

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**COLCHESTER SKIP HIRE
GREENACRES, OLD PACKARDS LANE,
WORMINGFORD, ESSEX**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Kamil Orzechowski (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 93458 30397	Report No: 4184
District: Colchester	Site Code:
Approved: C Halpin MIfA	Project No: 4967
Signed:	Date: November 2012

This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. Unauthorised copying, reproduction or distribution to other parties will constitute a breach of copyright and is prohibited.

Archaeological Solutions is an independent archaeological contractor providing the services which satisfy all archaeological requirements of planning applications, including:

Desk-based assessments and environmental impact assessments
Historic building recording and appraisals
Trial trench evaluations
Geophysical surveys
Archaeological monitoring and recording
Archaeological excavations
Post excavation analysis
Promotion and outreach
Specialist analysis

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

98-100 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AB
Tel 01992 558170

Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Tel 01284 765210

e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk



twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS



www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions



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**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	Colchester Skip Hire, Greenacres, Old Packards Lane, Wormingford, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation.		
<p><i>In November 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Colchester Skip Hire, Greenacres, Old Packards Lane, Wormingford, Essex (NGR TL 93458 30397). The evaluation was commissioned by The Johnson Dennehy Planning Partnership on behalf of Colchester Skip Hire, and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new waste recycling facility (Planning Ref. ESS/13/11/COL).</i></p> <p><i>The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, but one in which there has been little previous archaeological investigation. A moderate potential for below ground archaeological deposits has been identified on the Historic Environment Characterisation Project for Colchester (ECC 2009). The zone is characterised by cropmark sites of prehistoric and Roman date, identified through aerial photography, and evidence of later historic settlement, including medieval moated sites. The proposed waste facility lies adjacent to a medieval moated site, which has an extant 15th century house within the moated platform (Essex Historic Environment Record EHER 9175). It is possible that this once formed part of a larger medieval farmstead/settlement with associated field systems, which have the potential to extend into the area of proposed development.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation of the southern sector of the site revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	November 2012		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	TBC
P. number	4967	Site code	
Type of project	Archaeological Evaluation		
Site status			
Current land use	Skip hire facility		
Planned development	New waste recycling facility		
Main features (+dates)	None		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
Project location			
County/ District/Parish	Essex	Colchester	Wormingford
HER for area	Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	c. 3.7ha		
NGR	NGR TL 93458 30397		
Height AOD (min/max)	c. 57m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (ECC HEM)		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Colchester Skip Hire		
Full title	Colchester Skip Hire, Greenacres, Old Packards Lane, Wormingford, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation.		
Authors	Orzechowski, K.		
Report no.	4184		
Date (of report)	November 2012		

**COLCHESTER SKIP HIRE, GREENACRES,
OLD PACKARDS LANE, WORMINGFORD, ESSEX**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In November 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Colchester Skip Hire, Greenacres, Old Packards Lane, Wormingford, Essex (NGR TL 93458 30397). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new waste recycling facility (Planning Ref. ESS/13/11/COL).

The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, but one in which there has been little previous archaeological investigation. A moderate potential for below ground archaeological deposits has been identified on the Historic Environment Characterisation Project for Colchester (ECC 2009). The zone is characterised by cropmark sites of prehistoric and Roman date, identified through aerial photography, and evidence of later historic settlement, including medieval moated sites. The proposed waste facility lies adjacent to a medieval moated site, which has an extant 15th century house within the moated platform (Essex Historic Environment Record EHER 9175). It is possible that this once formed part of a larger medieval farmstead/settlement with associated field systems, which have the potential to extend into the area of proposed development.

In the event the evaluation of the southern sector of the site revealed no archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Colchester Skip Hire, Greenacres, Old Packards Lane, Wormingford, Essex (NGR TL 93458 30357; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by The Johnson Dennehy Planning Partnership on behalf of Colchester Skip Hire, and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval on appeal for the construction of a new waste recycling facility (Planning Ref. ESS/13/11/COL, Appeal Ref. APP/Z1585/A/11/2165340/NWF).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (ECC HEM) (dated 6th August 2012), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 21st August 2012), 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).

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.

1.4 The specific research aims were to characterise any evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity, and/or to identify remains of historic settlement of the landscape (in particular for remains associated with the adjacent medieval moated site).

Planning policy context

1.5 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.

1.6 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 is located on the southern edge of Wormingford village, on the southern side of Old Packards Lane. It is currently partially occupied by Colchester Skip Hire, with the remainder being a former arable field. The site extends to c.3.7ha and lies at height of c.57m AOD.

