cambridgeshire archaeology
archaeological field unit

CCC AFU Report Number 882

Post-medieval landscaping at Kimbolton School, Cambridgeshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

Glenn Bailey
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July 2006

Cambridgeshire County Council
Environment & Community Services

Commissioned by RMJM

Cover Images

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Roman corn dryer, Duxford	Guided walk along Devil's Dyke
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An Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

In early June 2006, Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Kimbolton School, Kimbolton, in advance of the construction of a new school building.

The evaluation revealed features relating to several phases of land use over discontinuous periods, possibly from the prehistoric through to modern times.

Three small ditches were exposed that were possibly prehistoric in origin but unconfirmed due to lack of artefactual evidence.

A single Roman pit containing a small amount of pottery was also found.

A very large, though unfortunately undated, ditch that was possibly part of the 13th to 14th century medieval moat system associated with the castle, was also exposed.

Most significantly, a series of layers, ditches and conduits were exposed which gave a tantalising insight into some of the extensive post-medieval landscaping and drainage systems that took place in the grounds of the, by then, manor house estate.

Further features associated with the more recent period and the modern school were recorded.

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1 Introduction

The site is located on the western side of the grounds of Kimbolton School, between the ancient site of Castle Hill and the relocated medieval manor of Kimbolton Castle. The school lies at the southern end of Kimbolton village, in the county of Cambridgeshire (see Fig.1).

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application H/05/02437), supplemented by a Specification prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CCC AFU).

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 *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CAPCA, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority; with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by CAM ARC (formerly CCC AFU) and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

2 Geology and Topography

The site overlies the first terrace river gravels of the River Kym according to the geological maps (British Geological Survey). During excavation the river gravels were not encountered. A natural deposit of underlying clay was exposed. The fact that the evaluation of was of a small area, on relatively high ground and had been subject to extensive landscaping could account for this seeming anomaly in the expected geology.

The present grounds have been subject to artificial terracing. The archaeological trenches being located close to the northern edge of a broad terrace on which the greater part of the grounds is set. This terrace was disturbed during the building of a modern school block within the last thirty years.

The site lies at an average height of 35.4mOD. A small drop in ground level of 0.3m was recorded across site (15m) from the southeast to northwest, as the aforementioned terrace reaches its northern limit.

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Stray finds of prehistoric date have been made in the vicinity including a Mesolithic hammerstone (HER 01705) and a Neolithic mace head

(HER 00239). Roman finds from the area include pottery (HER 00410) and a coin (HER 00416) but although there is no direct settlement evidence. An iron spearhead (HER 00918) of possible Iron Age or Saxon date was found in the village.

Southwest of the site lies Castle Hill (Scheduled Ancient monument 27171/ CB15402), a motte and bailey castle dating back to the mid 12th century. A medieval fishpond lies south of the castle (HER00238). Kimbolton castle (HER 00412) is largely 18th century but had been built on a 12th century moated site for which no remains are visible.

Extensive ridge and furrow lies to the southeast with an associated hollow way and track way. Stray finds of medieval pottery have been made (HER 00690a/ 00415).

Apart from the castle mentioned above, another moated site lies in the vicarage garden (HER 00690). The site lies in the bounds of Kimbolton Park (HER 12327), laid out in the 16th century but now arable.

3.1 Kimbolton Castles early years

Although perhaps best known as the final home (and prison) of King Henry VIII's first queen, Catherine of Aragon, the castle has had an interesting and complex history in terms of both the ownership and the building itself.

The original Norman structure was a wooden motte and bailey castle built on the leeward side of a hill less than one kilometre from to the southwest of the present building. This initial phase is still visible as a wooded mound delimited by the outline of the original course of the moat.

In the reign of King John, Geoffrey Fitzpiers, the Earl of Essex built a new castle, relocated to the site of the present building.

During the first half of the Tudor period the estate passed through various hands until it came under the control of the Wingfield family.

The 13-14th century quadrangular medieval castle and moat was subsequently rebuilt as a Tudor manor house, remains of which still survive. Catherine of Aragon, its most famous resident, was sent here in 1534, dying two years later due to poor health.

3.2 Earls and Dukes of Manchester

The castle was purchased by Sir Henry Montagu, later 1st Earl of Manchester, in 1615. Charles Edward Montagu, the 4th Earl who was created 1st Duke of Manchester in 1719, invested heavily in the estate between 1690 and 1720.

The then country house was remodelled in 1707 by Sir John Vanbrugh and his assistant Nicholas Hawksmoor. The redesigned facades were in a classical style designed to incorporate battlements as an architectural echo of its castle history. Significant interior enhancement followed from 1708, including work by Venetian painter Giovanni Antonio Pellegrini.

For a later duke, Robert Adam produced plans for the castle gatehouse and other garden buildings, including an orangery, although of these, only the gatehouse was actually built (c.1764).

Mews buildings were added to provide stables, and a magnificent avenue of Giant Sequoias was planted in the 19th century.

Following the Royal Army Medical Corps use of the castle during World War II the castle was sold to Kimbolton School, bringing to an end the 335-year history of the Dukes of Manchester's ownership.

4 Methodology

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.

The Brief required that 5 per cent of the development area was to be sampled.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

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 that were obviously modern.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using CCC AFU'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.

