

---

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**PLOUGHBOY LANE, SAHAM HILLS, NORFOLK 1P25  
7JN**

### AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Author: Kamil Orzechowski (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TF 9054 0350	Report No: 4858
District: Breckland	Site Code: ENF137546
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 62109
Signed:	Date: 28 May 2015

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. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

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**

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

**P I House, Rear of 23 Clifton Road, Shefford,  
Bedfordshire, SG17 5AF  
Tel: 01462 850483**

e-mail: [info@ascontracts.co.uk](mailto:info@ascontracts.co.uk)

[www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk](http://www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk)



[twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS](https://twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS)



[www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions](https://www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions)



## **CONTENTS**

### **OASIS SUMMARY**

#### **SUMMARY**

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 SITE DESCRIPTION**
- 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
- 4 METHODOLOGY**
- 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 6 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 7 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 8 DISCUSSION**

#### **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

#### **APPENDICES**

- 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**
- 2 SPECIALIST REPORT**

## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	Ploughboy Lane, Saham Hills, Norfolk, IP25 7JN		
<p><i>In May 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Ploughboy lane, Saham Hills, Norfolk IP25 7JN (NGR TF 9054 0350). 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 to provide further information to be submitted in association with the planning application for a proposed residential development. The purpose of the evaluation was to identify the presence of any archaeological remains for which further mitigation may be required.</i></p> <p><i>Deep deposits of made ground were recorded in all of the trenches and the site was evidently truncated. Intact stratigraphy (topsoil, subsoil and natural) was only preserved at the south-western end of Trench 3. The metal detecting identified an abundance of modern metalwork. Archaeological features, if present, are likely to have been removed in the past. No residual finds were found. Pit F1008 in Trench 1 contained two post-medieval (late 16<sup>th</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) pottery sherds. The feature was shallow (0.08m) and only partially revealed. Linear feature F1006 was present in Trenches 2 and 3. It appeared to have silted naturally and contained no finds. Possibly it was a former water channel.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	18 – 19/05/2015		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	N
P. number	6209	Site code	ENF137546
Type of project	Archaeological Evaluation		
Site status	None		
Current land use	None		
Planned development	Residential development		
Main features (+dates)	Post-medieval pit, undated linear feature		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Norfolk	Breckland	Saham Toney
HER/ SMR for area	Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Record (NCC HER)		
Post code (if known)	IP25 7JN		
Area of site	4133m <sup>2</sup>		
NGR	TF 9054 0350		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c.52m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES)		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Kamil Orzechowski		
Funded by	Mr & Mrs Skipper		
Full title	Ploughboy Lane, Saham Hills, Norfolk, IP25 7JN. An Archaeological Evaluation.		
Authors	Orzechowski, K.		
Report no.	4858		
Date (of report)	May 2015		

**PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT,  
PLOUGHBOY LANE, SAHAM HILLS,  
NORFOLK IP25 7JN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**SUMMARY**

*In May 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Ploughboy lane, Saham Hills, Norfolk IP25 7JN (NGR TF 9054 0350). 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 to provide further information to be submitted in association with the planning application for a proposed residential development. The purpose of the evaluation was to identify the presence of any archaeological remains for which further mitigation may be required.*

*The site lies within an area of potential archaeological significance, within a wider landscape with known archaeological remains. Roman activity is known locally, with a fort at Saham Park east of the site and a settlement to the south-west near Saham Hall, both Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Roman coins and other objects including Saxon and medieval items has also been found during metal detecting in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site. A deserted medieval village is located to the north at Panworth, and is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument.*

*Deep deposits of made ground were recorded in all of the trenches and the site was evidently truncated. Intact stratigraphy (topsoil, subsoil and natural) was only preserved at the south-western end of Trench 3. The metal detecting identified an abundance of modern metalwork. Archaeological features, if present, are likely to have been removed in the past. No residual finds were found. Pit F1008 in Trench 1 contained two post-medieval (late 16<sup>th</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) pottery sherds. The feature was shallow (0.08m) and only partially revealed. Linear feature F1006 was present in Trenches 2 and 3. It appeared to have silted naturally and contained no finds. Possibly it was a former water channel.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In May 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Ploughboy lane, Saham Hills, Norfolk IP25 7JN (NGR TF 9054 0350; Figs. 1 and 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 to provide further information to be submitted in association with a planning application for proposed residential development. The purpose of the evaluation was 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 a generic brief issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES, dated 24/09/2012), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 06/05/2015), and approved by NCC HES. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute of Field 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 The site lies on the eastern side of Ploughboy Lane within the core of Saham Hills. It comprises farmland, and extends to c. 4000m<sup>2</sup>.

