

**LAND BETWEEN
58 AND 66 MAIN STREET
YAXLEY
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH
EVALUATION**

Albion
archaeology



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EVALUATION**

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

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The project was commissioned by Andrew S. Campbell Associates Ltd and monitored on behalf of the LPA by Kasia Gdaniec of the Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (HET).

This report has been prepared by Marcin Koziminski (Archaeological Supervisor), who also undertook the fieldwork. The finds were analysed by Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer) and illustrations prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). The environmental soil samples were processed by Slawomir Utrata (Assistant Supervisor).

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Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CHER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record
DA	Development Area
HET	Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
PD	Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning consent (13/00240/FUL) has been granted for the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of two new dwellings and associated garages at the land between 58 and 66 Main Street Yaxley, Cambridgeshire. Due to the archaeological potential of the site, Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team advised the LPA that an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site should be carried out to determine the potential impact of the proposal on archaeological remains.

The development area lies in the south-central part of the village of Yaxley, on the north side of Main Street. The surrounding area is rich in archaeological and historical heritage assets. A significant find, a Palaeolithic hand axe, is noted as coming from 'Yaxley Yard', roughly 30m to the west of the development site. Further afield, medieval settlement features are known from Middletons Road to the north-west and Roman pottery from Hogs Fen to the south-east.

The trial trenching was carried out in August-September 2013 and comprised the excavation of five trenches located within the development area.

The evaluation revealed a relatively high level of archaeological evidence. This includes early to high medieval activity predominantly in a form of pits, ditches and a possible hearth as well as an associated occupation horizon in Trench 1. The presence of late Saxon pottery, even though only as a residual find, suggests some level of activity from this period within or in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Late and post-medieval activity was represented by a possible fish pond, located to the rear of the property in the north part of the site. Features interpreted as fishponds and of similar date were encountered during excavations in the vicinity of the Manor House in Church Street.

Modern sub-surface remains took the form of a yard surface (Trench 3) and the retaining wall of a cellar which had been subsequently backfilled (Trench 2).

The presence of substantial overburden — both soils formed naturally on site and/or imported — meant that archaeological remains were preserved in good condition and largely remained unaffected by modern truncation. However, some of the significant deposits are sealed by only thin overburden, particularly the possible occupation horizon in Trench 1.

The revealed archaeological remains may be assessed as of regional and local significance. They can add to the knowledge and understanding of the origins and nature of the settlement of Yaxley. They can address regional research objectives relating to the way places appear, grow and shift in the Middle Ages and to the development of the landscape and other aspects of the historical environment of the lowland and wetland areas of the Fens in the post-medieval period.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Background*

Planning consent (13/00240/FUL) has been granted for the development of land between 58 and 66 Main Street Yaxley, Cambridgeshire. The proposed development includes the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of two new dwellings and associated garages.

Due to the archaeological potential of the site, Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) advised the LPA that an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site should be carried out to determine the potential impact of the proposals on archaeological remains.

A brief issued by the HET (2013) outlined the requirements for a programme of archaeological investigation of the proposed development site. The first stage of this programme was to evaluate the site by trial trenching or test pitting.

Albion Archaeology produced a Project Design for archaeological evaluation which set out the scope of the evaluation and the methods to be used for the works (Albion Archaeology 2013).

1.2 *Site Description*

The site of the proposed development lies in the south-central part of the village of Yaxley, on the north side of Main Street between nos 58 and 66; it is centred on grid reference TL1855/9216.

The 0.19ha site comprises a narrow strip of overgrown land at an approximate elevation of 5–7m OD. At the time of the fieldwork it was occupied by a number of small, derelict sheds and outbuildings.

The geology of the area comprises bedrock of Oxford Clay overlain by superficial deposits of glacial till.

1.3 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

A Palaeolithic hand axe is noted as coming from 'Yaxley Yard', roughly 30m to the west of the development site. This location reference cannot be traced on historical maps, and it is not known whether the artefact came from the area of the buildings in this plot. Further afield, medieval settlement features are known from Middletons Road to the north-west and Roman pottery from Hogs Fen to the south-east (HET 2013).

The earliest available cartographic evidence is the 1821 pre-enclosure map that shows two ranges of probable structures at the Main Street end of the site (Figure 4). The 1889 1st edition OS map shows a similar but expanded layout of buildings with a central access road running through the site.

1.4 *Project Objectives*

The principal objective of the evaluation was to determine whether archaeological remains were present at the development site and, if so, to



investigate their location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality. This information was to be used by the HET in the formulation of an appropriate mitigation strategy for archaeological remains, if present, and if impacted by the proposed development.

The broader objective of the project was to add to the knowledge and understanding of the origins and nature of settlement in the area and to produce an archive report that fully described the archaeological works.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Fieldwork

The trial trenching took place between 29th August and 11th September 2013. It comprised the excavation of four trenches located within the perimeters of the two proposed dwellings and their associated garages (Trenches 1-4). An additional trench (Trench 5) was opened at the request of the HET (Figures 1 and 2). After hand excavation in Trench 4 had been completed, a machine slot was excavated in order to reveal the full depth of the archaeological remains in the trench.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-edged 'ditching' bucket operated by an experienced driver under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

Overburden was removed down to the top of undisturbed geological deposits or archaeological remains, whichever was encountered first. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts both by eye and metal detector. The bases and sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand to help reveal any potential archaeological remains.

Archaeological features were investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 *etc.* Context numbers in square brackets refer to cuts [***] and round brackets to fills or layers (***). The trenches were inspected twice by the HET prior to their backfilling.

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• ALGAO (East)	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i>
• CCC	<i>Deposition of Archaeological Archives in the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store</i> (HER 2004/1).
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> (2009)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2011)
• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation</i> (updated 2008)



2.2 Archive

The archive of finds and records generated during the project will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store under event number ECB4020.

Details of the project and its findings have been submitted to the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS database under reference number albionar1-157395.



3. RESULTS

All significant deposits and features found within the trial trenches are described below and shown on Figures 2-3. They are discussed by trench rather than by chronological period due to the presence of a variety of overburden deposits in the trenches and a variety of stratigraphical relationships between them and the archaeological remains.

Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features can be found in Appendix 1. Detailed descriptions of artefacts and environmental sampling results can be found in Appendix 2.

