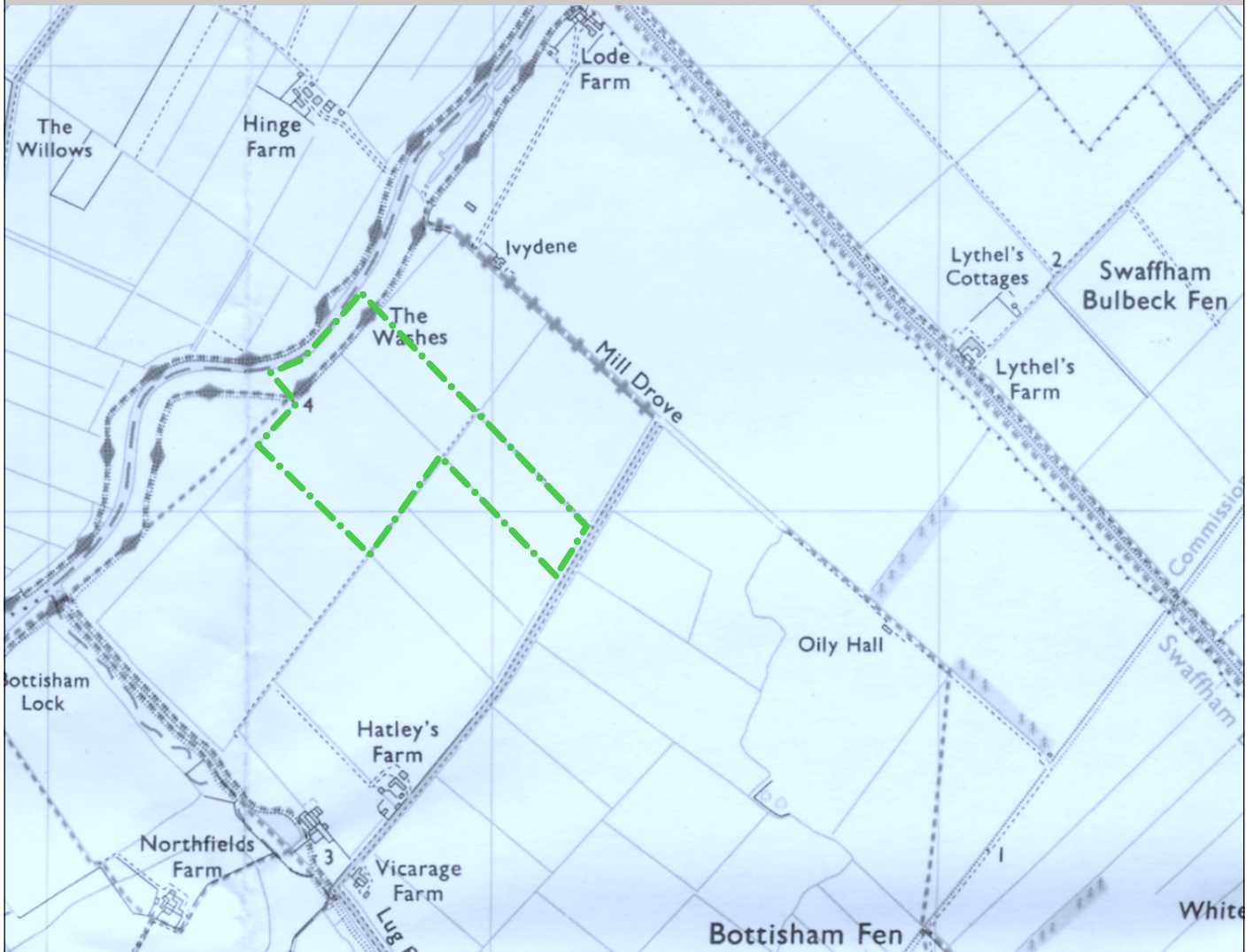


# HERITAGE NETWORK



## LAND NW OF LUG FEN DROVEWAY Lode, Cambridgeshire

HN706

*Archaeological Monitoring Report*



# *THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD*

*Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation*

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

## LAND NW OF LUG FEN DROVEWAY Lode, Cambridgeshire

HN706

ECB2872

### *Archaeological Monitoring Report*

*Prepared on behalf of Larry Legatt*

by

Mark Winter, BSc, PgDip

Report no. 449

*February 2008*

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*The cover illustration shows the site location*

## Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Mark Winter. The report text and illustrations were prepared by Mark Winter. The report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Larry Leggatt; Tony Hill, Hill groundworkers; Kasia Gdaniec and the staff of Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

## Summary

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Land NW of Lug Fen Droveaway, Lode, Cambs		
<b>County:</b>	Cambridgeshire	<b>District:</b>	East Cambridgeshire
<b>Village/town:</b>	Lode	<b>Parish:</b>	Lode
<b>Planning reference:</b>	07/00823/FUM	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 5210 6693
<b>Client name and address:</b>	Larry Leggatt,		
<b>Nature of work:</b>	New buildings	<b>Former land use:</b>	Arable land
<b>Site status:</b>	None	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Direction of local planning authority (PPG 16)
<b>Position in planning process:</b>	After full determination (as a condition)	<b>Project brief originator:</b>	Local authority
<b>Size of affected area:</b>	c.19240m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>	c.254m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Site Code:</b>	HN706	<b>Other reference:</b>	ECB2872
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Project type, methods etc.:</b>	Archaeological monitoring	<b>Archive recipient:</b>	Cambs Council Heritage Services
<b>Start of work</b>	12/12/2007	<b>Finish of work</b>	12/12/2007
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	n/a	<b>Periods represented:</b>	n/a
<b>Oasis UID</b>	Heritage1-36076	<b>Significant finds:</b>	No significant finds
<b>Monument types:</b>	n/a		
<b>Physical archive:</b>	n/a		
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	n/a		

In response to a condition on the planning permission for construction of 3 buildings and installation of a septic tank at Land NW of Lug Fen Droveaway, Lode, Cambridgeshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Larry Leggatt to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks.

Despite the site's proximity to known archaeology within 1000m of the site, and evidence of activity from the Mesolithic through to the post-medieval periods, no cut features, deposits or artefacts were encountered from any period during this project, and no unstratified artefacts were recovered from the spoil.

# 1. Introduction

**1.1** This report has been prepared on the behalf of *Larry Leggatt Esq*, as part of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of development works at Land NW of Lug Fen Droveaway, Lode, Cambridgeshire.

**1.2** The investigation was a requirement of the planning consent granted by the East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC), under the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990), for the development (planning ref 07/00823/FUM). The extent of the work was defined in *Model Archaeological Brief* prepared by the *Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice* (CAPCA) section of Cambridge County Council, acting as archaeological advisers to the ECDC. The work followed the specification set out in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design dated November 2007.

**1.3** The site, centred on NGR TL 5210 6693, is situated 3.3km NNW of Lode, and 600m NE of Hatley's Farm. The site lies in the fenland just above Ordnance Datum. The development proposes the creation of three concrete rafts to provide bases for sectional and temporary buildings, and the excavation of a pit to house a septic tank and its ancillary equipment (Figure 2).

**1.4** The aim of the monitoring programme has been to identify and record any archaeological features and deposits which might have been uncovered, and to retrieve artefactual and ecofactual elements which would allow the date, character, and significance of the site to be assessed in accordance with current regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000), and subject to the limitations of reasonable safety and practicality.

**1.5** The present report describes the findings of the monitoring programme and is intended, together with the deposition of the site archive with Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store, to complete the requirements of the planning condition.

## 2. Fieldwork

### TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

**2.1** The site lies on level ground bounded by Lug Fen Droveaway to the southeast and the River Cam to the northwest. The site area covers approximately 19240m<sup>2</sup>, of which approximately 254m<sup>2</sup> required archaeological monitoring.

**2.2** The soils of the area belong to the Adventurers' 1 Association (1024a) which are described as being "Deep peat soils. Flat land. Groundwater levels often controlled by ditches and pumps, some undrained areas. Risk of wind erosion". The underlying natural geology of the area is Fen peat (SSEW 1983).

### METHODOLOGY

**2.3** The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's groundwork schedule. A single site visit was made to supervise ground reduction, and the excavation of a septic tank.

