
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT THE FORMER HEALTH CENTRE,
PRATT STREET
SOHAM,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
(SOHC16)**

Work Undertaken For
MEDCENTRES PLC

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Report Compiled by
Chris Moulis

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APS Report No: **63/16**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the former Health Centre, Pratt Street, Soham, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation was required in advance of proposed residential development of the site.

The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, close to the core of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) town, best represented by the church of St Andrew. The town is reputed to have developed around a Saxon (AD 410-1066) monastery, founded by St Felix of Burgundy. Burials contemporary with the 7th century monastic foundation have been revealed adjacent to the church. Excavations northeast of the site had revealed evidence for a rectilinear field system and settlement dating to between the 10th – 12th centuries.

The evaluation identified further probable field boundary ditches of 10th-12th century date. There were also post-medieval (AD 1540-1900) pits and ditches.

Finds retrieved included pottery of medieval, post-medieval and early modern date with either prehistoric or Saxon examples recovered from samples. Ceramic building material (CBM), animal bone, glass, clay pipe and worked flint were also retrieved during the investigation.

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

A programme of archaeological evaluation was required on land at Soham Health Centre, Cambridgeshire as a condition of planning permission (application 16/00373/FUM) for residential development of the site comprising 10 two-storey dwellings and associated infrastructure.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Medcentres PLC to undertake this work which was carried out between 8th August and 12th August 2016 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Soham is located 9km southeast of Ely in the administrative district of East Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1).

The proposed development site lies 310m to the north of the centre of Soham, as defined by the parish church of St Andrew, at National Grid Reference TL 5938 7348 (Fig 2). Soham lies on a peninsula of higher ground extending north into the fens from Fordham, at approximately 5m OD.

Soils at the site are of the Evesham 2 Association, typically calcareous pelosols (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 189). These soils are developed upon a solid geology of Cretaceous West Melbury Marly Chalk

Formation (BGS 1981).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Higher ground among the fens has been the focus of settlement and ritual activity since the prehistoric period (Hall 1992). Flint tools have been found spanning the Mesolithic (eg. MCB18106; MCB19459 and 07098) to Bronze Age (07101) periods. Bronze Age and Iron Age features are also known from the town (eg. CB15776).

Roman remains are also recorded in the town, including settlement that originated during the Iron Age (eg. MCB18184).

Soham is the alleged site of a monastery founded in the mid-7th century by St Felix of Burgundy who was consecrated the first bishop of the East Angles. It is said that his episcopal see was located at *Seham* before it was moved to Dunwich in Suffolk. The location of the minster/monastery is traditionally believed to be located opposite St Andrew's church. Contemporary burials have been found in the vicinity of White Hart Lane (11789) which may be related to this ecclesiastical foundation.

The name *Soham*, is derived from the Old English and means 'the settlement (*ham*) by the lake (*sae*)', referring to the former Soham Mere (Reaney 1943, 196). The Domesday Survey records that the principal manor of Soham was held by the King with smaller parcels held by the Abbots of Ely and St Edmunds and contained extensive arable land, fisheries, meadow and two mills (Williams and Martin 2002).

Archaeological investigations were undertaken to the northeast of the site between 2010 and 2013 and previously in 1991 (ECB 1494, 1809, 3363 and 3426). These revealed evidence for a rectilinear

field system defined by ditches with evidence for settlement provided by pits and domestic debris dating to between the 10th – 12th centuries. Later features of possibly post-medieval date appear to be related to tree planting pits for an orchard (Phillips *et al.* 2013).

Further evidence for Saxo-Norman occupation was revealed during investigations along Pratt Street, 70m to the west of the site (ECB 11932).

The Soham Tithe Award of 1840 and early Ordnance Survey maps (Fig. 9) show the site as occupying an area of orchards.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the evaluation was to gather information to enable the archaeological curator 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; to determine its likely extent; to determine the date, function, state of preservation and spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present on the site; to determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area and to establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Five trenches were excavated to the top of archaeological deposits (Fig. 3). The trenches were located to provide sample coverage of the site and to avoid the position of known services. Further constraints were encountered on site,

which limited the length it was possible to achieve to approximately 62m of trenching. These constraints comprised above ground physical obstructions, further uncharted buried modern services and practical restrictions imposed by simultaneous works on the adjacent site to the east.

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. Samples of the topsoil and other soil horizons were hand sorted on site to determine artefact content. Spoilheaps were also examined for unstratified finds. A metal detector was used to assist finds recovery.

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

The location of the excavated trenches was plotted with a survey grade differential GPS.

Environmental sampling was undertaken at the discretion of the site supervisor in accordance with guidelines prepared by English Heritage (now Historic England).

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

relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

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

Trench 1 (Fig. 4, Plate 2)

The natural deposits in Trench 1 comprised a patchy mix of light yellowish brown sandy silt and white chalky marl (deposits (1003) and (1022)).

At the western end of the trench, the natural was truncated by southeast to northwest orientated ditch [1011]. This was at least 1.5m wide by 0.53m deep and filled by mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt (1009), mid greyish brown clayey sandy silt (1008) and mid yellowish brown sandy silt (1007). Deposits (1009) and (1008) both produced animal bone while an environmental sample from the former produced results consistent with an early medieval date. These deposits were truncated by feature [1010], a re-cut of ditch [1011], which was at least 0.7m wide, 0.4m deep and filled by mid brown clayey sandy silt (1006) from which pottery of 10th -11th century date and animal bone was recovered, along with residual flint and prehistoric or Saxon pottery. An environmental sample produced hammerscale indicative of iron smithing. Fill (1006) was sealed by mid yellowish grey-brown sandy silt (1005), over which was soft mid brown subsoil deposit (1004). Deposit (1002), above (1004), also represented a variation in the subsoil horizon (Fig. 6, Section 1; Plate 7).

Cutting the natural approximately 6m east of ditch [1011] was small sub-oval posthole [1015] (Fig. 7, Section 8). The feature was 0.37m by 0.23m in plan and

0.18m deep. It was filled by a mix of mid yellowish brown and mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt (1014), from which a flint flake of Bronze Age date was recovered along with a small fragment of either prehistoric or Saxon pottery. Nearly 5m east of feature [1015], similar posthole [1017] also truncated the natural deposits (Fig. 7, Section 9). [1017] was 0.24m by 0.2m in plan and 0.04m deep. It was filled by mid yellowish brown silt (1016), which was then sealed by mid brown subsoil deposit (1021). It is likely that the subsoil also sealed fill (1014).

The other features recorded in Trench 1 comprised a series of modern service trenches. At the west end, drain trench [1013] cut through subsoil (1002) and truncated the fills of ditch [1011]/[1010]. 3m to the east, drain trench [1031] also cut through the subsoil. Approximately half way along Trench 1, service trench [1029] contained a modern brick channel or duct (1028) which was capped with concrete slabs. Immediately east of [1029], narrow slot [1027] carried a defunct electricity cable, and shallow cut [1019] carried the foundation of a modern slab pathway. At the eastern end another narrow trench [1025], this time east-west aligned, carried the modern gas supply to the existing building.

Deposit (1001) comprised the modern topsoil and turf in the area of Trench 1.

Trench 2 (Fig. 5, Plate 3)

In Trench 2 the natural deposits comprised a mix of white chalky marl with bands of light yellowish brown and light brown fine silty sand (2022). Deposit (2037) was a slightly mixed or weathered horizon at the interface of the natural and the overlying deposits.

At the south-eastern end of Trench 2, the natural deposits were cut by linear feature [2007], which appeared to come to a

rounded northern terminus just within the trench. Feature [2007] was 0.5m wide and 0.08m deep and filled by mid-dark brownish grey sandy silt (2032). Ditch [2006], partly exposed in the trench immediately to the southwest, was orientated approximately northwest to southeast (Fig. 7, Section 7; Plate 9). It was 0.34m wide by 0.21m deep and filled by dark greyish brown sandy silt (2031). The fills of these two features were sealed by dark greyish brown layer (2030), above which was soft greyish brown ashy deposit (2029). Above (2029) was dark greyish brown subsoil deposit (2028), which was itself cut by a steep sided sub-rectangular pit [2011] (Fig. 6, Section 6, Fig. 7, Section 7). Measuring at least 0.95m by 1m in plan and 0.5m deep, the pit was filled by deposits (2010) and (2009), of which (2010) produced 20th century glass. Above (2009) was (2027), a dark brownish grey sandy silt with frequent small coal, chalk and brick/tile fragments which comprised an old topsoil layer.

At the northern end of Trench 2 the natural deposits were truncated by northwest to southeast aligned ditch [2004] (Fig. 6, Section 2; Plate 8) which was at least 0.45m wide and 0.43m deep. It was filled by a mixed deposit of light brownish yellow and light yellowish brown sandy silt (2019). Just to the south, ditch [2036], at least 0.2m wide, was partially revealed in the trench, and, filled by deposit (2035), may represent a continuation of ditch [2004]. Northeast to southwest orientated ditch [2003] was at least 0.33m wide and 0.2m deep, also cut the natural deposits, and was filled by soft mid-dark brownish grey gritty sandy silt (2018). Small sub-circular feature [2005] was 0.4m by 0.32m in plan and 0.1m deep. It truncated the natural deposits and was filled by dark greyish brown sandy silt (2023) (Fig. 6, Section 4).

Ditches [2003], [2004] and [2036] were

truncated by north-south orientated ditch [2002], the fill of which, dark greyish brown sandy silt (2012), produced pottery of 11th to mid-12th century date and animal bone. An environmental sample contained hammerscale, evidence of iron smithing in the area. Ditch [2002] (Fig. 6, Section 2) was truncated in turn by north-west to south-east aligned ditch [2001], which was filled by dark greyish brown sandy silt (2008) from which pottery and CBM of 16th to 18th century date, and an 18th century clay pipe stem, was recovered.

The fill of [2001] was sealed by dark greyish brown layer (2017), above which was dark brownish grey deposit (2016), possibly the remains of an old land surface. Above (2016), deposit (2015) represented a subsoil horizon. Above (2015), layer (2014) was the former topsoil in the area of Trench 2 (Fig. 6, Section 2).

More recent features recorded in Trench 2 comprised modern drain cuts, represented at the southern end of the trench by [2025] and [2034], and at the northern end by cut [2021]. The fills of these modern features were sealed by the present topsoil of the area, contexts (2013) and (2026), a dumped deposit of soft dark brown sandy silt.

Trench 3 (Fig. 5, Plate 4)

In Trench 3 the natural comprised light yellow or orange chalky marl with bands and patches of light yellow or brownish yellow fine sand (3014).

At the western end of the trench the geological deposits were truncated by east-northeast to west-southwest aligned ditch [3002] which was at least 1.6m wide and 0.43m deep. It was filled by soft dark brownish grey deposit (3004). The ditch appeared to be truncated by smaller northeast to southwest orientated ditch [3003], measuring 0.45m wide and 0.2m deep, the fill of which, soft dark brownish

grey deposit (3005), produced animal bone. Results from an environmental sample, including rye and eel, suggest it was contemporary with 11th -12th century features while hammerscale is indicative of iron smithing activity. Fill (3005) was sealed by layer (3001), from which a sherd of 11th to mid-12th century pottery was recovered. Above deposit (3001) were dark greyish brown subsoil deposits (3009) and (3008). Above the subsoil, layer (3007) comprised the former topsoil in the area of Trench 2 (Fig. 7, Section 11; Fig. 8, Section 17).