2.2 Wormingford lies on high ground above the valleys of the rivers Stour and Colne. The local geology is chalky till deposits

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, but one in which there has been little previous archaeological investigation. A moderate potential for below ground archaeological deposits has been identified on the Historic Environment Characterisation Project for Colchester (ECC 2009). The zone is characterised by cropmark sites of prehistoric and Roman date, identified through aerial photography, and evidence of later historic settlement, including medieval moated sites. The proposed waste facility lies adjacent to a medieval moated site, which has an extant 15th century house within the moated platform (Essex Historic Environment Record EHER 9175). It is possible that this once formed part of a larger medieval farmstead/settlement with associated field systems, which have the potential to extend into the area of proposed development.

4 METHODOLOGY (Trial trenching)

4.1 The brief required a 4% sample of the site to be subject to trial trenching, with a further 1% held in reserve to further define any archaeological deposits as required. Twenty one trenches, each 40m x 1.8m were therefore proposed (Fig.2). Given practical access difficulties at this stage, trenches within the operation part of the site could not be excavated. The first phase of trenches were, however, excavated in currently accessible areas. During the first phase of the evaluation 14 trenches were excavated within the southern sector of the site (Trenches 1 - 7, 12 - 16 and 20 - 21).

4.2 Topsoil and overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision, thereafter excavation was undertaken by hand. 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.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample Section 1A: North End, East Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 57.70m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid grey brown, firm, sandy clay with sparse stone
0.22 – 0.31m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid orange brown, firm, sandy clay with occasional stone
0.31m+	L1002	Natural. Mid orange yellow, compact, sandy clay with occasional chalk and stone.

<i>Sample Section 1B: South End, East Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 57.75m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.18 – 0.34m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.34m+	L1002	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample Section 2A: East End, North Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 57.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.18 – 0.34m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.34m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample Section 2B: West End, North Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 57.88m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.11m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.11 – 0.26m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.26m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample Section 3A: North End, East Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 58.20m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.17 – 0.32m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.
<i>Sample Section 3B: South End, East Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 58.45m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.19 – 0.32m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.

0.32m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.
--------	-------	-------------------------

Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample Section 4A: East End, North Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 58.75m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample Section 4B: West End, North Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 58.65m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.25 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.37m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample Section 5A: South End, East Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 58.60m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.31m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.31m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample Section 5B: North End, East Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 58.15m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.22 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 5 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample Section 6A: West End, South Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 58.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.26 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.37m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample Section 6B: East End, South Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 58.15m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.21 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 7 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample Section 7A: North End, East Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 57.60m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.34m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.34m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample Section 7B: South End, East Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 57.95m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.18 – 0.29m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.29m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 7 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 12 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample Section 12A: West End, South Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 57.45m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.24 – 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.44m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample Section 12B: East End, South Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 57.50m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.23 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 12 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 13 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample Section 13A: North End, West Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 57.85m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample Section 13B: South End, West Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 58.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.23 – 0.31m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.31m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 13 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 14 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample Section 14A: West End, North Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 58.25m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample Section 14B: East End, North Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 58.20m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 14 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 15 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample Section 15A: North End, East Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 57.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.22 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.37m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample Section 15B: South End, East Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 58.01m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.27 – 0.35m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.35m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 15 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 16 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample Section 16A: East End, North Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 57.85m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample Section 16B: West End, North Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 57.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 16 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 20 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample Section 20A: West End, North Facing</i>		
---	--	--

<i>0.00m = 57.75m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.28m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.
<i>Sample Section 20B: East End, North Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 57.60m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.22 – 0.47m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.47m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 20 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 21 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample Section 21A: North End, East Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 57.85mAOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.21 – 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.46m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample Section 21B: South End, East Facing</i> <i>0.00m = 57.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.24 – 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.46m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 21 contained no archaeological features or finds.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a mid grey brown, firm, sandy clay with sparse stone (0.11 – 30m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001, a mid orange brown, firm, sandy clay with occasional stone (0.09 – 0.25m thick). L1001 was not present in Trenches 14 (east end), 16 and 20 (north end). L1001 overlay the natural, L1002, a Mid orange yellow, compact, sandy clay with occasional chalk and stone (0.26 – 0.47m below the present day ground surface).

