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**THE OLD COALYARD, SCHOOL ROAD, HEACHAM, NORFOLK
PE31 7DH**

**MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SUPERVISION AND CONTROL**

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Illustrations:	Thomas Light	
NGR: TF 68052 36746	Report No: 5442	
District: King's Lynn	Site Code: ENF 141950	
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7122	
	Date: 26 October 2017	

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>The Old Coalyard, School Road, Heacham, Norfolk PE31 7DH</i>		
<i>In September 2017, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control on land at the Old Coalyard, School Road, Heacham, Norfolk PE31 7DH. The monitoring was undertaken in fulfilment of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new detached dwelling. It was based on advice from Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.</i>			
<i>Extensive cropmarks relating to Iron Age and Roman settlement and field systems are known from the immediate area. These include rectilinear enclosures, field systems and trackways, some of which have been subject to geophysical survey.</i>			
<i>The monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. The site stratigraphy may have been disturbed during the former use of the site as a coal yard/ storage yard as no subsoil was evident, and archaeological features, if present, may have been truncated. No residual archaeological finds were present.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>September 2017</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>7122</i>	Site code	<i>ENF141950</i>
Type of project	<i>Monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control</i>		
Site status	<i>HER 29562 - MNF29562</i>		
Current land use	<i>Brownfield (former coal yard/ builder's storage yard)</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential development</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
1 Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>King's Lynn</i>	<i>Heacham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 1,820m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TF 68052 36746</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c. 10m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Antony RR Mustchin</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Peter Bickell</i>		
Full title	<i>The Old Coalyard, School Road, Heacham, Norfolk, PE31 7DH. Monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control</i>		
Authors	<i>Mustchin, A.R.R. and Higgs, K.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5442</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>26 October 2017</i>		

THE OLD COALYARD, SCHOOL ROAD, HEACHAM, NORFOLK PE31 7DH

MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

SUMMARY

In September 2017, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control on land at the Old Coalyard, School Road, Heacham, Norfolk PE31 7DH. The monitoring was undertaken in fulfilment of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new detached dwelling. It was based on advice from Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.

Extensive cropmarks relating to Iron Age and Roman settlement and field systems are known from the immediate area. These include rectilinear enclosures, field systems and trackways, some of which have been subject to geophysical survey.

The monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. The site stratigraphy may have been disturbed during the former use of the site as a coal yard/ storage yard as no subsoil was evident, and archaeological features, if present, may have been truncated. No residual archaeological finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2017, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control on part of land at the Old Coalyard, School Road, Heacham, Norfolk, PE31 7DH (NGR TF 68052 36746; Figs. 1–2). The monitoring was undertaken in fulfilment of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new detached dwelling (Kings Lynn Council Planning Ref. 15/01623/F). It was based on advice from Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES).

1.2 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a generic brief for archaeological monitoring issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 22/03/2017). It adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014) and Gurney's (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*.

1.3 The requirements of the project were:

- archaeological monitoring under supervision and control of the area of the proposed new development, where ground disturbance is proposed, with the investigation and recording of any archaeology thereby revealed;
- the archaeological monitoring of all other groundworks associated with the scheme likely to have an impact on any remains;

- the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions; and
- the provision of an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas and through cartographic, documentary and other research.

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

2.1 The market town of Heacham is located approximately 2km from Norfolk's coastline with The Wash, within the district of King's Lynn. The larger settlement of Hunstanton is located c. 3km to the north. The site is located c. 1km to the south-east of the historic core of Heacham. Historic landscape characterisation describes the site as a post-medieval to modern built up area associated with the market town (Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) HNF16150).

2.2 The site lies along the eastern frontage of School Road. It is bound to the south and east by agricultural land (that to the east being under residential

development), and to the north by the residential dwelling of The Cabin and associated grounds. The site comprises a rectangular plot of brownfield land (formerly a coal yard and builder's storage yard), measuring approximately 1,820m².

