ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES LAND AND PROPERTY MINING AND MINERAL PROCESSING MINERAL ESTATES WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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MNO INVESTMENTS

MORSTON POINT, HARDWICK INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH INVESTIGATION (ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATORY WORKS)

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) was commissioned by the client MNO Investments, to undertake archaeological mitigatory works by trial trenching on Land at Morston Point, Hardwick Industrial Estate, Kings Lynn (NGR TF 6354 1894). Six trenches were excavated which revealed a series of inundation and waterlogging layers, including a peat deposit that built up between the late Neolithic and Roman periods, and a single wide ditch **[1008]** containing 74g of medieval tile. The ditch was cut by a modern field drain **[2012]**. Ditch **[1008]** is likely to represent a drainage and boundary ditch but is likely to be post-medieval as the environmental evidence suggests the site was marginal land between the late Roman and medieval periods.



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Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) thanks the client MNO Investments for commissioning the project and for all their assistance throughout the work. Also, WA thank Steve Hickling, Historic Environment Officer at Norfolk County Council for their assistance, and Peter Watkins for supplying the HER information. The project was managed by Rhodri Gardner and John Craven. The programme of trial trenching was supervised by Peter Clarke, assisted by Emma Warner. The report was written by Peter Thompson and the figures were produced Kathren Henry. The post-excavation processing of the archaeological finds and environmental samples was carried out by Luke Harris. The report was edited by Andrew Peachey.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Background**

- 1.1.1 In September 2022, Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) undertook archaeological mitigatory works by trial trenching at Morston Point, Hardwick Industrial Estate, King's Lynn, Norfolk, centred at National Grid Reference (NGR): TF 6354 1894 (Figs. 1, 2). The work was commissioned by MNO Investments with the intention to develop the site. As a first stage of work a geotechnical survey of the site was undertaken (Bescoby 2020).
- 1.1.2 Aerial photographs have identified a series of undated but probably medieval to postmedieval linear banks on the site (NHER 38299). A middle Iron Age post-alignment was identified approximately 250m to the south-east (NHER 52618), and the site of a postmedieval isolation hospital borders the north of the site (NHER 31913).

1.2 **Project Documentation**

- 1.2.1 The project conforms to advice from Steve Hickling, HEO to Norfolk County Council (30/04/2020) and the work was undertaken to provide information towards the initial requirements of a condition (10) on planning approval for the development (Kings Lynn Council Planning Approval Ref. 18/00115/F, 14/01114/OM). A WSI (WA 21st May 2020) was then produced to provide a specific methodology based on the brief for informative trial trenching as part of a programme of archaeological mitigatory work. This was approved by the archaeological planning advisor prior to the fieldwork taking place, in line with government advice set out in Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021).
- 1.2.2 This report outlines the work undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of postfieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological trial trenching.



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and Guidance

- 2.1.1 The trial trenching was undertaken following *Standards for Development-led Archaeological Projects in Norfolk* (Robertson *et al* 2018), as well as the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and guidance for field evaluation* (2020a), appropriate to trial trenching, and in accordance with the WA fieldwork manual (2017).
- 2.1.2 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Standard and guidance for field evaluation (CIfA 2020a) and the Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2020b).

2.2 Documentary Research

2.2.1 A historical environmental assessment was carried out on the site (SLR 2014).

2.3 Archaeological Trial Trenching

- 2.3.1 The trial trenching comprised the excavation of six trenches measuring 30m in length by 1.8m in width across the proposed development area (Fig. 2 & 3). The trenches were placed to predominantly target the area of historic dry ground. The general aims of these investigations were:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
 - to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
 - to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
 - to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

And specifically to:

2.3.2 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. All possible features or deposits were inspected, and selected deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples. Once completed



all features were recorded according to the WA standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (WA 2017).

- 2.3.3 All finds encountered were retained on site and returned to the Bury St Edmunds office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* was then produced for each stratified context under the supervision of the WA Finds Officer, and the dates were used to help determine the broad date phases for the site. On completion of this project, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Please note, the following categories of material will be discarded after a period of six months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):
 - unstratified material;
 - modern pottery;
 - material that has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.
- 2.3.4 On completion the trial trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

2.4 Site Archive

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited with Norwich Castle Museum, with copies of the report sent to the Norfolk County Council HER, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier, site code: ENF152762 (Museum Accession No. NWHCM2020.68)
- 2.4.2 Wardell Armstrong LLP supports the **O**nline **A**cces**S** to the Index of Archaeological Investigation**S** (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by WA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardella2-510569.



3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

The site is a roughly sub-rectangular shape, expanding slightly at the south-eastern end and encompassing some 1.5ha. Topographically, the site slopes gently to the NE, with the SW corner sitting at a height of 2.8m aOD and the opposite NE corner at 1.5m aOD. The landscape setting is best described as low-lying drained Fenland, where runoff to ditches is typically pumped into higher collecting drains, such as the Pierpoint Drain that bounds the southern edge of the site, which in turn is pumped to the river Ouse. Several centuries of drainage have led to subsidence of the ground surface and the shrinkage, compression and oxidation (wasting) of underlying peat deposits. To the north the Middleton valley currently carries a small, canalised stream, the Middleton Stop Drain. The west side of the site borders industrial buildings.

- 3.1.1 The drift geology underlying the site consists of a thick layer of salt-marsh deposits of interlaminated silts and clays collectively known as the Terrington Beds, deposited from *c*.2,600 BP during a major transgressive phase (Gallois 1994 & 1:50000 geology sheet 145: King's Lynn and The Wash).
- 3.1.2 Where encountered undisturbed, local soils conform to those of the Wallasea 2 Association, being derived from the stoneless, clay substrate of the Terrington Beds, forming gleyed brown calcareous soils.

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.2.1 Over fifty archaeological sites and finds are recorded on the Norfolk HER within one kilometre of the site. These include, palaeochannels, Neolithic flint scatters, Bronze Age burnt mounds, medieval ridge and furrow, and earthworks mainly connected to flood banks; along with a moated site and the remains of the medieval village of Hardwick to the south of the site (NHER 38259). Post-medieval agricultural sites, farmsteads and buildings also feature, along with 19th and 20th century buildings and industrial sites, and WWII defences. These are covered in a historical environmental assessment carried out on the site (SLR 2014), while the closest HER points to the site are described below.

Prehistoric (up to AD 43):

3.2.2 In January 2009 a late prehistoric pit and a Middle Iron Age post alignment were identified during the excavation of trial trenches and test pits along the Hardwick Link Road bordering the south-east area of the site (NHER 52618). Radiocarbon dating



confirmed a date from the Middle Iron Age for the oak posts which may have formed part of a jetty or routeway, or perhaps a boundary feature, while a pit containing slag and charcoal from iron working was also present. These were preceded by two early Bronze Age cremations and an early phase of middle Bronze Age timber posts.

Roman (AD 43 – c.410):

3.2.3 There are no significant Romano-British finds in the near proximity to the site. Stray Roman finds are included in a large area to the south-east of the site yielding multiperiod finds (NHER 36070).

Early Medieval (AD c.410 - 1066):

3.2.4 There are no significant Anglo-Saxon finds but stray finds have been recovered as above (NHER 36070). It is possible some of the medieval features below could have origins in the late Saxon period.

Medieval (AD 1066 - c.1540):

- 3.2.5 A large group of linear banks and ditches visible on RAF aerial photographs from 1946 are centred on TF 6357 1889, within the site. The western extent of this area is characterised by a curvilinear bank that runs along the Pierpoint Drain. The bank is depicted as a continuous structure on the 2nd edition map (1902-7, 25in). However, the earthwork was visible in a fragmentary form from TF 62936 18710 to TF 63406 19107 beyond the west edge of the site. Along one section the drain is flanked to the south by two irregular stretches of bank (NHER 38299). These banks are undated but potentially medieval and certainly post-medieval in date. The most relevant features to the site are a N-S aligned ditch running down the site close to the western boundary, and a second E-W aligned ditch running just inside the northern boundary of the site which after a short gap then turns north off the site (Fig. 3).
- 3.2.5 A length of undated but possibly medieval linear bank on a N-S orientation, is visible as an earthwork on 1946 RAF vertical aerial photographs with the closest point at the north-west edge of the site by the Middleton Stop Drain bordering the north side of the site (NHER 38306). A series of undated linear ditches, a length of bank and a subcircular mound, were visible as cropmarks along with an earthwork on 1945 RAF aerial photographs centred on 300m north-east of the site, reaching to the north side of the Middleton Stop Drain. The majority of the ditched features within this area are irregular and indistinct. There are linear features aligned in north to south and approximately east to west directions, and random curvilinear features that may



actually be caused by the courses of former saltmarsh channels. The probable linear bank is aligned in an approximate north-west to south-east direction (NHER 38307).

Post-medieval (AD *c*.1540 – 1901):

3.2.6 A series of probable post medieval circular stack bases overlying probable postmedieval ridge and furrow type earthworks, and a single undated linear bank, visible as earthworks on 1948 RAF photographs are centred on 320m west of the site (NHER 38300). An earthwork bank of probable post-medieval date is visible on 1945 photographs running alongside the Middleton Stop Drain bordering the northern edge of the site (NHER 38312). At the north-western edge of the Site is the location of a post medieval isolation hospital which is shown as a cruciform building on early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps. It was demolished sometime after 1952 (NHER 31913).

