

Land South of Froghall Lane, Walkern, Hertfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation



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Executive Summary

Project Name: Land South of Froghall Lane, Walkern, Hertfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Site Code: WLK15

Planning Authority: East Hertfordshire District Council

Location: Froghall Lane, Walkern, Hertfordshire, SG2 7PH

NGR: TL 285 261

Date: February 2015

In January 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Gladman Developments to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Froghall Lane, Walkern, Hertfordshire. Gladman Developments Ltd is preparing a planning application for a proposed housing development at the site. In consultation with the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor, targeted trench evaluations were carried out in order to determine the presence of any archaeological constraints that may impact upon the proposed development.

This report presents evidence recovered during the excavation of 17 evaluation trenches which found a Romano-British period ditch, possibly connected with a concentration of Romano-British findspots and structure to the west of the proposed development area. The evaluation also identified an episode of the deposition of 20th century construction debris possibly connected with 20th century construction of housing to the south of Froghall Lane.

The evaluation has provided a chronological narrative of the site ranging from the Romano-British period century to the 20th century.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In January 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by Gladman Developments to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Froghall Lane, Walkern, Hertfordshire. Gladman Developments Ltd is preparing a planning application (3/14/2200/OP) for a proposed housing development at the site. In consultation with the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor, targeted trench evaluations were carried out in order to determine the presence of any archaeological constraints that may impact upon the proposed development.
- 1.2 The proposed development area (hereafter 'PDA') comprises a single agricultural field on the south side of Froghall Lane, Walkern, and is demarcated by hedgerows at the west and north-west edges of the field, and housing to the north, east and south. It is centred at NGR TL285 261 (Figure 1) and lies c.5.5km east-northeast of Stevenage town centre.
- 1.3 The underlying solid geology comprises the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and the Seaford Chalk Formation, except along the southern boundary of the site where superficial Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel overlie the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and the New Pit Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey 2015).

Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.4 An historical and archaeological background has already been detailed in a Desk-based Assessment by ARS Ltd (Tong 2014). A brief synopsis follows here.
- 1.5 The site of the proposed development lies immediately west of the historic settlement core of Walkern. An early Bronze Age flint tool (HER no. MHT24866) and 'bronze tools' (HER no. MHT11537) of Bronze Age date have been recovered from the site, and a crop mark (HER no. MHT11223) which may have been an enclosure or funerary mound was recorded. Prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site is also well attested in the form of aerial photography and satellite imagery revealing crop marks of ring ditches and settlement enclosures, ditches and pits. Romano-British occupation is also represented through the recovery of a number of artefacts and a probable villa site (HER no. MHT15808) located c.225m west of the proposed development site.
- 1.6 The presence on site, and the proximity of the aforementioned heritage assets suggested that there was potential for below-ground archaeology to survive within the site.
- 1.7 A geophysical survey was carried out to determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological features. In total, 55 30m by 30m survey grids were set out to cover the site of the proposed development (Durkin 2014).
- 1.8 The survey confirmed the presence of a substantial anomaly which corresponds in terms of size and location to HER no. MHT11223. The remainder of the data

was characterized by the presence of a number of positive linear/ curvilinear and discrete anomalies that may be indicative of settlement activity within the survey area. However, with the exception of anomalies 1 to 4, the geophysical response was extremely weak and the anomalies were difficult to interpret with any confidence. Certainly the form of a number of the anomalies, particularly 5 and 6, are suggestive of possible enclosure ditches. The site though, has been heavily ploughed and plough scarring, in addition to accumulations of topsoil, hill wash and colluvium, could be responsible for anomalies in the data (Durkin 2014).

Method Statement

- 1.9 The objectives of the programme of work were to recover and record through excavation any potential archaeological features prior to the proposed development taking place.
- 1.10 Achieving these objectives involved a phased programme of works as follows.
 - Targeted trench evaluations to confirm the presence of several potential archaeological features.
 - On completion of the on-site archaeological works, post-excavation analysis, reporting, publication and archiving to be carried out.

Excavation Methodology

- 1.11 Within the area of proposed development, which measures c.4.15 hectares in size, 17 trenches were excavated in order to determine if any potential archaeological remains identified during the geophysical survey exist on the site (Figure 2). Trenches 5 and 10-17 measured 50m long by 2m wide and trenches 1-4 and 6-9 measured 30m long by 2m wide.
- 1.12 Ploughsoil was removed mechanically by a machine using a wide toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. The Ploughsoil or recent overburden was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural substrata, whichever came first in successive level spits.
- 1.13 The areas were appropriately cleaned using hand tools in order to expose the full nature and extent of archaeological features and deposits.
- 1.14 The evaluation was carried out by ARS Ltd in accordance with the Code of Conduct of The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA 2014b) and Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation (CifA 2014a).
- 1.15 For a full statement on the methodology undertaken as part of the archaeological evaluation, please see the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 3) which was agreed in advance with Alison Tinniswood, Historic Environment Advisor for the Environmental Resource Planning Team of Hertfordshire County Council.

2 Results

2.1 Of the 17 trenches excavated, three trenches contained archaeological remains (Trench 1, 2 and 16). The remaining 14 trenches were archaeologically sterile.

Archaeologically Sterile Trenches (Figures 14 – 29, 32)

- 2.2 Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17 were devoid of archaeological remains or features. The trenches were excavated through the site dark brown silty loam ploughsoil (3001), (4001), (5001), (6001), (7001), (8001), (9001), (10001), (11001), (12001), (13001), (14001), (15001) and (17001) which had an average depth of 252mm. The topsoil deposits sealed the natural substrate (3002), (4002), (5002), (6002), (7002), (8002), (9002), (10002), (11002), (14002), (15002) and (17002), descriptions of which are summarised in Table 1.
- 2.3 Trenches 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 17 had been truncated by north-south aligned modern plough furrows which were identified at 2 metre intervals. Two plough furrows were excavated in Trench 7 to confirm this interpretation (Figures 20 and 21).
- 2.4 Trenches 12 and 13 contained a thin lens of colluvium (12003) and (13003) above the natural substrate (12002, 13002) with an average maximum depth of 110mm.

| Trench No. | Topsoil | Maximum Depth of Topsoil | Substrate |
|------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| 3 | Silty loam soil | 290mm | Orange brown silty clay. |
| 4 | Fine mid-brown loamy soil with common flint nodules and rounded stones. | 250mm | Orange brown silty clay |
| 5 | Silty loam | 250mm | Orange yellow brown silty clay |
| 6 | Silty loam | 250mm | Yellow brown silty clay. Frequent flint nodules and broken chalk. |
| 7 | Silty loam | 250mm | Orange yellow brown silty clay |
| 8 | Silty loam | 310mm | Orange brown silty clay |
| 9 | Silty loam | 260mm | Orange brown silty clay |
| 10 | Silty loam | 300mm | Orange brown silty clay |
| 11 | Silty loam | 250mm | Orange brown clay silt. 29M from SE end, becomes stony with frequent large nodules of frost shattered flint. |
| 12 | Silty loam | 220mm | Orange yellow silty clay with large nodules of natural flint. Has thin layer of colluvium (1203) |
| 13 | Silty loam | 140mm | Brown yellow silty clay. Frequent flint nodules and a thin layer of colluvium (1303) |
| 14 | Dark brown silty loam | 240mm | Silty clay heavily truncated by modern plough marks. Orange yellow with flint nodules. |
| 15 | Silty loam | 280mm | Orange brown silty clay |
| 17 | Silty loam | 240mm | Orange brown silty clay |

Table 1: Summary of Archaeologically Sterile Evaluation Trenches.

