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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**LAND ADJACENT TO 65a MILL ROAD,  
ELLINGHAM, NORFOLK**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

Authors: Peter Thompson MA (Desk-based assessment) Adam Dyson BA (Fieldwork & report)	
NGR: TM 3674 9245	Report No: 3894
District: South Norfolk	Site Code: ENF126979
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: P4460
Signed:	Date: August 2011



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Archaeological Solutions Ltd, 98-100 Fore Street, Hertford, SG14 1AB.  
Tel: 01992 558170 Fax: 01992 553359 E-mail: info@ascontracts.co.uk  
Web: www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk  
Registered Number: 4702122

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Land adjacent to 65a Mill Road, Ellingham, Norfolk</i>		
<i>In July and August 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land adjacent to 65a Mill Road, Ellingham, Norfolk ahead of a planned proposal to build new housing (South Norfolk District Council Planning Ref. 2010/2220/F: HES Ref. CNF 42905) (TM 3674 9245).</i>			
<i>Cropmarks of a 22m diameter double ring ditch with a possible central grave pit have been identified approximately 80-100m south-east of the site (NHER 40646: NGR 3683 9233). The site is also located within a fairly extensive area of medieval, post-medieval and undated cropmarks of field boundaries, ditches, a trackway and an undated rectangular enclosure (NHER 45017: NGR 3657 9226). The tithe map shows that a house stood on the site within a rectangular enclosure with another house immediately to the west (Fig 3).</i>			
<i>The monitoring revealed early medieval agricultural features, including boundary ditches, and a post medieval and/or early modern property boundary.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>19<sup>th</sup> July – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4460</i>	Site code	<i>ENF126979</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Agriculture</i>		
Planned development	<i>Affordable Housing</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Medieval pits and ditches; and 19<sup>th</sup> Century building remains</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)			
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>South Norfolk</i>	<i>Ellingham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk HER (NHER) Ken Hamilton</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>NR35 2PY</i>		
Area of site	<i>0.22ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TM 3674 9245</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>Approximately 5m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (Ken Hamilton)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Adam Dyson</i>		
Funded by	<i>South Norfolk District Council</i>		
Full title	<i>Land adjacent to 65a Mill Road, Ellingham, Norfolk, archaeological monitoring and recording.</i>		
Authors	<i>Thompson P, Dyson A</i>		
Report no.	<i>3894</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>August 2011</i>		

# LAND ADJACENT TO 65a MILL ROAD, ELLINGHAM, NORFOLK

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

### **SUMMARY**

*In July and August 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land adjacent to 65a Mill Road, Ellingham, Norfolk (TM 3674 9245) in advance of the proposed construction of a new housing development with associated landscaping and parking (South Norfolk District Council Planning Ref. 2010/2220/F). The SMS was undertaken following advice from Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (HES).*

*Cropmarks of a 22m diameter double ring ditch with a possible central burial pit had been previously identified approximately 80-100m south-east of the site (NHER 40646: NGR 3683 9233). The site is also located within a fairly extensive area of medieval, post-medieval and undated cropmarks of field boundaries, ditches, a trackway and an undated rectangular enclosure (NHER 45017: NGR 3657 9226).*

*The monitoring revealed early medieval agricultural features, including boundary ditches, and a post medieval and/or early modern property boundary.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In July 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land adjacent to 65a Mill Road, Ellingham, Norfolk in advance of the proposed construction of seven new houses with associated landscaping and parking (South Norfolk District Council Planning Ref. 2010/2220/F).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES) (Ken Hamilton 20/6/2011) and a Written Scheme of Investigation compiled by Archaeological Solutions (27/6/2011), and approved by NCC HES. The original brief was for a strip, map and sample excavation with the objective of determining the presence of any archaeological features obscured by the topsoil and any subsoils. This was to be followed by consultation with the Historic Environment Service prior to excavation of a representative sample of any archaeological features revealed. However on commencement of the project it became apparent that the investigation area would need to be excavated to a depth of approximately 1m in order to reveal archaeological horizons. Given that excavation to this depth would require a redesign of the buildings' foundations, further consultation with

Norfolk Landscape Archaeology was sought. The original brief was altered to a programme of monitoring and recording; whereby the excavation of all construction groundworks likely to affect buried archaeological was monitored by AS, with any archaeological features excavated and recorded as they were revealed.

## **Planning policy context**

1.3 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 - 2)**

2.1 Ellingham is located in Norfolk on the A143 between Great Yarmouth and Bury St Edmunds. It lies close to the Suffolk border and is 4km north-east of Bungay and 6km north-west of Diss. The site lies on the west side of the main part of the village in an open field bordering Mill Road. To the east is a lane and houses, and across the road to the north is another lane and a large wildfowl farm.

## **3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based assessment)**

### **3.1 Archaeological databases**

The Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) was consulted in order to identify any local archaeological finds or remains in the area that might be affected by the development. Those sites of relevance are described below (4.2)

## 4 THE EVIDENCE

### 4.1 Topography, geology and soils (Fig. 1)

4.1.1 The site is located at 5m AOD within the Waveney Valley with the river located approximately 750m to the south. The site is close to the interface between two soil types comprising either non-alluvial loamy or clayey soils with a weathered calcareous subsoil, or earthy sulphuric organic peat soils which are normally drained with a well aerated and structured, relatively firm surface horizon containing few recognizable plant remains. The underlying geology consists of Upper Cretaceous Chalk.

### 4.2 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 3)

#### *Palaeolithic to Iron Age <500,000 BC to AD 43*

4.2.1 Several find spots of Neolithic polished stone axes have been found within 1km of the site mainly to the east (NHER 10656: NGR 3791 9239, NHER 12193: NGR 3753 9201, NHER 35910: NGR 3781 9158, NHER 10667: NGR 3592 9237). Cropmarks of a double ring ditch have been identified from aerial photography approximately 80-100m south-south-east of the site (NHER 40646: NGR 3683 9233). The cropmarks indicate a sub-circular to sub-oval plan with a narrow ditch and maximum external diameter of 22m. The inner ditch is off centre to the outer ditch with a maximum external diameter of 15m. There is an elongated pit in the centre possibly representing a grave, the potential barrow is located towards the bottom of the Waveney Valley at approximately 4m AOD. Two more ring ditches are inferred from crop marks situated 500m north-west of the site, these are 24m and 25m across respectively with 2m wide ditches (NHER 36362: NGR 3615 9269). A fourth ring ditch and a probable prehistoric enclosure were excavated prior to creation of a lake and quarry some 800m to the north-west (NHER 36050: NGR 35816 92584). Worked flint and Iron Age pottery were among the finds recovered. Other possible ring ditches have been noted further afield.

#### *Romano-British 43-410*

4.2.2 Romano-British mortaria kilns were identified 1.5km to the south-east (NHER 11843: NGR 3787 9156) and crop marks of a possible field system are located a similar distance west of the site (NHER 36363: 3520 9193).