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The topography of the site is dominated by its coastal location, specifically 3km to the east of Stubborn Sand, which lies at the eastern extent of The Wash. The surrounding relief is generally low-lying and slopes eastwards towards the coast. The site lies at c. 10m AOD.

3.2 Heacham lies on a solid geology of chalk overlain by boulder clay and morainic glacio-fluvial drift (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>), which is in turn overlain by Cretaceous sands and gravel, the product of interglacial action. Soils of the area comprise those of the Hunstanton Association, which are described as deep well drained often reddish fine coarse loamy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 There is a large quantity of archaeological data relating to the parish of Heacham and extensive evidence for the early occupation of the area, most likely owing to its Cretaceous sands, underlying chalk and scarcity of surface water. The site itself lies within an area of cropmarks of late Iron Age to Roman settlement, which extends to the east (HER 29562 - MNF29562). It comprises a complex system visible on NLA aerial photographs from 1974 and 1986. The cropmark site consists of rectilinear enclosures, field systems and trackways, possibly relating to settlement and stock management. A geophysical survey (Smalley 2012) recorded a large number of anomalies, but none could be confidently attributed to the Iron Age or Romano-British period.

4.2 A further cropmark complex of possible late prehistoric date has been identified to the south (HER 26829 - MNF44317). The cropmark site appears to be represent alignments of pits or post holes. Additional undated cropmarks are recorded to the north-west and south of the site (HERs 26832 - MNF48466 & 26830 - MNF44318). Another large curvilinear ditch lies to the west (NHER26833), and may have been associated with a late Iron Age farmstead that continued into the Romano-British period. Further north-westwards of the site beyond Cheney Hill is a possible late Neolithic to early Bronze Age settlement (NHER1416).

4.3 Numerous prehistoric finds are also recorded in the vicinity of the site dating from the Palaeolithic to Bronze Age periods. Prehistoric worked flints were recovered from the field known as Bennet's Orchard located to the south of the site (HER 1400 - MNF1400). The flints include a Palaeolithic handaxe, a number of potentially Mesolithic pieces and a laurel leaf point of probable Neolithic date. Various worked flints were also recovered from the fields known as Gill's Holding,

which also lies to the south (HER 1418 - MNF1418). The material includes an Upper Palaeolithic/Mesolithic microlith and a blade and many Neolithic flints including axeheads, leaf arrowheads and many flakes and scrapers.

4.4 Prehistoric items were recovered at Heacham brickworks, which once stood to the south-west of the site (HER 1422 - MNF1422). The items include a potentially Palaeolithic flint implement, a prehistoric flint arrowhead, a Bronze Age copper alloy flat axehead and a Roman coin. A Neolithic flint dagger, flint flakes and a sherd of probable Neolithic pottery was found to the west on Cheney Hill in 1953 and 1960 (HER 1409 - MNF1409). The area of cropmarks of late Iron Age to Roman settlement, within which the site lies, has also yielded Neolithic or Bronze Age flint flakes, scrapers, a leaf arrowhead and a knife found in 1949 and 1970 (HER 1421 - MNF1421), and a Neolithic polished flint axehead found before 1949 (HER 1417 - MNF1417), all of which was found to the east of the site.

Romano-British

4.5 The site lies within an area of cropmarks of late Iron Age to Roman settlement, which extends to the east (HER 29562 - MNF29562). A second cropmark area of late Iron Age to Roman settlement also lies 550m to the south of the site (HER 19279 - MNF19279). It covers a large area and comprises earthworks, ring ditches, a roundhouse, a double ditched enclosure, field systems, rectilinear enclosure, rectangular enclosure, a trackway and a settlement. However, a limited number of Roman finds have been recovered from the area surrounding the site. The medieval Brabons Dyke, which runs to the north-east of the site, has been interpreted as following the course of a possible Roman road (HER 4370 - MNF4370).

