ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

LAND REAR OF DRIFTWOOD, HALE ROAD, SWAVESEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, CB24 4QP

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER ECB 5506

Authors: Keeley-Jade Diggons (Fieldwork and report)						
Kate Higgs MA (Oxon.) (Background research)						
NGR: TL 3581 6886 Report No: 5714						
District: South Cambs	Site Code: ECB 5506					
Approved: Claire Halpin MClfA	Project No: 7592					
Date: 27 November 2018						
	Revised 4 December 2018					

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PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Project name	Land	to	the	Rear	of	Driftwood,	Hale	Road,	Swavesey,
	Cambi	ridge	shire,	CB24 4	!QP				

In November 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Driftwood, Hale Road, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire CB24 4QP (NGR TL 3581 6886; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of the application for the proposed development comprising the construction of five dwellings and associated works (South Cambs Council Pre-Application). It was required based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

Archaeological investigations in Swavesey have revealed evidence of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement and occupation (including CHER 11949, CB152987, EXC1540, CB15288, 01772B & MCB16700).

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Project dates (fieldwork)	November 20	018						
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	TBC					
P. number	7592	Site code	ECB 5506					
Type of project	An Archaeological Evaluation							
Site status	-							
Current land use	Former farm							
Planned development	Residential							
Main features (+dates)	-							
Significant finds (+dates)	Struck flint (side scraper of possi	ble ear	ly Neolithic date); 3				
	sherds of me	edieval (13 th – 15 th C.) p	ottery.					
Project location								
County/ District/ Parish	Cambridgest	nire South Cambs		Swavesey				
HER/ SMR for area	CHER (licen	ce No. 18-3641)						
Post code (if known)	CB24 4QP							
Area of site	c. 0.21 hecta	res						
NGR	TL 3581 688	6						
Height AOD (min/max)	c. 7m AOD							
Project creators								
Brief issued by	Cambridgest (HET)	nire County Council I	Historic	Environment Team				
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeologic	al Solutions Ltd						
Funded by	Christian Sm	art						
Full title	Land Rea	r of Driftwood,	Hale	Road, Swavesey,				
	Cambridgesl	nire, CB24 4QP. An Ar	chaeolo	ogical Evaluation				
Authors	Diggons, K-J., & Higgs, K.							
Report no.	5714							
Date (of report)	November 20	018; revised December	2018					

LAND REAR OF DRIFTWOOD, HALE ROAD, SWAVESEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, CB24 4QP

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SUMMARY

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Driftwood, Hale Road, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire CB24 4QP (NGR TL 3581 6886; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of the application for the proposed development comprising the construction of five dwellings and associated works (South Cambs Council Pre-Application). It was required based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).
- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET; dated 7th August 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 28th August 2018), and

approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014), and 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 2018) 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 lies within the village of Swavesey, South Cambridgeshire. It is located on the western edge of the village of Swavesey and 2km to the east of the neighbouring village of Fen Drayton.
- 2.2 The site is to the rear of Driftwood which lies on the southern side of Hale Lane in the Church End area of Swavesey. It contained farm buildings, now demolished, and extends to some 0.21ha. The Scheduled Ancient

Monument of the 'Castle Hill' earthworks lies within the field to the east of the site.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 Swavesey lies in the south-western hinterlands of the Cambridgeshire fens. It is located on a low clay hill, c.18m AOD, surrounded by drained fen. The site itself lies at only 7m AOD with the surrounding relief relatively flat but slightly sloping downwards to the south. The village developed on two 'islands' of terrace gravels, which cap a peninsula of Ampthill clay. The solid geology of the site comprises mudstone belonging to the West Walton Formation and Ampthill Clay Formation (BGS 2015). Soils of the area are of the Hanslope Association, which are described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The site is located within an area of archaeological potential, with remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). Archaeological investigations in Swavesey in advance of development have revealed evidence of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement and occupation (including CHER 11949, CB152987, EXC1540, CB15288, 01772B & MCB16700).
- 4.2 Within the vicinity of the site, the prehistoric period is represented by a low density of prehistoric flints found during trial excavations carried out at Blackhorse Lane and Amen Corner, which lie 120m to the east-north-east (CHER 01772A). The same excavations also revealed the remains of a dense Belgic settlement with late Iron Age pottery and animal bone, barely 100m to the east of the site's south-eastern corner (CHER CB15288).
- 4.3 A possible Roman barrow mound has been identified at Mill Way and 150m to the north-west of the site, standing on the line of the old road from Swavesey to Fen Drayton, and close to the findspot of a fragment of Niedermendig lava and sherds of Roman pottery on the surface (CHER 03522). An evaluation in 1996 revealed dense late Saxon and medieval occupation activity along Blackhorse Lane and only 80m to the east of the site (CHER 11949). Remains encountered included timber buildings, refuse and cess pits. Further south-eastwards along Blackhorse Lane, the 1998 evaluation revealed a substantial ditch, which appeared to represent a continuation of the defensive line of the castle bailey and may be the line of the medieval town ditch (CHER CB15287).
- 4.4 Furthermore, an aerial photograph assessment of earthworks south of Swavesey Castle and specifically 120m to the south of the site, recorded deep hollows crossing the field, which may have been water management features linked to the castle, but are judged to have been filled and levelled during the making of the playing field (CHER MCB17714). The remains of the northern

