

# Land at The Wyches, Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire Archaeological Evaluation Report

October 2019

**Client: Perpetua In Perpetuum Ltd** 

Issue No: 1

OA Reference No: 2387 NGR: TL52959 76603 Event Number: ECB5981





Client Name: Perpetua In Perpetuum Ltd

Land at The Wyches, Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire **Document Title:** 

**Document Type: Evaluation Report** 

Report No.: 2387

**Grid Reference:** TL52959 76603 Planning Reference: 19/00408/OUM

Site Code: THEWYC19 Invoice Code: THEWYC19

Receiving Body: Cambridgeshire County Council

OA Document File Location: Y:\Cambridgeshire\THEWYC19\Project Reports

OA Graphics File Location: Y:\Cambridgeshire\THEWYC19\Project Data\Graphics

Issue No: Version 1

Date: October 2019

Prepared by: David Browne (Project Supervisor)

Checked by: Louise Moan (Senior Project Manager)

Edited by: Graeme Clarke (PX Project Officer)

Approved for Issue by: Paul Spoerry (Regional Manager)

Signature:

#### Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

6 or Johann

**OA South OA East OA North** Janus House 15 Trafalgar Way Mill 3

Bar Hill Moor Lane Mills Osney Mead Oxford Cambridge Moor Lane OX2 0ES **CB23 8SQ** Lancaster **LA1 1QD** 

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800 t. +44 (0)1223 850 500 t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

> e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk w. oxfordarchaeology.com Oxford Archaeology is a registered Charity: No. 285627











Private Limited Company, No: 1618597 Registered Charity, No: 285627



# Land at The Wyches, Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire

# **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

Written by David Browne BSc, MA

With contributions from Carole Fletcher HND, BA (Hons) ACIfA, Rona Booth BA, PhD, PCIfA, Alice Lyons BA, MA, MCIfA, Zoe Ui Choilean MA, MSc, BABAO and Martha Craven BA, PCIfA.

# With illustrations by Isobel Ward BA, MA PCIfA

#### Contents

Summ	ary		vi
Ackno	wledgements		vii
1	INTROD	DUCTION	1
1.1	Scope of wor	·k	1
1.2	Location, top	ography and geology	1
1.3	Archaeologic	al and historical background	1
2	AIMS A	ND METHODOLOGY	4
2.1	Aims		4
2.2	Methodology	y	4
3	RESULT	'S	6
3.1	Introduction	and presentation of results	6
3.2	General soils	and ground conditions	6
3.3	General distr	ibution of archaeological deposits	6
3.4	Finds summa	ary	8
4	DISCUS	SION	9
4.1	Reliability of	field investigation	9
4.2	Evaluation of	bjectives and results	9
4.3	Interpretatio	n	9
4.4	Significance .		9
APPE	NDIX A	TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY	10
APPE	NDIX B	FINDS REPORTS	12
B.1	Ironwork		12
B.2	Slag		12
B.3	Flint		13
B.4	Stone		13

Land at	and at The Wyches, Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire							
B.5	Pottery		14					
B.6	Ceramic Buil	ding Material and Fired Clay	16					
APPE	NDIX C	ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS	18					
C.1	Environment	al Remains	18					
C.2	Animal Bone		19					
APPE	NDIX D	BIBLIOGRAPHY	20					
APPE	NDIX E	OASIS REPORT FORM	21					



# **List of Figures**

Fig. 1	Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area
	(red)
Fig. 2	HER Plot
Fig. 3	Trench Plan
Fig. 4	Trench 1 and 5 Plan
Fig. 5	Selected sections

# **List of Plates**

Plate 1	Trench 1, looking west
Plate 2	Ditch 16, Trench 1, looking south-east
Plate 3	Ditch 18, Trench 1, looking south-east
Plate 4	Trench 4, looking east
Plate 5	Trench 5, looking north-west
Plate 6	Ditch <b>5</b> , looking south-west



# **Summary**

Between the 23rd and 25th of September 2019 Oxford Archaeology East undertook a five-trench evaluation on Land to the north of The Wyches, Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological features were uncovered in two of the trenches located in the southern and eastern portions of the site. Ditches and a lesser number of small pits were identified which contained medieval pottery which provide further evidence for medieval agricultural activity between the medieval settlement at Little Thetford to the south and the deserted medieval village at Braham Grange to the north.



# **Acknowledgements**

Oxford Archaeology East would like to thank Perpetua In Perpetuum Ltd for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Andy Thomas and Kasia Gdenic who monitored the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Louise Moan. The fieldwork was directed by David Browne, who was supported by Rebecca Pridmore. Survey and digitising was carried out by Isobel Ward. Thanks are also extended to the finds and environmental processors, specialists and the editor.



#### 1 INTRODUCTION

# 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) was commissioned by Perpetua In Perpetuum Ltd to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site to the north of The Wyches in Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 52959 76603, Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 19/00408/OUM) to inform the Planning Authority. A brief was set by Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OA (Moan 2019) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. This document outlines how OA East implemented the specified requirements.

# 1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is a small patch of scrubland lying to the north of The Wyches, Little Thetford approximately 400m to the north-west of the village centre. To the north lies agricultural land while to the east lies Little Thetford Social Club and playing fields the area to the south is residential development while to the west is a small modern cemetery.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of 0.6ha of land at an average height of 7m OD.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Kimmeridge Clay formation mudstone with superficial deposits of Oadby member diamicton (British Geological Survey online map viewer http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html).

## 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following is taken from the WSI (Moan 2019) and details the pertinent Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) data in the immediate environs (Fig. 2).

#### **Prehistoric**

1.3.2 A number of prehistoric flintwork findspots and scatters have been found in the vicinity that include: a Neolithic flint sickle findspot (MCB24192) 0.5km to the southeast of the site; a collection of Neolithic struck flint (MCB14676) recovered from beneath the peat during a water pipeline watching brief (ECB536) around 0.6km northeast of the site; a flint scatter (MCB16253) just 0.3km to the north of the site; a further collection of flints (MCB16258) on land around 0.5km north-west of the site; a polished Neolithic flint axehead recovered on land around 0.5km to the north-west; and a scatter of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork c.0.5km to the east of the site.

#### Iron Age and Roman

1.3.3 A purported section of Akeman Street Roman Road (MCB20681) between Cambridge and Ely passes c.0.9km to the west of the site.