Anglo-Saxon

4.6 No Anglo-Saxon remains are known from the immediate vicinity of the site. An early Saxon inhumation cemetery (NHER37217) was uncovered in Heacham and many Saxon remains are known in the parish as a whole, including a sherd of early Saxon pottery was found to the north on The Broadway (HER 1429 - MNF1429). Place-name evidence suggests a Saxon origin for Heacham, deriving from the Old English word *ham* or *hamm*, which meant either *homestead*, *village*, *manor*, *estate* or *enclosure*, *land hemmed by water or marsh* or *higher ground*, *land in a river bend*, *river meadow*, *promontory* (Rye 1991).

Medieval

4.7 Heacham is recorded in the Little Domesday Book and was held by two Saxons, Alnoth, and Toki the king's thegn whose estates were based around his hall in Castle Acre, prior to the Norman Conquest (Brown 1984). Following the Conquest, the manor of Heacham was given to William de Warenne, who in 1085 gifted it to a cell of Cluniac monks from the Priory of St Pancras of Lewes to pray for the soul of his late wife Gundreda (Wareham 2005). However, the site lies 1km to the south-east of the historic core of the town, and thus beyond the extent of the medieval settlement. The medieval Brabons Dyke runs to the north-east of the site

(HER 4370 - MNF4370), and a medieval papal bull was found by metal detecting to the east (HER 23319 - MNF23319).

Post-Medieval and Later

4.8 Post-medieval and later remains are also limited in the immediate vicinity of the site, confirming that it lay beyond the extent of settlement at Heacham and within a predominantly agricultural area. However, to the south-west of the site at Mount Pleasant once stood Heacham Brickworks (HER 59930 - MNF65957). The brickworks were depicted on Faden's map of 1797 and were revitalised in the late 19th century by Holcombe Ingleby, but closed in 1914.

The Site

4.8 The site likely consisted agricultural land throughout the historic period, and early cartographic sources depict it as agricultural land until at least the mid-20th century when the area was developed. Very little is known about The Old Coalyard, of which the site forms part, and only the revised edition Ordnance Survey map, which dates to 1947, indicates its presence (Fig. 3). In 1947, three buildings were located to the north of the site, in the location of The Cabin.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Ground reduction and excavation of footings for a new residential dwelling were undertaken under close archaeological observation (Fig. 2).

5.2 Mechanical excavation was undertaken under close archaeological supervision and control using a back-acting 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

5.3 Exposed sections were cleaned and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Open trenches and excavated spoil were manually/visually searched and scanned by metal detector to enhance the recovery of archaeological finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Sample sections were recorded and are presented below:

Sample Section 1 (Figs. 3–4)

<i>Sample section 1:</i> 0.00m = 9.95m AOD		
0.00 – 0.06m	L1007	Yard Surface
0.06 – 0.27m	L1000	Made Ground. Loose, dark yellow brown silty sand with modern CBM, large rounded stones and concrete
0.27-0.32m	L1001	Made Ground. Firm, dark brown slightly clayey sand with modern CBM
0.32- 0.52m	L1002	Mixed natural deposits. Firm, mid yellow brown clayey sand
0.52m+	L1003	Natural deposits. Firm, mid to dark yellow clayey sand

Sample Section 2 (Figs. 3–4)

<i>Sample section 2:</i> 0.00m = 9.95m AOD		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Made Ground. As above
0.21 – 0.36m	L1001	Made Ground. As above
0.36 – 0.38m	L1002	Mixed natural deposits. As above
0.38m+	L1003	Natural deposits. As above

Sample Section 3 (Figs. 3–4)

<i>Sample section 3:</i> 0.00m = 9.94m AOD		
0.19 – 0.41m	L1000	Made Ground. As above, Sample Section 1
0.41 – 0.49m	L1001	Made Ground. As above, Sample Section 1
0.49 – 0.73m	L1002	Mixed natural deposits. As above, Sample Section 1
0.73m+	L1003	Natural deposits. As above, Sample Section 1

