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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**HAYMILLS SITE, HEATH ROAD,  
NORTON, SUFFOLK**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Authors: Matthew Adams BA (Fieldwork & Report) Kath Henry (Graphics)	
NGR: TL 955 655	Report No: 3745
District: Mid Suffolk	Site Code: NRN 023
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: P4217
Signed:	Date: February 2010

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD  
98-100 Fore Street, Hertford, SG14 1AB  
Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way, Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ  
Tel: 01992 558170  
Fax: 01992 553359  
E-mail: [info@ascontracts.co.uk](mailto:info@ascontracts.co.uk)  
Web: [www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk](http://www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk)  
Registered Number: 4702122

## **CONTENTS**

### **OASIS SUMMARY**

#### **SUMMARY**

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY (DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT)</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>THE EVIDENCE</b>
	3.1 Topography, geology & soils
	3.2 Archaeological and historical background
	3.3 The site
<b>5</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCHING)</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>CONFIDENCE RATING</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>DEPOSIT MODEL</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>

#### **APPENDICES**

<b>1</b>	<b>HER INFORMATION</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>LISTED BUILDINGS</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>CONCORDANCE OF FINDS</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>SPECIALISTS' REPORTS</b>

**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Haymills Site, Heath Road, Norton, Suffolk. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
<p><i>In February 2011 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the Haymills site, Heath Road, Norton, Suffolk (NGR TL 955 655). The evaluation was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the demolition of the existing commercial buildings, and the construction of eight new residential dwellings and garages (Planning ref. Mid Suffolk District Council 2528/10).</i></p> <p><i>The locality is one lacking previous archaeological field work and research, but the site is on a valley slope in an area potentially favourable to early occupation. A ring ditch with a trackway leading towards it is located some 300-350m north-west of the site (NRN 015). The ring ditch lies adjacent to an area of field boundaries predating the modern ones. A fragment of polished Neolithic axe head was found in a garden 80m to the north-east (NRN 019), and a small Bronze Age metal hoard was found 550m to the north (NRN 006). The A1088 running through Norton is believed to follow the Roman Road Margery 330 (NRN 008).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed eight post-medieval or modern features associated with buildings fronting Heath Road and the recently-demolished modern building.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	15 – 17 February 2011		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	4217	Site code	NRN 023
Type of project	Archaeological trial trench evaluation		
Site status			
Current land use	Former commercial buildings		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Post-medieval/modern pits and linear		
Significant finds (dates)	None		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Suffolk	Mid Suffolk	Norton
HER/ SMR for area	Suffolk HER (Bury St Edmunds)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	c.0.36ha		
NGR	TL 955 655		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c.41m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC ASCT) (Dr Abbey Antrobus)		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Matthew Adams		
Funded by	Hopkins Homes Ltd		
Full title	<i>Haymills Site, Heath Road, Norton, Suffolk. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation</i>		
Authors	Adams M		
Report no.	3745		
Date (of report)	February 2011		

# **HAYMILLS SITE, HEATH ROAD, NORTON, SUFFOLK**

## **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

### **SUMMARY**

*In February 2011 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the former Haymills site, Heath Road, Norton, Suffolk (NGR TL 955 655). The evaluation was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the demolition of the existing commercial buildings and the construction of eight residential dwellings and garages (Planning ref. Mid Suffolk District Council 2528/10).*

*The locality is one lacking previous archaeological field work and research, but the site is on a valley slope in an area potentially favourable to early occupation. A ring ditch with a trackway leading towards it is located some 300-350m north-west of the site (NRN 015). The ring ditch lies adjacent to an area of field boundaries predating the modern ones. A fragment of polished Neolithic axe head was found in a garden 80m to the north-east (NRN 019), and a small Bronze Age metal hoard was found 550m to the north (NRN 006). The A1088 running through Norton is believed to follow the Roman Road Margery 330 (NRN 008).*

*The evaluation revealed eight post-medieval or modern features associated with buildings fronting Heath Road and the recently-demolished modern building.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In February 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at the former Haymills site, Heath Road, Norton, Suffolk (NGR TL 955 655). The work was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the demolition of existing commercial buildings and the construction of eight new residential dwellings and garages (Mid Suffolk District Council 2528/10).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT; dated 16/12/2010), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 23/12/2010).

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable

to be threatened by the proposed development. It also aimed to identify any previous ground disturbance on the site

## **Planning policy context**

1.4 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 Norton is a small village on a crossroads located approximately 9km east of Bury St Edmunds, and is bisected by the A1088 running south to north between Woolpit and Ixworth. The site is on the west side of Norton on a rectangular plot of land. Residential buildings at the north end front Heath Road, the centre comprises gardens, and the south end which is the area to be developed, contained buildings and hardstanding, accessed by a metalled access road along the east side, demolished prior to the evaluation taking place (with the removal of slabs monitored by AS). To the south is a hedge and a brown field area comprising an open field, and on the west side is another residential land plot.

