



5 – 7 HIGH STREET, EARITH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION





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CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Abstract

In April 2014 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at 5 – 7 High Street, Earith, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3875 7490) in response to a design brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council, Historic Environment Team. The work was commissioned to comply with a condition of planning permission in advance of residential development of the site.

Background research for the project indicated that buildings were present on the site as recorded on the 1950's Ordnance Survey maps, with associated backyard activities also likely to be encountered in the evaluation. Given the records from the Cambridge Historic Environment Record the site has a specific potential for prehistoric, Roman, post-medieval and modern features and finds.

The evaluation revealed three phases of activity, the first and most recent being the demolition of the early modern buildings that stood on the site before it was turned over to yard use. Demolition Layer 1008 overlay a single course of early modern bricks which formed the remains of one of the previous buildings which comprised the second phase of activity. The final phase is evidenced by a large ditch / moat (1003) that contained medieval pottery and animal bone. This feature is likely associated with the former medieval high street which is assumed to have run on the same course as High Street follows today. Fragments of late medieval brick also suggest building activity in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Despite the potential for prehistoric and Roman remains, no finds of features pre dating the medieval period was encountered.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

In April 2014 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at 5 – 7 High Street, Earith, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3875 7490) in response to a design brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council, Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (McConnell. D, dated 14/02/2014). The work was commissioned to comply with a condition of planning permission reference 1201542FUL in advance of residential development of the site.

The works comprised the excavation of two trial trenches measuring 15.00 x 1.80m (Fig. 1).

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located to the north of High Street in a yard that is currently used for the storage of horse trailers and other machinery. It lies at a height of approximately 6.00m AOD and the bedrock geology is described as West Walton and Ampthill Clay Formation Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 156 to 161 million years ago in the Jurassic Period when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas. These rocks were formed in shallow seas with mainly siliciclastic sediments deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel (BGS, 2014).

Superficial deposits are described as River Terrace sand and gravel formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by rivers, depositing mainly sand and gravel detrital material in channels to form river terrace deposits, with fine silt and clay from overbank floods forming floodplain alluvium, and some bogs depositing peat (BGS, 2014).

3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The archaeological investigation is to be carried out on the recommendation of the local planning authority, following guidance laid down by the *National Planning and Policy Framework* (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5, DCLG 2010). The relevant local planning policy is, *Huntingdonshire District Council Local Development Framework; Core Strategy (Adopted September 2009)*.

3.1 *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLG March 2012)*

The NPPF recognises that 'heritage assets' are an irreplaceable resource and planning authorities should conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance when considering development. It requires developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. The key areas for consideration are:



- The significance of the heritage asset and its setting in relation to the proposed development;
- The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance;
- Significance (of the heritage asset) can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction, or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification;
- Local planning authorities should not permit loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred;
- Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.

3.2 Huntingdonshire District Council Local Development Framework; Core Strategy (Adopted September 2009).

Huntingdonshire District Council adopted the Local Development Framework; Core Strategy in 2009 and it is currently being updated. The relevant spatial objective in this core strategy can be found at number 8 (page 14):

- To maintain, enhance and conserve Huntingdonshire's characteristic landscapes, habitats and species and historic environment.

Policy CS 1

The relevant policy on archaeology and planning is found within the Core Strategy at CS 1, its criteria includes:

Preserving and enhancing the diversity and distinctiveness of Huntingdonshire's towns, villages and landscapes including the conservation and management of buildings, sites and areas of architectural, historic or archaeological importance and their setting.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The following archaeological background utilises the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) (1km search centred on the site), English Heritage PastScape (www.pastscape.org.uk), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS) (Fig. 2). There are 38 entries within the 1km search area comprising eighteen monument entries, ten events, nine findspots and one Scheduled Ancient Monument. There are also 27 listed buildings within the 1km search radius, therefore it was decided to reduce the search radius to 250m to investigate those closest to the site, the new total was seven listed buildings. The preferred CHER reference has been used where possible.



The Palaeolithic period is represented by one flint scraper (01680), recorded at Colne Drove 728m north-east of the site.

Mesolithic records are slightly more numerous, a tranchet axe (01932) was found in a gravel heap on Midsummer Common, 263m to the north-east. Late Mesolithic to Late Neolithic worked flint and Early to Middle Bronze Age pottery sherds (MCB17841) are recorded 602m to the south-west at Needingworth Quarry. Late Mesolithic to Late Iron Age finds (MCB17839) were also recovered in buried soils during an evaluation and excavation (ECB2884) using test-pits to recover finds and soil samples 981m to the south-west at Zones 4 and 5 on the Godwin Ridge of Needingworth Quarry. Despite little in the way of archaeological features a high density of finds were recovered from the Late Mesolithic. A programme of evaluation and excavation revealed Late Iron Age features and finds as well as Mesolithic worked flint from soil samples (MCB17840), 821m to the south-west in Zone 6 of the Needingworth Quarry Site.

A Neolithic flint scraper (02094A) found in a gravel pit was recorded 263m to the north-east at Earith Gravel Quarry. Neolithic flint tools were also recovered from separate phases at Needingworth Quarry, located from 602m to 981m to the south-west of site (ECB2884, MCB17839, MCB17840, MCB17841).

Six Bronze Age round barrows (03731) located 968m at Needingworth Quarry to the south-west were excavated by CAU (ECB3479) some containing associated funerary remains. Bronze Age finds (MCB17839) were also recovered in buried soils during the evaluation and excavation at Needingworth Quarry (ECB2884) 981m to the south-west. Middle Bronze Age pottery sherds (MCB17841) were also recorded 602m to the south-west at the same site. A programme of geophysical survey and excavation on Phase III of the Needingworth Quarry Site (ECB3479) 868m to the south recorded a Bronze Age burial mound.

An Iron Age near-whole jar (01717) found in the river bank behind the Crown Inn 322m to the south-west. A Late Iron Age settlement (MCB17839) was recorded during an evaluation and excavation (ECB2884). One roundhouse, rubbish pits, a rectangular enclosure, a rectangular structure and a high density of finds were recovered 981m to the south-west at Needingworth Quarry. Three aligned ditches on a north-south axis and a small number of pits and postholes of Late Iron Date (MCB17840) were further recorded 821m to the south-west. An air photograph assessment (ECB2993) at Earith Quarry by Air Photo Services in 2000 revealed an extensive system of droveways and field systems indicative of the Iron Age and Roman periods, 718m to the west.

