# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, LAND AT WOOD END BLUNTISHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE (BLWE19)

Work Undertaken For
**Rose Homes (EA) Limited**

October 2019

Report Compiled by
Mark Peachey BA (Hons)

Planning Application No: 18/00102/FUL
National Grid Reference: TL 3618 7500
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OASIS Record No: archaeol1-365321

APS Report No. **69/19**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

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# 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land at Wood End, Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire. This was in advance of proposed residential development of the site.*

*The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area within a concentration of findspots dating from the prehistoric and Romano-British periods. Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval remains are present within the village a short distance to the east.*

*The evaluation revealed undated linear features including two parallel gullies, perhaps forming the sides of a small enclosure or trackway, and a pit.*

*A ditch in the east side of the site was dated by pottery to the early Roman period. While environmental evidence supported this through the presence of charred spelt seeds, the most widely cultivated type of wheat during the period, it also suggested the site lay away from domestic activity.*

*Single sherds of medieval pottery were retrieved from features in the north and east of the site.*

*A large probable pit in the northwest part of the site was dated to the early modern period.*

*Four of the trenches contained evidence for strip quarrying for sand and gravel in early modern times.*

*Finds included possible Bronze Age pottery, Early Roman, medieval and early modern pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), animal bone, two pieces of copper alloy, possibly from a late medieval fitting or clasp and an iron strip/flattened nail, probably of 19th to 20th century date.*

# 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 on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate*' (CIfA 2014).

## 2.2 Planning Background

An archaeological evaluation was required as a condition of planning permission (18/00102/FUL) for the construction of 20 new dwellings, an access road and associated infrastructure on currently arable farmland. Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Rose Homes (EA) Limited to undertake this work which was carried between 24th June and 8th July 2019 in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Planning Archaeologist, Cambridgeshire County Council.

## 2.3 Location, Topography and Geology

Bluntisham is a civil parish in the Huntingdon district of Cambridgeshire. The village is located in the northeast of the parish and is 13km east of Huntingdon and 18km west of Ely (Fig. 1).

The site lies to the west of the village on the south side of Wood End at National Grid Reference TL 3618 7500 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are predominantly Cannamore Association, typical stagnogleyic brown calcareous earths (Hodge *et al* 1984, 140). These soils are developed on deposits of West Walton and Ampthill Clay Formation mudstones overlying Oadby Member glacial deposits (BGS 1995). The proposed development site lies at approximately 32m AOD.

## 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Prehistoric activity in the vicinity dates back to the Palaeolithic era. East of the village, during the excavation of a pipeline, a side scraper and a handaxe were recovered (CHER 11771, 11722).

Flint objects from the Neolithic period, including a burin and a ground axe head, have been discovered to the south of the site (CHER 01759). The majority of other prehistoric finds in the vicinity date from this time up to the Late Bronze Age. A scatter of flint finds in the fields south and west of the site include a scraper of indeterminate date (CHER 03626) close to the above finds with further Neolithic flint implements immediately south of the site (CHER 03621, 03622 and 03625). West of the site, a small concentration of finds was recovered from the fields southwest of Higham Farm (CHER 03624, 03627 and 03628). Finds to the north of the site are sparser with two prehistoric finds located to the northwest (CHER 03620) and northeast (CHER 03618).

During an excavation at Rectory Road (ECB2016) a large oval pit containing beaker pottery was excavated. It was the only feature of this date within a site that spanned activity from the Bronze Age to the Roman periods.

To the east of the site, archaeological evidence from the Iron Age onwards has been found within the village. Iron Age pottery was recovered from the eastern side of Holliday's Road (CHER 01722 and 03930) about 1km from the site. Evaluation of land to the north of Rectory Road, 1km to the southeast, also uncovered ditches and pits of Iron Age to Romano-British date suggestive of a small farmstead (MCB 16079).

West of the site, Romano-British finds including coins of Gallienus (253-268 AD, CHER 00949) and Constantine (306-312 AD, CHER 01545) and pottery (CHER 03577) have been found.

The Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086 records Bluntisham belonging to the Abbey of St Benedict at Ramsey and to the Abbey of St Etheldreda at Ely. There was a church, meadow, woodland and land for eight ploughs (Williams and Martin 2002).

The 14th century St Mary's Church (CHER10563) lies southeast of the village. A 15th to 17th century farmhouse of hall and cross wing plan lies north of Wood End within 100m of the application site (DCB3279) suggesting that the focus of the medieval village extended along Wood End from the village core. The remains of ridge and furrow cultivation lies to the north (ECB5142).

There are three 17th century timber framed cottages further east on Wood End, all Grade II Listed Buildings (DCB2301, 3467 and 3933).

# 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.

Archaeological remains at the site may have the potential to provide data to address a number of areas of research as defined in the published resource assessment and research agenda (Medlycott 2011). The site has the potential to contribute to the understanding of medieval rural settlements and landscapes.

## 4. METHODS

Eight evaluation trenches (Fig. 3), each measuring 30m long by 1.55m wide, were opened to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of the underlying natural geology, as appropriate.

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

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Throughout the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of colour digital images of at least 10 megapixels was compiled. Sections and plans were drawn at scales of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

To determine the characterisation of the artefact content of the topsoil, samples were taken from both ends of each trench and hand-sorted on site.

A metal detector (configured for no discrimination) was used to aid the recovery of any metallic artefacts from all exposed surfaces and spoil.

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

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2).

## 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.

**Trench 1** (Fig. 4)
The earliest deposits revealed in Trench 1 were a natural yellowish-brown clay (1003) at the north end and a natural reddish-brown clay (1004) at the south end.

These were cut, near the centre of the trench, by a large east-west aligned feature [1005] (Fig. 6, Section 4; Plate 2) which had to be stepped in order to fully excavate safely. Possibly a pit rather than a linear feature, it did not continue into Trench 6, with steep sides and a flattish base it measured 4.59m wide and 1m deep. It was filled with mid greyish-brown clay (1006) which contained a sherd of 19th to 20th century pottery, a fragment of medieval roof tile, two pieces of a possibly late medieval copper alloy fitting and oyster shell (Appendix 2).

The feature was sealed by a 0.26m thick layer of mid greyish-brown clayey silt subsoil (1002). This was cut by an east-west aligned land drain trench [1007] which was filled with mid greyish-brown clay (1008). Sealing this was a 0.32m thick layer of topsoil (1001).

**Trench 2** (Fig. 4; Plate 3)
In this trench, a natural deposit of light yellowish-brown sand and gravel (2002) was cut by a series of shallow pits.

Identified as probable early modern gravel extraction features these were planned and, after discussion with the curator, machined out and the full trench section drawn (Fig. 9, Section 13) as an example (Trenches 3 and 5 contained similar pits).

The descriptions of the pits are noted in Appendix 1. They were all filled with loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt apart from [2013] which also had an upper fill of yellowish-grey clayey silt (2011). No finds were retrieved from them.

The pits were sealed by a 0.25m thick layer of topsoil (2001).

**Trench 3** (Fig. 4; Plate 4)
Trench 3 contained a natural deposit of yellowish-brown clayey sand (3005) overlain by layers of yellow sand (3004) and yellow sand and gravel (3003), both 0.18m thick. Above this was a 0.2m thick layer of greyish-brown sand (3002) (Fig. 8, Section 8).

Similarly to Trench 2, the natural deposits were cut by a number of gravel extraction pits (Fig. 4). Following discussion with the curator, two of these were excavated.

Towards the east end of the trench, pit [3006] (Fig. 8, Section 8; Plate 5) was irregularly shaped and measured 3m wide and 0.87m deep. A lower fill of 0.2m thick yellowish-brown sand and gravel (3007), probably redeposited, was overlain by a 0.83m thick greyish-brown clayey silt (3008) containing post-medieval brick and an iron nail.

In the centre of the trench, pit [3009] (Fig. 8, Section 14; Plate 6) was sub-circular with steep sides and a rounded base. It was 3.2m in diameter and 0.85m deep with a fill of greyish-brown clayey silt (3010).

The features were sealed by a 0.28m thick layer of topsoil (3001).

**Trench 4** (Fig. 4; Plate 7)
In Trench 4, the natural deposits comprised mid reddish-brown silty clay (4002) in the southeastern half of the trench and yellowish-grey sand and gravel (4005) in the northwestern half.

At the southeast end of the trench, the natural deposit (4002) was cut by a linear feature or pit [4004] (Fig. 8, Section 11;

Plate 8). This had a steep north side and flattish base and was at least 2.2m wide and 0.52m deep. It was filled with a mid greyish-brown clayey silt (4003).

In the northwestern part of the trench, the natural deposit (4005) was cut by a number of gravel extraction pits similar to those in Trenches 2 and 3.

The southernmost of these, roughly oval [4007] was not excavated but some animal bone was extracted from the top of its mixed fill of gravel and greyish-brown clayey silt (4006).

Immediately to the north of [4007], the largest extraction pit in the trench [4011] (Fig. 8, Section 15; Plate 9) was excavated by machine following discussion with the curator. With steep sides and a flat base, the pit measured 4.65m wide and 0.7m deep. It contained three fills. The lower fill (4010) was a 0.1m thick yellowish-grey sand and gravel. It was overlain by a 0.3m thick mid greyish-brown clayey silt (4009) with the top fill comprising a 0.3m thick mid brown silt (4008).

The features were sealed by a 0.25m thick layer of topsoil (4001) from which a sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved.

**Trench 5**
In this trench the natural deposit comprised a mix of light yellow clay and sand and gravel (5002).

As in Trenches 2, 3 and the northwest half of Trench 4, the natural deposit was cut by a number of gravel extraction pits up to 0.5m in depth. These were machined out and a full trench section drawn (Fig. 9, Section 9; Plate 10).

