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LAND TO THE WEST OF ORCHARD COTTAGE, 11 CHAPEL LANE, REACH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB25 0JJ

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER ECB 6402

Authors: Rebecca Randall (Fieldwork and Report) Liam Podbury (Report)	
NGR: TL 56540 66300	Report No: BE10023/0001 (0.3)
District: East Cambridgeshire	Site Code: ECB 6402
Approved: Damion Churchill	Project No: 8578
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CONTENTS

Project details			
Project name	*Land to the West of Orchard Cottage, 11 Chapel Lane, Reach, Cambridgeshire CB25 0JJ*		

In March 2021 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Orchard Cottage, 11 Chapel Lane, Reach, Cambridgeshire CB25 0JJ (NGR TL 56540 66300). The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) notes that the excavation site lies within an area of archaeological potential. Adjacent to the site is Hythe Lane, the partially backfilled line of the medieval village wharf (HER MCB8330). The wharf was connected to the main transport watercourse of Reach Lode (HER MCB9521) and was documented by 1125 by the Abbott of Ramsey but is likely to be earlier in date. The status of Reach as a fenland port in medieval and later times is reflected by the existing remains of hythes, wharfs and basins (CHER 06858, 06898, 06899, 06900, 06901, 06902, 06903 & MCB16607). The use of the wharves, basins and channels for trade continued into the 18th and early 19th centuries, and a post-medieval wharf is recorded to the immediate north of the proposed development site (HER MCB8331).

Two broad phases of archaeological activity were encountered during the evaluation, dating to between the 12th to 14th/15th century (Phase 1) and the 16th to 18th century (Phase 2). The medieval remains were limited to a series of made ground and organic siltation deposits associated with assemblages of pottery and metal work. Post-medieval archaeological features, which comprised structural remains and several pits, cut into the earlier deposits, resulting in substantial residuality. There was a paucity of post-medieval finds and the material evidence largely comprised brick and peg tile dating to between the 16th and 18th centuries.

Notably, investigation of the medieval alluvial sediments indicates that they probably formed through overbank flooding of adjacent watercourses associated with the medieval Hythe. It is, nevertheless, likely that the area was marginal for occupation, at least on a seasonal basis, resulting in refuse deposition in Layer L1023 and the need for consolidation with made ground layers. It is now possible to determine that possible medieval wharfs may have existed to the north, in the area of The Hythe, but may not have extended as far south as 11 Chapel Lane. Nevertheless, twenty-one of the medieval pottery sherds recovered were glazed (26.5%) which is quite high and likely reflect Reach's importance as a port with direct access to the sea.

Between the 16th and 18th centuries, activity on the site appears to have intensified, with a clunch wall (M1019) and chalk surface (L1020) being constructed during this period. Given the relatively limited insight afforded by the trench, the form of the clunch-built structure is unclear. It is clear, however, that the structure was demolished prior to 1887, according to cartographic evidence. The utilisation of chalk clunch is perhaps unsurprising as medieval clunch pits have been identified on the southern side of Reach (CHER MCB16608), and the port was known to trade large quantities of locally quarried clunch. Although conjectural, as they were not identified in association with any material remains, it is plausible that nearby undated structural features are associated with the building.

Project dates (fieldwork)	*17th – 24th March 2021*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	*Future work*	*TBC*
P. number	*BE10023*	*Site code*	*ECB 6402*
Type of project	*Archaeological evaluation*		
Site status	*-*		
Current land use	*Garden*		
Planned development	*Residential Dwelling*		
Main features (+dates)	*12th-14th C alluvial and made ground deposits; 16th-18th C chalk-clunch wall.*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*12th-14th C pottery and nails; 16th-18th C CBM.*		
Project location	*Cambridgeshire*	*East Cambridgeshire*	*Reach*
HER/ SMR for area	*CCC HET*		
Post code (if known)	*CB25 OJJ*		
Area of site	*322m²*		
NGR	*TL 56540 66300*		
Height AOD (min/max)	*c.6m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Cambridgeshire County Council*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Liam Podbury*		
Funded by	*Deborah & David Blocksage*		
Full title	*Land to the West of Orchard Cottage, 11 Chapel Lane, Reach, Cambridgeshire CB25 0JJ: An Archaeological Evaluation*		
Authors	*Podbury, L. & Randall, R.*		
Report no.	*BE10023/0001 (0.3)*		
Date (of report)	*April 2021*		

LAND TO THE WEST OF ORCHARD COTTAGE, 11 CHAPEL LANE, REACH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB25 0JJ

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In March 2021 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Orchard Cottage, 11 Chapel Lane, Reach, Cambridgeshire CB25 0JJ (NGR TL 56540 66300). The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) notes that the excavation site lies within an area of archaeological potential. Adjacent to the site is Hythe Lane, the partially backfilled line of the medieval village wharf (HER MCB8330). The wharf was connected to the main transport watercourse of Reach Lode (HER MCB9521), and was documented by 1125 by the Abbott of Ramsey but is likely to be earlier in date. The status of Reach as a fenland port in medieval and later times is reflected by the existing remains of hythes, wharfs and basins (CHER 06858, 06898, 06899, 06900, 06901, 06902, 06903 & MCB16607). The use of the wharves, basins and channels for trade continued into the 18th and early 19th centuries, and a post-medieval wharf is recorded to the immediate north of the proposed development site (HER MCB8331).

Two broad phases of archaeological activity were encountered during the evaluation, dating to between the 12th to 14th/15th century (Phase 1) and the 16th to 18th century (Phase 2). The medieval remains were limited to a series of made ground and organic siltation deposits associated with assemblages of pottery and metal work. Post-medieval archaeological features, which comprised structural remains and several pits, cut into the earlier deposits, resulting in substantial residuality. There was a paucity of post-medieval finds and the material evidence largely comprised brick and peg tile dating to between the 16th and 18th centuries.

Notably, investigation of the medieval alluvial sediments indicates that they probably formed through overbank flooding of adjacent watercourses associated with the medieval Hythe. It is, nevertheless, likely that the area was marginal for occupation, at least on a seasonal basis, resulting in refuse deposition in Layer L1023 and the need for consolidation with made ground layers. It is now possible to determine that possible medieval wharfs may have existed to the north, in the area of The Hythe, but may not have extended as far south as 11 Chapel Lane. Nevertheless, twenty-one of the medieval pottery sherds recovered were glazed (26.5%) which is quite high and likely reflect Reach's importance as a port with direct access to the sea.

Between the 16th and 18th centuries, activity on the site appears to have intensified, with a clunch wall (M1019) and chalk surface (L1020) being constructed during this period. Given the relatively limited insight afforded by the trench, the form of the clunch-built structure is unclear. It is clear, however, that the structure was demolished prior to 1887, according to cartographic evidence. The utilisation of chalk clunch is perhaps unsurprising as medieval clunch pits have been identified on the southern side of Reach (CHER

MCB16608), and the port was known to trade large quantities of locally quarried clunch. Although conjectural, as they were not identified in association with any material remains, it is plausible that nearby undated structural features are associated with the building.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2021, Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Orchard Cottage, 11 Chapel Lane, Reach, Cambridgeshire CB25 0JJ (NGR TL 56540 66300; Figs 1 & 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning approval condition for the erection of a one and a half storey detached dwelling with new access (East Cambs Ref. 19/01439/FUL). The evaluation was required based on the advice of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Team of Cambridgeshire County Council (Andy Thomas, dated 8 November 2020), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 29 September 2020) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2020), and also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

Planning Policy Context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset,

but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1. The site lies on the north-western side of Chapel Lane, on the eastern side of historic core of Reach village (Figs 1 & 2; DP 1). Reach is situated between Cambridge and Newmarket, above the former fen. It comprises part of the garden plot of Orchard Cottage and extends to some 322m^2.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated in a notably low-lying area at *c*.6m AOD, just 64m to the south-east of the Reach Lode. Reach is a fen-edge settlement, with fenland present to the north-west and more elevated ground to the south-east. The natural geology present in this area comprises West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation, formed in the Cretaceous Period. Overlying this is a shallow lime-rich soil.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Considerable prehistoric archaeological remains have been recorded in the area. Perhaps the earliest known evidence of human activity dates to the Mesolithic period, comprising three pebble maceheads and five tranchet axes (CHER 06410), lithic artefacts (CHER 06731), and a further ten tranchet axes (CHER 06725, 06732). Neolithic remains have also been identified in Reach, comprising flint flakes (CHER 06392a) and a polished axe (CHER 06439). Archaeological remains dating to the Bronze Age have likewise been recorded, including a palstave and spear (CHER 06438), an axe (CHER 06407), and a jet bead (CHER 06734).

4.2 More substantial Iron Age remains have been recorded in the surrounding landscape. An Iron Age settlement has been identified on the south-eastern edge of Church Hill (CHER 06392). Deep ploughing has revealed the remains of storage pits. These have produced large quantities of animal bones, mainly of cattle, as well as small amounts of black burnished ware of late Iron Age type and grey wares with incised lines. Similar pottery also associated with animal bones is alleged to have been found 'on the edge of the fens at Reach'. Cropmark remains of a rectangular enclosure and series of probable Iron Age pits have also been recorded during the Fenland Survey at Swaffham Prior Fen (CHER 06394). Further to reports of Iron Age pottery and

possible storage pits being found in the vicinity, a large rectangular enclosure with a smaller annex enclosure at its north-western corner was observed using Flashearth photography of Church Hill, Swaffham Prior Fen (CHER MCB18438). Large numbers of regularly spaced cropmarks thought to be storage pits were also observed in the centre and to the southeast of the main enclosure.

4.3 Medieval earthworks representing a deserted settlement have been recorded in close proximity to the site (CHER 06440 & 11381). The earthworks denote the hamlet of eastern Reach, which was deserted in the 14th century, and not re-occupied thereafter. Extensive earthworks, including a possible house platform and pond, are likely to represent an extension of the deserted settlement (CHER 06441). These sites lie at the eastern end of the Devils Dyke, an Anglo-Saxon defensive earthwork extending some 7.5km in length, infilled at its eastern end and Scheduled as an Ancient Monument (NHLE 1003262). The infilling of the dyke is documented in the late 13th century by the commune of Reach likely to extend their commercial village fairground to the south (CHER 07801). The remains of an old chapel dedicated to St Etheldreda, virgin abbess of Ely AD 679, have also been identified in the village and this is likely to date to the 13th century (CHER 06853). Agricultural remains, largely ridge and furrow cultivation, have been recorded within the local landscape (CHER 06717). Medieval clunch pits have also been identified on the southern side of Reach (CHER MCB16608).

4.4 The status of Reach as a small fenland port in the medieval and later periods is reflected by the existing remains of hythes, wharfs and basins (CHER 06858, 06898, 06899, 06900, 06901, 06902, 06903 & MCB16607). Significantly, the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) notes that the excavation site lies within an area of archaeological potential. The adjacent Hythe Lane is the partially backfilled line of the medieval village wharf (HER MCB8330). The wharf was connected to the main transport watercourse of Reach Lode (HER MCB9521) and was documented by 1125 by the Abbott of Ramsey but is likely to be earlier in date. The Lode may have Roman origins. A post-medieval wharf is recorded to the immediate north of the proposed development site (HER MCB8331). The wharf was part of a fan-shaped network of hythes at the docking end of the Lode where warehouses would have been situated.

4.5 Numerous post-medieval structures have been recorded within the village of Reach, including a manor house dating to the 16th century (CHER 06666) and a further 16th century house (CHER 06409). A single building dating to the 17th century is also known, the former Swan Inn (CHER 06855). One 18th century building has also been recorded, the former White Horse Inn (CHER 06412). More substantial development appears to have occurred in the 19th century, with numerous buildings including Spring Hall and its barn (CHER 06380), a barn at Fullers Farmhouse (CHER 06408), Saint Etheldreda's and Holy Trinity Church (CHER 06856) and Hurdle Hall (CHER MCB23989) being constructed.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The evaluation provided for a sample of the area to be subject to development. As required by the brief one trench of 10m x 1.8m was excavated across the new house footprint. The trench was mechanically excavated using a mechanical 360º excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. The trench was stripped to the level of the made ground layers (L1002 and L1020), with any archaeological feature exposed then excavated. In the north-north-western end of the trench a test pit was excavated to investigate the underlying medieval made ground and alluvial deposits (L1021, L1022, L1023, L1024 & L1035).