The record for the Romano-British period is heavily biased towards individual find spots, with only one potential Roman settlement (ECB2993) recorded in cropmarks, 718m to the west. A Silver washed Bronze coin of Postumus (00905) is recorded 263m north-east of the site. A Grey Ware pot base (00906), a Whetstone and carved sand stone (01555) have all been recorded 1225m to the south-west. Dredged Roman pottery (01554) was recovered from the Great Ouse in 1935, including one jar containing chicken bones, from behind the Crown at Earith, 244m to the south-west. Bronze statues of the Roman Gods



Mars, Ultor and Jupiter (01557) were recovered 1128m south-west in the Causeway Meadow, near the River Ouse. Roman pottery (01558) was found in 1941 while clearing ditches in pasture land, 1020m to the south west. A castor flagon (01559) was dredged up from Cranbrook Drain, 1101m to the south-west. Roman finds (01780c) have also been recovered from within the Bulwark Monument, 451m to the east. Roman coins and pottery (01813) were recovered at the east and west ends of Black Lane and near the river, 65m to the west. A fourth century flanged bowl (01814) was found in 1993 during excavations on the foundations of the Black Bull Public House, 293m to the south-west. A Roman skeleton and bowl (01815) were found on the site of the Black Bull 120m to the north. Roman pottery (01937) is recorded 945m to the north-east. The last record relates to three Roman to Medieval spindle whorls (CB14770) recorded 591m to the north-west.

The medieval period is represented by the Hermitage of Saint Mary, a former bridge and chapel (09947) located 663m to the south-east, possibly dating from 1171 and still in use until 1571 when it was demolished.

The post-medieval period is represented by 17 records, perhaps the most important of which is the Scheduled Ancient Monument (DCB225) of an English Civil War fieldwork known as the Bulwark (01780), located 491m to the east of the site that dates from around the 1640's. An associated medieval earthwork (01780a) was also recorded on air photographs just to the north-east. It was excavated (ECB626) in 1908 when trenches were cut to investigate the ramparts. No finds or brickwork were found but the monument was found to be in good order. A Second World War gun emplacement was later placed within its interior. Crane Fen Mill wind pump (03544) is depicted on the 1841 tithe map, 522m to the south-east. A Windmill (00940) is depicted on the 1820 Inclosure Map, 782m to the north-west. A Quaker burial ground (11664) has been recorded at 101 High Street, 277m to the west, the remains of which are now interred in the Old Borough Cemetery in Broadlees, St Ives. The site of the 17th century Hinde's Wind Pump (MCB16185) is recorded at Willingham 751m to the south-east. Earith Methodist Chapel on Chapel Road (MCB17183) is a listed building that was erected in 1821, located 294m to the west. Gloster House at Number 12 High Street (DCB3559) is a eighteenth century Listed Building that was originally three dwellings or a shop located 68m to the south-west. Number 22 and 24 High Street (DCB3560) is a Grade II Listed nineteenth century building located 109m to the south-west. Number 50 Woodlands High Street (DCB2269) is a Grade II* Listed eighteenth century building located 252m to the west of site. Number 52 (DCB4117) and its back range 54 High Street are Grade II Listed eighteenth century timber framed buildings located 293m to the south-west. Numbers 1 and 3 Bridge End (DCB3563) located 81m to the east, are Grade II Listed early nineteenth century buildings. Number 7 Bridge End (DCB2292) located 54m to the east is a Grade II listed early nineteenth century cottage. Number 27 High Street (DCB2730) is a Grade II Listed mid nineteenth century house and shop incorporating part of a seventeenth century timber frame and chimney stack, located 101m to the west. An evaluation (ECB1918) undertaken by CCC FAU in 2005, 587m to the south-west, revealed a post-medieval ditch or channel and modern riverine deposits.



The modern period is represented by six records. A World War Two spigot mortar base (CB15205) is recorded below the Civil War Fort (Bulwark) 493m to the east of site. Another spigot mortar base (CB15206) was recorded at Earith Marina in the river bank 792m to the south-east. A 20th Century Quaker burial ground (CB15457) was discovered 744m to the west, possibly associated with a meeting house located to its east. An evaluation revealing modern riverine deposits (MCB16708) is recorded 583m to the west of the site at the West View Marina. A 12 trial trench evaluation (ECB1081) by CAU at Minnaar PLC 602m to the west recorded only nineteenth century ceramics and field drains. A watching brief (ECB2154) undertaken at Hermitage Lock 633m to the south-east by Oxford Archaeology in 2006 revealed only modern remains.

The undated records number five in total. A watercourse of unknown date 445m to the east, recorded as an extant earthwork (08760) at the site of an old flood meadow waterway. An undated enclosure and a ring ditch (08813) has been recorded on air photographs 545m to the north-east. An evaluation (ECB364) in 2001 by CCC FAU at 90 High Street located 521m to the south-west exposed no archaeological remains. An evaluation (ECB896) in 2002 by CCC FAU at Meadow Drove, 778m to the north-east also revealed no archaeology. Archaeological evaluations (ECB1076) undertaken by CAU 584m to the south-west at New Moorings, on the Great Ouse recorded no remains.

Given the above records the site has a specific potential for prehistoric, Roman, post-medieval and modern features and finds.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The CCC HET brief states that the evaluation should aim to determine, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. (McConnell, D. Brief, Section 3.1).

6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Research objectives for the project are in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (Medlycott, 2011).

Specific objectives outlined in the brief state that a particular importance be placed on:

- the amount of truncation to buried deposits,
- the presence or absence of a palaeosol or 'B' horizon,
- the preservation of deposits within negative features,
- site formation processes.

An assessment of the environmental potential of the site through examination of suitable



deposits must also be arranged with a suitably qualified specialist. Attention should be paid:

- to the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features, and to soil pollen analysis;
- to the retrieval of plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits located.

Provision for the absolute dating of critical contexts should be made: *eg* the basal contexts of peats over former dryland surfaces; distinct landuse or landmark change in urban contexts.

7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The CCC HET brief required the excavation of two trial trenches measuring 15.00m x 1.80m that comprised 5% of the total area of the site, in advance of the construction of two 4 bedroom dormer bungalows and one 2 bedroom cottage with associated access, amenity, parking and ancillary works (Fig. 2).

A 180° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was employed to machine down to the first archaeological horizon, thereafter all excavation work was undertaken by hand (Fig. .1). In exception to this and with permission from CCC HET a single slot was dug with the machine through feature 1003, due to its size, depth and potential health and safety issues, to ascertain its full extent and depth.

The archaeology was recorded using pro-forma record sheets, drawn plans and section drawings and appropriate photographs were also taken. The client was aware of the need for contingency funding to cover additional works if necessary.

8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 4 & 5)

Archaeological features and deposits are described below in trench order. Detailed information on all features and deposits can be found at Appendix 1.

Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 0.58m and the full stratigraphic sequence was exposed. A sondage was excavated at the western end of Trench 2 to check the levels of the stratigraphic sequence due to contamination from the uppermost layers. The sondage was 1.17m deep and confirmed the full stratigraphic sequence; the rest of the trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.49m.

Evidence of medieval activity was present in Trench 1. A large linear feature described as a probable moat ran across the trench at its northern end. Later modern building activity was present with modern foundations present towards the High Street end of the trench.



8.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 4 & 5)

Trench 1 was located in the southern area of the site over two of the proposed building footprints. One archaeological feature and modern building remains were present.

