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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

### LAND AT NORWICH ROAD, HINGHAM, NORFOLK

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Vinny Monahan (Fieldwork & report) Andy Peachey (Background Research)	
NGR: TQ 0280 0209	Report No: 4874
District: South Norfolk	Site Code: ENF
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA Signed:	Project No: 5424
	Date: 18 June 2015

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## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Proposed Development, Norwich Road, Hingham, Norfolk</i>		
<p><i>In June 2015 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Norwich Road, Hingham, Norfolk (NGR TG 0280 0209). It is proposed to construct a residential development of 88 homes with new roads and landscaping. Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Team (NCC HES) advised the Local Planning Authority that a trial trench evaluation of the site should be carried out in accordance with a planning condition attached to approval for the development (South Norfolk Council Planning Ref. 2014/2322/F), in order to identify the presence of any archaeological remains for which further mitigation may be required.</i></p> <p><i>A previous geophysical survey revealed no anomalies judged to be of archaeological significance (Parker 2013).</i></p> <p><i>The trial trench evaluation revealed 24 archaeological features (11 ditches, 2 gullies, 9 possible pits, 1 post hole and 1 stake hole), Tree Hollow F1023 (Trench 16) and modern plough scars (Trenches 2 and 8). Some of the 'archaeological features' were irregular (Pits F1035 and F1037 (Trench 7), Pits F1025 and F1026 (Trench 9) and Pit F1005 (Trench 16)) and may be natural features. Finds were extremely sparse. An abraded sherd of medieval (12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery was found in the topsoil. Pit F1045 (Trench 3) and Ditch F1053 (Trench 6) contained animal bone. An environmental sample from Pit F1045 contained no carbonised remains of cereals and no indicative merit for further field work.</i></p> <p><i>Overall the recorded features are consistent with agricultural activity. The lack of dating evidence inhibits comment and suggests that the features are not domestic.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>June 2015</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>6034</i>	Site code	<i>ENF 136588</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Agricultural fields</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Undated ditches and pits</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>South Norfolk</i>	<i>Hingham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.3.75ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 0280 0209</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.52m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd.</i>		
Funded by	<i>Abel Homes Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land at Norwich Road, Hingham, Norfolk</i>		
Authors	<i>Monahan, V., &amp; Peachey, A.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4874</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>June 2015</i>		

## LAND AT NORWICH ROAD, HINGHAM, NORFOLK

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### **SUMMARY**

*In June 2015 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Norwich Road, Hingham, Norfolk (NGR TG 0280 0209). It is proposed to construct a residential development of 88 homes with new roads and landscaping. Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Team (NCC HES) advised the Local Planning Authority that a trial trench evaluation of the site should be carried out in accordance with a planning condition attached to approval for the development (South Norfolk Council Planning Ref. 2014/2322/F), in order to identify the presence of any archaeological remains for which further mitigation may be required.*

*There is little to indicate any occupation of the site other than a post-medieval findspot identified through metal detecting. Cartographic sources illustrate that the northern boundary of the site abutting the road remains completely unchanged since at least 1766, indicating the line of the hedgerow boundary was well-established prior to the process of the Enclosure or Tithe Commutation Acts of the early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, therefore may have its origins in medieval agricultural landscape. Furthermore, the possibility that a Roman road traversed the area, potentially along the route of Norwich Road, would greatly extend the age of the site's northern boundary, though this route remains postulated with no supporting archaeological evidence.*

*A previous geophysical survey revealed no anomalies judged to be of archaeological significance (Parker 2013).*

*The trial trench evaluation revealed 24 archaeological features (11 ditches, 2 gullies, 9 possible pits, 1 post hole and 1 stake hole), Tree Hollow F1023 (Trench 16) and modern plough scars (Trenches 2 and 8). Some of the 'archaeological features' were irregular (Pits F1035 and F1037 (Trench 7), Pits F1025 and F1026 (Trench 9) and Pit F1005 (Trench 16)) and may be natural features. Finds were extremely sparse. An abraded sherd of medieval (12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery was found in the topsoil. Pit F1045 (Trench 3) and Ditch F1053 (Trench 6) contained animal bone. An environmental sample from Pit F1045 contained no carbonised remains of cereals (Environmental Report below) and no indicative merit for further field work.*

*Overall the recorded features are consistent with agricultural activity. The lack of dating evidence inhibits comment and suggests that the features are not domestic.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2015 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Norwich Road, Hingham, Norfolk (NGR TG 0280 0209; Figs. 1 - 2). It is proposed to construct a residential development of 88 homes with new roads and landscaping. Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Team (NCC HES) advised the Local Planning Authority that a trial trench evaluation of the site should be carried out in accordance with a planning condition attached to approval for the development (South Norfolk Council Planning Ref. 2014/2322/F), in order to identify the presence of any archaeological remains for which further mitigation may be required.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in response to advice (dated 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015) and a generic brief for evaluation issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES, dated 24/9/2012), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015), approved by NCC HES. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation* (2014), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the presence/absence, date, extent, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological layers or subsoil archaeological features, in order to identify if any further mitigation is required as part of the 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 (Fig. 1-2)**

2.1 Hingham is a small town in the district of South Norfolk, 22km to the west of Norwich and 7km to the north of Attleborough. The site comprises the northern half of an agricultural field located immediately to the east of the village on the south side of Norwich Road (B1108), the main road through Hingham. Residential properties on the outskirts of the village are adjacent to the north and west, while agricultural fields border the site to the south and east.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY & SOILS**

3.1 The site (c.3.75ha) is situated within a very gently undulating landscape, on a slight south-west facing slope, with the north-eastern corner at c.52m AOD, declining to c.48m AOD in the south-western corner. Sea Mere is located c.1km to the south-east of the site, with the marshy Hingham Plantation adjacent to the west, but otherwise with the exception of small ponds and drains there are no watercourses in the vicinity of the site. The site is currently under arable cultivation, and appears to have remained so in the recent past.