Sample Section 4 (Figs. 3 - 4)

<i>Sample section 4:</i> 0.00m = 9.94m AOD		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1008	Former surface of coal yard
0.14 – 0.29m	L1000	Made Ground. As above, Sample Section 1
0.29 – 0.55m	L1001	Made Ground. As above, Sample Section 1
0.55m+	L1003	Natural deposits. As above, Sample Section 1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Sample Section 5 (Figs. 3–4)

<i>Sample section 5:</i> <i>0.00m = 9.96m AOD</i>		
0.03 – 0.19m	L1007	Yard Surface.
0.19 – 0.39m	L1000	Made Ground. As above, Sample Section 1
0.39 – 0.55m	L1001	Made Ground. As above, Sample Section 1
0.55 – 0.74m	L1002	Made Ground. As above, Sample Section 1
0.74m+	L1003	Natural deposits. As above, Sample Section 1

Description: A modern land drain cut Made Ground L1000.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Within the parameters of the investigation it is not felt that any factors inhibited the identification of archaeological features or finds.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Extensive cropmarks relating to Iron Age and Roman settlement and field systems are known from the immediate area (NHER 29562). These include rectilinear enclosures, field systems and trackways, some of which have been subject to geophysical survey.

8.2 The monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. The site stratigraphy may have been disturbed during the former use of the site as a coal yard/ storage yard as no subsoil was evident, and archaeological features, if present, may have been truncated. No residual archaeological finds were present.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) would like to thank Mr Peter Bickell for funding the project and for the provision of background information.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the staff of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record, in particular Mr. Peter Watkins. AS is grateful to the staff of the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES) and those of Norfolk Record Office (NRO).

AS would like to thank Mr David Robertson of NCC Historic Environment Service for his assistance and advice.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Gurney, D., 2003
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Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983
Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/ Lawes Agricultural Trust)

Website

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 26/10/2017)

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OASIS ID: archaeo17-300662

Project details

Project name	The Old Coalyard, School Road, Heacham, Norfolk PE31 7DH
Short description of the project	In September 2017, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control on land at the Old Coalyard, School Road, Heacham, Norfolk PE31 7DH. The monitoring was undertaken in fulfilment of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new detached dwelling. It was based on advice from Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service. Extensive cropmarks relating to Iron Age and Roman settlement and field systems are known from the immediate area. These include rectilinear enclosures, field systems and trackways, some of which have been subject to geophysical survey. The monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. The site stratigraphy may have been disturbed during the former use of the site as a coal yard/ storage yard as no subsoil was evident, and archaeological features, if present, may have been truncated. No residual archaeological finds were present.
Project dates	Start: 01-09-2017 End: 30-09-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	P7122 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ENF141950 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK HEACHAM The Old Coalyard, School Road, Heacham, Norfolk PE31 7DH
Study area	1820 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 68052 36746 52.901471672373 0.49888958514 52 54 05 N 000 29 56 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 10m Max: 10m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Project brief originator Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service

Project design originator Jon Murray

Project director/manager Jon Murray

Project supervisor Antony Mustchin

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Norwich Castle Museum

Digital Contents "Survey"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Norwich Castle Museum

Paper Contents "Survey"

