LAND NORTH OF BANNOLD ROAD, WATERBEACH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Parish: Waterbeach NGR: ^{TL}4962/6600

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. 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.

This report was written by Reuben Thorpe, Wesley Keir and Jackie Wells. The illustrations were prepared by Joan Lightning.

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Structure of the report

After an introduction to the evaluation in section one, this report presents a summary of the results of the trial excavation in section two. A synthesis of the results and their significance is presented in section three. Summary details from the evaluation trenches are presented in Appendix 1.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CPA	Cambridgeshire County Council, Principal Archaeologist
Client	Old Road Securities plc
SMR	Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Record
Brief	Brief for Archaeological Evaluation. Land north of Bannold Rd, Waterbeach (Nursery site) Cambridgeshire County Council, County Archaeological Office. 05/11/03
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists



Non-Technical Summary

The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (adopted February 2004) has allocated a gross area of 4.23ha for residential development at land north of Bannold Road, Waterbeach. Cambridgeshire County Council's Principal Archaeologist had previously indicated that a pre-determination archaeological evaluation would be recommended for any planning application received for the site. A design brief for an archaeological evaluation was issued by the County Archaeology Office.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Old Road Securities plc to undertake the archaeological evaluation. It comprised a desk-based assessment, followed by trial excavation. The aims of the investigation were to determine the date, character and extent of any archaeological remains within the development area.

The desk-based assessment revealed the development area to be on the fringes of the historic core of Waterbeach. Fifteen trial trenches were opened around the periphery of the site. The majority did not contain archaeological deposits. However, two linear gullies (likely to represent Roman enclosure boundaries) were identified in the southwestern and south-eastern corners of the site.

1.1 Planning Background

The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (adopted February 2004) has allocated a gross area of 4.23ha for residential development at land north of Bannold Road, Waterbeach. Cambridgeshire County Council's Principal Archaeologist (CPA) had previously indicated that a pre-determination archaeological evaluation would be recommended for any planning application received for the site, because of its location within an area of archaeological sensitivity. A design brief for an archaeological evaluation was accordingly issued by the County Archaeology Office¹. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Old Road Securities plc to undertake the archaeological evaluation.

1.2 Stages of the Evaluation

The evaluation was carried out in two separate, though linked, stages. Initially a visit was made to the Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) on 24th February 2004 to investigate the historical context of the proposed development area and assess its potential to contain archaeological deposits and structures. Thereafter, a project design for the evaluation was prepared by Albion Archaeology² and approved by the CPA. A programme of trial trenching, agreed with the CPA, was carried out between Wednesday 12th May and Tuesday 19th May. This involved the excavation of 15 trial trenches, each 20m to 38m long and 2m wide, covering an area of 720m². The trenches were located around the periphery of the development area. Health and safety concerns precluded trial trenching of the central part of the site, which was occupied by Bannold Supplies, a company specialising in the wholesale and retail sale of building and landscaping materials and nursery plants.

1.3 Site Location and Description

The proposed development area is centred on OS grid co-ordinate $^{TL}4962\ 6600$ and encompasses some 4.23ha of land to the north of Bannold Road. It lies to the rear of properties 1-29 and to the south of RAF Waterbeach (Figure 1).

Topographically the site lies at around 6m OD, on second terrace river gravels, to the north of the historic core of the medieval town of Waterbeach. The land is currently of split use; to the north, west and east it is largely fallow agricultural land and paddock, while the south central part of the site is in commercial use.

1.4 Archaeological Background

Human activity of some demonstrable antiquity is recorded in Waterbeach and its immediate environs. The Car Dyke variously interpreted as a Roman waterway, or catchwater drain³, dating to the second century AD⁴ lies to the south and west of the site, while the medieval abbey of Waterbeach lies to the south.

