ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

BRAMPTON HUT, A1/A14 INTERCHANGE, HUNTINGDON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER NO. ECB3729

Authors: Gareth Barlow BSc (Fieldwork and report) Megan Stoakley MA PlfA (Research)				
NGR: TL 1930 7192 Report No: 4030				
District: Huntingdonshire Site Code: AS1474				
Approved: C Halpin Project No: 4747				
Date: February 2012				
Signed:				

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CONTENTS

	OASIS SUMMARY SUMMARY
1	INTRODUCTION
2	DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE
3	THE EVIDENCE
4	METHODOLOGY
5	DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS
	CONFIDENCE RATING
7	DEPOSIT MODEL
8	DISCUSSION
9	DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE
ACKNOW	LEDGEMENTS
BIBLIOGE	RAPHY
APPENDI	X 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET					
Project name	Brampton Hut, A1/A14 Interchange, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.	An			
	Archaeological Evaluation.				

In February 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Brampton Hut, A1/A14 Interchange, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1930 7192; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising an extension to the existing service area to provide additional catering outlets, parking and a picnic area (Hunts DC Ref. 1100801OUT).

Prehistoric archaeological remains are known in the area. The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record records the presence of a rich archaeological landscape, with evidence for settlement and land use from the Neolithic period onwards. Iron Age settlement is known to the north and east of the site, and cropmark evidence of an enclosure, stockades and a pit alignment are known to the south. The latter may be of Iron Age of Roman date. Ridge and furrow is also recorded in the area (HER 02059 & 11652), and ridge and furrow is evident within the site (DPs1 & 2).

In the event the evaluation revealed numerous undated features, without finds and which cannot be assigned to a period.

Project dates (fieldwork)	28/02/2012 - 5/3/2	2012		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N Future work (Y/N/?) TBC			
P. number	4747	Site code	AS1474	
Type of project	Archaeological Ev	aluation	·	
Site status	None			
Current land use		with roadside services co sociated parking & acces	omprising garage, hotel &	
Planned development		e existing service area to arking and a picnic area	provide additional	
Main features (+dates)	Pits, ditches & gul	llies		
Significant finds (+dates)	None			
Project location				
County/ District/ Parish	Cambridgeshire	Huntingdonshire	Huntingdon	
HER for area	Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER)			
Post code (if known)	PE28 4NQ			
Area of site	c. 4687.5m ²			
NGR	TL 1930 7192			
Height AOD (min/max)	c. 12m AOD			
Project creators				
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire C	County Council Historic Er	nvironment Team	
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd			
Funded by	Eight Developments Ltd			
Full title	Brampton Hut, A1/A14 Interchange, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation			
Authors	Gareth Barlow & Megan Stoakley			
Report no.	4030			
Date (of report)	February 2012			

BRAMPTON HUT, A1/A14 INTERCHANGE, HUNTINGDON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

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SUMMARY

In February 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Brampton Hut, A1/A14 Interchange, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1930 7192; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising an extension to the existing service area to provide additional catering outlets, parking and a picnic area (Hunts DC Ref. 1100801OUT).

Features were recorded in all four archaeological evaluation trenches. A higher number (5 and 4) were recorded in Trenches 3 and 4 respectively, compared to Trenches 1 (2) and 2 (2). A range of features pits (3), ditches (6), gullies (3) and the ?base of a furrow (1) were recorded. The pits were found in Trenches 1 and 2. All of the features were undated and none contained any finds except F1014 (Tr.4) which contained an unidentifiable fragment of animal bone. The ditches and gullies in Trench 3 were on the same alignment as the ridge and furrow which suggests that there may be some association.

Prehistoric archaeological remains are known in the area. The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record records the presence of a rich archaeological landscape, with evidence for settlement and land use from the Neolithic period onwards. Iron Age settlement is known to the north and east of the site, and cropmark evidence of an enclosure, stockades and a pit alignment are known to the south. The latter may be of Iron Age of Roman date. Ridge and furrow is also recorded in the area (HER 02059 & 11652), and ridge and furrow is evident within the site (DPs1 & 2).

