CHURCH FARM, LITTLE EVERSDEN
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
TL 3744 5326

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

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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 Project Design. 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 has been prepared by James Pixley (Project Officer), Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer) and Reuben Thorpe (Project Manager) who also edited the report. Hand excavation and recording was undertaken under the supervision of James Pixley assisted by Anthony Clifton Jones, Matthew Smith and Cordelia Hall. All illustrations in this report were prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

Albion Archaeology would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. N. Roe of Amber Developments (St Ives) Ltd for provision of the machines and gratefully acknowledges the co-operation of Andy Thomas, the Cambridgeshire Principal Archaeologist (Landuse and Planning) (CPA).

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Structure of this Report

After an introductory section, this report presents the summary results of an intrusive archaeological evaluation in Section 2, with a description of the artefact assemblage in Section 3. Section 4 consists of a chronological synthesis of the results with a discussion of their significance. Summary details from the evaluation trenches are presented in Appendix 1.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
Brief	*Brief for Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Church Farm, Church Lane, Little Eversden, Cambridge*
CPA	Cambridgeshire Planning Archaeologist
Client	Amber Developments (St Ives) Ltd
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
SMR	Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Record
Project Design	*Land at Church Farm, Church Lane, Little Eversden, Cambridgeshire. Project Design for Archaeological Field Evaluation:* Albion Archaeology 2004/23
Procedures Manual	*Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork*, 2nd Edition 2001 Albion Archaeology

Non-Technical Summary

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Amber Developments (St Ives) Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land in the village of Little Eversden, Cambridgeshire. The study area is centred on grid reference TL3744 5326 at a height of around 31m OD and is approximately 2800m^2 in extent. The underlying geology is Middle Chalk. In the recent past the site has largely comprised hard standing yard areas and associated ancillary buildings.

A total of eight trenches were excavated indicating a very different earlier landscape. The main phase of former activity dates to the medieval period with further evidence of post-medieval utilisation of the site.

A concentration of early medieval pitting to the north-west, north-east and south-east of the study area indicates possible backyard dumping of occupational debris. This is likely to have occurred from buildings forming a settlement focus around the area of the church.

Further to the south and south-west evidence of alluvial deposits indicates that the current western boundary of the site could formerly have taken the form of a not insignificant watercourse with marginal marshland.

Post-medieval dumping into earlier features and over marginal land indicates later management of the study area possibly to allow for more intensive farming practices.

Additional undated features include a potentially earlier ditch to the north-west of the site with an alluvial fill similar to the palaeochannel clays encountered to the south and south west.

The archaeological evidence from the investigations has the potential to fit into wider research objectives concerned with medieval rural settlement and surviving paleo-economic and palaeo-environmental remains.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

South Cambridgeshire District Council have granted planning permission (S/1705/01/F) for the construction of two houses and garages on land adjacent to Church Farm, Church Lane, Little Eversden. Condition no. 8 on the permission states that:

> *No development shall take place until the applicants or their agents, or successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme or* [sic] *archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation that has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

The Cambridgeshire Planning Archaeologist (CPA) advised that, due to the high archaeological potential of the site, a scheme of archaeological work was required. The first phase of this was to be an archaeological evaluation to assess the nature and potential of the site; a brief[1] for this phase of work was issued by the CPA.

On 19th February 2004 Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Amber Developments (St Ives) Ltd to undertake the archaeological evaluation. Following a visit to the Cambridgeshire SMR on 24th February, a Project Design[2] outlining the scope of the evaluation was issued on 26th February. Approval for the Project Design was obtained from the CPA on 12th March. The evaluation was undertaken between 5th and 8th April following relevant service searches.

The purpose of the archaeological evaluation was to establish the extent and condition of any archaeological deposits within the study area so that the impact of the proposed development could be assessed and an appropriate mitigation strategy, if required, be devised.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The study area is centred on grid reference TL 3744 5326, in the historic core of the village of Little Eversden, some 7.5 km south-west of Cambridge.

The study area encompasses some 2,800m^2, has an underlying geology of Middle Chalk and lays at a height of around 31m OD.

Prior to 2004 the study area had been utilised as hard standing with associated ancillary buildings. The latter had been demolished before the archaeological evaluation began.

[1] *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation. Land at Church Farm, Church Lane, Eversden*. Cambridgeshire County Council, County Archaeology Office. June 23, 2003

[2] *Land at Church Farm, Church Lane, Little Eversden, Cambridgeshire. Project Design for Archaeological Field Evaluation:* Albion Archaeology 2004/23

1.3 Archaeological Background

Human activity, dating to the medieval period is evident within 500m of the study area. The church of St Helen (SMR 03203), dating to the 13th and 14th centuries AD lay immediately to the north-east. A medieval moated site, (SMR 01111), thought to date to the 14th century is also recorded within the SMR, some 350m to the south-west of the study area as well as remains of medieval field systems (SMR 03397) immediately to the west.

2. TRIAL TRENCHING

2.1 Method Statement

To achieve the aims of the archaeological evaluation a total of eight trial trenches were excavated, investigated and recorded (Table 1). These covered an area of some 112m^2, which represents a 4% sample of the study area, as agreed with the CPA and set out in the Project Design. A further 1% was retained as a contingency though this was not deployed. The evaluation trenches were sited so as to test the archaeological potential of all areas of the site.

Trench	Size (length and width in m / area m^2)	Location on site
1	5 x 2 / 10	north-west
2	3 x 2 / 6	north
3	10 x 2 / 20	north
4	10 x 2 / 20	north-east
5	10 x 2 / 20	south-west
6	10 x 2 / 20	south
7	5 x 2 / 10	east
8	3 x 2 / 6	south-east

Table 1: Trench size and location

The CPA inspected the site on 8th April. At that meeting it was agreed that no further contingency trenching was required as a part of the evaluation. Backfilling of the evaluation trenches was undertaken by the client's contractor over the Easter weekend.

2.2 Procedure

Trenches were excavated either to the top of the archaeological deposits or the undisturbed geological natural, by a JCB fitted with a toothless bucket, operating under archaeological supervision.

