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PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, LAND SOUTH OF WALCUPS LANE, GREAT MASSINGHAM, NORFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Author: Thomas Muir (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TF 79550 23050	Report No: 5507
District: Kings Lynn	Site Code: ENF 142613
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7366
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

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

PI House, r/o 23 Clifton Road, Shefford SG17 5AF
Tel 01462 850483

e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk

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Project dates (fieldwork)			
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	*Future work (Y/N/)*	*TBC*
P. number	*7366*	*Site code*	*ENF142613*
Type of project	*Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*		
Site status	*-*		
Current land use	*Agricultural*		
Planned development	*Residential dwellings*		
Main features (+dates)	*Tree Hollow (Roman), Ditches, Pits and Kiln*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*Pottery (Roman and medieval)*		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Norfolk*	*Kings Lynn*	
HER for area	*Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Record*		
Post code (if known)	*-*		
Area of site	*0.664ha*		
NGR	*TF 79550 23050*		
Height AOD (min/max)	*c.79m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Norfolk County Council (NCC) Historic Environment Service*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*		
Funded by	*Derek Hales Ltd*		
Full title	*Land South of Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*		
Authors	*Thomas Muir*		
Report no.	*5507*		
Date (of report)	*February 2018*		

LAND SOUTH OF WALCUPS LANE, GREAT MASSINGHAM, NORFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In January 2018 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land south of Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk (NGR TF 79550 23050; Figs. 1 - 2).The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of planning conditions (Nos. 20 & 22) attached to planning approval for a new residential development of up to 16 dwellings (King's Lynn Planning Ref. 16/01634/OM), based on the advice of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES).

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the area of the medieval Augustinian Priory of St Mary and St Nicholas (NHER 2319), though the full extent of the priory and attendant precinct are not known. Nearby Abbey House dates mainly to the 18th century but contains elements of the medieval priory fabric, along with some of the Abbey Farm buildings which may be parts of surviving priory buildings. The field to the west of the farm contained earthworks in the 1950s, but these have since been ploughed out. The site thus has the potential to reveal buried evidence of the priory complex. The site has been subject to a geophysical survey (APS 2015). This revealed anomalies relating to possible archaeological features including three walls (one probably of 20th century date), a pond and possible ridge and furrow cultivation. The results were inconclusive with areas of modern rubble and dense vegetation hampering the survey. The features recorded during the evaluation correlate closely with anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey, with responses postulated as ridge and furrow cultivation revealed to be ditches.

The evaluation recorded residual prehistoric flint and a tree hollow that contained a significant but isolated group of Roman pottery, including Samian ware from south Gaul and imported Gallo-Belgic fine ware indicative of a mid-late 1st century AD date. A kiln was recorded which contained a relatively rich sample of carbonised cereal grains, notably free-threshing wheat, and which has been dated as Roman. The majority of the features recorded were ditches, and pits were also present. The distribution of features was biased towards the western side of the site. The pottery indicates a medieval date (predominantly 11th-13th century), and it was derived from the nearby Grimston industry. The broad alignment of the ditches recorded appears consistent with the alignment of extant land divisions within the historic core of the village, to the west of the church. These enclosures may relate to the Abbey Farm, or possibly to the precinct of the former abbey. A fragment of carved masonry recorded in the topsoil likely formed part of a doorway in the former abbey, but may have been re-deposited as the village developed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2018 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land south of Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk (NGR TF 79550 23050; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of planning conditions (Nos. 20 & 22) attached to planning approval for a new residential development of up to 16 dwellings (King's Lynn Planning Ref. 16/01634/OM), based on the advice of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with an NCC HES *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work (to commence with informative trial trenching) at land South of Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk* (James Albone, dated 2nd October 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 2nd October 2017) and approved by NCC HES. The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 Two phases of evaluation were required – an initial geophysical survey to be followed by trial trenching. The geophysical survey has been carried out (APS 2015) (ENF138097), and this report provides for the trial trench evaluation requirement.

1.4 The principal objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. It was also important to understand the level of any previous truncation on the site and also to ascertain whether it will be possible to mitigate the development proposals to accommodate any surviving archaeological remains within the area of proposed redevelopment; and

- To provide an adequately detailed project report to place the findings of the project in their local and regional context, with reference to the East Anglian Regional Research Frameworks and through relevant background research.

Planning policy

1.5 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.

1.6 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 The site lies on the southern side of Walcups Lane at Great Massingham. It is former agricultural land, extending to some 0.65ha.

2.2 The site comprises open field and pasture bordered by Walcups Lane to the north and other open fields to the east and west.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The surrounding landscape undulates. To the south and west the land drops to Grimston Heath before rising sharply up to Brink Hill. The nearest major watercourse is *c.*8km to the north-east where the River Wensum flows past West Raynham.

3.2 The solid bedrock of the local area is dominated by the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation. This is overlain by soils of freely draining slightly acidic loamy soils.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistory

4.1 Metal-detecting and fieldwalking recovered an early Neolithic and Neolithic or Bronze Age flake from a field *c.*600m to the south-west of the site (NHER 53891). An Iron Age terret fragment is also recorded as being during metal-detecting *c.*300m to the south of the site (NHER 28961). No other prehistoric finds are recorded.

Romano-British

4.2 Roman finds within the village constitute isolated spot finds. A partly melted copper alloy decorated disc (NHER 28961) and a seal box lid decorated with green enamel (NHER 32616) were both found *c.*300m to the south of the site during metal detecting in this area. Another area of metal-detecting to the east of the village revealed coins and a steelyard weight (NHER 36683).In close proximity to the site an illegible 2nd century sestertius is recorded at Abbey Farm only 150m to the south-east (NHER 28960).

Saxon

4.3 There is greater evidence for Saxon activity here, and there was certainly some form of settlement by 1066 when Domesday recorded Great and Little Massingham as very large in size (www.opendomesday.org). Much of this evidence lies to the east and north of the site. Late Saxon pottery is recorded in the churchyard to the east (NHER 2345), with more recorded to the north (NHER 19408; 21121). In closer proximity to the site a Middle Saxon strap fitting is recorded at Abbey Farm to the south (NHER 28960), and a pottery sherd, either of Late Saxon date or potentially medieval, is recorded within 20m of the sites southern boundary (NHER 55886).

Medieval

4.4 Domesday records no priest or church but an Augustinian priory was founded in the village before 1260, potentially as early as the 11th century (www.greatmassingham.net/village-history). The priory was dedicated to St Mary and St Nicholas and was dissolved in 1538. This is within very close proximity to the site, the farm is *c.*50m to the east of the site boundary (NHER 2319). In the 1950s extensive earthworks and some standing masonry was observed in a field adjacent to the house, but since the filed has been ploughed and the earthworks no longer visible. The Historic Environment Record marks out the area of the abbey as inclusive of the site and many fields to the west. The geophysical survey previously undertaken on the site revealed a pond feature, which may have medieval origins, located in the central-eastern section of the site. Along with ridge and furrow identified in the western section of the site, these might

represent fields and fish ponds relating to the upkeep of the priory (Smith 2015, 4).

4.5 Abbey Farm incorporates some of the abbey buildings, for instance the south range of Abbey House has 13th or 14th century arched doorways and may well be a conversion of the transepts and crossing of the priory church (NHER 22319). Several other buildings in the village also have reused medieval masonry which probably comes from other abbey buildings (NHER 23512; 29656; 41758).

4.6 The second church in the village, St Mary's, dates from the 13th century, though was largely rebuilt in the 15th century still retains good evidence of Early English arcading (NHER 2345). To the south medieval human remains were discovered and interpreted as a medieval graveyard (NHER 30806). This has been postulated to belong to the vanished medieval church of All Saints although it is recorded only *c.*40m to the south of the medieval church of St Mary's.

Post-medieval

4.7 Evidence of continuing occupation into the post-medieval period is represented by isolated finds of coins and pottery throughout the village (NHER 53891; 21121; 36683). The majority of the historic buildings in the village date from the 19th century, with a few examples dating from the 17th (NHER 24276), and 18th (NHER 47126). From the 19th century date two chapels (NHERs 58115; 58116), an early school later converted into a reading room (NHER 47009), and replaced subsequently by a late Victorian school (NHER 55162) and several houses (NHERs 46820; 47125).

4.8 Agriculture was the mainstay of village life continuing on into the post-medieval period (www.greatmassingham.net/village-history). Abbey Farm is shown on early 19th century cartographic sources as an extensive farmstead. Abbey House's gardens lie to the north with an orchard occupying most of the site, a pond was also located along Walcups Lane (www.old-maps.co.uk). The farm remained as a working farm until relatively recently at which point the land to the west and encompassing outbuildings appear to have been given over to residential development.

Modern

4.9 A World War Two anti aircraft battery lies *c.*580m to the north-east (NHER 32405). A former airfield of a similar date is located to the north-east of the village, now disused. It was used as a base for the Blenheim and Boston bombers and for a Mosquito squadron (NHER 15168). The geophysical survey revealed three strong bipolar magnetic linears which were attributed to concrete foundations. Bricks from modern demolition were visible across the site and have caused much disturbance and in conclusion the structural features are most likely modern (Smith 2015, 4).

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 NCC HES required a programme of archaeological trial trenching to be implemented, in order to identify the presence of any archaeological remains for which further mitigation would be required. Four trenches each 40m x 1.8m and a fifth trench of 20m x 1.8m were excavated, comprising a *c*.5% sample of the 0.65ha site to be developed for housing (Figs. 3 – 5).

6.2 The trenches examined the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and also tested 'blank' areas.

6.3 The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator. The topsoil and subsoil were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

7 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

7.1 The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 Figs. 3 - 6

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 81.07m AOD		
0.00-0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark reddish brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints
0.42–0.68m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints
0.68m+	L1002	Natural. Firm, pale orange brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 80.22m AOD		
0.00-0.52m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.52m+	L1002	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 1 contained Pits F1005, F1019 and F1023; Ditches F1003, F1007, F1009, F1011, F1013, F1017, F1021 and F1025; Curvilinear Ditch F1015; and Tree Hollow F1037. A second tree hollow was also present within the trench. The majority of the features contained medieval pottery (predominantly 11th – 13th century).