In the event the evaluation revealed numerous undated features which cannot be assigned to a period.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Brampton Hut, A1/A14 Interchange, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1930 7192; Figs. 1 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising an extension to the existing service area to provide additional catering outlets, parking and a picnic area (Hunts DC Ref. 1100801OUT).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Dan McConnell of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team

- (CCC HET) (dated 30th January 2012), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 14th February 2012), and approved by CCC HET. The project adhered to appropriate sections of Gurney (2003) 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*, and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* 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. In addition it was hoped to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

Planning policy context

1.4 Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5; 2010) 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

- 2.1 The site lies c.7km to the west of Huntingdon in the north-west part of the county of Cambridgeshire. Stukely is located c.3.5km to the north-east, Brampton c.1km to the south-east, Ellington c.3.25km to the west and Alconbury c.4km to the north. Brampton Wood is located c.1.5km to the south-west. To the north-east lie two large reservoirs and a race course at c.300-750m distant respectively. Sand/gravel pits lie c.500m to the north-east and c.2km to the west. The Ouse Valley Way runs on a NE/SW course c.3km to the south-east of the site.
- 2.2 The site is located to the south-west of a circular interchange connecting the north/south A1 road and the east/west A14 road. The site is located adjacent to the existing roadside services including a MacDonald's restaurant, a Premier Inn hotel, a public house, a large car park and a BP petrol filling station. The area of the roadside services is on areas of hard-standing and concrete. The site is located to the east of the roadside services and comprises a square plot of open grassland with an area of $c.4687.5\text{m}^2$.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

3.1.1 The site is located on relatively level ground at c.12m AOD. It is located close to the floor of the Ouse Valley on the shallow western slope, which descends from c.45m AOD to the north-west to c.10m AOD to the south-west. The Alconbury Brook runs NE/SW across the northern periphery of the site at c.500m distant. The solid geology of the site comprises the Oxford Clay. The soils of the site belong to the Evesham 3 association (411c) and are defined as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils.

3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background Fig.3

Prehistoric

3.2.1 The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record records the presence of a rich archaeological landscape, with evidence for settlement and land use from the Neolithic period onwards. Iron Age settlement is known to the north and east of the site, and cropmark evidence of an enclosure, stockades and a pit alignment are known to the south. The latter may be of Iron Age of Roman date.

Romano-British

3.2.2 Romano-British archaeological remains are not known within the vicinity of the site.

Medieval

3.2.3 Medieval archaeological remains are sparse within the vicinity of the site. An aerial photograph survey (ECB652) revealed ridge and furrow cropmarks located c.500m to the south-east (HER 02059). Ridge and furrow cropmark (HER 11652) is located running through the western section of the site (Palmer 2000), and ridge and furrow is evident within the site (DPs1 & 2).

Post-medieval

3.2.4 Post-medieval archaeological remains are not recorded within the vicinity of the site.

Modern

3.2.5 A Second World War pillbox (CB15210) located *c*.200m to the south-east of the site.

Undated

3.2.6 An aerial photograph survey (Palmer 2000) and a series of gradiometer surveys (Bunn 2008) revealed numerous enclosures and stockade cropmarks located c.400m to the south of the site (HER 07608).

Cartographic Sources

3.2.7 The 1773 Inclosure map depicts the site as the second field to the west of a crossroads, with Thrapston to the west and Stilton to the north (Fig.4). The area is under the tenancy of 'Doctor Watson'. The 1841-2 Tithe map depicts a landscape largely unchanged since 1773 (Fig.5). The site remains rural on the 1890, 1901, 1950 and 1958 Ordnance Survey maps (Figs. 6 - 8). The 1978 and 1984-1996 Ordnance Survey maps depict the site as rural, although urban and roadside development of the modern Brampton Hut Interchange to the south and south-east of the site has been extensive. The ring road complex comprising the modern Brampton Hut A1/A14 Interchange is depicted to the east of the site on the 1978 Ordnance Survey map. Further urban developments in the 1984-1996 Ordnance Survey maps comprise filling stations, tanks and drains to the south of the site.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Four trial trenches were excavated (Fig.2). Trenches 1, 3, & 4 were 30m long and Trench 2 was 28m long. All trenches were 1.60m wide.
- 4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 180° back acting mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.60m 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.

5 RESULTS Figs.2, 10 & 11

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 & 10)

Sample section 0.00 = 11.95m		, north facing.
0.00 – 0.26m L1000 Topsoil. Firm, mid dark grey brown sandy clay silt with occasional very small rounded flint and chalk.		
0.26 – 0.67m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid orange brown clay silt with moderate very small rounded flint and chalk.
0.67m+	L1002	Natural deposits. Compact, mid brownish yellow orange with frequent very small rounded flint and chalk.

