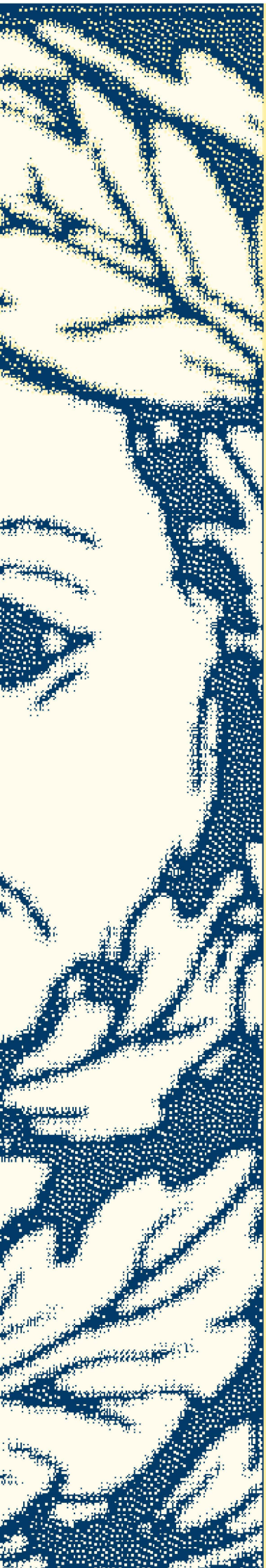


ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND EAST OF ROMAN COURT, CHURCH END, LEVERINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

(LECE 14)

Work Undertaken For
Mr Paul Missin

May 2014

Report Compiled by
Liz Murray BA (Hons)

Planning Application No: F/YR13/0908/F
National Grid Reference: TF 4462 1146
Cambridgeshire Event No: ECB4176
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-179526

APS Report No: **55/14**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

Quality Control
Land east of Roman Court,
Church End,
Leverington, Cambridgeshire
(LECE14)

Project Coordinator	Dale Trimble
Supervisor	Liz Murray
Illustration	Liz Murray
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Liz Murray

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Dale Trimble	Tom Lane
Date: 22/05/2014	Date: 23.05.2014

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken on land east of Roman Court, Church End, Leverington, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation comprised three trenches located over the proposed house footings and the purported location of the former bank.

The site lies to the west of Roman Bank, a sea defence that probably originated in the Saxon period (AD 410-1066). Parts of this earthwork are protected as a nationally important Scheduled Monument including a section located just over 200m to the southeast of the proposed development.

The investigations identified a sequence of deposits which are in part likely to represent the remnants of the defensive sea bank and an adjacent build-up of naturally formed and windblown deposits. There were also signs of extensive modern disturbance including works that heavily truncated the western edge of the bank itself.

Finds retrieved from the investigation comprise a single sherd of 11th – 12th century Thetford Type ware from the bank and several sherds of pottery, ceramic building material and a piece of clay pipe all post-medieval in date.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr P Missin to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation prior to the groundworks associated with a new domestic dwelling on land east of Roman Court, Church End, Leverington, Cambridgeshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application F/YR13/0908/F. The investigation was carried out on the 28th and 29th April 2014 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Leverington is located 15km north of March and 32km northwest of Ely, in the administrative district of Fenland, Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1).

The proposed development is located on the eastern bounds of Leverington, approximately 250m northeast of the centre of the village as as defined by the parish church of St Leonard at National Grid Reference TF 4462 1146 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are of the Wisbech Association, typically coarse silty calcareous soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 361). These are developed over a drift geology of marine clays and silts (Hall 1996, 165).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Leverington is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Saxon period to the present day. The site lies over the Roman Bank, a sea defence that enclosed the former estuary of the River Nene. Excavations of the sea bank in Norfolk showed that it was in existence prior to the 9th century (Hall 1996, 185). The section of sea bank at Leverington is considered to be the best preserved and is a Scheduled Monument (County No. 51), surviving as an earthen rampart 3.5m wide at the base, 2.7m wide at the top, and 2.4m high measured from the landward side (*ibid.)*

Leverington is first mentioned in the Curia Regis Rolls of 1210. Referred to as *Leverinton*, the name is derived from the Old English and means 'the homestead (*tūn*) of *Lēofhere's* people' (Ekwall 1989,

296).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the church of St Leonard which has elements dating from the 13th century (Pevsner 2002, 422). To the southwest of the site is the presumed site of the medieval hospital of St John the Baptist which was founded in 1487 but which had entirely disappeared by 1686 (Hall 1996, 186). To the south of the site lies Cherry Tree Hill and Rabbit Hill which, though initially thought of as barrows, are probably warrens or mounds to aid navigation along the river.

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The initial proposal was for two 1.6m wide trenches to be excavated across the development plot – a 15m long trench in the garden and 10m long trench within the housing plot. The latter was amended to two trenches within the house plot, positioned to respect the location of the proposed footings and were excavated as separate 6m and 4m long trenches.

