
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND AT BROADWAY SHOPPING CENTRE,
MALTING SQUARE,
YAXLEY,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
(YAMS 15)**

Work Undertaken For
Erne Properties Ltd

July 2015

Report Compiled by
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Planning Application No: 13/00105/FUL
National Grid Reference: TL 1861 9259
Cambs HER Event No: ECB 4496
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-218279

APS Report No: **69/15**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control
 Land at Broadway Shopping Centre,
 Malting Square,
 Yaxley,
 Cambridgeshire
 YAMS 15

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Date: 21-7-15.	Date: 28/7/15

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Malting Square, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation was undertaken in advance of proposed commercial development at the site.

To the northeast of the site an Iron Age-Roman settlement has been identified and Iron Age ditches has been recorded to the southwest. Medieval ditches, pits and quarries have also been found close to the site.

The evaluation revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and modern deposits in all three trenches. No archaeological features were present.

No finds were retrieved.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as *'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate'* (CifA 2014).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Erne Properties Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of proposed extensions to existing retail units, as a condition of planning permission

(application 13/00105/FUL). An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out between 1st and 3rd July 2015 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Senior Archaeologist, Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Yaxley is located approximately 2.5km south of Peterborough (Fig. 1). The site is situated 1.2km northeast of the historic core of Yaxley at the Broadway Shopping Centre, to the east of Lansdowne Road, centred on National Grid Reference TL 1861 9259 (Fig. 2).

Yaxley lies on the edge of the Cambridgeshire fens at a height of 15-20m OD sloping down to the south. Soils at the site are Hanslope Association calcareous pelosols (Hodge et al. 1984, 209). These are developed upon a drift geology of glaciolacustrine deposits which seal a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The site is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Iron Age to the present day. Possible prehistoric post holes have been identified 100m to the south (Rees 2013, ECB 4010). Archaeological investigations 650m to the northeast of the site, revealed Iron Age settlement which may have continued into the Roman period (Taylor and Chapman 2005, MCB 16368). Late Iron Age ditches, two possibly forming an enclosure, were recorded 50m southwest of the site (Haskins 2012).

Yaxley is first mentioned in the 10th century, when it was transferred to the newly founded Thorney Abbey. The name derives from Old English and means

Cuckoo Wood/Clearing (Ekwall 1989, 543). At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, Yaxley had a church and a priest (Williams and Martin 2002).

The medieval core of Yaxley lies to the southwest of the site and is centred on the 13th century church of St Peter which has Norman architectural elements (Pevsner 2002). Medieval quarry pits were excavated 100m south of the site at Park Close (Rees 2013, ECB 4010). Medieval pits and ditches and a post-medieval cobbled surface were revealed 350m to the southwest at Middletons Road (Barlow and Thompson 2010).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was 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.

The objectives were to:

- Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
- Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
- Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
- Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site

- Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
- Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Three trenches measuring 5m by 1.6m were excavated to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of the underlying natural geology, as appropriate (Fig. 3).

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken by a 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 location of the excavated trenches was plotted with a survey grade differential GPS.

5. RESULTS (Figs 4, 5)

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.

Natural deposits on the site comprised yellowish brown clayey silt with flint and chalk. There were no archaeological features in the trenches.

Trench 1 (Plate 2)

In this trench, the natural deposit (105) was overlain by 0.21m thick mid brown clayey silt subsoil (104). A 0.22m thick layer of limestone hardcore (103) had been laid over this. Above it was a 0.19m thick layer of rubble (102) topped by 60mm thick turf/topsoil (101) (Fig 5, Section 1).

Trench 2

In Trench 2, the natural deposit (205) was overlain by a very similar sequence of deposits comprising 0.2m thick mid brown clayey silt subsoil (204), 0.2m thick limestone hardcore (203) and 0.2m thick rubble (202) overlain by 0.12m thick turf/topsoil (201) (Fig 5, Section 2; Plate 3).

Trench 3 (Plate 4)

In this trench, the natural deposit (305) was overlain by a thicker (0.34m) layer of mid brown clayey silt subsoil (304). The same 0.2m thick layer of limestone hardcore (303) had been laid over this above which was a much thinner 20mm thick layer of rubble (302). This was topped by 0.13m thick turf/topsoil (301) (Fig 5, Section 3).