Description: Trench 1 contained Gully F1027 and Pit F1029. Both were undated.

Gully F1027 (2.00+ x 0.56 x 0.28m) was aligned northwest/southeast at the eastern end of the trench. It had irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1028, was a compact, mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional very small rounded flint and chalk. It contained no finds.

Pit F1029 was oval (1.26+ \times 1.52 \times 0.35m). It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1030, was a compact, mid orange brown silty clay with occasional very small rounded flint and chalk. It contained no finds.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 10)

Sample section: North end, west facing.		
0.00 = 11.68m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m L1000 Topsoil. As Trench 1		
0.25 – 0.50m L1001 Subsoil. As Trench 1		
0.50m+ L1002 Natural deposits. As Trench 1		

Sample section: South end, west facing			
0.00 = 11.88m AOD			
0.00 – 0.28m L1000 Topsoil. As Trench 1			
0.28 – 0.58m L1001 Subsoil. As Trench 1			
0.58m+ L1002 Natural deposits. As Trench 1			

Description: Trench 2 contained two undated pits (F1003 & F1017).

Pit F1003 was oval (0.98 x 0.79 x 0.21m) located at the southern end of the trench. It had moderately sloping sides rounding to a flat base. Its fill, L1004, was a compact, mid orange brown silty clay with moderate very small rounded flint and chalk. It contained no finds.

Pit F1017 was sub-rectangular (1.38 x 0.95 x 0.26m) located at the northern end of the trench. It had steep sides and a flat base. It contained two fills. The primary and principal fill, L1019, was a compact, orange brown silty clay. The upper fill, L1018, was a compact, mid orangey-blue brown silty clay with occasional very small rounded flint and chalk. Neither fill contained finds.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 & 11)

Sample section: East end, north facing.			
0.00 = 11.56m AOD			
0.00 – 0.38m L1000 Topsoil. As Trench 1			
0.38 – 0.55m L1001 Subsoil. As Trench 1			
0.55m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Trench 1	

Sample section: West end, north facing			
0.00 = 11.84m AOD			
0.00 – 0.25m L1000 Topsoil. As Trench 1			
0.25 – 0.45m L1001 Subsoil. As Trench 1			
0.45m+			

Description: Trench 3 contained three undated ditches (F1009, F1011, & F1014) and two undated gullies (F1005 & F1007), all on the same N/S alignment.

F1005 was a shallow gully (1.60+ x 0.60 x 0.09m) orientated north/south. It had gently sloping sides rounding to a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a compact, mid orange brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Gully F1007 was also shallow (1.60+ x 0.45 x 0.10m) orientated north/south. It had moderately sloping sides rounding to a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a compact, mid orange brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1009 was linear (1.60+ x 1.50 x 0.57m) orientated north/south. It had steep sides with a flattish base. Its fill, L1010, was a compact, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional very small rounded flint and chalk. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1011 was linear $(1.60+ x\ 2.60\ x\ 0.80m)$ orientated north/south. It had steep sides and a flat base. It contained two fills. The basal fill, L1012, was a compact, mid orange brown silty clay with moderate very small rounded flint and chalk. Its upper fill, L1013, was a compact, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional very small rounded flint and chalk. Neither fill contained any finds.

Ditch F1014 was linear (1.60+ x 1.25+ x 0.60m) orientated north/south. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1015, was a compact, mid orange brown silty clay with moderate very small rounded flint and chalk. It contained an unidentifiable fragment of animal bone (1g).

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 & 11)

Sample section 0.00 = 11.48m		end, west facing.
0.00 - 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.18 – 0.41m L1001 Subsoil. As Trench 1		
0.41m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Trench 1

Sample section: South end, west facing			
0.00 = 11.63m AOD			
0.00 - 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1	
0.20 – 0.51m L1001 Subsoil. As Trench 1			
0.51m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Trench 1	

Description: Trench 4 contained three ditches (F1021, F1023, & F1025) and a layer (L1020) possibly the remnant of the base of a furrow.

