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**LAND TO THE WEST OF DESMONDS CLOSE,  
HAUXTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

CHER: ECB 5272

Authors: Niomi Edwards (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 4420 5214	Report No: 5525
District: South Cambs	Site Code: ECB 5272
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P7410
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## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Land to the West of Desmonds Close, Hauxton, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<p><i>In January 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Desmonds Close, Hauxton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4420 5214; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for a new development of 5 dwellings and associated garden land, roads infrastructure, landscaping and access following the demolition of existing agricultural buildings (South Cambs Council Approval Ref. S/1824/17/FL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.</i></p> <p><i>Features were present within each evaluation trench. The majority of features in Trenches 2 and 3 were modern. Undated features were recorded in each trench (Trench 1: seven; Trench 2: one; Trench 3: one; and Trench 4: six), and the densest concentrations of undated features were in the northern (Trench 1) and southern (Trench 4) areas of the site.</i></p> <p><i>The undated features mostly comprised linear features (ditches and gullies), and also included some pits. The features contained no dating evidence or, indeed, finds.</i></p> <p><i>The ditches recorded during the evaluation, for example those in Trench 1, were orientated NW/SE and were perpendicular to the large linear features recorded as part of the adjacent excavation (Features 153 and 158) (CHER MCB20294; Crawley 2010) (Fig.3). It is suggested that the latter ditches and gullies may have represented field boundaries or land divisions. The adjacent excavation also recorded several shallow quarry pits without finds. The undated pits recorded during the current evaluation may represent a continuation of the quarrying except that the quarry pits were on the eastern side of the excavation of the plot next door i.e. not directly adjacent.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>January 2018</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	<i>Future work</i>	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>P7410</i>	<i>Site code</i>	<i>ECB 5272</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Vacant</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Ditches, pits, gullies</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>South Cambs</i>	<i>Hauxton</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>2660m2.</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 4420 5214</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.17m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Shelford Properties</i>		
Full title	<i>Land to the West of Desmonds Close, Hauxton, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Edwards, N.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5525</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>February 2018</i>		

# LAND TO THE WEST OF DESMONDS CLOSE, HAUXTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### SUMMARY

*In January 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Desmonds Close, Hauxton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4420 5214; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for a new development of 5 dwellings and associated garden land, roads infrastructure, landscaping and access following the demolition of existing agricultural buildings (South Cambs Council Approval Ref. S/1824/17/FL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.*

*Features were present within each evaluation trench. The majority of features in Trenches 2 and 3 were modern. Undated features were recorded in each trench (Trench 1: seven; Trench 2: one; Trench 3: one; and Trench 4: six), and the densest concentrations of undated features were in the northern (Trench 1) and southern (Trench 4) areas of the site.*

*The undated features mostly comprised linear features (ditches and gullies), and also included some pits. The features contained no dating evidence or, indeed, finds.*

*The ditches recorded during the evaluation, for example those in Trench 1, were orientated NW/SE and were perpendicular to the large linear features recorded as part of the adjacent excavation (Features 153 and 158) (CHER MCB20294; Crawley 2010) (Fig.3). It is suggested that the latter ditches and gullies may have represented field boundaries or land divisions. The adjacent excavation also recorded several shallow quarry pits without finds. The undated pits recorded during the current evaluation may represent a continuation of the quarrying except that the quarry pits were on the eastern side of the excavation next door i.e. not directly adjacent.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Desmonds Close, Hauxton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4420 5214; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for a new development of five dwellings and associated garden land, roads

infrastructure, landscaping and access following the demolition of existing agricultural buildings (South Cambs Council Approval Ref. S/1824/17/FL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET, Gemma Stewart; dated 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

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

#### *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 site is located on the northern side of the High Street west of Desmonds Close on the northern edge of Hauxton. It comprised an existing yard with agricultural buildings, and extends to some 2660m<sup>2</sup>. The buildings had recently been demolished prior to the evaluation taking place.

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

3.1 The site lies at c.17m AOD on the valley floor of the river Cam (Granta), whose course passes c.200m to the north, before meandering to converge with the River Cam (Rhee) c.2km to the north-west. The natural slope of the river valley rises at a very gentle gradient to the north and south of the village

3.2 The solid geology of the site comprises the West Melbury Marly Chalk Foundation, overlain by river terrace deposits of sand and gravel. The soil covering the site are typically free-draining, lime-rich and loamy, but towards the northern part of the site these may give way to loamy and clayey floodplain soils with high groundwater.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 The site is located within an area with extensive evidence of prehistoric and Roman settlement. Two large cropmark complexes to the north and east are Scheduled Ancient Monuments, indicating settlement of Neolithic to Roman date (CHER DCB357, DCB373, NHLE 1006892 and NHLE 1006902). Further cropmarks of settlements are also recorded in the vicinity (CHER 09631, 09628, 09633). Archaeological investigations adjacent to the proposed development site have also revealed evidence of medieval occupation (CHER MCB20294).

4.2 Amongst the earliest evidence of human occupation recorded in the area is a Mesolithic flint scatter recorded at Cambridge Rectory Farm Great, Shelford (CHER MCB 19163) and similar material from north of Hauxton, where Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts have also been recovered (CHER 04503).

4.3 The most significant archaeology in the vicinity of the site relates to Iron Age and Romano-British settlement activity. Partial excavation in advance of the Cambridge Western bypass in the mid 1970s revealed Iron Age settlement evidence (CHER 4503a). Iron Age



to Romano-British settlement has been identified through cropmark evidence to the north-west of Little Shelford and to the east of the current site (CHER 04496). Prehistoric to Roman settlement has also been identified to the north of Hauxton, again identified from cropmark evidence; however, this site has also yielded artefactual evidence of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date (CHER 04503). Excavations at The Hollicks, Rectory Farm, Great Shelford, revealed Iron Age and Roman features indicative of settlement activity (CHER 05090). An Iron Age pit complex and Roman features have been recorded at Cambridge Rectory Farm Great, Shelford (CHER MCB 19163). Roman pottery (CHER 04503b, MCB17244 and MCB 19091) and coins (CHER MCB19092) have been recovered as spot finds in the area.

