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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
ON LAND AT 35 KIRKGATE STREET,  
WISBECH,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
(ECB 3711)**

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Work Undertaken For  
**Kempston Homes Limited**

January 2012

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

Planning Application No: F/YR09/0778/F  
National Grid Reference: TL 4746 1045  
Cambridgeshire Event No: ECB 3711  
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-116946

APS Report No. **1/12**

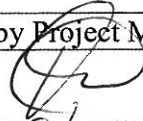

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**





**Quality Control**  
 35 Kirkgate Street  
 Wisbech  
 WIKS 11

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at 35 Kirkgate Street, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site.*

*The site lies in an area of Wisbech known as Walsoken which existed as a separate settlement until subsumed within the suburbs of the town. Walsoken was first mentioned in the 10<sup>th</sup> century and probably derived its name from a Late Saxon (AD 850-1066) sea-bank, the line of which crosses the site. The proposed area of development site lies adjacent to the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of the village which is best represented by the 13<sup>th</sup> century parish church of All Saints. Romano-British (AD 43-410) sites are also known from the general locality, though in the immediate proximity of the site are likely to be buried by marine alluvium.*

*The evaluation identified a sequence of natural, undated, medieval and post-medieval deposits. Undated layers include the sea-bank which is probably Late Saxon in origin. The sea-bank comprised a simple mound with some evidence for remodelling, perhaps after the bank was breached. On the landward side of the bank, deliberate dumping had occurred into which a late medieval or early post-medieval channel and pit had been cut. Post-medieval pits and a ditch were also recorded close to the Kirkgate Street frontage. Layers of marine alluvium had been deposited against the sea-bank on its seaward, southwest, side.*

*The largest category of finds retrieved from the evaluation comprise pottery of the post-medieval period (AD 1540-1900) followed by medieval pottery. Glass, brick, metalwork and clay pipe were also retrieved along with a quantity of animal*

*bone and mollusc shell, both representing food waste.*

## 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' (IfA 2008).

### 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Kempston Homes Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of proposed development on land at 35 Kirkgate Street, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire as detailed in Planning Application F/YR09/0778/F. The evaluation was undertaken between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Senior Archaeologist (Planning and Countryside Advice), Cambridgeshire County Council.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Wisbech is located 13km north of March and 29km northeast of Peterborough in the administrative district of Fenland, Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 1.5km northeast of the centre of Wisbech within the core of the

village of Walsoken at National Grid Reference TL 4746 1045 (Fig. 2). Situated on the southwest side of Kirkgate Street, the site lies at a height of between 4m and 3m OD on land that slopes down to the southwest overlooking the floodplain of the River Nene. The proposed development site encompasses some 0.38 hectares.

Local soils are of the Blacktoft Association, typically fine silty, gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 124). These overlie a drift geology of marine alluvium which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Amptill Clays.

## 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Much of the prehistoric land surface in the vicinity of the site is completely buried beneath Iron Age and later marine alluvium (Silvester 1988, 82).

Roman sites in the form of salterns and settlements are known in the Wisbech area, although none are known from the immediate vicinity of the site, probably due to their concealment by later alluvium. The nearest sites lie within 1.5km in the Norfolk part of Walsoken (Silvester 1988, 83).

Walsoken is first mentioned in a foundation charter of Ramsey Abbey dating to AD 974. Referred to as *Walsocna* and *Walsocne*, the name is derived from the Old English and means ‘the soke by the wall’, the wall referring to a sea-bank (Ekwall 1989, 494). The charter refers to the gift of Walsoken and other properties to Ramsey Abbey by King Edgar (Hart 1966, 79). The charter is considered a later fabrication, though partly based on fact. A further grant dating to between 969 and 983 records the gifts of 5 hides of land at Walsoken by Ealdorman Æthelwine (*ibid.* 241).

The sea-bank that gave its name to Walsoken marks the limit of reclamation towards the end of the Late Saxon period. It is visible as a low earthwork to the north of Walsoken where it continues into the neighbouring parish of West Walton. Its route in the vicinity of the site is masked by later development, though it crosses the southern part of the site (MCB 19097). Excavations in Norfolk have indicated that by the Late Saxon period, marine alluvium was absent in drainage ditches suggesting that the bank had been constructed by this time (Leah 1992, 56).

At the time of the Domesday Survey of c. 1086, Walsoken is recorded as still being held by Ramsey Abbey and it contained 12 acres of meadow and a fishery (Brown 1984).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the church of All Saints which lies 275m east of the site and dates from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century with a 13<sup>th</sup> century west tower (Pevsner 1990, 365). The site of a chapel, hermitage and hospital is depicted on 1950s mapping as lying some 300m to the southwest of the site which is mentioned in documentary sources from the late 14<sup>th</sup> century until it was dissolved in 1545 (CHER 04013).

An archaeological evaluation undertaken 400m to the south, located on the seaward side of the bank revealed natural silts exceeding 2.2m in thickness into which a 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century gully had been inserted. A small quantity of post-medieval pottery was recovered from this work (Peachey 2009, 3).

## 3. AIMS

The aim of the evaluation, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), 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 Senior Archaeologist (Planning and Countryside Advice), Cambridgeshire County Council, to formulate a policy for the management of archaeological resources present on the site.

#### 4. METHODS

Six trenches, each measuring 20m by 1.6m were excavated to the surface of archaeological deposits or the underlying natural geology. Two trenches were placed over the course of a sea-bank with the remaining trenches randomly placed across the site (Fig. 3).

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. 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 2. 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.

The locations of the excavation area and archaeological features within it were surveyed using a Thales Z-Max GPS. Raw satellite data is calibrated via the OS NET service resulting in extremely accurate readings. The calibrated data is logged in the field to a mobile device running Fast Survey and subsequently processed in the office by n4ce data processing software which is used to produce customised CAD

files.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). 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 deposits within this trench comprised brownish yellow sandy silt (102) and brownish grey sandy silt (108). A further deposit of yellow silty sand (109) was recorded overlying (102). These were all interpreted as possible dumped layers.

Towards the centre of the trench was an oval pit (110) that measured 0.84m long by 0.75m wide and 0.23m deep (Fig. 4, Section 4; Plate 5). Two fills were recorded, a lower of brownish grey sandy silt (111) and sealed by brownish grey sandy silt with clinker (112). Late 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery and glass was collected from (111).

Located at the northwest end of this trench was a northwest-southeast aligned feature (103). Of indeterminate function it measured over 0.54m wide and was deeper than 0.74m (Fig. 4, Sections 2 and 3; Plate 3). Three fills were identified and comprised a lower fill of greyish brown sandy silt (104), overlain by orange brown sandy silt (105) and then mixed yellowish and greyish brown sandy silt (106). Fill (105) produced 2 Bourne D sherds of 15<sup>th</sup>

– 16<sup>th</sup> century date and a residual sherd of Stamford ware.

This feature was sealed by a layer of made-ground, consisting of greyish brown sandy silt (107) that was 0.13m thick. This was not encountered further south where; instead, a subsoil of yellowish grey sandy silt (101) was recorded.

Cutting both the subsoil and made-ground deposits was a circular soakaway that was brick lined, though was not recorded in any detail.

Sealing all deposits was the topsoil of greyish brown sandy silt (100) which measured 0.5m thick.

### ***Trench 2***

Alluvial deposits comprising pinkish brown silt (203), orange brown sandy silt (204), pinkish grey clay (214) and orange brown sand (215) were the earliest deposits encountered in this trench. Alluvial deposit (203) contained 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

Overlying the alluvium was a dumped deposit of mixed orange sand and greyish brown silt (210) that measured over 0.3m thick and produced Bourne pottery of 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century date.

Cut into the dumped layer was a sub-circular pit (211). This measured 3.66m long, over 0.82m wide and 0.95m deep (Fig. 5, Sections 7 and 8; Plate 8). A sequence of fills was recorded, beginning with black silt and ash (218), followed by mixed black silt, orange sand and greyish brown silt with charcoal and mollusc shells (219 and 221), black silt and ash (220) and finally greyish brown silt with mollusc shell (222). Pottery of 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup> date was recovered from (219).

Cutting the northeast side of the pit was a north-south aligned channel (205),

measuring over 2.54m long, over 2m wide by 1m deep (Fig. 5, Sections 7 and 9; Plate 7). Eight fills were recorded within the channel and comprised a basal fill of greyish brown silt (209), above which were alternating bands of black and mid grey silt (208, 213 and 216), black organic silt (207, 212 and 217) with an additional deposit of mixed brownish grey and greenish yellow organic silt with frequent charcoal (206). Pottery from this feature spanned the 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Sealing the channel fills was a subsoil of greyish brown clayey silt (202) that was 0.35m thick which was in turn overlain by the current topsoil comprising a 0.2m thick layer of blackish brown clayey silt (201).

### ***Trench 3***

Appearing intermittently along the base of the trench were natural alluvial deposits of brownish yellow sand (319 and 322) which measured over 80mm thick.

Constructed upon this was a sea-bank of brown clayey silt (318). This measured over 9.17m wide and 0.83m high (Fig. 6, Section 1; Plate 9) but appears to have been truncated.

On the landward side (to the northeast) of the bank were two dumped deposits, a lower brown silt (321) and an upper greyish brown silt (320) measuring 0.46m and 0.48m thick respectively.