All trenches were cleaned and any archaeological deposits identified. These deposits were sampled/excavated and recorded in accordance with the *Albion Procedures Manual*. Machine excavated spoil and archaeological deposits were scanned for artefacts by eye.

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, those referring to cut features are expressed [**], layers or the fills of cut features are expressed (**). Each trench was assigned a block of numbers, corresponding to the trench number. Thus, context (101) represents a deposit from within Trench 1 etc while context [403] identifies the construction cut of a pit from Trench 4. All contexts are listed by trench in Appendix 1.

2.3 Results of Trial Trenching

2.3.1 Introduction

The following section provides a chronologically based narrative of the archaeological and natural features encountered during the evaluation and should be viewed in conjunction with the empirical data in Appendix 1 and the figures at the rear of this report. In total, some 92 units of stratification (contexts), from eight trenches, were examined and recorded.

The weather was generally dry but variably overcast with patches of sunshine during the evaluation period. The level of archaeological visibility was high and any archaeological, or potential archaeological, features were cleaned and examined by hand.

2.3.2 Topsoil and Subsoil

Topsoil deposits were generally uniform throughout the study area and consisted of dark grey brown silty clays, approximately 0.25m thick.

The subsoil across the study area consisted of a mid grey brown silty clay, approximately 0.25m thick.

Horizontal truncation of the topsoil and subsoil deposits was noted in Trench 3 and Trench 7, indicating partial clearance of these layers prior to modern farm building construction (see section 2.3.9.3)

2.3.3 Natural Strata

The underlying geological natural consisted of light yellow white clay, with frequent chalk lumps, and was encountered in all trenches.

Natural strata were encountered at a much greater depth in Trench 5 and Trench 6 and were found to be sealed by alluvial clays indicating the presence of a palaeochannel (ancient water course) in the vicinity of an extant water course to the south-west of the site (see section 2.3.5.1).

2.3.4 Archaeological Features

The following section describes the archaeological features encountered in the study area and is structured by chronology and morphology.

The dating of features is derived primarily from the artefacts collected. However, in the case of sterile features, i.e. those with no artefacts, stratigraphic and spatial relationships to dated features have been used (where practicable and/or supportable) to infer a probable date.

Archaeological deposits were encountered in all trenches and consisted mainly of ditches and pits. Generally, the visibility of the archaeology was excellent compared to the surrounding chalk geology although some features and layers which contained re-deposited chalk were more difficult to identify. Trench details are summarised below in Table 2.

Trench	Ditch	Pit	Palaeochannel	Tree throw
1	✓	✓		
2	✓	✓		
3				✓
4	✓	✓		
5			✓	
6			✓	
7	✓			
8		✓		

Table 2: Summary of archaeological features by type by trench

2.3.5 Pre-medieval

No features of human origin, pre-dating the medieval period (AD1066-1600) were observed during the evaluation. However, a palaeochannel representing a watercourse, which was active in the medieval period, was observed. This is represented in blue on Figure 2.

2.3.5.1 Palaeochannel

In Trenches 5 and 6, to the south-west of the site, a palaeochannel [510/605] was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.45m. Its fills (509) and (604) consisted of a firm, mid grey, clay overlying natural chalk. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the middle of this fill, indicating that this feature had begun to infill by the medieval period.

2.3.6 Medieval

Evidence of medieval activity was concentrated to the north-west and north-east of the study area in Trenches 1 and 4 (Figure 2).

2.3.6.1 Pits

A large pit [413] was partially uncovered at the western end of Trench 4 (Figure 3, Section 1). It was 1.7m wide and 0.42m deep with sides at 45˚ leading to a flat base. The single fill (414) consisted of a firm, dark grey brown, silty clay with occasional small stones and was sealed by subsoil (401). Datable artefacts from (401) consisted of early medieval pottery.

A further pit [403] was also excavated approximately 4m to the east of pit [413]. It was 1m wide and 0.4m deep. It had a concave profile and a single fill (404) consisting of a firm, dark grey brown, silty clay. A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from its fill. No datable artefacts were recovered, but similar infilling to [413] and relationships to subsoil suggests a similar date.

Pit [107] in Trench 1 was sub-oval in plan, 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep (Figure 3, Section 2). Its fill consisted of a mid grey brown, silty clay with frequent chalk flecks and moderate small stones, with finds of iron timber nails. It was truncated by ditch [106] (see Section 2.3.6.2) indicating a medieval or potentially earlier date.

Intercutting pits [806] [808] [812] were observed in Trench 8 (Figure 3,

Section 4). They were sub-oval in plan with dimensions ranging from 0.5m to 0.7m in diameter and 0.5m to 0.67m in depth. Their fills consisted of mid grey brown, silty clays with charcoal flecking and moderate chalk fragments. Finds of pottery indicated a date range of early to high medieval.

2.3.6.2 Ditches

A curving linear ditch [106] was observed in Trench 1 (Figure 3, Section 2). It had concave sides and an uneven base, was 1.5m wide and 0.4m deep. Its earlier fills (104) consisted of dark grey, clay silts which contained an iron nail and early medieval pottery. A later fill of redeposited natural chalk with finds of iron timber nails (103) indicates later backfilling of this feature perhaps in the post-medieval period (see Section 2.3.7.2).

2.3.7 Post-medieval

Evidence of post-medieval activity was found in Trenches 1, 4 and 5 and is represented in green with cross hatching on Figure 2.

2.3.7.1 Pits

Two intercutting pits [205] and [206] were observed in Trench 2. The latest pit [206] was 0.5m in diameter and 0.12m deep. It contained a firm, mid grey brown, clay silt with charcoal flecks and moderate small stones (207). No finds were recovered. The earlier pit [205] was 2m in diameter and 0.33m deep and contained a firm, dark grey brown, clay silt with charcoal flecks and occasional small stones (204). It produced sherds of post-medieval pottery.

2.3.7.2 Levelling Layers

Evidence for several phases of levelling-up deposits was observed in Trench 5. The earliest phase of dumping (508) consisted of redeposited chalky clay directly on to the alluvial fill of a palaeochannel (510). Later dumps of material consisted of firm, mid grey brown, silty clays (507) with finds of post-medieval pottery.