Environmental samples were taken from feature(s) that were deemed suitable.

Site conditions were generally good. Excessive sunshine and groundwater seepage caused minor problems during excavation.

Four trenches were set out on the site so as to give the most comprehensive sample of any underlying archaeological remains (see Fig.2).

5 Results

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was 4m long, running northwest to southeast and was the northernmost of the trenches cut during the evaluation. Seven layers were identified below ground level. Starting with the uppermost they were as follows:

Layer (01) was the topsoil present over the whole trench, the thickness ranging from 0.30m at the NW end, thinning gradually to 0.20m at the SE end.

Layer (50), an orangey blue clay below the topsoil, ranging from 0.14m to 0.22m thick along the trench.

Layer (51), a dark grey clayey silt, 0.10m to 0.24m thick. This deposit and the two overlying it have relatively straight upper and lower horizons.

Layer (52), a mid-brownish grey silty clay, 0.65m thick at its greatest exposure, tapering up to a point at 1m from the NW end of trench.

Layer (53), a mid-orange sandy gravel, occurring as a 0.10m thick layer sloping gradually down to the limit of excavation 1.2m below ground level.

Layer (67), a mid-brownish grey silty clay, 0.22m to 0.32m thick, gently sloping down to the SE.

Layer (68), a mid-yellowish brown clay, 0.30m at its thickest exposed point. This deposit represents a natural layer.

In the far SE end of the trench a modern gas pipe was revealed. This compromised the further excavation of this part of the trench (see Fig.3 for section illustration).

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was 27m long, running SW to NE, and joined with Trench 3 13m from the NE end. It contained a number of features and layers. Starting with the layers, they were as follows:

Topsoil (01) varied in depth from 0.4m to 0.22m, with the largest thickness in the SW end.

Layer (33) consisted of orange clay, and was 0.30m thick.

Layer (34) consisted of orange clayey silt. This layer was a maximum of 0.36m thick.

Layer (39) consisted of pale yellow clay with frequent inclusions of gravel and was presumed to represent natural geology.

No distinction could be made between layer 33 and layer 34 towards the NE, where the two layers seemed to merge.

Layer (43) / (54) consisted of pale yellow / brown silty clay, and varied in depth between 0.04m and 0.20m.

Layer (44) / (55) consisted of dark brownish grey clayey silt, and had a maximum depth of 0.24m.

Layer (45) / (56) consisted of a pale yellow brown mix of gravel, clay and silt, with a minimum depth of 0.08m and a maximum depth of 0.28m.

Layer (46) / (57) was a pale grey brown silty clay which varied in depth between 0.24m and 0.50m.

Layer (47) consisted of bricks and mortar and was presumed to represent the remains of a brick conduit, similar in outline to brick conduit **65** in Trench 4, though much wider. The layer was 1.70m wide and a maximum of 0.18m thick.

Layer 48 / 58 consisted of dark brownish grey clayey silt and was between 0.12m and 0.28m thick.

Layer (49) was a mid-yellowish brown clay, presumed to represent natural geology.

Layer (59) consisted of mid-brownish grey silty clay, and was 0.15m thick.

Layer (60) consisted of mid-brownish grey silty clay, with inclusions of charcoal, and was 0.20m deep.

Ditch **53** was aligned E to W. The ditch was 0.28m deep and 1.40m wide. It contained three fills: 50, 51 and 52.

Fill (50) was a greyish brown silty clay. It was 0.16m deep and was 1.30m wide.

Fill (51) was a orangey brown silty clay. It was 0.10m deep and was 1.30m wide.

Fill (52) consisted of redeposited / weathered natural orange clay. It was 0.04m thick and 0.40m wide.

Modern drainpipe **41** was E to W aligned and was truncated by pipe trench **42**.

Modern pipe trench **42** was E to W aligned and was encountered in the centre of Trench 2, where Trench 3 and Trench 2 met. The pipe trench was 2.40m wide in section (though truncated by Trench 2) and more than 1.10m deep (depth of Trench 2).

Ditch **62** was E to W aligned and encountered in the north part of Trench 2. It was 0.70m wide and 0.12m deep and contained a single fill 61.

Fill (61) was a black silty layer with frequent inclusions of charcoal and chalk fragments, completely filling ditch **62**.

Ditch **66** was very wide and deep, and aligned NW to SE. The ditch was more than 4.80m wide and more than 1.10m deep.

It was not possible to bottom the feature, and although parts of the edge of the feature was observed in the SW as well as in the NE, it remained difficult to establish the exact dimensions of the ditch.

Ditch **66** contained four fills: 35, 36, 37 and 38. It was not possible to prove for certain that they were true fills of ditch **66**, rather than layers slumping into the feature.

Fill (35) consisted of greyish mid-brown clay. The maximum thickness of the fill was 0.18m, and the recorded width was 10.90m.

Fill (36) was 0.22m thick and 5.98m wide, and it consisted of greyish mid-brown clayey silt.

Fill (37) varied in depth between 0.12m and 0.22m, and the recorded width was 11.44m. The fill consisted of greyish mid-brown silty clay.