¹ Brief for Archaeological Evaluation. Land north of Bannold Rd, Waterbeach (Nursery site) Cambridgeshire County Council, County Archaeological Office. 05/11/03

² Land north of Bannold Rd, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire: Project Design for Archaeological Field Evaluation. Document 2004/24. 03/03/04

³ Simmons, B.B. (1979) The Lincolnshire Car Dyke, Navigation or Drainage? *Britannia 10; 183-196* Land North of Bannold Road, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire

Past human activity, dating to the Neolithic period (4000 - 2201 BC), is also attested by the discovery, in the 1950s, of a collection of polished Neolithic axeheads some 75m to the south of the site (SMR 00343 – CB450) (Figure 2). Chance finds from the immediate vicinity have also included an enamelled disc brooch dating to the second century AD, which was found in Bannold Court, immediately to the south of the site (SMR 09702 – CB11528).

An archaeological evaluation, at Denny End (SMR CB14602), some 350m to the south of the site also revealed substantial evidence of early Anglo-Saxon occupation. These remains, dating to between the 5th and 10th centuries AD, included two buildings as well as finds relating to crop/cereal processing, spinning and weaving and tools made of worked animal bone.

Later medieval or post-medieval activity may also be present at The Rookery, Denny End, which is recorded in the SMR as a possible park (SMR 12229).

⁴ Thorpe, R. Zeffert, T. (1988) Excavation of the Lincolnshire Car Dyke, Baston. *Fenland Research No 6. Fieldwork and Excavation in the Fens of Eastern England 1988-89.*

2.1 Introduction

A total of 15 trial trenches (Figure 3) were excavated and recorded. The results of the trenching are summarised below; full details are contained in Appendix 1. The trenches varied in length from 20m to 38m. The location of the evaluation trenches was designed to provide an even coverage of the development area outside the Bannold Supplies yard area, within which trenching was not feasible. The trial trenches, as outlined in the brief, were primarily designed to:

- Investigate the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological deposits that were present.
- Assess the integrity, state and level of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that were present.

The trial trench excavation was carried out between 15th May and 19th May 2004. The CPA attended the site on 17th May for a monitoring meeting and to confirm that the evaluation had been completed within the terms of the brief.

2.2 Method Statement

Throughout the project the standards set in the IFA's *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* have been adhered to as well as Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records* (2001) and English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1992).

All archaeological and geological deposits (contexts) were assigned an individual number in a single sequence. Numbers in brackets within the text refer to the context number issued on site. Within this report context numbers referring to cut features are expressed [**], layers or deposits within cut features are expressed (**). Each trench was assigned a block of numbers corresponding to the trench number it was from. For example, in Trench 1 the natural stratum was recorded as context (102) and in Trench 2 as (202) *etc*. Context [803] identifies a gully in Trench 8. All contexts assigned during the investigation are listed by trench in Appendix 1. The trenches were inspected by the CPA, prior to being backfilled.

2.3 Results of the Trial Excavation

No archaeological features or deposits were revealed apart from two north-west to south-east aligned gullies ([803/805/807]; [1403/1505/1507]), one of which produced Roman pottery. Modern disturbance [1503] was revealed in Trench 15 in the form of a large pit, back-filled with loose brown ash and modern debris.

2.3.1 Ploughsoil and Subsoil

Ploughsoil deposits were generally uniform across the site consisting of a friable, dark brown, sandy clay between 0.30m and 0.50m thick.

Subsoil deposits were present in all the trenches and comprised a firm, brownish orange silty clay between 0.10m and 0.30m thick.

2.3.2 Evidence for Recent Human Activity

Trench 15 contained a pit [1503], which was 0.30m wide. 2.00m long and was filled with a mixture of ash, topsoil and modern debris.

2.3.3 Archaeological Features

Trench 14/15, situated in the south-west corner of the development area (Figure 3 and inset) contained a short section of linear gully dated to the Roman period [1403/1505/1507]. It was 0.60m wide, 0.15m deep, at least 1.55m long and was oriented south-west to north-east. It was filled with a compact orange brown sandy clay (1404/1506/1508).

Trench 8, situated in the south-east corner of the development area (Figure 3 and inset) contained a short section of linear gully [803/805/807]. It was 0.43m wide, 0.19m deep and at least 1.10m long. It was oriented south-west to north-east and was filled with a firm, mid grey brown, clayey sand (804/806/807). Although no finds were recovered from the feature, its similarity in orientation and form to the gully in Trench 14/15 suggest it may also be Roman in date.

2.3.4 Geological Strata

The underlying geological strata generally consisted of a firm, orange brown, sandy clay with pockets of fine chalk/limestone gravel.