4.4 The medieval period in the vicinity of the site is represented by the 12<sup>th</sup> century St Edmunds Church which has an important 13<sup>th</sup> century painting of St Thomas Becket (CHER CB14881). A single pit containing a low quantity medieval pottery was recorded during an evaluation immediately adjacent to the east at 33 High Street, Hauxton (CHER MCB20294; Crawley 2010a) (Fig.3). The evaluation also recorded several irregular ditches and gullies, some of which may have represented field boundaries or land divisions. Several shallow quarry pits were excavated. The features did not contain any artefactual evidence and remain undated. Follow-up excavation of the site (CHER ECB 3330; Crawley 2010b) revealed linear ditches and shallow pits, with two wide ditches of possible Iron Age or medieval date in the western half of the site. A curving ditch at the northern end of the site was also of possible Iron Age date. Large probable quarry pits of likely medieval or later date occupied the eastern part of the site.

4.5 The modern period in this area is represented on the Cambridgeshire HER by the limestone war memorial which stands in the grounds of St Edmund's Church (CHER MCB 20385).

4.6 Undated features have been excavated at 53 London Road, Harston (CHER MCB1966), Church Road Rising Main, Hauxton (CHER MCB20293), and at land adjacent to 33 High Street, Hauxton (see above, and CHER MCB20294).

4.7 A variety of undated cropmarks have been recorded in this area (CHER 09628, 09631, 09632, 09633, 09635, 09636, 09637, 09639). These may relate to the notable Iron Age and Roman settlement evidence recorded in the vicinity or could represent activity of later date.

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 In accordance with the brief the evaluation provided for a sample (c.5%) of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched with



a contingency for further judgemental trench use. Four trenches of 20m x 1.8m were excavated (Fig. 3), following demolition of the existing agricultural buildings on the site

5.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.

5.3 The open trenches and excavated spoil were examined and scanned by metal detector to enhance the recovery of archaeological finds.

5.4 A one-metre square of the topsoil and made ground deposits was sampled and sorted by hand at each end of the trench to characterise their artefact content. Modern (19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century) pottery and CBM were present in the topsoil (L1000) and made ground deposits.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The individual trench description is presented below:

### Trench 1 (Figs. 3 - 5)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 17.20m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, mid grey brown silty sand.
0.30 – 0.57m	L1017	Fill of Ditch F1016.
0.57m +	L1001	Natural. Loose, yellow orange gravel

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 16.91m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.15 – 0.36m	L1011	Fill of Ditch F1010
0.36m +	L1001	Natural deposits. As above

*Description: Trench 1 contained Pits F1006 and F1014; and Ditches F1002, F1004, F1008, F1010, F1012 and F1016. A lump of concrete was present within the centre of the trench and is shown on plan. None of the features contained finds except modern Pit F1006 which contained concrete. The features all cut the natural.*

Pit F1006 was sub-circular in plan (1.20 x 0.40 x 0.21m). It had steep irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1007, was a friable, mid

grey brown sandy silt, and it contained concrete. F1006 cut Ditch F1004.

Pit F1014 was possibly sub-circular in plan (1.15 x 0.51 x 0.11m). It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1015, was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt. It contained no finds.

The ditches are tabulated:

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationship/s	Findings
F1002	L1003	Linear (NW/SE), moderately sloping sides, flattish base (1.60+ x 1.10 x 0.25m)	Friable, mid orange brown silty sand	-	-
F1004	L1005	Linear (NW/SE), steep sides, narrow base (1.60+ x 1.20 x 0.38m)	Friable, mid grey brown sandy silt	Cut by F1006	-
F1008	L1009	Linear (NW/SE), moderately sloping sides, concave base (1.60+ x 0.90 x 0.19m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional sub angular flint	-	-
F1010	L1011	Linear (NW/SE), moderately sloping sides, shallow concave base (1.60+ x 0.74+ x 0.18m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional sub angular flint	Cut by F1012	-
F1012	L1013	Linear (NW/SE), moderately sloping sides, concave base (1.60+ x 0.58 x 0.21m)	Friable, mid – dark grey brown silty sand with occasional sub angular flint	Cut F1010	-
F1016	L1017	Linear (NW/SE), irregular sides, irregular base (1.60+ x 1.30 x 0.27m)	Friable, mid orange brown silty sand	-	-

## Trench 2 (Figs. 3 - 5)

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 13.72m AOD		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1023	Made Ground. Loose, dark grey brown silty sand
0.22 – 0.33m	L1022	Made Ground. Friable, mid grey brown silty sand
0.33m+	L1001	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 13.64m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1023	Made Ground. As above
0.30 – 0.40m	L1022	Made Ground. As above
0.40m+	L1001	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 2 contained Ditches F1048 and F1055, Gully F1051 and Pit F1053. Ditch F1048 and Pit F1053 contained modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) CBM. Gully F1051 cut Ditch F1048 and is therefore modern.*

*Ditches F1048 and F1055, and Gully F1051 cut the natural, L1001. Pit F1053 was cut into the fill of Ditch F1048.*

*Three pits were planned but not excavated (F1064 (1.31 x 0.58 x ?), F1066 (1.26 x 1.08 x ?) and F1068 (1.68 x 1.29 x ?)). They contained asbestos and therefore for health and safety reasons were not excavated. The asbestos may, or may not, have been intrusive, and as the features were not excavated they are undated. That said, in section, it was visible that the features cut Made Ground L1022 and therefore the features are likely to be of relatively recent date.*

Ditch F1048 was linear in plan (2.40+ x 1.50 x 0.52m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1049, was a friable, dark blue grey silty sand with frequent sub angular flint. It contained CBM (57g). F1048 was cut by Gully F1051 and Pit F1053.