Fill (38) consisted of greyish mid-brown clay. The fill varied in depth from 0.12m to more than 0.65m – the layer was not bottomed in the centre of ditch **66**. The recorded width of the fill was 10.42m. One cow humerus and two cow teeth (upper jaw molars) were retrieved from the fill.

See Fig.3 for section illustrations.

5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was 13m long, running NW to SE, and joined with Trench 3 at the SE end. An additional 3m was excavated at the NW end, for access purposes.

Two pipe trenches, a service trench, one pit and four layers were identified in Trench 3. Starting with the latest in the archaeological sequence, they were as follows:

Modern service trench **64** was encountered at the NW end of the trench. The service trench was more than 4m wide (continued outside the area of excavation), and 1m deep at the largest recorded depth. The service trench had six fills, (22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27), that were mixed clay / silt / rubble layers.

Topsoil **01** varied in depth between 0.32m in the SE to 0.18m in the NW.

Modern pipe trench **42** was encountered at the SE end of the trench. The pipe trench was 1.30m wide in section (though truncated by Trench 2) and more than 1.20m deep (depth of Trench 3)

Pipe trench **63** ran on a SSW to NNE alignment in trench 3.

Layer (18) varied in depth between 0.42m in the SE to 0.20m in the NW. It consisted of mid-grey and orange clay. The layer contained one sherd of 2nd – 3rd century Nene Valley Greyware.

Layer (19) varied in depth from 0.18m to 0.24m, and consisted of mid-grey and orange clayey silt.

Layer (20) varied in depth between 0.16m in the SE to approximately 0.40m in the NW.

Pit **32** was 2.60m wide and only 0.30m deep at its maximum depth. It contained three fills, (29, 30, and 31).

Fill (29) was 0.16m deep and 1.96m wide, and consisted of grey chalky clay. This fill contained one large sherd of 1st – 2nd century Samian Ware, and a very small piece of 3rd – 4th century Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware.

Fill (30) was 2.30m wide and 0.12m deep at the deepest recorded point, and consisted of mid brownish grey silty clay. This fill contained one sherd of Shelley Ware, possibly late Roman, from Harrold in Bedfordshire.

Fill (31) was 2.60m wide and 0.08m deep at the deepest recorded point, and consisted of mid orangey brown clay.

Layer (21) was 0.20m deep at its greatest recorded thickness, and consisted of light orange clay.

Layer (28) consisted of orange sandy silt, and was presumed to be natural.

In addition, massive root disturbances were encountered in this trench. See Fig.3 for section illustrations.

5.4 Trench 4

A number of features and layers were identified in this trench. Starting with the earliest in the sequence they were as follows:

Ditch **70** was 0.60m wide and 0.05m deep. The alignment was E to W. This feature was cut by drain **14** in the W and by brick drain **65** in the E. It was not visible in the section. Filling the ditch was (69), a mid grey clayey silty layer. It was assumed that this ditch belonged to an earlier phase of land use not associated with the extensive drainage systems discussed below.

Drain **14** was at least 2.15m wide and 0.30m deep and aligned northeast to southwest. It was cut as a broad, shallow ditch with convex sides. Determining its original measurements was problematic due to massive truncation on either side. The exposed natural clay 1m to the southeast indicated that it might have been in excess of 4m wide with a minimum width based on the recorded section of at least 2m. Stratigraphic relationships show that this was the earliest drainage ditch revealed in Trench 4.

The main deposit within **14** was (12), a mid orange brown clay silt at least 1.16m wide and 0.32m deep. Sealing this was (05), a 0.05m thick black silt layer with tile fragment inclusions. Deposit (05) was, in all probability remains of the vegetation growing in the ditch.

Drain **65** was aligned southwest to northeast. The construction cut for this system lies directly over an undisturbed natural clay deposit. No indication of contemporary deposits overlying this natural clay was evident which indicates that the topsoil and subsoil were stripped (to at least 0.80m) and not replaced. It measures at least 1.40m wide at its broadest point reducing to 0.86m at its base and 0.20m deep.

The brickwork (10) that lies at both edges of the base is composed of two single courses, some pitched up to 20° from the horizontal, towards the centre of the cut. The bricks were un-frogged; hand made using a frame and bat and probably produced relatively locally. The fabric of the bricks was a coarse red sandy with large naturally derived inclusions of organic slag and flint pebbles. Their dimensions suggest a late17th century to Victorian date.

Filling the cut for the conduit and overlying the bricks is a re-deposited orange-brown clay (09) that may be a result of the silting up of the open drain. Alternatively, this could have been deliberately moulded to form a water-resistant bank to assist the flow of water into the brick-lined channel. Deposit (09) is truncated to the northwest by a later feature, but to the southeast it extends over the natural clay as a deposit some 5cm thick to the limits of excavation approximately half a metre away. Sealing the south-eastern part of (09) is a dark orange-brown silt clay (08) up to 0.28m thick. It is not clear whether the constructional or incidental theory for the deviation of (09) is more appropriate. Overlying fill (09), but cut by the later ditch **11** was layer (08), a dark orangey brown silty clay.

Ditch **11** appeared to be a re-cut of brick conduit **65** and following on the same alignment. The depth of this ditch was 0.50m and the width 0.78m. Deposit (07), a greyish mid-brown clayey silt deposit, filled the ditch.