Negative

3.2.7 No archaeological finds or features were recorded during excavation of two trial trenches centred on 100m south of the middle of the site (NHER 58795), and likewise there was no archaeology recorded during excavation of three trial trenches and two test pits 250m south-west of the site (NHER 58796).

3.3 Previous Work

- 3.3.1 In 2020 a geoarchaeological survey was carried out on the site by augering sample cores. The results showed the area of the site lies across a pre-glacial channel, now infilled with peat on its eastern side and a former fen, but also with a historic dry land area beyond the infilled channel on its western side. The ancient channel is filled with glacial boulder clay, over which peat developed from the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age period, succeeded by marine inundation from the Roman period onwards. A surface channel currently defines the north-eastern boundary of the site (the Middleton Stop Drain). At least one channel, probably infilled earlier, has cut through the area of peat, and later smaller drains are also present. Within the area of the former fen there is a more limited potential for extensive evidence of human activity, though any manmade structures in this area (e.g. trackways or buried boats), could be very well preserved and of significance. The peat deposits within the former fen also have a high potential for well-preserved palaeoenvironmental evidence (Bescoby 2020).
- 3.3.2 The Iron Age timbers excavated south-east of the site are described above (NHER 52618).



4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The trial trenching was undertaken between the 5th and 12th September 2022, with six trenches excavated across the proposed development site (Fig. 3; Plates 1, 2). The trenches were placed to predominantly target the dry land parts of the site defined in the geoarchaeological report, with 3.5% of dryland required to be sampled.

4.2 Results (see Appendix 1A and 1B)

Trench 1 (Figs. 2, 3, 4; Plates 4-7)

4.2.1 Trench 1 was 28.4m long and 2.10m wide on a N-S orientation. It reached a maximum depth of 1.86m. The deposit sequence commenced with Topsoil (2000) comprising firm dark greyish brown loamy clay with moderate sub-angular small to medium flints to a depth of 0.36m beneath the surface. Beneath was Made Ground (2001) firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with moderate poorly sorted subangular flints present between 0.28m/0.36m and 0.28m to 0.58m below ground level. Beneath (2001) was alluvial layer (2002) pale brownish yellow firm silty clay with occasional sub-rounded flints between 0.28m/0.58m to 0.40m to 0.76m below the surface. Beneath (2002) was another alluvial layer (2003) firm mid blueish grey silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints between 0.40m/0.76m and 1.21m to 0 1.80m below ground level. At this point the sequence differed. At the north end of the trench, beneath layer (2003), was peat layer (2007) a friable dark brown to black layer with frequent roots and brushwood which was present between 1.21m and 1.40m down. Beneath the peat was the Natural substrate (2005) at 1.40m+ below ground level, which further south became Natural substrate (2006) a friable pale yellowish grey sand containing rare sub-rounded flints. Towards the middle of the trench peat layer (2007) ceased to be deposited, leaving the Natural substrate (2006) directly beneath alluvial layer (2003). A modern pipe was laid into the Natural (2005) whose trench cut commenced in layer (2002). At the south end of the trench, beneath layer (2003), was a third thin alluvium layer (2004) between 1.80m and 1.84m below ground level, and beneath this was the Natural substrate (2005) (above) at 1.84m+. The N-S aligned ditch identified from cropmark analysis (NHER 38299) that potentially ran down the centre of Trench 1 but was not found to be present in the excavated trench (Fig. 3).



Trench 2 (Figs. 2, 3, 5; Plates 8-11)

- 4.2.2 Trench 2 was 30m long, c.2.3m across with a minimum depth of 0.71m and a maximum of 1.05m running on an E-W alignment. The stratigraphic sequence commenced with Topsoil (2000) (above) to a depth of 0.08m and 0.11m below the surface. Beneath was Made Ground (2001) encountered between 0.08m/0.11m and 0.30m to 0.33m down. There was then a variation in the stratigraphic sequence. Sample Section 2A at the west end of the trench, showed that beneath (2001), was an area of Made Ground (2015) consisting of loose mid brown-red silty sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular flints between 0.30m and 0.61m below ground level. Beneath (2015) was alluvium layer (2003) at between 0.61m and 1.02m below the surface. The bottommost layer was (2006) friable pale yellowish grey sand with rare sub-rounded flints at 1.02m+ depth. At the east end of the trench Sample Section 2A showed there was no made ground (2015) beneath made ground (2001), which instead went straight down to alluvial layer (2003) at 0.33m to 0.61m depth. Beneath (2003) was Natural substrate (2005) at 0.61m to 0.68m below the surface. Beneath that was Natural substrate (2006).
- Towards the middle of Trench 2 a large feature [2008], probably a ditch, had been cut 4.2.3 into the Natural substrate (2006). Ditch [2008] was on a NE-SW alignment and had gradually sloping sides but was not bottomed due to the depth. It measured 2.45m+ long, 7.80m wide and was at least 1.13m deep. It contained three fills. The thin basal fill (2009) was 0.16m thick and described as loose dark red brown silty sand with frequent poorly sorted sub-angular to sub-rounded flints. The middle fill (2010) was firm pale blue grey silty clay with small to medium sub-angular flints and was 0.49m thick. The top fill (2011) comprised firm mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small to large sub-angular flints and was 0.65m thick. It contained 74g of medieval CBM and 311g of animal bone. Ditch [2008] was cut by steep sided modern field drain [2012] which measured 2.45m long by 1.10m wide and was at least 0.74m deep but was not bottomed. It was filled by (2013) firm dark brown mottled yellow clayish natural silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular flint. Another field drain also crossed this trench. Ditch [2008] was not among the crop marks identified on the site (NHER 38299, Fig 3), and was not present on the Tithe map or any OS maps (Fig. 10).

Trench 3 (Figs. 2, 3, 6; Plates 12-14)

4.2.4 Trench 3 measured 29m long and 2.1m wide on a N-S orientation and reached a depth of 1.66m. It commenced with Topsoil **(2000)** to a depth of 0.20m to 0.23m. Beneath



was Made Ground (2001) at 0.20m/0.23m to 0.46m to 0.50 depth. Beneath (2001) was alluvial layer (2003) between 0.46m/0.50m and 1.48m below the surface. Here the stratigraphic sequence differed. Sample Section 3B at the north end of the trench (Fig. 6) showed alluvial layer (2016) friable pale greyish yellow sandy silt was below (2003) which was the only place on site this layer was encountered, and was at a depth of between 1.48m and 2.04m. Beneath this in one small area was another very thin alluvial layer (2004) firm blueish grey silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints and peat, and underlying this was Natural substrate (2005). In SS 3A at the south end of the trench, Natural substrate (2014) a friable mid brownish grey gravel was beneath (2003) at a depth of 1.48m to 1.62m, and beneath this was Natural substrate (2006).

Trench 4 (Figs. 2, 3, 7; Plates 15-17)

4.2.5 Trench 4 was 29.25m long, 2.1m wide and reached a depth of 1.72m running on a N-S alignment. Sample Section 4A (Fig. 7) at the south end commenced with Topsoil (2000) to a depth of 0.32m to 0.35m. Beneath (2000) was alluvium layer (2018) firm mid grey silty clay to a depth of 0.35m to 0.88m. Beneath (2018), between 0.88 and 1.12m depth, was alluvium layer (2002) pale brownish yellow firm silty clay with occasional sub-rounded flints. Beneath (2002) was alluvium layer (2004) (above) between 1.12m and 1.18m below the surface, and beneath this was Natural substrate (2005) commencing at 1.18m+ below the surface, which abutted Natural substrate (2014) (above). At the north end of the trench the sequence was different. SS 4B (Fig. 7) showed Made Ground (2001) was below the Topsoil at between 0.32m and 0.61m below ground level. Beneath (2001) was alluvium layer (2003) between 0.61m and 1.48m beneath the surface. Beneath (2003) was alluvium layer (2004) at 1.48m to 1.69m depth which was present across the trench. Beneath (2004) was peat layer (2007) at 1.69m+ depth.

Trench 5 (Figs. 2, 3, 8; Plates 18-20)

4.2.6 Trench 5 was 29.50m long, 2.1m wide and 1.23m deep running on E-W orientation. Sample Section 5A at the west end of the trench (Fig. 8) commenced with Topsoil (2000) to a depth of 0.10m, beneath (2000) was Made Ground (2001) 0.10m to 0.34m depth. Beneath (2001) was alluvium layer (2018) at 0.34m to 0.70m depth. Beneath (2018) was alluvium layer (2002) at 0.70m to 0.80m below ground level. Beneath (2002) was alluvium layer (2003) between 0.80m and 1.05m depth. Beneath (2003) was another alluvium layer (2004) at 1.05m to 1.11m depth. Below (2004) peat (2007) was encountered at 1.11m+ depth.



4.2.7 Sample Section 5B at the east side of the trench commenced with Topsoil (2000) to a depth of 0.09m. Beneath was Made Ground (2001) between 0.09m and 0.31m depth. Beneath (2001) was alluvium layer (2018) between 0.31m and 0.70m. Beneath (2018) were five more layers of alluvium, layer (2020) between 0.70m and 0.74m was firm light grey-yellow silty sand. Beneath (2020) was layer (2019) firm dark blue grey silty clay at 0.74m to 0.83m below ground level. Beneath (2019) was layer (2002) at 0.82m to 0.87m depth. Beneath (2002) was (2003) at 0.87m to 1.22m depth. Layer (2004) was beneath (2003) and was at 1.22m to 1.30m depth. At the base was the peat layer (2007) at 1.30m+ depth.

