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**NETHER STREET DEPOT, DUNMOW ROAD,
ABBESS BEAUCHAMP AND BERNERS RODING,
ONGAR, ESSEX CM5 0JT**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Mariusz Gorniak (Fieldwork & Report) Peter Thompson (Research)	
NGR: TL 5820 1199	Report No: 4263
District: Epping Forest	Site Code: ABN 13
Approved: Claire Halpin MifA	Project No: P4416
Signed:	Date: February 2013

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Nether Street Depot, Dunmow Road, Abbess Beauchamp and Berners Roding, Ongar, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation.</i>		
<i>In February 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of Nether Street Depot, Dunmow Road, Abbess Beauchamp and Berners Roding, Ongar, Essex (NGR TL 5820 1199). The evaluation was commissioned by Belgrave Investments Ltd. and was undertaken in advance of the construction of a detached five bedroom dwelling with an ancillary outbuilding. It was required to comply with an archaeological condition attached to planning approval (Essex County Planning Ref. PL/EPF/0225/11.), based on advice from Historic Environment Management Team of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch.</i>			
<i>The evaluation consisted of two trial trenches excavated within the full width of the footprints of the proposed two new structures. Archaeological features were recorded in both trenches. Trench 1 revealed a ditch (F1009) and three post holes (F1011, F1015, and F1017). Trench 2 revealed a ditch (F1005). Both ditches contained post-medieval finds (pottery and CBM) and the three post holes in Trench 1 were likely of relatively recent date..</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>February 2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>P4416</i>	Site code	<i>ABN 13</i>
Type of project	<i>An archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Car depot</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Ditches and post holes</i>		
Significant finds(+dates)	<i>Post-medieval pottery and CBM</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Epping Forest</i>	<i>Abbess Beauchamp and Berners Roding</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 5820 1199</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>61.50/60.68</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Essex County Council HEM Team</i>		
Project supervisor (PO)	<i>Mariusz Gorniak</i>		
Funded by	<i>Belgrave Investments Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land at Nether Street, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Mariusz Gorniak</i>		
Report no.	<i>4263</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>February 2013</i>		

**NETHER STREET DEPOT, DUNMOW ROAD,
ABBESS BEAUCHAMP AND BERNERS RODING,
ONGAR, ESSEX CM5 0JT**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In February 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of Nether Street Depot, Dunmow Road, Abbess Beauchamp and Berners Roding, Ongar, Essex (NGR TL 5820 1199). The evaluation was commissioned by Belgrave Investments Ltd. and was undertaken in advance of the construction of a detached five bedroom dwelling with an ancillary outbuilding. It was required to comply with an archaeological condition attached to planning approval (Essex County Planning Ref. PL/EPF/0225/11.), based on advice from Historic Environment Management Team of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch.

The evaluation consisted of two trial trenches excavated within the full width of the footprints of the proposed two new structures. Archaeological features were recorded in both trenches. Trench 1 revealed a ditch (F1009) and three post holes (F1011, F1015, and F1017). Trench 2 revealed a ditch (F1005). Both ditches contained post-medieval finds (pottery and CBM) and the three post holes in Trench 1 were likely of relatively recent date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the former Nether Street Depot, Essex (TL 5820 1199; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for a detached five bedroom dwelling with ancillary outbuilding on the former plant hire depot (Planning Ref. PL/EPF/0225/11), and was based on a requirement as advised by Essex County Council Historic Environment Management.

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by a brief issued by the Historic Environment Management Team of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (ECC HEM, dated May 2011), and a written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Solutions (dated 19th May 2011), approved by ECC HEM. 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). The brief also required archaeological monitoring during the

construction of the sports pitches etc, for which a separate report will be prepared.