Paper Media available "Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



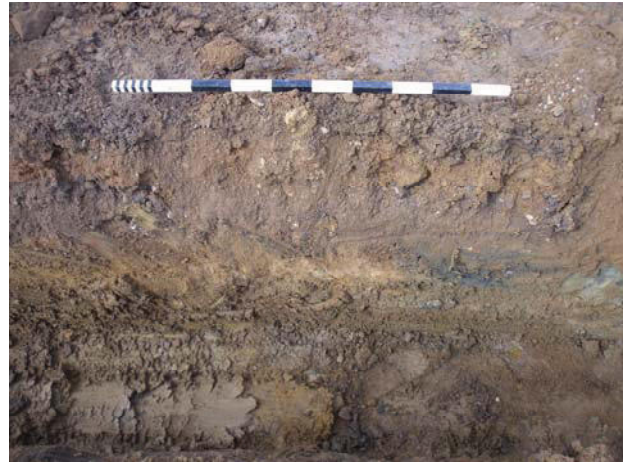
1
View of site looking north-west



2
Sample Section 1 looking south-east



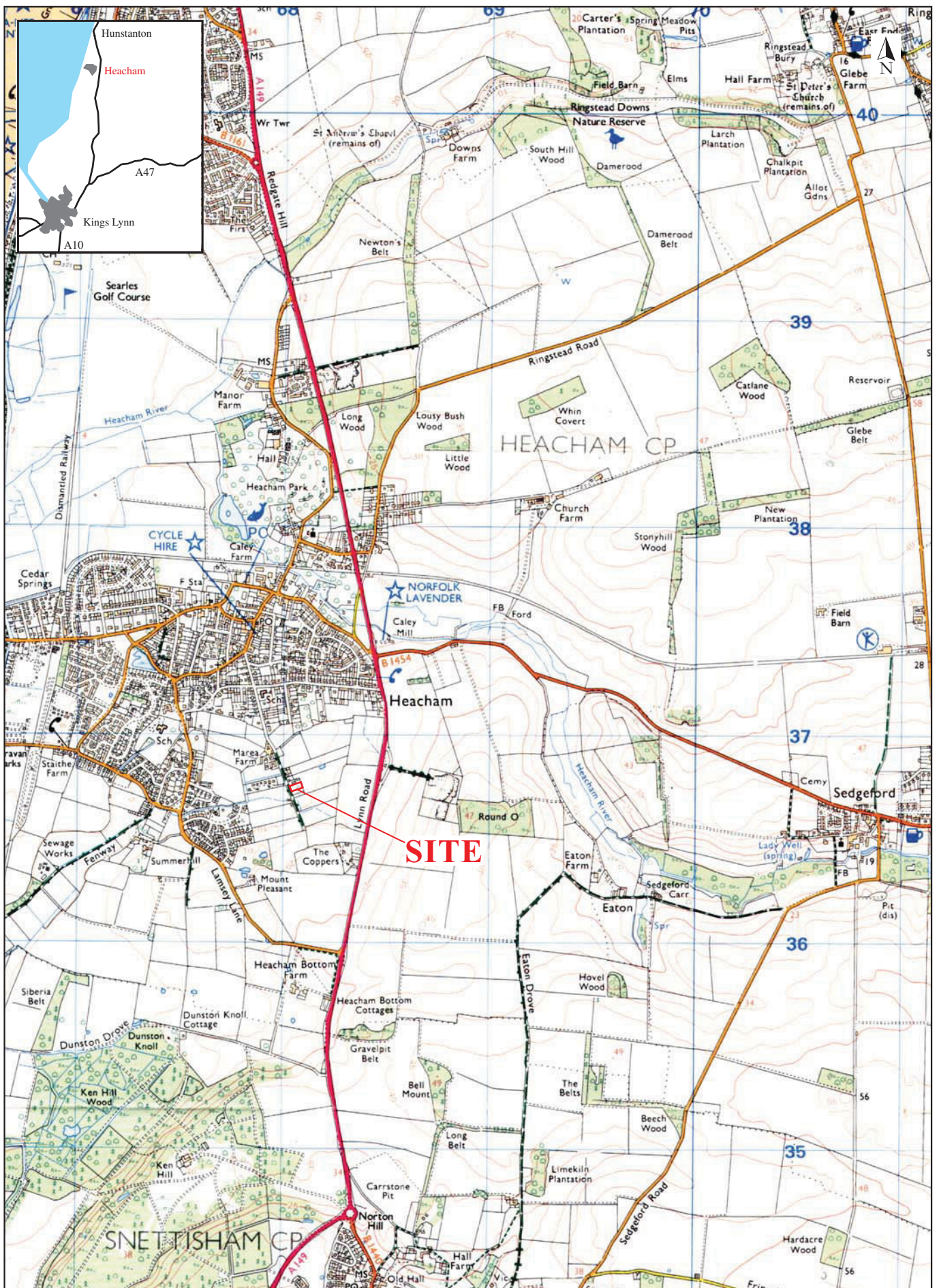
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Sample Section 2 looking north-east