#### *Anglo-Saxon*

4.2.3 No Anglo-Saxon remains are known from within approximately 1km of the site.

### *Medieval & Post-medieval 1066-1900*

4.2.4 The site is located within a fairly extensive area of medieval, post-medieval and undated cropmarks of field boundaries, linear and curvilinear ditches, trackway and an undated rectangular enclosure (NHER 45017: NGR 3657 9226). These are a continuation of field systems further to the east which include a possible polygonal enclosure (NHER 45192: NGR 3728 9215), while a similar group of cropmarks are located further north (NHER 14687: 3652 9255). Cropmarks of further post-medieval enclosures are located 250m to the north which are thought to date to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century after the parish was enclosed (NHER 45005: NGR 3671 9276). There is a large number of other cropmarks and earthworks further afield to the north-east and north-west which are indicative of possible house platforms, enclosures and field systems of medieval, post-medieval or unknown date. Human remains, undated but suggested as medieval, were uncovered from rabbit burrowing at John Williams House, Station Road some 550m south-west of the site (NHER 45363: NGR 36239 92183).

4.2.5 Church Farm House located approximately 450m south-west of the site is a Grade II listed building (NHER 48453: NGR 37202 92167). Late medieval/early post-medieval pottery was dug from the garden at a depth of nearly 1m (NHER 25533: 3711 9218). A windmill is shown on the first edition OS map some 250m to the east of the site along Mill Road (NHER 49117: 36934 92514). A WWII pill box is located beneath the road bridge 550m south of the site (NHER 12668: 3660 9200), and a WWII military petrol storage depot is situated 700m south-east of the site (NHER 44956: NGR 3727 9184).

## **4.3 CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

4.3.1 The c.1840 tithe map shows that the site was originally located in a small enclosure containing a house or building in the centre and another to the west end (Fig. 3). There is a field boundary running south from the lane to the east. The c.1884 first edition OS map (Fig. 4) shows that the house is now gone but the western building remains. There are more field boundaries to the south-east and the Corn Mill is shown to the east (NHER 49117). The 1946 OS map shows that the house to the west and enclosure are gone, as is the field boundary running south from the lane (Fig. 5).

## **5 METHODOLOGY (Monitoring and Recording)**

5.1 The excavation of overburden across site, and the foundations for seven houses were archaeologically monitored. Foundations were excavated at a width of 0.60m for exterior walls and 0.45m for interior walls. Depths varied but were approximately 1m from the original ground level. This was followed by the excavation of three soakaways, one to the rear of the dwellings (60 x 1.8 x c.1m),

and two at the front of the dwellings (18 x 2.20 x c.1.30m). All excavation was undertaken using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

5.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using pro forma recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.

## **6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 6, 7 & 8)**

Works on site comprised the reduction of topsoil across an area encompassing the footprints of all seven houses. This was followed by the excavations of foundation trenches for the houses. Two soakaway pits were also excavated to the north-west of the house plots, and a third to the south-east.

### **6.1 Ground reduction**

The initial stage of topsoil excavation was a process of ground reduction and levelling across an area encompassing the footprints of all seven proposed houses. The ground level over an area measuring 76m x 10.5m was reduced by approximately 0.50m prior to the excavation of foundations. During this stage of work archaeological finds were recovered from the Topsoil (L1000) and Subsoil (L1001). These finds included pottery dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (Pottery Report, Appendix 3).

#### *6.1.1 Description of features*

Masonry remains, M1003, were revealed towards the western end of the southern boundary of the development area during topsoil excavation (Fig. 6). M1003 comprised a deposit of brickwork within a foundation deposit (DP 5). The bricks were soft red bricks, a sample was taken for analysis and shown to be locally produced, dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century (CBM Report, Appendix 3). The brickwork was roughly embedded within a mid blue grey, compact clay with occasional large chalk and frequent chalk flecks, L1004, measuring 0.50 long and 0.40m wide. This deposit may represent the remains of one of the structures shown on the 19<sup>th</sup> century maps.

### **6.2 Foundations**

#### *6.2.1 Sample Sections*

Three sample sections of the complete stratigraphy were recorded during the excavation of foundations. The results are tabulated below:



## Sample Section 1 (Fig. 6 &amp; 7, DP 2)

<i>East end of site (plot 1), south south-east facing (1.40m length)</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey brown, friable silty sand with occasional small and medium stones.
0.36 – 0.86m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid yellow brown, friable silty sand with occasional small and medium stones and occasional chalk flecks.
0.86 – 1.04m+	L1002	Natural. Light yellow and orange, compact sand and gravel.

## Sample Section 2 (Fig. 6 &amp; 8, DP 3)

<i>East end of site (plot 1), north north-west facing (1m length)</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.40 – 0.96m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.96 – 1.04m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

## Sample Section 3 (Fig. 6 &amp; 8, DP 3)

<i>West end of site (plot 7), east north-east facing (1m length)</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30 – 0.60m	Modern truncation	Layer. Mixture of mid grey brown silty sand and yellow sand.
0.60 – 0.80m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

## 6.2.2 Additional description of deposits

Topsoil, L1000, was a dark grey brown, friable silty sand with occasional small and medium stones. It was an average of 0.38m deep across site. Six sherds of 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered from this layer.

Subsoil, L1001, was a mid yellow brown, friable silty sand with occasional small and medium stones and occasional chalk flecks. It was largely undisturbed by modern activity. This was particularly apparent at the eastern end of the site where this layer was deepest. At the west end of the site L1001 was very shallow, the natural gravels occurred at a shallower depth and the area had suffered extensive modern truncation which did not extend to the eastern end of the site. Eight sherds of pottery dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> century were recovered from this layer.

The majority of finds recovered from L1001 were from the eastern end of site. This distribution of finds suggests greater activity, or at least better artefact survival, at the relatively undisturbed eastern end of the site. This deposit divides the archaeology recorded on site into features which had already fallen out of use prior to its deposition; and those which were dug after its deposition.

Towards the east end of Soakaway 1 (Fig. 6, Section 6.3 below) L1001 contained a concentration of animal bone; no archaeological feature was present, suggesting this was simply a dumped deposit which occurred during the formation of subsoil L1001.

### 6.2.3 Description of features

Nine features were recorded representing two broad stratigraphic phases of activity. Phase 1 comprised features which are sealed by L1001. These were not visible until the natural sand and gravel horizon, L1002, was exposed. Phase 2 comprised the activity represented by those features which post-date the deposition of subsoil layer L1001. These phases are described below, with the stratigraphically most recent described first.

#### Phase 2 Features

Feature	Type	Dimensions (m)			Fill
		L	W	D	
F1012	Ditch	71+	1.3	0.6	L1013
M1016	Wall				n/a
F1017	Pit	9	1.6	0.54	L1018
F1019	Pit	1	0.8	0.68	L1020
F1021	Pit	0.5	0.2	0.63	L1022

Ditch F1012 was linear in plan, oriented north-east to south-west and varied in both depth and width. It ran almost the entire length of the house footprint area, and was truncated at its western end by modern activity. The ditch was recorded in plan at several locations along the length of the development area and was recorded in section at three locations (Fig. 6 & 7, DP 6); the results of which are tabulated below:

Section	Width (M)	Depth (M)	Description	Fill	Finds
A	1.00	0.32	Moderately steep sides, irregular base	L1013, a dark brown grey, friable silty sand with occasional medium angular stones	none
B	1.30	0.44	Moderately steep sides, flat base	L1013, as above.	none
C (DP 6)	1.05	0.60	Moderately steep sides, concave base	L1013, as above.	Pottery, A. bone, CBM

Three sherds of late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered from the fill, L1013, in section C. The 19<sup>th</sup> century maps (Fig. 3 & 4) depict a rectangular

enclosure surrounding a dwelling and outbuildings. It is likely that ditch F1013 represents the southern edge of this enclosure.

