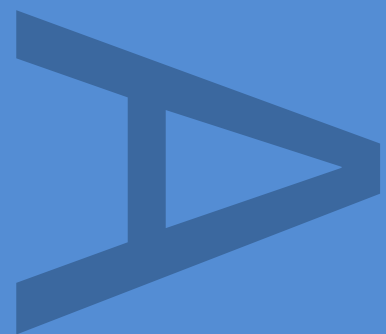


Archaeological Monitoring at 4
Hinxton Grange, Hinxton,
Cambridgeshire: An Interim
Report

DECEMBER 2015



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12245

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AT 4 HINXTON GRANGE, HINXTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

A WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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Archaeological Monitoring at 4 Hinxton Grange, Hinxton, Cambridgeshire: An Interim Report

Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council

Planning Reference: S/0864/15/FL

Central National Grid Reference: TL 5051 4678

Site Code: CHGH15

Event Number: ECB4565

Report No. R12245

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land opposite 4 Hinxton Grange, Hinxton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5051 4678) on the 1st of October 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Nick Speechley and Emma Walker in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of a new stable block and menage. The aim of the work was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains in the stable block area, in order to assess the significance of any such remains, the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology and to characterise the sites archaeological potential.

Three areas of ground reduction were undertaken prior to PCA's arrival on site, no further intrusive groundworks were undertaken when PCA was present on the site. A fieldwalking and metal-detector survey was conducted across the whole site area, before the groundworks were recorded in order to assess any potential archaeological impact. No archaeological features or finds were identified during the survey or groundwork recording process.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land opposite 4 Hinxton Grange, Hinxton, Cambridgeshire, CB10 1RG (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 5051 4678) on the 1st October 2015 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Nick Speechley and Emma Walker in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of a new stable block (Planning Reference S/0864/15/FL). The planning application also includes designs for a ménage, which will not be completed at this time. Additional archaeological work in the form of a trenched evaluation will be required prior to the commencement of works associated with the ménage.
- 1.3 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Shannon Hogan of PCA (Hogan 2015) in response to a Brief for archaeological monitoring issued by Gemma Stewart (Stewart 2015) of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET).
- 1.4 The aim of the archaeological work was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.5 The first phase of work included a brief fieldwalking survey and the recording of ground reduction already undertaken at the site in the area of the stable block. A later phase of archaeological evaluation will be undertaken in the area of the ménage.
- 1.6 This report describes the results of the monitoring and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The underlying geology of the site is New Pit Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey; Website 1). Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 89 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the local environment was dominated by warm chalk seas.

2.1.2 There are no superficial deposits recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site, but to the east, Diamicton deposits of the Lowestoft Formation are noted (chalky till with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays) (BGS; Website 1).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site is located c.1.5km to the north-east of Hinxton village, 13km south-east of Cambridge and just west of the A11.

2.2.2 It is situated at an elevation of approximately 39m AOD (above Ordnance Datum) with a gentle slope upwards to the east.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance, as recorded in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). This area of Cambridgeshire has a high potential for prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains. This archaeological and historical background has been drawn from the archaeological design brief (Stewart 2015) and the available 'grey literature' reports.

3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 Evidence for Bronze Age activity can be seen in the wider landscape. At Great Abington at least six probable round barrows have been identified through cropmarks (CHER 06190). Further enclosures and ring ditches have been recorded at Pampisford, c.1km to the north of the site (CHER 06187), and rectilinear enclosures are also noted c.600m south-east of Hinxton Grange (CHER 09362).

3.3 Iron Age and Roman

3.3.1 There is a wealthy Roman settlement at Great Abington and Roman remains have been found during an evaluation and monitoring of the A11 widening scheme, c.750m east of the development area. During these works some limited Iron Age activity, in the form of a large ditch, was revealed (CHER 11510/ECB 513). Roman ditches relating to either field systems or perhaps the Roman road were also found, and the remains of a building, including robbed out foundations, mortar, wall plaster and roof tiles. Given the relative lack of occupation material found, it is thought that this building may have been associated with the road, perhaps a shrine or temple.

3.3.2 Roman coins and brooches of 1st-4th century date have been recovered through metal-detecting within Hinxton (CHER 11491) and Roman pottery has been found in Pampisford, approximately 800-900m north of the site (CHER 06187A and CHER 06189), indicating Roman activity in the general area.