## **3 METHODOLOGY (DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT)**

### **3.1 Archaeological databases**

The Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted in order to identify any local archaeological finds or remains in the area that might be affected by the development or characterise the archaeology of the area. Relevant sites are described in the text.

## **4 THE EVIDENCE**

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

4.1.1 Norton lies on the eastern slope of the small Black Bourn River at 40m AOD, and is 500m from the valley floor. The soil is typical calcareous pelosols of the Hanslope Series which are common in the western half of Suffolk. They are clay soils described predominantly as slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, with slight water erosion (Goult 1990). The underlying solid geology is Upper Cretaceous Chalk.

### **4.2 Archaeological and historical background**

#### *Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)*

4.2.1 Part of a Neolithic polished axe head was found in a garden approximately 80m to the north-east (NRN 019), and a Bronze Age spearhead was found with some small pieces of pewter 500m to the north (NRN 006). An undated ring ditch, approximately 21m in diameter with a trackway leading towards it, is located some 300 to 350m to the north-west (NRN 015). A possible round barrow is located 550m beyond that in the grounds of Little Haugh Hall (NRN 001).

#### *Romano-British (AD 43-410)*

4.2.2 Geophysical survey and field walking around St Andrews Church just over 1km to the north-east found Roman coins and tile suggesting a building, possibly a villa in the area (NRN 009). The Roman Road the Margery 330 is believed to lie beneath the line of the A1088 running through Norton village (NRN 008).

#### *Anglo-Saxon (AD 411 – 1065)*

4.2.3. The Blackbourn valley was one of the earliest areas in Suffolk to be settled by Anglo-Saxon immigrants from the mid 5<sup>th</sup> century, for at example Grimston End, Pakenham (West 1988, 44). However, no Anglo-Saxon remains are known from the search area

#### *Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)*

4.2.4 The name Norton means north homestead or village implying a settlement existing to the south (Mills 1991). The Domesday survey records the manor of Norton in 1066 as comprising 4 carucates of land held by Edith, a freewoman, from the Abbot of Bury St Edmunds. In 1086 it was held by the king and had wood for 150 pigs, 10 acres of meadow, 2 cobs, 10 cattle, 50 pigs, 100 sheep and 30 goats. The recorded population was 71. In 1242 a charter for a market

was granted and a fair followed in 1245, whilst two sub-manors were located at Harding and Little Haugh. In 1283 Norton manor had developed producing 3,128 bushels of crops and had 50 head of horse, 195 cattle, 122 pigs and 573 sheep. In 1327 there were 23 tax payers. Owners in the medieval period appear to have been local men such as John of Pakenham and Robert of Bardswell.

4.2.5 The parish church of St Andrew (NRN 007) was restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and contains 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century features (Suffolk churches). Medieval pottery was found scattered around the area where the Roman finds were made (NRN 009).

*Post-medieval (AD 1540 – 1900)*

4.2.6 In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century Norton had 180 adults. The surrounding land was predominantly pasture and meadow with woodland, and the main industry was cattle rearing and dairying with some pig-keeping, horse breeding and poultry kept. In 1801 the population comprised 533 inhabitants and there was a shift towards arable farming. In 1931 there were 759 inhabitants with barley, wheat and turnips the main crops grown in the parish. In 1969 cereal and sugar beet were predominant and in 1981 the population reached 772. The field system adjacent to the undated ring ditch and trackway contains field boundaries predating the modern ones which run on a different alignment (NRN 015). The closest listed building to the site is the Grade II listed Baptist Chapel on Woolpit Road (LB 281223).

### **4.3 The site**

*Early maps of Suffolk*

4.3.1 The 1841 Tithe map, and 1884, 1904 and 1950 OS maps (Figs. 3 – 5), all show no change to the site. The current range of buildings on the site, were built after 1950. Houses or buildings appear at the Heath Road end of the plots bordering either side of the site by 1884, but there are few changes to them thereafter.

## **5 METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCHING)**

5.1 The removal of ground slabs towards the later stages of demolition was monitored by AS, on advice from SCC AS-CT. Following this, four trial trenches measuring a total of 100m were excavated. The individual trenches measured between 20 - 32m long and 1.6m wide (Fig 2).

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces

were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below

### Trench 1 Figs. 2 & 7

<i>Sample Section 1A: N end, W facing</i> <i>0.00 = 41.33m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000. Made Ground. Light grey, crushed CBM
0.34 – 0.65m	L1001. Demolition Layer. Mid to light brown sandy silt with frequent CBM rubble.
0.65 – 0.72m	L1002. Topsoil. Dark yellow brown, sandy silt.
0.72- 0.84m	L1003. Subsoil. Mid yellow brown, sandy silt with occasional flint gravel.
0.84m +	L1004. Natural. Light orange yellow sand and gravel.

<i>Sample Section 1B: S end, W facing</i> <i>0.00 = 40.75m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.20m	L1001. Demolition Layer. As Above.
0.20 – 0.35	L1003. Subsoil. As Above.
0.35m +	L1004. Natural. As Above.