Ditch F1015 was curvilinear in plan (5.00+ x 0.68 x 0.17m). It had steep - moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand with small – medium sub angular flint. It contained medieval (11th – 13th / 14th century) pottery (1; 4g)

The pits are tabulated:

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationship/s	Finds
F1005	L1006	Sub-circular, gradual to moderately sloping sides, undulating base (3.26 x 1.0+ x 0.21m)	Friable, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small stones.	-	Medieval (11th – 13th C) pottery (1; 26g)
F1019	L1020	Sub-circular, steep stepped sides, concave base (1.68+ x 1.5 x 0.31m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with moderate large flints.	Cut Ditches F1015 & F1021	Medieval (11th – 13th C) pottery (1; 29g)
F1023	L1024	Sub-circular, moderately sloping sides, concave base (0.32+ x 0.62 x 0.14m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand.	Cut by Ditch F1025.	Medieval (11th – 13th C) pottery (2; 29g)

The ditches are tabulated:

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationship/s	Finds
F1003	L1004	Linear (NNW/ESE), moderately sloping stepped sides, flattish base (2.20 x 1.75+ x 0.58m)	Friable, mid brown grey clay silt with occasional small stones.	-	Medieval (11th / 12th – 13th C) pottery (11; 23g)
F1007	L1008	Linear (N/S), moderate sloping sides, concave base (1.5+ x 0.6 x 0.31m)	Friable, mid brown grey silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flint.	Cut by Ditch F1009.	-
F1009	L1010	Linear (W/E), steep sloping sides, concave base (2.20+ x 0.36+ x 0.33m)	Friable, mid brown grey silty sand with orange mottling. Moderate small to medium sub-angular flints and occasional large sub-angular flint.	Cut Ditch F1007.	Medieval (11th – 13th C) pottery (2; 1g)
F1011	L1012	Linear (NE/SW), moderate to steep sloping sides, concave base (2.20+ x 0.28+ x 0.15m)	Friable, mid brown grey silty sand.	Cut Ditch F1013. Cut by Ditch F1025.	Medieval (11th – 13th C) pottery (7; 8g), oyster shell (56g)

F1013	L1014	Linear (NE/SW), shallow sloping sides, concave base (2.2+ x 0.88 x 0.21m)	Friable, mid brown grey silty sand.	Cut by Ditch F1011.	-
F1017	L1018	Linear (NE/SW), steep sloping sides, concave base (2.5 x 0.5 x 0.25m)	Friable, mid/dark brown grey silty sand with occasional small to medium sub-angular flint.	Cut by Ditch F1015.	Medieval (11th – 13th / 14th C) pottery (1; 24g)
F1021	L1022	Linear (W/E), gently sloping sides, concave base (0.5 x 0.72 x 0.18m)	Friable, mid orange brown silty sand.	Cut by Pit F1019.	-
F1025	L1026	Curvi-Linear (NE/SW curving East), moderate to steep sloping sides, flattish base (1.0+ x 1.9 x 0.27m)	Friable, mid orange brown silty sand with moderate medium sub-angular flint.	Cut Ditch F1011 & Pit F1023.	Medieval (13th – 14th C) pottery (181; 1050g)

Trench 2 Figs. 3 - 5 & 7

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 13.70m AOD		
0.00-0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.28- 0.82m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.82m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 12.48m AOD		
0.00-0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.31– 0.49m	L1027	Fill of Pond. Mixed patches of mid grey brown sandy silt and pale orange brown silty sand occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints
0.49– 0.65m	L1028	Fill of Pond. Friable, dark grey brown silty sand with frequent coal fragments
0.65– 0.97m	L1029	Fill of Pond. Firm, mid yellow brown silty sand occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints
0.97– 1.06m	L1042	Fill of Pond. Friable, mid blue grey silty sand with moderate small and medium angular and sub-angular flints
1.06m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 2 contained Pond F1041, Ditches F1035 and F1039; and Pits F1032, F1033 and F1043. A concrete wall foundation traversed the trench. The majority of the features contained no finds. Ditch F1035 contained medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery.

The concrete wall foundation corresponds with an anomaly identified during the geophysical survey (Fig. 4), and also the backfilled pond at the eastern end of the trench was detected by the survey.

Pond F1041 extended along half the length of Trench 2. Within the confines of the trench its full extent and profile were unknown (24.00+ x 2.20+ x 1.10m+). It had moderately sloping sides and an uneven, flattish base. Its basal fill, L1042, was a friable mid grey blue silty sand with moderate small to medium sub-angular and rounded flints. Its upper fill, L1029, was a firm mid yellow brown sandy silt with occasional small to medium sub-angular flints. Neither fills contained finds. Pond F1041 was cut by Pits F1032 and F1043. It was also cut by a concrete wall foundation. It cut Ditch F1039.

The ditches are tabulated:

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationship/s	Finds
F1035	L1036	Linear (N/S), moderate to steep sides, concave base (2.20 x 3.00 x 0.85m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small to medium sub-angular flint.	-	Medieval (11th – 13th C) pottery (1; 3g)
F1039	L1040	Linear (N/S), moderately sloping sides, concave base (2.20+ x 1.50 x 0.38m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small to medium sub-angular flint.	Cut By Pit F1043 and Pond F1041.	CBM (23g)

The pits are tabulated:

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationship/s	Finds
F1032	L2027	Not defined in plan. Moderately sloping western edge otherwise unseen (2.20+ x 3.30+ x 1.10+m)	Firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with patches of pale brown orange silty sand. Occasional small to medium sub-angular flint inclusions.	Cut by Pit F1033.	-
	L2028		Friable, dark brown grey silty sand with frequent coal fragments.		-
F1033	L1034	Not defined in plan. Vertical sides, flat base (0.50 x 1.00 x 0.50m)	Friable, dark grey brown silty sand.	Cut Pit F1032.	-
F1043	L1044	Not defined in plan. Moderate to steep sides, concave base (2.20+ x 1.78 x 0.76m)	Friable, dark brown grey silty sand.	Cut Pond 1041.	-

Trench 3 Figs. 3 - 5 & 7

Sample section 3A 0.00 = 80.07m AOD		
0.00-0.80m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.80m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 3B 0.00 = 80.23m AOD		
0.00-0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.45-0.67m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.67m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 3 contained Ditches F1075, F1077, F1085, F1087, F1089, F1091, F1093, F1095 and F1097. A modern wall was also present within the trench. The majority of the features contained no finds. Ditch F1093 contained a sherd of medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery.

The wall foundation at the eastern end of the trench corresponds with an anomaly identified during the geophysical survey (Fig. 4), and Ditch F1091 corresponds with the possible ditch or furrow detected by the survey.

The ditches are tabulated:

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationship/s	Finds
F1075	L1076	Linear (NW/SE) Moderately sloping sides, concave base (1.00+ x 0.72 x 0.14m)	Friable, mid yellow grey silty sand with occasional sub-angular flint.	Cut by Ditch F1077.	-
F1077	L1078	Linear (SW/NE) Shallow sides, concave base (0.55+ x 0.25 x 0.09m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand.	Cut Ditch F1075.	-
F1085	L1086	Linear (NW/SE) Moderately sloping sides, concave base (0.35+ x 0.40 x 0.11m)	Friable, mid red brown silty sand with moderate sun-angular flint.	Cut by Ditch F1087.	-
F1087	L1088	Linear (NW/SE) Moderately sloping sides, concave base (0.70 x 0.15+ x 0.25m)	Friable, pale grey yellow silty sand.	Cut by Ditch F1089. Cut Ditch F1085.	-
F1089	L1090	Linear (NW/SE) Moderately sloping sides, flattish base (2.00+ x 1.55 x 0.2m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand.	Cut Ditch F1087.	-
F1091	L1092	Linear (N/S) Moderately sloping irregular sides, flattish base (2.40 x 3.80 x 0.43m)	Friable, mid brown grey silty sand.	-	-
F1093	L1094	Linear (NW/SE) Moderate to steep sides, concave base (2.20+ x 0.86 x 0.21m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular flints.	-	Medieval (11^{th} – 13^{th} C) pottery (1; 17g)
F1095	L1096	Linear (N/S) Shallow sides, concave base	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flints.	-	-

		(2.20+ x 0.78 x 0.13m)			
F1097	L1098	Linear (NW/SE) Moderately sloping sides, concave base (1.30+ x 0.64 x 0.16m)	Friable, mid yellow grey silty sand.	-	-

Trench 4 Figs. 3 - 5 & 8

Sample section 4A 0.00 = 80.85m AOD		
0.00-0.52m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.52– 0.68m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.68m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 4B 0.00 = 80.94m AOD		
0.00-0.17m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.17– 0.26m	L1030	Made Ground. Mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate small and medium angular and sub-angular flints
0.26-0.56m	L1031	Buried Soil. Firm, dark reddish brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints
0.56-0.77m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.77m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 4 contained Tree Hollow F1055; Pits F1047 and F1051; and Ditches F1045, F1049, F1053, F1057, F1059, F1061, F1063, F1065, F1067 and F1069. It also contained a second tree hollow. Pit F1047 contained a residual struck flint; Tree Hollow F1055 contained a large assemblage of Roman pottery; Pit F1051 and Ditch F1063 contained medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery; and Ditch F1067 contained medieval (late 12th – late 14th century) CBM.

Several ditches were aligned E/W and correspond with the anomaly identified during the geophysical survey as a probable wall foundation, for example Ditch F1069.

Tree Hollow F1055 was sub-circular in plan (2.80+ x 1.30 x 0.31m). It had shallow irregular sides and an uneven concave base. Its fill, L1056, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand and it contained Roman (mid – late 1st century) pottery (109; 1233g), struck flint (1; 45g) and fired clay (15g)

The pits are tabulated:

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationship/s	Finds
F1047	L1048	Sub-circular Steep sides, concave base (0.81 x 1.40 x 0.42m)	Friable, mid brown grey silty sand.	-	Struck flint (1; 3g)
F1051	L1052	Sub-circular Moderately sloping sides, flattish base (0.70+ x 1.50 x 0.20+m)	Friable, mid orange brown silty sand.	Cut by Ditch F1053.	Medieval (11th – 13th C) pottery (2; 71g)

The ditches are tabulated:

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationship/s	Finds
F1045	L1046	Linear (NE/SW) Shallow sides, concave base (1.20 x 0.39 x 0.09m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand.	-	-
F1049	L1050	Linear (W/E) Steep sides, narrow base (2.20+ x 1.10 x 0.53m)	Friable, mid orange brown silty sand with moderate medium sub-angular flint.	-	-
F1053	L1054	Linear (W/E) Moderate sloping sides, flattish base (2.20 x 0.40 x 0.20m)	Friable, pale yellow grey silty sand.	Cuts Pit F1051.	-
F1057	L1058	Linear (W/E) Moderately sloping sides, concave irregular base (2.50 x 0.92 x 0.25m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand.	Cut by Ditch F2005 and Pit F2027	-
F1059	L1060	Linear (NW/SE) Moderate sloping sides, uneven concave base	Friable, mid orange brown silty sand.	-	-

		(2.20+ x 0.77 x 0.17m)			
F1061	L1062	Linear (W/E) Steep irregular sides, flattish base (2.40 x 3.00 x 0.68m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand.	-	-
F1063	L1064	Linear (W/E) Moderate to steep sides, concave base (2.20+ x 1.34+ x 0.78m)	Firm, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent small stones.	Cut by Ditch F1065 and F1067.	Medieval (11^{th} – 13^{th} C) pottery (3; 34g), CBM (112g), animal bone (27g)
F1065	L1066	Linear (W/E) Steep sides, concave base (2.20+ x 0.65 x 0.26m)	Friable, pale grey orange silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flints.	Cut Ditch F1063	-
F1067	L1068	Linear (W/E) Steep sides, concave base (2.20+ x 0.60 x 0.35m)	Friable, mid orange grey silty sand with occasional sub-angular flints.	Cut by Ditch F1069	CBM (102g)
F1069	L1070	Linear (W/E) Moderately sloping sides, concave base (2.20+ x 1.70 x 0.29m)	Firm, dark brown silty sand with occasional small rounded stones.	Cut Ditch F1063 and F1067	-

Trench 5 Figs. 3 - 5

Sample section 5A 0.00 = 80.56m AOD		
0.00-0.48m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.48– 0.62m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.62m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 5B 0.00 = 80.38m AOD		
0.00-0.46m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.46-0.64m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.64m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 5 contained Kiln F1081, Pit F1073 and Ditches F1071 and F1079. None of the features contained finds. A C14 date is to be obtained for Kiln F1081.