To the southwest was a sequence of alluvial layers deposited against the sea-bank. At the bottom of the sequence was a layer of yellowish brown laminated silt (317) over which were layers of yellowish brown sand (316), yellowish brown laminated silty sand (310), yellowish brown laminated sand (309), brown silt (308), yellowish brown silty sand (307), brown silt (306), yellowish brown silty sand (305) and finally brown silt (304).

At the southern end of the trench, a former topsoil was identified overlying the alluvium. It comprised a 0.14m thick layer of grey silt (304).

Cut into the alluvial layer (316) towards the centre of the trench was a possible pit (315). This measured 0.58m wide and was 0.34m deep. A single fill of brown silt (314) was recorded. This pit was in turn cut by a modern service trench (313) that contained a basal layer of reddish brown sand and gravel (312) and an upper layer of yellowish brown silty sand with a ceramic drain pipe (311).

Sealing all deposits was a make-up layer of reddish brown sand (302) for the tarmac surface (301) of the car park.

#### **Trench 4**

A layer of yellowish brown sand (416) of alluvial origin measuring over 0.12m thick was encountered towards the southwest of the trench.

A bank of brown clayey silt (415) topped with mixed brownish grey clayey silt and yellowish brown sand (414) had been constructed upon the alluvium. The upper level had been truncated by modern activity but measured 0.77m high and over 3.8m wide (Fig. 6, Section 6; Plate 10).

The landward side (northeast) of this bank had been truncated or eroded to form a steep sided cut (417). The bank had then been strengthened or enlarged with deposits of grey clayey silt (413), mixed brown sand and grey silt (412), brown sand (411), yellowish brown sand (410) and brown silty sand (409). A topsoil had developed upon (409) which consisted of a 0.22m thick layer of grey silty sand (408).

Sealing the former topsoil were dumped deposits of brown silty sand (407) and grey silty sand (406). Cut into the lower dumped layer was an east-west aligned

service trench (405), containing a lower fill of concrete encasing a drain pipe (404) and an upper fill of mixed silty sand (403).

Sealing all deposits was a make-up layer of reddish brown sand (402) for the current tarmac surface (401).

#### **Trench 5**

The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was an alluvial deposit of brownish grey sandy silt (504) which was over 0.58m thick and sloped down to the north. This was sealed by a former topsoil of brownish grey silt (503) that was 0.17m thick (Fig. 6, Section 5; Plate 11). The latter produced pottery of 16<sup>th</sup> – mid 17<sup>th</sup> century date.

Overlying the topsoil was a 0.6m thick dumped deposit of brownish orange silt (502). This was in turn sealed by topsoil, consisting of brownish grey sandy silt (501), which measured 0.26m thick. A modern demolition deposit (500) measuring up to 0.54m thick sealed all deposits within this trench.

#### **Trench 6**

Revealed at the base of this trench was a dumped deposit of pinkish brown silt (603) that measured in excess of 0.75m thick. Late 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery was collected from this layer.

This was overlain by subsoil comprising a 0.1m thick layer of greyish brown silt with frequent brick/tile and charcoal (602).

Cut into the subsoil was a pit (604) recorded in section only. It was 0.72m wide and 0.74m deep (Fig. 6, Section 10; Plate 12) and contained a single fill of brown/black clayey silt (605) from which pottery and clay pipe of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century date was retrieved as well as residual medieval wares.

Sealing the pit was the current topsoil of

greyish brown clayey silt (601) that contained brick/tile fragments and charcoal. This was 0.15m thick.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits, comprising sand, were only encountered in Trenches 3 and 4. They can be related to the underlying drift geology of post-Roman marine alluvium.

Within the same two trenches were the remains of a sea-bank. Though undated, they are of probable Late Saxon date, as evidenced by other archaeological work near its route. It comprised a simple earthen bank in Trench 3, though in Trench 4 it appears to have been modified and perhaps heightened. On the seaward side of the bank were a number of alluvial deposits which were all undated.

The line of the sea-bank is slightly southwest of that marked on Ordnance Survey plans of the area (Fig. 3). This may indicate that the line had been masked by later dumping and alluviation by the time of these early maps.

On the landward side of the sea-bank, there appears to have been a deliberate dumping of deposits to heighten the surrounding ground level. The earliest of these are late medieval or early post-medieval in date and occur within Trench 2. Dumping continued into the 19<sup>th</sup> century as evidenced by dated layers in Trenches 5 and 6 and probably reached their final height by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the Bell Inn was constructed in the northeast corner of the site. No remains of this were encountered, although the brick-lined soakaway in Trench 1 may be associated with it.

Recent deposits are associated with the demolition of later Bell Inn which was a single storey structure located centrally

within the site. In demolishing this structure, the site had partly been truncated.

Finds retrieved from the investigation include a range of medieval and later pottery. Most of the medieval pottery is derived from kilns at Bourne (Lincolnshire) and Grimston (Norfolk) and indicate regional trade. Deposits containing medieval pottery overly late medieval to early post-medieval deposits and indicate that the site has been subject to a high degree of re-deposition, perhaps through the dumping of deposits from elsewhere in the vicinity. In addition to the pottery, post-medieval brick and tile was also retrieved along with post-medieval glass and clay pipe. A small amount of metalwork, including a possible knife, and faunal remains were also collected.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 35 Kirkgate Street, Wisbech, as the site lay close to the core of the medieval village and over the course of a Late Saxon sea-bank.

The evaluation revealed the course of the sea-bank with marine alluvium deposited against it on its seaward side. To the northeast of the bank, evidence for deliberate dumping to heighten the ground level was found to have occurred between the medieval and post-medieval periods. A late medieval or early post-medieval channel and pit were revealed from within these dumped layers as were post-medieval features, which were generally located towards the Kirkgate Street frontage.

Finds recovered from the investigation include a quantity of medieval and later pottery as well as post-medieval brick, tile, clay pipe and glass. A small number of

metal items were also retrieved along with an assemblage of faunal remains.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr E Peggs of Kempston Homes Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Sally Croft, Senior Archaeologist (HER), Cambridgeshire County Council, provided background information. Dave Start allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble  
 Site Staff: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Matt Gault, Liz Murray  
 Surveying: Dale Trimble  
 Finds Processing: Denise Buckley  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
CHER	Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
MCB	Monument Cambridgeshire