**2.4** A 360° tracked excavator with a toothless bucket was used for the excavations and spoil from the groundwork was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

**2.5** The project was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the *Design Brief*, current health and safety legislation, IFA and ALGAO standards, and with the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*.

### MONITORING AND RECORDING

#### *Site Stratigraphy*

**2.6** The stratigraphy on the site consisted of c.0.5m of black peat topsoil, overlying a white silty sand natural with yellow mottling.

#### *Ground reduction*

**2.7** Three areas were reduced by 0.20m to 0.40m to provide a surface for construction. These measured 121.8m<sup>2</sup>, 37m<sup>2</sup> and 95.48m<sup>2</sup> and did not breach the topsoil.

#### *Septic tank pit*

**2.8** A single pit measuring approximately 1.70m wide by 2.30m deep was reduced by 1.60m for a septic tank.

**2.9** No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were encountered during any of the groundworks. No unstratified finds were recovered from any of the spoil.

### 3. Discussion & Conclusion

**3.1** The development lies within a documented archaeological landscape (Figure 1). Research for the Fenland Survey has shown that the prehistoric alignment of the River Cam crosses the north-western half of the property and that the development area itself lies in the prehistoric fen (Hall, 1996). The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that mesolithic (HER 06523, 06525) and neolithic axes (HER06391, 06505, 06521, 06529, 06838) have been found in various locations within 1000m of the development area, as well as Neolithic flint implements and pottery (HER11547) and a long barrow (HER11549). A Bronze Age beaker (HER06528) and Iron Age brooch (HER06526) have also been recorded. The property falls within the Roman and medieval fen (Hall, 1996) and the HER shows that Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery has been retrieved from close to the development area, possibly deriving from an C18th rubbish dump (HER06467, 06467A). Further Roman finds have been recorded along Swaffham Bulbeck Lode, possibly deriving from a sunken Roman barge (HER06533).

**3.2** This area has previously been ploughed which can result in the movement of archaeological artefacts towards the surface. Unfortunately this was not the case here and no unstratified artefacts were recovered. The area of the new septic tank had potential for revealing archaeological features. Again this unfortunately was not the case and no archaeological features or deposits were uncovered.

**3.3** This study has revealed that the site has a 0.50m thick layer of peat over sand. A belt of sand 150m wide is known to exist along the edge of the deeper part of the Cam valley while peat is the only known Flandrian deposit (Hall, 108). This survives to a depth of over 1m in the lowest part of the fen near the Cam and would have provided a Fen edge resource for nearby early prehistoric sites (Hall, 108).

**3.4** During the programme of groundworks no archaeological cut features or deposits were encountered, and no unstratified artefacts were recovered.

#### *Conclusion*

**3.5** Overall this site had potential for producing unstratified finds from all excavated areas while the site of the septic tank had the additional potential to reveal archaeological features and deposits. Unfortunately this was not the case although due to the quantity of remains already recovered from the area this site should still be considered as having archaeological potential.

#### *Confidence Rating*

**3.6** The conditions were generally good for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. There were no circumstances that would lead to a confidence rating for the work that was less than High.



## 4. Schedule of Site Visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
12/12/2007	MW	9	Monitor excavations

## 5. Bibliography

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Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 *Soil Map Sheet 4, Eastern England, Scale 1:250,000*