*Description: Trench 1 contained a large pit, F1011.*

Pit F1011 was elongated with three sides obscured beyond the limits of the excavation (4.70+ x 1.80+ x 0.50m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its upper fill, L1012, was a mid green brown, friable, silty sand with occasional flint gravel. Finds comprise a small, highly abraded sherd (2g) of indeterminate pottery. Its basal fill, L1013, was a light green brown, friable, silty sand with occasional lumps of clay and flint nodules. No finds were present.

### Trench 2 Figs. 2 & 7

<i>Sample Section 2A: ENE end, NNW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 41.82m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.45m	L1000. Made Ground. As Above Tr.1.
0.45 – 0.64m	L1003. Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.64m +	L1004. Natural. Light blue grey, firm clay with lenses of light orange yellow, loose gravel sand.



<i>Sample Section 2B: WSW end, NNW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 41.52m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.45m	L1000. Made Ground. As Above.
0.45 – 0.66m	L1003. Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.66m +	L1004. Natural. As Above Tr.1.

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 2. Four modern features were located at the western end of the trench.*

### **Trench 3**      Figs. 2 & 7

<i>Sample Section 3A: ENE end, SSE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 41.81m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.45m	L1000. Made Ground. As Above Tr.1.
0.45 – 0.56m	L1003. Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.56m +	L1004. Natural. As Above Tr.1.

<i>Sample Section 3B: WSW end, SSE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 41.46m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.43m	L1002. Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.43 – 0.51m	L1003. Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.51m +	L1004. Natural. As Above Tr.1.

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 2. Two natural features/root channels were located at the eastern end of the trench.*

### **Trench 4**      Figs. 2 & 8

<i>Sample Section 4A: NNW end, WNW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 41.82m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.45m	L1000. Made Ground. As Above Tr.1.
0.45 – 0.56m	L1003. Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.56m +	L1004. Natural. As Above Tr.1.

<i>Sample Section 4B: SSE end, WNW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 41.46m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.43m	L1002. Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.43 – 0.51m	L1003. Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.51m +	L1004. Natural. As Above Tr.1.

*Description: Trench 4 contained three small pits (F1005, F1016 & F1018), three postholes (F1007, F1009 & F1020) and a linear feature (F1014).*

Pit F1005 was oval in plan (0.84 x 0.68 x 0.18m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a light grey brown, friable, sandy silt with occasional small flints. No finds were present.

Posthole F1007 was circular in plan (0.24 x 0.18 x 0.06m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a mid grey brown, friable, sandy silt with occasional small rounded flints. No finds were present.

Posthole F1009 was circular in plan (0.20 x 0.20 x 0.07m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a mid grey brown, friable, sandy silt with occasional rounded flints. No finds were present.

F1014 was linear in plan with a curve at its northern end (3.32 x 0.40 x 0.24m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1015, was a mid yellow brown, friable, sandy silt with occasional flint gravel. Finds comprise post-medieval brick (14g) and a fragment roof slate (15g). It was cut by a modern square-shaped feature.

Pit F1016 was oval in plan (0.66 x 0.34 x 0.11m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1017, was a dark grey brown, friable, sandy silt. No finds were present.

Pit F1018 was oval in plan (0.46 x 0.38 x 0.36m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1019, was a mid grey brown, friable sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks. No finds were present.

Posthole F1020 was sub-circular in plan (0.31 x 0.33 x 0.24m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1021, was a mid grey brown, friable sandy silt. No finds were present.

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the excavation.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 Made Ground L1000 was generally the uppermost layer (c.0.45m thick). It was a light grey, crushed CBM with concrete and red brick. In the south-eastern of the site (Trench 2), L1000, overlay a thin (0.09m) layer of modern demolition material, L1001. The latter was a mid to light brown sandy silt with frequent CBM rubble, and it only occurred in the area of the demolished warehouse.

8.2 Topsoil L1002 was variously overlain by Made Ground, L1000. It was a dark yellow brown, friable, sandy silt. It overlay Subsoil L1003, a mid yellow brown, friable, sandy silt. L1003, overlay the natural drift geology, a light orange yellow, sand and gravel in Trenches 1, 3 and 4, and a light green grey, firm clay with lenses of sand and gravel in Trench 2.

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The archaeological features are tabulated:

Trench	Feature	Description	Spot Date
1	F1011	Large Pit	-
2	None	-	-
3	None	-	-
4	F1005	Pit	-
	F1007	Posthole	-
	F1009	Posthole	-
	F1014	Linear	19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> Century
	F1016	Pit	-
	F1018	Pit	-
	F1020	Posthole	-

9.2 The evaluation revealed a concentration of archaeological features in Trench 4, adjacent to Heath Road. A single feature, large Pit F1011, was present in Trench 1 in the south-western sector of the site. Numerous modern features were present across the site and were associated with the recently-demolished buildings.