Ditch **06** appeared to be a re-cut of drain **14**. The width of the ditch was 0.65m and the depth was 0.32m. The ditch was aligned northeast to southwest. Layer (04) filled this feature.

The partial absence of deposit (05) in **14** ditch defined the lower horizon of a further cut. This partial re-cut **06**, was 0.70m wide and "U" shaped. It was most likely dug to facilitate the burial of a ceramic conduit.

A narrow trench, **71,** in which the ceramic drain (13) was placed had vertical sides and filled by a relatively inclusion-free element of (04), rather than a recognisably distinct deposit.

The drain conduit, consisting of pairs of box tiles (13) with small pieces of slate covering the points at which they abut. The presence of box tiles in the base of this drain required some careful re-examination of the sequence of cutting and truncation to understand the complicated way in which water management had been dealt with on the estate. The box tile was well made with a smooth surface finish and dated to the early 19th century.

The fill of this ditch (04) was such that it seems to have been back-filled to nearly level following the conduit placement. This would have buried the drain, thereby reducing silting up of the watercourse, and would have the added consequence of allowing for greater flexibility and use following this landscaping. Layer (04) was a dark brownish grey clayey silt, 0.10m to 0.85m thick with inclusions of brick and rubble.

Ditch cut **17** was the most recent of those exposed in this trench, being cut from present ground level to at least 1.20m, and 1.80m wide at the

top, with sloping sides. A modern pipe trench, **17,** was identified in the NE end of the trench, cutting through all layers, including the topsoil. The pipe trench had two fills, (15) and (16). Fill (15) was a dark brown clayey and sandy silt, with inclusions of brick and chalk fragments, up to 0.56m deep. Fill (16) was a brown / dark grey clay, again with inclusions of brick and chalk fragments, up to 0.64m deep.

Layer (03) was a dark brown clayey and silty layer between 0.20m and 0.38m thick.

Layer (02) was a thin layer of orange clay. The maximum depth of this layer was 0.08m.

The topsoil (01) varied in depth between 0.10m and 0.16m.

Drain cuts **65** and **11** were also identified in Trench 3. The orientation of **17** was such that in Trench 3 it truncated any evidence of the other ditches found in Trench 4.

See Fig.3 for section illustrations.

Drains present in Trench 4 (and related to the 1763 Estate Plan)

The surprisingly well executed 1763 Estate Plan of Kimbolton Castle and its environs (see Fig.4) shows an extensive linear boundary or alignment that has been identified by Dr David Brown as most probably relating to one of the features exposed in Trench 4 of the archaeological evaluation.

It is important to assess which of the six successive water conduits and drains revealed in Trench 4 can most probably be associated with the alignments shown on the 1763 Estate Plan.

A more detailed examination of the estate, its landscaping and drainage systems is warranted here due to the importance of the Castle. Which one of the series of water conduit(s) revealed in trench 4 this will be is discussed below.

The drainage system ditches and trenches were numbered as encountered, and are here reviewed in stratigraphic order starting with the earliest; **14, 65, 11, 06, 71** and finally **17**. This sequence can be followed using Section 6 in Figure 3.

14

This drain was cut as a broad, shallow ditch with convex sides. Determining its original measurements was problematic due to massive truncation on either side. The exposed natural clay 1m to the southeast indicated that it might have been in excess of 4m wide with a minimum, conservative judgement (based on the recorded section)

width of at least 2m. Stratigraphic relationships show that this was the earliest drainage ditch revealed in trench 4.

The main deposit within **14** was (12), a mid orange brown clay silt at least 1.16m wide and 0.32m deep. Sealing this was (05), a 0.05m thick black silt layer with tile fragment inclusions. (05) was, in all probability remnants of the vegetation growing in the ditch.

65

The construction cut of this system lies directly over an undisturbed natural clay deposit. No indication of the deposits overlying this natural clay was evident which indicates that the topsoil and subsoil was stripped (for at least 1m) and not replaced. It measures at least 1.40m wide at its broadest point reducing to 0.86m at its base. The brickwork (10) that lies at the edges of the base is a single course pitched at approximately 20° from the horizontal, towards the centre of the cut. Overlying the bricks is a redeposited orange-brown clay (09) that may be a result of the silting up of the open drain. Alternatively, it could have been deliberately moulded to form a water resistant bank to assist the flow of water into the brick-lined channel. (09) is truncated to the northwest by a later feature but to the southeast it continues over the natural clay as a deposit some 5cm thick to the limits of excavation approximately half a metre away. Sealing the southeastern part of (09) is a dark orange-brown silt clay (08) up to 0.28m thick. Both the deliberate constructional and the incidental theories of the derivation of (09) are possible.

11

A "U" shaped ditch at least 0.70m wide sunk into the existing drain **65**. The material in-filling the brick-lined channel formed by (10) was a mid grey-brown clay silt (07). The base of (07) was 0.12m below the bricks and the upper horizon is stratigraphically overlying secondary deposit (08). This indicates that (07) was formed following further maintenance work (i.e. the cleaning out of the drain) and has been designated as a separate cut – **11**.

06

(05) defined the lower horizon of a re-cutting of ditch **14**. This partial re-cut **06**, was 0.70m wide and "U" shaped. It was most likely dug to facilitate the burial of a ceramic conduit consisting of pairs of box tiles (13) that had small pieces of slate covering the points at which they abut. The fill of this ditch (04) was such that it seems to have been back-filled to nearly level following the conduit placement.