Gully F1051 was curvilinear in plan (2.00+ x 0.41 x 0.27m). It had steep sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1052, was a friable, dark reddish brown sandy silt with moderate sub angular flint. It contained no finds. F1051 cut Ditch F1048.

Ditch F1055 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 1.50 x 0.27m), orientated N/S. It had steep sides and a concave slightly irregular base. Its fill, L1056, was a friable, mid reddish brown silty sandy with occasional sub angular flint. It contained no finds.

Pit F1053 was sub-circular in plan (0.98 x 0.52 x 0.26m). It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1054, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand. It contained CBM (3000g).

### Trench 3 (Figs. 3 – 4 & 6)

Sample section 3A 0.00 = 15.81m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.20 – 0.43m	L1022	Made Ground. As above, Trench 2
0.43 – 0.58m	L1024	Made Ground. Friable, light grey brown sandy silt with moderate gravel
0.58 – 0.81m	L1025	Made Ground. Friable, mid grey brown sandy silt
0.81m +	L1001	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 3B 0.00 = 16.02m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1026	Made Ground. Friable, light grey brown sandy silt with building debris (CBM, slate)
0.25 – 0.35m	L1027	Made Ground. Loose, pea gravel
0.35 – 0.49m	L1022	Made Ground. As above, Trench 2
0.49 – 0.68m	L1025	Made Ground. As above
0.68m +	L1001	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 3 contained Post Hole F1018, Pits F1031, F1035 and F1057; and Ditch F1033. All the features contained modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) finds, principally CBM, except Pit F1035 which contained no finds. All of the features cut the natural, L1001, as opposed to made ground deposits.*

Modern Post Hole F1018 was sub circular in plan (1.60 x 0.91 x 0.68m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. The post pipe fill, L1019, was a friable, light grey brown sandy silt. It contained no finds. The post hole fill, L1020, was a compact, light grey concrete. It contained no finds.

Pit F1031 was sub circular in plan (1.00+ x 0.75 x ?). The feature contained modern finds including a pig burial and therefore was not fully excavated. Its full profile was unseen. Its fill, L1032, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand. It contained a pig burial (895g) and modern glass (46g).

Ditch F1033 was linear in plan (2.60+ x 2.01 x 0.32m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1034, was a friable, light to mid brown silty sand. It contained modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) CBM (26g) and animal bone (7g).

Pit F1035 was sub circular in plan (1.10 x 0.50 x 0.19). It had shallow sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1036, was a friable, mid brown silty sand. It contained no finds.

Pit F1057 was sub circular in plan (3.50+ x 1.50+ x 0.26m). It had steep to moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1058,

was a firm, blue grey silty sand with moderate sub angular flint. It contained modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) CBM (800g).

#### **Trench 4** (Figs. 3 – 4 & 6)

Sample section 4A 0.00 = 15.63m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.15 – 0.51m	L1059	Made Ground. Friable, pale orange silty sand with frequent building debris (CBM)
0.51 – 0.62m	L1060	Made Ground. Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt
0.62 – 0.84m	L1022	Made Ground. As above, Trench 2
0.84m +	L1001	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 4B 0.00 = 15.79m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.15 – 0.42m	L1061	Dump of Made Ground. Friable, pale yellow silty sand with occasional building debris (CBM)
0.42 – 0.71m	L1022	Made Ground. As above, Trench 2
0.71m +	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 4 contained Ditches F1028 and F1041; Pits F1037, F1039 and F1043; and Gully F1045. None of the features contained finds. A modern ?Pit (F1062; 1.73+ x ? x 0.22m) was recorded in section.*

Ditch F1028, Pit F1043 and Gully F1045 cut Made Ground L1022. Ditch F1041 and Pit F1037 cut the natural, L1001, and Pit F1039 was cut into the fill of Pit F1037.

Ditch F1028 was linear in plan (3.00+ x 2.50+ x 0.64m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep to moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its basal fill, L1029, was a firm, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional sub angular small flints. It contained no finds. Its upper and principal fill, L1030, was a friable, dark grey brown silty sand with moderate sub angular small flints. It contained no finds. Ditch F2018 was truncated by the mechanical excavator when the trenches were opened and the upper layer, L1030, was excavated by machine as opposed to by hand. This will have inhibited the recovery of finds.

Pit F1037 was sub circular in plan (2.50 x 1.00 x 0.29). It had shallow irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1038, was a friable, mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional flints. It contained no finds. F1037 was cut by F1039 and F1041.

Pit F1039 was sub circular in plan (0.62 x 0.60 x 0.26). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1040, was a friable, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional flints. It contained no finds. F1039 cut F1037.

Ditch F1041 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 1.20+ x 0.14m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1042, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional subangular small flints. It contained no finds.

Pit F1043 was sub circular in plan (1.90 x 0.82 x 0.42). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its basal fill, L1044, was a friable, dark grey brown silty sand. It contained no finds. Its upper fill, L1047, was a friable, mid yellow brown silty sand. It contained no finds.

Gully F1045 was linear in plan (0.67+ x 0.30 x 0.58m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1046, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional subangular small flints. It contained no finds.

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 Three pits were planned but not excavated (F1064, F1066 and F1068; Trench 2). They contained asbestos and therefore for health and safety reasons were not excavated.

7.2 Ditch F2018 (Trench 4) was truncated by the mechanical excavator when the trenches were opened and the upper layer, L1030, was excavated by machine rather than by hand. This will have inhibited the recovery of finds.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a friable, mid – dark grey brown silty sand (0.15 – 0.30m thick). L1000 overlay Made Ground deposits: L1022 – L1027 and L1059 – L1061) (0.33 – 0.69m thick).