5.2 A one-metre square of topsoil, subsoil and any lower soil horizons below the existing surfaces was bucket sampled and sorted by hand at each end of the trenches to characterise their artefact content (as required Section 2.8 of the brief). Site records were completed to reflect this exercise. A metal detector was used to enhance finds recovery.

5.3 The archaeological evaluation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. The excavated spoil was checked for finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Trench 1 (Fig. 3; DPs 2-4)

6.1 The stratigraphy across the trench was relatively homogeneous, with the uppermost deposit identified during the evaluation, Topsoil L1000 (described below), found to be between 0.18m and 0.28m below the current ground level. In all areas with the exception of that of Test Pit 1, underlying Topsoil L1000 was Subsoil L1001, which was *c*.0.08m thick.

6.2 Underlying Subsoil L1001, extending south-east of Wall M1019 (which was left in situ) across most of the trench and cut by all discrete features therein, was Layer L1002, which was identified *c*.0.30m below the current ground level. This stratigraphic sequence was recorded in Sample Sections 1B and 1B, tabulated below. The depth and characteristics of L1002 indicate that it is likely to represent the same deposit as Layer L1021, recorded underlying Chalk Floor Surface L1020 within Test Pit 1, adjacent to the north-west of Wall M1019. Therefore, L1002 is the upper deposit of medieval made ground that seals a sequence of alluvial silts, which were recorded in Test Pit 1 (see below), and may be presumed to extend under the extent of the trench, but the density of archaeological remains exposed and confines of the excavated area did not allow for further exploration.

Sample Section 1A 0.00 = 6.15m AOD		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil: Friable, mid brown silty clay. It contained 13th to 14th century pottery (1; 14g); CBM (722g); animal bone (10g); millstone (1; 5627g)
0.22 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil: Friable, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional pieces of chalk. It contained 18th century pottery (2; 11g); CBM (14g)
0.30m+	L1002 (=L1021)	Layer: Firm, pale blue grey silty clay. It contained mid 13th to 14th century pottery (14; 309g)

Sample Section 1B 0.00 = 6.17m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil: As described above.
0.23 – 0.31m	L1001	Subsoil: As described above.
0.31m+	L1002 (=L1021)	Layer:: As described above.

6.3 Two phases of archaeological remains were identified in the trench; the former a sequence of medieval made ground and alluvial silts, and the latter a sequence of post-medieval pits, postholes and walls, which could be subdivided into preparatory and construction sub-phases. As exposed in Test Pit 1, whose sections are tabulated below, Trench 1 contained a series of medieval alluvial (L1023 and L1024) and made ground layers (L1020, L1021, and L1022). Made Ground L1021 appears to equate to L1002, which was cut by discrete features to the south-east; and Made Ground Layer L1021 was also cut by post-medieval Construction Cut F1018. A detailed analysis of the sequence of organic silts underlying the early post-medieval structural remains is provided in Appendix 2.8.

Test Pit Section 1A 0.00 = 6.15m AOD		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil: As described above.
0.18 – 0.39m	L1020	Chalk Floor Surface: Loose, mid yellow chalk.
0.39 – 0.70m	L1021	Layer (?Made Ground): Firm, pale grey silty clay with occasional sub-angular chalk and small gravel. Marine shell and carbon flecking present. It contained mid 13th to 14th century pottery (20; 158g), animal bone (104g), shell (37g) and iron nails (34; 261g).
0.70 – 0.90m	L1022	Layer (?Made Ground): Firm pale grey silty clay with occasional small gravel. Carbon flecking present. It contained 13th century pottery (7; 104g), animal bone (12g), shell (9g) and iron nails (3; 46g).
0.90 – 1.11m	L1023	Organic Silt Layer: Firm, dark grey silty clay with occasional sub-angular chalk. Evident carbon flecking and shell fragments. It contained mid 13th to 14th century pottery (6; 42g), animal bone (40g), shell (23g) and iron nails (1; 5g).
1.11 – 1.31m	L1024	Organic Silt Layer: Firm, dark brown slightly silty clay with shell inclusions. It contained 13th to 15th century pottery (1; 5g), animal bone (4g) and shell (4g).
1.31m+	L1025	Organic Silt Layer: Firm dark greyish brown clay with shell inclusions.

Test Pit Section 1B 0.00 = 6.15m AOD		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil: As described above.
0.18 – 0.50m	F1018 & M1019	Construction Cut F1018 and Wall M1019: As described below.
0.50 – 0.71m	L1021	Layer (?Made Ground): As described above.
0.71 – 0.90m	L1022	Layer (?Made Ground): As described above.
0.90 – 1.14m	L1023	Organic Silt Layer: As described above.
1.14 – 1.71m	L1024	Organic Silt Layer: As described above.
1.71m+	L1025	Layer (?Natural Geology): Soft, pale grey silty clay.

6.4 The post-medieval activity comprised pits (F1012, F1016, F1014, F1026, F1028, and F1030) and structural features (F1005, F1007, F1013, F1018, M1019). A small number of features, which are potentially of post-medieval date, contained no material evidence (F1003, F1010, F1032, F1035, F1037, M1039, L1040).

6.5 A total of eight pits were recorded, each cutting deposit L1002/L1020 and no other features except each other. Notably Pit F1030 cut the fill of Pit F1035, but all were shallow and it was observed during excavation that some may be the result of rooting, or alternatively that they may represent preparatory work for the construction that followed in the form of grubbing out or localised extraction of materials. The pits are described below:

Pit F1003 (DP 5) was sub-circular in plan (0.80m x 0.79m x 0.10m), with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1004, was a friable, light grey yellow silty clay with occasional small and medium pieces of chalk. It contained no finds.

Pit F1012 (DP 8) was sub-oval in plan (0.31m x 1.13m x 0.14m), with gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1013, was a friable, dark brown grey silty clay with moderate sub-angular chalk pieces. It contained late 12th to 14th century pottery, CBM (163g) and animal bone (26g).

Pit F1014 (DP 9) was sub-oval in plan (0.65m x 0.79m x 0.10m), with slightly sloping to near vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1015, was a firm, mid brown grey silty clay with occasional fragments of coal and floral turbation. It contained CBM (1g) and coal (8g).

Pit F1016 (DP 10) was sub-circular in plan (>0.65m x 0.90m x 0.26m), with moderately sloping to steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1017, was a firm, mid grey silty clay with occasional fragments of coal, moderate small to medium rounded and sub-rounded stones, and floral turbation. It contained 13th to 14th century pottery (2; 11g), CBM (878g), shell (2g) and coal (2g).

Pit F1026 (DP 12) was sub-circular in plan (0.90m+ x 1.30m x 0.07m), with gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1027, was a firm, dark blue grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints. It contained late 12th to 14th century pottery (1; 6g). Pit F1026, which may be a continuation of Pit F1028, cut Chalk Floor Surface L1020.

Pit F1028 (DP 13) was sub-oval in plan (1.90m x 0.85m x 0.28m), with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1029, was a firm, mid blue grey silty clay with occasional pieces of chalk and occasional small to medium sub-angular flints. It contained 13th to 14th century pottery (22; 195g), CBM (283g), animal bone (18g), shell (6g) and clinker (3g). Pit F1028, which may be a continuation of Pit F1026, was cut by Construction Cut F1018.

Pit F1030 (DP 14) was sub-circular in plan (1.50m x 2.20m x 0.56m), with moderately sloping to steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1031, was a firm, mid blue grey and mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk pieces and occasional small sub-angular flints. It contained mid 12th to 14th century pottery (2; 34g), CBM (4695g), animal bone (28g), shell (44g) and dressed stone (1; 1056g). Pit F1030 cut Pit F1035 and was cut by Post Holes F1032 and F1037.

Pit F1035 (DP 14) was sub-circular in plan (0.85m+ x 0.57m+ x 0.12m), with gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1036, was a firm, dark blue grey and mid grey brown with occasional chalk pieces and sub-angular flints. It contained no finds. Pit F1035 was cut by Pit F1030.

6.6 The principal components of the post-medieval (16th to 18th century) structural remains comprised Construction Cut F1018, which contained Wall M1019, and a probable perpendicular continuation of this wall in Wall M1039 and related Lime Mortar Deposit L1040. Construction Cut F1018 was observed to cut Pits F1026 and F1028, but owing to the shallow depths of the pits, it remains inconclusive if these are attributable to a single or separate phase of post-medieval activity. Wall M1019 was observed to have been abutted by Chalk Floor Surface L1020 , which may have formed an internal pounded surface that extended within a structure beyond the north-western confines of the trench. Notably, Chalk Floor Surface L1020 was also cut by shallow Pit F1026, which may suggest that at least some of the post-medieval pits post-date the construction phase, if they are not the result of subsequent rooting. The principal structural remains may be described:

Construction Cut F1018 was linear in plan (2.00m+ x 0.95m x 0.10m) and ran on an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment. It had steep sides but an unseen base as Wall M1019 was left *in situ*. It contained 17th to 18th century pottery (2; 7g) and CBM (3064g).

Wall M1019 (DP 11) was linear in plan (2.00m+ x 0.95m x 0.10m x 0.30m) and ran on an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment. It was constructed of clunch chalk and several fragments of brick. It abutted Chalk Floor Surface L1020.

Wall M1039 (DP 17) was linear in plan (1.70m x ? x ?) on a north-west to south-east alignment. It was constructed of clunch chalk with lime mortar. Lime Mortar L1040 was likely to have represented a perpendicular continuation of Wall M1039.

Lime Mortar Deposit L1040 was linear in plan (1.80m x 0.10m x ?) on a north to south alignment. It comprised a friable, pale yellow lime mortar with occasional small chalk pieces. Lime Mortar L1040 likely represents a perpendicular continuation of Wall M1039.

6.7 In addition to the principal structural remains a series of post-medieval post holes were located close to the south-east of Wall M1019, and may have functioned as an extension to this structure; or if Wall M1039 did represent a perpendicular continuation of the former, may have been an internal structure equidistant between the masonry walls. Notably Posthole F1037 cut Pits F1028 and F1039, and Posthole F1032 cut Pits F1012 and F1030; indicating that if the postholes were associated with the post-medieval structural activity, then they post-date excavation of the shallow post-medieval pits. The post holes may be described:

Post Hole F1005 (DP 6) was sub-circular in plan (0.20m x 0.24m x 0.14m), with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1006, was a friable, dark brown grey silty clay with occasional chalk pieces. It contained CBM (685g).

Post Hole F1007 (DP 6) was sub-circular in plan (0.34m x 0.33m x 0.22m), with near vertical sides and a concave base. Its basal fill, L1008, was a friable, dark brown grey silty clay. It contained no finds. Its secondary fill, L1009, was a friable, mid brown grey silty clay with occasional pieces of chalk. It contained CBM (20g) and iron nails (2; 11g).

Post Hole F1010 (DP 7) was sub-circular in plan (0.19m x 0.21m x 0.06m), with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1011, was a friable, mid brown grey silty clay with occasional very small pieces of chalk. It contained no finds.

Post Hole F1032 (DP 15) was sub-circular in plan (0.35m x 0.32m+ x 0.20m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1033, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional CBM and small sub-angular flints. It contained no finds. Post Hole F1032 cut Pit F1030.

Post Hole F1037 (DP 16) was sub-circular in plan (0.30m x 0.30m x 0.18m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1038, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular flints. It contained no finds. Post Hole F1037 cut Pit F1030.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 No factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Significantly, the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) notes that the excavation site lies within an area of archaeological potential. Medieval Reach Port was a centre for commercial activity which by the 14th century had developed a regional importance for trade in large quantities of locally quarried clunch, timber, iron, and local agricultural products (RCHM 1972; Boreham *et al* 2016). Adjacent to the site is Hythe Lane, the partially backfilled line of the medieval village wharf (HER MCB8330). The wharf was connected to the main transport watercourse of Reach Lode (HER MCB9521) and was documented by 1125 by the Abbott of Ramsey but is likely to be earlier in date. The Lode may have Roman origins. The status of Reach as a fenland port in medieval and later times is reflected by the existing remains of hythes, wharfs and basins (CHER 06858, 06898, 06899, 06900, 06901, 06902, 06903 & MCB16607). Six basins constructed on various arms of the lode system and a 'common hythe' 180 yds (165m) long were reported in 1443 (VCH 2002, 225). The use of the wharves, basins and channels for trade continued into the 18th and early 19th centuries (Boreham *et al* 2016), and a post-medieval wharf is recorded to the immediate north of the proposed development site (HER MCB8331). The wharf was part of a fan-shaped network of hythes at the docking end of the Lode where warehouses would have been situated. The construction of the present iteration of The Hythe is medieval or early modern, but certainly before 1743 (Boreham *et al* 2016).