71

The trench, into which the ceramic drain was placed, **71**, was vertically sided and filled by a relatively inclusion-free element of (04), rather than a substantially different soil. The presence of box tiles in the base of this drain required some careful re-examination of the sequence of

cutting and truncation to understand the complicated way in which water management had been dealt with on the estate.

17
This ditch was the most recent of those exposed in this trench, being cut from present ground level. It was 1.80m wide and cut to at least 1.20m below present ground level.

65 and **11** were also identified in trench 3. The orientation of **17** was such that it truncated any evidence of the other ditches found in trench 4.

Therefore, final analysis of the sequence of drain cutting is, with the earliest first: **14, 65, 11, 06, 71** and finally **17**.

Discussion

Roman

The evaluation revealed very little evidence of Roman activity. One sherd of Roman Grey Ware was found in layer **18** and can be assumed to be residual.

One sherd of (late Roman) Shelley Ware was found in (30), a fill of pit **32.** Two sherds, one Samian and one Colour Coated Ware, were both found in fill (29), also a fill of pit **32**. Although the Samian Ware is probably of a 1st – 2nd century date, the indications are that pit **32** is of a late Roman date (3rd – 4th century).

Medieval

The evaluation revealed no firm evidence of medieval activity. Ditch **66,** however, may represent a medieval moat associated with the castle as noted in historic texts, possibly backfilled in the early post-medieval period. The reasons for this interpretation are that:

- ditch **66** was very deep and very wide. The full width and depth of this feature was in fact not revealed, because of its massive scale and the limits of the trenching.
- the feature clearly predates the post-medieval phases of landscaping, and may be medieval of date.
- the location is not far from Kimbolton Castle.

Further excavation would be necessary to determine how this ditch fits into the known scheme of the medieval moated castles layout.

Post-Medieval

Most of the features and layers encountered during the evaluation relate to post-medieval landscaping or water management. An intensive effort during the post-medieval (and possibly late medieval) period was made to control drainage on the estate, as highlighted by the series of ditches and drains uncovered during the excavation.

The archaeological sequence is quite complex, and also quite difficult to interpret. In the post-medieval period, it seems that the land was landscaped and levelled with layers of clay and silt (03, 04, 18, 19, 20, 33, 34, 43, 44, 45, 46, 50, 51, 52, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59).

The fills of ditch **66** (35, 36, 37, 38) are probably of a similar date – though it is possible that they are earlier.

Pipe trench **63**, which is obviously quite a late feature, was thought to be a stopcock designed to regulate the water level between two ponds. It seems to predate the very last phase of landscaping.

Fragments of post-medieval bricks are common to several layers, and probably represents demolition material from a nearby building or structure. Two sherds of 18th – 19th century Redware were also found unstratified.

Modern

Several modern features were encountered, including land drain **41**, pipe trench **42**, service trenches **17** and **64,** and a gas pipe. These features were thought to relate to the modern school.

Undated

Some layers seem to relate to early land surfaces (48, 53, 67, 60, 61). These layers could not be dated, though they are possibly medieval or earlier in date.

The three ditches **53**, **62** and **70** could also not be dated, but were early in the archaeological sequence and could possibly be medieval or earlier in date.

Small finds

Two finds were recovered from the site; a very thin length of iron wire, coiled in an irregular circular shape was retrieved from the turf topsoil, layer 1.

A complete iron buckle, highly corroded was retrieved from deposit 54, located immediately below very thin topsoil in trench 1. The deposit was between 0.03m and 0.16m from the present ground level.

Both of these finds were from deposits that had been re-deposited following the construction of a school building to the north.

7 Conclusions

One Roman pit was recorded along with three small undated, but early ditches, and a very large undated ditch. The large ditch may represent a medieval moat, though the evidence was not conclusive.

Many post-medieval build-up layers and water management features were encountered during the evaluation, as well as modern service trenches relating to the school.

The estate had clearly been subject to problems relating to the management of ground water. This may have been additionally confounded by the extensive and massive changes in the layout of the estates drainage and ground levels. The presence of high ground to the south and west along with underlying clay would have meant that such problems were inextricably associated with the relocation of the castle during the medieval period.

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

Acknowledgements

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Thanks also to Dr David Brown of David Brown Landscape Design for supplying valuable information regarding the historic layout of the estate that furthered significantly the understanding and interpretation of the archaeological remains uncovered during the evaluation.

