



The Cavendish School, Impington, Cambridgeshire

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The Cavendish School, Impington, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 4th and the 12th of March 2021, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) conducted a programme of archaeological evaluation within the grounds of Impington Village College, Impington, Cambridgeshire, prior to the development of the Cavendish School (TL 44550 62942). Eight trenches were excavated within a proposed development area of c.0.7ha, previously occupied by single-storey buildings belonging to the College. This work was undertaken to aid in identifying the preservation and extent of any non-designated heritage assets.

Evidence for medieval activity was found in the south-east corner of the site in Trenches 5, 6 and 9. An enclosure boundary ditch was revealed in Trenches 5 and 6. Medieval pottery was recovered from this feature in both trenches. Within the area of the enclosure, in Trench 5, several pits and a post hole were exposed, some of which also contained medieval pottery and were potentially associated with the enclosure.

Trenches 5 and 9 revealed several plot-boundary ditches, quite similar in form, but on varying alignments. These included three parallel ditches running on a north-east to south-west alignment in Trench 9, with one producing a small quantity of medieval pottery. The relationship between these ditches and the enclosure ditch in Trenches 5 and 6 is unknown.

Outside this south-eastern zone, archaeology was extremely sporadic. Trenches 1, 4 and 7 each contained a shallow undated pit. Trench 2 revealed an undated ditch terminus and the remains of a hedgerow, which produced one fragment of modern brick.

Acknowledgements

OA East would like to thank RPS for commissioning this project on behalf of The McAvoy Group. Thanks are also extended to Andy Thomas who monitored the work on behalf of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) and to Sally Dicks, of RPS, who liaised with the client.

The project was managed for OA East by Nick Gilmour. The fieldwork was directed by the author, survey and digitising were carried out by Valerio Pinna and the figures were prepared by Daria Tsybaeva and Gillian Greer. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA East staff who cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Natasha Dodwell, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rachel Fosberry, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Kathrine Hamilton.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) was commissioned by RPS on behalf of The McAvoy Group to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed new development – the Cavendish School – consisting of a single two-storey building and one single-storey building, both for educational use (Class D1), with associated landscaping, car parking and replacement grounds storage facility.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. S/4295/19/FL), to inform the Planning Authority (The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET)) of any buried heritage assets within the proposed development area and to assess their significance if present. A brief was set by Andy Thomas of CHET and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA East detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition (Oxford Archaeology 2021). This document outlines how OA East implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies on the south-eastern edge of the villages of Histon and Impington within the grounds of Impington Village College, Cambridgeshire (TL 44550 62942). The site is situated at the east end of Park Drive, off New Road, bounded by College playing fields to the east and south, with the main College buildings to the north (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The proposed development area of c.0.7ha is relatively flat, sitting at a height of c.12m OD. Part of the site consisted of single-story modern buildings belonging to Impington Village College, most of which had been demolished immediately prior to the evaluation taking place. One brick building, however, remained upstanding in approximately the centre of the development area.
- 1.2.3 The bedrock geology of the site is mapped as mudstone of the Gault formation (sandy clay), with overlying superficial deposits of river terrace sand and gravel, laid down in the Quaternary Period – the latter only recorded on the western side of site in Trenches 2 and 7 (British Geological Survey online map viewer <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>, accessed: March 2021). The geology of the site has given rise to lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>, accessed: March 2021).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following section provides a brief summary of the archaeological and historical background for the area surrounding the site, based on a search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). The location of selected CHER monuments and find spots within 1km of the site are plotted on Fig. 2.

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 There is little evidence for prehistoric activity prior to the Iron Age in the immediate vicinity of the site. However, a few finds spots have been documented, including a Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age flint scraper recovered from a location c.700m south-west of the development area (MCB 16173).

Iron Age to Roman

- 1.3.3 A significant multiphase settlement site dating from the Middle Iron Age to the Roman period was revealed during an excavation c.600m to the north-west of the site, off Impington Lane in 2011 (MCB 19427; Thatcher 2011). Uncovered here was a possible Iron Age roundhouse and boundary ditch. Iron Age pottery was recovered in large quantities. Multiple Roman enclosure and boundary ditches, both re-establishing and adding to the pre-existing Iron Age settlement, contained several copper alloy brooches and an abundance of 1st to 3rd century pottery, hinting at the presence of a more significant Roman settlement nearby (Thatcher 2011).
- 1.3.4 To the south-west, located c.1km from the study site near Villa Road and west of the First Public Drain, lies a complex of cropmarks of rectilinear enclosures and linear features believed to be a possible Roman villa site and associated field boundaries – hence the name ‘Villa’ Road (HER 05187; Wilkes and Elrington 1978).

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 1.3.5 Evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in the area is relatively sparse. One unstratified bronze wire ring dated to the 7th century AD was found c.750m south-west of the evaluation area, near the Crescent, during a house extension project (HER05195). Furthermore, in 2019 just c.100m west of the evaluation site, on Impington College grounds, the Histon and Impington Archaeology Group found a possible hearth, pit and ditch while excavating four test pits. These test pits all produced pottery dating to the Late Saxon and high medieval periods (MCB 30123).
- 1.3.6 Medieval activity is well-documented in the environs of the development area. A medieval earthwork at Burgoyne Farm c.400m north-east of the site is thought to be have been the original focus of Impington village (HER 11246). This is situated just a few metres west of Saint Andrew’s Church, which has structural origins in the 12th century and later additions dating to the 14th and 15th centuries (HER 05448). Prior to the construction of the modern church hall, an archaeological evaluation encountered 10 medieval burials along with six sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery, suggesting earlier occupation beneath the cemetery (Gibson 1994).
- 1.3.7 Quarry pits and boundary ditches that were identified as part of a multiphase field system were discovered during archaeological evaluation at Impington Lane c.700m north-west of the development site. These features all contained medieval pottery (MCB16851; Cooper 2005).
- 1.3.8 Former ridge and furrow was identified over a large area around the periphery of Impington village from c.600m north of the development site and from c.400m east

(MCB22591). This field system was also identified c.800m south-east and c.1km to the south-west.

Post-medieval to modern

- 1.3.9 An 85-acre area south and south-east of Saint Andrew's Church, which now includes Impington Village College and the current evaluation site, transformed over the 16th and 17th centuries into park land and formal gardens (HER 12129). This parkland accompanied Impington Hall which was located c.200m north-east of the evaluation site (HER 05287). The Hall was built in 1579 by John Pepys, and the gatehouse now flanks the entrance to 'Park' Drive c.100m west of the development site at the junction with New Road (Cambridgeshire Garden Trust 2000).
- 1.3.10 The parkland was offered in 1930 by the Chivers family to build the first buildings of Impington Village College. Impington Hall was demolished in 1953. The site has since been used for housing development (Cambridgeshire Garden Trust 2000).

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The evaluation sought to establish the character, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The scheme of works detailed below aimed to:

- 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.
- provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, 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 were found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.1.2 This evaluation took place within, and contributes to the goals of Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this area:

- Glazebrook, J., 1997, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 1. Resource Assessment*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3.
- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J., 2000, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8.
- Medlycott, M., 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The archaeological evaluation and analysis were conducted in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines. All work was conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.

- 2.2.2 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the OA Field Manual (ed. Wilkinson 1992), and the revised OA fieldwork manual (publication forthcoming).
- 2.2.3 Eight trenches ranging between 20m to 25m long and 2.2m wide were excavated across the site using a mechanical excavator. Some trenches had to be shortened from their originally planned 25m length due to buried services or obstructions, such as buildings and trees. Trenches 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9 were re-positioned to avoid obstructions whilst maintaining an adequate length; their new position were re-surveyed. A ninth trench (Trench 3) was not excavated as a result of its challenging position in relation to various obstacles and lack of archaeological potential (see Fig. 3).
- 2.2.4 Under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist, the trenches were excavated to the depth of the geological horizon. Overburden was excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick. A toothless ditching bucket with a bucket size of 2.2m was used to excavate the trenches.
- 2.2.5 Partially flooded trenches were dealt with using a mechanical pump. A mechanical excavator was used to extend Trench 6 at the south-western end, so to allow water to run out (see Fig. 3).
- 2.2.6 Archaeological features were hand excavated by context to the level of the geological horizon with 1m wide interventions excavated in linear features, whilst discrete features were half-sectioned.
- 2.2.7 Excavated features were photographed, hand drawn and then plotted using a survey grade differential GPS connected to Leica smartnet providing an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.
- 2.2.8 The site grid was accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and located on the 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. Elevations have been levelled to the Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2.9 Each trench was individually photographed from one end and measurements and sketch plans showing the archaeological features and modern interventions were recorded on trench sheets. A written record of each archaeological context was completed.
- 2.2.10 All archaeological deposits and topsoil were scanned with a metal detector. Artefacts found in archaeological deposits during hand digging were collected and taken back to the OA East main office to be washed and quantified. Environmental samples were taken for flotation processing in order to recover any small artefacts, charred or mineralised ecofacts (plant remains) and to assess their preservation quality.
- 2.2.11 The trenches were all backfilled after the approval of Andy Thomas (CHET).