L1020 was a layer $(7.00+ x 1.08 \times 0.10m)$ of compact, mid orange brown silty clay with occasional very small rounded flint and chalk. It overlay Ditch F1021 in the centre of the trench. The alignment of its long axis corresponds with the alignment of the ridge and furrow suggesting that this spread may be the remnant of a furrow that was a little deeper at this point, perhaps due to the presence of the in-filled Ditch F1021. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1021 was linear (1.60+ x 2.20 x 0.41m) orientated southeast/northwest. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1022, was a compact, mid brownish orange, with blue grey mottling silty clay with moderate small subangular flints. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1023 was linear (1.60+ x 0.75 x 0.39m) orientated east/west. It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1024, was a compact, mid orange brown silty clay with moderate small chalk and flints. It contained no finds. F1023 cut Ditch F1025.

Ditch F1025 was linear (0.21+ \times 0.50+ \times 0.35m) orientated north/south. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1026, was a compact, mid orange brown silty clay with moderate small chalk and flints. It contained no finds. F1025 was cut by Ditch F1023.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

- 7.1 The stratigraphy was uniform across the site with Topsoil L1000) overlying Subsoil L1001 which in turn overlay the natural deposits (L1002).
- 7.2 Topsoil L1000 was a firm, mid dark grey brown sandy clay silt with occasional very small rounded flint and chalk present (c.0.25m). It was slightly thicker towards the eastern side of the site (at the eastern end of Trench 3 (0.38m)). Subsoil L1001 was a firm, mid orange brown clay silt with moderate very small rounded flint and chalk. It varied in thickness between 0.41m in the north, 0.20m in the centre, and 0.31m in the south. The natural deposits were encountered at depths of between 0.67m in the north, 0.45m in the centre, and 0.58m in the south.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1	The	excavated	features	are	tahulated:
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Trench	Context	Description	Spot date	
1	1027	Gully	Undated	NW/SE
	1029	Pit	Undated	-
2	1003	Pit	Undated	-
	1017	Pit	Undated	-
3	1005	Gully	Undated	N/S
	1007	Gully	Undated	N/S
	1009	Ditch	Undated	N/S
	1011	Ditch	Undated	N/S
	1014	Ditch	Undated	N/S
4	L1020	?Furrow	Undated	
	1021	Ditch	Undated	NW/SE
	1023	Ditch	Undated	E/W
	1025	Ditch	Undated	E/W

- 8.2 Features were recorded in all four trenches. A higher number (5 and 4) were recorded in Trenches 3 and 4 respectively, compared to Trenches 1 (2) and 2 (2). A range of features pits (3), ditches (6), gullies (3) and the ?base of a furrow (1) were recorded. The pits were found in Trenches 1 and 2. All of the features were undated and none contained any finds except F1014 (Tr.4) which contained an unidentifiable fragment of animal bone. The ditches and gullies in Trench 3 were on the same alignment as the ridge and furrow which suggests that there may be some association.
- 8.3 Prehistoric archaeological remains are known in the area. The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record records the presence of a rich archaeological landscape, with evidence for settlement and land use from the Neolithic period onwards. Iron Age settlement is known to the north and east of the site, and cropmark evidence of an enclosure, stockades and a pit alignment are known to the south. The latter may be of Iron Age of Roman date. Ridge and furrow is also recorded in the area (HER 02059 & 11652), and ridge and furrow is evident within the site (DPs1 & 2).
- 8.4 In the event the evaluation revealed numerous undated features which cannot be assigned to a period.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at Cambridgeshire County 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS is grateful to Eight Development Ltd for funding of the evaluation and for their assistance (in particular Mr David Lodge). AS is also grateful to Mr David Mead of Partners in Planning for assistance.

AS also would like to thank staff at the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Record, for their assistance.

AS gratefully acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Daniel McConnell of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team

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WEB RESOURCES

Accessed on 24th February 2012

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/

www.maps.google.co.uk

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a 500m radius of the site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER).

SMR	NGR SP	Description		
Medieval				
02059 & ECB652 (2000)	TL 197 716	Ridge and furrow, Brampton. Well-defined ridge and furrow.		
11652 & ECB652	TL 1925 7195	Ridge and furrow/pond, Brampton. N - S ridge and furrow survives to c 0,60m. The new A604 cuts through the centre of the site, which now lies N and S the road. Both fields are covered with scrub, the one to the S suffering from some fly dumping and dumping of grubbed hedges. Wood shed in SW corner. The field to the W may contain ridge and furrow and a pond. However the site was extremely overgrown and access nearly impossible. The ridge and furrow is worth preservation.		
Modern				
CB15210	TL 1945 7185	Pillbox, Brampton Hut. Unknown type, destroyed.		
Undated				
07608 & ECB652 & ECB3194 (2008)	TL 193 715	Enclosures and stockade cropmarks, Brampton. Cropmarks of many enclosures, big stockades indicated now by lines of large postholes. Nothing visible on RAF APs. Prior to the implementation of the A14 improvement Scheme, a series of features were identified along the route using gradiometer survey. At this location the NE corner of an enclosure complex.		

