

# Land east of Spring Lane Bassingbourn Cambridgeshire

*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
CgMs Heritage

CA Project: 661113  
CA Report: 18292  
CHER ref.: ECB5025

July 2018



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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land east of Spring Farm
<b>Location:</b>	Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire
<b>NGR:</b>	533805 243912
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	23 – 25 May 2018
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	S/1745/16/OL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Facility
<b>CHER Reference:</b>	ECB5025
<b>Site Code:</b>	BASS17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2018 on land east of Spring Lane, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire. A total of ten trenches were excavated across the 2.59ha site, each measuring 50m by 1.8m.

The majority of the trenches revealed no features of archaeological interest; a high level of modern disturbance and bioturbation was evident across the site. Archaeological features were encountered only in trenches 1 and 2 in the form of a series of ditches and a single posthole respectively.

The ditches which with the exception of a large north-north-east to south-south-west orientated ditch that produced a single sherd of Roman pottery were otherwise undated are likely to relate to past phases of agricultural land use within the site, possibly representing boundary or enclosure ditches or drainage features. A linear anomaly identified by LiDAR survey appeared to correlate with a ditch investigated at the western end of trench 1.

Overall, the site appears to be of low archaeological potential, with features of low/ local significance having been identified only at the western end of the site, in trenches 1 and 2.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the request of CgMs Heritage on land east of Spring Lane, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire (centred at NGR: 533805 243912; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to satisfy a condition attached to planning consent issued by South Cambridgeshire District Council for up to 30 residential dwellings and additional parking for Bassingbourn Surgery and associated works (Planning Ref.: S/1745/16/OL).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological evaluation* prepared by Gemma Stewart, Assistant Archaeologist with the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET 2018), and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by the CCCHET. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). The project was managed and monitored on behalf of the developer by Alexandra Thornton and Paul Clark of CgMs Heritage and was monitored by Gemma Stewart and Andy Thomas of the CCCHET on behalf of the local planning authority.

### ***The site***

1.3 The development area is approximately 2.59ha in extent, and comprises agricultural land. The site is bounded to the north-west by the rear of properties off Willmott Road, a field boundary and outlying fields to the north-east, outlying fields to the south-east and a field boundary and outlying strip fields containing scattered properties to the south-west. The site lies at approximately 30m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and is roughly flat.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as chalk; no superficial deposits are recorded within the site (BGS 2018).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in detail in a Desk-based Assessment (DBA) prepared by CgMs Heritage (2016). The

following summary has been taken from the DBA and Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) data provided with the Brief (CCCHET 2018).

- 2.2 No designated heritage assets (Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Registered Battlefields or Parks and Gardens etc.) lie within the site.
- 2.3 A Scheduled Monument (NHLE List no. 1019040) comprising a rectangular moat within a D-shaped ditched enclosure known as 'Bury Yard moated site adjacent to Milldyke' lies 590m north-west of the site. A ring ditch (MCB21156) is recorded 140m to the west of the site and a trackway (MCB21157) is recorded 100m to the south-east, while a possible medieval trackway (10007) is recorded to the south.
- 2.4 Within 1km of the site, 65 listed buildings are noted. Most of these lie within the historic core of Bassingbourn and only one; the Grade II listed Cherry Tree House is in the direct vicinity of the site, lying 210m to the north.

### ***Prehistoric***

- 2.5 Several Prehistoric sites and find spots have been discovered within 1km of the site and archaeological investigations to the north of the site have revealed evidence for prehistoric occupation (ECB3238 and CB15579).
- 2.6 A possible Palaeolithic patinated flint flake was recovered c.520m east of the site.
- 2.7 Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age pottery sherds were recovered during an archaeological evaluation at The Causeway in 2009, c.140m to the north of the site. The evaluation revealed possible prehistoric activity in the area, with a number of sherds of prehistoric pottery recovered. A small amount of post-medieval pottery, glass and tobacco pipe was also recovered, most likely related to the previous use of the land as allotments in the 18-19th centuries (ECB3238).
- 2.8 Further local Neolithic evidence consists of a single stone axe found c.630m north-west of the site, while metal detecting 830m north-west of the site uncovered a Bronze Age 'rapier'.
- 2.9 Cropmarks c.970m to the south-west of the site demonstrate circular features which have not been investigated. These have been interpreted as either Bronze Age ring ditches or medieval enclosures.



- 2.10 During the evaluation of a proposed sports hall site in Bassingbourn, 650m south west of the site, a series of Iron Age boundaries or enclosure ditches were revealed. A plank slot feature suggests the presence of an Iron Age settlement (MCB17408 and ECB2321).
- 2.11 Recent archaeological investigations to the west at South End identified settlement evidence in the form of ditches, which extended across the whole of the site. These may be associated with the development of the current village and its environs. In addition, two curvilinear features may represent enclosure systems. One of these contained Roman artefacts, which may indicate an earlier phase of occupation at the site (ECB5279). In addition, to the south east of the application area is cropmark evidence of Iron Age/Roman occupation (MCB21159) and a trackway (MCB21158).

### **Roman**

- 2.12 No evidence of Roman activity has been recorded within the site boundary; however five sites of Roman activity have been recorded within a 1km radius of the site.
- 2.13 Ermine Street Roman road is recorded 670m to the north-east of the site; however it is very unlikely to extend into the site.
- 2.14 A possible Roman enclosure/field is abutted/ respected by a presumed medieval trackway 780m to the north-east. Other possible Roman field systems have been identified on aerial photographs, however none of these have been subject to intrusive investigation to confirm their suggested date.
- 2.15 Several Roman metal find spots within the study area used for the DBA have been recorded, including a bronze Statuette of Diana.