4
Sample Section 3 looking north-west



5
Sample Section 4 looking north-east



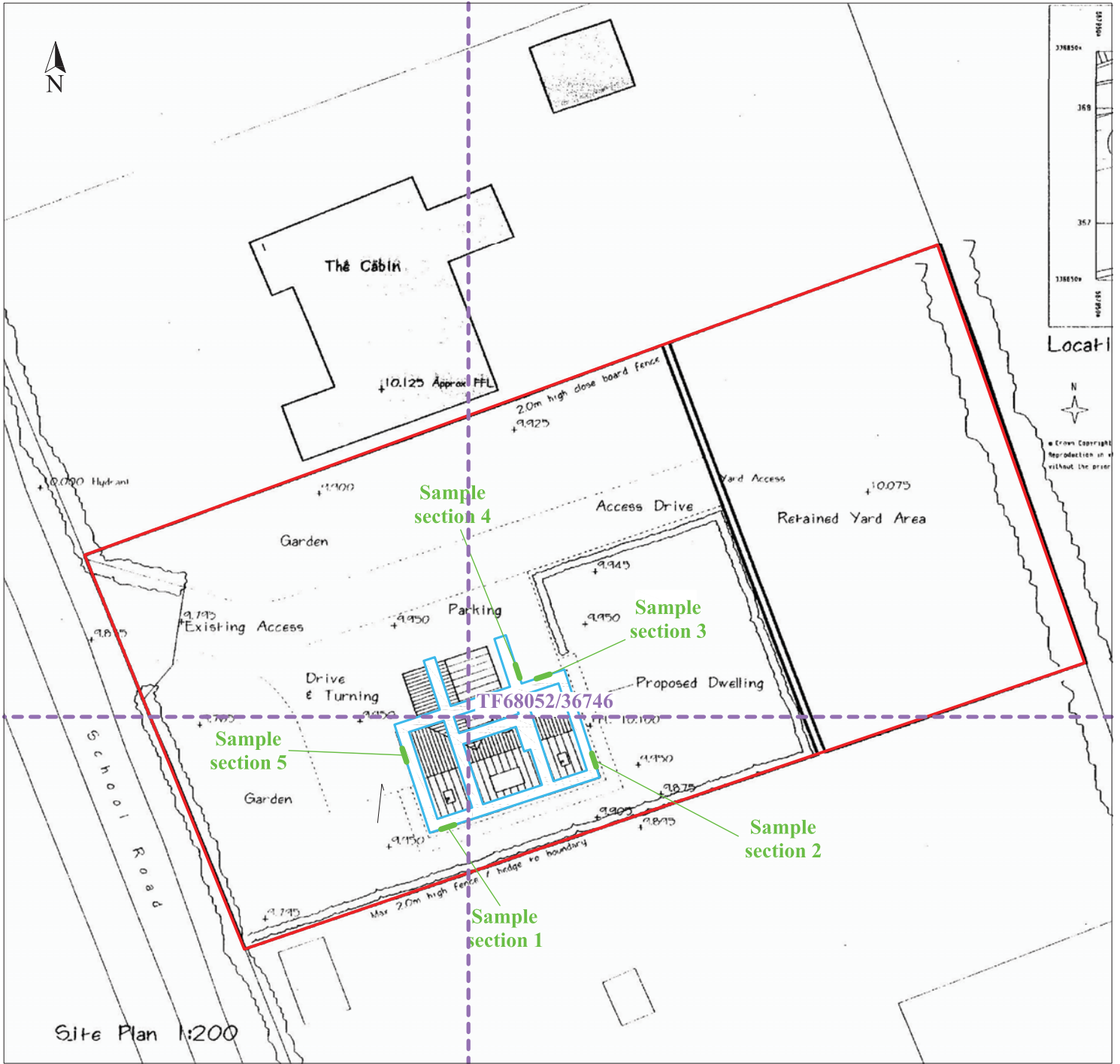
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Fig. 1 Site location plan