1.3 The aims of the evaluation were to investigate the location, extent, date and character 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 and 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 comprises a former heavy plant hire depot occupied by a modern depot building, barn-like structure and large area of concrete hardstanding. It is located on the western side of the B184 Nether Street close to the junction with Berwick Lane to the north. Nether Street Farm lies adjacent. It is currently in use for airport car parking.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 Nether Street Depot, Abbess Beauchamp is located on gently undulating ground with the valley of the river Roding in the east. The local fertile soils derive from boulder clay with glacial sand and gravel. Within the investigated site, topsoil and subsoil layers were truncated by modern surfaces and made up modern ground (hardcore layer).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site is located within the medieval Rodings. It is thought to lie within the vicinity of the medieval moated site of Nether Hall, recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record – EHER 4488. The medieval parish church of St Edmund lies some 1km to the south west and the parish contains a number of medieval moated manorial sites/enclosures, including those at Berners Hall, Mascallbury Farm, The Old Rectory and Leaden Hall. Nether Hall Farm, immediately adjacent to the NE, is a 17th century Grade II listed building (EHER 32901).

5 METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCHING)

5.1 The brief required trial trenches to be excavated within the full width of the footprints of the proposed two new structures. Therefore one trench of c.15.5 x 1.60m was excavated within the footprint of the new house and another trench of c.11.2 x 1.60m was excavated within the footprint of the new ancillary building.

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. 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. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual descriptions of trenches are presented:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 & 4)

<i>Sample section 1A</i> <i>0.00 = 61.26m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Concrete surface.
0.24 – 0.32m	L1003	Subsoil. Dark greyish brown (creamy) slightly sandy clay with sparse flint.
0.32 – 0.54m	L1021	Fill of tree throw. Light greyish brown silty sand.
0.54m+	L1004	Natural. Slightly clayey dark yellowish brown coarse sand and flint gravel.

Description: Trench 1 contained four archaeological features: One ditch (F1010), three post holes (F1011, F1015, and F1017). Within the trench also was a large modern pit (F1007) and a modern service trench (F1013). A tree throw was excavated. The ditch contained post-medieval brick. The post holes contained datable finds but F1017 had the remnants of a timber post.

Ditch F1009 was linear in plan (4.4+ x 1.8 x 0.44m), orientated north-south. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a dark greyish brown, firm, homogenous, sandy clay with sparse flint gravel. It contained small fragments of CBM and one almost complete post-medieval red brick (1583g). F1009 was cut by a modern pit, F1007, and a modern service, F1013.

Post Hole F1015 had straight sides and rounded corners in plan (0.28 x 0.11m+). Its fill, L1016, was a dark greyish brown, firm, homogenous, sandy clay with sparse flint gravel. It was not fully excavated as only a small part of the context was exposed in Trench1 and it was also truncated by modern service trench F1013. The feature was very similar to Post Holes F1011 and F 1017.

Post Hole F1011 was rectangular in plan (0.74 x 0.65 x 0.47m). It had irregular sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1012, was a dark greyish brown slightly sandy clay with patches of yellowish brown, firm and hard, clayey sand and sparse flint gravel. It contained no finds though flecks of probably post-medieval CBM were evident.

Post Hole F1017 had straight edges and rounded corners in plan (0.5 x 0.35+ x 0.43m). It had steep sides and a slightly concave base. Its fill, L1019, was a dark greyish brown, slightly sandy, firm and hard clay with sparse flint gravel. The post pipe fill, L1018, was a very dark brownish grey sandy clay with fragments of a decayed timber post, L1018, *in situ*.

Modern feature F1007 was probably a large pit (2.00+ x 1.6m+). Its profile was irregular. Its fill, L1008, was a mixed deposit of dark greyish brown sandy clay and yellowish brown coarse sand with gravel and with significant modern CBM.

Service Trench F1013, was orientated east-west (1.6+ x 0.34m). Its fill, L1014, was a very dark greyish brown sandy clay and gravel. The feature was not excavated.

Natural feature F1020 was oval in plan (1.40 x 0.30 x 0.22+). It had irregular sides and an undulating base. Its fill, L1021, was a light greyish brown, firm, silty sand with sparse small flint nodules.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 4)

<i>Sample section 2A</i> 0.00 = 61.25m AOD		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1022	Tarmac surface.
0.17 – 0.33m	L1000	Concrete surface. As above Tr.1.
0.33 – 0.65m	L1002	Hardcore layer below modern surface. Coarse sand, gravel and CBM.
0.65 – 0.71m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.71m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 2B</i> 0.00 = 61.04m AOD		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1023	Topsoil.
0.16 – 0.40m	L1024	Subsoil.
0.40 – 0.71m	L1025	Colluvium.
0.71 – 0.96	L1003	Subsoil. As above in Tr.1
0.96m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1

Description: Trench 2 contained post-medieval Ditch F1005.