- 1.3.4 Archaeological works c.170m directly to the south, off Watson's Lane (ECB1352 and ECB1353) identified and Iron Age and Roman settlement remains dating from between the 2nd century BC to the 2nd century AD. Evidence comprised of numerous ditches, pits, postholes, ring gullies, burials and a tile kiln were uncovered along with a large animal bone and pottery assemblage (MCB15675 and MCB15676).
- 1.3.5 A possible Roman village site is also recorded around 0.8km to the north of the site (MCB16084). A collection of finds including painted wall planter, box tile, stamped and decorated samian, Nene Valley pottery and coins have been recovered from this location.
- 1.3.6 A series of Roman pottery scatters has also been identified in the area: on land around 0.6km south-east of the site (MCB24191), at Braham Farm (MCB06142) around 1km north of the site and on land c.0.3km north (MCB16254).
- 1.3.7 A ditch, presumed to be of Roman origin (MCB14677) was also recorded during a watching brief between Little Thetford and Cawdle Fen (ECB536) around 0.5km to the east.

#### Medieval

- 1.3.8 The church of St George (DCB1219), of late 14th century origin, is located 350m to the south of the site in the historic village of Little Thetford. As part of the Hundred of Ely, the Lord of the manor of Little Thetford was referred to in the Domesday book as held by the Abbey of St Ethelreda, Ely in 1066 who retained the lordship after the Conquest. The survey of 1086 lists one villager and four cottagers. The ploughland consisted of one lord's plough team. Other resources listed include one plough of meadow and two fisheries (Domesday book online).
- 1.3.9 The deserted medieval village of Braham Grange (MCB06143 and MCB06960) is located some c.1km north-east of the current site. Extant earthworks and cropmarks relating to housing platforms, trackways, ridge and furrow, a dock, pond and possible moat have all been recorded. Sherds of medieval pottery and an undated strap fitting (MCB16083) were also found at this location.
- 1.3.10 Earthwork remains of ridge and furrow (MCB27076) are located approximately 0.5km to the north of the site.

#### Post-medieval and modern

- 1.3.11 A watching brief along the route of a water pipeline between Little Thetford and Cawdle Fen (ECB536) uncovered part of a probable lode (MCB14675) around 1km north-east of the site.
- 1.3.12 The Great Eastern railway (MCB21582) is located some 0.6km east of the proposed site. It was formed in 1862 from a series of smaller railway lines. This particular section runs between Bishop's Stortford and Norwich via Cambridge. Around 100m northwest of the proposed site lies the route of the dismantled Ely, Sutton and St Ives railway branch (MCB19487).

#### **Undated**



1.3.13 Previous archaeological evaluations have been undertaken immediately adjacent to the proposed site on the east (ECB2990) and north-west (ECB5362). The former site did not produce any archaeological remains whilst the latter uncovered four undated parallel ditched (MCB27075).



## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

#### **2.1** Aims

- 2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:
  - Establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains;
  - ii. Provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits;
  - iii. Provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits; and
  - iv. 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 Service plans were consulted before any work was undertaken and the area was scanned by a qualified operator using a CAT and Genny with a valid calibration certificate. The site was known to contain a foul sewer and an overhead electricity cable.
- 2.2.2 Five trenches were opened up using a 14 tonne 360° type excavator using a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. This is equivalent to 5% of the 0.6ha development area. Four trenches were planned to be 40m long by 1.8m wide while one (Trench 3) was planned to be 20m long by 1.8m wide. However, all the trenches had to be slightly adjusted on site, either rotated or shortened, to avoid piles of cut scrub vegetation and to avoid blocking the site access.
- 2.2.3 All machine excavation was supervised by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 2.2.4 Spoil was stored to the sides of the trenches with topsoil and subsoil stored separately to enable sequential backfilling post excavation.
- 2.2.5 Bucket samples of up to 90L of the excavated soil was taken from each end of the trench, in order to characterise artefactual remains in the topsoil and other soil horizons above the archaeological level. Each sample was hand-sorted to retrieve artefacts.
- 2.2.6 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.
- 2.2.7 Surveying was done using a survey-grade differential GPS (Leica GS08) fitted with "Smartnet" technology with an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.
- 2.2.8 All archaeological features were hand-excavated. All archaeological features and deposits as well as trenches were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets. Trench



locations and plans were recorded at appropriate scales and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. All finds were retained for inspection.

- 2.2.9 A single environmental sample was taken check for the preservation of charred plant remains.
- 2.2.10 Conditions were poor for the time of year with heavy rain.



# 3 RESULTS

# 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds and environmental reports are located in Appendices B and C. Figure 3 provides an overall plan of the results of the evaluation with detailed plans of Trenches 1 and 5 given as Figure 4. Selected sections are shown on Fig. 5.

# 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of clay was overlain by a pale orange brown sandy clay subsoil, which in turn was overlain by a dark brownish grey topsoil.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally poor, and the site remained wet throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

# 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 1 and 5 (Figs 3 and 4). Trenches 2-4 (Plate 4) were found to be devoid of archaeology. The extent of a large natural feature filled with sterile subsoil was partly revealed by Trench 2.

#### **Trench 1** (Fig. 4)

- 3.3.2 This trench (Plate 1) was 35.3m long and ran east to west. It was shortened due to access issues and vegetation. It contained six archaeological features; four ditches, a pit and a probable tree throw. Features will be discussed from west to east.
- 3.3.3 Ditch **24** (unexcavated) was not fully exposed at the western end of the trench and measured at least 2.2m wide. It followed the exact course of the modern, heavily silted roadside ditch running along The Wyches and was presumably its original northern extent. It was filled by a very stiff dark brownish grey clay (25). It produced fragments (60g) of late medieval to early post-medieval tile to suggest The Wyches may have originated during this period.
- 3.3.4 Pit **22** was small and irregular, possibly a tree throw, which contained a single fill consisted of soft dark grey clay (23). The fill produced a piece (7g) of worked flint dated broadly to the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age period. It lay 15m from the western end of the trench and measured between 0.25-0.8m in diameter and 0.05m deep.
- 3.3.5 A sub-circular pit (20) lay 1.5m north-east of pit 22 (Fig. 5, Section 7). It measured between 0.3-0.4m in diameter by 0.1m deep and was filled by a light greyish brown soft clay (21).
- 3.3.6 Ditch **18** was at 21m from the western end of the trench (Fig. 5, Section 6; Plate 3). It ran from north-west to south-east and measured 1.3m wide by 0.35m deep. It had steep sides and a flat base that was filled with very stiff mid greyish brown clay. It



produced 22 sherds of medieval pottery (163g; date range c.AD1150-1500), a residual Roman pottery sherd (2g) and 4g of undiagnostic fired clay. The bulk of the pottery was Medieval Ely ware (58g, seven sherds in total). The fill also produced an unidentified iron object and fire-reddened fragments of chalk (10g). The pottery recovered from the ditch has the appearance of having been heavily reworked, possible due to middening and the material may have become incorporated into the ditch as a result of medieval manuring (App. B.5.4).