Away from the western end of the trench the depth of the excavation was limited by modern services which cut through the former topsoil (3007). The fill of service trench [3011] included a black plastic water pipe, whereas service trench [3013] had a plastic drain pipe at the base. The fill deposits of the service trenches were sealed by a layer of dark greyish brown sandy silt (3006) which comprised the imported modern topsoil at the site.

Trench 4 (Fig. 5, Plate 5)

The natural deposits in Trench 4 (4016) comprised a mix of light brownish yellow and light orange fine sand and silty sand, with light yellowish white chalky marl.

This was cut by a small northwest to southeast aligned ditch [4004] which was 0.41m wide and 0.1m deep (Fig. 8, Section 14). It was filled by dark brownish grey sandy silt (4003). Fill (4003) was sealed by layer (4002), from which pottery of 10th - 11th century date was recovered. An environmental sample from this layer produced hammerscale, indicative of iron smithing in the vicinity. Deposit (4017), exposed further north along the trench, was probably the same layer as (4002). Above (4002), layer (4010) comprised a mix of dark brownish grey sandy silt and light yellowish chalky marl, presumably redeposited material from an adjacent cut.

Above (4010), deposits (4009) and (4008) comprised variations within the thick dark greyish brown subsoil. The subsoil was truncated by steep-sided sub rectangular cut [4011] measuring 0.4m wide and 0.62m deep (Fig. 8, Section 13), the fill of which, dark grey sandy silt (4001), produced pottery and CBM of 16th to 19th century date. The pit fill was sealed by dark brownish grey deposit (4007), the former topsoil over the area of the trench.

The most recent intrusions exposed in the trench were linear cut [4015], which carried a ceramic drain pipe, and service trench [4013], which carried a modern blue plastic water pipe. The deposits filling these features were sealed by a dumped deposit of soft dark brown sandy silt (4006) which comprised the modern topsoil over the area of the trench.

Pottery of 16th -18th century date was recovered as unstratified material from this trench.

Trench 5 (Fig. 4, Plate 6)

In Trench 5 the natural comprised a patchy mix of light-mid reddish brown sandy silt and light yellowish white degraded chalk/marl (5004). Irregular greyish anomalies (5005) and (5008) were exposed and investigated, but were interpreted as variations in the natural; the variation was accentuated by discolouration of the ground below the hard car-park surface.

The natural deposits were cut by northeast to southwest orientated ditch [5006] (Fig. 8, Sections 15, 16; Plate 10). The ditch was 1.15m wide and 0.35m deep, filled by dark greyish brown sandy silt (5007), and appeared to be sealed by mid yellowish brown subsoil (5003). Both the fill and the subsoil were to some extent discoloured with grey mottles, and the relationship was not entirely clear.

The area of the trench had undergone an episode of severe horizontal truncation, which had removed most of the subsoil. The truncation would have been part of the works to construct the car park in which the trench was located.

6. DISCUSSION

The results of the evaluation were grouped into five broad phases across the site, namely:

- A. Natural deposits
- B. Early undated features
- C. Early medieval features and deposits
- D. Post-medieval features and deposits
- E. Disturbance caused by the construction of the former Health Centre.

A. Natural deposits comprised a patchy mix of light orange or brownish yellow sandy silt and chalky marl and included a moderate amount of flint. The natural deposits were consistent in all trenches and represent the upper weathered surface of the underlying geology.

B. Early undated features in Trench 1 were two small sub-circular cuts, which probably represented the remains of postholes. A flake of flint and a small fragment of Iron Age or Saxon pottery recovered from the fill of one may be residual, and did not provide secure dating for the feature. The fills of northwest to southeast aligned ditch at the western end of the trench produced animal bone, but no other datable artefacts.

In Trench 2, a similar small undated cut [2005] near the northern end of the trench was also interpreted as a posthole. West of the posthole, northwest to south east aligned ditch [2004] was also undated, as

was northeast to southwest aligned ditch [2003] just to the north. Ditch [2036] may have been a southwards continuation of [2004]. At the southern end of Trench 2 was the northern terminus of small southeast to northwest aligned ditch [2007].

At the western end of Trench 3, northeast to southwest aligned ditch [3002] was also undated, and appeared to represent a continuation of ditch [2003] revealed in Trench 2. The ditch was cut by another more shallow northwest to southeast aligned ditch [3003], which produced animal bone, and hammerscale from an environmental sample, but no dateable artefacts.

At the southern end of Trench 4, a small undated gully [4004] produced no artefactual material.

In Trench 5, east of the Health Centre, an undated northeast to southwest aligned ditch [5006] correlated with the orientation of ditches [2003] and [3002] revealed to the west of the Health Centre.

The nature of the deposits filling these undated features was consistent with the fills of the more securely dated medieval features described below. The undated features therefore are likely to have formed part of the early medieval pattern.

C. Ditch [1010], at the west end of Trench 1 was probably a re-cutting of ditch [1011]. Pottery of 10th to 11th century date was recovered from the fill while the presence of hammerscale suggested iron smithing in the vicinity.

At the northern end of Trench 2, deposit (2012), the fill of shallow north-south aligned ditch [2002] produced pottery of 11th to 12th century date and further hammerscale.

Excavations northeast of the site had previously identified a rectilinear field system of similar 10th – 12th century date and these ditches may represent a further extent of this.

In Trench 3 a sandy silt layer (3001) sealing ditches [3002] and [3003] contained a sherd of 11th –mid-12th century pottery.

In Trench 4, layer (4002) sealing ditch [4004] contained a sherd of 10th -11th century pottery. A quantity of mortar from (4002) implies the presence of buildings in the area while hammerscale provided further evidence for iron smithing in the vicinity.

D. Probable post-medieval agricultural subsoil layers were recorded in Trenches 1 to 4.

In Trench 2, ditch [2006] was dated to the post-medieval period while pit [2011] contained 20th century glass. Pit [4011] in Trench 4 contained 16th to 19th century pottery along with 19th century CBM.

E. Service trenches in Trenches 1 to 4 and grading for the car park in Trench 5, which had removed the subsoil, were related to construction of the former Health Centre.

A range of 10th to 12th century pottery was retrieved from the site, possibly entirely pre-conquest. There was also domestic type 16th to 18th century post-medieval material.

The earliest artefacts recovered were a small number of prehistoric flint flakes, most probably dating to the Bronze Age. The flints were residual in nature. Also residual were three sherds of late prehistoric or early to middle Saxon pottery.

Other finds include clay pipe, glass and

brick and tile, spanning the post-medieval to modern periods. Animal bone was also recovered and the assemblage was dominated by cattle followed by sheep/goat.

Environmental sampling revealed finds evidence for domestic activity and food waste. Hammerscale from samples in Trenches 1-4 indicated nearby iron smithing. A wide range of plant and animal species were also recorded which are typical of the Late Saxon to early medieval period.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Soham Health Centre, Soham, Cambridgeshire as the site lay in an archaeologically sensitive area, close to the core of the medieval town.

The evaluation identified several early medieval ditches along with undated ditches containing similar fills. Together, they probably formed a pattern of small fields in close proximity to domestic activity and iron smithing.

Finds included medieval to early modern pottery, CBM, animal bone, glass, clay pipe and prehistoric worked flint.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Teresa James of Medcentres PLC for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Paul Cope-Faulkner who edited this report along with Denise Drury. Elizabeth Bates kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Site Staff: Chris Moulis, Andy Pascoe, Fiona Walker

Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Mark Peachey
Illustration: Chris Moulis, Mark Peachey
Post-excavation Analysis: Chris Moulis

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

CBM Ceramic Building Material

CIfA Chartered Institute for
Archaeologists

OA Oxford Archaeology



Figure 1 - General location map




TL

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59

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 Area shown on Fig. 3

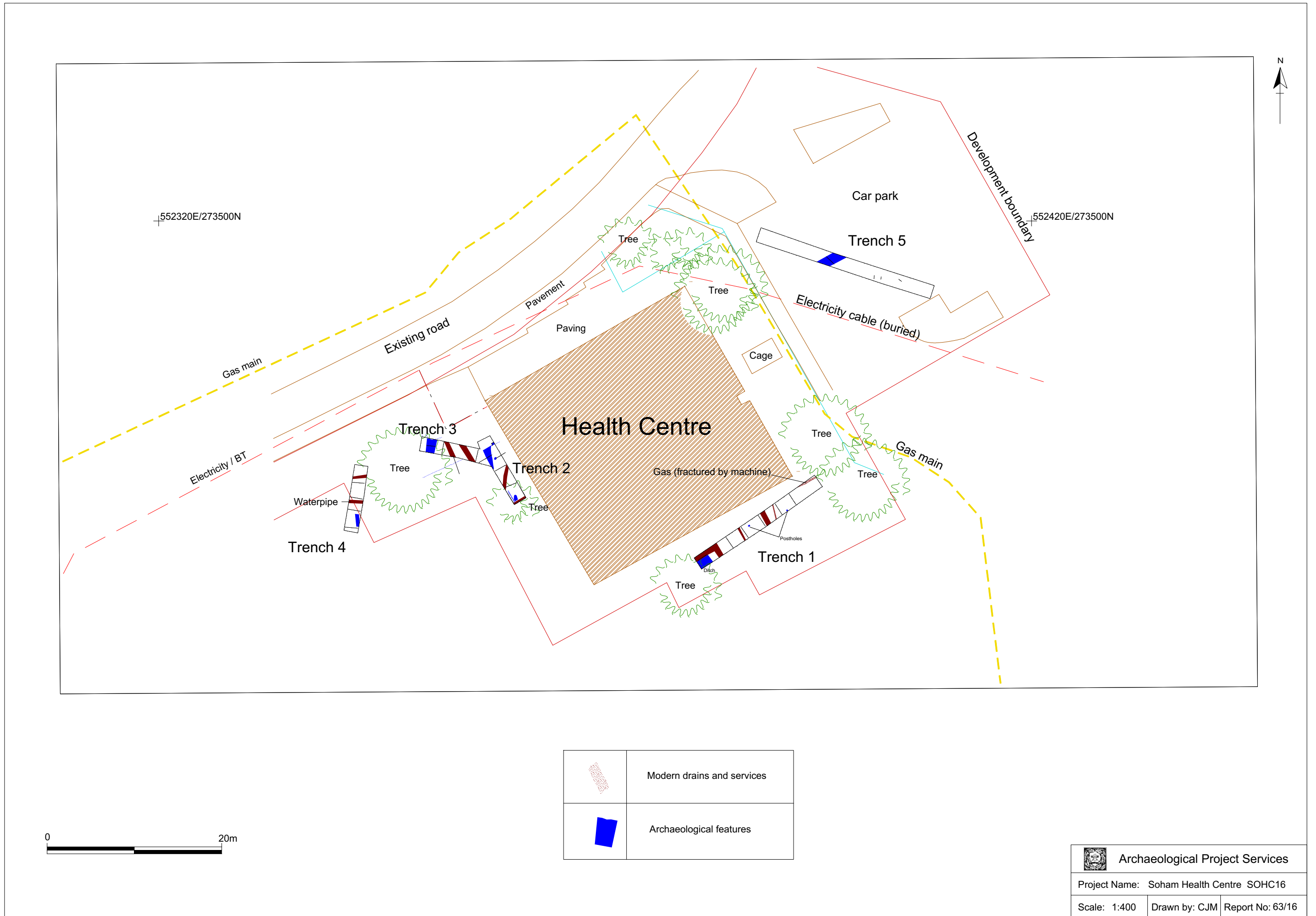




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Figure 2 - Site Location plan