Trench 1 (Figures 3, 6-9)

- 2.5 Trench 1 was excavated through dark brown silty loam ploughsoil (1001), which had a maximum depth of 350mm.
- 2.6 The earliest phase of archaeological activity within the trench was represented by an infilled water feature, possibly a pond (F1003) (Figures 7-9). It is unclear if the feature [1004] is human-made or a natural feature. The basal deposit of the feature was a mid-brown silty clay (1005) with inclusions of chalk flecks and had a maximum depth of 150mm. No finds were recovered from this deposit which can date when the feature was open.
- 2.7 The upper fill of water feature F1003 was a yellow/brown silty clay (1003) and this was situated above basal fill (1005) and beneath ploughsoil (1001) with a maximum depth of 320mm and was visible for 22m from the eastern end of the trench. Infrequent bands of red/brown silty clay (1006) were observed throughout upper fill (1005) which were interpreted as re-deposited natural.
- 2.8 Upper fill (1003) contained finds including frequent 20th century ceramic building material (CBM), a modern fridge door and an iron pipe. (1003) likely represents a water feature which has been backfilled by modern construction/tipping debris, possibly at the time of the construction of housing to the south of the PDA c.1960-72/73.

Trench 2 (Figures 4, 10-13)

- 2.9 Trench 2 was excavated through dark brown silty loam ploughsoil (2001) which had a maximum depth of 260mm.
- 2.10 The earliest phase of archaeological activity within the trench was represented by the same infilled water feature identified in Trench 1 (F2005) (Figure 13). Lower fill (2007) was the same mid-brown silty clay as (1005). This deposit was not fully excavated due to the depth of the trench being at 1.2m below ground level, as a consequence, a maximum of 200mm was excavated. No finds were recovered which can date this basal fill of the feature.
- 2.11 The upper fill (2005) of water feature F2005 was the same yellow/brown silty clay which had a maximum depth of 1000mm and was the same deposit as (1003) in Trench 1 and contained similar frequent CBM fragments as found in (1003), wooden planks and a modern shoe.
- 2.12 2m north of F2005, a cut feature [2006] was identified which was cutting through (2005) and into natural substrate (2002) to a maximum depth of 1100mm (Figures 11 and 12). The primary fill (2004) of cut feature [2006] was a light red/brown silty clay which had a maximum depth of 750mm and contained fragments of modern CBM. The upper fill (2003) was a light yellow/brown silty clay which had a maximum depth of 350mm which contained large fragments of modern CBM and was possibly a capping deposit for the feature.
- 2.13 The narrow view afforded by the evaluation trench did not allow the full extent of this feature to be exposed although it is possible that a discreet area to the

north of the substantial geophysical anomaly depicted on Figure 2 is representative of this feature. It is probable that this was a modern cut pit for discarded soil and building material from the construction of buildings to the south of the PDA.

Trench 16 (Figures 30 and 31)

- 2.14 Trench 16 was excavated through dark brown silty loam ploughsoil (16001) which had a maximum depth of 270mm.
- 2.15 At the western end of the trench a dark brown silty clay subsoil (16002) was identified below ploughsoil (16001). Subsoil (16002) had a maximum depth of 570mm and graded out 12.7m east of the western end of Trench 16. The subsoil was situated above natural substrate (16005) which was a mid/dark brown silty clay with a large quantity of natural flint. Where the subsoil grades out 12.7m east of the western end of Trench 16, the natural substrate changed to the orange/brown silty clay substrate seen in all other trenches.
- 2.16 A ditch on a west/northwest to east/southeast alignment was cut [16004] into subsoil (16002) which measured 1.67m wide, 900mm in depth in section and only 4m was visible before running into the limits of excavation (Figure 31). The fill of ditch [16004] was a grey/brown clayey silt (16003) which contained animal bone and a weathered fragment of Romano-British roof tile (*tegula*). The Romano-British period ditch is on a rough alignment with the archaeological remains of a possible Romano-British structure (MHT15808) situated c.225m west of the PDA. The substantial width of the ditch suggests that it may have been a boundary ditch, potentially connected with this possible Romano-British building.
- 2.17 It was not possible to suggest the full extent of the features observed in the western half of Trench 16 due to the narrow view afforded by the evaluation trench.

3 Finds Assessment – Joseph Tong, Dr Robin Holgate and Milena Grzybowska.

3.1 This report details an assessment of the flint, ceramic and animal bone assemblage for an evaluation on land at Froghall Lane, Walkern, Hertfordshire that was undertaken in January 2014 by ARS Ltd.

Finds Assemblage – Joseph Tong PCIfA and Dr Robin Holgate MCIIfA

3.2 All of the finds came from the ploughsoil and ditch fill (16003).

Flint

3.3 A hard hammer-struck flake dating to the later neolithic period or Bronze/Iron Age was recovered from the ploughsoil.

Ceramic Archive

3.4 The pottery assemblage recovered during the evaluation represents late medieval and 18th – 19th centuries utilitarian wares (e.g. earthenware and stoneware) used for storage, preparation and consumption of food and drink.

| Artefact Type | Date | Category | Artefact count by context | | | |
|---------------------|---|----------|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | | (1001) | - | - | - |
| Oxidised Sandy ware | 14 th – 15 th centuries | Body | 1 | - | - | - |
| Brown stoneware | 18 th – 19 th centuries | Rim | 1 | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | | | 1 | - | - | - |

Table 2: Pottery Assemblage

| Artefact Type | Date | Artefact count by context | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---------|---|---|
| | | (1001) | (16003) | - | - |
| Roof tile (<i>tegula</i>) fragment | Romano-British | - | 1 | - | - |
| Brick fragments | 17 th – 20 th centuries | 2 | - | - | - |
| Roof tile fragments | 17 th – 20 th centuries | 5 | - | - | - |
| Drainage pipe fragments | 20 th century | 2 | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | | 9 | 1 | - | - |

Table 3: Ceramic Building Material (CBM) Assemblage

Animal Bone - Milena Grzybowska

- 3.5 The animal bones assessed in this report came from an archaeological evaluation at Walkern, Hertfordshire. The assemblage consisted of 3.5kg of bone, hand collected from a single context (ditch F16003), dated from the Romano-British period.
- 3.6 The aim of this assessment was to establish the potential of the assemblage to inform on diet, food production, procurement and husbandry.
- 3.7 The assessment follows English Heritage MAP2 (1991), Environmental Guidelines (2011) and Animal bones and Archaeology: Guidelines for best practice (2014).
- 3.8 The state of preservation was scored using a four stage system (excellent, good, moderate and poor). Fragmentation of the specimen was assessed (100% - complete, >75% of whole etc.). The maximum measurement of each fragment was taken. The state of weathering was scored using a six stage system (0-5, with stage '0' indicating none and '5' severe modifications to the bone) by Behrensmeyer (1978). The presence of gnawing, butchery marks and burning was noted and articulating elements were recorded.
- 3.9 The bones were identified using a reference collection. For the purpose of this assessment full speciation was not attempted. Where a bone fragment could not be attributed to a genus, a broader taxonomic category was used. Bones were considered ageable when the state of epiphyseal fusion could be ascertained. Measurable specimens excluded unfused elements. A complete assemblage was assessed. The results are presented in Table 4.
- 3.10 Fragmentation of the bone was slight with the majority of the specimens measuring over 100mm. The overall preservation of bones was good. No signs of weathering and only sporadic evidence of gnawing suggested the bones were buried soon after their disposal. The presence of articulating elements further confirmed an absence of post-depositional disturbance. Good preservation allows for observation of butchery marks and burning, as well as for investigating pathological changes to the bone, that could potentially inform on bone processing methods and the utilisation of live animals. Furthermore, low fragmentation of the specimens enables measurement of a sizeable proportion of the assemblage and a full speciation. Considerable quantities of the specimens were categorized as countable and ageable.
- 3.11 The assemblage consisted of solely domesticated species of *Bos taurus* (cattle) and *Equus* sp. (horse/donkey/mule). Two large bovids and the same number of equid individuals were present. No butchery marks or burning was identified. The specimens deriving from non-meat-bearing elements of the animal dominated the assemblage although meat-bearing bones were also present. The presence of only large mammals most likely resulted from biased collection methods selecting in favour of larger specimens therefore this cannot be treated as evidence for the absence of smaller fauna on the site.