Ditch F1005 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.90 x 0.31m), orientated north–south. It had irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a dark greyish brown, firm, sandy clay with occasional small flint. It contained one large sherd of post-medieval (17th-18th C) glazed pottery, CBM (1004g) and animal bone (513g).

9 CONFIDENCE RATING

9.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds within the site.

10 DEPOSIT MODEL

10.1 Uppermost L1000 (c.0.15m thick) and L1001 (c.0.20m thick), were modern tarmac and concrete surfaces. In Trench 2 the tarmac overlay the concrete and the latter sealed modern hardcore, L1002, (c.0.35m thick). L1002

overlay Subsoil L1003, a dark greyish brown sandy clay (c.0.20m thick). Below L1003 was the natural, L1004, gravel and slightly clayey coarse sand. In Trench 1 the concrete surface (L1001) directly overlaying L1003.

11 DISCUSSION

11.1 The features recorded in each trench are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Date
1	F1007	Pit	Modern
	F1009	Ditch	Post medieval
	F1011	Post hole	Undated
	F1013	Service trench	Modern
	F1015	Post hole	Undated
	F1017	Post hole	Modern
	F1020	Tree throw	-
2	F1005	Ditch	Post medieval

11.2 Archaeological features were recorded in both trial trenches. The features were most dense in Trench 1 (three post holes and a ditch); Trench 2 exposed only one ditch. Ditches F1005 (Tr.2) and F1009 (Tr.1) contained post-medieval pottery and CBM. The ditches were both orientated north/south, broadly parallel.

11.3 One of the post holes in Trench 1 (F1011) contained flecks of CBM material and another (F1017) contained a fragment of the original timber post, suggestive of a relatively recent date.

11.4 Modern disturbance was most significant in Trench 1. A modern service (F1013) traversed the trench and a large pit (F10007) truncated all deposits in the northern part of the trench.

11.5 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, as it is close to the medieval moated site of Nether Hall, recorded in Essex Historic Environment Record – EHER 4488. The medieval parish church of St Edmund lies some 1 km to the south west and the parish contains a number of medieval moated manorial sites/enclosures, including those at Berners Hall, Mascallbury Farm, The Old Rectory and Leaden Hall. Nether Hall Farm, immediately adjacent to the NE, is a 17th century Grade II listed building (EHER 32901). In the event the evaluation revealed post-medieval and relatively recent finds.

12 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

12.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Epping Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited is grateful to Mr Tony White (Belgrave Investments Ltd) for his assistance and for funding the evaluation, and to JSP Chartered Town Planner & Design Consultants for their assistance.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge Ms Laura Belton of Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

P4416, Nether St. Depot, Ongar
Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1005	1006		Fill of Ditch	17th-18th C	(1) 199g	1004	513	
1009	1010		Fill of Ditch			1583		

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered a single large fragment of post-medieval red earthenware weighing 195g from L1006. It comprises the base and body angle probably from a bowl with internal olive green glaze and would suit a 17th to 18th century date.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

Four bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken during trial excavations at Dunmow Road, Ongar. The sampled deposits (L1006, L1010, L1012 and L1018) date to the post-medieval period. This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions and discusses the significance and potential of the material recovered.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using a Siraf style flotation tank. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 250µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 500µm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification).

Results

Samples 1 (L1010), 2 (L1012) and 4 (L1006) contained only modern roots and un-charred plant stem remains. Such material was abundant in L1006. Sample 3 of L1018 contained numerous fragments of un-charred wood. Whether the material represents degraded fragments or wood-working debris is uncertain. It is unlikely that any further analysis of this material would yield any detailed information to contribute to the understanding of the excavated features.

