

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**FORMER RECREATION GROUND,
HONEYHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, PASTON
PETERBOROUGH**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Authors: Mariusz Gorniak (Fieldwork and report) Andy Peachey (Research) | |
| NGR: TF 19827 02343 | Report No. 4149 |
| District: Peterborough | Site Code: AS1529 |
| Approved: Claire Halpin MfA | Project No. 4946 |
| Signed: | Date: September 2012 |

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

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| Project details | | | |
| Project name | <i>Former Recreation Ground, Honeyhill Primary School, Paston, Peterborough.</i> | | |
| Project description | <p><i>In September 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at the former recreation ground attached to Honeyhill Primary School, Paston, Peterborough (NGR TF 19827 02343; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by The Design Partnership (Ely) Ltd on behalf of the client Crosskeys Homes Ltd. It was required by PCCAS, in association with a planning application to construct 21 new dwellings, with associated external works and parking on the site (Planning Ref. 11/02040/R4FUL).</i></p> <p><i>The recorded features comprised a likely modern pit (F1005 Tr.7) and an undated gully (F1003 Tr.1). The gully contained a highly abraded sherd of late Iron Age – early Roman pottery, likely residual.</i></p> | | |
| Project dates (fieldwork) | <i>September 2012</i> | | |
| Previous work (Y/N/?) | <i>N</i> | Future work (Y/N/?) | <i>TBC</i> |
| P. number | <i>4946</i> | Site code | <i>AS1529</i> |
| Type of project | <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i> | | |
| Site status | <i>-</i> | | |
| Current land use | <i>Former recreation ground</i> | | |
| Planned development | <i>Residential development.</i> | | |
| Main features (+dates) | <i>Gully</i> | | |
| Significant finds (+dates) | <i>A Roman sherd</i> | | |
| Project location | | | |
| County/ District/ Parish | <i>Cambridgeshire</i> | <i>Peterborough</i> | <i>Paston</i> |
| HER/ SMR for area | <i>Peterborough Historic Environment Record (PHER)</i> | | |
| Post code (if known) | <i>-</i> | | |
| Area of site | <i>c.0.6ha</i> | | |
| NGR | <i>TF 19827 02343</i> | | |
| Height AOD (max/ min) | <i>c.12m</i> | | |
| Project creators | | | |
| Brief issued by | <i>Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service</i> | | |
| Project supervisor/(PO) | <i>Mariusz Gorniak</i> | | |
| Funded by | <i>Crosskeys Homes Ltd</i> | | |
| Full title | <i>Former Recreation Ground, Honeyhill Primary School, Paston, Peterborough. An Archaeological Evaluation.</i> | | |
| Authors | <i>Gorniak, M., and Peachey, A.</i> | | |
| Report no. | <i>4149</i> | | |
| Date (of report) | <i>September 2012</i> | | |

FORMER RECREATION GROUND, HONEYHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, PASTON PETERBOROUGH

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In September 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at the former recreation ground attached to Honeyhill Primary School, Paston, Peterborough (NGR TF 19827 02343; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by The Design Partnership (Ely) Ltd on behalf of the client Crosskeys Homes Ltd. It was required by PCCAS, in association with a planning application to construct 21 new dwellings, with associated external works and parking on the site (Planning Ref. 11/02040/R4FUL).

No archaeological remains are known on the site. Cropmarks are however visible to the immediate north of the site, identified from aerial photography, which are indicative of possible enclosures associated with settlement. Aerial photos also show evidence of former ridge and furrow cultivation and field headlands, associated with the medieval open field system of the historic Paston village. A medieval bone ice skate is also recorded to have been found to the immediate north of the site.

The recorded features comprised a likely modern pit (F1005 Tr.7) and an undated gully (F1003 Tr.1). The gully contained a highly abraded sherd of late Iron Age – early Roman pottery, likely residual.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at the former recreation ground attached to Honeyhill Primary School, Paston, Peterborough (NGR TF 19827 02343; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by The Design Partnership (Ely) Ltd on behalf of the client Crosskeys Homes Ltd. It was required by Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service, in association with a planning application to construct 21 new dwellings, with associated external works and parking on the site (Planning Ref. 11/02040/R4FUL).