Following excavation the surface of the opened area was examined for archaeological remains and the sides of the area cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and a section was drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

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 assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field. Topsoil had already been stripped across the house plot in order to string out the line of the foundation trenches, but was still present in the area of Trench 1.

Trench 1 *(Figs 3&4, Plates 1-5)*
Trench 1 was excavated through the proposed garden for the development, currently in use as an allotment with formal planting areas. The trench had to be located in the space available between a line of semi-mature fruit trees and the drainage trenches previously dug for the temporary accommodation at the development.

The trench was initially machined to a depth of 0.7m to a level that appeared to contain archaeology. Upon investigation it became clear that only modern cut features were present and a deeper sondage was machined to investigate whether more deeply stratified archaeological deposits were present.

In the northeast of the trench, at the base of the sondage, was a layer of light pinkish grey silt with laminations of ferrous mineralisation (109). Overlying this was a deposit of light pinkish grey silt with

lenses of clay (108) that is likely to be the remnant of the western edge of the bank. A single sherd of Thetford type ware dating from the 11th-12th century was recovered from this deposit, along with a piece of ceramic building material broadly dated to the 14th-18th century. The deposit had been truncated by modern activity [106].

To the southeast, on the landward side of the bank, the mixed silts become more homogeneous in appearance. Although there were no distinct horizons between the layers, a mid pinkish grey slightly clayey silt (110) overlying the bank material may represent a former topsoil. Further to the southwest this became a soft mid-dark greyish brown silt (103) with occasional charcoal flecks, possibly an accumulation of windblown silts, that contained both pottery and clay pipe of 17th century date.

These silts were disturbed by a large modern cut [102] at least 6m in length that is likely to be related to the construction of the former scout hut on the site – part of the backfill (104) contained a brick built soak away. A thick layer of topsoil (101), up to 0.45m thick, sealed the trench.

Trench 2 *(Figs 3&4, Plates 6-8)*
Contrary to the original trench plan, Trench 2 was aligned northeast-southwest in order to achieve the agreed amount of meterage across the site.

The trench was machined to a maximum depth of 1.1m down to a deposit of mid greyish brown silt (202), likely to be the same silts (103) as observed in the south-eastern end of Trench 1.

In the base of the trench was a deposit containing cockle shells and mineralised silt (203). A sondage excavated into this material shows that it sloped down to the northeast and overlay a layer of light greenish grey/brown silt (204). This deposit was not contained in a discrete feature but appears to be a tip line or dumped deposit sealed by the overlying deposit.

Trench 3 *(Figs 3&4, Plates 9&10)*
Aligned northwest-southeast, Trench 3 was excavated to a maximum depth of one metre. The earliest deposit encountered was the mid greyish brown silt, observed previously as (103) and (202), with occasional charcoal and CBM (303) containing glazed red earthenware of 16th – 17th century date.
This was overlain by 0.54m of a mixed deposit of mid greyish brown silts and yellowish grey silt (302) disturbed by the cut of a drain and the posthole for a fence likely to relate to the former scout hall that, until recently, was present on the site.

A deposit of dark greyish brown silt with frequent construction/demolition rubble, (301), sealed the trench.

6. DISCUSSION

The mixed deposit of silt and clay lenses observed in the northeast of Trench 1 is likely to represent an early if not original phase of the bank construction. The eastern edge of the site, and Trench 1, is located under the projected route of the earthwork, which remains extant to the immediate southeast of the site.

The laminated silts below are not indicative of topsoil deposits and infers that the bank was constructed directly onto mudflats. A piece of 11th -12th century pottery recovered from the bank deposit may suggest that the defence was constructed after this period, although the proximity of the sherd to the outer edge of the deposit could indicate that the piece was intrusive.

Previous investigations on the sea bank undertaken in Wisbech, where a full section had been excavated through the defence, (Cope-Faulkner, 2012) recorded a height for the base of the bank as 2.54m

OD. The horizon between the laminated alluvial deposits and the overlying bank material in Trench 1, was noted as 2.38m OD, suggesting that they are broadly contemporary phases of bank construction.

The silt immediately adjacent to the bank material may be the remnants of a former topsoil that developed over the defence. The origin of the silts further to the southeast is unclear, but they are likely to be formed through a variety of processes including movement of material downhill, eroded off the bank, and windblown deposits accumulated at the base of the bank .

The accumulated silt deposits were also observed in trenches 2 and 3 also located on the landward side of the sea bank. They contained pottery and other ceramic finds dating from the 16th to the 18th century.

The lack of a distinct horizon between the bank material, former topsoil and the silt layer is probably due to the transformation of deposits by natural agents including the action of plant life from above and a fluctuating water table from below that would have caused the deposits to become gleyed and homogeneous.

The post-medieval pottery in the deposit cutting the bank material suggests that the bank was truncated in this period, during an episode of landscaping. Cartographic evidence shows that the plot in which the development is located had been 'cut' into the bank prior to the 19th century.

The sloping layers observed in the sondage in Trench 2 are also likely to represent deposits on the former mud flats that became the landward side of the sea bank following its construction, which were then in turn sealed by the windblown silts.