8.2 Two broad phases of archaeological activity were encountered during the evaluation, dating to between the 12th to 14th/15th century (Phase 1) and the 16th to 18th century (Phase 2). The medieval remains were limited to a series of made ground (L1002, L1021, and L1022) and organic siltation deposits (L1023 and L1024) associated with assemblages of pottery and metal work. Post-medieval archaeological features, which comprised structural remains (F1005, F1007, F1013, F1018, M1019) and several pits (F1012, F1016, F1014, F1026, F1028, and F1030), cut into the earlier deposits resulting in a relatively substantial quantity of residuality. There was a paucity of post-medieval finds and the material evidence largely comprised brick and peg tile dating to between the 16th and 18th centuries.

8.3 Notably, investigation of the medieval alluvial sediments (L1024 and L1023) indicates that they probably formed through overbank flooding of adjacent watercourses associated with the medieval Hythe (Appendix 2, Section 2.8). It is, nevertheless, likely that the area was marginal for occupation, at least on a seasonal basis, resulting in refuse deposition in Layer L1023 and the need for consolidation with probable made ground Layers L1022 and L1021. It is now possible to determine that possible medieval wharfs may have existed to the north in the area of The Hythe but may not have extended as far south as 11 Chapel Lane. The small windows into the deposits of The Hythe represented by the present evaluation and previous boreholes (Boreham *et al.* 2016) provide interesting preliminary observations as to the character of this significant site. However, fuller understanding can only be achieved through more extensive investigation of the wider area, either through systematic boreholes/window samples/hand auger survey or excavation (e.g. test pitting).

8.4 The medieval alluvial sediments (L1024 and L1023) and made ground deposits (L1021 and L1022), in addition to the later archaeological features, contained a modest assemblage of medieval finds (Appendix 1 & 2). The medieval pottery assemblage comprised a mixture of fabric types, predominantly of Ely ware (23 sherds), Medieval Essex-type micaceous grey sandy ware (20 sherds), and Grimston ware (16 sherds). The earliest pottery sherd recovered during the evaluation is a strap handle of Developed St Neots ware, which could potentially be of late 11th century, but its grouping with other sherds suggests a date of mid 12th-mid 13th centuries. The latest sherds could potentially be of 15th century East Anglian type Redware, but again their association with other sherds indicates they are probably not later than 14th century in date. Twenty-one of the medieval sherds were glazed (26.5%) which is quite high and may reflect Reach's importance as a port with direct access to the sea. A medieval clench bolt, a possible 11th century horseshoe nail, and a relatively large number of nails (37) consistent with a 1200 to 1500 AD date were also recovered from the medieval deposits.

8.5 Between the 16th and 18th centuries, activity on the site appears to have intensified, with a clunch wall (M1019) and chalk surface (L1020) being constructed during this period. Given the relatively limited insight afforded by the trench, the form of the clunch-built structure is unclear. It is clear from cartographic evidence, however, that the structure was demolished prior to 1887 (Figs. 4, 5 & 6). The utilisation of clunch is perhaps unsurprising as medieval clunch pits have been identified on the southern side of Reach (CHER MCB16608) and the nearby port is known to have traded large quantities of locally quarried clunch (RCHM 1972; Boreham *et al* 2016). Although conjectural, as they were not identified in association with any material remains, it is plausible that chalk-clunch Wall M1039 and Lime Mortar Deposit L1040 are related to the structure. Likewise, it is possible that post-medieval Post Holes F1005 and F1007, in association with the undated post holes (F1010, F1032, and F1037) formed an extension to the building. The function of the post-medieval pits is unclear given the paucity of finds; nevertheless, it is possible that Pits F1026 and F1028 were utilised in preparation for the development or alteration of the site.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Cambridgeshire County Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)	
	1000	1	Topsoil						Millstone (SF1)	1	5627	
		1A		13th-14th C	1	14	544	6				
		1B					178	4				
	1001	1	Subsoil	18th C	2	11	14					
	1002	1	Layer	Mid 13th-14th C	14	309						
1005	1006	1	Fill of Post Hole				685					
1007	1008	1	Basal Fill of Post Hole				20		Fe Nails	2	11	
1012	1013	1	Fill of Pit	Late 12th-14th C	1	9	163	26				
1014	1015	1	Fill of Pit				1		Coal		8	
1016	1017	1	Fill of Pit	13th-14th C	2	11	878		Shell		2	*
									Coal		2	
1018	1019	1	Wall	17th-18th C	2	7	3064					
	1021	1	Layer	Mid 13th-14th C	20	158		104	Shell		37	*
									Fe Nails	34	261	
	1022	1	Layer	13th C	7	104		12	Fe Nails	3	46	
									Shell		9	
	1023	1	Layer	Mid 13th-14th C	6	42		40	Shell		23	*
									Fe Nail	1	5	
	1024	1	Layer	13th-15th C	1	5		4	Shell		4	*
1026	1027	1	Fill of Pit	Late 12th-14th C	1	6						*
1028	1029	1	Fill of Pit	13th-14th C	22	195	283	18	Shell		6	
									Clinker		3	
1030	1031	1	Fill of Pit	Mid 12th-14th C	2	34	4695	28	Shell		44	
									Dressed Stone	1	1056	
	U/S	1	Unstratified	Late 12th-14th C	1	20						
	U/S	1	Unstratified - Spoil Heap	19th-early 20th C	5	82	651	4	Fe Nails	2	16	

* Environmental sample taken

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

2.1 The Pottery Report

Pete Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 87 sherds weighing 1.009kg from five pits and a wall trench, with the remainder coming from layers or else unstratified. Seventy-nine sherds (913g) are medieval and eight sherds (96g) are Post-medieval (Table 1 & 2).

Methodology

The sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Barclay et al 2016). Fabric codes (in brackets) are those used for the Cambridgeshire County Council pottery type series (Spoerry 2016).

Fabric Code	Date	Sherd Number	Fabric Weight
Developed St Neots ware	Late 11th-13th	1	14
Medieval Coarseware1 - abundant medium to coarse sub-rounded to rounded grey and red quartz	12th-14th	2	38
Medieval Coarseware2 – abundant fine sub-rounded to rounded sand, pale brown surfaces, thin. Possibly a late Ely ware	13th-15th	1	5
Medieval Ely ware	mid 12th-14th/15th	20	135
Medieval Essex-type micaceous grey sandy wares	12th-14th	26	463
South-east Medieval Fenland Calcareous Buff ware late 12th-15th	late 12th-15th	4	16
Medieval Grimston Coarseware	12th-13th	4	51
Unprovenanced Glazed Ware1 – orange-pink throughout, dark green glaze on both surfaces. Common fine sub-rounded quartz, moderate fine white calcareous inclusions or voids, rare fine red iron ore	13th-15th	1	9
Unprovenanced Glazed Ware2 – grey core wit mid brown surfaces, slightly micaceous with fine and medium rounded grey and milky quartz, probably an Essex product	Late 12th-14th	1	20
Glazed Medieval Ely ware	Late 12th-14th/15th	3	24
Glazed Grimston ware	Late 12th-14th	12	111
East Anglian Redware	13th-14th /15th	3	18
Potterspury ware	early 13th-15th	1	9

Post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware	mid 16th+	4	43
Staffordshire type Mottled Slipware	late 17th-18th	1	2
English Stoneware	18th+	2	49
Factory made Refined White Earthenware	mid 18th+	1	2
		87	1,009

***Table 1**: Quantification of Sherds by Fabric*

The Pottery

The medieval fabrics are in quite mixed groupings but there are three predominant fabrics comprising Ely ware (23), Medieval Essex-type micaceous grey sandy ware (20), and Grimston ware (16). The earliest demonstrable sherd is a strap handle in Developed St Neots ware, which could potentially be late 11th century, but its grouping with other sherds suggests a date of mid 12th-mid 13th centuries. The latest sherds potentially could be 15th century seen in the East Anglian type Redware, but again their association with other sherds indicates that they are probably not later than the 14th century. Twenty-one of the medieval sherds were glazed (26.5%) which is quite high and may reflect Reach's importance as a port with direct access to the sea.

Pit F1022 (L1029) contained 22 sherds of Essex-type micaceous grey sandy ware as well as Medieval Ely ware, Grimston ware and East Anglian Redware indicating a 13th or 14th centuries date range. Layer L1021 contained 20 sherds including all of the abovementioned main three fabrics, but mainly Ely wares including a Type C bowl rim with a 40cm diameter (Spoerry 2008, 48). Additionally there were three sherds of South-East Fenland Calcareous ware sherds, an unprovenanced glazed sherd with white chalky and red iron ore inclusions, and a jug rim with very dark grey core and pink surfaces with patchy glossy green glaze, which is a product of Potterspury in Northants. Layer L1023 included a Grimston Coarseware bowl rim 40 cm in diameter similar in size and form to an example from Vong Lane (Little 1994, 82, Fig. 60. 8). Layer L1002 contained the upper profile of a flat topped everted jar in sandy, micaceous fabric similar to forms from Essex which is not earlier than the mid 13th century. The Post-medieval sherds were probably all 18th century or later.

Table 2

Feature	Context	Description	Quantity	Date	Comment
	1000	Topsoil	1x14g GRIM	13th-14th	GRIM: contains some tiny black inclusions. Pale green faded glaze with applied slip line
	1001	Subsoil	1x9g GRE 1x2g STMO	18th	
	1002	Layer	1x9g MELG 13x300g MEMS	Mid 13th-14th	MELG: single splash of glaze, fabric looks quite like Grimston ware with no visible calcareous but a few tiny voids MEMS: red core, red-brown surfaces, with sooting; prob all one vessel flat topped everted F1 jar 10cm diam (.29 reve)
1012	1013	Fill of Pit	1x9g MEL	Late 12th-14th	
1016	1017	Fill of Pit	1x6g MCW1 1x5g EAR	13th-14th	EAR: brown-red throughout, trickle of clear/brown glaze on inner surface
1018	1019	Wall	1x4g GRIM 1x3g GRE	17th-18th	
	1021	Layer	12x105g MEL 1x7g MELG 3x11g SEFEN 1x15g MEMS 1x9g UPG1 1x2g GRIM 1x9g POT	Mid 13th-14th	MEL: x1 Bowl type C 40cm diam (0.05 reve); x1 Bowl C 0 cm diam (0.02 reve) MEMS: sooting UPG1: heavily abraded surfaces GRIM: highly decorated POT: upright A4/A5 jug rim 14 cm diam (0.08 reve)
	1022	Layer	1x14g DNEOT 1x34g MEMS 4x51g GRCW 1x5g SEFEN	13th	DNEOT: strap handle MEMS: base 16cm diam (0.11 beve) GRCW: base 14cm diam (0.06 beve)
	1023	Layer	6x42g GRIM	Mid 13th-14th	GRIM: x1 base 12cm diam (0.1 beve); x1 brown glaze, x1 highly decorated with brown slip lines GRCW: small beaded bowl rim 40 cm diam (0.05 reve) similar size and form to Vong Lane (Litle 1994, 82, Fig. 60. 8)
	1024	Layer	1x5g MCW2	13th-15th	MCW2: simple everetd jar rim 24cm diam (0.05 reve)

1026	1027	Fill of Pit	1x6g MELG	Late 12th-14th	
1028	1029	Fill of Pit	7x21g MEL 10x112g MEMS 3x49g GRIM 2x13g EAR	13th-14th	GRIM: x1 patchy brown and green glaze MEMS: rounded base 22cm diam (0.11 reve) EAR: oxidized cores with greeny-brown glaze mottled with green on outer surface
1030	1031	Fill of Pit	1x2g MEMS 1x32g MCW1	Mid 12th-14th	MCW1: thick walled flat topped everted bowl rim 32cm diam (0.05 reve)
	U/S	Unstratified	1x20g UPG2	Late 12th-14th	UPG2: sooting on outer surface
	U/S	Unstratified	2x49g ENGS 2x31g GRE 1x2g RWE	19th-early 20th	