A large linear feature, 1003, identified as a probable moat, was located at the northern end of trench 1 and was the only feature of earlier than modern date on the site. The feature was linear in plan with steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained four fills, (1004, 1005, 1006 and 1007). Layer 1004 was the basal fill of the feature; eleven sherds of pottery weighing 202g were recovered and represent a minimum of four vessels. Seven sherds of 14th – 16th century fully oxidised redware pottery were further recovered from the basal fill probably belonging to a single vessel, which may have been a small rounded jug, likely to be an Ely-type ware. Three body sherds of Bourne D redware dating to the 15th-16th century were also identified as well as a large fragment of a large deep bowl or panchion made in a transitional redware with grey core. It has been identified as a LMT Cambridgeshire sparse calcareous ware which also dates from the 15th-16th century.

Fill 1004 also contained 1192g of animal bone. All of the bone was identified as horse and the group included a complete 3rd left metacarpal, a combined left radius-ulna, a substantially complete pelvis and rib fragments.

A single 20 litre sample was taken from layer 1004 and sent for processing. The results revealed that the sample contained a number of charred cereal caryopses the majority of which were Barley, (*Hordeum* sp.).

The next layer in the stratigraphic sequence was 1005; it contained 29g of 16th century pottery as well as five fragments of building material.

Layer 1006 was directly above 1005, 52g of 17th century pottery were recovered along with three fragments of building material which included a Drury LB3 brick also dating from the 17th and 18th centuries.

The upper layer in this sequence was 1007 which represented a final cess deposit sealing the probable moat.

The modern remains of a brick structure were located at the southern end of the trench and consisted of a single course of modern bricks orientated north – south.

8.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 5)

Trench 2 was located in the northern half of the site and was orientated east - west over two of the remaining building footprints. No archaeological finds or features were present.



9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 5)

The deposit model was broadly consistent across the two trenches and full sections were recorded in both (Fig. 5).

Made ground layer 1000 formed the upper most layer in the stratigraphic sequence and sealed all other layers and features.

Layer 1002 comprised re-deposited natural that was present below the made ground and encountered in Trench 2, it was present to a depth of around 0.49m.

Demolition Layer 1008 was encountered in the southern end of Trench 1 directly below made ground layer 1000. It relates to a recent phase of modern demolition associated with the clearing of the 20th century buildings that once stood on the site. The layer was present to a depth of 0.58m.

Natural geology 1002 was encountered at around 0.50m across the site comprising a mid-brownish orange, compact sandy clay.

10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The evaluation revealed three phases of activity. The most recent phase comprised the demolition of early modern buildings evidenced by the presence of Demolition Layer 1008 and the placement of the buildings on the 1950's OS map before the land was turned over to yard use.

The second phase of activity relates to the surviving remains of the early modern buildings under Demolition Layer 1008, comprising a single course of bricks running north – south in Trench 1 in a similar location to structures recorded on the 1950's OS maps.

The third phase is represented by the probable Medieval Moat 1003, and is likely associated with the development of the medieval high street. Fragments of late medieval / post medieval building material recovered from the moat also suggests building activity has been undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Demolition activity appears to have only affected specific areas of the site with the moat (1003) being generally well preserved. Therefore there is potential for the presence of further surviving medieval features associated with the probable moat to be encountered in any further phase of work.

Despite the potential for features dating from the prehistoric to Roman periods, no features predating the medieval period were encountered.



The finds assemblage shows the medieval moat contained material clearly associated with domestic activity and the dating of its fills reveal a continuous period of use from the medieval through to the later post medieval period. This suggests that the feature was open for a significant period of time. A substantial moat such as this, on the same alignment as the current location of High Street (which is assumed to be on the same course as its medieval predecessor), indicates that it may be a former town boundary or similar. Potentially 30.00m of the probable moat exists on the site and is shown on Fig. 3.

One of the proposed buildings footprints lies directly above the location of the moat in Trench 1. When these foundation trenches are excavated they are likely to impact on the underlying archaeological deposits.

11.0 PROJECT ARCHIVE AND DEPOSITION

A full archive will be prepared for all work undertaken in accordance with guidance from the *Selection, Retention and Dispersion of Archaeological Collections*, Archaeological Society for Museum Archaeologists, 1993. Deposition will be with the relevant museum or Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store subject to agreement with the legal landowner where finds are concerned and in accordance with *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store*, 2004.

The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. The material will be catalogued, labelled and packaged for transfer and storage in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guidelines No.2* and the Archaeological Archives Forum's *Archaeological Archives, A guide to best practice, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown, 2007).

12.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Archaeological Data Service (ADS) www.ads.ahds.ac.uk

English Heritage National List for England
www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england



APPENDIX 1 DEPOSIT TABLES AND FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS

TRENCH 1

Deposit Tables

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot No
1	S - N	5.53m	DP3
Sample Section No 1A	Location W Side N End	Facing E Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.38m	Made Ground. Mid brownish orange, loose sand, silt and clay with cement and CBM rubble.	
1008	0.38 – 0.58m	Demolition Layer. Dark brown grey, firm sand, silt and clay with cement & CBM rubble.	
1001	0.58m +	Natural. Mid brownish orange, compact sandy clay.	

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot No
1	S - N	5.10m	DP4
Sample Section No 1B	Location W Side S End	Facing E Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.50m	Made Ground. Mid brownish orange, loose sand, silt and clay with cement and CBM rubble.	
1001	0.50m +	Natural. Mid brownish orange, compact sandy clay.	

Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)	Other
1003	Probable Moat (1.80+ x 5.60 x 2.24m) Linear in plan, steep sloping sides with a concave base.	1004	Dark greyish black, compact, clayey silt – basal fill.	15 th – 16 th C	202 (11) Pottery 1192 (15) A Bone	Aligned NE/SW
		1005	Dark greyish brown, compact, clayey silt with small sub-rounded flint inclusions – infill	16 th C	29 (2) Pottery 46 (5) CBM	
		1006	Light greyish brown, compact, silty clay - fill	17 th C	52 (5) Pottery 1466 (3) CBM	

TRENCH 2

Deposit Tables

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot No
2	E - W	5.00m	DP6
Sample Section No 2A	Location W S Side W End	Facing N Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.32m	Made Ground. Mid brownish orange, loose sand, silt and clay with cement and CBM rubble.	
1002	0.32 – 0.49m	Re-deposited natural. Light grey brown, firm, sandy clay.	
1001	0.49m +	Natural. Mid brownish orange, compact sandy clay.	



Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot No
2	S - N	5.00m	DP5
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
1B	S Side E End	E Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.34m	Made Ground. Mid brownish orange, loose sand, silt and clay with cement and CBM rubble.	
1002	0.34 – 0.41m	Re-deposited natural. Light grey brown, firm, sandy clay.	
1001	0.41m +	Natural. Mid brownish orange, compact sandy clay.	



APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Richenda Goffin

Introduction

A total of 21 sherds of pottery weighing 297 grammes was recovered from three contexts. The small assemblage dates to the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Methodology

The ceramics were quantified using the recording methods recommended in the MPRG Occasional Paper No 2, Minimum standards for the processing, recording, analysis and publication of Post-Roman ceramics (Slowikowski et al 2001). The number of sherds present in each context by fabric, the estimated number of vessels represented and the weight of each fabric were noted. Other characteristics such as form, decoration and condition were recorded, and an overall date range for the pottery by fabric type and by overall context was established. The pottery was catalogued by context using letter codes based on fabric and form and the data was inputted into the database (Appendix *).