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, but one in which there has been little previous archaeological investigation. A moderate potential for below ground archaeological deposits has been identified on the Historic Environment Characterisation Project for

Colchester (ECC 2009). The zone is characterised by cropmark sites of prehistoric and Roman date, identified through aerial photography, and evidence of later historic settlement, including medieval moated sites. The proposed waste facility lies adjacent to a medieval moated site, which has an extant 15th century house within the moated platform (Essex Historic Environment Record EHER 9175). It is possible that this once formed part of a larger medieval farmstead/settlement with associated field systems, which have the potential to extend into the area of proposed development.

8.2 In the event the evaluation of the southern sector of the site revealed no archaeological features or finds.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Colchester Skip Hire for funding the project and for providing plant on site, and also Mr Peter R Johnson of The Johnson Dennehy Planning Partnership Ltd

AS gratefully acknowledges the input and advice of Mr Adrian Gascoyne of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (ECC HEM)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1978, *Legend for the 1:625,000 Geological map of the United Kingdom (solid geology)*: London. Mansfield. Sheet 51.

Gurney, D. (2003). 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*.

Institute for Archaeologists' (2008). *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. IfA, Reading.

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. Harpenden.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Trench 3 looking south



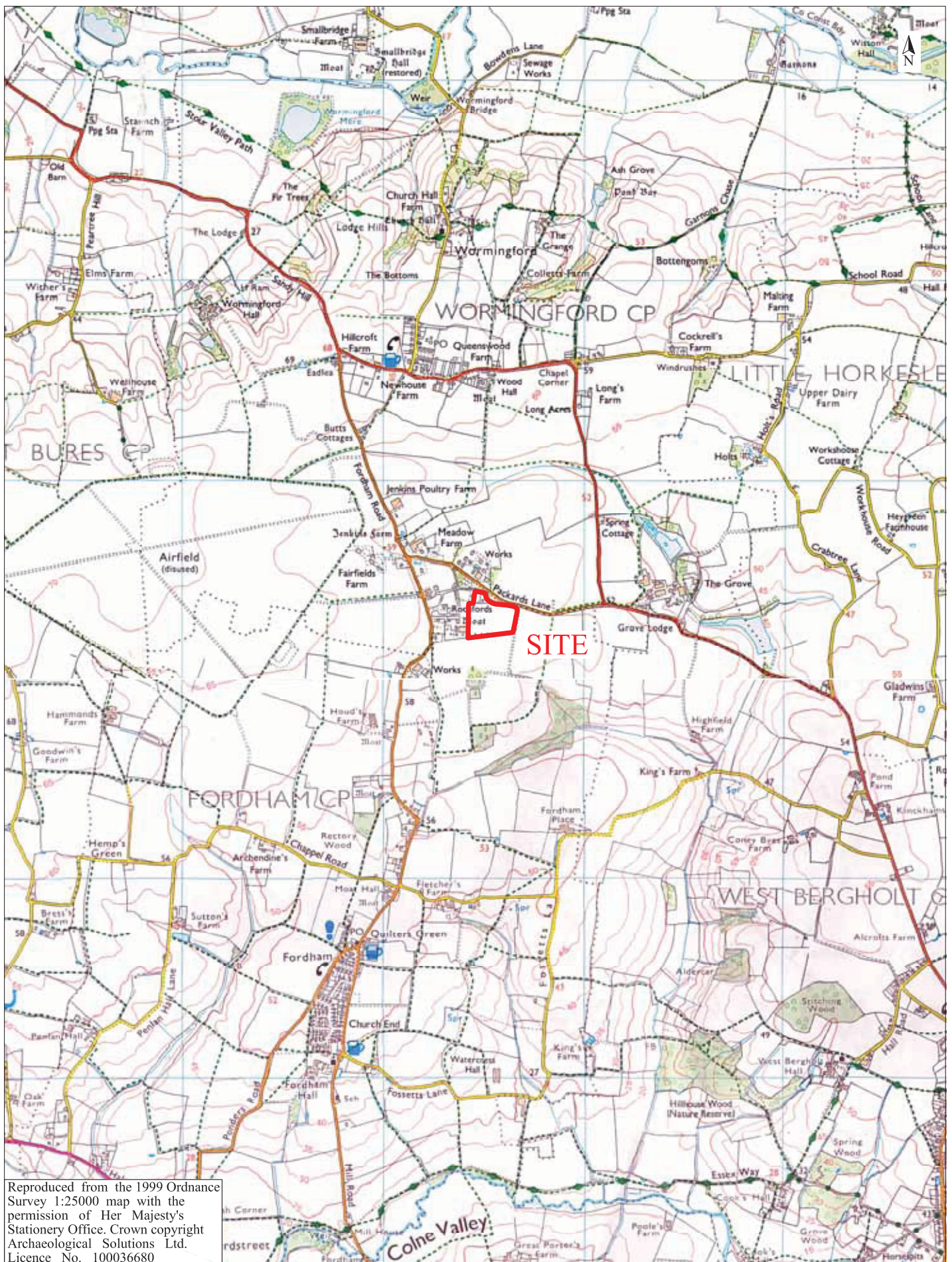
2
Trench 15 looking south



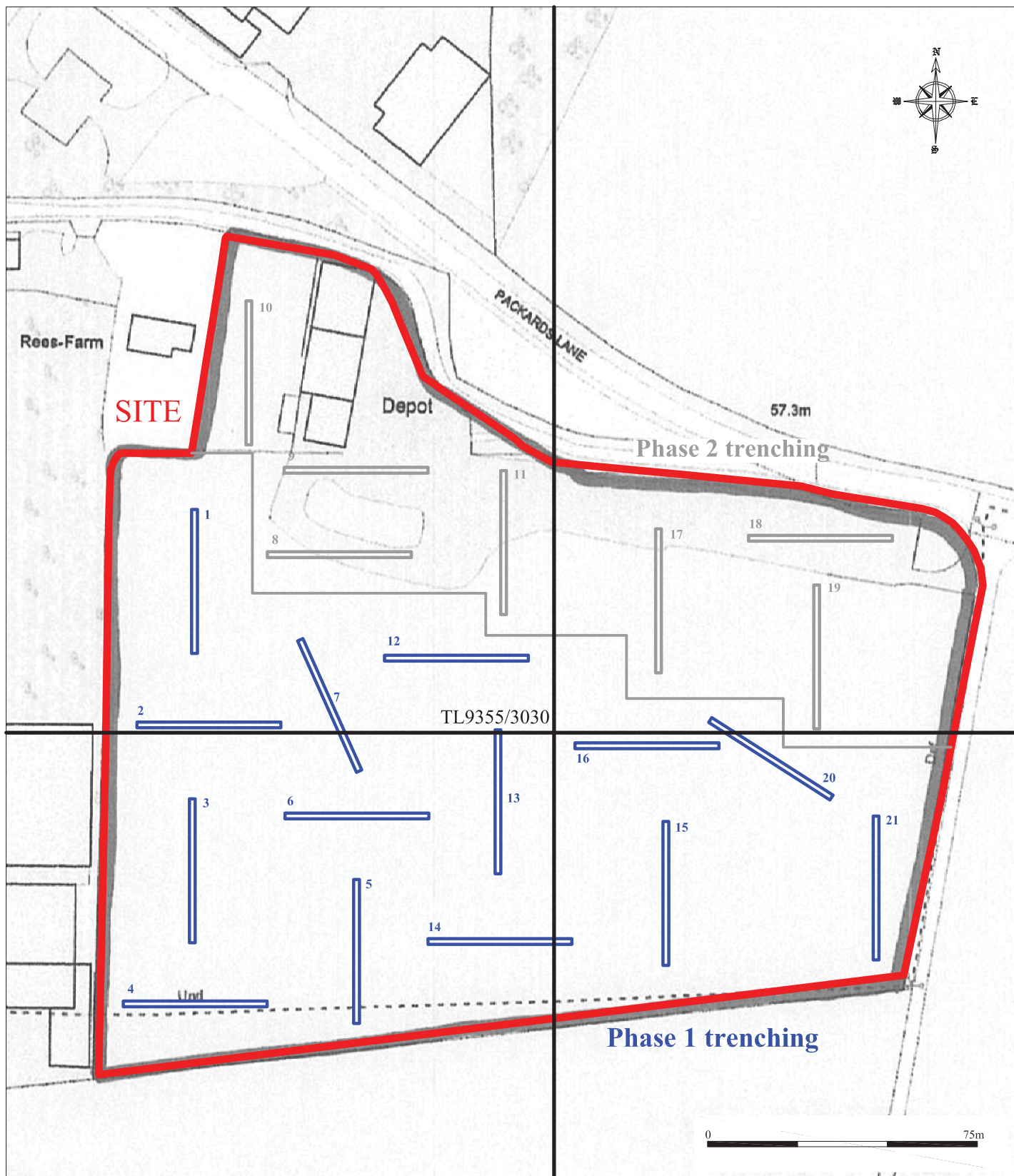
3
Sample section at north end of Trench 3 facing east



4
Sample section at north end of Trench 15 facing east



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



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1,500 at A4

