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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
ON LAND AT  
1 GRANGE LANE,  
LITTLEPORT,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
LPGL10**

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Work Undertaken For

Seddon Construction

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Report Compiled by  
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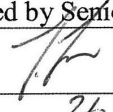
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**



**Quality Control  
Evaluation at  
Grange Lane, Littleport  
(LPGL10)**

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## 1. SUMMARY

*Trial trenching was undertaken in advance of proposed development at The Grange, Littleport, as the site lay in an area of known archaeological remains. The site lies near the highest point of the Littleport gravel fen 'island', and Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon remains had previously been recorded in the near vicinity of the site.*

*Prehistoric buried soil layers and features were recorded in Trenches 1 & 2, at the north of the site. Almost one hundred sherds of pottery, largely of Early to Middle Iron Age date, but including a small quantity of earlier Roman material, was retrieved from deposits in these two trenches, along with a small assemblage of animal bone and small collection of other finds, indicating domestic occupation in the immediate vicinity. A single undated linear feature in Trench 2 might potentially form part of a structure of Iron Age date. Potentially prehistoric to Roman features and deposits in Trenches 1 & 2 were sealed by at least 0.54m of recent deposits.*

*Several undated and Prehistoric to Roman or later features were identified in Trench 3, along with a single undated feature in Trench 4. The small collection of abraded material retrieved from Trench 3 may be redeposited within later features. Archaeological features in Trenches 3 & 4 were sealed beneath at least 0.55m of overburden.*

*Extremely thick soil deposits were recorded in Trenches 3 & 4, and a deep sequence of successive soil layers was identified in Trenches 1 & 2. This would seem to be the result of the position of the site on a south-north slope, and the resultant migration of soil down slope over a prolonged period. This seems to have been the mechanism by which the prehistoric buried soils and features in Trenches 1 & 2 were sealed and preserved.*

*Evidence of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century landscaping for the creation of a bowling green was recorded in Trench 4.*

*Numerous refuse pits of late 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date were recorded in Trenches 1 & 2. Finds from these included items such as chamber pots and glass phials, and may relate to the former use of The Grange as a convalescent home for the RAF and TGWU.*

*Part of a building recorded in Trench 1 at the frontage of the site closely matches the position of a building depicted on an 1890 OS map. This was apparently demolished in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (IfA 2008).

### 2.2 Planning Background

A planning application (E/008/00567/FUM) was submitted for development including the erection of a residential unit with associated communal facilities, parking, access and services.

Permission was granted for the development subject to conditions including a scheme of archaeological works. Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA) produced a brief recommending

that archaeological evaluation by trial trenching be undertaken.

The trial trenching was carried out between the 4th and 8th October 2010, in accordance with the CAPCA brief and a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services and approved by CAPCA.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Littleport is located approximately 8km northeast of Ely in northeastern Cambridgeshire (Figure 1). The settlement lies in the Cambridgeshire fenland, situated on a hill. The site lies at a height of around 19m OD, close to the highest point of the former island, with land sloping down from the south to the north (Figure 2).

Situated to the southwest of Littleport village centre, the development site lies on the south side of Grange Lane at TL 5620 8592 and is currently occupied by a residential care home and gardens (Figures 2 & 3).

The underlying geology is glacial sand and gravels over Kimmeridge Clay. Soils of the area are given as a chalky till on the highest ground, over Jurassic and Cretaceous clay with till and drift deposits at the western edge of the development area (Hodge *et al* 1984, 96-8, 189-92, 290-3).

### 2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

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

Littleport occupies a former island within the fenland with the Old Croft River, formerly the main channel collecting the water of the fen basin, on the northern side

of the island. The development area lies on the higher, drier ground, on this island.

The Highfield Farm residential development area lies immediately to the northwest of the proposed development and has been subject to previous archaeological investigations. Prior to development at Highfield Farm the area was subject to intensive fieldwalking as part of the Fenland Survey (Hall 1996), a desktop study undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (Lucas 1998) and an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeological Project Services (Dymond 1999). Mitigation investigations undertaken in tandem with the construction programme have included fieldwalking, test pitting, trenching and a series of open area excavations (APS 2005). These investigations confirmed the hilltop as a focus of prehistoric activity. Excavation has revealed complex and well preserved remains dating from the Neolithic to the early Iron Age, principally to the east and north of the former Highfield Farm (APS 2005). An area approximately 500m north of 1 Grange Lane was characterised by a series of gullies aligned roughly north - south and east - west, and a fairly widely dispersed series of pits dating from the early Neolithic to the Bronze Age and included an unurned cremation. In a second area, approximately 750m to the northwest of the present application area, a large number of pits together with a series of gullies and ditches were focussed on a natural hollow. The pits range from small, isolated examples to large intercutting pits, some of which contained waterlogged remains and others containing clearly placed deposits. A number of pits were particularly 'rich' in finds, producing pottery, animal bone, flint and wood. The use of this area appears to extend from the Neolithic to early Iron Age.

Prehistoric remains were identified elsewhere on the site but appear to reflect less intensive use. They include isolated

pits and a number of ditches which reflect the prehistoric land use pattern and are also present in the southwest land block.

Although previous investigations had not indicated the presence of Saxon material or occupation at Highfield Farm, a number of Saxon graves were identified during excavation to the north of the Millfield Primary School and approximately 400m northwest of the proposed development at Grange Lane. The majority of the identified burials lay south of the east - west hedgeline with three skeletons immediately north of the hedgeline. The burials lay just below topsoil, or within the subsoil and in most cases only the bases of the grave cuts were visible. There had been some truncation of the remains by medieval and later cultivation and modern land drains.

The area containing the graves measured 60m east - west by at least 50m north - south (including the area of the unexcavated hedgeline). Forty-seven graves were identified, although there was no clear pattern in the arrangement, density or orientation of the graves. Of those examined about half contained grave goods, such as shield bosses, knives, brooches, beads, worked bone and pottery.

Features associated with or adjacent to the burials included ditches and gullies aligned northeast-southwest and northwest - southeast, although other gullies followed a north northwest - south southeast alignment. Some appeared to relate to prehistoric landuse, whilst others may be contemporary with the cemetery. In addition a small ring gully with central intercutting pits and a series of pits and post-holes were identified within the area. Although presently undated some of the pits, possibly representing cremations, may be contemporary with the inhumations.

Geophysical survey of the area to the west, south and east of the burials indicated the

presence of cut features, such as pits and ditches, and a possible target area for further cemetery features (Stratascan 2005).

Although previous evaluation nearby had not recorded the presence of colluviation or buried soil more recent excavation has demonstrated the potential for these to be present in deeper, isolated pockets. In addition variable depths of silty clay topsoil and silty or sandy clay subsoil have been recorded over relatively short distances on the hilltop itself and may mask the presence of remains to non-invasive techniques. Evidence for waterlogged deposits and therefore the potential for the preservation of organic remains, again in discrete areas, has also been found on the hilltop, although evaluation indicated that environmental survival across the wider area was relatively poor.

### **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The aims of the work were to record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during groundworks in order to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resource present on the site.

The objectives of the work were to determine the type, spatial arrangement, date, function, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological features present within the site, and to establish the way in which any archaeological features identified fitted into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

### **4. METHODS**

Trial trenching was used to determine the location, nature and density of

archaeological features present on the site.

Three 20m long trenches and two joined 25m trenches were excavated across the area, positioned to test the potential for archaeological remains in various areas of the site (Figure 3)

The trenches were stripped of overburden under archaeological supervision by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket (Plate 1).

The exposed surfaces of the trenches were cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the investigation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled using colour digital and black and white slide formats. Plans of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2.

The location of the excavated trenches was surveyed with reference to known fixed points using hand tapes.

Due to the excessive thickness of deposits encountered at the north of the site, during on-site discussions, the archaeological curator requested that Trench 2 be extended to the west. This was in order that a greater area be reduced to a sufficient level that any further deeply buried archaeological features and deposits might be identified within a safely stepped trench.

## 5. RESULTS

### *Trench 1 – Figure 4*

Trench 1 was 20m long and located to the north of the former vicarage, parallel to Grange Lane (Figure 3, Plate 1). A lawn covered this area, and the traces of former flower beds could be discerned parallel to the trench. The present ground level here ranged between approximately 20.06m OD and 20.14m OD.

#### Natural deposits

The sequence of deposits in Trench 1 was of such a thickness that they could not be safely bottomed during the initial machining of this trench. Instead, two sondages were hand-excavated, one at either end of the trench (Figure 4). Natural deposits were identified in the base of each of these sondages, and also in a small excavated area nearer the centre of the trench.

These natural layers (125, 118 & 140) were each soft light yellow to greyish-yellow fine sand or silty sand, with burrow or root intrusions throughout (Figure 4, Plated 4 & 5).

#### Buried soil deposits

Overlying these natural layers, in each of these hand-excavated sondages, was a deposit (124, 117 & 139) which apparently represented a buried soil layer (Figure 4, Plates 4 & 5). In each case this deposit comprised a soft mid greyish-brown mottled silty sand which, in some places, contained pebbles. No artefacts were retrieved from this deposit.

Sealing each of these deposits was a further buried soil layer (101, 116 & 102). Buried soil (101), in the easterly sondage, was a soft dark grey humic silty sand with moderately frequent pebbles and dark greyish-brown mottles (Figure 4 Sections 6 & 7, Plate 4). A single sherd of Roman

pottery of possible 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD date was retrieved from this layer, in addition to fifteen sherds of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery (Appendix 3). Some of this prehistoric pottery comprised tiny fragments retrieved from an environmental sample of this deposit. This sample contained only a low density of charred plant macrofossils including charcoal, but did also produce medium and small mammal bones, amphibian bones and one possible piece of hammerscale (Appendices 4 & 5). Other artefacts retrieved from this deposit included part of a large mammal long bone, a piece of possible fuel ash slag, fragments of fired clay, some of which were of possible post-Medieval date and a tiny fragment of Roman or post-Roman ceramic building material (Appendices 3-5). Where this deposit was excavated near the centre of the trench (as (116), Figure 4 Section 6), no artefacts were retrieved.

At the western end of the trench this layer was numbered (102) (Figure 4 Section 8, Plate 5). Part of a large mammal long bone and two sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from layer (102) (Appendices 3 & 4).

A possible feature was investigated towards the centre of the trench, but excavation demonstrated that rather than being a cut feature this was a band of iron-rich precipitate (119) (Figure 4 Section 6, Plate 6).

A layer of buried topsoil was recorded (109, 110, 115, 138 & 137). This layer was a moderately firm dark brown sandy silt to silty sand with varying pebble inclusions (Figure 4 Sections 6 & 8, Plates 4-7). This former topsoil had apparently been buried in the course of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century works in the vicinity, although no artefacts were retrieved from this deposit.

The total depth of overburden sealing these buried soil layers was at least 0.54m.

#### Probable late 19<sup>th</sup> to earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century pits

Five modern pits were recorded within this trench, [142], [132], [130], [136] and [144] (Figure 4, Plate 5). Some of these contained quantities of cinders and other waste, largely comprising late 19<sup>th</sup> to earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery and glass, and these pits and their fills are detailed in Appendix 2.

No finds were retained from any of these pits, although a small collection of unstratified material (150) probably derives from some of these pits. Three sherds of late 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery, including chamber pot fragments, were retained (Appendix 3).

#### 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings

Much of Trench 1 was occupied by the remains of former 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings (Plate 7). These are detailed in Appendix 2.

Towards the centre of the trench were the remains of a concrete basement (121) which was formed by two north-south aligned walls, along with an east-west aligned wall at the northern edge of the trench, which together bounded a concrete floor between. The internal width of this room was c.5.56m, and 1960s to 1970s style wallpaper was found adhering to some of the basement walls.

A further north-south aligned wall (147) was identified to the west of (121), in addition to north-south and east-west aligned walls at the east end of the trench (112) (Figure 4, Plates 4, 6 & 7).

#### Building demolition and subsequent nearby extension works

Further recorded features and deposits in this trench largely reflected the demolition of these buildings, and dumping of deposits perhaps during this demolition

and also during the construction of the nearby recent extension to The Grange. These modern deposits are detailed in Figure 4 and Appendix 2.

### ***Trench 2 – Figure 5***

Trench 2 was located to the west of Trench 1, also within the grassed area to the north and northwest of the existing building ranges (Figure 3, Plates 1 & 8). This trench was originally 20m long and north-south aligned. The thickness of overburden in this area, in addition to the presence of archaeological features and deposits at the machined level, meant that overburden could not be safely bottomed during machining. At the request of the archaeological curator, the trench was subsequently extended to the west with steps to allow safe working depths within part of the trench (Plate 11).

Trench 2 was located on a gentle slope down to the north, the present ground level at the southern end of the trench being c.20.23m OD, and c. 19.95m OD at the northern end (Figure 5).

#### Natural deposits

A layer (201) of moderately firm to soft mid to light reddish- yellowish-brown sand natural was identified in the base of Trench 2, in a machine sondage at the southern end of the trench, in a hand-excavated sondage and also in the westerly extension (Figure 5, Plates 9 & 11). Where exposed, the upper surface of natural deposits in this trench was encountered at heights of between 18.58m OD and 18.71m OD.

#### Buried soil deposits

Buried soil layer (202=206) was encountered extending across both the southern half of the original trench and throughout the Trench 2 extension (Figure 5). This layer of soft mid grey sandy silt was 0.37m thick. The northern part of the

trench was not excavated to sufficient depth to establish whether soil (202=206) also extended into this area. No artefacts were retrieved from this deposit.

Sealing this was a further buried soil layer (248), a 0.24m thick soft dark brownish-grey sand and silt with occasional pebbles (Figure 5 Section 3, 2 & 21, Plates 9 & 10). Environmental sampling of this deposit produced a variety of materials including charcoal, medium and small mammal bones, two possible pieces of flake hammerscale and one piece of glassy slag, fired clay and nine fragments of Early Iron Age pottery (Appendices 3-5). Other finds were originally assigned to this deposit but later proved to be potentially mixed with finds from other deposits in the trench, due to the similarity of many of these. Those finds which were potentially mixed with finds from (249) were renumbered (250), and those potentially mixed with (245) were renumbered (251). Therefore some of the finds retrieved from (251) and (250) are likely to be from buried soil layer (248). These finds are discussed later.

A tiny portion of a further buried soil layer (254) was recorded in the Trench 2 extension, and this may well be the same as (248). Deposit (254) was a 0.15m thick soft dark brownish-grey sand and silt with occasional pebbles (Figure 4 Section 19).

One layer which sealed buried soil (248) was (245), a soft to moderately firm dark to mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles. This layer was 0.38m thick, and apparently a further buried soil deposit. The colouration of this deposit was somewhat lighter than the majority of buried soil and possible feature fills encountered in this trench (Figure 5 Section 3, Plate 9).

Finds which derived from either of buried soils (248) or (245) were renumbered (251). A small quantity of sheep or goat bones and seventeen sherds of Middle Iron

Age pottery were retrieved from (251).

At the southern end of the trench buried soil (248) was sealed by another buried soil layer (212). This was a 0.10m thick firm dark black sandy silt.

#### Ditch [204]

Cut into both buried soil layers (212) and (245), near the southern end of the trench, was ditch [204] (Figure 5 Sections 3, 2 & 21, Plates 9 & 10). This was east-west aligned, over 1.60m long, 1.68m wide and 0.67m deep with very steep, irregular sides and a flattish, irregular base. The sides of ditch [204] were difficult to discern due to the similarity of fill (249) and surrounding deposits. The single fill of ditch [204] was (249), a soft dark blackish-grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles.

Environmental sampling of fill (249) produced charcoal, animal bones from amphibians and medium-sized mammals, a burnt pebble possibly used as a pot boiler, fired clay and thirty-two fragments of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery (Appendices 3-5). A single small fragment of 20<sup>th</sup> century glass was also retrieved from this sample, but is assumed to be intrusive into this deposit.

As finds from fill (249) were potentially mixed with those from (248) or (254) these were renumbered (250). Animal bone assigned to (250) included fragments of cattle humerus and a cattle mandible with chop marks, a large mammal skull and rib, a sheep or goat tibia and mandible and small mammal bone. Fired clay was also retrieved along with fourteen sherds of Early Iron Age pottery (Appendices 3-4).

#### Buried soil layer (214)

Sealing ditch fill (249), and extending only across the southernmost c.5.4m of the trench, was buried soil (214) (Figure 5 Section 3, Plate 9). This was a 0.40m thick soft dark greyish-black sandy silt with

occasional pebbles.

