
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT MOULTON CHAPEL ROAD
COWBIT
LINCOLNSHIRE
(COMC 17)**

Work Undertaken For
Robert Doughty Consultancy
On behalf of
Mr P Smith

March 2017

Report Compiled by
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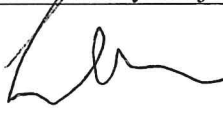

APS Report No. **15/17**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Moulton Chapel Road, Cowbit, Lincolnshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed residential development at the site.

The site lies within an area dominated by Iron Age (800 BC-AD 50) and Roman (AD 50-410) settlement and salt-making centres, established along the levees of former courses of the Welland. Cowbit was established during the medieval period (AD 1066-1540), initially as a hamlet of Spalding, and founded on a fen-bank constructed to reclaim the low-lying fen. The course of the fen-bank is fossilised in Moulton Chapel Road.

The evaluation identified a sequence of natural, undated, Roman and medieval deposits. A Roman pit and ditch were the earliest dated features from the site and contribute to the known settlement in the vicinity. A tree throw was dated to the medieval period, though two ditches and another tree throw remain undated due to a lack of dateable artefacts.

The largest category of finds retrieved from the evaluation comprise pottery of 2nd to 3rd century date with a few sherds of medieval pottery also retrieved. Sampling of the Roman features indicate that they incorporate domestic food waste and that the surrounding landscape was open and possibly marshy.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as *“a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which*

determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate” (CIFA 2014).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Robert Doughty Consultancy to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of proposed development on land at Moulton Chapel Road, Cowbit, Lincolnshire, as detailed in Planning Application H01-0035-17. The evaluation was undertaken between the 21st and 24th February 2017 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Service.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Cowbit is located 5km southeast of Spalding and 8km northeast of Crowland in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 770m east of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church of St Mary at National Grid Reference TF 2673 1800 (Fig. 2). Situated on the south side of Moulton Chapel Road, immediately west of the A16 roundabout, the site lies at a height of c. 4m OD on generally level ground.

Local soils are of the Agney Series, typically calcareous alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 9). These overlie a drift geology of marine alluvium which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford

Clay (BGS 1992).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Cowbit is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Iron Age to the present day. Evidence for Middle to Late Iron Age settlement and salt-making has been found to the north, west and south of the site. The salt-making sites appear to have been established on levees of the Welland to the north and northwest of the site (Hayes and Lane 1992, 177).

The later Iron Age settlement and industrial practices continued to develop into the Roman period with settlement identified to the east, along the route of the A16 (Peachey 2011), and to the south where it was dated to the 1st to 2nd century (Mellor 2009). The densest concentration of Roman settlement and associated agricultural activities appear to be focussed along Backgate to the west of the site (Malone 2002; Rayner 2003; Mellor and Trimble 2011).

Cowbit is first mentioned in the mid-13th century. Referred to as *Coubith* and *Coubiht*, the name is derived from the Old English and means ‘the cow’s (*cū*) bend (*byht*)’, the bend referring to a change in course of the Welland (Cameron 1998, 34). The village sits astride the New Fendyke (now marked by Moulton Chapel Road), constructed to reclaim the low-lying fen and in existence by the late-12th century (Hallam 1965, 24).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the church of St Mary which was constructed by Prior de Moulton of Spalding Abbey about 1400, although much of the present fabric is later in date (Pevsner and Harris 1989).

3. AIMS

The aim of the evaluation was to gather information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits in order to enable the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Service to formulate a policy for the management of archaeological resources present on the site.

The objectives were to;

- Establish the types of archaeological activity that may be present within the site,
- Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity within the site,
- Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features on the site,
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site,
- Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area,
- Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Four trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.6m were excavated to the top of archaeology or the surface of the underlying natural geology, as appropriate. Trenches were positioned to provide sample coverage of the area (Fig. 3).

Removal of topsoil and other overburden

was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket and operating under archaeological supervision. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was also compiled and sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Environmental sampling was undertaken on the discretion of the site supervisor using guidelines established by English Heritage (2011). The subsequent processing of the samples is detailed in Appendix 3.

The location of the excavated trenches was surveyed using a survey grade GPS system.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

The results of the archaeological evaluation are discussed in trench order. Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Trench 1

The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was a layer of mottled grey and

yellow silt (1009) identified as natural alluvium.

Towards the western end of the trench, a tree throw was recorded (1004). This measured over 3.84m long and was wider than 1.45m (Fig. 4, Section 2; Plate 3). Contained within this were two fills, a lower of yellow/grey brown silt (1003) and an upper of greyish brown silt (1002). Medieval pottery was retrieved from the uppermost fill.

Located 3m to the southeast was an east-west aligned ditch (1008). This measured over 2m long and was 1.85m wide and 1.12m deep (Fig. 4, Section 3; Plate 4). The basal fill of the ditch comprised grey silt (1007) with subsequent fills of yellowish brown silt (1006) and greyish brown silt (1005). No finds were retrieved from this feature.

Sealing all deposits within this trench was the current topsoil, comprising a 0.32m thick layer of greyish brown clayey silt (1001).

Trench 2

Natural deposits within this trench comprised yellowish brown silt (2006).

Towards the western end of the trench was tree throw (2005), irregularly shaped with an extent of over 1.7m by over 2m and a depth of 0.84m (Fig. 5, Section 1; Plate 6). Three fills were identified, comprising greyish brown silt (2002) and a mix of yellowish brown/greyish brown mottled silts (2003 and 2004).

Over 6m to the east was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (2013). This was 1.83m wide and 0.47m deep (Fig. 5, Section 4; Plate 7) and contained fills of yellowish brown silt (2010) and yellow/greyish brown silt (2011). Fill (2010) contained the partial skeleton of a juvenile cow.

This ditch had subsequently been re-cut (2012) to a depth of 0.45m and a width of 1.3m. Three fills were identified, consisting of a basal fill of greyish brown clayey silt (2009), followed by yellowish brown silt (2008) with an upper fill of greyish brown silt (2007).

Topsoil comprised a 0.3m thick layer of greyish brown silt (2001).

Trench 3

Natural was recorded as a yellow/grey brown silt (3008).