6. DISCUSSION

In all three trenches, the natural clayey silt with flint and chalk was overlain by layer of subsoil, probably the former agricultural soil. All deposits above this were

associated with the building of the current shopping centre.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Broadway Shopping Centre, Malting Square, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire as the site lay close to previous discoveries of Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval date.

However, the evaluation revealed only a sequence of natural, subsoil and modern deposits. No archaeological deposits were present and no finds were retrieved.

No finds were retrieved.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Cherele Greenaway of DDP Design for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation on behalf of Erne Properties Limited. The work was coordinated by Paul Cope-Faulkner who edited this report along with Denise Drury.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Site Staff: Neil Parker, Fiona Walker
Photographic reproduction: Mark Peachey
Illustration: Mark Peachey
Post-excavation Analysis: Mark Peachey

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Northamptonshire Archaeology Report
No. **05/77**

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Domesday Book, A Complete Translation
Penguin

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists



Figure 1 General location map

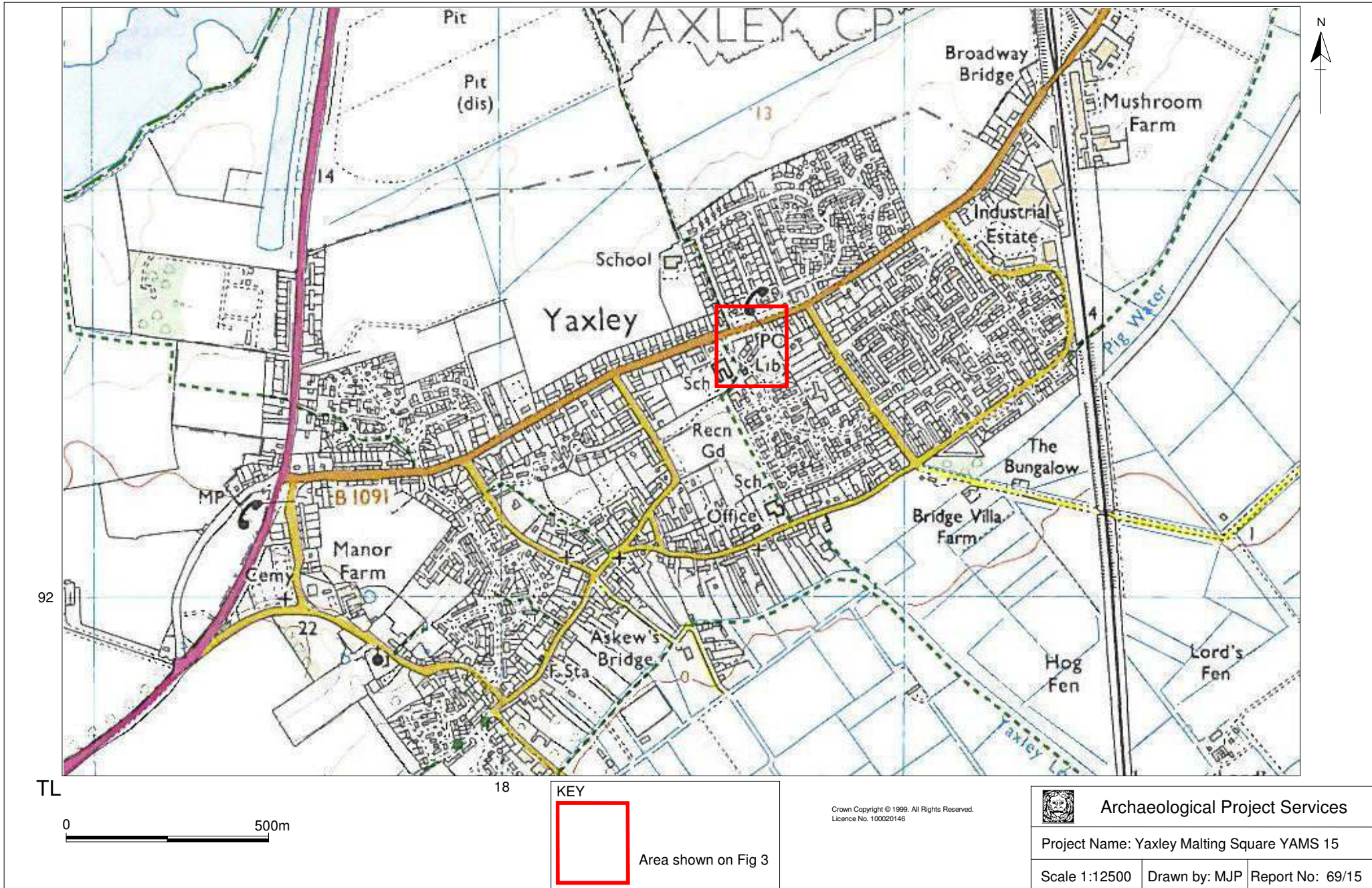
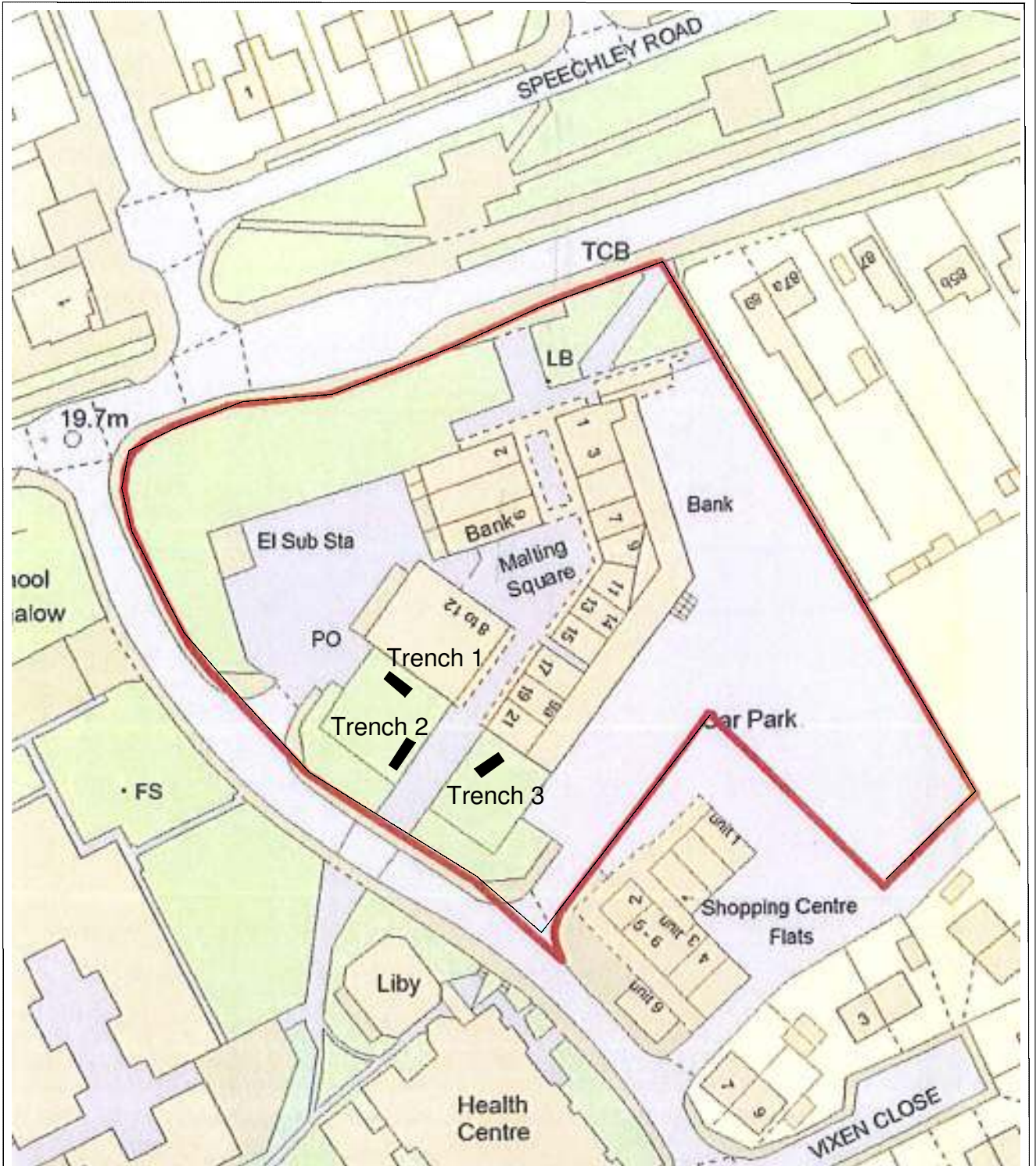