Key:

DNEOT: Developed St Neots ware late 11th-13th

MCW1: Medieval Coarseware1 - abundant medium to coarse sub-rrounded to rounded grey and red quartz 12th -14th

MCW2: Medieval Coarseware2 – abundant fine sub-rounded to rounded sand, pale brown surfaces, thin. Possibly a late Ely ware 13th-15th

MEL: Medieval Ely ware 12th-14th/15th

MEMS: Medieval Essex-type micaceous grey sandy wares 12th-14th

SEFEN: South-east Medieval Fenland Calcareous Buff ware late 12th-15th

GRCW: Medieval Grimston Coarseware 12th-13th

MELG: Glazed Medieval Ely ware late 12th-14th/15th

UPG1: Unprovenanced Glazed Ware1 – orange-pink throughout, dark green glaze on both surfaces. Common fine sub-rounded quartz, moderate fine white calcareous inclusions or voids, rare fine red iron ore 13th-15th

UPG2: Unprovenanced Glazed Ware2 – grey core wit mid brown surfaces, slightly micaceous with fine and medium rounded grey and milky quartz, probably an Essex product late 12th-14th

GRIM: Glazed Grimston ware late 12th-14th

EAR: East Anglian Redware 13th-14th

POT: Potterspury ware early 13th-15th

GRE: Post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware mid 16th+

STMO: Staffordshire type Mottled Slipware late 17th-18th

ENGS: English Stoneware 18th+

RWE: Factory made Refined White Earthenware mid 18th+

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2.2 The Ceramic Building Material

Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of 139 fragments (11176g) of CBM, in a highly fragmented and abraded condition, almost entirely of post-medieval date. A single fragment of medieval peg tile was present as un-stratified material (Table 3).

The CBM was recorded by fragment count and weight (g), with fabrics examined at x20 magnification, all extant dimensions and technological traits measured or characterised, and all data entered into a spreadsheet that is deposited as part of the site archive.

CBM type	Period/Date	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Peg tile	Medieval	1	33
Red brick	16-18th C	14	5973
Misc. red brick		20	1043
'Small' brick		1	685
Peg tile	Post-medieval	103	3442
Total		*139*	*11176*

***Table 3**: Quantification of CBM*

The single fragment of medieval peg tile was recovered from a spoil heap (un-stratified). It was manufactured in a fabric with thin orange-red surfaces over a mid grey core with inclusions of abundant rounded quartz and sparse chalk/limestone (both <0.5mm), with occasional flint (<2.5mm). The peg tile is 15mm thick with a dark green lead glaze dribbled over the upper surface. Peg tile emerged as a roofing material in the late 12th to 13th centuries, but only became common in the 14th century, with standardisation by statute in the 15th century (Drury 1981, 131), by which point the type of medieval peg tile present here had been superseded.

The most common type of red brick, which included small groups of larger fragments in Wall M1018 and Pit F1030, was manufactured in a well-fired dark red-orange fabric with inclusions of common fine quartz and sparse chalk/limestone (0.5-5mm, occasionally to 10mm). It had partial dimensions of

?x110x50mm with a slightly rough base, slightly irregular arrises, some sunken margins, and fairly regular faces. A single fragment in Pit F1030 (L1031) has a thick green lead glaze on the upper surface, which also has sunken margins. Bricks such as this emerge in the region in the early 16th century (Lloyd 1983, 90) but become more common in the 17th to early 18th centuries (Ryan 1996, 95). The common incidence of sunken margins and the presence of dark green glaze perhaps favours a date earlier in this chronological range (16th century). Such a date would also be consistent with the presence of a fragment of 'small' brick in Posthole F1005, which is otherwise similar but with partial dimensions of ?x95x45mm, potentially to act as a flooring brick or as part of a hearth/chimney breast. Small fragments of miscellaneous red brick, most likely to be derived from the former type, were also present in Posthole F1007 and Pit F1012.

Also common in the assemblage were small fragments of 12mm thick peg tile, including limited groups in Pits F1016 and F1030, as well as sparse fragments in Pit F1028. These are likely to have been manufactured from the 15th century onwards, although as they exhibit negligible technological evolution, origins earlier in the medieval period cannot be entirely discounted. As is typical of the fenland and fen-edge region, the peg tile was manufactured in a fossiliferous shelly fabric with surfaces that ranged from pale brown to orange-red to dark red-brown, sometimes over a mid to dark grey core. Due to the high level of fragmentation there were no extant dimensions beyond basic thickness, nor any extant technological traits, including peg holes.

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2.3 The Worked Stone

Andrew Peachey

Trial-trench evaluation excavations recovered a fragment of mill stone (5627g) and a fragment of dressed stone (1056g).

The mill stone, recovered from the topsoil, consists of approximately 25% of a complete stone manufactured in mid grey lava stone, which is likely to have been imported from the Niedermendig-Andernach-Eifel region of the Rhineland, Germany. The stone appears to have had a diameter of approximately 520mm, with a thickness of 50mm at its edge, tapering slightly towards an interior aperture/hopper with a diameter of 140mm, at which point the thickness of the stone was reduced to 35mm. The base of the stone has a slightly rough, pecked finish, while the working surface is smooth with no evidence of any furrows or further dressing. The stone appears to have been

heavily used with the surface close to the external circumference worn to a near glossy feel; however, this wear is unlikely to have erased all evidence for any dressing, and this apparent absence is perhaps more consistent with types used with the advent of industrialization, rather than a medieval or post-medieval origin.

Pit F1030 contained a partial fragment of dressed stone manufactured from very pale yellow-cream fossiliferous limestone. The fragment has brick-like proportions, with partial dimensions of ?x100x60mm. The intact faces have been carved/abraded smooth and the edges (arises) slightly rounded. The function remains unclear, but it may have been designed to form part of a doorway, arch or similar domestic setting.

2.4 The Small Finds

Julie Curl

Five bags of iron objects, amounting to 399g and consisting of 42 pieces, were examined and identified using a variety of reference material. The objects were corroded and encrusted with debris/sediments. No x-rays were available at the time of this report. Objects were counted and weighed by context (see Table 4 & 5).

Context	Material	Group	Description	Qty	Wt (g)	Period
1008	Fe	Fasteners	Nails	2	11	PM/ Modern
1021	Fe	Fasteners	Nails/studs	34	261	Medieval 1200-1500
1022	Fe	Fasteners	Clench bolt and ?nail	3	46	Medieval 1200-1400
1023	Fe	Fasteners	Nails	1	5	Medieval
U/S	Fe	Fasteners	Nails	2	16	Modern

Table 4. *Quantification of the iron small finds*

Clench Bolt. Date: Medieval, 1200 to 1400.
One clench bolt was recovered from Layer L1022 which measures 43mm in length. The clench bolt has one squared rove and a the larger rove is a diamond shape with a maximum length of 40mm. The shaft of the bolt is roughly squared and the space between the roves is 23mm. Clench bolts are used for shipbuilding and in the construction of doors, covers and hatches to hold planks together (Margeson, 1985; Geddes, 1982), but other similar uses may be possible.

Nail/Horseshoe Nail. Date: Medieval. ?11th Century?
Layer L1023 produced a short piece of corroded iron measuring a maximum of 32mm, with a visible shank, one end much wider and rounded, but heavily corroded. Possibly a fiddle-headed form of horseshoe nail, but this would need to be confirmed by x-ray.

Nails. Date Medieval, 1200 – 1500.
Layers L1021 (34 pieces) and L1022 (3 pieces) produced a variety of iron nail fragments, all visible heads are square. Most shanks are broken and some are bent. Some fragments may be studs or staples rather than nails, but this would need to be confirmed with x-rays. Nails, studs and staples (no head) are used in a variety of construction and can have heads (except the staples) of a variety of shapes. Uses can include doors, chests, carts, coffins and general building construction.

Nails. Post-Medieval/Modern
Two nails were found in the Post hole fill L1008. Both are heavily encrusted with sediment and corroded. One has a broken tip. Post-Medieval to modern in date.

Two nails were produced from the U/S Spoil Heap, one square headed (55mm long), the other irregular 62mm in length), possibly rounded. Some corrosion and sediment. Modern in date.

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Context	Feature	Type	Pot Date	Material	Group	Description	Qty	Wt (g)	Measurements	Period	Details
1008	1007	Post Hole	Undated	Fe	Fasteners	Nails	2	11	39mm and 40mm	PM/ Modern	heavily encrusted with sediment and corrosion, tips missing, one bent
1021	1021	Layer	13th - 14th	Fe	Fasteners	Nails/studs	34	261	max 46mm	Medieval 1200-1500	Selection of iron nails all, 13 squared heads, 9 shank fragments, 12 pieces of corroded iron fragments.
1022	1022	Layer	13th	Fe	Fasteners	Clench bolt and ?nail	3	46	Clench bolt: max length 43mm, nail/strip piece in two parts	Medieval 1200-13th/1400	one clench bolt of max 43mm, heavily corroded, one large squared head rove, other rove diamond-shaped with max length of 40mm, shaft is square and with visible length of23mm. Second corroded object is square-headed nail through strip of iron, shank broken.
1023	1023	Layer	13th - 14th	Fe	Fastners	Nails	1	5	32mm max	Medieval	heavily corroded, possibly just bent shank, possible fiddle-key form of horseshoe nail
U/S	U/S	Spoil	19th - 20th	Fe	Fastners	Nails	2	16	55mm and 62mm	Modern	one square head, one five-sided head, tips missing , encrusted with sediment, but little corrosion

Table 5: *Catalogue of metal finds.*

2.5 The Animal Bone

Julie Curl

Methodology

An analysis was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis, 1992) and Baker and Worley (2014). All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. A record was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When possible ages were estimated along with any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Measurements were considered where appropriate following Von Den Driesch (1976), and bones suitable for a tooth record following Hillson (1996) recorded. Sheep and goat were distinguished where possible using criteria by Albarella and Salvagno (2017), Halstead *et al* (2002) and Payne (1969 and 1985). Counts and weights were noted for each context and counts made for each species. Where bone could not be identified to species, they were grouped as, for example, 'large mammal', 'bird' or 'small mammal'. Attempts were made, where possible, to refit possible fragments in the same bag and these were included in NISP counts. As this is a small assemblage, information was recorded directly into an appendix with this report.

The Bone Assemblage

Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of 246g of bone, consisting of 41 elements was recovered, with the totals quantified by feature, trench, count, and weight in Table 6. Bone was recovered from layers, pits, and other features. The spoil heap finds are of a modern date range, but the rest of the faunal assemblage was recovered with ceramic material of a medieval date range.

The bone is in a reasonable condition, although heavily fragmented from butchering and wear. Gnawing was seen on one bone fragment from the Topsoil L1000 in Trench 1A, which shows small teeth marks that may be either a small dog or cat, but a mustelid (such as a stoat) is possible. No burnt bone was recorded, suggesting that burial was the favoured method of disposal. There is some variation in the colour of fragments within deposits, with some pale fragments and others a dark brown colour that suggests waterlogging in organic material, suggesting that there may been some disturbance and re-depositing of bone.

Context	Feature Type, Weights and Counts					Total
	Layer	Pit	Spoil Heap	Topsoil	Tree hollow/ Pit	
1000				10g/2		10g/2
1013					26g/3	26g/3
1021	104g/13					104g/13
1022	12g/3					12g/3

1023	40g/9					40g/9
1024	4g/4					4g/4
1029		18g/2				18g/2
1031		28g/3				28g/3
U/S			4g/2			4g/2
Totals	160g/29	46g/5	4g/2	10g/2	26g/3	246g/41

Table 6. *Quantification of the faunal remains*

Species range and modifications and other observations

Five species were positively identified in the assemblage. The assemblage is quantified by species, feature and NISP in Table 7.