Cut into the natural towards the centre of the trench was a north-south aligned ditch (3007). This was 1.05m wide and 0.41m deep (Fig. 6, Sections 6 and 7; Plate 9). Six fills were recorded, with a primary fill of yellowish brown silt (3006). The sequence of fills continued with grey/yellow brown silt (3005), yellowish brown silt (3004 and 3009), laminated greyish brown silt (3003) with a final fill of greyish brown silt (3002). Pottery retrieved from (3005) and (3006) dates from the mid-2nd to 3rd century.

Sealing this ditch was a layer of topsoil, comprising greyish brown silt (3001) that measured 0.3m thick.

Trench 4

A mixed layer of yellow and grey silt (4005) was identified as the natural within this trench.

Situated towards the southern end of the trench was a sub-circular pit (4004) which had a diameter of 1.2m and a depth of 0.13m (Fig. 7, Section 5; Plate 11). Two fills were recorded, a lower of grey silt (4003) and an upper of darker grey silt (4002), the latter producing pottery of mid-2nd to 3rd century date.

Topsoil comprised greyish brown clayey silt (4001) with a recorded thickness of

0.34m.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise silts relating to the underlying drift geology of marine alluvium.

Features dated to the Roman period were evident in Trenches 3 and 4 on the eastern side of the site. They comprise a ditch and pit and are part of a wider settlement pattern identified in the Cowbit area. The quantity of artefacts from these features would indicate that areas of habitation lie in close proximity. This is supported by the evidence obtained from the environmental samples which incorporated domestic food waste.

Two ditches and a tree throw remain undated, due to a lack of artefactual evidence. One ditch had subsequently been re-cut, suggesting prolonged use of the feature.

Towards the western end of the site was a tree throw which contained a small quantity of late-13th to 14th century pottery, broadly contemporary with the earliest documentation of Cowbit.

Pottery was the largest category of artefactual material retrieved from the site, particularly Roman wares produced along the Nene Valley, close to Peterborough. Medieval pottery was also recovered, albeit in a small quantity, and derives from kilns at Bourne and Toynton. Animal bone, mainly cattle was also retrieved along with mollusc shell and charcoal.

The environmental data obtained from samples indicate that during the Roman period, the site lay within an open landscape, possibly marshy with seasonal flooding of the ditches.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Moulton Chapel Road, Cowbit, as the site lay in close proximity to known remains of Iron Age, Roman and medieval date.

The evaluation revealed undated, Roman and medieval remains. Two ditches and a tree throw remain undated due to a lack of artefactual material. A pit and ditch produced pottery of 2nd to 3rd century date and a medieval tree throw was also revealed.

Pottery of Roman and medieval date was retrieved along with faunal remains.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr L Smith of the Robert Doughty Consultancy for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of Mr P Smith. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Gail Graham. Elizabeth Bates kindly allowed access to the library and parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Staff: Mark Peachey, Denise Buckley
 Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
 Archiving: Denise Buckley, Fiona Walker
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

CIfA Chartered Institute for
Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General location plan