Figure 2. Site Location Plan



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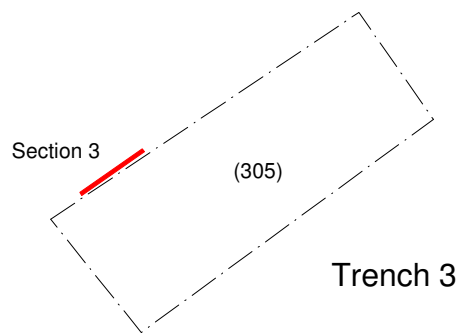
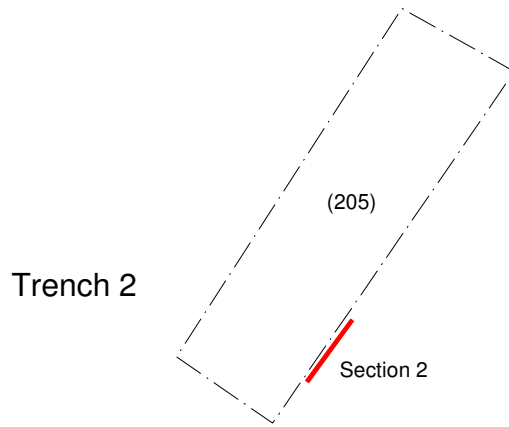
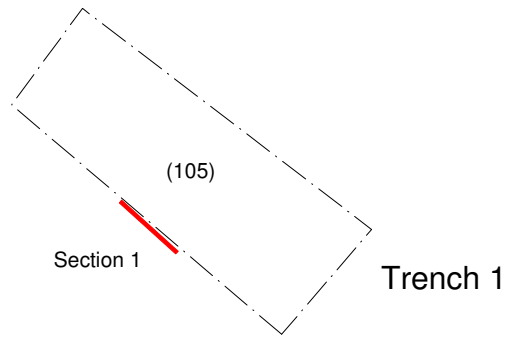
	Archaeological Project Services
Project Name: Yaxley Malting Square YAMS 15	
Scale 1:1000	Drawn by: MJR Report No: 69/15

Figure 3. Trench location plan




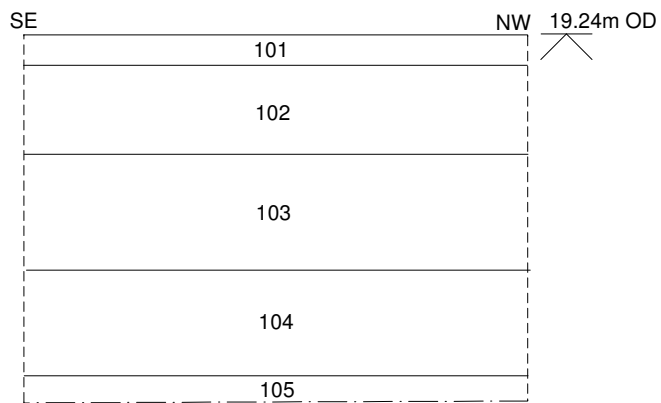
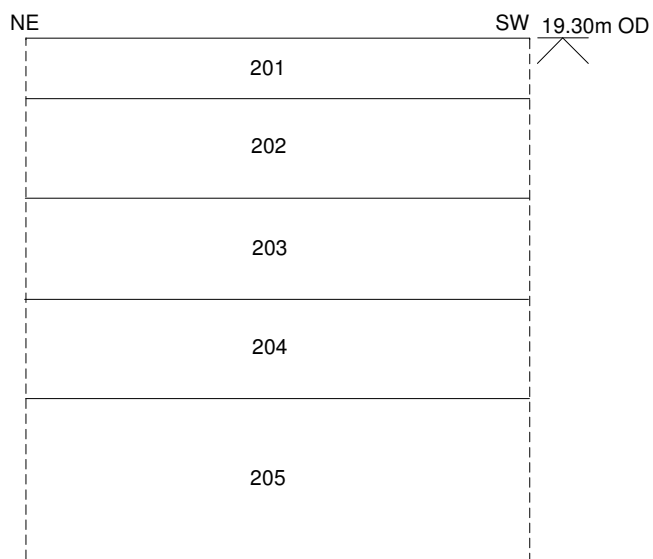
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Project Name: Yaxley Malting Square YAMS 15		
Scale 1:100	Drawn by: MJF	Report No: 69/15