3.2 The solid geology underlying the site comprises the Lewes Nodular chalk formation; overlain by a drift geology of sands, silts and clays of the Lowestoft Formation Diamicton (BGS 1978). The overlying soils are known as Beccles 1 which are typical chalky till soils. These consist of slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey soils (SSEW 1983, Sheet 4 Eastern England).

## **4 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment has been undertaken (Peachey 2015). In summary:

*The site comprises land on the eastern periphery of the parish of Hingham. Despite an expected bias in the historic environment record towards the late medieval and post-medieval periods, a not insignificant number of finds have been identified dating from the prehistoric to the early medieval periods, and this coupled with a general dearth of archaeological investigations carried out in the area indicates that the full nature of the area's past is yet to be elucidated. Nevertheless, there is little to indicate any occupation of the site*



*other than a post-medieval findspot identified through metal detecting. Cartographic sources illustrate that the northern boundary of the site abutting the road remains completely unchanged since at least 1766, indicating the line of the hedgerow boundary was well-established prior to the process of the Enclosure or Tithe Commutation Acts of the early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, therefore may have its origins in medieval agricultural landscape. Furthermore, the possibility that a Roman road traversed the area, potentially along the route of Norwich Road, would greatly extend the age of the site's northern boundary, though this route remains postulated with no supporting archaeological evidence.*

4.2 A geophysical survey was carried out by Stratascan in advance of the determination of the planning application, as advised by NCC HES (Parker 2013). This revealed no anomalies judged to be of archaeological significance.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Sixteen trenches, 15 of which were 40m x 1.80m and one 20m x 1.80m, were excavated across the site. They represent a c.3% sample of the site.

5.2 The subsoil 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

### Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 4)

<i>Sample section 1A</i> 0.00 = 49.10m AOD		
0.00 – 0.46m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid grey brown, friable, silty sand with moderate small stones and occasional chalk
0.46 – 0.59m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid red brown, firm, silty sand with frequent small stone and occasional large flint nodules
0.59m+	L1002	Silty Sand Natural. Mid yellow brown, silty sand with moderate small and medium angular flint and occasional chalk

<i>Sample section 1B</i> 0.00 = 49.56m AOD		
0.00 – 0.48m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.48m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

*Description: Trench 1 contained undated Post Hole, F1041.*



Post Hole F1041 was sub circular in plan (0.58 x 0.38 x 0.11m). It was steep sided with a wide, flat base. Its fill, L1042, was a friable, dark grey brown, silty clay. It contained no finds.

## **Trench 2** (Figs. 2 - 4)

<i>Sample section 2A</i> <i>0.00 = 49.59m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.43 – 0.74m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.74m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 2B</i> <i>0.00 = 49.69m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.38 – 0.59m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.59m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Eleven plough scars, orientated N/S, were recorded in Trench 2, and one (F1033) was excavated.*

Plough Scar F1033 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.65 x 0.17m), orientated north/south. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1034, was a firm, mid grey brown, silty clay. It contained no finds.

## **Trench 3** (Figs. 2 - 4)

<i>Sample section 3A</i> <i>0.00 = 48.84m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.38 - 0.59m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.59m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 3B</i> <i>0.00 = 48.85m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.46m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.46 – 0.64m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.64m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 3 contained Pit F1045 and Ditch F1043. The pit contained animal bone.*

Ditch F1043 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.60 x 0.10m), orientated north/south. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1044, was a firm, mid grey brown, silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. It contained no finds.

Pit F1045 was sub-circular in plan (1.55+ x 0.65 x 0.22m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1046, was a firm, mid grey brown, silty clay with small stones. It contained animal bone (1290g).

#### **Trench 4** (Figs. 2 -3 & 5)

<i>Sample section 4A</i> <i>0.00 = 48.40m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.38 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.48m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 4B</i> <i>0.00 = 47.53m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30 – 0.38m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.38m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 4 contained undated Ditch F1049.*

Ditch F1049 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.50 x 0.56m), orientated east/west. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1050, was a firm, mid grey brown, silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones and chalk. It contained no finds.

#### **Trench 5** (Figs. 2 -3 & 5)

<i>Sample section 5A</i> <i>0.00 = 47.15m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.55m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.55m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 5B</i> <i>0.00 = 47.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.43m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 5 contained undated Ditch F1047.*

Ditch F1047 was linear in plan (3.75+ x 1.20 x 0.44m), orientated north-east/south-west, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1048, was a firm, mid grey brown, silty clay with small sub-rounded stones. It contained no finds.

**Trench 6** (Figs. 2 -3 & 5)

<i>Sample section 6A</i> <i>0.00 = 47.89m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.58m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.58m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 6B</i> <i>0.00 = 46.42m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.38 – 0.52m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.52m+	L1056	Fill of Pit F1055

*Description: Trench 6 contained Ditches F1051 and F1053, and a large modern pit, F1055. A modern drain also traversed the trench.*

Ditch F1051 was linear in plan (1.8+ x 0.76 x 0.23m), orientated east/west, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1052, was a firm, mid grey brown, silty clay with moderate sub-angular small stones. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1053 was linear in plan (1.8+ x 1.15 x 0.35m), orientated east/west. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1054, was a firm, mid grey brown, silty clay with moderate sub-angular small stones. It contained a small quantity of animal bone (9g).

Pit F1055 was a large modern feature of unknown shape and depth (10.0+ x 1.8+ x 1.2m+). Its fill, L1056, was a friable, dark grey brown, silty sand with moderate amounts of modern brick rubble.

**Trench 7** (Figs. 2 – 3 & 7)

<i>Sample section 7A</i> <i>0.00 = 50.27m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.31 – 0.68m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.68m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 7B</i> <i>0.00 = 49.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.28 – 0.64m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.64m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 7 contained Pits F1035 and F1037, and Stake Hole F1039. The pits were irregular and may be natural features.*

Pit F1035 was sub-circular in plan (0.65 x 0.28+ x 0.20m), with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1036, was a firm, light grey brown, silty clay with moderate small to medium sized stones. It contained no finds.

Pit F1037 was sub-circular in plan (0.56 x 0.43 x 0.19m), with moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1038, was a firm, light grey brown, silty clay with frequently occurring medium sized stones. It contained no finds.

Stake Hole F1039 was sub-circular in plan (0.20 x 0.19 x 0.05m), with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1040, was a firm, light grey brown, silty clay with moderate medium sized stones. It contained no finds.

## **Trench 8** (Figs. 2 - 3 & 6)

<i>Sample section 8A</i>		
<i>0.00 = 50.64m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.46m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.46 – 0.69m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.69m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 8B</i>		
<i>0.00 = 50.9m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.31m – 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.44m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 8 contained 15 plough scars, two of which were excavated: F1029A and F1029B. Modern Pit F1031 was also present.*

Plough Scar F1029A was linear in plan (1.8+ x 0.35 x 0.06m), orientated north/south, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1029A, was a firm, light grey brown, silty clay with sparse, sub-angular, small stones. It contained no finds.

Plough Scar F1029B was linear in plan (1.8+ x 0.33 x 0.05m), orientated north/south, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1029B, was a firm, light grey brown, silty clay with sparse, sub-angular, small stones. It contained no finds.

Pit F1031 was rectangular in plan (1.0+ x 1.02 x 0.4m+),. It had steep sides but its base was unseen. Its fill, L1032, was heavily mixed containing both a dark grey brown, loose, silty sand, and a mid yellow brown, silty clay, with moderate small rounded chalk. It contained no finds.

**Trench 9** (Figs. 2 – 3 & 6)

Sample section 9A 0.00 = 51.98m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.34 – 0.68m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.68m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 9B 0.00 = 50.62m AOD		
0.00 – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.43m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 9 contained Pits F1025 and F1027. The pits were irregular and may be natural features.*

Pit F1025 was sub-circular in plan (1.0 x 0.4+ x 0.09m), with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1026, was a firm, light grey brown, silty clay with sparse small stones. No finds were present.

Pit F1027 was sub-circular in plan (1.65 x 0.4+ x 0.18m), with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1028, was a firm, light grey brown, silty clay with sparse sub-rounded small stones. No finds were present.

**Trench 10** (Figs. 2 – 3 & 7)

Sample section 10A 0.00 = 52.28m AOD		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.38 – 0.57m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.57m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 10B 0.00 = 51.99m AOD		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.42m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 10 contained Ditches F1007, F1009 A and F1013, and Pit F1011.*

Ditch F1007 was linear in plan (1.0+ x 0.60 x 0.45m), orientated north/south. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a firm, mid grey brown, silty clay with sparse sub-angular small stones. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1009 was linear in plan (1.8+ x 0.63 x 0.21m), orientated north east/south west. It had moderately sloping sides and a narrow base. Its fill,

L1010, was a firm, light grey brown, silty clay with sparse sub-angular small stones. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1013 was linear in plan (1.8+ x 0.62 x 0.20m), orientated north east/south west. It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1054, was a firm, light grey brown, silty clay with occasional sub-angular small stones. It contained no finds.

Pit F1011 was sub-circular in plan (0.58 x 0.46 x 0.13m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1012, was a firm, light grey brown, silty clay with sparse small stones. No finds were present.

### **Trench 11** (Figs. 2 - 3)

<i>Sample section 11A</i> <i>0.00 = 51.68m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.39m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 11B</i> <i>0.00 = 50.51m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.40 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.50m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 11 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

### **Trench 12** (Figs. 2 - 3 & 7)

<i>Sample section 12A</i> <i>0.00 = 50.31m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.38 – 0.52m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.52m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 12B</i> <i>0.00 = 50.56m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.38 – 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.46m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 12 contained Gully F1003, and Ditches F1015, F1017 and F1019.*

Gully F1003 was linear in plan (1.8+ x 0.74 x 0.14m), orientated north east/south west. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill,

L1004, was a compact, mid yellow brown, sandy silt with frequently occurring large angular stones. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1015 was linear in plan (1.8+ x 0.58 x 0.08m), orientated north west/south east. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a firm, light grey brown, silty clay with moderate small sub-angular stones. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1017 was linear in plan (1.8+ x 0.53 x 0.08m), orientated north east/south west. It had moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1018, was a firm, mid grey brown, silty clay with sparse small sub-angular stones. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1019 was linear in plan (1.8+ x 4.50 x 0.20m), orientated north/south. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1020, was a firm, mid grey brown, silty clay with sparse small sub-rounded stones. It contained no finds.

### **Trench 13** (Figs. 2 - 3)

<i>Sample section 13A</i> <i>0.00 = 49.87m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.42m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 13B</i> <i>0.00 = 48.85m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.33 – 0.45m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.45m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 13 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

### **Trench 14** (Figs. 2 - 3)

<i>Sample section 14A</i> <i>0.00 = 48.51m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.38 – 0.67m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.67m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 14B</i> <i>0.00 = 48.87m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.38 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.50m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.



*Description: Trench 14 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

### **Trench 15** (Figs. 2 – 3 & 8)

Sample section 15A 0.00 = 48.35m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.33 – 0.62m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.62m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 15B 0.00 = 47.28m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.33m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 15 contained Gully F1021.*

Gully F1021 was linear in plan (1.8+ x 0.80 x 0.14m), orientated north east/south west. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1022, was a firm, mid grey brown, silty clay with sparse small sub-angular stones. It contained no finds.

### **Trench 16** (Figs. 2 – 3 & 8)

Sample section 16A 0.00 = 46.83m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.35 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.55m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 16B 0.00 = 47.61m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.28m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 16 contained Pit F1005 and Tree Hollow F1023. The pit was irregular and may be a natural feature.*

Pit F1005 was sub-circular in plan (1.80 x 0.52 x 0.14m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a firm, dark grey brown, sandy silt with sparse small and medium stones. No finds were present.

Tree Hollow F1023 was irregular in plan (2.50 x 1.15 x 0.22m), with moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1024, was a loose, dark grey brown, silty sand with sparse small stones. No finds were present.

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It was not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds. A large modern pit (F1055) was recorded in Trench 6, and plough scars were recorded in Trenches 2 and 8. The plough scars are unlikely to have obscured archaeological features.

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small angular stones and sparse rounded chalk flecks (c.0.30 – 0.40m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a firm, mid red brown silty sand with moderate small to large angular flints (c.0.10 – 0.30m thick).

8.2 The natural, L1002, was a firm mid yellow brown silty clay (0.40 – 0.70m below the present day ground surface).

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1041	Post Hole	Undated
2	F1033	Plough Scar	Modern
3	F1043	Ditch	Undated
	F1045	Pit	Undated
4	F1049	Ditch	Undated
5	F1047	Ditch	Undated
6	F1051	Ditch	Undated
	F1053	Ditch	Undated
	F1055	Pit	Modern
7	F1035	Pit / natural feature	Undated
	F1037	Pit / natural feature	Undated
	F1039	Stake Hole	Undated
8	F1029A	Plough Scar	Modern
	F1029B	Plough Scar	Modern

	F1031	Pit	Undated
9	F1025	Pit / natural feature	Undated
	F1027	Pit / natural feature	Undated
10	F1007	Ditch	Undated
	F1009	Ditch	Undated
	F1011	Pit	Undated
	F1013	Ditch	Undated
12	F1003	Gully	Undated
	F1015	Ditch	Undated
	F1017	Ditch	Undated
	F1019	Ditch	Undated
15	F1021	Gully	Undated
16	F1005	Pit / natural feature	Undated
	F1023	Tree hollow	Undated

9.2 The trial trench evaluation revealed 24 archaeological features (11 ditches, 2 gullies, 9 possible pits, 1 post hole and 1 stake hole), Tree Hollow F1023 (Trench 16) and modern plough scars (Trenches 2 and 8). Some of the 'archaeological features' were irregular (Pits F1035 and F1037 (Trench 7), Pits F1025 and F1026 (Trench 9) and Pit F1005 (Trench 16)) and may be natural features.

9.3 Finds were extremely sparse. An abraded sherd of medieval (12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery was found in the topsoil. Pit F1045 (Trench 3) and Ditch F1053 (Trench 6) contained animal bone. An environmental sample from Pit F1045 contained no carbonised remains of cereals (Environmental Report below) and no indicative merit for further field work.

9.4 The site had no defined archaeological potential and the geophysical survey revealed no anomalies judged to be of archaeological significance (Parker 2013). A Roman road may have traversed the area, potentially along the route of Norwich Road, but this route is postulated with no supporting archaeological evidence.

9.5 Overall the recorded features are consistent with agricultural activity. The lack of dating evidence inhibits comment and suggests that the features are not domestic.

## 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with inventory, will be deposited at Norwich Castle Museum in accordance with their requirements. 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

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Paul LeGrice of Abel Homes Ltd for commissioning and funding the desk-based assessment and for his assistance.

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr James Albone of Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

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## WEB SITES

British Listed Buildings  
Norfolk Heritage Explorer  
[www.soilsworldwide.net](http://www.soilsworldwide.net)

## APPENDIX 1                      CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

### ENF135759, P5424, Land on Norwich Road, Hingham, Norfolk

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1000			Topsoil	12th-13th/14th C	1	12					
1045	1046		3	Fill of Pit					1290			
1053	1054		6	Fill of Ditch					9			

## APPENDIX 2

## SPECIALIST REPORTS

### **The Pottery**

*by Peter Thompson*

The evaluation recovered a single abraded medieval rim sherd weighing 12g from topsoil L1000. The sherd was examined under x35 binocular microscope and has been analysed in accordance with the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski 2001). The sherd is a cooking pot rim approximately 14cm in diameter in a pale grey sandy fabric. The rim is outturned, flat topped and slightly expanded externally, and has a slight cordon on the neck. The form is similar to examples found in Norwich and would fit a 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> centuries date (Jennings 1981, 44-46).

### **Bibliography**

Jennings, S. 1981 *Eighteen Centuries of Pottery from Norwich* East Anglian Archaeology 13

Slowikowski, A., Nenck, B. and Pearce, J. 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2.

### **The Animal Bone**

*Dr Julia E.M. Cussans*

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered during trial trench excavations at Hingham. Two contexts yielded animal bone L1046 (Pit F1045) and L1054 (Ditch F1053) and these are quantified in Table 1. Bone preservation was good with little sign of abrasion or weathering. Fresh breaks were fairly common and dog gnawing was only observed on very few bones. Pit F1045 contained the largest bone sample and this was made up of a selection of cattle bones including forelimb elements, atlas and axis vertebrae, bones of the foot and mandible fragments. In addition to the cattle bones a single pig tooth and a chicken sized bird bone were also identified. However the majority of this context was made up of indeterminate large (cattle or horse sized) mammal the majority of which were rib or vertebrae fragments. All of the cattle and large mammal bones may have come from a single animal; one humerus which was all but complete appeared to come from a small young adult animal (proximal epiphysis almost fully fused) and bore cut marks indicative of meat removal up the shaft. The contents of this pit seem likely to represent food waste.

The bones from Ditch F1053 included a single sheep/goat metatarsal and a number of dog metapodial fragments plus a selection of medium (sheep, pig

or large dog sized) mammal ribs, vertebrae and long bone fragments. No butchery marks or other modifications were noted on any of these bones.

Bone preservation at this site appears to be good and any further excavations may yield a substantial bone assemblage allowing detailed analysis of economic practices.

Feature	Context	Sample	Description	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Dog	Bird	Large Mammal	Medium Mammal	Total
1045	1046		Pit	14		1		1	80		96
1045	1046	1	Pit						35		35
1053	1054		Ditch		1		4		1	15	21
			<b>Total</b>	14	1	1	4	1	111	15	152

Table 1. Quantification of animal bone from hand collected and sieved samples.

## The Environmental Samples

*Dr John Summers*

### Introduction

During trial excavations at Norwich Road, Hingham, a single 10 litre bulk soil sample was taken for environmental archaeological assessment. The sample was from pit fill L1046 (F1045). This result presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fraction and discusses the significance and potential of any remains identified.

### Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification) and any remains were recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

### Results

The assessment data from Sample 1 light fraction are presented in Table 2. No carbonised plant macrofossils were present in the sample, with only a



small amount of charcoal being recovered. A sub-sample of transverse sections indicated the presence of diffuse porous wood type(s) but the number of fragments was too small to merit detailed examination.

### **Conclusions and statement of potential**

Although it is difficult to draw precise conclusions from a single sample, the remains from L1046 indicate little input of material from domestic hearths, with only a small amount of charcoal and no carbonised remains of cereals recovered. Based on the site as a whole, which produced few dateable or productive features, it would seem that this pattern is likely to extend across the area of investigation. This most likely reflects a limited association with domestic or agricultural activity in the past.

Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Feature type	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Flot (m)	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants			Other remains	
										Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Diffuse porous	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	Bone (X X)
ENF135759	1	1046	1045	Fill of Pit	-	10	10	100%	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	Diffuse porous	-	-	XX	-	-	-	

Table 2: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Hingham.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
General shot of trenches being opened up



2  
F1033 in Trench 2 looking south



3  
F1045 in Trench 3 looking south east



4  
F1049 in Trench 4 looking west



5  
F1047 in Trench 5 looking south-east



6  
F1035 in Trench 7 looking north



7  
F1037 in Trench 7 looking north



8  
F1029B in Trench 8 looking south



9  
F1007 in Trench 10 looking south



10  
F1009 in Trench 10 looking south-west

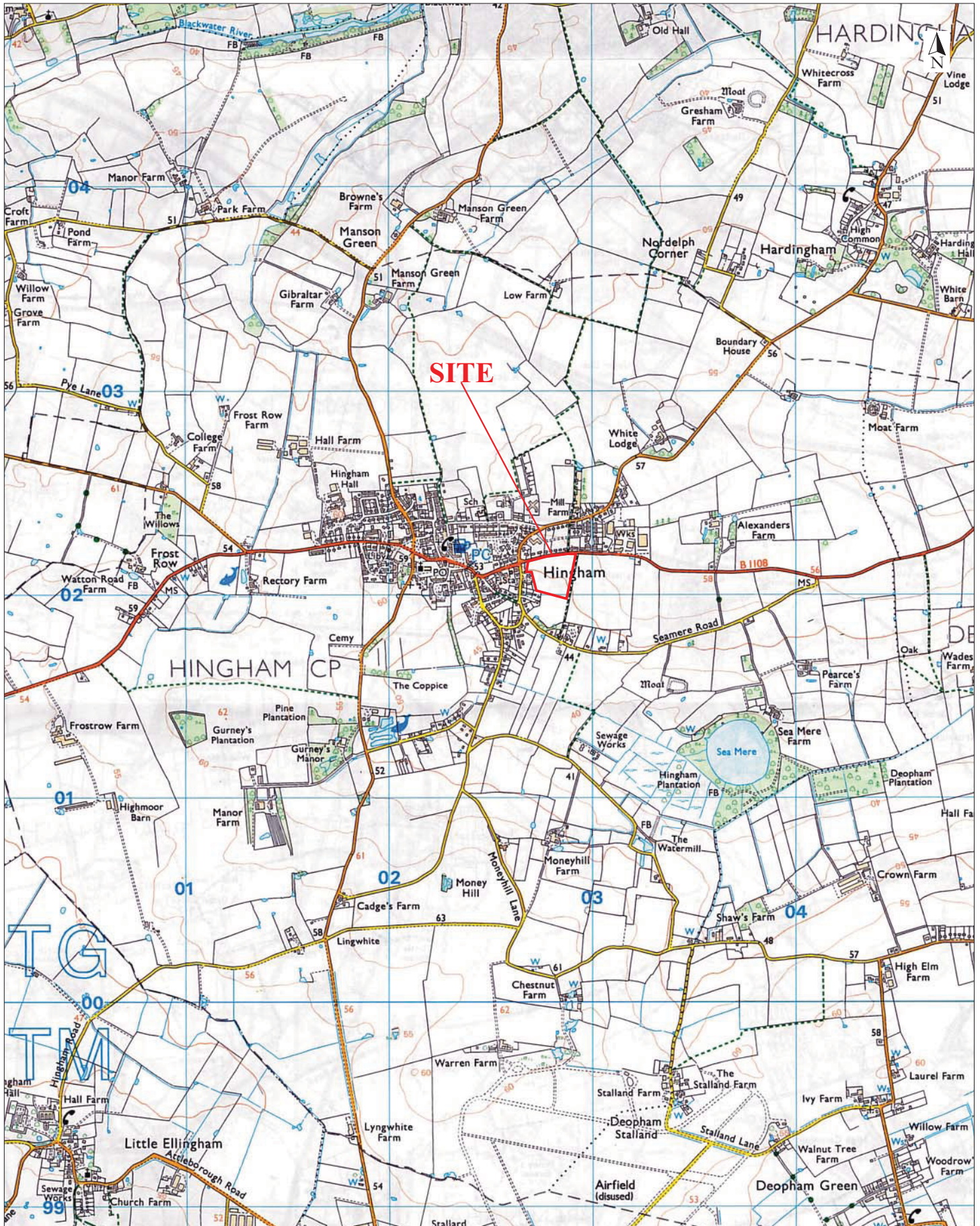


11  
F1021 in Trench 15 looking south-east



12  
Sample section 16B looking south





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## Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Hingham, Norfolk (P5424)





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## Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

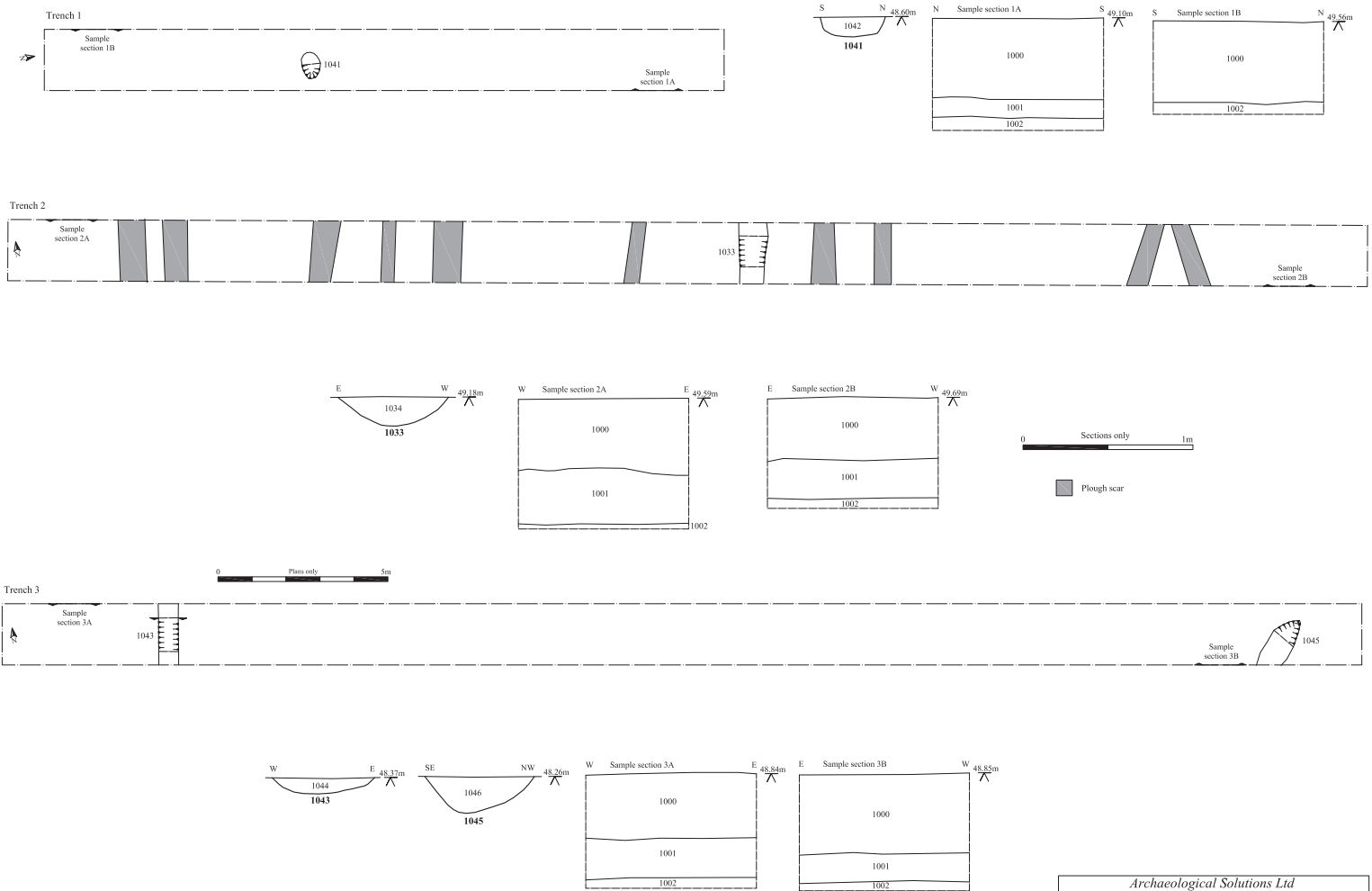
Scale 1:1500 at A4

Hingham, Norfolk, P5424

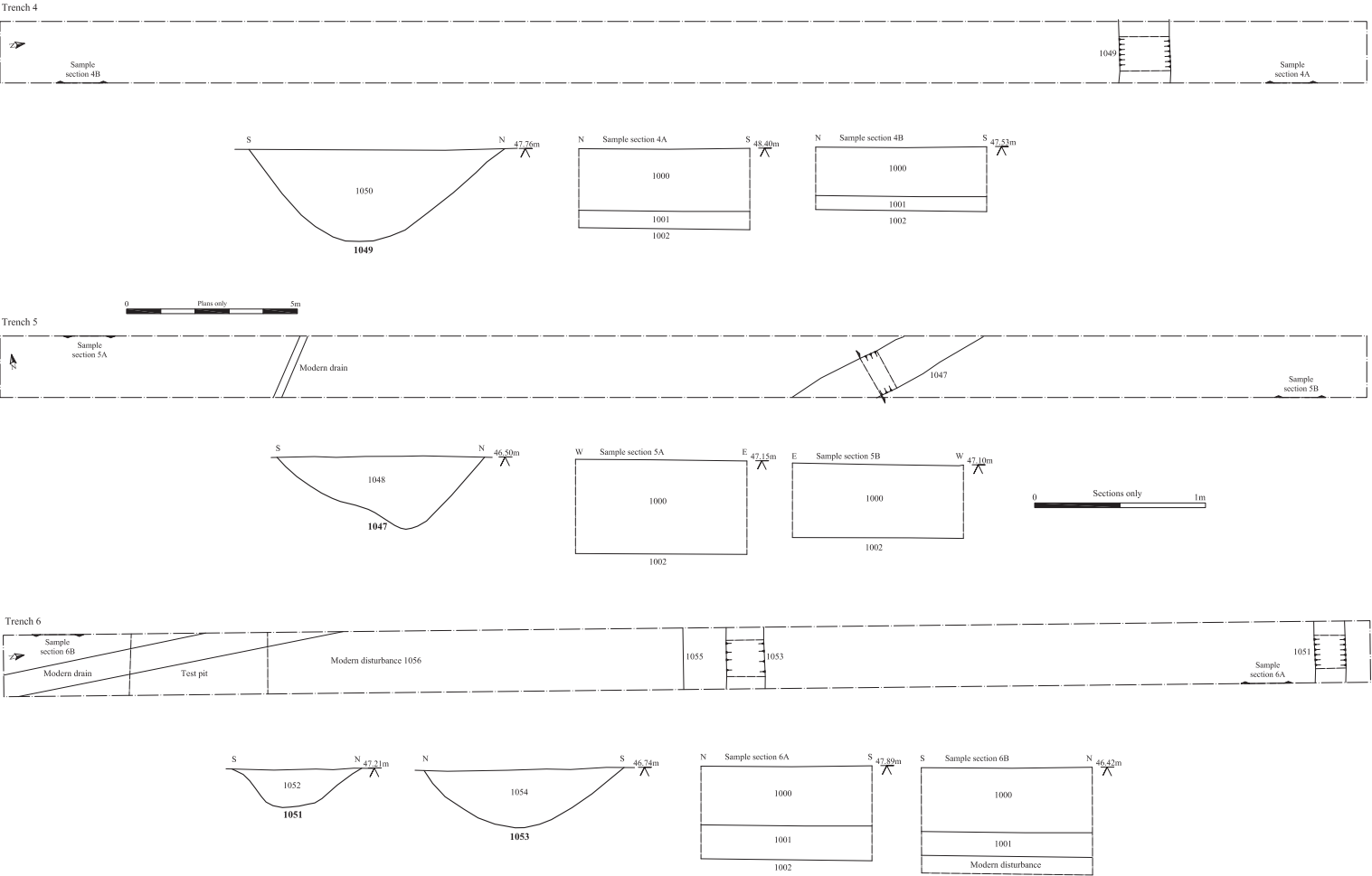


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**Fig. 3 Trenches on geophysics plan**  
 Scale 1:1250 at A4  
 Hingham, Norfolk, P5424



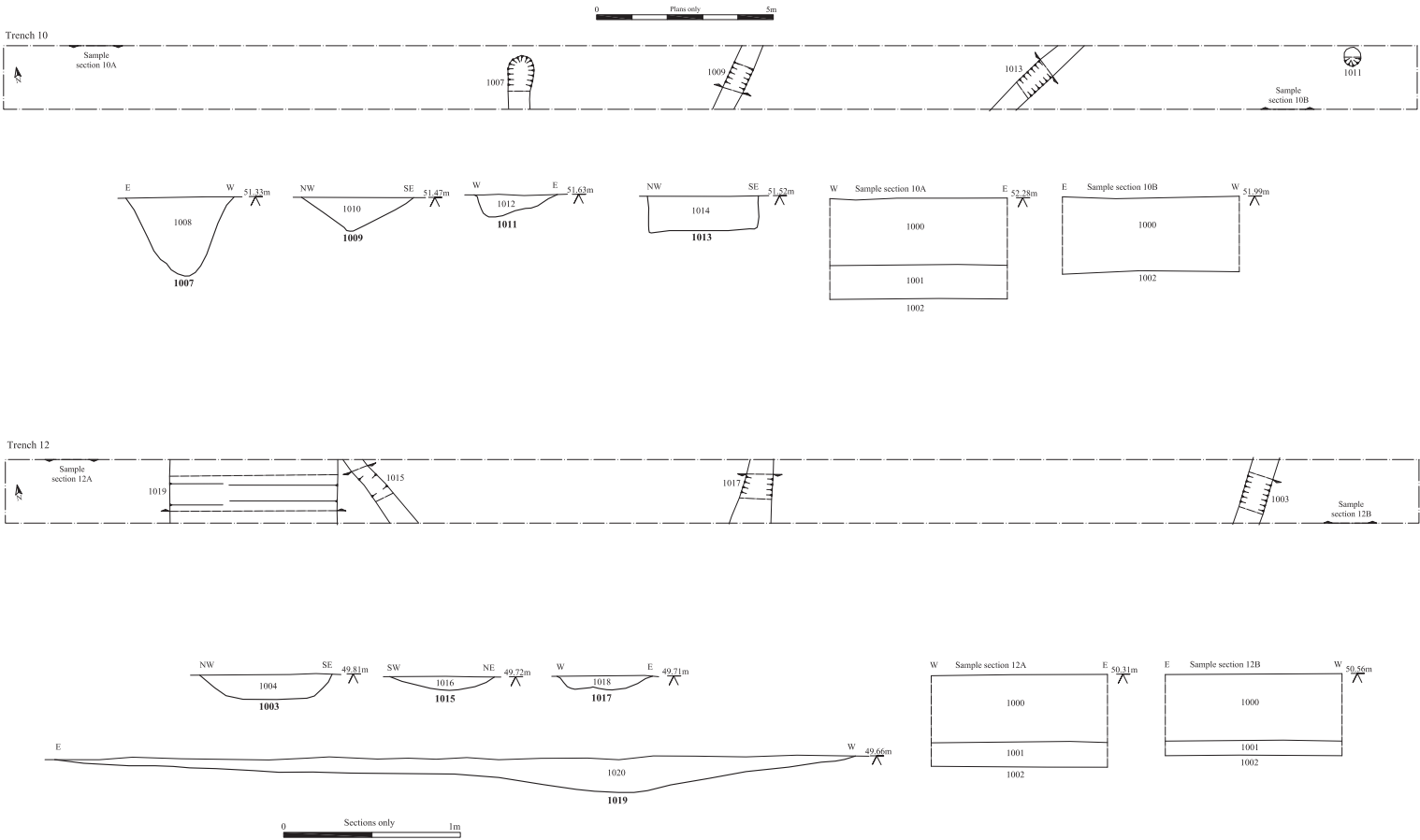


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**Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections**  
 Scale: Plans 1:100 and sections 1:20 at A3  
 Hingham, Norfolk, P5424



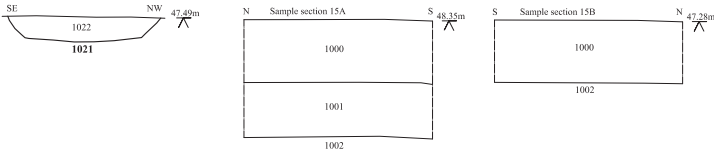
Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections**  
Scale: Plans 1:100 and sections 1:20 at A3  
Hingham, Norfolk, P5424

[illegible]

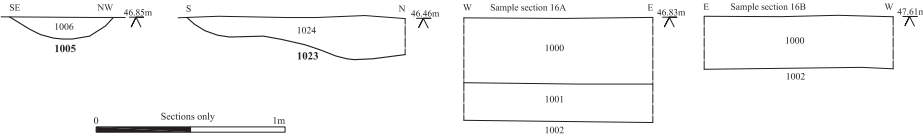


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**Fig. 7 Trench plans and sections**  
Scale: Plans 1:100 and sections 1:20 at A3  
Hingham, Norfolk, P5424

Trench 15



Trench 16



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Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections  
Scale: Plans 1:100 and sections 1:20 at A3  
Hingham, Norfolk, P5424



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**Fig. 9 Proposed development**

Scale 1:2000 at A4

Hingham, Norfolk, P5424