# 45-86 Eastfield, East Chesterton



Archaeological Evaluation Report



September 2017

**Client: Lovell** 

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# 45-86 Eastfield, East Chesterton, Cambridge, Phase 3

Archaeological Evaluation Report

# By Andrew Greef BA

With contributions by Carole Fletcher HND BA ACIfA, Ted Levermore BA, Rachel Fosberry ACIfA and Hayley Foster BA MA PhD

Editors: Matt Brudenell BA MA PhD and Rachel Clarke BA MCIfA

Illustrators: Emily Abrehart BA, Gillian Greer BSc MAAIS

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Prepared by: Andrew Greef
Position: Project Officer
Date: 15/09/2017

Checked by: Matthew Brudenell
Position: Senior Project Manager

Date: 20/09/2017

Signed:

Mullinknohn

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## Oxford Archaeology East,

15 Trafalgar Way, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500 f: 01223 850599

e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net w: http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast

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## Summary

Between 7th August and 11th August 2017 Oxford Archaeology East conducted the third phase of a pre-demolition trial trench evaluation at Nos 45-86 Eastfield, East Chesterton, Cambridge (TL 4656 6037). Three trenches were excavated in the rear gardens and open spaces behind Nos 79-86 Eastfield, revealing a number of archaeological features and deposits of medieval date.

The trenching partially uncovered a substantial waterlogged moat ditch running along the western boundary of the properties, belonging to the known medieval moated site – 'Covens Moat' – immediately adjacent (CHER 01105). The ditch was flanked by a wide metalled road surface, with several ditches recorded parallel with and truncating the road. A layer of soil 0.2m-0.3m thick was also preserved below the road surface, as were further archaeological features. The road may have been constructed along a headland associated with a boundary in the landscape later recorded as 'Coven's Balk' on Baker's 1830 map of Cambridge.



## 1 Introduction

# 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 A third phase of archaeological trial trench evaluation was conducted by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) at 45-86 Eastfield, East Chesterton, Cambridge (TL 4656 6037; Fig. 1). This phase of trenching was located in the rear gardens of 79-86 Eastfield.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken pre-demolition, in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET; Planning Application 15/2321/FUL) and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by OA East (Brudenell 2017).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by CHET, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

# 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located in the historic village of Chesterton, which is now part of the administrative district of Cambridge City, and lies c.2.5km north-east of the city centre. The site lies on either side of Eastfield Road, and covers a combined area of c.1.4ha (Fig. 1). The northern part of the development, which incorporates Phases 1 and 2 of the proposal, encompasses the demolition and redevelopment of two 1930s cul-desacs, (Phase 1, Nos 45-69 & 68-69; Phase 2, Nos 66-67 & 70-75), whereas the western part of the development (Phase 3) includes the demolition and redevelopment of a row of 1930s dwellings fronting Eastfield Road and backing onto Dundee Close (Nos 79-86).
- 1.2.2 The site is surrounded by residential development, with Chesterton Primary School located to the north-east. The historic core of Chesterton village lies *c*.350m to the south and the River Cam *c*.480m to the south.
- 1.2.3 The underlying superficial geology of the site comprises Quaternary sands and gravels of Second River Terrace Deposits, whilst the bedrock geology is Cretaceous mudstone of the Gault Formation.
- 1.2.4 On the whole, the ground level of the Phase 3 site was less variable than in the previous investigation areas. The site slopes down from north-west to south-east, from 7.5m OD to 7.2m OD. Along the south western boundary of the site, however, there was a noticeable drop towards the fence line of 0.3 to 0.5m. This coincides with the remnant earthworks of the moat ditch running along the property boundary (Fig. 2), and partially exposed in Trench 20.



# 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The wider archaeological and historical background for the site has been summarised in the Phase 1 and 2 evaluation reports (Greef 2016; 2017). Of more immediate significance are the preliminary results of their subsequent excavations, briefly summarised by period below. The Phase 3 evaluation results are illustrated in relation to the previous phases of investigation on Fig. 1 and are overlain on the late 1830s draft Inclosure map on Fig. 2 (see Discussion).

## Iron Age

- 1.3.2 The Phase 1 archaeological excavation (Area 1) revealed an area of settlement with evidence of activity throughout the Iron Age. The features, in particular a spread of pits, seem to have followed the contours of the terrain quite precisely. The high ground (over 8m OD) and the low ground (under 7.3m OD) were both largely devoid of features, with the main settlement swathe extending in a narrow band across the site.
- 1.3.3 Artefactual recovery from the Iron Age features was high. Pottery was mainly limited to isolated dumps of material, primarily in pits. The faunal assemblage, however, was large, well preserved and varied, with many species represented. One square feature in particular contained an unusual deposit comprising the articulated remains of at least sixteen individual pigs.

## Medieval

1.3.4 Medieval activity was encountered across both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 excavations. A cobbled surface, interpreted as part of a road visible on historic maps, was revealed in the area expanded around Trench 1. A series of boundary ditches, provisionally interpreted as forming the backs of plots and associated field strips, occupied the western part of the Phase 1 excavation area (Area 1). These ditches would appear to be aligned in relation to the road to the east. A number of boundaries and associated structures were also encountered in the southern end of the Phase 2 excavation area (Area 2). These were orientated in relation to the southern boundary of the development area.



## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 Aims

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

# 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The methodology used followed that outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation. The location of some trenches was adjusted due to limited access to part of the development area. However, overall the proposed orientation and meterage of the trenches was maintained.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out by a wheeled JCB excavator, fitted with a flat bladed 1.9m wide ditching bucket. All trenching was undertaken under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GS08 GPS.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metaldetected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Environmental samples were taken from a range of features from the site in order to help formulate an environmental sampling strategy for any future excavation.
- 2.2.7 The trenches were opened when conditions were dry and fair, although one day featured persistent heavy rain which led to flooded conditions.



## 3 Results

## 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 For the purposes of this report the features will be described by trench. A full context inventory can be found in Appendix A.
- **3.2** Trench **20** (Fig. 3; Plates 1-3)
- 3.2.1 Trench 20 was located at the northern end of the Phase 3 development area, in the rear garden of No. 86 Eastfield. The trench was 14m long, 1.9m wide and orientated north to south (Fig. 3). The trench was positioned for optimum coverage within the garden, and was specifically designed to target the area of the moat ditch associated with 'Covens Moat' (CHER 01105) located along the western boundary of the property.
- 3.2.2 At the northern end of the trench there was 0.30m of subsoil and 0.30m of topsoil, whilst at the southern end there was 0.20m of subsoil and 0.30m of topsoil. These deposits sealed all the archaeological features exposed.
- 3.2.3 A 6m-wide section of moat ditch was exposed at the southern end of the trench. At the northern end of the trench the edge of a metalled road surface was revealed, corresponding to a track depicted on historic maps (Fig. 2), and previously encountered in Trench 1 during the Phase 1 evaluation (Greef 2016). Located between these features were a number of pits, some cutting and some overlain by a soil layer preserved beneath the road surface.
  - Moat 4000 (Fig 4.1, Section 500; Plate 2)
- 3.2.4 Moat ditch **4000** was not fully exposed in the trench and was only hand excavated to a depth of 0.8m due to high groundwater levels. The ditch was aligned north-west to south-east, and formed part of the eastern arm of the moat. The ditch had steep sides and measured at least 6m wide; it cut a layer of grey silty clay (4015) on its northern edge. The exposed upper fills appeared to be a result of fairly recent infilling and comprised dark black grey organic silts (4001, 4002), overlain by a white grey chalky silt capping (4003). No associated finds were recovered.
  - Ditch 4004 and pits
- 3.2.5 A few metres to the north was a wide ditch (**4004**; Fig 4.1, Section 501) aligned northwest to south-east, broadly parallel to the moat. The ditch had a maximum width of 1.5m and a maximum depth of 0.3m, with gently-sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid brown grey silt (4005), which produced no finds. It was truncated by pits **4013** and **4016**; both undated.
- 3.2.6 Pit **4013** was sub-circular in plan, had steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark brown grey clay silt (4014). It had a maximum width of 0.7m and a maximum depth of 0.34m.
- 3.2.7 Pit **4016** was sub-circular in plan, had gently-sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid brown grey sandy silt (4031). It had a maximum width of 0.25m and a maximum depth of 0.1m.
  - Road surface 4012, associated deposits and later pits
- 3.2.8 Metalled road surface 4012 (Fig. 4.1, Section 504; Plate 3) was a continuation of the road encountered in Trench 1 during the Phase 1 evaluation. Two layers (4010 and 4011) were sealed beneath the road surface. Layer 4010 was a mid greenish grey silty clay with a maximum thickness of 0.3m. Layer 4011 was a dark brown grey silt with a



- maximum thickness of 0.1m. An environmental sample processed from layer 4010 yielded only root/stem fragments. The overlying road surface was only partially revealed in this trench, and comprised a 0.2m-thick layer of small to medium subangular cobbles and gravels.
- 3.2.9 Truncating the edge of the road surface and the layer (4010) sealed beneath were two undated pits (4006 and 4008). Pit 4006 was sub-circular in plan, with steep sides and a concave base. It had a maximum width of 0.45m and a maximum depth of 0.2m and was filled with a dark grey silt (4007).
- 3.2.10 Pit **4008** was sub-circular in plan, had steep sides and a concave base. It was filled with a dark grey silt (4009). It had a maximum width of 0.7m and a maximum depth of 0.24m.
- **3.3** Trench **21** (Fig. 3; Plates 4-5)
- 3.3.1 Trench 21 was located in the rear gardens of Nos 80-83 Eastfield, to the south-east of Trench 20. The trench was 26m long, 1.9m wide and orientated north-west to south-east, with an additional trench extending for 8.5m to the north-east, 9m from the south-eastern end. Excavation of the trench was restricted by tree lines and the property boundaries of occupied houses (Plate 4). The metalled road surface revealed in Trench 20 was exposed across the south-eastern part of Trench 21 (4029). This surface was disturbed by modern intrusions, but was also scored by a possible wheel rut in the north-eastern extension. The remainder of the trench featured a shallow ditch aligned parallel to the adjacent the moat (part of which was revealed to the west), and a second ditch orientated north to south.
- 3.3.2 At the north-western end of the trench the subsoil measured 0.20m thick, overlain by 0.35m of topsoil, whilst at the south-eastern end there was no subsoil and a depth of 0.30m of topsoil.