### **Saxon**

- 2.16 There are four entries relating to Saxon activity recorded within a 1km of the site, and the Domesday Survey suggests Bassingbourn has been a settlement since at least the late Saxon period.
- 2.17 A Saxon settlement uncovered during an excavation at Church Close, c.460m to the north-west of site, represents the historic core of Saxon Bassingbourn. Excavation on this site revealed five phases of Saxon occupation.
- 2.18 A sunken featured building was recorded during excavations at Bassingbourn Village College to the south-west of site. A pit cutting the sunken featured building

produced early to middle Saxon pottery (MCB18142). A Saxon cruciform brooch was found 850m north-west of site.

### **Medieval**

- 2.19 Eleven entries of medieval date have been recorded on the HER within a 1km radius of the site, including a Scheduled monument, the aforementioned “Bury Yard moated site adjacent to Milldyke”. It is situated immediately to the south and west of Mill Lane and comprises a roughly D-shaped outer ditched enclosure within which is situated a rectangular moat (MCB01237).
- 2.20 A second possible medieval moat is located c.30m north-west of the site, while a now-infilled moat is located around the church, churchyard and rectory at Bassingbourn c.470m north-west of the site. Further moats are recorded 950m north east of the site, at North Farm, Kneesworth.
- 2.21 A linear feature seen on aerial photographs and interpreted as a medieval trackway terminates c.100m south of the site. LiDAR data shows this trackway along with three other similar features, two of which extend into the site. However, it is considered likely these are of geological origin.
- 2.22 Possible medieval ditches were revealed during excavations at Back Orchard, Bassingbourn c.230m north-west of the site, however only minimal dating evidence was recovered.
- 2.23 The 14<sup>th</sup> Century Church of St Peter and Saint Paul stands 480m north-west of the site.

### **Post-Medieval and Modern**

- 2.24 The 1806 Inclosure plan of Bassingbourn shows the site comprised part of two fields. The southern field was identified as ‘allotment to Joseph Beldam Junior Copyhold Richmond’ and the northern field is marked with the letter ‘C’, which, according to the Inclosure Award 1806, also belongs to Joseph Beldam Junior (CRO ref: Q/RDz3). A sketch map showing John Beldam’s allotment land (CRO ref: R56/20/35/1), thought to date from c.1806, shows the site fell within a field depicted as ‘The Marsh’, suggesting the site may have been an area of marshland during the early 19th century. The 1886 Ordnance Survey shows the site comprising two fields and a footpath is shown along the southern boundary of the site.



- 2.25 Post-medieval industrial workshops for agricultural engineering (MCB16559), a gas works (MCB20677) and gas house (MCB16558) were located to the north-west of the site.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as stated in the brief (CCCHET 2018, 2-3), were to:

#### ***Character and Significance***

- determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development;
- define the nature and extent of any mitigation works that may be required.

#### ***Environment, Economy and Industry***

- determine the presence/absence of palaeosoils and old land surface soils/deposits;
- establish the character of deposits and their contents within negative features;
- establish the presence/ absence and character of any palaeochannels;
- understand the nature of site formation processes generally;
- undertake an assessment of the potential to inform on the general environmental and dietary evidence of the inhabitants of the site through an examination of suitable deposits;
- investigate the north-west to south-east linear anomaly identified by LiDAR data (as shown on Figure 1).

- 3.2 With reference to the Brief (CCCHET 2018), the evaluation results will be used to:
- a) determine the character, date, condition and significance of the archaeological resource;
  - b) define the nature and extent of any mitigation works that may be required.

- 3.3 In accordance with Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable South Cambridge District Council, as advised by CCCHET to identify and assess the

particular significance of any heritage assets that are identified, consider the impact of the development upon them, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the conservation of those heritage assets and any aspect of the development proposal. This process is in line with policies contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

## 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 10 trenches, each measuring 50m long by 1.8m wide, in the locations shown on Figure 2. Trench 1 was positioned to allow for the investigation of a north-west to south-east linear anomaly identified by LiDAR data, as shown on Figure 2. The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and were sampled and processed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Facility, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-6)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.
- 5.2 The stratigraphic sequence within the trenches proved largely similar. The natural substrate, consisting of mid orange sandy silt with large lenses of chalk and some natural flint inclusions, was in trenches 1, 2, 9, and 10 overlain directly by a plough soil between 0.26m and 0.33m thick and consisting of mid greyish brown sandy silt with some flint and chalk inclusions. In trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 the diffuse remains of a subsoil or interface layer up to 0.12m thick overlay the natural substrate. This was recorded as mid orangey grey sandy silt with some flint and chalk inclusions. Varying extents of modern root disturbance were revealed in trenches 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (see Figs. 2, 6 and 7). Trenches 4, 9, and 10 contained no features of any date (see Figs. 2 and 9).
- 5.3 Metal-detecting of the trenches was undertaken prior to mechanical excavation, across the exposed surface of each trench and of the feature fills as hand excavation progressed; however, no metal finds were recovered. Artefact characterisation was also undertaken during topsoil stripping, comprising the hand-sorting of 90l of topsoil and subsoil, where present, from each end of the trenches. No artefacts other than obviously modern material, including small fragments of plastic, were noted and/ or recovered.