Figure 1 - General location map





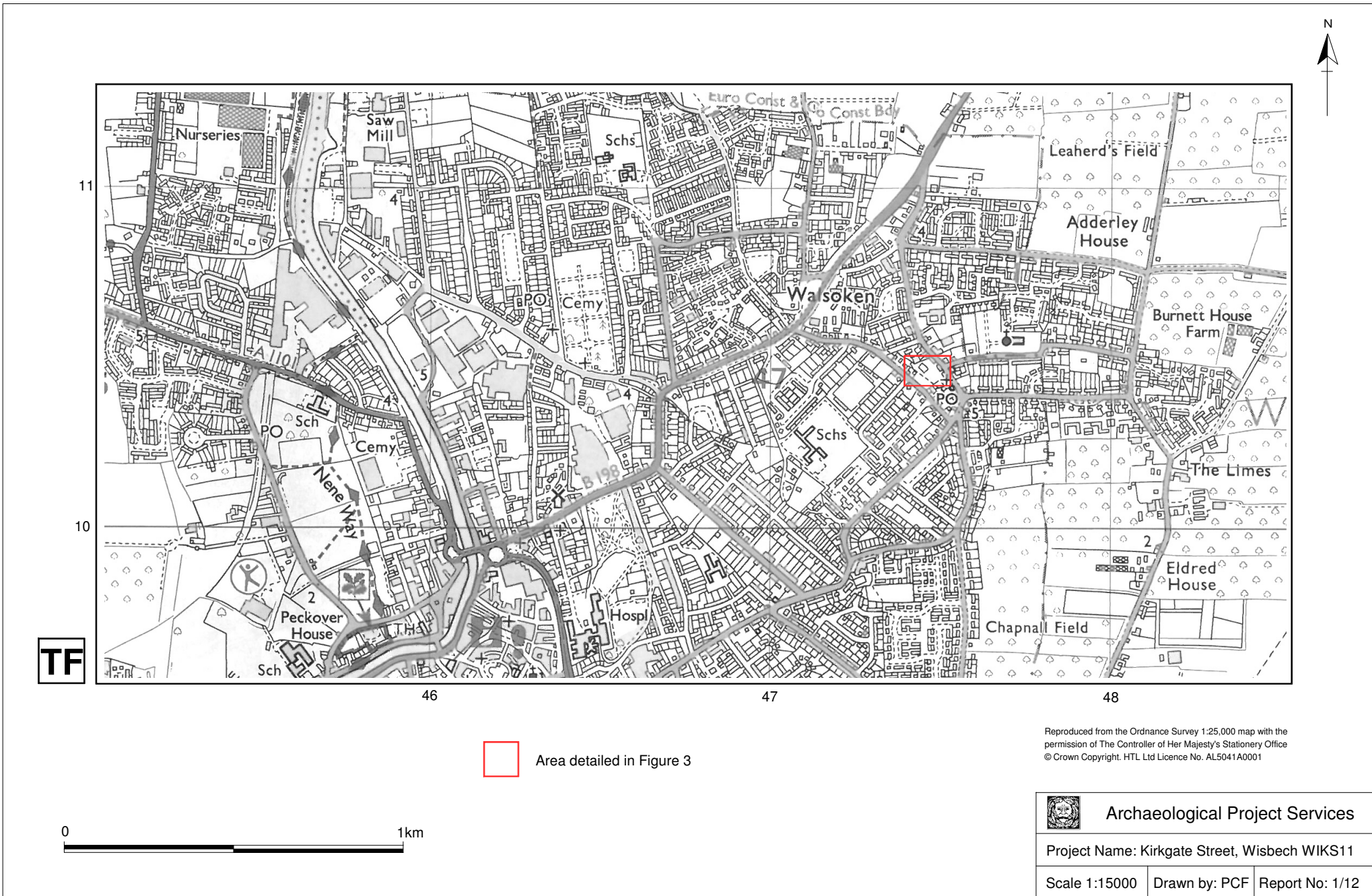


Figure 2 - Site location plan



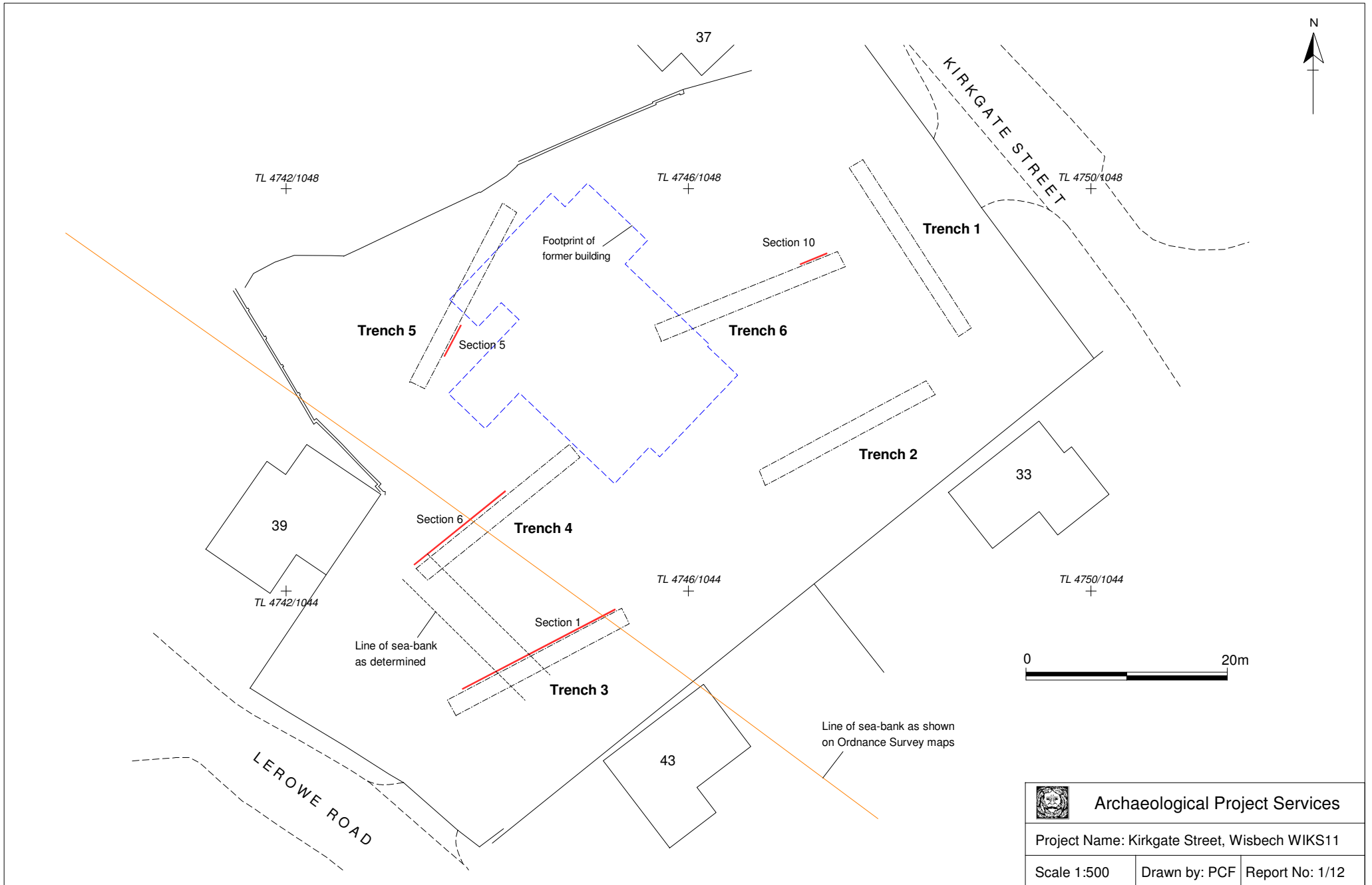

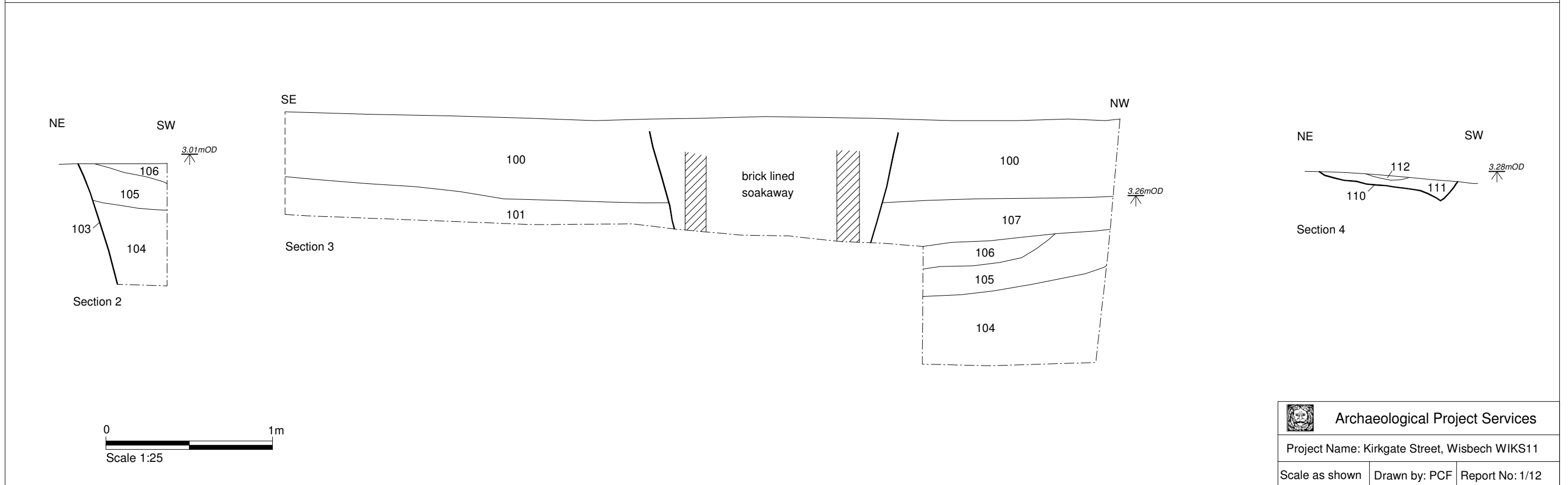
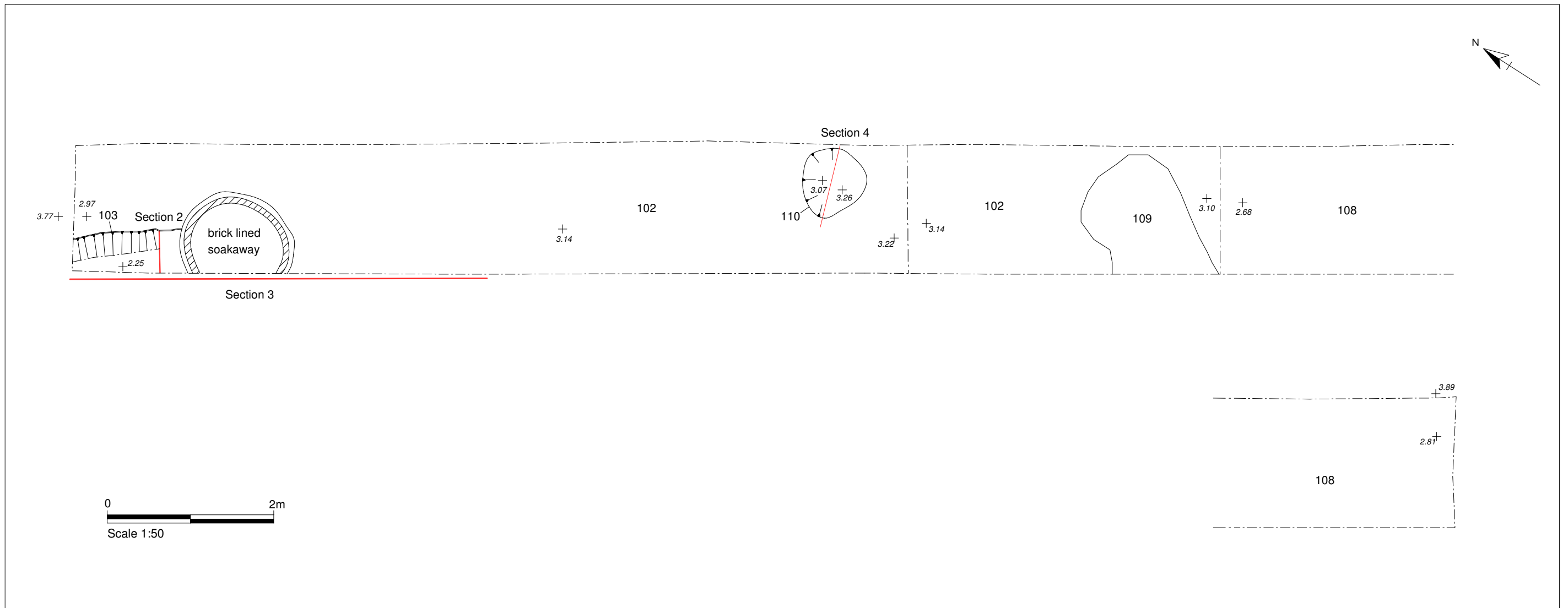