F1017 (Fig. 6 & 7, DP 7) was a linear pit oriented north-east to south-west (9 x 1.6 x 0.54m), and following the alignment of Ditch F1017. Due to its wider dimensions it was recorded as a separate pit; however it is more likely to represent an extension or widening of ditch F1012. F1017 had steep sides and a flat base, it contained a single fill, L1018; a mid to dark brown grey, moderately loose silty sand with moderate medium gravel. Eight sherds of late 19<sup>th</sup> and/or early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered from L1018, making it contemporary with L1013.

M1016 (Fig. 6, DPs 8 & 9) was a brick built structure oriented north-east to south-west (1.40 x 0.50 x 0.50m) within the footings for plots 4 and 5. The bricks were of a red fabric, quite roughly finished and unfrosted, and measured 240 x 114 x 63mm (9½ x 4½ x 2½ inches). They were laid on bed in stretcher coursing, with flush but heavily weathered pointing. The bricks were bonded with a light yellow, loose sand mortar with bed joints measuring between 3 and 10mm.

The full extent of the structure appeared to have been exposed during the groundworks, although only the top and the south faces were revealed. The top of the structure comprised a three sided recess created by four bricks laid perpendicular to the south face (header) with a surround of peg tiles measuring 215 x 215 x 38mm (8½ x 8½ x 1½ inches). The exact function of the structure remains unclear although traces of soot on the peg tiles may indicate that it represents the remains of a fireplace and/or oven.

Two further features were identified within the footings of plots 4 and 5 (Fig 6 & 7). Pit F1019 was oval in plan (1.0 x 0.80 x 0.68m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its only fill L1020, was a mid brown grey, moderately loose silty sand with moderate medium gravel. Fragments of 17<sup>th</sup> century peg tile, similar to those in the structure of M1016. The southern edge of F1019 cut the fill of F1017, although the two appear to be broadly contemporary.

Pit F1021 was circular in plan (0.50 x 0.20+ 0.63). It had very steep sides and a concave base. Its only fill, L1022 was a mid brown grey, moderately loose silty sand with occasional medium gravel. It contained no finds.

### Phase 1 Features

Feature	Type	Dimensions (m)			Fill
		L	W	D	
F1005	Ditch	11	0.95	0.19	L1006
F1007	Pit	3	1.6	0.94	L1008
F1014	Pit	0.6	0.56	0.72	L1015
F1010	Ditch	28.5+	1.1	0.28	L1011

Ditch F1005 was located at the eastern end of the site, it was linear in plan and oriented north west to south east (11 x 0.95 x 0.19m). It was recorded in section at two locations within the foundations for Plot 1 (Figs 6 & 7, DP 2); the results of which are tabulated below. F1005 was undated but it was sealed by L1001, from which 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered, and truncated by F1012. F1005 is also parallel to an extant trackway to the east of the site leading to a neighbouring property (Figs 3 - 5).

Section	Width (M)	Depth (M)	Description	Fill	Finds
A (DP2)	1.00	0.19	Quite shallow sides, concave base	L1006, a mid brown grey, friable silty sand with occasional small rounded stones	none
B	0.90	0.16	Quite shallow sides, concave base	L1006, as above.	none

Pit F1007 was irregular in plan (3.0 x 1.60 x 0.94m) ( Figs 6 & 7, DP 10). It had quite steep sides and a slightly concave base. Its basal fill, L1008, was a mid grey brown, compact silty sand, the upper fill, L1009, was a mid orange brown, compact silty sand. Neither fill contained any finds, F1007 can only be dated by virtue of its relationship to L1001

Pit F1014 was of an unknown shape as its full extent was not exposed within the footing trench, but it was probably circular or oval in plan (0.60+ x 0.56 x 0.72m) (Figs 6 & 7, DP 11). It had steep sides and a flattish base. The only fill, L1015, was a mid grey brown, compact silty sand with frequent small and moderate medium gravel. L1015 contained a single sherd of 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery. This pit was dug along the same orientation as ditch F1010, however it entirely truncates this much shallower ditch.

Ditch F1010 was linear in plan and oriented east to west; it measured at least 28.5m in length and varied in both depth and width. It was recorded in plan at several locations along its length and was recorded in section at two locations (Figs 6 & 7). F1010 was present within the foundations for Plots 2, 3, 4 and 5, but absent within the foundations for both Plot 1 to the east and Plot 6 to the west, implying a maximum length of 38m. F1010 yielded no finds, however, it was stratigraphically earlier than pit F1014 from which 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered.

Section	Width (M)	Depth (M)	Description	Fill	Finds
A	1.00	0.28	Moderately steep sides, flat base	L1011, a mid grey brown, friable silty sand with occasional small gravel.	none
B	1.10	0.20	Moderately steep sides, flat base	L1011, as above.	none

### 6.3 Soakaway 1

Soakaway 1 (SA1) was located to the south-east of the proposed dwellings (Fig. 6, DP 13). It measured 60m long, 1.8m wide and approximately 1m deep.

#### 6.3.1 Sample sections

Two sample sections of the complete stratigraphy were recorded during the excavation of Soakaway 1, to create a record for the most southerly extent of the site. The results are tabulated below:

##### Sample Section 4 (DP 4)

<i>West end, north north-west facing. (1m length)</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34 – 0.52m	L1023	Made Ground. Light green yellow, moderately compact silty clay, with moderate rounded stones, frequent chalk flecks and occasional small CBM. inclusions.
0.52 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.60 – 1.05m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

##### Sample Section 5 (DP 17)

<i>East end, north north-west facing (1.50m length)</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30 – 0.94m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.94 – 1.20m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

#### 6.3.2 Additional description of deposits

Made Ground deposit L1023 was only identified at the west end of Soakaway 1. It covered an area measuring 4m+ x 1.8m+ x 0.17m. It was a light green yellow, moderately compact silty clay, with moderate rounded stones, frequent chalk flecks and occasional small CBM inclusions. Its stratigraphic location above subsoil deposit L1001, and the presence of CBM flecks suggests this deposit is

early modern in date and possibly represents activity associated with the dwellings shown on the 19<sup>th</sup> century maps.

### 6.3.3 *Description of features*

The excavation of Soakaway 1 revealed four features, corresponding to the two broad stratigraphic phases described above (Section 6.2).

#### Phase 2 Features

Ditch F1024 was linear in plan and oriented north-west to south-east (1.80+ x 0.80 x 0.45m) (DP14). It had quite steep sides and a narrow concave base. Its only fill, L1025, was a mid orange brown, friable silty sand with moderate medium rounded stones. It contained no finds but was cut through the subsoil layer L1001. It was not present within the foundations for Plot 6 & 7, implying a maximum north-western extent of 9m.

Ditch F1026 was linear in plan and oriented north-west to south-east (1.80+ x 0.75 x 0.30m) (DP 15). It had steep sides and a flat base. Its only fill, L1027, was a mix of light grey brown, friable silty sand and mid mottled green and yellow clay lumps with frequent chalk flecks. It contained no finds but was cut through the subsoil layer L1001. It was not present within the foundations for Plot 5, implying a maximum north-western extent of 8.5m.

#### Phase 1 Features

Ditch F1028 was linear in plan and oriented north-west to south-east (1.80 x 1.30 x 0.34m) (DP 16). It had shallow sides and a concave base. The only fill, L1029, was a mid to light grey brown, friable silty sand with occasional medium rounded stones. It contained no finds.