## Road surface 4029

- 3.3.3 Around 13m of the metalled road surface (4029; Plate 4) was exposed in Trench 21. The metalling was at least 11m wide, and clearly continued to the east beyond the edge of the trench. Here, the surface was formed from larger well rounded cobbles and pebbles at the central part of the road, with smaller stones to the south-west (Plate 5), similar to the edge seen in Trench 20. Where truncated by modern pit **4027** the road surface was 0.2m thick. Layer 4044, which was sealed beneath, was a light brown grey silt with a maximum thickness of 0.2m.
- 3.3.4 Finds recovered from the surface of the road included four sherds of abraded medieval pottery (54g) dating to the 12th-15th century; five fragments of ceramic building material (CBM; 165g), possibly of Roman date, including a piece modified into a tessera; a fragment of smithing hearth bottom (241g); an oyster shell (20g) and a piece of animal bone (51g).
- 3.3.5 A possible wheel rut (**4018** (Fig 4.1, Section 508)) was recording cutting into surface 4029 within the small trench extension. The rut had steep sides and an uneven base with a maximum width of 0.6m and depth of 0.18m. It was filled with a dark grey brown clay silt (4019).

## Ditches 4022 and 4020

3.3.6 Ditch **4022** was aligned north to south toward the centre of the trench, cutting the edge of road surface 4029. The ditch had moderately sloped sides and a concave base with a maximum width of 1.2m and a maximum depth of 0.32m (Fig. 4.2, Section 509). Its



primary fill was a dark grey clay silt (4023) containing five fragments of animal bone (104g) and three pieces of oyster shell (35g). Overlying this was a slump of cobbles from the road surface it truncated (4043), and a mid grey brown clay silt (4024) yielding two sherds (7g) of medieval pottery dating to the 12th-15th century, one piece of animal bone (38g) and four oyster shells (61g). An environmental sample from fill 4023 yielded a grain of barley and sparse charcoal.

- 3.3.7 Ditch **4020** was located at the northern end of the trench and was aligned north-west to south-east, parallel with the adjacent moat. The ditch had gently-sloping sides and a concave base with a maximum width of 0.6m and a maximum depth of 0.11m (Fig. 4.2, Section 510). It was filled with a dark grey brown clay silt (4021).
  - Hedgerow 4025 and modern pit
- 3.3.8 The rooting line of a former hedgerow (**4025**) was recorded towards the southern end of the trench, partially truncating road surface 4029. It was aligned along the modern garden fence boundary and was relatively shallow.
- 3.3.9 Pit **4027** was adjacent to the hedgerow: clearly modern in origin, it served to provide a useful glimpse through the road surface.
- **3.4** Trench 22 (Fig. 3; Fig. 4.2, Section 507)
- 3.4.1 Trench 22 was the most southerly of the three trenches, located in the rear garden of No. 79 Eastfield. It was 17m long, 1.9m wide and orientated south-west to north-east. The metalled road surface and associated soil deposits revealed in Trenches 20 and 21 extended into, and across, much of Trench 22 the natural geology only being exposed at the south-western end of the trench. Obscured by these layers, however, and sampled only via test-pitting, were several features sealed by the buried soil beneath the road. Truncating the road surface was a ditch on a north-west to south-east alignment.
- 3.4.2 At the north-eastern end of the trench there was 0.3m of subsoil and 0.48m of topsoil, whilst at the south-western end there was 0.25m of subsoil and 0.50m of topsoil.
  - Features sealed beneath soil horizons 4032 (4036)
- 3.4.3 Pit **4030** was revealed in the western half of the trench, in a 1m by 1m test pit excavated though soil horizon 4032, associated with road surface 4037. The pit was sealed by layer 4032, was sub-circular in plan, and had gentle sides and a concave base (Fig. 4.1, Section 506). It had a maximum width of 0.54m and a maximum depth of 0.22m and was filled with a light brown grey sandy silt (4031). An environmental sample taken from fill 4031 yielded only sparse charcoal.
- 3.4.4 Pit **4033** was revealed against the south-eastern edge of the trench in a 4.3m by 1m test pit excavated though road surface 4037 and associated soil horizons (Fig. 4.1, Section 505). The pit was sub-circular in plan, had steep sides and a concave base, with a maximum width of 1.5m and a maximum depth of 0.44m. It was filled with a mid grey clay silt (4034) and a mid red brown clay silt (4035). An environmental sample taken from fill 4034 yielded only sparse charcoal.
- 3.4.5 Small pit or posthole **4041** was also revealed in the 4.3m by 1m test pit and was sealed by surface 4037. The pit was circular in plan, had steep sides and a concave base, with a maximum width of 0.3m and a maximum depth of 0.1m. It was filled with a mid grey clay silt (4042).



## Road surface 4037 and soil horizons 4032 (4036) and 4040

- 3.4.6 Surface 4037 (Fig. 4, Section 505 and 507; Plate 6) was a continuation of the surface encountered in the trenches to the north, and appeared to have layers of soil both preserved underneath (4042/4036) and also built up against its edge (4040).
- 3.4.7 The 4.3m by 1m slot excavated across the road surface revealed that on the north-eastern side the road surface did not seal a buried soil but overlay a 'banked' layer (4036) to the south-west (overlying pit 4033). Soil layer 4032 (4036) was a mid red brown clay silt which had a maximum thickness of 0.2m. A large body sherd (39g) dating from the 12th-15th centuries was recovered from this layer, together with two fragments of animal bone (8g) and an oyster shell (10g). An environmental soil sample taken from 4036 yielded a charred wheat grain and sparse charcoal.
- 3.4.8 In this trench the road surface (4037) was formed from small to medium sub-angular cobbles and gravels and had a maximum thickness of 0.3m. Three sherds of pottery (30g), two of which date to the 13th-15th century (22g), were recovered from the surface alongside four fragments of animal bone (84g) and an oyster shell (7g).
- 3.4.9 Overlying the road surface was a mid grey brown silt (4040) which had a maximum thickness of 0.3m. A jug rim (69g) was recovered from this layer dating from the 12th-14th century, together with a single fragment of animal bone (270g).

### Ditch 4038

3.4.10 Cut through the road surface was a ditch (**4038**) located towards the eastern end of the trench, and aligned north-west to south-east (Fig. 4.1, Section 505). The undated ditch had steep sides, a concave base and was filled with a mid grey silty sand (4039). It had a maximum width of 1m and a maximum depth of 0.38m.



# 3.5 Finds Summary

#### Introduction

3.5.1 The finds assemblages recovered from the evaluation trenches are summarised below. Full reports can be found in Appendix B.

## Pottery

- 3.5.2 A small assemblage of pottery (11 sherds) was recovered from Trenches 21 and 22: from the surface of the road and from the fill of the ditches which followed the same alignment. Pottery dating from the 12th century through to the 15th century was also recovered from the soils beneath the road surface, and those sealing the road.
- 3.5.3 With the exception of the two larger sherds recovered from the soil layers below and above the road surface in Trench 22 (4036 and 4040), all other pottery is small and abraded; in particular the sherds recovered from the surface of the road (4029, 4037).

## Other finds

3.5.4 Slag and heavily abraded Roman ceramic building material was recovered from the road surface and is described in Appendix B.

# 3.6 Environmental Summary

## Introduction

3.6.1 The environmental material recovered from the trenches is summarised below. A full discussion can be found in Appendix C.

## Environmental samples

- 3.6.2 Five bulk samples were taken from a range of features in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.
- 3.6.3 Preservation of plant remains was poor and limited to charcoal and two charred cereal grains. Molluscs were present in the soil layer sealed by the road surface.
- 3.6.4 No samples were taken from the excavated segment of the moat as only recent infilling was encountered. If further work is required then this feature has high potential for waterlogged material.

# Faunal remains

- 3.6.5 In total, four species of animal remains were identified from a total of eleven contexts. The majority of the animal bone was recovered from the surface of the road and from the ditches which ran on a similar alignment.
- 3.6.6 The small size of the assemblage recovered from this area does not at present allow for meaningful interpretation and probably represents the spreading of midden deposits and possibly waste material being used to patch the road surface.



## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

## 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 With the exception of fragments of ceramic building material, some which may be of Roman date (including one piece modified into a possible tesserae), all datable finds and features revealed by the evaluation are of medieval origin, with pottery spanning the 12th-15th centuries.
- 4.1.2 The principal features uncovered by the trenching comprise the moat ditch of Coven's Moat, partially exposed in Trench 21, the metalled road surface and associated soil horizons revealed across all three trenches, and a series of ditches and pits. These components are discussed in turn.

## 4.2 The moat ditch of Coven's Moat

- 4.2.1 A significant result of the evaluation is the discovery that the eastern arm of the moat ditch (**4000**), belonging to the square moated site immediately west of the Phase 3 site (CHER 01105), extends into the development area.
- 4.2.2 The ditch (which was over 6m wide) was partially exposed at the western end of Trench 20, but was only hand excavated to a depth of 0.8m due to high groundwater levels. The upper fills comprised dark organic silts with a chalky silt capping, which may represent modern infilling, possibly associated with the construction of Nos 79-86 Eastfield, or related to development from inside the enclosed area in Dundee Close. The depth of modern infill is similar to that recorded in 1959, when earthworks on the south-east side of the moat recorded as c.1m deep (3ft; RMCH 1959, 391).
- 4.2.3 It was anticipated that the western property boundary of Nos 79-86 Eastfield lay along the line of the moat ditch, as the initial layout and construction of Dundee Close and Eastfield was designed to preserve the earthwork (the interior subsequently being encroached upon by development in the 1970s). However, evaluation has demonstrated that most of the eastern arm of the moat lies within the property boundary, with the recorded ditch aligning closely with the moat as depicted on the late 1830s draft enclosure map for Chesterton (Fig. 2). The moat itself is labelled 'Coven's Moat' on Baker's 1830 map of Cambridge, and is listed as such in Enclosure Awards.

# 4.3 The metalled road and Coven's Balk

- 4.3.1 A metalled track or road (4012, 4029, 4037) was identified across all three evaluation trenches. The metalled surface was up to 0.3m thick and comprised gravels and small cobbles. No complete sections of the road were exposed, though it was recorded as being at least 11m wide in Trench 21, and clearly extended further east. The surface was well preserved, and cleaning yielded small quantities of medieval pottery, animal bone, oyster shell, fragments of ceramic building material and slag pressed into its surface. The abraded condition of finds suggest this was rubbish possibly used to patch the surface of the road, and suggests significant reworking of this material. This may derive from occupation of the adjacent moated site, or other medieval settlement in the vicinity, such as that revealed in the Phase 2 excavations, c.100m to the west (Fig. 1).
- 4.3.2 The road surface was also exposed in Trench 1 of the Phase 1 evaluation beneath Nos 45-46 Eastfield (Greef 2016), c.50m north of Trench 20. Similar finds of abraded medieval pottery were recovered, and a possible hollow-way was recorded beneath the surface. Significantly, the alignment of this road corresponds directly with a footpath marked on the late 1830s draft enclosure map for Chesterton (Figs 2 and 3). This also shows that the path curved directly towards Coven's Moat, and appears to widen out



beside it. This widening is potentially mirrored in the metalled surface, which extends across Trench 21, and may suggest the existence of a former courtyard area beside the moat. Certainly, based on direction and association, the metalled road appears to have been related to the moat, and would suggest that the entrance was somewhere along the eastern arm.

- 4.3.3 Whilst the metalled surface of the road probably had it origins in the medieval period, the routeway is potentially older (as hinted at by the hollow-way from the Phase 1 evaluation), and clearly had a history extending into the early 19th century (and possibly beyond a footpath linking Eastfield to Warren Road is still in existence). The evaluation demonstrated that 0.20-0.30m of soil was preserved under sections of the metalled road in Trench 22 (4036), and this in turn sealed earlier pits. What this soil represents is more difficult to interpret at this stage, though finds from this horizon were contemporary with those from the road surface. It is possible that soil may have been deliberately banked to create a camber to the road to aid drainage. Alternatively this could be the remains of a former headland, perhaps associated with the boundary of an open medieval field: *Eastfield*.
- 4.3.4 It is not uncommon for tracks to have been constructed along headlands or banks in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Intriguingly, the footpath line marked on the late 1830 draft enclosure map leads to a straight boundary labelled 'Covens Balk' on Baker's 1830 map, which heads north-west out of Chesterton and joins Ely Road (now Milton Road). The name implies a bank of some form, as well as a connection with Coven's Moat.
- 4.3.5 Given that the historic map depicts an active routeway along the line of the former metalled road until c.1840, it is surprising that no finds later than the 15th century were recovered from the road surface or the evaluation as a whole. However, it is possible that the road surface was no longer maintained or in regular use after the 15th century, and became little more that a soil covered footpath. This in itself may be revealing about the status of this area as a manorial centre, and may coincide with the end of occupancy of the moat and the decline of medieval activity in the Phase 2 excavation area.

# 4.4 Other ditches and pits

- 4.4.1 As well as the moat ditch and metalled road, a series of other ditches and pits were exposed in the evaluation, some sealed by the road and its associated soil horizons. Ditches **4020** and **4004** may have been a roadside ditch, though the function of the others is more difficult to determine, especially in the absence of any associated finds.
- 4.4.2 Features exposed beneath the road and soil horizons in Trench 22 included three pits. None of these features yielded finds, and may therefore pre-date the medieval period. Moreover, as an area measuring just 5m² was exposed beneath the road and its soils, the presence of these three features hints at the existence of a dense area of potentially well-preserved activity in this zone of the site, if not across the whole of the Phase 3 area.

# 4.5 Summary of significance

- 4.5.1 The evaluation has revealed a higher level of archaeological survival and preservation at the site than might otherwise have been anticipated given the previous development in these plots.
- 4.5.2 Similar to the Phase 1 and 2 investigations, it would appear that 1930s development involved only localised landscaping, meaning subsoils to the rear of the properties



- remained intact, protecting the archaeological remains in these zones. Given the depth of subsoil present, it is reasonable to assume that any archaeological remains present may be only partially truncated by the building footings.
- 4.5.3 More broadly, the evaluation has uncovered a substantial waterlogged moat ditch running along the western boundary of the properties. The ditch was flanked by a wide metalled road surface, with several ditches recorded parallel with and truncating the road. A layer of soil 0.2m-0.3m thick was also preserved below the road surface, as were further archaeological features in a zone that is likely to be very well preserved. The samples taken from the three trenches do not contain preserved plant remains, however molluscs are present and are well preserved.
- 4.5.4 The finds add significantly to the understanding of the context of Coven's Moat and the wider development of medieval Chesterton. They lend further weight to the suggestion that the moat was medieval in origin, and suggest that it was part of a wider manorial site, with the medieval occupation in the Phase 2 excavations likely to be associated.

## 4.6 Recommendations

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



# APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Context	Cut	Category	Breadth	Depth	Feature Type	Colour	Fine component
20	4000	4000	cut	2.2	0.4	Moat		
20	4001	4000	fill	2.2	0.1	Moat	Mid-greyish- brown	silty-clay
20	4002	4000	fill		0.5	Moat	Dark grey	silt
20	4003	4000	fill		0.6	Moat	light grey white	chalky silt
20	4004	4004	cut	1.5	0.3	Ditch		
20	4005	4004	fill		0.3	Ditch	Mid-brownish- grey	silt
20	4006	4006	cut	0.45	0.2	Pit		
20	4007	4006	fill		0.2	Pit	dark grey	silt
20	4008	4008	cut	0.7	0.24	pit		
20	4009	4009	fill		0.24	pit	dark grey	silt
20	4010		layer		0.3	soil	mid-greenish grey	silty-clay
20	4011		layer		0.1	soil	dark grey	silt
20	4012		layer		0.2	road	mid yellow orange	silty sand
20	4013	4013	cut	0.7	0.34	pit		
20	4014	4013	fill		0.34	pit	dark brown grey	clay silt
20	4015		layer		0.3	soil	mid grey	silty clay
20	4016	4016	cut	0.25	0.1	post hole		
20	4017	4016	fill		0.1	post hole	mid brown grey	clay silt
21	4018	4018	cut	0.6	0.18	wheel rut		
21	4019	4018	fill		0.18	wheel rut	dark brown grey	clay silt

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Trench	Context	Cut	Category	Breadth	Depth	Feature Type	Colour	Fine component
21	4020	4020	cut	0.6	0.11	ditch		
21	4021	4020	fill		0.11	ditch	dark grey brown	clay silt
21	4022	4022	cut	1.2	0.32	ditch		
21	4023	4022	fill		0.1	ditch	dark grey	clay silt
21	4024	4022	fill		0.26	ditch	mid grey brown	clay silt
21	4025	4025	cut	1.07	0.08	hedgerow		
21	4026	4025	fill		0.08	hedgerow	dark grey	silt
21	4027	4027	cut	0.6	0.5	modern		
21	4028	4027	fill		0.5	modern	dark grey brown	sandy silt
21	4029		layer		0.3	road	mid grey yellow	silty sand
21	4043	4022	fill		0.12	ditch		
21	4044		layer		0.2	soil	light brown grey	silty sand
22	4030	4030	cut	0.54	0.22	pit		
22	4031	4030	fill		0.22	pit	light brown grey	sandy silt
22	4032		layer		0.34	soil	mid red brown	clay silt
22	4033	4033	cut	1.5	0.44	pit		
22	4034	4033	fill		0.1	pit	mid grey	clay silt
22	4035	4033	fill		0.34	pit	mid red brown	clay silt
22	4036		layer		0.2	soil	mid brown red	clay silt
22	4037		layer		0.3	road	mid grey yellow	silty sand
22	4038	4038	cut	1	0.38	ditch		
22	4039	4038	fill		0.38	ditch	mid grey	silty sand
22	4040		layer		0.3	soil	mid grey brown	silt
22	4041	4041	cut	0.3	0.1	posthole		
22	4042	4041	fill		0.1	posthole	mid grey	clay silt

Table 1: Context Inventory

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# APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

# B.1 Slag

By Carole Fletcher

B.1.1 The evaluation recovered a single example of slag. Layer/road 4029 produced a small plano-convex smithing hearth bottom, indicative of iron working. No hammer scale, microsphere slag or fuel ash slag was recovered, suggesting the hearth bottom was discarded some distance from the area where metalworking may have been undertaken. The smithing hearth bottom is not closely datable, but may be contemporary with other material recovered from the road surface.