The descriptions of the pits are noted in Appendix 1. Intercutting, they were filled with either mid brown clayey silt or mid greyish-brown clayey silt. No finds were retrieved from them.

The pits were sealed by the 0.25m thick topsoil (5001).

**Trench 6** (Fig. 5)
In Trench 6, the natural deposit of light brownish yellow clay (6003) was cut by three features.

At the northeast end of the trench, was a broad, shallow feature [6008] (Fig. 6, Section 5; Plate 13). Measuring at least 5.75m wide and 0.34m deep it had a concave southwest side and an uneven base. It was filled with mid reddish-brown clay (6009) from which two sherds of probable Bronze Age pottery and one of medieval pottery were retrieved (Appendix 2).

Three metres to the southwest of [6008] was a north-south aligned gully [6004] (Fig. 6, Section 1; Plate 11). This had concave sides and a rounded base, measured 0.64m wide and 0.12m deep and was filled with mid reddish-brown clay (6005).

Parallel to [6004] and 5m to the southwest, was gully terminus [6006] (Fig. 6, Sections 2, 12; Plate 12). This was of a similar profile to [6004] and was 0.69m wide and 0.13m deep. It was filled with mid reddish-brown clay (6007).

The features were sealed by a 0.2m thick subsoil layer of yellowish-brown silty clay (6002) which was overlain by 0.26m thick topsoil layer (6001) (Fig. 7, Section 5).

**Trench 7** (Fig. 5)
A natural deposit of mid yellowish-brown clay (7003) was cut, towards the north end of the trench, by a southwest-northeast aligned linear feature [7004] (Fig. 8, Section 10; Plate 14). This had concave sides and a rounded base and was 1.25m wide and 0.3m deep. It contained a single

fill of mid reddish-brown clayey silt (7005) which contained a sherd of medieval pottery (Appendix 2). The feature was overlain by a 0.1m thick yellowish-grey silt spread (7006) which, in turn, was sealed by a 0.13m thick mid brown clayey-silt subsoil (7002). Above this was a 0.25m thick layer of topsoil (7001).

**Trench 8** (Fig. 5; Plate 15)
Trench 8 contained a natural deposit of reddish-brown silty clay (8003) which was cut by three archaeological features.

At the south end of the trench was a southwest-northeast aligned probable linear feature [8006] (Fig. 7, Section 3; Plate 16). This was at least 3.3m long, 0.9m wide and 0.56m deep with slightly concave sides. A lower fill of at least 0.25m thick greyish-brown clayey silt (8005) contained 32 sherds of 1st to 2nd century Roman pottery and animal bone (Appendix 2). Environmental samples produced both uncharred and charred seeds including spelt wheat (Appendix 3). This fill was overlain by a 0.31m thick upper fill of reddish-brown clayey silt (8004).

Immediately to the north of [8006], northwest-southeast aligned linear [8008] (Fig. 7, Section 6; Plate 17) had steep, concave sides and a flat base. It was filled with mid greyish-brown clayey silt (8007) which contained a sherd of early medieval pottery, animal bone and a flint flake (Appendix 2).

A few metres to the north of [8008] sub-circular pit [8010] (Fig. 7, Section 7; Plate 18) had moderately steep sides and a rounded base. Measuring 2.25m wide and 0.68m deep it was filled with mid greyish-brown clayey silt (8009).

The features were sealed by a 0.3m thick mid brown clayey silt subsoil (8002) above which was a 0.3m thick topsoil (8001).

## 6. DISCUSSION

At the north end of the site in Trenches 6 and 7 and the northern half of Trench 1, the natural deposit was a yellowish-brown clay. In the southern half of Trenches 1 and 4 and in Trench 8 it was a reddish-brown silty clay while in Trenches 2, 3, 5 and the northern half of Trench 4, it was sand and gravel.

Two undated parallel gullies, including a terminus, in Trench 6 may form the sides of a trackway. A pit in Trench 8 was also undated.

Being on a similar alignment, the linear features excavated at the southern ends of Trenches 4 and 8 may be part of the same ditch, the latter containing a substantial amount of Early Roman pottery. Environmental samples from its lower fill produced evidence of damp conditions, including occasional standing water in the ditch, which would have been surrounded by grassland. Charred spelt seeds, the most widely cultivated type of wheat during the Early Roman period, were present. The seeds may have been windblown as the lack of domestic animal bone and relatively low amount of charcoal in the sample suggests food preparation occurred some distance away. The ditch could be part of a field system related to the small farmstead previously excavated to the southeast.

This ditch was the only feature subject to environmental sampling as it was the only one that was well dated.

A further linear feature [8008] located a few metres to the north in Trench 8 contained a sherd of early medieval pottery. A furrow or spread in Trench 6 and the linear feature revealed in Trench 7

also contained single sherds of medieval pottery.

A large feature in Trench 1, which could be linear but is more probably a pit, as it did not continue through the adjacent Trench 6, was dated to the early modern period.

All these features were sealed by a subsoil, a probable former ploughsoil.

The subsoil was not present in Trenches 2, 3, 5 and the northern part of Trench 4 which had been subject to sand and gravel extraction. This was in the form of irregular, closely spaced, often intercutting pitting up to 0.7m deep. Overall, this was to a depth of less than 1m below the current field surface.

Similar, although more uniformly shaped, 'strip quarrying' was encountered at Wisbech Road, March in 2009 (Peachey 2009). There seems to be little documentary evidence for this form of quarrying but one quarry company in Derbyshire, Hilton Gravels, traced its roots to half a dozen men using shovels in the late 19th century, the material being sold mainly for the footpaths and drives of larger houses (Cooper 2008). In the early 19th century at Mackworth, Derbyshire labourers were employed digging and sifting gravel, 'levelling the rubbish and regularly returning topsoil on to it as the work proceeds'. The gravel was sold to the surveyors of the turnpike roads (Farey 1817).

The trenches and spoil heaps were metal detected but no metal objects were retrieved.

The site contributed a small amount to the research agenda for eastern England for Roman field systems (Medlycott 2011).

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land at Wood End, Bluntisham as the site lay in an archaeologically sensitive area, within a concentration of findspots of prehistoric and Romano-British date. Medieval and post-medieval remains had also been found in the area.

The evaluation revealed undated linear features including two parallel gullies, perhaps forming the sides of a trackway, and a pit.

A ditch in the east side of the site was dated to the Early Roman period. While supporting this date an environmental sample suggested the site lay in grassland, away from the domestic activity.

Single sherds of medieval pottery were retrieved from features in the north and east of the site.

A large probable pit in the northwest part of the site was dated to the early modern period.

Four of the trenches contained evidence for strip quarrying of sand and gravel in early modern times.

Finds included possible Bronze Age pottery, Early Roman, medieval and early modern pottery, CBM, animal bone and metal.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Rose Homes (EA) Limited who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis and of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team. The work was coordinated by Neil Parker who also edited

this report along with Paul Cope-Faulkner.

## 9. PERSONNEL

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Site Assistants: Douglas Kirk-Bellamy, Peter Fitzer
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Mark Peachey
CAD Illustration: Douglas Kirk-Bellamy, Mark Peachey
Post-excavation Analysis: Mark Peachey
Archiving: Denise Buckley

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

AOD Above Ordnance Datum

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

CBA Council for British Archaeology

CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CHER Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record

