

# An Evaluation at 59 High Street, Foxton, Cambridgeshire



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



January 2014

Client: DPA Architects

OA East Report No: 1568  
OASIS No: oxfordar3-168131  
NGR: TL 4115 4843

**An Evaluation at 59 High Street, Foxton, Cambridgeshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*By Helen Stocks-Morgan BSc*

*With contributions by Chris Faine (MA Msc) and Carole Fletcher (BA AlFA)*

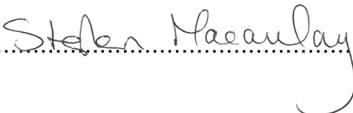
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*Report Date: January 2014*

**Report Number:** 1568  
**Site Name:** 59 High Street, Foxton  
**HER Event No:** CHER 4084  
**Date of Works:** January 2014  
**Client Name:** DPA Architects  
**Planning Ref:** S/0173/12/FUL  
**Grid Ref:** TL 4115 4843  
**Site Code:** FOX HIS 14  
**Finance Code:** FOX HIS 13  
**Receiving Body:** CCC Stores, Landbeach  
**Accession No:**

**Prepared by:** Helen Stocks-Morgan  
**Position:** Supervisor  
**Date:** 10/01/14

**Checked by:** Stephen Macaulay  
**Position:** Senior Project Manager  
**Date:** 31/01/14  
**Signed:** 

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at 59 High Street, Foxton, Cambridgeshire (TL 4115 4843). The fieldwork took place on the 8th January 2014. A total of four trenches were excavated within the proposed development area.*

*The archaeological remains included four Victorian rubbish pits located along the frontage of the land plot. Two undated quarry pits were recorded within the centre of the proposed development area.*





## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 59 High Street, Foxton, Cambridgeshire (TL 4115 4843, See fig 1).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application S/0173/12/FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Macaulay, 2013).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is situated immediately to the north of the village church on relatively level ground, at 17m OD. It lies on a bedrock of West Melbury Chalk (British geological Survey, 2002).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background presented below is drawn from the Specification (Macaulay 2013).
- 1.3.2 Foxton lies south of the River Cam, to the west of Hoffer Brook and to the east of Shepreth/Foxton Brook. Occupation of the river valleys in south-west Cambridgeshire is characterised in the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods by settlements paired on either side of a ford. Foxton and Barrington are an example of this type of settlement pattern.

#### Prehistoric

- 1.3.3 Activity dating from the prehistoric has been recorded in Foxton and includes Palaeolithic and Neolithic axes found to the south-west of the village at West Hill (Malim 1990). Finds of bronze axes and the identification of a ring ditch to the west attest to later prehistoric activity in this vicinity. Possible Bronze Age burial mounds are known lie to the west (CHER 08631) and north (CHER 08634 & 08635).

#### Iron Age / Roman

- 1.3.4 The presence of extensive crop marks to the south and west suggest that a considerable prehistoric and Roman settlement existed, these remains are considered of National Importance and are Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SM 85, 215 & 216). Archaeological investigation of these crop marks in 1993 showed them to be part of a substantial Iron Age and Roman rural settlement (Herods Farm, Foxton - Macaulay 1995).

- 1.3.5 Roman finds have been located all around the south and west of the village and a mid Roman cemetery has also been excavated in this area (Maynard *et al.* 1994). These may be associated with the settlement at Herods Farm or even with a villa discovered further to the west at Shepreth.

### **Saxon**

- 1.3.6 Early Saxon cemeteries have been found along the major river valleys in South Cambridgeshire (Malim & Hines 1998) and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been identified in the eastern part of the Cam valley at Foxton. Saxon burials are recorded on the CHER to the west (MCB4858) and south-east (MCB 4889) of the development site.
- 1.3.7 It is possible that the layout of the modern settlement dates back to this period. The town brook, or 'common stream', seen to the south of the village on aerial photographs, joins the Shepreth Brook in the west to the Hoffer Brook in the north east. This stream continued in use at least until the construction of the medieval moated site in the 12th century.

### **Medieval**

- 1.3.8 The proposed development sites lies north of the medieval parish church of St Lawrence (200m to the south-west) and to the west of the medieval moated manor of Mortimer's Farm (MCB1619). The moat may have been fed by the town brook, the northern arm of which may have run down the south eastern side of Mortimer's Lane before joining the moat and finally flowing into the Hoffer Brook. Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlement and buildings were recorded to the east at Mortimer's Lane in 2007 (Thatcher & Rees, 2007) (CHER 17771). Further evidence of medieval settlement is known to the south-west (CHER 09822), these survive as earthworks (hollow way, house platforms) and even a dovecot, of medieval origins.
- 1.3.9 The name Foxton is first mentioned in the Domesday survey as *Foxetune* (EPNS 1973), interpreted as 'Farm where foxes abound'. The name appears to have changed by 1396 to Foxston and again by 1549 to Faxton.