Pit F1030 was revealed at the southern edge of Soakaway 1 (DP 17). It was roughly circular in plan, although only partially exposed within the excavation area (1.30 x 0.30 x 0.54m). It had quite steep sides, a concave base and contained two fills. The basal fill, L1031, was a mid brown grey, compact sandy silt with occasional small angular stones; it contained no finds. The upper fill, L1032, was a mottled mid grey brown and mid orange, compact silty sand with occasional medium angular stones; it contained no finds.

## **6.4 Soakaway 2**

Soakaway 2 (SA2) was located to the north-west of Plots 2, 3, 4 and 5. It measured 18m long, 2.20m wide and approximately 1.40m deep.

#### 6.4.1 *Description of features*

With the exception of F1038 and L1048, all recorded features within Soakaway 2 were sealed by subsoil deposit L1001, and thus correspond broadly to Phase 1.

##### Phase 1 Features

Pit F1033 was sub circular in plan (2.20+ x 5.40 x 1.48+m) (DP 19). It had quite steep sides overall but was shallower on its north eastern edge; its base was not reached during excavation. It contained at least three fills. The lowest exposed fill, L1034, was a dark brown grey, friable silty sand with occasional medium rounded stones; it contained no finds. The middle fill, L1035, was a light brown orange compact silty sand and gravel which contained no finds. Its upper fill, L1036 was a mid orange brown, friable silty sand with occasional small and medium stones; it contained a single sherd of 11 to 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery. F1033 was truncated by F1038.

Possible ditch terminus F1042 was linear in plan and oriented north-west to south-east (0.50+ x 0.65 x 0.26m) (DP 21). It had steep sides and a flat base. The fill, L1043 was a mid to light grey brown, friable silty sand with occasional medium rounded stones. It contained no finds. The dimensions, position and orientation of this ditch suggests it could be the north-western terminus ditch F1028, recorded within SA1; although its alignment is not close enough for this to be certain. If these features do represent the same ditch, then the ditch would be broadly parallel to ditch 1005 identified in House Plot 1.

Ditch F1044 was linear in plan and oriented north-east to south-west (4.20+ x 0.80 x 0.40m). It had moderately shallow sides and a concave base. Its single fill, L1045, was a mid grey brown, compact silty sand with frequent medium rounded stones. It contained no finds. Ditch F1044 appeared to be perpendicular to ditch F1042, possibly representing the north-eastern corner of an enclosure.

Pit F1046 was revealed to be cutting through the northern edge of ditch F1044 in the north-west corner of SA2. It appeared to be oval in plan, although it was only partially exposed (2.30+ x 0.90+ x 0.50m). It had shallow sides and a flat base. Its single fill, L1047 was a mid to dark brown grey, compact silty sand with moderate small angular stones and occasional chalk flecks. It contained the partial remains of an oyster shell (not retained).

##### Phase 2 Features

Pit F1038 appeared circular in plan, although it was only partially exposed within the soakaway trench (3.0+ x 1.0+ x 0.40+m) (DP 20). It had quite steep sides and its base was not reached during excavation. It contained at least three fills. The lowest fill, L1039, was a dark brown grey, friable silty sand with occasional

medium rounded stones; it contained a fragment of medieval brick, dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century. The next fill, L1040, was a light brown orange compact silty sand with occasional patches of gravel, which contained no finds. The upper fill, L1041, was a mid orange brown, friable silty sand with occasional small and medium stones; it contained a single 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherd. Pit F1038 was truncated on its western edge by a modern machine excavated pit. The sequence of fills was very similar to those of pit F1033 and suggests a broadly similar function. Their substantial size and depth, together with the scarcity of domestic finds suggests they were dug as quarry pits.

Also within Soakaway 2 was Made Ground deposit L1048, recorded at the southern edge of the trench (DP21). It was an additional deposit, post dating and truncating subsoil layer L1001. It was only revealed in section but did not extend as far as the northern edge of the trench. It began 3m from the west end of the trench and continued for 4.30m before being truncated by modern activity, and was 0.10m deep. It was a light green yellow, moderately compact silty clay, with moderate rounded stones and frequent chalk flecks, and contained no finds. It bears a close resemblance to Made Ground layer L1023 recorded at the west end of SA1.

## 6.5 Soakaway 3

Soakaway 3 (SA3) was located to the north of Plots 6 and 7. It measured 17.80m long, 2.20m wide and approximately 1.30m deep.

### 6.5.1 Sample sections

A sample section of the complete stratigraphy was recorded during the excavation of Soakaway 3, to create a record for the most northerly extent of the site. The results are tabulated below:

#### Sample Section 6 (DP 23)

<i>West end, south south-east facing (1m length)</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.60 – 1.26m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

### 6.5.2 Description of features

The area excavated for Soakaway 3 had suffered substantial modern disturbance, although a single feature which was sealed by subsoil L1001, was recorded. Pit F1049 was roughly circular in plan (0.50 x 0.60 x 0.50m) (DP 24). It had steep sides and a narrow concave base. Its single fill, L1050, was a mid to



dark grey brown, compact silty sand with moderate small and medium angular stones. It contained no finds.

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 It is not felt that any factors greatly inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 Topsoil, L1000, was a dark grey brown, friable silty sand with occasional small and medium stones. It was present across the whole site and its depth varied between 0.30 and 0.40m.

8.2 Beneath this, across the majority of the site, was subsoil layer L1001. However, this layer was entirely truncated by modern activity at the western end of the area stripped for house plots (sample section 3). At the west end of Soakaway 1 Made Ground layer L1023 was recorded between the topsoil and the subsoil. L1023 was a light green yellow, moderately compact silty clay, with moderate rounded stones, frequent chalk flecks and occasional small fragments of CBM. It truncated the earlier subsoil deposit L1001 and may be related to the 19<sup>th</sup> century activity recorded elsewhere towards this end of the site. A similar patch of Made Ground, L1048 was also recorded within Soakaway 2.

8.3 Subsoil L1001 was a mid yellow brown, friable silty sand with occasional small and medium stones and occasional chalk flecks. The depth of this deposit varied greatly across the site, towards the east end of the site it measured between 0.50 and 0.56m (sample sections 1, 2 and 5). Whereas towards the west end of the site only 0.08m was recorded (sample section 4); this was partly due to the truncation caused by deposit L1023, although even without this disturbance a depth of only 0.26m would have been recorded.

8.4 Subsoil L1001 was stratified above L1002, the natural sand and gravel deposits. The natural sand and gravel deposits were encountered at a shallower depth at the west end of site; it is unclear whether this was due to increased activity towards the east having truncated the natural gravels to a greater degree; or rather a natural downwards slope in the geology towards the east, simply having led to a deeper build up of archaeological deposits.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

### **9.1 Summary of the archaeology**

The features present on site can be placed into two broad stratigraphic phases based on their relationship with Subsoil L1001. Finds recovered from this layer were dated to between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Finds recovered from two of the eight features ascribed to Phase 1 were dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century (F1014, F1033). These dates broadly correspond to the stratigraphic relationships established on site.

The earliest find recovered from a Phase 2 feature was a small fragment of brick dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century (F1038). F1038 also had a direct stratigraphic relationship with the Phase 1 pit F1033. All other finds recovered from Phase 2 were either post medieval or early modern.

Two distinct phases of activity can be discerned. A period of early medieval activity was mostly characterised by ditches possibly representing agricultural field divisions. Associated with these were a number of pits of indeterminate function, although the largest of these (F1033 and F1046) may represent quarrying activity.