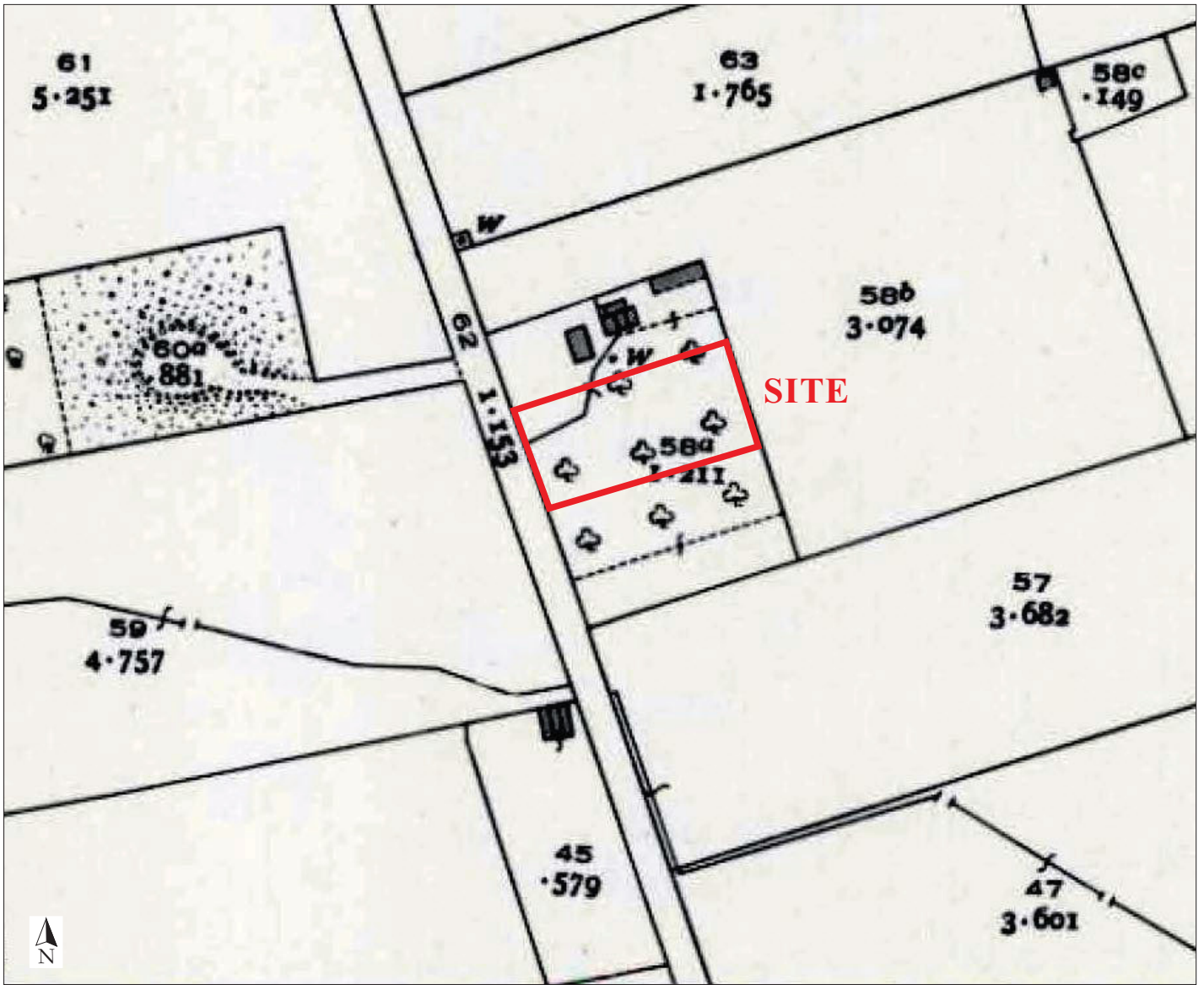
Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Heacham, Norfolk (P7122)