	Modern drains and services
	Archaeological features


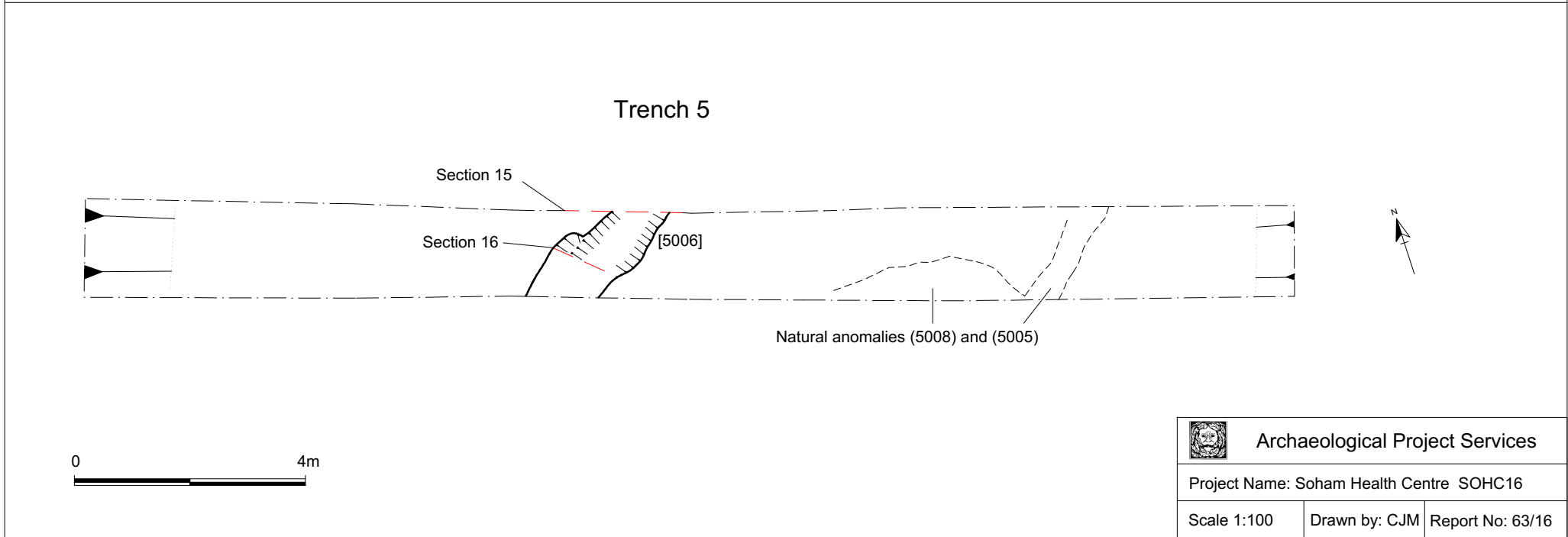
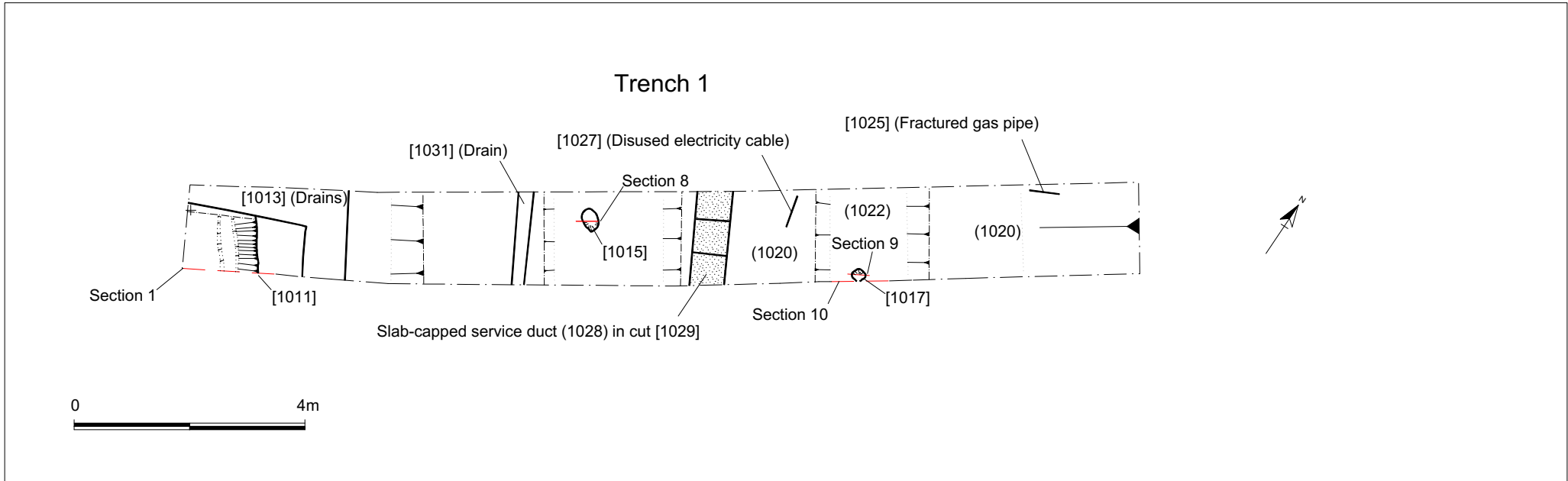
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Project Name: Soham Health Centre SOHC16	
Scale: 1:400	Drawn by: CJM Report No: 63/16

Figure 3, Site Plan




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Soham Health Centre SOHC16		
Scale 1:100	Drawn by: CJM	Report No: 63/16