7. CONCLUSION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken on land east of Roman Court, Church End, Leverington, as the site lay adjacent to the Saxon sea bank, part of which is a Scheduled Monument.

A thick layer of mixed silt and clay in the east of the site is likely to represent the base of the bank, constructed directly upon the inter-tidal mud flats. The defence was truncated by post-medieval features that cut into the western edge of the bank.

Silts present elsewhere on site are likely to be formed through the erosion of the bank and/or Aeolian processes. Several areas of disturbance relate to modern construction, probably associated with the former scout hut that stood on the site.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr P Missin for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Liz Bates kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
Site Supervisor: Liz Murray
Finds processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Liz Murray
Post-excavation analysis: Liz Murray

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cope-Faulkner, P, 2012 *Archaeological Evaluation on land at 35 Kirkgate Street,*

Wisbech, Cambridgeshire Unpublished APS Report No **1/12**

Ekwall, E, 1989 *A Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names* (4th edition)

Hall, D, 1996 *The Fenland Project, Number 10: Cambridgeshire Survey, Isle of Ely and Wisbech*, East Anglian Archaeology **79**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales No. **13**

IfA, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Pevsner, N, 2002 *Cambridgeshire*, The Buildings of England

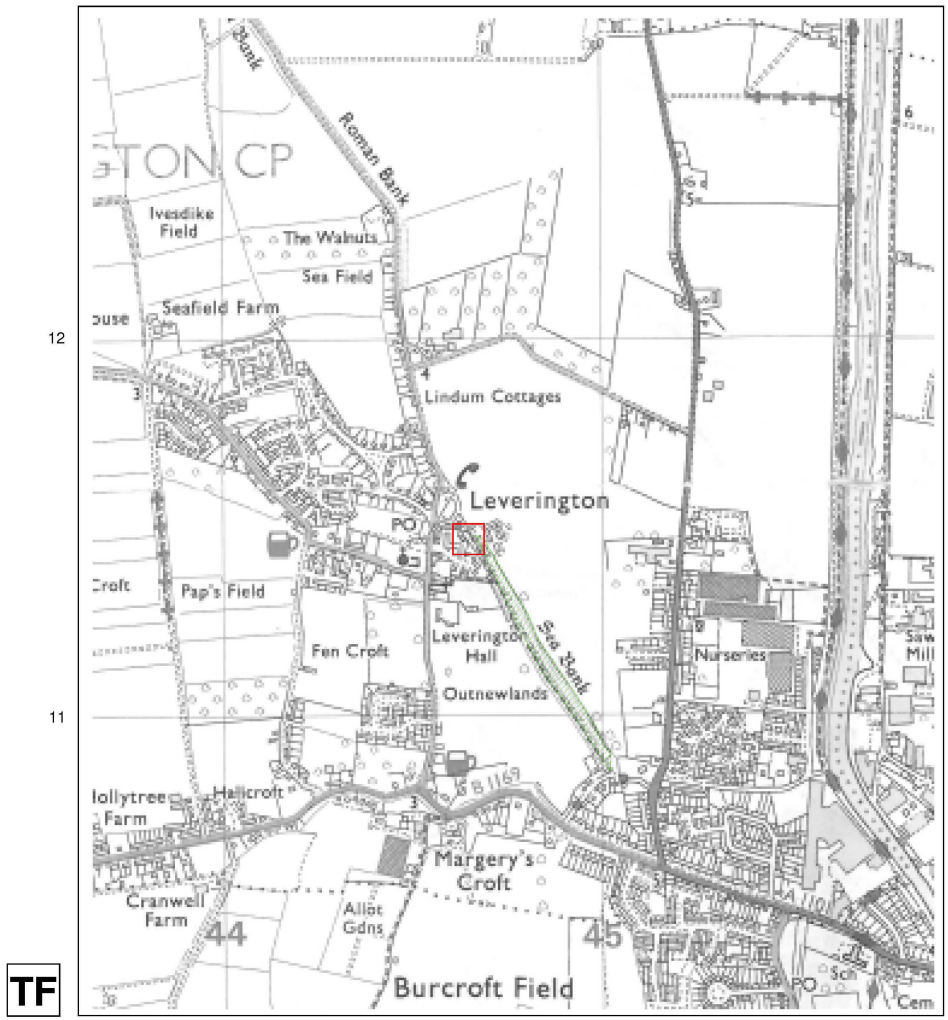
11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IfA Institute for Archaeologists