OS Ordnance Survey


Figure 1 General location plan

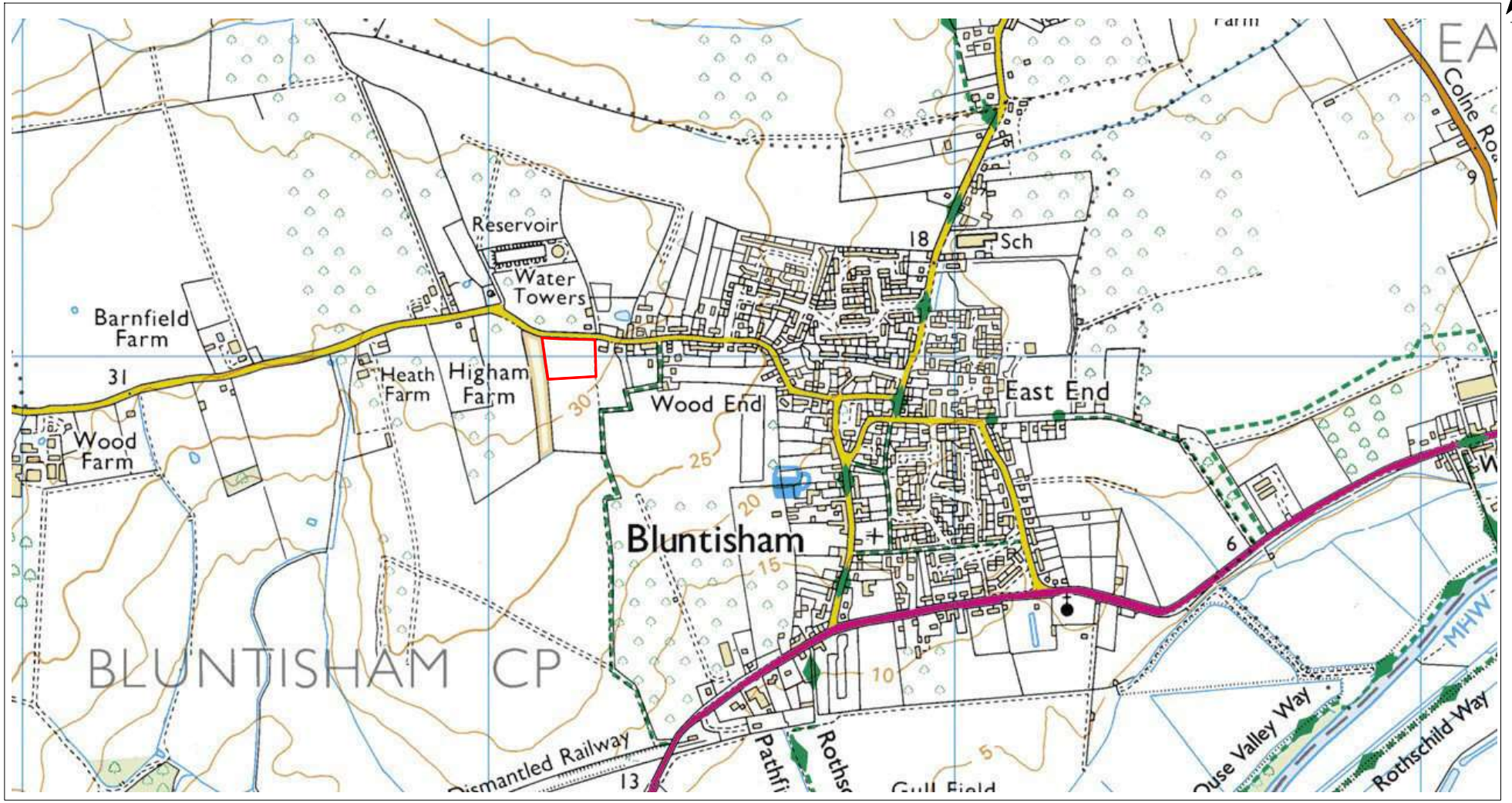




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Figure 2. Site location plan