Ditches F1071 and F1079 correspond with the anomaly identified during the geophysical survey as a probable wall foundation.

Kiln 1081 was sub circular in plan (1.0+ x 1.5m+). Its profile was unseen as this feature was only partially excavated. Three fills were visible on the surface: L1082, L1083 and L1084. The basal fill, L1082, was a firm pale grey sandy clay with chalk. L1083 consisted of a firm black charcoal fill, and the upper fill, L1084, was a friable mid grey brown silty sand. L1084 contained chalk and fragments of fired clay (58g). Radiocarbon dating of a sample of carbonised cereal grain taken from L1084 has returned a date in the Romano-British period.

Pit F1073 was sub-circular in plan (0.66 x 0.65 x 0.22m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1074, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular flint. It contained no finds.

The ditches are tabulated:

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationship/s	Finds
F1071	L1072	Linear (E/W), Steep sides, narrow base (2.20 x 1.25 x 0.44m)	Friable, mid orange brown silty sand with moderate medium sub-angular flint.	-	-
F1079	L1080	Linear (E/W) Steep sides, concave base (2.20+ x 2.30 x 0.60m)	Friable, mid orange brown silty sand with moderate medium sub-angular flint.	-	-

8 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

9 DEPOSIT MODEL

9.1 Topsoil L1000 was a friable, dark reddish brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub angular flints, and was present across the whole site (0.17 – 0.80m thick). Below L1000, Subsoil L1001 was a firm, mid orange brown, silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint (0.14 – 0.26m thick).

9.2 At the base of the sequence the natural, L1002, was firm, pale orange brown silty sand with small and medium angular and sub-angular flints (0.52 – 1.02m below the present day ground surface).

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Date
1	F1003	Ditch	Medieval (11th / 12th – 13th)
	F1005	Pit	Medieval (11th – 13th C)
	F1007	Ditch	-
	F1009	Ditch	Medieval (11th – 13th C)
	F1011	Ditch	Medieval (11th – 13th C)
	F1013	Ditch	-
	F1015	Curvilinear Ditch	Medieval (11th – 13th / 14th C)
	F1017	Ditch	Medieval (11th – 13th / 14th C)
	F1019	Pit	Medieval (11th – 13th C)
	F1021	Ditch	-
	F1023	Pit	Medieval (11th – 13th C)
	F1025	Ditch	Medieval (13th – 14th C)
	F1037	Tree Hollow	Medieval (late 12th – 14th C)
		Tree Hollow	-
2	F1032	Pit	-
	F1033	Pit	-
	F1035	Ditch	Medieval (11th – 13th C)
	F1037	Tree Hollow	-
	F1039	Ditch	-
	F1041	Pond	-
	F1043	Pit	-
		Wall Foundation	Modern
3	F1075	Ditch	-
	F1077	Ditch	-
	F1085	Ditch	-
	F1087	Ditch	-
	F1089	Ditch	-
	F1091	Ditch	-

	F1093	Ditch	Medieval (11th – 13th C)
	F1095	Ditch	-
	F1097	Ditch	-
		Wall Foundation	Modern
4	F1045	Ditch	-
	F1047	Pit	X1 struck flint
	F1049	Ditch	-
	F1051	Pit	Medieval (11th – 13th C)
	F1053	Ditch	-
	F1055	Tree Hollow	Roman (mid – late 1st C)
	F1057	Ditch	-
	F1059	Ditch	-
	F1061	Ditch	-
	F1063	Ditch	Medieval (11th – 13th C)
	F1065	Ditch	-
	F1067	Ditch	Medieval (late 12th – late 14th C) CBM
	F1069	Ditch	-
		Tree Hollow	-
5	F1071	Ditch	-
	F1073	Pit	-
	F1079	Ditch	-
	F1081	Kiln	Roman C14 date (68.2% probability 135calAD; 95.4% probability 40calAD to 218calAD

10.2 The geophysical survey identified ditches (possible furrows) and wall foundations. There was a good correlation between the geophysical survey and the trial trenching. The furrows proved to be ditches, and a modern wall was revealed. Ditches F1035 and F1039 (Trench 2), whose course correlates closely with Ditches F1091, F1093 and F1095 (Trench 3), appear to correspond closely with the geophysical survey. Inter-cutting ditches in Trenches 4 (F1065, F1067 and F1068) and 5 (F1071 and F1079) appear to correlate with responses identified as possible walls during the geophysical survey. Additional ditches in Trench 4 were not identified by the geophysical survey.

10.3 Archaeological features were present in each trench (Trench 1: thirteen; Trench 2: seven; Trench 3: nine; Trench 4: thirteen; and Trench 5; four). The features were most dense on the western side of the site (Trenches 1 and 4, and the western end of Trench 3). The features were predominantly ditches, and also included pits. Tree hollows (three), a pond, a curvilinear ditch and a kiln were also recorded.

10.4 The earliest period represented was the prehistoric period and sparse residual struck flint was found, including a disc scraper of possible Bronze Age origin (F1055, Trench 4; Struck Flint report below).

10.5 Unusually Tree Hollow F1055 (Trench 4) contained a large assemblage (109 sherds; 1233g) of Roman (mid – late 1st century) pottery (Pottery Report below). This assemblage included south Gaulish Samian ware and imported Gallo-Belgic fine ware (Terra Nigra), with local coarse

ware cooking pots with soot on their external surfaces. The assemblage is consistent with domestic consumption of relatively affluent status. Few other finds were present (a residual struck flint and fired clay (15g)).

10.6 The majority of the dated features were medieval (predominantly 11th – 13th century). The majority of the medieval features were ditches but four pits were also present (F1005, F1019, F1023, (Trench 1) and F1051 (Trench 4). Ditch F1015 (Trench 1) was curvilinear. Nearly every feature in Trench 1 contained medieval pottery, if only between 1 and 2 sherds. Larger pottery assemblages were obtained from Ditches F1003 (11 sherds) and F1025 (181 sherds), and Tree Hollow F1037 (13 sherds). The pottery almost entirely comprised products of the Grimston and Pott Row kilns located approximately 5km to the west, including jars with pie-crust rims, a bowl, and body sherds with iron-slipped decoration beneath a glaze, likely from jugs or flagons. Sparse associated finds were present including horse bone and oyster shell, but were present in very low quantity and in a poor state of preservation. Carbonised cereal remains from medieval ditches and pits were consistent with a medieval arable economy, which incorporated the cultivation of hulled barley, free-threshing wheat, oats and rye.

10.7 Of particular interest was the kiln (F1081) revealed in Trench 4. It was only partially excavated as it was not fully contained within the trench, and it did not contain any dating evidence. A sample of organic material taken from this feature has returned a radiocarbon date indicating that the feature is of Romano-British date (Appendix 3). It appears most likely that this feature may post-date the date assigned to the pottery recovered from Tree Hollow F1055. The carbonised plant remains suggest that it is an agricultural kiln, for the drying, roasting or malting of grain. The (excavated) upper fill of the kiln produced a relatively rich sample of carbonised cereal remains, in particular free-threshing wheat but also some spelt wheat; a balance that favours a medieval date but is not conclusive (Environmental Report below).

10.8 The site is close to the west of the historic village core, including St. Mary's Church, the village green and pond; and is adjacent and to the rear of Abbey Farm. The alignment of the ditches recorded during the evaluation is broadly consistent (either parallel or perpendicular) with the surviving land divisions and routes of the village, and they may represent former enclosure ditches that formed part of the medieval village and farm. In addition, the village included St. Mary and St. Nicholas' Priory (an Augustinian and later Cluniac foundation), which was located immediately to the west of the site, and the land divisions may relate to the fringes of its precinct. The priory was dissolved in 1538 and parts of former monastic masonry were incorporated in building at Abbey Farm, therefore it is not unexpected that a fragment of oolitic limestone carved to form the vertical jamb on arch (doorway) was recovered from the topsoil. This style of architecture may be consistent with a potential 13th century date consistent with the date of much of the pottery assemblage; however both artefact types may have been re-deposited in subsequent land divisions relating to the development of the village and Abbey Farm.

11 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

11.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Norwich Castle Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

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Web resources
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www.greatmassingham.net/village-history
www.old-maps.co.uk

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)
	1000		1 5	Topsoil	11th-13th C	1	13	38 292	 50	 Worked Stone		 20000
1003	1004		1	Fill of Ditch	11th/12th-13th C	11	22					
1005	1006		1	Fill of Pit	11th-13th C	1	26					
1009	1010		1	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	2	1					
1011A	1012	 A	1	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C 11th-13th C	2 5	5 2			O.Shell		56
1015	1016	A	1	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th/14th C	1	2					
1017	1018	A	1	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th/14th C	1	20					
1019	1020		1	Fill of Pit	11th-13th C	1	28					
1023	1024		1	Fill of Pit	11th-13th C	2	28					
1025	1026		1	Fill of Ditch	13th-14th C	172	1049					
1035	1036		2	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	1	3					
1037	1038		1	Fill of Tree Hollow	Late 12th-14th C	13	69			S.Flint	1	4
1047	1048		4	Fill of Pit						S.Flint	1	3
1051	1052		4	Fill of Pit	11th-13th C	2	65					
1055	1056		4	Fill of Tree Hollow	Mid-Late 1st C AD	109	1233			S.Flint F.Clay	1	45 15
1063	1064		4	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	3	32	112	27			
1067	1068		4	Fill of Ditch					102			
1081	1084		5	Fill of Kiln						F.Clay		58
1093	1094		3	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	1	15					

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of three pieces (52g) of struck flint in a slightly patinated, slightly rolled condition. A single crude disc scraper manufactured on a pebble may be of Bronze Age origin, while two small slightly irregular debitage flakes have little diagnostic value, though are of likely prehistoric origin.

Methodology & Terminology

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Flake type (see 'Dorsal cortex,' below) or implement type, patination, colour and condition were also recorded as part of this data set, along with free-text comments. Terms used to describe implement and core types follow the system adopted by Healy (1988, 48-9). The term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint, and the term 'patination' to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. Dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005, 104 & 115) with 'primary flake' referring to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face; 'secondary flake' with 50-99%; 'tertiary' with 1-49% and 'un-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex.