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. Trench 8, which was devoid of archaeological features is not described here, but the full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds and environmental data are tabulated in Appendices B and C respectively. A full plan of the trenches and associated archaeological features is provided in Fig. 3, with a detailed plan of Trenches 5, 9 and the southern end of Trench 6 appearing in Fig. 4. Selected section drawings are illustrated in Fig. 5 and a selection of photographs are reproduced as Plates 1-11.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was not entirely uniform across the site. The natural geology appeared as a mid-orangey brown sandy clay in the majority of trenches but changed to light-orangey brown silty sands and gravels in Trenches 2 and 7 to the west. Over much of the site the geology was overlain by a mid-brown sandy clay subsoil of varying thickness (0.26m to 0.55m thick), which in turn was overlain by a dark brown silty clay topsoil. Trenches 1 and 8 however, were positioned on built-up mounds consisting of topsoil overlying a thick layer of modern made ground and building material, with little or no subsoil underneath. Trench 5 also exhibited modern made ground but cut into the topsoil and subsoil at the north-western end (Appendix A).

3.2.2 Ground conditions across the evaluation were generally poor, having been subject to modern development of the site for College buildings. Modern disturbances relating to previous phases of development were present in most trenches and particularly prevalent in Trenches 1, 6 and 8, where several buried services, pits containing rubble and a pathway (Trench 1) truncated the natural geology. As noted above, Trench 3 was left completely unexcavated due to its positioning in relation to a hardstanding car park, buried service and an upstanding building.

3.2.3 Towards the western edge of site, Trenches 2, 7 and 8 contained numerous irregular patches of natural disturbances in the geology.

3.2.4 Trenches 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 were partially flooded with shallow puddles of water shortly after mechanical excavation took place.

3.2.5 Trenches 4, 5 and 9 were relatively undisturbed by modern and natural interference, while Trenches 1, 4, and 9 remained dry throughout. Despite the largely wet conditions and ground disturbances in most trenches, archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the natural geology across the site (Plates 1-11).

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits (*Fig. 3*)

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in all trenches apart from Trench 8. The remains encountered in these trenches are described below by trench number.

- 3.3.2 The south-eastern corner of the evaluation which included Trench 5, 9 and the southern end of Trench 6 (Fig. 4) was the main area of interest and the densest area of archaeology. All datable features in this area were found to be medieval. Encountered at the north-western end of Trench 5 and the southern end of Trench 6 were two lengths of ditch very probably representing two sides of an enclosure ditch associated with an assemblage of medieval pottery. Within the area of the enclosure, in Trench 5, pits and a post hole were revealed, some of which also contained medieval pottery and were potentially associated with the enclosure.
- 3.3.3 In Trenches 5 and 9, a number of ditches, quite similar in form, but on varying alignments were revealed. These included three parallel ditches running on a north-east to south-west alignment in Trench 9, one of which produced two sherds of medieval pottery. Relationships between these ditches and the enclosure boundary or its associated discrete features in Trench 5 is unknown.
- 3.3.4 Outside this south-eastern zone, archaeological remains were sparse and where present were largely undated. Trenches 1, 4 and 7 each contained a shallow undated pit. Exposed in Trench 2 was a possible undated ditch terminus running north-east to south-west and a modern hedgerow producing one piece of brick, running east to west.

3.4 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

- 3.4.1 Trench 1, situated c.50m north of the main evaluation area, uncovered one undated oval pit (**104**) located at the north-eastern end of the trench. It was 1.55m long, 0.82m wide and only 0.10m deep with very gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill (105) of mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay contained one small fragment of animal bone.

3.5 Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

- 3.5.1 This trench revealed a single north-east to south-west aligned ditch terminus (**205**) exposed against the south-western end of the trench. This feature was 0.75m wide and 0.24m deep with vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled with a dark-greyish brown soft sandy silt (206), containing no finds or dating evidence.
- 3.5.2 Ten metres to the north-east, the terminus of a probable hedgerow (**203**) aligned east to west was exposed emerging from the eastern side of the trench (Plate 1). The hedgerow **203** was 0.60m wide and 0.31m deep with almost vertical sides and a very uneven base. This was filled with a dark-greyish brown, soft sandy silt (204) and produced one undiagnostic fragment of modern brick on the surface.

3.6 Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

- 3.6.1 Seventy-five metres to the east, Trench 4 contained one undated sub-circular pit (**403**) at its south-eastern end (Plate 2). The pit was 1.40m wide and just 0.13m deep with gently sloping sides and a slightly convex base. The fill (404) was a mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay, containing no finds. It is uncertain whether this feature was natural or man-made. A modern service running on a north-east to south-west alignment, crossed the north-western end of the trench (on Fig. 3).

3.7 Trench 5 (Fig. 4)

- 3.7.1 Towards the south-eastern corner of the evaluation, Trench 5 exposed the densest area of archaeological features (Fig. 4; Plate 3).
- 3.7.2 A north-west to south-east aligned ditch (**507**) ran from the north-western end of the trench and cut by an enclosure ditch (**504**; aligned perpendicular to ditch **507**) was potentially the earliest feature in Trench 5 (Plate 4). This very shallow ditch was 1.10m wide and 0.16m deep with gentle sides and a slightly concave base. It was filled with a light-greyish brown, firm sandy clay (**508**), producing no finds or dating evidence.
- 3.7.3 This feature was cut by a north-east to south-west aligned ditch (**504**) (Plate 4; Fig. 5, Section 9). This ditch was thought to be the continuation of that excavated at the southern end of Trench 6 (ditch **603**; see below), thus probably forming the northern corner/side of an enclosure. Revealed towards the south-eastern end of Trench 5 was a north-east to south-west aligned ditch terminus (**523**), which may have been a further continuation of this enclosure and part of its entrance way on the opposite side to ditch **504**. This would have given the enclosure an approximate width of 15m across. It is, however, uncertain whether this ditch was part of the enclosure, enclosure, meaning that its true extent remains uncertain.
- 3.7.4 Ditch **504** was 1.51m wide and 0.37m deep with a gentle south-eastern side, steep north-western side, and a concave base. Its main, lower, fill (**505**) was 0.37m thick, consisting of a mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay, and showed signs of having silted in from the north-western side of the ditch. The fill contained four sherds of medieval pottery (0.010kg). Overlying this was a 0.25m deep upper fill (**506**) of dark greyish-brown, firm sandy clay having silted in from the south-east and spreading just halfway across the width of the ditch (see Fig. 5, Section 9). Fifteen metres to the south-east, the possible ditch terminus (**523**) measured 1.02m wide and 0.34m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 5, Section 16; Plate 5). The more linear as opposed to rounded form of this feature suggested it was a ditch terminus rather than a pit (see Plate 5). Its fill (**524**) was a mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay, containing five sherds of medieval pottery (0.011kg).
- 3.7.5 A number of discrete features were uncovered in Trench 5, situated within the area of the putative medieval enclosure. Approximately 2m to the south-east of ditch **504** was an isolated circular pit (**509**). This measured 0.70m in diameter and 0.24m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. The pit was filled by a light-greyish brown, soft sandy clay (**510**), containing no finds or datable material. Further to the south-east, midway along Trench 5, were two pits located c.0.50m apart with a broadly similar form to pit **509**. Pit **511** was circular, measuring 0.66m in diameter and 0.34m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 5, Section 11). Its 0.27m deep lower fill (**512**) was a firm light-orangey brown and blueish grey sandy clay (or re-deposited natural geology), representing erosion down the pits northern side. This was overlain by a 0.34m deep firm mid-greyish brown sandy clay (**527**), containing one large body sherd (0.057kg) from a medieval pot. Pit **513** was sub-circular, measuring 0.66m in length, 0.55m in width and 0.16m deep with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill (**514**) consisted of a light-greyish brown sandy clay, containing no finds. Similar to pit **509**, the exact function of these pits was uncertain.

- 3.7.6 However, it is possible that pits **511** and **513**, together with a nearby post hole (**515**) formed the remains of a four-post structure, with a fourth post missing (Fig. 4; Plate 6). Indeed, the two pits could have been post holes, although post hole **515** was considerably deeper at 0.42m, and narrower - with a diameter of 0.35m. It was circular in plan, with almost vertical sides and a concave base (Fig. 5, Section 13). The fill (516) was a mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay, containing no finds or datable material.
- 3.7.7 A few metres further to the south-east, and still within the projected area of the enclosure, a cluster of three pits were exposed. Pit **517** was sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 1.10m long, 0.90m wide and 0.27m deep. It was filled by a mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay (518) which produced no finds. Just to the north, and only partly exposed against the side of the trench, was what appeared to be another sub-circular pit (**519**), which was cut by a circular pit (**521**) (Plate 7; Fig. 5, Section 15). Pit **519** had gently sloping sides and a flat base, and was 0.30m deep. Its full width and length were unknown. Its fill (520) consisted of a firm mid-greyish brown sandy clay, from which no finds were recovered. Pit **521** was steep sided on its north-western edge, whereas its south-eastern edge was gently sloping, it measured 1.97m wide and 0.57m deep. Its fill (522) was a firm mid-greyish brown sandy clay that produced four sherds of medieval pottery (0.009kg).
- 3.7.8 At the south-eastern end of Trench 5 an east to west aligned linear ditch (**525**) was revealed. This was up to 0.60m wide and 0.31m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a light-greyish brown, firm sandy clay (526). No dating evidence was recovered. Its relationship to the medieval enclosure is unknown, although it seems likely that it represented a different phase of activity (possibly within the medieval period), and it did show similarities in form to the ditches excavated in Trench 9 (see below).

