

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND AT ALIBONE CLOSE, MOULTON,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Jim Fairclough (Fieldwork and report) Peter Thompson (Background)	
NGR: SP 78645 66400	Report No: 4538
District: Daventry	Site Code: AS1677
Approved: C Halpin MfA	Project No: P5687
Signed:	Date: 8 April 2014

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
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk**



twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS



www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions



CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY **SUMMARY**

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 THE EVIDENCE**
- 4 METHODOLOGY**
- 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 6 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 7 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 8 DISCUSSION**
- 9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

WEB SITE

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project name	<i>Land at Alibone Close, Moulton, Northamptonshire</i>
--------------	---

In March 2014 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land off Alibone Close, Moulton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 7864 6640; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was required by Northamptonshire County Council in compliance with a planning condition on approval to build 16 new bungalow dwellings on the site (Daventry DC Approval Ref: DA/2013/0952).

The site lies in close proximity to the historic core of Moulton which was recorded at Domesday and, therefore, can be seen to have Saxon origins. Demonstrating as much are stone slabs and a fragment of a cross present in the churchyard of the nearby Church of St Peter and St Paul (ENN8166;4538/1/0) and the recovery of Saxon pottery, along with some medieval pottery, during construction works 250m to the west during the 1960s. The medieval church (DNN2712; 4538/1) and its attendant churchyard (ENN101117; 4538/1/2) are located 350m to the north-west of the site.

Two dated archaeological features were revealed: Pits F1010 and F1012 (Trench 3). The dating evidence is tentative being based on abraded Anglo-Saxon sherds; one from Pit F1012 and two from Pit F1010. Animal bone was also found within these pits. The pits were located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site. Undated features largely comprise pits with Trenches 1 (F1003), 4 (F1024, F1026, F1028, F1030, and F1032) and 6 (F1017). An undated ditch was recorded in Trench 3 (F1014).

Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>March 2014</i>		
---------------------------	-------------------	--	--

Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
-----------------------	----------	---------------------	------------

P. number	<i>5687</i>	Site code	<i>AS1677</i>
-----------	-------------	-----------	---------------

Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>
-----------------	----------------------------------

Site status	<i>-</i>
-------------	----------

Current land use	<i>Field/agricultural land</i>
------------------	--------------------------------

Planned development	<i>16 new bungalows</i>
---------------------	-------------------------

Main features (+dates)	<i>Pits, ditches</i>
------------------------	----------------------

Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Sparse abraded sherds of Anglo-Saxon (mid 5th – 9th C) pottery</i>
----------------------------	---

Project location

County/ District/ Parish	<i>Northamptonshire</i>	<i>Daventry</i>	<i>Moulton</i>
--------------------------	-------------------------	-----------------	----------------

HER for area	<i>Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (NHER)</i>
--------------	--

Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>
----------------------	----------

Area of site	<i>c.8000m²</i>
--------------	----------------------------

NGR	<i>SP7864 6640</i>
-----	--------------------

Height AOD (min/max)	<i>103m AOD</i>
----------------------	-----------------

Project creators

Brief issued by	<i>Northamptonshire County Council Historic Environment Team</i>
-----------------	--

Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
---------------------------	-------------------------------------

Funded by	<i>Lodge Park Ltd</i>
-----------	-----------------------

Full title	<i>Land at Alibone Close, Moulton, Northamptonshire Archaeological Evaluation.</i>
------------	--

Authors	<i>Peter Thompson</i>
---------	-----------------------

Report no.	<i>4538</i>
------------	-------------

Date (of report)	<i>April 2014</i>
------------------	-------------------

LAND AT ALIBONE CLOSE, MOULTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In March 2014 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land off Alibone Close, Moulton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 7864 6640; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was required by Northamptonshire County Council in compliance with a planning condition on approval to build 16 new bungalow dwellings on the site (Daventry DC Approval Ref: DA/2013/0952).

An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out in association with a previous application on the site (ULAS 2010). This concluded that Roman and Saxon material has been found locally, and that post-medieval and modern development of the site has been minimal, suggesting that any potential remains may not have suffered later truncation. Roman pottery has been found in fields to the west of the site, and development to the east in 1968 yielded Saxon pottery. Further information within the brief from the Portable Antiquities Scheme notes that numerous findspots of Roman coins are known from the village, in addition to medieval coins and other finds.

The site lies in close proximity to the historic core of Moulton which was recorded at Domesday and, therefore, can be seen to have Saxon origins. Demonstrating as much are stone slabs and a fragment of a cross present in the churchyard of the nearby Church of St Peter and St Paul (ENN8166;4538/1/0) and the recovery of Saxon pottery, along with some medieval pottery, during construction works 250m to the west during the 1960s. The medieval church (DNN2712; 4538/1) and its attendant churchyard (ENN101117; 4538/1/2) are located 350m to the north-west of the site.

Two dated archaeological features were revealed: Pits F1010 and F1012 (Trench 3). The dating evidence is tentative being based on abraded Anglo-Saxon sherds; one from Pit F1012 and two from Pit F1010. Animal bone was also found within these pits. The pits were located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site. Undated features largely comprise pits with Trenches 1 (F1003), 4 (F1024, F1026, F1028, F1030, and F1032) and 6 (F1017). An undated ditch was recorded in Trench 3 (F1014).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2014 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land off Alibone Close, Moulton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 7864 6640; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was required by Northamptonshire County Council in compliance with a planning

condition on approval to build 16 new bungalow dwellings on the site (Daventry DC Approval Ref: DA/2013/0952).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a 2-part brief issued by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) *Brief for The Archaeological Field Evaluation of Land at Alibone Close, Moulton, Northamptonshire* and *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation of Land at Alibone Close, Northamptonshire* (dated 5th March 2014), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 5th March 2014). The project adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2012).

1.3 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In addition it was hoped to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

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 (Figs. 1-2)

2.1 Moulton is a large village located on the northern edge of Northampton. The site is on the east side of Moulton and comprises a grass field that is accessed on its west side from Albione Close. The area abutting the west and south of the site comprises residential properties. The area to the north and east consists of open fields.

3 TOPOGRAPHICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The site is located at approximately 103m AOD on the slope of a small valley with an east to west running stream approximately 150m to the north. The local soil is of the Banbury association mainly comprising well drained brashy fine and coarse loamy ferruginous deposits over ironstone. The underlying solid geology is Jurassic clay.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Prehistoric sites are known within 1km of the site, for example, a group of Bronze Age pits (4540/1/5) and a prehistoric enclosure (4540/1/6), but there is no evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. Roman pottery has been recovered from fields to the north-east of the site although their precise locations are not given (ENN101916, 9107, 9107/0/0).

4.2 Moulton is recorded in the Domesday Survey and therefore must have been in existence in Anglo-Saxon times. In support of this date are stone slabs and a fragment of stone cross of that period present in the churchyard of St Peter and St Paul (ENN8166, 4538/1/0), and Saxon pottery, as well as medieval pottery and dry stone walling of possible medieval date, have been recovered 250m to the west of the site during building works in the 1960s (4538/0/1). The Domesday Survey shows that in 1066 the manor belonged to King Edward and in 1086 was owned by William the Conqueror. Moulton parish had a large population of 43 households, land for 25 ploughlands, 8 acres of meadow and 3 mills (www.domesdaymap.co.uk). The historic core of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval village is given a central grid reference point 200m north-west of the site (ENN4538).

4.2 The Church of St Peter and St Paul located 250m west-north-west of the site dates from the 12th and 13th centuries, with later additions and repairs, and is Grade I listed (4538/1). North of the church, and approximately 260m north-west of the site is a large earthen bank 15m wide and 2m high, which appears to be a former dam which once ponded water behind it to the east. If this is so it may be one of the 'large ponds ... still remaining' near the old Manor House to which Bridges refers in about 1720 (4539/0/1). This earthwork/pond is probably associated with the historical water supply, although another suggestion is that it might also have served to defend the hill upon which the church and possibly the old manor stood (ENN8162). An area

of medieval ridge and furrow had been identified 300m to the south of the site (2328/0/4).

4.3 The Church of St Peter and St Paul contains several Grade II listed 18th century chest tombs within its churchyard (DNN2712, ENN14363, ENN101117, 4/1/3). Two Grade II listed 18th century houses, possibly with slightly earlier cores, are located at Rooty Hill on the corner of Chater Street to the west of the site (DNN2700, 4538/0/4). Nineteenth century cartographic evidence indicates that the site has largely comprised undeveloped/agricultural land for most of its recent history, although these sources do depict buildings present, and slightly encroaching on the site, at its western boundary,

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Six trial trenches were excavated, five measured 30m x 1.5m and one measured 25m x 1.5m, using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Trench 1 had to be shortened slightly due to restricted space caused by fence line and Trench 2.

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and deeper modern levelling layers removed.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below.

Trench 1 Figs. 2 & 3

<i>Sample section 1A:</i> 0.00m = 104.50m AOD		
0.00m-0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark blackish brown, sandy silt with occasional charcoal and coal flecks
0.32m-1.0m	L1001	Subsoil. Dark greyish brown, silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks
1.0m+	L1002	Natural. Light orange yellow, sand with areas of ironstone.

<i>Sample section 1B:</i> 0.00m = 104.00m AOD		
0.00m-0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.40m-0.97m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.97m +	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained Pits F1003 and F1005. F1003 was undated. F1005 was modern and a modern service traversed the trench.

Pit F1003 was sub-circular (0.50m x 0.40 x 0.09m). It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1004, was a friable, dark yellowish brown, sand. It contained animal bone (98g).

Pit F1005 was sub-circular (0.40m x 0.64 x 0.46m). It had steep sides and an uneven base. Its fill, L1006, was a friable, mid yellowish brown, sand with occasional medium sized sub-angular stones. A dog burial was found at the base with modern plastic fragments.

Trench 2 Fig.2

<i>Sample section 2A:</i>		
<i>0.00m = 104.4m</i>		
0.00m-0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20m-0.45m	L1007	Modern layer. Dark brownish black, sandy silt with moderate coal flecks and occasional flecks of CBM
0.45m-0.65m	L1008	Modern layer. Mid orange brown, silty sand with occasional small coal pieces/flecks.
0.65m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 2B:</i>		
<i>0.00m = 104.68m</i>		
0.00m-0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.35m-1.0m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
1.0m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 2 contained two modern layers, L1008 and L1009

L1008 (5m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.25m+) was a friable mid orange brown, silty sand with occasional small coal pieces. L1008 contained modern (19th century) pottery (12g). L1008 was comparable to L1009, which was located to the south-east, both layers appeared to be levelling layers.

L1009 (5m x 1.5m+ x 1.4m) was a friable mid orange brown, silty sand with occasional coal flecks. L1009 contained modern (19th century +) pottery. This layer was stripped back using a mechanical excavator and no archaeological features were revealed beneath.

Trench 3 Figs. 2 & 3

<i>Sample section 3A:</i>		
<i>0.00m = 104.63m AOD</i>		
0.00m-0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.35m-0.73m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.73m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 3B:</i> 0.00m = 104.82m AOD		
0.00m-0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.27m-0.77m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.77m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 3 contained Pits F1010 and F1012, and Ditch F1014. A modern layer, L1016, was also present. Pits F1010 and F1012 contained sparse abraded sherds of Anglo-Saxon (mid 5th – 9th century) pottery, and Ditch F1014 was undated.

Pit F1010 was sub-circular (1.6m+ x 1m+ x 0.15). It had gradually sloping sides with a flat base. Its fill, L1011, was a friable, dark brownish grey, silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small iron stones. It contained animal bone (22g) and two abraded sherds of Anglo-Saxon (mid 5th – 9th century) pottery (86g).

Pit F1012 was oval (1.4m x 0.5m+ x 0.36m). It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1013, was a friable, mid yellowish brown, sand with occasional medium sized angular stone. It contained animal bone (473g) and an abraded sherd of Anglo-Saxon (mid 5th – 9th century) pottery (20g).

Ditch F1014 was linear (1.5m+ x 0.8m x 0.16m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1015, was a friable, mid greyish brown, silty sand with occasional small iron stone. No finds were present.

Modern Layer L1016 (13m x 1.5m+ x 0.5m) was a friable, mid orange brown, silty sand with occasional flecks of coal. It was similar to Layers L1008 and L1009 (Trench 2), and it also contained post-medieval (18th century) pottery (10g). This layer was stripped back using a mechanical excavator and no archaeological features were revealed beneath.

Trench 4 Figs. 2 & 3

<i>Sample section 4A:</i> 0.00m = 104.261m AOD		
0.00m–0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.37m–0.82m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.82m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 4B:</i> 0.00m = 104.81m AOD		
0.00m–0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m–0.70m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.70m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 4 contained undated Pits F1024, F1026, F1028, F1030 and F1032. Pits F1024 and F1026 contained animal bone, and the others contained no finds.

Pit F1024 was sub-circular (0.4m x 1m x 0.2m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1025 was a friable, dark greyish brown, silty sand with occasional small iron stones. It contained animal bone (32g). It was truncated by Pit F1026.

Pit F1026 was sub-circular (1.5m+ x 2.6m x 0.5m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1027, was a friable, dark brownish grey, silty sandy with occasional charcoal flecks and moderate small to medium ironstone. It contained animal bone (231g). It truncated Pit F1026.

Pit F1028 was sub-circular (1.1m x 0.46m+ x 0.26m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1029, was a friable, mid reddish brown, silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent medium sized angular stone. No finds were present.

Pit F1030 was sub-circular (0.4m x 0.3m x 0.11m). It had steep sides and irregular base. Its fill, L1031, was a friable, dark blackish brown, silty sand with moderate small sub-rounded stones. No finds present.

Pit F1032 was sub-circular (0.42m x 0.3m x 0.13m). It had vertical sides with an irregular base. Its fill, L1033, was a friable, dark blackish brown, silty sand with moderate small sub-rounded stones. No finds present.

Trench 5 Figs. 2 & 4

<i>Sample section 5A:</i>		
<i>0.00m = 104.50m AOD</i>		
0.00m–0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.42m+	L1021	Modern layer. Mid blackish brown, silty sand with moderate coal/charcoal flecks.

<i>Sample section 5B:</i>		
<i>0.00m = 105.18m AOD</i>		
0.00m–0.51m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.51m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 5 contained Pits F1019 and F1022, and Modern layer L1021. Neither pit contained finds.

Pit F1019 was sub-circular (0.76m x 0.63m x 0.14m). It had steep sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1020, was a friable, dark blackish brown, silty sand with moderate small to medium sub-round stones. No finds were present.

Pit F1022 was sub-circular (0.62m x 0.5m x 0.09m). It had steep sides and a irregular base. Its fill, L1023, was a friable, dark blackish brown, silty sand with moderate small to medium sub-round stones. No finds were present.

L1021 (1.7m+ x 0.7m+ x 0.55m) was a friable mid blackish brown, silty sand with moderate flecks of coal/charcoal. L1021 contained modern (19th century +) pottery. This layer was stripped back using a mechanical excavator and no archaeological features were revealed beneath.

Trench 6 Figs. 2 & 4

<i>Sample section 6A:</i>		
<i>0.00m = 104.78m AOD</i>		
0.00m–0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.29m–0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.48m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 6B:</i>		
<i>0.00m = 104.50m AOD</i>		
0.00m–0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.41m–0.7m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.7m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 6 contained undated Pit F1017.

Pit F1017 was a sub-circular (0.96m x 0.65m x 0.26m). It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1018, was a friable, dark yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional medium sized sub-rounded stones. It contained animal bone (40g).

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The uppermost layer across the site was Topsoil L1000, a dark blackish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and coal flecks. It varied between 0.2m and 0.51m in depth. L1000 sealed Subsoil L1001 which was identified across the site (except trench 5) and comprised of a dark greyish brown, silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and varied between 0.19m and 0.68m in thickness. The natural (L1002) was a light orange yellow, sand with areas of iron stone, identified in the base of all trenches. Layers L1008, L1009, L1016 and L1021, all appeared to be modern levelling layers, which when present were seen to replace the Subsoil L1001.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1003	Pit	Undated
	F1005	Pit (dog burial)	Modern
2	L1008	Layer	Modern
	L1009	Layer	Modern
3	F1010	Pit	Anglo-Saxon (mid 5 th – 9 th C)
	F1012	Pit	Anglo-Saxon (Mid 5 th – 9 th C)
	F1014	Ditch	Undated
	L1016	Layer	Modern
4	F1024	Pit	Undated
	F1026	Pit	Undated
	F1028	Pit	Undated
	F1030	Pit	Undated
	F1032	Pit	Undated
5	F1019	Pit	Undated
	F1022	Pit	Undated
	L1021	Layer	Modern
6	F1017	Pit	Undated

9.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out in association with a previous application on the site (ULAS 2010). This concluded that Roman and Saxon material has been found locally, and that post-medieval and modern development of the site has been minimal, suggesting that any potential remains may not have suffered later truncation. Roman pottery has been found in fields to the west of the site, and development to the east in 1968 yielded Saxon pottery. Further information within the brief from the Portable Antiquities Scheme notes that numerous findspots of Roman coins are known from the village, in addition to medieval coins and other finds.

9.3 The site lies in close proximity to the historic core of Moulton which was recorded at Domesday and, therefore, can be seen to have Saxon origins. Demonstrating as much are stone slabs and a fragment of a cross present in the churchyard of the nearby Church of St Peter and St Paul (ENN8166;4538/1/0) and the recovery of Saxon pottery, along with some medieval pottery, during construction works 250m to the west during the 1960s. The medieval church (DNN2712; 4538/1) and its attendant churchyard (ENN101117; 4538/1/2) are located 350m to the north-west of the site.

9.4 Two dated archaeological features were revealed: Pits F1010 and F1012 (Trench 3). The dating evidence is tentative being based on abraded Anglo-Saxon sherds; one from Pit F1012 and two from Pit F1010 (Pottery Report below). Animal bone was also found within these pits (Animal Bone Report below). The pits also contained charred cereal grains suggesting that cereals were in common usage at the site during the Anglo-Saxon period. The remains recovered may result from local cultivation and processing

(Environmental Report below). The pits were located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site.

9.5 Undated features largely comprise pits with Trenches 1 (F1003), 4 (F1024, F1026, F1028, F1030, and F1032) and 6 (F1017). An undated ditch was recorded in Trench 3 (F1014).

9.6 Modern layers were recorded in Trenches 2 (L1008 and L1009), 3 (L1016) and 5 (L1021). These were stripped back using a mechanical excavator and no archaeological features were revealed beneath.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at the Northamptonshire County Store. 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.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank the client Lodge Park Ltd for funding the project, in particular Mr James Browning for his assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Ms Liz Mordue of Northamptonshire County Council Historic Environment Team, and Katherine Daws of the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record and Liz Mordue.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

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

ULAS, 2010, *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for land at Alibone Close, Moulton, Northamptonshire*, ULAS Report

WEB SITES

www.domesdaymap.co.uk - Moulton manor at Domesday

APPENDIX 1 - CONCORANCE OF FINDS

AS1677, Land off Alibone Close, Moulton

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1001		6	Subsoil	?6th-8th	(1) 9g		11 10	
1003	1004	1	Fill of Pit				98	
1008		2	Modern Layer	19th+	(1) 12g			
1009		2	Modern Layer	19th+	(1) 2g			
1010	1011	3	Fill of Pit	Mid 5th-mid 9th	(2) 86		22	
1012	1013	3	Fill of Pit	Mid 5th-mid 9th	(1) 20g		473	
1016		3	Post-med Layer	18th	(2) 10g			
1017	1018	6	Fill of Pit				40	
1021		5	Modern Layer	19th+	(1) 6g			
1024	1025	4	Fill of Pit				32	
1026	1027	4	Fill of Pit				231	

APPENDIX 2 - SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 9 sherds weighing 143g from six contexts and the subsoil. Four abraded sherds (113g) are Anglo-Saxon, and the remainder are post-medieval to modern (Table 1).

L1011 contained two handmade fragments from a rounded shoulder probably from a jar in mixed temper (S7). The fabric comprises abundant fine to medium quartz with sparse organics and rare very coarse quartz or other mineral inclusions. The surfaces have a slightly 'micaceous' appearance, but most of this derives from quartz rather than mica. L1013 contained a similar S7 body sherd but from a thinner walled vessel, the fabric also includes some coarser quartz and sandstone. The subsoil L1001 contained a simple everted rim in fabric S1d comprising a fine sandy matrix containing sparse medium quartz and moderate to common burnt organics. Analysis from sites further south in Essex and Suffolk, such as the nationally important site at Mucking, indicate that grass tempering was most common during the 6th and 7th centuries, although this might have varied regionally. However, the assemblage can be broadly dated with certainty to between the mid 5th and 9th centuries.

L1016 contained a moderately abraded sherd each of black glazed post-medieval red earthenware (CTS 426) and Staffordshire type salt glazed stone ware (CTS 429) dating to the 18th centuries. The remaining contexts L1008, L1009 and L1201 contained heavily abraded sherds of 19th-20th century factory made white earthenwares (CTS 1000).

Key:

Using Northamptonshire CTS Codes where applicable

Code: Fabric and date (N.B. in Table 1 the post-medieval CTS Codes are preceded by the letter F for fabric. The Anglo-Saxon codes are based on Ford 1995).

S1d: Anglo-Saxon sand with organics mid 5th-mid 9th

S7: Anglo-Saxon mixed temper mid 5th-mid 9th

426: Black glazed post-medieval red earthenware late 18th+

429: White salt glazed stoneware 18th century

1000: Miscellaneous refined modern factory made white earthenware late 18th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Subsoil	1001	1x9g S1d	?6 th -8 th	S1d: abraded simple everted rim
	1008	1x11g F1000	19 th +	F1000: abraded plate or dish

				rim
	1009	1x2g F1000	19 ^{th+}	F1000: abraded flaked off piece of a plate
	1011	1x72g S7 1x12g S7	Mid 5 th - mid 9 th	S7: moderately abraded body/shoulder sherds, probably the same vessel
	1013	1x20g S7	Mid 5 th - mid 9 th	S7: moderately abraded, hand made large body
	1016	1x11g F426 1x2g F429	18 th	F426: internal glaze, abraded F429: moderately abraded
	1201	1x4g F1000	19 ^{th+}	F1000: abraded upper shoulder from a bowl

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

Bibliography

Ford, S. 1995 The Excavation of a Saxon Settlement and Mesolithic Flint Scatter at Northampton Road, Brixworth, Northamptonshire. *Northamptonshire Archaeology* 26, p.79-108

The Animal Bone

Dr Julia E.M. Cussans

A small assemblage of 64 animal bone fragments was recovered from trial trench excavations at Moulton. Details of bones recovered are given in Table 2. For the majority of contexts bone preservation was rated as ok, on an overall scale of very poor through to excellent; bone preservation from F1001 was rated as poor. Domestic mammal species present, in order of abundance, were cattle, pig, sheep/goat and horse, the latter two being represented by a single bone each. Two bird bones present are likely to belong to goose. The majority of the assemblage was however made up of bones that could not be identified to species but only to the broad size classes large (cattle or horse sized) and medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal. The largest bone assemblage came from Saxon pit F1012, where the majority of the pig and cattle remains came from. A small number of bones showed evidence of butchery (two cattle and one sheep/goat); no pathological remains were present. Very few ageable elements were present, although one cattle bone was thought to belong to a particularly young, possibly neonate animal. There was little else of note in this small assemblage.

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Horse	Large mammal	Medium Mammal	Bird	Total
1001		Subsoil	Saxon			1		1			2
1003	1004	Fill of Pit	Undated	1							1
1010	1011	Fill of Pit	Saxon		1			1			2
1012	1013	Fill of Pit	Saxon	6		4		30	4	2	46
1017	1018	Fill of Pit	Undated	1							1
1024	1025	Fill of Pit	Undated	1							1
1026	1027	Fill of Pit	Undated	1		1	1	8			11
			Total	10	1	6	1	40	4	2	64

Table 2. Bone quantification by context.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

Two bulk soil samples were taken and processed during trial excavations at land off Alibone Close, Moulton. The samples were from pit fills L1011 (F1010) and L1013 (F1012) of probable Anglo-Saxon date. This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions 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). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. 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 the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 3.

Plant macrofossils

Charred cereal grains were recovered from both light fractions. The sample from L1013 was the richer of the two, containing hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and oat (*Avena* sp.). The sample from L1011 contained a single germinated oat grain. This range of cereals is comparable to that from many other Anglo-Saxon assemblages (e.g. Carruthers 2008; Murphy 1985; 2005; Ballantyne 2005).

No chaff or arable weed seeds were present in this small assemblage but the number of samples is small and does not rule out the possibility that the cereals recovered were the product of local cultivation and processing.

Charcoal

A small amount of charcoal was present in both samples, with oak (*Quercus* sp.) and probable hazel (*Corylus* sp.) recognised in L1013. This material is likely to represent domestic fuel debris deposited in the excavated features.

Contaminants

Modern rootlets, seeds and insects were present in the samples but the concentration was low. This indicates that the effects of bioturbation on the deposits are likely to have been limited.

Conclusions and statement of potential

The presence of cereals in both samples suggests that cereals were in common usage at the site during the Anglo-Saxon period. Whether the remains recovered result from local cultivation and processing is uncertain at present but seems likely. Should further excavation and sampling be undertaken at the site, it is likely that an analytically viable assemblage of carbonised plant macrofossils would be gathered to allow a more detailed investigation of the Anglo-Saxon arable economy around Moulton.

References

Ballantyne, R. 2005, 'Plants and seeds', in Mortimer, R., Regan, R. and Lucy, S. *The Saxon and Medieval Settlement at West Fen Road, Ely: The Ashwell Site*, East Anglian Archaeology 110, Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Cambridge, 100-112

Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker R.M. and Jans J.E.A. 2006, *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands. Groningen Archaeological Studies Volume 4*, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde

Carruthers, W.J. 2008, 'Charred, mineralized and waterlogged plant remains', in Cooke, N., Brown, F. and Phillpotts, C. *From Hunter-Gatherers to Huntsmen: A History of the Stansted Landscape*, Framework Archaeology Monograph No. 2, Chapter 34 on CD

Jacomet, S. 2006, *Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites* (2nd edn), Laboratory of Palinology and Palaeoecology, Basel University

Kerney, M.P. 1999, *Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland*, Harley Books, Colchester

Kerney, M.P. and Cameron, R.A.D. 1979, *A Field Guide to Land Snails of Britain and North-West Europe*, Collins, London

Murphy, P. 1985, 'The cereals and crop weeds', in West, S. *West Stow. The Anglo-Saxon Village. Volume 1: Text*, East Anglian Archaeology 24, Suffolk County Planning Department, 100-108

Murphy, P. 2005, 'Environmental evidence', in Tyler, S. and Major, H. *The Early Anglo-Saxon Cemetery and Later Saxon Settlement at Springfield Lyons, Essex*, East Anglian Archaeology Report Number 111, Essex County Council, Chelmsford, 149-163

Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Spot date	Volume (litres)	% processed	Cereals		Notes	Non-cereal taxa		Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants				
								Cereal grains	Cereal chaff		Seeds	Notes	Charcoal > 2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules
AS1677	2	1011	1010	Fill of Pit	?Saxon	20	66%	X	-	Oat (germ) (1), NFI (1)	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	X	-
AS1677	3	1013	1012	Fill of Pit	?Saxon	20	66%	X	-	HB (1), Hord (2), Trit (1), Oat (1), cf. Oat (1), NFI (2)	-	-	XX	Quercus sp., cf. Corylus sp.	-	-	X	-	X	-	-

Table 3. Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Alibone Close, Moulton. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Oat (*Avena* sp.); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
View across the site



2
Pit F1005, trial trench 1, facing southeast



3
Sample section 2B, trial trench 2, facing northeast



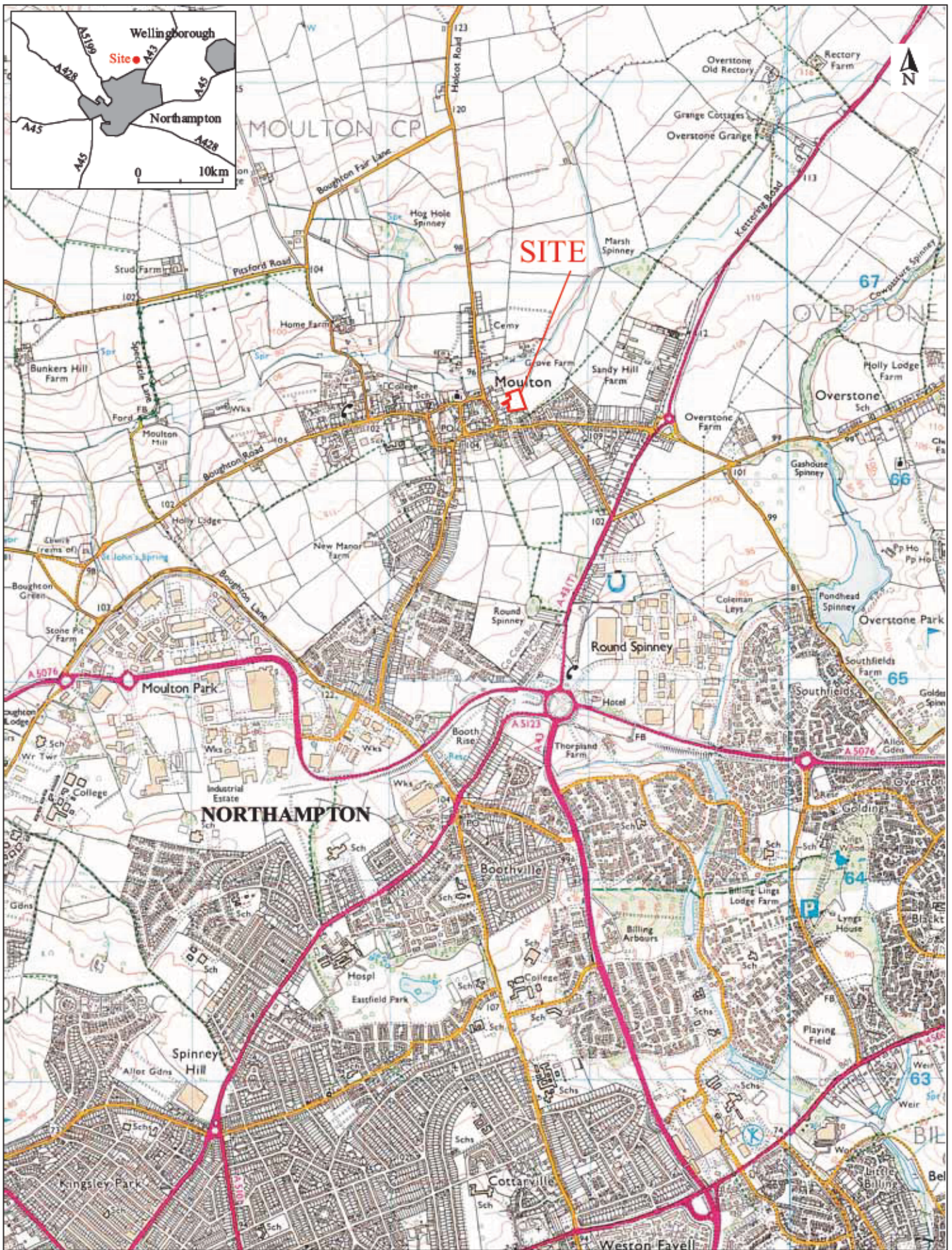
4
Trial trench 4, facing southeast



5
Pit F1019, trial trench 5, facing northeast



6
Pit F1017, trial trench 6, facing east-northeast



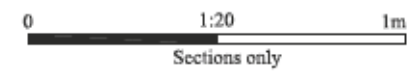
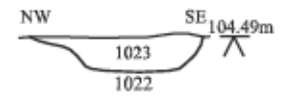
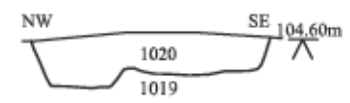
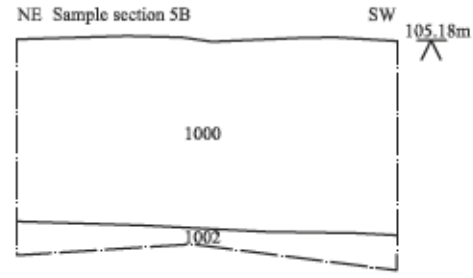
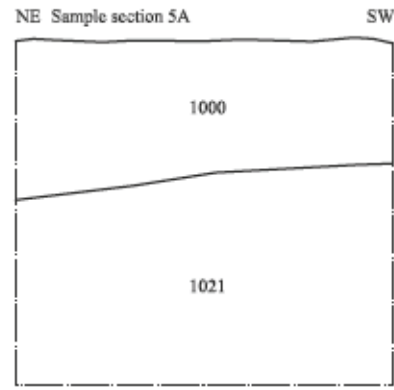
Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

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

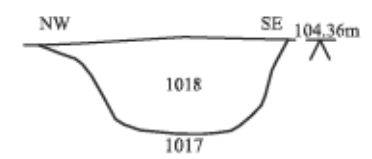
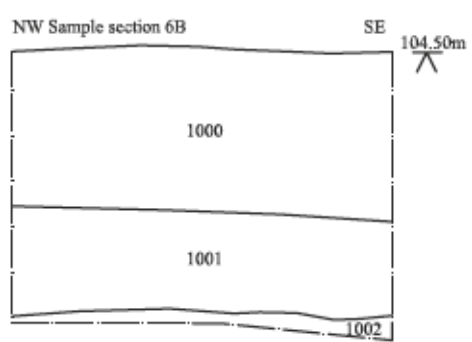
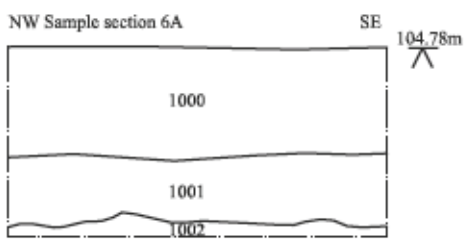


Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:800 at A4

Trench 5



Trench 6



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4



0 50m

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 5 Proposed development plan
 Scale 1:750 at A4