9.3 The majority of features were undated, but likely relate to post-medieval or modern buildings fronting Heath Road and depicted on the 1884 and 1902 OS maps (Figs. 4 & 5). The dated linear feature, F1014 (Tr.4), was also associated with this period of activity.

9.4 The large pit, F1011 (Tr.1) may have been associated with the warehouse building that was recently demolished. It contained an indeterminate fragment of pottery (?mid – late Iron Age – early medieval), likely residual.

9.5 The site had good potential for prehistoric and Roman activity. In the event the evaluation revealed no evidence of significant activity prior to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at the Suffolk County Archaeological Store. 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.

## 11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Hopkins Homes Ltd for funding the evaluation and for their assistance (in particular Messrs Graham Watts and Marcus Armitage).

AS also thanks Dr Colin Pendleton at the Suffolk HER Office, and staff at the Bury St Edmunds Record Office.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Dr Abby Antrobus of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

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## WEB SITES

Heritage Gateway

## APPENDIX 1: HER INFORMATION

SHER Number	National Reference	Grid	Details
<i>Neolithic c.4,000 – 2,100 BC</i>			
NRN 019	9560 6566		Central portion of a partly polished flint axe head found in a garden in Heath Road
<i>Bronze Age c.2,100 – 700 BC</i>			
NRN 006	9533 6612		Bronze spearhead 'found with some small pieces of pewter'
<i>Roman AD 43-410</i>			
NRN 008	9595 6577		Possible length of Roman Road Margary 330
<i>Post-medieval AD 1539 – 1900</i>			
NRN 012	9532 6656		Bridge and serpentine lake (listed building)
<i>Undated</i>			
NRN 015	9526 6580		Single ring ditch approximately 21m in diameter with trackway leading towards it. The adjacent field contains earlier field boundaries on a different alignment to the modern ones

## APPENDIX 2: LISTED BUILDINGS

Listed Building Number	National Grid Reference	Name and Date
281223	95722 65637	Baptist Chapel, Woolpit Road built 1834, Grade II listed
281220	96130 65807	Barn 30m north of Burts Farmhouse Grade II 17 <sup>th</sup> century
281219	96113 65774	Burts Farmhouse Grade II mid 17 <sup>th</sup> century with mid 16 <sup>th</sup> century core
281221	96140 65771	Cartlodge and Granary 20m east of Burts Farmhouse Grade II early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
281217	96041 65746	Feld House 19 <sup>th</sup> century Grade II listed
281218	96033 65762	Gates and railings along frontage 10m north of Feld House 19 <sup>th</sup> Grade II listed
281225	95747 65502	Stables and cartlodge, 40m south of Street Farmhouse late 17 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> century with 16 <sup>th</sup> century core Grade II listed
281224	95748 65546	Street Farmhouse early 17 <sup>th</sup> century Grade II listed
281204	95748 65789	The Dog Inn Grade II listed 16 <sup>th</sup> century with early 17 <sup>th</sup> century alterations
281222	96131 65754	The Rookery Grade II listed 17 <sup>th</sup> century farmhouse
281216	95782 65762	Maltings Cottage Grade II listed 16 <sup>th</sup> or early 17 <sup>th</sup> century

## APPENDIX 3: CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Map Description	Date	Scale
Site location (OS Explorer)	Modern	1:25,000
Detailed site location	Modern	1:100

Tithe map	1841	
First Edition OS	1884	1:2,500
Second Edition OS	1904	1:10,560
OS	1950	1:10,560

**NRN 023: Old Haymills Site, Heath Road, Norton, Suffolk**

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	Other
1011	1012		1	Pit	?Mid to late Iron Age/early medieval	(1) 2g		
1014	1015	A	4	Ditch	Post-medieval		14	Slate 15g

## **APPENDIX 5        SPECIALIST REPORTS**

### **The Pottery**

*Andrew Peachey*

Pit F1011 (L1012) contained a single, small, highly abraded sherd (2g) of indeterminate pottery. The sherd is reduced dark-grey to black and is probably hand-made with inclusions of common, moderately-sorted quartz sand. These characteristics suggest it may have been manufactured in the mid to late Iron Age or early medieval periods, but based on the available evidence any conclusions remain tentative.