2.3.5 Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological deposits or features. The weather was consistently fine and dry, though the trenches retained water due to their proximity to the water table.

2.3.6 Deposit Model

The preservation of any potential archaeology was good with little or no modern truncation to the subsoil and underlying geological strata. The archaeological features revealed in the trial trenches probably represent gullies defining the rear of properties, of Roman date, which fronted to the south.

The topsoil was deeper (up to 0.50m) than might have been expected. This is probably a result of previous cultivation within the development area. The presence of headlands within the northern and eastern areas of the development area support this inference and suggests that the development area, at least in part, has been used as fields since at least the medieval period.

2.4 Artefact Assemblage

2.4.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced an artefact assemblage comprising mainly pottery (*Table I*). The material was scanned to ascertain the nature, condition and, where possible, date range of the artefact types present. No finds were recovered from trenches 1, 4, 7, 12, 13.

Trench	Feature	Туре	Context	Spotdate*	Pottery	Other Finds
2	200	Topsoil	200	Post-medieval	1:6	
3	300	Topsoil	300	Post-medieval	1:21	
5	500	Topsoil	500	Early medieval	1:10	
6	600	Topsoil	600	Post-medieval	2:20	
8	800	Topsoil	800	Post-medieval	1:19	
9	900	Topsoil	900	Post-medieval	1:22	
10	1000	Topsoil	1000	Post-medieval	1:3	
11	1100	Topsoil	1100	Post-medieval		Flat roof tile (18g)
14	1400	Topsoil	1400	Post-medieval	2:55	
14/15	1403	Ditch	1404	Roman	1:34	Animal bone (2g)
				Total	11:190	

* - spotdate based on date of latest artefact in context

Table 1: Artefact Assemblage by Trench and Context

(sherd number/frag count: wgt in grammes)

2.4.2 Pottery

Eleven pottery sherds, weighing 190g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Seven fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (held by Albion Archaeology). Fabrics are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
Roman			
Type R03	Fine whiteware	1	(1404):1
Early medieval			
Type C61	Calcareous inclusions	2	(500):1, (1400):1
Post-medieval			
Type P	Miscellaneous post-medieval	1	(200):1
Type P01	Fine glazed red earthenware	5	(600):2, (900):1, (1000):1, (1400):1
Type P07	Coarse slip-decorated earthenware	1	(300):1
Type P25	Frechen stoneware	1	(800):1

Table 2: Pottery Type Series

The earliest pottery was recovered from ditch [1403], Trench 14, and comprises an abraded, yet sizeable sherd (34g) of fine whiteware, datable to the Roman period.

Topsoil (500) and (1400) respectively yielded an undiagnostic sherd and bowl rim in a locally manufactured, oxidised sand tempered fabric, datable to the 12th-13th centuries.

Seven unstratified sherds of 17th-18th century earthenware and a sherd of German stoneware were recovered from topsoil in trenches 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 14.

2.4.3 Ceramic building material

An unstratified, sand tempered fragment of post-medieval flat roof tile (18g), was recovered from Trench 11.

2.5 Ecofact Assemblage

2.5.1 Animal Bone

A single long bone fragment (2g) was recovered from ditch [1403], Trench 14/15.

3.1 Introduction

The evaluation consisted of two stages of work: a desk-based assessment and the trial excavation of 15 trenches.

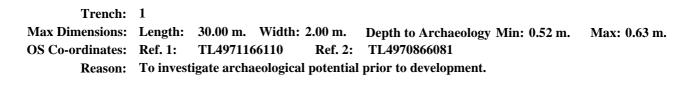
3.2 Former Land Use within the Development Area

The archaeological evaluation has revealed features which possibly represent enclosure gullies, defining property or land-use boundaries, of Roman date. It may be significant that one of these features (in Trench 15) was located close to Bannold Court, the construction of which in the 1980s led to the discovery of a 2^{nd} century AD Roman disc brooch.

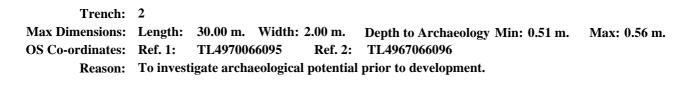
The presence of headlands within the northern and eastern parts of the development area suggests that it has been used as fields since the medieval period.