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank DPA Architects who commissioned the work. Thanks are also extended to Katherine Hamilton who assisted with the fieldwork and David Brown who carried out the site surveying and provided the illustrations. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay and monitored by Andy Thomas.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required the excavation of four trenches within the footprints of the proposed buildings.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by David Brown using a Leica GPS fitted with *Smartnet* technology.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Site conditions were good, with mild and dry weather experienced.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The results are presented by trench (See Fig 2 for trench location). Chalk natural was exposed in all of the trenches. This was overlain by topsoil, comprising a dark greyish brown clayey silt 0.2m thick, unless otherwise stated.

#### 3.2 Trench 1

- 3.2.1 No archaeology was recorded within the trench. To the western end of the trench a layer of broken asbestos was recorded under the topsoil. At this point the excavation of this trench was stopped due to health and safety considerations.

#### 3.3 Trench 2

- 3.3.1 At the northern end of the trench lay a large sub-circular pit (8), 2m in diameter. The pit had steep sides and an undulating base, 0.55m in depth. It was filled with a mid grey clayey silt with moderate chalk and gravel inclusions (7). To the south of the trench lay a further pit (6). This pit was sub-circular with steep sides and a flat base. It measured 2.25m long, 2m wide and 0.18m deep. It contained a mid grey clayey silt fill (5).

#### 3.4 Trench 3

- 3.4.1 No archaeology was recorded within this trench. A modern soak away was uncovered in the centre of the trench, aligned north-west to south-east. In the southern part of this trench, closer to the modern house, was a 0.2m thick layer of subsoil, consisting of a mid greyish clayey silt (10). Overlying this was a layer of crushed chalk rubble (11), 0.1m thick.

#### 3.5 Trench 4

- 3.5.1 The natural chalk was exposed at a depth of 0.55m, overlain by subsoil (10) 0.1m thick. All of archaeological features were seen to be truncating the subsoil.
- 3.5.2 In the centre of the trench, along its northern edge, was a circular pit (3). Pit 3 had steep sides and a concave base, measuring 0.35m in diameter and 0.2m deep. It was filled with a light greyish brown clayey silt (4) which contained the skeleton of a small dog, interred on its side, and a modern iron nail.
- 3.5.3 At the eastern end of the trench lay a circular pit (1). The pit had gently sloped and a flattish base, measuring 0.95m in diameter and 0.05m deep. It was filled by a mid grey clayey silt (2) containing two sherds of post-medieval tile.
- 3.5.4 Three pits (12,13,15) were seen to be cutting through the subsoil within the trench, these measured approximately 1m in diameter. These features contained an assemblage of glass bottles and iron objects of Victorian date and as a result they were not excavated.

#### 3.6 Finds Summary

- 3.6.1 One complete ceramic vessel was recovered from pit 15, along with two complete glass vessels from the pit 1 within Trench 4. All of these vessels date to the Victorian period.
- 3.6.2 Fifty-one fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation, these consisted of the articulated remains of an adult dog.

---

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Victorian

- 4.1.1 A series of five rubbish pits (**1,3,12,13,15**) dating to the Victorian period, were recorded along the frontage of the house plot. The map of 1886 shows no buildings on this plot of land at this time, so these pits are likely to relate to the dwellings next door at Bury farm (<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html>).

### 4.2 Undated Features

- 4.2.1 The two pits (**6,8**) seen in Trench 2 are undated, however the fills are very similar in nature to the subsoil recorded in Trenches 3 and 4. It is therefore suggested that these may be post-medieval or later in date and relate to activity in the adjacent plot of Bury Farm. This activity is consistent with small scale quarrying of the chalk for use as levelling/made ground.

### 4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 The archaeological remains present on site are likely to be post-medieval or later in date and relate to the occupation of Bury Farm next door. The lack of archaeological remains dating to the medieval period might indicate that the settlement of Foxton was limited to the land east and south of the church during this time.

### 4.4 Recommendations

- 4.4.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.					Avg. depth (m)	0.25
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	17.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
9	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained two pits. Consists of soil overlying a natural of chalk					Avg. depth (m)	0.15
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	19
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5	Fill	2	0.18	Pit	-	-
6	Cut	2	0.18	Pit	-	-
7	Fill	2	0.5	Pit	-	-
8	Cut	2	0.5	Pit	-	-
9	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained modern disturbance. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	10.75
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
9	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
10	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
11	Layer	-	0.1	Modern make up	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained two pits. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	7.3

Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Cut	0.55	0.2	Pit	-	Modern
2	Fill	0.55	0.2	Pit	Tile, bone	Modern
3	Cut	0.35	0.2	Pit	-	Modern
4	Fill	0.34	0.2	Pit	Iron, bone	Modern
9	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
10	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
12	Cut	0.3	0.3	Pit	Iron, glass	Victorian
13	Cut	0.6	0.3	Pit	Iron, Glass	Victorian
14	fill	0.3	0.3	Pit	Glass	Victorian
15	Cut	0.3	0.3	Pit	-	-

## APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Glass

*By Carole Fletcher*

- B.1.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of glass, weighing 0.178kg, from two pits in Trench 4. Pit 1 produced a single body or neck shard from a dark olive-green bottle of indeterminate date although most likely 19th century or later. From pit 15 a complete press moulded, clear colourless screw-topped, square-based, glass jar was recovered, most likely dating to the later 19th or early 20th century.

Context	Weight (kg)	Description
2	0.002	Irregular shard of dark olive-green bottle glass.
14	0.176	Machine-made, press-moulded, clear colourless glass, square jar with rounded corners and cylindrical neck and external continuous thread lip. The base has a flat resting point with a shallow concave or domed basal profile. Total height 100mm, neck height 30mm, neck diameter 41mm, base 48 x 48mm.

**Table 1: Glass**

## B.2 Pottery

*By Carole Fletcher*

- B.2.1 Excavation of pit 15 in Trench 4, produced a complete, dark brown glazed stoneware ink bottle with pouring lip. A maker's mark is present, indicating the bottle was manufactured by Lovatt & Lovatt at Langley Mill, Nottinghamshire, between 1895 and 1930.

Context	Weight (kg)	Description
14	0.218	Dark brown glazed, stoneware ink bottle with pouring lip. Height 116mm, diameter 55mm.

**Table 2: Pottery**

## B.3 Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay

*By Carole Fletcher*

- B.3.1 The excavation generated a small assemblage of ceramic building material, consisting of three sherds of roof tile (0.143kg), recovered from Pit 1. The material is not closely datable although it was found in association with later 18th-early 19th century pottery, suggesting an 18th-19th century date for the tile.

Context	Form-Description	No. Fragments	Weight (kg)
2	Roof tile fragment. Heavily sanded base with some white grits in the sand. Dull red fabric, quartz-tempered with rough sandy surfaces. 14mm thick.	1	0.070
	Roof tile fragment. Heavily sanded base, relatively smooth surfaces. Dull red fabric, quartz tempered, occasional coarse to very coarse (up to 8mm) flint fragments. 14mm thick.	1	0.059
	Corner of roof tile. Heavily sanded base with some white grits in the sand. Dull red fabric, quartz-tempered. Traces of mortar on surface and edges. 12-13mm thick.	1	0.014
<b>Totals</b>		3	0.143

**Table 3: Ceramic Building Material**



## APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### C.1 Faunal Remains

*By Chris Faine*

- C.1.1 Fifty one fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation. The total weight of bone recovered was 250g. These consisted of the articulated hind limbs, pelvis and lumbar spine of an adult male dog just over 40cm at the shoulder recovered from context 4.

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British Geological Survey, 1993 Sheet 187, England and Wales 1:50,000

### Websites consulted:

<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html> (last viewed 09/01/14)

## APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-168131		
Project Name	59 high street, Foxton		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	09-01-2014	Finish 09-01-2014
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	FOX HIS 14	Planning App. No.	S/0173/12/FUL
HER No.	CHER 4084	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15
Development Type	Rural Residential

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
PIT	Uncertain		Select period...
PIT	Modern 1901 to Present		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE	59 HIGH STREET FOXTON CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 6RP
Parish	FOXTON	
HER	CHER 4084	
Study Area	220 SQ M	National Grid Reference TL 4115 4843

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	ANDY THOMAS (CCC)
Project Design Originator	STEPHEN MACAULEY (OA EAST)
Project Manager	STEPHEN MACAULEY (OA EAST)
Supervisor	HELEN STOCKS-MORGAN (OA EAST)

### Project Archives

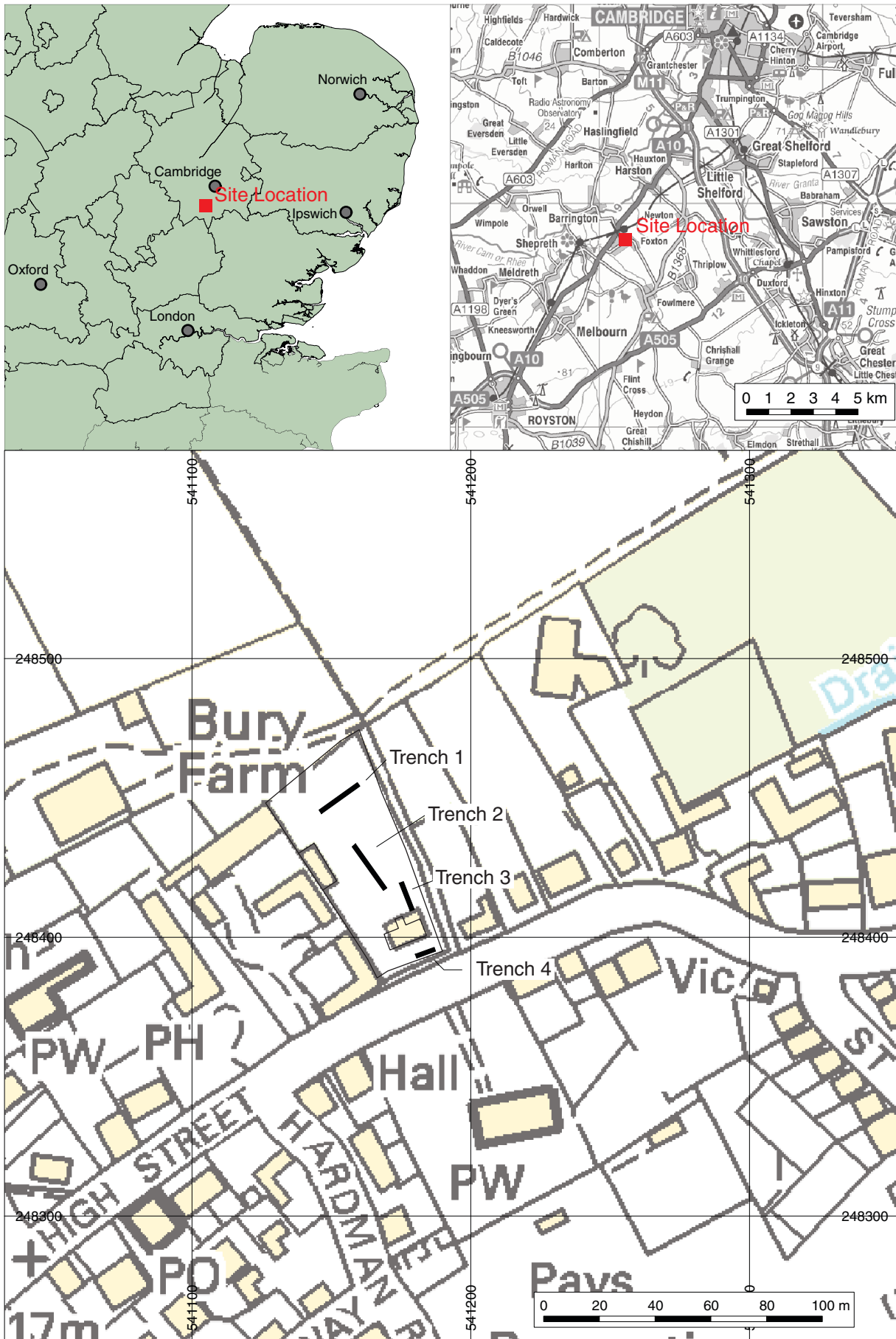
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ccc county stores Landbeach	OA East	ccc county stores Landbeach
FOX HIS 14	FOX HIS 14	FOX HIS 14

### Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
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**Notes:**



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black)

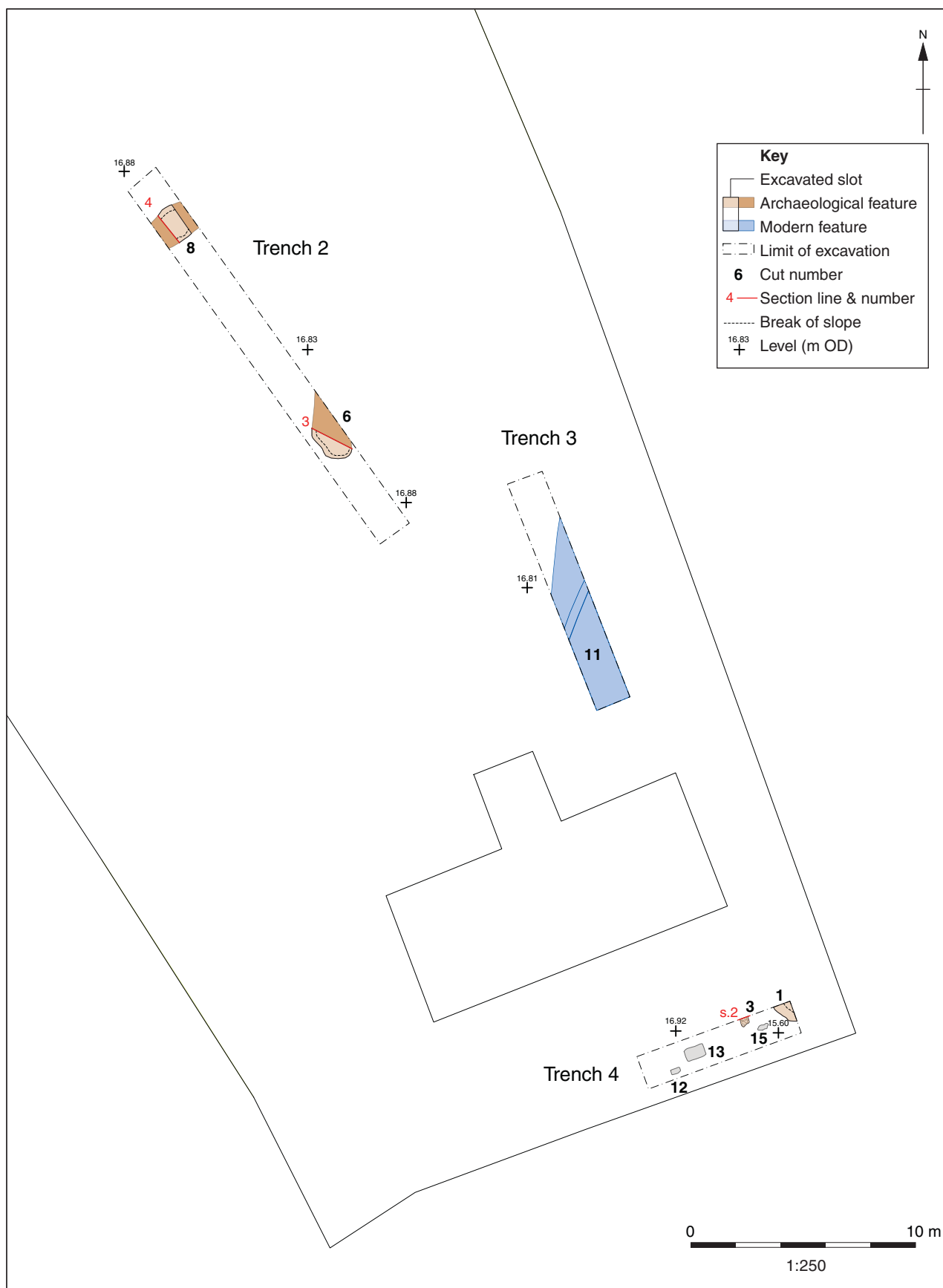
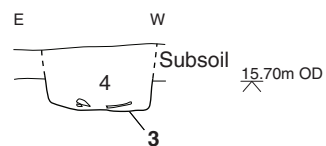
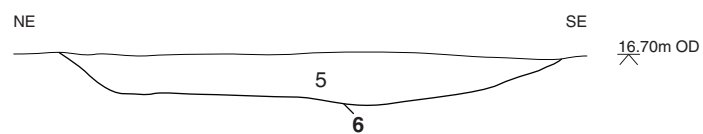


Figure 2: Trench plans

### Section 2



### Section 3



### Section 4

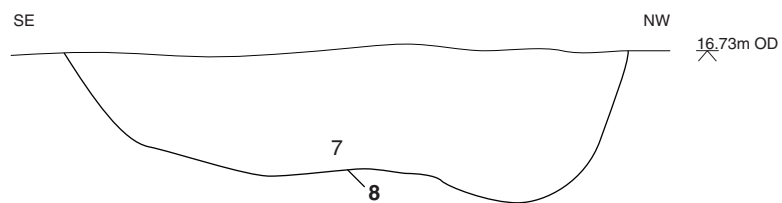


Figure 3: Sections





Plate 1: Trench 4 looking west



Plate 2: Pit 8 looking east





**Head Office/Registered Office/  
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