Subsoil L1001 seals this early medieval activity, and it may represent an abandonment of the site in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, as suggested by the pottery recovered. Alternatively, L1001 could be a levelling layer associated with field clearance before the post medieval and early modern activity represented by the possible enclosure ditch F1012, the brick structure M1016, and the structures depicted on the 19<sup>th</sup> century tithe map (Fig. 3).

### **9.2 Interpretation of the site**

The presence of early medieval agricultural activity on site is consistent with the surrounding archaeological landscape. As detailed above (Section 4.2.4) cropmarks exist throughout the area representing field boundaries, ditches, trackways and enclosures dating from the early medieval to the post-medieval.

The early medieval features identified on this site represent similar activity, whereas the later Phase 2 features represent activity associated with the structures depicted on the 19<sup>th</sup> century maps. A property boundary south of the building depicted on the 1840 Tithe Map was identified on site as the ditch F1012, and a building depicted on the 1885 OS Map may well be represented by the possible fireplace/oven M1016.

## 10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The brief issued by Norfolk CC Historic Environment Service noted the presence of cropmarks on and around the site of the proposed development. A number of these cropmarks were subsequently identified during the monitoring, and were confirmed as being medieval and post-medieval in date.

## 11 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Norfolk Castle Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

## 12 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank South Norfolk Council for their co-operation and funding of the monitoring (in particular Mr Gary Hancox), and the main contractor for their assistance during the project.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Dr Ken Hamilton of Norfolk Historic Environment Service

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## 14 WEB SITES

Norfolk Heritage Explorer  
Norfolk Historic Maps

**APPENDIX 1 Cartographic Sources**

Figure	Title	Date	Scale
Fig 1	Site Location		
Fig 2	Detailed site location		
Fig 3	Tithe map	c.1840	
Fig 4	1st edition OS map	c.1885	1:2,500
Fig 5	Aerial Photograph	1946	1:10,000

**APPENDIX 2 Concordance of Finds**

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1000		Topsoil	15 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> Century	(7) 77g			Fe Fragment 145g
1001		Subsoil	12 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> Century	(8) 213g			Slag 65g C.Pipe 7g
1003		Brickwork			998		
1012	1013	Ditch	19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> Century	(3) 45g	111	15	C.Pipe 3g
1014	1015	Pit	11 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> Century	(1) 30g			
1016		Fireplace/oven	17 <sup>th</sup> Century		6985		
1017	1018	Pit	19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> Century	(8) 207g			C.Pipe 2g
1019	1020	Pit	17 <sup>th</sup> Century		112		
1033	1036	Pit	11 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> Century	(1) 16g			
1038	1039	Pit	14 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> Century		1241	193	
	1041		17 <sup>th</sup> Century	(1) 15g			

## APPENDIX 3 Specialists' Reports

### The Ceramic Building Materials

*Andrew Peachey*

Excavations recovered a total of 11 fragments of CBM in a slightly fragmented to well-preserved condition, including a single fragment of medieval brick, with the remainder probably dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Table 1). The CBM was recorded by fragment count and weight (g) with fabrics examined at x20 magnification, and all extant dimensions and typological characteristics recorded. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

CBM type	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Medieval brick	1	1172
Buff Norfolk pamment brick	1	3861
Soft red brick	2	4122
Peg tile	4	181
Chimney pot	1	111
<i>Total</i>	9	9447

Table 1: Quantification of CBM types

Pit F1038 (L1039) contained a single fragment (1172g) of a medieval brick with partial dimensions of ?x120x40mm, a rough base, irregular arrises and faces. The brick was manufactured in a streaky dark red/yellow-brown fabric with inclusions of abundant, well sorted fine quartz (<0.1mm) and sparse black iron ore/slag (0.5-5mm). Bricks with these characteristics were typically manufactured in the 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The remaining post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> century) CBM included a buff Norfolk pamment brick, soft red bricks, peg tile and a fragment of chimney pot. Complete examples of a pamment brick and a soft red brick were recovered from Fireplace S1016. The buff pamment brick (3861g) had dimensions of 215x215x40mm (12 inch<sup>2</sup>) with a smooth upper face and 3 narrow ridges on the base to improve adhesion to mortar. Pamment bricks were produced in Norfolk, notably in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and were especially popular in the construction of fireplaces and as flagstones. The soft red brick (3124g), also probably produced locally, had dimensions of 240x110x60mm with a smooth base, regular arrises and faces. A further fragment of soft red brick was also recovered from Brickwork S1003. Low quantities of small fragments of red peg tile were contained in Pits F1019 (L1020) and F1038 (L1039), while a single fragment of chimney pot in a comparable oxidised fabric, with internal sooting, was contained in Ditch F1012 (L1013 Seg.C).

## **The Pottery**

*Peter Thompson*

The evaluation recovered 29 sherds of pottery weighing 576g. Eleven sherds are medieval either grey or buff in colour, in medium to coarse quartz sand fabrics. Pit F1033 (L1036) contained an abraded sherd in coarse sandy fabric containing occasional very coarse quartz and flint and is of probable 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century date. Pit F1014 (L1015) contained a moderately abraded medieval coarse ware jar body sherd with an applied clay strip. Ditch F1012 (L1013 C) contained an abraded residual sherd with patch clear/green glaze. The remaining medieval sherds are mostly in fairly good condition, and came from the Topsoil and Subsoil. They include four bowl rims whose forms are of similar type to 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century examples from Norwich (Jennings 1988, 40 & 44). The Topsoil also contained a sherd of Late Medieval Transitional ware in an orange-buff fabric with yellow-brown glaze. The fairly fine fabric containing occasional mica and iron inclusions is similar in description to pottery from Hinderclay near Diss (Anderson 1996, 10).

Pit F1038 (L1041) contained a single sherd of post-medieval red earthenware, with the remaining sherds all early modern to modern in date. Pit F1017 (L1018) contained a complete small stoneware ink pot in very good condition.

## **Bibliography**

Anderson, S. 1996 *The Late Medieval Pottery Industry on the North Suffolk Border*, *Medieval Ceramics* 20, 3-12

Jennings, S et al. 1981 *Eighteen Years of Pottery from Norwich, East Anglian Archaeology* 13

### *Key:*

MCW1: Medieval Coarseware; moderate to common medium quartz sand with occasional coarse inclusions or burnt organics 11<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> /14<sup>th</sup>

MCW2: Medieval Coarseware; as for MCW1 but coarser with occasional calcareous or clay pellets 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>

LMT: Late Medieval Transitional

PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware

ENGS: English Stoneware 18<sup>th</sup>+

TPW: Transfer Printed ware late 18<sup>th</sup>+

MOCHA-type ware: late 18<sup>th</sup>+

Feature	Context	Type	Quantity	Date	Comment
1000		Topsoil	6x64g MCW1  1x10g LMT	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	MCW1: x1 squared rim, x1 triangular rim, both with internal beading LMT similar to Hinderclay fabric
1001		Subsoil	5x112g MCW1  3x91g MCW2	12 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup>	MCW1: x1 rounded jar rim, x1 rounded ?bowl rim, x1 flat cooking pot base with sooting MCW2: x1 bowl with pinched out/triangular rim, x1 rounded ?bowl rim
1012	1013	Ditch	1x13g MCW1 1x5g TPW 1x25g MOCHA	mid19 <sup>th</sup> - mid 20 <sup>th</sup>	MCW1: patchy clear/green glaze, sooting
1014	1015	Pit	1x29 MCW1	11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>	MCW1: mottled firing, internal wiping and applied clay strip
1017	1018	Pit	2x28g PMRE 4x45g TPW 1x24g MOCHA 1x102g ENGS	mid 19 <sup>th</sup> - mid 20 <sup>th</sup>	ENGS: complete ink pot, good condition
1033	1036	Pit	1x14g MCW2	11 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> /13 <sup>th</sup>	MCW2 very coarse fabric
1038	1041	Pit	1x14g PMRE	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
General view of the site during initial ground reduction. Looking west..