Trench 6 (Figs. 2, 3, 9; Plates 21-23)

- 4.2.8 Trench 6 was 29m long, 2.1m wide and reached a depth of 1.49m; it was on a N-S alignment. Sample Section 6A at the south end commenced with Topsoil (2000) to a depth of 0.07m. Beneath (2000) was Made Ground (2001) between 0.07m and 0.40m depth. Beneath (2001) was a series of four alluvial layers. The first, (2018), was between 0.40m and 0.75m depth. Beneath (2018) was (2019) (above) at 0.75m to 0.82m. Beneath (2019) was alluvial layer (2003) at 0.82m to 1.07m depth. Beneath (2003) was layer (2004) at 1.07m to 1.11m depth. Beneath (2004) was peat layer (2007) at 1.11m to 1.40m depth. The bottommost layer was the Natural substrate (2006) commencing at 1.40m+ below ground level.
- 4.2.9 Sample Section 6B was at the north end of the trench and again as for the other trenches had a differing stratigraphic sequence. Here, the Topsoil (2000) reached a depth of 0.09m. Beneath (2000) were four alluvial layers. The first, (2018) was between 0.09m and 0.60m depth. Beneath (2018) was layer (2002) at 0.60m and 0.71m depth. Beneath (2002) was layer (2003) at 0.71m to 0.95m depth. Beneath (2003) was the final alluvial layer (2004) at 0.95m and 1.07m depth. The lowest layer was the peat layer (2007) at 1.07m+ depth. There was some preserved wood present which did not appear worked but it was recorded and reported on (Plate 1)



5 FINDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The finds assessment was compiled by Andrew Peachey, Julie Curl, Ruth Beveridge and Dr John Summers, and the finds were managed by Luke Harris. Quantification of finds by context is provided in Appendix 2.
- 5.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011).

5.2 **The Struck Flint** *Andrew Peachey*

5.2.1 Trial-trench excavations recovered a total of five pieces (59g) of struck flint; of consistent technological character but varying states of preservation. All pieces are un-corticated blade-like debitage flakes with parallel dorsal scars, consistent with the bi-products of early Neolithic core reduction. Flakes in layers (2003) and (2006 Tr.4) are unpatinated and manufactured in high quality dark grey flint; a flake in layer (2007) is moderately patinated with rolled edges, while a flake in layer (2006 Tr.1) is heavily patinated, with sharp edges but has been snapped in antiquity. Therefore, these flakes would appear to suggest that evidence for early Neolithic activity was present on or in the immediate vicinity of the site but has been re-deposited in the layers from which the flakes were actually recovered, possibly by natural soil formation processes and weathering.

5.3 **The Ceramic Building Materials** Andrew Peachey

5.3.1 Ditch [2008] (2010] contained a single fragment (74g) of medieval CBM. It comprises 16mm thick flat tile with a slightly uneven upper surface with finger-wiping marks, and grass/straw marks on the underside from where it was laid out to dry; consistent with 'early' peg tiles that were relatively common in the port town in the 12th-14th centuries. The tile was manufactured in a hard-fired fabric with thin pink-red surfaces over a mid-grey core; with inclusions of common quartz (<0.4mm) and sparse-common limestone (1-4mm), possibly fossiliferous and of estuarine origin.



5.4 **The Bone Assemblage** Julie Curl

Methodology

5.4.1 A summary assessment 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. Counts and weights were noted for each context and counts made for each species. 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.

Quantification, provenance and preservation

- 5.4.2 A total of 311g of bone, consisting of 12 elements was recovered, with the totals quantified in Table 1.
- 5.4.3 Bone was recovered the Ditch **[2008]**, fill **(2010)** and without any other finds that would provide dating. The bone is in good condition, although the ends of the bone have broken away. No canid gnawing was seen, which might suggest the bone was buried rapidly preventing scavenger activity. No burning was observed, which might suggest that burial was a favoured disposal method at this site.

Species and elements

5.4.4 One species was identified in the assemblage, with a cattle humerus consisting of the main shaft and parts of the articular ends and fragments of refitting broken distal and proximal ends of the bone. The humerus is quite small and suggests a breed such as the Celtic Short-Horn or similar type. The ends of the humerus are unfused, which indicates an animal of less than 1.5 years at death. No clear butchering was seen on the bone, but this does not rule out meat use. The same deposit contained fragments of large mammal vertebrae, which are quite likely to be from the cattle as they are also unfused.

Discussion

5.4.5 This is a very small assemblage consisting of prime meat elements from cattle. The lack of bone fusion showed the bovid was young at death and was probably reared for prime beef.



Recommendations for further work

5.4.6 This is a very small assemblage that has limited potential for further study and no further work is recommended on this particular assemblage. If further work is carried out at this site, it is recommended that samples are taken for sieving to maximise chances of recovery for small bones. If further work produces bone, then this assemblage can be included in the analysis.

Context	Trench	Туре	Date	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP
2010	2	Ditch	Undated	12	311g	Cattle	5
						Mammal	7

	Table 1.	Quantification	of the faunal	remains
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5.5 **The Waterlogged Wood** *Dr John Summers*

Introduction

- 5.6.1 In the northern end of Trench 6, a number of pieces of horizontal timber were uncovered in the upper horizon of Peat Layer (**2007**). The wood was relatively dry and friable, and it was not possible to lift intact. However, Samples <3> and <4> were taken for the purpose of identification from two of the timbers.
- 5.6.2 Sample <3> comprised four large pieces of between 20cm and 27cm, accompanied by numerous fragments. No diagnostic features were identifiable, either in the form of natural surface features or woodworking. A piece of the wood was examined at up to x80 magnification. Although quite degraded, it was possible to identify a diffuse porous vessel pattern, although the vessel forms were atypical and likely to derive from root wood.
- 5.6.3 Sample <4> comprised a single long fragment of c.31cm, accompanied by a number of smaller fragments. It had an irregular distorted form, with no surface features or modifications. Microscopic examination showed that the wood was very degraded, and it was no longer possible to discern a recognisable vessel pattern.
- 5.6.4 The wood *in situ* (Plate 1) had an irregular tapering form, which is consistent with rooting. The nature of the wood and its presence in the upper peat horizon is consistent with tree roots penetrating from above. The tree(s) would have grown during a dry period of landscape stability at some time following the cessation of peat development, although it is impossible to be certain at what point this occurred



6 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 During the archaeological investigation at Morston Point, a single bulk sample for environmental assessment was taken from peat layer (2007) in Trench 6. The sample was associated with waterlogged wood (see Summers, Section 5.5) and a monolith sample <2> was also taken from (2007).

6.2 Methods

- 6.2.1 The sample was processed at the WA facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fraction was washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fraction was sieved to 1mm. The dried light fraction was scanned under a stereomicroscope (x8-x80 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 was available as necessary.
- 6.2.2 Since the sample was peat, which is not well suited to flotation, only a single tub (10 litres) was processed for assessment.

6.3 Results

6.3.1 The data from the bulk sample light fraction are presented in Table 1. The light fraction was composed primarily of peat fragments, as is typical for this kind of sample. Few identifiable remains were present, being represented by a small number of bramble (*Rubus* sp.) seeds, wood fragments and pieces of herbaceous stem/ root (Table 1). Waterlogged wood from (**2007**) has been identified as root wood (Summers, Section 5.5), which is likely to post-date peat formation. Remains of bramble seeds in the sample suggest scrub conditions, which are also likely to derive from drier conditions and to post-date the period of active peat formation.

Sample	Context	Trench	Volume (litres)	Waterlogged plant remains
1	2007	6	10	Rubus sp. seeds (X), Wood fragments (XX),
				Herbaceous stem/ root (X)

Table 2. Plant remains in Sample 1 of peat layer (2007). X = present, XX = common, XXX =abundant.

6.3.2 The peat layer in this part of the site is at a relatively high elevation and is no longer permanently waterlogged, which may account for the limited preservation of



identifiable plant macrofossil remains. Further to the north of the site, peat and organic silts were thicker and displayed better preservation in the lower levels, as identified in the preceding geoarchaeological window sample investigation (ENF147608; Bescoby 2020). The same was true at the site immediately to the east (ENF129409; Newton 2014).

6.4 Conclusions

6.4.1 The assessment of Sample <1> from Morston Point has indicated that the identifiable plant remains recovered from the upper peat deposits are likely to have originated from a drier period post-dating active peat formation, where trees and scrub grew on the site. Drying and humification of the peat is likely to have affected the preservation of plant macrofossil remains.

Monolith sample <2>

- 6.4.1 A monolith sample <2> was taken of peat layer (**2007**). It is almost certain that this deposit represents the more recent upper layers of the peat sequence identified elsewhere on the site, which provided a date of 1,819 1,626 calBP (95.4%) (SUERC-91997) where it was encountered in the preceding window sample investigation (Bescoby 2020). A detailed palaeoenvironmental investigation of peat deposits adjacent to the present site span the Neolithic to late Iron Age/ early Romano-British period (ENF129409; Rackham *et al.* 2014), where they are directly related to late Bronze Age and middle Iron Age timber alignments.
- 6.4.2 It is unlikely that further palaeoenvironmental analysis of the deposits exposed and sampled as part of the present investigation will provide additional data to advance understanding of the local and regional landscape history and it is not proposed that any further analysis is undertaken using this sample.