Figure 4. Plans of Trenches 1 and 5

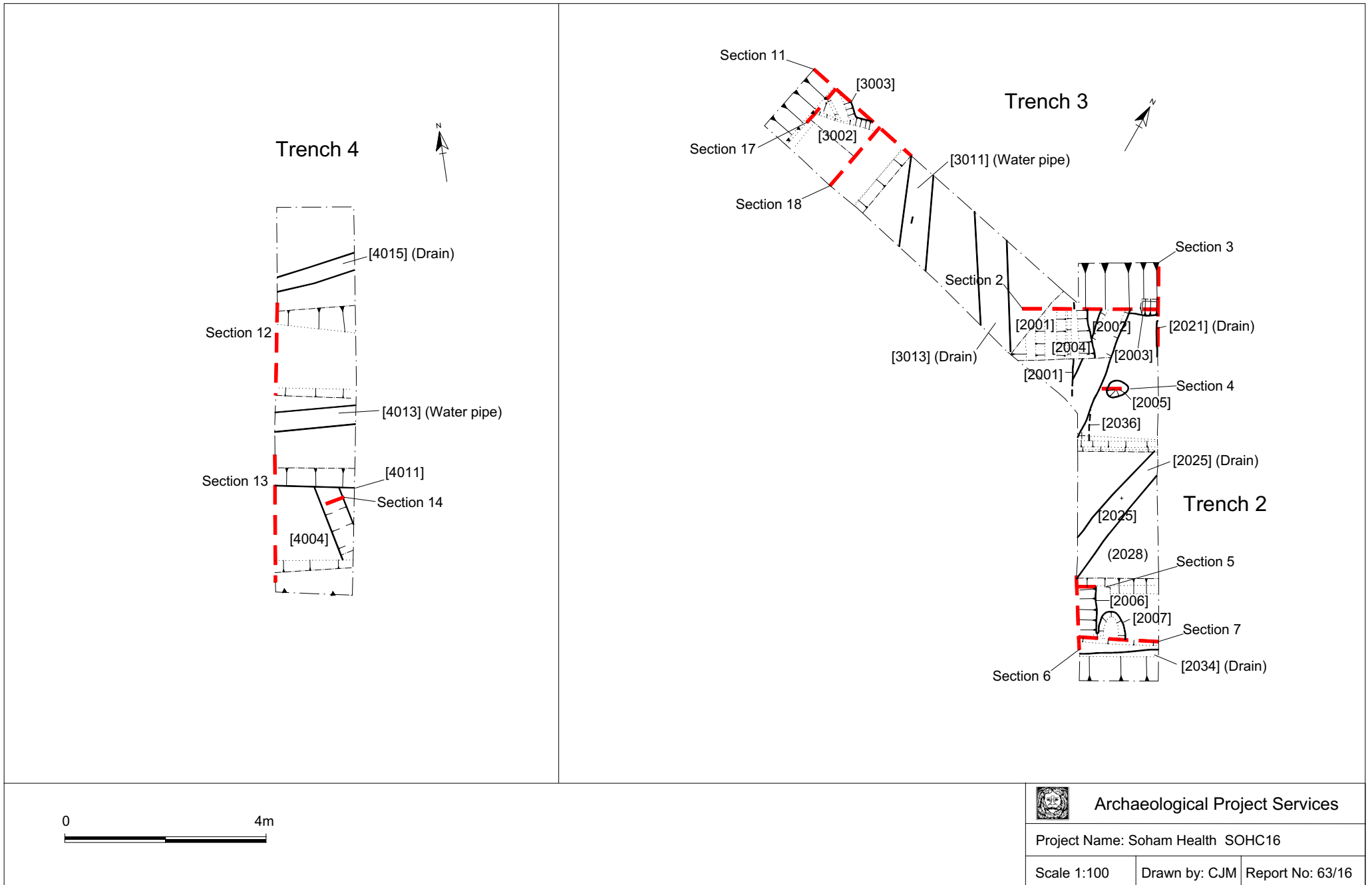


Figure 5. Plans of Trenches 2, 3 and 4

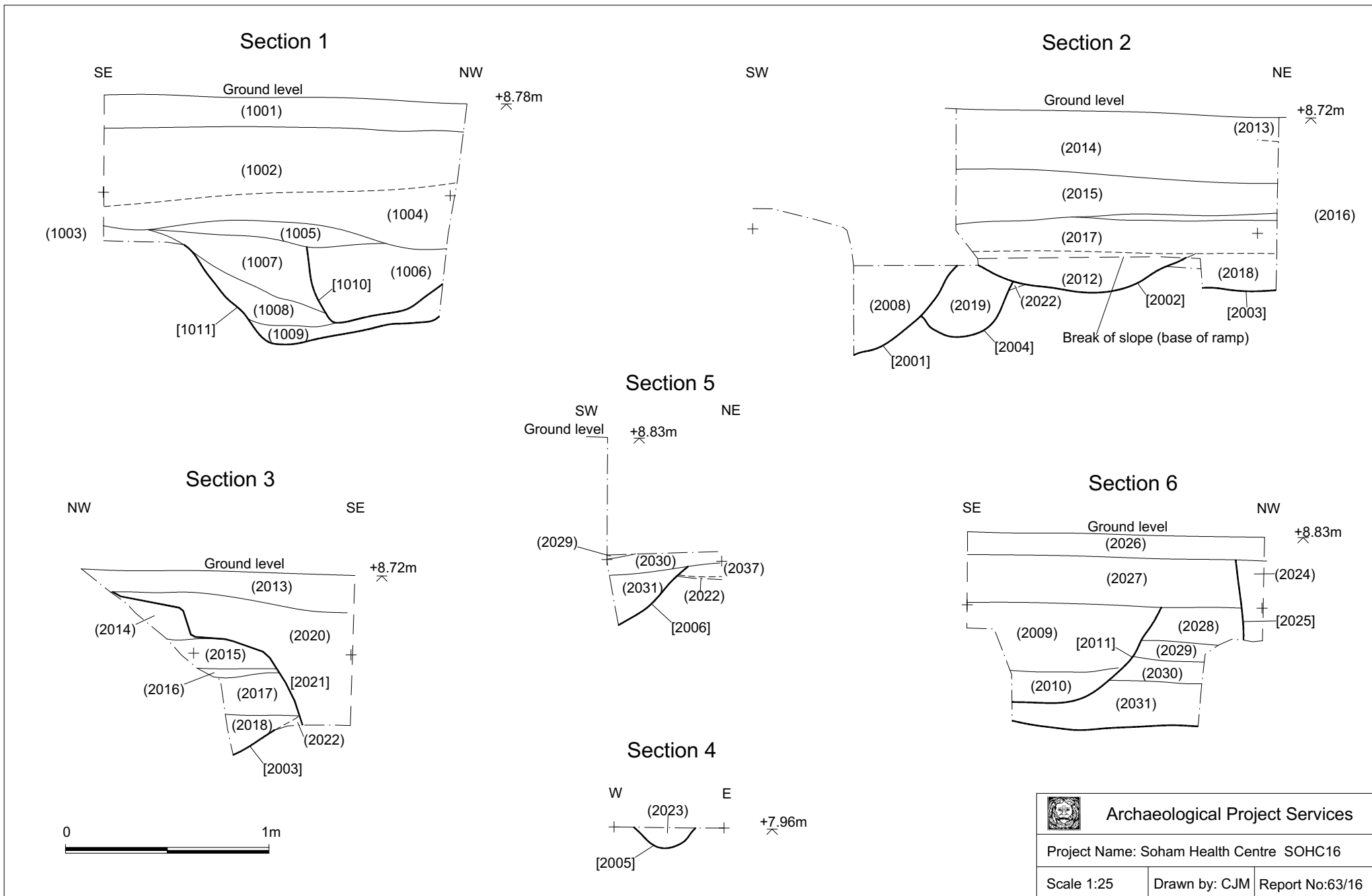


Figure 6. Sections 1 to 6

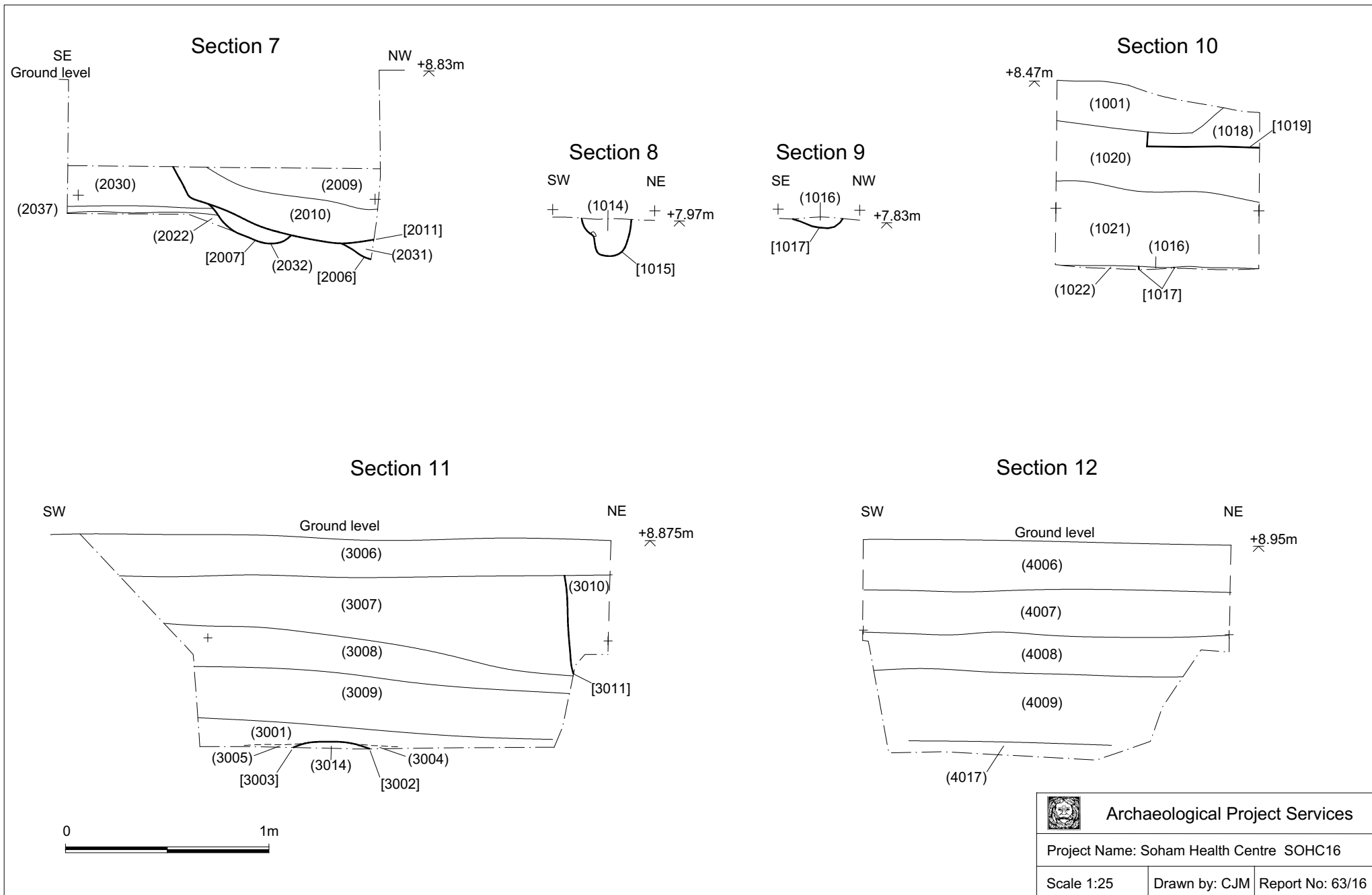
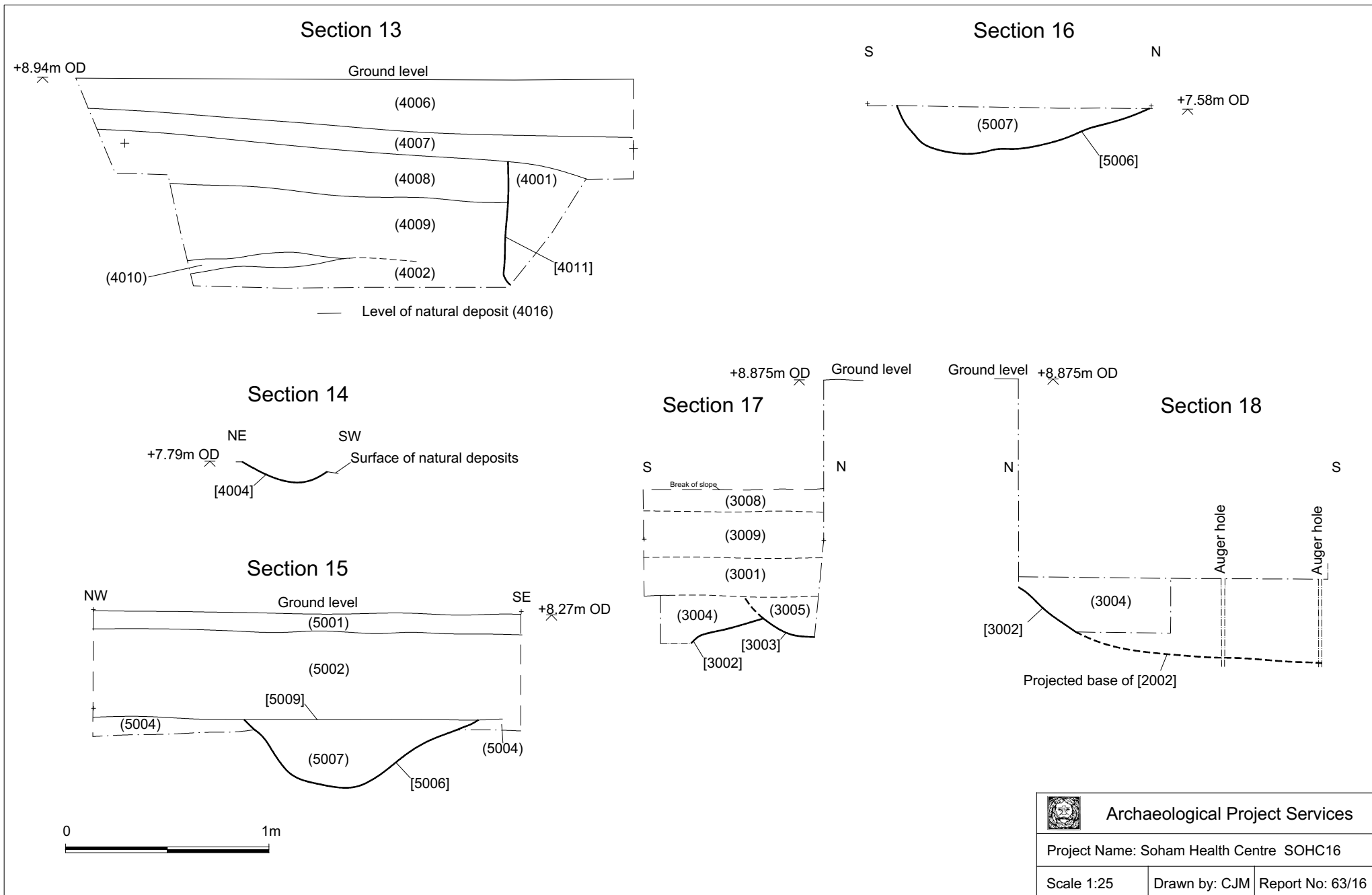