#### Possible feature [241]

The northern edge of buried soil (245) was truncated by a feature [217] which was visible only in section (Figure 5 Section 3, Plate 9). This was 1.10m wide and 0.30m deep with moderately steep sides and a gently sloping base. The overall form of this feature was unknown and it was undated. It contained a single fill (218) of soft dark grey sandy silt, which was very similar in composition to many of the buried soil layers in the vicinity.

At the northern edge of feature [217] was a further feature [241] (Figure 5 Section 3, Plate 9). Only the southern edge of this feature was visible, and the extent of various deposits and features in this area of the trench remains uncertain. In plan, feature [241] appeared to be sub-circular at the south, although the northern edge was not discernible (Figure 5, Plate 8). It was at least 1.60m wide, extending beyond both sides of the trench, and was c.0.84m deep with steep sides and a flattish base where these were visible. As the northerly extent of feature [241] was not established, it may have been over 10.80m wide, the distance to the northern end of Trench 2.

Three fills were recorded within possible feature [241], the earliest of which was (242), a 0.39m thick soft dark brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles. Overlying this was (243), a 0.14m thick soft dark black sandy silt, in turn sealed by (244), a 0.42m thick soft dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles (Figure 5 Section 3).

No artefacts were retrieved from any of these fills, but finds recorded as (252) or (253) may derive from (242) or (243) respectively. Finds (252) and (253) are discussed later.

The fills of feature [241] appeared to be very similar to the sequence of buried soil

deposits identified at the southern end of the trench. Were it not for the relatively clear cut at the southern edge of feature [241], its various fills would be assumed to be further, similar, buried soil deposits. The relationship between the various fills of [241] and the buried soils at the south end of the trench remains unresolved.

#### Linear feature [228]

The subsequent extension of this trench revealed a narrow linear feature [228] close to [241] (Figure 5). The relative position of these two features, which coincide exactly at the edge of the original trench, means that the sequence recorded in this part of Section 3 may be further complicated, and the relationship between [241] and [228] remains unresolved.

Linear [228] was north-south aligned, 0.35m wide and 0.29m deep with steep but unclear sides and a concave base (Figure 5 Section 20, Plate 11). The eastern edge of this feature was very unclear at its junction with buried soil (202=206). Feature [228] contained a single fill (229) of loose mid greyish-brown silty sand. No dateable artefacts were retrieved from this fill, and the stratigraphic relationship with other features and deposits in the area was unclear. However, the appearance of this feature was consistent with potentially being of some antiquity, and may have formed part of a structure.

#### Possible features [237], [233], [232] and [234]

A number of possible features were recorded in the western section of the Trench 2 extension (Figure 5 Section 19, Plate 11). The small variations visible within this section were very hard to discern on site, being evident only on very close inspection of this section, and do not show clearly photographically (Plate 11). The distinction between these features and deposits was very slight and it remains unclear to what extent features [237],

[233], [232] and [234] were indeed separate features, and to what extent their various 'fills' may actually comprise buried soil layers. The relationship between these possible features and feature [241], already described, was also unclear.

Possible feature [237] was recorded at the northern end of Section 19. This was over 2.50m wide and up to 0.50m deep, and its sides were very difficult to discern and were often indistinguishable from neighbouring features. Where visible the sides were steep and its base was irregular, potentially pointing to presence of multiple features (Figure 5). The earliest fill of [237] was (238), a 0.27m thick soft dark brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles. Sealing this was (239), a 0.13m thick soft dark black sandy silt, in turn overlain by (240), a soft dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles which was 0.12m thick.

Finds (252) may derive from either (238), a fill of [237], or (242), a fill of feature [241] (described earlier). These finds comprise the possible tibia of a medium-sized mammal, a burnt stone perhaps used as a pot boiler and two Late Iron Age pottery sherds (Appendices 3 & 4). Similarly, finds (253) derive from either (239) or (243), again each fills of [237] or [241] respectively. Finds (253) were restricted to part of a cattle mandible (Appendix 4).

At the southern edge of feature [237] was possible feature [233], which was 2.10m wide and 0.55m deep (Figure 5 Section 19). The sides were very difficult to discern and were largely indistinguishable from neighbouring deposits, but it appeared to have a gently concave irregular base. This contained a single fill (247) of soft to firm dark greyish-brown sand and silt with occasional pebbles.

Immediately to the south of [237] was [232], a further possible feature which was visible only in section (Figure 5 Section



19). This was 1.12m wide and 0.50m deep, and again the sides were very difficult to discern and often indistinguishable from neighbouring deposits. Where visible the sides of [232] were moderately steep to concave, and it had a gently concave base. The single fill of this feature (246) was a soft to firm dark greyish-brown sand and silt with occasional pebbles.

Possible feature [234] was identified at the southern end of Section 19 (Figure 5). This was over 0.29m wide and 0.43m deep. The sides were very difficult to discern but where visible these were steep and gently concave, and the base was irregular to gently concave. The fill of this feature (235) was a soft dark greyish-brown sand and silt which contained occasional pebbles, and from which a single sherd of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery was retrieved (Appendix 3).

The upper level of Early to Middle Iron Age or later features and deposits in Trench 2 was at least 0.54m below the present ground surface (Figure 5).

#### 19<sup>th</sup> century to modern features and deposits

Feature [219] was recorded cutting into buried soil layer (244) (Figure 5 Section 3). This feature was 1.10m wide and 0.20m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (220) of loose black c.50% sandy silt and c.50% coal fragments. The inclusion of coal fragments indicates this feature is most likely of relatively recent date.

A rectangular pit [230] was recorded in the Trench 2 extension (Figure 5 Section 20, Plate 11). This had square corners and measured 0.80m by 0.56m and was 0.37m deep with vertical to near-vertical sides and a flat base. It contained (231), a friable mid greyish-brown silty sand with moderately frequent fragments of heat-affected ceramic building material. Sheep or goat bones, burnt stone and cinder were

retrieved from this fill along with mid 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery and ceramic building material of possible 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date (Appendices 3 & 4).

A recently buried topsoil layer (221) extended across Trench 2 and the trench extension (Figure 5). This was a 0.60m thick firm dark grey sand and silt with moderately frequent pebbles.

A sub-circular feature [226] was recorded in plan at the northern end of the trench (Figure 5, Plate 8). This was 1.80m by over 1.50m across and over 1.00m deep. It contained fill (227), a soft to loose dark grey mixed c.60% sandy silt with c.40% gravel and refuse. A complete 20<sup>th</sup> century phial, a 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century possible iron lid and a sherd of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery were all retrieved from this fill (Appendices 3 & 4). This pit was likely to be for the disposal of refuse.

Sealing recently-buried topsoil (221) was (222), a 50mm thick layer of friable light yellow sand and limestone fragments with lenses of dark brown silt and sand. This modern layer probably represented temporary surfacing relating to construction of the nearby extensions to The Grange.

A modern rectangular feature [224] was recorded cutting into surfacing layer (222) (Figure 4).

Sealing all deposits in Trench 2 was (223), a 0.15m thick soft dark grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, forming the present topsoil across the area.

Unstratified finds were retrieved from Trench 2 and comprised late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, mid 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century tile and two sherds of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery (Appendices 3 & 4).

### ***Trench 3 – Figure 6***

Trench 3 was north-south aligned and 20m

long and located within a lawn (Figure 3, Plate 2). The present ground level in the area of this trench was between c.19.62 and 19.83m OD.

### Natural deposits

Natural in this trench (302) comprised a loose mid to light yellowish-brown mottled sand and gravel which was also mottled with light grey sandy and silt. The upper level of this layer gently undulated along the length of the trench, at heights of between 18.81 and 19.08m OD (Figure 6, Plate 17).

### Features [324] & [322]

What was perhaps an east-west aligned linear feature [324] was partly exposed at the northern end of the trench (Figure 6). The edges of this feature were unclear, but it was at least 1.60m long and over 1.03m wide and 0.41m deep with steep sides where these were visible and a flattish to concave base. Towards the centre of the base was a marked deeper 'sump' (Figure 6, Section 14, Plate 16). The single fill of this feature (325) was a very hard and dry mid to dark brown silty sand with c.10% gravel. A single sherd of prehistoric pottery was retrieved from this deposit (Appendix 3).

A further feature [322] apparently truncated feature [324], although it is possible that [322] merely represented the boundary between two fills of a single feature [324] (Figure 6, Section 14). If indeed a separate feature, [322] was an east-west aligned linear feature, 0.88m wide and 0.14m deep with a flattish to gently concave base. It contained a single fill (323) of moist dark greyish-brown silty sand with c.10% gravel. Two sherds of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century Roman pottery were retrieved from this fill, in addition to a piece of Hertfordshire puddingstone. This stone was burnt, and may be part of a quern stone, puddingstone querns commonly occurring in the Roman period

(Appendices 3 & 4).

### Subsoil

Sealing the fill of feature [322] was a layer of what was apparently subsoil (301). It was only possible to distinguish this layer from the overlying topsoil (300) by the extreme dryness of deposit (301). This layer was a very compact light to mid grey sand and silt with c.10% pebbles. This layer was intermittent along the trench, and up to 0.17m thick. This deposit was notably similar in composition to the fills of several of the features in Trench 3, and it is possible that rather than a 'subsoil' layer this might potentially represent the scant remains of heavily truncated features.

### Ditch [303]

Approximately 2m to the south of these features was an east-west aligned ditch [303] (Figure 6, Plate 12). This ditch was over 1.56m long, c.1.77m wide and 0.65m deep with moderately steep and regular sides and a concave base. The overall profile of the ditch was a gentle 'v'-shape. This contained a single fill (304), a very firm and dry light to mid grey silt and sand with c.10% pebbles.

A very abraded Roman or post-Roman fragment of ceramic building material and three sherds of pottery of possible Mid to Late Iron Age date were retrieved from this fill, one of these pottery sherds being retrieved from an environmental sample. This sample also contained a fragment of small mammal skull and a natural flint flake along with small quantities of charcoal (Appendices 3-5).

### Features [305], [307], [311], [309], [316], [320] & [318]

A little over 3m to the south of Ditch [303] was a further feature [305], which was probably a pit, although it was not fully exposed in plan and might perhaps be a

ditch (Figure 6, Plates 13 & 15). This was 1.20m wide and 0.72m deep with moderately steep to variable and generally concave sides and a concave to slightly irregular base. The single fill of this feature was (306), a moderately compact light to mid grey sand and silt with very occasional charcoal. This contained a single abraded Roman or post-Medieval tile fragment (Appendix 3).

At the northern edge of [305] was a possible shallow feature [307], the upper fill of which was indistinguishable from that of [305] (Figure 6, Sections 12 & 5, Plates 13 & 15). Feature [307] was c.1.60m wide where recorded in the west section (Section 12) and c.0.80m wide in the facing section (Section 5). It was up to 0.26m deep with a flattish to gently concave base. It may have been a pit or perhaps the wider extent of feature [305]. The earliest fill of [307] was (327), a 100mm thick soft mottled light to mid grey sand and silt with c.10% gravel (as subsoil (301)) and mid to light yellowish-brown sand and gravel (as natural (302)). The upper fill of [307] was (308), a 0.12m thick firm, dry light to mid grey sand and silt with c.10% gravel. A sherd of pottery of prehistoric date was retrieved from this fill (Appendix 3).

The northern edge of Feature [307] was somewhat obscured by the presence of deposit (313), a mottled deposit at the junction of topsoil (301) and natural (302) (Figure 6, Section 5). Apparently cut into this deposit, at its northern edge, was a sub-oval feature [311] (Figure 6, Plate 15). This was c.0.48m by 0.34m wide and 0.18m deep with moderately steep, concave and irregular sides and concave to irregular base. This possible pit or post hole was very unclear and may simply represent a variation in the depth of subsoil (301). The single fill of this possible feature (312) was a moderately firm mixed mid to dark greyish-brown silt and sand with c.10% gravel and redeposited natural (302).

A possible continuation of feature [307] was identified at the southern edge of feature [305], where it was recorded as [309] (Figure 6, Sections 12 & 5, Plates 13 & 15). This feature was not clearly seen in plan but was up to 0.84m wide and 0.22m deep with a gently concave to flattish base. This may have been a pit or perhaps the wider extent of probable pit [305] along with [307]. This was filled by (310), a moderately firm to soft dark blackish-brown sand and silt with c.10% gravel.

A further feature [316] was excavated just short distance to the south of [309] (Figure 6, Sections 12 & 13, Plates 13 & 14). This possible pit [316] was not clearly exposed in plan, but was 1.28m long by over 0.88m wide and 0.38m deep with fairly gently sloping, irregular and convex to concave sides and an irregular to concave base. The earliest fill of [316] was (326), a 40mm thick soft light yellowish-grey sand and silt with c.10% gravel, apparently representing the slumping-in of natural sand and gravel at the southern edge of the feature. Above this was fill (317), a 0.38m thick very hard and dry mid to light grey sand and silt with c.10% pebbles. A single sherd of 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD Roman greyware was retrieved from this fill (Appendix 3). Three sherds of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery were retrieved from an environmental sample of this deposit. Small quantities of charcoal and bone were also retrieved from this sample (Appendices 4 & 5).

Two east-west aligned linear features [320] and [318] truncated fill (317) (Figure 6, Plate 14). Linear [320] was over 1.60m long, c.0.48m wide and c.0.16m deep with a gently concave base. Approximately 0.70m south of [320] was linear [318], this being over 1.60m long, 0.65m wide and 0.12m deep with flattish to gently concave base (Figure 6, Plate 14). The fills of [318] and [320] ((319) and (321) respectively) each comprised soft, moist, dark blackish-brown sand and silt with up to 10% gravel. These two parallel features were very

similar in form and seem likely to be contemporary with one another. Although their function and date remains unclear these might be associated with the former vicarage gardens, or could be rather earlier features. No finds were retrieved from the fills of either of these features.

#### Possible feature [314]

An amorphous possible feature [314] was identified at the southern end of Trench 3, although this was not clearly visible in plan (Figure 6 Sections 10 & 11). This possible pit was over 0.66m by 0.98m and 0.28m deep with a gently concave irregular base. This feature was difficult to distinguish from nearby mottled deposit (329), and was perhaps more likely a naturally-formed anomaly. The single fill of this possible feature (315) was a moderately soft mid greyish-brown silty sand with c.10% gravel.

#### Topsoil and depth of overburden

The topsoil within Trench 3 was a soft, moist, dark blackish-brown sand and silt with up to c.10% pebbles. This was a notably thick layer, being approximately 0.80m thick, with no pronounced variation throughout its thickness. This represents the topsoil of gardens and lawn of the former vicarage. The total depth of overburden in this trench sealing archaeological features was at least 0.65m.

#### ***Trench 4 – Figure 7***

This trench was ‘T’-shaped and comprised two 25m long joined trenches (Figure 7). It was located within a disused bowling green (Figure 3, Plate 3). The present ground level in the vicinity of this trench ranged from approximately 18.83m OD to c.18.97m OD.

#### Natural deposits

Natural in this trench (408) comprised mid to light yellowish-brown sand and gravel.

At the southern end of Trench 4, the top of this deposit was encountered at a depth of c.18.41m OD. This dropped down to the north, being around 18.15m OD at the northeast of the trench, and 17.75m OD at the northwest end, a drop in level of up to 0.66m from south to north over a distance of approximately 27m (Figure 7, Sections 17, 18 & 15, Plates 18 & 19).

#### Feature [407]

A single feature [407] was identified cut into this natural layer. It was amorphous to sub-oval, 1.48m by >1.20m wide and 0.51m deep, with moderately steep sides and a concave base (Figure 7, Sections 15 & 16, Plates 20 & 21). This may have been either a pit or a ditch terminus. It contained three fills; (406) a light grey sand; (405) a mottled mid to dark brown and light grey silt and sand; and (404) a mid to dark brown with light brown mottles silt and sand with moderately frequent gravel. No finds were retrieved from any of the fills of feature [407].

#### Subsoil, topsoil and layers associated with bowling green

A subsoil layer (403) extended across the trench, and comprised a friable, soft dark brown silt and sand with moderately frequent gravel. This layer was up to 0.54m thick (Figure 7 Sections 15, 17 & 18, Plates 18 & 19).

Buried topsoil layer (402) extended across only the northern part of the trench, sealed subsoil layer (403) (Figure 7 Sections 15, 17 & 18, Plates 18 & 19). This deposit was a friable to soft, very dark brown silty sand with frequent gravel, and was up to 0.48m thick at the northwest of trench. This layer was absent from the south of the trench, having apparently been stripped during levelling associated with the construction of the bowling green (Figure 7, Plates 3 & 18).