7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Interpretation

- 7.1.1 During the archaeological trial trenching at Morston Point, Hardwick Industrial Estate, King's Lynn, Norfolk, six trenches were excavated covering approximately 30m by 2.10m of the proposed 1.5ha development area (equivalent to approximately 3.5% of the site). The purpose of the work was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, the trenches being located to target the area of the site that would be subject to construction work for the proposed development.
- 7.1.2 In summary, the programme of trial trenching revealed a series of natural sand, peat layers and overlying alluvial layers, with the only archaeology comprising a single wide ditch [2008] containing 74g of medieval tile. The ditch was cut by a modern field drain [2012]. Ditch [2008] is likely to represent both a boundary and drainage ditch but is not evident on the cropmark imagery or any historic maps (Figs. 3 & 10).
- 7.1.3 The stratigraphic layers identified from this evaluation match well with the findings from the 2012 palaeoenvironmental assessment carried out on the Hardwick Link Road extension bordering the south-east of the site. This, when combined with the archaeological results from that site, demonstrates a wetland landscape from the Neolithic period onwards which was against a raised sand and gravel beach of geological age set above the contemporary sea level of the time, which contained small scale but significant prehistoric activity on the wetland margins (Newton 2014). The wetland sequence from the Hardwick Link Road extension showed sands, peats, and overlying marine silts. Radiocarbon dates taken from the base and upper layers of the peat showed that the build-up began in the late Neolithic, with a major change in environmental conditions beginning by the late Iron Age, while a C14 date centred on the mid 2nd century AD immediately preceded marine/brackish conditions with overlying mud flats or marsh present. The middle to late Iron Age timber structure from this adjacent site, was contemporary with the upper peat layers supporting the inference that it may have provided an access route across the wet and boggy peats to a stream or intertidal creek in the marsh (NHER 52618). After this time, and certainly by the early post-Roman period, there was no later peat growth and the marine alluvial composition of the modern soil suggests that land reclamation of the site for agricultural purposes may not have occurred until the post-medieval period (Rackham, Langdon and Scaife 2014).



7.2 Significance and Recommendations

7.2.1 The findings are of relatively low archaeological significance while the environmental evidence suggests that the site was on marginal land between the late Roman and medieval periods with no or little agriculture practised. It may offer only a small amount of information that might contribute to the East Anglian Archaeology Research Framework; Post-medieval 14 – characterising the post-medieval landscape and the factors which affected it (http:researchframeworks.org 2021). It seems unlikely that further archaeological work would need to be carried out on this site owing to its environmental setting.



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Web Site

East of England Regional Research Framework 2021 - East of England Research Framework (researchframeworks.org)



APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1a: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Thickness	Discussion
(2000)	Topsoil	Firm dark greyish brown loamy clay with moderate sub-angular small to medium flints	0.22cm	Contains modern CBM and plastic
(2001)	Made ground	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with moderate poorly sorted subangular flints	0.26m	Possibly deposited during building of road to south
(2002)	Alluvial layer	Pale brownish yellow firm silty clay with occasional sub-rounded flints	0.19m	Flooding sea level rise
(2003)	Alluvial layer	Firm mid blueish grey silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints	1.12m	Flooding sea level rise
(2004)	Alluvial layer	Firm blueish grey silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints and peat	0.05m	Bottom most layer of flooding layers
(2005)	Natural	Pale yellow friable sand with occasional sub-rounded to rounded flints	1.10m+	
(2006)	Natural	Friable pale yellowish grey sand rare sub- rounded flints	0.94m+	
(2007)	Peat layer	Friable dark brown to black peat with frequent roots and brushwood	0.30m	In Trenches 1, 5, 6
[2008]	Cut of ditch	NE-SW linear with gradually sloping sides not bottomed (2.45m long x 7.80m wide x 1.13m deep)		Cut by land drain [2012] not bottomed due to depth, three fills in Trench 2
(2009)	Fill of [2008]	Loose dark red brown silty sand with frequent poorly sorted sub-angular to sub-rounded flints	0.16m	Basal fill
(2010)	Fill of [2008]	Firm pale blue grey silty clay with small to medium sub-angular flints	0.49m	Middle fill
(2011)	Fill of [2008]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small to large sub-angular flints	0.65m	Top fill
[2012]	Cut of ditch	NE-SW aligned linear, near vertical sides, not bottomed (2.45m long x 1.10m wide x 0.74m+ deep)		Field drain cutting ditch [2008] in Trench 2
(2013)	Fill of 2012	Firm dark brown mottled yellow clayish natural silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular flint	0.74m+	Pipe not exposed but modern
(2014)	Natural	Friable mid brownish grey gravel	0.17m	
(2015)	Made Ground	Loose mid brown-red silty sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular flints	0.33m	Gravel layer only present in W side of Trench 2
(2016)	Alluvial layer	Friable pale greyish yellow sandy silt	0.61m	Sea level rise only seen in N end of Trench 3
(2017)	Made Ground	Friable mid yellowish-brown sand with occasional small sub-angular stone	0.34m	Above (2001) in places across S of site
(2018)	Made Ground	Firm mid grey silty clay	0.44m	In Trench 5 and 6
(2019}	Layer	Firm dark blue grey silty clay	0.08m	Present in S of Trench 6 and E of Trench 5
(2020)	Layer	Firm light grey-yellow silty sand	0.05m	Thin band visible only in Trench 5, above (2019)



APPENDIX 1B: SAMPLE SECTIONS (SS) SHOWING STRATIGRAPHIC LAYERS BY TRENCH

Context	Description	Depth
2000	Topsoil	0.0-0.36m
2001	Made Ground	0.36-0.58m
2002	Alluvium	0.58-0.76m
2003	Aluvium	0.76-1.80m
2004	Alluvium	1.80-1.84m
2005	Natural Sand	1.84m+

Trench 1: SS 01A

Context	Description	Depth
2001	Made Ground	0.0-0.28m
2002	Alluvium	0.28-0.40m
2003	Alluvium	0.40-1.21m
2007	Peat	1.21-1.40m
2005	Natural Sand	1.41m+

Trench 1: SS 01B

Context	Description	Depth
2000	Topsoil	0.0-0.11m
2001	Made Ground	011-0.30m
2015	Made Ground	0.30-0.61m
2003	Alluvium	0.61-1.02m
2006	Natural Sand	1.02m+

Trench 2: SS 02A

Context	Description	Depth
2000	Topsoil	0.0-0.11m
2001	Made Ground	0.11-0.30m
2003	Made Ground	0.30-0.61m
2005	Alluvium	0.61-1.02m
2006	Natural Sand	1.02m+

Trench 2: SS 02B

Also contains Ditch [2008] filled by (2009, 2010, 2011), which is cut by field drain [2012] filled by (2013).



Context	Description	Depth
2000	Topsoil	0.0-0.23m
2001	Made Ground	0.23-0.50m
2003	Alluvium	0.50-1.48m
2014	Natural Flint layer	1.48-1.62m
2006	Natural Sand layer	1.62m+

Trench 3: SS 03A

Context	Description	Depth
2000	Topsoil	0.0-0.20m
2001	Made Ground	0.20-0.46m
2003	Alluvium	0.46-1.48m
2016	Alluvium	1.48-2.04m
2005	Natural Sand	1.02m+
(also 2004 above 2005 in one	Alluvium	2.64m+
area)		

Trench 3: SS 03B

Context	Description	Depth
2000	Topsoil	0.0-0.35m
2018	Alluvium	0.35-0.88m
2002	Alluvium	0.88-1.12m
2004	Alluvium	1.12-1.18m
2005	Natural Sand	1.18m+

Trench 4: SS 04A

Context	Description	Depth
2017	Made Ground	0.0-0.32m
2001	Made Ground	0.32-0.61m
2003	Alluvium	0.61-1.48m
2004	Alluvium	1.48-1.69m
2007	Peat	1.69m+

Trench 4: SS 04B

Context	Description	Depth
2000	Topsoil	0.0-0.10m
2001	Made Ground	0.10-0.34m
2018	Alluvium	0.34-0.70m
2002	Alluvium	0.70-0.80m



2003	Alluvium	0.80-1.05m			
2004	Alluvium	1.05-1.11m			
2007	Peat	1.11m+			

Trench 5: SS 05A

Context	Description	Depth
2000	Topsoil	0.0-0.09m
2001	Made Ground	0.09-0.31m
2018	Alluvium	0.31-0.70m
2020	Alluvium	0.70-0.74m
2019	Alluvium	0.74-0.82m
2002	Alluvium	0.82-0.87m
2003	Alluvium	0.87-1.22m
2004	Alluvium	1.22-1.30m
2007	Peat	1.30m+

Trench 5: SS 05B

Context	Description	Depth
2000	Topsoil	0.0-0.07m
2001	Made Ground	0.07-0.40m
2018	Alluvium	0.40-0.75m
2019	Alluvium	0.75-0.82m
2003	Alluvium	0.82-1.07m
2004	Alluvium	1.07-1.11m
2007	Peat	1.11-1.40m
2006	Natural Sand	1.40m+

Trench 6: SS 06A

Context	Description	Depth
2000	Topsoil	0.0-0.09m
2018	Alluvium	0.09-0.60m
2002	Alluvium	0.60-0.71m
2003	Alluvium	0.71-0.95m
2004	Alluvium	0.95-1.07m
2007	Peat	1.07m+

Trench 6: SS 06B



APPENDIX 2: CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pot	Pottery	CBM	A.Bone	Other Material	Other	Other
						Qty	(g)	(g)	(g)		Qty	(g)
	2003		1	Layer	E.Neolithic					S.Flint	2	8
	2006		1	Layer	E.Neolithic					S.Flint	1	28
	2006		4	Layer	E.Neolithic					S.Flint	1	10
	2007		5	Layer	E.Neolithic					S.Flint	1	13
	2007		5	Layer						B.Flint	1	6
2008	2010		2	Fill of Ditch	Medieval			74	311			



APPENDIX 3: CATALOGUE OF ANIMAL BONE

Key:

NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present

Measureable following Von Den Driesch, 1976.