Figure 7. Sections 7 to 12




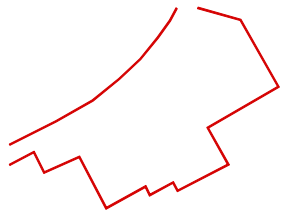
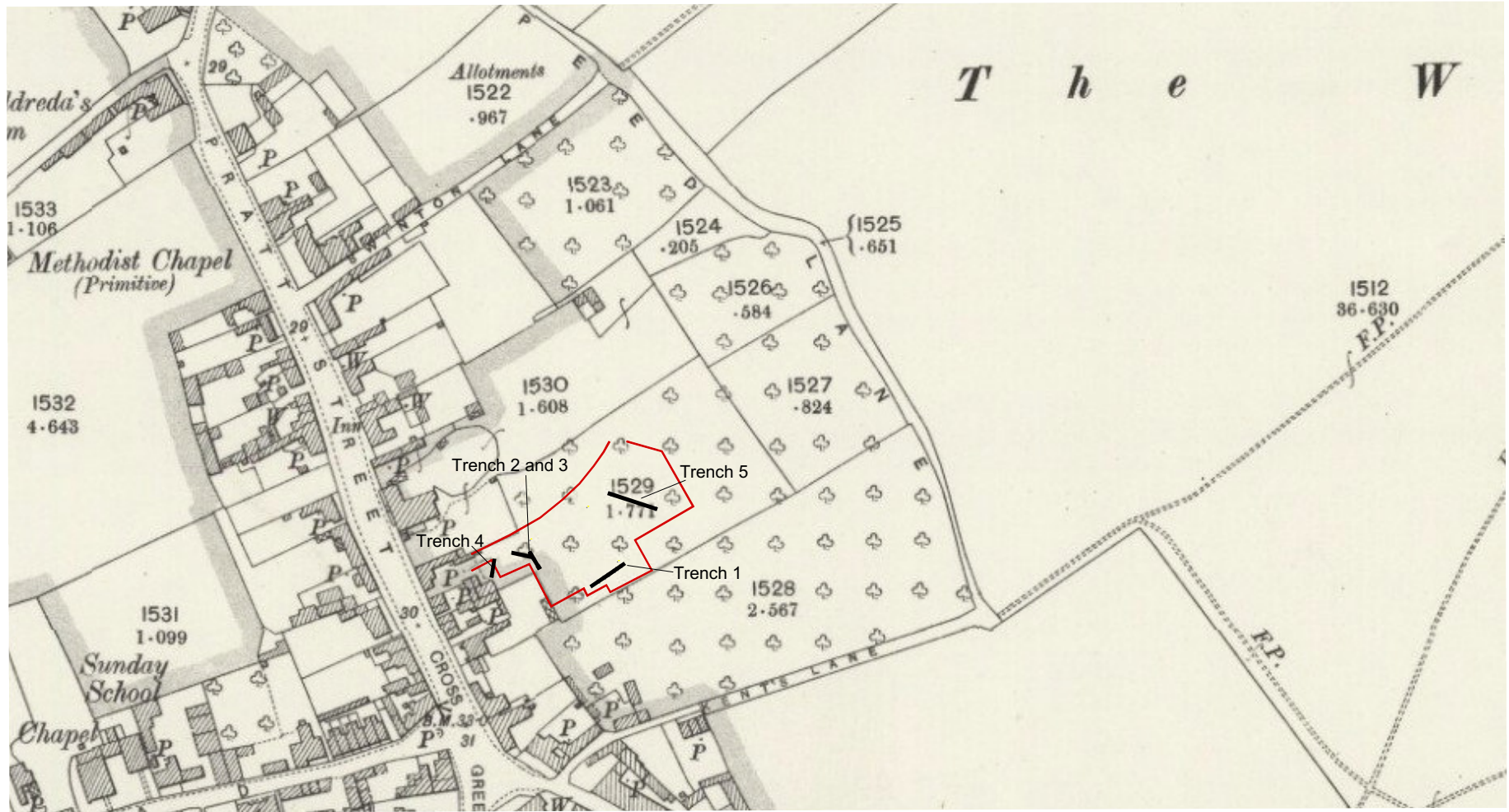
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Soham Health Centre SOHC16		
Scale 1:25	Drawn by: CJM	Report No: 63/16

Figure 8. Sections 13 to 18



Approximate site boundary


	Archaeological Project Services
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Scale 1:2500	Drawn by: CJM Report No: 63/16

Figure 9. 1902 Ordnance Survey map



Plate 1. Pre-machining view of area of Trenches 2-4 looking southwest

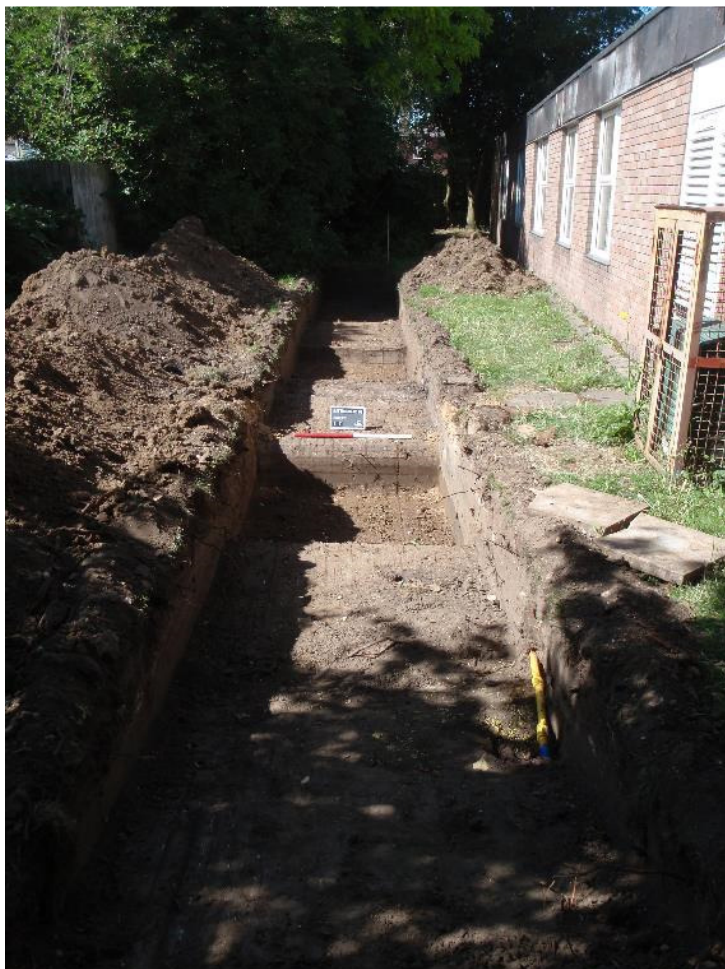


Plate 2. Trench 1 looking west



Plate 3. Trench 2 looking south



Plate 4. Trench 3 looking southeast



Plate 5. Trench 4 looking southwest



Plate 6. Trench 5 looking southeast



Plate 7. Trench 1, Ditches [1010], [1011], Section 1, looking southeast



Plate 8. Trench 2, Ditches [2002], [2004], Section 2, looking northwest



Plate 9. Trench 2, Ditch [2006], Pit [2007], Sections 6, 7, looking south



Plate 10. Trench 5, Ditch [5006], Section 5, looking northeast

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
1001	1	Friable dark grey sandy silt. Occasional coal fragments and occasional chalk. Moderate small rounded and sub-angular stones. 0.18m thick	Topsoil-turf
1002	1	Moderately firm mid greyish brown sandy silt. Moderate chalk flecks. Occasional-moderate small flints and pebbles	Topsoil-subsoil
1003	1	Moderately firm light yellowish brown, light whitish and greyish yellow mix of sandy silt clayey silt and chalk	Natural deposit
1004	1	Soft mid brown silt. Moderate sand and occasional fine pebbles. 0.33m thick	Subsoil
1005	1	Moderately firm mid yellowish grey-brown sandy silt. Occasional chalk and clay flecks and occasional fine stones. 0.11m thick	Deposit
1006	1	Soft mid brown clayey sandy silt. Occasional small pebbles and occasional chalky patches. 0.4m thick	Fill of [1010]
1007	1	Moderately firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Occasional chalky and clayey mottles. 0.38m thick	Fill of [1010]
1008	1	Soft mid greyish brown clayey sandy silt. Occasional chalk fragments. 0.25m thick	Fill of [1010]
1009	1	Firm and pliable mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt with dark grey flecking (? Mineral / possibly charcoal). 0.1m thick	Fill of [1010]
1010	1	Linear cut, at least 0.7m wide by 1.6m long, and 0.4m deep. Steep sides with a gradual break of slope to a gently undulating base. Orientated southeast to northwest	Ditch
1011	1	Linear cut, at least 1.5m wide by at least 1.6m long and 0.53m deep. Steep convex sides with a gradual break of slope to an uneven base. Orientated southeast to northwest.	Ditch
1012	1	Soft mix of light brownish yellow and mid-dark brown clayey sand and coarse sand	Backfill in modern service trench
1013	1	Linear cut(s).	Modern services
1014	1	Soft mix of mid yellowish brown and mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt. Occasional charcoal flecks occasional chalk flecks occasional small stones. 0.18m thick	Fill of [1015]
1015	1	Oval cut. 0.37m long by 0.23m wide and 0.18m deep. Moderately steep, slightly irregular sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base.	Possible posthole
1016	1	Soft mid yellowish brown silt with occasional fine flint pebbles and grits	Fill of [1017]
1017	1	Sub circular cut, 0.24m by 0.2m in plan and 0.04m deep. Uneven sides with a gradual break of slope to an irregular base	Possible posthole
1018	1	Firm light yellow crushed and compacted limestone. 0.18m thick	Base of modern path
1019	1	Linear cut, at least 1.6m long by 1.2m wide, and 0.18m deep. Vertical sides with a sharp break of slope to a flat base. Orientated north-northwest to south-southeast	Foundation for modern path

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
1020	1	Moderately firm mid greyish brown sandy silt. Moderate small rounded pebbles, flints and chalk fragments. Occasional charcoal flecks. 0.3m thick	Topsoil (excluding turf)
1021	1	Crumbly mid brown or yellowish brown sandy silt. Occasional-moderate small rounded pebbles and flints and occasional mineral flecking. 0.42m thick	Subsoil
1022	1	Moderately firm light brownish yellow sandy silt. Occasional chalk fragments and flint pebbles, and occasional mineral flecking	Natural deposit
1023	1	Hand sorted sample for finds recovery	
1024	1	Mixed backfill. Yellow gas pipe at base	Backfill in modern service trench [1025]
1025	1	Linear cut	Modern service trench (gas)
1026	1	Mixed backfill. Electricity cable at base (disused)	Backfill in modern service trench [1027]
1027	1	Linear cut	Modern service trench (electricity)
1028	1	Mixed backfill over a modern brick-built slab-capped channel	Modern service duct
1029	1	Linear cut	Modern service trench
1030	1	Mixed backfill. Grey plastic drain pipe at base	Backfill in modern service trench [1031]
1031	1	Linear cut, 0.3m wide	Modern service trench (drain)
2001	2	Linear cut, 1.6m wide and by least 2.1m long and 0.44m deep. Steeply sloping sides, with a step on the western side. A gradual break of slope to a concave base. Orientated north-northwest to south-southeast.	Ditch
2002	2	Linear cut, 1.05m wide by at least 2.2m long and 0.2m deep. Gently sloping sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. Orientated approximately north to south	Ditch
2003	2	Linear cut, at least 0.33m wide by 0.55m long and 0.2m deep. Steep sides. Base beyond limits of excavation. Orientated approximately northeast to southwest	Ditch
2004	2	Linear cut. At least 0.45m wide by at least 1.4m long and 0.43m deep. Steep sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. Orientated approximately northwest to southeast	Ditch
2005	2	Oval cut, 0.4m by 0.32m in plan and approximately 0.1m deep. Steep sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base	Post-hole
2006	2	Linear cut, at least 0.34m wide by at least 1.09m long and at least 0.21m deep. Steep sides. Base beyond the limits of excavation. Orientated north-northwest to south-southeast	Ditch
2007	2	Linear cut, 0.5m wide by at least 0.55m long. Steep sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. Orientated northwest to southeast	Shallow ditch or elongated pit
2008	2	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate flints. Up to 0.44m thick	Fill of ditch [2001]