A 0.12m thick layer of cinders (401) was

recorded above the level of the apparent bowling green construction stripping (Figure 7, Plates 18 & 19). This had been used to form a solid free-draining base for the bowling green. Above the cinder layer was a 0.25m thick topsoil and turf layer, a loose to friable, dark brown sand and silt with frequent gravel (400). This formed the existing topsoil and turf across the bowling green area.

No artefacts were retrieved from Trench 4.

The total depth of overburden in this trench varied from c.1.21m at the northwest to 0.59m at the south (Figure 7). The depth of overburden overlying feature [407] was at least 0.55m.

## 6. DISCUSSION

### Composition and height of natural deposits and thickness of overburden

Glacial sand and gravels were encountered in each of the four excavated trenches. In Trenches 3 & 4 these were mixed sand and gravel and in Trenches 1 & 2 these comprised sand with few pebbles.

The upper level of these natural deposits generally fell across the site from south to north. In Trench 2 at the northern edge of the site, the upper level of natural fell from c.18.71m OD at the south of the trench to c.18.58m OD at the north. A similar level of c.18.60m was recorded in Trench 1. In Trench 4, the most southerly of the trenches, natural occurred at depths of between 18.81m and 19.08m OD, again dropping off to the north along the length of the trench. In Trench 4 the variation in level was more pronounced, dropping from approximately 18.41m OD at the south of the trench to just c.17.75m OD at the northwest of the trench.

These findings seem to reflect the location of the site, immediately south of the peak of the gravel island on which Littleport is

located. The 20m contour of the existing ground level of the island is shown on Figure 2.

It seems likely that the notable thickness of various buried soil and existing topsoil deposits in each of the excavated trenches is in part due to the location of the site on this slope. Pockets of thick colluvium in areas of low ground and hollows were identified during recent investigations at Highfield Farm, to the north of the present site (D. Drury, APS, *pers. comm.*). It may be that a similar process is represented here, with the gradual migration of soil from higher ground to the south to the lower ground at the north.

Such processes may explain the thick deposits of topsoil and occasionally subsoil in Trenches 3 & 4, and might also provide an explanation for the sealing and so preservation of prehistoric buried soils at the north of the site, in Trenches 1 & 2.

### Prehistoric and Roman features and deposits in Trenches 1 & 2

In total one hundred and two sherds of prehistoric pottery and six sherds of Roman pottery were retrieved from the site during the evaluation (Appendix 3). Seventeen of these were retrieved from buried soil layers in Trench 1, and seventy –seven were from various deposits and features in neighbouring Trench 2.

A sequence of deeply buried soils containing prehistoric pottery and animal bone was recorded in each of Trenches 1 & 2. A few earlier Roman sherds were also retrieved from buried soil in Trench 1, but on the whole these layers appear to reflect Early to Middle Iron Age activity in the immediate vicinity. The assemblage from Trench 2 includes large fresh sherds and much of this is probably of Early Iron Age date. Several sherds from (251) were slightly later, dating to the Mid to Late Iron Age. This may represent a continuity of activity through these periods, this

activity largely being evidenced by the incorporation of cultural material into what were at that time topsoil deposits.

The quantity of artefacts preserved within these buried soil layers indicates domestic activity in the near vicinity, and the presence of a few possible fragments of hammerscale hints at the possibility of a wider range of activities being carried out in the vicinity in the prehistoric period.

A ditch in Trench 2 contained Iron Age pottery. Although it is possible that some of this material is redeposited from some of the buried soil layers which this ditch truncates, the ditch itself may well be prehistoric.

A number of other possible features in Trench 2 were of rather unclear form, and the relationship between these and the various buried soil deposits in this trench was uncertain. The fills of these features were certainly of very similar composition to that of the buried soils, and it may be that these were all formed by a continuation of similar processes of soil formation in the area. Further Iron Age pottery was retrieved from the fills of some of these features.

A narrow linear feature was excavated in the extension to Trench 2. This was undated but might easily represent part of an Iron Age structure, although this remains unproven as too little was revealed for this to be more than speculation.

The upper level of deposits and features of potentially Iron Age to perhaps earlier Roman date was at least 0.54m below the present ground level in both Trenches 1 & 2. Above this level only 19<sup>th</sup> century to modern deposits were recorded.

#### 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century building remains in Trench 1

Several walls and a basement were

recorded in this trench, which fairly closely match the footprint of buildings shown in the vicinity on a map of 1890 (Figure 8).

#### 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century refuse pits, Trenches 1 & 2

Several refuse pits of late 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date were recorded in Trenches 1 & 2. Finds from these included items such as chamber pots and glass phials.

This dumping may relate to the former use of The Grange as a convalescent home for both the RAF and TGWU in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (local resident, *pers. comm.*).

#### Possibly Prehistoric to Roman and undated features in Trenches 3 & 4

Up to eleven cut features were excavated in Trench 3, accounting for approximately half of the stripped surface area of this trench. Some of these were clear and distinct, such as ditch [305] and possible pit [303], but others were rather more amorphous. In addition an intermittent 'subsoil' layer in this trench may in fact be the remains of further shallow amorphous features.

The majority of the excavated features in Trench 3 were undated, but eight fragments of prehistoric pottery and two pieces of Roman pottery were retrieved from various deposits in Trench 3. Some of the prehistoric material from this trench was of different character to that recorded in Trenches 1 & 2, some of that from Trench 3 being more akin to later Iron Age types.

The relatively scant finds from this trench date linear [322], possible pit [305] and ditch [303] as Roman or later. A small quantity of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age material was retrieved from the fill of pit [316], potentially dating this feature, and a prehistoric sherd was recovered from

the fill of possible pit [307]. Generally though the features in this trench were poorly dated, but are perhaps on the whole most likely to be of prehistoric to Roman date, given the slight concentration of artefacts within this date range.

In addition to the relative dearth of artefacts from Trench 3, despite the relatively large number of features, environmental samples from features in this trench also yielded scant remains. It may be that the activities represented by these features were of a nature which did not lead to intensive deposition of cultural material, and the area may have been slightly removed from areas of intensive activity.

Given the probable colluvium and movement of soil from south to north across this area, it is possible that at least some of the artefacts retrieved from Trench 3 were originally deposited on the higher ground further to the north, before becoming accidentally incorporated into colluvium and later into various feature fills. In general the artefacts from Trench 3 were small and abraded, perhaps indicating redeposition. This could mean that the excavated features in this trench are of rather later date, and contain redeposited artefacts.

A single feature was identified towards the southern end of Trench 4. This was also undated but again was potentially of some antiquity.

The archaeological features in Trench 3 were sealed beneath at least 0.65m of overburden and the single feature in Trench 4 was at least 0.55m below present ground level.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological trial trenching was undertaken at The Grange, Littleport, in advance of proposed development, as the

site lay in an area of known archaeological remains, near the highest point of the Littleport gravel fen 'island'. Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon remains had been recorded in the near vicinity of the site.

Prehistoric buried soil layers and features were recorded in Trenches 1 & 2, at the north of the site. Almost one hundred sherds of pottery, largely of Early to Middle Iron Age date, but including a small quantity of earlier Roman material, were retrieved from deposits in these trenches, along with a small assemblage of animal bone and other finds, indicating domestic occupation in the immediate vicinity. A single undated linear feature in Trench 2 might potentially form part of a structure of Iron Age date.

Potentially prehistoric to Roman features and deposits in Trenches 1 & 2 were sealed by at least 0.54m of recent deposits.

Several undated and Prehistoric to Roman or later features were identified in Trench 3, along with a single undated feature in Trench 4. The small collection of abraded material retrieved from Trench 3 may be redeposited within later features. Archaeological features in Trenches 3 & 4 were sealed beneath at least 0.55m of overburden.

Extremely thick soil deposits were recorded in Trenches 3 & 4, and a deep sequence of successive soil layers was identified in Trenches 1 & 2. This would seem to be the result of the position of the site on a south-north slope, and the resultant migration of soil down slope over a prolonged period. This seems to have been the mechanism by which the prehistoric buried soils and features in Trenches 1 & 2 were sealed and preserved.

Evidence for 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century landscaping was recorded in Trench 4.

Numerous refuse pits of late 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date were recorded in Trenches 1

& 2. Finds from these included items such as chamber pots and glass phials, and may relate to the former use of The Grange as a convalescent home for both the RAF and TGWU.

Part of a building recorded in Trench 1 at the frontage of the site closely matches the position of a building depicted on an 1890 OS map, and would appear to have been demolished in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Seddon Construction who commissioned this investigation. The work was co-ordinated by Dale Trimble. Gary Taylor edited this report along with Tom Lane.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble  
Project Officer: Vicky Mellor  
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Finds Processing: Denise Buckley  
Photographic reproduction: Vicky Mellor  
CAD Illustration: Vicky Mellor  
Post-excavation analysis: Vicky Mellor

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
CAPCA	Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice
OD	Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)
RAF	Royal Air Force
TGWU	Transport and General Workers Union



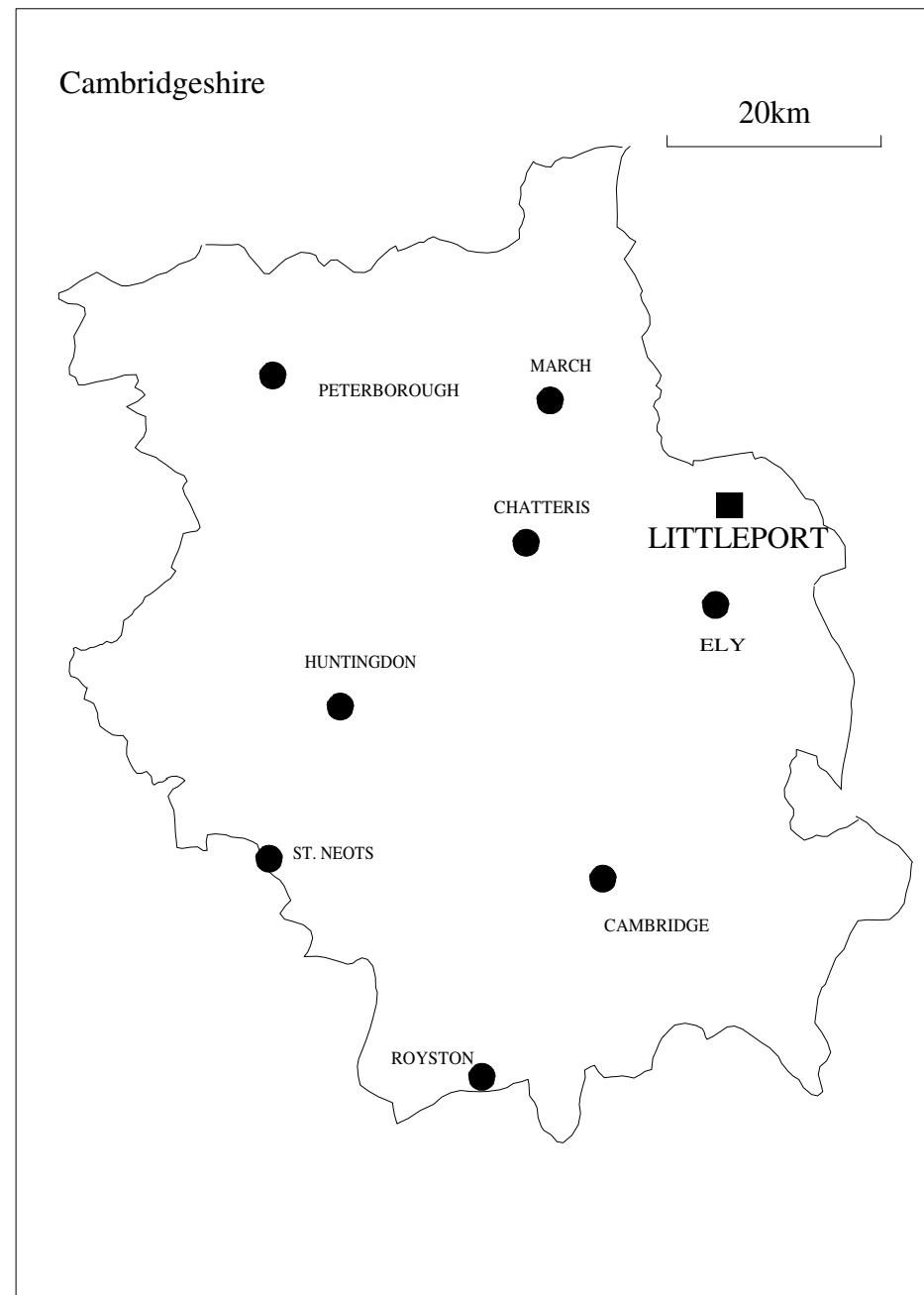
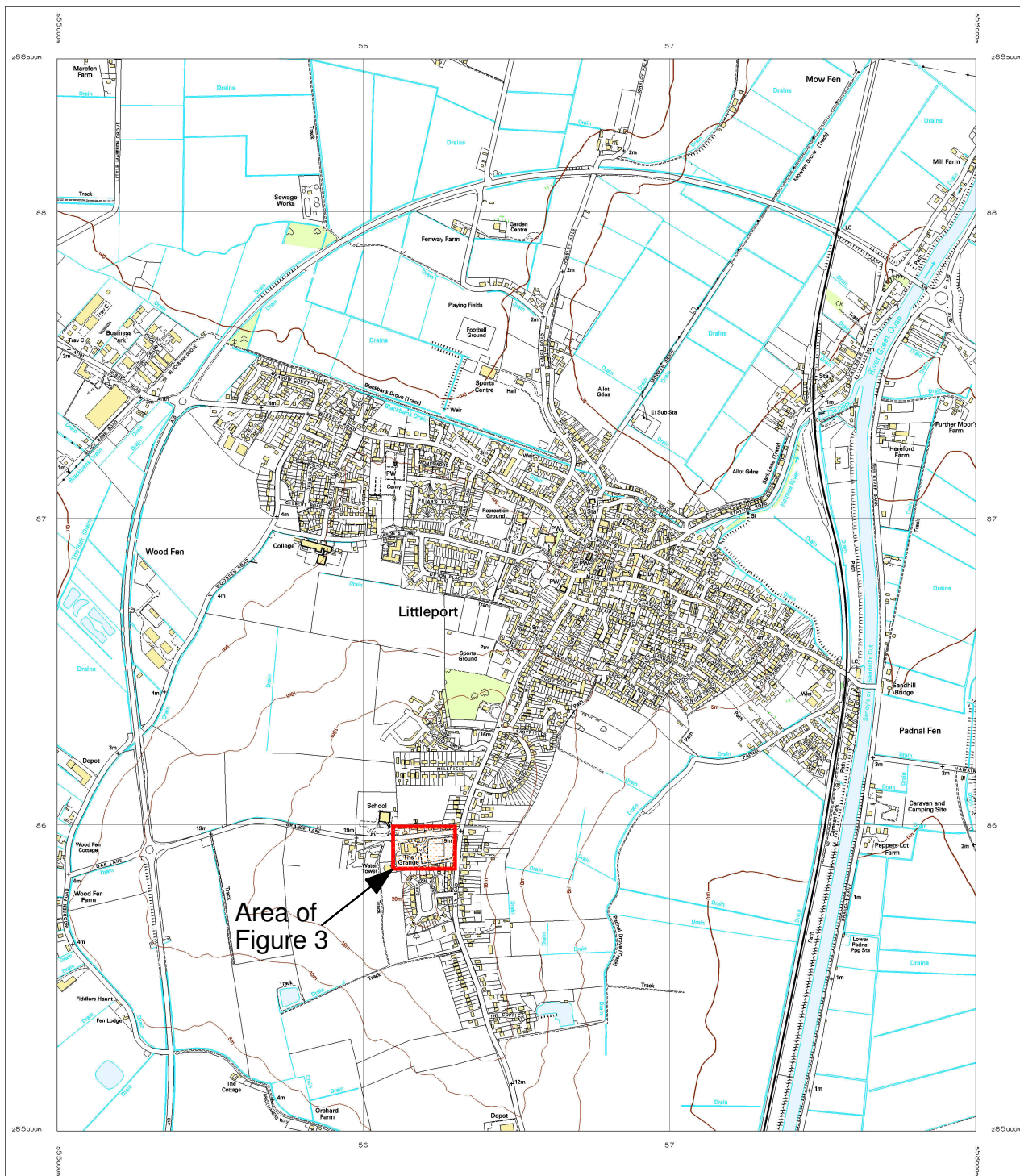