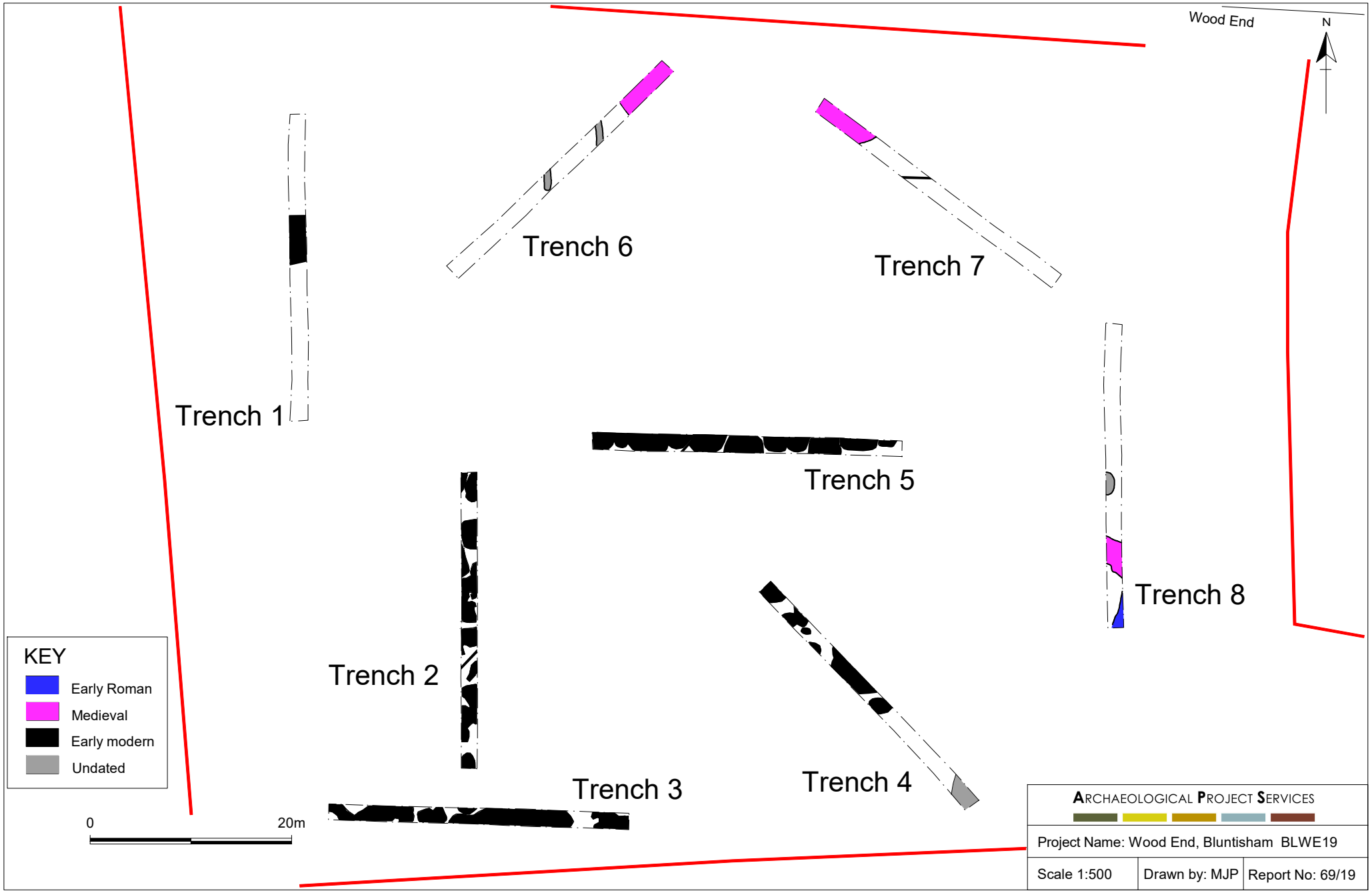



Figure 3. Trench layout

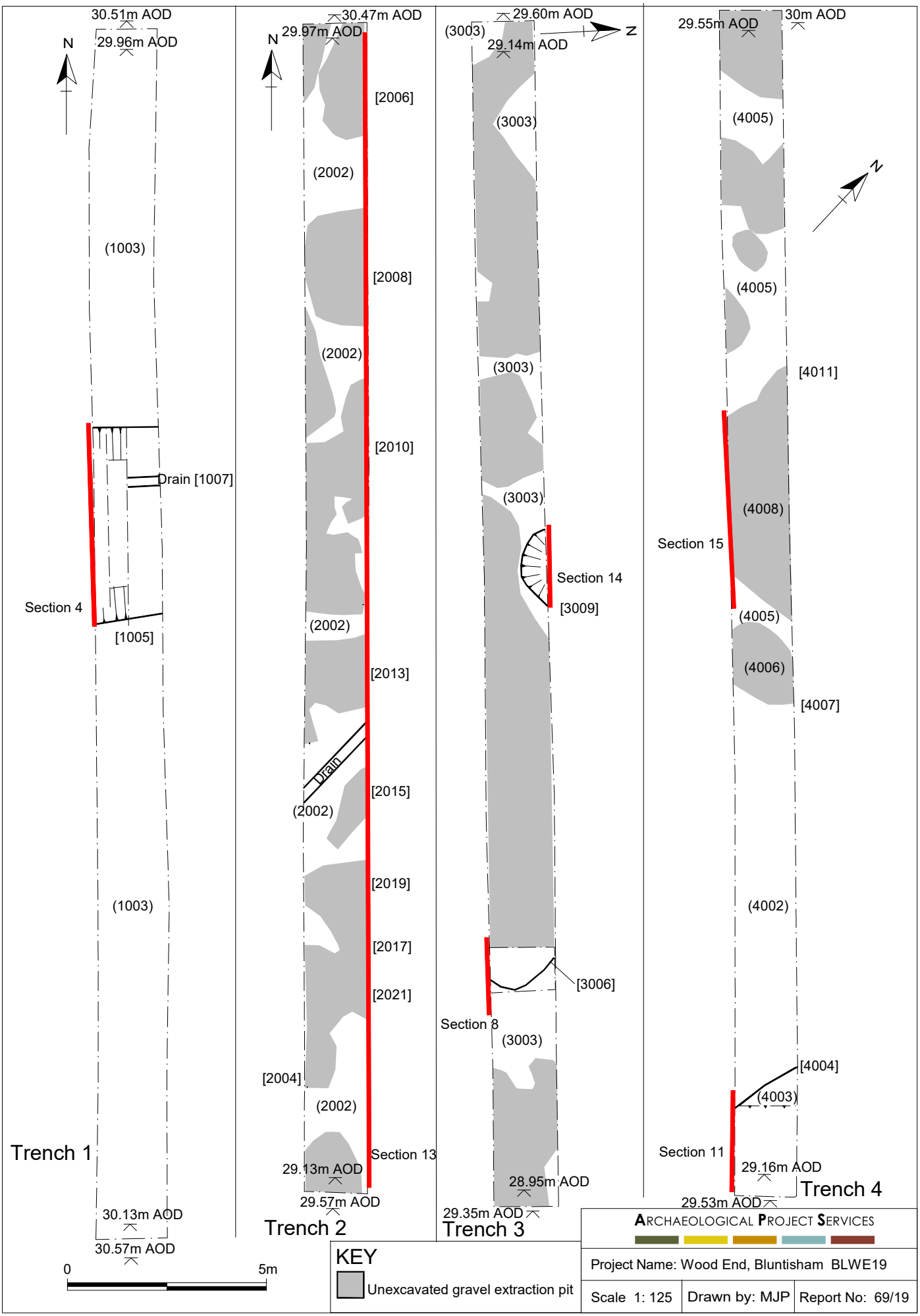



Figure 4. Plans of Trenches 1-4

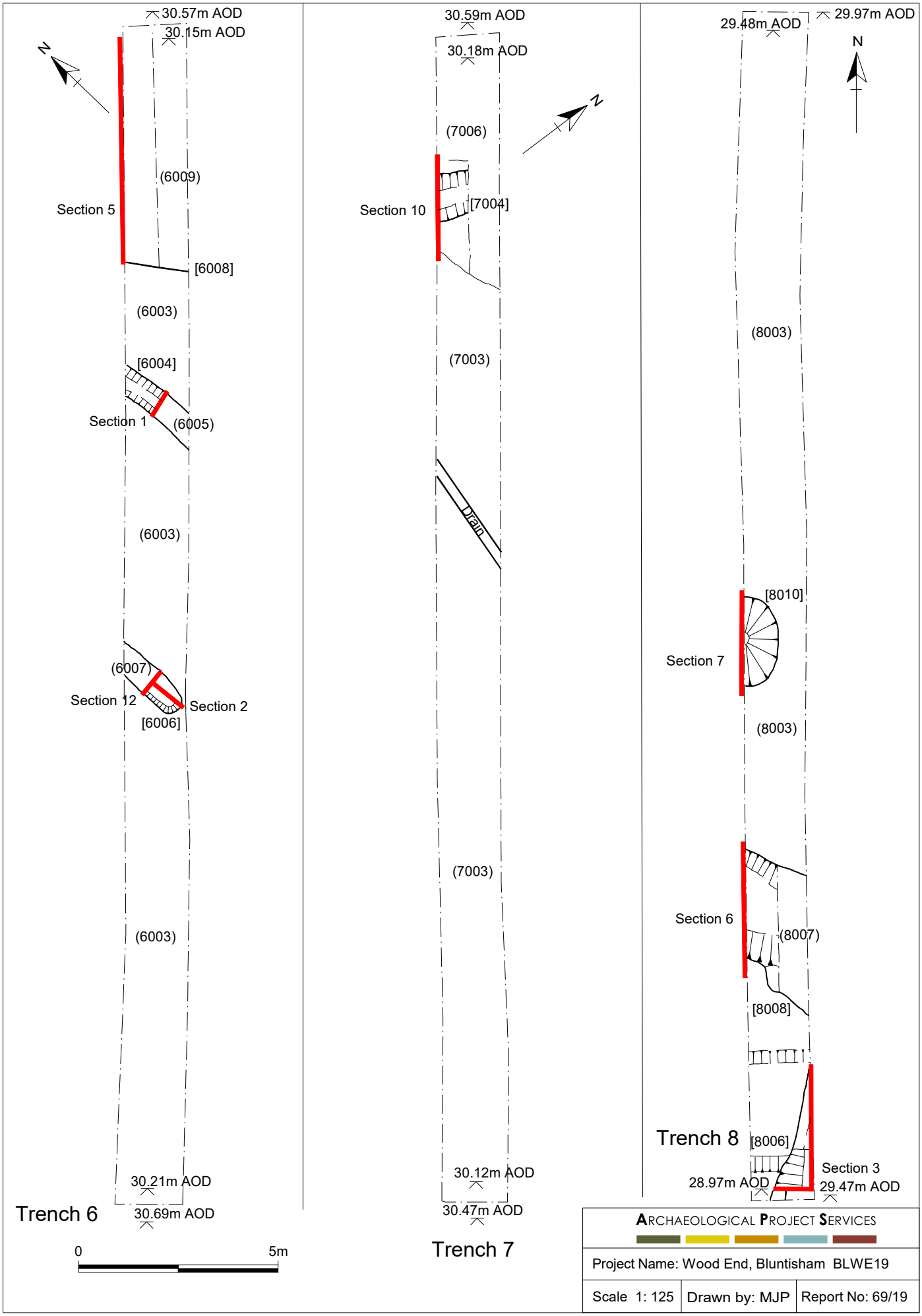



Figure 5. Plans of Trenches 6-8

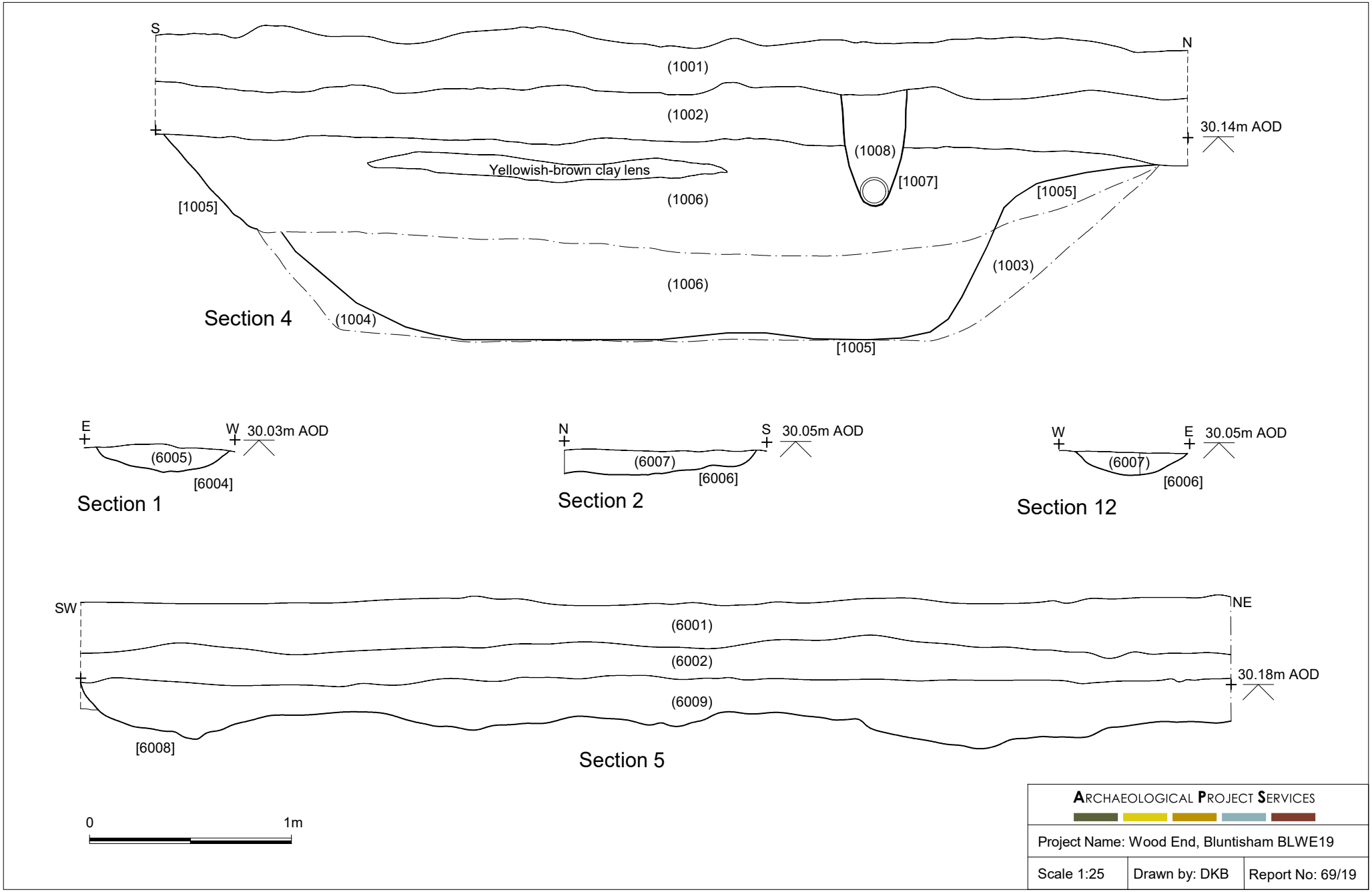
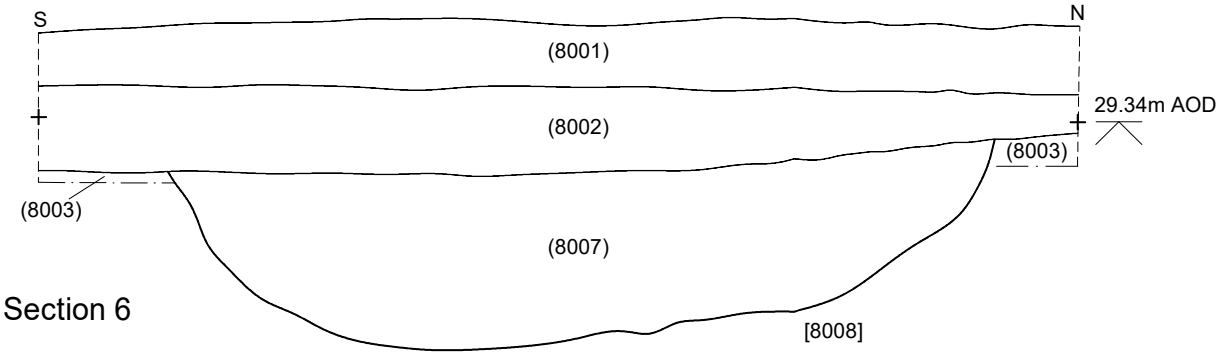
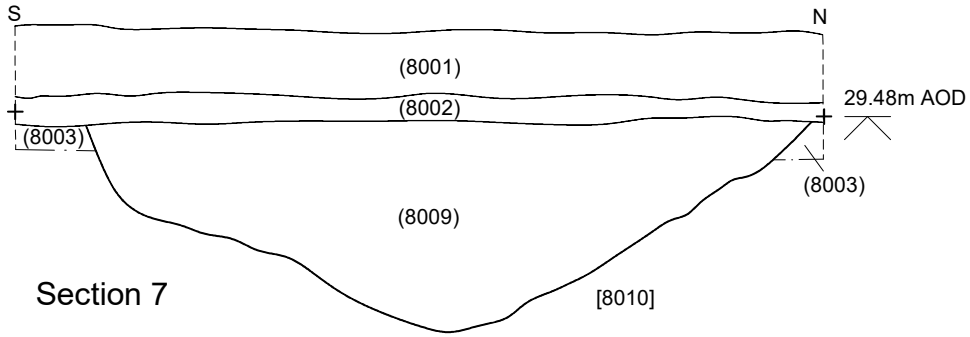