3.3 Significance of Results

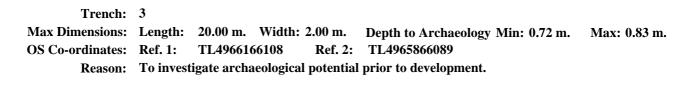
The evaluation has produced scant evidence of significant archaeological deposits or structures within the development area. The only direct evidence for ancient, former human activity lay at its southern edge where shallow gullies appear to define Roman enclosures, probably extending beyond the southern limits of the development area. It seems probable that the bulk of the development area has been given over to arable cultivation for much of its history.



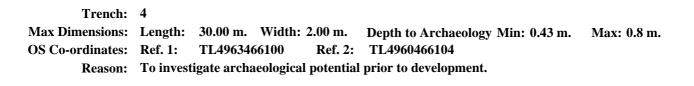
Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy clay	\checkmark	
101	Subsoil	Firm orange brown silty clay		
102	Natural	Firm brown orange clay Pockets of fine gravel and chalk within the clay.		



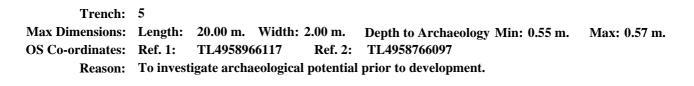
Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
200	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy clay	\checkmark	\checkmark
201	Subsoil	Firm brown orange silty clay	\checkmark	
202	Natural	Firm orange sandy clay Pockets of fine gravel and chalk within the clay.		



Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy clay	\checkmark	\checkmark
301	Subsoil	Firm light orange brown silty clay	\checkmark	
302	Natural	Firm brown orange sandy clay Pockets of fine gravel and chalk within the c	lay.	



Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy clay	\checkmark	
401	Subsoil	Firm light brown silty clay	\checkmark	
402	Natural	Firm brown orange clay Pockets of fine gravel and chalk within the clay.		

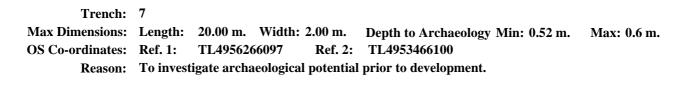


Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
500	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy clay	\checkmark	\checkmark
501	Subsoil	Firm light brown silty clay	\checkmark	
502	Natural	Firm brown orange clay Pockets of fine gravel and chalk within the clay.		

Trench: 6	6				
Max Dimensions: I	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 2.00 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m.	Max: 0.6 m.
OS Co-ordinates: 1	Ref. 1:	TL495706	66119 Ref. 2:	TL4954166123	
Reason:	To investi	igate archa	aeological potential	prior to development.	

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
600	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy clay		\checkmark
601	Subsoil	Firm orange brown silty clay		
602	Natural	Firm brown orange clay Pockets of fine gravel and chalk within the clay.		

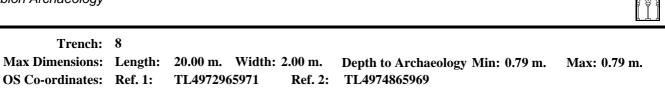
A A



Context	t: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
700	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy clay	\checkmark	
701	Subsoil	Firm light brown silty clay	\checkmark	
702	Natural	Firm brown orange clay Pockets of fine gravel and chalk within the clay.		

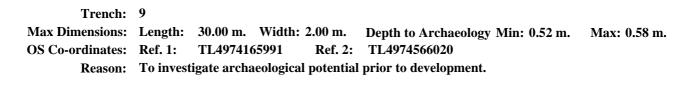
Trench: 8

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1:



Reason: To investigate archaeological potential prior to development.

Context:	Туре:	Description: E	xcavated:	Finds Present:
800	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy silt	\checkmark	\checkmark
801	Subsoil	Firm orange brown silty clay	\checkmark	
802	Natural	Firm brown orange sandy clay Pockets of fine gravel and chalk within the cla	y. 🗌	
803	Gulley	Curving linear E-W profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.43m, max depth 0.19m, max length 1.1m Westernmost segment through small, curvilinear feature at the west end of trench. This feature cuts natural and is sealed by (801). Irregular gulley cut into natural, probably for drainage / enclosure.		
804	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay sand occasional small stones Fill of westernmost segmen through curvilinear feature at the west end of trench. This fill overlies natural and is overlain by (801). Natural silting / sanding up of drainage / enclosure gulley.		
805	Gulley	Curving linear E-W profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.44m, max depth 0.14m, max length 1.26m Middle segment through small curvilinear feature at the west end of trench. This feature cuts natural (802) and is sealed by (801). Irregular gulley cut into natural, probably for drainage / enclosure.		
806	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay sand occasional small stones Fill of middle segment through small curvilinear feature at the west end of trench. This fill overlies natural and is overlain by (801). Natural silting / sanding up of drainage / enclosure gulley.		
807	Gulley	Curving linear E-W profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.45m, max depth 0.19m, max length 4.8m General context number. This feature cuts natural and is sealed by (801). Irregular gulley, probably for drainage / enclosure.		
808	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay sand occasional small stones General context number. Natural silting/sanding up of drainage / enclosure gulley.		



Context:	Type:	Description: Ex	cavated: Finds	Present:
900	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy clay	\checkmark	\checkmark
901	Subsoil	Firm orange brown silty clay	\checkmark	
902	Natural	Firm orange brown sandy clay Pockets of fine gravel and chalk within the clay		

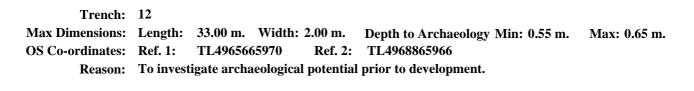
Trench:	10					
Max Dimensions:	Length:	20.00 m.	Width: 2.00 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.54 m.	Max: 0.58 m.	
OS Co-ordinates:	Ref. 1:	TL4973766	6047 Ref. 2:	TL4975766043		
Reason:	To invest	To investigate archaeological potential prior to development.				

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
1000	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy clay	\checkmark	\checkmark
1001	Subsoil	Firm light orange brown silty clay	\checkmark	
1002	Natural	Firm light orange brown clay Pockets of fine gravel and chalk within the cla	y.	

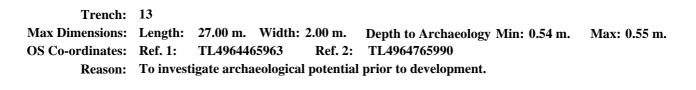
Trench:	11					
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m. Widtl	n: 2.00 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.65 m.	Max: 0.7 m.	
OS Co-ordinates:	Ref. 1:	TL4975366067	Ref. 2:	TL4975766043		
Reason:	To investigate archaeological potential prior to development.					

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
1100	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy clay	\checkmark	\checkmark
1101	Subsoil	Firm light orange brown silty clay	\checkmark	
1102	Natural	Firm brown orange clay Pockets of fine gravel and chalk within the clay.		

A A



Context	t: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
1200	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy clay	\checkmark	
1201	Subsoil	Firm orange brown silty clay	\checkmark	
1202	Natural	Firm brown orange clay Pockets of fine gravel and chalk within the clay.		



Contex	t: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
1300	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy clay	\checkmark	
1301	Subsoil	Firm orange brown silty clay	\checkmark	
1302	Natural	Firm brown orange clay Pockets of fine gravel and chalk within the clay.		



Trench:	14					
Max Dimensions:	Length:	22.00 m.	Width:	2.00 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.64 m.	Max: 0.65 m.
OS Co-ordinates:	Ref. 1:	TL495200	66011	Ref. 2:	TL4951565990	
Reason:	To investigate archaeological potential prior to development.					

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
1400	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy clay	\checkmark	\checkmark
1401	Subsoil	Firm orange brown silty clay occasional small stones	\checkmark	
1402	Natural	Firm brown orange clay Pockets of fine gravel and chalk within the clay.		
1403	Gulley	Linear E-W profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.63m, r depth 0.41m, max length 1.8m Irregular profile. North side is steep and convex. South side is shallow and concave. This feature continues into Trenc 15. Drainage / enclosure gulley.		
1404	Fill	Compact mid orange brown sandy clay Silting / claying up of gulley.	\checkmark	\checkmark



Trench:15Max Dimensions:Length:38.00 m.Width:2.00 m.Depth to Archaeology Min:0.58 m.Max:0.66 m.OS Co-ordinates:Ref. 1:TL4951565995Ref. 2:TL4955365982Reason:To investigate archaeological potential prior to development.