Trench	Context	Form-description	Count	Weight (kg)	Date
21	4029	High temperature slag, smithing hearth bottom. Sub-rectangular with an irregular outline, concave upper surface, above an asymmetrical convex base. Little extraneous material attached to the base, mainly rust coloured with dull grey patches over lower surface.	1	0.241	Not closely datable.
		Maximum dimensions 95mm long, 65mm wide and 41mm deep			

Table 2: Slag.



# **B.2 Pottery**

By Carole Fletcher

## Introduction

B.2.1 A small pottery assemblage comprising 11 sherds, weighing 0.199kg, was recovered from Trenches 21 and 22 of the evaluation. These represent a minimum number of 10 vessels (MNV). This includes a small number of sherds that could not be closely dated. The assemblage spans the mid 12th to the end of the 15th century. Overall the condition of the assemblage is abraded, with some moderately abraded sherds, and the mean sherd weight is moderate at approximately 20g.

# Methodology

- B.2.2 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.2.3 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 Roman, medieval and post-medieval types, using the Cambridgeshire fabric codes (Spoerry 2016) where appropriate. All sherds have been counted, classified, weighed, and the MNV determined. All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis and the catalogue is recorded in Table 3. The pottery and archives are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

## **Assemblage**

- B.2.4 Trench 21 produced pottery from ditch **4022** and road surface 4029. The ditch produced two sherds of buff sandy fabric, which has tentatively been identified as a Medieval Sandy Coarseware, and is only broadly datable to the mid 12th-end 15th century. Layer 4029, described as a road surface, produced four sherds of pottery, all moderately abraded/abraded. The majority of the sherds are described as Medieval Sandy Coarseware and are broadly dated to the mid 12th-end 15th century. The pottery was recovered alongside Roman tile fragments and it is possible that one or more of the abraded sherds identified as a Medieval Sandy Coarseware could be Roman.
- B.2.5 In Trench 22 pottery was collected from three layers, including a glazed medieval Sible Hedingham jug sherd from context 4040, and a possible Grimston glazed ware (unglazed sherd 13th-end 15th century) sherd from context 4037.

#### Conclusion

B.2.6 Overall the pottery is moderately abraded to abraded and suggests domestic activity in the vicinity of the evaluated area. The abraded nature of the medieval assemblage suggest that it is likely to be the result of spreading of midden deposits and, in the case of the road 4029, possibly rubbish used to patch the surface of the road or trackway. The levels of abrasion of the pottery recovered indicate significant reworking of these deposits.



Trench	Context	Cut	Full Name	Basic Form-description	MNV	Count	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date Range	
21	4024	4022	Medieval Sandy Coarseware	Body sherds, moderately abraded- abraded, sandy oxidised surfaces. Buff, dull red-brown margins and mid grey core	1	2	0.007	Mid 12th-end 15th century	
21	4029		Medieval Sandy Coarseware	Body sherd, 1 moderately abraded, incised wavy line decoration. Dull buff red-brown external surfaces and margins with thick mid grey core		1	0.008	Mid 12th-end 15th century	
			Medieval Sandy Coarseware	Body sherd, moderately abraded, thick-walled coarse quartz temper. Orange- red surfaces and margins and thick pale grey core	1	1	0.020	Mid 12th-end 15th century	
			East Anglian Redware	Body sherd, abraded, having lost much of its surfaces	1	1	0.003	13th-end 14th century	
			Medieval Sandy Greyware	Body sherd, moderately abraded- abraded	1	1	0.023	Mid 12th-end 15th century	
22	4036		Fine sandy ware slightly micaceous	Body sherd, pale buff- orange surface, external margin and core, internal pale-mid grey margin and surface. Fine quartz, occasional coarse quartz and occasional mica, powdery surfaces.	1	1	0.039	Mid 12th-end 15th century	
22	4037		Grimston Glazed ware	Body sherd, abraded and unglazed	1	1	0.009	13th-end 15th century	
			Medieval Essex	Body sherd,	1	1	0.013	13th-end 14th	



Trench	Context	Cut	Full Name	Basic Form-description	MNV	Count	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date Range
			Micaceous Sandy ware	moderately abraded- abraded, internal surfaces have been lost				century
			Sandy ware	Body sherd, abraded, reduced grey-black quartz-tempered fabric	1	1	0.008	Not closely datable
22	4040		Hedingham Fineware	Jug rim and thickened strap or oval rod handle, single ear survives at the side of handle. Traces of copper green mottled glaze survive on and below the handle. Abraded sherd	1	1	0.069	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
Total					10	11	0.199	

Table 3: Pottery catalogue



# **B.3 Ceramic Building Material**

By Ted Levermore

## Introduction

B.3.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) comprising five fragments, weighing 265g. The assemblage is made up of heavily abraded Roman tile, some of which appear to have been cut down into tesserae.

## Methodology

B.3.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Fabrics were examined using a x20 hand lens and were described by main inclusions present. Width, length and thickness were recorded where possible. Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) form the basis of reference material for identification and dating.

## **Fabrics**

B.3.3 The CBM assemblage was assigned to two fabrics, these are summarised in table 4. Fabric A is typical of Roman era CBM, whereby the paste has been prepared with little to no tempering. Fabric B is very similar and is tentatively assigned a Roman date – however it may also be medieval.

Code	Colour	Matrix	Fine inclusions	Coarse inclusions	Moulding sand	Comments
А	Light Orange	Silt Clay	occ. Rounded voids	occ. ?grog/?clay pellets, rare flint, rare sub-rounded voids	Fine	Grey core present in some
В	Mid Orange- Brown	Fine Sandy Clay	occ. Quartz, common rounded ? ferrous material and voids	rare rounded ferrous material and ?flint	Fine	Poorly mixed

Table 4: CBM fabrics

## **Discussion**

B.3.4 The assemblage is made up of abraded and some, possibly, re-worked Roman tile fragments. These fragments were collected from road surface 4029 in Trench 21. Below is a summary of the CBM catalogue (Table 5).



Trench	Context	Feature	Form	Descr	Date	Fabric	Count	Weight (g)	Comment
21	4029	Layer/ Road	Tile	?Tessera	Roman	А	1	42	Fragment of Roman tile with a smoothed upper face and a fine sanded base. Fragment appears to have been shaped into a small squared form (28x36mm) - possibly refashioned to be used as a tessera. Light orange, silty clay with a grey core.
21	4029	Layer/ Road	Undia g	Undiag	?Roman	А	3	73	Three fragments of heavily abraded flat tile. Light orange silty clay fabric. Severaly abraded.
21	4029	Layer/ Road	Tile	Flat Tile/ ? Tessera	?Roman	В	1	50	Fragment of flat tile. In a light brown-orange fine sandy fabric. Fragment appears to have been shaped into a small squared form (50x50mm) - possibly refashioned to be used as a tessera.
	Total								

Table 5: Summary CBM catalogue

## Statement of Potential

B.3.5 The archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from this assemblage are extremely limited. The presence of Roman material points to constructions from this period, which may have had decorated floors. However, as the assemblage is extremely fragmentary and abraded it is hard to discern any specific information related to this original use or the later discard of this material.



## APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

# C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

## Introduction

C.1.1 Five bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area at Eastfield, Chesterton (Phase 3) in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

# Methodology

C.1.2 The total volume of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Siraff-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. The 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 6.

## Quantification

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:

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal and rootlet material have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant, ++++ = super-abundant

#### Results

- C.1.3 Each of the five samples contain abundant rootlets, even the deeper features. This is due to modern trees and a very shallow topsoil (in places). Two samples each contain single charred cereal grains but these cannot be considered significant. Mollusc shell are well preserved and have a moderate density and diversity in Samples 401 (fill 4023 of ditch 4022) and 402 (layer 4036).
- C.1.4 No finds were recovered from the sample residues.