Countable following Davis, 1992.

Context	Trench	Type	Date	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Adult	Juvenile	Neonatal	Element range	Measurable	Countable	Butchering	Gnaw	Burnt	Comments
2010	2	Ditch	Undated	12	311g	Cattle	5		1		humerus and fragments of same bone		1				Refitting fragments, unfused proximal and distal ends
						Mammal	7		1		vertebra fragments						probably cattle



APPENDIX 4: PLATES



Plate 1: Timbers *in situ* in **(2007)** at the northern end of Trench 6 (50cm scale in 10cm divisions).





Plate 2: General shot from NW corner of the site



Plate 3: General shot from SE corner of the site





Plate 4: Trench 1 pre-excavation first stripping looking N



Plate 5: Trench 1 pre-excavation re-stripped and stepped looking N





Plate 6: Trench 1 Sample Section 1A looking E



Plate 7: Trench 1 Sample Section 1B looking W





Plate 8: Trench 2 pre-excavation looking E



Plate 9: Trench 2 Sample Section 2A looking N





Plate 10: Trench 2 Sample Section 2B looking S



Plate 11: Trench 2 ditch [2008] and field drain [2012] looking N





Plate 12: Trench 3 pre-excavation looking S



Plate 13: Trench 3 Sample Section 3A looking E





Plate 14: Trench 3 Sample Section 3B looking W



Plate 15: Trench 4 pre-excavation looking S





Plate 16: Trench 4 Sample Section 4A looking W



Plate 17: Trench 4 Sample Section 4B looking N





Plate 18: Trench 5 pre-excavation looking E



Plate 19: Trench 5 Sample Section 5A looking N





Plate 20: Trench 5 Sample Section 5B looking E



Plate 21: Trench 6 pre-excavation looking N





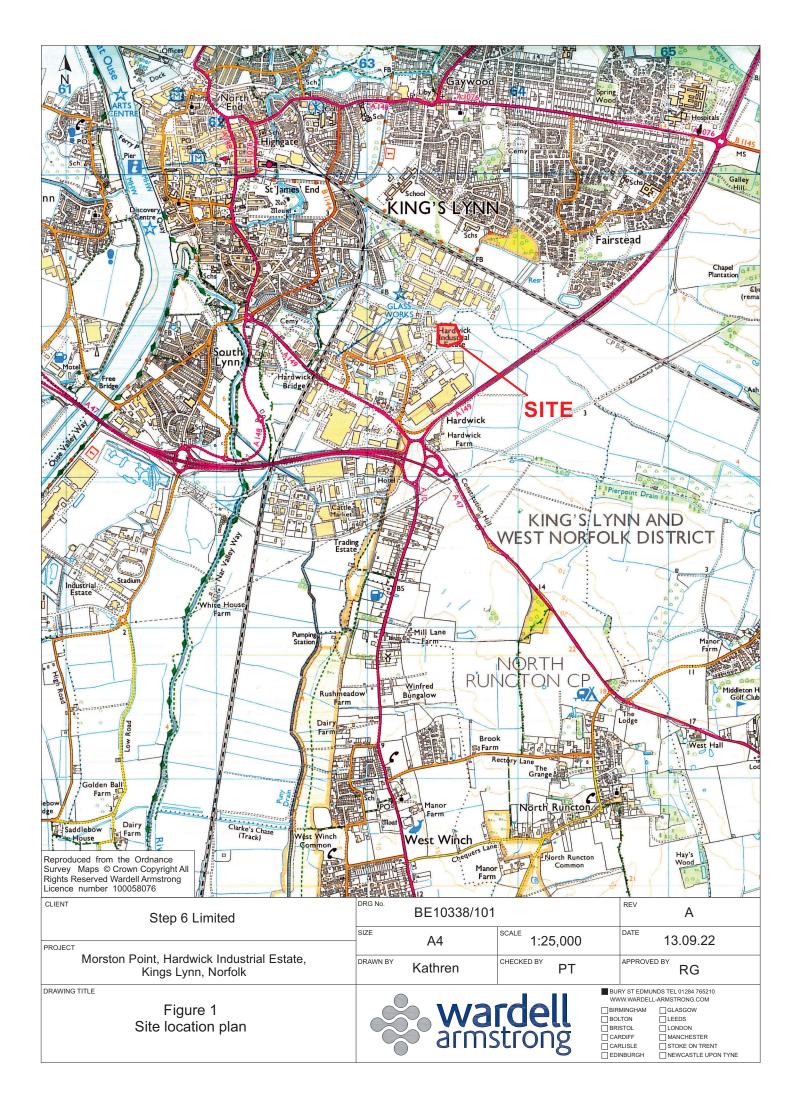
Plate 22: Trench 6 Sample Section 6A looking W