3.1 **Geological Strata**

Undisturbed geological strata were similar across the site and consisted of mid orange silty clay with moderate gravel inclusions. Additionally, in Trench 4 a lower deposit of mid blue grey clay was encountered during the machine excavation of a deeper slot.

3.2 **Trench 1**

Trench 1 measured 12m x 1.6m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.79m. The top of archaeological remains was revealed at 0.18–36m below existing ground level.

Overburden consisted of five layers (in stratigraphical order from top to bottom):

- topsoil (100) comprising dark sandy silt.
- subsoil (101) comprising firm clay sand, which was only present only in lenses across the trench.
- possible occupation horizon (102) of mid brown grey silty sand.
- buried topsoil deposit (113) of friable clay silt (Figure 3: Photo 4). This was recorded only in, and along, the western edge of the trench, which may suggest that a W-E aligned slope of ground may once have existed in this area.
- buried subsoil (103) comprising orange grey silty clay.

Cut features encountered within this trench were sealed below layer (102) and cut into buried subsoil (103). These remains consisted of two steep-sided and flat-based pits [104] and [109], with the latter being truncated by the former (Figures 2 and Figure 3: Photo 5). Fill (105) of pit [104] had some ash and domestic refuse content and was therefore sampled (see paragraph 7.2).

A possible hearth [111] was revealed in the eastern edge of the trench. It was filled with deposit (112), derived from *in situ* burning and deliberately dumped ashy material (Figure 2: Section 5 and Figure 3: Photo 5).

The remains of a possible burnt-out tree stump [106] were also revealed. The feature was sub-oval in plan with an uneven U-shaped profile (Figure 2: Section



4). It was filled with a lower deposit (107) comprised of firm clay silt with *in situ* burnt root remains and scorched geological stratum. The upper fill (108) comprised ashy sand with some burnt stones.

All the cut features and the occupation horizon (102) appear to be high to late medieval in date (Appendix 2).

3.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 7.5m x 1.6m and was excavated to a depth of *c.* 1.05m.

Overburden consisted of three layers:

- topsoil (200) comprising dark brown grey sandy silt.
- subsoil (201) comprising mid orange grey clay silt.
- buried subsoil layer (202) of mid grey orange silty clay.

Below the buried subsoil was a N-S aligned ditch [206] that extended beyond the western limit of the trench. It was at least 3.6m long, with a minimum width of 0.5m. It had a V-shaped profile and was at least 0.75m deep (Figure 2: Section 7). Its orange grey silty clay fill (207) produced early medieval pottery sherds.

A deep cut [203] for wall (204) was encountered in the southern part of the trench. The feature was cut from the level of subsoil (201). Only the north-west corner of the structure was revealed within the trench. It was at least 1.47m long and 1.9m wide. It had near vertical sides and was at least 0.7m deep (Figure 2: Section 8). It probably represents the retaining wall of a cellar or well, which had been backfilled by a grey silty sand deposit (205) that yielded 19th-century artefacts. The structural cut [203] clearly truncated ditch [206]/(207) in plan (Figure 3: Photo 2).

The top of archaeological remains was revealed at 0.49–1.06m below existing ground level, with the former value relating to the cellar-like structure [203].

3.4 Trench 3

Trench 3 measured 6.5m x 1.6m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.88m.

Overburden consisted of four layers:

- topsoil (300) comprising dark brown grey sandy silt.
- surface (301) comprising mid yellow grey silty sand — occupational debris formed on top of yard surface (302).
- yard surface (302) comprising frequent small to large limestone fragments within a mid yellow grey silty sand. It produced a Victorian flower pot as well as modern brick fragments.
- buried subsoil (303) comprising mid orange grey silty clay.



Two archaeological features were encountered below buried subsoil (303). Possible pit [305] was at least 0.79m wide and 1.42m long, with a U-shaped profile. It continued beyond the western and northern edges of the trench. To the east ditch terminus [307] was 0.93m wide and was at least 1.35m long (Figure 2: Section 9 and Figure 3: Photo 3). Both features contained similar homogenous deposits of mid orange grey silty clay, (306) and (308) respectively. Both features are likely to date to the high medieval period; post-medieval artefacts recovered from fill (306) are likely to be intrusive, deriving from the over-lying layers.

The top of archaeological remains was revealed at 0.40–0.69m below the existing ground level, with the former value relating to yard surface (302).

3.5 Trench 4

Trench 4 measured 11m x 1.6m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.21m. It was shortened by 1m due to the proximity of fences at both ends.

Overburden consisted of four layers:

- topsoil (400) comprising dark brown grey silty sand derived from vegetation and deliberately dumped debris.
- external dump deposit (401) of mid grey sand with frequent fragments of ceramic building material and stone inclusions. It sealed layer (402) and was probably deposited to level a depression in the ground surface.
- external dump deposit (402) comprising mid yellow grey clay silt. It represents an earlier levelling event over the area of large feature [404].
- buried subsoil (403) comprised mid orange grey silty clay.

A large possible pond [404] was cut into subsoil (403) and sealed by deposit (402). It was at least 6.7m wide. It had a U-shaped profile and was 2.4m deep (Figure 2: Section 11). Due to its size, it was partially excavated by machine in order to determine its full depth (Figure 3: Photos 1 and 7).

It contained a primary fill (405) of grey clay silt that was overlain by a main fill (406) comprising dark brown grey clay sand with yellow clay lenses. Fill (406) was sampled for environmental remains (see paragraph 7.2). This material was, in turn, sealed by a series of deposits: deliberately placed redeposited natural soil (407), followed material derived from natural silting (408) and a final layer (409) representing deliberate backfilling of the pond. The main fill (406) produced a moderate finds assemblage, which dates the feature to the 16th-17th century.

The top of archaeological remains was revealed 0.55–0.70m below the existing ground level.



3.6 Trench 5

Trench 5 measured 9m x 1.6m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.78m. It was opened between Trenches 3 and 4 to help establish the extent of possible pond [404] to the south (Figure 2).

Overburden consisted of four layers:

- topsoil (500) comprising dark brown grey silty sand derived from vegetation and deliberately dumped debris.
- external surface deposit (501) of hard dark grey sandy gravel, likely to be associated with building remains to the south.
- buried topsoil (502) comprising mid grey brown clay silt.
- buried subsoil (503) comprising mid orange grey silty clay.