Sample no.	400	401	402	403	404
Context no.	4010	4023	4036	4034	4031
Feature no		4022		4033	4030
Trench	20	21	22	22	22
Volume processed (L)	18	17	16	16	8



Volume of flot (mls)		1	20	40	80	10
Hordeum sp. Grain	Barley		1			
Triticum sp. Grain	Wheat			1		
Charcoal		0	+	+	+	+
Untransfor med root/stem		++	++++	++++	++++	++++

Table 6: Environmental samples

## Conclusion

- C.1.5 The samples taken from Trenches 20, 21 and 22 do not contain preserved plant remains, however molluscs are present and are well preserved. If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011) with specific sampling (series samples) for mollusc retrieval.
- C.1.6 The moat, partially revealed by this evaluation, is likely to have deposits that could contain waterlogged material with the potential for preservation of plant macrofossils, pollen and molluscs. This feature was not sampled as only modern infill was encountered and it was deemed unsafe and impractical to excavate further at this time.



## C.2 Faunal Remains

By Hayley Foster

# Introduction and Methodology

C.2.1 A small animal bone assemblage weighing 555g in total was recovered from ditches and a road, mostly of medieval date. Fourteen fragments were recovered, of which 10 could be assigned to species; detailed in the table below. Bone was recovered by hand collection only, from six contexts in Trenches 21 and 22. The species include cattle (Bos taurus), sheep/goat (Ovis/Capra), pig (Sus Scrofa) and domestic fowl (Gallus gallus). The method used to quantify this assemblage was based on that used for Knowth by McCormick and Murray (2007) which is modified from Albarella and Davis (1996). Identification of the faunal remains was carried out at Oxford Archaeology East. References to Hillson (1992), Schmid (1972), von den Driesch (1976) were used where necessary.

## Discussion

- C.2.2 The animal remains from this assemblage are made up of a small number of fragments from domestic species. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) for the assemblage is one for each of the species identified: cattle, sheep/goat, pig and domestic fowl. Four fragments were assigned as large mammal as they could not be identified to species. There is very little ageing evidence, however, there are no remains with unfused epiphyses indicating there are no very young animals. A pig mandible was aged to 16-17 months at age of death based on dental wear, this is a typical age of death, as pig are slaughtered for meat before reaching maturity and upon reaching an optimum weight. There was no evidence of burning, butchery, gnawing or pathology noted.
- C.2.3 Overall, the species present in the assemblage are the types of animals that would be expected as a food source and for husbandry practices in the region in the medieval period. The small size of the assemblage does not allow for meaningful interpretations to be made at this stage.

Context	Trench	Date	Species	Element	Number of Fragments	Notes	Weight (g)
4023	21	Medieval	Cattle	Metacarpal	1	Fused	62
4023	21	Medieval	Large Mammal	Vertebra	1		15
4023	21	Medieval	Large Mammal	Unidentifiable Long bone	3		27
4024	21	Medieval	Pig	Mandible		MWS=17 (16-17 months)	38
4029	21	Possibly Medieval	Cattle	Humerus	1	Fused	51
4036	22	Medieval	Domestic	Humerus	1	Fused	4



Context	Trench	Date	Species	Element	Number of Fragments	Notes	Weight (g)
			Fowl				
4036	22	Medieval	Domestic Fowl	Femur	1	Fused	4
4037	22	Medieval	Cattle	Ulna		Articulates with Radius	51
4037	22	Medieval	Sheep/Goa t	Pelvis	2	Fused	17
4037	22	Medieval	Cattle	Radius		Articulates with Ulna	16
4040	22	Medieval	Cattle	Femur	1	Fused	270

Table 7: Faunal fragments by context.



## C.3 Mollusca

By Carole Fletcher

# Introduction and Methodology

C.3.1 A total of 0.133kg of shells were collected by hand during the excavation. The shells recovered are all edible examples of oyster Ostrea edulis, from estuarine, shallow coastal waters and intertidal zones. The shell is moderately well preserved and does not appear to have been deliberately broken or crushed. The shells were weighed and recorded by species, the minimum number of individuals was not recorded due to the small size of the assemblage, although right and left valves are noted when identification can be made.

## **Assemblage**

C.3.2 B.1.2 The shell was recovered from ditch 4022, road 4029 and layers across the site, with oyster being the only shell present. A small number of shells recovered from ditch 4022, show evidence of damage in the form of small 'V' or 'U' shaped hole on the outer edge of the shell. This damage is likely to have been caused by a knife during the opening or shucking of the oyster prior to its consumption; a single shell from road surface 4029 may also have shucking marks but this is uncertain.

## **Conclusion**

C.3.3 The shells recovered represent general discarded food waste and, although not closely datable in themselves, may be dated by their association with pottery and ceramic building material also recovered from the features. If further work is undertaken the shells should be fully recorded. The shell and the archive are held by Oxford Archaeology East until archival deposition.

# Mollusca Catalogue

Trench	Context	Cut	Species	Common Name	Habitat	Total No. of Shells	Description	No. of Shucked Shells	Weigh t (kg)
21	4023	4022	Ostrea edulis	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	3	Single near complete left valve. Two near complete right valves.	2	0.035
	4024		Ostrea edulis	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	4	Two near complete left valve. Two near complete right valves.	?1	0.061
	4029		Ostrea edulis	Oyster	Estuarine and	1	Partial left valve	Unclear if	0.020



				shallow coastal water			shucked or damage d	
22	4036	Ostrea edulis	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	1	Partial right valve		0.010
22	4037	Ostrea edulis	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	1	Near complete right valve	Unclear if shucked or damage d	0.007
Total					10			0.133

Table 8: Mollusca



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# APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project De	etails											
OASIS Num	ber	oxforda	ar3-296058									
Project Nam	Eastfield, East Che			esterton								
Project Date	s (field)	work)	Start	07-08-2017			Finish 11-08-2017					
Previous Work (by OA East)			Yes			Future	Woı	k Ye	es .			
Project Refe	rence (	Code	S									
Site Code	e CAMEFC16				ng App. No.			15/23	321/FUL			
HER No.	ER No. ECB4817				Relate	d HER	OASIS N	lo.				
Type of Proj	ect/Tec	hniqu	ues Use	d								
Prompt Planning condition			lition									
Developmen	t Type	Ho	using Estat	e								
Please sele	lease select all techniques used:											
☐ Aerial Photography - interpretation ☐ Grab-Sampling					mpling				] Remo	ote Operated Vehic	cle Surve	y
Aerial Photography - new			Gravity-C	Core			▼ Sample Trenches					
☐ Annotated Sketch			Laser Scanning				Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure			cture		
Augering			☐ Measured Survey				] Targe	eted Trenches				
☐ Dendrochronological Survey			☐ Metal De	☐ Metal Detectors				] Test	Pits			
☐ Documentary Search ☐ Phosphate S			te Survey				] Торо	graphic Survey				
			☐ Photogra	☐ Photogrammetric Survey				☐ Vibro-core				
Fieldwalking	3			☐ Photogra	☐ Photographic Survey				☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)			t)
Geophysica	l Survey			Rectified	Rectified Photography							
Monument List feature type Thesaurus	es using t	he NN	/IR Mon	ument Type	e Thesa	i <mark>urus</mark> a	_			ng the MDA Obj	ect typ	e
Monument Period				Object			Period					
road Medi		Medieva	edieval 1066 to 1540		ceramic			Medieval 1066 to 1540				
ditch, pit, posthole Medie		Medieva	val 1066 to 1540					Select period				
pit Uncertain		in					Select period					
Project Lo	ocatio	n										
County Cambridgeshire				Site Address (including postcode if possible)								
District Cambridge City					45-86 Eastfield							
Parish	Cambrid	dge Cit	у			Camb	Chesterton ridge					
HER	Cambrid	dge										
Study Area 0.6ha				National Grid Reference TL 4656 6037								



# Project Originators

Project Originato									
Organisation	OA EAS	Т							
Project Brief Originato	or Andy Th	Andy Thomas							
Project Design Origin	ator Matt Bru	Matt Brudenell							
Project Manager	Matt Bru	Matt Brudenell							
Supervisor	Andy Gr	eef							
Project Archives									
Physical Archive		Digital A	Archive		Paper Arch	nive			
CCC stores		OA East			CCC stores				
ECB4817		CAMEFO	C16		ECB4817				
Archive Contents/Me	edia	J L							
Phys	sical Digital tents Contents	Paper Contents		Digital Me	dia	Paper Media			
Animal Bones   Ceramics   Environmental   Glass   Human Bones   Industrial   Leather   Metal   Stratigraphic   Survey   Textiles   Wood   Worked Bone   Worked Stone/Lithic   None   Other				□ GIS     □ Geophysic     □ Images     □ Illustration     □ Moving In     □ Spreadsh     □ Survey     □ Text     □ Virtual Re	ns nage eets	Aerial Photos  X Context Sheet Correspondence Diary Drawing Manuscript Map Matrices Microfilm Misc. Research/Notes Photos X Plans X Report Sections Survey			