Discussion

The struck flint was manufactured using a slightly mottled dark-brown grey flint with a thin brown-orange cortex, likely sourced from local sand and gravel deposits, but demonstrating a very low degree of selection. Tree Hollow F1055 contained a disc scraper (45g), manufactured by the application of coarse abrupt retouch around the circumference of a thin pebble, which retains cortex on the upper and lower faces. This is a very crude, expedient implement, and is likely characteristic of the decline in knapping skill evident in the Bronze Age as the requirement to use flint technology declined. Tree Hollow F1037 and Pit F1047 contained single small un-corticated debitage flakes with a slightly irregular profile, which appear to represent the bi-product of core reduction or trimming, but their chronology remains unclear based on such limited evidence as their system of reduction cannot be defined.

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The Roman Pottery
Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of 109 sherds (1233g) of early Roman pottery (Table 1); entirely contained in Tree Hollow F1055 in a relatively well-preserved condition. This group included cross-joining sherds from a substantial portion of a shell-tempered jar; associated with south Gaulish samian ware, imported Gallo-Belgic fine ware and two local coarse ware vessels that are indicative of a mid to late 1st century AD date.

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE with fabrics examined at x20 magnification in accordance with 'A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology' (Barclay *et al* 2016), developed from the guidelines of the Study Group for Roman Pottery. Fabric codes and descriptions were cross-referenced, where possible, to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998) or regional kiln/type series, while local or indistinguishable coarse wares were assigned an alpha-numeric code and are fully described in the report. Samian ware forms reference Webster (1996). All data has been entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

Fabric Descriptions

LGF SA	La Graufesenque samian ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 28)
GAB TN1	Gallia-Belgica (Vesle Valley) Terra Nigra 1 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 15)
WN RW	West Norfolk Reduced Ware. Dark grey-brown to dark red-brown surfaces over a thick dark grey core. Inclusions comprise common poorly-sorted quartz (0.25-1mm) with sparse flint, ironstone and occasional calcareous grains (all <0.5-3mm). A hard fabric, with a slightly uneven, abrasive finished; wheel-made but remains slightly irregular.
ROB SH	Romano-British shell-tempered ware. Red-orange surfaces over a mid grey core; with inclusions of abundant plate-like shell (0.5-5mm). Wheel-finished, if not wheel made.

Roman Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
LGF SA	1	14	0.05
GAB TN1	2	12	-
WN RW	24	512	-
ROB SH	82	695	0.80
Total	*109*	*1233*	*0.85*

Table 1: Quantification of Roman fabric types

The Roman Pottery

The imported fine wares in Tree Hollow F1055 provide chronological markers that define a date in the mid to late 1st century AD, probably in the Conquest period mid 1st century AD; although in Norfolk pottery consumption and production remains conservative throughout the 1st century AD, as demonstrated at Watlington Quarry and Fison Way, Thetford. The south Gaulish samian ware was imported from the major production centre of La

Graufesenque (LGF SA) and comprises a Dr.18 shallow platter with a small bead rim; while the Gallo-Belgic fine ware comprises Terra Nigra (GAB TN1) imported from the Vesle Valley, northern France (probably via the Wash), and represented by plain body sherds from a beaker of unknown type.

Local coarse wares are represented by a coarse sandy fabric known as west Norfolk Reduced Ware (WN RW), likely produced on a domestic scale throughout the north-western quarter of the county, but with a likely focus in the Nar Valley region (where a distinct pottery industry later develops). No rim sherds are present in WN RW, but body sherds indicate the presence of a small, squat bowl with a rounded body and plain narrow shoulder cordon, and a large jar with sooted external surfaces, possibly a cooking pot, cauldron-like vessel or packed within embers.

The most populous fabric in the Tree Hollow F1055: shell-tempered ware (ROB SH) is not a typically common early Roman fabric in the local area, but represents approximately 50% of a single jar (largely-cross-joining). The jar has a shallow s-profile with a sinuous neck and slightly everted bead rim, and three grooves incised on the shoulder; a form type that is common in mid 1st to mid 2nd century AD groups in the fenland to the west (i.e. Rollo 2001, 73: fig.40.147-8). It was probably produced in the Lower Nene Valley region of the Fens and transported along the Fen Causeway, although the possibility of similar kilns closer to the eastern Fen Edge cannot be discounted. Like the large WN RW jar, the ROB SH jar exhibits soot on its exterior, which would be consistent with its use as a cooking pot.

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The Post-Roman Pottery
Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 219 medieval sherds weighing 1.380kg from archaeological features, a tree hollow and the topsoil (Table 2). The pottery can be characterised as moderately to heavily abraded.

Methodology

The sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001). Fabric codes (in letters and numbers in brackets) are those used for the Suffolk County Council pottery type series which is also appropriate to Norfolk medieval pottery.

The Pottery

With the exception of 4 medieval coarseware sherds, all of the pottery was produced at the Grimston/Pott Row kilns some 5 miles to the west. The majority of the assemblage comprising 172 sherds (78.5% of the assemblage), came from Ditch F1025 (L1026). This included 31 glazed Grimston sherds including high medieval examples with applied brown iron slipped clay dots or pads, as well an example each one with vertical iron slip decorative lines and the other horizontal rouletted lines. An open bowl with a large round beaded rim is a form present in earlier Grimston-Thetford and early Grimston coarse ware (Wade 1993, 74 Fig.10), and it is likely that a few other body sherds may be residual Grimston-Thetford ware which is a similar fabric to the succeeding Grimston ware, although the two are hard to tell apart. The jar rims present in the feature are mostly simple ones usually decorated with 'pie-crust' pinching, while several vessel shoulders have slight carinations, which is a feature present on some Grimston coarsware bowls (Wade 1993, 74 Fig. 6). The only other glazed Grimston sherd came from Tree Hollow F1037 (L1038).

KEY:
THETG: Grimston-Thetford ware 10^{th}-11^{th}
GRCW: Grimston coarse are 11^{th}-13^{th}
MCW1 (3.20): Medieval coarseware 1 – common fine to medium and occasional coarse sub-rounded to rounded quartz. Rare rounded black iron ore. Common fine voids probably mainly from dissolved shell but some may also derive from burnt organics. Dark grey cores can have slightly paler surfaces 11^{th}-13^{th}/14^{th}
MCW2 (3.20): Medieval coarseware 2 – common medium sub-rounded quartz and sparse coarse rounded quartz, sparse very coarse rounded red iron mineral, rare rounded white chalk with occasional other inclusions such as burnt organics and grog. Dark grey cores and surfaces with brown outer margins 11^{th}-13^{th}/14^{th}
MCW3 (3.20): Medieval coarseware 3 – common fine to medium sub-rounded to rounded quartz, rare very coarse sub-rounded red flint, rare red iron mineral and burnt organics. May be an a- typical Grimston coarse ware. Grey surfaces and core with pale orange outer margins11^{th}-13^{th}/14^{th}
GRIM: glazed Grimston ware late 12^{th}-14^{th}/15^{th}

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Topsoil	1000	1x13g GRCW	11th-13th	
Ditch 1003	1004	11x22g GRCW	11th/12th-13th	GRCW: all same vessel, outurned bevelled D4 type jar rim
Pit 1005	1006	1x26g GRCW	11th-13th	
Ditch 1009	1010	2x1g GRCW	11th- 13th	
Ditch 1011	1012	2x5g GRCW	11th-13th	
	1012 A	5x2g GRCW	11th-13th	
Ditch 1015	1016 A	1x2g MCW2	11th-13th/14th	
Ditch 1017	1018 A	1x20g MCW3	11th-13th/14th	MCW3: rounded base
Pit 1019	1020	1x28g GRCW	11th-13th	
Pit 1023	1024	2x28g GRCW	11th-13th	GRCW: x1 simple everted pie crust deco jar rim; x1 slight carinated jar shoulder to second vessel
Ditch 1025	1026	3x73g THETG 138x583g GRCW 31x393g GRIM	13th-14th	THETG: large C3 rounded bead rim to open bowl; hand made slightly carinated jar shoulders GRCW: MNVV 6 simple jar rims, 4 with finger pinch/pie crust deco; slight carinated jar shoulders, some sooting on sherds; GRIM: x1 open bowl D1 type wit pie crust seco; x12rounded base 10cm diam; x8 applied brown iron slipped clay dots/pads; x1 vertical iron sliped lines; x1 dispersed horizontal rouletted lines
Ditch 1035	1036	1x3g GRCW	11th-13th	
Tree Hollow 1037	1038	12x63g GRCW 1x6g GRIM	Late 12th-14th	GRCW: x1 sagging base
Pit 1051	1052	2x65g MCW1	11th-13th	
Ditch 1063	1064	3x32g GRCW	11th- 13th	
Ditch 1093	1094	1x15g GRCW	11th-13th	GRCW: Sagging base

Table 2: Quantification of pottery by context

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The Ceramic Building Materials
Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of 2 fragments (214g) of CBM in a highly fragmented condition including tile of Roman and medieval date; as well as seven further fragments (58g) of fired clay derived from the lining of a kiln.

Ditch F1063 contained a single small fragment (112g) of Roman tegula roof tile with a flanged edge; manufactured in a fine sandy orange fabrics, with inclusions of sparse red iron ore (<0.5mm) and occasional flint (<2mm).

Ditch F1067 contained a single fragment (102g) of medieval peg or nibbed tile, manufactured using naturally shelly clay (common shell; generally 0.5-3mm, occasionally to 10mm). The flat tile fragment was 15mm thick with a heavily striated (lengthways) upper surface, and was likely manufactured between the late 12th and late 14th centuries.

Kiln F1081 contained seven small, rounded fragments (58g) of fired clay, tempered with common rounded chalk (1-5mm). it is likely this material is derived from the raked-out lining of the chamber or flue, but it could have formed part of the superstructure, suspended floor or portable supports/pilasters. However these small fragments do not preserve any extant surfaces or technological traits, therefore their function and date remains uncertain.

Worked Stone
Tansy Collins

The worked stone found within Topsoil 1000 comprises two fragments of a formerly larger, single piece, perhaps broken during deposition as there are also a number of areas of damage to formerly moulded areas, but little to suggest weathering. The piece is carved from oolitic limestone and a high number of relatively large fossils are visible with the naked eye, though is of fairly poor quality stone which crumbles easily. The piece as a whole measures 455mm x 240mm x 125mm (each section measuring 265mm and 190mm long) and survives to its full extent as demonstrated by parallel tooling marks visible top and bottom.

It forms a vertical jamb of an aperture so that the upper section begins to spring as an arch. It is marked by a large square rebate on one side and a simple concave chamfer on the opposite side separated by a fillet. Both the arch and rebate combined might indicate a doorway with a two-centred arch though the evidence is not entirely conclusive.

There is nothing to indicate the provenance of the piece, and while the concave chamfer is not diagnostic in itself finds from archaeological features at the site produced pottery of an 11th-13th century date and a 13th century date is not inconsistent. An Augustinian priory (originally termed a hospital) founded before 1260 is known to have existed at Great Massingham, and

there is evidence that Abbey Farm contains monastic walling (Historic England Pastscape monument number 357365) which may be related.