2.3.8 Undated

A number of features, including ditches and pits, lacked dateable artefacts and spatial relationships. It has not been possible to assign them to a period, although in the context of the site a medieval date cannot be excluded. These features are drawn in yellow on Figure 2.

2.3.8.1 Ditches

Large ditches were found in both Trench 4 and Trench7. In Trench 4, ditch [407] was orientated north-east to south-west, was 2.55m wide and 0.63m deep with a concave profile (Figure 3, Section 1). To the south, in Trench 7, a similar ditch [704] was orientated north-east to south-west, was 2.5m wide and 0.7m deep with a concave profile (Figure 3, Section 5).

The similarity in form of the excavated ditches is striking and they are interpreted as being the same feature. In both trenches, this ditch was sealed by a subsoil (401), (701) and the fills, when excavated, consisted of hard, mid grey, clays (408) (705) with a clear alluvial origin.

2.3.8.2 Pits

Two intercutting, undated pits [415], [417] were recorded in Trench 4 (Figure 3, Section 3). Ranging in width from 0.32m to 0.65m and in depth from 0.15m to 0.16m, the pits had V-shaped profiles, convex sides, and were filled with, mid brown silty clay (416), (418). No datable artefacts were recovered.

2.3.8.3 Tree throw

Evidence of substantial tree disturbance of unknown date was found in the west end of Trench 3 [308] and [309].

2.3.9 Modern Features

Modern features consisted of horizontal truncation and levelling up around the site.

2.3.9.1 Demolition Debris

Demolition debris was observed in Trenches 3, 5, 6 and 7 and typically consisted of a friable, light red brown sand with moderate inclusions of building material approximately 0.08m thick. This spread of material was predominately seen in the centre of the study area with trenches towards the periphery of the site 2, 4 and 8 not reflecting this levelling up.

2.3.9.2 Trackway

A trackway (503) and (804) was observed in Trenches 5 and 8 against the southern boundary of the site. In Trench 8 it consisted of a compact, light orange yellow, sandy gravel with frequent small stones approximately 0.26m thick. It directly overlay topsoil (800) and particularly in the area of Trench 8, was sealed with subsequent soil formation (803) (Figure 3. Section 4).

2.3.9.3 Farm Buildings and Related Services

In Trenches 3, 4 and 7 modern truncation was observed relating to the provision of services to and the subsequent demolition of farm buildings.

In Trench 3 an irregular pit [311], approximately 2.4m in diameter, contained a fill of light, yellow red, sand with concrete and other building material (312). An electric service trench [313] was also observed approximately 4.5m from the east end of the trench.

Similar features were observed at the eastern edge of Trench 4 and consisted of two irregular pits [419] and [421]. A further service trench was observed in Trench 7 [708] 3.50m from the north edge of the trench.

Section 2.3.2 above sets pit evidence for topsoil and subsoil removal (denudation) prior to the construction of the recently demolished farm buildings (Trenches 3 and 7). This demolition and truncation, however, appears to have had very little impact on the archaeological features within the study area.

2.3.9.4 Test Pit

A modern test pit [813] was encountered in Trench 8.

2.4 Artefact Assemblage

2.4.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced an artefact assemblage comprising mainly pottery, animal bone and ceramic building material (Table). 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 6 or 7.

Tr.	Feature	Type	Context	Spotdate*	Pottery	CBM	Animal Bone	Other Finds
1	100	Topsoil	100	Late medieval	7:127		2:23	Fe nails (1g)
	106	Ditch	103	-		3:14		Fe nails (2g)
	106	Ditch	104	Early medieval	2:9			Fe nails (9g)
	107	Pit	105	-				Fe nails (13g)
2	203	Subsoil	203	Post-medieval		1:39		Ca vessel rim (5g)
	205	Pit	204	Post-medieval	3:18	1:26		
3	303	Subsoil	303	Post-medieval	6:87		1:19	Fe nails (11g)
	308	Tree-throw	304	Early medieval	1:17		1:18	Fired clay (16g)
4	403	Pit	404	-			1:11	
	413	Pit	414	Early medieval	4:57	6:46	4:23	
	415	Pit	416	Modern		4:53		
	417	Pit	418	Modern		9:143		
5	503	Trackway	503	Modern	3:116	2:435	1:5	
	505	Land drain	506	Early medieval	1:1	1:21		Snail shell (4g)
	510	Palaeochannel	509	Early medieval	1:7			
8	801	Subsoil	801	Modern	2:9	1:24	5:22	Fe nails (5g)
	806	Pit	805	-			1:6	Fe staple (13g)
	808	Pit	807	High medieval	1:4		58:234	Fired clay (24g); fe shoeing nail (2g)
	812	Pit	809	Early medieval	1:1			
	812	Pit	810	High medieval	1:2	1:75	8:31	
	812	Pit	811	-		5:55		
	813	Modern Intr.	814	Medieval	2:54			
				Total	**35:509**	**26:862**	**90:461**	

* - spotdate based on date of latest artefact in context CBM – ceramic building material

Table 3: Artefact summary by trench and context

(sherd/frag count : weight in grammes)

2.4.2 Pottery

Thirty-five pottery sherds, weighing 509g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Fourteen fabric types were identified using common names and types codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (held by Albion Archaeology). Fabrics are listed below (Table 4) in chronological order.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
Medieval			
Type B	Miscellaneous shell tempered	**1**	(303):1
Type C	Miscellaneous sand tempered	**9**	(100):2, (303):3, (414):2, (814):2
Type C01	Sand	**1**	(414):1
Type C61	Calcareous inclusions	**2**	(304):1, (509):1
Type C67	Mixed inclusions	**3**	(100):2, (809):1
Type C75	Micaceous	**5**	(100):1, (104):2, (414):1, (506):1
High medieval			
Type C09	Brill/Boarstall ware (fine)	**1**	(810):1
Type C17	Hedingham ware	**2**	(303):1, (807):1
Late medieval			
Type E02	Oxidised sandy	**3**	(100):2, (801):1
Post-medieval			
Type P01	Fine glazed red earthenware	**4**	(204):1, (303):1, (503):2
Type P06	Fine slip-decorated earthenware	**1**	(204):1
Type P33	Tin-glazed ware	**1**	(204):1
Modern			
Type P37	White salt-glazed Stoneware	**1**	(801):1
Type P43	Pearlware	**1**	(503):1