2  
Sample section 1 and F1005a. Looking north north-west.



3  
Sample section 3. Looking west south-west.



4  
Sample section 4. looking south south-east.



5  
M1003. Looking south south-east.



6  
F1012c. looking west- south west.





7  
F1017. Looking west south-west.



8  
M1016. Looking north north-west.



9  
M1016 further exposed. Looking north north-west.



10  
F1007. Looking south west.



11  
F1014. Looking east north-east.



12  
General view of footings nearing completion.  
Looking east.



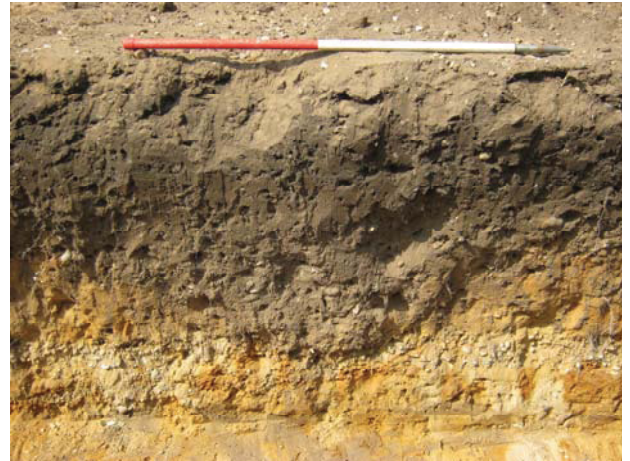
13  
General view of soakaway 1 excavation. Looking north-east.



14  
F1024. looking south south-east



15  
F1026. Looking north north-west.



16  
F1028. looking north north-west.



17  
F1030 and sample section 5. Looking south south-east.



18  
General view of site. Looking west.



19  
F1033. Looking north west.



20  
F1038. Looking south east.



21  
F1042. Looking south south-east.



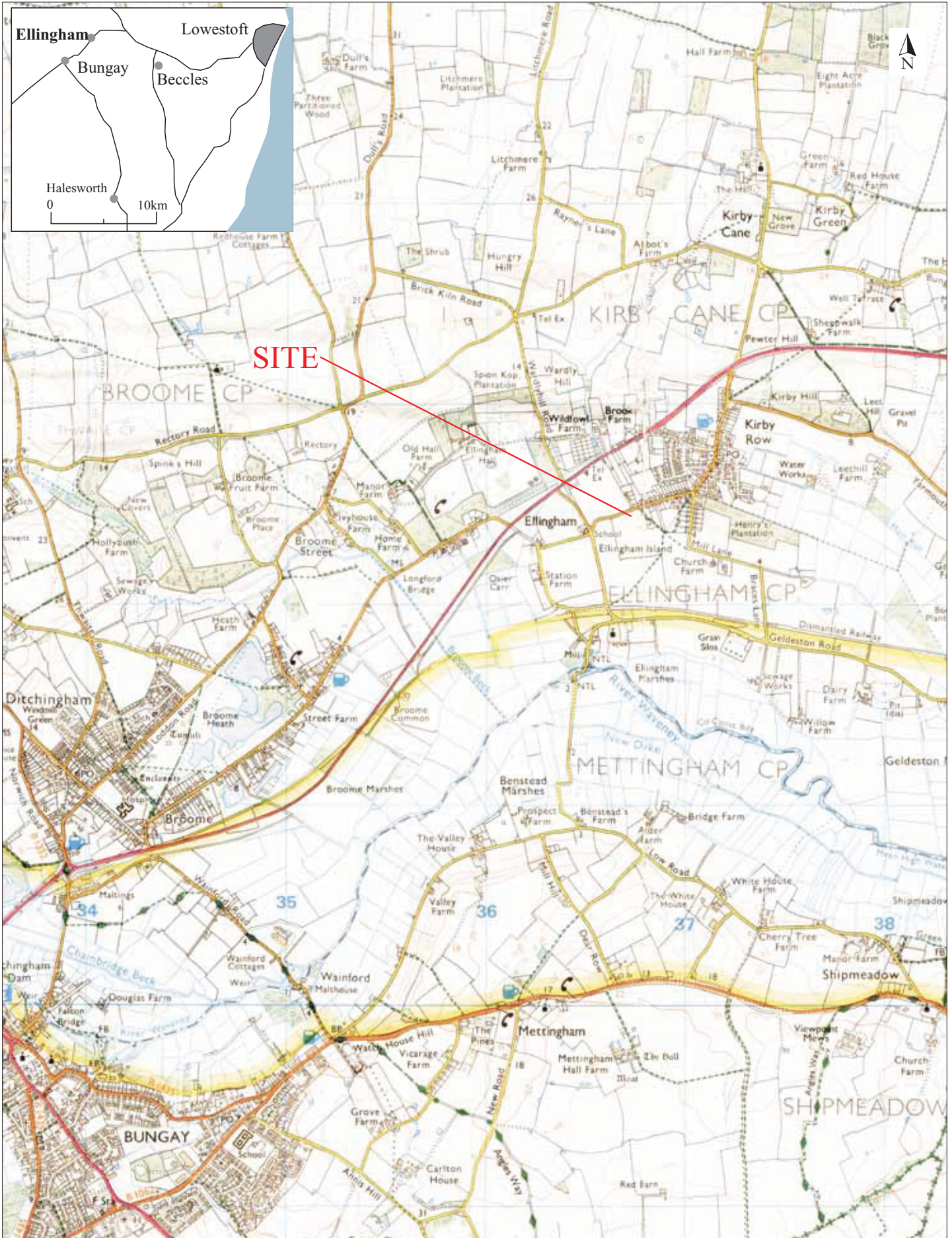
22  
General view of soakaway 3 excavation. Looking east north-east.