CBM Ceramic Building Material

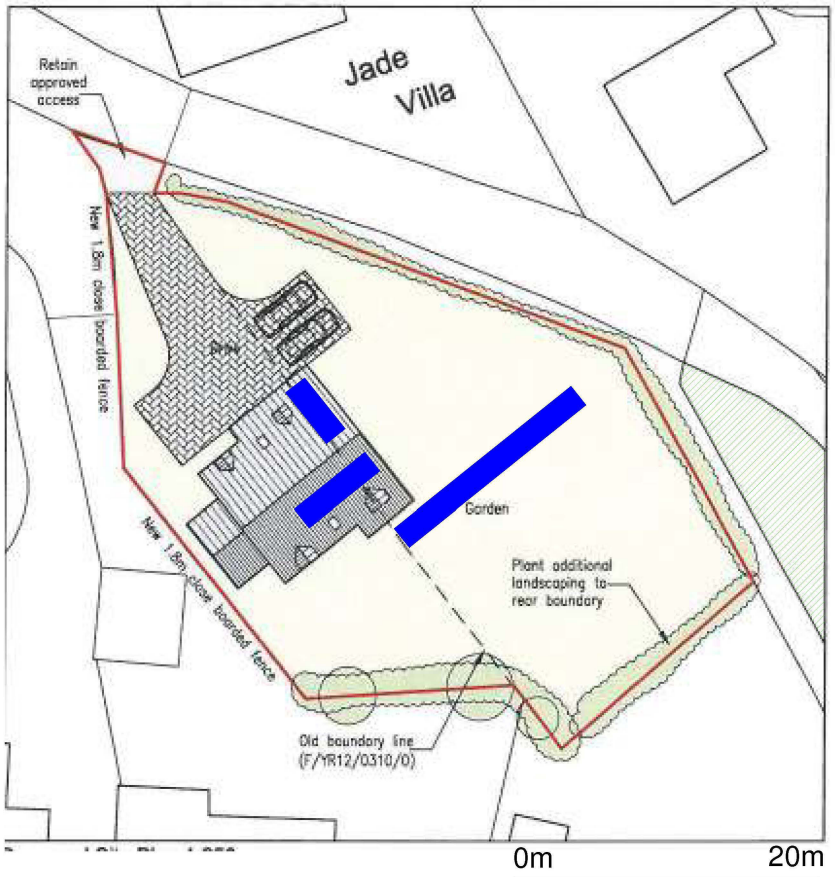
Figure 1 General location map



Site location

Scale 1:15000

0 1km



Extant remains of the former sea bank

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Roman Court, Leverington LECE14		
Scale as shown	Drawn by: LM	Report No: 55/14