An oval pit [504] was cut into buried subsoil (503) and continued beyond the southern edge of the trench. It was 2.55m wide and at least 0.65m long (Figure 2: Section 12 and Figure 3: Photo 6). It was filled with grey brown clay silt (505), which yielded two early medieval pottery sherds.

No evidence for a continuation of possible pond [404] was encountered in the trench.

The top of archaeological remains was revealed at *c.* 0.50m below existing ground level.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The trial trench evaluation of the development area has revealed a relatively high level of archaeological evidence. This includes early to late medieval activity predominantly in the form of pits, ditches and a possible hearth as well as a possible associated occupation horizon in Trench 1. The presence of late Saxon pottery, albeit residual in later features, suggests some level of activity from this period within, or in the immediate vicinity, of the site.

Post-medieval activity was represented by a possible fish pond, located to the rear of the property in the north part of the site. The interpretation of the feature as a fishpond is supported by the presence of fish bones in its fill. Features interpreted as fishponds of similar date were encountered during excavations in the vicinity of the Manor House in Church Street (Regan 1998).

Modern sub-surface remains were revealed in the form of a yard surface (Trench 3) and the possible retaining wall of a cellar that had been subsequently backfilled (Trench 2).

The presence of substantial overburden soils — formed naturally and/or brought onto site — meant that archaeological remains were preserved in good condition and were largely unaffected by modern truncation. However, some of the significant deposits are sealed by only thin overburden, particularly the possible occupation horizon in Trench 1.

In summary, the archaeological remains within the development area may be assessed as of regional and local significance, in that they can add to the knowledge and understanding of the origins and nature of the settlement of Yaxley. They can address regional research objectives relating to the way places appear, grow and shift in the Middle Ages (Medlycott 2011, 70) and to the development of the landscape and other aspects of the historical environment of the lowland and wetland areas of the Fens in the post-medieval period (*ibid.*, 79).



5. REFERENCES

- Albion Archaeology 2013. *Land between 58 and 66 Main Street, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation*. Document 2013/138.
- HET 2013. *Land between 55 and 66 Main Street, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire: Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*. July 17, 2013.
- Medlycott, M., 2011. *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*. EAA Occasional Paper 24.
- Regan, R. 1998. *Archaeological Excavations at Manor Farm, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit. Report 265 (unpublished document).



6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.18 m. Max: 0.32 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18561: Northing: 92144)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18565: Northing: 92133)

Reason: To evaluate archaeological potential prior to construction of house.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt moderate small-large CBM, moderate small-medium stones Moderately rooted. Up to 0.32m thick. Modern ceramic building material fragments not retained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Firm mid grey orange clay sand moderate small-medium CBM, moderate small-large stones Up to 0.13m thick. Only present in lenses across the trench. Modern ceramic building material fragments not retained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Layer	Friable mid brown grey silty sand frequent small-large stones Up to 0.33m thick. A possible occupation horizon that seals all the features in Trench 1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
103	Buried subsoil	Firm mid orange grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.4m thick. Medieval features [104], [106], [111] and possibly also [109] were cut into this layer.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Pit	Sub-oval NE-SW sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.92m, max depth 0.35m, min length 1.25m Truncates earlier feature [109]/(110).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Fill	Friable mid grey silty sand occasional small-medium burnt stones, occasional small-medium stones With moderate ash content. Environmental sample no. 1 taken.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
106	Treethrow	Sub-oval N-S sides: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.24m, max depth 0.6m, min length 0.58m In situ burnt-out tree stump rather than tree throw.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Lower fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt occasional small-large burnt stones, occasional small-large stones With yellow mottling. Up to 0.33m thick. Contained moderate rooting, in situ scorched natural and burnt-out root remains. Diffuse interface with underlying geology.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
108	Upper fill	Friable mid grey sand occasional small-large burnt stones, occasional small-large stones With rich ash content dumped into feature. Up to 0.36m thick. Moderately rooted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Pit	Sub-rectangular NW-SE sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.34m, min length 0.55m At the south end of trench. Likely to cut through buried subsoil (103).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Fill	Firm dark brown grey clay silt occasional small-large stones With yellow mottling. Moderately rooted. Fill derived from natural silting with domestic refuse content. Truncated by [104].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
111	Hearth	Oval N-S sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.55m, max depth 0.24m, min length 0.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Fill	Friable light grey sand With high ash content and presence of scorched orange natural clay along fired red clay. Deposit derived from burning in situ and deliberately dumped ash.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
113	Buried topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-large stones Up to 0.54m thick. Only present in and along western edge of trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
114	Natural	Firm mid orange silty clay moderate small-medium stones With occasional rooting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 7.50 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.49 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18551: Northing: 92162)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18554: Northing: 92155)

Reason: To evaluate archaeological potential prior to construction of garage.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt moderate small-large CBM, moderate small-large stones Up to 0.49m thick. Moderately rooted. Modern ceramic building material fragments not retained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Firm mid orange grey clay silt moderate small-large CBM, moderate small-large stones Up to 0.43m thick. Cut by [203]. Modern ceramic building material fragments not retained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Buried subsoil	Firm mid grey orange silty clay occasional small-medium stones Contained layer of large stones, directly above ditch terminus [206]/(207). Up to 0.23m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Wall	Square sides: near vertical dimensions: min breadth 1.9m, min depth 0.7m, min length 1.47m Probably a cut for the retaining wall of a cellar or well. Cut through subsoil (201). Not bottomed due to depth of trench. Truncates ditch [206]/(207) in plan.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Wall	Hard mid grey limestone Stones were 0.08-0.29m in size. Probably represents north-west corner of a structure.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	Backfill	Friable mid grey silty sand moderate small-large CBM, moderate small-large stones Moderately rooted deposit. Modern ceramic building material fragments not retained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
206	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: V-Shaped dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.75m, min length 3.6m Less than half of the width of the ditch was excavated, as the remaining part lay beyond the western trench edge. Northern terminus excavated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Fill	Firm mid orange grey silty clay occasional small-large stones Decayed root present. Truncated in plan by [203].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
208	Natural	Firm mid orange silty clay moderate small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 6.50 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.65 m. Max: 0.68 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18547: Northing: 92167)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18541: Northing: 92164)