3.8 Trench 6 (Fig. 4)

- 3.8.1 Uncovered at the southern end of the trench (Plate 8) was the possible continuation of the enclosure ditch revealed in Trench 5, just to the south-west. This ditch (**603**) may have represented another side of the enclosure, and was on a south-east to north-west alignment, measuring 1.72m wide and 0.66m deep (Plate 9; Fig. 5, Section 18). The ditch was steep-sided, and stepped on its north-eastern side, with a concave base. It was filled with a mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay (604). This fill produced a total of 20 sherds (0.590kg) of medieval pottery, 12 of which (0.472kg) came from a single jug (Appendix B).

3.9 Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

- 3.9.1 This trench, located within the south-western corner of the evaluation outside the denser area of archaeological remains, revealed a single circular pit (**703**). This measured 0.82m in diameter and 0.20m deep with a gently sloping north-western side, a steep south-eastern side, and a concave base. Its fill (704) consisted of a mid-greyish brown, soft sandy silt, producing no finds or datable material. This feature, situated in a dense area of natural features and disturbances, may also have been naturally occurring, although it exhibited a more regular form.

3.10 Trench 9 (Fig. 4)

- 3.10.1 Trench 9 (Plate 10) situated right in the south-eastern corner of the evaluation, c.15m south of Trench 5, exposed three linear features (Fig. 4) of a broadly similar form to ditch **525** in Trench 5.
- 3.10.2 The westernmost north-east to south-west aligned feature in Trench 9, seemed to consist of two intercutting boundary ditches. These consisted of ditch **905** (Plate 11), which was seen to terminate midway along the slot excavated through these two features, while ditch **907** carried on from this terminus, maintaining the same alignment towards the north-east. The relationship between the two ditches was unknown, although it was clear that one was a re-cut of the other. Ditch **905** measured 0.65m wide and 0.36m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 5, Section 2). It was filled with a firm mid-greyish brown sandy clay (906), which produced two sherds of medieval pottery (0.011kg). Ditch **907** measured 0.60m wide and 0.21m deep with gentle sides and a concave base. Its fill (908) was a firm mid-greyish brown sandy clay. No finds were retrieved from this ditch.
- 3.10.3 Approximately 10m to the east, a further north-east to south-west aligned ditch terminus (**911**) was uncovered, potentially representing a boundary which was contemporary with ditch terminus **905**. This feature measured 0.56m wide and 0.20m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with a firm mid-greyish brown sandy clay (912), which produced no finds.
- 3.10.4 Seven metres to the west of this, between the two parallel linear features, was a north-west to south-east aligned ditch terminus (**909**). This ditch measured 0.45m wide and 0.12m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (910) was a firm light-orangey brown sandy clay, which produced no finds.
- 3.10.5 Located at the western end of Trench 9 was a sub-circular pit (**903**). This measured 0.45m long, 0.40m wide and 0.21m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill was a dark grey, soft sandy clay (904), which produced a few fragments of modern building material. This feature was clearly of relatively recent date and was visible cutting through the subsoil when the topsoil of the trench was removed, with the excavated feature cut into the natural geology only representing the very base of the larger original feature, which contained an abundance of modern material.

3.11 Finds and Environmental summary

Pottery

- 3.11.1 The evaluation produced a total of 36 sherds (688g) of early medieval and medieval pottery (AD 1050-1500), generally in a moderately abraded condition, from Trenches 5, 6 and 9 (Appendix B; Table 1). The majority of sherds were retrieved from the enclosure ditch **603** in Trench 6, whilst only very small quantities of highly fragmented pottery were recovered from other features. Early medieval pottery (AD 1050-1250) was recovered from both ditches **504**, **523** and pit **521** in Trench 5, alongside other, later, medieval material and is thought to be residual.

Environmental samples

- 3.11.2 During the evaluation, five bulk samples were taken from fills of medieval features in Trenches 5, 6 and 9. Most samples produced a relatively small quantity of generally poorly preserved carbonised plant remains. These include carbonised cereal grains, such as barley, wheat, grains that were too heavily abraded to identify and a single oat/large grass seed. Sample 1 (fill 906 of ditch **905**, Trench 9) also contains carbonised wheat grains which have the rounded appearance of free-threshing wheat (Appendix C.1; Table 2).
- 3.11.3 Other carbonised plant remains include several fragments of medium to large legumes and an elder seed from Sample 1, and a single waterlogged duckweed seed from Sample 3 (fill 527 of pit **511**, Trench 5).
- 3.11.4 The samples are either devoid of or contain only small quantities of charcoal. Sample 4 (fill 522 of pit **521**; Trench 5) produced 2ml of charcoal, whilst Sample 5 (fill 604 of ditch **603**, Trench 6) and Sample 1 contain less than 1ml. Sample 3 was completely devoid of charcoal.
- 3.11.5 Sample 2 from fill 505 of ditch **504** (Trench 5), produced no plant remains or charcoal.
- 3.11.6 The samples from this site all produced occasional, relatively well-preserved mollusc shells.

Animal bone

- 3.11.7 A total of six fragments of animal bone was recovered from the evaluation (Appendix C.2; Table 3). One fragment, identified as belonging to a large mammal, was found in the fill of undated pit **104** (Trench 1). The other five were recovered from the fills of ditches **525**, **603** and **905** (Trenches 5, 6 and 9). Four of the fragments found across these three ditches are identified as cattle and one from ditch **603** is amphibian. Apart from the cattle bone found in ditch **525**, the fragments were associated with medieval pottery. The assemblage of the whole site is considered small, highly fragmentary, and poorly preserved.

Marine mollusca

- 3.11.8 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of moderately well-preserved shell, originating from estuarine and shallow coastal waters or intertidal zones (Appendix C.3; Table 4). The bulk of this assemblage consists of mussel shell found in the fill of ditch **603** (Trench 6). Here, 21 mussel shells or fragments of (0.034kg), were collected by hand, whilst many more from this context were retrieved from Sample 5 (Appendix C.1; Table 2). In Trench 5, a single mussel shell (0.004kg) was recovered from the fill of pit **521**, and one oyster shell (0.018kg) from the fill of ditch **523**. All shells were found associated with medieval pottery.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The results of the evaluation can be considered reliable; the archaeological features of generally dark to light-greyish brown fills could be distinguished against the orangey brown geological horizon. The significant level of modern and natural disturbance across much of the site did not infringe upon or affect the main area of archaeological interest (southern end of Trench 6 and Trenches 5 and 9). Across the more disturbed northern and western parts of the evaluation archaeological features were sparse, but were clearly visible when encountered. In Trenches 1 and 8, the modern-made ground was built up from, rather than truncating the natural geology or any archaeological features which could have been present.
- 4.1.2 Water in the partially flooded trenches was shallow and relatively easy to manage, thus did not significantly impede the visibility and excavation of archaeological features.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.2 The objectives of this small evaluation have been successfully achieved in so far as the presence, character, and distribution of archaeological remains across the site has been established (Fig. 3). In the south-eastern corner of the site, Trenches 5, 6 and 9 revealed a relatively dense area of archaeological activity in the form of ditches and pits, found to largely date to the medieval period. Outside of this zone, activity was extremely sporadic and largely undatable, with little archaeological material recovered in comparison with the south-eastern zone.
- 4.2.3 Moreover, the state of preservation of archaeological features and materials found has been assessed. Despite the generally poor preservation of the small archaeological and environmental assemblages - most likely a result of later land-uses, disturbances, and rooting - information of some value can be gleaned from them regarding the date, use and significance of the archaeological features they came from.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The archaeological evaluation at Impington revealed three major groups of activity. The first consisted of an enclosure ditch with associated discrete features dating to the medieval period (AD 1050-1500) in Trenches 5 and 6. The second group comprised a series of plot-boundary ditches exposed across Trenches 5 and 9, also thought to be medieval in date. The third group consisted of a small number of undated or modern features, mainly revealed outside of the area of medieval activity.