Figure 2: Site location and layout

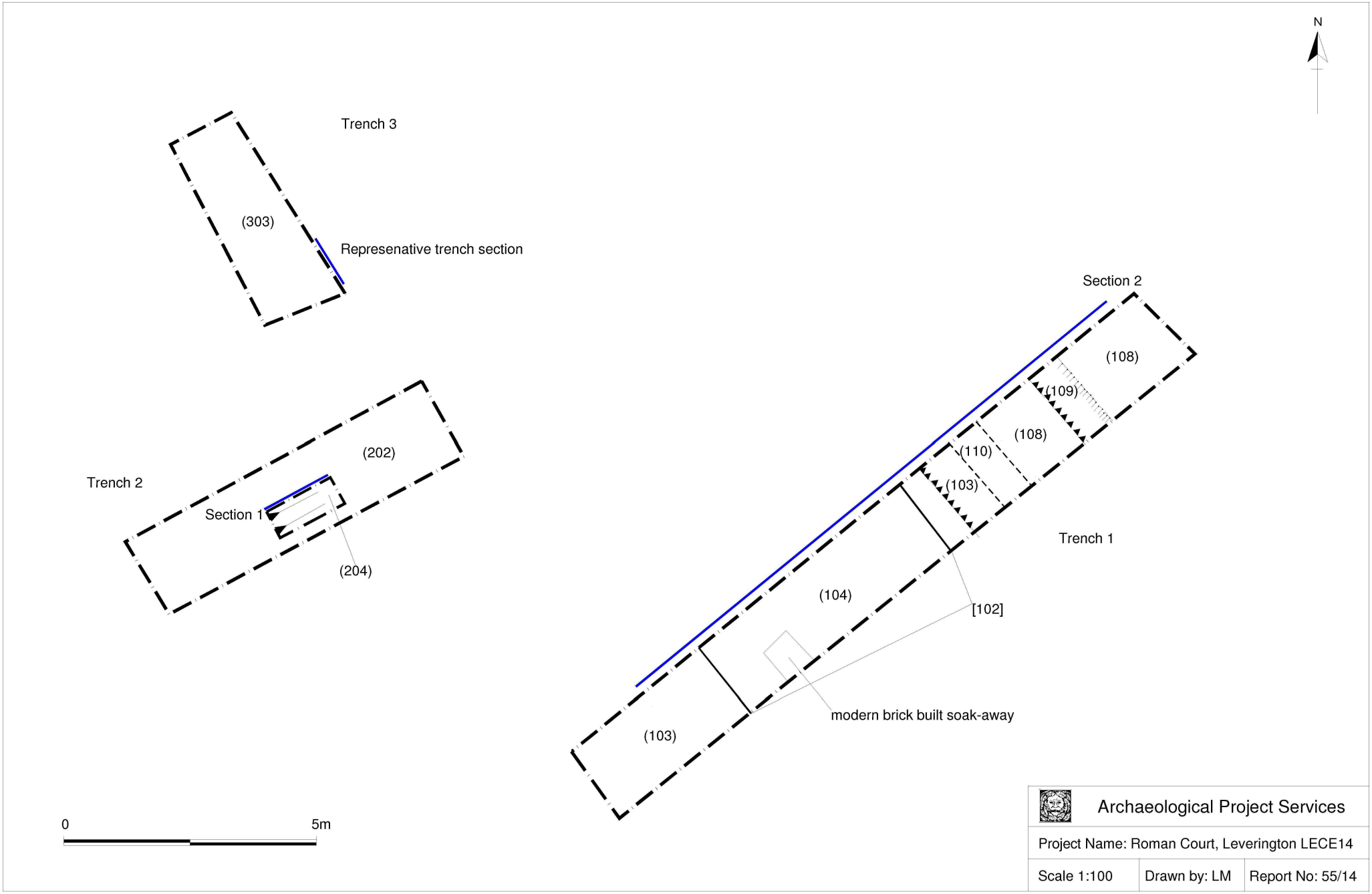


Figure 3: Trench plan

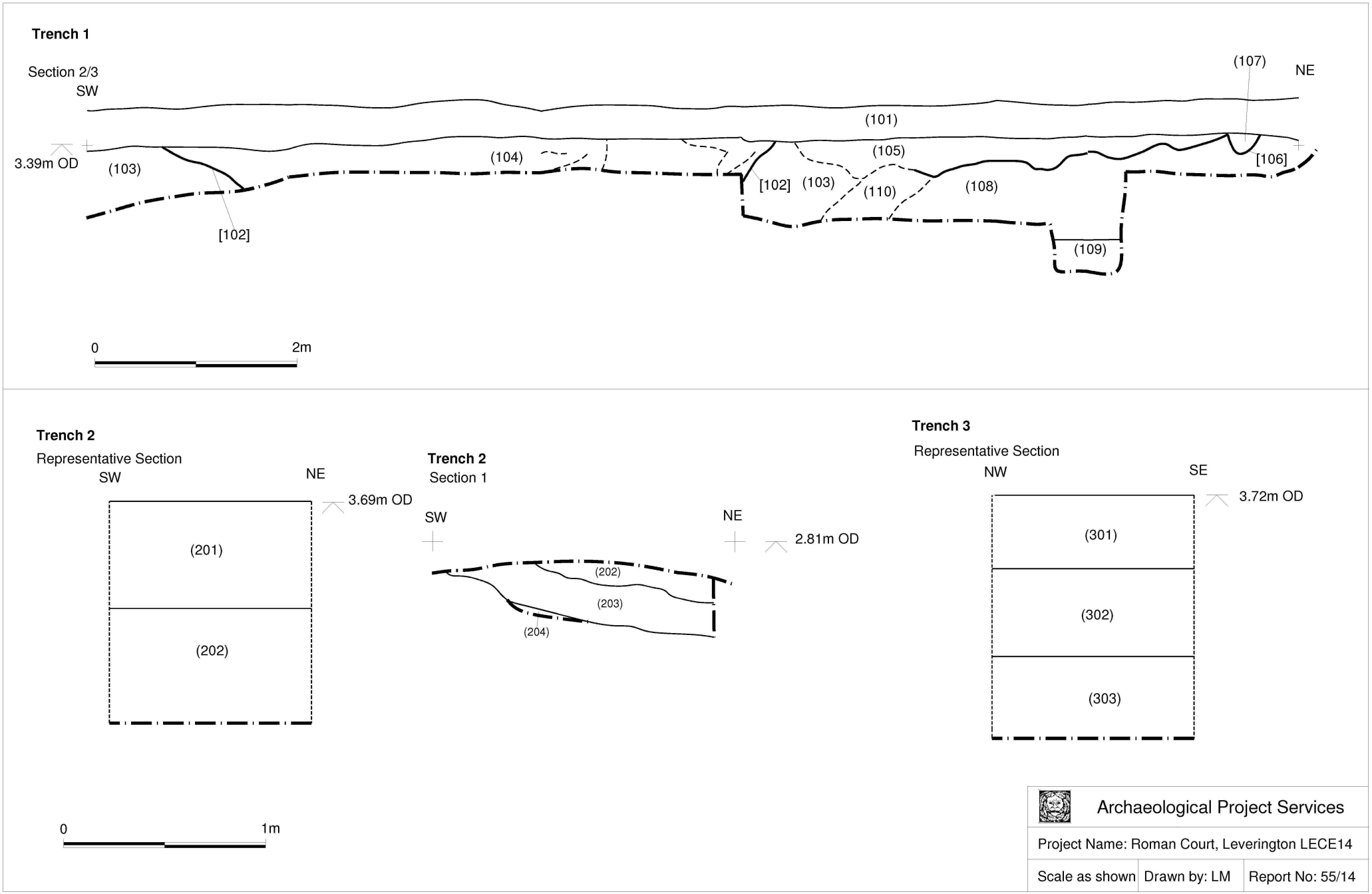


Figure 4: Sections

Plates

Plate 1 - Trench 1, general view looking northeast

Plate 2 – Northeast end of Trench 1 with bank material in the foreground with the silts becoming gradually darker to the left of the shot, looking west