### **Trench 1 (Figs 2 - 4)**

- 5.4 Trench 1 contained two small ditches located near its westernmost end, 102 (running on a northeast/southwest alignment) and 110 (running on a northwest/southeast alignment). Ditch 102 was described as 0.73m wide and 0.24m deep, with moderately steep, straight sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single sterile deposit (103) of soft mid greyish brown clayey silt including some natural flint nodules. Ditch 110 was recorded with a width of 0.91m and depth of 0.20m, with steeply sloped, straight sides and a flat base. Its primary fill (111) consisted of friable mid orangey grey clayey silt with some natural flint inclusions, overlain by a second fill (112) of soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with some natural flints. Ditch 110 appears to correspond with a linear anomaly identified by LiDAR and specifically targeted by this trench.

- 5.5 Near the centre of the trench a third small ditch (105) was encountered, cut by a much larger ditch (107). Both of these ditches followed a roughly north/south alignment. Ditch 105 was recorded as 0.72m wide and 0.30m deep, and filled by a single deposit (106) of firm mid yellowish grey silty clay with occasional flint inclusions. The larger ditch (107) was recorded with a width of 1.99m and depth of 1.01m, with near-vertical sides and a flat base. The primary fill 108, from which a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered, consisted of firm mid yellowish grey silty clay with frequent flint inclusions, and was sealed by a second fill (109) described as compact light yellowish grey silty clay with some grey mottling and frequent flint and chalk inclusions.
- 5.6 A small extension was subsequently made to the trench immediately to the south of excavated sections 105 and 107 (see Fig. 2) in order to better contextualise the feature as the base of ditch 107 within the excavated slot appeared to be rising up, suggesting the ditch might terminate just beyond the southern extent of the trench. However, the extension revealed the continuation of both ditches 105 and 107 to the south, as well as a small gully (113) crossing the two ditches on a roughly east-west alignment.
- 5.7 Several instances of modern disturbance were also recorded towards the easternmost end of the trench; these were not investigated further due to the number of identical features tested and recorded in other trenches (see below).

#### ***Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 5)***

- 5.8 A single posthole (202) was encountered close to the south-west end of trench 2. It measured 0.23m wide by 0.28m long by 0.15m deep, with steep, straight sides and a concave base. A single fill 203 consisted of firm dark greyish brown sandy silt with some chalk inclusions.
- 5.9 An area of modern disturbance near the centre of the trench was not investigated.

#### ***Modern disturbance (Figs 2, 6 & 7)***

- 5.10 A number of features representative of modern disturbance were investigated in trenches 3, 5, 6, and 7 (see Fig. 6 & 7 for examples). Identical features in trenches 1, 2, and 8 were noted but not investigated (see Fig. 2) as the character of the feature type had been sufficiently investigated elsewhere.

- 5.11 In trench 3, a sub-linear, north/south aligned feature (303) was investigated. It was roughly 0.76m wide and 0.46m deep, with irregular sides and base (see Fig. 5). The feature's compact dark brownish grey and black fill 304 contained occasional flint inclusions but proved otherwise sterile.
- 5.12 A total of three features were investigated in trench 5. All were roughly round in plan but proved to be of recent origin. Feature 503 was recorded with a very irregular profile, a length greater than 0.47m, width of 0.38m, and depth of 0.16m; its fill 504 was described as firm mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional flint and chalk inclusions. Feature 505, slightly more circular in plan although with a similarly irregular profile, was recorded with a diameter of 0.26m and a depth of 0.05m. Its single fill 506 was identical to fill 504. Feature 507, roughly circular in plan, was described with a diameter of 0.29m and depth of 0.07m, and an irregular profile. Its fill 508 was identical to fill 504.
- 5.13 Three features were also tested in trench 6, with a fourth feature remaining uninvestigated. Feature 603 appeared roughly linear in plan, running on a northeast/southwest alignment, but proved shallow and irregular in section, with a recorded maximum width of 0.81m and depth of 0.04m. Its single fill 604 comprised compact dark grey sandy silt with frequent chalk and flint inclusions. Feature 605 appeared sub-round in plan, but very shallow and irregular in section, with a recorded length of 0.64m, width of 0.38m, and depth of 0.06m. Its single fill 606 consisted of compact dark grey sandy silt with frequent chalk inclusions. Feature 607, again appearing sub-round in plan, was slightly larger and deeper than 605, with a maximum length of 1.02m, width of 0.61m and depth of 0.28m, but proved similarly irregular in section. It was filled by a single deposit (608) of compact dark grey sandy silt with frequent chalk inclusions. A further patch of modern disturbance (609) was observed but not excavated due to its resemblance to other features within the trench.
- 5.14 In trench 7 a total of four modern features were encountered. Due to their round plan shapes and linear alignment two of the features were excavated by hand, with the remainder (features 707 and 709) subsequently recorded in plan. The first feature tested, 703, was recorded with a length of 0.87m, width of 0.45m and depth of 0.17m, with irregular, moderately sloping sides and an irregular, slightly concave base. Its single fill 704 consisted of friable mid reddish brown sandy silt with

occasional flint and chalk inclusions. Feature 705, also described as sub-circular in plan, was recorded with a length of 0.34m, width of 0.18m and depth of 0.05m, with a similar profile to 703. It was filled by a single deposit (706) comprised of friable mid reddish brown sandy silt with occasional flint and chalk inclusions.