8.3 At the base of the sequence the natural, L1001, was a loose, yellow orange gravel. It was present 0.33 – 0.84m below the present day ground surface.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:



Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1002	Ditch	-
	F1004	Ditch	-
	F1006	Pit	Modern
	F1008	Ditch	-
	F1010	Ditch	-
	F1012	Ditch	-
	F1014	Pit	-
	F1016	Ditch	-
2	F1048	Ditch	Modern
	F1051	Gully	Modern Cut Made Ground L1022
	F1053	Pit	Modern
	F1055	Ditch	-
	F1064	Pit	Unexcavated Cut Made Ground L1022
	F1066	Pit	Unexcavated Cut Made Ground L1022
	F1068	Pit	Unexcavated Cut Made Ground L1022
3	F1018	Post Hole	Modern
	F1031	Pit	Modern
	F1033	Ditch	Modern
	F1035	Pit	-
	F1057	Pit	Modern
4	F1028	Ditch	Cut Made Ground L1022
	F1037	Pit	-
	F1039	Pit	-
	F1041	Ditch	-
	F1043	Pit	Cut Made Ground L1022
	F1045	Gully	Cut Made Ground L1022
	F1062	?Pit	Modern

9.2 Features were present within each trench. The majority of features in Trench 3 were modern, and some modern features were recorded in each trench. Ditch F1028, Pit F1043 and Gully F1045 (all in Trench 4) cut Made Ground Layer L1022, and are therefore likely to be of relatively recent date. Similarly Pits F1064, F1066 and F1068 all cut Made Ground L1022. Undated features were recorded in each trench (Trench 1: seven; Trench 2: four; Trench 3: one; and Trench 4: six). The densest concentrations of undated features were in the northern (Trenches 1 and 2) and southern (Trench 4) areas of the site.

9.3 The undated features mostly comprised linear features (ditches and gullies), and also included some pits. The features contained no dating evidence or, indeed, finds. Three pits were planned but not excavated (F1064, F1066 and F1068). They contained asbestos and therefore for health and safety reasons were not excavated. The asbestos may, or may not, have been intrusive, and as the features were not excavated they are undated.

9.4 The ditches recorded during the evaluation, for example those in Trench 1, were orientated NW/SE and were perpendicular to the large linear features recorded as part of the adjacent excavation (Features 153 and 158), one of which was postulated as of medieval origin based on the presence of horse shoes and a single sherd of pottery, while another contained low quantities of late Iron Age pottery

(CHER MCB20294; Crawley 2010) (Fig.3). It is suggested that the latter ditches and gullies may have represented field boundaries or land divisions. Ditch F1033 (Trench 3) may possibly represent a continuation of a ditch recorded in the adjacent excavation, assuming a slightly sinuous course. The previously recorded curving ditch contained a sherd of Iron Age pottery within its central fill, recovered during a preceding evaluation but the excavation recovered no further pottery thus its date remains tentative (Crawley 2010, 10). The dating of Ditch F1033 (Trench 3) is also tentative as it contained only a small quantity of modern CBM (26g). The excavation to the immediate east also recorded several shallow quarry pits without finds. The undated pits recorded during the current evaluation may represent a continuation of the quarrying except that the quarry pits were on the eastern side of the excavation next door i.e. not directly adjacent.

## **10 CONCLUSION**

10.1 The site had a potential for prehistoric and Roman remains. Undated linear features, comparable to those recorded during the adjacent excavation to the immediate east, were recorded, and also undated pits. The ditches recorded during the adjacent excavation contained small quantities of Iron Age and medieval pottery. Ditch F1033 (Trench 3) may possibly represent a continuation of a ditch recorded in the adjacent excavation, assuming a slightly sinuous course.

## **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Cambridge County Archaeological Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Nick Rust of Shelford Properties for funding the works and for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Gemma Stewart, Senior Archaeological Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council.

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**APPENDIX 1      CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A. Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1031	1032		3	Fill of Pit					895	Glass	6	46
1033	1034		3	Fill of Ditch				26	7			
1048	1050		2	Upper fill of Ditch				57				
1053	1054		2	Fill of Pit				3000				
1057	1058		3	Fill of Modern Ditch				800				

## **APPENDIX 2      SPECIALIST REPORTS**

### **The Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey*

The evaluation recovered a total of 16 fragments (3857g) of modern CBM in a slightly fragmented condition. L1054 contained a single complete gault brick with dimensions of 210x100x65mm, a smooth base and sharp arrises; while L1050 and L1058 contained fragments of Fletton brick and pantile; all produced in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, probably between the 1920s-1960s although more recent origins cannot be discounted.

### **The Animal Bone**

*Julia E.M. Cussans*

A very small assemblage of animal bone was recovered during the trial trench. Bone was recovered from two deposits. L1032 (Pit F1031) contained the partial remains of a pig; likely of modern origin and is not further reported on here. The second set of bones came from L1034 (Ditch F1033). These bones were well preserved with little sign of abrasion. Two bones were present, an ulna and a femur, both belonging to cat. The ulna had a possible butchery mark on the posterior edge of the shaft just below the proximal articulation; this may have resulted from the animal having been skinned. No further points of interest were present in this small assemblage.

### **The Environmental Samples**

Dr John Summers

#### *Introduction*

During the trial trench evaluation at Hauxton, eleven bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. All of the samples were from ditch fills, the majority of which cannot be dated due to an absence of material culture. Ditches F1033 and F1048 contained modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) CBM. Samples were taken to attempt to gain further insight into the nature of the archaeological deposits excavated at the site. This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions, and discusses the significance and potential of any remains recovered.

#### *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.

All samples >10 litres were 50% sub-sampled for the purposes of assessment. Any exhibiting potential to produce an assemblage of >30 identifiable specimens or abundant charcoal remains will be fully processed and the resultant light fractions retained with the site archive.

## Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 1. The light fractions were dominated by modern rootlets.