Figure 1 General location map



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100 50 0 100 200 300 400 500  
Metres

0 1km

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Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Littleport Grange Lane LPGL10

Scale 1:20000

Report No: 102/10

Figure 2 Site location map

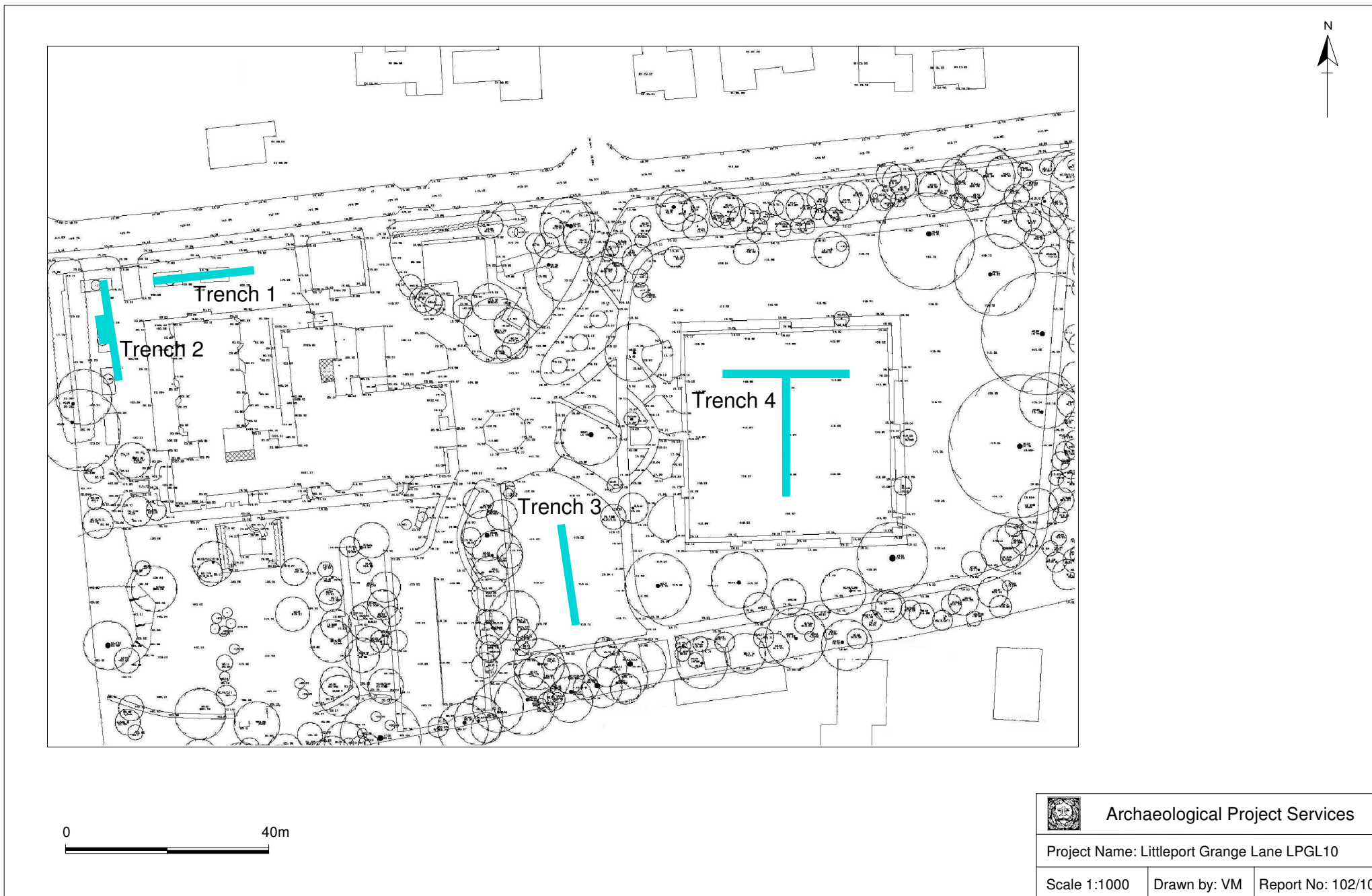


Figure 3 Trench location plan

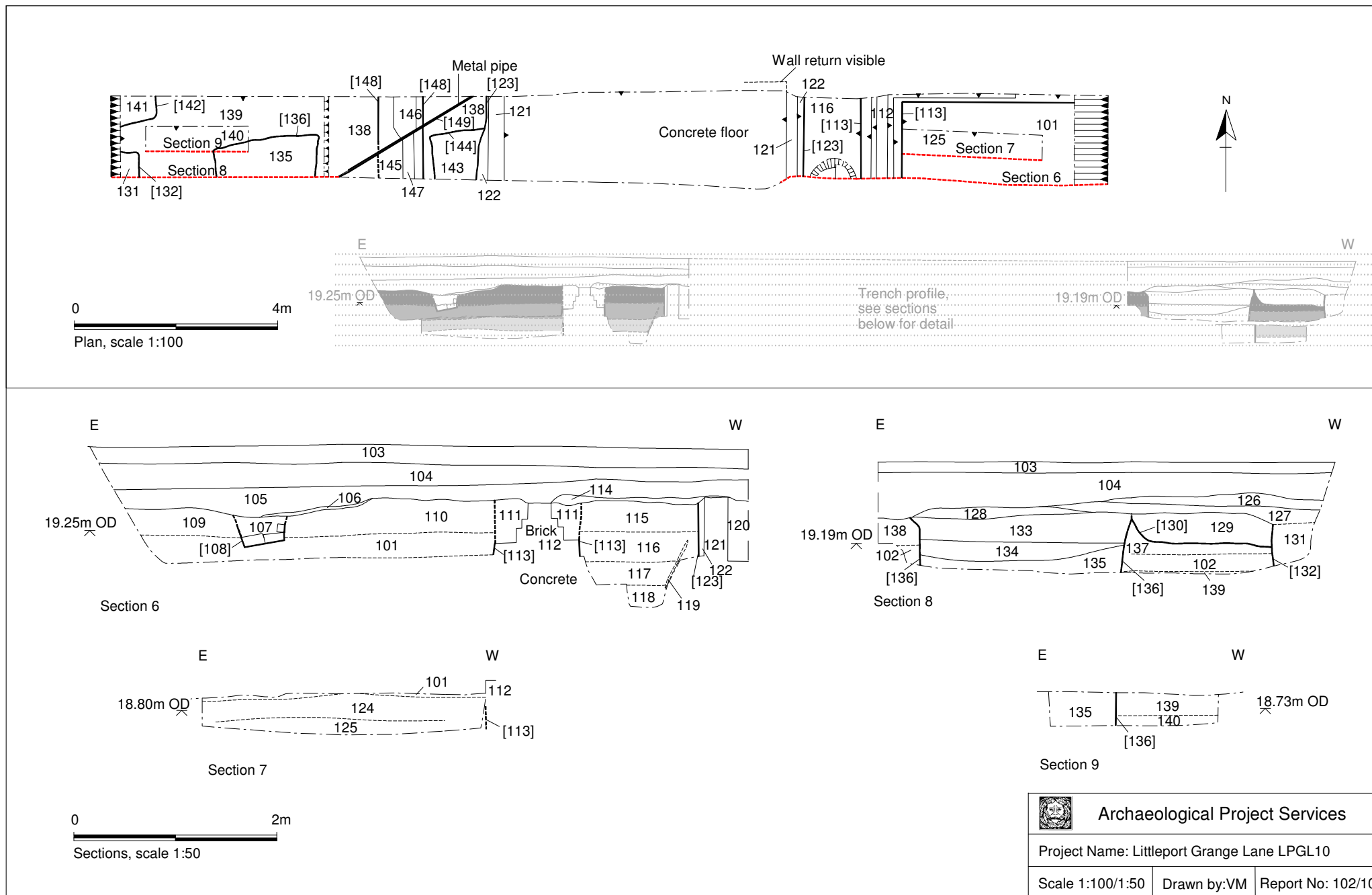


Figure 4 Trench 1 plan and sections

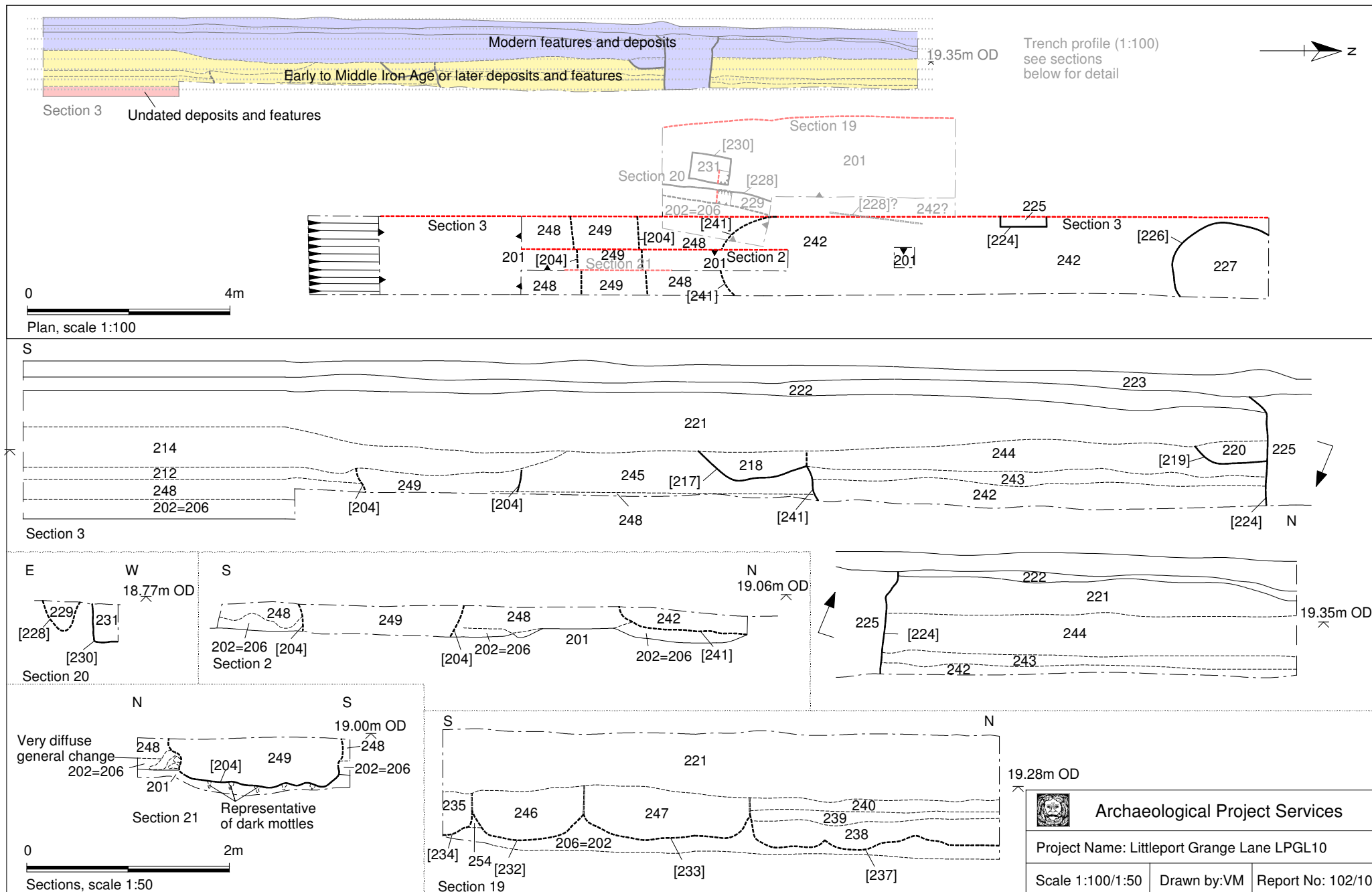


Figure 5 Trench 2 plan and sections



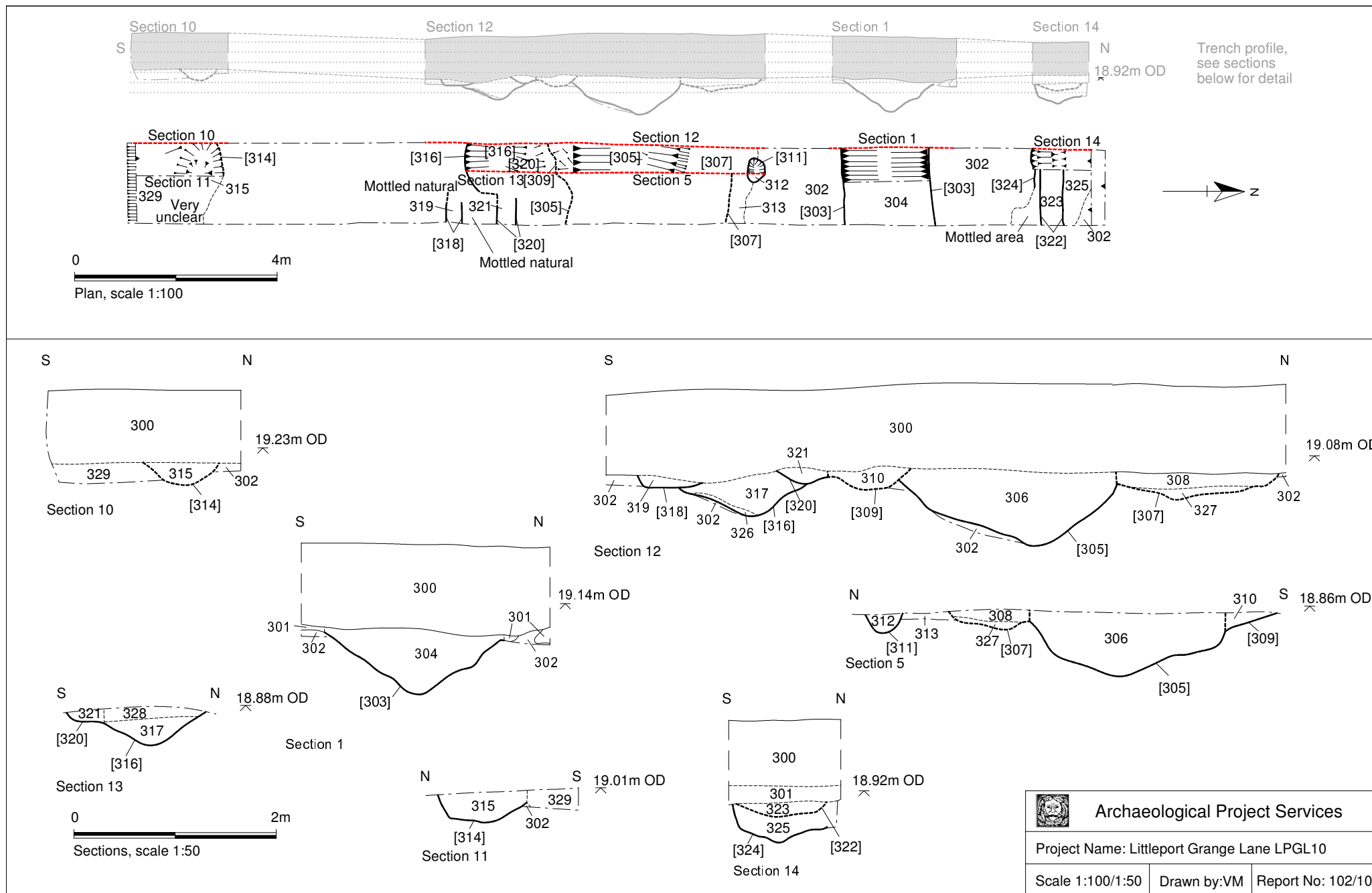


Figure 6 Trench 3 plan and sections

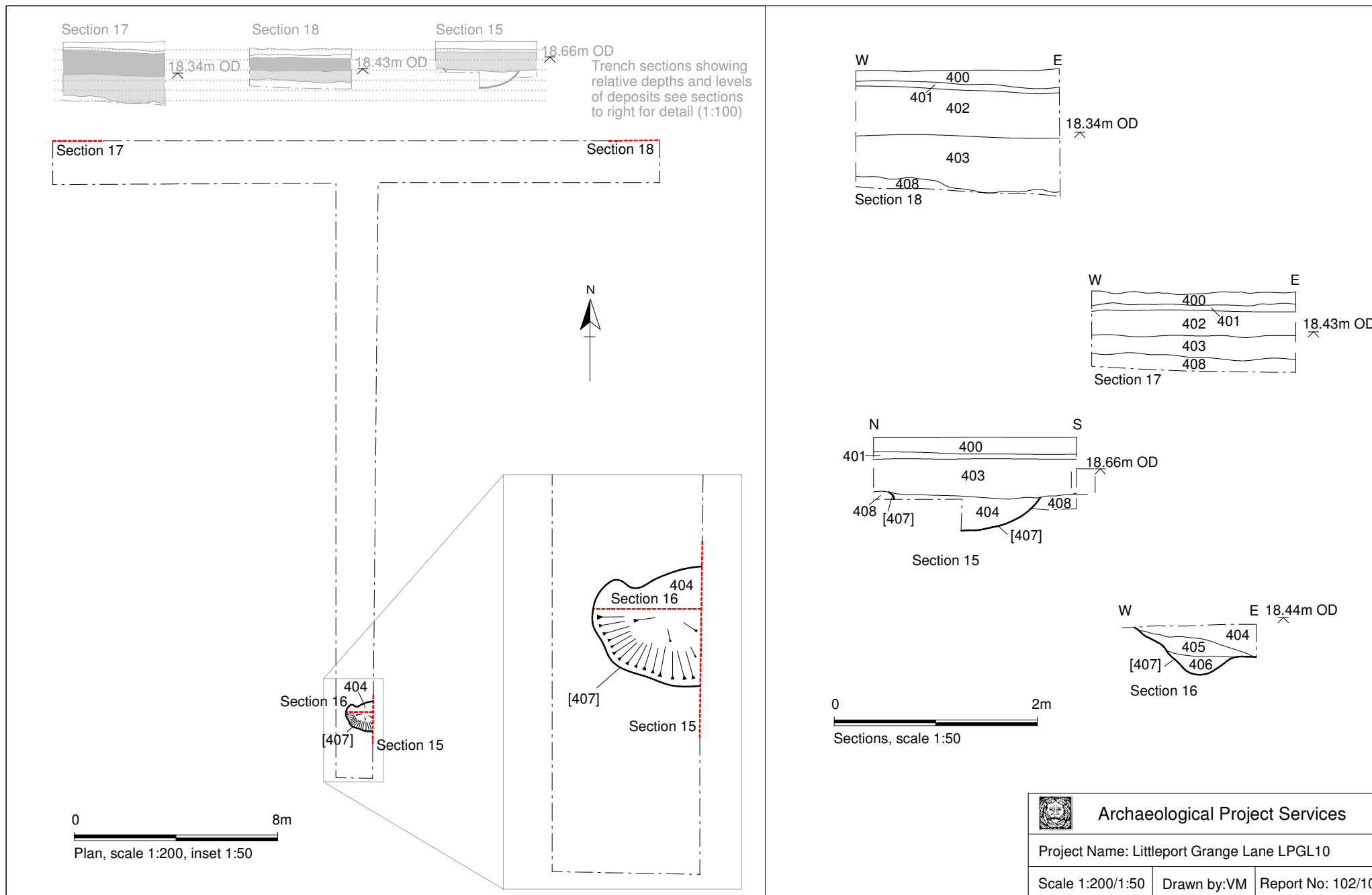


Figure 7 Trench 4 plan and sections

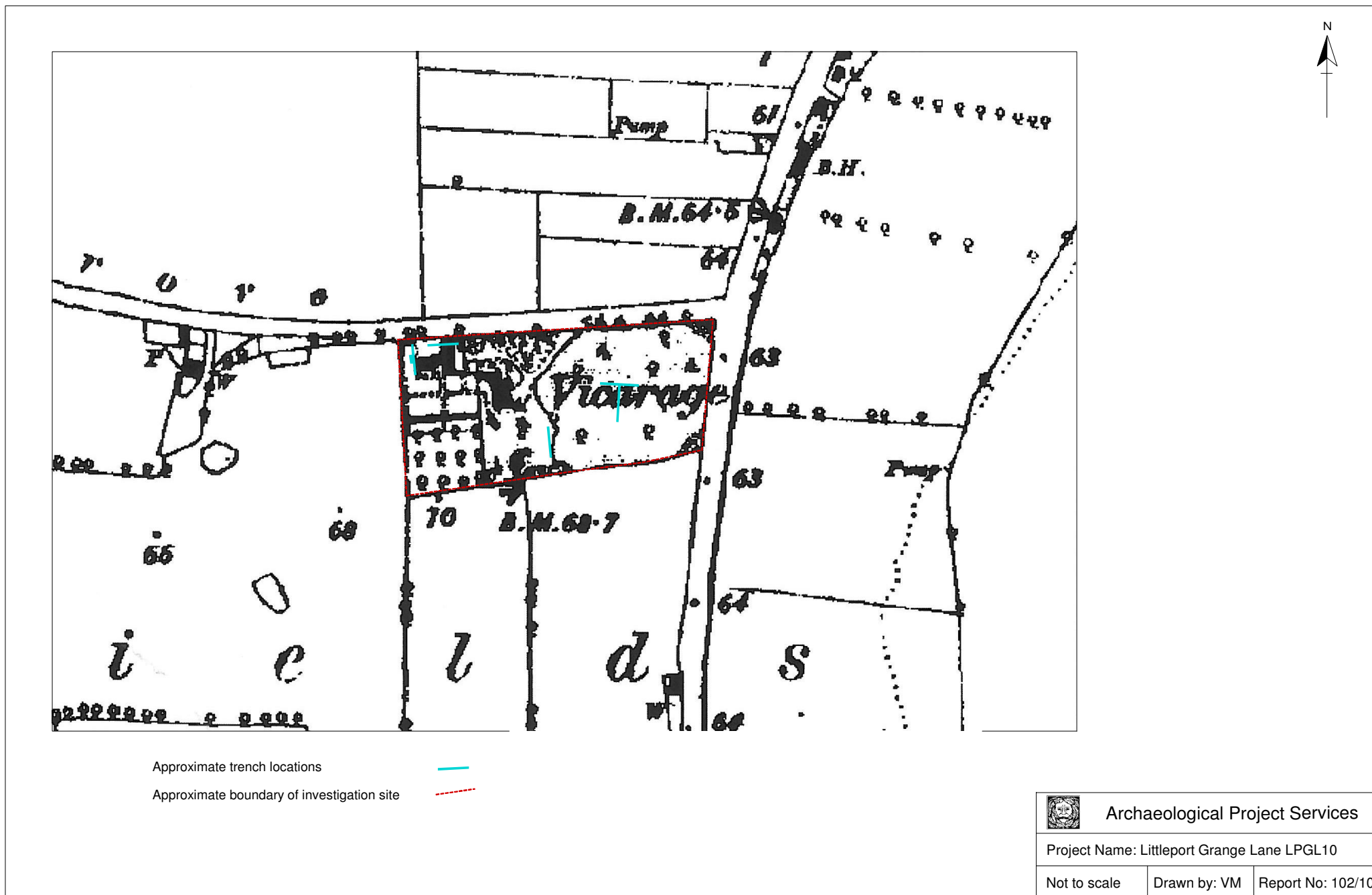


Figure 8 Extract from OS 1st Edition 1:10,560 map, 1890, Cambridgeshire 022/SE ([www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk))





Plate 1 General view of area of Trenches 1 & 2 from Grange Lane, looking south



Plate 2 General view of area of Trench 3, looking southeast



Plate 3 General view of area of Trench 4, looking northeast





Plate 4 View of eastern end of Trench 1 showing ancient buried soil layers 124 etc sealed by modern deposits and wall [113], Sections 6 & 7, looking south

Plate 5 View of western end of Trench 1 showing ancient buried soil layers 139 etc, recent pits [136], [130] and [132], Sections 8 & 9, looking south







Plate 6 View of Trench 1 showing ancient buried soil layers 117 etc sealed by modern deposits and truncated by buildings [113] and [123], Section 6, looking south



Plate 7 General view of Trench 1 showing modern walls and basement and ancient buried soil layers in foreground, looking southwest



Plate 8 General view of Trench 2, recent pit [226] in foreground, looking south





Plate 9 Trench 2, showing sondage into ancient buried soil deposits 248 and 202=206, also showing ditch [204] part excavated. Features [217] and [241] Sections 2 & 3 visible in background, looking northwest



Plate 10 Trench 2, Ditch [204] following full excavation, looking east, Section 21



Plate 11 General view of Trench 2 extension, showing pit [230] and linear feature [228] in base of trench and possible features [234, 232, 233 and 237] in Section 19 at rear, looking west



Plate 12 Trench 3, Ditch [303], Section 1, looking west





Plate 13 Trench 3, Probable pit [305], possible pit [316], shallow features [309] and [307], Section 12, looking west



Plate 14 Trench 3, possible pit [316] and linears [318] and [320], Section 13, looking east



Plate 15 Trench 3, Probable pit [305], shallow features [309] and [307] and possible post hole or pit [311], ditch [303] in background, Section 5, looking north





Plate 16 Trench 3, Linears [322] and [324], Section 14, looking west



Plate 18 Trench 4, General view showing buried topsoil layer 402 diminishing to south and buried subsoil layer 403, looking southeast



Plate 17 Trench 3, post-excavation view, looking southwest



Plate 19 Trench 4, General view showing buried topsoil and subsoil layers, Sections 17 and 18, looking northeast



Plate 20 Possible pit [407], Section 15, looking east



Plate 21 Possible pit [407], Section 16, looking north



# APPENDIX 1

## Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a specification for the archaeological evaluation of land at 1 Grange Lane, Littleport, Cambridgeshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, close to the site of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Highfield Farm, Littleport and also Roman remains discovered at Millfield Primary school.*
- 1.3 *The proposed development includes the erection of a residential unit, with associated communal facilities, parking, access and services. Archaeological evaluation is proposed in order to assess the archaeological implications of the proposed development.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.*

### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological evaluation of land at 1 Grange Lane, Littleport, Cambridgeshire.
  - 2.1.1 The document contains the following parts:
  - 2.1.2 Overview
  - 2.1.3 The archaeological and natural setting
  - 2.1.4 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
  - 2.1.5 List of specialists
  - 2.1.6 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

### 3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Littleport is located approximately 8km northeast of Ely in northeastern Cambridgeshire. Situated on the western side of Littleport, the development site lies on the south side of Grange Lane at TL 5620 8592 and is currently occupied by a residential care home.

### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 East Cambridgeshire District Council has placed a condition requiring a scheme of archaeological works on planning consent (Application number E/008/00567/FUM) for redevelopment of the site. In the first instance this will comprise evaluation of the site through a programme of trial trenching to determine the character of any archaeological deposits which may be buried on the site.

### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies in the Cambridgeshire fenland, situated on the western edge of the hill occupied by the village of Littleport. The underlying geology is glacial sand and gravels over Kimmeridge Clay. Soils of the area are given as a chalky till on the highest ground, over Jurassic and Cretaceous clay with till and drift deposits at the western edge of the development area (Hodge et al 1984, 96-8, 189-92, 290-3). The site lies at a height of around 16.5m OD on the western side of the former island with land sloping down from the south to the north and west.

### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The Fenland has long been recognised as an important archaeological landscape, containing superimposed evidence of



settlement, ritual and agricultural remains dating from the prehistoric period onwards. Littleport occupies a former island within the fenland with the Old Croft River, formerly the main channel collecting the water of the fen basin, on the northern side of the island. The development area lies on the higher, drier ground, on the western side of the island.

- 6.2 The Highfield Farm residential development area lies immediately to the northwest of the proposed development and has been subject to a previous archaeological investigations as part of a condition led scheme of archaeological works. Prior to development the Highfield Farm the area was subject to intensive fieldwalking as part of the Fenland Survey (Hall 1996), a desktop study undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (Lucas 1998) and an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Archaeological Project Services (Dymond 1999). Mitigation investigations undertaken in tandem with the construction programme have included fieldwalking, test pitting, trenching and a series of open area excavations (APS 2005).