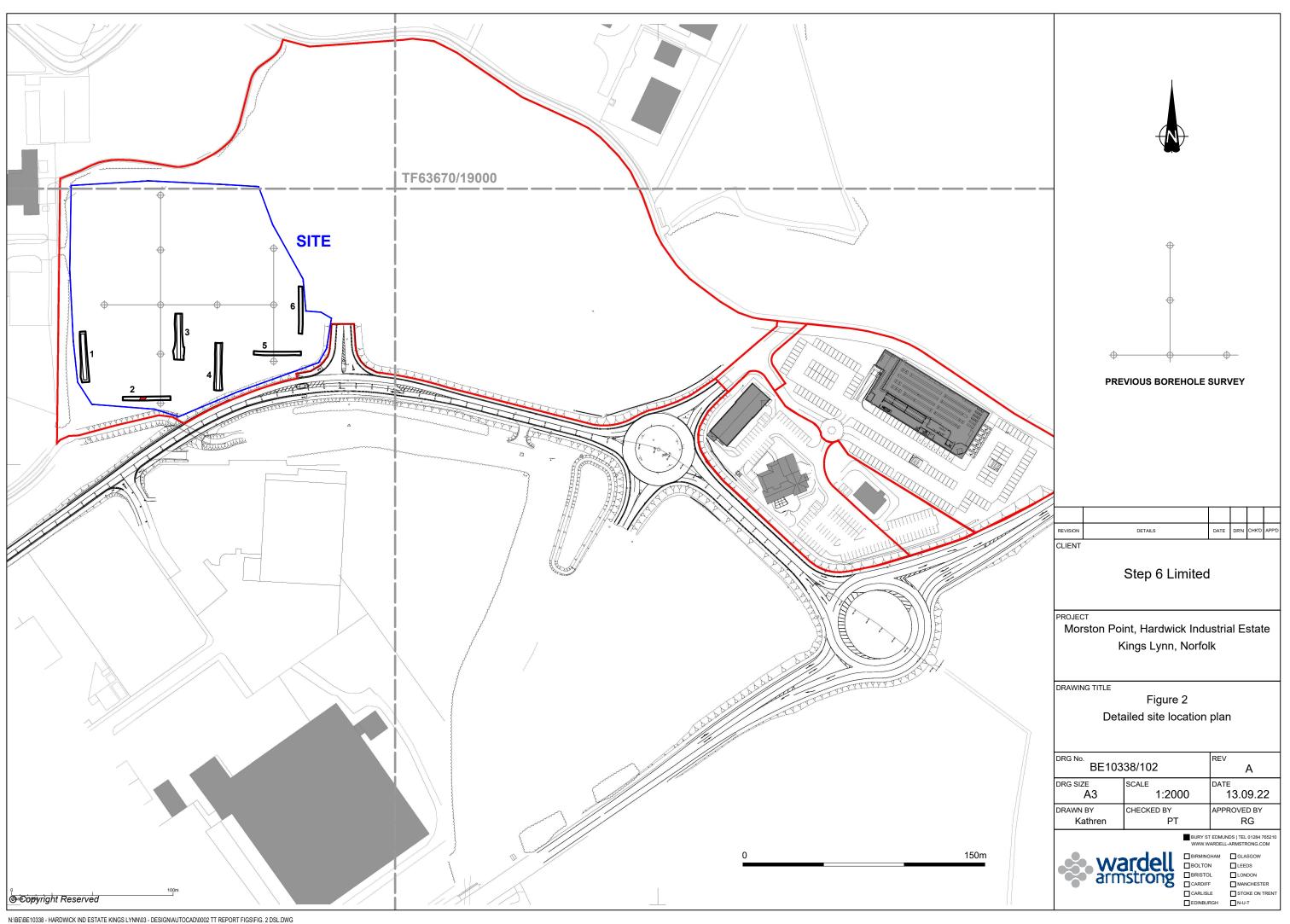


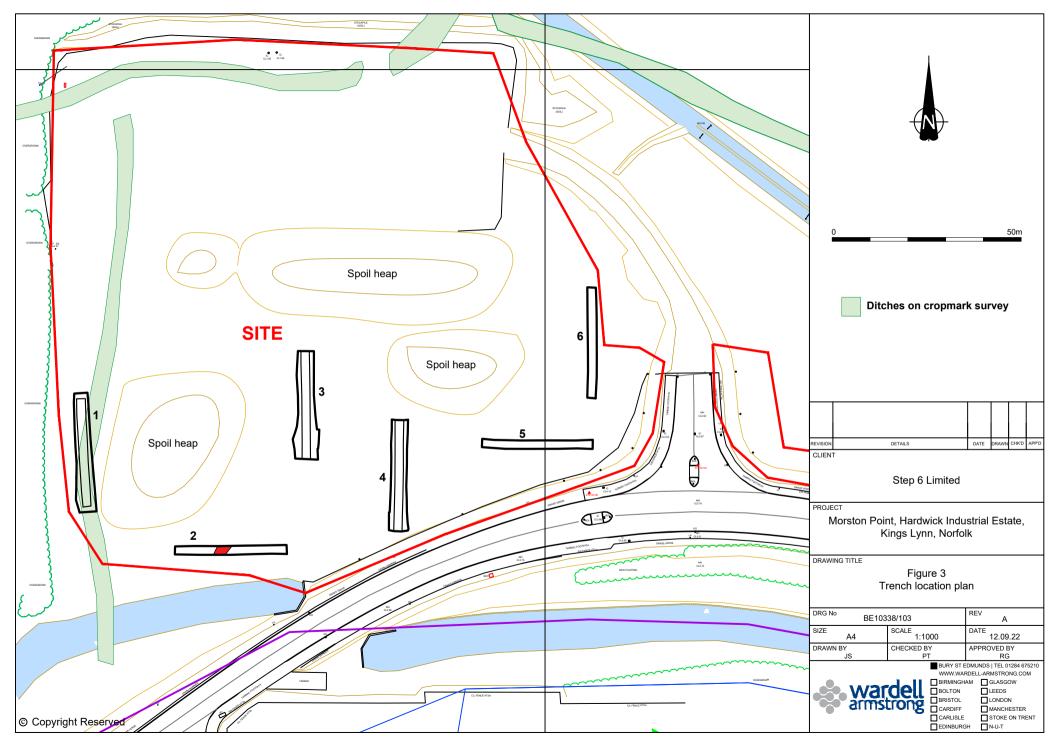
Plate 23: Trench 6 Sample Section 6B looking