3.4 Medieval and Post-Medieval

- 3.4.1 Within the immediate vicinity of the site are a number of rectilinear enclosures (CHER 09052). Aerial photographs also show potential banks and a pond feature within this area and it is thought that these features represent medieval remains.
- 3.4.2 Approximately 600m north of the site is a linear feature, most likely a medieval track of hollow way (CHER 09053).
- 3.4.3 Hinxtton Grange House was built c.1835 and is listed along with the associated stable and coach house (DCB 4781 and DCB 5335). The gardens of Hinxtton Grange are also registered (CHER 12121) and are located to the immediate south of the site.
- 3.4.4 To the south of the site are the former headquarters of the World War II AA Brigade (CB 15107).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Monitoring

- 4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological works proposed a fieldwalking survey and the recording of all groundworks associated with the stable block (Figure 2). Ground reduction had already been carried out prior to PCA's arrival on site and the site was under vegetation. No artefacts were recovered from the fieldwalking exercise.
- 4.1.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate to remove the vegetation and examine the site for archaeological features. Each area was scanned with the metal detector, however the spoil from the areas had already been removed from site and could therefore not be scanned by eye or with the metal detector.
- 4.1.3 Each area exposed was assigned a number. The largest area was Area 1, the smaller one Area 2 and the soakaway Area 3 (Figure 2).
- 4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.2 Recording Methodology

- 4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.2.2 Section drawings were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:20).
- 4.2.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the

removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place.

- 4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the recording process.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Fieldwalking was conducted across the whole of the site area but the only portion of the site to be investigated by hand was the south-west corner (including Areas 1, 2 and 3 - Figure 2). No artefacts were recovered from the fieldwalking exercise to indicate the potential presence of archaeology. The groundworks on site were undertaken prior to the appointment of PCA and therefore the areas of groundworks were recorded to assess any potential damage to archaeological remains. The areas of ground reduction recorded are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. Each area was metal detected but no finds were recovered. The spoil from these areas had already been removed from site and could therefore not be scanned by eye or with the metal detector.

5.2 Area 1

5.2.1 No archaeological features were seen in Area 1. The groundworks here only impacted down to the level of the natural geology in some parts of the area. In order to do this the topsoil had been removed; no subsoil was present. Therefore the natural chalk geology was only visible in a few patches, where this was not the case the remaining topsoil was visible.

AREA 1 - STABLE BLOCK	Figure 2		Plates 1-2, 4
Alignment: N/A	Size: 17m x 18m	Level of Natural (m OD): 38.81m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E Side	
Topsoil	(100)	0.42m	
Subsoil	(101)	N/A	
Natural	(102)	N/A	
Summary			
Area 1 was located in the north-western quadrant of the site.			
No archaeological features were seen.			

5.3 Area 2

5.3.1 No archaeological features were seen in Area 2. The groundworks in this

area only removed the topsoil and the upper part of the subsoil. The natural chalk geology was therefore not visible.

AREA 2 - MUCK HEAP	Figure 2		Plate 3
Trench Alignment: N/A	Size: 6m x 7m	Level of Natural (m OD): N/A	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		W Side	
Topsoil	(100)	0.36m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.40m+	
Natural	(102)	N/A	
Summary			
Area 2 was located near the western boundary of site. No archaeological features were seen.			

5.4 Area 3

5.4.1 No archaeological features were seen in Area 3. Plough furrows were seen on a similar north-south alignment to the current modern field furrows.

AREA 3 SOAKAWAY	Figure 2		Plate 5
Trench Alignment: N/A	Size: 2m x 3m	Level of Natural (m OD): 38.55m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		S Side	
Topsoil	(100)	0.39m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.61m	
Natural	(102)	0.61m+	
Summary			
Area 3 was located near the western boundary of site. No archaeological features were seen.			

5.5 Groundworks Unable To Record

5.5.1 The south-west quadrant of the site had been stripped of the topsoil and was under a layer of crush approximately 0.2-0.3m deep and so PCA was unable to record this area (Plate 1).

5.6 Soil Descriptions

5.6.1 Topsoil (100) was a dark greyish brown silt with flint and chalk inclusions.

5.6.2 Subsoil (101) was a light orangey brown silt with flint and chalk inclusions.

5.6.3 The natural geology (102) was a light greyish white chalk with flint patches.

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No archaeological features were seen within Areas 1-3 although the natural chalk geology was only exposed in small patches in Areas 1 and 2 as the groundworks depth of impact had only sporadically reached the level of the natural geology. Where the natural geology was not reached the remaining topsoil, in Area 1 and subsoil, in Area 2 were visible. The soakaway (Area 3) had been excavated to a depth of 1.5m+ and in-filled with rubble, but only a plough furrow which aligned with the present field furrows was seen. Fieldwalking and metal detecting over the site also yielded no finds.
- 6.2 Based on the results of the recording and the amount of natural geology visible, it is not possible to determine the archaeological potential of the site. Barring a single plough furrow no features were truncated or exposed within the areas of groundworks and no finds were recovered to indicate the potential presence of archaeological remains. The next phase of archaeological investigation on the site will comprise a trenched evaluation within the area of the ménage, which will hopefully provide a clearer picture of the archaeological potential of the site.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Nick Speechley and Emma Walker for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for her advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Shannon Hogan for managing the project and PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