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



General view of the site; showing surviving Ridge and Furrow. Looking north.



General view of the north end of the site; Ridge and Furrow shows clearly in fence line. Looking west.



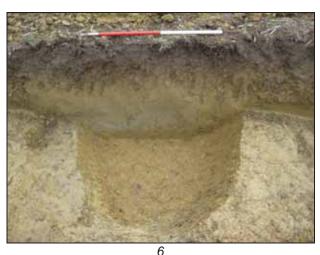
3
Trench excavation in progress. Looking south west.



Trench 1 post excavation. Looking west.



Gully F1027. Trench 1, looking south east.



Pit F1029. Trench 1, looking south.



Trench 2 post excavation. Looking south.



9
Pit F1017. Trench 2, looking south.



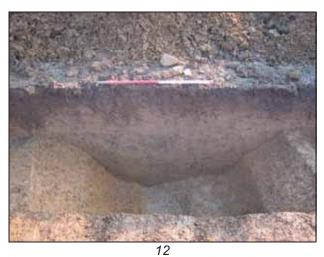
11 Ditch F1014. Trench 3, looking south.



8 Sample section 2B. Trench 2, looking east.



10
Trench 3 post excavation. Looking east.



Ditch F1009. Trench 3, looking south.



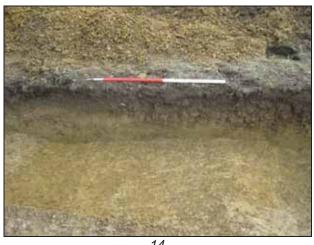
13 Ditch F1011. Trench 3, looking south.