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken according to a brief issued by Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service (PCC AS) (dated 23 May 2012), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 18 July 2012) and approved by PCC AS. The archaeological evaluation adhered to *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of*

England (Gurney 2003) and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (revised 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF 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. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

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

2.1 The site lies in Paston, to the north east of Peterborough City Centre, and is within an area of late 20th century housing development. It is located on the northern side of Paston Ridings, and comprises a former recreation ground with an area of c.0.6ha, mainly grassed, with a large bund in the centre.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

3.1.1 It lies at c.12m AOD on a solid geology of Kellaways Sand and Oxford Clay, overlain by sand and gravels of the Third Terrace.

3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.2.1 No archaeological remains are known on the site. Cropmarks are however visible to the east of the site, identified from aerial photography. These include 'undated' cropmarks which are indicative of possible enclosures associated with settlement (HER 50132) c.400m to the east; and the cropmark of a Roman Road (HER 50251/8372) c.700m to the east whose projected route may pass c.150-200m to the north of the site. The 'undated' cropmark of a further trackway built of Oolitic Freestone (HER 20130) is also located c.250m to the north and appears aligned on a similar route to the Roman Road.

3.2.2 The 18th century Manor Farm (HER 2207), almost certainly the site of an earlier, medieval Manor House is situated c.400m to the north-east, while the Honey Hill tumulus (HER 2256), the site of a medieval post mill is situated c.500m to the south. Aerial photos show evidence of former ridge and furrow cultivation and field headlands (HER 50133) c.600m to the east, associated with the medieval open field system of the historic Paston village. A medieval bone ice skate (HER 02204) is also recorded to have been found to the immediate north of the site. Further to the west, c.1km distant is the location of a post-medieval rectory associated with finds of medieval and post-medieval finds (HER 02247, 50502 & 51299).

3.2.3 The cartographic sources indicates that between 1832 and 1953 the site remained within a large agricultural field to the south-east of the historic core of Paston. Supplementing this evidence a survey by David Hall did not identify any historic boundaries (hedges, ditches, roads) in the vicinity of the site that are absent in the modern landscape.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Seven linear trial trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). Five trenches measured 30m x 1.8m and two trenches measured 20m x 2m.

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 180° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide 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.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 & 3)

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------|--|
| East end 0.00= 11.38m AOD | | |
| 0.00 - 0.26m | L1000 | Topsoil. Mid grey brown, friable, sandy silt. |
| 0.26 - 0.54m | L1001 | Subsoil. Light yellow brown, compact, clayey silt. |
| 0.54m+ | L1002 | Natural. Light yellow orange, compact, clay. |

Description: Gully F1003 was recorded in Trench 1, and a field drain also traversed Trench 1.

Gully F1003 was linear in plan (3m+ x 0.40m x 0.12m), orientated E/W. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1004, was a dark brown, compact, clayey silt. It contained a highly abraded sherd of late Iron Age - Roman pottery. It did not continue in Trench 4.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|--|
| South end 0.00= 13.65m AOD | | |
| 0.00 - 0.20m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above Tr.1. |
| 0.20 - 1.00m | L1007 | Made Ground. Brown, firm, silty sand. |
| 1.00 -1.47m | L1008 | Made Ground. Dark grey brown, compact, silty sand. |
| 1.47m+ | L1002 | Natural. As above Tr.1. |

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present. Made Ground deposits L1007 and L1008 comprised the artificial mound within the former recreation ground.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| North end 0.00= 12.66m AOD | | |
| 0.00 - 0.22m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above Tr.1. |
| 0.22- 0.45m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above Tr.1. |
| 0.45m+ | L1002 | Natural. As above Tr.1. |

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| South end 0.00= 13.46m AOD | | |
| 0.00 – 0.22m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above Tr.1. |
| 0.22 – 1.00m | L1007 | Made Ground. As above Tr.2. |
| 1.00 – 1.50m | L1008 | Made Ground. As above Tr.2. |
| 1.50m+ | L1002 | Natural. As above Tr.1. |

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2)

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| North end 0.00= 12.55m AOD | | |
| 0.00 – 0.23m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above Tr.1. |
| 0.23 – 0.39m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above Tr.1. |
| 0.39m+ | L1002 | Natural. As above Tr.1. |

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| West end 0.00= 13.19m AOD | | |
| 0.00 - 0.22m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above Tr.1 |
| 0.22 - 0.95m | L1007 | Made Ground. As above Tr.2. |
| 0.95 0 1.38m | L1008 | Made Ground. As above Tr.2. |
| 1.38m+ | L1002 | Natural. As above Tr.1. |

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 7 (Figs. 2 & 3)

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| North end 0.00= 12.17m AOD | | |
| 0.00 – 0.34m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above Tr.1. |
| 0.34 – 0.57m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above Tr.1. |
| 0.57m+ | L1002 | Natural. As above Tr.1. |

Description: Pit F1005 was modern, and cut Subsoil L1001.