The codes used are based mainly on broad fabric and form types identified in *Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich* (Jennings 1981), and additional fabric types established by the Suffolk Unit which also include the Cambridgeshire region (S Anderson, unpublished fabric list).

Pottery by context

Eleven sherds were recovered by hand from the lowest fill 1004 of the moat feature 1003 (207g). A minimum of four vessels are represented. Three body sherds of Bourne D redware dating to the 15th-16th century were identified. They are made in a smooth fine hard pale red oxidised fabric, with a thin white slip (McCarthy and Brooks 409); one of the fragments has a splash of lead glaze on the exterior. A large fragment of a large deep bowl or panchion made in a transitional redware with grey core was also present. It has been identified as a LMT Cambridgeshire sparse calcareous ware which also dates to the 15th-16th century. Seven small sherds of another fully oxidised redware were present. Their condition is variable and two sherds are worn around the edges. The sherds are from a small vessel with the remains of the end of a strap handle. The fabric is sandy with sparse calcareous inclusions, both within the fabric, but also as a smattering on the surface. The vessel, which may be from a small rounded jug, is likely to be an Ely-type ware which dates to c.1350-1500 (Spoerry 2008). The fabric variant has not been firmly established, but it is most likely to be Medieval Ely-type ware, or one of the later variants such as LMELS.

Three additional small sherds of pottery (7g) were collected through the processing of an environmental sample <1> from fill 1004. They consist of two fragments of Cistercian type ware including the rim of a small cup or drinking vessel dating to the 16th century, and a glazed red earthenware sherd of a similar date.

Two joining pottery sherds were recovered from fill 1005 (31g). They are in a hard, fully oxidised wheelthrown fabric and are unglazed. The fabric is Late Colchester-type ware dating to the 15th-16th century



The upper fill 1006 of 1003 contained five further fragments of pottery (52g), four of which belong to a single vessel. Joining sherds of a Metropolitan slipware dish were identified, with a border decorated in trailed white slip. The dish dates to the 17th century. A single fragment of an annular ware decorated in yellow and cream bands was also present. The fabric is very hard and is almost a stoneware fabric. The sherd dates to c.1780-1900.

The Ceramic building material

Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Eight fragments of ceramic building material were collected from two of the fills of moat 1003, weighing 1512g.

Methodology

Fabrics were classified based on microscopic appearance and the main inclusions that could be observed. All diagnostic measurements such as length, width and thickness of bricks were recorded. The brick was classified according to the catalogue published for the Norwich ceramic building material (Drury 1993).

Ceramic building material by context

Five small fragments of building material were recovered from fill 1005 (46g). A piece of brick made in a fine fabric with sparse chalk inclusions up to 2mm was identified, and two smaller fragment of fired clay/brick which are softer, but are also made in a fine sandy fabric with sparse calcareous inclusions and small voids. Two additional fragments of cream and pink calcareous stone were also identified, which may have been burnt.

The upper fill 1006 contained three fragments (1466g). The remains of a brick was recovered, which was made in a fine sandy fabric with clay pellets and/or grog inclusions. It is partially reduced or has been burnt. Its appearance and the height, which was the only complete dimension which could be measured, indicates that it is a Drury LB3 type brick and that it is likely to date to the 17th-18th century. The fabric is similar if not the same as the two small fragments of fired clay/brick in fill 1005. The corner of a second brick, made in an estuarine fabric with voids and sparse calcareous inclusions was also present. It is pale yellow in colour and has a slightly pink external surface. It may be slightly earlier in date, although its surviving height suggests that it is more likely to be post-medieval. A small thick curved fragment of ceramic building material made in a fine fabric with silty bands and voids is likely to be the remains of some kind of post-medieval drainage pipe.

The Animal Bone

Cathy Tester

Introduction

Sixteen fragments of animal bone weighing 1092g were recovered from fill 1004 of ditch/moat 1003. The bone is in very good condition. A further 98g of animal bone was collected from amongst the non-floating residues of the environmental sample <1>.



The Assemblage

The bone was quantified by count and weight and notes were made of species and elements present. The bone was identified with reference to Hillson (1992). All of the bone was identified as horse and the group includes a complete 3rd left metacarpal, a combined left radius-ulna, a substantially complete pelvis and fragments of ribs. Identifiable fragments from the sample include ten more horse rib fragments and five horse autopodium bones – undoubtedly from the same individual as identified in the hand-collected sample. Numerous very small fragments (c.11g) of unidentified bone were also recovered from this sample.

The Plant Macrofossils

Anna West

Introduction and methods

A single 20 litre sample was taken from the fill 1004 of a possible ditch or moat 1003. The sample was processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

The samples were processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or artefacts are noted on Table *1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to New Flora of the British Isles, (Stace, 2010).

The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for inclusion in the finds total.

Quantification

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

SS No	Context No	Feature / cut no	Feature type	Approx date of deposit	Flot Contents
1	1004	1003	Ditch / Moat	15th – 16th	Charred cereal grains ##, Charred seeds #, Charcoal +, Uncharred seeds ##, Charred roots and stem fragments +++, Animal bone #, Fired clay +, Snails +

Table *1. Plant macrofossils



The preservation of the plant macrofossils within the flot material is through charring and is generally fair to good. Due to the size of the flot material at 200ml only half of it was scanned for the purposes of this report. Charcoal is present in small quantities, and is highly comminuted making it of little use for species identification or radiocarbon dating. The flot material was very fine in texture and contained a lot of what appeared to be the stem fragments of grasses (*Poaceae* sp.); some of this material could be from cereals but that cannot be confirmed at this stage.

A number of charred cereal caryopses were identified. Eleven grains were identified as Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and three as (*Triticum* sp.), which resemble the rounded grains of a bread wheat. A number of additional caryopses were too fragmented to identify at this stage and may have included the seeds of some charred grasses (*Poaceae* sp.). No chaff elements, from cereal processing, were observed within the portion of the flot scanned.

A small number of charred weed seeds were observed within the flot, possible Cabbage family, (*Brassica* sp.) and Knotweed/Knotgrass family (*Polygonaceae*) species were present in small numbers along with a single charred Elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.) pip. A larger number of uncharred Elderberry pips were recorded along with single specimens of Bog bean (*Menathes trifoliolate* L.), Bramble (*Rubus* sp.) and Poppy (*Papaver* sp.).

A few small fragments of animal bone were observed within the flot material, along with small fragments of fired clay.

The potential and significance of the finds and environmental data

Small quantities of pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone were recovered from three fills of the ditch/moat 1003. A single soil sample was also assessed.

The pottery

The range of ceramics from the three fills is of interest, since the small group includes wares from Bourne in Lincolnshire, redwares from the Essex region, as well as Cambridgeshire products such as the late medieval bowl or panchion and the calcareous-tempered redware which is an Ely-type product.

This assemblage has been recorded and quantified. Its significance lies in the dating that it provides, but also the range of pottery fabrics that are represented. For this reason, if further synthetic work is undertaken on the ceramics recovered in Cambridgeshire, it might be worth revisiting this group to establish more precisely the variant of the Ely-type ware that is present, and also the LMT Cambridgeshire sparse calcareous type ware bowl or panchion, both present in fill 1004.

The ceramic building material

The small ceramic building material assemblage has been fully catalogued. Most fragments were small and it was not possible to record many dimensions for the bricks. However, the brick present in fill 1006 did provide useful dating evidence. No further work is required.

The animal bone

The small group of animal bone from fill 1004 consists entirely of the remains of horse and is dated by the ceramics to the late medieval/early post-medieval period. No further work is required on this part of the finds assemblage.



The plant macrofossils and other remains

Anna West

In general the sample processed was fair in terms of identifiable material. Charcoal is present in small quantities but is very fragmented and degraded. The charred remains contained cereal grains and segetal weed seeds that could have been accidentally harvested along with a crop and the presence of fired clay suggest that this material could represent the waste from a domestic hearth or oven, which along with other domestic refuse has been deliberately deposited within the fill of the archaeological feature. Uncharred seeds from a number of species were present but these could be intrusive within the archaeological deposit.

It is not recommended that any further work is carried out on the flot material at this stage as they would offer little extra information of value to the results of the evaluation, however if further intervention is planned on this site, it is recommended that further sampling should be carried out from well-sealed and dated deposits, with a view to investigation the nature of the cereal waste.

Discussion

The small assemblage provides useful dating evidence for the sequence of deposition within the moated feature 1003. The lowest of the fills is dated by the pottery to the late medieval/early post-medieval period, with the presence of early post-medieval blackwares of Cistercian ware type in the sample indicating a likely sixteenth century date, whilst the upper fill is fully post-medieval, dating to the seventeenth century or later.

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APPENDIX 3 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

FEATURE CONTEXT	FEATURE TYPE	LAYER/FILL CONTEXT	LAYER / FILL DESCRIPTION	SPOT DATE	POTTERY / g (SHERDS)	CBM / g (NUMBER)	ANIMAL BONE / g (NUMBER)
1003	Ditch / Moat	1004	BASAL FILL	15th - 16th C	202 / (11)		1192 / (15)
		1005	INFILL	16th C	29 / (2)	46 / (5)	
		1006	FILL	17th C	52 / (5)	1466 / (3)	

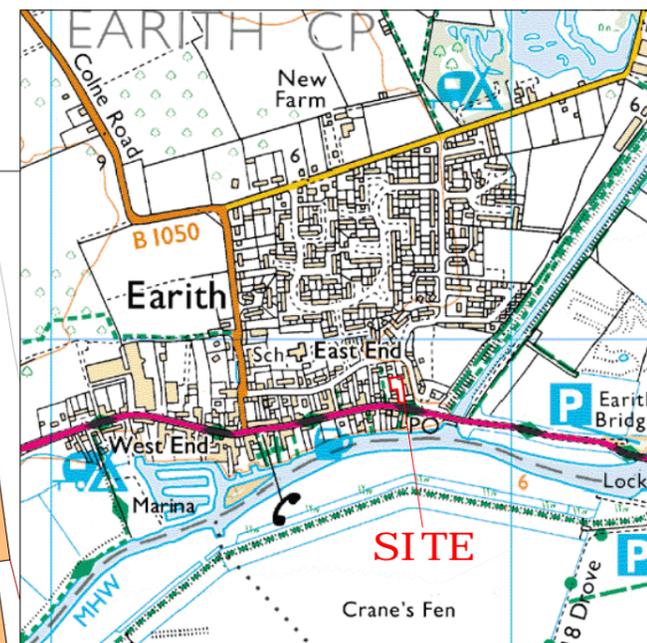


APPENDIX 4 OASIS SHEET

Project details	
Project name	5 - 7 High Street, Earith, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	In April 2014 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at 5 - 7 High Street, Earith, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3875 7490) in response to a design brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council, Historic Environment Team. The work was commissioned to comply with a condition of planning permission in advance of residential development of the site. The evaluation revealed three phases of activity, the first and most recent being the demolition of the early modern buildings that stood on the site before it was turned over to yard use. Demolition Layer 1008 overlay a single course of early modern bricks which formed the remains of one of the previous buildings which comprised the second phase of activity. The final phase is evidenced by a large ditch / moat (1003) that contained medieval pottery and animal bone. This feature is likely associated with the former medieval high street which is assumed to have run on the same course as High Street follows today. Fragments of late medieval brick also suggest building activity in the immediate vicinity of the site. Despite the potential for prehistoric and Roman remains, no finds of features pre dating the medieval period was encountered.
Project dates	Start: 08-04-2014 End: 09-04-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4169 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	MOAT Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches", "Test Pits"
Development type	Landowner pre-sale planning application (outline)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE EARITH 5 - 7 High Street, Earith, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	PE283PT
Study area	1200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 3875 7490 52.3541752903 0.0375284934601 52 21 15 N 000 02 15 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Matthew Adams
Project director/manager	Martin Brook

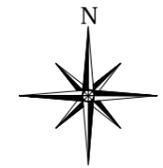
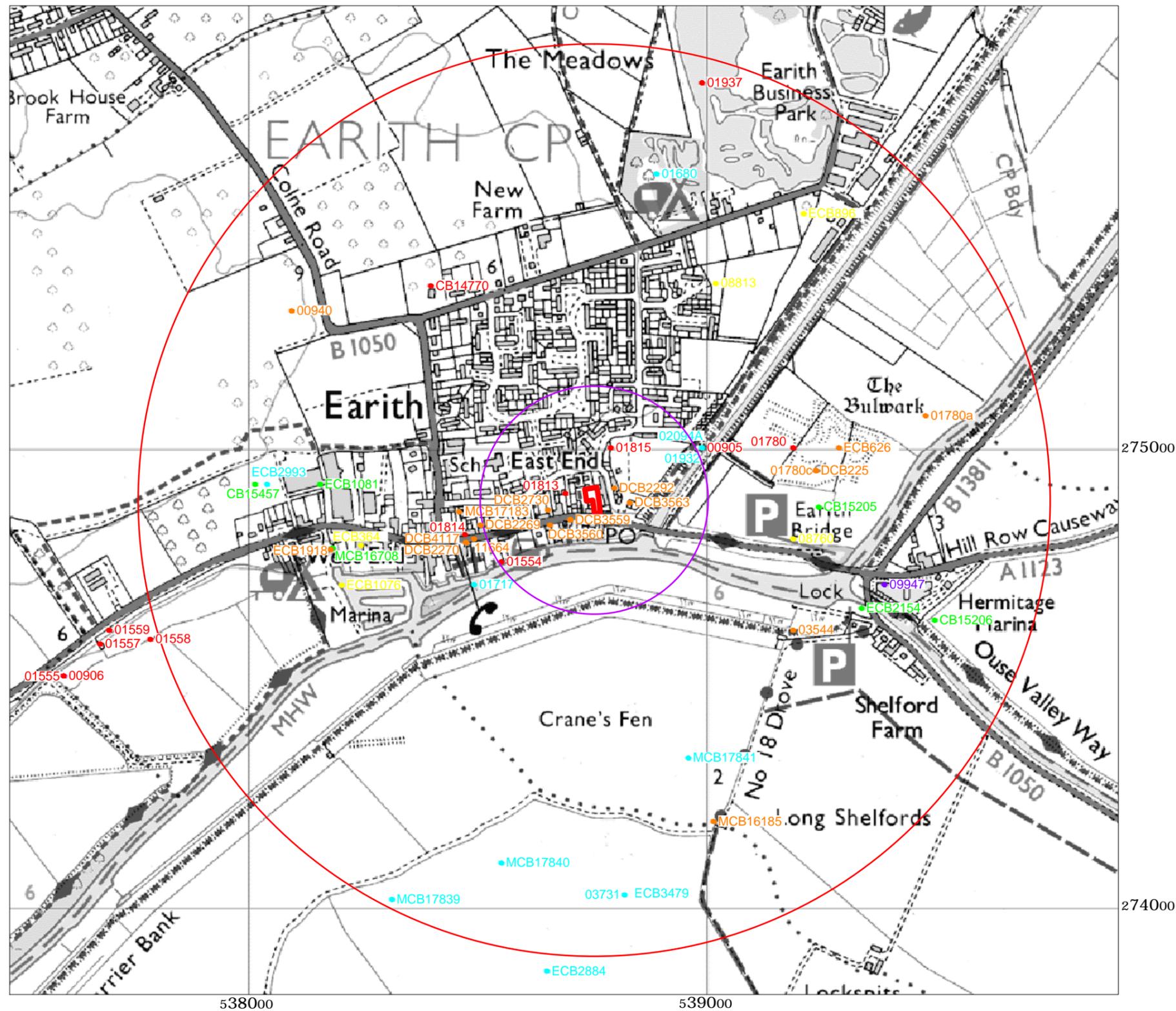


Project supervisor	Martin Brook
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Roundwood Restorations LTD
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	CCCAS
Physical Archive ID	ECB 4169
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental"
Digital Archive recipient	CCCAS
Digital Archive ID	ECB 4169
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "other"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	CCCAS
Paper Archive ID	ECB 4169
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Diary", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	5 - 7 HIGH STREET, EARITH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE - ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brook, M.
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Britannia Archaeology LTD
Place of issue or publication	Stowmarket, Suffolk
Description	A4 bound report with A3 fold-out figures
URL	www.britannia-archaeology.com
Entered by	Martin Brook (martin@britannia-archaeology.com)
Entered on	29 May 2014



 Site Boundary	
NGR: 538762 274897	PROJECT NUMBER: 1056
PROJECT: 5 - 7 HIGH STREET, EARITH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE	
CLIENT: ROUNDWOOD RESTORATIONS LTD	
DESCRIPTION: SITE & PROPOSED TRENCH LOCATION PLAN	
BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD	
	
115 OSPREY DRIVE, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK IP14 5UX	
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SCALE: 1:500	
PLOT: A3	APPROVED: TPS 01
DATE: APR 2014	AUTHOR: MCA FIGURE: 01

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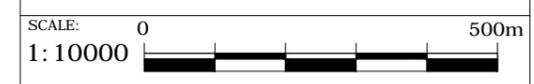
	Undated Record
	Modern Record
	Post-Medieval Record
	Medieval Record
	Roman Record
	Prehistoric Record
	Listed Building Search Radius
	HER Search Radius
	Site Boundary

NGR: 538762 274897	PROJECT NUMBER: 1056
PROJECT: 5 - 7 HIGH STREET, EARITH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE	
CLIENT: ROUNDWOOD RESTORATIONS LTD	
DESCRIPTION: CHER ENTRIES PLAN	

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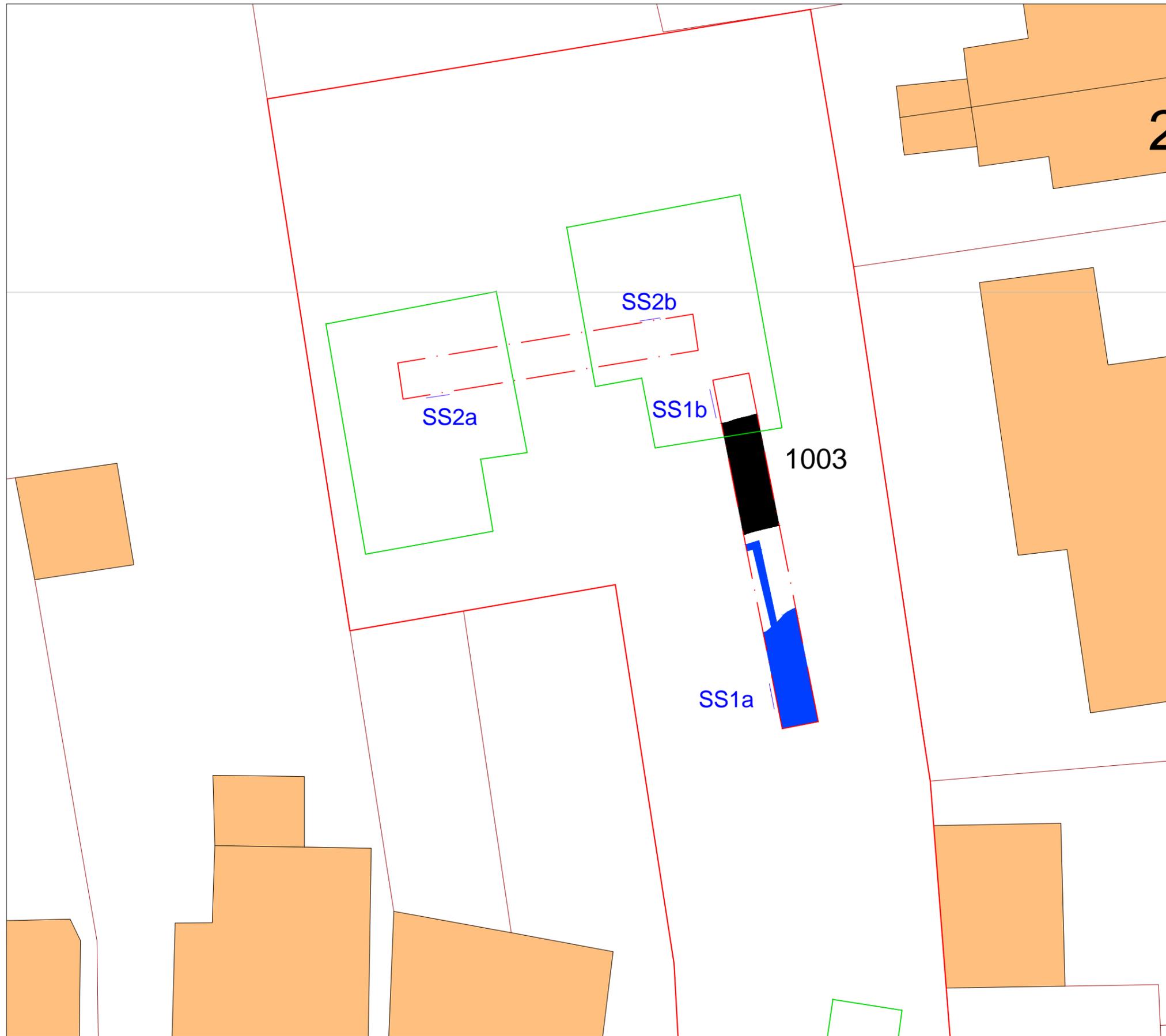
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DATE: APR 2014	AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: 02

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274900



	Proposed Development
	Sample Sections
	Modern Feature/Disturbance
	Archaeological Feature
	Trench Location
	Site Boundary

NGR:	538762 274897	PROJECT NUMBER:	1056
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PROJECT:
5 - 7 HIGH STREET,
EARITH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

CLIENT:
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DESCRIPTION:
FEATURE PLAN

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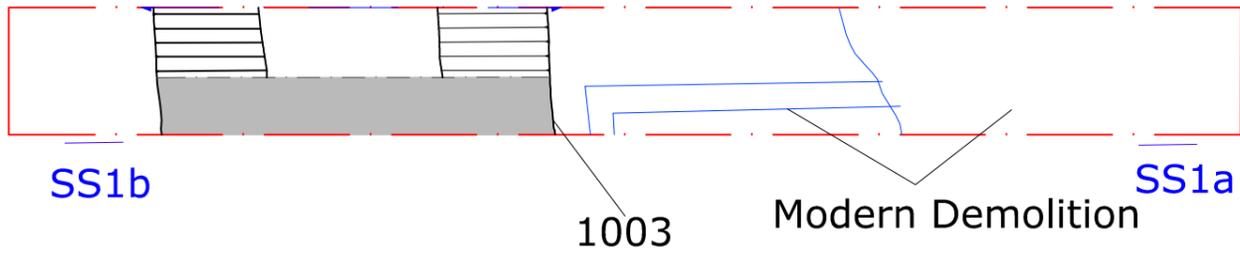
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DATE:	APR 2014	AUTHOR:	MCA	FIGURE:	03

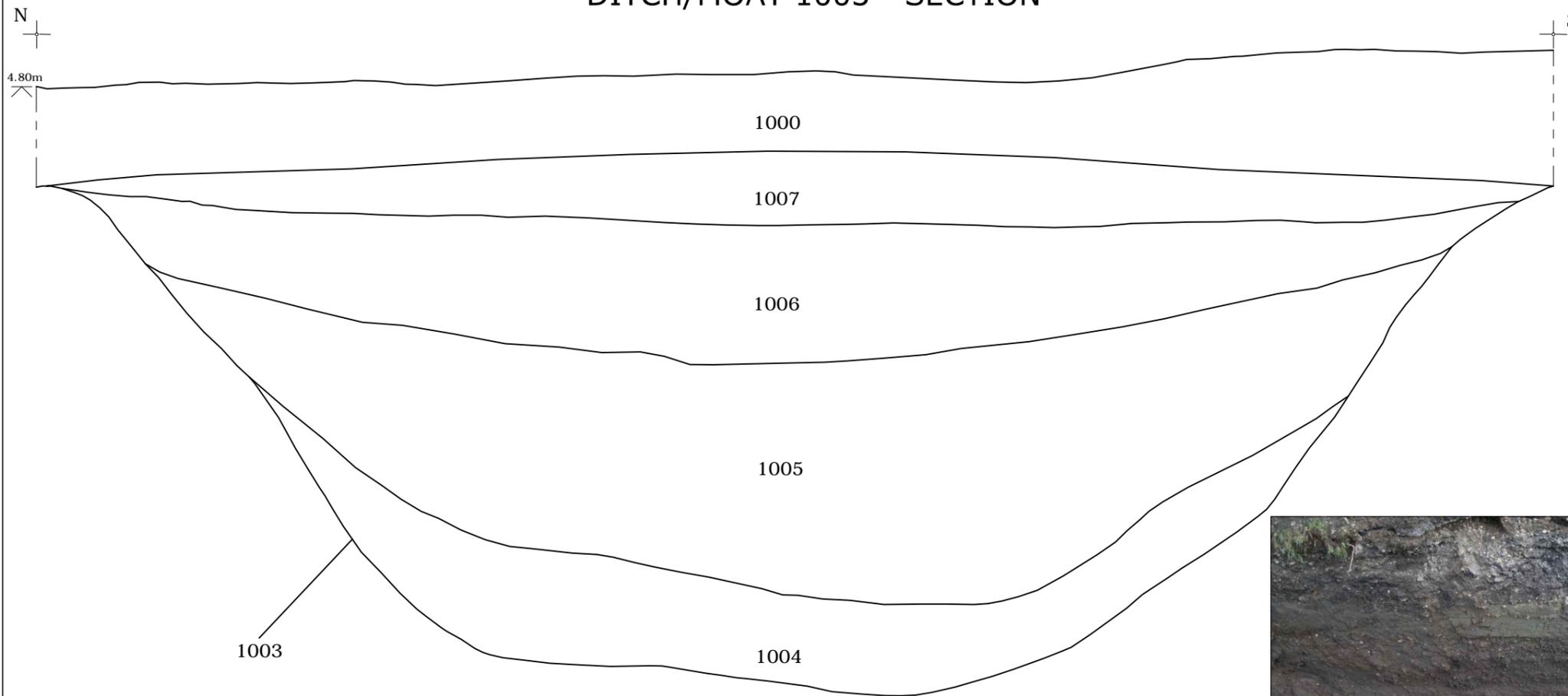
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TRENCH 1 - PLAN



DP1 - Trench 1 Post Exc - View N

DITCH/MOAT 1003 - SECTION



DP2 - 1003 Ditch/Moat- View E

NGR: 538762 274897 PROJECT NUMBER: 1056

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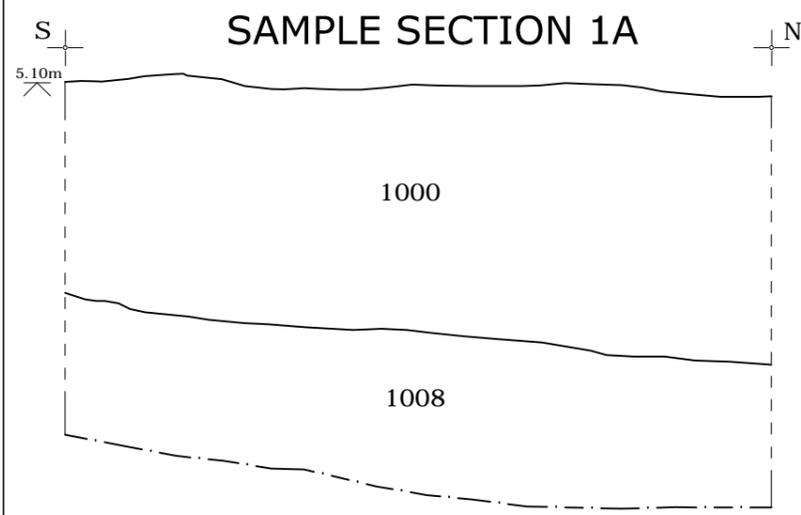
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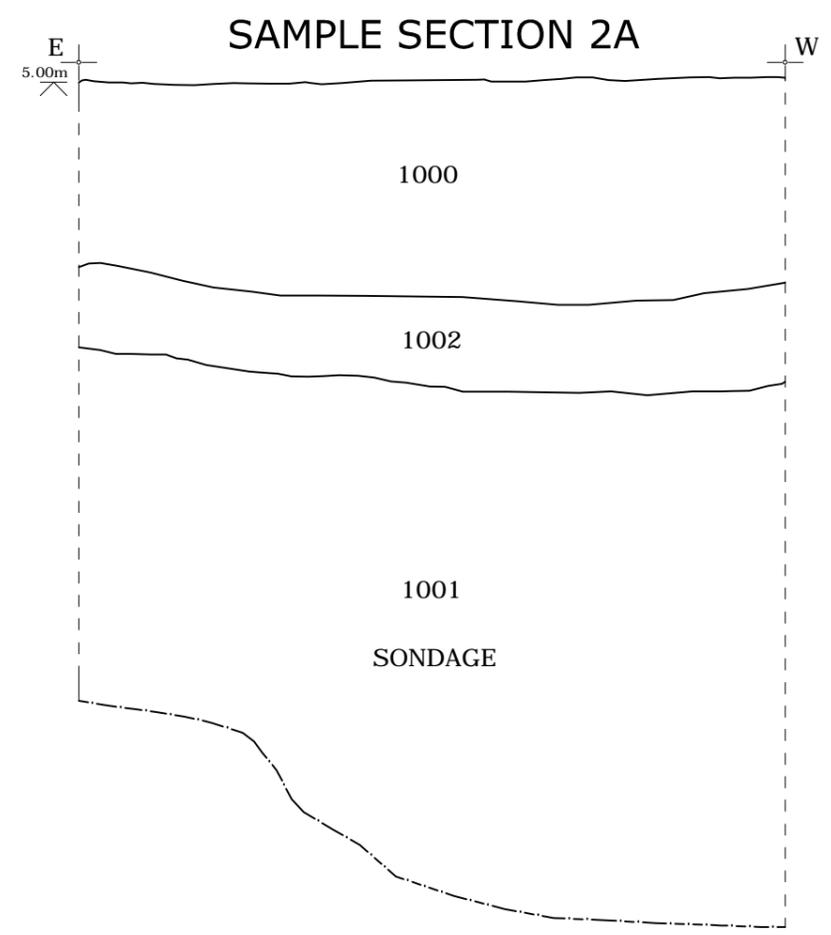
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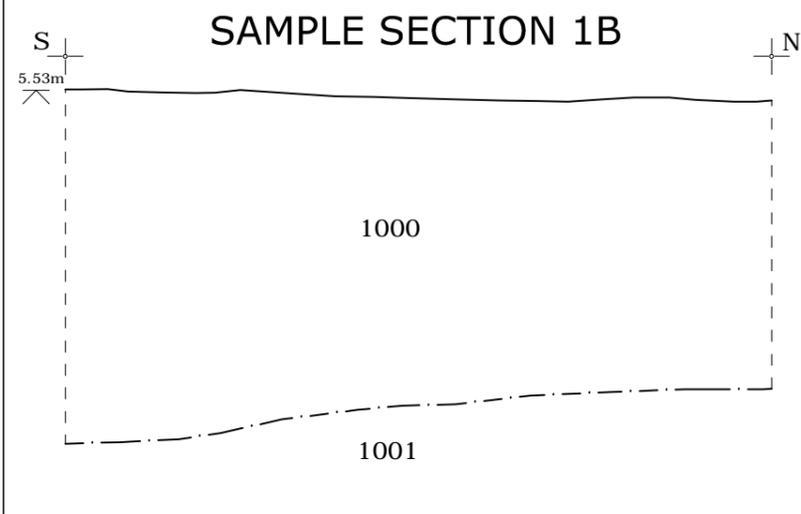
DATE: APR 2014 AUTHOR: MCA FIGURE: 04



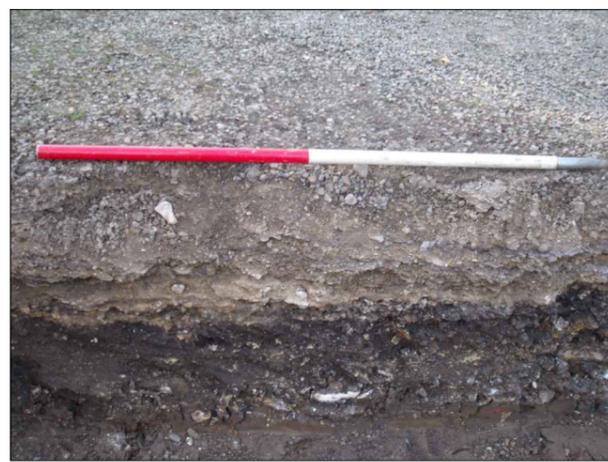
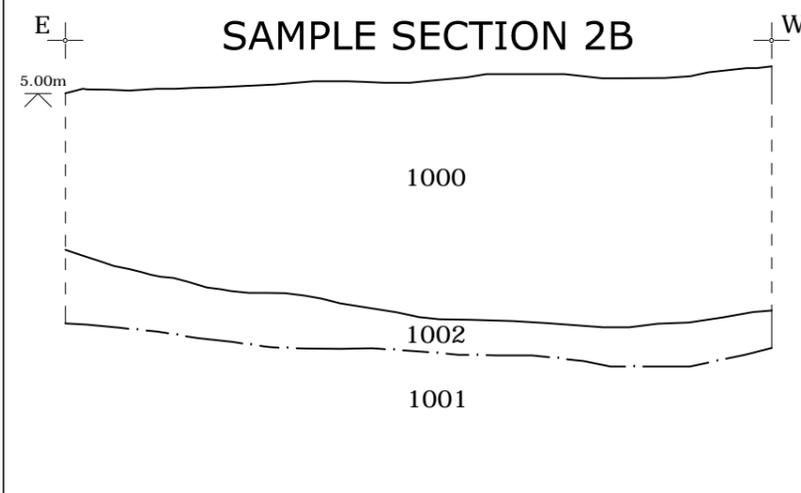
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- View W



DP3- Sample Section 2a
- View S



DP4- Sample Section 1b
- View W



DP3- Sample Section 2b
- View N

NGR: 538762 274897 PROJECT NUMBER: 1056

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SCALE: SECTION 1:20 0 80cm

PLOT: A3 APPROVED: TPS 01

DATE: APR 2014 AUTHOR: MCA FIGURE: 05