DP 1

Moulded stone found within Topsoil 1000 with rebate (left) and concave chamfer (right)

DP 2

Moulded stone found within Topsoil 1000 with rebate (left) and concave chamfer (right)

p

DP 3

Moulded stone (side view) showing rebate

DP 4

Moulded stone (bottom view) showing cross-section and tooling marks

The Animal Bone

Julia E.M. Cussans

A very small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from trial trench evaluation. A total of 11 bone fragments were recovered from one contexts, details of which are given in Table 3. Preservation was rated as ok on a five point scale ranging from very poor through to excellent. Very little bone abrasion was evident but the bones and teeth present had been subject to a great deal of fresh breakages, indicating that the bone was very friable in nature. No bone gnawing or burning was noted.

The fragments present belonged to horse and were all molar tooth fragments. None of the fragments were ageable or had any signs of butchery or pathology. There was nothing else of note about this small assemblage.

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Preservation	Horse	Large mammal	Total
1063	1064	4	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	Ok	11		11
					Total	11		11

Table 3

The Shell

Julia E.M. Cussans

A single marine shell was recovered from the trial trench evaluation. This was derived from Ditch Fill L1012 (F1011) and was an upper oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) valve. Preservation was rated as good on a five point scale from very poor through to excellent and there was little sign of abrasion. Human modification was present in the form of an opening notch on the ventral edge of the shell. A single small circular perforation is present in the posterior edge of the valve that goes right the way through the shell. This may have been caused by a predatory gastropod or a parasitic sponge (Winder 2011). There were no other features of interest about this shell.

Winder, J.M. 2011, *Oyster Shells from Archaeological Sites: a brief illustrated guide to basic processing*. http://oystersetcetera.wordpress.com/ Accessed July 2012

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the evaluation four bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. The samples were from Roman Tree Hollow F1055 (L1056), and medieval Pit F1005 (L1006) and Ditch F1025 (L1026). Of particular interest was Kiln F1081, which was not fully excavated but upper fill L1084 was sampled.

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.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 4.

Roman

Sample 4 of L1056 contained only a single carbonised barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grain and a small concentration of charcoal.

Medieval

The two samples from medieval deposits L1006 and L1026 were richer. A range of carbonised cereal grains were identified, with hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type), oat (*Avena* sp.) and rye (*Secale cereale*) all recognised. These taxa were common in the medieval arable economy, which was often structured to produce a range of crops for different purposes (e.g. Moffett 2006; Stone 2006).

Also present were medium legumes, including vetch/ wild pea (*Vicia/ Lathyrus* sp.), which are likely to represent arable weeds.

Kiln F1081

Sample 5 of kiln fill L1084 was the richest sample, with a large number of carbonised cereal grains identified. These were dominated by wheat, including both large, rounded forms reminiscent of free-threshing type wheat

(*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type), and narrower drop-shaped grains with a pronounced dorsal ridge reminiscent of glume (spelt) wheat (*T. dicoccum/ spelta*). During full investigation at a later date, further, more detailed identification of these will be required, which would be facilitated by a greater number of samples from the feature. Also present were a small number of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains. Other crop taxa were represented by pea/ bean (Large Fabaceae).

Non-cereal arable weed taxa included black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), dock (*Rumex* sp.), red bartsia (*Odontites vernus*) and wild grasses (Poaceae). The range of taxa is not sufficient for detailed interpretation of crop husbandry regimesat present.

Conclusions

The bulk samples from Walcups Lane have demonstrated the presence of carbonised plant macrofossils within the archaeological deposits, particularly those belonging to the medieval period. The medieval samples contained relatively high densities of cereal remains and are likely to indicate use and processing in the vicinity. The presence of Kiln F1081 is also indicative of agricultural processing activities.

Preliminary findings from L1084 (upper fill of Kiln L1081) indicate that it could represent an agricultural kiln used for drying cereals. However, a full understanding of its role at the site must await full excavation and sampling of its fills. Although dominated by wheat, the presence of large, rounded forms reminiscent of free-threshing type wheat, as well as narrower drop-shaped grains with a pronounced dorsal ridge reminiscent of glume (spelt) wheat, makes it difficult to infer a period of use for the kiln at this stage. Distortion of the carbonised grains made it quite difficult to identify any specimens with great certainty.

Should further excavation be undertaken at the site, a detailed programme of sampling for carbonised plant remains is recommended. The potential to gain a more detailed understanding of the site's economic basis, the way cereals were handled at the site and the investigation of arable weed taxa to understand crop husbandry practices are all important issues to be pursued (cf. van der Veen *et al.* 2013)

Radiocarbon Dating

The sample from the upper fill of kiln F1081 (L1084) produced a concentration of carbonised cereal grain that is likely to represent a secure deposit reflecting the final use or infilling of the feature. A sample of six carbonised wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains was submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC), University of Glasgow, for AMS radiocarbon dating. This analysis suggests a date in the Romano-British period (Appendix 3).

References

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van der Veen, M., Hill, A. and Livarda, A. 2013, 'The archaeobotany of medieval Britain (*c*.AD 450–1500): Identifying research priorities for the 21st Century', *Medieval Archaeology,* 57, 151-182

Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Trench	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains
										Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
ENF142613	1	1006	1005	Fill of Pit	1	11th-13th C	40	20	50%	XX	-	HB (XX), FTW (X), Trit (XX), Oat (X), Rye (X)	X	*Vicia/ Lathyrus* sp. (X)	-	X	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-
ENF142613	3	1026	1025	Fill of Ditch	1	11th-13th C	40	20	50%	X	-	HB (X), Hord (X), Trit (X), Oat (X)	X	Medium Fabaceae (X)	-	X	-	X	*Vallonia* sp.	XX	-	X	-	-	Fungal sclerotia (X)
ENF142613	4	1056	1055	Fill of Tree Hollow/ Pit	4	Mid-Late 1st C AD	40	20	50%	X	-	Hord (X)	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	-
ENF142613	5	1084	1081	Fill of Kiln	5	-	40	40	100%	XX	-	Hord (X), FTW (X), E/S (X), Trit (XX)	XX	Large Fabaceae (X), *Fallopia convolvulus* (X), *Rumex* sp. (X), *Odontites vernus* (X), Small Poaceae (X), Large Poaceae (X)	-	X	-	XX	*Carychium* sp., *Cochlicopa* sp., *Oxychilus* sp., *Punctum pygmaeum, Pupilla muscorum, Trichia hispida* group, *Vallonia* sp.	XX	X	X	-	-	Small mammal bone (X)

Table 4: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Walcups Lane. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); E/S = emmer/ spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/ spelta*); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Oat (*Avena* sp.); Rye (*Secale cereale*); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

APPENDIX 3. RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre
Rankine Avenue, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QF, Scotland, UK
Director: Professor F M Stuart Tel: +44 (0)1355 223332 Fax: +44 (0)1355 229898 www.glasgow.ac.uk/suerc

RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE
05 April 2018

Laboratory Code	SUERC-78792 (GU47092)
Submitter	Jennifer O'Toole Archaeological Solutions Ltd 6 Brunel Business Court Eastern Way Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Site Reference	P7366 Walcups Lane, Great Massingfield
Context Reference	1084
Sample Reference	5
Material	Carbonised cereal grain : Triticum sp
$\delta^{13}C$ relative to VPDB	-23.3 ‰
Radiocarbon Age BP	1898 ± 35

N.B. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

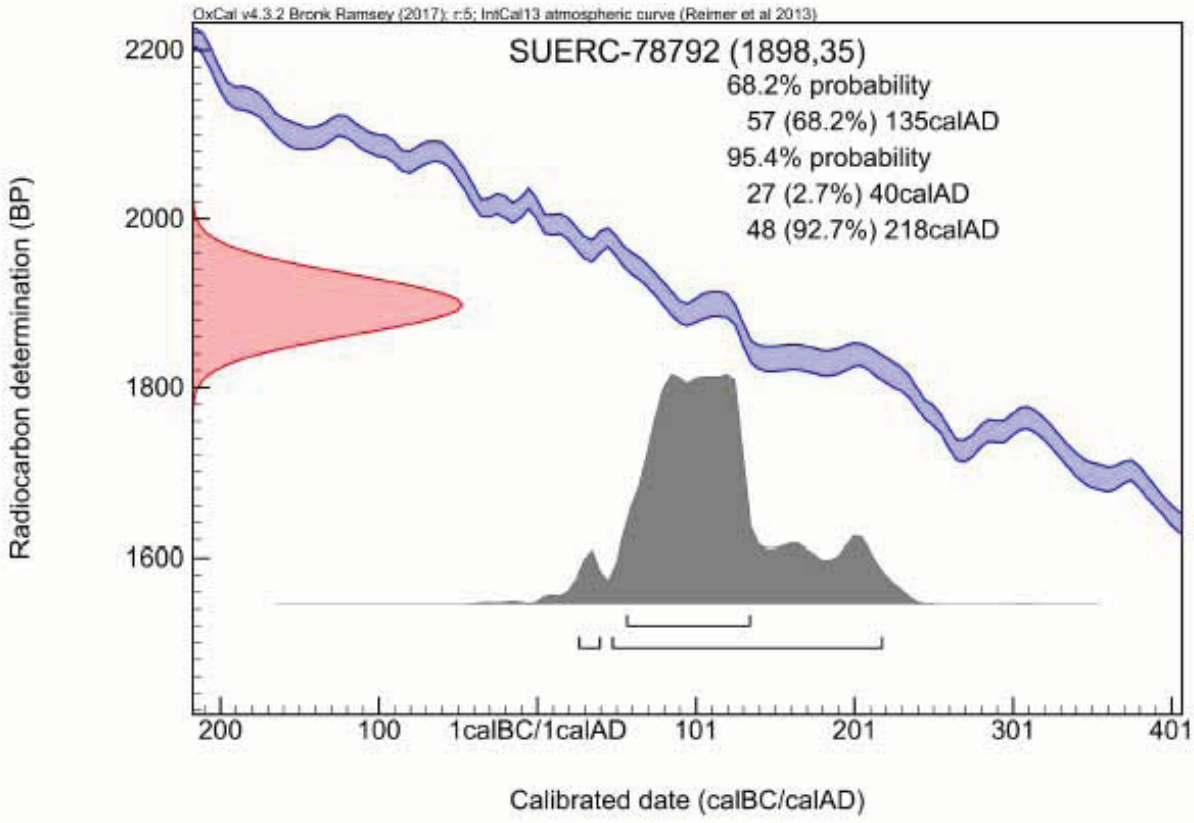
Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Facility and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon 58(1) pp.9-23.*

For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by : E. Dunbar

Checked and signed off by : P. Nayant



The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.*

The above date ranges have been calibrated using the IntCal13 atmospheric calibration curve†

Please contact the laboratory if you wish to discuss this further.