F1005 was circular in plan (0.50m x 0.40m x 0.15m). It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1006, comprised densely packed angular stone. It contained no finds but had the appearance of being modern. It cut Subsoil L1001.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the evaluation.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The uppermost layer in all trenches was Topsoil L1000, a mid grey brown, friable, sandy silt (0.20- 0.34m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a light yellow brown, compact, clayey silt (0.16 - 0.28m thick).

7.2 In Trenches 2, 4 and 6 Made Ground layers L1007 and L1008 were present below the topsoil and L1007 overlay the natural. The made ground related to the artificial mound in the former recreation ground.

7.3 The natural, L1002 was a light yellow orange, compact, clay, encountered 0.45 - 1.50m below the current ground level.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The excavated features are tabulated:

| Trench | Feature | Description | Spot Date |
|--------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 | F1003 | Gully | Undated |
| 7 | F1005 | Pit | ?Modern |

8.2 The recorded features comprised a likely modern pit (F1005 Tr.7) and an undated gully (F1003 Tr.1). The gully contained a highly abraded sherd of late Iron Age – early Roman pottery.

8.3 Some modern disturbance was apparent in Trenches 2, 4 and 6 in the central sector of the site where modern made ground deposits (L1007 and L1008), associated with the artificial mound of the former recreation ground, were recorded.

8.4 No archaeological remains are known on the site and identified archaeology in the area is limited. Cropmarks are visible to the immediate north of the site possibly the remains of enclosures associated with settlement. Aerial photos also show evidence of former ridge and furrow cultivation and field headlands, associated with the medieval open field system of the historic Paston village. A medieval bone ice skate was found to the immediate north of the site.

8.5 Gully F1003 is undated and the late Iron Age – early Roman pottery sherd is likely residual.

9 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site at Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency, and prepared in accordance with the guidelines contained in Wass (2003). In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would also like to thank the client Crosskeys Homes Ltd for funding the project and The Design Partnership (Ely) Ltd for commissioning the project.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Rebecca Casa Hatton of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

AS1529, Recreation Ground, Paston, Peterborough

Concordance of finds by feature

| Feature | Context | Trench | Description | Spot Date | Pottery |
|---------|---------|--------|-------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1003 | 1004 | 1 | Gully | LIA-Early Roman | (1) 10g |

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORT

The Pottery

Andrew Peachey

A single, highly abraded fragment (9g) of late Iron Age to early Roman 'Belgic' pottery was contained in Gully F1003 (L1004). The Belgic sherd was manufactured in 'classic' Southern British grog-tempered ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 214) with black exterior surfaces and red interior surfaces. It comprises a rim sherd from a necked jar or bowl with a bead rim and cordoned or grooved neck, but the sherd is too small to allow a precise form type to be identified.