### **The Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey*

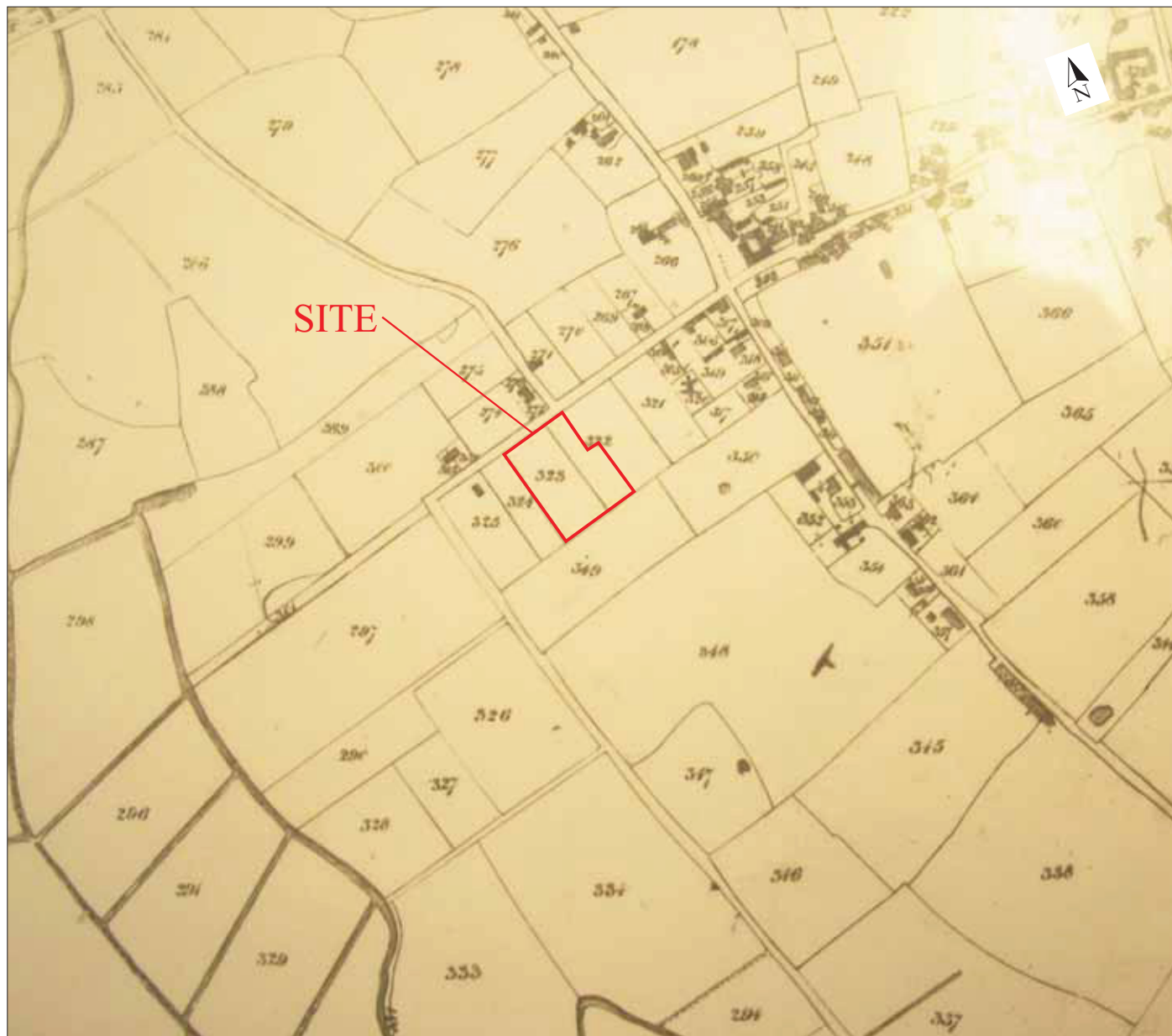
Ditch F1014 (L1015 Seg.A) contained a single, small, highly abraded fragment (14g) of post-medieval brick. The same context also included a small fragment (15g) of slate roof tile.