The brief for archaeological works was written by Andy Thomas, who visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

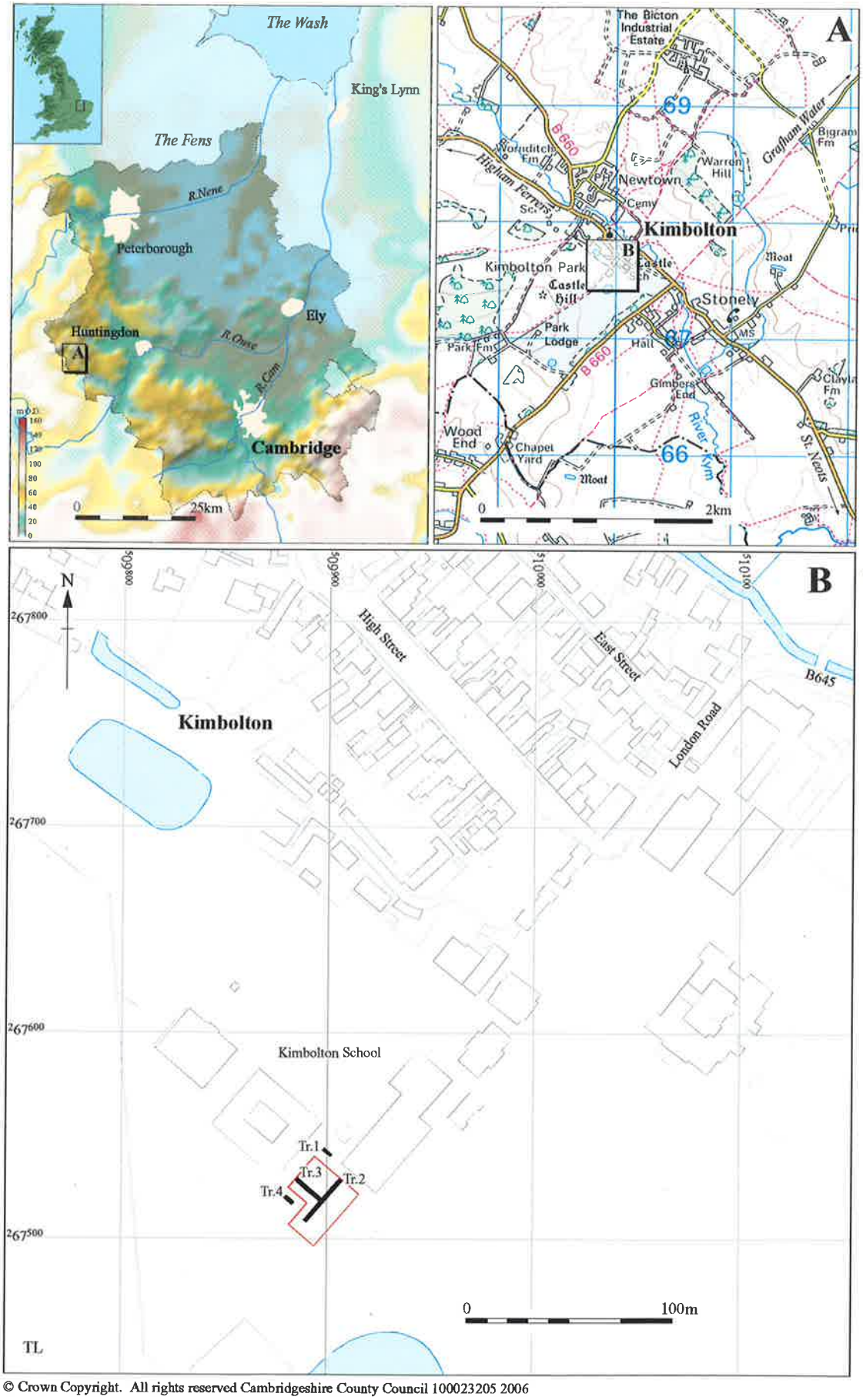


Figure 1: Site location showing position of trenches (black) and development area (red)