- 6.3 Mitigation investigations undertaken as part of the Highfield Farm investigations have confirmed the hilltop as a focus of prehistoric activity. Excavation has revealed complex and well preserved remains dating from the Neolithic to the early Iron Age, these have principally been found to the east and north of the former Highfield Farm (Areas 1 and 3) as outlined in a recent assessment report (APS 2005). Area 1, located approximately 500m north of 1 Grange Lane was characterised by a series of gullies aligned roughly north – south and east – west, and a fairly widely dispersed series of pits dating from the early Neolithic to the Bronze Age and included an unurned cremation. In Area 3, approximately 750m to the northwest of the application area, a large number of pits together with a series of gullies and ditches were focussed on a natural hollow. The pits range from small, isolated examples to large intercutting pits, some of which contained waterlogged remains and others containing clearly placed deposits. A number of pits were particularly ‘rich’ in finds, producing pottery, animal bone, flint and wood. The use of this area appears to extend from the Neolithic to early Iron Age.
- 6.4 Prehistoric remains were identified elsewhere on the site but appear to reflect less intensive use. They include isolated pits and a number of ditches which reflect the prehistoric land use pattern and are also present in the southwest land block.
- 6.5 Although previous investigations had not indicated the presence of Saxon material or occupation of the site, a number of Saxon graves have been identified during mitigation excavation to the south and west of the former Highfield Farm site, to the north of the Millfield primary school and approximately 400m northwest of the proposed development at Grange Lane. The majority of the identified burials lie south of the east – west hedgeline (Area 4) with three skeletons immediately north of the hedgeline (Trench AR). The burials lie just below topsoil, or within the subsoil and in most cases only the bases of the grave cuts are visible. There has been some truncation of the remains by medieval and later cultivation and modern land drains.
- 6.6 The area containing the graves measures 60m east – west by at least 50m north – south (including the area of the unexcavated hedgeline). Forty seven graves have been identified to date, although there is presently no clear pattern in the arrangement, density or orientation of the graves. Of those examined about half contained grave goods, such as shield bosses, knives, brooches, beads, worked bone and pottery.
- 6.7 Features associated with or adjacent to the burials include ditches and gullies aligned northeast – southwest and northwest – southeast, although other gullies follow a north northwest – south southeast alignment. Some appear to relate to prehistoric landuse, whilst others may be contemporary with the cemetery. In addition a small ring gully with central intercutting pits and a series of pits and post-holes have been identified within the area. Although presently undated some of the pits, possibly representing cremations, may be contemporary with the inhumations.
- 6.8 Geophysical survey of the area to the west, south and east of the burials in Area 4 has indicated the presence of cut features, such as pits and ditches, and a possible target area for further cemetery features (Stratascan 2005). These together with the results of the earlier suite of investigations provide the basis for the proposed excavations.
- 6.9 Although previous evaluation had not recorded the presence of colluviation or buried soil more recent excavation has demonstrated the potential for these to be present in deeper, isolated pockets. In addition variable depths of silty clay topsoil and silty or sandy clay subsoil have been recorded over relatively short distances on the hilltop itself and may mask the presence of remains to non-invasive techniques. Evidence for waterlogged deposits and therefore the potential for the preservation of organic remains, again in discrete areas, has also been found on the hilltop, although evaluation had indicated that environmental survival across the wider site was relatively poor.

## **7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

## 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:

- 7.2.1 Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
- 7.2.2 Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
- 7.2.3 Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
- 7.2.4 Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
- 7.2.5 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
- 7.2.6 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
- 7.2.7 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

## 8 TRIAL TRENCHING

### 8.1 Reasoning for this technique

- 8.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
- 8.1.2 The trial trenching will comprise the excavation of three 20m and two 25 long trenches as shown on Figure 1. The two trenches comprising the T-shaped arrangement over the eastern end of the site will measure 25m long. Trenches may be widened and stepped-in should archaeological deposits extend below 1.2m depth. Augering may be used to determine the depth of the sequence of deposits present. The location of the proposed trenches are shown in Figure 1.

### 8.2 General Considerations

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

### 8.3 Methodology

- 8.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be

cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.

- 8.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.
- 8.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 8.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.
- 8.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site before the commencement of field operations.
  - the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
  - individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
  - groups of features where their relationship is important.
  - the site on completion of field work
- 8.4 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. If removal of the remains is necessary the appropriate Home Office licences will be obtained and the local environmental health department informed. If relevant, the coroner and the police will be notified.
- 8.5 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.
- 8.6 The spoil generated during the investigation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches with the top soil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.
- 8.7 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by an EDM survey.