- 5.15 While a total of three modern features (803, 805, and 807) were observed in trench 8, the decision was taken based on identical features tested in other trenches to record these in plan only. All three features appeared to contain fills similar to those observed in trench 7, although the plan shapes of the features in trench 8 were more oval and sub-linear than those observed in trench 7. Due to their irregular shapes and diffuse edges they have been categorised as modern root disturbance (Fig. 8.).

## 6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 The artefactual material was recorded from one deposit; the fill of a ditch. The material was all hand-recovered.

### **Pottery** by Pete Banks

- 6.2 The pottery recovered from the evaluation is recorded in Table 1 and discussed below. Recording of the finds assemblage was direct to an Excel spreadsheet; this now forms the basis of Table 1. The pottery was examined by context, using a x10 binocular microscope and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. The fabrics are described below in accordance with the Historic England guidelines (2016) and where appropriate the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).
- 6.3 A single sherd (16g) in a shell-tempered fabric (**ROB SH**) was recovered and is considered to date to the Roman period. The sherd is recorded from deposit 108, the fill of ditch 107, and is a body sherd with no distinguishing features.

Table 1 Finds Concordance

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot- date
108	Roman Pottery	Shell-tempered fabric	<b>ROB SH</b>	1	16	RB

\* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

## 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

### ***Palaeoenvironmental Evidence*** by Emma Aitken

- 7.1 A single environmental sample (20 litres of soil) was taken from ditch 107 to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains across the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. It was also hoped that the environmental evidence might provide an indication of the date of the deposit. The sample was processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 7.2 Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 2 below following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals. The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded within Table 2, Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).

### *Trench 1*

- 7.3 Fill 109 (sample 1) within possible Roman ditch 107 contained small quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm. Within the sample there was also *Hordeum vulgare* (Barley), *Galium sp.* (bedstraw), *Poa/Phluem sp* (meadow grass) and a single indeterminate grain. The preservation of the charred plant remains ranged from poor to moderate. The assemblage is likely to be representative of dumped material.
- 7.4 The low levels of charred remains recovered in this sample do not suggest specific domestic settlement activities taking place in the immediate vicinity of this section of the ditch.
- 7.5 The mollusc assemblages appear to be indicative of an open downland environment with some areas of longer grass and open woodland/scrub/hedgerows in the vicinity. There is also a small indication of occasional flooding due to the presence of several aquatic species. Due to the presence of the burrowing species (*ceciloides*) it can be stated that some contamination has occurred within the feature.



Table 1: Assessment of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal	Other
Trench 1 - Undated ditch											
107	109	1	20	65	10	+	-	+	Indet grain +, <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> +, <i>Galium</i> +, <i>Poa/Phluem</i> +	++	Snails: <i>Ceciloides</i> +++++, <i>Trochulus hispidus</i> +++++, <i>Valvata piscinalis</i> +, <i>Pupilla</i> +++++, c.f. <i>Cochlicopa</i> +, <i>Galba Tringulata</i> +

## Key

+ = 1–4 items; ++ = 4–20 items; +++ = 21–49 items; ++++ = 50–99 items; +++++ = >100 items

## 8. DISCUSSION

8.1 A small number of archaeological features were encountered in trenches 1 and 2, in the form of five ditches or gullies and a single posthole respectively. Due to a lack of finds or other dateable material across the site all of these remain undated with the exception of a single sherd of Roman pottery recovered from the basal fill of ditch 107 in trench 1. The smaller ditches (102 and 110) are likely to represent drainage or other agricultural activity within the site, such as a small enclosure; the similarity of these ditch profiles to that of ditch 105 may suggest that this belongs to the same phase of activity. Ditch 110 appears to correspond with a linear anomaly identified by LiDAR and specifically targeted by trench 1.

8.2 A slightly higher level of complexity is apparent in the larger ditch 107, which was initially presumed to terminate just beyond the southern extent of the trench due to its base curving sharply upwards within the excavated slot. A machine excavated extension to trench 1 revealed instead the parallel, partly overlapping linear continuation of both ditches 107 and 105. The mollusc assemblages recovered from an environmental sample of the upper fill of the ditch appear to be indicative of an open downland environment with some areas of longer grass and open woodland/scrub/hedgerows in the vicinity. There is also an indication of occasional flooding due to the presence of several aquatic species.

- 8.3 The single undated posthole in trench 2 provides further evidence that the somewhat limited evidence for archaeological activity is located exclusively within the westernmost area of the site.
- 8.4 The majority of the trenches contained no remains of any archaeological interest, despite some potential within the wider area (see archaeological background, above). A number of likely modern natural/ bioturbated features were tested, based in part on the findings of work carried out in the adjacent field to the north-east (PCA 2009) where a small amount of prehistoric pottery was recovered from natural bioturbation features. However, similar material was not recovered from any of the features tested as part of this investigation.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Anna Moosbauer, assisted by Molly Agnew-Henshaw, Callum Ruse, and Mark Davies. The report was written by Anna Moosbauer. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Pete Banks and Emma Aitken respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Adrian Scruby.