Carbonised remains from the sampled deposits were rare and occurred only in low concentrations. A single oat (*Avena* sp.) grain was present in L1009 (F1008) and a rye (*Secale cereale*) grain was recovered from L1030 (F1028). A fragment of rye rachis was also identified in L1003 (F1002). Non-cereal remains were present only in L1003, where small clover/ medick-type legumes (Fabaceae) and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) were identified. Together, this assemblage is likely to represent scattered and wind-blown carbonised debris which became incorporated into deposits. There is no clear evidence in the samples for nearby domestic or agricultural activity.

Mollusc remains were largely indicative of grassland (e.g. *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia* sp.) and moist ground litter conditions (e.g. *Trichia hispida*).

The light fraction from L1029 (F1028) was dominated by fragments of waterlogged wood. Some of this was identifiable as oak (*Quercus* sp.). No other recognisable waterlogged plant remains were noted within this deposit to provide any further palaeoenvironmental information. This suggests that preservation conditions were not sufficient to preserve smaller, more vulnerable items such as seeds or fruit. Past wet conditions were indicated in L1034 (F1033) and L1050 (F1048) by the presence of aquatic molluscs *Anisus leucostoma* and *Lymnaea truncatula*. However, neither showed any evidence for the waterlogged preservation of organic remains.

## Conclusions

The bulk sample light fractions from the evaluation have demonstrated the presence of low concentrations of carbonised remains within the sampled deposits. This is indicative of scattered and wind-blown carbonised debris and suggests that the excavated features were peripheral to any contemporary domestic or agricultural activity. The findings are comparable to those from

the adjacent site (Fryer 2010), which identified very sparse carbonised remains.

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# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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**OASIS ID: archaeo17-309332**

### Project details

Project name	Land to the West of Desmonds Close, Hauxton, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	In January 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Desmonds Close, Hauxton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4420 5214; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for a new development of 5 dwellings and associated garden land, roads infrastructure, landscaping and access following the demolition of existing agricultural buildings (South Cambs Council Approval Ref. S/1824/17/FL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. Features were present within each evaluation trench. The majority of features in Trenches 2 and 3 were modern. Undated features were recorded in each trench (Trench 1: seven; Trench 2: one; Trench 3: one; and Trench 4: six), and the densest concentrations of undated features were in the northern (Trench 1) and southern (Trench 4) areas of the site. The undated features mostly comprised linear features (ditches and gullies), and also included some pits. The features contained no dating evidence or, indeed, finds. The ditches recorded during the evaluation, for example those in Trench 1, were orientated NW/SE and were perpendicular to the large linear features recorded as part of the adjacent excavation (Features 153 and 158) (CHER MCB20294; Crawley 2010) (Fig.3). It is suggested that the latter ditches and gullies may have represented field boundaries or land divisions. The adjacent excavation also recorded several shallow quarry pits without finds. The undated pits recorded during the current evaluation may represent a continuation of the quarrying except that the quarry pits were on the eastern side of the excavation of the plot next door i.e. not directly adjacent.
Project dates	Start: 01-01-2018 End: 31-01-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7410 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5272 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PITS Modern
Monument type	DITCHES Modern
Monument type	GULLY Modern

Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HAUXTON Land to the West of Desmonds Close, Hauxton, Cambridgeshire
Study area	2660 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 4420 5214 52.148261729527 0.107784027896 52 08 53 N 000 06 28 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 17m Max: 17m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Project brief originator	CCC HET
Project design originator	Jon Murray
Project director/manager	Jon Murray
Project supervisor	Archaeological Solutions Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey "

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to the West of Desmonds Close, Hauxton, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Edwards, N

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



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Trench 1 looking south-west



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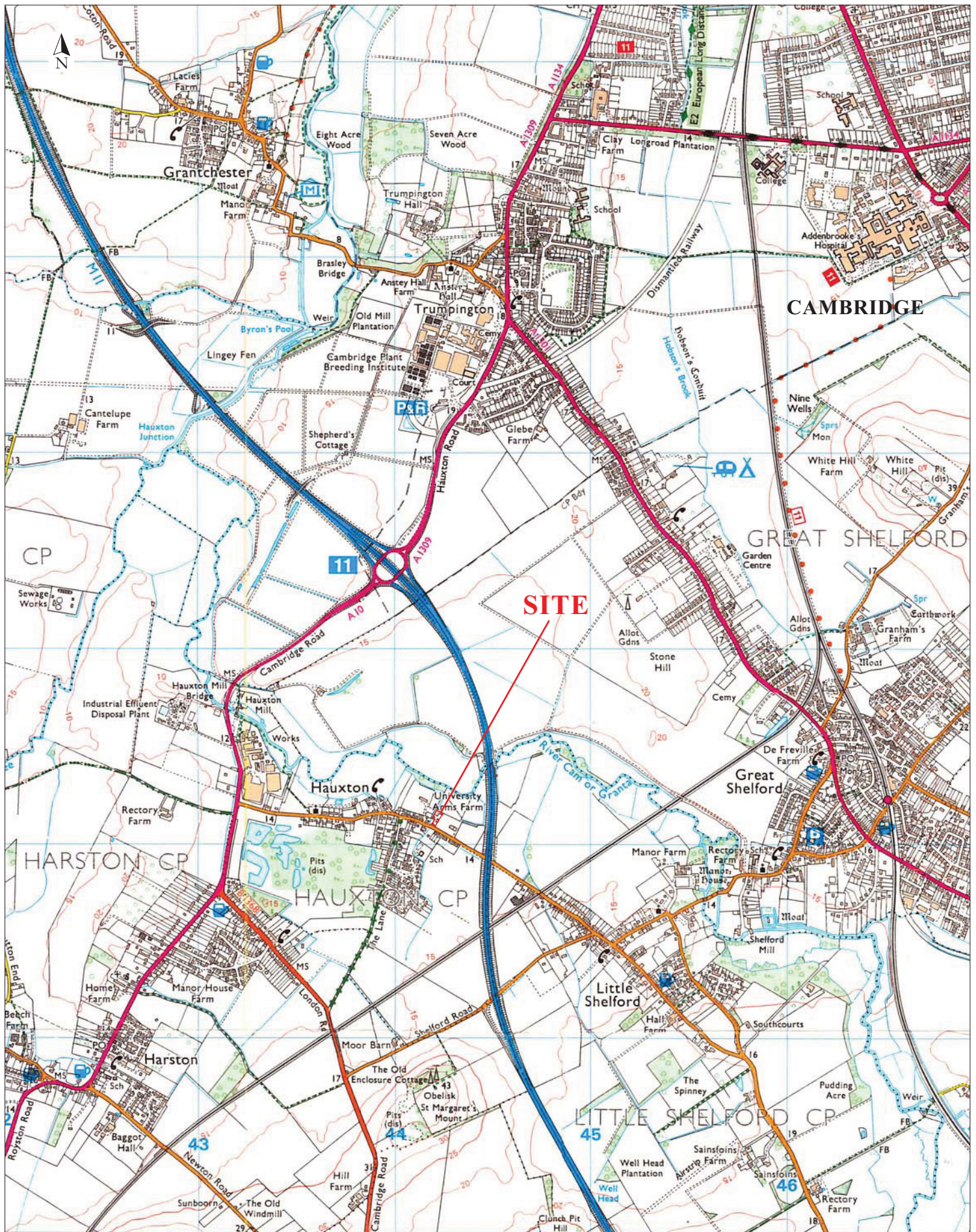