Cattle were seen in three deposits with adult and juvenile limb and rib fragments, which had been butchered. **Sheep/goat** were recorded from the Layers L1021 and L1022 with adult and juvenile limb fragments, with remains all of sheep. A single robust **pig/boar** unfused distal radius was found in the Topsoil 1000, Trench 1B. Layer L1021 produced a scapula and metapodial from an adult **cat** and a femur from an adult **chicken/pheasant**. Over half of the pieces of bone did not show any diagnostic features that could provide a species identification and these could only be recorded as **mammal**.

Species	**Feature Type and NISP**					**Total**
	Layer	Pit	Spoil Heap	Topsoil	Tree hollow/ Pit	
Bird - fowl	1					1
Cattle	10				1	11
Mammal	14	5	2	1	2	24
Pig/boar				1		1
Sheep/goat	2					2
Small mammal - cat	2					2
Totals	29	5	2	2	3	41

Table 7. *Quantification of the faunal remains by context, species and NISP.*

Discussion and conclusions

This is a small assemblage, with a relatively high number of species, which is often seen with medieval remains. The bulk of the bone was derived from butchering and food waste from the main food mammals, with juveniles of the cattle and sheep/goat, which would suggest a range of uses and a need for a range of meats. The sheep would also be required for a supply of fleeces for the increasing wool trade in the medieval period. The fowl bone is expected and the bird would be used for eggs, feathers and meat. The cat may be a feral animal, but could have been a domestic mouser to keep rodents under control around food supplies; a companion pet is quite possible during the medieval period. The range of species suggests a fairly simple diet, with no wild species, deer or fish included.

Table 8: Catalogue of the animal bone recovered from ECB6402

Key:

NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present. Measureable following Von Den Driesch, 1976. Countable following Davis, 1992.

Context	Trench	Feature	Type	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Mature	Adult	Sub adult	Juv	Neo	Element range	Measure	Count	Butchering	Burnt	Gnaw	Pathology	Skin	HW	Comments
1000	1A	1000	Topsoil	1	6	mammal	1						shaft fragment			cut		1				some gnawing - ?cat/small dog
1000	1B	1000	Topsoil	1	4	pig/boar	1				1		unfused distal radius		1							large
1013	1	1012	Tree hollow/Pit	3	26	cattle	1		1				scapula fragment									articular end
1013	1	1012	Tree hollow/Pit			mammal	2						rib and shaft frags									one darker stained brown, other fragment pale
1021	1	1021	Layer	13	104	cattle	1						rib			chopped						
1021	1	1021	Layer			sheep/goat	1						tibia shaft									
1021	1	1021	Layer			sm - cat	2		1				scapula, metapodial		1.2							
1021	1	1021	Layer			bird - fowl	1						femur									
1021	1	1021	Layer			mammal	8						fragments									
1022	1	1022	Layer	3	12	sheep/goat	1				1		distal unfused femur		1							
1022	1	1022	Layer			mammal	2						fragments									
1023	1	1023	Layer	9	40	cattle	9				1		femur fragments, upper P4			chopped						fragments refit
1024	1	1024	Layer	4	4	mammal	4						rib fragment, shaft fragments									medium sized mammal, s/g/pig/dog size
1029	1	1028	Pit	2	18	mammal	2						fragments of large rib									
1031	1	1030	Pit	3	28	mammal	3						fragments									varied in colour
U/S	1	U/S	Spoil Heap	2	4	mammal	2						fragments									

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2.6 The Molluscs

Julie Curl

Methodology

The molluscs were identified to species using a variety of reference material. Shells were catalogued by species and where appropriate, counts were made of the number of individual species present (NISP), counts of top and base shells and an estimate of the minimum number of individuals (MNI). Bivalve shells are known to be used as painter's palettes and the remains are examined for any traces of pigments. Shells are also examined for any cut marks that would confirm their use for food from the prising apart of the shells or removal of meat with a knife. Information was recorded directly into an appendix with this report.

The Assemblage

A total of 125g of shell, consisting of 39 elements, was recovered from this excavation, which is quantified by feature type in Table 9 by feature, species and NISP.

Context	Trench	Type	Ctxt Qty	Ctxt Weight	Species	NISP
1017	1	Pit	7	2	oyster	3
1017	1	Pit			mussel	4
1021	1	Layer	13	37	oyster	4
1021	1	Layer			mussel	9
1022	1	Layer	5	9	mussel	5
1023	1	Layer	2	23	oyster	1
1023	1	Layer			mussel	1
1024	1	Layer	1	4	oyster	1
1029	1	Pit	3	6	oyster	1
1029	1	Pit			mussel	2
1031	1	Pit	8	44	oyster	4
1031	1	Pit			mussel	4

Table 9. *Quantification of the mollusc assemblage.*

Species and observations

The mollusc assemblage consisted entirely of marine shells, with Common Oyster and Common Mussel. Mussels had been more heavily fragmented as they are thin shelled and more fragile, some fragmentation had occurred with the oyster, otherwise, the shell was in reasonable condition.

All oysters seen were less than 65mm in length, which are relatively small to average, as they can reach sizes of over 100mm. One of the oyster shells from the medieval Pit Fill L1031 showed a small knife cut from prising the bivalves open to obtain the flesh.

Discussion and conclusions

This is a small shell assemblage and it is dominated by the remains of the most frequent food species on archaeological sites. Common Oyster and Common Mussel are found all around the British coast, even in quite shallow waters. Such molluscs could be collected by individuals, but are perhaps more likely to have bene sold at local markets. The shells clearly provided variety to the diet at this site. Butchering on the oyster attests to food use, while butchering is not seen on mussels as these small bivalves tend to be boiled whole and open up to release the flesh.

Context	Type	Ctxt Qty	Weight	Freshwar	Marine	Land	Species	NISP	Top	Base	MNI	Apex	Frag	Distort	Worms	Sponge	Barnacles	Attached	Cuts
1017	Pit	7	2		3		oyster	3					3						
1017	Pit				4		mussel	4					4						
1021	Layer	13	37		4		oyster	4	1	2	2	3	1			1			
1021	Layer				9		mussel	9			1	2	7						
1022	Layer	5	9		5		mussel	5			2	4	1						
1023	Layer	2	23		1		oyster	1		1	1	1				1			

1023	Layer				1		mussel	1			1	1	1						
1024	Layer	1	4		1		oyster	1					1						
1029	Pit	3	6		1		oyster	1					1						
1029	Pit				2		mussel	2					2						
1031	Pit	8	44		4		oyster	4	2	1	2	3	1			1			1
1031	Pit				4		mussel	4				1	3						

Table 10. *Catalogue of the mollusc assemblage.*

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2.7 The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the archaeological evaluation at 11 Chapel Lane, 5 bulk samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. The aim of the sampling was two-fold. The primary aim was to determine the preservation and distribution of environmental macrofossil remains in the deposits at the site. In addition, samples from alluvial Layers L1023 and L1024 were intended primarily for the recovery of mollusc shells that would provide further details regarding the nature and origin of these silts.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 11. The identification of molluscs from L1023 and L1024 are shown in Table 12. The samples from Pit Fills L1017 (F1016) and L1027 (F1026) contained no

carbonised plant macrofossil remains. Both contained charcoal fragments, with oak (*Quercus* sp.) and non-oak diffuse porous wood types present in L1017. Other remains included fish bones and scales in L1017 and coal fragments.

Carbonised plant macrofossils were also present in Layer L1021 and Alluvial layer L1023. Hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* type) grains were present, along with a small number of likely arable weeds (*Papaver rhoeas/dubium, Persicaria lapathifolia* and large Poaceae). A single seed of great fen sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) was present in L1021. This was probably part of the fuel resource, which was common in fenland areas (e.g. Ballantyne 2005). Other fuel remains included charcoal fragments, which were more common in L1023, with both oak (*Quercus* sp.) and non-oak diffuse porous wood types recognised. The carbonised remains from these deposits are probably burnt domestic debris incorporating hearth ash and culinary waste. Lower alluvial Layer L1024 contained no carbonised remains.

Molluscs

Layers L1023 and L1024 were recognised as containing small mollusc shells during excavation and were sampled for these remains. Underlying alluvial Layer L1025 was not excavated and was not sampled. The mollusc identifications from L1023 and L1024 are shown in Table 12.

Sample	**3**	**6**
Context	**1024**	**1023**
Volume (litres)	**10**	**20**
Terrestrial		
Carychium cf. *tridentatum* - Slender herald snail	11	3
Carychium sp. - Herald snail	52	3
Cochlicopa lubrica - Slippery moss snail	2	-
Cochlicopa sp. - Moss snail	6	3
Oxychilus sp. - Glass snail	5	-
Punctum pygmaeum - Dwarf snail	5	1
Pupilla muscorum - Moss chrysalis snail	19	17
Trichia hispida group - Hairy snail	37	6
cf. *Trichia* sp.	75	29
Vallonia costata - Ribbed grass snail	-	1
Vallonia cf. *excentrica* - Eccentric grass snail	4	6
Vallonia sp. - grass snail	59	17
Vertigo cf. pygmaea - Common whorl snail	3	3
Vertigo sp. - Whorl snail	3	1
Total Terrestrial	***281***	***90***
% Terrestrial	***60.82%***	***40.36%***
Marsh		
Carychium cf. *minimum* - Sedge snail	11	1
Lymnaea truncatula - Dwarf pond snail	6	3
cf. *Lymnaea truncatula* - Dwarf pond snail	16	9
Succinea/ Oxyloma sp. - Amber snail	3	4
Vallonia cf. *pulchella* - Smooth grass snail	23	18
Vertigo cf. *antivertigo* - Marsh whorl snail	3	1

Total marsh	***62***	***36***
% marsh	***13.42%***	***16.14%***
Aquatic		
Anisus leucostoma - Button ram's-horn	2	-
Anisus vortex - Whirlpool ram's-horn	-	4
Bathyomphalus contortus - Twisted ram's-horn	-	2
Bithynia tentaculata - Common Bithynia	6	1
cf. *Bithynia tentaculata - Common Bithynia*	22	1
Pisidium sp.	-	2
Planorbis planorbis - Margined ram's-horn	3	4
Planorbis sp. - Ram's-horn	6	14
Valvata cristata - Flat valve snail	17	14
cf. *Valvata cristata* - Flat valve snail	62	46
Valvata piscinalis - Common valve snail	-	1
Total aquatic	***118***	***89***
% aquatic	***25.54%***	***39.91%***
Aquatic (pond)		
Gyraulus crista - Nautilus ram's-horn	-	4
Hippeutis complanatus - Flat ram's-horn	1	4
Total pond	***1***	***8***
% pond	***0.22%***	***3.59%***
Density (per litre)	**46.2**	**11.15**

Table 12: *Mollusc identifications from L1023 and L1024*

Lower deposit L1024 was dominated by shells of terrestrial taxa (60.83%). Most can be characterised as those of damp tall vegetation and ground litter (e.g. *Carychium* cf. *tridentatum, Cochlicopa lubrica*, *Oxychilus* sp. and *Trichia hispida* group), although some short-turf grassland species were also recognised (*Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia* cf. *excentrica* and *Vertigo* cf. *pygmaea*). Also present were marsh taxa, including *Carychium* cf. *minimum, Lymnaea truncatula, Succinea/Oxyloma* sp., *Vallonia* cf. *pulchella* and *Vertigo* cf. *antivertigo*. This suggests a range of local conditions ranging from marsh to dry, short-turf grassland, perhaps fluctuating over time.

Aquatic shells accounted for 25.76% of the identified specimens. These reflected a range of conditions from well-oxygenated slow-moving water with well vegetated muddy substrates (e.g. *Bithynia tentaculata* and *Valvata cristata*) to species with the ability to withstand seasonal desiccation (*Anisus leucostoma* and *Planorbis planorbis*). It is proposed that these were introduced through the overbank flooding of nearby water courses, which likely accounted for the deposition of alluvial clays and silts.

Overlying deposit L1023 also contained a significant proportion (40.36%) of terrestrial taxa, representing a similar range to L1024. Marsh taxa accounted for 16.14%, while aquatic shells were proportionately higher than in L1024 at 39.19%. However, the range of taxa can still be interpreted as originating from a floodplain environment.