Table 4: Pottery type series

The pottery dates predominantly to the 12th-13th centuries, with a small quantity of late medieval, post-medieval, and modern material. Sherds survive in moderate condition, with some abrasion, and are generally small (average sherd weight 14g), with most vessels represented only by single sherds. Medieval pottery was recovered from features in Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5 and 8. The bulk of the assemblage occurs in hand-made coarse or fine reduced sand tempered fabrics, likely to be of local manufacture. A number have been provisionally identified as Ely ware, although this requires confirmation. Regional imports are represented by two wheel-thrown sherds of glazed Hedingham ware and a single sherd of Brill-Boarstall ware, deriving respectively from Essex and Buckinghamshire. Diagnostic forms include everted and square rim jars, some of which bear evidence of sooting, probably indicating their use in a domestic capacity. A shell tempered bowl rim was also present.

Trenches 2, 3 and 5 contained six undiagnostic sherds of post-medieval iron glazed, slip-decorated, and tin-glazed earthenware. Single undiagnostic sherds of modern white salt-glazed stoneware and pearlware were present in Trenches 5 and 8.

2.4.3 Ceramic Building Material

Six sand tempered fragments of late/post-medieval brick and flat roof tile, weighing 545g, were recovered from Trenches 2, 5 and 8. Trench 4 yielded 19 fragments (242g) of modern brick, which were discarded after recording. A highly abraded sand tempered flange from a Roman roof tile (*tegula*) was residual in medieval pit [812].

2.4.4 Metalwork

Nine fragmentary iron timber nails were recovered, the majority deriving from Trench 1. Pit [808] yielded a medieval shoeing nail, and pit [806] an undatable U-shaped iron staple. A degraded portion of a cast copper alloy

vessel rim of probable post-medieval or later date was recovered from subsoil (303).

2.4.5 Animal bone

The faunal assemblage comprises 90 fragments, weighing 461g, and occurs in features of medieval, post-medieval and modern date. The largest assemblage derived from features in Trench 8, particularly medieval pit [808], which contained 58 fragments (234g).

The bone survives in moderate to good condition, with some surface erosion. Diagnostic material comprises long bone, rib, phalange, scapula and tooth fragments, some deriving from sheep or goat, and cow.

3. CHRONOLGICAL SYNTHESIS OF RESULTS

3.1 Medieval

The presence of pits with deposits of occupational debris suggests nearby settlement. It is likely that pits to the north of the site represent the discard and deposition of material from buildings fronting onto Church Lane to the north. The presence of features to the south-east also indicates that the settlement may have been more widespread over the study area.

The medieval landscape of the site would have been dominated by the presence of a palaeochannel to the south-west. Analysis of map information indicates that the palaeochannel is likely to have formed part of a tributary of Bourn Brook 2km to the north-east.

The medieval occupation evidence was present on the higher ground to the north-east, north-west and south-east of the study area, probably respecting the marginal / marshy land to the south and south-west.

Medieval pottery in alluvial fills within the palaeochannel to the south-west indicates that this feature was active into the medieval period and that it and the features to the north were, for a time, contemporary.

3.2 Post-medieval

Activity dating to the post-medieval period is also evident to the north of the site and overlays the earlier medieval activity. The post-medieval period is also characterised by the presence of pits filled with refuse, strongly suggesting longevity for buildings fronting onto Church Lane to the north.

The presence of layers of redeposited chalk and topsoil in medieval features to the north-west and over palaeochannel clays to the south-west indicates modification of the landscape. This is likely to have occurred to utilise marshy land to the south and to level the surrounding land, perhaps to assist in more intensive farming practices or the extension of property boundaries.

3.3 Modern

The level of modern disturbance is more significant to the north-east of the site with obvious damage to archaeological features. Removal of topsoil and subsoil deposits in other areas has, however, had a limited impact on the condition of archaeological features.

3.4 Undated Features

A significant undated ditch to the north-east of the study area may indicate possible earlier utilisation of higher land next to the palaeochannel. The alluvial formation of the ditch fill is different to the medieval features found within the same area. This suggests that the formation processes are likely to be contemporary with the alluvial formation of palaeochannel, possibly indicating a pre-medieval date.

The presence of other undated features indicates that the majority of the study area has been utilised in the past.

3.5 Deposit Model, Inferred Areas of Archaeological Sensitivity.

The level of archaeological preservation within the study area is broadly characterised in this section.

Broadly speaking, in the northern half of the study area, the primary horizon of recognition of archaeological deposits lies between 50mm and 0.3m below current ground level. A degree of horizontal truncation, in the centre of the study area (Figure 2, area in grey tone) appears to have possibly truncated some of the higher lying archaeology and denuded the level of overburden above it. The depth to the horizon of recognition in Trenches 3 and 7 in the central part of the study area was 50mm to 0.10m below modern ground level.

Further to the south, Trenches 5, 6 and 8 demonstrated a greater depth of overburden and topsoil above the primary horizon of recognition of archaeological deposits, which lies between 0.47m and 0.56m below current ground level.

The underlying natural topography slopes from the north of site to the south with a slightly more exaggerated break of slope to the south-west.

It would appear that the northern two-thirds of the site have been more affected by ground disturbance than the southern third. Any excavations over 80mm in depth would probably have an impact on the underlying archaeological resource. Such impacts will probably include both foundation trenches, floor slab, all ground works and probably landscaping works which involved levelling down and/or heavy machine movements.

The southern third of the site is, however, more deeply buried and as a consequence is less sensitive to developmental impacts. The majority of this area is covered by a former palaeochannel which retains a relatively high water table. The significance of this palaeochannel is not that it exists, per se, but that it exists in relation to demonstrable, probably partly contemporary, medieval activity. By virtue of its 'wetness', medieval artefacts, not usually preserved, may be present within the site.

4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESULTS

This section discusses the potential significance of the results obtained during the archaeological evaluation.

The evaluation trenches have demonstrated that human activity within the study area spanned the medieval to post-medieval periods. The presence of a large undated ditch in Trenches 4 and 7 may indicate that occupation, relating to earlier periods may also be present.

To date, the bulk of research into the medieval period has targeted more visible monuments, such as moats, churches and castles. The opportunity to examine the archaeological potential of nucleated, or poly focal, medieval rural sites such as this, is an increasing rarity.

Increased development in villages within Cambridgeshire has meant that many sites are unavailable for examination, either due to the natural growth of villages or increased modern infill development. In the past, this has often occurred without appropriate investigation of areas of potential archaeological sensitivity.

The sequence of medieval and post-medieval occupation, demonstrated to exist within the study area, also lay in close proximity to a palaeochannel, which was active in the medieval period. The proximity of the pitting to the relict watercourse, coupled with the fact that the water table was quite high in Trenches 5 and 6, may mean that artefacts and ecofacts, from the medieval period could be preserved within the palaeochannel itself. Anaerobic preservation of medieval domestic refuse (artefacts of wood, leather etc) is relatively rare in rural settlements and may help address several regionally important research themes. The Resource Assessment for the Eastern Counties[3] outlines a number of these themes:

- Contributing considerably to the limited palaeo-economic and palaeo-environmental data on medieval rural settlement. This includes information on land use, wood regeneration and industry.
- Contributing to the corpus of bone from rural medieval contexts.
- Contribute to the understanding of the development of rural medieval nucleated settlement. This may be seen in context to the manor to the south and church to the north-east.
- Providing information on the continuity of settlement from the medieval to post-medieval periods.

Though the study area has suffered from modern horizontal truncation, the effect of this truncation on the archaeological deposits appears in most cases to be minimal. However the absence of evidence from the south of Trench 7 may

[3] Glazebrook, J, 1997, *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties, 1.Resource Assessment*

indicate that either archaeological deposits have been totally removed, or that they did not/ do not exist in that area. The area of modern truncation (see Figure 2), however, does not appear to have uniformly removed the underlying archaeological features as evidenced by the presence of tree throws in Trench 3.

5. APPENDIX 1

TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 5.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology** **Min:** 0.3 m. **Max:** 0.39 m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** TL3741853284 **Ref. 2:** TL3741753280

Reason for trench: Establish integrity of archaeology to the north west of Study Area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones.	☐	☑
101	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones.	☐	☐
102	Natural	Compact light yellow white chalky clay frequent medium chalk.	☐	☐
106	**Ditch**	**Curving linear N-S profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.5m.**	☐	☐
103	Redeposited Natural	Firm light yellow white chalky clay moderate small chalk. Grey clay inclusions	☐	☑
104	Fill	Firm dark grey clay silt occasional small stones.	☐	☑
107	**Pit**	**Sub-oval profile: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.9m.**	☐	☐
105	Fill	Mid grey brown silty clay frequent flecks chalk, moderate small stones.	☐	☑

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 3.60 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology** **Min:** 0.1 m. **Max:** 0.25 m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** TL3742553289 **Ref. 2:** TL3742853287

Reason for trench: Establish integrity of archaeology to the north of Study Area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Demolition layer	Friable light red brown sand moderate medium ceramic building material.	☐	☐
201	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown silty clay moderate small stones.	☐	☐
202	Natural	Compact light yellow white chalky clay frequent medium chalk.	☐	☐
203	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown clay silt moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones.	☐	☑
205	**Pit**	**Sub-circular profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max depth 0.33m, max diameter 2.m.**	☐	☐
204	Fill	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones.	☐	☑
206	**Pit**	**Circular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.12m, max diameter 0.5m.**	☐	☐
207	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones.	☐	☐

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.05 m. Max: 0.25 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL3742553281 Ref. 2: TL3743453277

Reason for trench: Establish integrity of archaeology to the north of Study Area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown silty clay occasional small stones.	☐	☐
301	Demolition layer	Friable light red brown sand moderate medium ceramic building material.	☐	☐
302	Natural	Compact light yellow white chalky clay frequent medium chalk.	☐	☐
303	Subsoil	Firm mid grey clay silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional small stones.	☐	☑
308	**Treethrow**	**Sub-oval profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max depth 0.64m, max diameter 3.6m.**	☐	☐
304	Fill	Firm mid grey clay silt . Patches of redeposited natural	☐	☑
305	Fill	Firm light yellow white chalky clay . Redeposited Natural	☐	☐
306	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt . Patches of redeposited natural	☐	☐
309	**Treethrow**	**Irregular profile: convex base: uneven dimensions: min diameter 2.m.**	☐	☐
310	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional medium stones. Patches of redeposited natural	☐	☐
311	**Modern disturbance**	**Irregular dimensions: max diameter 2.4m.**	☐	☐
312	Fill	Friable light yellow red sand frequent medium ceramic building material, occasional large ceramic building material.	☐	☐
313	**Service Trench**	**Linear N-S profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.45m, max depth 0.2m.**	☐	☐
314	Fill	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones.	☐	☐

Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.18 m. Max: 0.3 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL3744153278 Ref. 2: TL3745053277

Reason for trench: Establish integrity of archaeology to the north east of Study Area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones.	☐	☐
401	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones.	☐	☐
402	Natural	Compact light yellow white chalky clay frequent medium chalk.	☐	☐
403	**Pit**	**Sub-circular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.4m, max diameter 1.m.**	☐	☐
404	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty clay occasional small stones.	☐	☑
407	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.55m, max depth 0.63m.**	☐	☐
408	Alluvium	Firm mid grey clay occasional flecks charcoal. Lumps of brown clay at base	☐	☐
409	Fill	Firm mid grey sandy clay occasional flecks charcoal.	☐	☐
410	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy clay occasional flecks charcoal.	☐	☐
411	Fill	Firm dark brown grey sandy clay occasional flecks charcoal.	☐	☐
413	**Pit**	**Sub-oval profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.7m, max depth 0.42m.**	☐	☐
414	Fill	Dark grey brown sandy clay occasional medium stones. Root disturbance	☐	☑
415	**Pit**	**Sub-circular profile: convex base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.16m, max diameter 0.65m.**	☐	☐
416	Fill	Mid orange brown sandy clay occasional small ceramic building material.	☐	☑
417	**Pit**	**Sub-circular profile: 45 degrees base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.32m, max depth 0.15m.**	☐	☐
418	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small ceramic building material.	☐	☑
419	**Modern disturbance**	**Sub-rectangular E-W dimensions: max diameter 3.2m.**	☐	☐
420	Fill	Friable light yellow brown silty sand frequent medium ceramic building material.	☐	☐
421	**Modern disturbance**	**Sub-rectangular N-S dimensions: max diameter 1.37m.**	☐	☐
422	Fill	Friable light yellow brown sandy silt moderate medium ceramic building material.	☐	☐

Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.47 m. Max: 0.5 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL3741553266 Ref. 2: TL3741353256

Reason for trench: Establish integrity of archaeology to the south east of Study Area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones.	☐	☐
501	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay .	☐	☐
502	Natural	Compact light yellow white chalky clay frequent medium chalk.	☐	☐
503	Trackway	Compact light orange yellow sandy gravel frequent small stones.	☐	☑
504	Demolition layer	Friable mid yellow brown sandy clay frequent medium ceramic building material.	☐	☐
505	**Land drain**	**Linear E-W profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.16m, max diameter 0.35m.**	☐	☐
506	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty clay .	☐	☑
507	Dump material	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small ceramic building material, moderate small stones.	☐	☐
508	Levelling layer	Firm light yellow white chalky clay moderate medium chalk.	☐	☐
510	**Palaeochannel**	**Curving linear . Partial excavation, full depth and extent unknown**	☐	☐
509	Alluvium	Hard mid grey clay .	☐	☑

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 5.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology** **Min:** 0.56 m. **Max:** 0.58 m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** TL3742453256 **Ref. 2:** TL3742953255

Reason for trench: Establish integrity of archaeology to the south of Study Area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones.	☐	☐
601	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones.	☐	☐
602	Natural	Compact light yellow white chalky clay frequent medium chalk.	☐	☐
603	Demolition layer	Friable mid red brown sandy clay moderate medium ceramic building material.	☐	☐
605	**Palaeochannel**	**Curving linear base: uneven dimensions: max depth 0.45m. Partial excavation, full extent unknown**	☐	☐
604	Alluvium	Firm mid grey clay .	☐	☐

Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 10.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology** **Min:** 0.01 m. **Max:** 0.56 m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** TL3744553269 **Ref. 2:** TL3744253259

Reason for trench: Establish integrity of archaeology to the east of Study Area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones.	☑	☐
701	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones.	☑	☐
702	Natural	Compact light yellow white chalky clay frequent medium chalk.	☐	☐
703	Demolition layer	Friable dark grey brown sandy clay moderate medium ceramic building material, moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
704	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 2.5m, max depth 0.7m.**	☑	☐
705	Alluvium	Hard mid grey silty clay .	☑	☐
706	Fill	Hard mid grey clay frequent flecks chalk, occasional flecks charcoal.	☑	☐
707	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay . Black mottling	☑	☐
708	**Service Trench**	**Linear E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.3m.**	☐	☐
709	Fill	Compact light yellow brown sandy gravel moderate medium ceramic building material.	☐	☐

Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: Length: 3.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.54 m. Max: 0.74 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL3744253245 Ref. 2: TL3744453246

Reason for trench: Establish integrity of archaeology to the south east of Study Area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Buried topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones.	☐	☐
801	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones.	☐	☑
802	Natural	Compact light yellow white chalky clay frequent medium chalk.	☐	☐
803	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones.	☐	☐
804	Trackway	Compact light orange yellow sandy gravel frequent small stones.	☐	☐
806	**Pit**	**Sub-circular profile: vertical base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.67m, max diameter 0.5m.**	☐	☐
805	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small-medium chalk. Bioturbation	☐	☑
808	**Pit**	**Sub-circular profile: vertical base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.5m, max diameter 0.5m. Undercutting present**	☐	☐
807	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal.	☐	☑
812	**Pit**	**Sub-oval dimensions: max diameter 0.7m. Undercutting present**	☐	☐
809	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal.	☐	☑
810	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones.	☐	☑
811	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal.	☐	☑
813	**Modern Intrusion**	**Square profile: vertical base: flat . Recent test pit**	☐	☐
814	Fill	Loose mid grey brown clay frequent medium chalk. Mixed backfill	☐	☑