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
2009	2	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt. 0.33m thick	Fill of pit [2011] (modern)
2010	2	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small chalk fragments. 0.16m thick	Fill of pit [2011] (modern)
2011	2	Sub rectangular cut, at least 0.95m by 1m in plan, and 0.5m deep. Steep sides with a gradual break of slope to a flat base	Modern pit
2012	2	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent grits and occasional flints	Fill of ditch [2002]
2013	2	Soft dark brown sandy silt. 0.18m thick	Current topsoil (dumped)
2014	2	Firm dark brownish grey sandy silt with frequent grits, frequent coal fragments and frequent small brick/tile fragments. 0.3m thick	Former topsoil
2015	2	Moderately firm dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small coal fragments, frequent grits and frequent flints. 0.25m thick	Subsoil deposit
2016	2	Soft dark brownish grey sandy silt. 0.4m thick	Layer. Possible former land surface.
2017	2	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate grits and small flints. 0.16m thick	Layer
2018	2	Soft mid-dark brownish grey gritty sandy silt. At least 0.2m thick	Fill of ditch [2003]
2019	2	Soft mix of light brownish yellow and light yellowish brown sandy silt. Occasional flints and occasional charcoal. 0.39m thick	Fill of ditch [2004]
2020	2	Mixed backfill	Backfill in modern service trench [2021]
2021	2	Linear cut	Modern service trench (drain)
2022	2	Mix of white chalky marl with bands of light yellowish brown and light brown fine silty sand	Natural deposit
2023	2	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate grits and occasional charcoal flecks. 0.1m thick	Fill of post-hole [2005]
2024	2	Mixed backfill. Sectional concrete(?) pipe in base	Backfill in modern service trench [2025]
2025	2	Linear cut, 0.45m wide	Modern service trench (drain)
2026	2	Soft dark brown sandy silt. 0.11m thick	Current topsoil (dumped)
2027	2	Moderately firm dark brownish grey sandy silt with frequent small coal, chalk and brick/tile fragments. 0.25m thick	Former topsoil
2028	2	Moderately firm dark greyish brown sandy silt. Moderate small coal and chalk fragments. 0.19m thick	Subsoil deposit
2029	2	Soft mix of light brown and mid-dark greyish brown ashy sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks. 0.1m thick	Deposit
2030	2	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt. Occasional charcoal flecks. 0.11m thick	Subsoil deposit

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
2031	2	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt, with occasional flints. At least 0.28m thick	Fill of ditch [2006]
2032	2	Soft mid-dark brownish grey sandy silt. Frequent grits and charcoal flecks. 0.19m thick	Fill of feature [2007]
2033	2	Mixed backfill. Grey plastic pipe in base	Backfill in modern service trench [2034]
2034	2	Linear cut, at least 0.12m wide	Modern service trench (drain)
2035	2	Soft mix of light yellowish brown, light yellow and mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks. At least 0.24m wide	Fill of ditch [2036]
2036	2	Linear cut, at least 0.2m wide and 0.6m long	Ditch
2037	2	Moderately firm mix of light yellow and mid-dark brown sandy silt with occasional flints. 40mm thick	Mixed deposit at the interface of natural and overlying deposits
3001	3	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small flints. Up to 0.2m thick	Layer
3002	3	Linear cut. In plan at least 1.6m wide by at least 2.2m long and 0.43m deep. Steep sides with a gradual break of slope to a broad gently concave base. Orientated approximately northeast to southwest	Ditch
3003	3	Linear cut, 0.45m wide by at least 0.5m long. Steep sides with a gradual break of slope to gently concave base. Orientated approximately north-south	Ditch
3004	3	Soft. Dark brownish grey with occasional light brown mottles. Sandy silt with occasional small flints. Up to 0.42m thick	Fill of ditch [3002]
3005	3	Soft dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional small flints. 0.2m thick	Fill of ditch [3003]
3006	3	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt. 0.2m thick	Current topsoil (dumped)
3007	3	Firm dark brownish grey sandy silt with frequent small coal, flint and brick/tile fragments. 0.5m thick	Former topsoil
3008	3	Moderately firm dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate flints and frequent small chalk fragments. 0.2m thick	Subsoil deposit
3009	3	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small flints. 0.25m thick	Layer
3010	3	Mixed modern backfill. Black plastic (water?) pipe at base	Backfill of modern service trench [3011]
3011	3	Linear cut. 0.55m wide	Modern service trench (water pipe)
3012	3	Mixed modern backfill. Grey plastic pipe at base	Backfill of modern service trench [3013]
3013	3	Linear cut. 0.5m wide	Modern service trench (drain)
3014	3	Light yellow/orange-yellow chalky marl with bands and patches of light yellow/brownish yellow fine sand	Natural deposit

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
4001	4	Soft dark grey sandy silt with moderate coal and charcoal fragments. 0.6m thick and 0.4m wide in section	Fill of pit [4011] (post-medieval)
4002	4	Soft dark brownish grey sandy silt with moderate small stones. 0.1m thick	Layer
4003	4	Soft dark brownish grey sandy silt with moderate small flints and stones. 0.1m thick and 0.41m wide. Slight hydrocarbon smell	Fill of ditch [4004]
4004	4	Linear cut, 0.41m wide by at least 1.6m long and 0.1m deep	Small ditch
4005	4	Hand sorted sample for finds recovery	
4006	4	Soft dark brown sandy silt. 0.28m thick	Current topsoil (dumped)
4007	4	Firm dark brownish grey sandy silt. Frequent flints and small coal and brick/tile fragments. 0.24m thick	Former topsoil
4008	4	Moderately firm dark brownish grey sandy silt with frequent flint and small chalk fragments. 0.2m thick	Subsoil
4009	4	Soft dark brownish grey sandy silt with moderate small flints. 0.36m thick	Subsoil
4010	4	Soft mix of dark brownish grey sandy silt and light yellowish chalky marl. Moderate small flints. 80mm thick	Layer
4011	4	Sub-rectangular cut, at least 0.4m by 0.4m in plan and 0.62m deep. Steep sides with a gradual break of slope to the base	Pit cut
4012	4	Mixed modern backfill. Blue plastic water pipe at base	Backfill of modern service trench [4013]
4013	4	Linear cut, 0.4m wide	Modern service trench (water)
4014	4	Mixed modern backfill. Ceramic drain water pipe at base	Backfill of modern service trench
4015	4	Linear cut, 0.3m wide	Modern service trench (drain)
4016	4	Patchy mix; light brownish yellow and light orange fine sand and silty sand, and light yellowish white chalky marl. Occasional flint	Natural deposit
4017	4	Soft dark brownish grey sandy silt with moderate small flints and stones. At least 80mm thick	Layer
5001	5	Solid tarmac, 80mm thick	Current car park surface
5002	5	Firm light-mid yellow crushed limestone, 0.44m thick	Foundation for current car-park
5003	5	Moderately firm light-mid yellowish brown (with grey mottles) clayey sandy silt. Occasional small pebbles, flints and chalk fragments. 0.2m thick	Subsoil
5004	5	Firm patchy mix of light-mid reddish brown and light yellowish white sandy silt and degraded chalk/marl	Natural deposit

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
5005	5	Pliable mix of light greyish brown and yellow brown sandy silt. Occasional pebbles and flints	Natural anomaly
5006	5	Linear cut, 1.15m wide by at least 1.5m long and 0.35m deep. Steep sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. Orientated approximately northeast to southwest	Ditch
5007	5	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt. Occasional charcoal flecks, chalk fragments and snail shells. 0.35m thick	Fill of ditch [5006]
5008	5	Firm/pliable mid greyish brown clayey sandy silt. Moderate 'mineral' mottles and occasional small pebbles and flints. Up to 0.11m thick	Natural anomaly
5009	5	Widespread horizontal truncation	Truncation for the construction of the current car park

Appendix 2

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 22 sherds from approximately 19 vessels, weighing 276 grams were 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 prehistoric or early to middle Saxon period to the early modern period.

Condition

The condition of the pottery is mixed. Three sherds show sooting patterns indicative of usage over a hearth or fire.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Sub Fabric	Form	Decor	Part	Description	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
1	1006	SNEOT	St Neots Ware		Jar	Narrow cordon on neck	Rim	Sooted exterior; fresh; everted rim	10th-11th	1	1	56
1	1006	HMIAAS	Handmade Iron Age or Saxon wares		?		BS	Flake; from Sample 3; granodiorite?	Prehistoric or early to middle Saxon	1	1	1
1	1014	HMIAAS	Handmade Iron Age or Saxon wares		?		BS	Flake; from Sample 1; granodiorite?	Prehistoric or early to middle Saxon	1	1	1
2	2008	PMED	Post medieval unglazed	Fe slip	Closed		Base		16th-18th	1	1	14
2	2012	HMIAAS	Handmade Iron Age or Saxon wares		?		BS	From Sample 6; granodiorite?	Prehistoric or early to middle Saxon	1	1	2
2	2012	THETT	Thetford type ware		Jar	Applied pressed strip?	BS		11th-M12th	1	1	1
2	2012	THETT	Thetford type ware		?		BS	Incredibly thin – possibly fragment of applied pressed strip?; ?ID; Sample 6		1	1	1
2	2012	SNEOT	St Neots ware		Jar		BSS	Sample 6	10th-11th	3	3	3

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Sub Fabric	Form	Decor	Part	Description	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
3	3001	THETT	Thetford type ware		Pitcher		Rim with UHJ		11th -M12th	1	1	55
4	4001	PEARL	Pearlware		Hollow	Moulded ?floral decoration	Base		19th	1	1	45
4	4001	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware		Bowl		Rim	Abraded	M16th-18th	1	1	42
4	4002	SNEOT	St Neots ware		Jar		BSS	Sample 5; 1 piece sooted	10th-11th	5	2	11
4	4002	ST	Stamford ware	A/D	Jar		Rim	Sooted rim; ?ID; unglazed	10th-11th?	1	1	24
4	4005	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	Fe slip	Bowl?		BS		M16th-18th	1	1	11
4	4005	PMED	Post medieval unglazed	Fe slip	?		Rim	Flake		1	1	1
4	4005	TGE	Tin glazed earthenware		Bowl or plate		Base		17th-M18th	1	1	8
Total										22	19	276

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Trench 1

Pottery was recovered from fill (1006) within ditch [1010] in Trench 1 and (1014) within possible posthole [1015].