8.1 Printed Sources

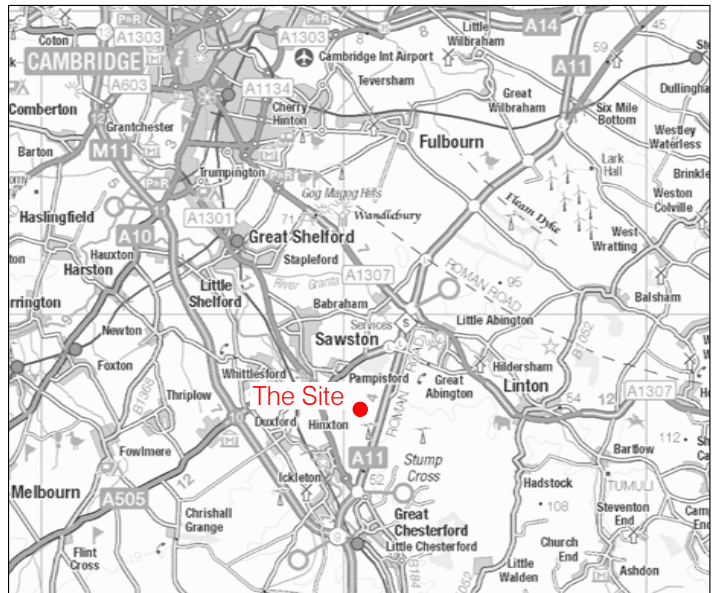
Hogan, S. 2015 Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation at 4 Hinxton Grange, Hinxton, Cambridgeshire. Pre-Construct Archaeology (unpublished)

Stewart, G. 2015 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at 4 Hinxton Grange, Hinxton. CCHET (unpublished)

8.2 Websites

1) British Geological Survey (Accessed 29/09/2015)

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>.