The presence of *Gyraulus crista* and larger numbers of *Hippeutis complanatus* may indicate the presence of small ponds in the vicinity. In relative terms, a

larger number of *Planorbis planorbis*, which can also inhabit shallow pools liable to seasonal drying, were also recorded in L1023 than in L1024. In addition, a small range of waterlogged plant macrofossils were identified in L1023. These included scrub and waste ground taxa (*Galeopsis* sp. and *Sambucus nigra*), as well as those of marsh/marshy rough grassland (*Ranunculus sceleratus* and *Carex* sp.). This suggests prevailing marginal, marshy conditions at this location during the formation of L1023. This deposit contained greater evidence for occupation in the form of carbonised debris, which may have been in the form of refuse deposition in an attempt to raise ground levels or the expedient use of an otherwise uninhabitable location.

These results are a strong indication that Layers L1023 and L1024 formed as alluvial floodplain silts. Terrestrial and marsh taxa likely reflect fluctuating conditions between marshy grassland, waste ground habitats and dry grassland during stabilisation phases between flood events. It is proposed that aquatic shells would have been introduced through frequent overbank flooding from adjacent watercourses. Interestingly, the waterlogged plant macrofossils from L1023 indicate marshy conditions during the formation of this deposit. Coupled with a lower proportion of terrestrial mollusc shells, this implies that conditions were wetter at this time than during the formation of L1024.

Conclusions

Evidence for carbonised remains from domestic occupation were limited to Layers L1021 and L1023. These represent relatively low densities of carbonised cereal grains and associated arable weeds, accompanied by fuel residues of charcoal and great fen sedge. Neither of the sampled pit features produced identifiable remains other than small concentrations of charcoal. Analysis of mollusc shells from L1023 and L1024 shows their likely origin to be floodplain silts, formed by repeated overbank flooding from nearby watercourses and intervening periods of stabilisation. There is evidence from waterlogged plant macrofossils in L1023 that it was generally wetter (marshy grassland) during this time than during the formation of underlying L1024.

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Table 11: Results from the bulk sample light fractions from 11 Chapel Lane. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Volume (litres)	Flot (g)	Carbonised cereals			Carbonised non-cereal taxa		Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains
						Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes	Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
1	1017	1016	Fill of Pit	20	30	-		-	-	-	XX	*Quercus* sp., Diffuse porous	XX	*Cochlicopa* sp., *Trichia hispida* group, *Vallonia* sp., *Vitrea* sp.	XX	X	X	-	-	Fish bone (X), Fish scale (X), Coal (XX)
3	1024	-	Layer	10	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	**See Table 2**	X	X	X	-	-	-
4	1027	1026	Fill of Pit	20	14	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	*Oxychilus* sp., *Trichia hispida* group, *Vallonia* sp.	XX	X	X	-	-	Coal (X)
5	1021	-	Layer	40	7	XX	-	HB (8), Hord (3), FTW (2), NFI (5)	X	*Papaver rhoeas/ dubium* (1), *Cladium mariscus* (1), Large Poaceae (1)	X	-	XXX	*Bithynia tentaculata, Carychium* sp., *Cochlicopa* sp., *Lymnaea truncatula, Oxychilus* sp., *Planorbis planorbis, Pupilla muscorum, Trichia hispida* group, Valvata cristata, Vallonia *sp.,* Vertigo *sp.*	XX	X	-	-	-	Coal (XX)
6	1023	-	Layer	20	10	XX	-	Hord (1), FTW (1), NFI (1)	X	*Piersicaria lapathifolia* (1)	XX	*Quercus* sp., Diffuse porous	XXX	**See Table 2**	X	X	-	-	-	Fish bone (X), cf. Amphibian bone (X), **Waterlogged:** *Ranunculus sceleratus* (XX), *Galeopsis* sp. (X), *Sambucus nigra* (X), *Carex* sp. (X)

2.8 The Organic Silts – Test Pit 1

Dr John Summers

The single trench evaluation of land at 11 Chapel Lane, Reach, identified a sequence of organic silts underlying early post-medieval remains. The silts themselves contain medieval pottery and other artefactual remains. The deposits were examined and recorded by J Summers on 23/03/2021.

Context	Type	Depth	Description
L1000	Topsoil	0.00m-0.18m	Friable, mid brown silty clay.
F1018 & M1019	Wall and construction cut	0.18m-0.50m	Described above.
L1021	Layer – made ground?	0.50m-0.71m	Firm, pale grey silty clay with occasional sub-angular chalk and small gravel. Marine shell and carbon flecking present.
L1022	Layer – made ground?	0.71m-0.90m	Firm pale grey silty clay with occasional small gravel. Carbon flecking present.
L1023	Layer – organic silt	0.90m-1.14m	Firm, dark grey silty clay with occasional sub-angular chalk. Evident carbon flecking and shell fragments.
L1024	Layer – organic silt	1.14m - 1.41m	Firm, dark brown slightly silty clay with shell inclusions.
L1025	Layer – organic silt	1.41m-1.71m	Firm dark greyish brown clay with shell inclusions.
L1034	Layer - pale grey clay	1.71m+ (hand augered, base not reached)	Soft pale grey silty clay

Table 13: *Summary of deposits, Test Pit 1*

A test pit was dug at the NNW end of the trench, in the possible interior of a structure. Below the wall and associated shallow foundation cut, and possible floor surface (L1020) to the NNW was a sequence of silts and clays. The upper 0.40m were firm pale grey silty clays (L1021 and L1022) comparable to the natural chalky marl but containing a range of artefactual remains. These are interpreted as made ground layers formed of redeposited natural, probably with the aim of raising the ground level for the overlying structures.

Underlying these was a firm organic dark grey silty clay (L1023) containing occasional fragments of chalk. Also present was carbon flecking and shell fragments, along with medieval pottery. Underlying this were two further layers of organic brown silty clay/clay (L1024 and L1025), the latter augered to a depth of 0.30m. The deposits were shell rich and likely alluvial in origin. The deposits were investigated by hand augering below the depth of safe excavation. Organic clay L1025 was found to continue a further 0.30m and overlay a sterile pale grey silty clay (L1034). At the time of augering, L1034 was thought to be a natural clay deposit but could also be an early inorganic silting layer. A layer of grey silt underlying the organic silts was identified in a borehole to the NNW of the site by Boreham *et al.* (2016), overlying chalk. Although thinner, this may be a similar deposit to that recorded as L1034 at 11 Chapel Lane.

Test auger holes at the SSE end and centre of the trench encountered organic silts at 0.8m and 0.65m below the stripped surface respectively. This demonstrates the continuation of these deposits below made ground layers L1021 and L1022 along the length of the trench.

Superficially there is good comparison between the deposits recorded at 11 Chapel Lane and those from a hand auger borehole (BH1) by Boreham *et al.* (2016) some 90m to the NNW at the former Anglian Water sewerage works. These consisted of stiff grey silts containing charcoal over a sequence of brown organic silts. The organic silts had a total thickness of 1.25m, lying 1.10m below the present surface. The lower deposit contained freshwater mollusc shells. This was interpreted as the fill of a possible medieval dock (*ibid.*). The deposits from the present site were comparable, with organic silty clays in the test pit lying 0.90m below the present surface, with a total thickness of 0.81m. As a result, the preliminary interpretation was that they represent the same type of deposit within another medieval dock.

However, analysis of mollusc shells from Layers L1023 and L1024 (Summers, enviro report) demonstrated that many of the shells were terrestrial taxa, with some marsh species also present. Aquatic taxa have been interpreted as being introduced with the alluvial silts through overbank flooding of nearby watercourses. This indicates that the area of the present site was located in a low-lying area prone to seasonal flooding from adjacent watercourses associated with The Hythe and that the deposits are not consistent with permanent wharfs/docks. Mollusc and waterlogged plant macrofossil data indicate marshier conditions in L1023, while carbonised plant remains and higher volumes of artefactual remains suggest increased refuse deposition, either through expedience or as part of an early attempt to consolidate the area. Wet conditions associated with L1023 may have formed the impetus for building up the surface with Made Ground layers L1022 and L1021.

The Hythe itself is a medieval monument is described as an artificial promontory extending into the fen landscape, formed of chalk rubble rammed down onto the underlying fen peat (Boreham *et al.* 2016). Its full extent is not presently known.

Summary

The investigation of alluvial sediments L1024 and L1023 indicates that they probably formed through overbank flooding of adjacent watercourses associated with the medieval Hythe. It is likely that the area was marginal for occupation, at least on a seasonal basis, resulting in refuse deposition in L1023 and the need for consolidation with Made Ground layers L1022 and L1021.

Although the deposits are superficially comparable to those identified as the fill of a medieval dock by Boreham *et al.* (2016) in BH1 90m to the NNW, the palaeoenvironmental remains at the present site are not consistent a comparable scenario. It is now possible to determine that possible medieval wharfs may have existed to the north in the area of The Hythe but may not have extended as far south as 11 Chapel Lane. The small windows into the deposits of The Hythe represented by the present evaluation and previous boreholes (Boreham *et al.* 2016) provide interesting preliminary observations as to the character of this significant site. However, fuller understanding can only be achieved through more extensive

investigation of the wider area, either through systematic boreholes/ window samples/ hand auger survey or excavation (e.g. test pitting).

Two 50cm monolith tins (Sample <2>) were taken through the sequence of deposits from L1021 to L1024 for possible palaeoenvironmental assessment. It is not considered that these are of significant value for furthering the aim of characterising the alluvial deposits in the evaluation and no further work is recommended.

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OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: archaeol7-417516

Project details

Project name	Chapel Lane, Reach - TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION
Short description of the project	In March 2021 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Orchard Cottage, 11 Chapel Lane, Reach, Cambridgeshire CB25 0JJ (NGR TL 56540 66300). The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) notes that the excavation site lies within an area of archaeological potential. Adjacent to the site is Hythe Lane, the partially backfilled line of the medieval village wharf (HER MCB8330). The wharf was connected to the main transport watercourse of Reach Lode (HER MCB9521) and was documented by 1125 by the Abbott of Ramsey but is likely to be earlier in date. The status of Reach as a fenland port in medieval and later times is reflected by the existing remains of hythes, wharfs and basins (CHER 06858, 06898, 06899, 06900, 06901, 06902, 06903 and MCB16607). The use of the wharves, basins and channels for trade continued into the 18th and early 19th centuries, and a post-medieval wharf is recorded to the immediate north of the proposed development site (HER MCB8331).
Project dates	Start: 17-03-2021 End: 24-03-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P8578 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BE10023 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB6402 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	MADE GROUND Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Medieval
Significant Finds	NAIL Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE REACH 11 Chapel Lane
Postcode	CB25 0JJ
Study area	322 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 56540 66300 52.272108761099 0.294557157863 52 16 19 N 000 17 40 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6m Max: 6m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire County Council
Project design originator	[redacted]
Project director/manager	
Project supervisor	
Name of sponsor/funding body	[redacted]Blocksage

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to the West of Orchard Cottage, 11 Chapel Lane, Reach, Cambridgeshire CB25 0JJ: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Podbury, L.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Randall, R.
Other bibliographic details	Report No: BE10023/0001 (0.1)
Date	2021

Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Bury St. Edmunds

Entered by	Danielle Hall (dhall@wardell-armstrong.com)
Entered on	14 April 2021

OASIS:

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P8578)