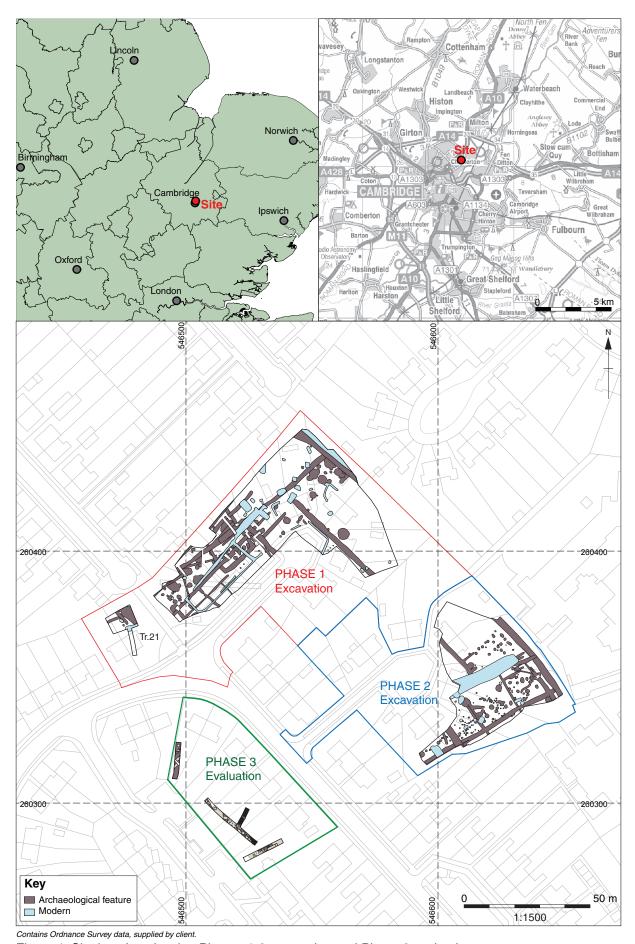


Figure 1: Site location showing Phases 1-2 excavation and Phase 3 evaluation





Figure 2: Site plan overlain with inclosure map



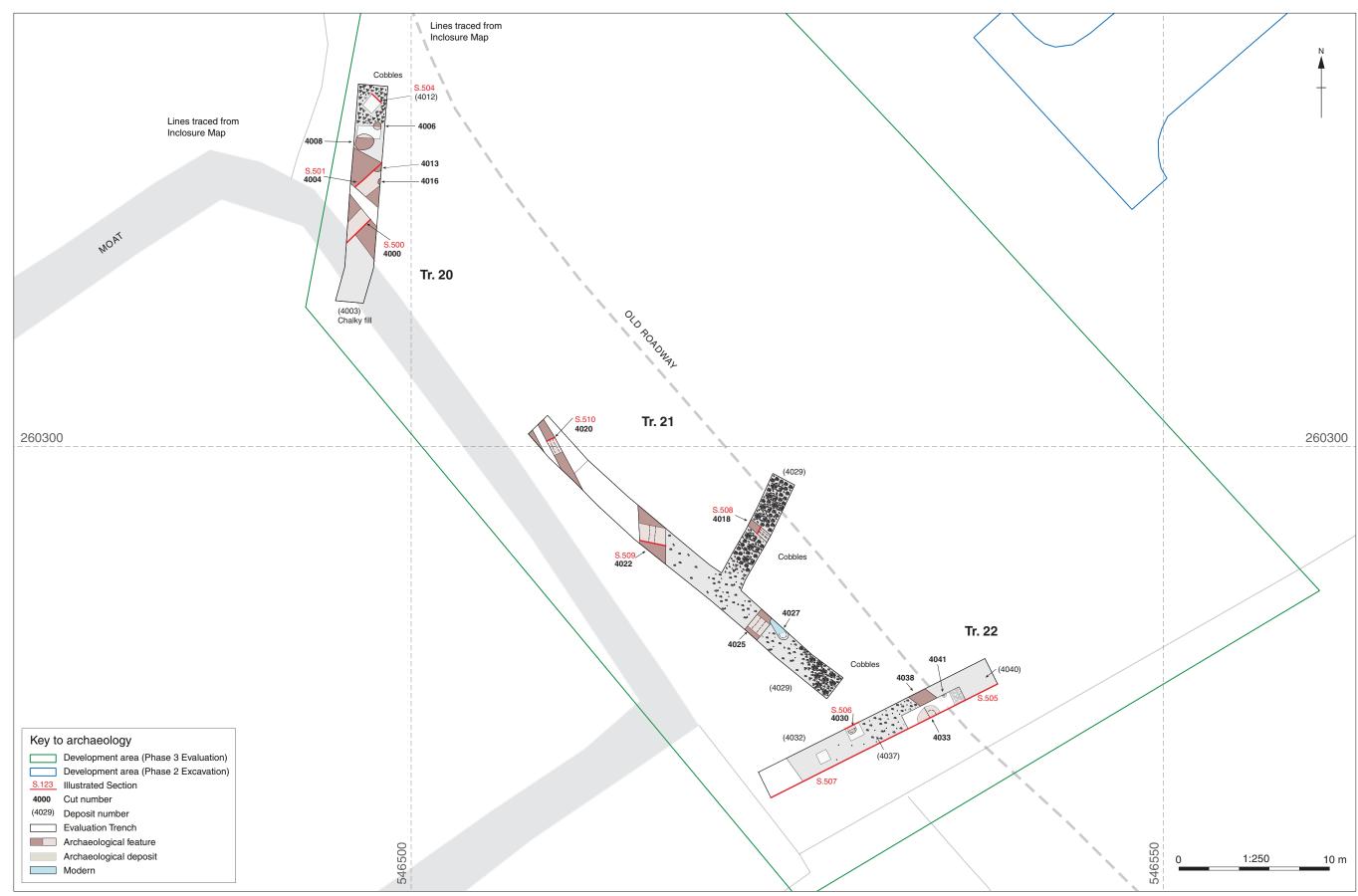


Figure 3: Plan of Phase 3 evaluation trenches. Scale 1:250



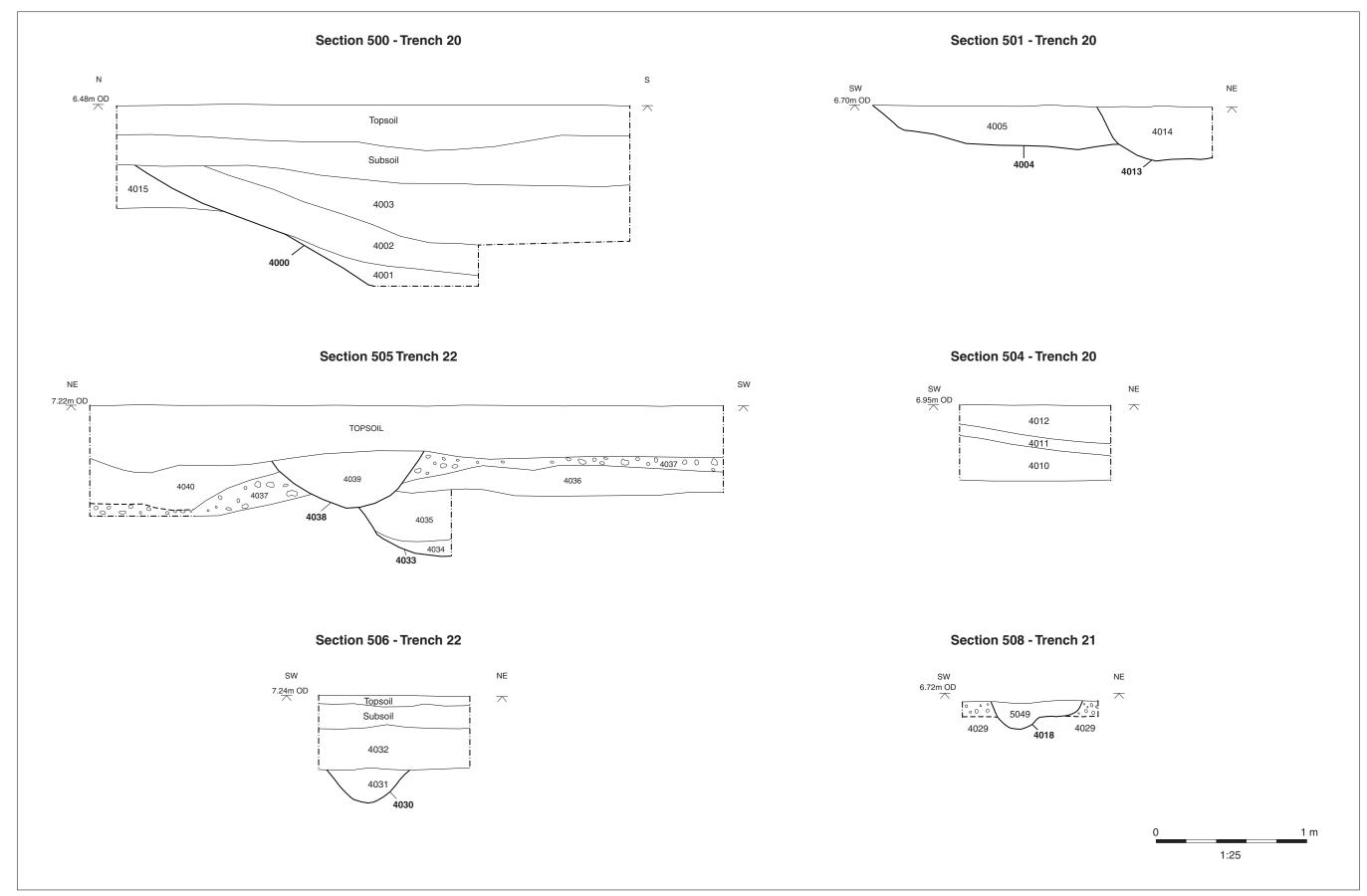


Figure 4.1: Selected sections. 1:25 scale



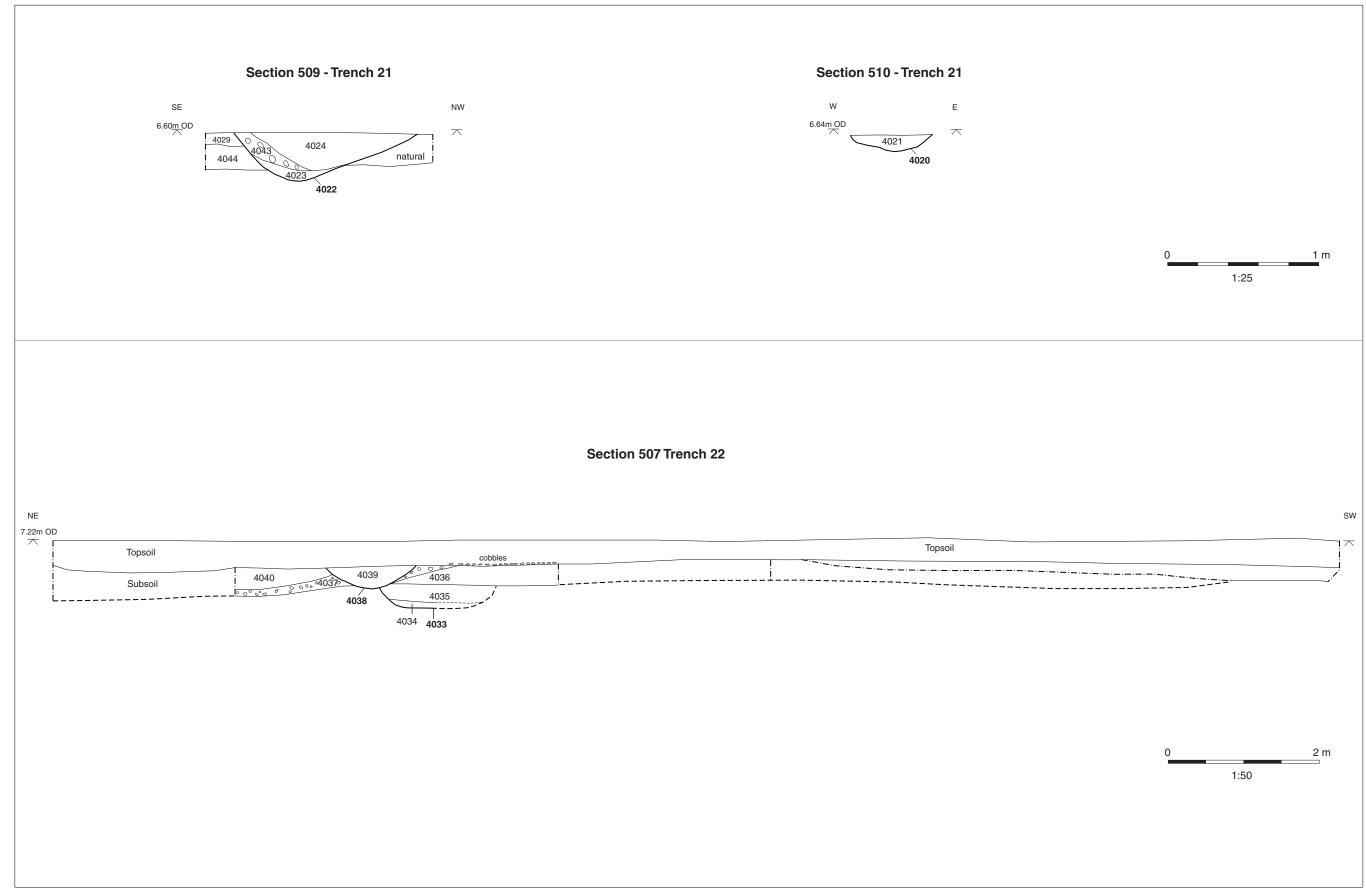


Figure 4.2: Selected sections. 1:25 and 1:50 scale.









Plate 3: View of test pit through road surface (4010) and underlying soil from south-west





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Plate 6: View of section through road surface 4027 and underlying pit 4033 in Trench 22, from north-west