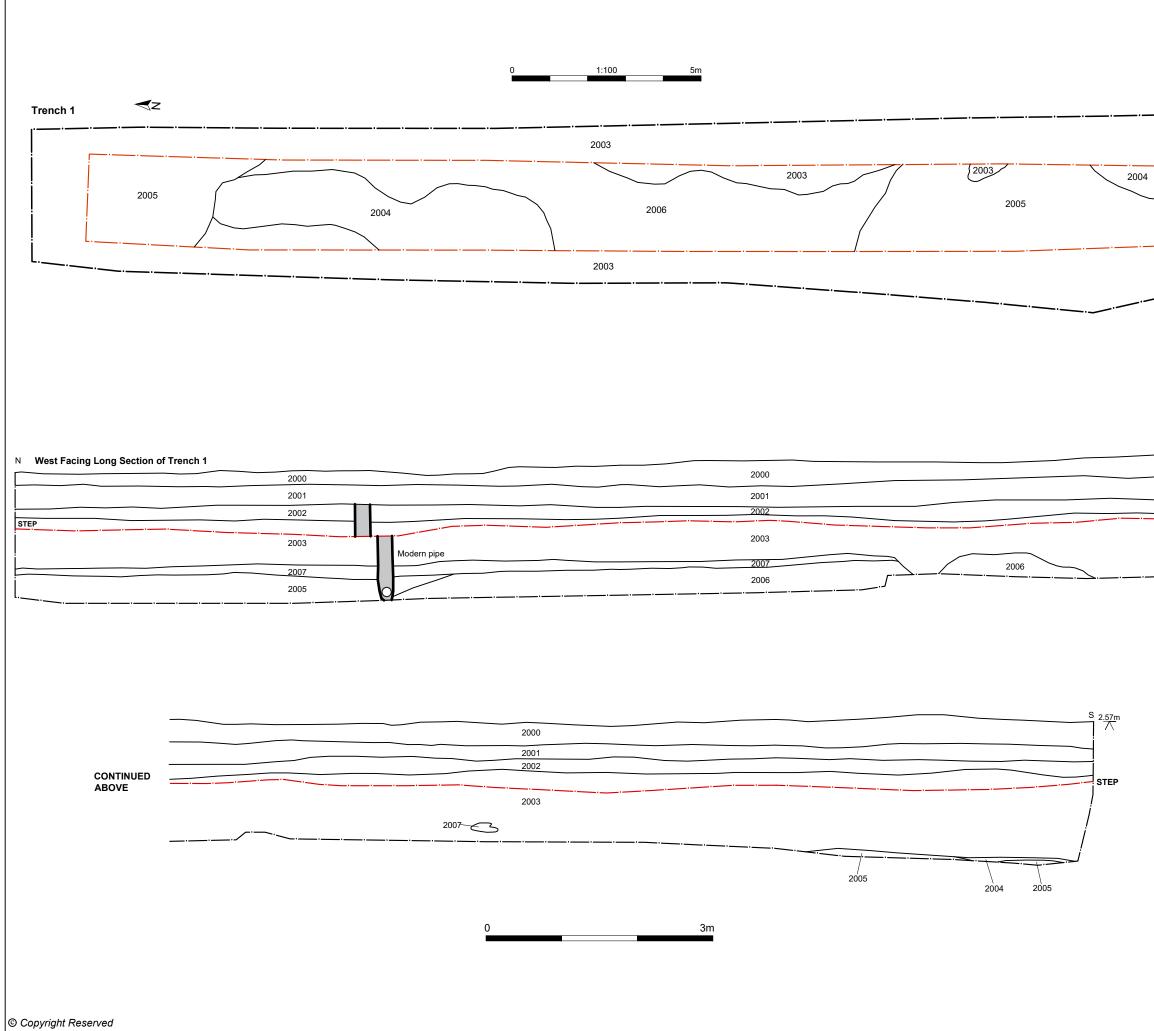


APPENDIX 5: FIGURES

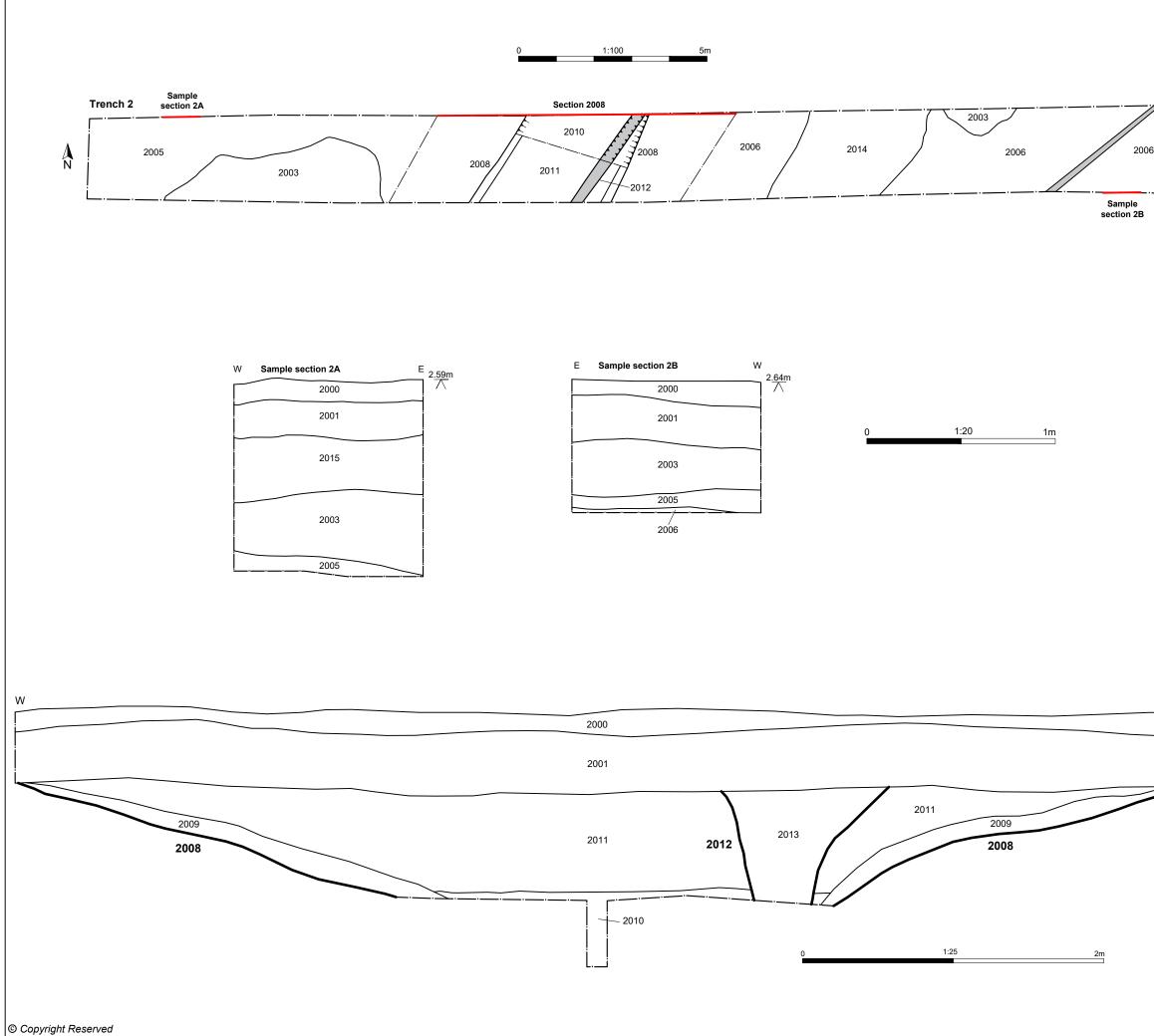




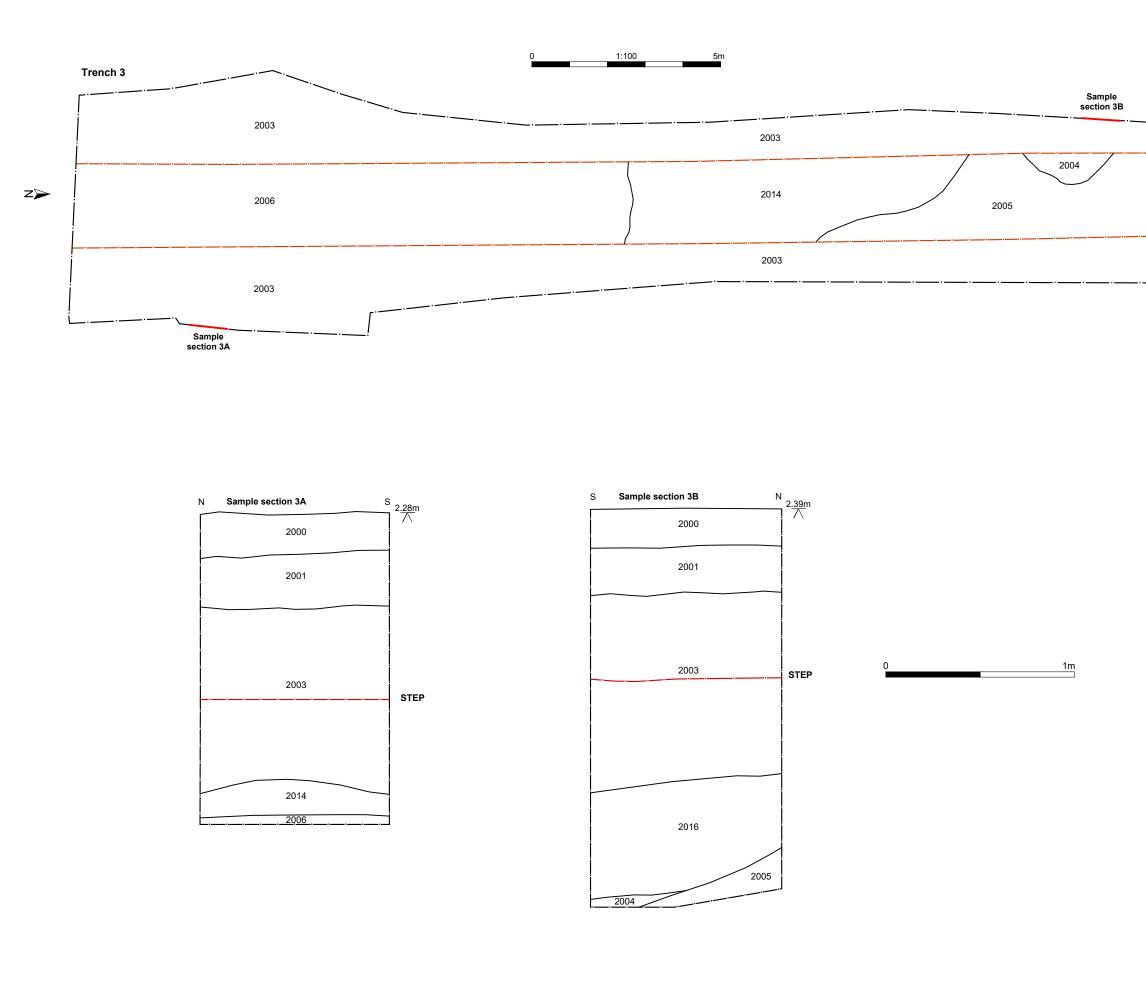




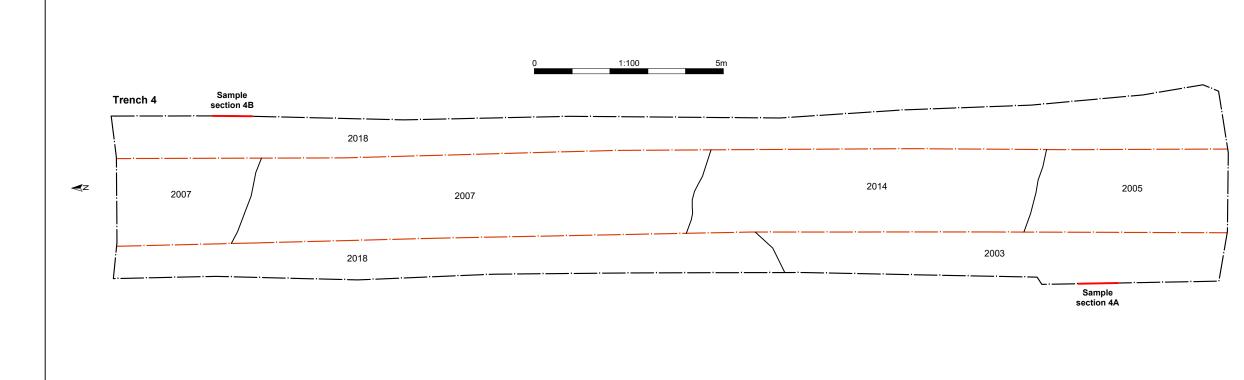
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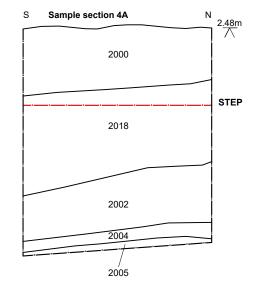


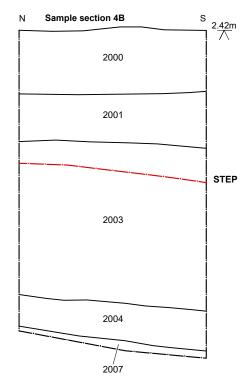
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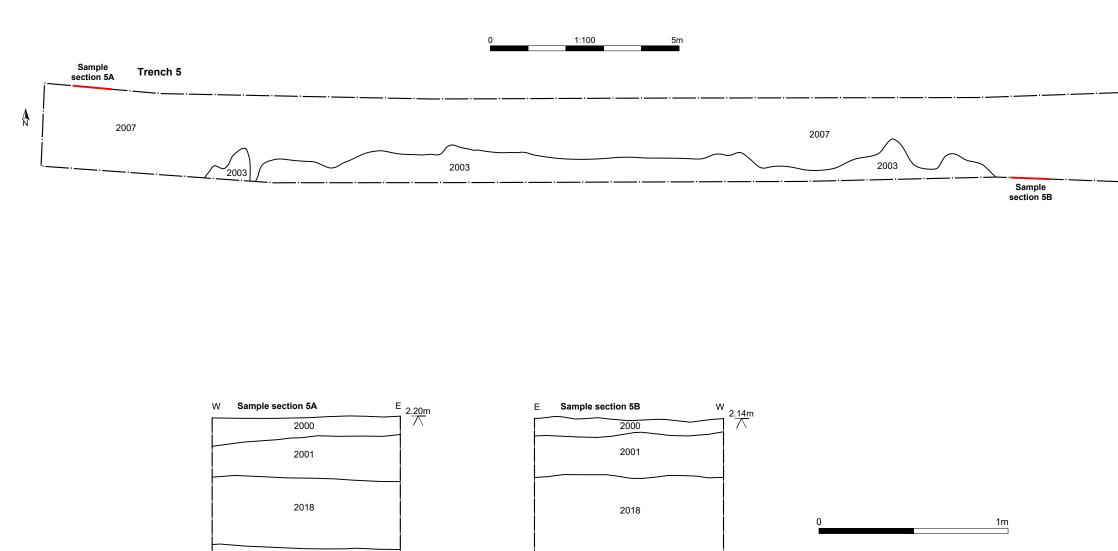


