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**RAYNER'S FARM, DEREHAM ROAD, MATTISHALL, NORFOLK  
NR20 3NU**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Authors: Vinny Monahan (Fieldwork and report) Antony RR Mustchin (Editor)	
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NGR: TG 04124 11203	Report No: 4887
District: Breckland	Site Code: ENF 138 213
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 6300
Signed:	Date: 30 June 2015 Revised: 06/07/2015

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*Trial trench evaluations*  
*Geophysical surveys*  
*Archaeological monitoring and recording*  
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#### ***SUMMARY***

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## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Rayner's Farm, Dereham Road, Mattishall, Norfolk</i>		
<p><i>In June 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Rayner's Farm, Dereham Road, Mattishall, Norfolk. Based on recorded monuments and findspots in the surrounding area, the site was considered to have good archaeological potential, particularly for medieval remains close to the historic street frontage.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located within the historic core of Mattishall, close to the remains of a medieval common edge settlement. The earliest find from the area comprises a Middle Palaeolithic handaxe. Later finds and monuments span the Neolithic to post-medieval period and include additional stone tools, a Roman coin hoard and medieval coins and coin weights. A recent archaeological evaluation adjacent to the site revealed evidence of the medieval common edge settlement (NCC HES pers. comm.).</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>29<sup>th</sup> June 2015</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>N</i>
P. number		Site code	<i>ENF 138 213</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>None</i>		
Current land use			
Planned development	<i>Residential development</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>Breckland</i>	<i>Mattishall</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Record (NCC HER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>NR20 3NU</i>		
Area of site	<i>1650m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TG 04124 11203</i>		
Height AOD (max/min)	<i>c. 45m/ 40m</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Ben Motts</i>		
Full title	<i>Rayner's Farm, Dereham Road, Mattishall, Norfolk. An Archaeological Evaluation.</i>		
Authors	<i>Monahan, V.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4887</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>30 June 2015 (Revised 06/07/2015)</i>		

# RAYNER'S FARM, DEREHAM ROAD, MATTISHALL, NORFOLK NR20 3NU

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### **SUMMARY**

*In June 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Rayner's Farm, Dereham Road, Mattishall, Norfolk. Based on recorded monuments and findspots in the surrounding area, the site was considered to have good archaeological potential, particularly for medieval remains close to the historic street frontage.*

*The site is located within the historic core of Mattishall, close to the remains of a medieval common edge settlement. The earliest find from the area comprises a Middle Palaeolithic handaxe. Later finds and monuments span the Neolithic to post-medieval period and include additional stone tools, a Roman coin hoard and medieval coins and coin weights. A recent archaeological evaluation adjacent to the site revealed evidence of the medieval common edge settlement (NCC HES pers. comm.).*

*In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In June 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Rayner's Farm, Dereham Road, Mattishall, Norfolk NR20 3NU (NGR TG 04124 11203; Figs. 1-2). Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Team (NCC HES) advised the Local Planning Authority (LPA) that they required a trial trench evaluation of the site to be carried out as a condition of planning approval for the construction of three new residential dwellings on the site (Breckland Council Planning Ref. 3PL/2014/1067/F), in order to identify the presence of any archaeological remains for which further mitigation may be required.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with advice from (dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 and 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015) and a generic brief for evaluation issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES, dated 24/9/2012, revised 21/04/2015). It also adhered to a specification compiled by AS (dated 23/06/2015), and approved by NCC HES. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct & Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The evaluation aimed 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 archaeological issues will affect the application and if further mitigation is required if the development is approved.

## **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 SITE DESCRIPTION**

2.1 Mattishall lies in central Norfolk approximately 5km south-east of Dereham. The site is located on the western edge of the village (Fig. 1).

2.2 The site lies on the southern side of Dereham Road within the historic settlement of Mattishall. It comprises an existing field, to the north of Rayner's Farm (Figs. 1-2).

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The site lies at c. 40-45m AOD, rising slightly to the south. The River Tud passes c. 2km to the north of the site, while the River Yare passes c. 5km to the south.

3.2 The underlying geology is of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey 1991). The overlying soil is slightly acidic, loamy and clayey with impeded drainage (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **Prehistoric**

4.1 Prehistoric artefacts found in the vicinity of the site include a Neolithic polished flint axehead from c. 450m to the north-east (NHER 3071), and a Beaker arrowhead (NHER 13015). In the fields to the south-east of the village metal-detecting and field walking revealed a Middle Palaeolithic handaxe (NHER 29811), a Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age flint knife (NHER 52837) and a Late Bronze Age awl (NHER 41920).

### **Romano-British**

4.2 Known Roman archaeological remains include a hoard of over 100 silver coins found during digging by the side of a driveway of a new bungalow. The hoard was in a pot and had been buried in a shallow pit c.880m to the east of the site (NHER 3074). Further afield single coins, brooches, pottery sherds and a buckle have been found during metal-detecting in the fields surrounding the village (NHERs 28114, 37083 & 52837).

### **Medieval**

4.3 Mattishall is recorded in the Domesday Book as comprising a relatively large village ([www.domesdaymap.org.uk](http://www.domesdaymap.org.uk)), and appears to have consisted of a common-edge settlement during this period. Examples of deserted earthworks relating to this settlement are located c. 600m to the east and c. 200m to the south-east (NHERs 3081 & 33882). Finds in the surrounding area include medieval coins, coin weights and a copper alloy buckle plate (NHERs 31084, 38066 & 41165).

### **Post-Medieval**

4.4 The settlement evidently thrived during the post-medieval period as many houses in the village date from this time. A brick house c. 400m to the south dates from 1700 as does a two-storey house in the centre of the village (NHERs 13781 & 13782). The village also had a number of religious houses, as well as a parish church. A Congregational Chapel stands some 500m to the east of the site, built c. 1830 (NHER 13780). A windmill stood c. 470m to the north-east in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (NHER 15269).

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 Two L-shaped trenches (each 25m x 1.6m) were excavated under close archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 3).

5.2 Exposed sections 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 archaeological finds and the excavated trenches were scanned with a metal detector.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

### Trench 1 (Figs. 3-4)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 43.05m AOD		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown, firm, silty sand with occasional small and medium angular flint.
0.38m +	L1001	Natural. Pale reddish brown, firm, sandy clay with occasional small to medium angular flint.

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 43.10m AOD		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.36m +	L1003	Natural. As above

Sample section 1C 0.00 = 43.11m AOD		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.42m +	L1003	Natural. As above

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 1.*

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

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 43.17m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.37m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 43.12m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.29m +	L1003	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 2C 0.00 = 43.14m AOD		
0.00 – 0.44m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.44m +	L1003	Natural. As above Tr.1

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 2.*

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the identification of archaeological features or finds.



## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 Topsoil L1000 was ubiquitous and comprised dark reddish brown, firm, silty sand with occasional small and medium angular flint (0.29 to 0.44m thick). It directly overlay the natural geology (L1001), consisting of pale reddish brown, firm, sandy clay with occasional small to medium angular flint.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site is located within the historic core of Mattishall close to the remains of a medieval common edge settlement. Evidence of this settlement was recently encountered by an archaeological evaluation adjacent to the site (NCC HES *pers. comm.*). Other local finds and monuments date from the Middle Palaeolithic era and include prehistoric stone tools, a Roman coin hoard and medieval coins and coin weights.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were encountered within the current site.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Norwich Castle Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) would like to thank Rayner's Farm for funding the evaluation and for their assistance on site, in particular Mr Ben Motts.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Kelly Powell of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Team.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

British Geological Survey, 1991  
*East Anglia Sheet 52°N-00° 1:250,000 Series Quaternary Geology* (Southampton, Ordnance Survey)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014  
*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (Reading, CIfA)

Gurney, D., 2003  
*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 14

Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983

*Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales* (Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/ Lawes Agricultural Trust)

### **Web-Based Resources**

[www.domesdaymap.org.uk](http://www.domesdaymap.org.uk) (consulted 29/06/2015)

## APPENDIX 1 – OASIS FORM

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: archaeol7-217057**

### Project details

Project name	Rayner's Farm, Dereham Road, Mattishall, Norfolk
Short description of the project	In June 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Rayner's Farm, Dereham Road, Mattishall, Norfolk. Based on recorded monuments and findspots in the surrounding area, the site was considered to have good archaeological potential, particularly for medieval remains close to the historic street frontage. The site is located within the historic core of Mattishall, close to the remains of a medieval common edge settlement. The earliest find from the area comprises a Middle Palaeolithic handaxe. Later finds and monuments span the Neolithic to post-medieval period and include additional stone tools, a Roman coin hoard and medieval coins and coin weights. A recent archaeological evaluation adjacent to the site revealed evidence of the medieval common edge settlement (NCC HES pers. comm.). In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.
Project dates	Start: 29-06-2015 End: 29-06-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	P6300 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ENF 138213 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches", "Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BRECKLAND MATTISHALL Rayner's Farm, Dereham Road, Mattishall, Norfolk
Postcode	NR20 3NU
Study area	1650.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TG 04124 11203 52.6596082463 1.01860289961 52 39 34 N 001 01 06 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 40.00m Max: 45.00m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Project brief originator	NCC HES
Project design originator	Jon Murray
Project director/manager	Jon Murray
Project supervisor	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr Ben Motts

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Norwich Castle Museum
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norwich Castle Museum
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Survey "

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Rayner's Farm, Dereham Road, Mattishall, Norfolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Monahan, V
Other bibliographic details	Archaeological Solutions Report No. 4887
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Entered on	7 July 2015

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 Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
Trench 1 (post-excitation), looking west



2  
Trench 2 (post-excitation), looking east

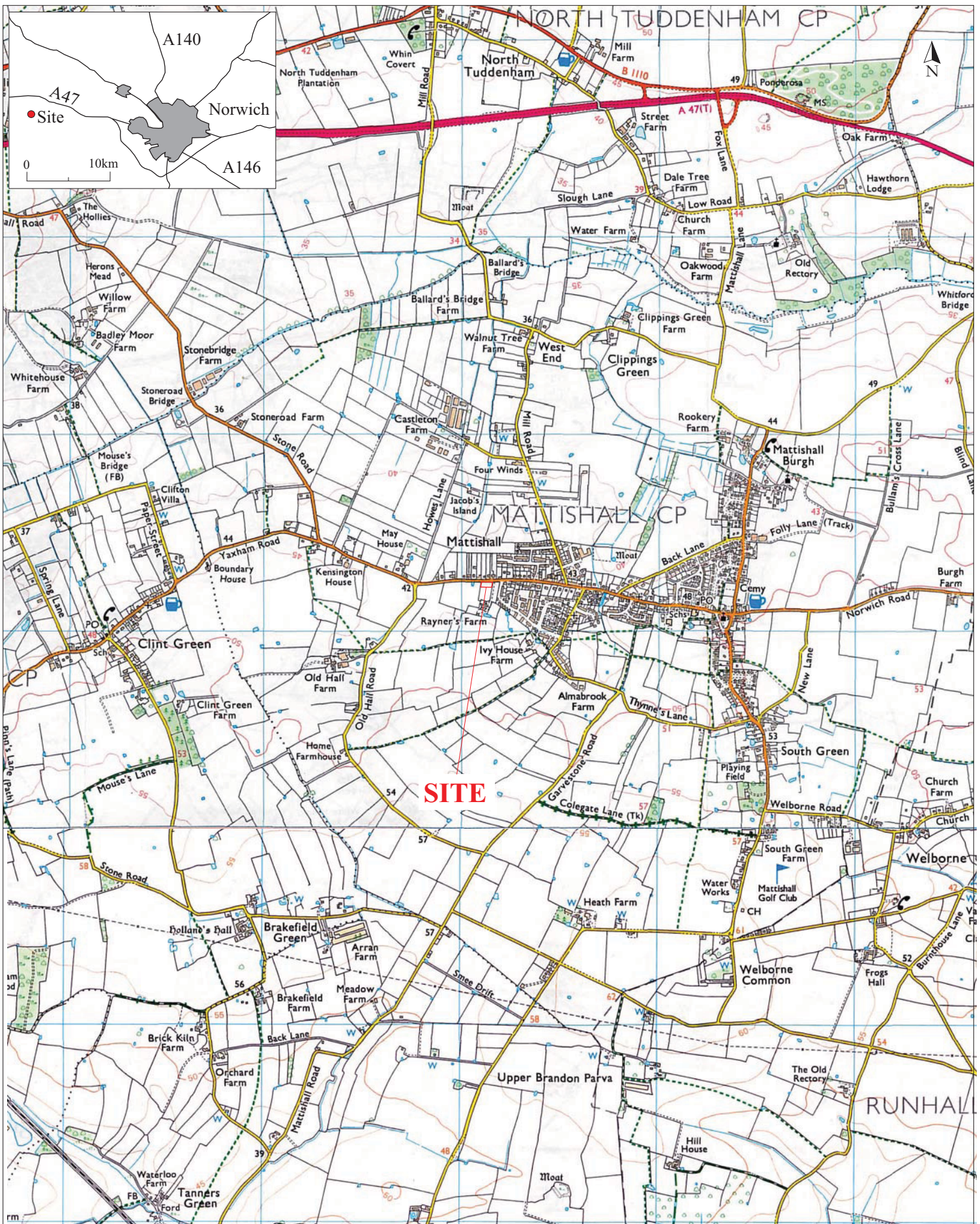


3  
Sample Section 1A



4  
Sample Section 2A

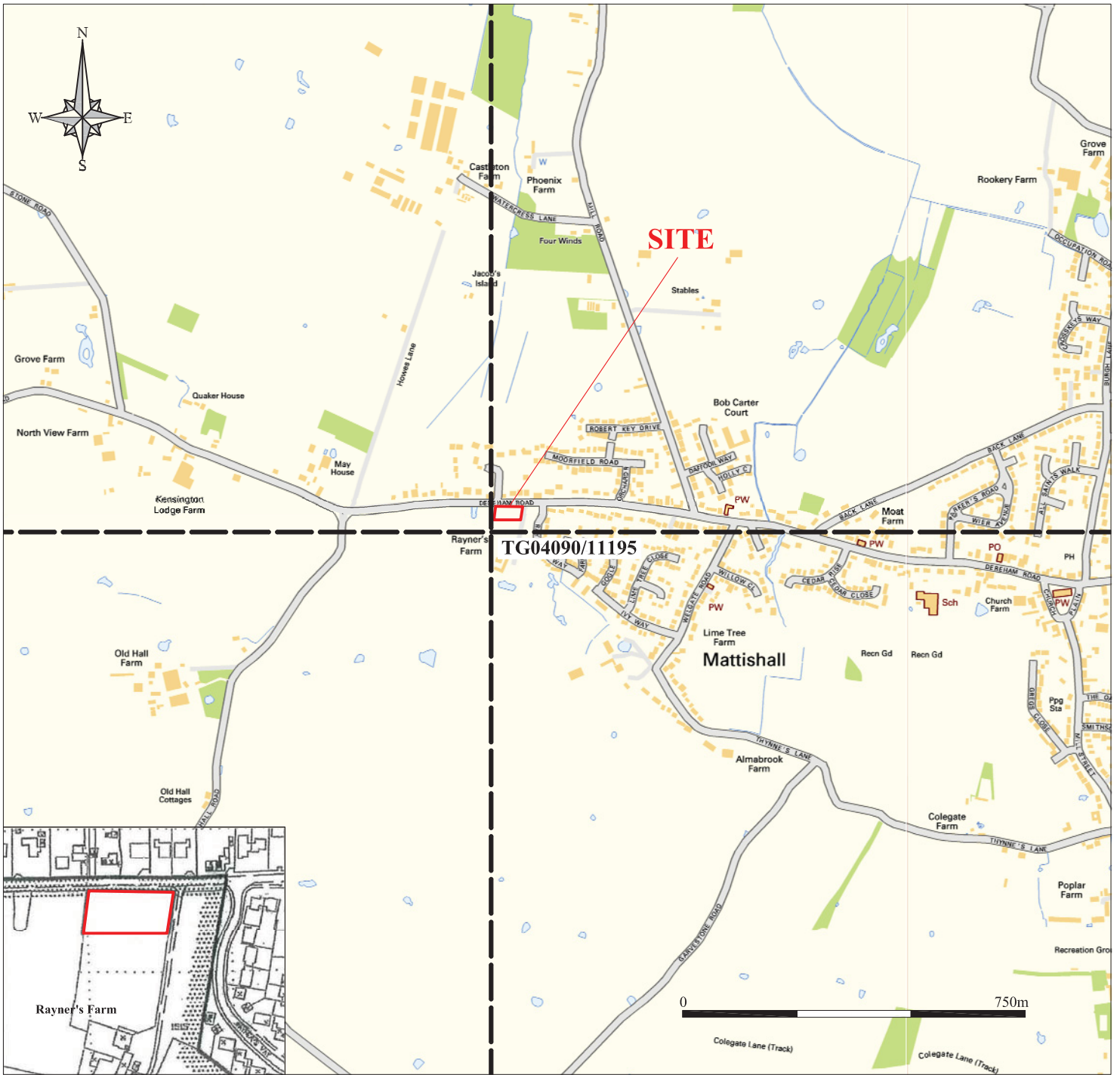




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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Dereham Rd, Mattishall, Norfolk (P6300)



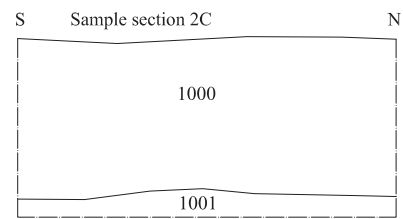
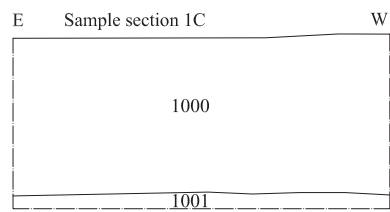
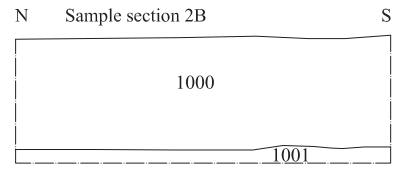
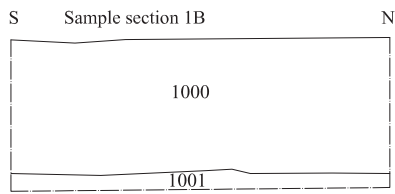
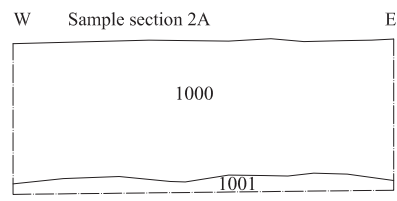
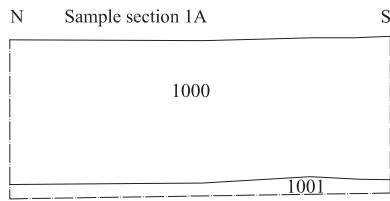


<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan</b>
Scale 1:12,500 at A4
Rayner's Farm, Dereham Rd, Mattishall, Norfolk (P6300)





<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 3 Trench location plan</b>
Scale 1:500 at A4
Rayner's Farm, Dereham Rd, Mattishall, Norfolk (P6300)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 4 Sample sections</b>
Scale 1:20 at A4
Rayner's Farm, Dereham Rd, Mattishall, Norfolk (P6300)