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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**MANGREEN HALL FARM, SWARDESTON,  
NORFOLK**

**MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL  
(AREA 4)**

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NGR: TG 218 030	Report No: 3361
District: Norfolk	Site Code: 37649
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 3295
Signed:	Date: Aug 2009

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<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Mangreen Hall Farm, Swardeston, Norfolk</i>		
Project description (250 words)	<p><i>In August 2009 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook archaeological monitoring and recording of land at Mangreen Hall Farm, Swardeston, Norfolk, (TG 218 030). The monitoring was undertaken in advance of mineral extraction.</i></p> <p><i>The site has been subject to numerous archaeological investigations. In particular an excavation undertaken between January and February 2009, at the reservoir site, recorded 22 features. The principal feature was a circular enclosure ditch, which encompassed six graves. The latter contained at least seven Roman inhumations and a sheep skeleton. Other datable features comprised a prehistoric pit and two post-medieval ditches. The remaining pits, postholes, ditches, and a tree hollow were undated.</i></p> <p><i>The current programme of monitoring encountered a single burnt tree hollow. It contained no finds</i></p>		
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>August 2009</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>
P. number	<i>3295</i>	Site code	<i>37649</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Agricultural land</i>		
Planned development	<i>Mineral extraction</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>South Norfolk</i>	<i>Swardeston</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>4 ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TG 218 030</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c.38m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>W. McCall</i>		
Funded by	<i>Lafarge Aggregates Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Mangreen Hall Farm, Swardeston, Norfolk: Monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control.</i>		
Authors	<i>W McCall</i>		
Report no.	<i>3361</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>August 2009</i>		

## **MANGREEN HALL FARM, SWARDESTON, NORFOLK**

### **MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL (AREA 4)**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In August 2009 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook archaeological monitoring and recording of land at Mangreen Hall Farm, Swardeston, Norfolk, (TG 218 030). The monitoring was undertaken in advance of mineral extraction.*

*The site has been subject to numerous archaeological investigations: a desk based assessment (Prosser 2002), field walking (Grant 2003) and a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2003). An extensive trial trench evaluation revealed a low density of undated ditches, gullies and sparse undated pits (Keir & Roberts 2003).*

*Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken between May and July 2008 when an area to the north and north east of Mangreen Hall Farm was excavated. Seven pits, two postholes and four ditches were recorded. The ditches may be of post-medieval date. The pits appear to be of prehistoric date. Bronze Age and early Roman pottery was recovered in small quantities from these features.*

*An excavation undertaken between January and February 2009, at the adjoining reservoir site, recorded 22 features. The principal feature was a circular enclosure ditch, which encompassed six graves. The latter contained at least seven Roman inhumations and a sheep skeleton. Other datable features comprised a prehistoric pit and two post-medieval ditches. The remaining pits, postholes, ditches, and a tree hollow were undated.*

*The current programme of monitoring encountered a single burnt tree hollow. It contained no finds*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In August 2009, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording of land at Mangreen Hall Farm, Swardeston, Norfolk (NGR TG 218 030; Figs.1-2). The monitoring was commissioned by Lafarge Aggregates Ltd in advance of proposed mineral extraction. It was undertaken as part of a planning requirement following advice from the local planning authority (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA)).

1.2 The monitoring was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (dated January 2005), and a specification

compiled by Archaeological Solutions (dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2006). The project complied with the brief and Gurney, D. 2003 '*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*', *EAA Occasional Paper 14*. The project was conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2001).

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 Mangreen Hall Farm is located approximately 6.5 km south-east of Norwich in the relatively flat countryside around the course of the rivers Yare and Tas. The land lies at 40m AOD. It is situated on a narrow lane extending between Swardeston village, some 1.5 km to the west and the main A140 trunk road, which joins the A47 just to the north of the site.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY & SOILS**

3.1 Central Norfolk forms a high Boulder Clay plateau with varied but generally poorly drained soils with limited fertility before the advent of modern drainage and artificial improvement. The predominant local soils are the chalky tills and glacio-fluvial drifts of the Burlingham 3 Association which comprise deep and fine loamy, often sandy soils with slight seasonal waterlogging, generally suitable for arable cultivation (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