1
View of site before excavation of trench

2
Trench being excavated

3
Trench 1 looking south-east

4
Trench 1 looking north-west

5
Pit F1003

6
Post Holes F1005 and F1007

7
Post Hole F1010

8
Pit F1012

9
Pit F1014

10
Pit F1016

11
Wall F1019

12
Test Pit through Pit F1026

13
Pit F1028

14
Pits F1030 and F1035

15
Post Hole F1032

16
Post Hole F1037

17
Wall F1039

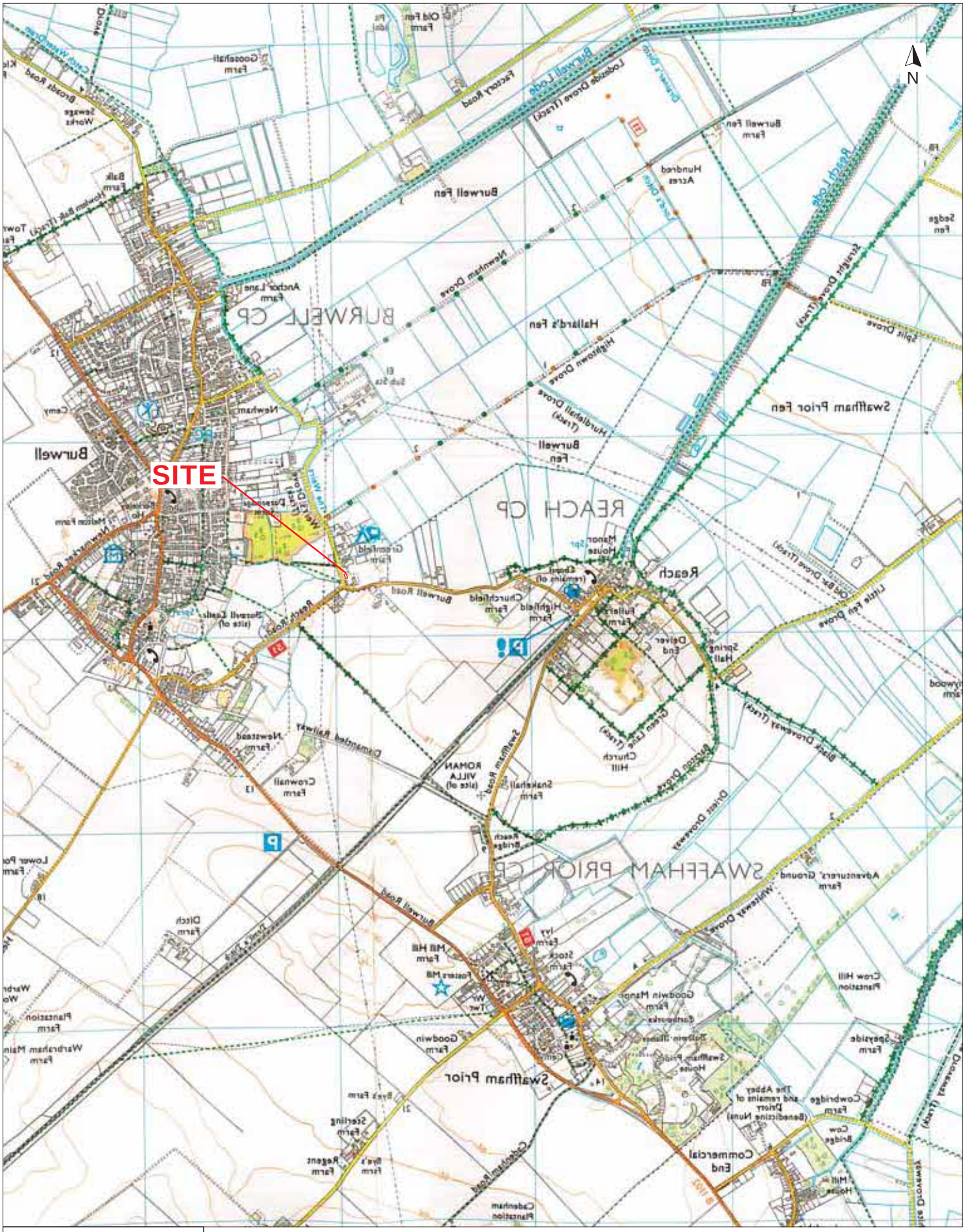

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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Land west of 11 Chapel Lane, Reach, Cambs (P8578)

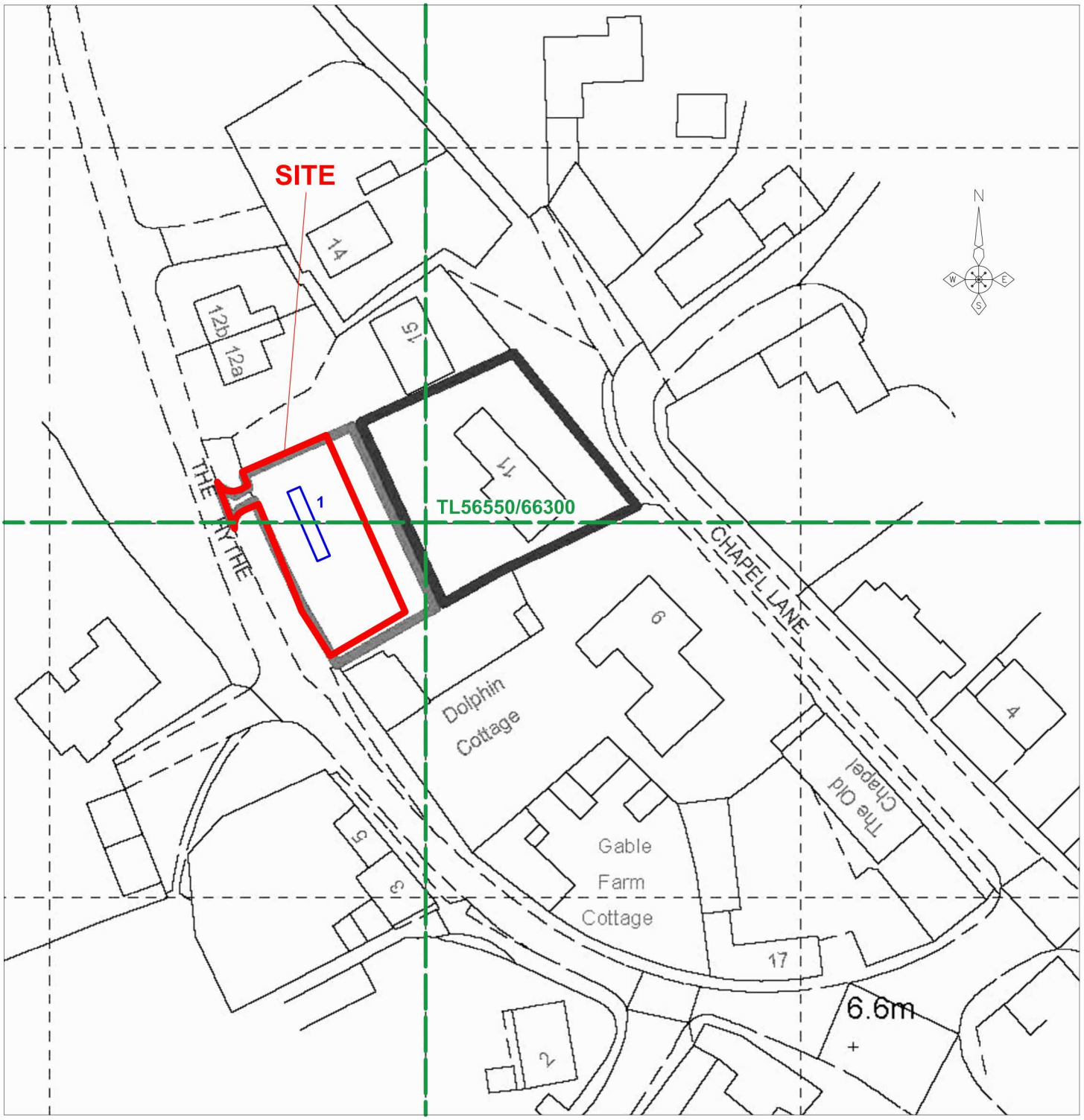

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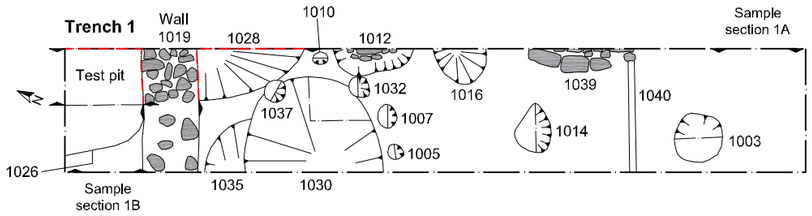
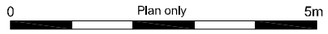
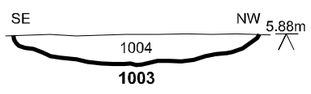
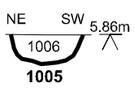
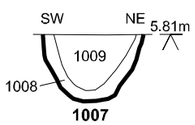
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:500 at A4
Land west of 11 Chapel Lane, Reach, Cambs (P8578)

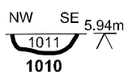


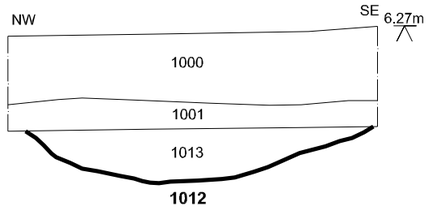


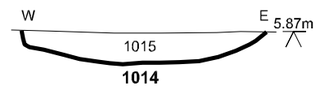


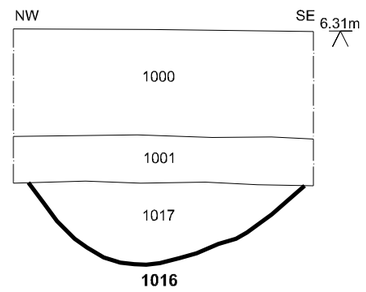


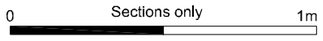


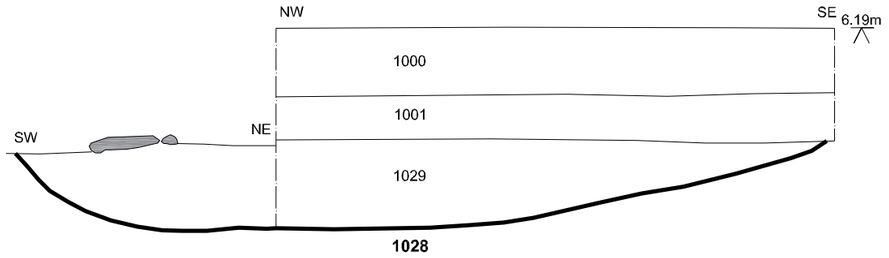


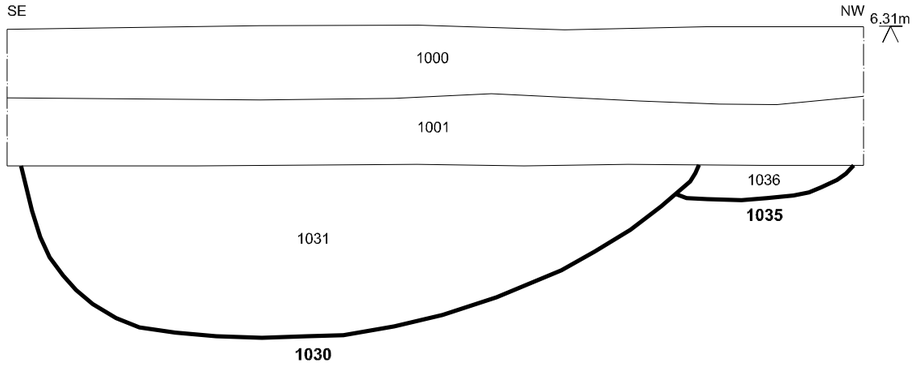


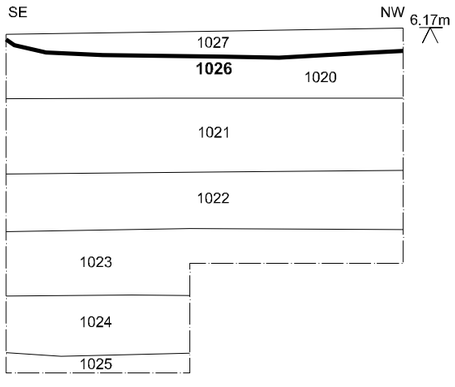


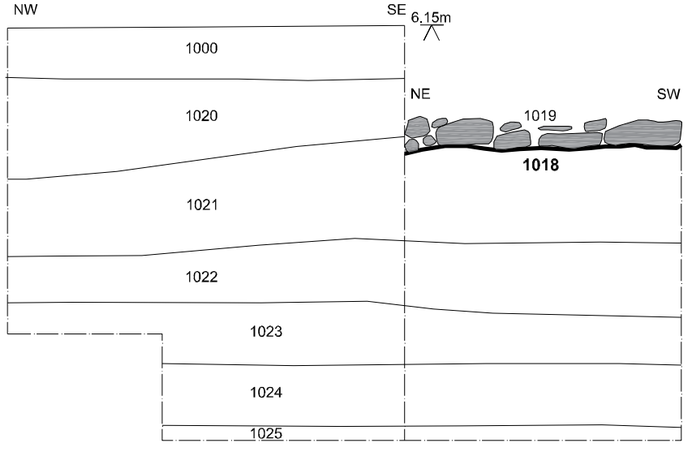


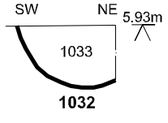












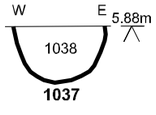


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Fig. 3 Trench plan and sections

Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3

Land west of 11 Chapel Lane, Reach, Cambs (P8578)

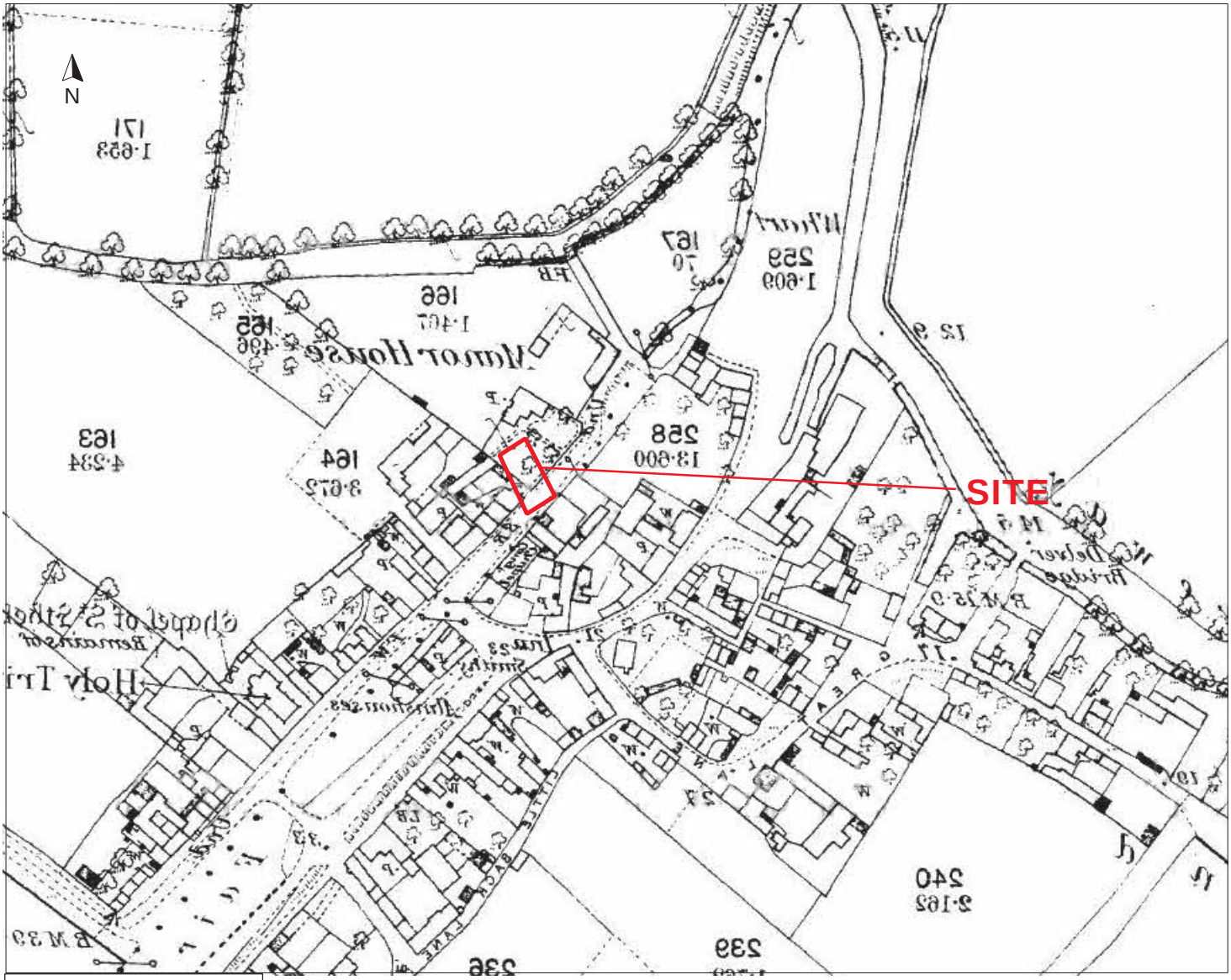

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Fig. 4 OS map, 1887
Not to scale
Land west of 11 Chapel Lane, Reach, Cambs (P8578)

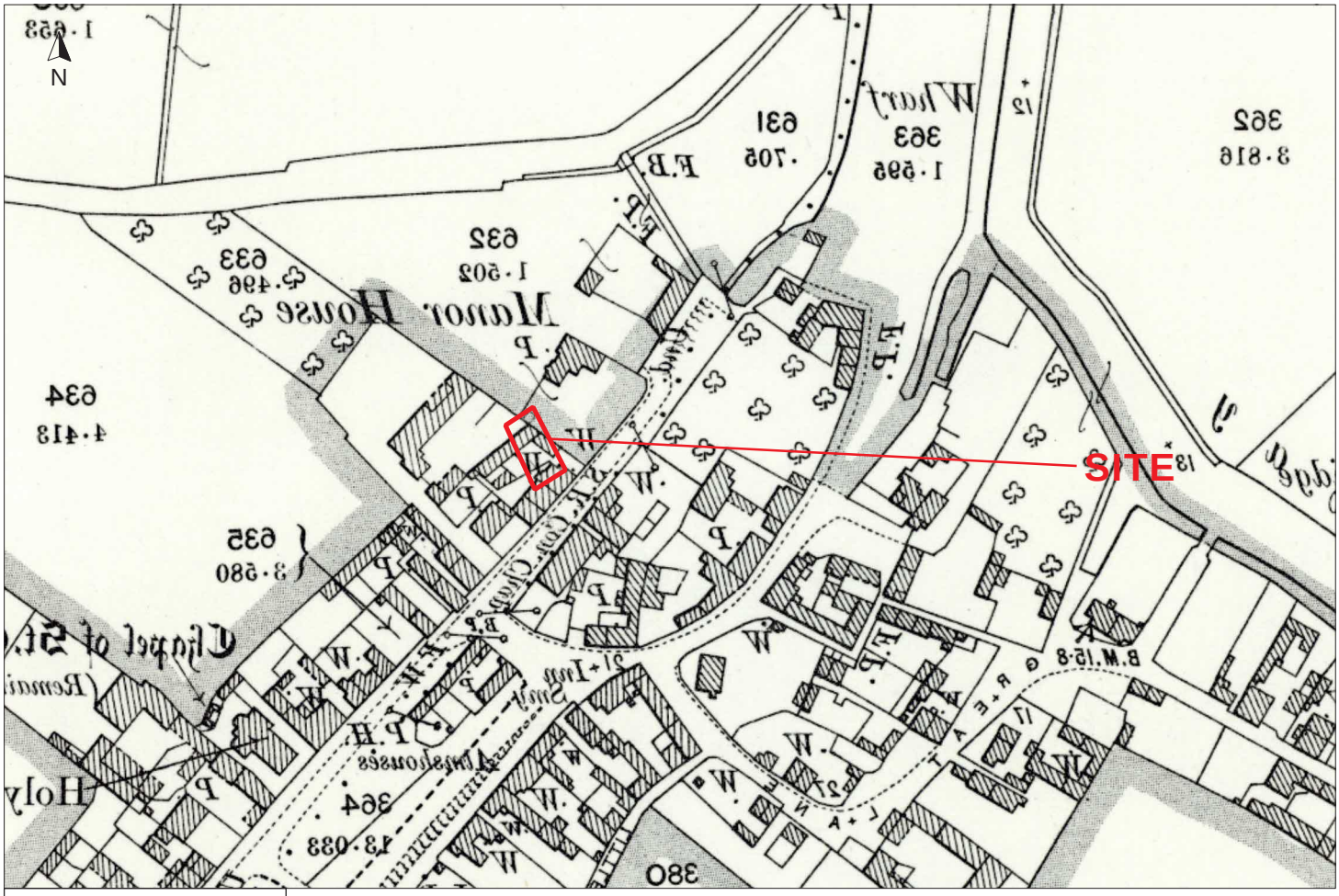

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Fig. 5 OS map, 1902
Not to scale
Land west of 11 Chapel Lane, Reach, Cambs (P8578)

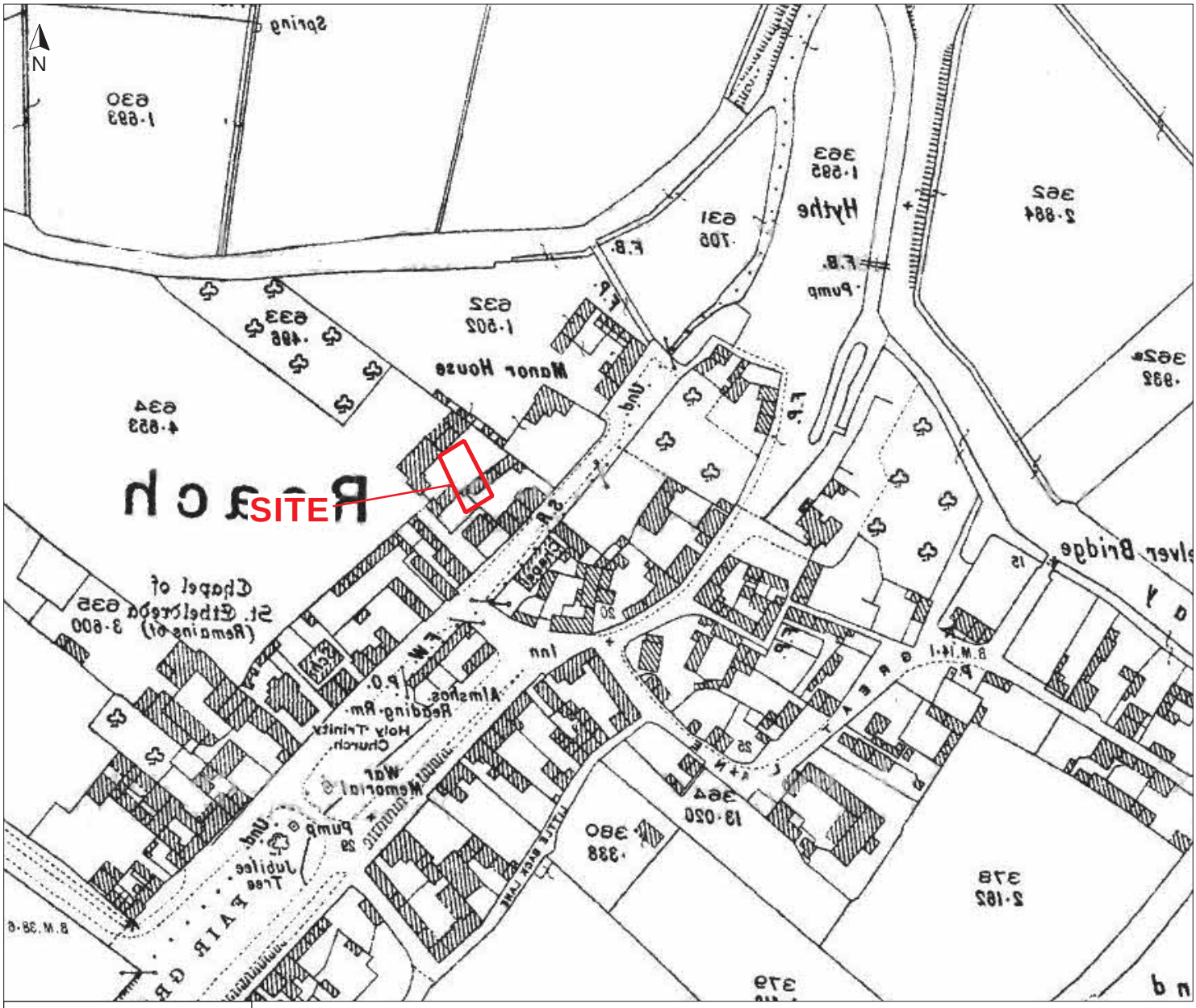

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Fig. 6 OS map, 1926
Not to scale
Land west of 11 Chapel Lane, Reach, Cambs (P8578)