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**RECREATION GROUND, CAMBRIDGE ROAD,
WATERBEACH CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Author: Matthew Baker (Fieldwork and report) Kathren Henry (Illustrations)	
NGR: TL 4949 6512	Report No: 4894
District: South Cambs	Site Code: ECB 4497
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA Signed:	Project No: 6302
	Date: 9 July 2015 Revised 15 July 2015

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Project details			
Project name		Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Evaluation	
<p>In July 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4949 6512; Figs. 1 – 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a skate park (South Cambs Ref. S/02879/14FL). The evaluation was undertaken as a variation of advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) requiring a programme of archaeological work comprising archaeological monitoring.</p> <p>The site is in an area of high archaeological potential. The medieval church of St John the Evangelist lies 230m to the east (HER NCB6783), and 200m to the south east lies the Scheduled Ancient Monument of medieval Waterbeach Abbey (DCB352). Roman and Saxon settlement activity is also recorded from the general area (HER MCB13599 & MCB10814). The line of the Roman Car Dyke Canal, also Scheduled as an Ancient Monument, is located 110m to the south west. Excavations by AS at 12 Pieces Lane revealed middle Iron Age pits and early 2nd century AD Roman ditches and kilns (Newton 2011).</p> <p>Smallscale trial trenching revealed no archaeological features. A residual Roman sherd was found within the subsoil.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		8 th July 2015	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		N	Future work
P. number		6250	Site code
			ECB 4497
Type of project		Archaeological Evaluation	
Site status		-	
Current land use		Recreation ground	
Planned development		Skate park	
Main features (+dates)		None	
Significant finds (+dates)		Residual Roman sherd	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		Cambridgeshire	South Cambs
			Waterbeach
HER/ SMR for area		Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CCC HER)	
Post code (if known)		-	
Area of site		550m ²	
NGR		TL 4949 6512	
Height AOD (max/ min)		c.6m AOD	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		Gemma Stewart, Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		Archaeological Solutions Ltd	
Funded by		Waterbeach Parish Council	
Full title		Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Evaluation	
Authors		Baker, M.	
Report no.		4875	
Date (of report)		July 2015	

RECREATION GROUND, CAMBRIDGE ROAD, WATERBEACH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In July 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4949 6512). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a skate park (South Cambs Ref. S/02879/14FL). The evaluation was undertaken as a variation of advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) requiring a programme of archaeological work comprising archaeological monitoring.

The site is in an area of high archaeological potential. The medieval church of St John the Evangelist lies 230m to the east (HER NCB6783), and 200m to the south east lies the Scheduled Ancient Monument of medieval Waterbeach Abbey (DCB352). Roman and Saxon settlement activity is also recorded from the general area (HER MCB13599 & MCB10814). The line of the Roman Car Dyke Canal, also Scheduled as an Ancient Monument, is located 110m to the south west. Excavations by AS at 12 Pieces Lane revealed middle Iron Age pits and early 2nd century AD Roman ditches and kilns (Newton 2011).

Smallscale trial trenching revealed no archaeological features. A residual Roman sherd was found within the subsoil.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4949 6512; Figs. 1 – 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a skate park (South Cambs Ref. S/02879/14FL). The evaluation was undertaken as a variation of advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) requiring a programme of archaeological work comprising archaeological monitoring.

1.2 It was intended that archaeological monitoring would be undertaken during the ground works associated with the development and a brief and specification were prepared on this basis. In the event a mechanical excavator was on site

prior to the ground works being undertaken and six trial trenches were excavated.

1.3 The evaluation was carried out as a variation of a brief issued by CCC HET (Gemma Stewart; dated 08/06/2015) and a specification compiled by AS (09/06/2015) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to relevant sections of Gurney's (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*.

1.4 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

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 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The site lies within the southern part of the village of Waterbeach, east of Cambridge Road. Waterbeach Parish Council proposed to construct a new skate park within an area of some 29m x 19m, within an existing recreation ground.

3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1 The local geology is Gault and terrace deposits (the Cam lies some 800m to the south west), and the site lies at c.5.8m AOD.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The Cambridgeshire HER records a number of entries indicating that the area is of a high archaeological potential. The medieval church of St John the Evangelist lies 230m to the east (HER NCB6783), and 200m to the south east lies the Scheduled Ancient Monument of medieval Waterbeach Abbey (DCB352). Roman and Saxon settlement activity is also recorded from the general area (HER MCB13599 & MCB10814). The line of the Roman Car Dyke Canal, also Scheduled as an Ancient Monument, is located 110m to the south west. Excavations by AS at 12 Pieces Lane revealed middle Iron Age pits and early 2nd century AD Roman ditches and kilns (Newton 2011).