Plate 3 – Bank material (108) with laminated deposits (109) just visible at the base of the sondage, looking northwest

Plate 4 – Northeast edge of modern cut [102] visible in the left hand side of the section, looking northwest

Plate 5 – Windblown silts (103) in southwest end of Trench 1 with a large amount of modern disturbance, looking northwest

Plate 6 – Trench 2, general view, looking northeast

Plate 7 – Representative section in Trench 2, looking northwest

Plate 8 – Laminated layers observed in sondage in Trench 2, looking northwest

Plate 9 – Trench 3, general view, looking northwest

Plate 10 – Representative section, Trench 3, looking northeast

APPENDIX 1

LAND EAST OF ROMAN COURT, CHURCH END, LEVERINGTON

SPECIFICATION FOR

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PREPARED FOR

MR PAUL MISSIN

APRIL 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 SUMMARY

1.1 *An archaeological investigation comprising an archaeological evaluation is required as a condition of planning in advance of development east of Roman Court, Church End, Leverington.*

1.2 *The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, close to of the Sea Bank which is protected as a Scheduled Monument (SM CB51). There is firm evidence that the Sea Bank was constructed during the Late Saxon period as part of a system of sea defences around the.*

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 on land east of Roman Court, Church End, Leverington, Cambridgeshire, centred on NGR TL 4462 1146.

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 Leverington lies on the northwest outskirts of Wisbech in the administrative district of Fenland in north Cambridgeshire. The proposed development is located on eastern bounds of Leverington, east of Roman Court and off Church End, approximately 250 northeast of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church and centred on NGR TF 4474 1139.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 The archaeological investigations are required as a condition of planning permission (application F/YR13/0908/F) for residential development of the comprising construction of a dwelling, garage and access.

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 3.0m above OD on tidal flat deposits which overly ampthill clays (Hodge et al 1984).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 The Fenland has long been recognised as an important archaeological landscape, containing superimposed evidence of settlement, ritual and agricultural remains dating from the prehistoric period onwards.

6.2 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).

6.3 Roman sites in the form of salterns and settlements are known in the Wisbech area but none of these are located close to the proposed development. This is probably 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.

6.4 The line of 'Roman Bank', or the 'Sea Bank' lies on the eastern boundary, or even slightly within the development area. This earthwork is protected as a nationally important Scheduled Monument (SM CB51).

6.5 The 'Roman Bank' is thought to have originated as part of a sea defence system during the Saxon period. The earliest documentary reference to this monument dates to 1178 and already describes the bank as 'old'. Investigations undertaken by the Fenland Survey have shown that the bank overlies part of a middle Saxon site at Tilney St. Lawrence and excavations at Terrington St. Clement and West Walton in Norfolk have demonstrated that the earthwork was in existence at least by the late Saxon period (Hall and Coles, 1994).

6.6 In addition the Cherry Tree Hill Round Barrow, also a Scheduled Monument lies adjacent to the west side of the Sea Bank approximately to the northwest of the proposed works (SM 265, CHER 04003). Although known as a barrow it seems highly unlikely that the mound relates to funerary activities. The prehistoric land surface is deeply buried in this area and there are no known Roman sites in the area with which it can be associated. Mounds were

generated as part of medieval salt workings and an association with the sea bank cannot be ruled out. The site of St. John the Baptists medieval hospital lies to the south and there a records of a medieval saltworks directly to the north (CHER 03960).

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 two 1.6m wide trenches measuring 15m and 10m long ill be excavated 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 ***** 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 2 days and utilise 3 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.

Task	Body to be undertaking the work
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

English Heritage, 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*. London.

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

R. J. Silvester., 1988, The Fenland Project, Number 3: Norfolk Survey, Marshland and the Nar Valley. East Anglian Archaeology **No. 79**

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1997 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation*.

The Victoria County History of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely. Volume 4. Reprinted 1967, 229-231

Specification: Version 1, April 23rd 2014

APPENDIX 2

Context Summary

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
101	1	Dark greyish brown silt with frequent modern pottery inclusions	Modern topsoil/ garden soil
102	1	Cut of modern feature, probably associated with construction or demolition of former scout hall, no full profile observed	Modern cut probably related to construction
103	1	Soft, mid-dark greyish brown silt, with occasional charcoal flecks	Windblown/colluvial silts
104	1	Mottled deposit of light pinkish grey silt mixed with dark greyish brown silt with moderate charcoal and ceramic building material (CBM) fragments	Fill of modern cut [102]
105	1	Mid-dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt with lenses of greyer more compact silt and frequent cbm and charcoal flecks	Layer of modern silts, may be the fill of a shallow levelling cut of the bank
106	1	Cut of a narrow linear only observed in section, up to 0.3m wide x 0.2m deep	Narrow linear cut
107	1	Fill of [106], fill similar to/same as (105)	Fill of [106]
108	1	Compact to friable, light-mid pinkish grey silt with small lenses of clay, does not appear to be alluvial	Sea defence bank material
109	1	Laminated sands and silts, containing bone and pot	Deposits observed below (108) appear to be alluvial in nature
110	1	Mid pinkish grey slightly clayey silt no distinct horizon between (108) or (103)	Former topsoil formed on the bank