- 3.3.7 Ditch **16** (Plate 2) was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 0.4m wide by 0.08m deep. Its U-shaped profile was filled by a light brownish grey soft clay (17).
- 3.3.8 Ditch **14** was the easternmost linear ditch in the trench and ran parallel with ditch **16**. It had a broad, flat-based, U-shaped profile which measuring 0.8m wide by 0.15m deep (Fig. 5, Section 4). It was filled by a light brownish grey soft clay (15). It produced three sherds (14g) of medieval pottery (date range c.AD1050-1500). These heavily abraded sherds may also have been imported onto the site as a result of manuring.

#### Trench 2

3.3.9 This trench contained no archaeological features or artefacts. A large natural, possibly glacial in origin, feature extended for 6.5m across the trench and was filled with sterile subsoil greater than 1.2m in depth.

# **Trench 5** (Fig. 4)

- 3.3.10 This trench (Plate 5) was 34.5m long and ran north-north-west to south-south-east. It contained two ditches (both of which had been recut/reinstated) along with a pit. These features will be discussed from north to south. Five sherds (7g) of Roman pottery from the same 2nd century Samian vessel was recovered from the topsoil of this trench, in the immediate environs of the northern ditch (1, 3 and 5).
- 3.3.11 Approximately 9m from the northern end of the trench lay a shallow and badly truncated sub-circular pit (8). It measured c.0.3m in diameter and 0.17m deep with a U-shaped profile. The fill (9) consisted of mid brownish orange sandy silt that produced a single piece (45g) of undiagnostic slag.
- 3.3.12 Approximately 7m to the south of pit **8** lay a north-east to south-west aligned ditch with multiple recuts (Plate 6). The earliest cut (**1**) measured 0.4m wide and was filled by a mid-orange brown silty clay (**2**). This ditch alignment was heavily truncated and reinstated on its northern side by recuts **3** and **5**. Ditch **3** was filled by a light greyish orange brown clayey silt (**4**). Ditch **5** contained a lower fill (**6**) consisted of mid-orange brown sandy silt which was overlain by mid greyish orangey yellow sandy silt (**7**). This upper fill produced five sherds (**46**g) of early medieval pottery (date range c.AD1050-1250) and undiagnostic fragments (**5**g) of fired clay. An environmental sample of the upper fill produced a small quantity of charcoal and a single weed seed.
- 3.3.13 Approximately 5m to the south of Ditches **1,3** and **5** lay a further recut/reinstated ditch alignment on the same axis (Fig. 5, Section 3). The earliest ditch (**12**) measured 1.5m wide and 0.35m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled by a light yellowish brown soft sandy clay (**13**) which produced **11** sherds (**109g**) of medieval pottery (date range c.AD1050-1500) along with nine (**52g**) large and medium animal bone fragments. This



ditch was recut by ditch **10** on its northern side, which measured 0.95m wide and 0.3m deep with rounded V-shaped profile. Its stiff dark greyish brown clay fill (11) produced 11 sherds (70g) of early medieval pottery (date range c.AD875-1225) and sheep tooth fragments (3g).

3.3.14 The pottery sherds from Trench 5 are, on the whole, moderately abraded and although not primary deposition have not undergone the high degree of reworking seen in the assemblage recovered from Trench 1, suggesting that this may represent low levels of rubbish deposition into the ditches rather than the result of manuring (App. B.5.5).

# 3.4 Finds summary

- 3.4.1 The pottery assemblage comprises of 59 sherds weighing 0.412kg. The pottery is a dispersed low distribution of early to middle medieval pottery and implies activity associated with the deserted medieval village at Braham Grange which lies nearby to the north-east of the site.
- 3.4.2 A small number of residual Roman pottery sherds were recovered. Interestingly, this pottery belongs to higher status wares (Nene Valley Colour-Coated ware and Samian) that possibly relate to the Watson's Lane site (see Section 1.3.4) to the south of the site or the possible villa and settlement at Braham Farm (see Section 1.3.5-6) with material dispersed across the locality probably as a result of farming activity.
- 3.4.3 The animal bone is fragmentary and of noticeably low quantity (53g) and poor condition.
- 3.4.4 It is useful to note that, with the exception of the roadside ditch (24) alongside The Wyches, no post-medieval material or later date was recovered from the linear ditches which implies these boundary alignments fell out of use around the end of the medieval period.



## 4 DISCUSSION

# 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 While there was heavy rain during the excavation there was no flooding and features were easily visible against the natural geology.

# 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 This evaluation has uncovered a set of medieval boundary ditches extending across the southern and eastern extent of the development area and established the absence of masking deposits.

# 4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 This investigation has brought to light evidence for medieval field or enclosure boundaries extending across the southern and eastern portions of the development area. These fields or enclosures would probably have been associated with the medieval settlement of Little Thetford itself or possibly with the deserted medieval village of Braham Grange to the north as these boundaries also appear to have fallen out of use by the end of the medieval period. The presence of the abraded medieval pottery assemblages in the ditch fills as a result or manuring and rubbish disposal suggests an agricultural setting for these remains between the settlements. Although it is not possible to discern the use of this partly defined enclosure or field system, given the lack of any further boundaries uncovered by the neighbouring evaluations to the east (see Section 1.3.13; ECB2990), this system may have have been of limited extent.

# 4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The archaeological remains present on this site is further evidence for medieval agricultural activity between the medieval settlement at Little Thetford to the south and the deserted medieval village at Braham Grange to the north. Although these remains still provide further information about the planning and management of the local landscape in the earlier medieval period, as no structural remains have been uncovered on the site they are considered to be of lower significance.



# APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Length	Width	Overall	Topsoil	Subsoil	Archaeology
Number	m	m	Depth m	Thickness m	Thickness m	Present
1	35.3	1.8	0.55	0.3	0.25	Υ
2	33	1.8	0.5	0.25	0.25	N
3	20.2	1.8	0.6	0.35	0.25	N
4	37	1.8	0.6	0.35	0.25	N
5	34.5	1.8	0.6	0.3	0.3	Υ