* Bronk Ramsey (2009) *Radiocarbon 51(1) pp.337-60*
† Reimer et al. (2013) *Radiocarbon 55(4) pp.1869-87*

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol7-310078

Project details

Project name	Land South of Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk
Short description of the project	In January 2018 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land south of Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk (NGR TF 79550 23050; Figs. 1 - 2). The site has been subject to a geophysical survey (APS 2015). This revealed anomalies relating to possible archaeological features including three walls (one probably of 20th century date), a pond and possible ridge and furrow cultivation. The results were inconclusive with areas of modern rubble and dense vegetation hampering the survey. The features recorded during the evaluation correlate closely with anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey, with responses postulated as ridge and furrow cultivation revealed to be ditches. The evaluation recorded residual prehistoric flint and a tree hollow that contained a significant but isolated group of Roman pottery, including Samian ware from south Gaul and imported Gallo-Belgic fine ware indicative of a mid-late 1st century AD date. The majority of the features recorded were ditches, and pits were also present. The distribution of features was biased towards the western side of the site. The pottery indicates a medieval date (predominantly 11th-13th century), and it was derived from the nearby Grimston industry. A kiln was recorded which contained a relatively rich sample of carbonised cereal grains, notably free-threshing wheat, which would be consistent with a medieval agricultural economy. The broad alignment of the ditches recorded appears consistent with the alignment of extant land divisions within the historic core of the village, to the west of the church. These enclosures may relate to the Abbey Farm, or possibly to the precinct of the former abbey. A fragment of carved masonry recorded in the topsoil likely formed part of a doorway in the former abbey, but may have been re-deposited as the village developed.
Project dates	Start: 05-01-2018 End: 31-01-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7366 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ENF142613 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	NATURAL FEATURE Medieval

Monument type	NATURAL FEATURE Roman
Monument type	WALL Modern
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	SCRAPER (TOOL) Bronze Age
Significant Finds	TEGULA Roman
Significant Finds	ROOF TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENT Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Medieval
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	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK GREAT MASSINGHAM Land South of Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk
Study area	0.66 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 79550 23050 52.774740552434 0.662129254175 52 46 29 N 000 39 43 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 79m Max: 79m

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	Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Norwich Castle Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Norwich Castle Museum
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Survey"
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)
Title	Land South of Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Muir, T
Other bibliographic details	Archaeological Solutions Report No. 5507
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds

Entered by	Peter Watkins (peter.watkins@norfolk.gov.uk)
Entered on	25 February 2018

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

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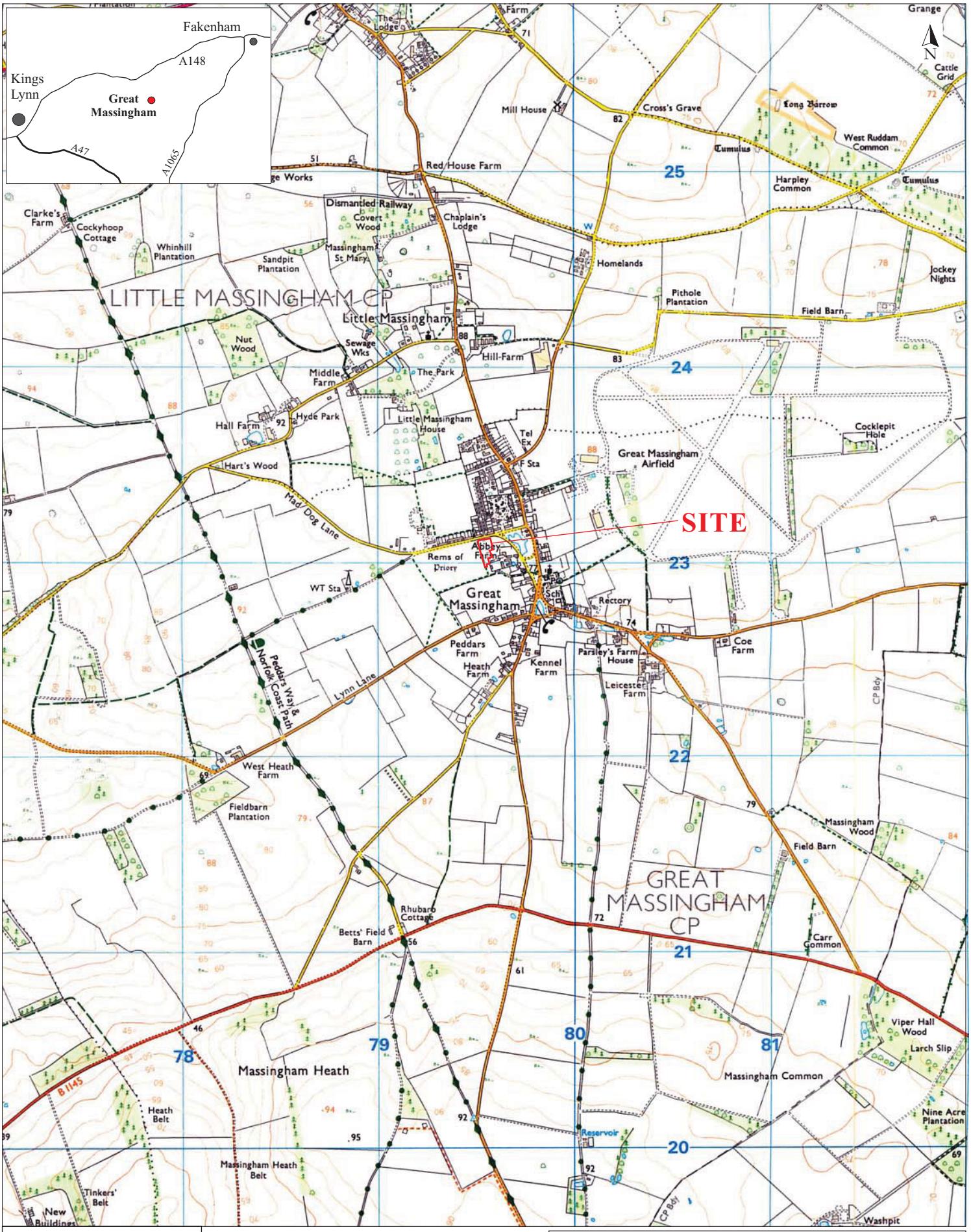

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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk (P7366)

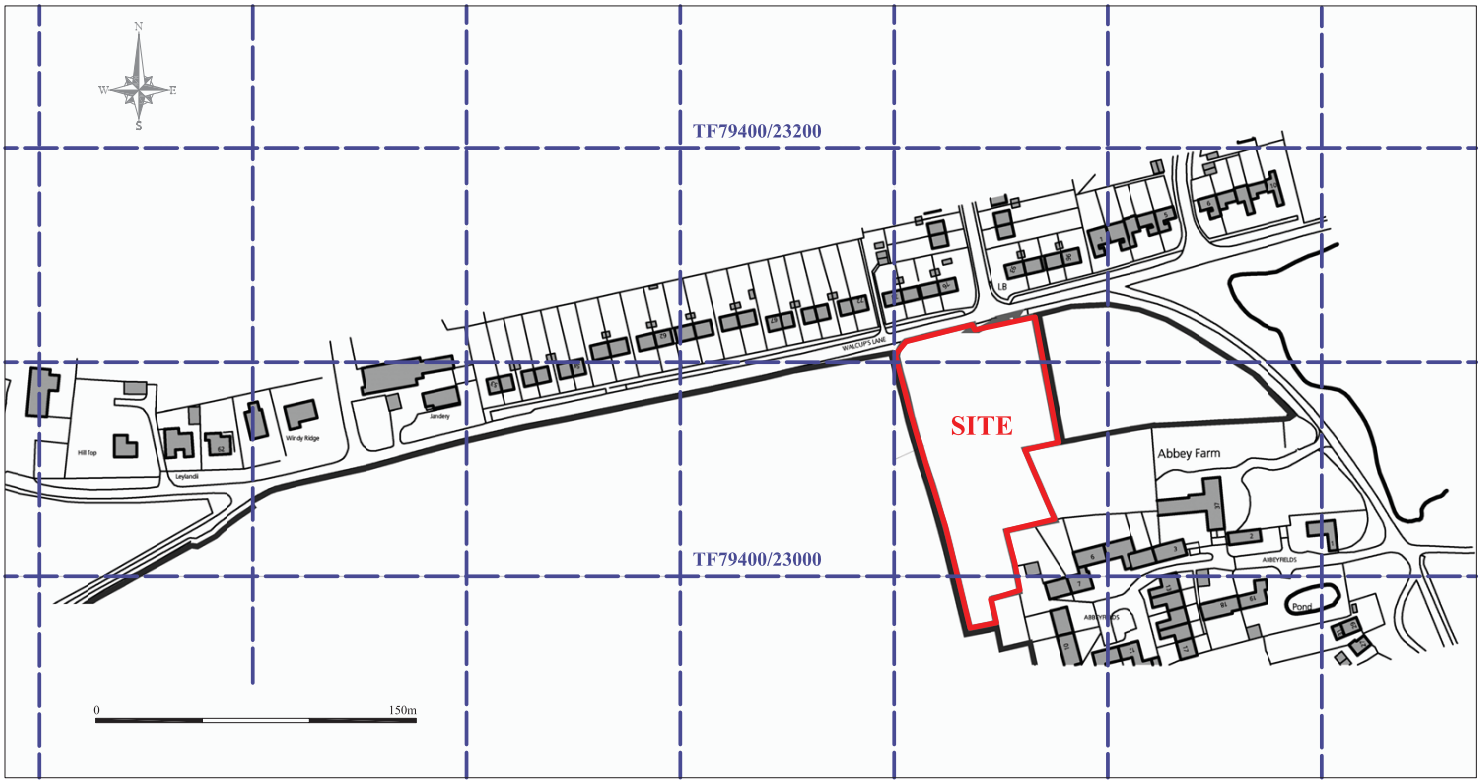

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:2500 at A4
Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk (P7366)

