i>		
<i>In June 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 101 Fordham Road, Snailwell, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6359 6823). The construction of B1 industrial units with associated parking and services is proposed. The archaeological investigation complied with planning condition ref: E/07/01158/OUT).</i>			
<i>The desk-based assessment revealed potential for multi-period remains. Evidence of prehistoric activity in Snailwell was substantial with remains found from the Neolithic, Bronze Age, and Iron Age periods, some of which are within 250m of the site. A considerable amount of Roman occupational evidence, including a possible villa estate, has been identified immediately north of the site. Snailwell was thought to have originated in the late Anglo-Saxon period, with the development of the village (to the south-east of the site) predominantly occurring from the Norman to medieval era. Post-medieval Snailwell remained small in size and cartographic sources indicate that the site remained undeveloped until the mid to late 20th century, possibly employed as agricultural land</i>			
<i>The current archaeological evaluation revealed no evidence for any of these periods. Two archaeological features were revealed within the three excavated trenches; one modern rubbish pit and a possible field drain. Rooting and tree hollows were prevalent across the site.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>11/06/08 – 13/06/08</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3173</i>	Site code	<i>AS1143</i>
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Possible archaeological potential</i>		
Current land use	<i>Industrial Yard</i>		
Planned development	<i>Industrial development</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern rubbish pit, field drain</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>East Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Snailwell</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>0.03 ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 6359 6823</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>15-20m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA)</i>		
Project Officer	<i>Walter McCall</i>		
Funded by	<i>Andrew Fleet on behalf of Godfrey and Hicks</i>		
Full title	<i>101 Fordham Road, Snailwell, Cambridgeshire: An archaeological evaluation.</i>		
Authors	<i>McCall, W., Unger, S, & Newton, A</i>		
Report no.	<i>3104</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>June 2008</i>		

**101 FORDHAM ROAD, SNAILWELL,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In June 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 101 Fordham Road, Snailwell, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6359 6823). The construction of B1 industrial units with associated parking and services is proposed. The archaeological investigation complied with planning condition (ref: E/07/01158/OUT).

The desk-based assessment revealed potential for multi-period remains. Evidence of prehistoric activity in Snailwell is substantial with remains found from the Neolithic, Bronze Age, and Iron Age periods, some of which are within 250m of the site. A considerable amount of Roman occupational evidence, including a possible villa estate, has been identified immediately north of the site. Snailwell is thought to have originated in the late Anglo-Saxon period, with the development of the village (to the south-east of the site) predominantly occurring from the Norman to medieval era. Post-medieval Snailwell remained small in size and cartographic sources indicate that the site remained undeveloped until the mid to late 20th century, possibly employed as agricultural land

The archaeological evaluation revealed no evidence for any of these periods. Two archaeological features were revealed within the three excavated trenches; one modern rubbish pit and a possible field drain. Rooting and tree hollows were prevalent across the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trenching evaluation on land at 101 Fordham Road, Snailwell, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6359 6823; Figures 1-2). The investigation was commissioned by Hicks and Godfrey, in order to support a planning application for a proposed residential development (Planning ref: E/07/01158/OUT).

1.2 The desk-based assessment was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by CAPCA (dated 06/05/2008) and a specification compiled by AS (dated 12/05/2008). The archaeological evaluation followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (both revised 1999), 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 aims 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 aims 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.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figures. 1 – 2)

2.1 Snailwell is located on the east edge of Cambridgeshire, bordering the parishes of Exning, Fordham, Chippenham, and Moulton. Snailwell lies *c.* 3km north of the market town of Newmarket. The River Snail meanders to the north-west of the village and flows east towards Soham.

2.2 The site is located to the north-west of the centre of the village of Snailwell. It is recorded that the estate of Snailwell was given to the Abbey of Ely in the late Anglo-Saxon period and a medieval manorial site was also recorded in the village. A scheduled Roman villa site (SAM 80) is situated immediately north of the site. Bordering the site to the east, west, and south are industrial buildings on the outskirts of the village. Snailwell Fen, wetland overflowing from the River Snail, is located *c.* 250m north of the site.

2.3 The southern end of site itself is currently being used as a storage depot for various construction materials and rubbish associated with the Godfrey and Hicks industrial yard. Most of the northern end is comprised of a tarmac surface and serves as a car park. A thin strip along the west edge of the site remains free of hard standing.

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 4-7.

3.3 Secondary sources

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

3.4 Geological/geotechnical information

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

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils

4.1.1 The surface elevation of the site is approximately 15-20m AOD with the land gradually rising to 20m AOD to the south-east, towards the village centre. The solid geology of Snailwell consists of upper cretaceous chalk, with the village lying on the chalk ridge that borders the southern fen edge (Hall 1996, 95). Sandy heathland lies to the south and east of the village. The soils of the area are of the Moulton association consisting of well-drained loamy soils over chalk or chalk rubble (SSEW 1983). These soils traditionally support the cultivation of cereal, sugar beet and some selected arable crops (SSEW 1983).

4.2 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)

4.2.1 The location of Snailwell, formed around the spring (the source of the river), was likely to have been conducive to prehistoric settlement, due to the fertile soils and the water supply within easy reach. Evidence of prehistoric occupation of the area is substantial. Several ring ditches, suggestive of occupation, have been identified in the parish and close to the boundaries of Fordham (CHER 09025, 11105, 07433). An excavation (CHER CB14997) prior to the construction of the Fordham bypass in 2004 revealed a wealth of prehistoric evidence including Neolithic settlement features, and evidence of possible animal skin processing. Other evidence included a small Bronze Age cremation cemetery and one crouched burial. Early Iron Age remains were also revealed on the site and evidence suggested that the site was continually occupied into the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

4.2.2 Another excavation at Landwade Road also revealed substantial prehistoric remains (c.500m west of the site; CHER MCB16109). Early Iron Age settlement was the most represented period with several four- to six-posthole structures and post-built roundhouses. Bronze Age ditches were also recorded. Significantly, an Iron Age cremation burial was identified c.1km south-east of the site (CHER 07420). Rich grave goods surrounding the wooden tomb suggest this was burial of a Belgic chieftain. Pottery dated this burial to within two years of the Claudian conquest.

4.2.3 Closer to the site, Snailwell Fen (c.250m to the north of the site) is thought to have seen Iron Age occupation (CHER 07746), with numerous Bronze and Iron Age finds discovered in the Snailwell Fen area (CHER 07745A). The site therefore has a high potential for prehistoric finds and features.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

4.2.4 There is a moderate amount of evidence to suggest that the area of Snailwell was occupied in the Roman period. It is thought that Ashwell Street (or Street Way) was part of a former Roman road, which may have been routed by the current Exning to Chippenham road, running over 1km south-east of the site (Last 2001, 9). A large excavation during work for the Fordham bypass (CHER MCB16946) revealed a probable Roman, north to south aligned, road (parallel to Fordham Road) with roadside ditches and a probable Romano-British elderly male burial. A Roman cremation (c.750m south-east of the site; CHER 07434) was found during ploughing in 1978. An Iron spearhead (CHER CB16880) and occupational evidence (CHER 07743) have been recorded close to the village centre. Approximately 250m to the north of the site, Snailwell Fen has yielded a considerable quantity of Roman artefacts including numerous coins, a glass bead and extensive pottery.

4.2.5 A scheduled Roman villa site has been located immediately north of the site (SAM 80; HER 07483; 07746A). The site was continuously ploughed prior to excavation by the field owner in 1971. This revealed Roman building material with hypocaust heating and painted wall plaster suggesting this was more than a native farmstead complex. The proximity of the site to the probable villa is important, as remains associated with the Roman complex may be situated close to or within the

site boundaries. There is a moderate to high potential for Roman remains on the site.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (AD 411 – 1539)

4.2.6 The first documentary evidence of Snailwell appears during the late Saxon period (c.990 AD), when the estates of both Shelford and Snailwell were given as a gift to the Abbot of Ely (website 1). However, little Anglo-Saxon evidence exists in the vicinity of Snailwell. A possible 5th to 6th century Saxon road was discovered during excavations for Fordham bypass, though the dating is tentative (CHER MCB16946). Saxon remains (CHER 07742A) was also identified on an Iron Age site during Hall's Fenland Survey in 1996, close to the source of the River Snail.

4.2.7 *Snellewell* is mentioned in Domesday Book as a reasonably sized settlement with four mills and woodland used for fencing (Morris 1981). The Church of St Peter (CHER CB14908) dates to approximately AD 1070 and possesses one of only two flint round towers in Cambridgeshire (Last 2001, 9). A 13th century coffin lid, from a possible Knight's Templar burial, has been revealed in the churchyard of St Peter's (CHER DCB1263). The manor of Ely was most likely located close to the church, c. 750m south-east of the site. Documentary evidence indicates that the manor (CHER 07439) was given to Ely Abbey during the reign of Edward the Confessor. There are no extant structural remains of the manor. A further manor may have been present to the north-west of the village at the site of Four Ponds Moat. However, the swampy nature of the land is likely to have prevented construction and this may simply be the site of four medieval ponds (CHER 01188). In the centre of the village, part of a medieval building still survives within the 18th century rectory (CHER MCB17326). Two separate medieval buildings are encompassed within the structure and may have been wings of a 12th century house.

4.2.8 Excavations during construction work for Fordham bypass revealed a medieval baulk or headland suggestive of a road (CHER MCB16946). This was located c.2km north-west of the village centre and may have formed part of the road to and from the settlement. Evidence of medieval furlongs and earthworks were also revealed to the north and north-east of the village, c.750m south-east of the site (CHER 09069, 10313). The majority of the medieval evidence is concentrated around the medieval village itself and there is very little to suggest the area of the site would have been occupied. It is possible that the medieval road, discovered during work on the Fordham bypass, may have travelled along the Snailwell road into the village. It is also possible that the site may have been agricultural land serving Snailwell. The site's proximity to Snailwell Fen may have limited agricultural production in the area, as it was not drained until the late 19th century, though the Roman building in the southern part of the Fen, suggests the wetland may not have been too extensive (Wright 2002). However, both suggestions are tentative due to the lack of evidence.

Post-medieval (AD 1540 – 1900)

4.2.9 The extant listed buildings demonstrate a small level of development at Snailwell during this period. This development comprised several 16th century buildings, including Church Farmhouse (DCB1265) and 17th century construction (CHER DCB1449, DCB605), including the cottages that belonged to Church Farm (CHER DCB969). Due to the proximity of Newmarket, the railway service from

Newmarket to Ely ran through the parish, with the later Cambridge to Newmarket line also skimming the south of Snailwell (Wright 2002). Kelly's Directory of 1933 indicates that the village remained meagre in size throughout this period; many services, such as the post office, were located in neighbouring villages, for example Exning and Fordham (Kelly's 1933). The cartographic sources suggest that the site remained undeveloped, possibly agricultural land, until the late 20th century.

Undated

4.2.10 Several enclosures and cropmarks have been identified in the area of Fordham to the north-west of the site (CHER 09026, 09065, 10314). These may be related to the prehistoric or Roman occupation of the area, though none have been investigated.

4.3 The site

Inclosure map of Fordham 1820 (Figure 4)

4.3.1 Access to the site from Snailwell Road was depicted on the Fordham inclosure map. The site was the 4th allotment to the Bishop of Ely, which confirms that the connection to the Abbey of Ely remained in the parish for many years. The site and the area surrounding was undeveloped and may have been agricultural land.

1st Edition Ordnance Survey map 1885 (Figure 5)

4.3.2 65 years later, the site remained undeveloped, with little alteration to the surrounding landscape. A small plot of land, located at the crossroads to the north-west of the site, was developed.

2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map 1903 (Figure 6) & Ordnance Survey Map 1926 (Figure 7)

4.3.3 No changes to the site were noted on either of the two later two maps, suggesting that the site remained undeveloped until at least 1926.

5 METHODOLOGY (Trial trenching)

5.1 Three trial trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, providing approximately 20% sampling of the area to be developed (Figure 2). The trench locations were approved by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice. The topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

5.2 The measurements and orientation of each trench are tabulated below.

Trench No.	Length	Width	Orientation
1	15.80m	1.6m	NNE to SSW
2	14.08m	1.6m	NW to SE
3	13.30m	1.6m	NE to SW

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

6.1 Trench 1 (Figure 8, DP 1)

6.1.1 Trench 1 (north-north-east to south-south-west) ran parallel to a brick wall that formed the western boundary of the site. Given its location near the western edge of the site, Trench 1 consisted of topsoil lying directly above the natural geological deposit.

Sample section: North-North-East end, East-South-East facing 0.00m = 18.06m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brown sand/silt/clay mix with frequent small stone and modern CBM inclusions.
0.31m +	L1002	Orange, red, and yellow sand mixed with chalk forming the natural geological deposit.

6.1.2 Trench 1 contained substantial remains of rooting and tree hollows. Tree Hollow F1005 (dimensions: 1.6m+ long x 1.59m wide x 0.49m deep) was the largest of the natural features in the trench. Given its apparent linear shape, it was originally believed to have been a ditch running east to west across the centre of the trench. Its irregular sloping sides and irregular base, however, were more indicative of tree rooting. The fill, L1006, consisted of mid orange-brown silty sand and contained no finds.

6.1.3 Two parallel plough marks, comprising long, thin lenses of topsoil, were visible in the south-south-west end of Trench 1, running parallel to the long sides of the trench. Their presence suggests that the site experienced deep ploughing prior to the installation of the modern industrial yard.

6.2 Trench 2 (Figure 8, DPs 2, 3 & 4)

6.2.1 Trench 2 projected in a south-easterly direction from the south-south-western end of Trench 1. It was located in the Tarmaced area of the site. Consequently, Topsoil L1000 was completely replaced by Tarmac Surface L1001.

Sample section: South-East End, South-West Facing 0.00m = 18.19m AOD		
0.00m – 0.42m	L1001	Tarmac surface. Consisted of both the Tarmac layer proper and a thick layer of dark grey made ground serving as the bedding for the Tarmaced surface.
0.42m +	L1002	Natural geological deposit. As above (TT 1).

6.2.2 Trench 2 contained three features, all of which cut the natural geological deposit (L1002) and were sealed by Tarmac surface L1001 (DP 3). Ditch F1007 (dimensions: 1.6m+ long x 0.62m wide x 0.36m deep) ran east to west in the south-east end of the trench (DP 4). The sides were regular and almost vertical, ending at a flat base. Fill L1008 consisted of distinct alternating layers of topsoil and chalky sand and contained one piece of animal bone (4g). The ditch, therefore, was created and immediately backfilled, prior to the laying of the Tarmac surface of the car park. The function of the ditch is unknown, though it possibly served as a field drain. One piece of green glass was recovered from Fill L1008.

6.2.3 F1009 (dimensions: 1.6m+ long x 2.17m wide x 0.54m deep) was similar to F1007, as it resembled a wide linear ditch spanning the width of Trench 2. Its irregular sloping sides and irregular base, however, were more indicative of a natural feature, such as rooting or a large tree bole. Fill L1010 consisted of dark orange-brown silty sand which yielded a glass bottle fragment (2g).

6.2.4 Pit F1011 (dimensions: 1.6m long x 1.43m wide x 0.18m deep) was located to the immediate north-west of F1009. It was an irregular sub-oval shape with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Fill material L1012 consisted of dark grey-brown silty sand and contained three sherds of 20th century pottery (38g), CBM (14g), three plastic fragments (2g), an iron ring (50g) and a glass bottle fragment (8g).

6.3 Trench 3 (Figure 9, DP 5)

6.3.1 Trench 3 projected in a north-easterly direction from the north-north-east end of Trench 1. Like Trench 2 it was located in the Tarmaced area of the site and shared a similar stratigraphic sequence.

Sample section: South-West End, North-West Facing 0.00m = 18.05m AOD		
0.00m – 0.56m	L1001	Tarmac surface. As above (TT 2)
0.56m +	L1002	Natural geological deposit. As above (TT 1).

6.3.2 Trench 3 contained a service trench in the north-east end, consisting of a water pipe supported by modern bricks.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or the recovery of artefacts or ecofacts during the evaluation.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The observed stratigraphy of the site was very simple, consisting originally of Topsoil L1000 directly overlying the natural geological deposit, L1002. This sequence was visible in Trench 1 within the un-Tarmaced area of the site. In Trenches 2 and 3, the topsoil was completely replaced by Tarmac Surface L1001. Generally, ploughing was deep enough to reach the natural geological deposit, as indicated by the plough marks in Trench 1. Consequently, any subsoils that may have been present were churned up to become part of the ploughsoil.

8.2 The natural geological deposit (L1002) consisted of red, orange, and yellow sands mixed with chalk. This layer was not uniform throughout. The upper 0.20-0.30m of L1002 took the form of mottled red and yellow sand, while the soil below featured primarily yellow sand and chalk. This thin band of mottled soil may represent the depth of disruption caused by deep ploughing and bioturbation. It is also possible that it represents a mix of the solid geology with excessive undistinguished rooting and natural features. If this was the case, it must be assumed that the site was heavily forested and overgrown at some point in the history of the site.

8.3 Generally, Tarmac Surface L1001 in Trenches 2 and 3 was thicker than Topsoil L1000 in Trench 1. As a result, the solid geology was truncated when the car park was added. Consequently, Trenches 2 and 3 contained no visible plough marks. Furthermore, they demonstrated a more ordered stratigraphic sequence of red and yellow sands within the natural geological deposit, and less mottling.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Summary of the archaeology

9.1.1 Given the paucity of finds and features within the three trenches, there is very little archaeology to discuss. The majority of recovered finds consisted of modern rubbish from Pit F1011. A single piece of glass was recovered from Ditch F1007, which has been interpreted as a field drain. All other features at the site were natural elements comprising tree hollows and rooting.

9.2 Interpretation of the site: archaeology and history

9.2.1 The desk-based assessment of the site noted evidence for numerous periods in the Snailwell area, specifically prehistoric and Roman. It was thought possible that evidence of similar activity would be encountered during the evaluation. No such evidence was recovered. Both datable features reflect modern activity at the site. Pit F1011 was modern, as indicated most notably by the three sherds of 20th century pottery (38g) and the plastic remains (2g) discovered therein. Ditch F1005 was a field drain. This comprised a regular well-cut ditch immediately refilled with loose material allowing water to filter into it and be redistributed.

9.3 Interpretation of the site: geology and topography

9.3.1 The geology witnessed at the site was typical for the area. The surface height was recorded between 17.81m and 18.19m AOD. The solid geology demonstrated elements of the chalk ridge that borders the southern fen edge (Hall 1996, 95) and the Sandy heathland to the south and east of the village of Snailwell. Soil of the Moulton associated was found directly overlying the natural geological deposit.

9.4 Finds and environmental evidence

9.4.1 Most of the finds consisted of modern rubbish with the exception of a single piece of bone from Rooting or Tree Hollow F1009.

9.5 Research potential

9.5.1 Given the proximity of ancient remains, particularly the Roman villa estate to the immediate north of the site (SAM 80; HER 07483; 07746A), the anticipated potential for research at the site was high. The nearly complete absence of archaeological material from the site itself, however, has reduced this potential considerably. Nevertheless, the negative results from the current evaluation will help to further define the geographical limits of the Romano-British occupation of the region.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mark Godfrey of Godfrey and Hicks for commissioning this evaluation and for funding the project.

AS also gratefully acknowledges the advice and assistance of Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA) and the assistance of Sally Thompson at the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record and of staff at the Cambridgeshire Archives.

12 BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey 1991 *East Anglia Sheet 52°N-00° 1:250,000 Series Quaternary Geology*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton

Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 14

Hall, D. 1996 *The fenland project, number 10: Cambridgeshire survey, Isle of Ely and Wisbech*. East Anglian Archaeology 79.

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 1999) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

Kelly's Directory of Cambridgeshire 1933, Kelly's & Co. London.

Last, J. 2001 *The Old Cattle Yard, Snailwell, Cambridgeshire: An archaeological desk-based assessment* Hat report no. 873.

Morris, J. (ed.) 1981, *Domesday Book compiled by direction of King William I 1086, Winchester;* Cambridgeshire, Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd.

SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Soils of South East England (sheet 4)*. Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales* Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

Wright, A. P. M. 2002 *A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 10: Cheverely, Flendish, Staine and Staploe Hundreds*, VCH pp 475-479.

Website 1

<http://www.snailwell.org.uk/>

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 Figure 3. Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2.

HER No.	NGR TL	Description
<i>Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)</i>		
07420	645 675	An Iron Age cremation burial was found in 1952 whilst laying a pipeline. A rescue excavation took place. It is thought the burial was of a Belgic chieftain due to the type of grave goods found. The pottery can date the burial within a year or two of the Claudian conquest.
07433	629 689	A ring ditch and burnt flint scatter was found in Fordham dated to the Bronze Age.
07433A	629 689	Three lithic implements were found at this location, likely to be Mesolithic.
07742	6416 6778	Snailwell Iron Age settlement which was recorded during the fenland survey.
07745	6390 6868	A Bronze Age flint implement was discovered at this location.
07745A	6390 6868	Iron Age finds discovered at this location although their condition was damaged.
07746	6366 6872	Snailwell Fen Iron Age settlement. No further details available.
07790	6432 6887	Large sherds of Iron Age pottery found beneath medieval village.
09025	629 689	A ring ditch has been found in the area of Fordham House
11105	630 679	Ring ditch recorded in Fordham.
CB14997	63030 68978	A wealth of prehistoric features were discovered in an evaluation during works for the Fordham bypass. This included a crouched burial as well post-built structure and other features of the Bronze Age.
MCB16109	63140 68310	Archaeological excavation was undertaken in 1996 on this site prior to development. The main features related to early Iron Age settlement, with storage pits (some with placed deposits), 4-6 post hole structures (granaries) and post-built roundhouses. Deposits of waste and refuse in disused pits provided extensive environmental data. TL dating on the pottery gives a 6th century BC date.
<i>Roman (AD 43- 410)</i>		
07434	638 674	A Roman cremation in a coarse ware jar was ploughed up in 1978.
07435	639 687	Roman objects found at Snailwell Fen including one fibula, three coins, a blue glass bead and pottery.
07440	644 682	Roman quern and pottery scattered over a wide area.

07483	6364 6831	Site of Roman Villa found by ploughing, presence of a hypocaust and painted wall plaster to the south of Snailwell Fen.
07743	6375 6732	A Roman site situated near the fen which is likely to be undisturbed. No earthworks are visible.
07746A	6366 6872	A Roman settlement is thought to have been in this location.
11533	6315 6917	A metal detected site in Fordham recovered a Roman scatter of finds including bone and pottery.
MCB16880	644 674	Roman Iron spearhead find found at this location.
MCB16946	6303 6898	Three areas were excavated in advance of the construction of the Fordham bypass. Parallel to the modern Fordham road, remnants of a metalled surface and a probably roadside ditch were found, thought to be the remains of a N-S Roman road. A second well metalled road was also located, aligned NNE to SSW, which may date to the late Roman period or possibly the 5th-6th centuries AD. A burial of an elderly man was found, probably Romano-British in date. Finally a series of Roman ditches were recorded. See medieval for further remains.
<i>Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (AD 410– 1550)</i>		
01188	64076 67708	Four Ponds Moat. A possible medieval moat but more likely a series of fish ponds due to the swampy nature of the land.
07439	6417 6744	Remains of the manor house in Snailwell. The Manor of Snailwell was given to Ely Abbey in the reign of Edward the Confessor. No structures remain.
07742A	6416 6778	This site was a likely Saxon site also recorded by fenland survey.
09069	641 680	Medieval earthworks recorded in Snailwell.
10313	645 683	Furlong boundaries recorded in Snailwell.
12185	643 677	The rectory in Snailwell, possible association with the Four ponds moat.
CB14908	6421 6757	St Peter's Church of medieval foundation has a Norman tower and later additions of the chance, aisle and nave. It was restored in the 19 th century. It is a grade II* listed building.
MCB16946	6303 6898	Three areas were excavated in advance of the construction of the Fordham bypass. A metalled road was located, aligned NNE to SSW, which may date to the late Roman period or possibly the 5th-6th centuries AD. It was also noted that the modern Fordham Road sites on a medieval baulk or headland, which is likely to have been the location of a medieval road. See Roman for further remains.
MCB17326	64208 67479	The Old Rectory. An 18 th century rectory, which includes within the plan two separate medieval buildings, possibly

		wings of an earlier 12 th century house. It is a Grade II* listed building with the walled garden.
Undated		
09026	6294 6876	Sub-elliptical enclosures are visible as cropmarks in the area of Fordham.
09065	632 677	A field boundary recorded in Fordham.
10314	6282 6839	Rectangular enclosure at Fordham recorded at this location.
ECB391	63402 68026	An evaluation at the Pines revealed no archaeological features and finds.
ECB450	64233 67674	An evaluation at the Old Cattle Yard revealed no archaeological features or finds

APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Date	Map	Scale	Location
1820	Fordham Inclosure map Q/Rdc33	-	CA
1885	1 st Edition Ordnance Survey map XXXVI.10	1:25000	CA
1903	2 nd Edition Ordnance Survey map XXXVI.10	1:25000	CA
1926	Ordnance Survey map XXXVI.10	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 Figure 3. Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2.

Her no.	NGR TL	Name	Grade	Description
<i>Post-medieval (AD 1550 – 1900)</i>				
DCB605	64323 67662	30 The Street, Snailwell	II	A late 17 th century original pair of cottages.
DCB968	64300 67508	Barn, Stables, Cart Sheds, Granary and Model Farmyard to Church Farmhouse	II	Barn, mid 19 th century stables and cart sheds with granary arranged around fold yard. Granary with half hipped roof situated to north-west of group, barn to south with tall double entry facing south.
DCB592	63124 68883	Biggen Stud Farmhouse	II	An 18 th century cottage with 19 th century additions.
DCB1263	64224 67557	Coffin Lid		A 13 th century coffin lid in the Churchyard of Parish Church of St Peter, said to be of Knights Templars origin.
DCB969	64377 67502	Church Farm cottages	II	Row of four farm cottages, early 19 th century including one 17 th century timber-framed and thatched cottage to south-east.
DCB1265	64257 67545	Church Farmhouses	II	Farmhouse, late 16 th century or early 17 th century. Timber-framed and plastered with steeply pitched slate roof.
DCB603	64223 67513	Four outbuildings to the east of the Rectory.	II	Early 19 th century outbuildings including an open cartshed.
DCB1449	64304 67678	Manor Farmhouse	II	A farmhouse of two 17 th century building periods.
DCB604	64234 67538	Tithe Barn	II	A 16 th century tithe barn.

APPENDIX 4 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1007	1008	2	Field Drain Fill				4	
1009	1010	2	Root Fill					Bottle Glass Fragment (1), 2g
1011	1012	2	Pit Fill	20th Century	(3), 38g	14		Plastic Fragments (3), 2g Fe Ring (1), 50g Bottle Glass Fragment (1), 8g

APPENDIX 5 SPECIALISTS REPORTS

The Animal Bone

Carina Phillips

A single fragment of animal bone was hand excavated from F1007 (L1008). The bone is poorly preserved, exhibiting extreme erosion and is unidentifiable to species. The recovery of a single bone fragment inhibits further consideration of the animal bone.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1 Trench 1, Baulk section looking west-north-west



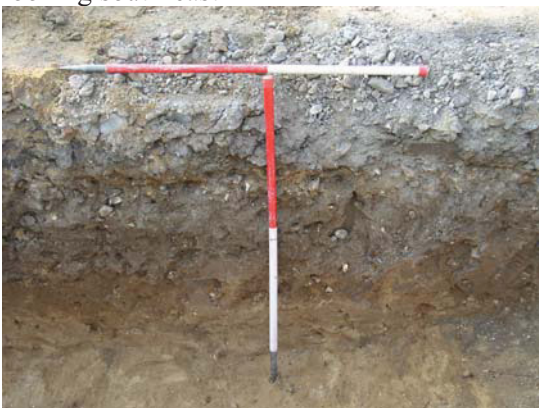
2 Trench 2, Baulk section looking north-east



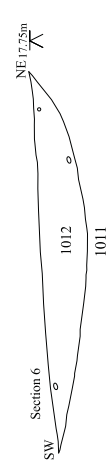
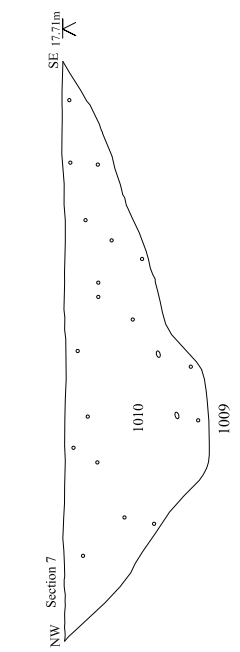
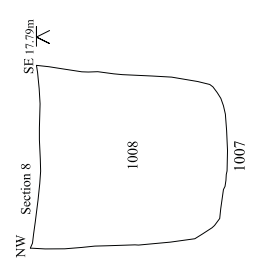
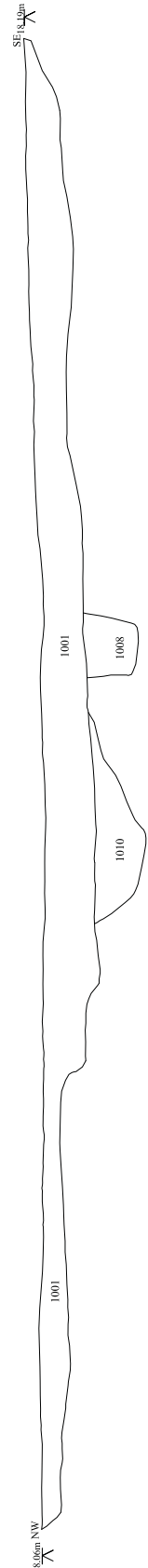
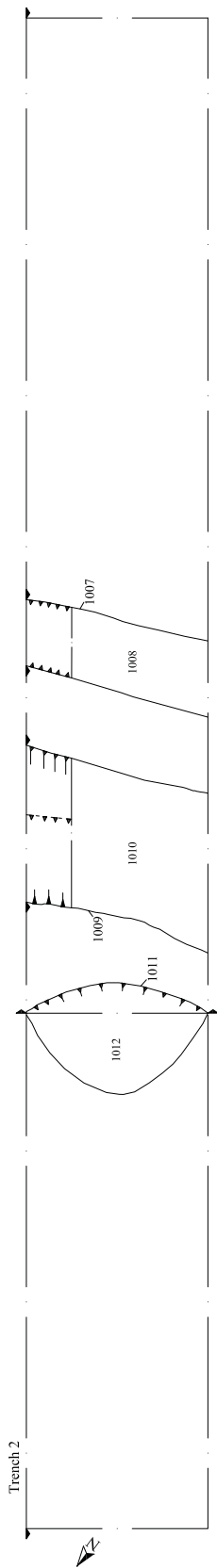
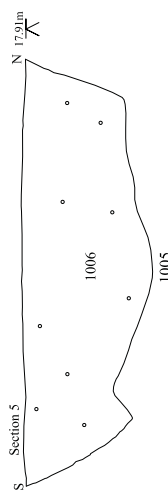
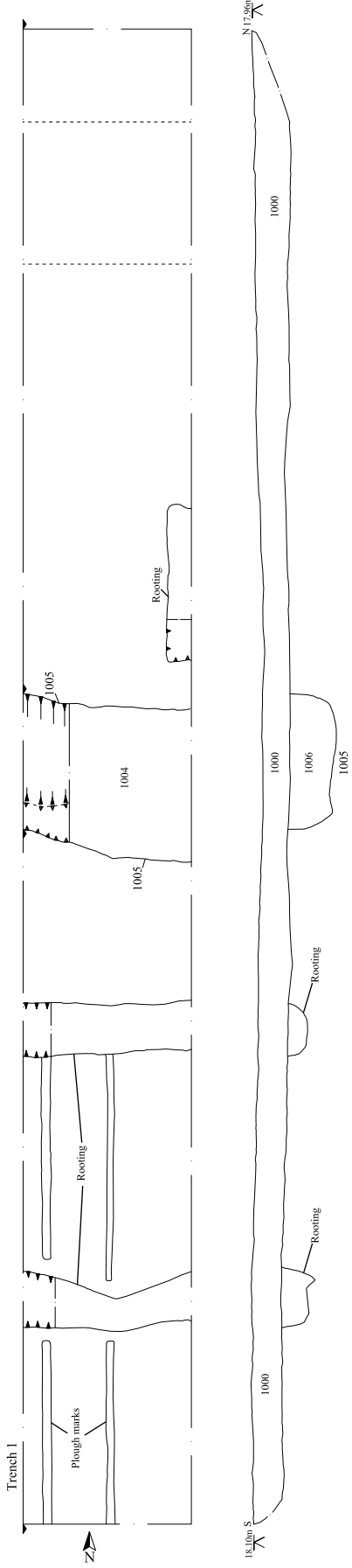
3 Trench 2, Post-ex shot showing F1009 in centre of trench and F1007 at south-east end, looking south-east



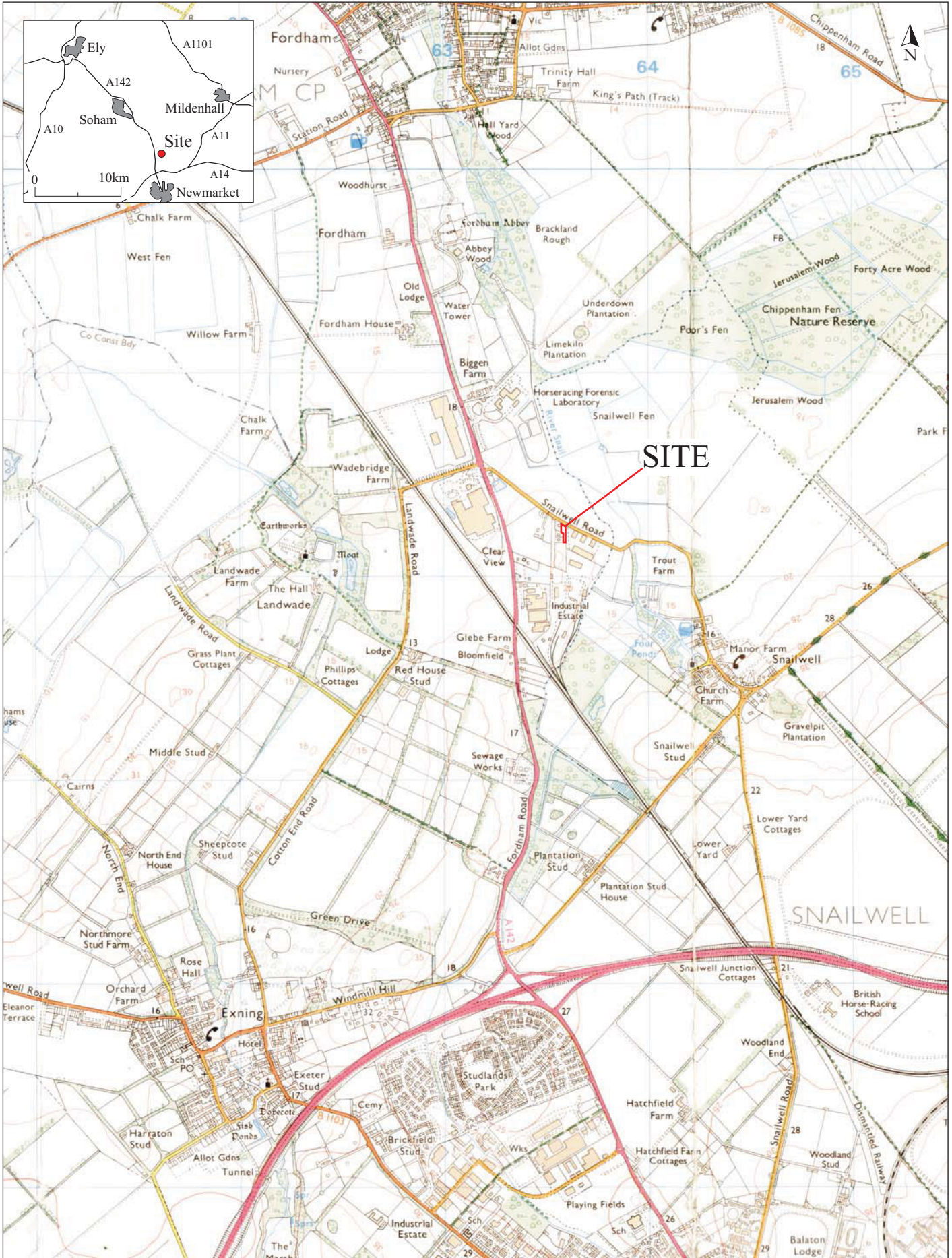
4 Trench 2, F1007 looking north-east



5 Trench 3, Baulk section looking south-east

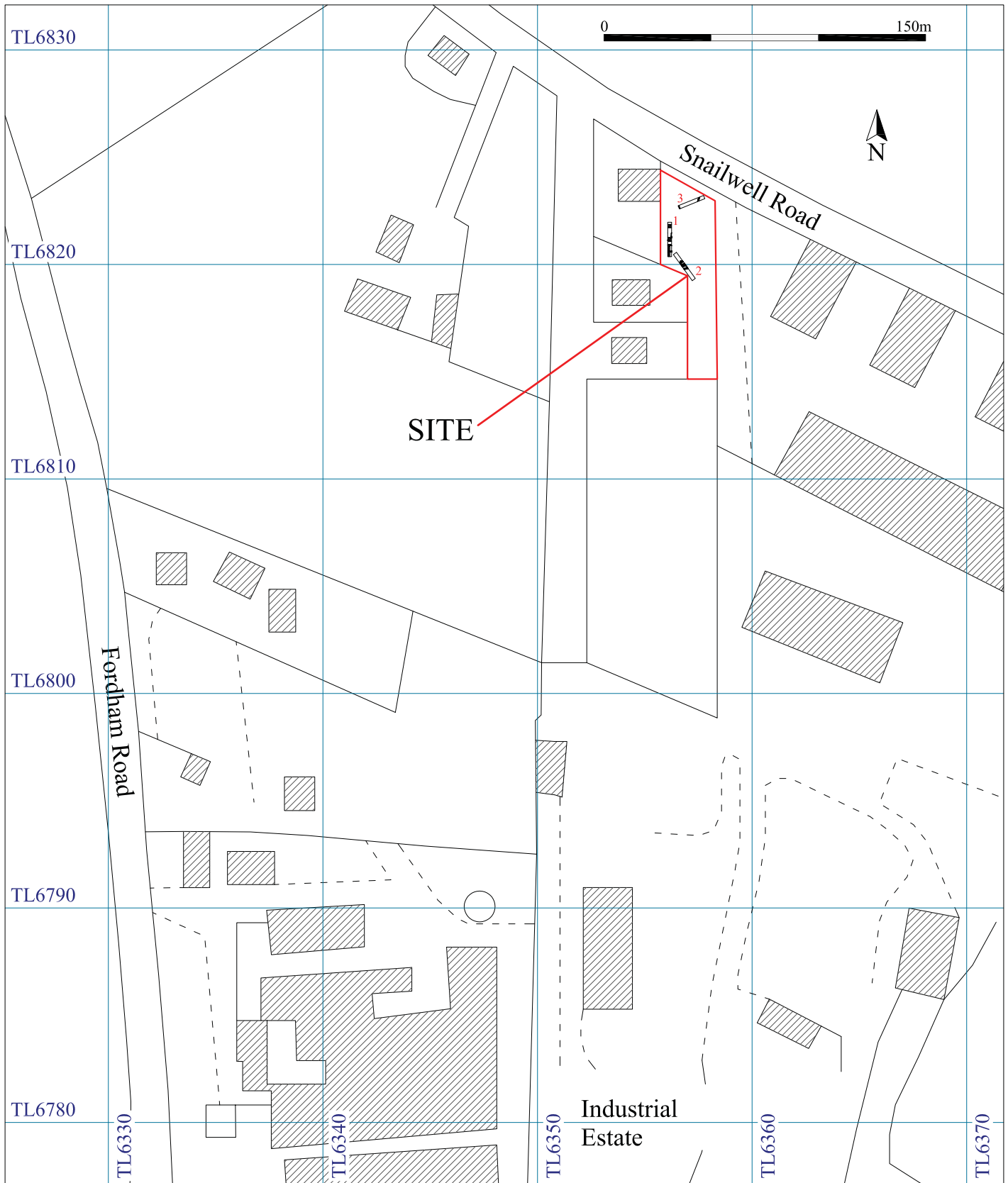


Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections
 Scale plans and long sections 1:50; sections 1:20 at A3



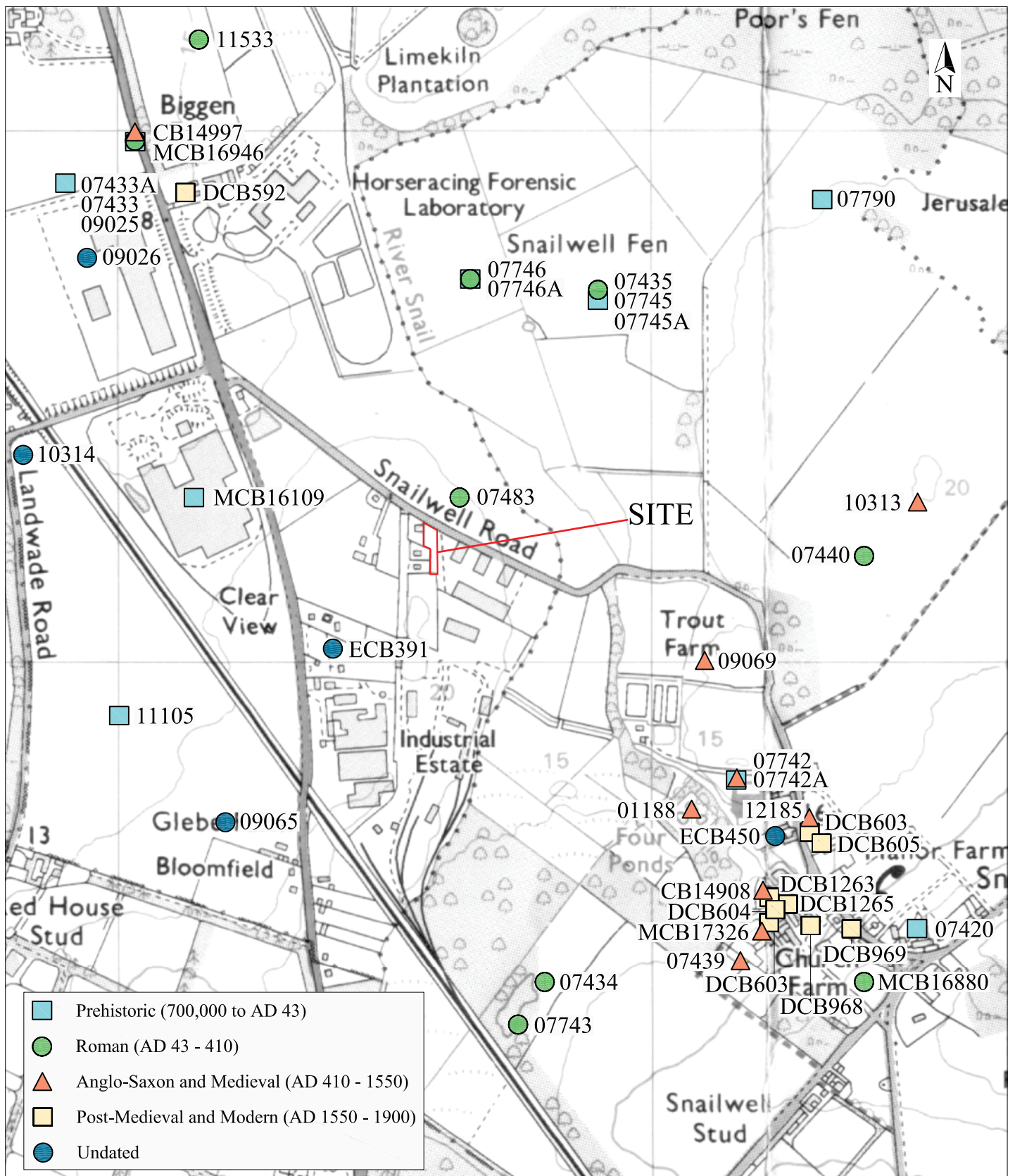
Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1: 25,000 at A4



Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1: 25,000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680.

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Scale: 1: 2,500 at A4



Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1: 25,000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680.

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 HER data
 Scale: 1: 10,000 at A4

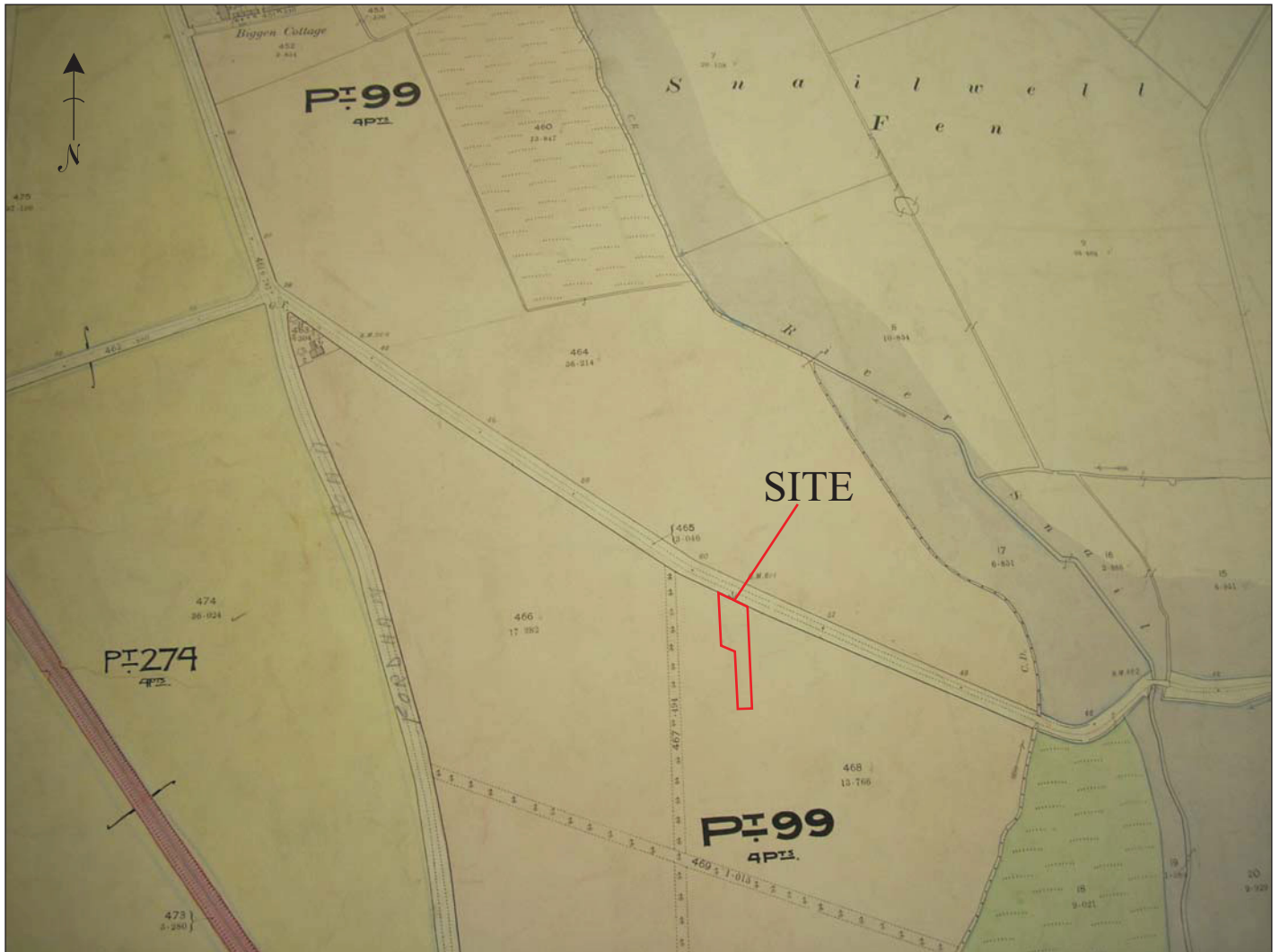


Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 4 Fordham Inclosure map, 1820
Not to scale



Reproduced from the 1885 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 5 Snailwell first edition OS map, 1885
 Not to scale, reproduced from the 25" to 1 mile map at A4



Reproduced from the 1903 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd

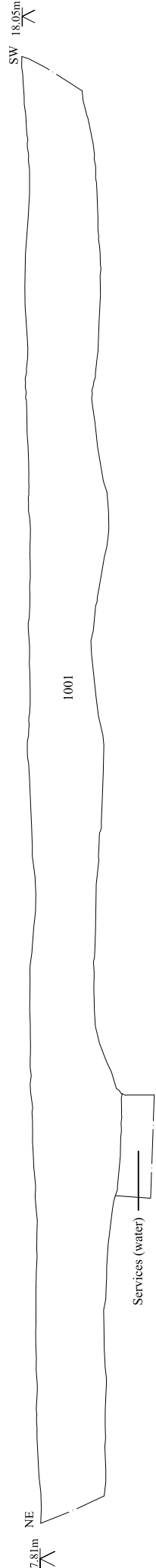
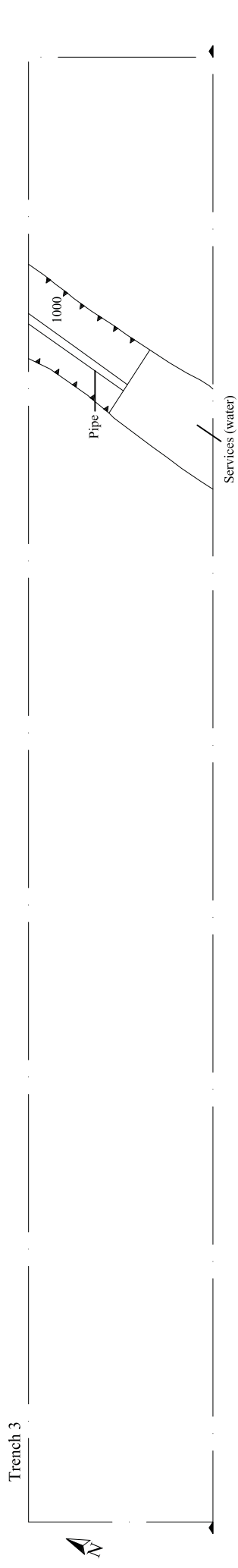
Fig. 6 Snailwell second edition OS map, 1903

Not to scale, reproduced from the 25" to 1 mile map at A4



Reproduced from the 1926 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Licence number 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 7 Third edition OS map, 1926
Not to scale, reproduced from the 25" to 1 mile map at A4



Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 9 Trench plan and section

Scale plan and long section 1:50 at A4