Figure 3 - Trench location plan

 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: Kirkgate Street, Wisbech WIKS11		
Scale 1:500	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 1/12




 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: Kirkgate Street, Wisbech WIKS11		
Scale as shown	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 1/12

Figure 4 - Trench 1: Plan and sections



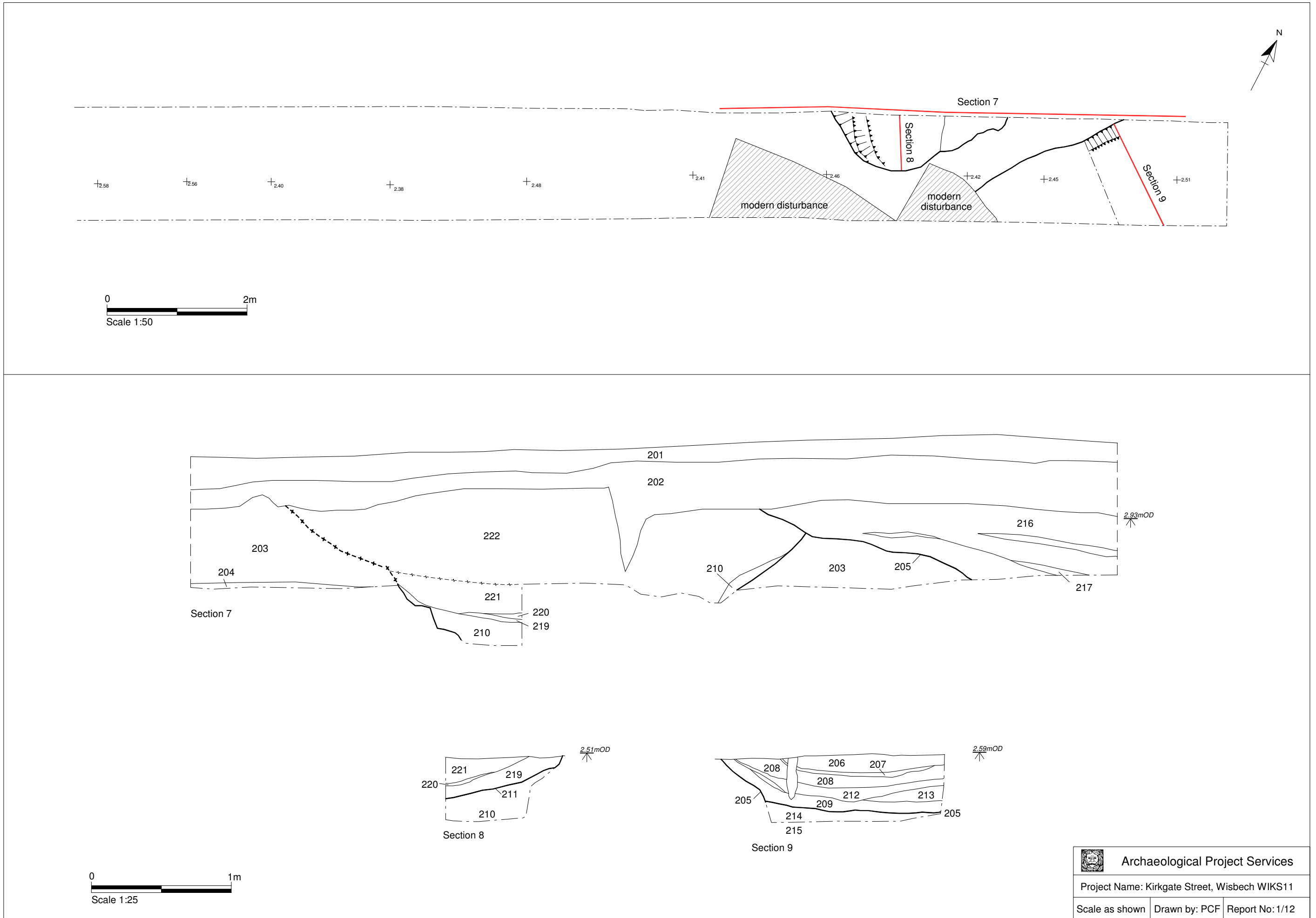

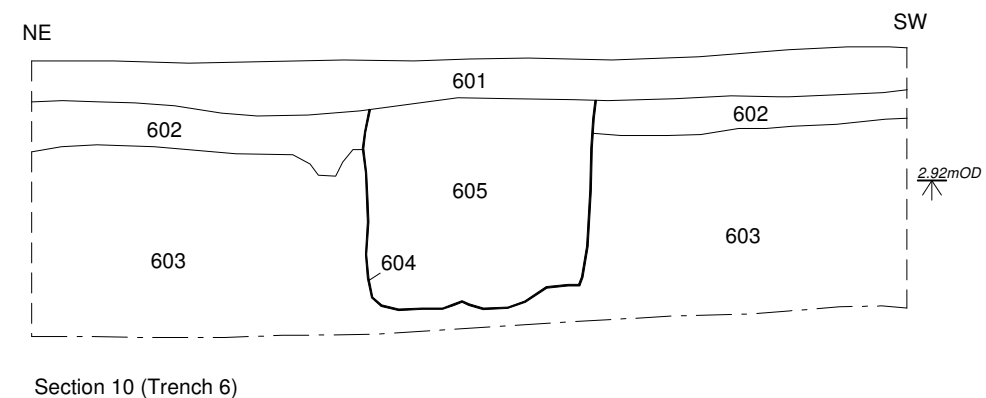
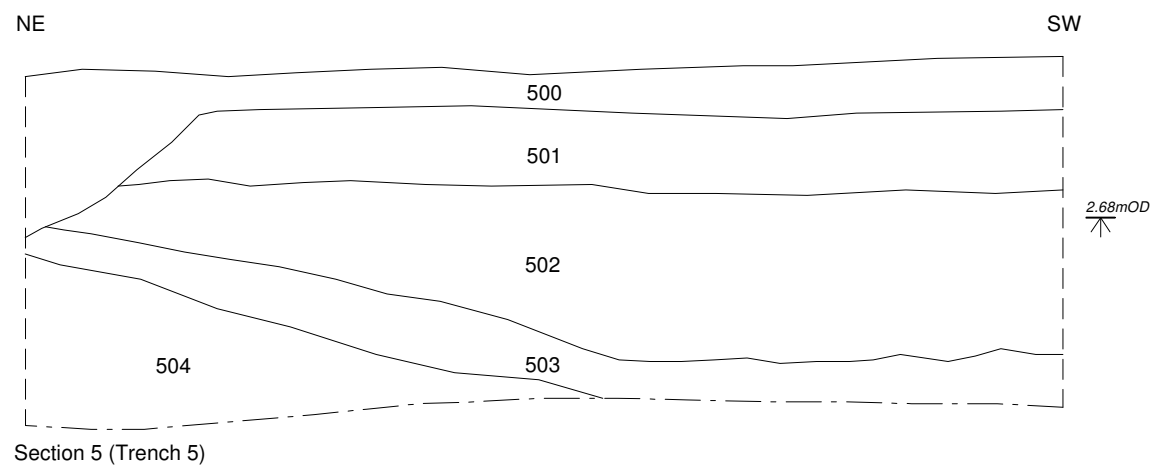
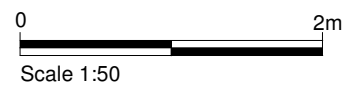
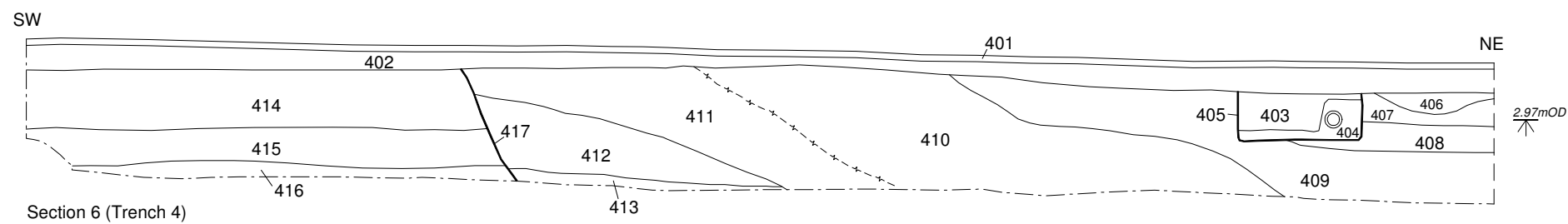
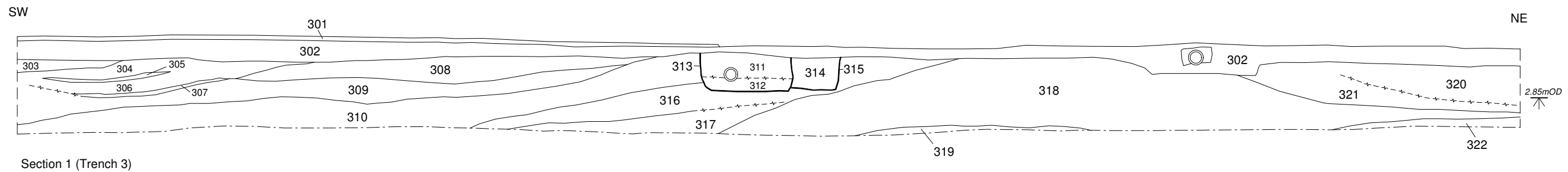


Figure 5 - Trench 2: Plan and sections

 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: Kirkgate Street, Wisbech WIKS11		
Scale as shown	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 1/12






 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: Kirkgate Street, Wisbech WIKS11		
Scale: as shown	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 1/12

Figure 6 - Trenches 3 to 6: Sections





Plate 1 – General view across the site, looking northeast



Plate 2 – Trench 1 after excavation, looking northwest (n.b. north arrow pointing in wrong direction)





Plate 3 – Trench 1, Section 3, looking southwest



Plate 4 – Trench 1, Section 2, looking southeast (n.b. north arrow in wrong position)





Plate 5 – Trench 1, Section 4 showing pit (110), looking southeast



Plate 6 – Trench 2 after cleaning, looking northeast





Plate 7 – Trench 2 showing the deposits in channel (205), looking northeast



Plate 8 – Trench 2, Section 7, looking north



Plate 9 – Trench 3, Section 1 showing the sea-bank (318), looking west







Plate 10 – Trench  
4, Section 6,  
looking north



Plate 11 – Trench  
5, Section 5,  
looking southeast



Plate 12 – Trench 6,  
Section 10 showing  
pit (604), looking  
northwest



## **Appendix 1**

### **LAND AT THE BELL, 35 KIRKGATE STREET, WISBECH - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

#### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *An archaeological investigation comprising an archaeological evaluation is required as a condition of planning at the site of the The Bell, 35 Kirkgate Street, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, identified as of significant archaeological potential based upon an assessment of the records held in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of a programme of archaeological trial trenching in order to characterise any archaeological remains which may be preserved on the site.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the scheme of works. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

#### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological investigation comprising a programme of trial trenching at The Bell, 35 Kirkgate Street, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire at NGR TL 47461045.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview.
  - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
  - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
  - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

#### **3 SITE LOCATION**

- 3.1 Wisbech is located 5km south of March in the Fenland district of Cambridgeshire. The proposed development site lies on the eastern outskirts of the town at The Bell, 35 Kirkgate Street, centred on NGR 547462 310452. The development area comprised an irregular shaped area of 0.39 hectares which extends between Kirkgate Street to the northwest and Lerowe Road to the southeast.

#### **4 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The archaeological investigations are required as a condition of planning permission (application F/YR09/0778/F).
- 4.2 The brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team requires a programme of evaluation in advance of the development.

#### **5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 5.1 The site lies at around 2.5 aOD on tidal flat deposits which overly Ampthill clays (Hodge et al 1984).

#### **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW**

- 6.1 Much of the prehistoric land surface in the Wisbech area is completely buried beneath Iron Age

and later silts. The impact of successive freshwater and marine flooding episodes on human occupation is well documented through the work of the Fenland Survey in Cambridgeshire (Hall et, al 1996) and neighbouring Norfolk (Silvester, 1988).

- 6.2 Roman sites in the form of salterns and settlements are known in the Wisbech area but none of these known sites are located close to the proposed development. This may be due to concealment by later silts as sites of this date are known from the eastern side of the neighbouring parish of Walsoken in Norfolk where the overlying deposits are thinner (Silvester, 1988). Some of these sites in Walsoken lie within 1.5km of the proposed development.
- 6.3 The site lies within the historic village of Walsoken, with the medieval parish church of All Saints lying approximately 250m to the east of the proposed development. The site of Holy Trinity Chapel is thought to lie some 300m to the southwest, and this site also contained a hermitage and a hospital. The full description of this record (CHER 04013) in the Cambs CC Historic Environment Record is as follows '*R5, Holy Trinity Chapel (NR) (Site of) (NAT). (Not mentioned in OS ONB 1925). O1, There was a chapel dedicated to the Holy Trinity in the parish of Walsoken, at a place called Stathe-Dytch, to which was attached a gild or fraternity, ruled by a master or warden and usually termed the Hospital of the Holy Trinity. Clay (R4) suggests that the foundation date was before 1200AD but the earliest documentary evidence seems to be an indulgence by Pope Urban (1378 - 1390). It was dissolved in 1545. A cast of a C15 seal in the BM shows the hospital as being of two storeys and with an embattled tower. A hermitage dedicated also to the Holy Trinity is recorded at Walsoken about 1390*'.
- 6.4 The line of a sea bank extends northwest to southeast across the proposed development. This is likely to be of late Saxon or medieval date and demonstrates the marsh conditions prevalent during these periods.

## **7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.
- 7.2 The objectives of the scheme of works will be to:
  - 7.2.1 Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
  - 7.2.2 Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
  - 7.2.3 Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
  - 7.2.4 Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
  - 7.2.5 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site
  - 7.2.6 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
  - 7.2.7 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

## **8 TRIAL TRENCHING**

- 8.1 Reasoning for this technique
  - 8.1.1 Trial trenching enables the in situ determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site
  - 8.1.2 It is proposed that 6 trenches each measuring 20m x 1.6m will be excavated comprising a 5% sample of the proposed development, laid out as shown on Fig 1.

## 8.2 General Considerations

- 8.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation
- 8.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21).
- 8.2.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. All archaeological features exposed will be excavated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Office. The investigation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established
- 8.2.5 Open trenches will be marked by hazard tape attached to road irons or similar poles. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.

## 8.3 Methodology

- 8.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 8.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers.
- 8.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 8.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.
- 8.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
  - the site before the commencement of field operations.
  - the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
  - individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.

- groups of features where their relationship is important.
- the site on completion of field work

## **9 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

9.1 During the investigation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. If necessary the specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required

## **10 POST EXCAVATION**

### **10.1 Stage 1**

10.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the scheme of works will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

10.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

### **10.2 Stage 2**

10.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

10.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

### **10.3 Stage 3**

10.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the scheme of works will be prepared.

10.3.2 This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the scheme of works.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the scheme of works.
- A text describing the findings of the scheme of works.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the scheme of works findings.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

## **11 REPORT DEPOSITION**

11.1 An unbound draft copy of the report will be supplied initially to the County Archaeological Office for comment. Copies of the final report will be sent to: the client; the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office (2 copies); and the Cambridgeshire County Historic Environment Record.

## **12 ARCHIVE**

12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the evaluation will be sorted and ordered in accordance with the procedures in the Society of Museum Archaeologists' document Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums (1994), and any additional local requirements, for long-term storage and curation. This work will be undertaken by the Finds Supervisor, an Archaeological Assistant and the Conservator (if relevant). The archive will be deposited within an approved County store as soon as possible after completion of the post-excavation and analysis. Accession number ECB3711 has been assigned to the archive.

12.2 If required, the archive will be microfilmed. The silver master will be transferred to the RCHME and a diazo copy will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record.

12.3 Prior to the project commencing, the Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Office will be contacted to obtain their agreement to receipt of the project archive and to establish their requirements with regards to labelling, ordering, storage, conservation and organisation of the archive. An event number for this project will be obtained from Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record..

12.4 Upon completion and submission of the evaluation report, the landowner will be contacted to arrange legal transfer of title to the archaeological objects retained during the investigation from themselves to the receiving museum. The transfer of title will be effected by a standard letter supplied to the landowner for signature.

## **13 PUBLICATION**

13.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

13.2 Notes on the investigation will be submitted to the journals: Rutland Record and Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society.

13.3 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: Britannia for discoveries of Roman date, and Medieval Archaeology for findings of medieval or later date.

## **14 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

14.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office. As much notice as possible will be given in writing to the curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

## **15 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES**

15.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

15.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the

archaeological curator.

- 15.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 15.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

## **16 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

- 16.1 It is expected that the fieldwork programme will last four days and utilise 12 person days of staff time.
- 16.2 An archaeological project office or supervisor with experience of such monitoring will undertake the work.
- 16.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.

## **17 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

- 17.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust  Roman – Alex Beeby, in house IFA bursary trainee mentored by Barbara Precious independent Roman pottery specialists.  Anglo-Saxon and Medieval – A Boyle APS  Post-medieval - G Taylor, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts	G Taylor APS or J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Matilda Holmes, independent faunal remains specialist
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham or V Fryer, Independent Specialists
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

## **18 INSURANCES**

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

## **19 COPYRIGHT**

- 19.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the



Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

- 19.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 19.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 19.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

## 20 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Hall, D., 1987, *The Fenland Project, Number 2: Cambridgeshire Survey, Isle of Ely and Wisbech*. East Anglian Archaeology **No. 79**

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## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

#### *Trench 1*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
100	Firm to friable dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.5m thick	Topsoil
101	Firm mid yellowish grey sandy silt, 0.22m thick	Subsoil
102	Firm light brownish yellow sandy silt	Dumped deposit
103	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 0.54m wide by >0.74m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Indeterminate feature
104	Soft and friable mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of (103)
105	Soft and friable mid orange brown sandy silt	Fill of (103)
106	Soft and friable mottled mid yellowish and greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of (103)
107	Soft and friable mid greyish brown sandy silt, 0.13m thick	Made-ground
108	Firm to friable mid brownish grey sandy silt	Dumped deposit
109	Compacted light yellow silty sand	Dumped deposit
110	Oval feature, 0.84m long by 0.75m wide by 0.23m deep, steep to shallow sides and irregular base	Pit
111	Soft and friable dark brownish grey sandy silt	Fill of (110)
112	Firm to friable mid brownish grey sandy silt with frequent clinker	Fill of (110)

#### *Trench 2*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
201	Friable dark blackish brown clayey silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
202	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Subsoil
203	Friable to soft light pinkish brown silt, 0.7m thick	Alluvial deposit
204	Loose and friable light orange brown sandy silt, 50mm thick	Alluvial deposit
205	Curvilinear feature, aligned north-south, >2.54m long by >2m wide by 1m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Channel
206	Soft mid brownish grey and greenish yellow organic silt with frequent charcoal	Fill of (205)
207	Friable and soft black organic silt	Fill of (205)
208	Soft bands of black and mid grey silt	Fill of (205)
209	Friable mid greyish brown silt	Fill of (205)
210	Loose and friable mid orange sand and mid greyish brown silt, >0.3m thick	Dumped deposit
211	Sub-circular feature, 3.66m long by >0.82m wide by 0.95m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Pit
212	Friable and soft black organic silt	Fill of (205)
213	Soft bands of black and mid grey silt	Fill of (205)
214	Plastic mid pinkish grey clay, 0.15m thick	Alluvial deposit
215	Firm and friable light orange brown sand	Alluvial deposit
216	Soft bands of black and mid grey silt	Fill of (205)
217	Friable and soft black organic silt	Fill of (205)
218	Friable black silt and ash	Fill of (211)

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
219	Friable mixed black silt, mid orange sand and mid to light greyish brown silt with frequent charcoal and mollusc shell	Fill of (211)
220	Friable black silt and ash	Fill of (211)
221	Friable mixed black silt, mid orange sand and mid to light greyish brown silt with frequent charcoal and mollusc shell	Fill of (211)
222	Friable light to mid greyish brown silt with frequent mollusc shell	Fill of (211)

*Trench 3*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
301	Indurated black tarmac, 50mm thick	Car park surface
302	Friable dark reddish brown sand, 0.25m thick	Make-up for (301)
303	Firm dark grey silt, 0.14m thick	Former topsoil
304	Firm mid brown silt, 0.2m thick	Alluvial deposit
305	Firm light yellowish brown silty sand, 40mm thick	Alluvial deposit
306	Firm mid brown silt, 0.16m thick	Alluvial deposit
307	Firm light yellowish brown silty sand, 40mm thick	Alluvial deposit
308	Firm mid brown silt, 0.32m thick	Alluvial deposit
309	Firm mid yellowish brown laminated sand, 0.28m thick	Alluvial deposit
310	Firm mid to light yellowish brown laminated silty sand, >0.38m thick	Alluvial deposit
311	Firm light yellowish brown sand with ceramic drain pipe	Fill of (313)
312	Firm dark reddish brown sand and gravel	Fill of (313)
313	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, ##m long by ##m wide by 0.44m deep, vertical sides and flat base	Service trench – drainage
314	Firm mid brown silt	Fill of (315)
315	Feature, 0.58m wide by 0.34m deep, vertical sides and flat base	Possible pit
316	Firm light yellowish brown sand, 0.32m thick	Alluvial deposit
317	Firm mid yellowish brown laminated sand, 0.3m thick	Alluvial deposit
318	Firm mid brown clayey silt, 0.8m thick	Sea-bank
319	Firm light brownish yellow sand, >60mm thick	Alluvial deposit
320	Firm mid greyish brown silt, 0.46m thick	Dumped deposit
321	Firm mid brown silt, 0.48m thick	Dumped deposit
322	Firm light brownish yellow sand, >80mm thick	Alluvial deposit

*Trench 4*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
401	Indurated black tarmac, 50mm thick	Car park surface
402	Friable dark reddish brown sand, 0.22m thick	Make-up for (401)
403	Firm mixed dark grey and mid brown silty sand	Fill of (405)
404	Indurated light grey concrete encasing ceramic drain pipe with frequent gravel	Fill of (405)
405	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >1.5m long by 0.96m wide by 0.36m deep, vertical sides and flat base	Service trench – drainage
406	Firm dark grey silty sand, 0.15m thick	Dumped deposit
407	Firm mid brown silty sand, 0.2m thick	Dumped deposit
408	Firm dark grey silty sand, 0.22m thick	Former topsoil

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
409	Firm mid brown silty sand, 0.52m thick	Sea-bank
410	Firm light yellowish brown sand, 0.9m thick	Sea-bank
411	Firm light brown sand, 0.62m thick	Sea-bank
412	Firm mid brown sand and mid grey silt, 0.46m thick	Sea-bank
413	Firm mid grey clayey silt, 0.12m thick	Dumped deposit
414	Firm mixed mid brownish grey clayey silt and light yellowish brown sand, 0.45m thick	Dumped deposit
415	Firm mid brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Sea-bank
416	Firm light yellowish brown sand, >0.12m thick	Alluvial deposit
417	?linear feature, 0.9m deep, steep sides, not fully exposed	Indeterminate cut

*Trench 5*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
500	Friable mid brownish grey sandy silt with modern brick and tile, 0.54m thick	Demolition deposit
501	Firm and friable mid brownish grey sandy silt, 0.26m thick	Topsoil
502	Firm mid brownish orange silt, 0.6m thick	Dumped deposit
503	Firm mid brownish grey silt, 0.17m thick	Former topsoil
504	Firm light brownish grey sandy silt, >0.58m thick	Alluvial deposit

*Trench 6*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
601	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent brick/tile and charcoal, 0.15m thick	Topsoil
602	Firm dark greyish brown silt with frequent brick/tile and charcoal, 0.1m thick	Subsoil
603	Friable mid pinkish brown silt, >0.75m thick	Dumped deposit
604	Feature, 0.72m wide by 0.74m deep, vertical sides and flat base	Pit
605	Friable dark brown/black clayey silt	Fill of (604)



## Appendix 3

### THE FINDS

#### 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). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which also covers surrounding counties. A total of 42 sherds from 33 vessels, weighing 1653 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 fabric types in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the Late Saxon/Early Medieval to the Early Modern period.

##### Condition

The condition of the pottery is mixed with both large fresh pieces and small abraded fragments present. Several vessels show signs of usage; four have internal or external soot deposits and three have internal scale or cress/uric acid concretions. Soot and scale are good evidence of use over a hearth or fire, whereas the presence of uric acid suggests the vessel has contained urine.

##### Results

Table 1, Summary of the Post Roman Pottery

General Period	Cname	Full Name	Earliest Date	Latest Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Late Saxon to Early Medieval	ST	Stamford Ware	970	1200	1	1	2
Early Medieval	EMHM	Early Medieval Handmade ware	1100	1250	7	3	151
Medieval	BOUA	Bourne-Type Fabrics A, B, C, E, F and G	1150	1400	7	5	387
	MEDLOC	Medieval Local Fabrics	1150	1450	1	1	48
	GRIMT	Grimston-Type ware	1200	1550	5	5	45
Late Medieval to Post Medieval	GRIL	Late Grimston ware	1350	1550	1	1	16
	BOU	Bourne "D" ware	1350	1650	8	6	276
	CIST	Cistercian-Type Ware	1480	1650	3	2	34
Post Medieval	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	1500	1650	3	3	65
Post Medieval-Early Modern	BL	Black-Glazed Wares	1700	1850	1	1	18
Early Modern	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	1690	1900	1	1	598
	CREA	Creamware	1770	1830	1	1	6
	WHITE	Modern Whiteware	1850	1900	3	3	7
<b>Total</b>					<b>42</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1653</b>

##### Provenance

Pottery was recovered from four of the excavated trenches; these were numbers 1, 2, 5 and 6.

##### Trench 1

Linear feature [103] and pit [110] produced pottery from within trench 1

##### Trench 2

Pottery came from fills within channel [205] and pit [211] as well as alluvial layer (203) and dumped deposit (211).

*Trench 5*

Material was retrieved from buried topsoil layer (503) within this trench.

*Trench 6*

A single feature, pit [604] yielded material here.

**Range**

*Trench 1*

Linear feature [105] produced two sherds in Bourne 'D' Ware (BOU) dated to the 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> century and a single sherd of Stamford Ware (ST). Pit [110] also produced a piece of modern Whiteware (WHITE) of early modern date.

*Trench 2*

An interesting group of pottery, all of which dates to the medieval to post medieval periods, came from Trench 2.

*Channel [209]*

Three fills, (208), (209) and (212) within Channel [205] produced a total of fifteen sherds from eleven vessels. There is an unusually wide range of dates represented within this feature perhaps suggesting a high level of redeposition.