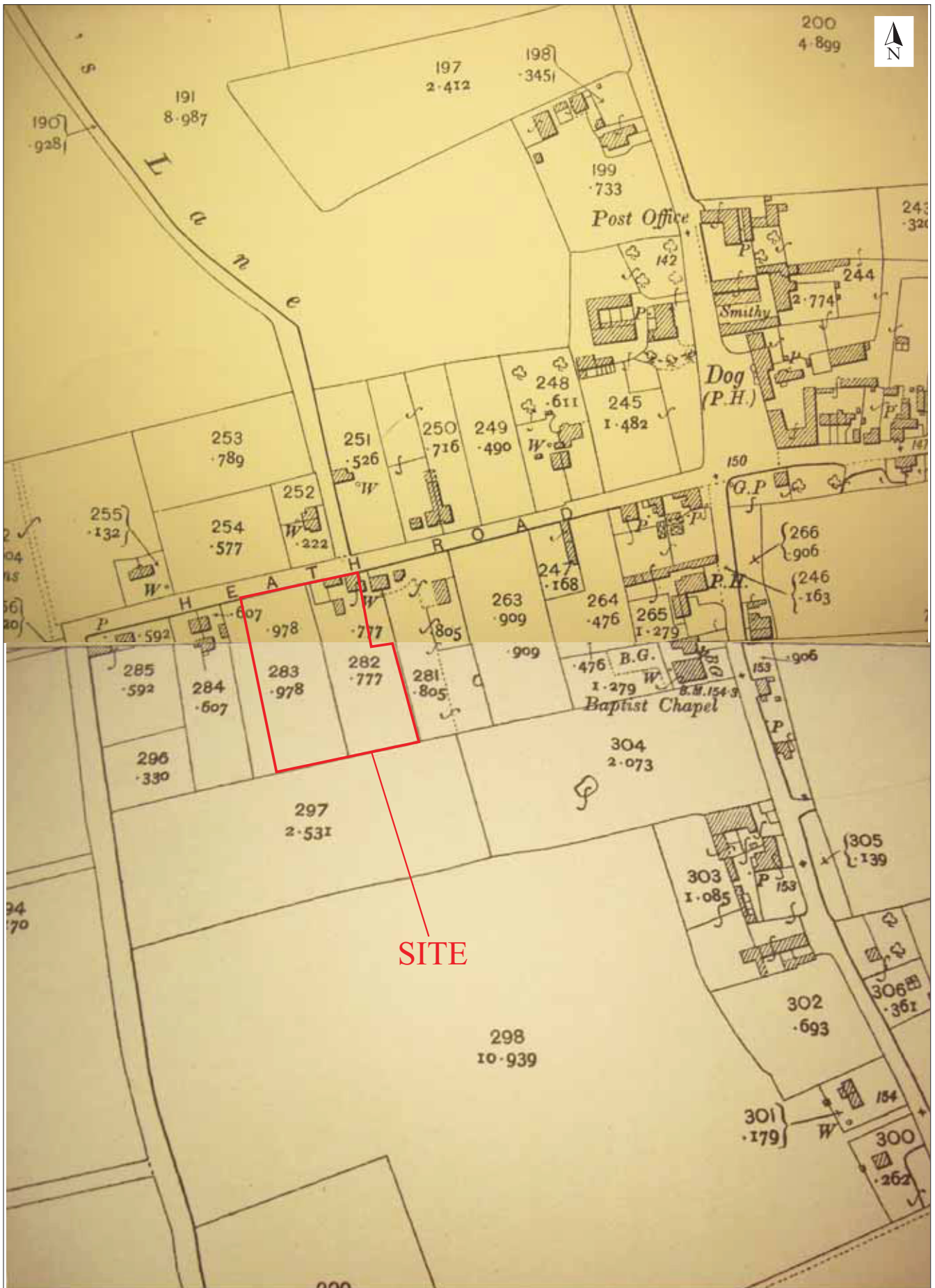








<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 3 Tithe map, 1841</b>
Not to scale



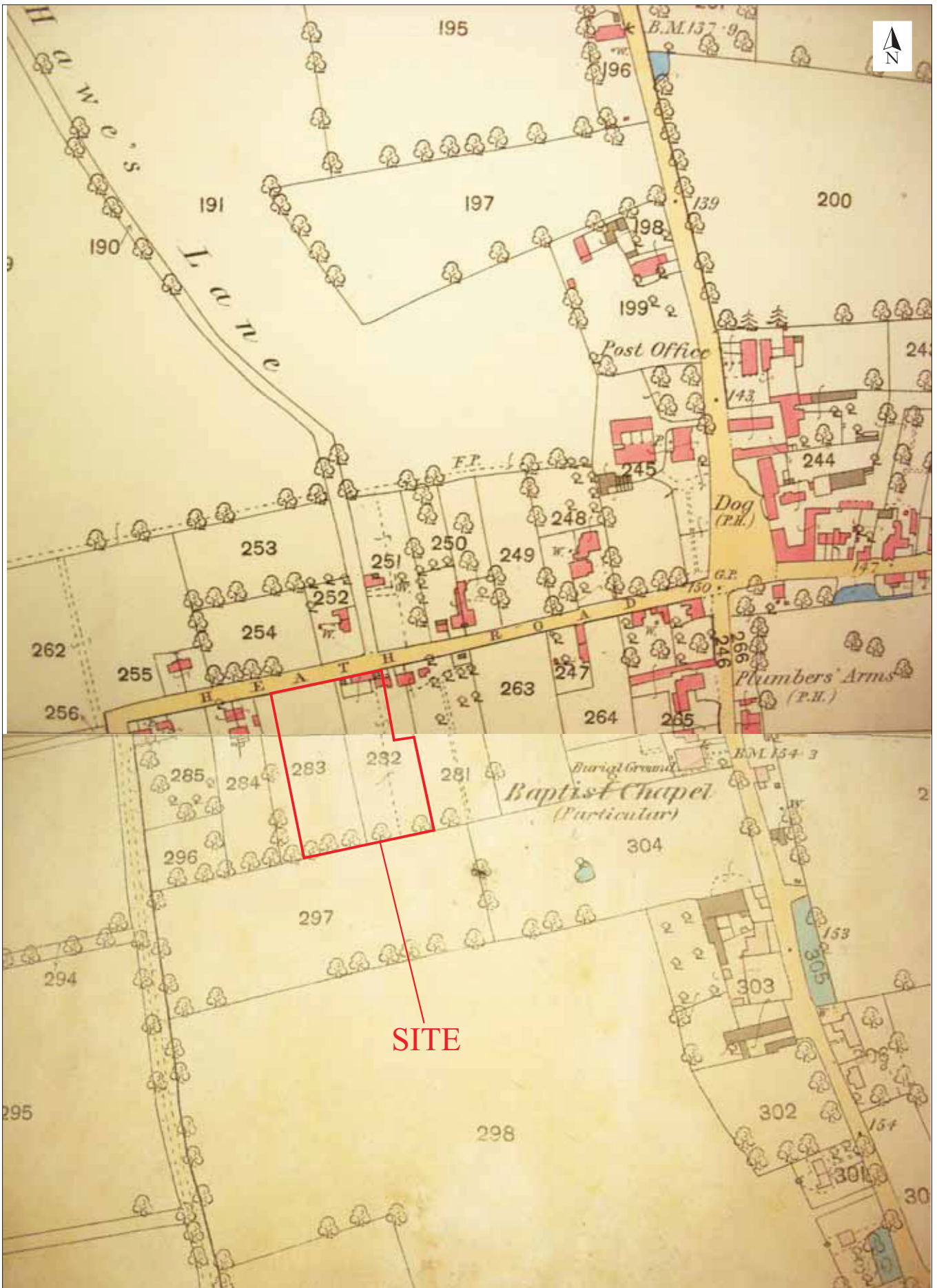
Reproduced from the 1884 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