Conclusions and statement of potential

Other than the wood fragments in L1018, no environmental archaeological remains were present in the bulk sample light fractions. The site is unlikely to represent great potential for further recovery of plant macrofossils or other significant remains and the present samples offer no potential for further analysis.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Trench 1 looking north



2
Trench 2 looking east



3
F1009 looking north



4
F1011 looking west



5
F1017 looking east



6
Sample section 1A looking east



7
Sample section 2A looking south

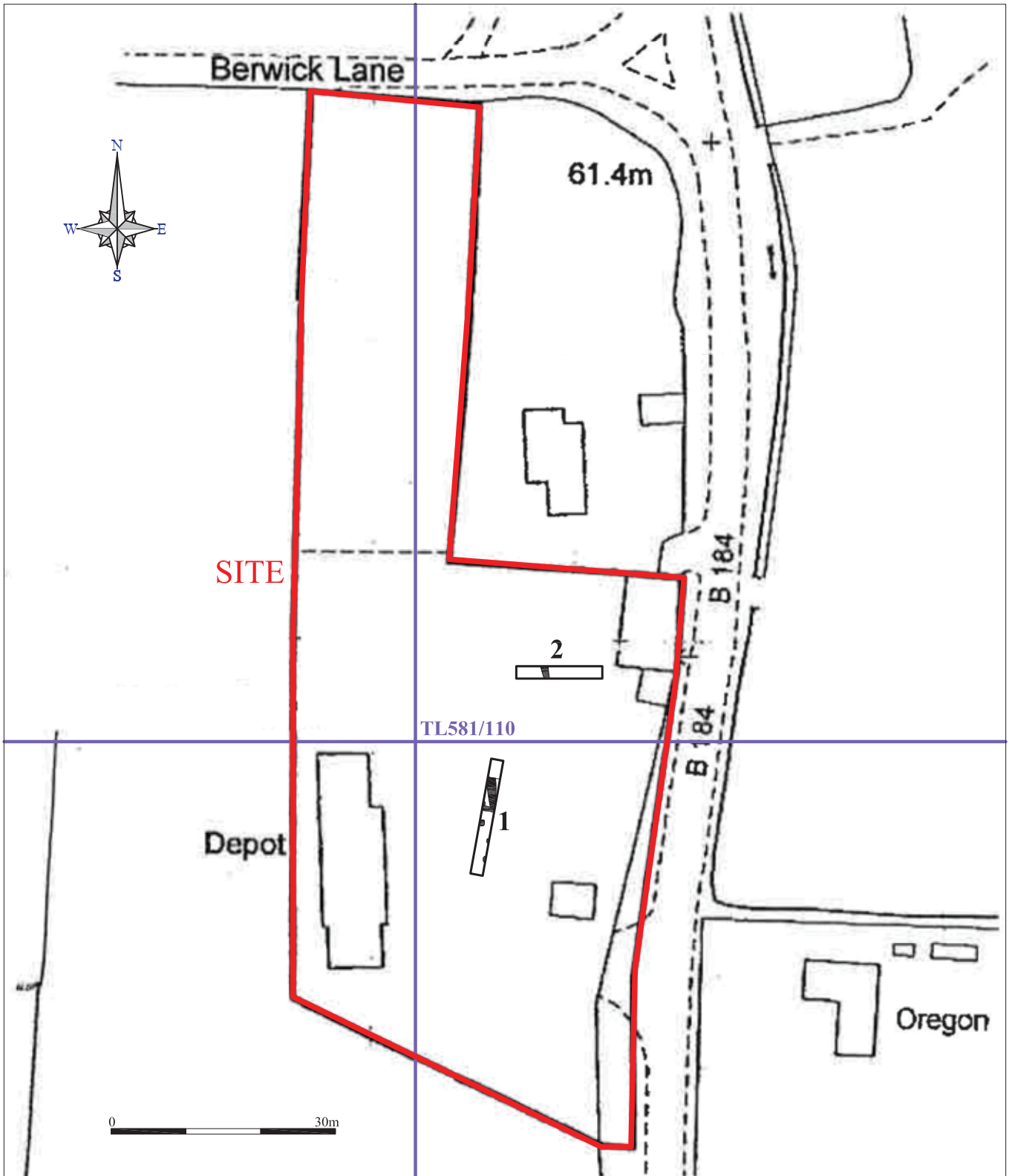


8
Sample section 2B looking south



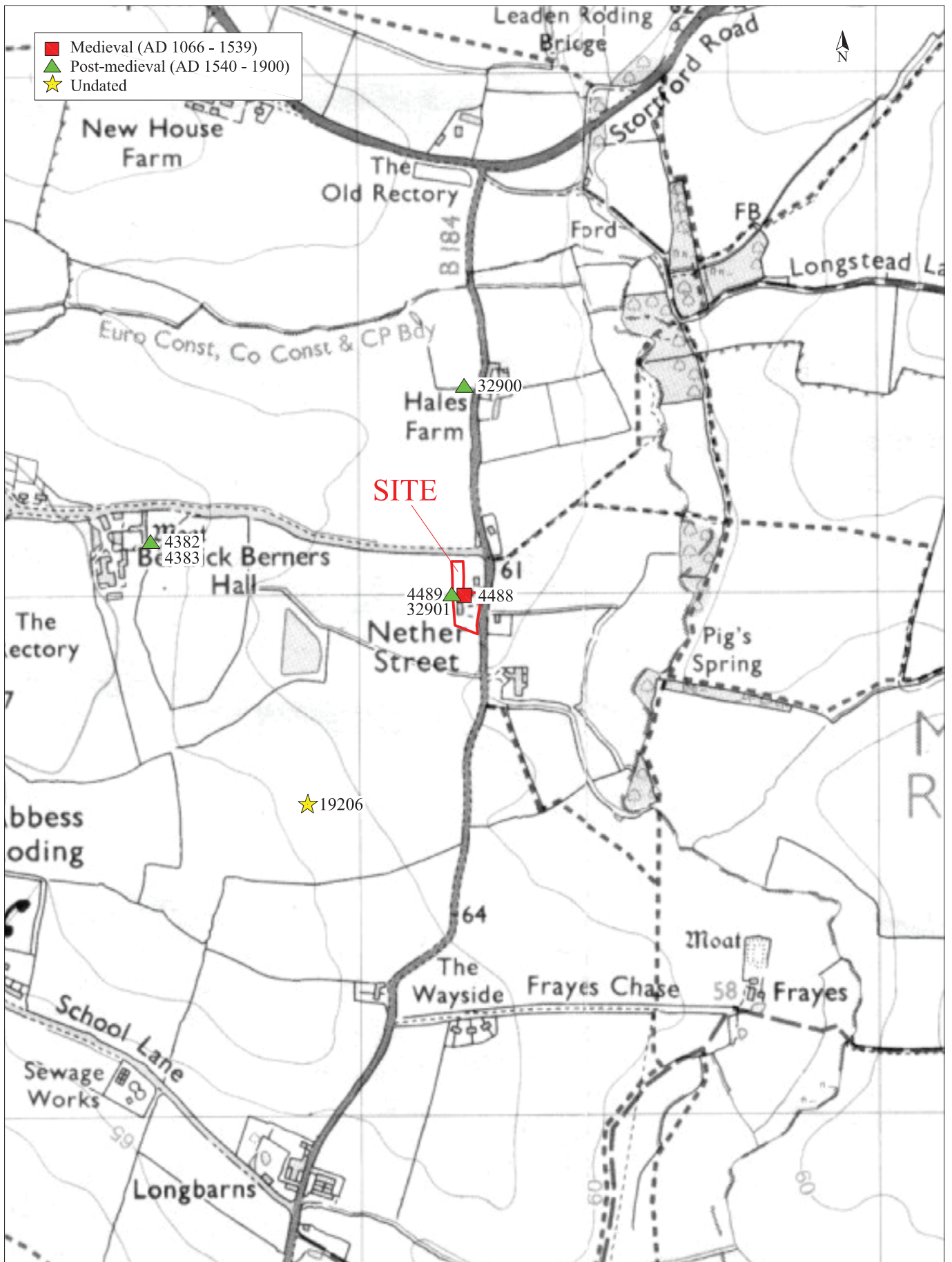
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:750 at A4