Cxt.	Tr.	Category	Feature	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Thickness/Extent	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Profile
1	5	cut	ditch	0.4	0.25						linear	gentle	gradual	concave	u
2	5	fill	ditch	0.4	0.25	mid orange brown	silty clay	occ stone	soft	0.25					
3	5	cut	ditch	0.8	0.3						linear	gentle	gradual	concave	u
4	5	fill	ditch	0.8	0.3	mid orange grey	clayey silt	occ stone	firm	0.3					
5	5	cut	ditch	1.4	0.35						linear	gentle	gradual	concave	u
6	5	fill	ditch		0.1	mid orange brown	sandy silt	occ stone	soft	0.1					
7	5	fill	ditch		0.15	mid orange grey	silty sand	occ stone	soft	0.15					
8	5	cut	pit	0.3	0.17							steep	gradual	concave	u
9	5	fill	pit		0.17	mid brown orange	sandy silt	occ stone	soft	0.17					
10	5	cut	ditch	1	0.3						linear	steep	sharp	v shaped	v
11	5	fill	ditch		0.3	dark grey brown	silty clay	occ stone	firm	0.3					
12	5	cut	ditch	1.5	0.35						linear	gentle	gradual	flat	u
13	5	fill	ditch		0.35	light yellow brown	sandy clay	occ stones	soft	0.35					
14	1	cut	ditch	0.8	0.15						linear	gentle	gradual	flat	u
15	1	fill	ditch		0.15	light brown grey	silty clay	occ stones	soft	0.15					
16	1	cut	ditch	0.4	0.08						linear	gentle	gradual	concave	u
17	1	fill	ditch		0.08	light brown grey	silty clay	occ chalk	soft	0.08					
18	1	cut	ditch	1.3	0.35						linear	steep	gradual	concave	u
19	1	fill	ditch		0.35	mid grey brown	silty clay	occ chalk	plastic	0.35					
20	1	cut	pit	0.4	0.1						sub- circular	gentle	gradual	concave	u
21	1	fill	pit		0.1	light grey brown	silty clay	occ stone	soft	0.1					
22	1	cut	tree throw	0.25	0.05						circular	gentle	gradual	irregular	u
23	1	fill	tree throw		0.05	dark brown grey	silty clay	occ stone	soft	0.05					
24	1	cut	ditch	2							linear				
25	1	fill	ditch			dark brown grey	silty clay		firm						

©Oxford Archaeology Ltd 11 31 October 2019



#### APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

#### B.1 Ironwork

By Carole Fletcher

#### Introduction

B.1.1 The evaluation produced a single iron object from ditch **18** in Trench 1. The artefact will be described in general terms in the text.

# Assemblage and discussion

- B.1.2 An incomplete, corroded iron object, probably hand-forged, was recovered. The object is 85mm long, rectangular in section, 9 x 7mm at one end, 8 x 6mm at the other. Neither end is complete, and one end has undergone twisting or bending, leaving fragments of metal sticking up from the surface (as if from repeated bending). The metal tapers from both ends to a point 60mm from one end (20mm from the other), where the object appears to be bent at approximately a 20° angle and the thickness is 6 x 5mm.
- B.1.3 The object's function is uncertain, as is dating, although the artefact was recovered alongside medieval pottery and is therefore very probably medieval or later in origin.

#### Retention, dispersal or display

B.1.4 If further work is undertaken, the ironwork report should be incorporated into any later catalogue. Further work is likely to produce additional metalwork, although sparsely distributed. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record.

## B.2 Slag

By Carole Fletcher

#### Introduction

B.2.1 A single fragment of slag, weighing 0.045kg, was collected by hand from Trench 5. The slag was weighed and rapidly recorded, with basic description and weight recorded in the text.

#### Assemblage and discussion

B.2.2 The slag was recovered from ditch **8** in Trench 5. It consists of a small formless piece of near-black and reddish-brown dense undiagnostic slag. Various small areas of broken surface are reflective, and some portions appear crystalline. Overall, the fragment has a variable appearance and seems formed from different materials. Areas of the fragment are weakly magnetic.



#### Discussion

B.2.3 The slag indicates iron smelting or ironworking on, or close to, the area evaluated. Alternatively, the material may represent the disposal of waste, as only small quantities were recovered. Pit 8 also produced a single undiagnostic fragment ceramic material that may be pottery but is not closely datable.

#### Retention, dispersal or display

B.2.4 The slag assemblage is fragmentary, problematic to date and its significance is uncertain, other than to possibly indicate metalworking. Should further work be undertaken, additional metalworking deposits may be recovered. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the slag may be deselected prior to archive deposition.

#### B.3 Flint

By Carole Fletcher and Rona Booth

#### Introduction

B.3.1 Two pieces of flint (0.010kg) were collected by hand from Trenches 1 and 5. The flint was weighed and rapidly recorded, with basic description and weight recorded in the text.

#### Assemblage and discussion

B.3.2 Pit 22 in Trench 1 produced a single piece of flint (0.007kg), a primary flake with a somewhat damaged platform that can only be dated broadly to the late Neolithic-Bronze Age; no other finds were recovered from the pit. The second retained flint fragment (0.003kg), from ditch 12 in Trench 5, is unworked and was discarded.

#### Retention, dispersal or display

B.3.3 The flint assemblage is fragmentary, and its significance is uncertain. Should further work be undertaken, additional worked flint may be recovered. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the flint may be deselected prior to archive deposition.

#### B.4 Stone

By Carole Fletcher

#### Assemblage and discussion

B.4.1 Two irregular pieces of burnt chalk (0.010kg) were collected by hand from ditch **18** in Trench 1. The chalk is fire-reddened but shows no sign of having been worked. The chalk was recovered alongside medieval pottery.



# Retention, dispersal or display

B.4.2 The stone assemblage is fragmentary, and its significance is uncertain. Should further work be undertaken, additional burnt stone may be recovered. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the burnt chalk may be deselected prior to archive deposition.

# **B.5** Pottery

By Carole Fletcher with Roman pottery identified by Alice Lyons

#### Introduction

B.5.1 Archaeological works produced a small assemblage of pottery, a mixed assemblage including early medieval, medieval and a small number of Roman sherds, recovered from topsoil but also from a single ditch as a residual element. In total, 59 sherds, weighing 0.412kg, were recovered. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded to abraded, and the average sherd weight is low, at approximately 0.007kg.

#### Methodology

B.5.2 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG 2016) A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology and the MPRG A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms (MPRG 1998) act as standards. Rapid recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system, based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described types, using the Museum of London fabric series (MoLA 2014) as a basis for post-1700 fabrics. All sherds have been counted, classified, and weighed on a context-by-context basis and recorded in the summary catalogue in this report. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

#### Assemblage and discussion

- B.5.3 Two ditches in Trench 1 produced pottery. Of these, ditch **14** only produced three sherds (0.014kg), including an early medieval sooted jar sherd, however, the paucity of pottery and level of abrasion do not make the material reliable for dating.
- B.5.4 Ditch **18** produced a larger assemblage (23 sherds, 0.165kg), which included a highly abraded sherd of Roman pottery that was residual in the feature. Also present were three abraded early medieval sherds including a sherd tentatively identified as Grimston Thetford-type ware. The bulk of the assemblage recovered from the ditch are medieval fabrics, which include Medieval Ely wares. Present in the assemblage were a Medieval Ely ware abraded bowl rim and an unglazed sherd from a jug handle, alongside undiagnostic body sherds. The pottery recovered from the ditch has the appearance of having been heavily reworked, possible due to middening and the material may have become incorporated into the ditches as a result of medieval manuring.