3.2 The geotechnical profile of the site confirms the presence of sands and gravels to some depth, generally present in interspersed silty bands overlying a deposit of Boulder Clay at a horizon of between 4.7 and 5.2 metres. There is some variation across the area, with silty and gravelly sub-soils to the north and sands and silts within the generally clayey matrix around the farm and across the centre, extending southwards. This composition reflects the general homogeneity across the site, with localised but minor variations in gravel deposits resulting in minor differences in drainage and possible soil fertility.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 The site has been subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (Prosser 2002) which demonstrated little concentrated prehistoric activity and ephemeral rural Roman settlement despite the presence of major occupation at nearby Caistor St. Edmund to the east. Mangreen emerged into the historical record as a constituent estate of Swardeston. Later documents place it in the 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaped parkland before being sub-divided into fields and paddocks in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Aerial photography has revealed a series of possible linear features extending into the assessment site, with significant concentration of activity (further cropmarks of enclosures and ring ditches) beyond the site to the immediate east of the A140.

*Previous Archaeological Investigations* (Fig.3)

4.2 A programme of field-walking and metal detecting (Grant *et al* 2002) revealed scatters of prehistoric burnt and struck flint including core fragments and tools of a probable later Bronze Age date. The main cluster of struck flint was situated in the south-western part of the site, though there were less dense concentrations noted in the south-western part of Area 1 and the eastern part of Area 2. Several scatters of post-medieval tile were also identified. Pottery sherds were generally of a post-medieval date and are likely to have derived from manuring. No evidence of Roman or Saxon activity was recorded. There were few metal finds of pre-modern date.

4.3 A geophysical survey (magnetic susceptibility followed by detailed magnetometry) in January 2003 (Stratascan 2003) revealed the presence of sparse linear and discrete anomalies, many thought to be of natural or agricultural origin in Areas 1-3. Broader linear features thought to be of archaeological origin were recorded to the south (In Areas 7 and 8, not part of the current proposals).

4.4 A trial trench evaluation consisting of 33 trenches encompassing Areas 1-3 revealed a low density of mostly undated ditches, gullies, and sparse pits (Keir and Roberts 2003).

4.5 Monitoring and recording was conducted between May and July 2008 when an area to the north and north east of Mangreen Hall Farm was excavated. Seven pits, two postholes and four ditches were identified. The ditches may be of post-medieval date but dating evidence. The pits appeared to be of prehistoric date. Bronze Age and early Roman pottery was recovered in small quantities from these features.

4.6 An excavation was undertaken between January and February 2009 at the adjoining reservoir site recorded 22 features. The principal feature was a circular enclosure ditch, which encompassed six graves. The latter contained at least seven Roman inhumations and a sheep skeleton. Other datable features comprised a prehistoric pit and two post-medieval ditches. The remaining three pits, two postholes, six ditches, and a tree hollow were undated.

## 5 METHOD OF WORK

5.1 Topsoil was stripped from Area 4 to the north of the Mangreen Hall Farm prior to the construction of two ponds and a silt bed (Fig. 3). The total area comprised c.4 ha.

5.2 The excavation was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under the close supervision of an Archaeological Project Officer. Thereafter, all further investigations were undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### Area 4 Fig. 3

Sample Section 1

0.00 m = 39.18m AOD

0.00 – 0.38m	L3000. Topsoil. Mid grey brown sandy silt and clay with occasional small stones and CBM.
0.38m+	L3001. Natural. Mid yellowish brown silty clay gravel with frequent flint nodules,

*Description: A single burnt tree hollow (F3006) was present. It contained no finds*

Tree hollow F3006 (0.60m x 0.60m x 0.14m) was circular in plan with irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill (L3007) was a mottled black, dark grey and yellowish brown silty clay with frequent charcoal and chalk fragments. No finds were present.

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features.

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The topsoil (L3000) consisting of a mid grey brown sandy silt and clay with occasional small stones. It had a fairly consistent depth across the site (0.32m and 0.38m). It directly overlay the natural (L3001). The latter was a mid yellowish brown silty clay gravel with frequent flint nodules.