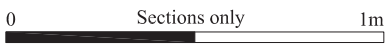
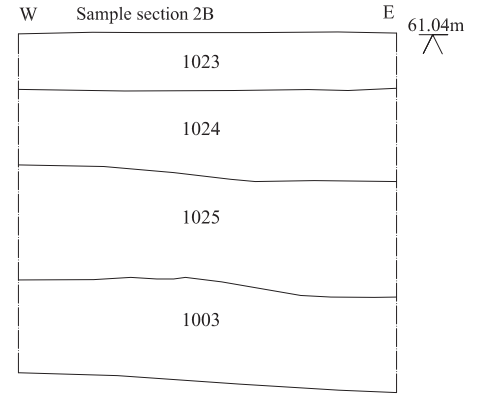
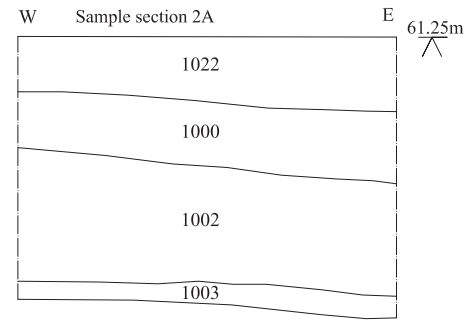
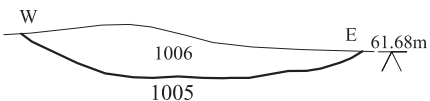
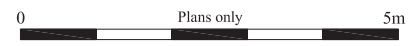
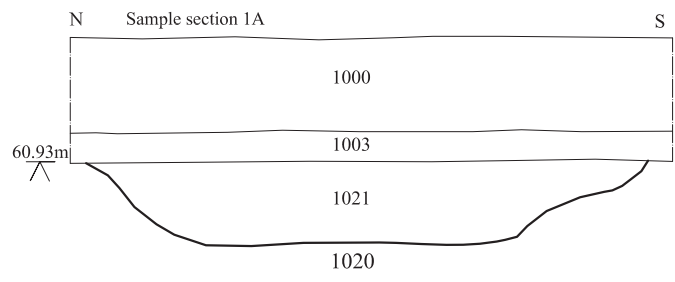
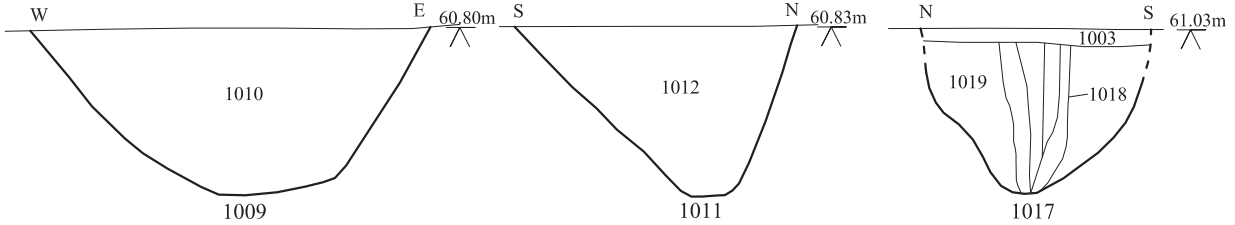
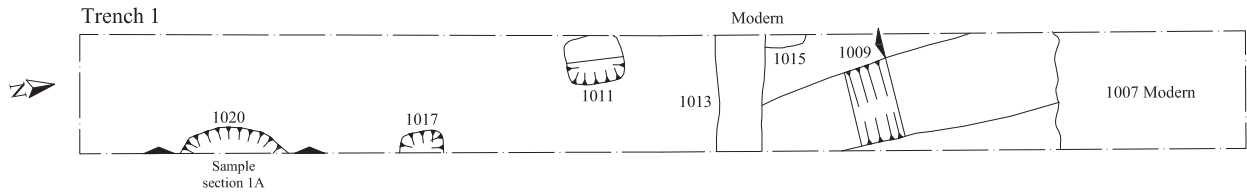


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Fig. 3 HER data

Scale 1:10,000 at A4



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Fig. 4 Plans & sections
 Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4