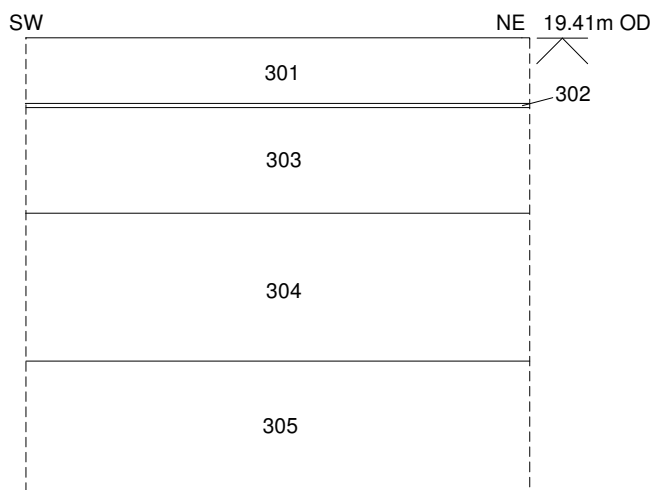
Figure 4. Trench plans



Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Yaxley Malting Square YAMS 15

Scale 1:15 Drawn by: MJP Report No: 69/15

Figure 5. Sections



Plate 1. Pre-machining view of site looking northwest



Plate 2. Trench 1 looking northwest



Plate 3. Trench 2, Representative Section 2, looking southeast



Plate 4. Trench 3 looking northeast

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Trench	Description	Interpretation
101	1	Mid brownish grey fine sandy silt under grass, occasional small rounded to angular stones, 60mm thick	Turf/Topsoil
102	1	Mid to light brown mix of topsoil, pea-gravel, brick and concrete rubble, stone and glass, 0.19m thick	Construction rubble/made ground
103	1	Limestone hardcore, 0.22m thick	Levelling construction layer
104	1	Mid brown clean clayey silt, 0.21m thick	Subsoil
105	1	Light yellowish brown clayey silt with flint, chalk and gravel, at least 50mm thick	Natural
201	2	Mid brownish grey fine sandy silt under grass, occasional small stones, 0.12m thick	Turf/Topsoil
202	2	Mid to light brown mix of topsoil, pea-gravel, brick and concrete rubble, 0.2m thick	Construction rubble/made ground
203	2	Limestone hardcore, 0.2m thick	Levelling construction layer
204	2	Mid brown clayey silt, 0.2m thick	Subsoil
205	2	Light yellowish brown clayey silt with flint and chalk, at least 0.32m thick	Natural
301	3	Mid brownish grey fine sandy silt under grass, occasional small stones, 0.13m thick	Turf/Topsoil
302	3	Mid to light brown mix of topsoil, pea-gravel, brick and concrete rubble, 20mm thick	Construction rubble/made ground
303	3	Limestone hardcore, 0.2m thick	Levelling construction layer
304	3	Mid brown clayey silt, 0.34m thick	Subsoil
305	3	Light yellowish brown clayey silt with flint and chalk, at least 0.21m thick	Natural

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

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, <i>e.g.</i> [004].
Cut	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.
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 an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (<i>q.v.</i>) occupants of 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.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 3 Trench record sheets
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 3 Daily record sheets

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

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	YAMS 15
Cambridgeshire C.C. HER Event No:	ECB 4496
OASIS Record No:	archaeo11-218279

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

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OASIS ID: archaeol1-218279

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation on land at Broadway Shopping Centre, Malting Square, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	Three trenches revealed only a sequence of natural deposits, subsoil and modern made ground.
Project dates	Start: 01-07-2015 End: 03-07-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	YAMS15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 4496 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	13/00105/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 12 - Verge
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE YAXLEY Broadway Shopping Centre, Malting Square
Postcode	PE7 3JJ
Study area	500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 1861 9259 52.5178913638 -0.251781888885 52 31 04 N 000 15 06 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 18.60m Max: 18.75m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Project Services
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
 Project design originator Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Project director/manager Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Project supervisor Neil Parker
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body Erne Properties Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey "

Project bibliography

1

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