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
201	2	Dark greyish brown silt with frequent inclusions plastic, glass and CBM	Topsoil/ demolition/ construction rubble
202	2	Mid greyish brown silt with occasional charcoal and cbm fragments	Windblown silts
203	2	Layer observed in sondage in base of trench comprising cockle shells, mid red and dark brown silts, occasional bone and charcoal	Tip layers/ accumulations of material
204	2	Light greenish grey/brown silt, firm	Silt layer observed below (203)

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
301	3	Dark greyish brown silt with frequent rubble, CBM, glass, plastic etc. Demolition rubble/ levelling material	Topsoil/ demolition ruubble
302	3	Dark/mid greyish brown silts mixed with yellowish grey silt, very mixed deposit	Levelling layer/garden soil
303	3	Mid greyish brown silt with occasional charcoal and CBM	Windblown silts

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 can also be used to record material from surrounding counties. A total of five sherds from five vessels, weighing 170 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 Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to the Post Medieval period.

Condition

The condition of the material is mixed with pieces of various size recovered. Two pieces are burnt or have soot over a broken edge; this effect is probably due to rubbish disposal activities. A further fragment is externally sooted, perhaps due to use over a hearth or fire.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Sub Fab	Form	Part	Description	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
1	103	PGE	Pale Glazed Earthenware	Ca	?	BS	Burnt; flake	17th-M18th	1	1	2
1	105	BERTH	Brown Glazed Earthenware		Bowl	BS		M16th-18th	1	1	12
1	108	THETT	Thetford Type ware		Jar	BS	Sooted exterior	11th-M12th	1	1	3
3	303	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware		Jug	Base	Heat affected glaze; pale internal deposit; soot over break	16th-M17th	1	1	105
3	303	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware		Jug	Neck with UHJ	Curved rim		1	1	48
								Total	**5**	**5**	**170**

Provenance

Pottery was retrieved from layers (103) in Trench 1 and equivalent deposit (303) in Trench 3. Other contexts which produced pottery, both in Trench 1, include layer (108) and fill (105) within linear feature [106].

Range

There is a range of Post Medieval pottery types. Layer (103/303) produced fragments of Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE), and Pale Glazed Earthenware (PGE), while linear feature [106] yielded an additional piece of Brown Glazed Earthenware (BERTH). These are common domestic varieties in use between the 16th and mid 18th centuries. A 17th

century date can be hypothesised for (103/303), whilst a broader mid 16th to 18th century range is suggested from feature [106].

A single fragment of Saxo-Norman Thetford type ware (THETT), from deposit (108), is likely to have been produced in the 11th to mid 12th centuries.

Potential
The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary
A range of Post Medieval ceramic types were recovered during the evaluation. These pieces, came from a feature and layers in Trenches 1 and 3. In addition, a single sherd of Saxo-Norman material was also retrieved from an earlier deposit in Trench 1.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL
By Alex Beeby

Introduction
All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002). A total of five fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 336 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 Table 2 below.

Condition
The material is fragmentary and most fragments are also abraded. Two pieces are heat affected, perhaps from use or reuse within an oven or kiln or other industrial structure. One of these pieces, that from (108), could be a floor tile, although it is crudely made for such an item and it may have been manufactured specifically to line some such structure.

Results
Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Description	Date	NoF	W(g)
1	105	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; fine calcareous	Fenland brick fabric; slop moulded; corner/edge pieces from different items of brick; 1 pc mortar adhered; 1pc sooted; abraded	Post Medieval - 16th-19th	3	114
1	105	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; fine calcareous	Partially vitrified; fuel ash slag on only remaining area of surface; Fenland fabric; abraded		1	171
1	108	RTMISC	Miscellaneous Brick or Tile	Oxidised; fine calcareous	Fenland fabric; Heat affected upper surface; just 32mm thick; form BRK or reused FLOOR?; struck upper; slop moulded; knife trimmed?	Later/Post Medieval - 14th-18th	1	51
						Total	**5**	**336**

Provenance
Ceramic building material was recovered from fill (105) within linear feature [106] and deposit (108). All the material came from Trench 1.

Range
There are five small pieces of ceramic building material, all of which are in a soft, oxidised, calcareous 'Fenland' type fabric. This fabric is typical of Post Medieval dated ceramic building material within this area, particularly bricks. The are pieces from at least four bricks here, as well as a single fragment from a brick or floor tile.

Potential
The ceramic building material should be retained as part of the site archive. The fragments are in a stable condition and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary
A total of five fragments of ceramic building material, mostly brick pieces of Post Medieval date, were recovered during the evaluation. All of these items came from deposits in Trench 1.