Enclosure ditch and associated features (Trenches 5 and 6)

- 4.3.2 The most distinctive feature in the evaluation consisted of what appeared to be two sides of a square or rectangular enclosure (ditches **504** and **603**, Fig. 3). Although ditch **603** contained a far greater assemblage of pottery, the material from both ditches could be dated to the medieval period (Appendix B). In Trench 5, the enclosure ditch cut an earlier ditch (**507**) of unknown date or function. Fifteen metres to the south-

east of ditch **504**, ditch terminus **523** ran exactly parallel and contained similarly dated medieval pottery. This may have represented a third side to the enclosure, as well as a possible entrance way. However, it was uncertain whether this feature was a pit or a ditch terminus, as only a small part appeared in the trench; putting into doubt whether or not **523** belonged to the enclosure.

- 4.3.3 In contrast to the rest of the evaluation, the area within these ditches contained a relatively dense distribution of pits (Trench 5). The apparent association between the enclosure and these discrete features is strengthened by similarities between their archaeological and environmental assemblages. As with ditches **504** and **523**, pit **521** produced sherds of medieval pottery (including sherds from an early medieval vessel dated 1050-1225 AD), whilst pit **511** contained a large sherd, probably from a jug, similar to those recovered from ditch **603**. A similar range of pottery wares were recorded from the various features (Appendix B; Table 1). Common features of the environmental remains of the enclosure and its associated pits include the limited presence of carbonised cereals, such as wheat and barley, the small levels of charcoal and molluscs and the presence of marine mollusca (mussel and oyster shell; Appendix C.1 and C.3).
- 4.3.4 From the evaluation, little can be said regarding the exact function of the enclosure and its associated features in Trench 5, although from the limited evidence it seems unlikely that these features represent intensive settlement or industrial activity. The pottery and environmental assemblages generally seem to represent an occasional scattering of food waste, or rubbish deposition from medieval settlement nearby. It is most probable this enclosure was located on the periphery of any medieval settlement at Impington and may have been used for livestock or other agricultural activities.
- 4.3.5 Certain patterns in the layout of the pits could be distinguished in plan (Fig. 4). Discrete features including, **511**, **513**, and **515** were laid out in an almost 4-post structural arrangement (albeit missing a fourth post), although **511** and **513** display a more 'pit-like' form, whereas **515** appeared to represent a definite, relatively deep, post hole (see Plate 5). The cluster of pits further to the south-east in Trench 5 (**517**, **519** and **521**), show no indications of a formal layout and varied somewhat in morphology, resembling extraction pits. The discrete features may indicate the enclosure was multipurpose or used for different activities at different times.

Plot-boundary ditches (Trenches 5 and 9)

- 4.3.6 A second key group of features within the main area of archaeological activity consisted of several narrow ditches of similar form, including ditch **525** and ditches **905-911** (Fig. 4). Their alignments varied, aside from ditches **905** and **911**, which ran parallel on a north-east to south-west alignment in Trench 9. These two ditches were possibly contemporary with one another. The varying alignments of other ditches may represent multiple phases of activity. Ditch **907**, continuing the same alignment as **905** could have been a re-cut or original cut of this ditch.
- 4.3.7 As with the enclosure, these ditches are thought to be medieval in date due to the limited (possibly residual) pottery retrieved from ditch **905**. The pottery fragments are of a type (South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware; dated AD 1150-1450)

also recovered from ditches **523** and **603** (Appendix B; Table 1). Similar to the enclosure, ditch **905** produced limited cereal grains, such as wheat (inc. free threshing) and barley and also several fragments of legumes; an environmental assemblage typical of the medieval period (McKerracher 2019; Appendix C.1; Table 2).

- 4.3.8 The exact relationship between these plot-boundaries and the enclosure ditch was unknown, however, the material produced from the two groups of features is similar in terms of preservation and content. The evidence is again extremely limited, representing an occasional scattering of rubbish deposition from medieval settlement nearby. These plot-boundaries were also on the periphery of any medieval settlement at Impington and may have been used for livestock or growing crops.

Modern and undated features

- 4.3.9 Further to the north and west of Trenches 5, 6 and 9, very few archaeological features were exposed. Isolated discrete features **104**, **403** and **703** were tested as possible pits, but were all very shallow with no dating evidence. There is a possibility these were all natural features, although their forms were quite regular. Pit **104** (Trench 1) produced one fragment of bone belonging to a large mammal (Appendix C.2; Table 3); this may have been residual.
- 4.3.10 Two linear features were exposed in Trench 2. Ditch terminus **205** was undated, whereas the possible remains of a hedgerow (**203**) produced a modern fragment of brick. This modern feature, which had a very uneven base and irregular form (Plate 1), generally respected the alignment of Park Drive, running west to east from the western side of the development area. This perhaps represented an old hedge boundary prior to the construction of the Impington Village College buildings within the development area. These features, including ditch **205**, may also have related to the parkland and gardens associated with Impington Hall (HER 12129; see Fig. 2) and could therefore have been post-medieval in date.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The evaluation exposed a very small area of medieval activity c.400m south of the supposed core of medieval Impington (HER 11246) and Saint Andrews Church (HER 05448). It remains unclear as to how far the enclosure (**603** and **504**) or series of plot-boundary ditches extend beyond the south-eastern corner of the development area.
- 4.4.2 Although the archaeological remains found during the evaluation were limited, the site showed similarities with that found c.700m to the north-west, on Impington Lane (MCB16851; Cooper 2005). Here, multiphase field systems were found alongside pits and post holes containing medieval pottery. Similarly to the current evaluation, the evidence was suggestive of peripheral activity taking place on the edge of the medieval settlement of Impington. The two sites, alongside the extensive ridge and furrow system surrounding Impington (MCB 22591), attest to an active agricultural landscape surrounding the medieval settlement.
- 4.4.3 The bulk of the pottery and marine mollusca assemblages were recovered from the enclosures' northern side (fill of ditch **603**), which faces the core of medieval Impington (HER 11246). These assemblages, along with the archaeological materials

recovered from Impington Lane (MCB16851), suggest the presence of an active settlement in the medieval period. The abundance of mussel shell retrieved from the enclosure in Trench 6, indicates a certain level of trade and connectivity between the medieval settlement and the wider region.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench 1 | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | SW-NE |
| Trench contained one pit with modern truncations throughout, such as a pathway and two pipes. This deep trench was excavated in a built-up mound, consisting of topsoil, modern made ground and very thin layer of subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay. | | | | | Length (m) | 25 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 2.20 |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 1.30 |
| Context No. | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 100 | Layer | - | 0.20 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 101 | Layer | - | 0.90 | Made ground | - | Modern |
| 102 | Layer | - | 0.15 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 103 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 104 | Cut | 0.82 | 0.10 | Pit | - | - |
| 105 | Fill | 0.82 | 0.10 | Mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | 1 fragment of large mammal bone | - |

| Trench 2 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | SW-NE |
| Trench contained a hedgerow and a possible ditch with one modern drain and natural disturbances at the NE end. Consisted of mainly topsoil with a thin layer of subsoil along the last 5m at the SW end, overlying natural geology of silty sand and gravel. | | | | | Length (m) | 20 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 2.20 |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.50 |
| Context No. | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 200 | Layer | - | 0.40 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 201 | Layer | - | 0.26 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 202 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 203 | Cut | 0.60 | 0.31 | Hedgerow sealed by the topsoil | - | - |
| 204 | Fill | 0.60 | 0.31 | Dark-greyish brown, soft sandy silt | 1 brick fragment (not retained) | Modern |
| 205 | Cut | 0.75 | 0.24 | Ditch sealed by the thin layer of subsoil at the SW end | - | - |
| 206 | Fill | 0.75 | 0.24 | Dark-greyish brown, soft sandy silt | - | - |

| Trench 4 | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | SE-NW |
| Trench contained one possible pit and a modern ditch at the NW end. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay. | | | | | Length (m) | 25 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 2.20 |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.70 |
| Context No. | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-------|------|------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 400 | Layer | - | 0.30 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 401 | Layer | - | 0.40 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 402 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 403 | Cut | 1.40 | 0.13 | Pit | - | - |
| 404 | Fill | 1.40 | 0.13 | Mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | - | - |

| Trench 5 | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | SE-NW |
| Trench contained four ditches, six pits, one post hole and a modern drain. Consisted of topsoil which was replaced by modern made ground at the NW end. These top layers overlaid subsoil followed by a natural geology of sandy clay and gravel. | | | | | Length (m) | 23 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 2.20 |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.80 |
| Context No. | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Findings | Date |
| 500 | Layer | - | 0.35 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 501 | Layer | - | 0.60 | Made ground | - | Modern |
| 502 | Layer | - | 0.45 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 503 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 504 | Cut | 1.51 | 0.37 | Ditch | - | - |
| 505 | Fill | 1.12 | 0.37 | Mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | 4 sherds of pottery | Medieval |
| 506 | Fill | 0.97 | 0.25 | Dark-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | - | - |
| 507 | Cut | 1.10 | 0.16 | Ditch | - | - |
| 508 | Fill | 1.10 | 0.16 | Light-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | - | - |
| 509 | Cut | 0.70 | 0.24 | Pit | - | - |
| 510 | Fill | 0.70 | 0.24 | Light-greyish brown, soft sandy clay | - | - |
| 511 | Cut | 0.66 | 0.34 | Pit | - | - |
| 512 | Fill | 0.38 | 0.27 | Light-orangey brown and blueish grey, firm sandy clay | - | - |
| 513 | Cut | 0.55 | 0.16 | Pit | - | - |
| 514 | Fill | 0.55 | 0.16 | Light-greyish brown, soft sandy clay | - | - |
| 515 | Cut | 0.35 | 0.42 | Post hole | - | - |
| 516 | Fill | 0.35 | 0.42 | Mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | - | - |
| 517 | Cut | 0.90 | 0.27 | Pit | - | - |
| 518 | Fill | 0.90 | 0.27 | Mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | - | - |
| 519 | Cut | - | 0.30 | Pit | - | - |
| 520 | Fill | - | 0.30 | Mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | - | - |
| 521 | Cut | 1.97 | 0.57 | Pit | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------|
| 522 | Fill | 1.97 | 0.57 | Mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | 4 sherds of pottery and 1 mussel shell | Medieval |
| 523 | Cut | 1.02 | 0.34 | Ditch | - | - |
| 524 | Fill | 1.02 | 0.34 | Mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | 5 sherds of pottery and 1 oyster shell | Medieval |
| 525 | Cut | 0.60 | 0.31 | Ditch | - | - |
| 526 | Fill | 0.60 | 0.31 | Light-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | 1 cattle bone | - |
| 527 | Fill | 0.66 | 0.34 | Fill of pit 511. Mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | 1 sherd of pottery | Medieval |

| Trench 6 | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | SW-NE |
| Trench contained one ditch and modern truncations throughout, such as a pit full of building material and cables and pipes. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay and gravel. | | | | | Length (m) | 25 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 2.20 |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.65 |
| Context No. | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 600 | Layer | - | 0.20 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 601 | Layer | - | 0.45 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 602 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 603 | Cut | 1.72 | 0.66 | Ditch | - | - |
| 604 | Fill | 1.72 | 0.66 | Mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | 20 sherds of pottery, 2 cattle bones, 1 amphibian bone and frequent mussel shells | Medieval |

| Trench 7 | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | SE-NW |
| Trench contained one possible pit and natural disturbances throughout. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and gravel. | | | | | Length (m) | 21 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 2.20 |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.7 |
| Context No. | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 700 | Layer | - | 0.40 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 701 | Layer | - | 0.33 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 702 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 703 | Cut | 0.82 | 0.20 | Pit | - | - |
| 704 | Fill | 0.82 | 0.20 | Mid-greyish brown, soft sandy silt | - | - |

| Trench 8 | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--------------------|-------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | SW-NE |
| | | | | | Length (m) | 22 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Trench devoid of archaeology with modern and natural disturbances throughout. Consisted of topsoil and a thick layer of modern made ground overlying natural geology of sandy clay. | | | | | Width (m) | 2.20 |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.95 |
| Context No. | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 800 | Layer | - | 0.30 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 801 | Layer | - | 0.65 | Made ground | - | Modern |
| 802 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 9 | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | E-W |
| Trench contained four ditches and at the western end, a modern pit. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay. | | | | | Length (m) | 20 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 2.20 |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.75 |
| Context No. | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 900 | Layer | - | 0.30 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 901 | Layer | - | 0.45 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 902 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 903 | Cut | 0.40 | 0.21 | Pit | - | - |
| 904 | Fill | 0.40 | 0.21 | Dark grey, soft sandy clay | Brick rubble (not retained) | Modern |
| 905 | Cut | 0.65 | 0.36 | Ditch | - | - |
| 906 | Fill | 0.65 | 0.36 | Mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | 2 sherds of pottery and 1 cattle bone | Medieval |
| 907 | Cut | 0.60 | 0.21 | Ditch | - | - |
| 908 | Fill | 0.60 | 0.21 | Mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | - | - |
| 909 | Cut | 0.45 | 0.12 | Ditch | - | - |
| 910 | Fill | 0.45 | 0.12 | Light-orangey brown, firm sandy clay | - | - |
| 911 | Cut | 0.56 | 0.20 | Ditch | - | - |
| 912 | Fill | 0.56 | 0.20 | Mid-greyish brown, firm sandy clay | - | - |

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORT

B.1 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

B.1.1 Archaeological works produced a small hand-excavated early medieval and medieval pottery assemblage of 36 sherds, weighing 0.688kg, from pits and ditches in Trenches 5, 6 and 9. The condition of this assemblage is moderately abraded, and the average sherd weight is low-moderate at approximately 19g.

Methodology

B.1.2 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.

B.1.3 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 medieval and post-medieval types, using Cambridgeshire fabric types where possible (Spoerry 2016). All sherds have been counted, classified, and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the catalogue at the end of this report. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage

B.1.4 The material recovered is a mix of early medieval and medieval pottery. Early medieval pottery (1050-1250) was recovered from Trench 5 in both ditches **504**, **523** and pit **521**, however, it was recovered alongside other medieval material and all the sherds are small, with the abraded early medieval material indicating residuality. Pit **511** in Trench 5 produced the only large sherd recovered from the trench, a moderately abraded body sherd (0.057kg) from a Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware jug.

B.1.5 The bulk of the assemblage was recovered from Trench 6 in Ditch **603**, which produced 20 sherds of pottery (0.590kg), including 12 sherds (0.472kg) from a single, glazed, Medieval Ely ware jug (1150-1350).

B.1.6 Two sherds (0.011kg) of South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware (1150-1450) were recovered from Sample 1, taken from ditch **905**.

Discussion

B.1.7 The pottery recovered is medieval in date, including early medieval sherds. The bulk of the assemblage is fragmentary, and, although representing medieval occupation in the vicinity of the site excavated, except for the pottery recovered from ditch **603**, the levels of pottery recovered are low and most likely signify the distribution of general rubbish deposition, dispersed by later ploughing or other disturbance.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.1.8 Should further work be undertaken, additional pottery may be recovered. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the pottery may be dispersed for educational use or deselected prior to archival deposition.

Pottery Catalogue

| Trench | Context & Sample | Cut | Fabric | Count | MNV | Weight (kg) | Description | Date Range |
|--------|------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------|-------|-----|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 5 | 505 505 <2> | 504 | ?(South Cambridgeshire) Smooth Sandy ware | 2 | 1 | 0.003 | Small, moderately abraded reduced sherds | 1050–1225 |
| | | | Medieval Essex-type Micaceous Grey Sandy wares | 1 | 1 | 0.004 | Moderately abraded body sherd | 1200–1400 |
| | | | Medieval Sandy ware | 1 | 1 | 0.003 | Small, moderately abraded rim sherd (everted, flat topped), too small to be certain of its diameter | 1150–1500 |
| | 522 522 <4> | 521 | Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware | 3 | 1 | 0.007 | Abraded, spalled body sherds, slightly externally sooted | 1050–1225 |
| | | | Medieval Ely ware | 1 | 1 | 0.002 | Small, moderately abraded body sherd from an Ely ware jug with external green glaze | 1150–1350 |
| | 524 | 523 | Early Medieval Shelly ware | 4 | 1 | 0.003 | Small, abraded body sherds | 1050–1200 |
| | | | South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware | 1 | 1 | 0.008 | Moderately abraded-abraded, sooted body sherd | 1150–1450 |
| | 527 | 511 | Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware | 1 | 1 | 0.057 | Moderately abraded body sherd with incised annular or spiral decoration over the body. The sherd is very probably from a jug | 1175–1300 |
| 6 | 604 | 603 | Medieval Ely ware | 12 | 1 | 0.472 | Unabraded-moderately abraded sherds from a partially green glazed Ely ware jug. The neck of the vessel is everted the rim near upright, externally thickened and rounded with a slight internal bevel and a pulled or pinched lip (diameter 140mm, EVE 57.5). The rod handle survives, near-complete with a short, thumb groove at the top of the handle where it joins the neck, below the rim. There are patches of green glaze at the top of the handle. The body sherds are incised with annular lines and covered in a green glaze. A single body sherd has traces of a pulled foot | 1150–1350 |
| | | | Medieval Ely ware | 1 | 1 | 0.009 | Moderately abraded body sherd | 1150–1350 |
| | | | South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware | 1 | 1 | 0.035 | Moderately abraded body sherd from a jug or jar. The sherd has incised annular lines around the body and a vertical thumb applied strip. The sherd is externally sooted | 1150–1450 |

| Trench | Context & Sample | Cut | Fabric | Count | MNV | Weight (kg) | Description | Date Range |
|--------------|------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------|-------|-----|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| | | | Medieval Essex-type Micaceous Grey Sandy wares | 1 | 1 | 0.026 | Moderately abraded rim sherd, possibly from a jug, as the rim appears to flare out slightly and is somewhat uneven. Rim everted, almost simple and rounded (diameter 220mm EVE 10%) | 1200–1400 |
| | | | Medieval Sandy ware | 3 | 2 | 0.028 | Moderately abraded-abraded body sherds, all externally sooted | 1150–1500 |
| | | | Medieval Sandy ware | 1 | 1 | 0.015 | Moderately abraded, slightly convex base sherd, externally and internally sooted | 1150–1500 |
| 6 | 604 <5> | 603 | Medieval Essex-type Micaceous Grey Sandy wares | 1 | 0 | 0.005 | Moderately abraded, externally sooted body sherd | 1200–1400 |
| 9 | 906 <1> | 905 | South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware | 2 | 1 | 0.011 | Moderately abraded, externally sooted body shed | 1150–1450 |
| Total | | | | 36 | 16 | 0.688 | | |

Table 1: Pottery by trench, context and cut

(EVE= Estimated vessel equivalent, MNV= Minimum number of vessels)

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Remains

By Martha Craven

Introduction

C.1.1 Five bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area at Cavendish School, Impington, 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 features encountered within trenches 5,6, and 9 from deposits that are thought to be medieval in date.