15
Trench 4 post excavation. Looking south.



17
Ditch F1021 and spread F1020B. Trench 4, looking east.



14
Gullies F1005 & F1007. Trench 3, looking south.



16
Ditches F1023 & F1025. Trench 4, looking east.



18
Sample Section 4B. Trench 4, looking east.

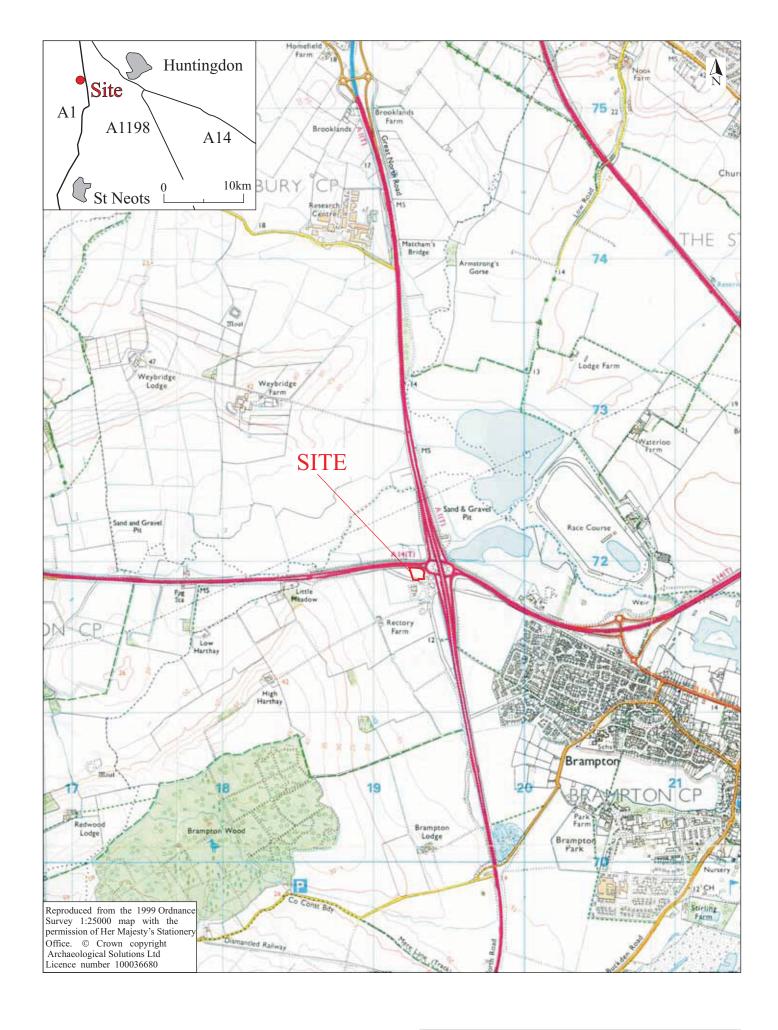
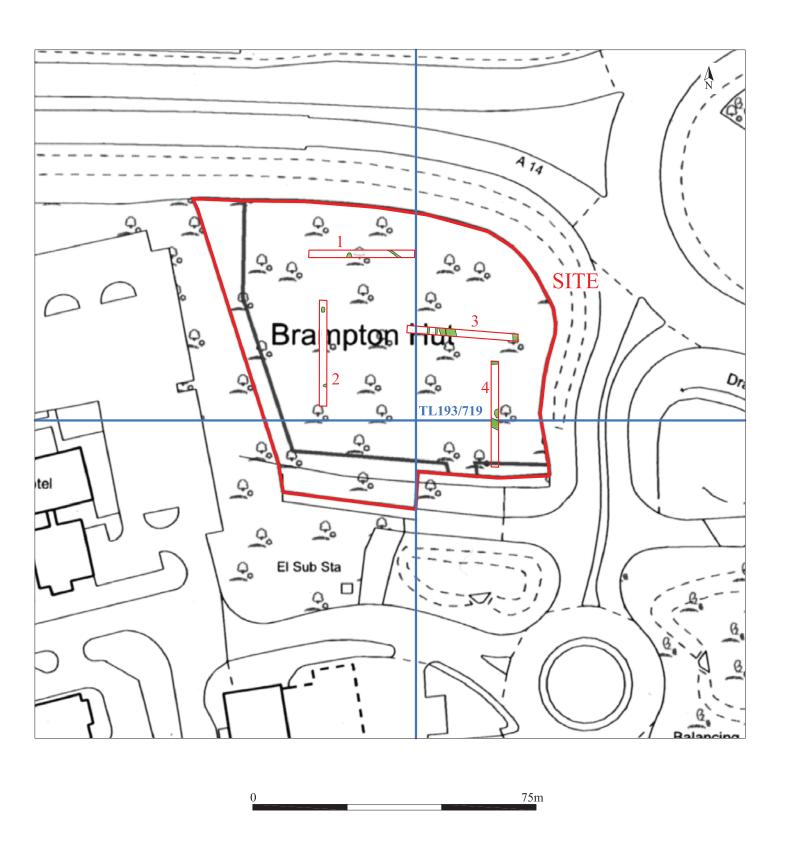


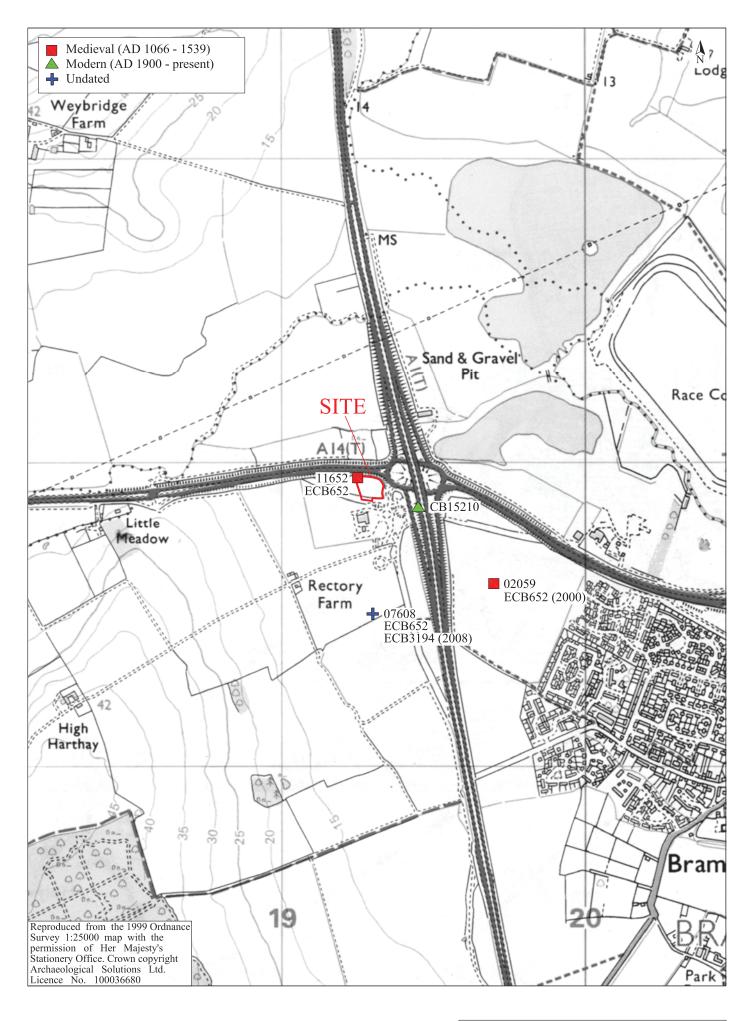
Fig. 1 Site location plan
Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