Figure 6. Trenches 1 and 6 Sections


Section 3




Section 6




Section 7


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Figure 7. Trench 8 Sections

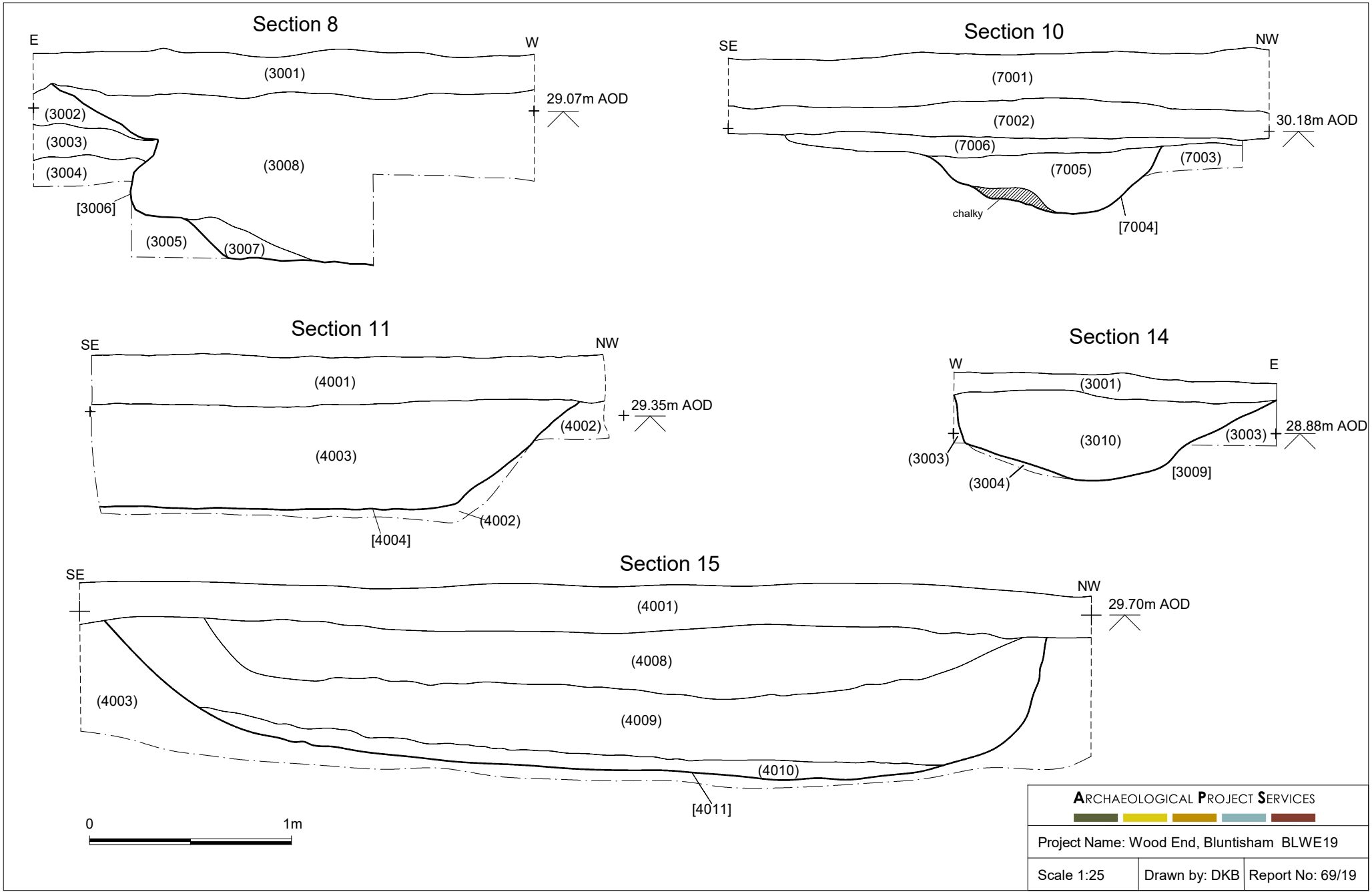
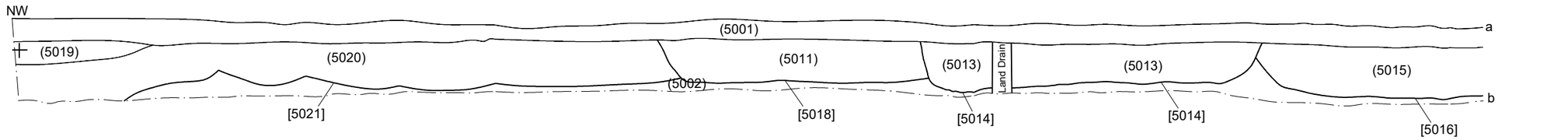
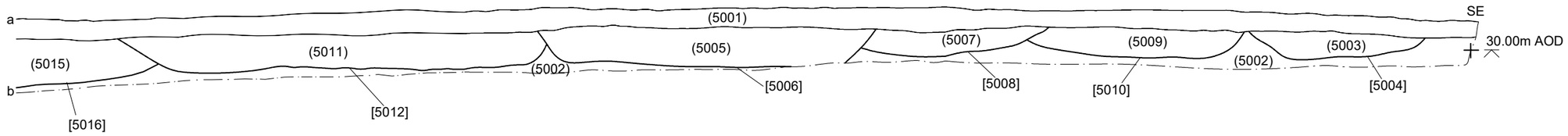
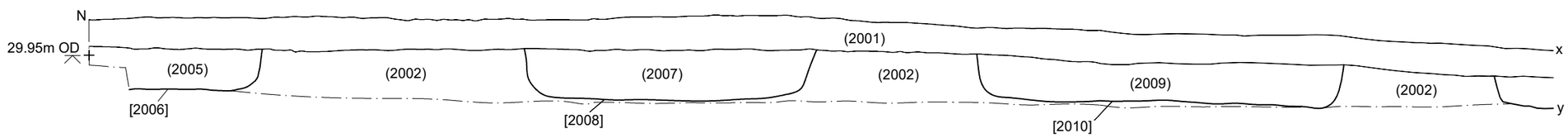



Figure 8. Sections 8, 10, 11, 14 and 15




Trench 5, Section 9




Trench 2, Section 13

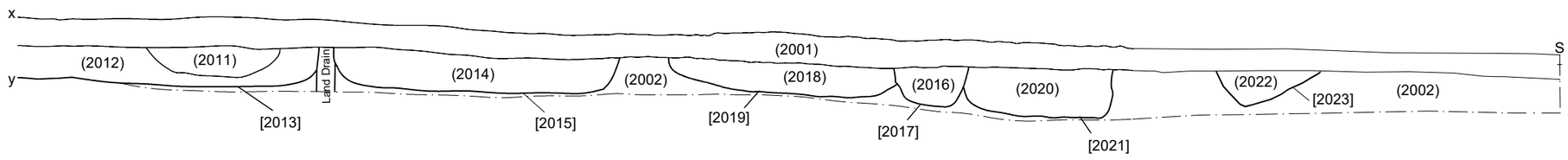



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Figure 9. Sections 9 and 13

Plate 1. General view of the site prior to machining, looking north


Plate 2. Trench 1, Ditch or pit [1005], Section 4, looking west

Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north

Plate 4. Trench 3, looking west

Plate 5. Trench 3, Pit [3006], Section 8, looking southwest


Plate 6. Trench 3, Pit [3009], Section 14, looking north

Plate 7. Trench 4, looking southeast


Plate 8. Trench 4, Ditch [4004], Section 11, looking southwest


Plate 9. Trench 4, Pit [4011], Section 15, looking south

Plate 10. Trench 5, Section 9, showing the gravel extraction pits, looking northwest