Methodology

C.1.2 The samples were soaked in a solution of sodium carbonate for 24hrs prior to processing to break down the heavy clay matrix. The total volume (up to 16L) of each of the samples 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 samples 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 flots were scanned 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 (2010) for other plants. 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

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

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

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

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

Key to tables:

U=untransformed, f=fragmented

Results

C.1.6 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation and is generally poor.

C.1.7 Carbonised cereal grains are present in all but one of the five samples, in relatively small quantities. The cereal grains consist of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), wheat (*Triticum sp.*), grains that were too heavily abraded to identify and a single oat/ large grass seed (*Avena/Poaceae sp.*). Sample 1, fill 906 of ditch **905** (Trench 9), contains carbonised wheat grains which have the rounded appearance of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum*). Sample 1 also contains several fragments of medium to large legumes (*Pisum/Lathyrus/Vicia sp.*). Other plant remains recovered from the samples consist of a single untransformed elder (*Sambucus nigra*) seed in Sample 1 and a single waterlogged duckweed (*Lemna sp.*) seed in Sample 3, fill 527 of pit **511** (Trench 5). The samples are either devoid of or contain only small quantities of charcoal.

C.1.8 The samples from this site contain occasional, relatively well-preserved molluscs.

| Trench No. | Sample No. | Context No. | Cut No. | Feature Type | Volume Processed | Flot Volume | Cereals | Legumes | Tree/Shrub Macrofossils | Lemna | Charcoal (ml) | Molluscs | Pottery | Large Mammal | Amphibian bones | Mussels |
|------------|------------|-------------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------|---------|---------|-------------------------|-------|---------------|----------|---------|--------------|-----------------|---------|
| 5 | 2 | 505 | 504 | Ditch | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | # | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 3 | 527 | 511 | Pit | 16 | 10 | # | 0 | 0 | # | 0 | ++ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 4 | 522 | 521 | Pit | 16 | <1 | # | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | + | # | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | 5 | 604 | 603 | Ditch | 16 | 5 | ## | 0 | 0 | 0 | <1 | + | # | # | # | ### |
| 9 | 1 | 906 | 905 | Ditch | 16 | 1 | ## | #f | #U | 0 | <1 | ++ | # | # | 0 | 0 |

Table 2: Environmental samples from Cavendish School

Discussion

C.1.9 The relatively small quantity of carbonised plant remains present in these samples is likely to represent a background scatter of refuse from the surrounding environs. The plant assemblage is quite typical of the medieval period; particularly the presence of free-threshing wheat which became the dominant wheat crop from the Anglo-Saxon period onwards (McKerracher 2019). Legumes were also a significant crop in the medieval period both as a dietary component and as animal fodder (Treasure & Church. 2016).

C.1.10 The recovery of carbonised grain, weed seeds and charcoal indicates that there is the potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site. 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 Faunal Remains

By Zoë Uí Choileáin

Introduction and Methodology

C.2.1 Six fragments of animal bone were recovered during the evaluation at Impington. All bone was identified using Schmid (1972). Surface preservation was evaluated using the 0-5 scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (2004, 14-15).

Results

C.2.2 The surface condition of the bone on average represents a 2-3 on the scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (ibid). Most surfaces are masked by erosion; notably rooting.

C.2.3 Only four fragments of bone are identifiable to taxon; all cattle. No repeated elements are present giving an mni (minimum number of individuals) of one. A single amphibian humerus is present from context 604. Nothing else of note is present.

Summary and Recommendations

C.2.4 The assemblage is small, highly fragmentary and poorly preserved. There is little other information that can be gleaned from the material.

| Context | Sample | Taxon | Element | Condition | Count |
|---------|--------|--------------|------------------------|-----------|-------|
| 105 | | Large mammal | flat/cubic bone | 3 | 1 |
| 526 | | Cattle | Ulna | 2 | 1 |
| 604 | 5 | Amphibian | humerus | 0 | 1 |
| 604 | | Cattle | Scapula | 2 | 1 |
| 604 | | Cattle | Pelvis | 2 | 1 |
| 906 | 1 | Cattle | loose mand cheek tooth | 4 | 1 |

Table 3: Total weight count taxon and elements present

C.3 Marine Mollusca

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

C.3.1 A total of 0.056kg of shell was collected by hand during the evaluation. The shells recovered are oyster *Ostrea edulis*, from estuarine, shallow coastal waters and intertidal zones, and mussel *Mytilus edulis*, from intertidal zones. The shell is moderately well preserved and does not appear to have been deliberately broken or crushed.

Methodology

- C.3.2 The shells were weighed and recorded by species, with right and left valves noted, when identification could be made, using Winder (2011 and 2017) as a guide. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was not established, due to the small size of the assemblage from most features.
- C.3.3 The shell was weighed and recorded by species, with complete or near-complete right and left valves noted where identification can be made, using Winder (2011) as a guide and recorded in the text. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was not established, due to the small size of the assemblage. Average size, age, infestations, and descriptive characteristics have not been recorded due to the size of the assemblage.

Assemblage

- C.3.4 Trench 5: Pit **521** produced a single mussel shell, with a single right oyster valve recovered from ditch **523**.
- C.3.5 The remainder of the shell assemblage was recovered from ditch **603** in Trench 6, which produced 21 shells or fragments of mussel shell.

Discussion

- C.3.6 The shell assemblage is in reasonable condition. Within the small oyster assemblage, the single shell shows evidence of ‘shucking’, prior to its consumption. The bulk of the assemblage is mussel shell, mostly recovered from Trench 6. The mussel shells from ditch **603** represent at most a single meal, although the number of individual mussels recovered was not recorded *per se*, however, a total of 12 left valves suggests the size of the assemblage.
- C.3.7 The shells represent general discarded food waste and, although not closely datable in themselves, may be dated by their association with pottery or other material also recovered from the features. This limited quantity of shell is too small a sample to draw any but the broadest conclusions, in that shellfish were reaching the site from the coastal regions, indicating trade with the wider area.

Retention, dispersal and display

- C.3.8 The assemblage indicates that, should further work take place, shell might be found, however, the evaluation results suggest there will be only low levels of shell deposition. If further work is undertaken, this assemblage should be incorporated into any later catalogue. If no further work is undertaken, the catalogue acts as a full record and the shell may be dispersed or deselected prior to archive deposition.

Mollusca Catalogue

| Trench | Context | Cut | Species | Common Name | Habitat | No of shells or fragments | No. left valve | No. right valve | Description/ Comment | Total Weight (kg) |
|--------|---------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 5 | 522 | 521 | <i>Mytilus edulis</i> | Mussel | Intertidal zone | 1 | 0 | 1 | One complete medium-large right valve | 0.004 |

| Trench | Context | Cut | Species | Common Name | Habitat | No of shells or fragments | No. left valve | No. right valve | Description/ Comment | Total Weight (kg) |
|--------------|---------|-----|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| | 524 | 523 | <i>Ostrea edulis</i> | Oyster | Estuarine and shallow coastal water | 1 | 0 | 1 | Near-complete medium right valve, with very slight damage to the ventral margin that might be a very slight 'W'-shaped shucking mark | 0.018 |
| 6 | 604 | 603 | <i>Mytilus edulis</i> | Mussel | Intertidal zone | 21 | 12 | 5 | One complete medium-large right valve. One complete small-medium right valve. One partial medium right valve and two incomplete right valves, both missing their posterior margin. Three complete small to medium left valves. Four medium partial left valves, with varying amounts of damage. One small-medium partial left valve. Three incomplete left valves. Four indeterminate fragments of shell | 0.034 |
| Total | | | | | | 23 | 12 | 7 | | 0.056 |

Table 4: Mollusca by trench, context and cut

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| OASIS Number | oxfordar3-418668 | | |
| Project Name | The Cavendish School, Impington, Cambridgeshire | | |
| Start of Fieldwork | 04/03/2021 | End of Fieldwork | 12/03/2021 |
| Previous Work | No | Future Work | Unknown |