Trench 2

Ditch fills (2008) in cut [2001] and (2012) in [2002] produced pottery from within this trench.

Trench 3

Layer (3001) produced a single sherd from within Trench 3.

Trench 4

Fill (4001) in pit [4011] and layer (4002) yielded pottery, whilst items labelled with context number (4005) were recovered as a unstratified sample.

Range

There is a range of domestic type Saxo-Norman dated pottery, including St Neots ware (SNEOT), Thetford type ware (THETT) and probable piece of Stamford ware (ST), with features within Trench 1, 2 and 4 giving pottery of this period. There is no pottery of high medieval date, and it is conceivable that the material could even be entirely pre-conquest.

Small fragments of handmade pottery, with gritty rock tempering, possibly including granodiorite (EMIAAS), could be either prehistoric or early to middle Saxon in date. These pieces were recovered from features in Trenches 1 and 2.

Domestic type, post medieval material of 16th to 18th century date, was recovered from ditch [2001] in Trench 2 and pit [4011] in Trench 4.

Potential

The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive. The pottery is indicative of domestic activity in the Saxo-Norman period.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL & FIRED CLAY

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 30 fragments of ceramic building material and fired clay, weighing 1807 grams were 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

With the exception of those items recovered from environmental samples the condition of the material is mixed, but generally quite fresh. There are some relatively large brick fragments within this small group. A flake of modern ceramic building material (MODCBM) from ditch [2002] is almost certainly intrusive.

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Tr	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Description	Date	NoF	Weight
1006	1	FCLAY	Fired Clay	Oxidised; fine	Sample 3; 1 pc in light firing clay	Undated	5	1
1012	1	CBM	Ceramic building material	Gault	Very fine; no original surfaces; flake	Medieval to post medieval	1	2
1012	1	FCLAY	Fired Clay	Oxidised; medium-coarse sandy; Ca; Fe	No original surfaces; flake		1	5
2008	2	BRK	Brick	Gault	Abraded; handmade; just 45mm thick; poorly mixed clay; friable	17th-18th	2	192
2008	2	BRK	Brick	Gault	Unusually fine; almost pipe clay consistency; 43mm thick; sand moulded	18th?	1	421
2008	2	BRK	Brick	Gault	Crudely mixed clay; partially vitrified; large Fe pieces		1	634
2008	2	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; fine sandy	Salt surface; 41mm thick; struck upper; calcareous material in bedding	16th-18th	1	249
2012	2	MODCBM	Modern Ceramic Building Material		Fine micaceous fabric; flake of ceramic land drain?; almost certainly intrusive; Sample 6	19th-20th	1	1
3005	3	FCLAY	Fired Clay	Oxidised; fine	Surfaceless and abraded; Sample 8; poorly mixed clay with light firing streaks	Undated	13	10
4001	4	BRK	Brick	Gault	66mm thick; sooted over a broken edge	19th	1	291

Cxt	Tr	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Description	Date	NoF	Weight
4002	4	FCLAY	Fired Clay	Oxidised; fine	Flakes; one piece with salt surface/white slip; Sample 5	Undated	3	1
Total							30	1807

Provenance

Trench 1

Ceramic building material was recovered from fill (1006) within ditch [1010] as well as modern service (1012) within modern service trench [1013].

Trench 2

Ditch fills (2008) in [2001] and (2012) in [2002] produced material from within Trench 2.

Trench 3

Ditch fill (3005) in [3003] produced fired clay.

Trench 4

Fill (4001) in pit [4011] gave material, from within Trench 4, as did layer (4002).

Range

There is a range of post medieval brick, along with some smaller, undiagnostic pieces, including fired clay. The brick is likely to be 17th to 18th century in date.

Potential

The ceramic building material and fired clay should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner and James Rackham

Introduction

A total of 33 (1495g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts. Three mollusc shells were also recovered.

Methodology

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

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

Provenance

The faunal remains were recovered from ditch fills (1006, 1008, 1009, 2008, 2012 and 3005), a layer (4002) and topsoil (4006).

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
1006	large mammal	long bone	-	1	5	
	sheep/goat	radius	R	1	7	
	medium mammal	skull	-	1	3	
1008	cattle	calcaneum	L	1	31	
	large mammal	rib	-	3	35	
1009	cattle	metacarpal	-	1	29	
2008	cattle	skull	-	3	356	Includes horn core
	cattle	scapula	-	1	141	
	cattle	humerus	R	1	159	
	cattle	molar	-	1	7	
	large mammal	rib	-	4	89	
2012	medium mammal	skull	-	1	3	
3005	large mammal	long bone	-	2	36	
4002	cattle	skull	-	4	89	
	cattle	metacarpal	R	1	118	
	cattle	radius	R	1	156	
	dog	skull	-	1	176	
	medium mammal	vertebra	-	1	40	
	medium mammal	rib	-	3	9	
4006	sheep/goat	molar	-	1	6	

Table 4, Mollusc shell

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
2008	garden snail	shell		1	1	
	Sandhill snail, <i>Candidula gigaxi</i>	shell		1	1	
	snail, <i>Cepaea</i> sp.	shell		1	1	

Summary

The animal bone has little potential, falling below the minimum count of *c.* 300 bones required for meaningful analysis. Cattle is the most dominant species represented in the assemblage followed by probable sheep/goat. The skull of a dog from layer (4002) may indicate the burial of a pet.

Three snail shells were recovered and include the synanthropic (associated with man) garden snail. A sandhill snail was also recovered. All the snails are terrestrial species and are widespread.

The faunal remains should be retained in the site archive for which purpose it is stable.

GLASS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Six pieces of glass were recovered.

Condition

The fragments from (2010) and (4002) are in good condition but the piece from (4005) exhibits severe iridescent decay and is quite heavily laminated.

Results

Table 5, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
2010	Fragment of colourless vessel, possible tumbler	1	19	20 th century

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
2012 06	Colourless glass, burnt	1	1	20 th century
4002 05	Colourless window?	3	1	18 th -20 th century
4005	Pale green window. Heavily laminated.	1	1	18 th century

Provenance

The glass was recovered from pit fill (2010), a layer (4002), and hand-sorted sample for finds recovery (4005).

Range

Fragments of vessel and window glass were recovered. The vessel is probable a tumbler of 20th century date. Several pieces of window glass of probable 18th-20th century date were also collected. The fragments from (2012) and (4002) were recovered by environmental sampling and of minute size.

Potential

Other than providing dating evidence the glass is of limited potential. The fragments from (2102) and (4002) are very small and may be intrusive.

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 6, Clay Pipes

Context no.	Bore diameter /64"					NoF	W(g)	Comments	Date
	8	7	6	5	4				
2008				1		1	4	Stem, towards junction with bowl	18 th century

Provenance

The clay pipe was recovered from a ditch fill. It is probably a fairly local product, perhaps manufactured in nearby Ely or Cambridge.

Range

A single stem or probable 18th century date was recovered.

Potential

Other than providing an indication of date the clay pipe is of limited potential.

WORKED FLINT

By Tom Lane

Introduction

Flints from Soham Health Centre were submitted for assessment.

Condition

Items from 1006 were moderately abraded while the example from 4002 was severely abraded. None of the items require any special conservation measures before depositing in a museum.

Results

Table 7, Worked Flint Archive

Cxt	Description	No	Wt (g)	Date
1006	Unworked flint	1		prehistoric
	Struck flake. Some cortex on dorsal surface. 34 x 29 x 5mm, prehistoric	1	12	
	Utilized flake. Notched piece. Some cortex remaining on dorsal surface. Small blade flakes removed from dorsal surface. Notch formed with secondary working. 37 x 20 x 8mm, prehistoric	1	6	
	Struck primary flake. 16 x 16 x 3mm, prehistoric	1	1	
1012	Unworked flint	1		
1014	Small flake. 9 x 4 x 2mm	1	<1	prehistoric
4002	Flake. Severely abraded. 40 x 36 x 15mm	1	28	prehistoric

Provenance

The flint was recovered from ditch fill (1006), modern service trench fill (1012), possible posthole fill (1014), and a layer (4002).

Range

All worked items represent debitage. No tools are present. No patination is present on any of the items and, despite a lack of coherent form, they are most probably of Bronze Age date.

Potential

There is evidence of a limited prehistoric presence on the site engaged in flint knapping and any further work should be undertaken with the awareness of potential for prehistoric features.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Fifty-six other finds weighing a total of 99g were recovered.

Condition

The other finds are in moderate-good condition.

Results

Table 8, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
1006 03	Mortar?	Mortar?	4	2	
2012 06	Bone	Worked bone, splinter, cut	1	1	
4002 05	Stone	Burnt flint	4	4	
	Mortar	Mortar	47	92	

Provenance

The other finds were recovered from ditch fills (1006, 2012), and a layer (4002). All were retrieved through environmental sampling.

Range

Mortar dominates the small assemblage, with one appreciable collection from (4002). There are also a few burnt flints. A cut bone splinter was also recovered. The piece is small and it is unclear whether it was produced by butchery or the working of bone to make artefacts.

Potential

The other finds are of limited potential though the mortar indicates the presence of structures in the area.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 9 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 9, Spot dates

Cxt	Date (Century AD)	Comments
1006	10 th -11 th	
1012	Medieval or post medieval	
1014	Prehistoric	Based on 1 flint; prehistoric or early to middle Saxon pottery was also recovered
2008	18 th	
2010	20 th	Based on 1 glass
2012	11 th – mid 12 th	Also contains 20 th century glass, and a flake of modern CBM possibly intrusive; prehistoric or early to middle Saxon pottery was also recovered
3001	11 th - mid 12 th	
4001	19 th	
4002	10 th -11 th	Also contains 18 th -20 th century glass, possibly intrusive
4005	18 th	

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
PCRG	Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group
TR	Trench
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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Appendix 3

ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY ASSESSMENT

Evaluation excavations conducted by Archaeological Project Services at Soham resulted in the collection of eight environmental soils samples from four of the evaluation trenches of which seven were submitted for assessment (Table 1). The samples derive from possible prehistoric, Saxon-norman and later deposits. The samples were submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment.

Table 1. Environmental samples collected from the evaluation at Soham – SOHC16

Sample	context	Trench	feature	Volume l.	Weight kg.	Provisional date
001	1014	1	Lower fill posthole 1015	2	2	prehistoric
002	1016	1	Fill of posthole 1017	0.75	1.15	?prehistoric
003	1006	1	Fill of ditch 1010	16	24	10-11 th C AD
004	1009	1	Primary fill of ditch 1011 (cut by 1010)	3	3.75	undated
005	4002	4	? occupation deposit?	30	46	10-11 th C AD
006	2012	2	Fill of shallow ditch 2002	30	38	11-12 th C AD
008	3005	3	Fill of ditch 3003	30	42	undated

Methods

The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residue and flot were dried and the residues subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volume of the flots was measured and the volume and weight of the residue recorded.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through each residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill and an estimate made of the number of flakes or spheroids of hammerscale present. The residue was then discarded. The flot of each sample was studied using x30 magnifications and the presence of environmental finds (i.e. snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The flots were then bagged and along with the finds from the sorted residue, constitute the material archive of the samples.