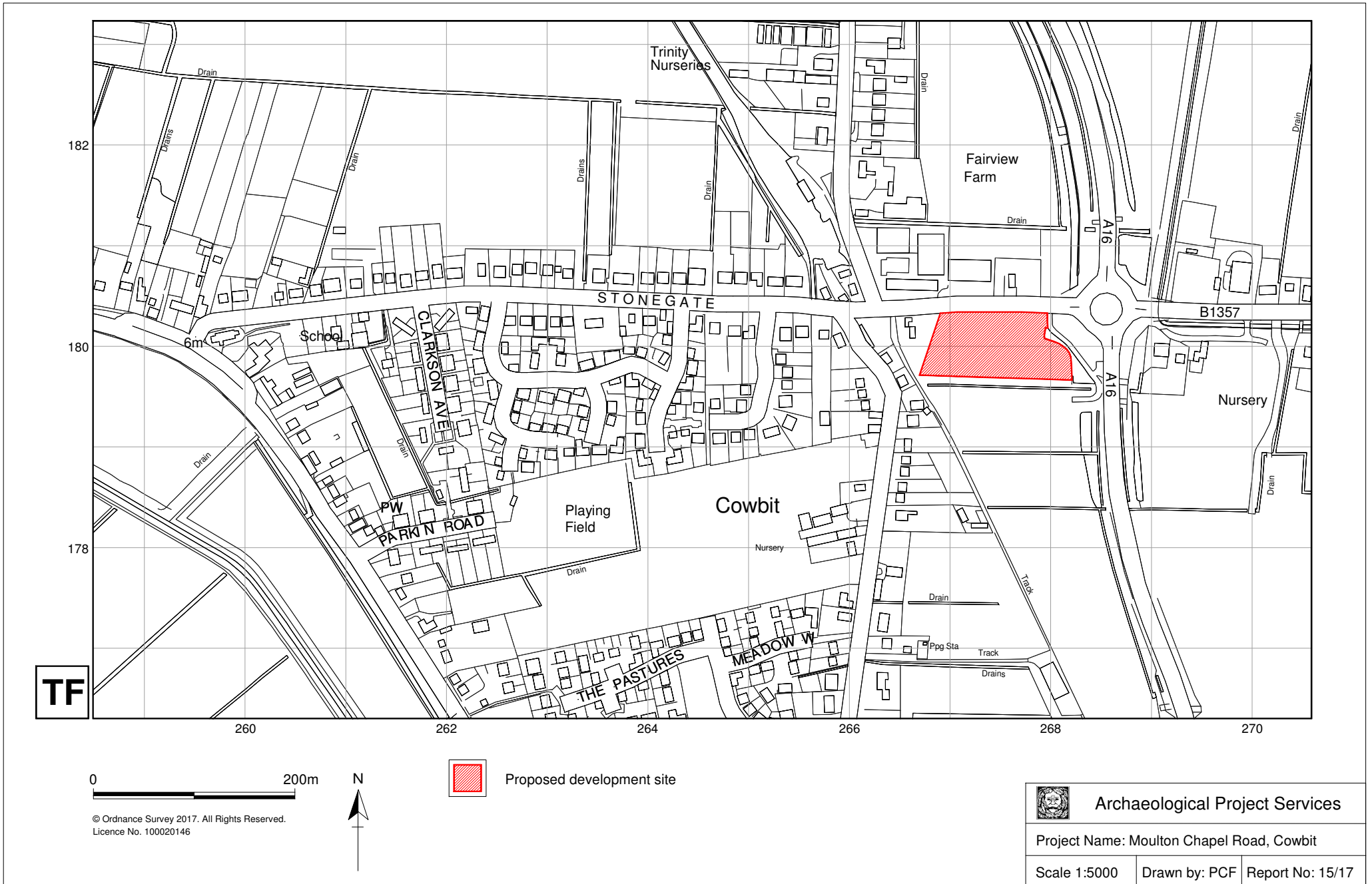
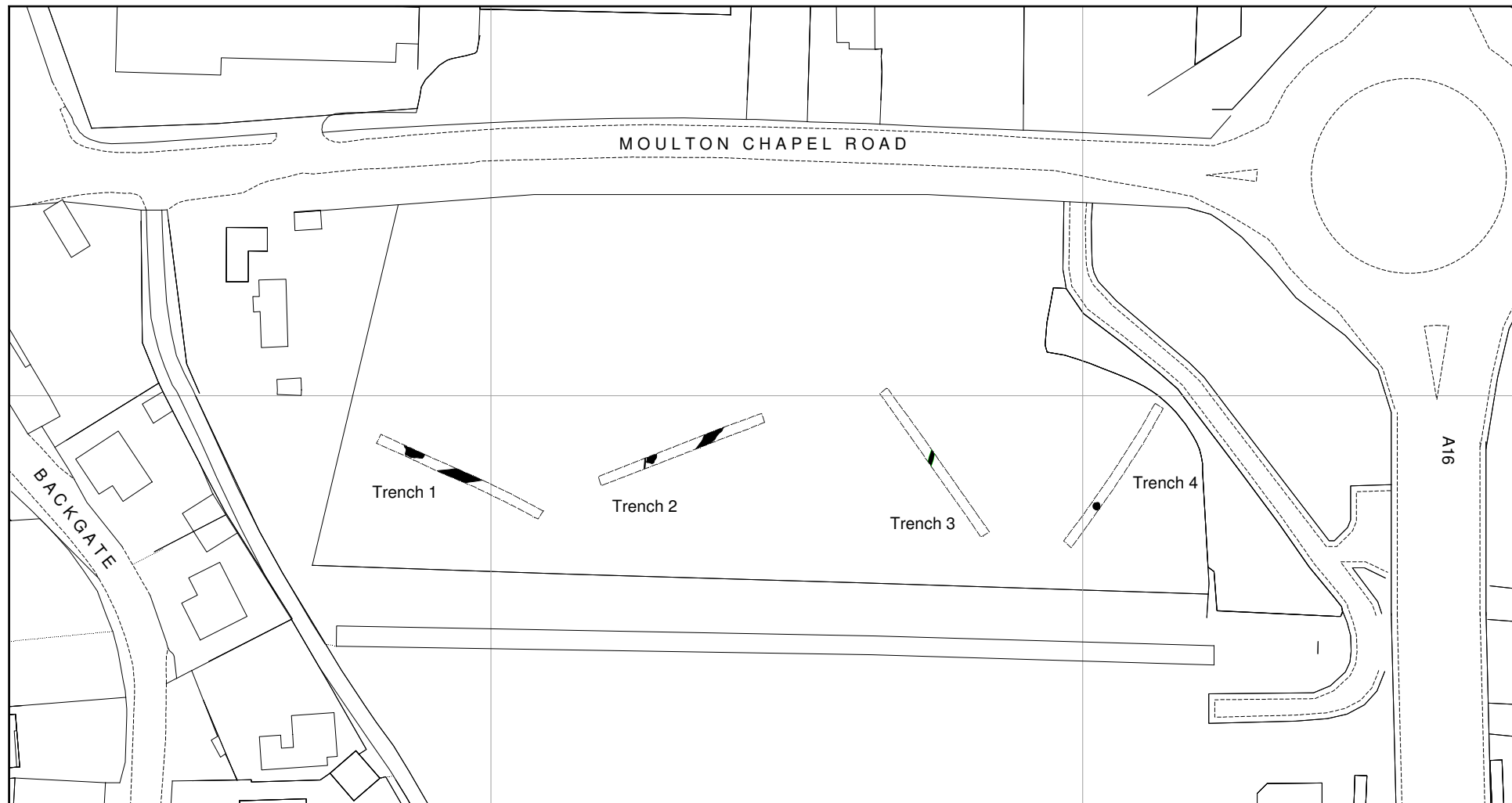


Figure 2 - Site location plan



0 50m



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Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Moulton Chapel Road, Cowbit