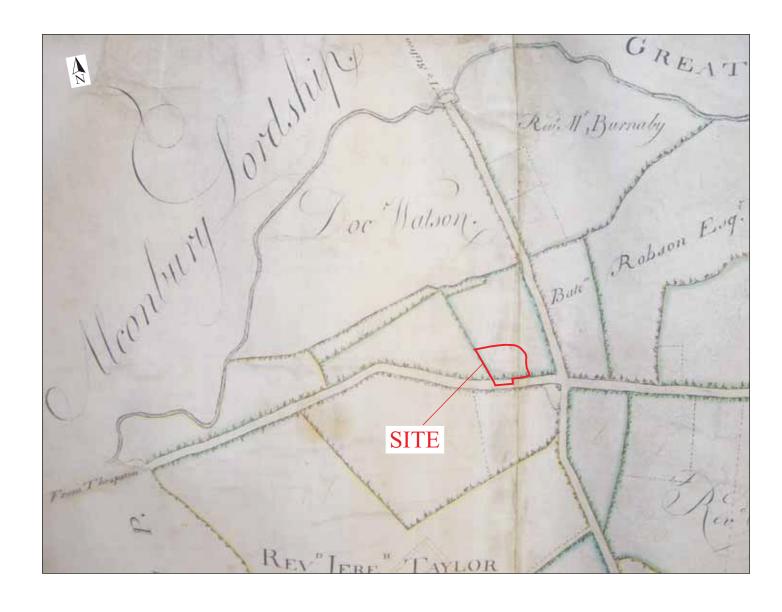
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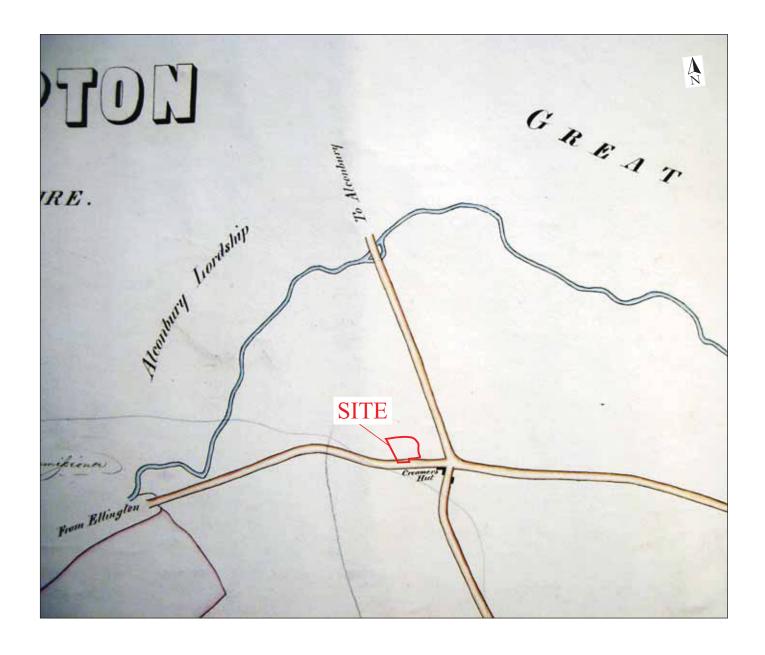


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Fig. 3 HER Data

Scale 1:12,500 at A4





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Fig. 5
Not to scale Tithe map 1841-2