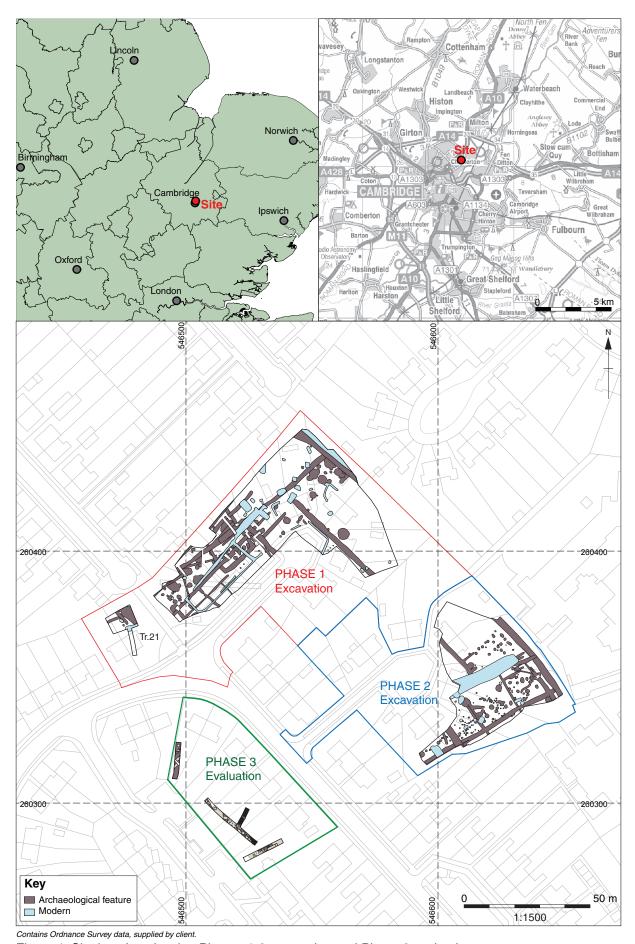


Figure 1: Site location showing Phases 1-2 excavation and Phase 3 evaluation





Figure 2: Site plan overlain with inclosure map



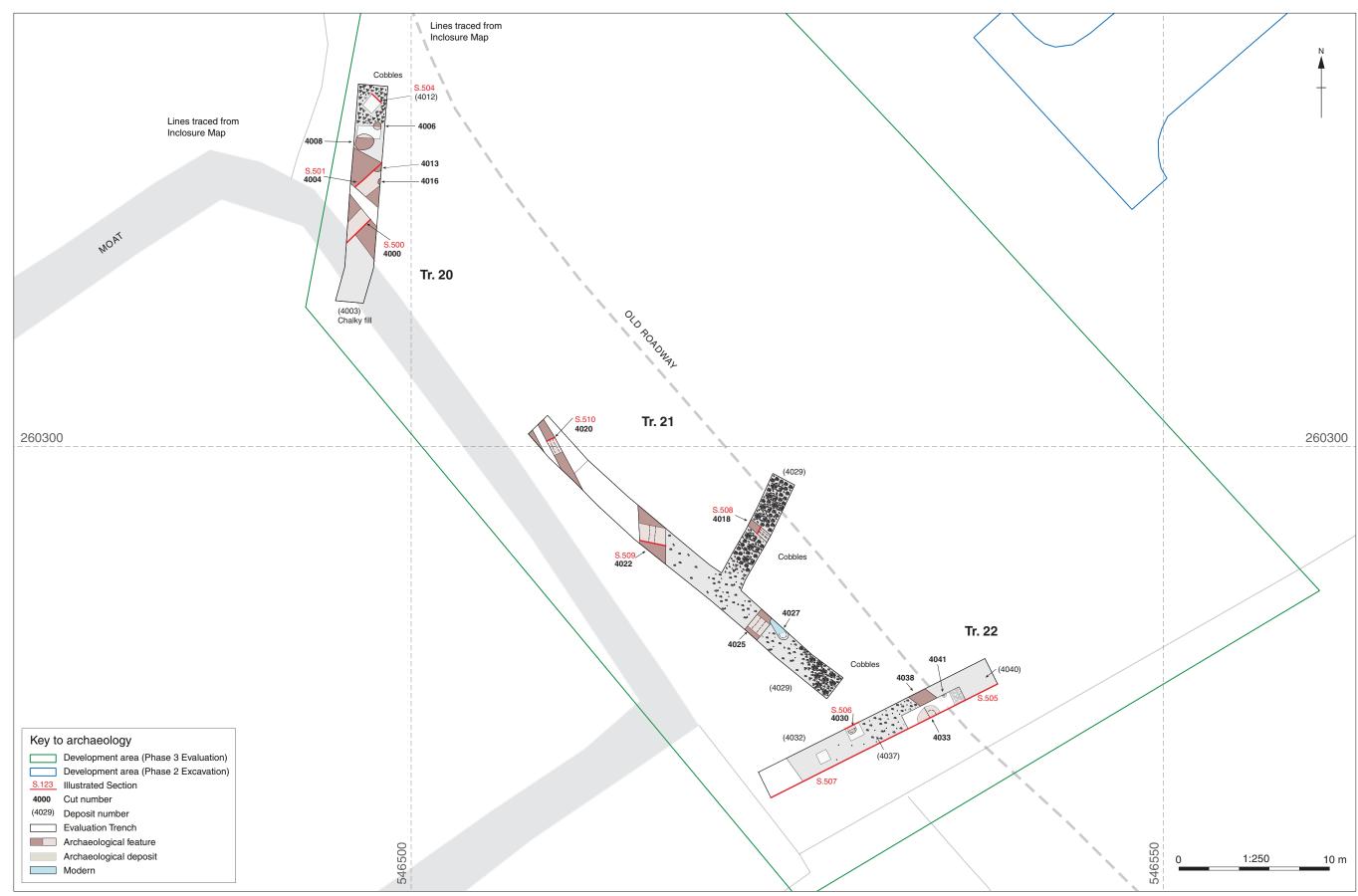


Figure 3: Plan of Phase 3 evaluation trenches. Scale 1:250



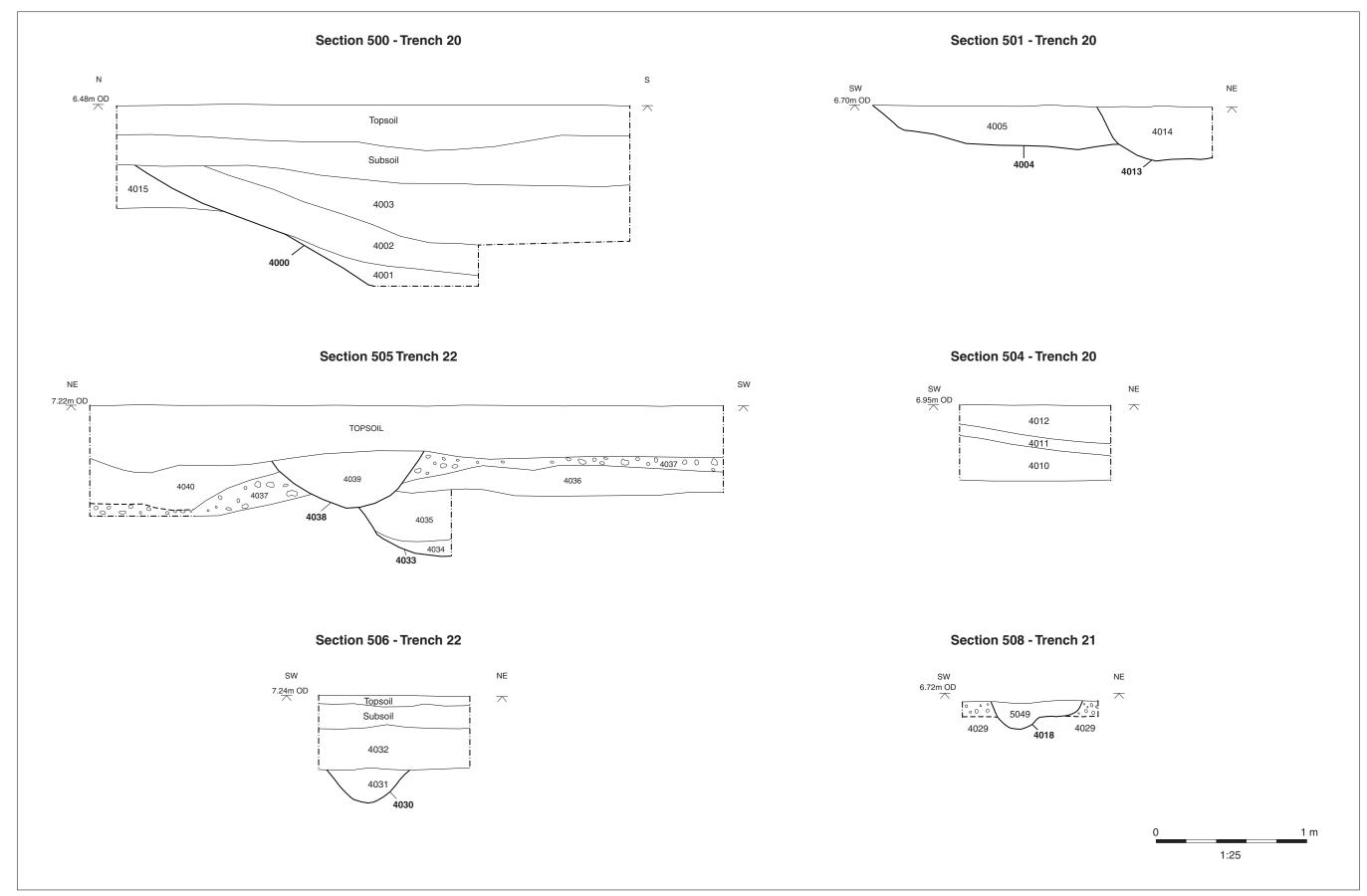


Figure 4.1: Selected sections. 1:25 scale



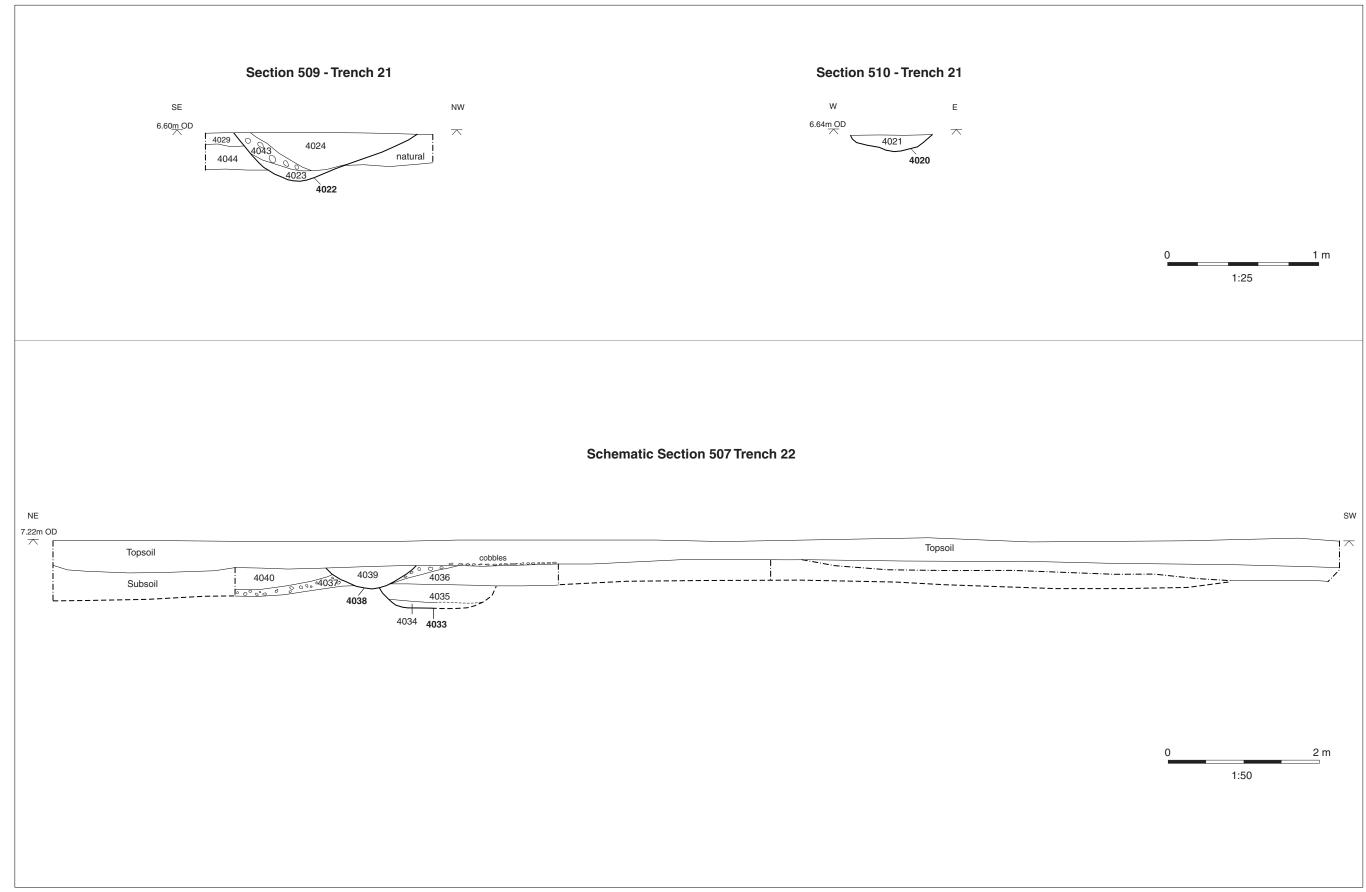


Figure 4.2: Selected sections. 1:25 and 1:50 scale.









Plate 3: View of test pit through road surface (4010) and underlying soil from south-west





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Plate 6: View of section through road surface 4027 and underlying pit 4033 in Trench 22, from north-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

## **OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way Bar Hill Cambridgeshire CB23 8SQ

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