4.2 Neolithic stone axes and other tools have been found in the parish, and around Denny a Bronze Age burial mound and two ring ditches have been located. Prehistoric finds from within the area are fairly sparse but include a Mesolithic axe from near Waterbeach Station (CHER 06352), an early Bronze Age handled Beaker and a flint dagger from near Bottisham Lock (CHER 06337 and 04356) and an undated wooden dugout canoe from beside the Car Dyke (CHER 05405). Polished Neolithic stone axe heads have also been found (CHER 0034).

4.3 Four sherds of Belgic pottery (CHER 05405a), no later than AD50 in date, have been recovered from the area of the Car Dyke, suggesting a *Terminus Post Quem* for the monument. This represents the only evidence, so far recorded, for Iron Age activity within a 1km radius of the excavation site. However, at Stony Hills, to the north, but still within Waterbeach parish, early and late Iron Age pottery has been recorded along with Roman occupational debris, comprising tile, stone, animal bone, oyster shell and pottery covering an area of 5.4ha on a low gravel peninsula just north of Denny. Iron Age archaeology has also been identified during work associated with the Histon to Waterbeach Cable, the Cottenham to Landbeach pipeline and along the Great Ouse gravel terrace. Iron Age settlement is well represented in the area to the south of Waterbeach and to the north of Cambridge, especially around Milton.

4.4 In the Roman period there was fairly widespread settlement in the area with concentrations to the south, where a large pottery industry was located

around Horningsea, and to the north, around Denny and Stony Hills. Another Roman site lay in the approximate area of the airfield to the north of Waterbeach, indicated by coins, pottery and hypocaust tiles. The Akeman Street Roman road, 2 km to the west, ran in a south to north direction. The most important Roman archaeology within the immediately surrounding area is the Car Dyke (CHER 05405) which is a Scheduled Monument (DCB 264). The dyke is part of a long canal built in the early Roman period which bounded the western edge of the Fen and ran for 140km into Lincolnshire. Excavations in 1947 showed that by the 4th century it had stagnated and silted up. In 2004, an evaluation found gullies, containing Roman pottery, interpreted as enclosure boundaries (CHER MCB 17241). The site probably lies in an area reclaimed by the Romans although it is close to an area of Fen that was not reclaimed until c.1800.

4.5 The A10, which passes to the west of Waterbeach is thought to follow the route of Roman Akeman Street. To the north-west, in the area of the Waste Management Park at Ely Road, Waterbeach an evaluation in 2008 recorded the edge of two Romano-British enclosures with associated settlement and quarrying evidence. This added to an already well known Roman landscape in this area. A Roman temple to the north of the Waste Management Park has been identified on aerial photographs and coins and a votive axe have been recovered from the site of this temple and a Roman cremation cemetery has been identified adjacent to it. Cropmarks in the area surrounding the temple have been destroyed by quarrying but ditches and waterlogged pits containing a variety of artefacts were excavated. Previous investigations at the Waste Management site recorded Roman period settlement activity. Further quarrying and rural settlement evidence has also been recorded in this northern part of Waterbeach parish.

4.6 To the south of Waterbeach, Romano-British settlement, industrial activity and a cemetery has been identified between Horningsea and Clayhithe. A villa site is known at Arbury and farmsteads and industrial activity have been identified at Milton. A large well preserved settlement and field system has been recorded along the route of the Car Dyke.

4.7 Evidence for early Saxon settlement has been identified at three separate locations in the surrounding area. In 1927 an excavation alongside the Car Dyke recorded occupation layers from three 'hut' floors containing pottery, fragments of glass bottles and beads, and a bone pin (CHER 05312). Further evidence was found to the south in 1996 during excavations ahead of the construction of the Cambridge Rowing Lake (CHER 09024). Here, part of an earth-fast post-built hall was found with other occupation layers containing pottery and bone. The third area, near Denny End, was subject to excavation in 1995 and this recorded early Saxon occupation including a *grubenhaus* containing pottery and bone tools sealed beneath ridge and furrow (CHER CB 14602).

4.8 In the wetter historical periods Waterbeach was a true fen island, completely surrounded by land below the floodline. Waterbeach village, and the other parts of Waterbeach parish, Denny and Elmeney, which were settled at different times in the medieval period, formed a small fen archipelago. Each of

the elevated sites was formed of a low deposit of gravel, sufficient to give a drier surface than the surrounding fen.