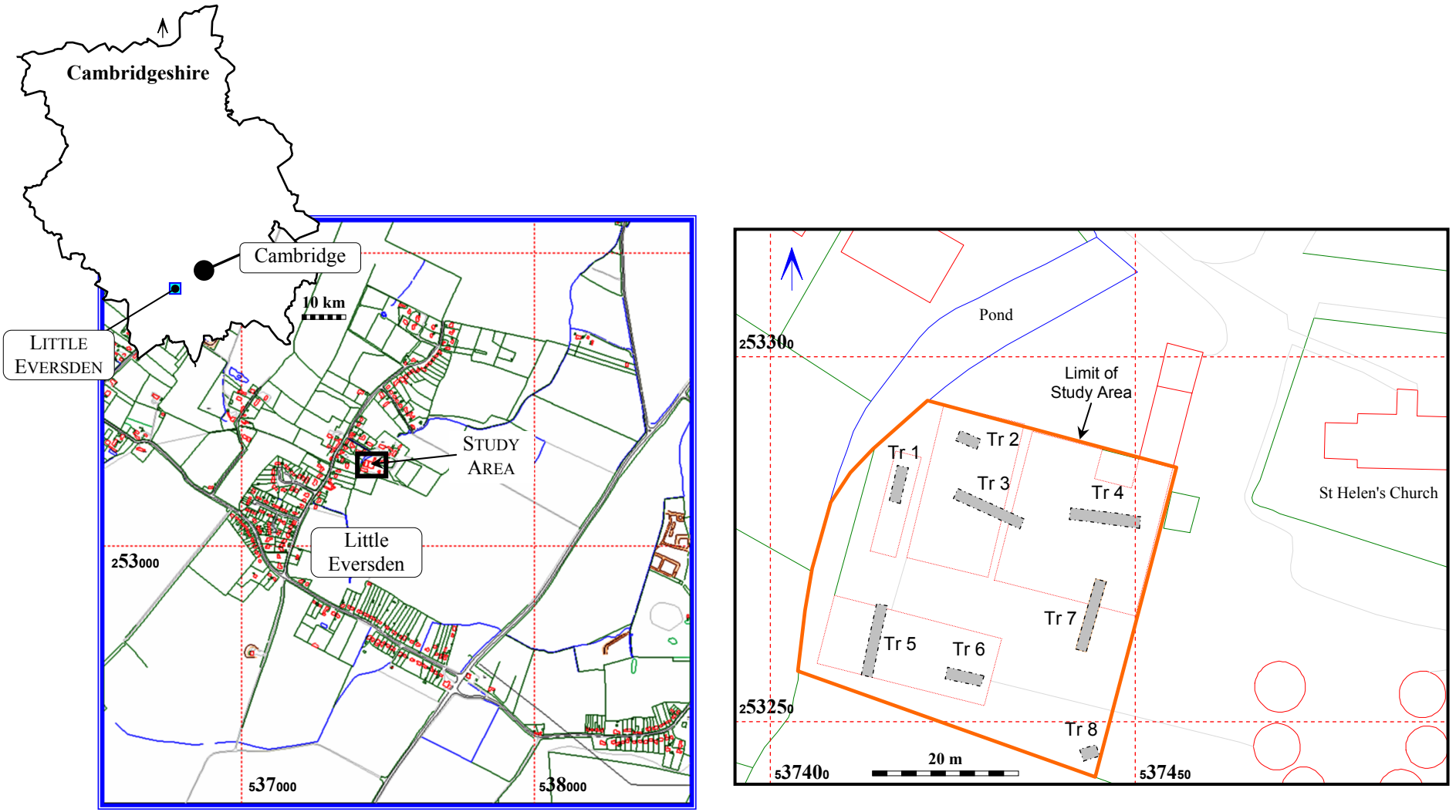


Figure 1: Location of site

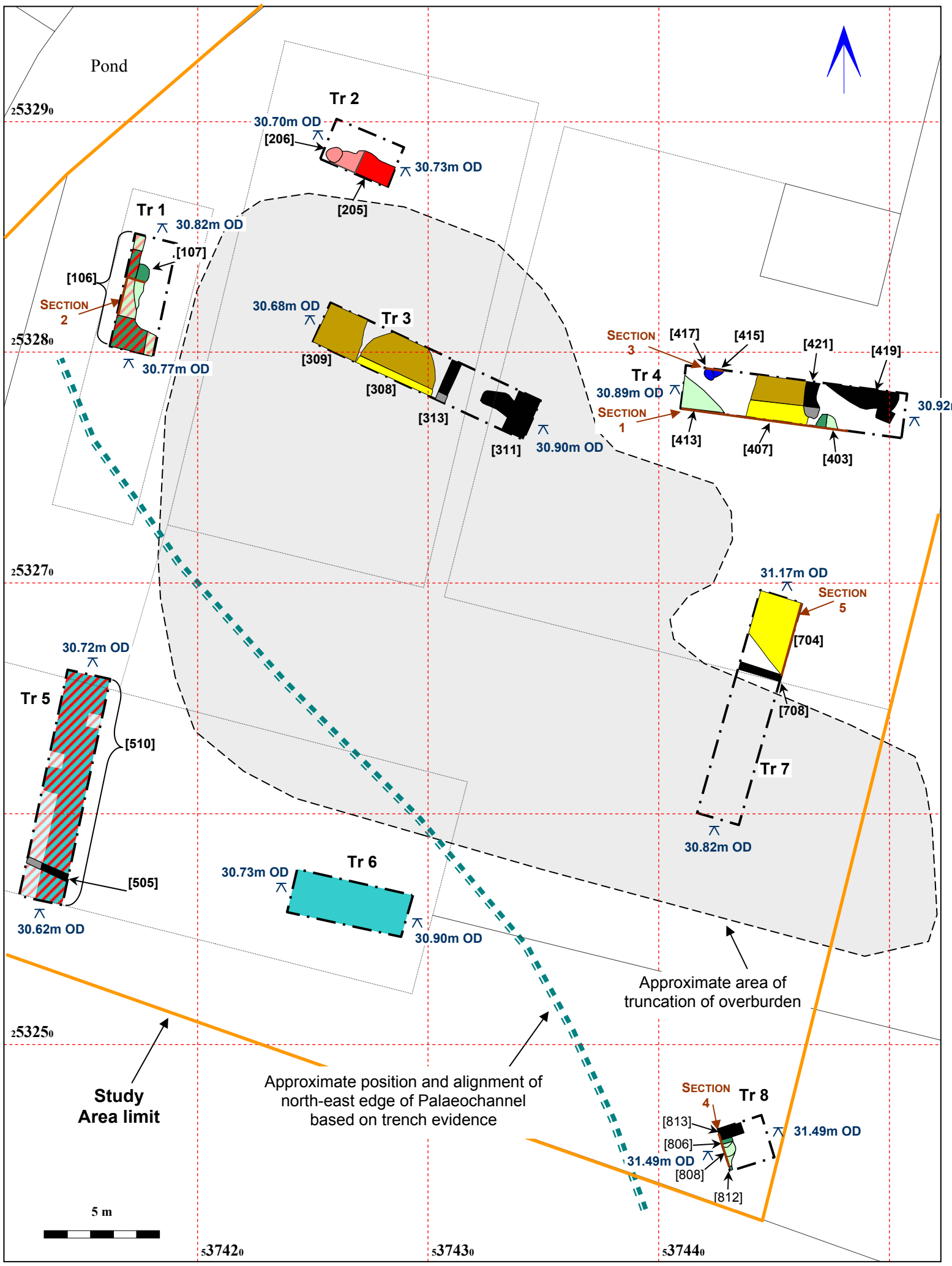
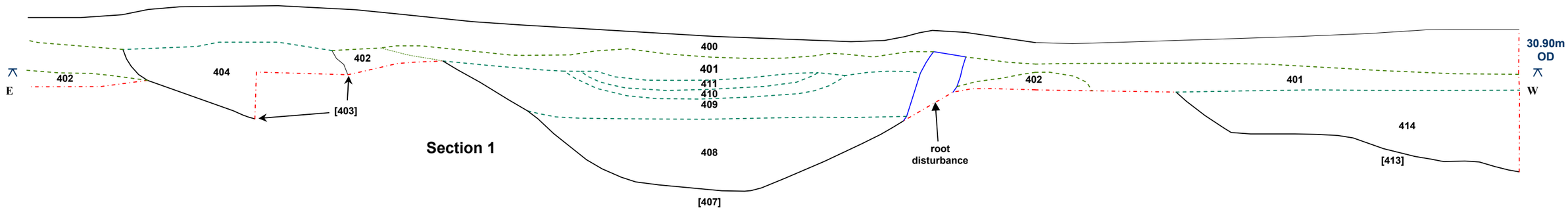
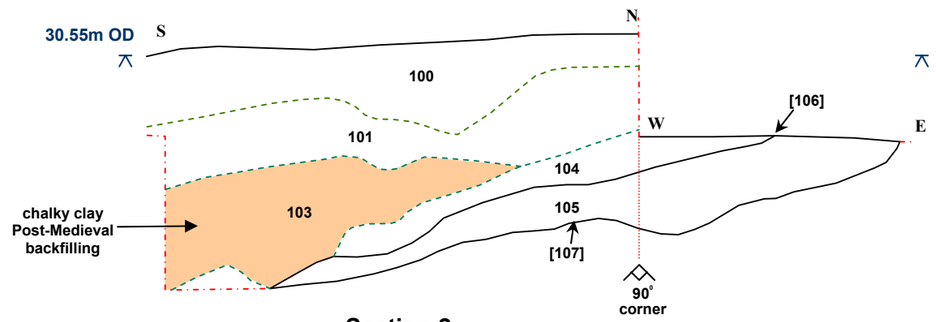
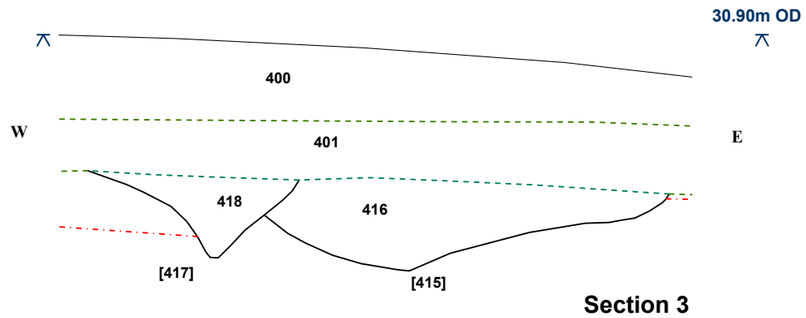