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Fig. 4 OS map, 1884

Not to scale





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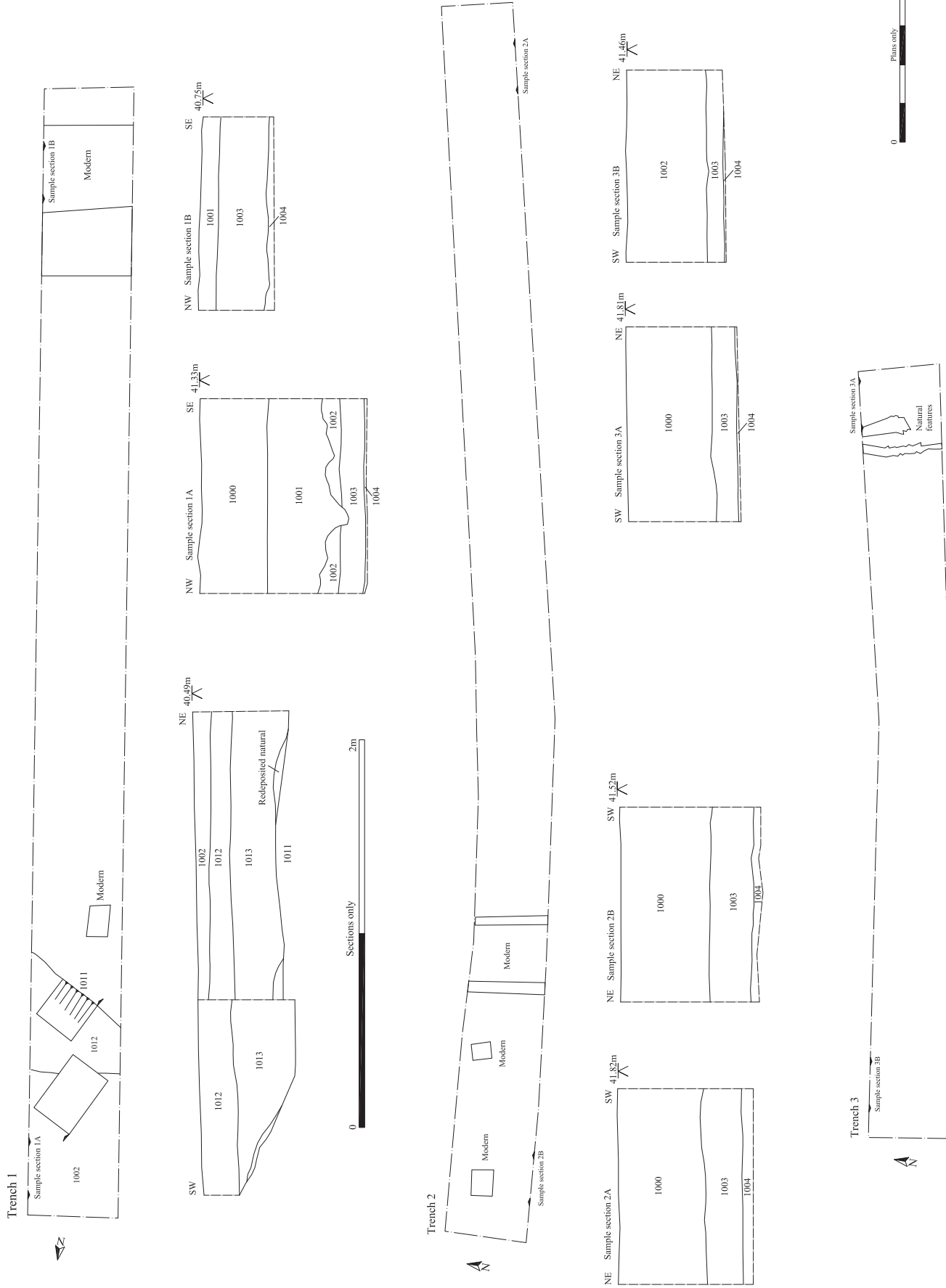
*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*  
**Fig. 5 OS map, 1904**  
 Not to scale