Types from fill (209) include Early Medieval Handmade Ware (EMHM), medieval Bourne ware (BOUA) and Grimston Type Ware (GRIMT). All of these types could be broadly contemporary with a 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> century date likely. The EMHM in particular is unlikely to have been produced after the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Interestingly, the pottery from fill (212) is quite different in character from that in (209). Context (212) yielded pieces from two drinking cups in Cistercian Ware (CIST) and two jugs in post medieval Bourne 'D' Ware (BOU). At least some of this pottery is certainly later than that from (209) by at least 100 years, the Cistercian ware in particular is unlikely to predate the late 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The very different nature of the material from (209) and (212) is curious given their close stratigraphic proximity within the feature. It may be that the earlier material was redeposited within the cut or it could be that (209) lies within an earlier cut which could not be seen in section.

A single sherd of late Grimston ware, the only sherd from (208) was probably produced post 1350 but could be as late as the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century.

*Other deposits yielding pottery*

Dump deposit (210) yielded two large sherds from jugs in medieval Bourne Ware (BOUA) dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century and Pit [211] produced five fresh sherds from a single jar in Early Medieval Handmade Ware (EMHM) dating to 12<sup>th</sup> - mid 13<sup>th</sup> century.

*Trench 5*

A single sherd from a jar or bowl in Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE) was recovered from buried topsoil (503). This piece is probably of 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century date.

*Trench 6*

Dumped deposit (603) yielded three sherds from two individual jars; one in Early Medieval Handmade Ware (EMHM) and the second in Bourne Medieval Ware (BOUA); these date to late 12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> century. A range of pottery of various periods also came from pit [604], including examples of BOUA, medieval Grimston Type ware (GRIMT), and early modern fabrics including English Stoneware (ENGS), Creamware (CREA), Blackware (BL) and Modern whiteware (WHITE).

**Potential**

As well as some early modern pottery, there is a good range of domestic types indicating activity on the site in the 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The most promising feature to yield material was a channel excavated within Trench 2; this gave pottery spanning both of these periods. Further excavation on the site, particularly focused in the areas around Trench 1-2 and 5-6 is likely to produce further material which would help to show the chronology of occupation and activity here.



## Summary

A good variety of post Roman pottery dating from the early medieval through to the post medieval period was recovered from stratified deposits. There is a broad range of material dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Much of the earliest pottery seems to have been redeposited in 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> century contexts, perhaps during an intense phase of activity on the site at that time. Some modern pottery was also collected.

## CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

*By Alex Beeby*

### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). A total of 19 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 1696 grams was recovered from the site.

### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Archive Catalogue 2, with a summary in Table 2 below.

### Condition

The material is a mix of large fresh pieces and smaller fragments.

### Results

*Table 2, Summary of the Ceramic Building Material*

Cname	Full Name	NoF	W(g)
BRK	Brick	10	1597
CBM	Ceramic Building Material	7	50
PNR	Peg, Nib or Ridge tile	2	49
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>1696</b>

### Provenance

#### *Trench 1*

Ceramic building material was recovered from pit [110] in Trench 1.

#### *Trench 2*

Channel [205], alluvial deposit (203) and dump deposit (210) yielded material from Trench 2.

#### *Trench 5*

A single fragment came from buried topsoil (503) in this trench.

#### *Trench 6*

Three pieces of ceramic building material were retrieved from pit [604] in Trench 6.

### Range

#### *Trench 1*

A single fragment from a post-medieval flat roofing tile was recovered from pit [110] in Trench 1.

#### *Trench 2*

The majority of the material was recovered from Trench 2 and these pieces seem to form a homogeneous fabric group. Alluvial deposit (203), dump deposit (210) and channel [205] all produced ceramic building material of this type, including fragments from at least six bricks (BRK), in a fine oxidised calcareous fabric with a white mineral deposit or surface wash. This clay is similar to the distinctive pottery fabric used in the post-medieval pottery industry at Bourne and these pieces may well be of a similar date.

The bricks are relatively large, crudely formed, handmade types perhaps dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and are therefore broadly contemporary with at least some of the pottery also recovered from Trench 2. It is possible that this material represents waste material from a phase of levelling, building and/or rubbish disposal in the post medieval period. None of the bricks have adhered mortar deposits suggesting that they may have been

disposed of before their intended final use, perhaps as damaged items unsuitable for construction.

#### *Trench 5*

A single piece of surfaceless miscellaneous Ceramic Building Material (CBM) in a Gault clay fabric came from buried soil (503); this is likely to be post-medieval in date.

#### *Trench 6*

Various pieces of surfaceless miscellaneous Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and a single fragment from a post-medieval peg, nib or ridge tile (PNR) were recovered from pit [604] in Trench 6.

#### **Potential**

The only ceramic building material of special note came from Trench 2, where it is likely to be waste or make-up material from construction or levelling work on the site.

#### **Summary**

A range of post-medieval ceramic building material was recovered during the evaluation, mostly from deposits in Trench 2.

### **FAUNAL REMAINS**

*By Paul Cope-Faulkner*

#### **Introduction**

A total of 61 (2021g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts. Fifty mollusc shells weighing a total of 220g were also retrieved.

#### **Provenance**

The animal bone was retrieved from the fill of a ditch (105), the fill of a pit (111), the fill of a channel (205), some (209), a dumped deposit (210), (211) and (212).

The mollusc shells were recovered from a dumped deposit (210), a pit (211) and the fill of a pit (212).

#### **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*

<b>Cxt</b>	<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Element</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>W (g)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
105	cattle	metacarpus	1	89	at least 3 individuals
	sheep/goat	pelvis	4	66	
	medium mammal	rib	1	2	
	medium mammal	long bone	1	2	
	bird	coracoid	1	1	
111	medium mammal	radius	1	7	notched cut
205	cattle	humerus	1	336	scored and snapped
	cattle	metacarpal	1	82	
	cattle	calcaneum	1	43	
	large mammal	rib	1	40	
	large mammal	scapula	1	43	
209	sheep/goat	maxilla	1	20	
	medium mammal	long bone	1	2	

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Number	W (g)	Comments
210	cattle	skull	1	60	
	cattle	mandible	1	161	
	cattle	tibia	1	20	unfused
	cattle	ulna	1	14	
	cattle	metatarsus	1	19	small
	cattle	incisor	1	1	
	large mammal	long bone	7	110	prob same bone
	large mammal	rib	1	15	
	sheep/goat	skull	4	36	
	sheep/goat	mandible	2	72	2 individuals
	sheep/goat	molar	1	8	
	sheep/goat	incisor	1	1	
	sheep/goat	metatarsus	1	15	
	sheep/goat	metacarpus	2	21	2 individuals
	medium mammal	rib	1	2	burnt
medium mammal	long bone	1	4		
211	large mammal	pelvis	1	27	
	sheep/goat	mandible	4	177	4 individuals
	deer	tibia	1	24	
	medium mammal	metacarpus	1	7	
	medium mammal	long bone	1	<1	
212	cattle	humerus	1	179	
	cattle	pelvis	1	139	
	cattle	scapula	1	31	
	cattle	calcaneum	1	34	
	large mammal	rib	2	34	
	large mammal	unidentified	1	23	
	sheep/goat	humerus	1	23	
	sheep/goat	femur	1	29	
	medium mammal	scapula	1	1	

Table 4, The mollusc shells

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
210	oyster	shells	T&B	2	7	
	cockle	shell		2	2	
	mussel	shell		2	7	
211	oyster	shells	bottom	1	4	
	cockle	shell		36	64	
	mussel	shell		3	10	
212	oyster	shells	bottom	1	118	
	cockle	shell		2	5	
	mussel	shell		1	3	

Note: 'T&B' = top and bottom

### Summary

The animal bone is dominated by cattle and sheep/goat of many individuals, which may also account for the number of large and medium sized mammals in the assemblage. This and the large size of animal fragments may indicate that this is primary butchery waste, although only a few butchery marks were noted. In addition to the cattle and sheep/goat, a single deer bone and a bird bone were also recovered.

All of the mollusc shells are from marine species and are food waste.

All of the material is archive stable. If further work is required at the site, the assemblage may warrant re-examination.

### GLASS

By Gary Taylor

### Introduction

Three pieces of glass weighing a total of 174g was recovered.

**Condition**

Although naturally fragile the glass is in good condition. Most of it exhibits iridescent decay.

**Results**

Table 5, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
111	Colourless window. slight iridescence, 19 <sup>th</sup> century	1	1	late 19 <sup>th</sup> -mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century
	Olive green bottle, late 19 <sup>th</sup> -mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century	1	3	
503	Green bottle base, moderate kick up, very heavy iridescence	1	170	18 <sup>th</sup> century

**Provenance**

The glass was recovered from a pit fill (111) and a former topsoil (503).

**Range**

The small glass assemblage includes fragments of windows and bottles. All of it is late post-medieval to early modern in date.

**Potential**

Other than providing dating evidence the glass is of limited potential.

**CLAY PIPE**

By Gary Taylor

**Introduction**

Analysis of the clay pipes followed the guidance published by Davey (1981) and the material is detailed in the accompanying table.

**Condition**

The clay pipe is in good, archive-stable condition.

**Results**

Table 6, Clay Pipes

Context no.	Bore diameter /64"					NoF	W(g)	Comments	Date
	8	7	6	5	4				
503	1		1		2	4	20	Includes Oswald type G6 bowl, c. 1660-80, possibly unused. Mixed	19 <sup>th</sup> century
605				1	2	3	2	Includes fragment of late 18 <sup>th</sup> -mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century bowl	19 <sup>th</sup> century
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>		

**Provenance**

The clay pipes were retrieved from a former topsoil (503) and a pit fill (605). They are probably all local Wisbech products.