Plate 11. Trench 6, gully [6004], Section 1, looking south


Plate 12. Trench 6, gully terminus [6006], Section 12, looking north

Plate 13. Trench 6, feature [6008], Section 5, looking northwest


Plate 14. Trench 7, Ditch [7004], Section 10, looking northwest

Plate 15. Trench 8, looking north


Plate 16. Trench 8, Ditch [8006], Section 3, looking southeast


Plate 17. Trench 8, Ditch [8008], Section 6, looking west


Plate 18. Trench 8, Ditch [8010], Section 7, looking west

# Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| No. | Trench | Description | Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1001 | 1 | Friable dark brownish-grey silty clay with occasional small to medium subrounded stone pebbles and occasional small-medium sub-angular flint pebbles, 0.32m thick | Topsoil |
| 1002 | 1 | Compacted mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.26m thick | Subsoil |
| 1003 | 1 | Heavily compacted light-mid yellowish-brown clay with occasional small-medium subrounded stone pebbles, occasional small-medium subangular flint pebbles and occasional chalk flecks | Natural |
| 1004 | 1 | Friable mid reddish-brown clay with frequent small-medium subangular/angular flint pebbles and moderate small-medium subrounded stone pebbles | Natural |
| 1005 | 1 | Cut of quarry pit (or linear-though not in Trench 6), at least 1.6m long, 4.59m wide, 1m deep | Pit (or linear) |
| 1006 | 1 | Compacted mid greyish-brown clay with occasional small-medium subangular flint pebbles, compacted light yellowish-brown clay lenses with significant degree of chalk flecking, 1m thick | Fill of [1005] |
| 1007 | 1 | East-west aligned land drain, at least 1.6m long, 0.33m wide, 0.3m deep | Land drain |
| 1008 | 1 | Compacted mid greyish-brown clay with moderate small-medium subangular flint and stone pebbles, 0.3m thick | Fill of [1007] |
| 2001 | 2 | Friable dark greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.25m thick | Topsoil |
| 2002 | 2 | Loose light yellowish-brown sand and gravel | Natural |
| 2003 | 2 | Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt, at least 0.2m thick | Fill of [2004] |
| 2004 | 2 | Irregular shaped cut, 1.5m wide, at least 0.2m deep | Quarry pit |
| 2005 | 2 | Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.4m thick | Fill of [2006] |
| 2006 | 2 | Irregular shaped cut, steep-sided, flat base, at least 1.7m long, 0.4m deep | Quarry pit |
| 2007 | 2 | Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt, at least 0.5m thick | Fill of [2008] |
| 2008 | 2 | Irregular shaped cut, steep-sided, flat base, 2.9m long, 0.5m deep | Quarry pit |
| 2009 | 2 | Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.45m thick | Fill of [2010] |
| 2010 | 2 | Irregular shaped cut, steep-sided, flat base, 3.6m wide, 0.45m deep | Quarry pit |
| 2011 | 2 | Friable yellowish-grey clayey silt, 0.25m thick | Upper fill of [2013] |
| 2012 | 2 | Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.38m thick | Lower fill of [2013] |
| 2013 | 2 | Irregular shaped cut, steep-sided, flat base, 3.4m wide, 0.38m deep | Quarry pit |
| 2014 | 2 | Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.32m thick | Fill of [2015] |
| 2015 | 2 | Irregular shaped cut, steep-sided, flat base, 2.7m wide, 0.32m deep | Quarry pit |
| 2016 | 2 | Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.32m thick | Fill of [2017] |
| 2017 | 2 | Irregular shaped cut, steep-sided, flat base, 0.7m wide, 0.32m deep | Quarry pit |
| 2018 | 2 | Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick | Fill of [2019] |
| 2019 | 2 | Irregular shaped cut, steep-sided, flat base, 2.15m wide, 0.3m deep | Quarry pit |
| 2020 | 2 | Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.45m thick | Fill of [2021] |
| 2021 | 2 | Irregular shaped cut, steep-sided, flat base, 1.4m wide, 0.45m deep | Quarry pit |
| 2022 | 2 | Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick | Fill of [2023] |
| 2023 | 2 | Irregular shaped cut, steep-sided, flat base, at least 1m wide, 0.35m deep | Quarry pit |
| 3001 | 3 | Friable dark greyish-brown clayey silt, up to 0.28m thick | Topsoil |
| 3002 | 3 | Loose mid greyish-brown sand, 0.2m thick | Probable natural sand, possibly redeposited during quarrying |

| No. | Trench | Description | Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3003 | 3 | Loose light yellow sand and gravel, 0.18m thick | Natural |
| 3004 | 3 | Loose light yellow sand, 0.18m thick | Natural |
| 3005 | 3 | Friable mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional flints | Natural |
| 3006 | 3 | Irregular shaped cut with steep sides and flattish base, 3m E-W, at least 1.55m N-S, 0.87m deep | One of several quarry pits in trench |
| 3007 | 3 | Loose light yellowish-brown fine sand and gravel, probably redeposited, 0.2m thick | Lower fill of [3006] |
| 3008 | 3 | Friable mid greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent small angular to subrounded gravel and flints, 0.83m thick | Fill of [3006] |
| 3009 | 3 | Semi-circular cut with steep west and south sides and gradual east side and rounded base, 3.2m diameter, 0.85m deep | Quarry pit-hand excavated example |
| 3010 | 3 | Friable mid greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent small angular to subrounded gravel and flints, 0.85m thick | Fill of [3009] |
| 4001 | 4 | Friable dark greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.25m thick | Topsoil |
| 4002 | 4 | Friable mid reddish-brown silty clay | Natural |
| 4003 | 4 | Friable mid greyish-brown clayey silt with common small angular to rounded flints, 0.52m thick | Fill of [4004] |
| 4004 | 4 | Linear or rectangular cut, straight 45° north side, flattish base, at least 2.2 by 1.55m in plan, 0.52m deep | Linear cut or pit |
| 4005 | 4 | Loose light yellowish-grey sand and gravel | Natural |
| 4006 | 4 | Loose mix of reddish-brown gravel and mid greyish-brown clayey silt | Fill of [4007] |
| 4007 | 4 | Irregular shaped cut | Quarry pit |
| 4008 | 4 | Friable mid brown silt with occasional gravel, 0.3m thick | Top fill of [4011] |
| 4009 | 4 | Friable mid greyish-brown clayey silt with common gravel, 0.3m thick | Fill of [4011] |
| 4010 | 4 | Loose yellowish-grey sand and gravel with mid grey clayey silt, 0.1m thick | Lower fill of [4011] |
| 4011 | 4 | Sub-rectangular cut with steep sides and flattish base, at least 1.55m SW-NE, 4.65m SE-NW, 0.7m deep | Quarry pit |
| 5001 | 5 | Friable dark greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.25m thick | Topsoil |
| 5002 | 5 | Mix of firm light yellow clay and loose sand and gravel | Natural |
| 5003 | 5 | Friable mid brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick | Fill of [5004] |
| 5004 | 5 | Concave-sided cut, 1.8m wide, 0.3m deep | Quarry pit |
| 5005 | 5 | Friable mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.4m thick | Fill of [5006] |
| 5006 | 5 | Steep-sided cut, flat base, 3.5m wide, 0.4m deep | Quarry pit |
| 5007 | 5 | Friable mid brown clayey silt, 0.25m thick | Fill of [5008] |
| 5008 | 5 | Concave sided cut, 2m wide, 0.25m deep | Quarry pit |
| 5009 | 5 | Friable mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.28m thick | Fill of [5010] |
| 5010 | 5 | Concave sided cut, 2.3m wide, 0.28m deep | Quarry pit |
| 5011 | 5 | Mid brownish-grey clayey silt, 0.37m thick | Fill of [5012] |
| 5012 | 5 | Steep-sided cut, flat base, .4m long, 0.37m deep | Quarry pit |
| 5013 | 5 | Mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.5m thick | Fill of [5014] |
| 5014 | 5 | Steep-sided cut with flat base, 3.5m wide, 0.5m deep | Quarry pit |
| 5015 | 5 | Mid brown clayey silt, 0.52m thick | Fill of [5016] |
| 5016 | 5 | Concave-sided cut, flat base, 3.8m wide, 0.52m deep | Quarry pit |
| 5017 | 5 | Mid brown clayey silt, 0.45m thick | Fill of [5018] |
| 5018 | 5 | Steep-sided cut, flat base, 2.8m wide, 0.45m deep | Quarry pit |
| 5019 | 5 | Mid brown clayey silt, 0.2m thick | Top fill of [5021] |
| 5020 | 5 | Mid greyish-brown clayey silt, up to 0.5m thick | Lower fill of [5021] |
| 5021 | 5 | Cut, uneven base, 7m wide, 0.5m deep | Quarry pit |

| No. | Trench | Description | Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6001 | 6 | Friable mid brownish-grey clayey silt with moderate angular stones, 0.26m thick | Topsoil |
| 6002 | 6 | Compact light yellowish-brown silty clay with rare angular stones, 0.2m thick | Subsoil |
| 6003 | 6 | Hard light yellowish-brown clay with fragmented chalk inclusions | Natural |
| 6004 | 6 | North-south aligned linear cut, concave sides and base, at least 1.55m long, 0.64m wide, 0.12m deep | Gully |
| 6005 | 6 | Compact mid reddish-brown clay with moderate angular stone and flint, 0.12m thick | Fill of [6004] |
| 6006 | 6 | North-south aligned linear cut, concave sides and base, 0.69m wide, 0.13m deep | Gully terminus |
| 6007 | 6 | Compact mid reddish-brown clay with some flint, 0.13m thick | Fill of [6006] |
| 6008 | 6 | Broad irregular cut, at least 1.5m by 5.75m in plan, 0.34m deep | Shallow feature-furrow or poss spread? |
| 6009 | 6 | Compact mid reddish-brown clay, 0.34m thick | Fill of [6008] |
| 7001 | 7 | Friable dark greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.25m thick | Topsoil |
| 7002 | 7 | Friable mid brown clayey silt, 0.13m thick | Subsoil |
| 7003 | 7 | Fairly firm mid yellowish brown clay with loose reddish brown gravel patches | Natural |
| 7004 | 7 | SW-NE aligned linear cut with concave sides and rounded base, at least 1.55m log, 1.25m wide, 0.3m deep | Ditch |
| 7005 | 7 | Friable mid reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional small angular flints, occasional chalk flecks, 0.3m thick | Fill of [7004] |
| 7006 | 7 | Friable mid yellowish-grey clayey silt with common small angular to subrounded flints, 0.1m thick | Shallow spread |
| 8001 | 8 | Friable dark greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick | Topsoil |
| 8002 | 8 | Friable mid brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick | Subsoil |
| 8003 | 8 | Firm reddish-brown silty clay | Natural |
| 8004 | 8 | Fairly firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional small angular flints, occasional rounded pebbles, 0.31m thick | Top fill of [8006] |
| 8005 | 8 | Friable mid greyish-brown clayey silt with common small angular to subrounded flints, occasional rounded pebbles, at least 0.25m thick | Lower fill of [8006] |
| 8006 | 8 | SSW-NNE aligned linear cut with slightly concave 45° sides, not bottomed due to being in corner of trench, at least 3.3m long, at least 0.9m wide, at least 0.56m deep | Ditch |
| 8007 | 8 | Friable mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional small to medium angular and subrounded flints, 0.55m thick | Fill of [8008] |
| 8008 | 8 | NW-SE aligned linear cut with steep, concave sides and flat base, at least 1.8m long, 2.5m wide, 0.55m deep | Ditch |
| 8009 | 8 | Friable mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional small angular to rounded flints, rare small rounded pebbles, 0.68m thick | Fill of [8010] |
| 8010 | 8 | Sub-circular cut with fairly steep sides and rounded base, 2.25m N-S, at least 0.8m E-W, 0.68m deep | Pit |

## Appendix 2

THE FINDS

### ROMAN POTTERY

*By Rob Perrin*

**Introduction**

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by Darling (2004). A total of 37 sherds, probably from 2 vessels, weighing 568 grams was recovered from the site.