Reason: To evaluate archaeological potential prior to construction of garage.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt moderate small-large CBM, moderate small-medium stones, occasional large stones Up to 0.28m thick. Moderately rooted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Surface	Friable mid yellow grey silty sand moderate small-large stones Up to 0.16m thick. Interpreted as occupational debris formed on top of yard surface (302).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	External surface	Hard mid yellow grey silty sand Up to 0.25m thick yard surface, made up of limestone fragments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
303	Buried subsoil	Firm mid orange grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.14m thick. Moderately rooted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Natural	Firm mid orange silty clay frequent small-medium stones Occasional rooting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
305	Pit	Oval N-S sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.79m, max depth 0.28m, min length 1.42m Uncertain whether this feature represents a pit or a ditch terminus. Also not clear whether it was cut through subsoil (303) or sealed by it.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
306	Fill	Firm mid orange grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Silted up deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
307	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.93m, max depth 0.39m, min length 1.35m Southern terminus excavated. It is not clear whether this feature was cut through subsoil (303) or sealed by it.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
308	Fill	Firm mid orange grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Silted up deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 11.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.55 m. Max: 0.7 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18536; Northing: 92186)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18547; Northing: 92186)

Reason: To evaluate archaeological potential prior to construction of house. Machine slot excavated to reveal full depth of [404].

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silty sand frequent small-large CBM, moderate small-large stones Up to 0.14m thick. Moderately rooted. Modern ceramic building material fragments not retained. Deposit derived from mix of vegetation and dumped debris.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Dump material	Friable mid grey sand frequent small-large CBM, frequent small-large stones Up to 0.56m thick. Dumped on top of backfilled pond [404], probably to reduce depression still visible on surface.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Dump material	Firm mid yellow grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.27m thick. Earlier levelling of the area, prior to placement of deposit (401).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Buried subsoil	Firm mid orange grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.49m thick. Cut by large feature [404].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
404	Pond	Sub-circular sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: min breadth 6.7m, max depth 2.4m, min length 1.73m Hand excavation carried out down to approx. 1.27m, followed by machine excavation to reveal the full depth.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
405	Primary fill	Friable mid grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.56m thick. Formed on E side and base of feature.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
406	Main fill	Friable dark brown grey clay sand occasional small-large stones With yellow clay patches. Moderately rooted. Naturally formed while pond was in use. Up to 1.56m thick. Environmental sample no.2 taken from deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
407	Fill	Firm mid orange silty clay With grey silt inclusions. Deliberately placed redeposited natural, up to 0.38m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
408	Fill	Friable mid orange grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.46m thick, formed over a long period of natural silting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
409	Upper fill	Firm mid grey clay sand frequent small-medium stones, moderate large stones Up to 0.48m thick, deliberately dumped within pond to reduce depression in the ground.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
410	Natural	Firm mid orange silty clay moderate small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
411	Natural	Firm mid blue grey clay Deposit underlies the other encountered natural stratum (410).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 9.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.48 m. Max: 0.52 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18547; Northing: 92180)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18539; Northing: 92176)

Reason: To establish extent of pond [404] from Trench 4.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silty sand frequent small-large CBM, moderate small-large stones Up to 0.1m thick. Moderately rooted. Modern ceramic building material fragments not retained. Deposit derived from mix of vegetation and dumped debris.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
501	External surface	Hard dark grey sandy gravel frequent small-large CBM Up to 0.19m thick. Surface likely associated with building to south.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Buried topsoil	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-large stones Up to 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
503	Buried subsoil	Firm mid orange grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.24m thick. Pit [504] was cut into it.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
504	Pit	Oval E-W sides: steep dimensions: max breadth 2.55m, min depth 0.27m, min length 0.65m Uncertain function. Likely that a significant part of it continues beyond the southern edge of the trench.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
505	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Likely silted up deposit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
506	Natural	Firm mid orange silty clay moderate small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



7. APPENDIX 2: FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

7.1 Finds

Fourteen deposits within the investigation area contained finds, represented mainly by pottery. The material was examined to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range (Table 1).

Tr.	Feature	Description	Context	Date range	Finds Summary
1	100	Topsoil	100	Late medieval	Pottery (51g)
	102	Occupation horizon	102	High medieval	Pottery (88g)
	104	Pit	105	Late medieval – early post-medieval	Pottery (106g); animal bone (3g); shell (16g); coal (2g); fuel ash slag (4g)
	106	Tree-stump	107	High medieval	Pottery (35g)
	109	Pit	110	Late medieval – early post-medieval	Pottery (102g); animal bone (96g)
2	111	Hearth	112	High medieval	Pottery (187g)
	203	Structural cut	205	Modern	Pottery (102g)
3	206	Ditch	207	Early medieval	Pottery (27g); animal bone (122g)
	302	Yard surface	302	Modern	Pottery (54g); brick (487g)
4	305	Pit	306	High medieval	Pottery (40g); ceramic roof tile (146g)
	307	Ditch	308	High medieval	Pottery (29g)
5	404	Pond	405	High medieval	Pottery (113g)
	404	Pond	406	Post-medieval	Pottery (1.3kg); animal bone (555g); burnt flint (25g); charcoal (2g); clinker (16g); coal (1g); shell (1g); fired clay (23g); iron nail x1
5	500	Topsoil	500	Late medieval	Pottery (57g)
	504	Pit	505	Early medieval	Pottery (25g)

Table 1: Finds summary by trench and feature

7.1.1 Pottery

Seventy sherds, representing 59 vessels (2.3kg), were collected. The pottery is moderately fragmented, with an average sherd weight of 34g, and survives in good condition, with relatively little surface abrasion. Sixteen fabric types were identified using common names in accordance with the Cambridgeshire Ceramic Type Series (Table 2).