- B.5.5 Trench 5 produced pottery from topsoil and four ditches, from the topsoil were recovered five sherds (0.007kg) from a second century central Gaulish Samian dish, no other Roman pottery was recovered from this trench. Ditches **5**, **10** and **12** each ditch assemblage included early medieval pottery Developed St Neots or Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy, ditch **12** also produced medieval coarsewares. The sherds are, on the whole, moderately abraded and although not primary deposition have not undergone the high degree of reworking seen in the assemblage recovered from Trench **1**, suggesting that this may represent low levels of rubbish deposition into the ditches rather than the result of manuring.
- B.5.6 No late medieval or post-medieval pottery was recovered suggesting that the domestic site from which the assemblage originates may not have continued into the later medieval period. The domestic site from which the material originated may have been the deserted medieval village of Braham Grange which lies to the north-east of the area being evaluated. The Roman material recovered may relate to the Iron Age and Roman settlement to the south of the site off Watson's Lane and represents a background scatter of material that is very probably the result of Roman farming practices. The assemblage is fragmentary and represents moderate to low levels of pottery distribution both medieval earlier, across the site.

# Retention, dispersal or display

B.5.7 Should further work be undertaken, pottery may be recovered, although only at low to moderate levels. This statement acts as a full record and if no further work is undertaken, the pottery may be dispersed for educational use, or deselected prior to archival deposition.

## Pottery catalogue

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric and form	MNV	No. of Sherds	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date
1	15	14	Medieval Sandy Coarseware body sherds, moderately abraded to abraded and externally sooted	2	2	0.006	1150-1500
			Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware (fine) jar base sherd, externally sooted	1	1	0.008	1050-1225
	19	18	Highly abraded body sherd of Nene Valley Colour- Coated ware, having lost its slip; the surfaces of the sherd are discoloured	1	1	0.002	Mid 2nd-4th century
			Medieval Ely ware bowl rim, externally thickened and rounded, moderately abraded, however, it is too small a sherd to establish a rim diameter	1	1	0.020	1150-1350
			Abraded, Medieval Ely ware jug handle (?rod), traces of incised/stabbed holes in handle surface	1	1	0.018	1150-1350
			Medieval Ely ware body sherd, moderately abraded	1	1	0.007	1150-1350
			Medieval Ely ware body sherds, both abraded and externally sooted	2	2	0.005	1150-1350
			Medieval Ely ware body sherd, moderately abraded and externally sooted	1	1	0.005	1150-1350
			South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware. Moderately abraded body sherds, one with applied strip, and a base sherd (base convex, obtuse)	1	6	0.051	1150-1450
			Medieval Sandy Coarseware body sherds, moderately abraded to abraded and including a base angle (base convex, obtuse)	3	4	0.019	1150-1500
			Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware body sherd, externally sooted	1	1	0.003	1050-1225



Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric and form	MNV	No. of Sherds	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date
			Medieval Essex-type Micaceous Grey Sandy ware body sherd, moderately abraded, decorated with incised wavy lines	1	1	0.003	1200-1400
			Early medieval ware, abraded body sherd	1	1	0.003	1050-1200
			Grimston Thetford-type ware abraded body sherd, having lost its internal surface	1	1	0.019	1100-1200
			Hedingham Fineware abraded body sherd from a jug. Externally a thin patchy clear glaze survives	1	1	0.007	1150-1350
			Brill/Boarstall ware moderately abraded body sherd from a jug external green glaze and iron-rich slip	1	1	0.003	1200-1500
5	1	Topsoil	Central Gaulish Samian, abraded body sherds from a dish	1	5	0.007	2nd century
	7	5	Highly abraded body sherd of Developed St Neots weighing less than 1g	0	1	0.001	1050-1250
			Abraded Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware base sherds (base convex obtuse)	1	4	0.045	1050-1225
	11	10	Abraded Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware base sherds (base convex obtuse)	1	2	0.007	1050-1225
			St Neots Inturned bowl/dish rim and body sherd, moderately abraded to abraded and rim fragments, too small to establish rim diameter	1	4	0.025	875-1100
			St Neots thin-walled body sherds, moderately abraded and sooted	1	4	0.023	875-1100
			St Neots-Developed St Neots, moderately abraded to abraded body sherd	1	1	0.015	875-1100
	9	8	Small abraded sherd of ceramic material, uncertain if pottery or ceramic building material, weighing less than 1g	0	1	0.001	Not closely datable
	13	12	Moderately abraded body and base angle sherds (base convex, obtuse) from a Developed St Neots ware vessel	1	8	0.101	1050-1250
	13		Medieval Sandy Coarseware body sherds, moderately abraded to abraded and including a base angle (base convex, obtuse)	2	3	0.008	1150-1500
Total				29	59	0.412	

Table 1: Pottery by Context and Cut

(EVE= Estimated Vessel Equivalent, MNV= Minimum number of vessels)

# **B.6** Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay

By Carole Fletcher

#### Introduction

- B.6.1 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM), one fragment weighing 0.06kg, and six fragments of burnt clay (0.018kg), was recovered from ditches in Trenches 1 and 5.
- B.6.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, counted, weighed, and form recorded where this was identifiable. Only complete dimensions were recorded, which was most commonly thickness. Dating is broad and McComish (2015) and Warry (2006) form the basis for identification.

#### **Assemblage**

B.6.3 The CBM recovered from ditch **24** in Trench 1 is a moderately abraded, sub-triangular fragment of quartz-tempered flat tile (0.060kg, 11-12mm thick). One edge survives and also upper and lower surfaces, the lower having been lightly sanded, and with a smear of ?lime mortar on the surface. The surfaces and margins are dull yellowish red,



- with a pale grey core, and the CBM is very probably late medieval-early post-medieval. No other finds were recovered from this feature. Ditch **18**, also in Trench 1, produced two abraded fragments of undiagnostic fired clay (0.004kg) in a dull reddish hard-fired quartz-tempered fabric; this feature produced medieval pottery.
- B.6.4 Two features in Trench 5 produced fired clay. From ditch 5, three small irregular, undiagnostic fragments (0.005kg) of silty dull yellowish red fired clay were recovered, which are not closely datable, however, the feature also produced medieval pottery. From ditch 10, a single fragment (0.009kg) of slightly more structural fired clay, with fragments of surface, where the clay is a dull brownish yellow, darkening to a yellowish red in the thicker parts of the fragment, soft silty and poorly fired with some quartz temper; this feature also produced medieval pottery.

#### Discussion

B.6.5 A fragmentary assemblage of CBM and fired clay was recovered from the site, with all fragments recovered from ditches. The CBM from ditch 24 may be late medieval to post-medieval, while the fired clay from ditches 5, 10 and 18 is possibly medieval. The paucity of CBM and fired clay suggests that this represents a background scatter of material, incorporated into the ditch fills as general rubbish.