Scale 1:1000 | Drawn by: PCF | Report No: 15/17

Figure 3 - Trench location plan

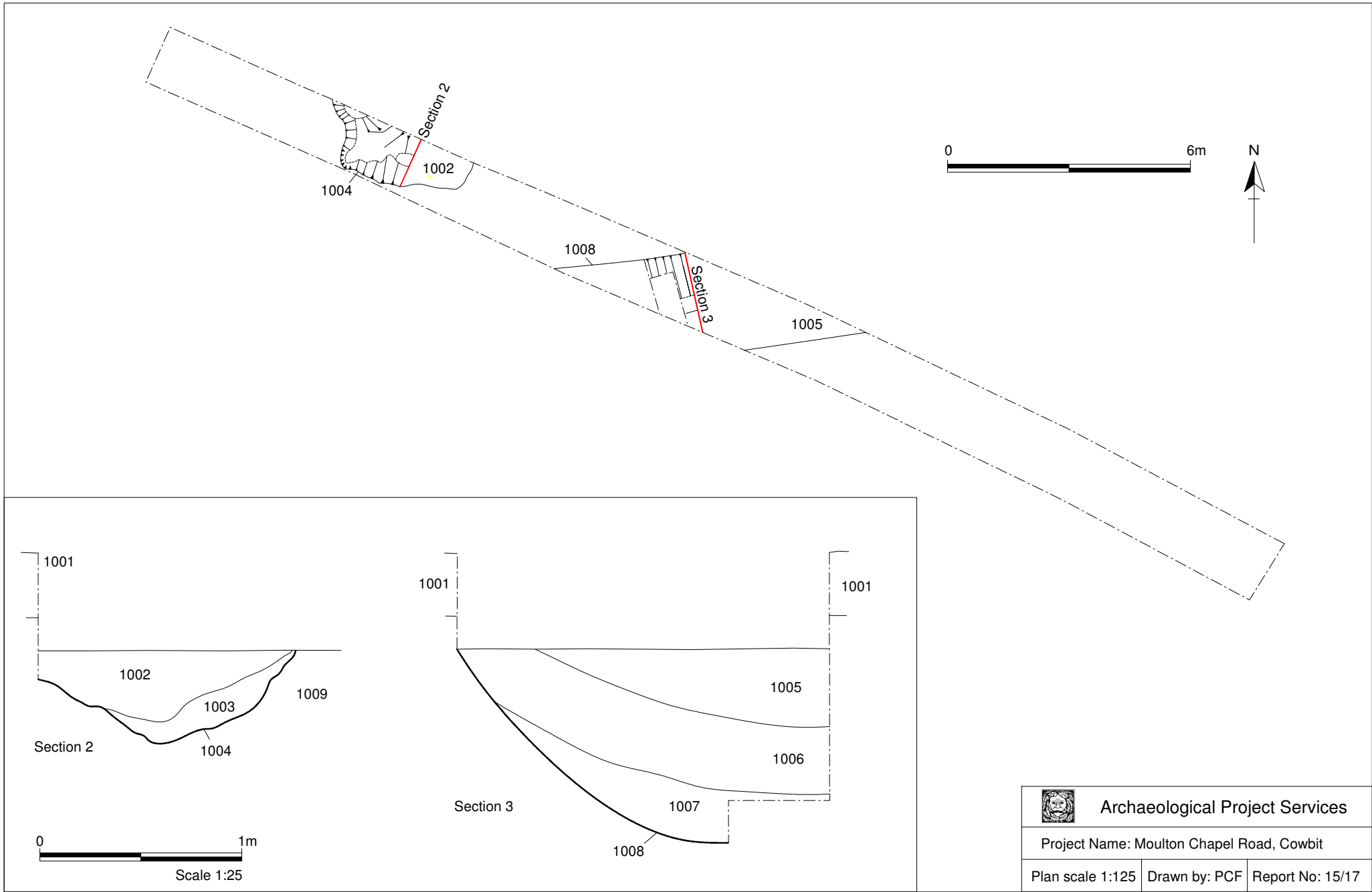



Figure 4 - Trench 1: Plan and sections

 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Moulton Chapel Road, Cowbit		
Plan scale 1:125	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 15/17