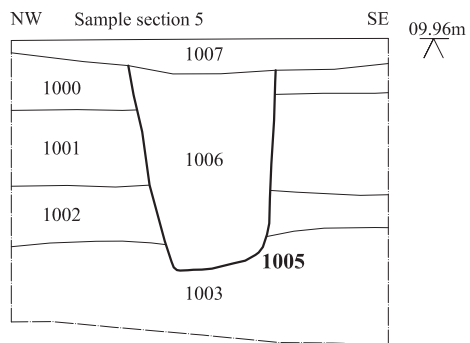
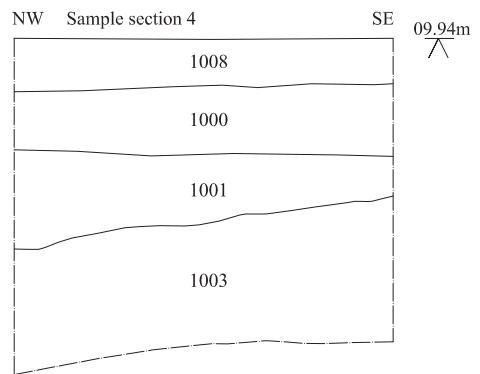
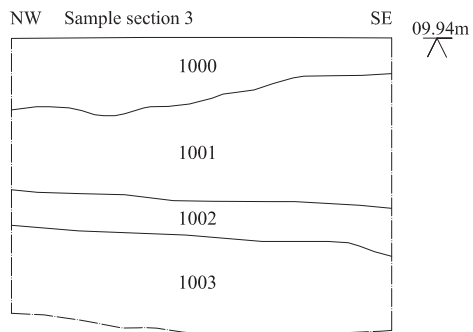
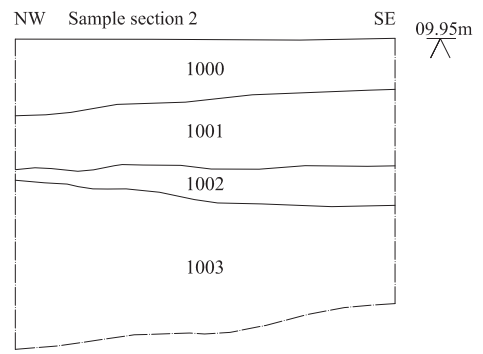
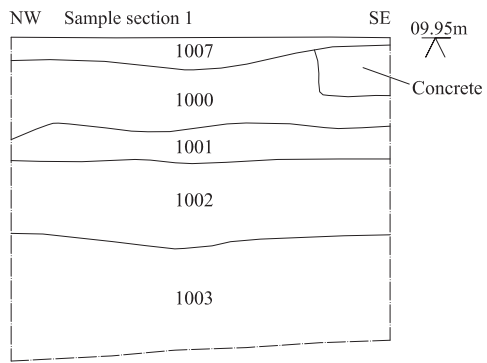


0 25m

<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:400 at A4
Heacham, Norfolk (P7122)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 3 Revised ed. OS map, 1947
Not to scale
Heacham, Norfolk (P7122)



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Fig. 4 Sample sections

Scale 1:20 at A4

Heacham, Norfolk (P7122)