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

Results

The samples washed down to a residue of sand, limestone, flint and pebble gravel, earthworm granules, silt crumb and concretions, with numerous small inclusions of snail shell, bone, fired earth, etc. Archaeological finds were sorted from the >2mm residues, with snails and fish bone being recovered from the >1mm residues. The range of finds recovered includes pottery, fired earth, hammerscale, glass, mortar, marine shell, bird eggshell, mammal, bird and fish bone. A small piece of worn bone with a point at either end may be an artefact (sample <6>).

Samples 1 and 2 from posthole fills, the former with a tentative prehistoric date (on the basis of a flint), produced very little archaeological debris, a single pot sherd from <1> and a little indeterminate animal bone, eel vertebra, a small magnetic fraction, a tiny amount of charcoal, poorly preserved unidentifiable charred grain and a possible wheat grain, and a small assemblage of terrestrial snails suggestive of open grassland. The presence of the eel vertebrae might suggest a Saxon-Norman date, but bones of this size could move down through the soil.

Table 2: Soham – SOHC16. Finds from the processed samples

sample no.	context	sample vol. l.	residue volume (ml)	pot no/wt (g)	fired earth wt. g.	slag wt g.	magnetic wt. g.	hammer-scale	marine shell wt g.	bird eggshell	bone wt g.	
001	1014	2	35	1/0.2			0.1				0.4	Glass-small chip; flint – natural flake?
002	1016	0.75	50				0.1					Flint-natural chips?
003	1006	16	600	1/0.4	0.2		0.6	10fl		+	11	Mortar-1g; glass- small chip; crushed silver paper; flint – natural chips? Fuel ash slag- 0.5g; chip of yellow brick
004	1009	3	200				0.1			+	1.6	Flint-natural chip?
005	4002	30	2600	8/9.8			2	5fl/3sph	0.2	+	45	Mortar -89.6g; glass – chips; burnt flint & stone – 6g; flint-natural chips?
006	2012	30	1100	5/3.6			2.4	22fl/4sph	1.2	+	27.2	Mortar-2g; glass-chip; possible bone point; flint – natural chips and flake?
008	3005	30	1500		9.2		1.8	11fl			42.4	Flint – natural flakes?

+ - present

Table 3: Soham SOHC16. Environmental finds from the processed samples

sample no.	cont. no.	sample vol. (l)	flot vol. (ml)	charcoal *	charred grain *	chaff *	charred seed *	water-logged seed	snail *	comment
001	1014	2	3	2/3	1		1		2	Indet charred grain, pulse?; frog/toad, eel, fish scales; snails – <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Vitrea</i> sp., Succinidae
002	1016	0.75	1	1/1	1				2	Charred wheat? grain; snails – <i>C. acicula</i> , <i>Helicella</i> sp., <i>T hispida</i>
003	1006	16	115	2/3	2		1	1	3	Charred grain; sheep/goat, mole, vole, frog/toad, chicken, cf chicken eggshell, eel, small fish, fish scales, squashed fish vertebra; snails – <i>C. acicula</i> , <i>Oxychilus alliarus</i> , <i>Vitrea</i> sp., <i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Aegopinella pura</i> , <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>T. hispida</i> , <i>V. excentrica</i> , <i>Vallonia costata</i> , <i>Cepeae</i> sp., <i>Glabra truncatula</i> , Succinidae; flot mainly rootlets
004	1009	3	3	1/2	1			1	2	Charred wheat? and barley? grain; indet bone, frog/toad, cf chicken eggshell, eel, fish scales; snails – <i>T.hispida</i> , <i>H.itala</i> , <i>O.alliarus</i> , <i>V.excentrica</i> , <i>V. costata</i> , <i>Copcllicopa</i> sp., <i>Helix aspersa</i> , <i>G. truncatula</i>
005	4002	30	47	3/5	3		2	2	2	Charred wheat and barley grain; uncharred grape; sheep/goat, pig, shrew, bank vole, small bird, cf chicken eggshell, cf goose? eggshell, frog/toad, eel, cyprinid, small fish, fish scales; common mussel; ostracod; snails - <i>C. acicula</i> , <i>Vitrea</i> sp, <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>T. hispida</i> , <i>V. excentrica</i> , <i>Vallonia costata</i> , <i>Glabra truncatula</i> ; fuel ash slag in flot
006	2012	30	19	4/4	2		1	1	3	Charred wheat?, rye? and barley grain; cattle, sheep/goat, field vole, mouse, small bird, cf chicken eggshell, cf goose? eggshell, eel, cyprinid, small fish, fish scales; small crustacean claw, common mussel; snails – <i>T. hispida</i> , <i>V. costata</i> , <i>V. excentrica</i> , <i>C. acicula</i> , <i>O. alliarus</i> , <i>Vitrea</i> sp., <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>H. aspersa</i> ;
008	3005	30	30	3/5	3		2	1	4	Charred wheat, barley and rye grain, pea/bean; cattle, rodent, frog/toad, eel, small fish, fish scales; snails – <i>T. hispida</i> , <i>O.alliarus</i> , <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>H. itala</i> , <i>Anisus leucostoma</i> , <i>Cepeae</i> sp., <i>V. costata</i> , <i>V. excentrica</i> , <i>G. truncatula</i> , <i>V. pygmaea</i> , <i>H. aspersa</i> , Succinidae

*frequency 1=1-10; 2=11-50; 3=51-150; 4=151-250; 5=>250; + present.

waterlogged flot

Three samples are dated to the Saxo-Norman and early medieval period (Table 1), these include a possible occupation layer and two ditch fills. All three produced pottery and evidence for iron smithing, with a range of food debris including probable chicken eggshell, mussel shells and animal bone. A few thicker fragments of eggshell in samples <5> and <6> suggest possible goose eggs. The samples include charred wheat, barley and probable rye, and sample <5> an uncharred grape seed. Eel and small fish, including cyprinids, occur, while cattle, sheep/goat and pig have been identified among the mammal bones. The terrestrial snail assemblages include a mix of open and shaded environments, suggesting that the ditches were probably hedged, but no obligative aquatics occur so the ditches may not have carried water, although an ostracod (aquatic crustacean) occurs in sample <5>..

Two samples remain undated (samples <4> and <8>) although the range of debris within them would be consistent with an early medieval date. These produced charred wheat, barley and rye, with possible pea/bean in <8>. Eel and fish scales are as abundant as they are in samples <3>, <5> and <6>. The presence of rye and eel would tend to indicate that these deposits are probably contemporary with the dated 11-12th century features. The absence of any chaff in the samples suggests that the charred plant remains derives from fully cleaned cereal and was probably accidentally charred during food preparation.

A few small vertebrates occur in the samples but offer little useful information, and a number of uncharred plant seeds, including elder, bramble, goosefoot and acorns suggest, along with small chips of glass and a fragment of silver paper, some contamination by recent material. Whether the uncharred grape seed represents recent contamination or a survival is problematic.

Conclusion and recommendations

The deposits show a good general range of archaeological finds indicative of domestic activity and food waste on the site. There is also evidence for iron smithing. Cattle, sheep/goat, pig, chicken, cereals, pulses, fish, bird eggs and marine shells are all indicative of the range of foods exploited at the site and are fairly typical of Saxo-Norman domestic sites. Apart from eel the fish species have not been identified, but coastal marine species such as herring may be present, while the few fragments of mussel shell clearly indicate trade with the coast. The charred plant assemblages indicate the range of species supplied to the site including barley, wheat, rye, and pea or bean. On the basis of these environmental assemblages it is possible that all the samples derive from Saxon-Norman or early medieval deposits. The site appears to be domestic rather than agricultural.

The snail assemblages indicate a range of taxa from both grassland and shaded habitats, perhaps indicating that ditches were hedged. More useful conclusions may be possible if during future work at the site columns of samples are taken from dated ditch fills to obtain a sequence from the fills and establish whether there are changes in the local environment.

The broad range of data recovered from the samples indicates that the site has significant potential for the recovery of economic data concerning the food eaten, and any industrial activity. Preservation is good although no waterlogged preservation has occurred although the single seed of grape might indicate survival of some of the more robust seeds. The snail assemblage may permit a more detailed reconstruction of some aspects of the local environment

Any further excavations should therefore include fairly comprehensive bulk sampling (30 litre samples) of well dated deposits, plus spot samples and sample 'columns' through ditch and pit deposits for palaeoenvironmental data such as snails. No pollen assessment has been undertaken but the calcareous nature of the deposits suggest that it may not have survived in good condition. The range of animal bones – domestic animal, bird and fish – indicate that normal hand collection is likely to bias the assemblage against the smaller elements (birds and fish) and control samples should be bulk sieved on a fine mesh (2mm) from the bone rich features to ensure a good recovery of the smaller bone elements, so that any bias can be assessed.

Acknowledgments

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Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

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, <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.
Posthole	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.
Residual	Artefacts that are noticeably earlier than others in an assemblage are often described as residual. Residual artefacts may be ones that were used for a very long time, or items that were maintained as heirlooms/antiques. If the dates of artefacts within a group do not exhibit major differences it can be difficult to determine if an artefact is residual or redeposited (<i>q.v.</i>)
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas.
Saxo-Norman	Pertaining to the period either side of the Norman Conquest of 1066, dating from about 1000-1100 AD.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

7	Context register sheets
108	Context record sheets
2	Trench record sheets
3	Photographic record sheets
5	Daily record sheets
1	Plan record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Sample record sheet
8	Environmental sample sheets
11	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
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

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	SOHC 16
Cambridgeshire C.C. HER Event No:	ECB 4787
OASIS Record No:	archaeo11-262819

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: archaeol1-262819

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation at the former Health Centre, Pratt St, Soham, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	An evaluation comprising four trenches revealed several ditches of early medieval date. Probably part of the same Saxo-Norman field system revealed in excavations to the northeast. Finds and environmental evidence suggest close proximity to domestic and iron smithing activity..
Project dates	Start: 08-08-2016 End: 12-08-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SOHC16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	16/00373/FUM - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 4787 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	DITCH Early Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition Between deposition of an application and determination

Position in the
planning process

Project location

Country England
 Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOHAM Former Health Centre, Pratt Street
 Postcode CB7 5DX
 Study area 5000 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 5938 7348 52.335793661151 0.339547766407 52 20 08 N 000 20 22 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 7.8m Max: 8m

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 Chris Moulis
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body MEDCENTRES PLC

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office
 Physical Archive ID ECB 4787
 Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass"
 Digital Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office
 Digital Archive ID ECB 4787
 Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Survey"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Arcaeheology Office
 Paper Archive ID ECB 4787
 Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Survey"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey"

**Project
bibliography 1**

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