Common name	Date Range	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
St Neots-type ware	c. 875-1100	1	(308):1
Early medieval shelly ware	c. 1050-1250	10	(100):1, (102):1, (107):2, (207):3, (308):2, (505):1
Early medieval sandy ware	c. 1050-1250	2	(207):1, (306):1
Lyveden-Stanion ware (unglazed)	c. 1100-1250	5	(107):1, (112):3, (505):1
Lyveden-Stanion ware (glazed)	c. 1100-1400	2	(100):1, (112):1
Ely ware	c. 1150-1350	5	(102):1, (110):1, (306):1, (308):1, (405):1
Brill/Boarstall ware	c. 1200-1500	1	(102):1
Late medieval reduced ware	c. 1350-1500	5	(100):1, (105):3, (110):1
Bourne 'D' ware	c. 1430-1650	6	(105):4, (110):1, (406):1
Late medieval oxidised ware	c. 1450-1550	6	(105):1, (110):1, (406):3, (500):1
German stoneware	c. 1500+	1	(105):1
Glazed red earthenware	c. 1550+	10	(406):10
Unglazed red earthenware	c. 1550+	7	(406):7
Slipware	c. 1600-1700	1	(406):1
Black-glazed earthenware	c. 1650+	4	(205):2, (406):2
Creamware	c. 1750-1880	2	(205):1
Victorian	c. 1800+	2	(205):1, (302):1

Table 2: Pottery Type Series

The pottery is datable to the late Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods, and comprises a range of wares common to sites in the county. A single



sherd of late Saxon St Neots ware (4g) occurs as a residual find in high medieval ditch [307]. Also, pottery of early medieval shelly and sandy ware is residual within high medieval tree stump [106].

The medieval assemblage comprises locally manufactured wares (early medieval sand and shelly wares, Ely ware); and regional imports from Northamptonshire (Lyveden-Stanion ware), Buckinghamshire (Brill-Boarstall ware), Bedfordshire (late medieval reduced ware) and Lincolnshire (Bourne 'D' ware). Diagnostic vessel forms are bowls; glazed jugs with thumbled bases, stabbed strap handles, and applied decoration; and a single jar, the latter with a thumbled rim and diameter of 200mm. Several of the unglazed coarse ware sherds have sooted exterior surfaces, indicating their use as cooking pots.

Post-medieval pottery mainly comprises glazed and unglazed red earthenware bowls. Black-glazed earthenware in a Staffordshire fabric, slipware, and a single sherd of German stoneware (probably from Raeren), are also present.

Silty sand deposit (205) contained three sherds of 18th–19th-century tableware. A partial rim from a mass-produced modern earthenware flower pot/planter derived from yard surface (302).

7.1.2 Ecofacts

Twenty well preserved animal bone fragments (776g) were collected from four features, the largest assemblage (555g) deriving from the fill of post-medieval pond [404]. Diagnostic bone elements are medium/large mammal limb, rib, vertebra, mandible and skull fragments, the latter including a cattle horn core.

Shell fragments deriving from oysters, mussels and winkles (total weight 16g) derived from the sieved residue of environmental sample no. 1 (late medieval–early post-medieval pit [104]).

7.1.3 Other finds

Ceramic building material recovered from modern yard surface (302) and high medieval pit [305] comprises two, likely intrusive, roof tile fragments (146g) and two worn pieces of brick or paviour, each 45mm thick.

The sieved residues of environmental samples no.1 (pit [104]) and no. 2 (pond [404]) yielded negligible quantities of unworked burnt flint (25g), charcoal (2g), coal (3g), clinker (16g), fired clay (23g), fuel ash slag (4g), and a portion of a square sectioned iron nail shank. All are typologically undatable.

7.2 Environmental Samples

Samples taken on site have moderate environmental potential. They were taken from pit deposit (105) (sample no.1) and possible pond fill (406) (sample no.2).

In both cases sparse charred grain and seeds were recovered from flots as well as moderate to abundant charcoal. In residues small number of fish bones and small mammal bones were observed in both samples. The latter were more abundant in sample no 1 which also contained a number of possible amphibian bones. Each of the samples additionally contained rare undetermined bone



fragments and very rare burnt bone fragments. Both residues contained moderate amount of coal together with less frequent fuel ash slag.

Sample number 2 taken from bottom fill (406) of a pond contained abundant decayed organic material which was possibly originally peat. Although the organic remains are in poor condition their presence indicates some chance of survival of previously waterlogged plant remains.



8. APPENDIX 3: OASIS DATA FORM

OASIS ID: *albionar1-157395*

Project details

Project name	Land off Main Street, Yaxley
Short description of the project	Planning consent has been granted for the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of two new dwellings and associated garages at the land between 58 and 66 Main Street Yaxley, Cambridgeshire. The trial trenching was carried out in August-September 2013 and comprised the excavation of five trenches located within the development area. The evaluation revealed a relatively high level of archaeological evidence. This includes early to late medieval activity predominantly in a form of pits, ditches and a possible hearth as well as a possible associated occupation horizon in Trench 1. Post-medieval activity was represented by a possible pond, located to the rear of the property in the north part of the site. Modern sub-surface remains took the form of yard surface (Trench 3) and a retaining wall for a cellar that had been subsequently backfilled (Trench 2).
Project dates	Start: 29-08-2013 End: 11-09-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MS2229 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4020 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	13/00240/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Monument type	HEARTH Medieval
Monument type	WALL Modern
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Monument type	YARD SURFACE Modern
Monument type	POND Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)



Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE YAXLEY Land off Main Street, Yaxley
Study area	0.19 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 1855 9216 52 0 52 30 50 N 000 15 10 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology
Project director/manager	Robert Wardill
Project supervisor	Marcin Koziminski

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambs County Archaeological Stores
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Industrial"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambs County Archaeological Stores
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Industrial", "other"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambs County Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Industrial", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Microfilm", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land between 58 and 66 Main Street, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Koziminski, M'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Wardill, R'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Wells, J'
Other bibliographic details	2013/150
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
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Entered on	26 September 2013

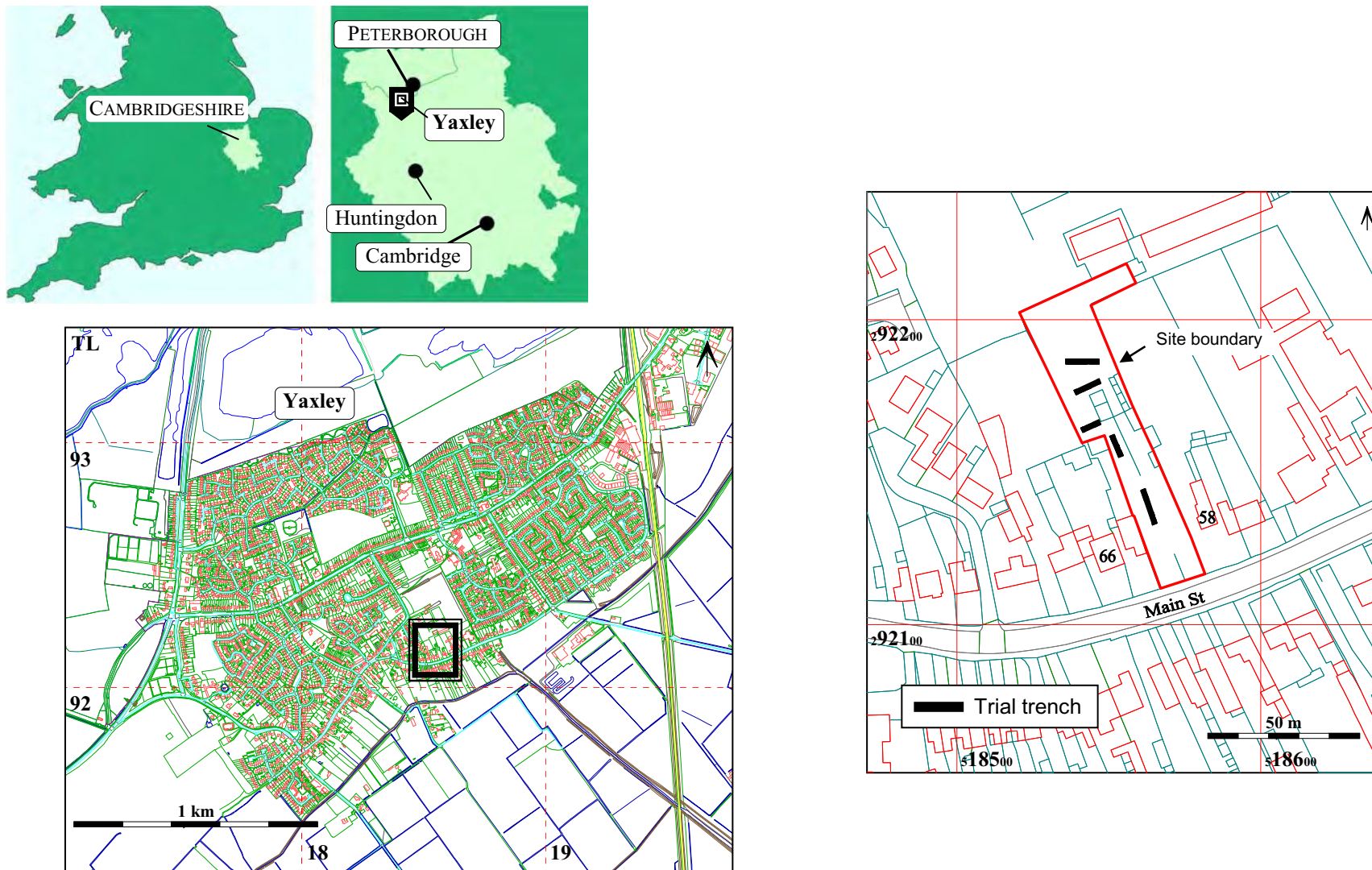


Figure 1: Site location

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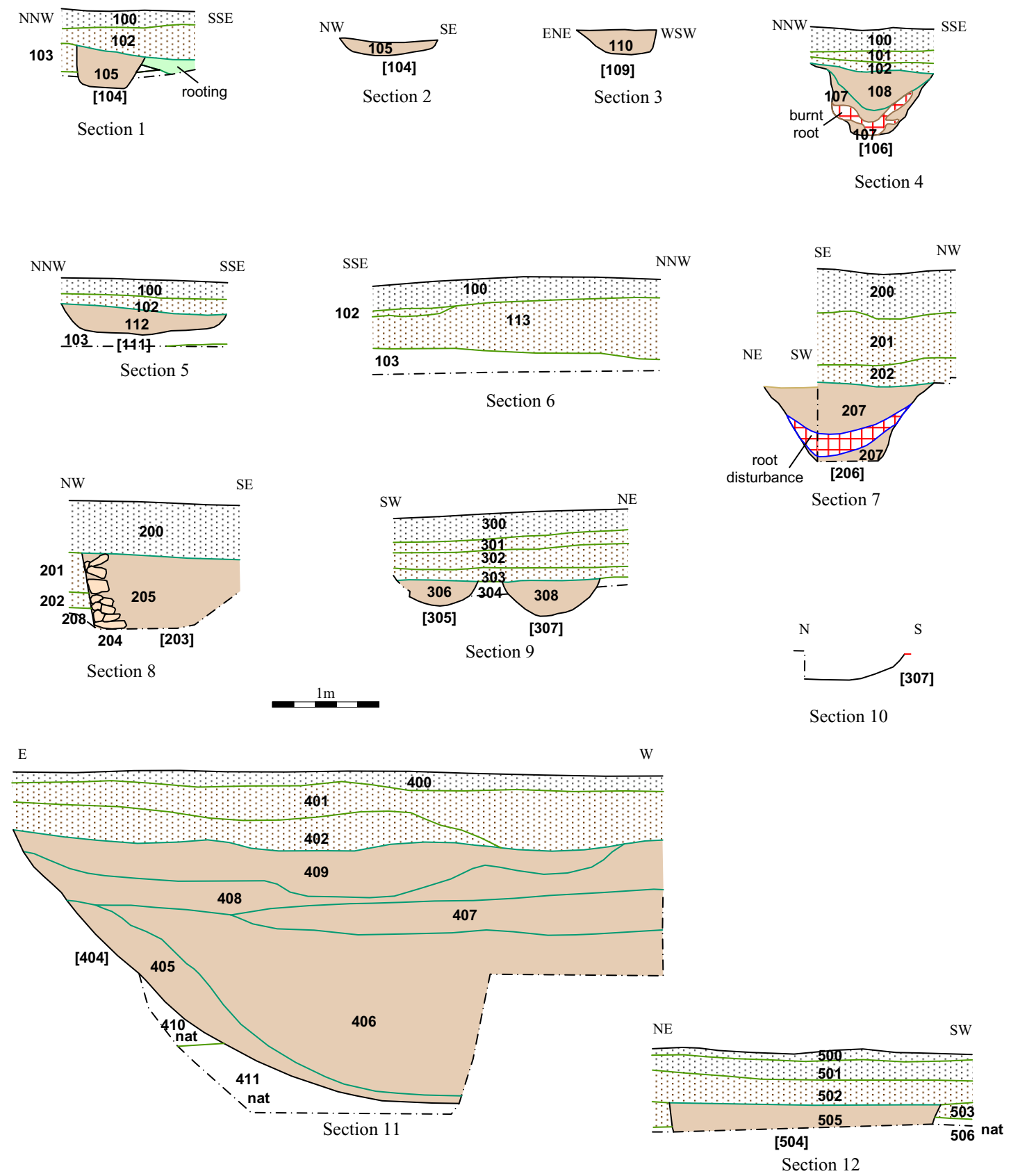
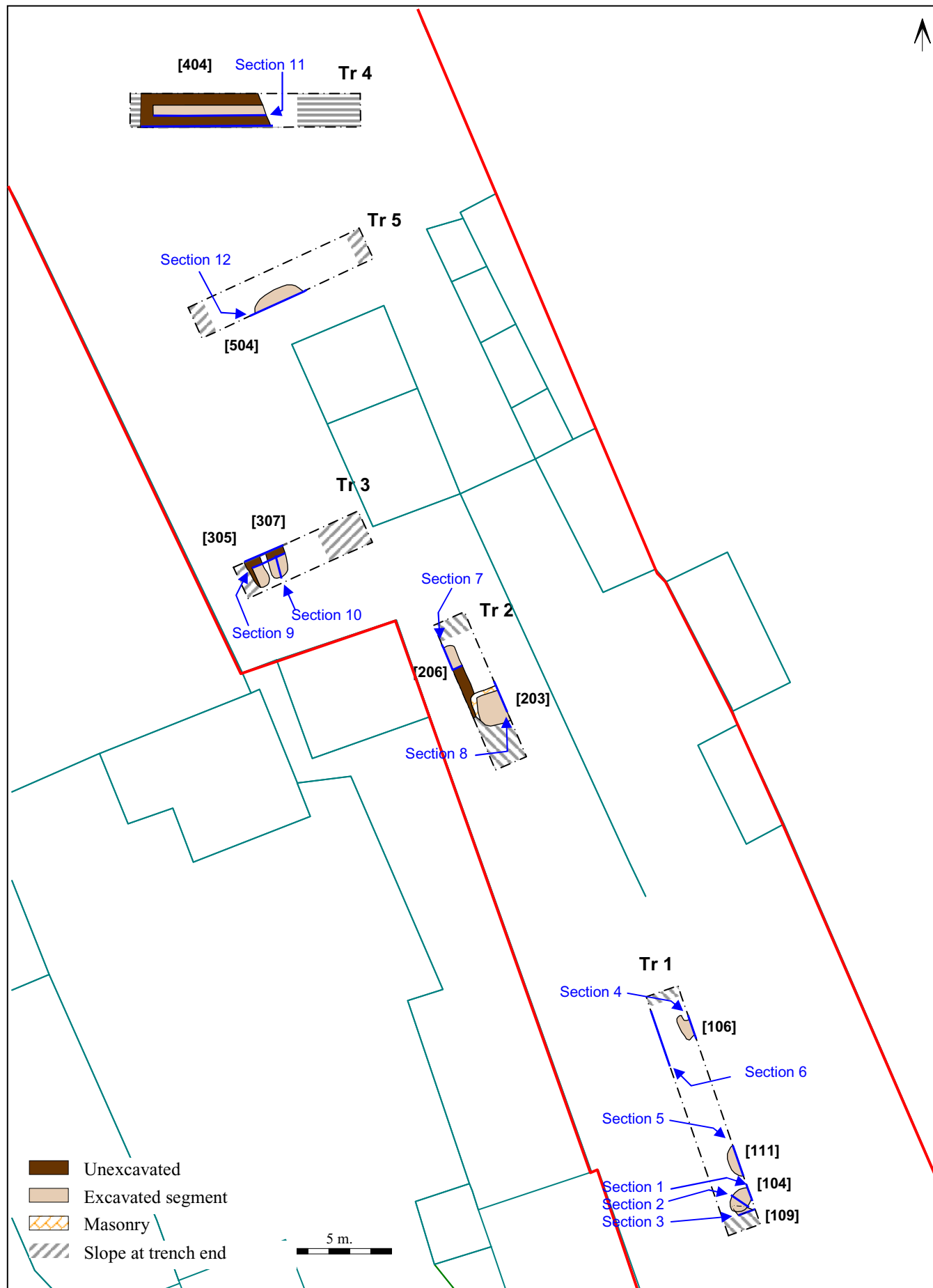


Figure 2: Trenching results



Photo 1: View of possible pond [404].
Looking SW; 1m scale



Photo 2: General view of cellar [203] and ditch terminus [206].
Looking NNW; 1m scale