**Methodology**

Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context and rim percentage was recorded as appropriate. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Excel database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below.

**Condition**

Good, some surface abrasion.

**Fabrics and forms**

Both vessels are in a sandy grey ware. One vessel comprises a large narrow-mouthed jar with a curved rim. Traces of a dark grey external surface survive, but the reddish-brown core edge is visible on most of the sherds and the core is a light grey colour. The vessel is noticeable in that there are two pierced holes in the two small surviving rim sherds and other pierced holes in the vessel's shoulder and around its girth, though it is not certain if these holes went all the way around. The holes in the rim might have been for a repair, but those in the vessel wall have an uncertain purpose. They appear to be too small for access by bees but the vessel, if inverted and broken, could have served as a colander or sieve. The other vessel is only represented by body and a base sherd, but is probably also from a jar. The external surface is dark grey and it has a brown internal surface and a lighter grey core.

Early Roman pottery kilns are known near to Bluntisham at Swavesey, Willingham and Cottenham, but it is not known what pottery was being produced. Other likely sources are the numerous kilns in and around Cambridge and Godmanchester; recent excavations on the route of the A14 between Huntingdon and Cambridge have also uncovered numerous Roman pottery kilns. The pottery is most likely of late 1st to 2nd century date.

*Table 1, Roman Pottery Archive*

| Context | Cname | Full Name | Form | Decoration | Sherds | W(g) | Rim % | Rim diameter |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8005 | GREY | Grey Ware | Jar | Cordon | 23 | 407 | 30 | 16 |
| 8005 | GREY | Grey Ware | Jar? | | 14 | 161 | | |
| **Totals** | | | | | 37 | 568 | | |

**Potential**

The pottery attests occupation in the early Roman period, but there is insufficient material to determine its exact nature.

## OTHER POTTERY

*By Dr. Anne Irving*

### 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 39 sherds from a maximum seven vessels, weighing 698 grams was recovered from the site.

### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 2. The pottery ranges in date from the prehistoric to the 20th century.

### Results

*Table 2 Pottery Archive*

| Cxt | Cname | Full name | Fabric | Form | NoS | NoV | W (g) | Part | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1006 | TPW | Transfer printed ware | | Open | 1 | 1 | 1 | BS | |
| 4001 | TOY | Toynton Medieval Ware | | Jug/ jar | 1 | 1 | 6 | BS | ?ID |
| 6009 | PREH | Prehistoric wares | Shell-tempered | Jar/ bowl | 2 | 1 | 5 | Rim + BS | Bronze Age? |
| 6009 | TOY | Toynton Medieval Ware | | Jug/ jar | 1 | 1 | 16 | Base | |
| 7005 | BONC | Bourne/Colne Type ware | Smooth + Ca | Jug | 1 | 1 | 85 | BS with HJ | Abraded |
| 8007 | LEMS | Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly | | Jar | 1 | 1 | 5 | BS | Soot |
| **TOTALS** | | | | | **7** | **6** | **118** | | |

### Provenance

The pottery was recovered from (1006), the fill of quarry pit [1005], topsoil (4001), (6009), the fill of a possible furrow [6008] and (7005) and (8007), the fills of ditches [7004] and [8008].

## CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

*By Dr. Anne Irving*

### 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 six fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 306 grams was recovered from the site.

### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 3.

**Results**

*Table 3 , Ceramic Building Material Archive*

| Cxt | | Cname | Full Name | Fabric | NoF | W (g) | Description | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1006 | | PNR | Peg, Nib or Ridge Tile | Bourne/Colne | 1 | 29 | Flat roofer; flake; corner | 13th to 15th |
| 3008 | | BRK | Brick | Various | 5 | 277 | Handmade; fragments | 16th to 18th |
| | **TOTALS** | | | | **6** | **306** | | |

**Provenance**

The ceramic building material was recovered from (1006) and (3008), the fills of quarry pits [1005] and [3006].

## FAUNAL REMAINS

*By Paul Cope-Faulkner*

**Introduction**

A total of seven fragments of animal bone, weighing 305 grams, were recovered from stratified contexts.

**Methodology**

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

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

**Provenance**

The bone was recovered from (4006), the fill of quarry pit [4007], and (8005) and (8007), the fills of ditches [8006] and [8008].

**Condition**

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

**Results**

*Table 4, Fragments Identified to Taxa*

| Cxt | Taxon | Element | Side | No | W (g) | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4006 | large mammal | humerus | - | 1 | 47 | juvenile |
| | cattle | metatarsus | - | 2 (link) | 165 | |
| 8005 | large mammal | long bone | - | 1 | 2 | |
| | large mammal | humerus | - | 1 | 87 | juvenile |
| 8007 | medium mammal | long bone | | 2 (link) | 4 | |
| **Totals** | | | | 7 | 305 | |

**Summary**

As a small assemblage, falling below the minimum count of *c*. 300 bones required for meaningful analysis, the faunal remains have little potential. Cattle and large mammal (probably also cattle) dominate with a possible sheep/goat also recovered.

## WORKED FLINT

*By Tom Lane*

### Introduction

A single flint flake from BLWE 19 was submitted for Assessment.

### Results

*Table 5, Worked Flint Archive*

| Cxt | Description | No | W (g) | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8007 | Flake. Removed from Nodule. Cortex over all dorsal surface. Non patinated. Natural. Unworked. | 1 | 49 | |

### Potential

The flint is unworked and recommended for discard.

## OTHER FINDS

*By Denise Buckley*

### Introduction

Three items, together weighing 76g, were recovered.

### Condition

The cinder is in good condition and the copper alloy is in average condition. The iron, however, is in quite poor condition, being very heavily encrusted.

### Results

*Table 6, Other Materials*

| Cxt | Material | Description | No | W (g) | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1006 | Copper alloy | Fitting? | 2 | 9 | Post to late post medieval |
| | Fire residue | Cinder – discarded. | 1 | 13 | |
| 3008 | Iron | Curved strip, possibly a flattened nail. Heavily encrusted. | 1 | 54 | |
| **Totals** | | | 4 | 76 | |

### Provenance

The other finds were recovered from (1006), the fill of quarry pit [1005] and (3008), a fill within quarry pit [3006].

### Range

The other finds comprise a cinder, and a curved, heavily encrusted iron strip/flattened nail, probably dating to the 19$^{th}$ to 20$^{th}$ century and two pieces of copper alloy, possibly from some sort of fitting or clasp, possibly late medieval.

### Potential

The other finds are of limited further potential.

## SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 7 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

*Table 7, Spot dates*

| Cxt | Date | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| 1006 | 19th to 20th | |
| 1006 | 13th to 15th | Date on CBM |
| 3008 | 16th to 18th | Date on CBM |
| 4001 | Late 13th to 15th | Date on a single sherd |
| 6007 | Late 13th to 15th | Date on a single sherd |
| 7005 | Mid 15th to 16th | Date on a single sherd |
| 8005 | 1st to 2nd | |
| 8007 | Early 12th to early 13th | Date on a single sherd |

## 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) |

## REFERENCES

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# Appendix 3

## ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY ASSESSMENT

***Introduction***

An evaluation excavation conducted by Archaeological Project Services at Wood End, Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire, revealed a series of features, and the lower fill of a ditch in Trench 8 was sampled for environmental analysis. Two samples were collected from this fill and submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for assessment (Table 1).

**Table 1**: Wood End, Bluntisham. Samples submitted for environmental assessment

| sample no. | context no. | sample volume (l) | feaure | date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8005 | 8 | Lower fill of ditch 8006 | Early Roman |
| 2 | 8005 | 6.5 | Lower fill of ditch 8006 | Early Roman |

***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 were measured and the volume and weight of the residues recorded.

The residues were sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheets and bagged independently. A magnet was run through each residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill and a count made of the number of flakes or spheroids of hammerscale collected. 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 bulk of the samples washed away leaving a relatively small residue of flint gravel, pebbles, ironstone and coarse sand. Archaeological finds are limited to a single fragment of abraded pottery and a single flake of hammerscale in sample <1>. The flake of hammerscale could easily be intrusive from later activity at the site and need not indicate contemporary iron-smithing. The ditch has been dated to the Early Roman period on the basis of pottery finds.

The environmental finds from the two samples include terrestrial snails, charred cereal grain, charcoal, occasional charred seeds, uncharred seeds and small vertebrates. These have been preliminarily identified (Table 3).