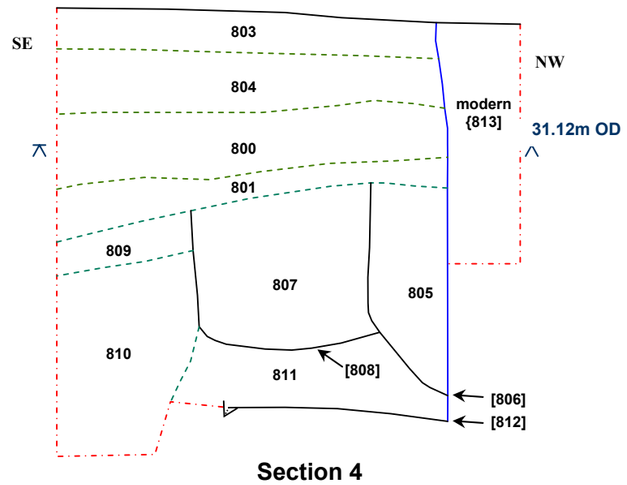


Figure 2: All features plan









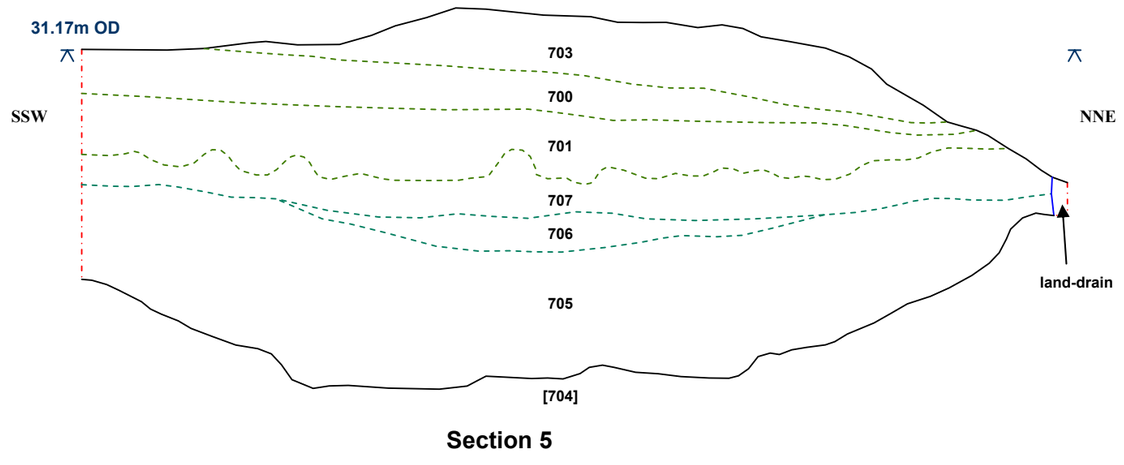


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Figure 3: Selected sections