and western sides of a large rectangular enclosure comprising the aforementioned Castle Hill earthworks are also recorded less than 200m to the north-east of the site (CHER 01772). In contrast, the post-medieval and later periods are poorly represented in the vicinity of the site, with only a 19th century burial ground recorded at Church End and 150m to the north-east of the site (CHER MCB21459).

4.5 Swavesey was a thriving settlement in the medieval period with an inland port, and it is known to have had docks, a market place, manorial centre and a Norman alien priory. The medieval market place and village ditch lie to the east of the proposed development site (CHER 03490). The proposed development site is some 65m to the west of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the 'Castle Hill' earthworks (NHLE 1006913; CHER 01772). The remains of Swavesey Priory (CHER 08897) and the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Benedictine Priory (NHLE 1006914; CHER 03488) lie to the north east. Moats and ponds which are likely associated with the Priory lie to the south east of that site.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The evaluation provided for a 5% sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched (overall site area 0.21ha). One trench of $30m \times 1.8m$, one trench of $20m \times 1.8m$ and one trench of $10m \times 1.8m$ were proposed for the initial sample, targeting the new house plots and access and avoiding the footprints of the former farm buildings. Trench 1 was shortened to 8.7m, and moved due to the presence of trees and services. Trench 2 was divided (with lengths of 4.1m and 25.1m) because of the presence of trees and an asparagus patch. Trench 3 (length 20m) was moved due to the presence of construction materials. Trench 1 was $2m \times 10m$ wide, Trench 2 was up to $2.2m \times 10m$ wide and Trench 3 was $c.2m \times 10m$ wide.
- 5.2 The archaeological investigation 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. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.
- 5.3 A one-metre square of topsoil and subsoil were bucket sampled and sorted by hand at each end of the trenches to characterise their artefact content. Soil from this sampling procedure was kept separate from the main spoil heaps. Site records were completed to reflect this exercise and an on-site record was made of the finds recovered. A metal detector was used to enhance finds recovery. The metal detector survey was conducted when the trenches were opened, and the detector was not set to discriminate against iron. The spoil tips were also surveyed.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 4)

Sample section		
0.00 = 6.45m	AOD	
0.00 - 0.05m	L1004	Track Surface. Loose, dark blue grey gravel.
0.05 - 0.11m	L1005	Levelling Layer. Loose, mid yellow brown orange silty
		sand and gravel.
0.11 – 0.39m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional
		small sub-rounded stones.
0.39m+	L1002	Natural. Firm, orange brown to yellow brown silty clay with
		clay patches and frequent chalk flecks and small sub-
		rounded flint.

Sample section	Sample section 1B						
0.00 = 6.30m AOD							
0.00 – 0.15m	L1004	Track Surface. As Above.					
0.15 - 0.27m	L1005	Levelling Layer. As Above.					
0.27 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.					
0.55m+ L1002 Natural. As Above							

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features. Modern services traversed the trench. Subsoil L1001 contained three medieval (13th – 15th century) sherds (3; 5g)

Trench 2A (Figs. 2 - 4)

Sample section 2/	4	
0.00 = 6.27 m AOE)	
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown clay silt with frequent small
		to medium, sub-angular flint.
0.20 - 0.49m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.49m+	L1002	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 2A contained no archaeological features or finds. A modern service traversed the trench.

Trench 2B (Figs. 2 - 4)

Sample section 2E 0.00 = 6.09m AOE		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.21m – 0.56m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.56m+	L1002	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 2B contained no archaeological features. A natural hollow was examined by the excavation of a test pit. Subsoil L1001 contained a 19^{th} – mid 20^{th} century sherd (1; 9g) and a struck flint (1; 3g).