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

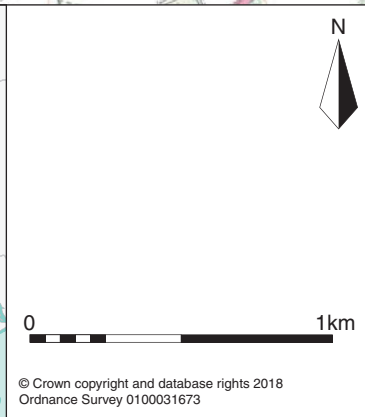
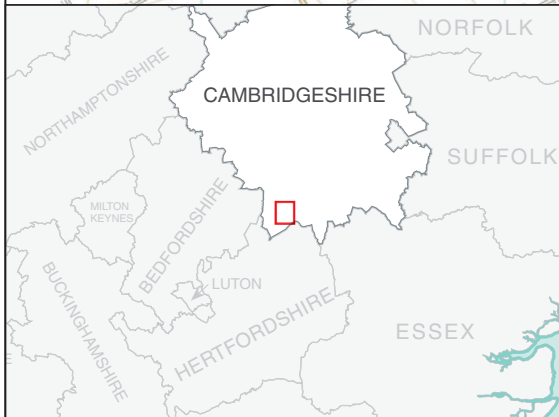
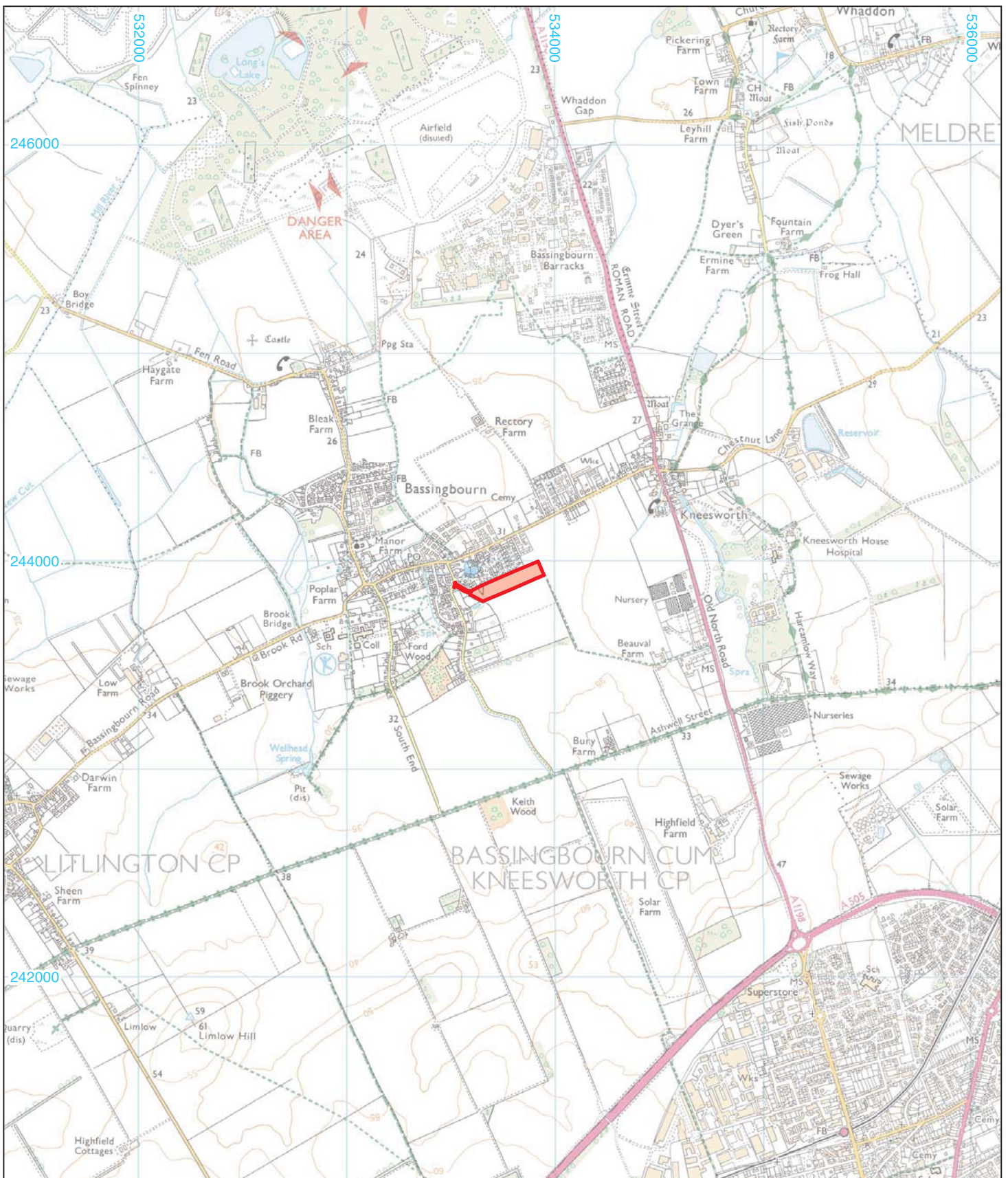
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flints/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.32	
1	101	Layer		Natural	mid orangey grey, sandy silt, occasional flint/chalk inclusions	>50	>1.8	-	
1	102	Cut		Ditch	linear, steep/straight sides, concave base	>1.8	0.73	0.24	
1	103	Fill	102	Fill of ditch	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flint/chalk	>1.8	0.73	0.24	
1	104	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	105	Cut		Ditch	linear, steep/straight sides, concave base	>1.8	0.72	0.30	
1	106	Fill	105	Fill of ditch	mid yellowish grey, sandy silt, occasional flint/chalk	>1.8	0.72	0.30	
1	107	Cut		Ditch	linear, steep/straight sides, flat base	>1.8	1.99	1.01	
1	108	Fill	107	Fill of ditch	mid yellowish grey, sandy silt, occasional flint/chalk	>1.8	1.99	0.73	
1	109	Fill	107	Fill of ditch	mid yellowish grey with grey mottling, sandy silt, occasional flint/chalk	>1.8	1.99	0.28	
1	110	Cut		Ditch	linear, steep/slightly irregular sides, flat base	>.18	0.91	0.20	
1	111	Fill	110	Fill of ditch	mid orangey grey, sandy silt, occasional flints/chalk	>1.8	0.66	0.07	
1	112	Fill	110	Fill of ditch	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flint/chalk	>1.8	0.91	0.13	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flints/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.26	
2	201	Layer		Natural	mid orangey grey, sandy silt, occasional flint/chalk inclusions	>50	>1.8	0.26	
2	202	Cut		Posthole	round, steep/straight sides, concave base	0.28	0.23	0.15	
2	203	Fill	202	Fill of posthole	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, infrequent chalk	0.28	0.23	0.15	
2	204	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular (NOT EXCAVATED)	1.71	0.62	-	
2	205	Fill	204	Fill of mod. Dist.	dark grey/black, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	1.71	0.62	-	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flints/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.26	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	mid greyish orange, sandy silt, some flint/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.12	
3	302	Layer		Natural	mid orangey grey, sandy silt, occasional flint/chalk inclusions	>50	>1.8	-	
3	303	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular sides and base	1.13	0.76	0.46	
3	304	Fill	303	Fill of mod. Dist.	dark grey/black, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	1.13	0.76	0.46	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flints/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.30	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	mid greyish orange, sandy silt, some flint/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.12	
4	402	Layer		Natural	mid orangey grey, sandy silt, occasional flint/chalk inclusions	>50	>1.8	-	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flints/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.34	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	mid greyish orange, sandy silt, some flint/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.15	
5	502	Layer		Natural	mid orangey grey, sandy silt, occasional flint/chalk inclusions	>50	>1.8	-	
5	503	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular sides and base	0.47	0.38	0.16	
5	504	Fill	503	Fill of mod. Dist.	dark grey/black, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	0.47	0.38	0.16	
5	505	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular sides and base	0.26	0.26	0.05	
5	506	Fill	505	Fill of mod. Dist.	dark grey/black, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	0.26	0.26	0.05	