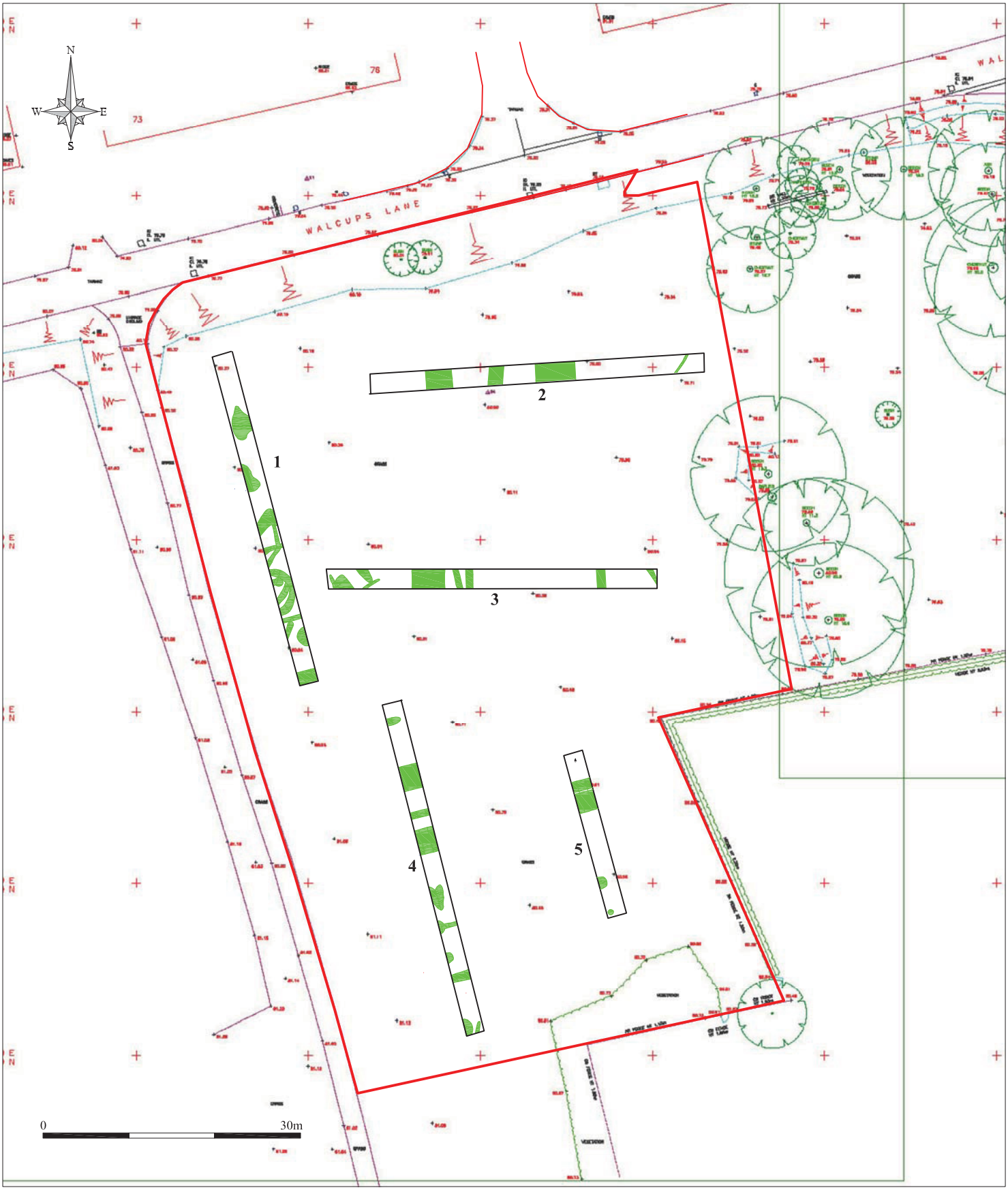

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Fig. 3 Trench location plan

Scale 1:600 at A4

Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk (P7366)

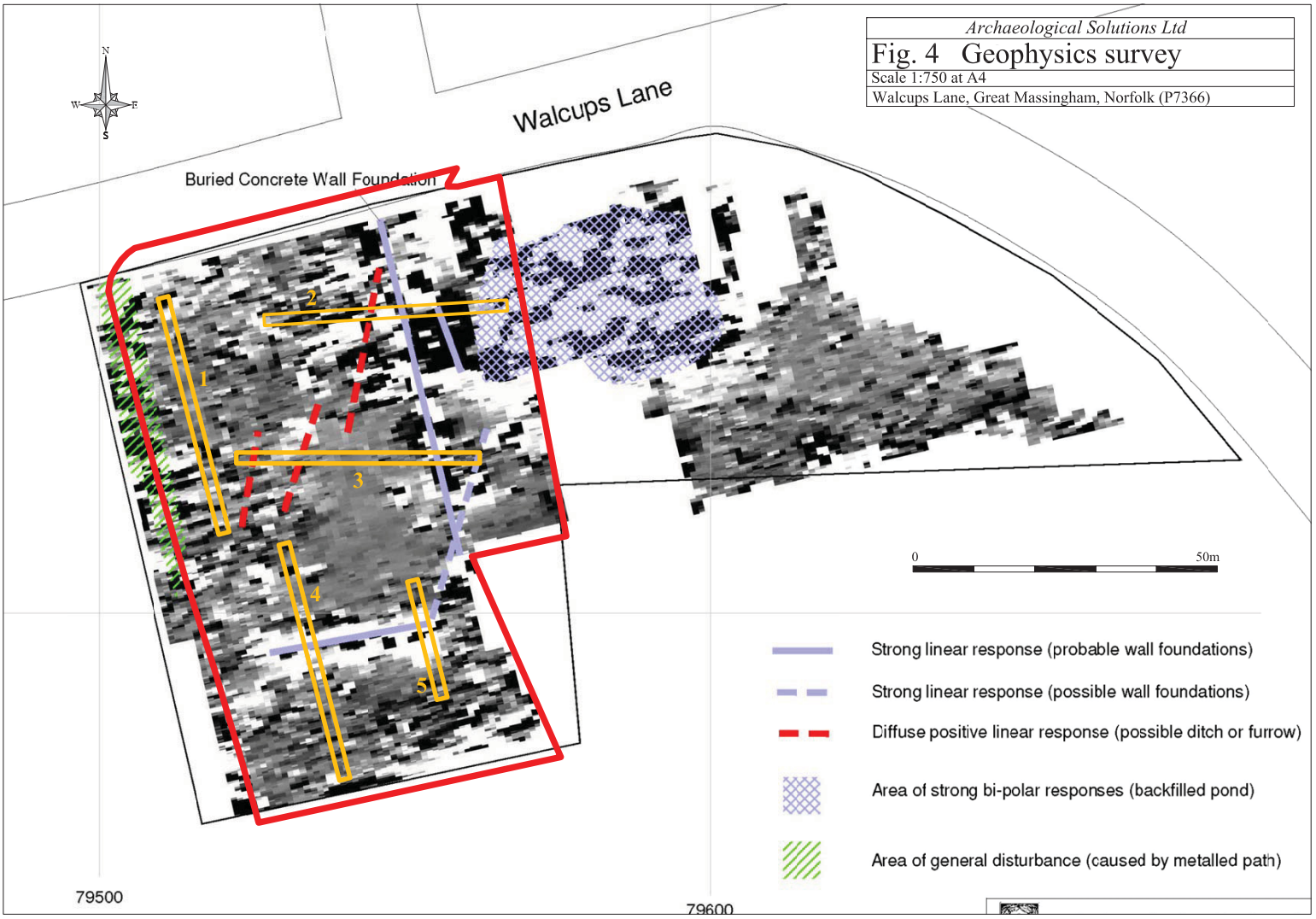
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Fig. 4 Geophysics survey
Scale 1:750 at A4
Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk (P7366)
N
W
E
S
Walcups Lane
Buried Concrete Wall Foundation
1
2
3
4
5
0
50m
Strong linear response (probable wall foundations)
Strong linear response (possible wall foundations)
Diffuse positive linear response (possible ditch or furrow)
Area of strong bi-polar responses (backfilled pond)
Area of general disturbance (caused by metalled path)
79500
79600

Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 5 Proposed development

Scale 1:750 at A4

Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk (P7366)