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 - 4)

Sample section 3	A						
0.00 = 6.12 m AO	0.00 = 6.12m AOD						
0.00 - 0.48m	L1003	Dump Deposit. Firm, dark brown grey clayey silt with					
		frequent brick and tile.					
0.48 - 0.60m	L1007	Fill of F1006					
0.60m+	L1002	Natural. As above.					

Sample section 3	3B	
0.00 = 5.91m AC	DD	
0.00 - 0.33m	L1003	Dump Deposit. As above.
0.33 – 0.43m	L1008	Firm, blue green silty clay with occasional small sub rounded stones
0.43m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 3 contained F1006 which was interpreted as a likely natural feature. A land drain traversed the trench. Dump Deposit L1003 contained a fragment of 20th century CBM (159g) and a 1921 half penny (1; 6g). Below Dump Deposit L1003, L1008 was distinguished as an area of contamination (hydrocarbon), likely derived from L1003.

F1006 was not revealed in plan (>2.00+ x 1.00+ x 0.15m). It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1007, was a firm brown clay with moderate sub angular stones. It contained no finds and was interpreted as a natural feature.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Subsoil L1001 was absent in Trench 3. L1003 was a dump deposit below which was contaminated ground (L1008). This ground reduction may may have caused so loss of archaeological evidence.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost in Trench 1 was Track Surface L1004, a loose dark blue grey gravel. L1004 overlay Levelling Layer L1005, a loose mid yellow brown orange silty sand and gravel. L1005 overlay Subsoil L1001, a firm mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones. At the base of the sequence was the natural, L1002, a firm orange brown to yellow brown silty clay with clay patches and frequent chalk flecks and small sub-rounded flint.

8.2 Uppermost in Trench 2 was Topsoil L1000, a firm dark grey brown clay silt with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint. L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001. The latter was not present in Trench 3 and the ground had been reduced. Uppermost in Trench 3 was Dump Deposit L1003, a firm, dark brown grey clayey silt with frequent brick and tile. L1003 overlay L1008, a firm, blue green silty clay with occasional small sub rounded stones. The latter was distinguished as an area of contamination (hydrocarbon), likely derived from L1003, and it overlay the natural.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The trial trench evaluation revealed no archaeological features; F1006 (Trench 3) was likely a natural feature. Modern services and a land drain traversed the trenches. Subsoil L1001 contained a struck flint and three small sherds of abraded medieval (13th – 15th century) pottery. The struck flint is a side scraper of possible early Neolithic date. Its presence is consistent with the low density distribution of struck flint recorded during trial trenching at Blackhorse Lane and Amen Corner, and probably represents background prehistoric activity. The pottery comprises body sherds of late medieval coarse ware vessels, of insufficient size to define a form type. The pottery may representing re-distribution of material through manuring from the settlement focussed on the Castle Hill earthworks (and the former Swavesey Castle).

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 Archaeological investigations in Swavesey have revealed evidence of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement and occupation (including CHER 11949, CB152987, EXC1540, CB15288, 01772B & MCB16700).
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DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Cambridgeshire County Council Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency. With the owner's permission a Transfer of Title will be completed for the archive.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr Christian Smart for funding the evaluation and Mr Malcolm Smart for assistance, and Mr Jonathan Mills of Partners in Planning & Architecture Ltd for assistance

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Ms Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

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

Concordance of Finds

APPENDIX 1 - ECB5506 - P7592, Driftwood, Hall Road, Swavesey

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pot	Pottery	CBM	A.Bone	Other Material	Other	Other
					(Pot Only)	Qty	(g)	(g)	(g)		Qty	(g)
	1001		1	Subsoil	13th-15th C	3	5					
			2B		19th-mid 20th C	1	9			S.Flint	1	3
	1003		3	Dump Deposit				159		1921 Half Penny	1	6

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey

Subsoil L1001 (Trench 2) produced a piece of struck flint (3g), in an unpatinated, sharp condition. It is a small side scraper formed on a neat blade, by the application of abrupt retouch to one lateral edge. This type of implement is most common in early Neolithic assemblages in the region.

The Pottery Report

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 4 sherds weighing 14g from the subsoil. Three small abraded oxidised sand and calcareous body sherds are of probable later medieval date. The remaining sherd is an early modern to modern whiteware from a mug.