Photo 3: Possible pit [305] and ditch terminus [307].
Looking NNW; 1m scale



Photo 4: Sample baulk section at N end of Trench 1.
Looking WSW; 1m scale



Photo 6: Pit [504]. Looking SW; 1m scale

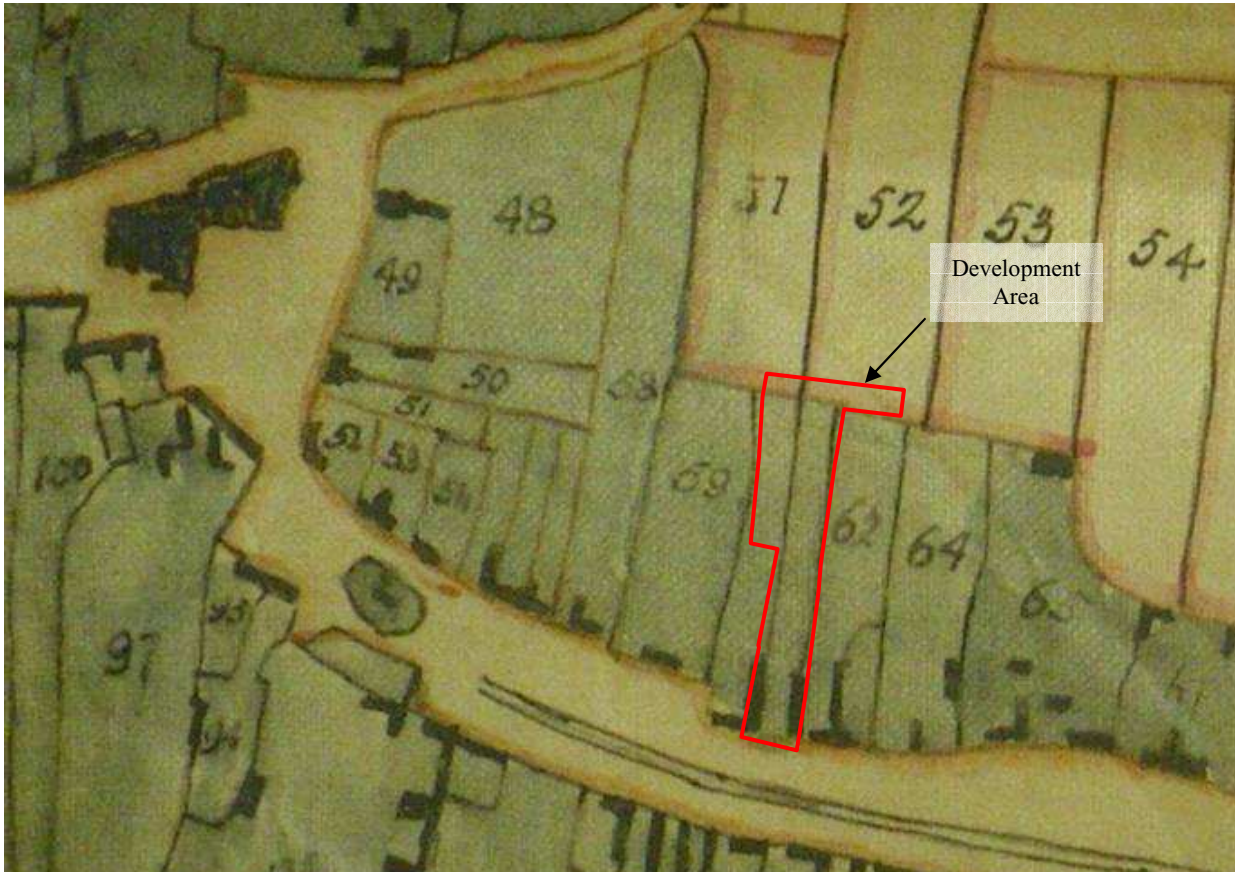


Photo 5: View of hearth [111] (only in section) and two pits [104] and [109].
Looking SE; 1m scale

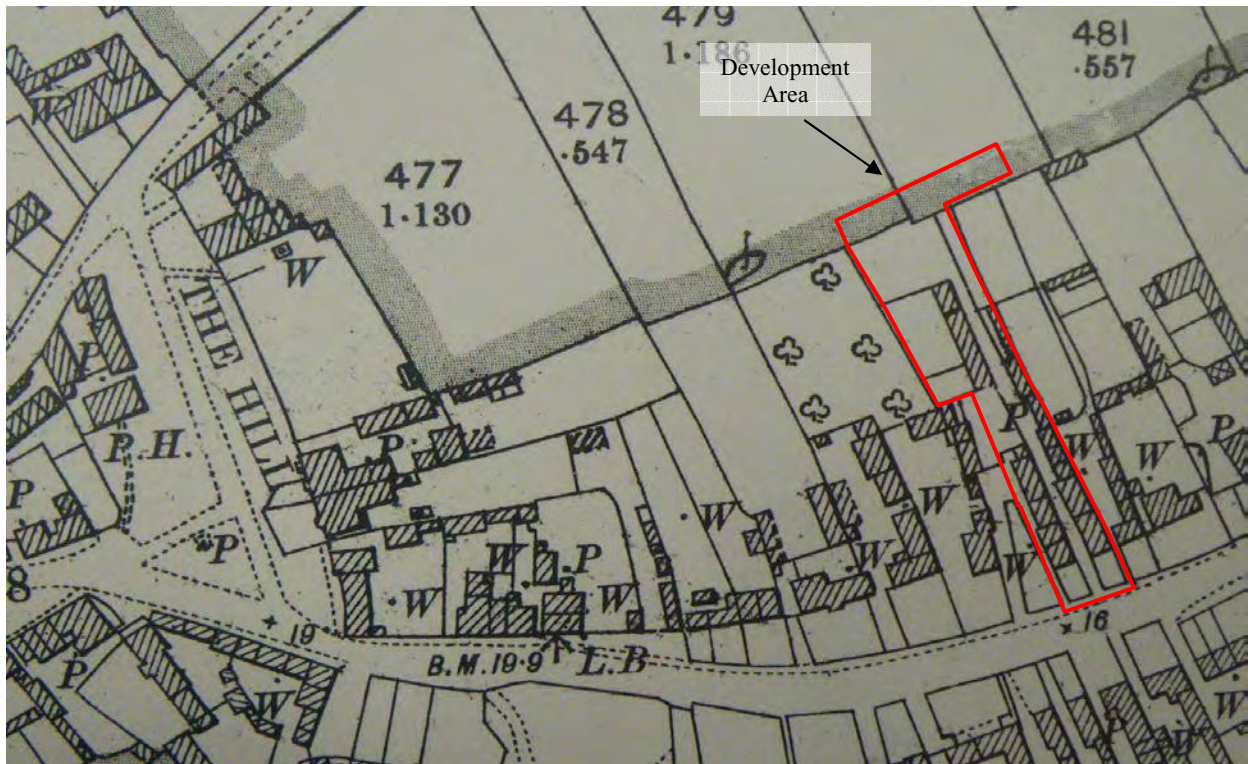


Photo 7: Machine excavated slot through pond [404]. Looking SW; 1m scale

Figure 3: Selected photographs



1821 pre-enclosure map



1889 1st edition OS Map

Figure 4: Historical maps
(position of site and scale are approximate)

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