4.9 In 1066 Waterbeach formed part of two manors which were united by 1086 by Picot the sheriff. The name Waterbeach is first recorded in 1086 as *Vtbech* and in 1236 as *Waterbech*. In c.1235 the manor passed by marriage to the Butler family and when Robert Butler died in 1281, his widow Denise gave the manor to the Franciscans to build a religious house. Waterbeach Abbey (CHER 05405) is a Scheduled Monument (DCB 352) and was founded as the Piety of St Mary and St Clare. In the 14th century the nuns and abbey burials were transferred to the re-founded Denny Abbey further north, which was dissolved in 1539. Waterbeach Abbey was described as desolate by 1349. The parish church of St John the Evangelist (CHER 05560) dates from c.1200 with rebuilding and renovation in the 15th and 19th centuries. An evaluation in 2000 found a 12th century ditch and post-medieval charnel pit.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Six trial trenches, each measuring up to 5m x 1.6m were excavated (Fig. 3). The topsoil was removed under close archaeological supervision and control using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand.

5.2 Exposed sections were cleaned and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. The spoil heaps arising from the cutting of Trenches 3 – 6 were metal detected and also a search was made for finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 7 - 8)

Sample Section 1A; <i>E end</i> 0.00 = 6.45m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey brown, firm, silty sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded chalk.
0.25 – 0.63m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey, firm, silty clay and sand with moderate sub-rounded chalk
0.63m+	L1002	Natural. Mid – light yellow grey, compact, sandy clay

Sample Section 1B; <i>W end</i> 0.00 = 6.48m AOD		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.

0.24 – 0.65m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.65m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 2 (Figs. 7-8)

Sample Section 2A; <i>E end</i> 0.00 = 6.52m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.25 – 0.56m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.56m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample Section 2B; <i>W end</i> 0.00 = 6.54m AOD		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.24 – 0.53m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.53m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 3 (Figs. 7 & 9)

Sample Section 3; <i>E end</i> 0.00 = 6.55m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.25 – 0.56m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.56m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 4

Sample Section 4; <i>W end</i> 0.00 = 6.49m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.26 – 0.59m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.59m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 5

Sample Section 5; E end		
0.00 = 6.55m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.25 – 0.54m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.54m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 6

Sample Section 5; W end		
0.00 = 6.63m AOD		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.24 – 0.49m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.49m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a dark grey brown, firm, silty sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded chalk (0.24 – 0.26m thick). Below L1000, Subsoil L1001 was a mid yellowish grey, firm, silty clay and sand with moderate sub-rounded chalk (0.25 – 0.41m thick). The natural geology, a mid – light yellow grey, compact, sandy clay (L1002) was recorded at depths between 0.49 – 0.65m below the present day ground surface.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site is in an area of high archaeological potential. The medieval church of St John the Evangelist lies 230m to the east (HER NCB6783), and 200m to the south east lies the Scheduled Ancient Monument of medieval Waterbeach Abbey (DCB352). Roman and Saxon settlement activity is also recorded from the general area (HER MCB13599 & MCB10814). The line of the Roman Car Dyke Canal, also Scheduled as an Ancient Monument, is located 110m to the south west. Excavations by AS at 12 Pieces Lane revealed middle Iron Age pits and early 2nd century AD Roman ditches and kilns (Newton 2011).

9.2 A possible power cable and also a water pipe traversed the site (Fig.3). The spoil heaps arising from the cutting of Trenches 3 – 6 were metal detected and also a search was made for finds. Post-medieval pottery, an iron nail and a Roman sherd were found within the subsoil (L1001, Trench 3).

9.3 No archaeological features were present in any of the six trenches. Excepting the services there was no evidence that the site had been subject to modern disturbance or truncation.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The lack of archaeological features with the trial trenches and the occurrence of a single sherd of Roman pottery from the subsoil suggests that the site of the proposed skate park has a low potential for archaeological features or finds to be present. That said, it is located between two Scheduled Monuments and in the vicinity of Roman and Saxon settlement and therefore archaeology may be anticipated beyond the bounds of the skate park.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Cambridgeshire County Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Waterbeach Parish Council for funding the project, in particular Liz Jones; and Alan Lamb of Alan Lamb Associates (Chartered Surveyors and Project Managers).

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

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SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales* Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

ECB4497, P6302, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach

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		3	Topsoil	18-19th c	3	10			Fe.Nail	1	4
	1001		3	Subsoil	Early Roman	1	12			Slag		

APPENDIX 2

SPECIALIST REPORT

The Roman Pottery

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

A single sherd (12g) of Roman pottery and three sherds (10g) of post-medieval pottery were recovered from Subsoil L1001 (Trench 3).

The Roman pottery comprises a highly abraded, plain body sherd in a reduced sandy fabric with grey-brown surfaces over a dark grey core and inclusions of common angular quartz (0.25-0.5mm) with occasional flint (<3mm), which is more likely to be of early Roman date and is not a typical product of the local Horningsea pottery industry.

The post-medieval sherds comprise small non-diagnostic sherds of glazed red earthenware with an internal green glaze over a cream slip, likely to be of 18th-19th century date.

APPENDIX 3

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-217821

Project details

Project name	Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	In July 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4949 6512; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a skate park (South Cambs Ref. S/02879/14FL). The evaluation was undertaken as a variation of advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) requiring a programme of archaeological work comprising archaeological monitoring. The site is in an area of high archaeological potential. The medieval church of St John the Evangelist lies 230m to the east (HER NCB6783), and 200m to the south east lies the Scheduled Ancient Monument of medieval Waterbeach Abbey (DCB352). Roman and Saxon settlement activity is also recorded from the general area (HER MCB13599 and MCB10814). The line of the Roman Car Dyke Canal, also Scheduled as an Ancient Monument, is located 110m to the south west. Excavations by AS at 12 Pieces Lane revealed middle Iron Age pits and early 2nd century AD Roman ditches and kilns (Newton 2011). Smallscale trial trenching revealed no archaeological features. A residual Roman sherd was found within the subsoil.
Project dates	Start: 08-07-2015 End: 08-07-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P6302 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 4497 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	SHERD Roman
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Skate Park
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE WATERBEACH Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire
Study area	550.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 4949 6512 52.2634746071 0.190779412211 52 15 48 N 000 11 26 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.00m Max: 6.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Project brief originator	CCC HET
Project design originator	Jon Murray
Project director/manager	Jon Murray
Project supervisor	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Name of sponsor/funding body	Waterbeach Parish Council

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey "

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Baker, M
Other bibliographic details	Archaeological Solutions Report No. 4894
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Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
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Entered by	Sarah Powell (info@ascontracts.co.uk)
Entered on	15 July 2015

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Trench 1



2
Trench 2



3
Trench 3



4
Trench 4



3
Trench 5



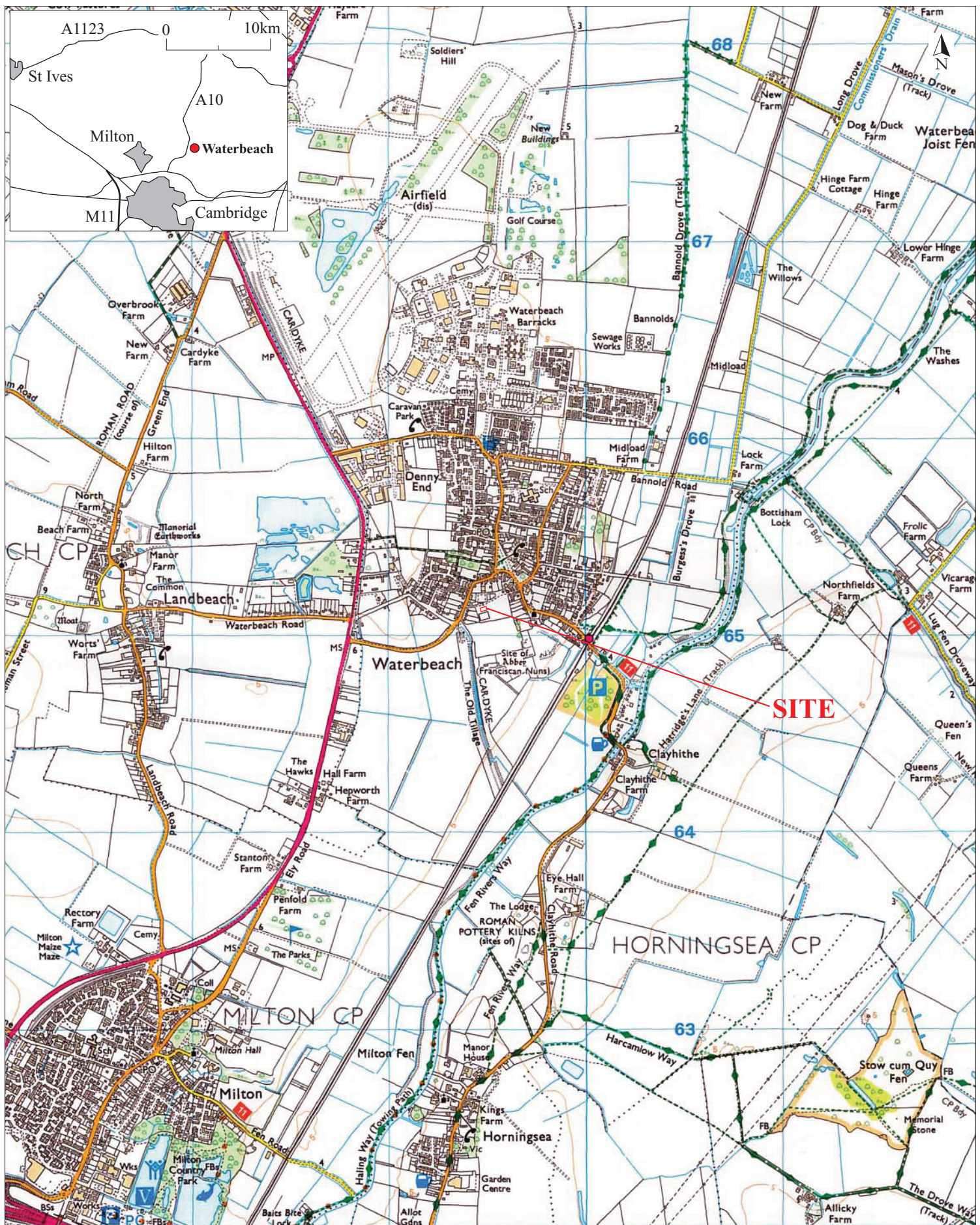
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Trench 6



3
Sample section 1

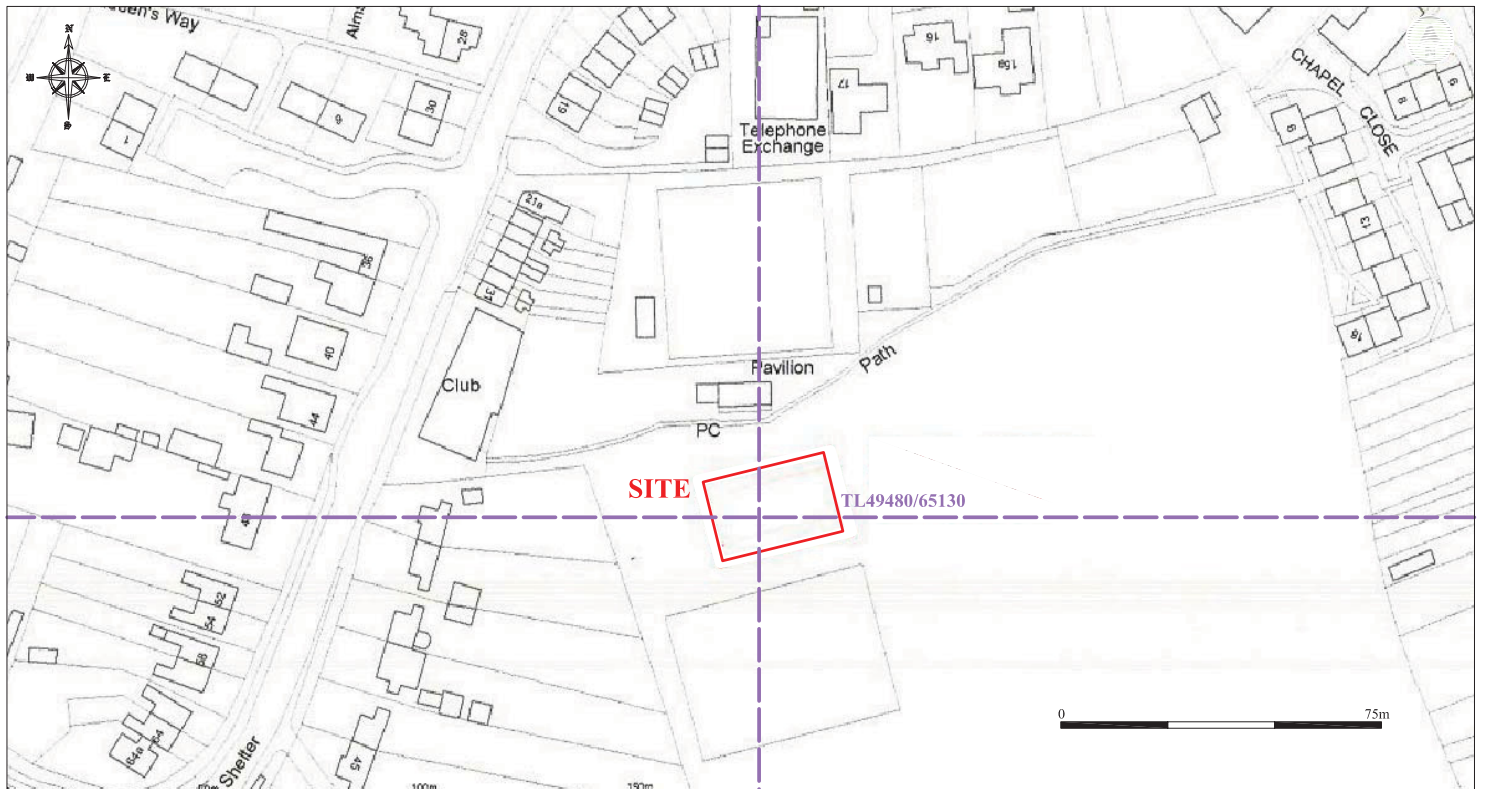


4
Sample section 6

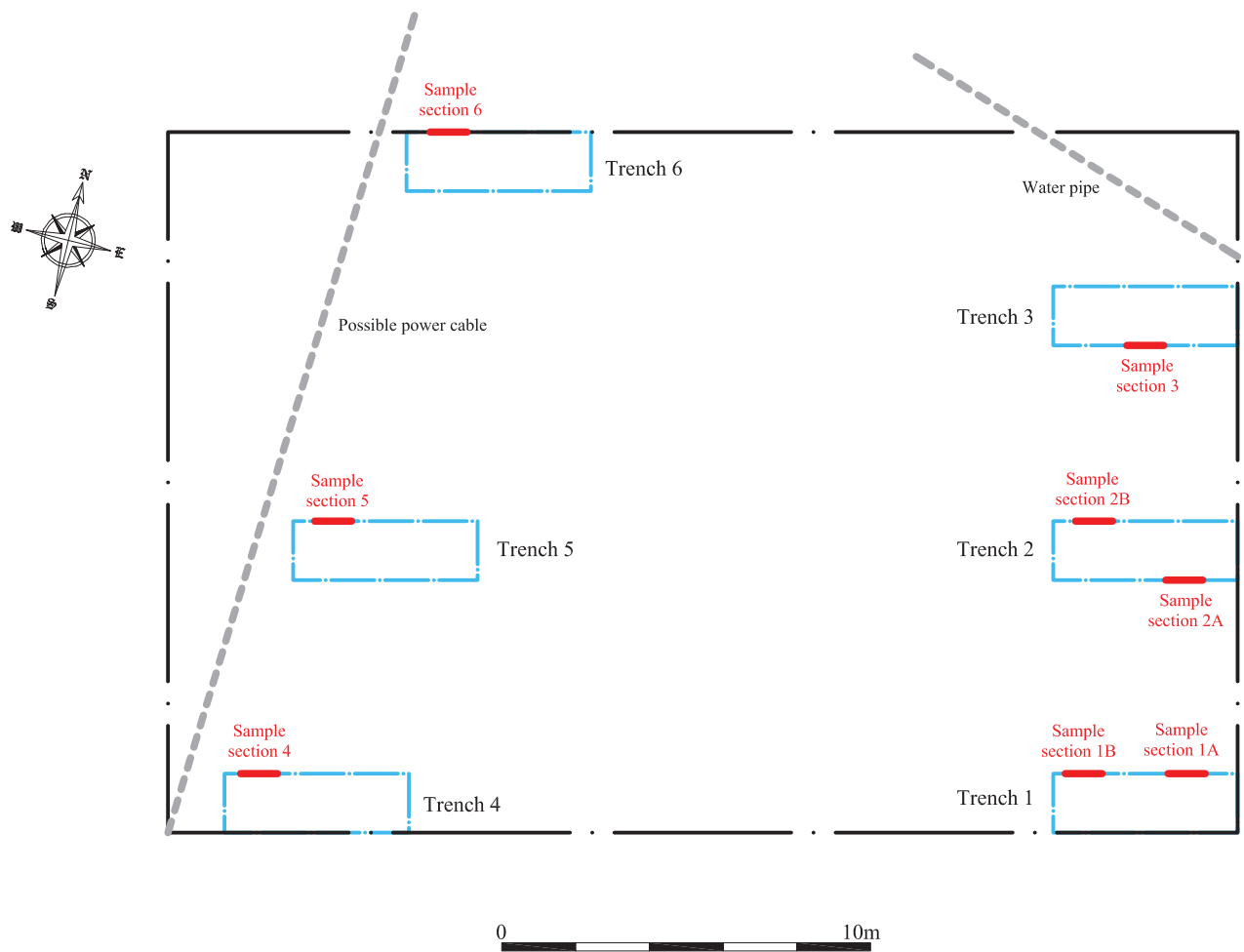


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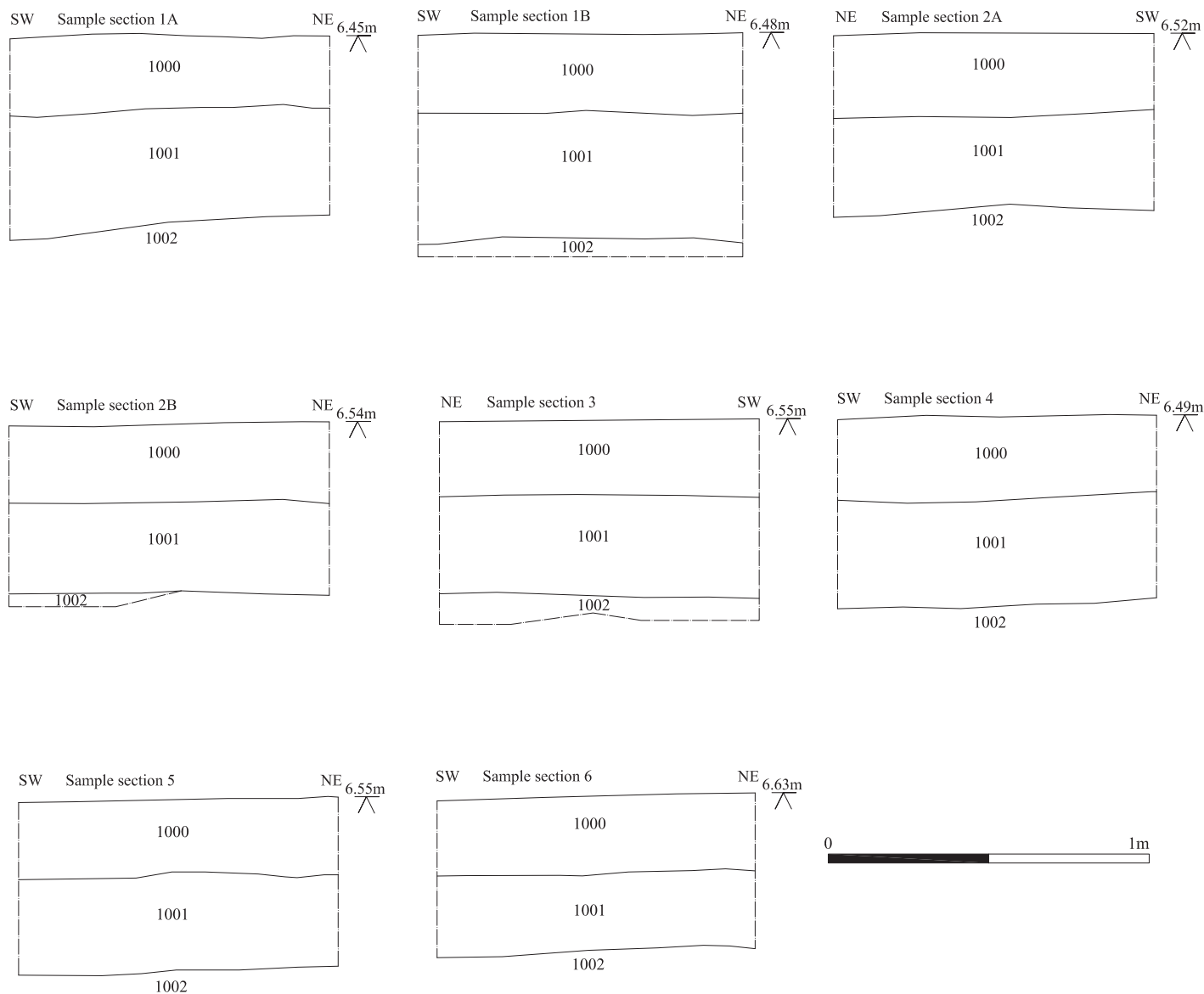
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Skate Park, Waterbeach, Cambs (P6302)



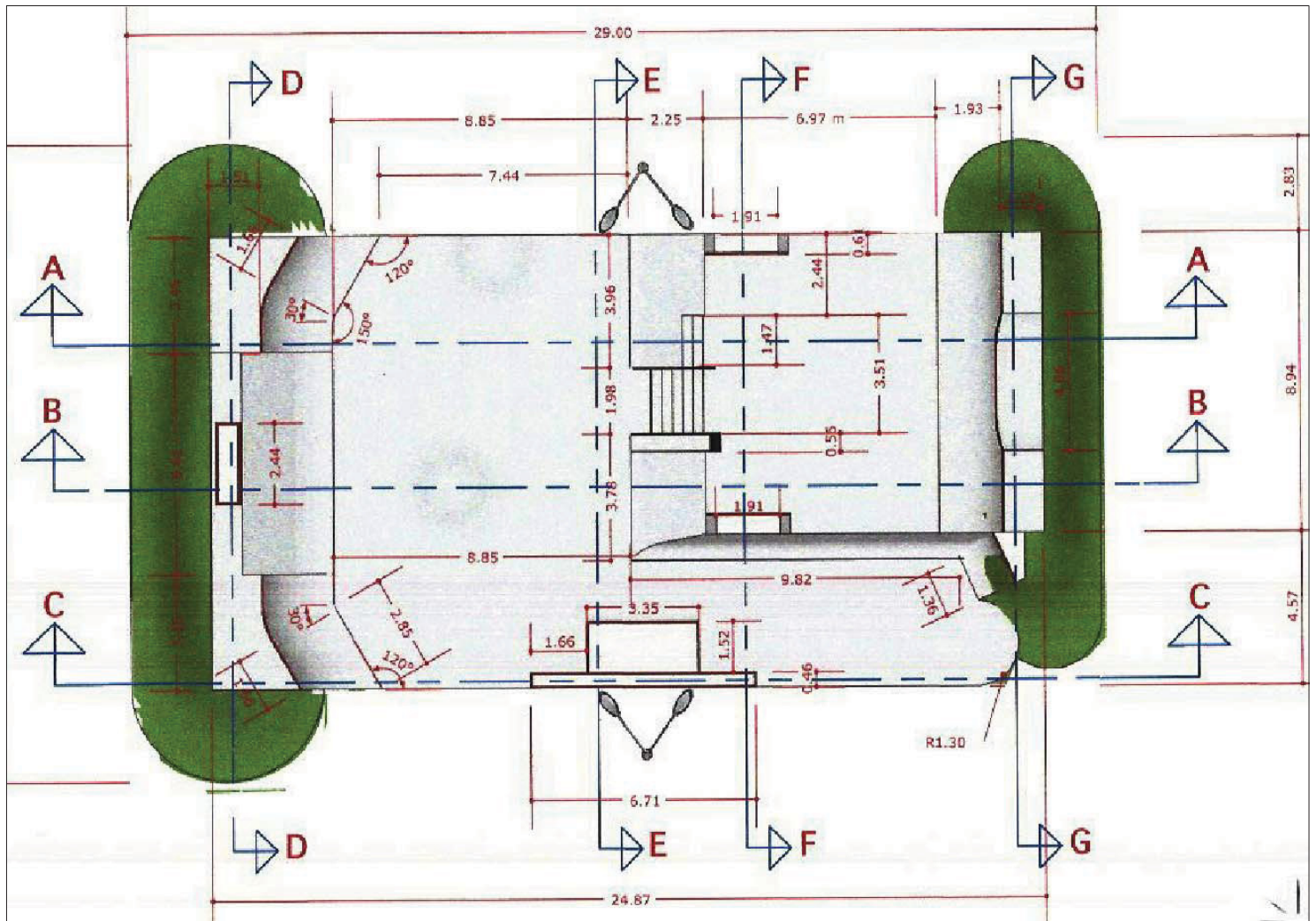
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1250 at A4
Skate Park, Waterbeach, Cambs (P6302)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 3 Trench location plan
Scale 1:200 at A4
Skate Park, Waterbeach, Cambs (P6302)



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Fig. 4 Sample sections
Scale 1:20 at A4
Skate Park, Waterbeach, Cambs (P6302)



0 10m

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Fig. 5 Plan of proposed skate park
Scale 1:200 at A4
Skate Park, Waterbeach, Cambs (P6302)