KEY:

LMO: Late medieval oxidised 13th-15/16th (moderate fine and some medium sub-

angular to sub-rounded grey quartz, moderate to common white calcareous

and moderate red iron oxide; oxidised orange throughout)

RWE: Refined white earthenware late 18th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Subsoil	1001 T1	3x5g LMO	13 th -15 th	small abraded body sherds
	1001 T2	1x9g RWE	19 th -mid 20 th	Mug

Table 1: Quantification of sherds

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Dump Deposit L1003 contained a single fragment (159g) of calcareous brick, probably a 'Phorpres' brick produced in the 20th century.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P7592)





2 Sample section 1A

1 Trench 1



4 Trench 2B

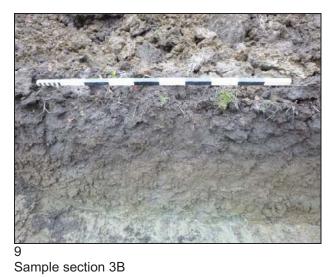




Sample section 2A



Trench 3





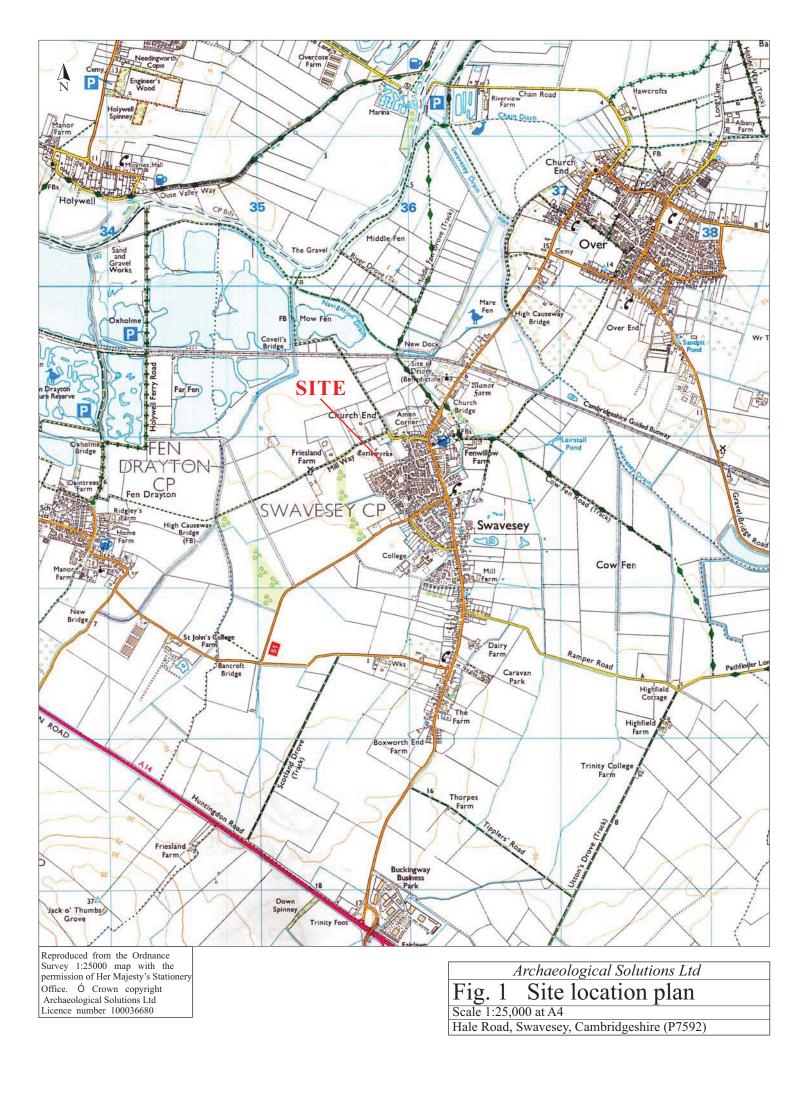
Sample section 2B

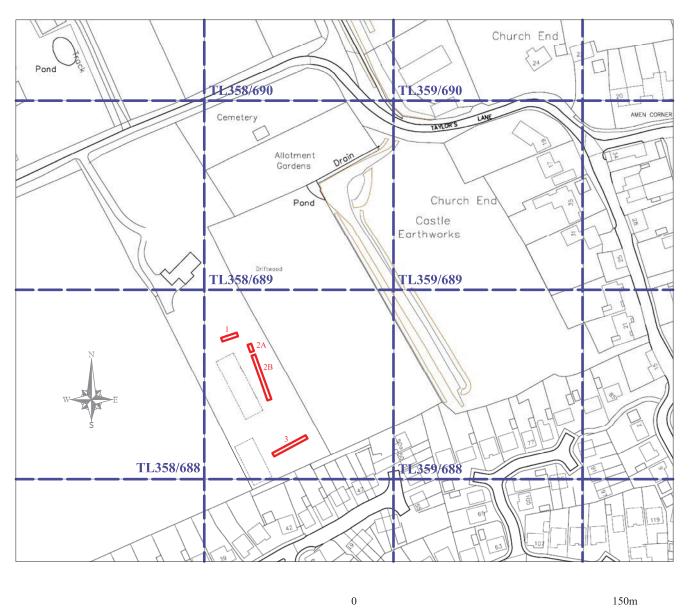


Sample section 3A



F1006, ?natural feature

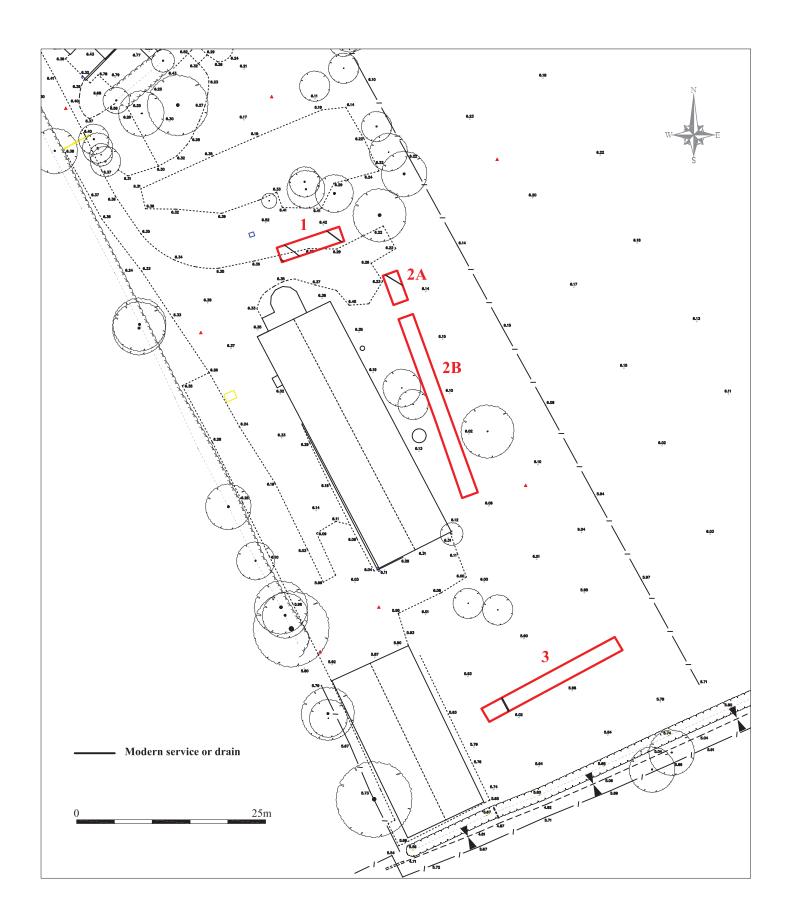




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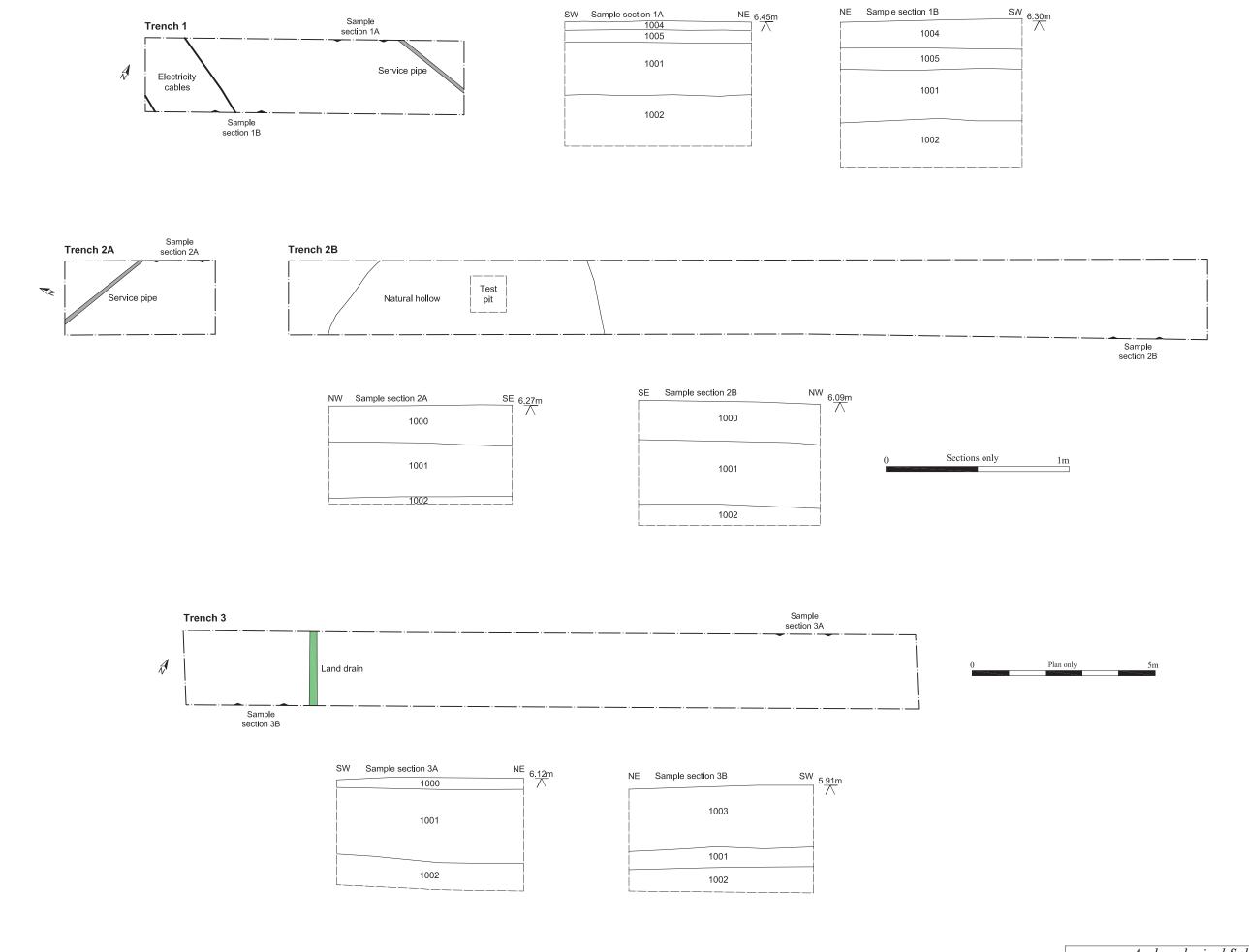
Fig. 2 Det Scale 1:2000 at A4 Detailed site location plan

Hale Rd, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire (P7592)



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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
Scale 1:500 at A4

Hale Rd, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire (P7592)



SW Sample section 1A