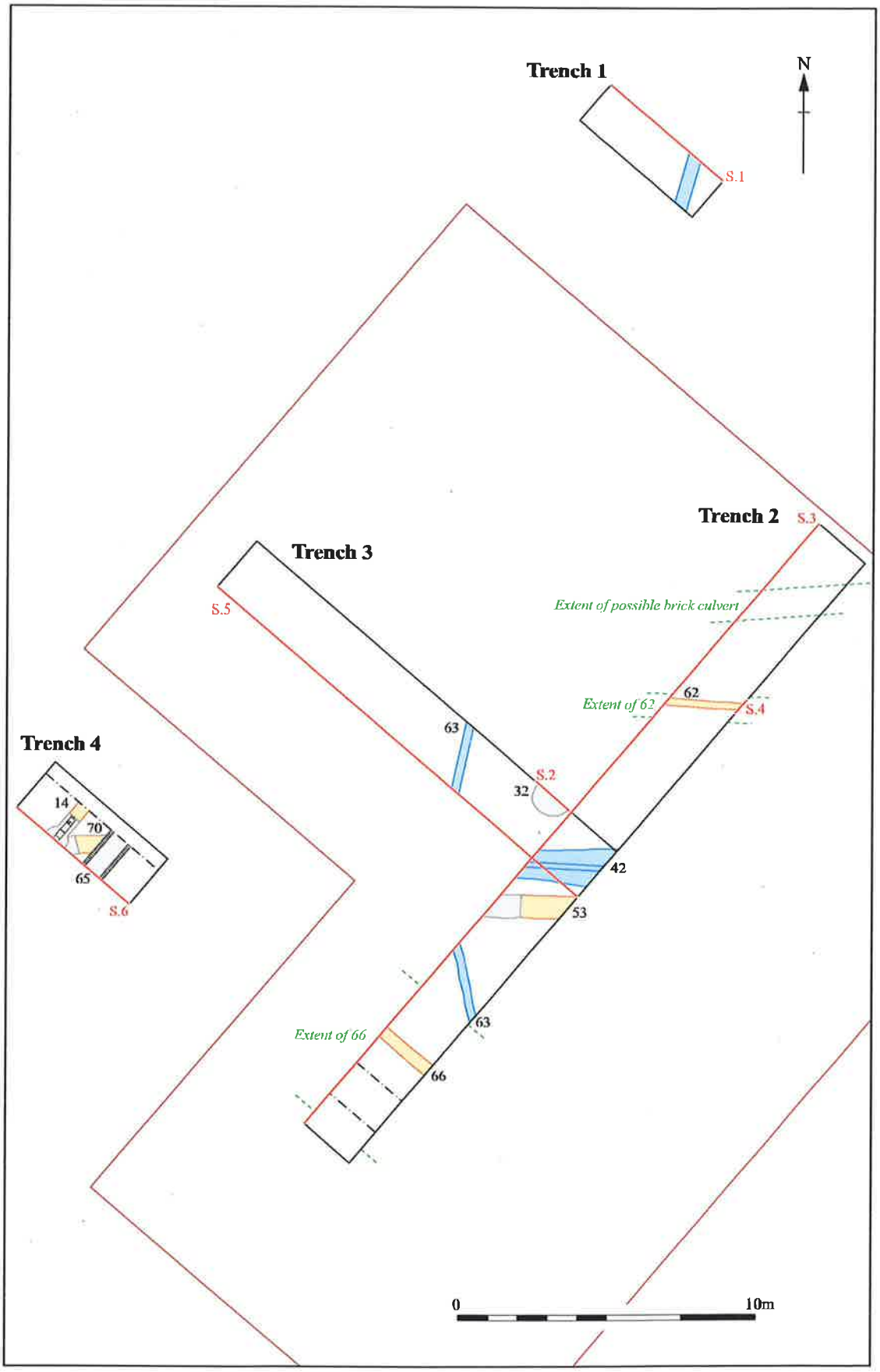


Figure 2: Trench plan

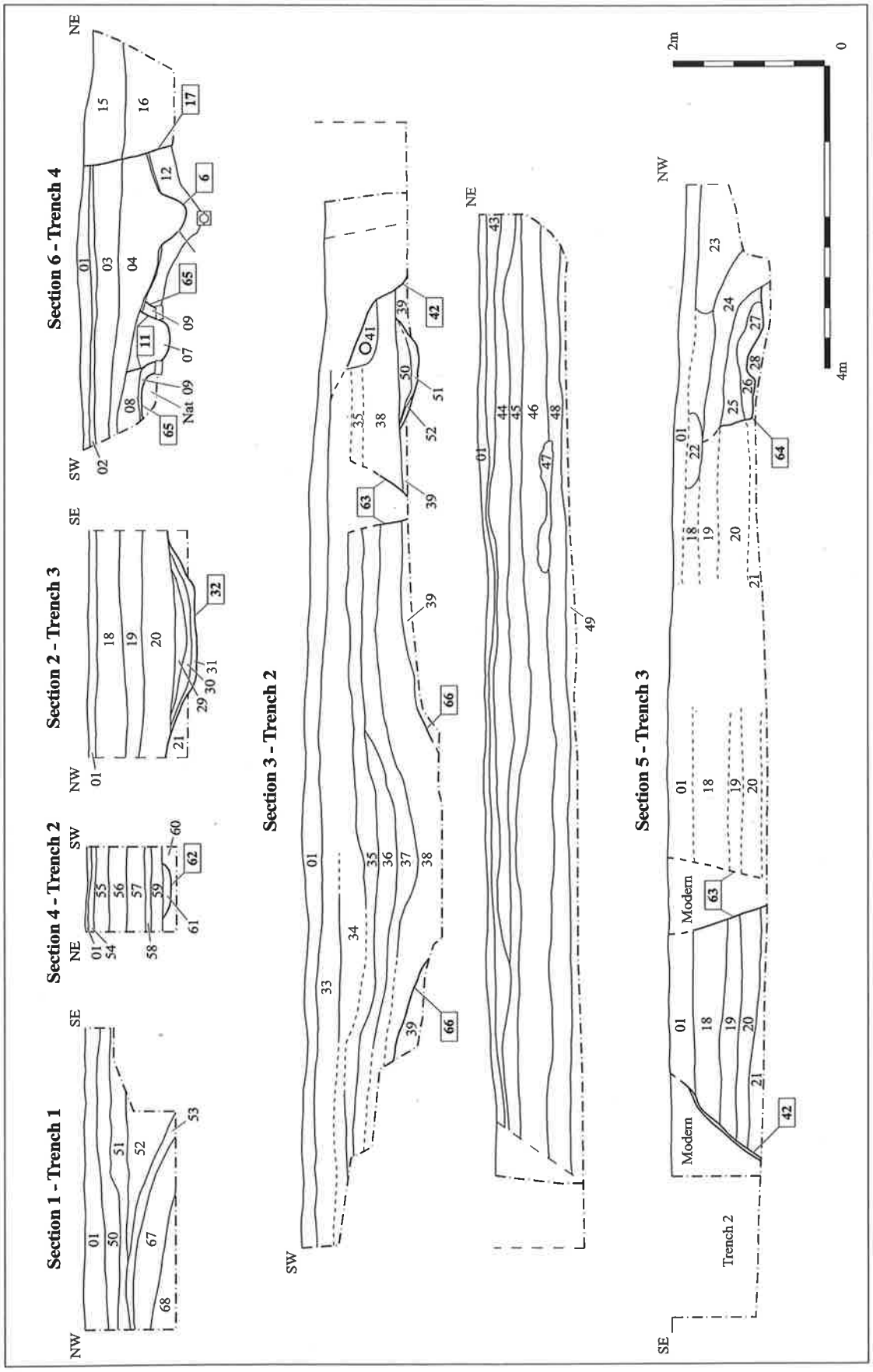


Figure 3: Section drawings