## 6. Illustrations

Figure 1 ..... Site Location and HER Plot

Figure 2 ..... Site Layout

Plate 1 ..... Area 1

Plate 2 ..... Area 2

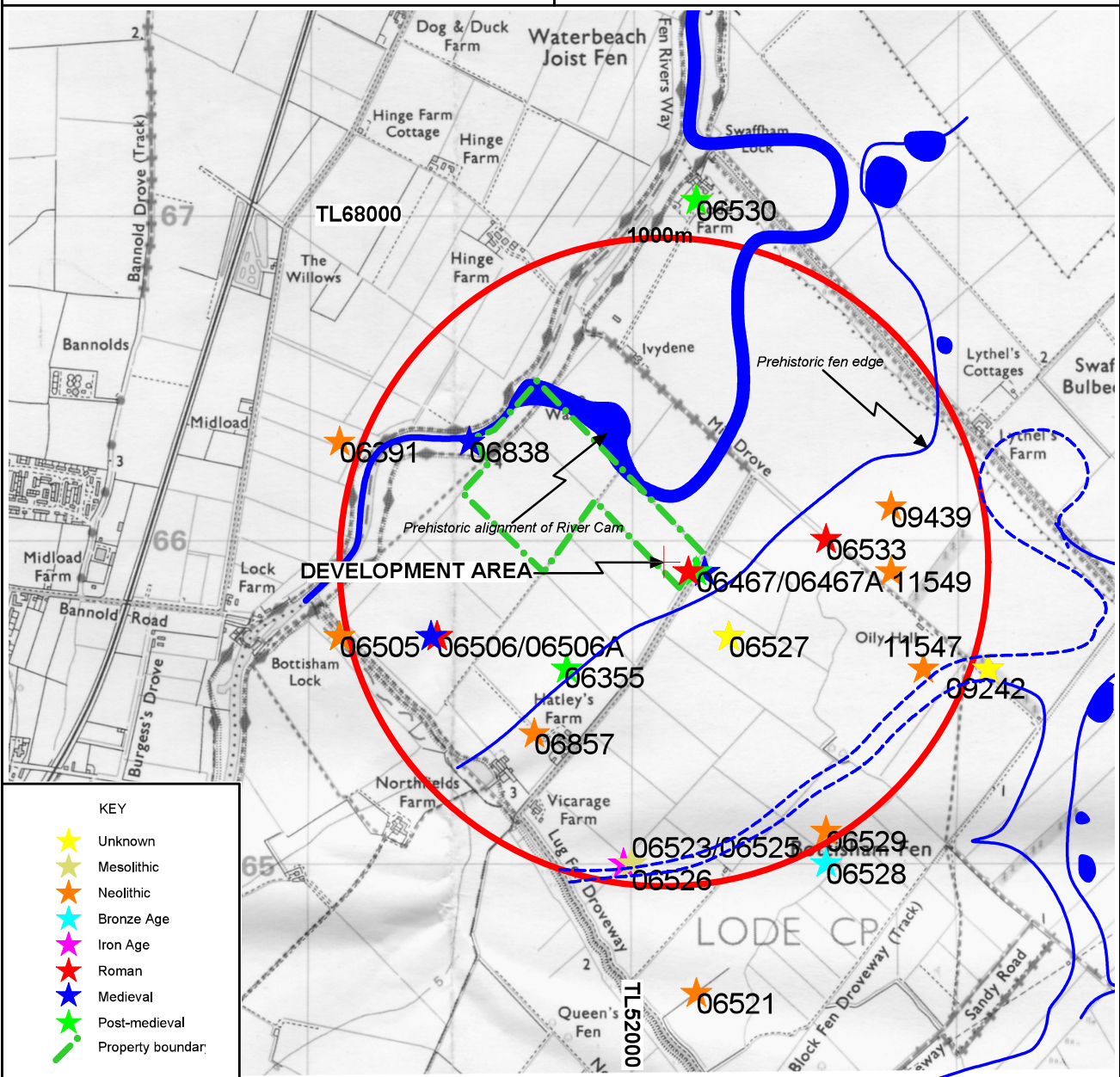
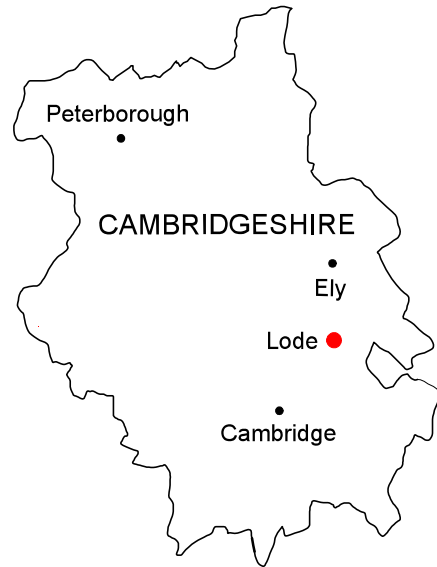
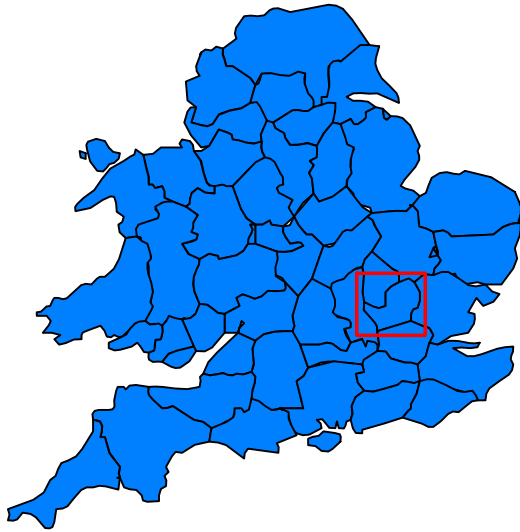
Plate 3 ..... Area 3

Plate 4 ..... Tank pit

## Appendix

<b>OASIS ID: heritage1-36076</b>	
<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	
Project name	Land NW of Lug Fen Droveaway, Lode, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	In response to a condition on the planning permission for the construction of three temporary buildings and the installation of a septic tank at Land NW of Lug Fen Droveaway, Lode, Cambridgeshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks.  Despite the site's proximity to known archaeology within 1000m of the site, and evidence of activity from the Mesolithic through to the post-medieval period, no cut features, deposits or artefacts were encountered from any period during this project, and no unstratified artefacts were recovered from the spoil.
Project dates	Start: 12-12-2007 End: 12-12-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
Associated project codes	HN706, ECB2872
Type of project	Watching Brief
Site status	none
Development type	Temporary buildings
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE East Cambridgeshire Lode Land NW of Lug Fen Droveaway
Site coordinates	TL 5210 6693 Point
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	LPA (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	David Hillelson
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Mark Winter
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Physical Contents	None
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	None
Paper Media available	'Diary', 'Drawing', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report',
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY 1</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to the NW of Lug Fen Droveaway
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Winter, M.
Other bibliographic details	Report No. 449
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth, Hertfordshire
Description	A4 booklet, green cover, 12 pages, comb bound
Entered by	Helen Ashworth: hma@heritagenetwork.co.uk
Entered on	3 March 2008

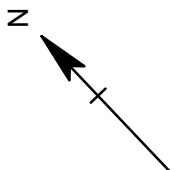
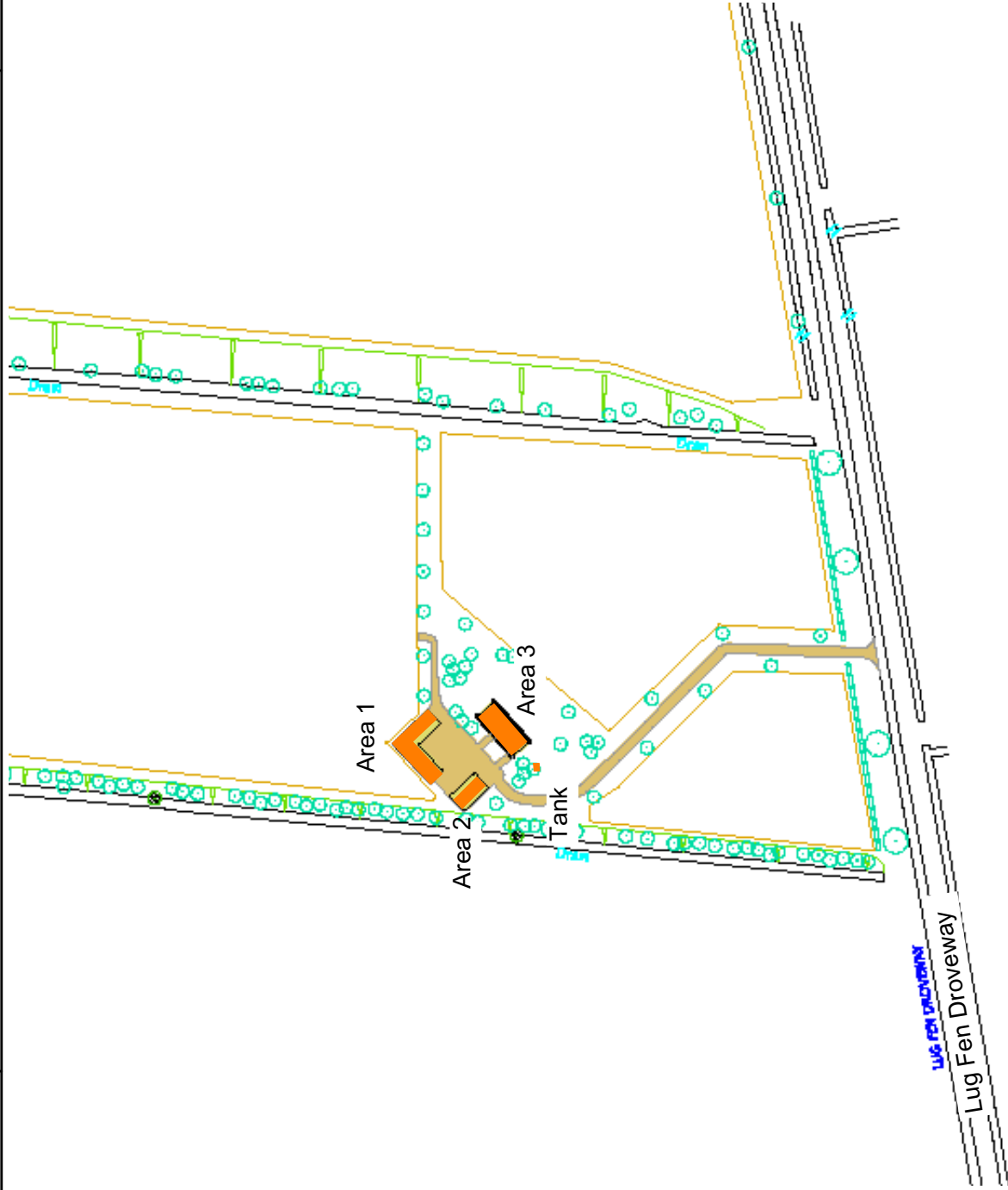




KEY	
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<span style="color: orange;">★</span>	Mesolithic
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<span style="color: green;">★</span>	Post-medieval
<span style="color: green;">—</span>	Property boundary

Site Location and HER Plot

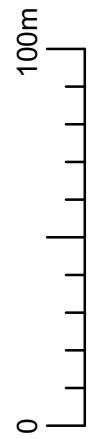
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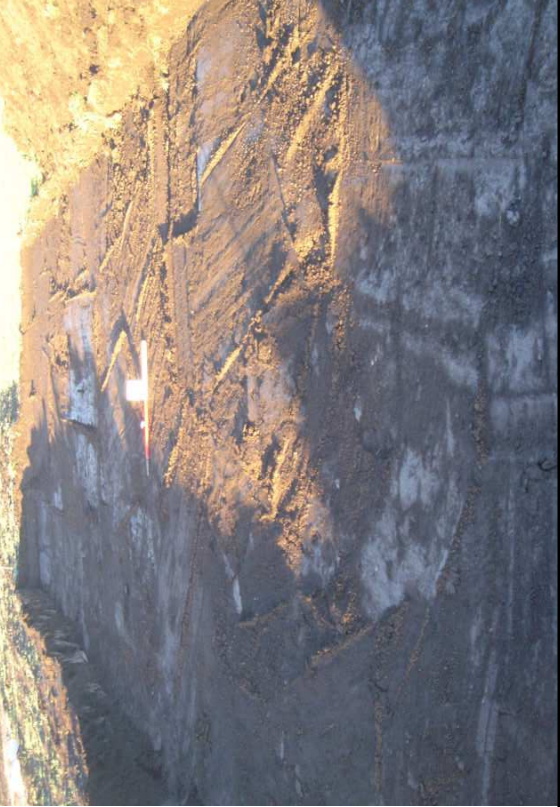

Key



Excavated areas





THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land NW of Lug Fen Droveaway, Lode	HN706	
		<p>Plate 1: Area 1, looking southeast</p>	<p>Plate 2: Area 2, looking east</p>
		<p>Plate 3: Area 3, looking north</p> <p>Plate 4: Tank area, looking south west</p>	