Project Reference Codes

| | | | |
|------------|---------|-------------------|--------------|
| Site Code | ECB6513 | Planning App. No. | S/4295/19/FL |
| HER Number | ECB6513 | Related Numbers | IMPCAV21 |

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Prompt | Planning condition - NPPF |
| Development Type | School |
| Place in Planning Process | After full determination (eg. As a condition) |

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

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

| Monument | Period | Object | Period |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Enclosure Ditch | Medieval (1066 to 1540) | Pottery | Medieval (1066 to 1540) |
| Pit | Medieval (1066 to 1540) | Animal Bone | Medieval (1066 to 1540) |
| Ditch | Medieval (1066 to 1540) | Marine Mollusca | Medieval (1066 to 1540) |
| Post Hole | Medieval (1066 to 1540) | Animal Bone | Uncertain |
| Ditch | Uncertain | | |
| Pit | Uncertain | | |

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

| | | |
|------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| County | Cambridgeshire | Address (including Postcode) Impington Village College, New Road, Impington, |
| District | South Cambridgeshire | |
| Parish | Histon and Impington | |
| HER office | Cambridgeshire | |

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------|
| Size of Study Area | 6800 sqm | CB24 9LX |
| National Grid Ref | TL 44550 62942 | |

Project Originators

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Organisation | Oxford Archaeology East |
| Project Brief Originator | Andy Thomas |
| Project Design Originator | Nick Gilmour |
| Project Manager | Nick Gilmour |
| Project Supervisor | Edmund Cole |

Project Archives

| | Location | ID |
|--------------------------|------------|----------|
| Physical Archive (Finds) | CCC Stores | ECB6513 |
| Digital Archive | OA East | IMPCAV21 |
| Paper Archive | CCC Stores | ECB6513 |

| Physical Contents | Present? | Digital files associated with Finds | Paperwork associated with Finds |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Animal Bones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ceramics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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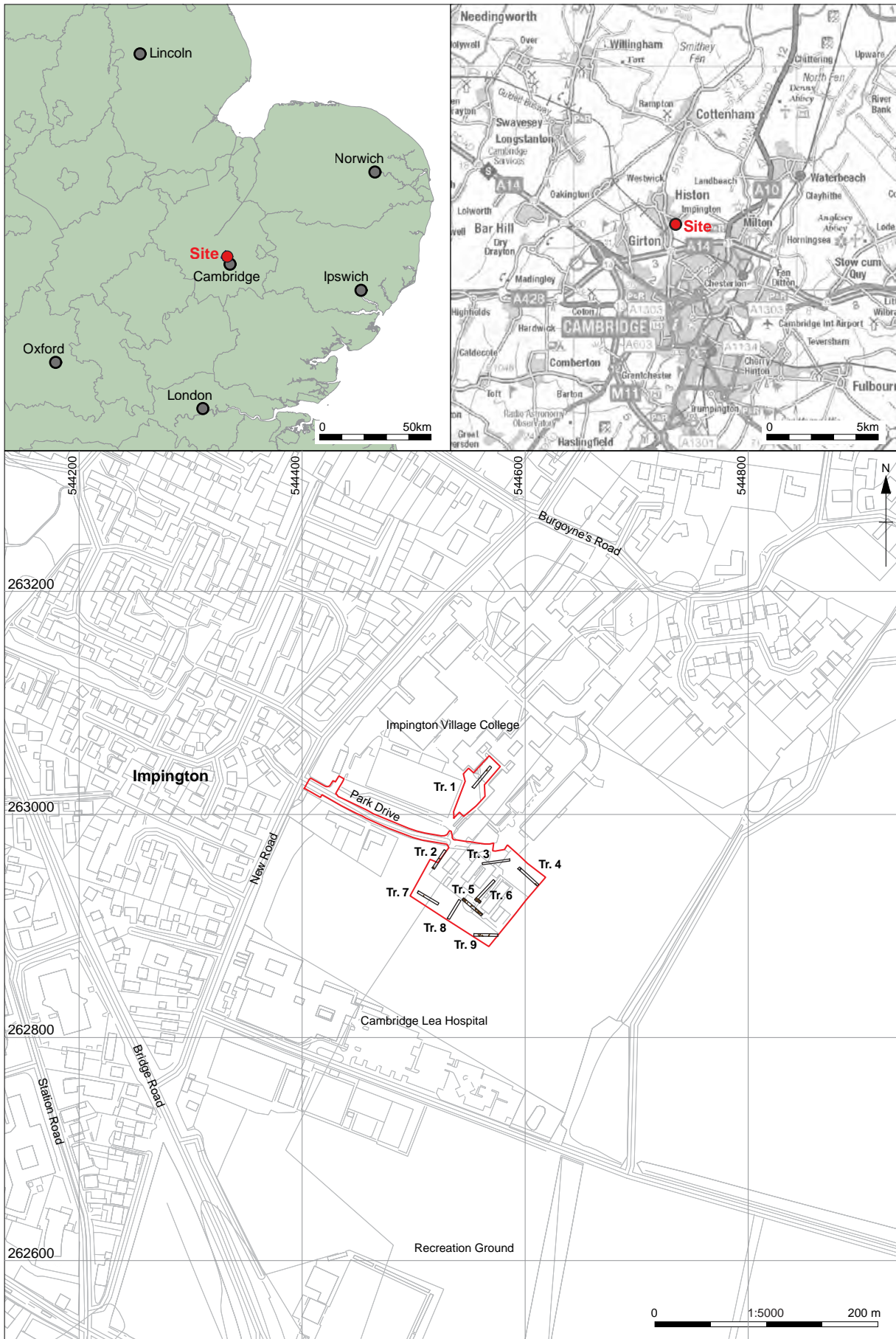
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| Moving Image | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Survey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Text | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Virtual Reality | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Paper Media

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| Drawing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Map | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Matrices | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Microfiche | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Miscellaneous | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Research/Notes
- Photos (negatives/prints/slides)
- Plans
- Report
- Sections
- Survey



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

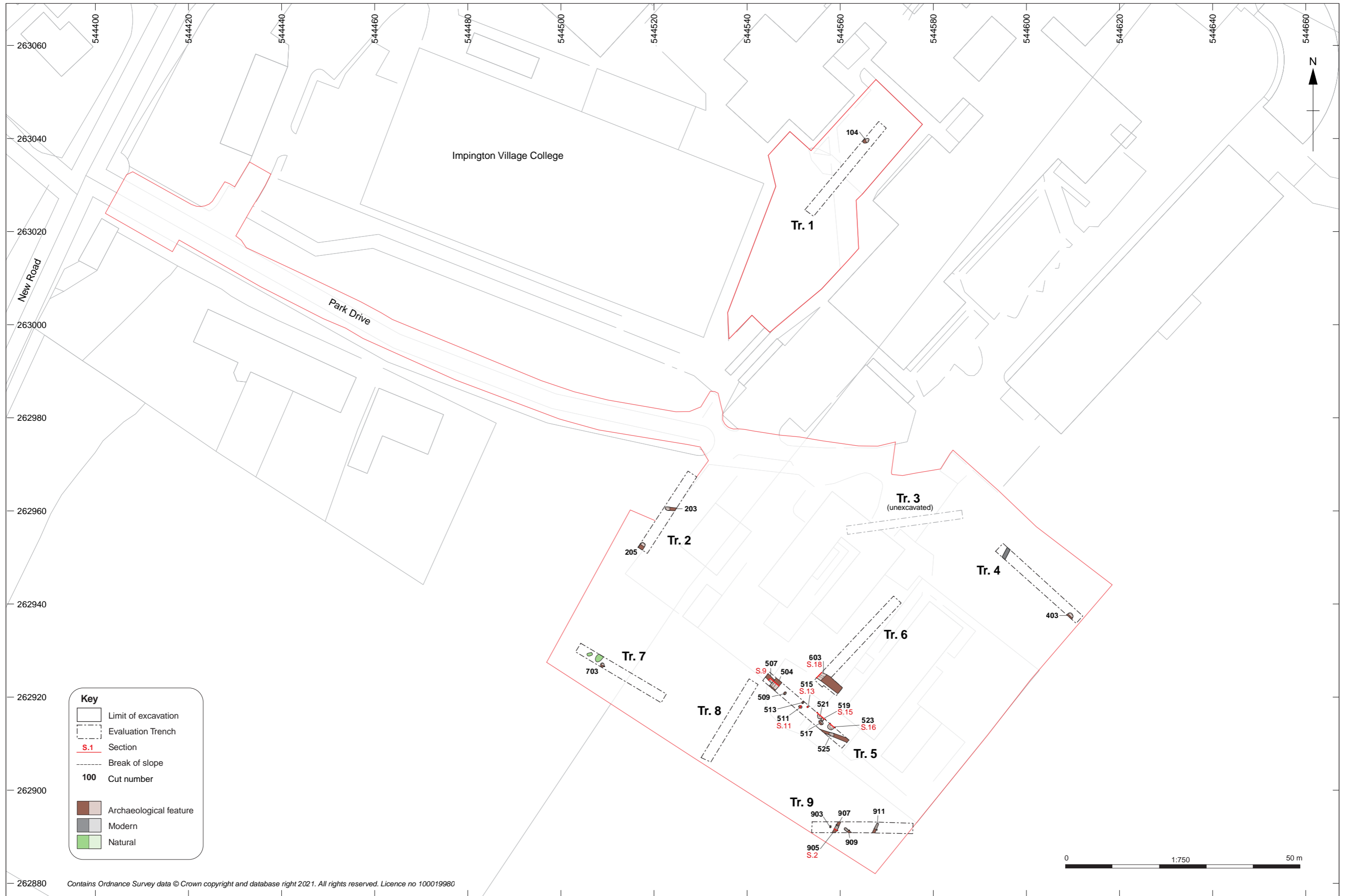


Figure 3: General plan showing all trenches and features



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Figure 4: Detailed plan of Trenches 5 and 9 and southern end of Trench 6