**Table 2**: Wood End, Bluntisham. Finds from the processed samples

| sample no. | context | sample vol. l. | residue volume (ml) | pot no/wt (g) | fired earth wt. g. | coal | magnetic wt. g. | hammer-scale no. | bone wt. g. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8005 | 8 | 300 | 1/1 | | | 0.6 | 1fl | 0.2 |
| 2 | 8005 | 6.5 | 250 | | | | 0.6 | | 0.2 |

**Table 3**: Wood End, Bluntisham. Environmental finds from the processed samples

| sample no. | cont. no. | sample vol. (l) | flot vol. (ml) | char-coal * | charred grain * | chaff * | charred seed * | un-charred seed * | snails * | comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8005 | 8 | 3 | 2/3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | Charred plants – occ grain (cf *Triticum dicoccum/spelta* (1), indet grain (4), grain fragments <2mm++), chaff (*Triticum* glume base (1)) and seeds (Polygonaceae (1)). Occ. potentially identifiable charcoal fragments; moderate nos of uncharred seeds (*Ranunculus Batrachium, R. flammula, Carex, Isolepsis setacea, Sonchus, Stellaria*); field vole, mouse (?house), weasel; snails – *Cecilioides acicula, Trochulus hispidus, Vallonia costata, Vallonia excentrica, Cochlicopa* sp., *Vitrea* sp., *Oxychilus alliarus, Ena* sp.?, *Helicella itala, Cepaea nemoralis* |
| 2 | 8005 | 6.5 | 3 | 1/2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | Charred plants - occ grain (*Triticum* cf *dicoccum/spelta* (1), indet grain (1), grain fragments <2mm+), chaff (*Triticumspelta* glume base (1)) and seeds (*Atriplex* (1), *Rumex* (1)). Occ. potentially identifiable charcoal fragments; small nos of uncharred seeds (*Ranunculus Batrachium, Carex, Rumex*); frog/toad; snails – *C. acicula, T. hispidus, V. costata, V. excentrica, Cochlicopa* sp., *Vitrea* sp., *Oxychilus* sp., *H. itala, Cepaea hortensis* |

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

The charred plant remains consisted of a few poorly preserved grains with tentative identifications of hulled wheat grains (*Triticum* cf. *dicoccum/spelta*) in both samples although a glume base in each confirmed the presence of this cereal and specifically spelt (*Triticum spelta*) in sample 2. There were also a few charred weed seeds including from *Rumex* (dock) and *Atriplex* (orache). The charred remains were sorted and quantified during assessment. There were a few potentially identifiable charcoal fragments in both flots.

A small number of uncharred seeds were present in both ditch fill samples, *Ranunculus Batrachium* (crowfoots), *Isolepsis setacea* (bristle club-rush) and *Carex* (sedge) indicative of wet conditions (including possibly flowing water) within the ditch while *Sonchus* (thistles) and *Rumex* (dock) may reflect grassy disturbed ground around the feature.

No domestic animal bone was identified in the samples which produced only wild small vertebrate remains including field vole, mouse, weasel and frog/toad. Terrestrial snails are fairly abundant (Table 3) with a range of species present largely indicative of an open grassland habitat. Taxa characteristic of grassland and those more catholic in habit dominate the assemblages and include *Vallonia excentrica, Vallonia costata, Helicella itala, Cochlicopa* sp. and *Trochulus hispidus*. There are a few shells of taxa that favour shaded and damper habitats, *Vitrea* sp. and *Oxychilus* sp. with a single shell of *Galba truncatula* a semi-aquatic species found in damp areas and on floodplains. Despite the samples being collected from a lower ditch fill there are no true aquatic snails present, suggesting that the ditch rarely contained standing water.

***Discussion***

The small amount of charred plant remains may represent the burnt residues of low-level perhaps domestic activities associated with the final cleaning of cereals (including the de-husking of hulled wheat) and food preparation/cooking which may have been taking place at some distance from the ditch. The absence of domestic animal bone and relative lack of charcoal might suggest that the charred cereals were blown in rather than dumped, or even brought in with manure, a possible carrier for the abraded sherd of pottery. Spelt wheat is the most widely cultivated wheat during both the Iron Age and Romano-British periods (Greig 1991, 306, 309) and its presence here would support an Early Roman date for the ditch fills. The small amount of uncharred seeds, if contemporary with the sampled fill, suggests that the ditch was damp and may have carried water from time to time, although the absence of any aquatic snails suggests that standing water did not remain in the ditch for any length of time, so the uncharred material is probably intrusive. The land either side of the ditch was probably grassland, or at least open although there is no indication of adjacent arable. The few shade loving and damp ground snail taxa may well have inhabited the ditch and there is insufficient evidence as to whether the ditch was hedged or not.

It is possible that this ditch was some distance from any contemporary settlement and the evidence does not suggest important archaeological deposits in the immediate vicinity. If the ditch can be confidently dated then a column sample through its fills has the potential to illustrate any changes in the adjacent local land use as indicated by the molluscan faunas but this would be insufficient justification for returning to the site on its own, although if pollen survives in the sediments the combination of pollen and molluscan evidence might allow some reconstruction of the local land use in the Roman period. Unfortunately the soils are calcareous and pollen may not survive well enough for such a study.

Should further archaeological work be undertaken for other archaeological reasons then samples can be expected to produce animal bone, charred plant remains, charcoal and snails, but probably no waterlogged remains or good pollen assemblages, unless a deep feature such as a well is uncovered. Samples of 30 litres should be collected from well dated archaeological features and any well dated reasonably deep ditch sequences (0.5m or more) should be sampled in column (each sample of approximately 5l) for molluscan analysis and also sampled for pollen for subsequent assessment in case preservation is better than expected.

The charred plant remains from the two evaluation samples have already been sorted, identified and quantified while the uncharred seeds were also recorded. Therefore no further work is recommended. The snail assemblages could be quantified but without a confident date for the ditch such analysis would have very limited archaeological value.

*Acknowledgments*

We should like to thank Carolyn Smith for the sample processing and sorting.

*Bibliography*

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Williams, D.1973 Flotation at Siraf, *Antiquity*, 47, 198-202

# 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, *e.g*. [004]. |
| **Cut** | A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc*. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded**.** |
| **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, and subsequent home production, 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 |
| **Neolithic** | The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC. |
| **Palaeolithic** | The 'Old Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 500000 - 11000 BC in Britain. |
| **Post-medieval** | The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800. |
| **Prehistoric** | The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD. |
| **Ridge and Furrow** | The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture. |
| **Romano-British** | Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain. |

# Appendix 5

## THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

| | |
|---|---|
| 8 | Trench record sheets |
| 34 | Context record sheets |
| 2 | Photographic record sheets |
| 1 | Section record sheet |
| 1 | Plan record sheet |
| 9 | Daily record sheets |
| 1 | Sample record sheet |
| 1 | Environmental sample sheet |
| 17 | Sheets of scale drawings |
| 1 | Stratigraphic matrix |
| 1 | Box of finds |

All primary records are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive (following the gaining of the transfer of title) is:

Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Archive Facility

The digital archive will be deposited with a publically accessible CoreSealTrust repository (Archaeology Data Service) in accordance with their best practice guidelines.

| | |
|---|---|
| CHER event no: | ECB 5907 |
| APS Site code: | BLWE19 |
| OASIS record no: | archaeol1-365321 |

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

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England



## OASIS ID: archaeol1-365321

### Project details

| | |
|---|---|
| Project name | Archaeological evaluation, land at Wood End, Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire |
| Short description of the project | An evaluation comprising 8 trial trenches revealed undated linear features including two parallel gullies, perhaps forming the sides of a small enclosure or trackway, and a pit. A ditch in the east side of the site was dated by pottery to the Early Roman period though environmental evidence suggested it lay away from domestic activity. Ditches in the north and east of the site contained single sherds of medieval pottery. A large pit in the northwestern part of the site and extensive evidence for small scale strip quarrying for sand and gravel over much of the site were dated to the early modern period. |
| Project dates | Start: 24-06-2019 End: 08-07-2019 |
| Previous/future work | No / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | ECB5907 - HER event no. |
| Any associated project reference codes | BLWE19 - Sitecode |
| Any associated project reference codes | 18/00102/FUL - Planning Application No. |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m |
| Monument type | DITCH Roman |
| Monument type | DITCH Medieval |
| Monument type | PIT Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Roman |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Post Medieval |
| Methods & techniques | """"Sample Trenches"""" |
| Development type | Rural residential |

| | |
|---|---|
| Prompt | Planning condition |
| Position in the planning process | Between deposition of an application and determination |

## Project location

| | |
|---|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE BLUNTISHAM Land at Wood End |
| Postcode | PE28 3XS |
| Study area | 9575 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TL 3618 7500 52.355719863795 -0.000145941171 52 21 20 N 000 00 00 W Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 29m Max: 30m |

## Project creators

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Organisation | Archaeological Project Services |
| Project brief originator | Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body |
| Project design originator | Neil Parker |
| Project director/manager | Neil Parker |
| Project supervisor | Mark Peachey |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer |

## Project archives

| | |
|---|---|
| Physical Archive recipient | Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office |
| Physical Archive ID | ECB5907 |
| Physical Contents | "Ceramics","Animal Bones" |
| Digital Archive recipient | Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office |
| Digital Archive ID | ECB5907 |
| Digital Contents | "Animal Bones","Ceramics" |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Cambridgeshire County Arcaeheology Office |
| Paper Archive ID | ECB5907 |
| Paper Contents | "Animal Bones","Ceramics" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet","Diary","Map","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey" |

**Project bibliography 1**

| | |
|---|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Archaeological Evaluation, land at Wood End, Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Peachey, M. |
| Other bibliographic details | 69/19 |
| Date | 2019 |
| Issuer or publisher | Archaeological Project Services |
| Place of issue or publication | Heckington |
| Description | A4 comb bound |
| Entered by | Mark Peachey (mark.peachey@apsarchaeology.co.uk) |
| Entered on | 7 September 2020 |

# OASIS: