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FORMER ALDERMAN JACKSON SCHOOL, MARSH LANE, KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Authors: Gareth Barlow (Fie	eldwork & report)
NGR: 563664 321562	Report No: 5048
District: Kings Lynn	Site Code: ENF140066
Approved: Claire Halpin CMIfA	Project No: 6327
Signed:	Date: 22 February 2016

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SUMMARY

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Project details							
Project name	Former	Alderman	Jackson	School,	Marsh	Lane,	King's
	Lynn, N	orfolk					

In February 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Alderman Jackson School, Marsh Lane, King's Lynn, Norfolk (NGR 563664 321562). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction a residential development. It was required to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Kings Lynn Council Planning Ref. 14/00569/OM), based on the advice of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Team (NCC HES).

No archaeological features or finds were found to be present during the evaluation. No evidence of enclosure ditches was present within the trenches. The findings support the suggestion that the area was unoccupied until recent times.

Project dates (fieldwork)	February	2016			
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work			N
P. number	6276	Site code	ENF 140066		
Type of project	Archaeolo	ogical Evaluatio	n	I	
Site status	None				
Current land use	Former so	chool			
Planned development	Residenti	al			
Main features (+dates)	None				
Significant finds (+dates)	None				
Project location					
County/ District/ Parish	Norfolk	King's	Lynn	Gaywood	
HER/ SMR for area	Norfolk H	istoric Environm	ent Record		
Post code (if known)	PE30 3A	E			
Area of site	8510m2				
NGR	563664 3	21562			
Height AOD (min/max)	3-4m AOI	ס			
Project creators					
Brief issued by	Norfolk C	ounty Council			
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Gareth Ba	arlow			
Funded by	Coparek	Ltd			
Full title	Former A	lderman Jackso	n School, Mars	h Lane, King's	s Lynn,
	Norfolk. A	n Archaeologica	al Evaluation		
Authors	Barlow, (G			
Report no.	5048				
Date (of report)	February	2016			

FORMER ALDERMAN JACKSON SCHOOL, MARSH LANE, KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In February 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Alderman Jackson School, Marsh Lane, King's Lynn, Norfolk (NGR 563664 321562). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction a residential development. It was required to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Kings Lynn Council Planning Ref. 14/00569/OM), based on the advice of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Team (NCC HES).

The site lies within an area of archaeological significance, within a landscape with known archaeological remains recorded on the Norfolk Historic Environment Record. Medieval saltern workings and a Neolithic axehead have been found locally. The site lies also lies within an area of palaeoenvironmental potential in the river valley.

No archaeological features or finds were found to be present during the evaluation. No evidence of enclosure ditches was present within the trenches. The findings support the suggestion that the area was unoccupied until recent times.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Alderman Jackson School, Marsh Lane, King's Lynn, Norfolk (NGR 563664 321562; Figs.1 2). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction a residential development. It was required to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Kings Lynn Council Planning Ref. 14/00569/OM), based on the advice of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Team (NCC HES).
- 1.2 The project was carried out in accordance with advice (dated 26th June 2015) and a generic brief for an evaluation issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES, dated 24/9/2012, revised 21/04/2015). It complied with a specification compiled by AS (dated 29th June 2015) and approved by NCC HES. It followed the procedures outlined in the *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 of the site 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.
- 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

2.1 The site lies on the northern side of Marsh Lane, King's Lynn, within the valley floor of the Gaywood River. It until recently comprised former school buildings, since demolished, and it is proposed to construct a new residential development on the site. On the opposite side of Marsh Lane is the Marsh House site which was also trial trenched (Fig. 2)

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 3.1 Kings Lynn's topography is defined by its position on the fenlands of upper Norfolk and proximity to the estuary of the Wash. The land rises very slowly to the south-east and the river Gaywood runs *c*.350m to the south of the site.
- 3.2 The underlying geology consists of the Kimmeridge Clay Formation of mudstone, formed in the Jurassic period. The superficial geology is defined as loamy and clayey soils of coastal flats with naturally high groundwater.
- 3.3 The site itself lies at approximately 4m AOD and slopes gently towards Marsh Lane in the southwest.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological significance, within a landscape with known archaeological remains recorded on the Norfolk Historic Environment Record. Medieval saltern workings and a Neolithic axehead have been found locally. The site lies also lies within an area of palaeoenvironmental potential in the river valley.
- 4.2 A previous archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared for the site (NPS Archaeology 2014). In summary:

The site historically lay on the edge of dryland adjacent to the coastal salt marshes and mudflats. The area was likely unoccupied in the prehistoric and medieval periods due to regular marine flooding.

Settlement developed to the south in the Saxon and medieval periods, exploiting the dryland and wetland resources, adjacent to a main road from the core settlement at King's Lynn across the marsh. Marsh reclamation for grazing took place at this time. Enclosure of the marshland took place from the 16th century, with the plot probably enclosed in 1810. The northeastern boundary of the development area appears on the 1588 map and dating of this boundary, if possible, would be of some value. The current buildings on the site will have caused significant localised ground disturbance, but the rest of the site may have less in the way of previous truncation.

4.3 The site thus had a potential for multi-period occupation, with a particular potential for medieval settlement/industry/agriculture.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The site extends to some 8510m2. Eight trenches each up to 30m x 1.6m, were excavated across the site, representing a c.5% sample of the site (Fig.3). A programme of metal detecting was also undertaken during and after mechanical excavation of the trenches.
- 5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 180° back acting mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide 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 the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below.

Trench 1 (Figs. 3-4)

Sample section: Northeast end, I 0.00m = 3.48m	northwest	facing
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. Firmish, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
0.21 – 0.36m	L1001	Firm, mid yellow brown clay silt, with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
0.36 – 0.47m	L1002	Firm, pale yellow brown, becoming more blue grey towards the base, silty clay, with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.
0.47 – 0.75m+	L1003	Friable, small and medium sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded flints in dark blue grey silty sand.

Sample section.	Sample section: 1B		
Southwest end,	Southwest end, southeast facing		
0.00m = 3.32m	0.00m = 3.32m AOD		
0.00 - 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.	
0.25 – 0.47m	L1001	Clay silt layer. As above.	
0.47 – 0.84m	L1002	Silty clay layer. As above.	
0.84m+	L1003	Gravel. As above.	

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 2 (Figs. 3-4)

Sample section: 2A Southeast end, northeast facing 0.00m = 3.74m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1004	Made ground. Friable, mid brown orange silty sand, with moderate-frequent medium and large sub-rounded and rounded flints.
0.15 – 0.37m	L1005	Firm, dark bluey grey brown clay silt, with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.
0.37 – 0.48m	L1006	Firm, mid blue grey silty clay, with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.
0.48m+	L1003	Gravel. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section: 2B			
Southwest end, southeast facing			
0.00m = 3.52m	AOD	-	
0.00 - 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.	
0.47 – 0.54m	L1002	Silty clay layer. As above, Trench 1.	
0.54m+	L1003	Gravel. As above, Trench 1.	

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 3 (Figs. 3-4)

Sample section:	Sample section: 3A		
	Southeast end, northeast facing		
0.00m = 3.68m		3	
0.00 - 0.15m	L1004	Made ground. As above, Trench 2.	
0.15 – 0.37m	L1005	Clay silt layer. As above, Trench 2.	
0.37 – 0.48m	L1006	Silty clay layer. As above, Trench 2.	
0.48m+	L1003	Gravel. As above, Trench 1.	

Sample section	Sample section: 3B			
Northwest end, northeast facing				
0.00m = 3.46m AOD				
0.00 – 0.20m	L1004	Made ground. As above, Trench 2.		
0.20 - 0.50m	L1006	Silty clay layer. As above, Trench 2.		
0.50m+	L1003	Gravel. As above, Trench 1.		

Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Sample section: Northeast end, s 0.00m = 3.26m	southeast	t facing
0.00 - 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.27 - 0.49m+	L1002	Silty clay layer. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section Southwest end, 0.00m = 3.27m	southea	st facing
0.00 – 0.50m	L1007	Demolition layer. Friable, mid grey brown sandy clay silt, with very frequent modern CBM and concrete rubble.

Description: Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 5 (Figs. 3-4)

Sample section: 5A Southeast end, northeast facing		
0.00m = 3.28m AOD		
0.00 - 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.20 - 0.37m	L1001	Clay silt layer. As above, Trench 1.
0.37 – 0.82m	L1002	Silty clay layer. As above, Trench 1.
0.82m+	L1003	Gravel. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section: 5B			
Southwest end, southeast facing			
$0.00m = 3.20m \ AOD$			
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.	
0.31 – 0.63m	L1001	Clay silt layer. As above, Trench 1.	
0.63 - 0.70m+	L1002	Silty clay layer. As above, Trench 1.	

Description: Trench 5 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 6 (Figs. 3-4)

Sample section: 6A Northeast end, northwest facing 0.00m = 3.37m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1008	Made ground. Friable, mid orange brown silty sand and very pale brown yellow mortar fragments and dust. Frequent small CBM fragments.
0.33 – 0.44m	L1009	Made ground. Firm, dark-mid blue grey silty clay, with very occasional small angular flints.
0.44 – 0.68m	L1001	Clay silt layer. As above, Trench 1.
0.68 - 0.72m+	L1002	Silty clay layer. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section: 6B Southwest end, northeast facing

0.00m = 3.53m	AOD	
0.00 – 0.27m	L1008	Made ground. As above, Trench 6.
0.27 – 0.44m	L1010	Made ground. Firm, dark grey silty sand and black
		cinders.
0.44 – 0.49m	L1011	Made ground. Firm, pale yellow brown slightly silty
		sand.
0.49 - 0.70m+	L1002	Silty clay layer. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 7 (Fig.3)

Sample section:	7	
Southeast end, northeast facing		
$0.00m = 3.51m \ AOD$		
0.00 - 0.50m	L1007	Made ground. As above, Trench 4.

Description: Trench 7 was opened to a depth of 0.50m at its south eastern end. Due to a rapid ingress of water and the instability of the sides it was immediately backfilled for safety. The remainder of the trench was not cut as it would have been through the same disturbed material.

Trench 8 (Figs. 3-4)

Sample section: 8A			
Southwest end, southeast facing			
0.00m = 3.30m	0.00m = 3.30m AOD		
0.00 - 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As 1A above, Trench 1.	
0.30 - 0.47m	L1001	Clay silt layer. As 1A above, Trench 1.	
0.47 – 1.05m	L1002	Silty clay layer. As 1A above, Trench 1.	
1.05m+	L1003	Gravel. As 1A above, Trench 1.	

Sample section: 8B			
Northeast end, southeast facing			
0.00m = 3.40m AOD			
0.00 - 0.31m	L1004	Made ground. As above, Trench 2.	
0.31 – 0.63m	L1006	Silty clay layer. As above, Trench 3.	
0.63 - 0.70m+	L1003	Gravel. As above, Trench 1.	

Description: Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or finds. The central portion of Trench 8 could not be excavated as the ground here was too soft to support the weight of the machine.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

- 8.1 The majority of the site exhibited evidence of modern disturbance. Only the north-western side appeared in tact. Here Topsoil L1000 was a firmish, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint (0.25m thick). L1000 overlay L1001, a firm, mid yellow brown clay silt with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint (0.15 0.22m thick). Below L1001 was L1002, a firm, pale yellow brown, becoming more blue grey towards the base, silty clay, with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints (0.11 0.37m thick). At the base of the sequence at a depth of between 0.47m and 0.84m was L1003, comprising friable, small and medium sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded flints in dark blue grey silty sand.
- 8.2 In the south-western sector a 0.33m thick made ground layer (L1008) of friable, mid orange brown silty sand and very pale brown yellow mortar fragments and dust with frequent small CBM fragments was present. This overlay a 0.11m thick made ground layer (L1009) of firm, dark-mid blue grey silty clay, with very occasional small angular flints. Below this was clay silt layer L1001 (0.24m thick). The marine clay L1002 was encountered at a depth of 0.68m. The gravels (L1003) had not been revealed by a depth of 0.72m.
- 8.3 In the western sector, at the south-western end of Trench 8, Topsoil L1000 was 0.30m thick overlying a 0.17m thick layer of yellow brown clay silt (L1001). Below this was a 0.58m thick layer of yellow brown silty clay (L1002). The gravels (L1003) were encountered at a depth of 1.05m. Whilst at the north-eastern end of this trench the uppermost layer was a 0.30m thick made ground layer (L1004) of friable, mid brown orange silty sand, with moderate-frequent medium and large sub-rounded and rounded flints. Below L1004 was a 0.38m thick layer (L1006) of firm, mid blue grey silty clay, with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. This blue grey clay may be an anoxic variant of clay L1002. The gravels (L1003) were encountered at a depth of 0.68m.
- 8.4 The centre of the site was heavily disturbed and consisted of a loose and unstable, water saturated, demolition layer of mid grey brown sandy clay silt, with very frequent modern CBM and concrete rubble more than 0.50m thick; it was not bottomed.

9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1 The site lies along the edge of dryland adjacent to coastal salt marshes and mudflats. Settlement in the Saxon and medieval periods developed adjacent to the road across the marsh from the core settlement in Kings Lynn. Although it was considered that the area of the site was unoccupied from the prehistoric to the medieval periods there was the potential for remains of industrial activity such as salterns. Additionally, marsh reclamation for grazing started to take place from this time. Enclosure of the marsh took place from the 16th century, with the plot probably enclosed in 1810. The north-eastern boundary of the development area is shown on a map of 1588.
- 9.2 The natural deposits encountered suggest the site was regularly, if not permanently, flooded until reclaimed.
- 9.3 The natural deposits on the site can be characterised as natural alluvial silt and clay (L1001 and L1002), likely derived from salt marsh habitats, overlying deposits of sand and gravel (L1003). Deposit L1003 slopes towards the south of the site, resulting in greater depths of overburden from marine inundation further south towards Marsh Lane. In the northern sector of the site (Trench 2), L1003 was encountered 0.48m below the present ground surface. At the southern end of Trench 8, the excavation confirmed the presence of the gravels at 1.02m below the present ground surface. These gravels (L1003) may represent terrace gravels of the River Gaywood.
- 9.4 No archaeological features or finds were found to be present during the evaluation. No evidence of enclosure ditches was present within the trenches. The findings support the suggestion that the area was unoccupied until recent times. The north-eastern boundary may have enclosed slightly higher, drier, land on its north-eastern side as the terrace gravels are rising in that direction, being most shallow in Trenches 2 and 3, while the area to the south-west remained unoccupied marshland.

10 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.

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank the client, Coparek Ltd, for funding the evaluation (in particular Mr Paul Everitt) and Mr Mark Attridge of Norfolk Pride Developments for his assistance

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr James Albone of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Team.

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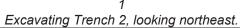
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SSEW 1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales: Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX







Sample Section 1A, looking southeast.



Trench 2 looking northwest.



Trench 1, looking southwest.



Sample Section 1B, looking northwest.



6
Sample Section 2A, looking southwest.



7
Sample Section 2B, looking southwest.



9 Sample Section 3B, looking southwest.



Sample Section 4A, looking northwest.



Trench 3 looking northwest.



10 Trench 4 looking northeast.



12 sample Section 4B, looking northwest.



13 Trench 5 looking southwest.



15 Trench 6 looking southwest.



17 Sample Section 6B, looking southeast.



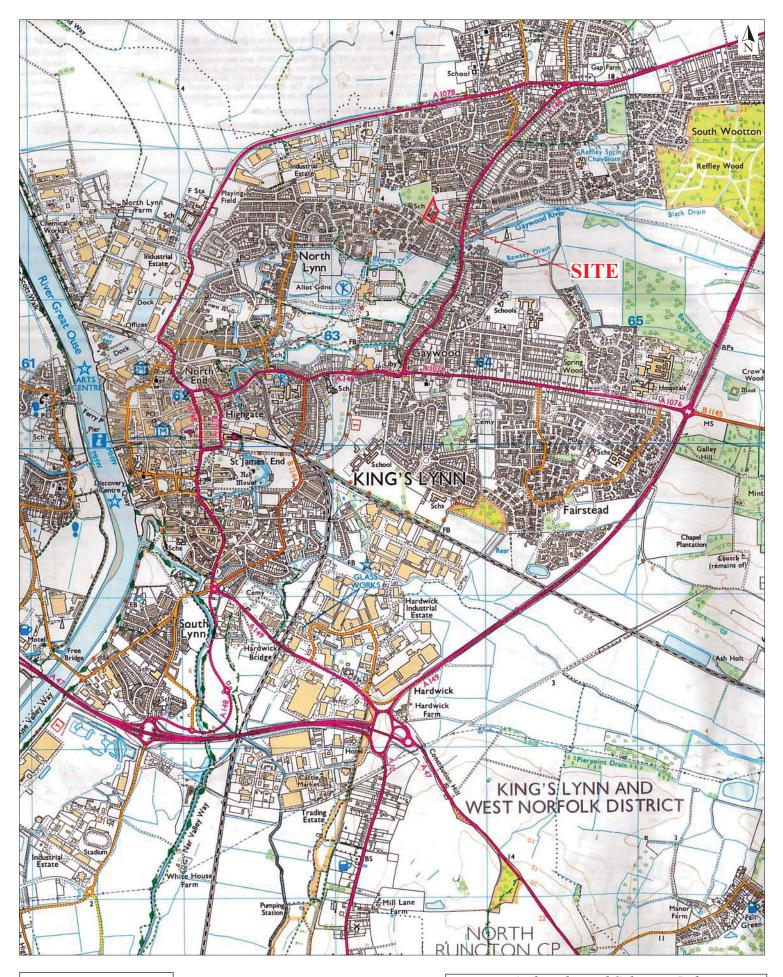
14
Sample Section 5A, looking southeast.



16 Sample Section 6A, looking southeast.



18 Trench 8 looking northeast.



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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Alderman Jackson School, Kings Lynn (P6327)

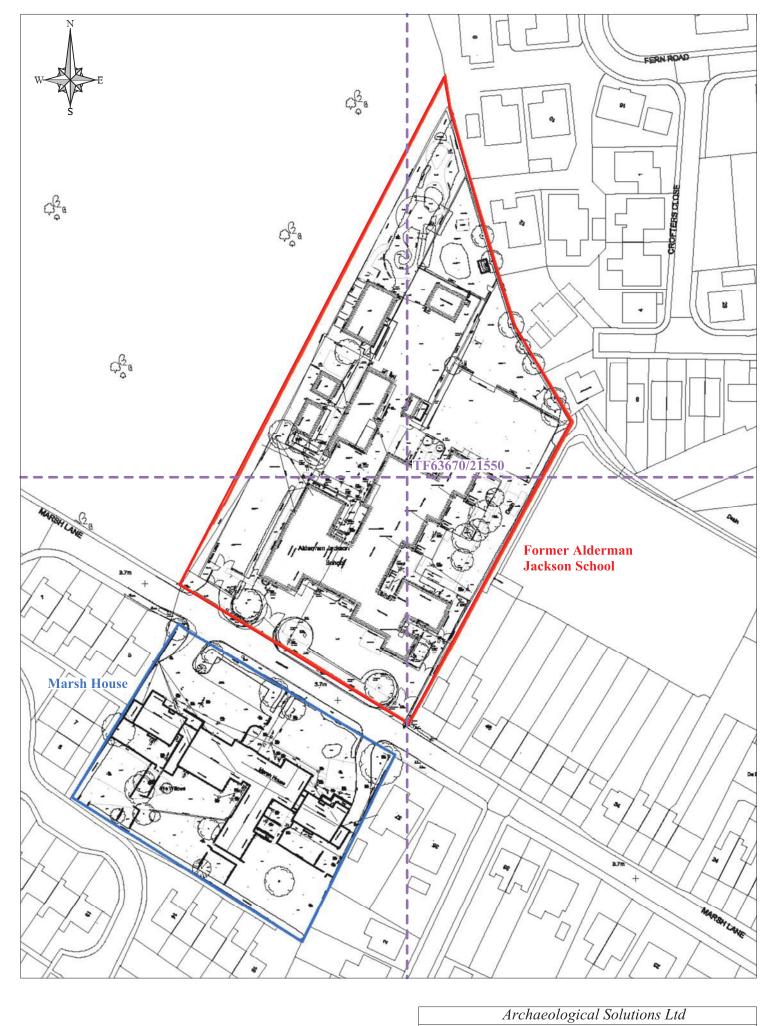


Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4

Alderman Jackson School, Kings Lynn (P6327)

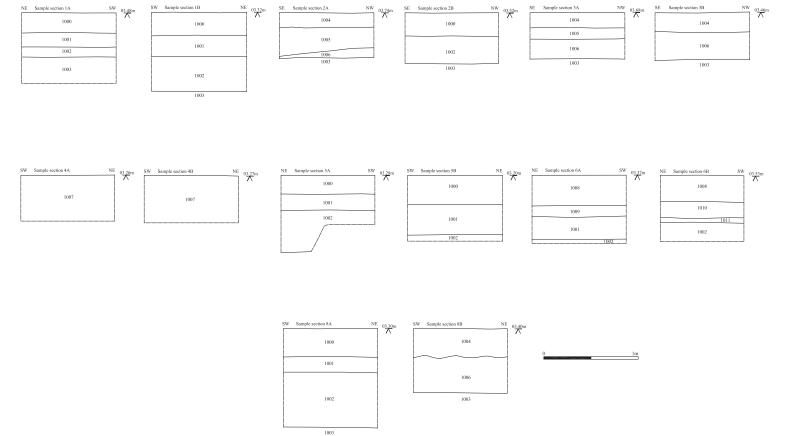


: Sample section
: Trench not cut

Fig. 3 Trench location plan

Scale 1:600 at A4

Alderman Jackson School, Kings Lynn (P6327)



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Fig. 4 Sample sections
Scale 1:20 at A3
Alderman Jackson School, Kings Lynn (P6327)