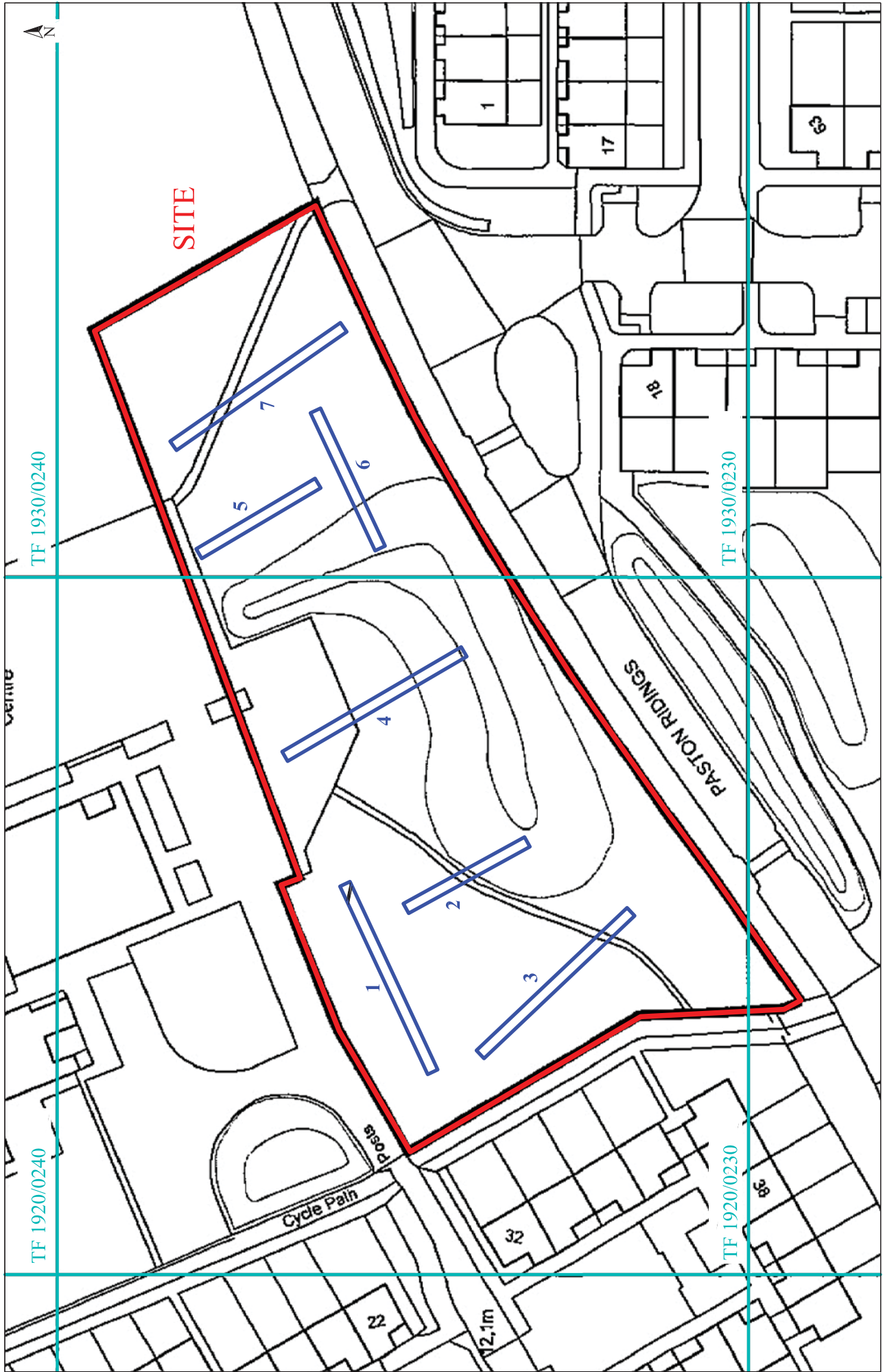
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Tomber, R. & Dore, J. 1998 *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection*. Museum of London, London



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



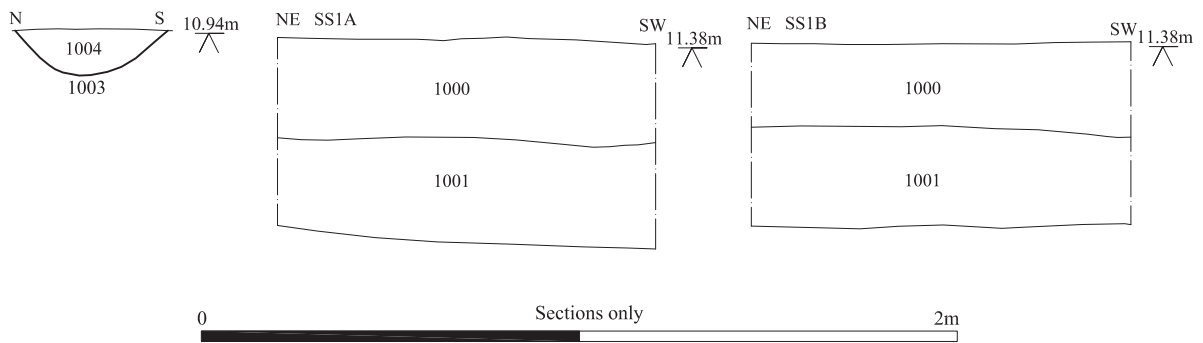
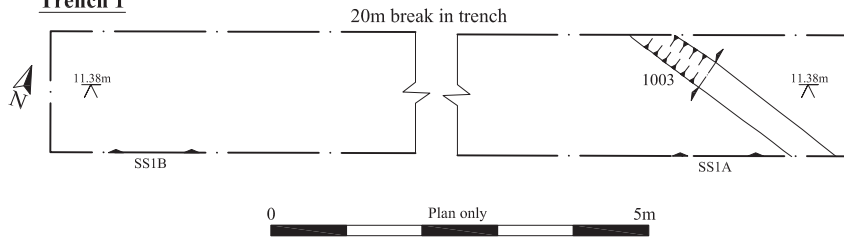
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Fig. 2 Trench location plan