# Retention, dispersal or display

B.6.6 The CBM assemblage is fragmentary, and its significance is uncertain. Should further work be undertaken, additional CBM and fired clay would probably be recovered. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the CBM and fired clay may be deselected prior to archive deposition.



## APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

#### C.1 Environmental Remains

#### By Martha Craven

#### Introduction

C.1.1 One bulk sample was taken from the site 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 sample was taken from a medieval ditch within Trench 5.

### Methodology

- C.1.2 The total volume (18L) of the sample was processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the sample was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.
- C.1.3 The dried flot was then scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 2. 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 Stace (2010). Plant remains have been identified to species where possible.

# Quantification

C.1.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

C.1.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as molluscs have been scored for abundance

```
+ = occasional, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent, ++++ = abundant
```

#### Results

- C.1.6 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation and is generally poor; the flot contains rootlets which may have caused movement of material between contexts.
- C.1.7 Sample 1, fill 7 of ditch **5** (Trench 5), was the only sample taken from this site. It contains a single, medium-sized grass seed (Poaceae) and a small quantity of charcoal. The sample also contains a small amount of relatively well-preserved molluscs.



Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Trench No.	Feature Type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Weed Seeds	Snails from Flot	Charcoal Volume
1	7	5	5	Ditch	18	30	#	++	<1

Table 2: Environmental sample

#### Discussion

- C.1.8 The recovery of a single weed seed and a small quantity of charcoal in Sample 1 suggests that there is limited potential for the preservation of plant remains in this trench. As only one sample was taken from the site it is rather difficult to speculate on the quality of preservation of plants remains for the site overall.
- C.1.9 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

#### C.2 Animal Bone

By Carole Fletcher with bone identification by Zoe Ui Choileain

## Assemblage and Discussion

- C.2.1 Somewhat degraded animal bone was recovered from ditches **10** and **12**, both in Trench 5. From ditch **10**, fragments of tooth (maxillary *Ovis/Capra*) weighing 0.003kg, were recovered, while ditch **12** produced nine fragments of rib and a partial vertebra from a large mammal (0.052kg), a fragment of pelvis, also from a large mammal, possibly *Bos taurus*, alongside two fragments of tibia from a medium mammal (?*Ovis/Capra*).
- C.2.2 The degraded and fragmentary nature of the total assemblage means it is of little interest, beyond indicating the presence of domesticated animal remains, which were most probably butchered for meat, within the domestic rubbish assemblage recovered from the ditches. The animal bone from ditch 12 was recovered alongside medieval pottery, while the material from ditch 10 is not closely datable.

# Retention, dispersal or display

C.2.3 Should further work be undertaken, additional animal bone may be recovered. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the animal bone may be deselected prior to archival deposition.



#### APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geology Survey, 2019. British Geological Survey online map viewer <a href="http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html">http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html</a>

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. <a href="https://www.seedatlas.nl">www.seedatlas.nl</a>

Historic England 2011. Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (2nd edition), Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

McComish, J.M. 2015. *A Guide to Ceramic Building Materials*. York Archaeological Trust. Report Number 2015/36. Web Based Report, available at <a href="http://www.southwellarchaeology.org.uk/download/i/mark\_dl/u/4013421874/4631492417">http://www.southwellarchaeology.org.uk/download/i/mark\_dl/u/4013421874/4631492417</a> /A-guide-to-ceramic-building-material-reduced.pdf consulted 02/02/2019

Medieval Pottery Research Group 1998. *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper I

Moan, L. 2019. Land at the Wytches, Little Thetford. Written Scheme of Investigation. Oxford Archaeology East, dated August 2019

Museum of London Archaeology (MoLA), 2014. *Medieval and post-medieval pottery codes* <a href="https://www.mola.org.uk/sites/default/files/resource-downloads/Medieval%20and%20post-medieval%20pottery%20codes%20in%20Excel">https://www.mola.org.uk/sites/default/files/resource-downloads/Medieval%20and%20post-medieval%20pottery%20codes%20in%20Excel 0.xls</a>

Open Domesday: Domesday Book online. British History Online. https://opendomesday.org/place/TG1709/bowthorpe/

PCRG SGRP MPRG, 2016. A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology

Stace, C., 2010. New Flora of the British Isles. Third edition. Cambridge University Press

Warry, P. 2006. Tegulae: Manufacture, typology and use in Roman Britain, BAR 417



	PENDIX E	OA	ASIS R	EPORT	OR	RM						
Proj	ect Details	_										
OAS	SIS Number		lar3-371									
Pro <sub>.</sub>	ject Name	Land a	t The Wyches, Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire									
						_						
Star	t of Fieldwork	23/9/2	.019			End	0	f Fieldw	ork	25,	/9/2019	
Pre	vious Work	No				Futu	ıre	e Work		Un	known	
Proi	ect Reference	Codes										
•	Code	THEW'	YC19			Plan	ni	ing App	No.	19	/00408/OUM	
HFF	R Number	ECB59				_		ed Numl		-	700100700111	
	( Namber	LCDSS						za Marri	5015			
Pro	mpt		NPPF	:								
	relopment Type			lential								
	ce in Planning Pr	2200		outline d	otor	minat	io	n leg A	a rece	rvac	l matter)	
i iac	c iii i iaiiiiiig i i	00033	Arter	outilite u	CtCi	IIIIIIat	10	ii (cg. A	a rese	IVCC	inaccer	
Task		د الماداد		اد اد								
	iniques used (1 Aerial Photograph interpretation		nat app	Grab-sam	pling				□ I	Remo	ote Operated Vehicle Survey	
	Aerial Photograph	y - new		Gravity-co	re				$\boxtimes$	Samp	le Trenches	
	Annotated Sketch									ey/Recording of		
_			_	Fabric/Structure								
	Augering			Measured							eted Trenches	
	Dendrochonologic Documentary Sea			<ul><li>☐ Metal Detectors</li><li>☐ Phosphate Surve</li></ul>			<del>-</del>			Test Pits Topographic Survey		
	Environmental Sai			☐ Photogrammetric S							-core	
	Fieldwalking			Photograp			-,	-			I Inspection (Initial Site Visit)	
	Geophysical Surve	ey .		Rectified I	hoto	graphy						
Мо	nument	Per	riod			Obje	ct	t		Р	Period	
Dito		Me	dieval (1	.066 to	1 [	Potte				١	Medieval (1066 to 1540)	
		154	•				,				,	
Pos	thole		certain			Pottery				R	loman	
						Anim				ι	Jncertain	
						Flint		200		_	Jncertain	
		Cho	ose an i	tem	-	Meta	ı			-	Jncertain Jncertain	
		CITC	7030 4111	COTT	J L	TVICTO	<u>.                                      </u>				, recream	
Droi	act Location											
_	ect Location	C l						۸ -ا -ا	- /:l-	1!	- D t d - \	
Cou	•		idgeshir				Г				g Postcode)	
District East Cambridgeshir			esnire							The Wyches		
Parish Thetford							Little T					
HER office Cambridgeshire				e				Cambr	_	ire		
Size of Study Area 0.6ha							CB6 3F	16				
National Grid Ref TL52959 76603			3			L						
Droi	oct Originates											
_	ect Originators		0.4	A mele !		Fa = 2						
_	anisation			Archaeol	ogy	∟ast						
_	ject Brief Origina		Andy T									
Pro <sub>.</sub>	ject Design Origi	ınator	Louise	Moan								