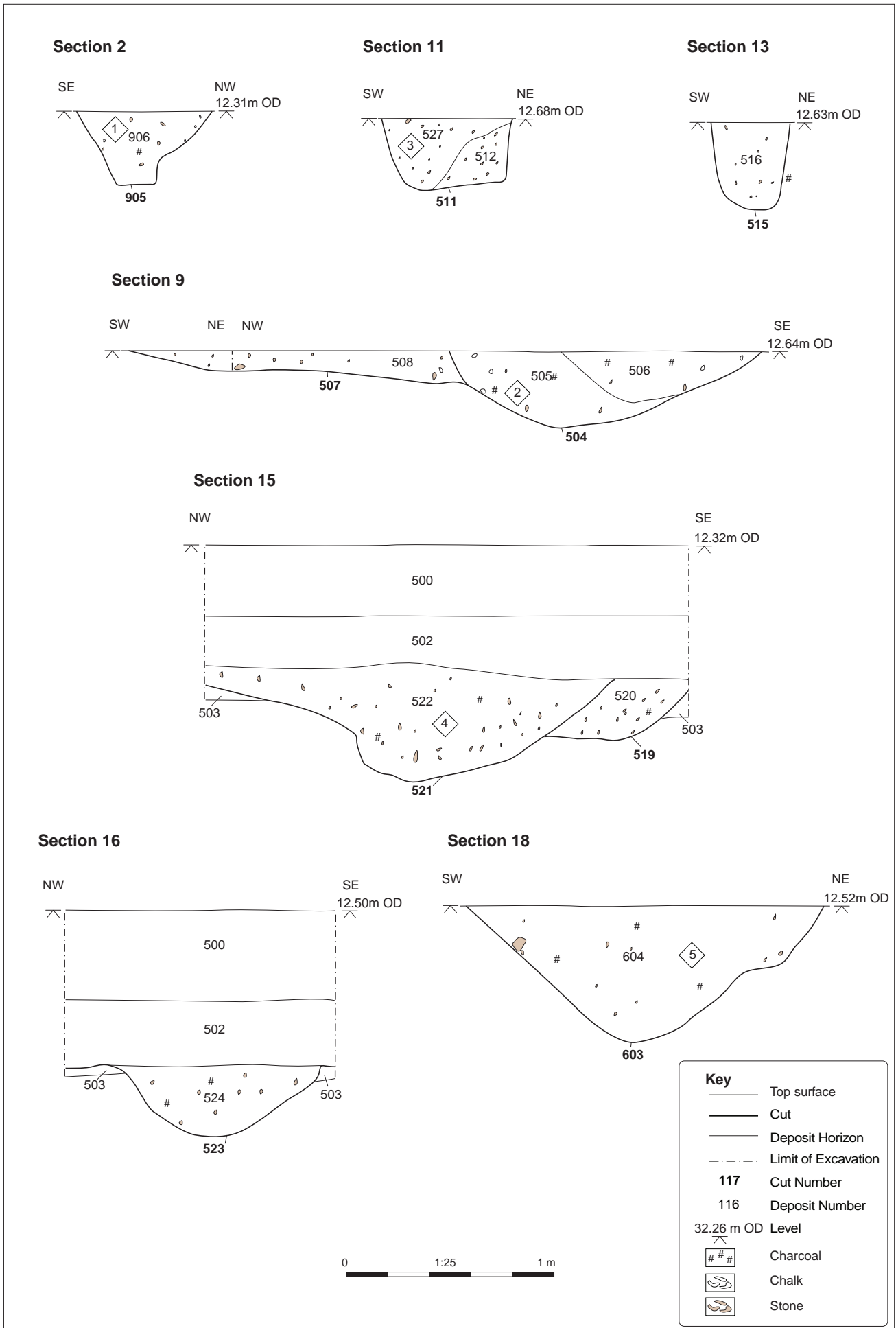


Figure 5: Selected sections



Plate 1: Hedgerow 203, Trench 2, looking east



Plate 2: Pit 403, Trench 4, looking south-west



Plate 3: Trench 5, looking north-west



Plate 4: Ditches **504** and **507**, Trench 5, oblique angle looking north



Plate 5: Ditch **523**, Trench 5, looking north-east



Plate 6: Pits **511** and **513** and posthole **515**, Trench 5, looking north-west



Plate 7: Pits **519** and **521**, Trench 5, looking north-east



Plate 8: Trench 6, looking north-east



Plate 9: Ditch 603, Trench 6, looking north-west



Plate 10: Trench 9, looking east

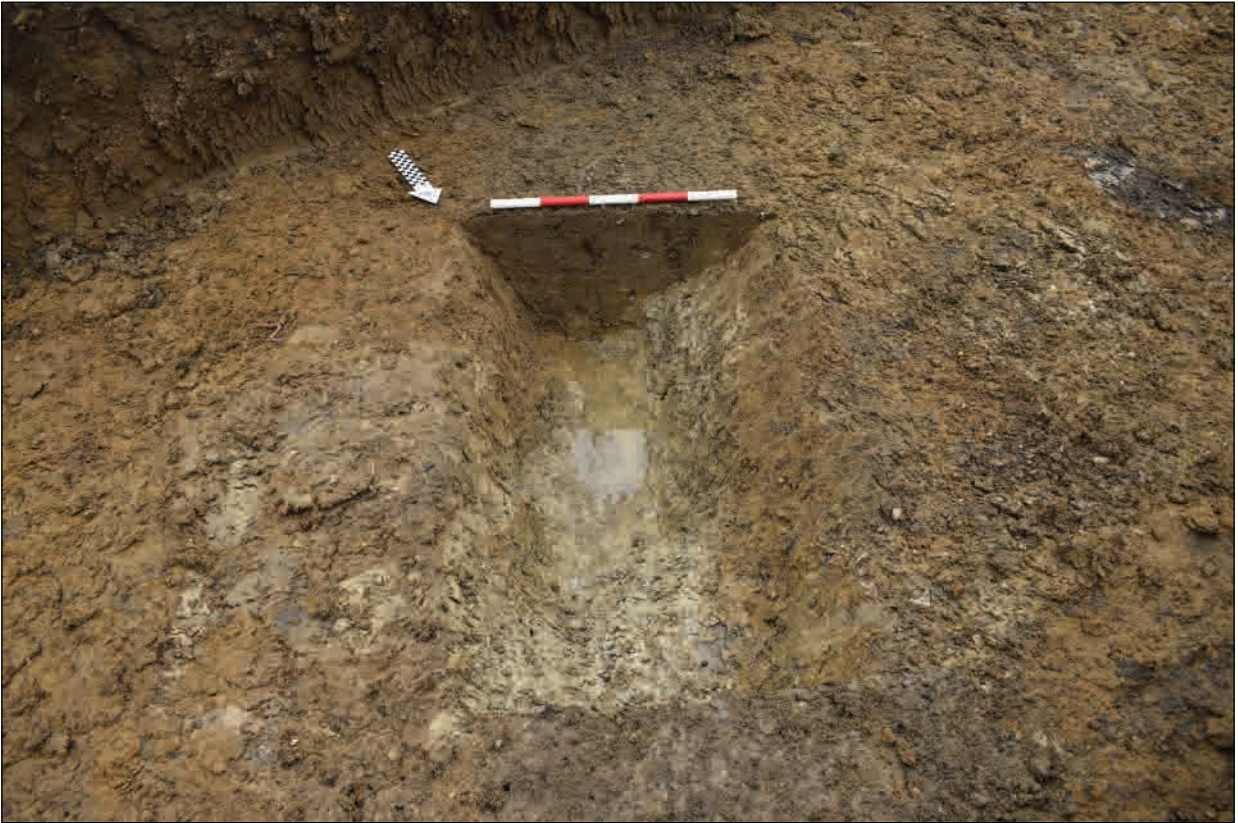


Plate 11: Ditch **905**, Trench 9, looking south-west



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