5	507	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular sides and base	0.29	0.13	0.07	
5	508	Fill	507	Fill of mod. Dist.	dark grey/black, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	0.29	0.13	0.07	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flints/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.35	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	mid greyish orange, sandy silt, some flint/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.06	
6	602	Layer		Natural	mid orangey grey, sandy silt, occasional flint/chalk inclusions	>50	>1.8	-	
6	603	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular sides and base, vaguely NE-SW aligned	>1.8	0.81	0.04	
6	604	Fill	603	Fill of mod. Dist.	dark grey/black, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	>1.8	0.81	0.04	
6	605	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular sides and base, vaguely round in plan	0.64	0.38	0.06	
6	606	Fill	605	Fill of mod. Dist.	dark grey/black, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	0.64	0.38	0.06	
6	607	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular sides and base, vaguely round in plan	1.02	0.61	0.28	
6	608	Fill	607	Fill of mod. Dist.	dark grey/black, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	1.02	0.61	0.28	
6	609	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular (NOT EXCAVATED)	1.15	0.65	-	
6	610	Fill	609	Fill of mod. Dist.	dark grey/black, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	1.15	0.65	-	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flints/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.55	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	mid greyish orange, sandy silt, some flint/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.30	
7	702	Layer		Natural	mid orangey grey, sandy silt, occasional flint/chalk inclusions	>50	>1.8	-	
7	703	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular sides and base, vaguely round in plan	0.87	0.45	0.17	
7	704	Fill	703	Fill of mod. Dist.	mid reddish brown, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	0.87	0.45	0.17	
7	705	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular sides and base, vaguely round in plan	0.34	0.18	0.05	
7	706	Fill	705	Fill of mod. Dist.	mid reddish brown, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	0.34	0.18	0.05	
7	707	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular (NOT EXCAVATED)	0.65	0.54	-	
7	708	Fill	707	Fill of mod. Dist.	mid reddish brown, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	0.65	0.54	-	
7	709	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular (NOT EXCAVATED)	0.30	0.25	-	
7	710	Fill	709	Fill of mod. Dist.	mid reddish brown, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	0.30	0.25	-	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flints/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.32	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	mid greyish orange, sandy silt, some flint/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.26	
8	802	Layer		Natural	mid orangey grey, sandy silt, occasional flint/chalk inclusions	>50	>1.8	-	
8	803	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular (NOT EXCAVATED)	1.2	0.60	-	
8	804	Fill	803	Fill of mod. Dist.	mid reddish brown, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	1.2	0.60	-	
8	805	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular, sub-linear (NOT EXCAVATED)	1.80	0.70	-	
8	806	Fill	806	Fill of mod. Dist.	mid reddish brown, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	1.80	0.70	-	
8	807	Cut		Mod. Dist.	irregular, sub-linear (NOT EXCAVATED)	1.30	0.60	-	
8	808	Fill	807	Fill of mod. Dist.	mid reddish brown, grainy silt, some chalk/flint	1.30	0.60	-	
9	90	Layer		Topsoil	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flints/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.31	
9	901	Layer		Natural	mid orangey grey, sandy silt, occasional flint/chalk inclusions	>50	>1.8	-	
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flints/chalk	>50	>1.8	0.33	
10	1001	Layer		Natural	mid orangey grey, sandy silt, occasional flint/chalk inclusions	>50	>1.8	-	