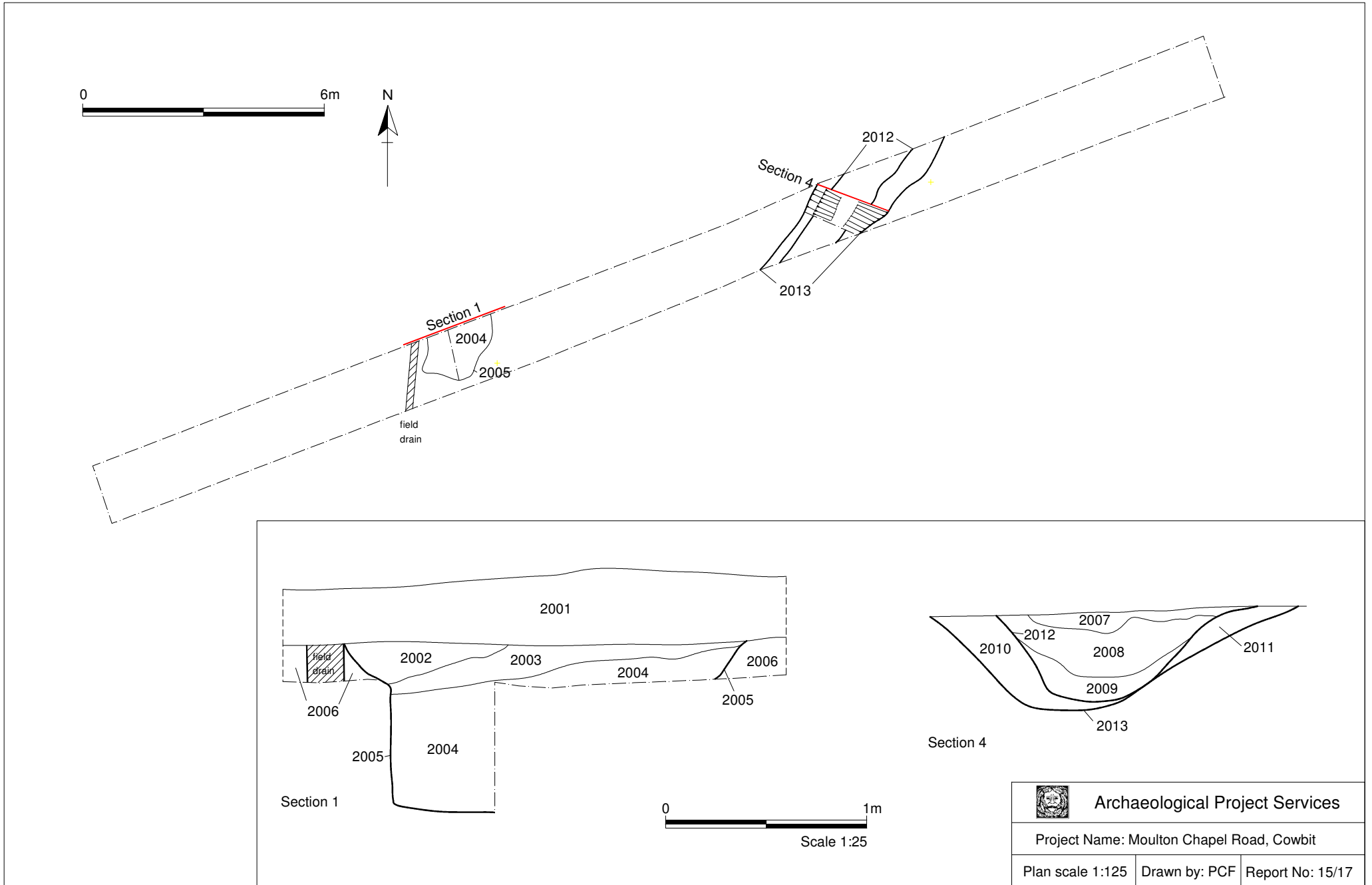


Figure 5 - Trench 2: Plan and sections

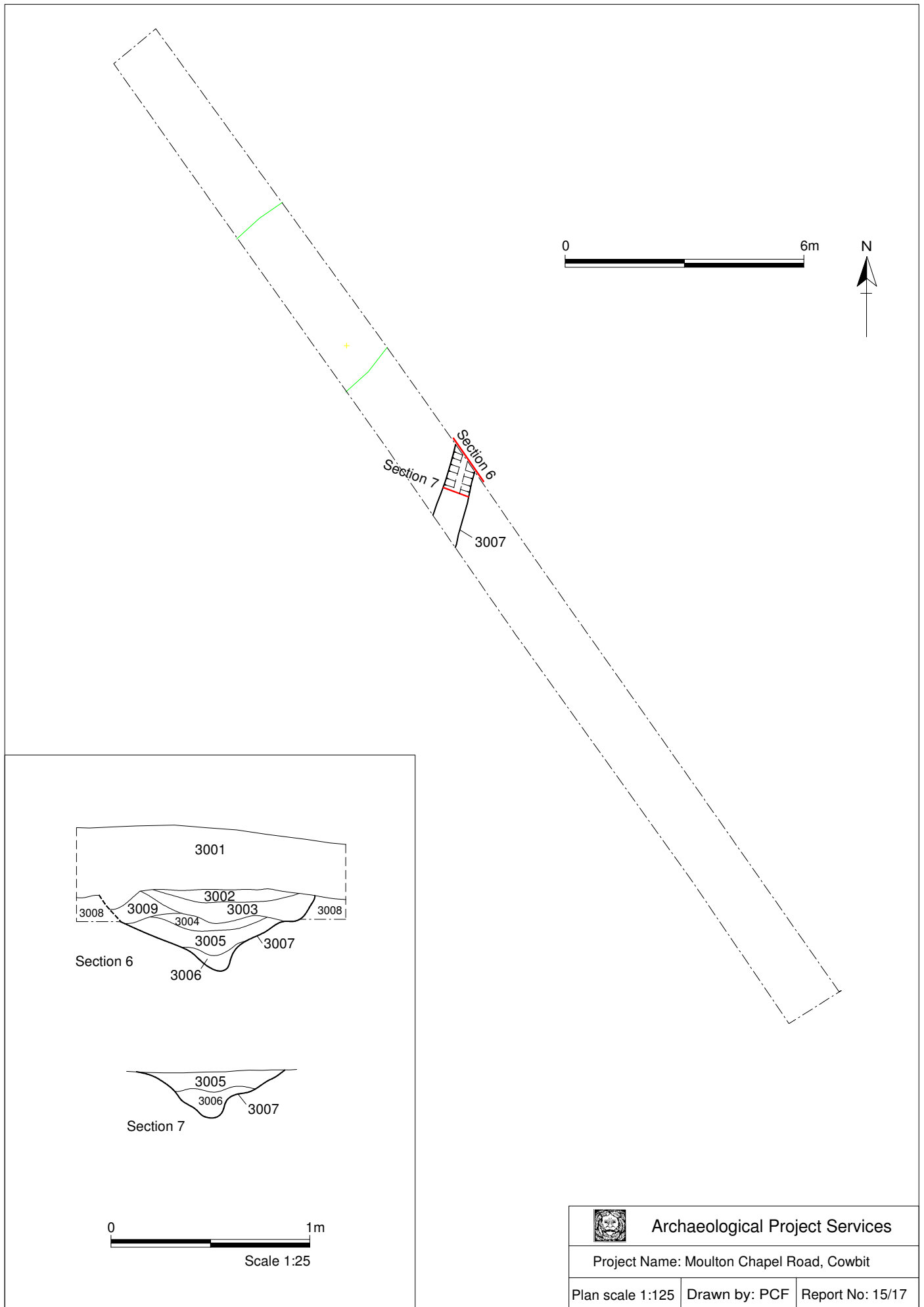



Figure 6 - Trench 3: Plan and sections

 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Moulton Chapel Road, Cowbit		
Plan scale 1:125	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 15/17