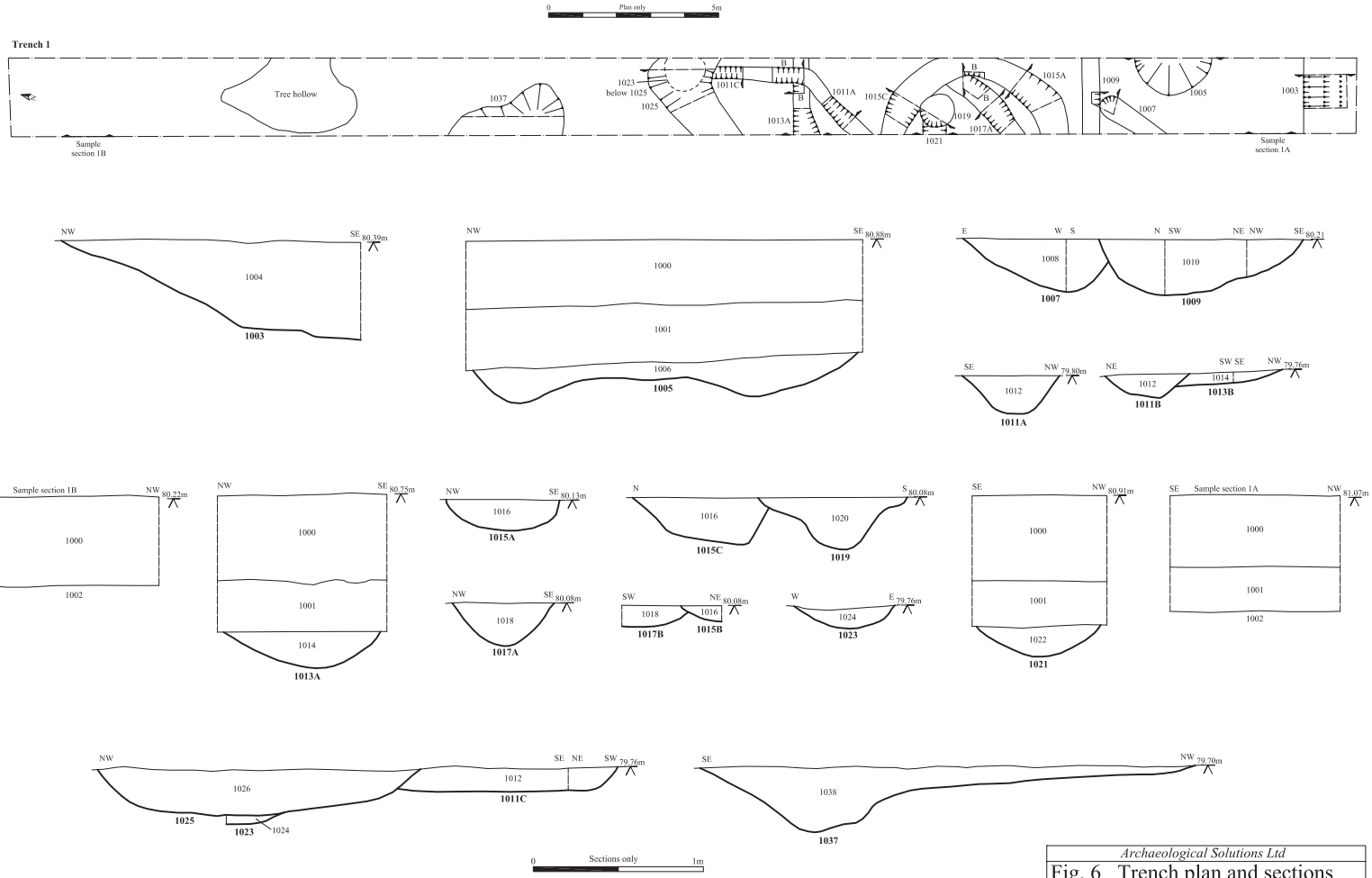

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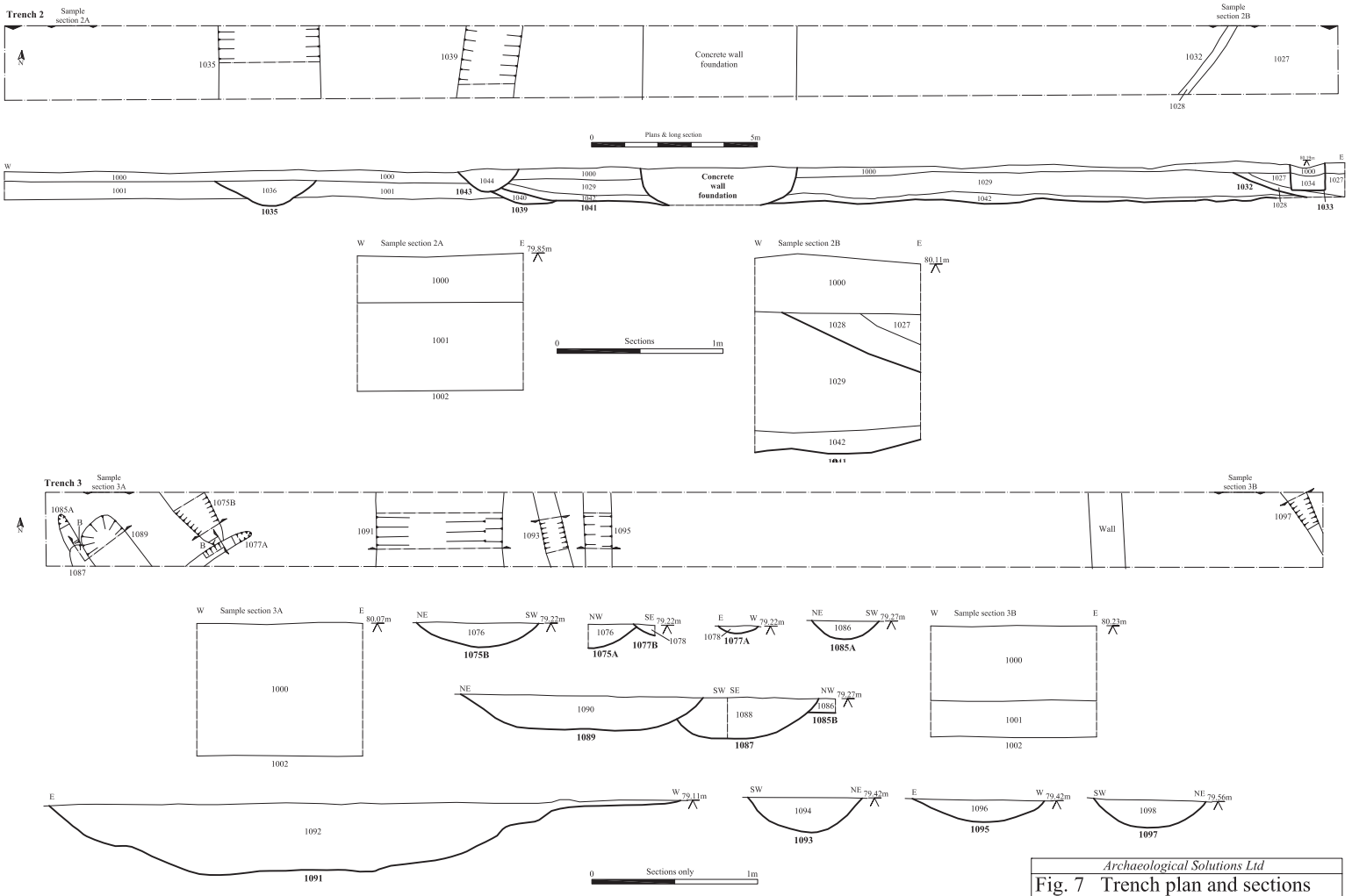
Fig. 6 Trench plan and sections
Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3
Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk (P7366)

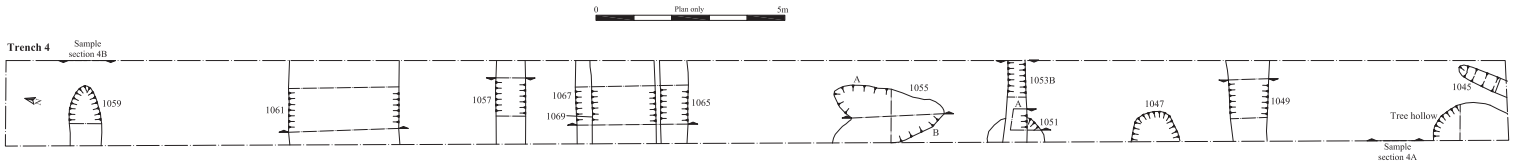


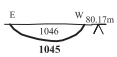
Archaeological Solutions Ltd

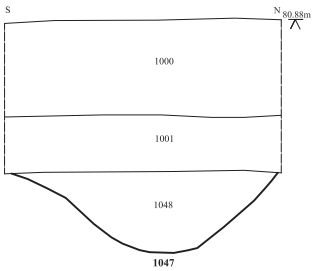
Fig. 7 Trench plan and sections

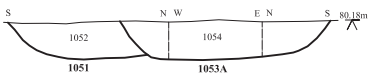
Scale Plans & long section 1:100, feature sections 1:20 at A3

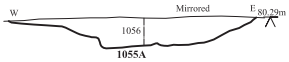
Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk (P7366)

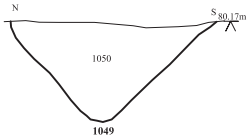


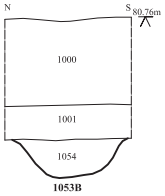


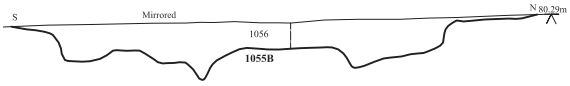


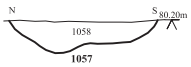


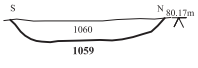


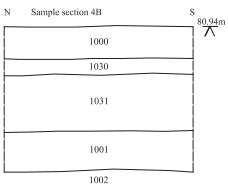


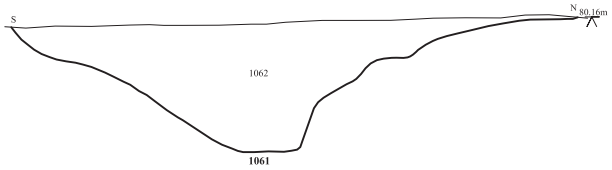


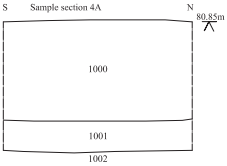












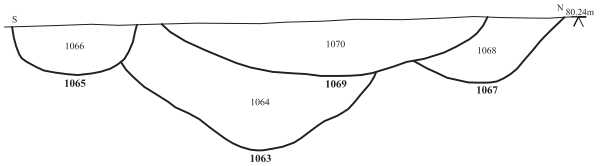


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Fig. 8 Trench plan and sections
Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3
Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk (P7366)

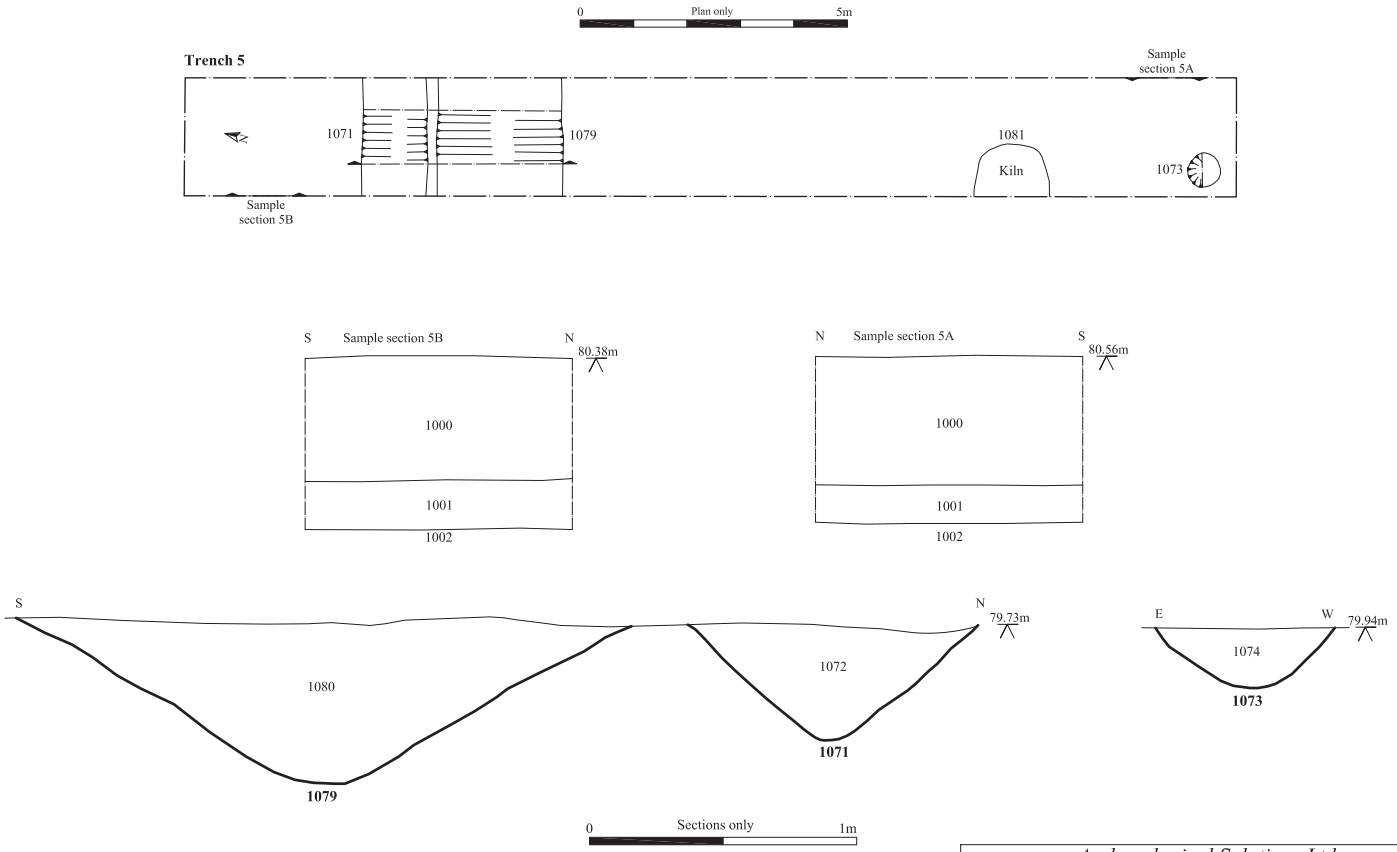

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Fig. 9 Trench plan and sections
Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4
Walcups Lane, Great Massingham, Norfolk (P7366)