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land east of Spring Lane, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2018 on land east of Spring Lane, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire. A total of ten trenches were excavated across the 2.59ha site, each measuring 50m by 1.8m.</p> <p>The majority of the trenches revealed no features of archaeological interest; a high level of modern disturbance and bioturbation was evident across the site. Archaeological features were encountered only in trenches 1 and 2 in the form of a series of ditches and a single posthole respectively.</p> <p>The ditches which with the exception of a large north-north-east to south-south-west orientated ditch that produced a single sherd of Roman pottery were otherwise undated are likely to relate to past phases of agricultural land use within the site, possibly representing boundary or enclosure ditches or drainage features. A linear anomaly identified by LiDAR survey appeared to correlate with a ditch investigated at the western end of the trench.</p> <p>Overall, the site appears to be of low archaeological potential, with features of low/ local significance having been identified only at the western end of the site, in trenches 1 and 2</p>	
Project dates	23 – 25 May 2018	
Project type	field evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Spring Lane, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	2.59ha	
Site co-ordinates	533805 243912	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Adrian Scruby	
Project Supervisor	Anna Moosbauer	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	ditch, posthole	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	none	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Facility	Trench sheets, context sheets, drawings, photo registers
Digital	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Facility	digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Land east of Spring Lane, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report <b>18292</b>		






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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land east of Spring Lane, Basingbourn, Cambridgeshire

---

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

---

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>EE</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>661113</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	<b>DJB</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>20/06/2018</b>	
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	<b>1:1,500</b>	<b>1</b>

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Modern root disturbance
- A Section location



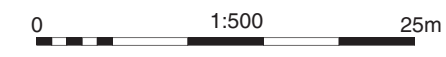
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land east of Spring Lane, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench locations, showing archaeological features and modern root disturbance

<small>DRAWN BY</small> EE	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 661113	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 20/06/2018	<b>2</b>
<small>APPROVED BY</small> AS	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:1,500 / 1:500	



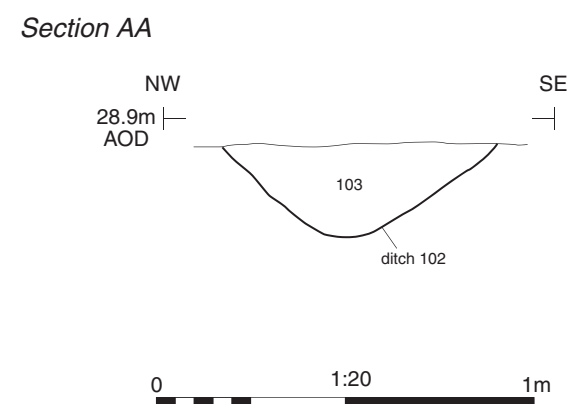




Trench 1, looking south-east (1m scales)



Trench 1 extension, looking south-west (1m scales)



Ditch 102, looking north-east (0.3m scale)


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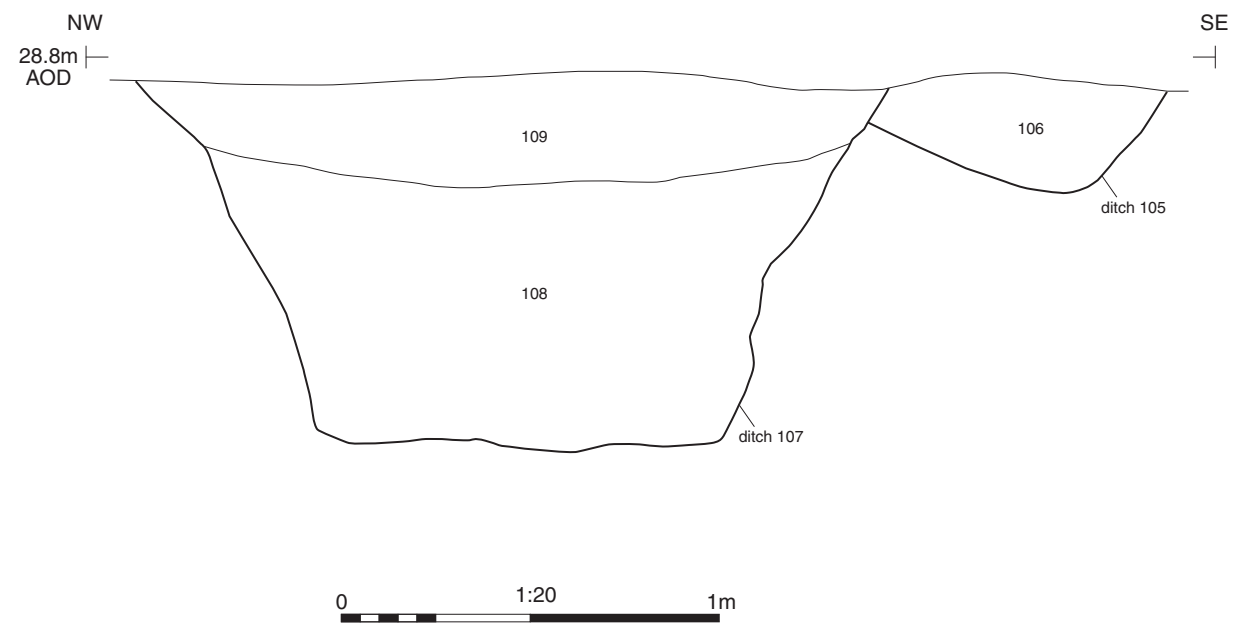
PROJECT TITLE  
 Land east of Spring Lane, Bassingbourn,  
 Cambridgeshire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 1, section and photographs**