## **9 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

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

## **10 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT**

### **10.1 Stage 1**

- 10.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 10.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the

individual deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

## 10.2 Stage 2

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

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

## 11.3 Stage 3

11.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared. This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results
- A text describing the findings of the investigation.
- Plans of the trenches showing the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
- A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

## 11 ARCHIVE

12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the evaluation will be sorted and ordered in accordance with the procedures in the Society of Museum Archaeologists' document *Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums* (1994), and any additional local requirements, for long term storage and curation. This work will be undertaken by the Finds Supervisor, an Archaeological Assistant and the Conservator (if relevant). The archive will be deposited within an approved County store under event number ECB3106 as soon as possible after completion of the post-excavation and analysis.

12.2 If required, microfilming of the archive will be carried out at Lincolnshire Archives. The silver master will be transferred to the RCHME and a diazo copy will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record.

12.3 Prior to the project commencing, the Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Office will be contacted to obtain their agreement to receipt of the project archive and to establish their requirements with regards to labelling, ordering, storage, conservation and organisation of the archive.

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

## 13 REPORT DEPOSITION

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

## 14 PUBLICATION

- 14.1 A report of the findings of the investigation will be submitted for inclusion in the appropriate local journal. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.
- 14.2 Details of the investigation will also be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

## 15 CURATORIAL MONITORING

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

## 16 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

- 16.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator.
- 16.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

## 17 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

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

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Air Photograph plotting	Roger Palmer, independent specialist
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln.
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: Dr F Pryor, Soke Archaeological Services Ltd or Dr Carol Allen, independent specialist  Roman: M Darling, independent specialist (formerly City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit), or local specialist if required  Anglo-Saxon: J Young, independent specialist (formerly City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit), or local specialist if required  Medieval and later: David Hall, independent specialist, or local specialist if required
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist
Animal Remains Analysis	M . Holmes, independent specialist
Environmental Analysis	Val Fryer, independent specialist



Soil Assessment	Dr Charly French, independent specialist
Pollen Assessment	Pat Wiltshire, independent specialist
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

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

- 18.1 The Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Project Services, Tom Lane, MIFA, will have overall responsibility and control of all aspects of the work.
- 18.2 Site work will be undertaken by a Project Officer with experience of archaeological excavations of this type, assisted by 2 appropriately experienced archaeological technicians. The archaeological works are programmed to take 3-4 days.
- 18.3 Post-excavation Assessment report production is expected to take up to 7 person-days. Post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by the Project Officer, or post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.
- 18.4 Contingency
  - 18.4.1 A contingency allowance has been included in the costing in the event of delays due to adverse weather conditions; of discoveries necessitating special analyses or dating; or of other unexpected discoveries, requiring additional site time and/or post-excavation resources or conservation.
  - 18.4.2 The activation of any contingency requirement will be by agreement with the client and in consultation with the County Archaeology Office.

## **19 INSURANCES**

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

## **20 COPYRIGHT**

- 20.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 20.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 20.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* and may result in legal action.
- 20.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

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Specification: Version 1, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008

## APPENDIX 2

### Context list

#### *Trench 1*

Context	Description	Interpretation
101	Soft dark grey with mottles of dark greyish-brown humic silty sand with moderately frequent pebbles	Buried soil, same as 116 & 102, of some antiquity
102	Soft dark grey mottled with dark greyish-brown humic silty sand with moderately frequent pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks, 0.20m thick	Buried soil, same as 101 & 116, of some antiquity
103	Soft to friable dark grey very humic to peaty sandy silt with moderately frequent grit, 0.16m thick	Dumped modern topsoil layer
104	Soft mid olive-brown silty sand with frequent grit and pebbles, including modern debris – pipe, string etc - not retained, 0.26m thick	Modern dumped layer, possibly associated with construction of nearby extension or demolition of adjacent buildings
105	Soft dark greyish-brown c.50% silty sandy and c.50% pebbles, concrete fragments and rubble with occasional plastic and other modern debris, 0.18m thick	Dumped layer of modern material
106	Compact light brownish-white mortar, 30mm thick	Dumped layer, modern
107	Soft dark brown sandy silt with bricks, 0.30m thick	Fill of pit [108]
108	Possibly linear feature, 0.50m wide and 0.30m deep with very steep sides and a flattish base	Small pit or similar, modern
109	Moderately firm dark brown sandy silt with moderately frequent pebbles, 0.27m thick	Buried topsoil, buried during relatively recent works, possibly same as 110, 115, 138 & 137
110	Moderately firm dark brown sandy silt, 0.28m thick	Buried topsoil, buried during relatively recent works, possibly same as 109, 115, 138 & 137
111	Moderately firm dark greyish-brown sandy silt with moderately frequent pebbles, 0.45m thick	Backfill of foundation cut [113] around wall 112
112	Brick wall footing, bricks 220mm x 110mm x 65mm, on concrete footing at least 0.50m thick, right-angled return at northern edge of trench	Wall foundation, modern
113	North-south aligned linear feature (also turning to east-west) 0.85m wide east-west, >1.60m long north-south and >3.00m long west-east, with vertical sides	Construction cut for wall 112
114	Compact mixed rubble layer, 0.11m thick	Modern dumped deposit
115	Firm dark brown sandy silt with moderately frequent pebbles, 0.30m thick	Buried topsoil, buried during relatively recent works, possibly same as 110, 109, 138 & 137
116	Soft dark grey with mottles of dark greyish-brown silty sand with moderately frequent pebbles, 0.31m thick	Buried soil, same as 101 & 102, of some antiquity
117	Soft mid greyish-brown silty sand with occasional pebbles, 0.23m thick	Layer, perhaps buried former subsoil, possibly same as 124 & 139, of some antiquity
118	Soft light yellow sand, >0.22m thick	Probable natural
119	Soft mid reddish-brown staining of 116 and 117 visible in section and plan, initially appearing to denote location of a possible pit. However investigation showed this to be an iron-rich precipitated deposit within more extensive deposits	
120	Mixed loose rubble dump, 0.64m thick	Rubble backfill in structure 121, probably dating to demolition of 121
121	Number allocated to walls and concrete floor of former basement. Concrete floor bounded by walls at east and west with further northern wall partly visible behind rubble in section. Brick of wall measure 225mm x 110mm x 65mm. East wall 0.23m wide and >0.62m deep, west wall is 0.30m wide, both north-south aligned. Between these two walls is concrete floor of basement. 1960s/1970s wallpaper found adhering to walls inside basement (not retained)	Walls and concrete floor of basement, modern
122	Loose mixed mortar and mixed material, 0.57m deep and 60mm wide	Backfill within foundation cut [123] surrounding structure 121
123	Construction cut, not fully exposed in plan but presumed to be rectangular, >1.60m by 6.44m and >0.62m deep with vertical sides	Construction cut for structure 121

124	Soft mid greyish-brown mottled silty sand, >0.25m thick	Layer, perhaps buried former subsoil, possibly same as 117 & 139, ancient
125	Soft light yellow fine sand with burrow or root intrusions, >0.15m thick	Natural sand
126	Soft dark greyish-brown sand and silt, 0.13m thick	Dumped soil layer, possibly associated with nearby building or demolition works
127	Mixed light brown and dark brown sandy silt, 0.16m thick	Dumped layer, modern
128	Dark grey gritty sand and silt, 0.11m thick	Dumped layer, modern
129	Dark black cinders and other waste, 0.30m thick	Fill of [130], modern pit
130	Feature seen only in section, 0.30m deep and 1.14m wide with moderately steep sides where visible and a moderately flat base	Modern pit
131	Mixed light brownish-grey and dark brown sandy silt, >0.42m thick	Fill of [132], modern pit
132	Feature not fully exposed in plan, possibly square or rectangular, with rounded corners, >0.40m by >0.50m and >0.42m deep with near-vertical sides	Modern pit
133	Dark black with light yellow band, cinders and other waste, 0.30m thick	Fill of [136], modern pit
134	Dark brown sandy silt, 0.19m thick	Fill of [136], modern pit
135	Soft light yellowish-brown with dark brown mottles, silty sand, >0.60m thick	Fill of [136], modern pit
136	Feature not fully exposed in plan but apparently sub-rectangular or sub-square, with rounded corners, 1.96m by >0.82m and >0.60m deep with near-vertical sides	Modern pit
137	Dark brown sandy silt, 0.34m thick	Buried topsoil, buried during relatively recent works, possibly same as 110, 115, 115 & 138
138	Dark brown silty sand, 0.27m thick	Buried topsoil, buried during relatively recent works, possibly same as 110, 115, 115 & 137
139	Soft mid greyish-brown silty sand with occasional pebbles, >0.22m thick	Layer, perhaps buried former subsoil, possibly same as 124 & 124, of some antiquity
140	Light yellow to greyish-yellow fine silty sand with root or burrow intrusions, >0.10m thick	Natural sand
141	Loose dark black cinders and other waste	Fill of [142], modern pit
142	Feature not fully exposed in plan, possibly sub-square or sub-rectangular, with rounded corners, >0.60m by 0.70m	Modern pit
143	Dark black cinders and other waste	Fill of [144], modern pit
144	Feature not fully exposed in plan and truncated, but possibly sub-square to sub-rectangular, >0.96m by >1.06m	Modern pit
145	Dark mixed deposit of sand and silt	Backfill within foundation cut [148], surrounding wall 146/147
146	Concrete	Footings for wall 147
147	Brick wall, north-south aligned, >1.60m long and 0.22m wide	Modern brick wall
148	North-south aligned linear feature >1.60m long and 0.88m wide	Construction cut for wall 147
149	Northeast-southwest aligned cut of service trench	Cut of service trench for metal pipe (disused)
150	Unstratified finds from Trench 1	

### *Trench 2*

Context	Description	Interpretation
201	Moderately firm to soft mid to light reddish- yellowish-brown sand	Natural sand
202 = 206	Soft mid grey sandy silt, 0.37m thick	Earliest buried subsoil layer in trench, undated but of some antiquity
203	Void	
204	East-west aligned linear feature, >1.60m long, 1.68m wide and 0.67m deep with very steep sides, sides being difficult to discern due to similarity of surrounding deposits but irregular, with fairly sharp break of slope at base and a flattish but irregular base	Ditch which truncates several buried soil layers
205	Void	
207	Void	

208	Void	
209	Void	
210	Void	
211	Void	
212	Firm dark black sandy silt, 0.10m thick	Buried soil layer, possibly a former vegetation layer? Of some antiquity
213	Void	
214	Soft dark greyish-black sandy silt with occasional pebbles, 0.40m thick	Buried soil layer, one of several similar layers, this perhaps being the latest. Of some antiquity
215	Void	
216	Void	
217	Feature seen only in section, 1.10m wide and 0.30m deep with moderately steep sides and a gently sloping base	Feature of unknown form or date seen only in section. Potentially of some antiquity
218	Soft dark grey sandy silt, 0.30m thick	Fill of feature [217]
219	Feature seen only in section, 1.10m wide and 0.20m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base	Feature, perhaps a pit, containing coal indicating modern date
220	Loose black c.50% sandy silt and c.50% coal fragments, 0.20m thick	Fill of feature [219]
221	Firm dark grey sand and silt with moderately frequent pebbles, 0.60m thick	Buried soil layer, modern
222	Friable light yellow sand and limestone fragments with lenses of dark brown silt and sand, 50mm thick	Modern limestone layer probably representing temporary surfacing relating to construction of nearby standing buildings
223	Soft dark grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, 0.15m thick	Topsoil
224	Possibly rectangular feature, not fully exposed in plan, with square corners, 0.90m by >0.20m and > 1.00m deep with vertical sides, flaring out slightly at top	Modern pit
225	Firm light yellow clayey sand and dark brown silty sand mix, >1.00m thick	Fill of pit [224]
226	Sub-circular feature, not fully exposed in plan, 1.80m by >1.50m and >1.00m deep	Modern refuse pit
227	Soft to loose dark grey mixed c. 60% sandy silt with c.40% gravel and refuse, >1.00m thick	Fill of modern refuse pit [226]
228	North-south aligned linear feature, 0.35m wide and 0.29m deep with steep but unclear sides and a perhaps concave base	Linear feature of unknown function, association and date but potentially structural and of some antiquity
229	Loose mid greyish-brown silty sand, 0.35m thick	Fill of linear [228]
230	Rectangular feature with square corners, 0.80m by 0.56m and 0.37m deep with vertical to near-vertical sides and a flat base	Late post medieval to modern pit
231	Friable mid greyish-brown silty sand with moderately frequent fragments of heat affected ceramic building material, 0.37m thick	Fill of pit [230]
232	Possible feature visible only in section, 1.12m wide and 0.50m deep, sides very difficult to discern and often indistinguishable from neighbouring deposits but where visible moderately steep to concave with a gently concave base	Possible feature, or may represent base of undulating buried soil layers
233	Possible feature visible only in section, 2.10m wide and 0.55m deep, sides very difficult to discern and indistinguishable from neighbouring deposits, with gently concave irregular base	Possible feature, or may represent base of undulating buried soil layers
234	Possible feature visible only in section, >0.29m wide and 0.43m deep, sides very difficult to discern and often indistinguishable from neighbouring deposits but where visible steep and gently concave, with irregular to gently concave base	Possible feature, or may represent base of undulating buried soil layers
235	Soft dark greyish-brown sand and silt with occasional pebbles, 0.43m thick	Fill of possible feature [234]
236	Unstratified finds from trench	
237	Possible feature visible only in section, >2.50m wide and up to 0.50m deep, sides very difficult to discern and often indistinguishable from neighbouring deposits but where visible steep, with irregular base potentially pointing to presence of multiple features	Possible feature, or may represent base of undulating buried soil layers



238	Soft dark brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, 0.27m thick	Fill of possible feature [237]
239	Soft dark black sandy silt, 0.13m thick	Fill of possible feature [237]
240	Soft dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles, 0.12m thick	Fill of possible feature [237]
241	Feature, the extent of which remains unclear. Visible in section and in plan at southern edge, but northerly extent undetermined. Possibly sub-circular, over 1.60m wide, or possibly extending across much of trench (>10.80m long). c.0.84m deep with steep sides where visible. Base flattish where seen	Cut of feature, extent and form undetermined. Possibly ancient
242	Soft dark brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, 0.39m thick	Fill of feature [241] but potentially forming a more extensive soil layer
243	Soft dark black sandy silt, 0.14m thick	Fill of feature [241] but potentially forming a more extensive soil layer, possibly represents a former vegetation layer
244	Soft dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles, 0.42m thick	Fill of feature [241] but potentially forming a more extensive soil layer
245	Soft to moderately firm dark to mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, 0.38m thick	Buried soil layer, of some antiquity
246	Soft to firm dark greyish-brown sand and silt with occasional pebbles, 0.50m thick	Fill of possible feature [232]
247	Soft to firm dark greyish-brown sand and silt with occasional pebbles, 0.54m thick	Fill of possible feature [233]
248	Soft dark brownish-grey sand and silt with occasional pebbles, 0.24m thick	Buried soil layer, of some antiquity
249	Soft dark blackish-grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, 0.67m thick	Fill of ditch [204]
250	Finds from either 249, 248 or 254	
251	Finds from either 248 or 245	
252	Finds from either 238 or 242	
253	Finds from 239 or 243	
254	Soft dark brownish-grey sand and silt with occasional pebbles, 0.15m thick	Deposit, possibly buried soil

### *Trench 3*

Context	Description	Interpretation
300	Soft, moist, dark blackish-brown sand and silt with up to c.10% pebbles, 0.80m thick	Topsoil of gardens/lawn of former vicarage. Extremely thick deposit with no evident variation with depth
301	Very compact (dry) light to mid grey sand and silt with c.10% pebbles, up to 0.17m thick but varying in thickness along trench, being absent in much of trench.	Intermittent subsoil layer – little distinction between this and topsoil 300 except for extreme dry condition of 301 and resultant lighter colouration. Might potentially represent heavily truncated features rather than a subsoil layer
302	Loose mid to light yellowish-brown mottled sand and gravel, also mottled with light grey sandy and silt (as 301)	Natural sand and gravel
303	Probably east-west aligned linear feature, >1.56m long c.1.77m wide and 0.65m deep with moderately steep and regular sides and a concave base, with an overall gentle 'v'-shaped profile	Ditch
304	Very firm, almost indurated (dry), light to mid grey silt and sand with c.10% pebbles, 0.65m deep (composition very similar to subsoil layer 301)	Fill of ditch [303]
305	Feature, not clearly seen in plan, 1.20m wide and 0.72m deep with moderately steep to variable and generally concave sides and concave to slightly irregular base	Feature, probably a pit
306	Moderately compact light to mid grey sand and silt with very occasional charcoal, 0.72m thick	Fill of probable pit [305]
307	Feature, indistinguishable in plan from [305] and [309], c.1.60m wide in west section and c.0.80m wide in facing section, up to	Possible feature, probably same as [309] possibly a pit or potentially wider extent of pit