**Range**

Clay pipes of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date were recovered and the assemblage includes both bowls and stems. These include a complete bowl of Oswald's general type 6, dating to the period c. 1660-80 (Oswald 1975, 37-9), which appears to be unused.

**Potential**

Other than providing dating evidence the clay pipes have limited potential. Although not obvious production waste the complete bowl from (503) appears to be unused, this may signify the presence of a pipe kiln somewhere in the vicinity of the site.

**OTHER FINDS***By Gary Taylor***Introduction**

Five other finds weighing a total of 93g were recovered.

**Condition**

The other finds are in good condition but all the metal is corroded.

**Results***Table 7, Other Materials*

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
105	iron	nail	1	7	
209	iron	nail	1	12	
	stone	Natural stone	1	47	
212	iron	nail	1	8	
	iron	Knife handle? scale tang, retains rivets and traces of wood on both sides	1	19	

**Provenance**

The other finds were recovered from the fill of a possible ditch (105) and the fills of a pit (209 and 212).

**Range**

Most of the other finds are of iron, with several nails collected. There is also a probable knife handle. In addition there is a piece of stone. Although apparently natural this could be a fragment of building stone.

**Potential**

The other finds are of limited potential.

**SPOT DATING**

The dating in Table 8 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

*Table 8, Spot dates*

Cxt	Date	Comments
105	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century	
111	late 19 <sup>th</sup> -mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Based on glass
203	Late 15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century	
205	Mid 14 <sup>th</sup> -Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> century	Based on a single sherd
209	16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century?	Based on single piece of CBM; also contains large amount of pottery dated 13th-14th
210	16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century	Based on CBM
212	Late 15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century	
219	12 <sup>th</sup> -M13th century	Based on a single sherd
503	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Based on clay pipe
603	L12th -13 <sup>th</sup> century	
605	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Based on clay pipe

**ABBREVIATIONS**

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

## REFERENCES

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## ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

*Archive catalogue 1, Post Roman Pottery*

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Dec	Part	Comment	Date
1	105	BOU	Smooth	?	1	1	3		BS	Thick green glaze	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>
1	105	BOU	Slightly sandy	Jug or Jar	1	1	13		BS	Dark external salt surface	
1	105	ST	B/C	?	1	1	2		BS	Flake; thick clear glaze	
1	111	WHITE		Cup	1	1	3		BS	Blue exterior glaze	L19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>
2	203	BOU	Slightly sandy	Jug	1	1	49		Handle with UHJ	Strap handle with central groove; large vessel	
2	203	BOU	Smooth	Jug	1	1	41		handle	Strap handle with raised rib	L15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>
2	203	GRE		?	1	1	4		BS		
2	203	GRIMT		Jug	1	1	4		BS		
2	208	GRIL		Jug	1	1	16		BS		M14 <sup>th</sup> -M16 <sup>th</sup>
2	209	BOUA	B	Jug	2	1	75	Applied horizontal pressed strip	BS; Base; Handle	Strap handle with central groove; burnt; abraded; spalled; sooted exterior	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>
2	209	EMHM		Jar	1	1	3		BS	Sooted	
2	209	GRIMT		Jug	1	1	8		BS	Misfired glaze; internal cress/scale deposit	
2	209	GRIMT		Jug	1	1	17	Applied horizontal pressed strip	BS	Burnt?; splash glaze; ID?	
2	209	MEDLOC	Reduced; fine; rare Q up to 0.5mm; poorly mixed laminated clay; rare Ca grits up to 2mm; common fine mica	Jug	1	1	48		BS	Poorly finished; misfired pocked green glaze; thick internal scale/uric acid deposit; unusual fabric	
2	210	BOUA	B	Jug or Jar	1	1	37		Rim	Hammerhead rim	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>
2	210	BOUA	B/C	Jug	1	1	246		Handle	V large vessel; strap handle with multiple grooves; stabbed; misfired glaze	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Dec	Part	Comment	Date
2	212	BOU	Slightly sandy	Jug	3	1	151		Rim; BSS	Upright rim; strap handle with central groove; thick white wash	
2	212	BOU	Smooth	Jug	1	1	19		Rim	Hollow everted rim; white wash	
2	212	CIST		Drinking cup	1	1	14		Rim with UHJ	Fine walled; high fired	
2	212	CIST		Drinking cup	2	1	20		BSS	Joining sherds; orange fabric; Pale glaze	
2	212	GRIMT		Jug	1	1	13		Handle	Thin oval handle; spalled glaze	L15th-16th
2	219	EMHM		Jar	5	1	142		Base; BSS	Thick external soot deposit; spalled fabric; wheel finished	12 <sup>th</sup> -M13th
5	503	GRE		Jar or Bowl	1	1	32		Rim	Complex rim; abraded; micaceous	16 <sup>th</sup> -M17th
6	603	BOUA	A	Jar	2	1	23		BSS	Sooted with thick internal deposit; internal scale	
6	603	EMHM		Jar	1	1	6		BS	Thick internal soot deposit	L12 <sup>th</sup> -13th
6	605	BL	Dark orange	Jar or Bowl	1	1	18		BS		
6	605	BOUA	B	Jug	1	1	6		UHJ	abraded	13 <sup>th</sup> -14th
6	605	CREA		?	1	1	6	Multicoloured glaze with hand painted detail	BS		
6	605	ENGS		Large Jar	1	1	598		BS		M-L 19th
6	605	GRE		Jar or Bowl	1	1	29		BS	abraded	
6	605	GRIMT		Jug	1	1	3		BS		
6	605	WHITE		Cup or Bowl	1	1	3	Blue Transfer print; floral design	BS		M-L 19th
6	605	WHITE		Flat?	1	1	1	Blue transfer print; "willow pattern"	BS		M-L 19th

## Archive catalogue 2, Ceramic Building Material

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Fabric	NoF	W(g)	Dec	Description	Date
1	111	PNR	Gault; calcareous	1	29		Flatroofer; thick grey concretion; later type	16th-17th
2	203	CBM	Oxidised; fine; calcareous	1	3		Flake; probably from post medieval brick; struck	Roman or Post Roman
2	209	BRK	Oxidised; fine; calcareous	3	64		Veg impressions on base; slop moulded; Thick white surface 'wash'	16th-17th?
2	210	BRK	Oxidised; fine; calcareous	1	409		Veg impressions on base; slop moulded	16th-17th
2	210	CBM	Oxidised; vitrified	1	29		Burnt; fragment; probably from BRK; slop moulded	
2	210	BRK	Oxidised; fine; calcareous	2	204		Thick white surface 'wash'; struck upper; slop moulded	
2	210	BRK	Oxidised; fine; calcareous	2	496		Very abraded; white surface; partially vitrified; burnt; 58mm thick; slop moulded	

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Fabric	NoF	W(g)	Dec	Description	Date
2	210	BRK	Oxidised; fine; calcareous	1	405		Struck upper; handmade; kiss marks on edge; white (salt?) surface; 63mm thick; slop moulded	
2	212	BRK	Oxidised; fine; calcareous	1	19		Thick white deposit wash - paint or whitewash?; probably same as other bricks in this group	16th-18th
5	503	CBM	Gault; calcareous	1	2		Surfaceless fragment	15th-18th
6	605	CBM	Oxidised; fine	2	7		Different fabrics; surfaceless; undated	
6	605	CBM	Gault; calcareous	2	9		Poss PNR	15th-18th
6	605	PNR	Gault; calcareous	1	20		Flatroofer; thick grey concretion; later type	16th-17th



## Appendix 4

### GLOSSARY

<b>Alluvium</b>	A deposit (usually clay, silts or sands) laid down in water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea and freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or within lakes.
<b>Context</b>	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 interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Dumped deposits</b>	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
<b>Fill</b>	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) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<b>Iron Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	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 1 <sup>st</sup> century AD.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.



## Appendix 5

### THE ARCHIVE

The evaluation archive consists of:

79	Context sheets
1	Trench record sheet
9	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix
2	Sheets of printed survey data
4	Daily record sheets
1	Box of finds

All primary records and finds 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:

Cambridgeshire County Council  
Castle Court  
Shire Hall  
Cambridge  
CB3 0AP

Accession Number: ECB 3711

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WIKS 11

OASIS Record No: archaeo11-116946

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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## Appendix 6

### OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

OASIS ID: [archaeol1-116946](#)

#### Project details

Project name	35 Kirkgate Street, Walsoken, Wisbech
Short description of the project	Evaluation of site revealed evidence of a Late Saxon sea-bank, medieval dumping, a pit and a channel, and post-medieval pits and a ditch.
Project dates	Start: 12-12-2011 End: 15-12-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WIKS 11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 3711 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	SEA-BANK Early Medieval
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	CHANNEL Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND WISBECH 35 Kirkgate Street, Walsoken
Study area	0.38 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4746 1045 51.7727947249 0.137500261292 51 46 22 N 000 08 15 E Point

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator	Dale Trimble
Project director/manager	Dale Trimble
Project supervisor	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Project Services
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey'

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land at 35 Kirkgate Street, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire (ECB 3711)
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cope-Faulkner, P.
Other bibliographic details	1/12
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Project Services
Place of issue or publication	Heckington, Sleaford
Description	A4 comb-bound with A3 drawings