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	661113	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20/06/2018	3
APPROVED BY	AS	SCALE@A3	1:20	

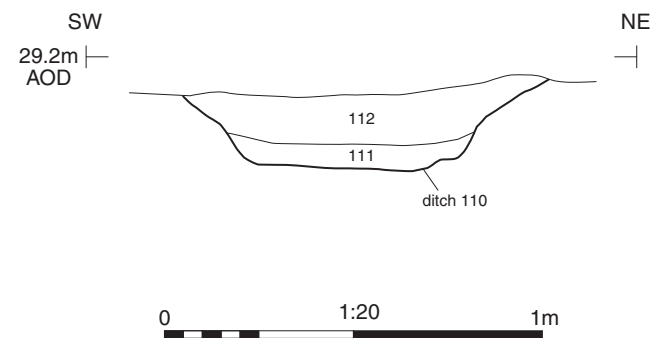


Section BB



Ditches 107 and 105, looking north-east (1m scale)

Section CC



Ditch 110, looking north-west (0.3m scale)


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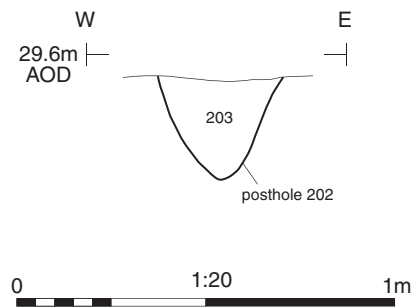
PROJECT TITLE  
**Land east of Spring Lane, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 1, sections and photographs**

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	661113	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20/06/2018	4
APPROVED BY	AS	SCALE@A3	1:20	



Section DD



Posthole 202, looking north (0.2m scale)

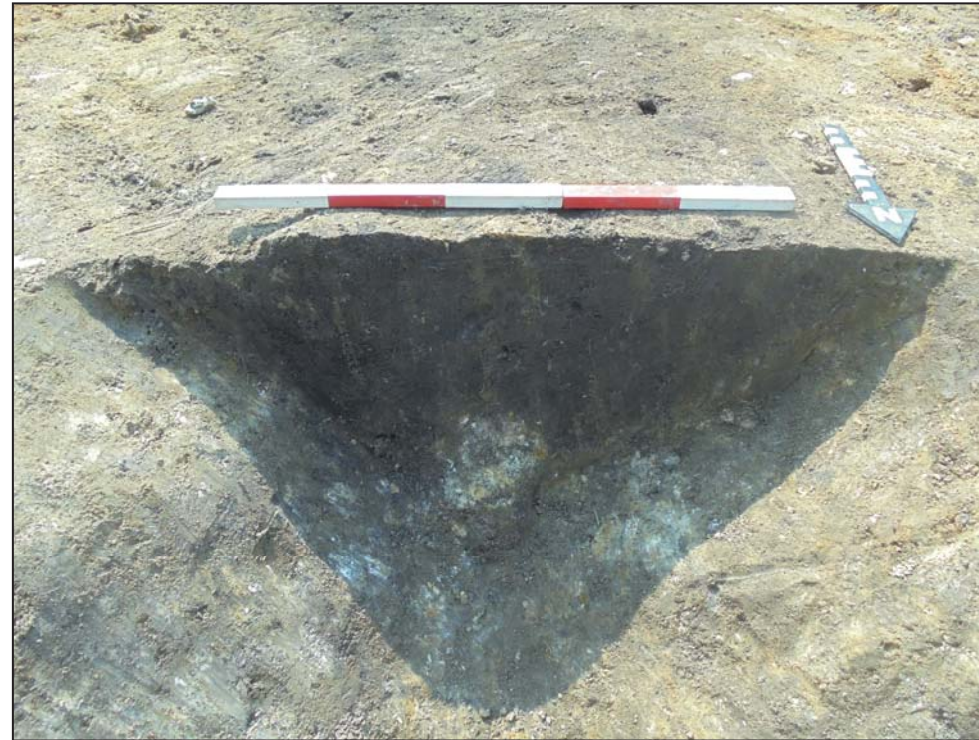


Trench 2, looking east (1m scales)





Trench 3, looking south-east (1m scales)



Modern disturbance 303, looking south (0.5m scale)



Trench 5, looking north-east (1m scales)



Modern disturbance 505, looking south-west (0.2m scale)





Trench 6, looking north-east (1m scales)



Modern disturbance 607, looking north (0.3m scale)



Trench 7, looking north-west (1m scales)



Modern disturbance 703, looking north-east (0.5m scale)





Trench 8, looking north-east (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Spring Lane, Bassingbourn,  
Cambridgeshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 8, photograph**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20/06/2018	<b>8</b>
APPROVED BY	AS	SCALE@A4	NA	





Trench 4, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 9, looking south-east (1m scales)



Trench 10, looking north-east (1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE  
 Land east of Spring Lane, Bassingbourn,  
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FIGURE TITLE  
 Blank trenches

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20/06/2018	9
APPROVED BY	AS	SCALE	@A3 NA	

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