OA East



Project Manager	Louise Moan
Project Supervisor	David Browne

Cambridgeshire County Stores

# **Project Archives**

Physical Archive (Finds) Digital Archive Paper Archive

Location	ID
Cambridgeshire County Stores	ECB5981

THEWYC19

ECB5981

Physical Contents	Present?		Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds	
Animal Bones Ceramics Environmental Glass Human Remains Industrial Leather Metal Stratigraphic Survey Textiles Wood Worked Bone Worked Stone/Lithic None Other					
Digital Media Database GIS Geophysics Images (Digital photos) Illustrations (Figures/Plat Moving Image Spreadsheets Survey Text Virtual Reality	ates)		Paper Media Aerial Photos Context Sheets Correspondence Diary Drawing Manuscript Map Matrices Microfiche Miscellaneous Research/Notes Photos (negatives/print) Plans Report Sections Survey	s/slides)	
<b>Further Comments</b>					



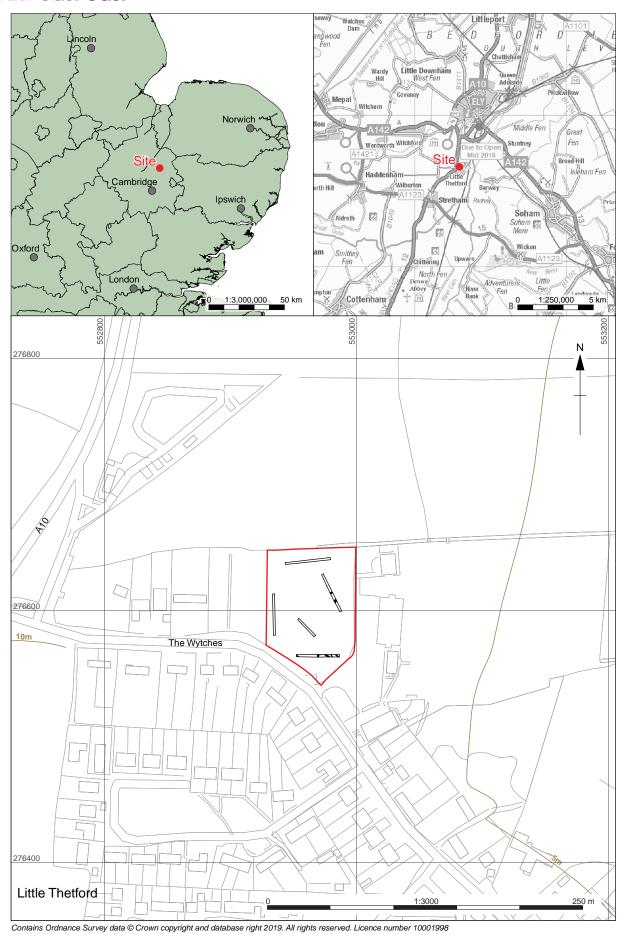
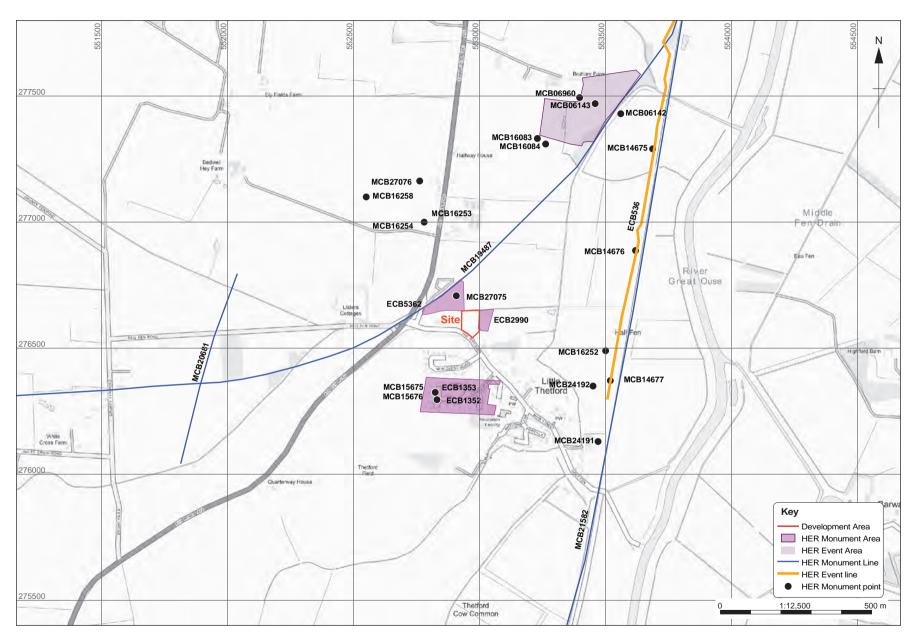


Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

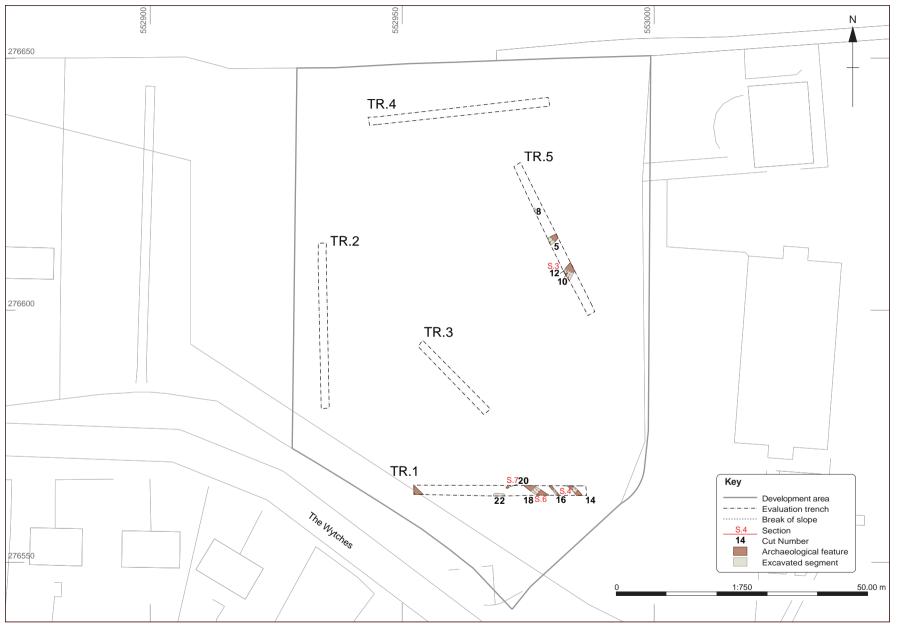
© Oxford Archaeology East Report Number 2387



east

east



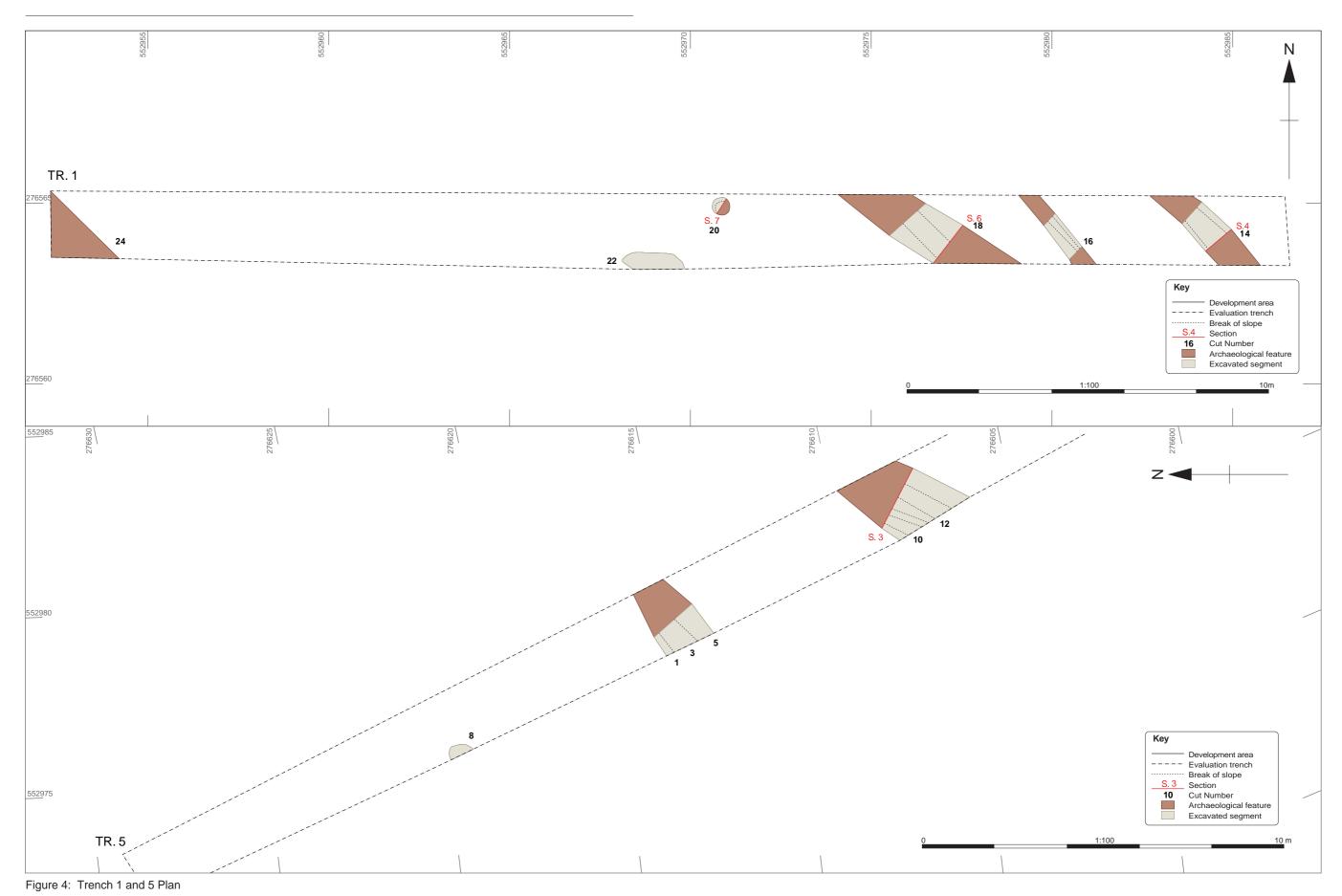


east

east

Figure 3: Trench Plan





© Oxford Archaeology East



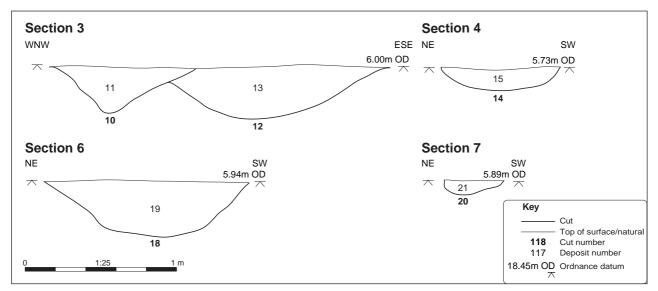


Figure 5: selected sections

© Oxford Archaeology East Report Number 2387





Plate 1: Trench 1, looking west

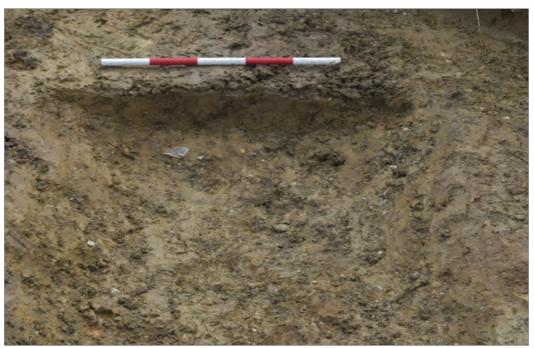


Plate 2: Ditch 16, Trench 1, looking south-east





Plate 3: Ditch 18, Trench 1, looking south-east



Plate 4: Trench 4, looking east





Plate 5: Trench 5, looking north-west



Plate 6: Ditch 5, looking south-west





#### Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House Osney Mead Oxford OX20ES

t:+44(0)1865 263800 f:+44 (0)1865 793496

e:info@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com

#### **OA North**

Mill3 MoorLane LancasterLA11QD

t: +44(0)1524 541000 f: +44(0)1524 848606

e:oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com

#### **OAEast**

15 Trafalgar Way Bar Hill Cambridgeshire CB238SQ

t:+44(0)1223 850500 e:oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com



**Director:** Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIfA Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597 and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627