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Pit 1043 and ?Pit 1062 in Trench 4



26  
Gully 1045 in Trench 4





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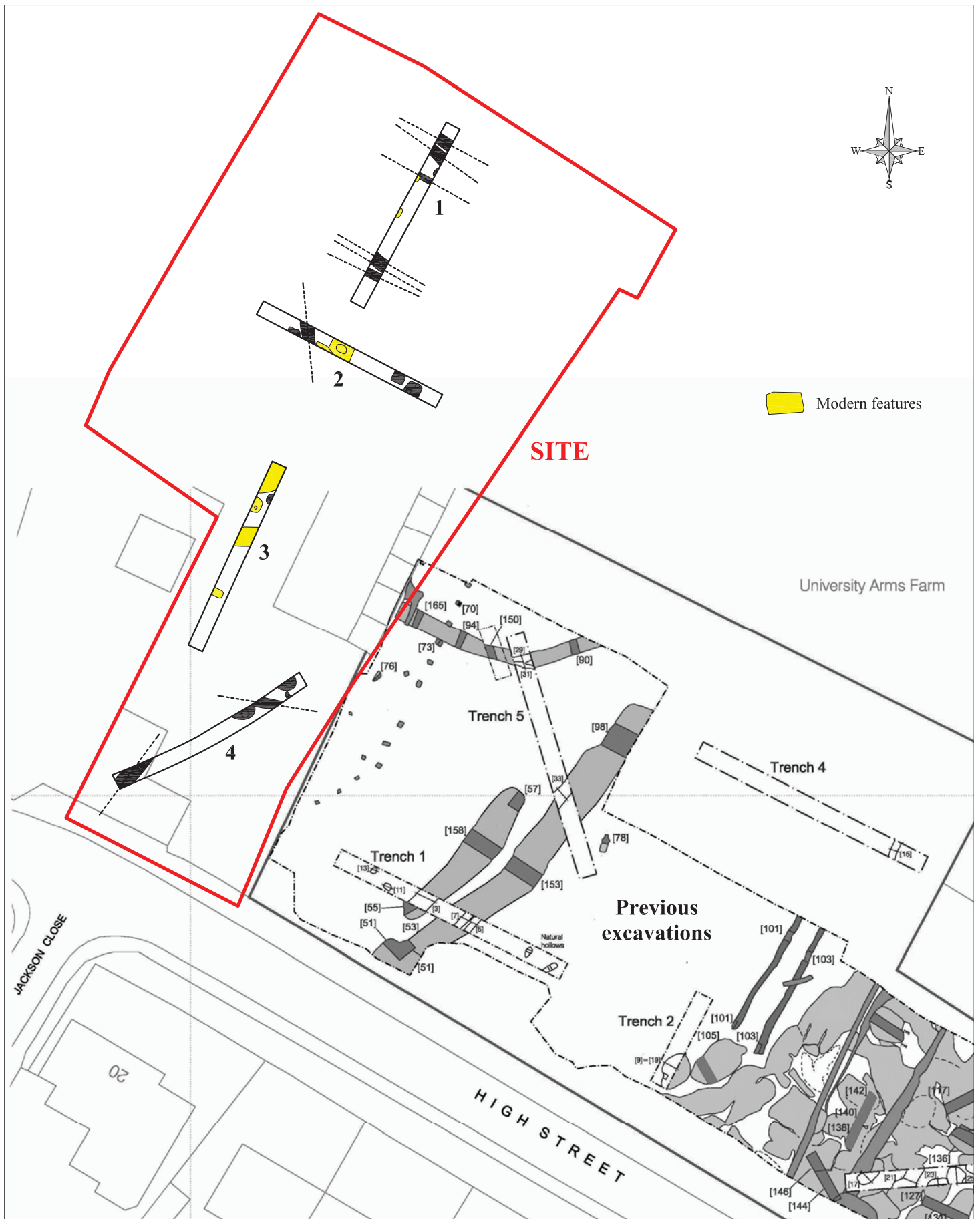
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Land west of Desmond's Close, Hauxton, Cambs (P7410)



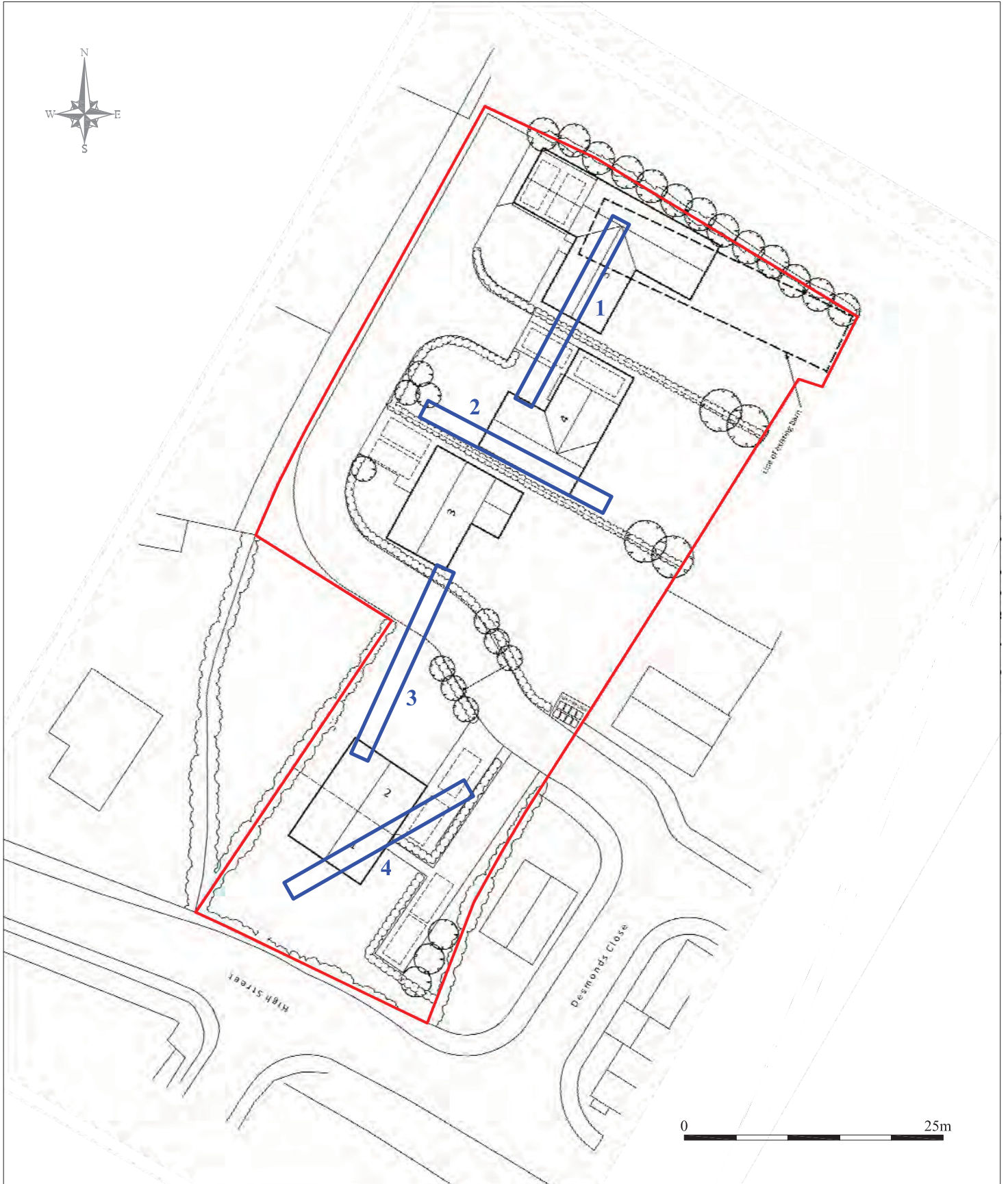


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<b>Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan</b>
Scale 1:2000 at A4
Land west of Desmond's Close, Hauxton, Cambs (P7410)



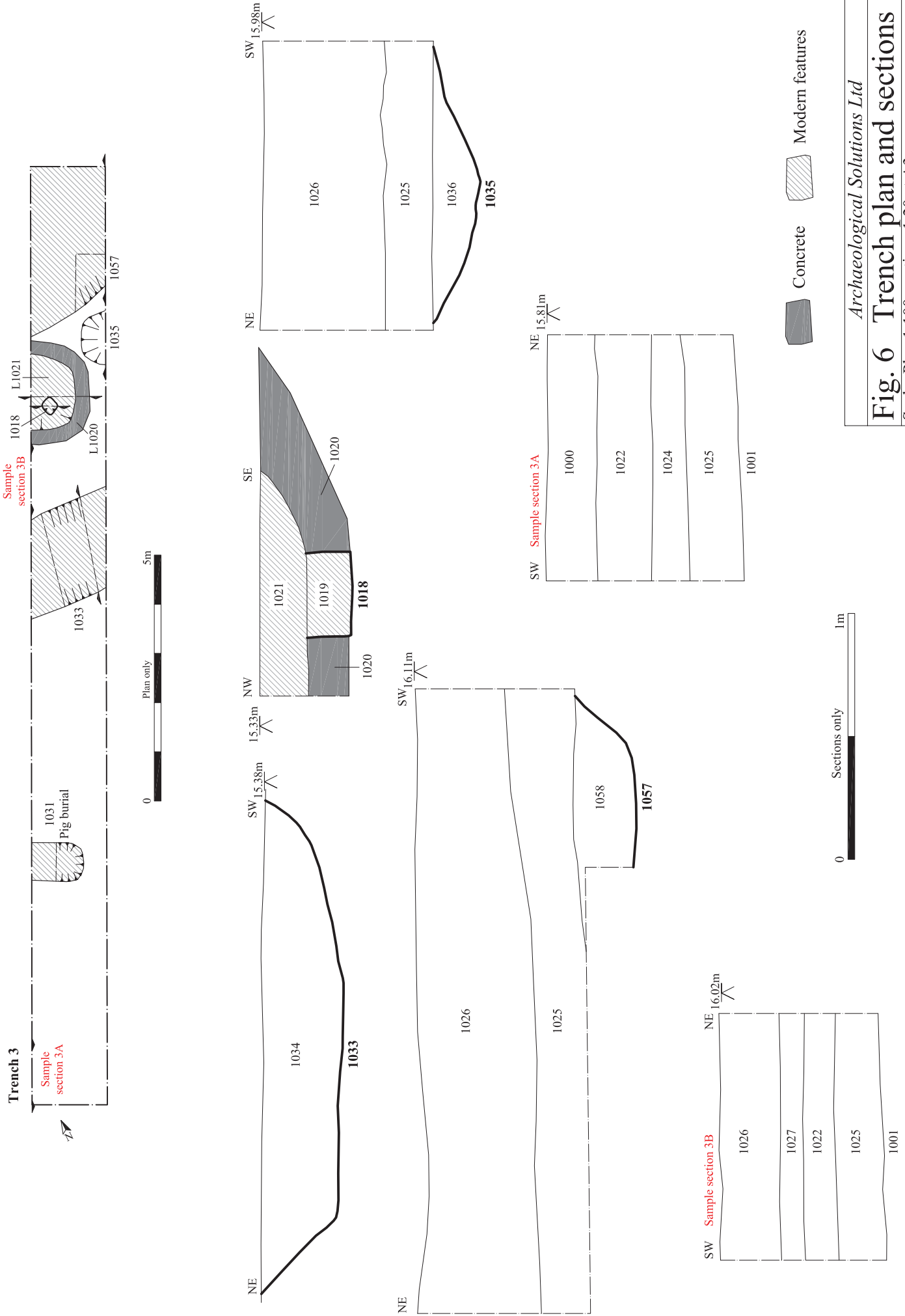
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**Fig. 3 Trench location plan**  
 Scale 1:500 at A4  
 Land west of Desmond's Close, Hauxton, Cambs (P7410)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 4 Proposed development</b>
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Land west of Desmond's Close, Hauxton, Cambs (P7410)





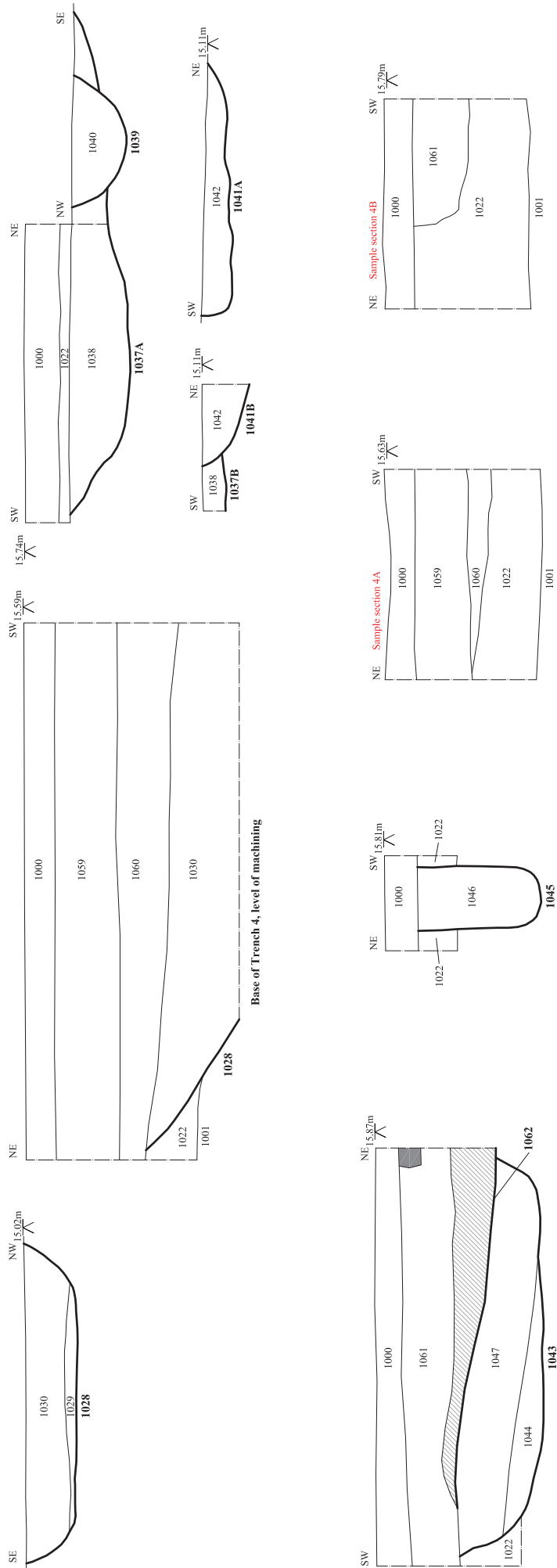
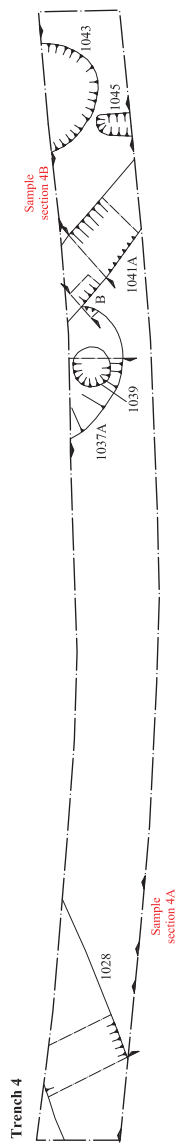


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**Fig. 6 Trench plan and sections**

Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3

Land west of Desmond's Close, Hauxton, Cambs (P7410)



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**Fig. 7 Trench plans and sections**

Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3

Land west of Desmond's Close, Hauxton, Cambs (P7410)