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**Fig. 6 Proposed development plan**

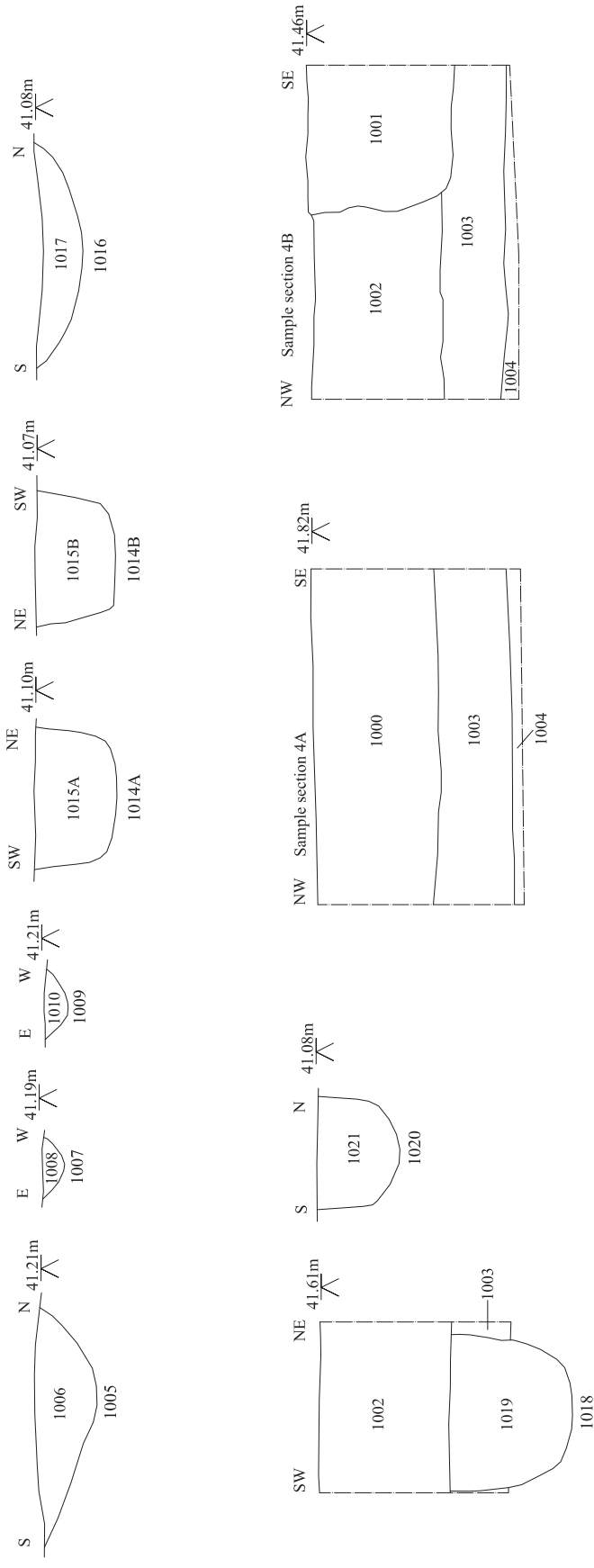
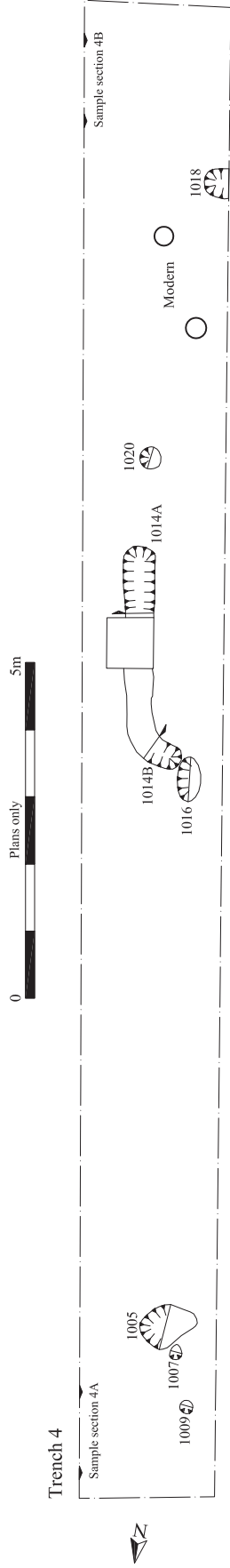
Scale 1:600 at A4



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**Fig. 7 Plans and sections**

Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3



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**Fig. 8 Plan and sections**

Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4