	0.26m deep with a flattish to gently concave base	[305] along with [309]. May well be a pit and same as [309]
308	Firm (dry) light to mid grey sand and silt with <i>c.</i> 10% gravel, 0.12m thick (composition very similar to subsoil layer 301)	Fill of feature [307]
309	Feature, not clearly seen in plan, up to 0.84m wide and 0.22m deep with a gently concave to flattish base	Possible feature, probably same as [307] possibly a pit or potentially wider extent of pit [305] along with [307]. May well be a pit and same as [307]
310	Moderately firm to soft dark blackish-brown sand and silt with <i>c.</i> 10% gravel, 0.21m thick	Fill of feature [309]
311	Sub-oval feature, <i>c.</i> 0.48m by 0.34m and 0.18m deep with moderately steep, concave and irregular sides and concave to irregular base. Very unclear.	Possible feature (pit or post hole) but very unclear and possibly a variation in depth of subsoil 301 and/or naturally-formed
312	Moderately firm mixed mid to dark greyish-brown silt and sand with <i>c.</i> 10% gravel and redeposited natural 302, 0.20m thick	Fill of possible pit or post hole [311]
313	Loose mottled light yellowish-brown and dark to mid greyish-brown silt and sand and gravel (mix of deposits of same composition as natural 302 and topsoil 300), 100mm thick	Mottled deposit at junction of natural 302 and topsoil 301
314	Possible feature, not clear in plan, >0.66m by 0.98m and 0.28m deep with a gently concave irregular base	Possible feature (pit), difficult to distinguish from nearby mottling 329, perhaps more likely a naturally-formed anomaly
315	Moderately soft mid greyish-brown silty sand with <i>c.</i> 10% gravel, 0.28m thick	Fill of possible pit [314]
316	Feature, not clearly exposed in plan, 1.28m by >0.88m and 0.38m deep with fairly gently sloping, irregular and convex to concave sides with irregular to concave base	Feature, possibly a pit
317	Very hard and dry mid to light grey sand and silt with <i>c.</i> 10% pebbles, 0.38m thick	Fill of feature [316]
318	East-west aligned linear feature, >1.60m long, 0.65m wide and 0.12m deep with flattish to gently concave base, very similar and parallel to [320]	Linear feature, undated and of unclear function but perhaps associated with vicarage gardens, apparently contemporary with [320]
319	Soft, moist, dark blackish-brown sand and silt with up to 10% gravel, 100mm thick	Fill of linear feature [318]
320	East-west aligned linear feature, >1.60m long, <i>c.</i> 0.48m wide and <i>c.</i> 0.16m deep with a gently concave base, very similar and parallel to [318]	Linear feature, undated and of unclear function but perhaps associated with vicarage gardens, apparently contemporary with [318]
321	Soft, moist, dark blackish-brown sand and silt with up to 10% gravel, 0.14m thick	Fill of linear feature [320]
322	East-west aligned linear feature, 0.88m wide and 0.14m deep with flattish to gently concave base	Linear feature of unknown function. Possibly similar to/contemporary with [320] and [318], or perhaps just upper fill of [324] and not a separate linear
323	Moist dark greyish-brown silty sand with <i>c.</i> 10% gravel, 0.14m thick	Fill of linear [322]
324	Perhaps linear feature, not fully exposed in plan or clear, >1.60m long, >1.03m wide and 0.41m deep, with steep sides where seen and a flattish to concave base with a concave sump	Possibly linear feature
325	Very hard and dry mid to dark brown silty sand and <i>c.</i> 10% gravel, 0.25m thick	Fill of possible linear [324]
326	Soft light yellowish-grey sand and silt and <i>c.</i> 10% gravel, 40mm thick	Fill of feature [316], apparently slumping-in of natural sand and gravel at edge of feature
327	Soft mottled light to mid grey sand and silt with <i>c.</i> 10% gravel (as subsoil 301) and mid to light yellowish-brown sand and gravel (as natural 302), 100mm thick	Redeposited natural within feature [307]
328	Soft, moist, dark blackish-brown sand and silt with up to 10% gravel, 0.14m thick	Deposit, nature unclear, perhaps same as 321 but also of similar composition to topsoil 300
329	Loose mixed/mottled, <i>c.</i> 50% dark blackish-brown sand and silt with up to 10% pebbles (as topsoil 300) and <i>c.</i> 50% mid to light yellowish-brown sand and gravel (as natural (302), >0.22m thick	Mottled layer, apparently mix of topsoil and natural disturbed by roots, burrowing etc

#### *Trench 4*

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
400	Loose, friable, dark brown sand and silt with frequent gravel, 0.25m thick	Topsoil and turf of bowling green
401	Friable black cinders, up to 0.12m thick	Cinders used as drainage base for bowling green
402	Friable, soft, very dark brown silty sand with frequent gravel, up to 0.48m thick at northwest of trench, absent at south of trench	Buried topsoil layer, apparently buried on bowling green construction
403	Friable, soft dark brown silt and sand with moderately frequent gravel, up to 0.54m thick	Subsoil layer
404	Friable mid to dark brown with light brown mottles silt and sand with moderately frequent gravel, up to 0.33m thick	Fill of possible pit or ditch terminus [407]
405	Friable mottled mid to dark brown and light grey silt and sand with moderately frequent gravel, 0.18m thick	Fill of possible pit or ditch terminus [407]
406	Firm but friable light grey sand, 0.17m thick	Fill of possible pit or ditch terminus [407]
407	Amorphous to sub-oval feature, 1.48m by >1.20m and 0.51m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base	Possible pit or ditch terminus
408	Friable mid to light yellowish-brown sand and gravel, 0.30m thick	Natural sand and gravel

## APPENDIX 3

### The Ceramic Finds

*By Alex Beeby with Dale Trimble  
(with thanks for comments from David Knight))*

Ceramic finds were recovered from three of the excavated trenches during the evaluation; these were Trenches 1, 2 and 3. All three of these yielded prehistoric pottery, although the bulk of this material came from Trench 2. There is a range fabrics within this group, most of which have shell and/or quartz tempering.

All the material was recorded at archive level, in accordance with accepted guidelines set out by the P.C.R.G (1997), S.G.R.P (Darling, 2004), A.C.B.M.G (2001) and in Slowikowski *et al* (2001). The prehistoric pottery was recorded using the abbreviations suggested by Knight (1998).

#### *Trench 1*

Buried Topsoil layer (101) produced 15 sherds of prehistoric pottery including some relatively large pieces. Two small sherds of Romanised material perhaps dating from the 1-2nd centuries and a fragment of ceramic building material (perhaps of Roman date) were also recovered. Buried Soil layer (102) also yielded two fragments of prehistoric pottery.

#### *Trench 2*

Trench 2 produced a total 75 sherds of prehistoric pottery including some of substantial size and in fresh condition. Of particular note within this group are fragments from three vessels with incised line decoration; two bowls from contexts (248), (251) and a jar from (252) display this. These vessels fall into the early Iron Age decorated ware tradition. Also of special interest are two vessels from contexts (249) and (251); these sherds have triangular rims with finger tipping/nail decoration on the upper side of the rim and one, that from (251), also has slashed incised scoring. This scored vessel is typical of the Mid to Late Iron Age scored ware tradition; vessels from Empingham, and Ancaster Quarry are relatively close parallels (Elsdon, 1996, D.13a - D14). Also from context (251), is a carinated bowl with slashed girth decoration. This is similar to one recovered from Stonea dated to the late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age period. Context (251) is of particular interest as it yielded some of the most diagnostically important forms including mid to late Iron Age scored ware and earlier Late Bronze Age to Iron Age types. This part of the assemblage could therefore, be transitional between the two phases, perhaps suggesting a 5th or 6th century BC date. The remainder of the material from Trench 2 shows little evidence of mid to late Iron Age ceramic influence and may be earlier (D. Knight, *pers. comm*).

#### *Trench 3*

Eight fragments of prehistoric pottery, two fragments of Roman pot and two pieces of undated ceramic building material are among the finds recovered from this trench. The character of some of the prehistoric fabrics from Trench 3 is different and finds from context (304) in particular include harder darker ceramics more customary of the later Iron Age. These sherds are however residual within this deposit.

### **Recommendations and Summary**

A relatively significant amount of ceramic material was recovered during the evaluation; see Table 1 below for a summary.

Trench 2 in particular produced a large amount of prehistoric pottery, including some large fresh pieces. Most of this probably of Early Iron Age date, although several sherds from at least one context (251) should be placed slightly later, in the mid to late Iron Age. Later material from the Late Iron Age, Roman and Post medieval periods were also retrieved.

This is an important group of material which would warrant further microscopic analysis, in consultation with the relevant specialists. At least seven vessels are suitable for illustration.

*Summary of Ceramic Find s - Table 1*

Material Type	Number of Sherds/Fragments	Weight (g)
Post Roman Pottery	11	373
Roman Pottery	6	41
Fired Clay	15	17
Ceramic Building Material	6	165
Prehistoric Pottery	100	878

*The Post Roman Pottery – Table 2*

Tr	Context	Cname	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date
1	150	WHITE	Chamber	2	1	198	Hand painted green stripes	Rim to lower wall		L19th-20th
1	150	WHITE	Chamber	1	1	98	Blue transfer print	Rim to Girth	Metallic lustre to glaze - poss oil deposit?	L19th-20th
2	227	BL (INDUS)	Hollow	1	1	7	Internal wear marks	BS	Internal wear marks	19th
2	231	ENPO	?	1	1	1		BS		M19th-20th
2	231	LERTH	Garden Pot	1	1	7		BS	Darker external slip; micaceous	19th-20th
2	236	ENGs	Bottle	1	1	18		BS		L18th-19th
2	236	LERTH	Garden Pot	3	1	1		BSS; Base	Thin Walled	19th-20th
3	300	GRE	Bowl	1	1	43		Rim	Complex rim; abraded	16th-M17th

*The Roman Pottery – Table 3*

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Form	Decoration	NoV	Alter	Comments	Sherds	W(g)
1	101	GREY	JBK	B EX	1		BS; SAMP 1	1	1
1	101	GREY	JBWM		1		RIM NECK; SANDY FAB WITH BUFF CORE	2	15
1	101	ZDATE					1-2C?		
1	101	ZZZ					JBWM SIMILAR TO FIG 103, 19 IN FRIENDSHIP TAYLOR 1999; DATED TO 2C? OTHERWISE LOOKS L RO?		
3	317	GREY	JBCOR	CORD	1		BS; BELGIC TYPE;CF ELSDON TYPE FIG 62; LIA - EROM	1	8
3	317	ZDATE					1C		
3	323	GREY	J	RIL	1	SOOT EX	BS; OX CORE	1	4
3	323	GREY	CLSD		1	SOOT EX	BS; OX CORE	1	13
3	323	ZDATE					2-3C		



*The Fired Clay- Table 4*

Tr	Cxt	Classification	Fabric	Fragments	W(g)	Comment
1	101	Fired Clay	Oxidised; fine sandy	2	2	Abraded; surfaceless; CBM?; Sample 1
1	101	Fired Clay	Gault?	1	1	Very abraded; surfaceless; probably flake of post med Gault clay CBM; or salt bleached OX?
2	248	Fired Clay	Reduced; fine	1	3	Abraded; surfaceless; Ca; clay/mudstone pells; sample 2
2	248	Fired Clay	Reduced; fine	1	1	Very abraded; surfaceless; leached; fine Ca; sample 2
2	249	Fired Clay?	Reduced; fine	1	3	Abraded; surfaceless; Ca inclusions; very black; mineral?; concretion?; sample 3
2	249	Fired Clay	Oxidised; fine	7	3	Abraded; surfaceless; various flakes; sample 3
2	250	Fired Clay	Oxidised; fine sandy	1	3	Abraded; clay/mudstone pellets; prob flake of CBM; single surface
2	304	Fired Clay	Oxidised; fine sandy	1	1	Very abraded; surfaceless; sample 5

*The Ceramic Building Material – Table 5*

Tr	Context	Cname	Fabric	NoF	W(g)	Description	Date
1	101	CBM	Oxidised; fine	1	1	Tiny frag; single surf with paint or mortar adhered; sample 1	Roman or Post Roman
2	231	CBM		2	51	Burnt; partially vitrified; sooted; probably mod/early mod	19th-20th?
2	236	MOD TILE		1	21	Burnt; sooted; garden border decoration	M19th-20th
3	304	CBM	Oxidised; medium fine sandy	1	44	V abraded; mortar? Adhered to one surface; BRK?	Roman or post Roman
3	306	RTMISC	Oxidised; medium sandy	1	48	Abraded; micaceous; warped	Roman or Post Medieval

The Prehistoric Pottery -Table 5

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	Rim	Base	Part	NoS	NoV	W	Decoration	Comments	Samp	Reference	Manu	Dr?	Date
1	101	QUCF	R	V			BDY	1	1	2		BURN ext; M abraded; fine reduced fabric			WM?		EMIA
1	101	QUMM	R	V			BDY	4	1	1		Tiny frags from samples; probably from more than one vessel; V abraded	1				
1	101	QURF	R	V			BDY	1	1	1		Tiny frag from sample; V abraded	1				
1	101	QUSM	R/R/OX	J; RS?	TRIR		RIM to GIRTH	1	1	15	FT; FN; 'LIP'	Fine silty black fabric; S ext; FS exterior				DR	
1	101	QUVM	R	JB			BDY	1	1	8		BURN ext; S ext over break; large quartzite grits					
1	101	SHCM	R	J			SHL	1	1	5		S abraded; curving to rim; grog?	1				
1	101	SHCM/QUMM	R	V			BDY	1	1	1		Tiny frag from sample; V abraded	1				
1	101	SHSF/QUSF	R	J			SH	1	1	16	Incised DLIN ;SH' and LIN 'NCK'	M abraded int and ext					
1	101	SHSM	R	V			BDY	1	1	1		Tiny frag from sample; V abraded	1				
1	101	SHVF	R	JB			BDY	1	1	1		Tiny frag from sample; V abraded; thin walled	1				
1	101	SHVF	OX	V			BDY	1	1	1		Frag from sample	1				
1	101	SHVM	R	V			BDY	1	1	1		Tiny frag from sample; V abraded	1				
1	102	SHCM	OX/R/OX	J		FLT	BAN	1	1	10		S ext; punctate brachiopod					IA

1	102	SHCM	R	J			LBDY	1	1	13		Common dark fossil shell; sparse Fe and Q					
2	235	ROMC/CSC	OX/R/R	V			BDY	1	1	9		S ext					EMIA
2	236	QUCM	R	J			NCK-SHL	1	1	4		S int; mix of clear rounded Q and white/milky angular Q					EMIA
2	236	SHSM	R	J?			LBDY?	1	1	7		BURN ext					
2	248	QUCM	R	V			BDY	1	1	2		V abraded ext	2				EIA
2	248	QUMM	OX/R/OX	V			BDY	1	1	3		S abraded; sparse fine mica	2				
2	248	QUMM	OX/R	V			BDY	1	1	3		V abraded; sparse fine mica; Oolite?	2				
2	248	ROSM	R	V			BDY	2	1	1		Tiny frags from sample; V abraded; unidentified subrounded white rocks; granitic?	2				
2	248	SHMC/ROSM	R/OX/R	J?			BAN	1	1	5		M abraded; shiny linear rock inclusions - gypsum?; hard rounded Fe	2				
2	248	SHMM	INCOX	V			BDY	1	1	1		Tiny frag from sample; V abraded; thin walled	2				
2	248	SHSF	R	B; OPEN	RD		RIM	1	1	4	Incised double LIN NCK	BURN int and ex	2				DR
2	248	SHSF	R	V			BDY	1	1	1		Tiny frag from sample; S abraded; V fine fabric	2				
2	249	CPCM?	R	JB			RIM	1	1	1		Tiny frag from sample; M abraded; rounded rim corner	3				EMIA