Scale 1:750 at A4



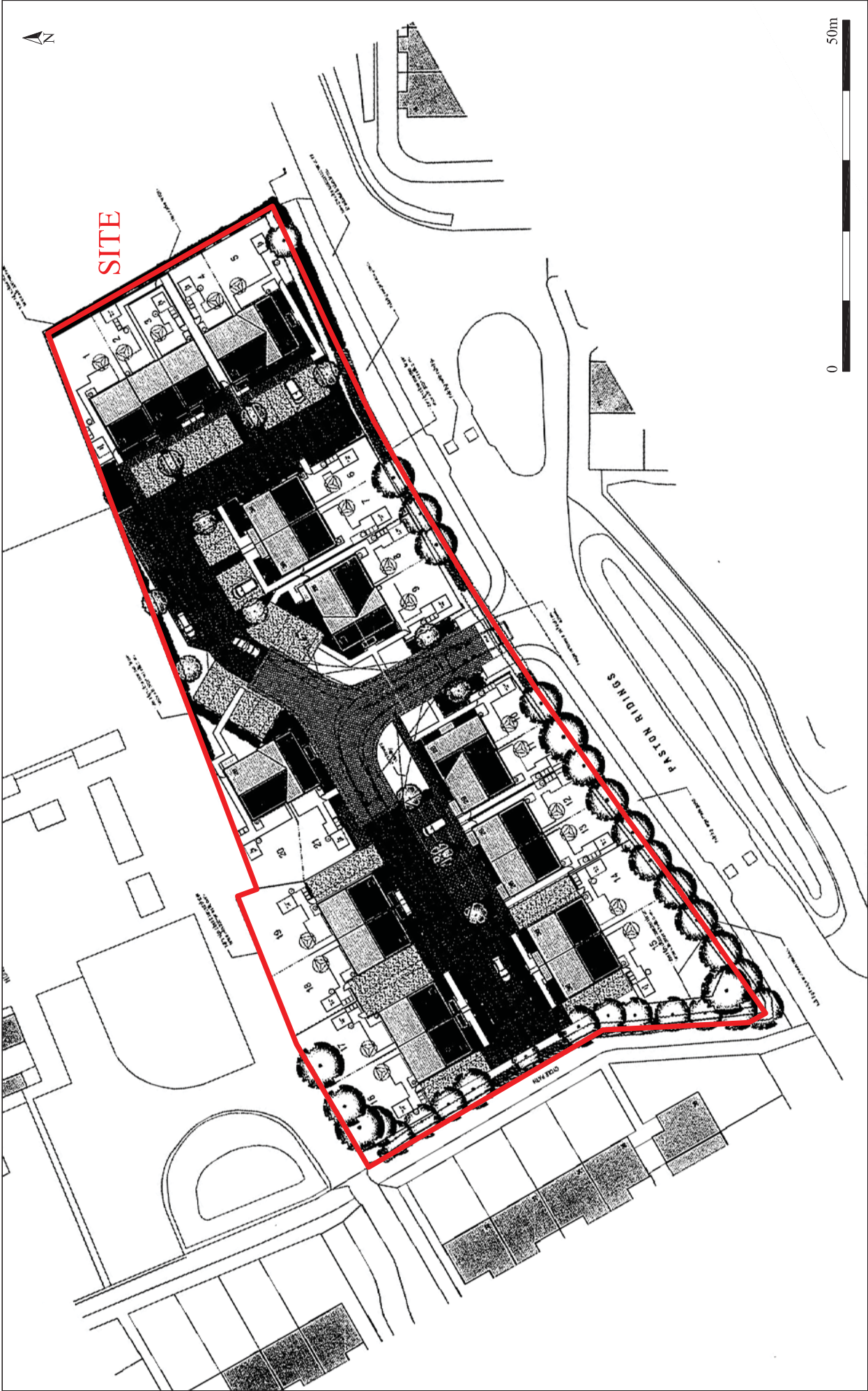
Trench 1



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Fig. 3 Trench plans & sections

Scale plans at 1:100 & sections at 1:20 at A4



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Fig. 4 Proposed development plan

Scale 1:750 at A4