3.12 Due to the small size of the assemblage it was difficult to address the particular themes listed in the Aims and objectives section, however the general condition of the bones suggested high informative potential for a wider assemblage. The latter could inform on skeletal element representation for the main mammal taxa and potentially other (e.g. bird) remains providing sieving and/or flotation procedures in the course of future potential excavations are applied. It is recommended that the bones from the investigated feature are retained for full analysis, results of which should be considered in conjunction with the data for the assemblage collected in the course of any further archaeological work. Provided that the state of preservation for the wider material resembles that of the assessed assemblage, a selective recording protocol is considered suitable for full analysis.

| Context | Fragmentation | Element | Taxon | Side | Preservation | Weathering | Gnawing | Butchery | Burning | Max dim | Countable | Ageable | Sexable | Measurable | Comments |
|---------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------|--------------|------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 16003 | 100 | Radius | <i>Bos taurus</i> | L | G | 0 | N | N | N | 316 | Y | Y | N | N | - |
| 16003 | 100 | Radius | <i>Bos taurus</i> | R | G | 0 | N | N | N | 316 | Y | Y | N | Y | - |
| 16003 | 75 | Tibia | <i>Bos taurus</i> | L | G | 0 | N | N | N | 263 | Y | Y | N | N | - |
| 16003 | 25 | Radius | <i>Equus sp.</i> | R | G | 0 | N | N | N | 144 | Y | Y | N | Y | - |
| 16003 | 50 | MTCIII | <i>Equus sp.</i> | R | G | 0 | N | N | N | 161 | Y | Y | N | Y | - |
| 16003 | 50 | MTTIII+IV | <i>Bos taurus</i> | R | G | 0 | N | N | N | 129 | Y | Y | N | N | - |
| 16003 | 5 | MTCIII+IV | <i>Bos taurus</i> | R | G | 0 | N | N | N | 56 | Y | Y | N | Y | - |
| 16003 | 50 | Radius | <i>Bos taurus</i> | L | G | 0 | N | N | N | 215 | Y | Y | N | N | - |
| 16003 | 100 | 1 st Phalanx | <i>Equus sp.</i> | - | G | 0 | Y | N | N | 75 | Y | Y | N | Y | - |
| 16003 | 100 | 1 st Phalanx | <i>Equus sp.</i> | - | G | 0 | N | N | N | 80 | Y | Y | N | Y | - |
| 16003 | 75 | 2 nd phalanx | <i>Bos taurus</i> | - | M | 0 | N | N | N | 47 | Y | Y | N | N | Articul. 3 rd phalanx |
| 16003 | 75 | 3 rd phalanx | <i>Bos taurus</i> | - | M | 0 | N | N | N | 53 | Y | Y | N | N | Articul. 2 nd phalanx |
| 16003 | 25 | Scapula | <i>Bos taurus</i> | L | G | 0 | N | N | N | 142 | Y | N | N | N | - |
| 16003 | 50 | Scapula | <i>Bos taurus</i> | L | G | 0 | N | N | N | 320 | Y | N | N | Y | - |
| 16003 | 25 | Pelvis | <i>Bos taurus</i> | R | G | 0 | Y | N | N | 185 | Y | Y | N | N | 3 fragm., eburnation |
| 16003 | 5 | Femur | <i>Bos taurus</i> | L | M | 0 | N | N | N | 67 | Y | N | N | N | - |
| 16003 | 5 | Atlas | Large mammal | - | F | 0 | N | N | N | 50 | Y | N | N | N | - |
| 16003 | 5 | Ribs frags | Large mammal | - | G | 0 | N | N | N | Mfr:125 | N | N | N | N | 11 fragments |
| 16003 | 5 | Scaps. frags | Large mammal | - | G | 0 | N | N | N | Mfr:84 | N | N | N | N | 20 fragments |
| 16003 | 5 | Shafts frags | Large mammal | - | G | 0 | N | N | N | Mfr:80 | N | N | N | N | 7 fragments |

Table 4: Summary of the Animal Bone Assessment.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 Each trench was excavated to identify and assess archaeological features within each trench in order to establish the extent, condition, character and date of any of these features. Furthermore, this evaluation aims to offer an assessment of the potential significance of buried archaeology on the site and the likely impact of proposed development upon such buried archaeological remains.

Trenches 1 and 2

- 4.2 Trenches 1 and 2 were located over HER Reference No. MHT11223 which was recorded as “Cropmark of Enclosure, South of Froghall Lane, Walkern”, the presence of below ground archaeological remains was confirmed through geophysical survey (Durkin 2014). This feature had the potential to be a curvilinear enclosure or macula measuring c.40m in diameter, possibly of a Bronze Age date due to the presence of previously recorded Bronze Age findspots MHT11537 and MHT24866 within the PDA.
- 4.3 The evaluation has negated the interpretation of an enclosure and has confirmed that the feature is a historical water feature which has been infilled by modern construction debris and tipping deposits, possibly resulting from construction of nearby housing to the south of Froghall Lane.
- 4.4 Of note is that no water features have been depicted on available historic mapping of the PDA. The feature is likely therefore older than any useful depictions of the PDA. However, it may have been visible as a wet hollow area in the field at the time of deposition of modern construction debris and may have also been deposited there to level and consolidate a wet area of the field, although this interpretation is tentative.
- 4.5 No other archaeological features were present within Trench 1.
- 4.6 Trench 2 contained one further feature which cut through the upper fill of F2005 (2005) and into the natural substrate (2002) below F2005. It is possible that this feature was excavated, in order to backfill the feature with modern construction debris.

Trench 16

- 4.7 Trench 16 was located in the southwest portion of the PDA and was excavated over an area which did not show any geophysical anomalies. The trench found one possible boundary ditch of a probable Romano-British date.
- 4.8 The presence of Romano-British archaeology in the western portion of the PDA fits in with current knowledge of a high concentration of previously recorded Romano-British period archaeology in this area. To the west of the PDA there are records of a potentially Romano-British structure (MHT15808), Iron Age and Roman finds (MHT11221), Roman jewellery finds (MHT11384, MHT20826) and coinage findspots (MHT28287, MHT28289) and this ditch may potentially be connected with the concentration of Roman finds and the possible structure

located in fields to the west. However, this interpretation is made tentatively as only 4m of the ditch was visible within the evaluation trench.

- 4.9 The Romano-British ditch was cut into subsoil (16002) which was unique to this trench as all other trenches, with the exception of Trenches 1 and 2, were excavated through the ploughsoil directly onto natural substrate. Subsoil (16002) graded out 12.7m from the western end of Trench 16 and it is possible that this outer edge of the subsoil marks the extent of any further possible archaeological features in this area of the PDA.

Finds

- 4.10 Whilst on-site, a collection of finds were recovered from the ploughsoil which included one Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint (section 4.3) which fits in with the previously known history of the PDA as there are a number of Bronze Age tools recovered from the ploughsoil. However, no features were found to suggest any occupation of the site during this period and this find reflects a chance findspot.

Geophysical Anomalies

- 4.11 Trenches which confirmed the presence of targeted geophysical anomalies include Trenches 1, 2, 4, 9 and 11.
- 4.12 Trenches 1 and 2 confirmed the presence of a large geophysical anomaly (MHT11223) which was an infilled water feature as discussed above.
- 4.13 Trench 4 included a pinnacle of natural chalk (Figure 16) which explains the geophysical anomaly.
- 4.14 Trenches 9 (Figure 23) and 11 (Figure 25) were heavily truncated by plough furrows.
- 4.15 No other geophysical anomalies were identified in other trenches. This is potentially due to a number of extremely weak geophysical responses during the survey and those anomalies were difficult to interpret with any confidence.

Conclusion

- 4.16 The evaluation has provided a chronological narrative of the site ranging from the Romano-British to the 20th Century.
- 4.17 The earliest phase of archaeological features dates from the Romano-British period which includes one ditch (F16003) in the southwest portion of the PDA.
- 4.18 20th Century archaeology is represented by an episode of deposition of construction debris, possibly from construction of housing south of Froghall Lane c.1960-72/73.

5 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

- 5.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

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- 6.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

7 Acknowledgements

- 7.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with this work. In particular we would like to thank Andy Green of Gladman Developments for commissioning the work and Alison Tinniswood Historic Environment Advisor of Hertfordshire County Council for her advice.

8 References

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Appendix 1 – Context Register

Land South of Froghall Lane, Walkern, Hertfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

| | | | |
|----|---------|---------|---|
| 1 | (1001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 1 | (1002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 1 | (1003) | Fill | Yellow/Brown Silty Clay Upper Fill of Pond |
| 1 | [1004] | Cut | Cut (?) of pond |
| 1 | (1005) | Fill | Mid Brown Silty Clay Basal Fill of Pond |
| 1 | (1006) | Fill | Redeposited natural within (1003) |
| 2 | (2001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 2 | (2002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 2 | (2003) | Fill | Light Yellow/Brown Silty Clay. Secondary fill of dump F2003 |
| 2 | (2004) | Fill | Light Red/Brown Silty Clay. Primary fill of dump F2003 |
| 2 | (2005) | Fill | Yellow/Brown Silty Clay Upper Fill of Pond. Same as (1003) |
| 2 | [2006] | Cut | Cut of dump F2003 |
| 2 | (2007) | Fill | Mid Brown Silty Clay Basal Fill of Pond. Same as (1005). |
| 3 | (3001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 3 | (3002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 4 | (4001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 4 | (4002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 5 | (5001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 5 | (5002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 6 | (6001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 6 | (6002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 7 | (7001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 7 | (7002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 8 | (8001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 8 | (8002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 9 | (9001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 9 | (9002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 10 | (10001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 10 | (10001) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 11 | (11001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 11 | (11002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 12 | (12001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 12 | (12002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 12 | (12003) | Natural | Thin layer of Colluvium |
| 13 | (13001) | Natural | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 13 | (13002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 13 | (13003) | Natural | Thin layer of Colluvium |
| 14 | (14001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 14 | (14002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 15 | (15001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 15 | (15002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 16 | (16001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 16 | (16002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 16 | (16003) | Fill | Dark Grey/Brown Clayey Silt Fill of [16004] |
| 16 | [16004] | Cut | Romano-British Ditch Cut |
| 16 | (16005) | Natural | Dark Brown Silty Clay, Very Flinty Natural Substrate |
| 16 | (16006) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |
| 17 | (17001) | Deposit | Dark Brown Silty Loam Ploughsoil |
| 17 | (17002) | Natural | Orange/Brown Silty Clay Natural Substrate |

Appendix 2 – Figures



Site name: Frogghall Lane, Walkern
 Date: January 2014
 Drawn by: JT
 Scale: Varies

Key
 Red Line Boundary East Hertfordshire 1km Study Area



Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Suite 1
 First Floor
 Dunham House
 Cross Street
 Sale
 M33 7HH



Tel: 01629 814540
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

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**Figure 1:
 Site location**



Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Angel House
Portland Square
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1HB

Figure 2
Date: December 2014
Drawn: RD
Scale: As Shown

Land South of Froghall Lane,
Walkern, Hertfordshire.
Draft Evaluation Trench Plan

Key:
50m x 2m Evaluation Trench
30m x 2m Evaluation Trench

Notes:

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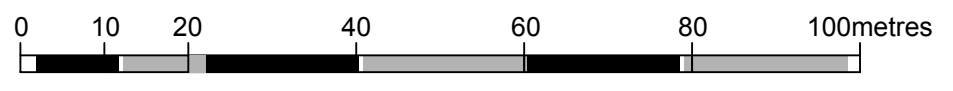
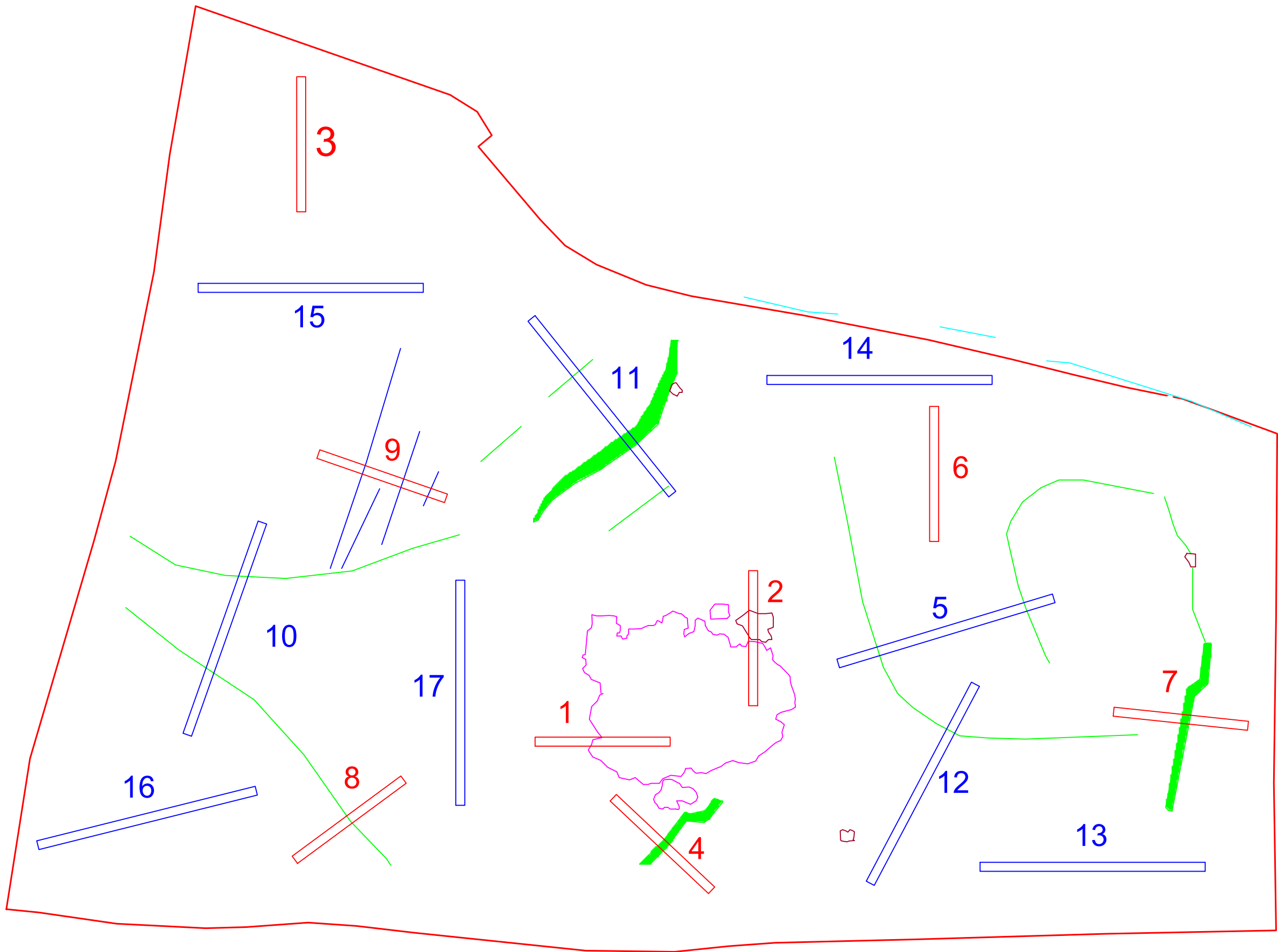
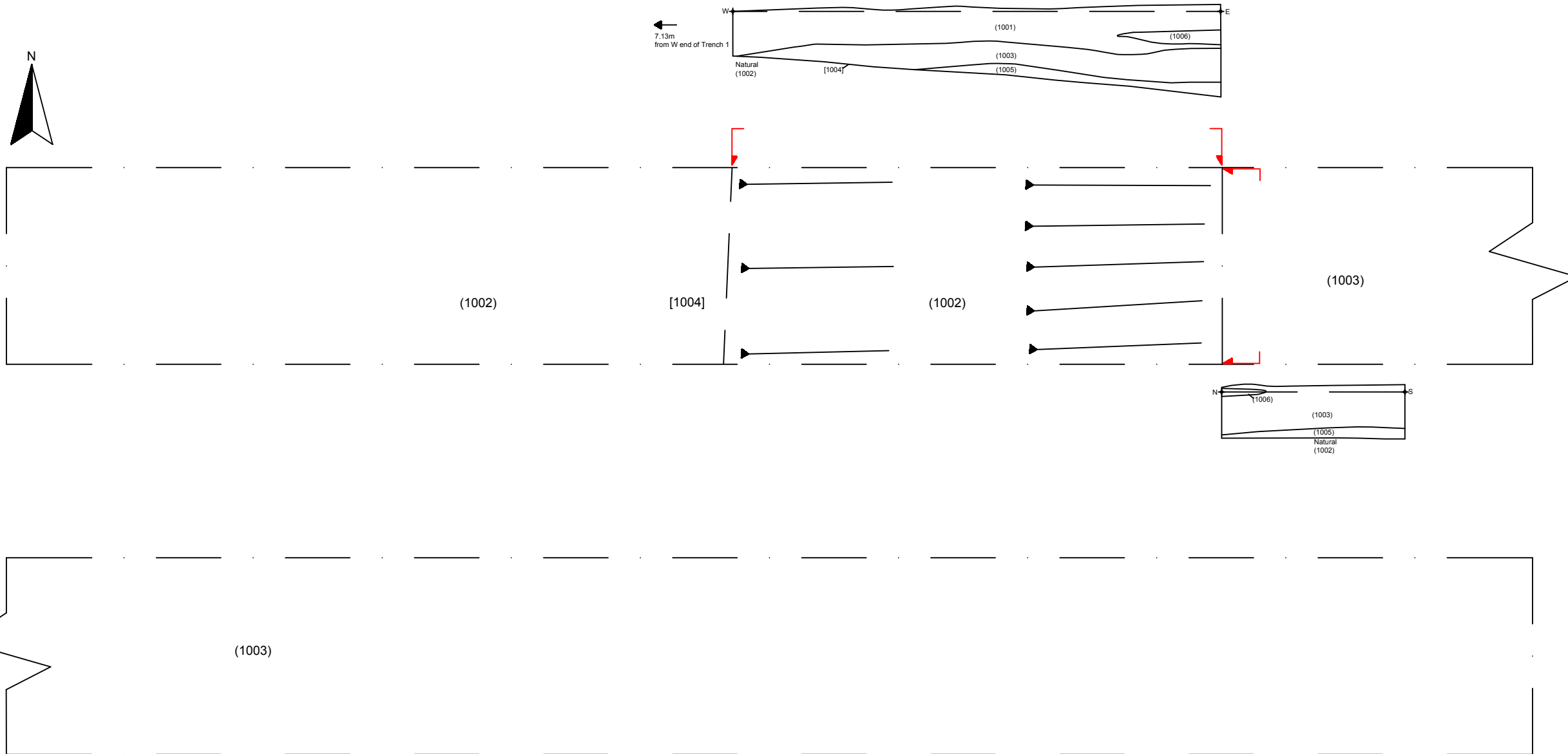


Figure 3: Trench 1 Plans and Sections
Scale: 1:50 @ A3



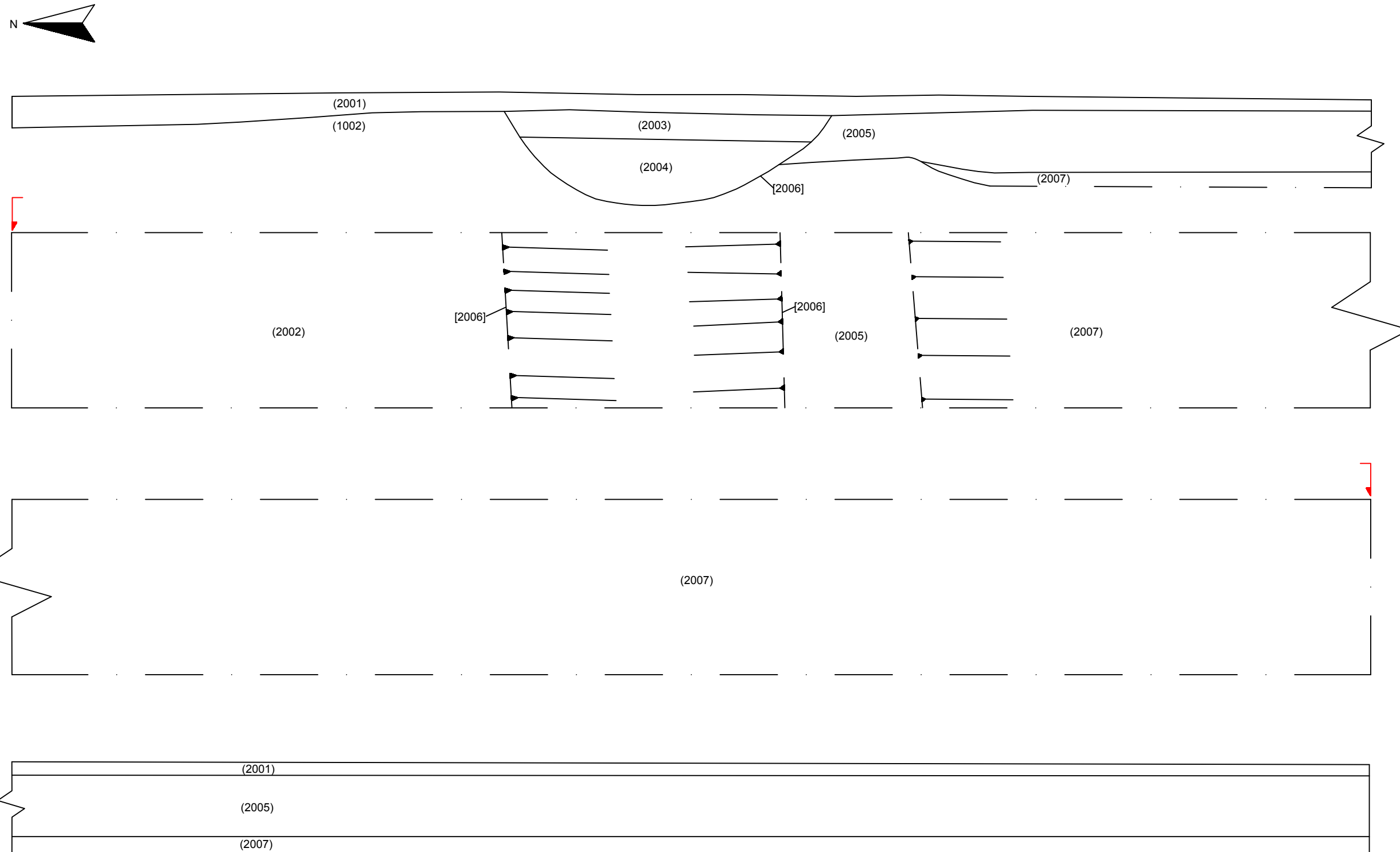
Key:



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Figure 4: Trench 2 Plans and Sections
Scale: 1:50 @ A3



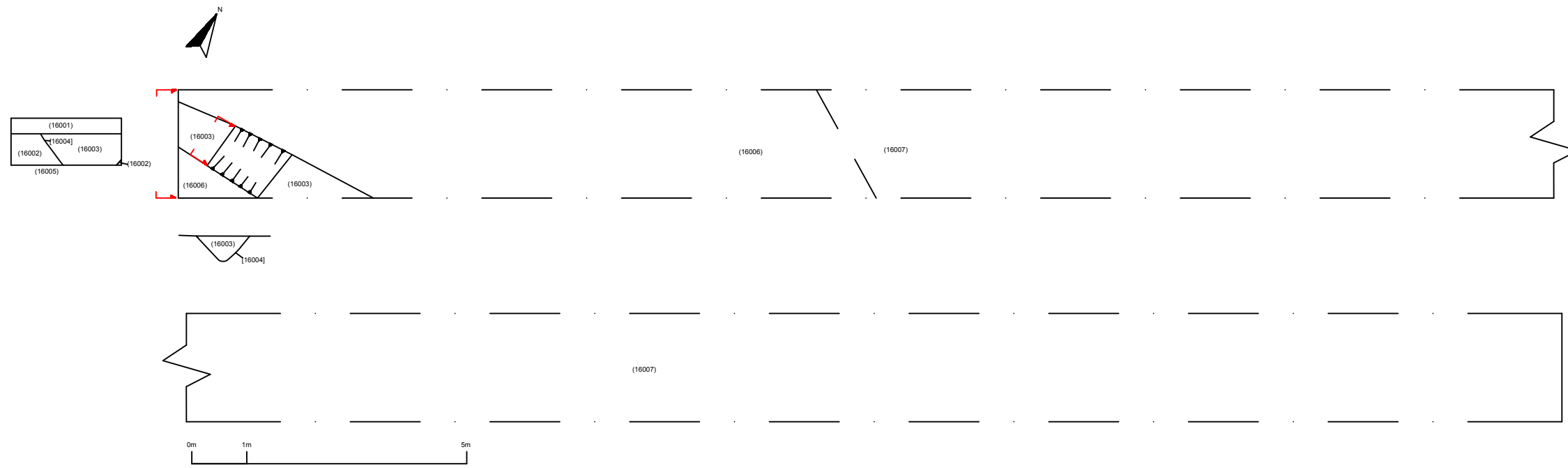
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Figure 5: Trench 16 Plans and Sections
Scale: 1:100 @ A3



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Figure 6: West facing view of Trench 1 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 7: East facing view of Trench 1 and section through F1003 (Scale 1x1m).



Figure 8: West facing section through F1003 (Scale 1m).



Figure 9: South facing section through F1003 (Scale 2m).



Figure 10: North facing view of Trench 2 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 11: West facing section through F2003 (Scale 1x1m).



Figure 12: West faction section through F2003 (Scale 1x1m).



Figure 13: West facing section through F2005 (Scale 1x1m).



Figure 14: North facing view of Trench 3 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 15: Southwest view of Trench 4 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 16: Northeast view over geological chalk pinnacle in Trench 4 (Scale 1m).



Figure 17: Southwest view over Trench 5 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 18: North view over Trench 6 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 19: East view over Trench 7 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 20: Section through plough furrow in Trench 7 (Scale 0.25m).



Figure 21: Section through plough furrow in Trench 7 (Scale 0.25m)



Figure 22: Southwest view over Trench 8 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 23: Southwest view over Trench 9 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 24: North view over Trench 10 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 25: Northwest view over Trench 11 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 26: Southwest view over Trench 12 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 27: East view over Trench 13 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 28: West view over Trench 14 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 29: West view over Trench 15 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 30: North-northeast view over Trench 16 (Scale 2x2m).



Figure 31: South-southeast facing section of F16003 (Scale 1m).



Figure 32: North view over Trench 17 (Scale 2x2m).

Appendix 3 – Written Scheme of Investigation

Land South of Froghall Lane, Walkern, Hertfordshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Excavation



Archaeological Research
Services Ltd

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

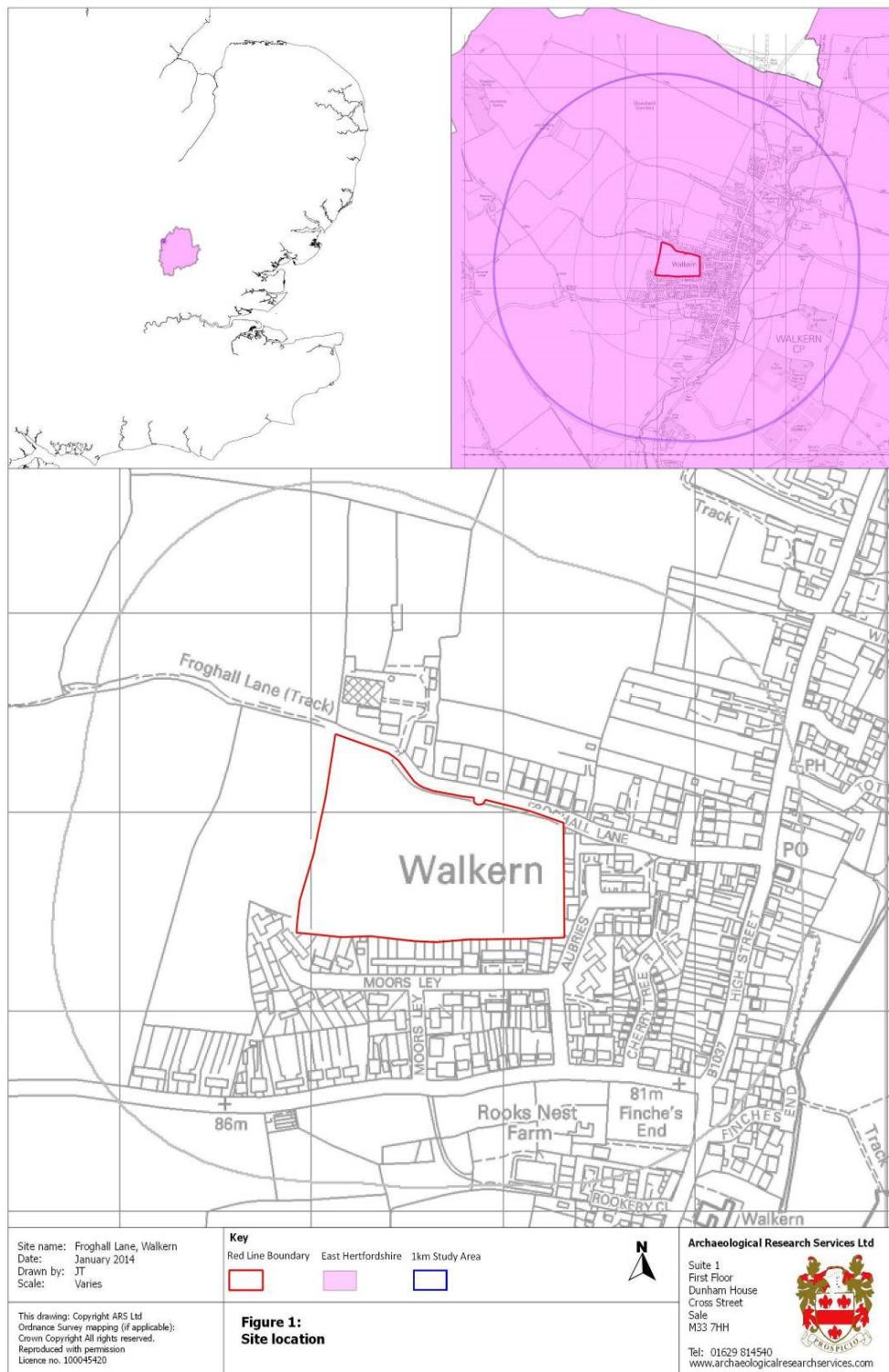
- 1.1.1 This scheme of works relates to the proposed housing development of the Land South of Froghall Lane, Walkern, Hertfordshire SG2 7PH. This Written Scheme of Investigation covers the trenches to be excavated by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) prior to the proposed housing development taking place.
- 1.1.2 Gladman Developments Ltd is preparing a planning application for a proposed housing development at the site. In consultation with the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor, targeted trench evaluations will be carried out on site to assess for potential archaeological remains based on the results of the geophysical (magnetometry) survey.
- 1.1.3 The aim of the programme of work is, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraphs 135, 139 and 141 (CLG 2012), to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost during the proposed development in a manner proportionate to their importance, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.

1.2 Location and Land-Use

- 1.2.1 The site comprises a single agricultural field on the south side of Froghall Lane, Walkern, and is demarcated by hedgerows at the west and north-west edges of the field, and housing to the north, east and south. It is centred at NGR TL285261 (Figure 1) and lies c.5.5km east north-east of Stevenage town centre.
- 1.2.2 The underlying solid geology comprises the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and the Seaford Chalk Formation, except along the southern boundary of the site where superficial Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel overlie the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and the New Pit Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey 2015).

2 Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The site of the proposed development lies immediately west of the historic settlement core of Walkern. An early Bronze Age flint tool (HER no. MHT24866) and 'bronze tools' (HER no. MHT11537) of Bronze Age date have been recovered from the site, and a cropmark (HER no. MHT11223) which may be an enclosure or funerary mound has also been recorded. Prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site is also well attested in the form of aerial photography and



satellite imagery revealing cropmarks of ring ditches and settlement enclosures, ditches and pits. Romano-British occupation is also represented through the recovery of a number of artefacts and a probable villa site (HER no. MHT15808) located c.225m west of the proposed development site.

- 2.2 The presence on site and the proximity of these heritage records suggest that there is potential for below-ground archaeology to survive within the site.
- 2.3 A geophysical survey was carried out to determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological features. In total, 55 30m by 30m survey grids were set out to cover the site of the proposed development.
- 2.4 The survey confirmed the presence of a substantial anomaly which corresponds in terms of size and location to HER no. MHT11223. The remainder of the data is characterized by the presence of a number of positive linear/ curvilinear and discrete anomalies that may be indicative of settlement activity within the survey area. However, with the exception of anomalies 1 to 4, the geophysical response is extremely weak and the anomalies are difficult to interpret with any confidence. Certainly the form of a number of the anomalies, particularly 5 and 6, are suggestive of possible enclosure ditches. The site though, has been heavily ploughed and plough scarring, in addition to accumulations of topsoil, hill wash and colluvium, could be responsible for anomalies in the data.

3 Objectives

- 3.1 The objectives of the programme of work are to recover and record through excavation any potential archaeological features prior to the proposed development taking place.
- 3.2 Achieving these objectives will involve a phased programme of works as follows.
- Targeted trench evaluations to confirm the origin of several potential archaeological features.
 - On completion of the on-site archaeological works, post-excavation analysis, reporting, publication and archiving to be carried out.

4 Excavation Methodology

- 4.1 Within the area of proposed development, which measures c.4.15 hectares in size, 17 trenches will be excavated in order to determine if any potential archaeological remains identified during the geophysical survey exist on the site (see Figure 2 below). Trenches 5 and 10-17 will measure 50m long by 2m wide and trenches 1-4 and 6-9 will measure 30m long by 2m wide.
- 4.2 ARS Ltd will provide suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists to undertake the excavation in accordance with the CIfA (2013a) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* and *Code of Conduct* (2014).
- 4.3 Hard standing, unstratified modern material and topsoil will be removed mechanically by a machine using a wide toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. The topsoil or recent overburden will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits. No machinery will track over the proposed area of development until the area has been signed off by ARS Ltd.
- 4.4 The areas will be appropriately cleaned using hand tools in order to expose the full nature and extent of archaeological features and deposits.

- 4.5 Any features and deposits will be excavated sufficiently to determine their character, stratigraphy and relationship to other features and attempts made to obtain dating evidence.
- 4.6 Isolated, discrete features such as pits and postholes not belonging to structures or industrial activities will be 50% sampled, although if they produce artefacts then provision is made for full excavation.
- 4.7 Limited representative samples of bricks from brick-built structures, and selective products of the brick working process will be retained for specialist analysis where appropriate.
- 4.8 Discovery of any human remains will be reported to the coroner and excavated following receipt of the appropriate Ministry of Justice Guidelines.
- 4.9 All site operations will be carried out in a safe manner in accordance with ARS Ltd's health and safety policy. Deep sections such as those across ditches or pits will be shored as necessary. A risk assessment will be prepared before commencement on site.

Recording

- 4.10 The site will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. The site will be recorded using a single context planning system in accordance with the ARS Ltd field recording manual.
- 4.11 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings will be drawn where required at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales, as appropriate.
- 4.12 The stratigraphy of the site will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 4.13 All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded with above ordnance datum (AOD) levels.
- 4.14 A photographic record of all contexts will be taken using a digital colour camera, and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept. A selection of working shots will be taken to demonstrate how the site was investigated and what the prevailing conditions were like during excavation.
- 4.15 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled.

Finds Processing and Storage

- 4.16 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the CIFA (2013b) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.

- 4.17 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.
- 4.18 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labeling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.
- 4.19 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper). Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.
- 4.20 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.
- 4.21 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.
- 4.22 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

5 Project management

- 5.1 ARS Ltd is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). Registered Organisations are continuously assessed to ensure that the highest standards of work are carried out, in line with the *Code of Conduct* of the CIfA (2014). In addition to our key management staff, who have achieved the highest grade of corporate CIfA membership, many of our field staff also hold corporate grade membership.
- 5.2 All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified and experienced for their respective project roles and have practical experience of geophysical surveying and reporting. All staff will be made aware of the archaeological importance of the area surrounding the site and will be fully briefed on the work required by this specification. Each member of staff will be fully conversant with the aims and methodologies and will be given a copy of this WSI to read. All members of staff employed by ARS Ltd are fully qualified and experienced archaeologists, this will ensure that appropriate decisions regarding excavation and sampling will be made in the field.
- 5.3 *Project Team*
The project team is as follows.
Project Management: Chris Scott (MCIfA)
Fieldwork Project Officer: Joseph Tong (ACIfA), Ben Dyson and Megan

Fletcher-Cutts, or other as may be appointed (ARS Ltd)
Post-fieldwork & reporting: Joseph Tong (ACIfA)
Pottery Specialists: Dr. Clive Waddington (MCIfA), Dr. Robin Holgate (MCIfA),
Ruth Leahy (consultant) and Paul Blinkhorn (consultant)
Struck Flint Specialist: Dr. Clive Waddington or Dr. Robin Holgate (both
MCIfA)
Metalwork Specialist: Dr. Jenny Price or equivalent (Durham University
Conservation Laboratory)
Plant macrofossils and charcoals: Elise McLellan (ARS Ltd)
Pollen: Elise McLellan (ARS Ltd)
Human Remains: Milena Grzybowska (ARS Ltd)
Animal remains: Milena Grzybowska (ARS Ltd)

6 Monitoring arrangements

- 6.1 ARS Ltd will give the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor at least one week's (or less if so agreed) notice of the commencement of fieldwork.
- 6.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor at regular intervals throughout the course of the work to ensure that the project aims and objectives are met.

Alison Tinniswood
Historic Environment Advisor
Natural, Historic and Built Environment Advisory Team
Environmental Resource Planning
Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8DQ
Tel: 01992 555276

- 6.3 The client will afford reasonable access to the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor, or her representative, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological mitigation.

7 Report

- 7.1 Within two months of the completion of the excavation, ARS Ltd will produce a report which will include the following as a minimum.
 - Non-technical summary of the background to the project and the findings of work undertaken
 - Introductory statement
 - Aims and purpose of the project
 - An outline of the methodology employed
 - A location plan showing all excavated areas and any archaeological features with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads

- A descriptive and illustrated developmental account of the excavated and recorded features, including phasing and interpretation of the site sequence
 - Specialist assessment of the various categories of artefacts recovered
 - Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections.
 - Conclusions
 - Recommendations for the retention or discard of archive material
 - Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices
 - Index to archive and details of archive location
 - References
 - Statement of intent regarding publication
 - Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements
 - A copy of the approved scheme of works (WSI)
 - A copy of the OASIS form.
- 7.2 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated immediately before fieldwork commences and, as the project proceeds, information will be added to this record. Key fields will be completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included within the archive).
- 7.3 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record office in unbound and PDF/A format digital copy.

8 Archive deposition

- 8.1 A digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared by ARS Ltd, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data (in a format to be agreed by the appropriate repository museum). The archive will be deposited in line with the CIFA (2013c) *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* and Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993) *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland*, and will be deposited within two months of the completion of the report. The Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor will be notified in writing on completion of the fieldwork with projected dates for the completion of the report and deposition of the archive. The date for deposition of the archive will be confirmed in the report and the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor informed in writing on final deposition of the archive.
- 8.2 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive (see 4.17-5.21 above).
- 8.3 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be deposited with the archive as digital images on a CD- ROM.

9 Changes to Methodology or Work Programme

- 9.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor.

10 Publication

- 10.1 An illustrated report will be submitted to the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor within 2 weeks of completing the trenching.
- 10.2 If significant archaeological remains are recorded, an illustrated report of the project will, in consult with the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor, be submitted within 2 years of the completion of the project for publication in an appropriate archaeological publication.

11 References

British Geological Survey. 2013. Geology of Britain viewer. Available online at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [Accessed 13th January 2015].

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2013a. *The Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2013b. *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

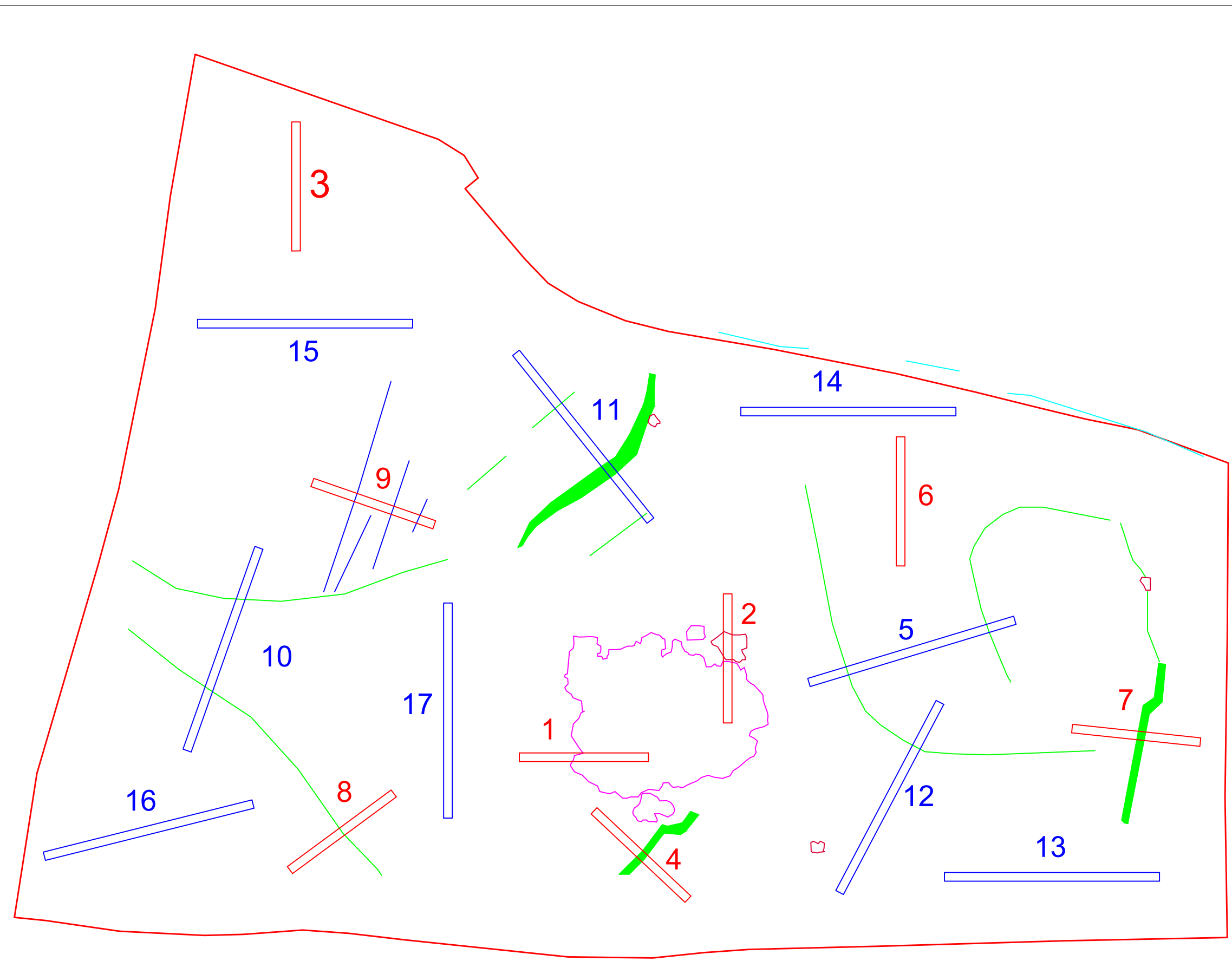
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Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2104. *Code of Conduct*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

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United Kingdom Institute for Conservation. 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.



Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Angel House
Portland Square
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1HB

Date: December 2014
Drawn: RD
Scale: As Shown

Land South of Froghall Lane,
Walkern, Hertfordshire.
Draft Evaluation Trench Plan

Key:
50m x 2m Evaluation Trench
30m x 2m Evaluation Trench

Notes:

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Appendix 4 – Oasis Report

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol5-203517

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | Land South of Froghall Lane, Walkern, Hertfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation |
| Short description of the project | In January 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Gladman Developments to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Froghall Lane, Walkern, Hertfordshire. Gladman Developments Ltd is preparing a planning application for a proposed housing development at the site. In consultation with the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor, targeted trench evaluations were carried out in order to determine the presence of any archaeological constraints that may impact upon the proposed development. |
| Project dates | Start: 19-01-2015 End: 11-02-2015 |
| Previous/future work | Yes / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | 2014/7 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | 2014/137 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m |
| Monument type | DITCH Roman |
| Monument type | DUMP Modern |
| Significant Finds | TEGULA Roman |
| Methods & techniques | "Targeted Trenches" |
| Development type | Housing estate |
| Prompt | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF |
| Position in the planning process | Pre-application |

Project location

Country England

Site location HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE WALKERN Land South of Froghall Lane
Postcode SG2 7PH
Study area 4.17 Hectares
Site coordinates TL 285 261 51.9181294753 -0.131348204569 51 55 05 N 000 07 52 W Point

Entered by Joseph Tong (joseph@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)
Entered on 11 February 2015

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

Appendix 5 – Hertfordshire HER Summary Sheet

HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

| | | |
|---|-------------------|---|
| Site name and address: Land South of Froghall Lane, Walkern, Hertfordshire Walkern, Hertfordshire SG2 7PH | | |
| County: Hertfordshire | | District: East Hertfordshire |
| Village/Town: Walkern | | Parish: Walkern |
| Planning application reference: 3/14/2200/OP | | |
| HER Enquiry reference: - | | |
| Funding source: Developer | | |
| Nature of application: Proposed housing development | | |
| Present land use: Ploughed arable field | | |
| Size of application area: 4.17ha | | Size of area investigated: 17 Trenches |
| NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 28526 26158 | | |
| Site code (if applicable): WLK15 | | |
| Site director/Organization: Joseph Tong / Archaeological Research Services Ltd | | |
| Type of work Evaluation Trenching | | |
| Date of work: | Start: 19/01/2015 | Finish: 28/01/2015 |
| Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Stevenage Museum, St Georges Way, Stevenage, SG1 1XX Accession Number: STEVM2015.3. | | |
| Related HER Nos: MHT11223 | | Periods represented: Unstratified Neolithic/BA/IA Flint Find Roman and Post-Medieval Features |
| Relevant previous summaries/reports Tong, J. 2014. <i>An Historic Desk Based Assessment of Land South of Froghall Lane, Walkern, Hertfordshire</i> . Unpublished Report: ARS No. 2014/7. Durkin, R. 2014. <i>Land South of Froghall Lane, Walkern, Hertfordshire: Report on a Geophysical Survey</i> . Unpublished Report: ARS No. 2014/137. | | |
| Summary of fieldwork results: Evidence recovered during the excavation of 17 evaluation trenches which found a Romano-British period ditch, possibly connected with a concentration of Romano-British findspots and structure to the west of the proposed development area. The evaluation also identified an episode of the deposition of 20 th century construction debris possibly connected with 20 th century construction of housing to the south of Froghall Lane. The evaluation has provided a chronological narrative of the site ranging from the Romano-British period century to the 20 th century. | | |
| Author of summary: Joseph Tong | | Date of summary: 04/03/2015 |