23  
Sample section 6. Looking north north-west.

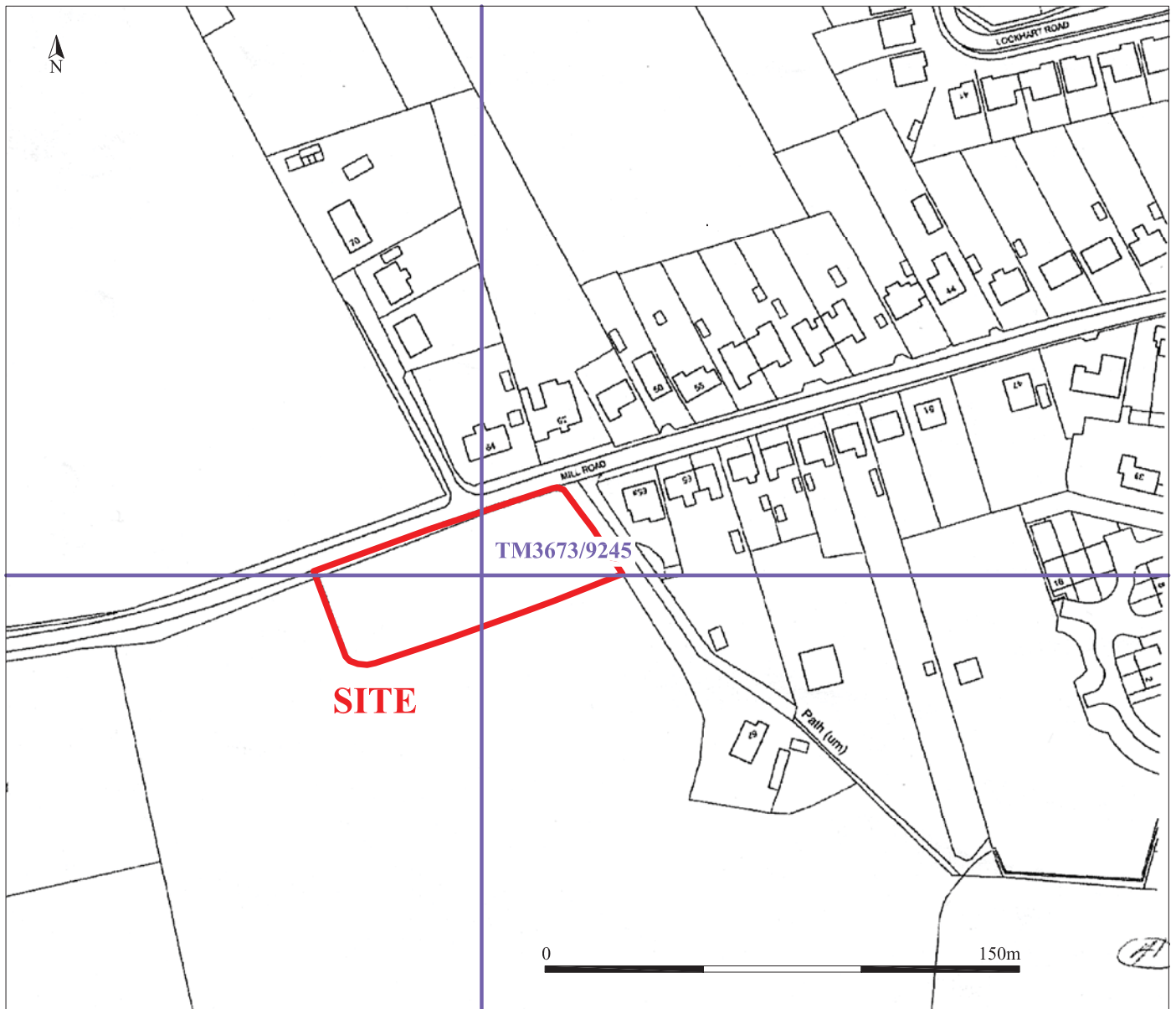


24  
F1049. looking east north-east.



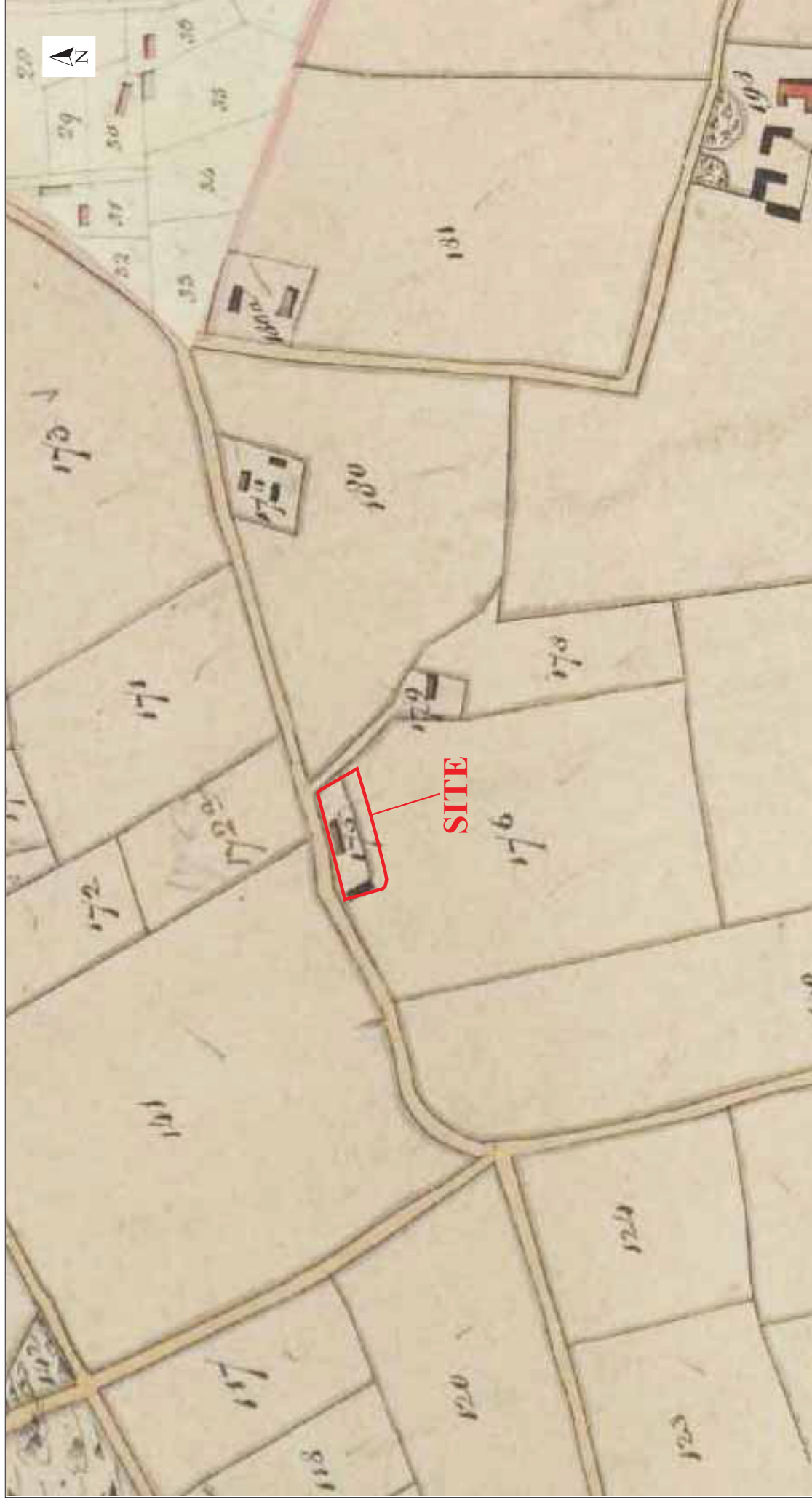
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:2000 at A4