FAUNAL REMAINS
By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction
A total of 7 (227g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

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 bone was retrieved from a layer of silt (105), banks material (108), an alluvial deposit (109) and a layer of windblown silt (303).

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
105	large mammal	scapula	-	3	27	all join
108	dog	mandible	L	1	8	
109	large mammal	skull	-	1	8	
303	cattle large mammal	metatarsus mandible	- -	1 1	167 17	

Summary
As a small assemblage, falling below the minimum of 300 bones for meaningful analysis, there is little to comment upon. The bone is archive stable and should be retained for that purpose.

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 condition.

Results
Table 4, Clay Pipes

Context no.	Bore diameter /64"					NoF	W(g)	Comments	Date
	8	7	6	5	4				
103		1				1	8	stem with partial heel	17th century

Provenance
The clay pipe was recovered from probable windblown silts (103). It is probably a fairly local product, perhaps made in nearby Wisbech.

Range
A single stem, with partially surviving heel, probably dating from the 17th century was recovered.

Potential
Other than providing some indication of dating, the clay pipe is of limited potential and could be discarded.

OTHER FINDS
By Gary Taylor and Denise Buckley

Introduction
Seven items weighing 860g were recovered.

Condition
The other finds are in moderate-good condition.

Results
Table 5, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
108	Iron	unidentified, possible machinery part	4	756	post-medieval??
	Slag	undiagnostic iron slag, possibly from smithing	2	63	
303	Slag	undiagnostic iron slag, possibly from smithing	1	41	

Provenance
The other finds were recovered from deposits (108) and soils (303).

Range
A number of iron articles, perhaps all from one object, were recovered from (108). Corroded and encrusted, they are not clearly identifiable. however, the largest piece has a fairly flat side with a large boss protruding from it. This might suggest the object is perhaps a machinery part, but this is a tentative identification.

Several pieces of iron slag were also recovered. These are undiagnostic but may be from smithing.

Potential
The other finds are of limited-moderate potential. however, the slag implies iron-working, perhaps smithing, occurring in the vicinity.

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

Table 6, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
103	17th century	

108	14th-18th century	Based on CBM; also includes a metal object which may be Post Medieval in date and a Saxo-Norman pottery sherd
303	16th-Mid 17th century	

ABBREVIATIONS

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

REFERENCES

~ 2002, *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, version 3.2 [internet]. Available at <http://www.tegula.freeserve.co.uk/acbmg/CBMGDE3.htm >

Hillson, S, 2003 *Mammal Bones and Teeth. An introductory guide to methods of identification* (London)

Lyman, RL, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy,* Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology (Cambridge)

Schmid, E, 1972 *Atlas of Animal Bones for Prehistorians, Archaeologists and Quaternary Geologists* (Amsterdam, London, New York: Elsevier)

Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

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.
Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
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].
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
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.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
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.
Mesolithic	The ‘Middle Stone Age’ period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Neolithic	The ‘New Stone Age’ period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
Palaeolithic	The ‘Old Stone Age’ period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 500000 - 11000 BC in Britain.

Post hole	The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the post into the ground.
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.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
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
Transformed	Soil deposits that have been changed. The agencies of such changes include natural processes, such as fluctuating water tables, worm or root action, and human activities such as gardening or agriculture. This transformation process serves to homogenise soil, erasing evidence of layering or features.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Trench record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
2	Daily record sheet
6	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix

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:

Cambridgeshire County Council
Castle Court
Shire Hall
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

Accession Number:	ECB4176
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	LECE14
OASIS Record No.:	archaeol1-179526

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.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: archaeol1-179526

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation on land east of Roman Court, Church End, Leverington, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	A three trench evaluation on land adjacent to the extant remains of the former Saxon sea defence known as Roman Bank. Less than 250m to the south-east of the site the earthwork is protected as a nationally important Scheduled Monument. The bank material was observed in the east of the site overlying the laminated silts of the former mud flats. Elsewhere the silts recorded are likely to be evidence of a topsoil that formed over the bank and an accumulation of material formed by erosion of the earthwork and windblown deposits collecting against the defence.
Project dates	Start: 28-04-2014 End: 29-04-2014
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4176 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	F/YR13/0908/F - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Current Land use	Other 1 - Allotment
Monument type	BANK (EARTHWORK) Early Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND LEVERINGTON Land east of Roman Court, Church End, Leverington, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	PE13 5DB
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 4462 1146 52.6811349729 0.139569913892 52 40 52 N 000 08 22 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 2.38m Max: 2.38m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Archaeological Project Services
Project design originator	Dale Trimble
Project director/manager	Dale Trimble
Project supervisor	LIZ MURRAY
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Physical Archive ID	ECB4176
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Project Services
Digital Archive ID	LECE14
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Paper Archive ID	ECB4176
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation on land east of Roman Court, Church End, Leverington, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Murray, L
Other bibliographic details	APS Report No. 55/14
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Project Services
Place of issue or publication	Heckington

Entered by	Liz Murray (info@apsarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	22 May 2014

OASIS: