The Willows, Long Lane, Fowlmere

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Client: DPA Architects for Identified Developments (Fowlmere) Ltd

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The Willows, Long Lane, Fowlmere

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: November 2016

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Date of Works:	November 2016
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Summary

Between 14th and 18th November 2016, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological excavation at the Willows, Fowlmere. Very few finds were recovered from the site despite the relatively large number of features and of interventions excavated within them, and there were no features to suggest occupation in the immediate area with the exception of a potential beam slot. However, the presence of ditches and possible posthole lines, indicates that the site had been divided up and utilised, probably for small-scale agriculture, during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at The Willows, Long lane, Fowlmere, Cambridgeshire (TL 4194 4619).

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.

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 Bedrock Geology is of Zig Zag Chalk Formation with no superficial deposits (British Geological Survey 2014, (British Geological Survey online map viewer viewer http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html).

1.2.2 The land on and surrounding the site is flat and lies at c. 24m aOD. A small ditched watercourse bisects the site, running east into the stream that runs north from Fowlmere and here forms the boundary with Thriplow Parish.

1.2.3 Current land-use is as domestic gardens

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The watercourse that divides Foxton and Thriplow from Fowlmere (flowing north into the Cam or Rhee) is known to have been a focus for archaeological activity from the Bronze Age right through to the Medieval period, when numerous leats were diverted from it to feed moats within the village (these are now scheduled monuments). There is an extensive multi-period scheduled area 0.5km to the north of The Willows which is known for its complex Iron age and Roman archaeology, though earlier remains also lie within the site.

1.3.2 Archaeological investigations undertaken to the south have identified enclosures of Saxo-Norman to Medieval date (HER ECB1848). It is also likely that post medieval development extended along Long Lane from the village core to the south, and post medieval field boundaries are recorded in the immediate vicinity and to all sides of the development area (HER MCB20981).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council, who wrote the brief for this work. The evaluation was directed by Tam Webster, with the assistance of Dan Firth. Richard Mortimer managed the project

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.

2.1.2 In addition, the following objectives were detailed in the written scheme of investigation (Mortimer 2016):

- provide sufficient coverage to establish the form, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits
- provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits
- set results in the local, regional, and national archaeological context – and, in particular, its wider cultural landscape and past environmental conditions
- provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Brief required that seven trenches, totalling c.100m in length be excavated.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Dave Brown using a Leica GS08 GPS.

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 Environmental samples were taken from two features, both of which appeared to contain charcoal.

2.2.7 Site conditions were generally good, although cold

3 Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results are presented below, by trench. In addition, a summary is given of each trench in Appendix A.

3.2 Trenches 1 and 2

3.2.1 Trenches 1 and 2 formed a T-shape at the West of the site, close to Long Lane. Two parallel ditches, perpendicular to the road frontage, (**70** and **74**) continued through both of these trenches on a north-east to south-west alignment. Ditch **70** survived to a width of 1.92m and was 0.66m deep. It was filled by three deposits. The basal fill (71) was a dark brown, sandy silt. It was overlain by deposit 72; a mid greyish brown, sandy silt. The final fill (73) was a dark grey, silty sand. The only find from this feature was a single fragment of animal bone (5g) from deposit 72.

3.2.2 Ditch **74** truncated ditch **70** and was 1.12m wide, with a depth of 0.42m. A single deposit (75) filled this ditch. This deposit was a mid brown, sandy silt, which contained no finds.

3.2.3 Ditch **76** was parallel to and just to the south of, ditches **70** and **74**. It was 1.35m wide and 0.32m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. A single deposit filled this ditch (77), which was a mid greyish brown, sandy silt. No finds were recovered from this feature.

3.2.4 Ditch **78** was perpendicular to ditches **70**, **74** and **76** (and therefore parallel to the road frontage). It continued for 5.20m from the southern end of trench 2, before terminating. Ditch **78** was 0.60m wide, 0.25m deep and filled by a single deposit (79). Deposit 79 was a mid brownish grey, sandy silt. No finds were recovered from this feature.

3.2.5 Two further features (**80** and **82**) were located towards the northern end of trench 2. Both of these features appeared to represent further ditches on the same alignment as ditches **70**, **74** and **76**, however, they may also have been elongated pits. Feature **80** was 0.90m wide, 0.36m deep and had a visible length within the trench of 1.30m. Feature **80** had steeply sloping sides, with a flat base and was filled by a single deposit (81). Deposit 81 was was a mid brownish grey, sandy silt. Two sherds (27g) of 12th-13th century pottery were recovered from the fill of feature **80**.

3.2.6 Feature **82** cut feature **80** and was 0.86m wide, with a depth of 0.20m and a visible length of 1.30m. Feature **82** had moderately sloping sides, with a concave base and was also filled by a single deposit (83). Deposit 83 was a dark grey, sandy silt. Finds from feature **82** comprised three sherds (25g) of 12-13th century pottery and 76g of animal bone.

3.3 Trench 3

3.3.1 A narrow ditch crossed the eastern end of trench 3 on an east to west alignment. This ditch (**51**) was only 0.32m wide and 0.11m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was entirely filled by deposit 50, which was a pale grey, sandy silt. No finds were recovered from this feature. This feature could also represent a beam slot.

3.3.2 Pit **53** was located just to the west of feature **51**. This pit appeared to be sub-circular in plan, although it continued out of the trench to the south. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base, with a width of 1.60m and a depth of 0.18m. Pit **53** was filled by a

single deposit (52), which was a mid brownish grey, sandy silt. No finds were recovered from the excavated section.

3.3.3 Ditch **56** was cut by pit **53**. This ditch was on a north-west to south-east alignment. Ditch **56** was 0.78m wide, with a depth of 0.42m. It had steep sides, with a flat base and was filled by two deposits. The basal fill (55), was a pale grey, sandy silt, from which a single sherd (3g) of 12th-13th century pottery was recovered. The upper fill (54) was a pale greyish brown, sandy silt.

3.3.4 Possible posthole **58** was just to the west of ditch **56**. This posthole was sub-circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Posthole **58** had a diameter of 0.38m and was 0.12m deep. The single fill of the posthole (57) was mid greyish brown, sandy silt.

3.3.5 Just to the west of this posthole was Pit **60**, which was sub-circular in plan, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was 0.82m wide and just 0.09m deep. Deposit 59 entirely filled this pit and it was a mid greyish brown, sandy silt. No finds were found the feature and it may represent a tree hole.

3.3.6 Two parallel ditches (**63** and **67**) crossed the western part of trench 3 on a north-west to south-east orientation. Ditch **63** was 1.12m wide, 0.40m deep and had steeply sloping sides, with a flat base. It was filled by two deposits, the primary fill (62) was a mid grey, sandy silt, which contained no finds. The upper fill (61) was a mid brown, sandy silt, which also contained no finds.

3.3.7 Ditch **67** was 1.10m wide and 0.38m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Three deposits filled this ditch, the basal fill (66) was a very dark grey, sandy silt. No finds were recovered from this deposit, however, an environmental sample produced untransformed leaves, rootlets and seeds (App. B). In the absence of any waterlogging on site, this suggests that deposit 66 was modern. Overlaying deposit 66 was deposit 65, which was a mid yellowish brown, silty sand. The final fill (64) was a pale greyish brown, sandy silt.

3.4 Trench 4

3.4.1 Ditch **63** (trench 3) continued into trench 4 as ditch **68**. A further ditch (**69**) was also present, crossing trench 4 on a north-east to south-west alignment. Ditch **69** may have been re-cut. It appeared to be a continuation of ditches **70**, **74** and possibly **76** from trenches 1 and 2. A live drain cut across Ditch **69**. This trench filled the trench with rain water leaking from the drain and the features within it could not be excavated.

3.5 Trench 5

3.5.1 A group of three possible postholes (**4**, **6** and **8**) was located at the eastern end of trench 5, all three were sub-circular in plan and contained no finds. Posthole **4** had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It had a diameter of 0.32m and was 0.19m deep. Deposit 3 entirely filled this posthole and it was a dark brown, sandy silt.

3.5.2 Posthole **6** had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was truncated by posthole **8**, but survived to a width of 025m and depth of 0.12m. Deposit 5 filled posthole **6** and it was a dark greyish brown, sandy silt.

3.5.3 Posthole **8** had a diameter of 0.40m, with a depth of 0.18m and had steeply sloping sides with a concave base. It was filled by deposit 7, which was a dark greysih brown, sandy silt.

3.5.4 Just to the west of this group of postholes was small pit **10**. This pit was also sub-circular in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a diameter of 0.34m and was 0.16m deep. Deposit 9 filled this feature, which was a dark greyish brown, sandy silt. No finds were recovered from this feature.

3.5.5 Pit **12** was located at the western end of the trench and continued out of the excavated area, so the shape in plan of this feature was uncertain. Pit **12** had gently sloping sides and a flat base, with a depth of 0.15m. Deposit 11 filled this pit and it was a mid greyish brown, sandy silt. A single sherd (11g) of 12th to 13th century pottery was recovered from this feature.

3.6 Trench 6

3.6.1 A group of four possible postholes (**34**, **36**, **41** and **43**) were located at the eastern end of trench 6. Each of these was sub-circular in plan, with moderately sloping or steep sides and concave bases. They had diameters between 0.18m and 0.26m, with depths from 0.05m to 0.06m. Each was filled by a similar deposit, consisting of mid greyish brown, sandy silts, none contained any finds.

3.6.2 Layer 40 was also located at the eastern end of trench 6. the relationship between this deposit and the group of features discussed above was not clear. Deposit 40 consisted of a mid greyish brown, sandy silt, which was up to 0.12m deep and contained no finds. Layer 45 was identified further to the west within trench 6 had the same composition at layer 40.

3.6.3 Ditches **28** and **31** crossed the trench on a north to south alignment, neither contained any finds. Ditch **28** was 1.00m wide and 0.43m deep. It had steeply sloping sides, with a concave base and was filled by two deposits. The basal fill (29) was a mid reddish brown, silty sand. The upper fill (30) was amid grey sandy silt. Ditch **31** cut ditch **28** and it was 1.80m wide and 0.44m deep. Ditch **31** had moderately sloping sides, with a concave base and was also filled by two deposits. The basal fill (32) was a pale grey, sandy silt. The final fill (33) was a mid orangey brown, silty sand.

3.6.4 Possible posthole **48** was at the western end of the trench. This feature was truncated by ditch **46**. Posthole **48** was circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by deposit 49, which was a mid greyish brown, sandy silt. No finds were recovered.

3.6.5 Ditch **46** cut posthole **48** and was located at the very western end of trench 6. The complete width of this ditch was not visible within the excavated area, but the visible width of ditch **46** was 0.68m and it was 0.35m deep. Deposit 47 filled this ditch and this was a mid reddish brown, sandy silt. No finds were recovered from the ditch and it may represent the southern part of Ditch **56** excavated in Trench 3.

3.6.6 In addition, a single tree throw (**38**) was identified close to the centre of the trench. Tree throw **38** was sub-circular in plan, with an irregular profile. It had a diameter of 0.55m and was 0.28m deep. Deposit 39 filled this naturally formed feature and this deposit was a mid brown, sandy silt. No finds were recovered from the feature.

3.7 Trench 7

3.7.1 A line of five possible postholes (**14**, **16**, **18**, **22**, **24**), was recorded in trench 7, following an approximate north to south alignment. These features were all sub-circular in plan, with gently sloping sides and flat bases. They had diameters between 0.25m and 0.46m, with depths from 0.07m to 0.10m. Each was filled by a similar deposit, consisting of mid greyish brown, sandy silts. None contained any finds.

3.7.2 Two larger features, possible pits **20** and **26**, were also excavated within Trench 7. Both were sub-circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and concave bases. Neither contained any finds. Feature **22** had a diameter of 0.68m and was 0.13m deep. It was filled by deposit 19, which was a mid greyish brown, sandy silt. Feature **26** had a diameter of 0.74m and had a depth of 0.28m. A single deposit (25) filled this feature, a pale greyish brown, sandy silt.

3.7.3 Ditch **27** was noted in the north-west corner of trench 7. It appeared to be a continuation of ditch **31**, from trench 6 and as such, it was not excavated.

3.8 Finds Summary

3.8.1 The only artefacts recovered were a small number of medieval pottery sherds. Details of this are given below.

Pottery

3.8.2 A total of seven sherds (66g) of pottery was recovered during the excavation (table 1). This material consists of relatively local coarsewares, which date to the 12th-13th century (Carol Fletcher pers comm). A single rim is present (context 81) which is of pie crust form. The small quantity of material, and relatively small sherd size (average weight 9.4g), does not suggest the assemblage represents direct disposal of waste.

Context	Sherd count	Weight (g)	Comments
11	1	11	
55	1	3	
81	2	27	1 pie crust rim, 1 base sherd
83	3	25	
Total	7	66	

Table 1: Quantification of pottery

3.9 Environmental Summary

3.9.1 Only a quantity of animal bone was recovered from the site and two bulk soil samples were processed by floatation. Details of these are given below.

Faunal remains

3.9.2 A total of 81g of animal bone was recovered from two contexts during the evaluation. A single fragment of bone from a large mammal (5g) was retrieved from context 72. The remaining 76g of material all came from context 83 and consisted of cattle vertebrae and sheep rib (Ant Haskins pers comm).

Environmental samples

3.9.3 Two bulk samples were taken for the recovery of environmental remains. One was taken from ditch **67** in trench 3, while the other came from feature **82** in trench 2. The sample from fill 66 of undated ditch **67** is comprised of rootlets, leaves and occasional seeds of elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.). The plant remains are untransformed in that they are not preserved by carbonisation but it is not clear if they are waterlogged or modern. Sparse charcoal fragments were also noted.

3.9.4 Fill 83 of medieval feature **82** also contains a large proportion of roots and leaves and also contains occasional charred cereal grains that are poorly preserved but are likely

to include wheat (*Triticum* sp.), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and possibly oats (*Avena* sp.). These charred remains possibly originate from midden material. Pottery, animal bone and fired clay were noted in the sample residue.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Medieval and post-medieval land use

4.1.1 Very few finds were recovered from the site despite the relatively large number of features and of interventions excavated within them, and there were no features to suggest occupation with the exception of a potential beam slot. However, the presence of ditches and possible posthole lines, does indicate that this site had been divided up and utilised, probably for small-scale agriculture.

4.1.2 Various ditches appeared to divide the site into plots. Some ditches aligned north-east to south-west (**69**, **70**, **74** and **76**), perpendicular to the course of Long Lane and parallel to an extant ditched watercourse. Further ditches (**65**, **67** and **68**) were perpendicular to these (parallel to the road frontage), potentially forming the back edge of small plots. The date of these is uncertain, with the small quantity of pottery recovered suggesting activity on the site in the 12th-13th century, this could be when the plots were first laid out. However, some of the ditches are clearly of more recent date, suggesting at least a continuation of this land division into the post-medival period, and it is possible that much of the earlier Medieval pottery is residual within later features and derives from manuring of the fields.

4.2 Recommendations

4.2.1 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 contained two ditches, sealed by soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty gravels.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.78
					Width (m)	1.75
					Length (m)	12.50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.42	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained four ditches and two probable pits, sealed by soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty gravels.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.74
					Width (m)	1.75
					Length (m)	18.85
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.42	Subsoil	-	-
70	Cut	1.92	0.66	Ditch	-	-
71	Fill	1.15	0.25	Primary fill of ditch **70**	-	-
72	Fill	0.78	0.18	Fill of ditch **70**	Bone	-
73	Fill	1.05	0.26	Final fill of ditch **70**	-	-
74	Cut	1.12	0.42	Ditch	-	-
75	Fill	1.12	0.42	Fill of ditch **74**	-	-
76	Cut	1.35	0.32	Ditch	-	-
77	Fill	1.35	0.32	Fill of ditch **76**	-	-
78	Cut	0.60	0.25	Ditch	-	-
79	Fill	0.60	0.25	Fill of ditch **78**	-	-
80	Cut	1.30	0.36	?Pit	-	12th-13th century
81	Fill	1.30	0.36	Fill of ?pit **80**	Pottery, bone	12th-13th century
82	Cut	0.86	0.20	?Pit	-	12th-13th century
83	Fill	0.86	0.20	Fill of ?pit **82**	Pottery, bone	12th-13th century

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained four ditches and two probable pits and a posthole, sealed by soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty gravels.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.35
					Width (m)	1.75
					Length (m)	22.40
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
50	Fill	0.32	0.11	Fill of ditch **51**	-	-
51	Cut	0.32	0.11	Ditch	-	-
52	Fill	1.60	0.18	Fill of pit **53**	-	-
53	Cut	1.60	0.18	Pit	-	-
54	Fill	0.78	0.16	Fill of ditch **56**	-	-
55	Fill	0.62	0.28	Fill of ditch **56**	Pottery	12th-13th century
56	Cut	0.78	0.42	Ditch	-	12th-13th century
57	Fill	0.38	0.12	Fill of pothole **58**	-	-
58	Cut	0.38	0.12	Posthole	-	-
59	Fill	0.82	0.09	Fill of pit **60**	-	-
60	Cut	0.82	0.09	Pit	-	-
61	Fill	1.12	0.16	Fill of ditch **63**	-	-
62	Fill	0.92	0.32	Fill of ditch **63**	-	-
63	Cut	1.12	0.42	Ditch	-	-
64	Fill	1.35	0.09	Fill of ditch **67**	-	-
65	Fill	1.02	0.22	Fill of ditch **67**	-	-
66	Fill	0.92	0.32	Fill of ditch **67**	Leaves, rootlets, seeds	Modern
67	Cut	1.10	0.58	Ditch	-	Modern

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two ditches, sealed by soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty gravels.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
					Width (m)	1.75
					Length (m)	7.40
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-

2	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
68	Cut	-	-	Ditch (not excavated)	-	-
69	Cut	-	-	Ditch (not excavated)	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained two ditches, sealed by soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty gravels.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	1.75
					Length (m)	14.50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.32	Subsoil	-	-
3	Fill	0.32	0.19	Fill of posthole **4**	-	-
4	Cut	0.32	0.19	Posthole	-	-
5	Fill	0.25	0.12	Fill of posthole **6**	-	-
6	Cut	0.25	0.12	Posthole	-	-
7	Fill	0.40	0.18	Fill of posthole **8**	-	-
8	Cut	0.40	0.18	Posthole	-	-
9	Fill	0.54	0.16	Fill of pit **10**	-	-
10	Cut	0.54	0.16	Pit	-	-
11	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of pit **12**	Pottery	12th-13th century
12	Cut	-	0.15	Pit	-	12th-13th century?

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained three ditches, four postholes, a pit, a tree throw and a layer, all sealed by soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty gravels.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.60
					Width (m)	1.75
					Length (m)	22.10
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
28	Cut	1.00	0.43	Ditch	-	-
29	Fill	0.76	0.43	Fill of ditch **28**	-	-
30	Fill	0.48	0.32	Fill of ditch **28**	-	-
31	Cut	1.80	0.44	Ditch	-	-
32	Fill	1.80	0.24	Fill of ditch **31**	-	-

33	Fill	1.62	0.20	Fill of ditch **31**	-	-
34	Cut	0.26	0.06	Posthole	-	-
35	Fill	0.26	0.06	Fill of posthole **34**	-	-
36	Cut	0.20	0.05	Posthole	-	-
37	Fill	0.20	0.05	Fill of posthole **36**	-	-
38	Cut	0.55	0.28	Tree throw	-	-
39	Fill	0.55	0.28	Fill of tree throw **38**	-	-
40	Layer	-	0.12	Layer	-	-
41	Cut	0.21	0.05	Posthole	-	-
42	Fill	0.21	0.05	Fill of posthole **41**	-	-
43	Cut	0.18	0.05	Posthole	-	-
44	Fill	0.18	0.05	Fill of posthole **43**	-	-
45	Layer	1.25	-	Layer	-	-
46	Cut	>0.86	0.35	Ditch	-	-
47	Fill	>0.86	0.35	Fill of ditch **46**	-	-
48	Cut	0.48	0.09	Pit	-	-
49	Fill	0.48	0.09	Fill of pit **48**	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained five postholes, two pits and a ditch, all sealed by soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty gravels.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.70
					Width (m)	1.75
					Length (m)	11.50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.42	Subsoil	-	-
13	Fill	0.35	0.07	Fill of posthole **14**	-	-
14	Cut	0.35	0.07	Posthole	-	-
15	Fill	0.55	0.12	Fill of posthole **16**	-	-
16	Cut	0.55	0.12	Posthole	-	-
17	Fill	0.35	0.07	Fill of posthole **18**	-	-
18	Cut	0.35	0.07	Posthole	-	-
19	Fill	0.68	0.13	Fill of pit **20**	-	-
20	Cut	0.68	0.13	Pit	-	-
21	Fill	0.46	0.08	Fill of posthole **22**	-	-
22	Cut	0.46	0.08	Posthole	-	-
23	Fill	0.25	0.10	Fill of posthole **24**	-	-

24	Cut	0.25	0.10	Posthole	-	-
25	Fill	0.72	0.28	Fill of pit **26**	-	-
26	Cut	0.72	0.28	Pit	-	-
27	Cut	-	-	Ditch (not excavated)	-	-

APPENDIX B. ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

B.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area at The Willows, Long Lane, Fowlmere, Cambridgeshire in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from a medieval feature (**82**) in Trench 2 and an undated ditch (**67)** in Trench 3.

Methodology

B.1.2 The total volume (up to 18 litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* (Cappers et al. 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

B.1.3 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and legumes have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

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

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

Results

B.1.4 Fill 66 of undated ditch **67** is comprised of rootlets, leaves and occasional seeds of elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.). The plant remains are untransformed in that they are not preserved by carbonisation but it is not clear if they are waterlogged or modern. Sparse charcoal fragments were also noted.

B.1.5 Fill 83 of medieval feature **82** also contains a large proportion of roots and leaves and also contains occasional charred cereal grains that are poorly preserved but are likely to include wheat (*Triticum* sp.), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and possibly oats (*Avena* sp.).

These charred remains possibly originate from midden material. Pottery, animal bone and fired clay were noted in the sample residue.

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature No.	Feature Type	% context sampled	Trench No.	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm
1	66	67	Ditch	<5%	3	16	150	0	+	+
2	83	82	?	<10%	2	18	200	#	+	+

Table 2: Environmental samples from FOWWIL16

Appendix C. Bibliography

Jacomet, S. 2006 Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites. (2nd edition, 2006) IPNA, Universität Basel / Published by the IPAS, Basel University.

Cappers, R.T.J, Bekker R.M, and Jans, J.E.A. 2006 Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands Groningen Archaeological Studies 4, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde, The Netherlands. www.seedatlas.nl

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

Zohary, D., Hopf, M. 2000 Domestication of Plants in the Old World – The origin and spread of cultivated plants in West Asia, Europe, and the. Nile Valley. 3rd edition. Oxford University Press

Appendix D. OASIS Report Form

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-269995		
Project Name	The Willows, Long Lane, Fowlmere		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	14-11-2016	Finish	18-11-2016
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	FOWWIL16	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	ECB4833	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Rural Residential

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Aerial Photography - interpretation	☐ Grab-Sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Gravity-Core	☒ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
☐ Augering	☒ Measured Survey	☐ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochronological Survey	☒ Metal Detectors	☐ Test Pits
☐ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☐ Topographic Survey
☐ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☐ Fieldwalking	☒ Photographic Survey	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ 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
ditch	Medieval 1066 to 1540	pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
pit	Medieval 1066 to 1540		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	South Cambridgeshire	The Willows, Long Lane, Fowlmere, Royston, SG8 7TG	
Parish	Fowlmere		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	0.4ha	National Grid Reference	TL4194 4619

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Tam Webster

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC stores	OA East, Bar Hill	CCC stores
ECB4833	FOWWIL16	ECB4833

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☒	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☐	☐
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☒	☒
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☒ Database	☐ Aerial Photos
☐ GIS	☒ Context Sheet
☐ Geophysics	☐ Correspondence
☒ Images	☐ Diary
☒ Illustrations	☐ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☐ Spreadsheets	☐ Map
☒ Survey	☐ Matrices
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☐ Research/Notes
	☐ Photos
	☒ Plans
	☒ Report
	☒ Sections
	☐ Survey

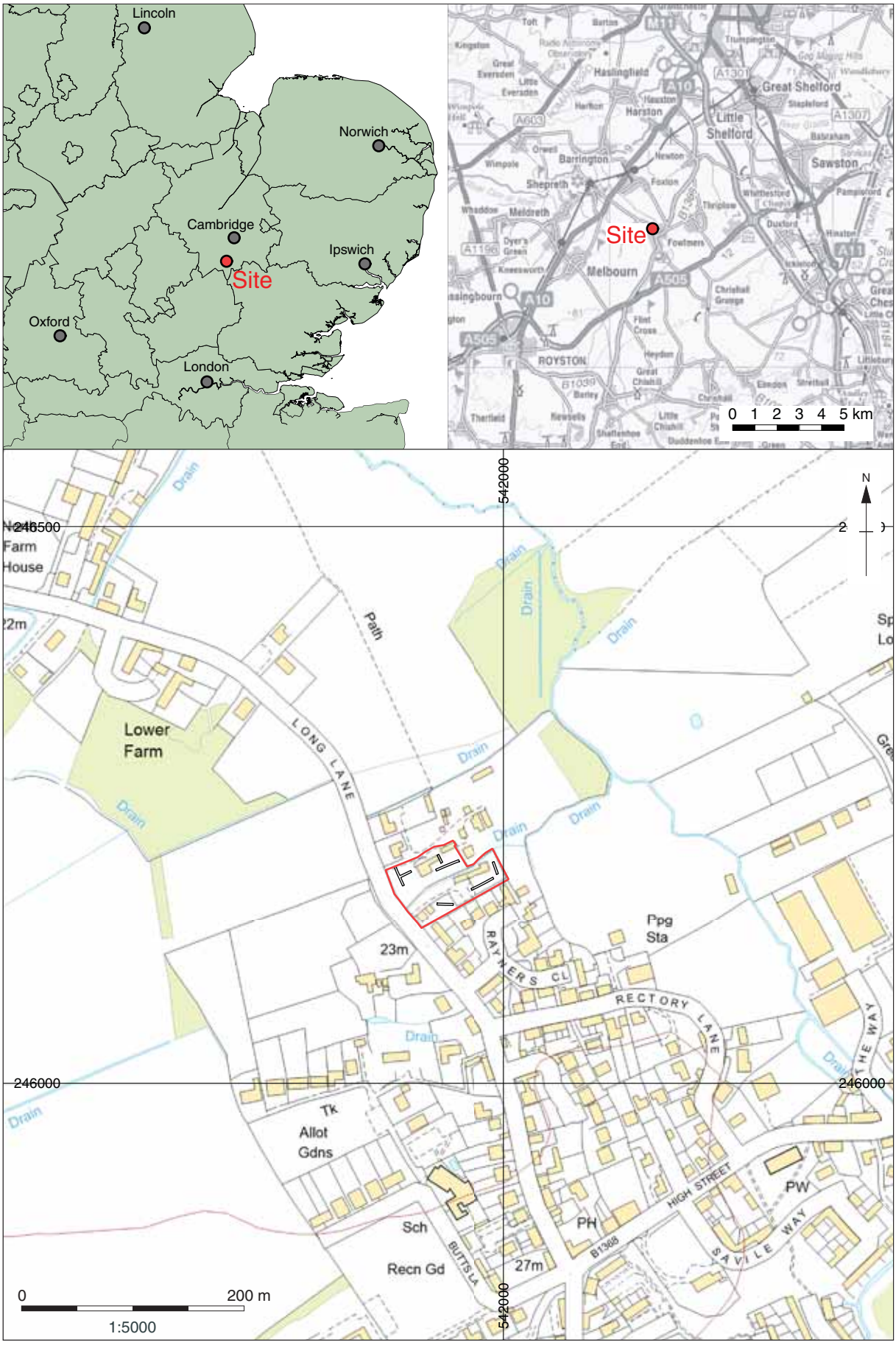

Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

Figure 2: 1st edition OS map, 1888

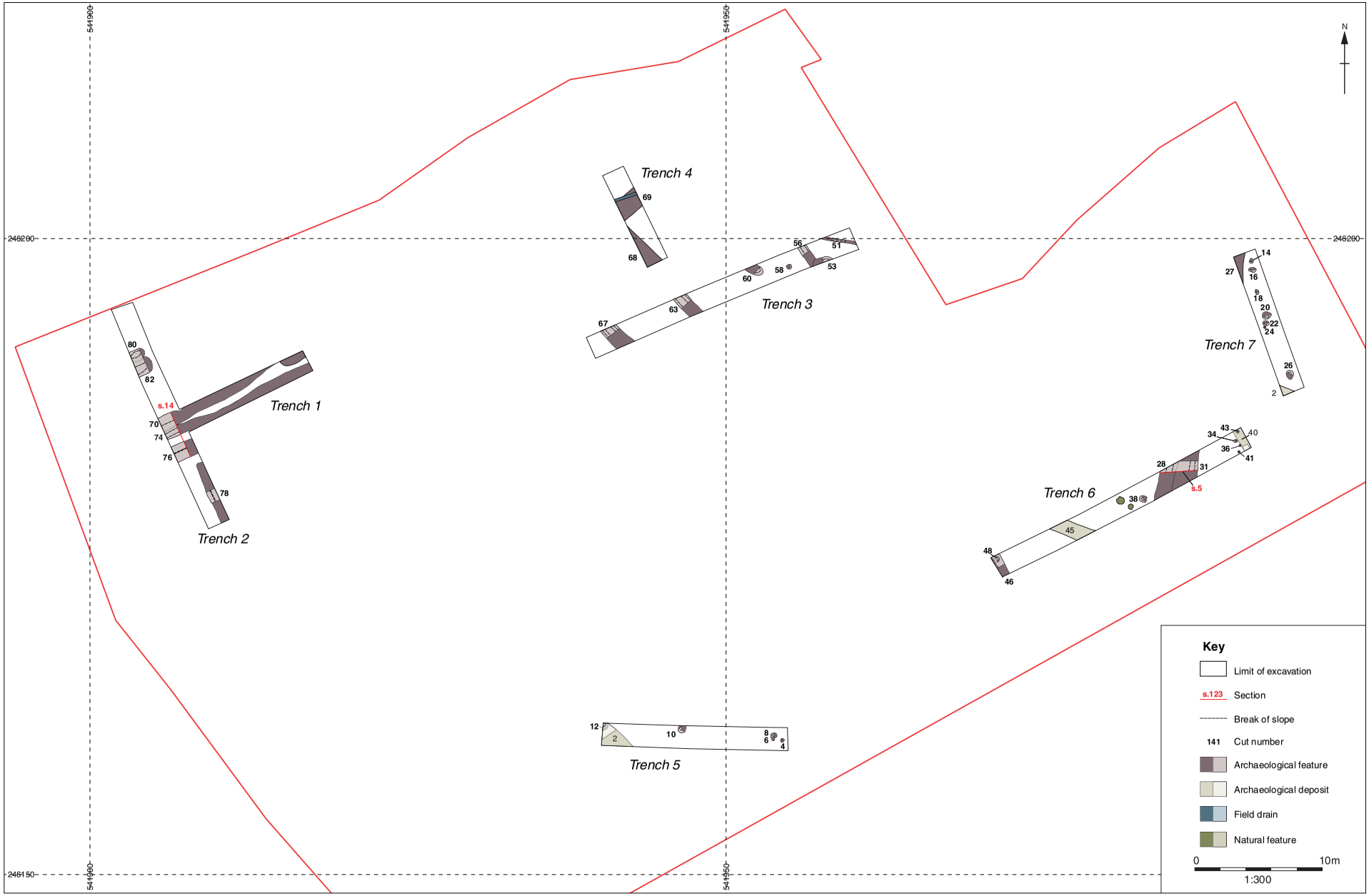

Figure 3: Plan of evaluation trenches

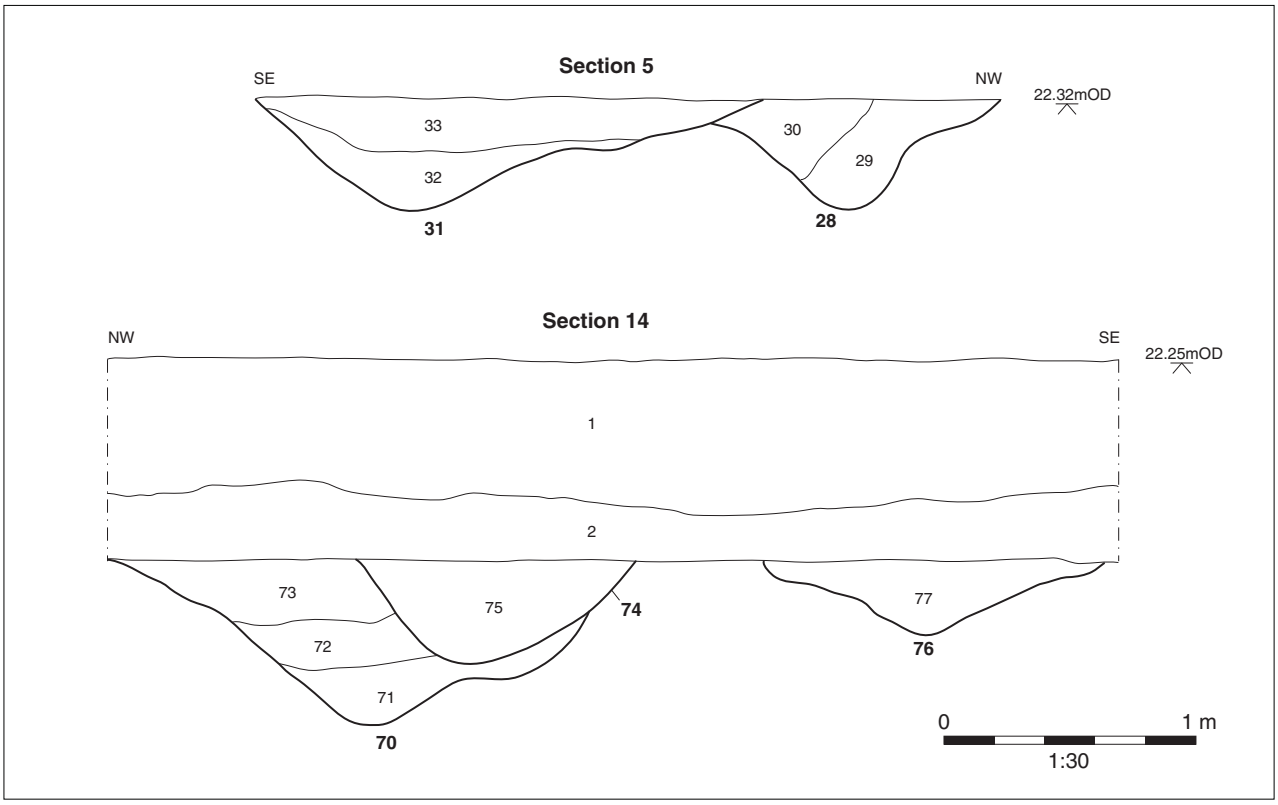

Figure 4: Selected Sections

Plate 1: Trench 1 from the West

Plate 2: Ditch **67** from the south

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