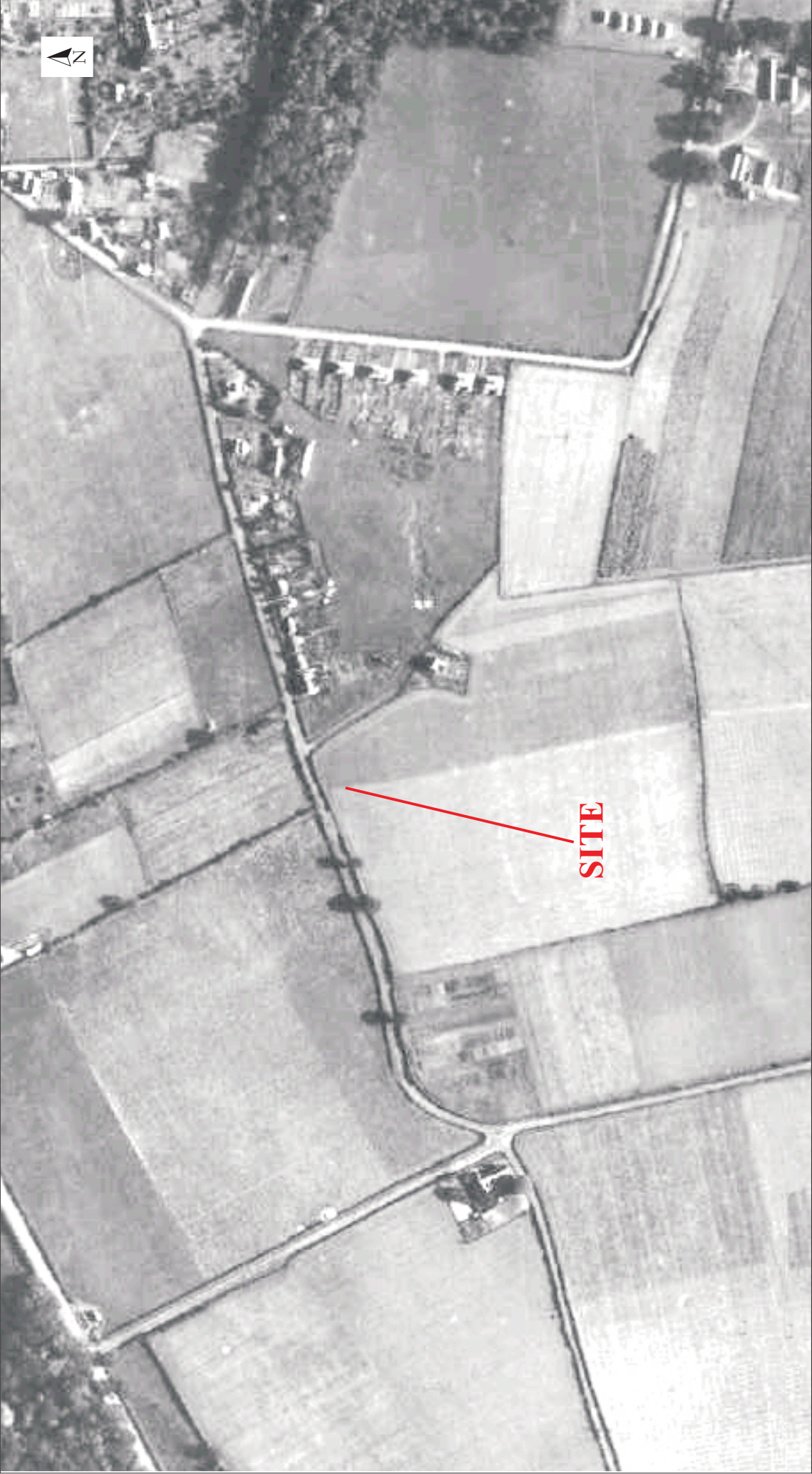


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Fig. 3 Tithe map, 1840  
Not to scale



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Fig. 4 OS map, 1885  
Not to scale



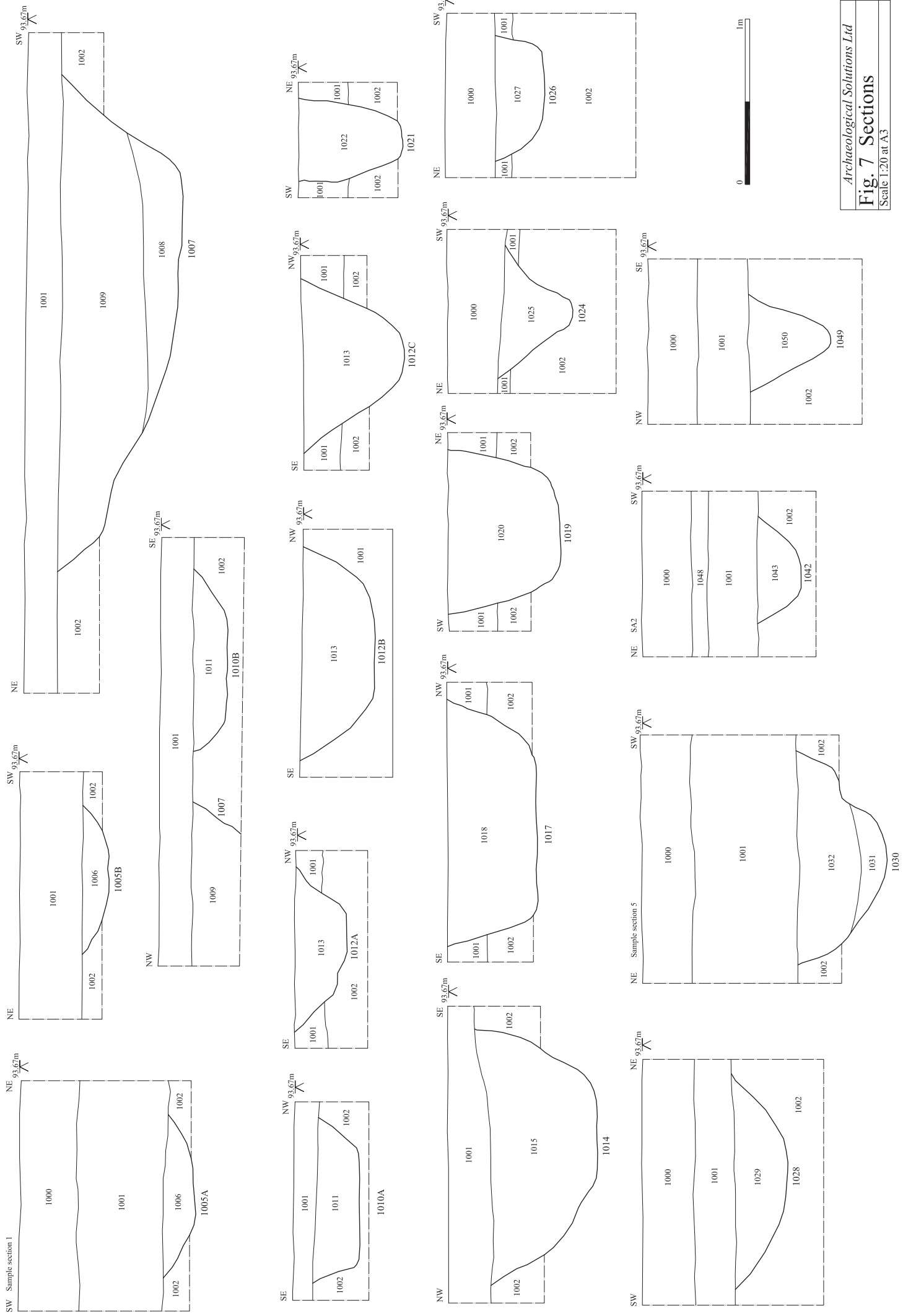
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**Fig. 5 Aerial photograph, 1946**

Not to scale







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**Fig. 7 Sections**  
 Scale 1:20 at A3