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered during this programme of archaeological monitoring. Evidence of modern ploughing was seen across the site. The evidence of burning within the fill of Tree Hollow F3006 may suggest site clearing for agricultural purposes.

## ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Archive records, with an inventory, will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. The archive will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums Service.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS would like to thank Lafarge Aggregates Ltd for their co-operation and funding of the investigations.

AS would also like to acknowledge the advice and input of Mr David Gurney of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology

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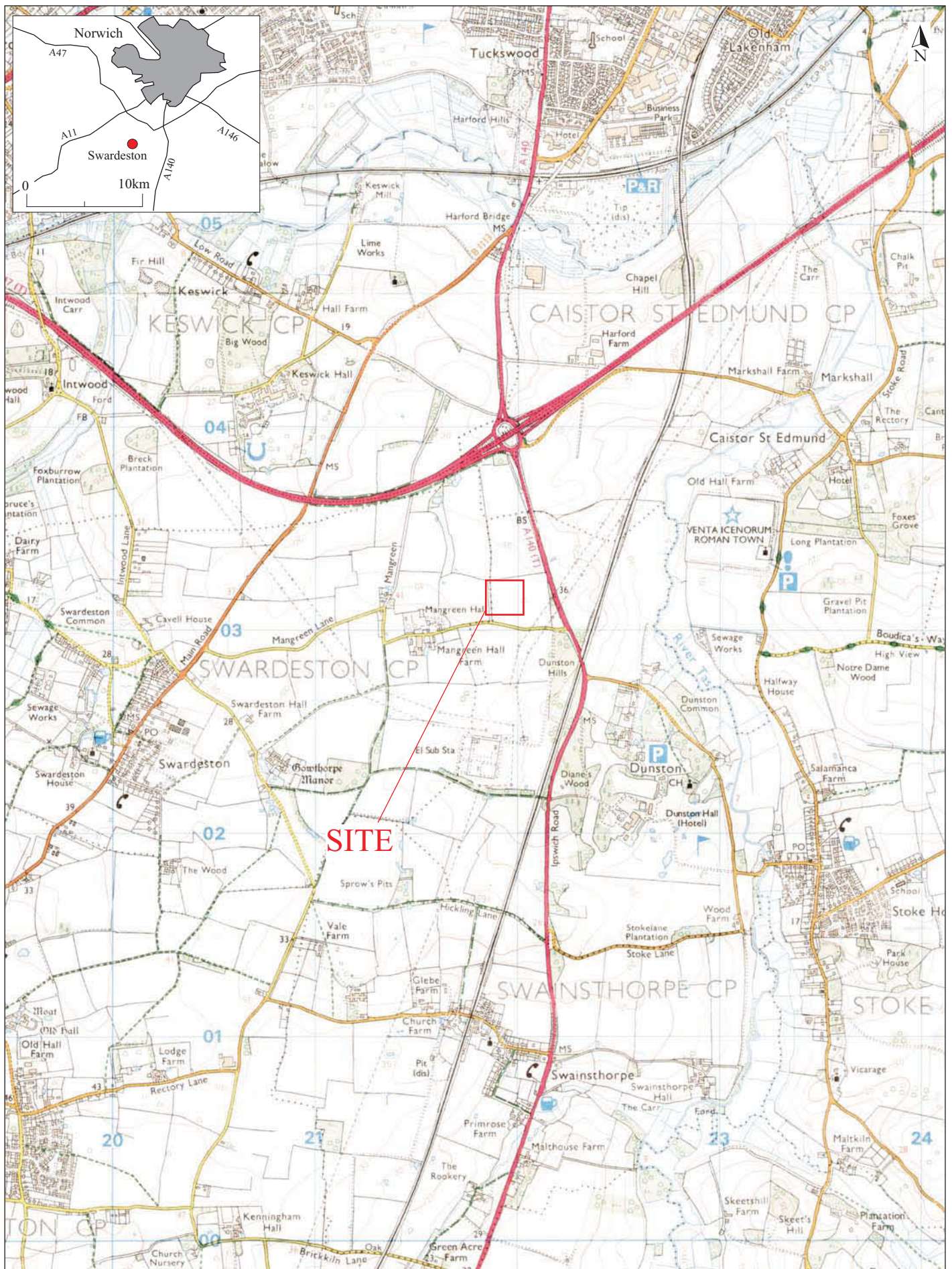
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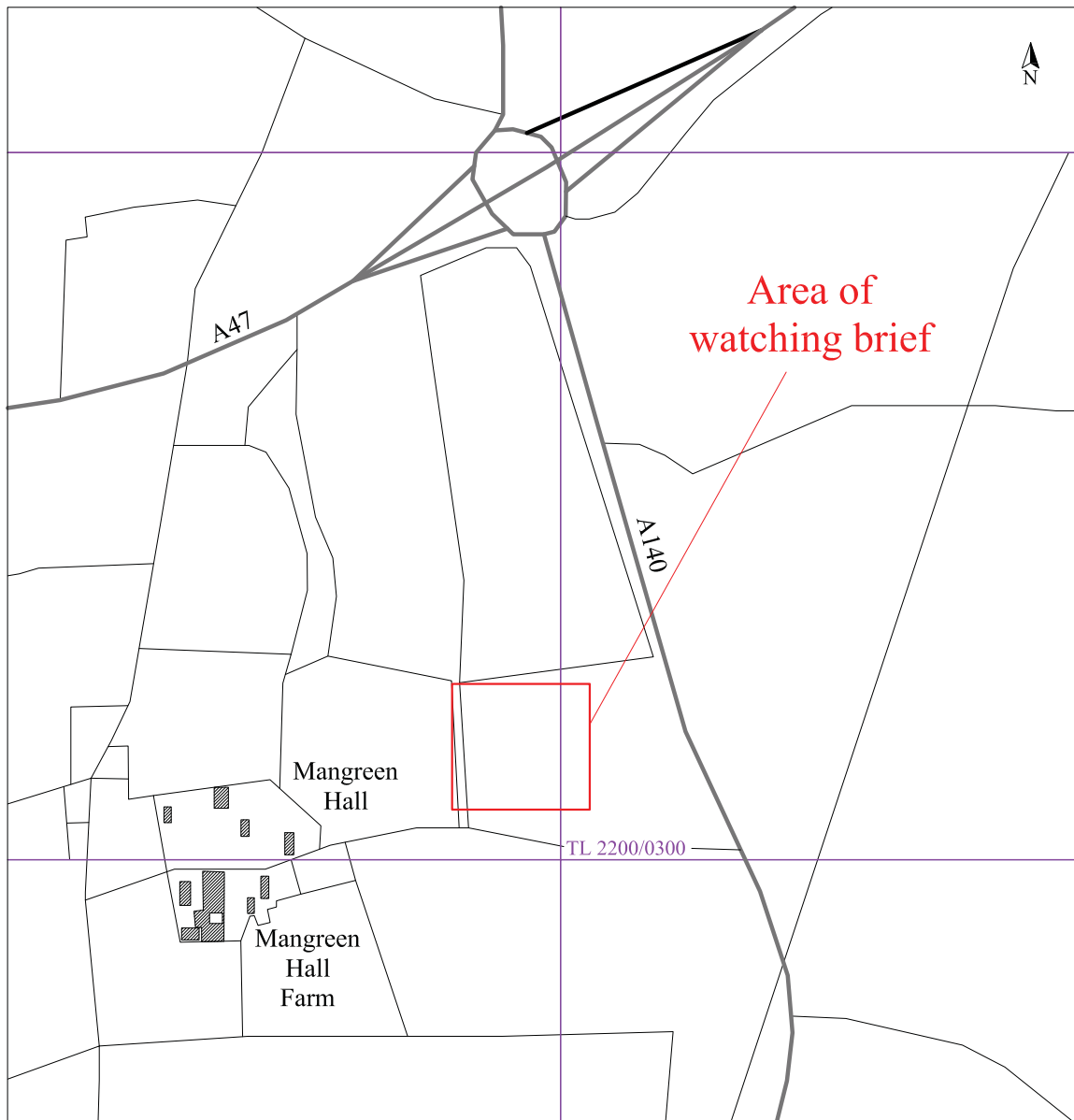
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