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
1500	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy clay	\checkmark	
1501	Subsoil	Firm light orange brown silty clay occasional small stones	\checkmark	
1502	Natural	Firm brown orange clay Pockets of fine gravel and chalk within the clay.		
1503	Pit	Sub-circular dimensions: max breadth 3.1m, min length 2.m Cut of modern rubbish pit, dug by present landowners.		
1504	Refuse deposit	Loose dark brown black ash Mixture of ash, topsoil and rubbish (plastic, iron wa etc.) Fill of modern rubbish pit.	ste	
1505	Gulley	Linear E-W profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, m depth 0.15m, max length 1.55m Segment excavated through gulley.	ax 🗸	
1506	Fill	Compact mid orange grey sandy clay Sole fill of gulley segment.	\checkmark	
1507	Gulley	Linear E-W dimensions: max length 11.4m General context number for drainage / enclosure gulley [1505] and [1403] running through Trenches 14 ar 15.	d	
1508	Fill	General context number for (1506) and (1404). Silting up of drainage / enclosure gulley [1507].		



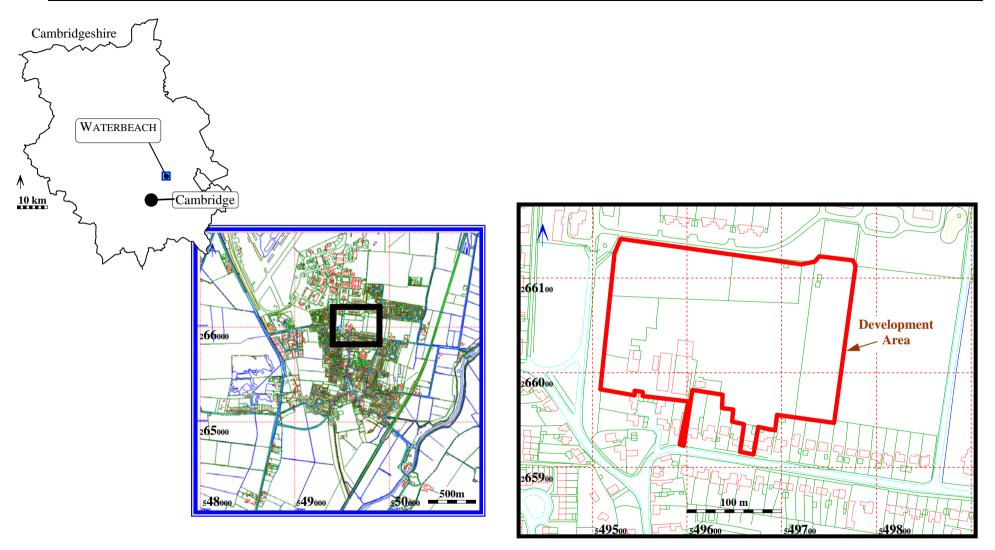


Figure 1: Location of site

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Land North of Bannold Rd, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Field Evaluation