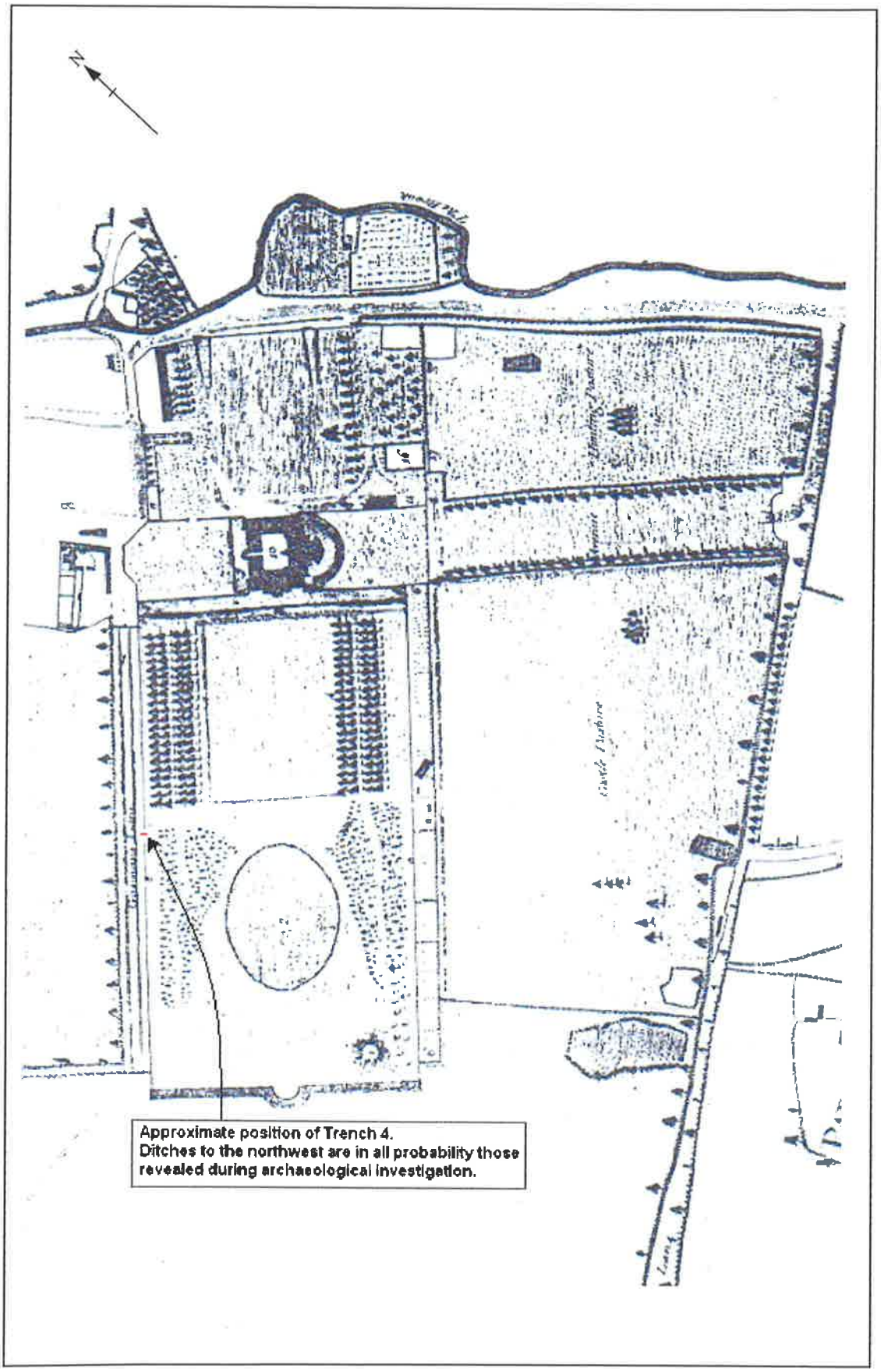
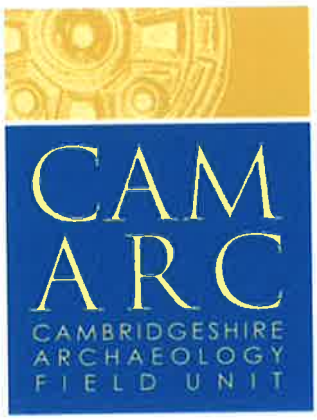


Figure 4: 1763 Estate Plan



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