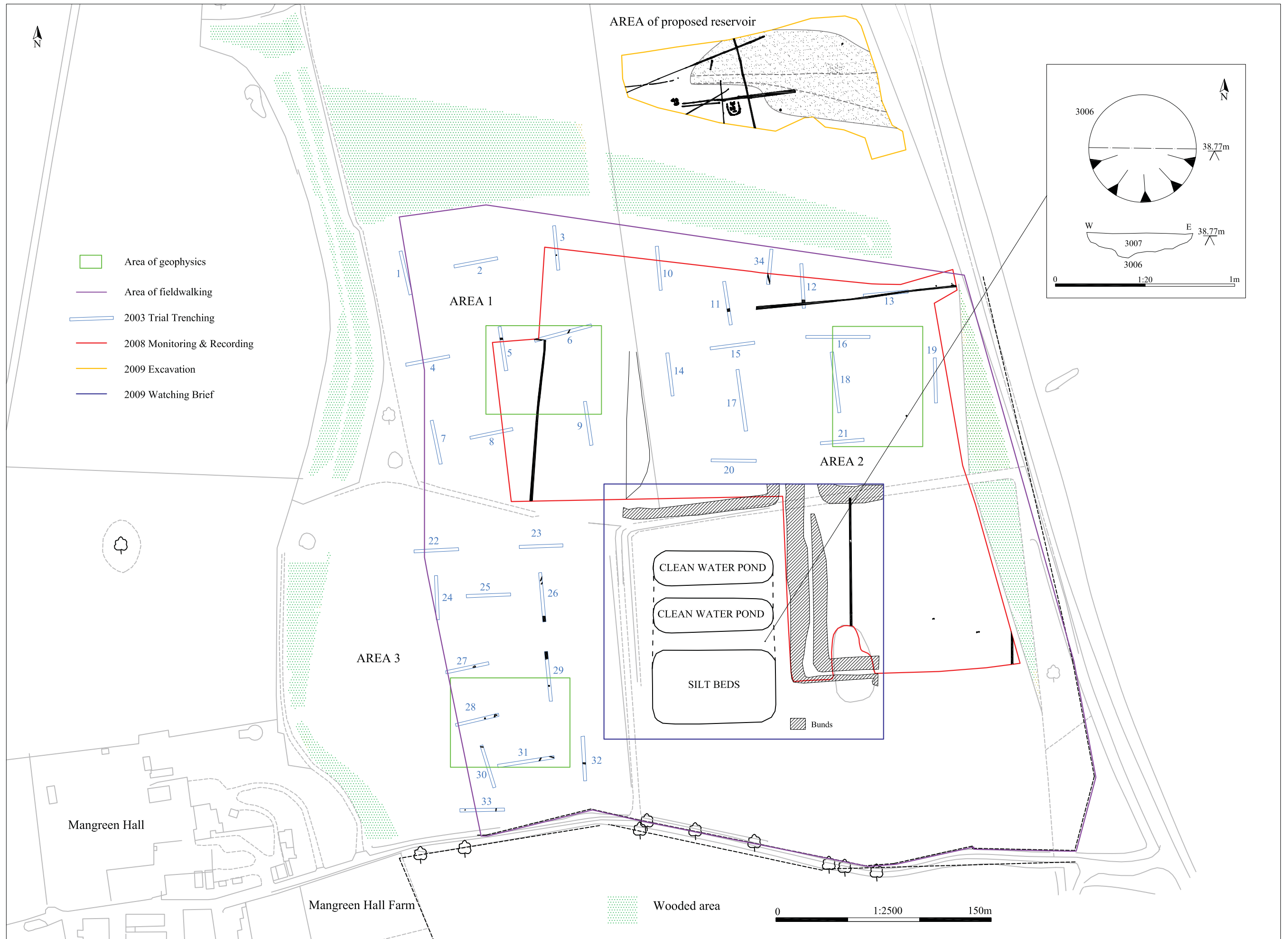
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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**

Scale 1:1000 at A4



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**Fig. 3 Area of watching brief & previous investigations**  
 Scale 1:2500 & 1:20 at A3