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

3.1 The site is situated between 50-55m AOD and the land rising towards the north-east. Saham Mere, a body of water, is located c.170m to the south. The River Wissey runs on a north-south alignment c.4.5km to the west.

3.2 The underlying geology consists of the Lewes Nodular, Seaford, Newhaven and Culver Chalk Formations. These are sedimentary bedrock formed in the Cretaceous Period. The overlying soil is of the Burlingham 3 Association which consists of deep fine loamy soils with slowly permeable subsoil and seasonal water logging.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### *Prehistory*

4.1 A Neolithic axehead was found c.700m to the north (NHER 32090), and worked flints c.1.3km to the north-east (NHER 32973). A Bronze Age chisel and spearhead recorded c.1km to the west (NHER 21770) were found during metal detecting.

4.2 The linear earthwork of Devil's Dyke terminates c.700m to the north (NHER 1082). Within this area an Iron Age gold coin was found (NHER 4664). There have also been metal detector finds of an Iron Age bronze dome-headed stud (NHER 32967) and more Iron Age coins c.500m to the south-west (NHER 32021). The Iron Age settlement at Woodcrock Hall c.3.3km to the south-west (Brown 1986) continued into the Roman period.

### *Romano-British*

4.3 A Roman fort is recorded at Saham Park north-east of the site and a settlement to the south-west near Saham Hall, both Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM 1004038 & 1003170). The fort at Saham Park was identified when extensive ploughing revealed a dense scatter of artefacts including a large number of coins and pottery. Brooches,

bracelets, tiles, pins and toilet and cosmetic implements were also found (NHER 8747). An assemblage of Roman metalwork and coins has also been found during metal detecting in the vicinity of the proposed development site (NHER 32021 & 35348).

### *Medieval*

4.4 Saham Toney is recorded in the Domesday Book as a modest late Saxon settlement. Metal-detecting within the village has revealed an Early Saxon buckle (NHER 8748), brooches (NHER 21770) and a spearhead (NHER 31694).

4.5 Medieval settlement was focused around the mere at Saham Toney c.1.5km to the south and at Panworth c.1.5km to the north. The latter was deserted by 1581 (NHER 4708) and is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 1002892). The settlement at Saham Toney incorporated several manors. The site was probably within open fields before the Enclosure Acts of the post-medieval period. There have been numerous finds relating to the settlement of Saham Toney to the south including pottery, coins and a decorated pewter strap end (NHER 32105, 52854 & 40286). Additional finds have been made c.1km to the north, probably relating to the settlement at Panworth. They include a medieval purse (NHER 32020), coins (NHER 32105), spindle whorl and ampulla (NHER 32974).

### *Post-medieval*

4.6 During the post-medieval period the settlement of Saham Hills developed, linking Saham Toney to Panworth. It likely consisted of a isolated farmsteads up until this period. Two former windmills are known. One c.600m to the north and the other c.250m to the west of the site, both now demolished (NHER 8787 & 15266).

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 Three trenches each 30m x 1.6m were excavated and represented a c. 3% sample of the site (Fig.2).

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. Metal detecting was undertaken during and after mechanical excavation of the trenches

## **6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:



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

Sample section 1A; SW end, SE facing 0.00 = 51.50m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small and medium angular flint.
0.31 – 0.44m	L1001	Made Ground. Mid yellowish grey silty sand with frequent modern CBM, metal and plastic.
0.44m – 0.56m	L1002	Silt/peaty silt layer. Dark grey soft silt/peaty silt with occasional small rounded stones.
0.56m +	L1003	Natural. Mid greyish yellow clay with moderate to frequent small to medium angular flint.

Sample section 1B; NE end, NW facing 0.00 = 52.55m AOD		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.21 – 0.42m	L1001	Made Ground. As above
0.42 – 0.60m	L1002	Silt/peaty silt layer. As above
0.60m +	L1003	Natural. As above

*Description: Post-medieval Pit F1008 was recorded in Trench 1.*

Pit F1008 was sub sub circular in plan (1.75m x 0.75m x 0.08m). It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1009, was a mid yellowish grey, soft, silt with occasional small angular flint. It contained two post-medieval (late 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century) pottery sherds (119g).

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

Sample section 2A; NW end, SW facing 0.00 = 52.05m AOD		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.16 – 0.41m	L1001	Made Ground. As above. Tr. 1.
0.41 – 0.71m	L1002	Silt/peaty silt layer. As above Tr. 1.
0.71m +	L1003	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 2B; SE end, SW facing 0.00 = 52.11m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.32 – 0.92m	L1001	Made Ground. As above. Tr. 1.
0.92m +	L1004	Black, soft, peat.

*Description: Trench 2 contained an undated linear feature, F1006. Its plan was partially obscured by the limit of the trench. The feature continued NE direction beyond Trench 2 and was recorded in Trench 3.*

Feature F1006 was linear in plan (c. 10m+ x 0.35m+ x 0.18m+), orientated NW/SE. It had a moderately steep NE side and an

imperceptible base. Its fill, L1007, was a firm, dark greenish grey silty clay with pockets of peat. It contained no archaeological finds.

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

Sample section 3A; SW end, NW facing 0.00 = 52.31m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.29 – 0.42m	L1005	Subsoil. Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small rounded chalk nodules.
0.42m+	L1003	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 3B; NE end, SE facing 0.00 = 52.26m AOD		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.41m +	L1001	Made Ground. As above. Tr. 1.

*Description: Trench 3 contained Feature F1006 which was revealed and excavated in Trench 2. It was recorded in plan in Trench 3.*

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 The site was truncated and archaeological features, if present, are likely to have been removed.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The site was overlain by Topsoil L1000, a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small and medium angular flint (0.16 – 0.41m thick). Below the topsoil was modern made ground, L1001, a mid yellowish grey silty sand with frequent modern CBM, metal and plastic (0.13 – 0.60m thick).

8.2 In Trenches 1 and 2 below L1001 was L1002, a dark grey silt/peaty silt with occasional small rounded stone (0.12 – 0.30m thick). Below L1002 was the natural, L1003, a mid greyish yellow clay with moderate to frequent, small and medium size angular flint (0.42 – 0.71m thick).

8.3 Below Made Ground L1001 in Trench 2 was L1004, a black, soft, peat at the base of the trench (0.92m)

8.4 Intact stratigraphy was preserved at the south-western end of Trench 3. Below Topsoil L1000 was Subsoil L1005, a mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small rounded chalk nodules (0.13m thick). Subsoil L1005 overlay the natural, L1003.

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot date
1	F1008	Pit	Post-medieval
2 & 3	F1006	Linear feature	Undated

9.2 The site lies within an area of potential archaeological significance, within a wider landscape with known archaeological remains. Roman activity is known locally, with a fort at Saham Park east of the site and a settlement to the south-west near Saham Hall, both Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Roman coins and other objects including Saxon and medieval items has also been found during metal detecting in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site. A deserted medieval village is located to the north at Panworth, and is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

9.3 Deep deposits of made ground were recorded in all of the trenches and the site was evidently truncated. Intact stratigraphy (topsoil, subsoil and natural) was only preserved at the south-western end of Trench 3. The metal detecting identified an abundance of modern metalwork. Archaeological features, if present, are likely to have been removed in the past. No residual finds were found.

9.4 Pit F1008 in Trench 1 contained two post-medieval (late 16<sup>th</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) pottery sherds. The feature was shallow (0.08m) and only partially revealed.

9.5 Linear feature F1006 was present in Trenches 2 and 3. It appeared to have silted naturally and contained no finds. Possibly it was a former water channel.

### DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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 would like to thank Mr and Mrs Skipper for funding the evaluation and for their assistance on site. AS is also grateful to their agents Parsons + Whittleby, in particular Mrs Janice Parsons.

AS would also like 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*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton

Brown, R. 1986 'The Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement at Woodcock Hall, Saham Toney, Norfolk', *Britannia* 17, 1-58

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (revised 2014) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

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

SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Soils of South East England (sheet 4)*. Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

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**

**ENF137546, P6209, Ploughboy Lane, Saham Hills, 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)
1008	1009		1	Fill of Pit	17-18c	2	119					

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **SPECIALIST REPORT**

#### **The Pottery**

*by Peter Thompson*

The evaluation recovered two sherds of slightly abraded post-medieval glazed red earthenware (GRE) weighing 117g, from L1009. One sherd (95g) is a storage jar rim similar to examples from Norwich, with a line of impressed thumb decoration below the rim, and internal and external glossy brown glaze (Jennings 1981, 174). The second sherd (22g) is a fragment of rod handle with thin green-brown glaze. These sherds are of late 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries date.

#### **Bibliography**

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



## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
F1006 in Trench 2 looking north-west



2  
Sample section 2B in Trench 2 looking north-east



3  
F1008 in Trench 1 looking south-west



4  
Sample section 1A in Trench 1 looking north-west





5  
Sample section 1B in Trench 1 looking south-east



6  
Sample section 3A in Trench 3 looking south-east



7  
Post-excavation view of Trench 1 looking south-west



8  
Post excavation view of Trench 2 looking north-west



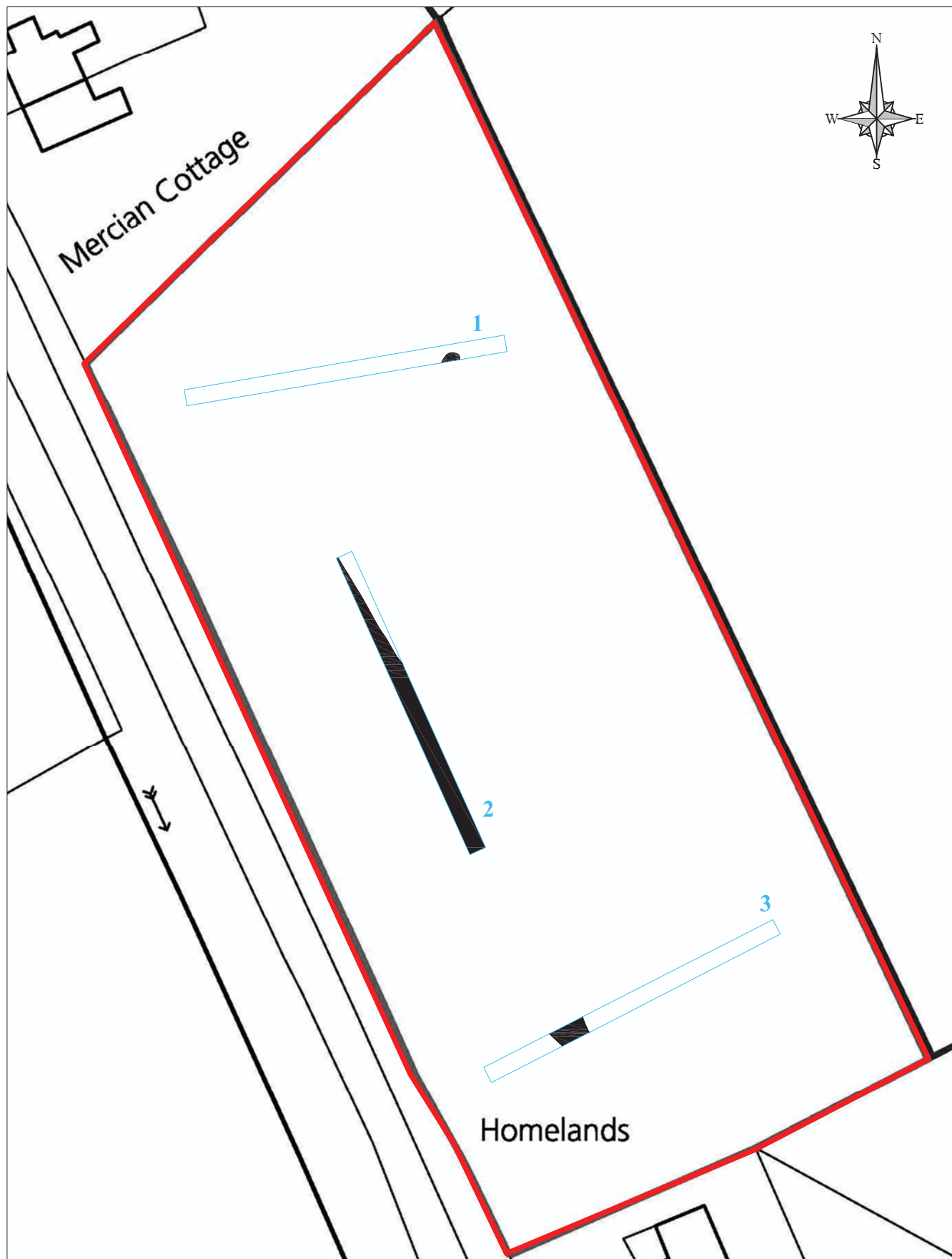


Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Ploughboy Lane, Saham Hills, Norfolk (P6209)







0 25m

<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 3 Trench location plan</b>
Scale 1:500 at A4
Ploughboy Lane, Saham Hills, Norfolk (P6209)