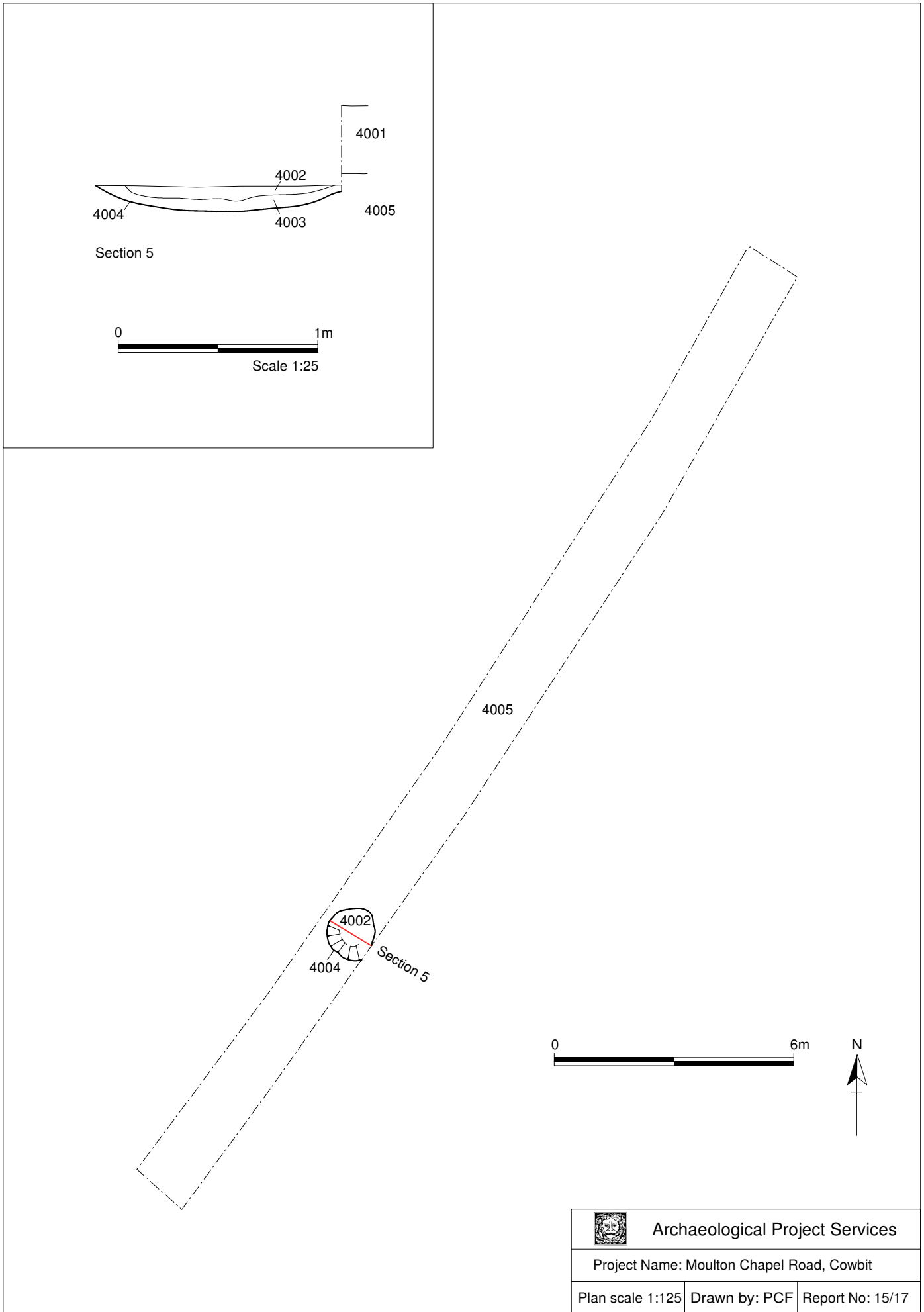


Figure 7 - Trench 4: Plan and section



Plate 1 – View looking southwest across the site



Plate 2 – Trench 1 after machine excavation, looking southeast



Plate 3 – Medieval tree throw (1004), looking east



Plate 4 – Undated ditch (1008), looking northeast



Plate 5 – Trench 2 after machine excavation, looking northeast



Plate 6 – Undated tree throw (2005), looking northwest



Plate 7 – Undated ditch (2013) and re-cut (2012), looking north



Plate 8 – Trench 3 after machine excavation, looking southeast



Plate 9 – Roman ditch (3007), looking northwest



Plate 10 – Trench 4 after machine excavation, looking northeast



Plate 11 – Roman pit (4004), looking northeast

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Description	Interpretation
1001	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.32m thick	Topsoil
1002	Soft mid greyish brown silt	Fill of (1004)
1003	Soft yellow/grey brown silt	Fill of (1004)
1004	Irregular feature, >3.84m long by >1.45m wide and 0.62m deep, uneven sides and base	Tree throw
1005	Soft dark greyish brown silt	Fill of (1008)
1006	Soft mid yellowish brown silt	Fill of (1008)
1007	Soft mid grey silt	Fill of (1008)
1008	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >2m long by 1.85m wide by 1.12m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
1009	Soft mottled light grey and light yellow silt	Natural deposit

Trench 2

No.	Description	Interpretation
2001	Loose dark greyish brown silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
2002	Soft dark greyish brown silt	Fill of (2005)
2003	Firm mid yellowish brown with greyish brown mottled silt	Fill of (2005)
2004	Firm mid greyish brown with yellowish brown mottled silt	Fill of (2005)
2005	Rectangular/irregular feature, >1.7m by >2m by 0.84m deep, near vertical to steep sides and flat base	Tree throw
2006	Firm mid yellowish brown silt	Natural deposit
2007	Soft light greyish brown silt	Fill of (2012)
2008	Firm light yellowish brown silt	Fill of (2012)
2009	Firm light greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of (2012)
2010	Firm light yellowish brown silt	Fill of (2013)
2011	Firm light yellow/grey brown silt	Fill of (2013)
2012	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >5m long by 1.3m wide by 0.45m deep, steepish sides and rounded base	Re-cut of ditch (2013)
2013	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >5m long by 1.83m wide by 0.47m deep, steep sides and flattish base	Ditch

Trench 3

No.	Description	Interpretation
3001	Loose mid greyish brown silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
3002	Soft mid greyish brown silt	Fill of (3007)
3003	Firm light greyish brown, with yellowish brown laminations, silt	Fill of (3007)
3004	Firm light yellowish brown silt	Fill of (3007)
3005	Firm light grey/yellow brown silt	Fill of (3007)
3006	Firm light yellowish brown silt	Fill of (3007)

No.	Description	Interpretation
3007	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >2.5m long by 1.05m wide by 0.41m deep, steep uneven sides and rounded base	Ditch
3008	Firm mid yellow/grey brown silt	Natural deposit
3009	Firm mid yellowish brown silt	Fill of (3007)

Trench 4

No.	Description	Interpretation
4001	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.34m thick	Topsoil
4002	Soft mid to dark grey silt	Fill of (4004)
4003	Soft light grey silt	Fill of (4004)
4004	Sub-circular feature, 1.2m diameter by 0.13m deep, shallow sides and rounded base	Pit
4005	Soft light yellow and light grey silt	Natural deposit

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by Darling (2004) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery was recorded using the codes and system developed for the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (Darling and Precious, 2014). A total of 50 sherds from approximately 25 vessels, weighing 598 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Archive Catalogue 1, with a summary of types shown in Table 1 below.

Condition

The condition of the material is mixed, but generally fragmentary.

Results

Table 1, Summary of the Roman Pottery

Fabric	Cname	Full Name	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Samian	SAM	Undifferentiated Samian Ware	1	1	1
Fine	CC	Undifferentiated Colour-coated	2	2	4
Fine	GMICG	Grey Fine Micaceous Wares	1	1	11
Fine	NVCC	Nene Valley Colour-Coated	1	1	14
Oxidised	CR	Cream Flagon Fabric	2	2	9
Oxidised	PARC	Parchment; Cream Painted red	1	1	9
Reduced	GREY	Miscellaneous Grey Ware	3	2	6
Reduced	NVGW	Nene Valley Grey Ware	22	11	413
Shell	IASH	Native Tradition Shell-Tempered	1	1	11
Shell	SHEL	Undifferentiated Shell-Tempered	16	4	121
Total			49	25	598

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from ditch [3007] in Trench 3 and pit [4004] in Trench 4.

Range

There is a mix of domestic coarse and fineware ceramic types. However, the assemblage is too small to make any broad statements about the nature or social status of those who deposited this waste.

Just two features produced pottery, with the bulk of the material recovered from ditch [3007] in Trench 3. Two contexts, (3005) and (3006), produced a total of 38 sherds from approximately 16 vessels. This group is dominated by Nene Valley greyware (NVGW), with at least eight vessels represented, including jar and bowl forms. Additional types include a single fragment of handmade shell tempered ware, which is probably of Iron Age or early Roman date, two vessels in

undifferentiated colour coated ware and three vessels in undifferentiated wheelmade shell tempered ware (SHEL). Precise dating of this feature is problematic, though the presence of so much NVGW indicates a likely date between the mid 2nd and later 3rd century. Additionally, a shell tempered jar from (3006) is a necked type with shoulder rilling and a hooked rim, features which are typical of later Roman 'south Midlands' type jars. Based on this, a mid to late 3rd century date can be postulated for the infilling of this feature.

Pit [4004] yielded a total of 12 sherds from approximately 10 vessels. The presence of Nene Valley Greyware here, indicates a broadly similar date to the ditch [3007]. A rim sherd from a NVGW imitation Samian Form 36 bowl, suggests a date after the later 2nd century and probably in the 3rd century.

Potential

The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive. The material is in a stable condition and should pose no problems for long term storage. No further work is required. Should any further work be carried there is excellent potential for the recovery of a significant further quantity of material .

Summary

A relatively large assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered from the site, especially given that all of the material came from just two features, with Trenches 3 and 4 both productive. The bulk of the pottery is likely to be 2nd to 3rd century in date, with a 3rd century date quite likely for both features.

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of three sherds from vessels, weighing 73grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 2 below. The pottery dates to the medieval period.

Condition

There are three moderately sized sherds. The pottery is not notably abraded. A single sherd has external sooting which is indicative of domestic usage over a hearth or fire.

Results

Table 2, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Sub Fabric	Form	Part	Comment	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
1	1002	TOY	Toynton medieval ware		Jug	BS with HJ; BS	Sooted exterior	Late 13th to 15th	2	1	61
1	1002	BOUA	Bourne medieval ware	B/C	Jug	Rim		Mid 12th to 14th	1	1	12
Total									3	2	73

Provenance

The pottery was recovered from fill (1002) within tree throw [1004], in Trench 1.

Range

There are three sherds deriving from two medieval jugs. One of these vessels is in Toynton medieval ware, whilst the second is in Bourne medieval ware. If these pieces were contemporary, this would date the feature to between the later 13th and 14th centuries.

Potential

The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive. The pieces are in a stable condition and should pose no problems for long term storage.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 30 (162g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts. An additional 5 fragments (9g) of shell was also recovered.

Methodology

The faunal remains were laid out in context order and reference made to published catalogues (e.g. Schmid 1972; Hillson 2003). All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element and side. Also fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as micro (mouse size), small (rabbit size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size).

The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996), grade 0 being the best preserved bone and Grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

Provenance

The faunal remains were retrieved from the fill of a tree throw (1002) and the fills of two ditches (2010) and (3005).

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate, averaging at grades 2-3 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

Results

Table 3, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
1002	cattle	molar	-	1	18	
2010	cattle	rear leg	L	26	101	Juvenile; all bones present
3005	large mammal	rib	-	2	38	
	medium mammal	mandible	-	1	5	

Table 4, Molluscs

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
3005	mussel	shell	-	5	9	

Summary

As a small assemblage, falling below the minimum count of *c.* 300 bones required for meaningful analysis, the faunal remains have little potential. The animal bone is all likely to be cattle and probable food waste apart from the bone in ditch (2010). Representing the rear limb of a juvenile beast, this may have been a diseased creature disposed close to where it died.

The mussel shell is all from a Roman context and demonstrates links with the sea. This is likely to represent food waste.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor and Denise Buckley

Introduction

Approximately eleven pieces of charcoal weighing 1g were recovered.

Condition

The charcoal is fragmentary and very fragile.

Results

Table 5, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
3005	Charcoal	Charcoal, roundwood.	11	1	
Totals			11	1	

Provenance

The charcoal was recovered from ditch fill (3005).

Potential

The charcoal is of no further potential and has been discarded.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 6 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 6, Spot dates

Cxt	Date (Century AD)	Comments
1002	Late 13 th to 14 th	
3005	Mid 2 nd to 3 rd	
3006	Mid 3 rd to late 3 rd	
4002	Mid 2 nd to 3 rd	

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

Archive catalogue 1, Roman Pottery

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	Decoration	NoV	Alter	Comments	NoS	W(g)
3	3005	NVGW	FE	JL		1	ABR	BASES; BSS; 4 PCS FROM SAMPLE 2	10	213
3	3005	CC		BKFO		1		BS; SAMPLE 2; NVCC?	1	1
3	3005	NVGW		JWM		1	ABR	RIM; BS; SAMPLE 2	2	58
3	3005	SHEL		JCUR	COL	1	SOOT RIM	RIMS; BSS; FRAGS; 8 PCS FROM SAMPLE 2; ROLLED RIM; POSS MULTIPLE VESSELS	10	53
3	3005	IASH		JB		1	WHITE DEP EX	BS; SAMPLE 2; HM	1	11
3	3005	SHEL	FE	JB	HM?	1	SOOT EX	BS; SOAPY; IASH?	2	11
3	3005	CC	MICA; FE	U		1		FLAKE; FINE MICACEOUS FABRIC; NOT NVCC	1	3
3	3005	NVCC		JB		1		BS; ?ID	1	14
3	3005	GREY	CA; MICA	JB		1		BS; CALCAREOUS; NV?	1	5
3	3005	NVGW		BRR		1		RIM	1	24
3	3005	NVGW		J		2	1 PC ABR INT	BSS	2	23
3	3005	NVGW		J	CORD GIRTH	1		BS	1	8
3	3005	NVGW		JB		1		BSS	2	21
3	3005	ZDATE						M2-3C		
3	3006	NVGW		B36		1		DARK GREY SLIP VERGING ON NVCC; COULD BE CLASSED EITHER WAY; RIM	1	38
3	3006	SHEL		JHK	COL	1	SOOT EX	RIM TO GIRTH; BS	2	56
3	3006	ZDATE						M3-L3C+		
4	4002	GMICG		B		1	ABR	BASE	1	11
4	4002	PARC		B		1		BS	1	9
4	4002	CR		CLSD		1		BS	1	8
4	4002	NVGW		BD		1		BASE	1	20
4	4002	NVGW		JB		2	ABR	BSS	2	8
4	4002	SAM		SAMU		1		FLAKE; SAMPLE 1	1	1
4	4002	CR		U		1		BS; SAMPLE 1	1	1
4	4002	SHEL		U		1		BSS; SAMPLE 1	2	1
4	4002	GREY		U		1		BSS; NVGW?; SAMPLE 1	2	1
4	4002	ZDATE						M2-3C		

Appendix 3

ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY ASSESSMENT

By James Rackham

Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Introduction

Two samples were taken from the evaluation excavations at Cowbit. Both samples derive from features dated to the Roman period, the fills of pit 4004, and ditch 3007. The samples were submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment.

Table 1. Cowbit – COMC17. Samples collected for environmental study

sample no.	context no.	feature	samp. vol (l).	sample weight (kg)	context type	phase
1	4002	4004	8	10	Fill of pit	Roman
2	3005	3007	16	20	Fill of ditch	Roman

Methods

The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The sample was washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1.0mm mesh for the residue. The flot and residue were dried, but the dried residues were not refloated because they were small enough to sort in their entirety. The dry volume of the flots were measured, and the volume and weight of the dried residue recorded.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheets and bagged independently. A magnet was run through the residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammer scale and prill. The residue was then discarded. The float of the sample was studied under a low power binocular microscope. The presence of environmental finds (ie snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The float was then bagged. The float and finds from the sorted residues constitute the material archive of the sample.

The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 2 and 3.

Results

The samples washed down to a small residue of concreted sediment with small fragments of bone, shell and coal. The sample residues produced pottery, a little animal bone, bird eggshell and marine shell (Table 2).

The environmental finds from the residues and flots from the two samples produced terrestrial and freshwater molluscs, ostracods, charred cereal grains, chaff and weed seeds. Charred grains of wheat, barley and oats(?) have been preliminarily identified, along with charred chaff, legumes and weed seeds (Table 3). Probable chicken eggshell is present in ditch fill, while small fish, mussel and cockle shell suggest exploitation of local marine resources. No domestic animals were specifically identified from the remains but bones of eel, other small fish, water vole and frog/toad are present.

Table 2: Cowbit – COMC17– Archaeological finds from the sample

sample	cont	vol in l.	residue vol .in ml.	pot no/wt g	Flint no	Fire-cracked flint wt g.	Fired earth wt g.	magn. comp. g.	marine shell wt. g	bone wt g.	other
1	4002	8	5	5/1.4					0.1	0.6	Roman pot
2	3005	16	20	13/170				0.1	3.8	4.6	Roman pot

Table 3: Cowbit – COMC17. Environmental finds from the samples

sample	cont.	vol. in l.	flot vol. ml.	char-coal \$	charred grain *	charred chaff	charred seed *	unchar'd seed *	snail *	comment
1	4002	8	1	1/2	2	1	2	+	2	Charred wheat, barley, grasses; indet mammal, small fish, frog/toad; burnt marine shell; snails – <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Bithynia tentaculata</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i>
2	3005	16	4	1/2	1	1	2	+	2	Charred wheat, oats?, legumes, weeds; indet mammal, water vole, frog/toad, eel, small fish; cf chicken eggshell; mussel and cockle; ostracod; snails – <i>C. acicula</i> , <i>P. muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia pulchella</i> , <i>V. excentrica</i> , <i>Carychium</i> sp., <i>Succinidae</i> , <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> , <i>Anisus leucstoma</i> , <i>B. tentaculata</i>

\$ - frequency of >2mm/<2mm fragments of charcoal

* frequency of items: 1=1-10; 2= 11-100; 3=101-250; 4=251-500; 5=500-1000; 6+>1000

diversity as follows: 1=1-3; 2=4-10; 3=11-25; 4=26-50 taxa

Terrestrial snails were fairly common in the samples with a few freshwater shells and ostracod valves (Table 3). The assemblages suggest open grassland and wet marshy conditions, the latter suggested by freshwater and marsh taxa in the ditch fill. There is no evidence for brackish water species.

A few rootlets and uncharred seeds indicate a low level of recent contamination through soil processes, and the few shells of *Cecilioides acicula*, a blind burrowing snails thought to have been introduced in the Roman period, may also be intrusive.

Discussion

The samples indicate a range of survival in the deposits on the site with animal bone (including fish), charred plant remains, marine shell, terrestrial and freshwater shells and bird eggshell identified. There was not however any indication of well preserved organic remains.

The remains suggest an open landscape with ditches probably seasonally water filled and somewhat marshy. A significant component is domestic food waste, with charred cereals, possible pulses, eels, marine shells, cf chicken eggs and some domestic animals (not identified) present in the deposits. Bone waste is limited but identifiable charred cereal grain and a little chaff is present in both samples. A range of charred weed seeds may permit some conclusions on the crop ecology and larger samples are likely to permit conclusions on whether the charred debris derives from crop processing waste or food waste.

No evidence for any industrial activities was present in the samples.

The deposits have the potential to inform on the dietary and agricultural economy of the site, possible spatial variation across the site, and the local environment so if any further archaeological work is undertaken this should ensure that samples of 30 litres or more are taken from well dated deposits for such analyses. Animal bone should be recovered by hand during excavation but if bone rich deposits are encountered excavation of these should be extended to improve the recovery of animal bone and enhance the potential of this material to inform the interpret the site archaeology. Where bone is fairly fragmented recovery should include dry sieving.

Acknowledgements

I should like to thank Trude Maynard and Angela Bain for the sample processing and sorting.

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Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Roddon	Raised banks of clay or silt representing sinuous channels which formed dendritic patterns and which later became silted up. Roddons stand proud of the fen surface due to tidal levees and also due to post depositional compression and wastage of the surrounding peat.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

36	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
4	Daily record sheets
8	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Box of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number LCNCC: 2017.44

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: COMC 17

OASIS Record Number archaeo11-279327

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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OASIS ID: archaeol1-279327

Project details

Project name	Moulton Chapel Road, Cowbit, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	Four trench evaluation revealed undated tree throw and ditch, a Roman pit and ditch and a medieval tree throw. Roman pottery was of 2nd to 3rd century date. The medieval wares were 14th-15th century in date.
Project dates	Start: 21-02-2017 End: 24-02-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	COMC17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC: 2017.44 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	TREE THROW Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	TREE THROW Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH HOLLAND COWBIT Moulton Chapel Road
Study area	8323 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 2673 1800 52.744393281255 -0.122414968648 52 44 39 N 000 07 20 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Gary Taylor
Project director/manager	Gary Taylor
Project supervisor	MARK PEACHEY
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	The Collection
Physical Archive ID	LCNCC: 2017.44
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Project Services
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection
Paper Archive ID	LCNCC:2017.44
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

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