2	249	QUCM	R	B; OPEN			BDY	9	1	31		S abraded; BURN int and ex; dark sandy fabric; rare organic matter	3			
2	249	QUCM	R	V			BDY	7	1	3		Tiny frags from sample; V abraded	3			
2	249	QUCM	R	V			BDY	1	1	1		Tiny frag from sample; V abraded	3			
2	249	QUSF	R	J	TRIR		RIM NCK	1	1	1	FT; 'LIP'	Nail marks ext	3			DR
2	249	QUSM	OX	V			BDY	2	1	1		Tiny frags from sample; V abraded	3			
2	249	QUSM	R	V			BDY	1	1	1		Tiny frag from sample; M abraded; relatively fine grey fabric	3			
2	249	QUVM	OX/R/OX	J			BDY	1	1	1		BURN ex; SM int; B?	3			
2	249	QUVM	R	J	EVR		BDY; RIM NCK	2	1	3		S ext; S abr; rare organic matter	3			
2	249	SHAM	R	V			BDY	1	1	1		Tiny frag from sample; V abraded; soft fabric	3			
2	249	SHRF	R	V			BDY	1	1	1		Tiny frag from sample; V abraded ex; fine smooth fabric	3			
2	249	SHSF	OX/R	V		FLT?	BAS?	1	1	1		Tiny frag from sample; M abraded	3			
2	249	SHSM/QUSM	R	V			BDY; BAN	4	1	3		V abraded; scraps from sample	3			
2	250	QUCM	R	B; OPEN			BDY	1	1	19		BURN ext; S ext				EIA
2	250	QUCM	R	J			BDY	2	1	139		S ext; S int; BURN ext; rare organic matter				
2	250	QUMM	R	B?			BDY	1	1	8		BURN ext; S ext; S int; Fe				

2	250	QUMM	R	J			BAN	1	1	19		Rare organic matter and surface impressions; thick walled; dark fabric				
2	250	QUSF	R	J?			BDY	1	1	3		Highly BURN ext; sparse Q				
2	250	QUSF	R	V			BDY	1	1	6		Wiped int and ext; hard fabric				
2	250	ROCC	R	V			BDY	1	1	2		S int; S abraded ext; unidentified subrounded white rocks; granitic?				
2	250	SHCF	R	J			BDY	4	1	43		S ext; internally leached; sparse leached organics including grass, rounded Q and and Fe				
2	250	SHSF	R	B; OPEN	RD		RIM	1	1	3		Fine hard grey fabric; BURN int and ex; straight or carinated sided bowl				
2	250	SHSF/QUSF	R	V		FLT	BAS	1	1	2		Fine hard silty fabric; fine walled vessel; polished Q				
2	251	QUAM	OX/R/R	V			BDY	1	1	6		S int; flint				MIA
2	251	QUCM	OX/R/OX	J: OV	TRIF; Pinched out internally		RIM-GIRTH	4	1	127	LIN; INC 'SH'; FN 'RIME'	Criss-crossed slashed LIN; scored ware tradition; burnt over broken edge		Sim to Cooper 2000 fig 32; pit A Empingham		
2	251	QUMM	R	J		FLT	BAN	1	1	34		BURN ext; S ext; rare organic matter				
2	251	QUMM/ROMM	R	B; OPEN			LBDY	1	1	8	Incised triple DLIN in CHEV pattern	BURN int and ext; sub angular white rock inclusions; rare hard round Fe; import?				DR
2	251	QUSF	R	V			BDY	2	1	10		BURN ext, V abr int				



2	251	QUSM/SHSM	OX/R/R	J?			BDY	1	1	145	LIN; INC 'SH'	Highly BURN int; slashed LIN dec; thick wall approx 23mm; S ext; scored ware tradition; storage jar?			COIL	DR	
2	251	QUVM	R	B: NB?			NECK- BDY	2	1	43		Highly BURN ext and BURN int; poorly sorted and highly polished Q; S int					
2	251	SHMC/QUSM	R	B; OPEN			BDY	1	1	9		BURN int and ext; wiped int and ext; V rounded Q					
2	251	SHMM	OX/R/R	B; OPEN			BDY	1	1	13		BURN int and ext; moderate fine mica; rare angular white rocks					
2	251	SHSM	OX/R/R	B; CAR			GIR; LBDY	1	1	31	Diagonal STI on carination GIR	BURN int and ext; FS int; S int				DR	
2	252	SHMM	R	J			BDY	1	1	6	Incised triple DLIN; Incised LIN; DIM	Thick BM int; BURN int; unusual pattern				DR	LIA
2	252	SHSF	R	B?		FTR	FTR	1	1	1		Micaceous; fine hard fabric; could be EROM			WM		
3	304	ROMM	R	V			BDY	1	1	2		Unidentified subrounded grey/white rocks; granitic?; large flake 0.5mm of gold Biotite; fine walled vessel; fine silty fabric	5				
3	304	QUVM	R	JB			BDY	1	1	10		Black fab; incised LIN - deliberate?;					MLIA?
3	304	QUVM	R	JB			BDY	1	1	14		Well sorted angular quartz; M abraded; dark grey fabric					

																	PREHIST
3	308	ROMC	R	V			BAN?	1	1	3		Flake; grey/white angular granitic? Rocks					
3	317	QUSF?	R	V			BDY	1	1	1		Tiny fragment from sample	6				LBA-EIA
3	317	SHMF	R	V			BDY	1	1	1		BURN ext; Very fine walled vessel; smooth fabric	6				
3	317	SHVF	R	V			BDY	1	1	1		Fine walled vessel; M abraded int and ext; soft	6				
3	325	RORC	OX	V			BDY	1	1	4		S abraded; grey/white angular granitic? Rocks					PREHIST

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## APPENDIX 4 The Other Finds

*by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Tom Lane & Gary Taylor*

### FAUNAL REMAINS

*By Paul Cope-Faulkner*

#### Introduction

A total of 233 (921g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

#### Provenance

The faunal remains were retrieved from buried soils (101, 102 and 251), a buried soil or feature fill (250), possible feature fills (252 and 253), the fill of a pit (231), a ditch fill (304) and the fill of a possible pit (317).

#### Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate.

#### Results

*Table 1, Fragments Identified to Taxa*

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Number	W (g)	Comments
101	large mammal	long bone	1	14	
101<1>	medium mammal	tooth enamel	1		
	medium mammal	unknown	53		
	small mammal	vertebra	1	}6	
	small mammal	ribs	3		
	amphibian	long bone	1		
102	large mammal	long bone	1	3	rodent gnawing
250	cattle	humerus	2	147	
	large mammal	skull	2	13	
	large mammal	rib	1	1	
	sheep/goat	tibia	1	21	
	small mammal	unidentified	1	1	
248<2>	medium mammal	mandible	1		
	medium mammal	skull	4		
	medium mammal	unknown	55	}8	
	small mammal	vertebra	2		
	small mammal	long bones	6		
250	cattle	mandible	7	538	left side with part of right; chop marks
	sheep/goat	mandible	1	32	left side only
249<3>	medium mammal	skull	1		
	medium mammal	various	73	}16	
	amphibian	long bone	1		
251	sheep/goat	mandible	1	8	
	sheep/goat	molar	1	4	
	medium mammal	long bones	2	4	
252	medium mammal	?tibia	1	5	
253	cattle	mandible	1	42	
231	sheep/goat	mandible	1	12	
	sheep/goat	tibia	1	44	sawn and snapped at one end
304<5>	small mammal	skull	1	<1	
317<6>	unknown	unidentified	5	1	

**Summary**

The assemblage is dominated by sheep/goat with some cattle also evident. Smaller mammals and amphibian remains were recovered from environmental samples. A number of bones remain unidentified due to their fragmentary nature.

As a small collection, the assemblage is of limited potential though should be retained as part of the site archive and would warrant further examination if further work at the site is required.

**GLASS**

*By Gary Taylor*

**Introduction**

Three fragments of glass, together weighing about 7g, were retrieved. These included two minute pieces weighing less than 1g which were recovered by the sieving of soil samples.

**Condition**

Although naturally fragile the glass is in good condition.

**Results**

*Table 2, Glass Archive*

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
227	Colourless phial, complete	1	6	20 <sup>th</sup> century
249<3>	Colourless phial?	2	1	20 <sup>th</sup> century

**Provenance**

The glass was recovered from the fill of a modern refuse pit (227) and ditch fill (249).

**Range**

All of the glass is probably from small, thin walled vessels of recent date. The minute fragments from (249) could be from a comparable phial to that found in (227), but would be from a separate vessel as the latter item is complete.

**Potential**

The glass is of limited potential and the minute pieces from (249) are probably intrusive in that context.

**WORKED FLINT**

*By Tom Lane*

**Introduction**

Two flints weighing a total of 10g were recovered.

**Condition**

The flints are in good condition.

**Results**

*Table 3, Worked Flint Archive*

Cxt	Description	No	Wt (g)	Date
236	Flake, probably plough damaged	1	9	
304<5>	Natural flake	1	1	

**Provenance**

The flints were recovered from (236), unstratified finds from Trench 2, and ditch fill (304).

**Range**

Two flints, probably both natural flakes, one plough damaged, were collected.

**Potential**

Neither of the flints is an artefact and therefore they have no potential. Both are suitable for discard.

**OTHER FINDS**

*By Gary Taylor*

**Introduction**

A small quantity of other finds, 7 items weighing a total of 644g, was retrieved.

**Condition**

All of the other finds are in good condition, though the metal object from (227) is very corroded.

**Results**

*Table 4, Other Materials*

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
101	uncertain	Fuel ash slag? Mortar?	1	8	
252	stone	Burnt pebble, possible pot boiler	1	16	
227	iron	Sheet metal disc, 90mm diameter, 30mm high, possible lid	1	133	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
231	stone	Burnt stone	1	26	
	cinder	cinder	1	3	
249<3>	stone	Burnt pebble, possible pot boiler	1	85	
323	stone	Hertfordshire puddingstone, burnt	1	373	Roman?

**Provenance**

The other finds were recovered from a buried soil (101): (252) finds from either (238) or (242), both fills of possible features: (231) and (227) fills of a late post medieval to modern pits: ditch fill (249): and linear fill (323). There is one exotic item, a piece of conglomerate stone from Hertfordshire.

**Range**

A piece of Hertfordshire puddingstone was recovered. Although there are no signs of working on this, it is out of context in Cambridgeshire. It seems likely, therefore, that this is from an artefact and hence may be from a quern. Puddingstone querns occur commonly in the Roman period.

**Potential**

The other finds are of limited potential, though most of the items relate to high temperate activities and therefore provide some functional evidence.

**SOIL SAMPLES**

*By Gary Taylor*

**Introduction and method statement**

The samples were bulk floated by and the residues were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The residues were scanned under magnification and the remains noted are listed in Table 5, below. Some of the recovered items are also noted in the 'Other Finds' section, above.

**Provenance**

The samples were taken from buried soils (101, 248), ditch fills (249, 304), and possible pit fill (317).

**Results**

*Table 5, Sample residues*

Cxt	Sample	Sample vol(ltrs)	Residues vol (ltrs)	% residues sorted	charcoal	Magnetic material	Fire residues	other	comments
101	1	10	<0.1	100	xxx	xxx			Magnetic material is mostly small stone grains, only 1



									possible piece of flake hammerscale
248	2	10	<0.1	100	xx	xxx		Slag - x	Magnetic material is mostly small stone grains, only about 2 possible pieces of flake hammerscale; 1 pc of slag glassy
249	3	10	<0.1	100	xxx		x (coal & cokey material)	Glass - x; pot boiler (stone) - x	Glass and stone noted in 'other finds'
304	5	10	<0.1	100	x		x (cokey material)	Seeds - x, flint - x	Seeds are charred. Natural flint noted in 'other finds'
317	6	10	<0.1	100	x	x			No obvious hammerscale in magnetic material

**Key to Table**

x = 1 – 10 specimens    xx = 11 – 20 specimens    xxx = 20+ specimens

All of the samples contain charcoal, in some cases fairly abundant, but all pieces are less than 10mm maximum dimension. Magnetic material, mostly grains of stone, was fairly abundant in a couple of samples though hammerscale was quite rare. It is likely that the magnetic material is natural but magnetised by the effect of elevated temperatures. Rare pieces of cokey materials and slag were recovered from some of the samples, and there was a burnt stone (pot boiler). Minute glass fragments from one sample are likely to be intrusive in that deposit.

**Conclusions and Potential**

Many of the sample residues are associated with processes involved elevated temperatures and therefore indicate the presence of fires, hearth, ovens or similar features and functions at the site.

The sample residues have limited potential, with only charcoal and heat-effected stone grains occurring in moderate abundance in some deposits. However, charred seeds were recovered in one sample. If further invasive investigations occur then larger samples, of 20-40ltrs volume, should be taken and examined from dated and well-sealed contexts.

**SPOT DATING**

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

*Table 6, Spot dates*

Cxt	Date	Comments
250	20 <sup>th</sup> century	Based on glass – probably intrusive
227	20 <sup>th</sup> century	
323	Roman?	Based on 1 stone

**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 5

### The Environmental Samples

*By Val Fryer*

#### AN EVALUATION OF THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM GRANGE LANE, LITTLEPORT, CAMBRIDGESHIRE (LPGL 10)

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October 2010

##### Introduction and method statement

Evaluation excavations at Littleport, undertaken by Archaeological Project Services (APS), recorded a limited number of features and deposits, potentially of Iron Age date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken, and five were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by APS and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and seeds were present throughout and were a major component of the assemblage from sample 3.

##### Results

Although the assemblages were small and very limited in composition, three (samples 1, 2 and 3) did contain a very low density of cereal grains and seeds of common weeds. Barley (*Hordeum* sp.), including at least one asymmetrical lateral grain of the six-row variety *H. vulgare*, occurred most frequently although a possible wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain was noted within the assemblage from sample 2. The other cereals were too severely puffed and distorted for close identification. Seeds were rare, but all were of common segetal taxa including brome (*Bromus* sp.) and knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*). A single sedge (*Carex* sp.) nutlet was recorded from sample 2. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, although at a very low density.

Other remains were also scarce, although all five assemblages contained black porous or tarry residues, which were probably derived from the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures. Other materials included vitreous concretions and small pieces of coal, with the latter probably being intrusive within the features from which the samples were taken. A single burnt shell of the open country snail *Vertigo pygmaea* was noted within the assemblage from sample 3.

##### Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, plant macrofossils are scarce within these assemblages. Although some of those present may be derived from low-density scatters of cereal processing waste, primary deposition is not indicated.

Although these assemblages are sparse, they clearly illustrate that some reasonably well preserved plant remains do survive within the archaeological horizon at Littleport. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume are taken from all dated and well-sealed contexts recorded during excavation.

##### Reference

Stace, C., 1997                      *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

### Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens    xx = 11 – 20 specimens    cf = compare    b = burnt

Sample No.	1	2	3	5	6
Context No.	101	248	249	304	317
Feature No.	-	-	[204]	[303]	[316]
Feature type	Buried soil	Buried soil	Ditch	Ditch	Possible pit
<b>Cereals</b>					
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		x	x		
<i>H. vulgare</i> L. (lateral asymmetrical grain)			x		
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)		xcf			
Cereal indet. (grains)		x	x		
<b>Herbs</b>					
<i>Bromus</i> sp.		xcf	xcf		
Large Poaceae indet.	xcf	x			
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.			x		
<b>Wetland plants</b>					
<i>Carex</i> sp.		x			
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>					
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	x	x	x
Charcoal >2mm		x	x		x
Charred root/stem	x		x		x
Indet.seeds		x	x		x
<b>Other remains</b>					
Black porous material	x	x	xx		
Black tarry material		x	x	x	x
Fish bone		x			
Small coal frags,		x	x		
Vitreous concretions	x	x	x		
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>					
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
<b>% flot sorted</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## APPENDIX 6

### Glossary

<b>Bronze Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
<b>Context</b>	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and 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].
<b>Cut</b>	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.
<b>Fill</b>	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<b>Geophysical Survey</b>	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
<b>Iron Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Mesolithic</b>	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
<b>Neolithic</b>	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
<b>Palaeolithic</b>	The 'Old Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 500000 - 11000 BC in Britain.
<b>Post hole</b>	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.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

## APPENDIX 7

### The Archive

The archive consists of:

139	Context records
3	Photographic record sheet
1	Section register sheet
1	Plan register sheet
5	Daily record sheets
30	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Environmental sample register
6	Environmental sample record sheets
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 is:

Cambridgeshire County Council  
Castle Court  
Shire Hall  
Cambridgeshire  
CB3 0AP

Accession Number: ECB 3106

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: LPGL10

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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