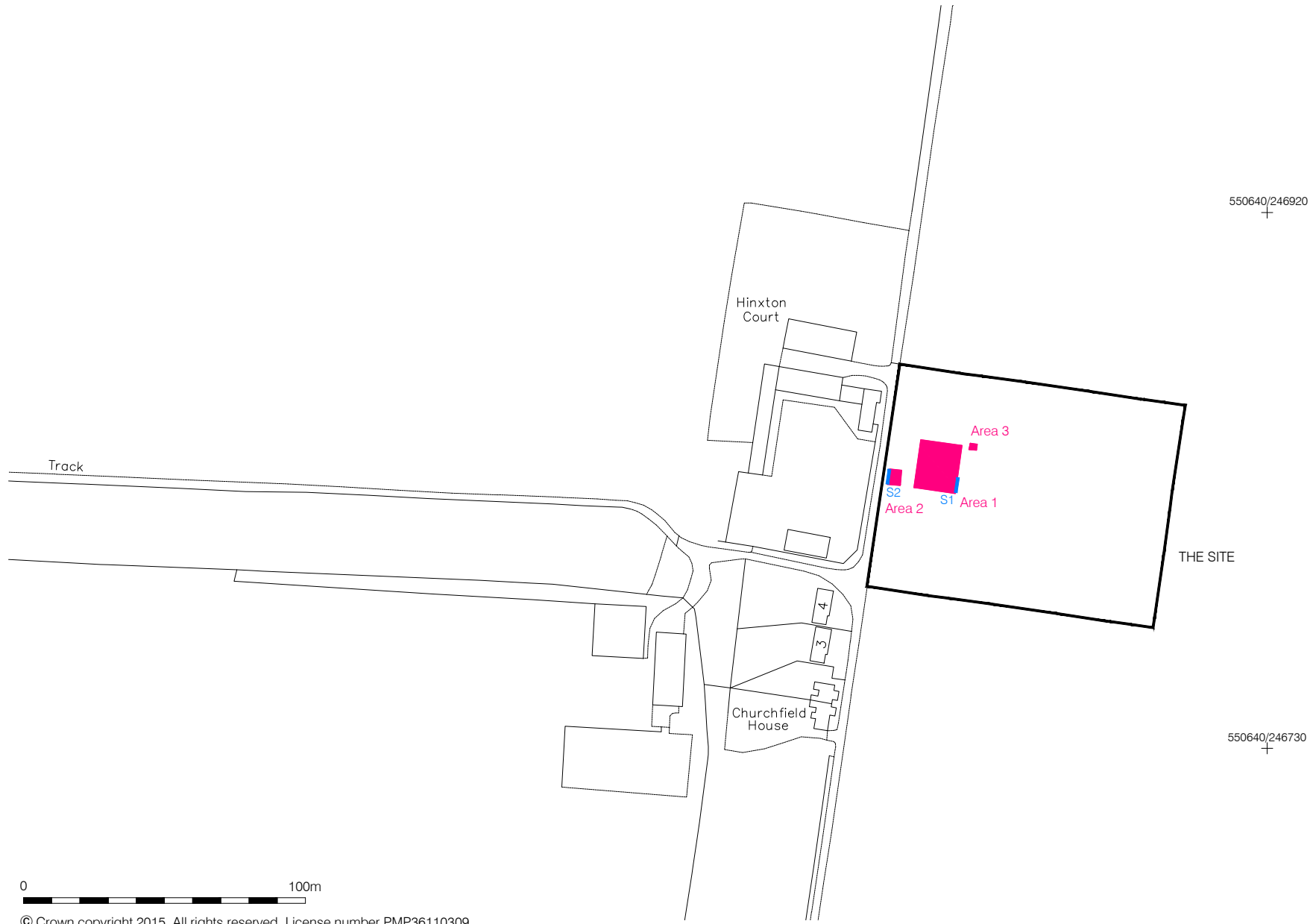


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Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000; 250,000 & 25,000 at A4

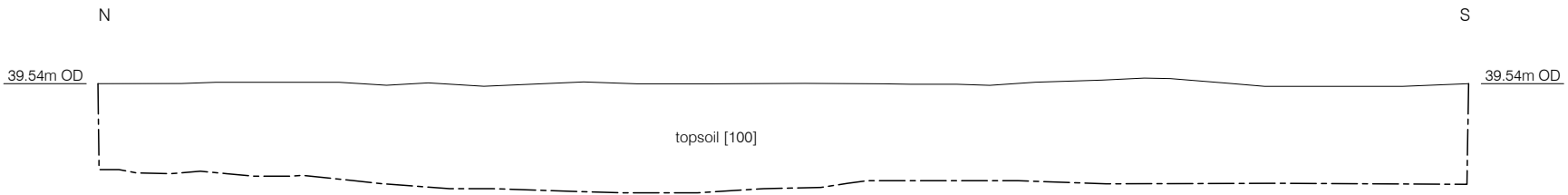


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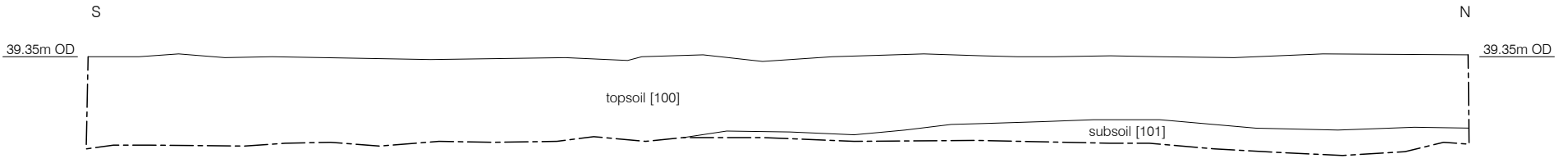
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Figure 2
Areas Monitored
1:2,000 at A4



Section 1
West Facing
Area 1



Section 2
East Facing
Area 2



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Figure 3
Sections 1 & 2
1:25 at A4

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Area 1 upon arrival, view north-east



Plate 2: Area 1 after weed clearance by hand, view east



Plate 3: Section through Area 2, view west



Plate 4: Section through Area 1, view east



Plate 5: Section through Area 3, view east

10 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-225296

Project details

Project name Archaeological Monitoring at 4 Hinxton Grange, Hinxton, Cambridgeshire

Short description of the project This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land opposite 4 Hinxton Grange, Hinxton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5051 4678) on the 1st October 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Nick Speechley and Emma Walker in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of a new stable block and menagé. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. No archaeological features were seen during monitoring.

Project dates Start: 01-10-2015 End: 01-10-2015

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes CHGH15 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation

Monument type N/A None

Significant Finds N/A None

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HINXTON 4
Hinxton Grange

Postcode CB10 1RG

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 5051 4678 52.098414537466 0.197574707035 52 05 54 N 000
11 51 E Point

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Organisation

Project brief Gemma Stewart
originator

Project design Mark Hinman
originator

Project Shannon Hogan
director/manager

Project supervisor Mary-Anne Slater

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

Digital Archive ID CHGH15

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"

available

Paper Archive recipient Cambridge County Council Archaeology Store

Paper Archive ID CHGH15

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Report","Section"

Project bibliography

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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