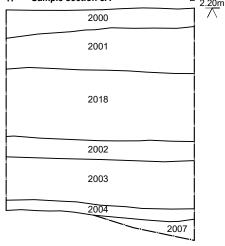


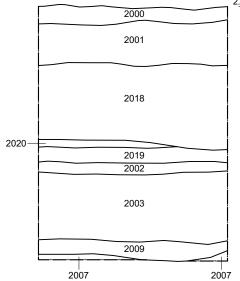


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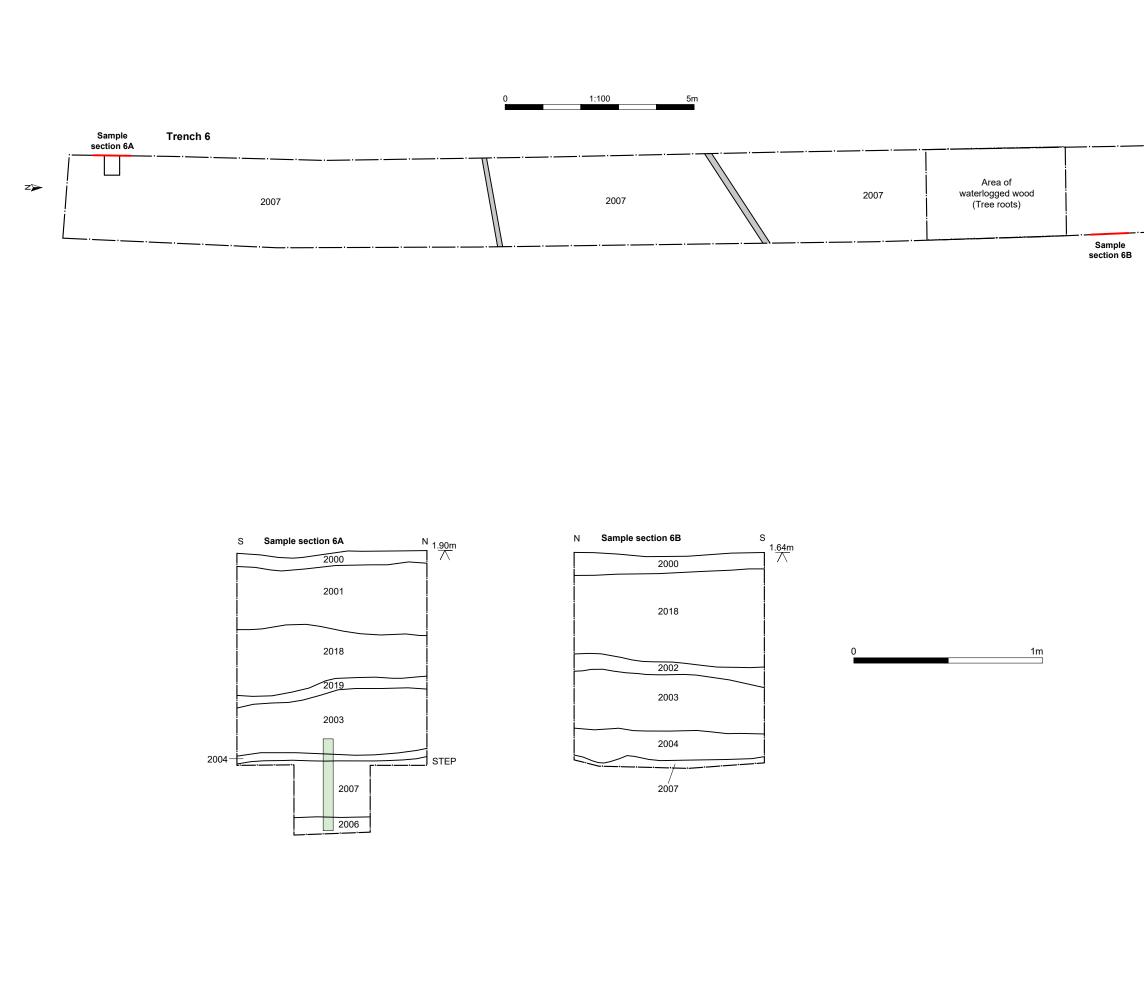
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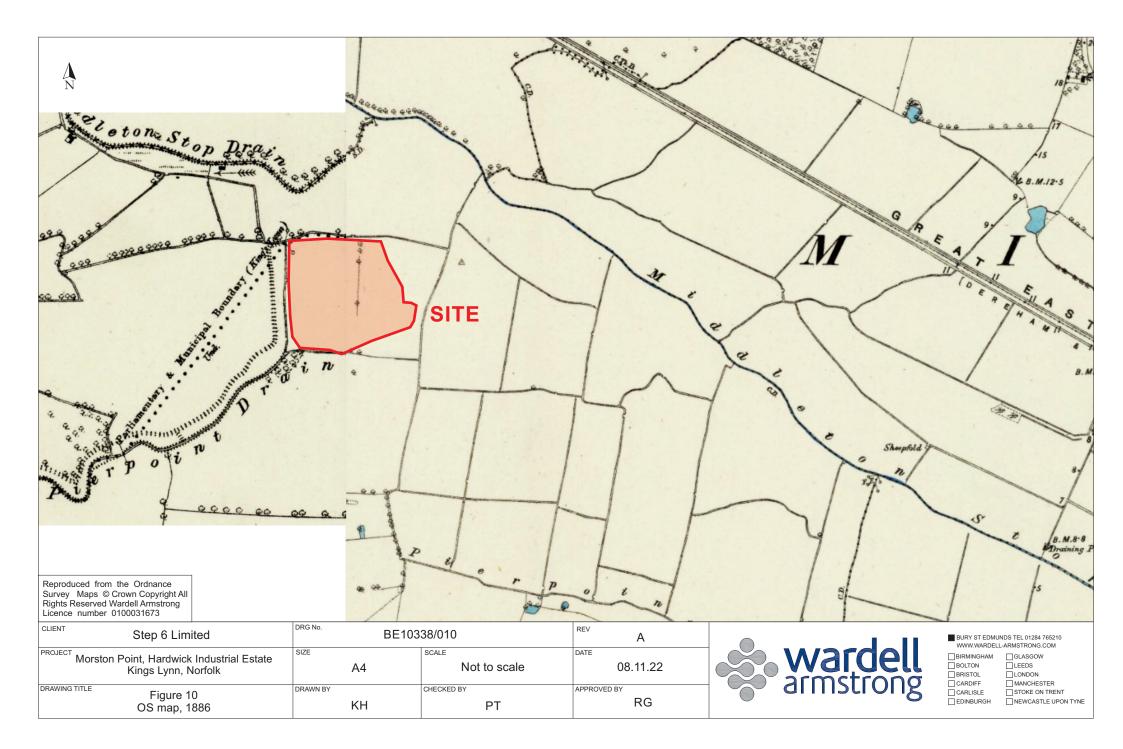




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APPENDIX 6 HER SUMMARY & OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET						
Project name	Land at Morston	nd at Morston Point, Hardwick Industrial Estate, King's Lynn				
of medieval tile. The dito represent both a bounda	h was cut by a moo ary and drainage di	dern tch a	field drain [2012] . I nd is likely to be po	de ditch [1008] containing 74g Ditch [1008] is likely to est-medieval in date owing to val periods rendering any		
habitation or agriculture	-			ai pendus rendering any		
Project dates (fieldwork)	5 th -12 th Septer	nber	2021			
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Fut	ture work (Y/N/?)	ТВС		
P. number	BE10338	Sit	e code	ENF152762		
Type of project	Archaeologica	l Eva	luation	1		
Site status	-					
Current land use	Rough grassla	nd				
Planned development	Unstated					
Main features (+dates)	one ditch					
Significant finds (+dates)	-					
Project location						
County/ District/ Parish	Norfolk	Norfolk Kings Lynn & St Margaret & St Nichola West Norfolk				
HER for area	Norfolk (Peter	Wat	kins)			
Post code (if known)	-					
Area of site	1.5ha					
NGR	TF 6354 1894					
Height AOD (min/max)	Av. 2.4m aOD					
Project creators						
Brief issued by	n/a					
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Gareth Barlow	Gareth Barlow				
Funded by	MNO Investme	MNO Investments				
Full title	Land at Morst	on Po	oint, Hardwick Indu	strial Estate, King's Lynn,		
	Norfolk: An Ar	chae	ological Trial Trenc	h Evaluation		
Authors	Peter Thomps	Peter Thompson				
Report no.	BE10338/0002	BE10338/0002				
Date (of report) November 2022						

Summary for wardella2-510569

OASIS ID (UID)	wardella2-510569
Project Name	Trial Trench, Evaluation at Morston Point, Hardwick Industrial Estate, Kings Lynn, Norfolk
Sitename	Morston Point, Hardwick Industrial Estate, Kings Lynn, Norfolk
Activity type	Trial Trench, Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	BE10388, ENF152762
Planning Id	Kings Lynn Council Planning Approval Ref. 18/00115/F, 14/01114/OM
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wardell Armstrong Archaeology
Project Dates	05-Sep-2022 - 12-Sep-2022
Location	Morston Point, Hardwick Industrial Estate, Kings Lynn, Norfolk NGR : TF 63540 18940 LL : 52.7433461665123, 0.421221680252562 12 Fig : 563540,318940
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Norfolk District : King's Lynn and West Norfolk Parish : North Runcton
Project Methodology	The trial trenching was undertaken following Standards for Development-led Archaeological Projects in Norfolk (Robertson et al 2018), as well as the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and guidance for field evaluation (2020a), and in accordance with the WA fieldwork manual (2017). The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Standard and guidance for field evaluation (CIfA 2020a) and the Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2020b).
Project Results	Six trenches were excavated which revealed a series of inundation and waterlogging layers, including a peat deposit that formed prior to marine inundation in the Roman period, and a single wide ditch [1008] containing 74g of medieval tile. The ditch was cut by a modern field drain [2012]. Ditch [1008] is likely to represent both a boundary and drainage ditch.
Keywords	Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Norfolk HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Norfolk
	Museums Service;

wardell-armstrong.com

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