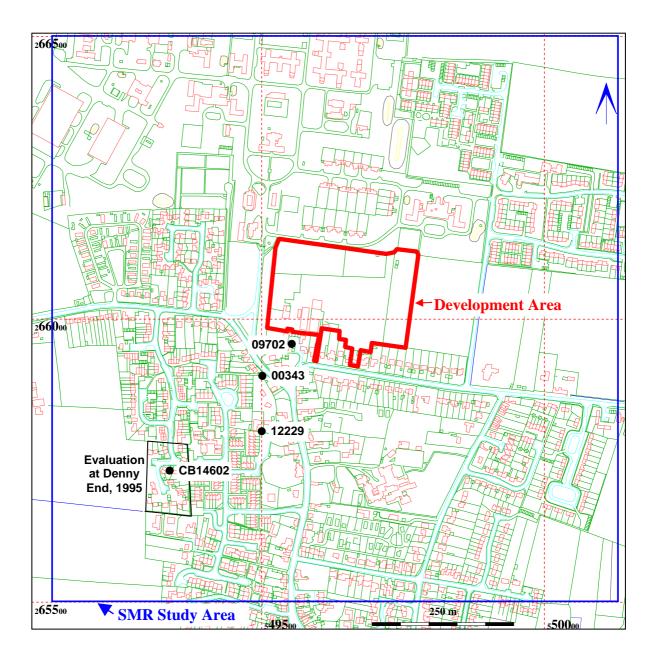
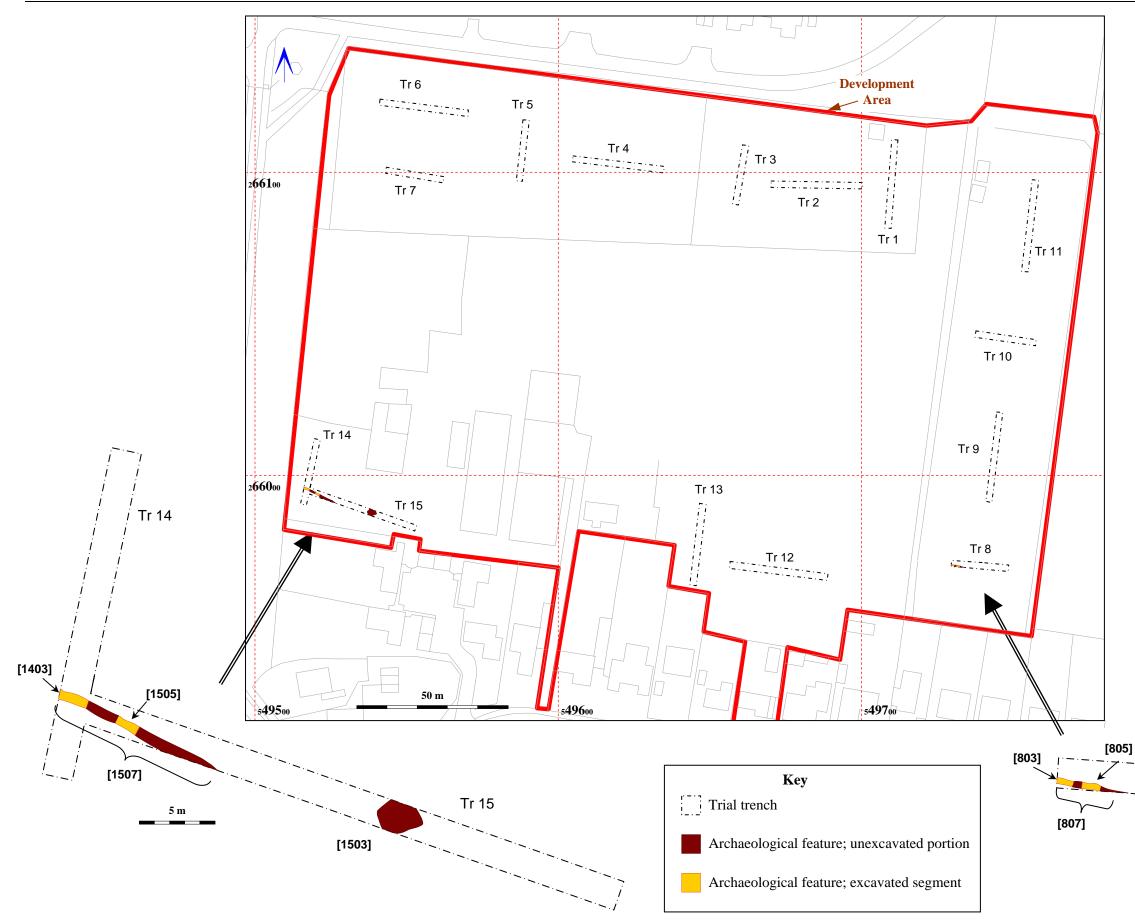


Figure 2: SMR sites near to development area Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 076465(LA). © Crown Copyright.



Tr 8 5 m Figure 3: Trench location plan (with all features inset)

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