Trench 1

NE Sample section 1B

Archaeological Solutions Ltd Fig. 4 Plans and sections
Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3 Hale Rd, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire (P7592)

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Project details

Project name Land R/O Driftwood, Hale Road, Swavesy, Cambridgeshire CB244QP (TT)

Short description of the project

In November 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Driftwood, Hale Road, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire CB24 4QP (NGR TL 3581 6886; Figs. 1 and 2). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of the application for the proposed development comprising the construction of five dwellings and associated works (South Cambs Council Pre- Application). It was required based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET). Archaeological investigations in Swavesey have revealed evidence of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement and occupation (including CHER 11949, CB152987, EXC1540, CB15288, 01772B and MCB16700). The trial trench evaluation revealed no

archaeological features and no finds were present.

Project dates Start: 14-11-2018 End: 27-11-2018

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Any associated project reference

codes

P7592 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference

codes

ECB5506 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI) Site status

Current Land use Other 15 - Other Monument type **NONE None** Significant Finds **NONE None**

Methods & techniques "Targeted Trenches"

Development type Rural residential

Planning agreement (Section 106 or 52) **Prompt**

Position in the planning process Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country **England**

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE SWAVESEY Land R/O Driftwood, Hale

Road, Swavesey

CB244QP Postcode

1 of 3 27/11/2018, 14:28 Study area 0.21 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 3581 6886 52.30063921259 -0.008056594665 52 18 02 N 000 00 29 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 7m Max: 7m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Project brief originator

Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team

Project design originator

Jon Murray

Project

Jon Murray

director/manager

Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Name of

Christian Smart

sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Physical Archive

Exists?

No

Digital Archive recipient

Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store

Digital Contents

"none"

Digital Media available

"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient

Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media

"Context

available

sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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